Introduction

In this series of SWINGLE SINGERS arrangements from works of J. S. Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, and W. F. Bach, I have tried always to respect the original writing with the exception of an occasional transposition and the addition of percussion and string bass lines.

In each piece I have indicated syllables for the onomatopoeia which we use on the record. However, your group may work out its own onomatopoeia, adding to the improvisatory nature of the interpretation. The sounds suggest themselves as you begin to rehearse the phrase, the inspiration being the instrumental manner of attacking and phrasing.

The SWINGLE SINGERS for most of their recordings are composed of eight voices (double quartet), string bass and percussion. The number of voices can be enlarged but should not be reduced. The style of singing is more light and breathy. In performance a better balance may be obtained by placing the string bass and percussion on a raised platform directly behind the singers.

Although the range of difficulty among the selections presented in this series is quite varied, we invite you to try them all.

AIR

This was the first time we tried the form of theme and variations. The rhythmic progression is underlined by varying the color of the drums for each variation. The theme itself is best done *a cappella*.

Ward Swingle

These are the authentic SWINGLE SINGERS recorded arrangements based on instrumental material and utilizing the broad tessituras of this vocal group. The ranges, particularly in the bass part, may be extreme for some singers. Optional cues have been indicated in some cases, and these passages are usually reinforced by the string bass. Transposition up or down a half or whole tone may be advisable in certain instances. The recording, "The Swingle Singers Going Baroque," will prove an invaluable aid to the director and performers in determining style, dynamics, vocal color and tempi.

The Editor

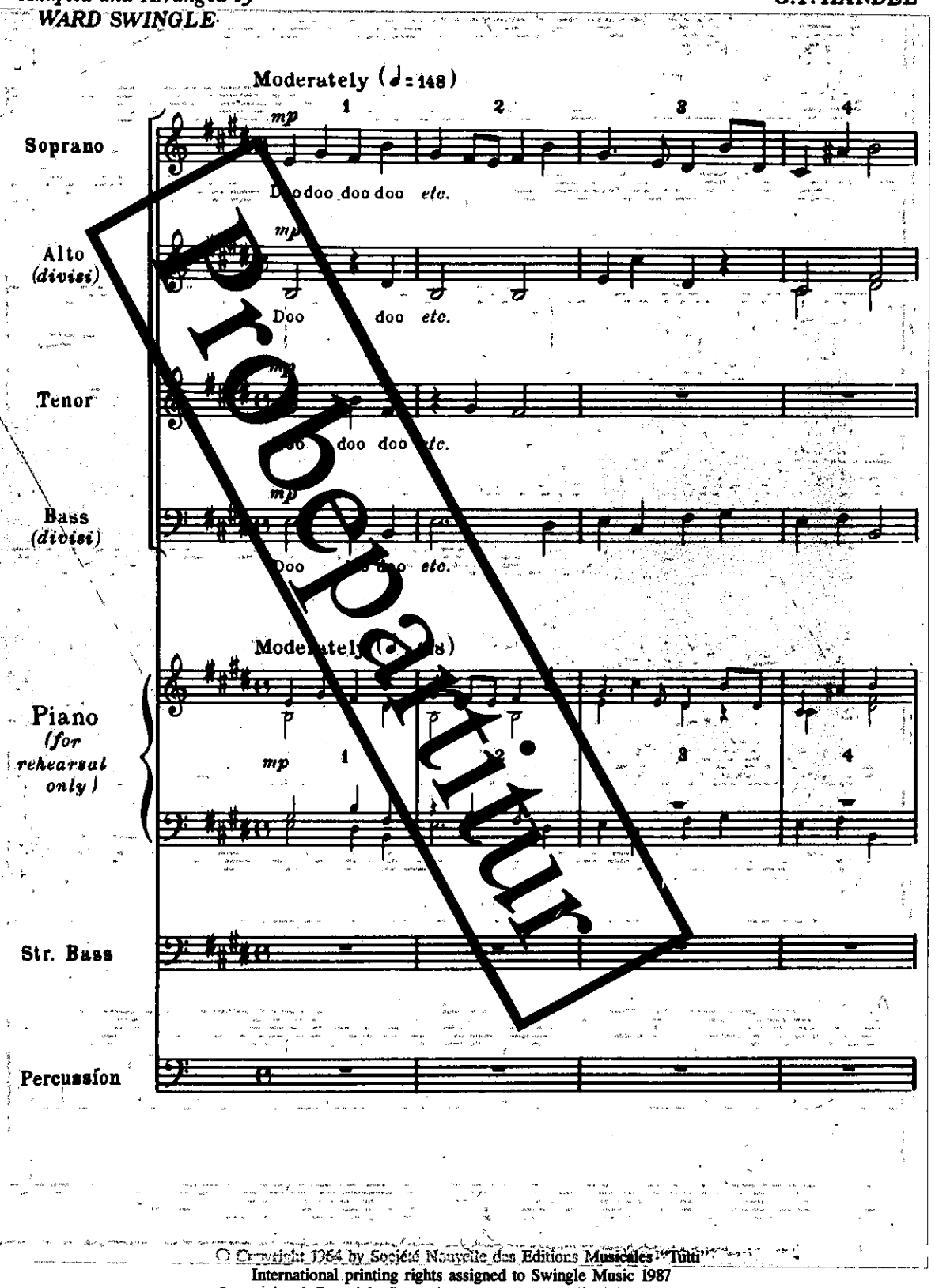
Probepartitur

AIR

(from Harpsichord Suite in E Major)
S.A.T.B. divisi with Str. Bass and Percussion

Adapted and Arranged by **WARD SWINGLE**

G.F. HANDEL



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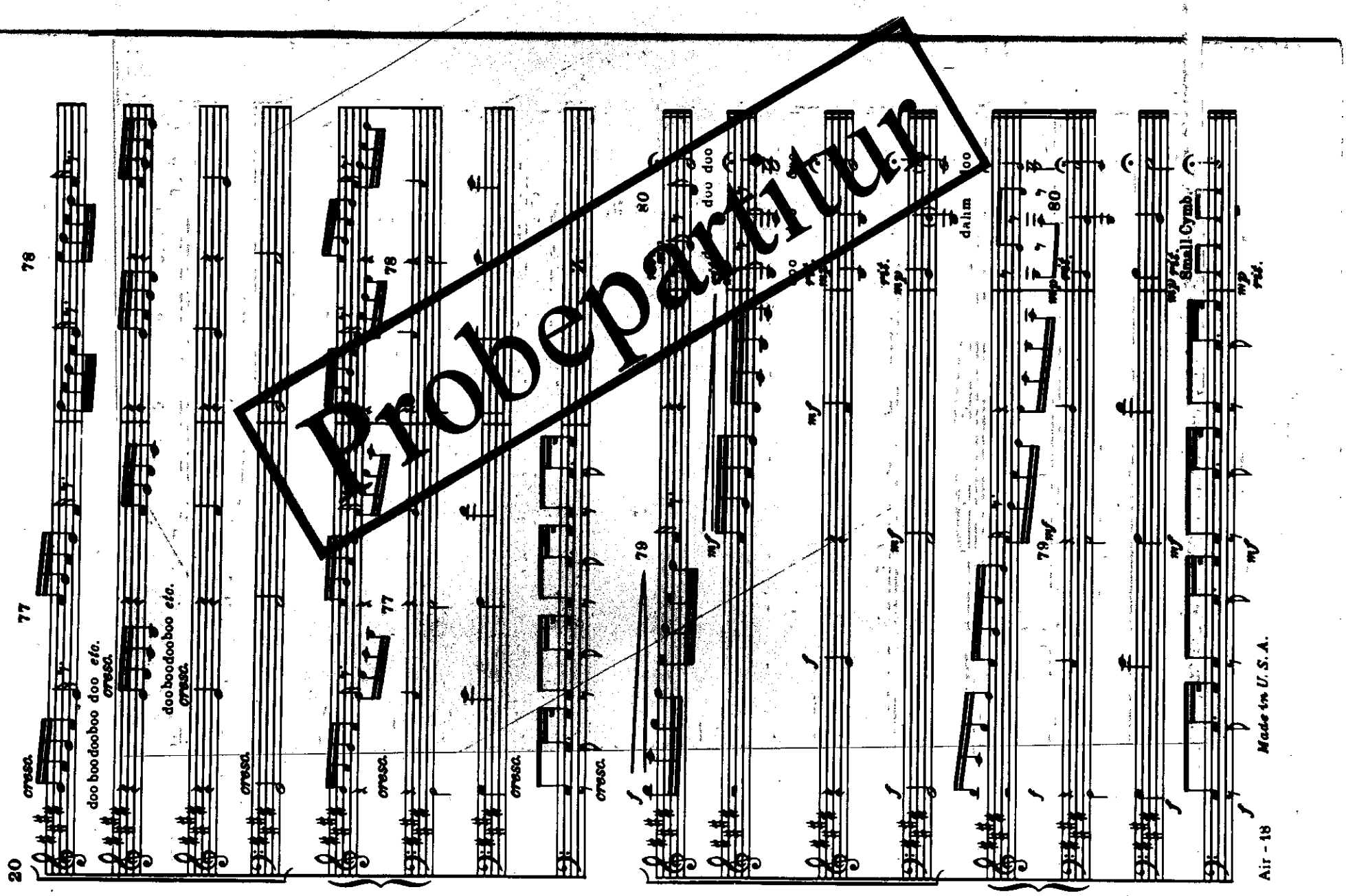

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