The Portrait - PROLOGUE

1944, Binbrook RAF Station,UK

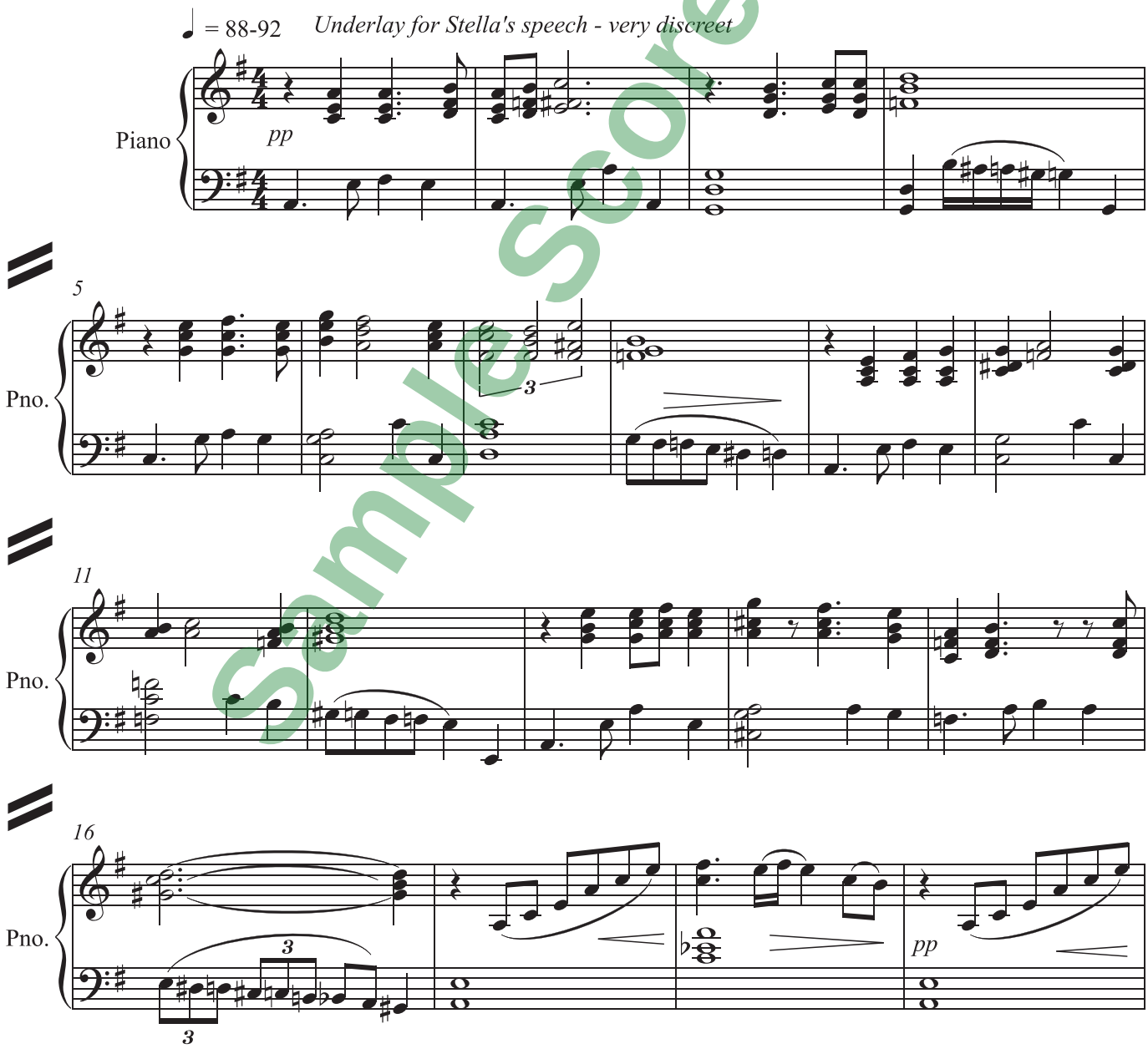
Shadows

Sound effects of Lancaster squadron taking off over the Binbrook RAF Station, UK where she is stationed.

(Stella, in artist smock, is sitting at her table, in front of her easel.) You know, I've been away from home for such a long time that I'd almost begun to look upon myself as someone who didn't belong anywhere any more. (She rises.) For the last few weeks I've been wearing an Australian uniform and it gives me infinite satisfaction. Even if it*s*'s astonishing to find myself - an older lady of casual and undisciplined habits - suddenly buttoned up in a khaki tunic with a peaked cap and three pips on the shoulder and sent to an airfield to paint a bomber crew!

Their leave had been stopped, but they hadn't been told why. They were pretty sore until they found that their picture was for the Australian War Museum and that they couldn't have been chosen for any but the most flattering reasons and then they were fearfully pleased. Goodness, they were a tough looking lot. Hard, smooth cheeks, craggy chins and clear, keen eyes. They talked about Australia and they said things like "dinkum" and "bonzer" and "too right".

And it got me thinking of Ford and how he was a soldier in the War to end all Wars.....



Sample Score Only

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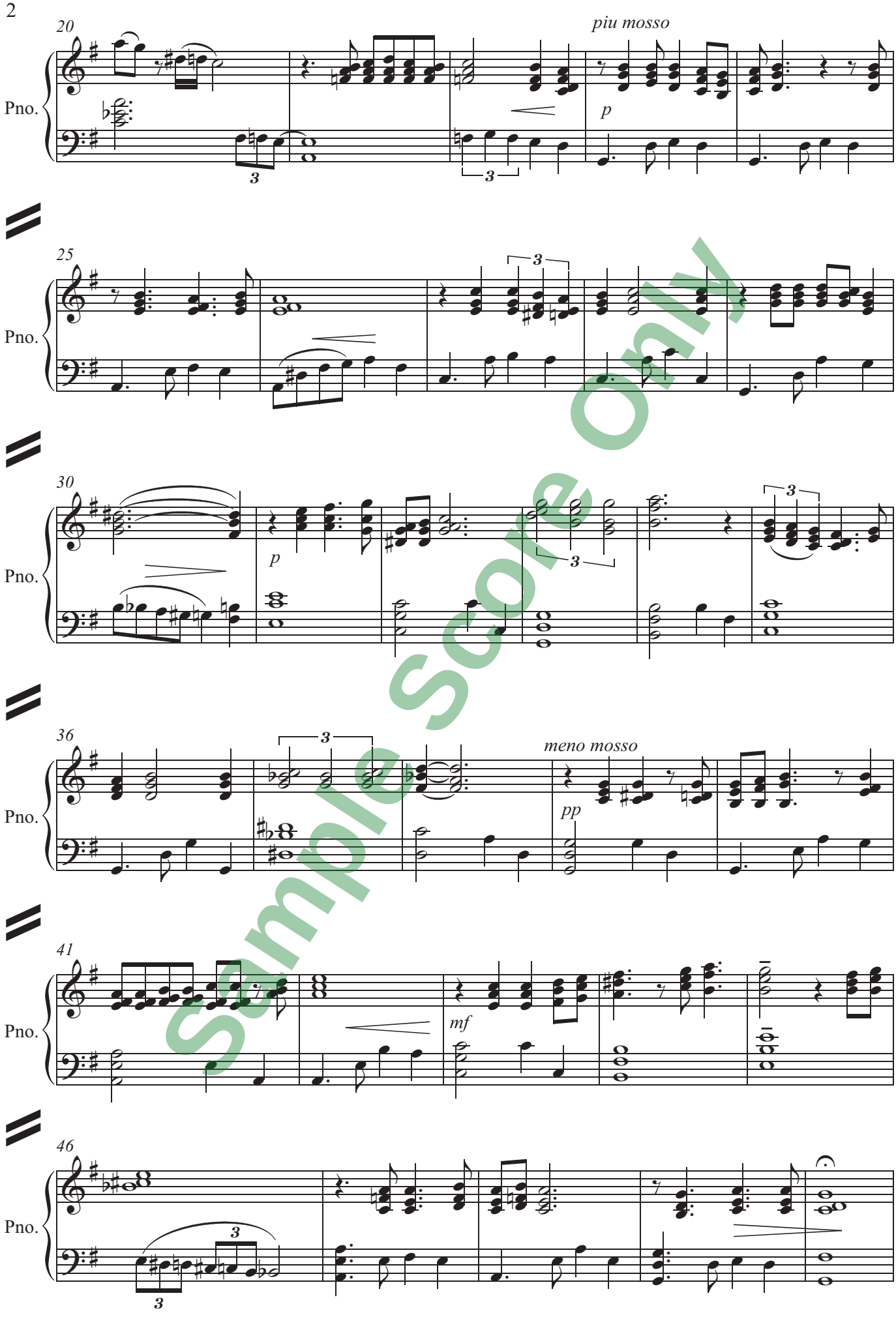

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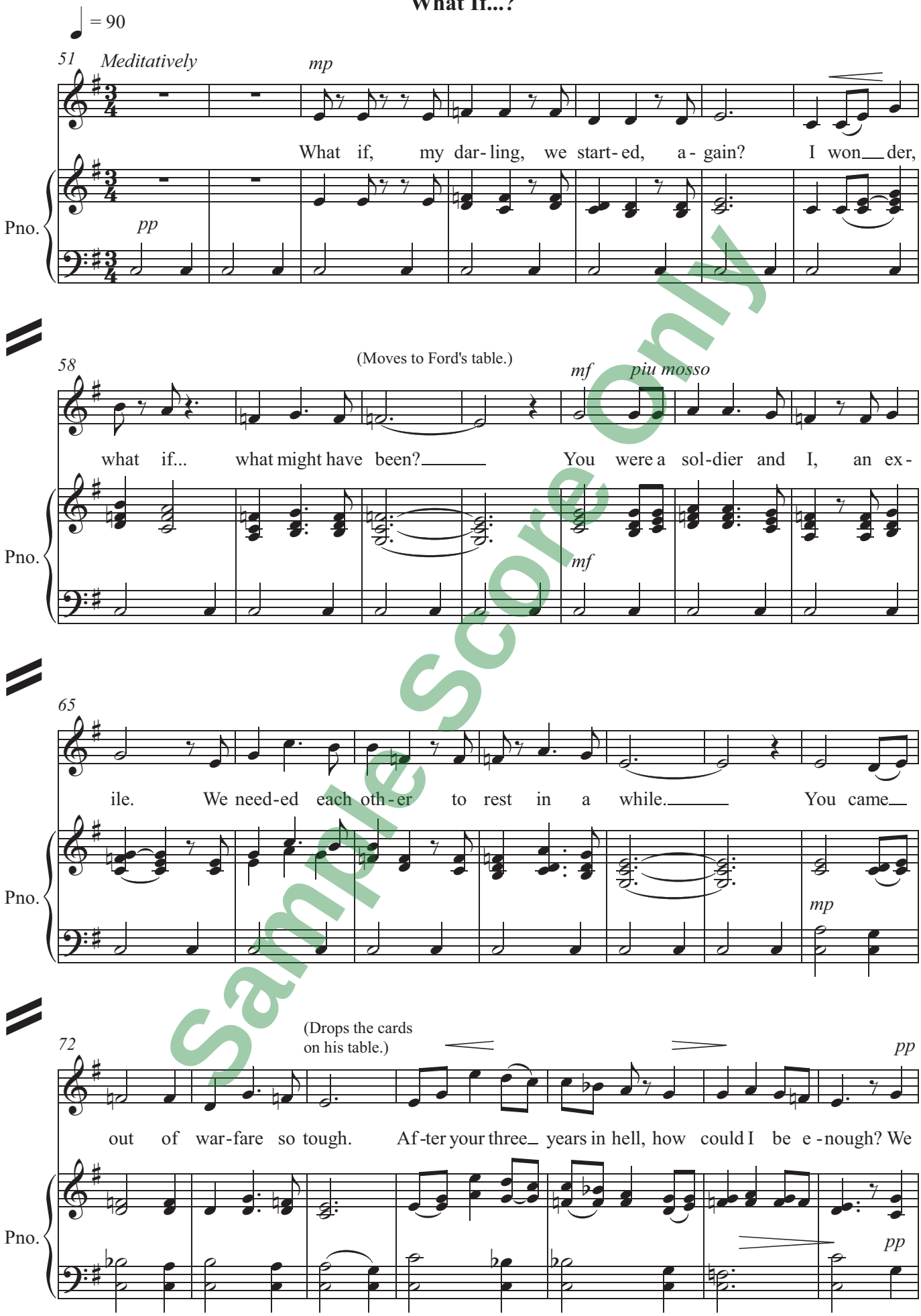
What If...?



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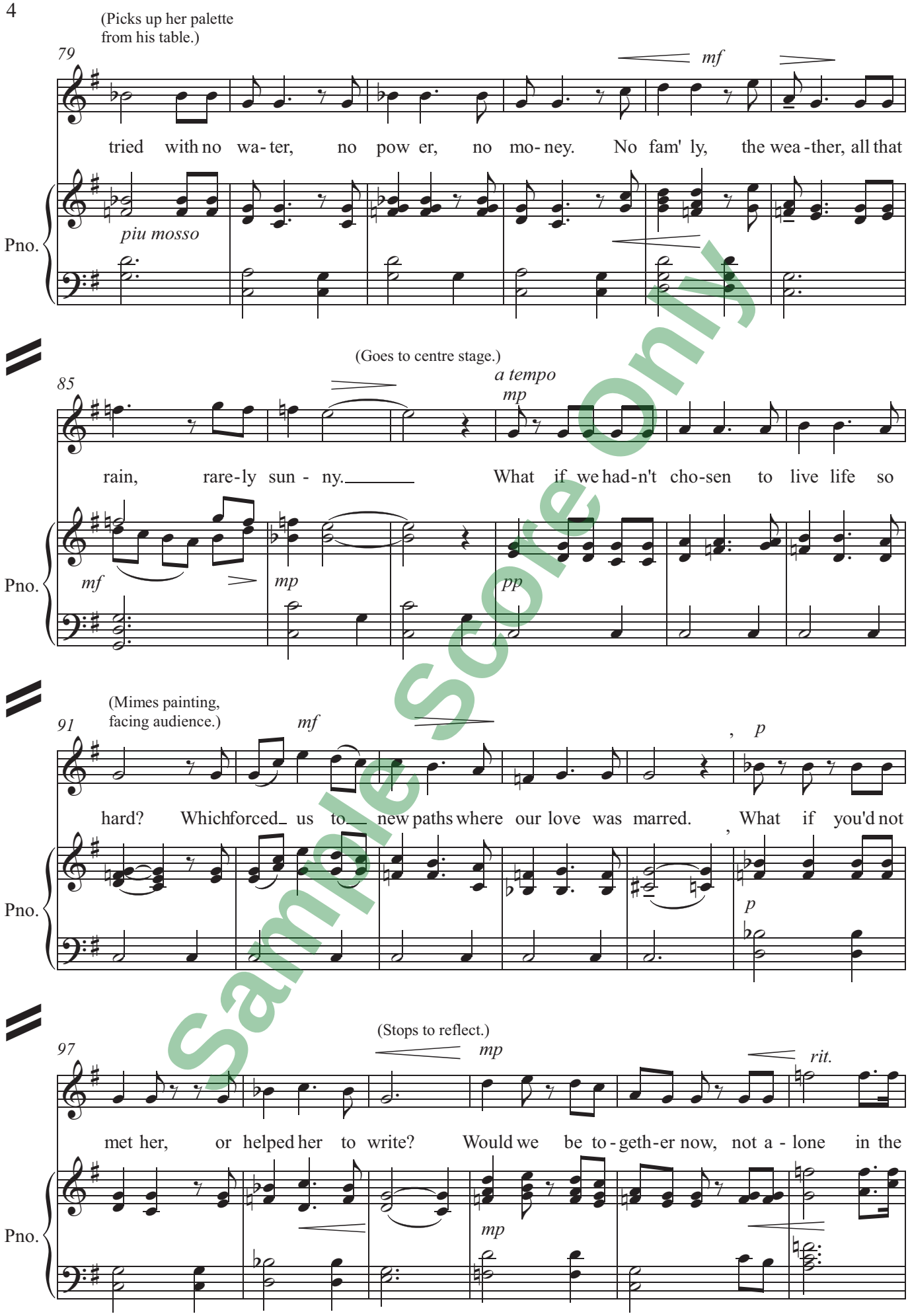

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(Resumes painting.)

103 *a tempo* *mf*

night? What if... no nov - els, no por - traits, no arts?

Pno. *p*

110 *pp* *mp*

No great am - bi - tion, just our join - ing of hearts? Would we be a

Pno. *pp*

115

cou - ple now or would I have gone? Was it my des - ti - ny, or was I a pawn?

Pno.

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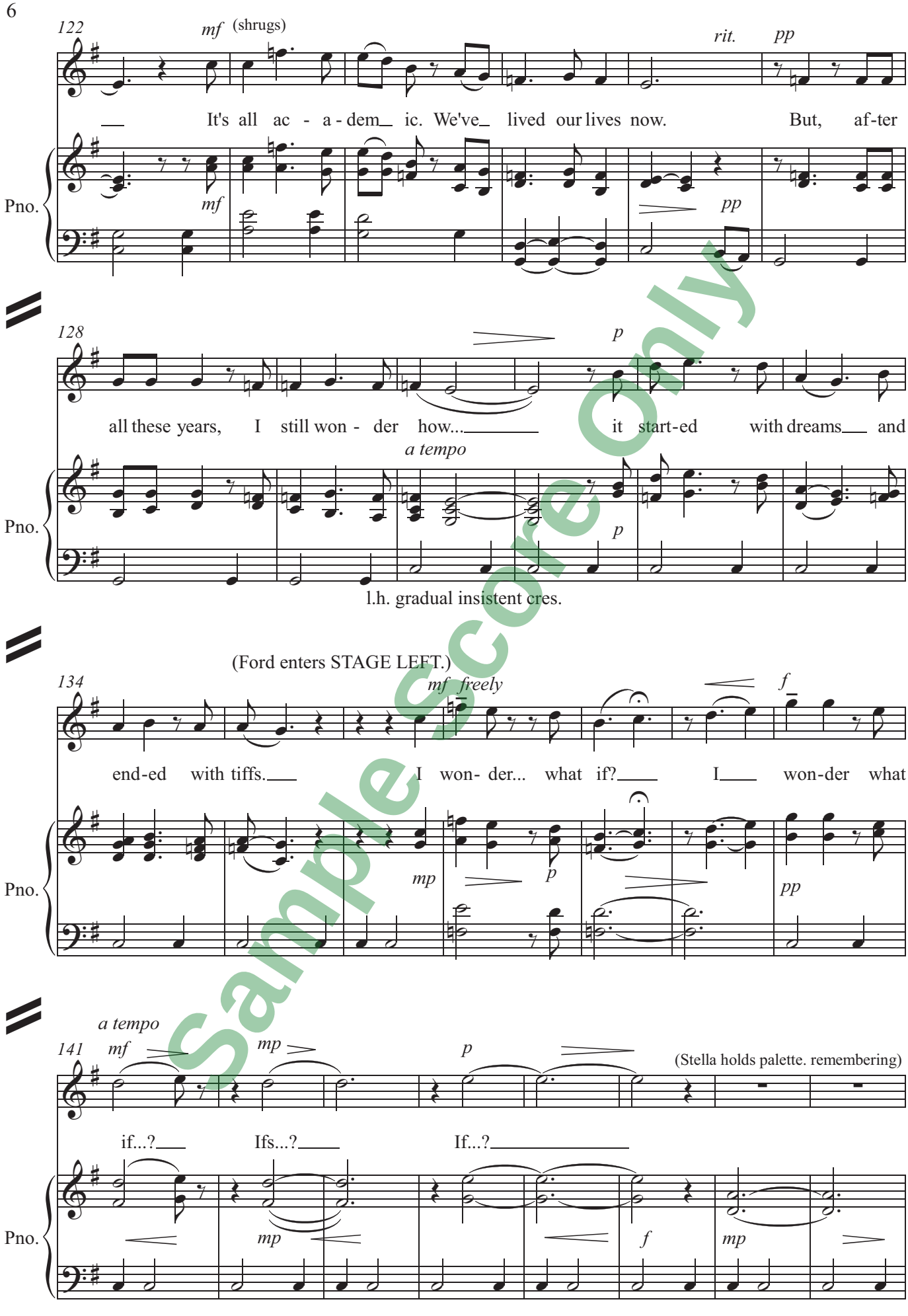

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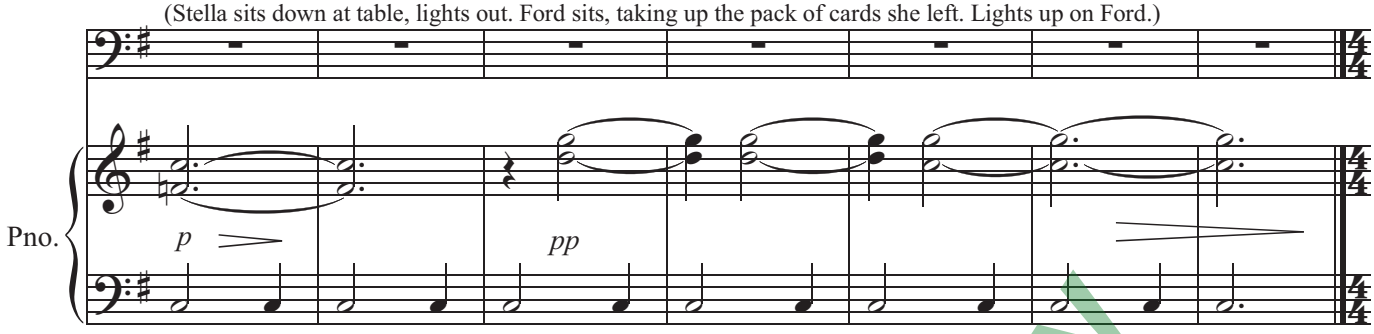
149

(Stella sits down at table, lights out. Ford sits, taking up the pack of cards she left. Lights up on Ford.)

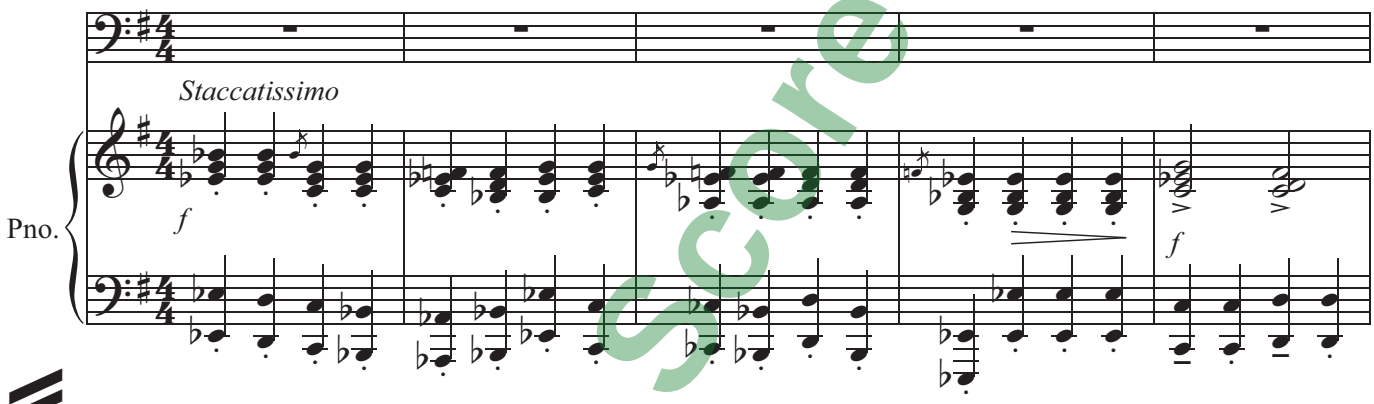


The Portrait - SCENE 1 - War & Peace

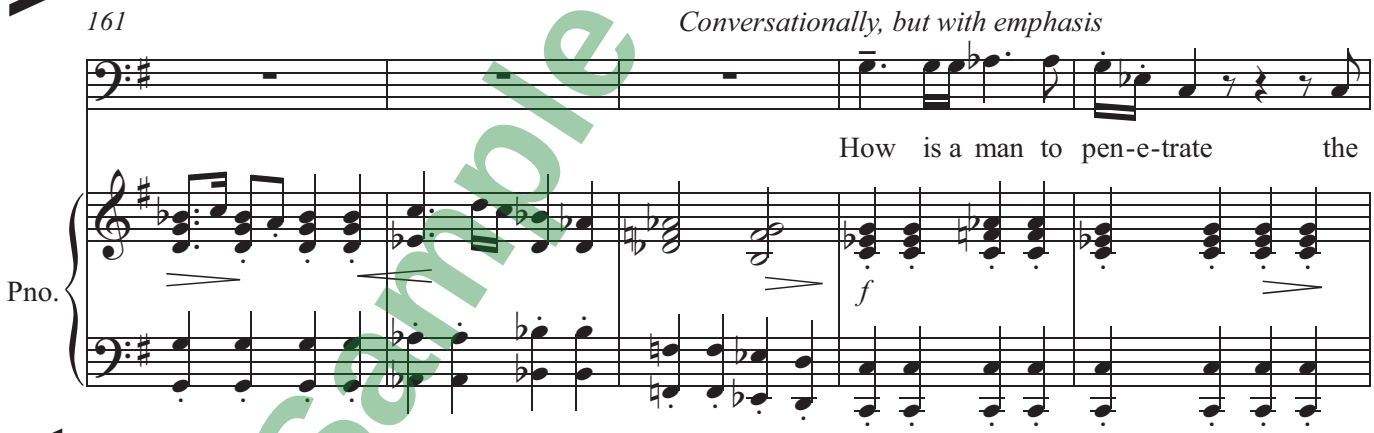
Mother England

♩ = 110

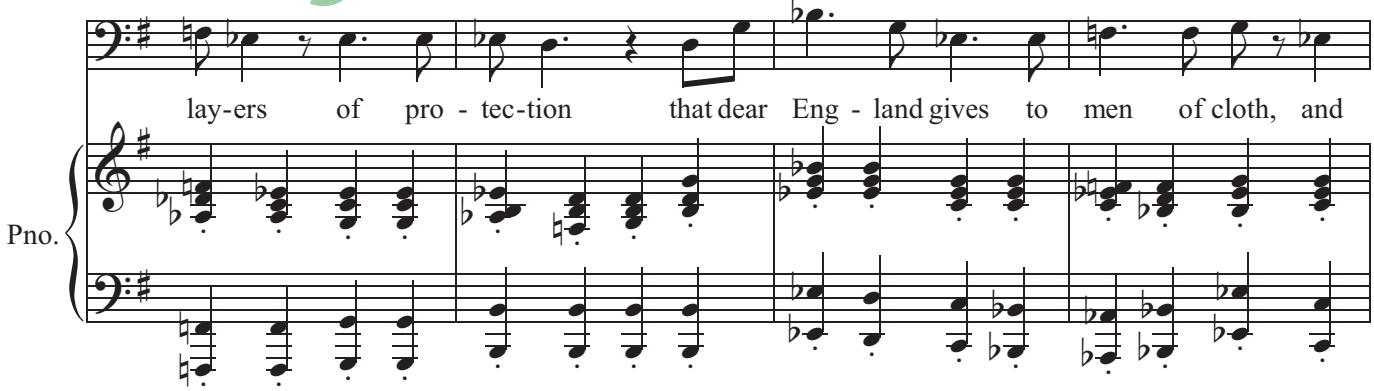
156 (Ford plays solitaire.)



161 *Conversationally, but with emphasis*



166



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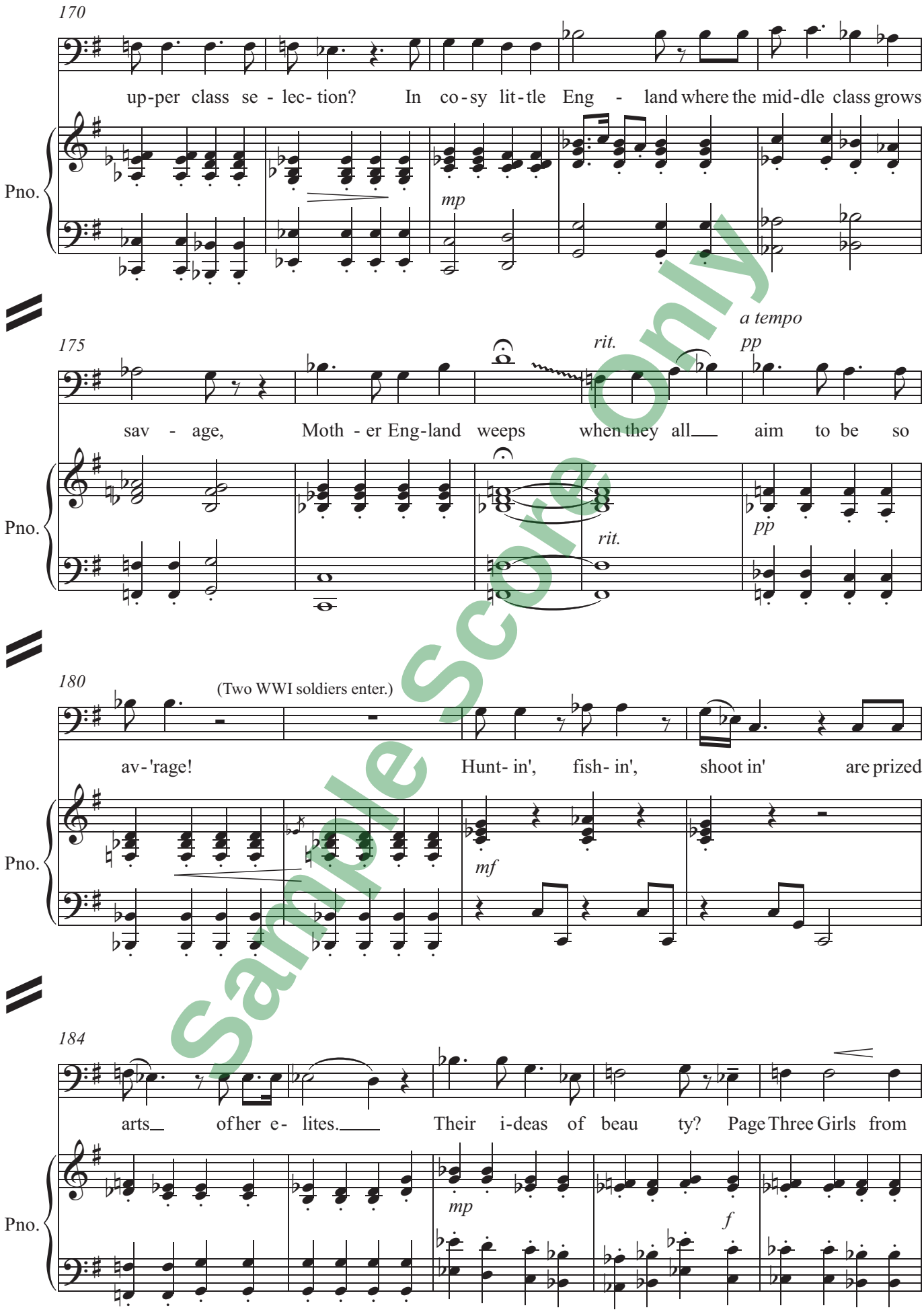

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