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The Return
(Armistice Poems)

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for SATB chorus and piano

Jonathan Santore

Performance Note

In any area where the chorus is not singing, the pianist should feel free to play very soloistically. This is also true in mm. 93-96, where the choral unison is subordinate to the piano part.

Program Note

When the New Hampshire Master Chorale first approached me about writing a piece celebrating the end of war, I found myself thinking about World War I – the "Great War," the "War to End All Wars" – the heroic deeds, great hopes, and ultimate tragedy of a conflict which is rapidly fading from living memory, and the parlor songs and marches which formed the musical background of that conflict. Two of the three texts I set deal specifically with WWI and the Armistice – from an English soldier in the trenches, and an American woman receiving news of war's end far from the battlefields of Europe. The third text, contained in a larger work by Robert Louis Stevenson which predates the Armistice by some forty years, seems apt for a piece about the conclusion and aftermath of war, particularly as seen through the quickly-dimming lens of remembrance.

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All the texts set in this work are in the public domain.

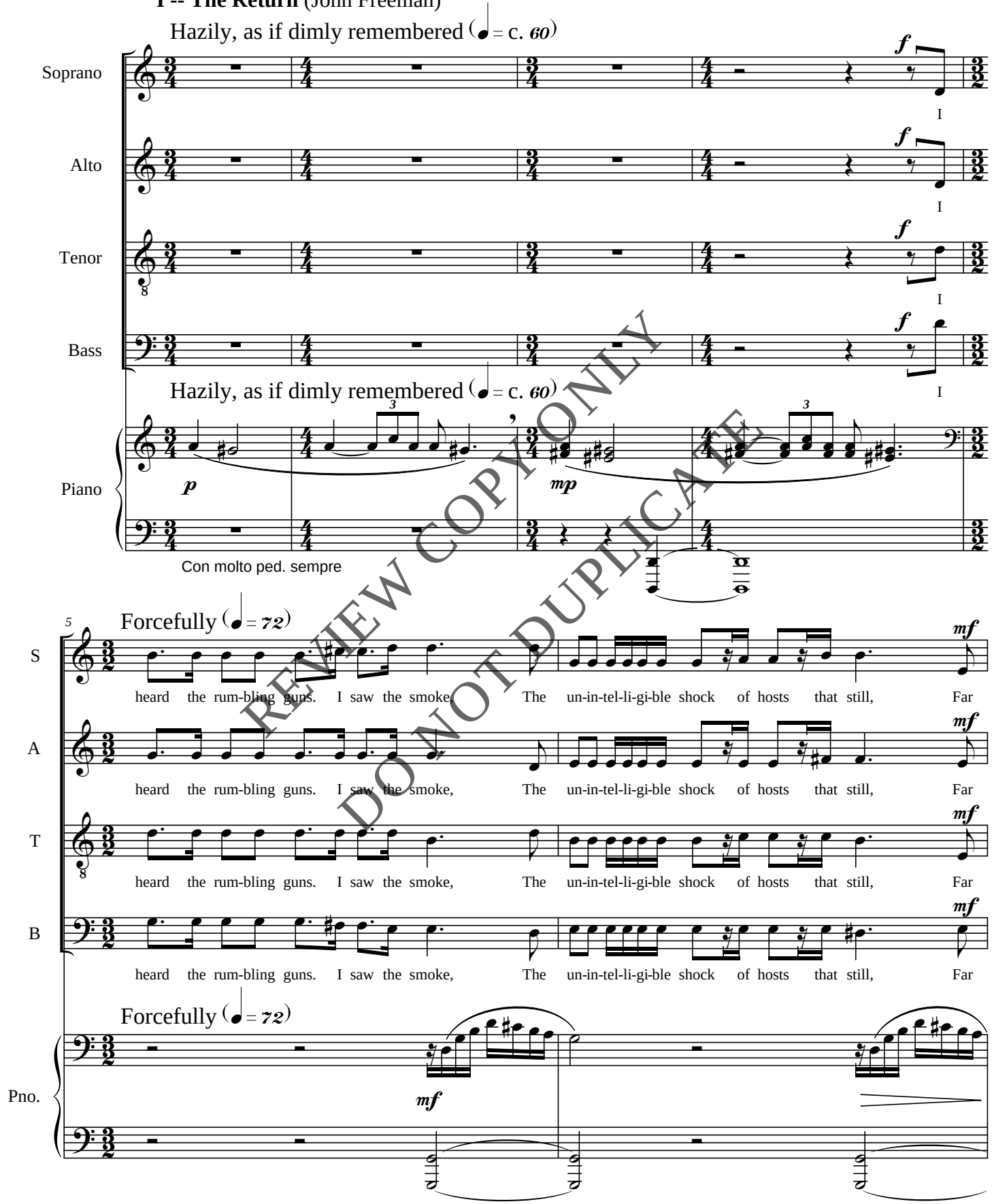
Written for the New Hampshire Master Chorale, Dan Perkins, Music Director

The Return

(Armistice Poems)

Jonathan Santore

I -- The Return (John Freeman)



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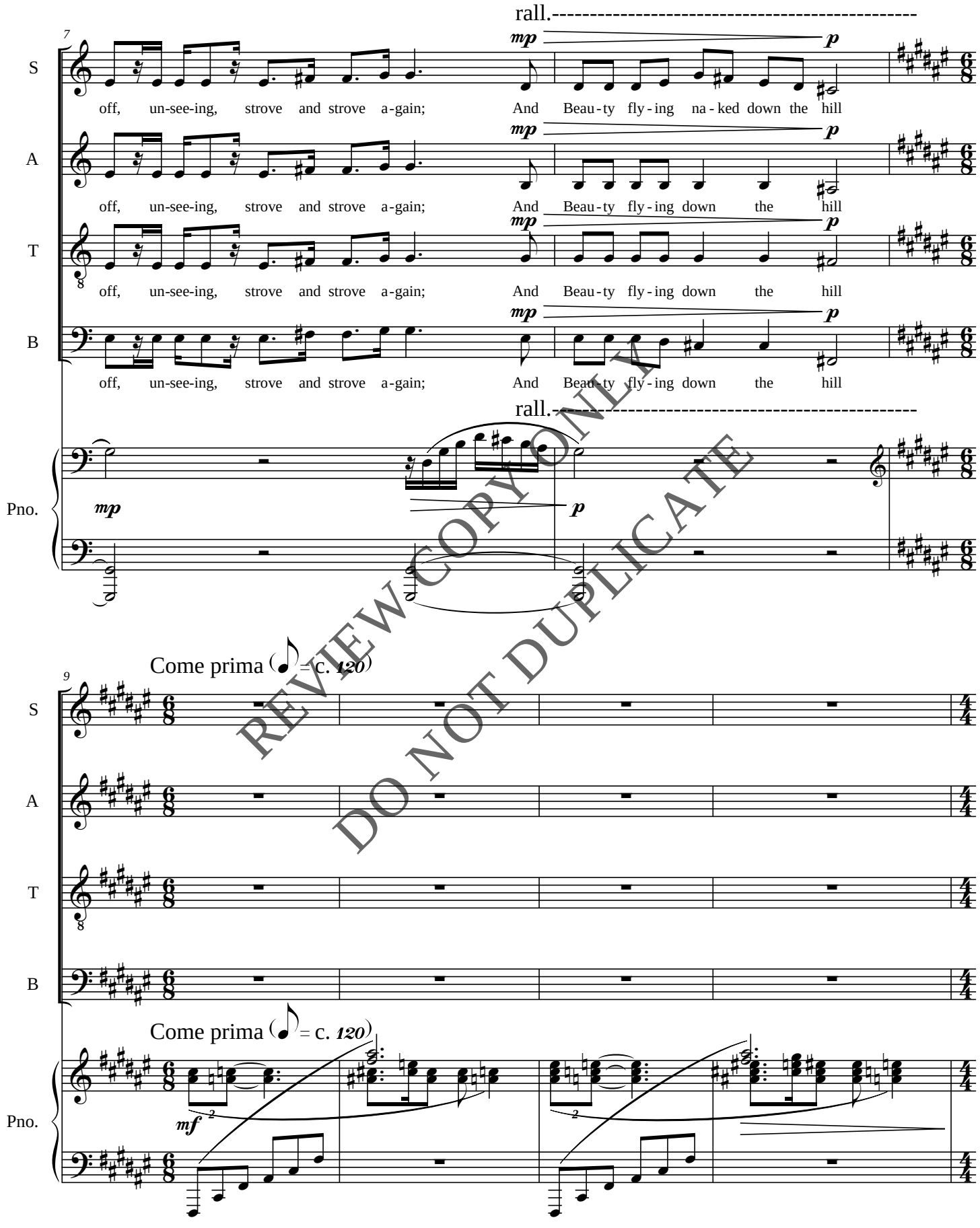

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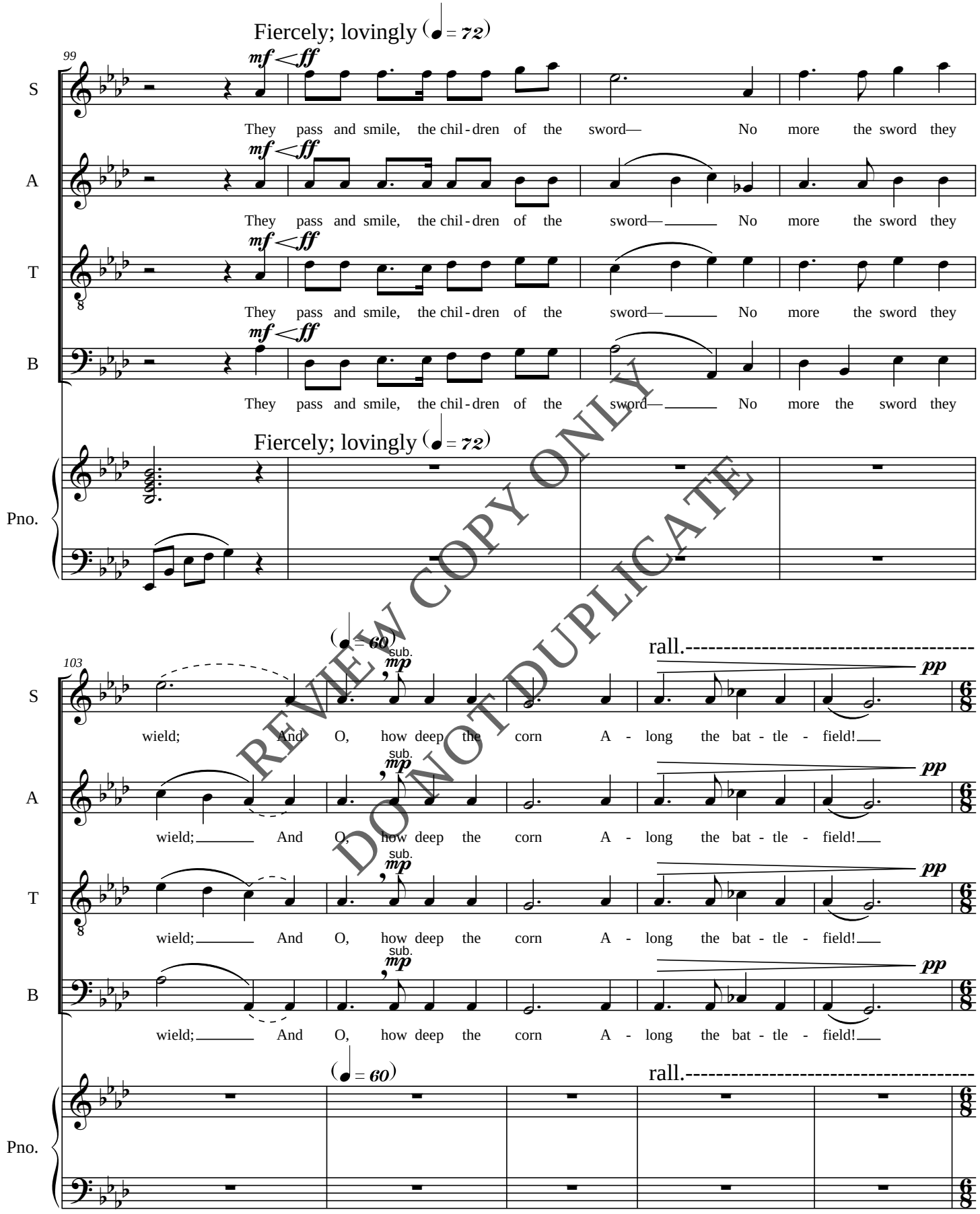

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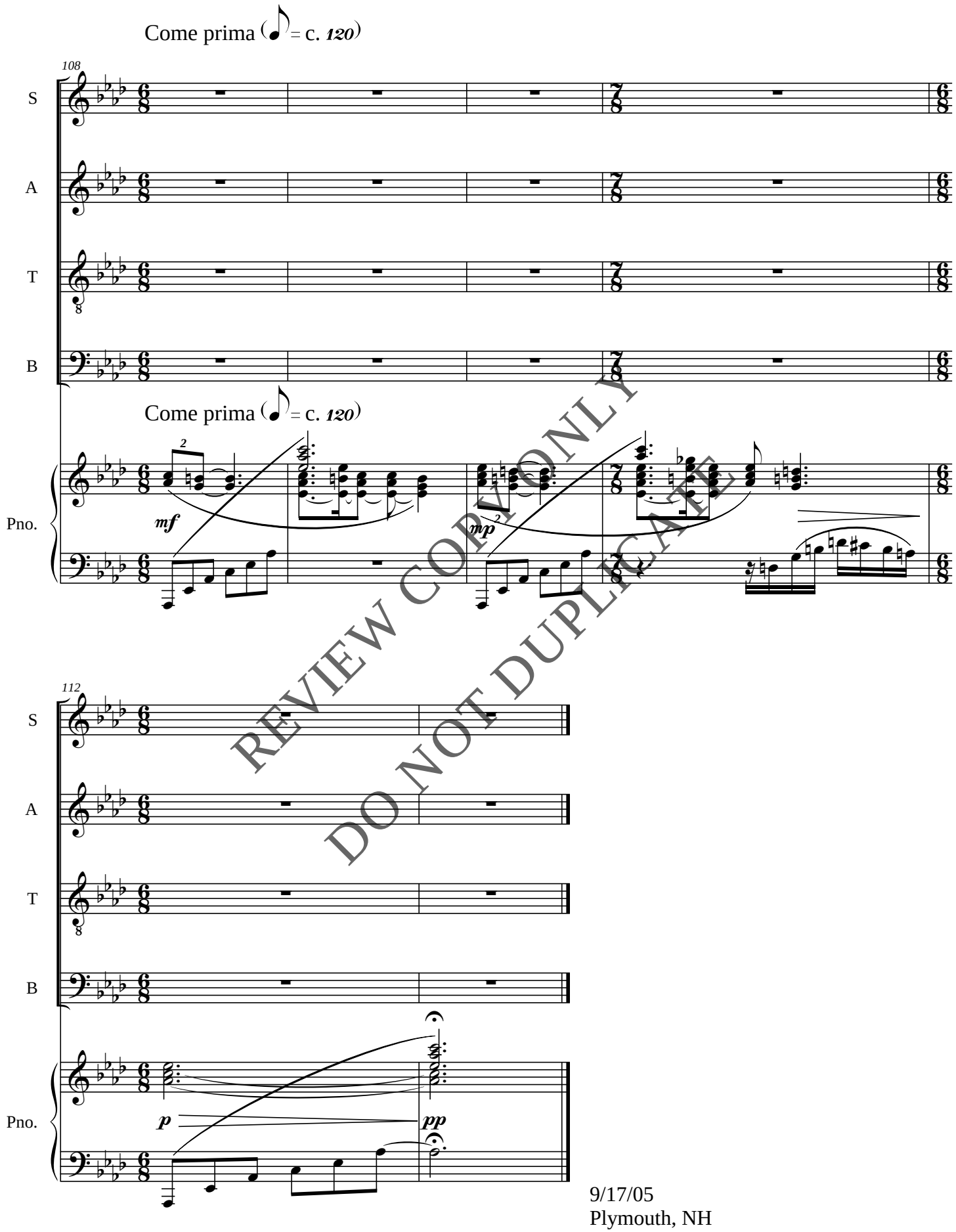

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9/17/05
Plymouth, NH