Foreword

Growing up in the local church, there was always something extra special about the Christmas Eve service. So many families gathered together from near and far, every pew filled to capacity, young children and great-grandparents seated together, a beautifully decorated sanctuary dimly lit with candles and tender Christmas music indicating the arrival of the Christ-Child. Tapping into those wonderful memories, I am honored to share my inaugural collection of Christmas music for the church organist.

Tidings of Joy! Promises of Peace is a collection of eight fresh settings to be used throughout the Christmas season. Catering to the many moods of the holidays, there are four selections for festive preludes or postludes and four quiet, more reflective pieces that may be used as offertories or perhaps for the Christmas Eve service. Many favorite and beloved carols are included such as *What Child Is This?, O Little Town of Bethlehem,* and *The First Noel.* I've also included some that are not often arranged for organ, such as the exhilarating *Ding, Dong! Merrily On High* and *People, Look East.* General registrations are indicated but I encourage you to use what enables you to express the music as you desire.

May your Advent and Christmas seasons be filled with expressions of joy and peace as you share the gift of music with all who celebrate the good news of Christ's birth.

– Mary McDonald

About the Arranger

Mary McDonald, a lifelong native of East Tennessee, has been playing piano since she was five years old. The youngest of six musical children, she became the family accompanist at holiday gatherings while the older children would sing. Today, Mary is a well-known composer of over 1,000 choral anthems and many keyboard collections. She previously served as sacred music editor for a major church publishing company and continues in an editorial consultant role. She is published with every major publisher for church music and has had numerous top-selling anthems. Her unique blend of heart, hands, and humor, combined with a wide range of writing and performing styles has kept her in constant demand for nearly 40 years as a composer, keyboard artist, and as a choral clinician.

Mary is married to Brian, a Knoxville, Tennessee architect, and they have two married children and four grandchildren.

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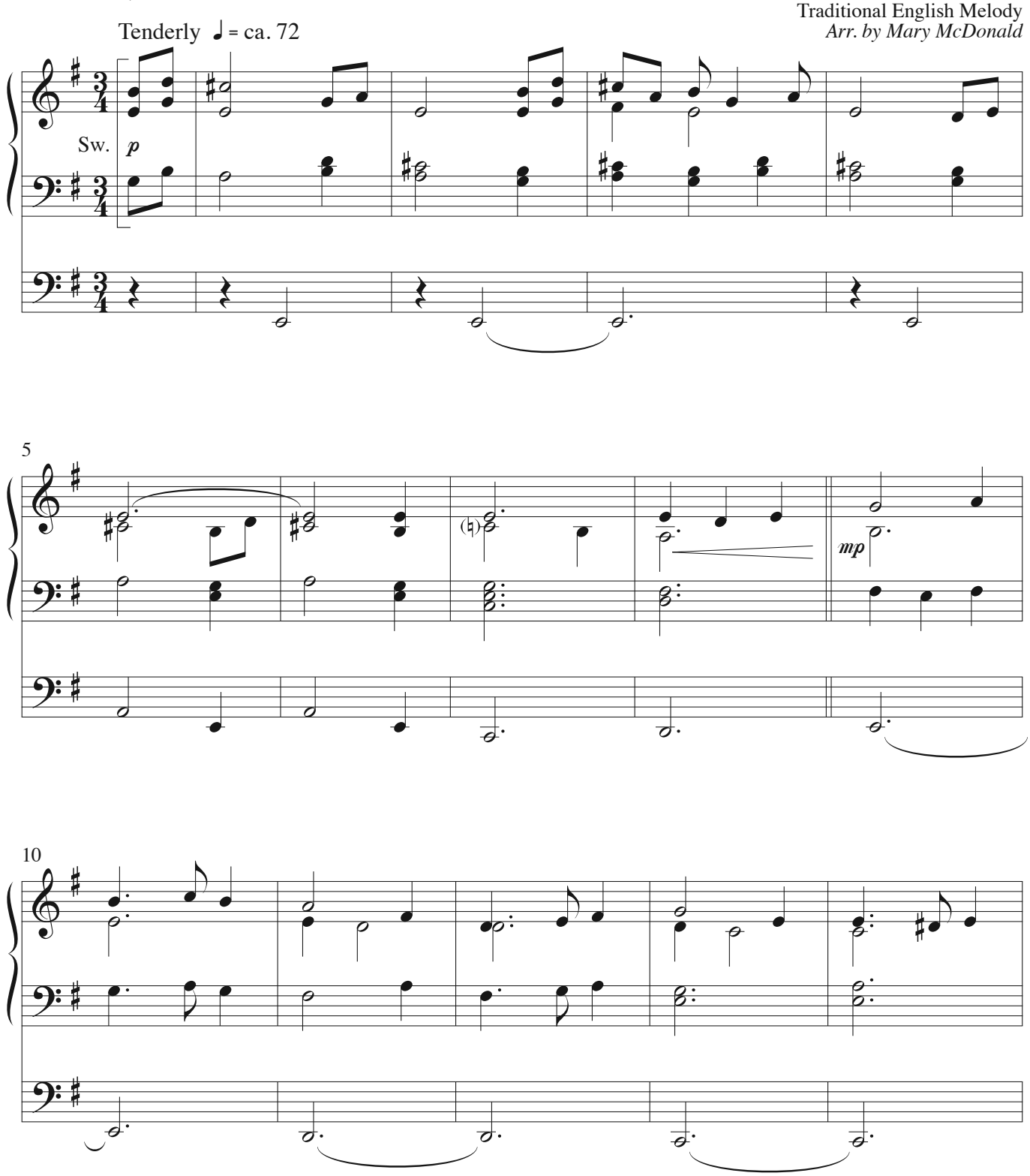
What Child Is This?

Sw. St. 8, 4, Fl. 8
Ch. St. 8, 4, to Sw.
Ped. Soft 16, 8

with
Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child

Traditional English Melody
Arr. by Mary McDonald



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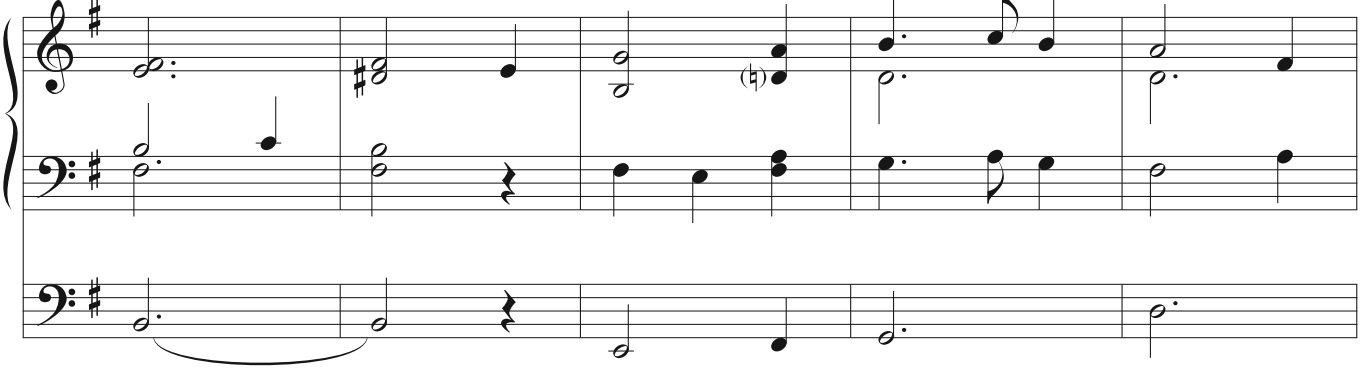

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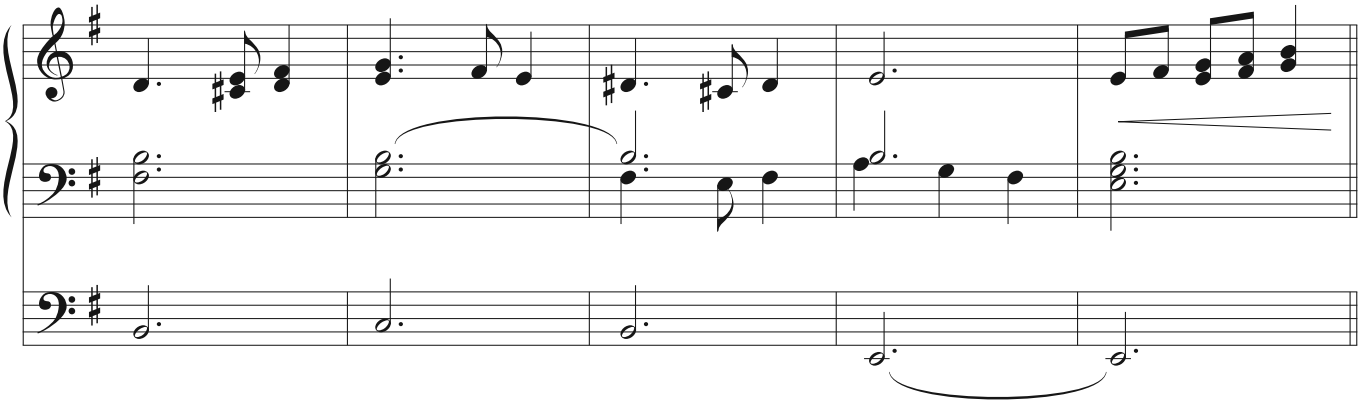

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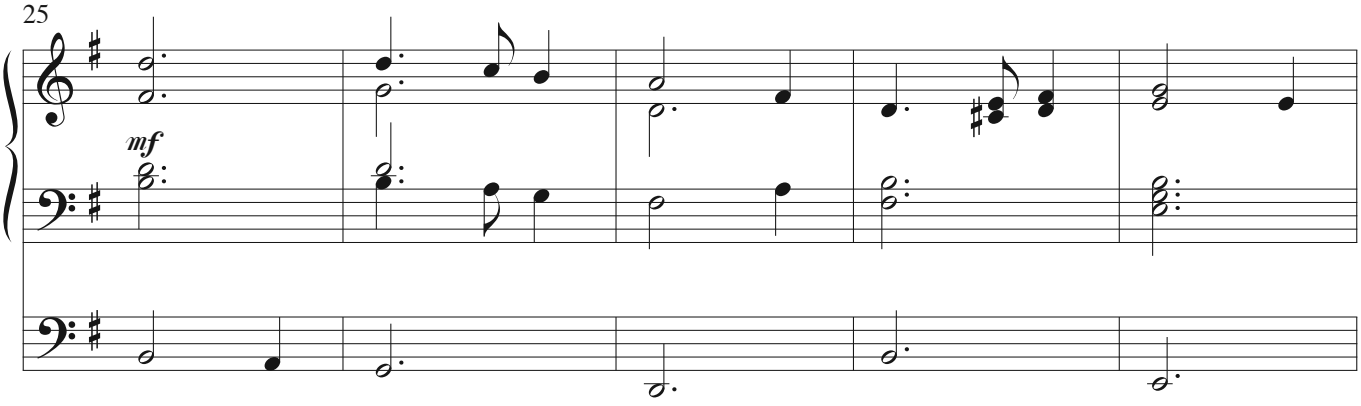

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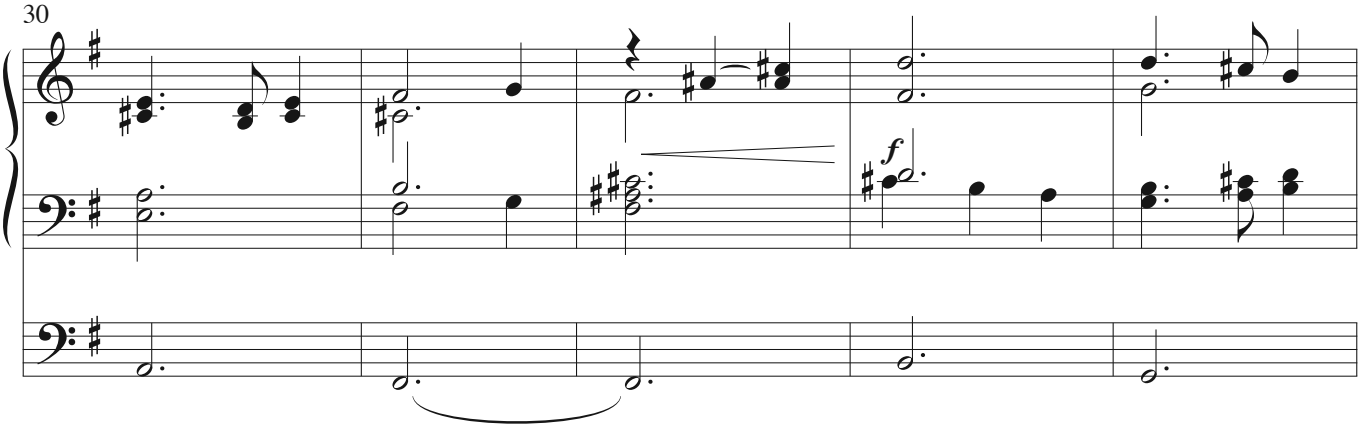
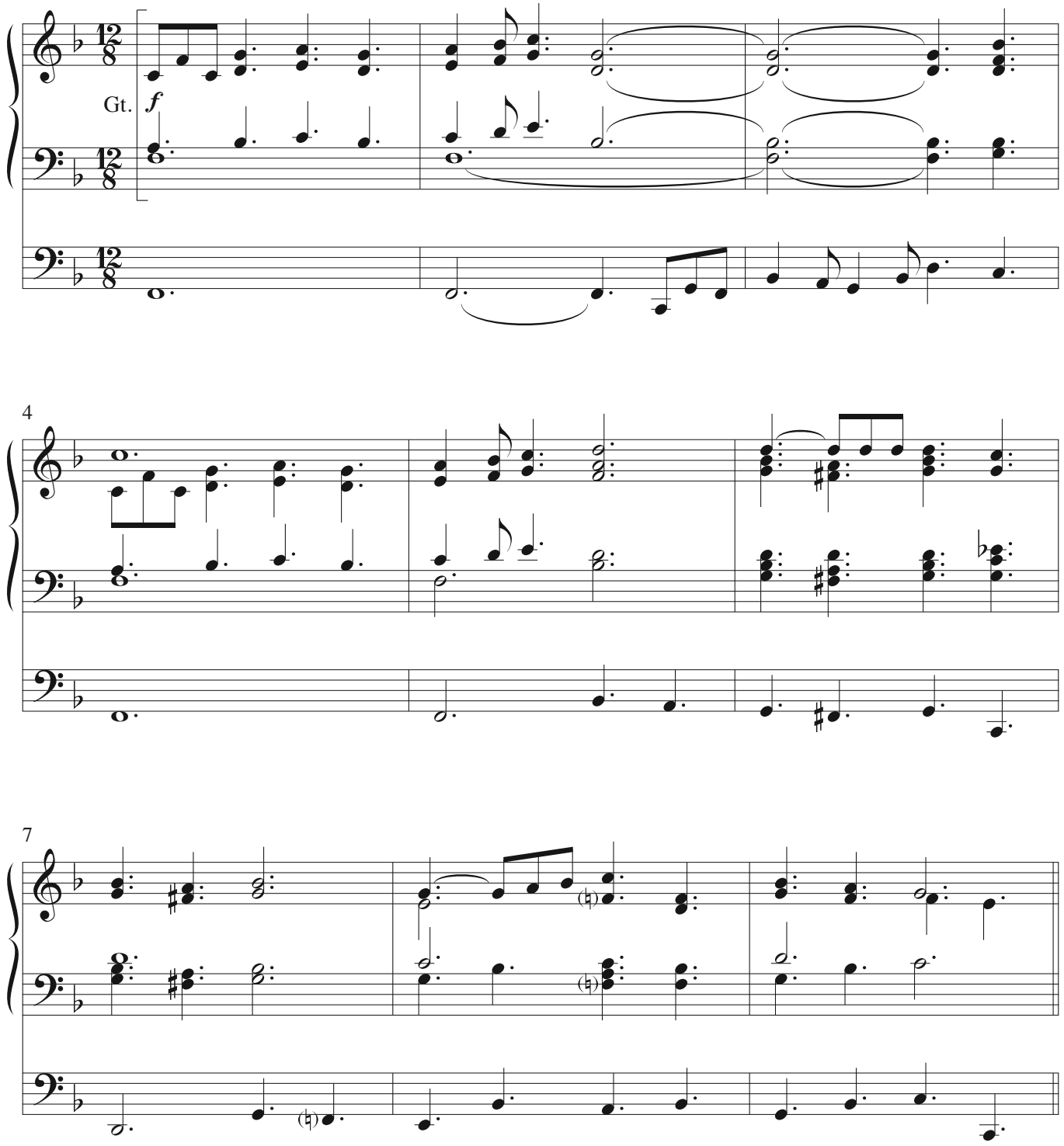


Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Sw. Solo Tpt. 8
Gt. Pr. 8, 4, 2, Mixtures
Ped. Pr. 16, 8 Gt. to Ped.

FELIX MENDELSSOHN
Arr. by Mary McDonald

Joyfully ♩. = ca. 96



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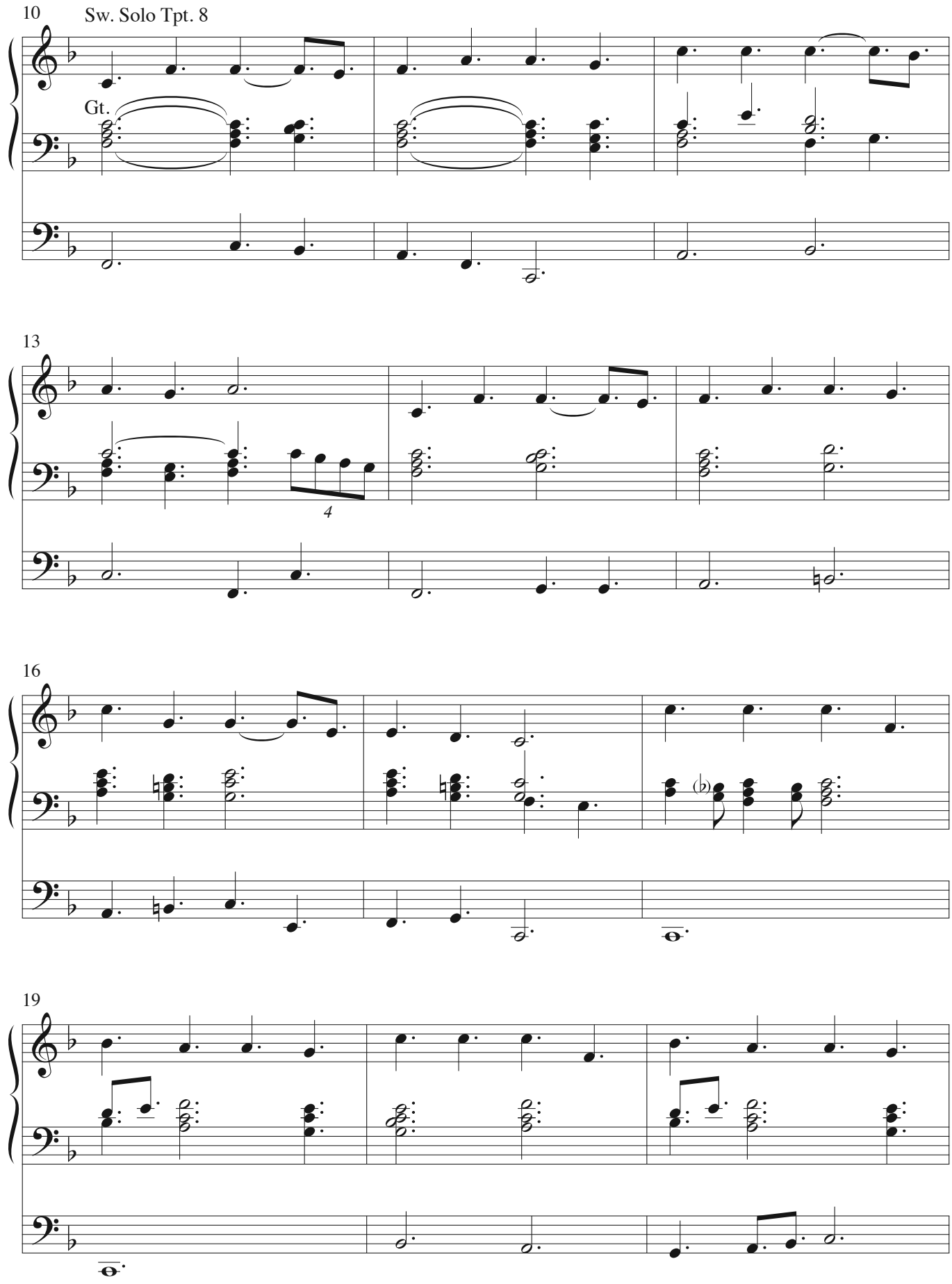
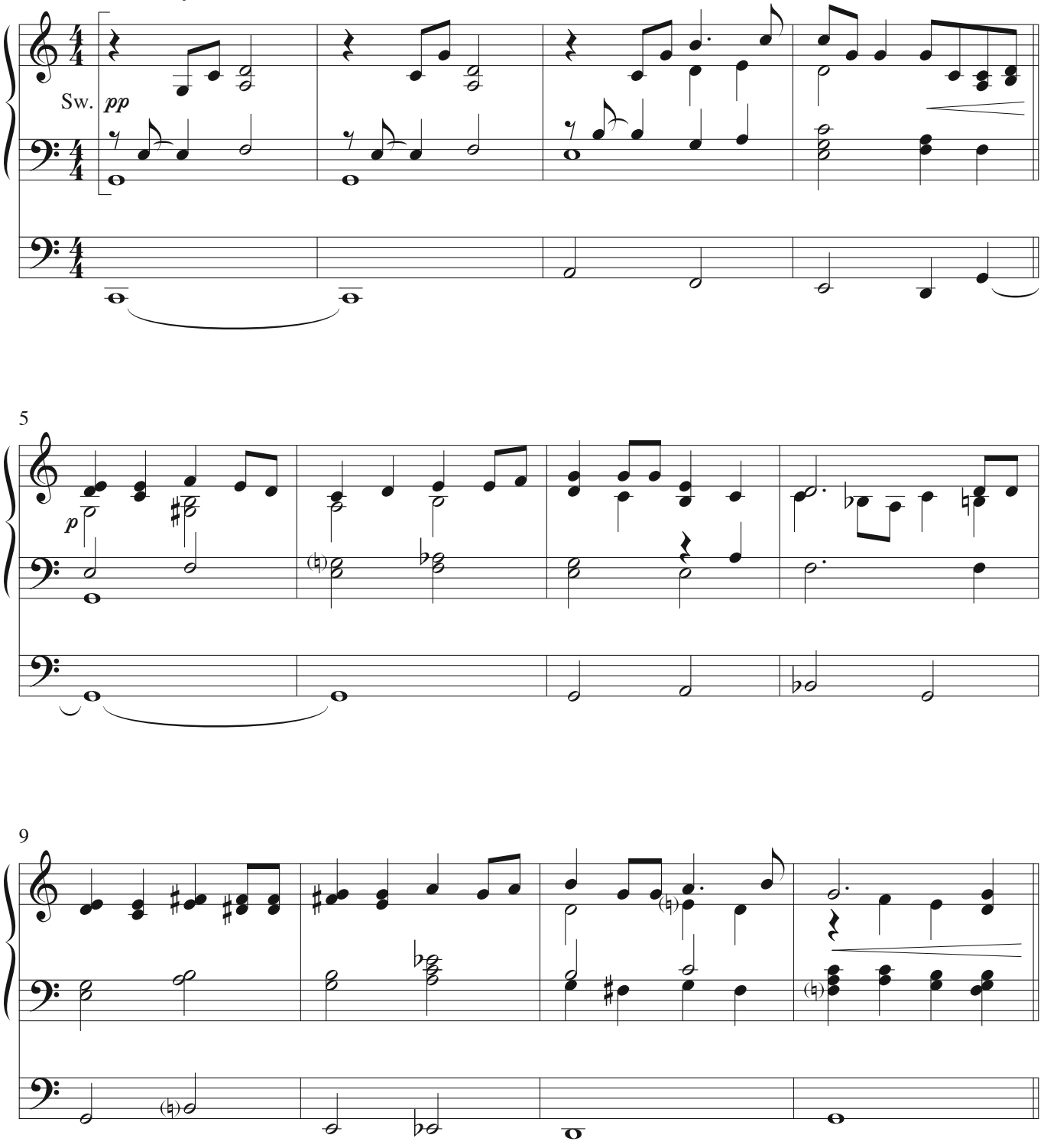

10
Sw. Solo Tpt. 8
Gt.
13
4
16
(♭)
19

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Sw. St. 8, 4, Fl. 8
Ch. St. 8, 4, to Sw.
Ped. Soft 16, 8

TIMOTHY R. MATTHEWS
Arr. by Mary McDonald

Peacefully ♩ = 69-72



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13

mp

17

21

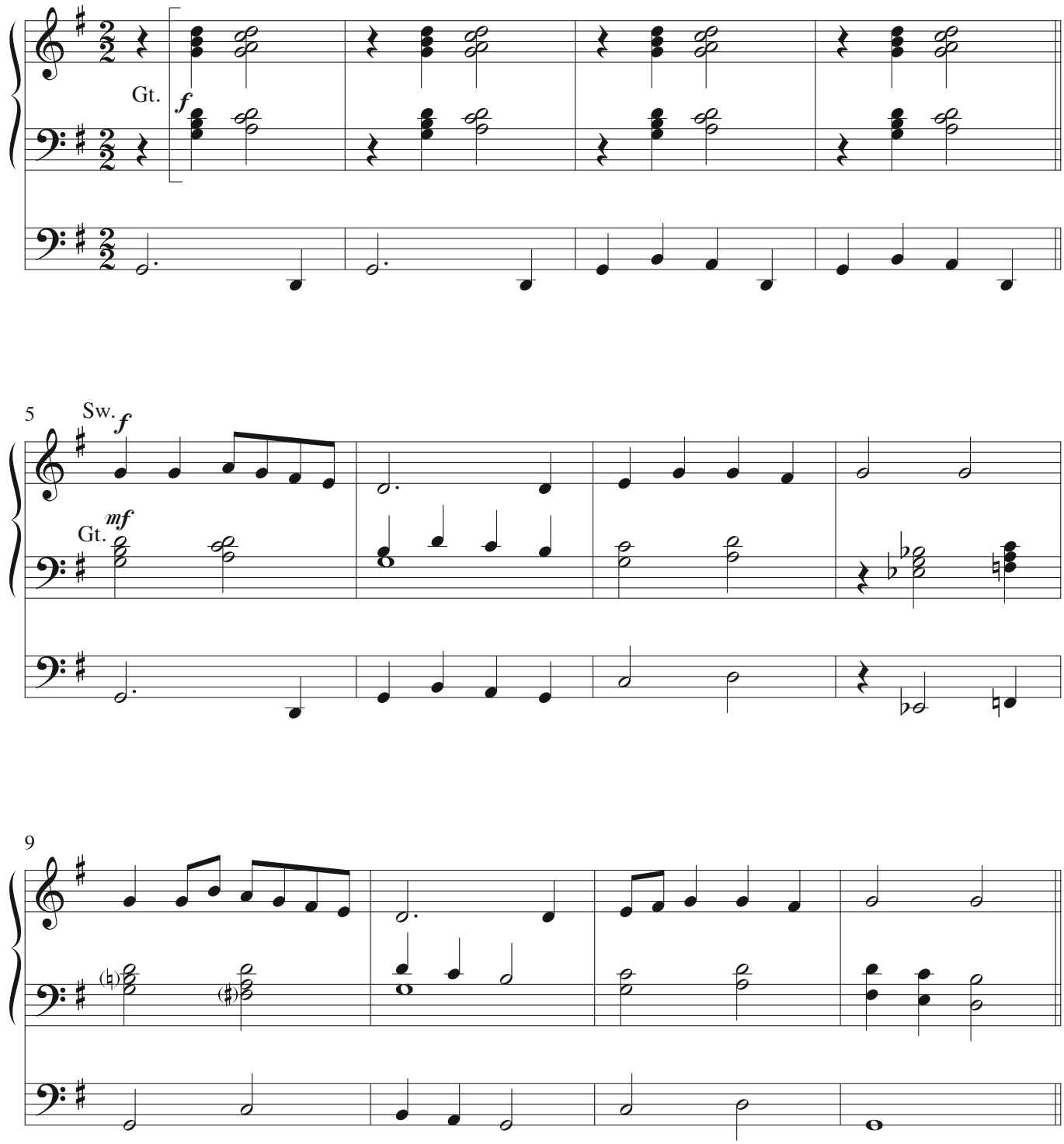
25

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Sw. Solo Tpt. 8
Gt. Pr. 8, 4, Mixtures
Ped. Pr. 16, 8, Gt. to Ped.

Traditional French Carol
Arr. by Mary McDonald

Festively ♩ = ca. 52



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13

Gt. *f*

17

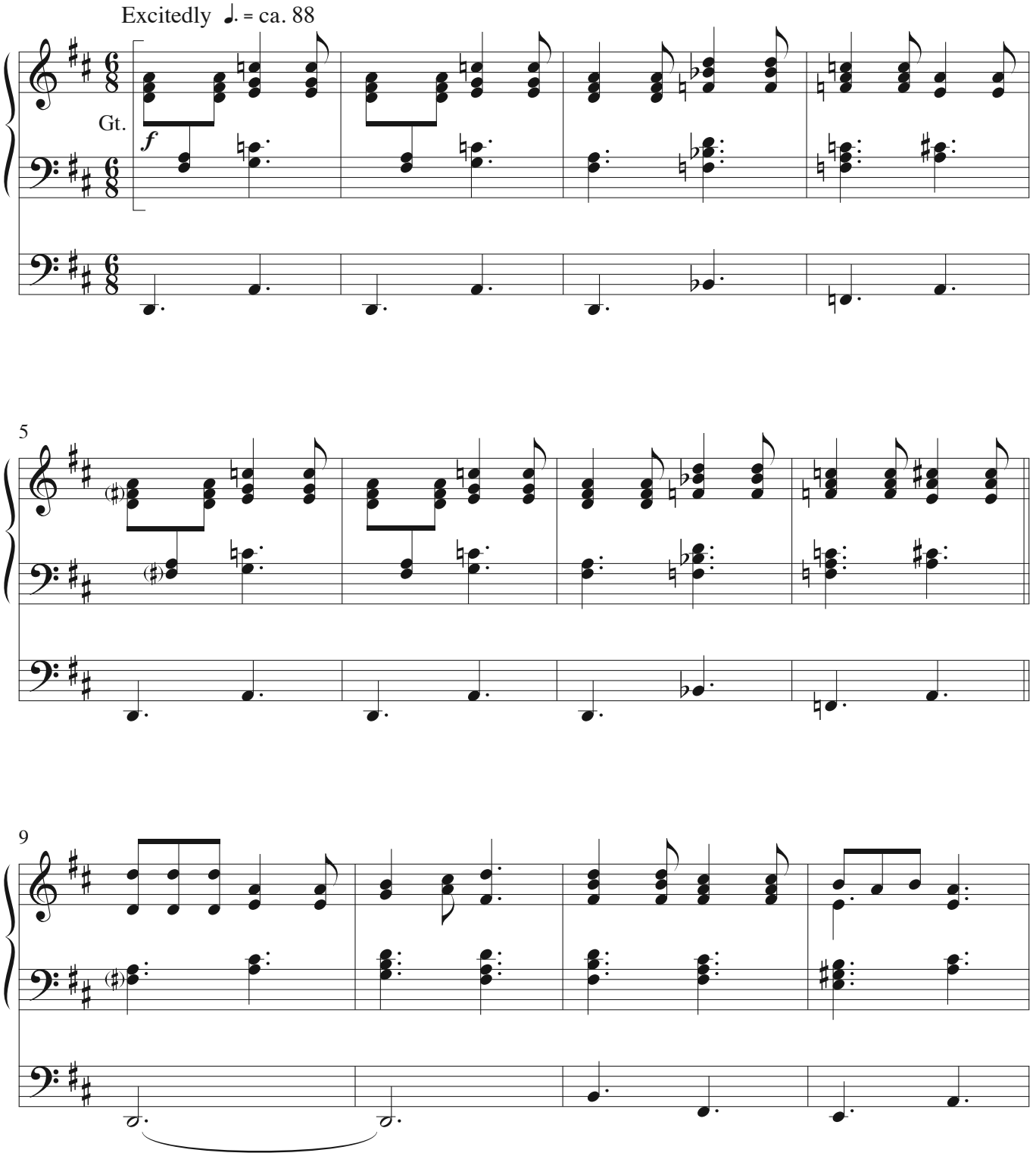
21

25

People, Look East

Sw. Full to Gt.
Gt. Full + Mixture
Ch. Full to Gt.
Ped. Full, Gt. to Ped.

Traditional French Melody
Arr. by Mary McDonald



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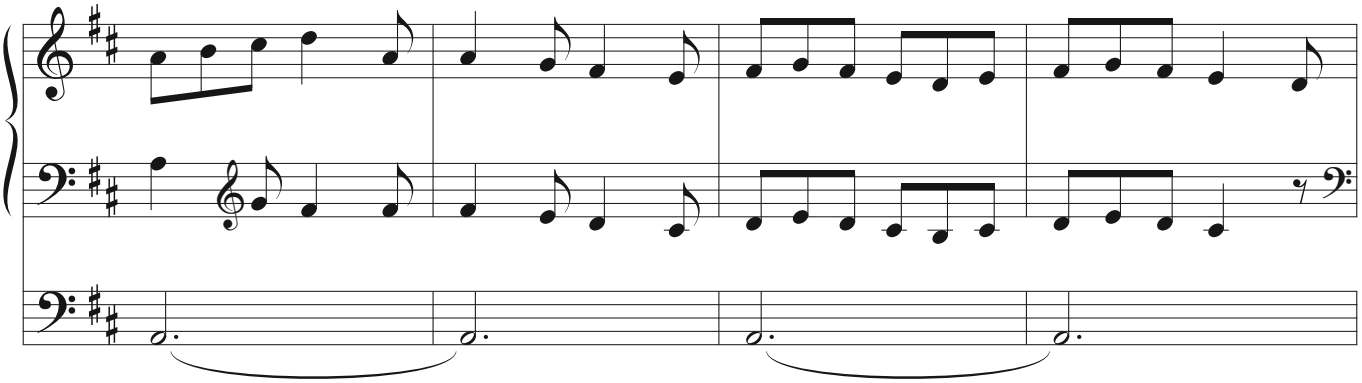

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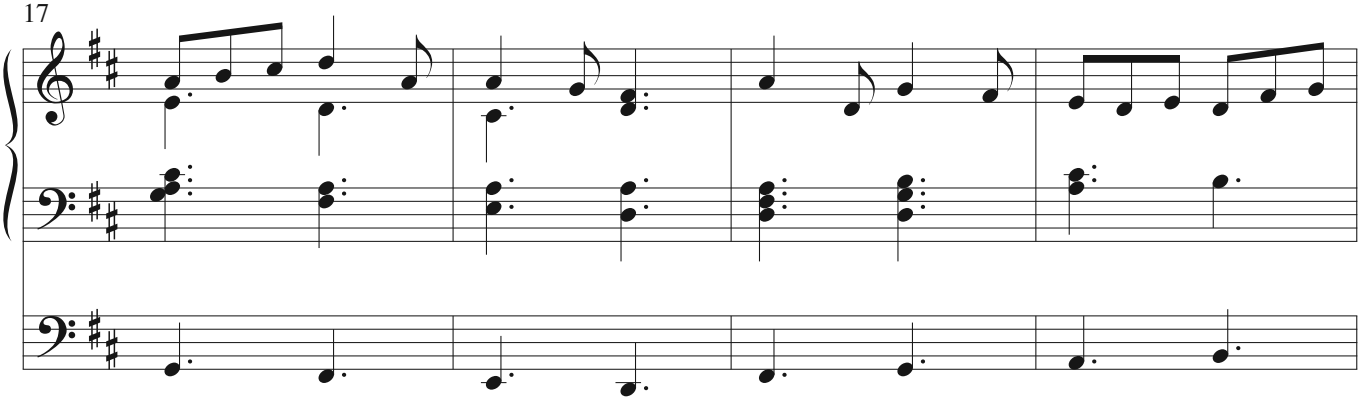

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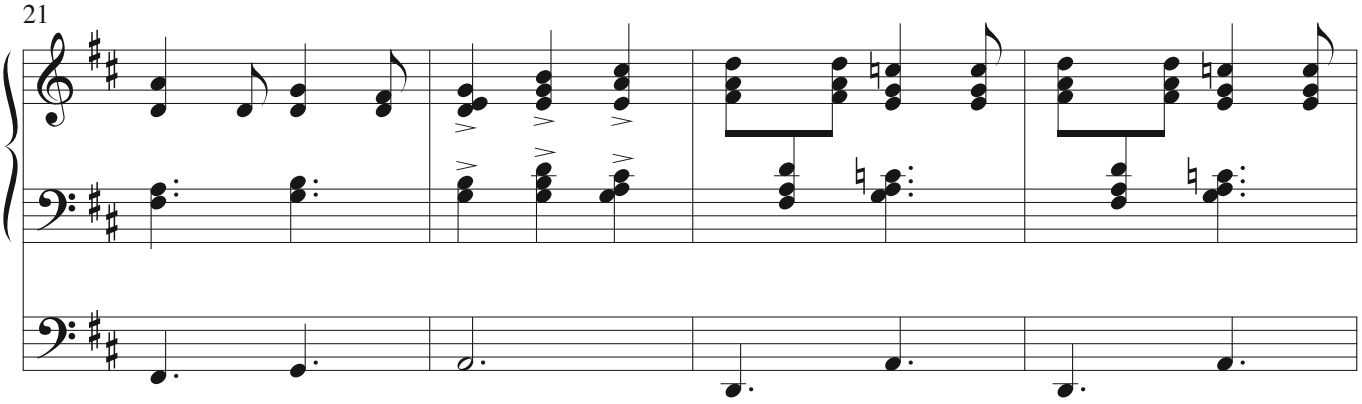

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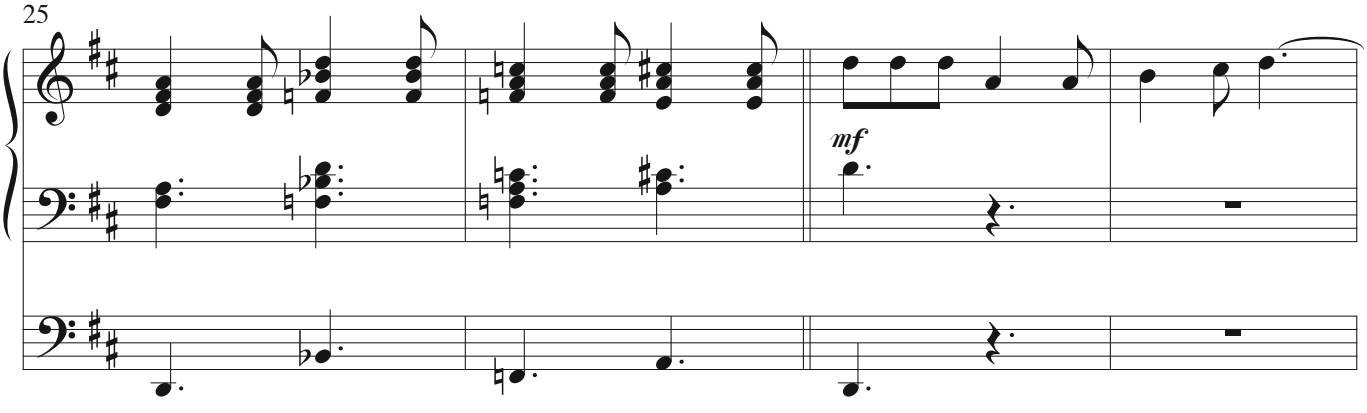
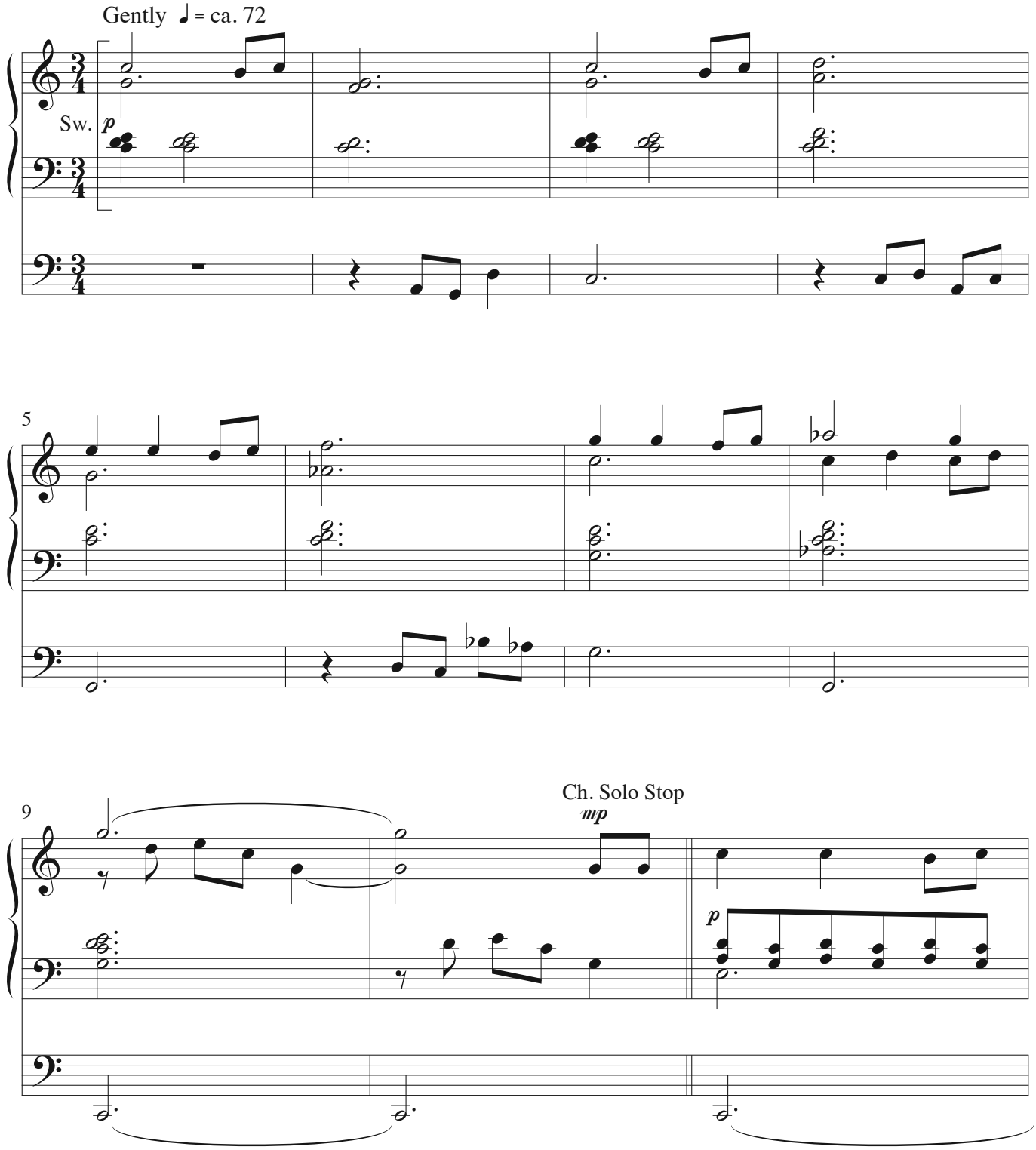


Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Sw. St. 8, 4, Fl. 8
Ch. Soft Reed 8 with Trem.
Ped. Soft 16, 8

Traditional Polish Carol
Arr. by Mary McDonald



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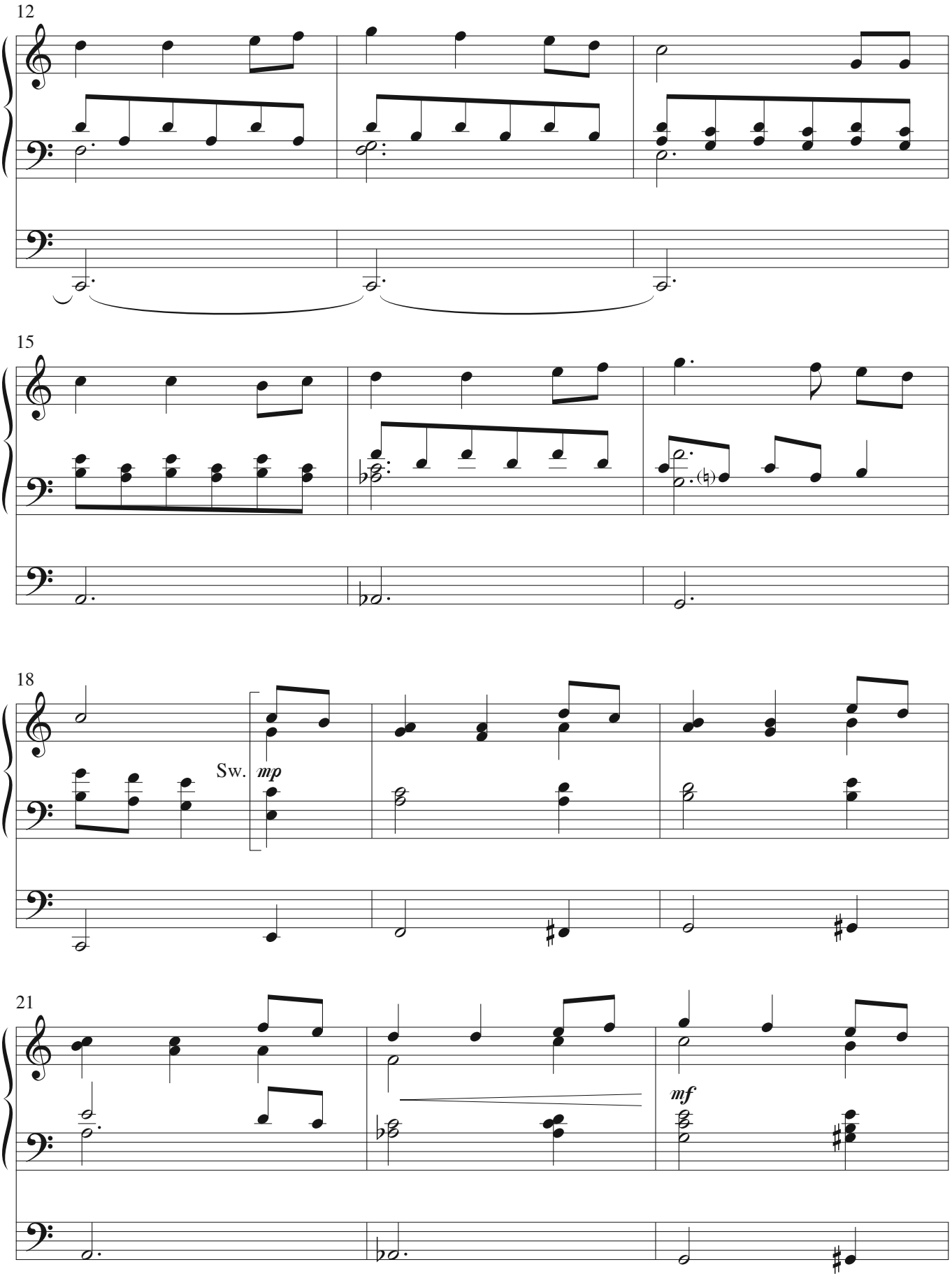

12
15
18
Sw.
mp
21
mf

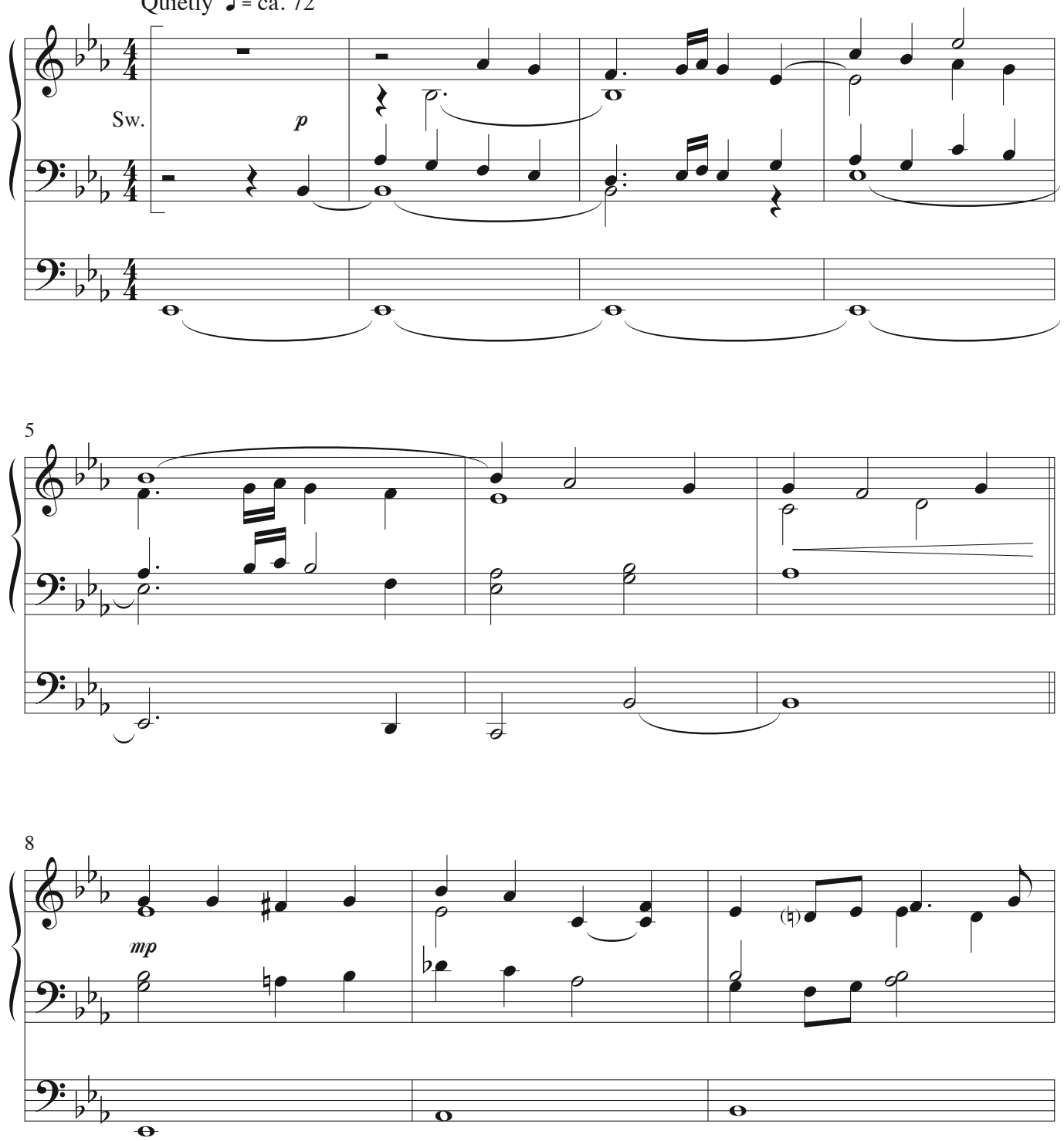
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Sw. St. 8, 4, Fl. 8 to Gt. 8
Gt. Fl. 8, 4
Ch. St. 8, 4, to Gt. 8
Ped. Soft 16, 8 Sw. to Ped. 8

with
Once in Royal David's City

LEWIS H. REDNER
Arr. by Mary McDonald

Quietly ♩ = ca. 72



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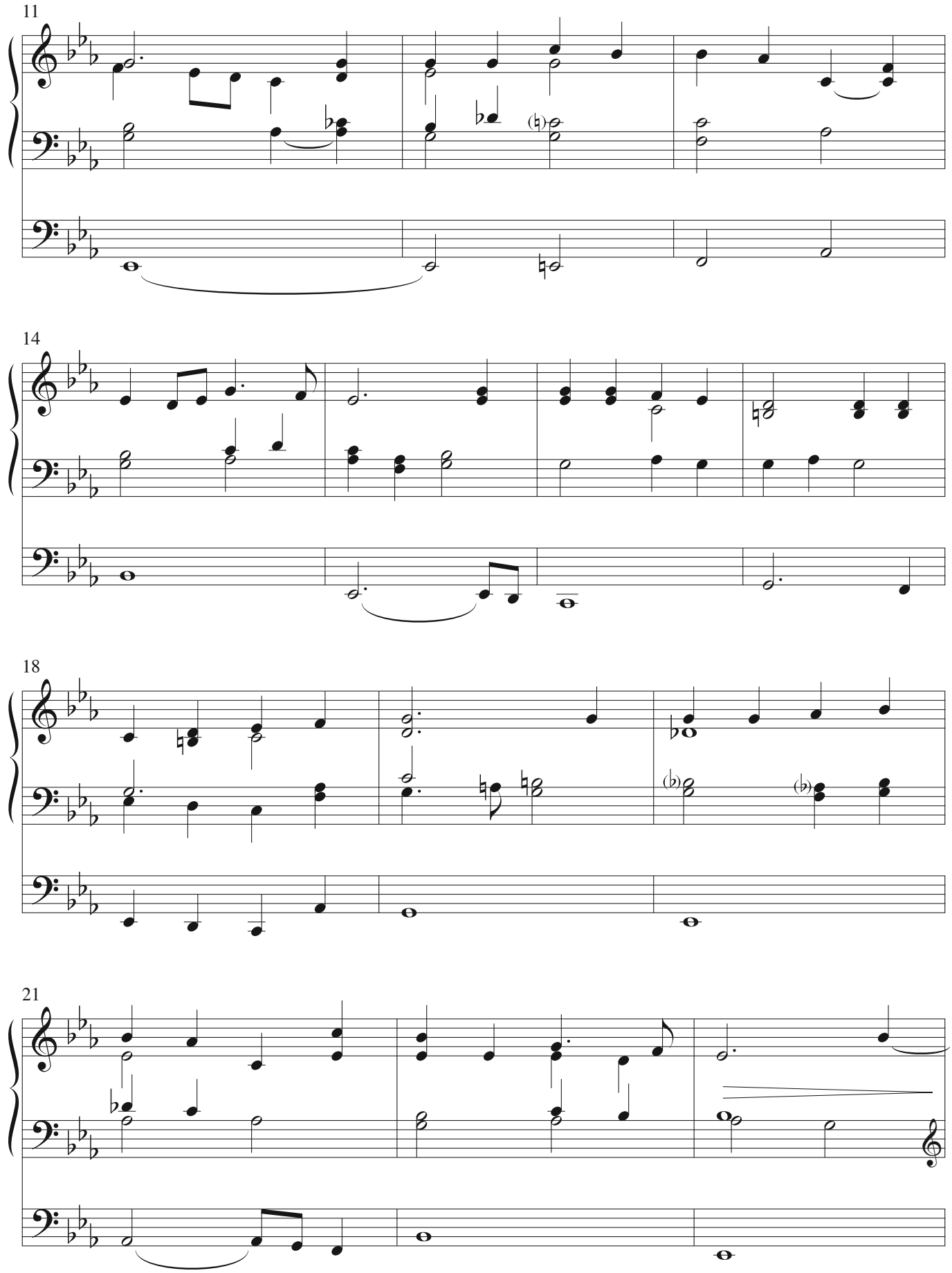
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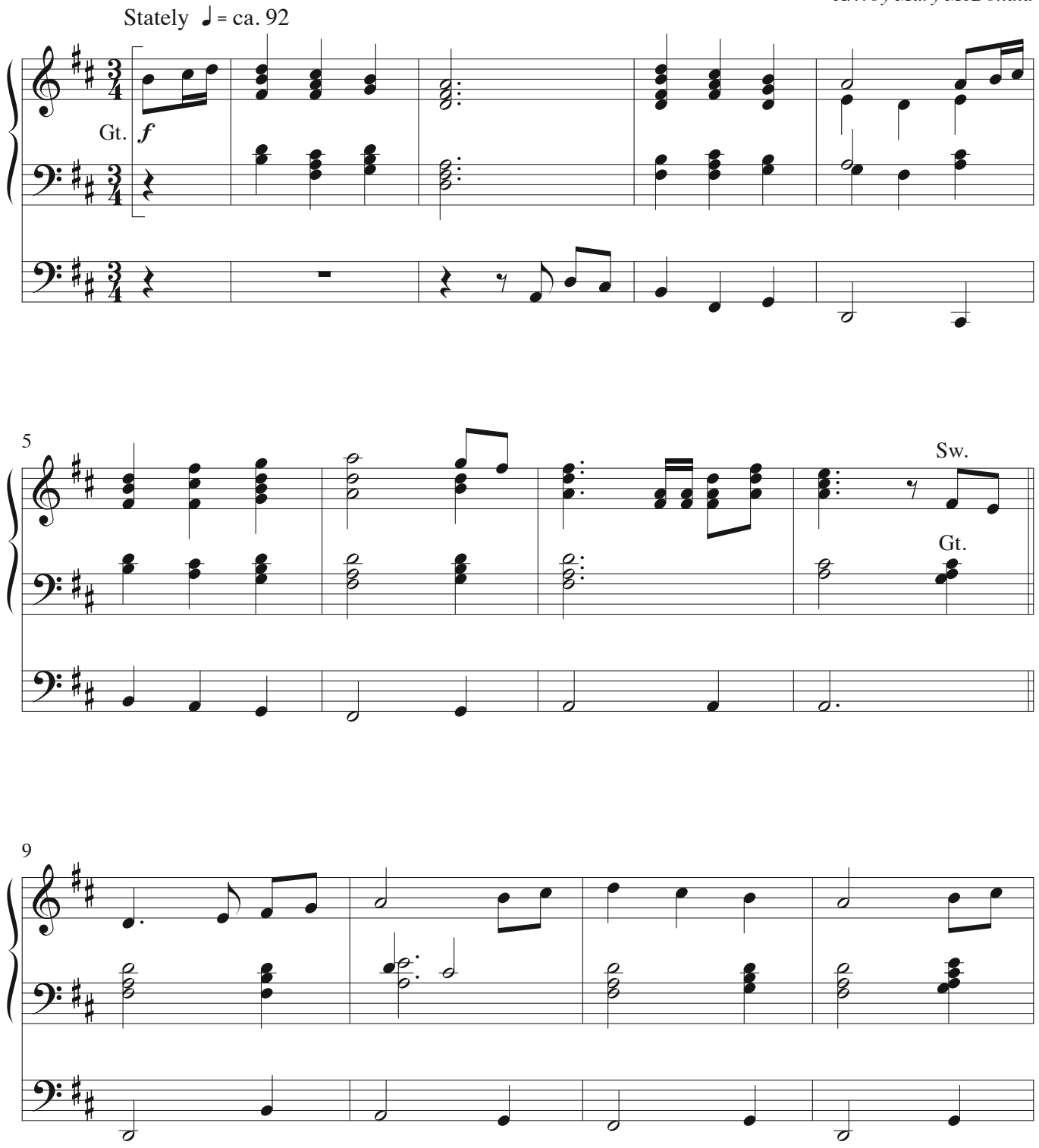
The First Noel

Sw. Solo Tpt. 8
Gt. Pr. 8, 4, 2, Mixtures
Ped. Pr. 16, 8 Gt. to Ped.

From W. Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833
Arr. by Mary McDonald



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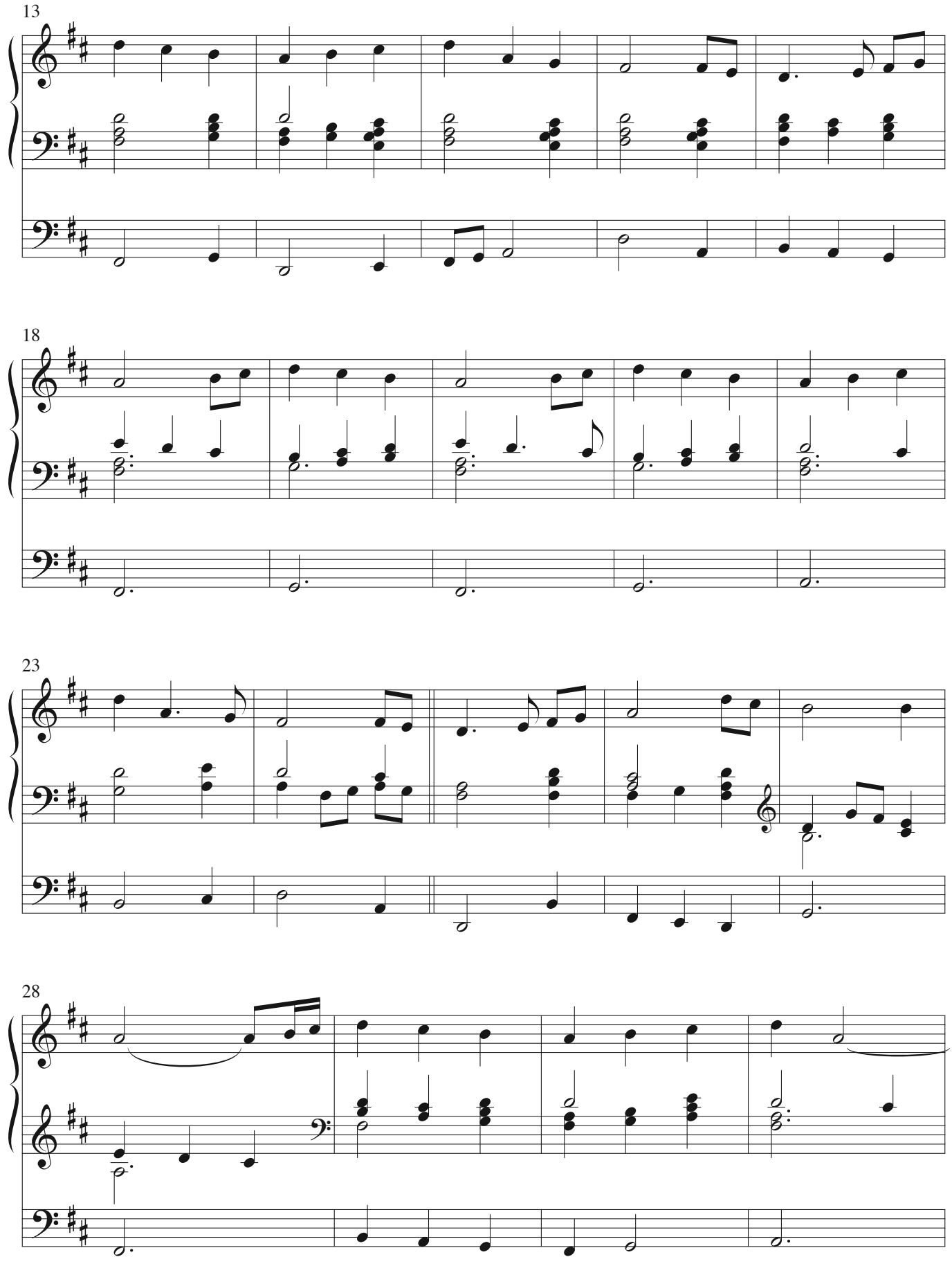
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