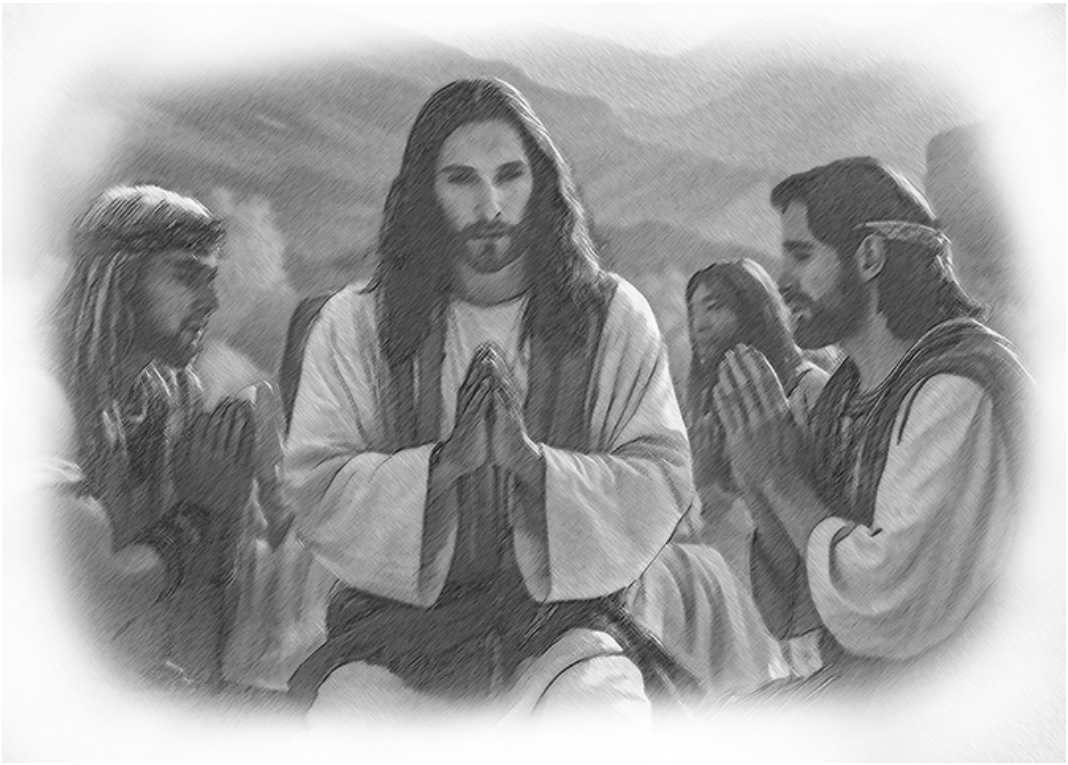
The Lord's Prayer

for soprano, mezzo, tenor, and bass
with piano accompaniment
[truncated solo piano section]



by
Vanessa McClintock

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The Lord's Prayer

From Matthew 6

for soprano, mezzo, tenor, bass and piano.

Music by Vanessa McClintock
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Composed in the latter half of November 2024, this came to me as a surprise almost immediately after finishing "Naomi and Ruth," which had been an ordeal for much of its composition.

This came quickly and fluently, with only minor changes to structure—albeit all my works required some goodly degree of tweaking after the initial flow of inspiration.

Perhaps the greatest challenge in composing this piece was in trying to "avoid" the notes so famously penned by Albert Hay Malotte in 1935—the gold standard of musical settings of scripture that has become known as *The Lord's Prayer.*

Were one to ask another if they were familiar with the musical setting—set in song—of *The Lord's Prayer*, in all likelihood they would hear in their mind Malotte's version—if they had heard it at all, and none by other composers.

In this instance, I drew upon the very first word: "OUR" to establish the direction.

When Jesus taught His disciples the manner of prayer, He did not speak in the first person; He did not begin with "*MY* Father," but "*OUR* Father."

From this I decided to write for vocal quartet: soprano, alto (mezzo), tenor, and bass (baritone), with the tenor representing the Saviour. Jesus allowed women to be involved with His life and His mission in great part. It was to not only a woman, but to a non-Jewish woman in Samaria that He declared his divinity. Mary Magdalene was very close to Him, and it was she to whom the angels appeared at the tomb of resurrection.

Thus, women are included in this setting of joint prayer.

Unlike the Malotte version, this is not a straightforward setting of the scripture. It repeats with variations, with imitation, and development.

[In the original and full version there is an extended piano solo part with variations on themes.]

Vanessa McClintock, Composer
December 2024

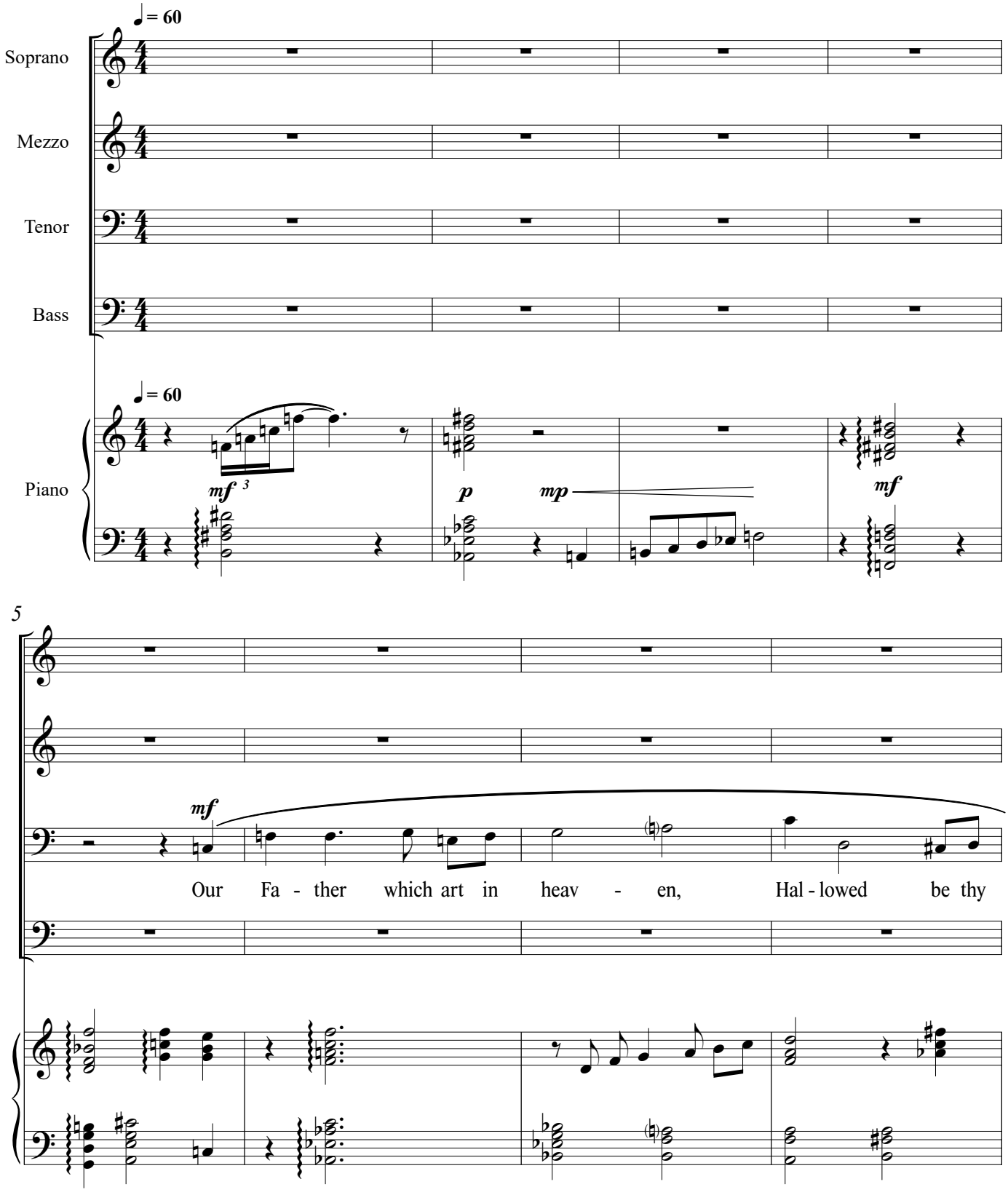
The Lord's Prayer

from Matthew 6

King James Version, Holy Bible

[truncated piano solo]

Vanessa McClintock



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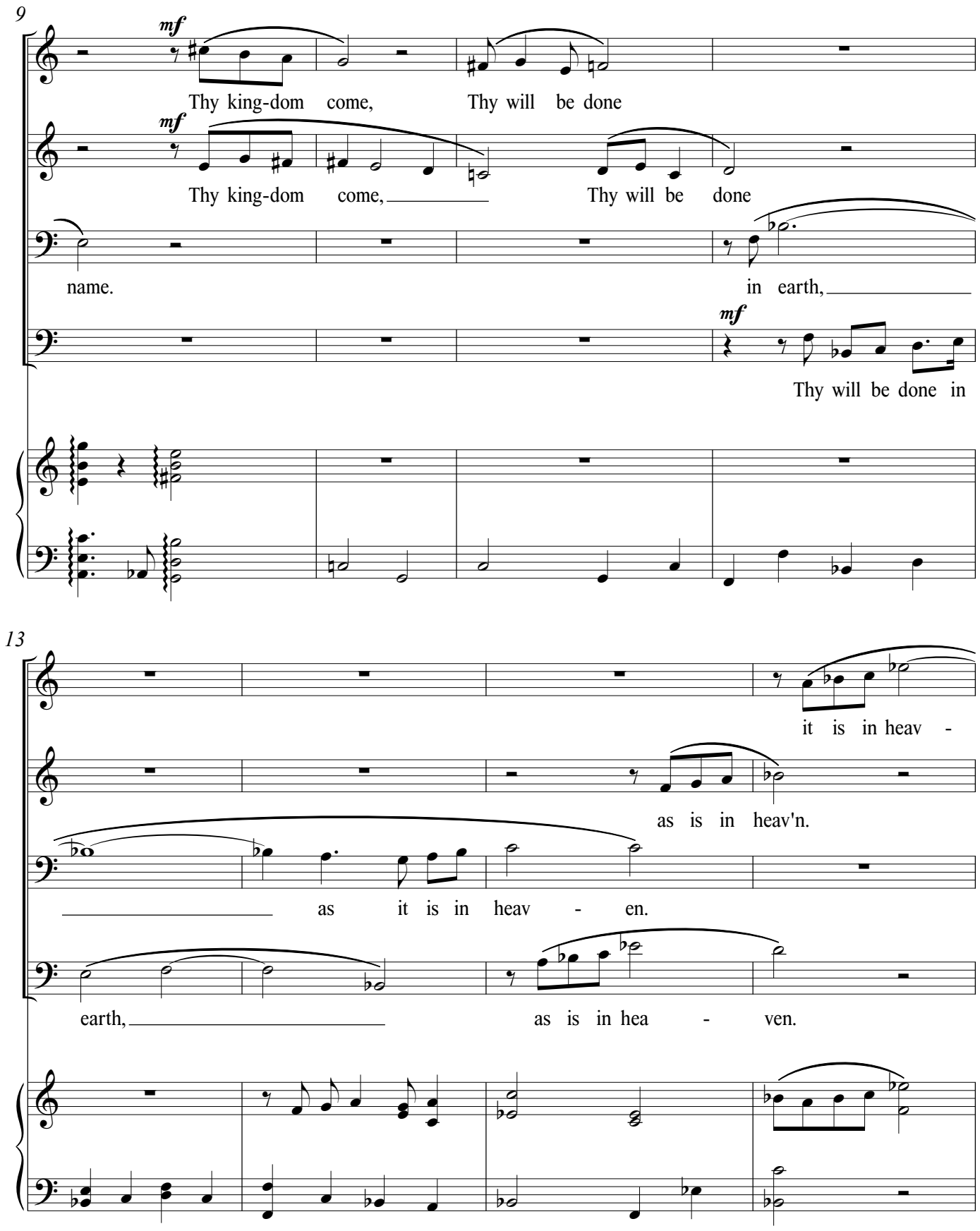

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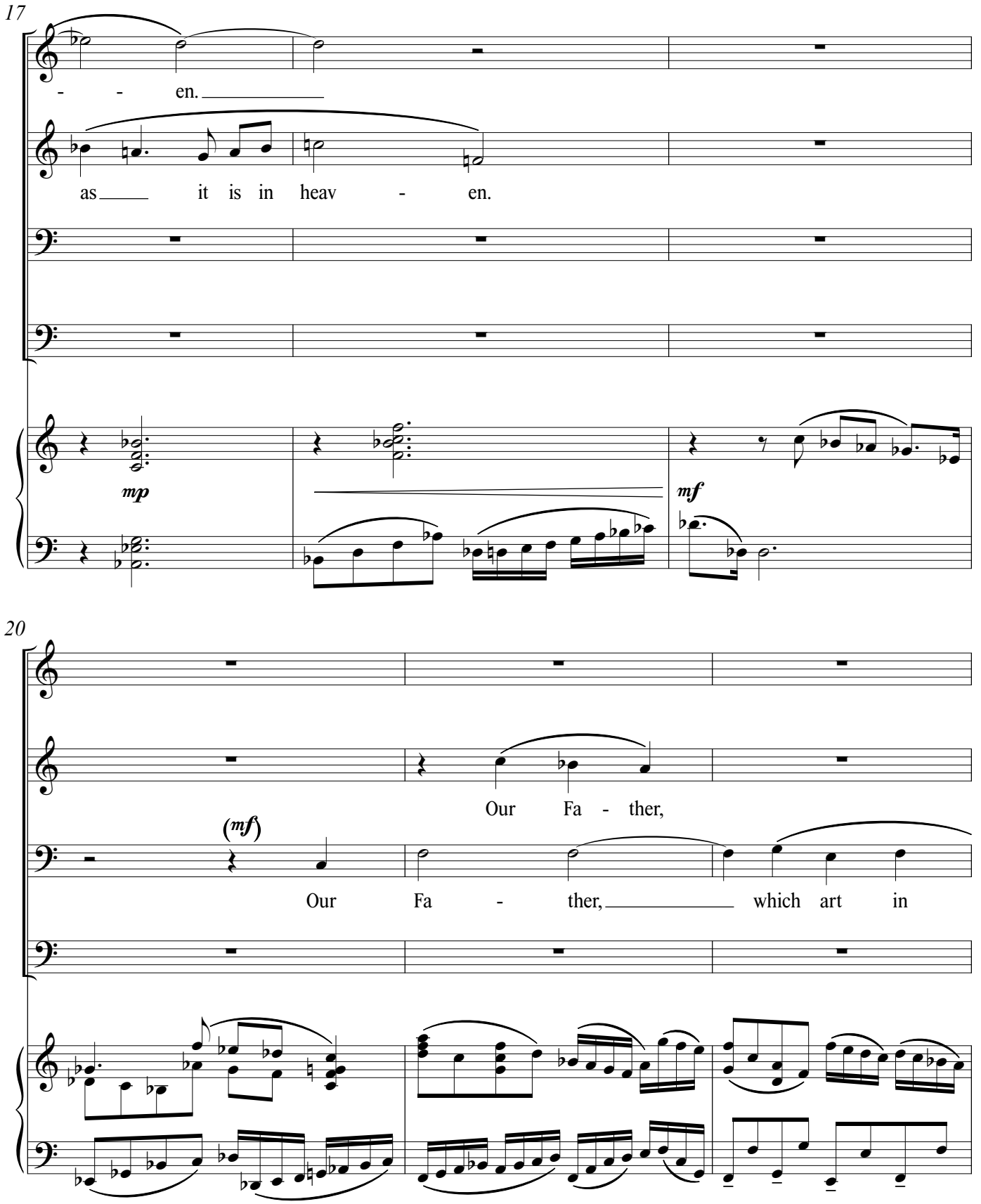

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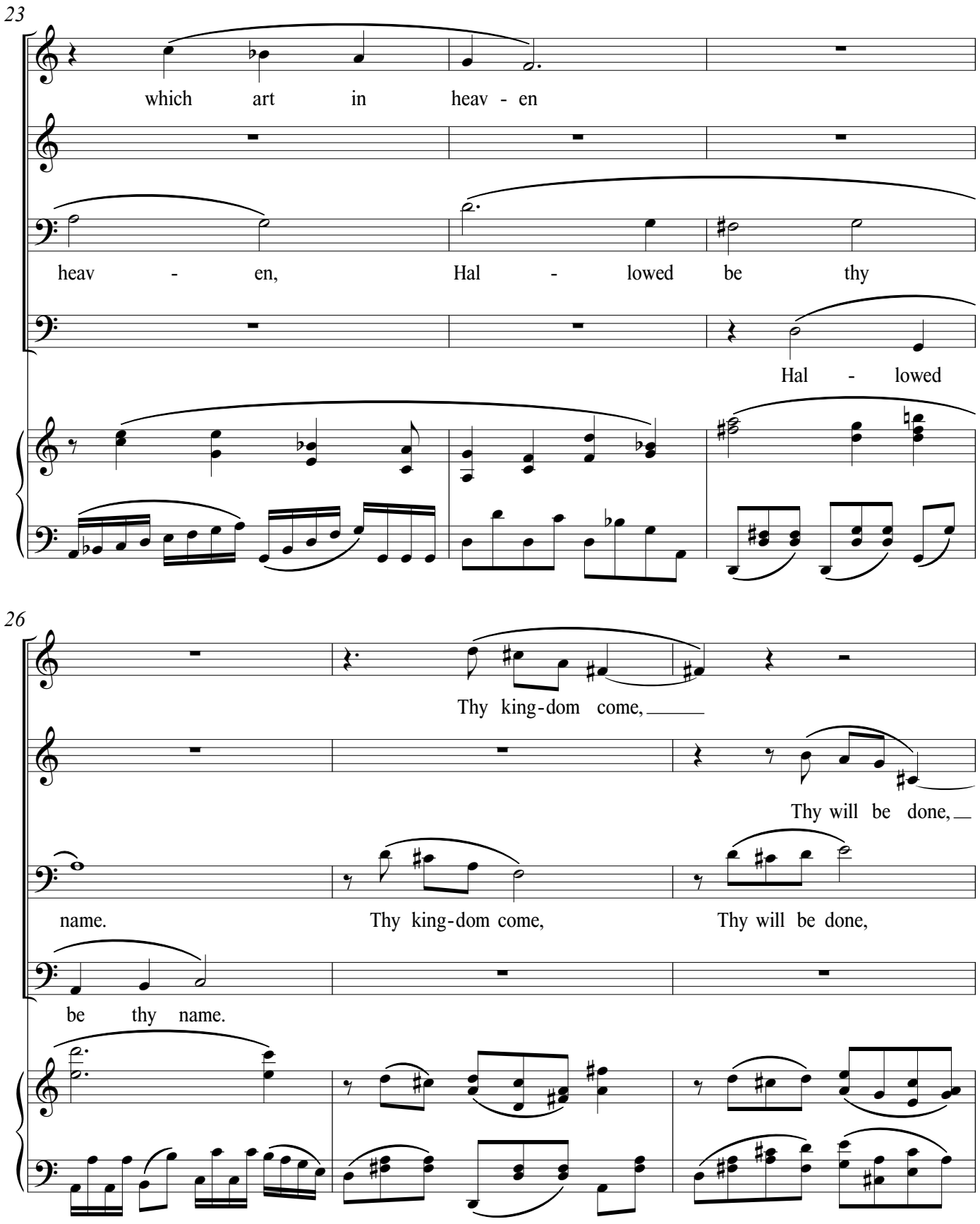

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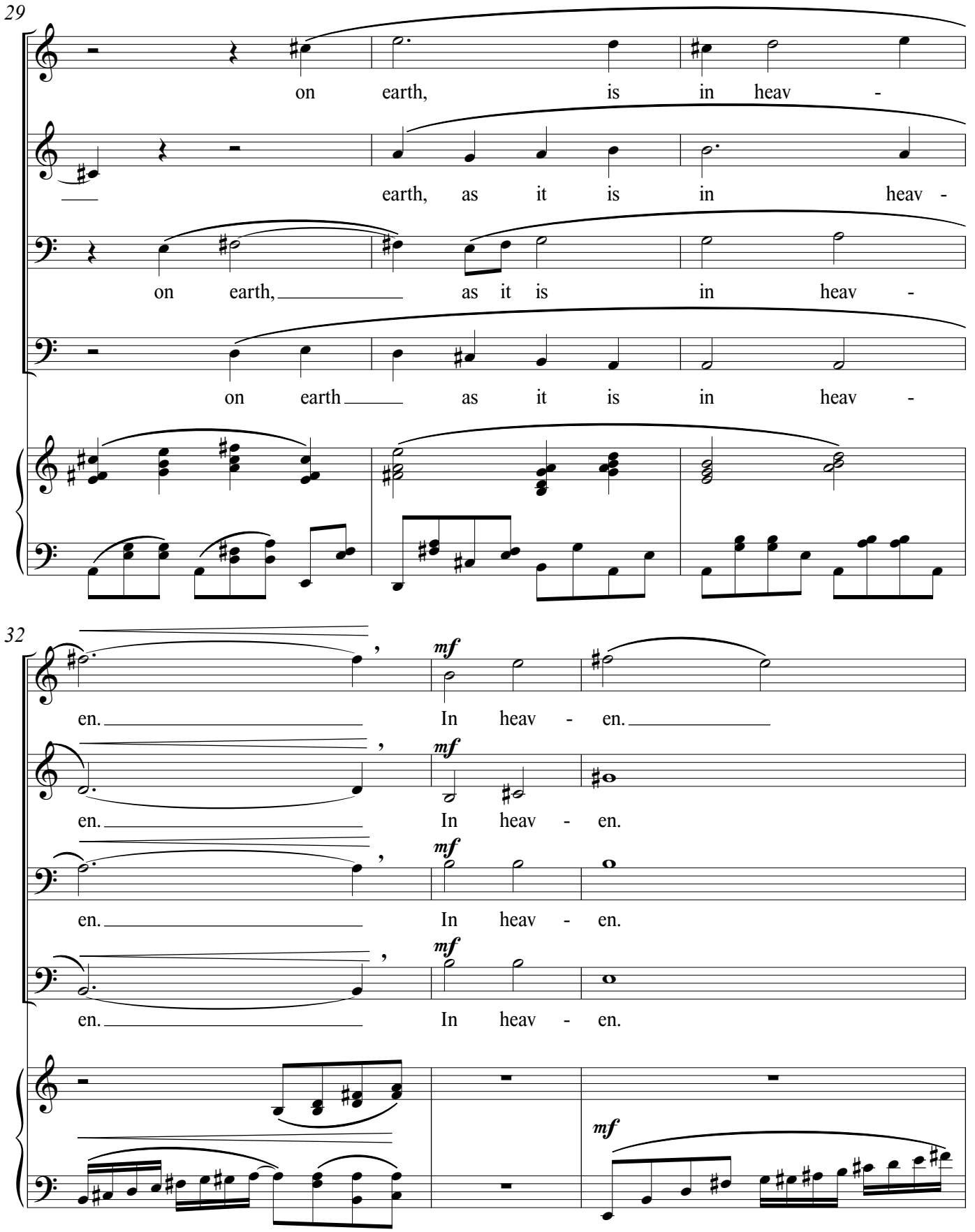

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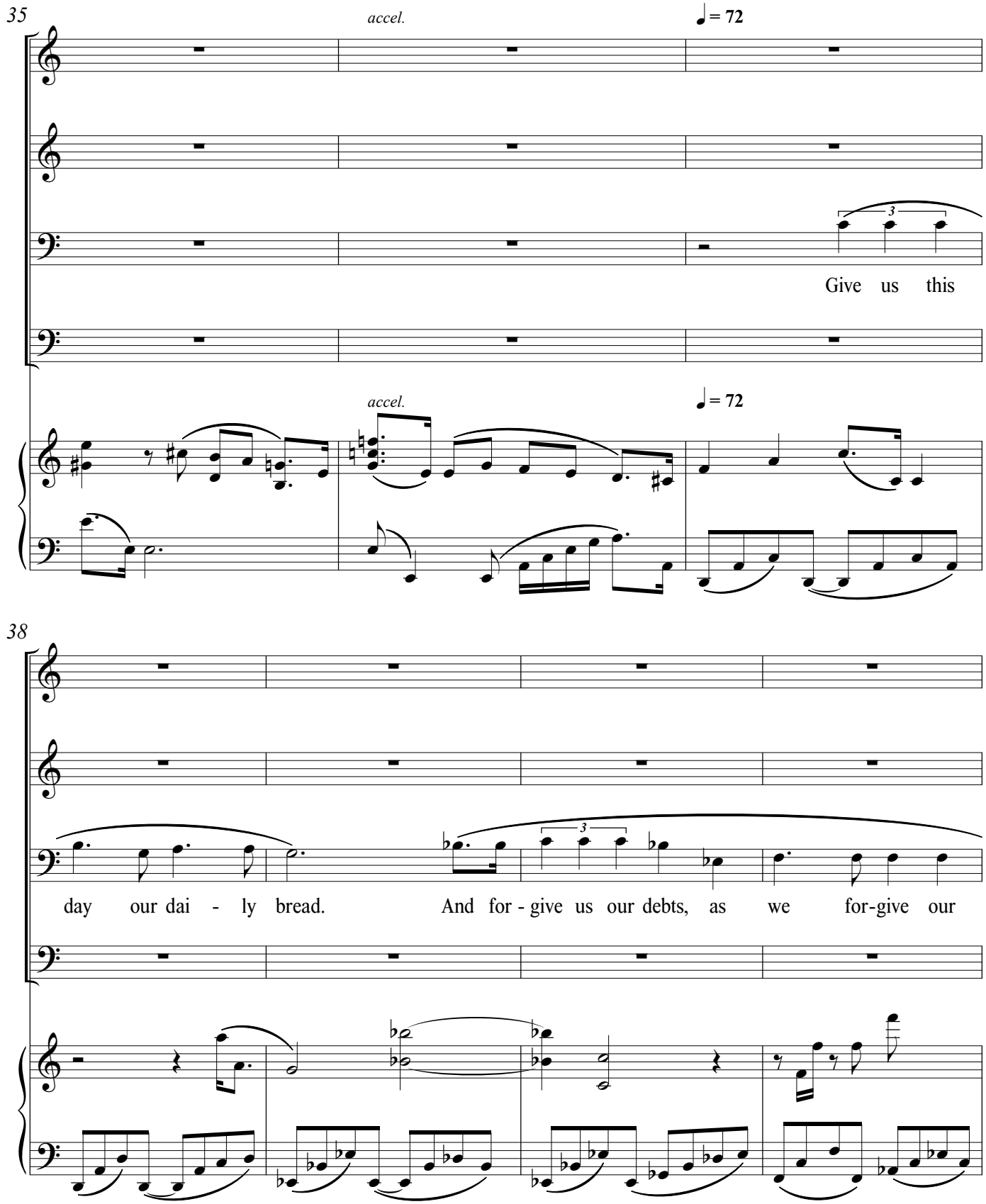

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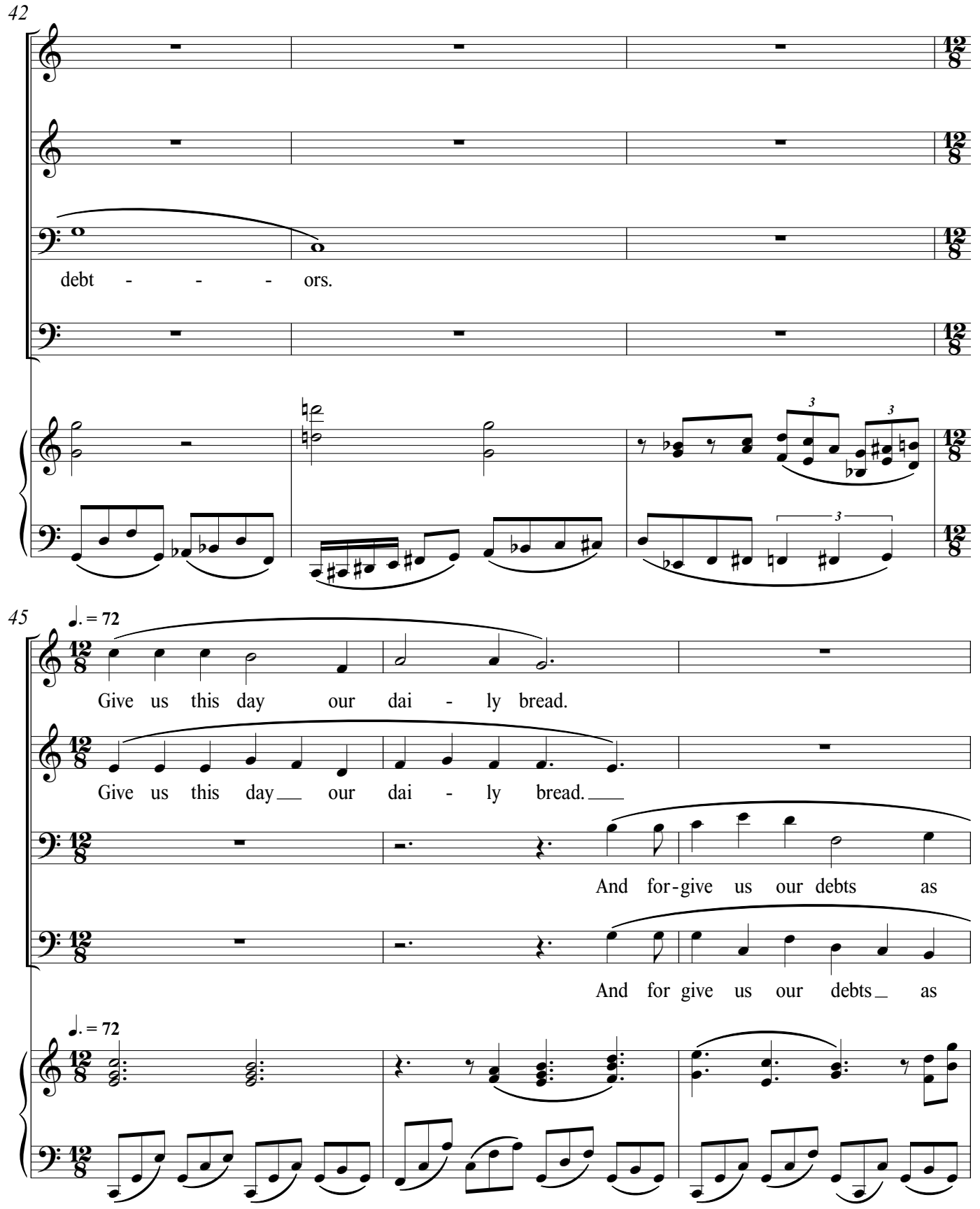

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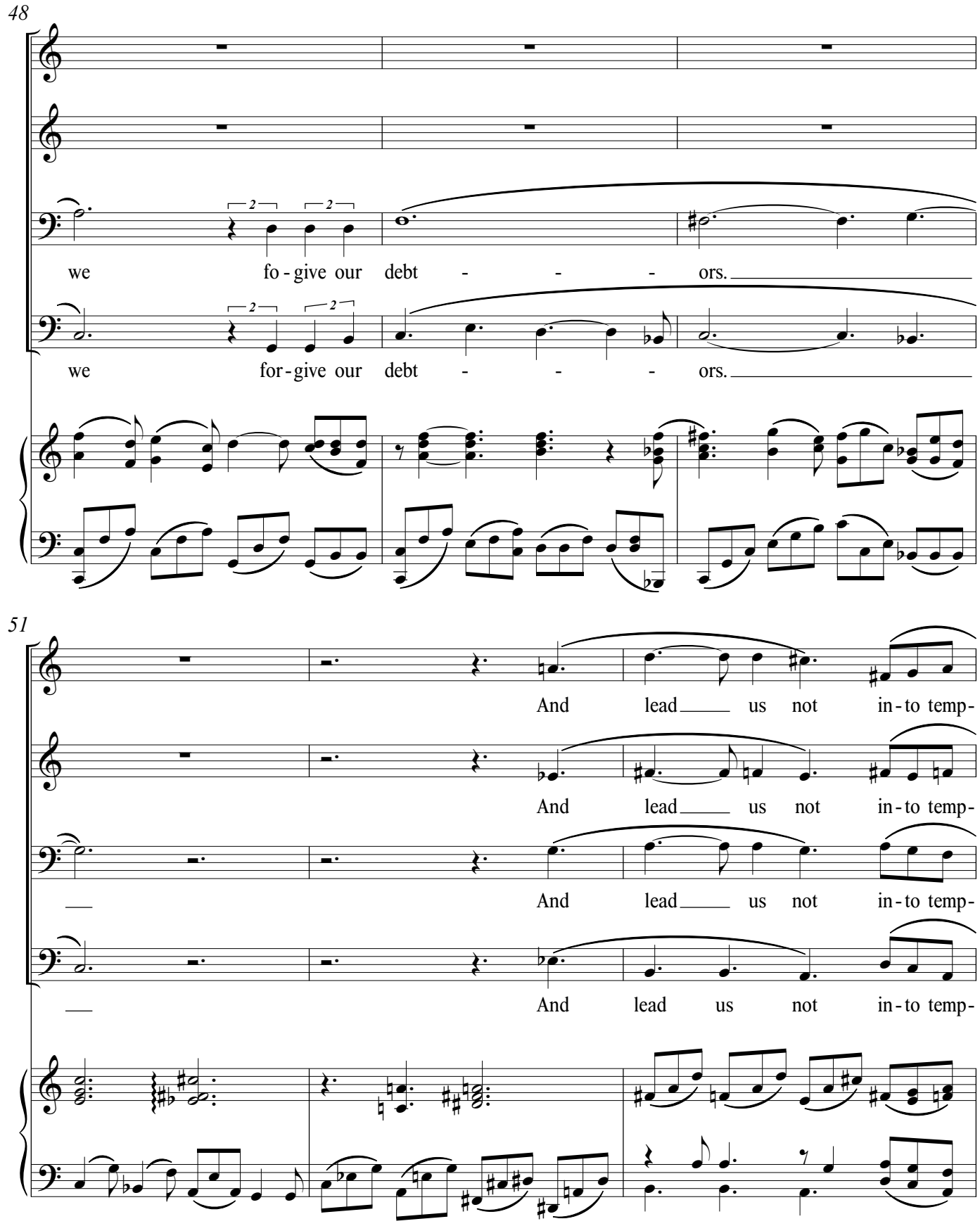

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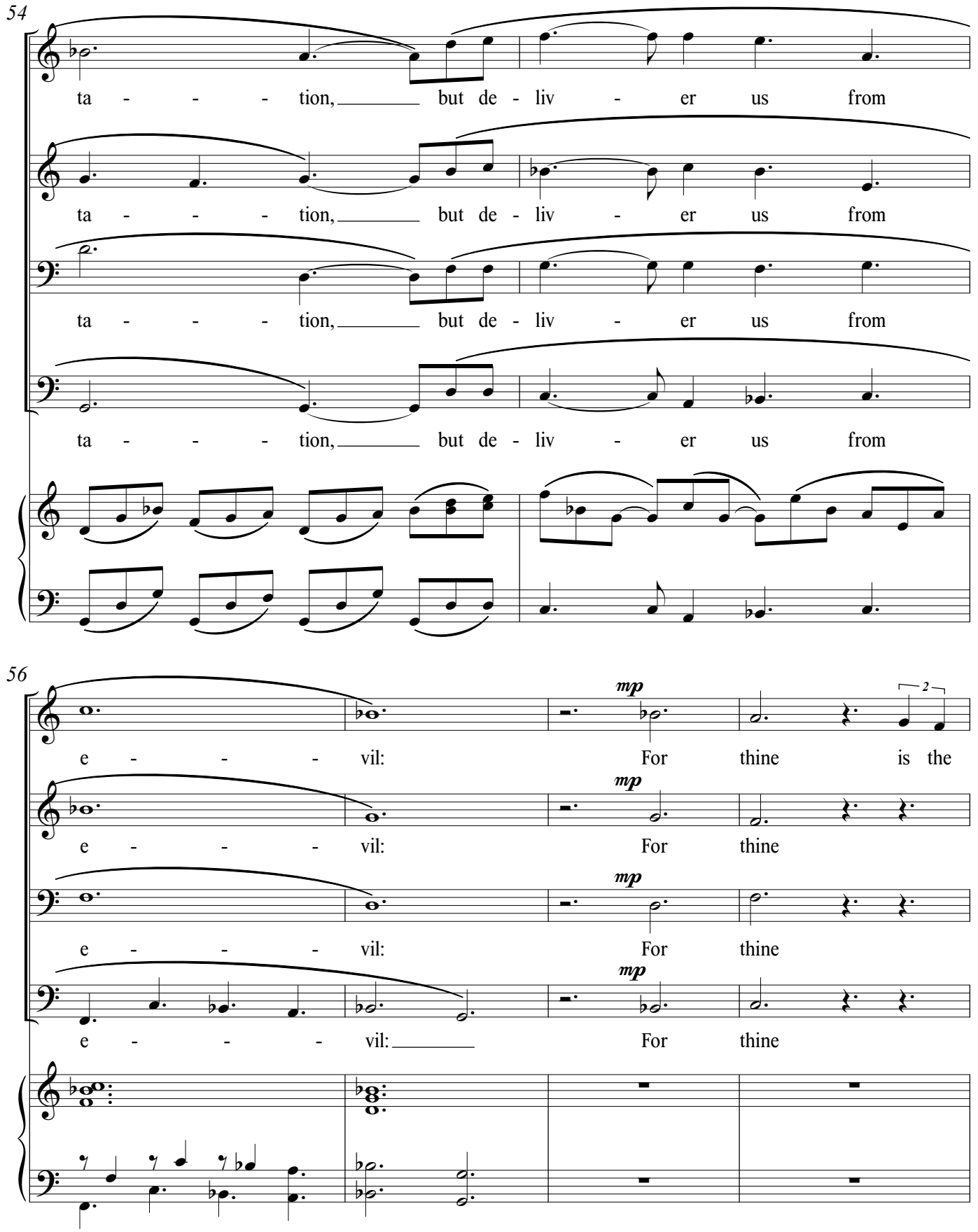

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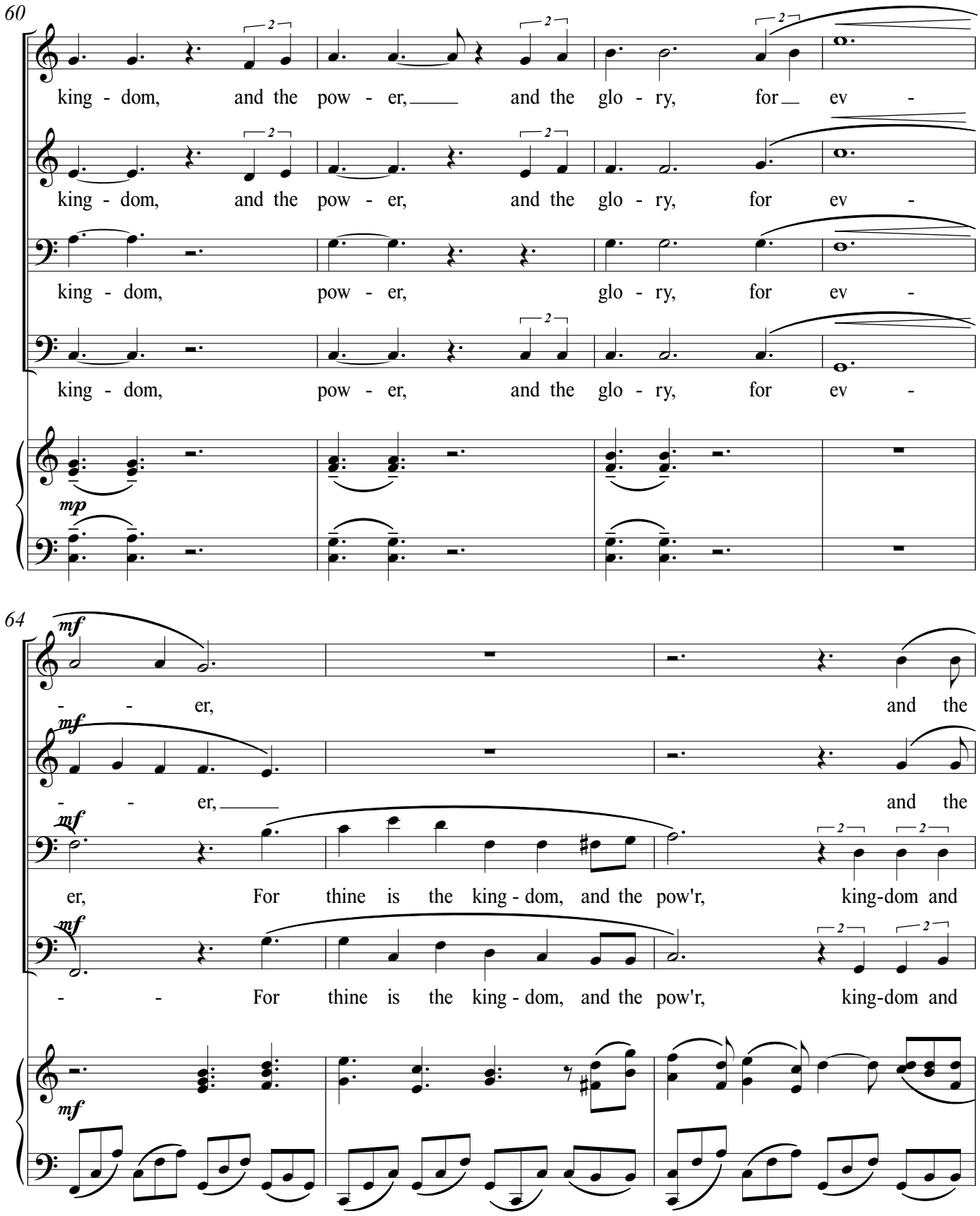

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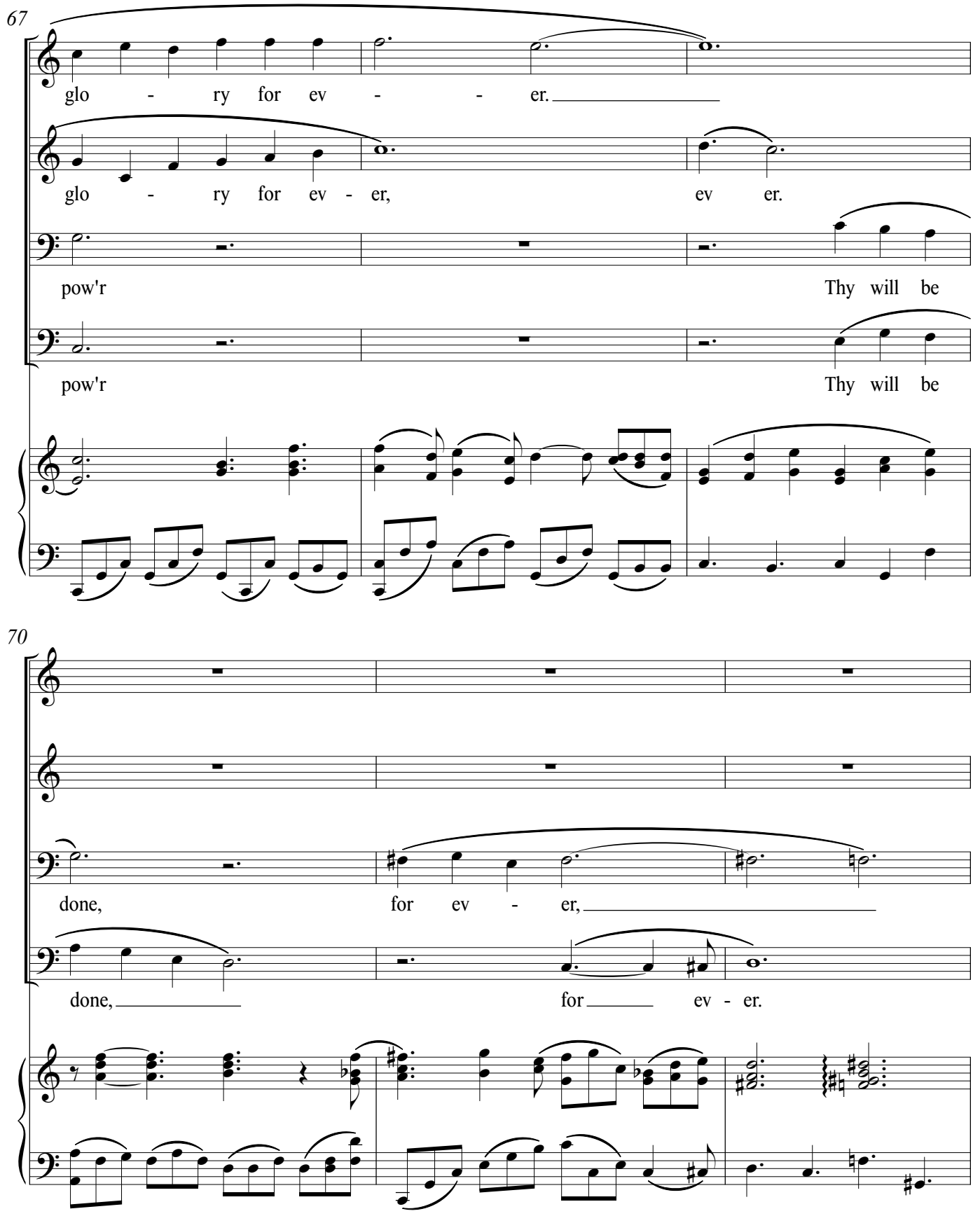

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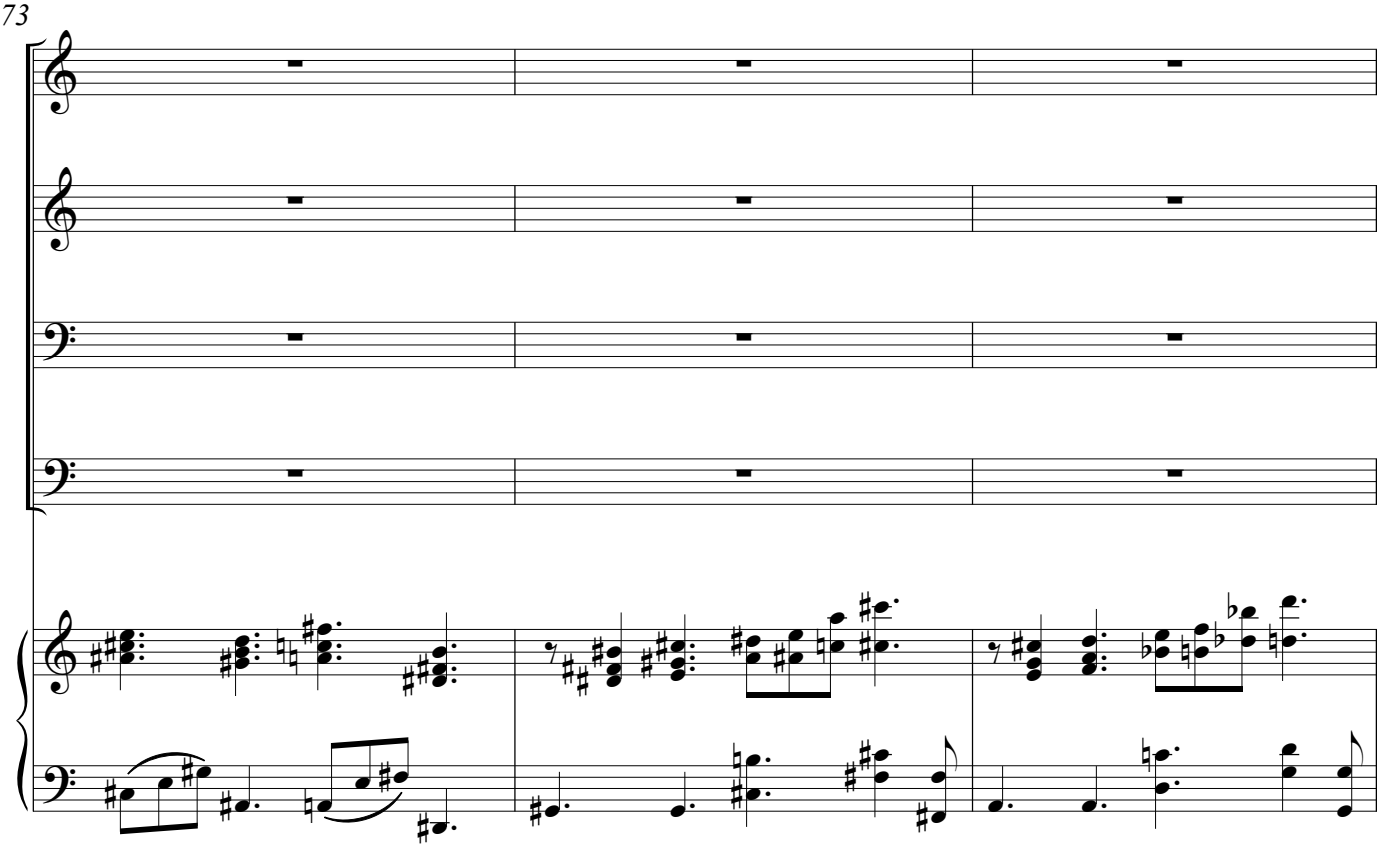

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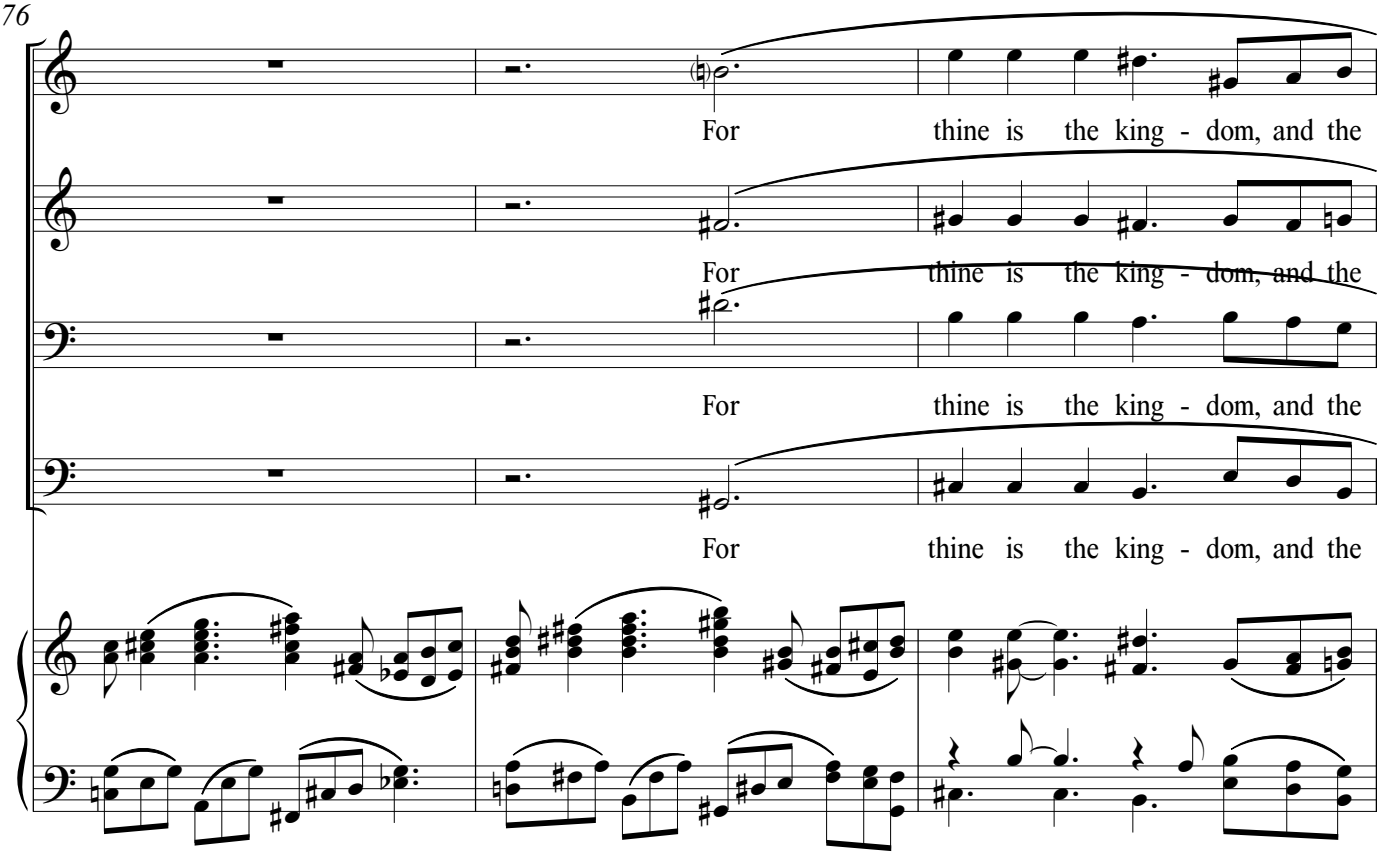

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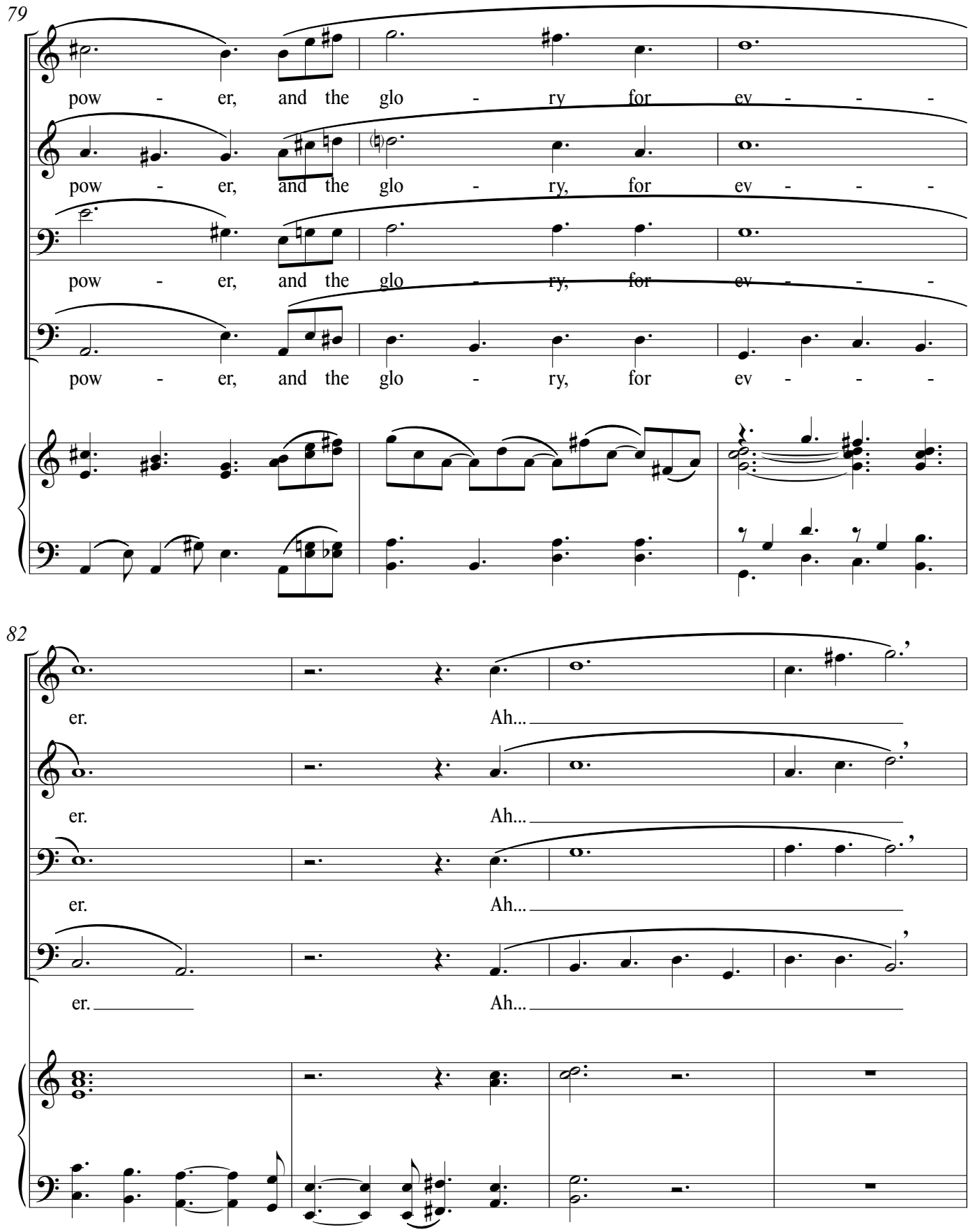

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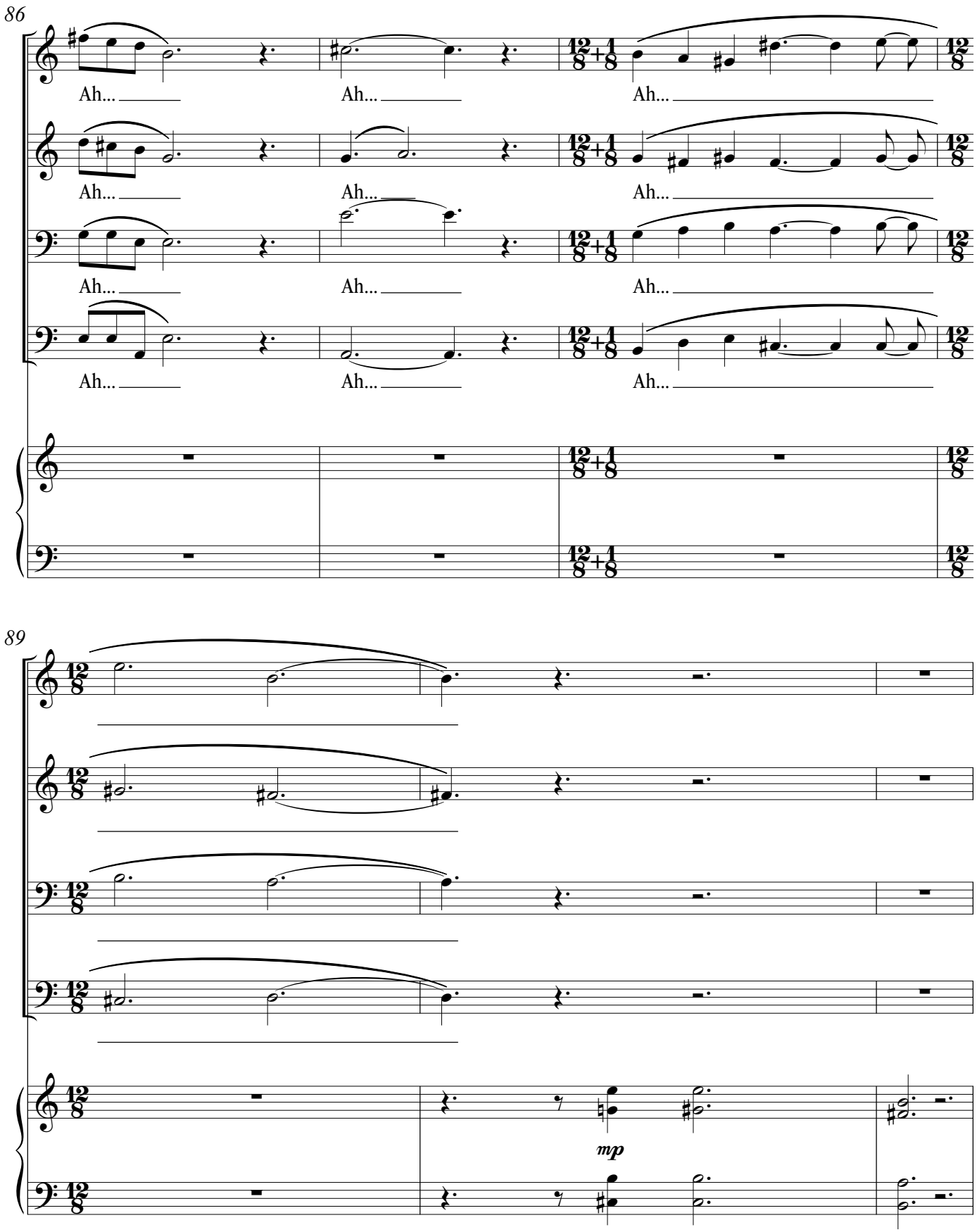

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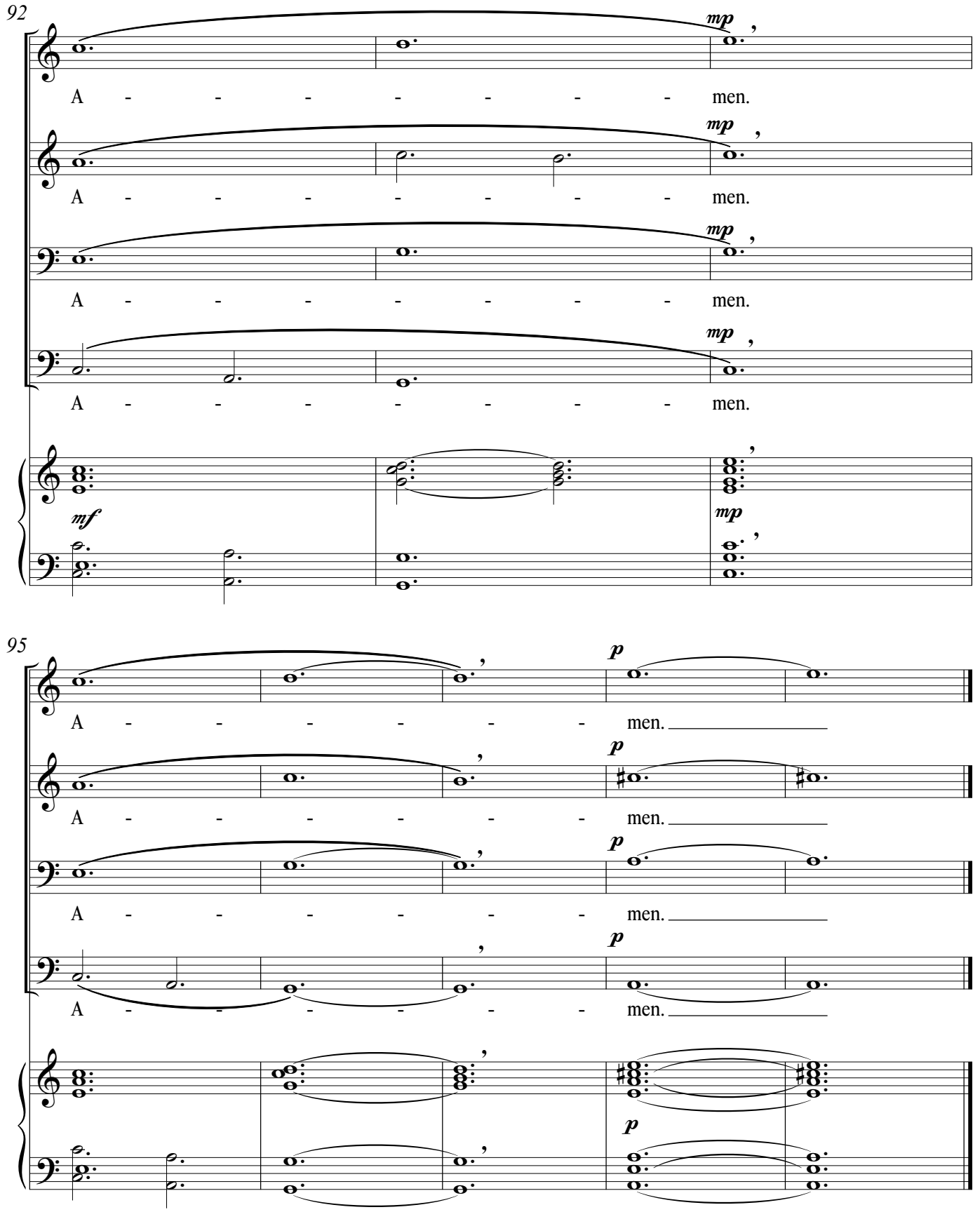

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