Symphony of Songs

John Leavitt

Symphony of Songs is a cycle of psalm settings and hymns for mixed voices and piano. The overall structure of the work is an arch shape. Psalms of praise serve as bookends of the form, with introspective psalms as the next step, followed by two North American hymns, and the centerpiece of the work also a psalm of praise.

The work is intended to be offered as a general concert work or as a cantata of praise. The individual movements should also be useful at various times of the church year, as suggested below.

5 Rejoice in the Lord
Psalm 96: Christmas, Easter, Trinity

11 Create in Me
Psalm 51: Ash Wednesday, Lent, Time after Pentecost

17 The Beautiful Treasure
Shaker hymn: Time after Pentecost, Stewardship

23 Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord
Psalm 95: Easter, Time after Pentecost, Christ the King

31 Shall We Gather at the River
North American hymn: All Saints

36 As Pants the Hart
Psalm 42: Lent

43 Praise the Lord
Psalm 150: Easter, Christ the King, Creation

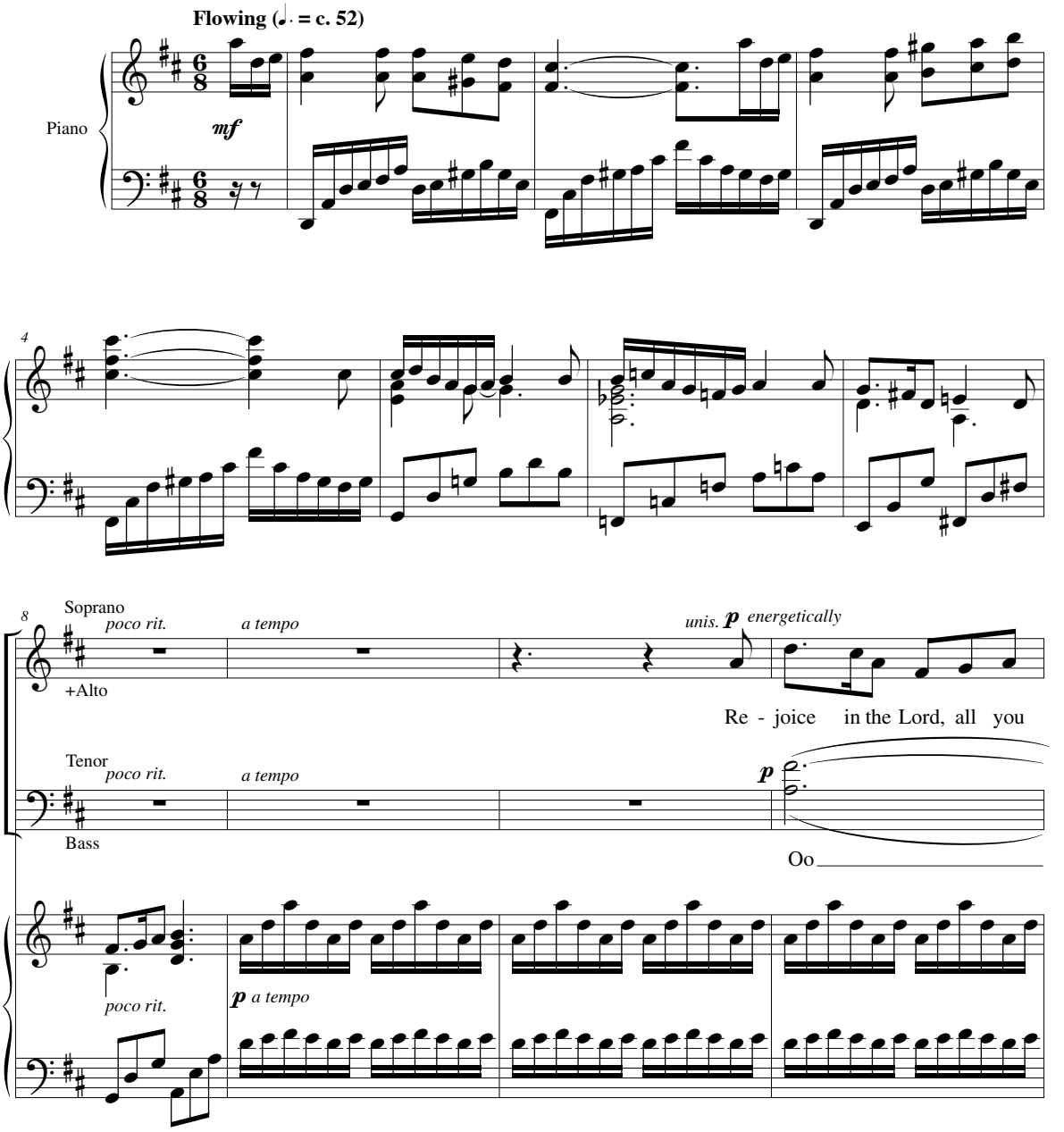
A recording *Symphony of Songs* is available through the composer's Web site: johnleavittmusic.com.

Rejoice in the Lord!

for SATB voices and piano

J.L.
based on Psalm 96

John Leavitt



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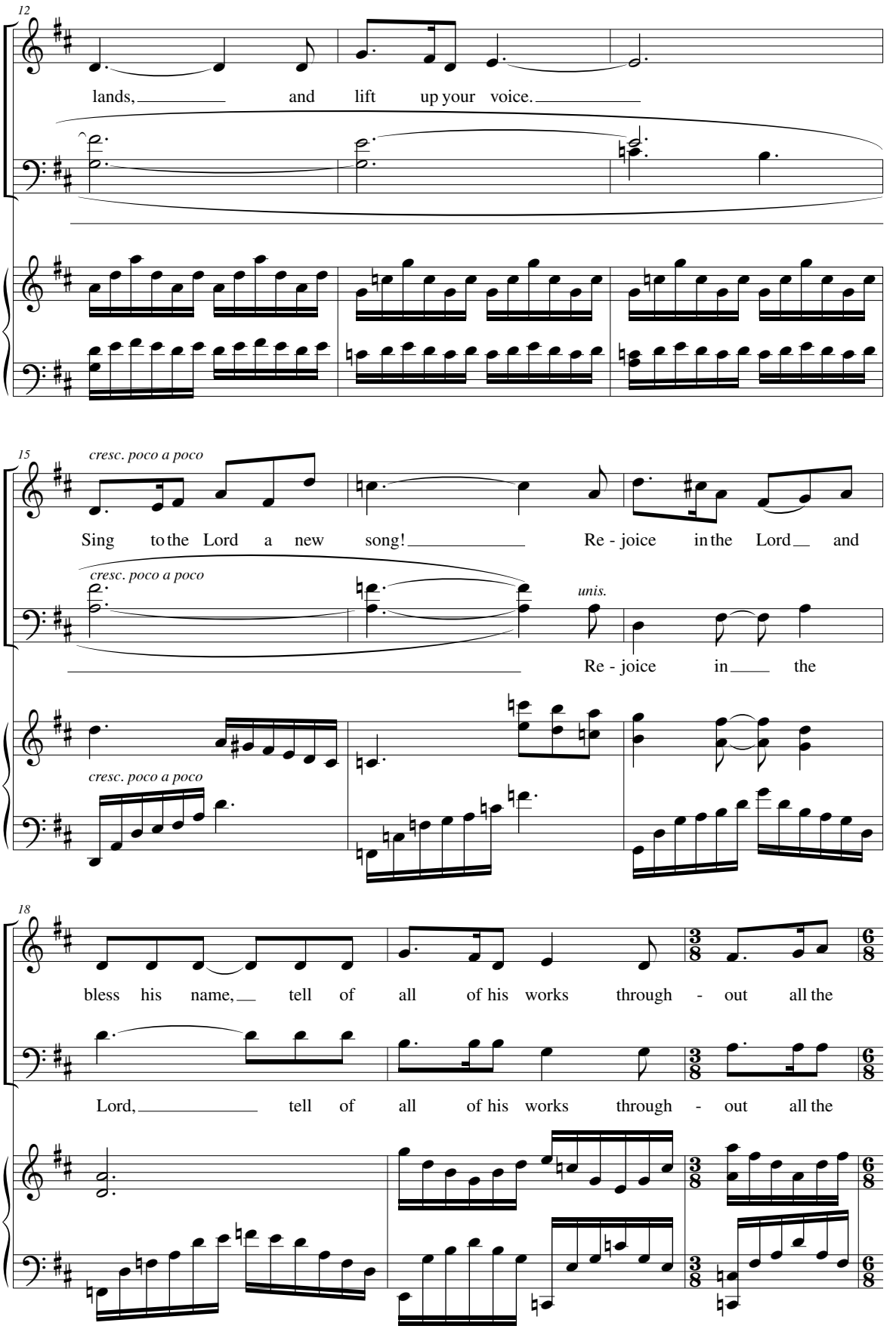
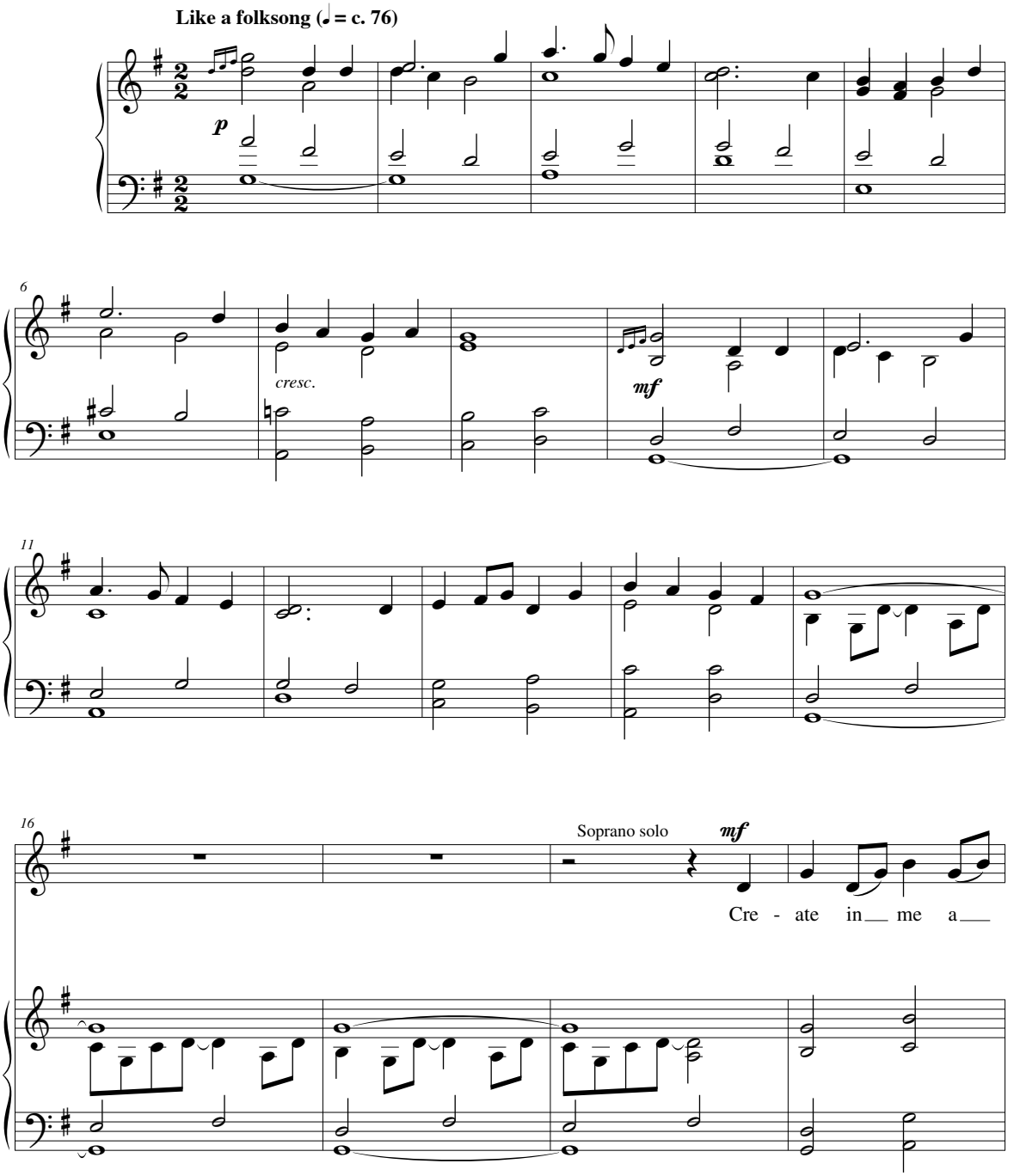

12
lands, and lift up your voice.
15
cresc. poco a poco
Sing to the Lord a new song! Re - joice in the Lord and
cresc. poco a poco
unis.
Re - joice in the
cresc. poco a poco
18
bless his name, tell of all of his works through - out all the
Lord, tell of all of his works through - out all the

Create in Me

for SATB voices and piano

J.L.
based on Psalm 51

John Leavitt



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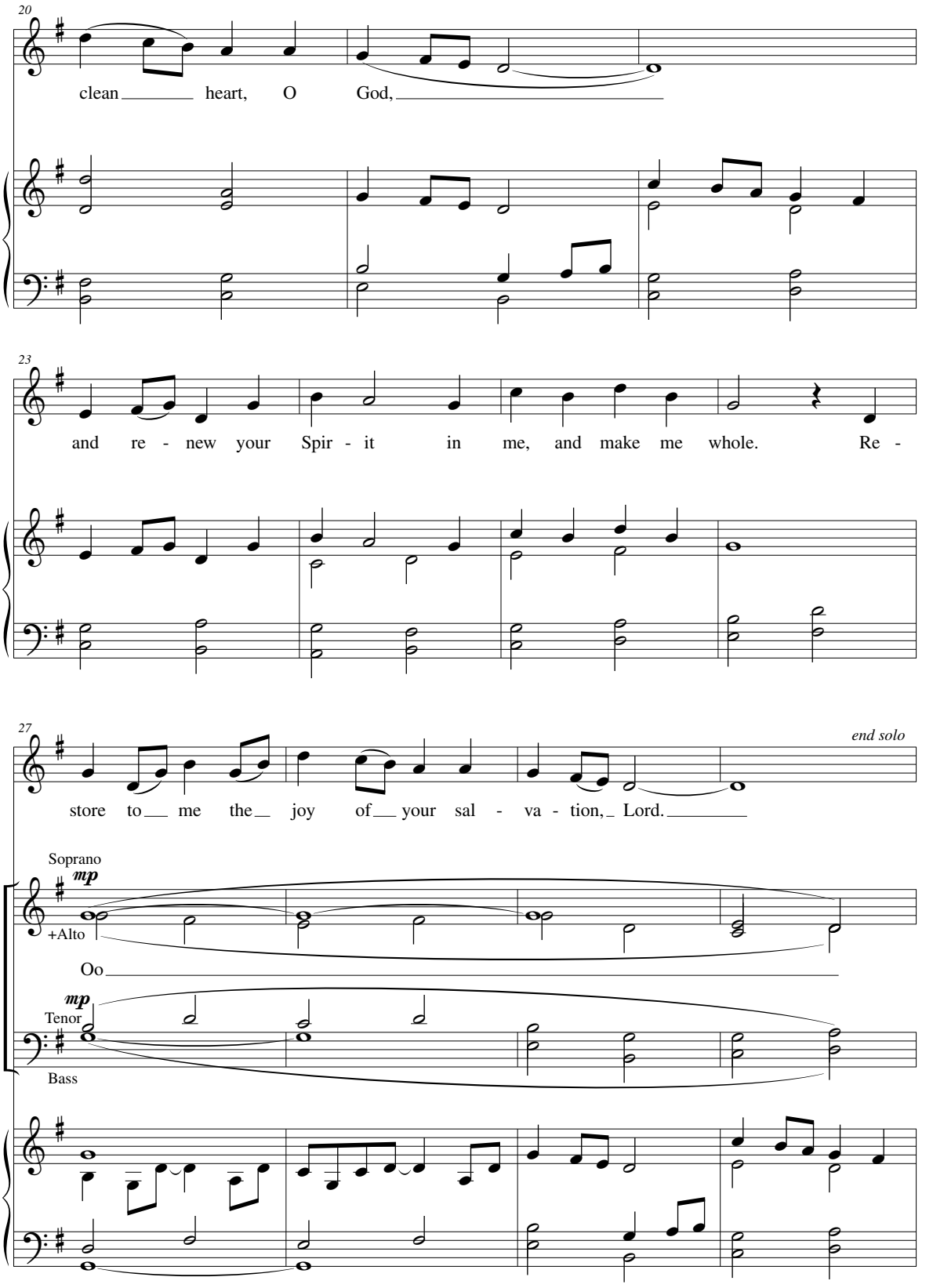
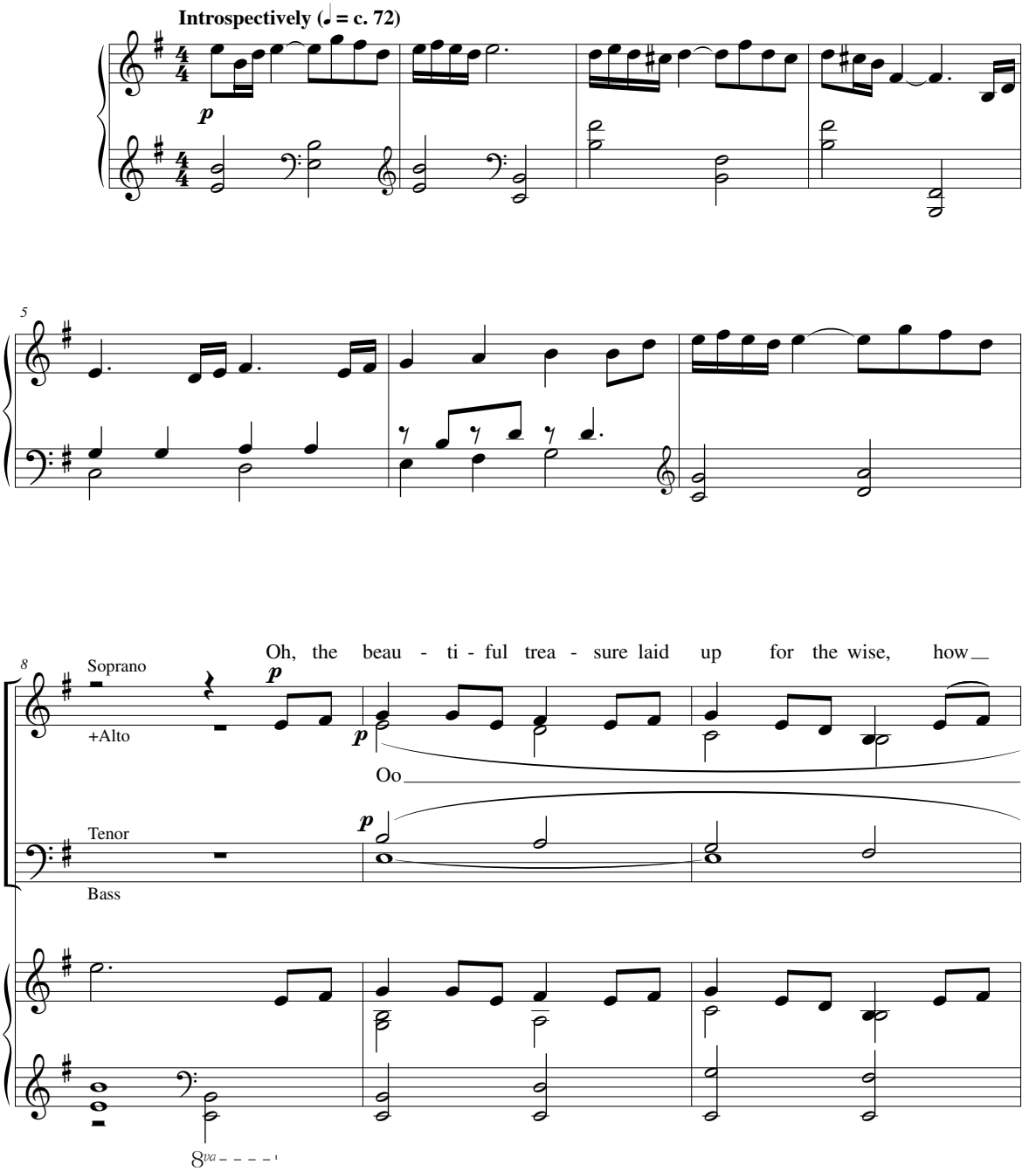

20
clean heart, O God,
23
and re - new your Spir - it in me, and make me whole. Re -
27
end solo
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, Lord.
Soprano
mp
+Alto
Oo
mp
Tenor
Bass

The Beautiful Treasure

for SATB voices and piano

Traditional Shaker Hymn

Traditional Shaker Hymn
setting, John Leavitt



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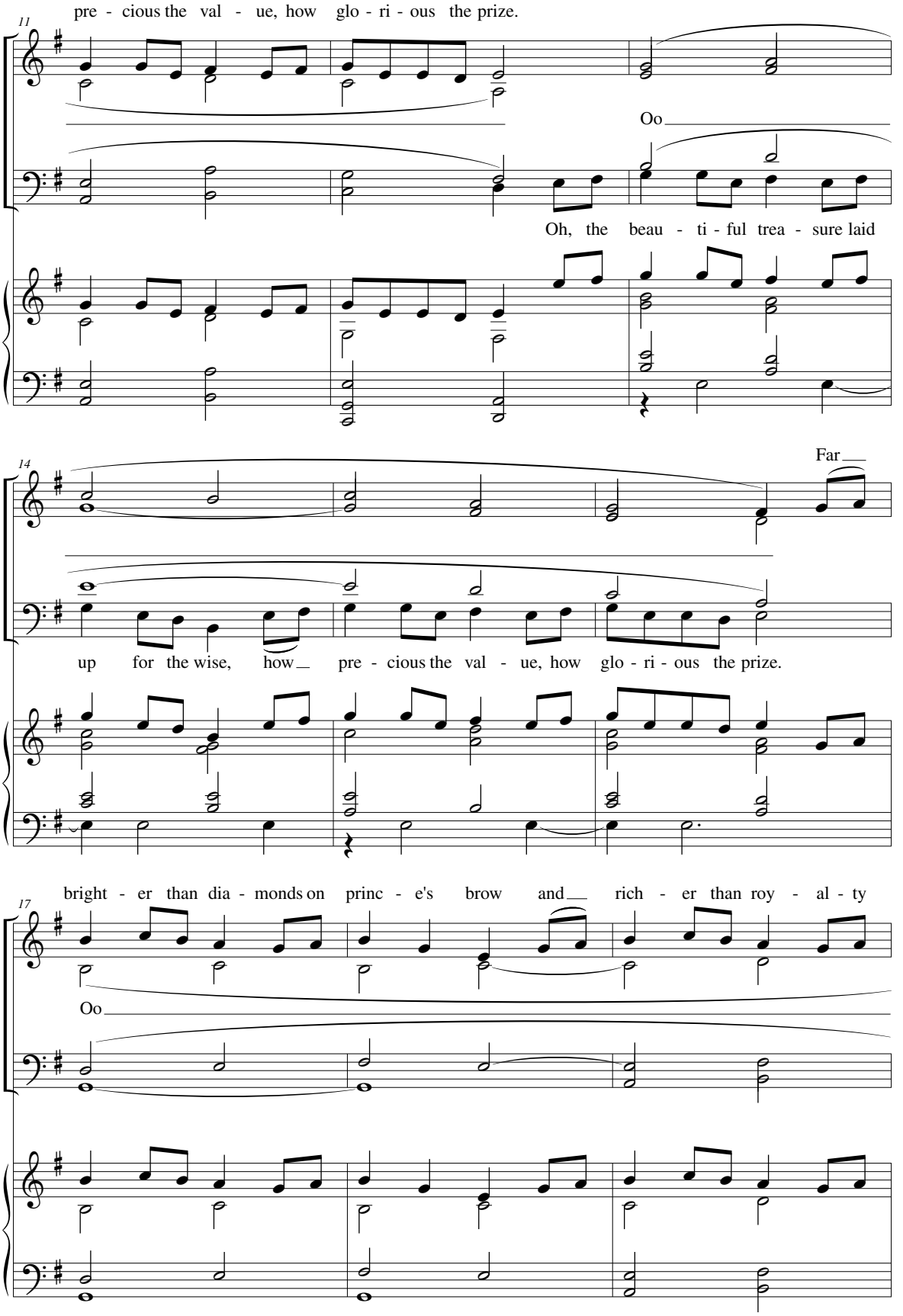
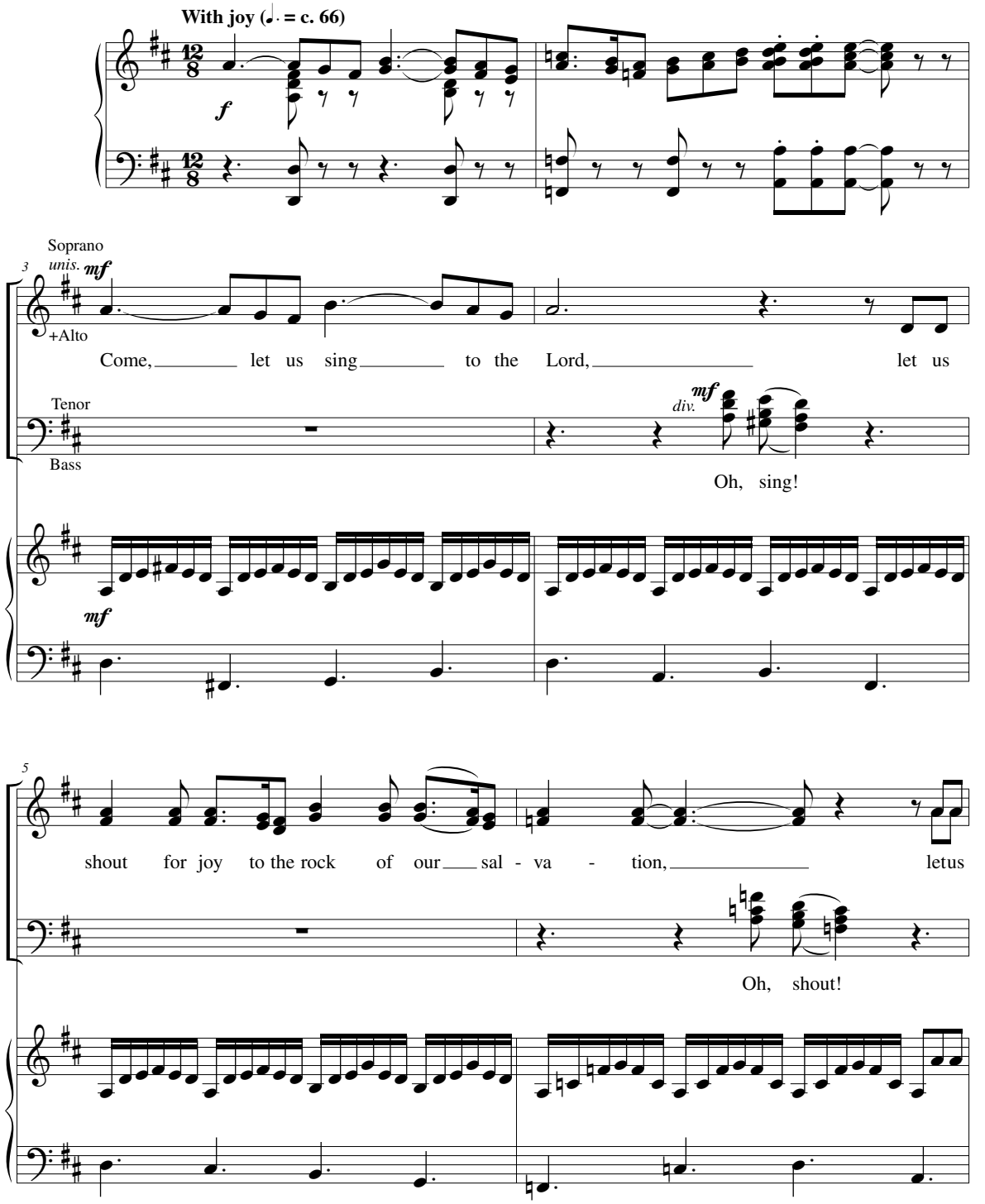

pre - cious the val - ue, how glo - ri - ous the prize.
Oo
Oh, the beau - ti - ful trea - sure laid
Far
up for the wise, how pre - cious the val - ue, how glo - ri - ous the prize.
bright - er than dia - monds on princ - e's brow and rich - er than roy - al - ty
Oo

Written for the 85th anniversary of Grace Presbyterian Church, Wichita, Kansas, 1909–1994.

Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

for SATB voices and piano

Psalm 95:1–7 adapt. John Leavitt



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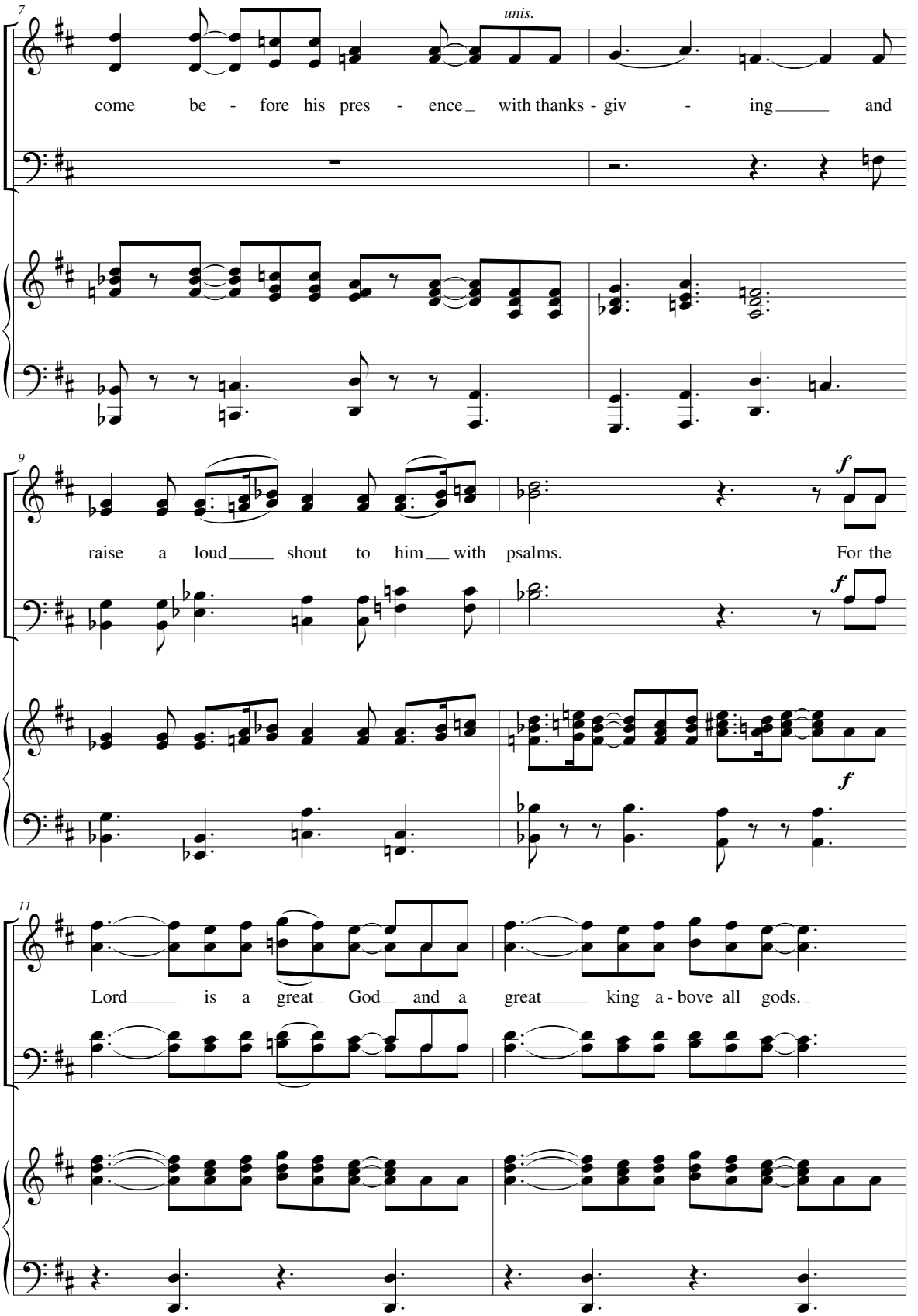
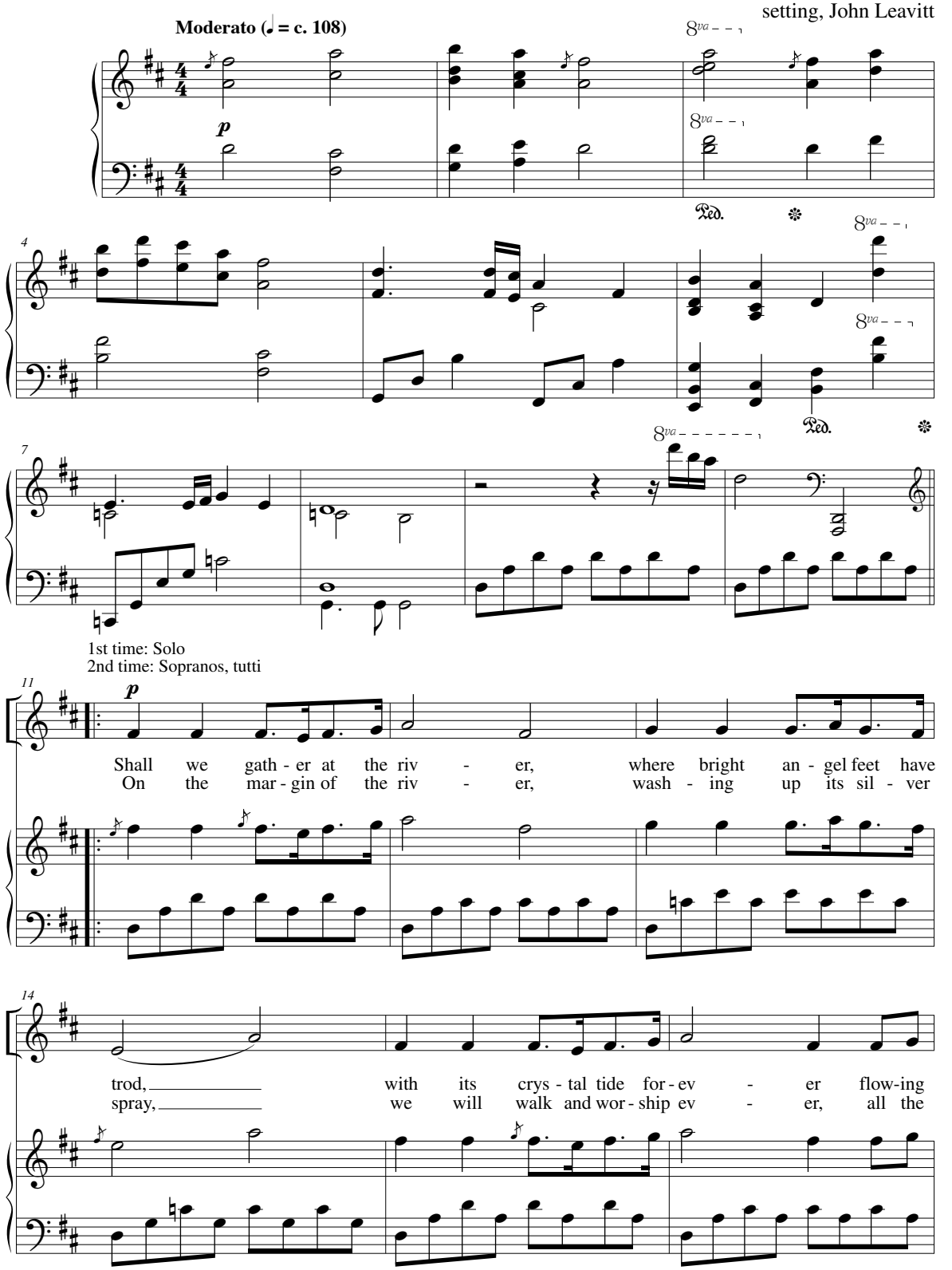

7
unis.
come be - fore his pres - ence_ with thanks - giv - ing_____ and
9
f
raise a loud_____ shout to him__ with psalms. For the
f
f
11
Lord_____ is a great_ God__ and a great_____ king a - bove all gods._

Shall We Gather at the River

for SATB voices and piano

Robery Lowry, 1826–1899

Hanson Place
setting, John Leavitt



Tune: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
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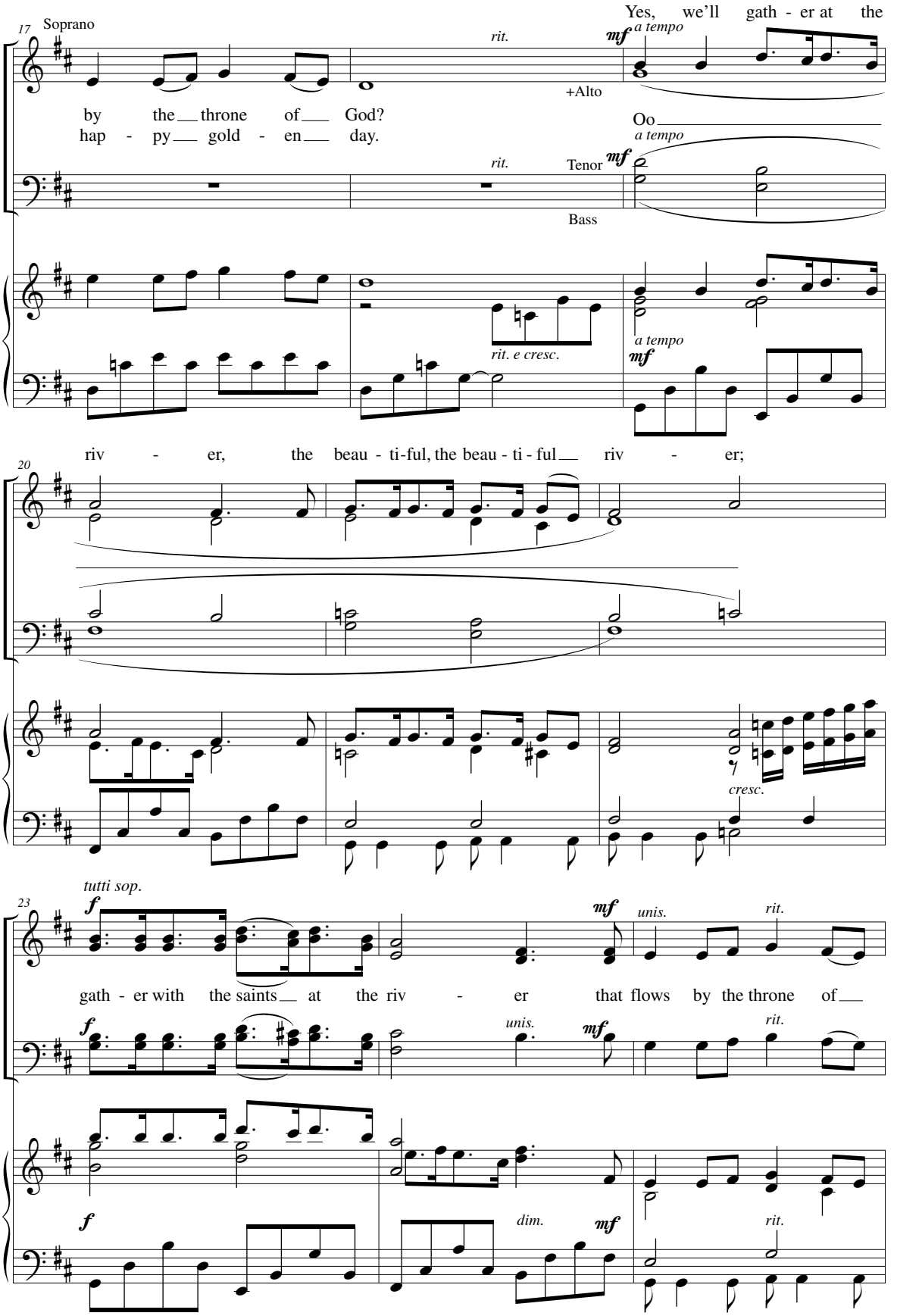

Yes, we'll gath - er at the
17
Soprano
rit.
mf
a tempo
+Alto
by the throne of God?
hap - py gold - en day.
Oo
a tempo
rit.
Tenor
mf
Bass
rit. e cresc.
a tempo
mf
riv - er, the beau - ti-ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;
20
cresc.
tutti sop.
23
f
mf
unis.
rit.
gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of
f
unis.
mf
rit.
f
dim.
mf
rit.

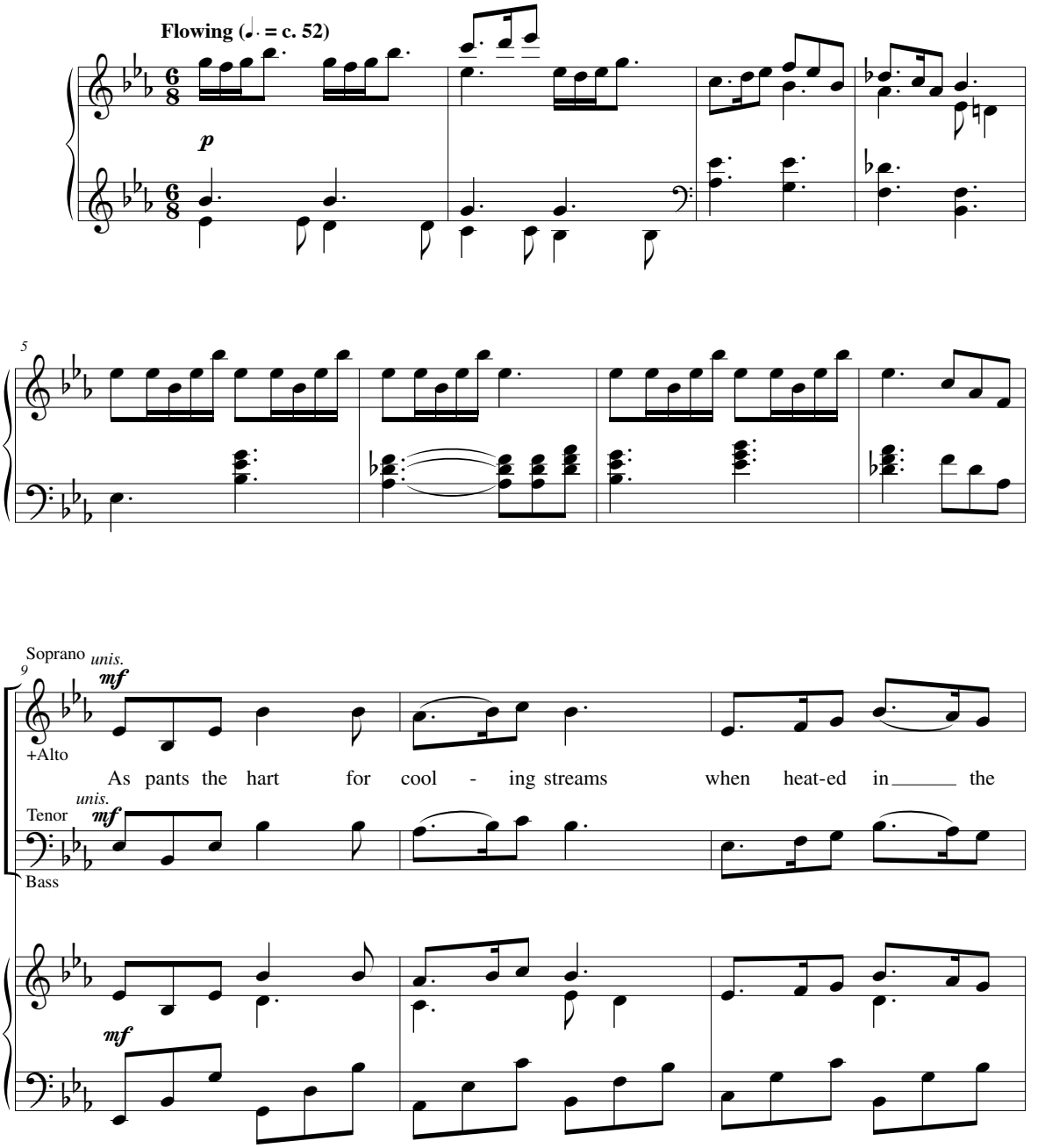
Commissioned for the 50th anniversary of Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina, 1956–2006.

As Pants the Hart

for SATB voices and piano

Nahum Tate, 1652–1715
and Nicholas Brady, 1695–1726
based on Psalm 42

John Leavitt



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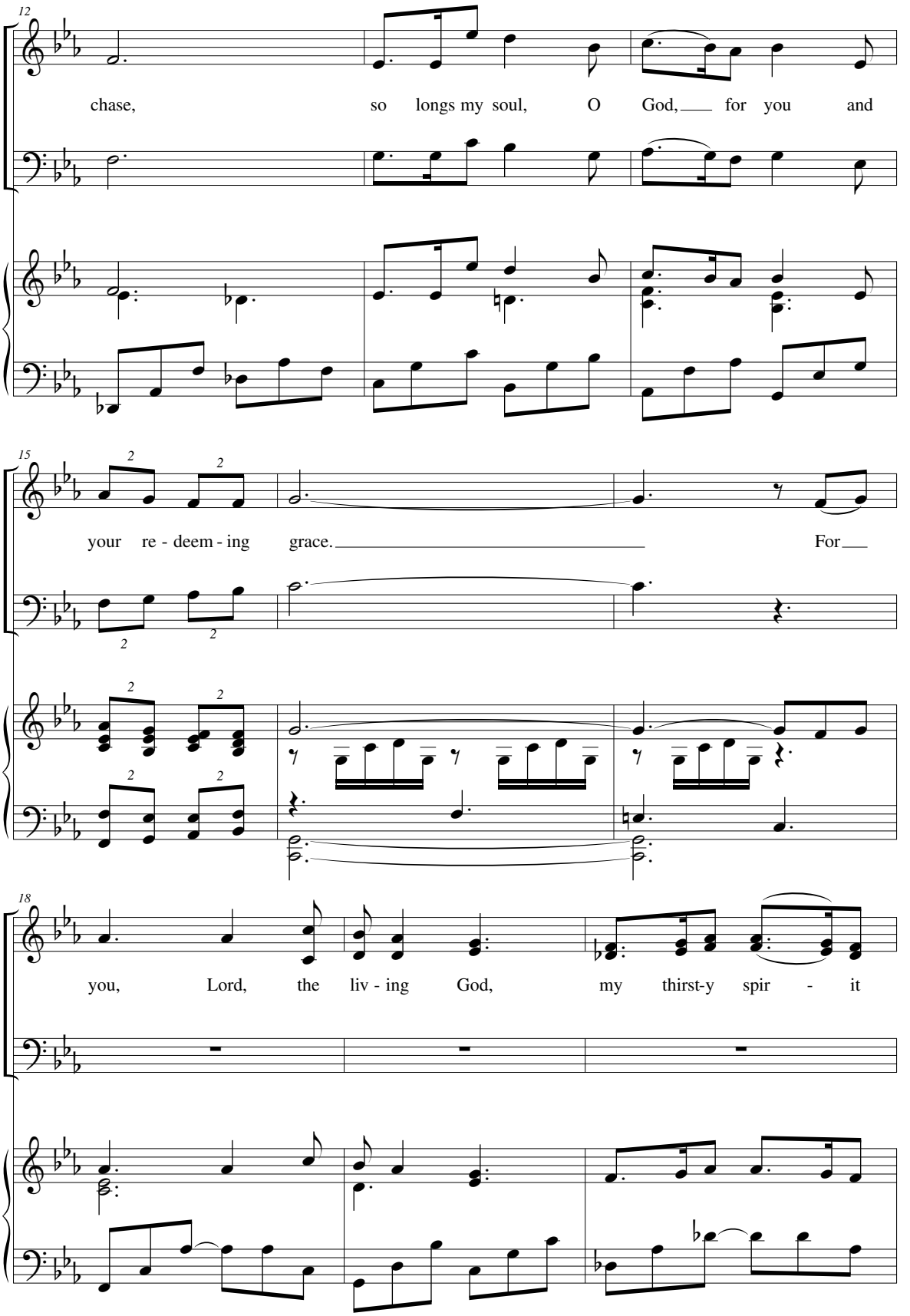

12
chase, so longs my soul, O God, for you and
15
your re - deem - ing grace. For
18
you, Lord, the liv - ing God, my thirst-y spir - it

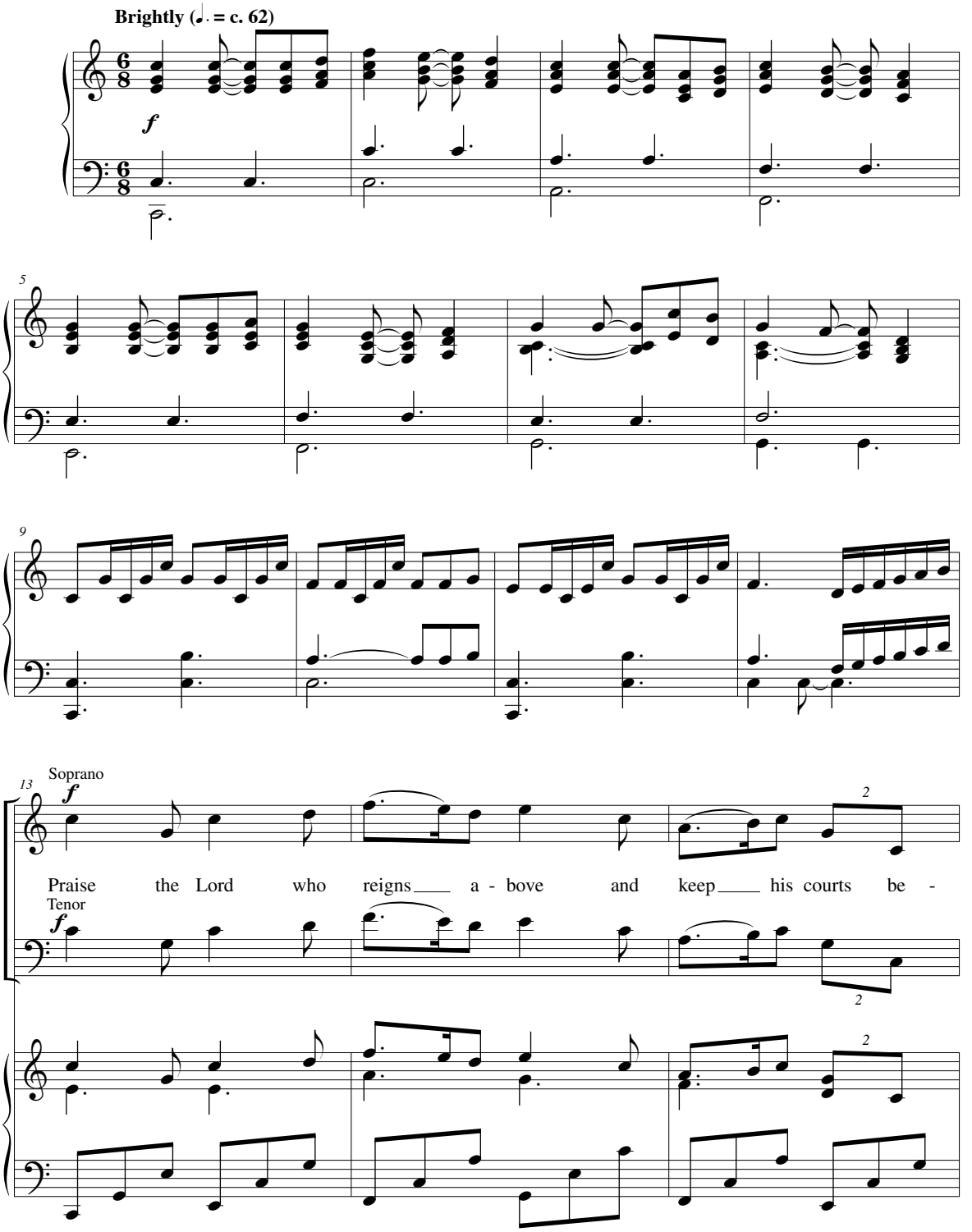
In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas, 1858–2008.

Praise the Lord!

for SATB voices and piano

Charles Wesley, 1743
based on Psalm 150

John Leavitt



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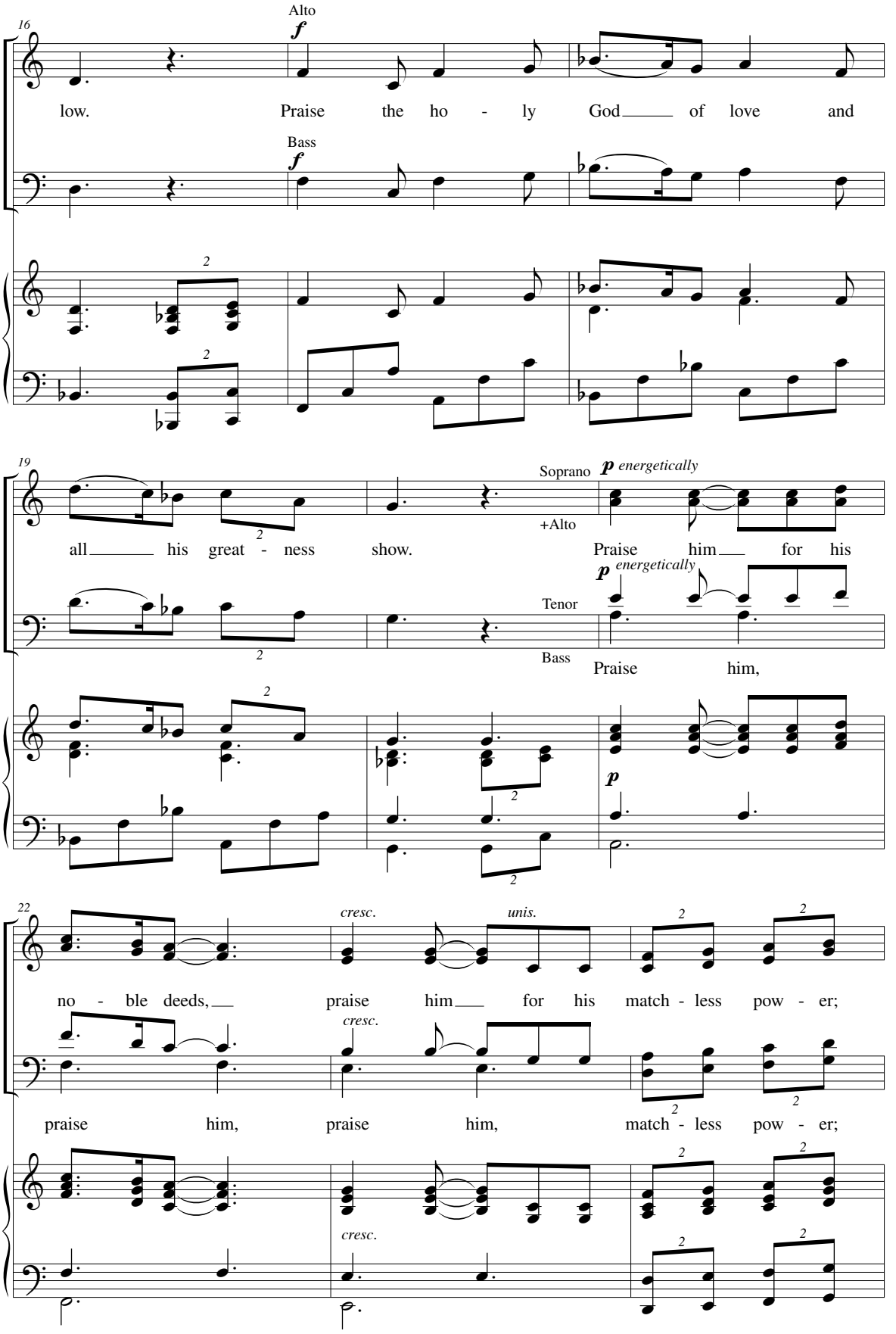
16
Alto
f
low. Praise the ho - ly God of love and
Bass
f
19
Soprano
p energetically
+Alto
all his great - ness show. Praise him for his
p energetically
Tenor
Bass
Praise him,
p
22
cresc.
unis.
no - ble deeds, praise him for his match - less pow - er;
cresc.
praise him, praise him, match - less pow - er;
cresc.