FOREWORD

Sharing God-given gifts through writing and arranging is a privilege and a joy. My prayer for all who use these arrangements is that we might read and inwardly digest God's word contained in these songs. I extend special thanks to Lloyd Larson, keyboard editor at Lillenas, for his willingness to include the text of each song. This could influence your choice of registrations. When words are underscored with music the result is a powerful mode of communication.

These lines by an anonymous writer underscore the richness of poetry, but also assert that music can take us beyond the limitation of words:

For the common things we think and say,
God gave us speech in the common way;
For the higher thoughts we think and feel,
God gave the poets thoughts to reveal;
And, for the hidden depths words cannot reach,
God gave us music, the soul's own speech.

—Ron Sprunger

ABOUT THE ARRANGER

Dr. Ron Sprunger is Professor Emeritus of Music and Worship at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio, where he taught from 1988 until his retirement in 2003. In 1987 he received the Doctor of Music Ministry degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He also holds a Master of Arts in sacred music from Kent State University (OH) and a Bachelor of Science in music education from Bluffton University (OH). In addition to arranging, Ron has a passion to help equip musicians for effective ministry and has established a web site that you're invited to visit: www.How2PlayByEar.com

NOTES FROM THE ARRANGER

Firm Foundation with ***How Firm a Foundation***

These strong and rugged melodies go together well, and the words express the faith of people grounded in God's word. Verses of scripture that are related include I Corinthians 3:11 and Isaiah 43:1-2, the passage from which this strong hymn was crafted.

Be Thou My Vision with ***Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord***

It is wonderful to see young people find meaning in a centuries-old Irish hymn. Likewise, it is good to see older people discover the richness of this contemporary song by Paul Baloche. Let's keep building bridges in a broad appreciation of music for our worship!

Lord Most High with ***Like a River Glorious***
The prophet Isaiah expressed his aspiration that people everywhere give glory to God and praise His name (Isaiah 42:10-12). Frances Havergal, the author of *Like a River Glorious*, describes the fullness of life to be found in God, life filled with streams of living water.

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee with ***Adagio***
This theme by Wolfgang A. Mozart is from *Concerto for Flute and Harp (*K. 299). The hymns, which are two different translations of a text by Bernard of Clairvaux, express devotion to Christ in a most intimate way.

The Power of the Cross with ***Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow*** and ***In the Cross of Christ I Glory***
This closing line from *The Power of the Cross* is a strong declaration of God's grace: *We stand forgiven at the cross.* These words from another hymn speak of the meaning we can find in the "ups and downs" of life: *Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified.*

Theme from Les Preludes with ***Here, O My Lord***
Scriptures set to this familiar theme by Franz Liszt include, *Come unto Me* (Matthew 11:28) and *O Taste and See* (Psalm 34:8). An integral part of worship that is sometimes missing is intimacy with God, which is the theme of *Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face.*

Menuet Gothique with ***He Is Good***
This classic theme, which seems to dance with delight, is combined with the praise song, *He Is Good.* We are encouraged to give thanks *…for His unfailing love, and His mercy for us.*

Spirit Songs
These songs express the beauty and spirituality of people on their journey of faith. I am not able to capture all the beautiful nuances that are integral to this style, so I would invite those who can to add what the notes on the page haven't captured.

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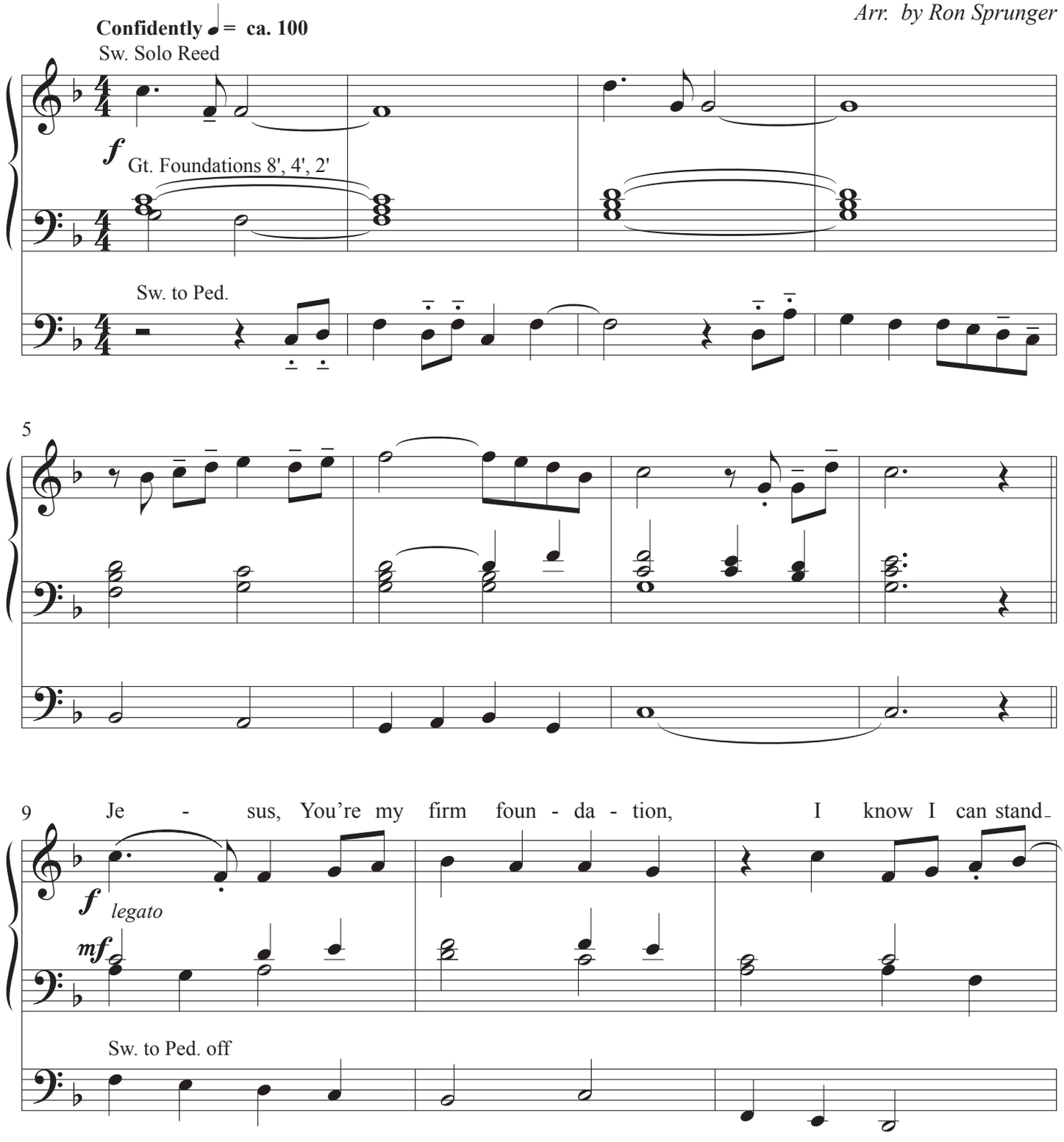
For Lloyd and Marci Larson, friends and colleagues in writing

Firm Foundation

with

How Firm a Foundation

Words and Music by
NANCY GORDON and JAMIE HARVILL
Arr. by Ron Sprunger



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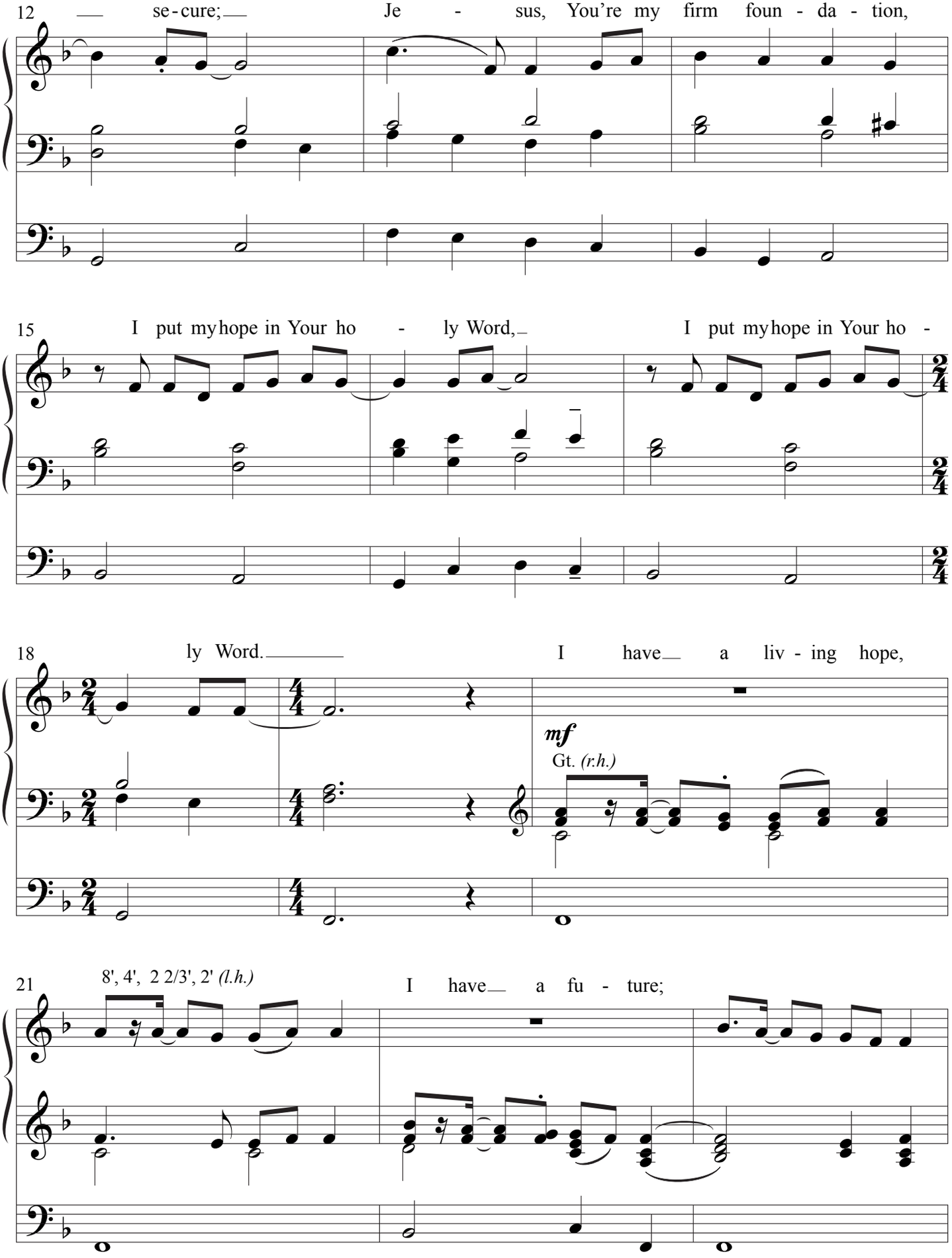
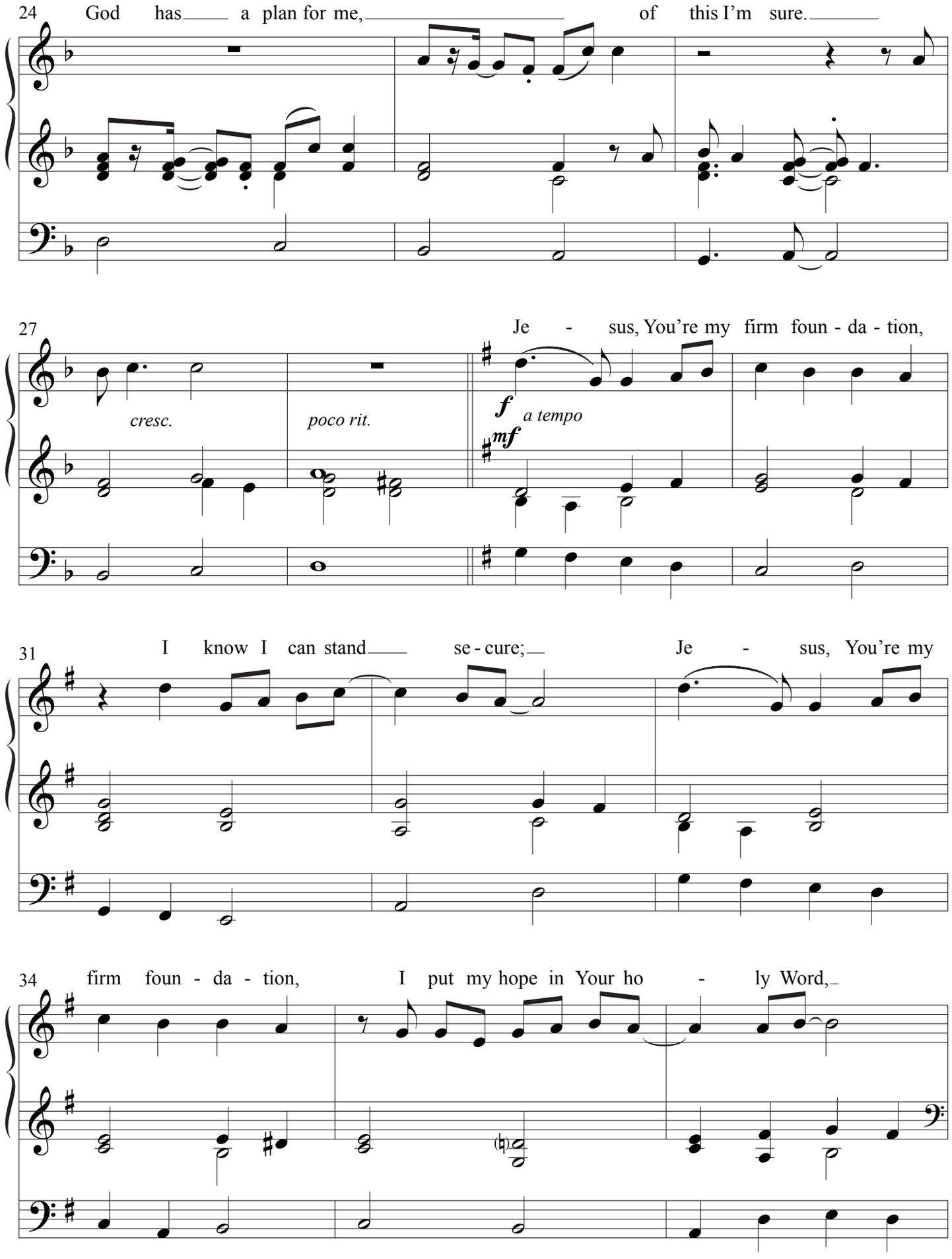

12
se - cure;
Je - sus, You're my firm foun - da - tion,
15
I put my hope in Your ho - ly Word,
I put my hope in Your ho -
18
ly Word.
I have a liv - ing hope,
mf
Gt. (r.h.)
21
8', 4', 2 2/3', 2' (l.h.)
I have a fu - ture;


24
God has a plan for me, of this I'm sure.
27
Je - sus, You're my firm foun - da - tion,
cresc.
poco rit.
f
a tempo
mf
31
I know I can stand se - cure; Je - sus, You're my
34
firm foun - da - tion, I put my hope in Your ho - ly Word,

For Kevin and Becky Swartz, faithful friends and musicians

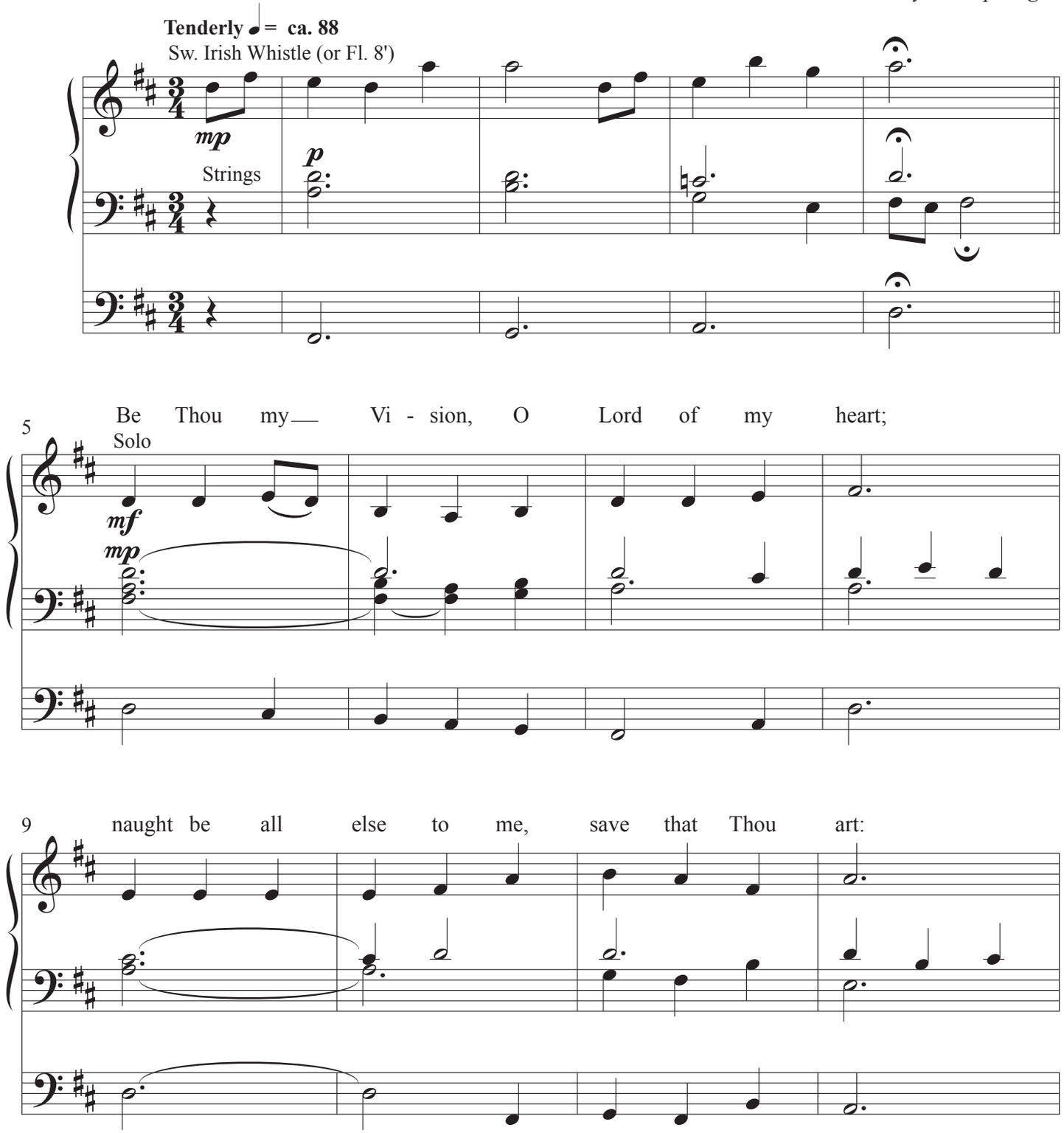
Be Thou My Vision

with

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

Traditional Irish Hymn

Traditional Irish Melody
Arr. by Ron Sprunger



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13 Thou my best thought by day or by night,

17 wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light, Thy

Gt. *p*

pres - ence my light.

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Slower ♩ = ca. 96

O - pen the eyes of my heart, Lord,

Sw. Fl. 8', 4', 2 2/3'

21

mf

mp

Gt.

25 o - pen the eyes of my heart; I want to see You,

3

*Words and Music by PAUL BALOCHE

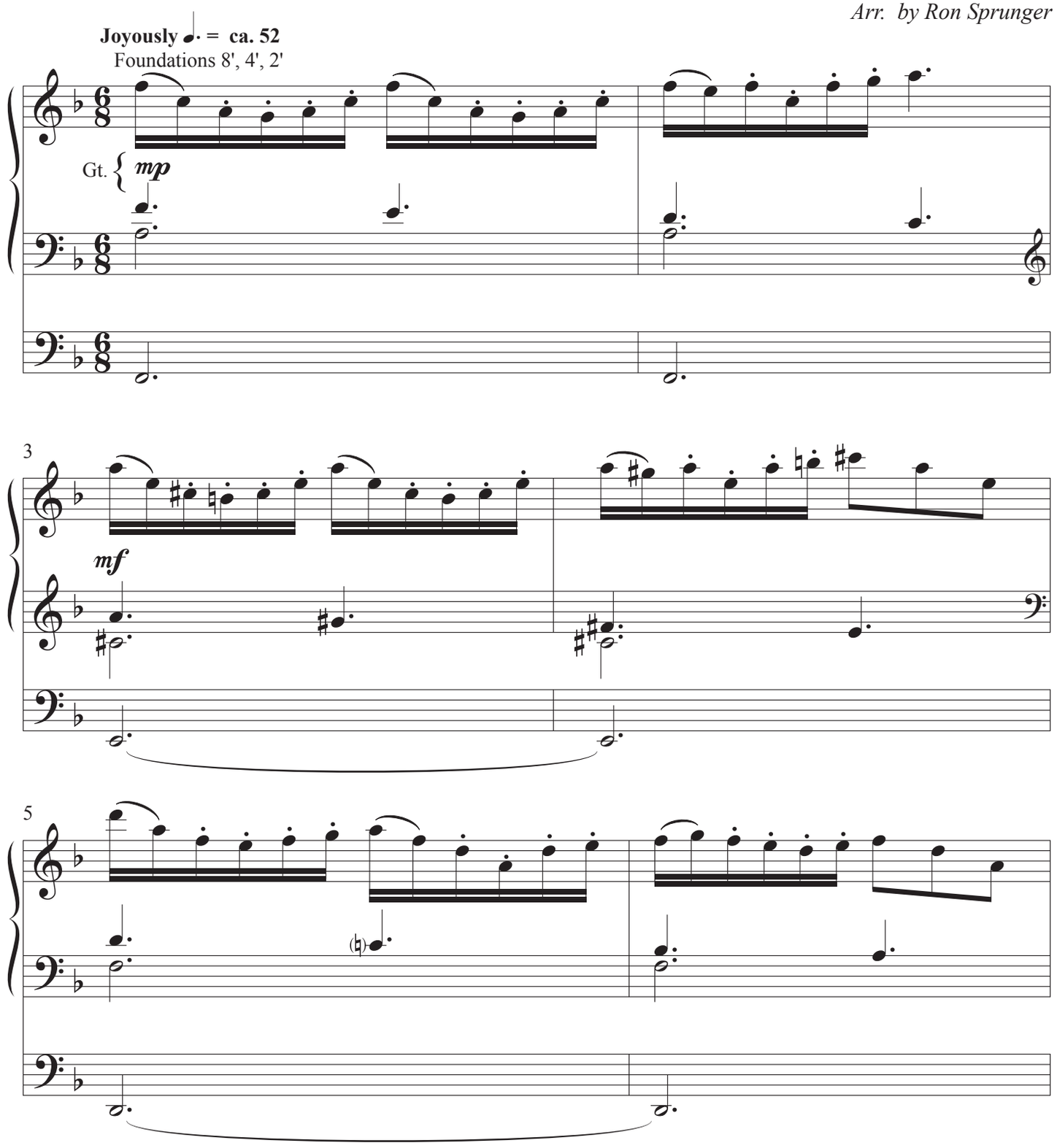
For Pastor Ken Meyer who introduced me to the hymn "Like a River Glorious"

Lord Most High

with

Like a River Glorious

Words and Music by
DON HARRIS and GARY SADLER
Arr. by Ron Sprunger



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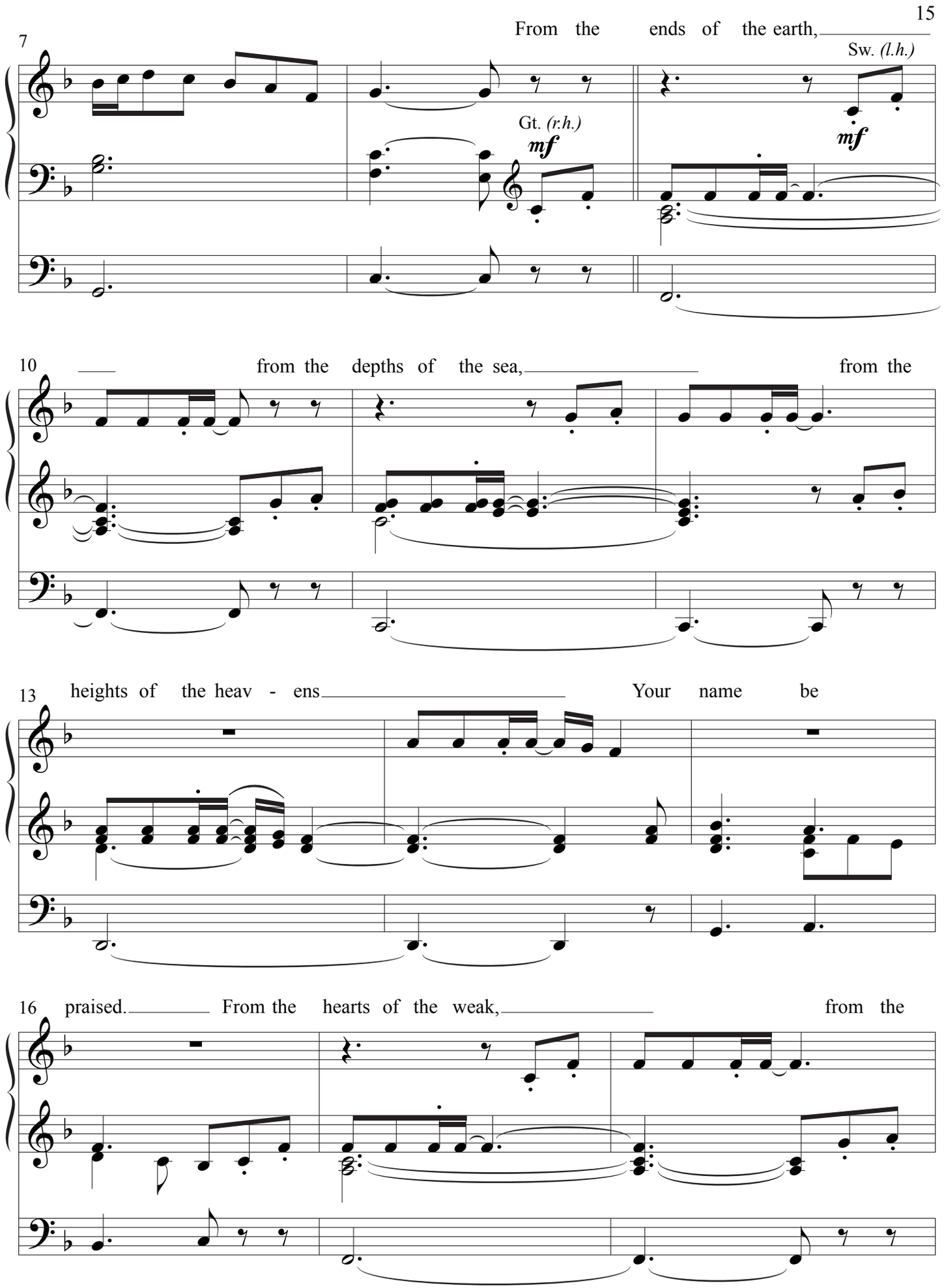
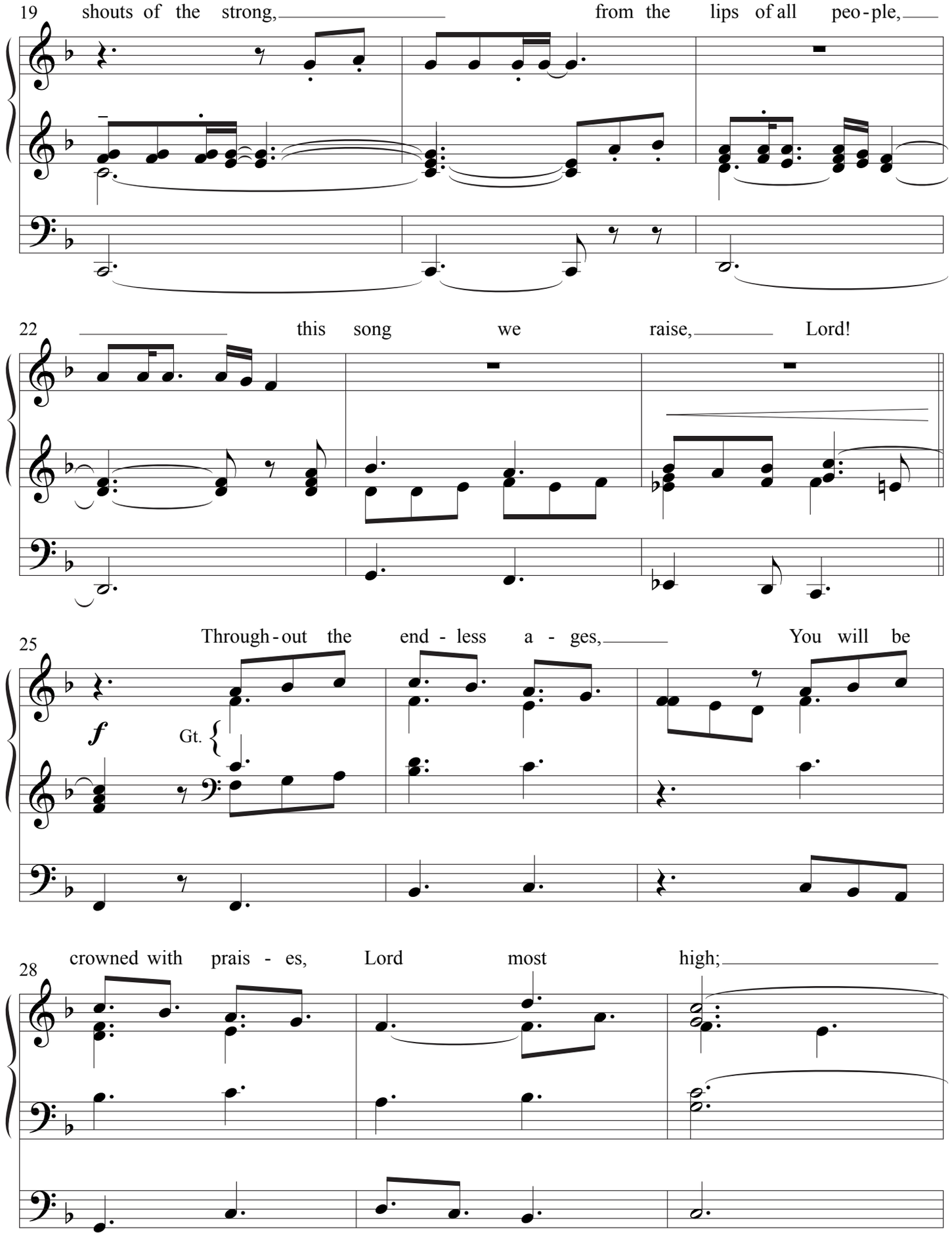

7
From the ends of the earth,
Sw. (l.h.)
Gt. (r.h.)
mf
mf
10
from the depths of the sea,
from the
13
heights of the heav - ens
Your name be
16
praised.
From the hearts of the weak,
from the


19
shouts of the strong,
from the lips of all peo-ple,
22
this song we raise,
Lord!
25
Through-out the end-less a-ges,
You will be
f
Gt.
28
crowned with prais-es, Lord most high;

For Sarah Rowan, dear friend who sees beauty in all people

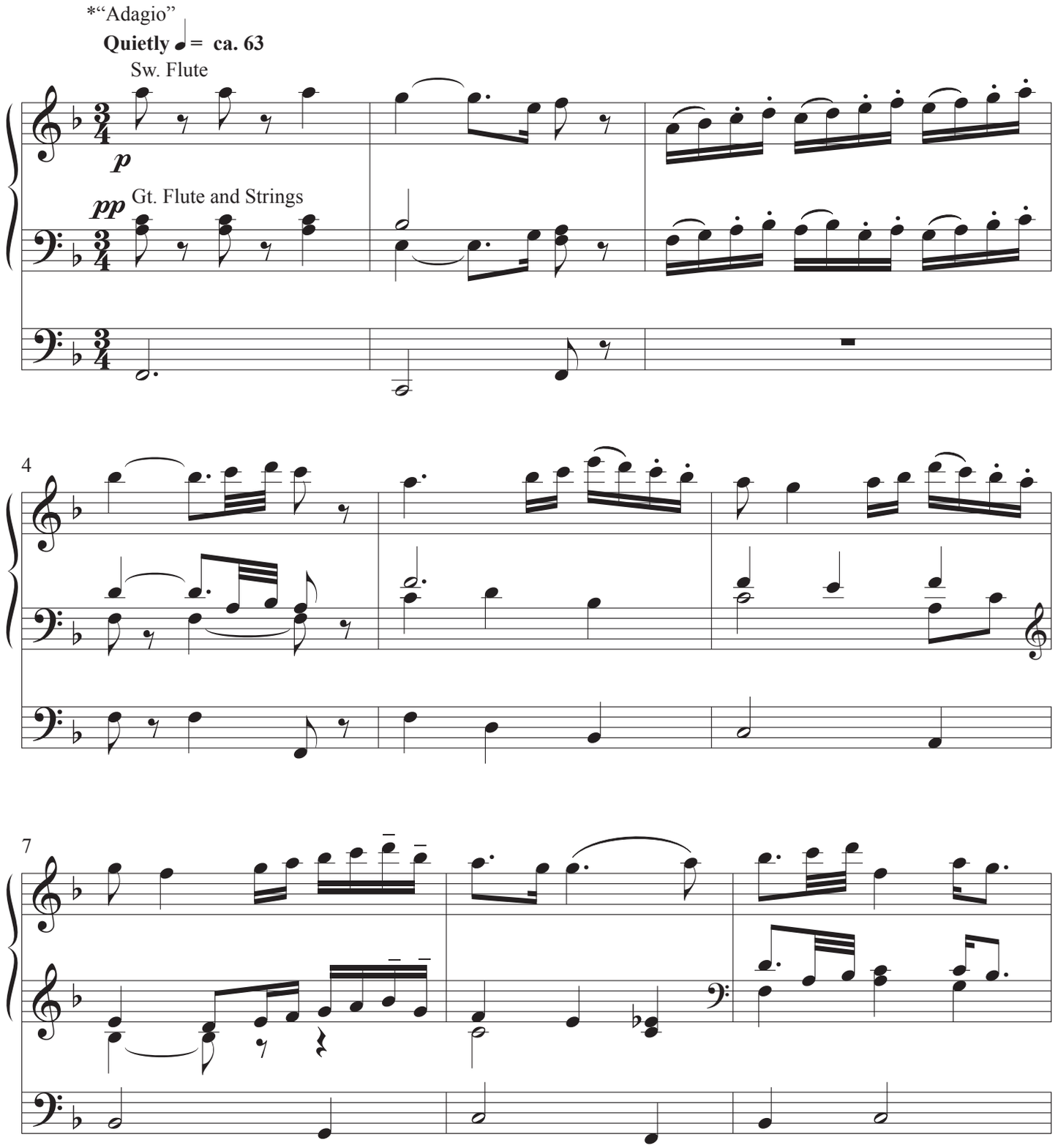
Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

with

Adagio

Attr. to
BERNARD of CLAIRVAUX, 12th c.

JOHN B. DYKES
Arr. by Ron Sprunger



*Music: "Adagio" from *Concerto for Flute and Harp* (K. 299) by Wolfgang A. Mozart

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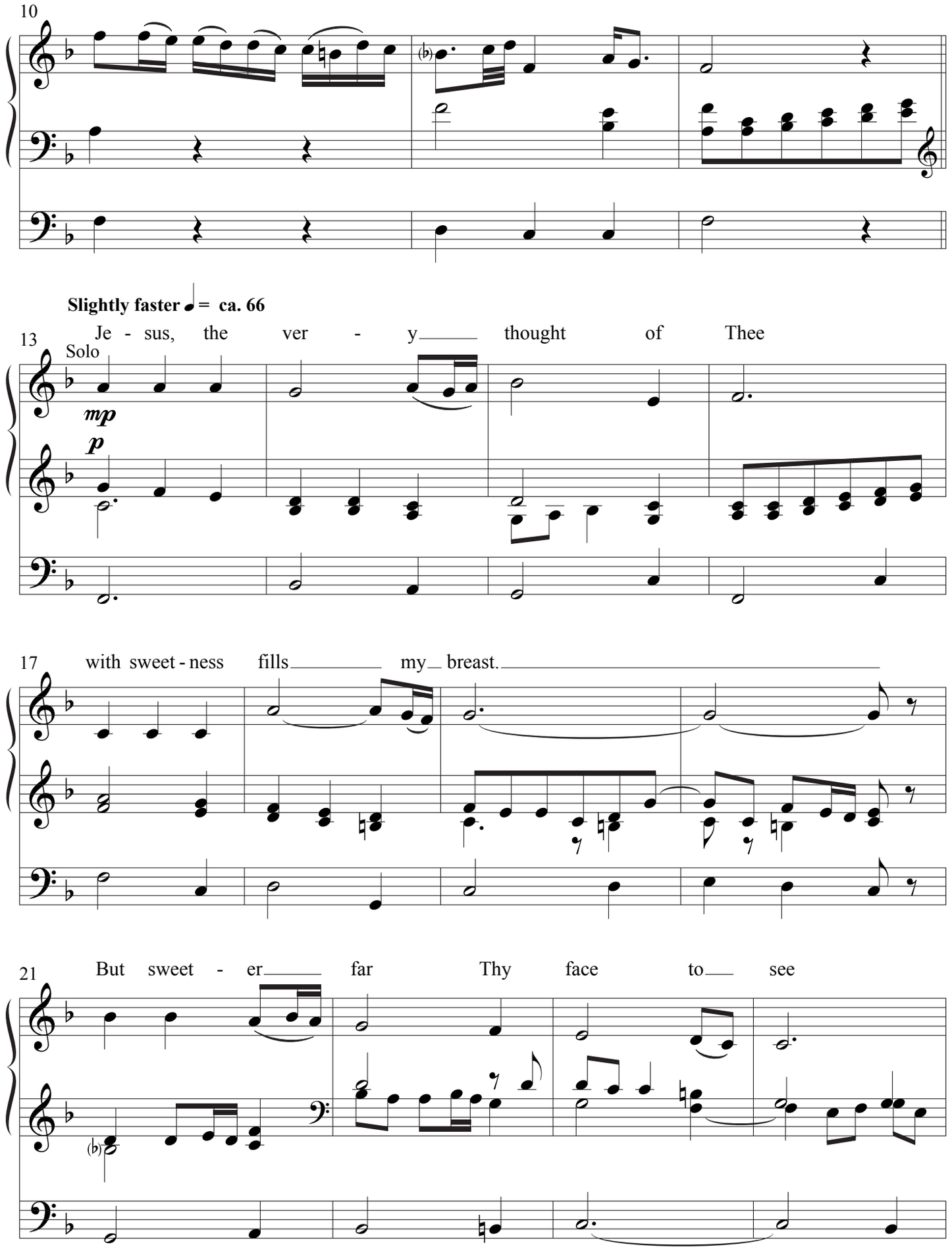
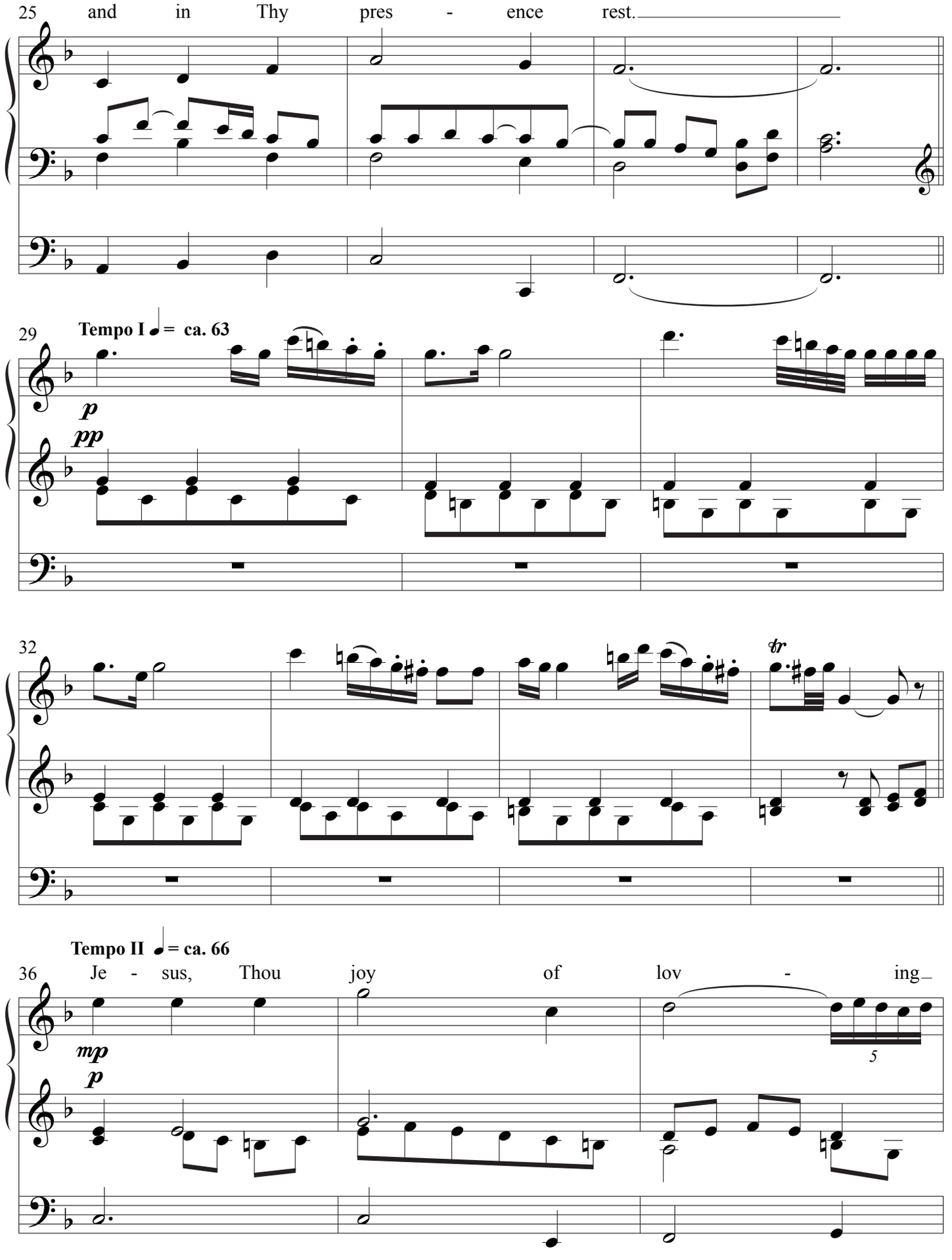
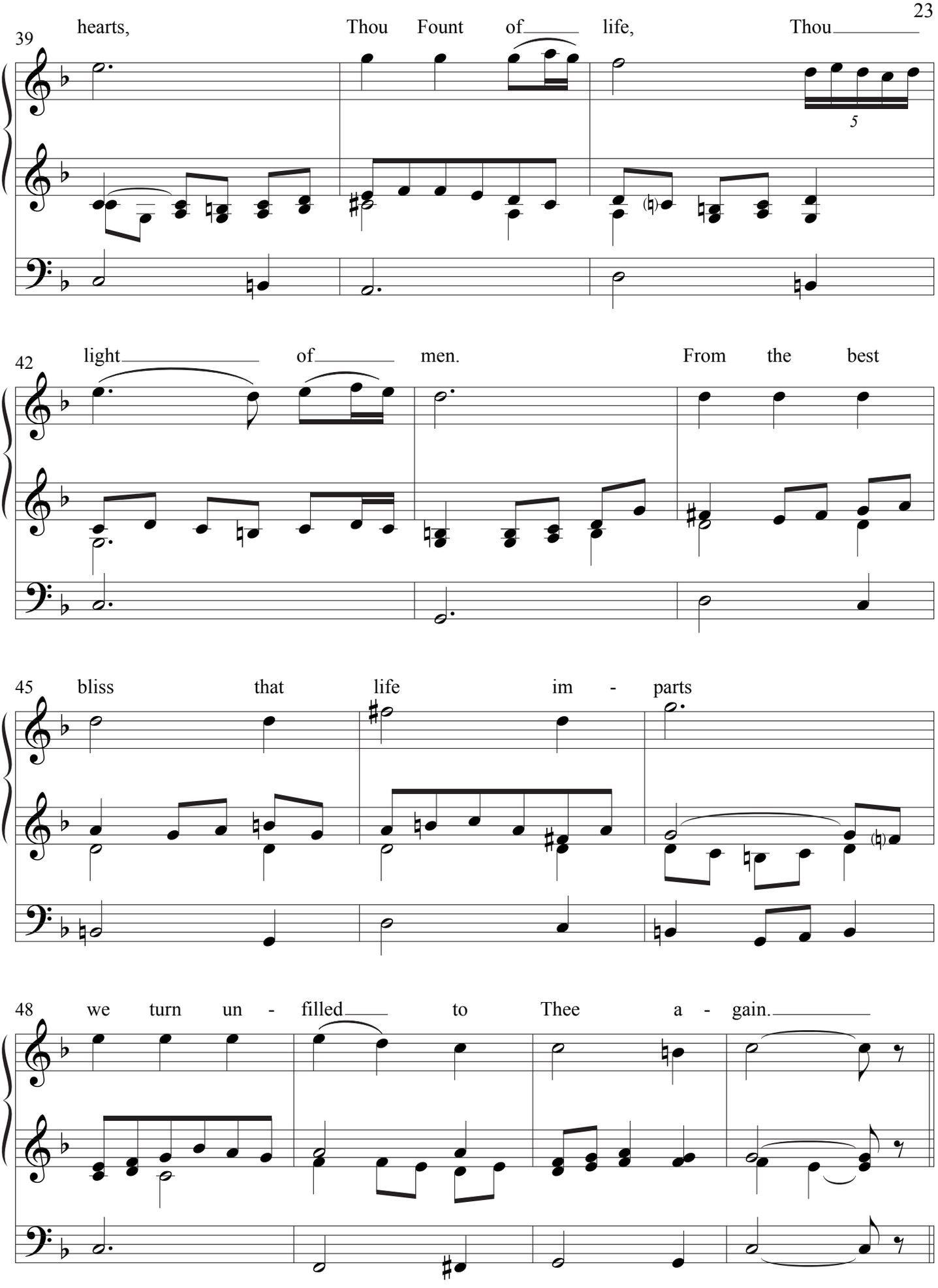

10
Slightly faster ♩ = ca. 66
13
Solo
Je - sus, the ver - y thought of Thee
mp
p
17
with sweet - ness fills my breast.
21
But sweet - er far Thy face to see


25
and in Thy pres - ence rest.
29
Tempo I ♩= ca. 63
p
pp
32
tr
Tempo II ♩= ca. 66
36
Je - sus, Thou joy of lov - ing
mp
p
5


39
hearts, Thou Fount of life, Thou
5
42
light of men. From the best
45
bliss that life im - parts
48
we turn un - filled to Thee a - gain.