George Frideric Handel

Messiah

1741

Oboe I II

Éditions Nicolas Sceaux

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Based upon the Deutsche Händelgesellschaft Edition
Edited by Frideric Chrysander

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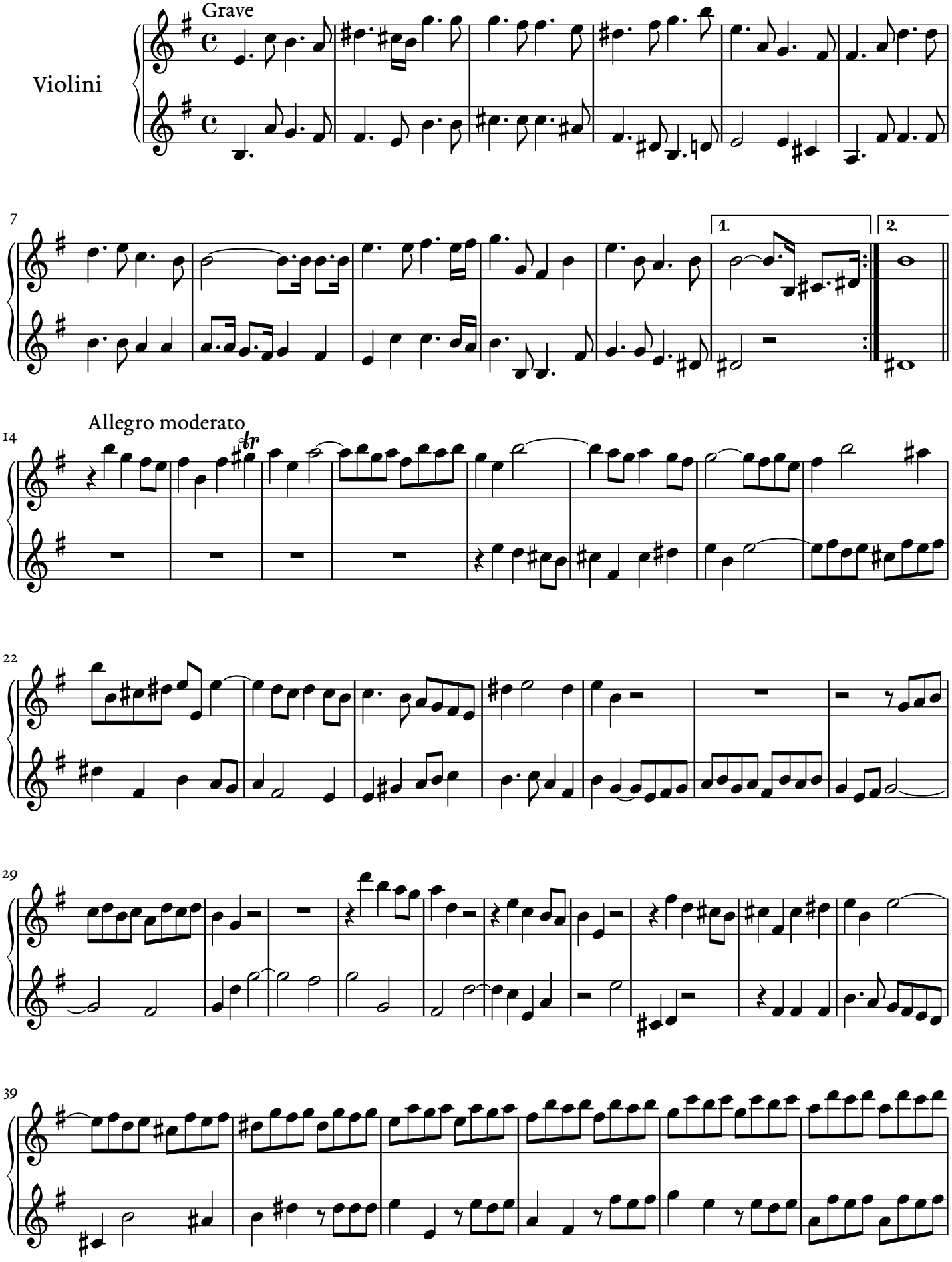
PART I

1-1 Sinfonia



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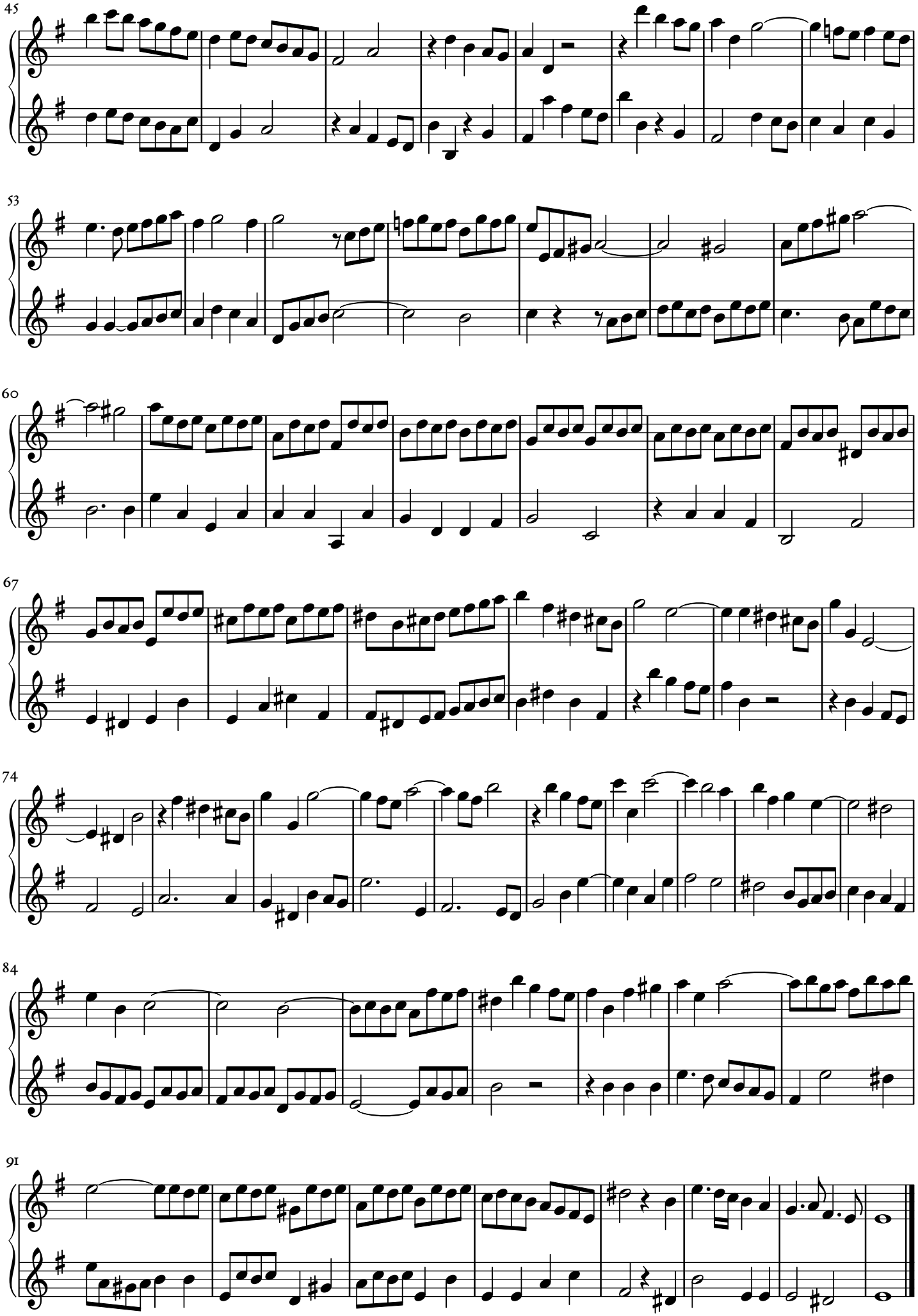

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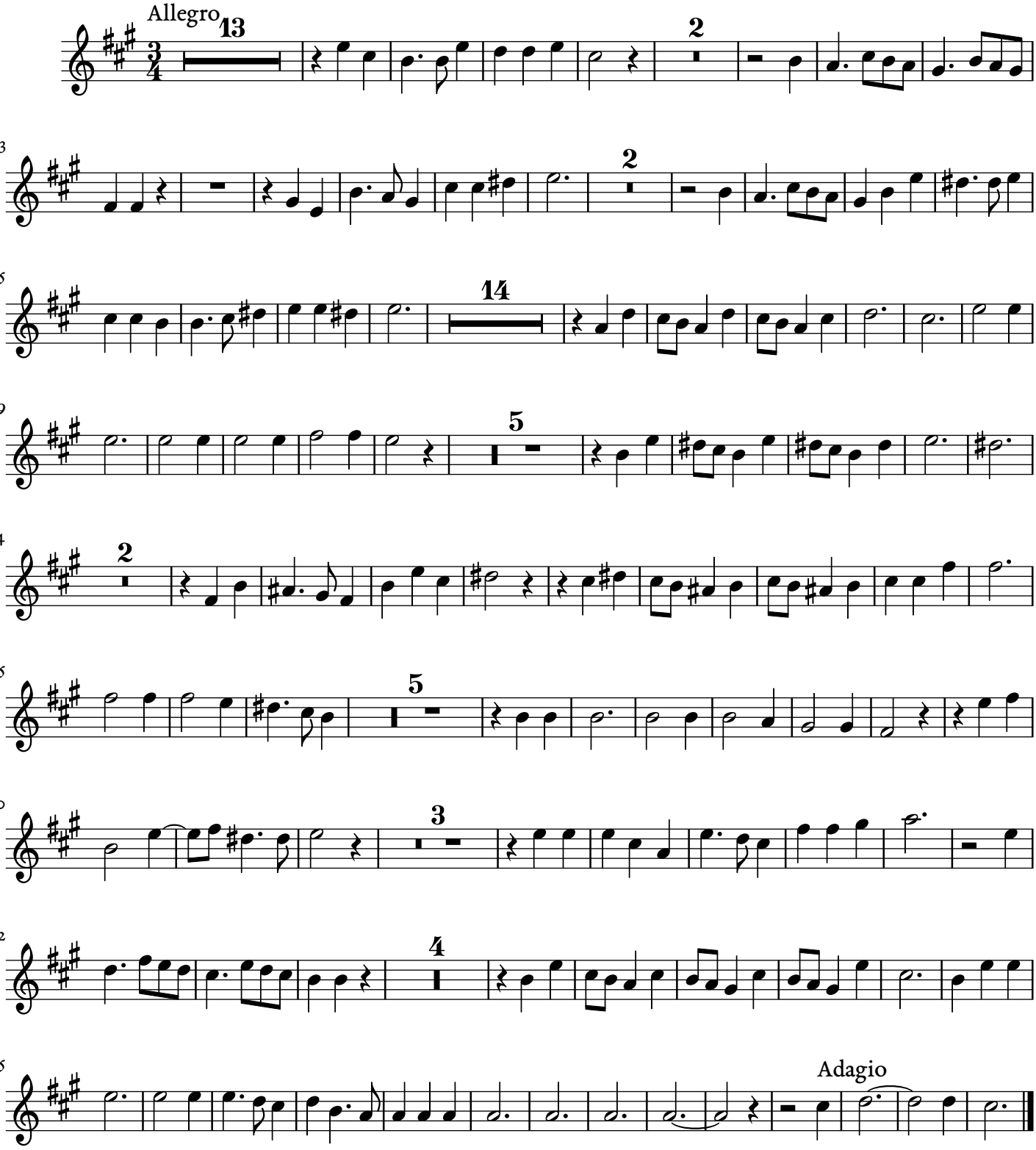
1-2 Recitative: *Comfort ye, my people* (tenor)

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

1-3 Air: *Every valley shall be exalted* (tenor)

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

1-4 Chorus: *And the glory of the Lord*



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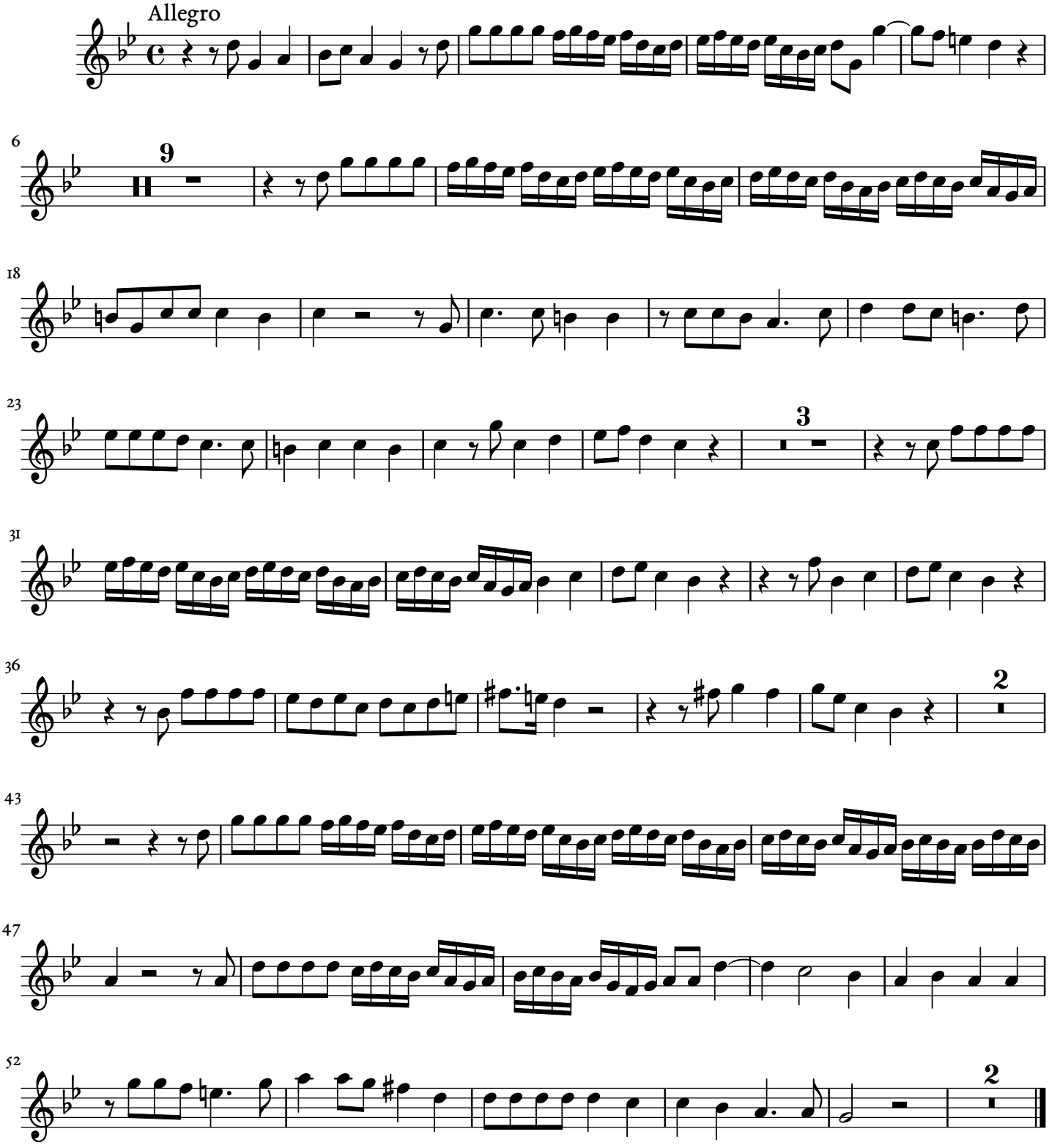
1-5 Recitative: *Thus saith the Lord of Hosts* (bass)

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts; Yet once, a little while and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;
And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come.
The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: Behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

1-6 Air: *But who may abide the day of His coming* (contr'alto)

But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

1-7 Chorus: *And He shall purify the sons of Levi*



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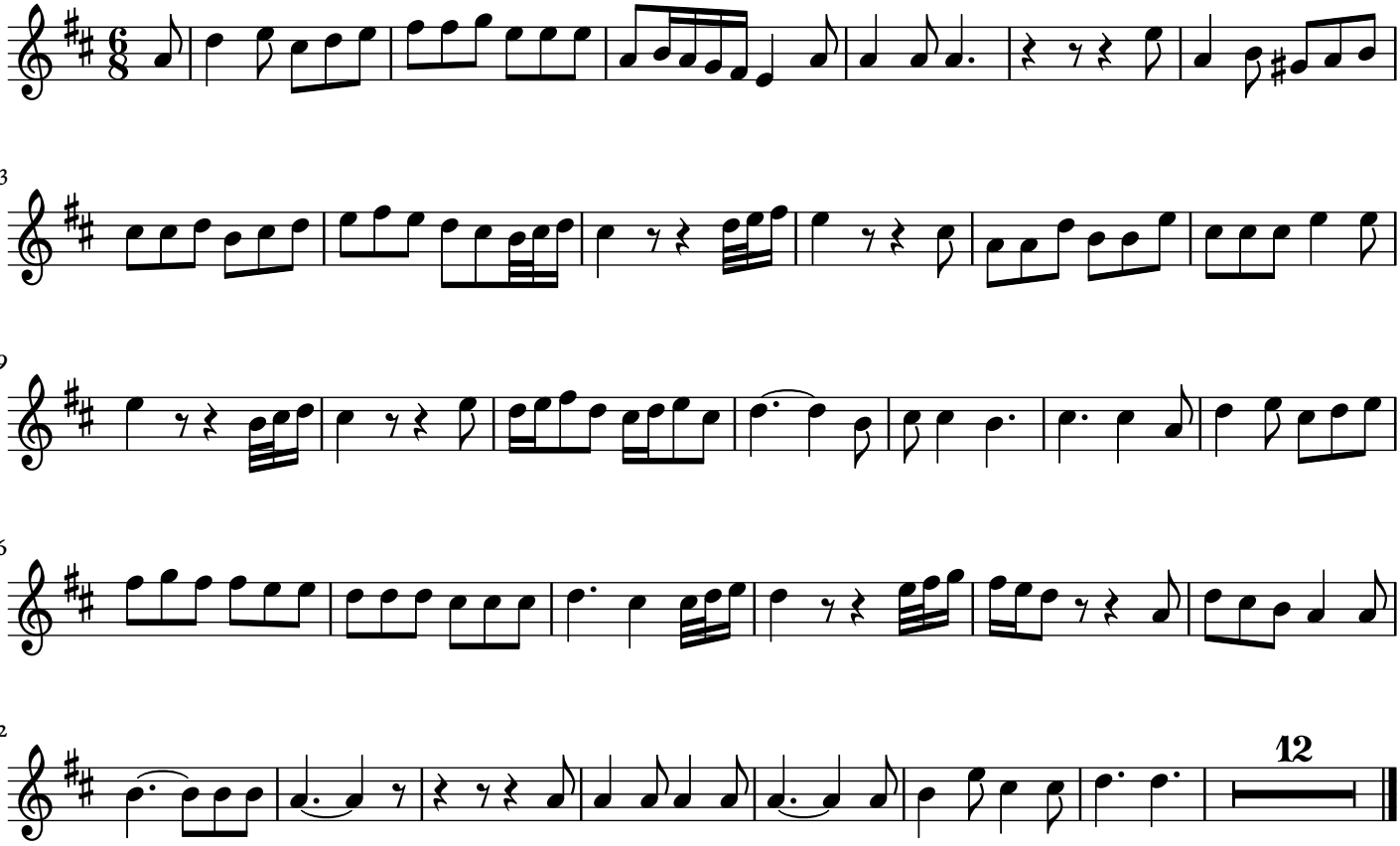
1-8 Recitative: *Behold, a virgin shall conceive* (contr'alto)

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call his name EMMANUEL, God with us.

1-9 Air, chorus: *O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion* (contr'alto, chorus)

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, and be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!
Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.



1-10 Recitative: *For, behold! darkness shall cover the earth* (bass)

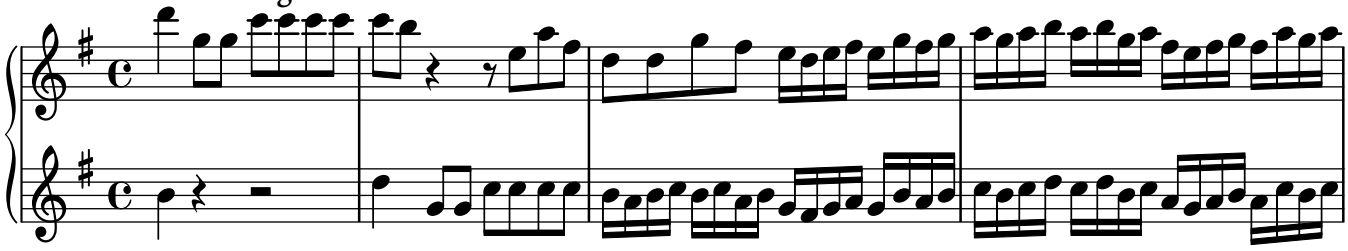
For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

1-11 Air: *The people that walked in darkness* (bass)

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

1-12 Chorus: *For unto us a child is born*

Andante allegro



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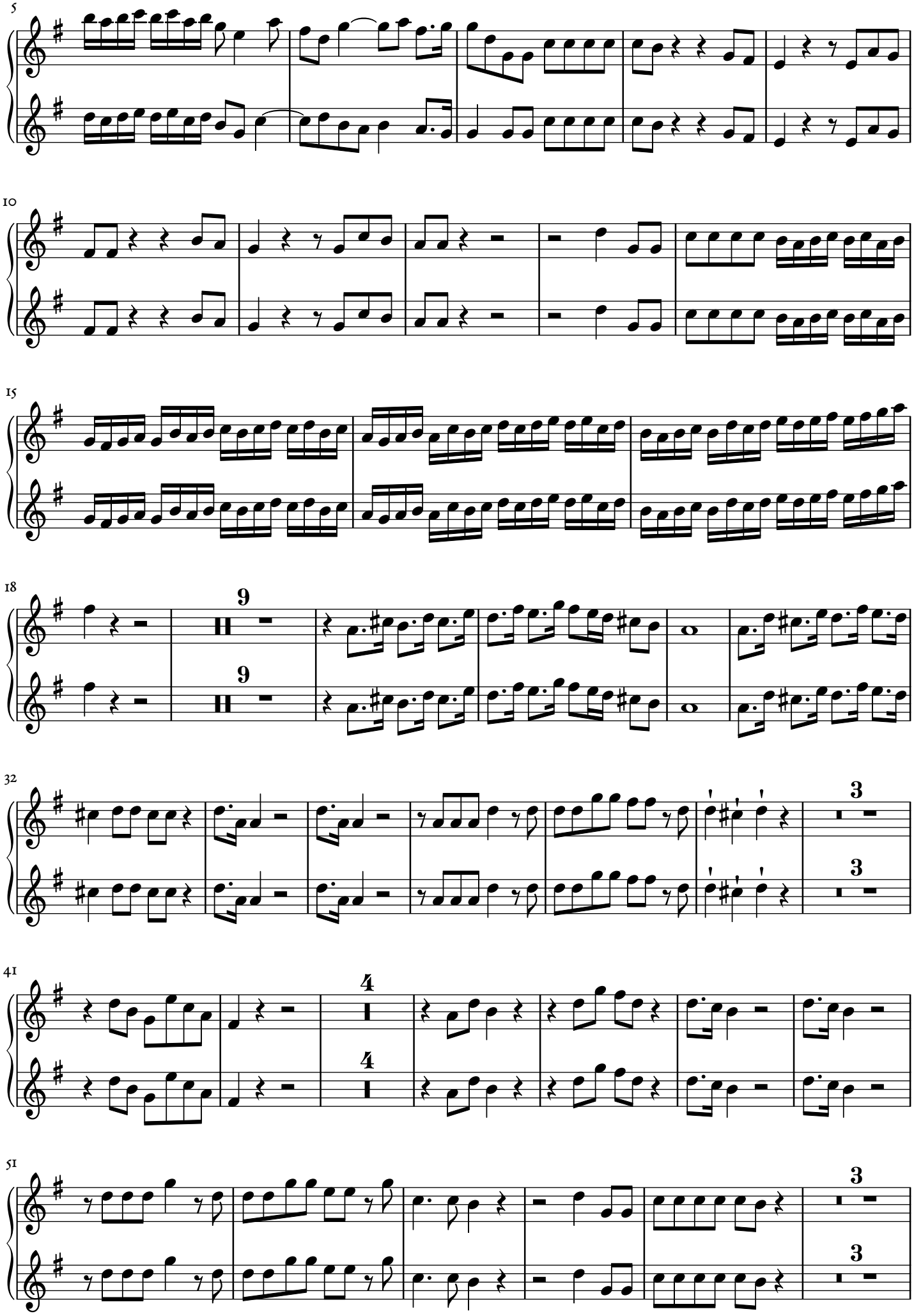

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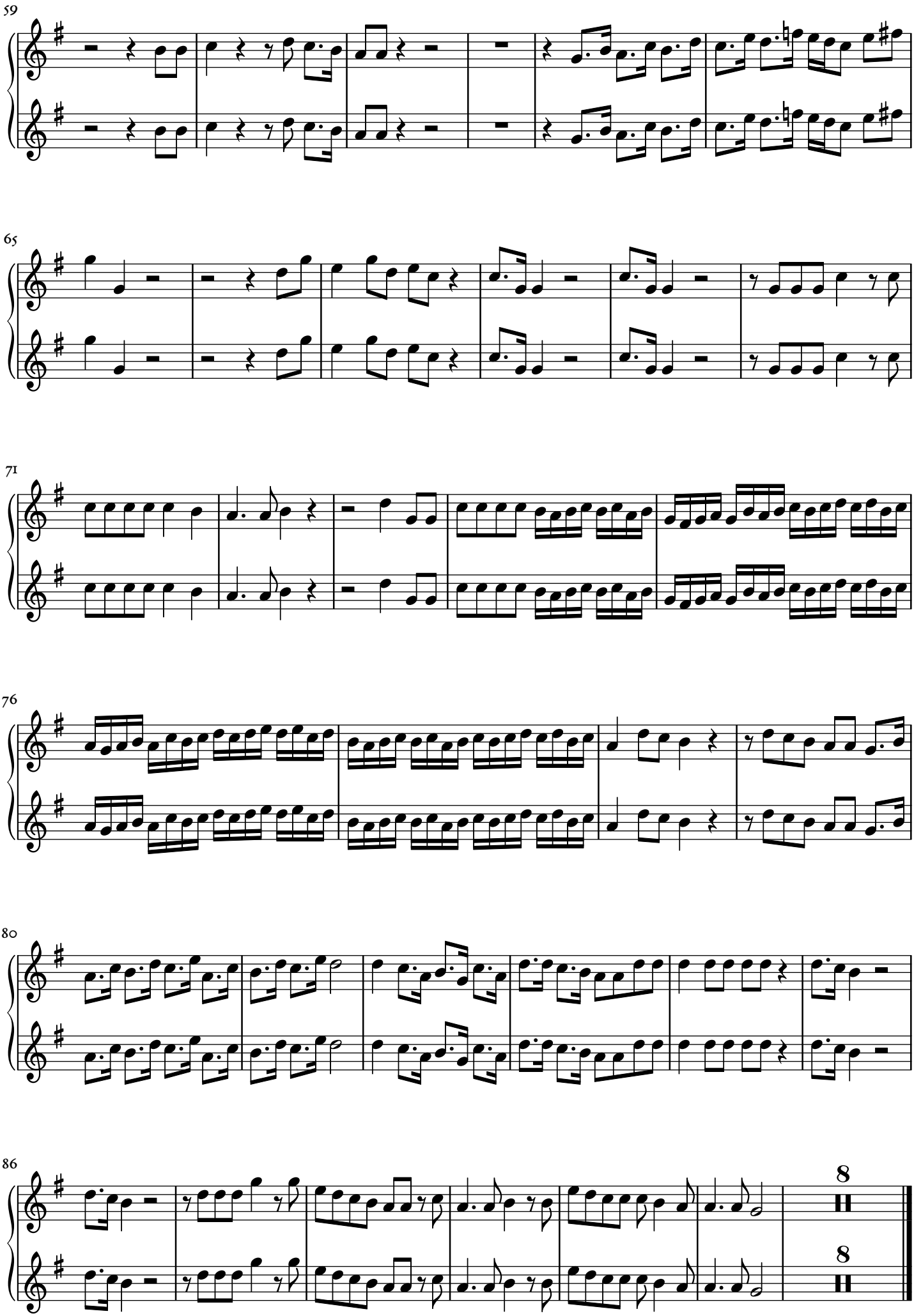

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1-13 Pifa

TACET

1-14 Recitative: *There were shepherds abiding in the fields* (soprano)

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

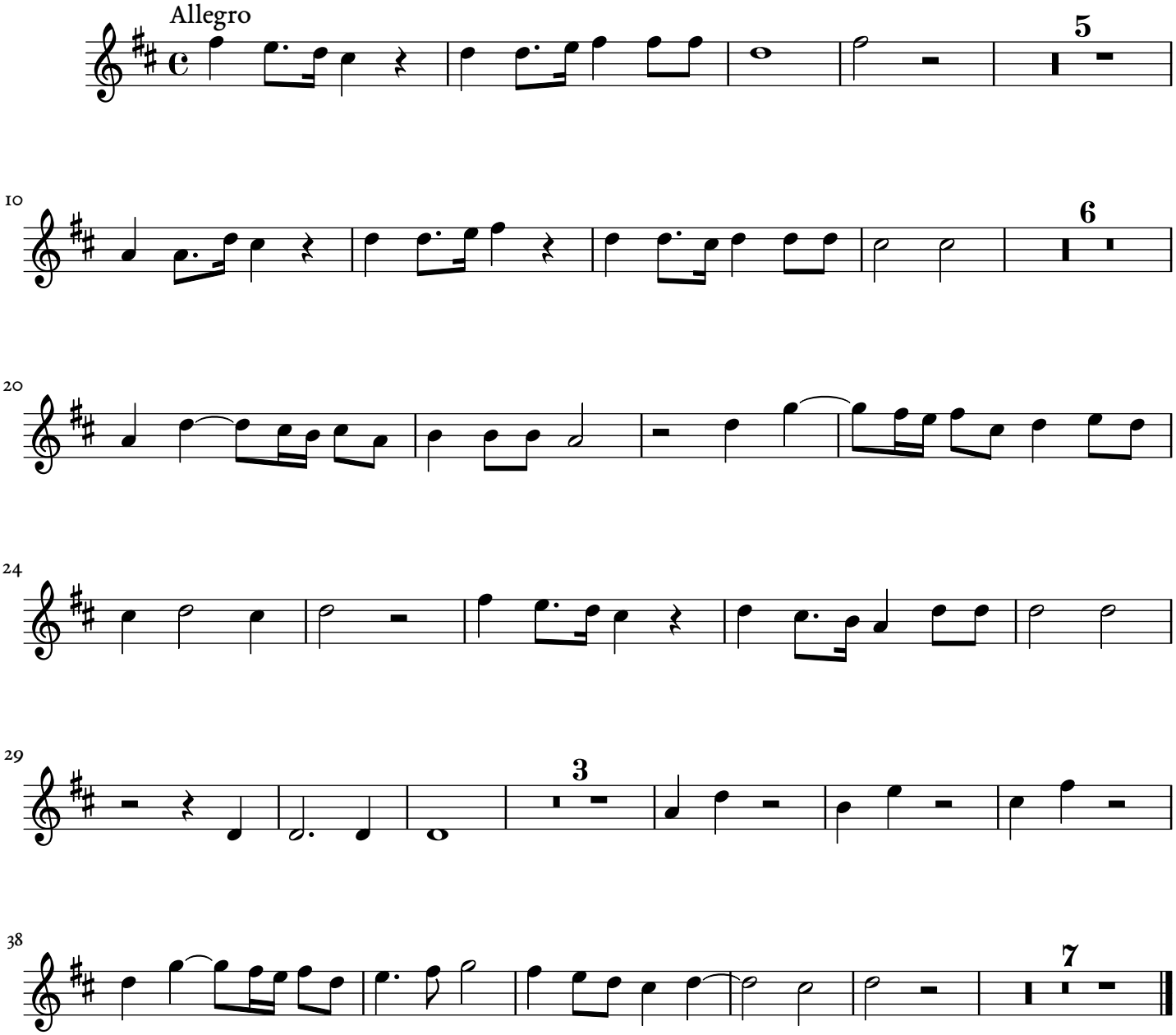
1-15 Recitative: *And the angel said unto them* (soprano)

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

1-16 Recitative: *And suddenly there was with the angel* (soprano)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

1-17 Chorus: *Glory to God in the highest*



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1-18 Air: *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion* (soprano)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior.
And he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

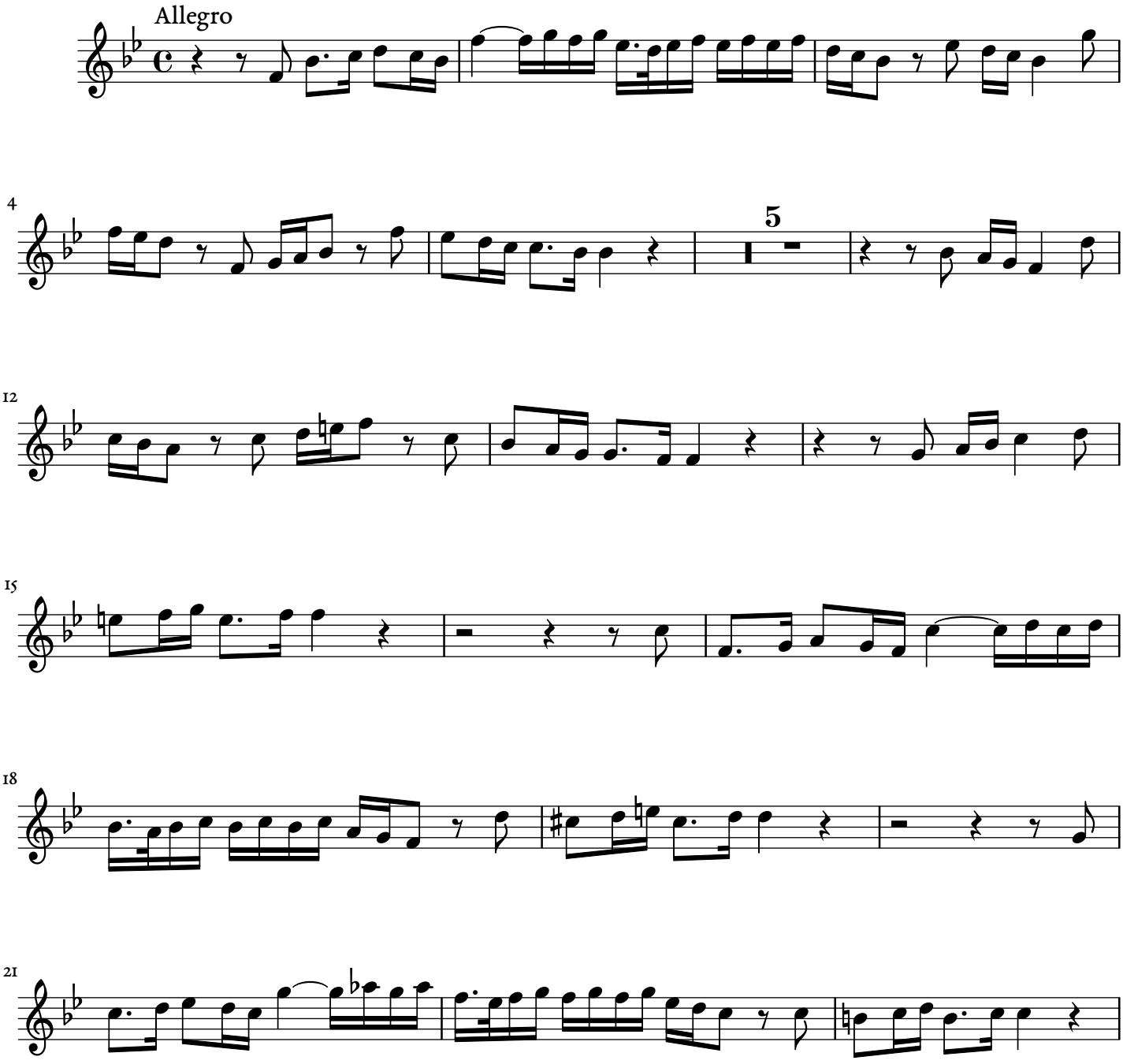
1-19 Recitative: *Then shall the eyes of the blind* (alto)

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

1-20 Air: *He shall feed His flock like a shepherd* (alto, soprano)

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; and he shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.
Come unto Him, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.
Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for he is meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

1-21 Chorus: *His yoke is easy*



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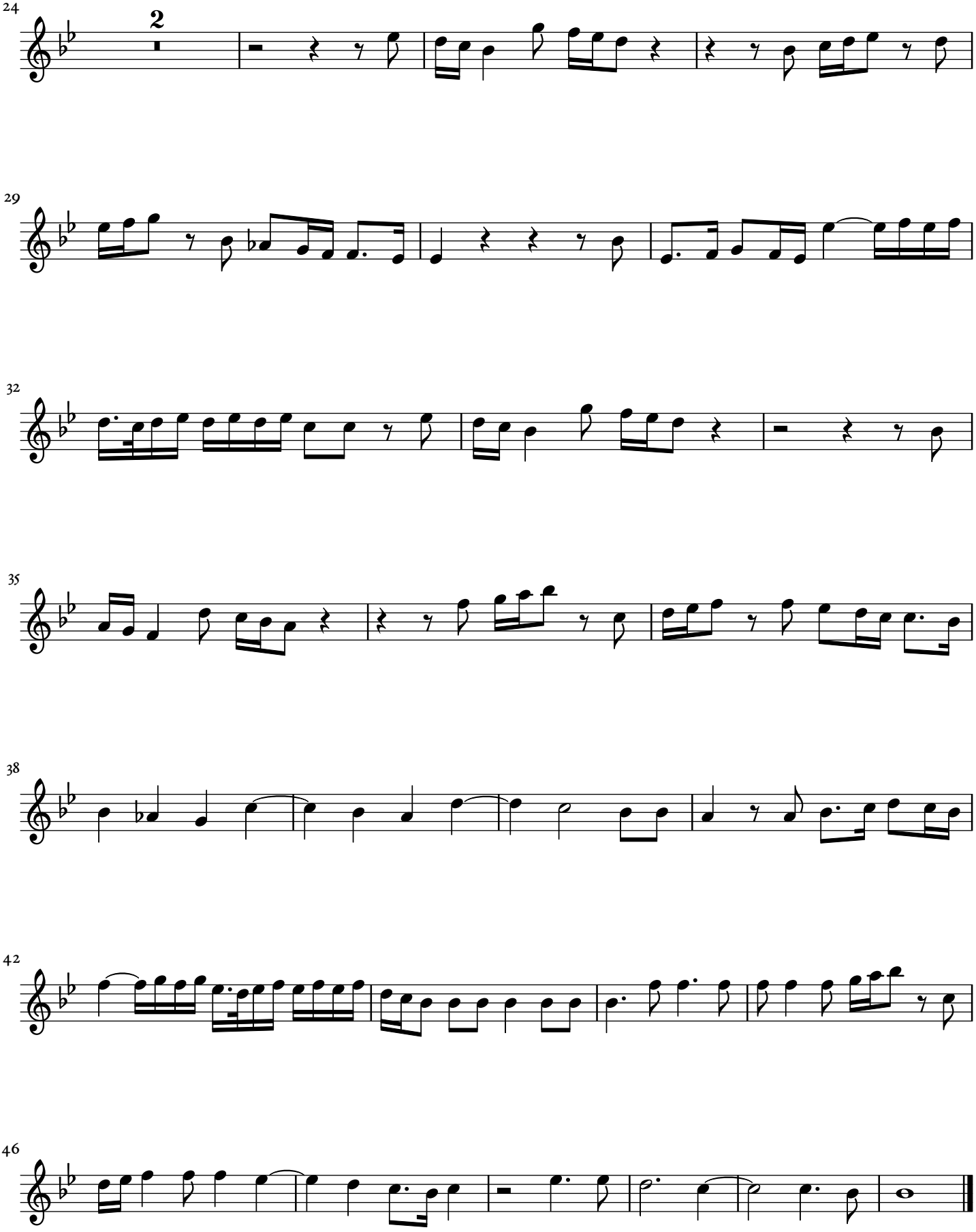

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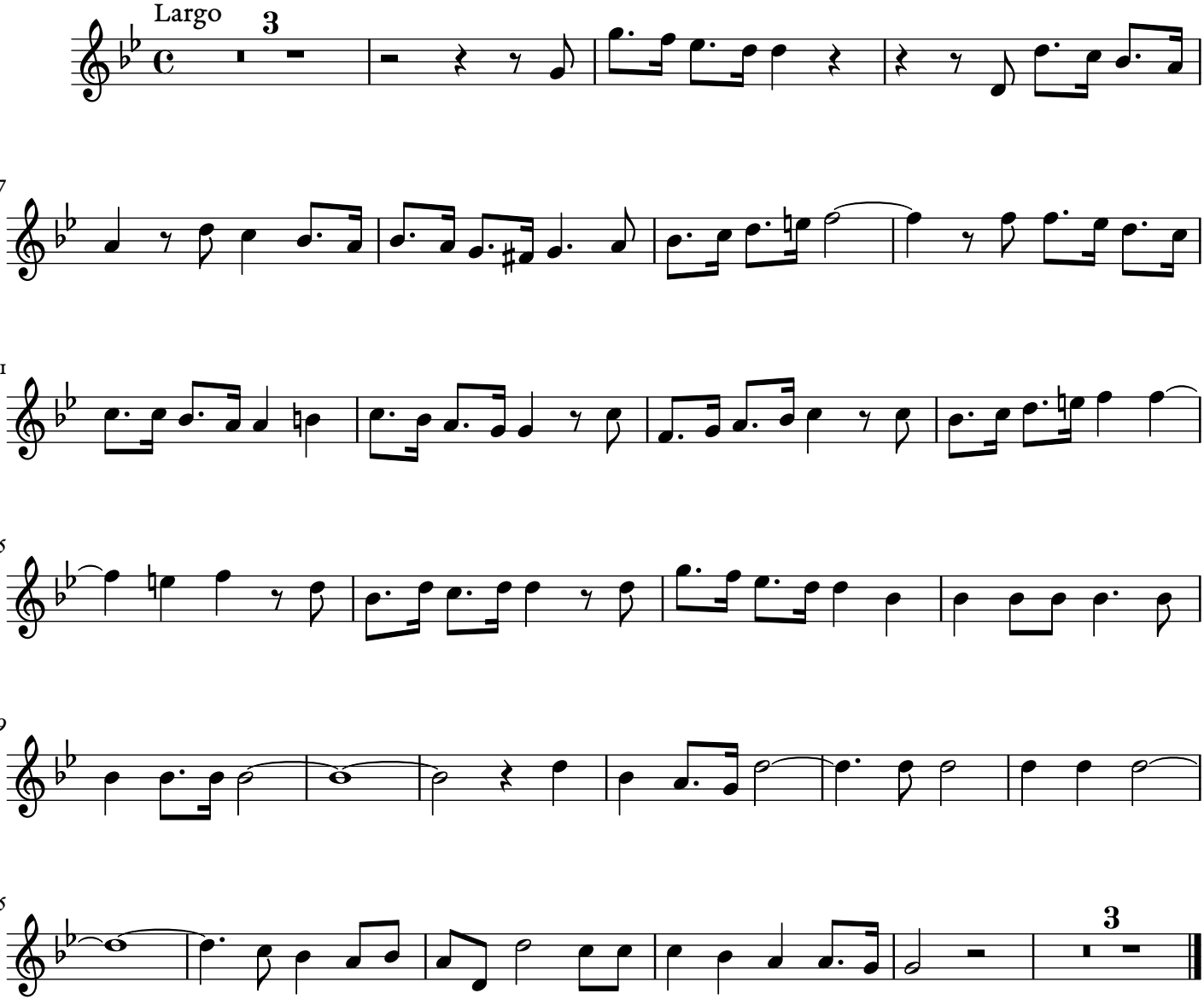
PART II

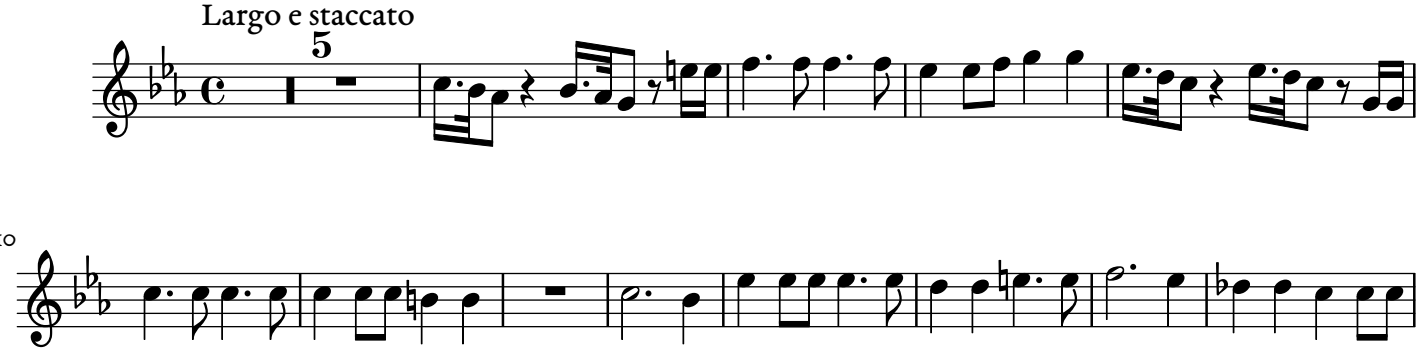
2-1 Chorus: *Behold the Lamb of God!*



2-2 Air: *He was despised and rejected* (alto)

He is despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.
He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

2-3 Chorus: *Surely He hath borne our griefs*



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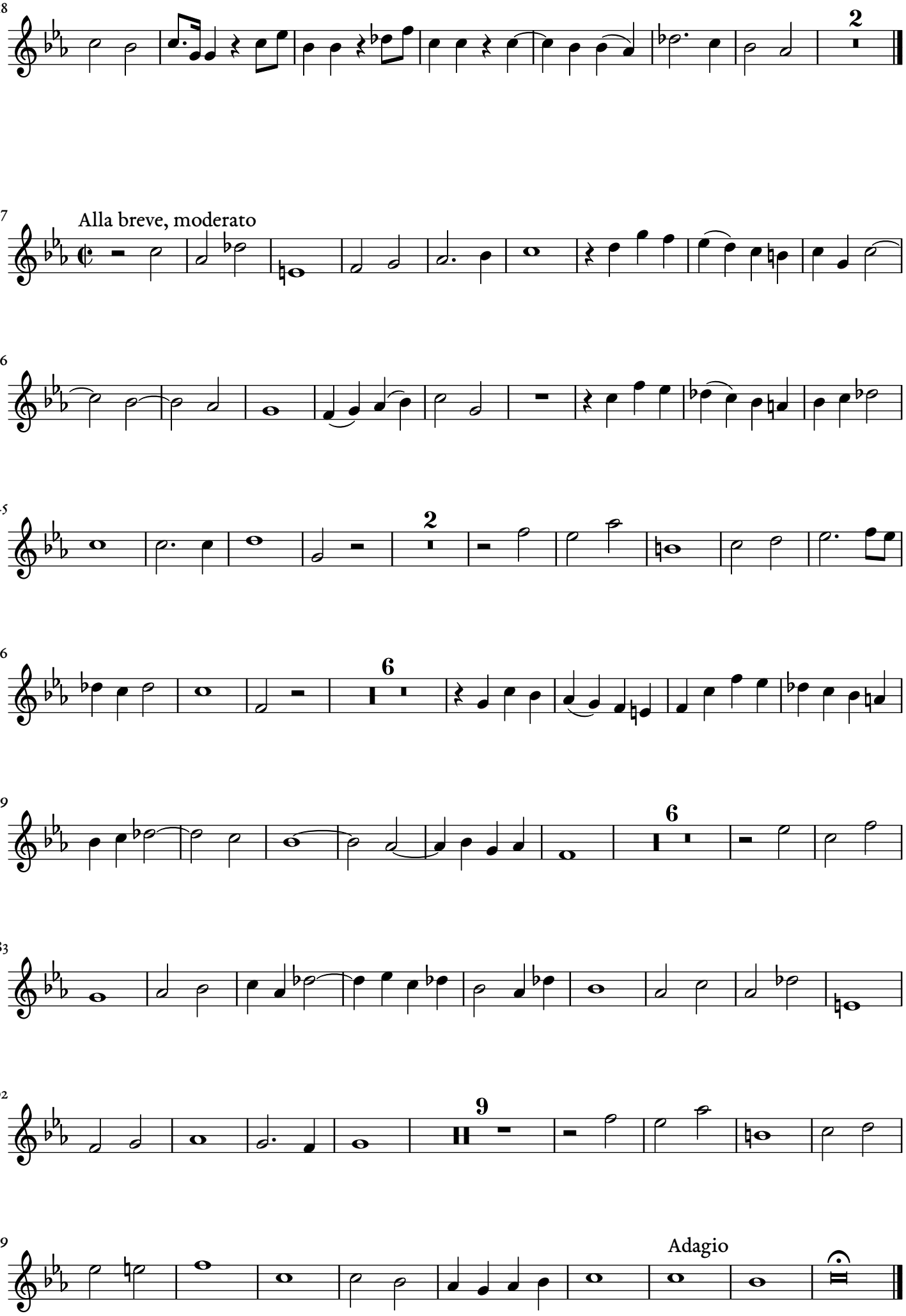

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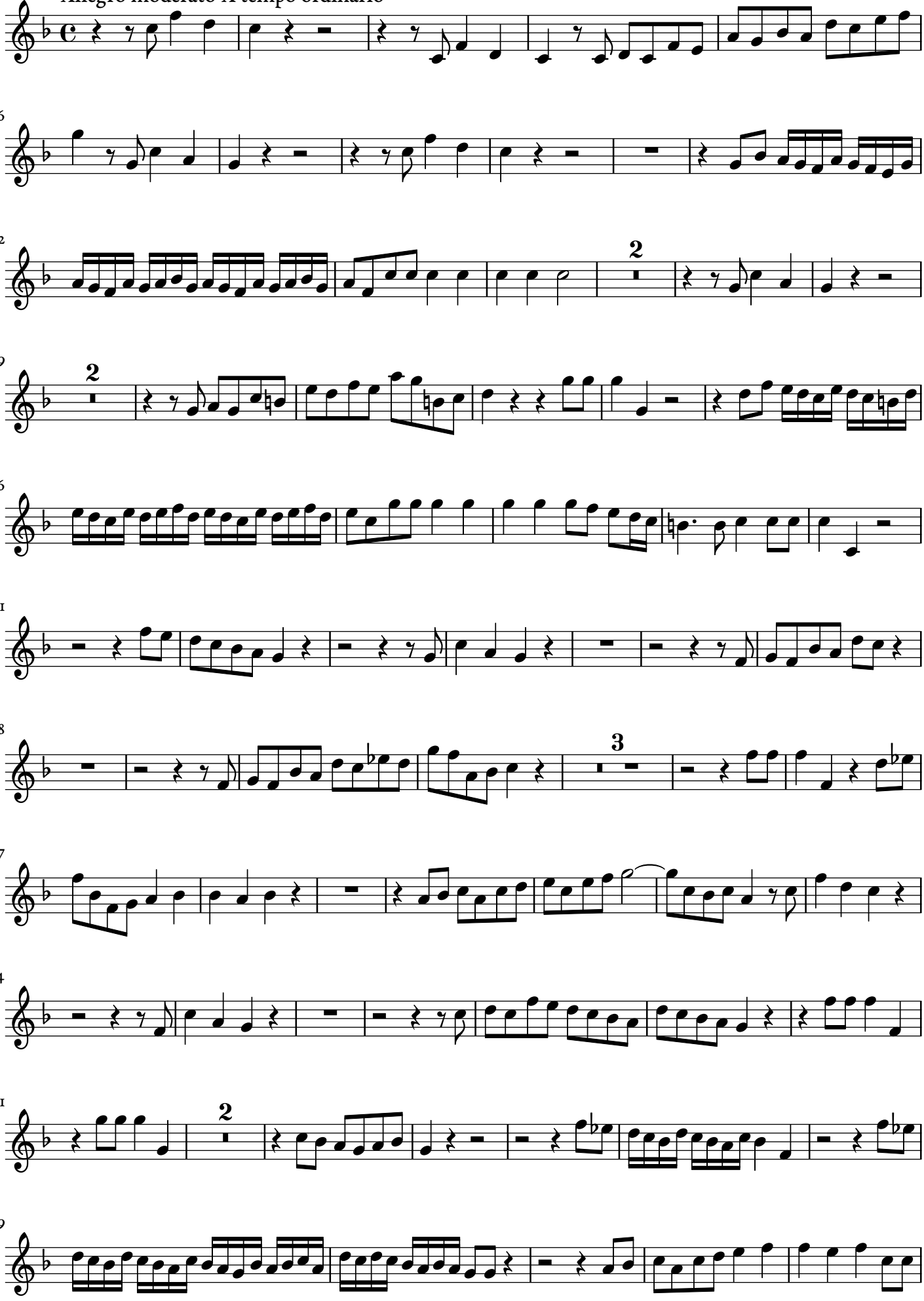
2-4 Chorus: *All we like sheep have gone astray*

Allegro moderato A tempo ordinario



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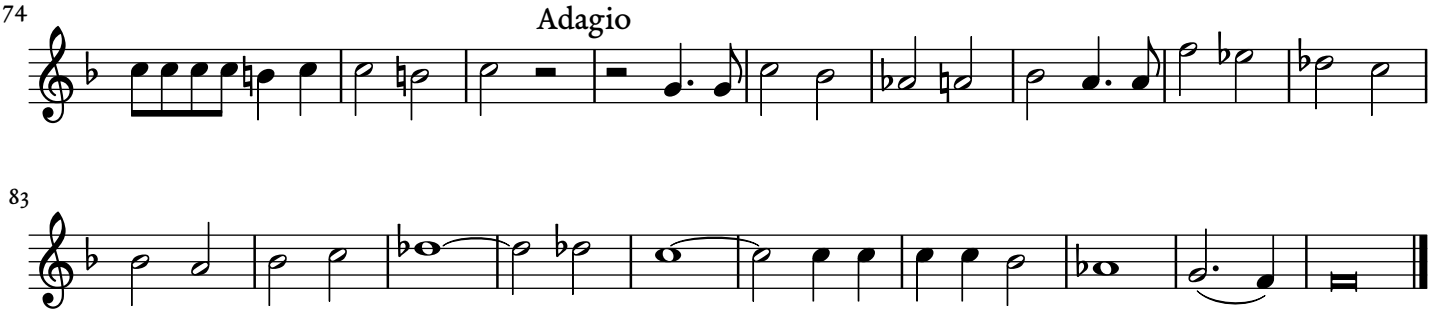
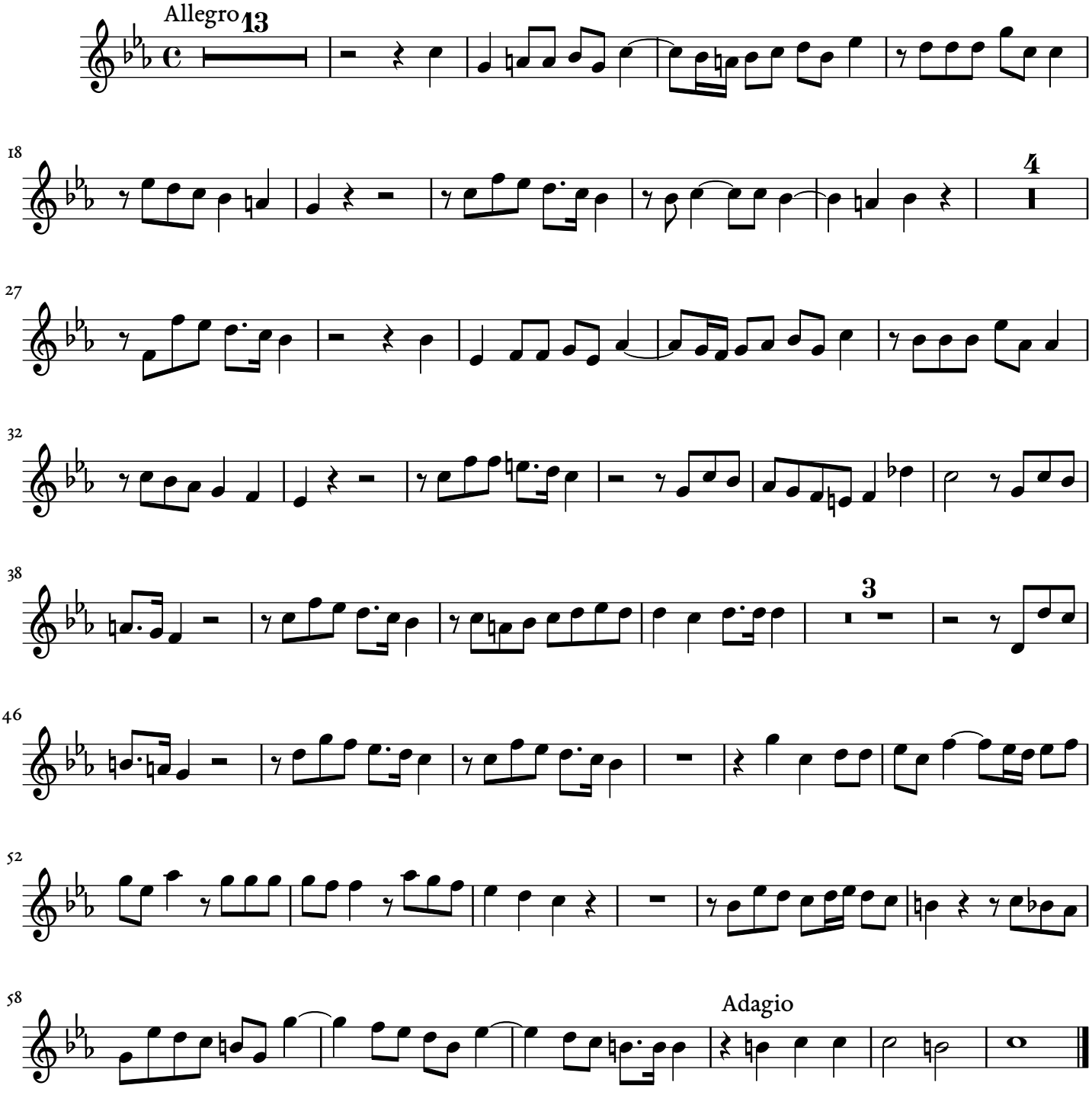


2-5 Recitative: *All they that see Him laugh him to scorn* (tenor)

All they that see him laugh him to scorn: they shoot out their lips, they shake their heads, saying:

2-6 Chorus: *He trusted in God*



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2-7 Recitative: *Thy rebuke hath broken His heart* (tenor)

Thy rebuke hath broken his heart; He is full of heaviness. He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was none; neither found He any to comfort Him.

2-8 Air: *Behold, and see if there be any sorrow* (tenor)

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow.

2-9 Recitative: *He was cut off out of the land of the living* (tenor)

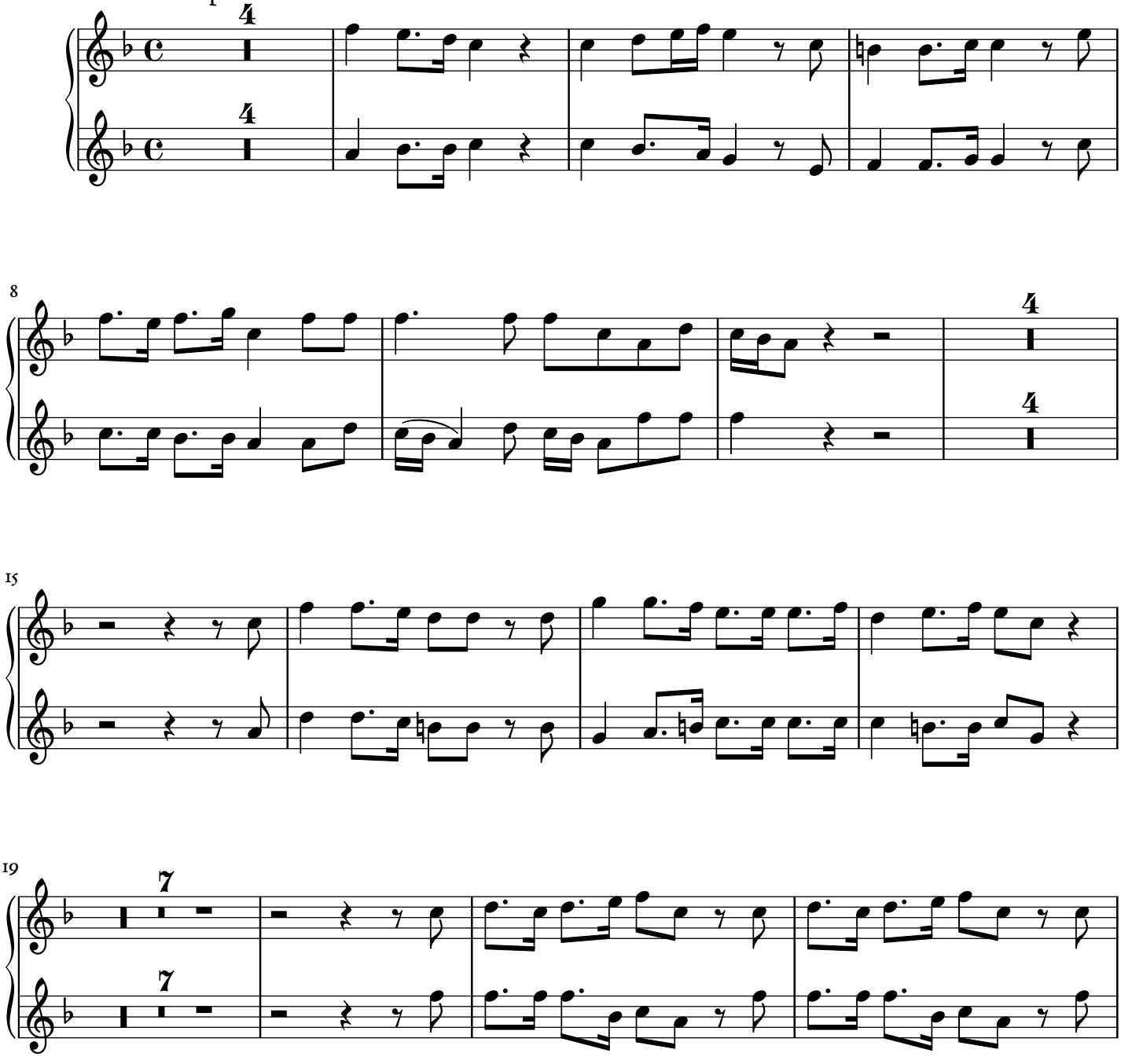
He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of Thy people was He stricken.

2-10 Air: *But thou didst not leave His soul in hell* (tenor)

But thou didst not leave his soul in hell; neither didst thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.

2-11 Chorus: *Lift up your heads, O ye gates*

A tempo ordinario



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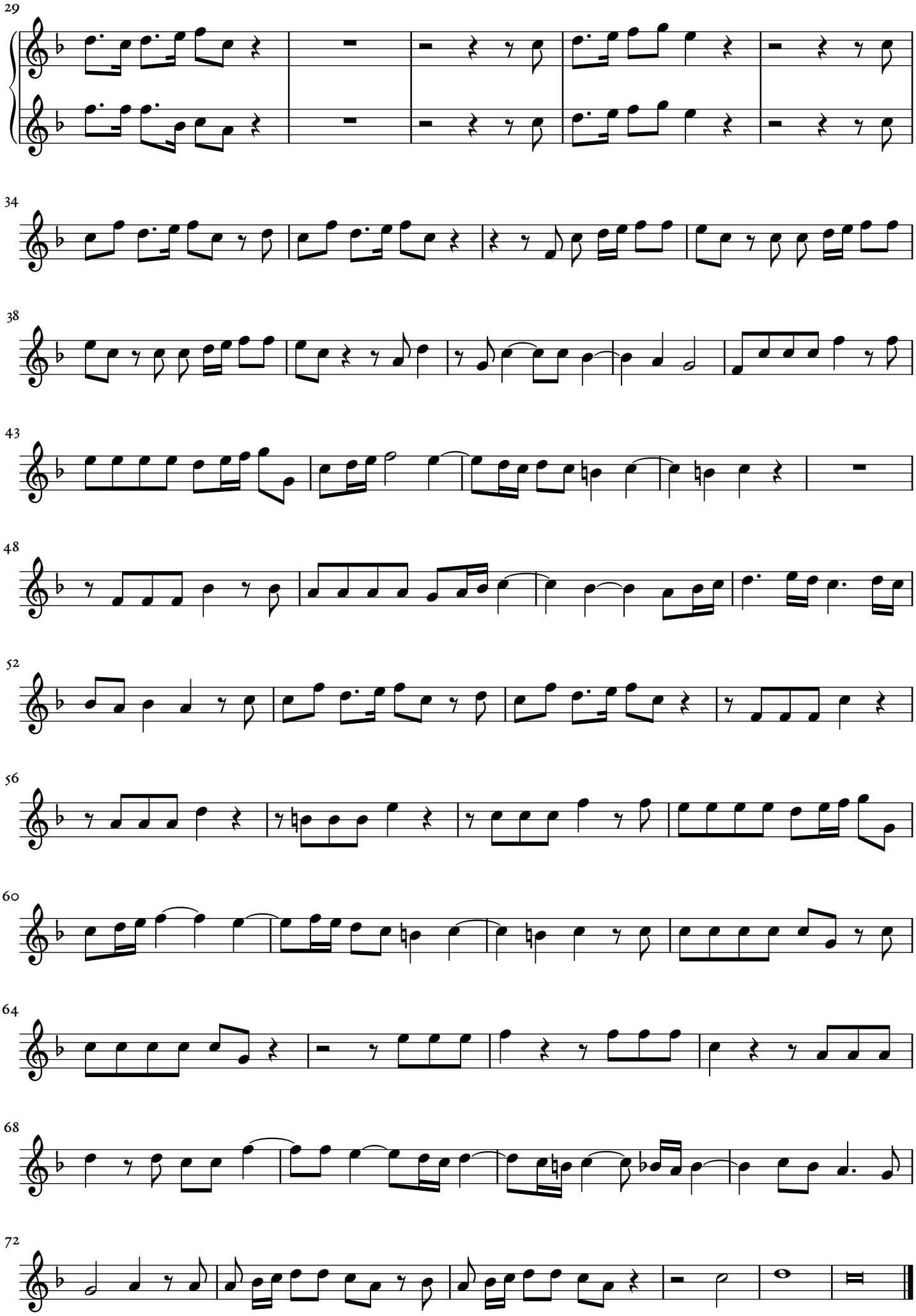

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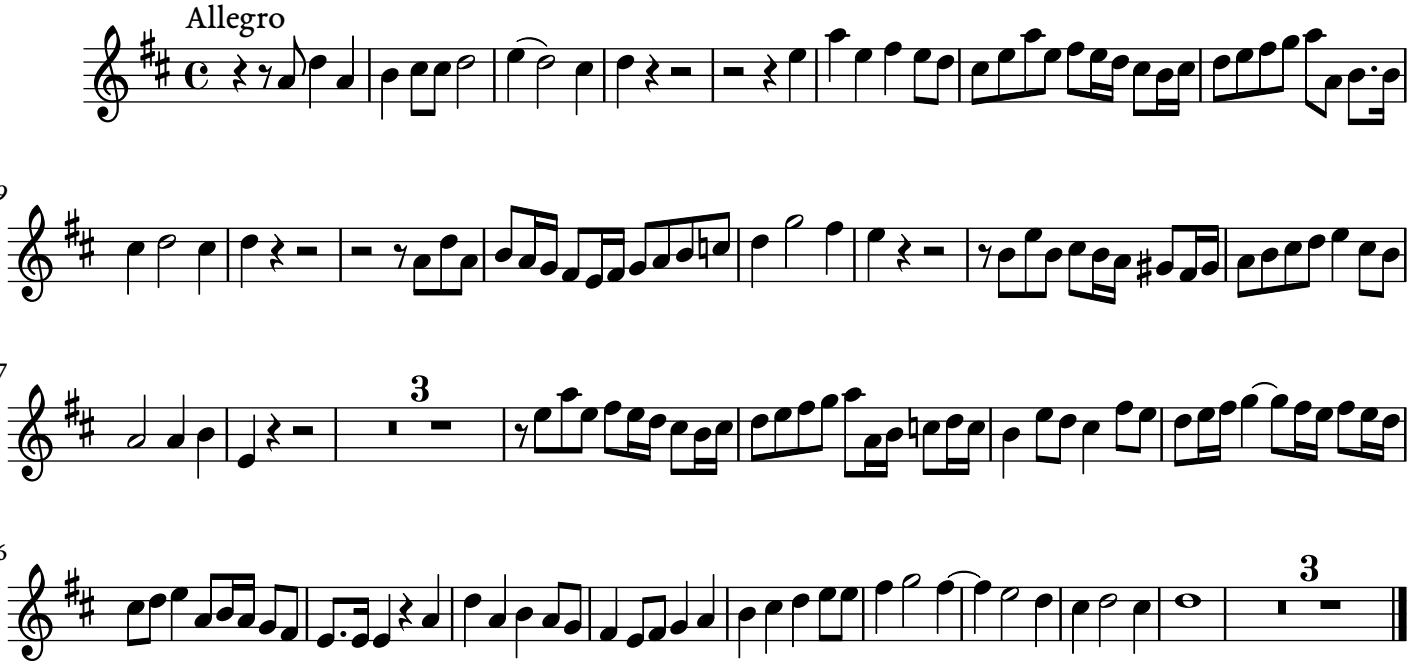
2-12 Recitative: *Unto which of the angels said He at any time* (tenor)

For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?

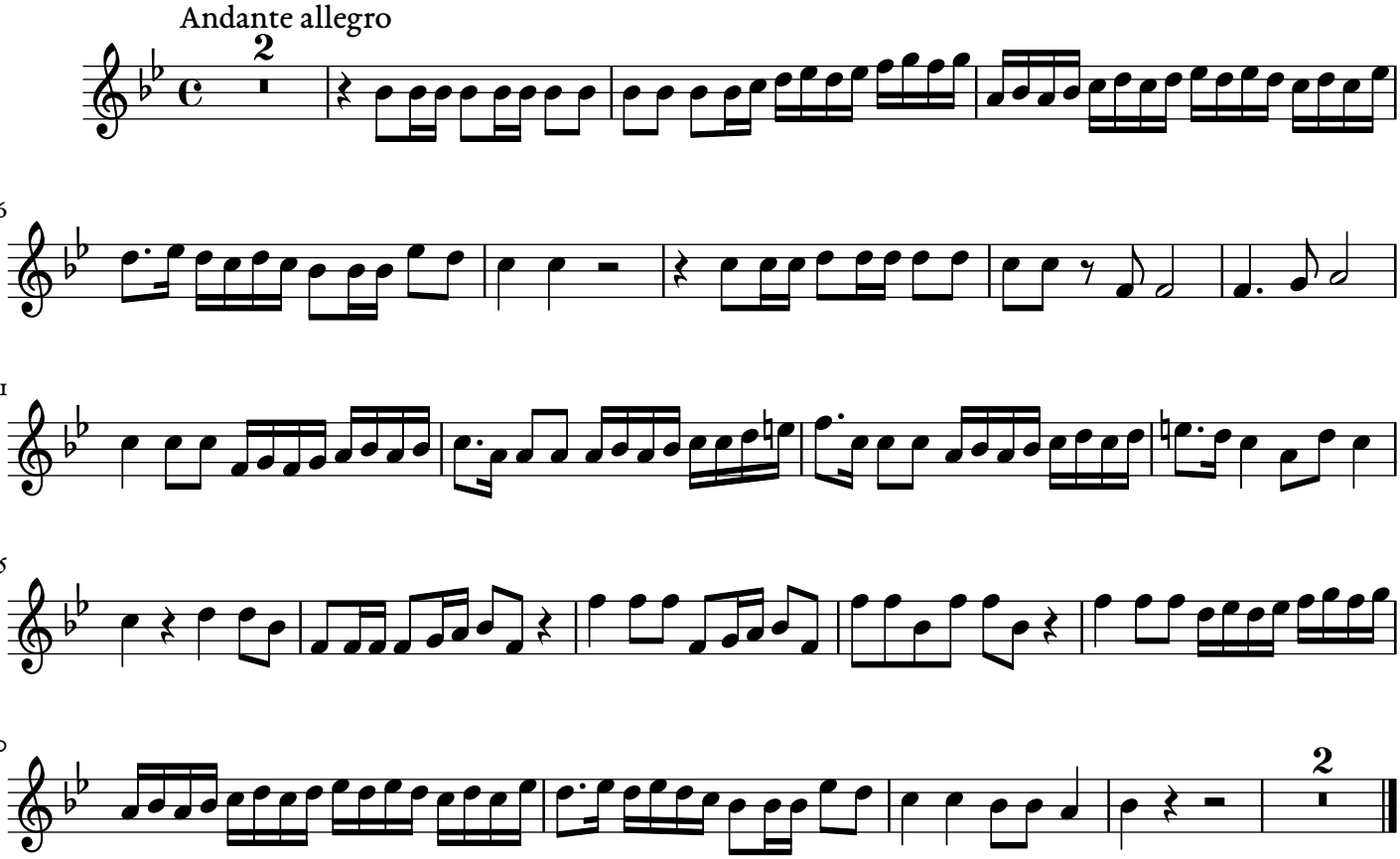
2-13 Chorus: *Let all the angels of God worship Him*



2-14 Air: *Thou art gone up on high* (alto)

Thou art gone up on high, Thou hast led captivity captive, and received gifts for men; yea, even for Thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

2-15 Chorus: *The Lord gave the word*



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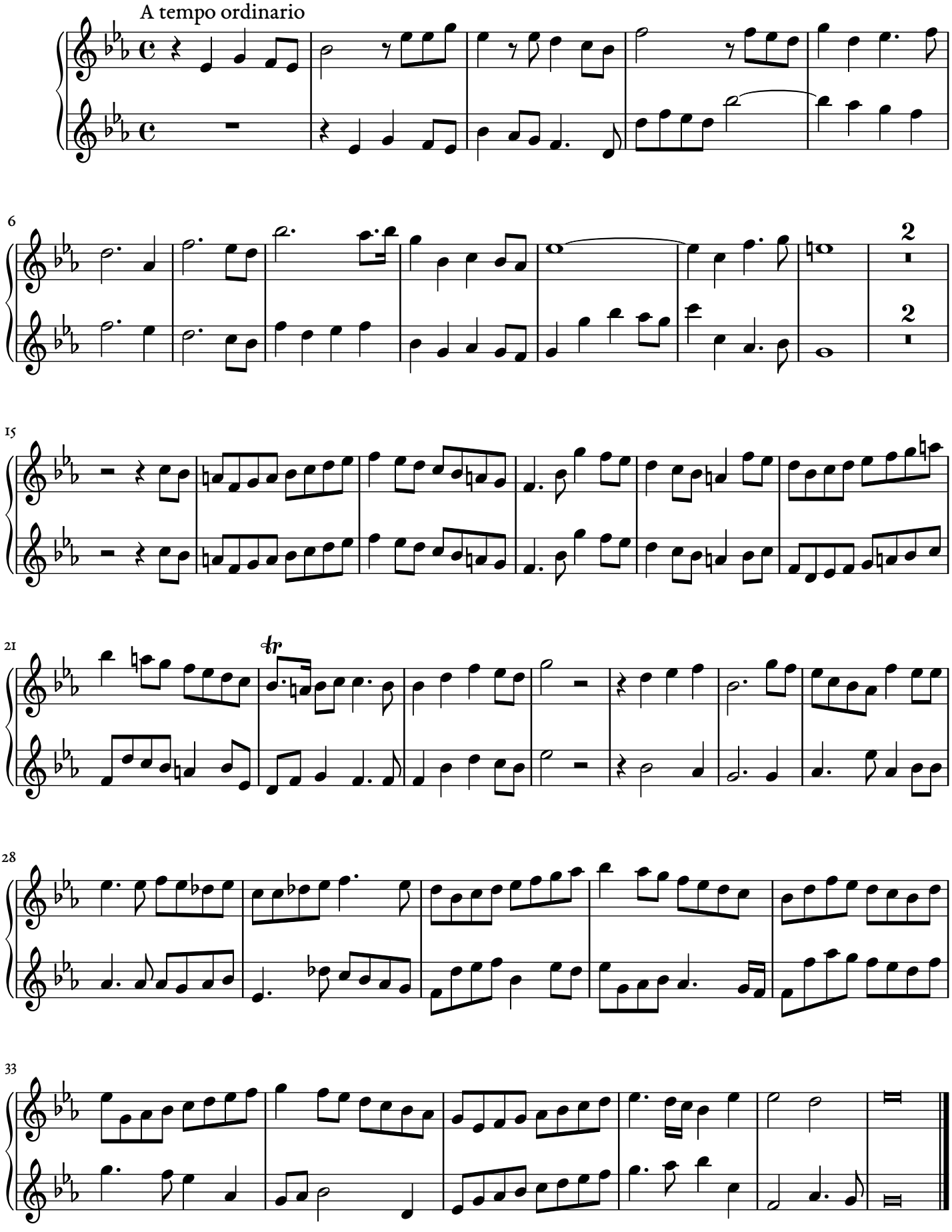
2-16 Air: *How beautiful are the feet* (soprano)

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

2-17 Chorus: *Their sound is gone out into all lands*

A tempo ordinario



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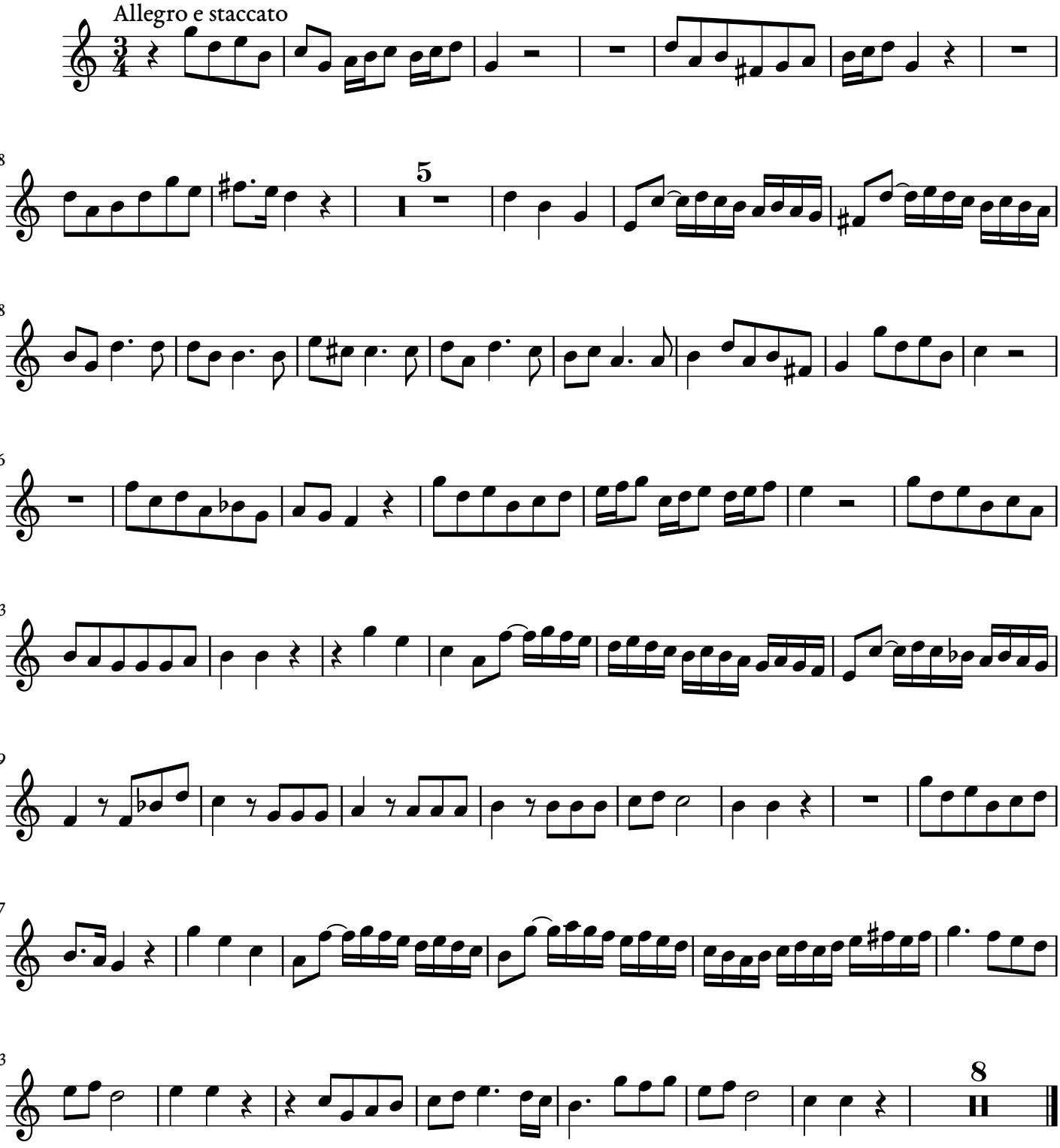
2-18 Air: *Why do the nations so furiously rage together* (bass)

Why do the nations so furiously rage together, why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His Anointed,

2-19 Chorus: *Let us break their bonds asunder*



2-20 Recitative: *He that dwelleth in heaven* (tenor)

He that dwelleth in the heavens shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.

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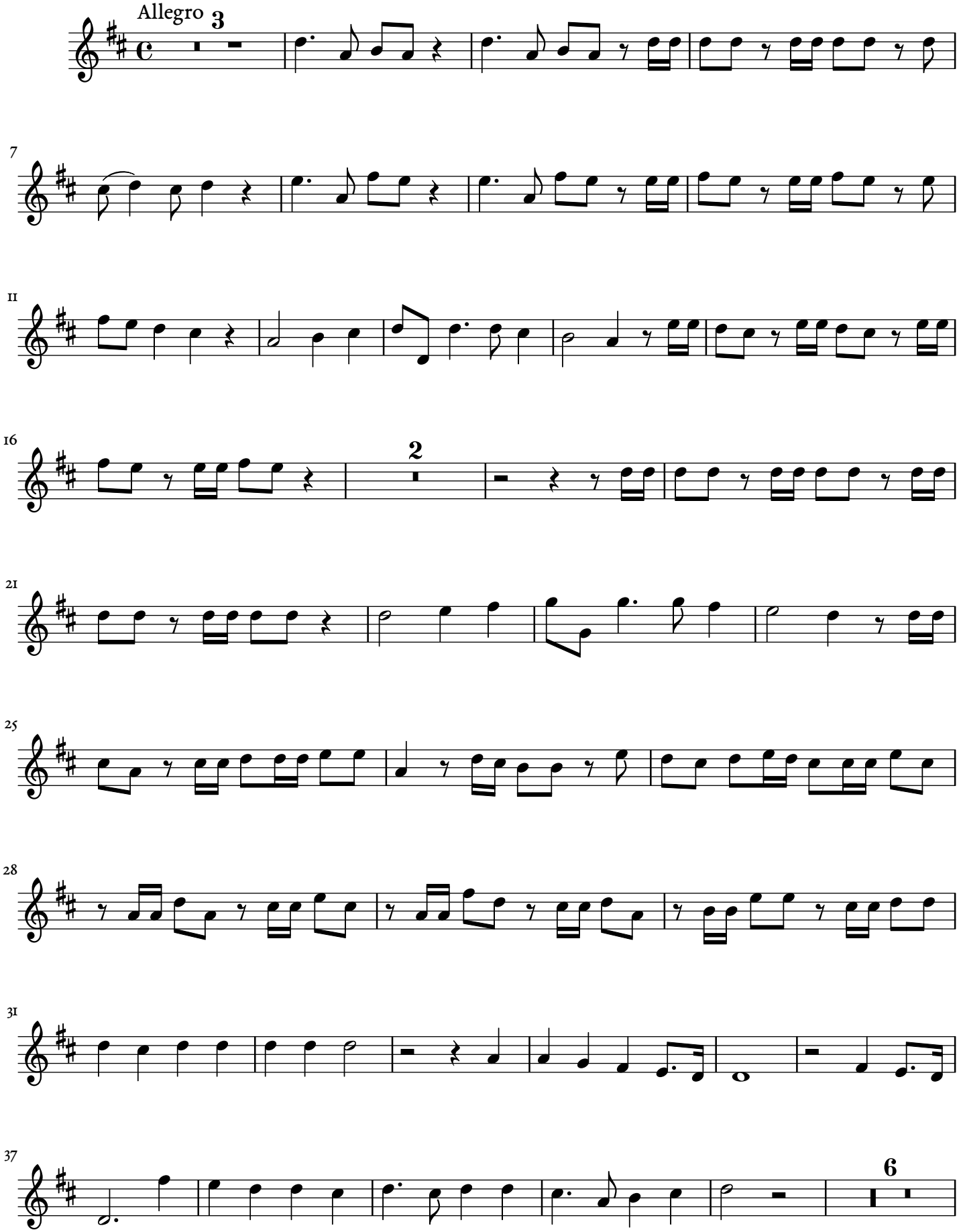
2-21 Air: *Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron* (tenor)

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

2-22 Chorus: *Hallelujah*



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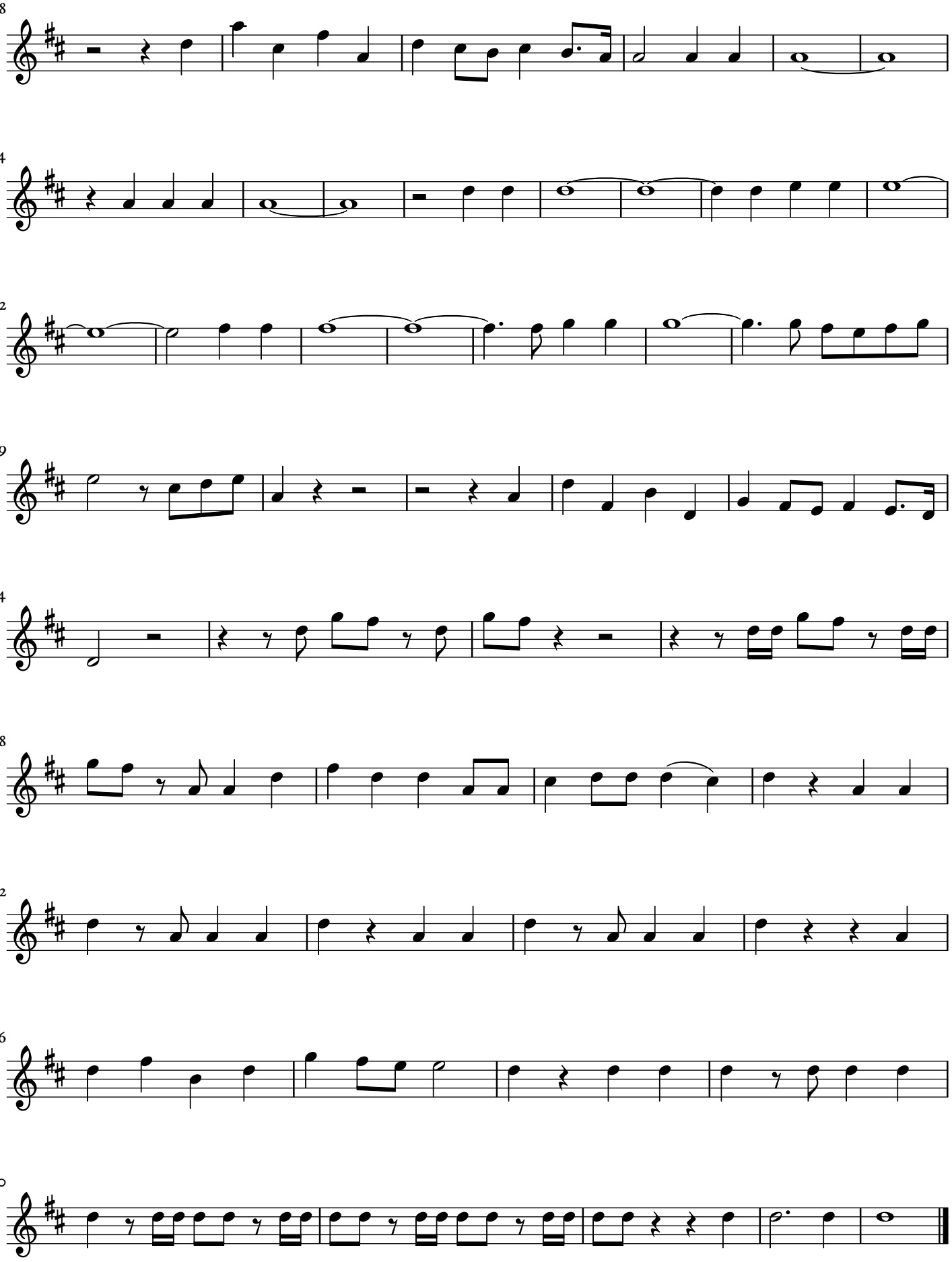

END OF THE SECOND PART

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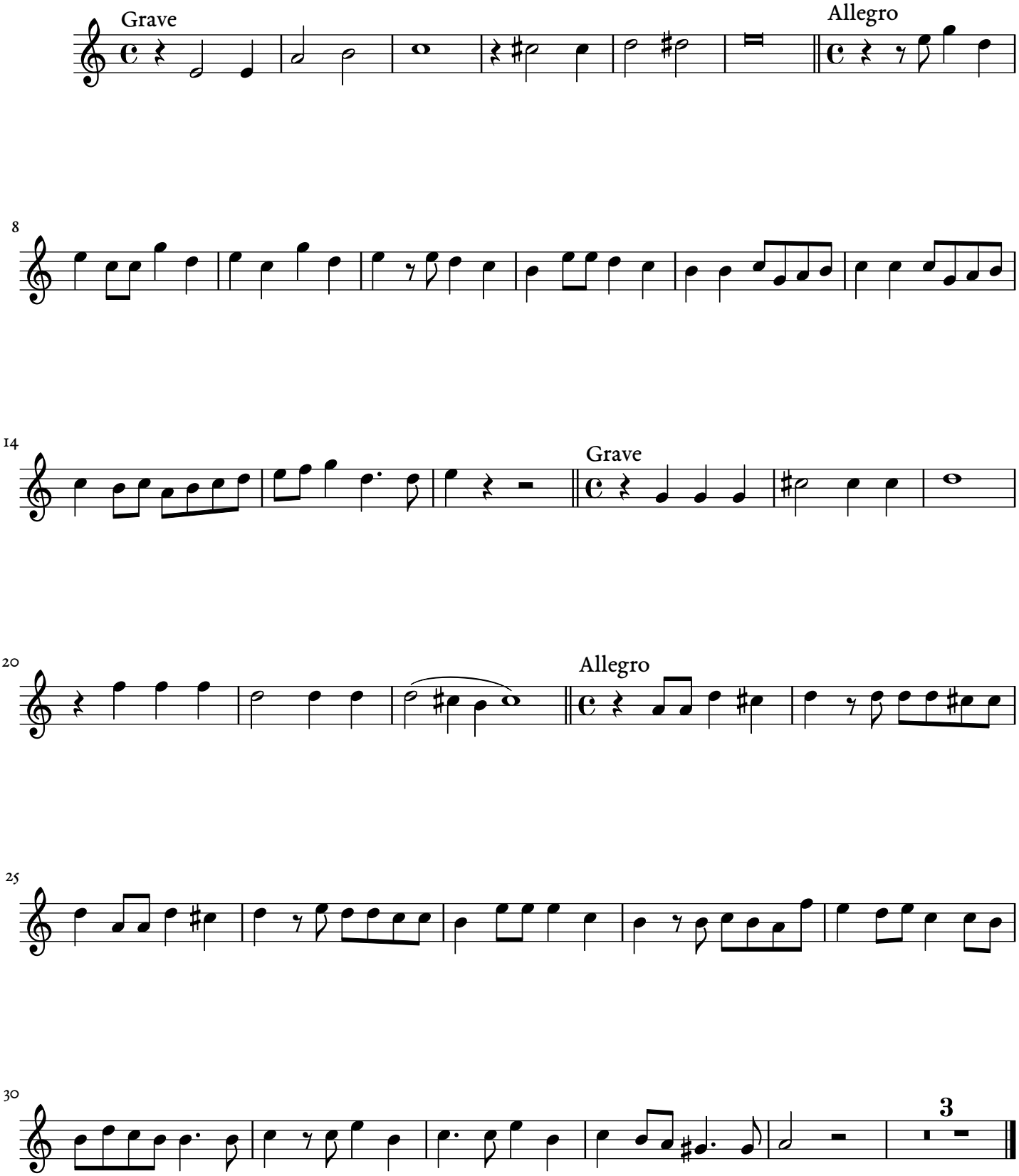
PART III

3-1 Air: *I know that my Redeemer liveth* (soprano)

I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand on the latter day upon the earth:
And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.
For now is Christ risen from the dead, the firstfruits of them that sleep.

3-2 Chorus and soli: *Since by man came death*



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3-3 Recitative: *Behold, I tell you a mistery* (bass)

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed.
In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet;

3-4 Air: *The trumpet shall sound* (bass)

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

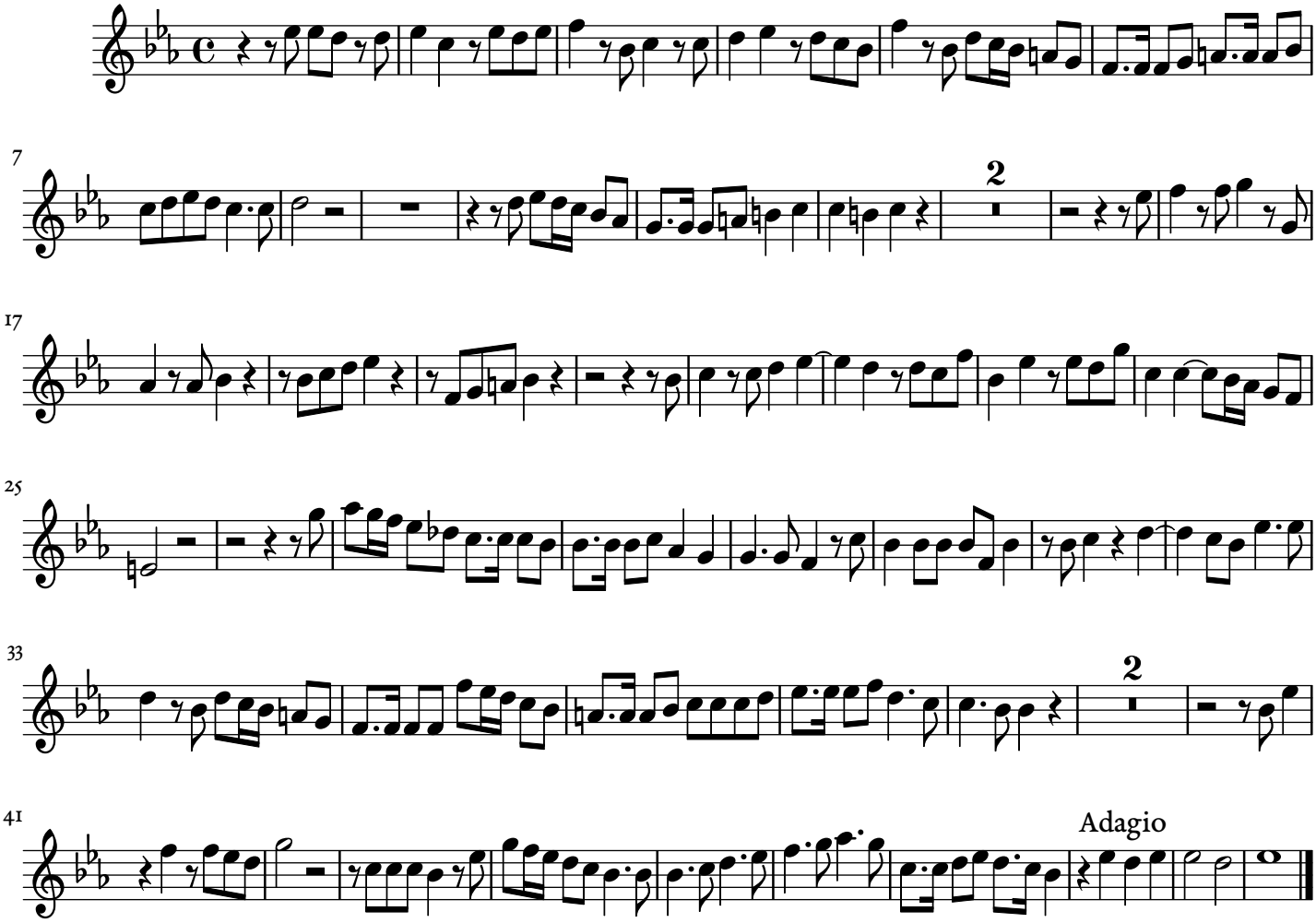
3-5 Recitative: *Then shall be brought to pass* (contr'alto)

Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'

3-6 Duet: *O death! where is thy sting?* (contr'alto and tenor)

O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?
The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

3-7 Chorus: *But thanks be to God*



3-8 Air: *If God be for us* (soprano)

If God be for us, who can be against us?
Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.
Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

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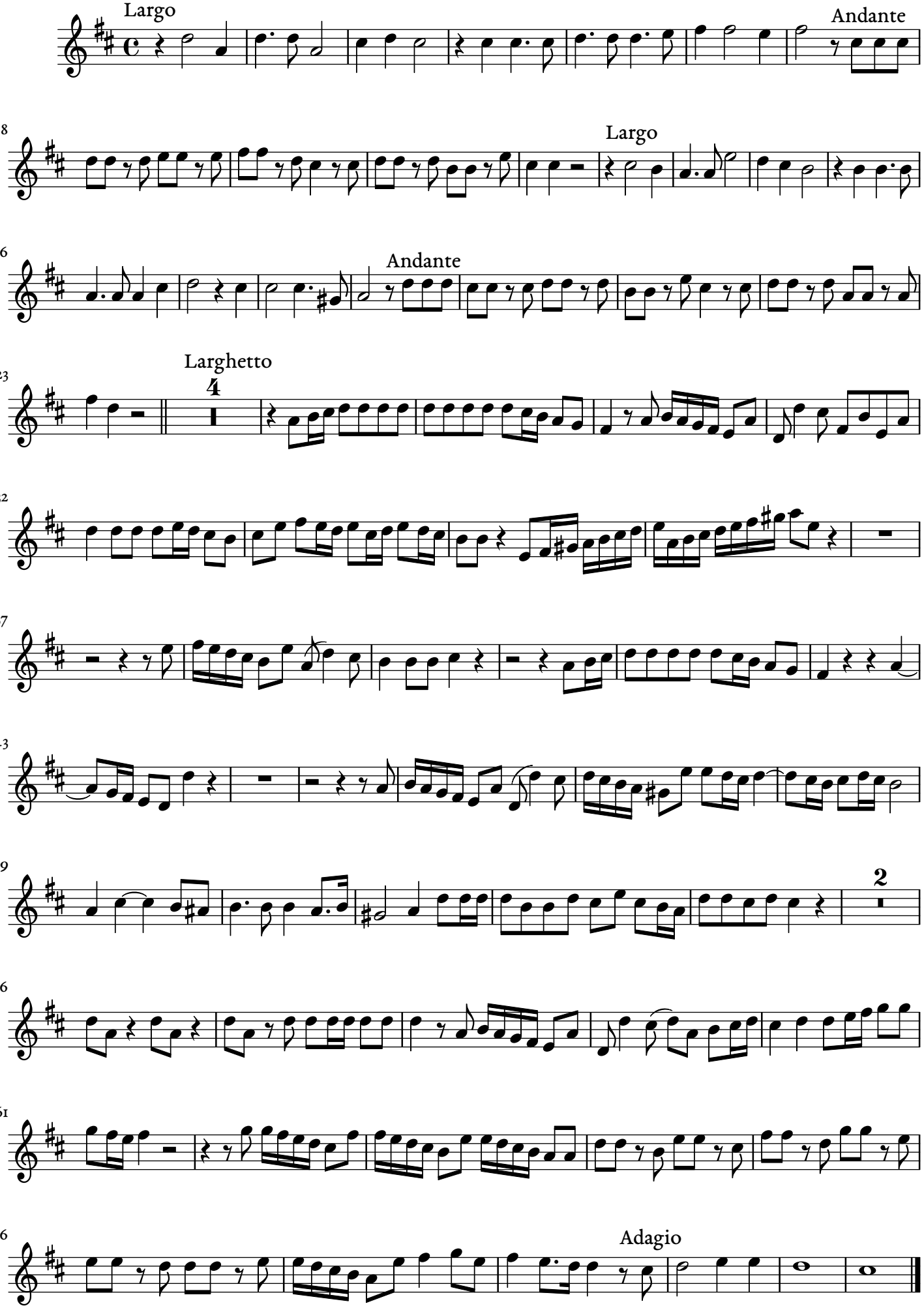
3-9 Chorus: *Worthy is the Lamb*



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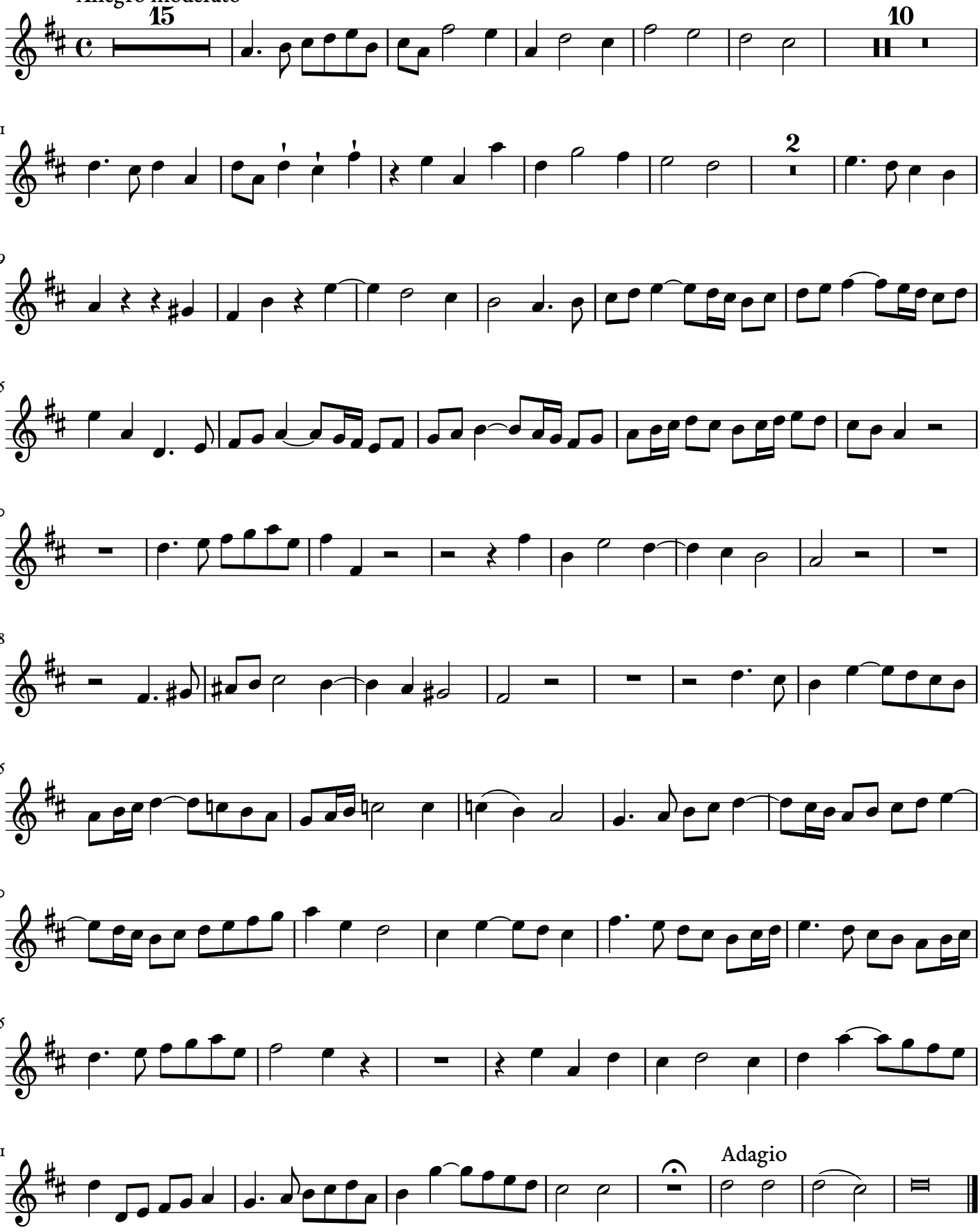
3-10 Chorus: *Amen*

Allegro moderato



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