MARGARET HALEY

Childhood Memories

11 short songs for alto voice & classical guitar

words by Robert Louis Stevenson

2011

HALEY EDITION
www.margarethaley.info

HE 46

HALEY EDITION - preview score

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ISMN: 979-0-57056-064-6 (for alto voice & classical guitar, full score)
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Childhood Memories 11 short songs for alto voice & classical guitar (2011)

The first performance was given by Margaret Haley at the Parish Room, Church Street, Honley, Huddersfield, UK, on the 6th July 2011.

Duration: c. 11 minutes

Performance Note

Ideally this work is written for two performers.

All dynamics, expression and articulation markings are to be considered as guides, no more.

In the guitar part, the editing and fingering by the composer should be considered an integral part of the composition; they particularly exploit a personal view of the possibilities of resonance and articulation.

Programme Note

Towards the close of 2010 the Mother's Union, Honley branch (Huddersfield, UK), formerly invited me to be their guest speaker at a members meeting planned for the following summer on the 6th July 2011. This particular branch of the Mother's Union played a huge part in the life of my mother, Barbara Shaw (1918-2005). I had decided to base my talk about childhood memories, since the parish church of St Mary the Virgin and the neighbouring parish room (where the presentation took place) had an impact on my formative years musically.

Part of my presentation included a performance of *Childhood Memories* for alto voice & classical guitar which I composed in remembrance of my mother. I selected eleven short verses (shown overleaf) from *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885) by Robert Louis Stevenson. Dedicated to Alison Cunningham (Stevenson's nurse), this delightful volume contains over sixty poems for the young at heart. Stevenson's words express many childhood memories spent upon his sick bed.

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A Child's Garden of Verses

by Robert Louis Stevenson

To my Mother

You too, my mother, read my rhymes
For love of unforgotten times,
And you may chance to hear once more
The little feet along the floor.

A Thought

It is very nice to think
The world is full of meat and drink,
With little children saying grace
In every Christian kind of place.

Whole Duty of Children

A child should always say what's true
And speak when he is spoken to,
And behave mannerly at table:
At least as far as he is able.

Happy Thought

The world is so full of a number of things,
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.

Rain

The rain is raining all around,
It falls on field and tree,
It rains on the umbrellas here,
And on the ships at sea.

At the Seaside

When I was down beside the sea
A wooden spade they gave to me
To dig the sandy shore.
My holes were empty like a cup,
In every hole the sea came up.
Till it could come no more.

Looking Forward

When I am grown to man's estate
I shall be very proud and great,
And tell the other girls and boys
Not to meddle with my toys.

Auntie's Skirts

Whenever Auntie moves around
Her dresses make a curious sound.
They trail behind her on the floor,
And trundle after through the door.

Time to Rise

A birdie with a yellow bill
Hopped upon the window sill,
Cocked his shining eye and said:
Ain't you 'shamed, you sleepy-head?!

Fairy-Bread

Come up here, O dusty feet!
Here is fairy bread to eat.
Here in my retiring room,
Children you may dine
On the golden smell of broom
And the shade of pine;
And when you have eaten well,
Fairy stories hear and tell.

To Auntie

Chief of our aunts – not only I,
But all your dozen of nurslings cry –
What did the other children do?
And what were childhood, wanting you?

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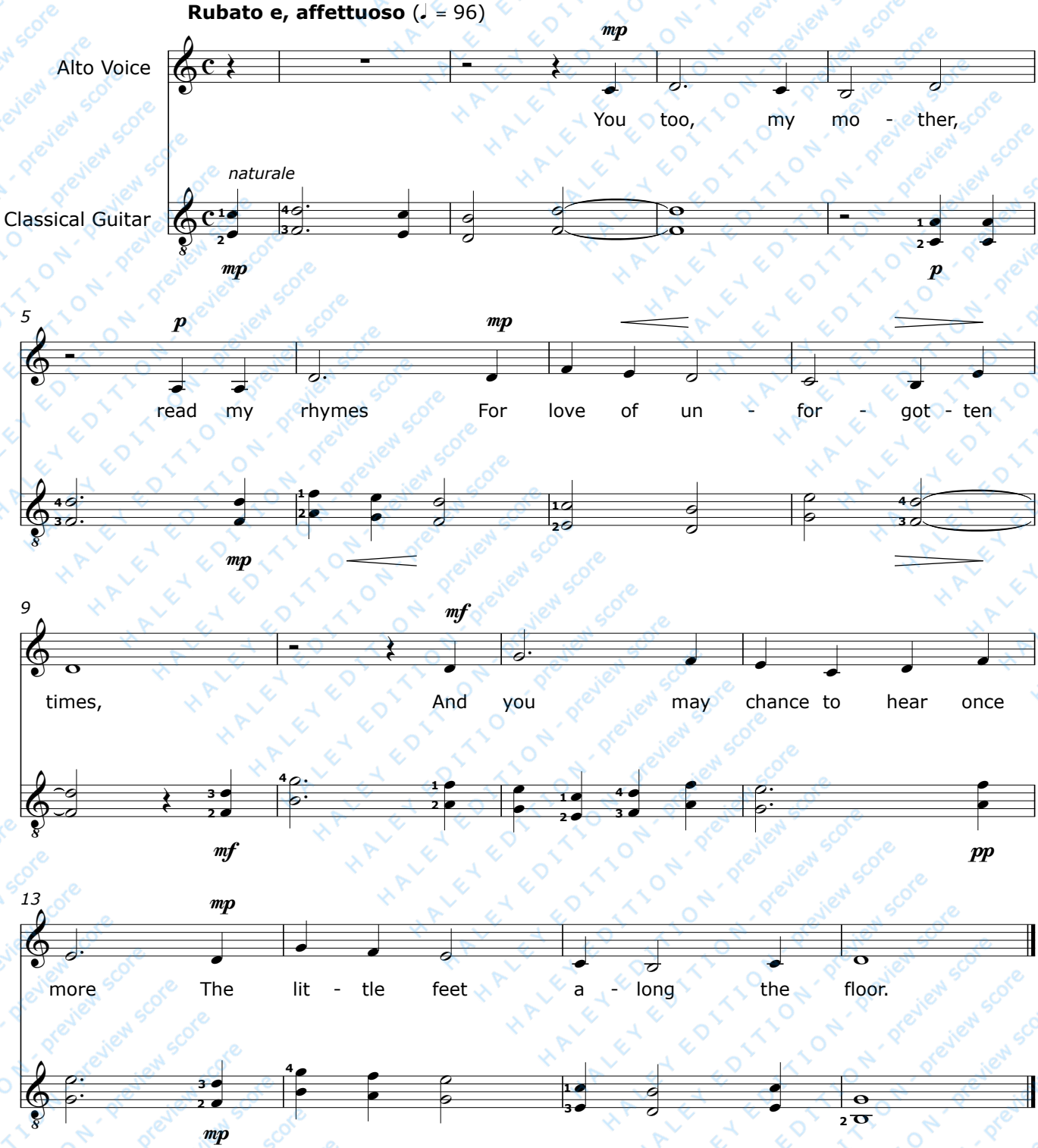
11 short songs for alto voice & classical guitar

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) MARGARET HALEY

To my Mother



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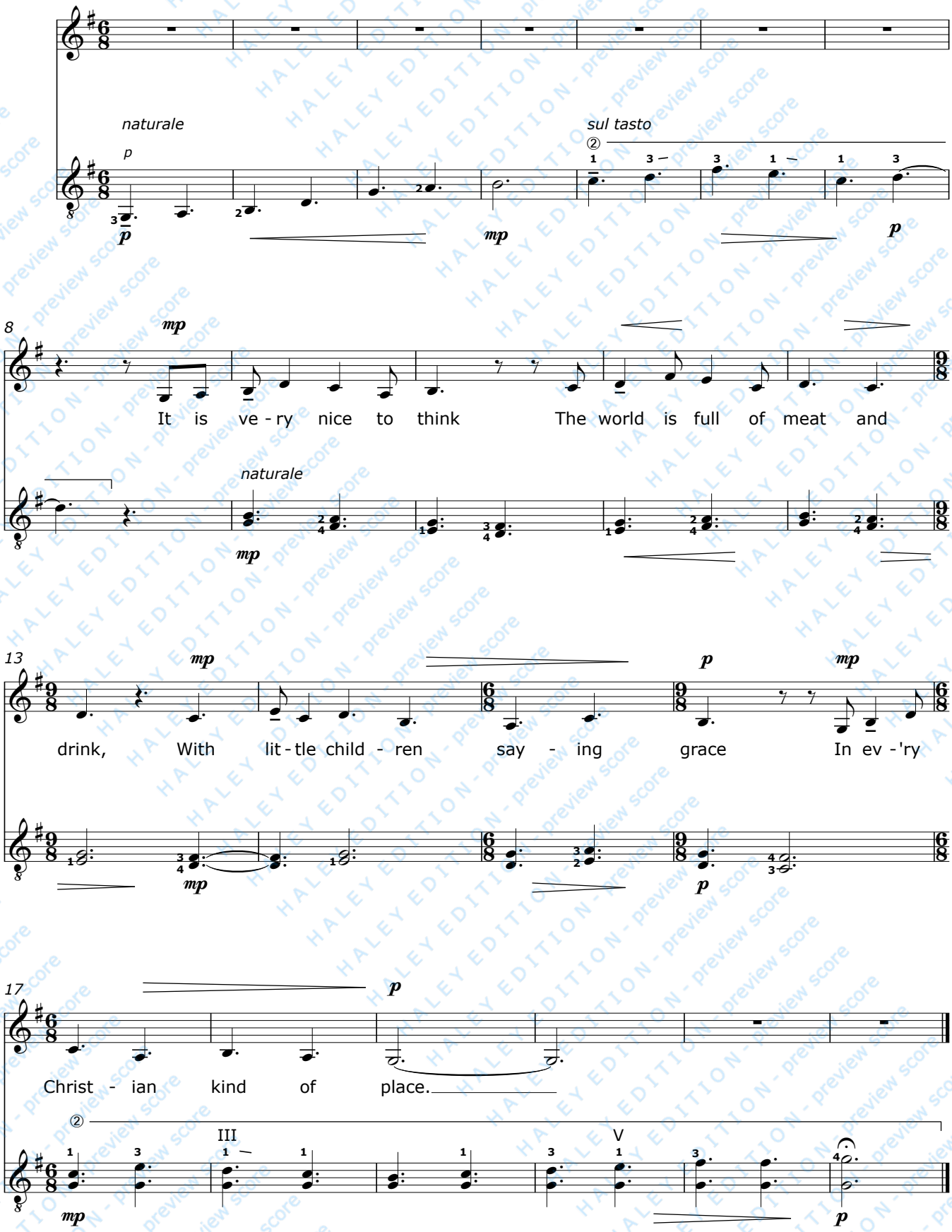
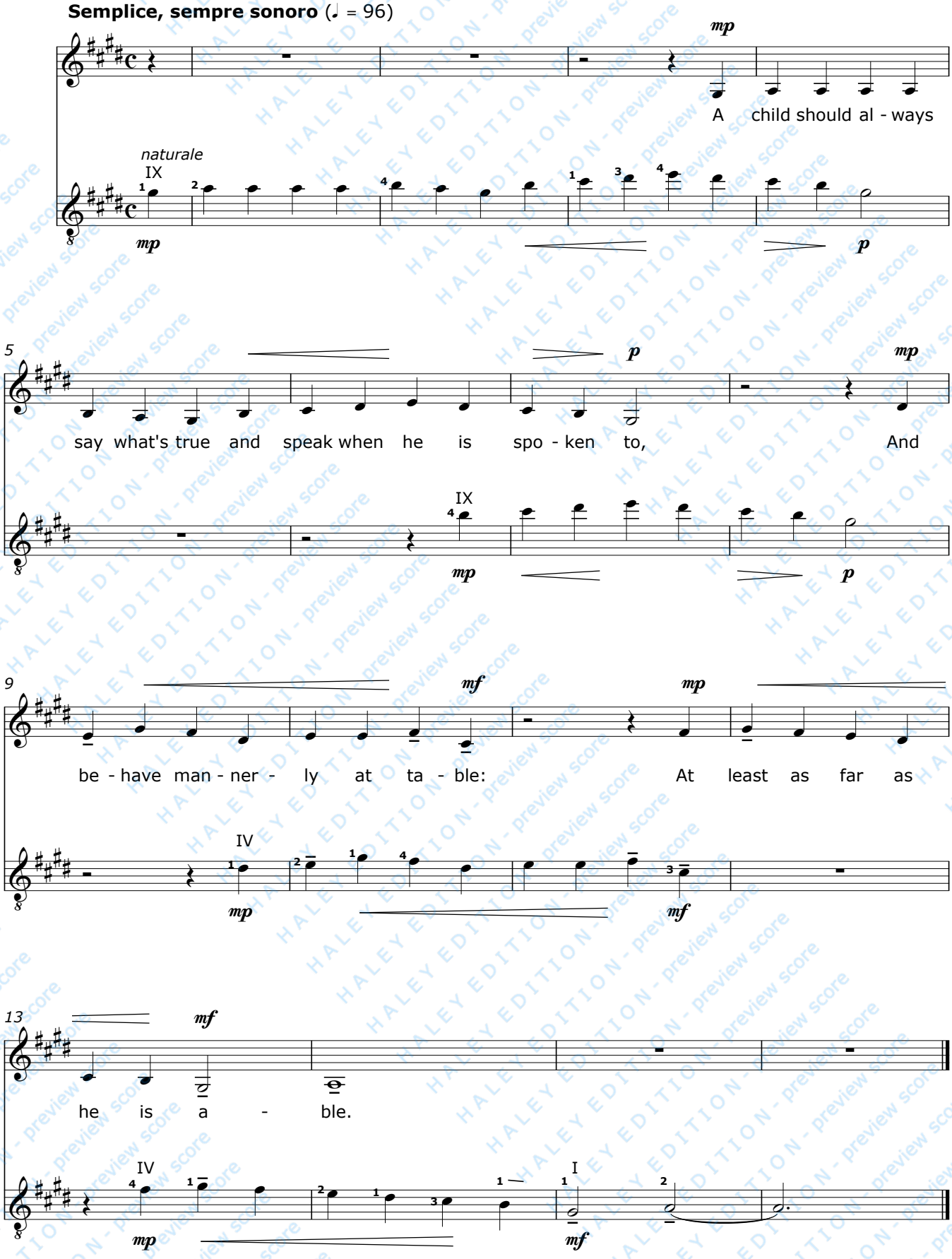
A Thought

Anima e, delicato (♩. = 60)



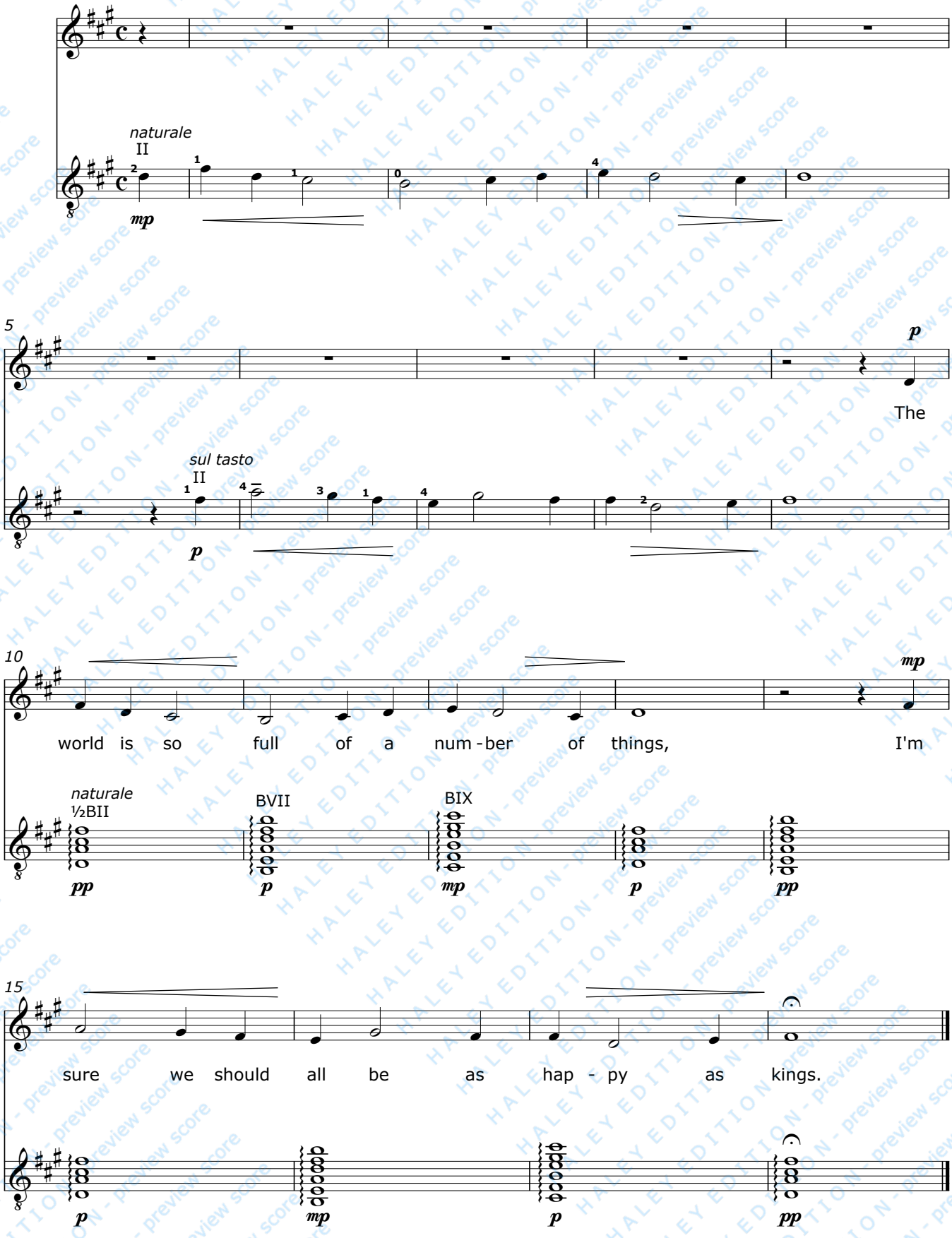
Whole Duty of Children

Semplice, sempre sonoro (♩ = 96)



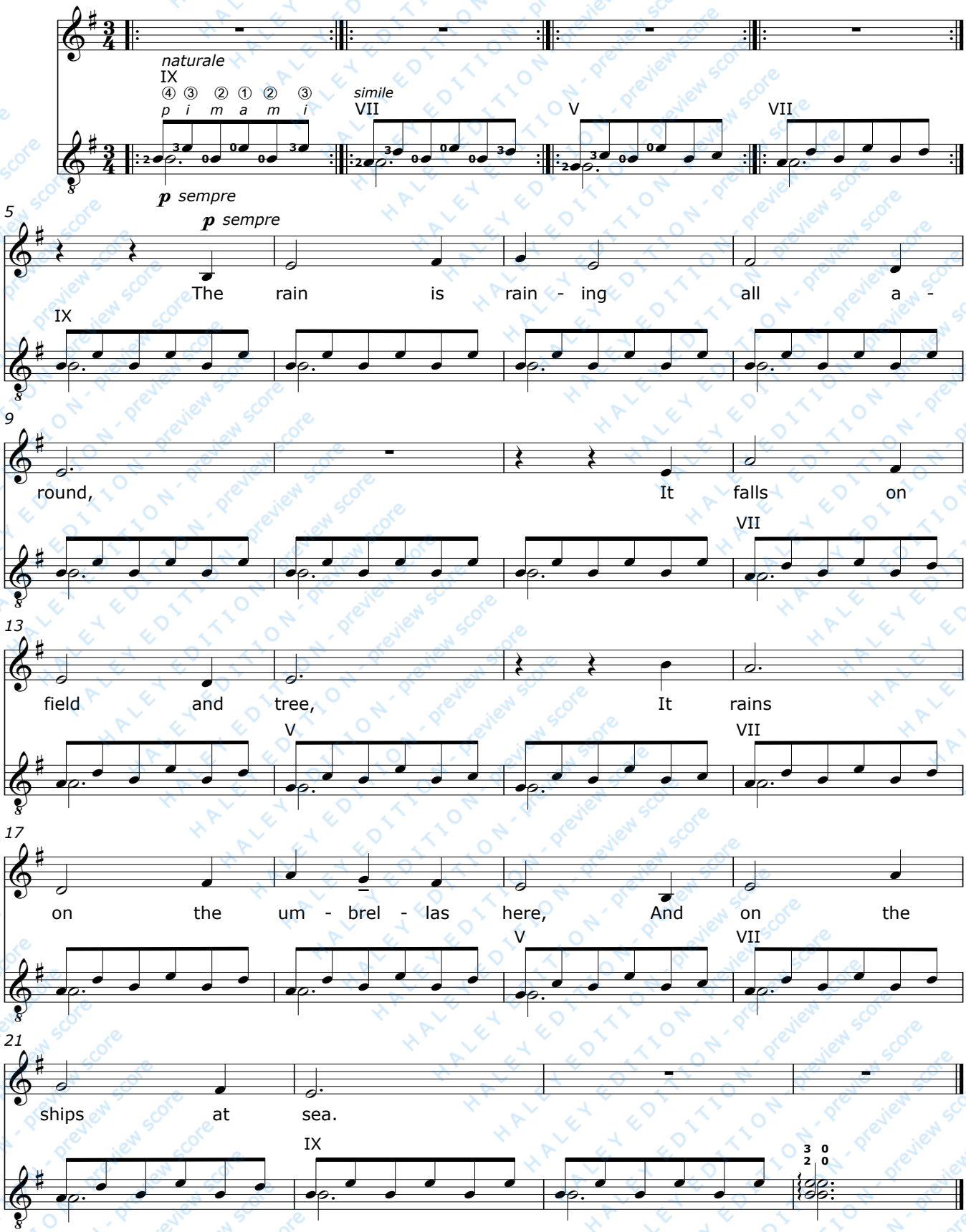
Happy Thought

Felice, sempre legato (♩. = 84)



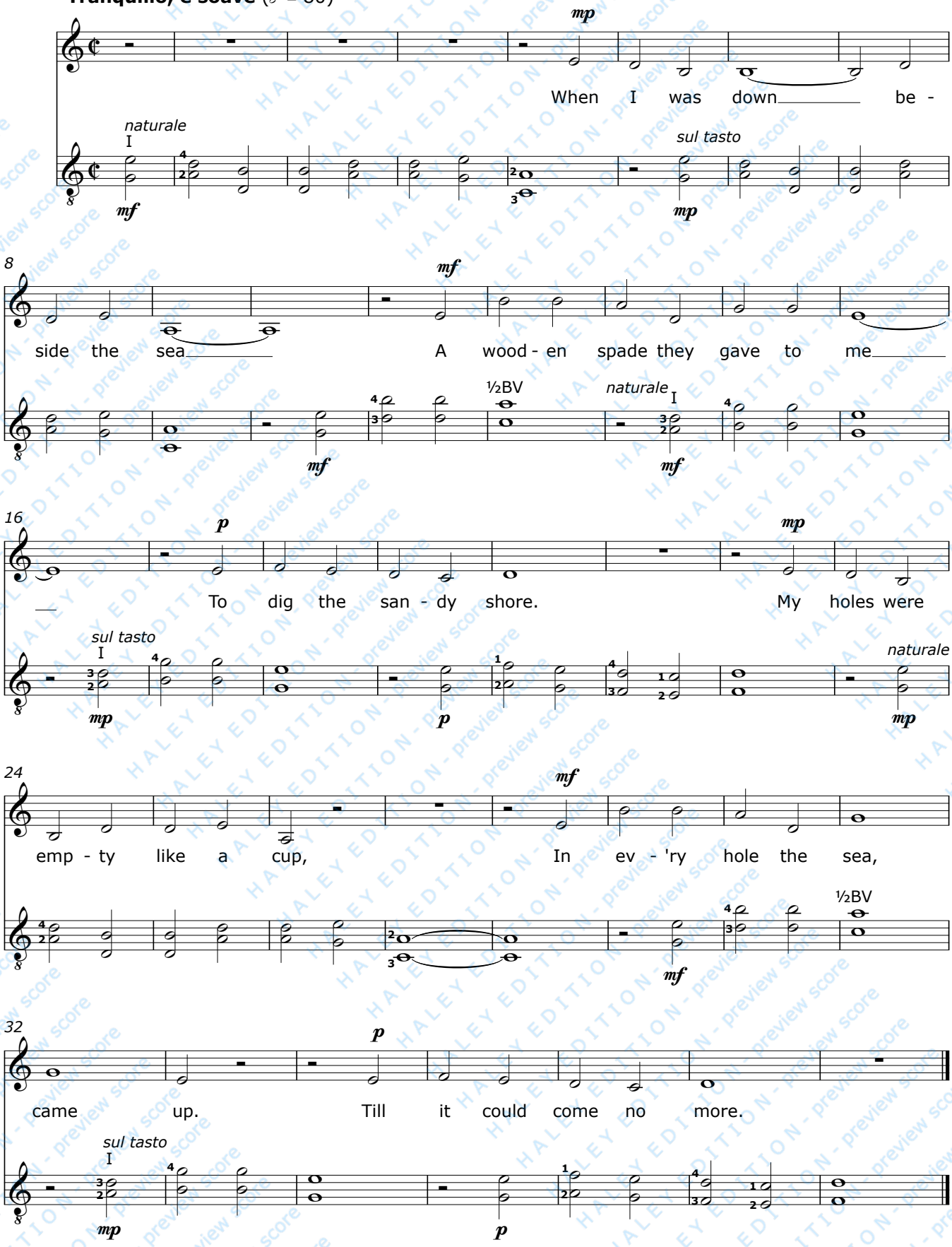
Rain

Soave, con moto (♩ = 120)



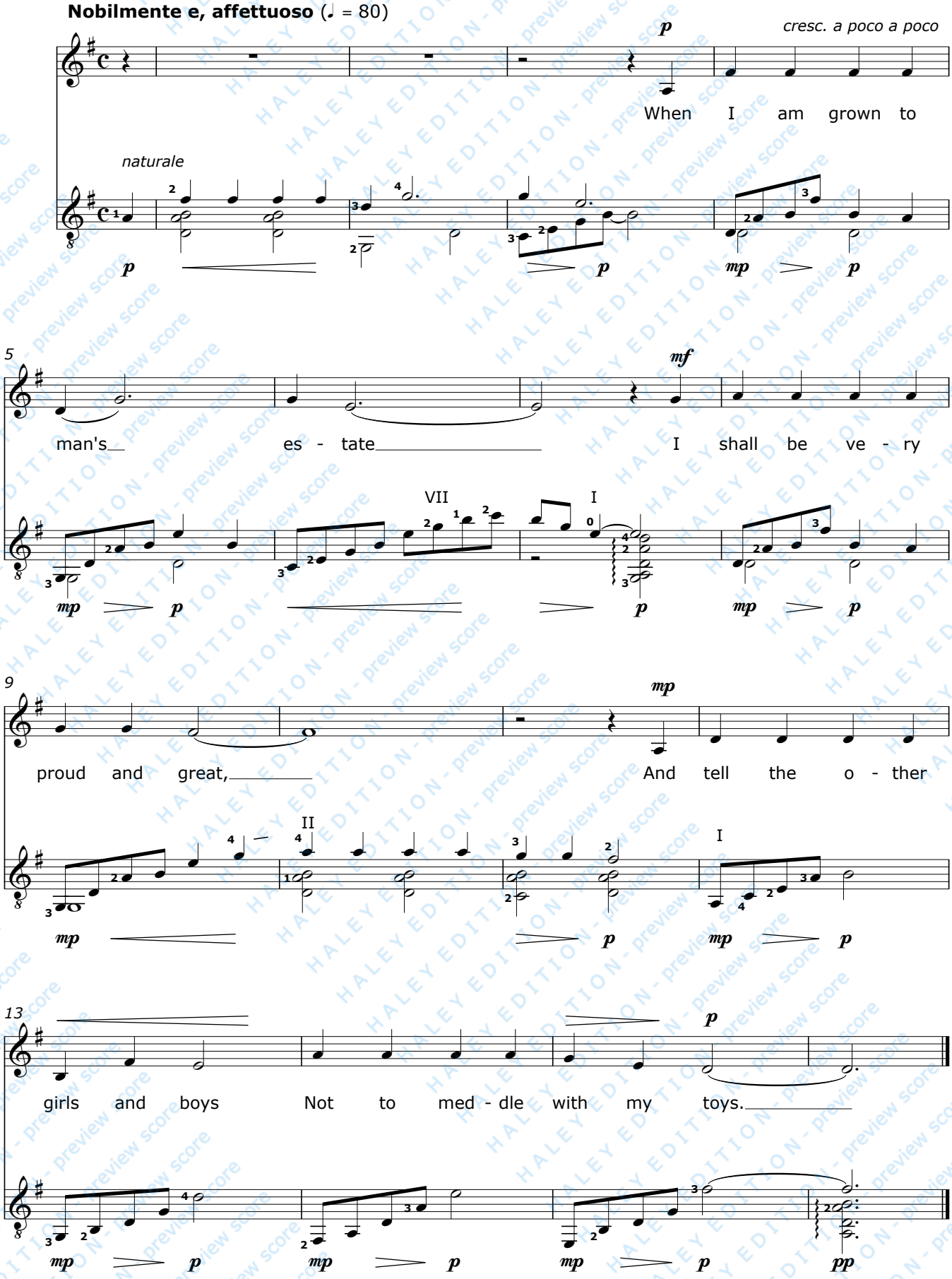
At the Seaside

Tranquillo, e soave (♩ = 80)



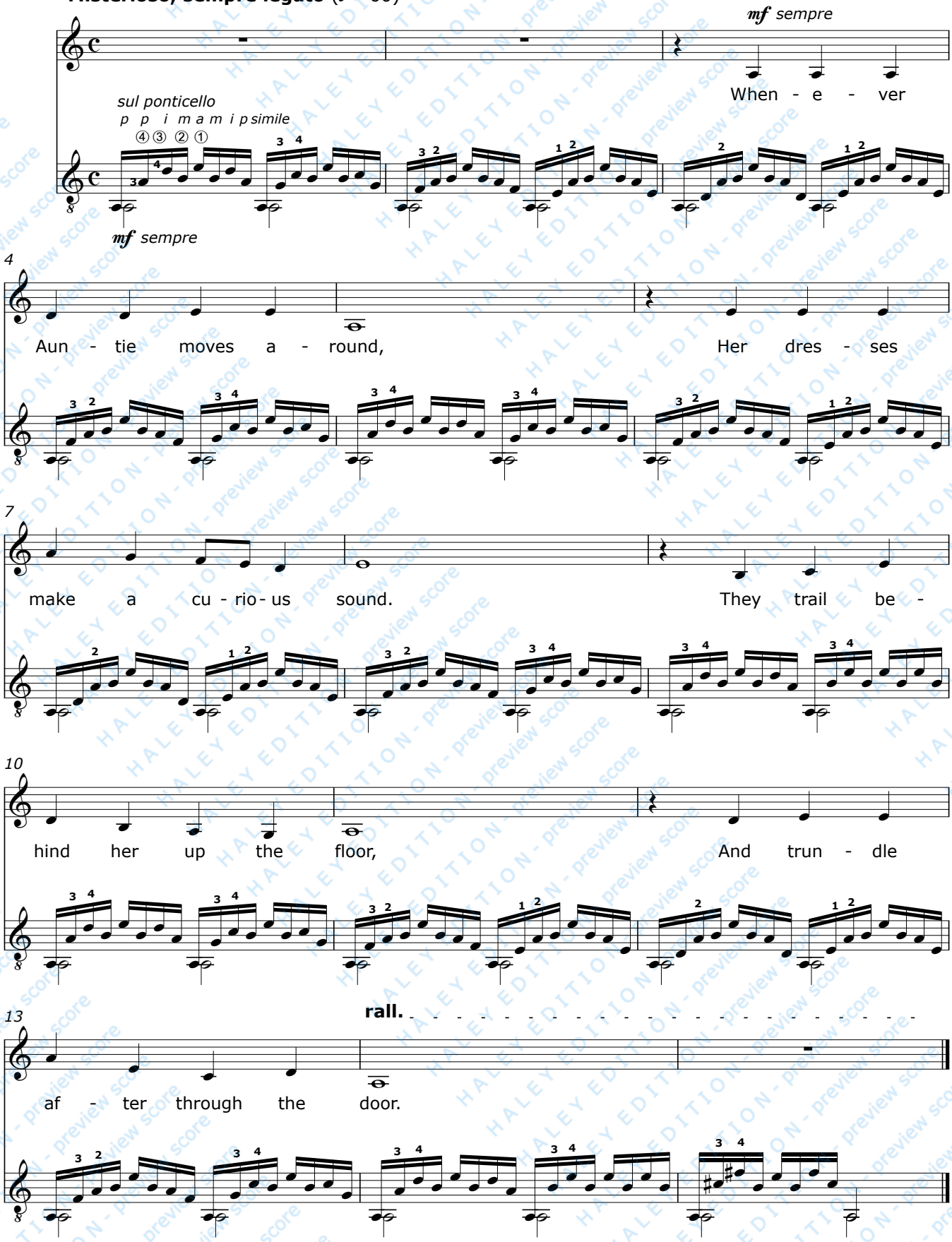
Looking Forward

Nobilmente e, affettuoso (♩ = 80)



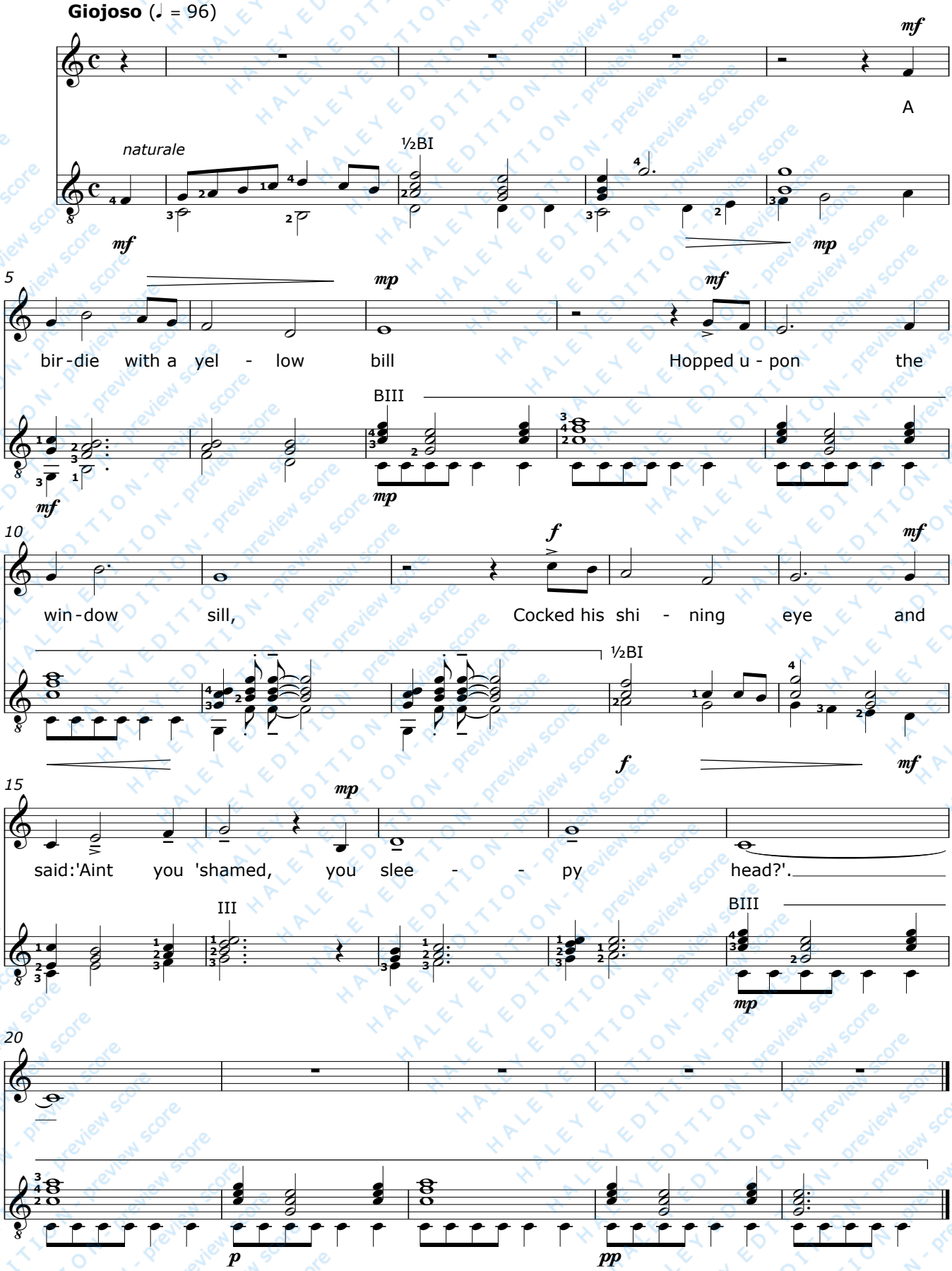
Auntie's Skirts

Misterioso, sempre legato (♩ = 60)



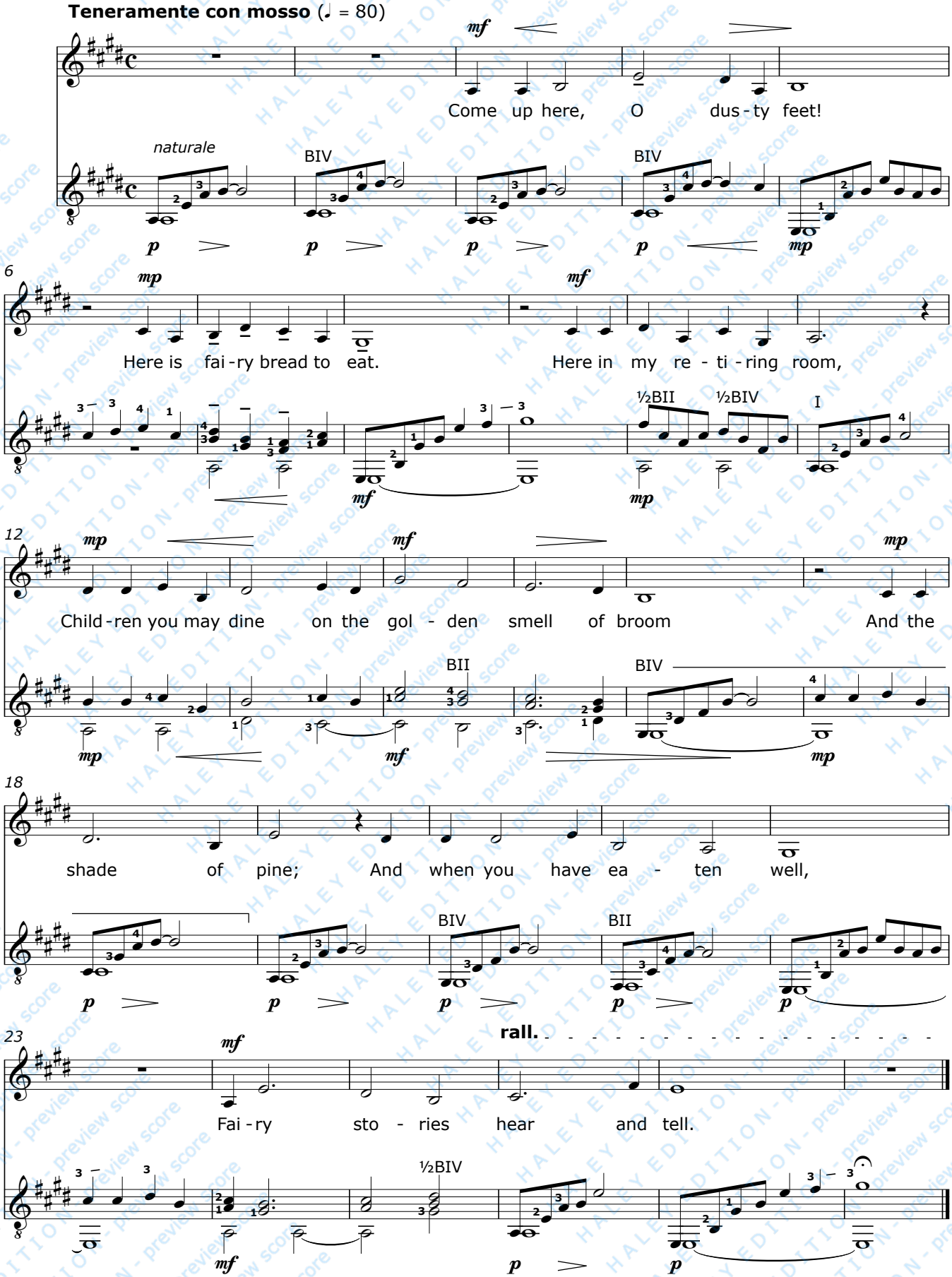
Time to Rise

Giojoso (♩ = 96)



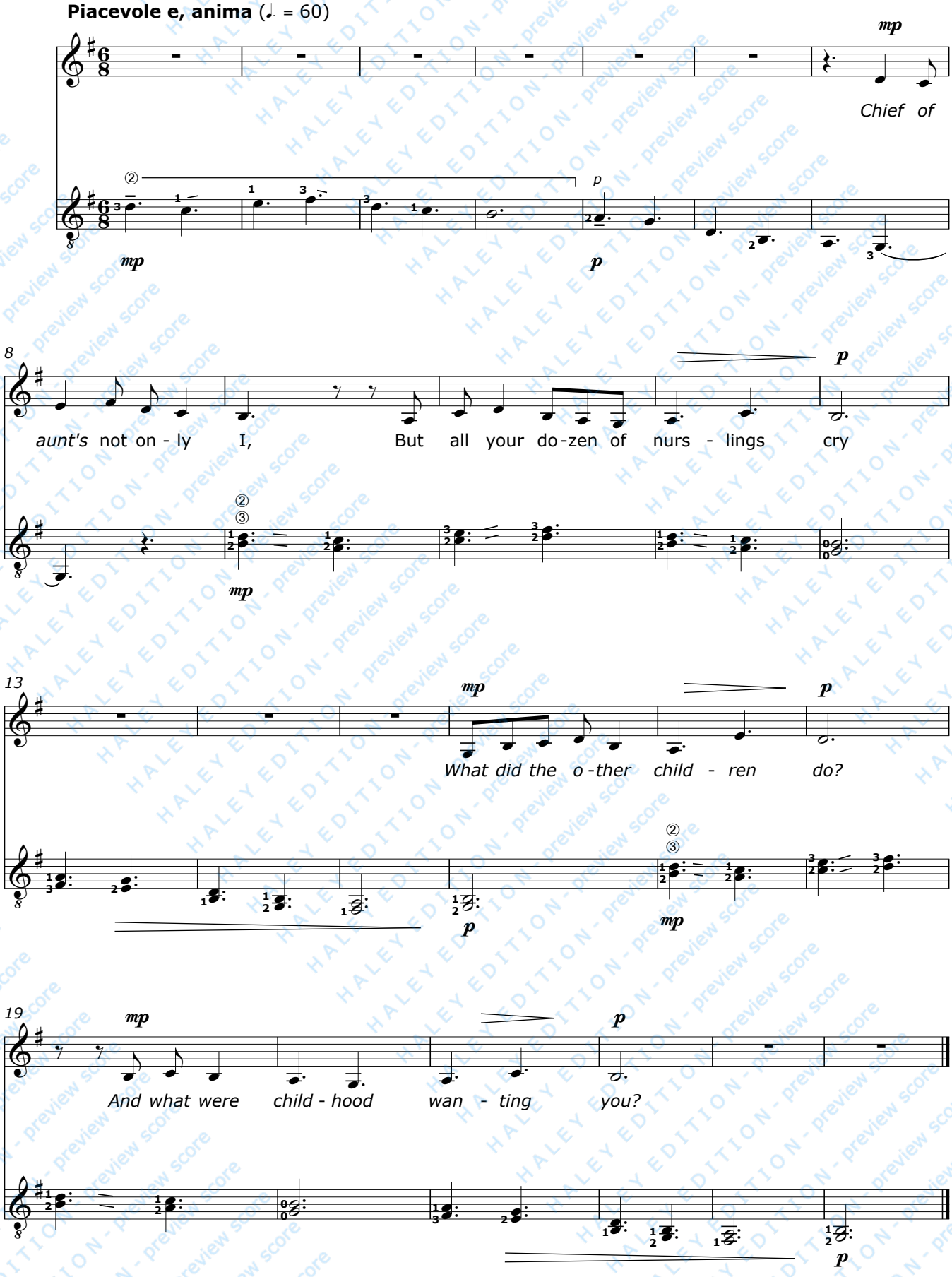
Fairy-Bread

Teneramente con mosso (♩ = 80)



To Auntie

Piacevole e, anima (♩. = 60)



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