Preface

When churches shut down for Covid-19 in March, 2020, I wondered what I could do to comfort the dear people of our congregation. How can I stay connected? I was inspired by the work of Pastor Philipp Nicolai, who saw 1,300 parishioners in Unna, Germany die from the plague in the winter of 1597–1598. His creative response was to write both words and music to the beloved hymns "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" and "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern." While I could not write stirring words like Pastor Nicolai, I could write music! With many of our church members living out their lives online, I committed to posting recordings of one new organ piece per week on Facebook. I wrote fourteen preludes in fourteen weeks. Nine of those pieces are shared in this current volume, eight of which were newly composed.

One piece, VICTIMAE PASCHALI LAUDES, was based on an earlier work. Some ten years ago, my late mother's best friend, Judy Nizzola, asked me to write something to be played at her funeral, which I did. I rewrote the piece during the Covid lockdown. Judy died during the pandemic, but a funeral was impossible until restrictions lightened. So on June 26, 2021 at St. Mary Cathedral, Gaylord, Michigan, I fulfilled Judy's wish and played the piece at her funeral.

Two preludes, CANDLER and PROSPECT, were later additions utilizing tunes from *All Creation Sings*, the hymnal supplement published by Augsburg Fortress in 2020. Prior to these additions, I had been thinking of the collection as suitable for funerals, with my VICTORY serving as a triumphant postlude. PROSPECT and CANDLER broaden the focus to include comfort in times of serious illness. The last of the pieces, CANDLER, is dedicated to my cousin and her husband, Barbara and Michael Bloom, since it was written at their kitchen table in August, 2022 on the occasion of Mike's birthday. This was a joyful weekend when people felt comfortable gathering at an outdoor party, signaling a new phase of the pandemic.

The other dedications are to people who touched my soul during the lockdown, whether in person, online, or from heaven. They include a puppy named Daizee who came unbidden and unwanted into my life, but who, nonetheless, brought joy in a difficult time.

These little pieces are short and relatively easy to play, but they have great personal meaning to me. As I hoped to comfort the people of Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit, I now hope to offer comfort to a wider audience.

Soli Deo gloria.
—Karl Osterland

Sweet Is the Calm: Organ Settings on Hymns of Comfort
Karl Osterland

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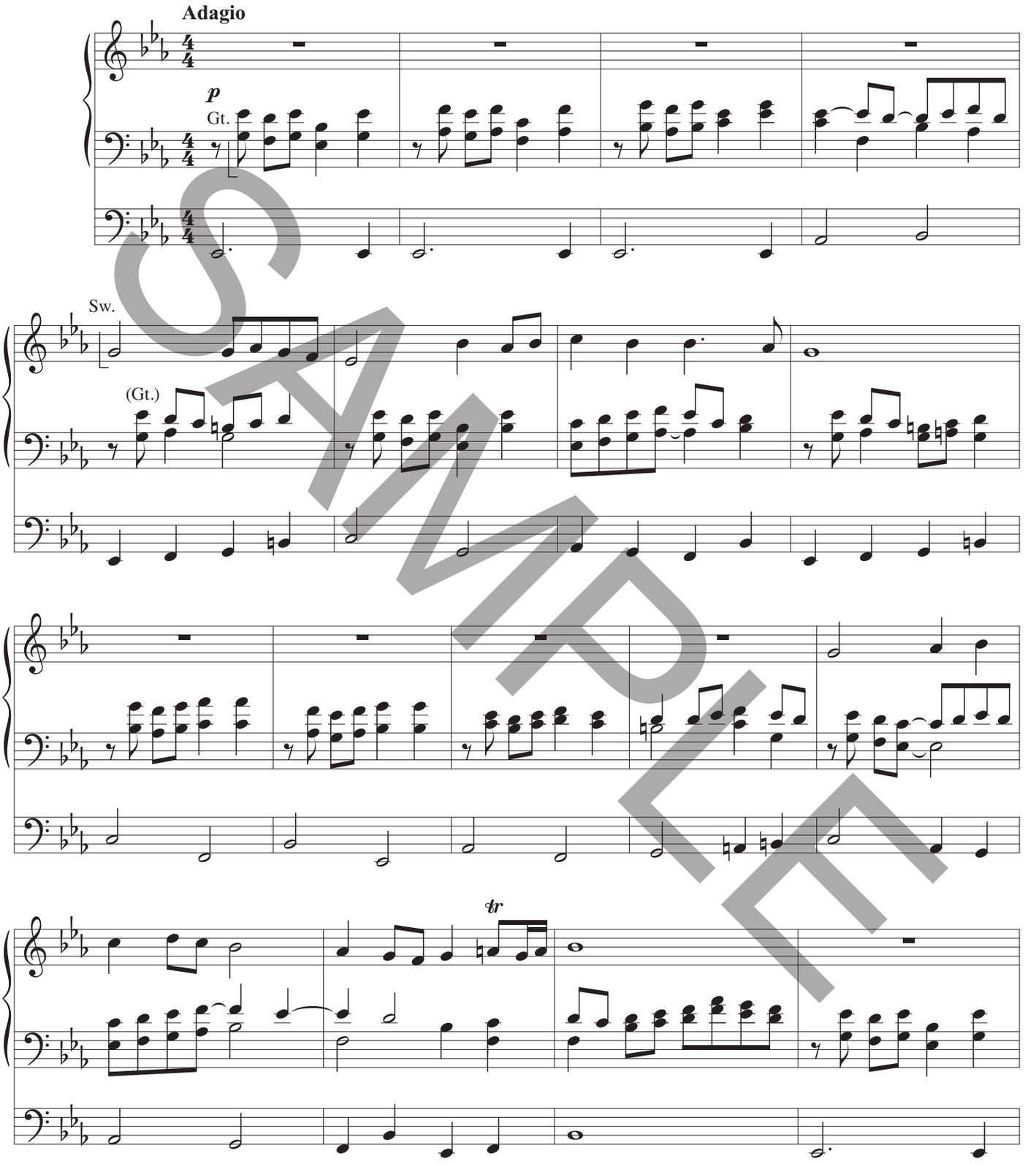
in memory of my father, Alvin Osterland (1912–1991)

Abide with Me

Sw: Solo 8'
Gt: Soft 8'
Ped: Soft 16', 8'; Gt/Ped.

EVENTIDE
setting, Karl Osterland



SAMPLE

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889
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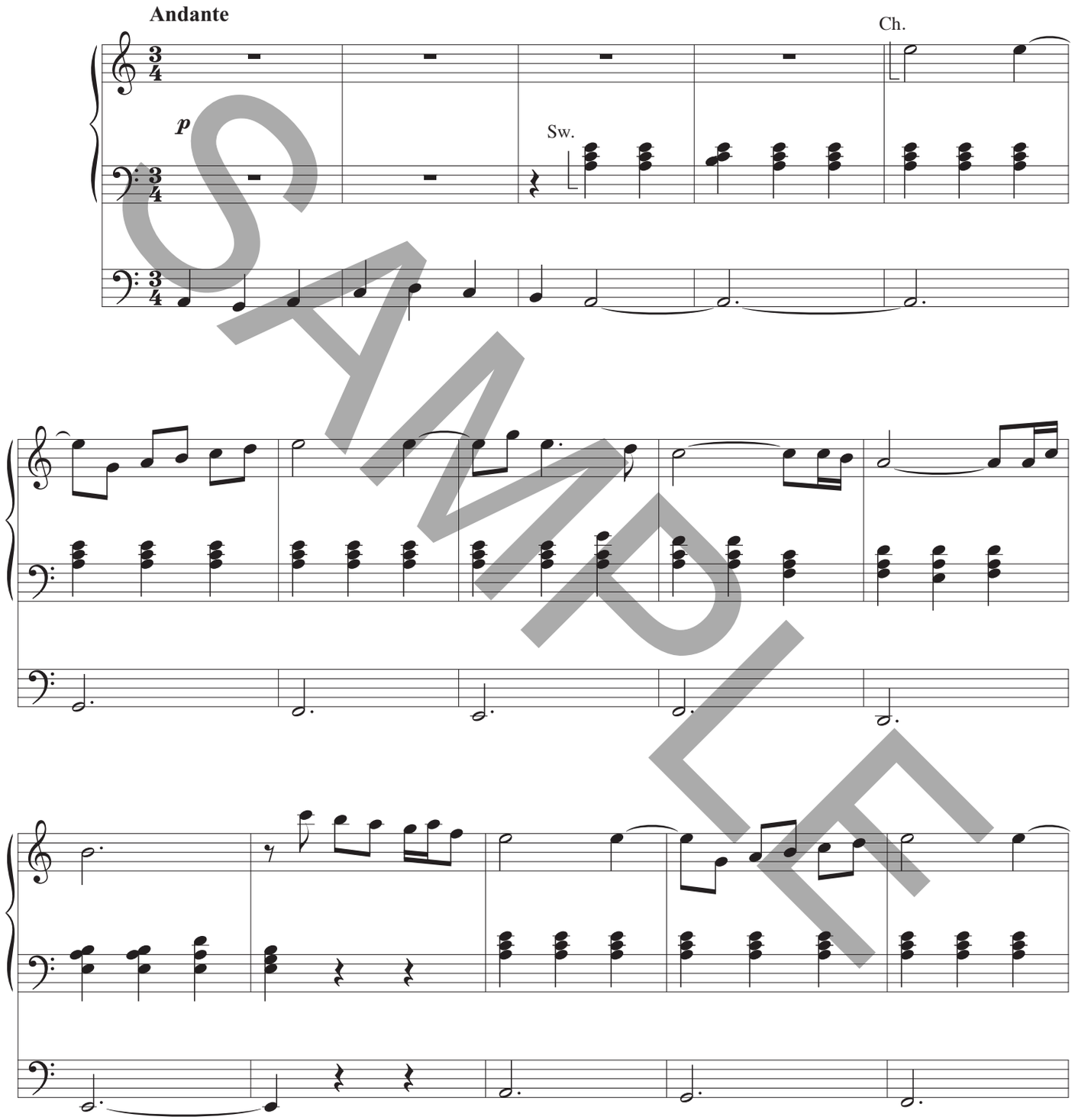
in memory of our dear friend, Judy Nizzola

Christians, to the Paschal Victim

Sw: Strings 8'
Gt: Flute 8'
Ch: Solo 8'
Ped: Soft 16', 8'

VICTIMAE PASCHALI
setting, Karl Osterland



SAMPLE

Tune: Plainsong mode I; attr. Wipo of Burgundy

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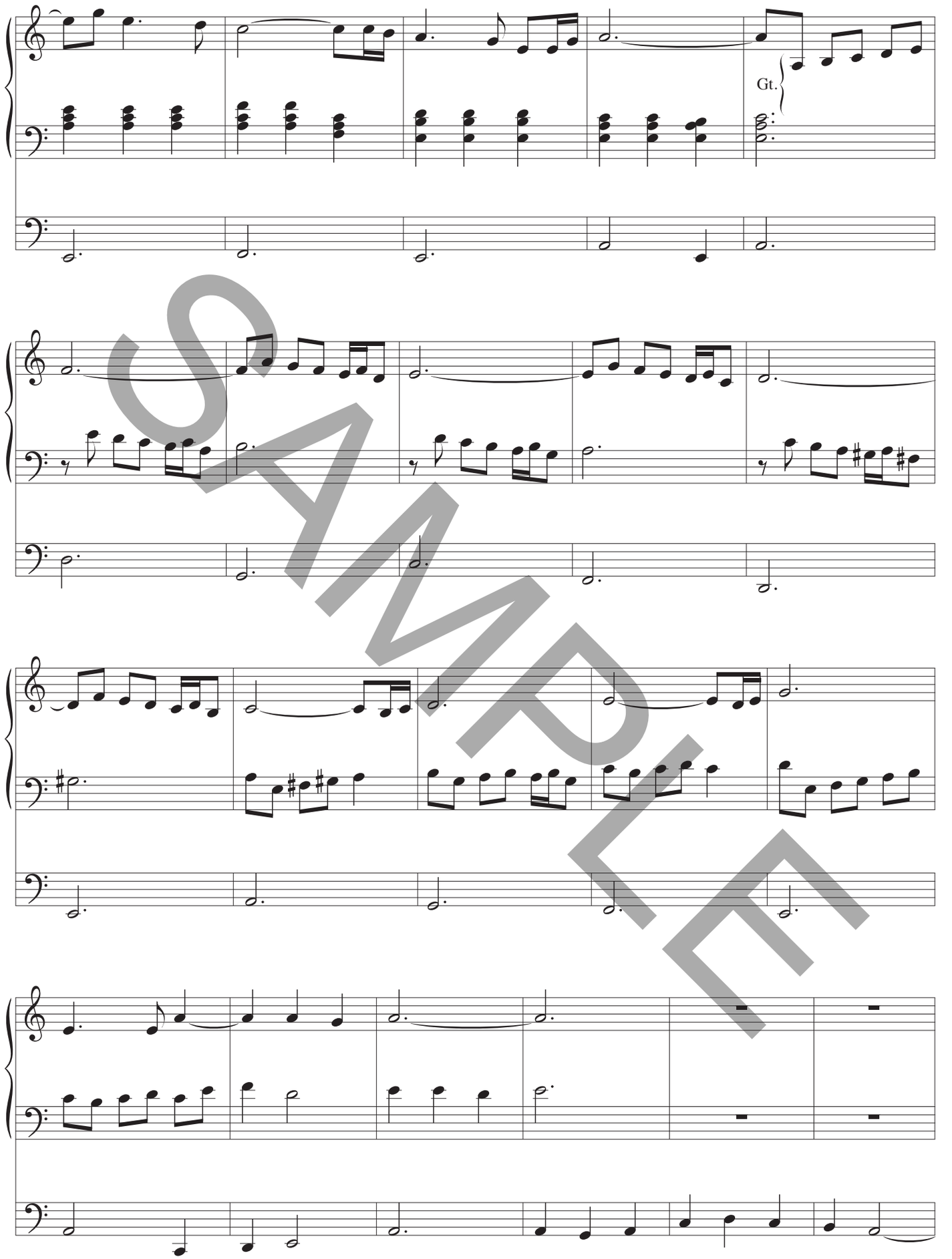


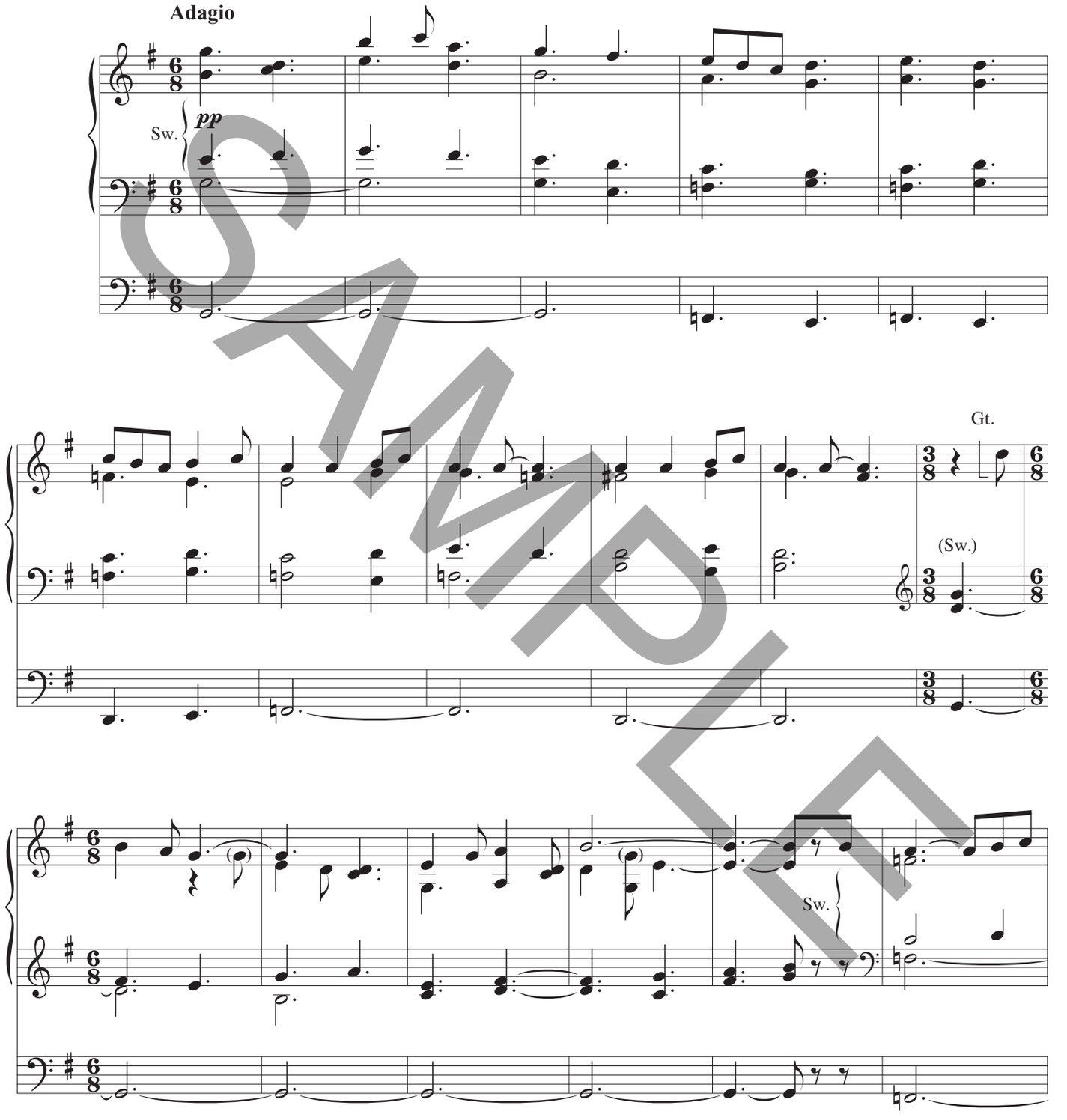
SAMPLE

For All the Saints

"...sweet is the calm of paradise the blest..."

Sw: Strings 8'
Gt: Flute 4'
Ped: Soft 16', 8'; Sw/Ped.

SINE NOMINE
setting, Karl Osterland



SAMPLE

Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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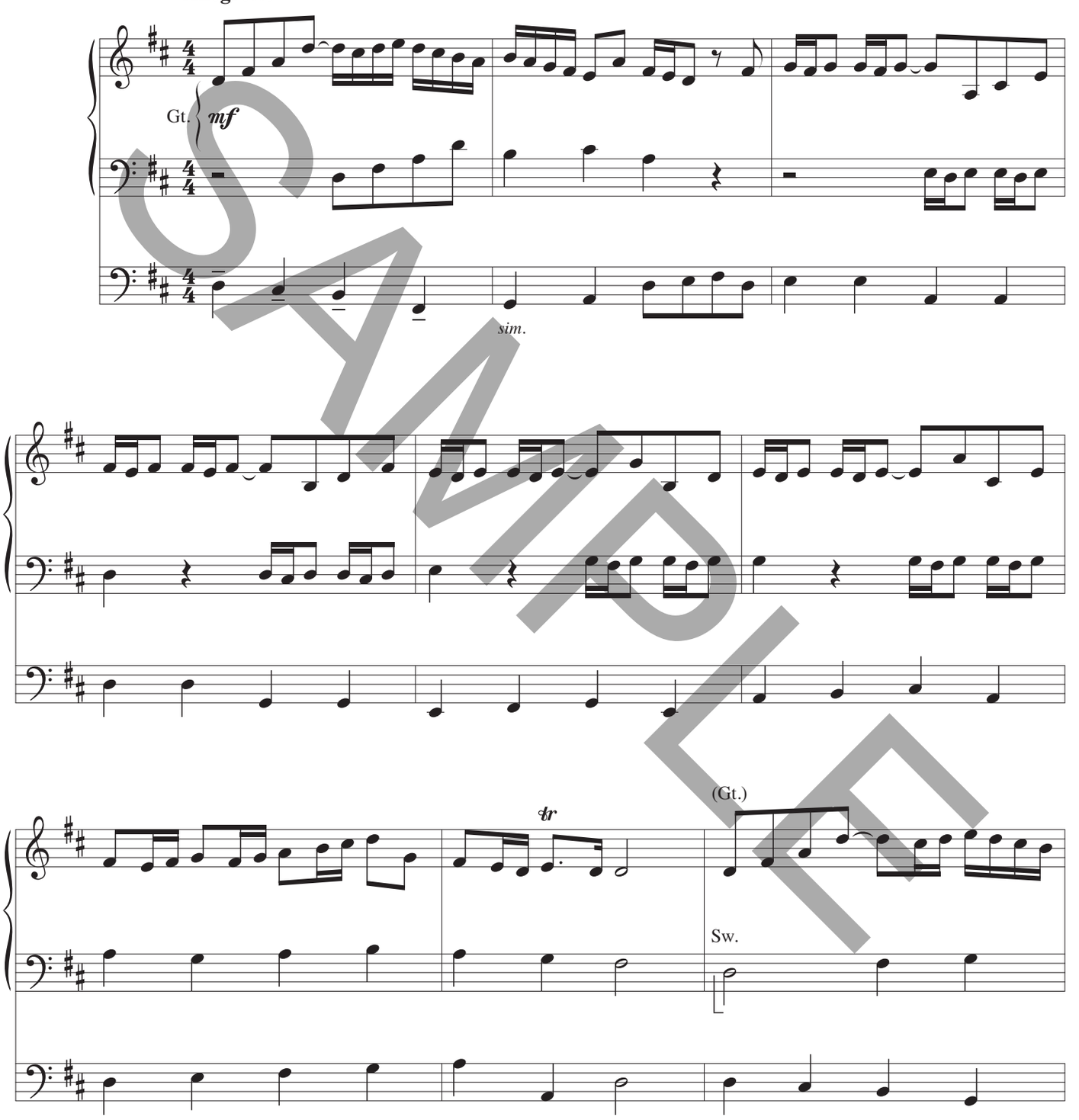
to the Rev. D. Lee Andjrzewski, Head Pastor, Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

Jesus Shall Reign

Sw: Trumpet 8'
Gt: Flutes 8', 2', (1-1/3')
Ped: 16', 8', 4'

DUKE STREET
setting, Karl Osterland



SAMPLE

Tune: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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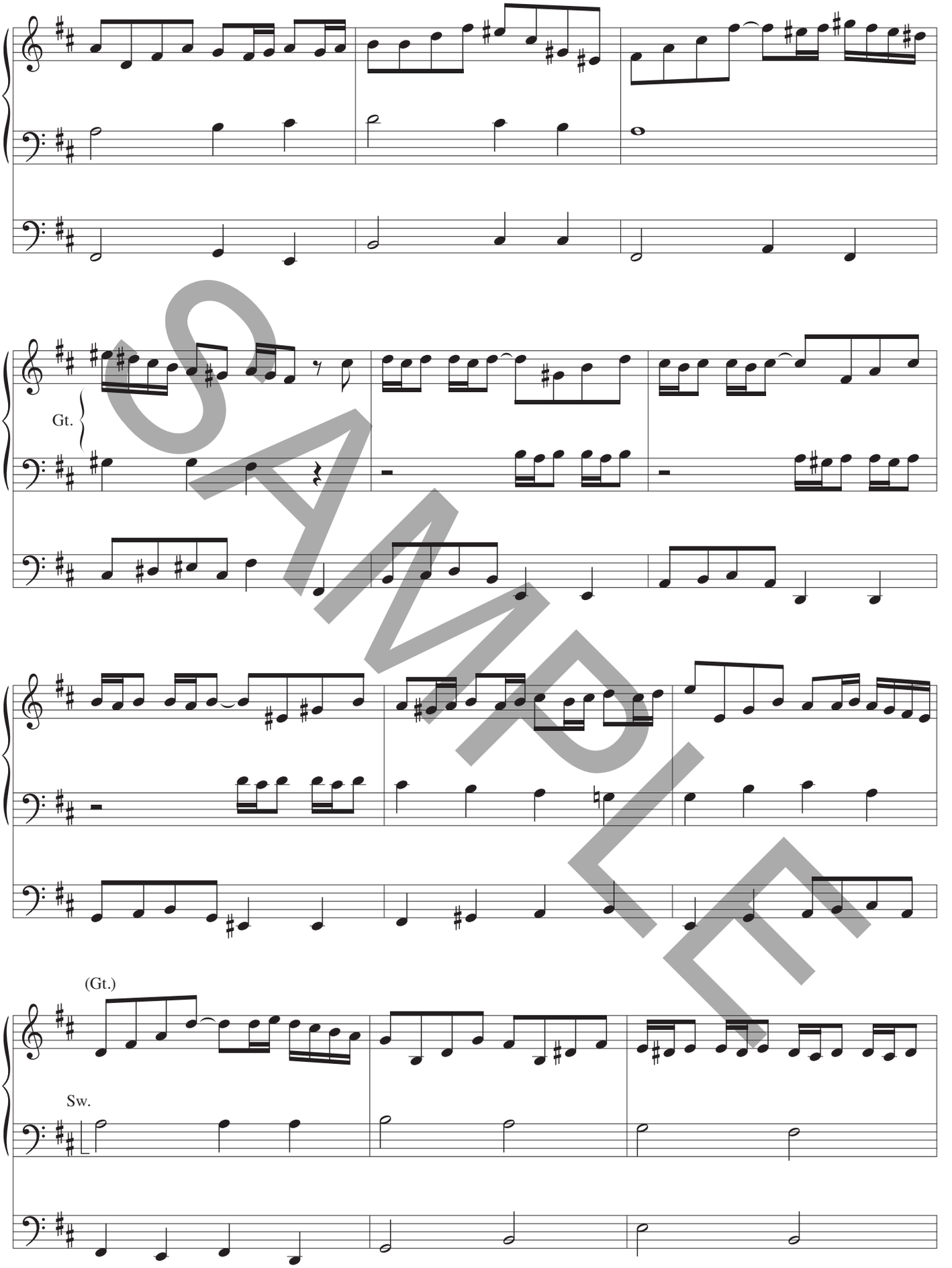


SAMPLE

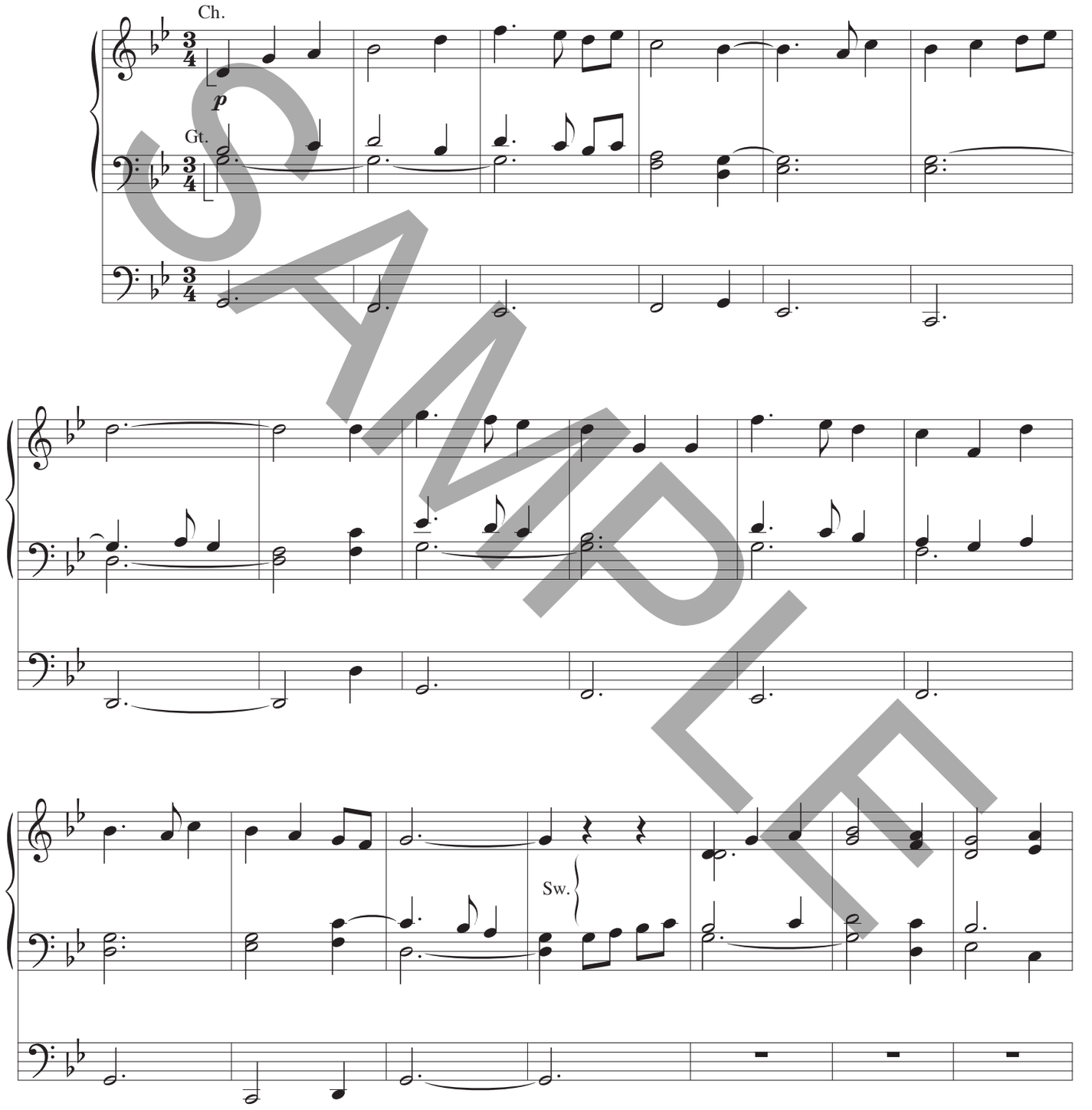
to Mert Spencer and Judy Moldenauer, my Zoom buddies

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Sw: Soft Reed 8' or Diapason 8'
Gt: Flute 8'
Ch: Solo 8'
Ped: Soft 16', 8'; Gt/Ped.

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT
setting, Karl Osterland

Andante



SAMPLE

Tune: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681

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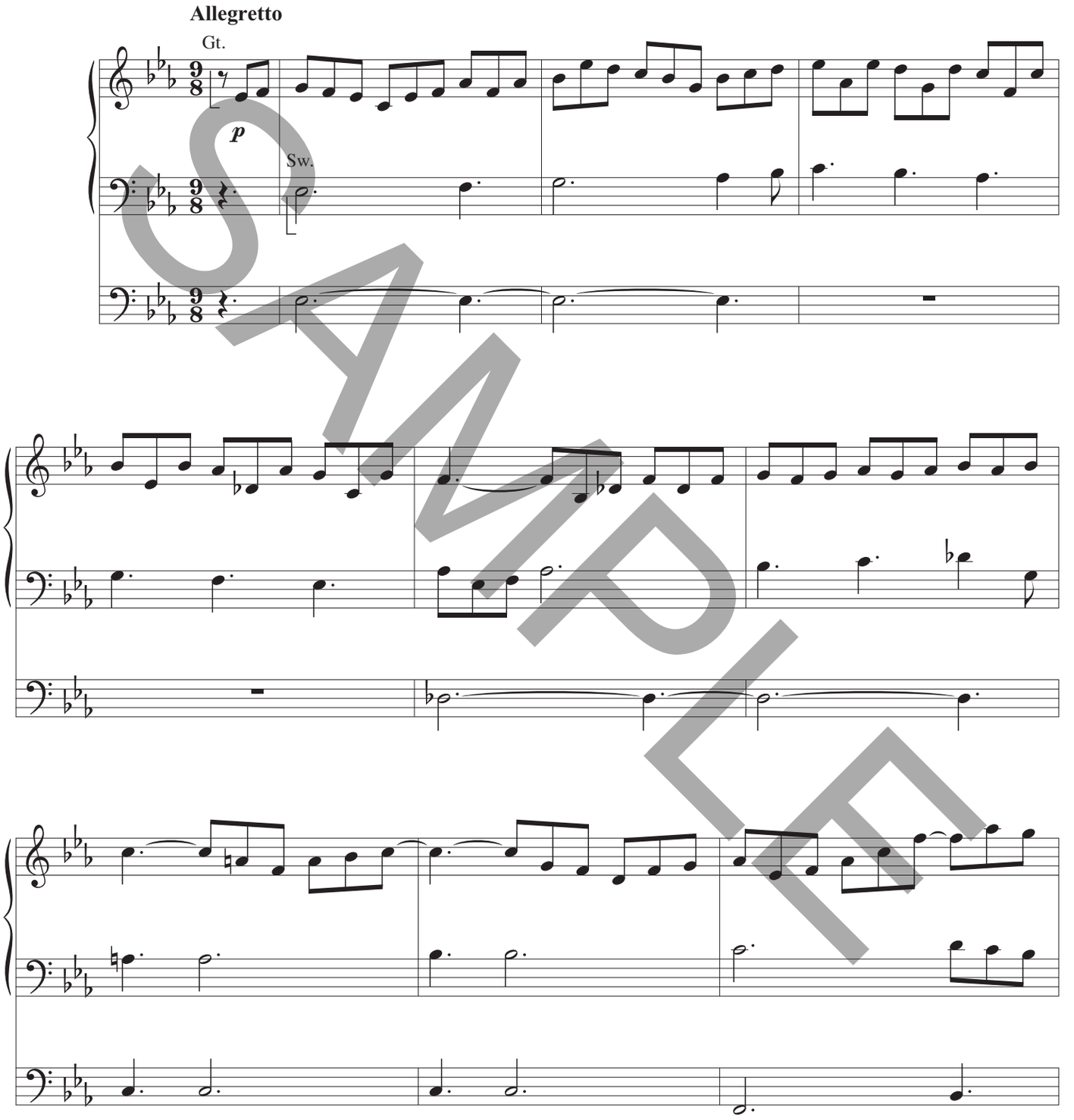
dedicated to Timothy Hoylman

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Sw: Strings 8'
Gt: Flute 8'
Ch: Solo 8'
Ped: Soft 16', 8'; (Sw/Ped.)

St. Columba
setting, Karl Osterland



SAMPLE

Tune: Irish tune

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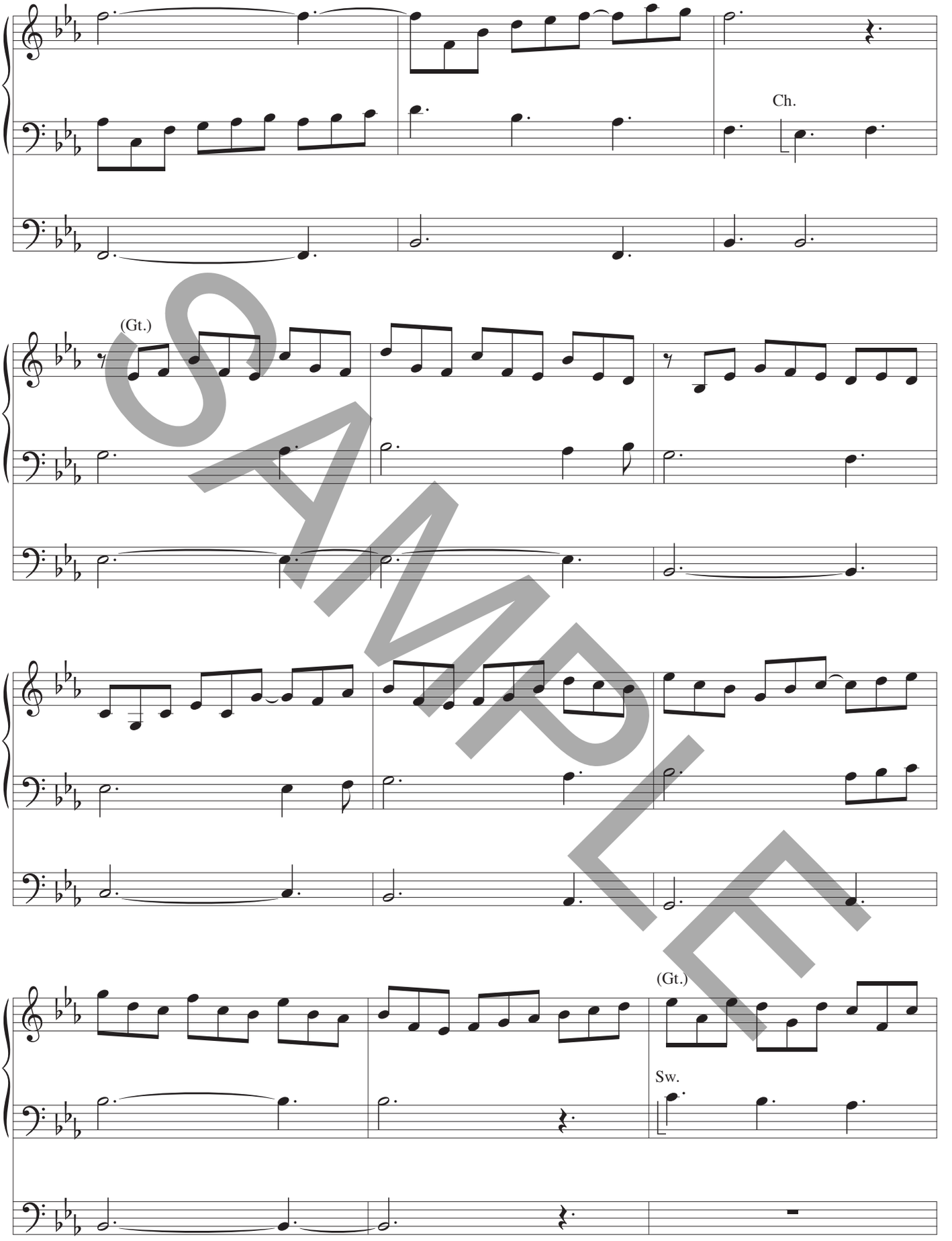

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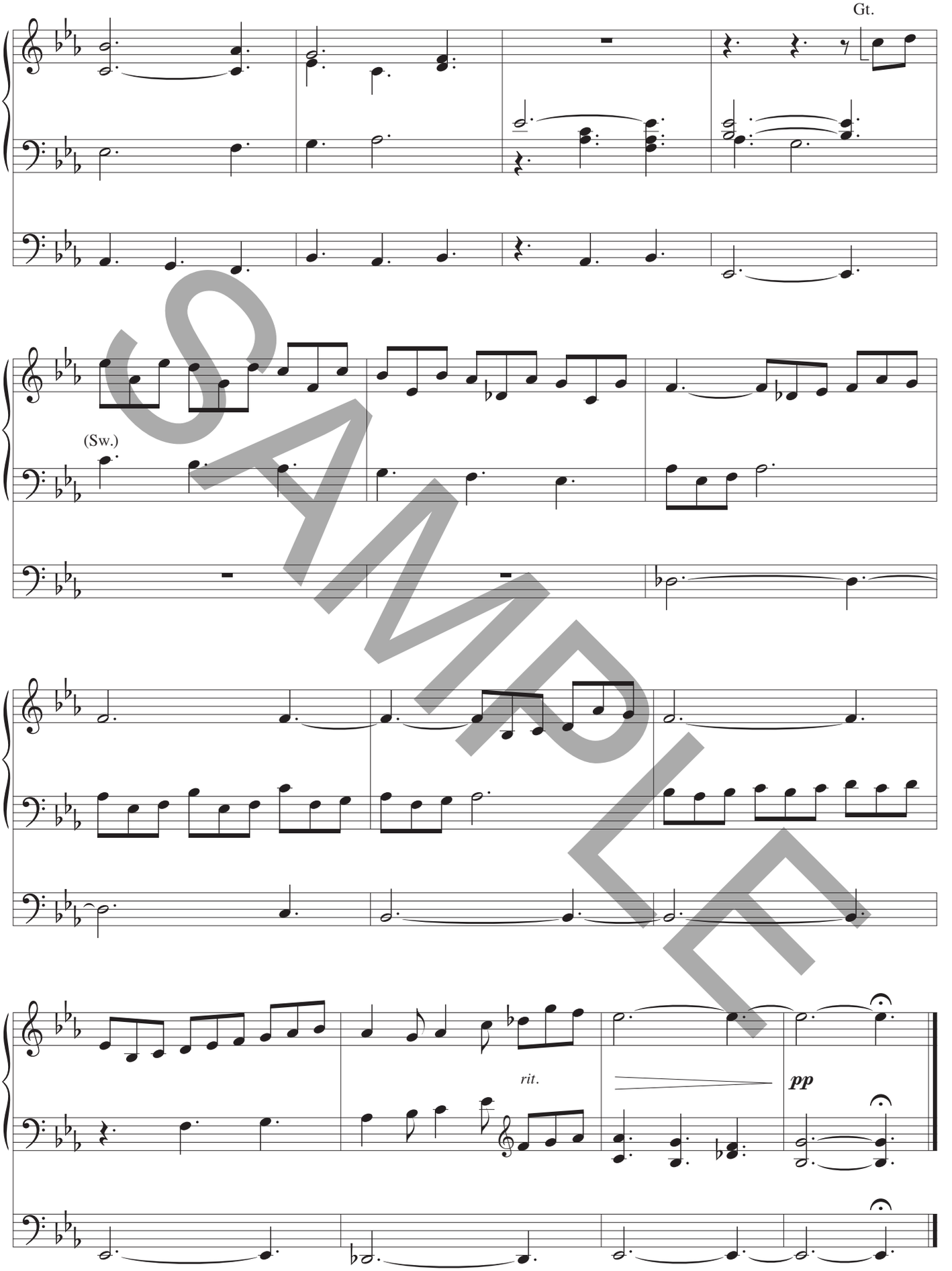


SAMPLE

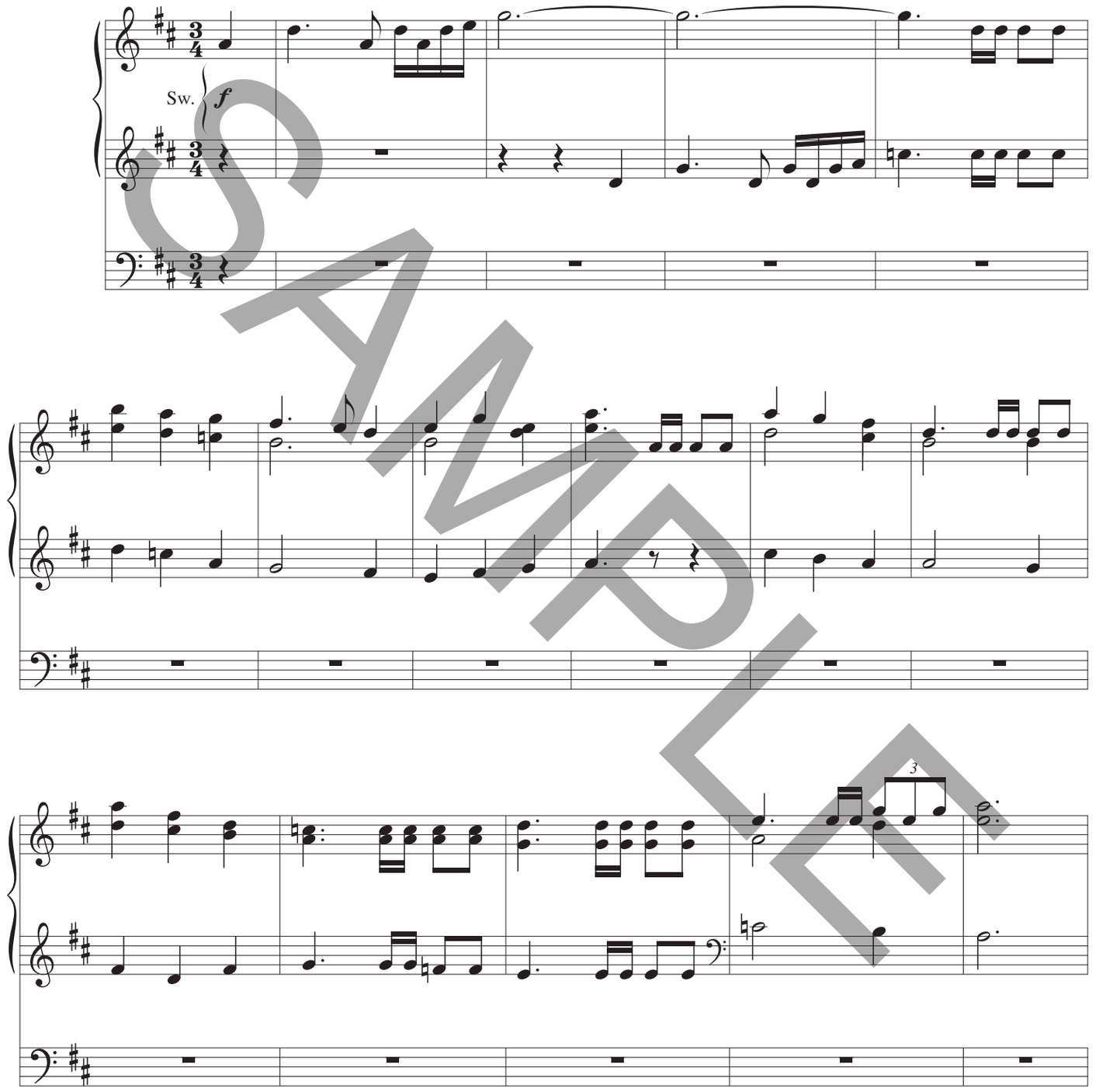
to Joe, Adrian, and Daizee

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

Sw: Solo Trumpet 8'
Gt: Full
Ped: Full; Gt/Ped.

VICTORY
setting, Karl Osterland

Maestoso



SAMPLE

Tune: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594

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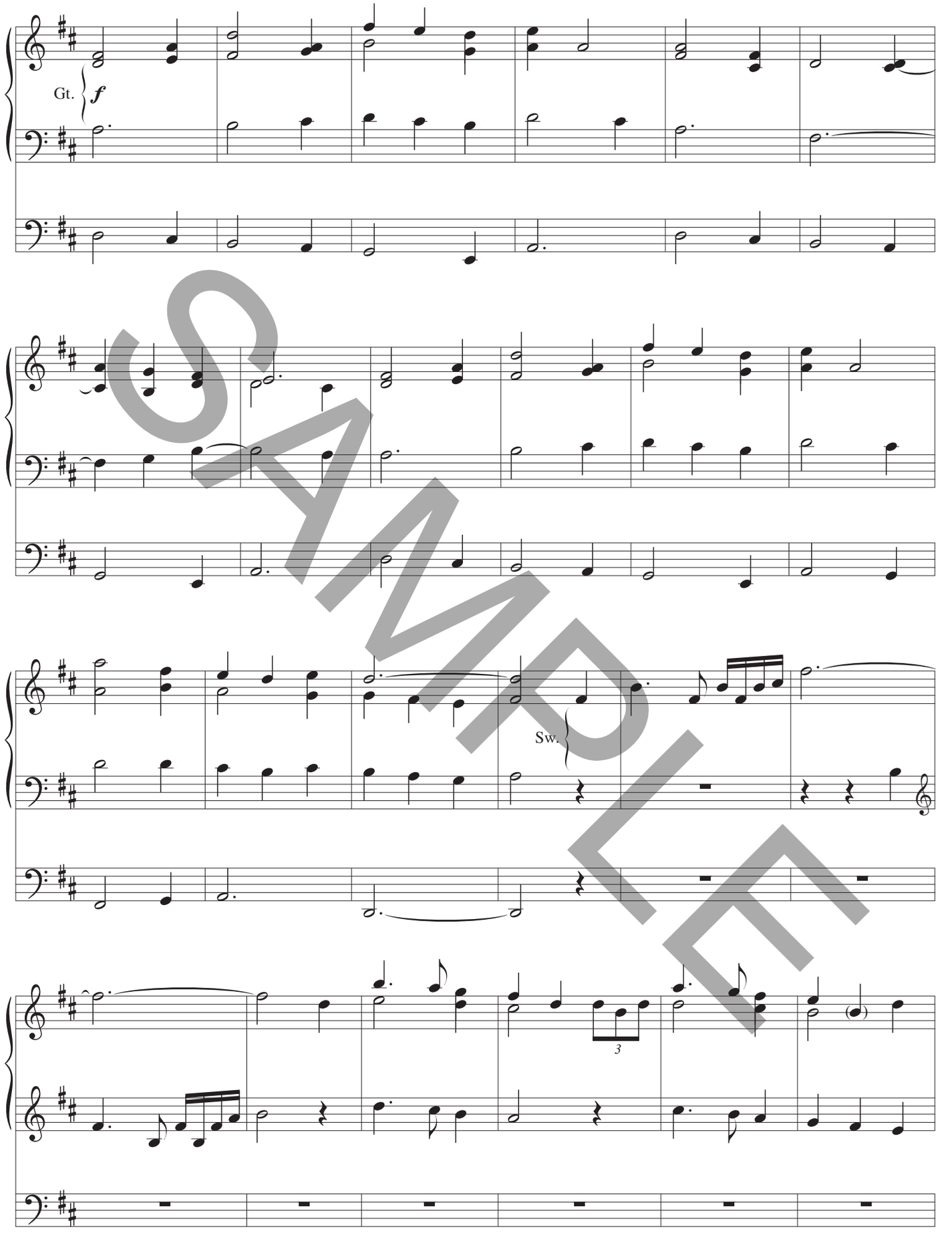


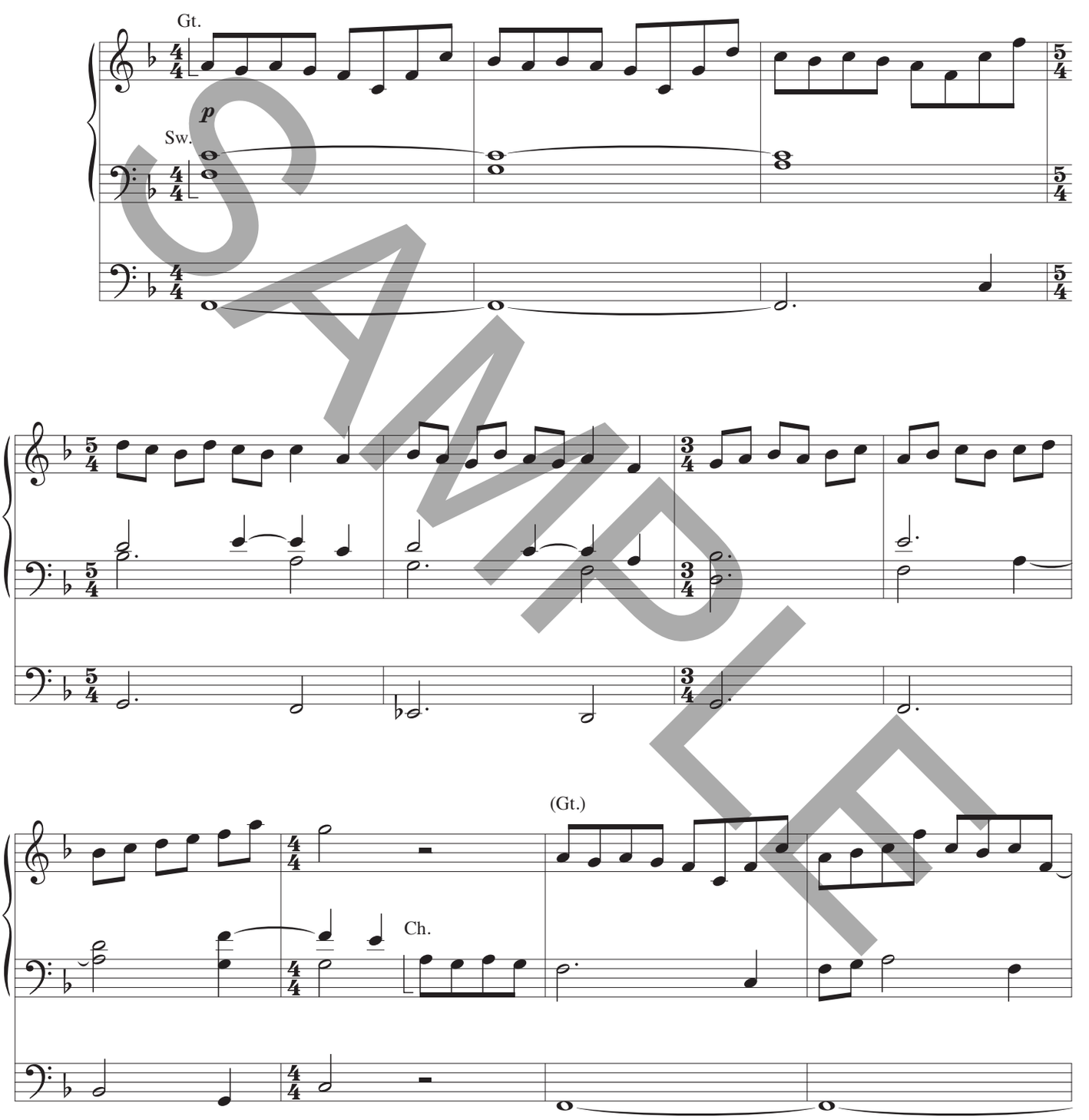
SAMPLE

dedicated to Prof. Leonard Johnson and the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club, 1976–1979

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Sw: Strings 8'
Gt: Flute 8'
Ch: Solo 8'
Ped: Soft 16', 8'; Sw/Ped.

BALM IN GILEAD
setting, Karl Osterland



SAMPLE

Tune: African American spiritual

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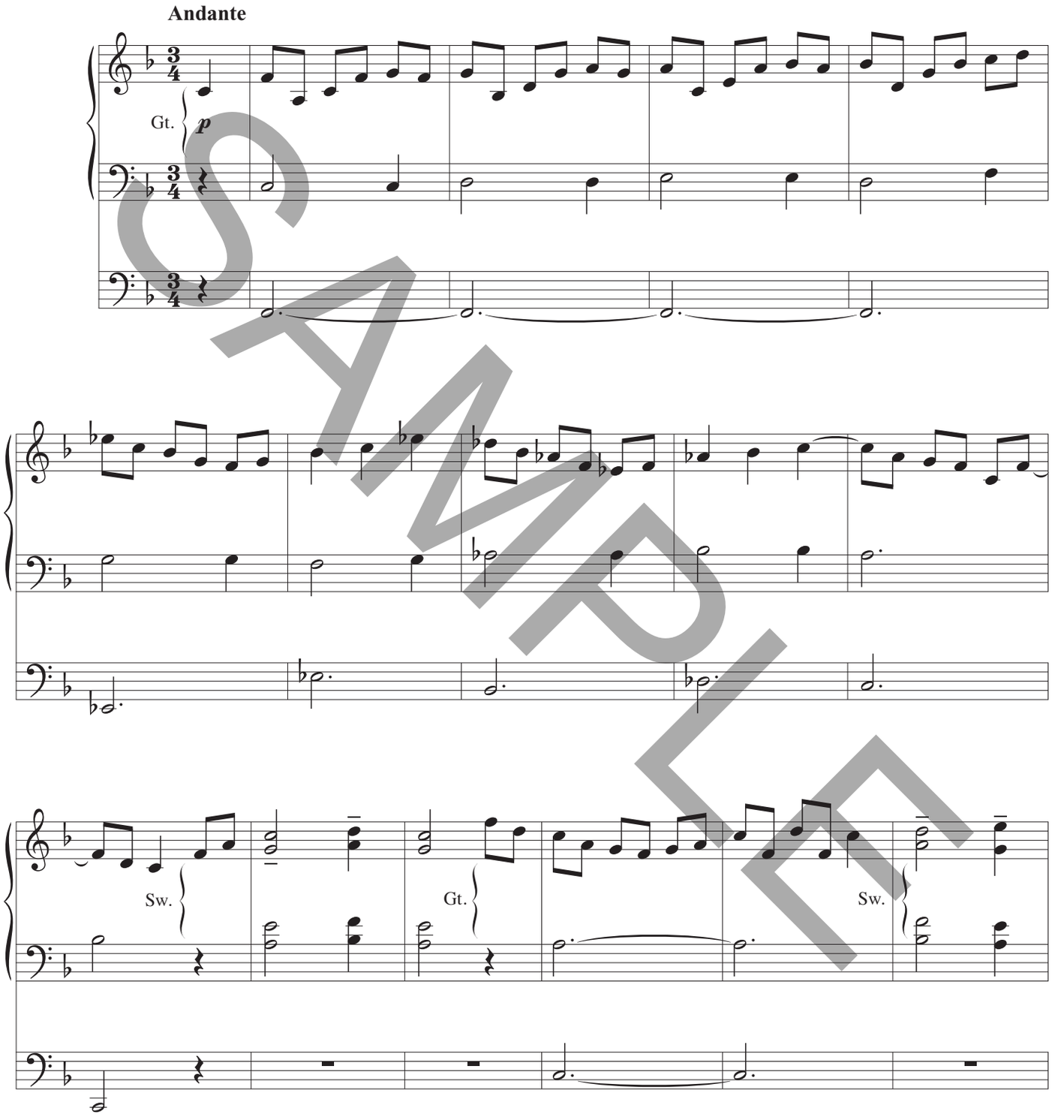
When Eyes That We Once Knew as Keen

Sw: Soft Reed 8'
Gt: Flute 8'
Ped: Soft 16', 8'; Gt/Ped.

CANDLER
setting, Karl Osterland



SAMPLE

Tune: Scottish melody

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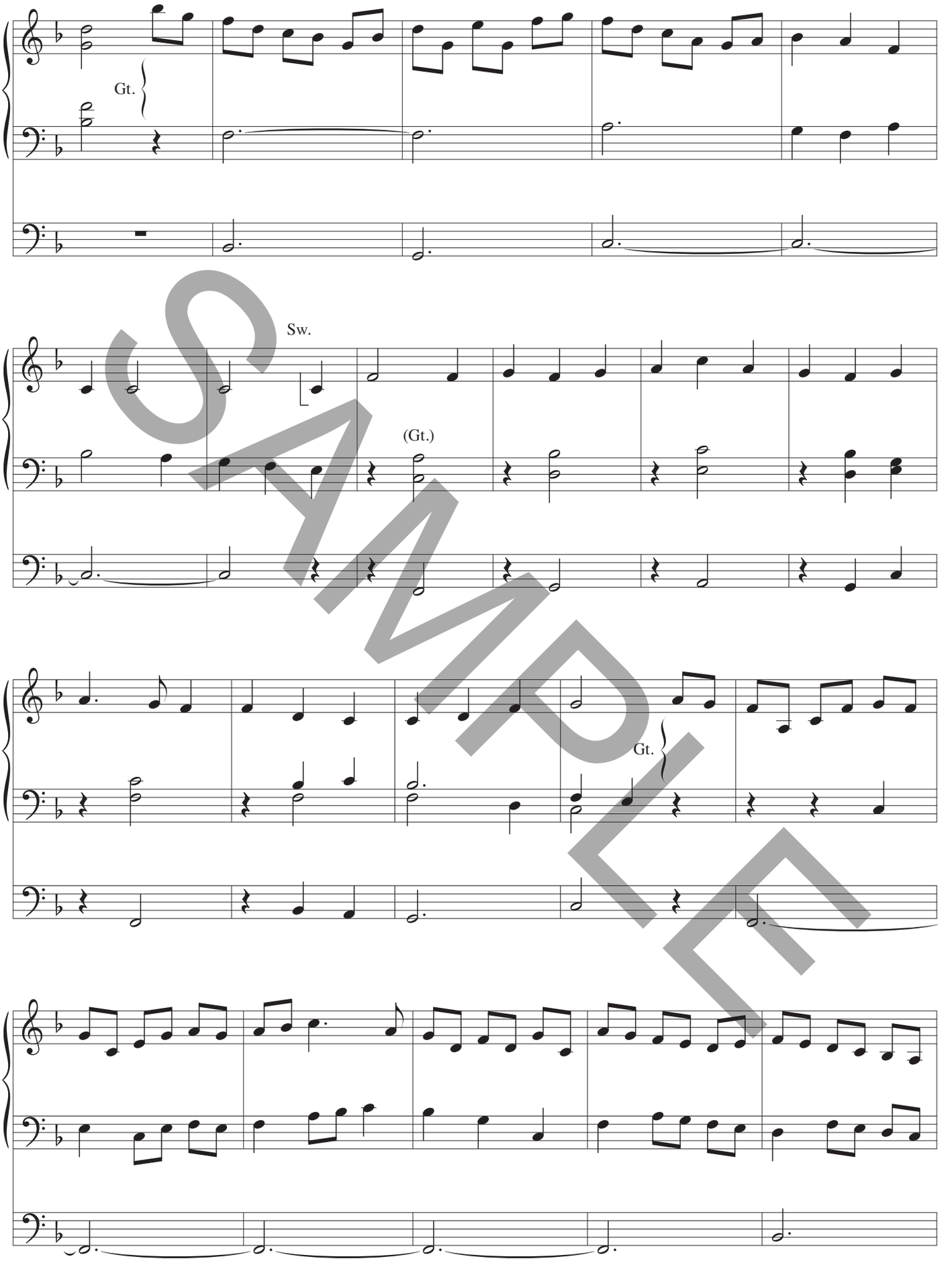


SAMPLE

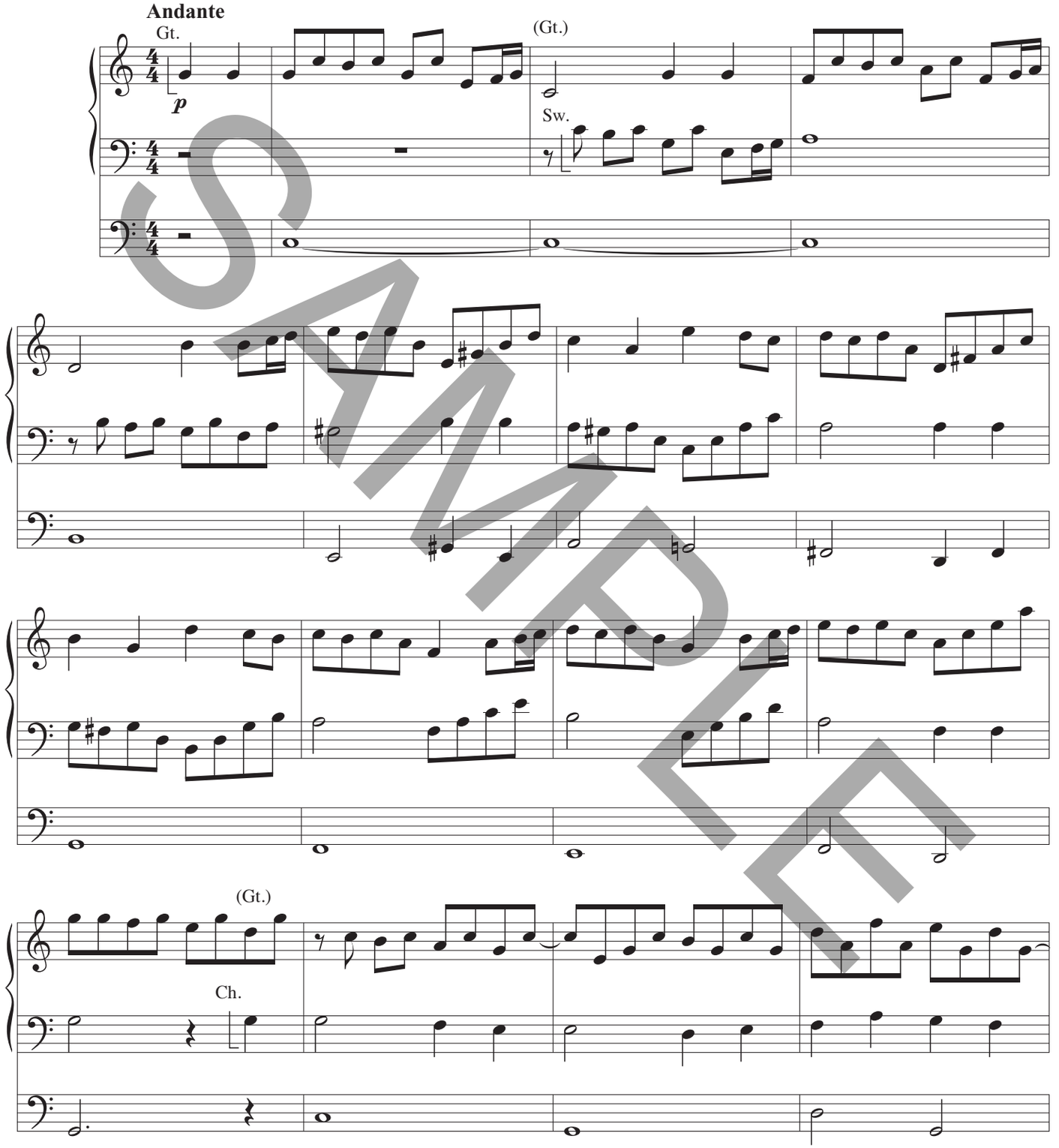
to my cousin, Margery Guinther

When Peace like a River

It Is Well with My Soul

Sw: Strings 8'
Gt: Flute 8'
Ch: Solo 8'
Ped: Soft 16', 8'; Sw/Ped.

VILLE DU HAVRE
setting, Karl Osterland



SAMPLE

Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

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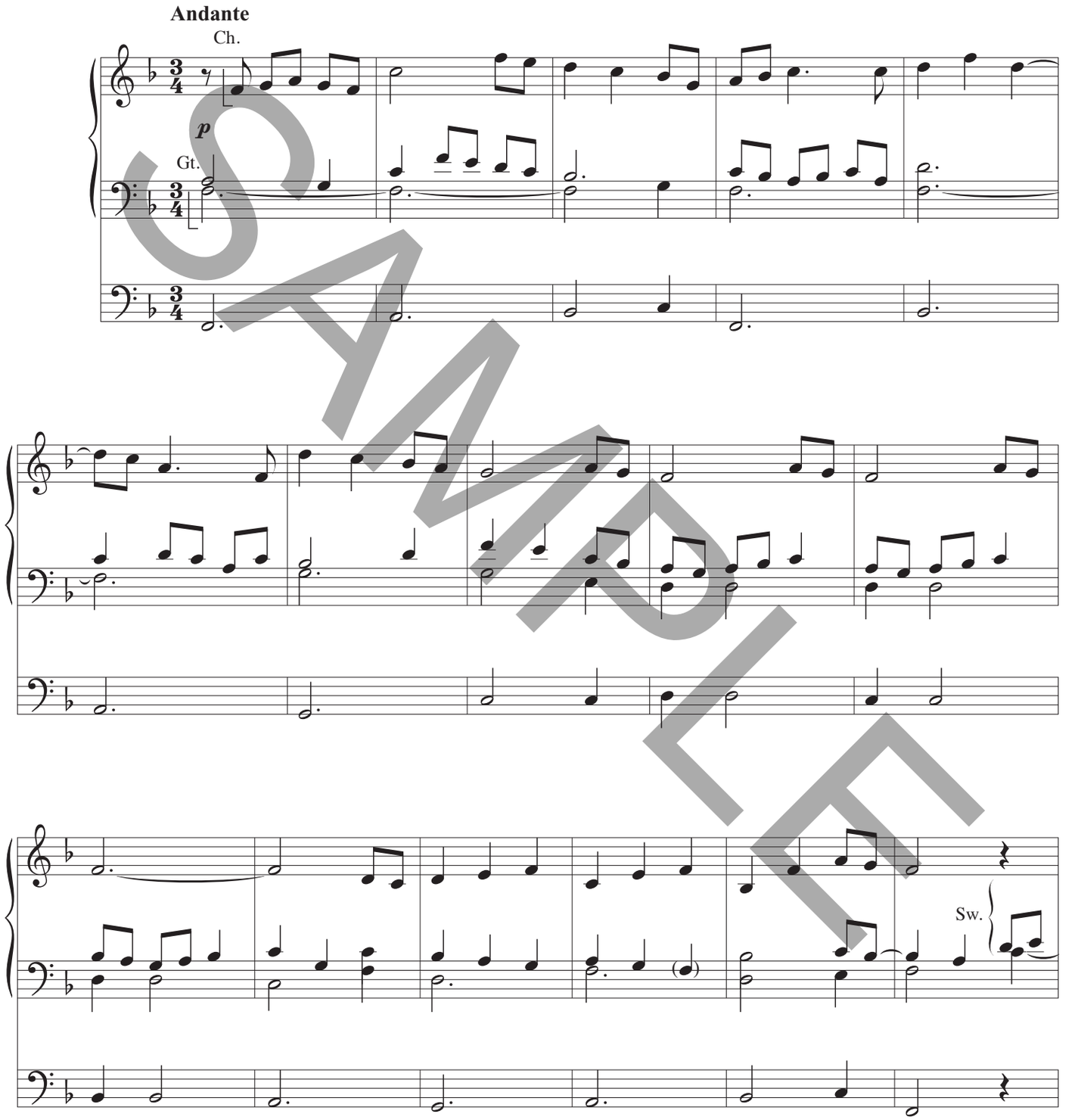
to Lauren, Matt, and Ollie

When We Must Bear Persistent Pain

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

Sw: Strings 8'
Gt: Flutes 8', 4'
Ch: Solo 8'
Ped: Soft 16', 8'; Sw/Ped.

PROSPECT
setting, Karl Osterland



SAMPLE

Tune: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony,* 1835

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SAMPLE