About this work …

To mark the centenary anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic on the night of 14-15 April 1912, and most especially to honor the eight members of Titanic's band, this work was written and is so dedicated.

These tireless musicians calmed the fears of all on board with reassuring music during the two and a half hours that it took for the great ship to succumb and fall to the bottom of the cold North Atlantic.

Several accounts seem to suggest that their final number was *Nearer, My God, to Thee*. It has always been a point of conversation to speculate that if this were true, what tune was played. This arrangement combines the three most likely candidates: **BETHANY** (Lowell Mason), **PROPIOR DEO** (Arthur Sullivan), and **HORBURY** (John B. Dykes).

Since November of 1912, a fitting tribute to these stalwart men in the form of a bronze plaque has hung in Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall. The memorial reads as follows:

THIS TABLET IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY
OF
W. HARTLEY OF DEWSBURY
-BANDMASTER-

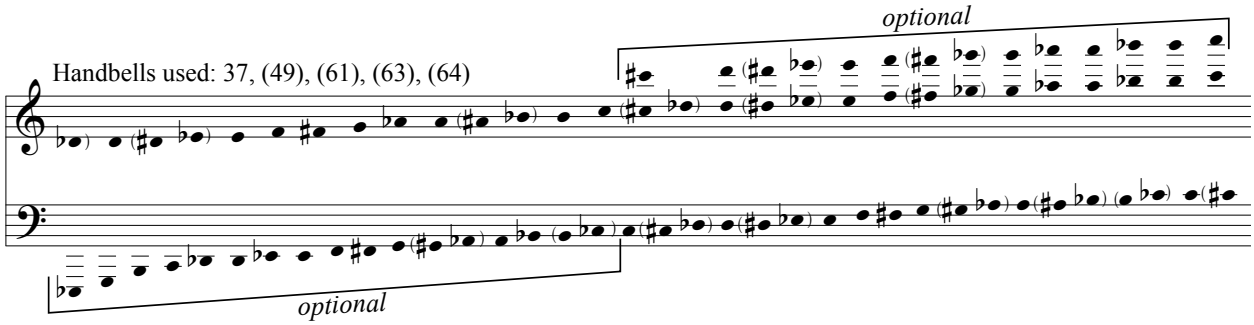
W. T. BRAILEY OF LONDON
R. BRICOUX OF LILLE, FRANCE
J. F. CLARKE OF LIVERPOOL
J. L. HUME OF DUMFRIES
G. KRINS OF LIEGE, BELGIUM
P. C. TAYLOR OF LONDON
J. W. WOODWARD OF HEADINGTON

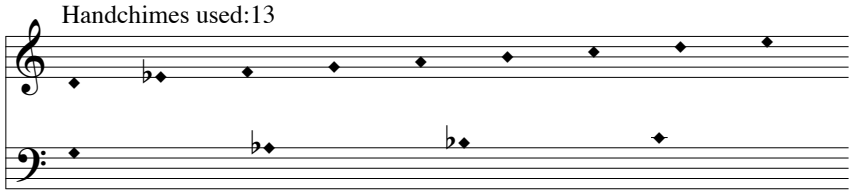
MEMBERS OF THE BAND ON BOARD
THE "TITANIC"; THEY BRAVELY
CONTINUED PLAYING TO SOOTHE THE
ANGUISH OF THEIR FELLOW PASSENGERS
UNTIL THE SHIP SANK IN THE DEEP
APRIL 14th 1912.

COURAGE AND COMPASSION JOINED
MAKE THE HERO AND THE MAN COMPLETE

Nearer, My God, to Thee

for Handbells (3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 octaves) and optional Handchimes (2 octaves)



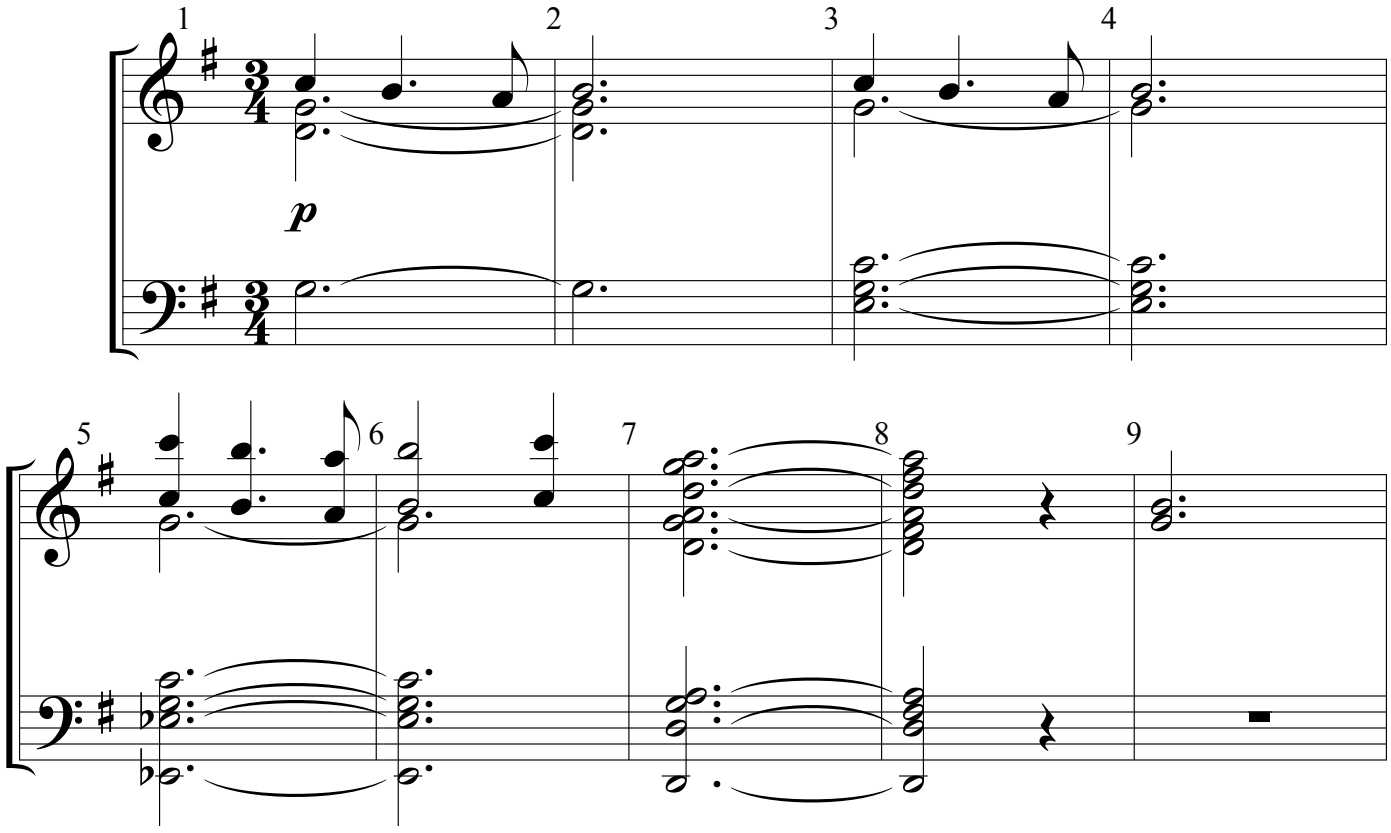


PERFORMANCE NOTES:
3-octave ensembles should omit notes in ( ).
4-octave ensembles should omit notes in [ ].

MICHAEL COE

Based on the hymn tunes BETHANY, PROPIOR DEO, *and* HORBURY

Allegro moderato ♩= ca. 96



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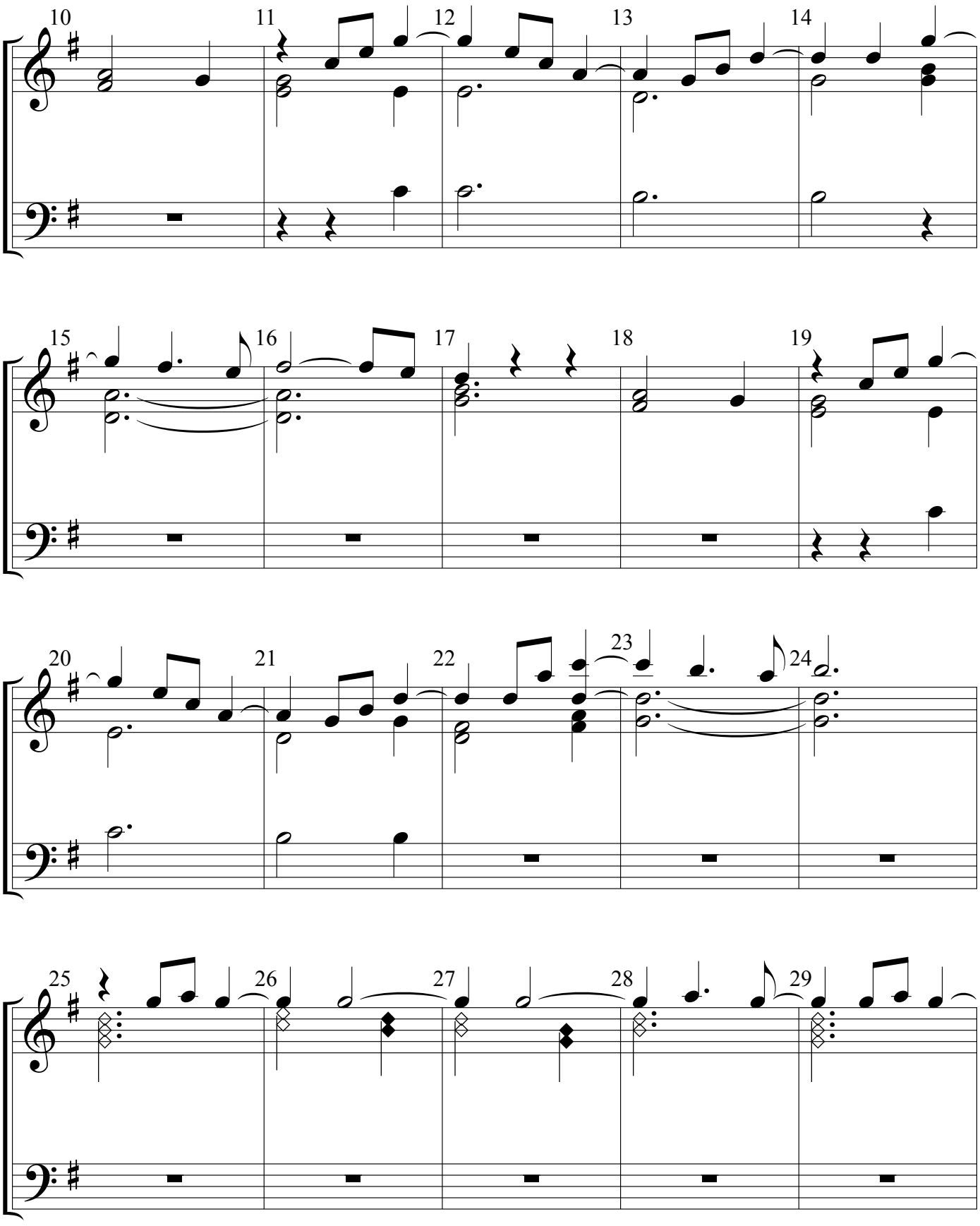
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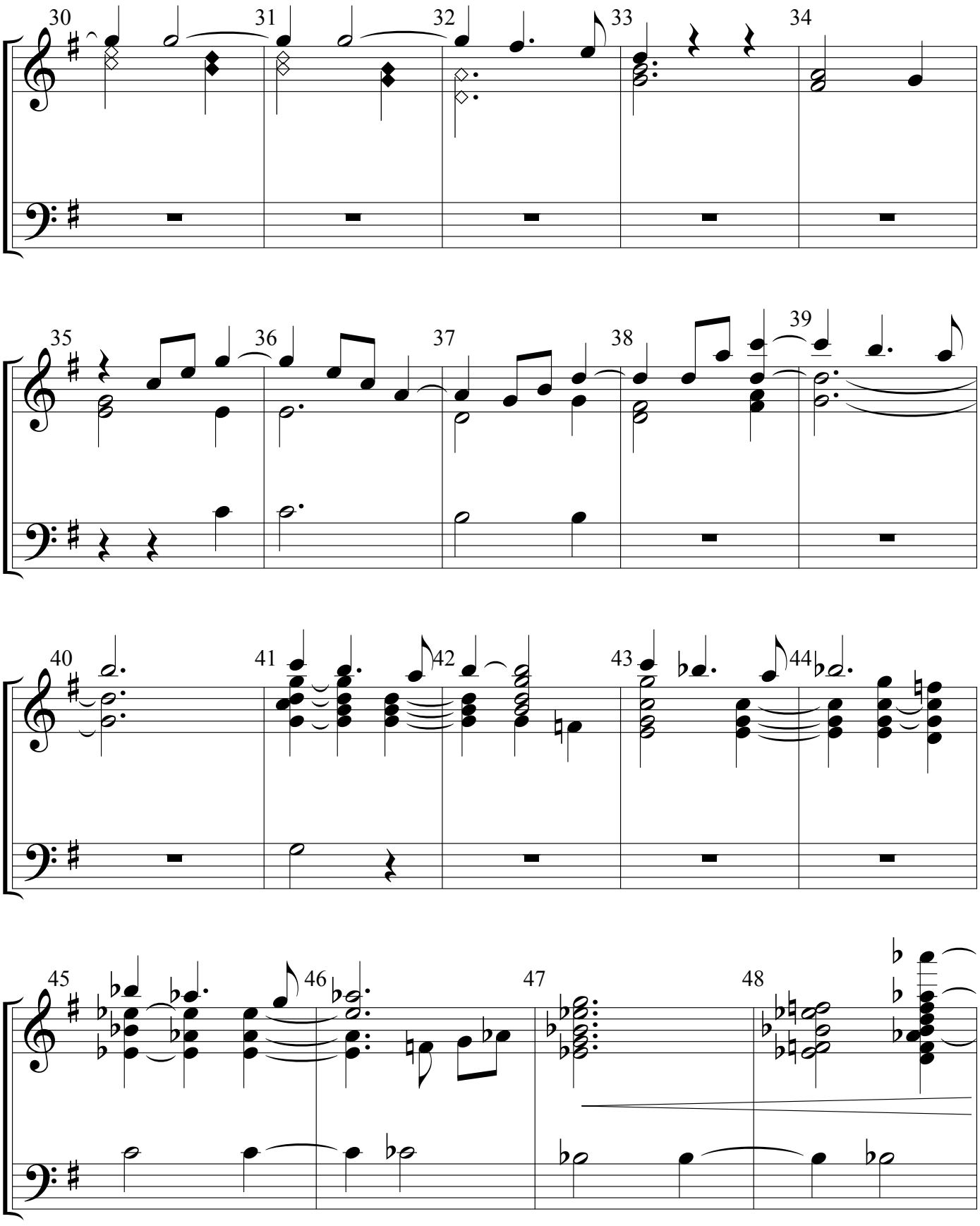
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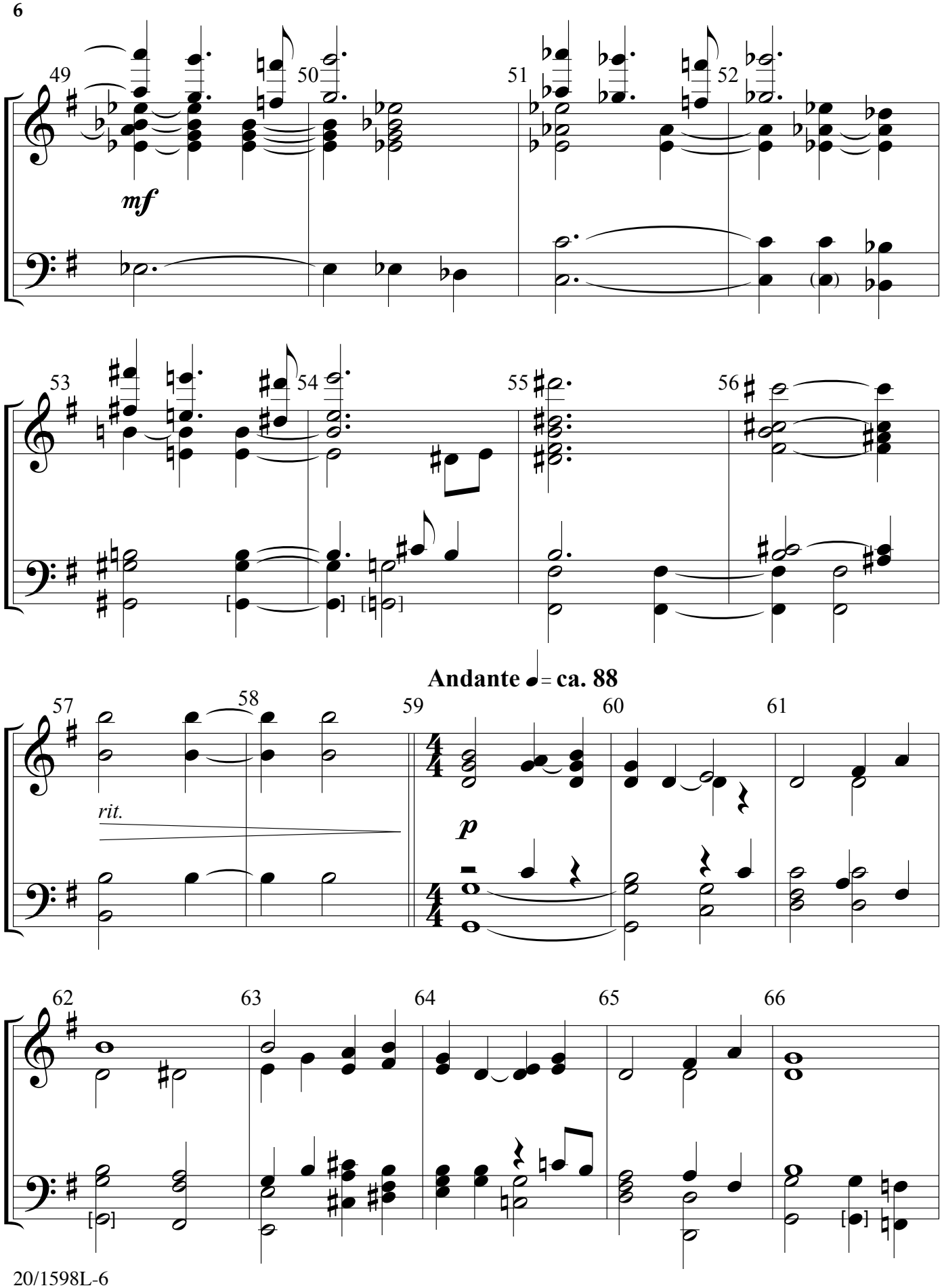
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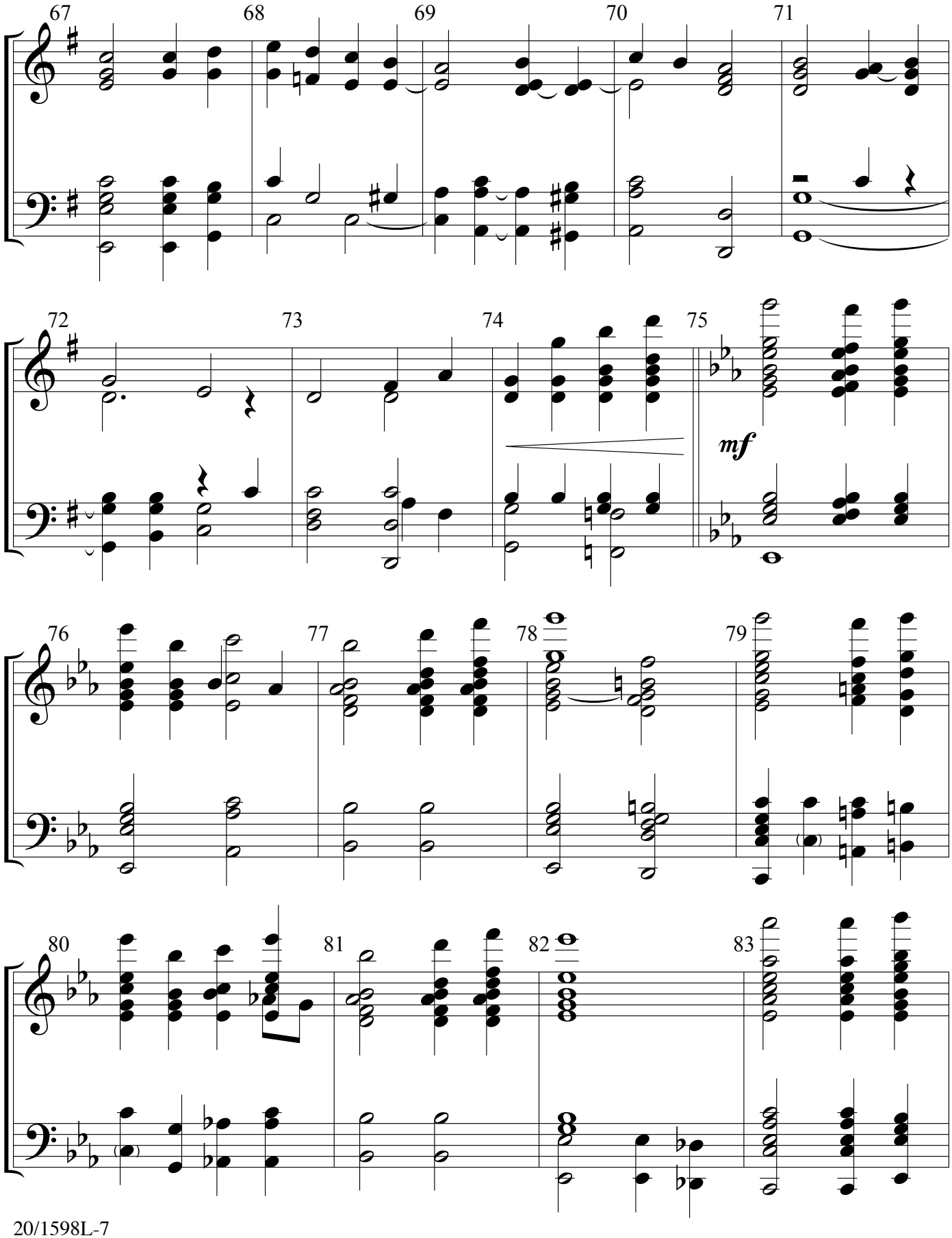
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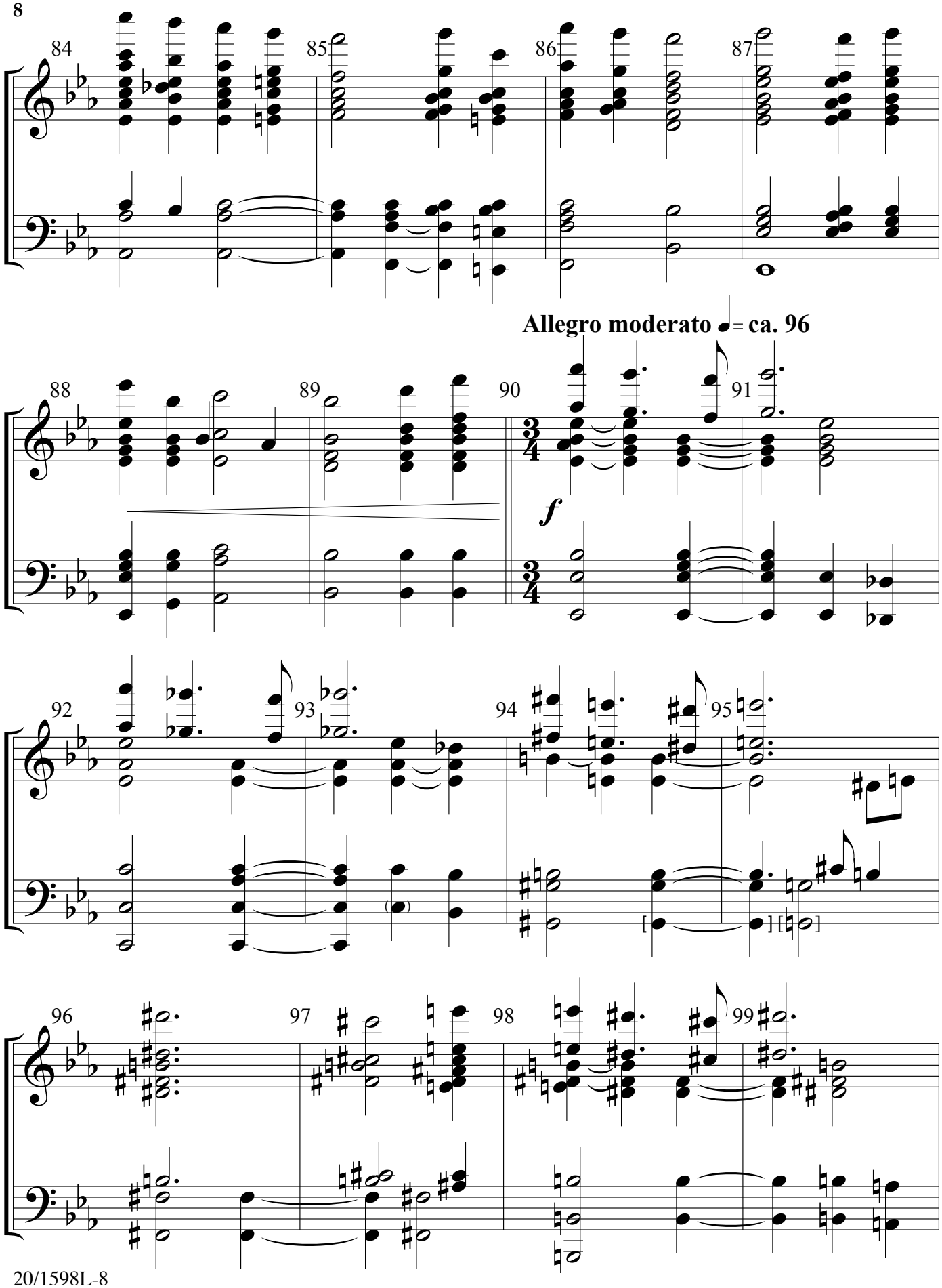
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Allegro moderato ♩= ca. 96
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