**“I am taught to live in respect for Mother Ea[illegible]**
**In indigenous societies, we are told that Natural Law is the hig[illegible] law [illegible]her than the law made by nations, states, municipalities and the Wo[illegible]k.”**

***„Mir wurde beigebracht, voll Respekt für Mutt[illegible]rde z[illegible]leben.***
***In unserer Stammeskultur lernen wir, dass das Naturgese[illegible]as hö[illegible]Gesetz darstellt höher als Gesetze von Nationen, Staaten, Städte[illegible]nd de[illegible]Ve[illegible].“***

Winona LaDuke (White Earth reservation in Northern Minne[illegible]
from her Statement at the United Nations Fourth World Confere[illegible]men, Beijing, China, August 31, 1995

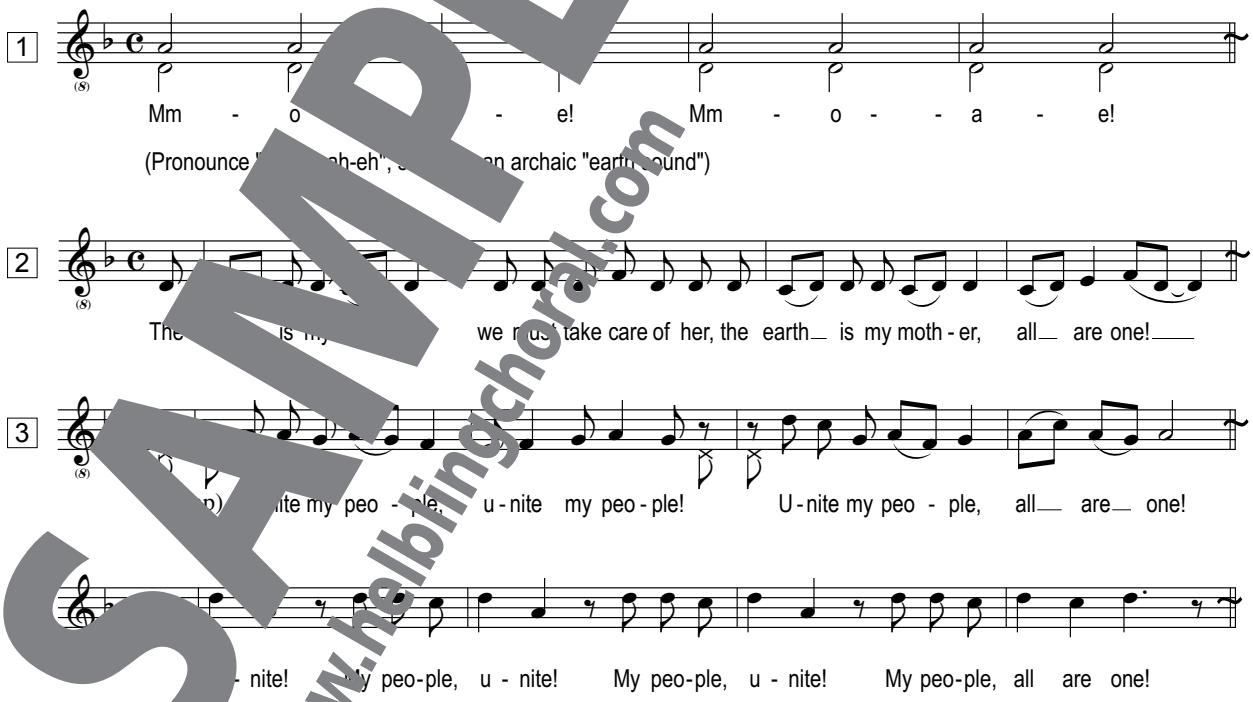
## The Earth i[illegible]y [illegible]her

The point of departure for *The Earth is My Mother* is a motif from a Navajo Indian song [2], which the composer employs to develop further powerful elements. They in turn combine with recited text [7] and archaic drum rhythms [illegible] to form a highly expressive composition.

The seven basic compositional elements:

[illegible] Ausgangspunkt von *The Earth is My* [illegible] ist ein Motiv aus einem Lied der Navajo-I[illegible]er [illegible]. Aus diesem entwickelt der Komponist weitere ausdrucksstarke Elemente, die sich mit dem rezitierten Sprechtext [7] und archaischen Trommelrhythmen [6] zu einer expressiven Komposition verdichten.

[illegible]sieben grundlegenden kompositorischen [illegible]mente:

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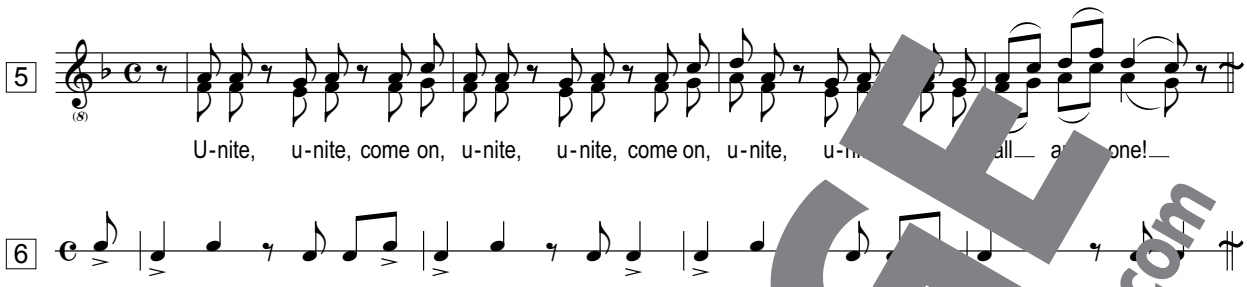


7 Two statements by Native Americans, to be recited by a speaker freely to B and L:

7 *Zwei Texte [illegible] die von einem Sprecher zu den Teilen* B *und* L *frei gesprochen werden:*

B

**Speaker 1** **"The earth is our mother.**
**From her we get our life and the ability to live.**
**It is our responsibility to care for our mother**
**and in caring for our mother, we care for ourselves."**

From the "Beijing Declaration of Indigenous Women" at the UN Fourth Word Conference on Women 1995
*Aus der „Peking-Erklärung einheimischer Frauen" der 4. UN-Welt-Frauen-Konferenz 1995*

L

**Speaker 2** **"We, the five-fingered beings, the spiritual beings,**
**Father Sky, Mother Earth, and nature.**
**We all are relatives.**
**Let's not leave our relations behind!"**

Betty Tso, traditional Navajo
*Betty Tso vom Stamm der Navajo-Indianer*

**Rehearsal notes**

Choral performance of this piece starts with a warm-up comprising elements 1 to 6, which are to be accompanied by rhythmical body movements. Together with an emotional focus on the theme of the piece, these vocal/body warm-ups are the key to an expressive interpretation.

**Probenhinweise**

Bei der Erarbeitung des Stückes im Chor werden zu Beginn die musikalischen Elemente 1 – 6 als Warm-ups gesungen sowie rhythmisch und bewegungsmäßig umgesetzt. Diese „Vocal-/Body-Warm-ups" wie auch die emotionale Einstimmung auf das Thema des Stückes sind eine wichtige Basis für die ausdrucksstarke Interpretation.

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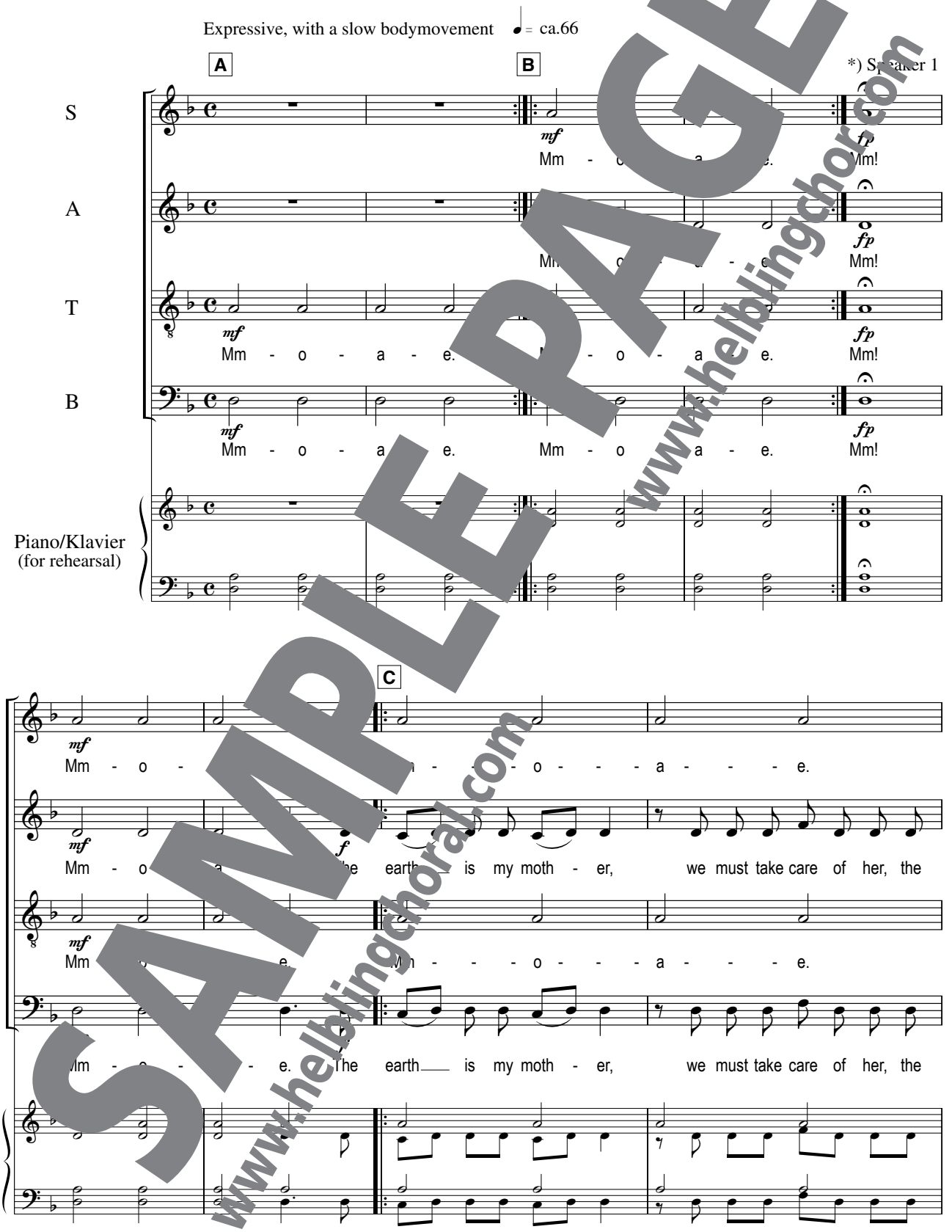
# The Earth is My Mother

SATB a cappella, Speaker and Drums

Lyrics: Lilly C. Olsen

Music: Lorenz Maierhofer
based on a Native American Theme

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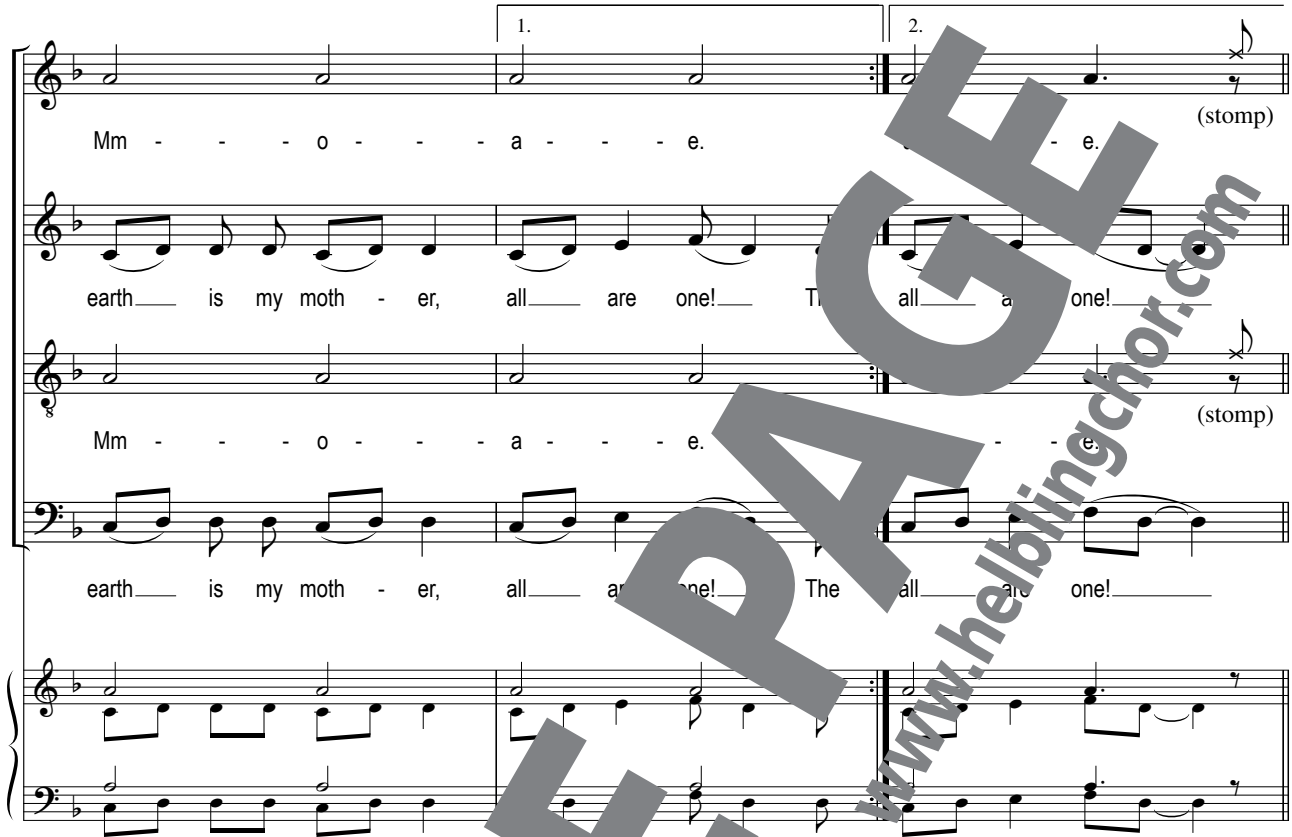


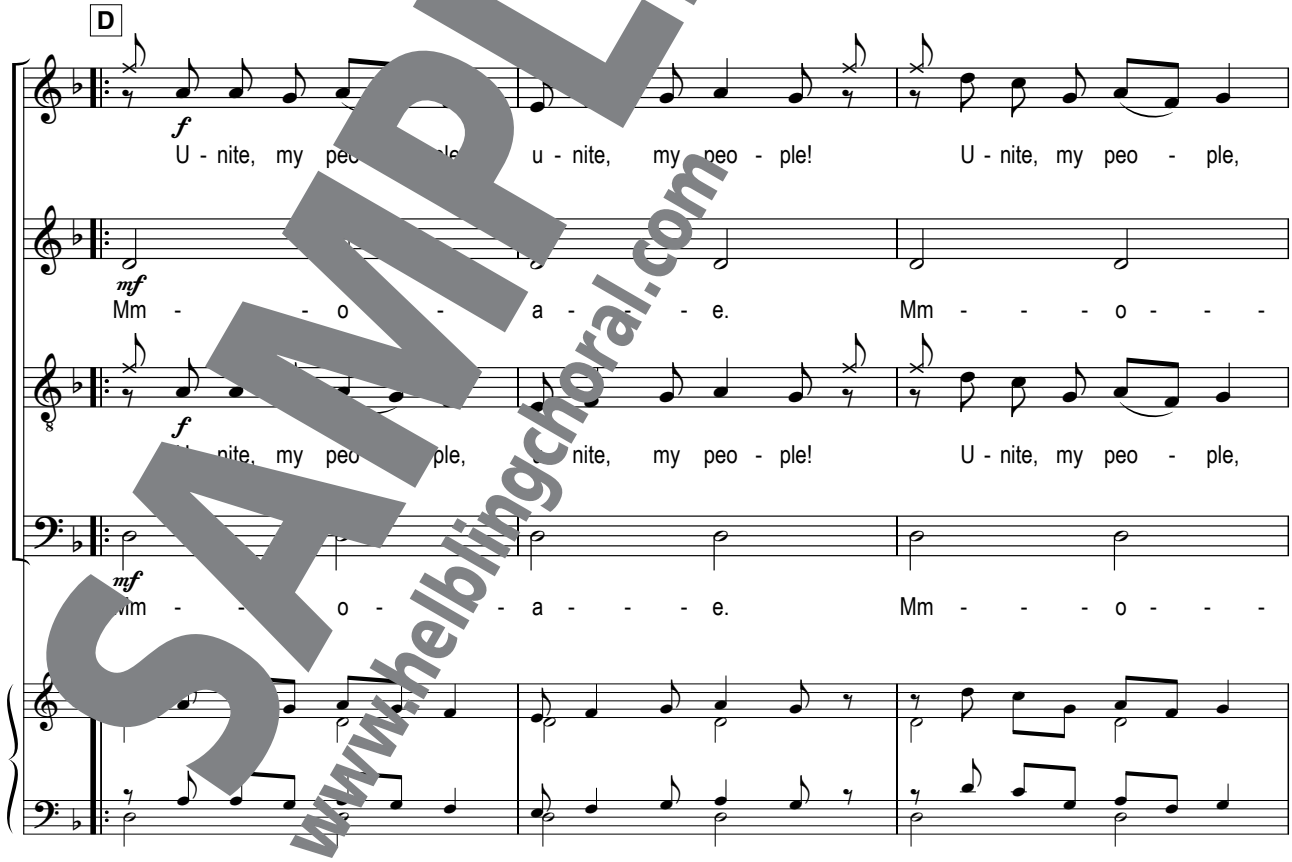


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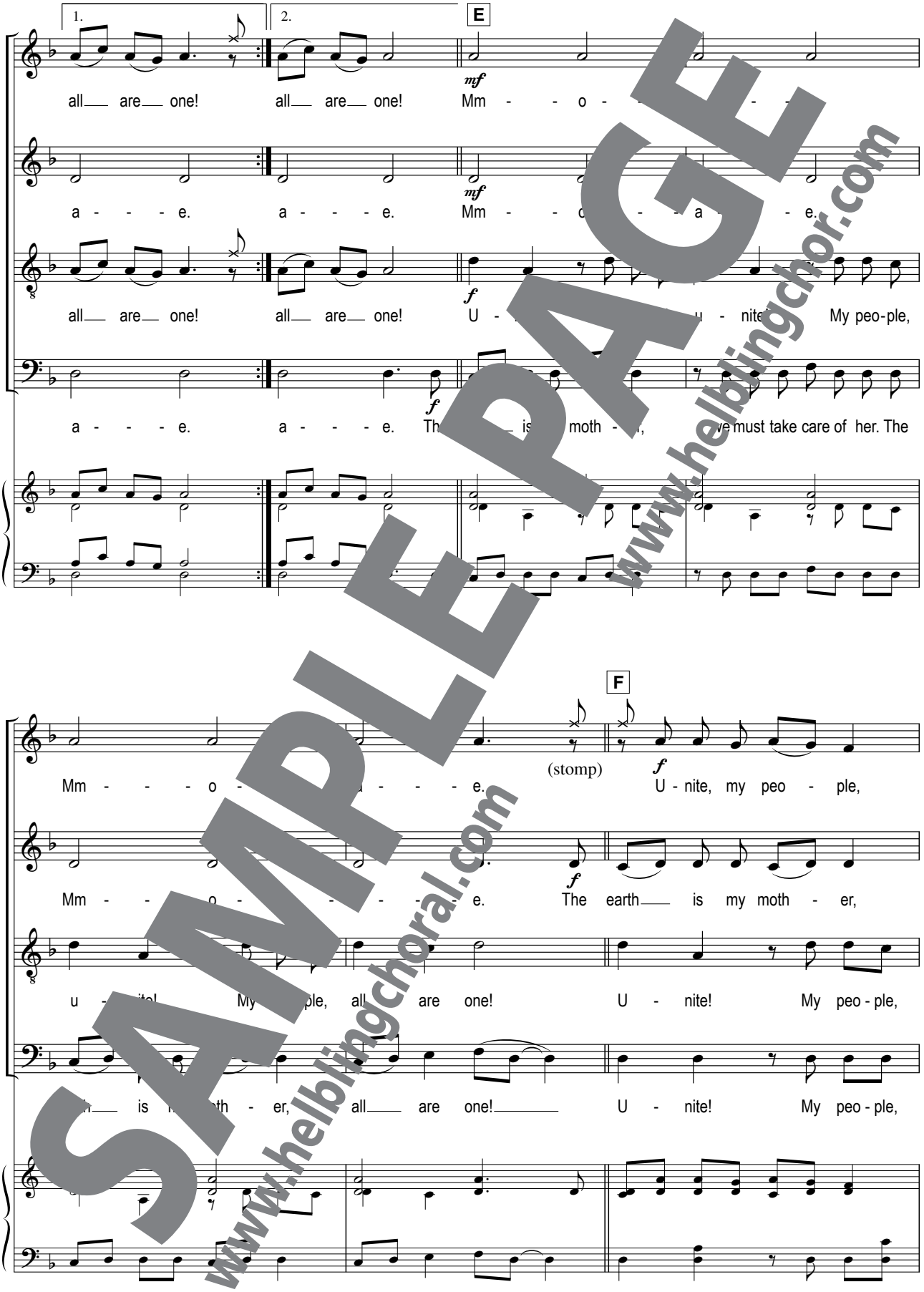


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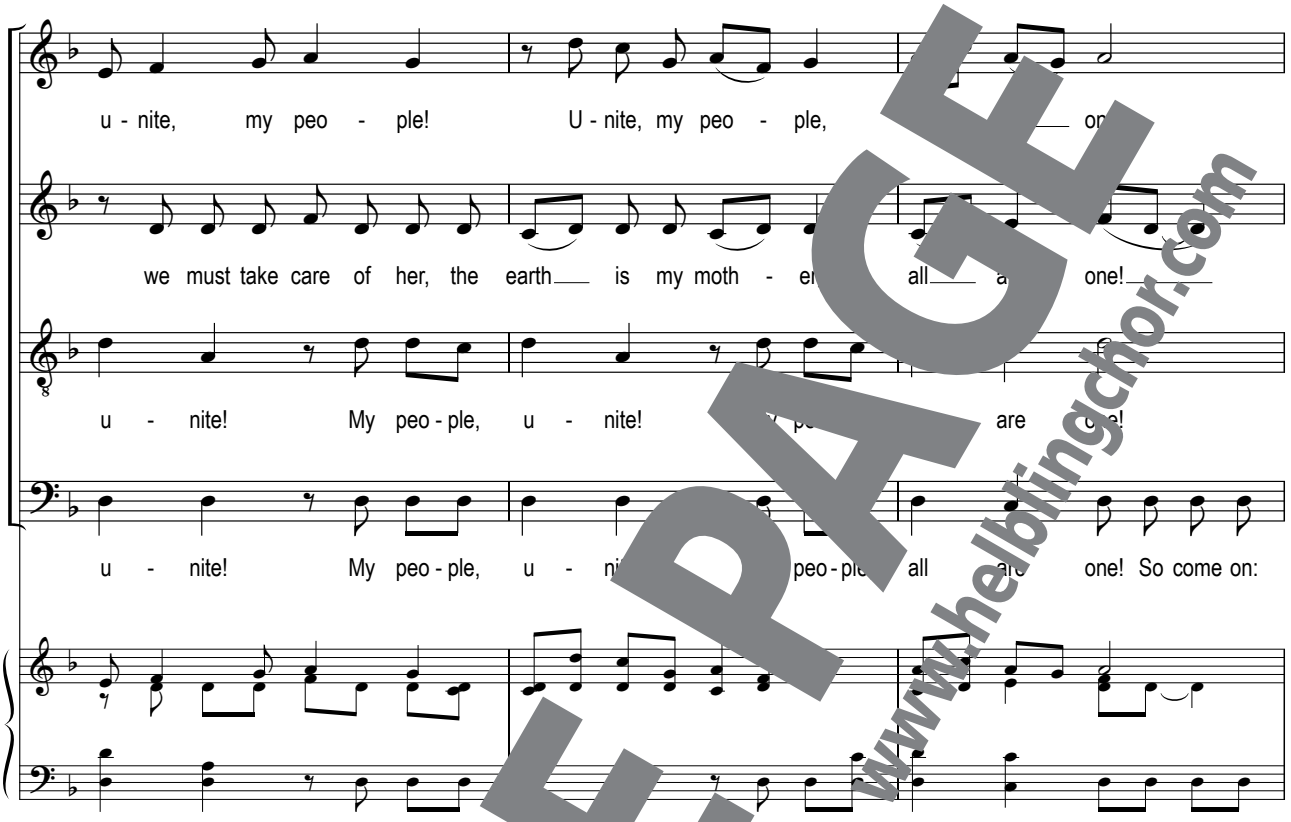


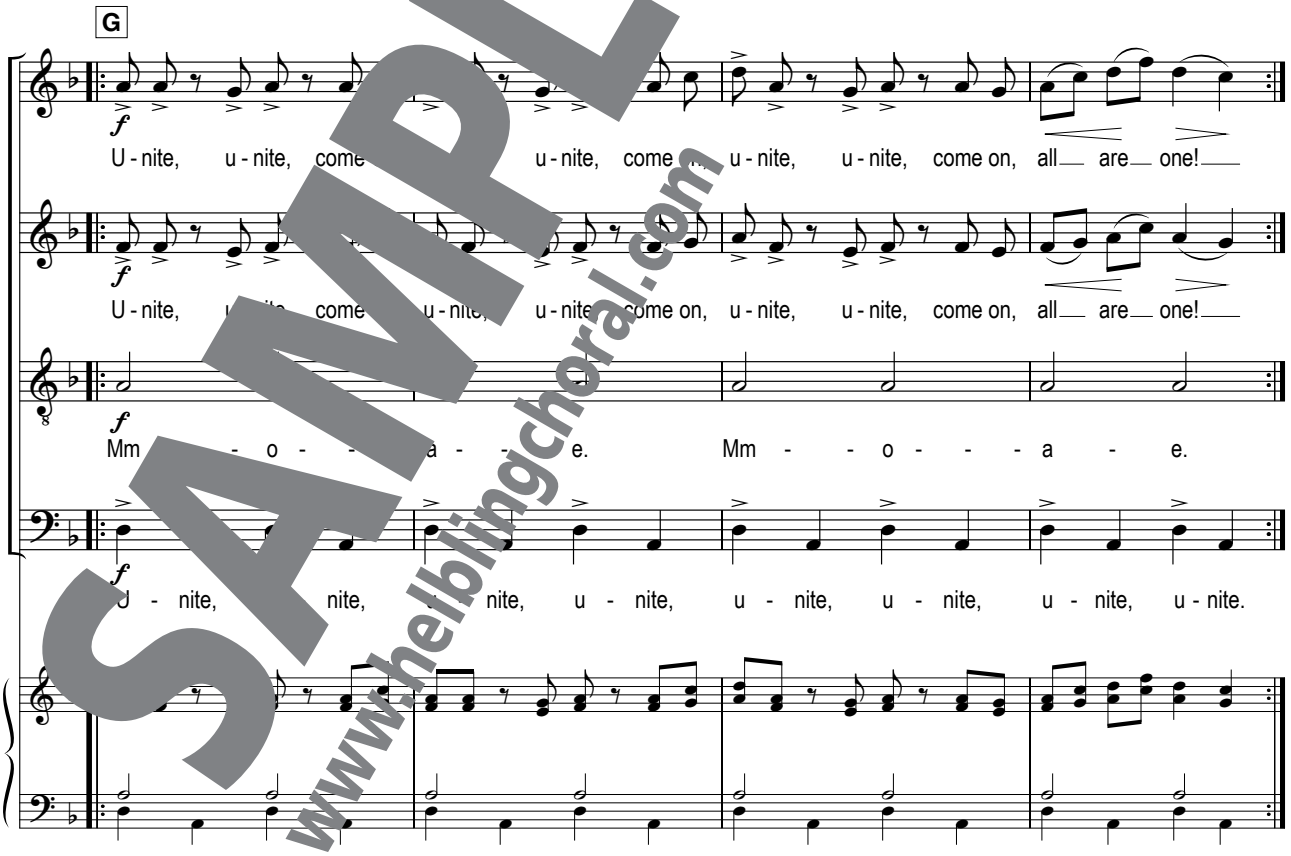


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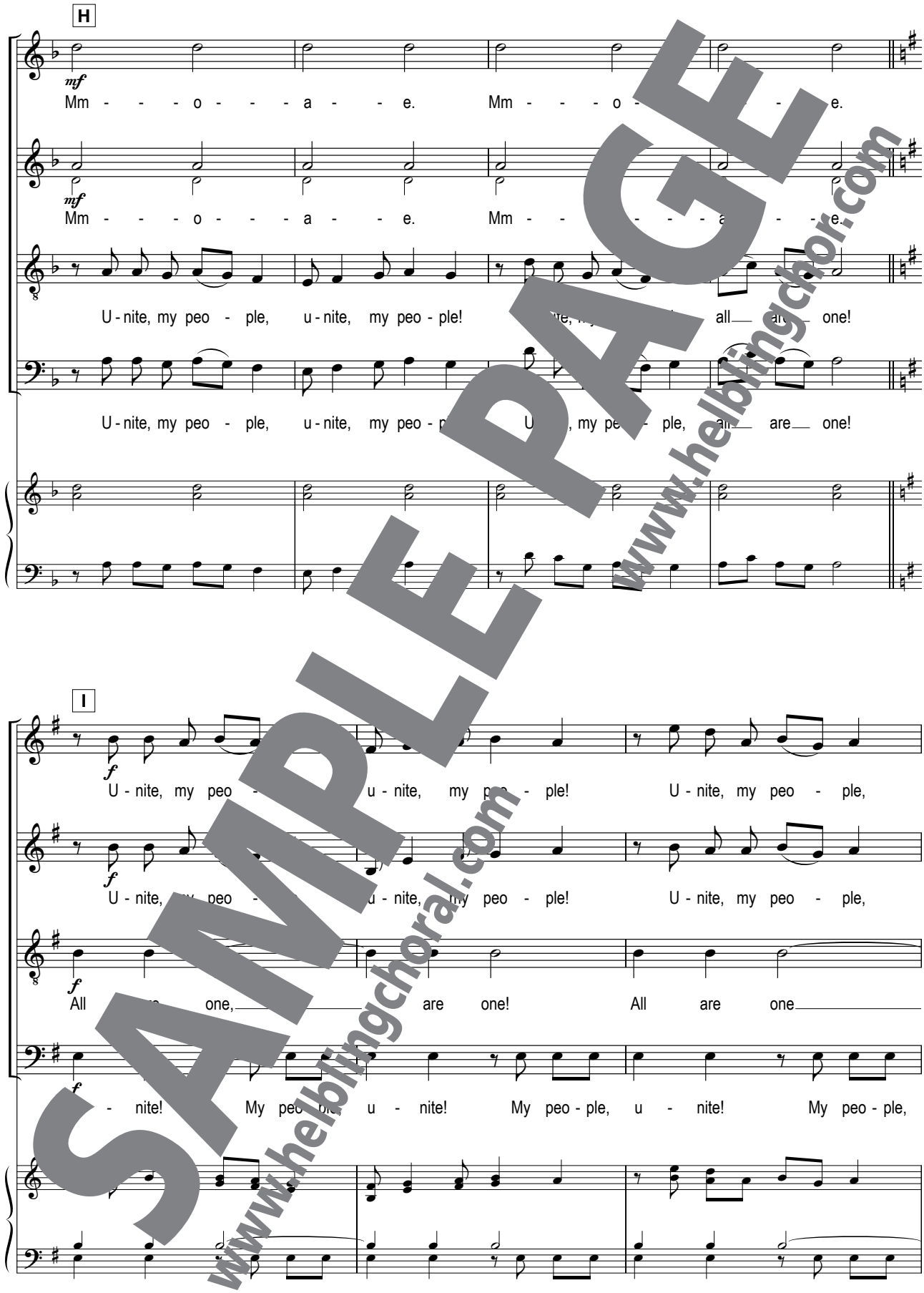


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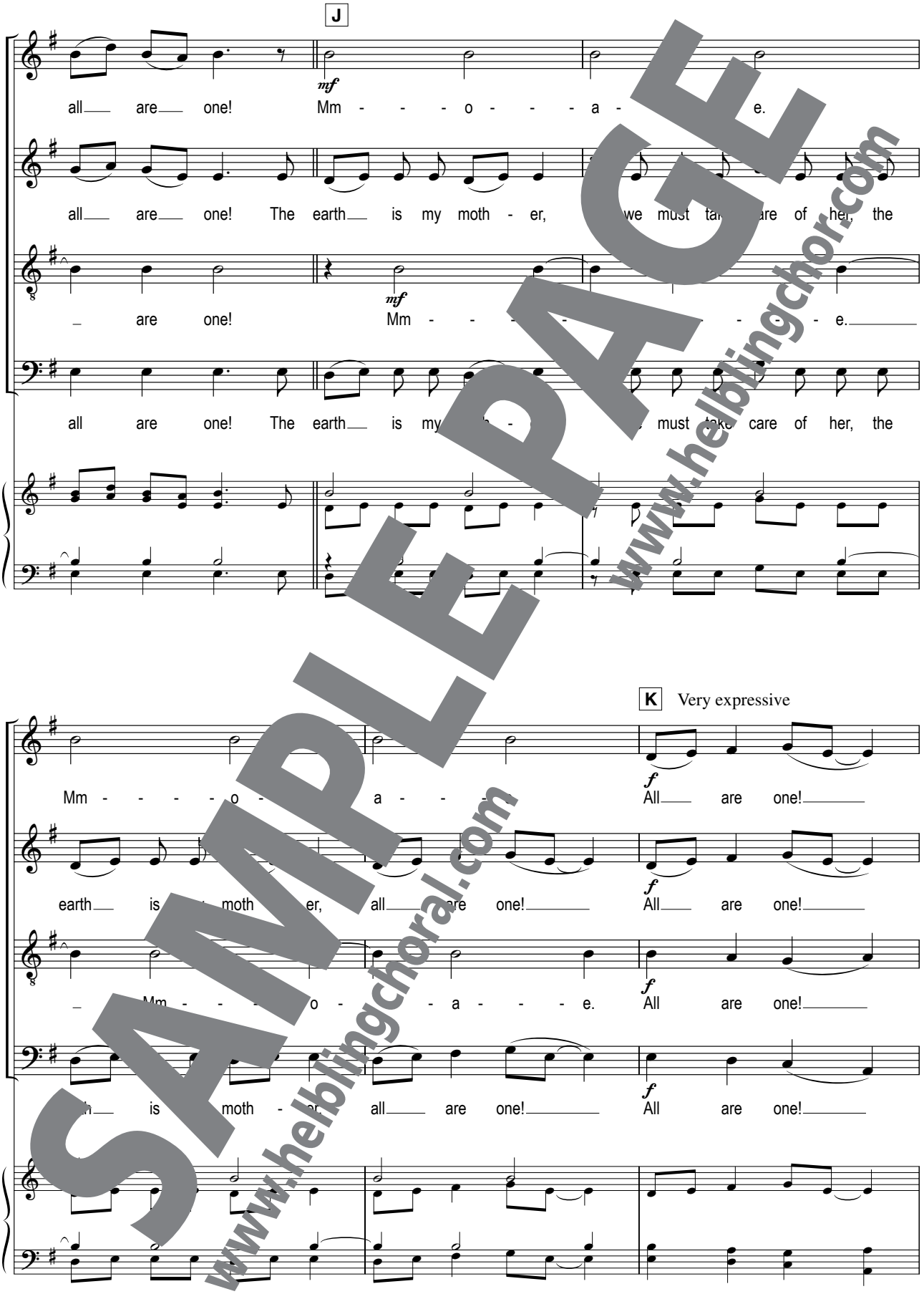


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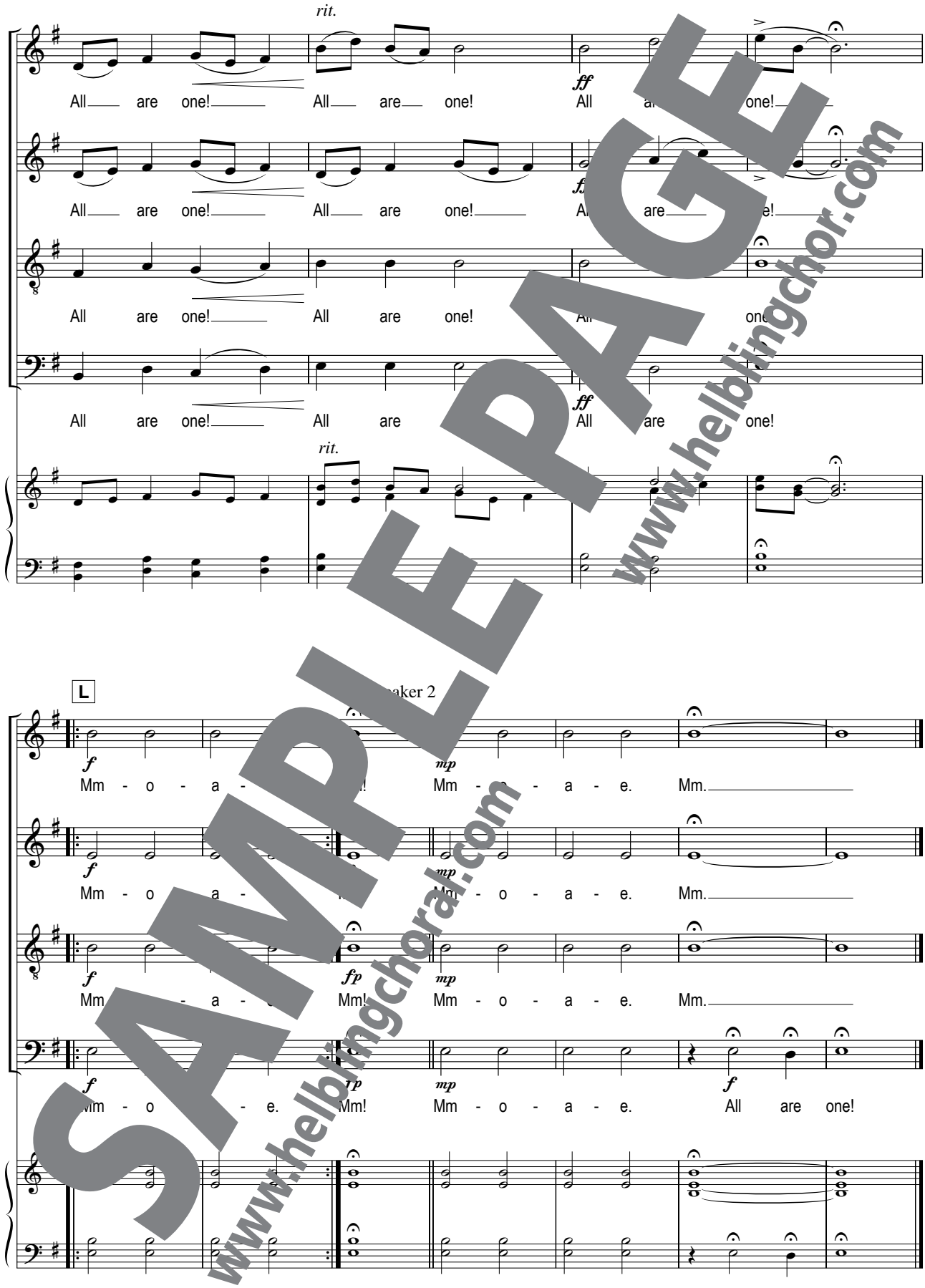


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