SSAA

CM9750
The Road Not Taken / Z. Randall Stroope
SSAA Voices with Piano and Cello
Duration: 4:48

The Road Not Taken

Z. Randall Stroope

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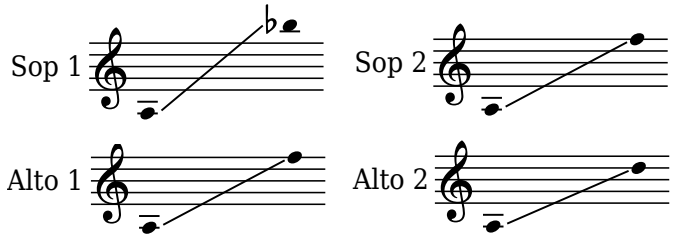

CARL FISCHER

Performance Notes

About the work

Few American poems are as well known as *The Road Not Taken*. Robert Frost, the author, is an international icon, not unlike Pablo Picasso, Winston Churchill or Mark Twain in their own disciplines. The poem is full of contradictions and quirks of form and structure. Perhaps that illusiveness is part of the poem's intrigue. But beyond all of the literary devices that only a few scholars may fully appreciate, this poem has taken on a sort of "fanfare for the common person" credo - a challenge to individualism, stepping out on one's own, and "breaking the mold" out of sheer determination if nothing else. Frost connects to the core of the human spirit in just a few stanzas using the analogy of a fork in a road. The message super cedes geography, culture, race or creed. Rather, it is part of the DNA of most every person on the planet - the inner desire to feel empowered to create one's own destiny, to forge a "road not taken," and ultimately in doing so, to make a difference.

Rehearsal notes

Research strongly suggests that there is a "direct connection between the first rehearsal and the performance." First impressions last. I find it helpful to immediately lock three concepts into place - mechanics (notes/rhythms), text/phrasing (intent and motivation) and color (timbre). Performers need to think musically from the first reading forward (first impression). The cello is very much a collaborative instrument in this work, and should be located in front of the ensemble (not to the side). Lastly, let the text "speak." The simplest melodic lines are often the most exposed. Keep the voices clear and transparent, floating over "the top" in softer passages, and singing with vibrancy and forward focus throughout.

—Z. Randall Stroope

About the Composer

Randall Stroope is an American composer and conductor. He has served as Professor of Music at three universities (an Endowed Professor at two), conducted 47 all-state choirs, and directed over 40 times at Carnegie Hall, among other American venues.

Randall has recently guest conducted in Hong Kong, Rome, Barcelona, Singapore, Canterbury, Berlin, Salzburg, Vancouver and Dublin. He has performed music for Vatican mass at least once every year since 2008. In addition to being Artistic Director for two summer music festivals in Europe, he has taught composition/conducting for the Italian Choral Directors Associations (FENIARCO or ANDCI) five summers of the last six years, as well as teaching composition in Singapore.

Cecil Effinger and Normand Lockwood, both students of Nadia Boulanger (student of Gabriel Fauré) were Randall's composition teachers. He has 190 published works, including compositions for orchestras, soloists, and choral ensembles. Commissions include the ACDA Raymond Brock commission, Raffles Singers (Singapore), Michigan Choral Conductors Consortium, Arlington Master Chorale, West Point Military Academy, Müller Chamber Choir (Taiwan), among many others. Recordings of his works are available on Spotify, YouTube and his website (www.zrstroope.com).

Randall guest conducts full-time, and composes from his home studios on Merritt Island, Florida and in Sandia Park, New Mexico.

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The Road Not Taken

for SSAA Voices* with Piano and Cello**

ROBERT FROST (1874–1963) **Z. RANDALL STROOPE**

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* Also available for SATB Voices (CM9714).

** The part for Cello may be found on p. 13.

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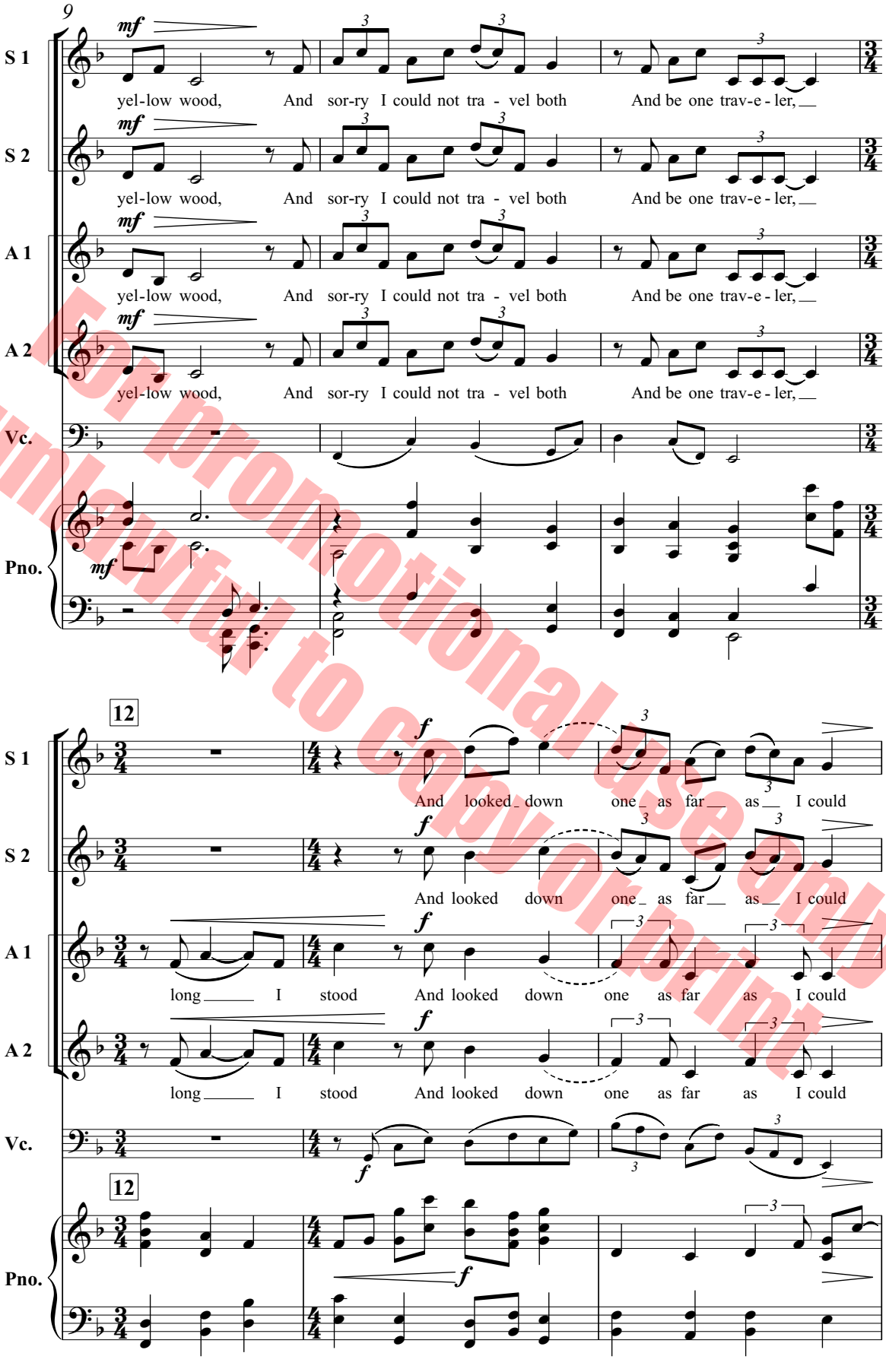

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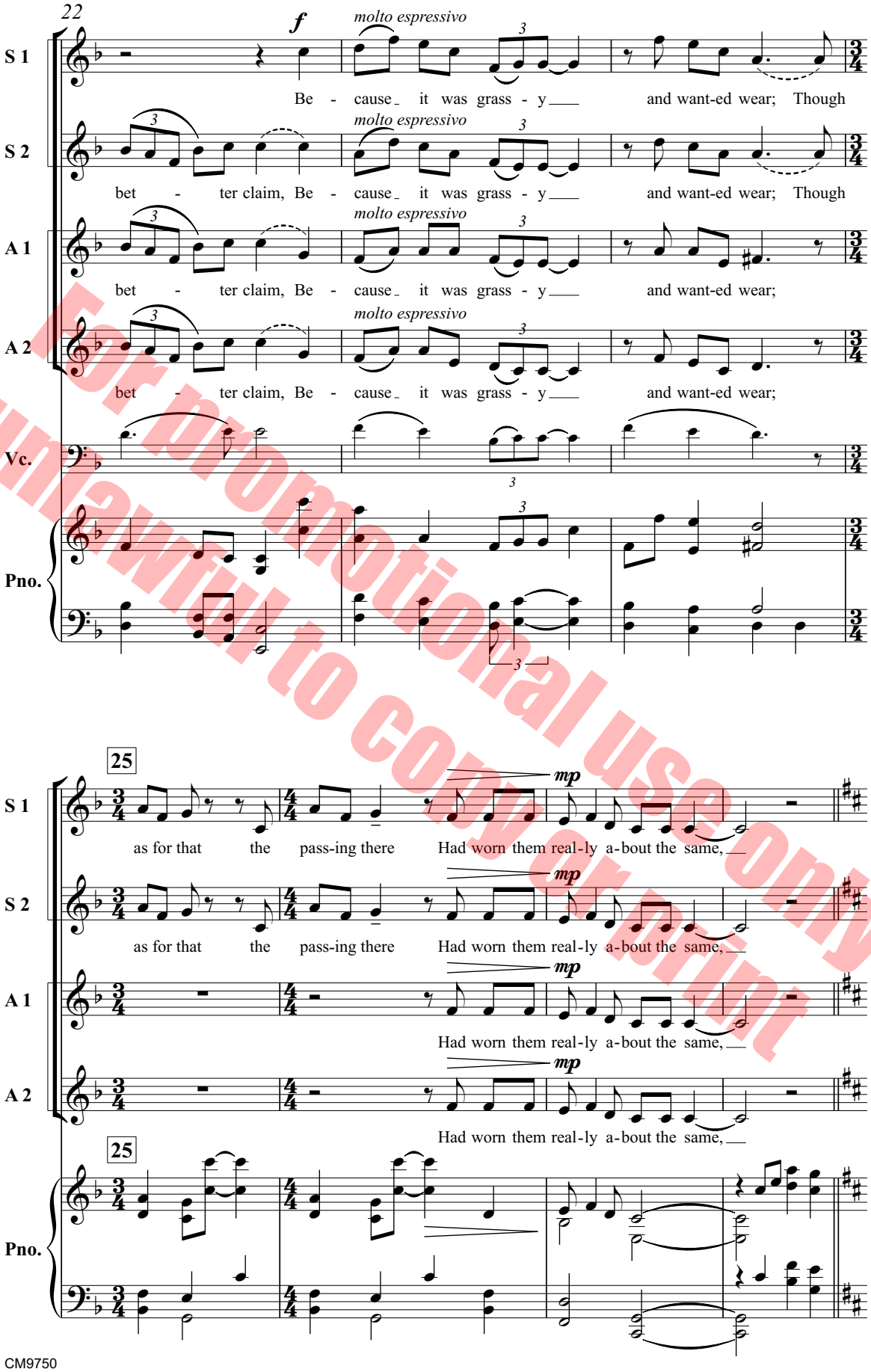

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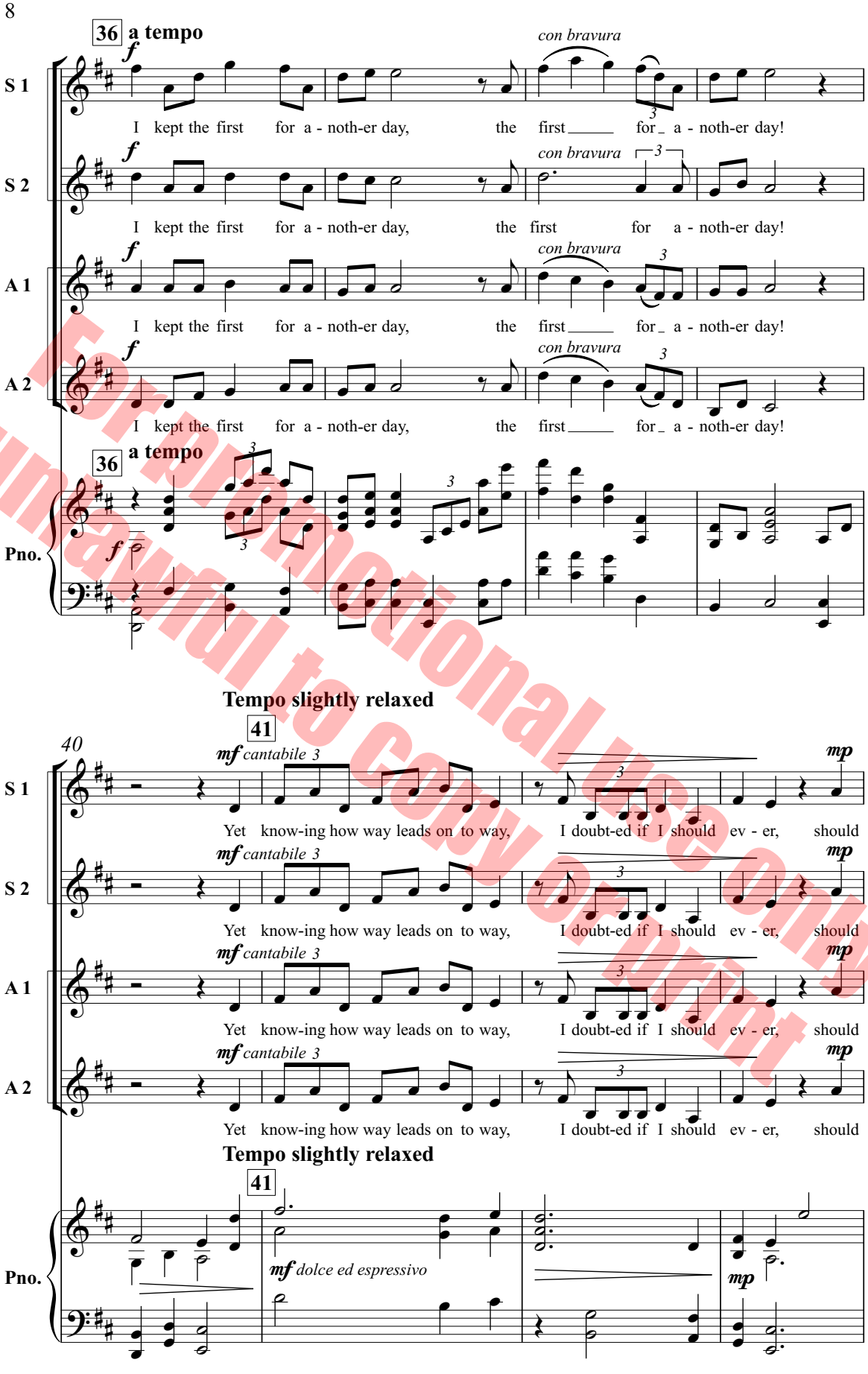

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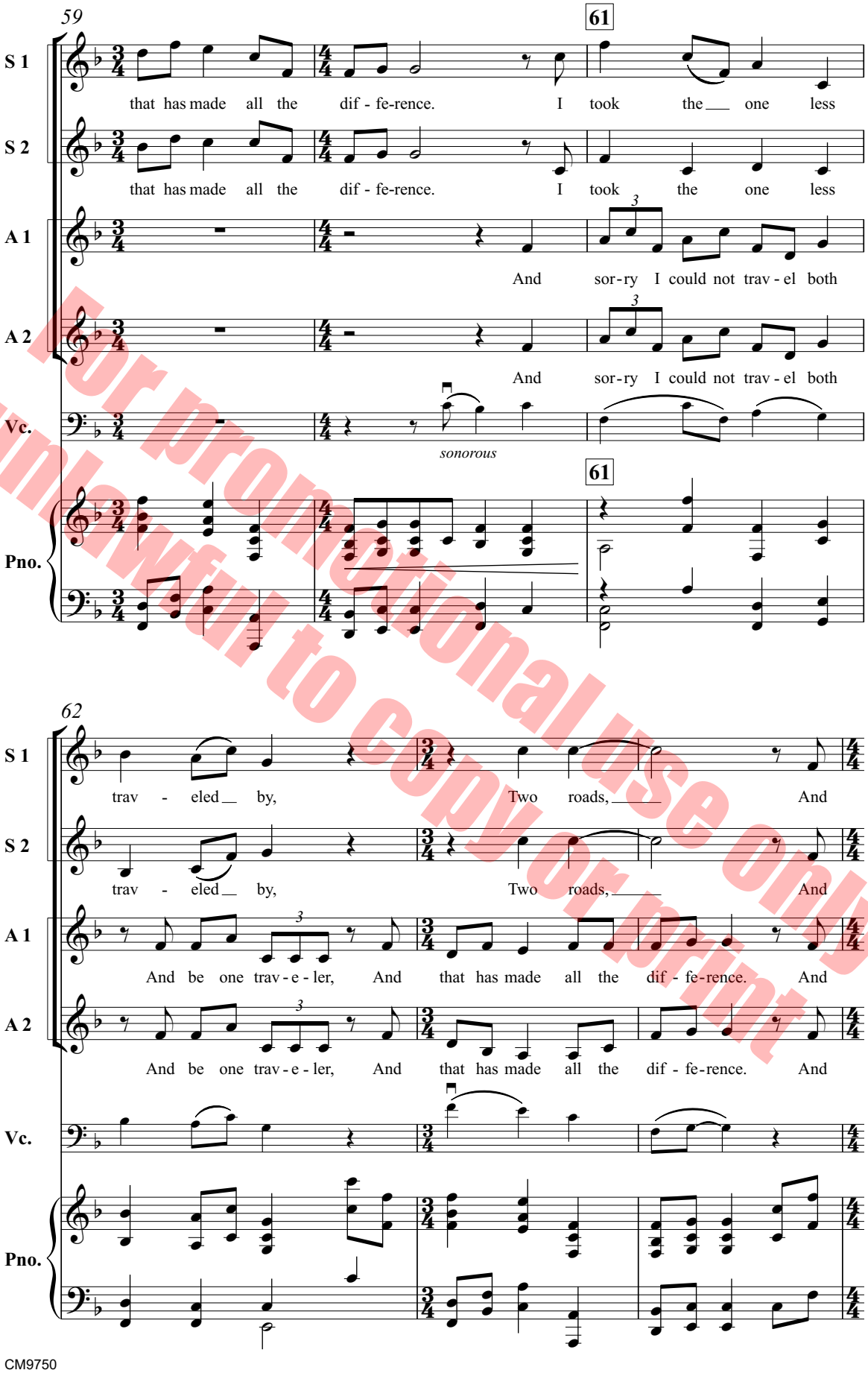

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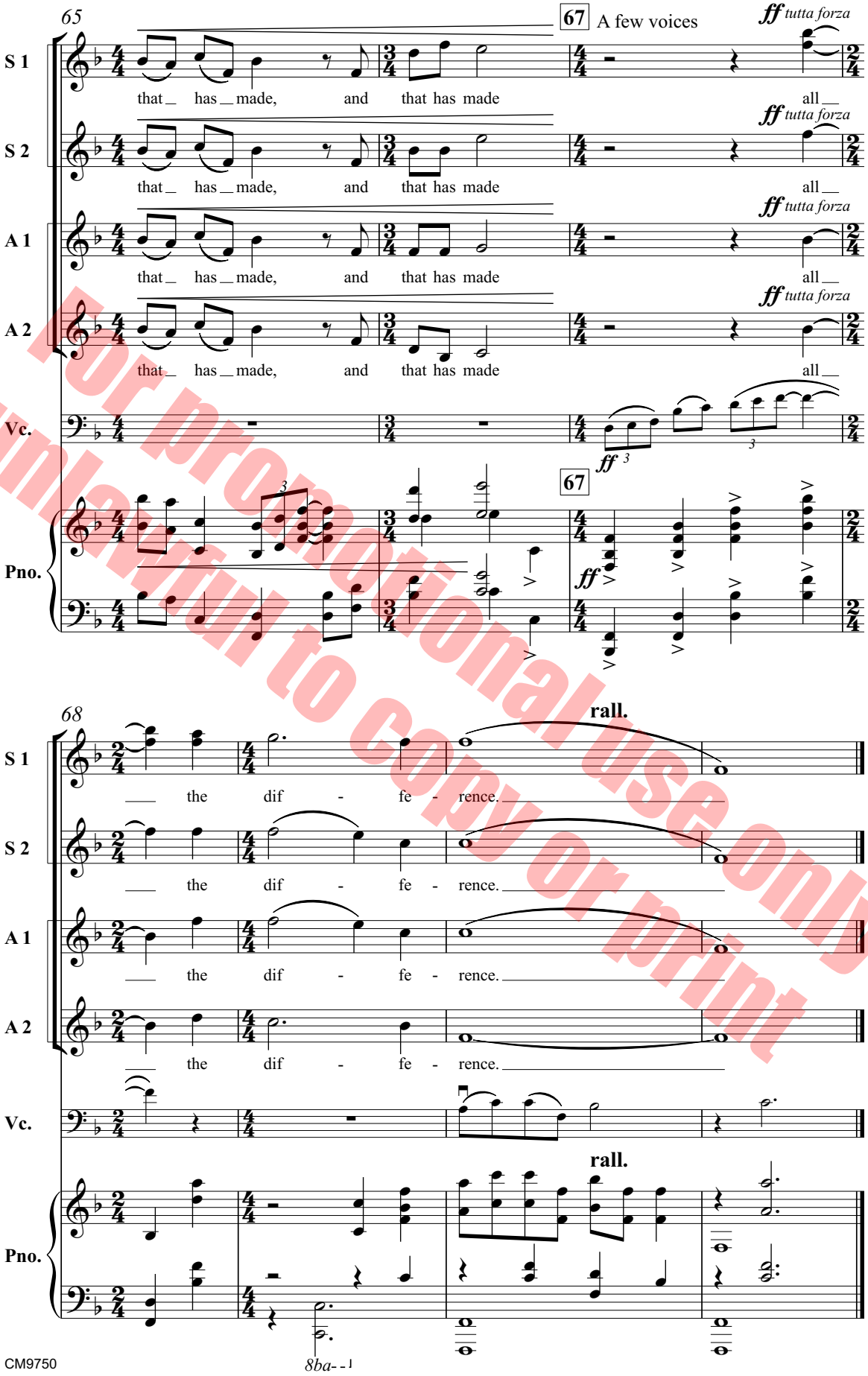

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