ON ILKLEY MOOR

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for: S S A T Bar B + optional harp

by JENNIFER FOWLER

Text: traditional (Yorkshire)

Duration: 4 mins

Programme note.

ON ILKLEY MOOR

by Jennifer Fowler

On Ilkley Moor is part of a collection of songs with the overall title of "Eat and Be Eaten". The collection revolves around the subject of food in all its significance. The subject matter allows for a range of moods, from deadly serious (literally) to humorous. It is not forgotten that while one creature is indulging in the enjoyable bit - the eating - often it is another creature which is being eaten.

Several themes recur and the subject of the life cycle occurs in a number of items. In this song the text is taken from the well-known Yorkshire folksong and emphasises the cyclic nature of the food chain, which in this case comes to a startling conclusion.

The song is scored for 6 vocal lines: Sop 1, Sop 2, Alto, Tenor, Baritone & Bass, with an optional harp part at the end. It contains some brief references to the original tune, but is mostly caught up in an exuberant and virtuosic over-the-top rendition of the text.

The cycle of songs was commissioned by The Song Company of Sydney.

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ON ILKLEY MOOR

NOTES:

The optional harp part joins in at bar 98, when this song is used as the concluding piece of the collection "Eat and Be Eaten".

Pronunciation: Vowel sounds should be Yorkshire, at least in so far as the words "come", "up", "ducks", "us", "Moor", "courtin'", where the vowel is similar to "bull". The word "'at" (ie hat) is like the vowel in "hut" (non-Yorkshire pronunciation).

Personalities. The individuals who introduce each verse can address their remarks to the relevant person. For instance, the Tenor in the 1st phrase of 1st verse should address the Baritone. Baritone in 1st phrase of 2nd verse answers Tenor. Sop 2 & Alto in 3rd verse are speaking to Baritone. At the end of Verse 7 (from bar 85) everyone is getting thoroughly confused about who eats what. At Verse 8 (bar 92), everyone stares straight ahead while they work it out. Baritone gets there first, so he stops singing and is left with his mouth open. Everyone else realizes the implications simultaneously at Bar 98, when they all turn their heads to look at Baritone. Final chorus is resumed cheerfully enough however!

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TEXT:

1. Where hast thou bin since I saw thee,
   On Ilkley Moor baht 'at? (without hat)

2. I've bin a-courtin' Mary Jane,
   On Ilkley Moor baht 'at.

3. There thou wilt catch thy death of cold.

4. Then we will come and bury thee.

5. Then worms will come and eat thee up.

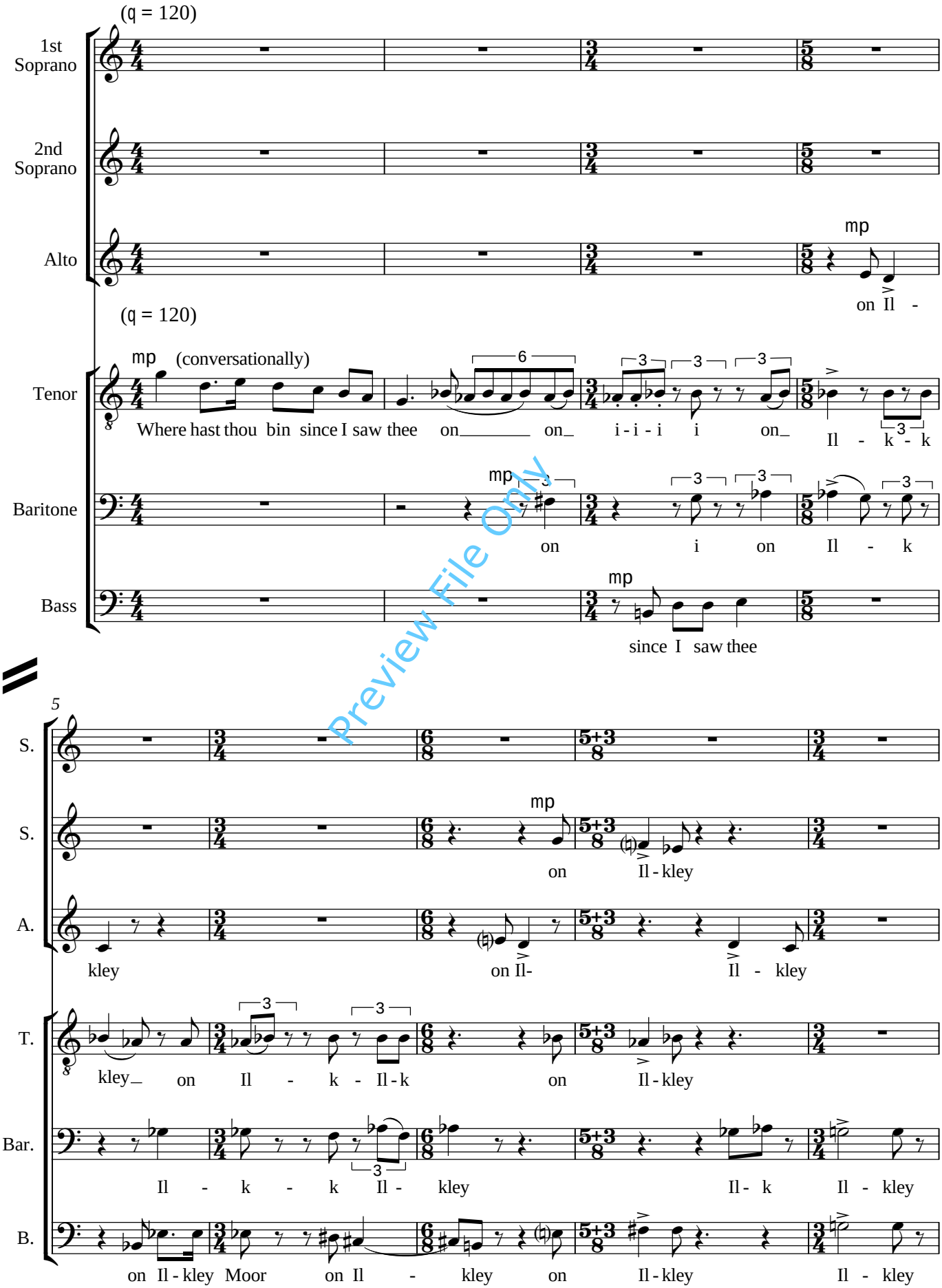
6. Then ducks will come and eat up worms.

7. Then we will come and eat up ducks.

8. Then us will all hev et up thee!
   On Ilkley Moor baht 'at.

ON ILKLEY MOOR

Jennifer Fowler



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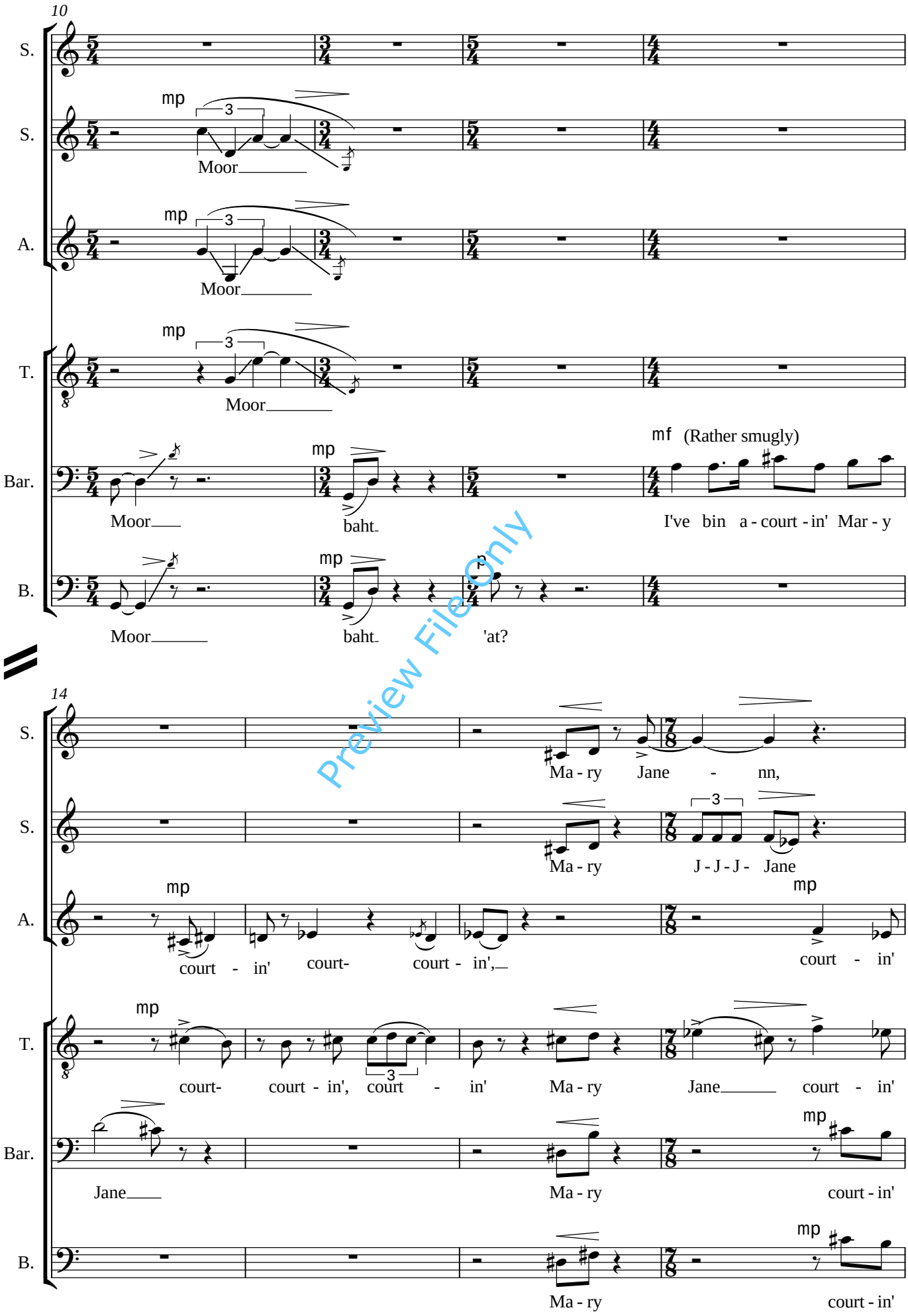

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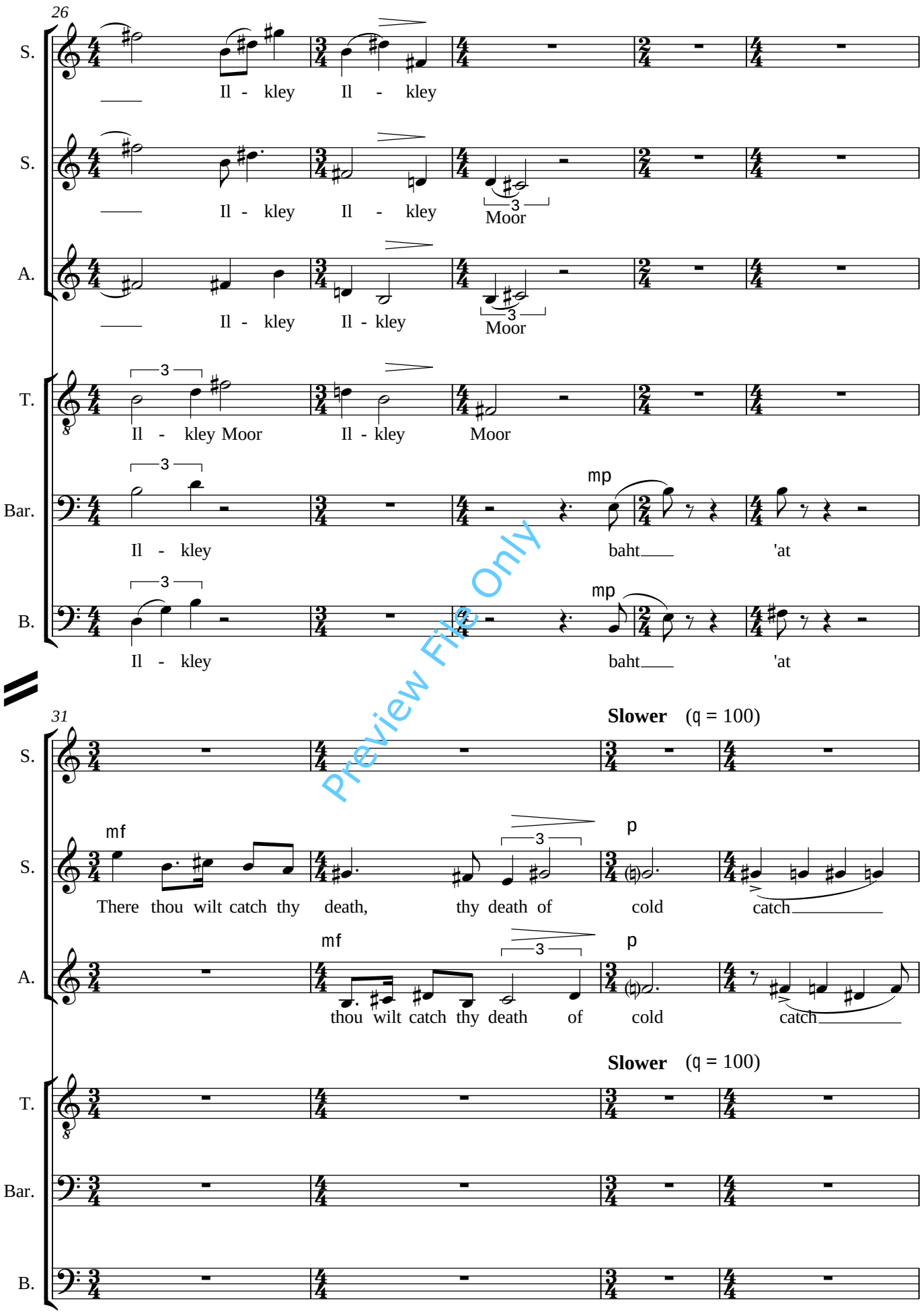

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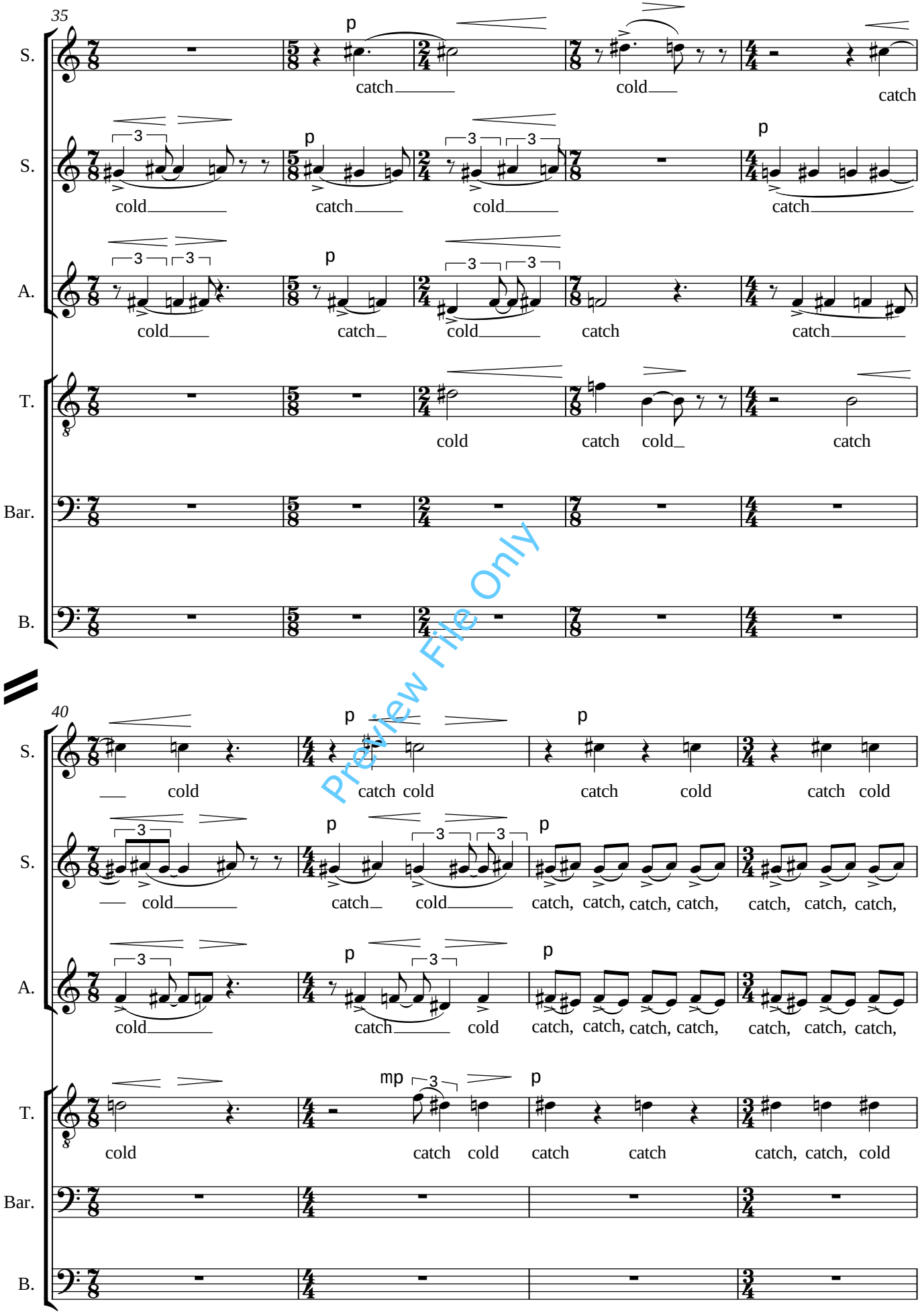
35
S.
S.
A.
T.
Bar.
B.
p
catch
cold
3
40
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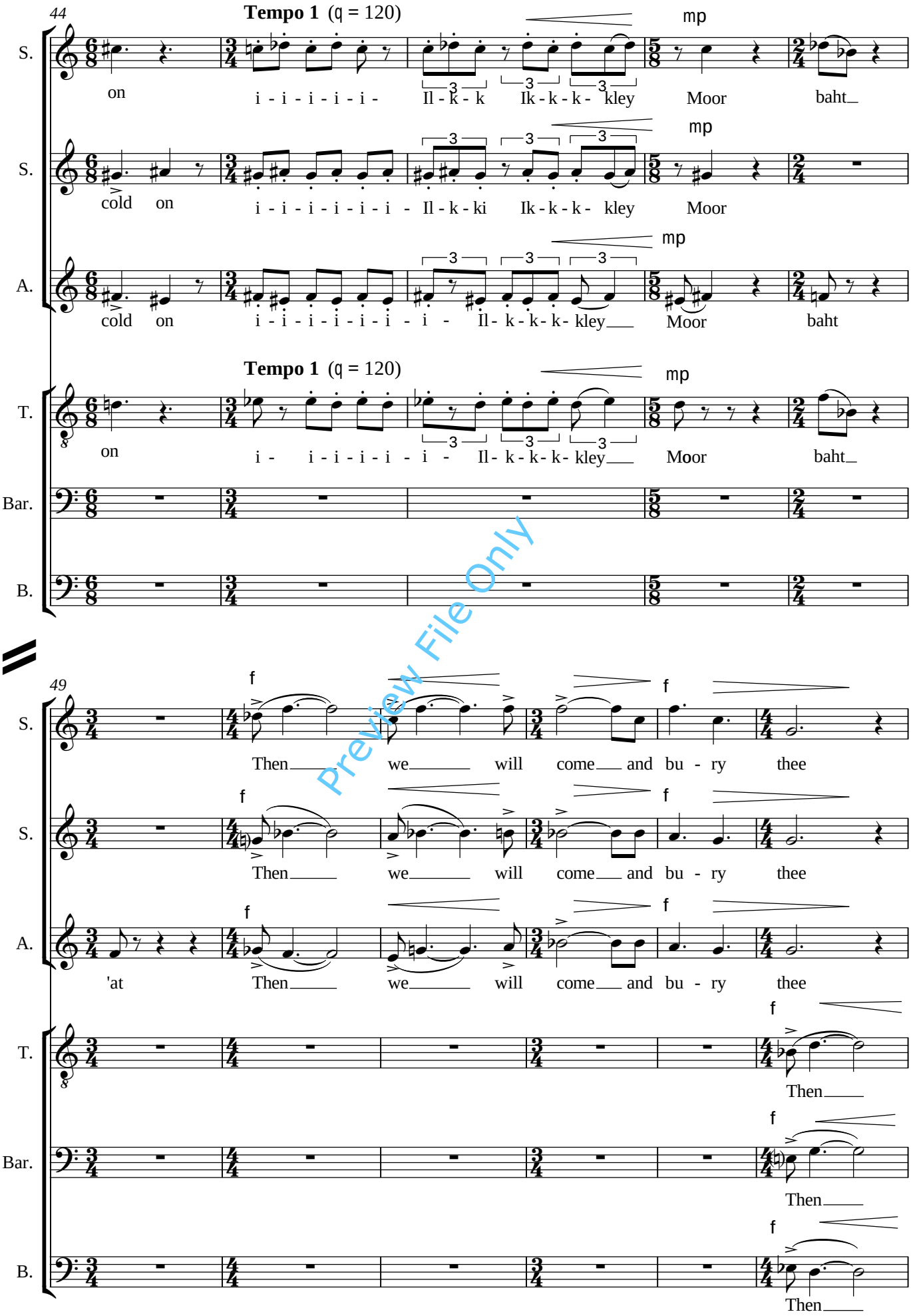

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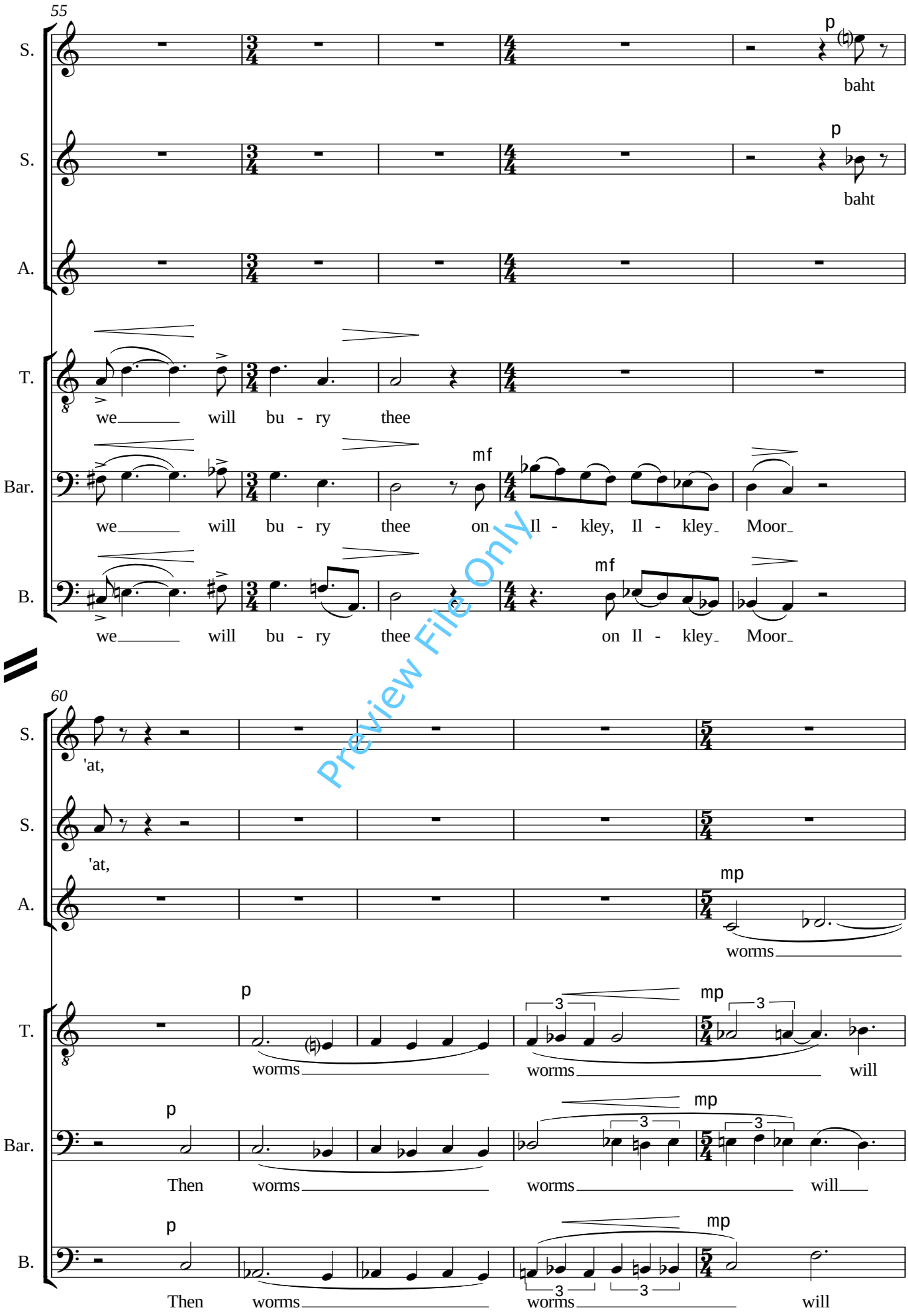

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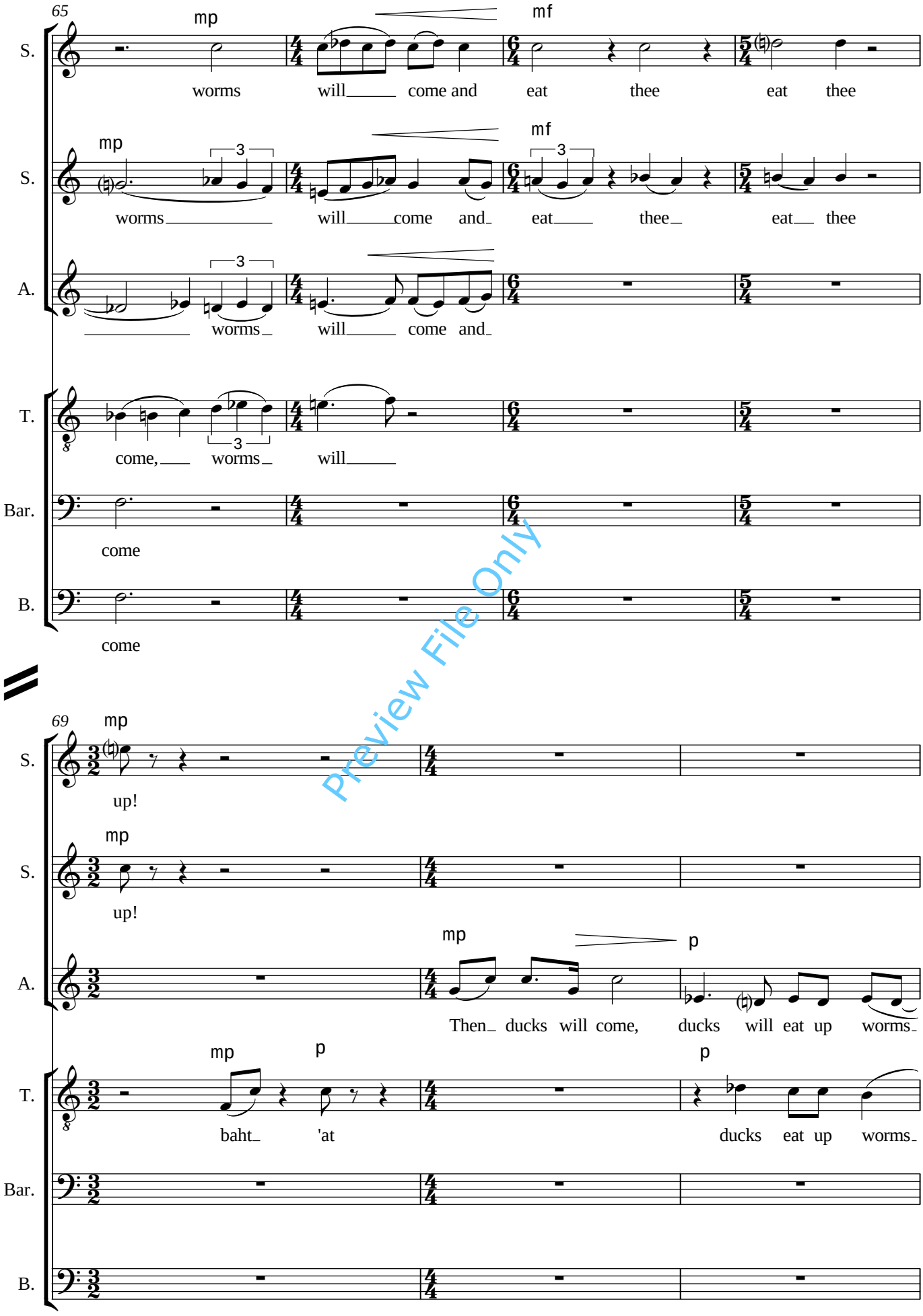

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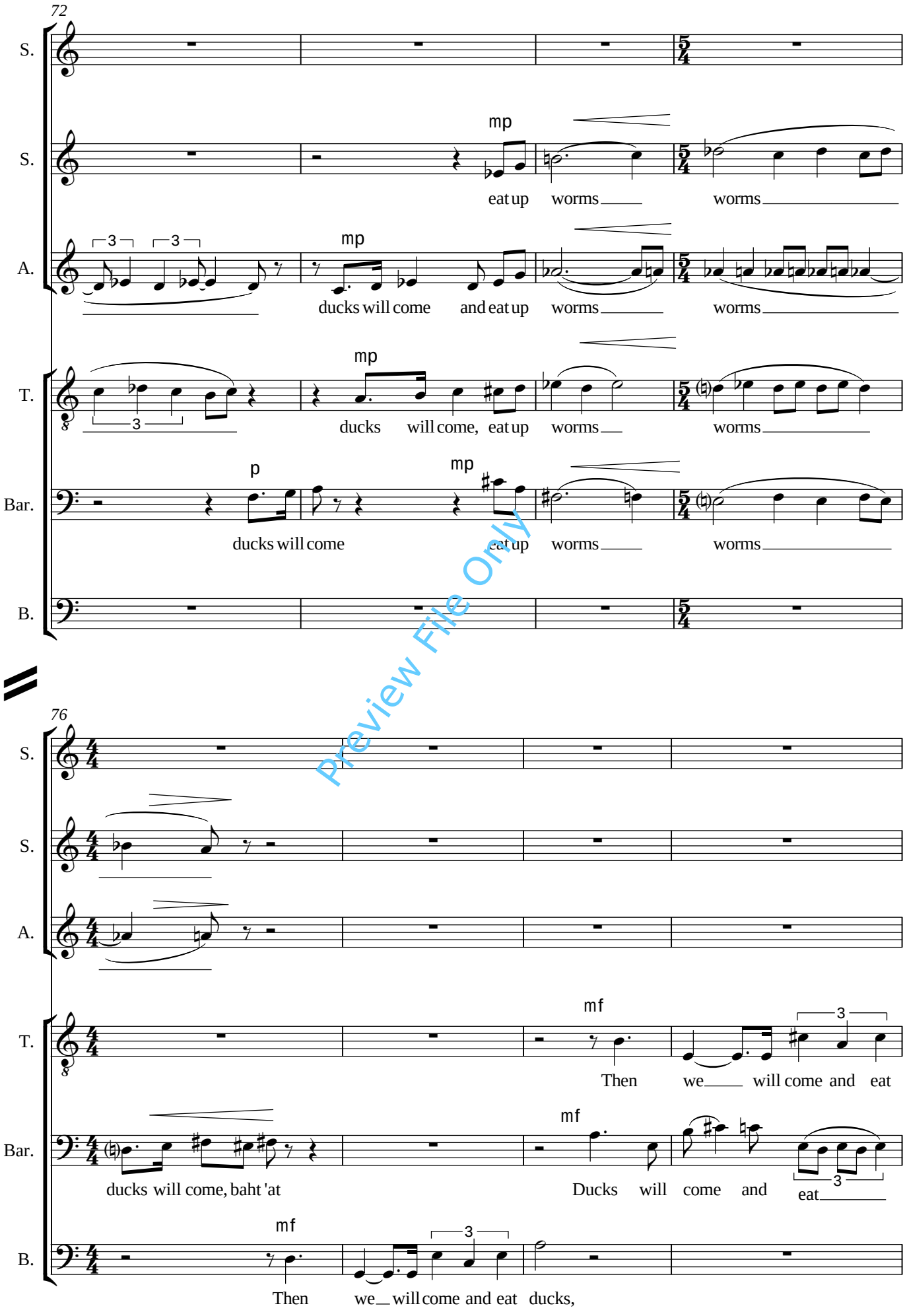

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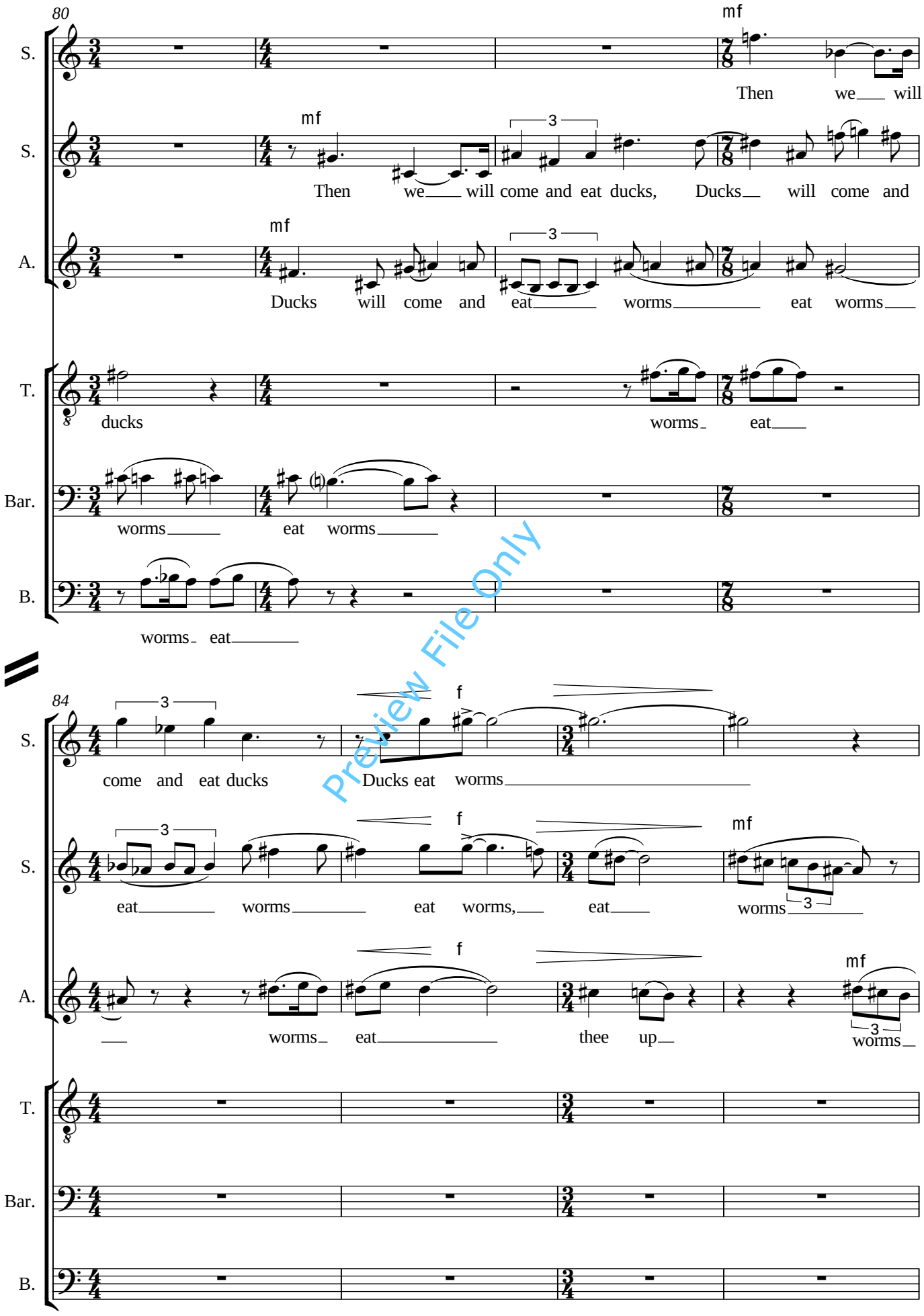

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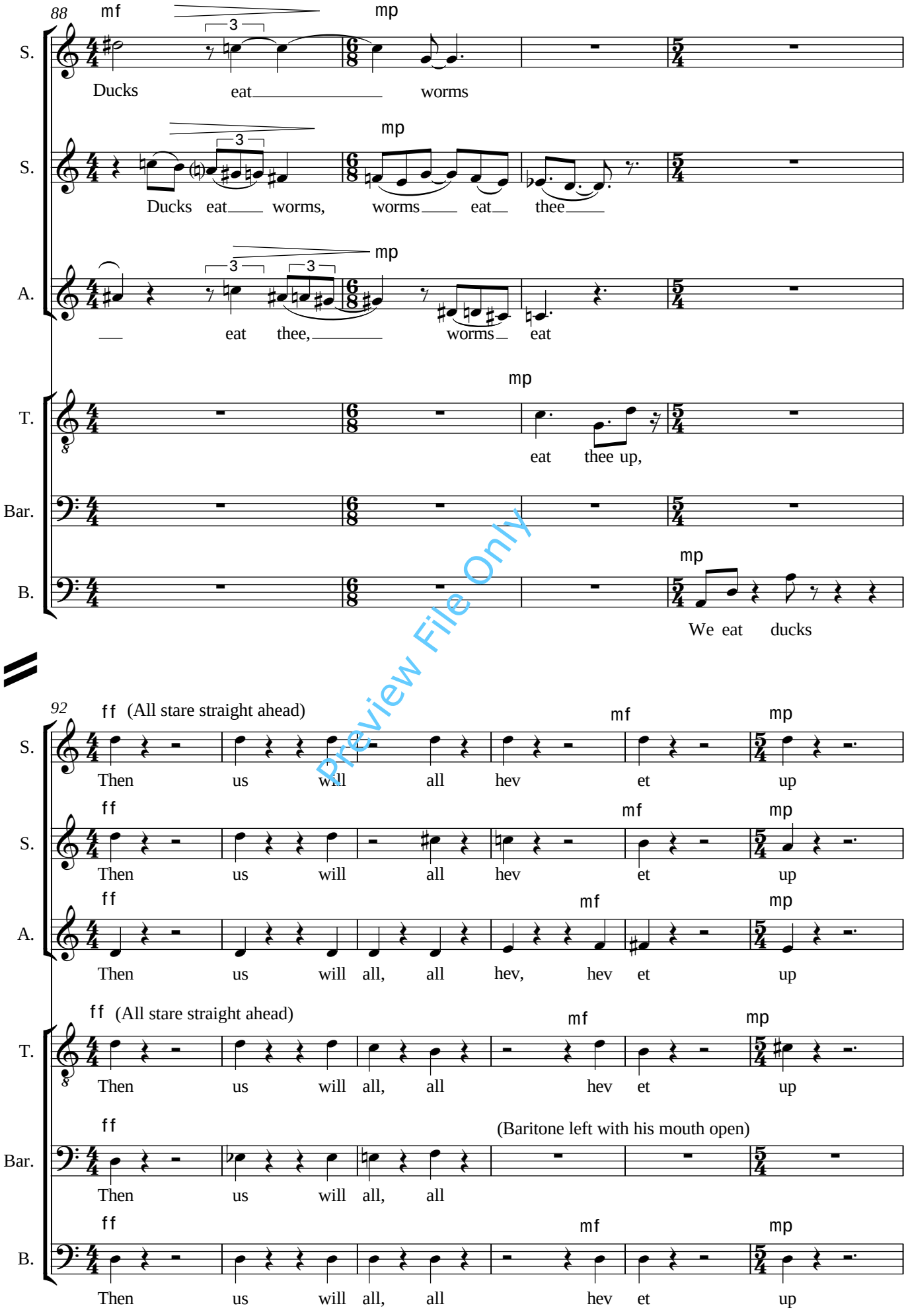

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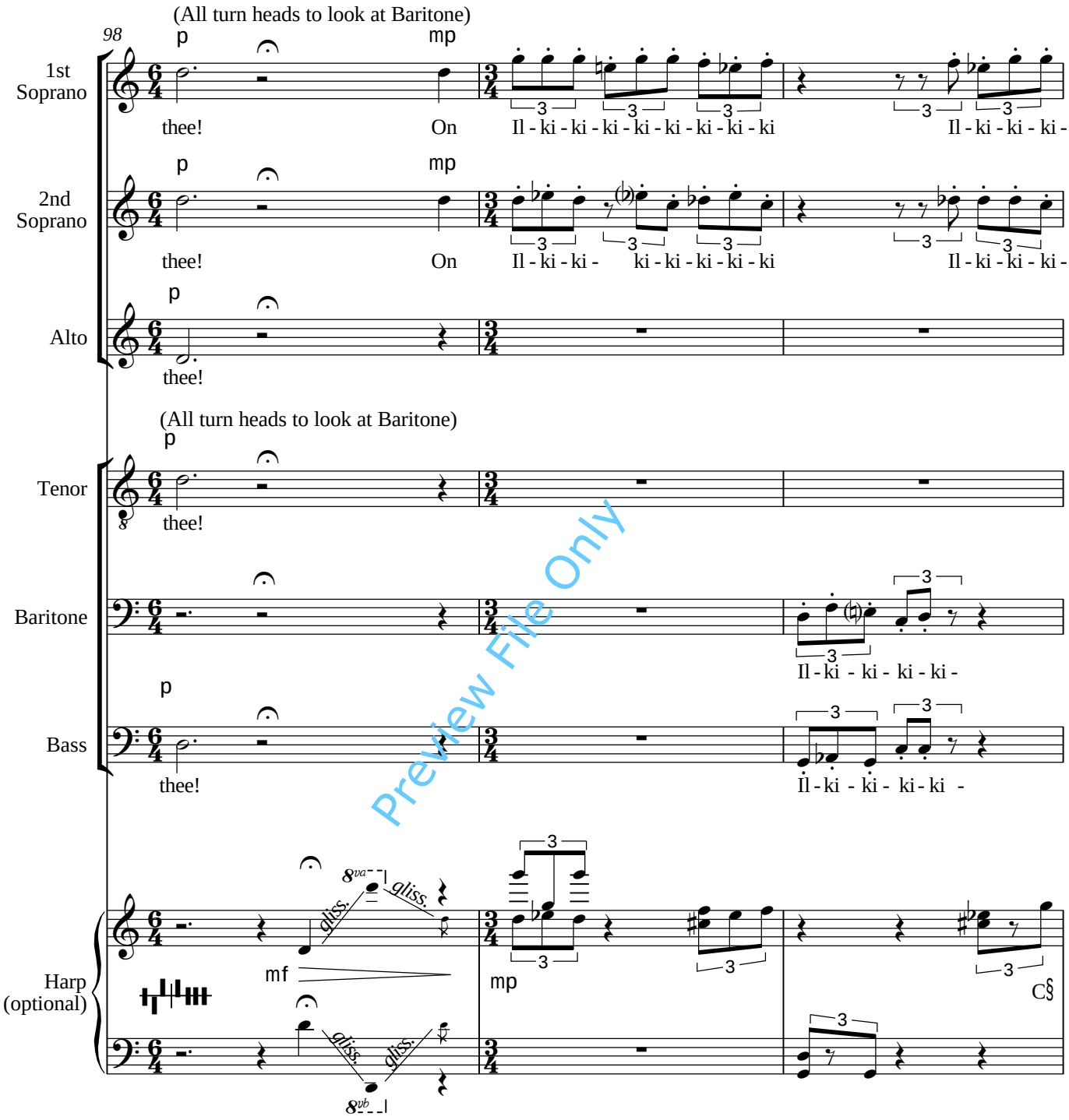

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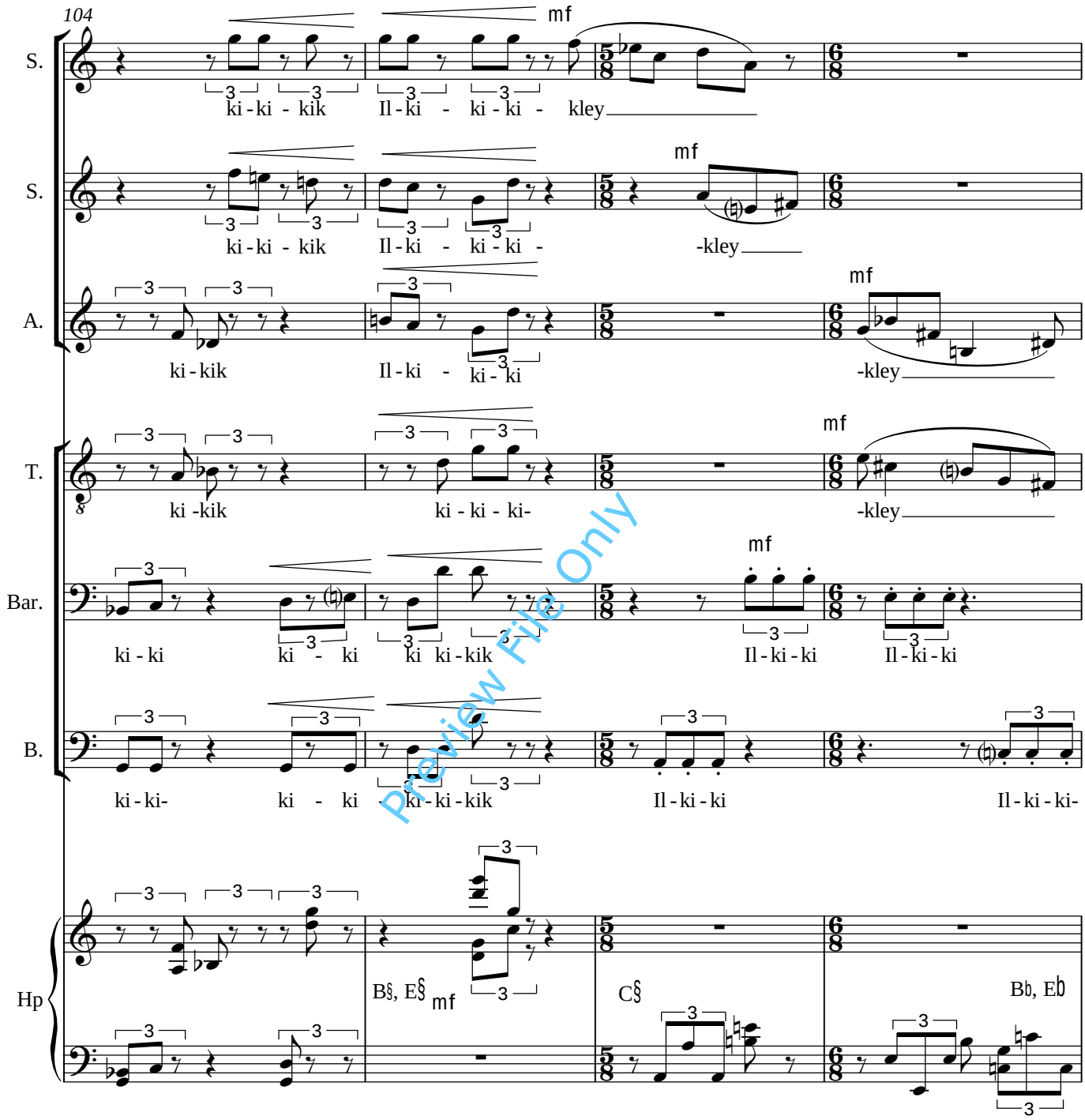

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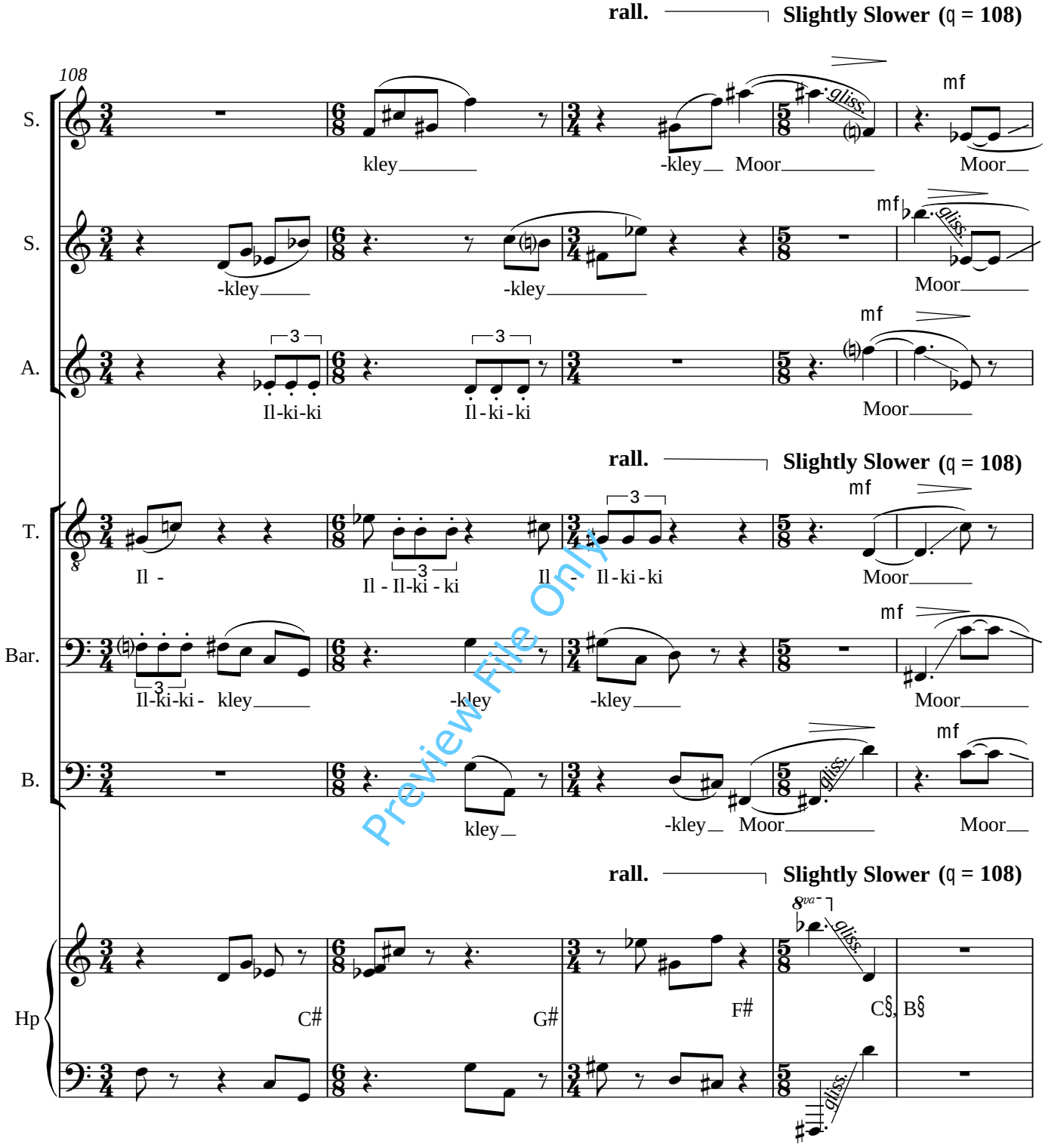

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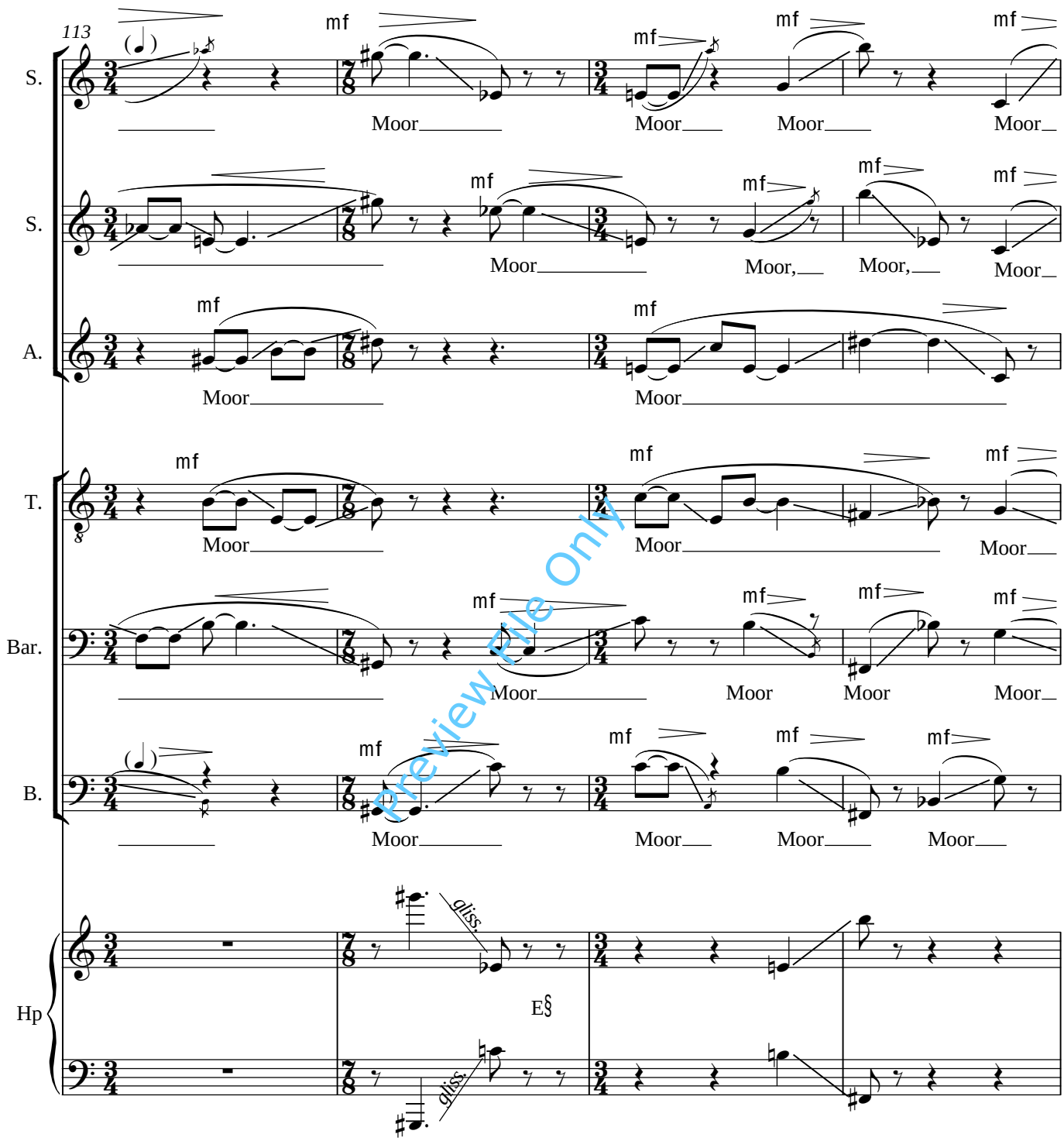

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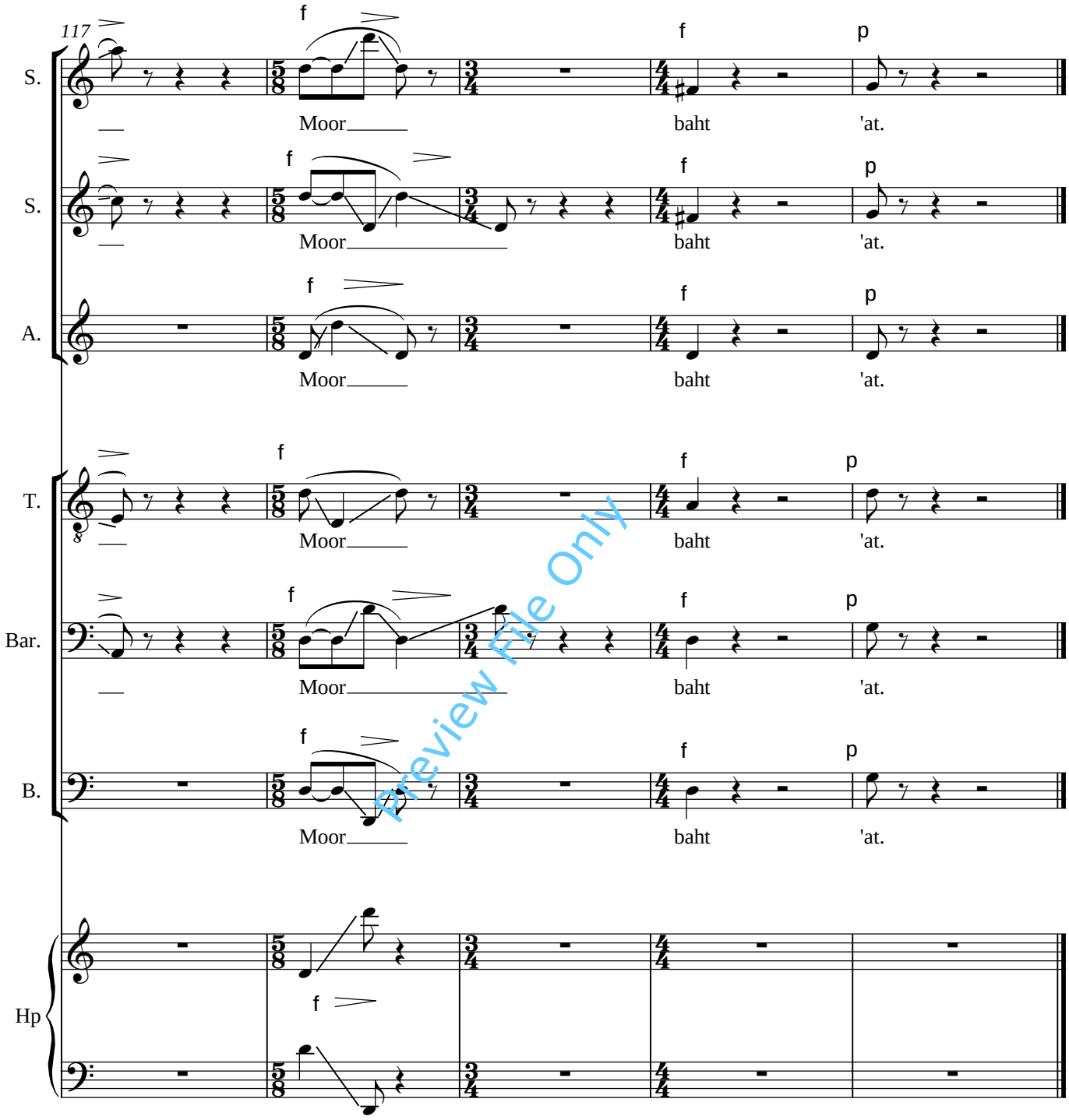

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