A Note About *The Master's Touch*

In 2005 while I served as Music Director at First United Methodist Church of Mishawaka, Indiana, Rev. Lorin Clemenz retired as senior pastor. Wishing to commemorate his ministry in a special way, the Chancel Choir presented this piece on his final Sunday. Its original version was for SATB choir and keyboard. This a cappella setting was created for this publication.

I looked for a text consistent with Pastor Clemenz's emphasis on personal devotion and commitment to Jesus Christ. Horatius Bonar (1808–1889), a minister in the Free Church of Scotland, wrote more than six hundred hymns, the best known of which is "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say." The appeal of "The Master's Touch" for me was its imagery connecting Christ's work to the arts of music and sculpture.

The third stanza has contrasting music and adds the art of pottery as a metaphor. That image comes from the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. Adelaide A. Pollard (1862–1934) employed it in her hymn "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" written in 1902.

–David A. Seitz, 2018

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Catalog No. 82a

The Master's Touch

for SSATBB voices unaccompanied

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889), alt. — David A. Seitz (1943–)

Moderately ♩ = 80

SOPRANO
ALTO

mp *mel.*

In the still air the mu - sic lies un - heard.

TENOR
BASS

p

In the air mu - sic un - heard.

5

p

In the mar - ble the beau - ty lies un - seen.

mp *mel.*

In the rough mar - ble the beau - ty hides un - seen.

9

mel. *mf*

To make the mu - sic and the beau - ty needs the mas-ter's

mf

To make the mu - sic and the beau - ty needs the mas-ter's

12

mp *p*

touch, the sculp - tor's chis - - el (*el*) keen. Great

(Divide voices for balance.)

mp

touch, the sculp - tor's chis - - el (*el*) keen.

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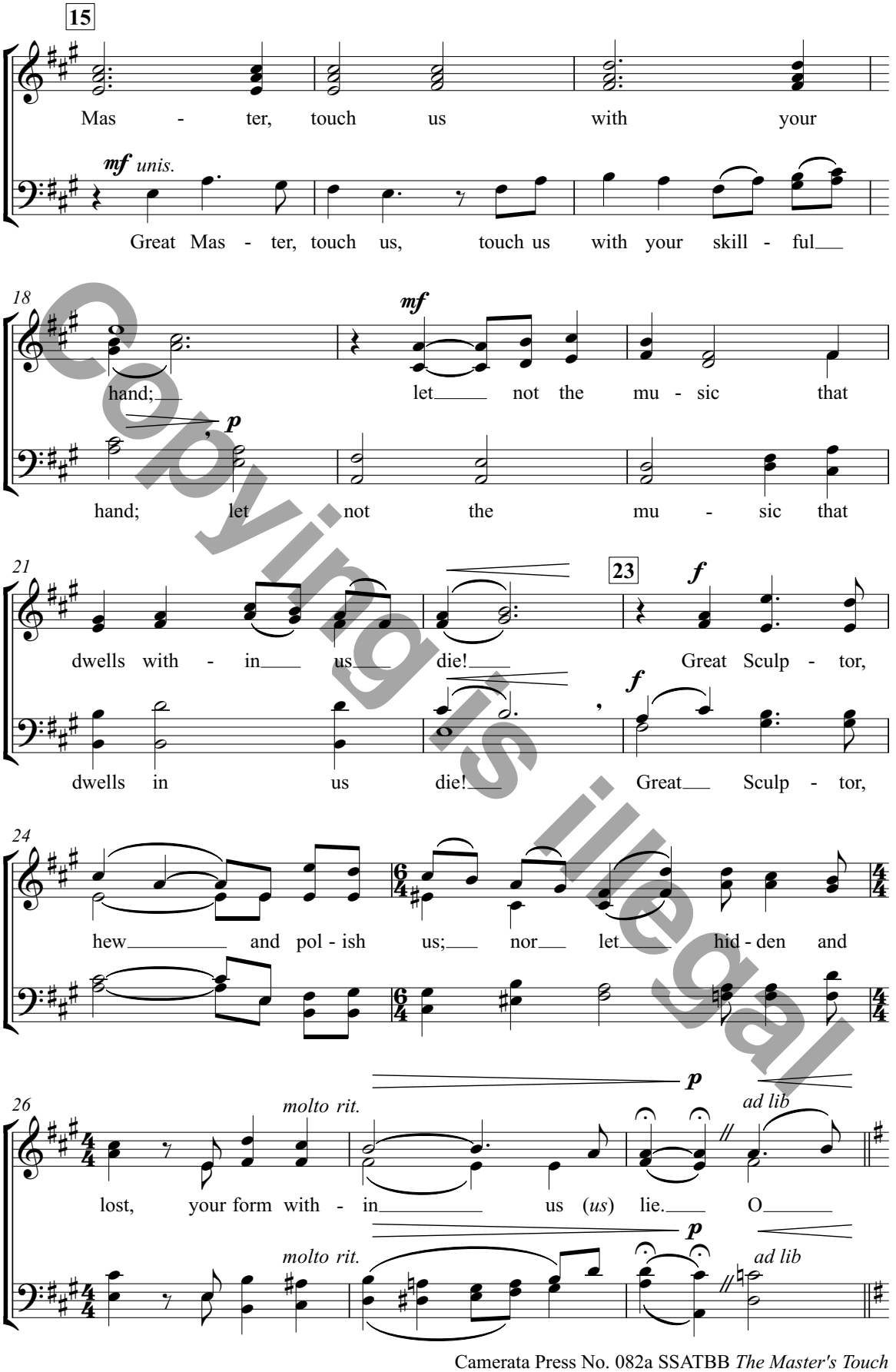

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Words: Adelaide Pollard, 1902, alt.

29 **Slower, with fervor** ♩ = 72

mp

have your own way, Lord, have (*have*) your own way. You are the pot - ter,

mp

(Basses divide.)

32

mf

You are the pot - ter,

mf

35

p

I am the (*the*) clay.

(Altos divide.)

37 *mp*

O Lord,

mf

mel.

O Lord, mold me and mold me, O Lord, mold and make me make me, Lord, make me af - ter your will,

(Divide voices for balance.)

38

41

mf *f* *mf*

mel.

while I am (*am*) wait - ing, (*ing,*) while I am

f *mf*

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44 rit. mp a tempo p mp Have your
wait - - ing yield - ed and still.
mp rit. p a tempo

47 way with us, we wait for you, Great Mas - ter. mf p
mp Have your way with us, we wait, Great Mas - ter. rit.
Have your way, we wait, Great Mas - ter.
mp mf p rit.
mf Have your way, Great Mas - ter.

50 Tempo I ♩ = 80
unis. mf
Touch us now, dear Lord; tune and shape us as you
unis. mf

53 will!
will, as you will! Let there be noth - ing un -
will!
will, as you will!

56 58
fin - ished, bro - ken, marred. Com - plete your
Com - plete your

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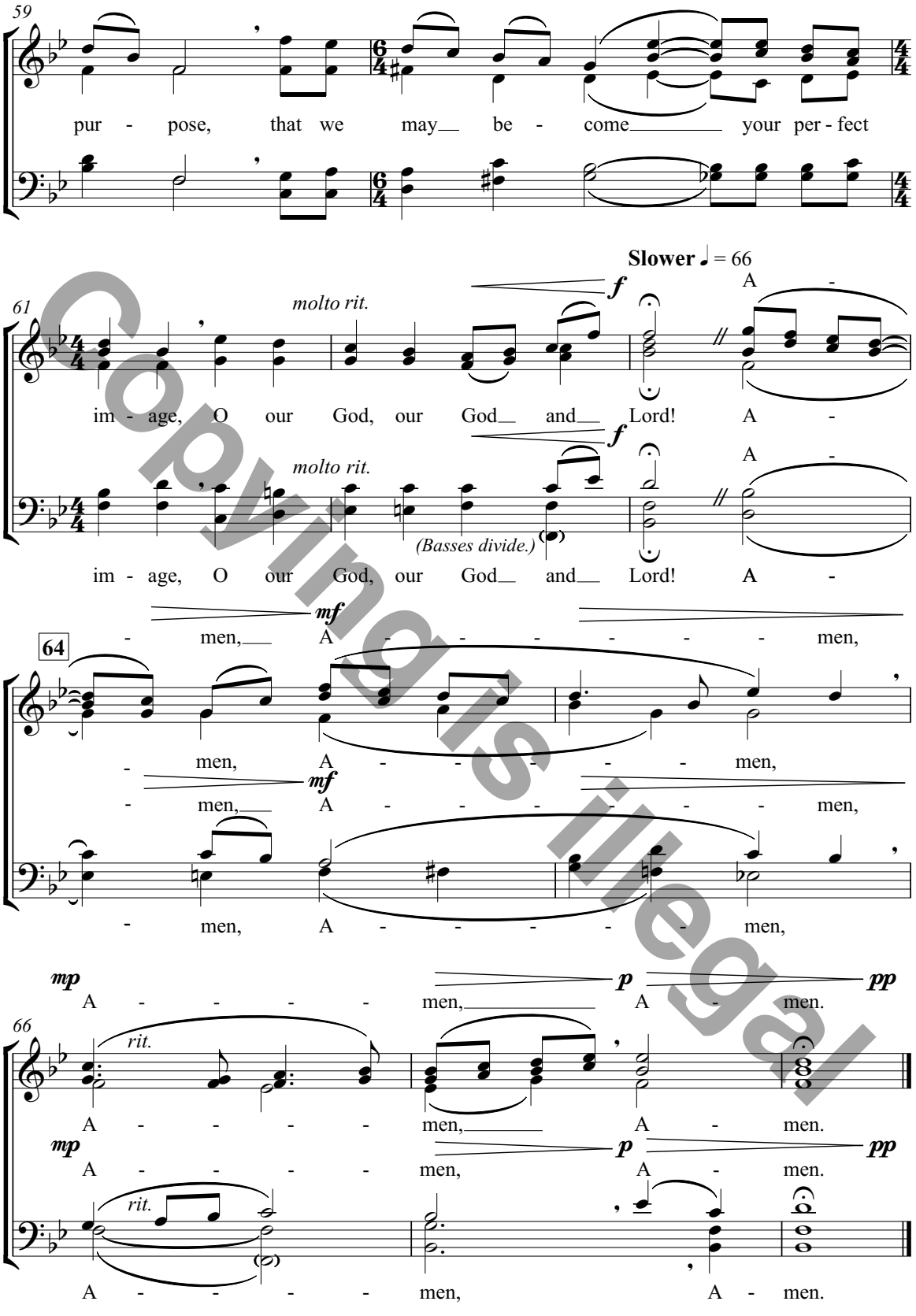

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duration: 3'55"
comp. 2005; arr. 2018