ANCIENT GROOVE MUSIC

William Croft

(1678 - 1727)

Sentences for the Burial Service

Edited by

BEN BYRAM-WIGFIELD

www.ancientgroove.co.uk

EDITORIAL NOTES

William Croft's Burial Service is one of the great traditions of English sacred choral music, having been performed at every state funeral since its inception. When Croft composed it, he included the setting of *Thou knowest, Lord*, the secrets of our hearts by Henry Purcell. He later gave the reason for doing so:

> *"In that service, there is one verse composed by my predecessor, the famous Mr. Henry Purcell, to which, in justice to his memory, his name is applied. The reason why I did not compose that verse anew (so as to render the whole service entirely of my own composition) is obvious to every Artist; in the rest of that service composed by me, I have endeavoured as near as I could, to imitate that great master and celebrated composer, whose name will for ever stand high in the rank of those who have laboured to improve the English style."*

Source: British Library E. 472: *Cathedral Music: 30 select anthems in score, to which is added the burial service as it is now occasionally performed in Westminster Abbey.* (London, 1775, 'Printed for J. French'.)

Notes are presented at pitch and with original note values. The time signature has been standardised into 2/2. The key signature has been given an extra flat in *I know that my Redeemer liveth.* Accidentals in brackets are editorial.

The original figures have been included, and a realisation supplied editorially.

Bar 124: E natural in Bass missing in score.

The section by Henry Purcell has been been altered to conform with other editions from original Purcellian sources. The variants in Croft's account of the music are as follows:

Bar 184: 1st beat: Tenor C minim; Soprano GA crotchets
Bar 200 equal minims all parts
Bar 205: equal minims all parts
Bar 209: STB: 'Mer' minim; 'ci-ful' on beats 3 and 4.
Bar 210: equal minims
Bar 214: equal minims

Ben Byram-Wigfield
Revised 2019

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Burial Service

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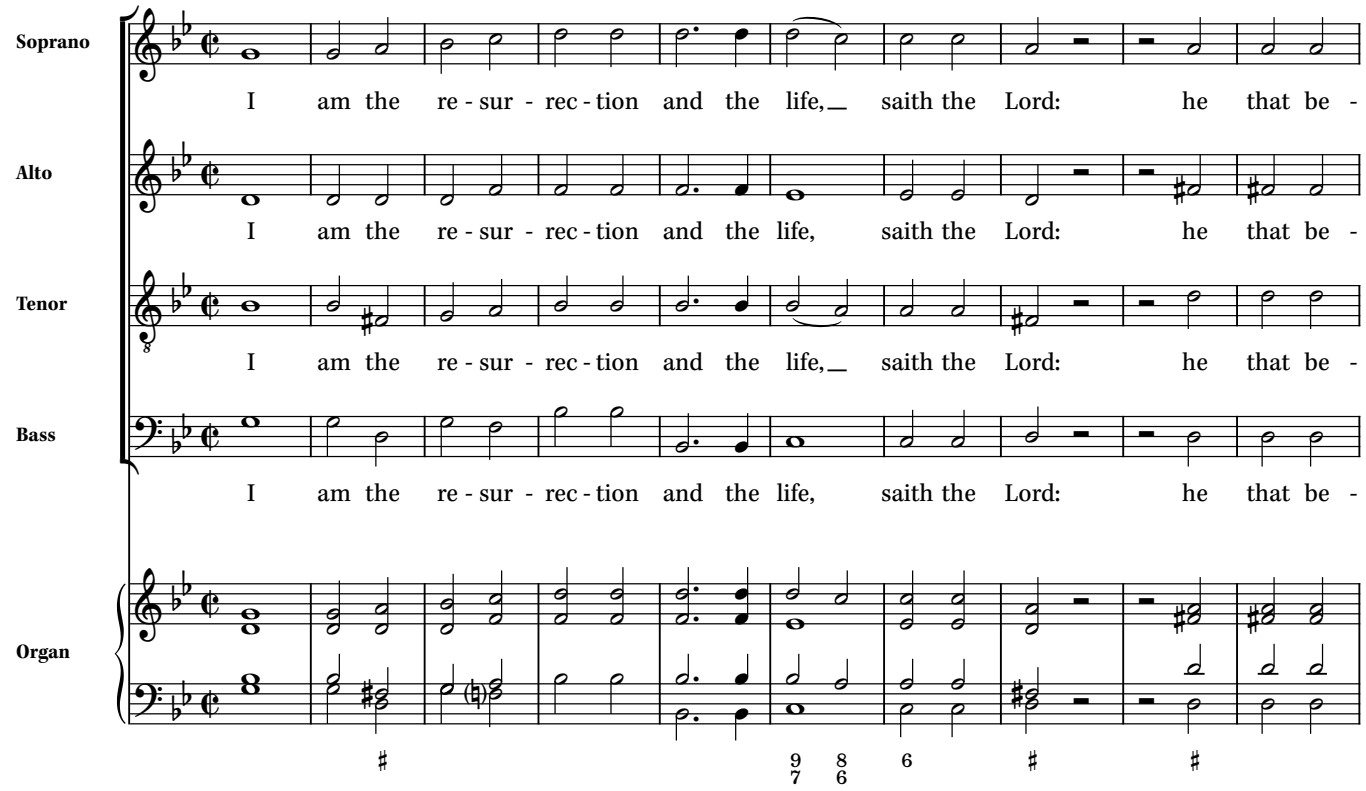
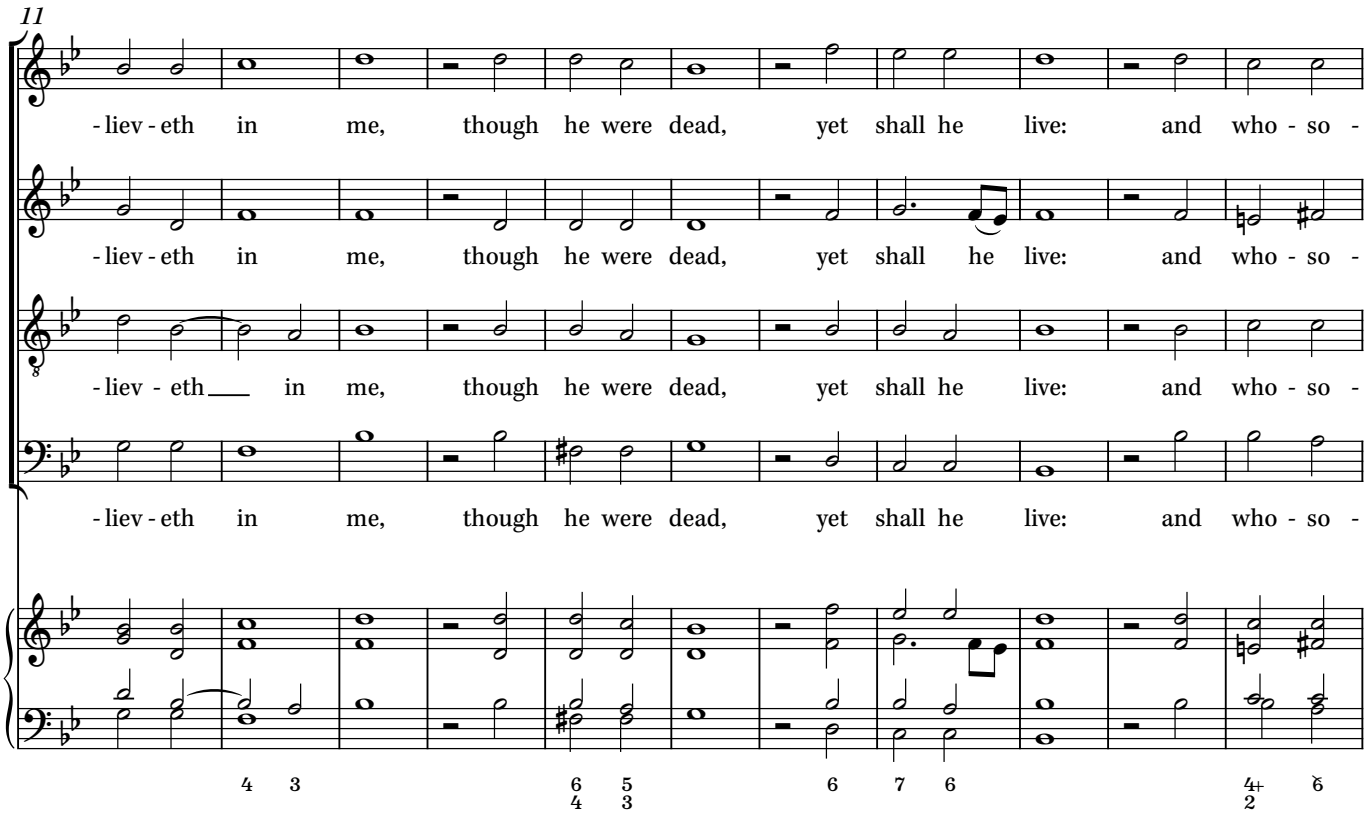
WILLIAM CROFT
(1678 - 1727)

Sentence I





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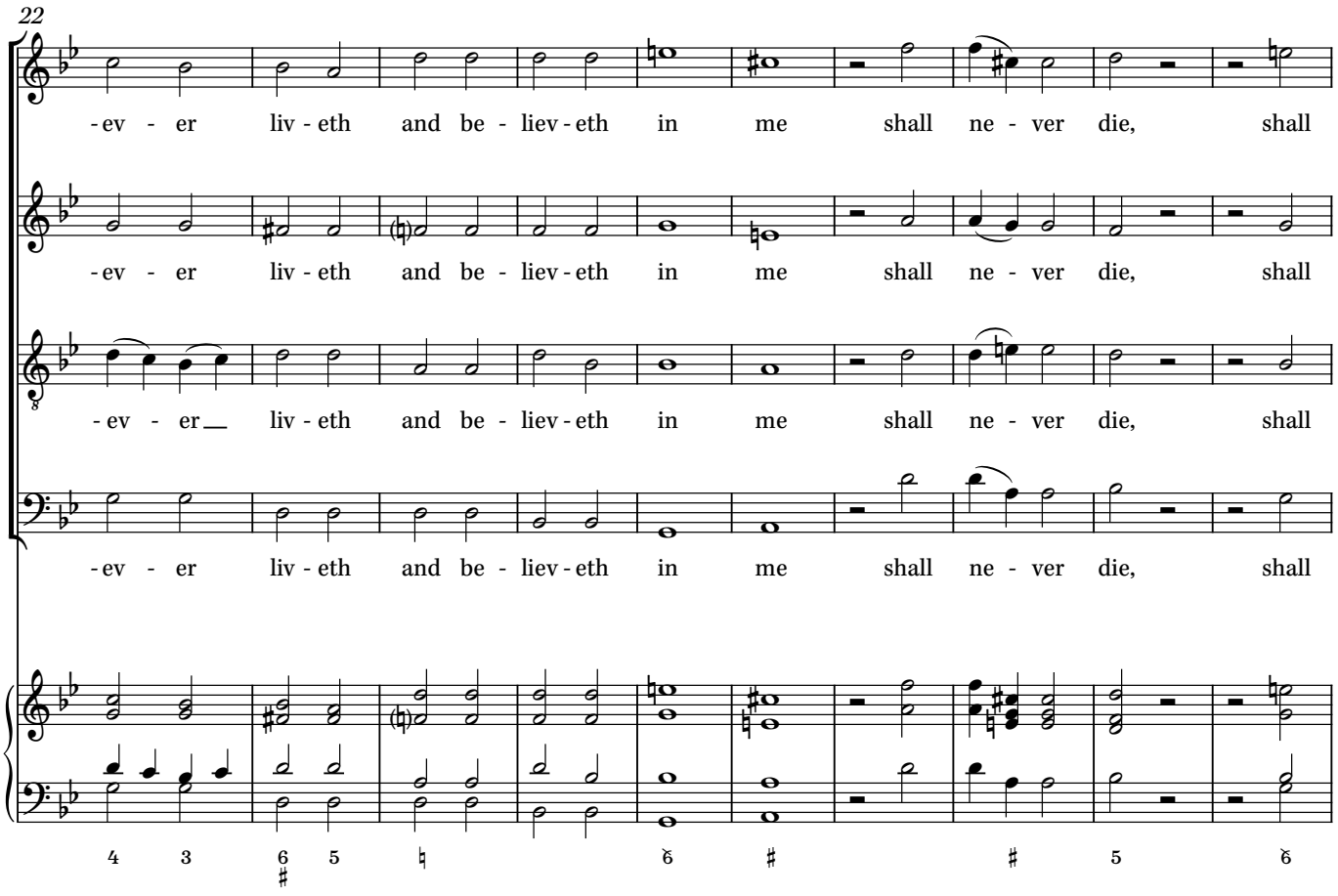

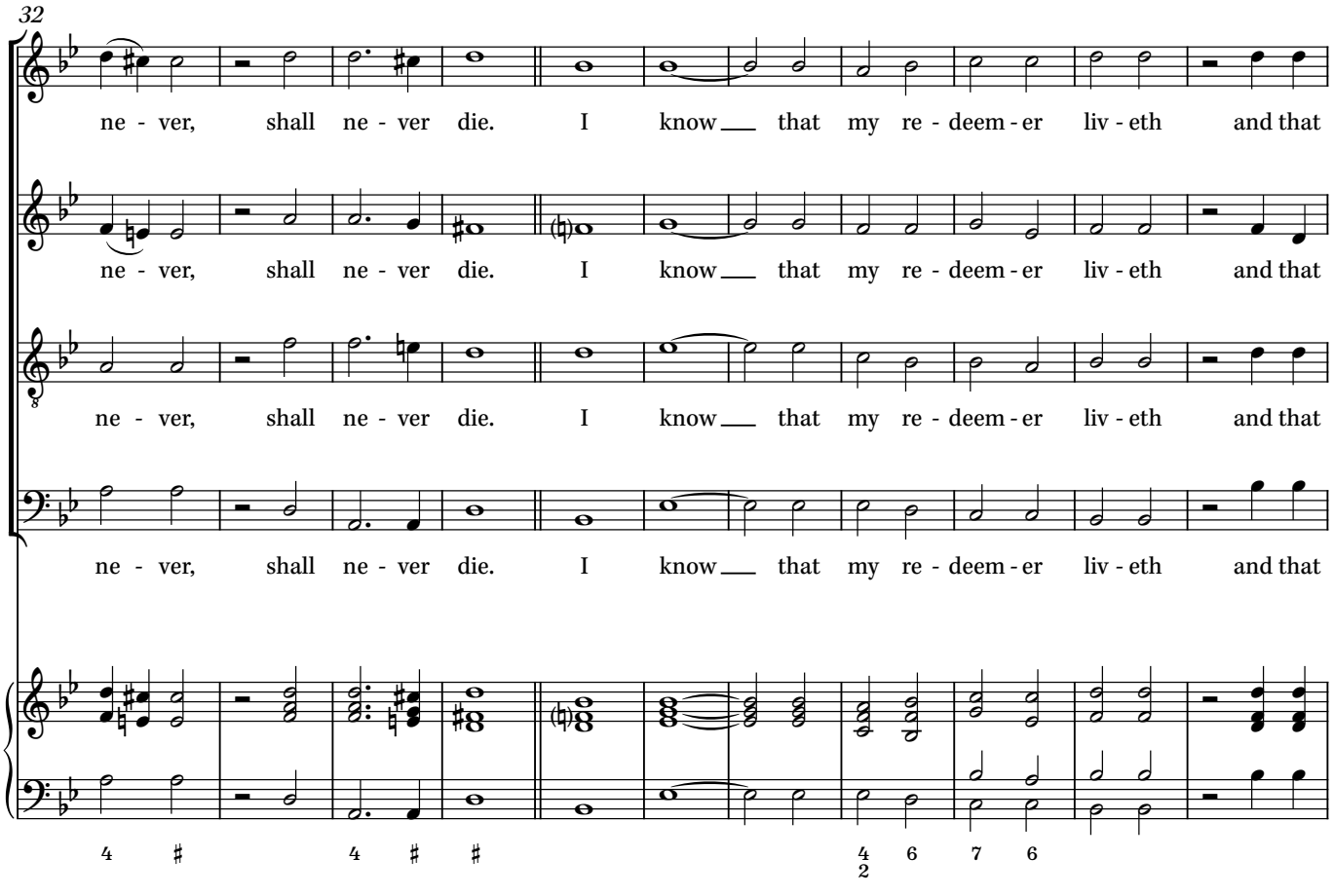

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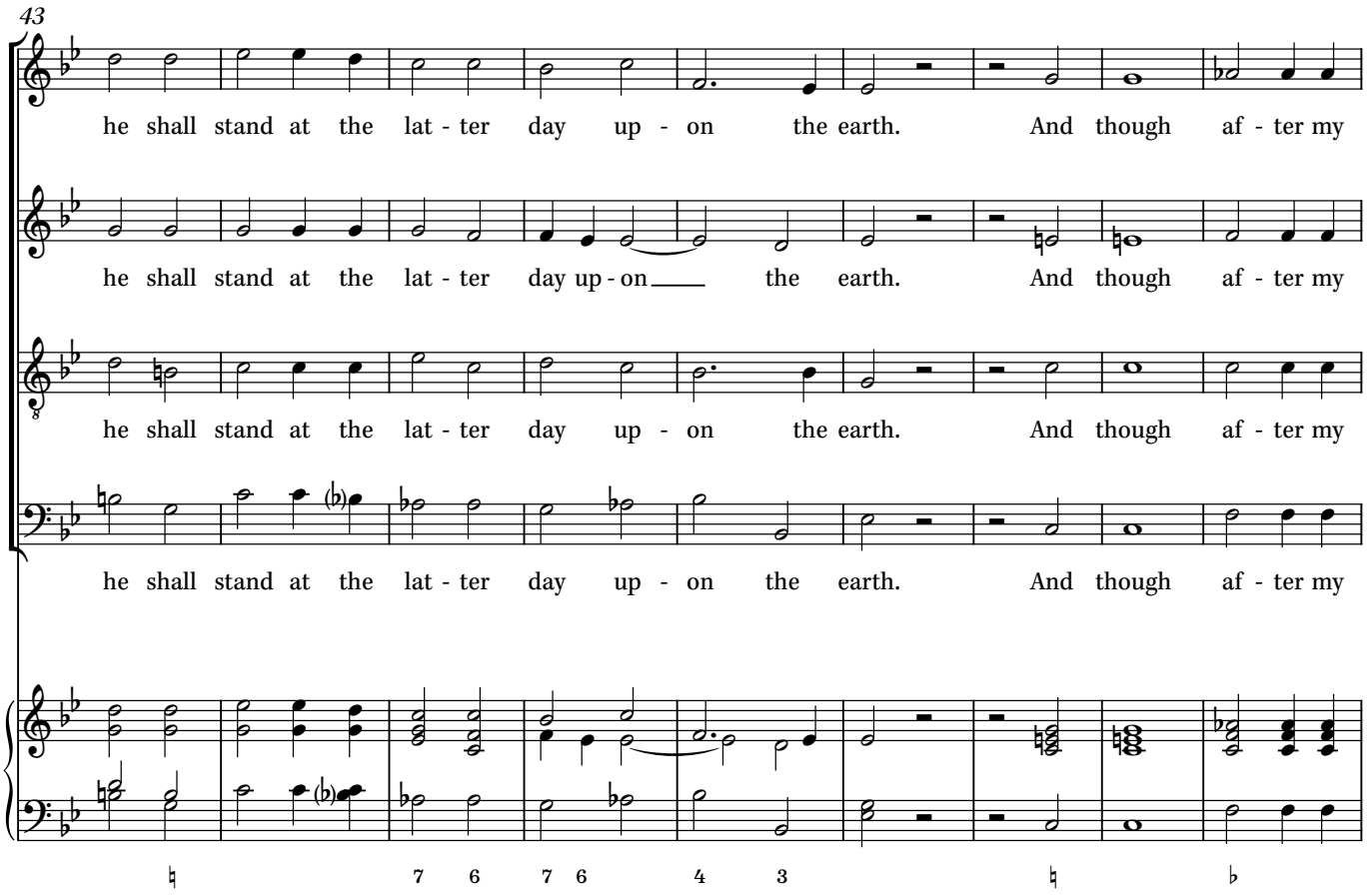

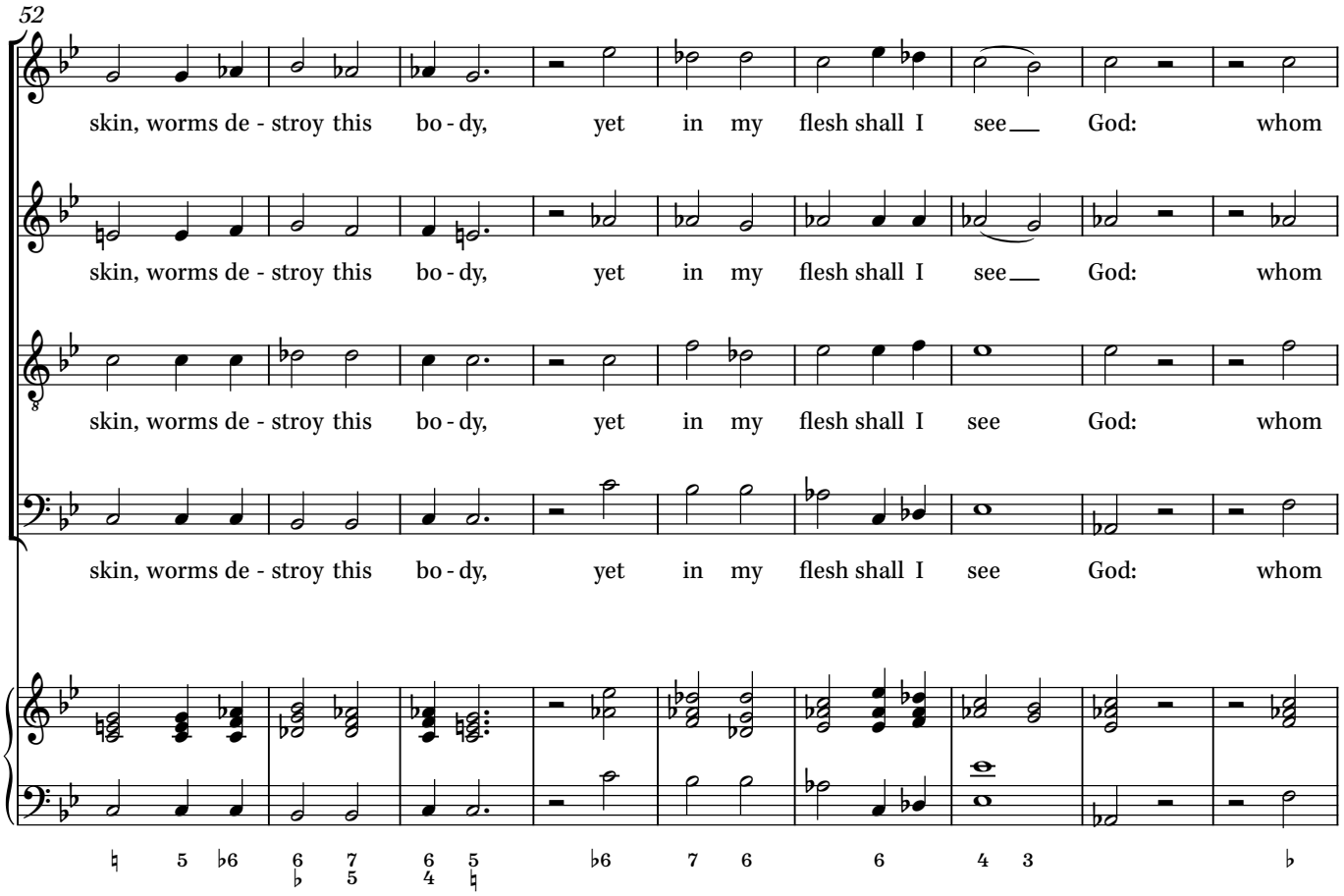

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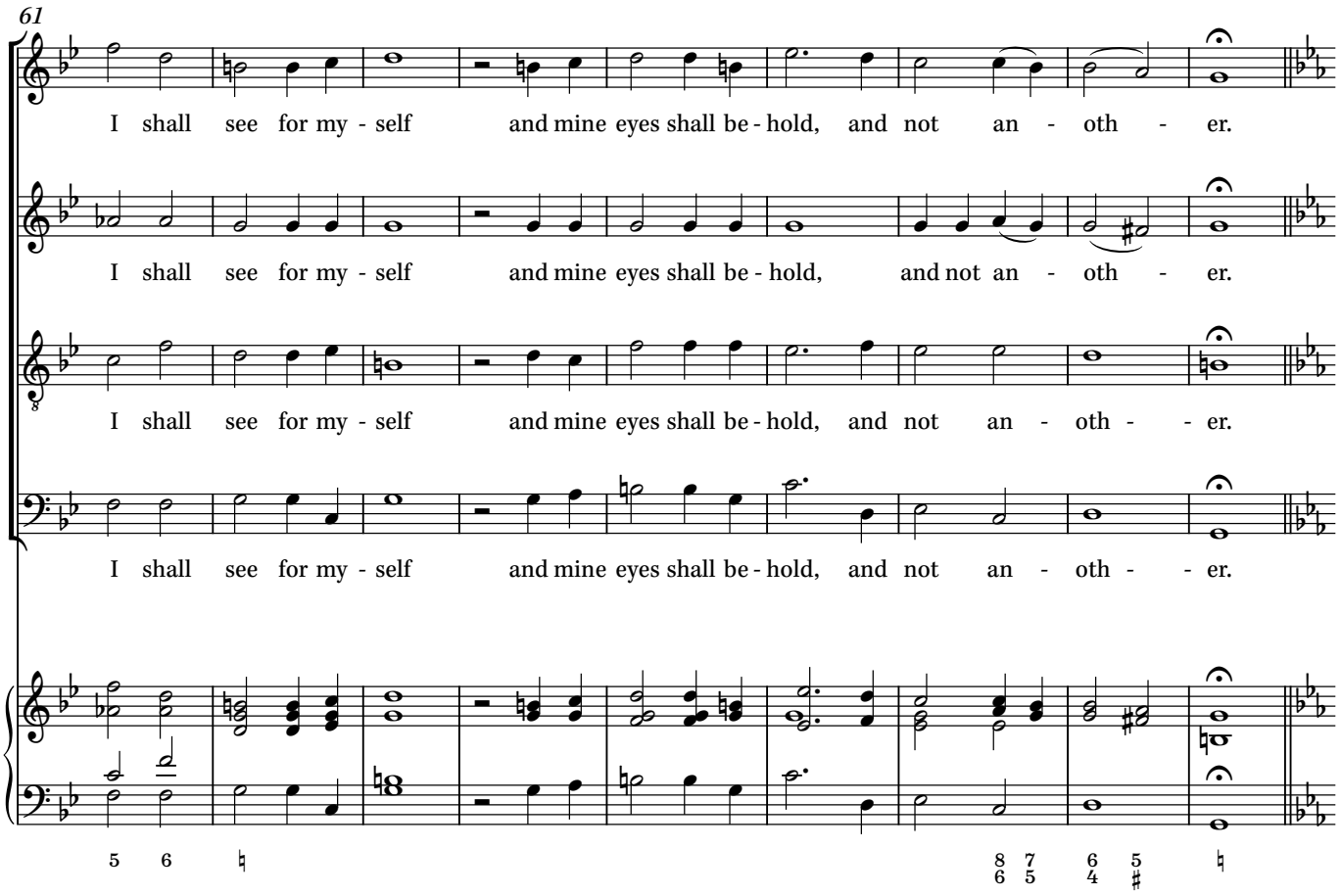

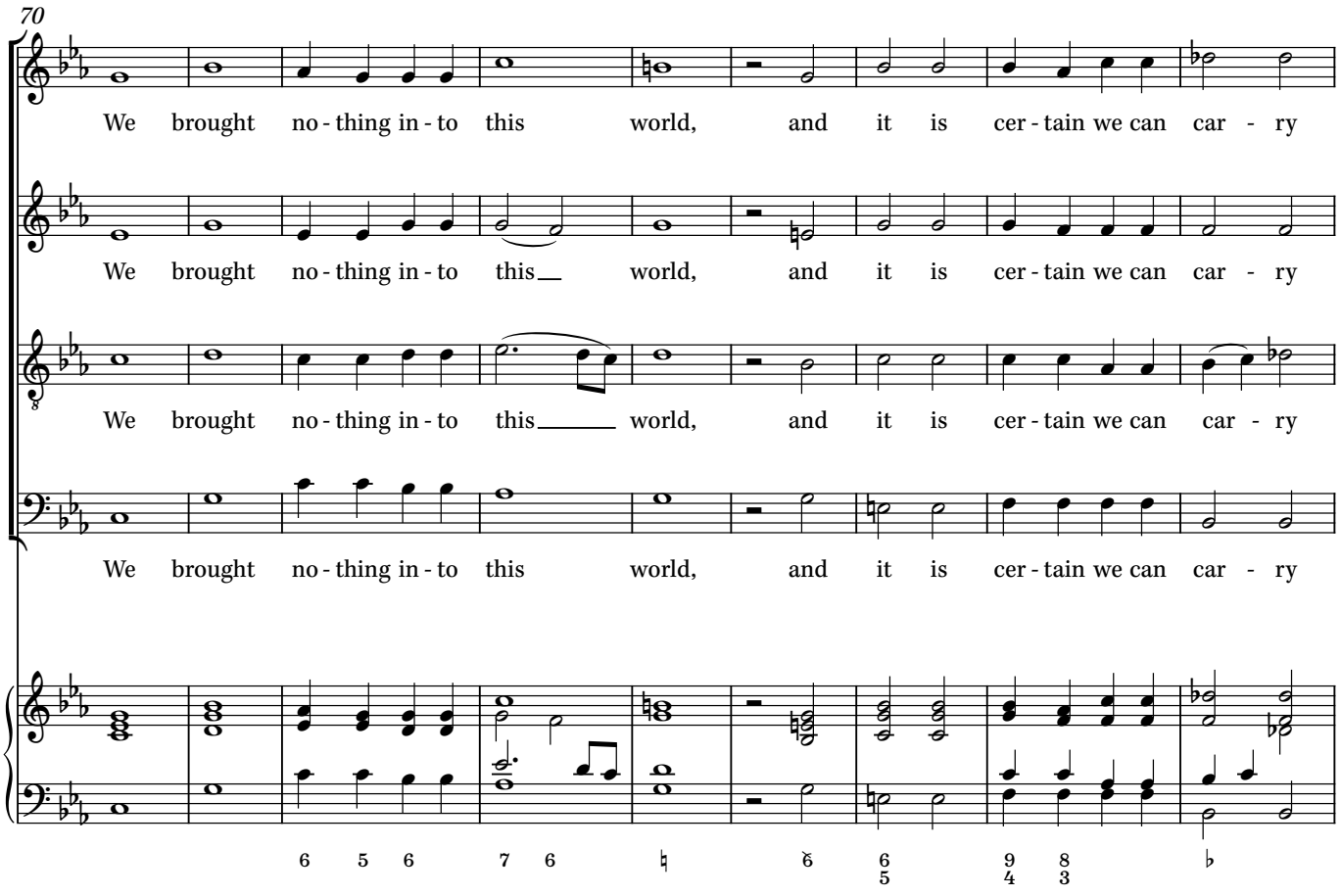

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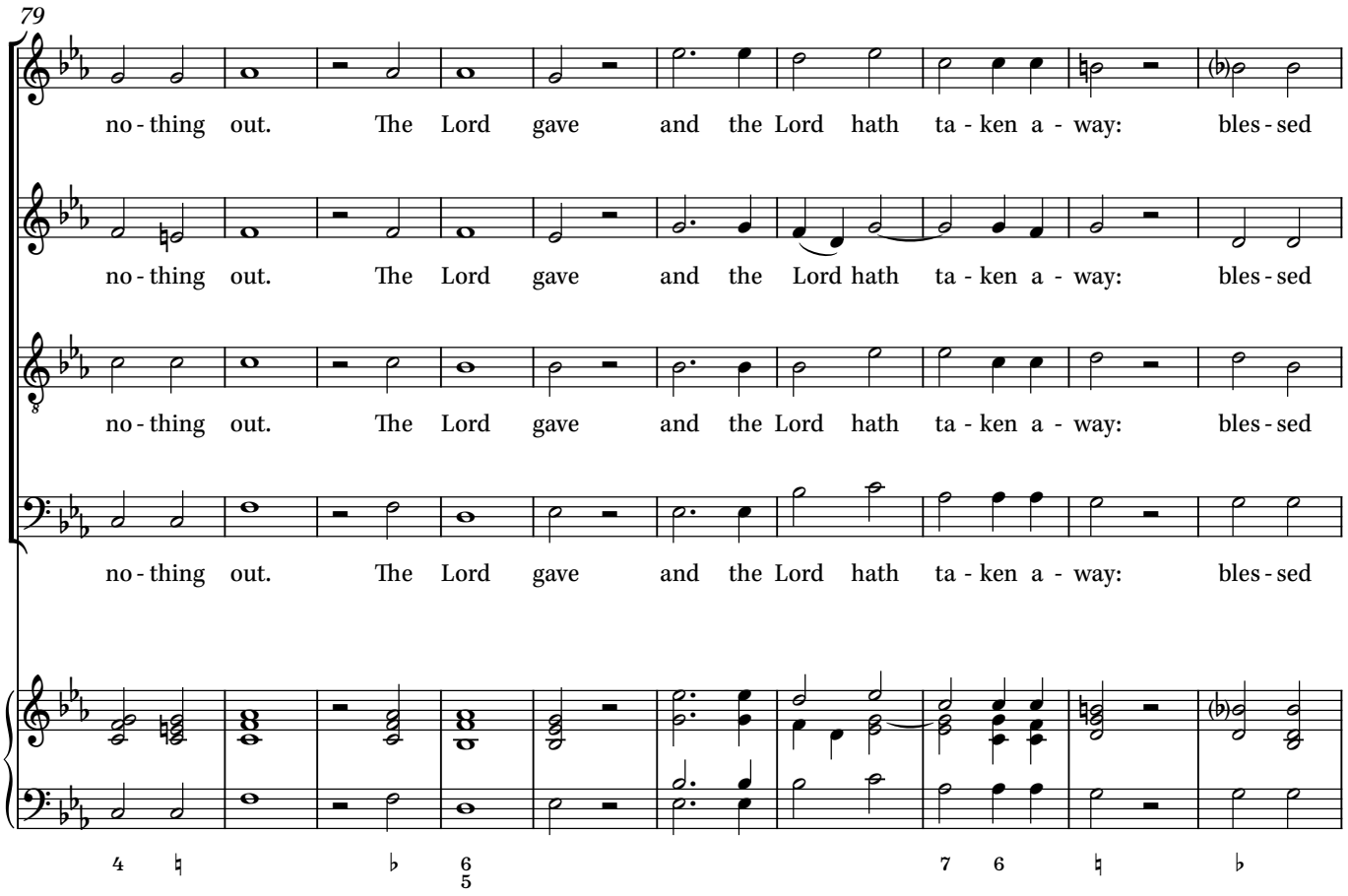

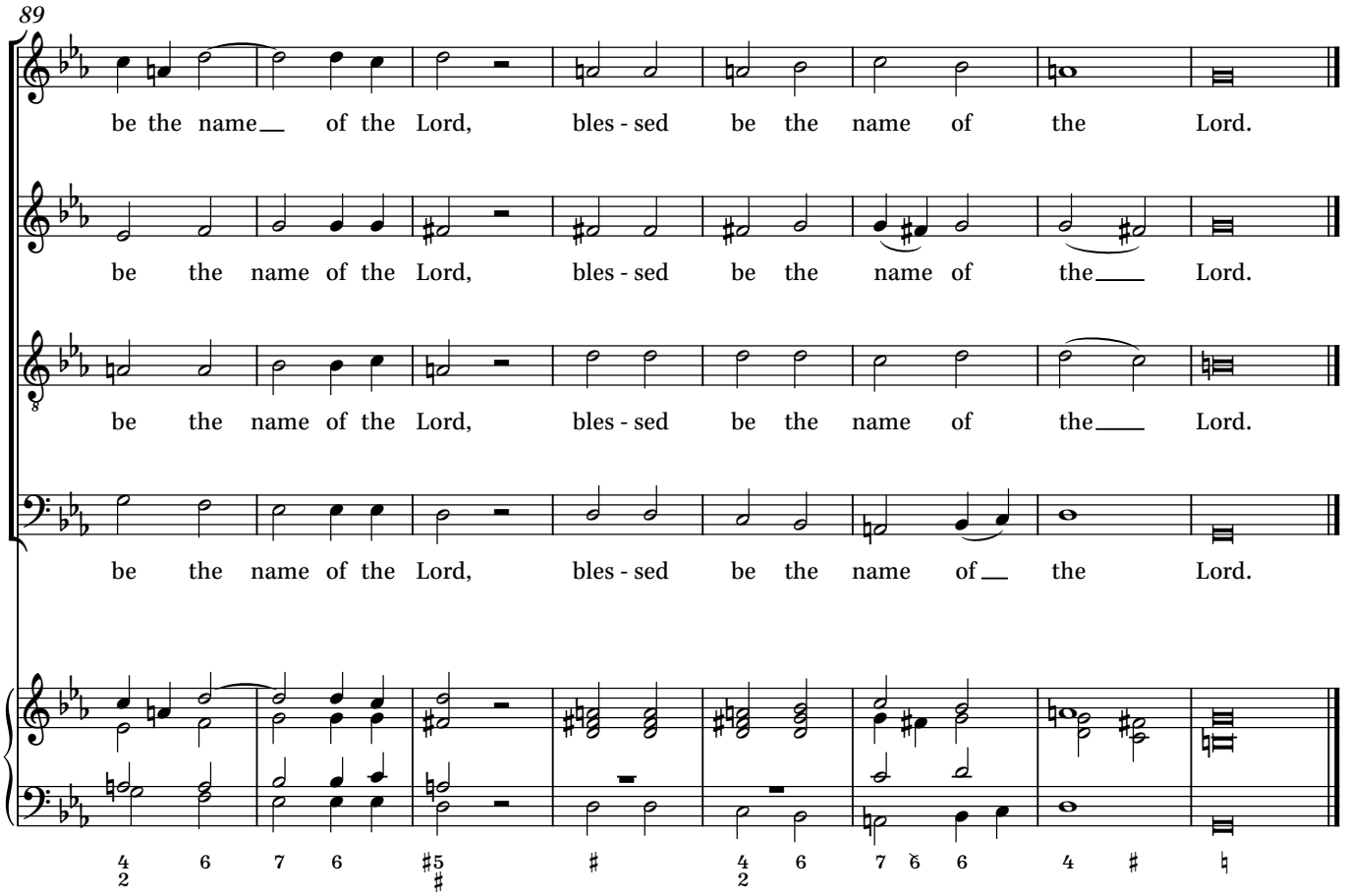

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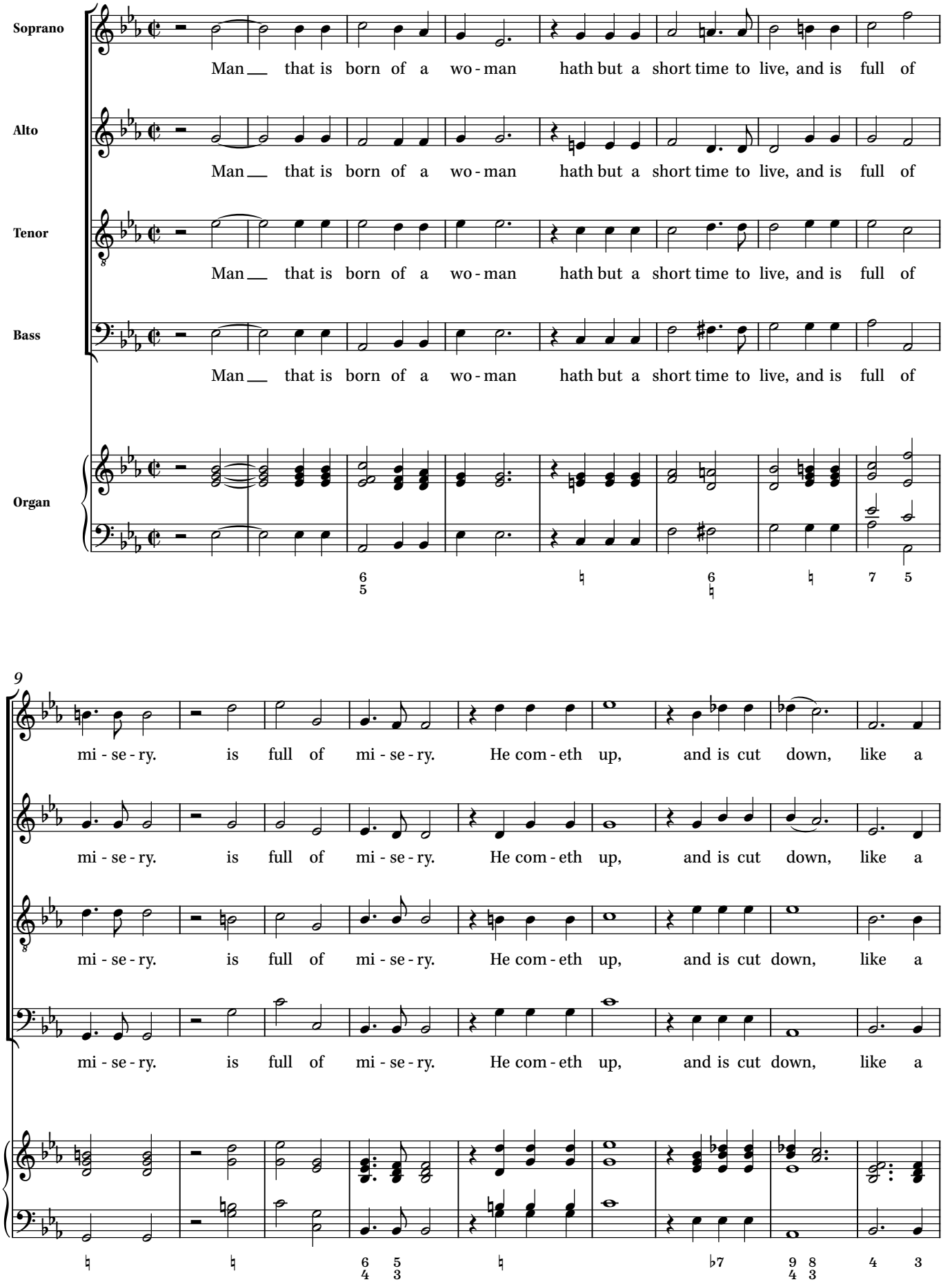
Sentence II



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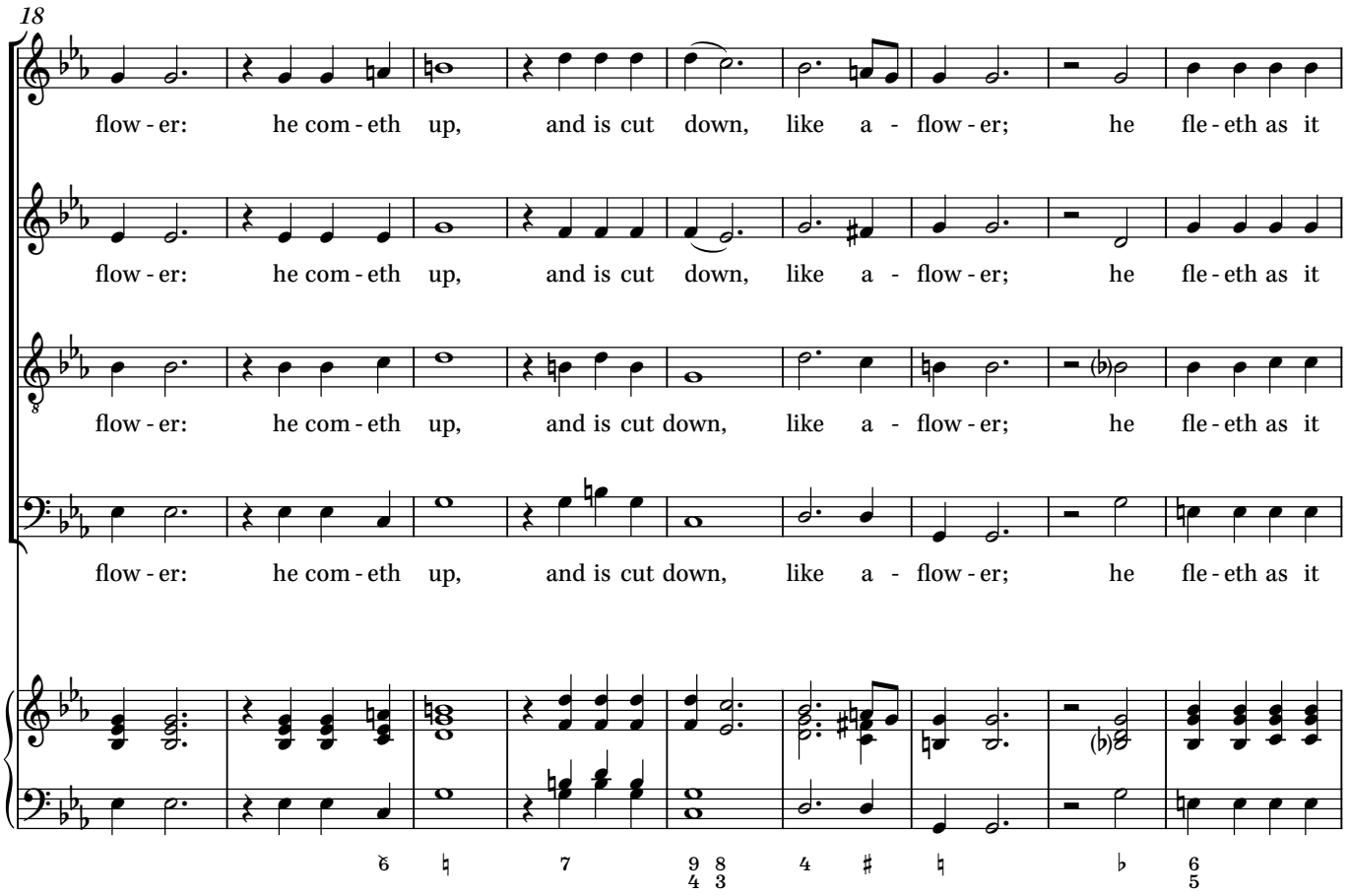

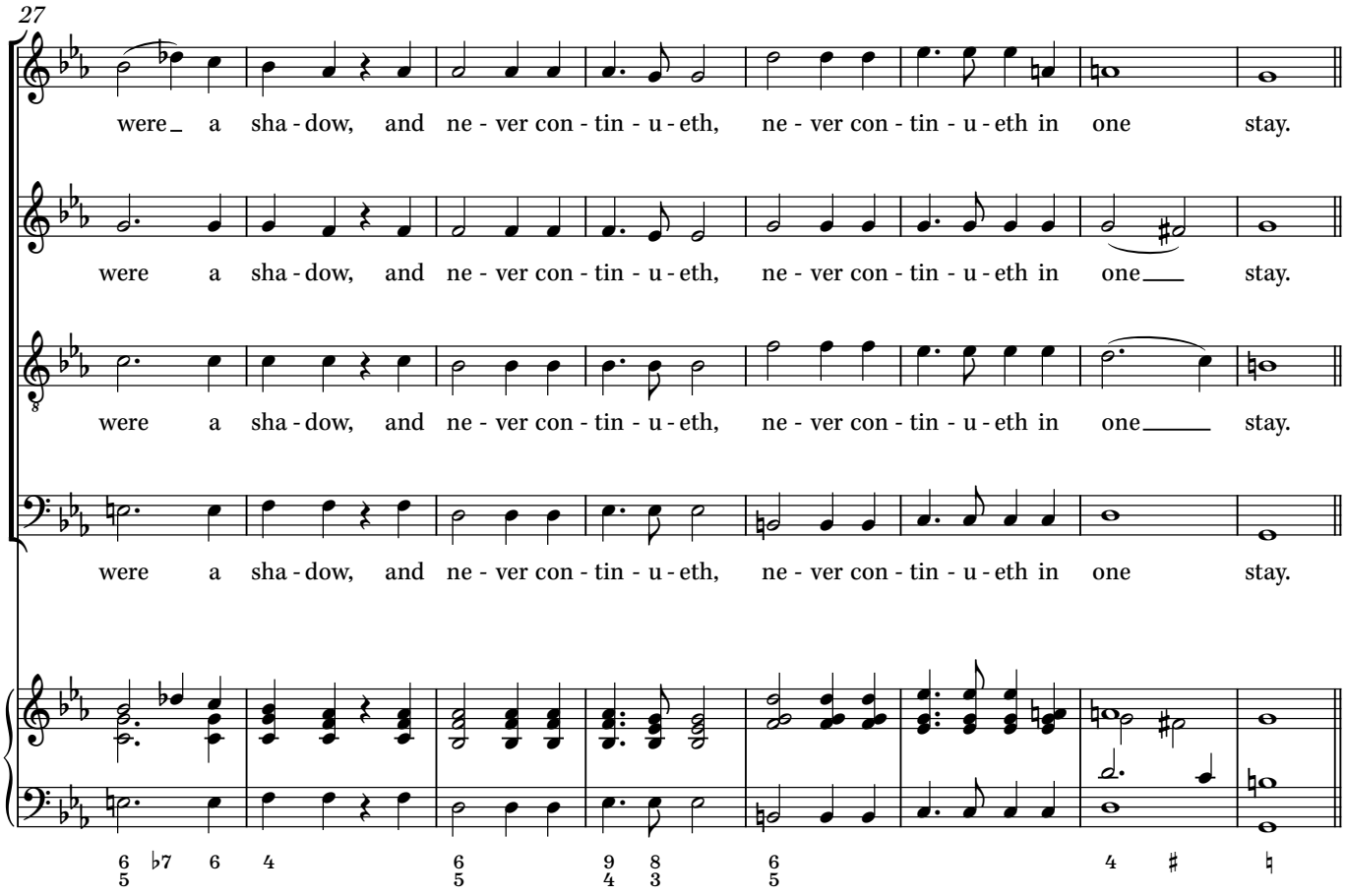

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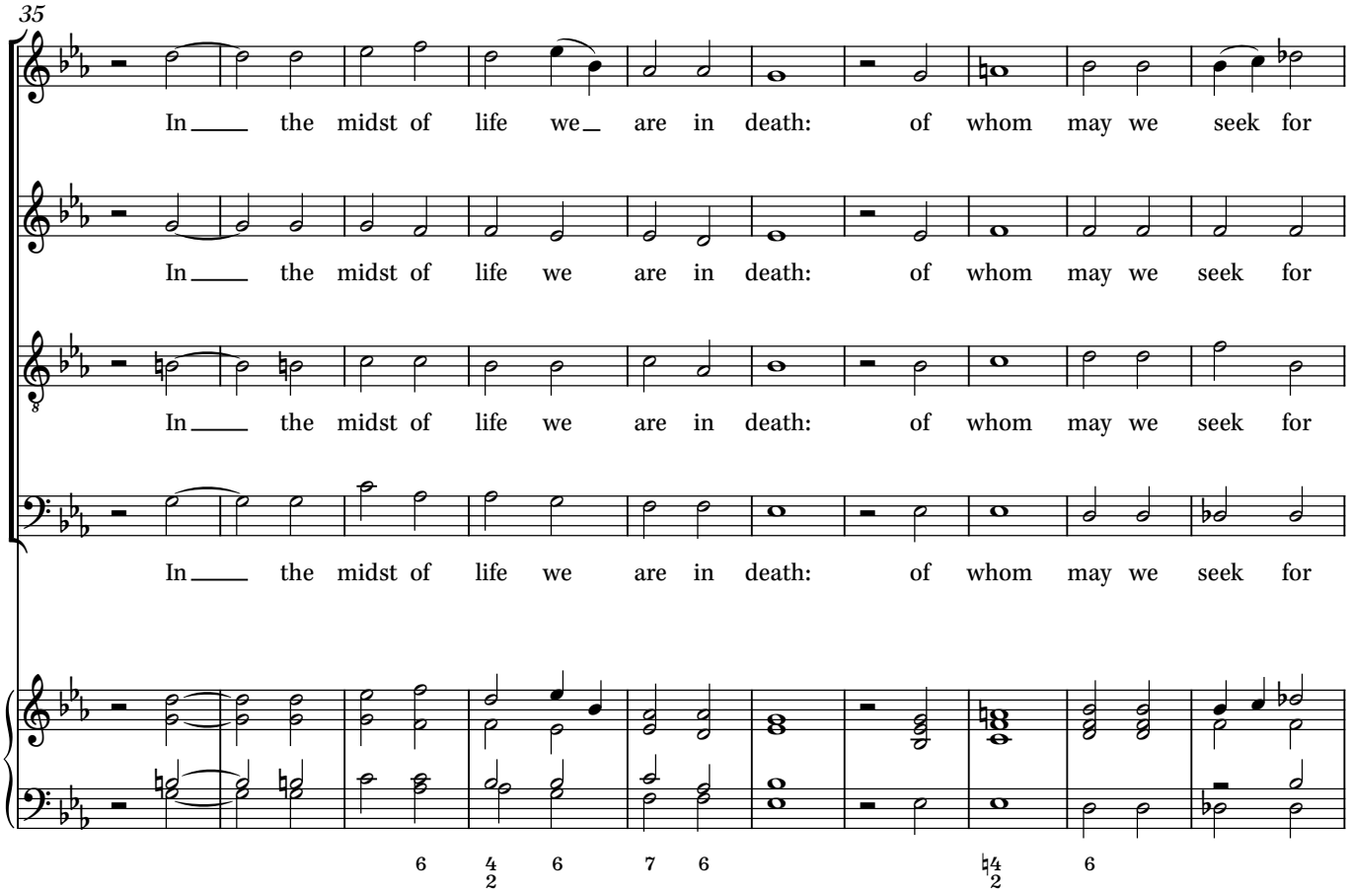

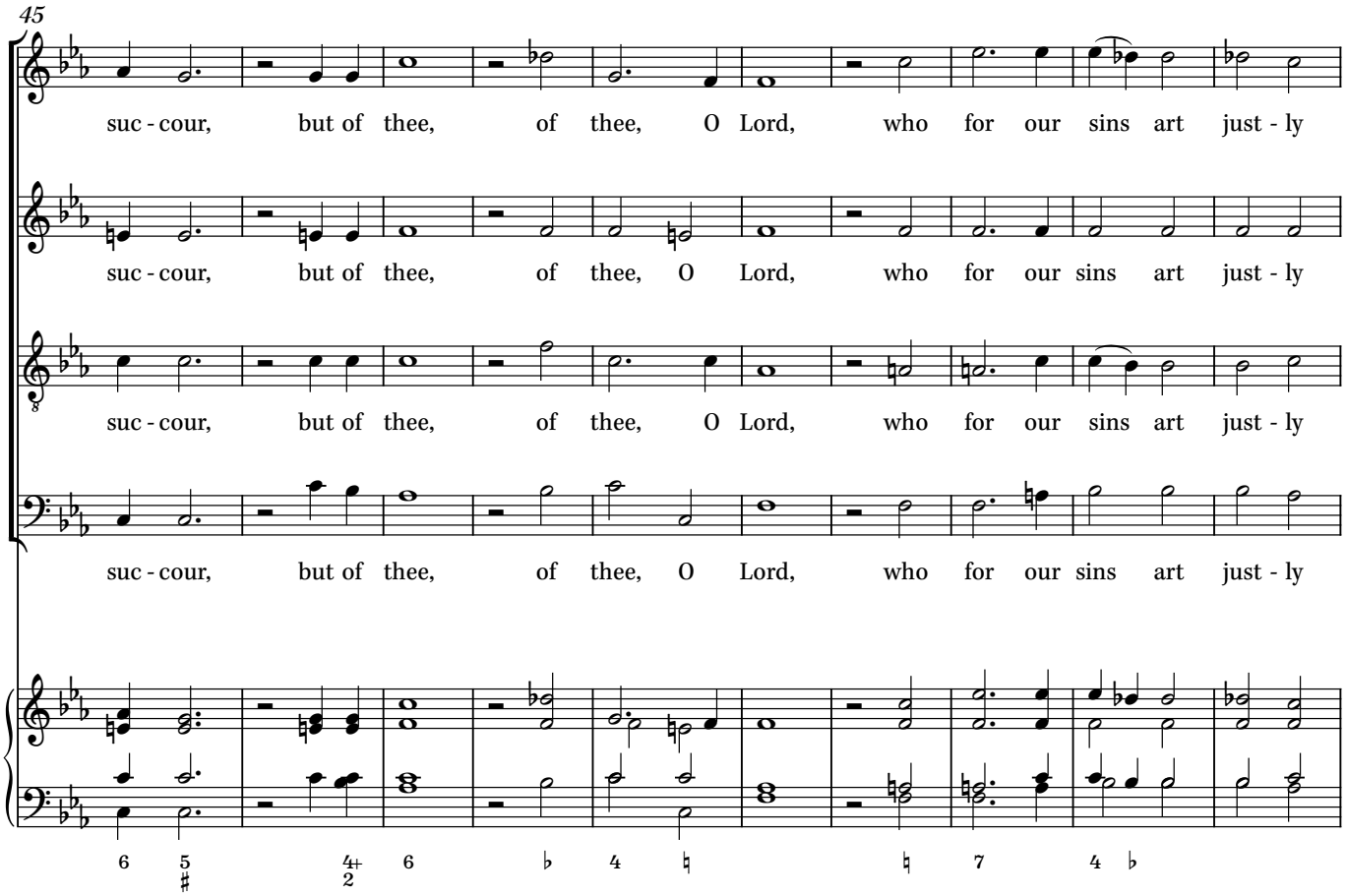

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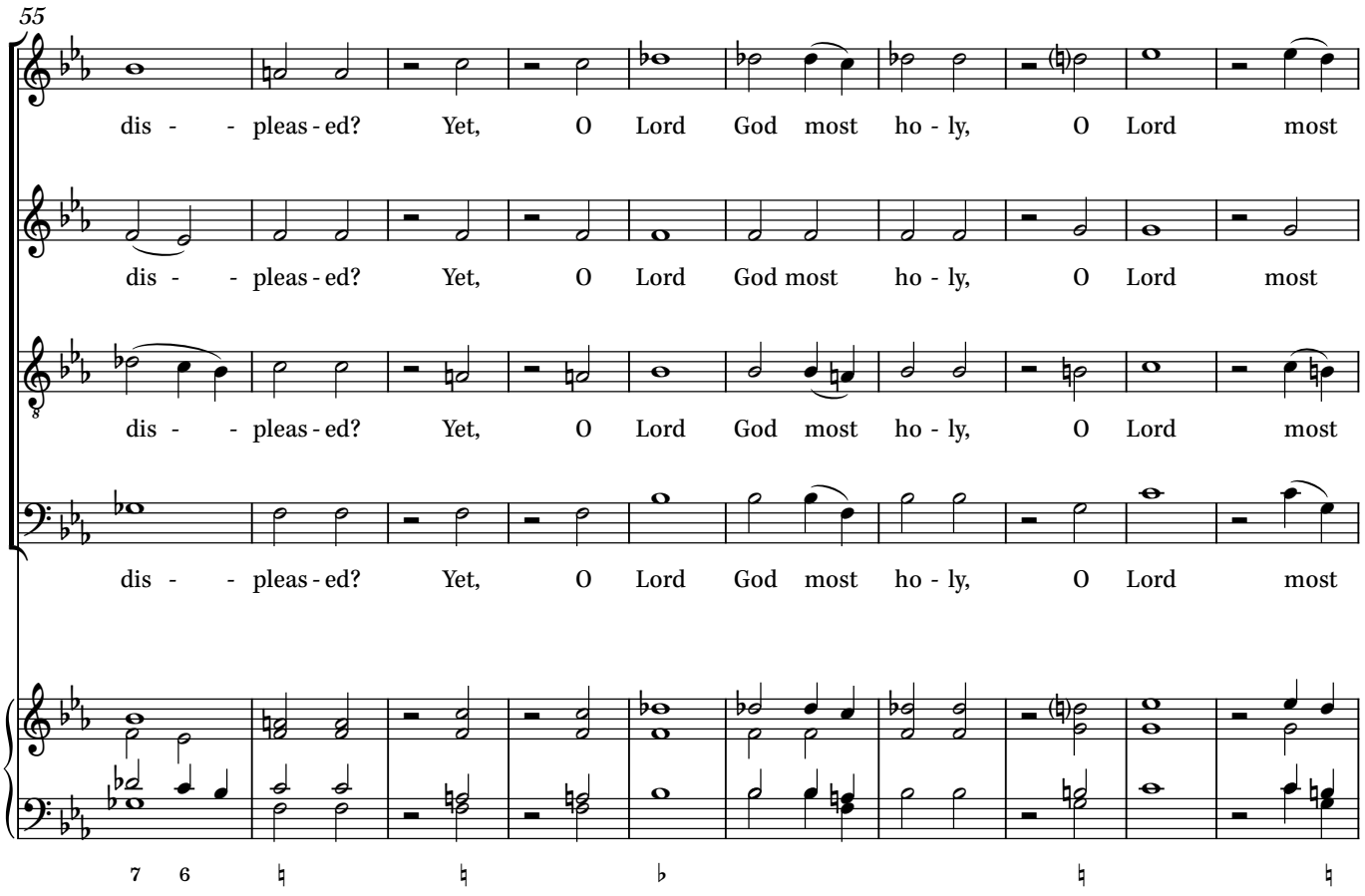

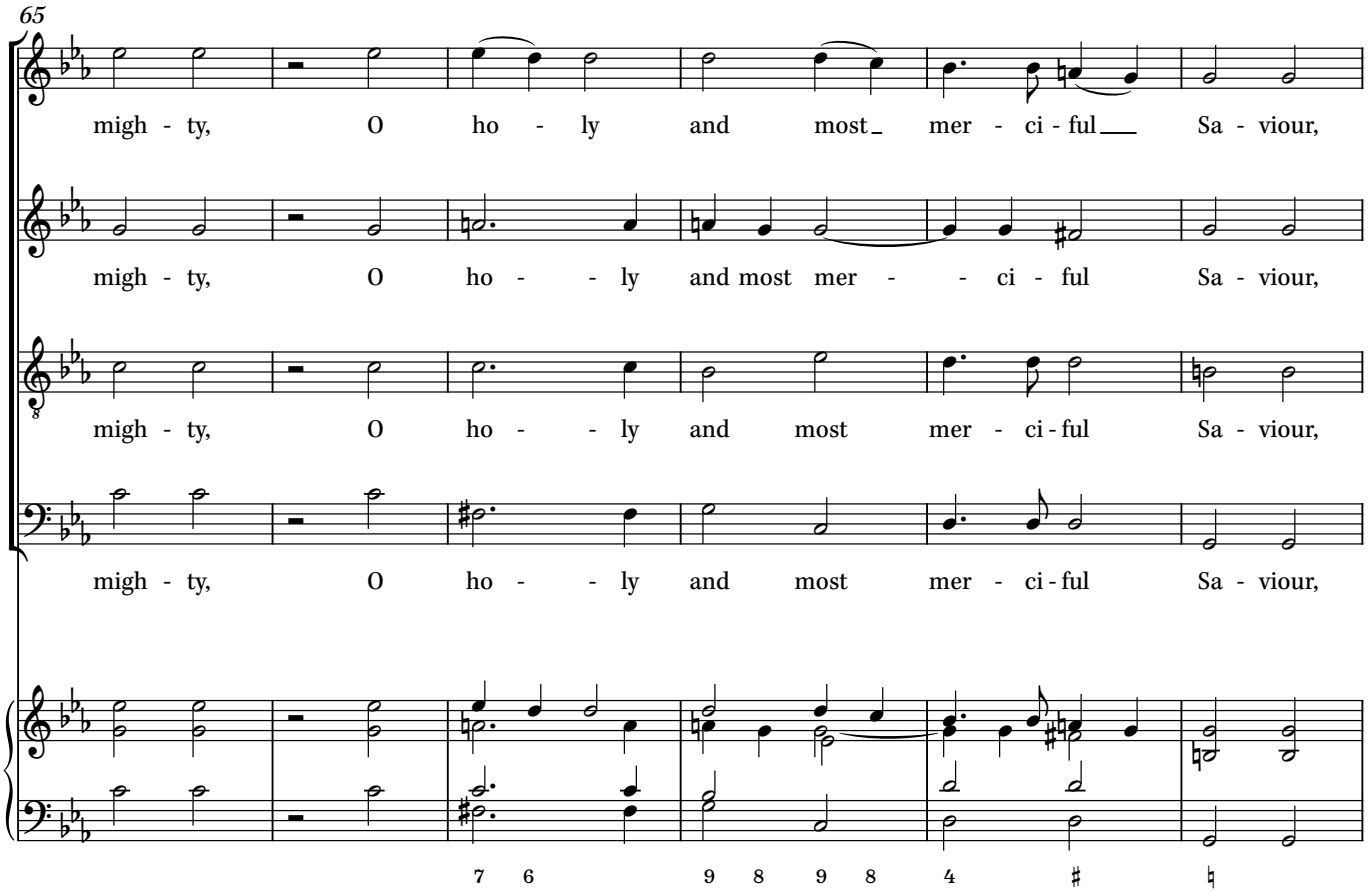

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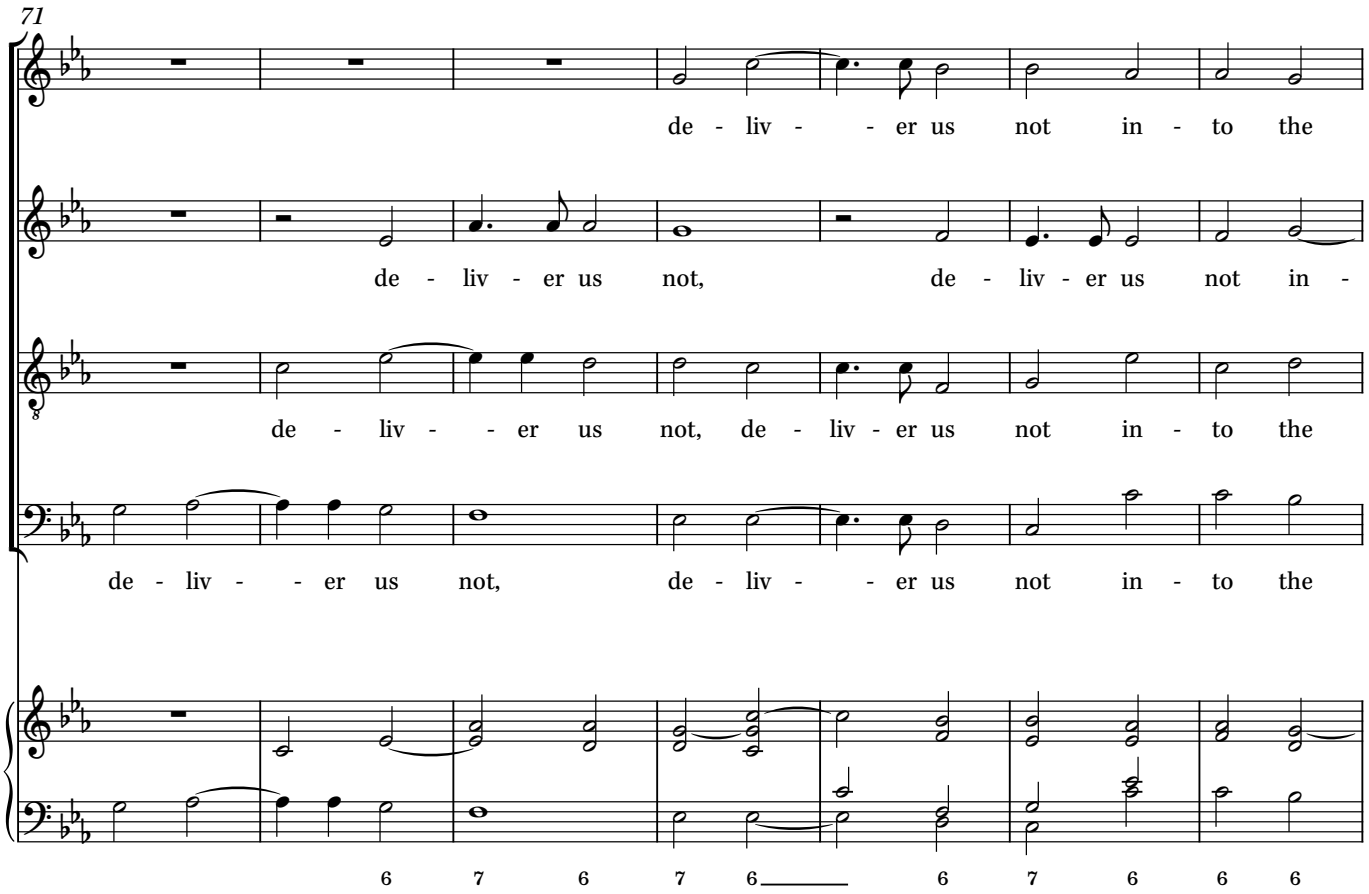

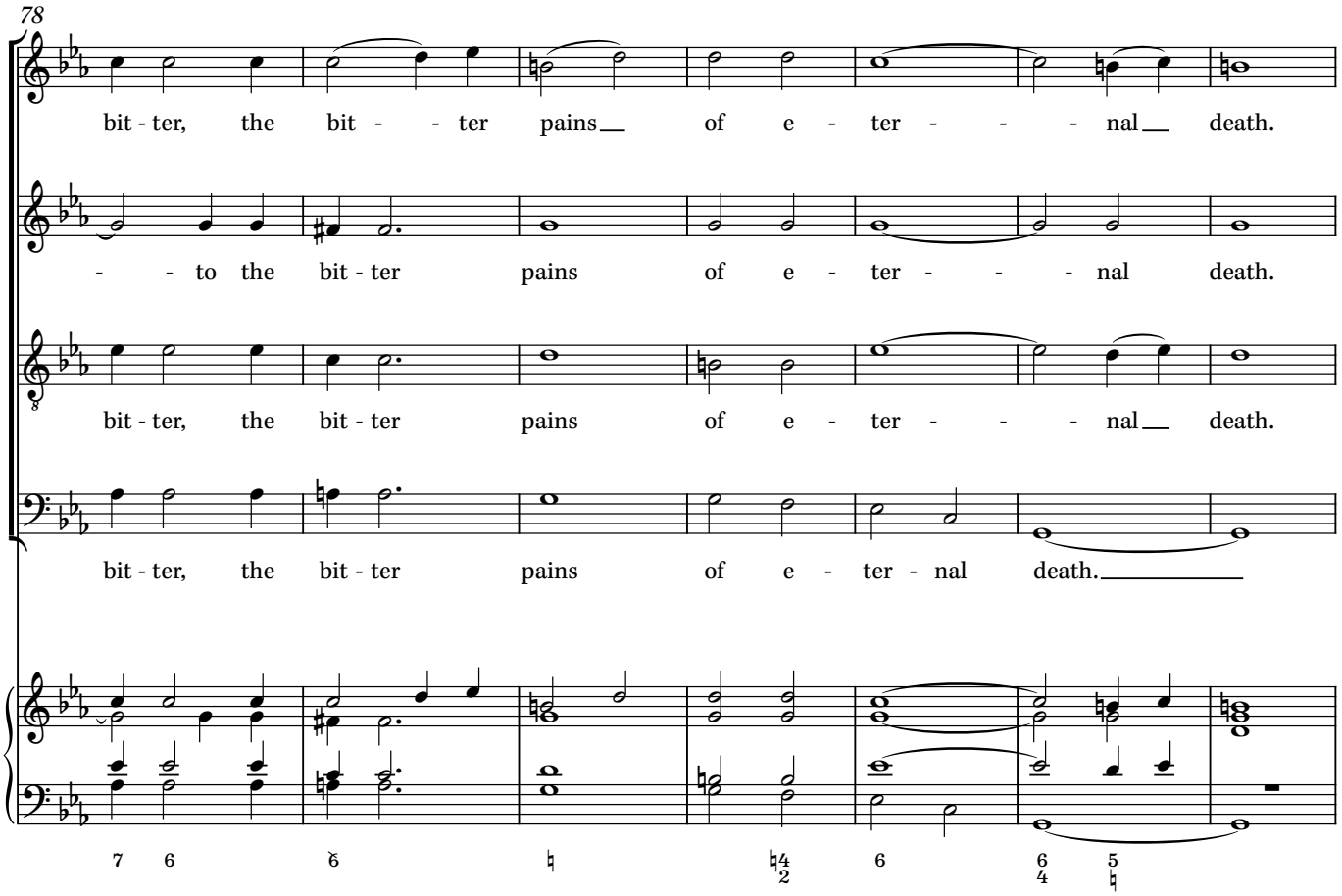

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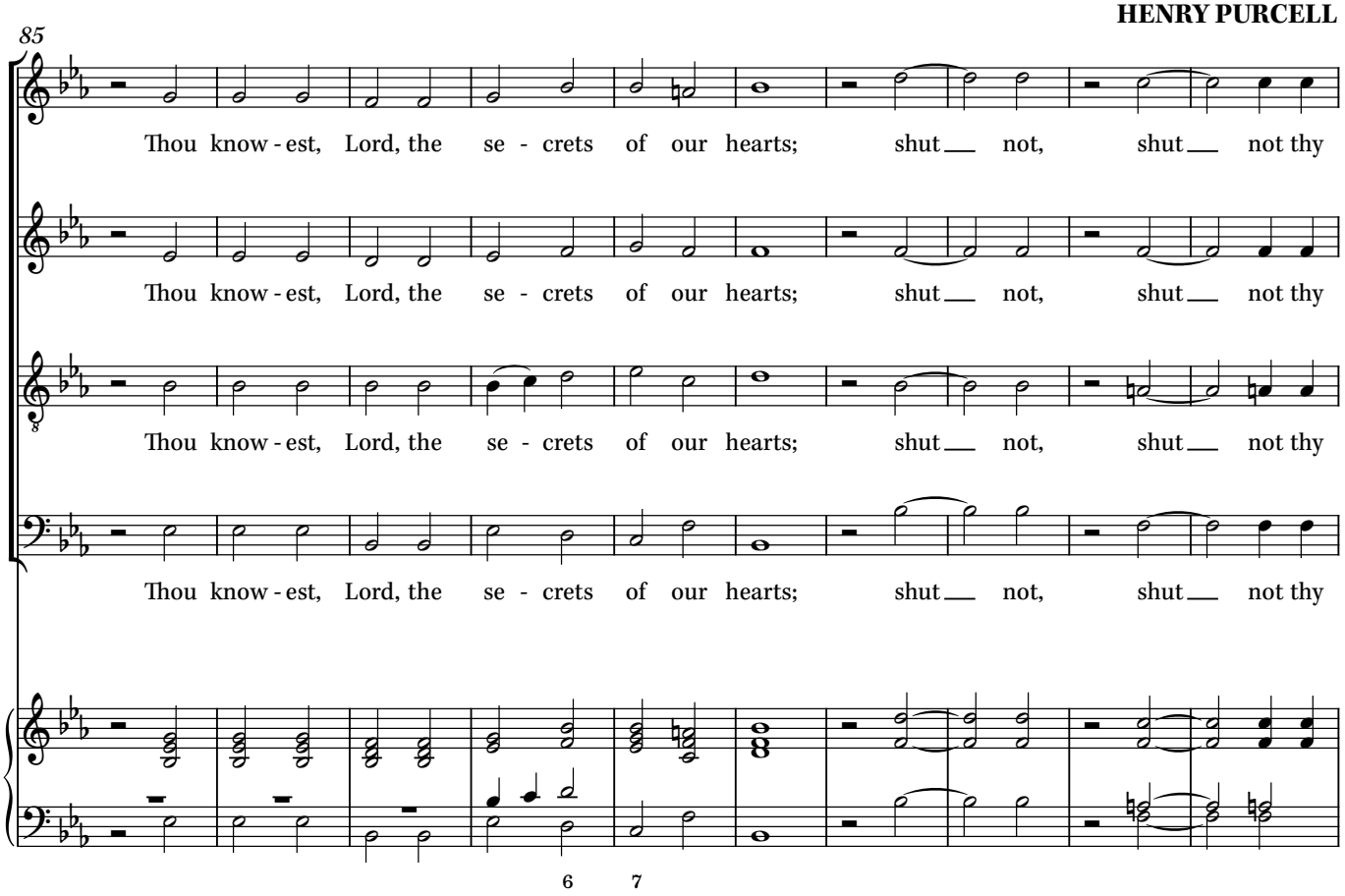
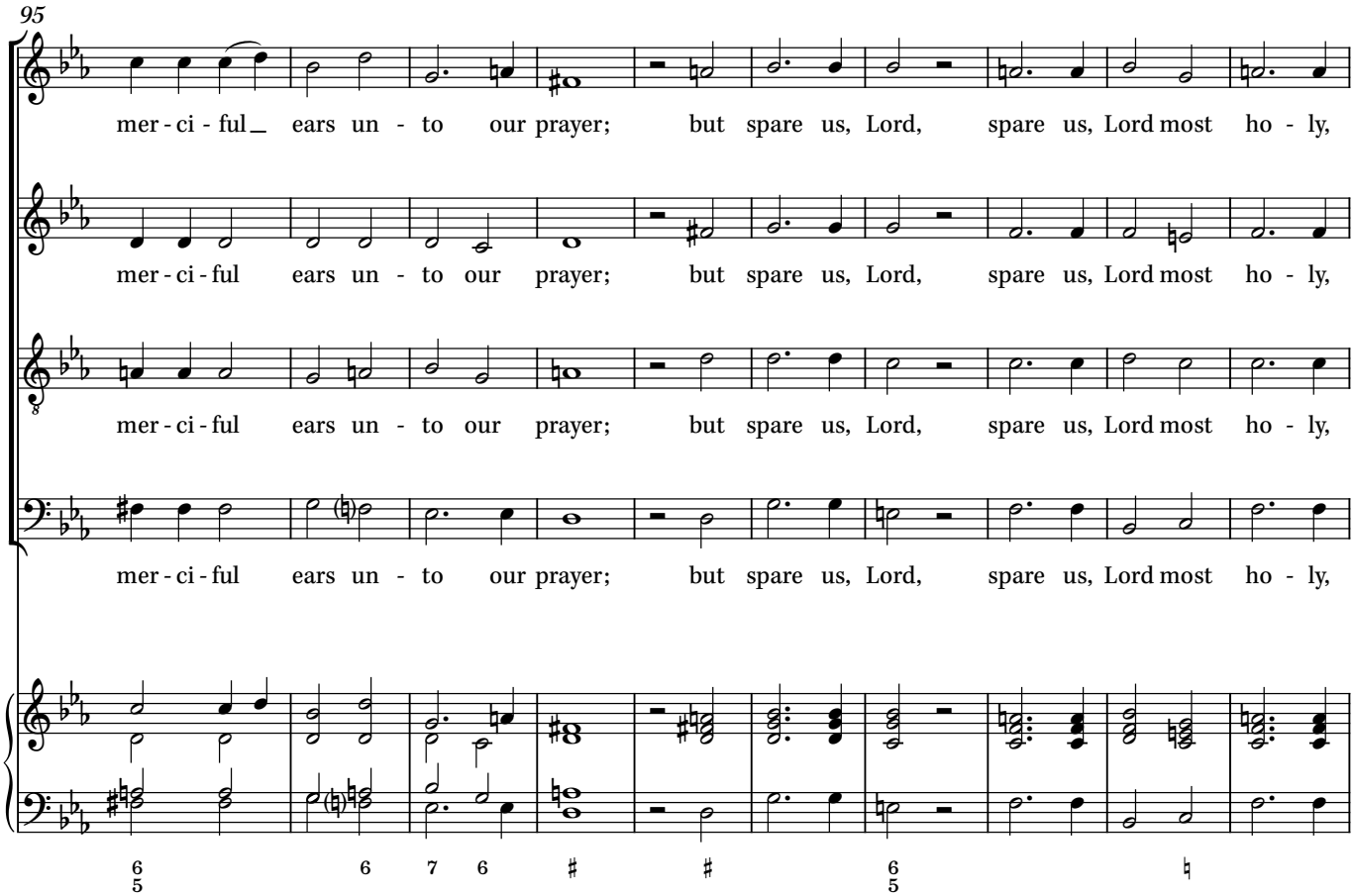
HENRY PURCELL





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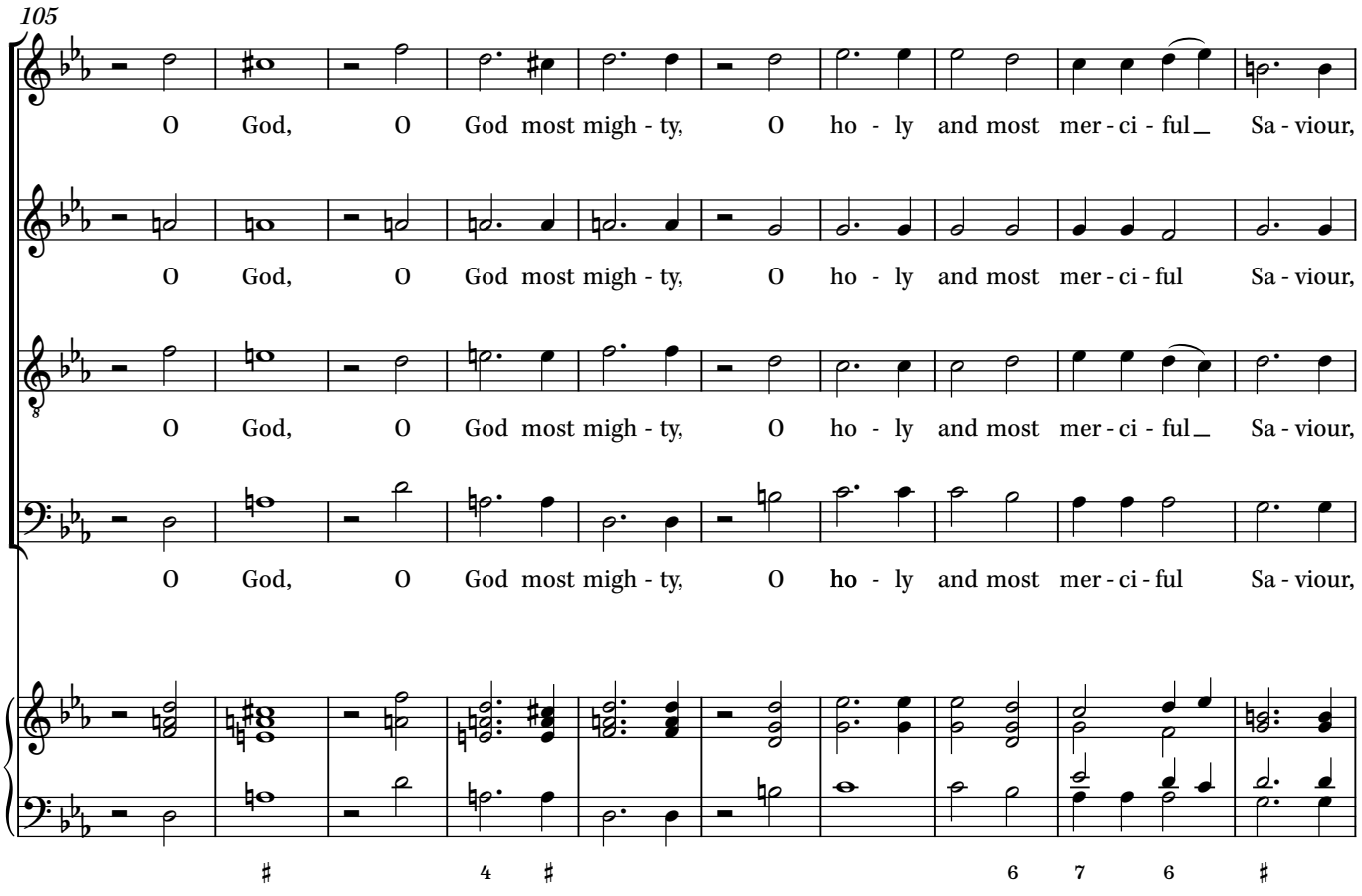

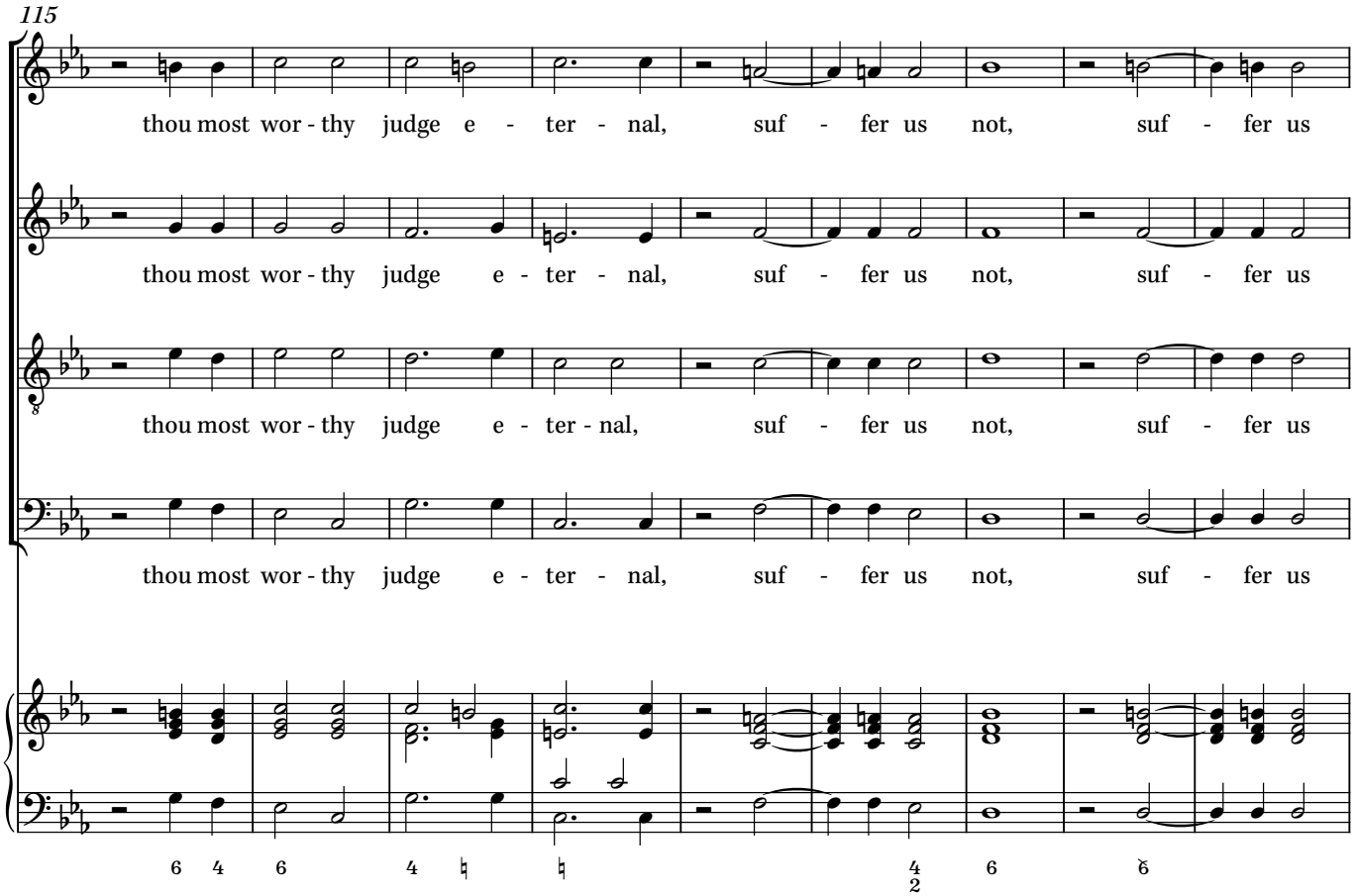

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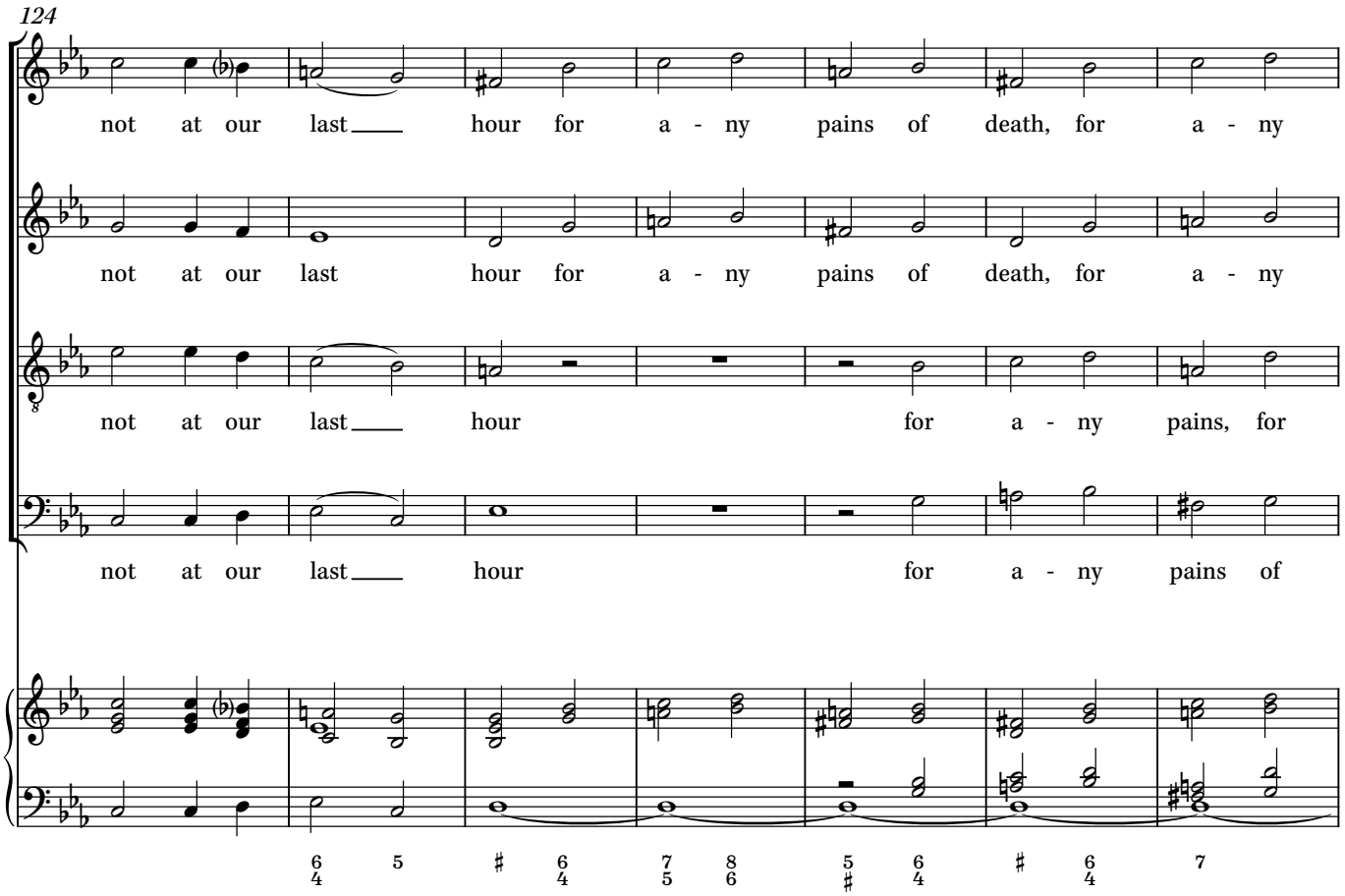

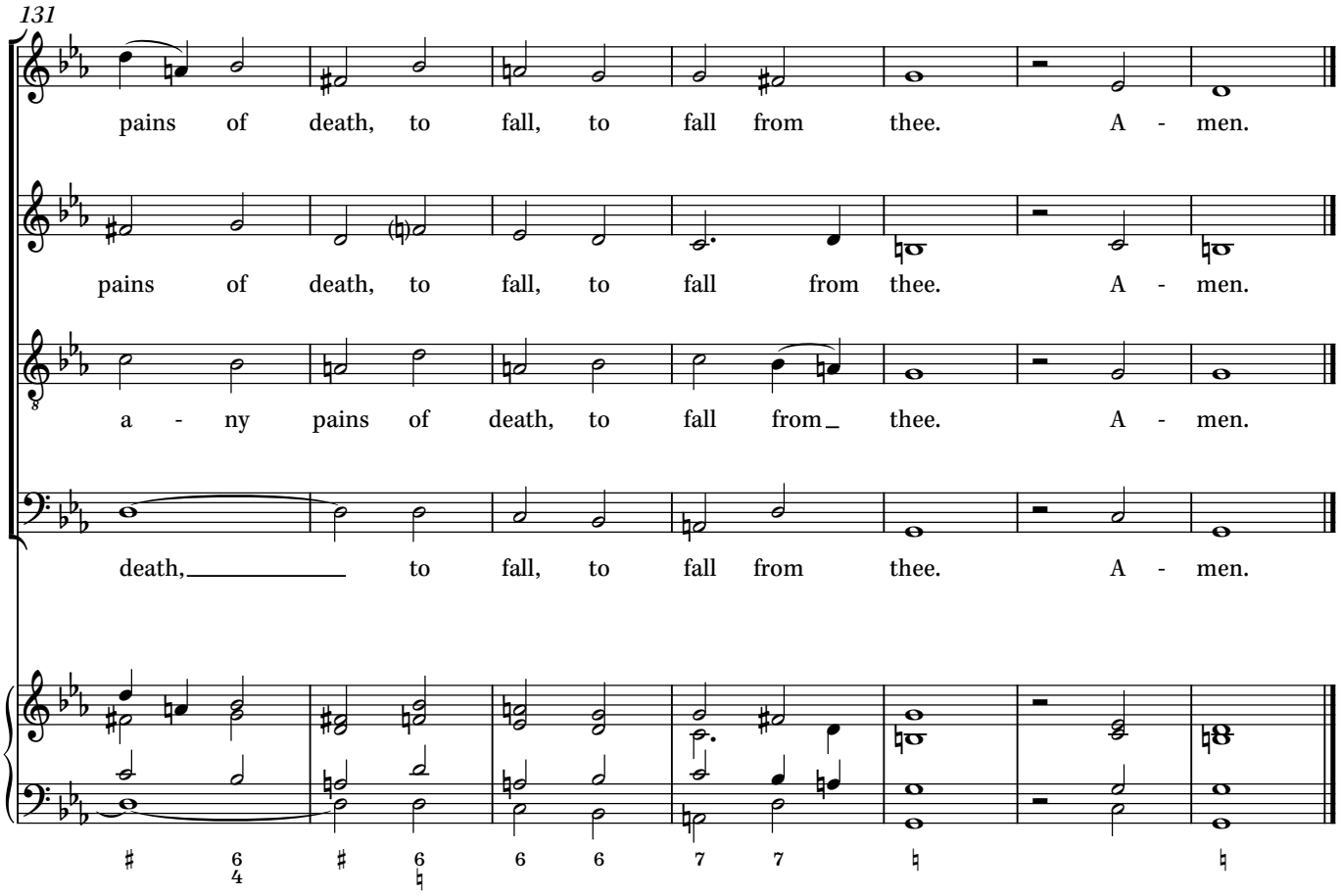

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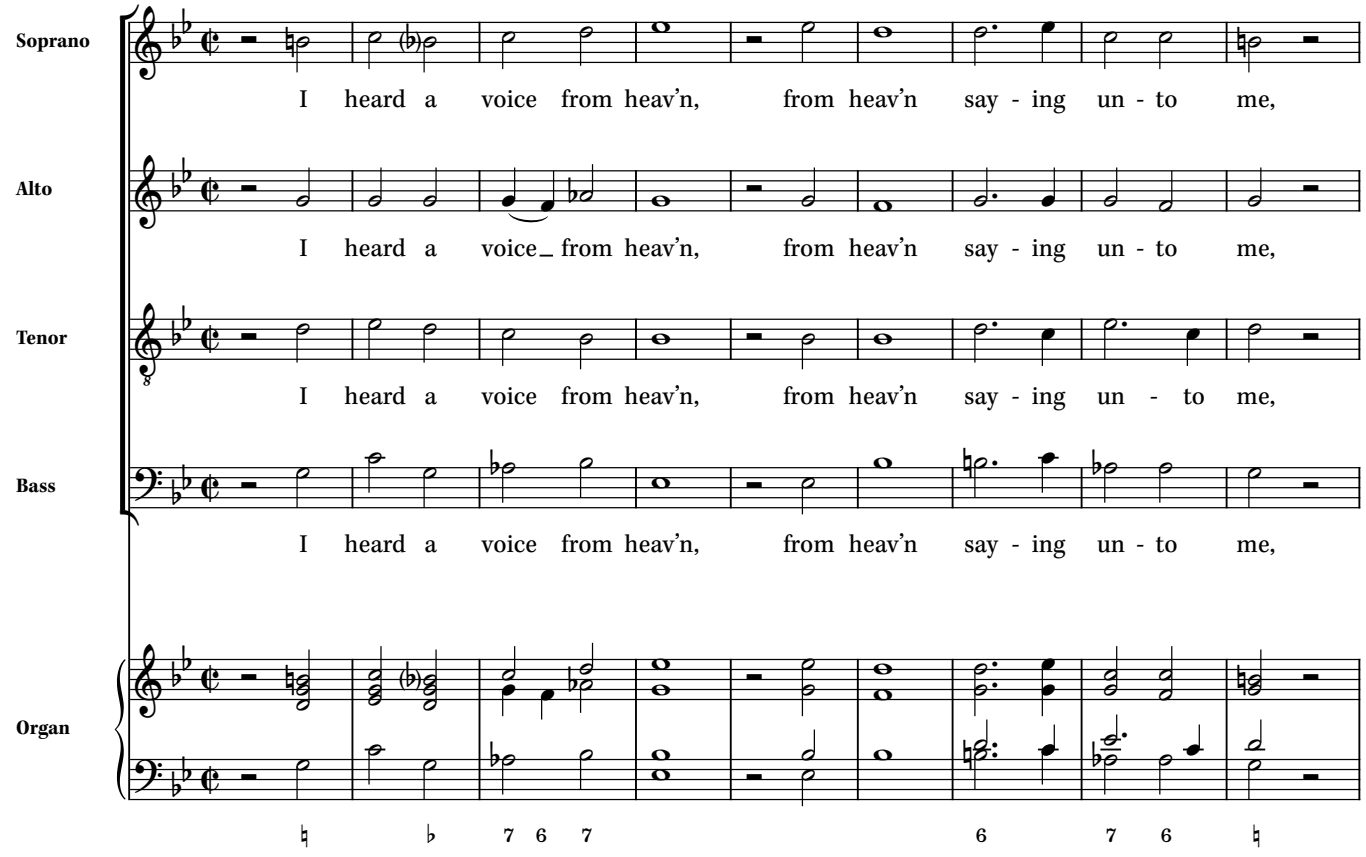
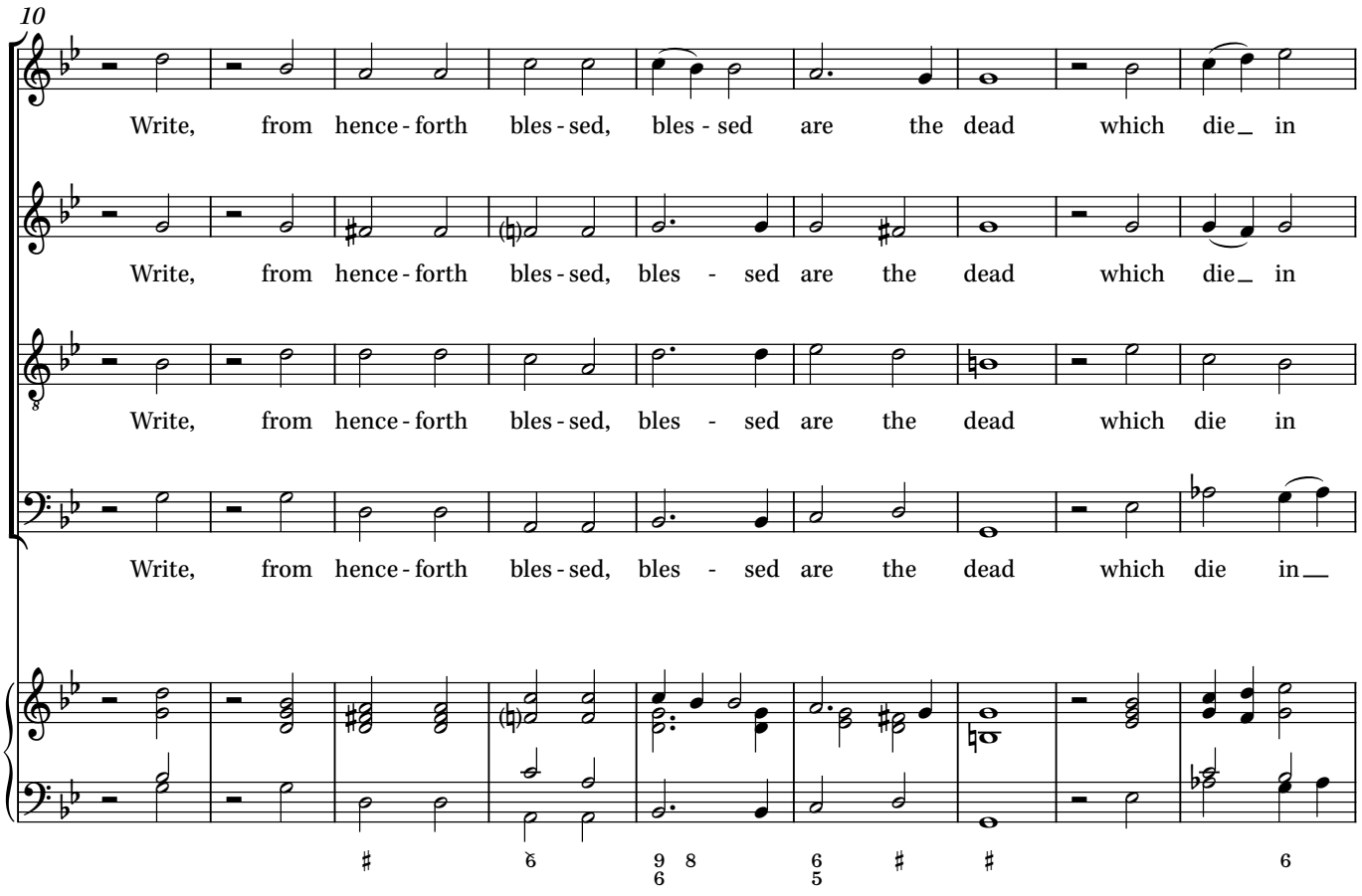
Sentence III

WILLIAM CROFT





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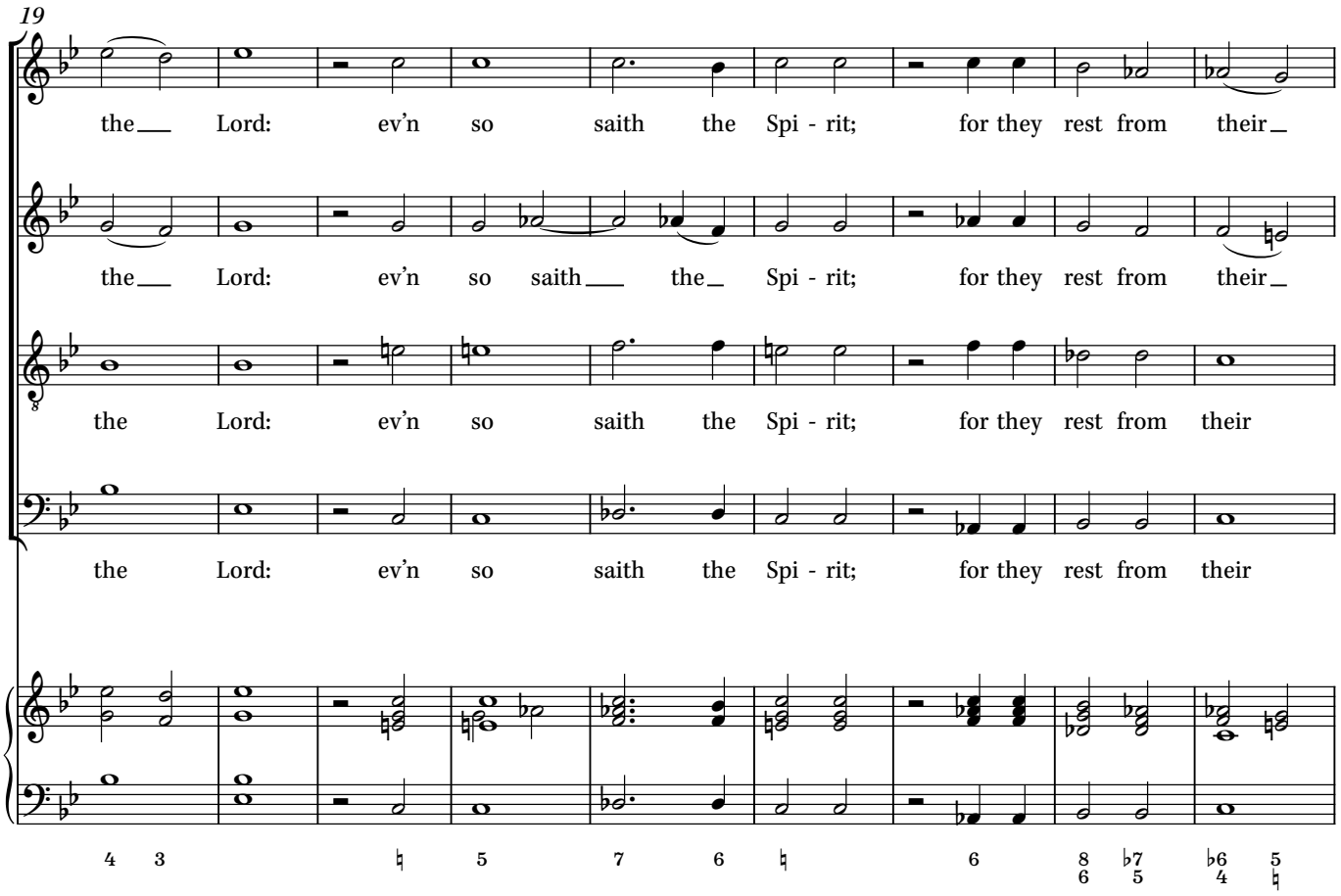

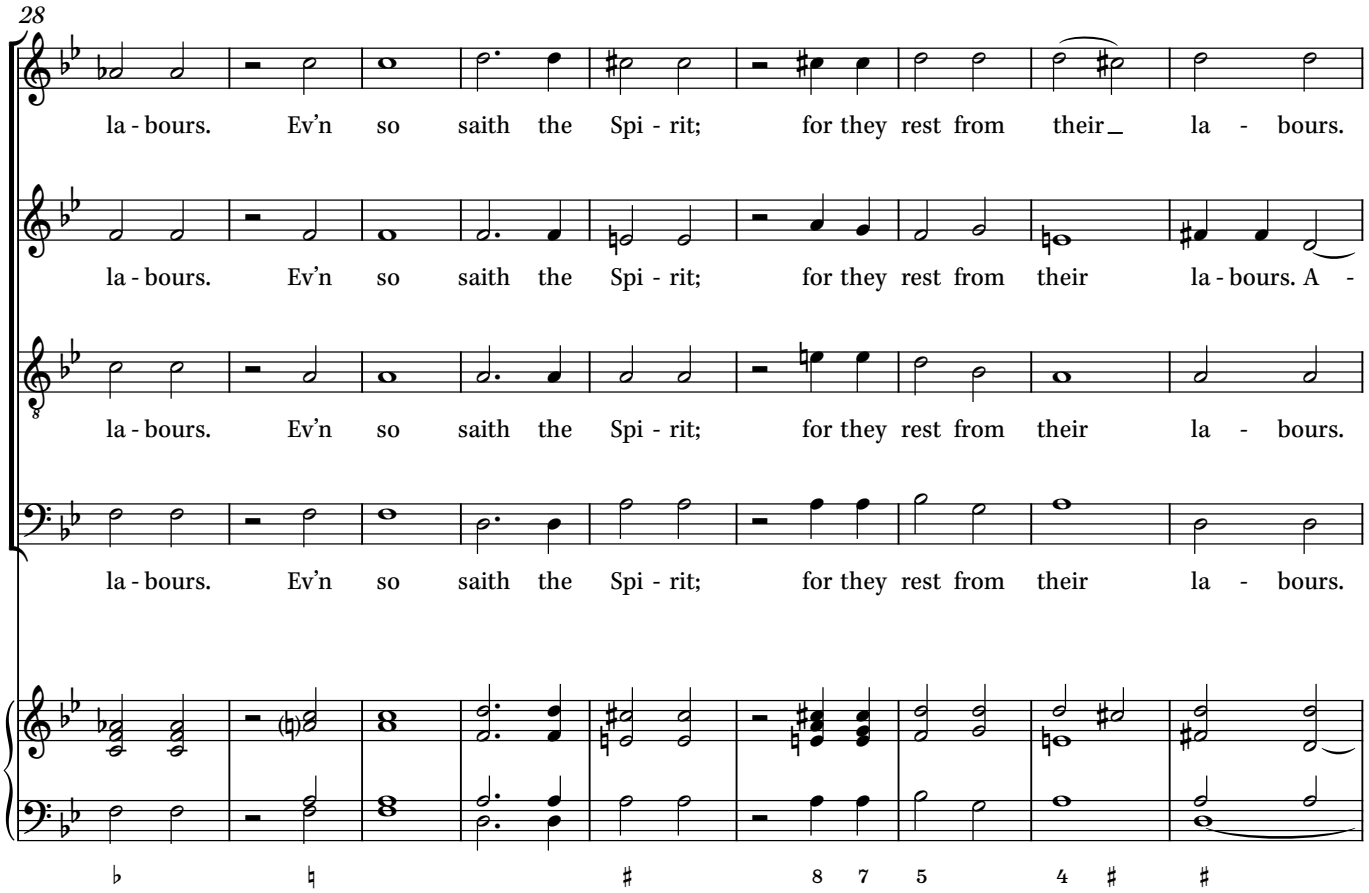

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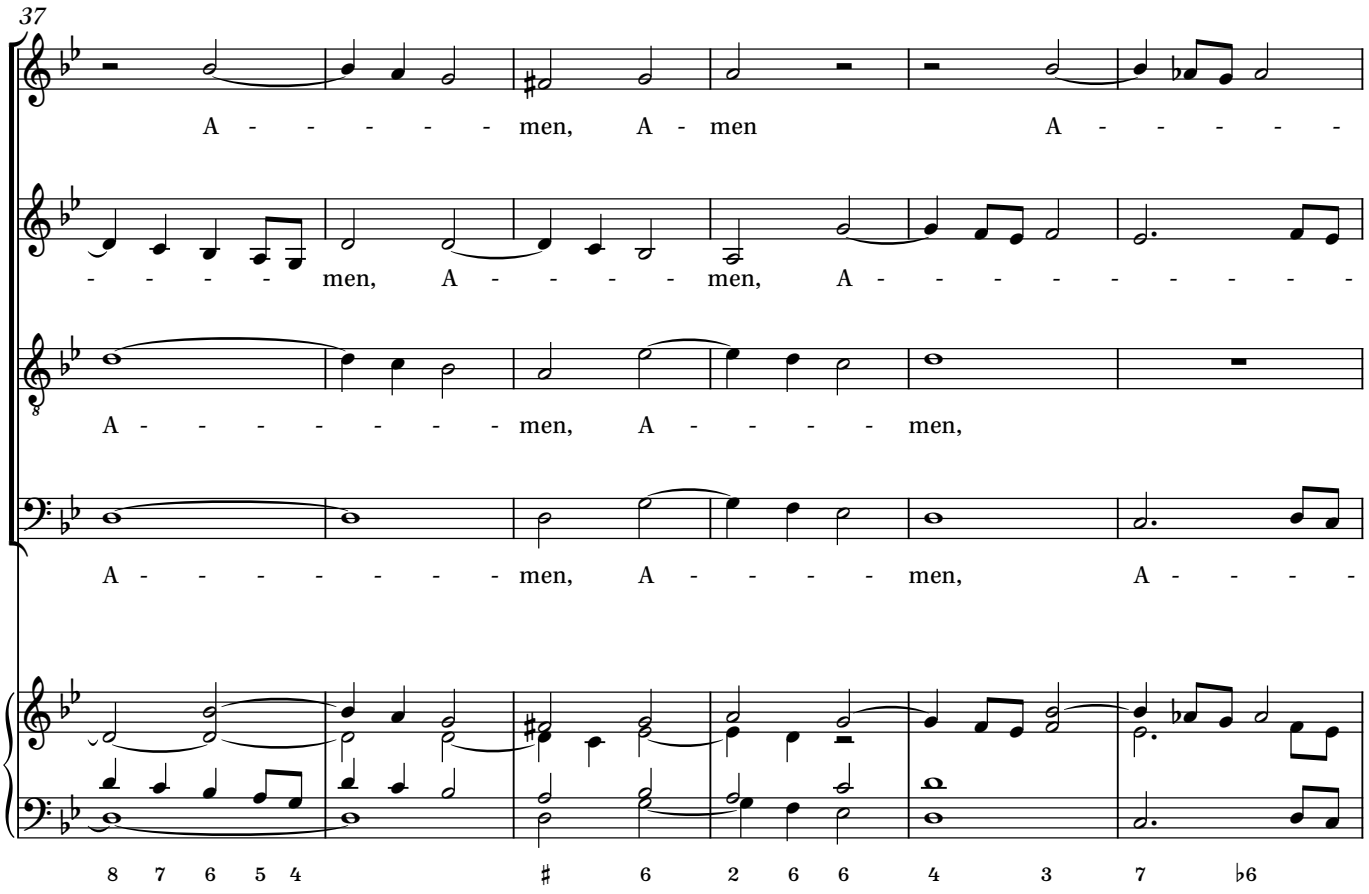

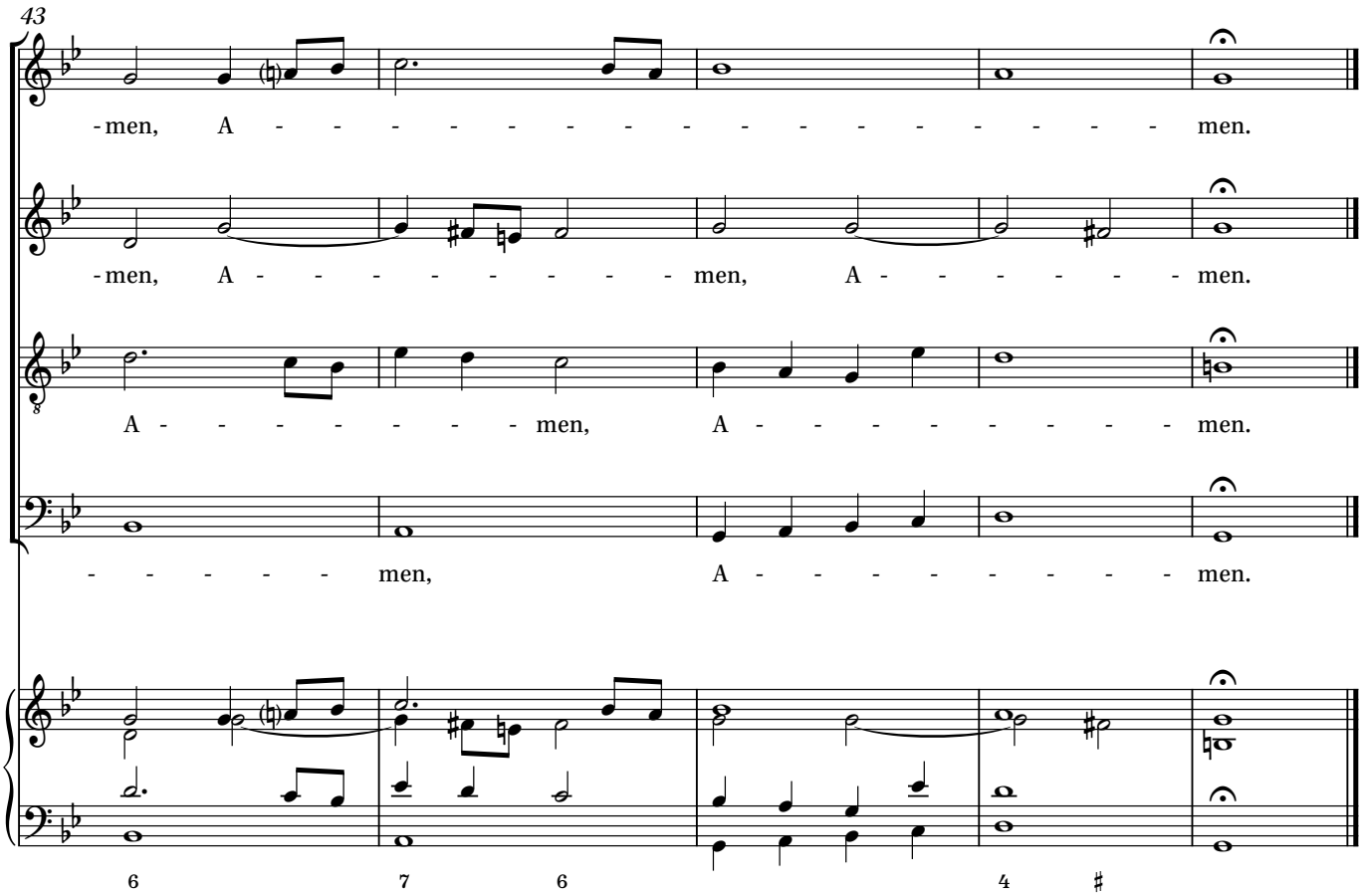

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