Gilda Lyons
b.1975

Songs from the F Train

on Poems by Children from Brooklyn
for Voice and Piano

ED30039

ISMN 979-0-060001-063-9

PREVIEW
Low Resolution

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Forward

The idea for American Opera Projects (AOP), Fort Greene Park [illegible] The Walt Whitman Project to commission Gilda Lyons came from [illegible] with the composer. Gilda had spent a year in AOP's "Compos[illegible] and th[illegible] housed in our Fort Greene, Brooklyn home base. We admired G[illegible] strengths [illegible] song writer: clear, natural text setting and lyric instincts tha[illegible] words in surprising ways. The thing that most drew us to Gilda for th[illegible] for simple stories, especially ones that have a black mood [illegible] but are brightened by the narrator's clear-eyed story telling or by [illegible] silver lining of a dark cloud. The young poets, Alexis Cummings, [illegible] Najaya Royal, came to the attention of Greg Trupiano, Director of [illegible] Project [illegible] frequent partner for AOP events in the Fort Greene [illegible] Rasbury, a poet and mentor of young writers. Ang[illegible] their poetry aloud in Fort Greene Park in the summ[illegible] of 200[illegible] poetry readings: the girls were sending important mess[illegible] about life [illegible] not yet teenagers. The poems were universal. It took [illegible] to be convinced to commission musical settings. Gilda Ly[illegible] making the three poems that make up the cycle, "Son[illegible] into an anthem, a defiant battle cry, and a valenti[illegible] Brooklyn is a borough where people are proud, dang[illegible] playfully passionate.

A p[illegible] of the [illegible] cycle should allow themselves to be stirred to th[illegible] risks with your music making. This action brings you cl[illegible] of the [illegible] and the creative channels through which a gifted com[illegible] for us to share common life experiences through music.

Charles Jarden
General Director, American Opera Projects
www.operaprojects.org
Brooklyn, 2010

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TEXTS

1. I'm Smart

I'm smart but timid,
I worry I will never break
out of my fear.

I hear the
harmony when
people sing.

I see the
violence in my
community.

I want to indulge
my talents to the
world, I'm smart
but timid.

- Alexis Cummings, [illegible]

2. I am Fr[illegible] The [illegible]klyn

I am [illegible] the [illegible]klyn
[illegible] community
[illegible] the summer [illegible]
bro[illegible] candles from
the [illegible] our Disney World.
Whe[illegible] are our get together,
[illegible] are our family reunions.
[illegible] the streets of Brooklyn
[illegible] we use jumper cables to play
[illegible] dutch because, jump ropes keep
the crooks near so they could sell it for crack.
I am from the streets of Brooklyn
where the ghetto is something
I can runaway from
though can not forget.

- Najaya Royal, age 12

3. When Randa wears red

When Randa [illegible] red
She looks like [illegible]
When [illegible]
She lo[illegible]
When R[illegible]
[illegible]
When [illegible] red
[illegible] things
[illegible]nda wears red
[illegible] everything
[illegible] Randa wears red
[illegible] has her [illegible]ch
[illegible] wears red
[illegible] book
Wh[illegible]nda wears red
[illegible]tches with Valentines Day

- Samori Covington, age 9

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Commissioned by American Opera Projects,
Fort Greene Park Conservancy and The Walt Whitman Project.

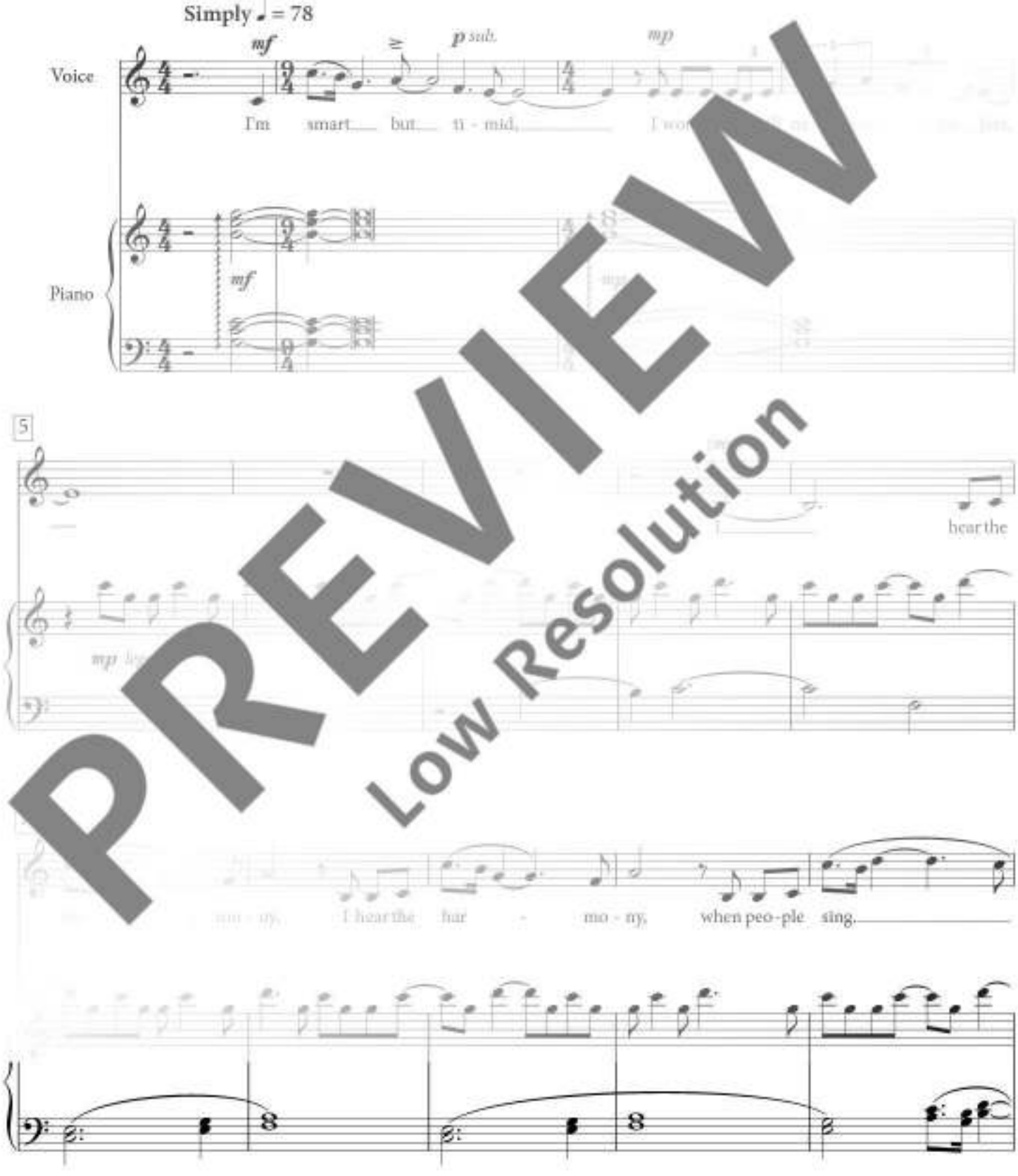
Songs from the F Train

on poems by children from Brooklyn

1. I'm Smart

Alexis Cummings, age 12

Gilda Lyons (2009)



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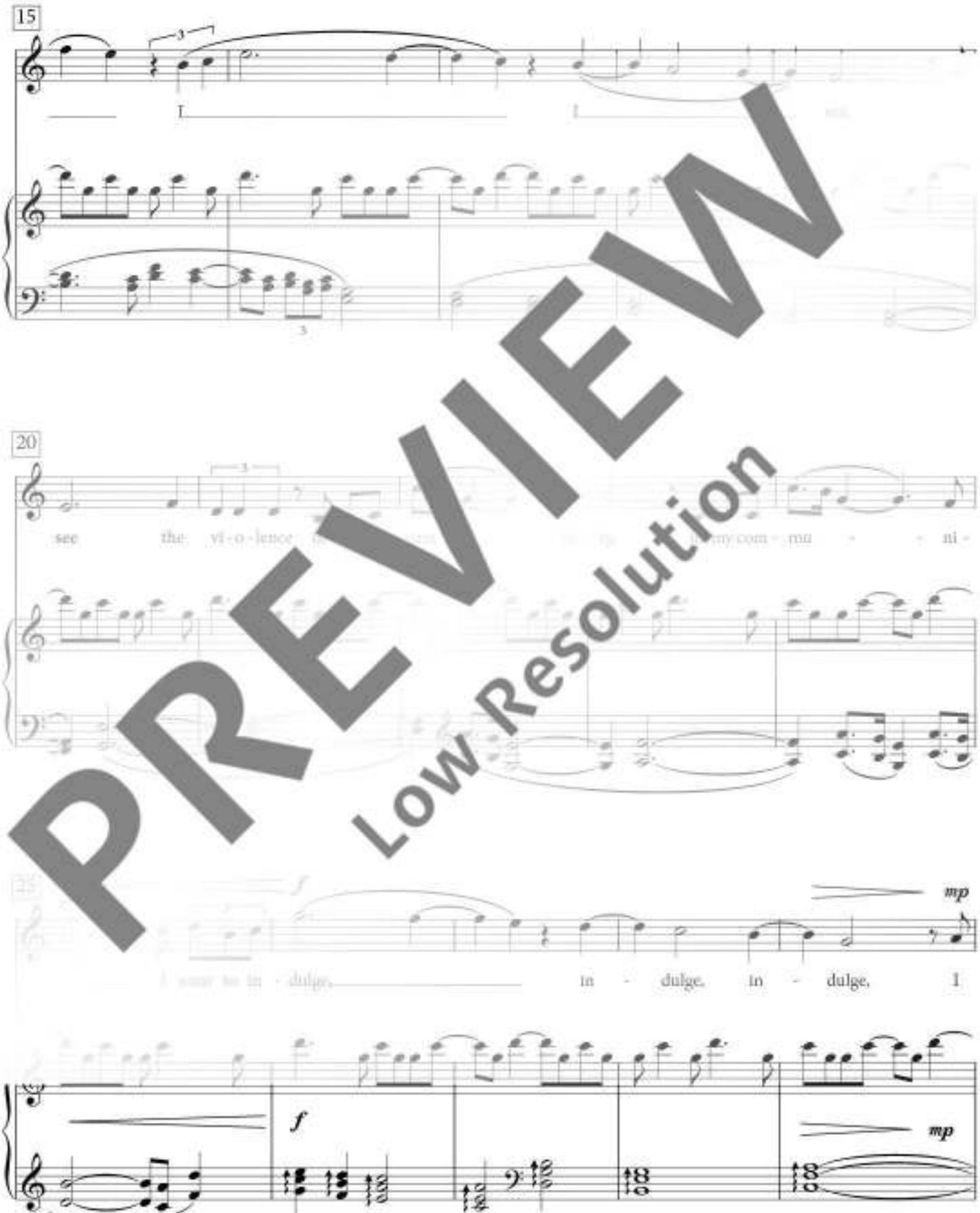

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2. I am From the Ghetto "Brooklyn"

Najaya Royal, age 12

Gilda Lyons (2009)

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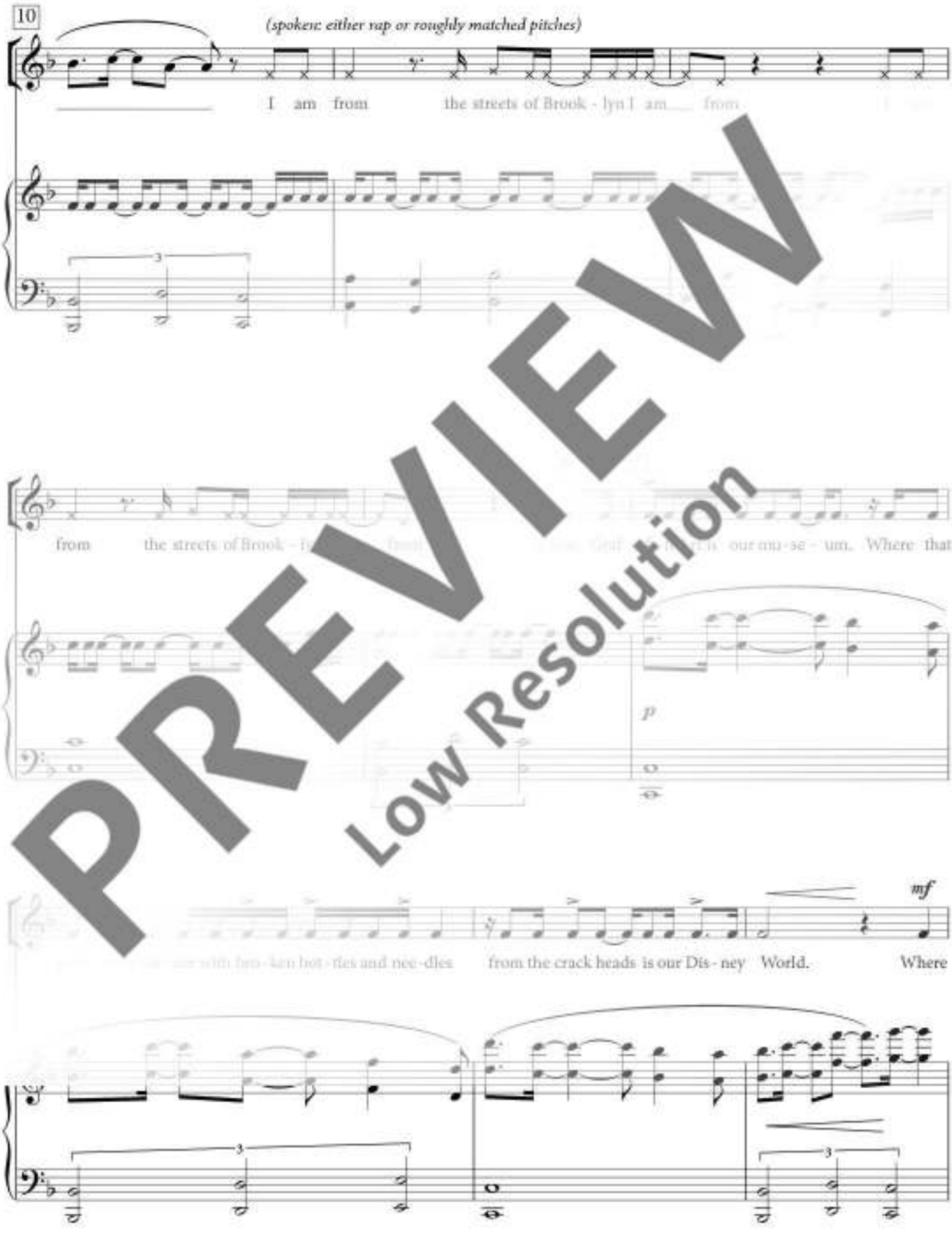

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