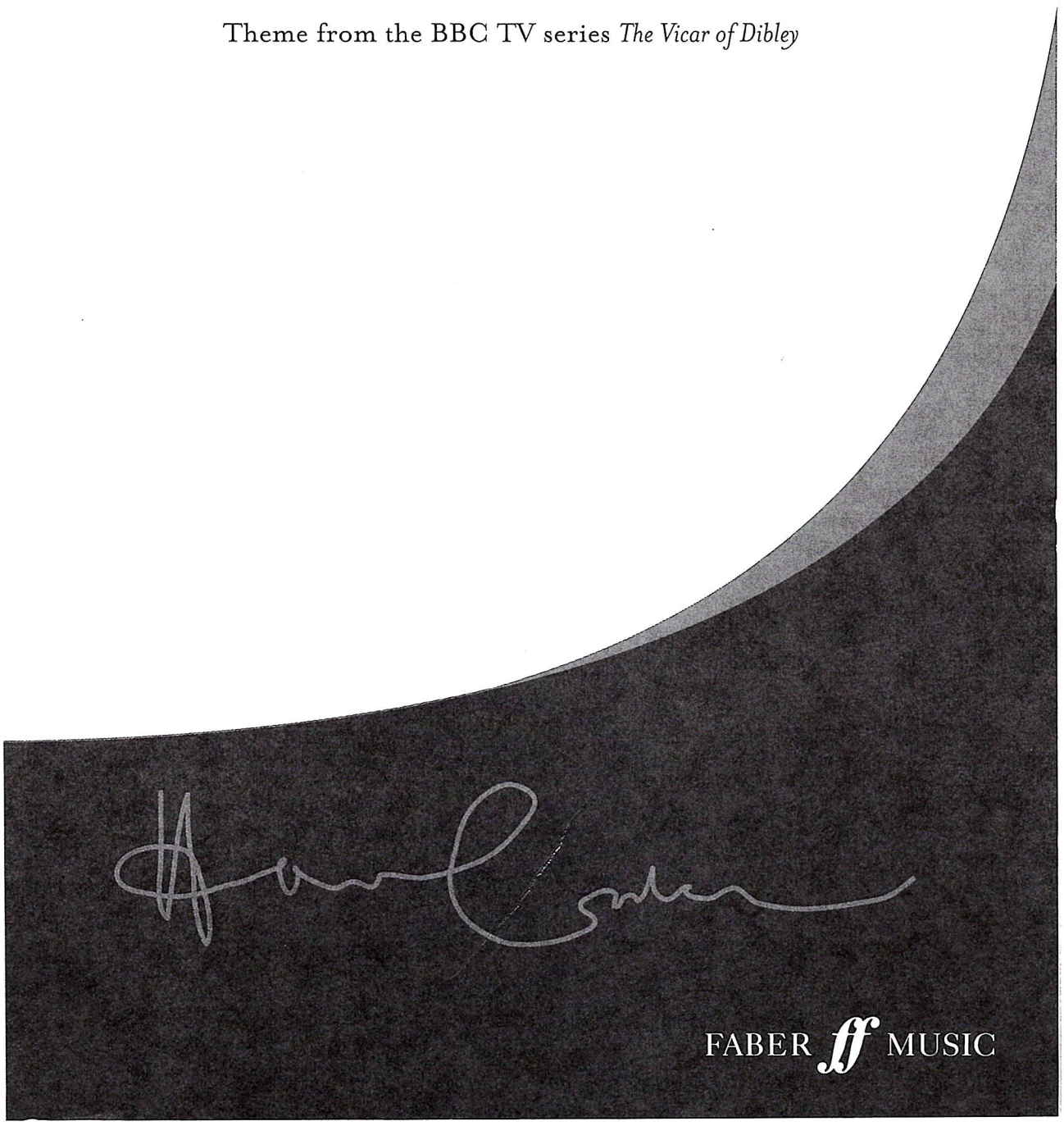
CHORAL SIGNATURE SERIES

SATB / Organ or Piano

HOWARD GOODALL

The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Theme from the BBC TV series *The Vicar of Dibley*



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Composer Note

In 1994 Richard Curtis approached me to write the theme for what was to become BBC TV's classic comedy series, *The Vicar of Dibley*. I felt that the setting of a familiar sacred text – and the use of some real choral singing – would offset perfectly the quirky humour of the storylines; as it had also been my ambition for some time to write a setting of *The Lord is my Shepherd* (Psalm 23), I was delighted that the creative team loved the idea.

Thanks to the immense popularity of *The Vicar of Dibley* on British TV and elsewhere around the world, I have managed to give a whole new generation of younger listeners and singers a version of this wonderful Psalm that they can truly call their own. Indeed, this piece has become a stand-alone choral classic since it was introduced to audiences through the TV series, and I feel humbled when I realise that for many people under 30 in the UK and Australia it is the *only* tune for *The Lord is my Shepherd* that they now know. I consider myself blessed to have been able to share my setting of it with so many others of all possible backgrounds and beliefs.

Howard Goodall, August 2004

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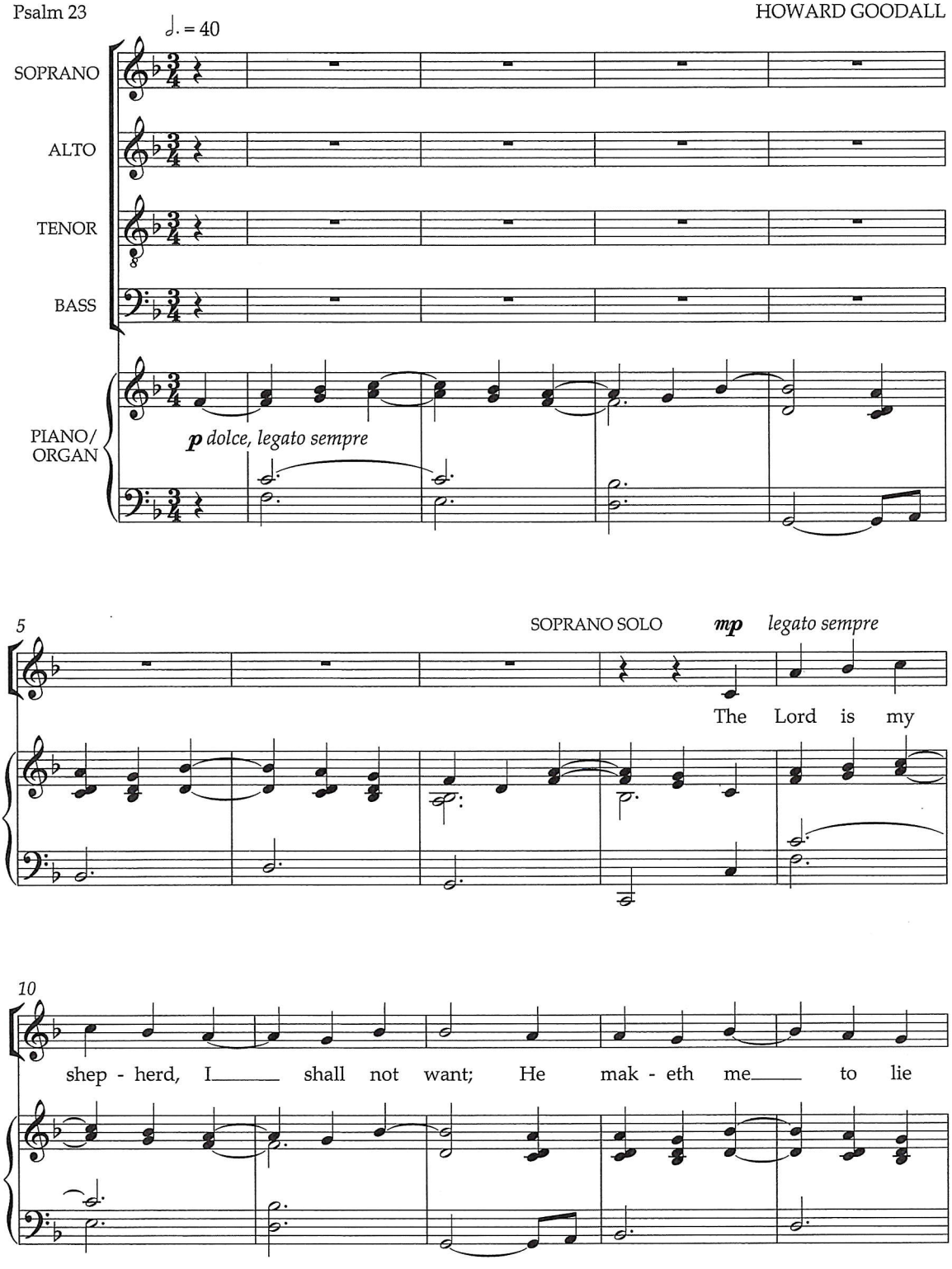
first performed by the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

The Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23)

Theme from the BBC TV series *The Vicar of Dibley*

Psalm 23

HOWARD GOODALL



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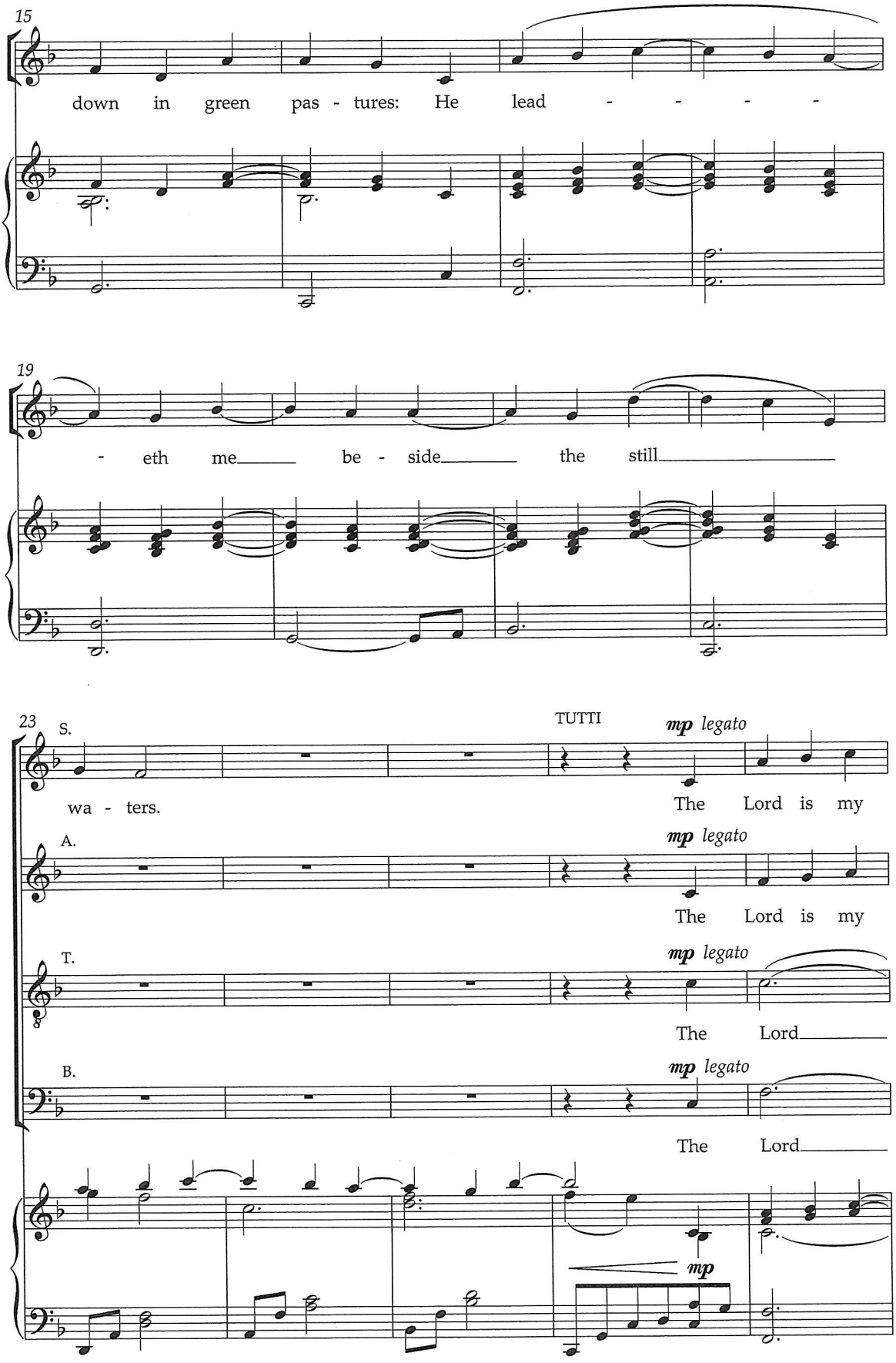
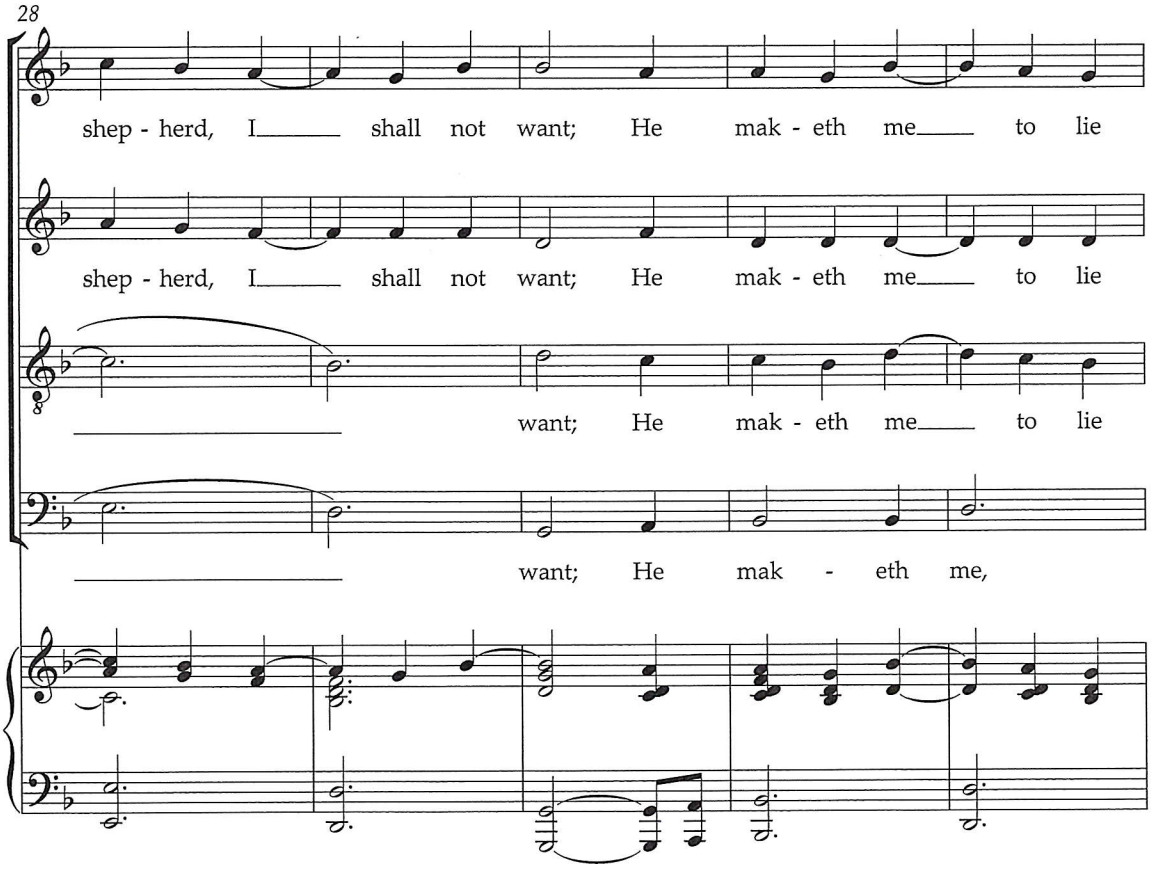
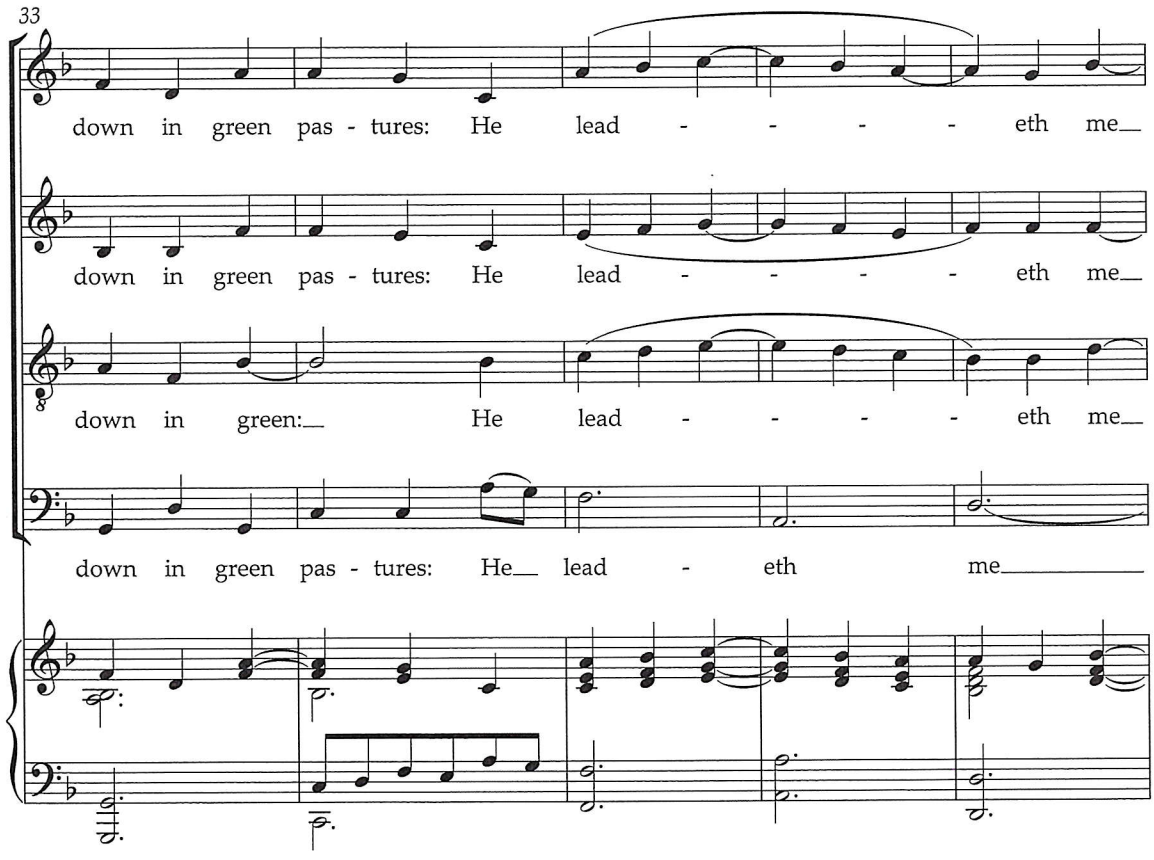
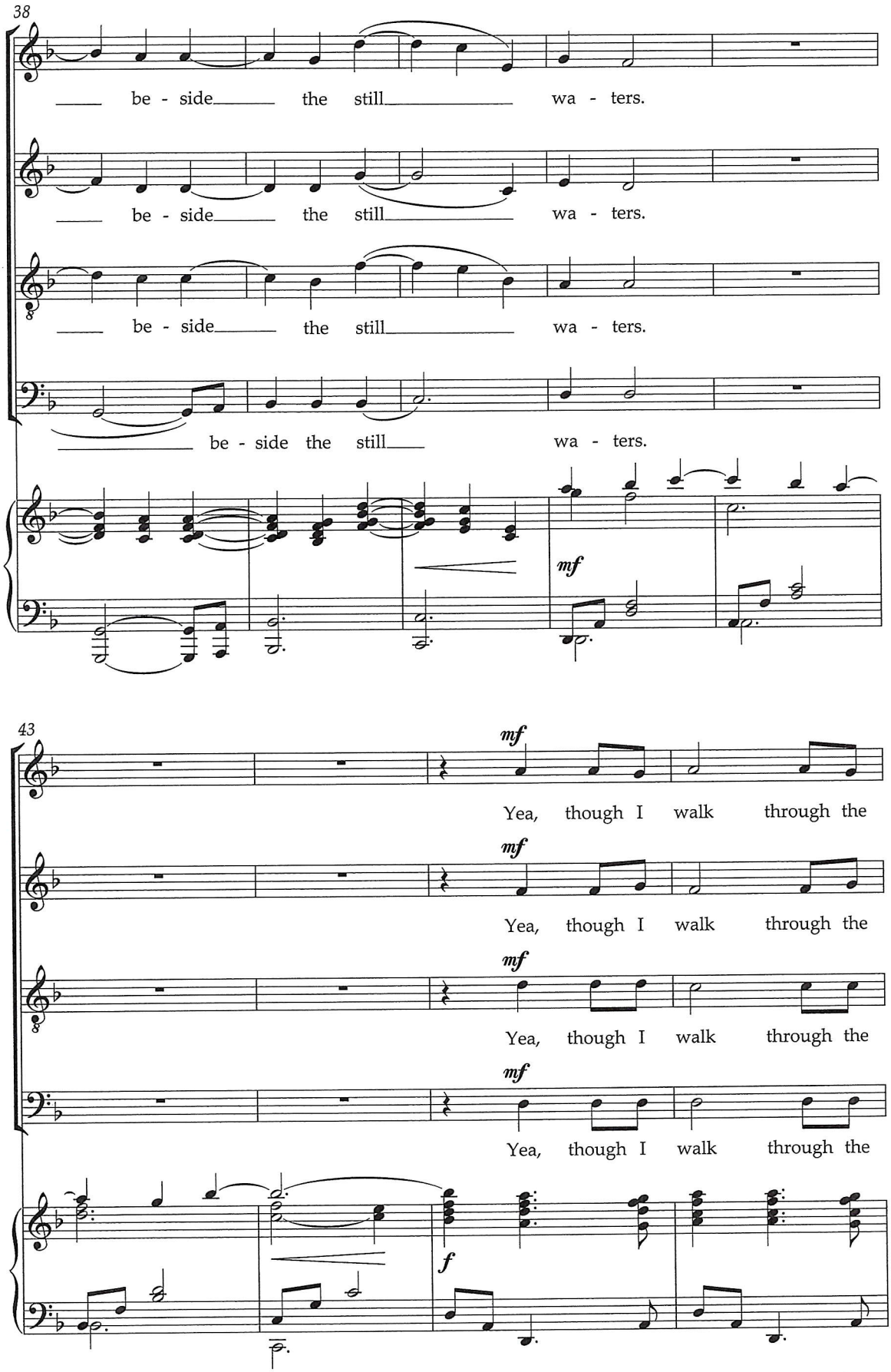
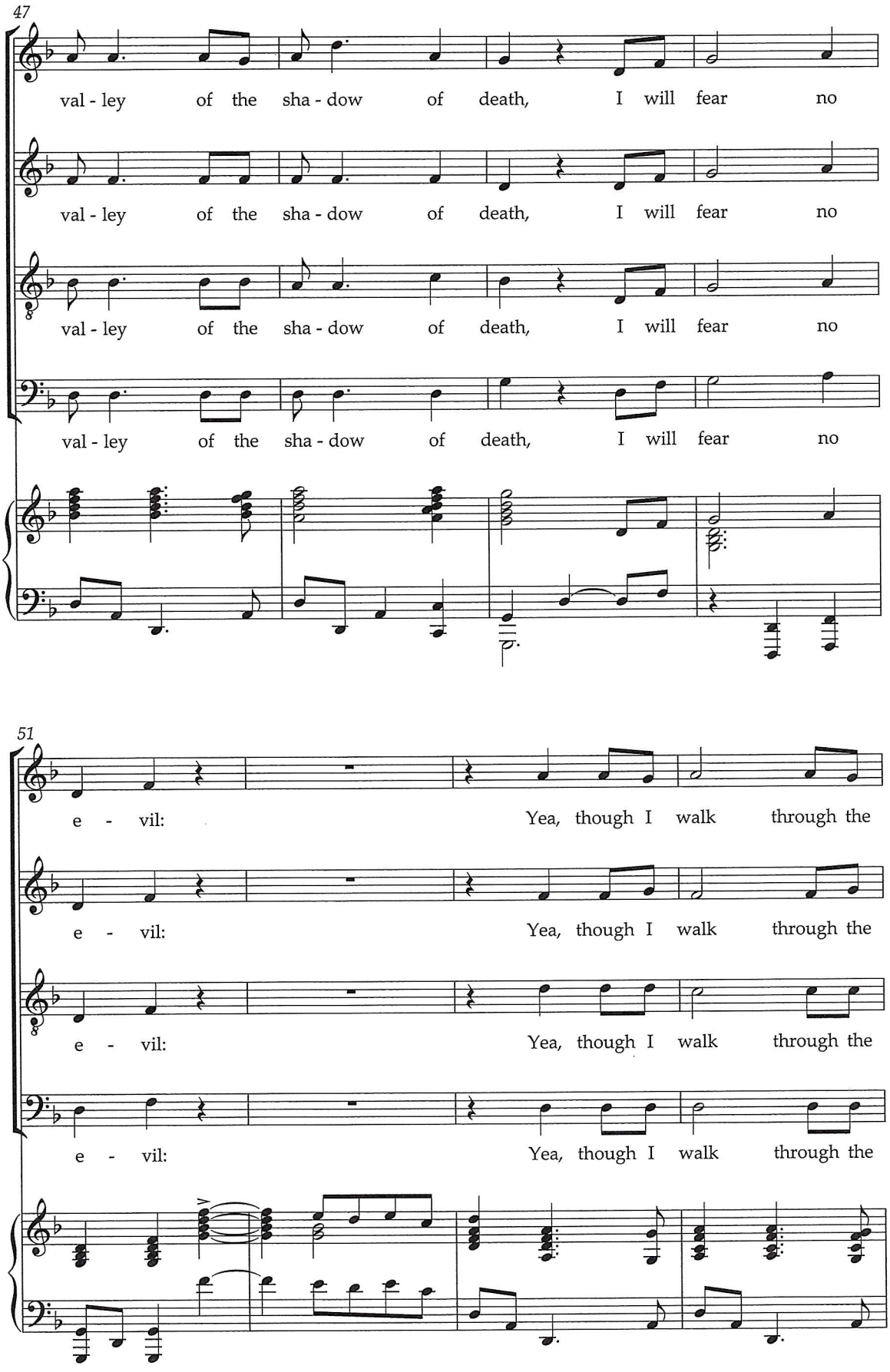
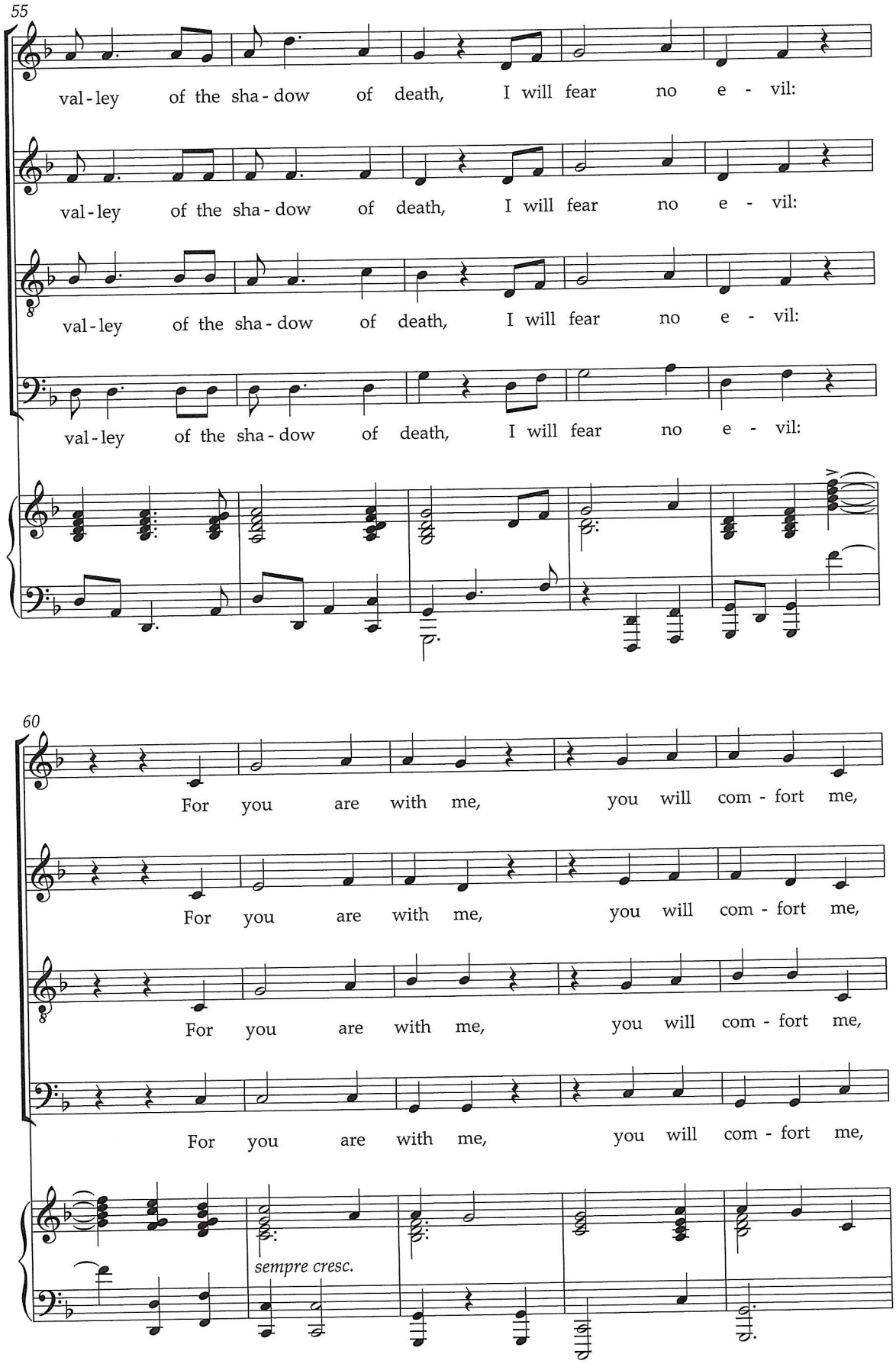

15
down in green pas - tures: He lead - - - -
19
- eth me be - side the still
23
S.
wa - ters.
TUTTI
mp legato
The Lord is my
A.
mp legato
The Lord is my
T.
mp legato
The Lord
B.
mp legato
The Lord
mp

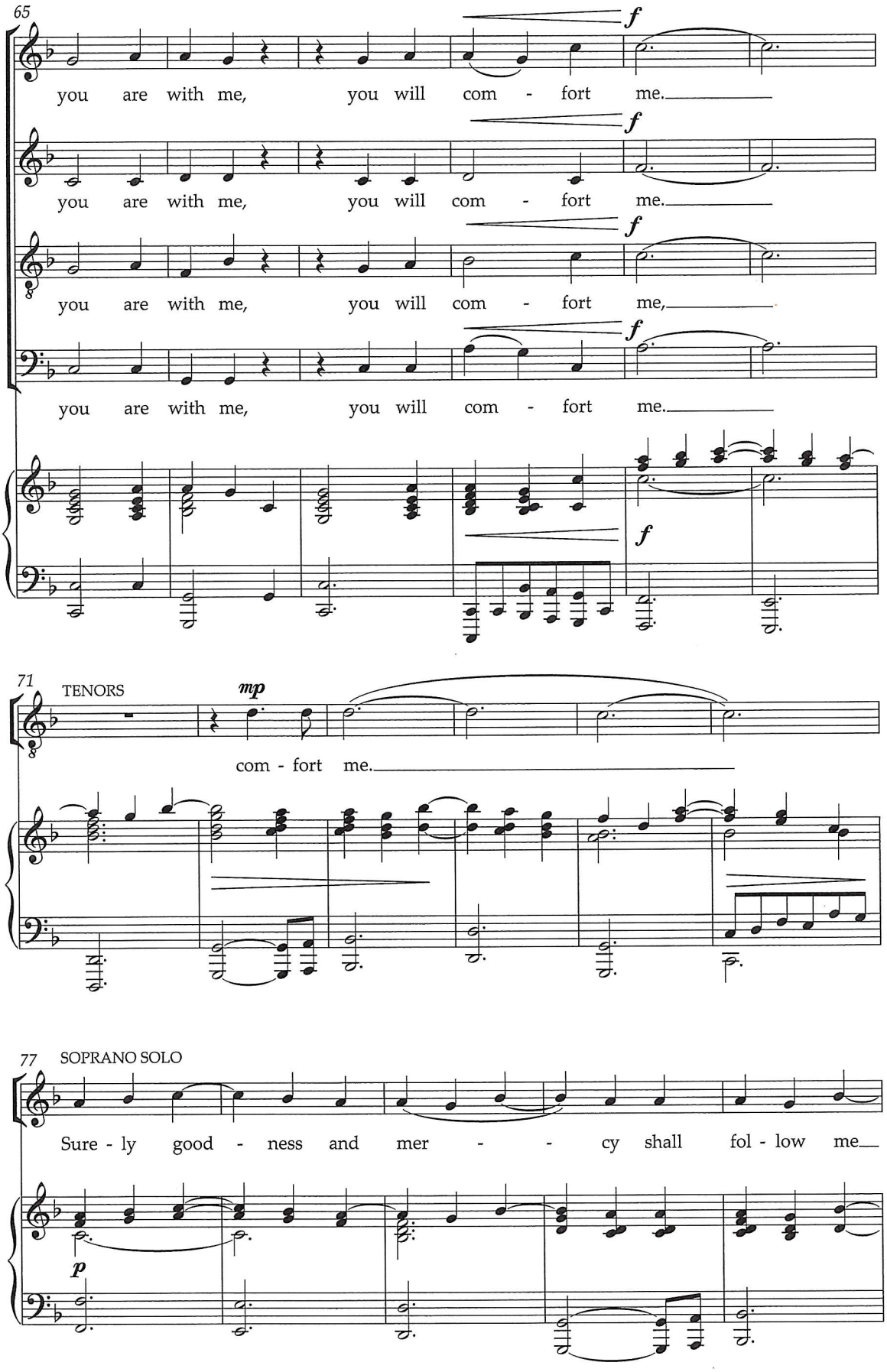

28
shep - herd, I shall not want; He mak - eth me to lie
shep - herd, I shall not want; He mak - eth me to lie
want; He mak - eth me to lie
want; He mak - eth me,

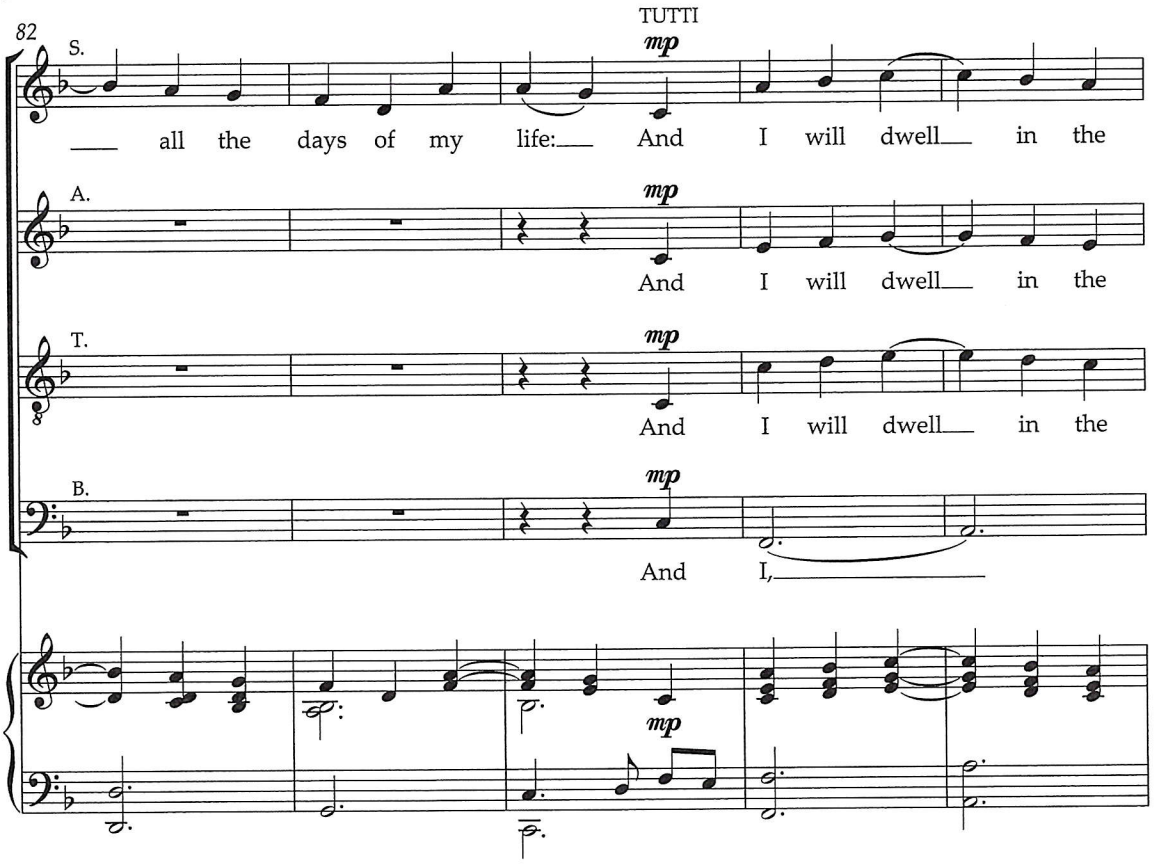

33
down in green pas - tures: He lead - - - - eth me
down in green pas - tures: He lead - - - - eth me
down in green: He lead - - - - eth me
down in green pas - tures: He lead - eth me

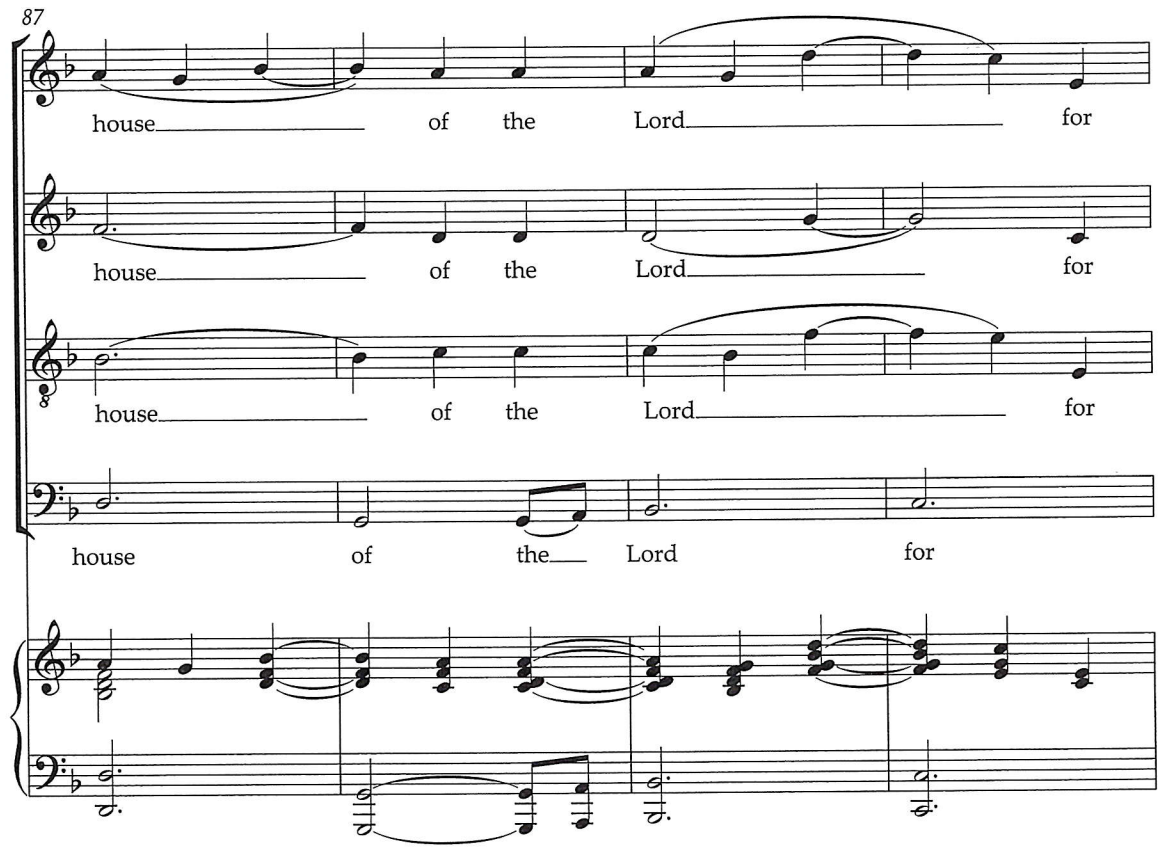

38
be - side the still wa - ters.
be - side the still wa - ters.
be - side the still wa - ters.
be - side the still wa - ters.
mf
43
mf
Yea, though I walk through the
mf
Yea, though I walk through the
mf
Yea, though I walk through the
mf
Yea, though I walk through the
f

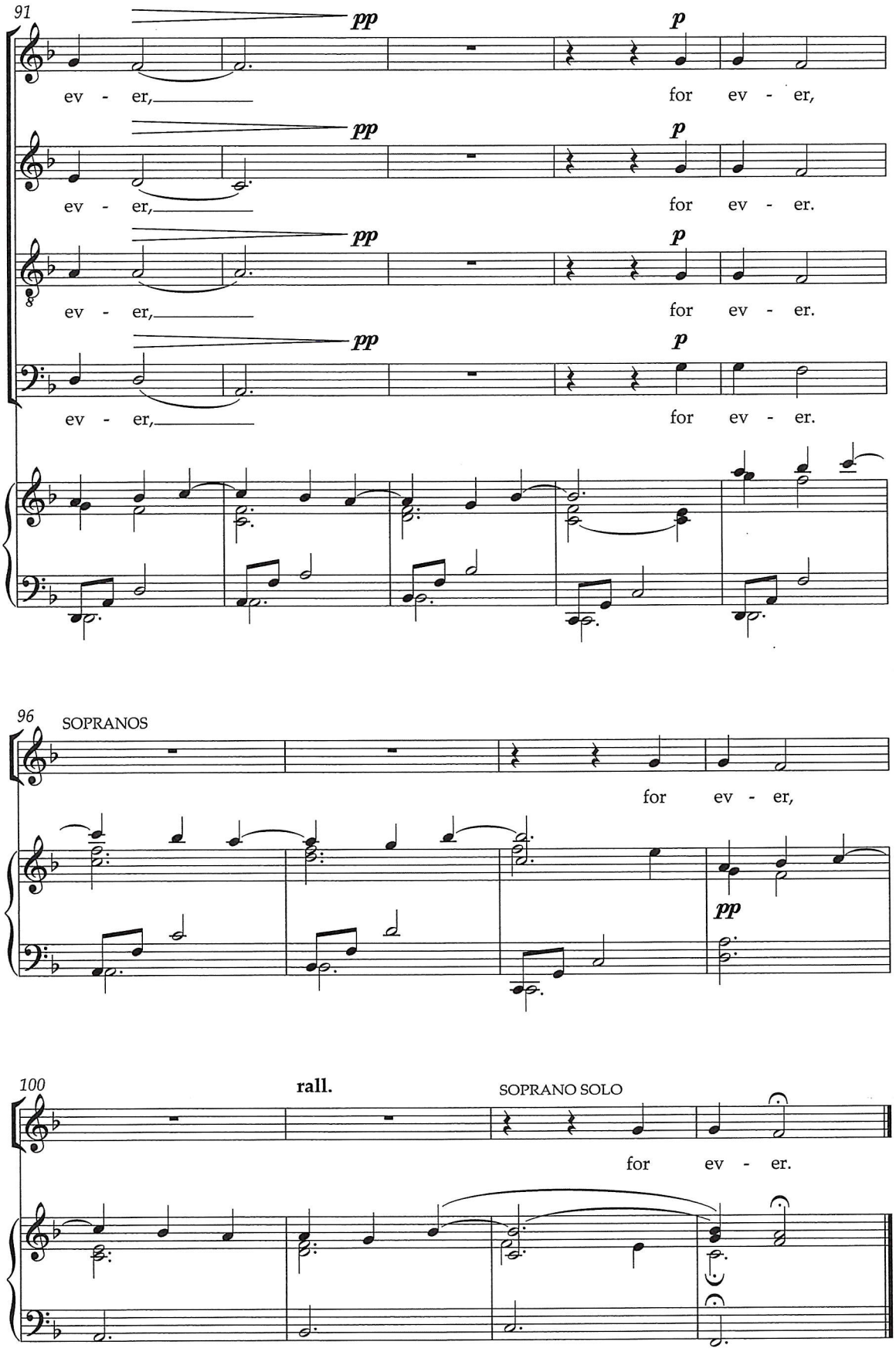

47
val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no
val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no
val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no
val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no
51
e - vil: Yea, though I walk through the
e - vil: Yea, though I walk through the
e - vil: Yea, though I walk through the
e - vil: Yea, though I walk through the


55
val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no e - vil:
val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no e - vil:
val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no e - vil:
val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I will fear no e - vil:
60
For you are with me, you will com - fort me,
For you are with me, you will com - fort me,
For you are with me, you will com - fort me,
For you are with me, you will com - fort me,
sempre cresc.


65
you are with me, you will com - fort me.
you are with me, you will com - fort me.
you are with me, you will com - fort me,
you are with me, you will com - fort me.
f
71
TENORS
mp
com - fort me.
77
SOPRANO SOLO
Sure - ly good - ness and mer - - cy shall fol - low me
p


82
TUTTI
S.
mp
all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the
A.
mp
And I will dwell in the
T.
mp
And I will dwell in the
B.
mp
And I,
mp


87
house of the Lord for
house of the Lord for
house of the Lord for
house of the Lord for


91
pp
p
ev - er,
for ev - er,
ev - er,
for ev - er.
ev - er,
for ev - er.
ev - er,
for ev - er.
96
SOPRANOS
for ev - er,
pp
100
rall.
SOPRANO SOLO
for ev - er.