Performance Notes

This spirited arrangement provides an opportunity for treble choirs to develop their unison sound with a repetitive melody over an expressive, jazzy accompaniment. The key of D major was chosen for its brightness, to accommodate the fact that the melody begins on its apex, and to make room for the optional C instrument. When the melody occasionally dips to B3, encourage singers to remain in head voice and maintain lightness, as the accompaniment becomes transparent to cradle these delicate moments. Optional soloists are featured to help the performers stay oriented within the piece. The accompanist should attend carefully to dynamic nuance and rhythmic vitality to inspire the lively, emphatic melody. A part for optional C instrument is provided in this octavo, while a violin-specific instrumental part arranged by Alexandra Cutler-Fetkewicz is available at choristersguild.org.

Origin and Meaning

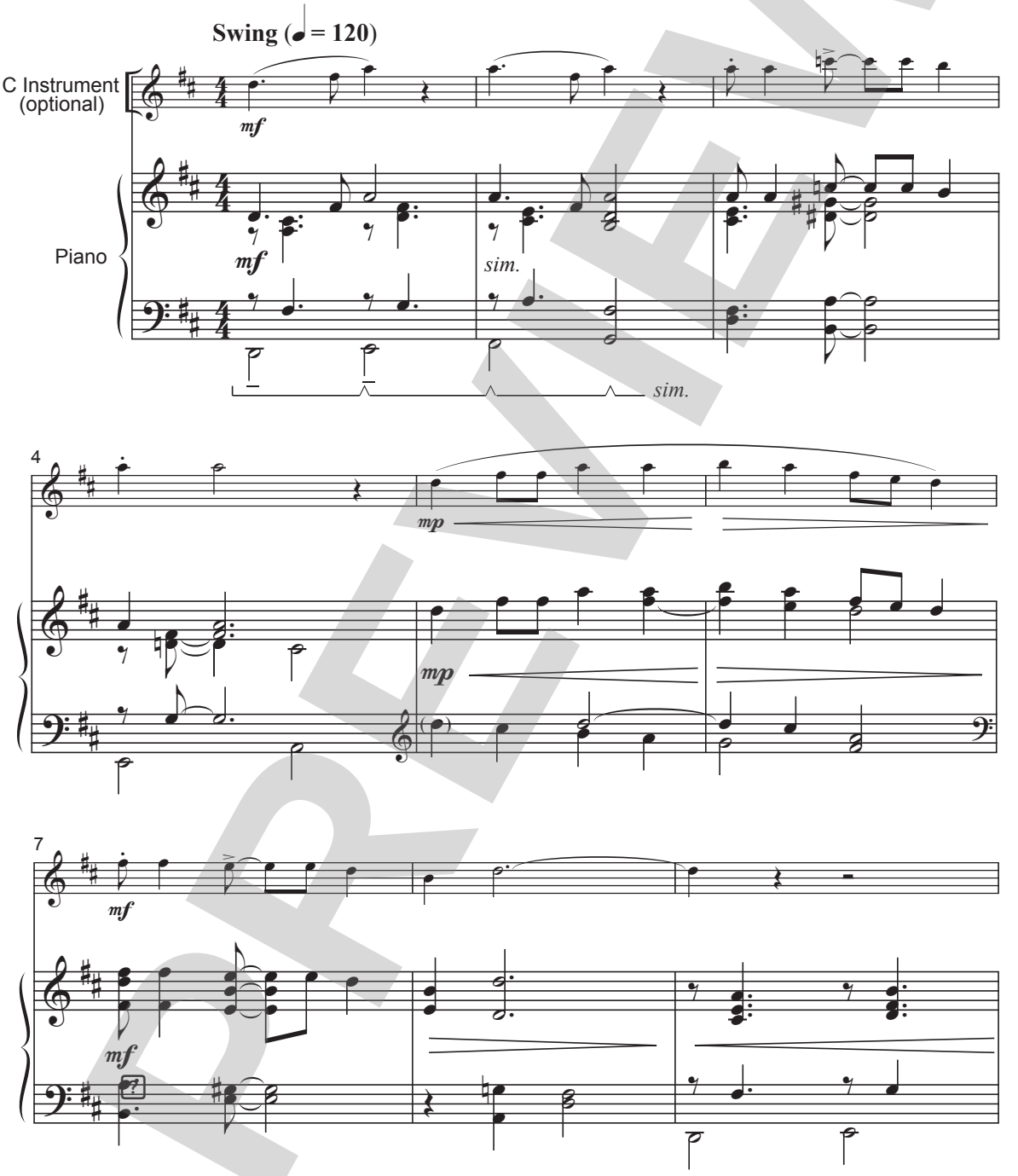
First appearing in print in 1891, "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow" draws on songs created and shared by enslaved and newly freed African Americans in the post-Civil War South. Its lyrics depict scenes from the nativity story, yet the persistence of the repeated refrain and published variations of the lyrics suggest that the word "shepherd" can be replaced with the word "sinner," inviting all who hear to follow God's guiding light regardless of the season. Echoing the call-and-response patterns characteristic of many spirituals, this song's straightforward melody and syncopated rhythms urge singers and listeners to continue to rise and take action today.

PREVIEW

Dedicated to the choirs of First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield, NJ

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

Traditional

African American spiritual
arr. Peter Leibensperger

A part for optional C-Instrument is printed on pages 11-12.
A part for optional Violin is available for free download.

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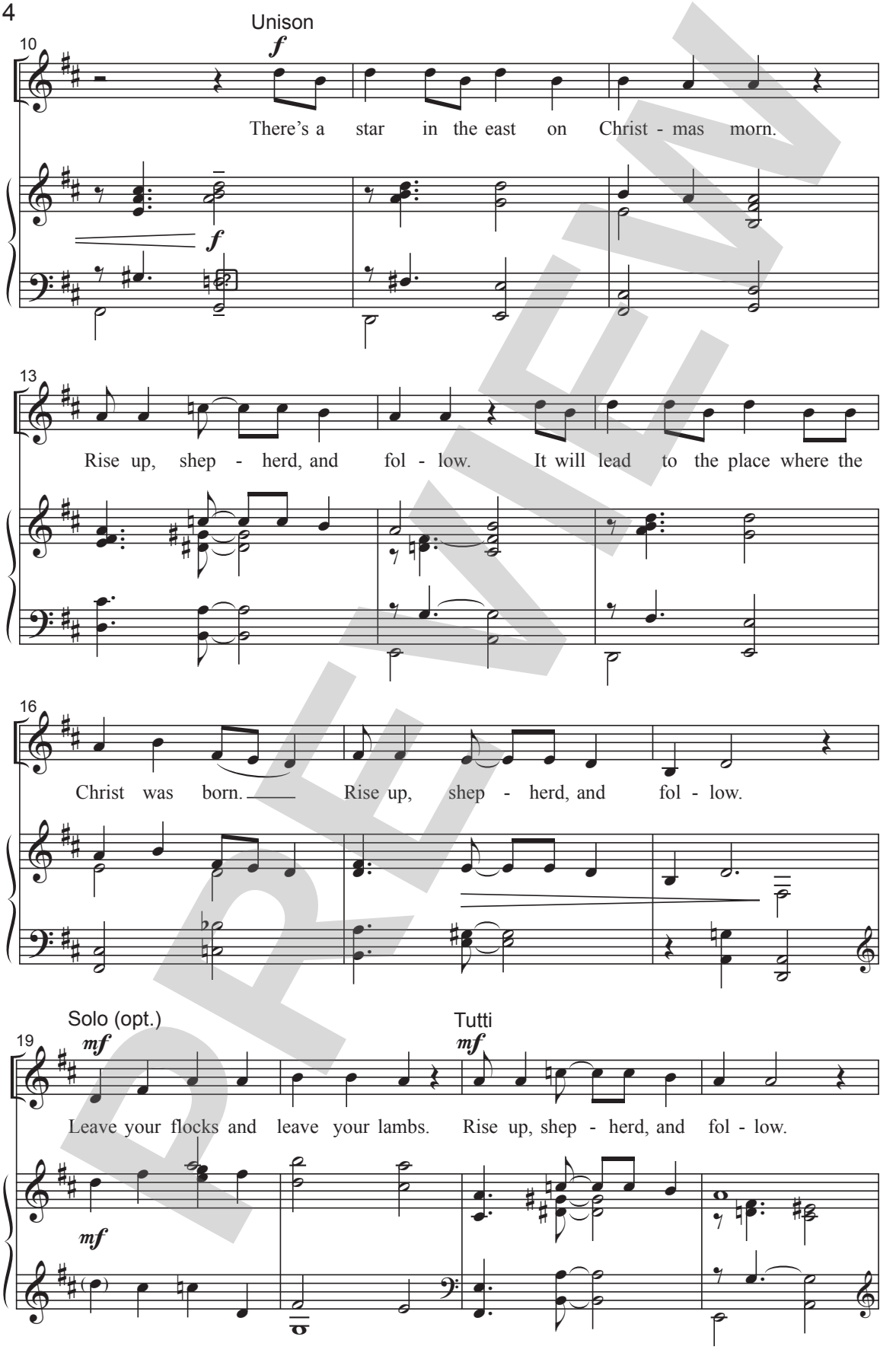
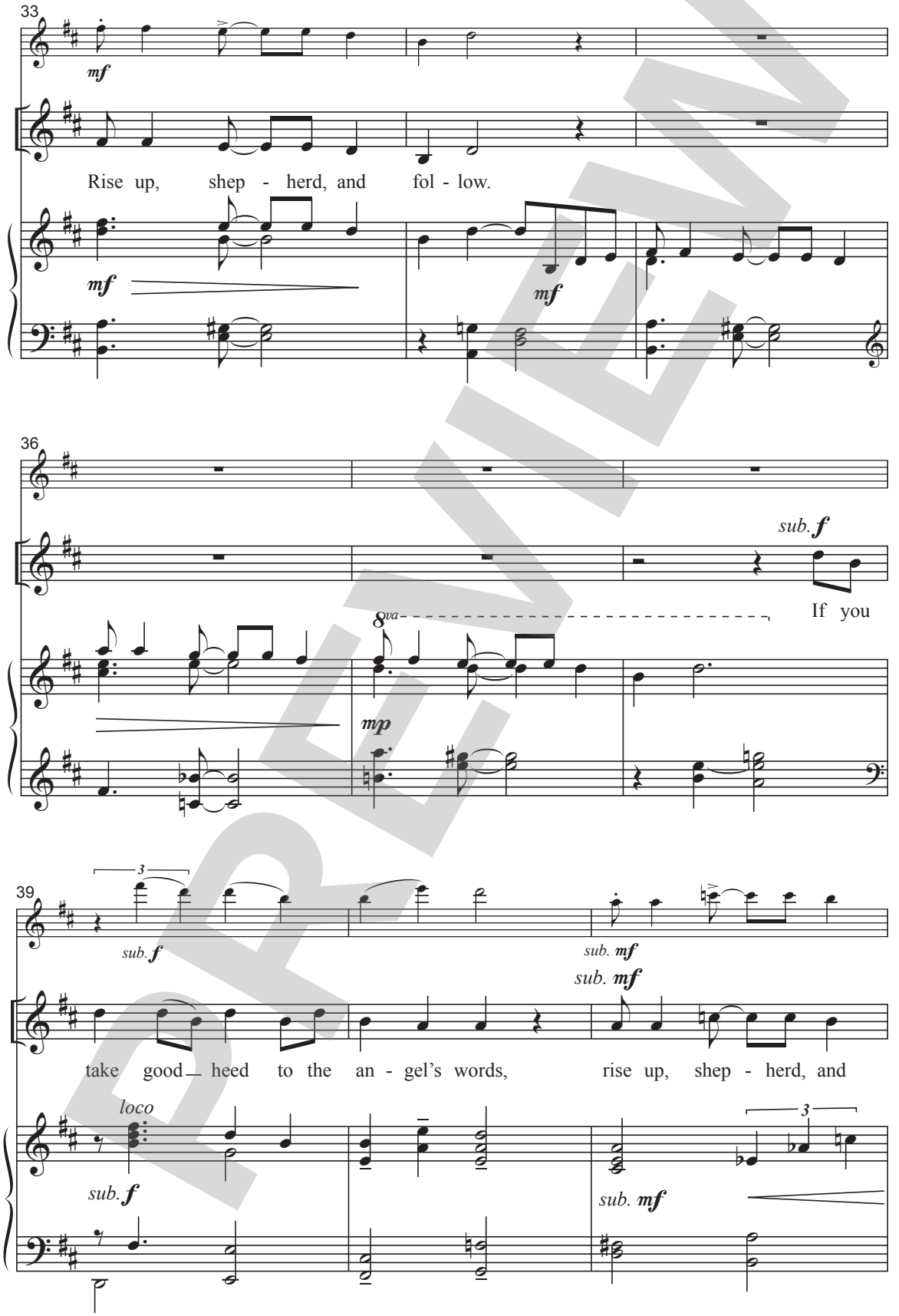
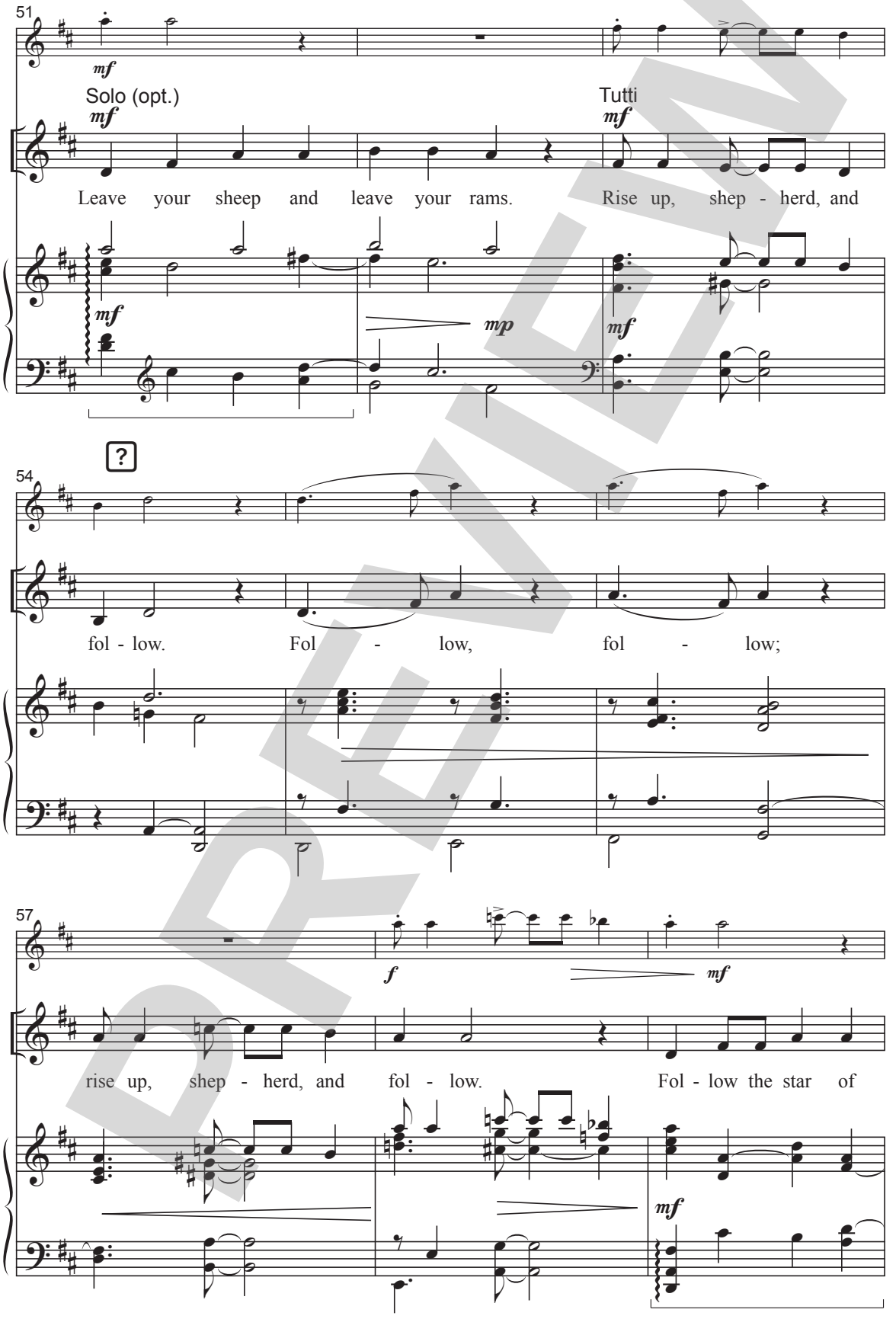
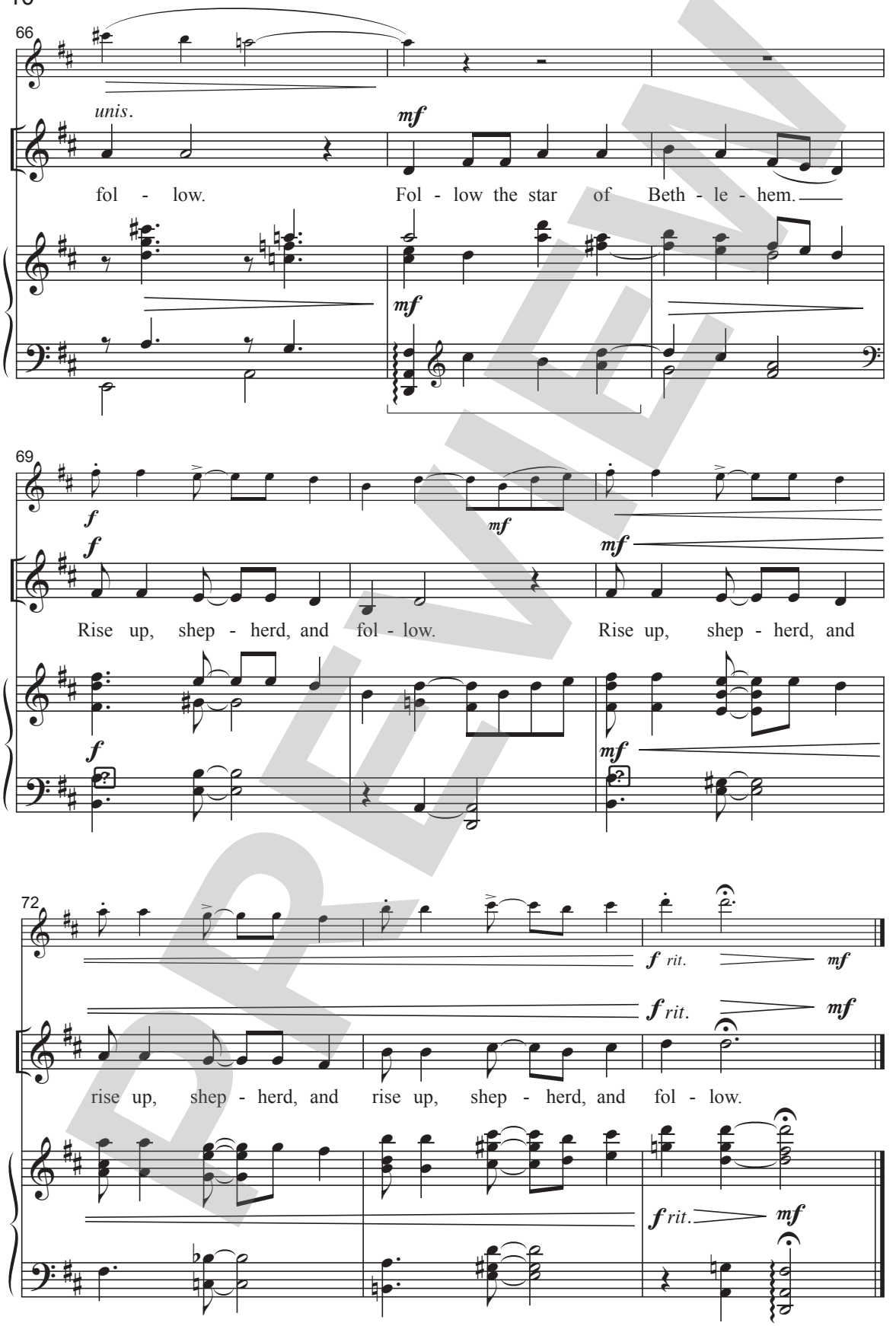

Unison
10
f
There's a star in the east on Christ - mas morn.
13
Rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low. It will lead to the place where the
16
Christ was born. Rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low.
Solo (opt.)
Tutti
19
mf
Leave your flocks and leave your lambs. Rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low.

PREVIEW

33
mf
Rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low.
mf
mf
36
sub. f
If you
8va
mp
39
3
sub. f
sub. mf
sub. mf
take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up, shep - herd, and
loco
sub. f
3
sub. mf

PREVIEW

51
mf
Solo (opt.)
mf
Tutti
mf
Leave your sheep and leave your rams.
Rise up, shep - herd, and
mf
mp
mf
?
54
fol - low.
Fol - low,
fol - low;
57
f
mf
rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low.
Fol - low the star of
mf

PREVIEW

66
unis.
mf
fol - low.
Fol - low the star of Beth - le - hem.
mf
69
f
mf
f
mf
Rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low.
Rise up, shep - herd, and
f
mf
72
f rit.
mf
f rit.
mf
rise up, shep - herd, and rise up, shep - herd, and fol - low.
f rit.
mf

PREVIEW