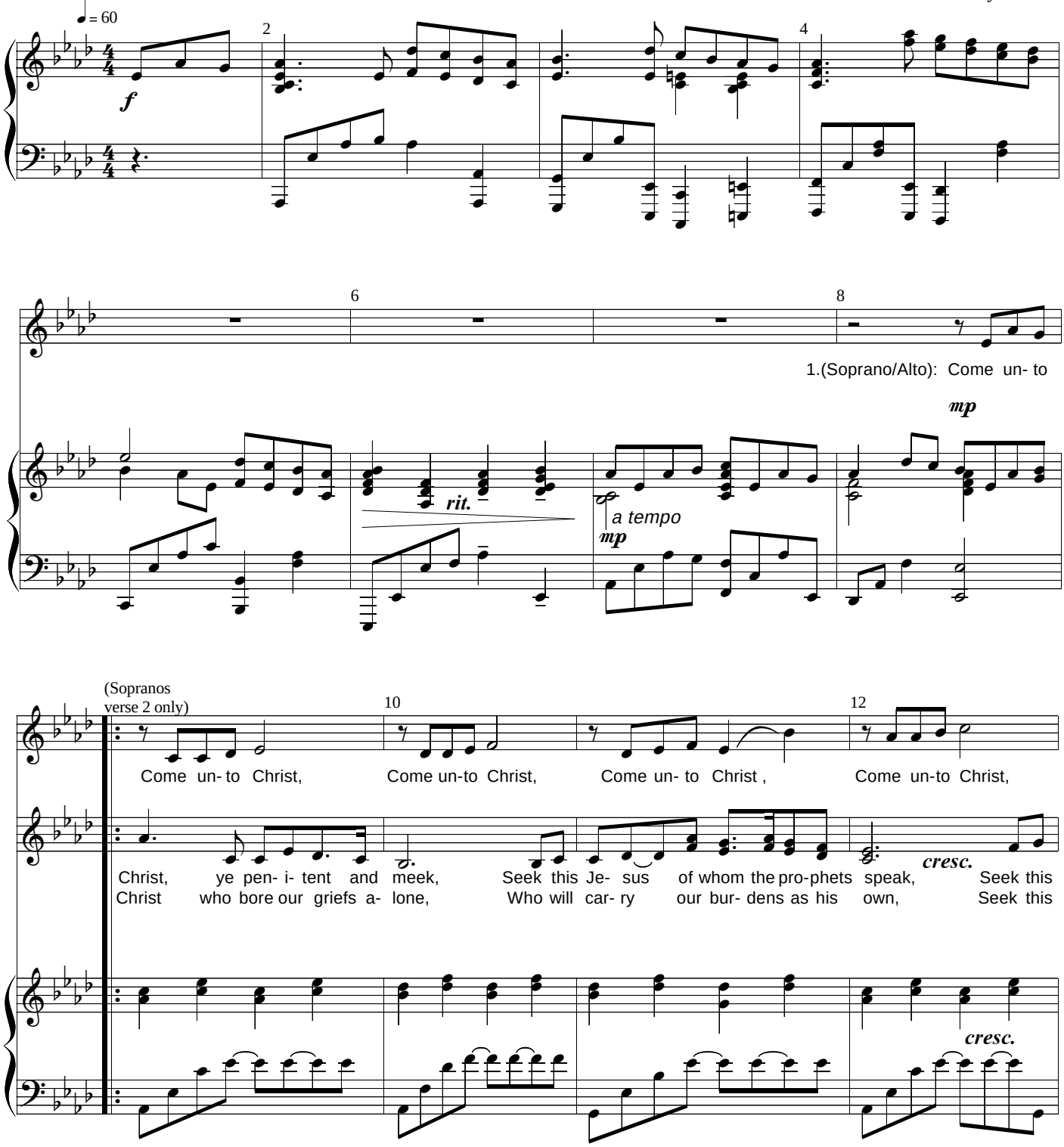
Come Unto Christ

(SATB)

Sally DeFord



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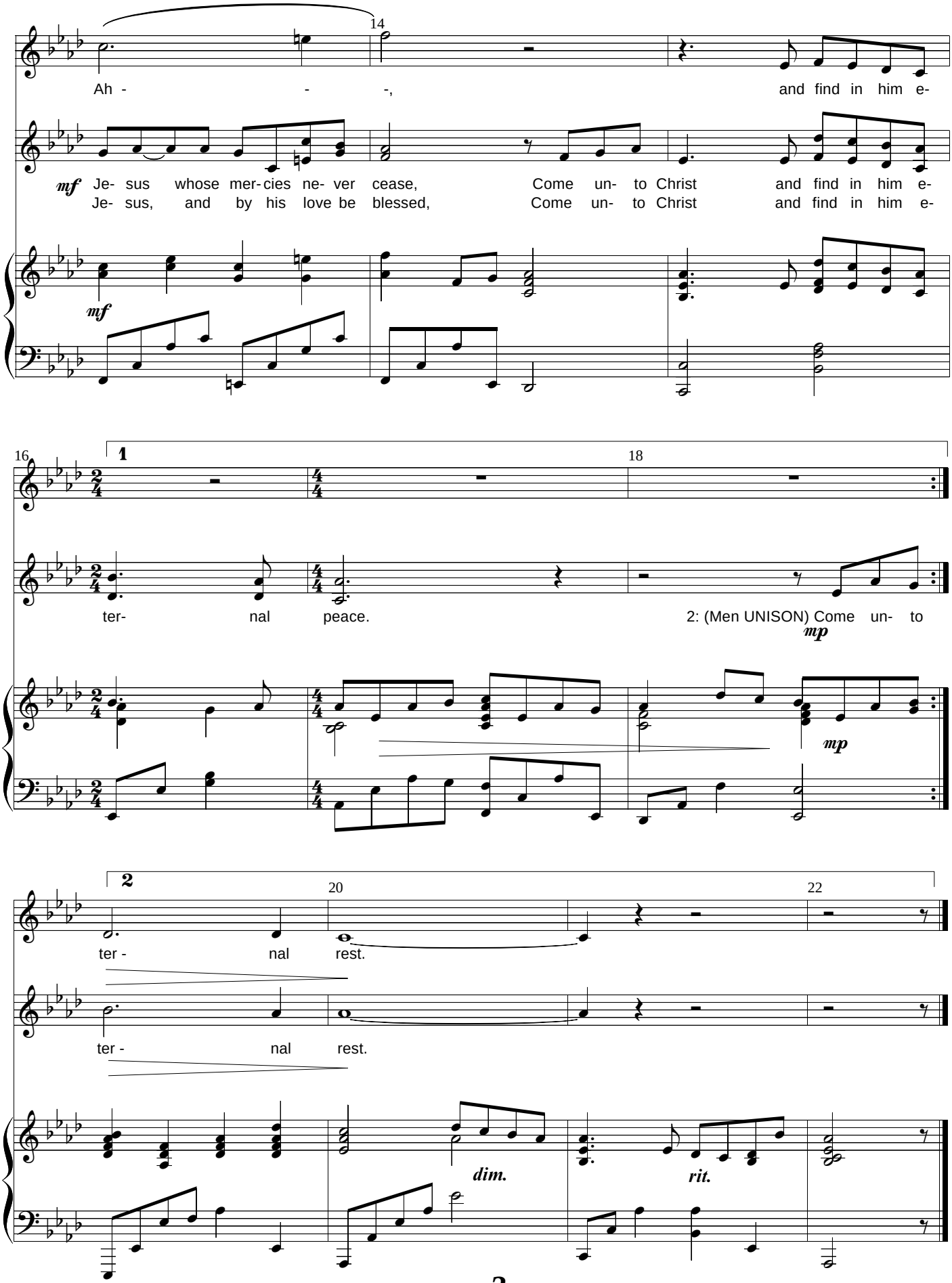

14
Ah - - -,
and find in him e-
mf
Je- sus whose mer- cies ne- ver cease,
Come un- to Christ
and find in him e-
Je- sus, and by his love be blessed,
Come un- to Christ
and find in him e-
mf
16
1
18
ter- nal peace.
2: (Men UNISON) Come un- to
mp
mp
2
20
22
ter - nal rest.
ter - nal rest.
dim.
rit.

"Come unto Christ." This divine invitation to peace and joy has been extended by the Lord throughout the ages. Through prophets commissioned to speak in his name, God promised to the fallen world a Savior who would take upon himself the sins that would bar us from his presence.

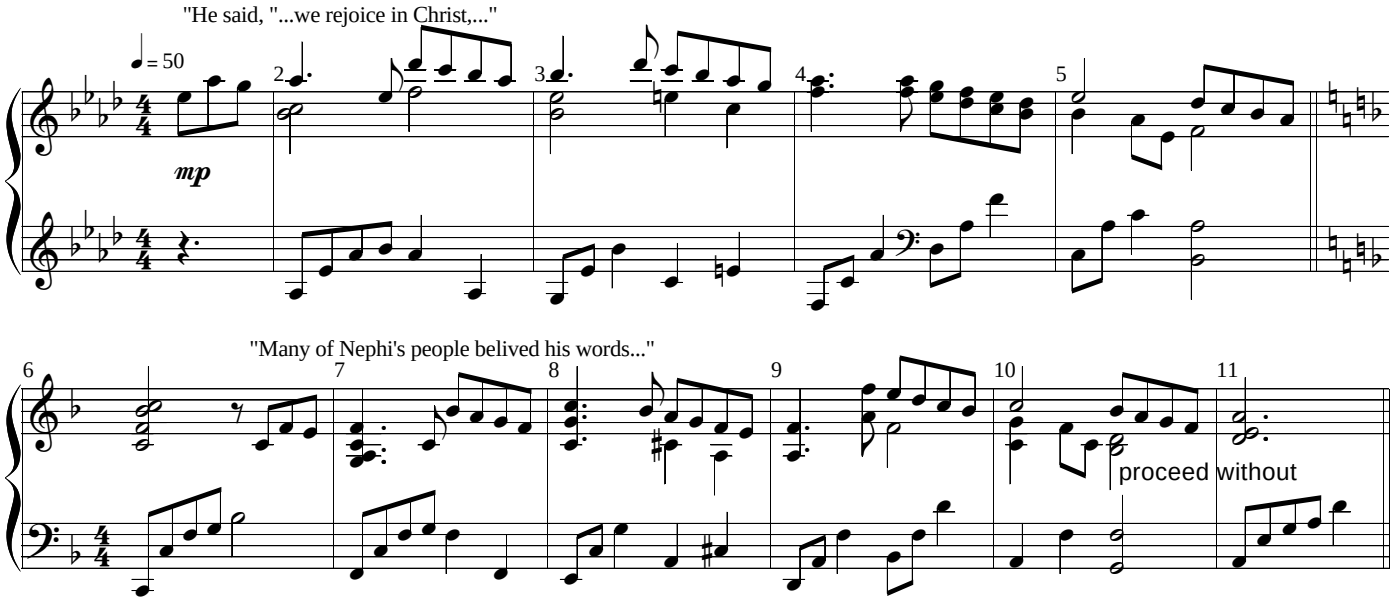
The prophet Isaiah, speaking to God's people gathered in Israel, bore witness of Christ's atoning sacrifice, saying, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows... he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Though the people of Israel were soon scattered throughout the earth, the Lord continued to send prophets among them who testified of the promised Messiah: Ezekiel in Jerusalem; Jeremiah in Egypt; Daniel in Babylon; and, at the same time, a prophet named Nephi testified of Christ among a group of Israelites who had been led by the Lord to the Americas.

(Music begins.) He said, "...we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ... that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins. ...there is none other name given under heaven save it be this Jesus Christ... whereby man can be saved..."

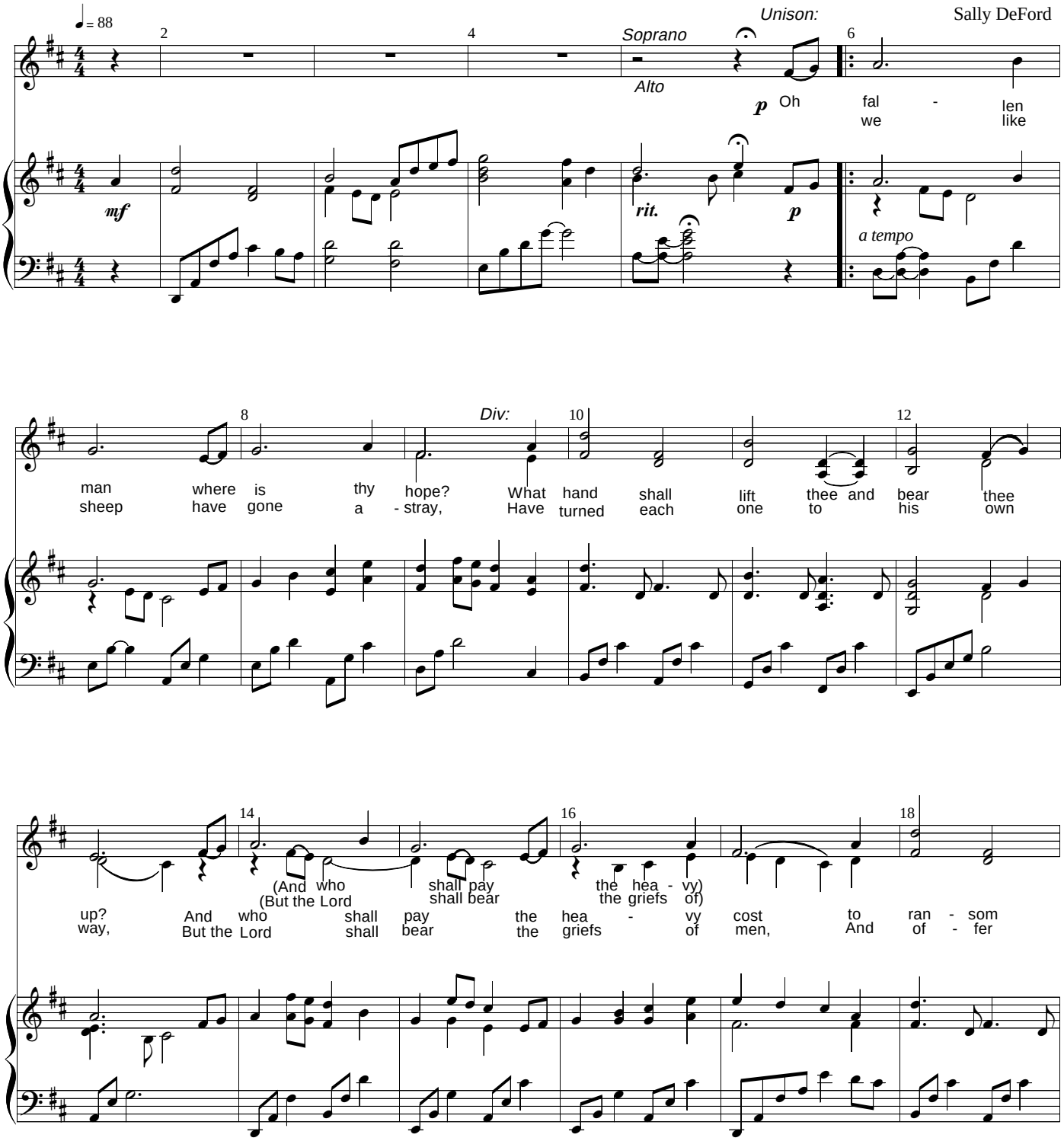
Many of Nephi's people believed his words. Their hearts were filled with gratitude for this loving Savior who would redeem them from their lost and fallen state, and they rejoiced as they came to rely on the goodness and merits of "him who is mighty to save."

Interlude



Break Forth in Joy

(SSATB)



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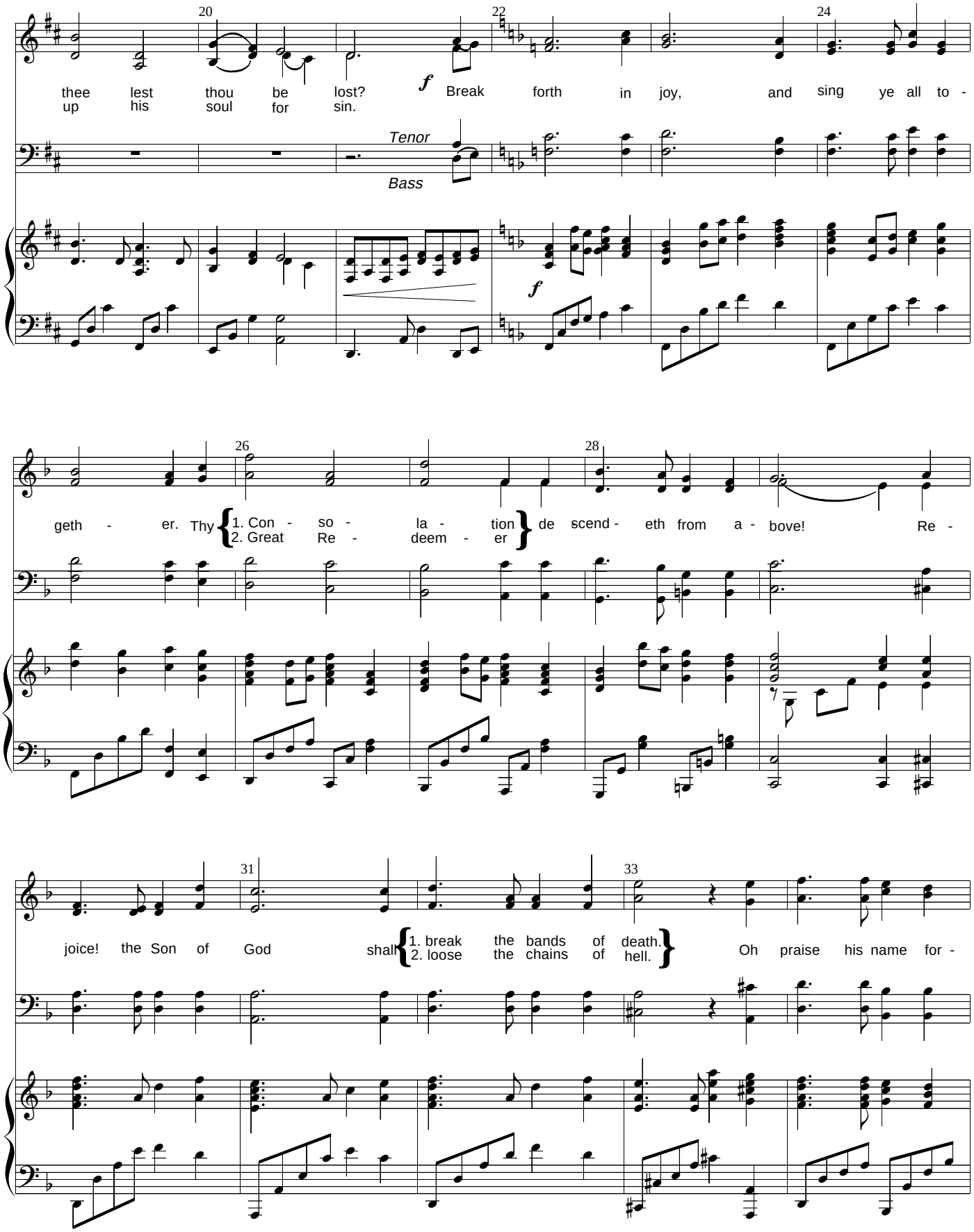
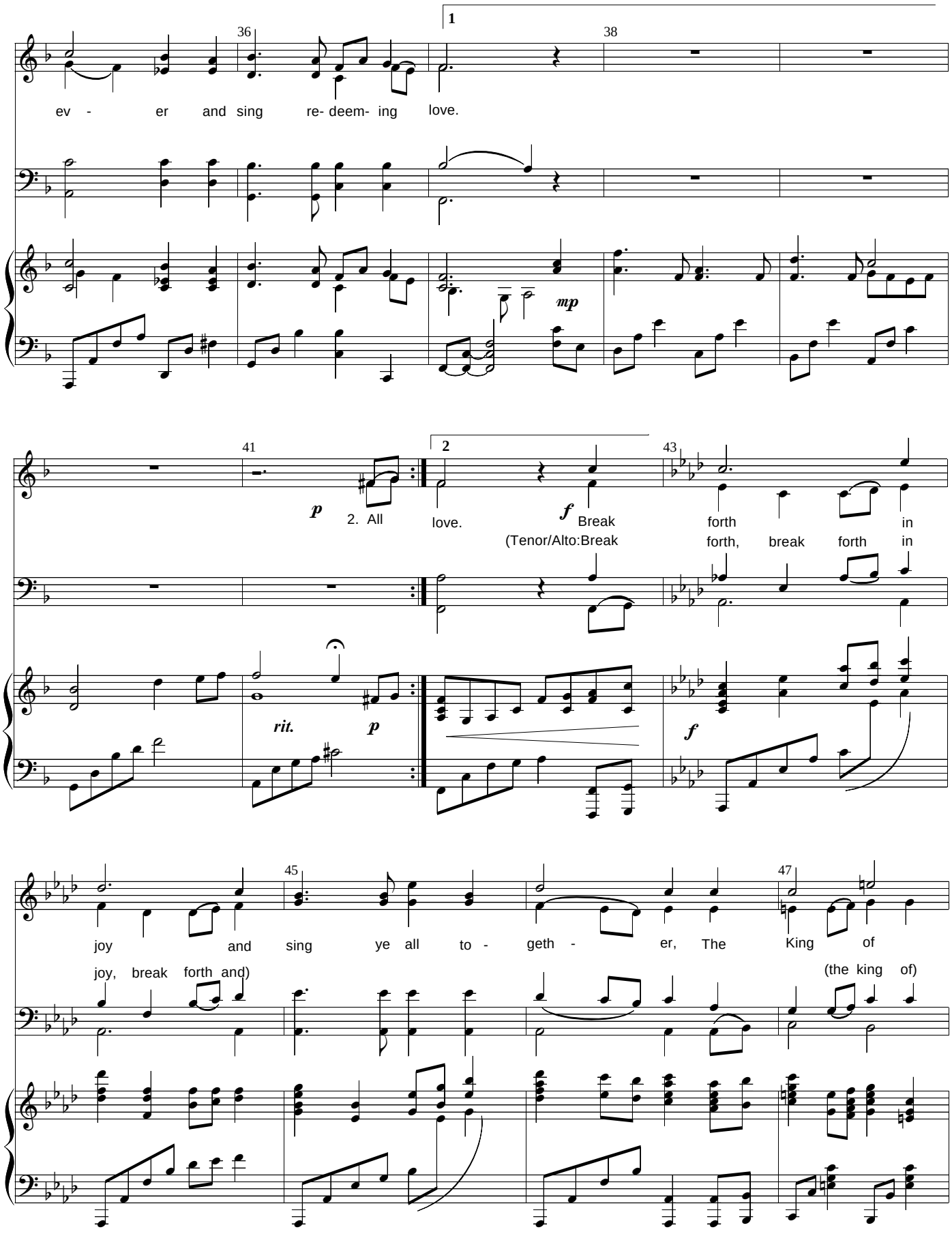
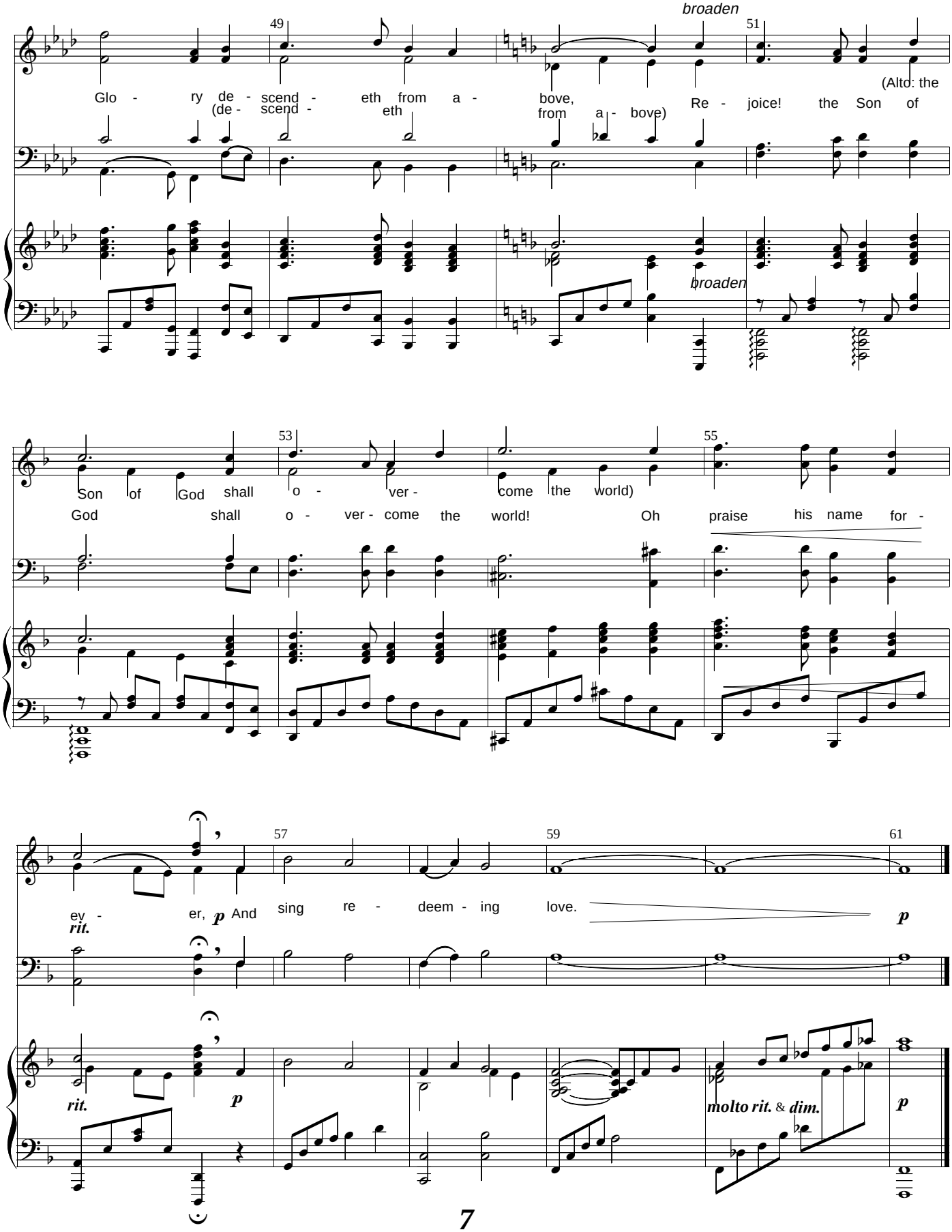

20
22
24
thee lest thou be lost? f Break forth in joy, and sing ye all to -
up his soul for sin.
Tenor
Bass
f
26
28
geth - er. Thy { 1. Con - so - la - tion / 2. Great Re - deem - er } de scend - eth from a - bove! Re -
31
33
joice! the Son of God shall { 1. break the bands of death. / 2. loose the chains of hell. } Oh praise his name for -


1
36
38
ev - er and sing re- deem- ing love.
mp
41
2
43
p
2. All
love.
f
Break
forth
in
(Tenor/Alto:Break
forth, break forth in
rit.
p
f
45
47
joy and sing ye all to - geth - er, The King of
joy, break forth and)
(the king of)


broaden
49
51
Glo - ry de - scend - eth from a - bove,
(de - scend - eth from a - bove)
Re - joice! the Son of
(Altd: the
broaden
53
55
Son of God shall o - ver - come the world)
God shall o - ver - come the world! Oh praise his name for -
57
59
61
ev - er, p And sing re - deem - ing love.
rit.
p
rit.
p
molto rit. & dim.
p

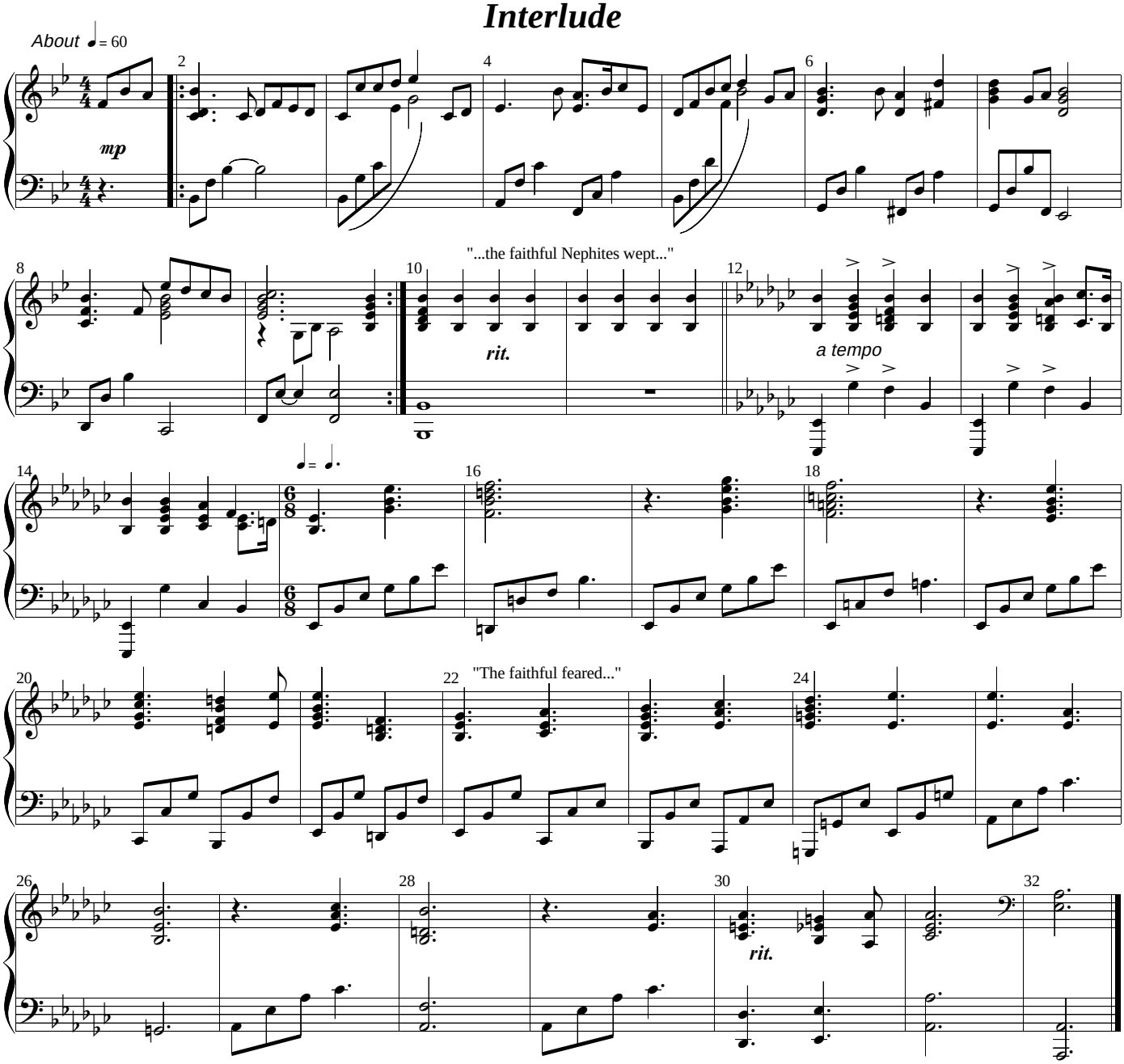
(Music begins.) The long years passed, and the Lord raised up many prophets among the Nephites. Each of them testified of Christ who should come. They taught that he would be born of a virgin, beautiful and fair above all others. They spoke of great signs and wonders by which the Nephites might know of his birth. They promised that after his ministry at Jerusalem, after he had atoned for their sins and suffered death for their sakes, he would rise again from the grave and come among the people of Nephi.

The faithful watched for the signs foretold, announcing the Savior's birth. They waited for a night when the sun would set, and yet no darkness follow. They watched for the appearance of a new star, such a one as they had never before beheld.

The time approached, and as far away, a virgin, great with child, traveled with her husband to the city of David; as the heavenly hosts prepared their songs of exultation; the faithful Nephites wept. For there were many who would not believe in the prophecies of Christ, and Satan raged in the hearts of the wicked. A day had been chosen by the unbelievers by which time the signs of this supposed Christ's coming must be given. If by this day the signs did not appear, those who believed would be put to death

The threat was not an idle one, for their rulers and judges had become corrupt, and the wicked did not fear the law. The faithful feared, lest by any means they had mistaken the words of the prophets. Though they continued to watch steadfastly for the signs of his birth, they did not know the hour, and feared they would not live to see it.

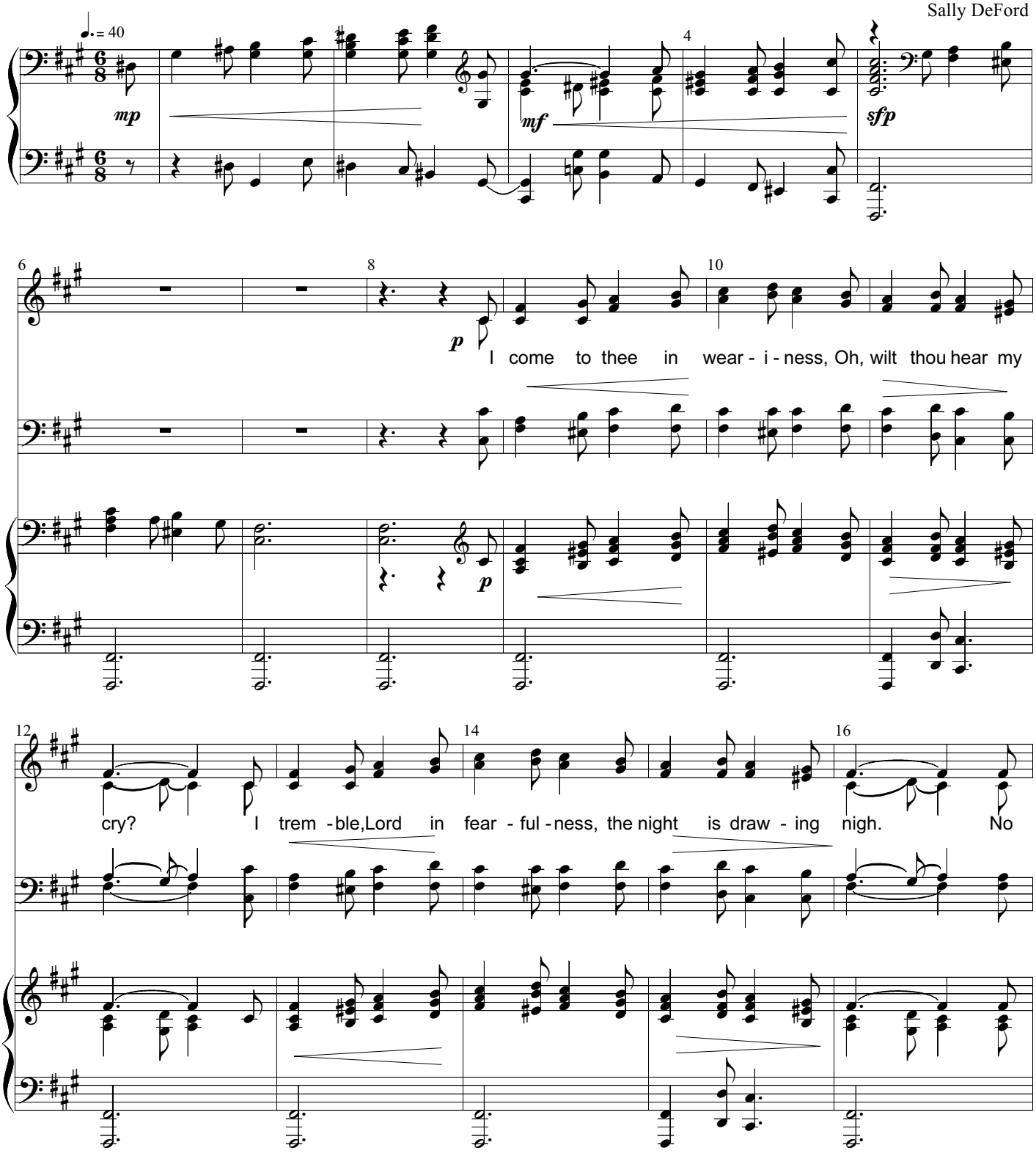
Interlude



Oh Come, Thou Blessed Messiah

(SATB)

Sally DeFord



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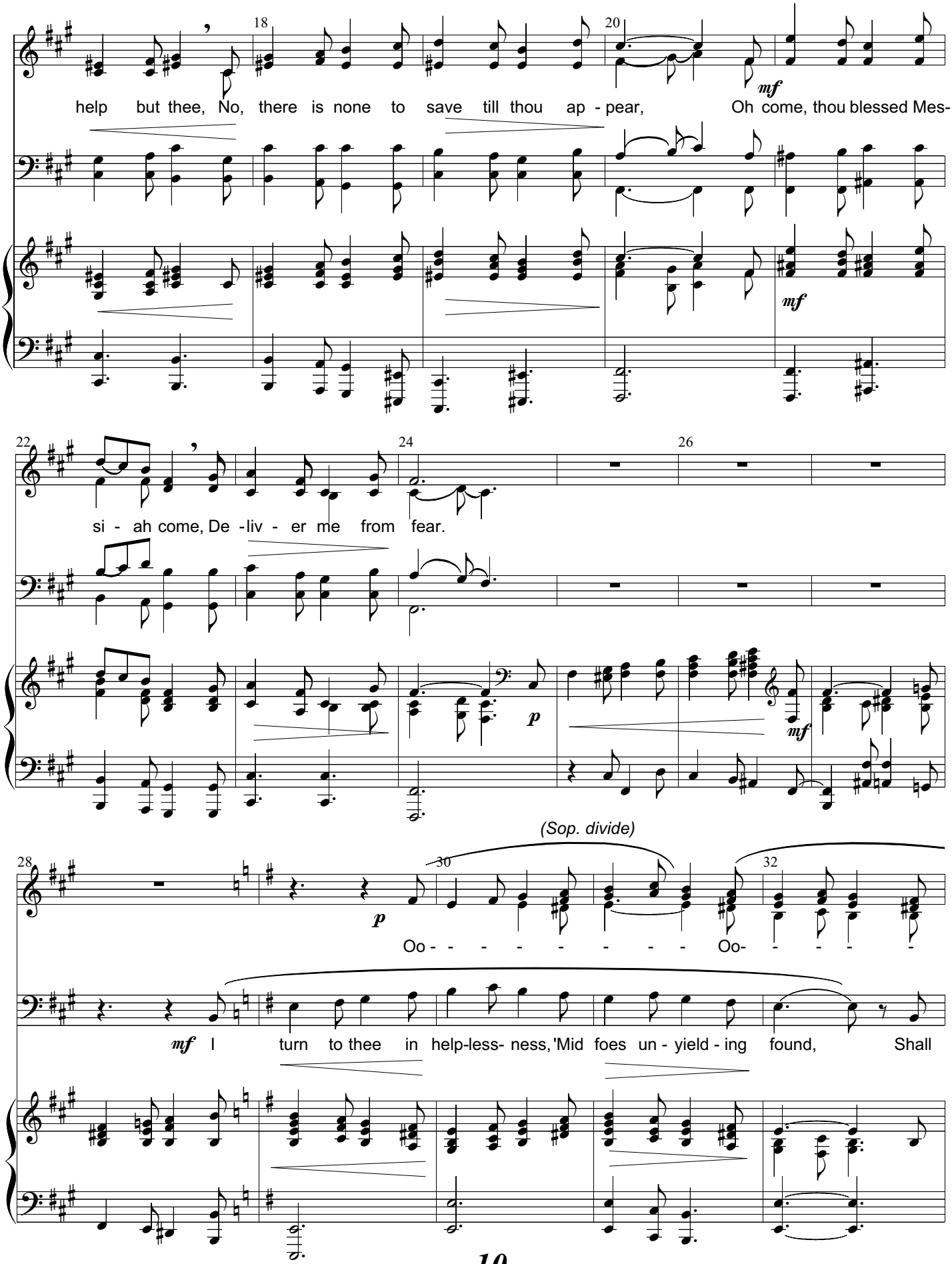
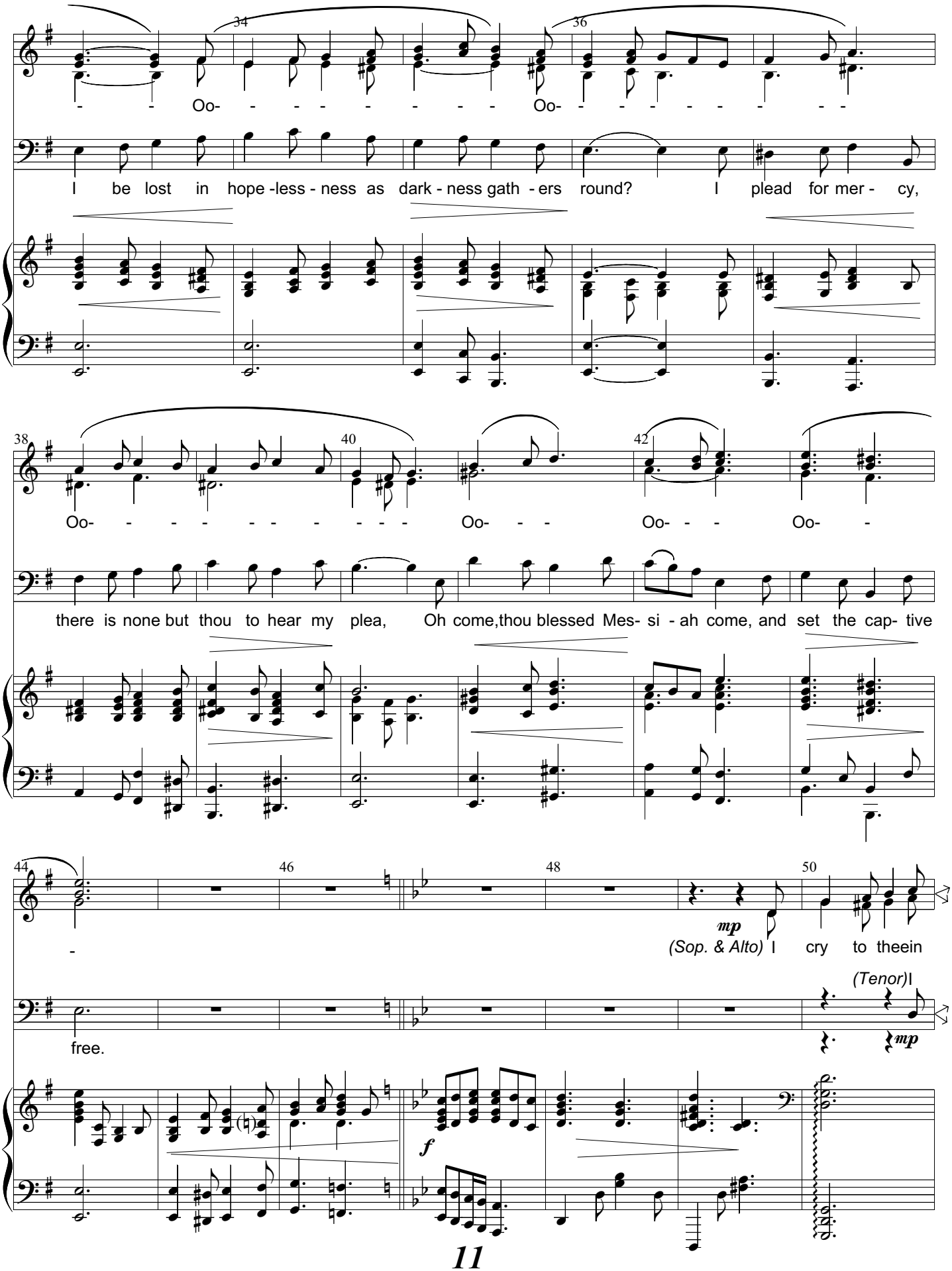
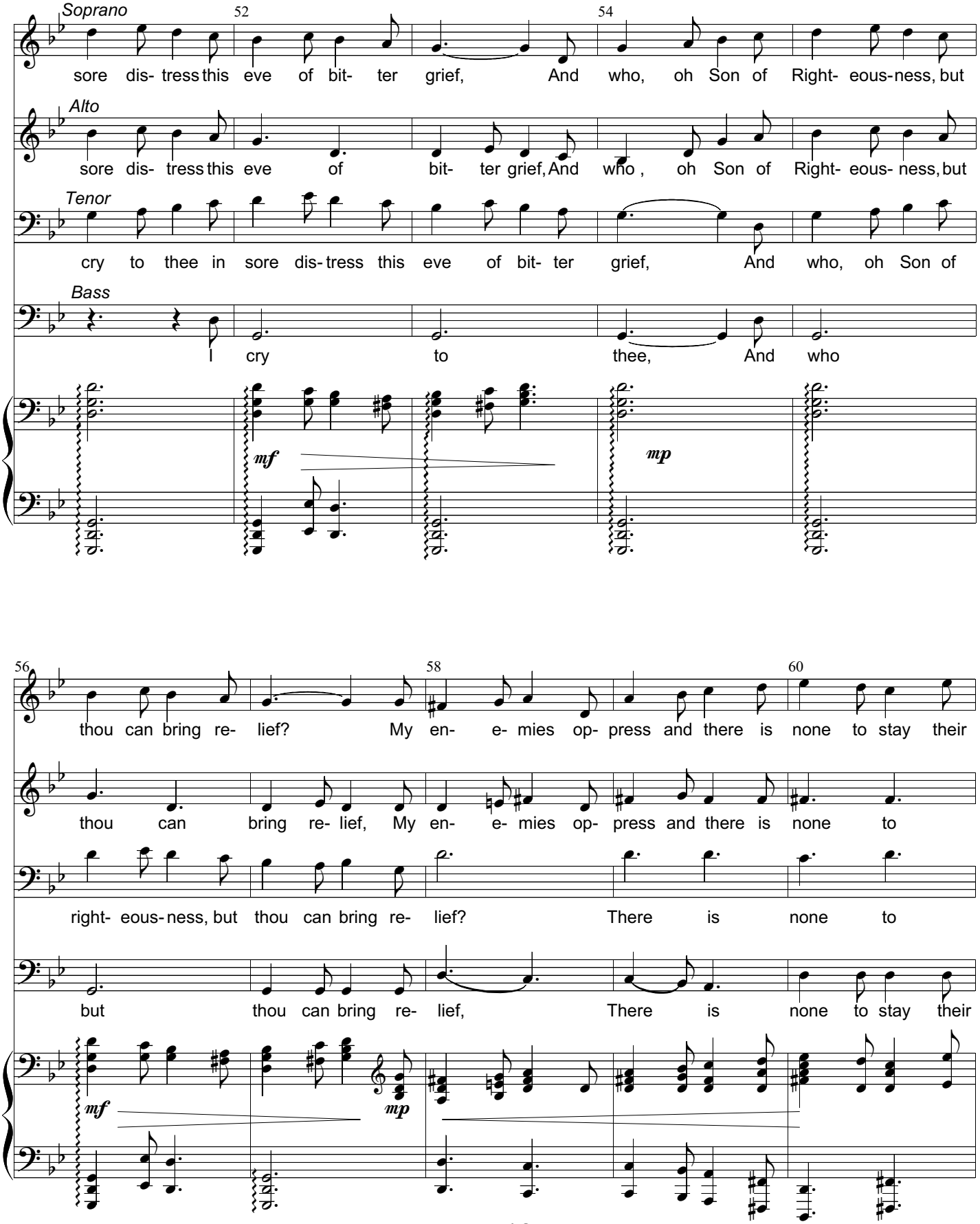
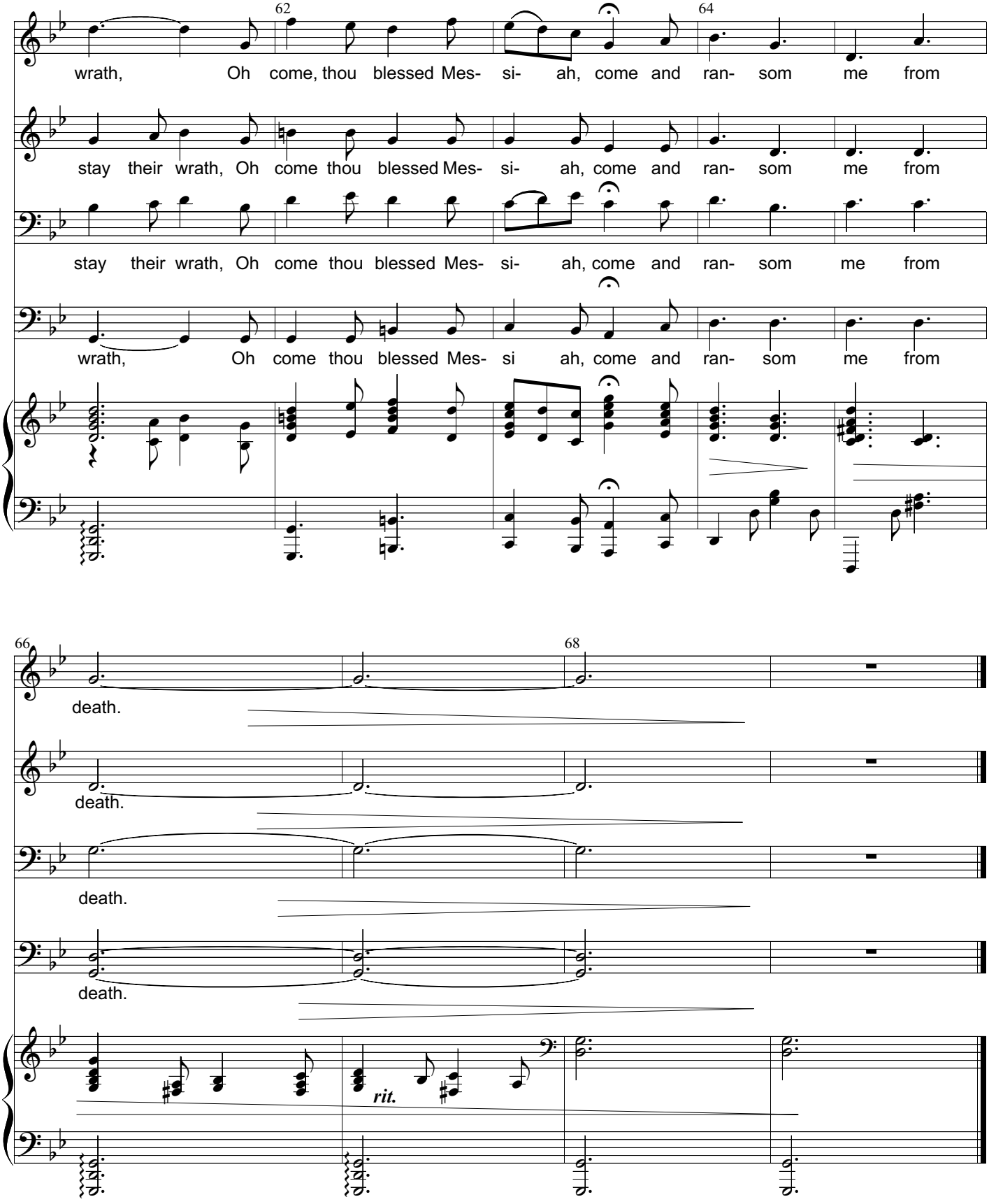

18
20
help but thee, No, there is none to save till thou ap - pear,
mf
Oh come, thou blessed Mes-
mf
22
24
26
si - ah come, De - liv - er me from fear.
p
mf
(Sop. divide)
28
30
32
p
Oo - - - - - - - - - Oo- - - - -
mf I turn to thee in help-less- ness, 'Mid foes un - yield - ing found, Shall


34
36
Oo-
Oo-
I be lost in hope -less - ness as dark - ness gath - ers round? I plead for mer - cy,
38
40
42
Oo-
Oo-
Oo-
Oo-
there is none but thou to hear my plea, Oh come,thou blessed Mes- si - ah come, and set the cap- tive
44
46
48
50
mp
(Sop. & Alto) I cry to theein
(Tenor)I
free.
mp
f


Soprano
52
54
sore dis- tress this eve of bit- ter grief, And who, oh Son of Right- eous-ness, but
Alto
sore dis- tress this eve of bit- ter grief, And who , oh Son of Right- eous- ness, but
Tenor
cry to thee in sore dis- tress this eve of bit- ter grief, And who, oh Son of
Bass
I cry to thee, And who
mf
mp
56
58
60
thou can bring re- lief? My en- e- mies op- press and there is none to stay their
thou can bring re- lief, My en- e- mies op- press and there is none to
right- eous- ness, but thou can bring re- lief? There is none to
but thou can bring re- lief, There is none to stay their
mf
mp


62
64
wrath, Oh come, thou blessed Mes- si- ah, come and ran- som me from
stay their wrath, Oh come thou blessed Mes- si- ah, come and ran- som me from
stay their wrath, Oh come thou blessed Mes- si- ah, come and ran- som me from
wrath, Oh come thou blessed Mes- si ah, come and ran- som me from
66
68
death.
death.
death.
death.
rit.

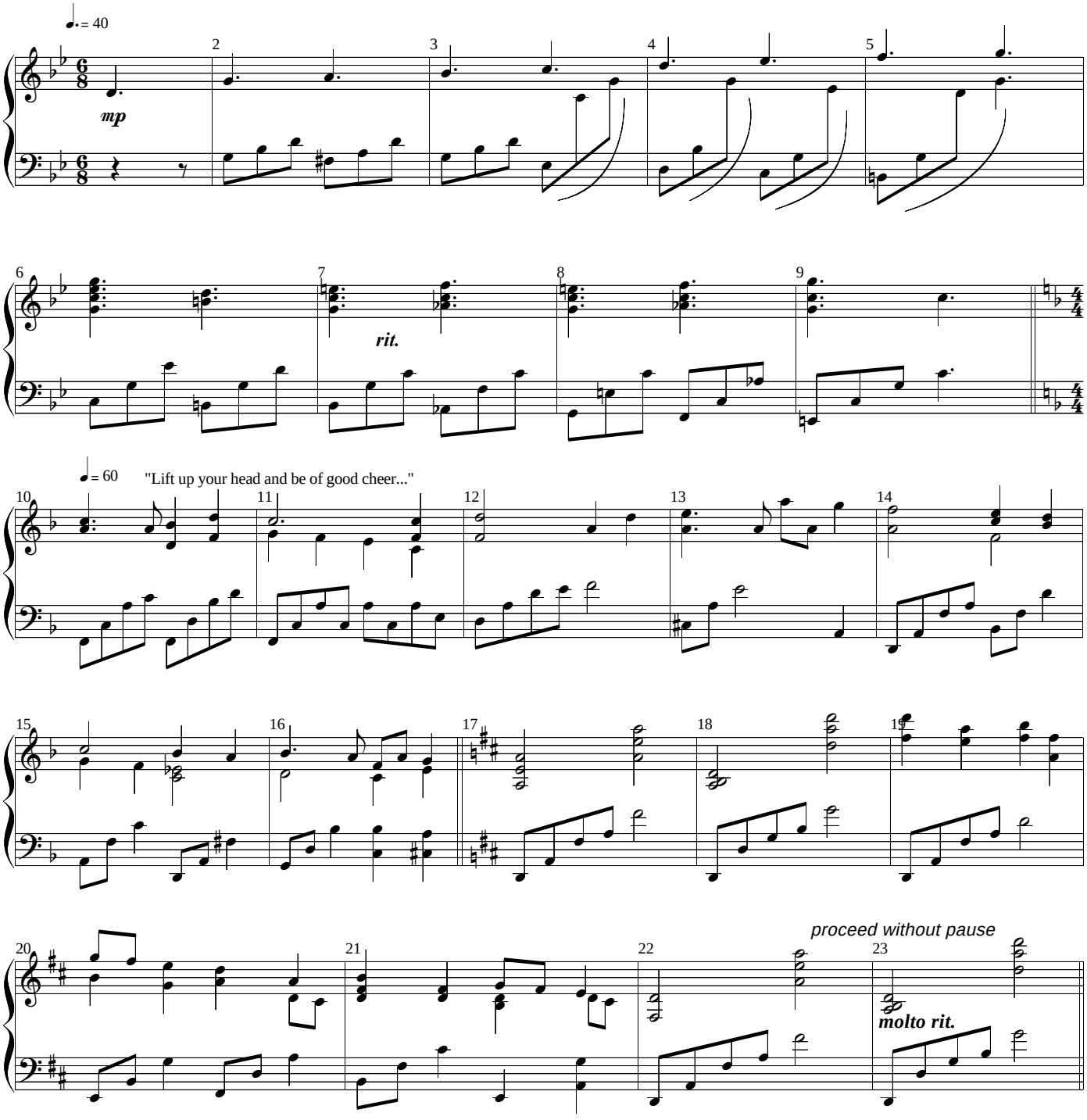
(Music begins.) When Nephi, a prophet named after Nephi of old, saw this great wickedness among his people, his heart was griev ed. He bowed down and cried mightily to God in behalf of those who were about to be destroyed because of their faith in Christ.

And as he prayed, the Lord spoke to him, saying, "Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand... ...on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world..."

Surely the faithful rejoiced at the news of their deliverance, and eagerly watched the skies. And the word of the Lord to Nephi was fulfilled. As the sun sank in the west, no darkness overtook them, no cloak of shadow enshrouded the world. The skies remained as bright as midday throughout all the accustomed hours of night.

Perhaps they wept. Perhaps they fell to their knees in gratitude as the cry went out, re-echoing like ringing bells, "The sign is given! Christ is born!"

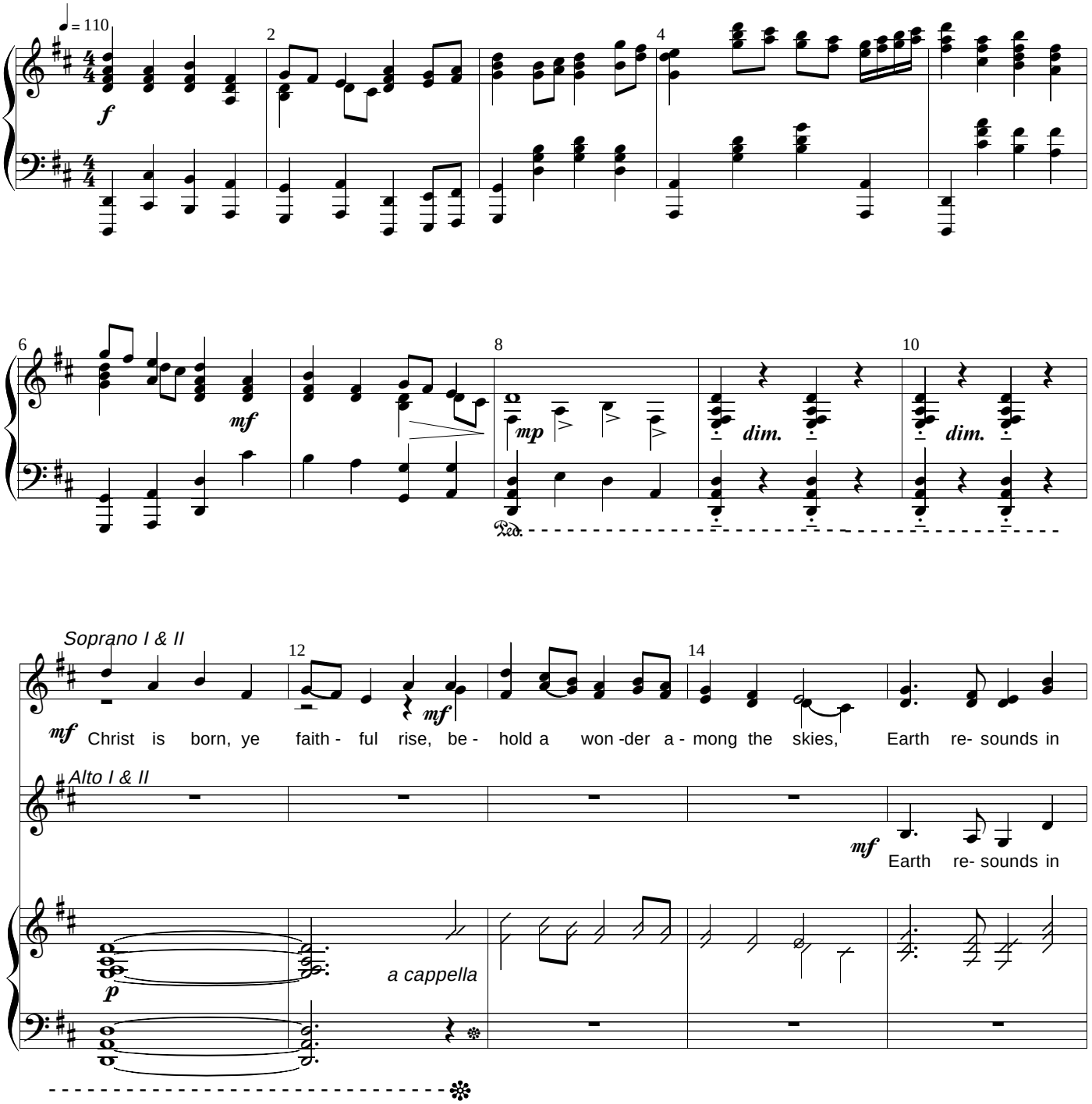
Interlude



Christ is Born

(SSAATTBB)

Sally DeFord



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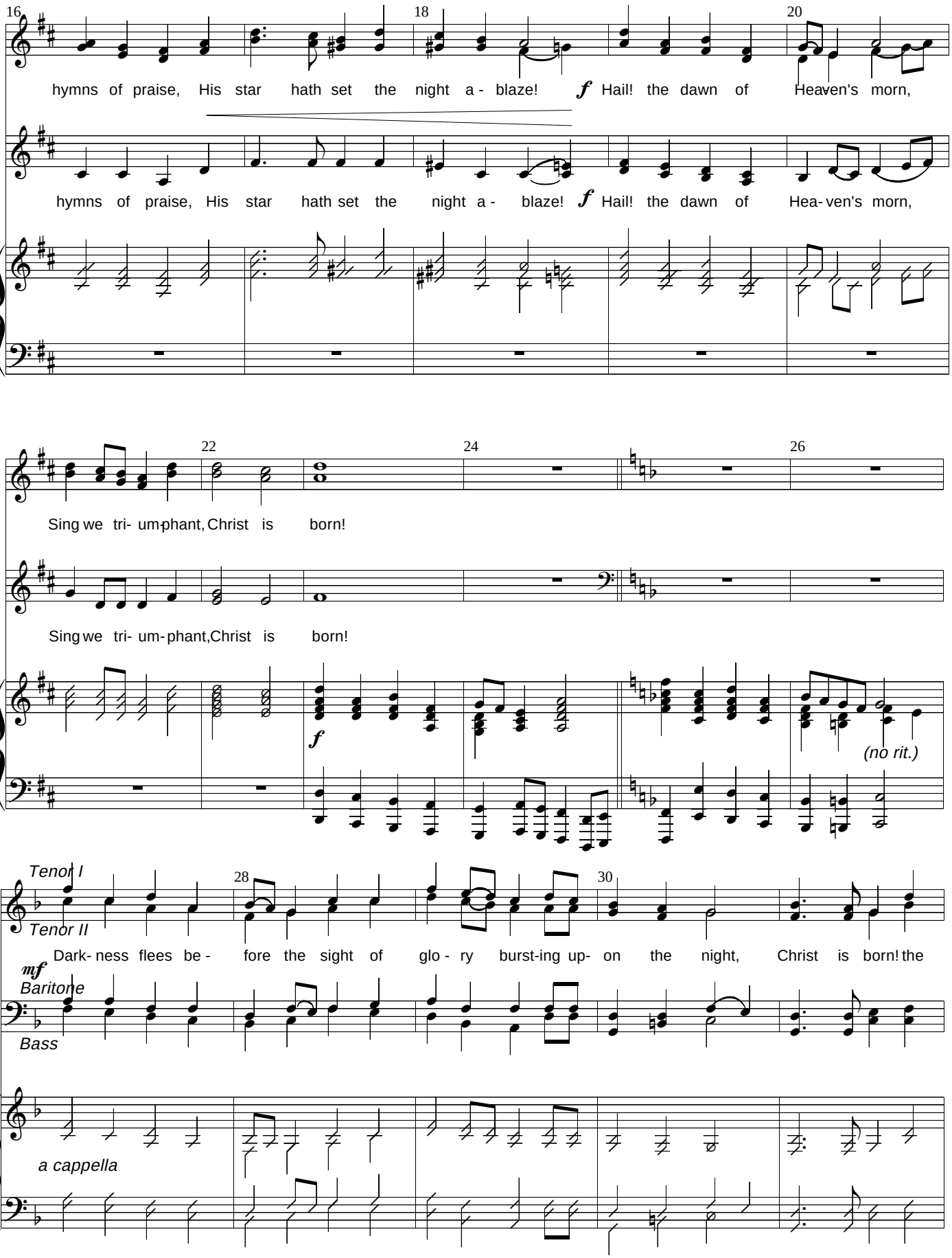
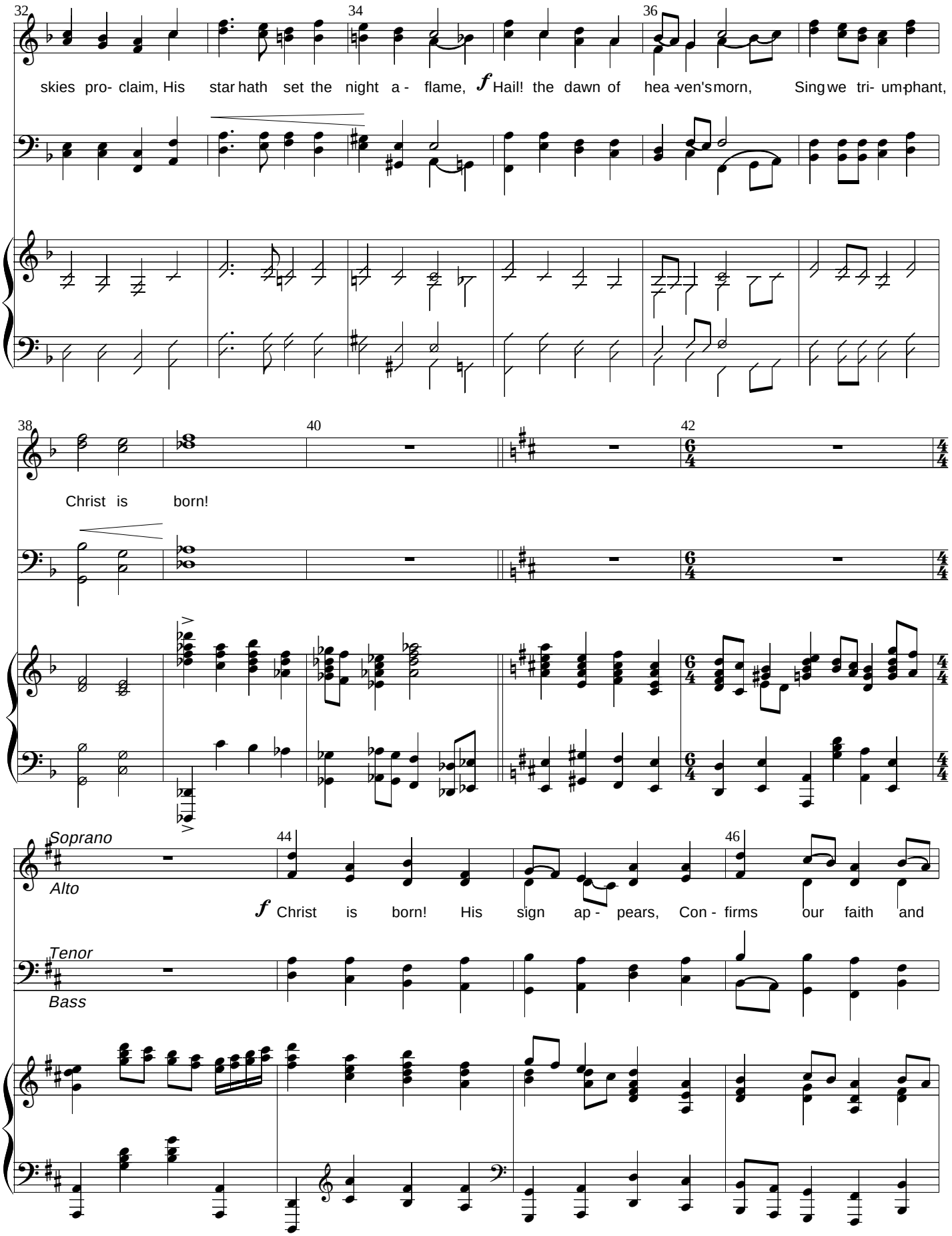
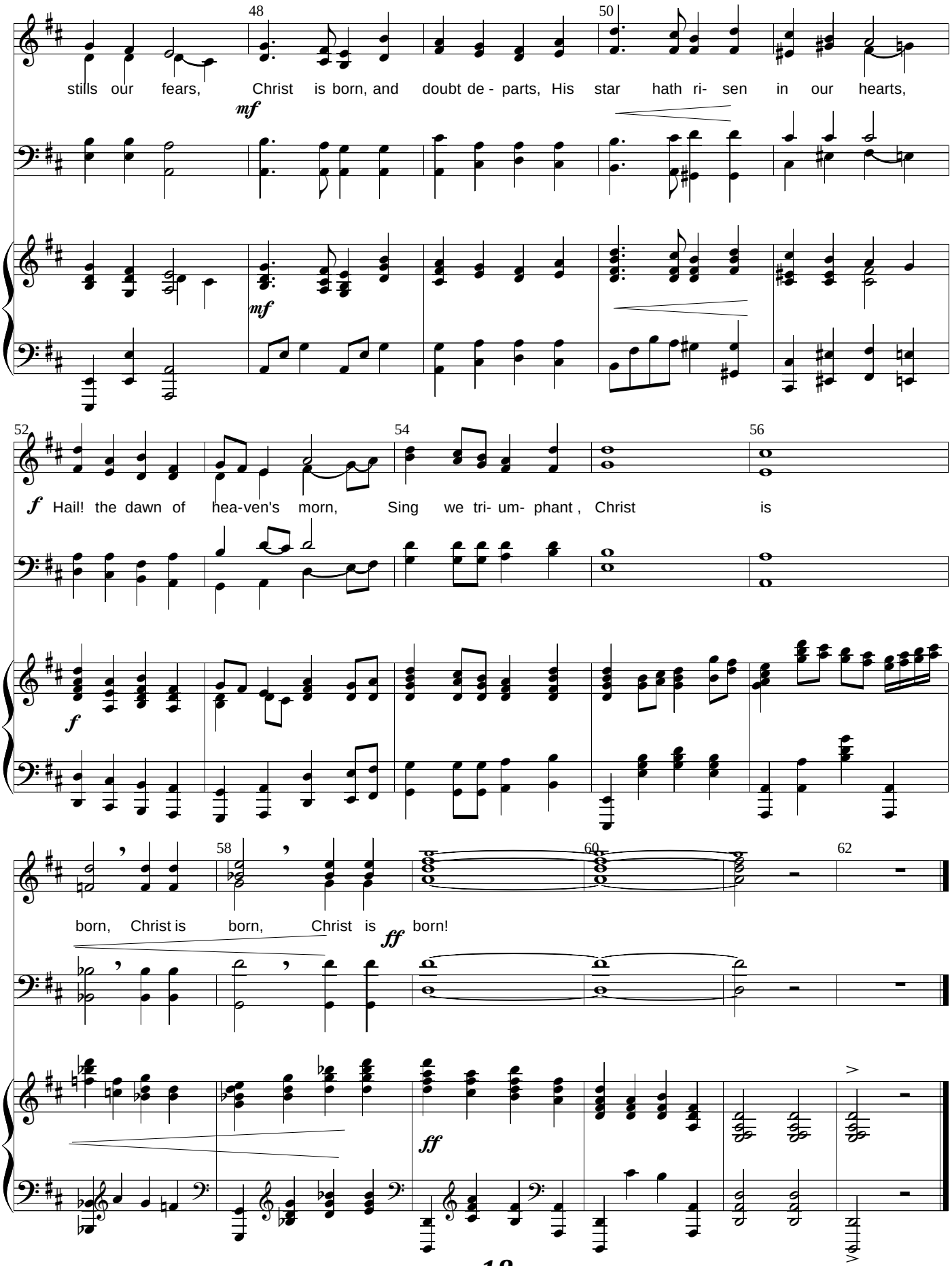

16
18
20
hymns of praise, His star hath set the night a - blaze!
f
Hail! the dawn of Heaven's morn,
hymns of praise, His star hath set the night a - blaze!
f
Hail! the dawn of Hea- ven's morn,
22
24
26
Sing we tri- um-phant, Christ is born!
Sing we tri- um- phant, Christ is born!
f
(no rit.)
Tenor I
Tenor II
28
30
Dark- ness flees be - fore the sight of glo - ry burst-ing up- on the night, Christ is born! the
mf
Baritone
Bass
a cappella


32
34
36
skies pro- claim, His star hath set the night a - flame,
f
Hail! the dawn of hea -ven's morn, Sing we tri- um-phant,
38
40
42
Christ is born!
Soprano
Alto
44
46
f
Christ is born! His sign ap - pears, Con - firms our faith and
Tenor
Bass

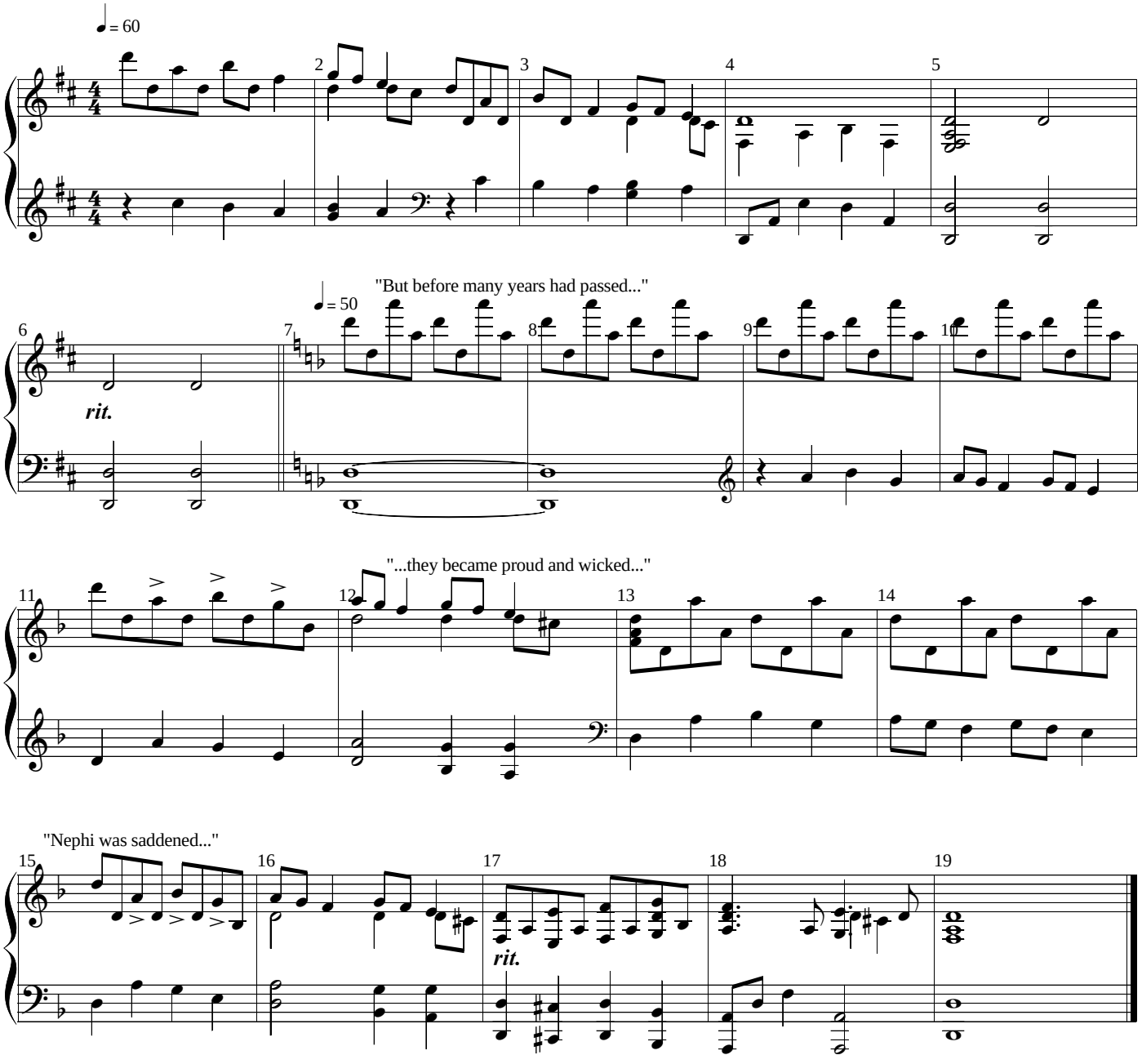

48
50
stills our fears, Christ is born, and doubt de - parts, His star hath ri- sen in our hearts,
mf
mf
52
54
56
f Hail! the dawn of hea-ven's morn, Sing we tri- um- phant, Christ is
f
58
60
62
born, Christ is born, Christ is born!
ff
ff

(Music begins.) The faithful rejoiced; the unbelievers were silenced. They knew the prophecies, and by these signs were convinced that Jesus Christ had come into the world. Most were converted to the Lord, and for a time the people enjoyed great peace.

But before many years had passed, they began to forget. They became less and less astonished at the wonders they had seen. They began to be hard-hearted, and wilfully blind, imagining that somehow such marvels were wrought by men to decieve them. As the passing years brought them closer to Christ's coming among them, they became proud and wicked, and the faithful were few. Many righteous men who testified boldly of Christ were taken, contrary to law, and put to death secretly.

Nephi was saddened by the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds. He called on them to repent and believe in Jesus Christ, and obtain a remission of their sins. Though he labored unceasingly among them and taught them patiently, still there were but few who turned to the Lord.

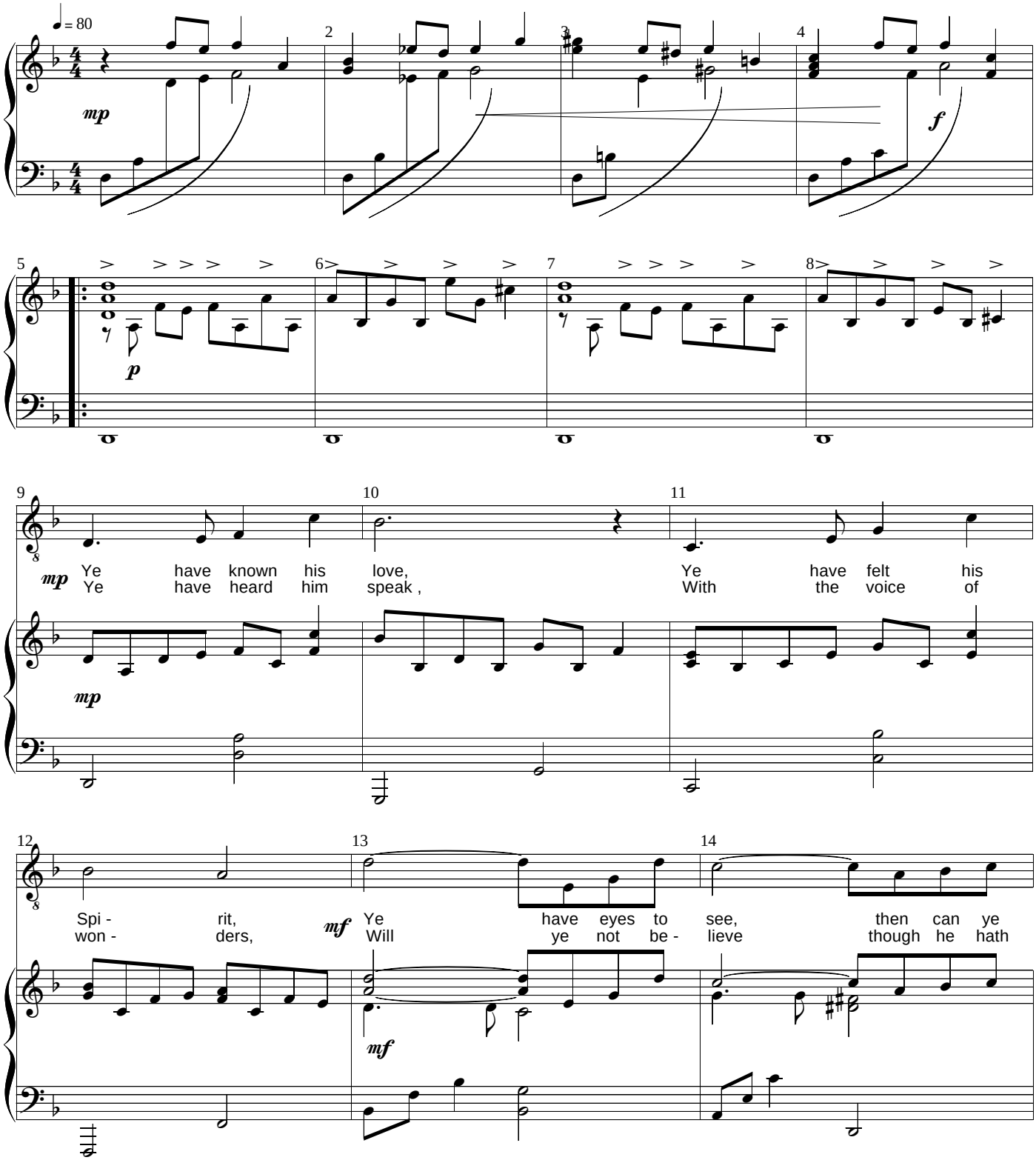
Interlude



Will Ye Turn From Joy?

(Tenor Solo)

Sally DeFord



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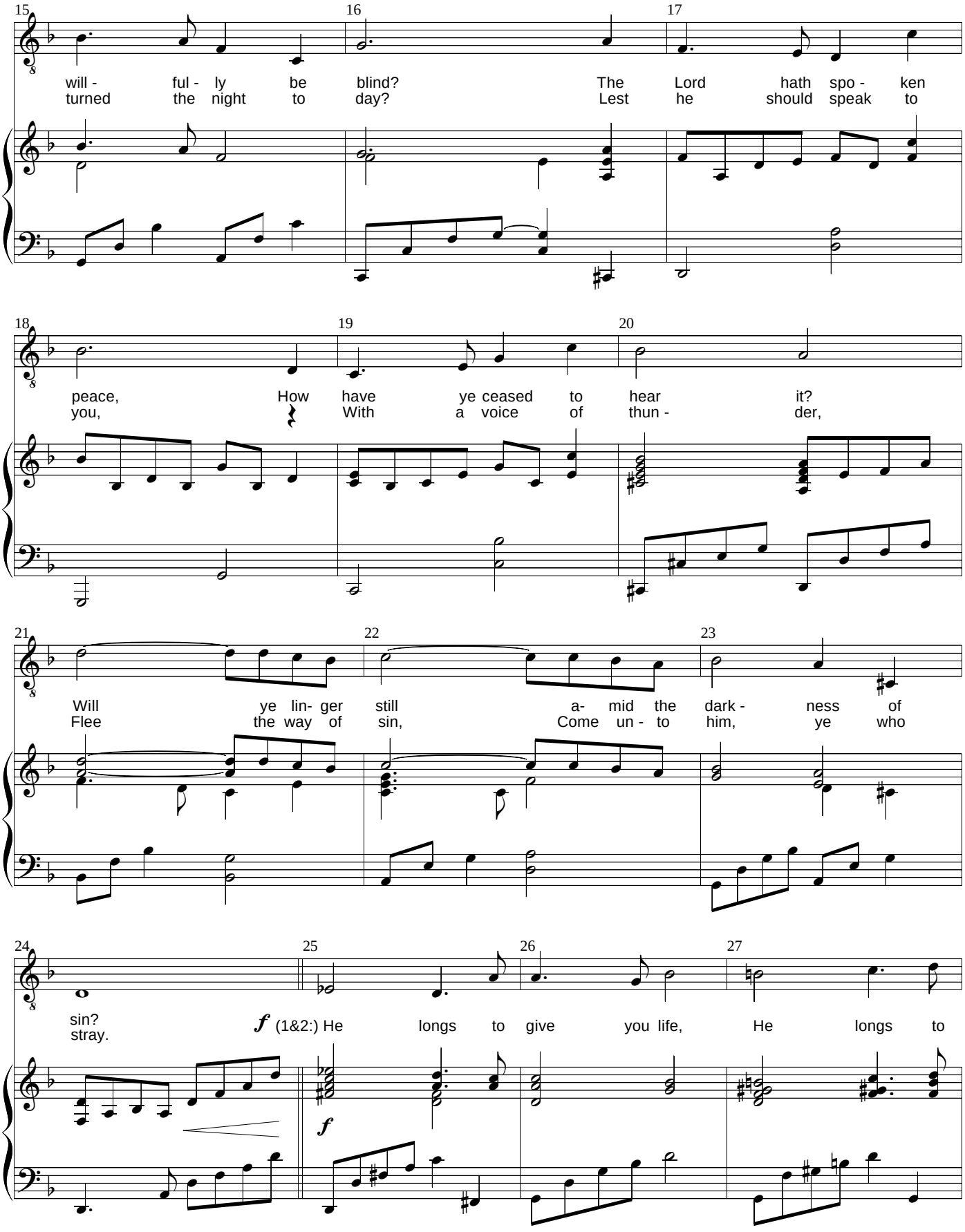
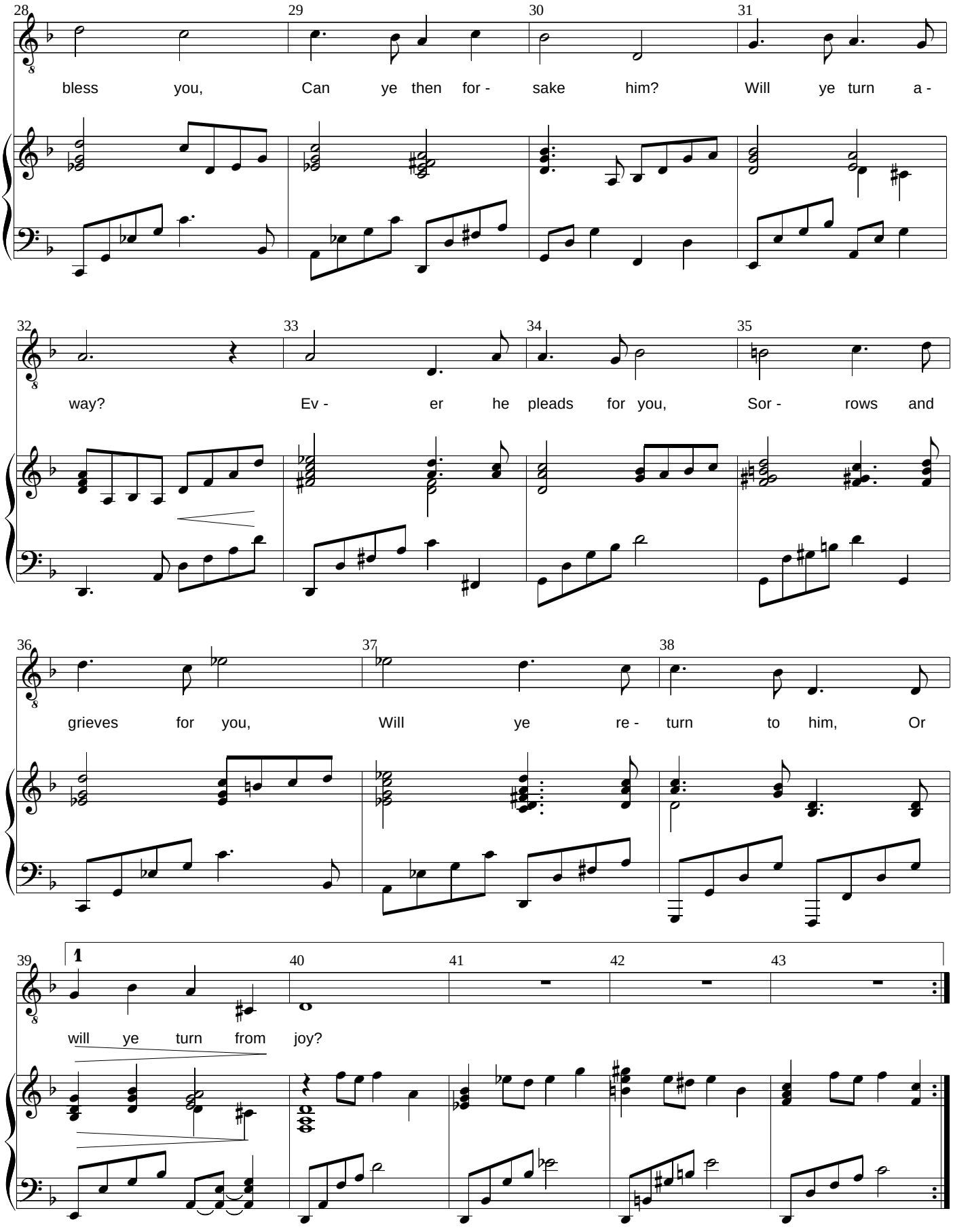
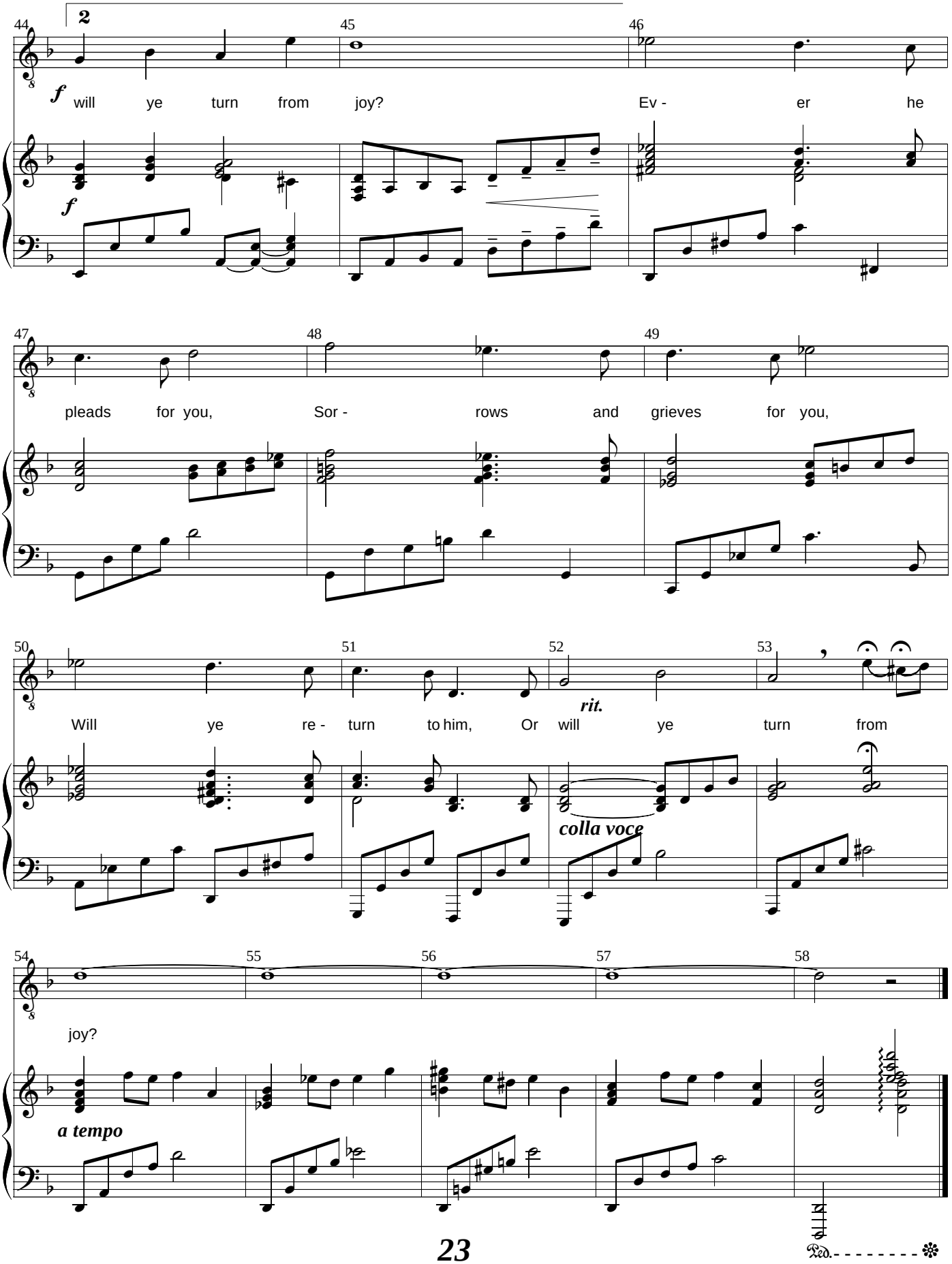

15
16
17
will - ful - ly be blind? The Lord hath spo - ken
turned the night to day? Lest he should speak to
18
19
20
peace, How have ye ceased to hear it?
you, With a voice of thun - der,
21
22
23
Will ye lin- ger still a- mid the dark - ness of
Flee the way of sin, Come un - to him, ye who
24
25
26
27
sin?
stray.
f (1&2:) He longs to give you life, He longs to
f


28
29
30
31
bless you, Can ye then for - sake him? Will ye turn a -
32
33
34
35
way? Ev - er he pleads for you, Sor - rows and
36
37
38
grieves for you, Will ye re - turn to him, Or
39
1
40
41
42
43
will ye turn from joy?


2
44
45
46
f
will ye turn from joy?
Ev - er he
f
47
48
49
pleads for you,
Sor - rows and grieves for you,
50
51
52
53
Will ye re - turn to him,
rit.
Or will ye turn from
colla voce
54
55
56
57
58
joy?
a tempo
Ped.

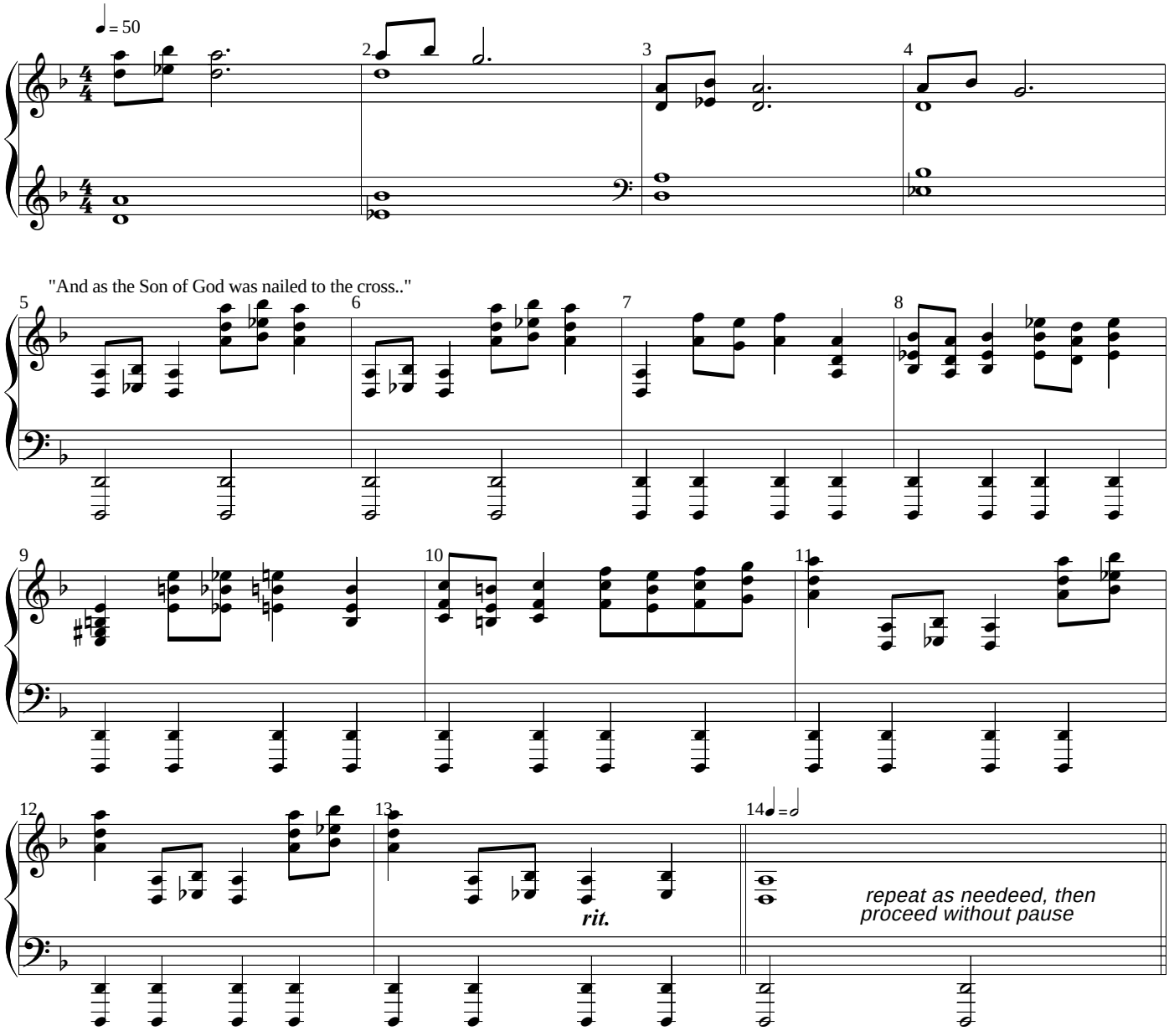
Despite the pleadings of Nephi, despite the witness of the faithful, despite the wonders they had seen, the wicked would not repent. The signs of Christ's birth faded in memory, for 33 years had passed since that eventful night. The time drew nigh when the signs of his death, foretold by prophecy, would be given to the Nephites, and yet they would not repent. His coming among them grew nearer, and still they stoned the prophets and cast them out of their cities.

And so, as Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, as he stood before Pilate, as he bore a cross to Calvary, their wickedness continued unabated.

(Music begins. Resume narration at measure 5.)

And as the Son of God was nailed to the cross, as he suffered death for all mankind, there arose a great storm in the land of the Nephites -- a terrible tempest such as had never been known: sharp lightning, and terrible thunder... whirlwinds ravaged the land; highways were broken up; many great cities were destroyed and their inhabitants slain; the face of the whole land was changed because of the fury of the tempest which, for three hours, shook the very earth as if it would divide asunder.

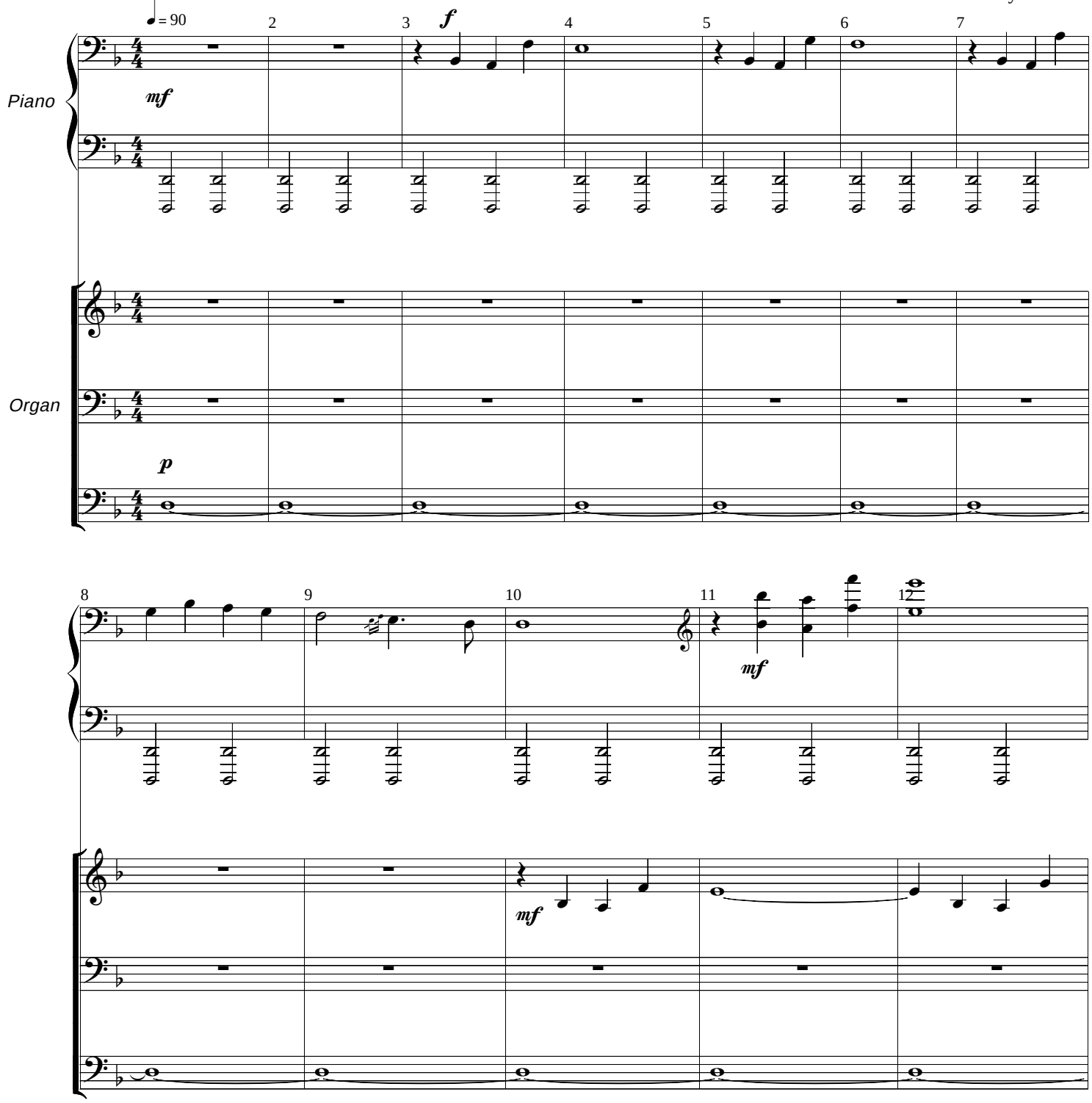
Interlude



"...this great and terrible day..."

(Piano/Organ)

Sally DeFord



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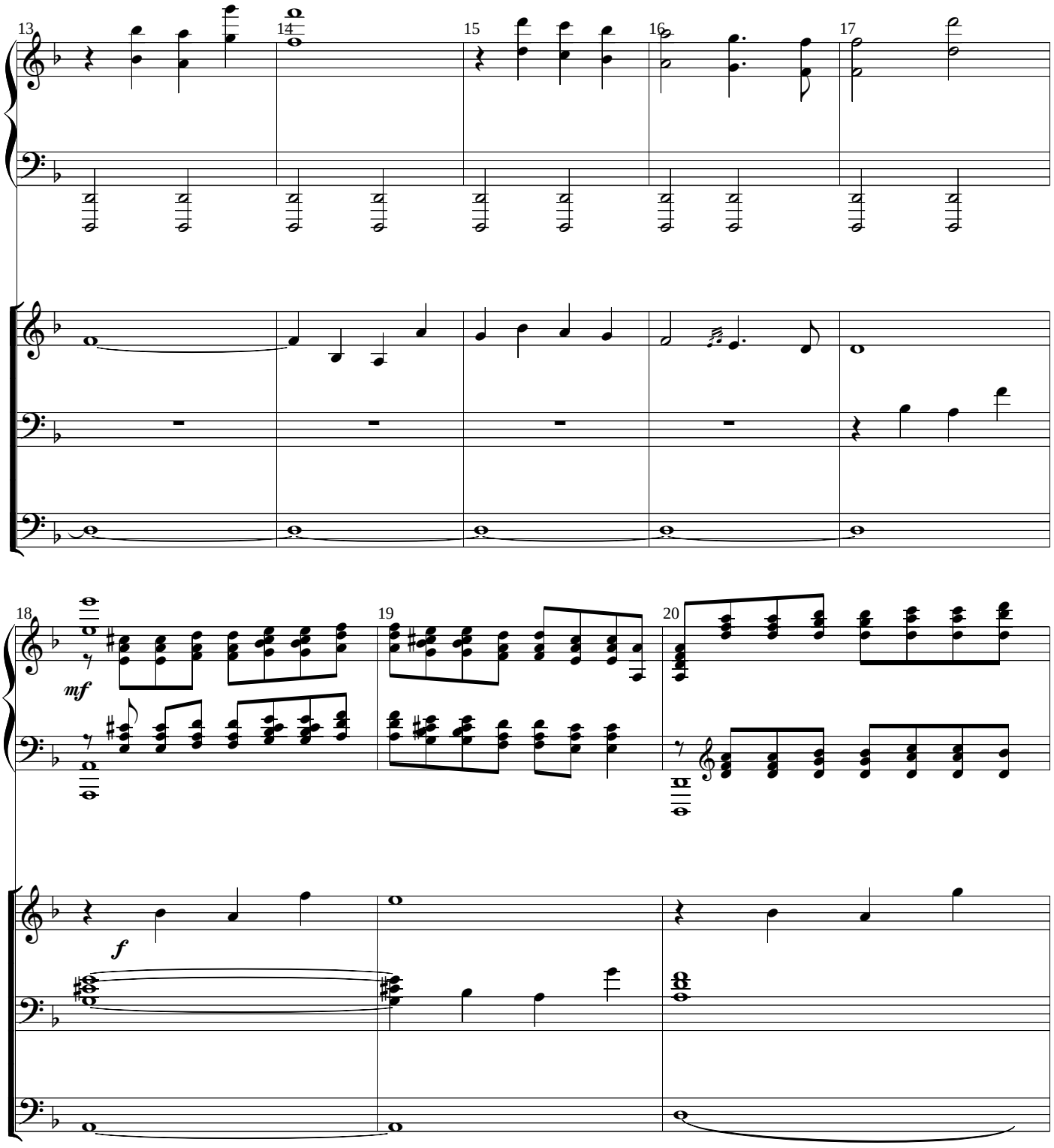
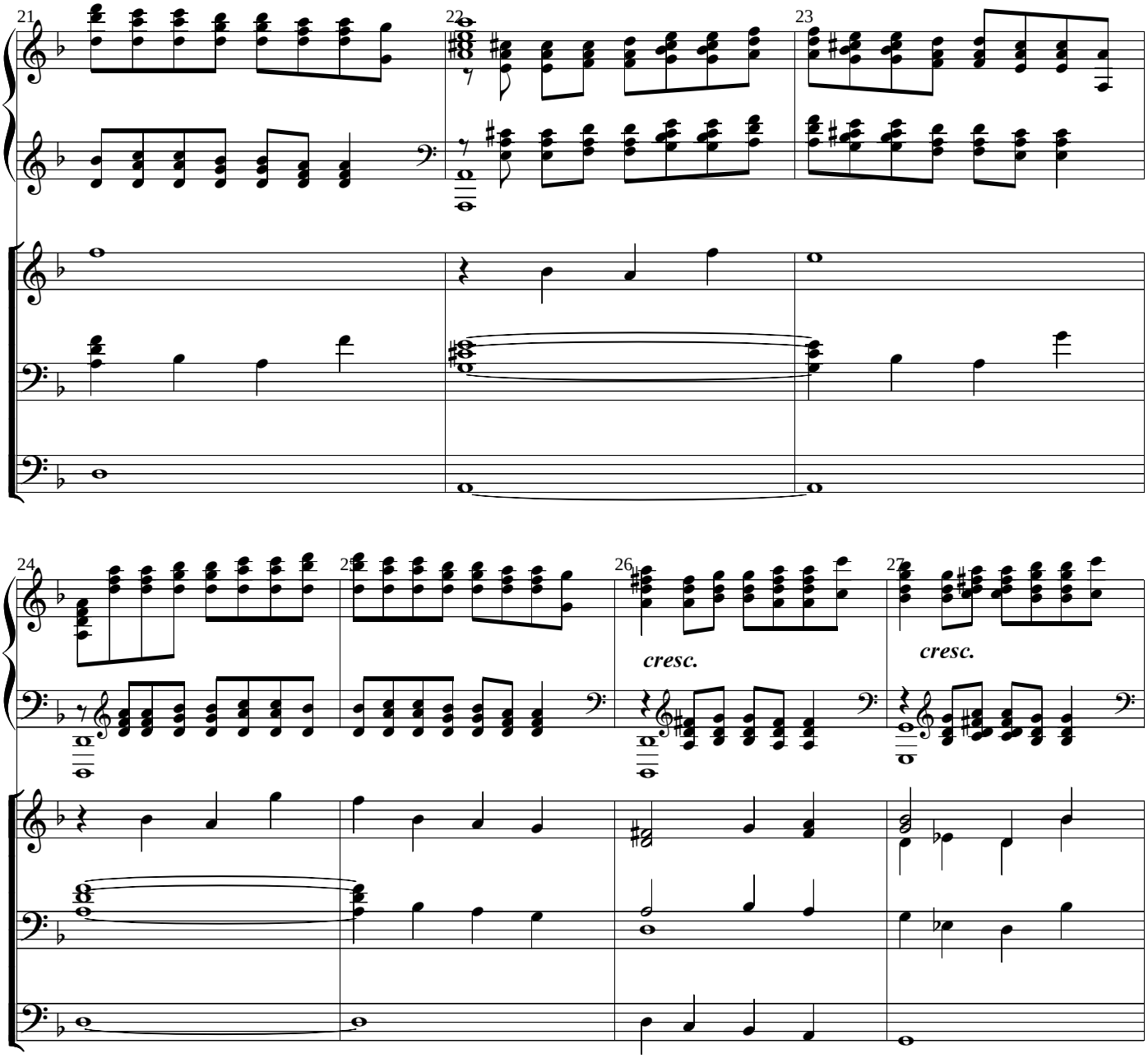
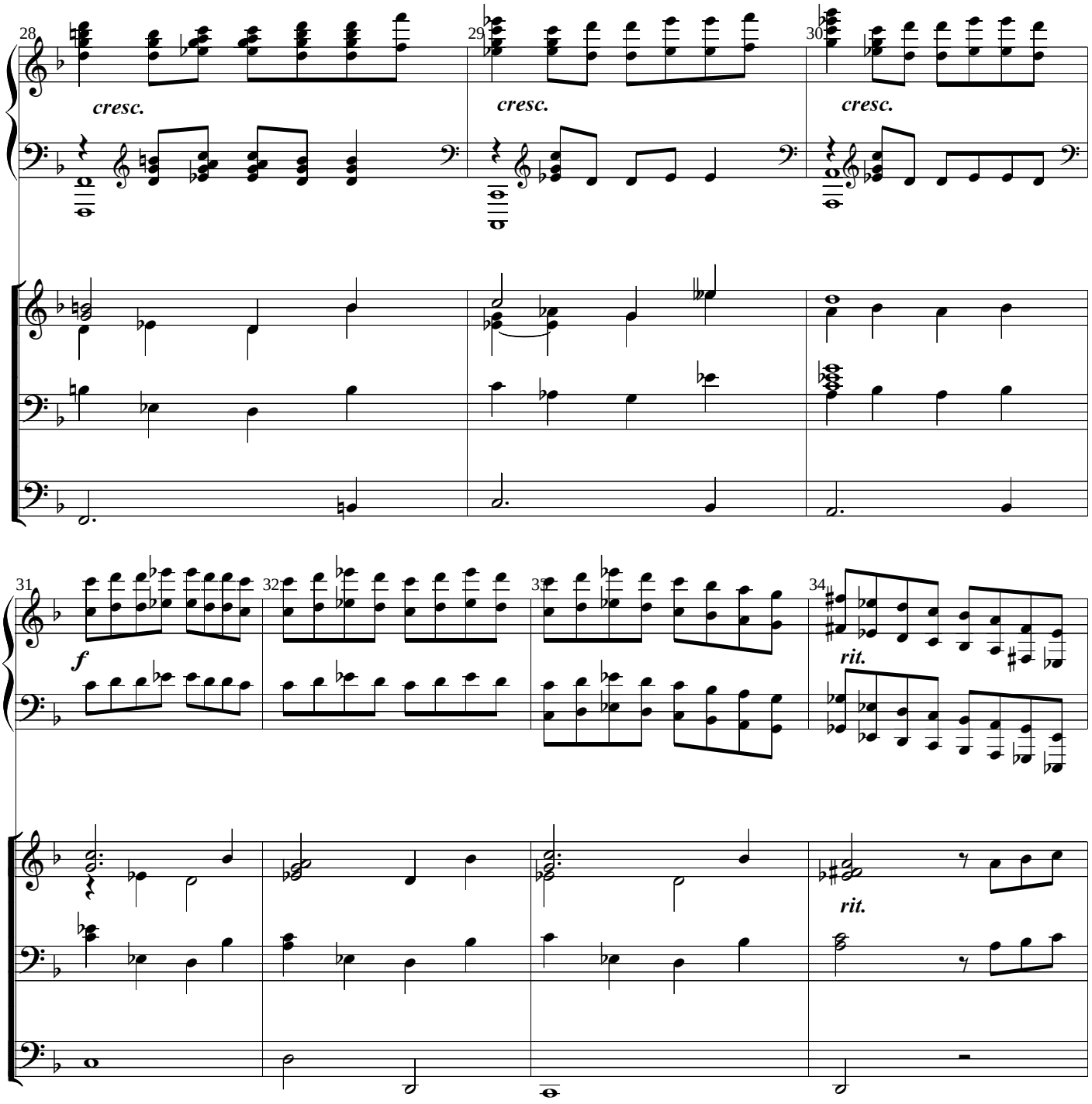
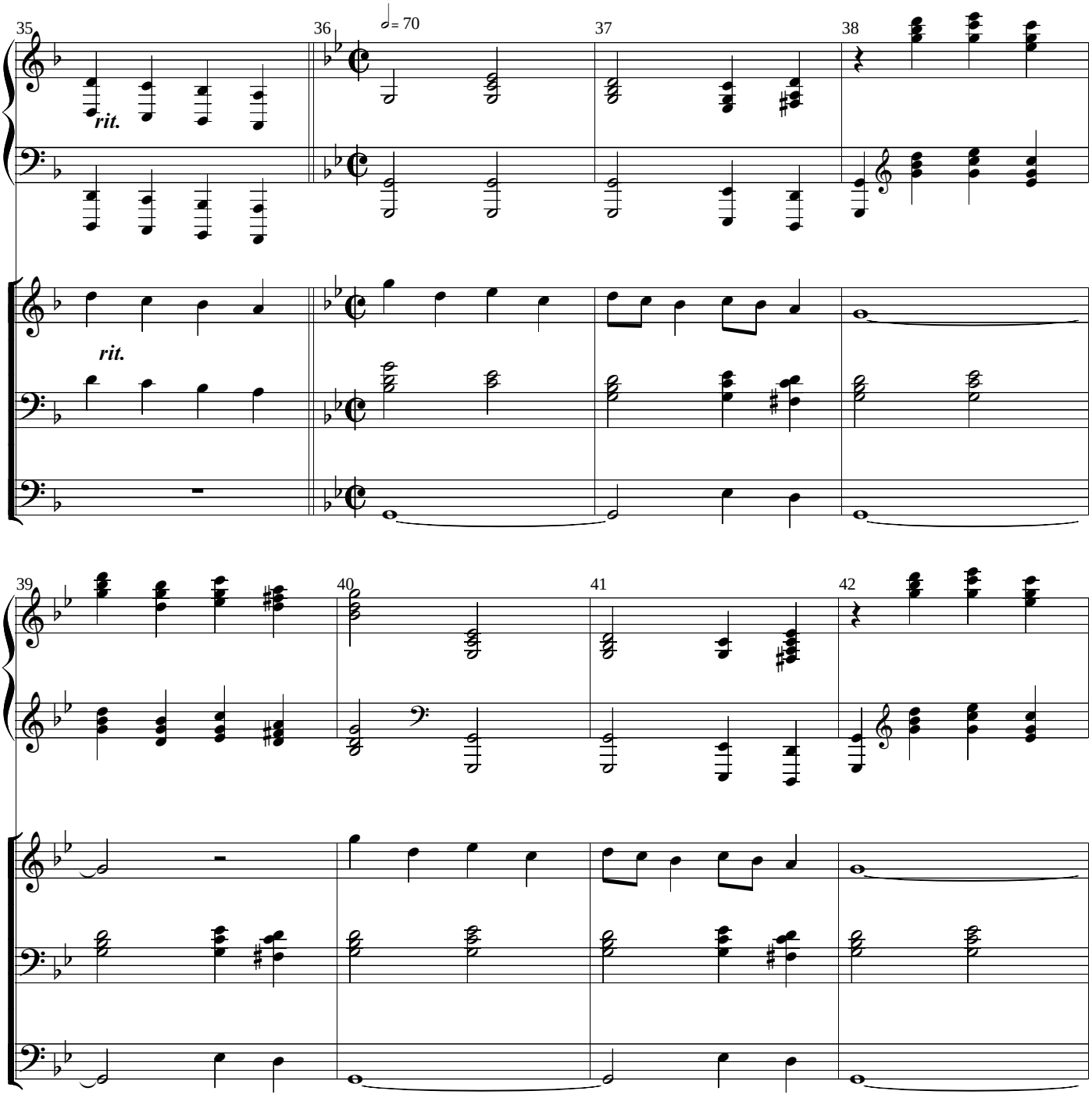
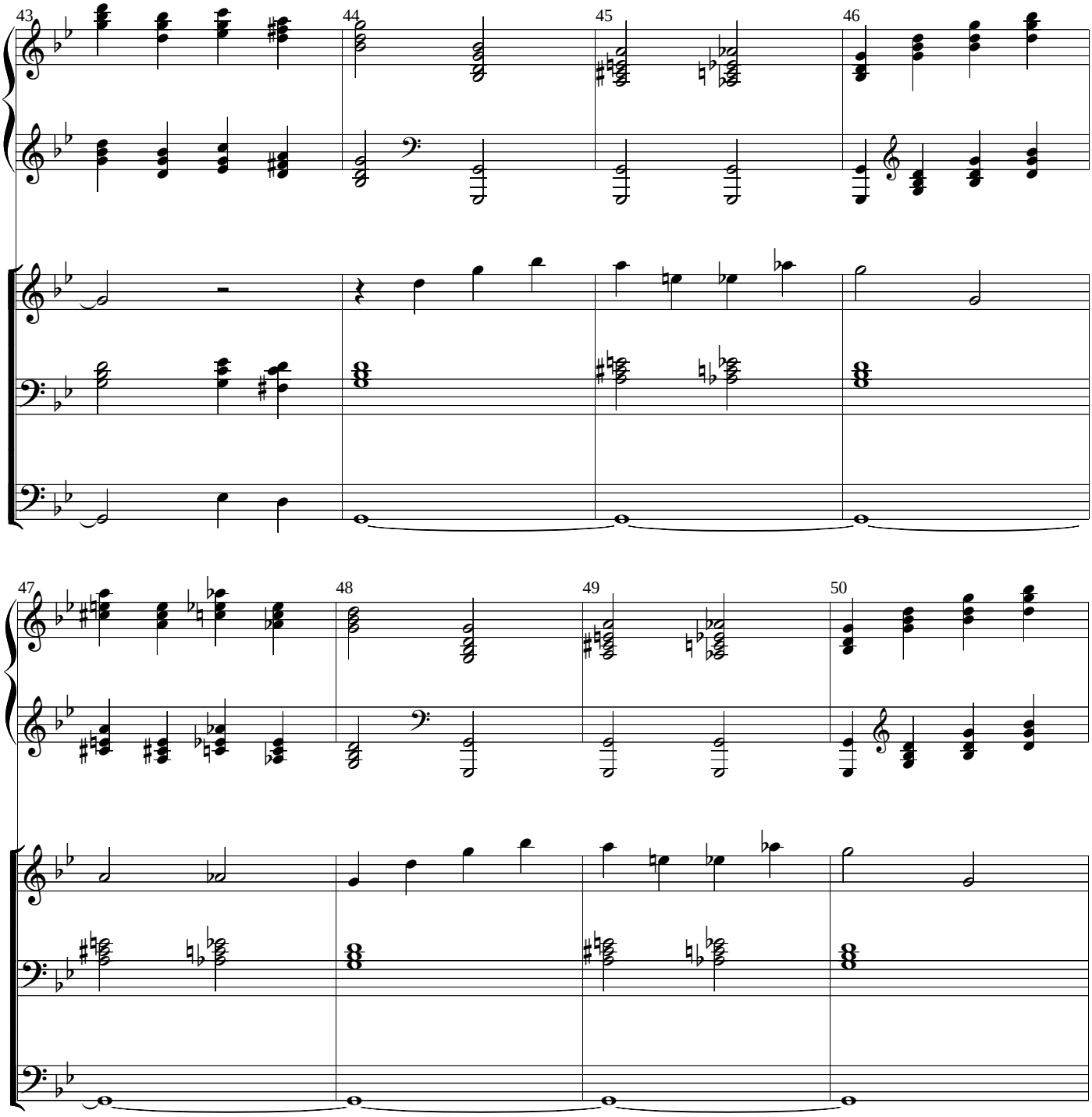

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
mf
f


21
22
23
24
25
26
27
cresc.
cresc.


28
29
30
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
31
32
33
34
f
rit.
rit.


35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
rit.
rit.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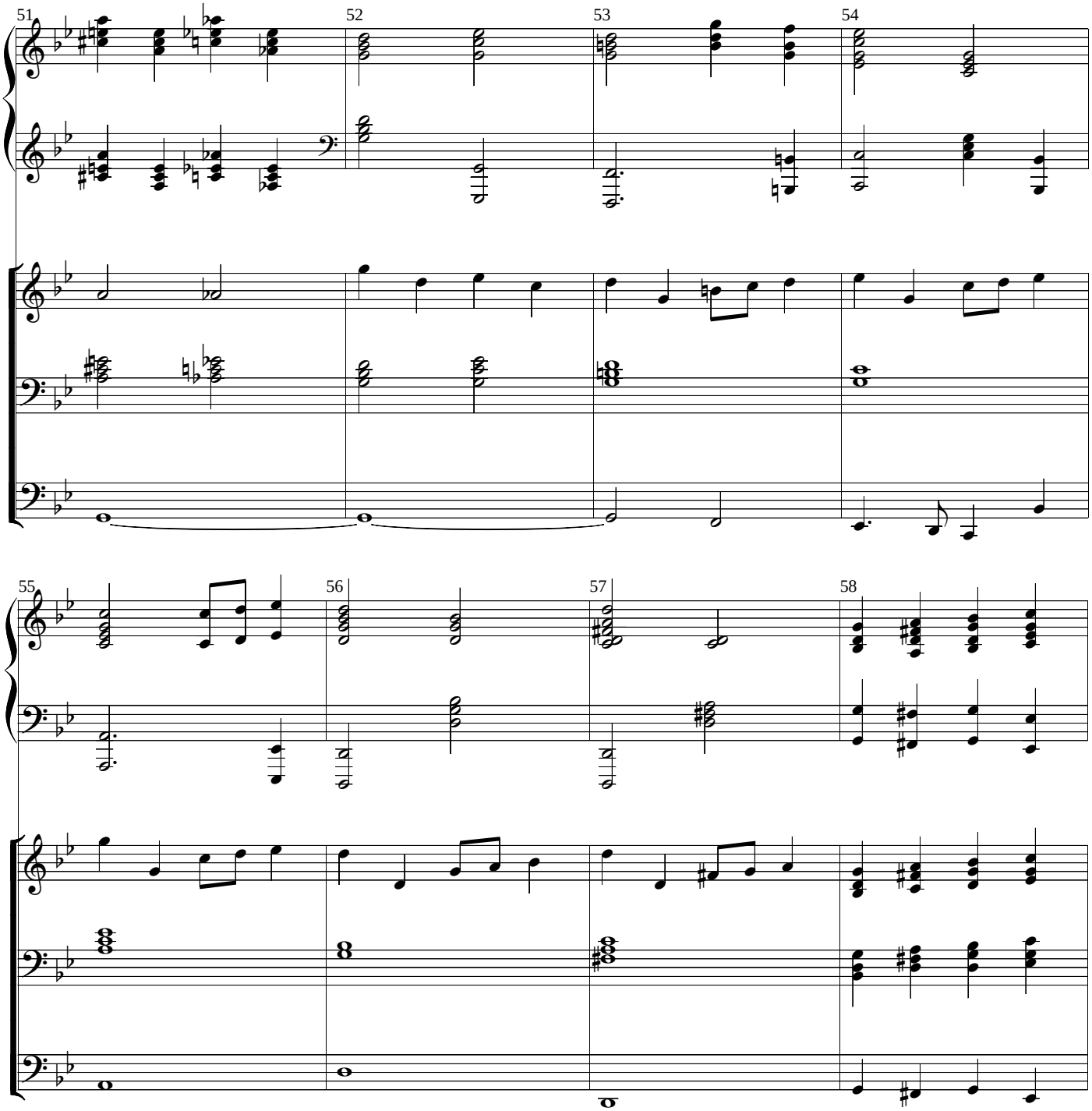
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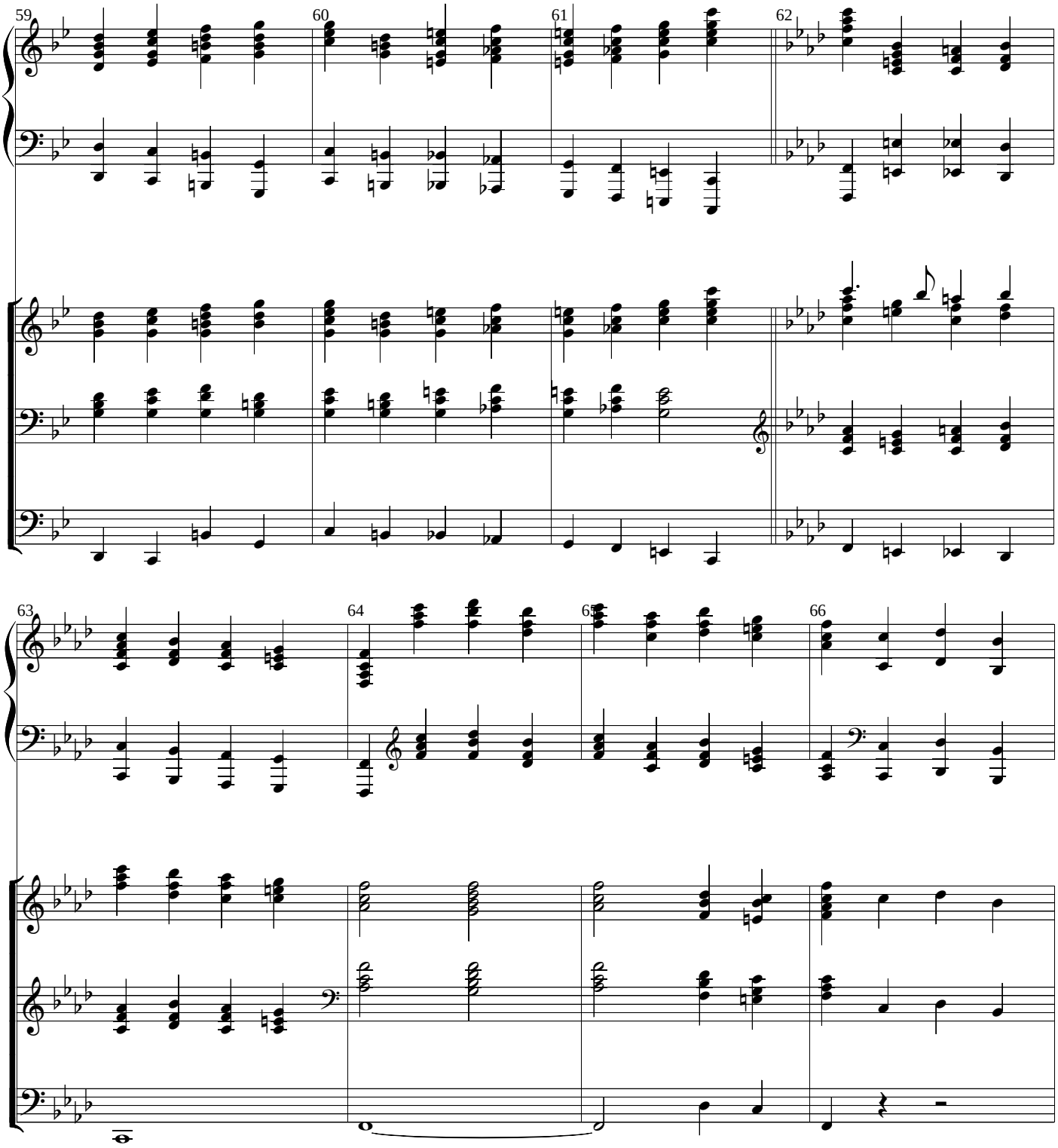
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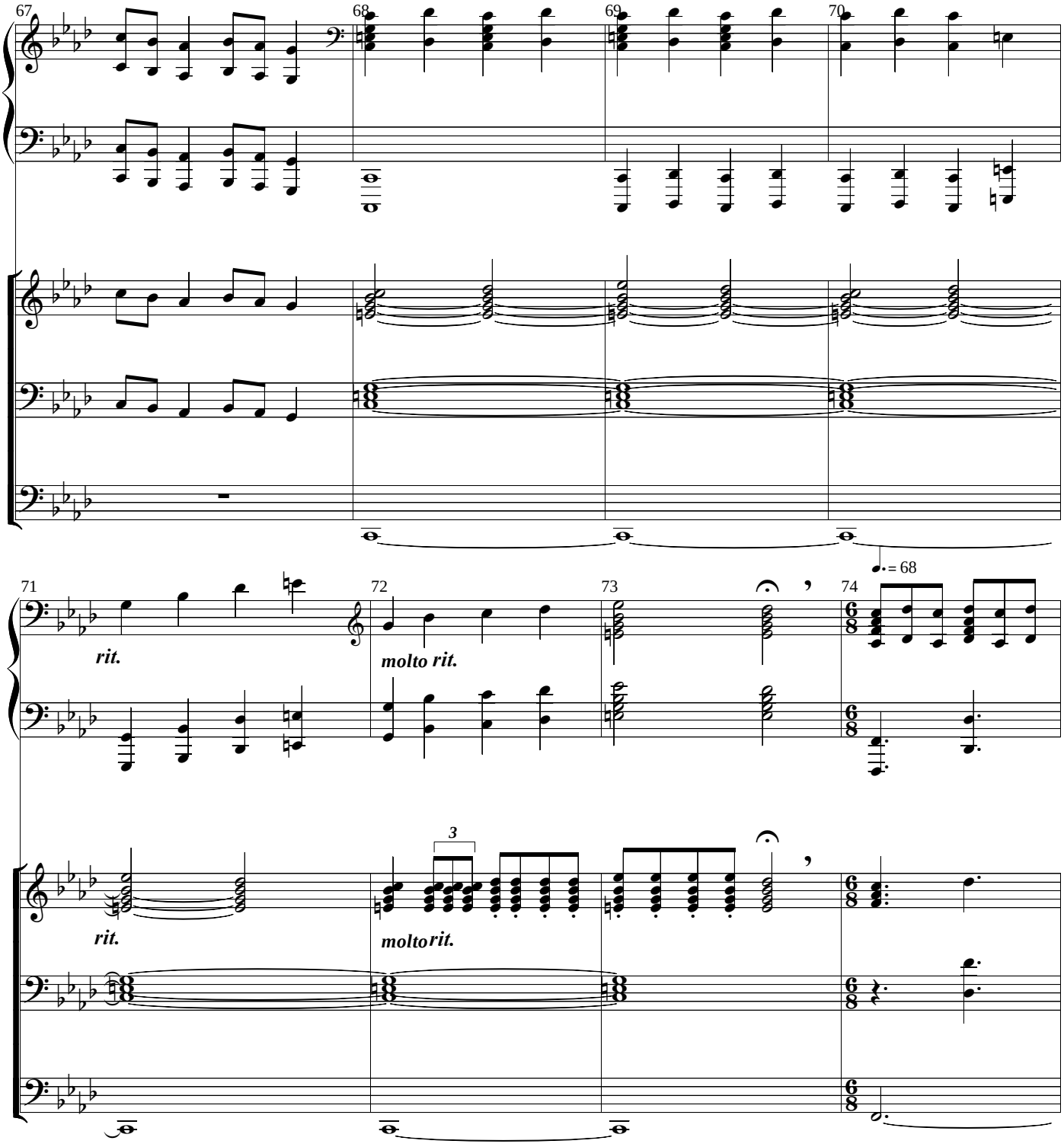
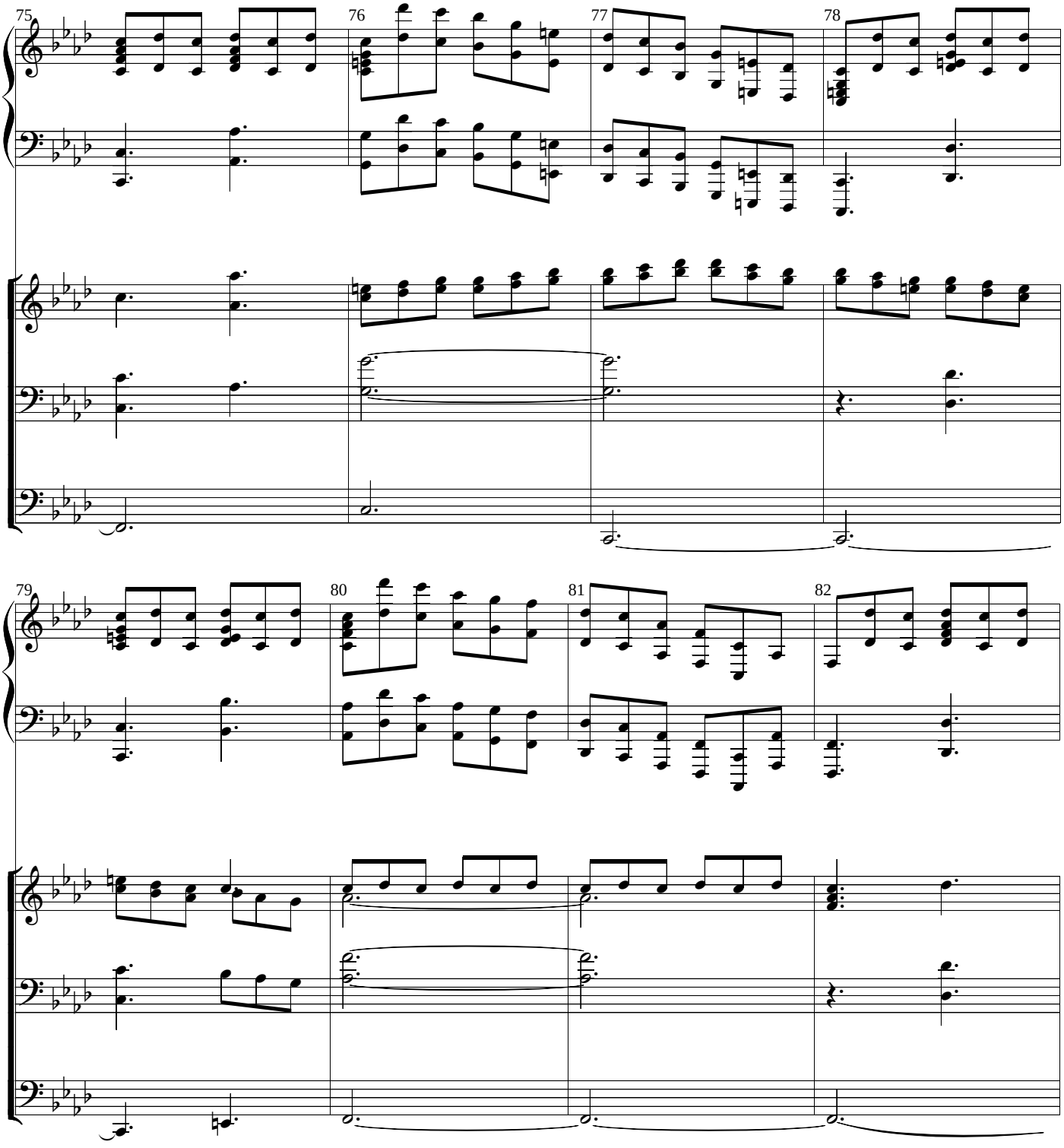

67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
rit.
molto rit.
= 68
3
rit.
molto rit.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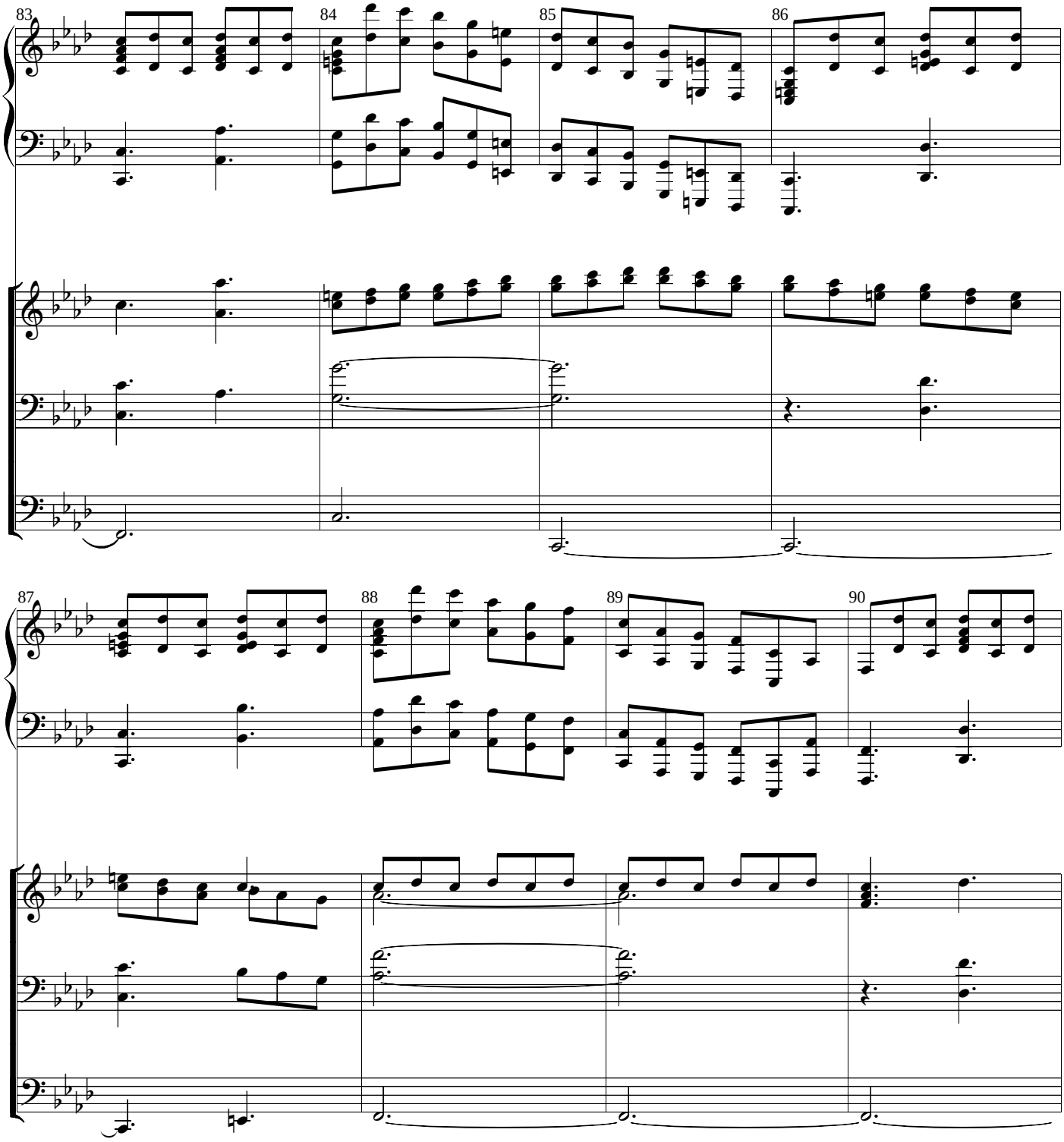
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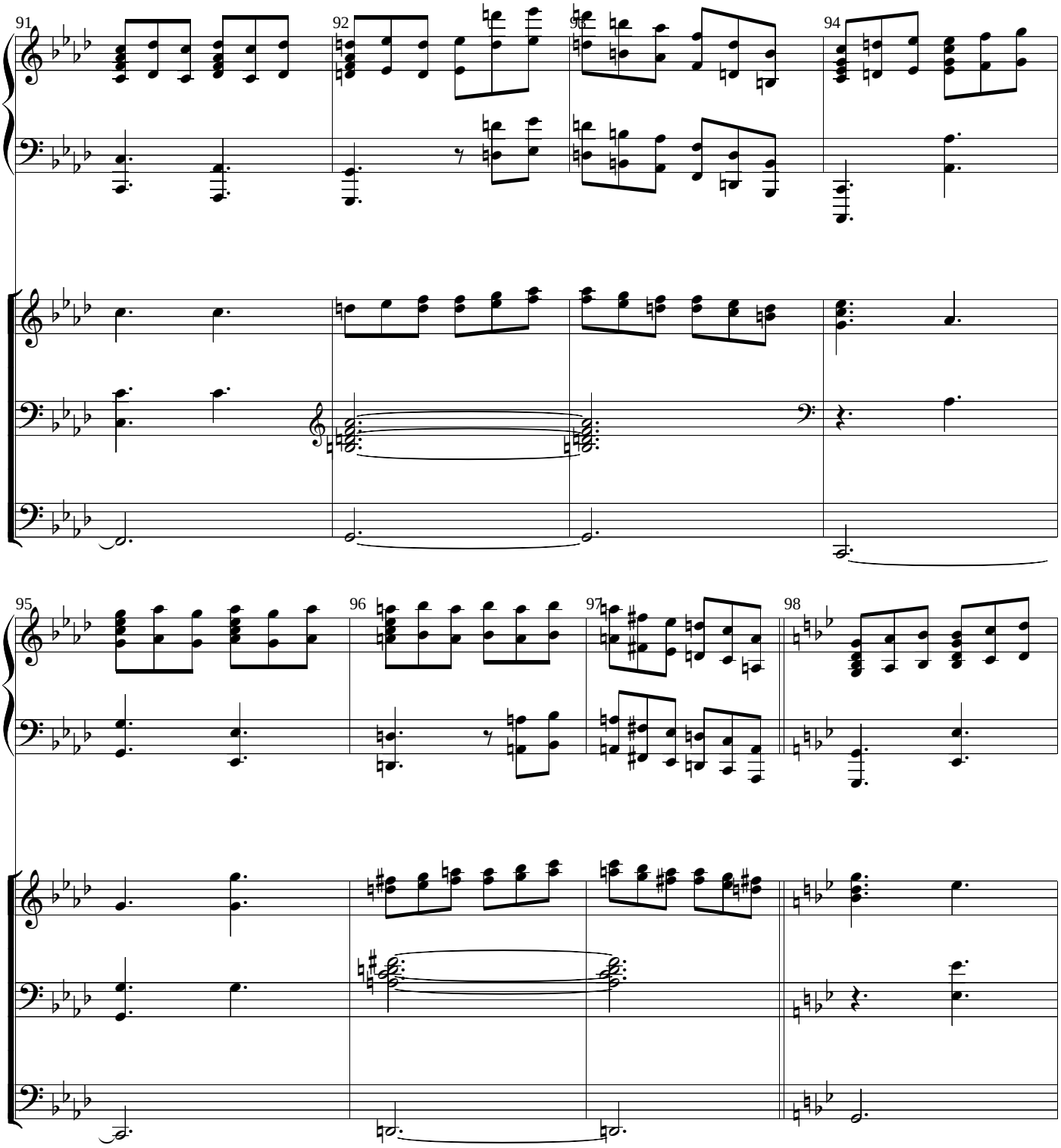
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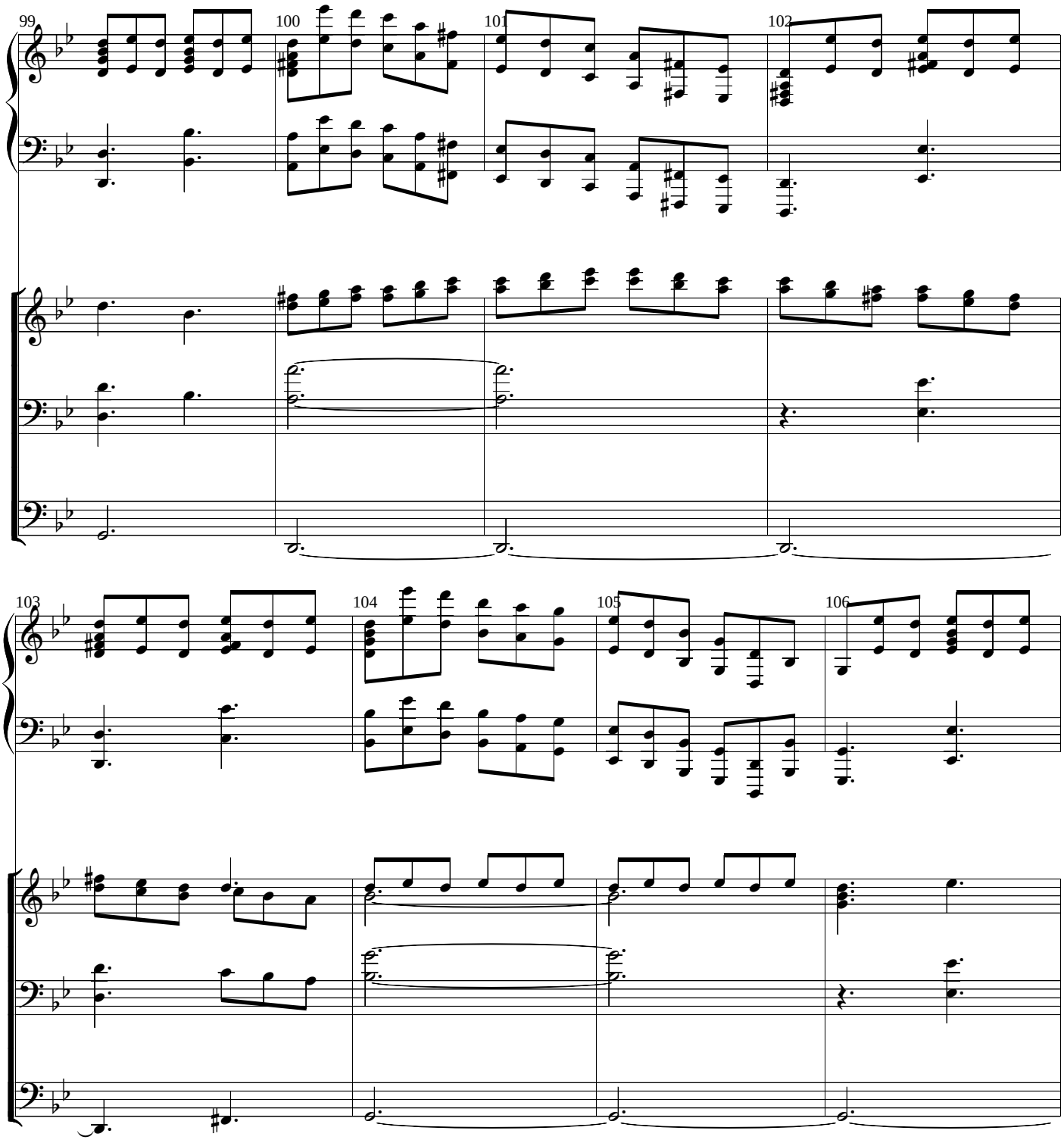
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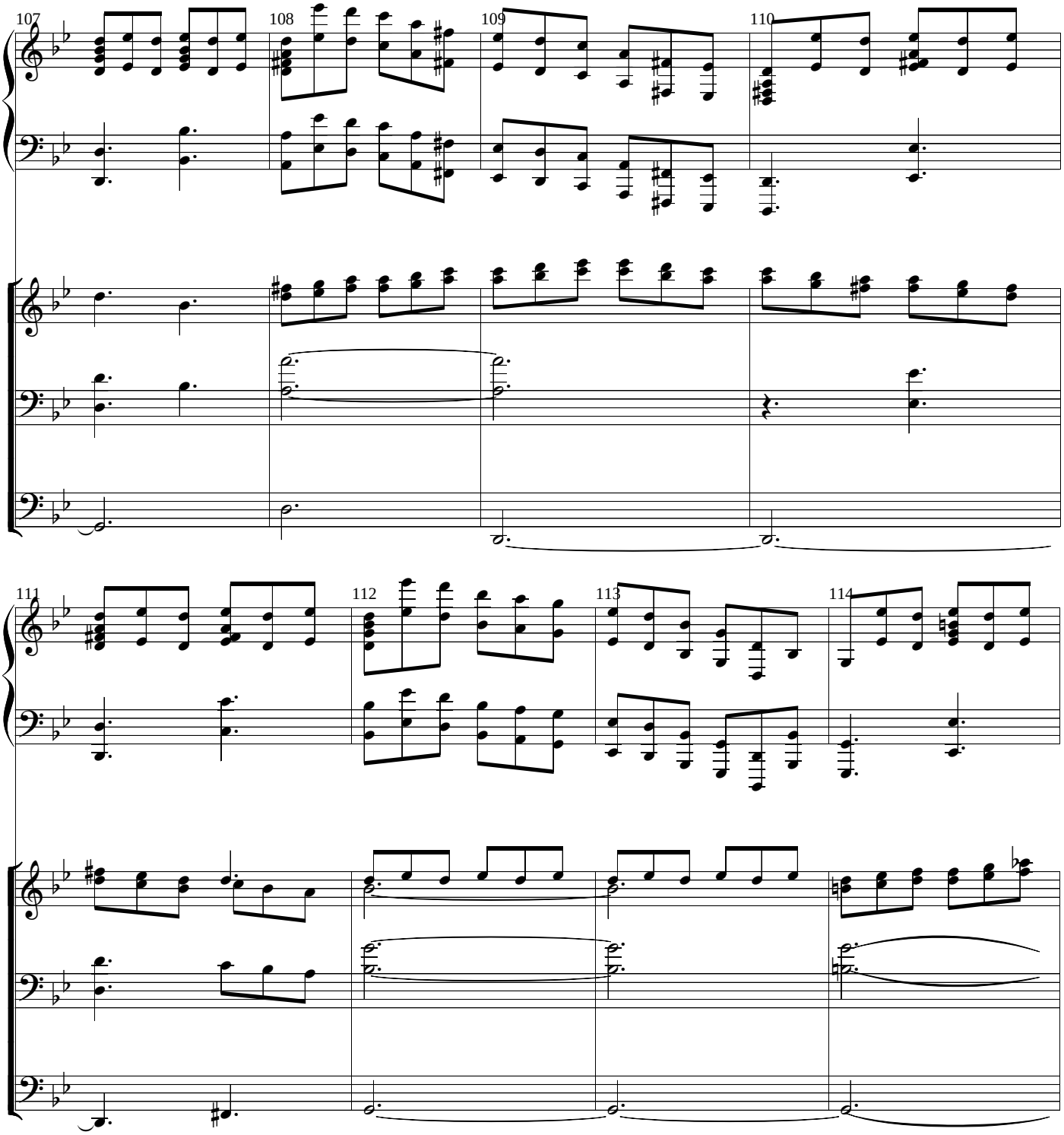
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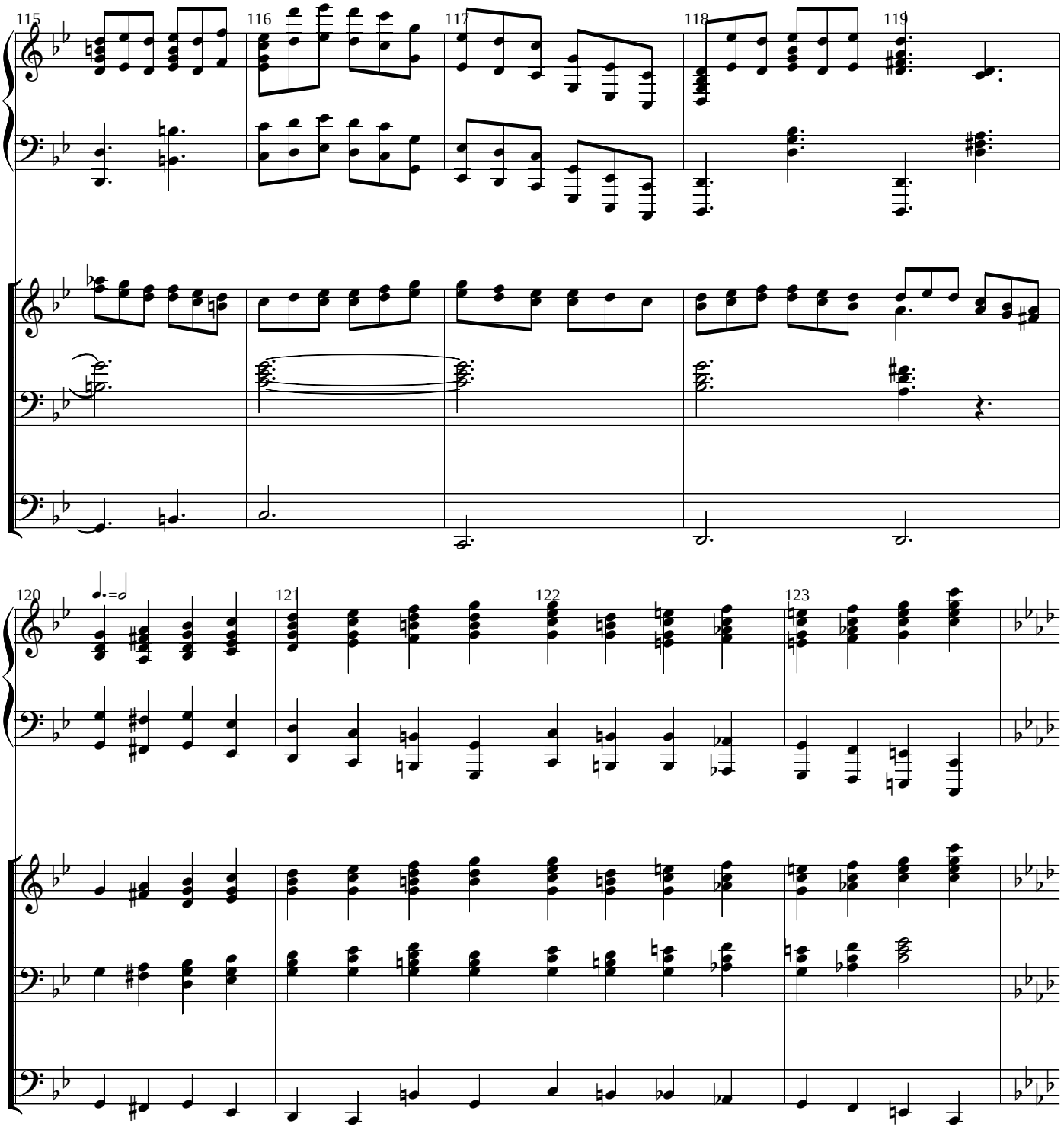
111
112
113
114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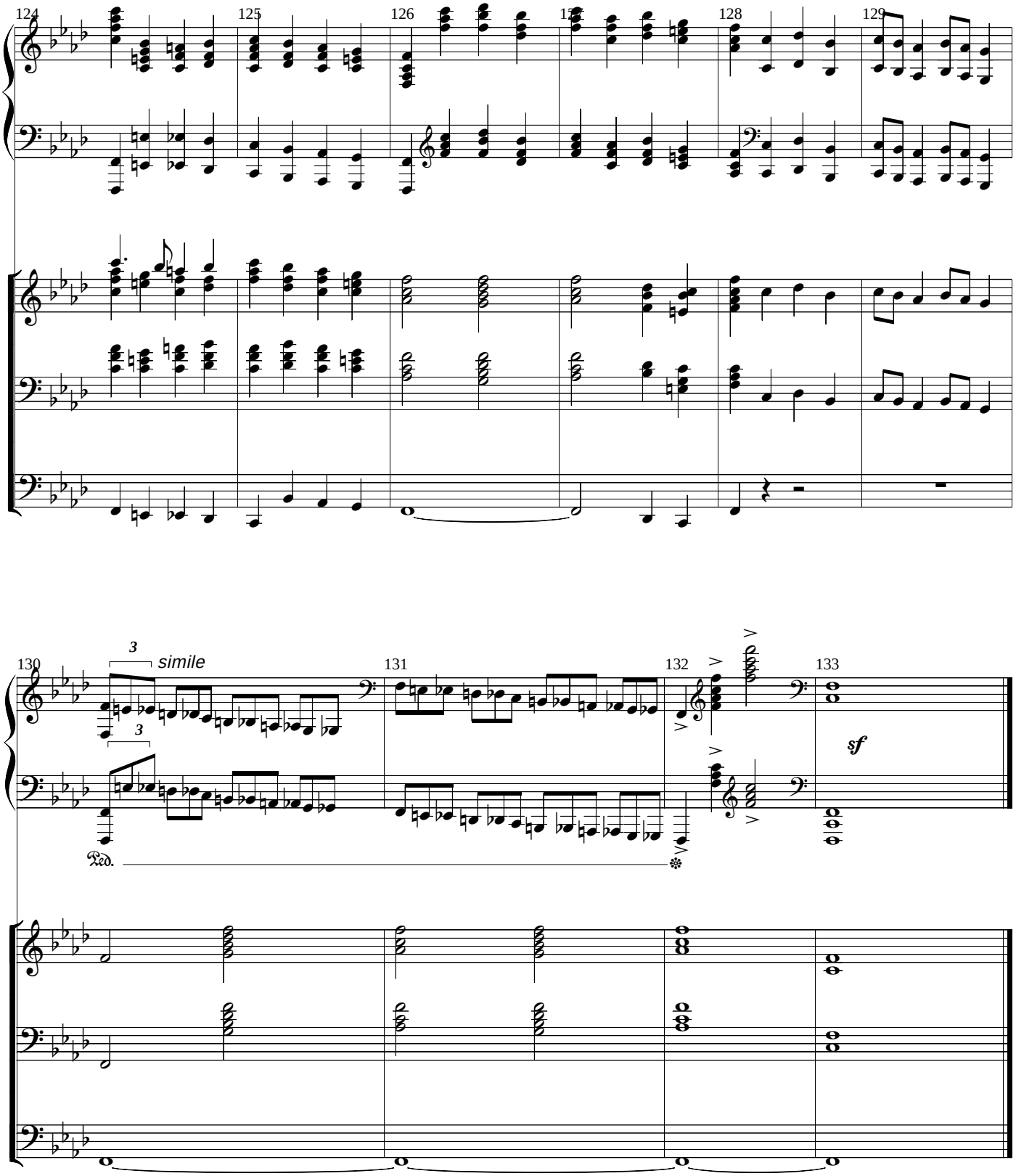
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123


124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
3
simile
3
Ped.
sf

When the tempest ceased, a great darkness fell upon them: a palpable vapor, black as the grave. No fire would kindle, no candle burn. No glimmer of sun nor moon nor stars was seen. The people mourned and wept, crying, "O that we had repented before this great and terrible day..."

And in the darkness they heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Woe unto this people...except they shall repent; for the devil laugheth because of the slain of the fair sons and daughters of my people... and it is because of their iniquity... that they are fallen! ...O all ye that are spared because ye were more righteous than they, will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you?"

(Music begins. Resume narration at measure 4.) After three days, the mist of darkness lifted. Those who had been spared gathered together at the temple, marveling at the things which had happened. And as they thus stood, they heard a voice speak to them from heaven: neither a harsh voice, nor loud, but it peirced their very souls and made their hearts burn within them, though they did not understand it.

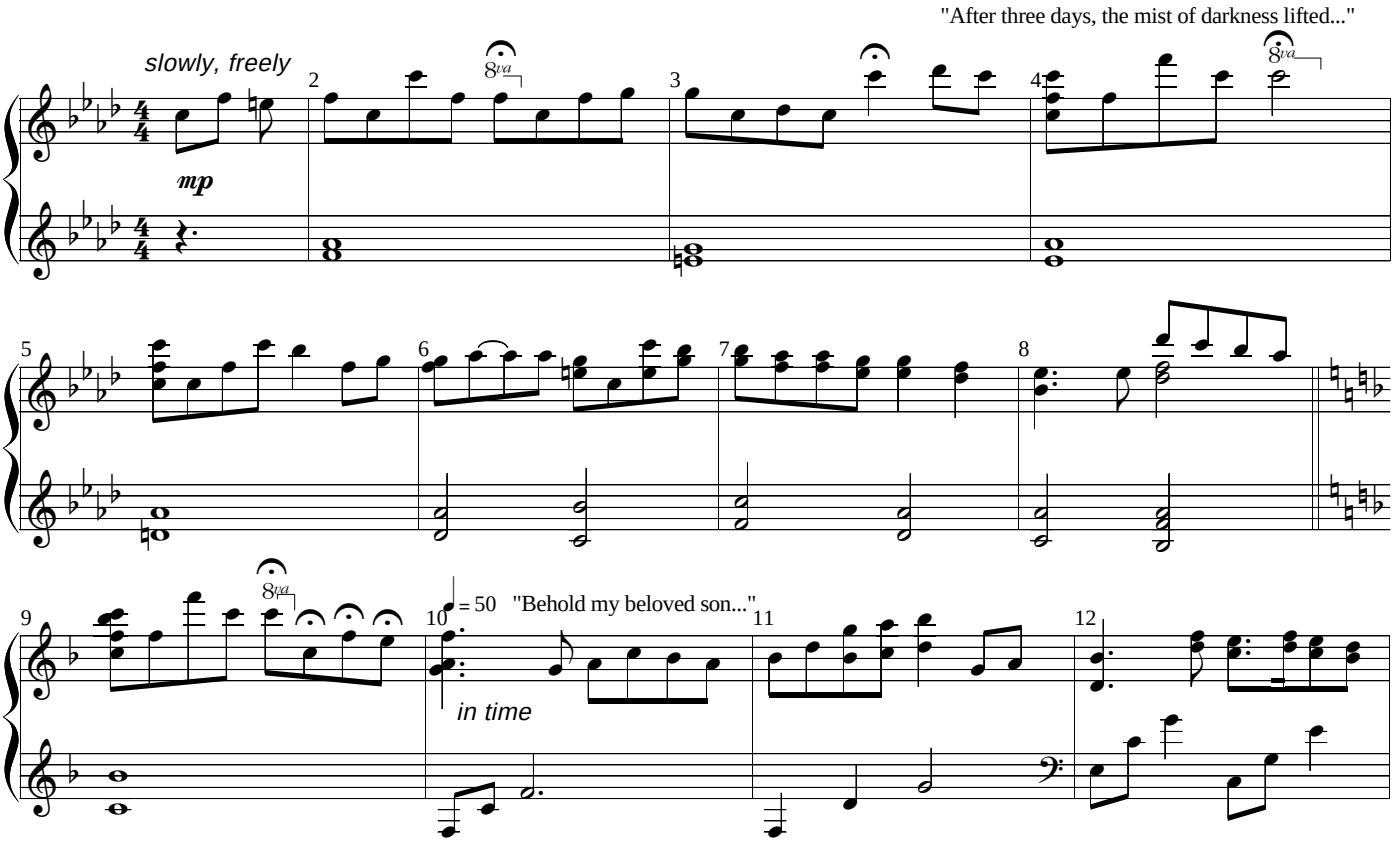
Again they heard the voice, and again they did not understand. A third time they heard it, and as they looked steadfastly toward heaven whence it came, they understood at last.

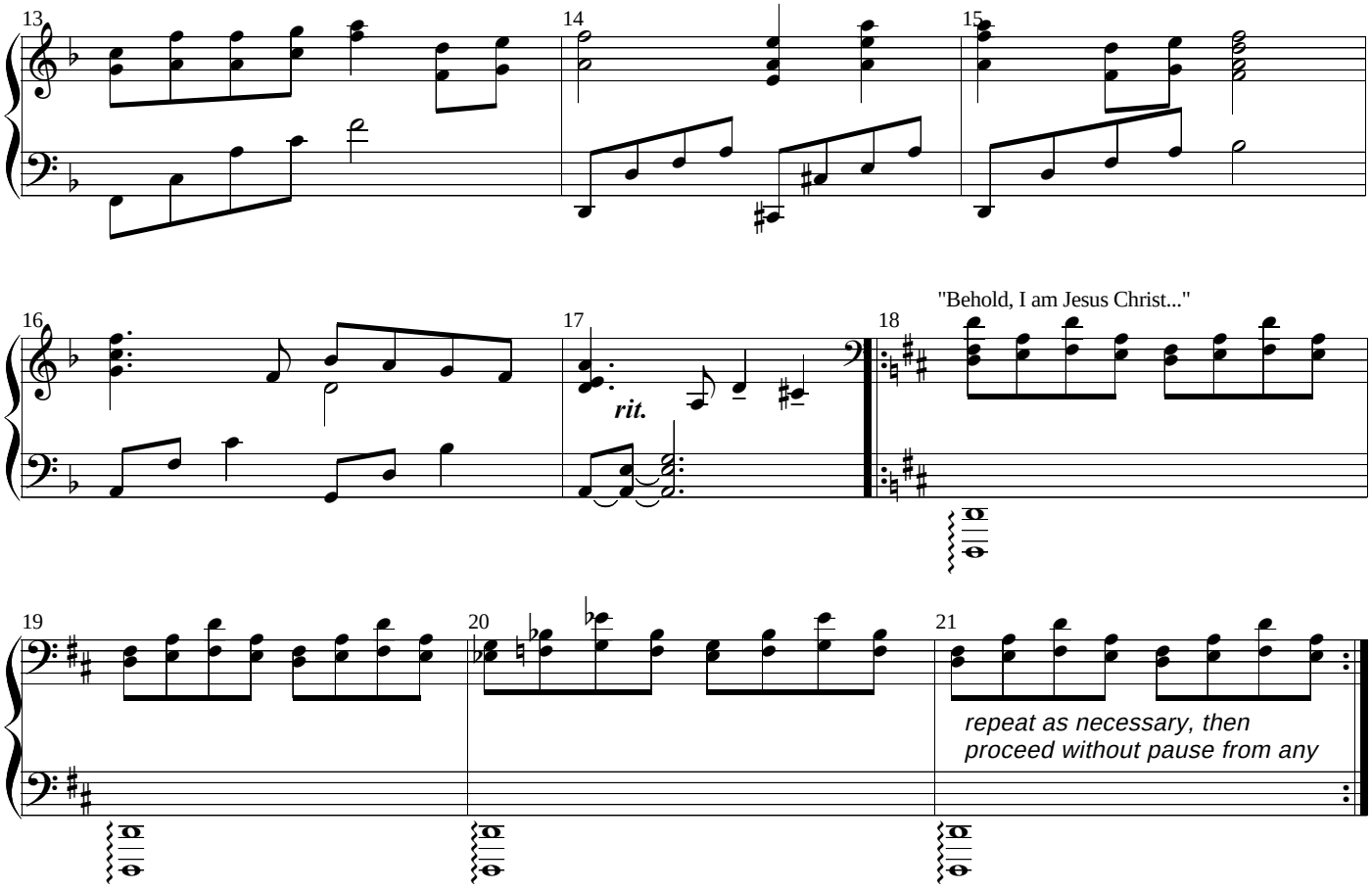
"Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name -- hear ye him."

And as they understood, they looked and beheld a Man descending out of heaven, clothed in white, and he came down and stood in the midst of them. The eyes of the whole multitude were upon him, and no man spoke. And he stretched forth his hand and said,

"Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world. ...I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me... ...Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world."

Interlude

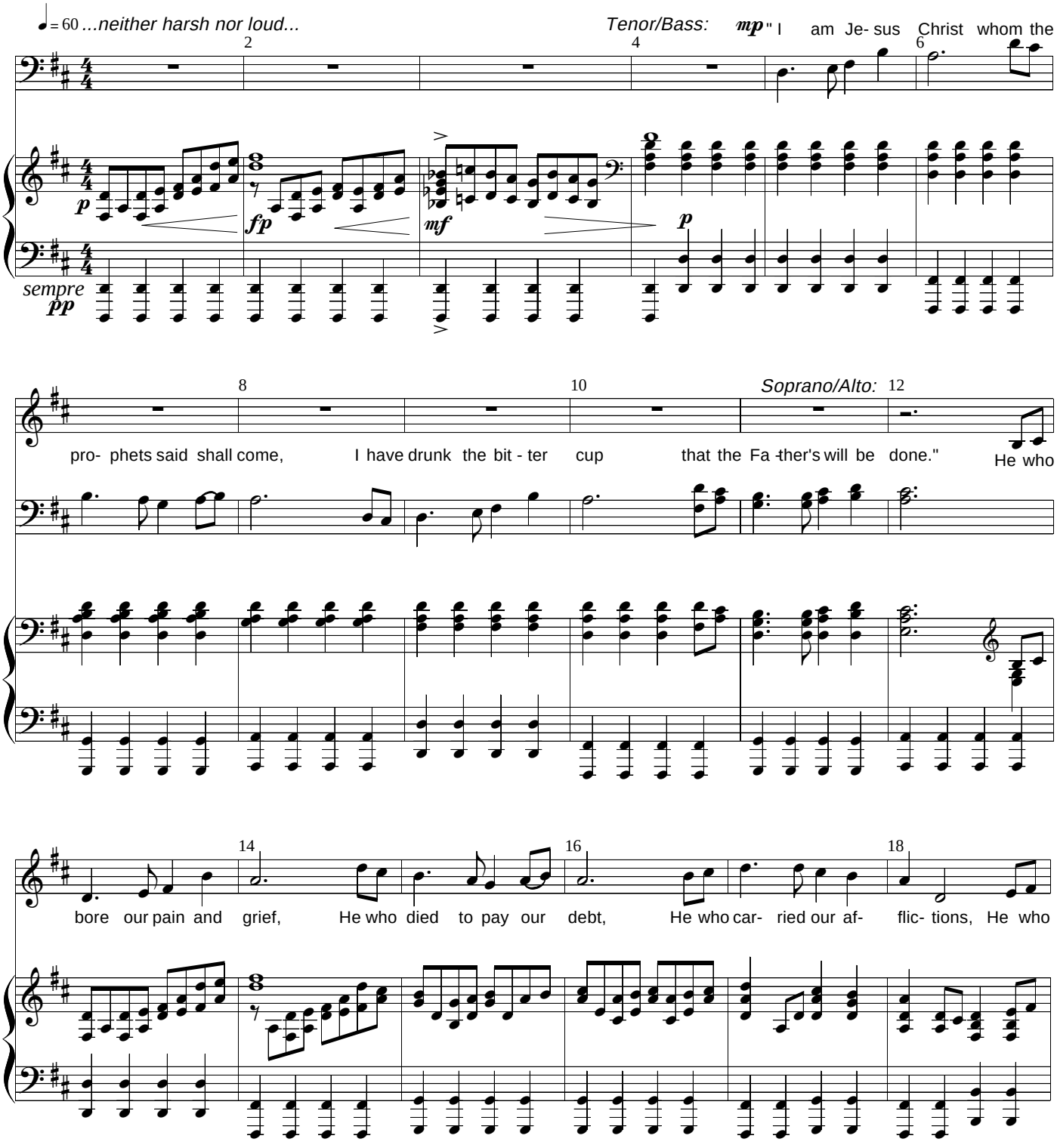



13
14
15
16
17
rit.
18
"Behold, I am Jesus Christ..."
19
20
21
repeat as necessary, then
proceed without pause from any

"I Am Jesus Christ"

(SATB)

Sally DeFord



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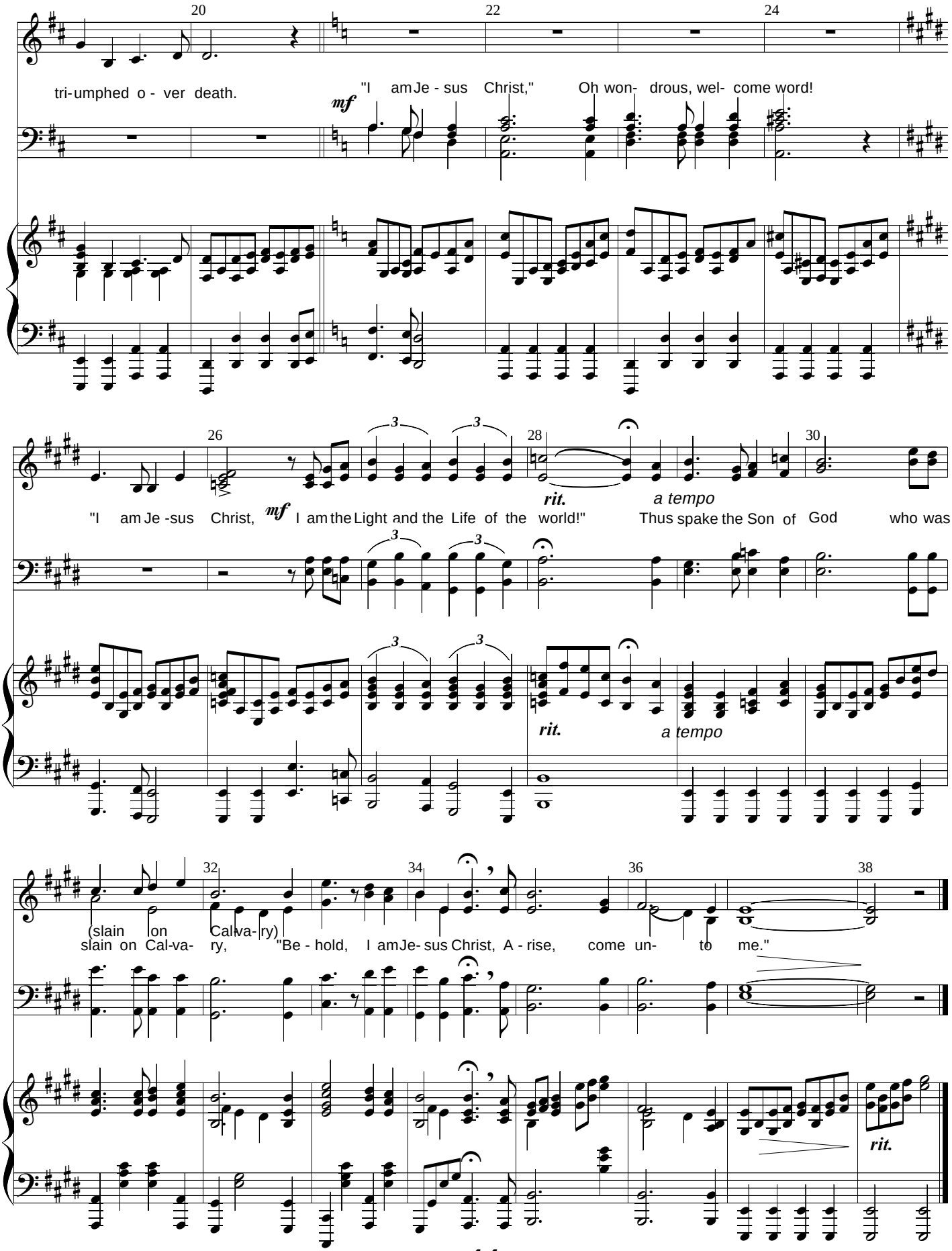
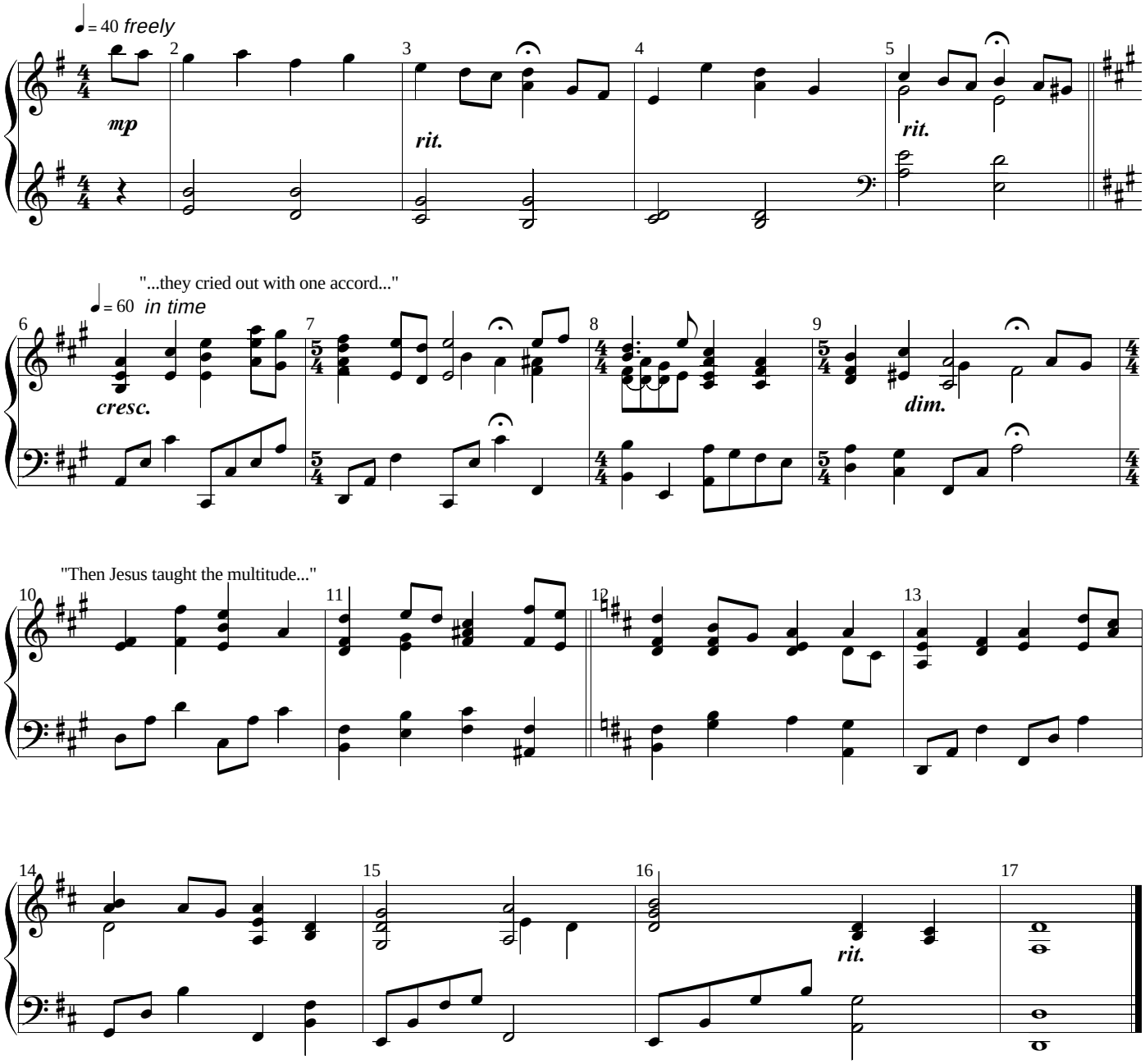

20
22
24
tri-umphed o - ver death.
"I am Je - sus Christ,"
Oh won- drous, wel- come word!
mf
26
28
30
"I am Je -sus Christ,
mf
I am the Light and the Life of the world!"
rit.
a tempo
Thus spake the Son of God who was
32
34
36
38
(slain on Cal-va- ry)
slain on Cal-va- ry,
"Be - hold, I am Je- sus Christ, A - rise, come un- to me."
rit.

(Music begins.) The multitude went forth one by one. They touched the wound in his side, and felt the prints of the nails in his hands and feet. And when they had all gone forth and each one had seen with his own eyes, and felt with his own hands and knew of a surety that it was he of whom the prophets had spoken, they cried out with one accord saying, "Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the most high God." And they fell down at his feet and worshipped him.

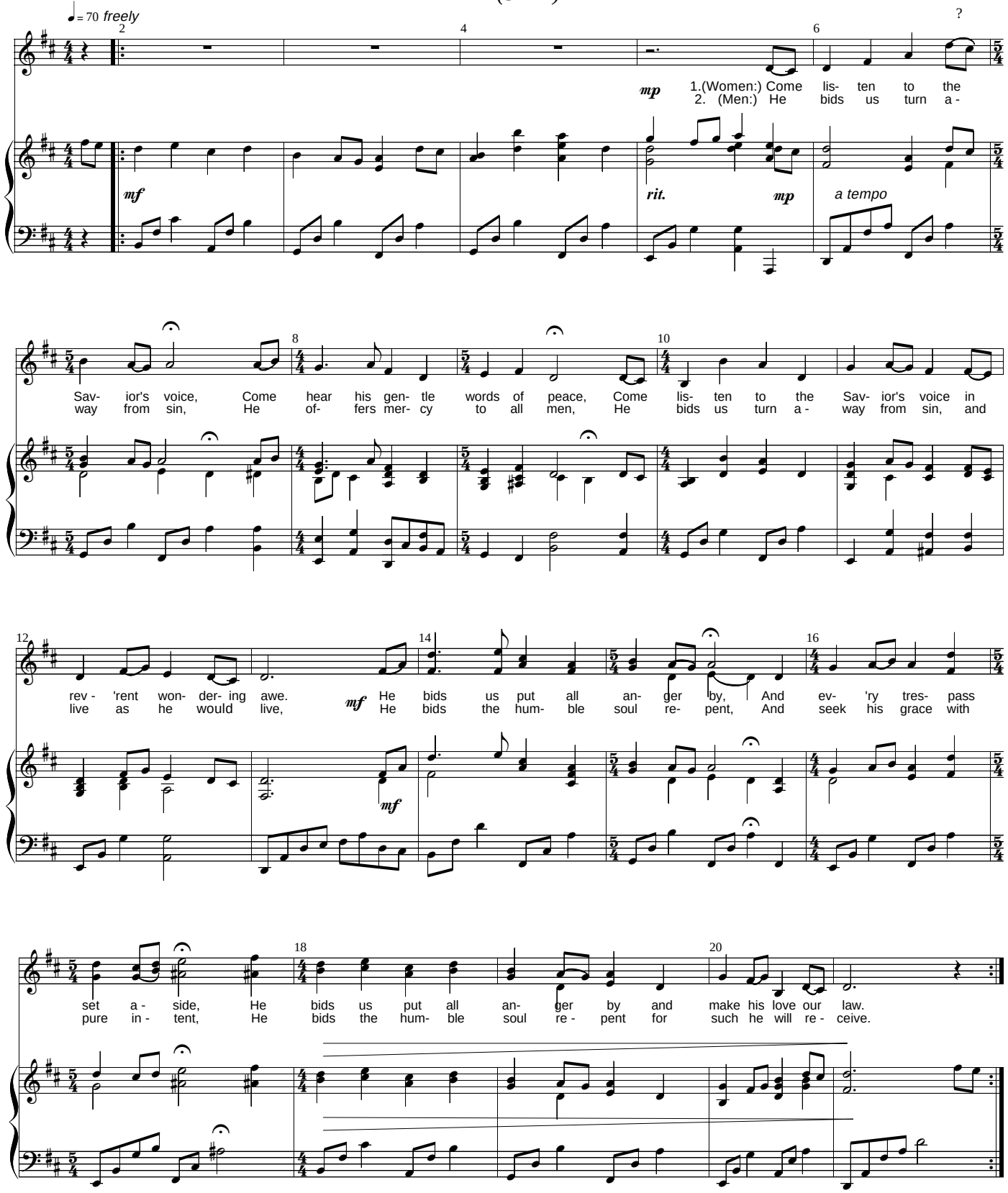
(Resume narration at meas. 10.) Then Jesus taught the multitude, even as he had taught during his mortal ministry among the Jews. He taught them to pray; to be meek and humble, to be merciful and quick to forgive. He taught them to give freely of their worldly wealth, and lay up for themselves the treasures of heaven. He taught them to love their enemies, and commanded that they should not contend with one another, but live in peace.

Interlude



Come Listen to the Savior's Voice

(SATB)



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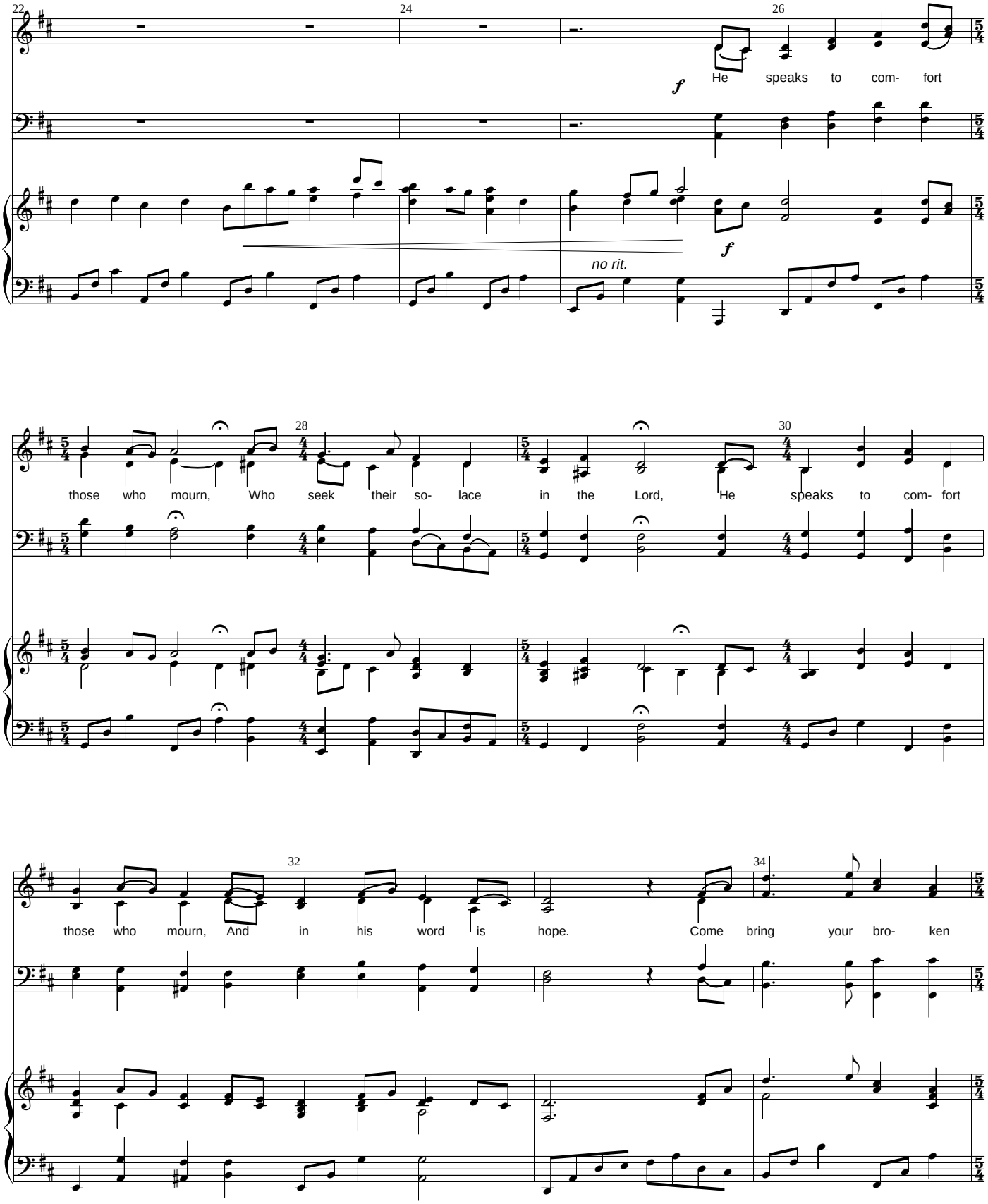
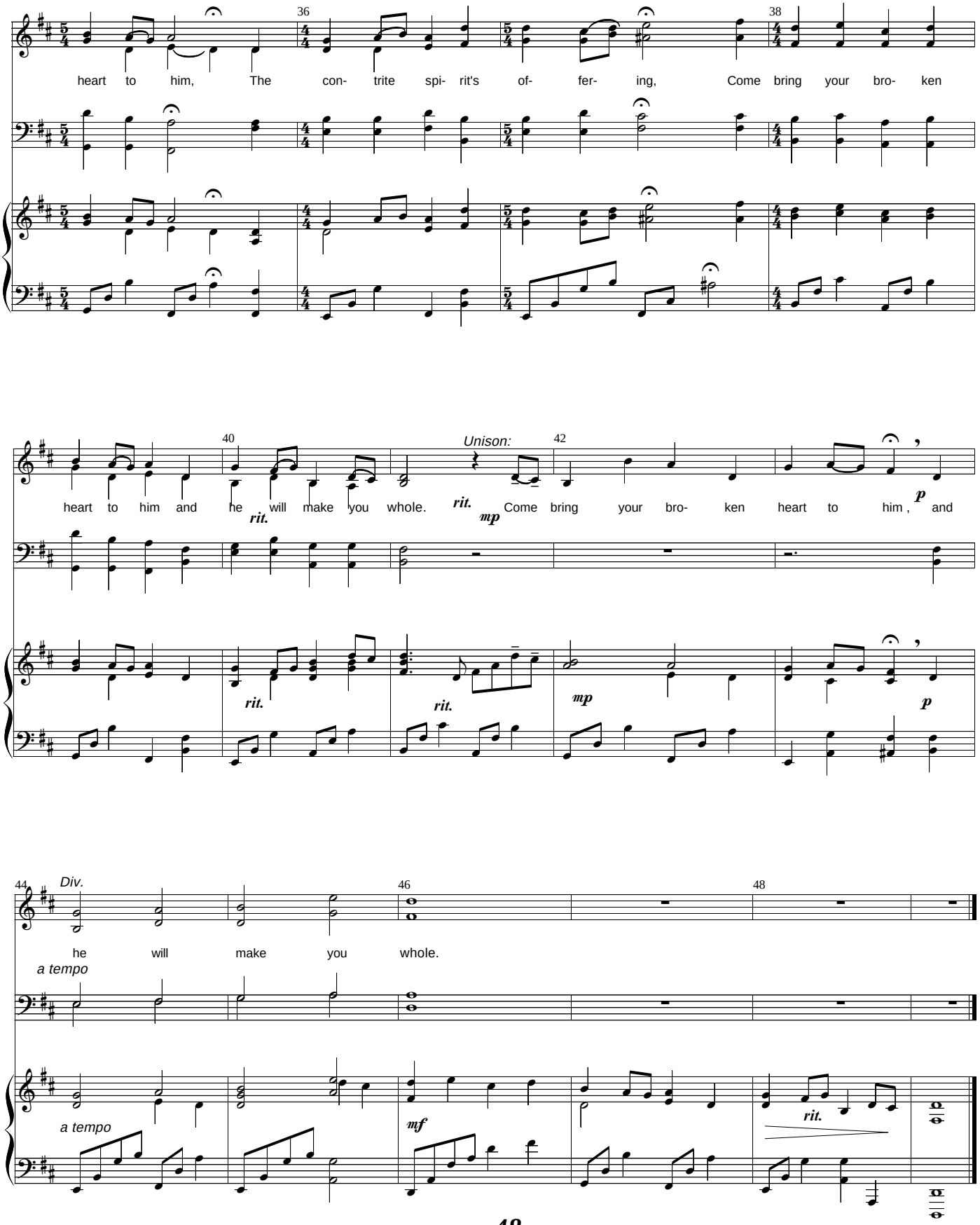
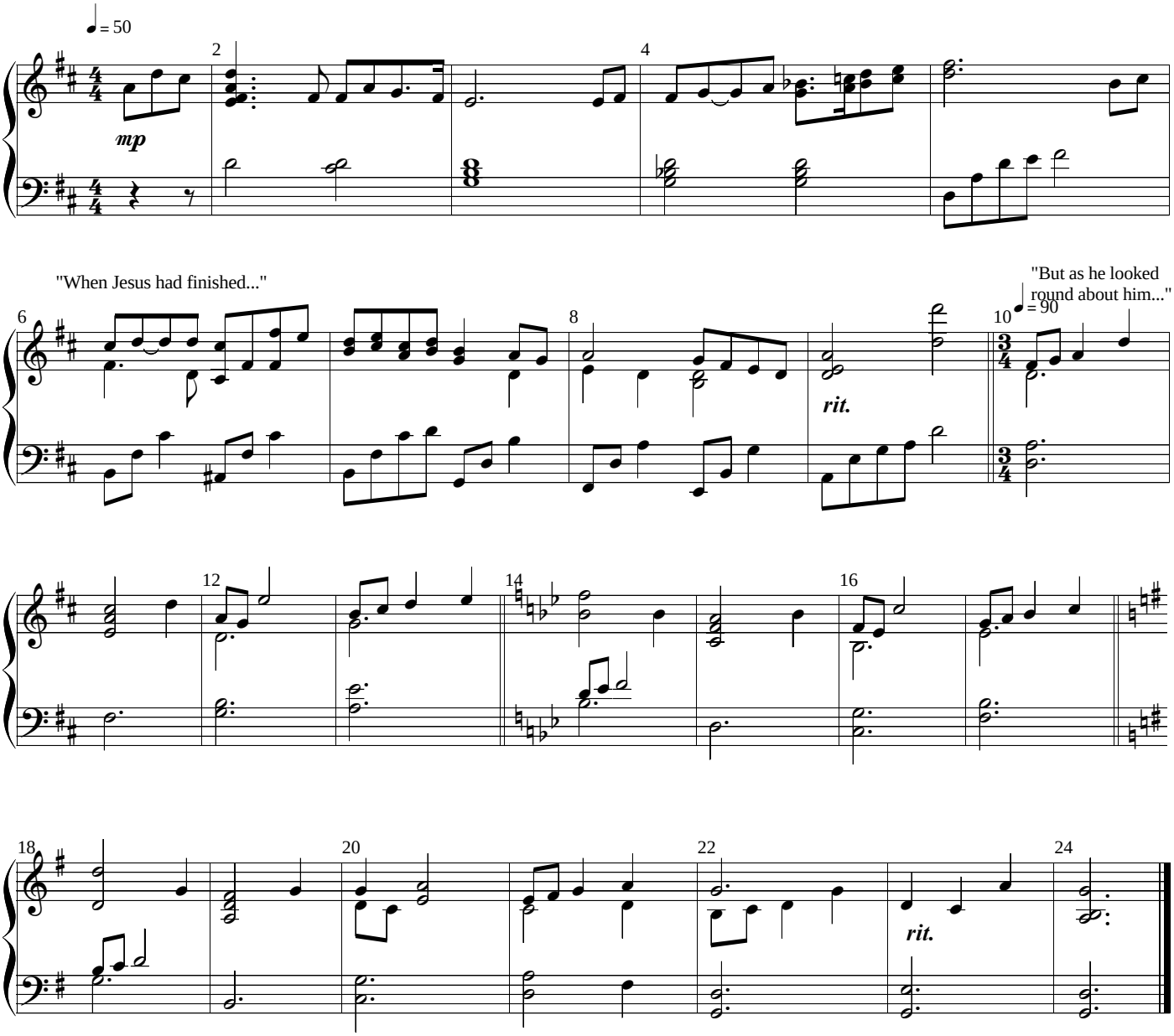

22
24
26
f
He speaks to com- fort
f
no rit.
28
30
those who mourn, Who seek their so- lace in the Lord, He speaks to com- fort
32
34
those who mourn, And in his word is hope. Come bring your bro- ken


36
38
heart to him, The con- trite spi- rit's of- fer- ing, Come bring your bro- ken
40
Unison:
42
heart to him and he will make you whole.
rit.
rit.
mp
Come bring your bro- ken heart to him, and
p
rit.
rit.
mp
p
44
Div.
46
48
he will make you whole.
a tempo
a tempo
mf
rit.

(Music begins. Begin narration at measue 6.) When Jesus had finished, he looked on them with compassion, perceiving that they were weak and weary, and did not understand all that he had said. He bade them return to their homes to rest and ponder the things he had taught, and on the morrow he would speak to them again.

But as he looked round about him, the multitude did not move. The years of watching and waiting for their Lord had been long. And now, as Jesus Christ their Redeemer stood before them at last, they were unwilling to be parted from him so soon. As Jesus looked upon them, the multitude were in tears, and they gazed at him in longing, as though they would ask him to remain with them a little longer.

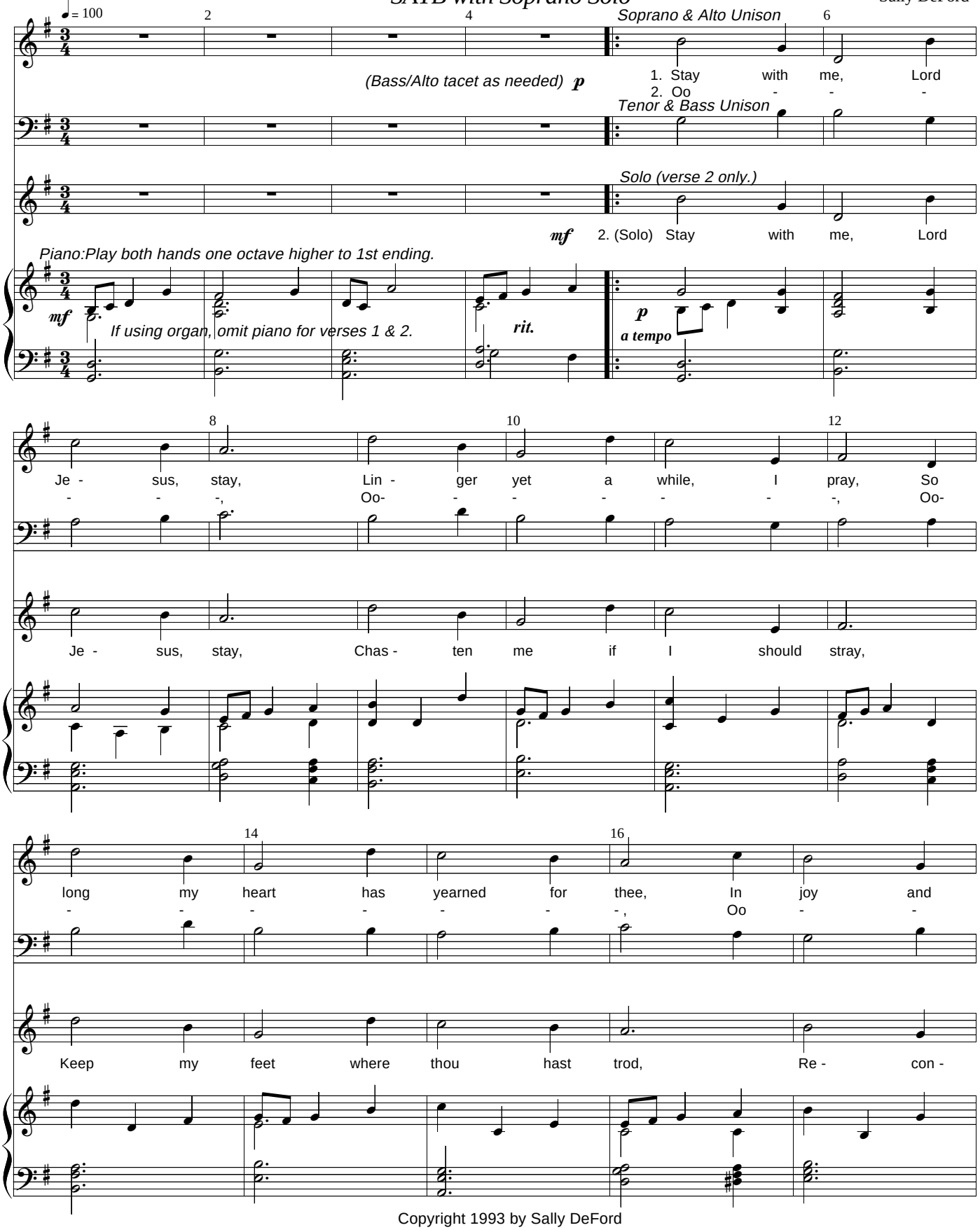
Interlude



Stay With Me, Lord Jesus, Stay

SATB with Soprano Solo

Sally DeFord



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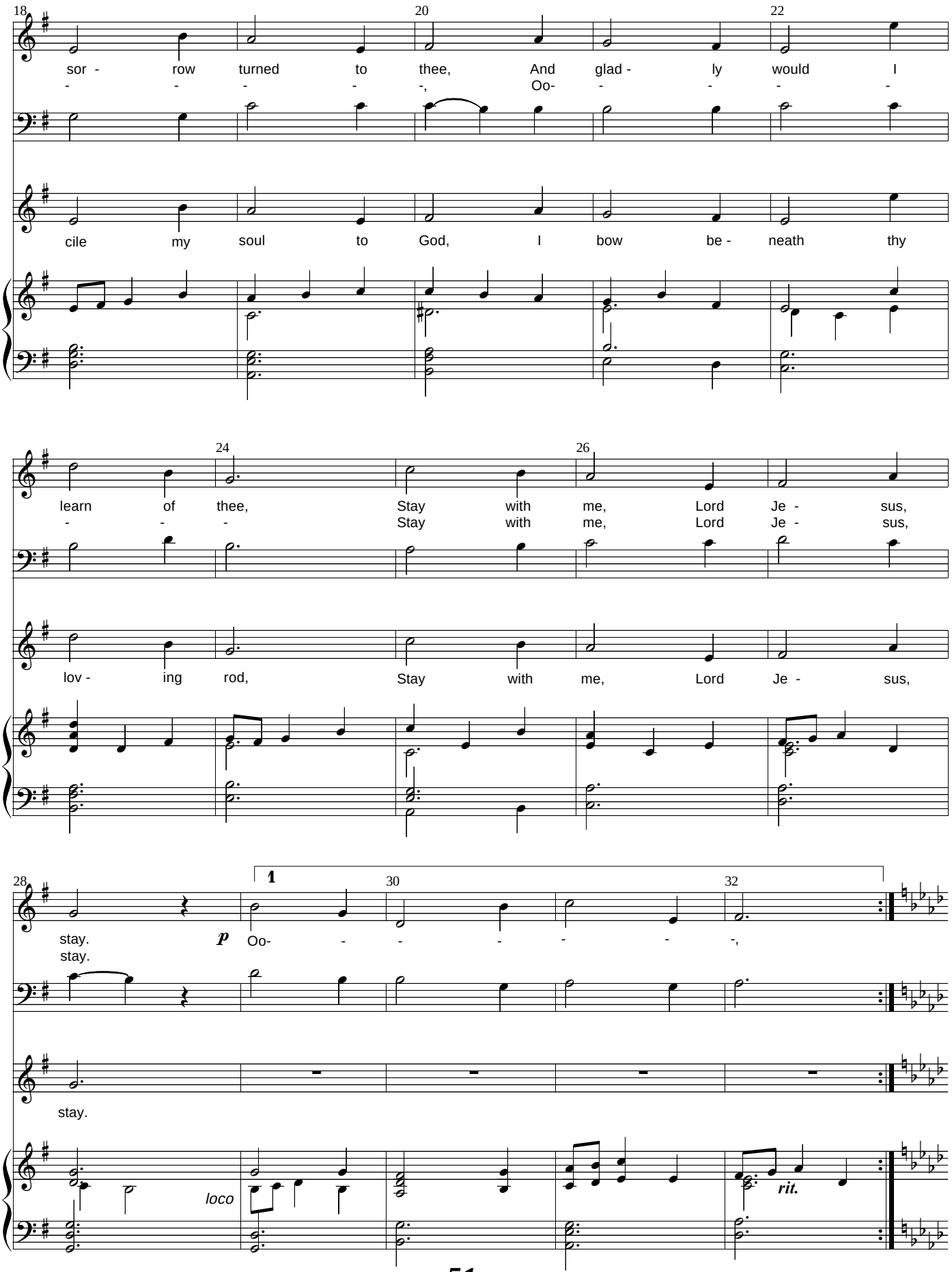
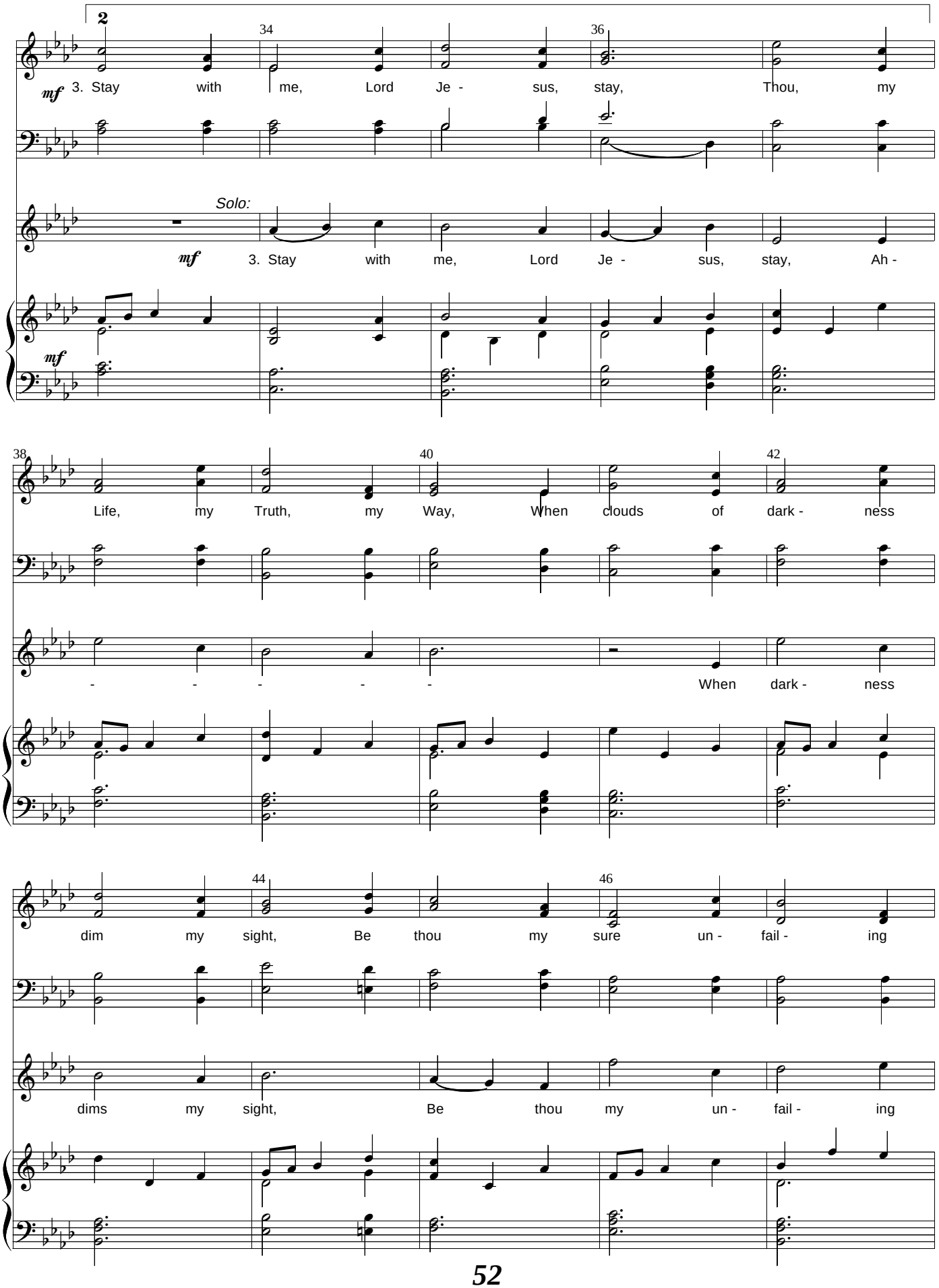
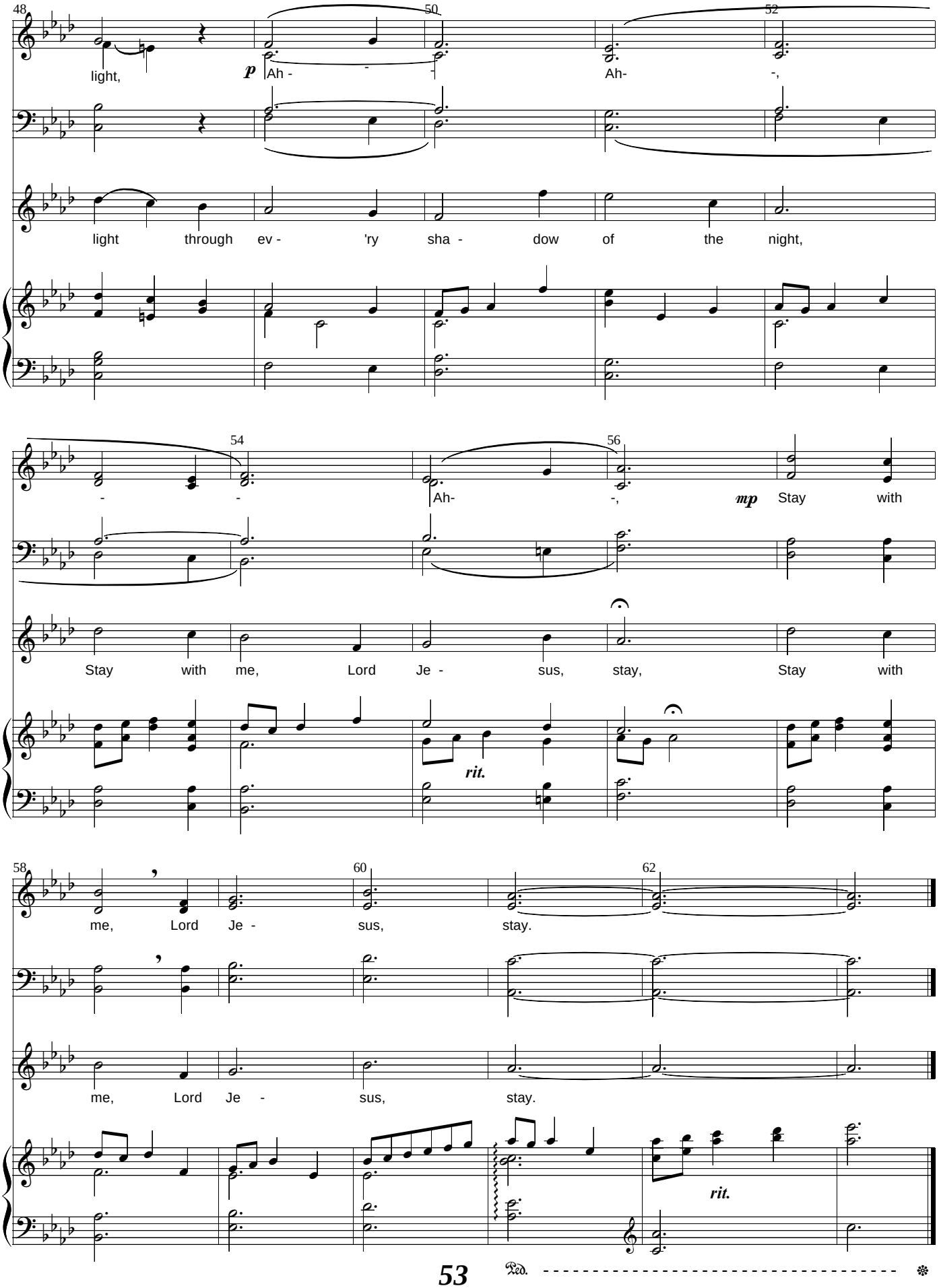

18
20
22
sor - row turned to thee, And glad - ly would I
- - - - -, Oo- - - - -
cile my soul to God, I bow be - neath thy
24
26
learn of thee, Stay with me, Lord Je - sus,
- - - Stay with me, Lord Je - sus,
lov - ing rod, Stay with me, Lord Je - sus,
28
1
30
32
stay.
stay.
p
Oo- - - - - -,
stay.
loco
rit.


2
34
36
mf
3. Stay with me, Lord Je - sus, stay, Thou, my
Solo:
mf
3. Stay with me, Lord Je - sus, stay, Ah -
mf
38
40
42
Life, my Truth, my Way, When clouds of dark - ness
- - - - - When dark - ness
44
46
dim my sight, Be thou my sure un - fail - ing
dims my sight, Be thou my un - fail - ing

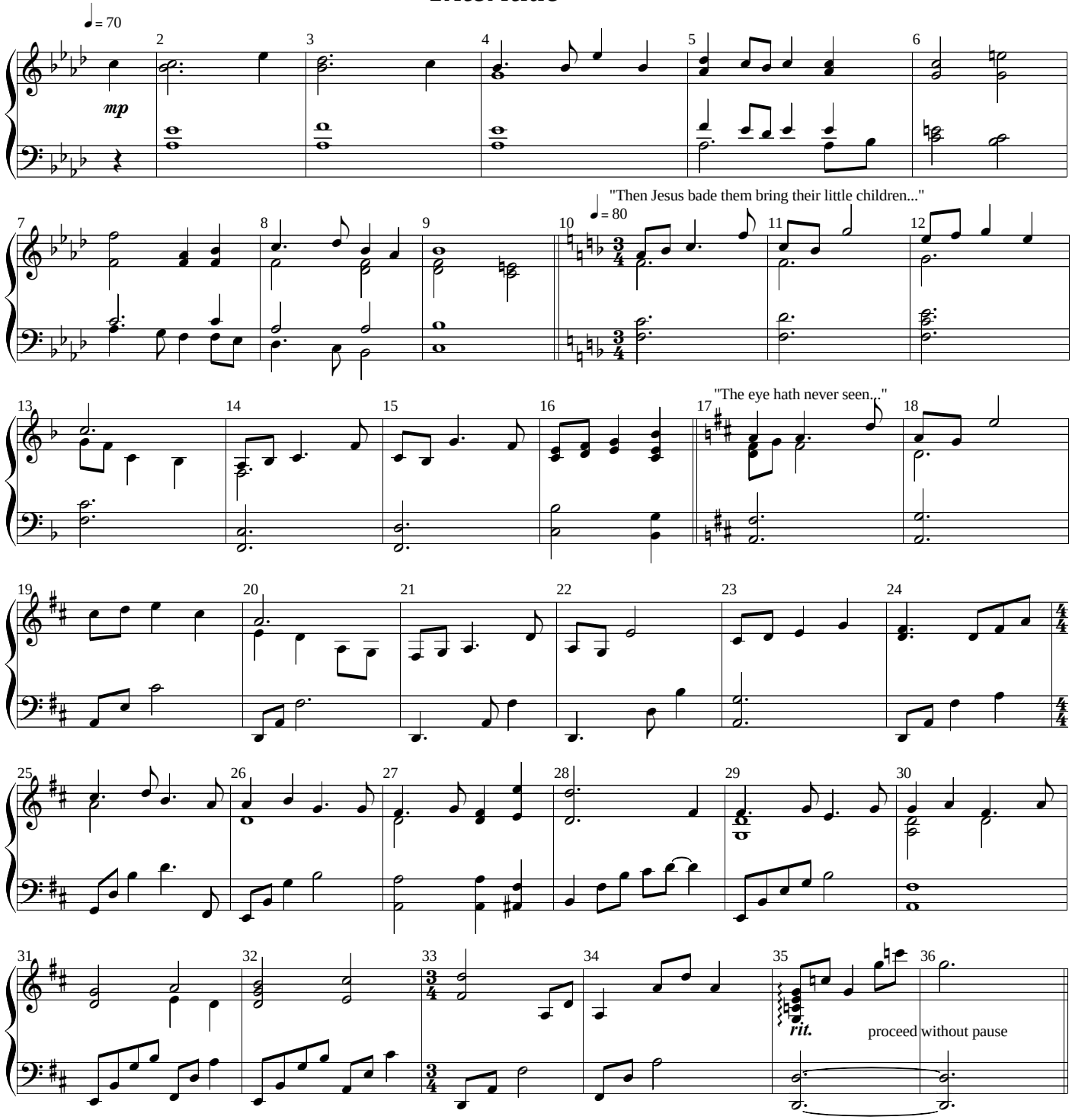

48
50
52
light,
p
Ah - - -
Ah- -,
light through ev - 'ry sha - dow of the night,
54
56
- -
Ah- -,
mp
Stay with
Stay with me, Lord Je - sus, stay, Stay with
rit.
58
60
62
me, Lord Je - sus, stay.
me, Lord Je - sus, stay.
rit.
53
Ped.

(Music begins.) The Lord was filled with compassion for the multitude who so earnestly desired him to remain. "Have ye any that are sick among you?" he asked. "Bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind... or that are afflicted in any manner? Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you..." And he healed them, every one as they were brought forth unto him.

Then Jesus bade them bring their little children to him. So they took their little ones and set them down upon the ground round about him. Then he knelt and prayed, and the multitude bore record saying, "The eye hath never seen, neither hath the ear heard before, so great and marvelous things as we saw and heard Jesus speak unto the Father... and no one can conceive of the joy which filled our souls at the time we heard him pray for us..."

Then he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed for them, and wept. And he spoke to the multitude saying, "Behold your little ones." And as they looked, they saw the heavens open, and angels descending as if in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled the little children with fire, and ministered to them.

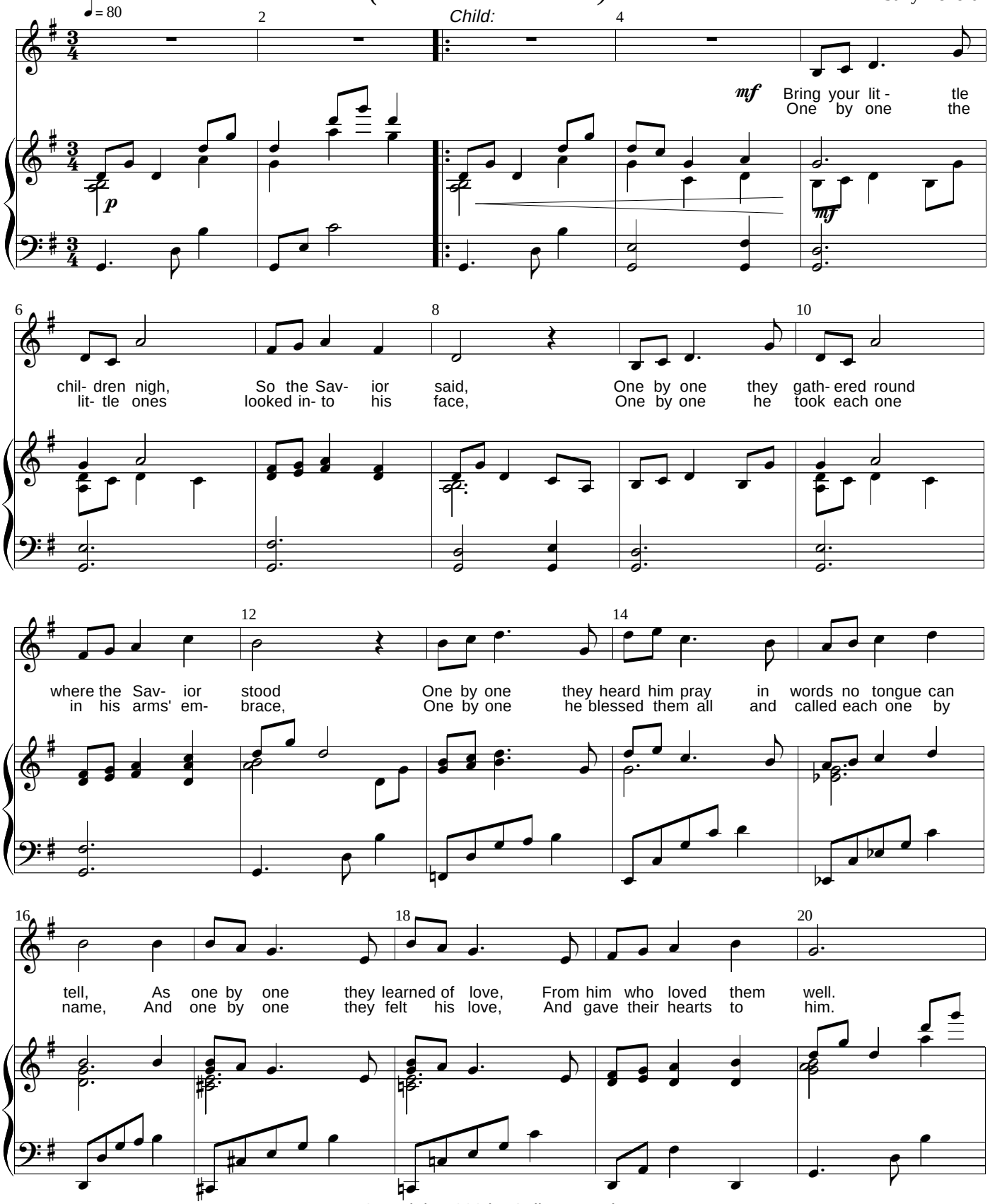
Interlude



One By One

(SSATB w/Child Solo)

Sally DeFord



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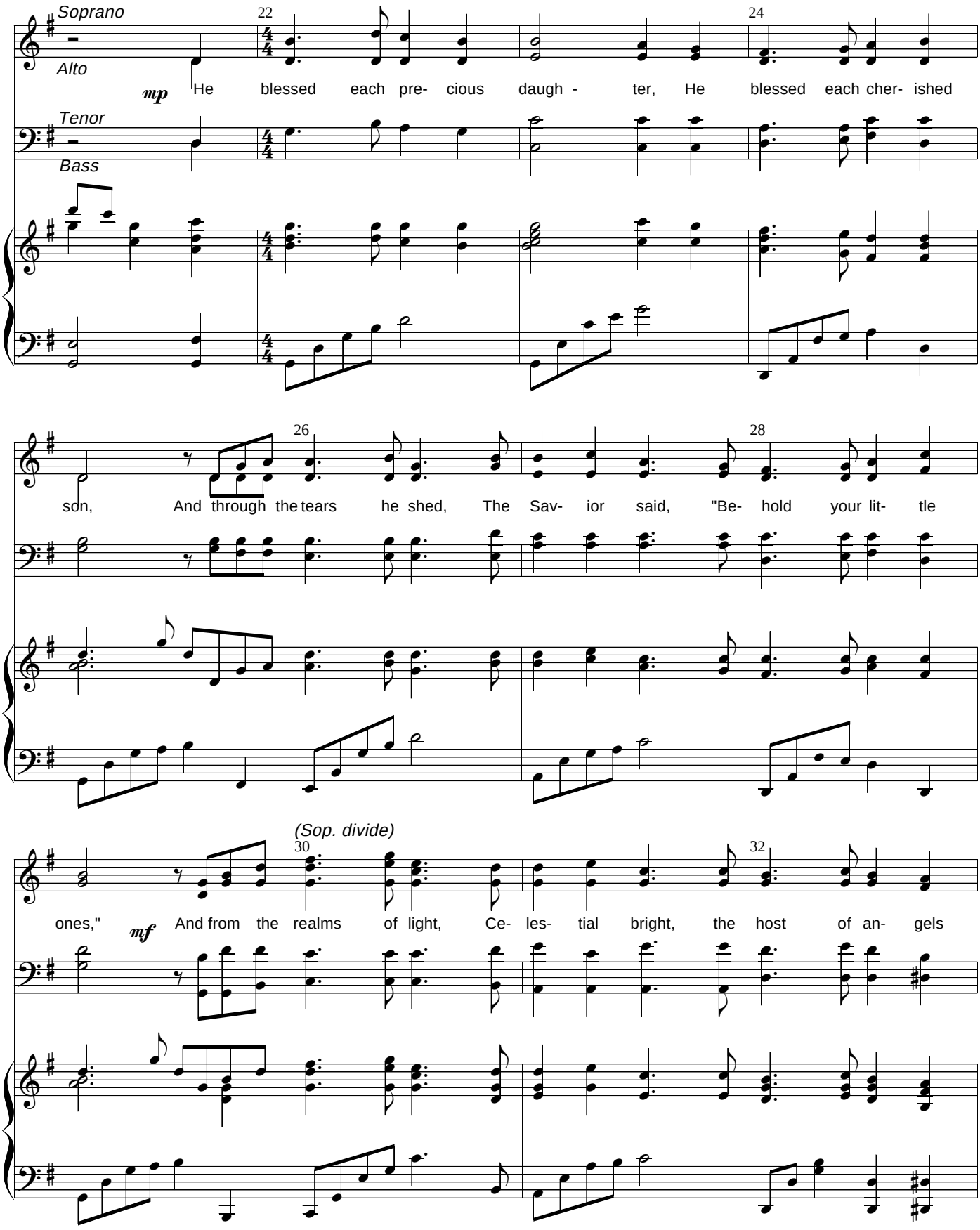
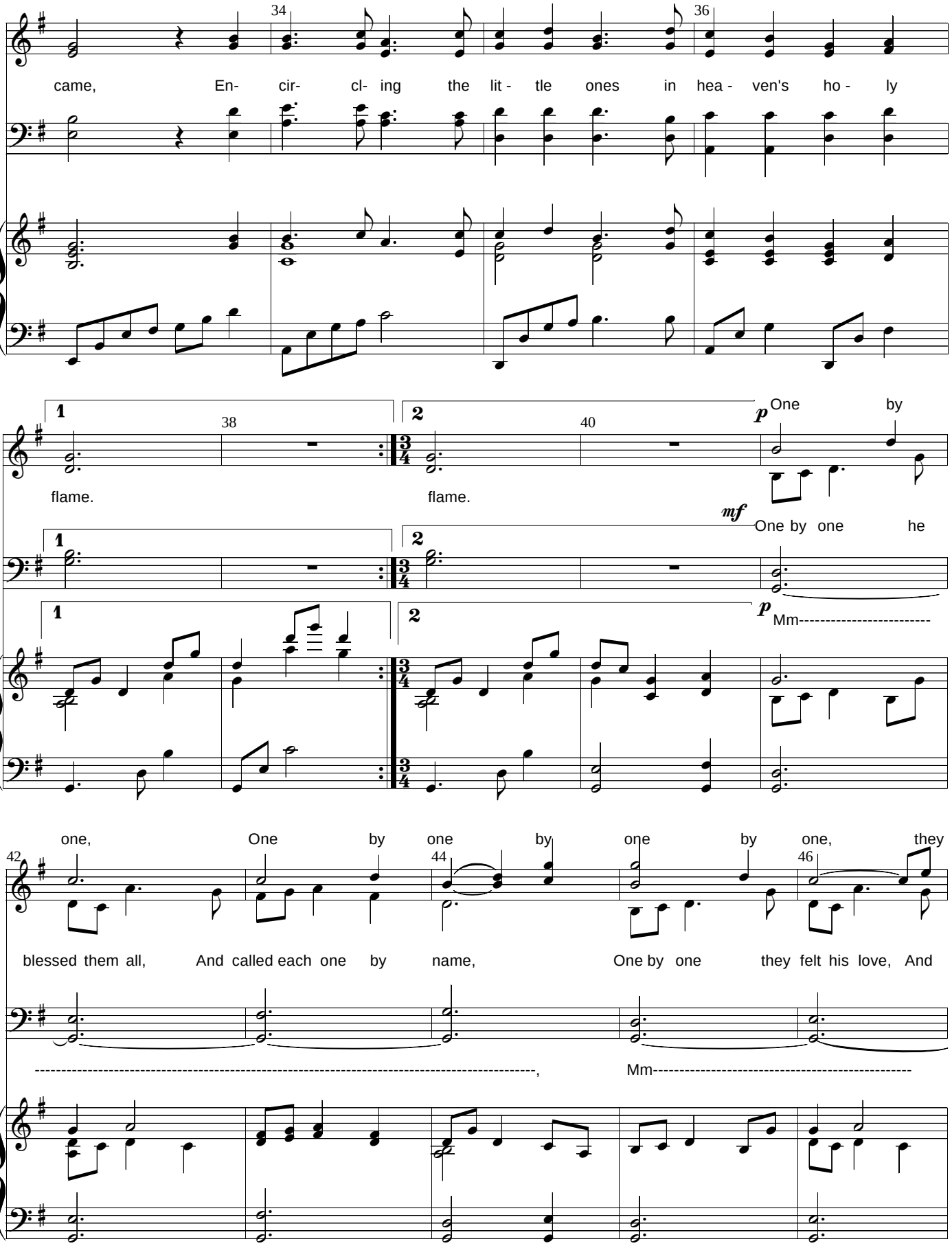
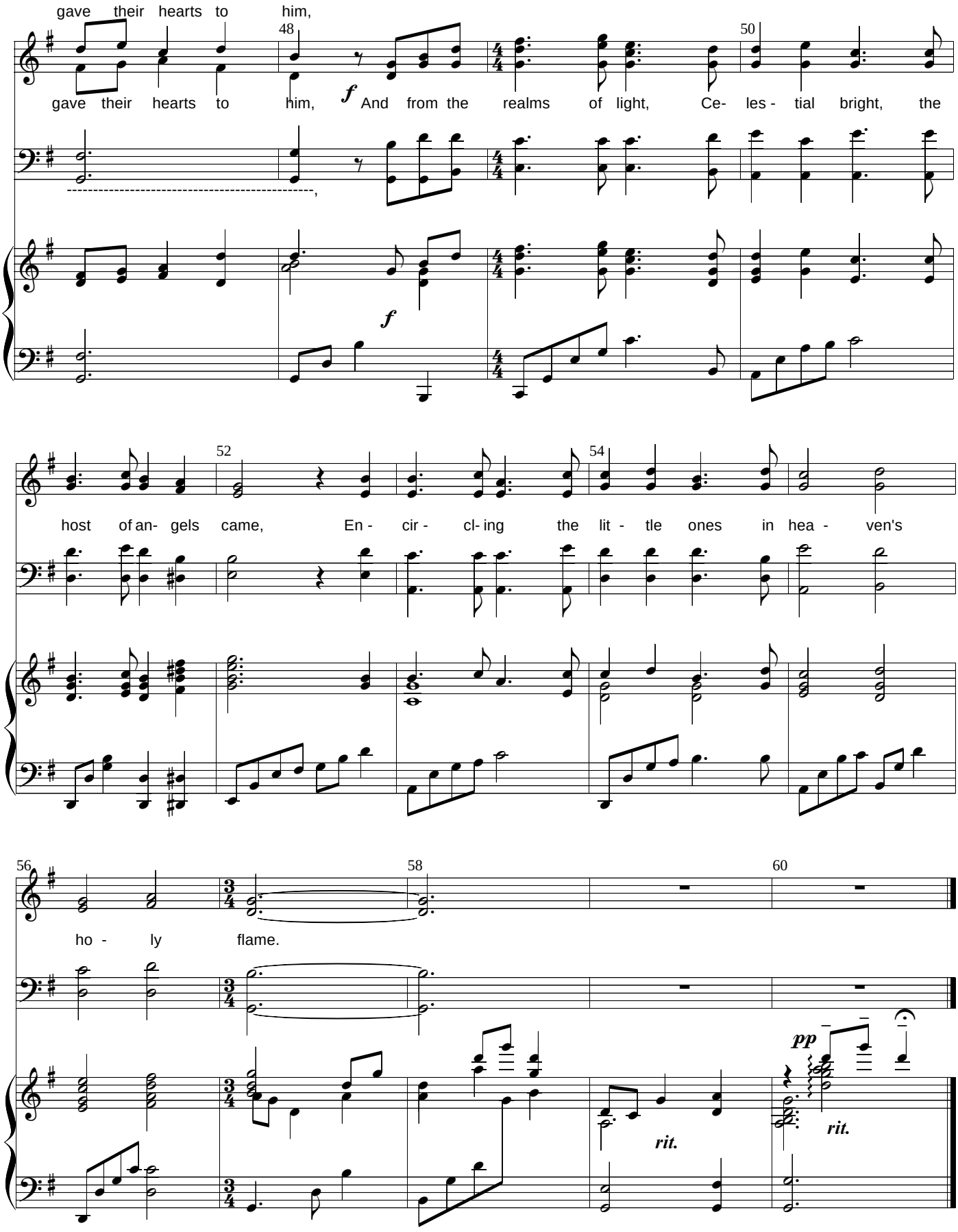

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
22
24
mp
He blessed each pre- cious daugh - ter, He blessed each cher- ished
26
28
son, And through the tears he shed, The Sav- ior said, "Be- hold your lit- tle
(Sop. divide)
30
32
ones," mf And from the realms of light, Ce- les- tial bright, the host of an- gels

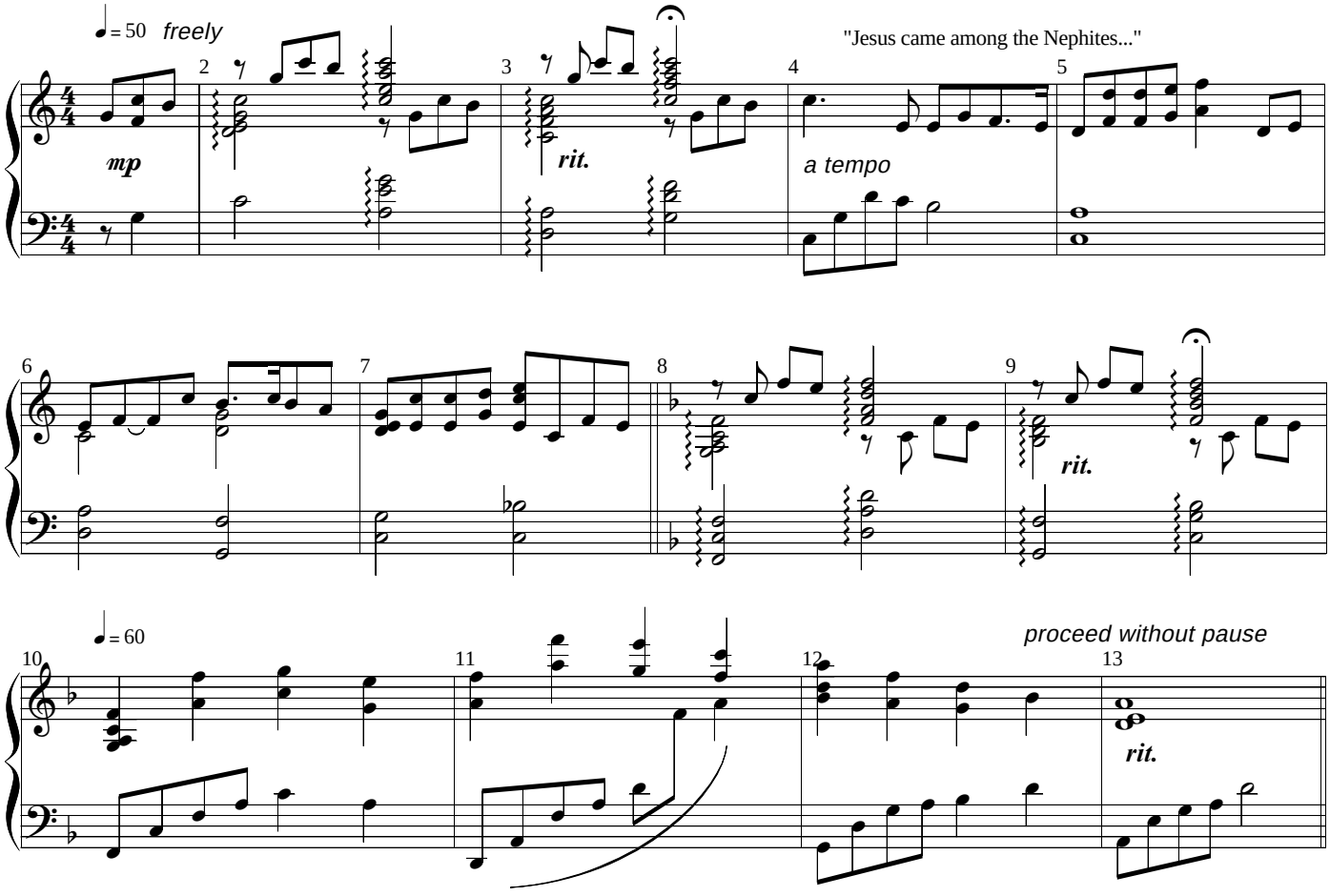

34
36
came, En- cir- cl- ing the lit - tle ones in hea - ven's ho - ly
1
38
2
40
flame.
flame.
p
One by
mf
One by one he
p
Mm----------
one, One by one by one by one, they
42
44
46
blessed them all, And called each one by name, One by one they felt his love, And
----------,
Mm----------


gave their hearts to him,
48
gave their hearts to him,
f
And from the realms of light, Ce- les - tial bright, the
50
f
host of an- gels came, En - cir - cl- ing the lit - tle ones in hea - ven's
52
54
ho - ly flame.
56
58
60
pp
rit.
rit.

(Music begins. Begin narration at meas. 4) Jesus came among the Nephites often, ministering to them and teaching them his gospel, and all who remained in the land were converted to the Lord and united to the Church of Christ.

The people of that generation were blessed with peace and prosperity, such as had never before been known among them. There was no strife, no envy, no lying, nor robbers nor murderers. And how blessed were they! For by the love of God which dwelt in their hearts, the Nephites became a people united, of one heart, the children of Christ, heirs to the kingdom of God.

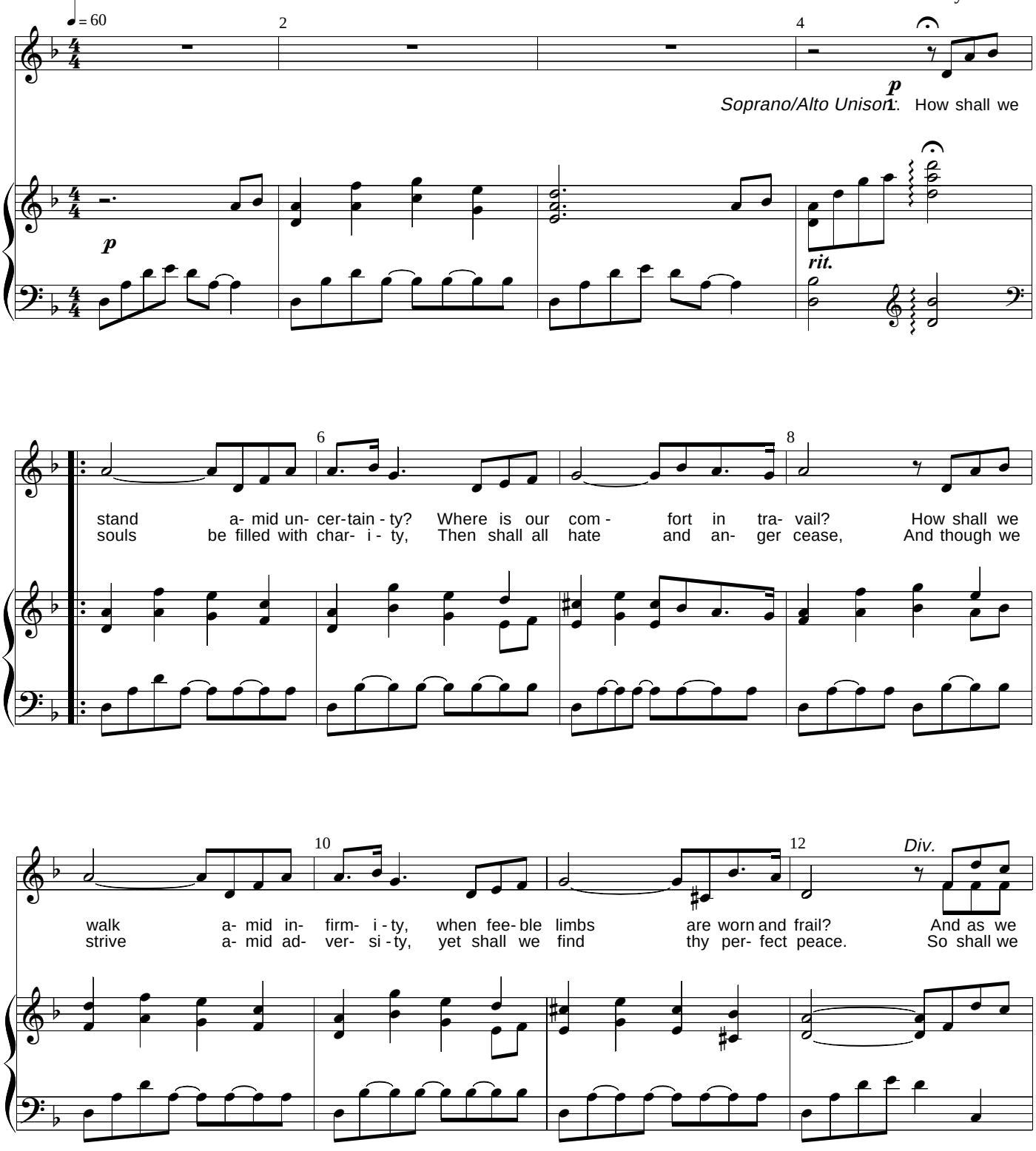
Interlude



Make Us One

(SSATB)

Sally DeFord



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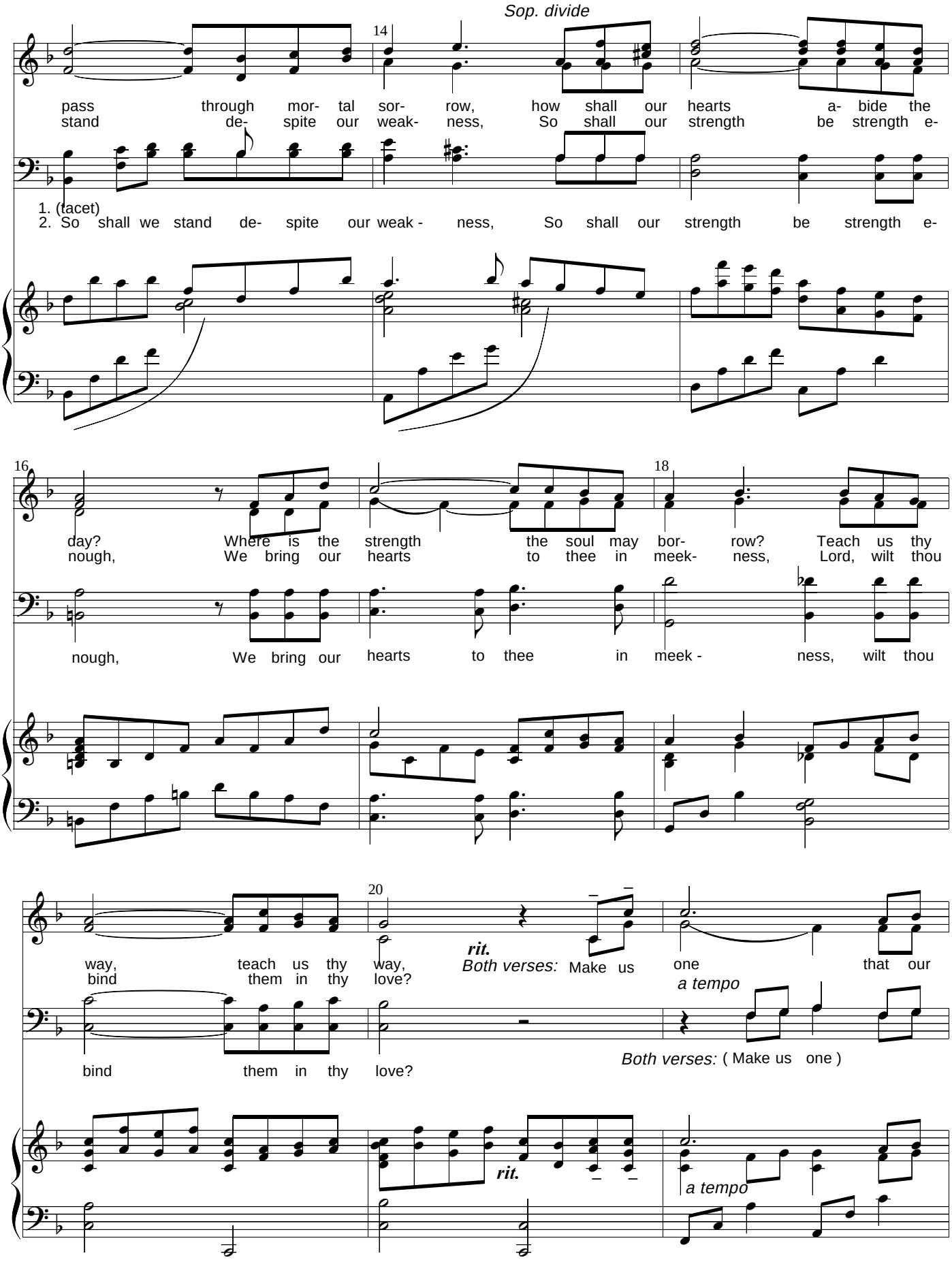
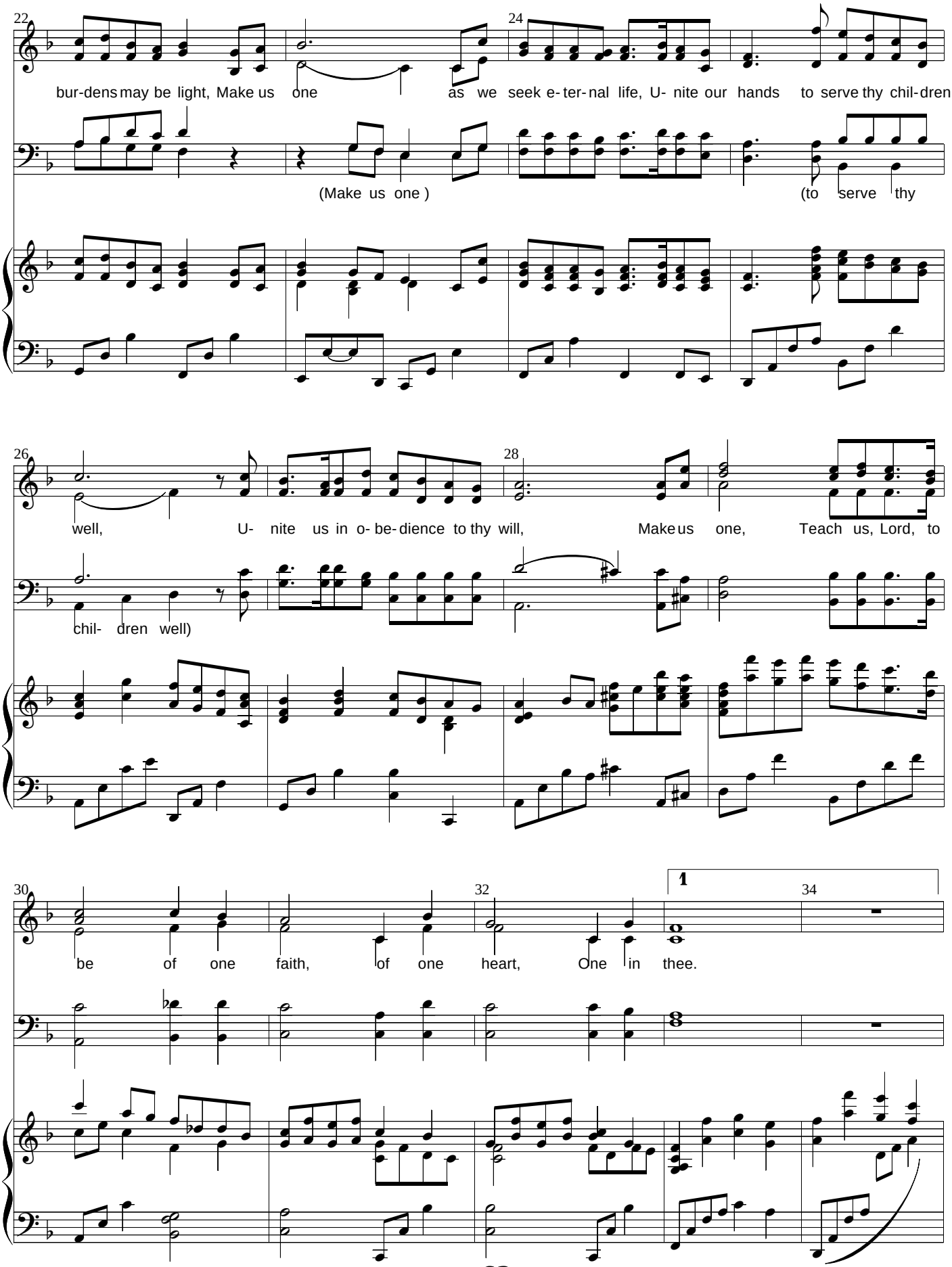
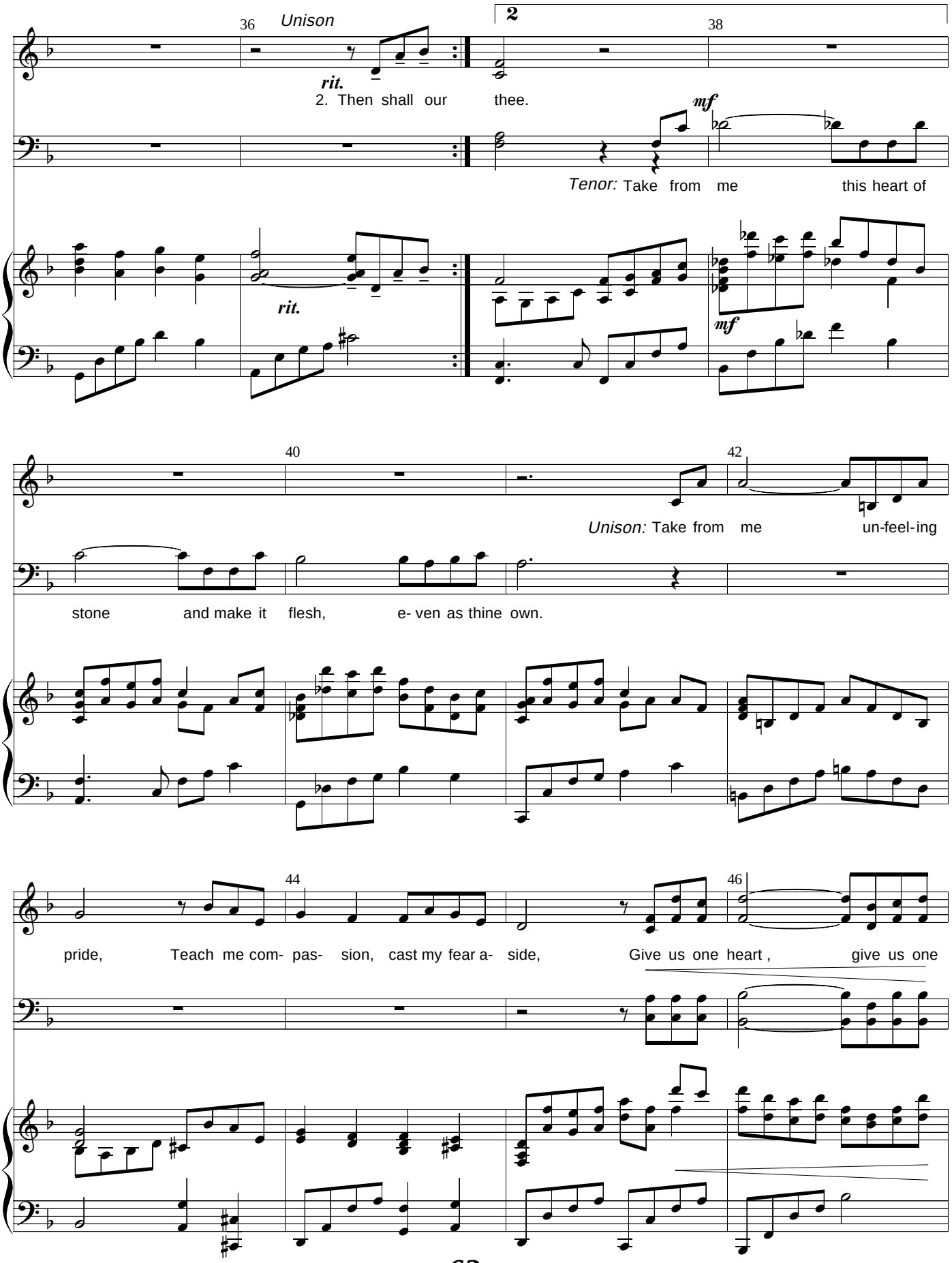
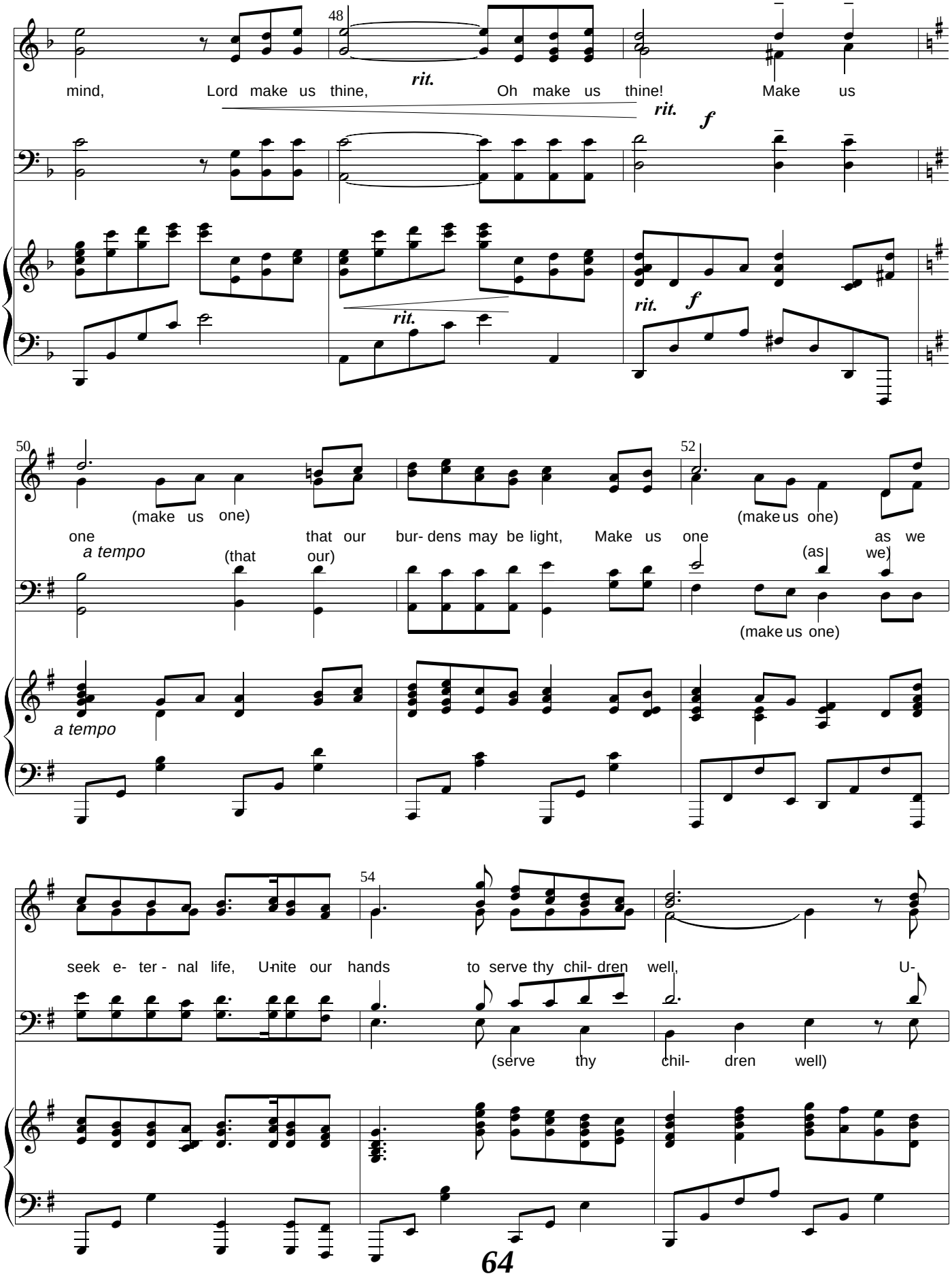
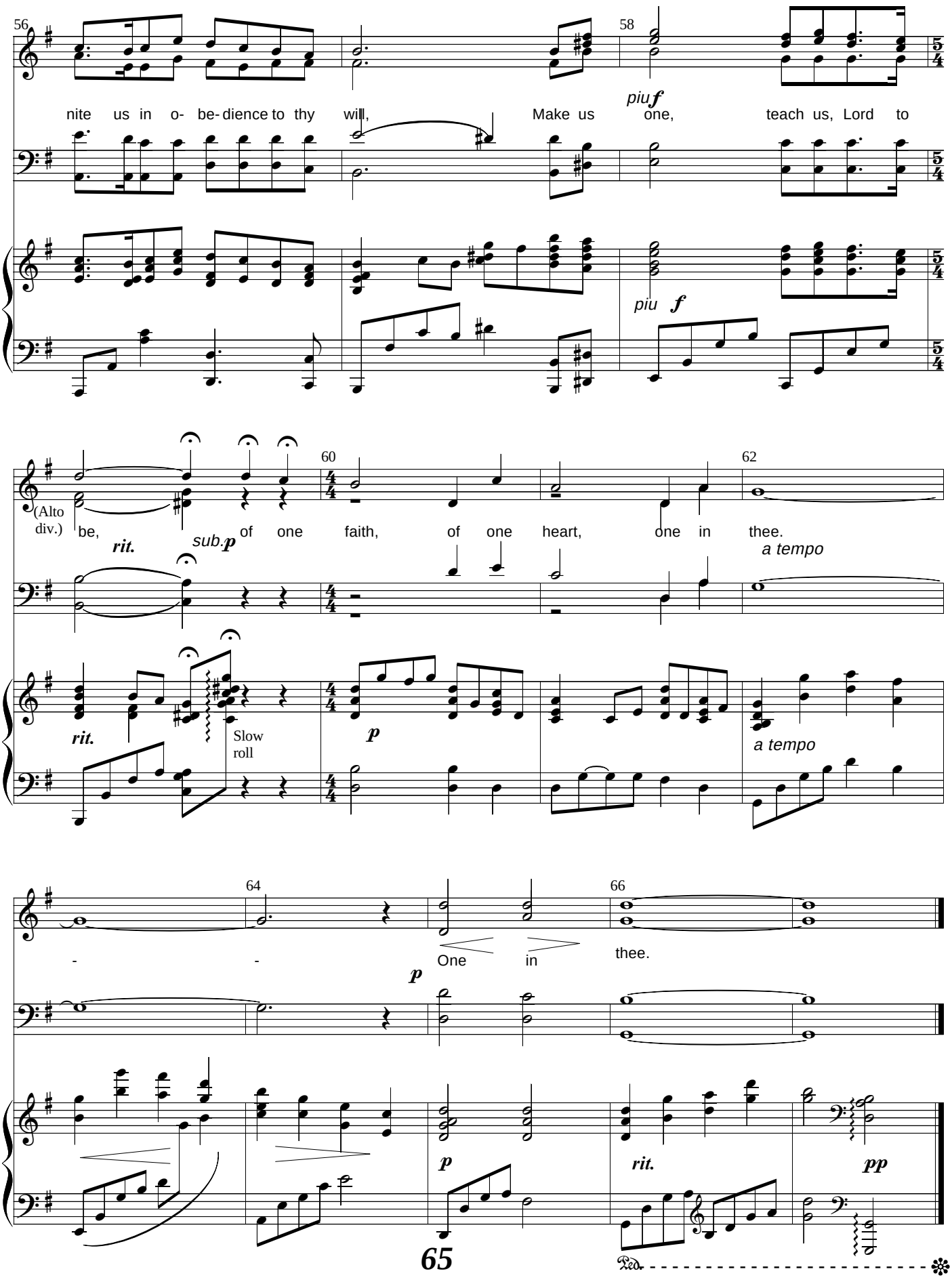

Sop. divide
14
pass through mor- tal sor- row, how shall our hearts a- bide the
stand de- spite our weak- ness, So shall our strength be strength e-
1. (tacet)
2. So shall we stand de- spite our weak - ness, So shall our strength be strength e-
16
day? Where is the strength the soul may bor- row? Teach us thy
nough, We bring our hearts to thee in meek- ness, Lord, wilt thou
18
nough, We bring our hearts to thee in meek - ness, wilt thou
20
way, teach us thy way,
bind them in thy love?
rit.
Both verses: Make us one that our
a tempo
bind them in thy love?
Both verses: (Make us one)
rit.
a tempo


22
24
bur-dens may be light, Make us one as we seek e-ter-nal life, U- nite our hands to serve thy chil-dren
(Make us one)
(to serve thy
26
28
well, U- nite us in o- be-dience to thy will, Make us one, Teach us, Lord, to
chil- dren well)
30
32
1
34
be of one faith, of one heart, One in thee.


36
Unison
2
38
rit.
2. Then shall our thee.
mf
Tenor: Take from me this heart of
rit.
mf
40
42
Unison: Take from me un-feel-ing
stone and make it flesh, e- ven as thine own.
44
46
pride, Teach me com- pas- sion, cast my fear a- side, Give us one heart , give us one


48
mind, Lord make us thine, Oh make us thine! Make us
rit.
rit.
f
rit.
rit.
f
50
(make us one)
one that our bur- dens may be light, Make us one as we
a tempo
(that our)
52
(make us one)
(as we)
(make us one)
a tempo
54
seek e- ter - nal life, U-nite our hands to serve thy chil- dren well, U-
(serve thy chil- dren well)


56
58
nite us in o- be- dience to thy will,
Make us one, teach us, Lord to
piu f
piu f
60
62
(Alto div.)
be,
rit.
sub. p
of one faith, of one heart, one in thee.
a tempo
rit.
Slow roll
p
a tempo
64
66
-
-
One in thee.
p
p
rit.
pp
Ped.

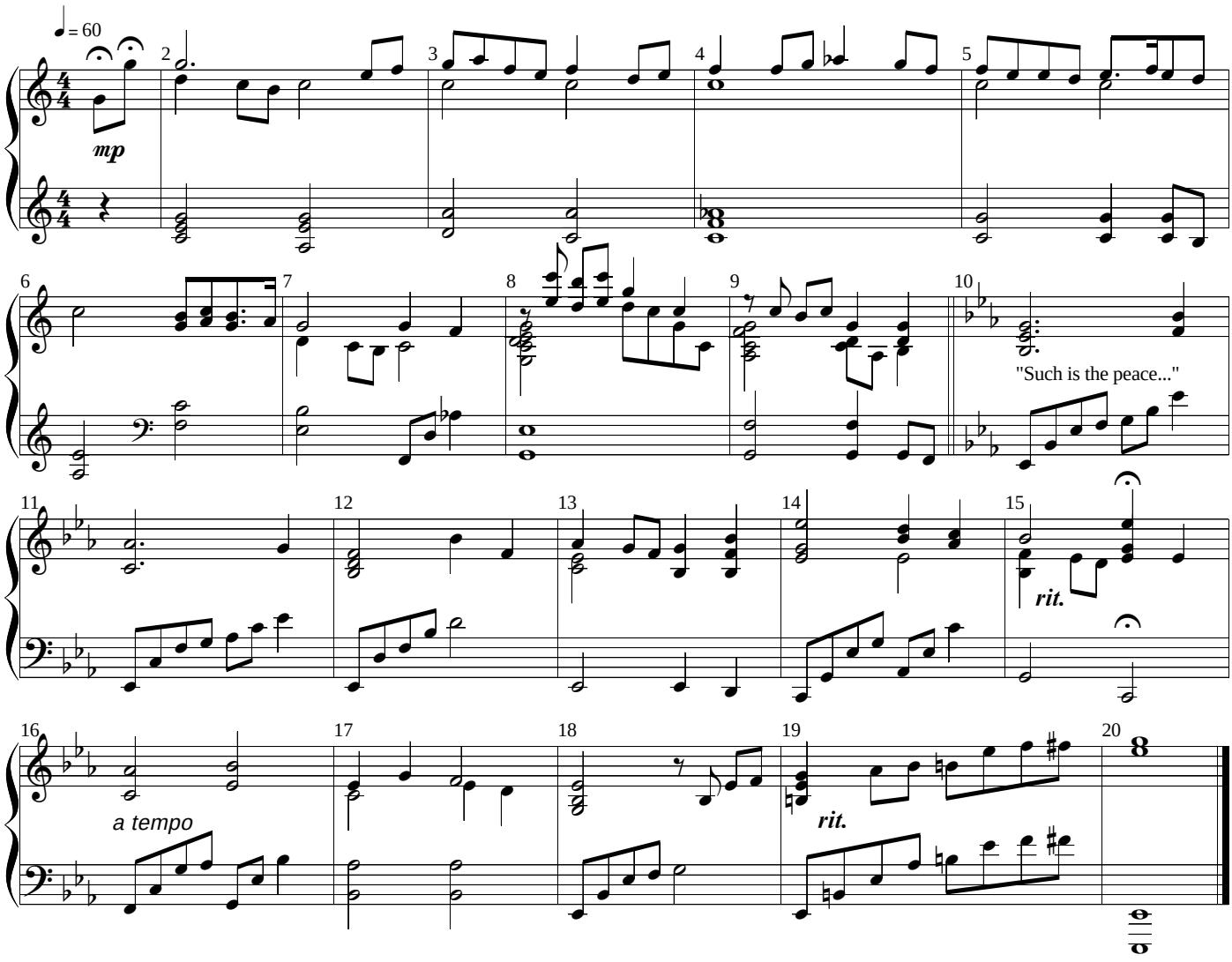
(Music begins.) The Nephites became a fair and delightsome people because of their great love for the Lord. There was no contention among them, and every man dealt justly with his neighbor. There were no rich nor poor, no bond nor free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the Heavenly gift. And surely there could not be a happier people among all who had been created by the hand of God. The Lord prospered them in all that they did, for as long as they continued to love and serve him.

Such is the peace and joy he promises to all his children -- in every land, in every generation -- who will love and serve him. Amid the confusion and violence of our own time, the Savior's unvarying invitation is extended still:

"Come unto me... and I will give you rest." "And whosoever will come, him will I receive; and blessed are those who come unto me.

"Come unto Christ... ...seek this Jesus of whom the apostles and prophets have written." Come unto Christ who offers you perfect peace, lasting joy, and eternal life.

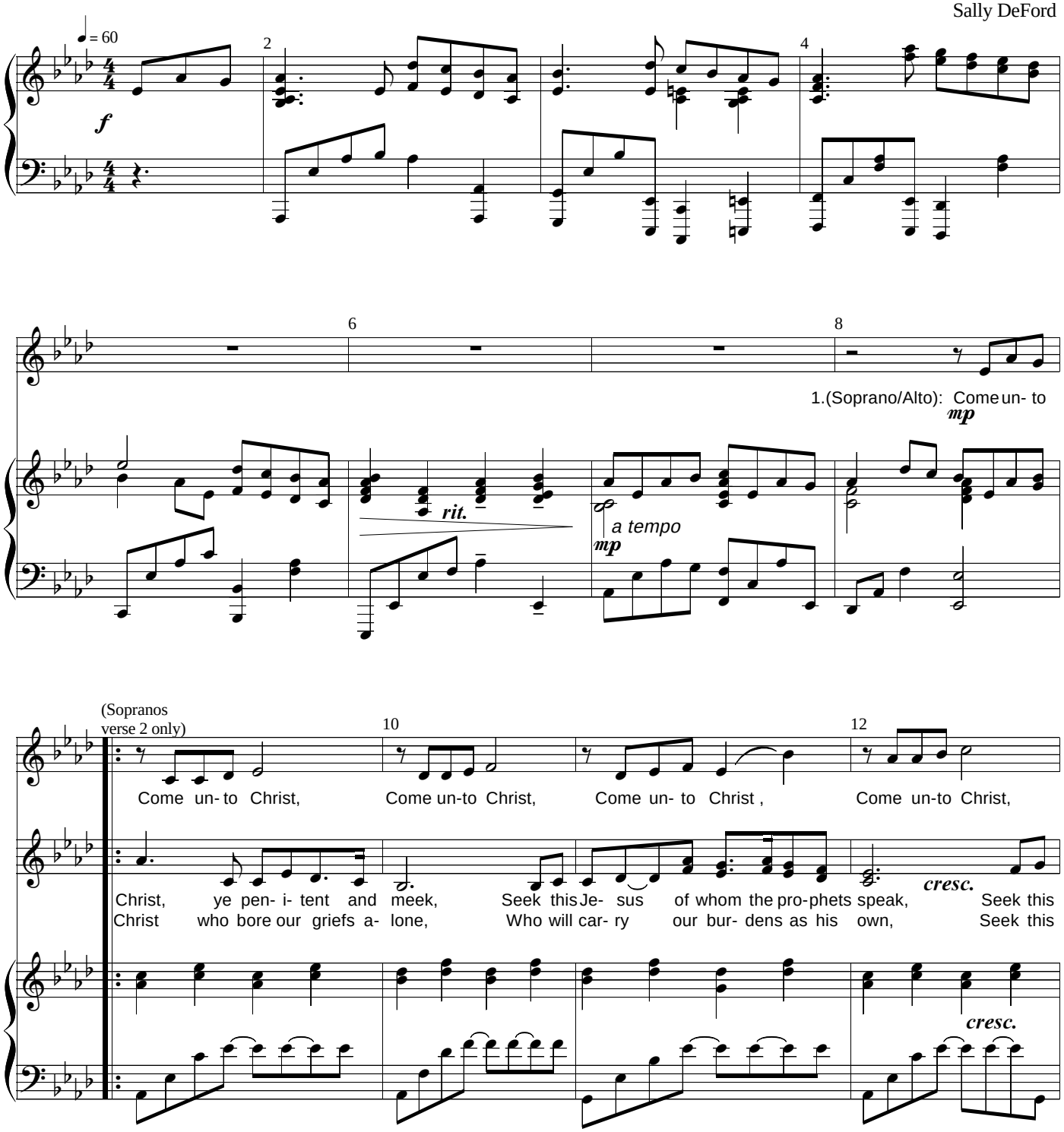
Interlude



Come Unto Christ (Finale)

(SATB)

Sally DeFord



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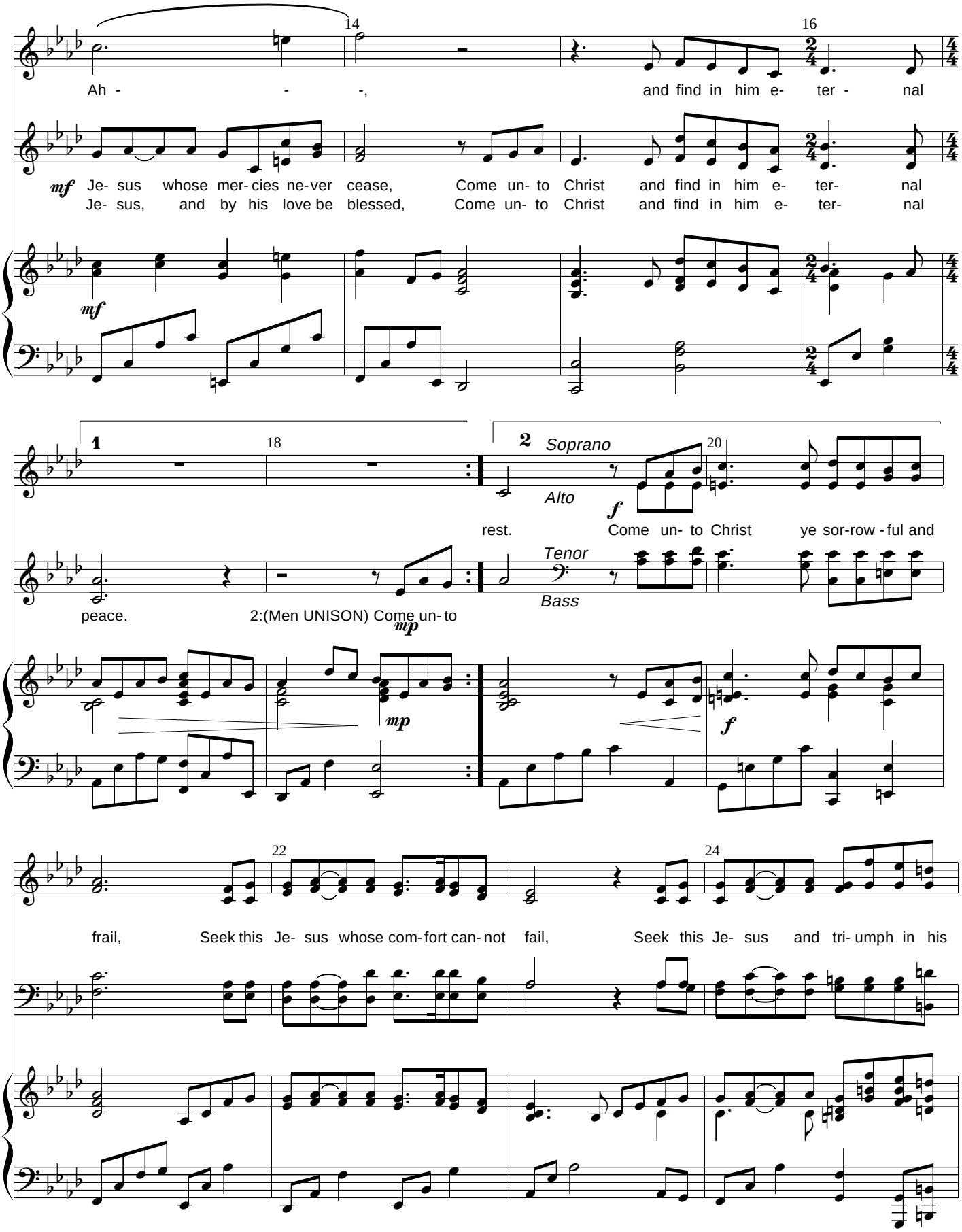
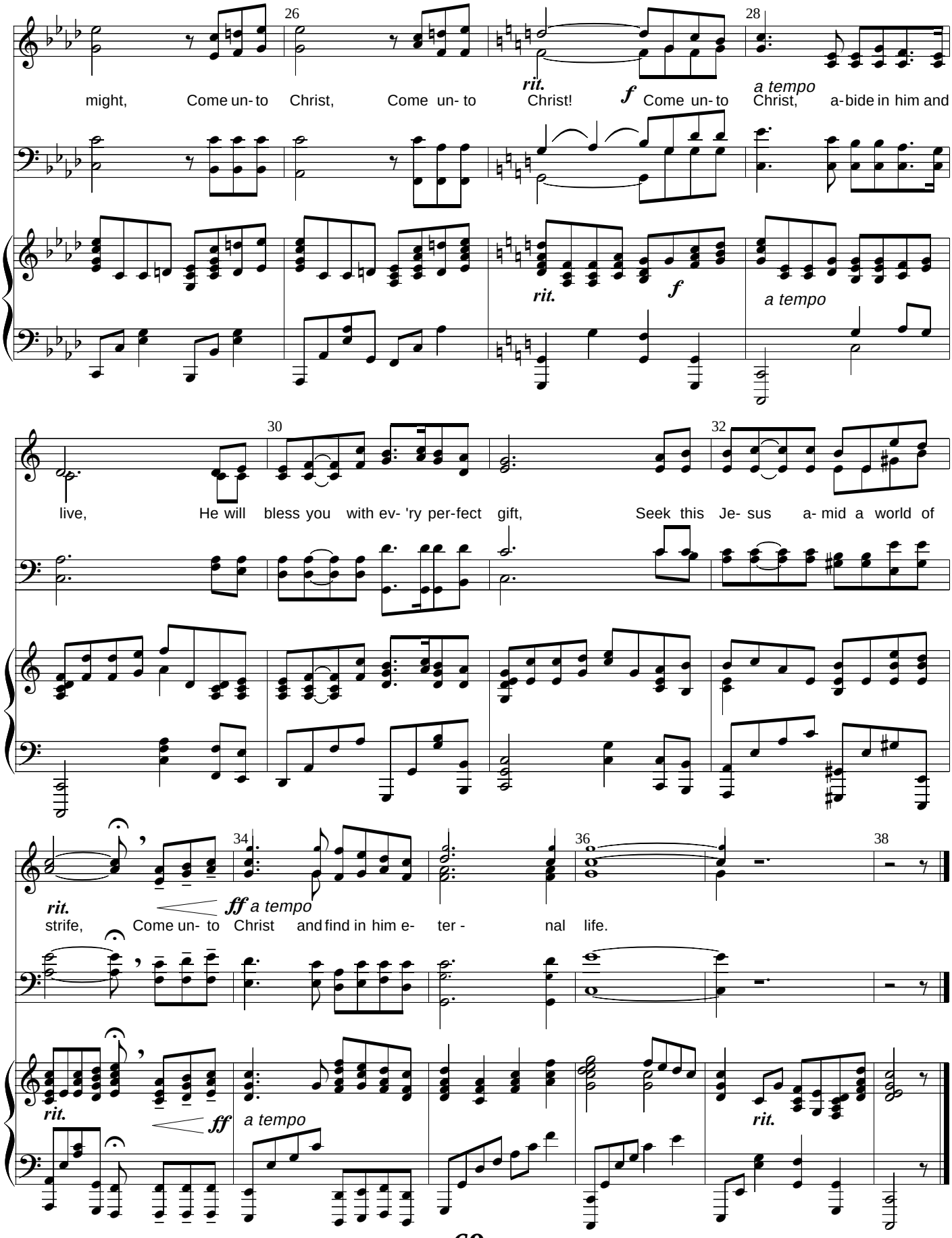

14
16
Ah - - -,
and find in him e- ter - nal
mf
Je- sus whose mer- cies ne-ver cease,
Come un- to Christ and find in him e- ter- nal
Je- sus, and by his love be blessed,
Come un- to Christ and find in him e- ter- nal
mf
1
18
2
Soprano
20
Alto
f
rest.
Come un- to Christ ye sor-row - ful and
Tenor
Bass
peace.
2:(Men UNISON) Come un- to
mp
mp
f
22
24
frail,
Seek this Je- sus whose com- fort can- not fail,
Seek this Je- sus and tri- umph in his


26
might, Come un- to Christ, Come un- to
rit.
Christ!
f
Come un- to
28
a tempo
Christ, a- bide in him and
rit.
f
a tempo
30
live, He will bless you with ev- 'ry per-fect gift,
32
Seek this Je- sus a- mid a world of
34
36
38
rit.
ff a tempo
strife, Come un- to Christ and find in him e- ter - nal life.
rit.
ff
a tempo
rit.