FOR ABCD VIRTUAL CHORAL LEADERS' FESTIVAL READING RESOURCES
SEPTEMBER 2021 - PLEASE DO NOT PHOTOCOPY

These three carols can be sung separately or as a triptych. The texts from *Collected Poems 1945 - 1990* are by R S Thomas (1913 -2000). Copyright © 2000 The Orion Publishing Group, London and reproduced by permission.

Song – from *H'm* (1972)

I choose white, but with
Red on it, like the snow
In winter with its few
Holly berries and the one

Robin, that is a fire
To warm by and like Christ
Comes to us in his weakness,
But with a sharp song.

Nativity – from *Experimenting with an Amen* (1986)

The moon is born
and a child is born,
lying among white clothes
as the moon among clouds.

They both shine, but
the light from the one
is abroad in the universe
as among broken glass.

Lost Christmas – from *Young and Old* (1972)

He is alone, it is Christmas.
Up the hill go three trees, the three kings.
There is a star also
Over the dark manger. But where is the Child?

Pity him. He has come far
Like the trees, matching their patience
With his. But the mind was before
Him on the long road. The manger is empty.

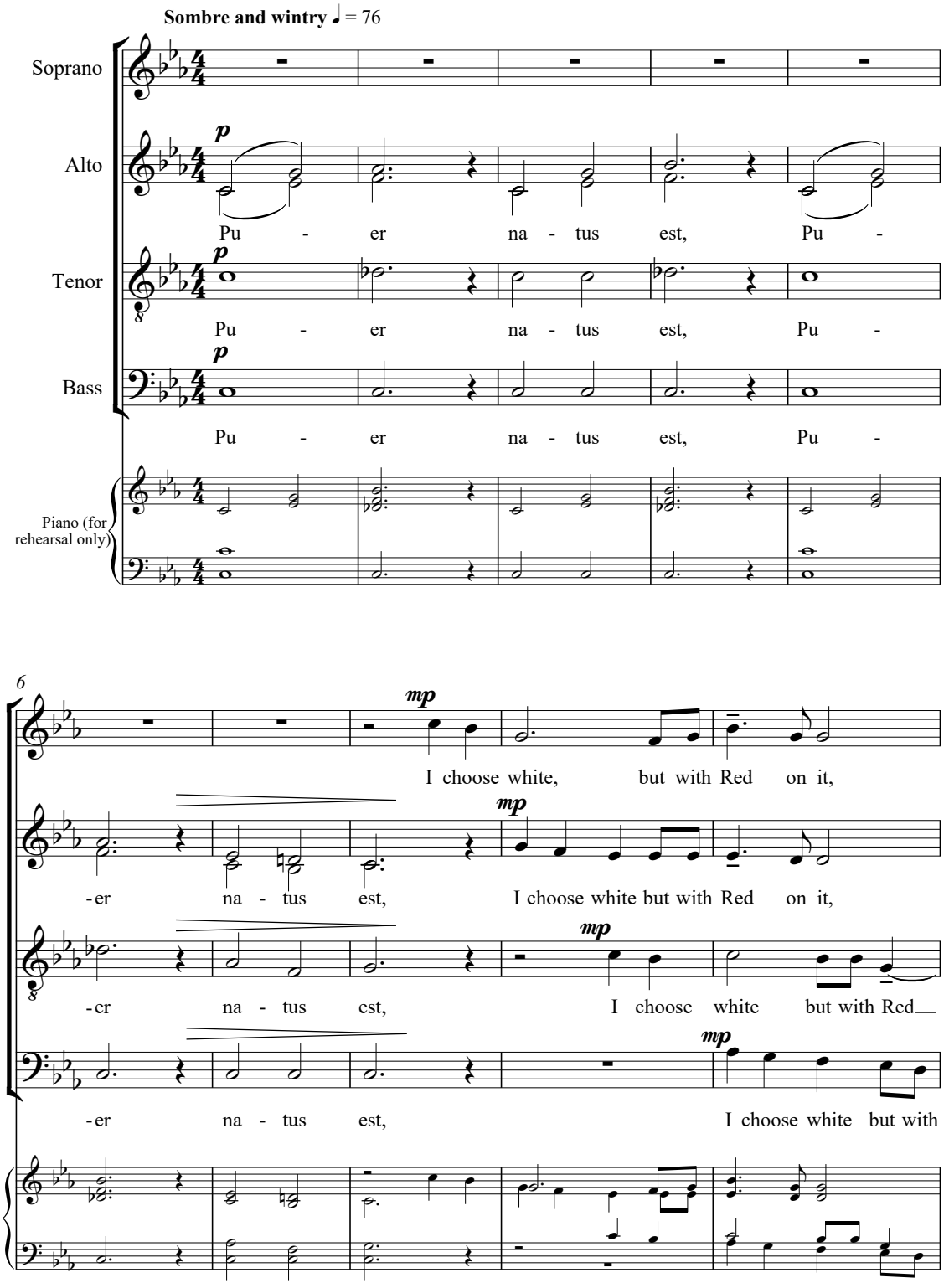
for Donald Hunt and the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria BC

Like the snow in winter
As among broken glass
The manger is empty

LIKE THE SNOW IN WINTER

*Words by R. S. Thomas (1913-2000)

Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)



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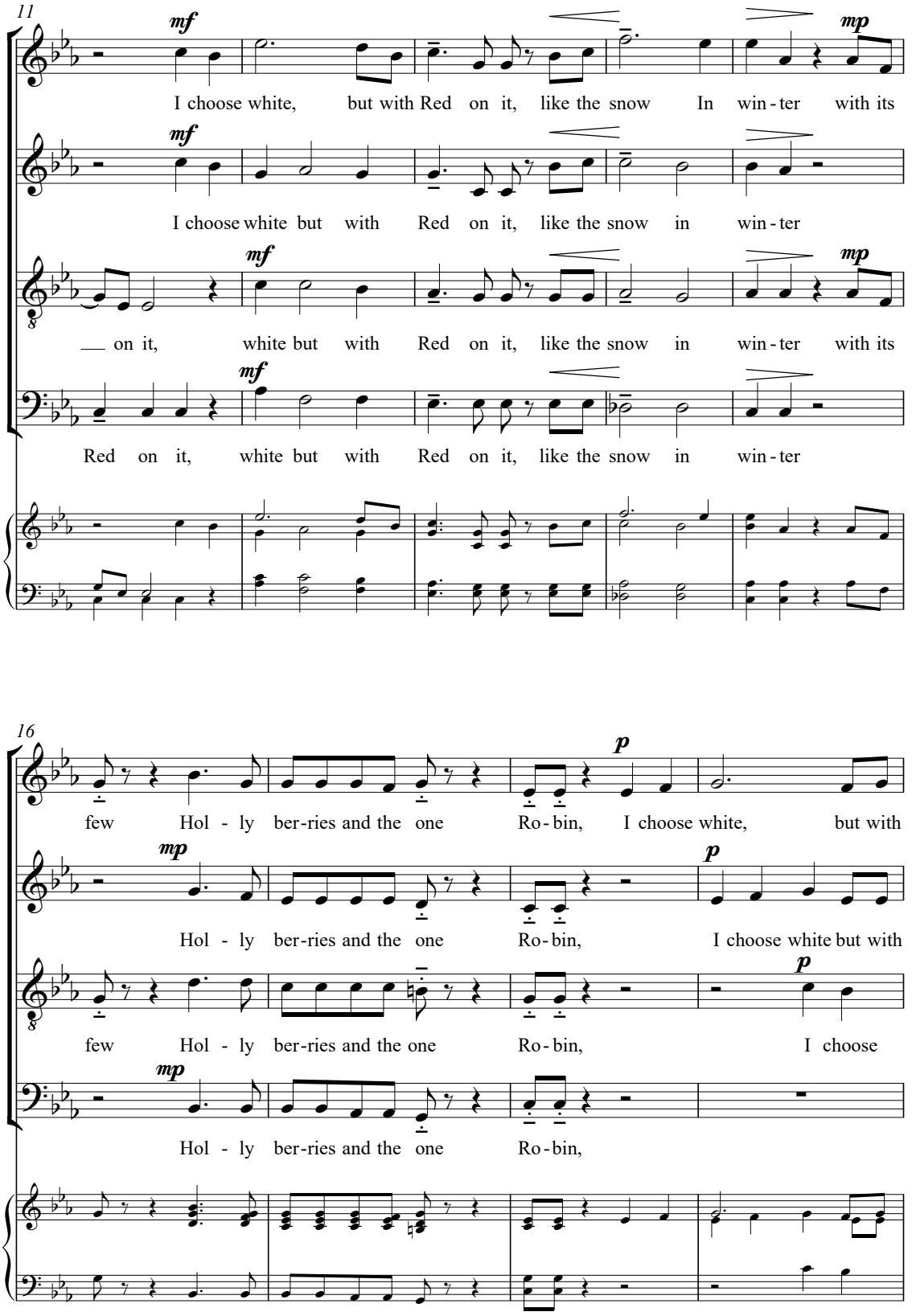
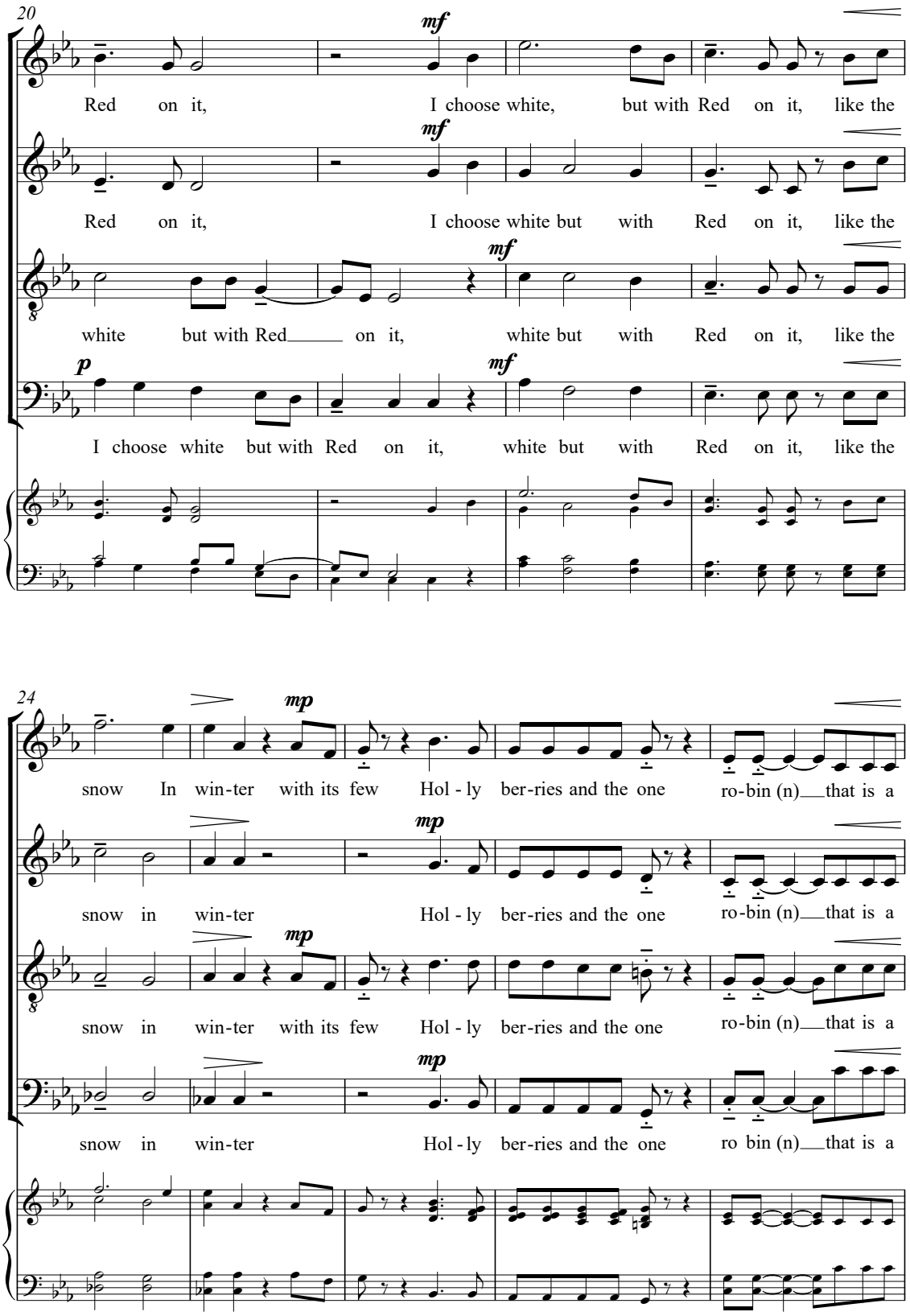
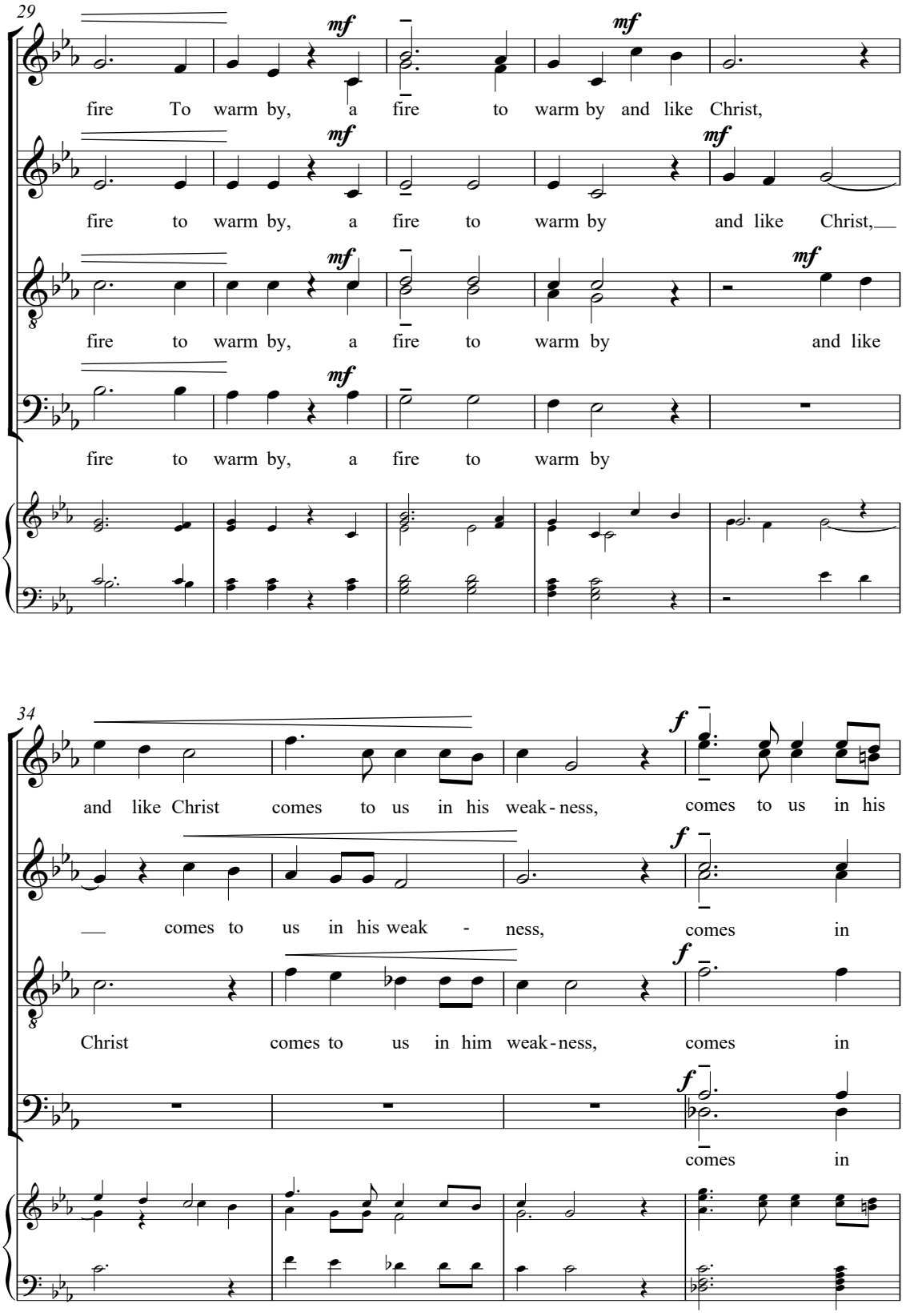
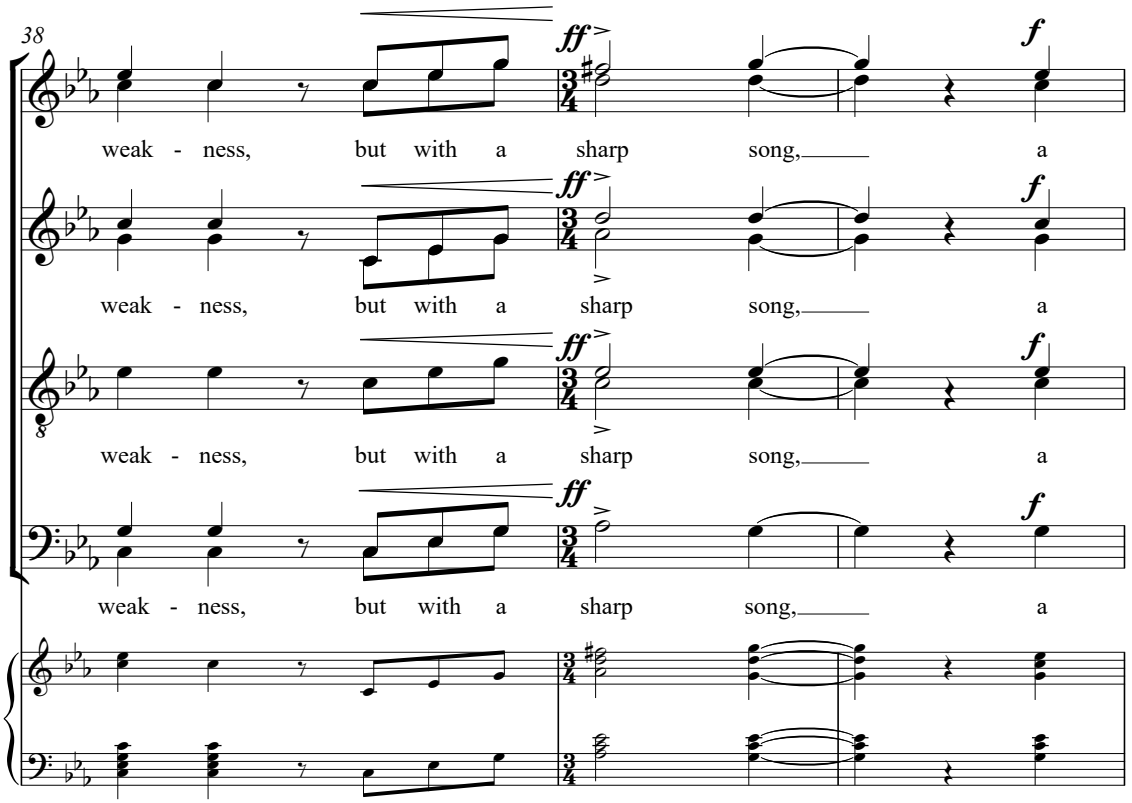
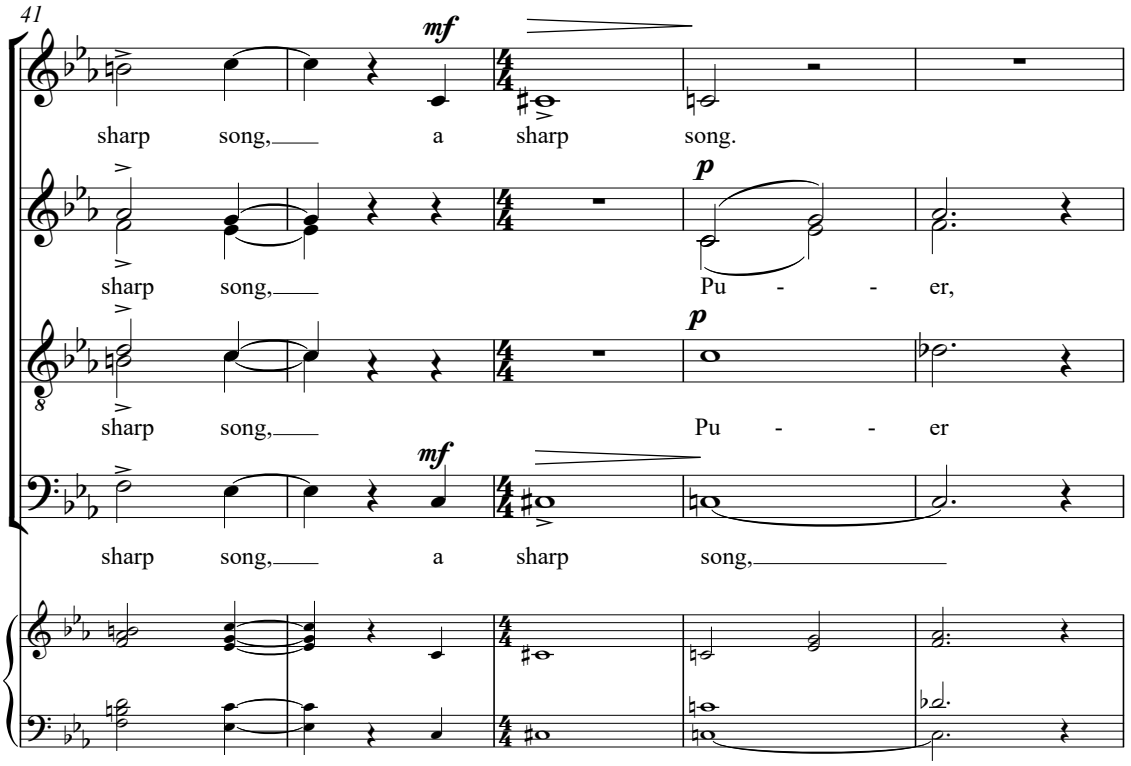
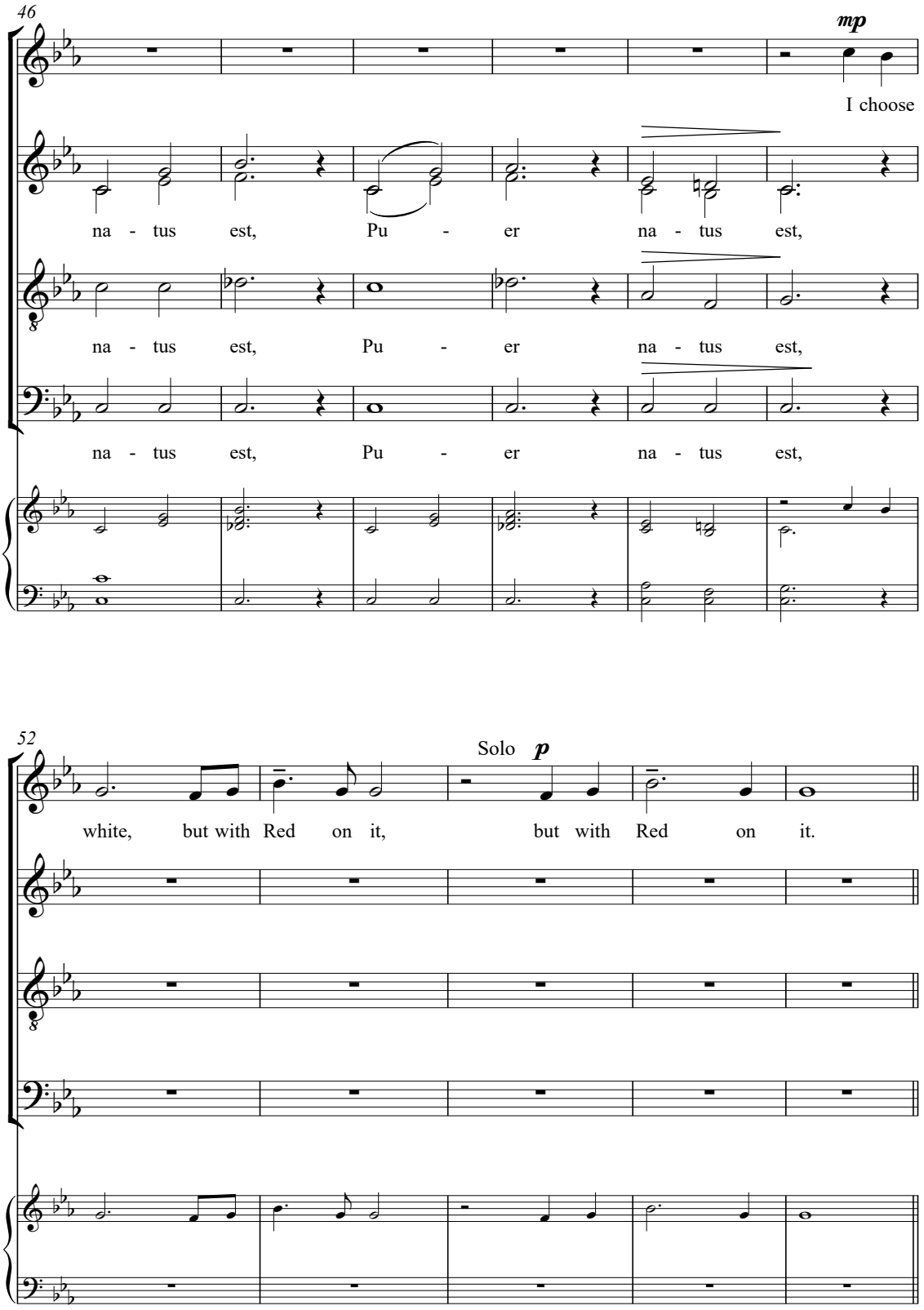

11
mf
I choose white, but with Red on it, like the snow In win - ter with its
mf
I choose white but with Red on it, like the snow in win - ter
mf
mp
on it, white but with Red on it, like the snow in win - ter with its
mf
Red on it, white but with Red on it, like the snow in win - ter
16
p
few Hol - ly ber-ries and the one Ro - bin, I choose white, but with
mp
Hol - ly ber-ries and the one Ro - bin, I choose white but with
p
few Hol - ly ber-ries and the one Ro - bin, I choose
mp
Hol - ly ber-ries and the one Ro - bin,


20
mf
Red on it, I choose white, but with Red on it, like the
mf
Red on it, I choose white but with Red on it, like the
mf
white but with Red on it, white but with Red on it, like the
p
mf
I choose white but with Red on it, white but with Red on it, like the
24
mp
snow In win-ter with its few Hol - ly ber-ries and the one ro-bin (n) that is a
mp
snow in win-ter Hol - ly ber-ries and the one ro-bin (n) that is a
mp
snow in win-ter with its few Hol - ly ber-ries and the one ro-bin (n) that is a
mp
snow in win-ter Hol - ly ber-ries and the one ro bin (n) that is a


29
mf
fire To warm by, a fire to warm by and like Christ,
fire to warm by, a fire to warm by and like Christ,
fire to warm by, a fire to warm by and like
fire to warm by, a fire to warm by
34
f
and like Christ comes to us in his weak - ness, comes to us in his
comes to us in his weak - ness, comes in
Christ comes to us in him weak - ness, comes in
comes in


38
ff
f
weak - ness, but with a sharp song, a
weak - ness, but with a sharp song, a
weak - ness, but with a sharp song, a
weak - ness, but with a sharp song, a

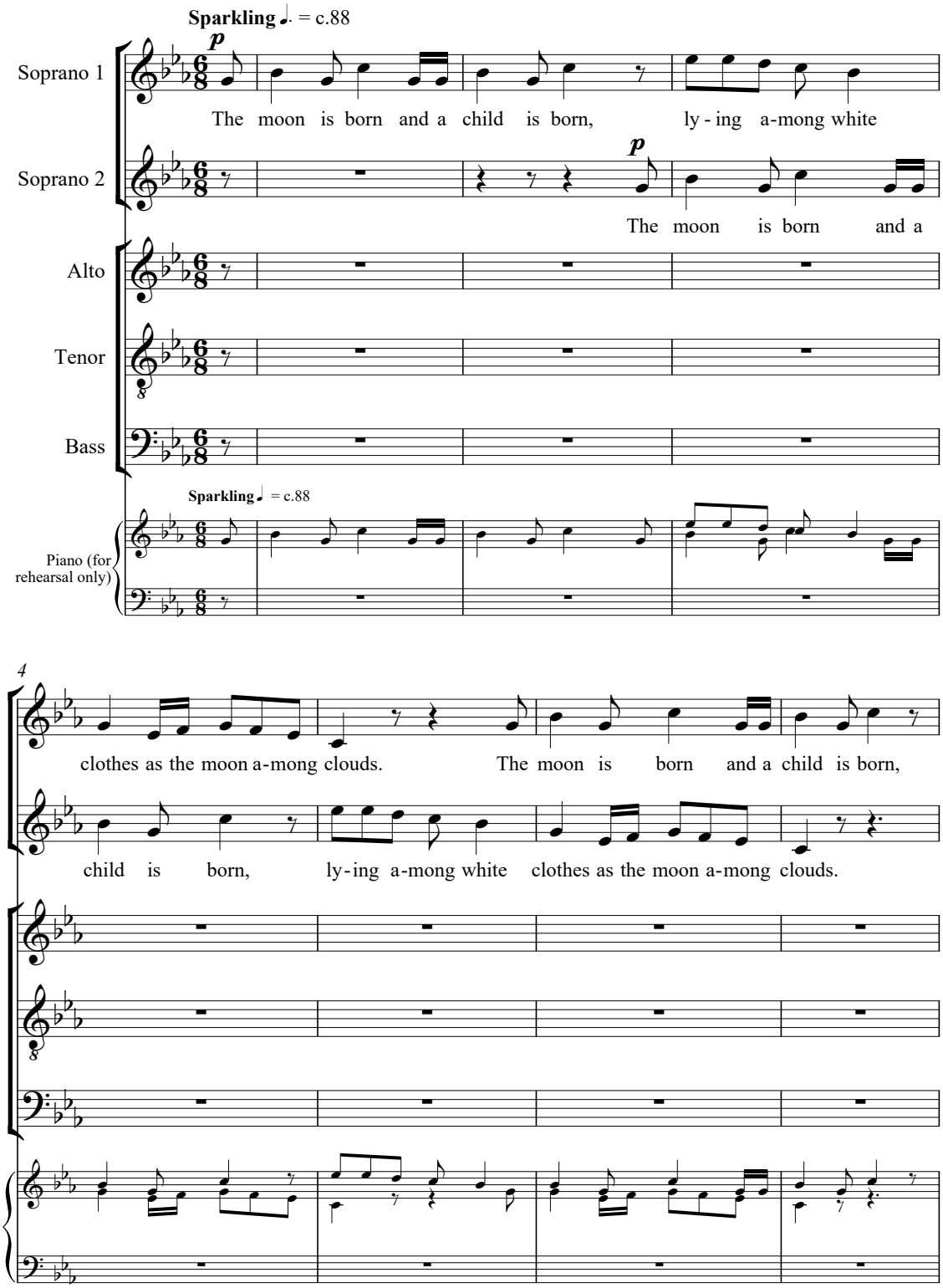

41
mf
p
sharp song, a sharp song.
sharp song, Pu - - er,
sharp song, Pu - - er
sharp song, a sharp song,


46
mp
I choose
na - tus est, Pu - er na - tus est,
na - tus est, Pu - er na - tus est,
na - tus est, Pu - er na - tus est,
52
Solo p
white, but with Red on it, but with Red on it.

AS AMONG BROKEN GLASS

*Words by R. S. Thomas (1913-2000)

Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)



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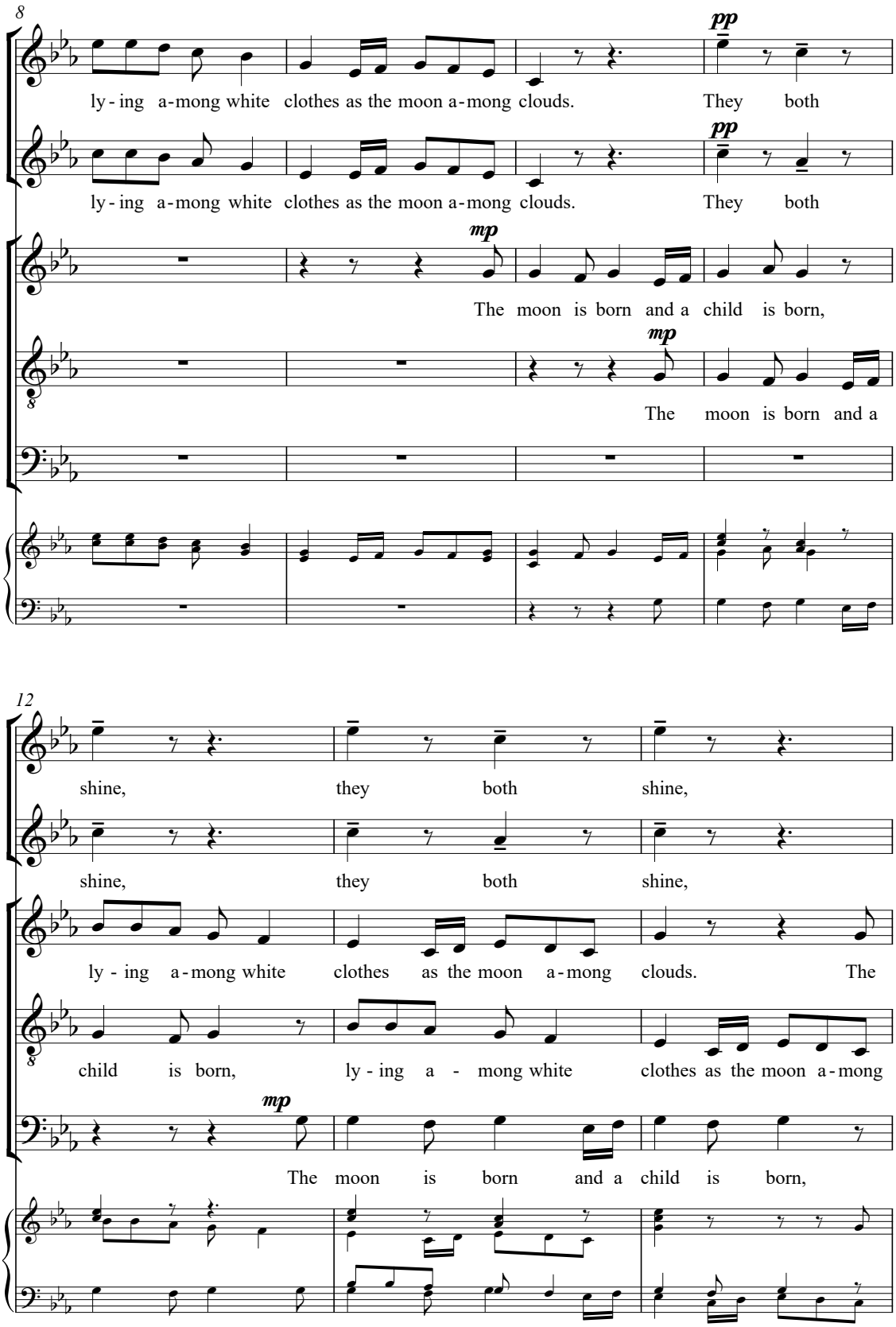
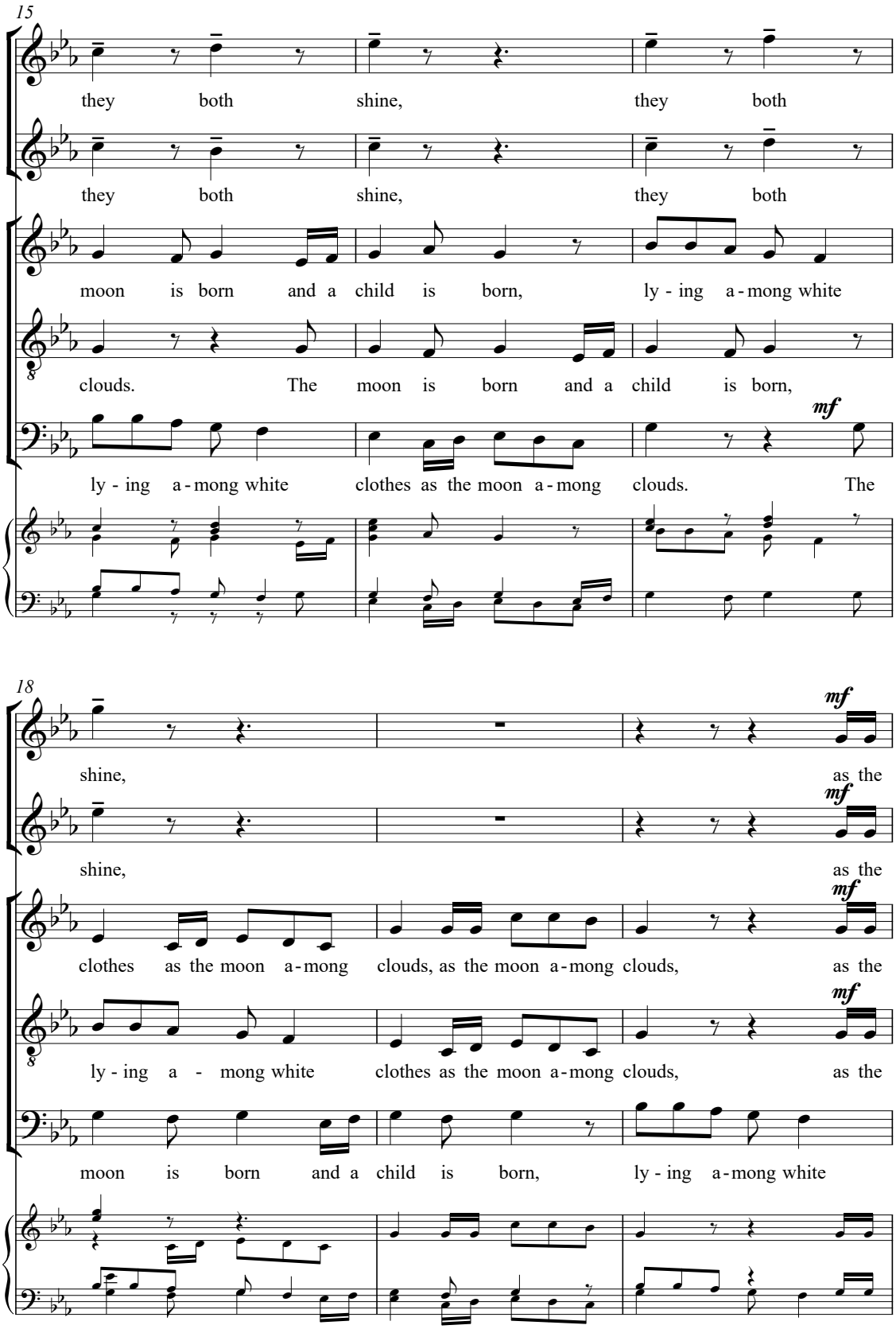
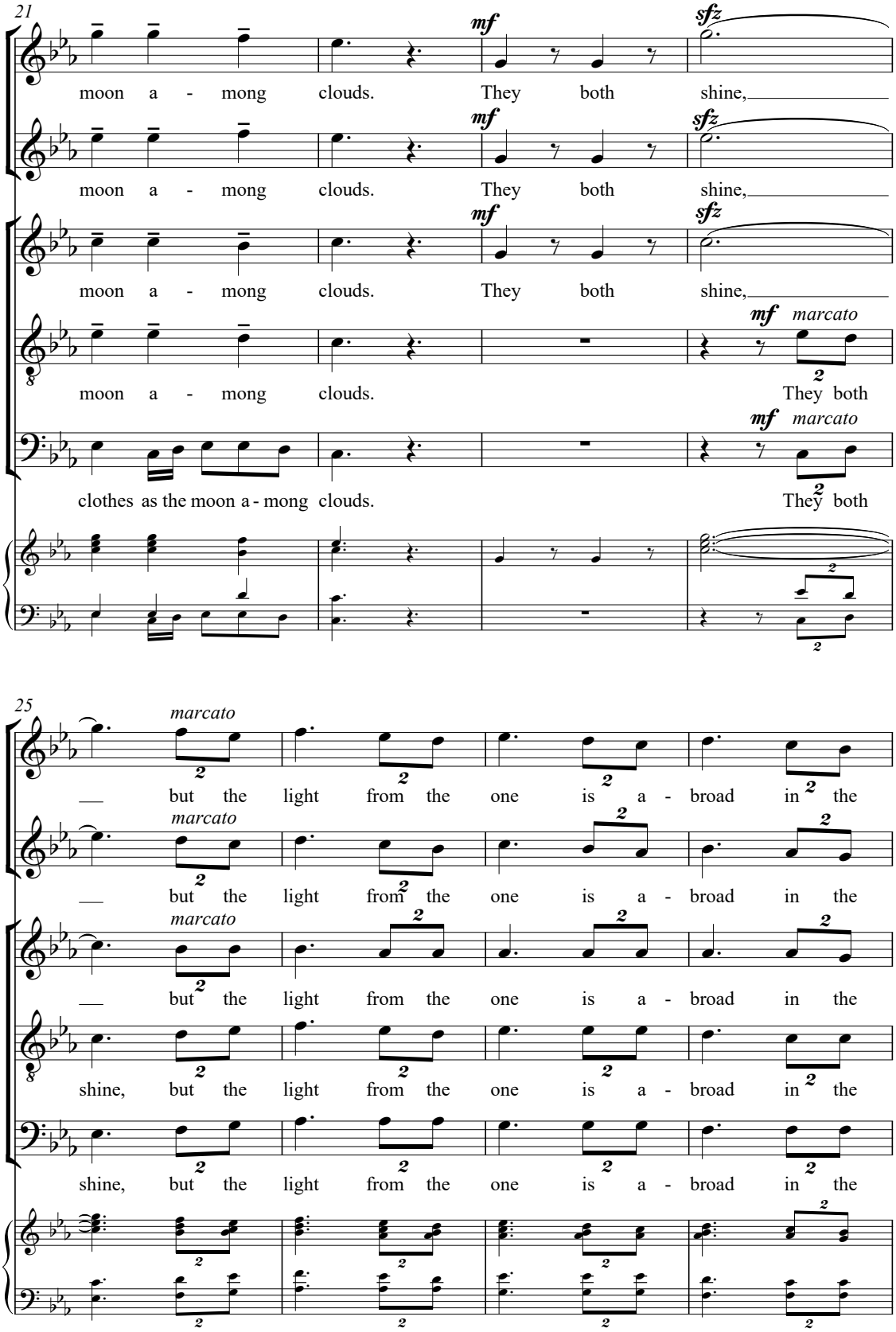
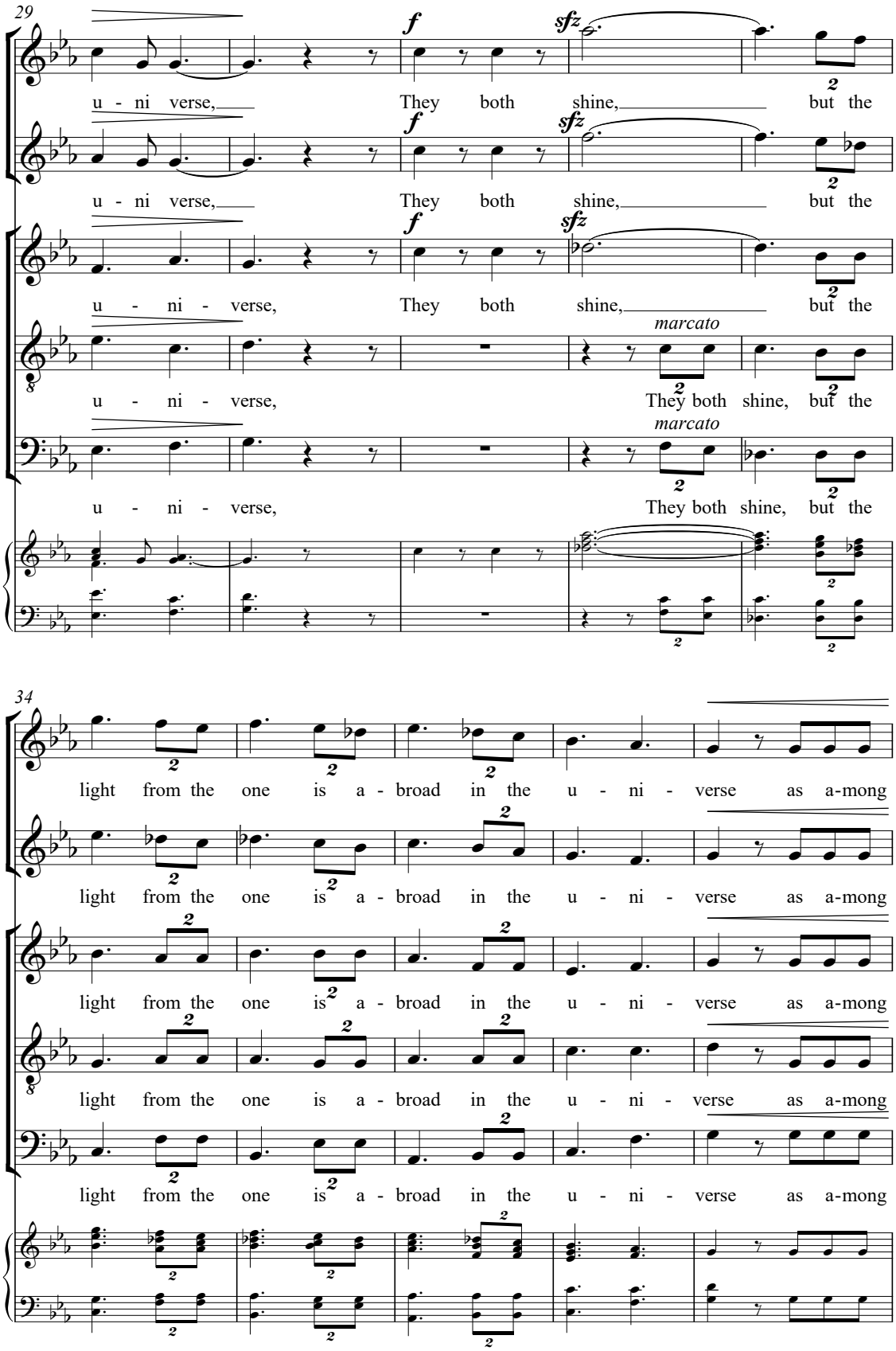
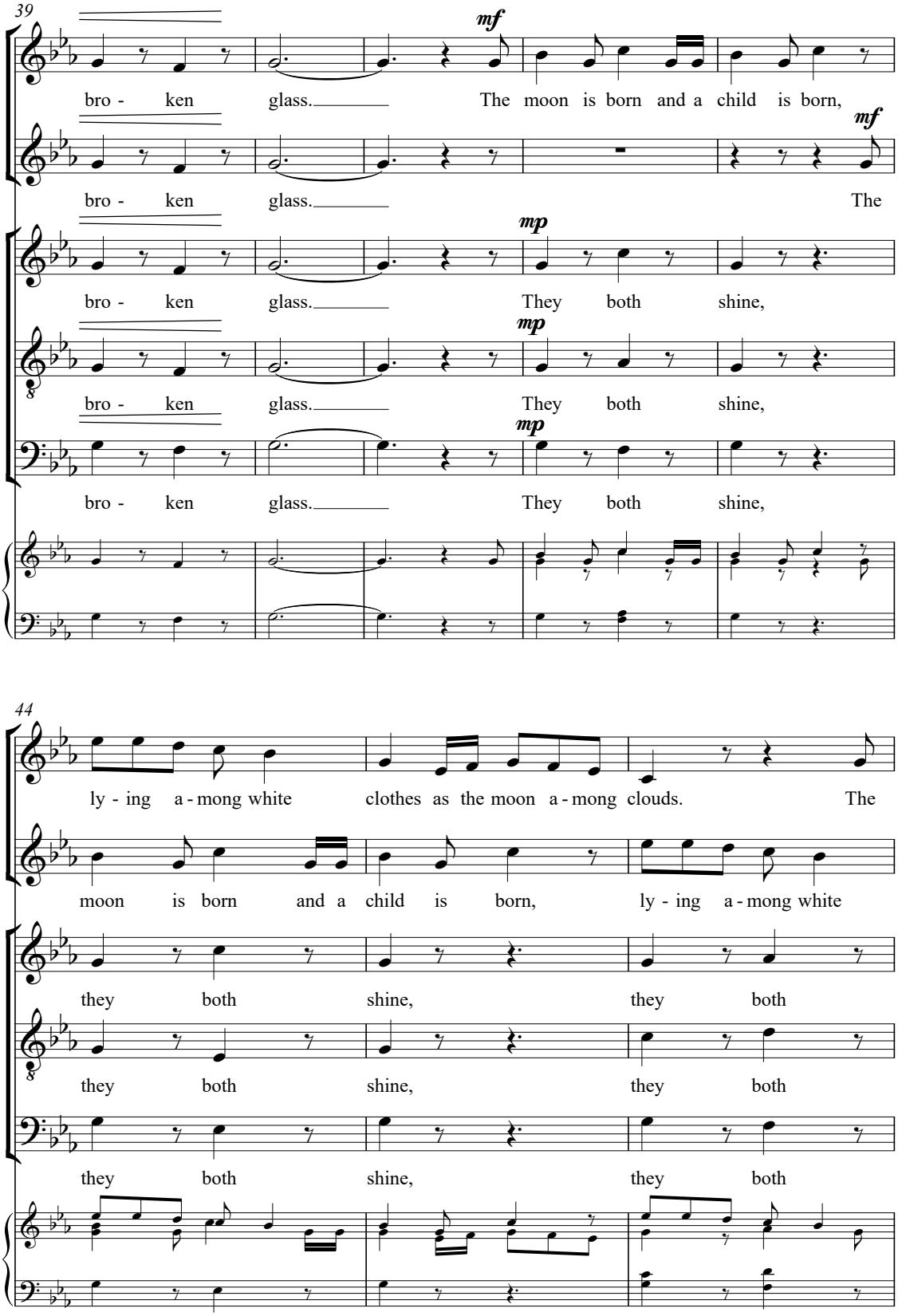
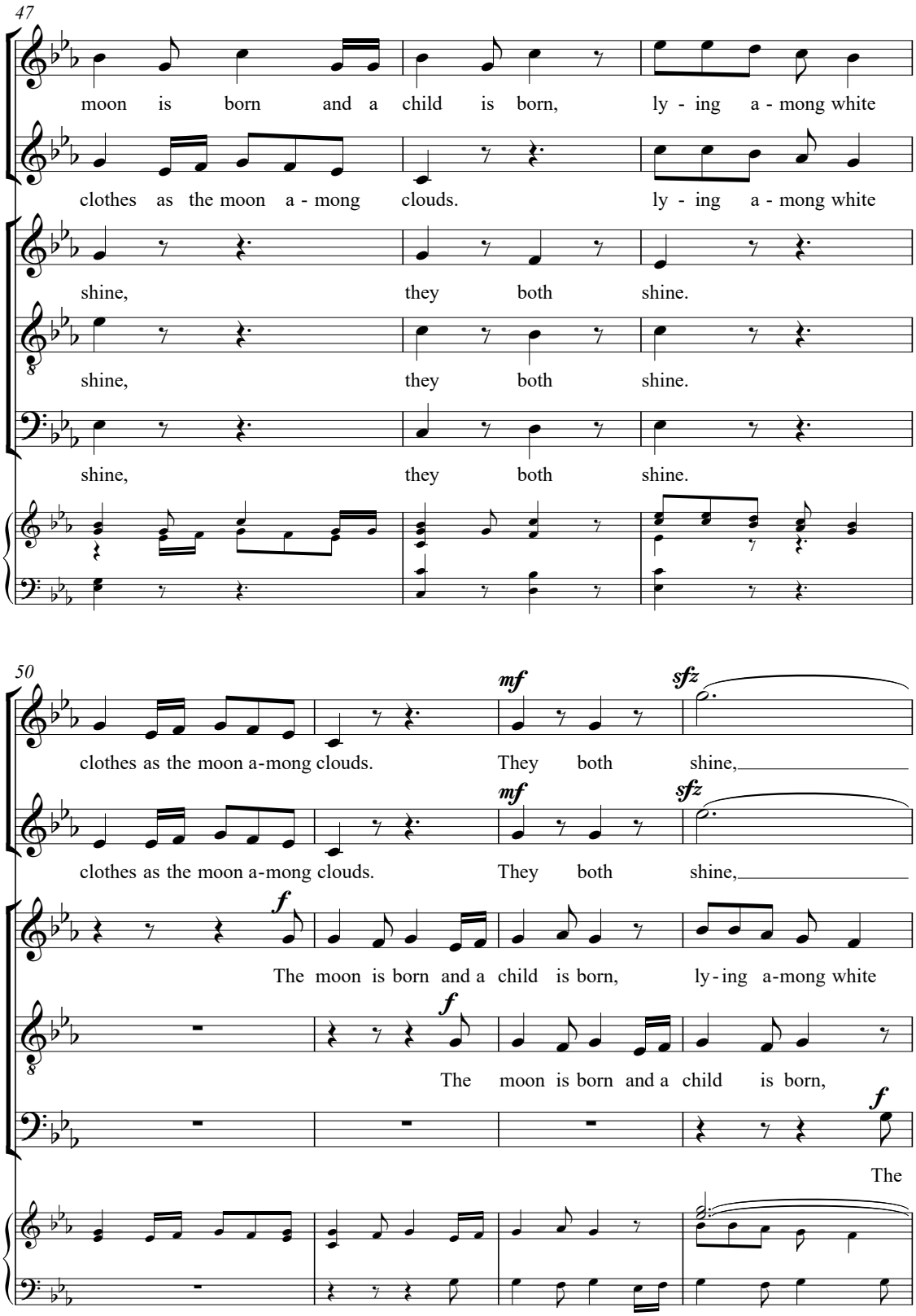

8
pp
ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. They both
pp
ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. They both
mp
The moon is born and a child is born,
mp
The moon is born and a
12
shine, they both shine,
shine, they both shine,
ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. The
child is born, ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong
mp
The moon is born and a child is born,

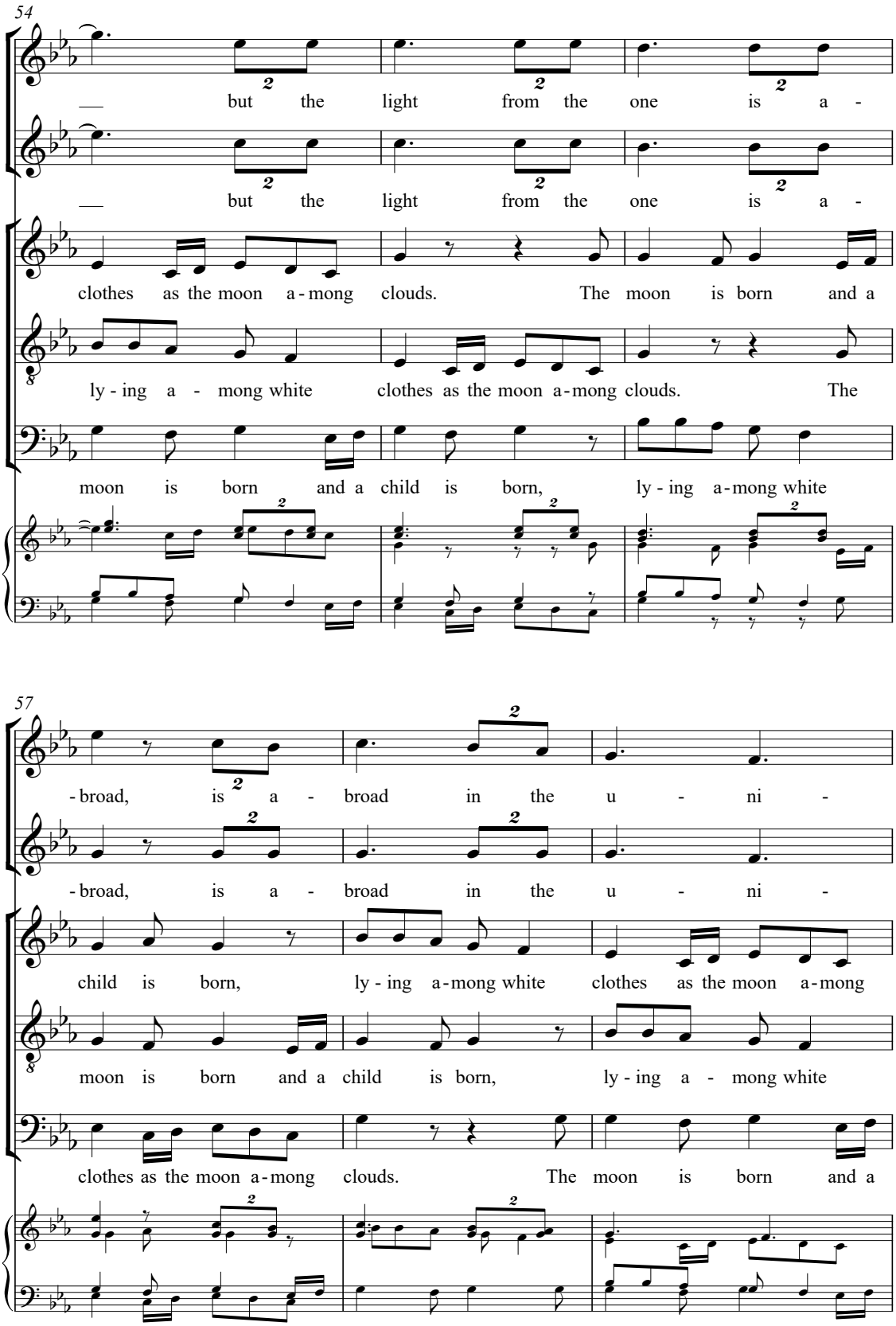

15
they both shine, they both
they both shine, they both
moon is born and a child is born, ly - ing a - mong white
clouds. The moon is born and a child is born,
ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. The
mf
18
shine, as the
shine, as the
clothes as the moon a - mong clouds, as the moon a - mong clouds, as the
ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds, as the
moon is born and a child is born, ly - ing a - mong white

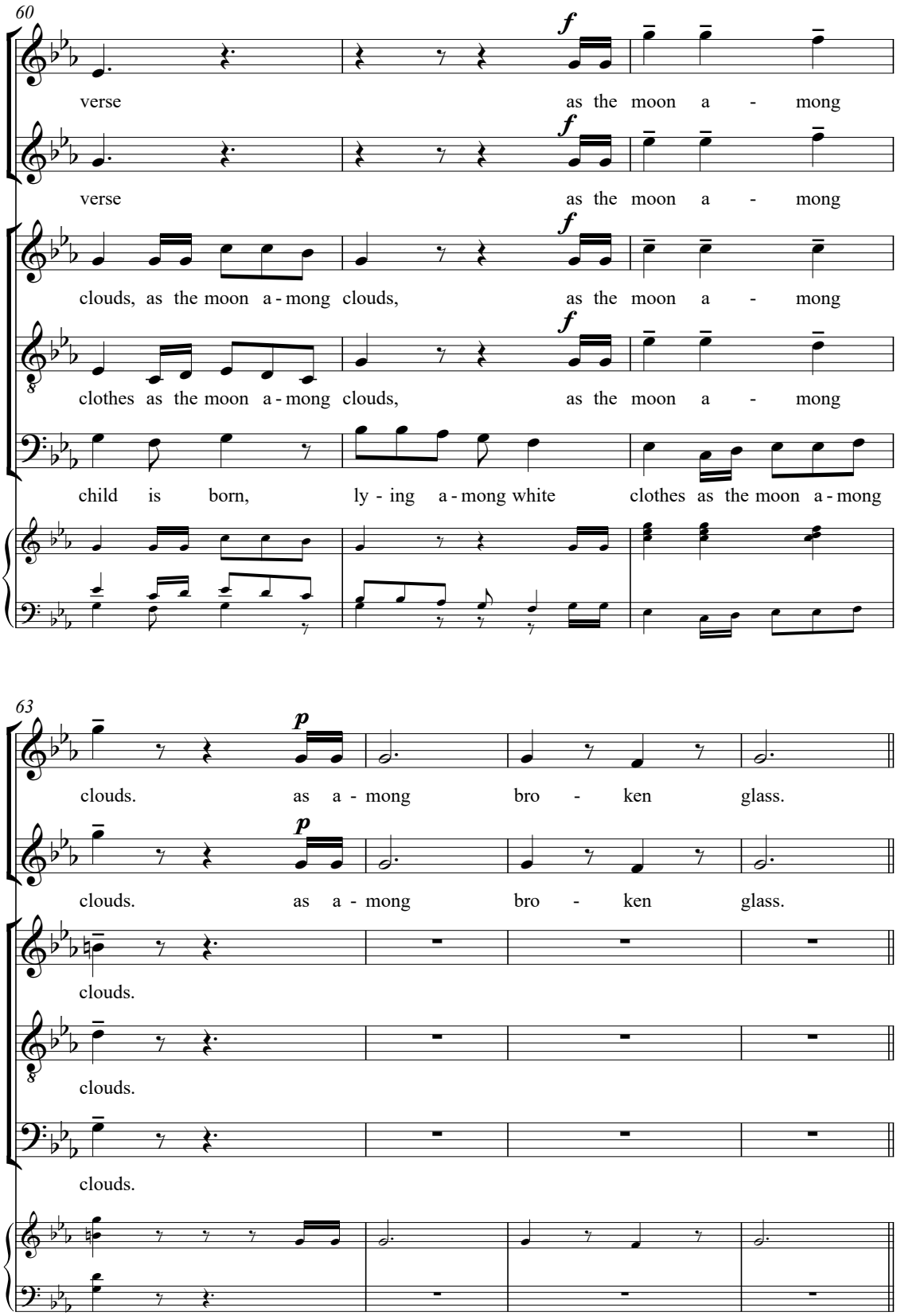

21
mf
sfz
moon a - mong clouds. They both shine,
moon a - mong clouds. They both shine,
moon a - mong clouds. They both shine,
mf marcato
moon a - mong clouds. They both
mf marcato
clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. They both
25
marcato
but the light from the one is a - broad in the
but the light from the one is a - broad in the
but the light from the one is a - broad in the
shine, but the light from the one is a - broad in the
shine, but the light from the one is a - broad in the


29
f
sfz
u - ni verse, They both shine, but the
u - ni - verse, They both shine, but the
marcato
u - ni - verse, They both shine, but the
34
light from the one is a - broad in the u - ni - verse as a-mong


39
mf
bro - ken glass. The moon is born and a child is born,
mf
bro - ken glass. The
mp
bro - ken glass. They both shine,
mp
bro - ken glass. They both shine,
mp
bro - ken glass. They both shine,
44
ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. The
moon is born and a child is born, ly - ing a - mong white
they both shine, they both
they both shine, they both
they both shine, they both


47
moon is born and a child is born, ly - ing a - mong white
clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. ly - ing a - mong white
shine, they both shine.
shine, they both shine.
shine, they both shine.
50
mf
sfz
clothes as the moon a-mong clouds. They both shine,
mf
sfz
clothes as the moon a-mong clouds. They both shine,
f
The moon is born and a child is born, ly-ing a-mong white
f
The moon is born and a child is born,
f
The

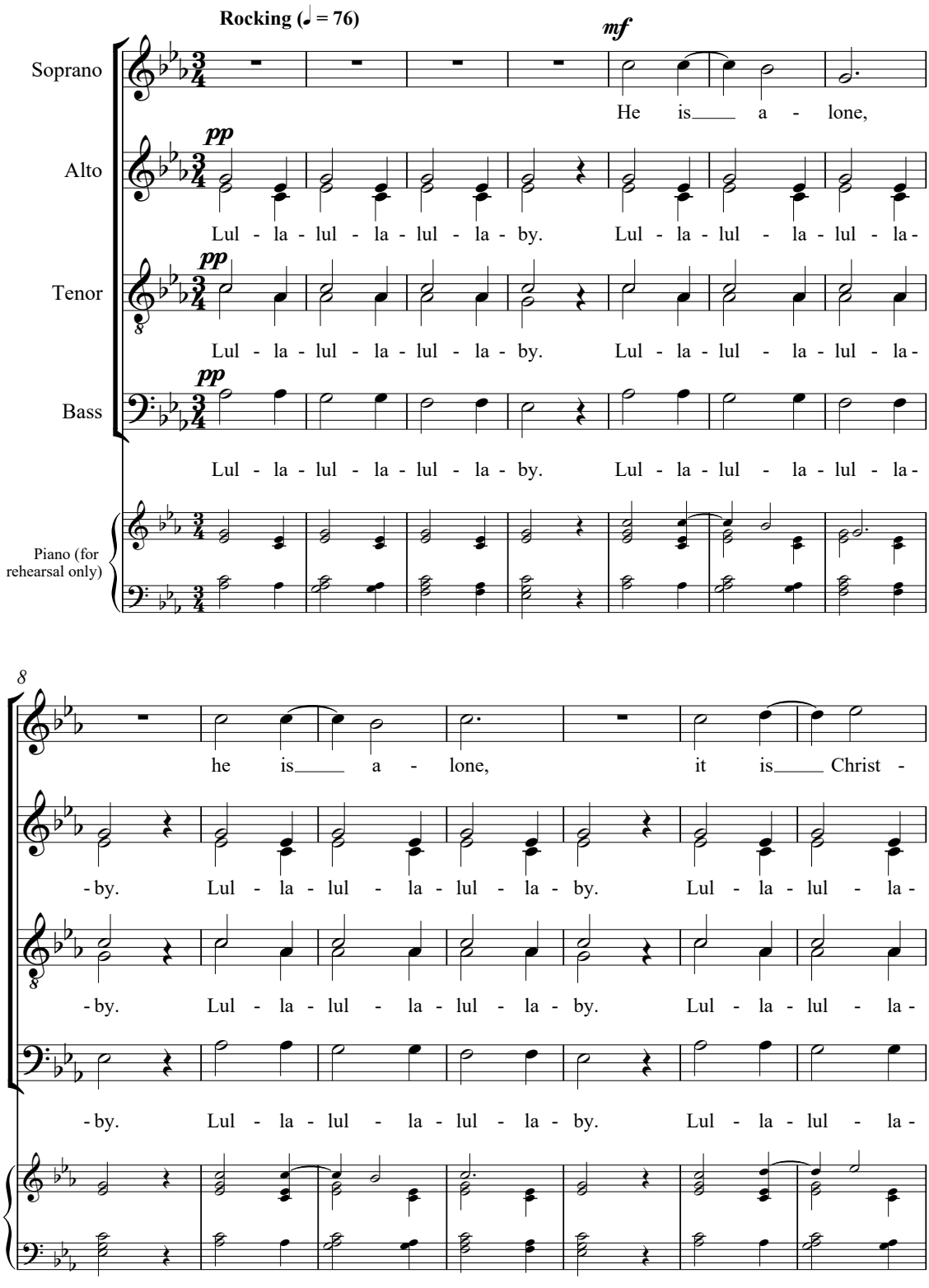

54
but the light from the one is a -
but the light from the one is a -
clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. The moon is born and a
ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. The
moon is born and a child is born, ly - ing a - mong white
57
- broad, is a - broad in the u - ni -
- broad, is a - broad in the u - ni -
child is born, ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong
moon is born and a child is born, ly - ing a - mong white
clothes as the moon a - mong clouds. The moon is born and a


60
f
verse as the moon a - mong
verse as the moon a - mong
clouds, as the moon a - mong clouds, as the moon a - mong
clothes as the moon a - mong clouds, as the moon a - mong
child is born, ly - ing a - mong white clothes as the moon a - mong
63
p
clouds. as a - mong bro - ken glass.
clouds. as a - mong bro - ken glass.
clouds.
clouds.
clouds.

THE MANGER IS EMPTY

*R. S. Thomas (1913-2000)

Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)



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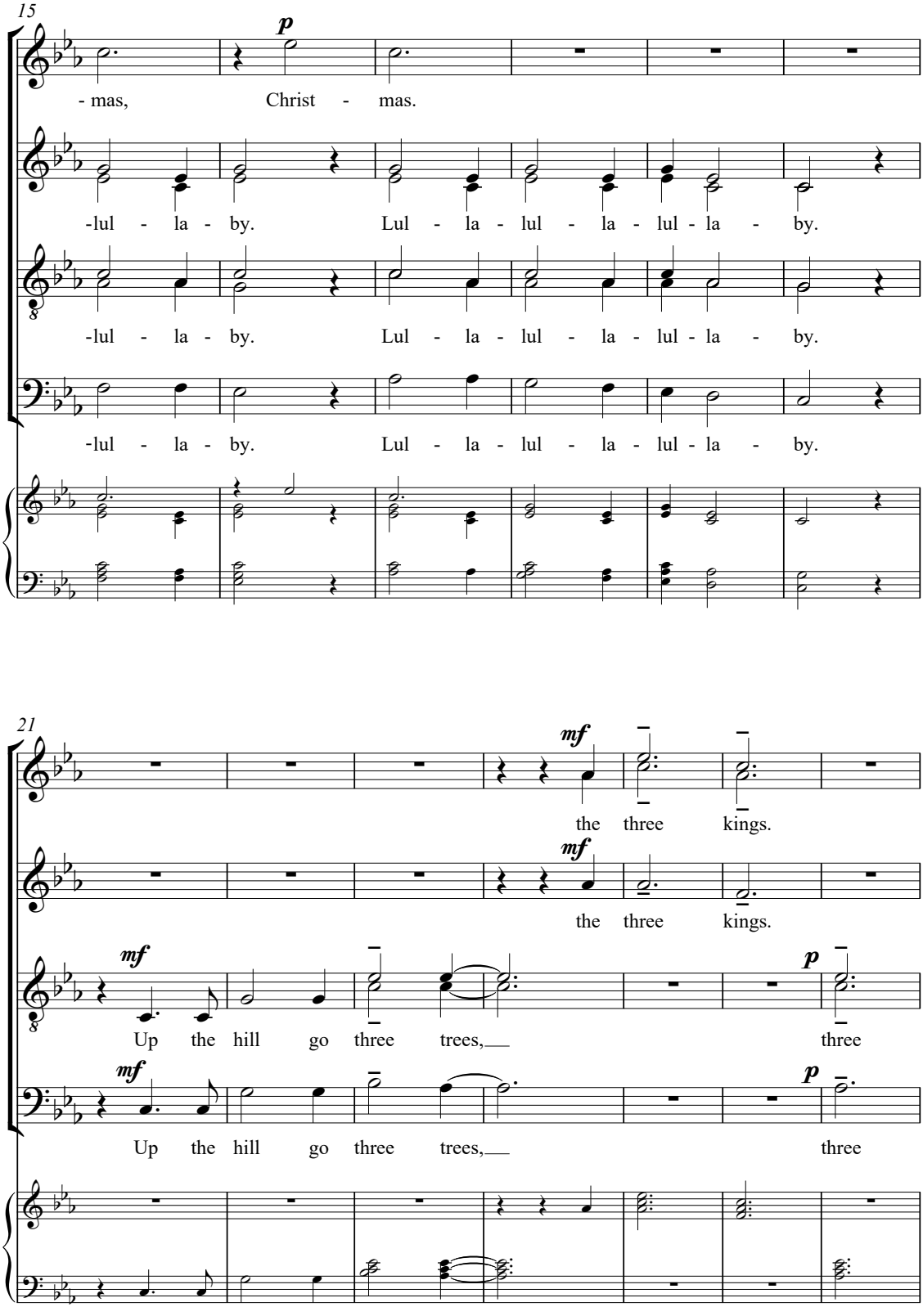
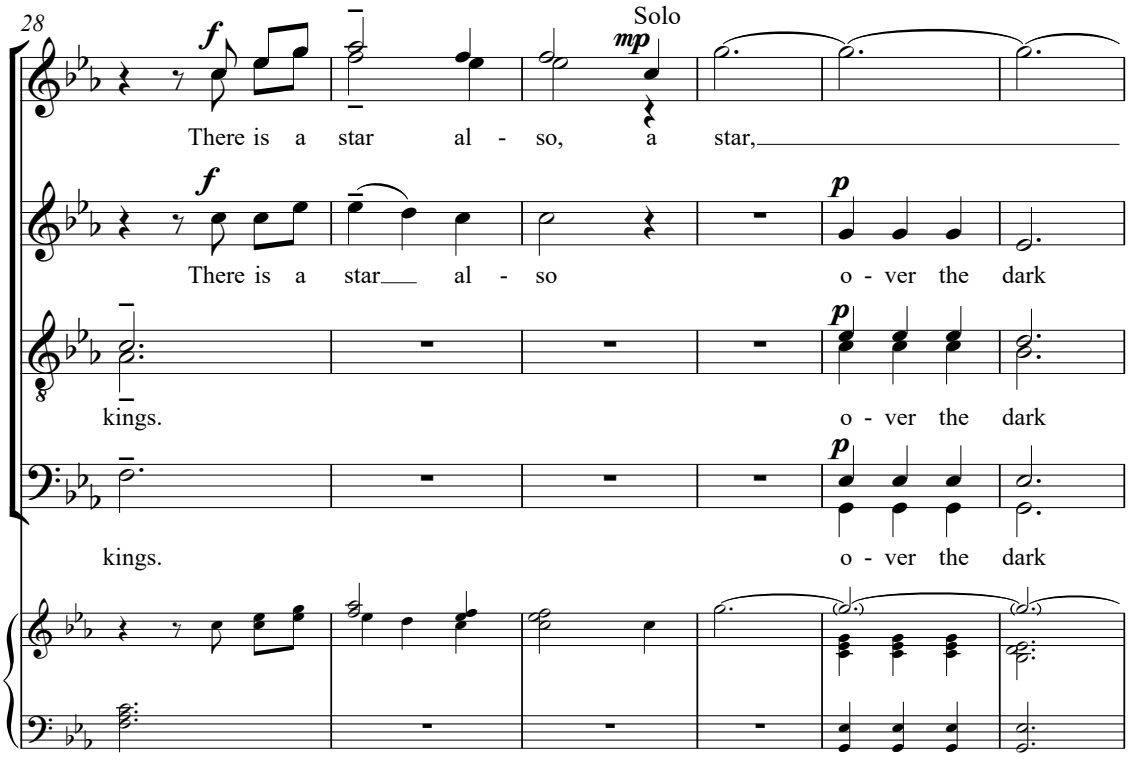
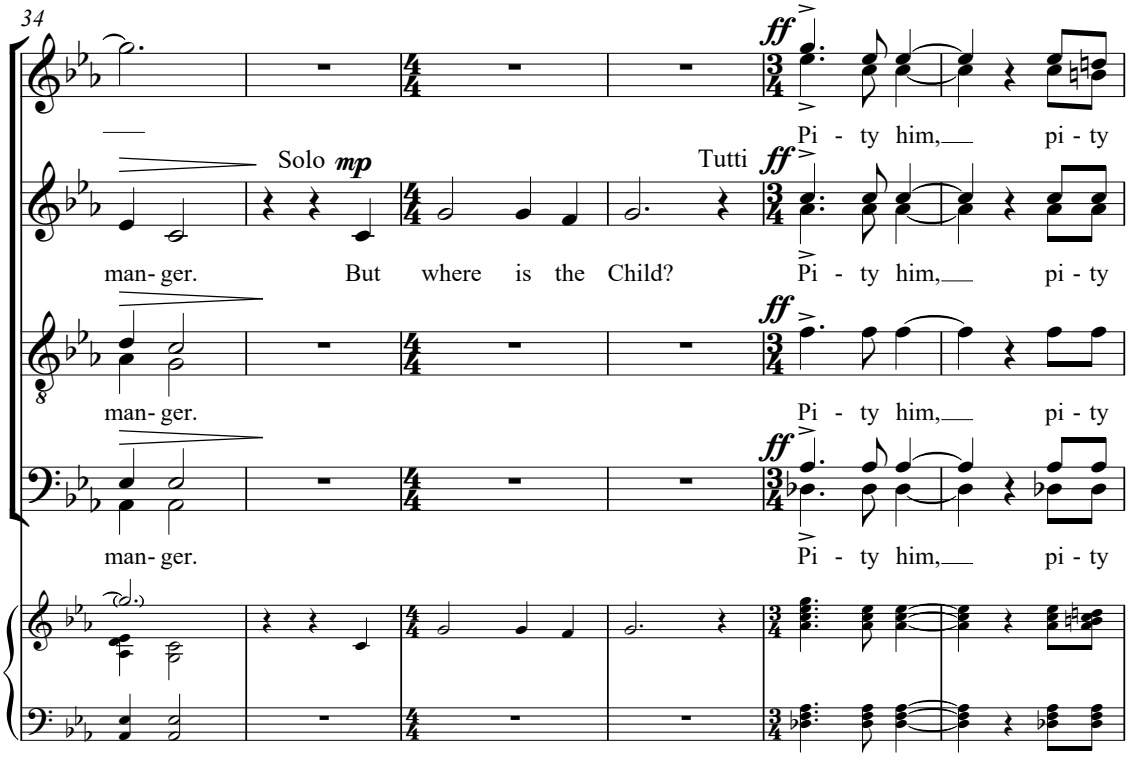
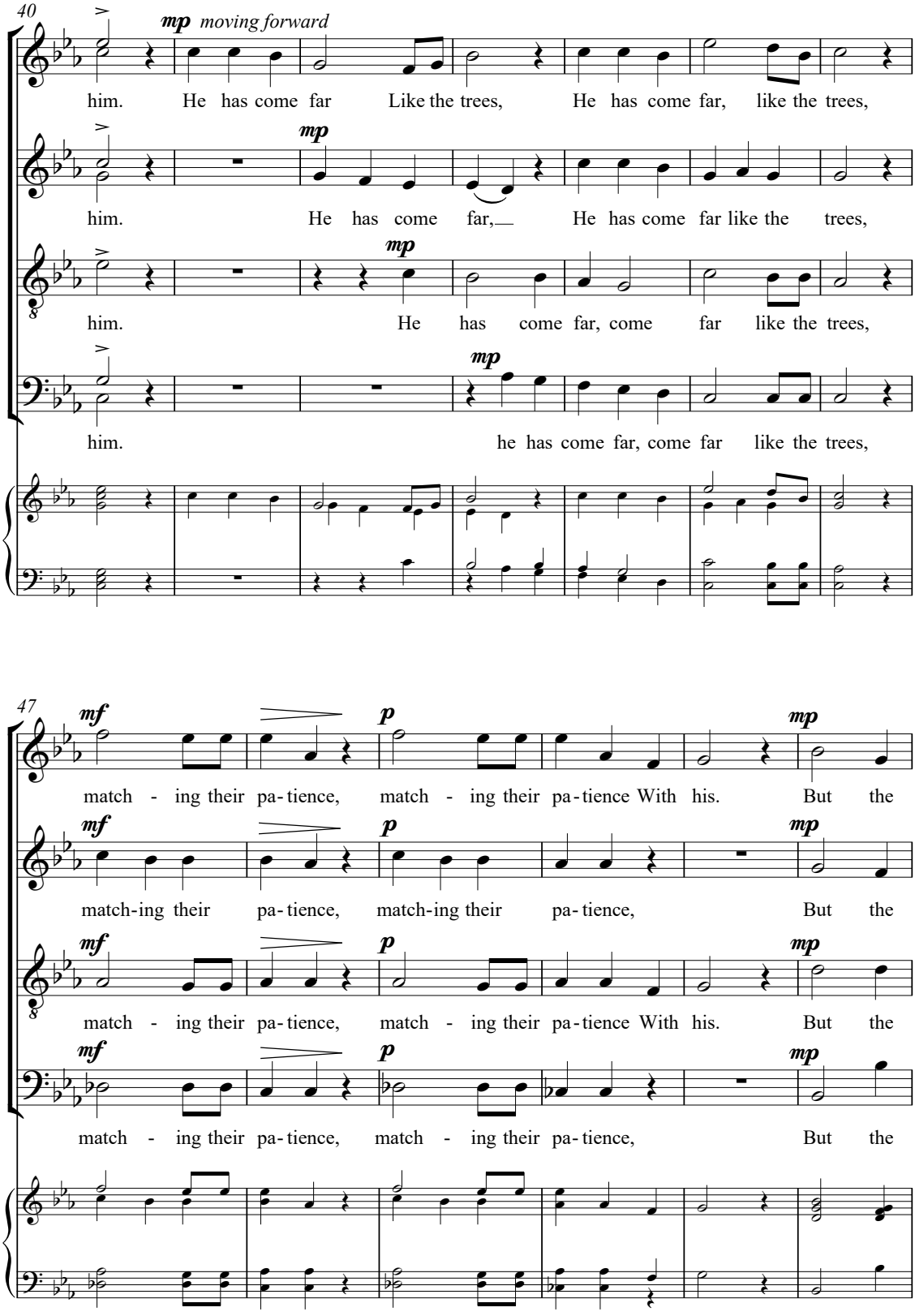
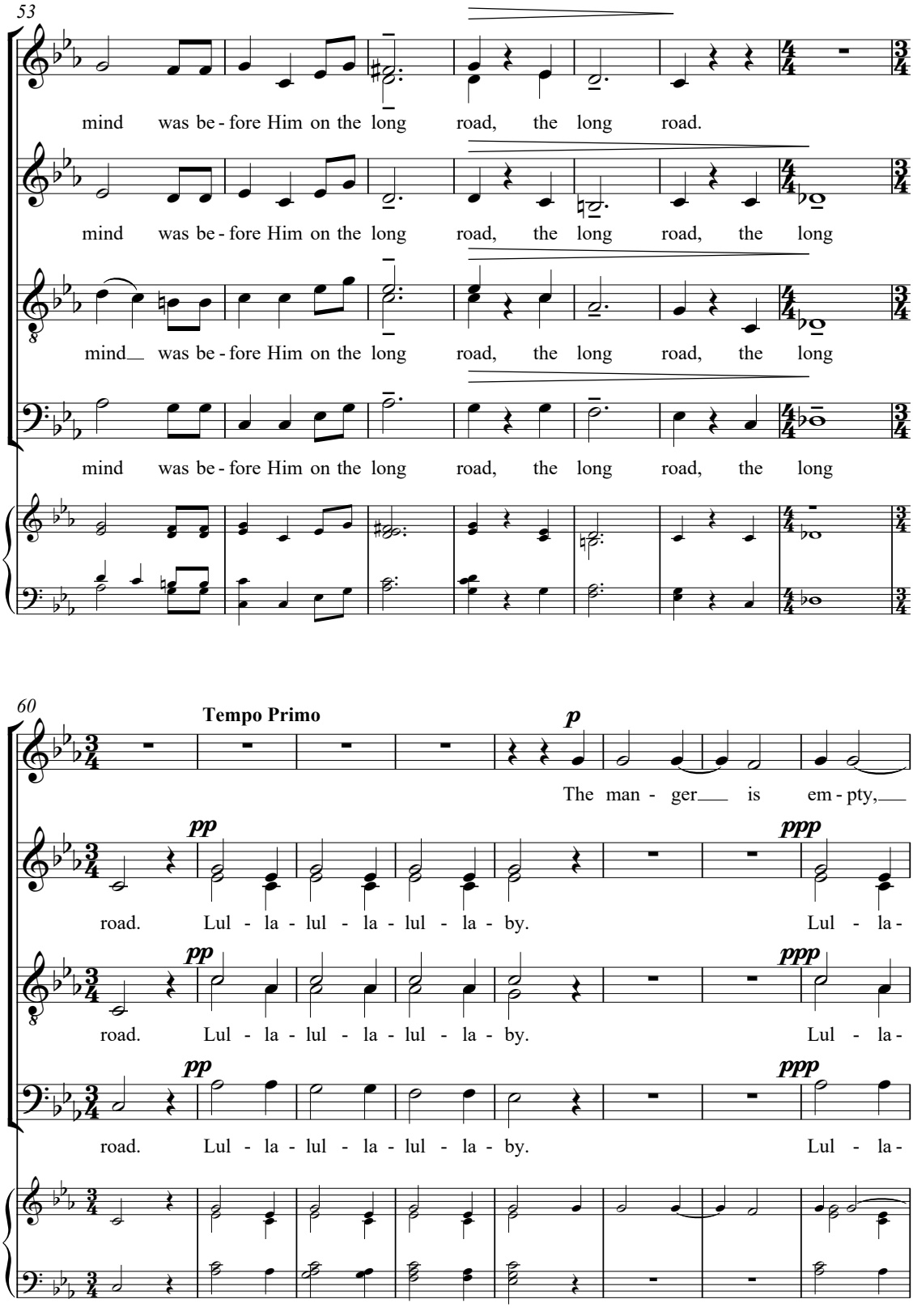
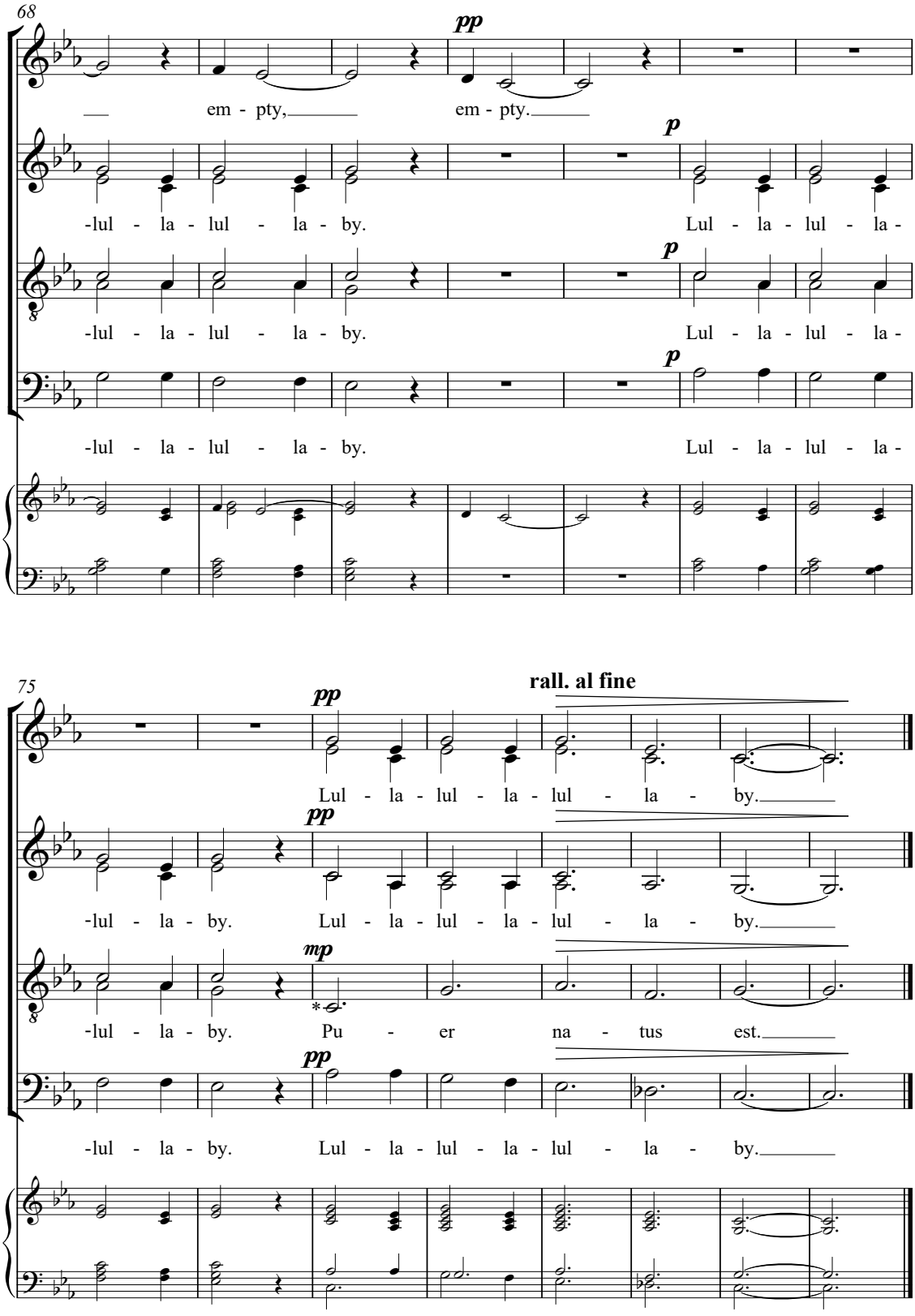

15
p
- mas, Christ - mas.
-lul - la - by. Lul - la - lul - la - lul - la - by.
-lul - la - by. Lul - la - lul - la - lul - la - by.
-lul - la - by. Lul - la - lul - la - lul - la - by.
21
mf
the three kings.
mf
the three kings.
mf
Up the hill go three trees, three
p
mf
Up the hill go three trees, three
p


28
Solo
There is a star al - so, a star,
There is a star al - so o - ver the dark
kings. o - ver the dark
kings. o - ver the dark


34
Pi - ty him, pi - ty
Solo
man- ger. But where is the Child?
Tutti
Pi - ty him, pi - ty
man- ger. Pi - ty him, pi - ty
man- ger. Pi - ty him, pi - ty


40
mp moving forward
him. He has come far Like the trees, He has come far, like the trees,
him. He has come far, He has come far like the trees,
him. He has come far, come far like the trees,
him. he has come far, come far like the trees,
47
mf p mp
match - ing their pa - tience, match - ing their pa - tience With his. But the
match-ing their pa - tience, match-ing their pa - tience, But the
match - ing their pa - tience, match - ing their pa - tience With his. But the
match - ing their pa - tience, match - ing their pa - tience, But the


53
mind was be - fore Him on the long road, the long road.
mind was be - fore Him on the long road, the long road, the long
mind was be - fore Him on the long road, the long road, the long
mind was be - fore Him on the long road, the long road, the long
60
Tempo Primo
p
The man - ger is em - pty,
pp
ppp
road. Lul - la - lul - la - lul - la - by. Lul - la -
road. Lul - la - lul - la - lul - la - by. Lul - la -
road. Lul - la - lul - la - lul - la - by. Lul - la -



** add first basses if desired*