# FOR US *the* LIVING

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# A REQUIEM

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ALFRED V. FEDAK

*in* MEMORY *of*
WILLIAM
*and*
ETHEL LAMERE

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# FOR US THE LIVING: A REQUIEM

Alfred V. Fedak

*In Memory of William and Ethel Lamere*

## I. SENTENCE: All We Go Down to the Dust

All we go down to the dust,
yet even at the grave we make our song:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
—Orthodox *Kontakion for the Departed*

## II. INTROIT: Requiem æternam

Requiem æternam dona eis Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion,
et tibi redetur votum in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam:
ad te omnis caro veniet.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon them.
Hymns will be sung to you, O God in Zion,
and to you will homage be paid in Jerusalem.
Hear my prayer:
to you shall all flesh come.

## III. KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison. Christe Eleison.Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

## IV. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul and guides me along right pathways
for his Name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil, for you are with me,
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me.
You have anointed my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
–Translation from the *Book of Common Prayer* (1979)

## V. SANCTUS *and* BENEDICTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth!
Pleni sunt cœli et terra Gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis!
Benedictus qui venit
in nominee Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis!

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He who comes
in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

## VI. PIE JESU (soprano solo)

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.
Dona eis sempiternam requiem.

Gentle Lord Jesus, grant them rest.
Grant them eternal rest.

## VII. AGNUS DEI (Chaconne)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.
Dona nobis requiem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest.
Grant us rest.

## VIII. VALEDICTION

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and there no torment shall touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, but they are at peace.
Come then, be joyful for the righteous,
for they shall be gathered together,
And shall praise the eternal God forever. Amen.
—Wisdom 3:1-4, Tobit 13:13

## FROM THE COMPOSER

Alfred V. Fedak

*For Us the Living* was commissioned by Clifford Lamere of Albany, New York, to honor the memory of his parents, William and Ethel Lamere. But while the work was intended as a memorial to two specific individuals, its message is universal. For although it fully acknowledges the twin realities of death and grief, *For Us the Living* is meant to serve as a grateful affirmation of the gift of life, and as an expression of comfort, consolation, hope, and encouragement to all who have suffered loss. It is, quite literally, a requiem for us, the living.

The title, of course, is drawn from Abraham Lincoln's *Gettysburg Address*, which (to paraphrase) admits that there is, in truth, very little which we the living can do to honor our departed loved ones, except to commit ourselves to the noblest principles by which they lived, and to complete the work which they left unfinished. Simply put, we best honor our dead by the way we live.

The work's opening movement quotes the Eastern Orthodox *Kontakion for the Departed*: "All we go down to the dust, yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia." While this opening sentence is, in reality, a death sentence, at its heart lies a heroic existentialism: there is something persistently and joyfully defiant about singing Alleluias at one's own grave, or for that matter, at the start of a choral requiem.

*For Us the Living* was conceived as a concert work, but none of its words would seem out of place at a church funeral or memorial service. To the traditional liturgical texts (*Introit, Kyrie, Sanctus and Benedictus, Pie Jesu,* and *Agnus Dei*) I have added, besides the Orthodox verse quoted above, a setting of Psalm 23, and a final section called "Valediction" (meaning a leave-taking or farewell), which includes two passages from the Apocrypha: the well-known Justorum animae ("The Souls of the Righteous") from the Book of Wisdom, and a verse from the book of Tobit. The closing measures of the *Agnus Dei* further underscore the work's real intent: the prayer's final petition, "*Dona eis requiem*" (grant them rest) becomes "Dona *nobis* requiem" – grant us rest.

*For Us the Living* was first performed on April 22, 2007, by the Burnt Hills Oratorio Society and Orchestra, Rand Reeves, Director, in Memorial Chapel, Union College, Schenectady, New York. The soprano soloist was Gene Marie Callahan Kern.

## ORCHESTRATION

S.A.T.B. choir and organ

*or*

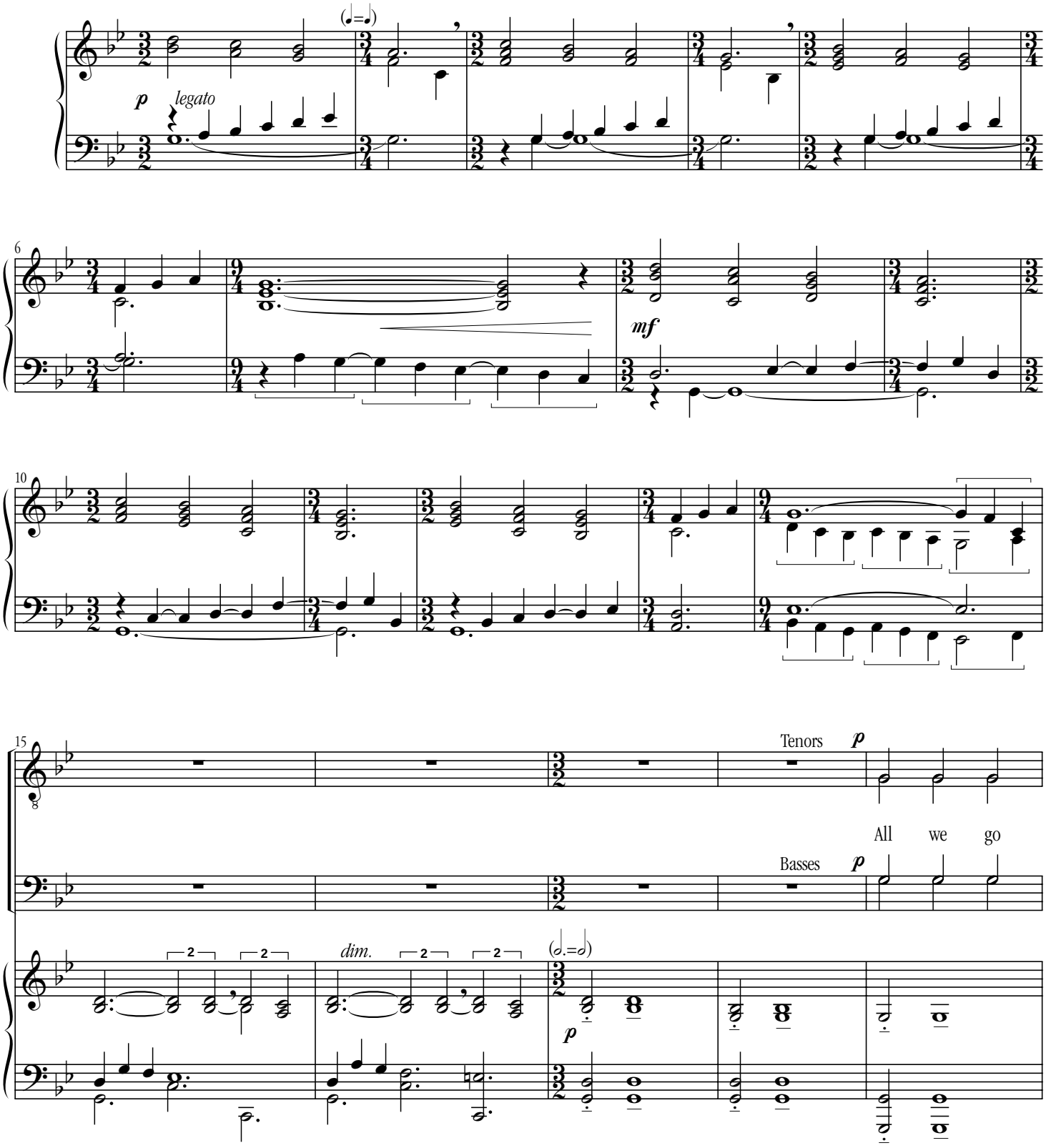
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
1 English Horn
2 Bassoons
2 Horns
Harp
S.A.T.B. choir
2 Violin I
2 Violin II
2 Viola
2 Cello
1 Contrabass
Organ

*Available on rental or for purchase*

# I. Sentence: All We Go Down to the Dust

Alfred V. Fedak

*With great sadness and nobility, but not too slowly* (𝅗𝅥=69)

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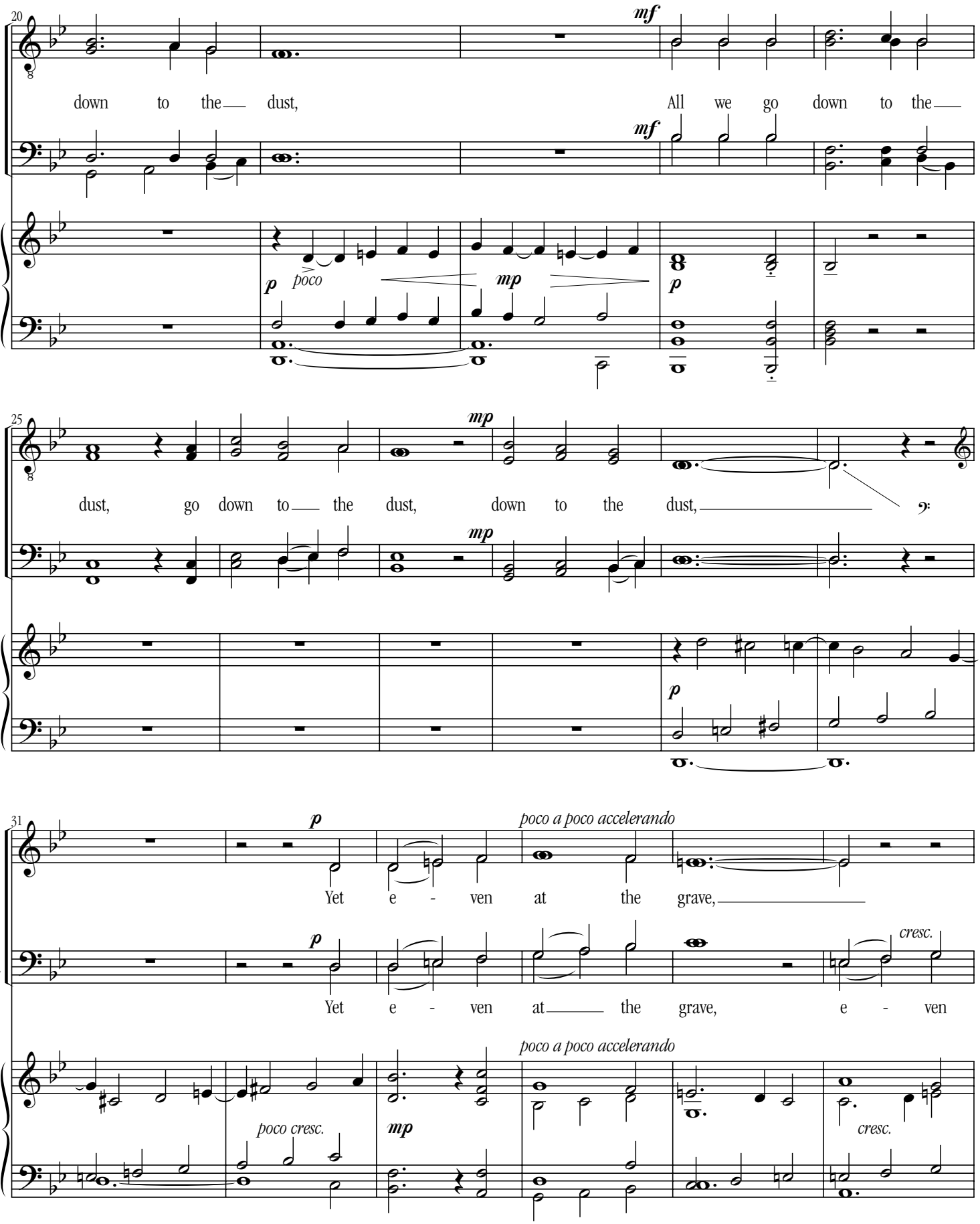
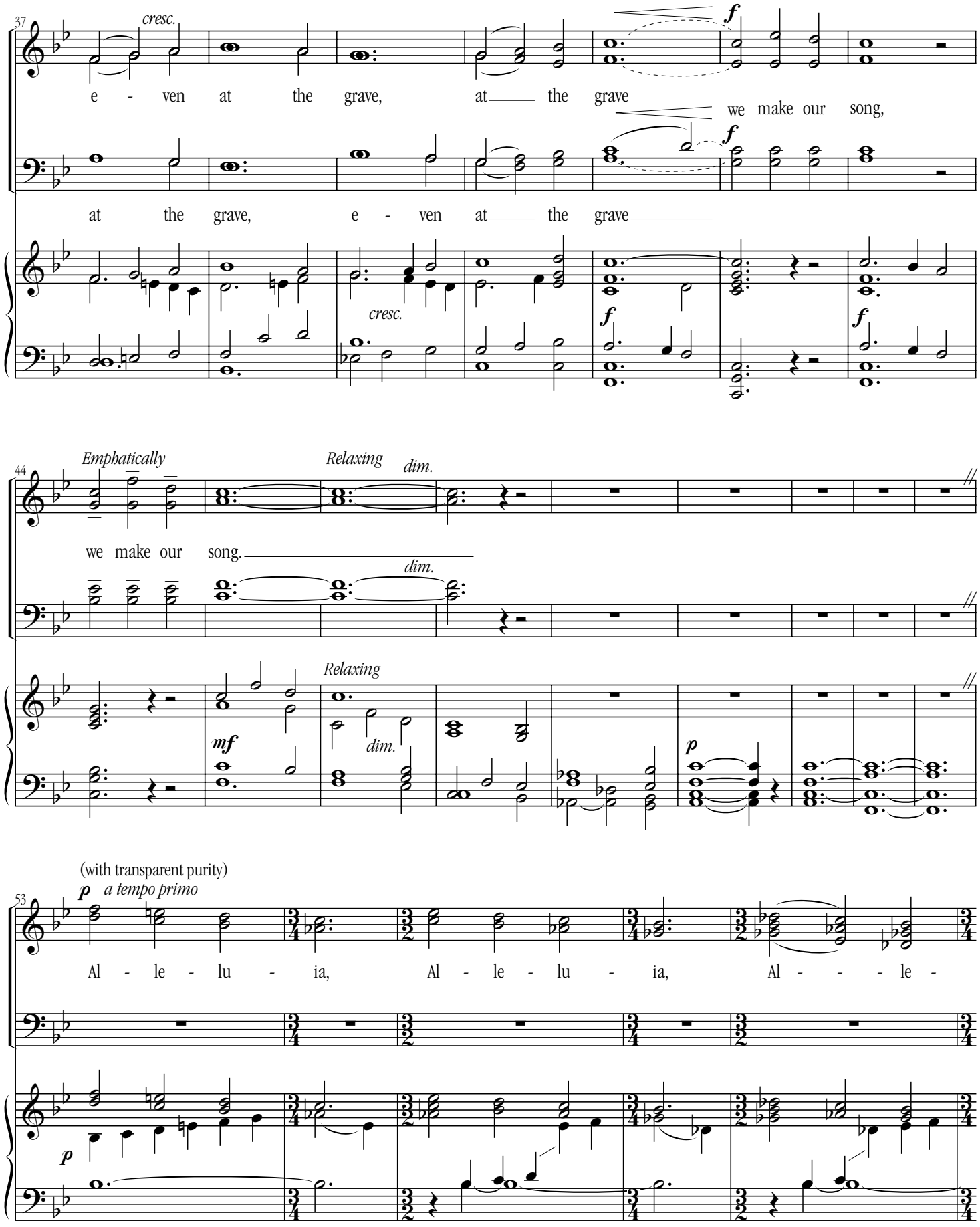

20
down to the dust,
All we go down to the
mf
mf
p
poco
mp
p
25
dust, go down to the dust, down to the dust,
mp
mp
p
31
S.A.
T.B.
p
poco a poco accelerando
Yet e - ven at the grave,
p
cresc.
Yet e - ven at the grave, e - ven
poco a poco accelerando
poco cresc.
mp
cresc.


37
cresc.
f
e - ven at the grave, at the grave
we make our song,
at the grave, e - ven at the grave
cresc.
f
f
44
Emphatically
Relaxing
dim.
we make our song.
dim.
Relaxing
mf
dim.
p
(with transparent purity)
p a tempo primo
53
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - - - le -
p

# II. Introit: Requiem æternam

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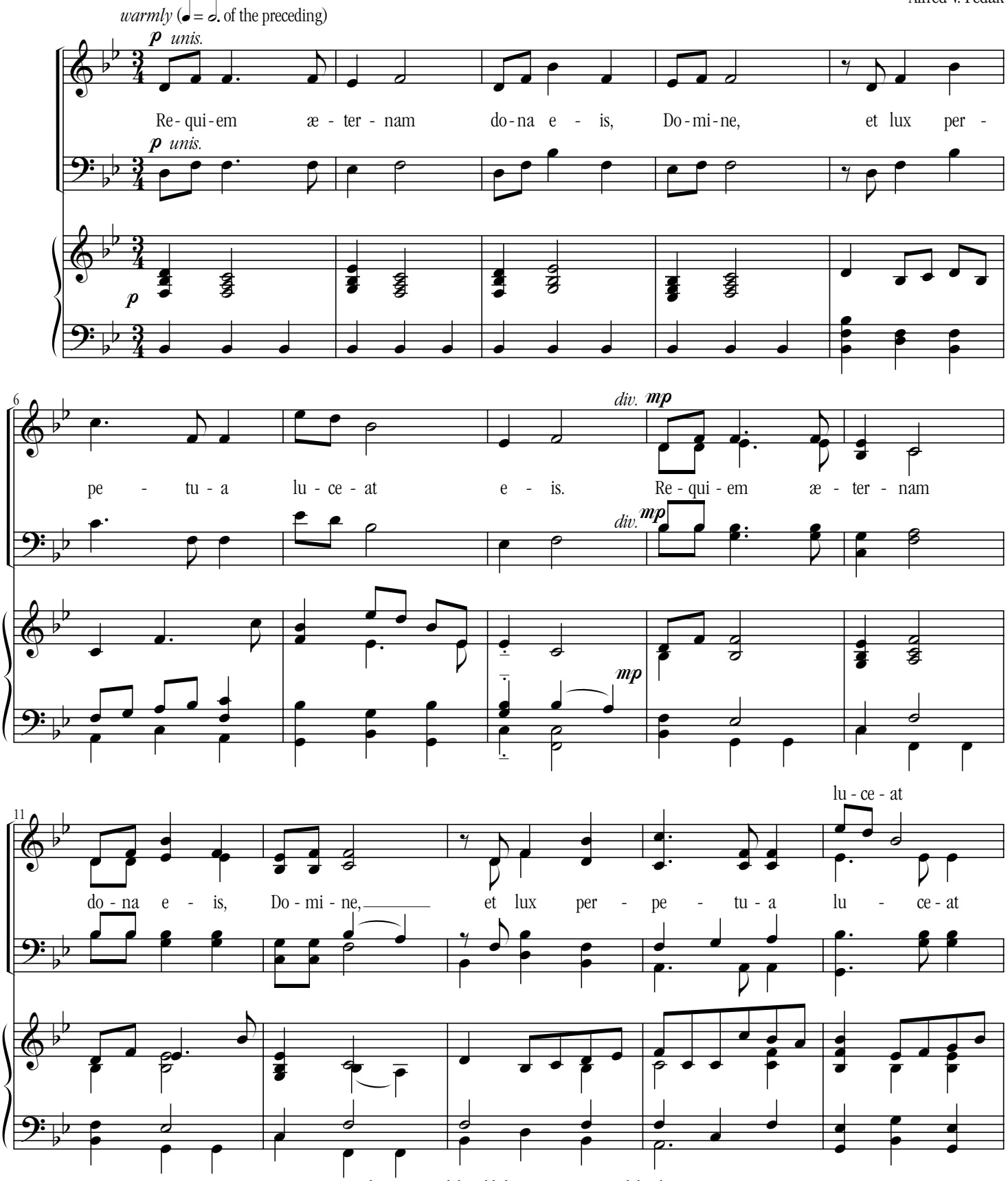


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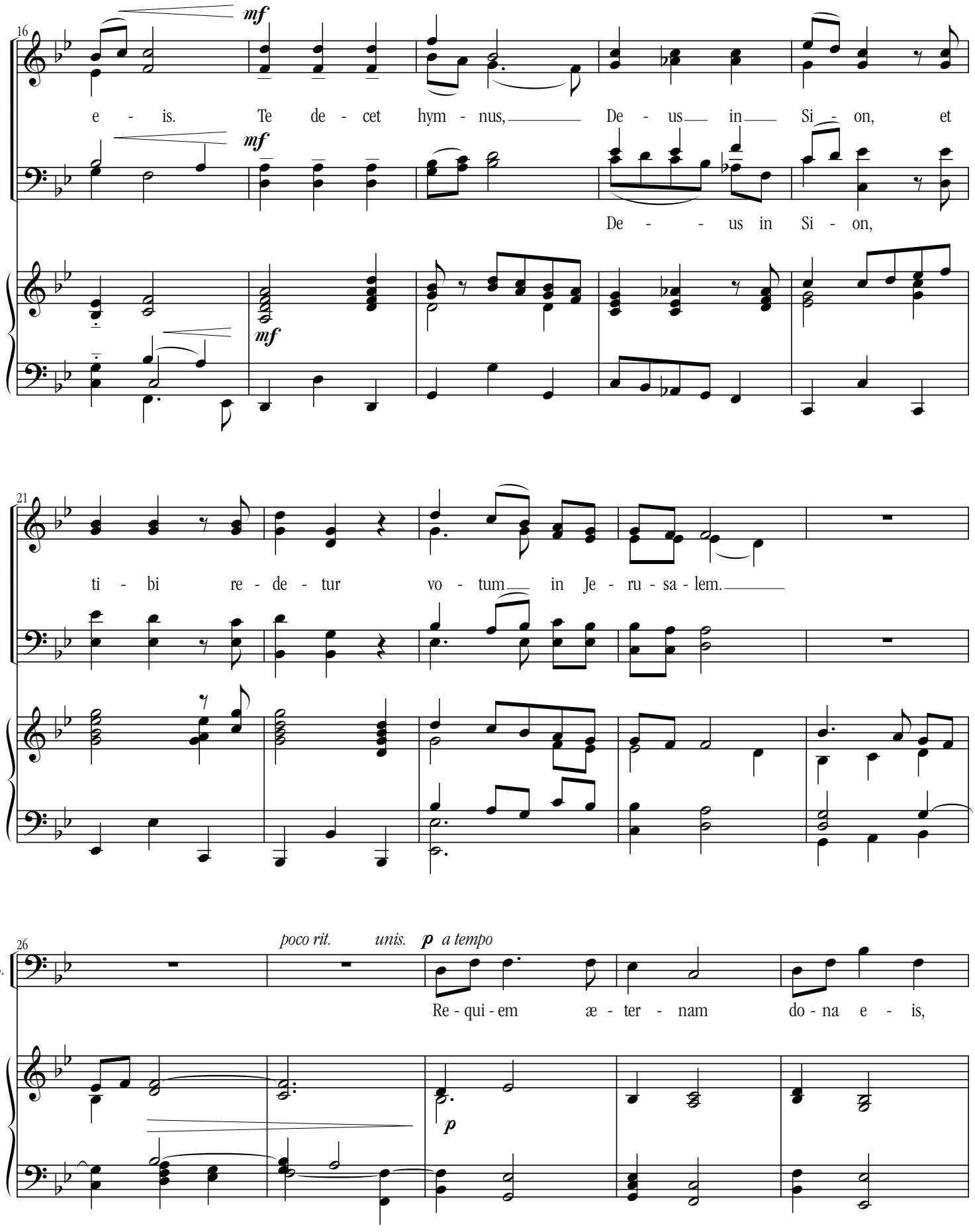
16
mf
e - is. Te de - cet hym - nus, De - us in Si - on, et
mf
De - - us in Si - on,
mf
21
ti - bi re - de - tur vo - tum in Je - ru - sa - lem.
26
T.B.
poco rit.
unis.
p a tempo
Re - qui - em æ - ter - nam do - na e - is,
p

# III. Kyrie Eleison

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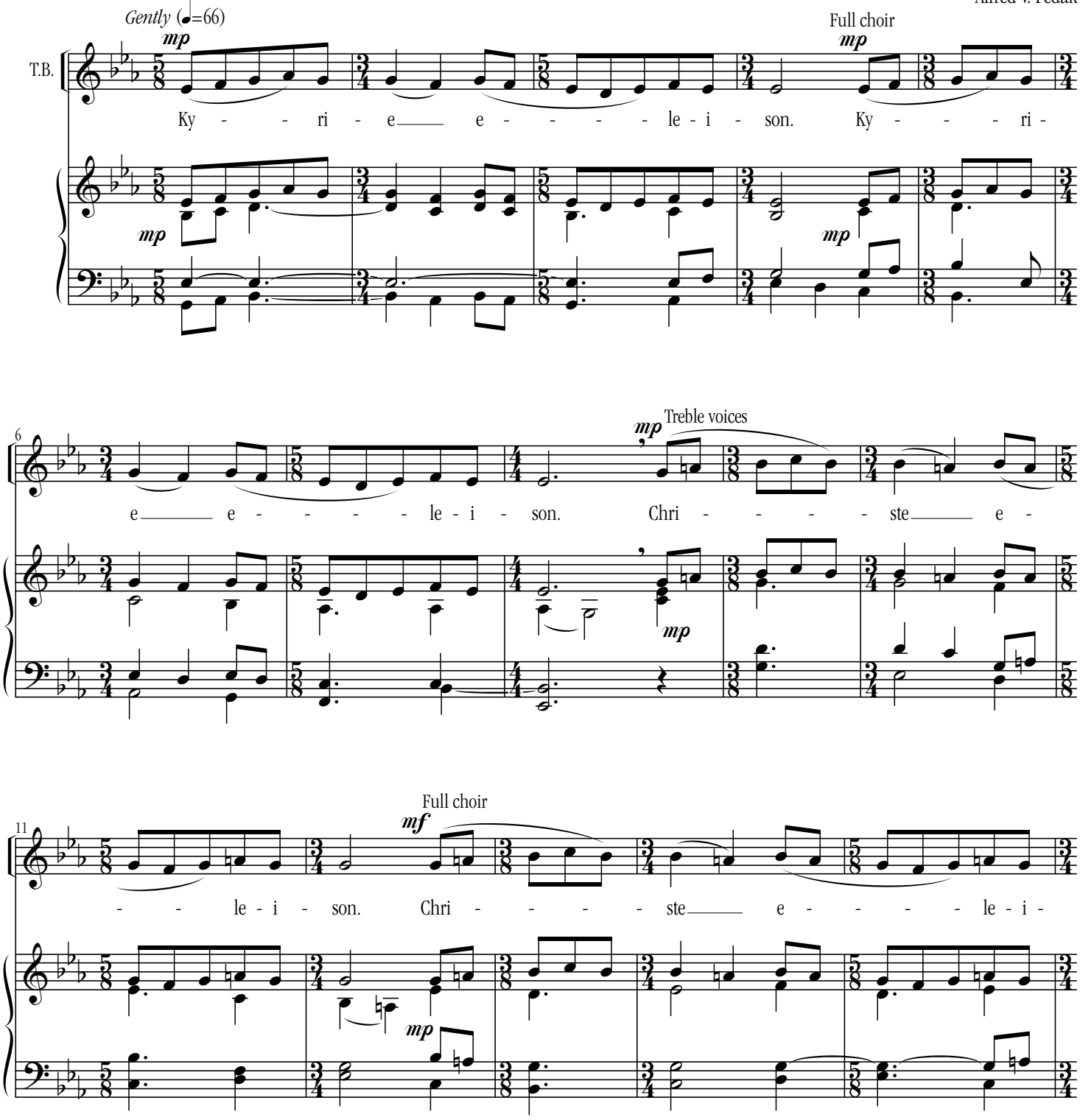


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# IV. The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23

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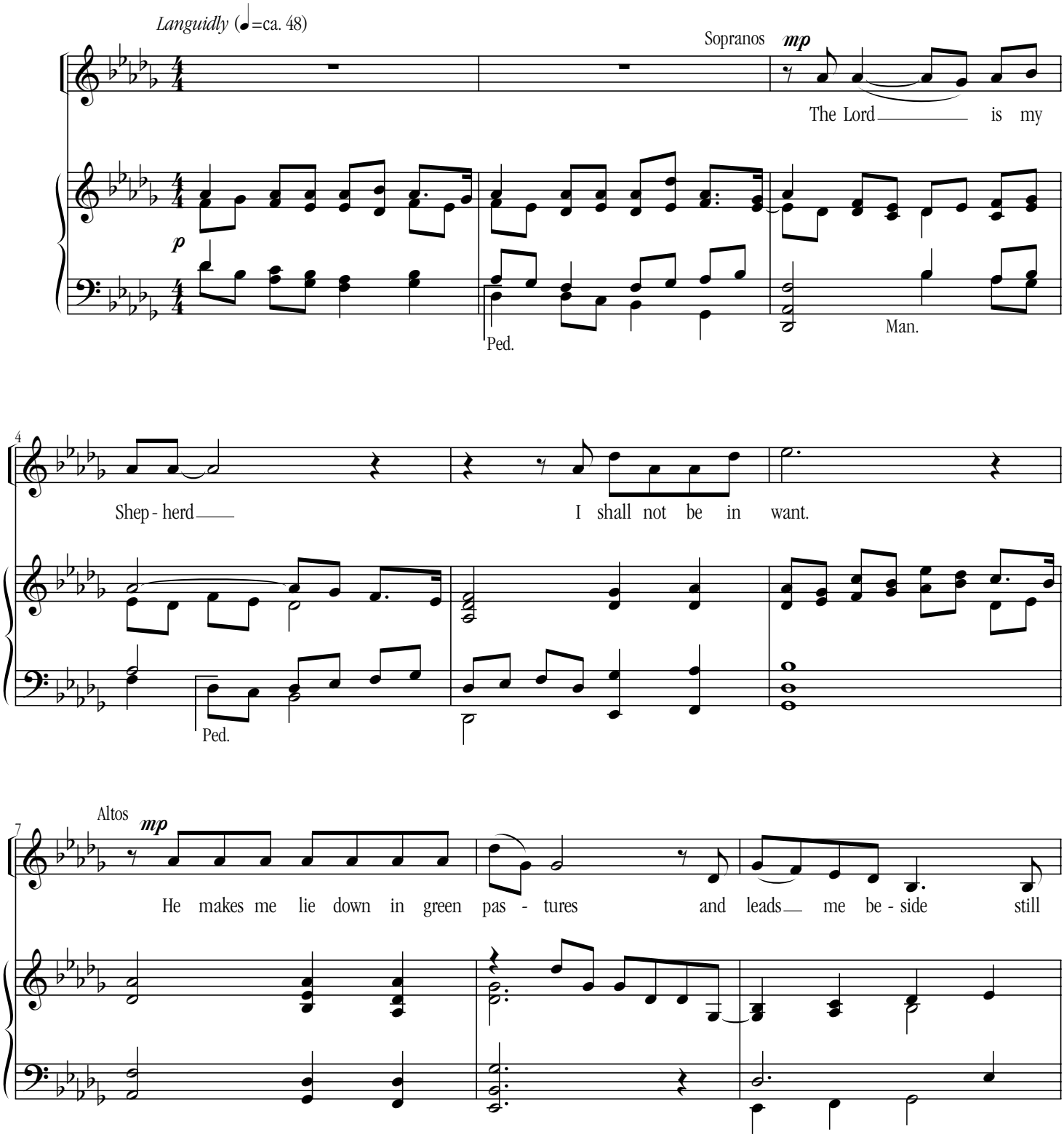


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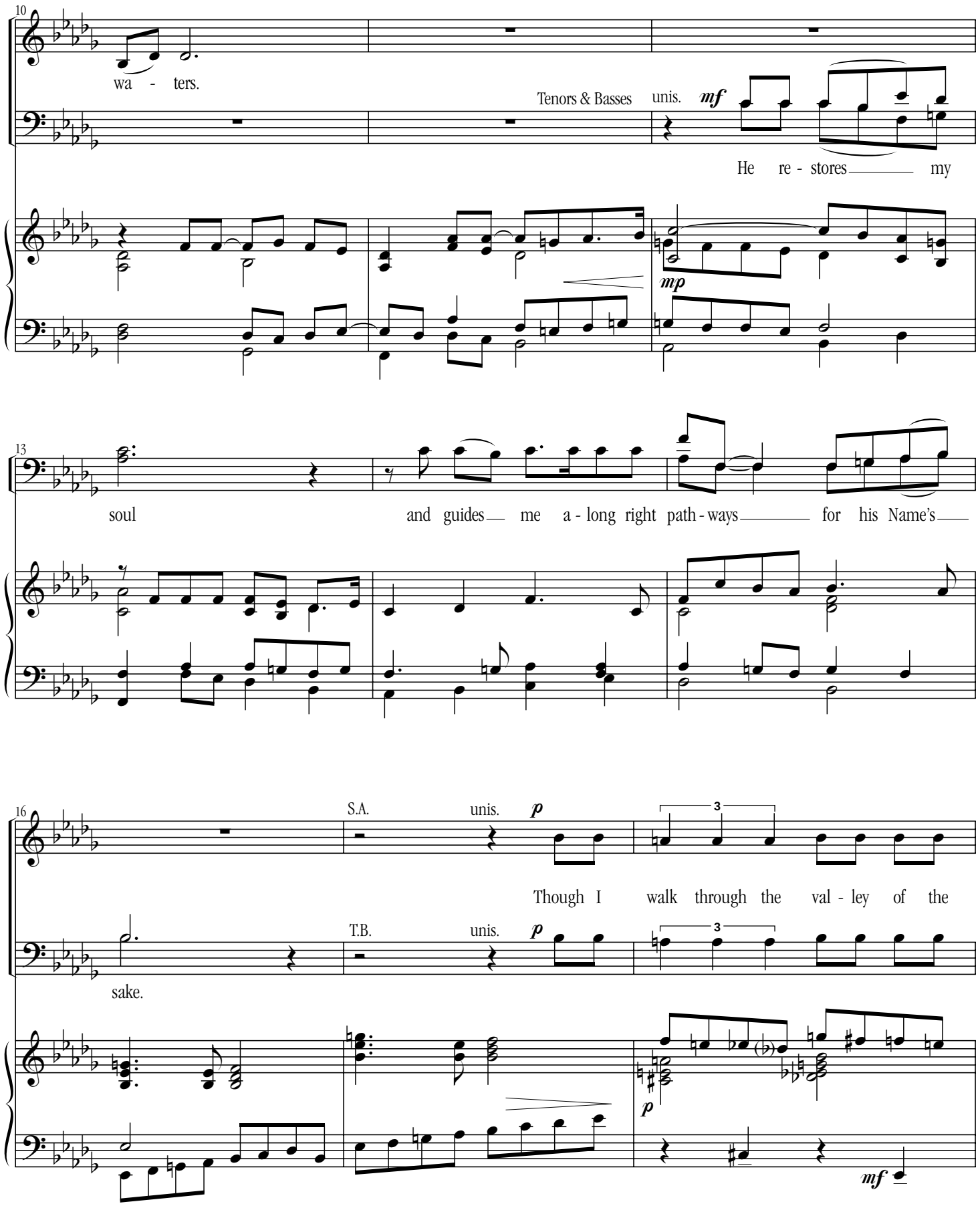
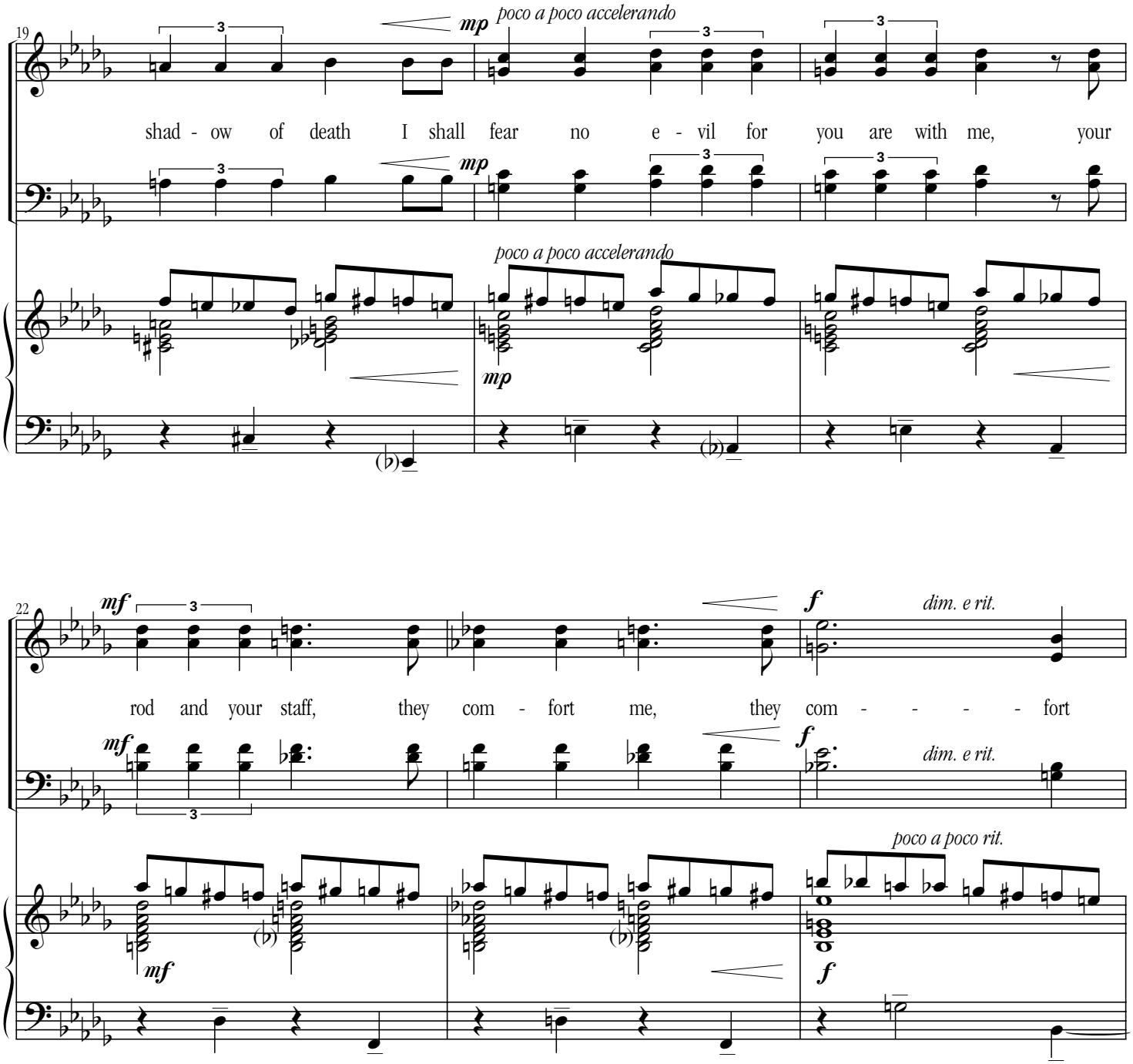

10
wa - ters.
Tenors & Basses unis.
mf
He re - stores my
mp
13
soul
and guides me a - long right path - ways for his Name's
16
S.A. unis.
p
Though I walk through the val - ley of the
T.B. unis.
p
sake.
3
3
p
mf


19
mp
poco a poco accelerando
shad - ow of death I shall fear no e - vil for you are with me, your
mp
poco a poco accelerando
mp
22
mf
f
dim. e rit.
rod and your staff, they com - fort me, they com - - - - fort
mf
f
dim. e rit.
poco a poco rit.
mf
f

# V. Sanctus

*With joyful energy and drive* (♩=ca. 160)

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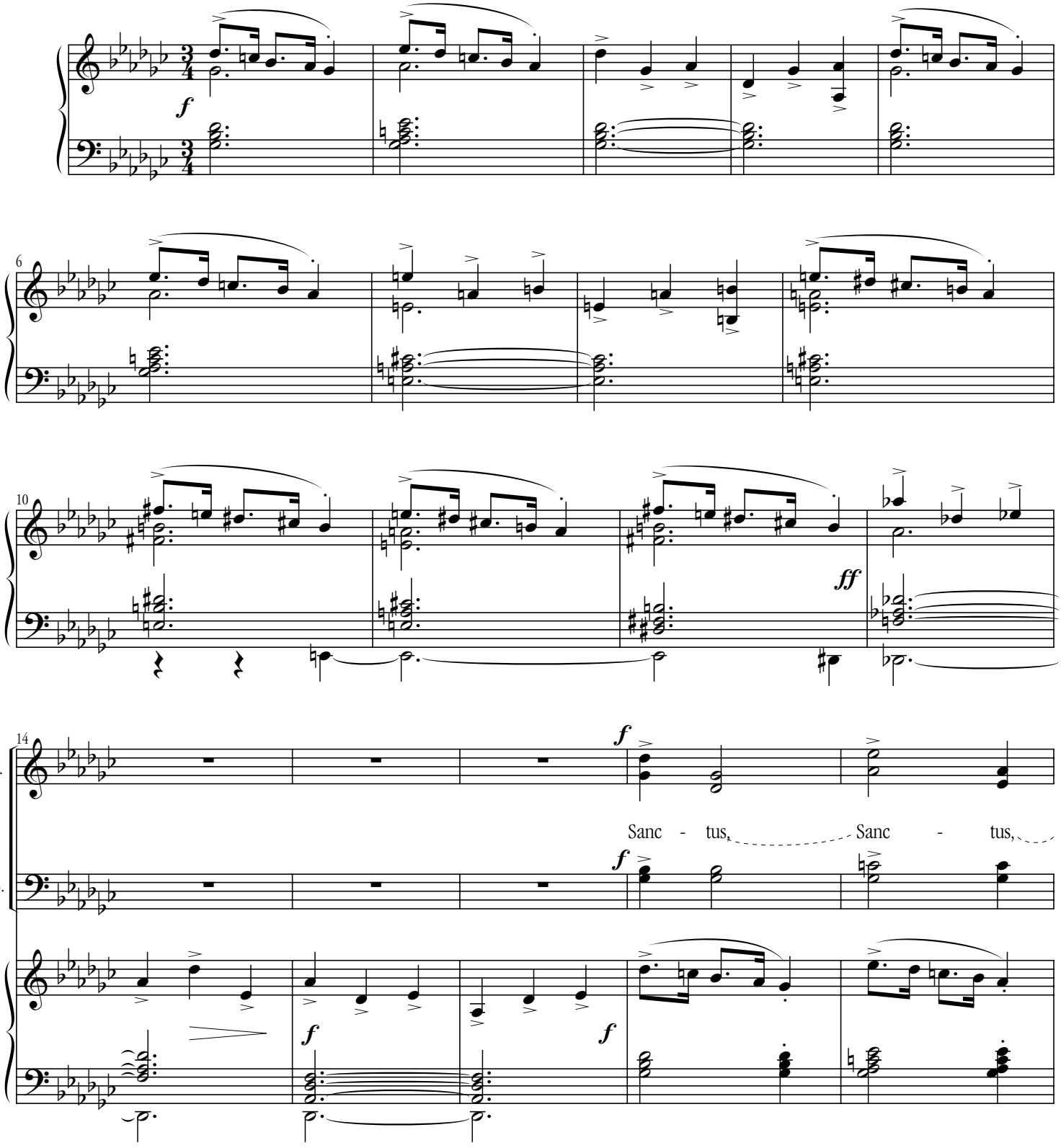


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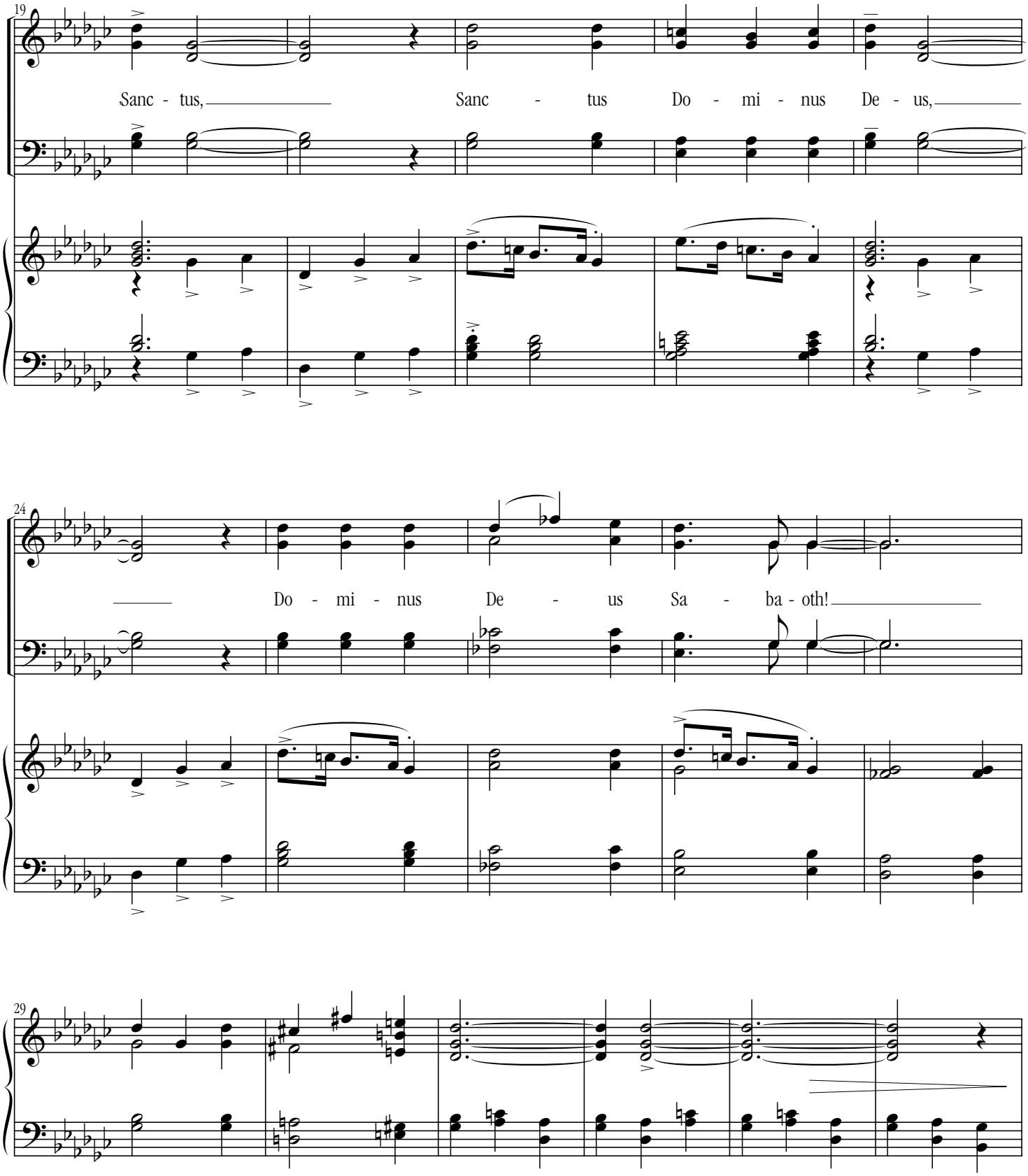
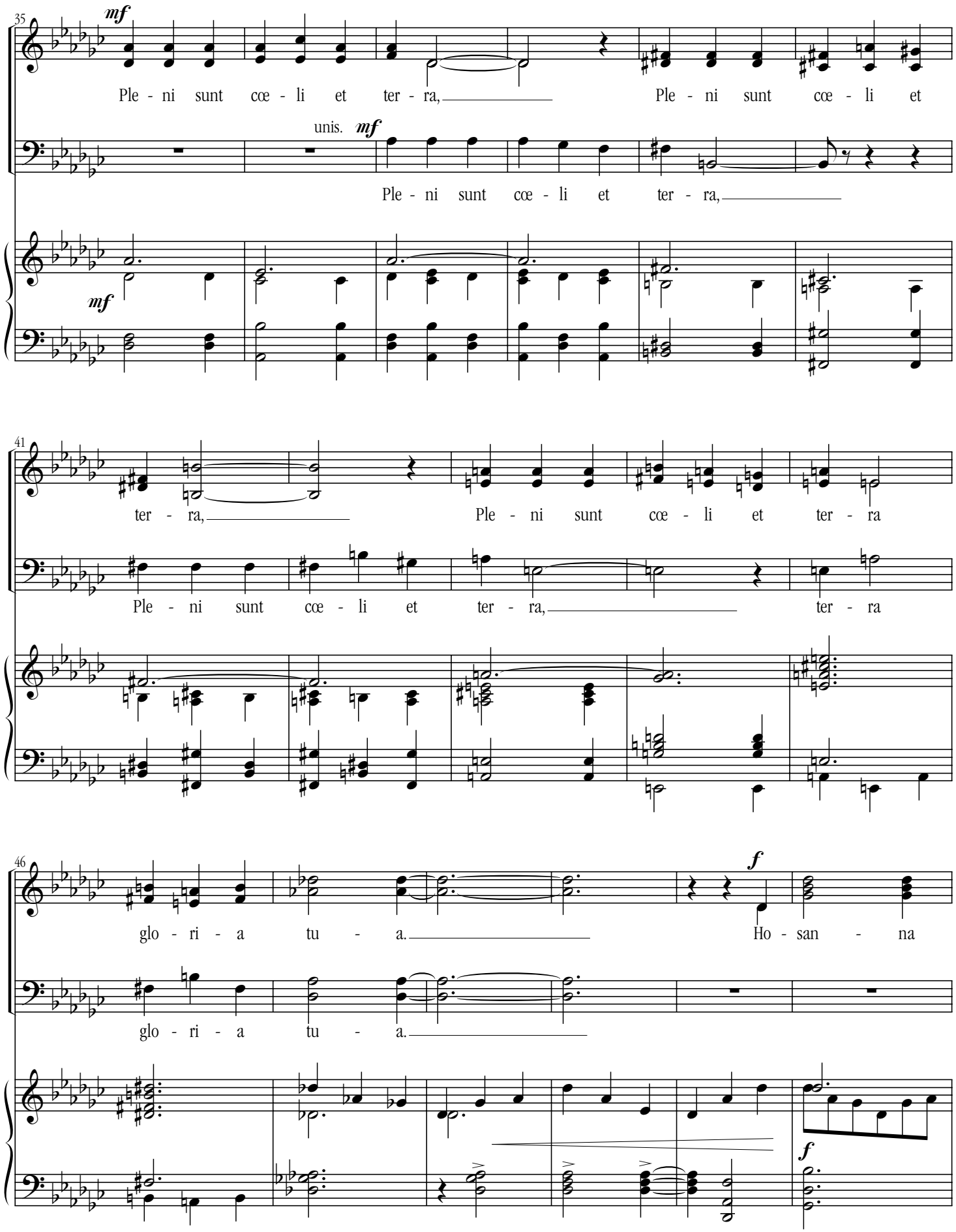
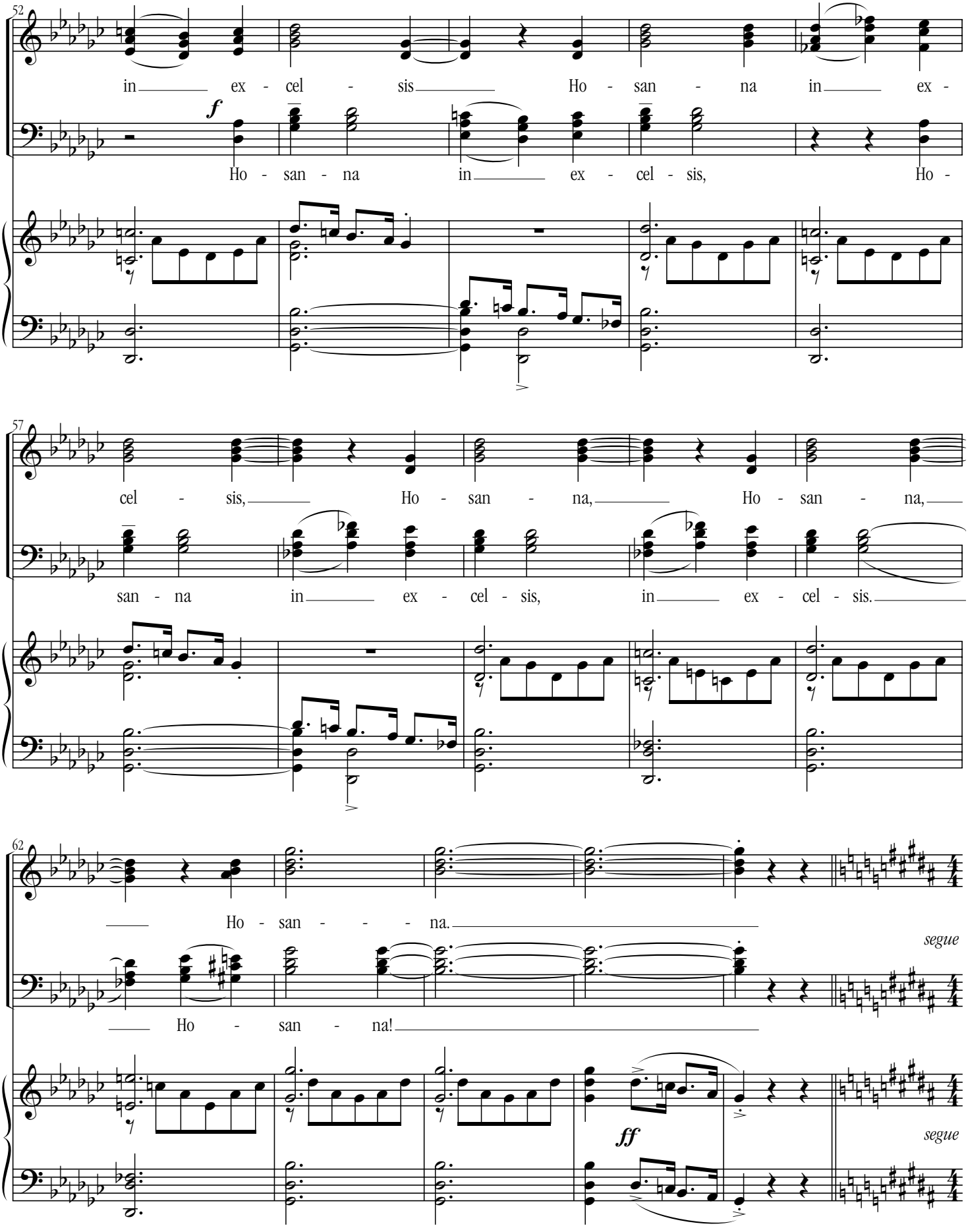
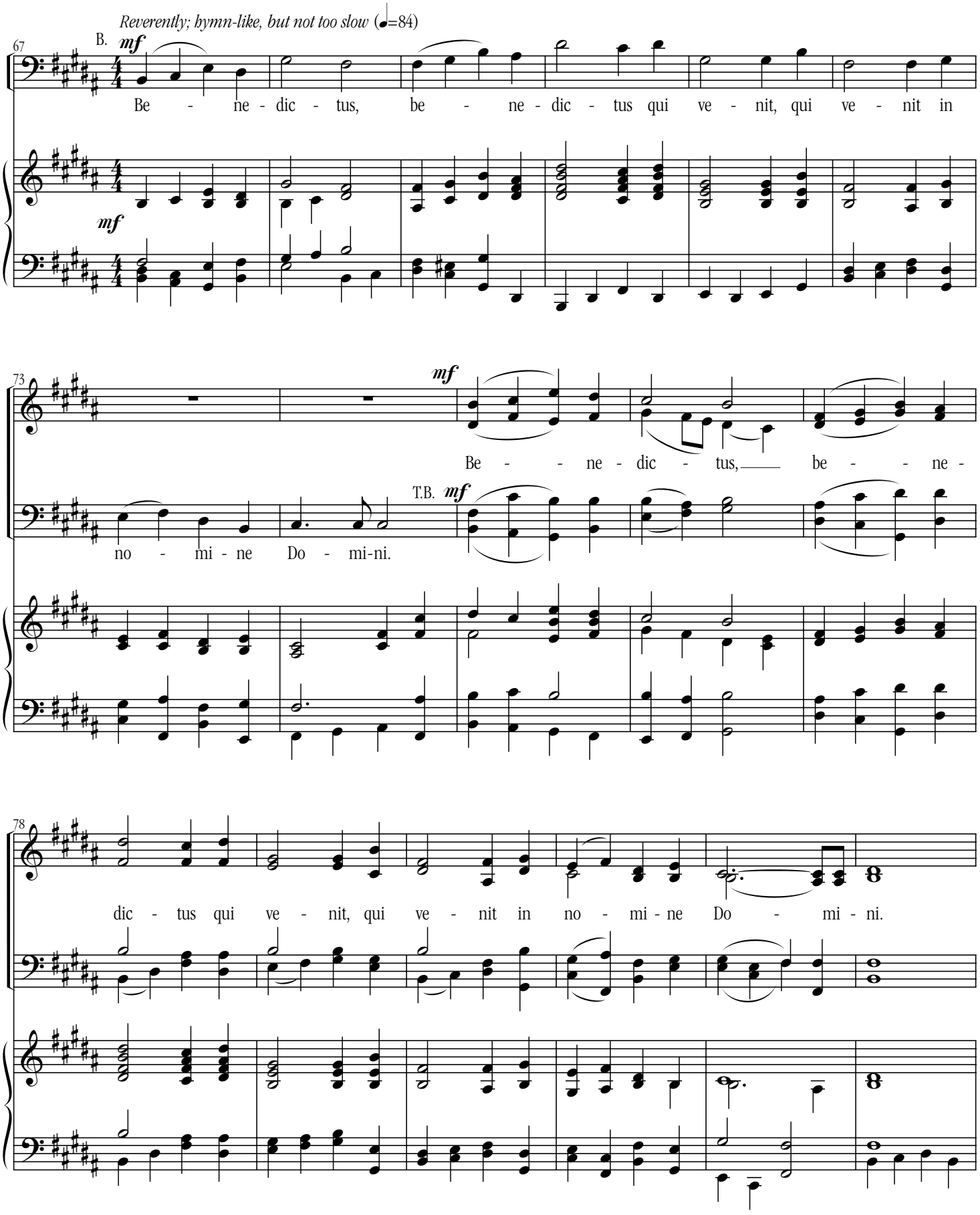

19
Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus Do - mi - nus De - us,
24
Do - mi - nus De - us Sa - ba - oth!
29


35
mf
Ple - ni sunt cœ - li et ter - ra,
Ple - ni sunt cœ - li et
unis.
mf
Ple - ni sunt cœ - li et ter - ra,
mf
41
ter - ra,
Ple - ni sunt cœ - li et ter - ra
Ple - ni sunt cœ - li et ter - ra,
ter - ra
46
f
glo - ri - a tu - a.
Ho - san - na
glo - ri - a tu - a.
f


52
in ex - cel - sis Ho - san - na in ex -
f
Ho - san - na in ex - cel - sis, Ho -
57
cel - sis, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na,
san - na in ex - cel - sis, in ex - cel - sis.
62
Ho - san - - - na.
segue
Ho - san - na!
ff
segue


Reverently; hymn-like, but not too slow (♩=84)
67
B.
mf
Be - ne - dic - tus, be - ne - dic - tus qui ve - nit, qui ve - nit in
mf
73
mf
Be - - ne - dic - tus, be - - ne -
T.B.
mf
no - mi - ne Do - mi-ni.
78
dic - tus qui ve - nit, qui ve - nit in no - mi - ne Do - mi - ni.

# VI. Pie Jesu

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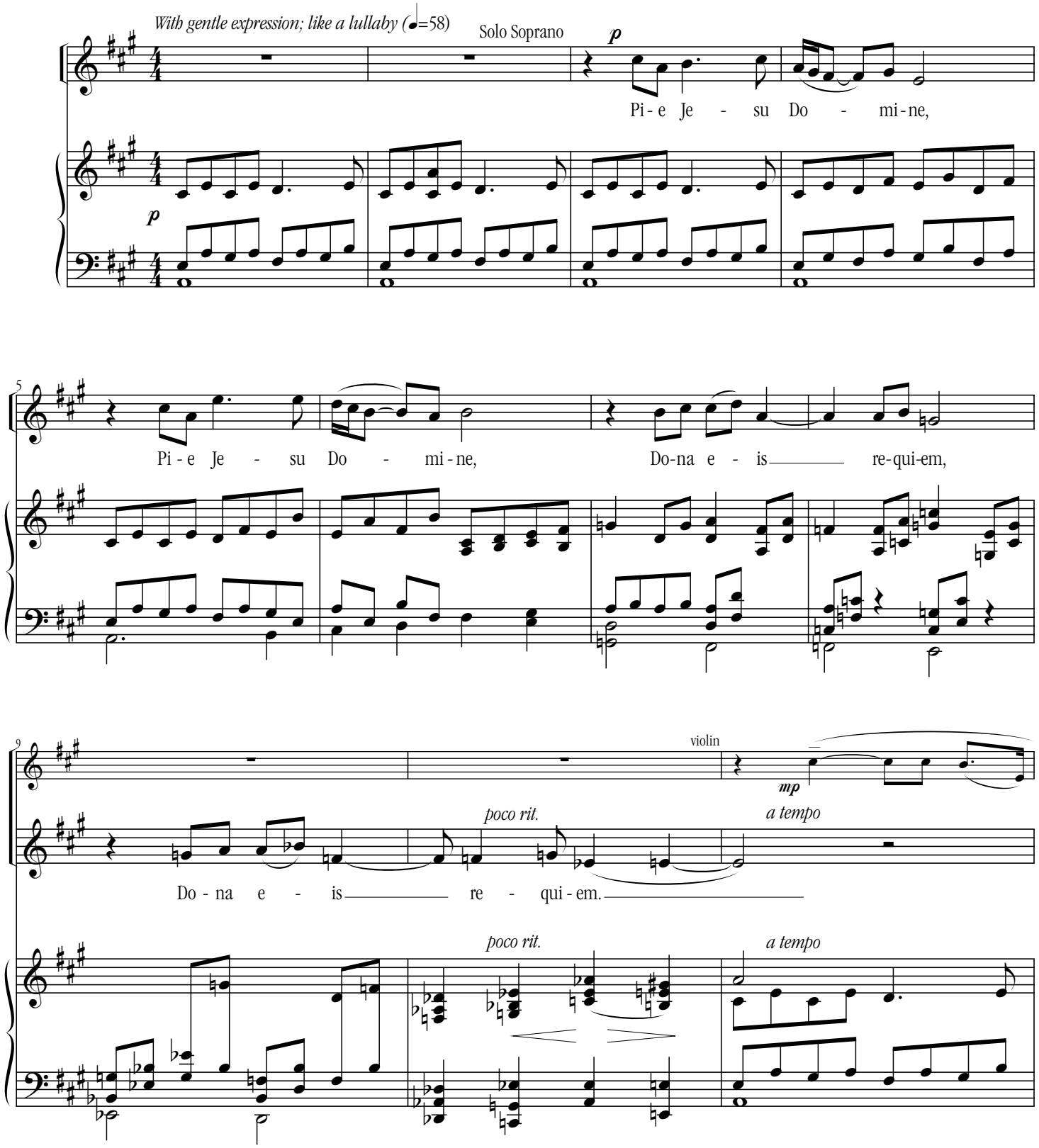


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# VII. Agnus Dei

(Chaconne)

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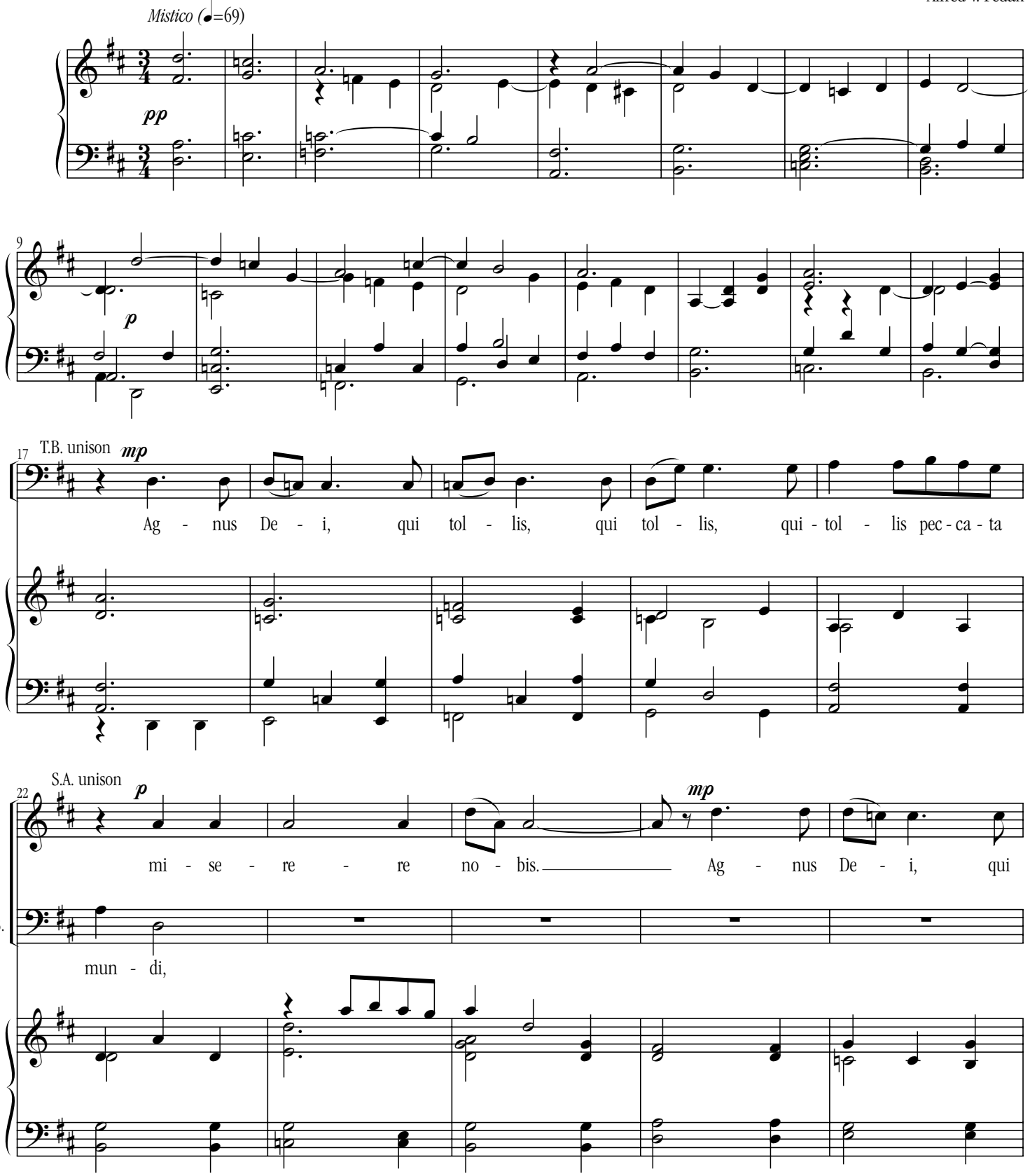


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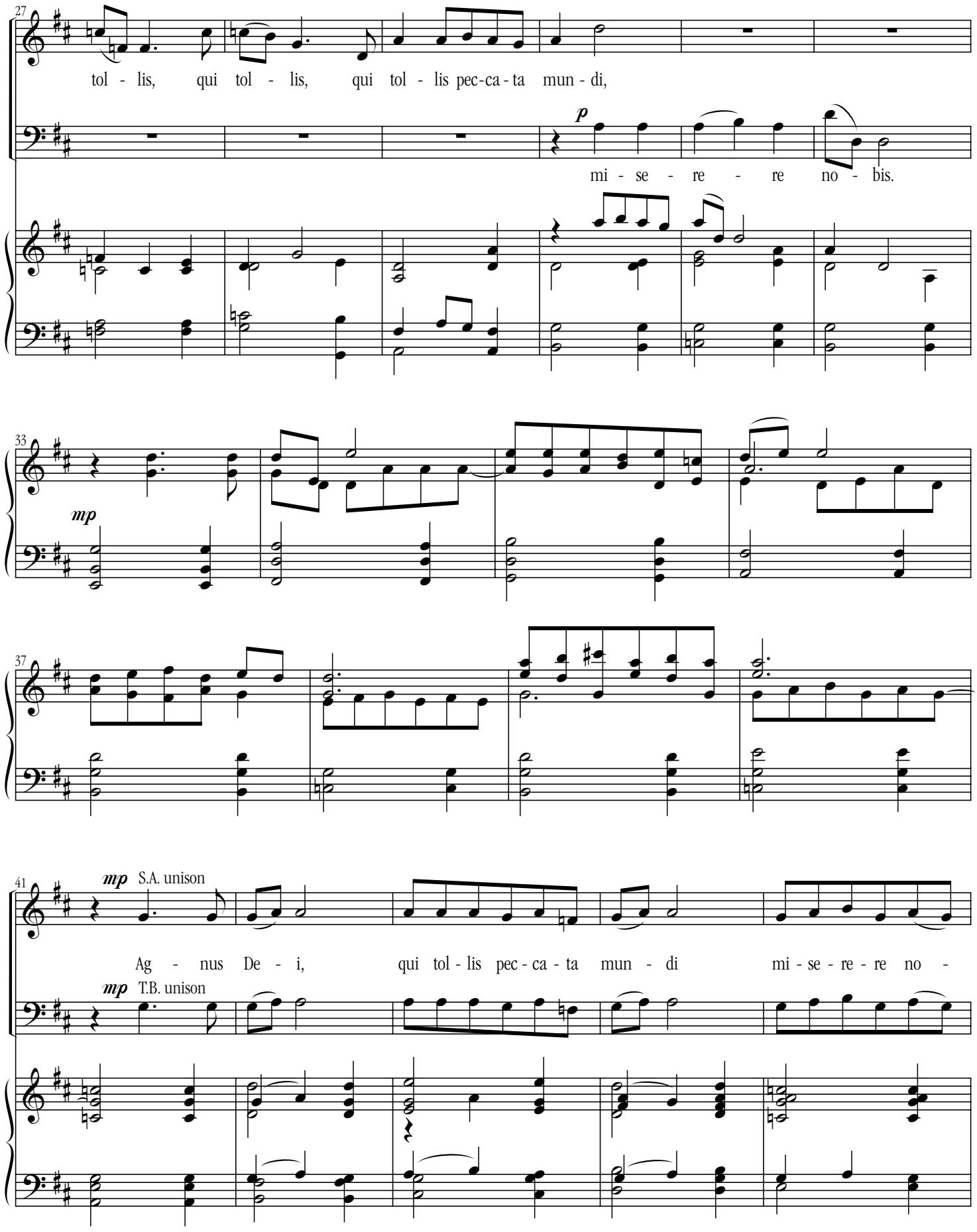
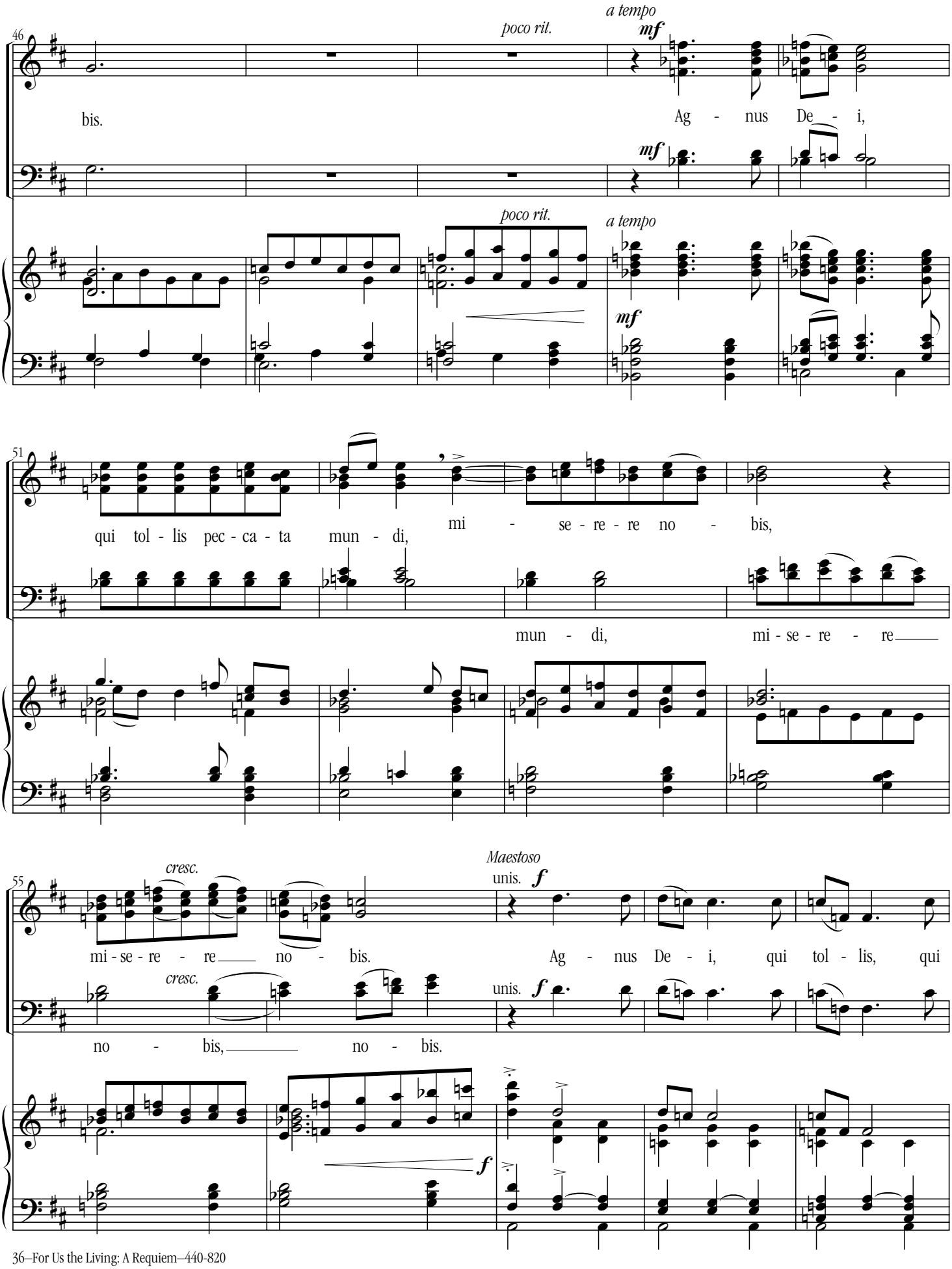

27
tol - lis, qui tol - lis, qui tol - lis pec-ca-ta mun - di,
p
mi - se - re - re no - bis.
33
mp
37
41
mp S.A. unison
Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di mi - se - re - re no -
mp T.B. unison


46
poco rit.
a tempo
mf
bis.
Ag - nus De - i,
poco rit.
a tempo
mf
51
qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di,
mi - se - re - re no - bis,
mun - di,
mi - se - re - re
55
cresc.
mi - se - re - re no - bis.
Maestoso
unis. f
Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis, qui
cresc.
no - bis, no - bis.
unis. f
f

# VIII. Valediction

Wisdom 3:1–4; Tobit 13:13

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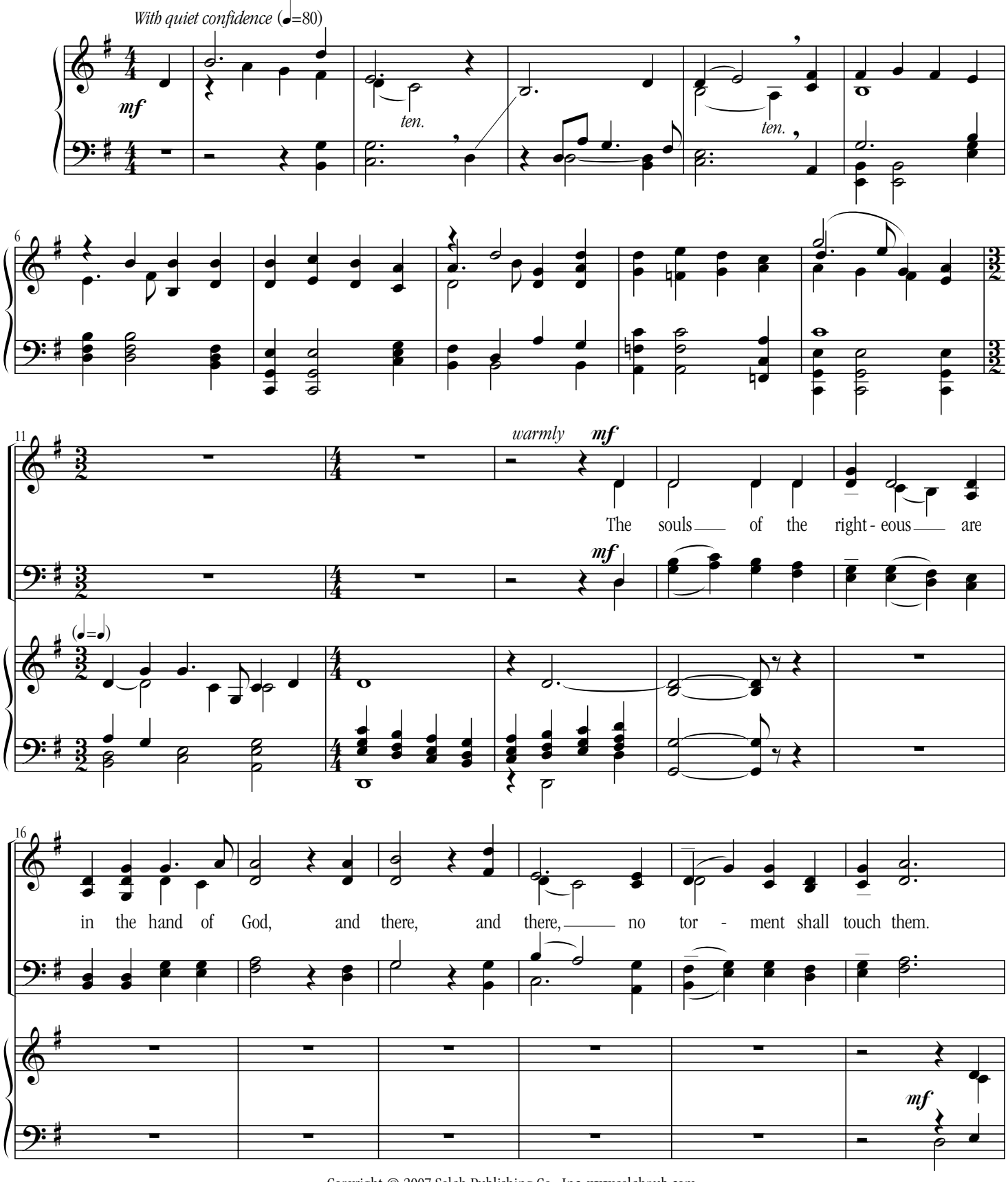


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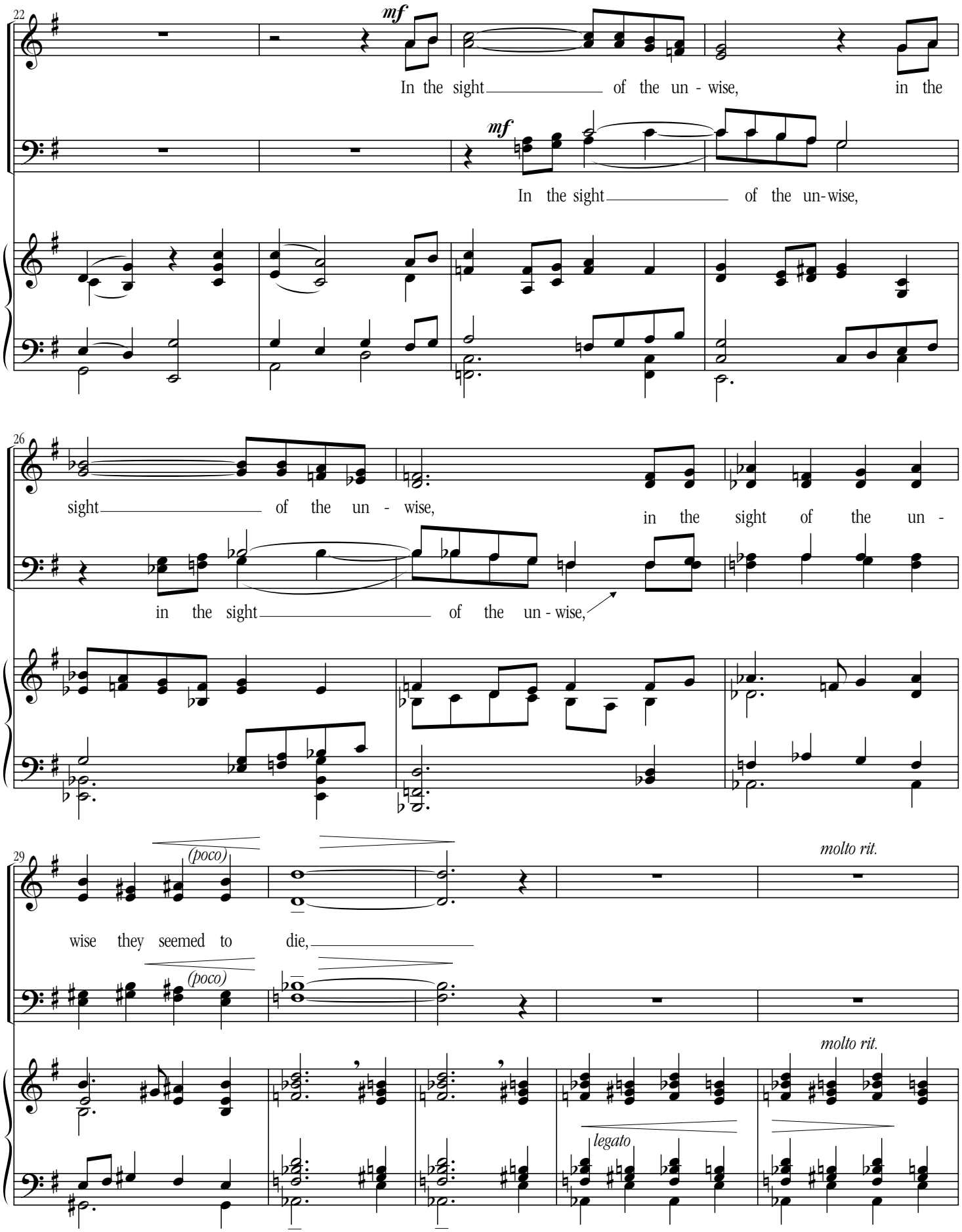
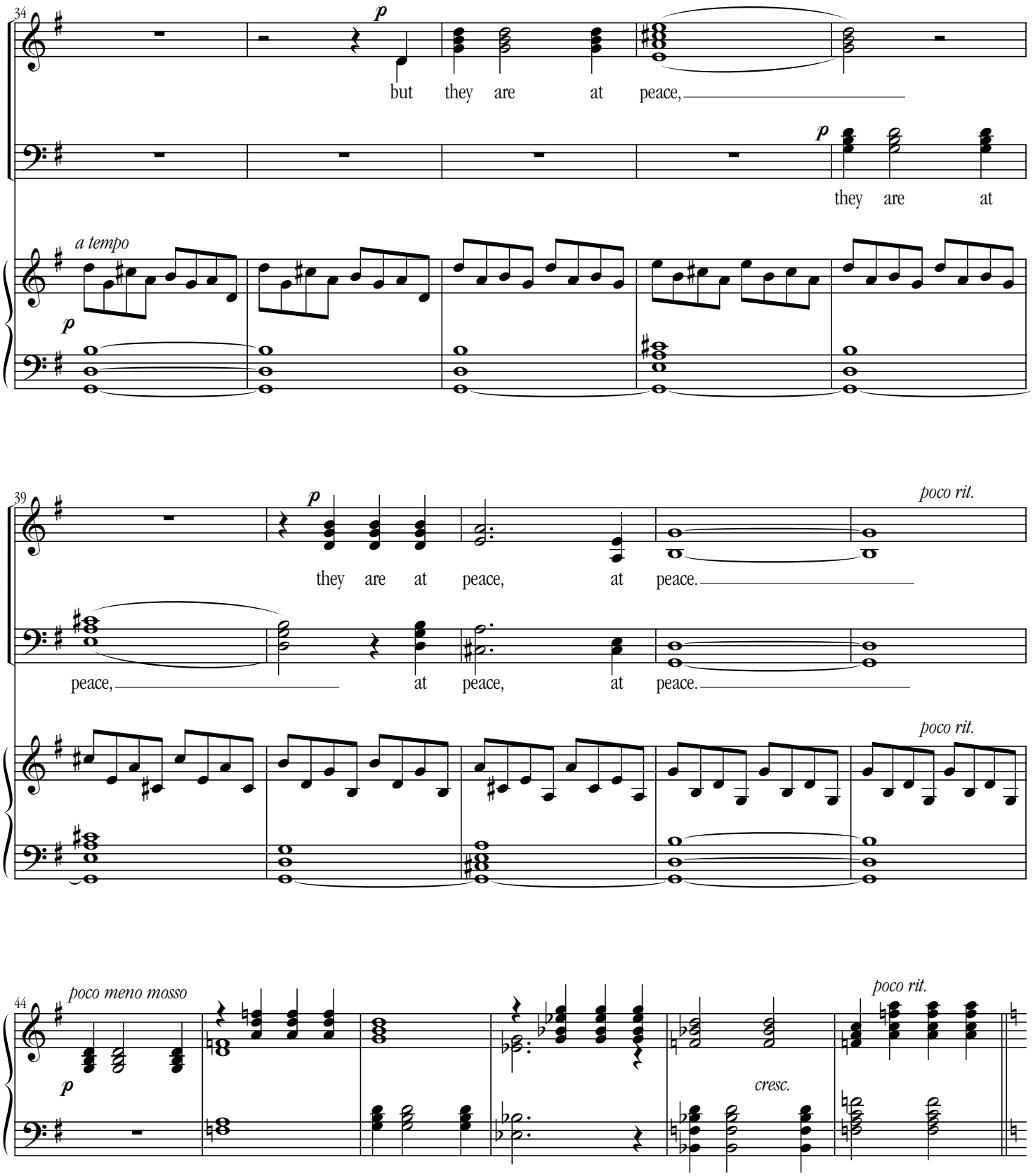

22
mf
In the sight of the un - wise, in the
mf
In the sight of the un-wise,
26
sight of the un - wise,
in the sight of the un -
in the sight of the un - wise,
29
(poco)
molto rit.
wise they seemed to die,
(poco)
molto rit.
legato


34
p
but they are at peace,
p
they are at
a tempo
p
39
p
poco rit.
they are at peace, at peace.
peace, at peace, at peace.
poco rit.
44
poco meno mosso
p
cresc.
poco rit.