The Jesus Cycle

A Music-Drama for Church

By Nigel Bruce

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Part 1 The Eternal Jesus

Part 2 Jesus: The Once-in-Eternity Event

Part 3 The Ever-Present Jesus

Act 1 Heaven's War

Act 2 The battle of earth
Act 3 Jesus our Hope

Act 1 God becomes us
Act 2 The Life of Jesus
Act 3 The Rise and Fall of God

Act 1 Jesus Today
Act 2 The Coming Jesus
Act 3 Forever Jesus

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Synopsis: This is Heaven B. E. [before earth], and Lucifer is the leading angel, in charge of music. He rebels against what he sees as God's authoritarianism.

Characters:

Lucifer
God [3 to make up trinity]
Angels—some decide to follow Lucifer, some follow God

The audience also participates: singing a song, and found themselves amongst the war itself

Orchestration:

You need at least: a choir, bass drum, cymbals and other loud percussion. You can orchestrate the rest with whatever instruments you have available to you.

In the war section, there is various military march rhythms you can add to percussion. There are also a wide selection of bugle calls used in the military.

Set: Because this is heaven, it is well lit, bright and colorful.

Props:
Breastplate
Shoes
Protective armory
Helmets
Swords and guns
Cannons

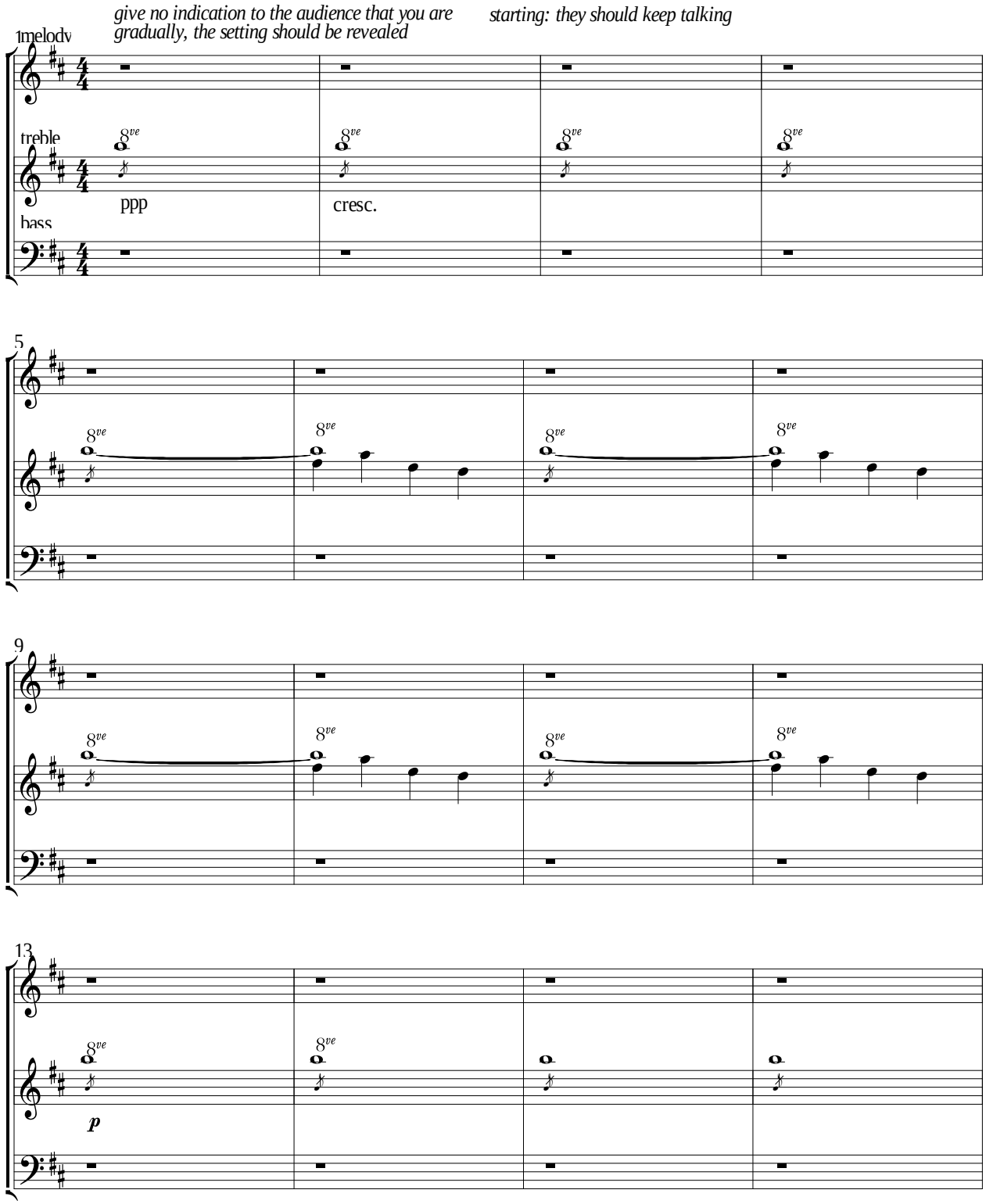
Sound system
War sounds

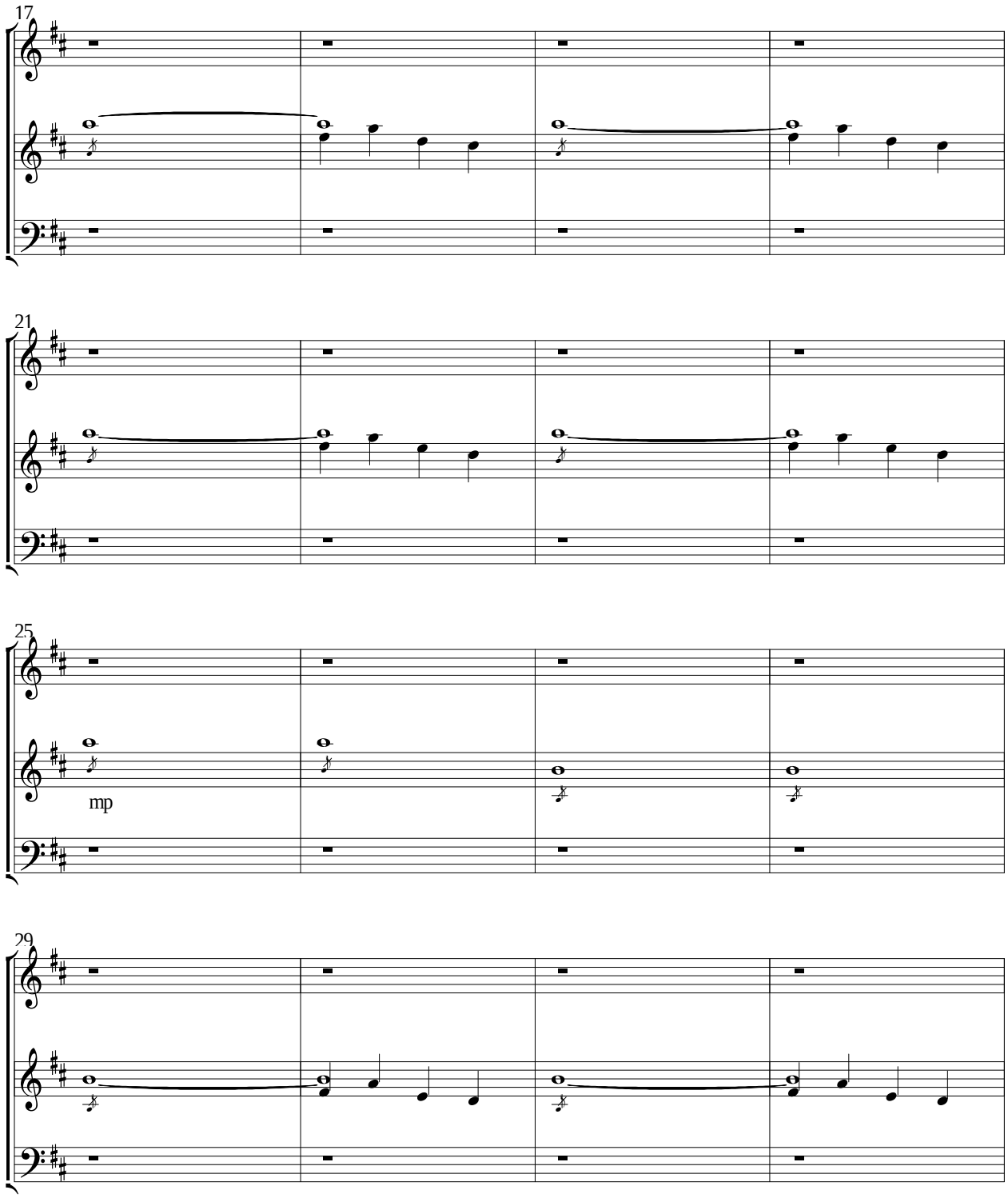
Costumes:

God is simply clothed in a bright white gown

Lucifer looks like a musician [composer]

Angels: white with wings


give no indication to the audience that you are gradually, the setting should be revealed
starting: they should keep talking
1melody
treble
bass
8ve
ppp
cresc.
5
9
13
p



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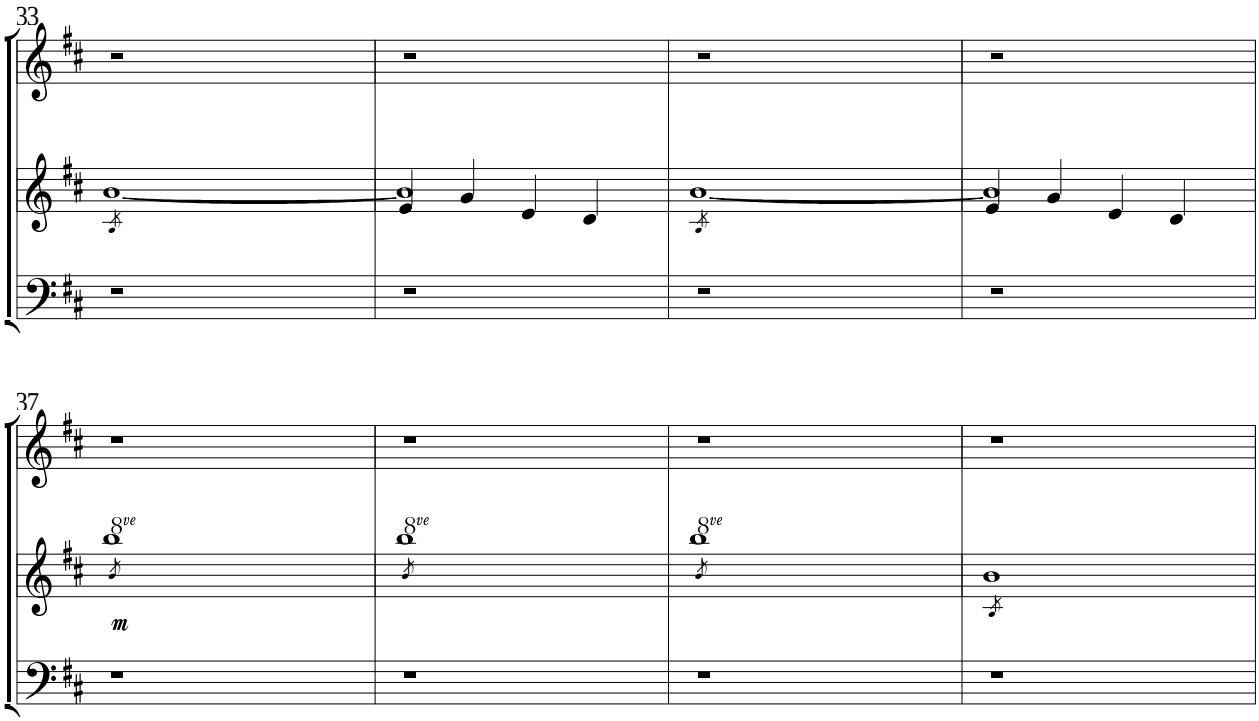
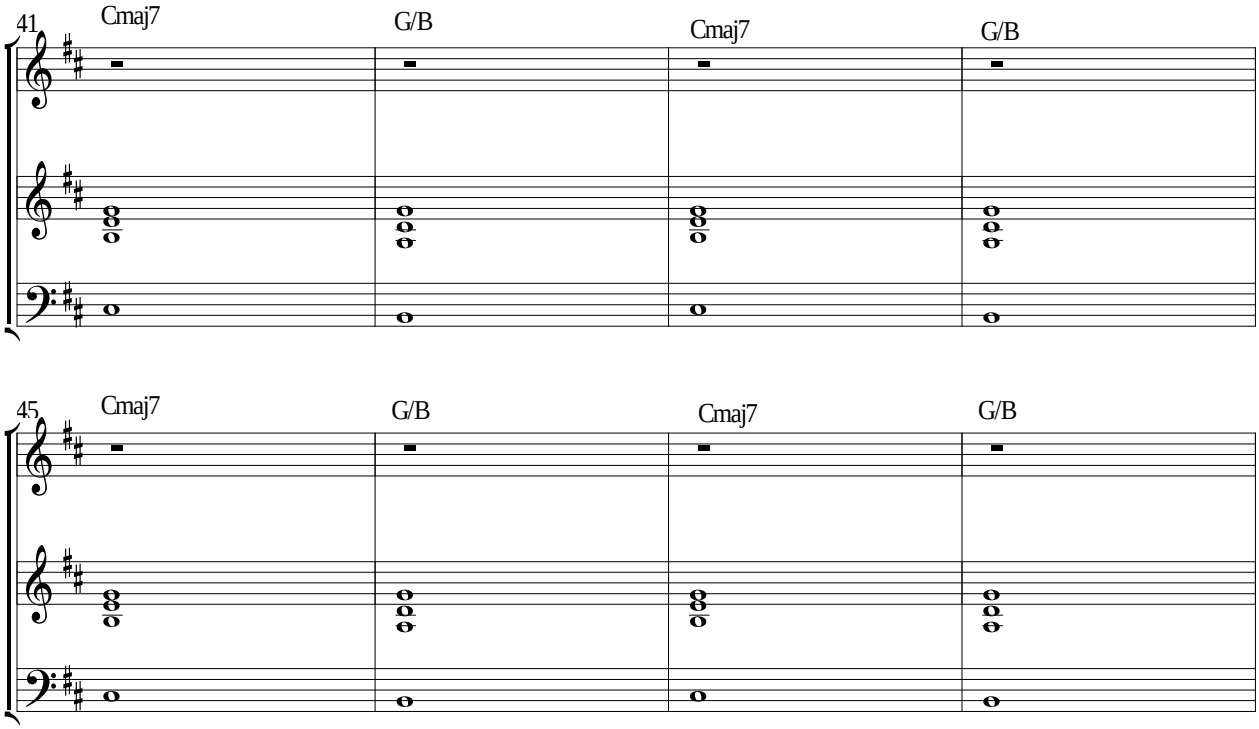
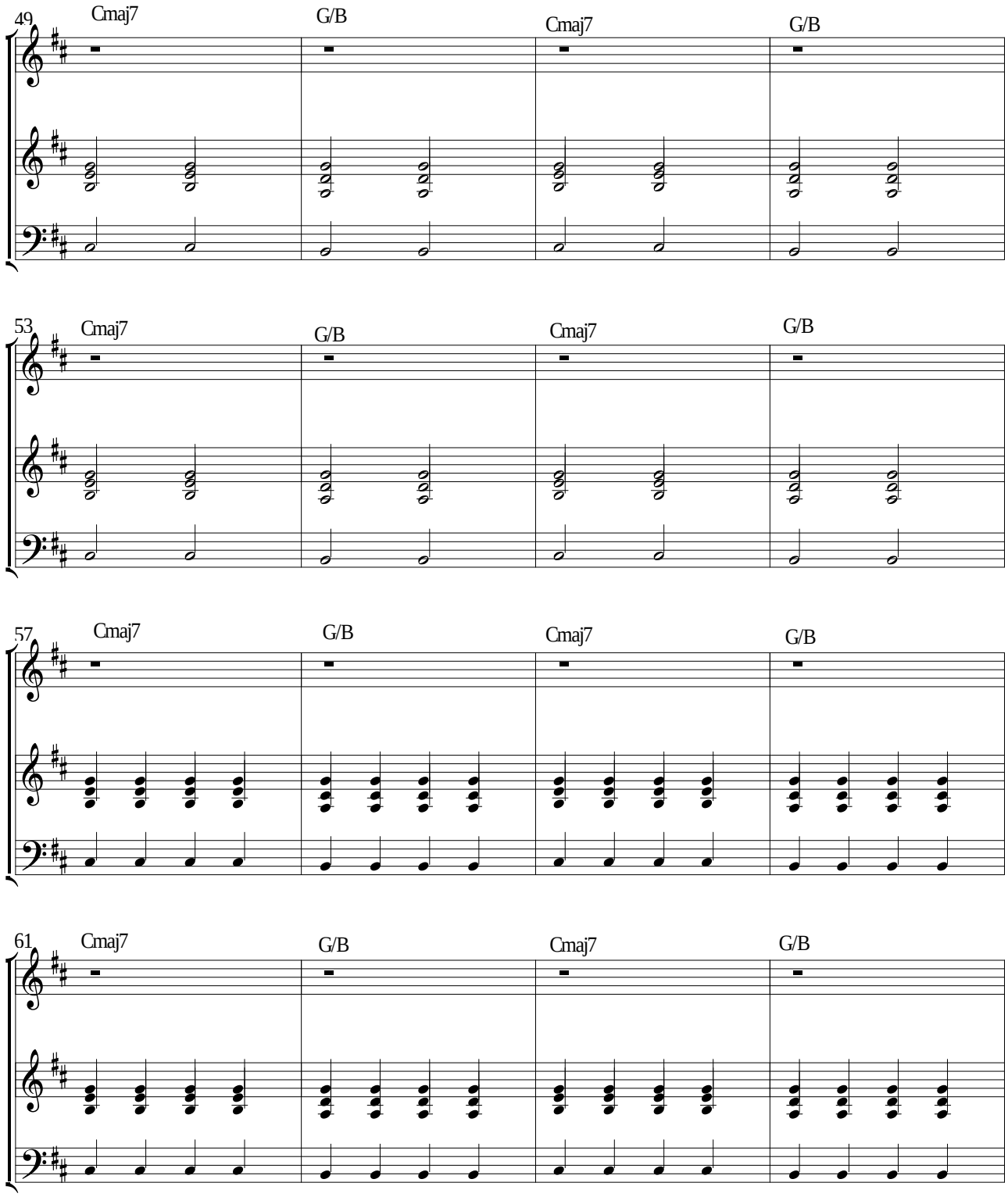


At Heaven's Opera House, the Angels arrive a few at a time and begin to chat to each other [each performer can say what they like here]





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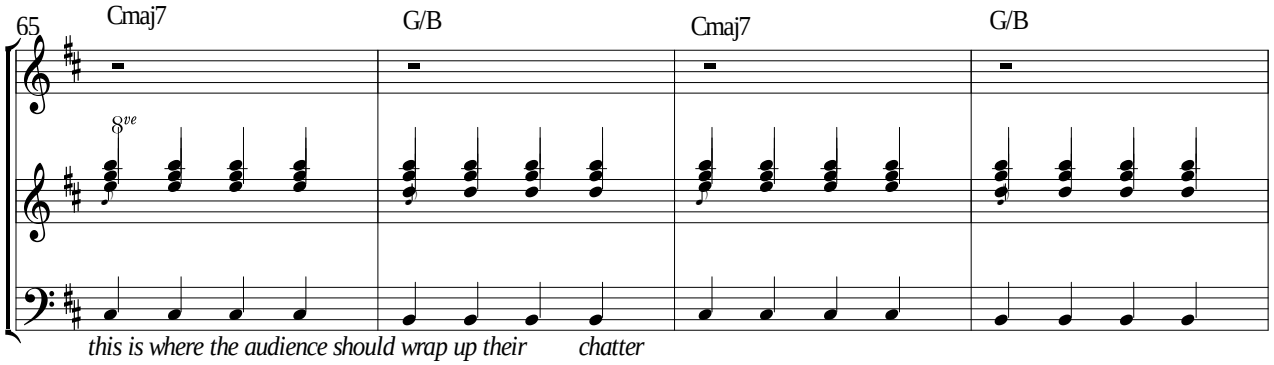
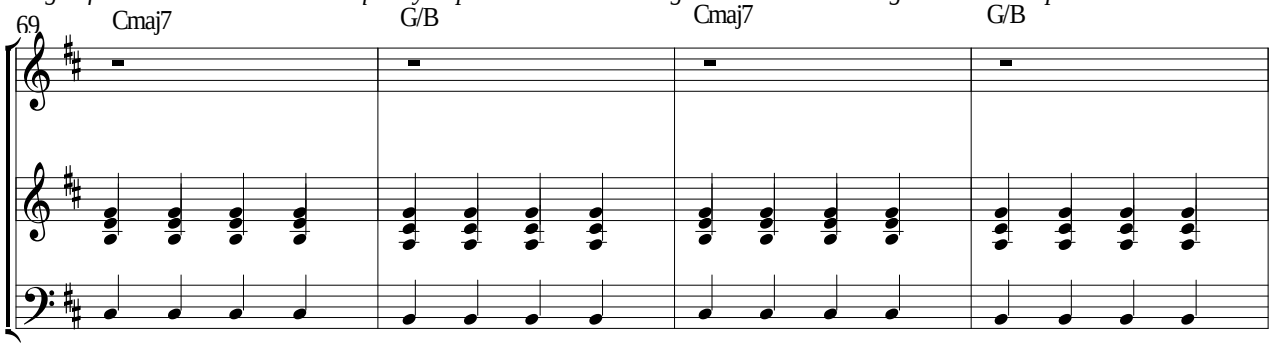
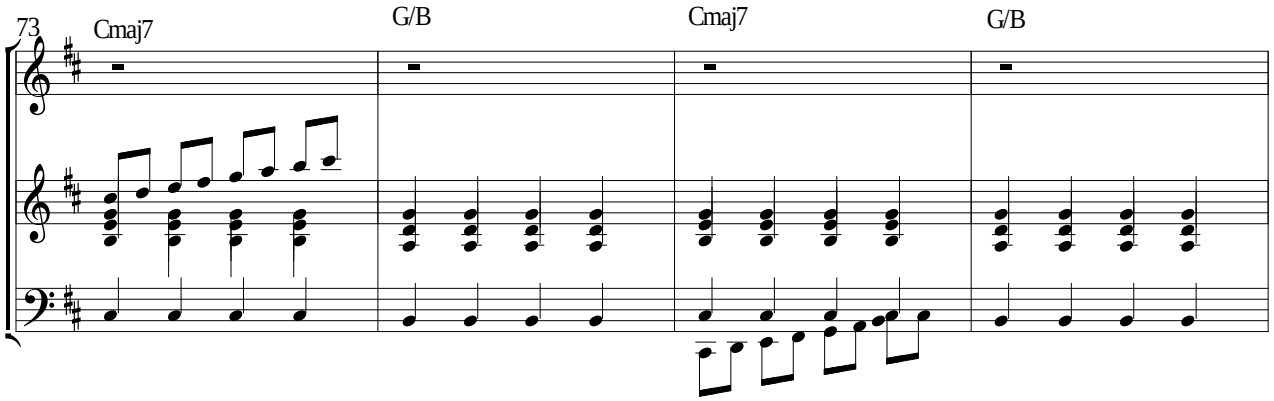
Lucifer arrives and sets up his papers on a stand

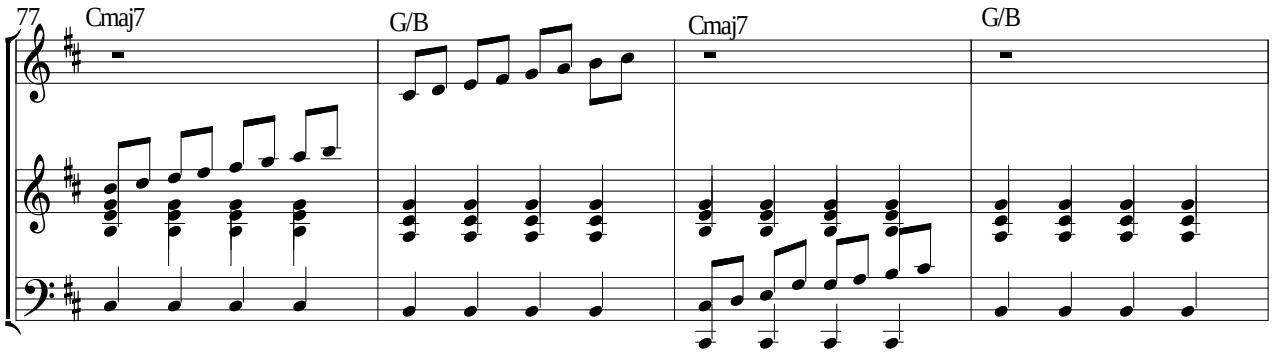


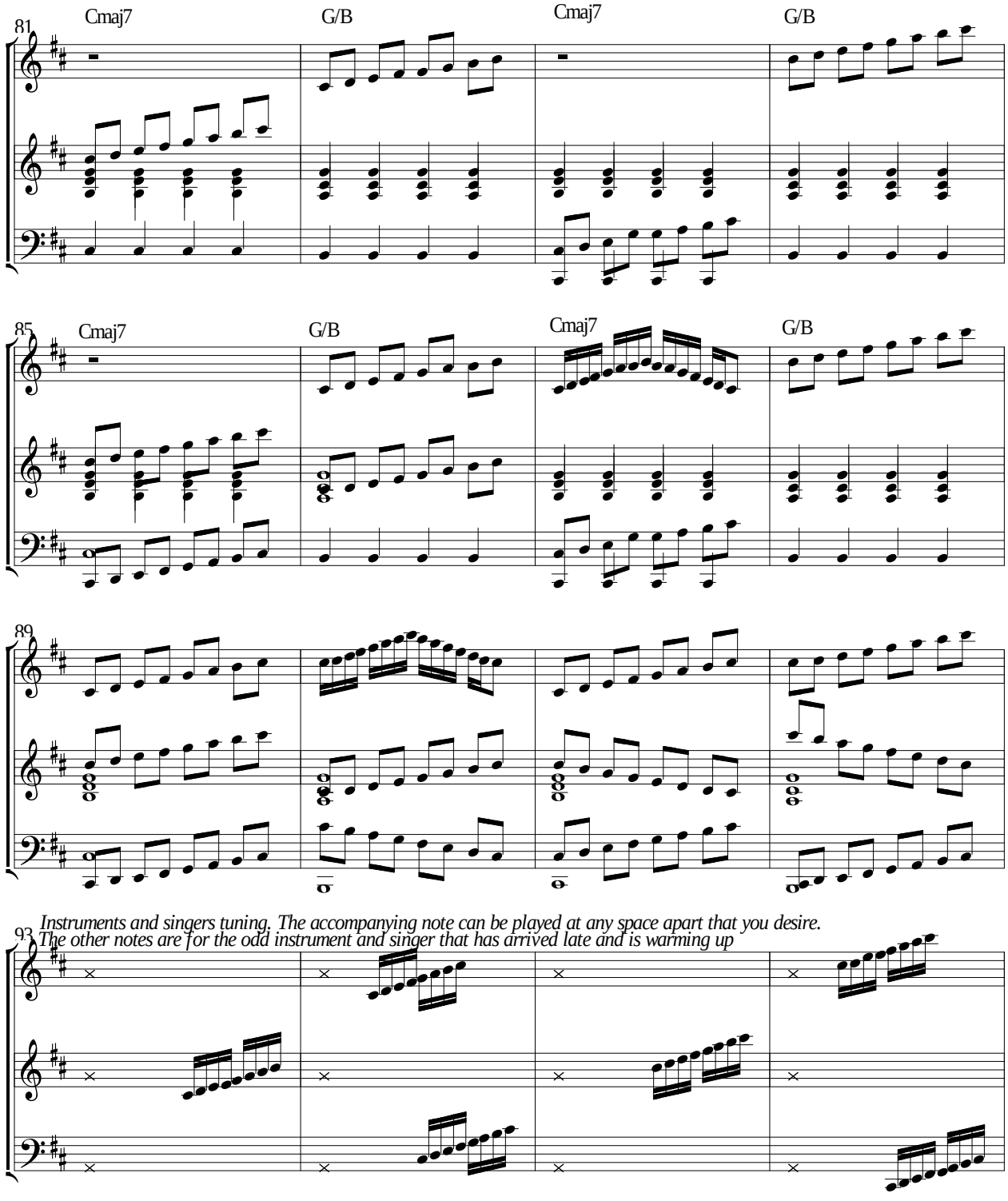
this is where the audience should wrap up their chatter

The angels finish their conversations as quickly as possible. Then both singers and instruments begin their warm-up exercises









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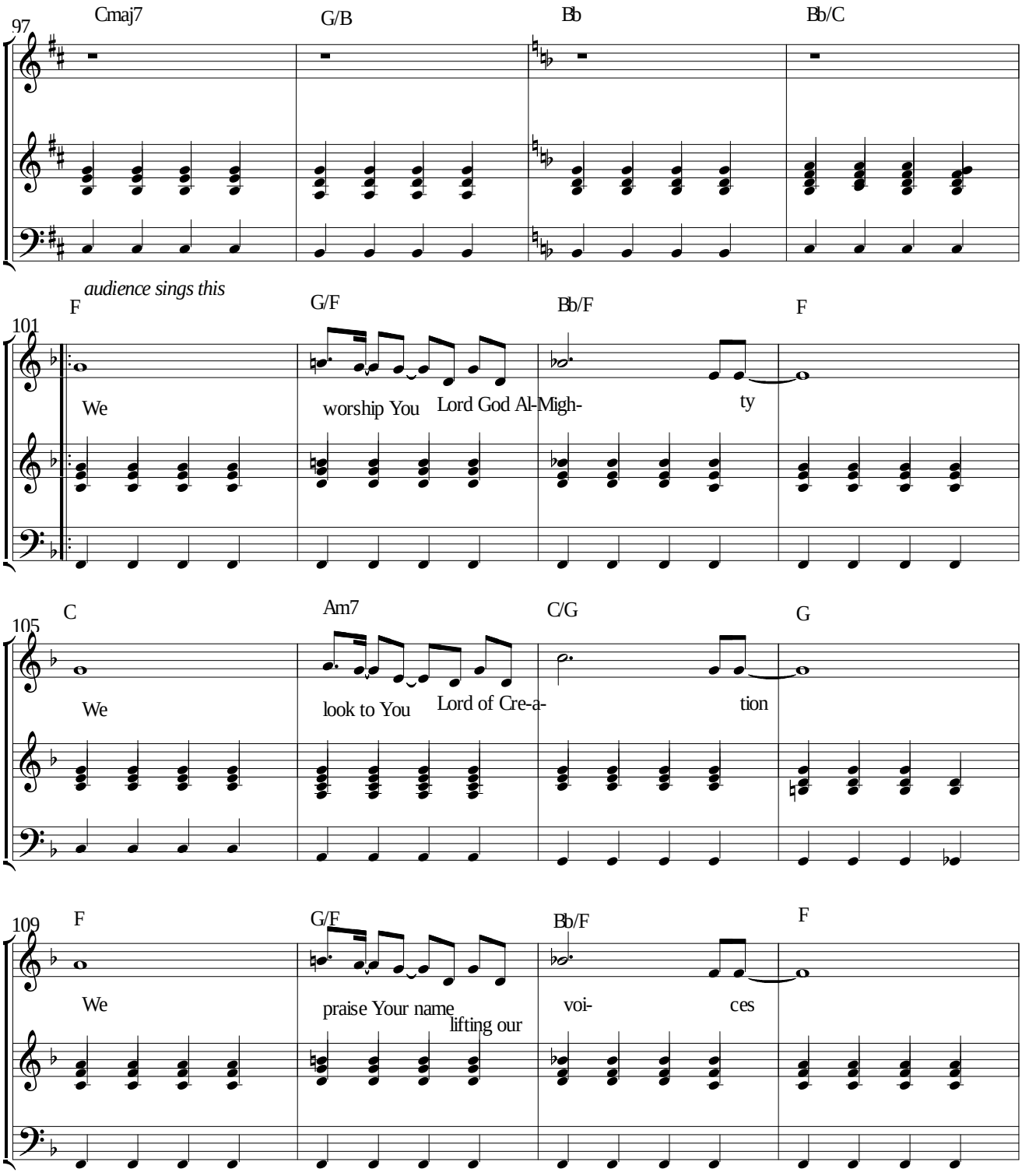

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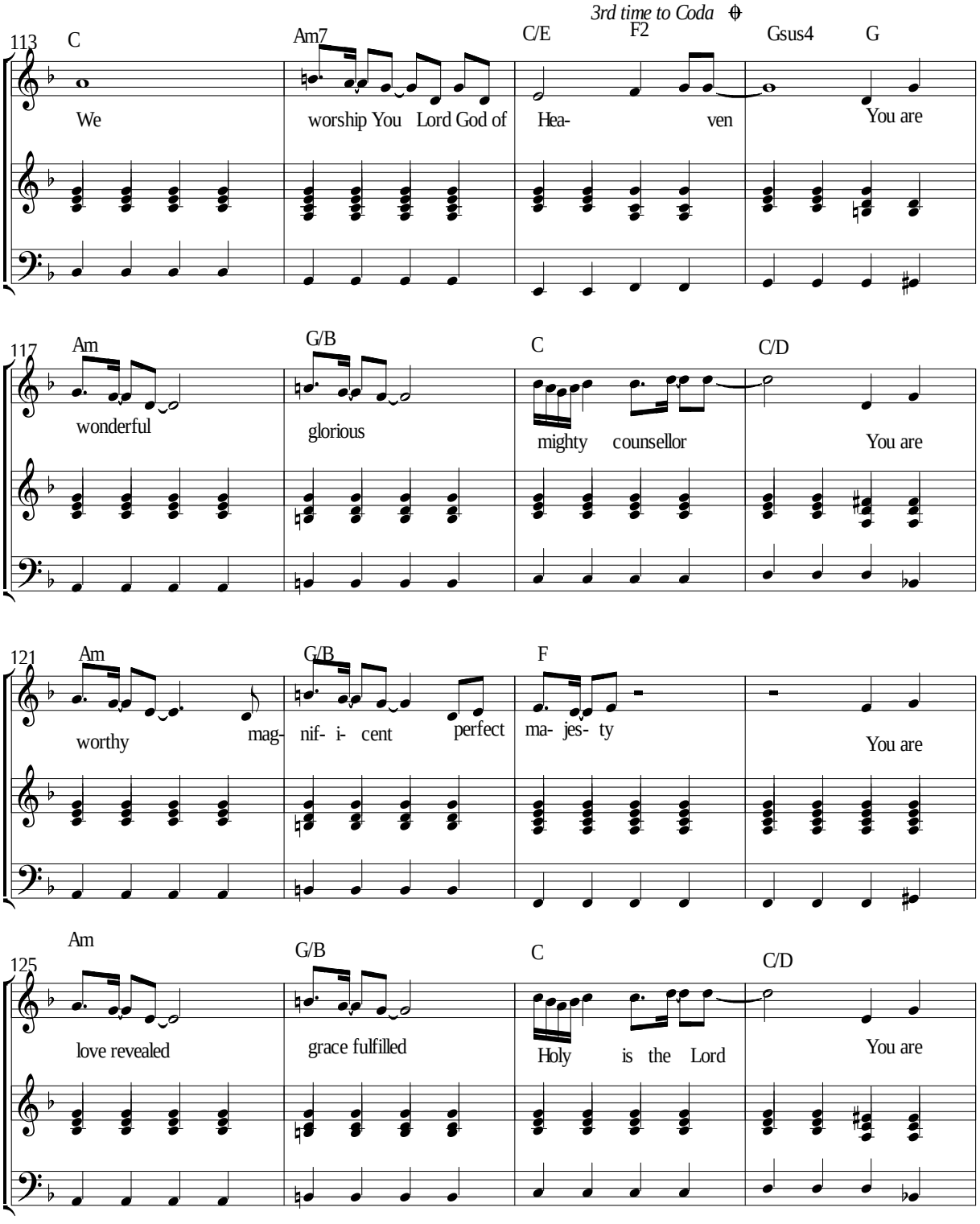

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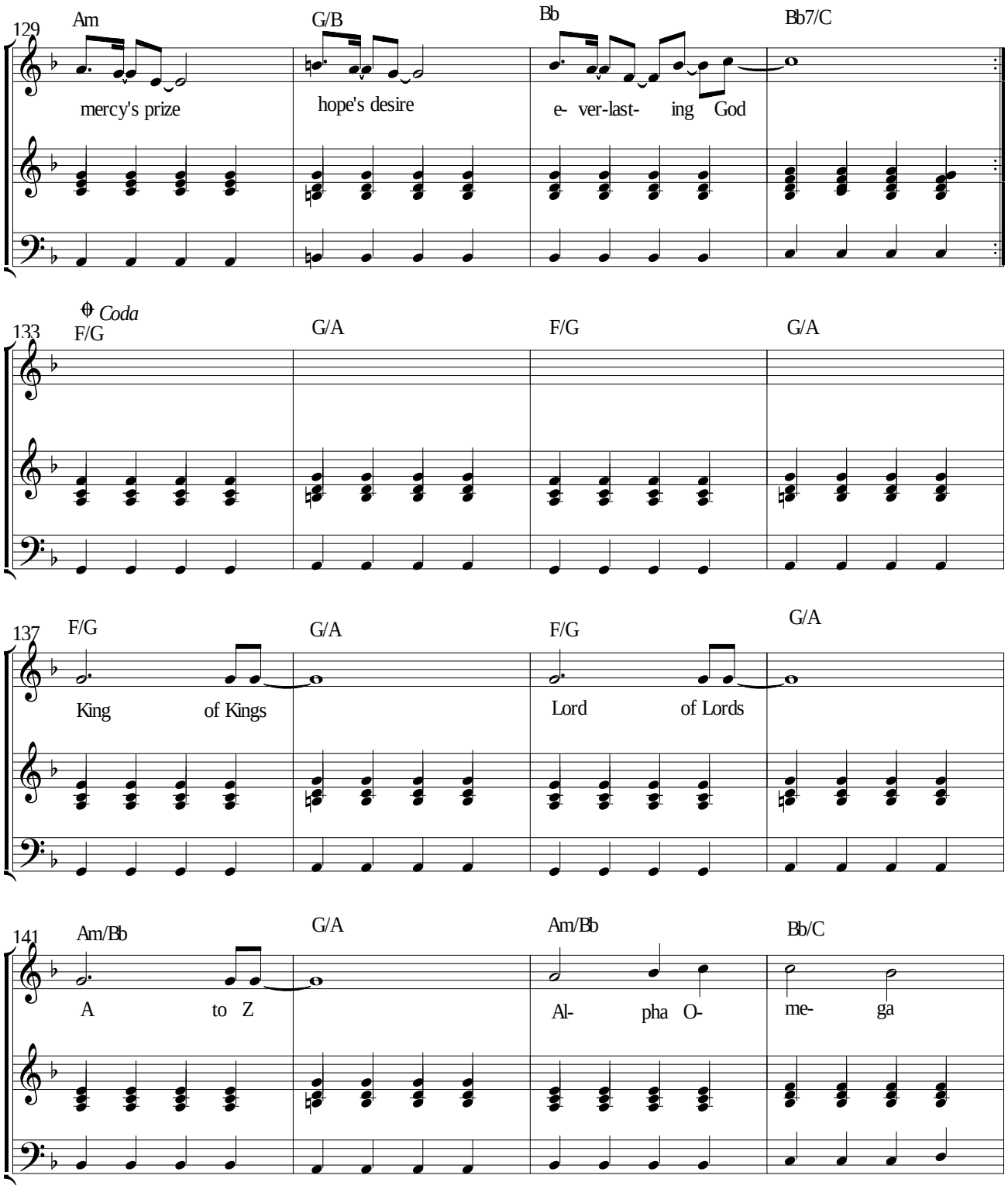

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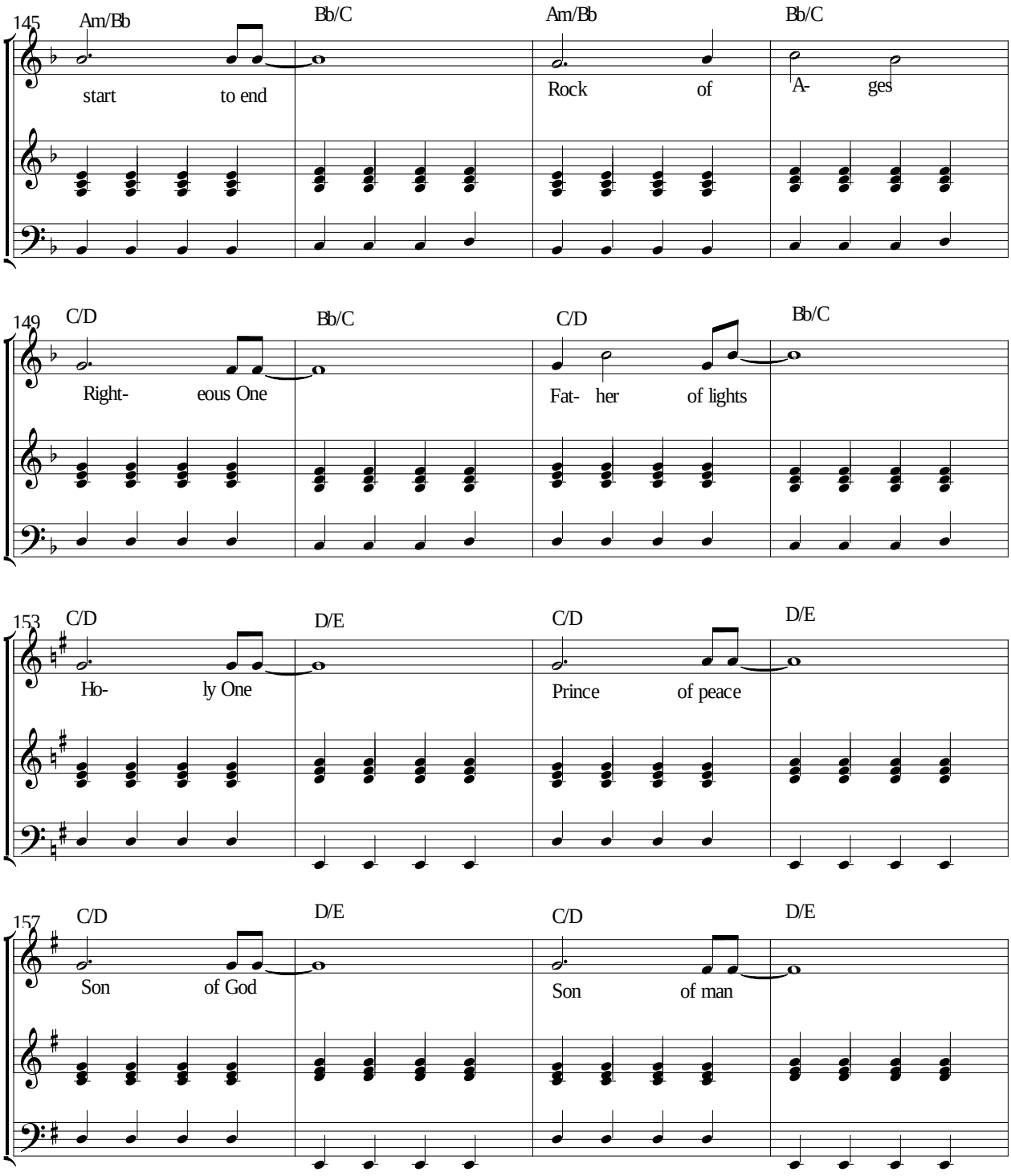
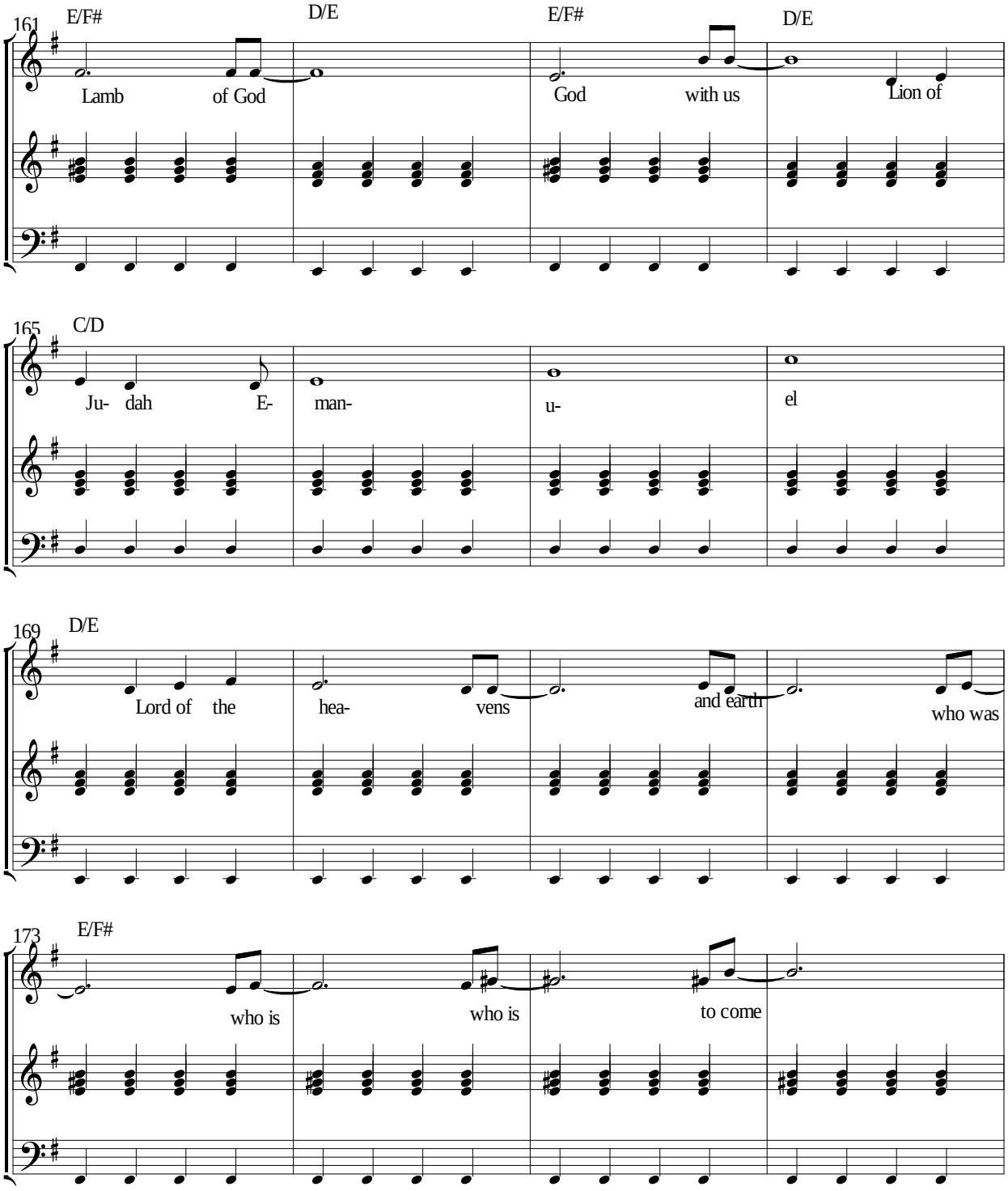
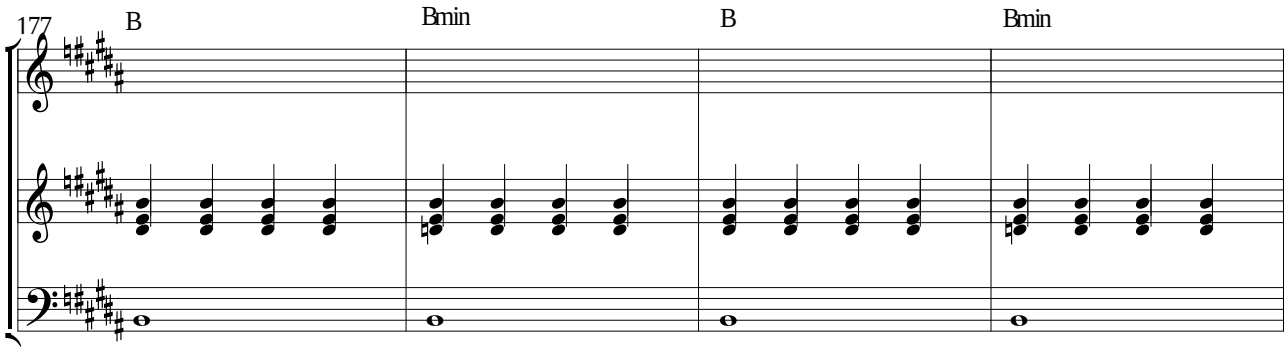
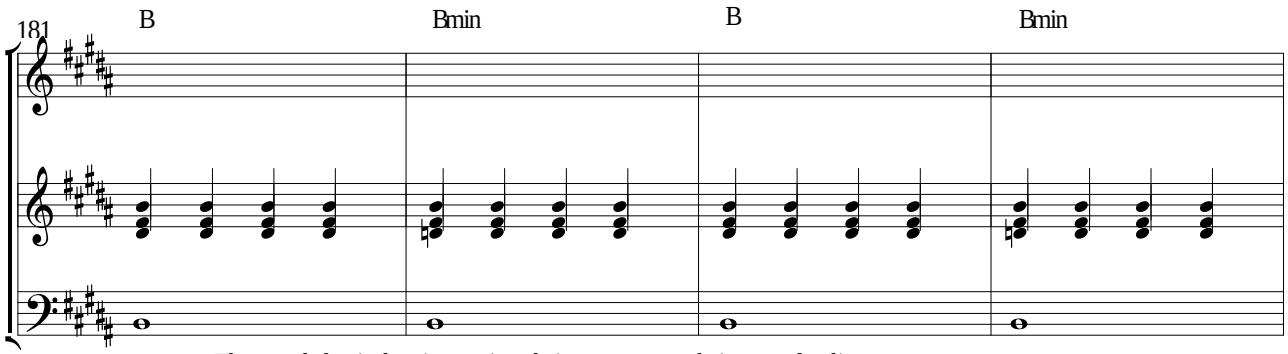

145
Am/Bb
Bb/C
Am/Bb
Bb/C
start to end
Rock of
A- ges
149
C/D
Bb/C
C/D
Bb/C
Right- eous One
Fat- her of lights
153
C/D
D/E
C/D
D/E
Ho- ly One
Prince of peace
157
C/D
D/E
C/D
D/E
Son of God
Son of man

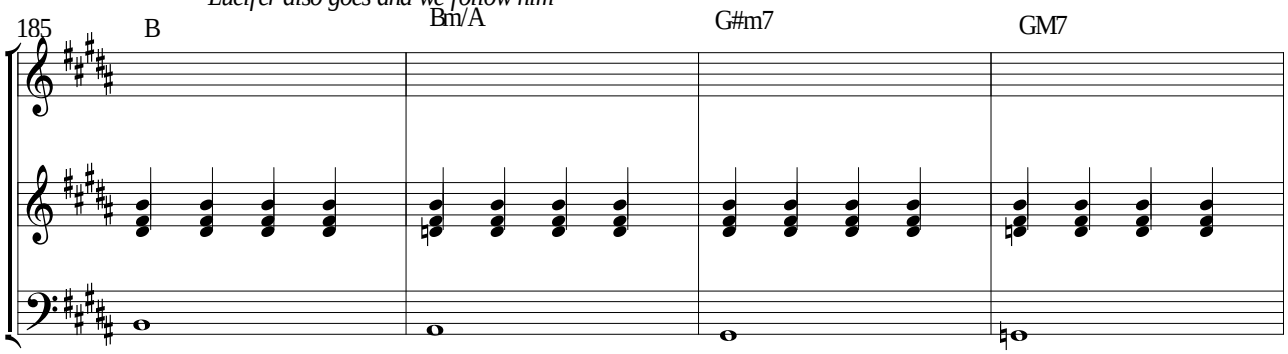

161
E/F#
D/E
E/F#
D/E
Lamb of God
God with us
Lion of
165
C/D
Ju- dah E- man- u- el
169
D/E
Lord of the hea- vens and earth who was
173
E/F#
who is who is to come

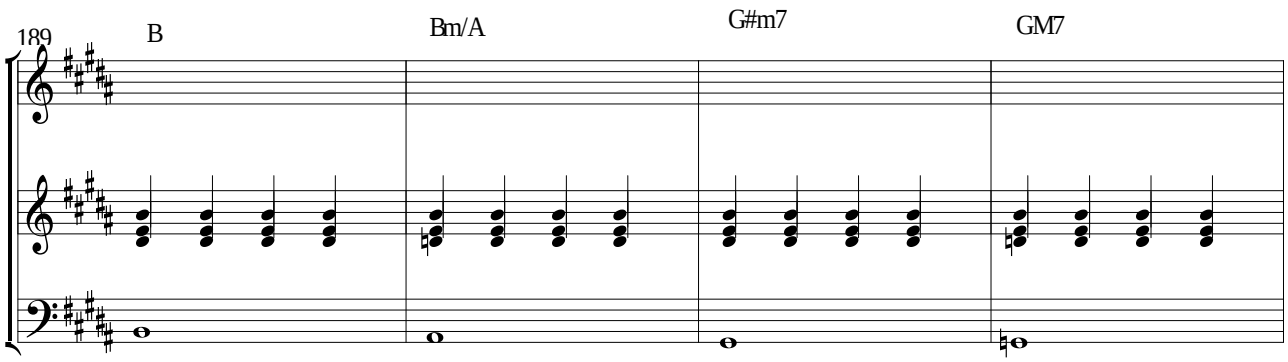
Lucifer begins telling them what is wrong with the music





The angels begin leaving, going their own way to their everyday lives
Lucifer also goes and we follow him





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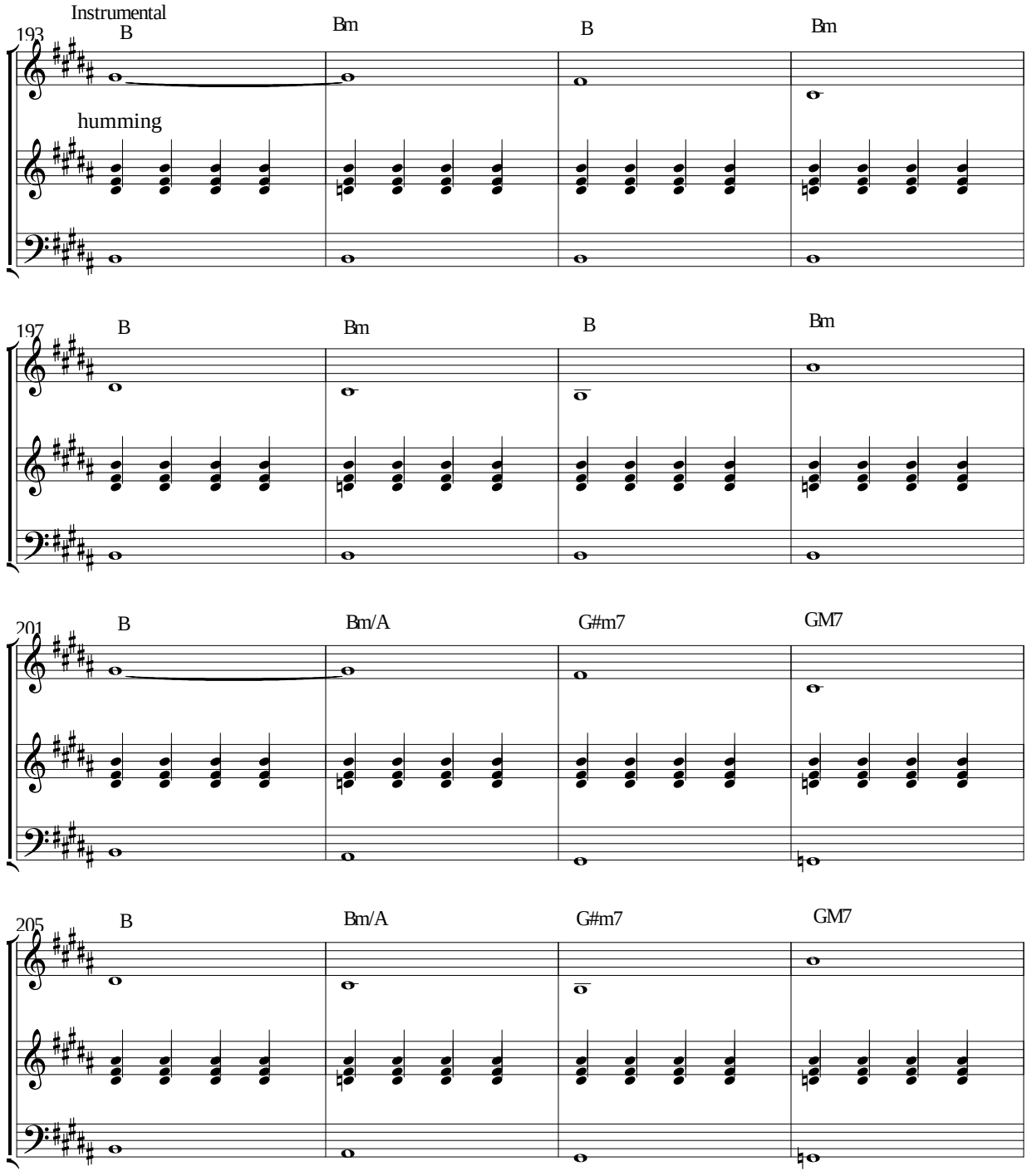
Lucifer arrives home and picks up his mail, opening it, and muttering about the things he finds in it



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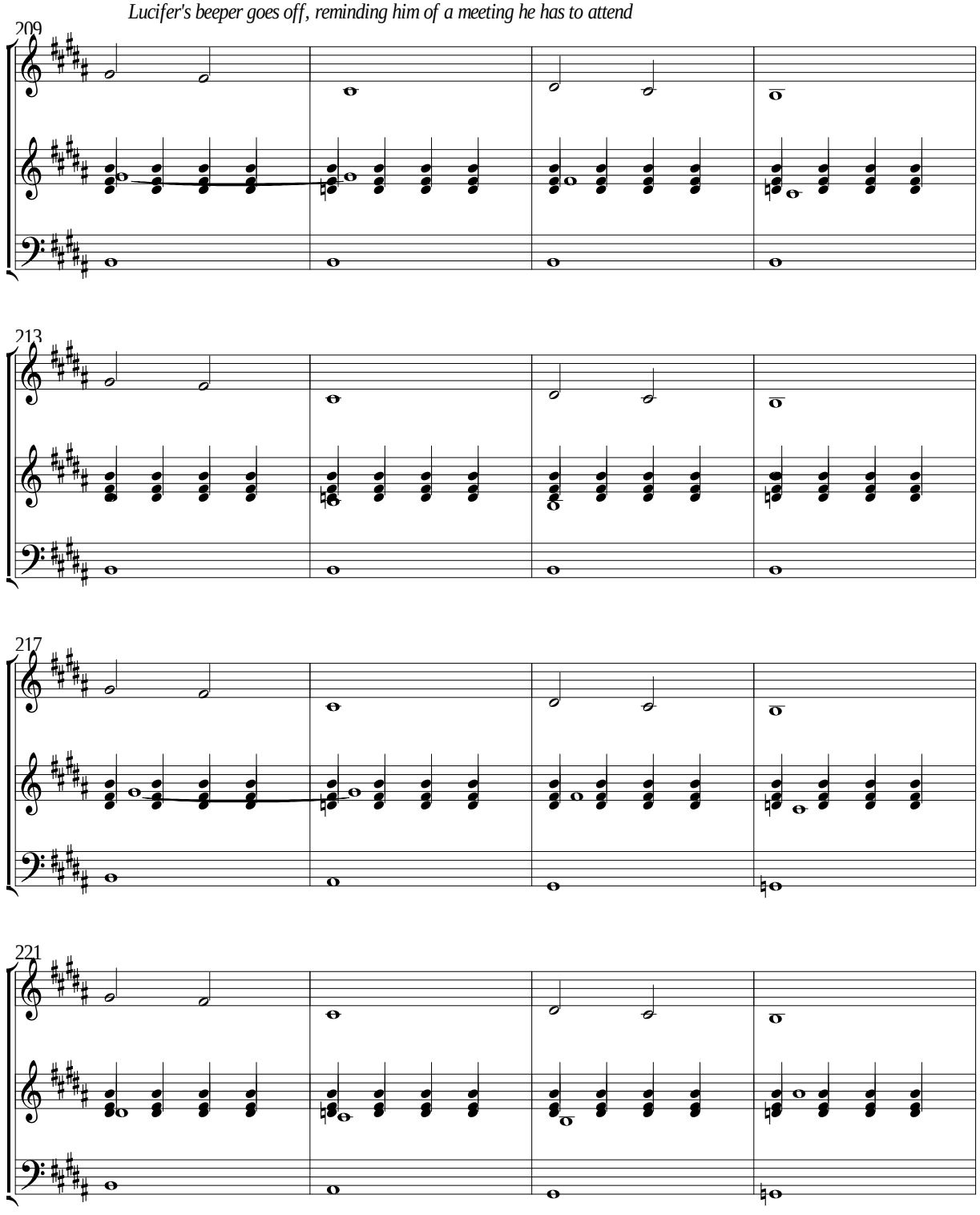
Lucifer's beeper goes off, reminding him of a meeting he has to attend



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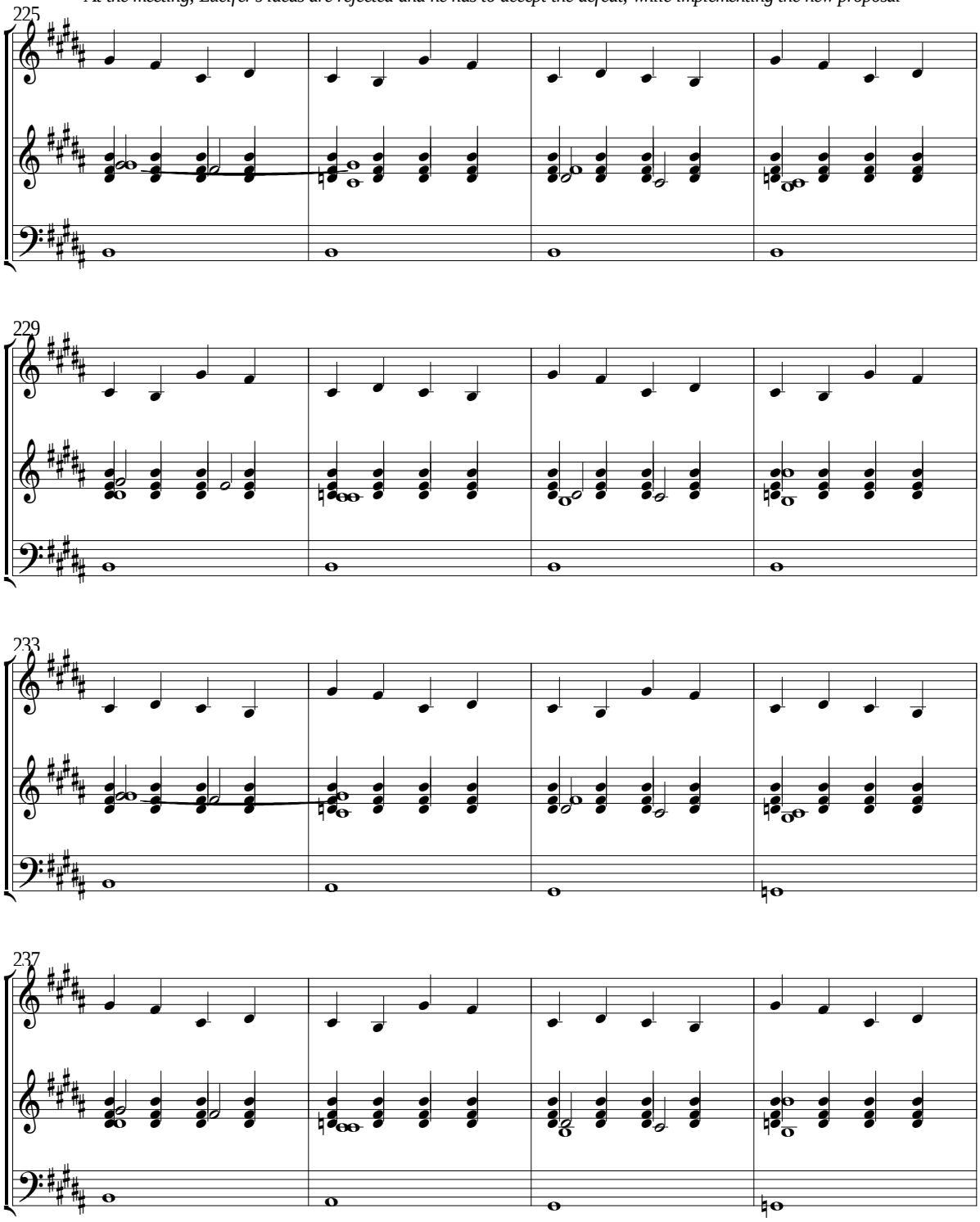
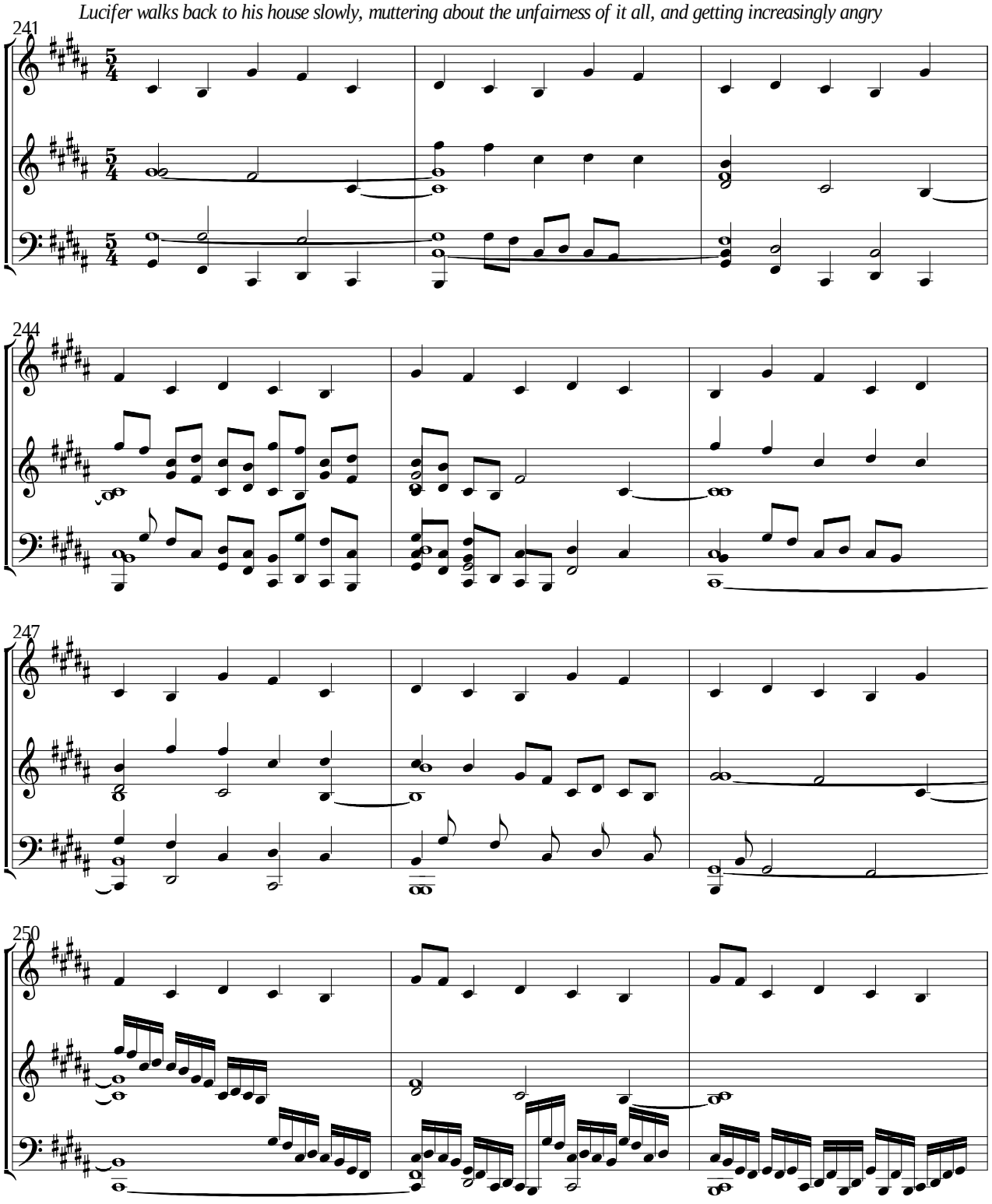
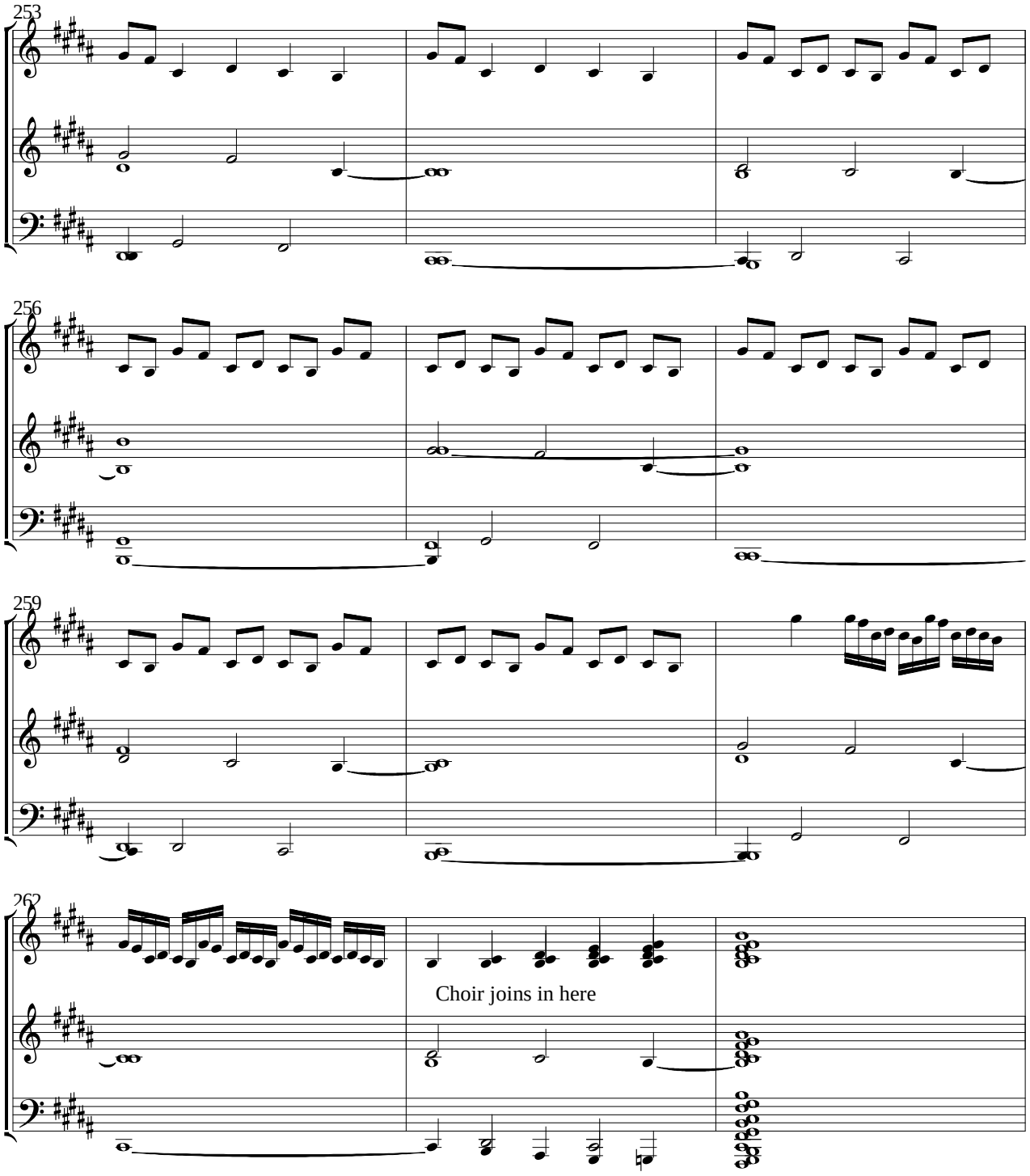
At the meeting, Lucifer's ideas are rejected and he has to accept the defeat, while implementing the new proposal



Lucifer walks back to his house slowly, muttering about the unfairness of it all, and getting increasingly angry





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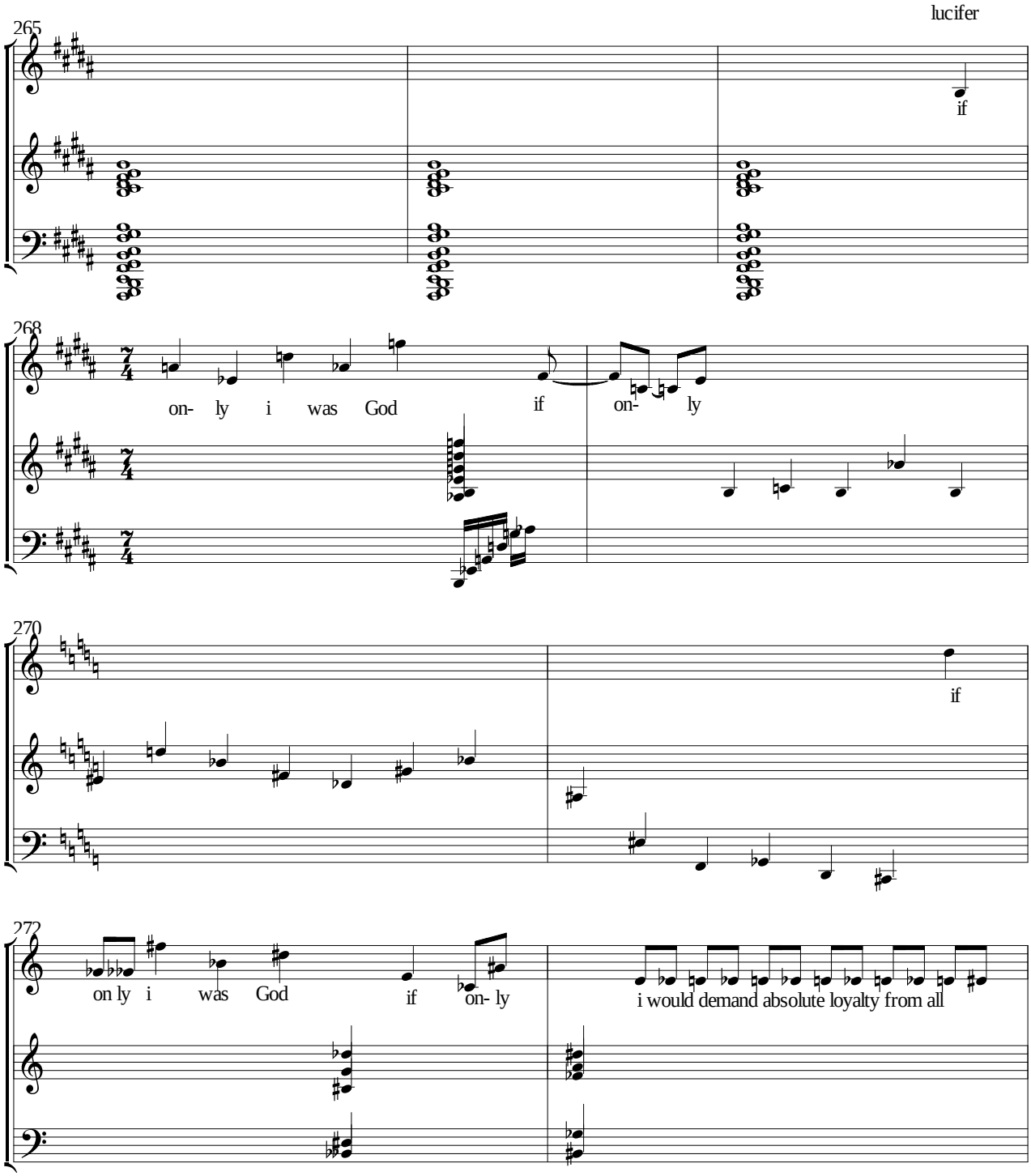
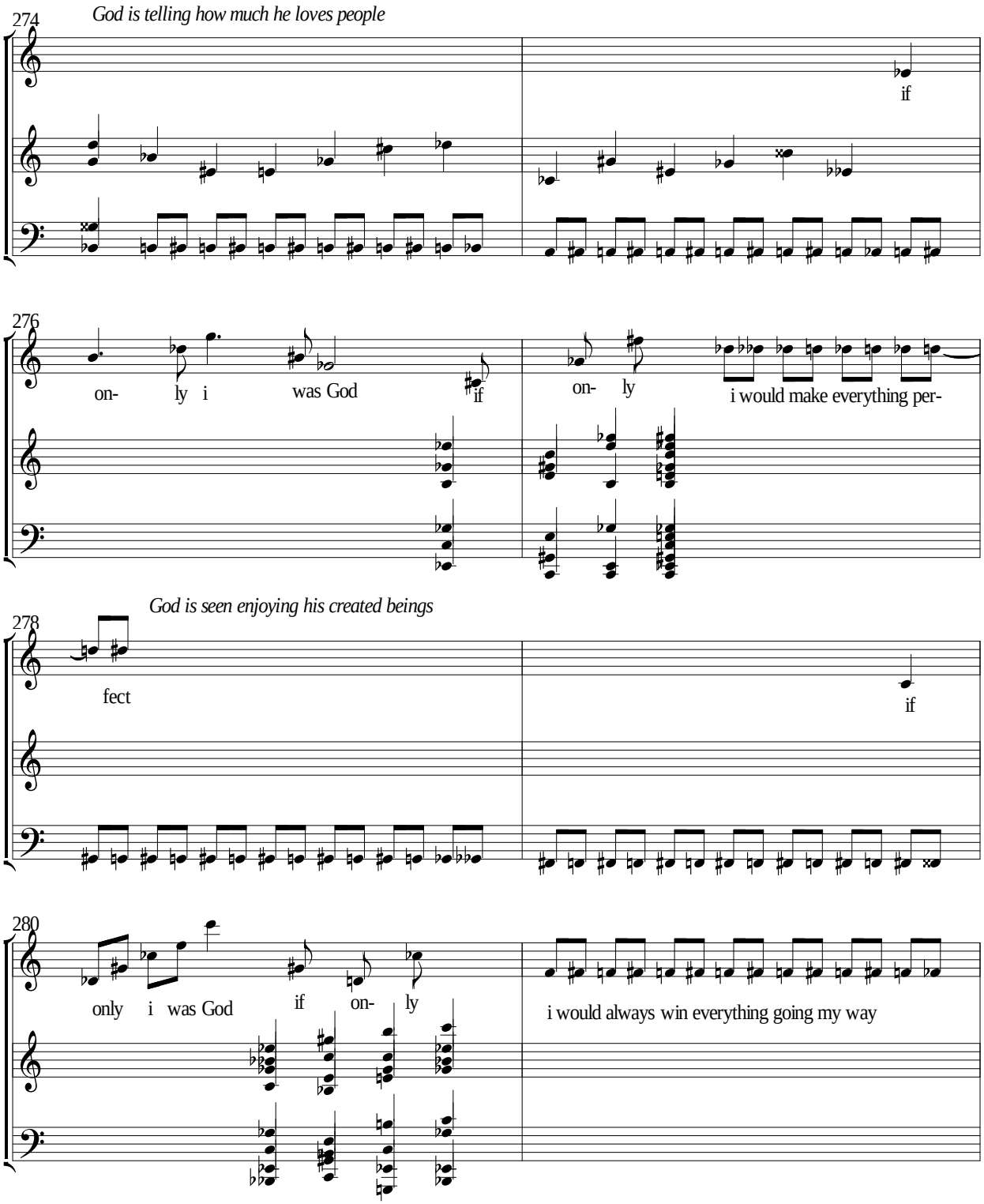
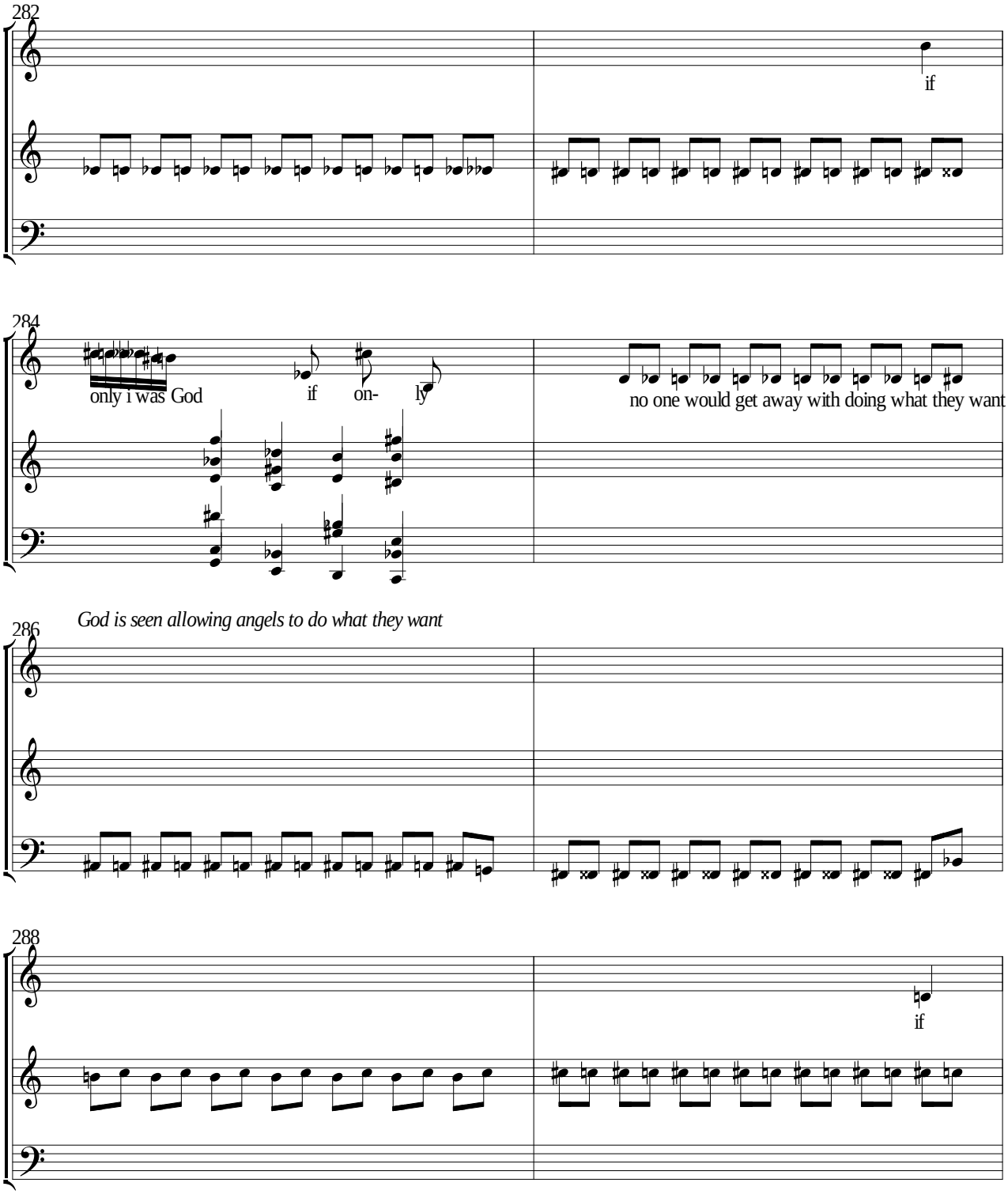
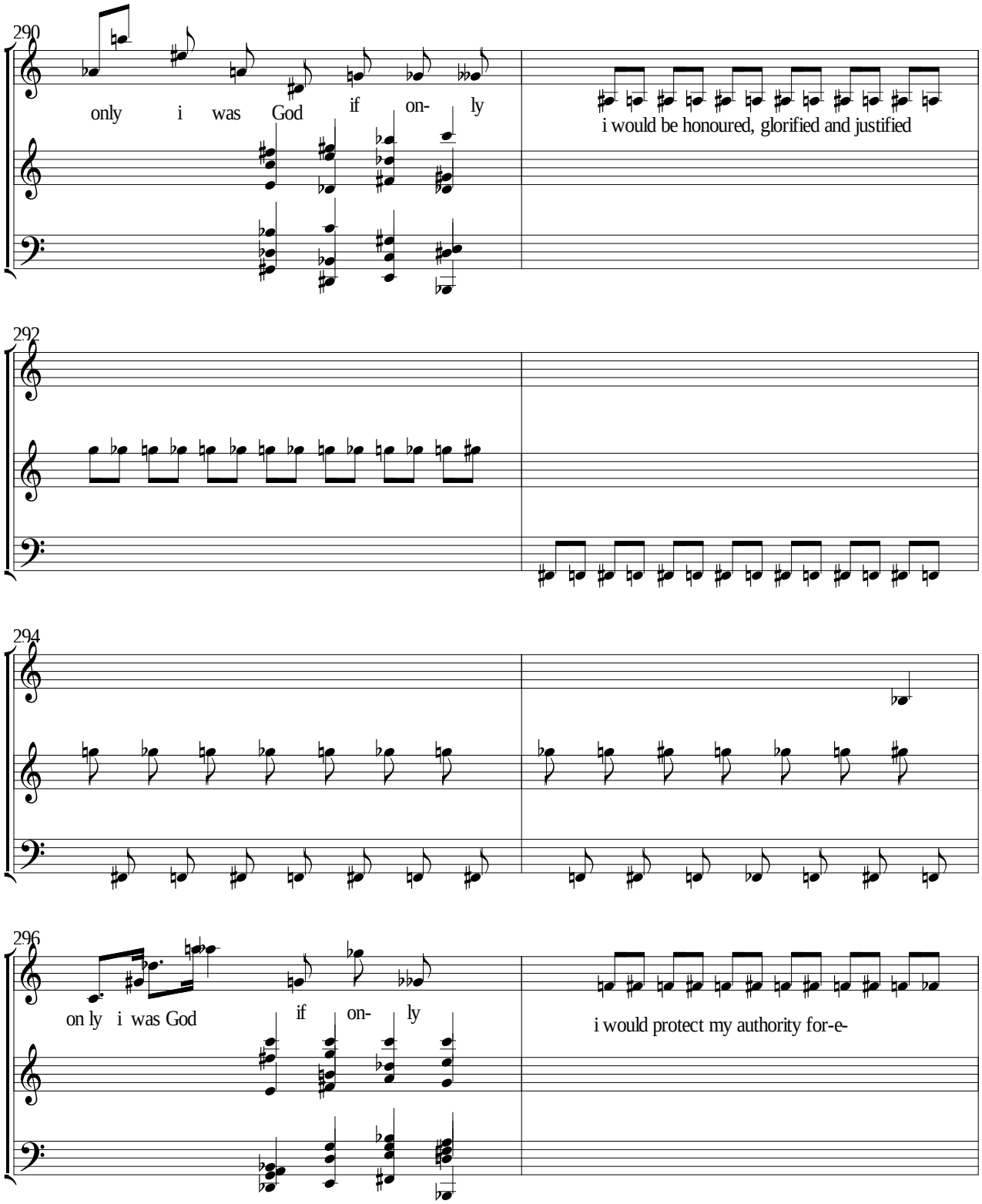

lucifer
265
if
268
on- ly i was God if on- ly
270
if
272
on ly i was God if on- ly
i would demand absolute loyalty from all


274
God is telling how much he loves people
if
276
on- ly i was God if on- ly i would make everything per-
God is seen enjoying his created beings
278
fect
if
280
only i was God if on- ly
i would always win everything going my way


282
if
284
only i was God
if
on-
ly
no one would get away with doing what they want
God is seen allowing angels to do what they want
286
288
if



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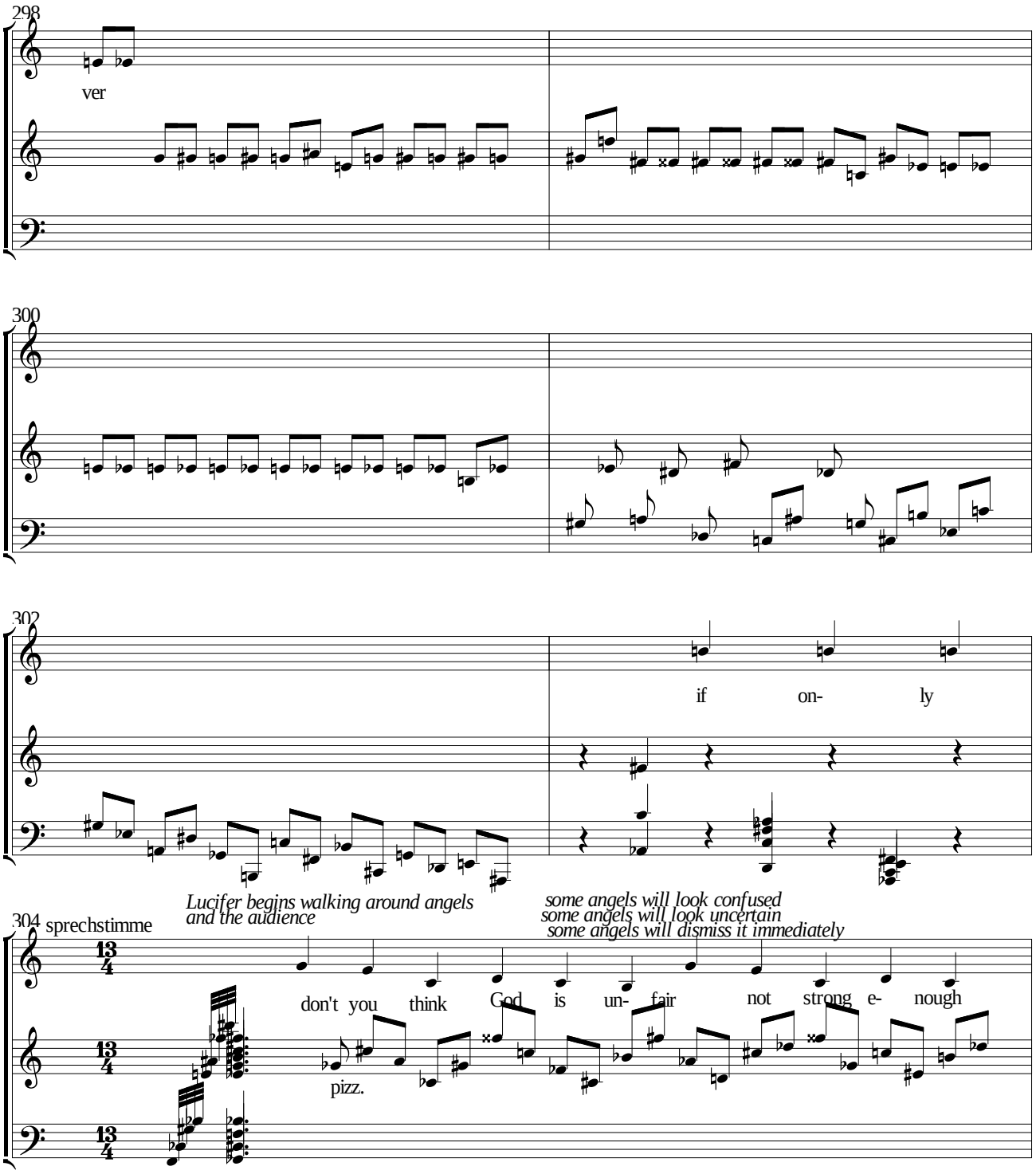
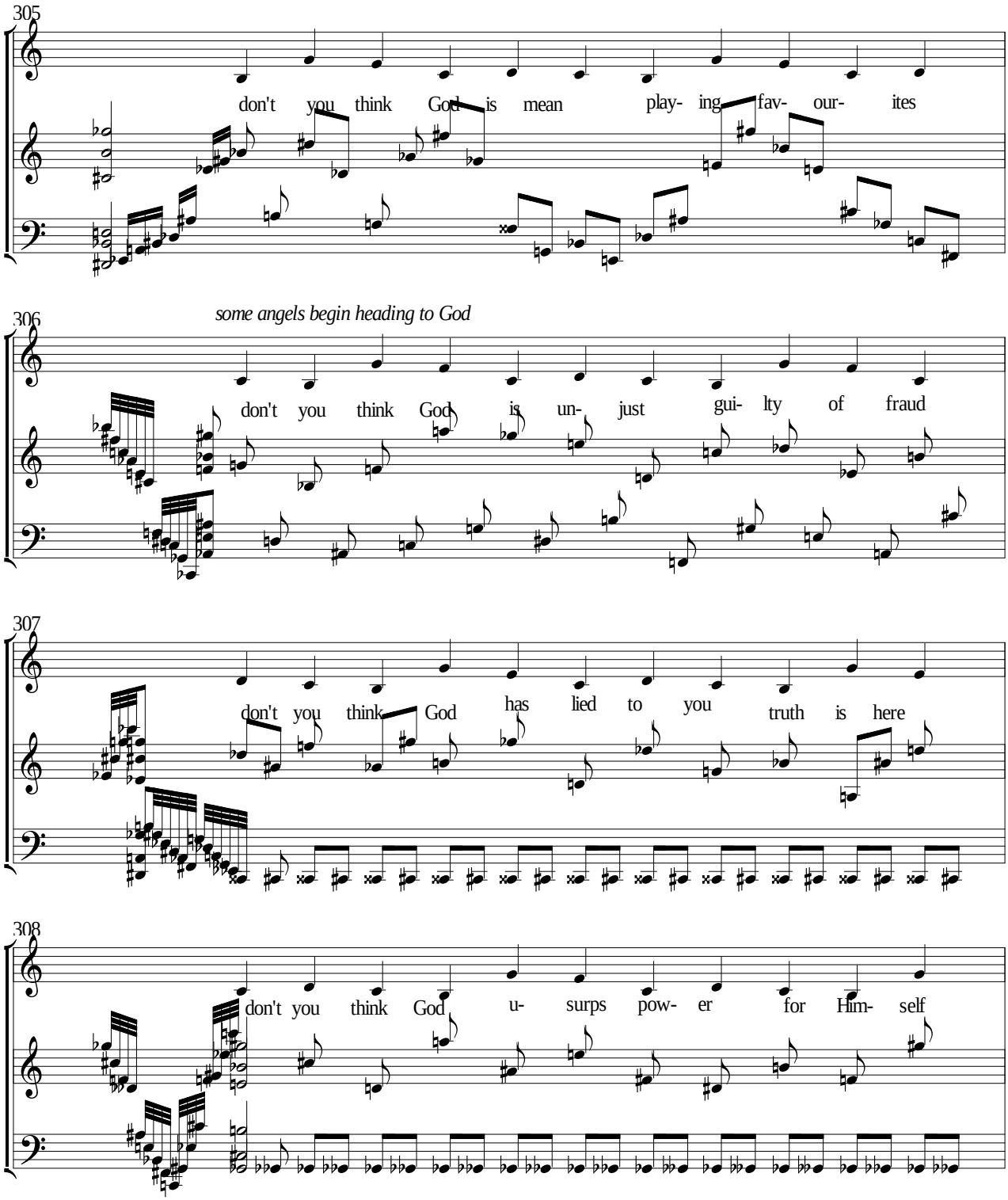

298
ver
300
302
if on- ly
Lucifer begins walking around angels and the audience
some angels will look confused
some angels will look uncertain
some angels will dismiss it immediately
304 sprechstimme
don't you think God is un- fair not strong e- nough
pizz.



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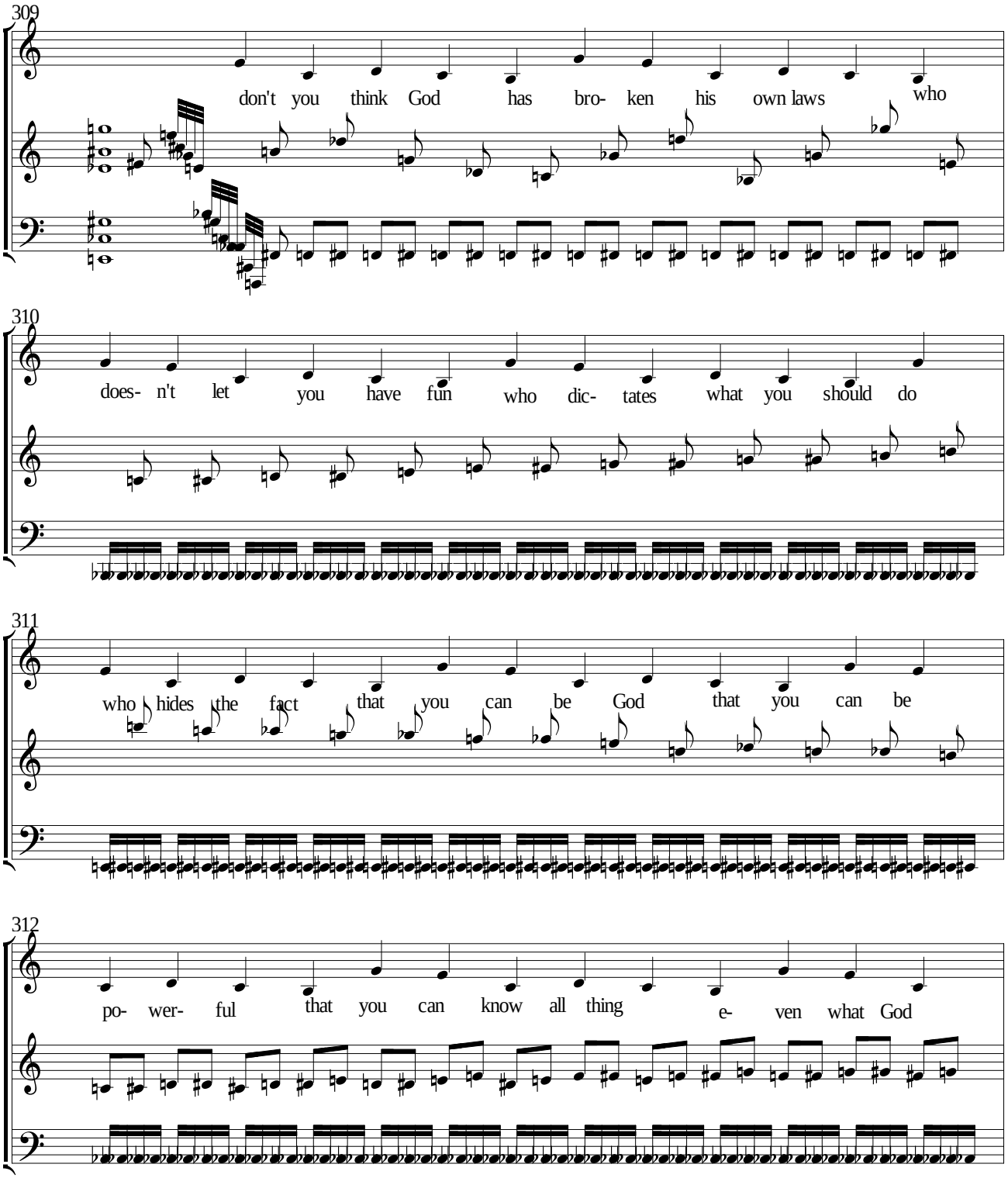
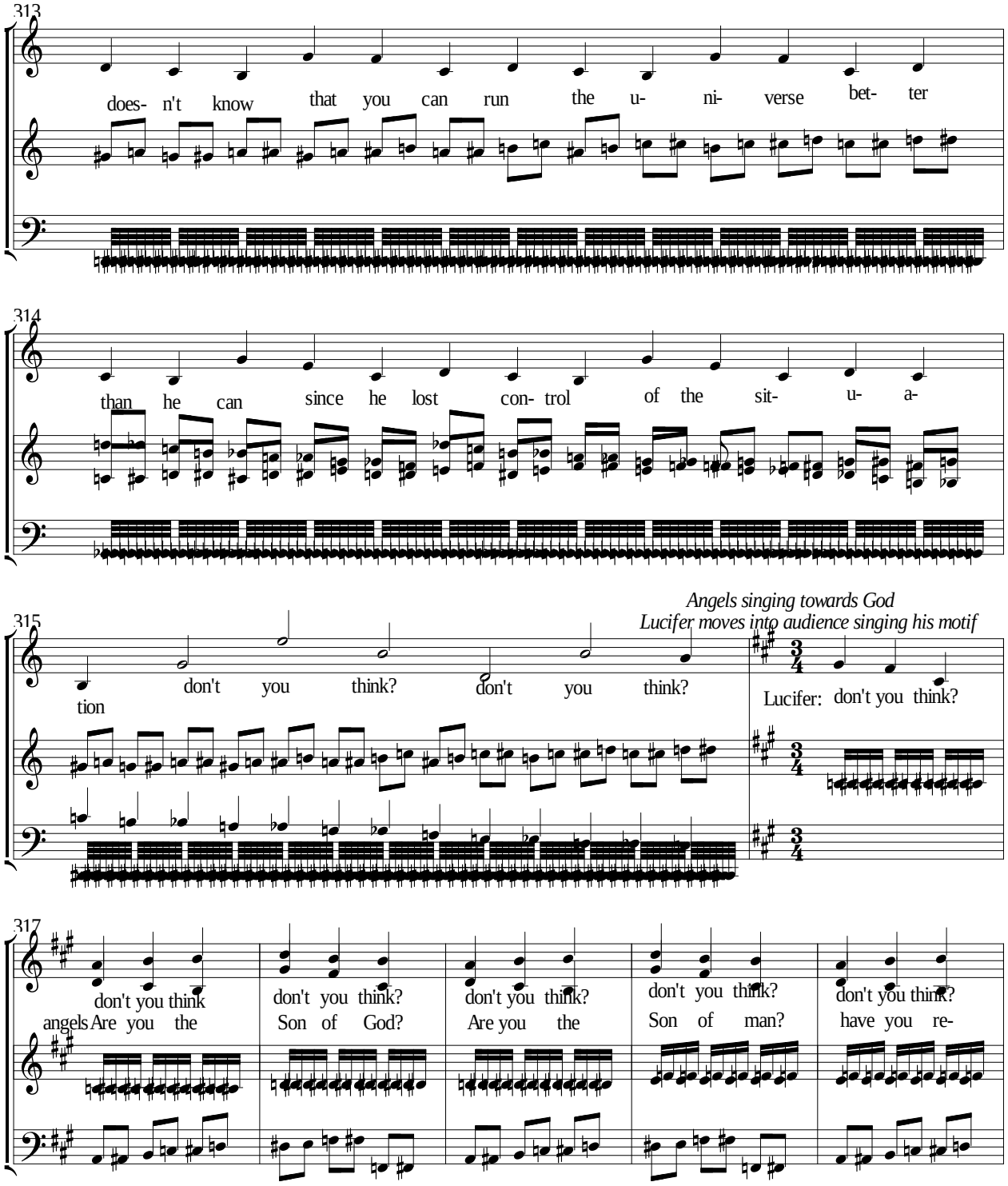
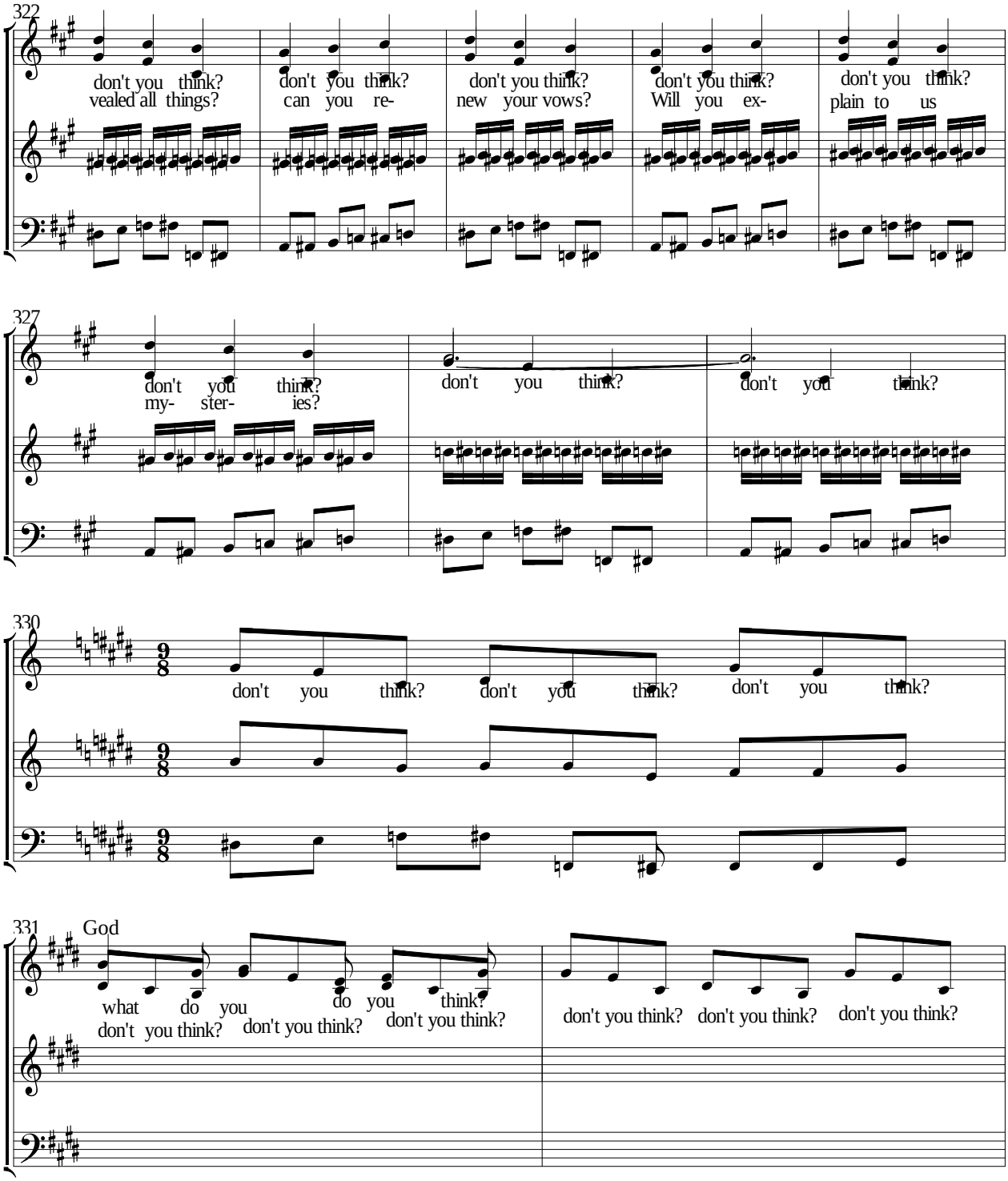
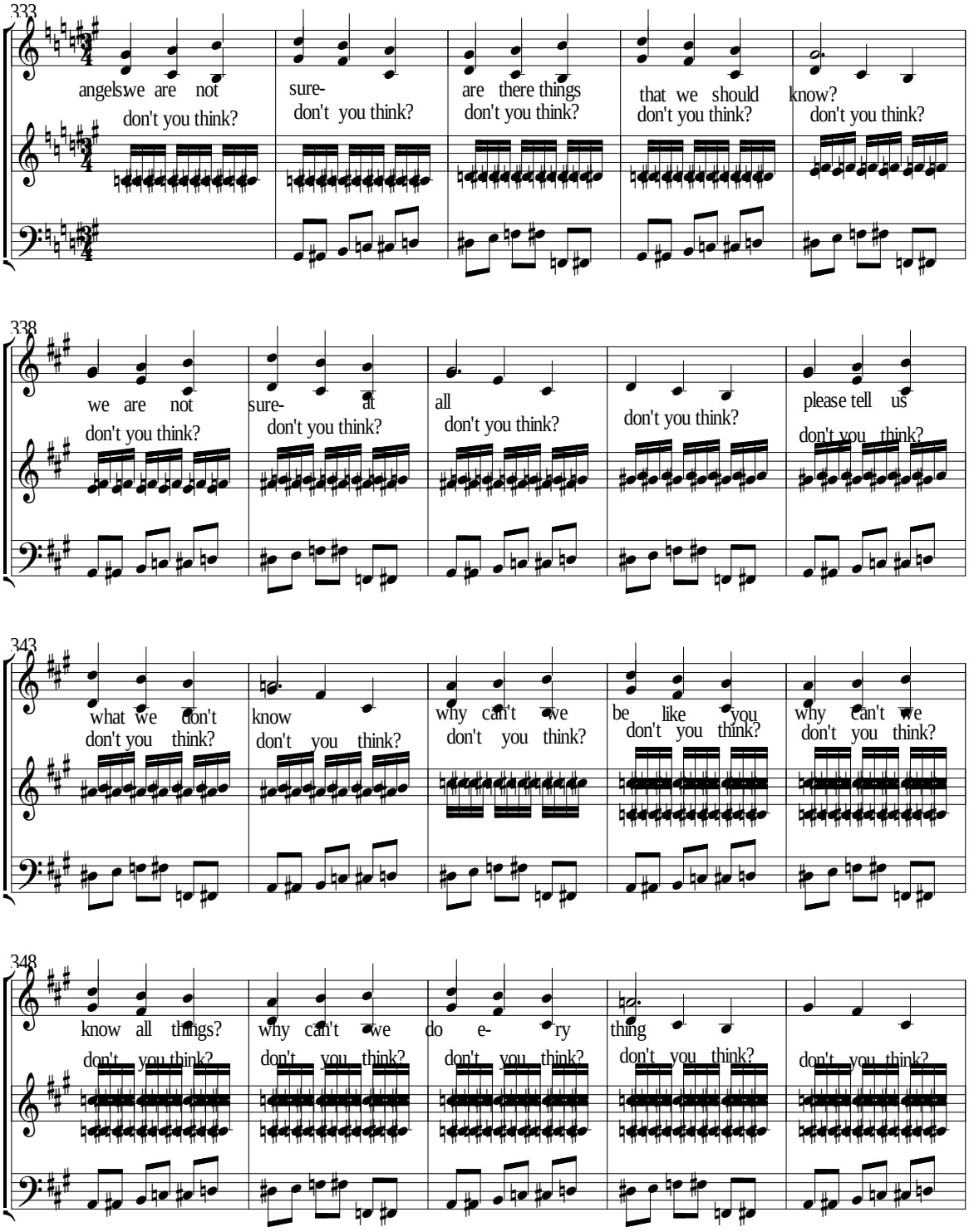
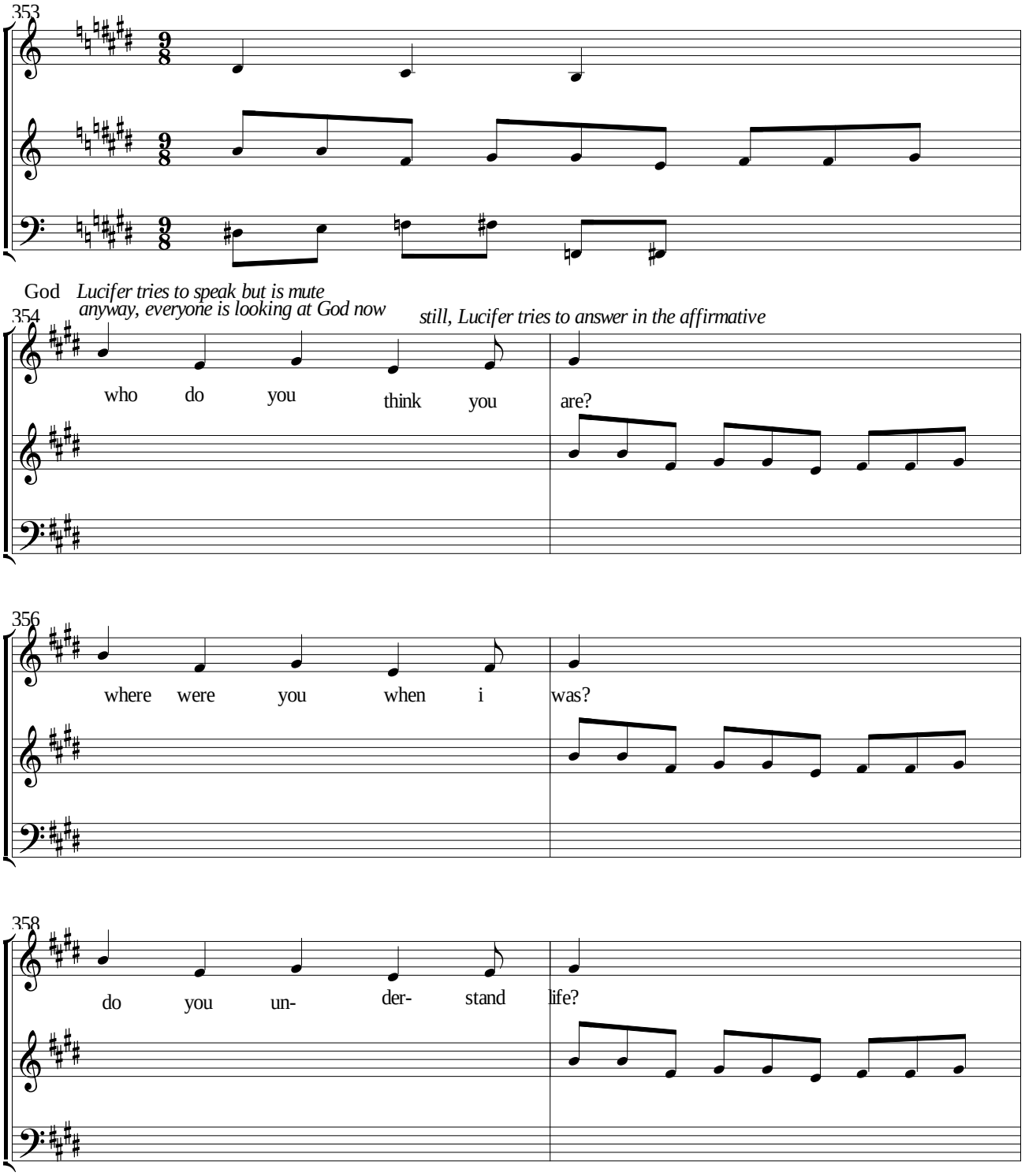
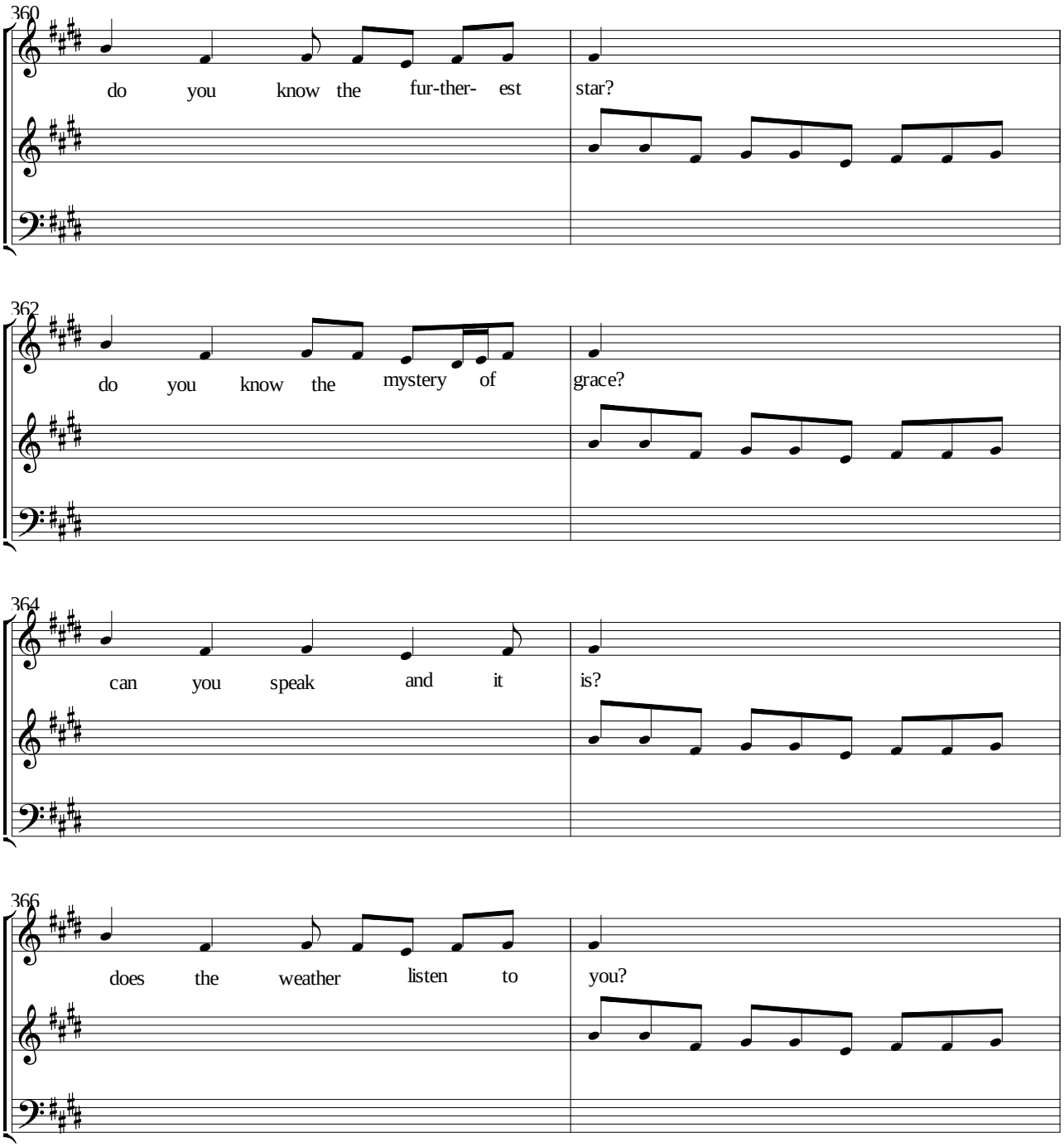

309
don't you think God has bro- ken his own laws who
310
does- n't let you have fun who dic- tates what you should do
311
who hides the fact that you can be God that you can be
312
po- wer- ful that you can know all thing e- ven what God

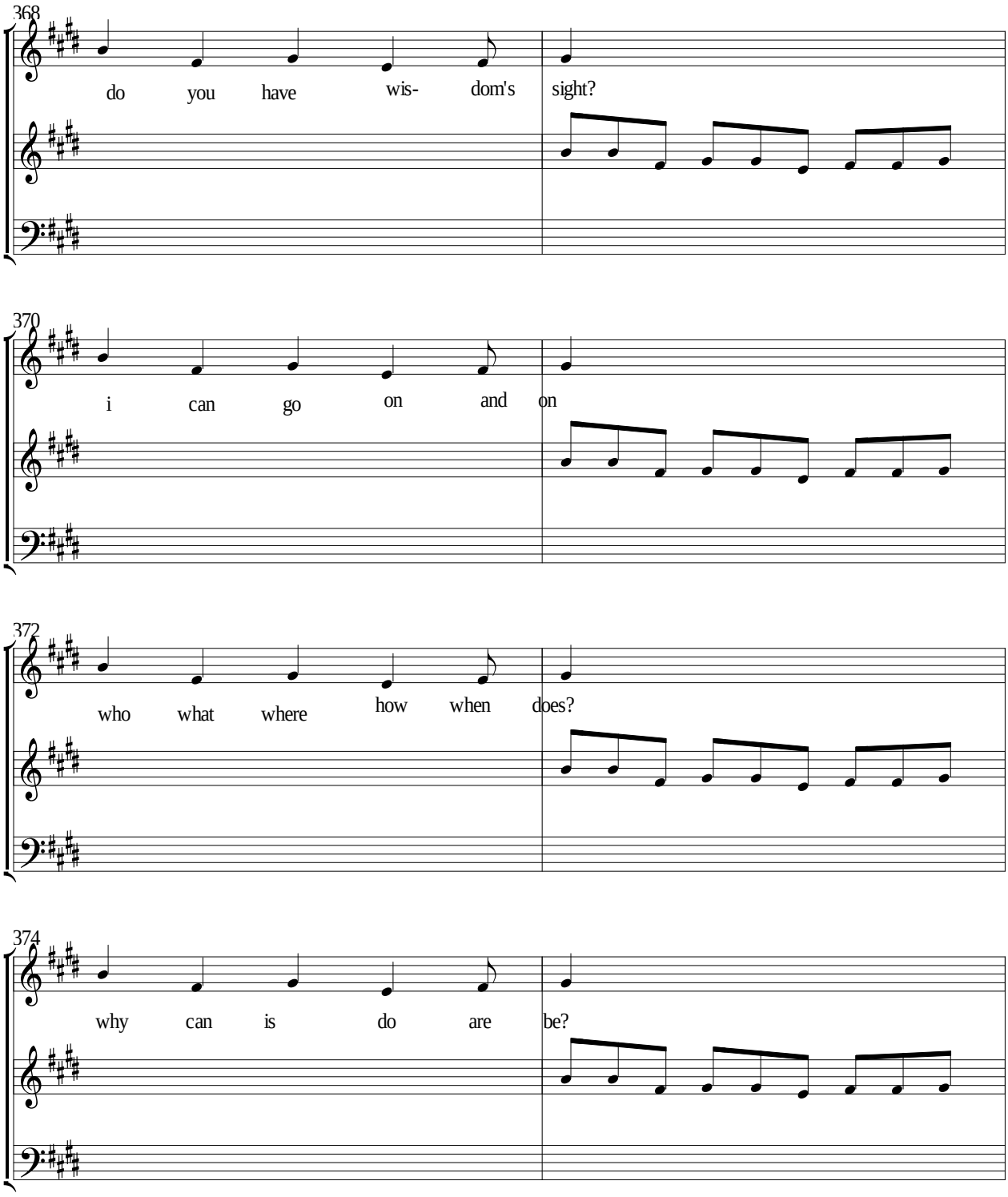

313
does- n't know that you can run the u- ni- verse bet- ter
314
than he can since he lost con- trol of the sit- u- a-
315
Angels singing towards God
Lucifer moves into audience singing his motif
don't you think? don't you think?
tion
Lucifer: don't you think?
317
don't you think
angels Are you the
don't you think?
Son of God?
don't you think?
Are you the
don't you think?
Son of man?
don't you think?
have you re-

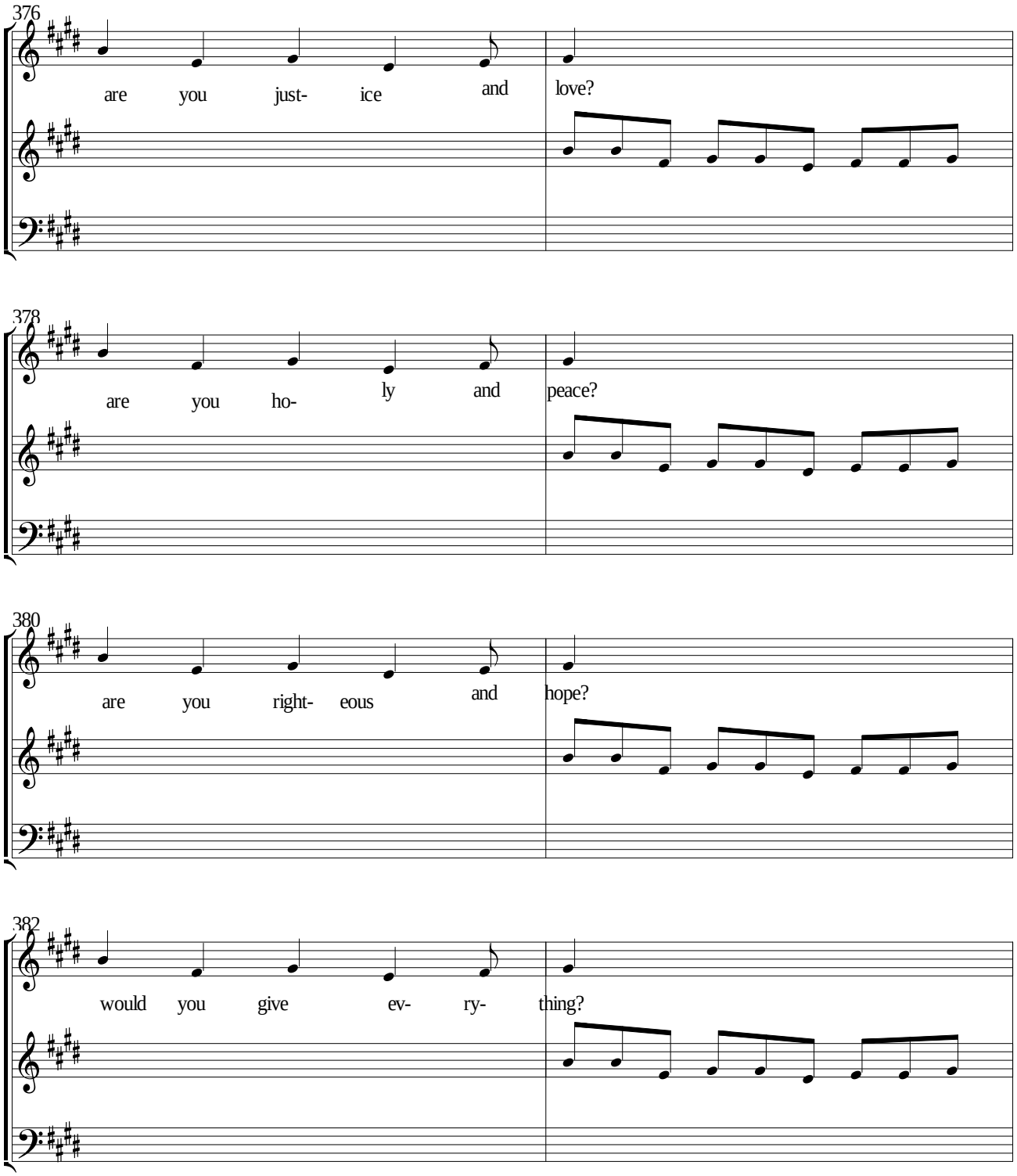

322
don't you think? don't you think? don't you think? don't you think? don't you think?
vealed all things? can you re- new your vows? Will you ex- plain to us
327
don't you think? don't you think? don't you think?
my- ster- ies?
330
don't you think? don't you think? don't you think?
331
God
what do you do you think?
don't you think? don't you think? don't you think?
don't you think? don't you think? don't you think?

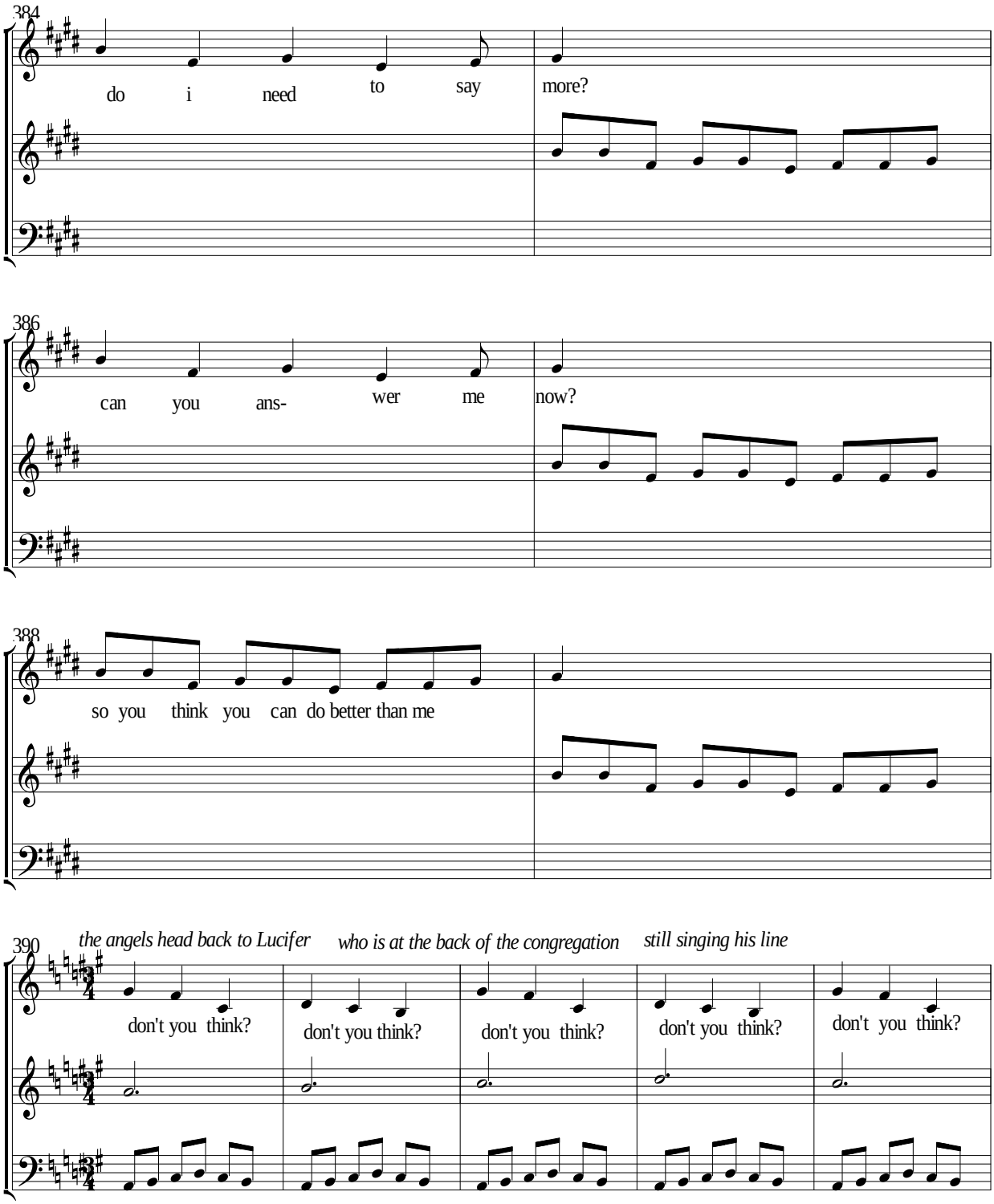

333
angels we are not
don't you think?
sure-
don't you think?
are there things
don't you think?
that we should
don't you think?
know?
don't you think?
338
we are not
don't you think?
sure- at
don't you think?
all
don't you think?
don't you think?
please tell us
don't you think?
343
what we don't
don't you think?
know
don't you think?
why can't we
don't you think?
be like you
don't you think?
why can't we
don't you think?
348
know all things?
don't you think?
why can't we
don't you think?
do e- ry
don't you think?
thing
don't you think?
don't you think?

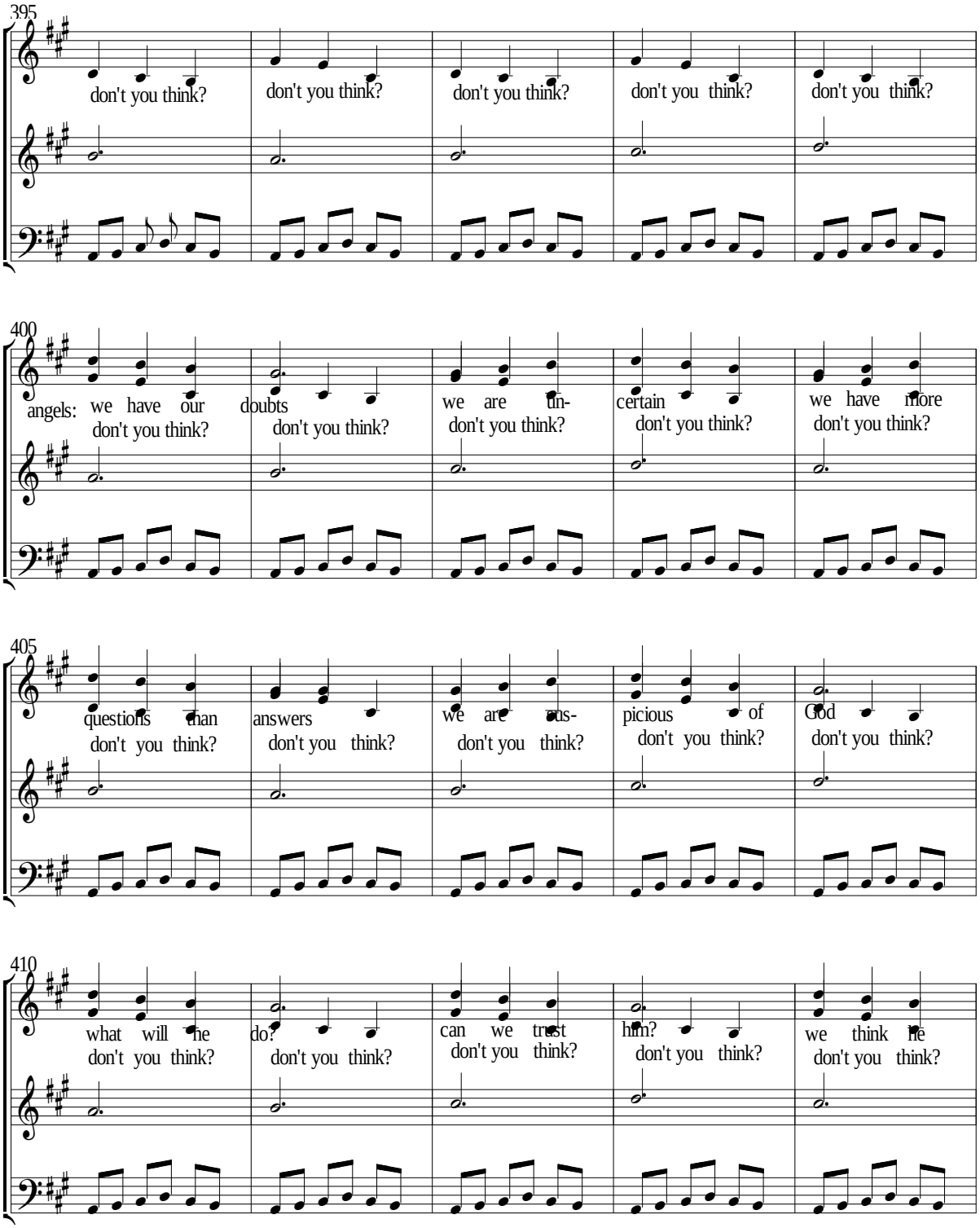

353
God
Lucifer tries to speak but is mute
anyway, everyone is looking at God now
354
still, Lucifer tries to answer in the affirmative
who do you think you are?
356
where were you when i was?
358
do you un- der- stand life?

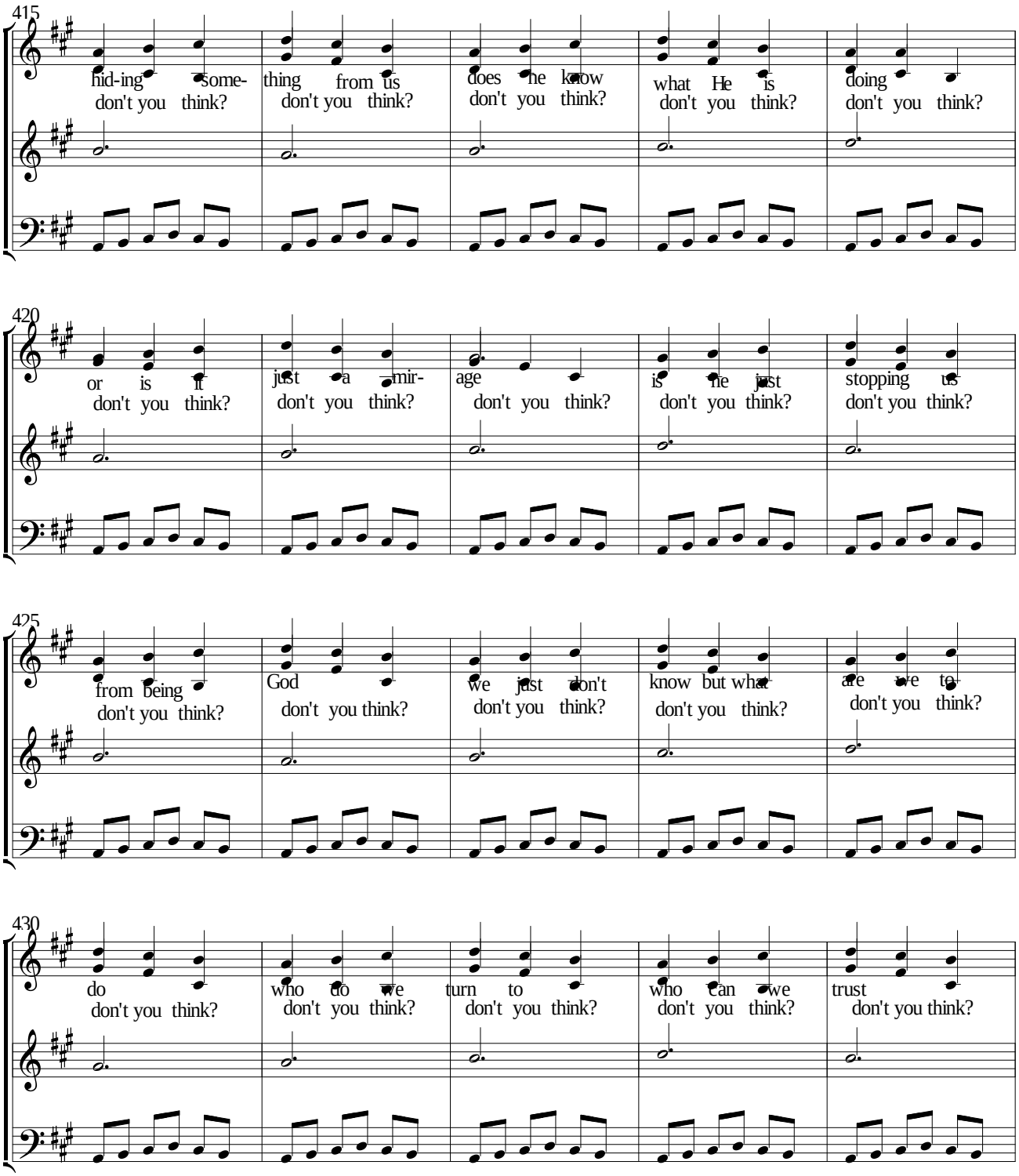

360
do you know the fur-ther- est star?
362
do you know the mystery of grace?
364
can you speak and it is?
366
does the weather listen to you?


368
do you have wis- dom's sight?
370
i can go on and on
372
who what where how when does?
374
why can is do are be?


376
are you just- ice and love?
378
are you ho- ly and peace?
380
are you right- eous and hope?
382
would you give ev- ry- thing?


384
do i need to say more?
386
can you ans- wer me now?
388
so you think you can do better than me
390
the angels head back to Lucifer
who is at the back of the congregation
still singing his line
don't you think?
don't you think?
don't you think?
don't you think?
don't you think?


395
don't you think?
don't you think?
don't you think?
don't you think?
don't you think?
400
angels: we have our doubts we are un- certain we have more
don't you think? don't you think? don't you think? don't you think? don't you think?
405
questions than answers we are sus- picious of God
don't you think? don't you think? don't you think? don't you think? don't you think?
410
what will he do? can we trust him? we think he
don't you think? don't you think? don't you think? don't you think? don't you think?



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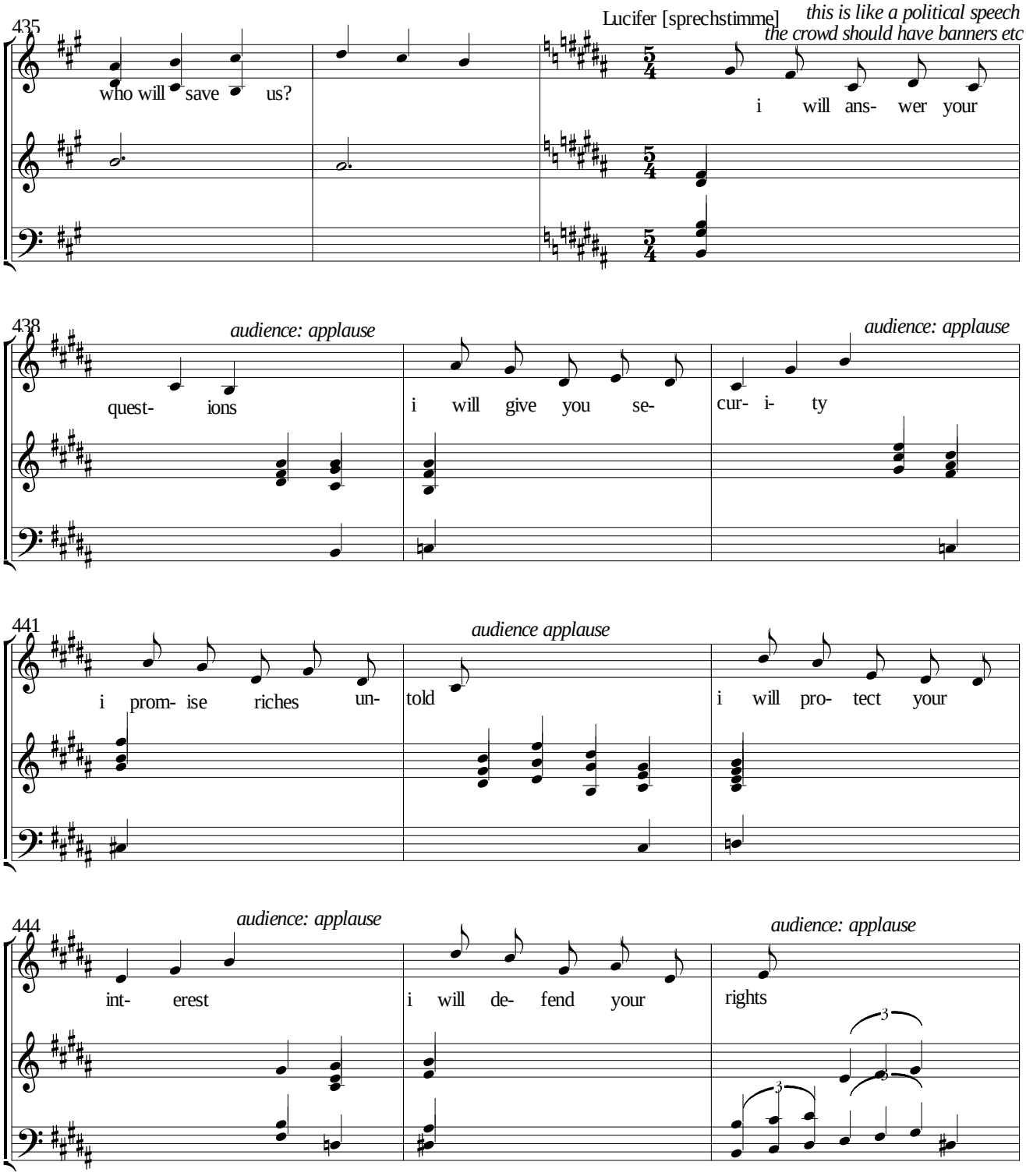
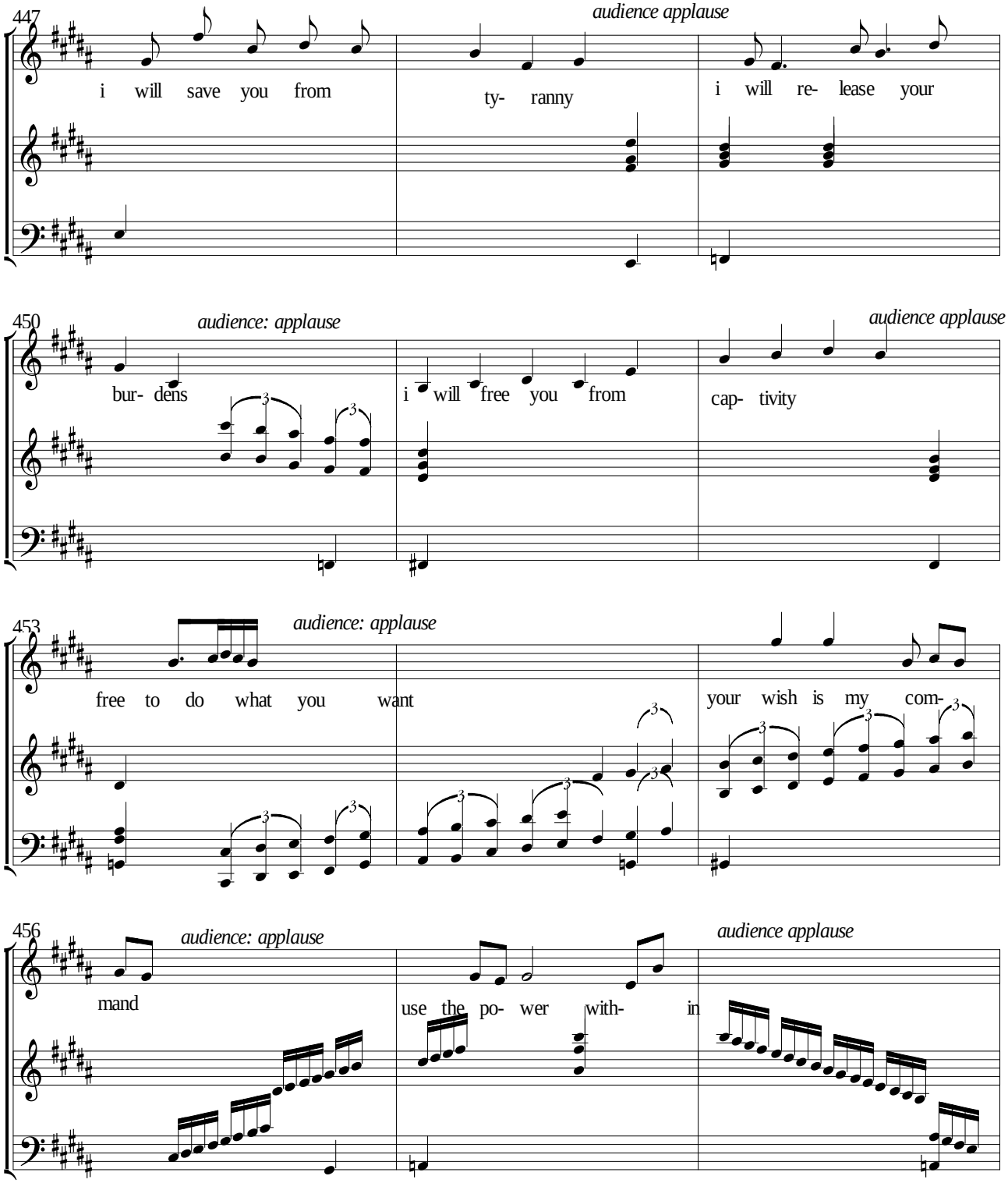
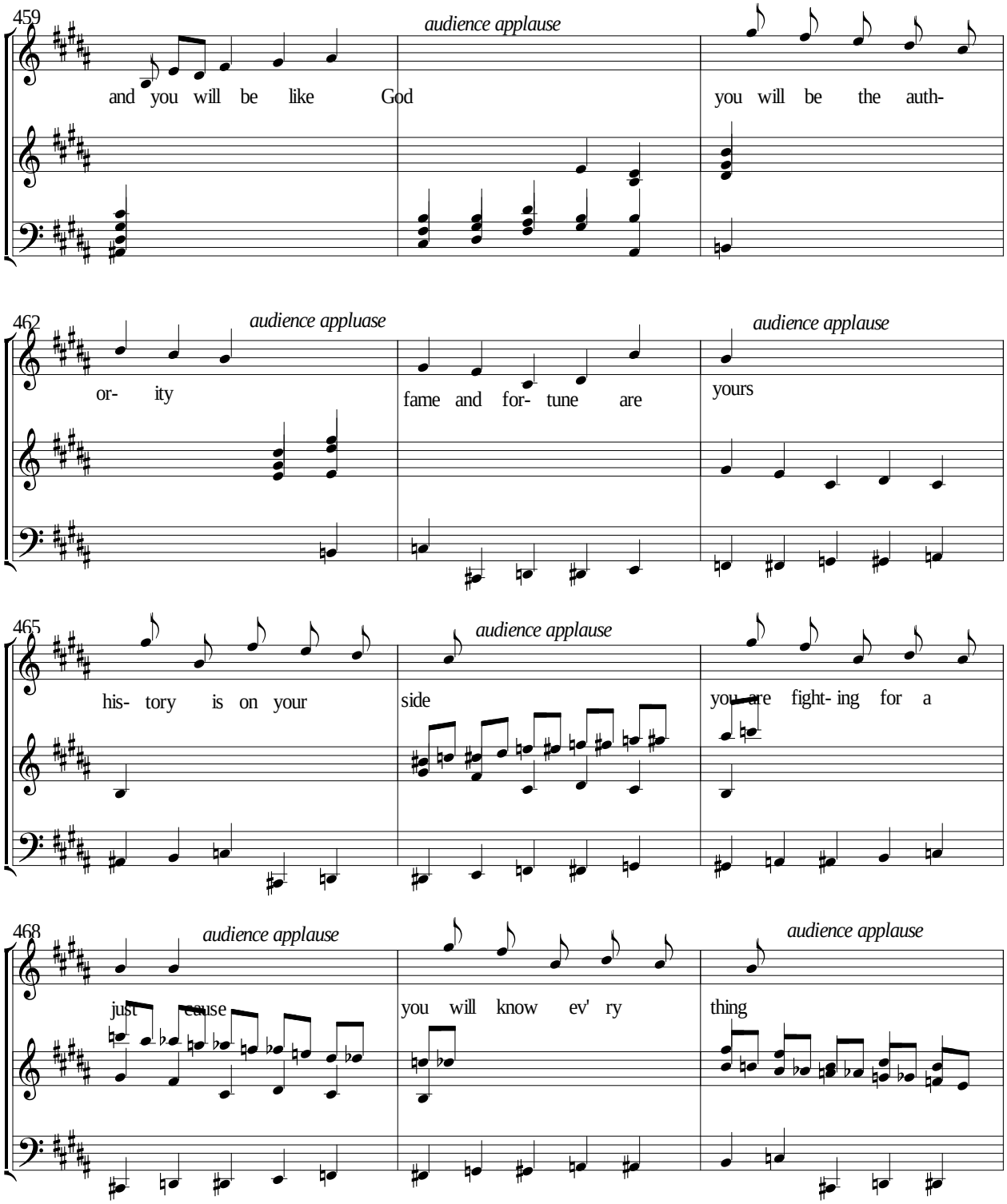
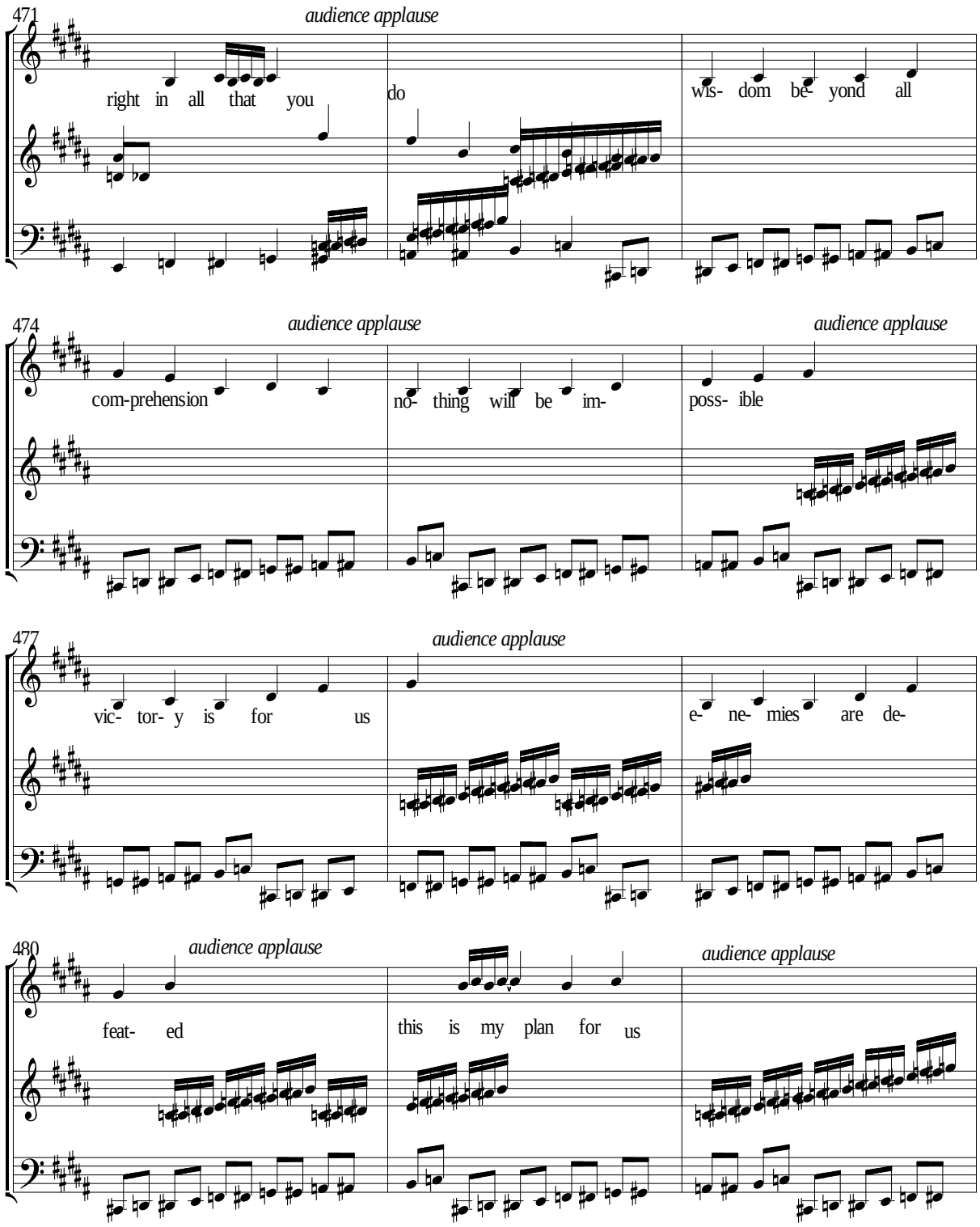

435
Lucifer [sprechstimme]
this is like a political speech
the crowd should have banners etc
who will save us?
i will ans- wer your
438
audience: applause
audience: applause
quest- ions
i will give you se-
cur- i- ty
441
audience applause
i prom- ise riches un-
told
i will pro- tect your
444
audience: applause
audience: applause
int- erest
i will de- fend your
rights


447
audience applause
i will save you from
ty- ranny
i will re- lease your
450
audience: applause
audience applause
bur- dens
i will free you from
cap- tivity
453
audience: applause
free to do what you want
your wish is my com-
456
audience: applause
audience applause
mand
use the po- wer with- in


459
audience applause
and you will be like God
you will be the auth-
462
audience appluase
audience applause
or- ity
fame and for- tune are
yours
465
audience applause
his- tory is on your
side
you are fight- ing for a
468
audience applause
audience applause
just cause
you will know ev' ry
thing



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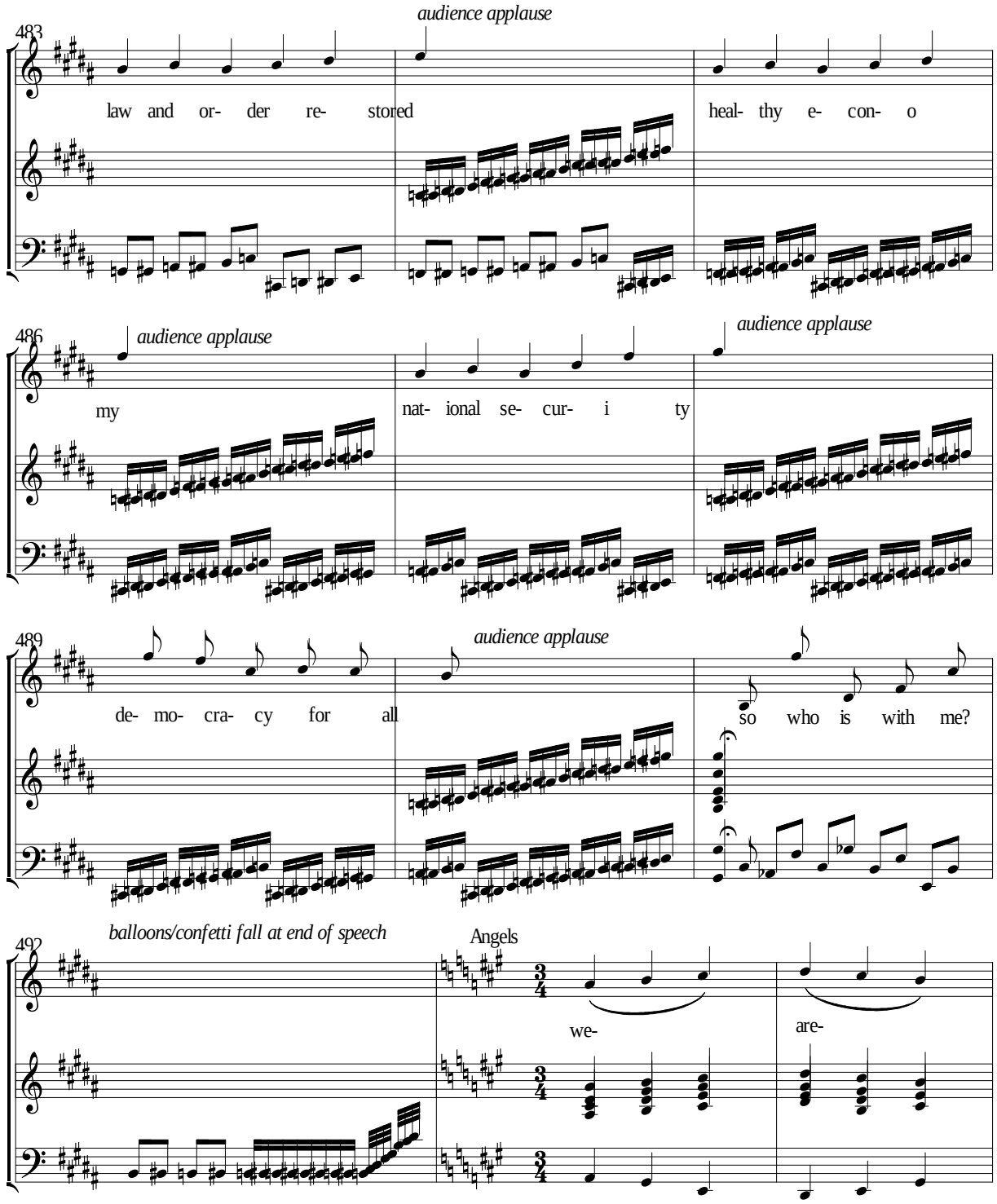
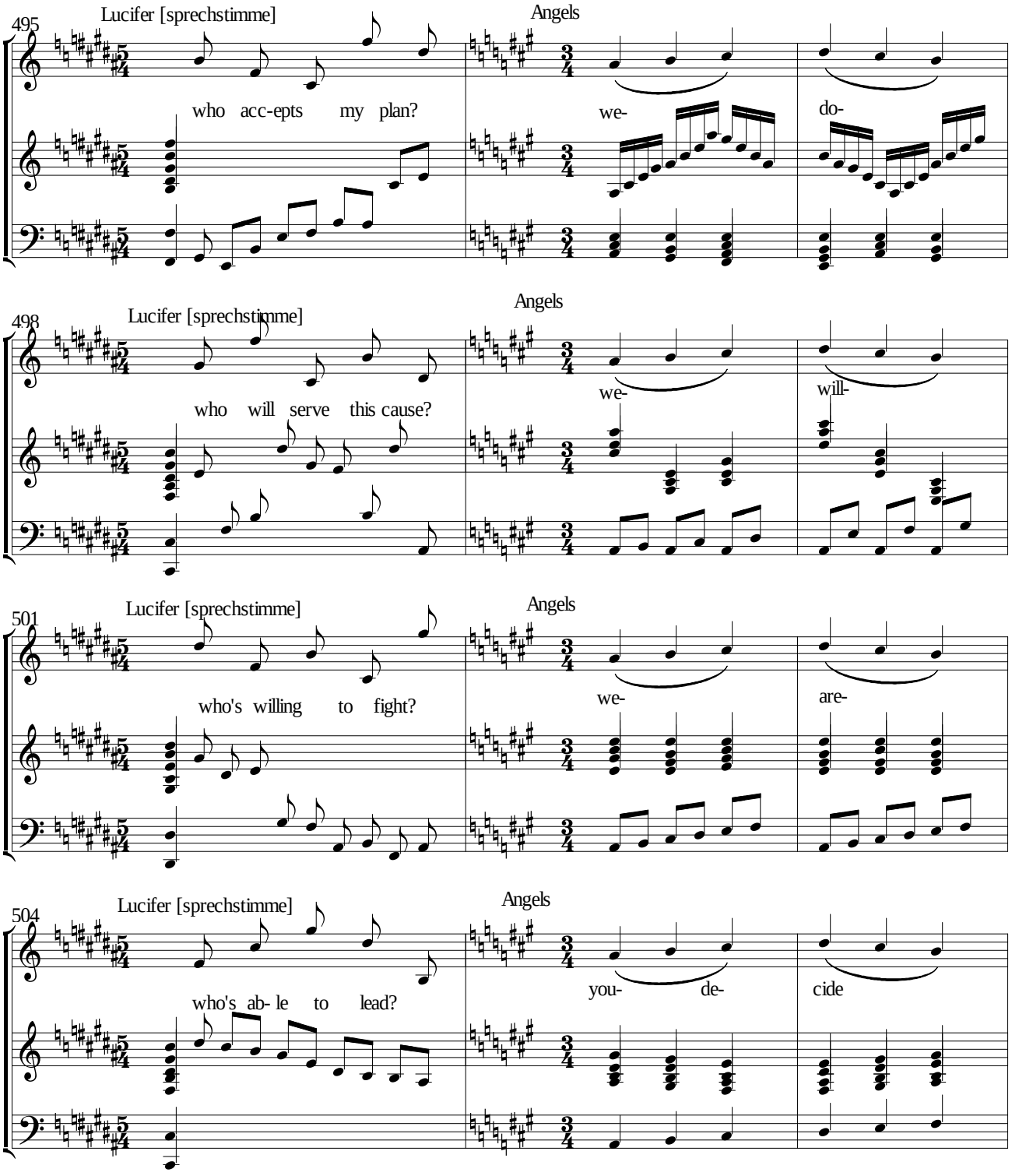
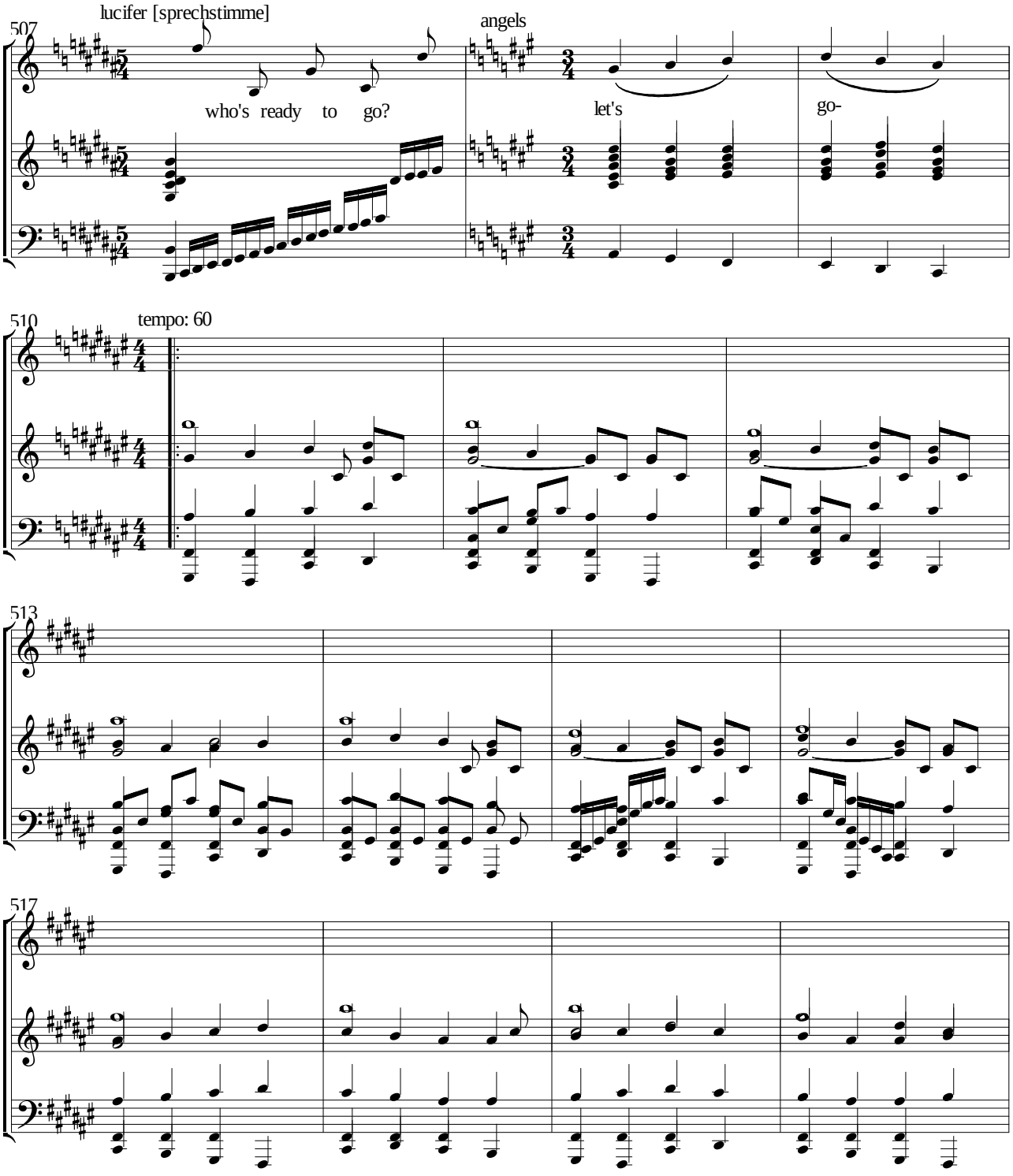

audience applause
483
law and or- der re- stored
heal- thy e- con- o
audience applause
audience applause
486
my
nat- ional se- cur- i ty
audience applause
489
de- mo- cra- cy for all
so who is with me?
balloons/confetti fall at end of speech
Angels
492
we-
are-


495
Lucifer [sprechstimme]
who acc-epts my plan?
Angels
we- do-
498
Lucifer [sprechstimme]
who will serve this cause?
Angels
we- will-
501
Lucifer [sprechstimme]
who's willing to fight?
Angels
we- are-
504
Lucifer [sprechstimme]
who's ab- le to lead?
Angels
you- de- cide



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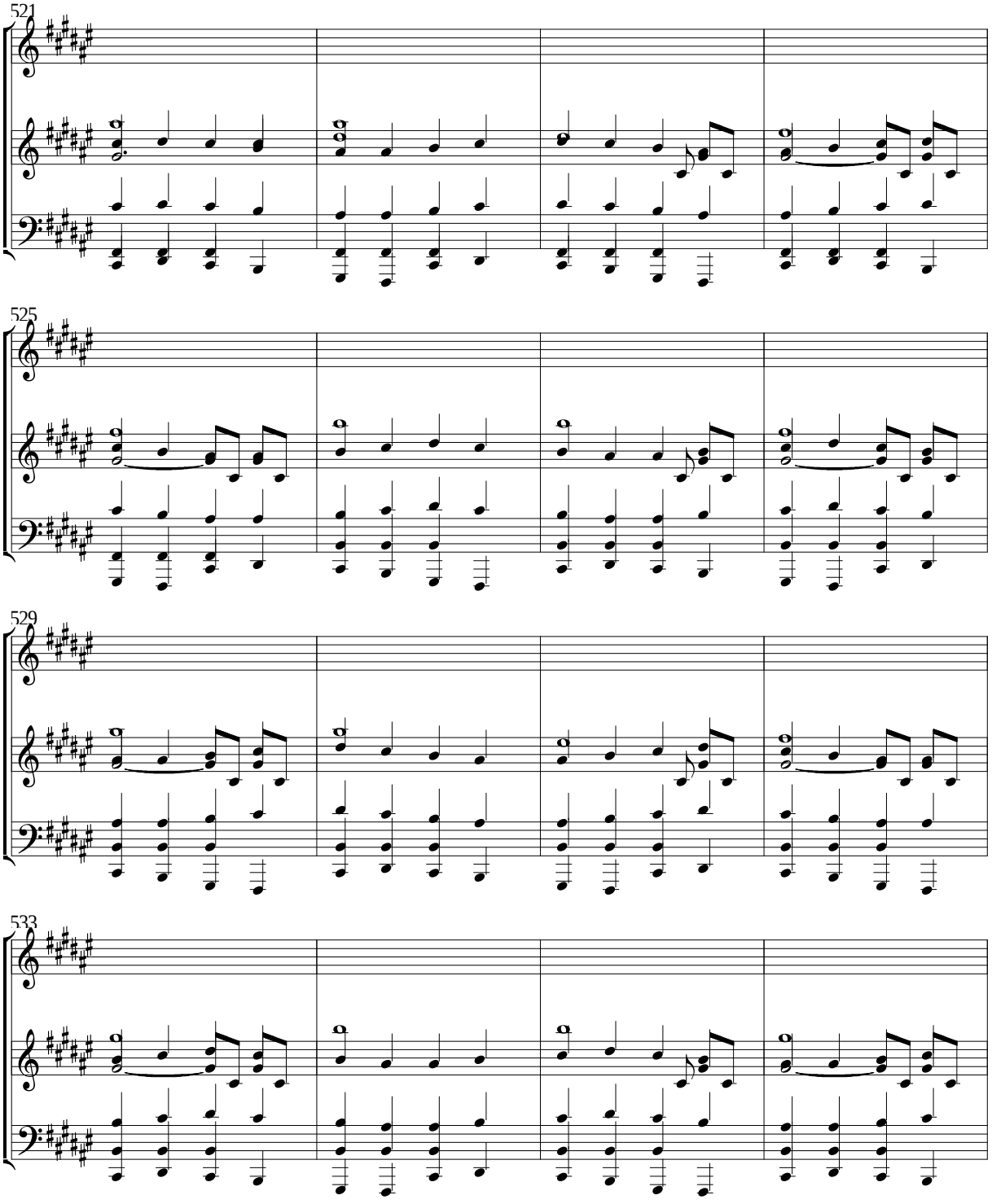

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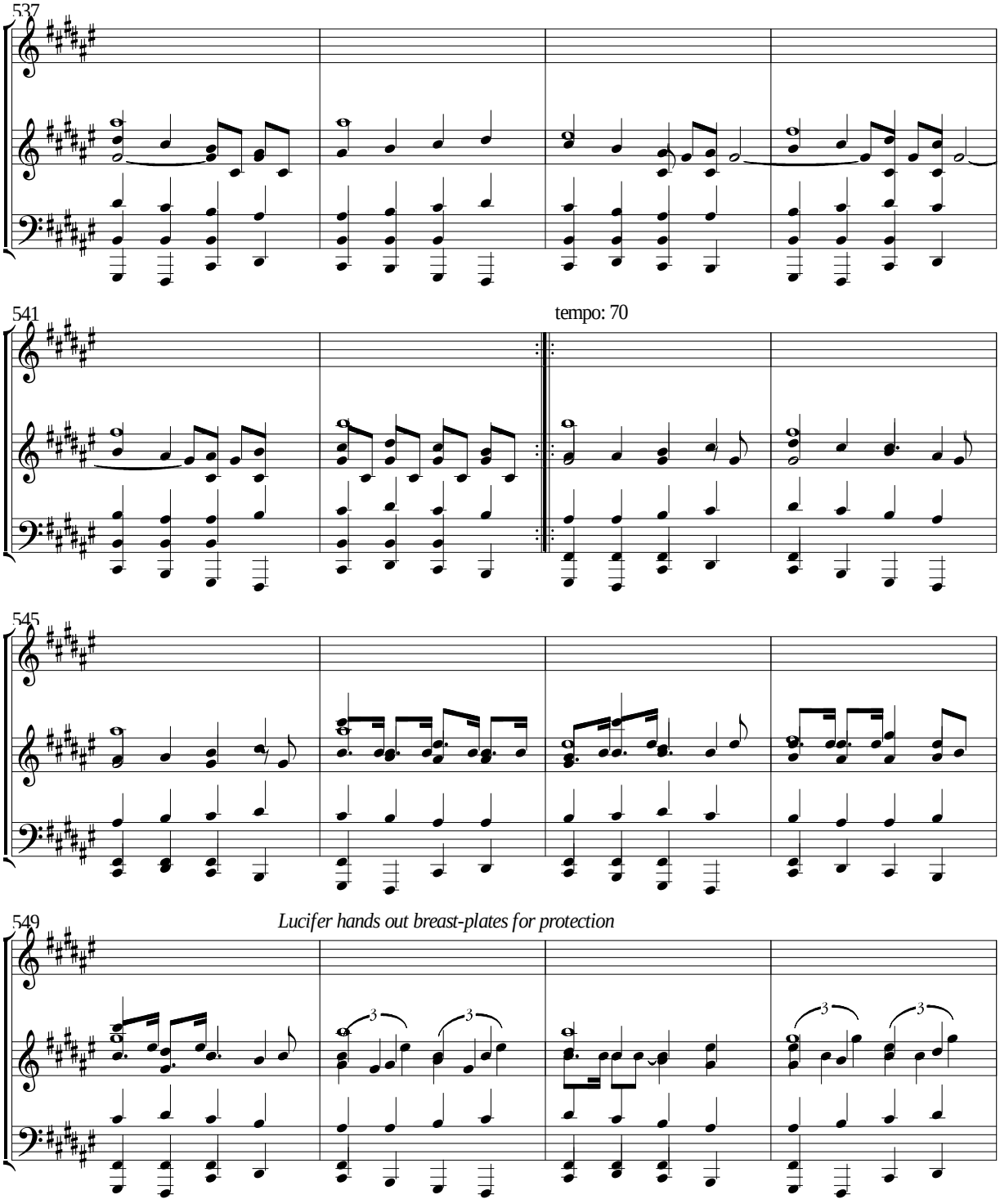

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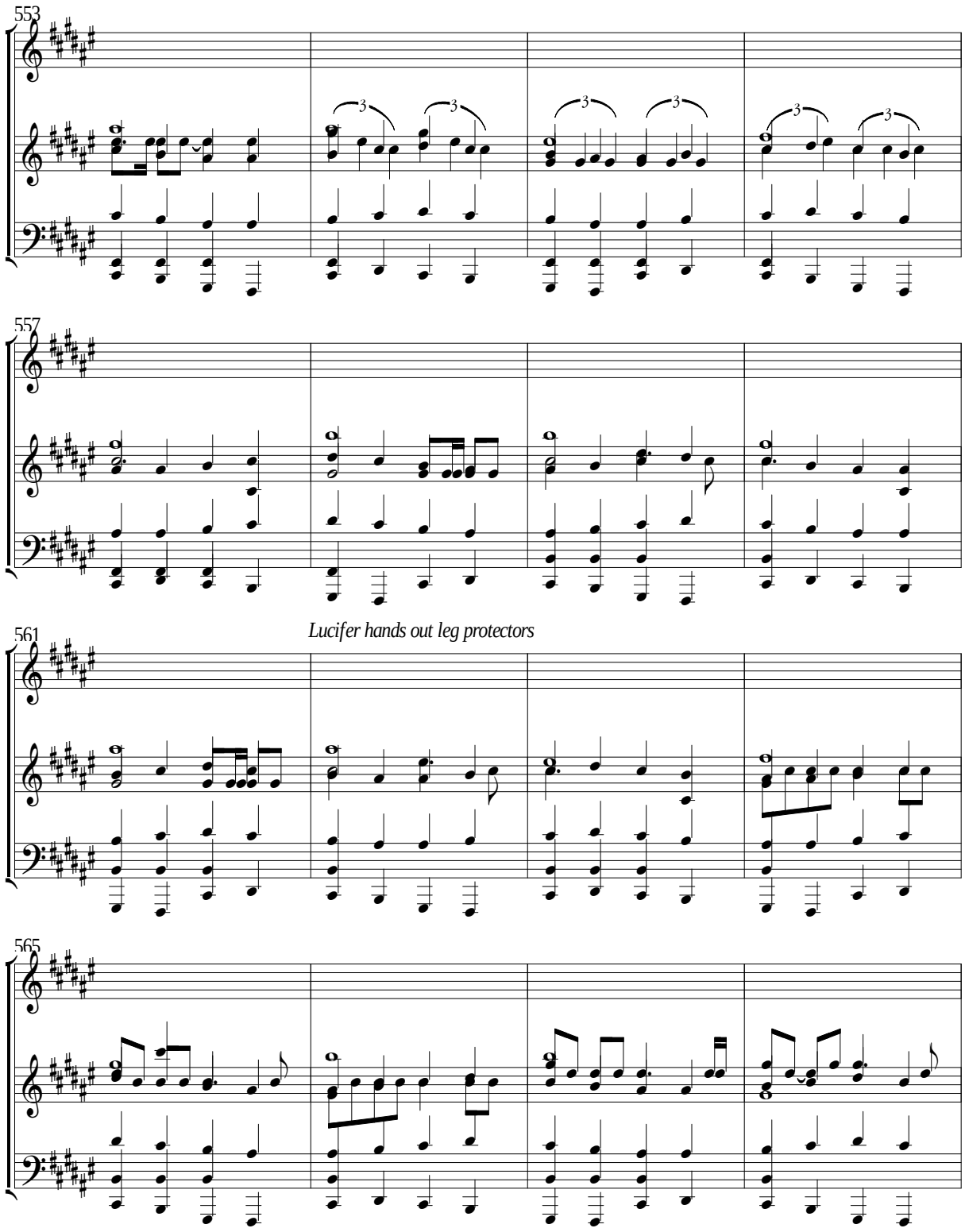

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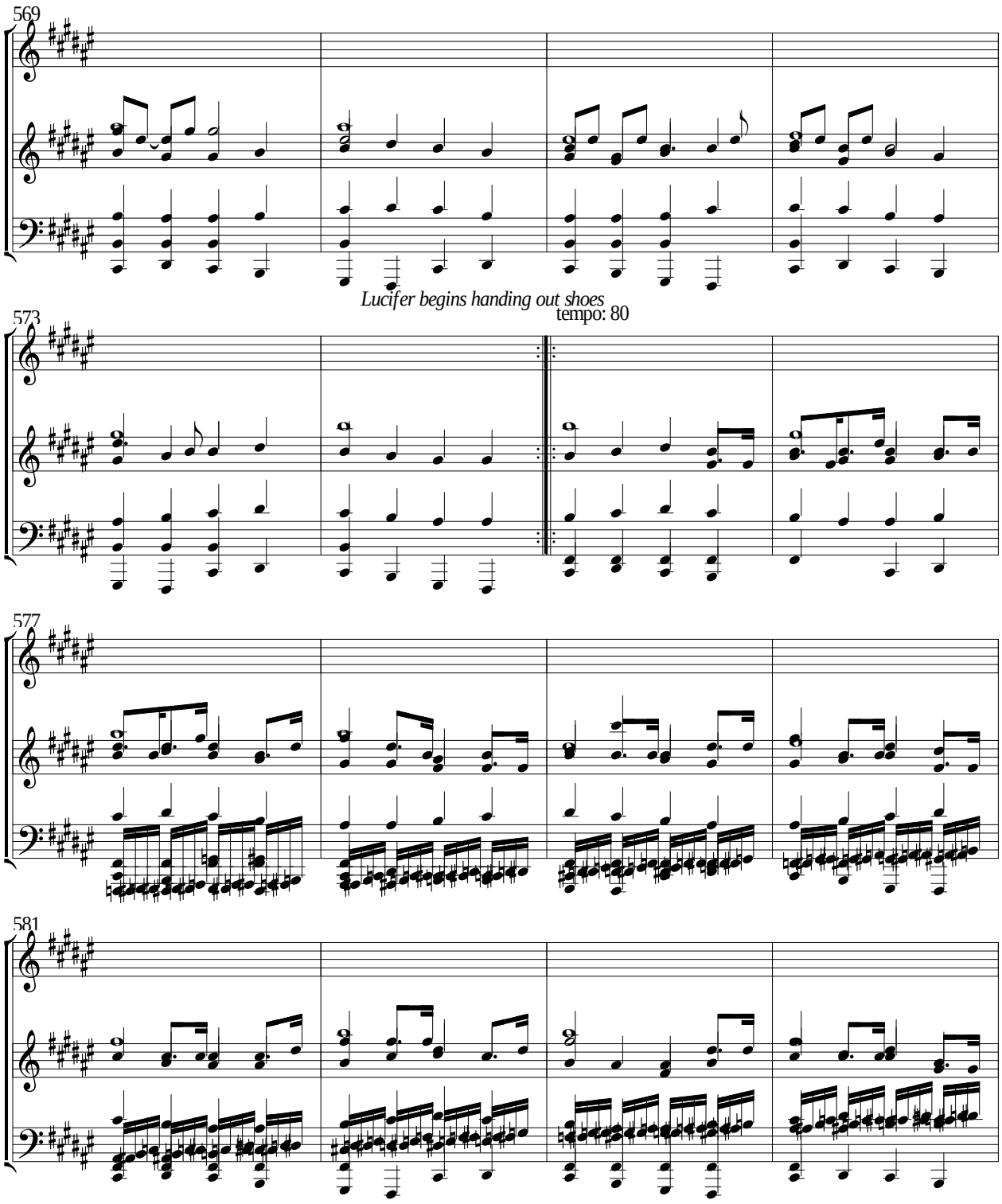

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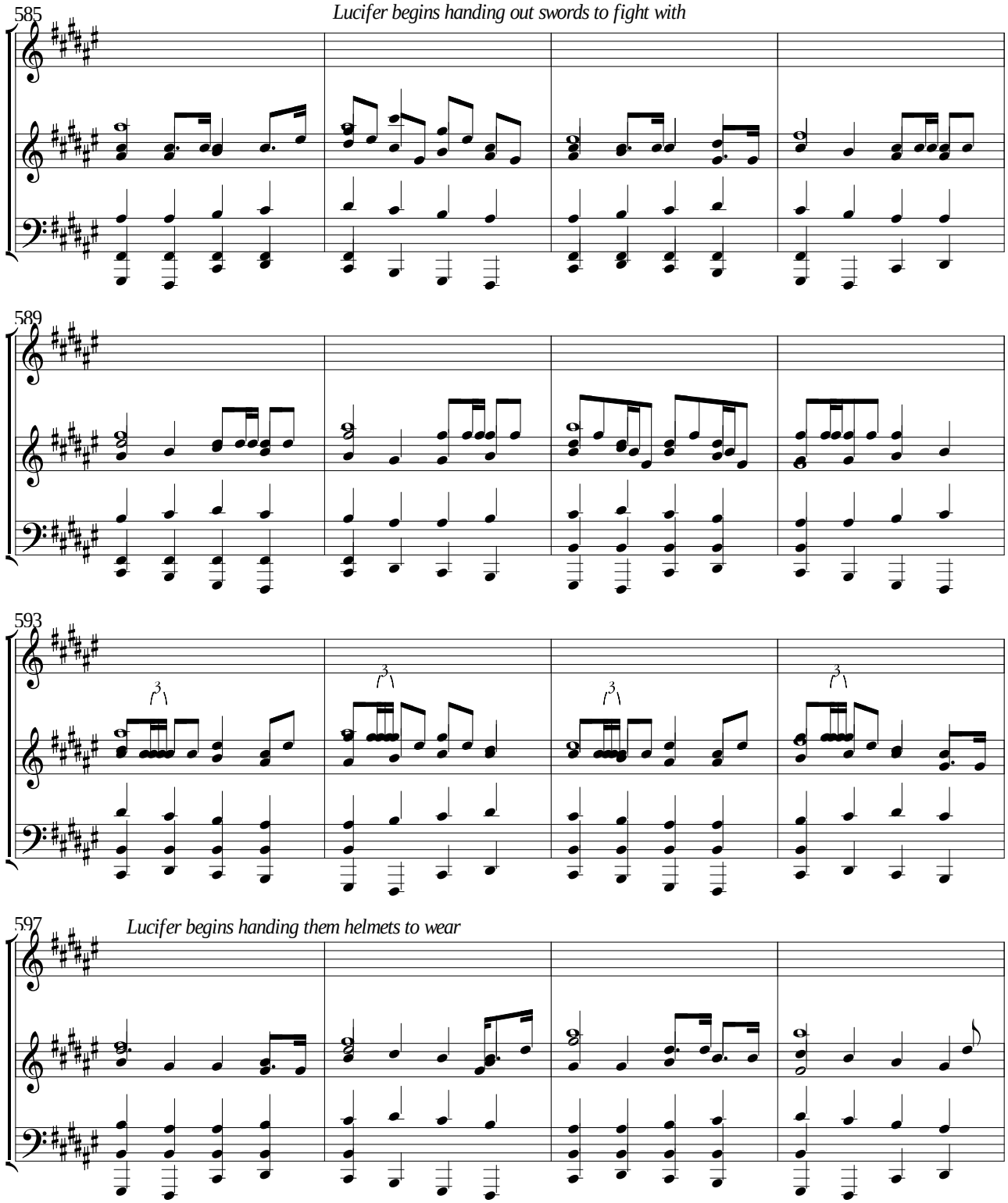

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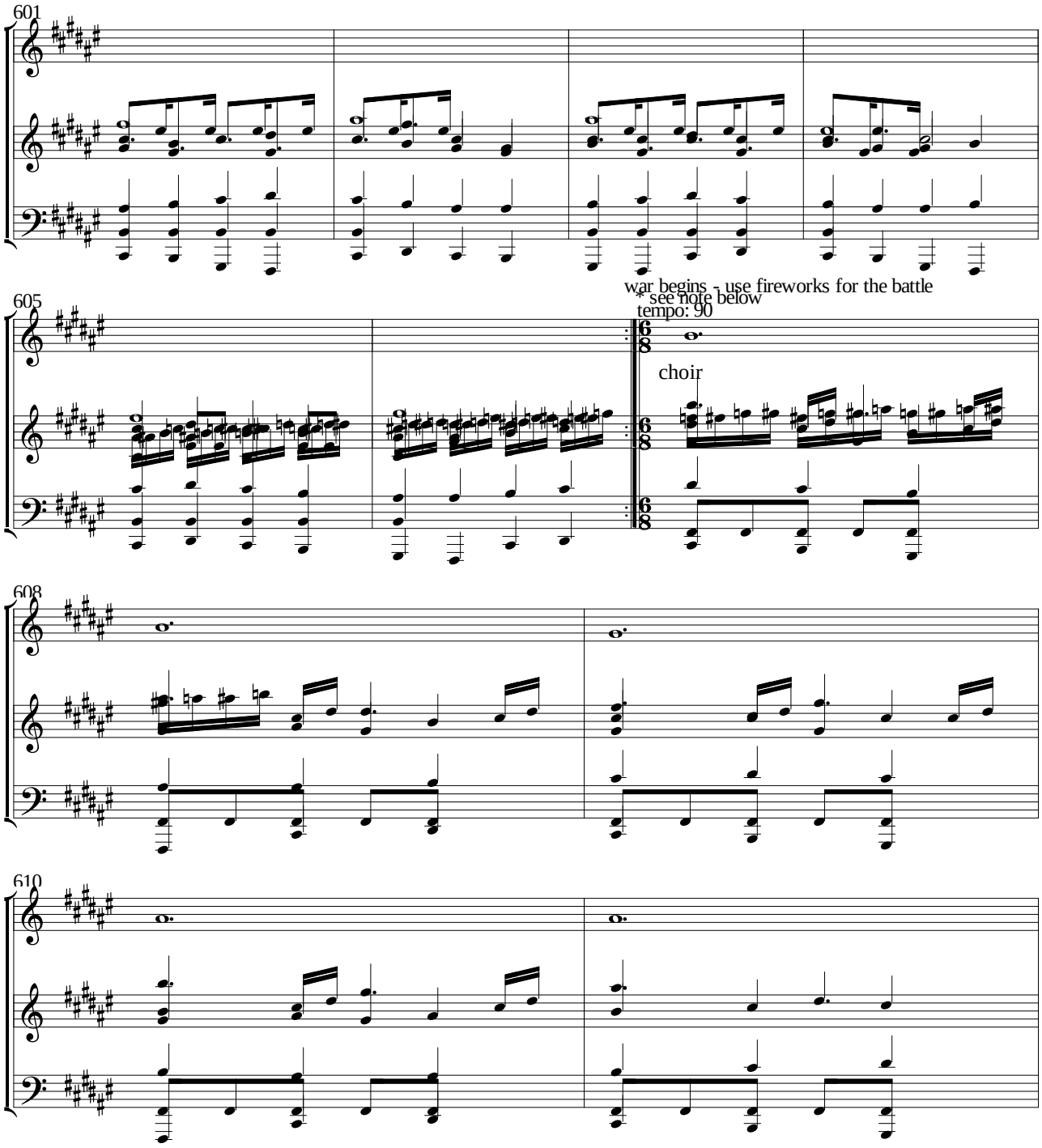
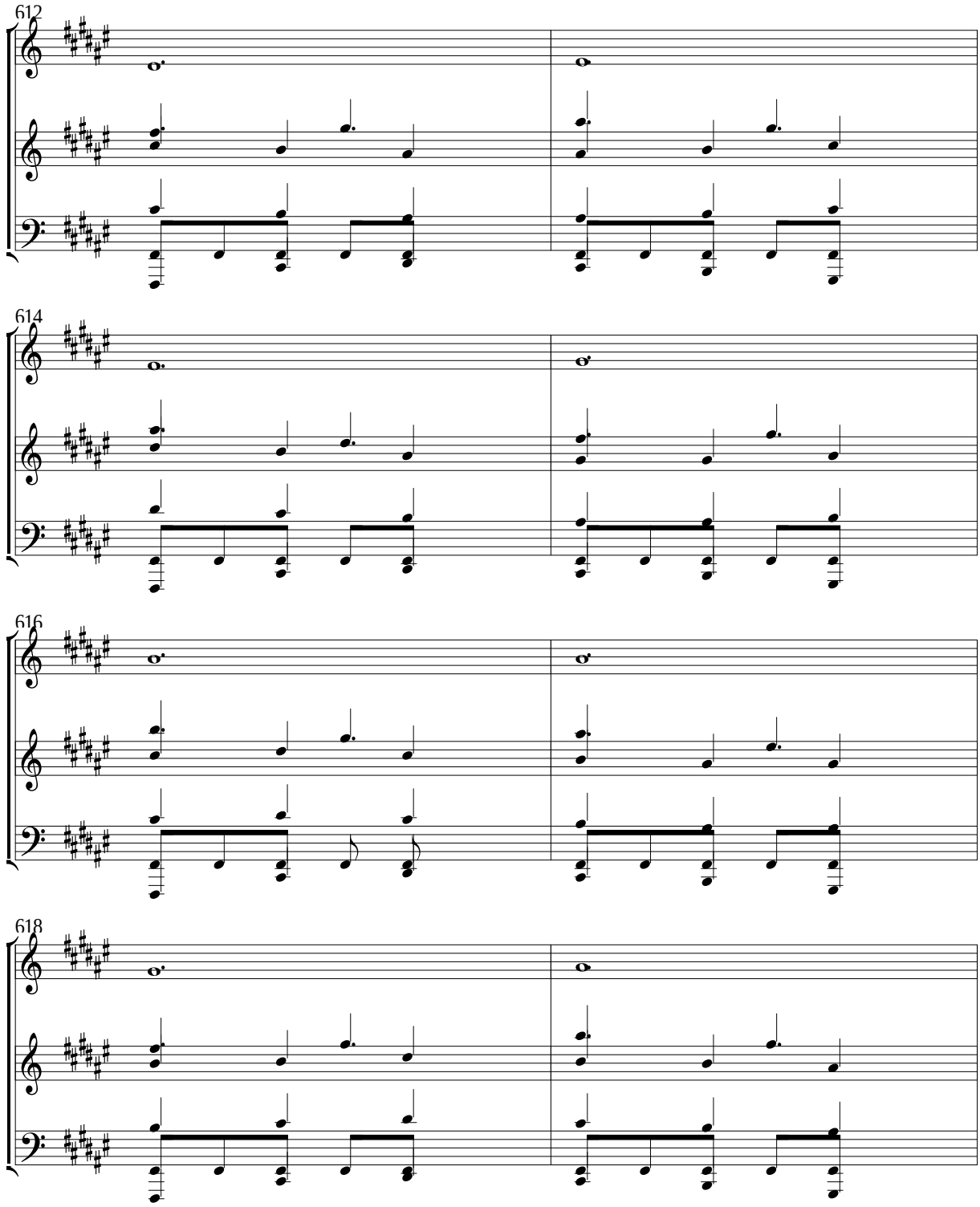


* note for bar 607
speakers should be placed around location, even amongst audience
sounds of artillery, cannons, and guns, there are some available on-line
don't just have one sequence of sound going through the speakers
variety, and surprise, it should be choreographed with the fireworks
[if possible, use real weapons inc cannons]
no need for vehicles remember angels can fly
loud percussion [symbals, bass drum, that accent the war sounds whenever the player feels like it [limit 1/bar]

Lights should be flashing, both houselights as well as others to indicate where explosions take place



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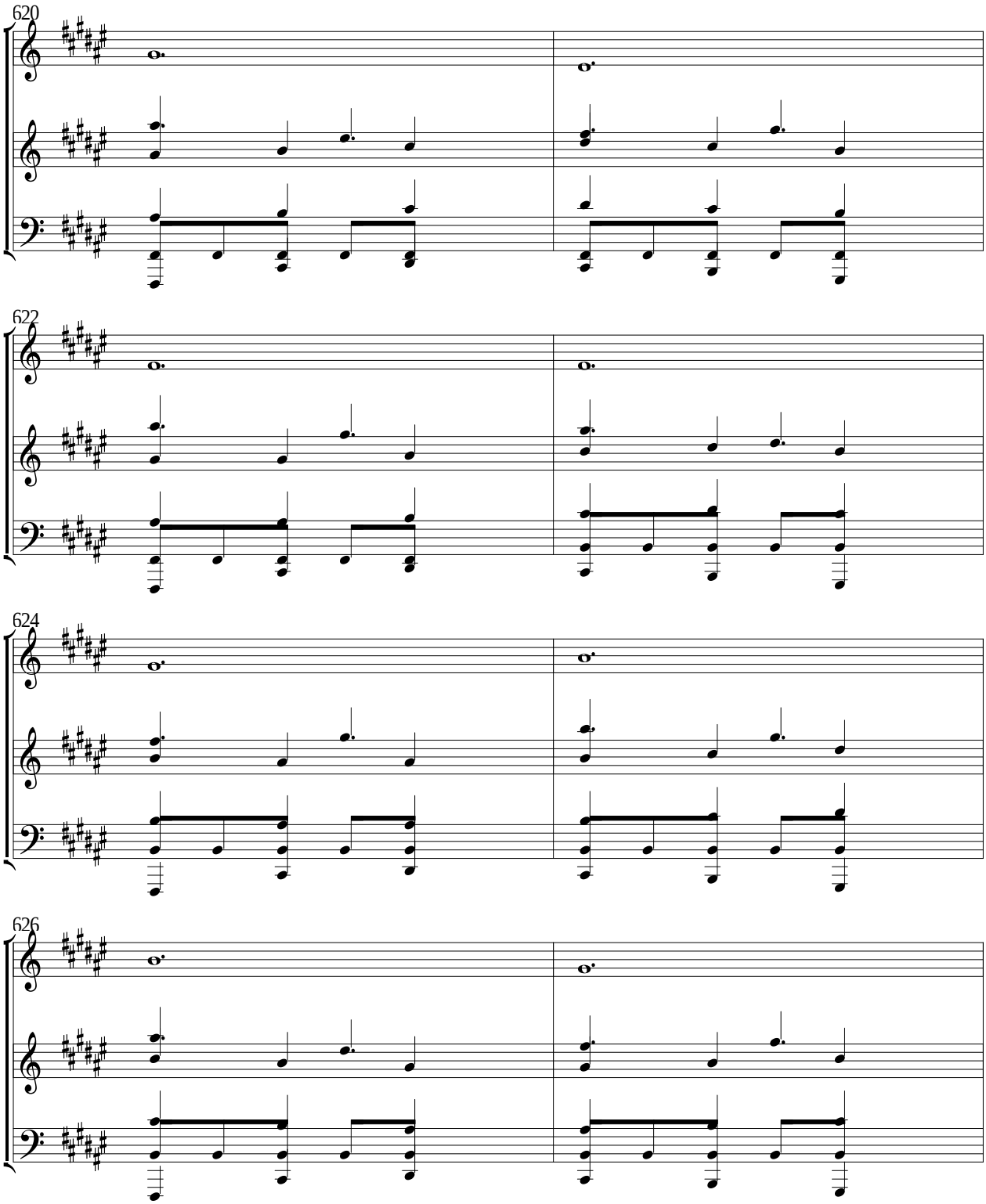

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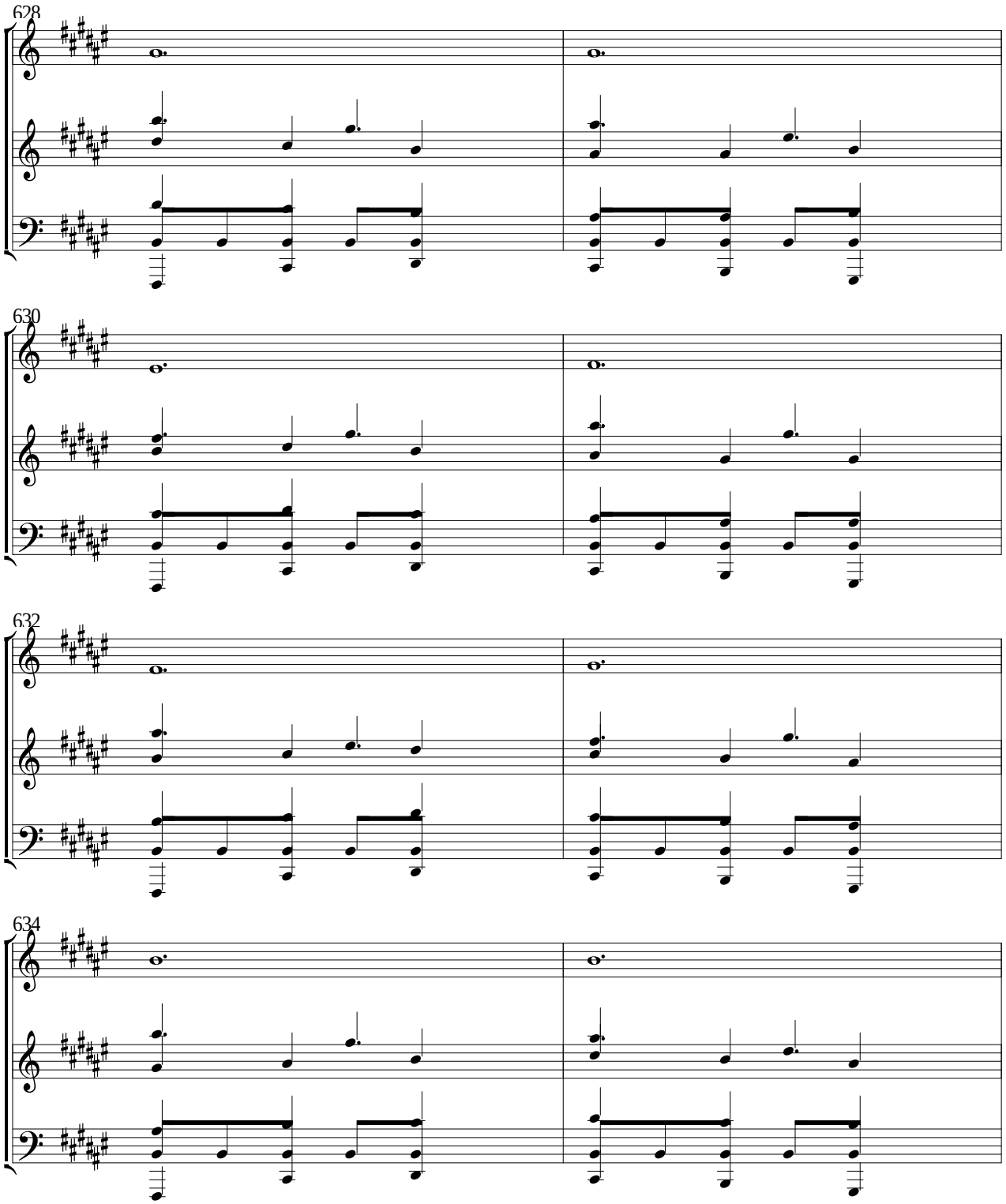

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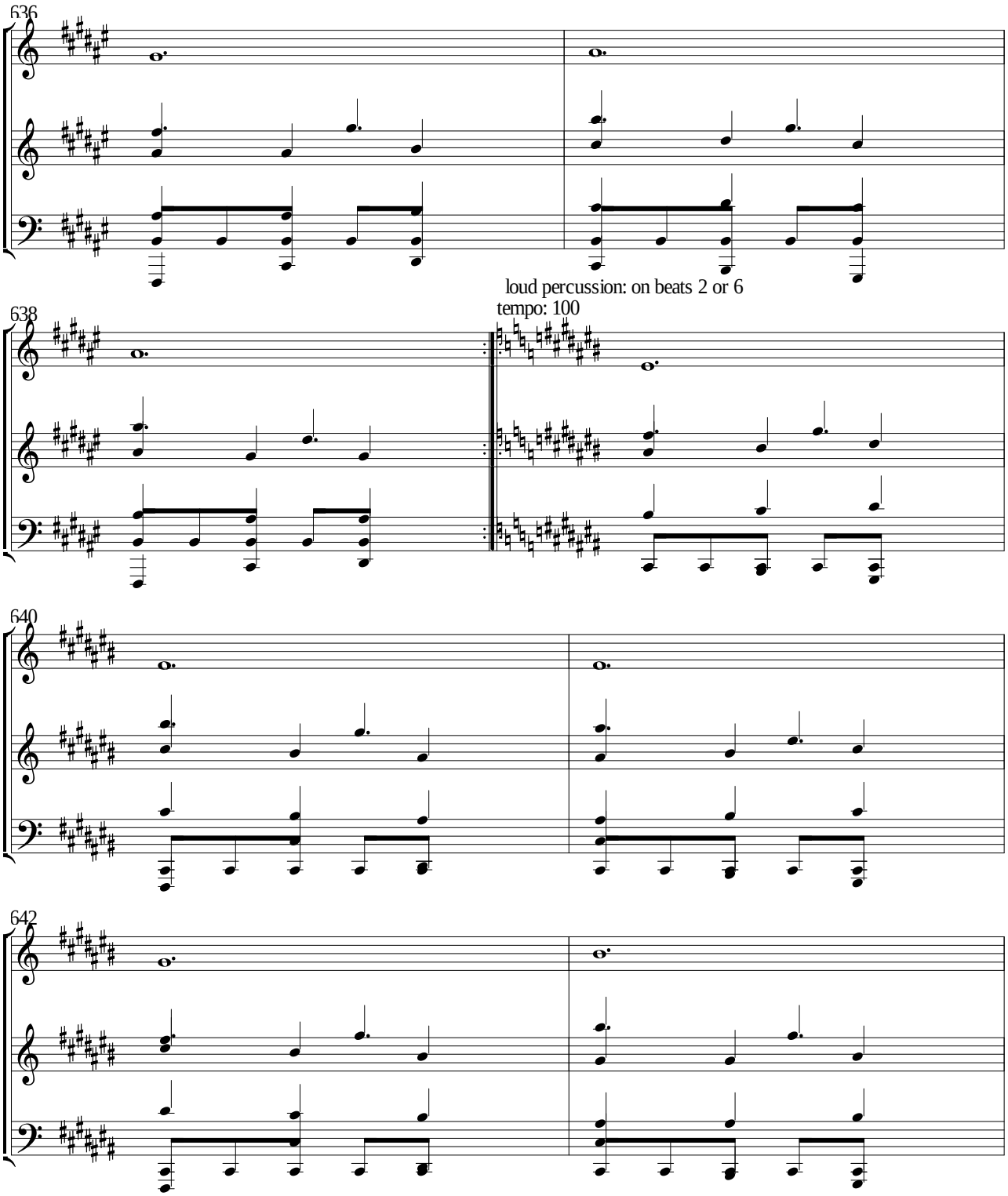

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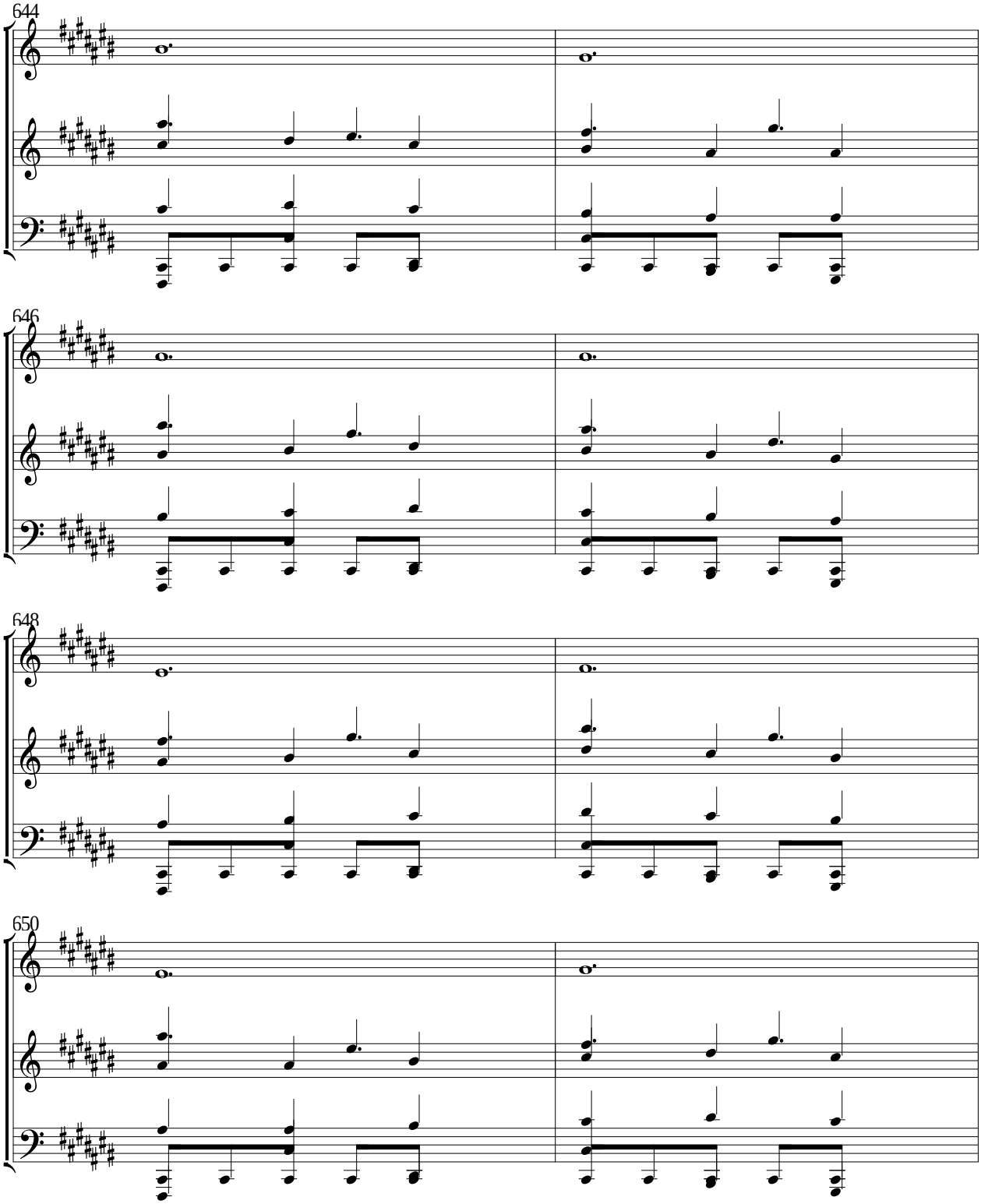

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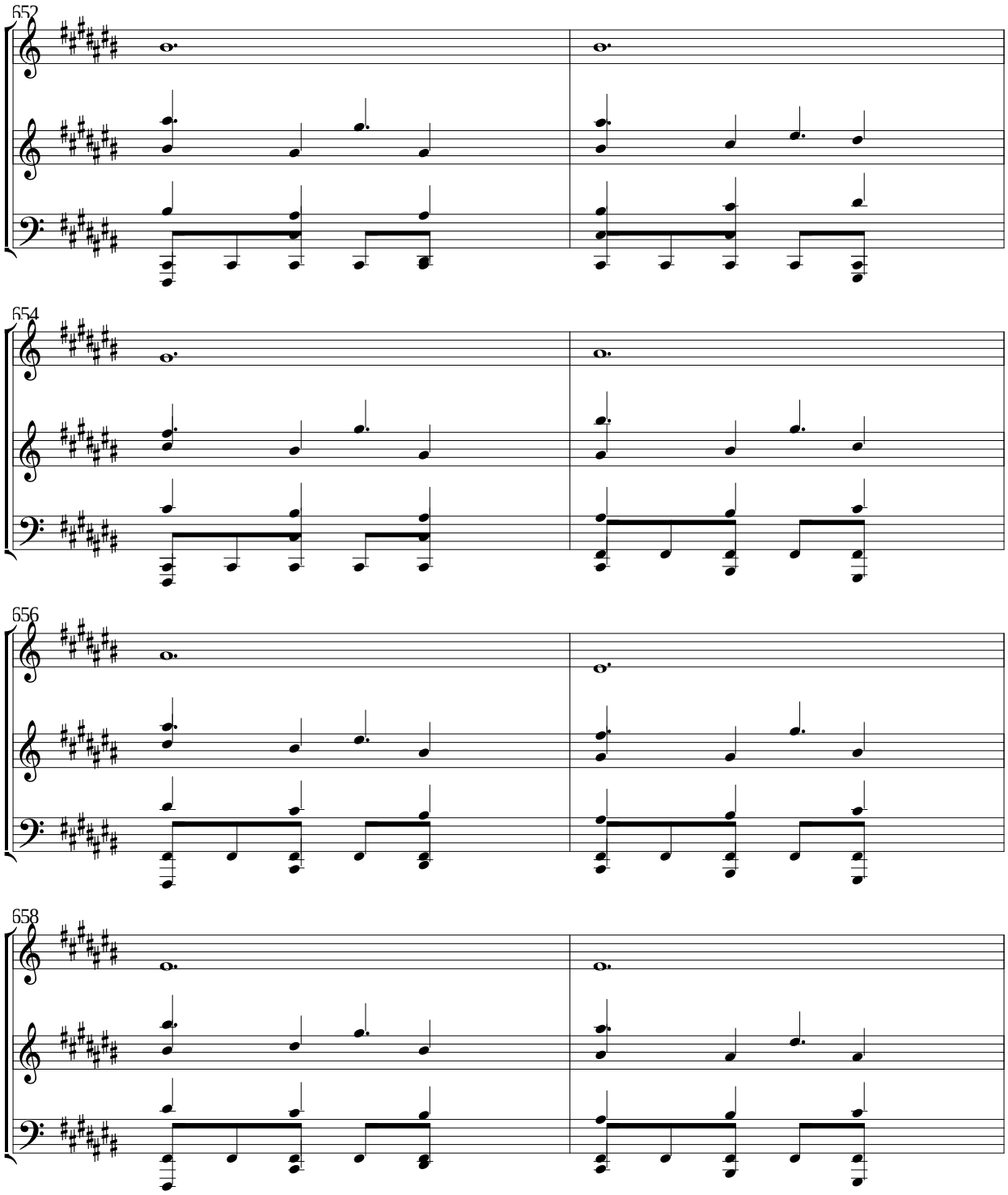

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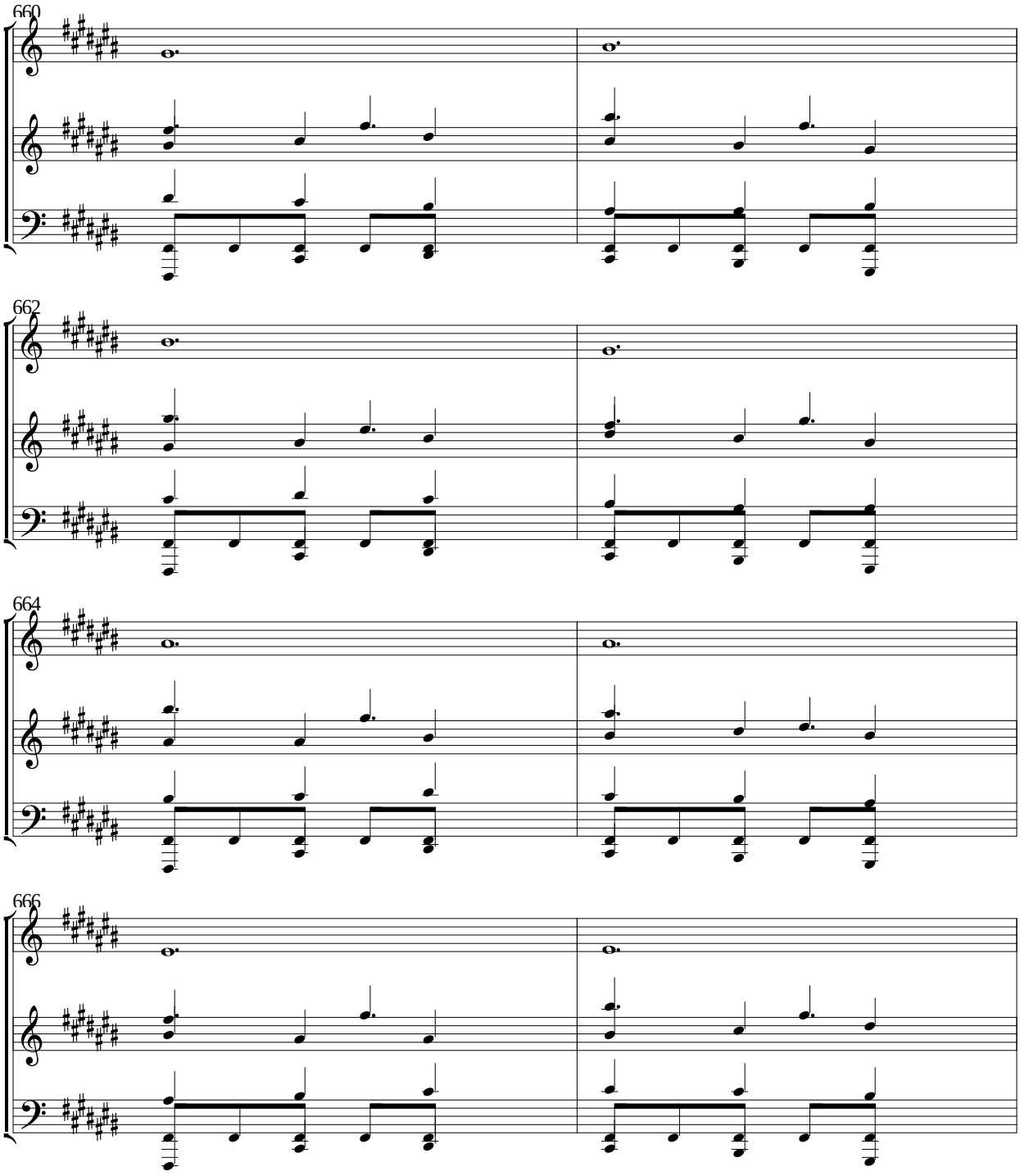

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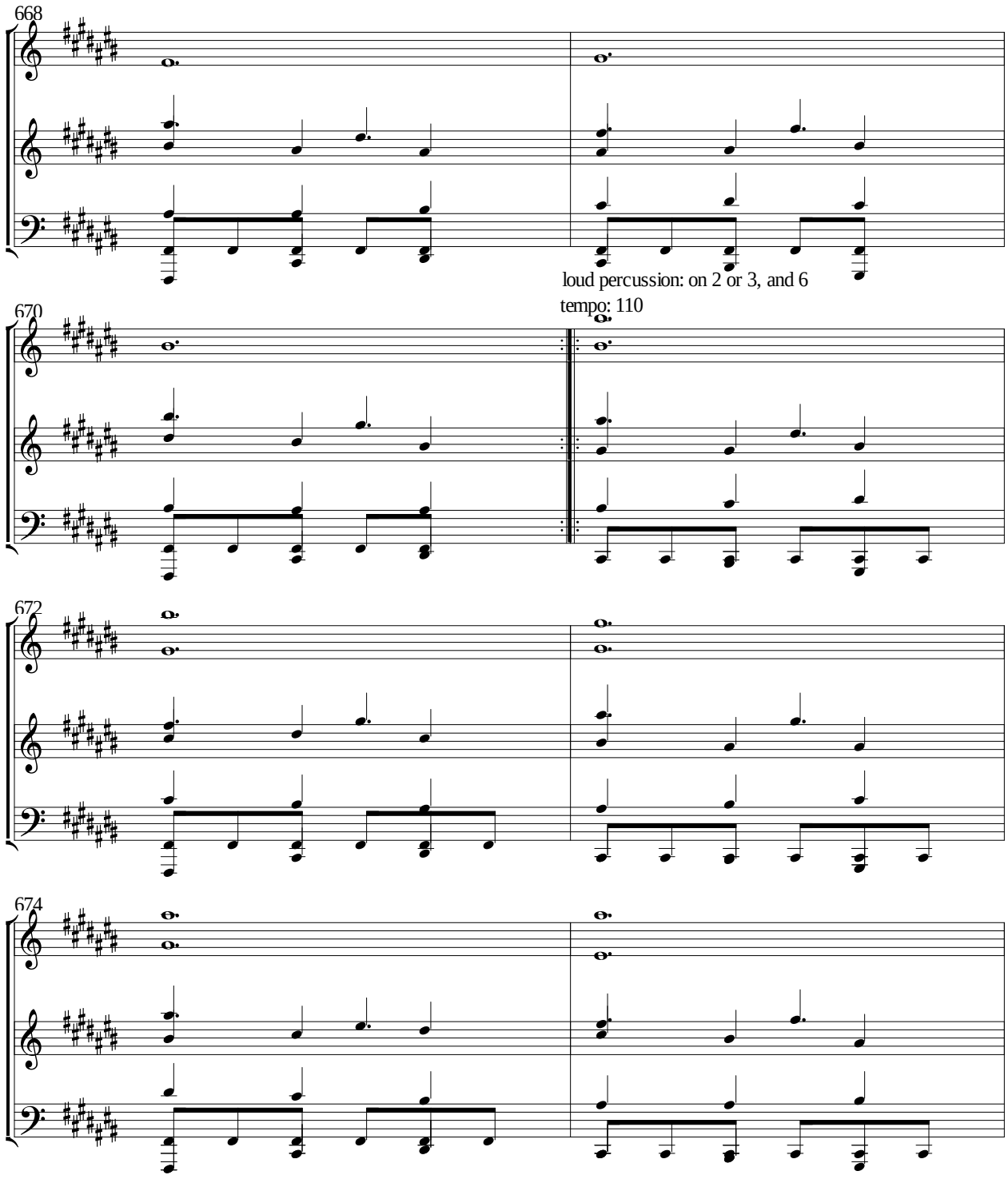

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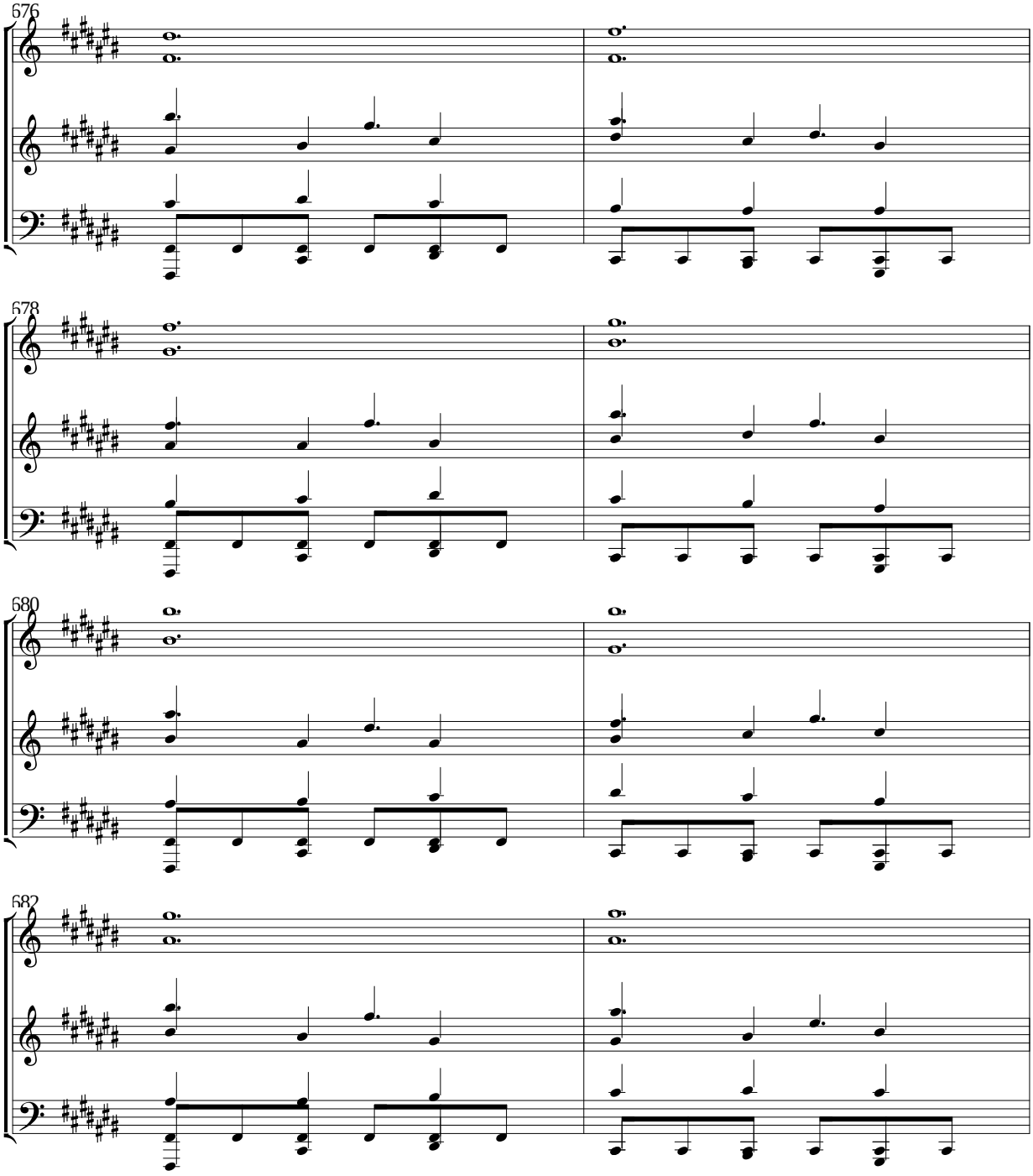

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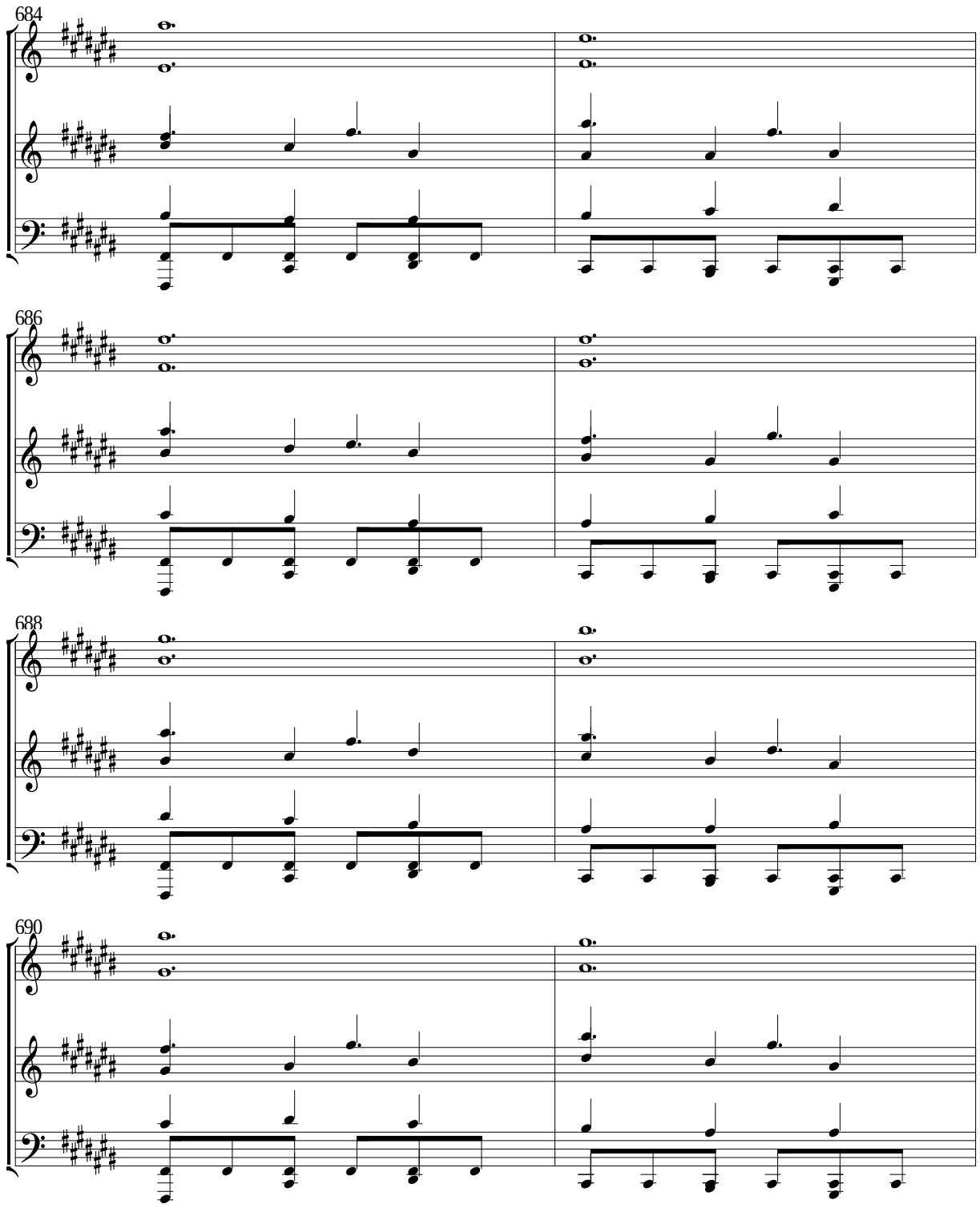

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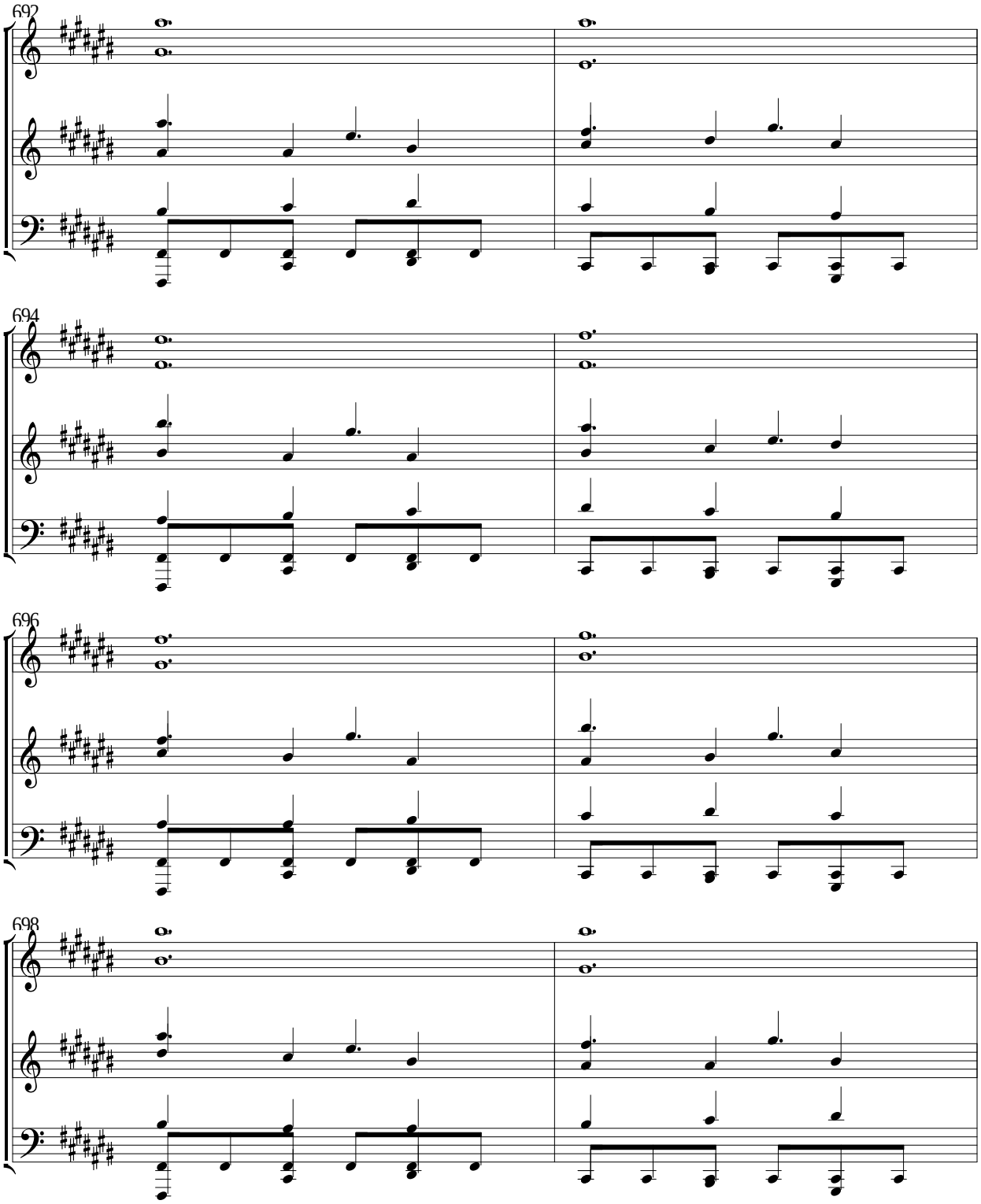

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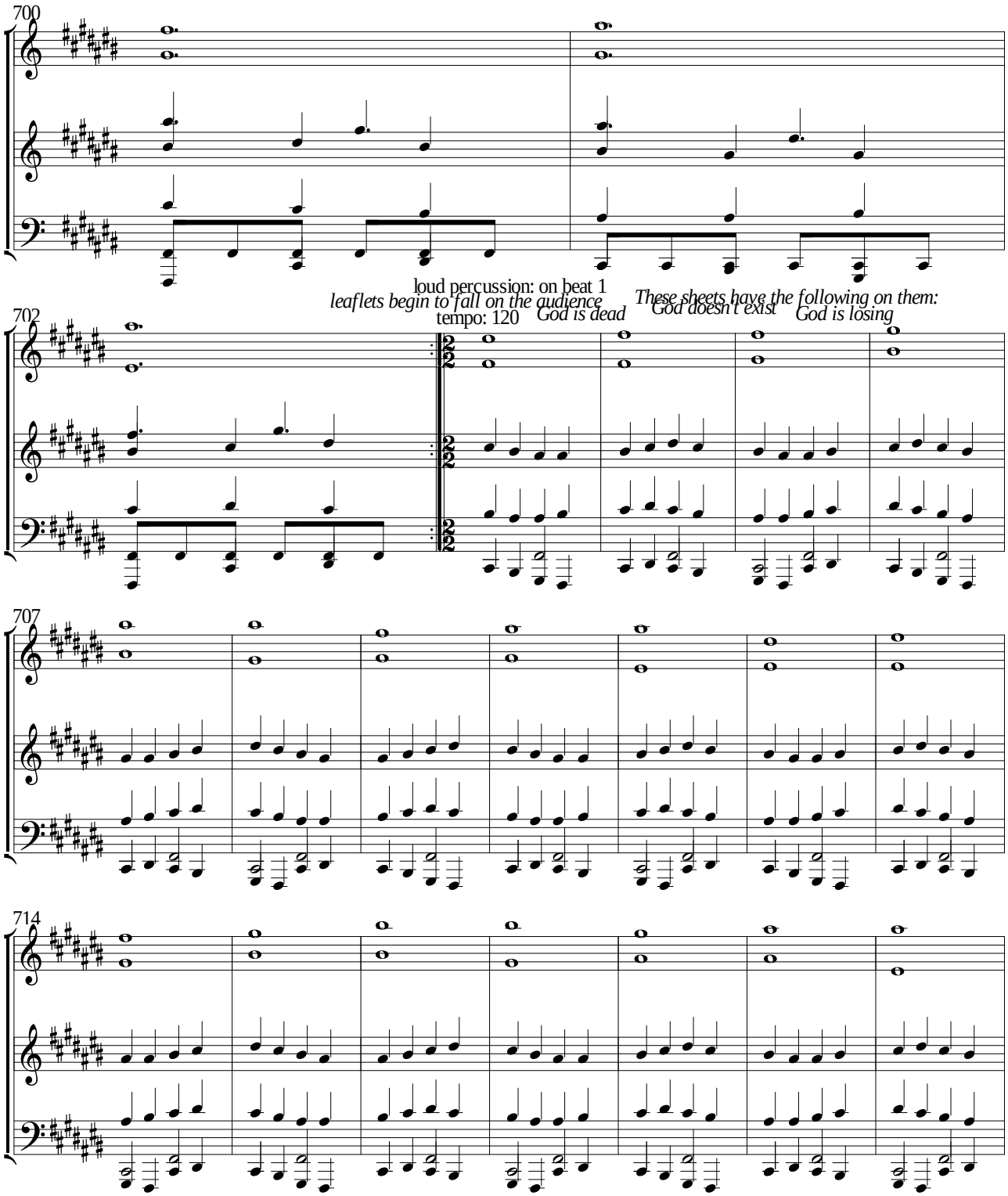
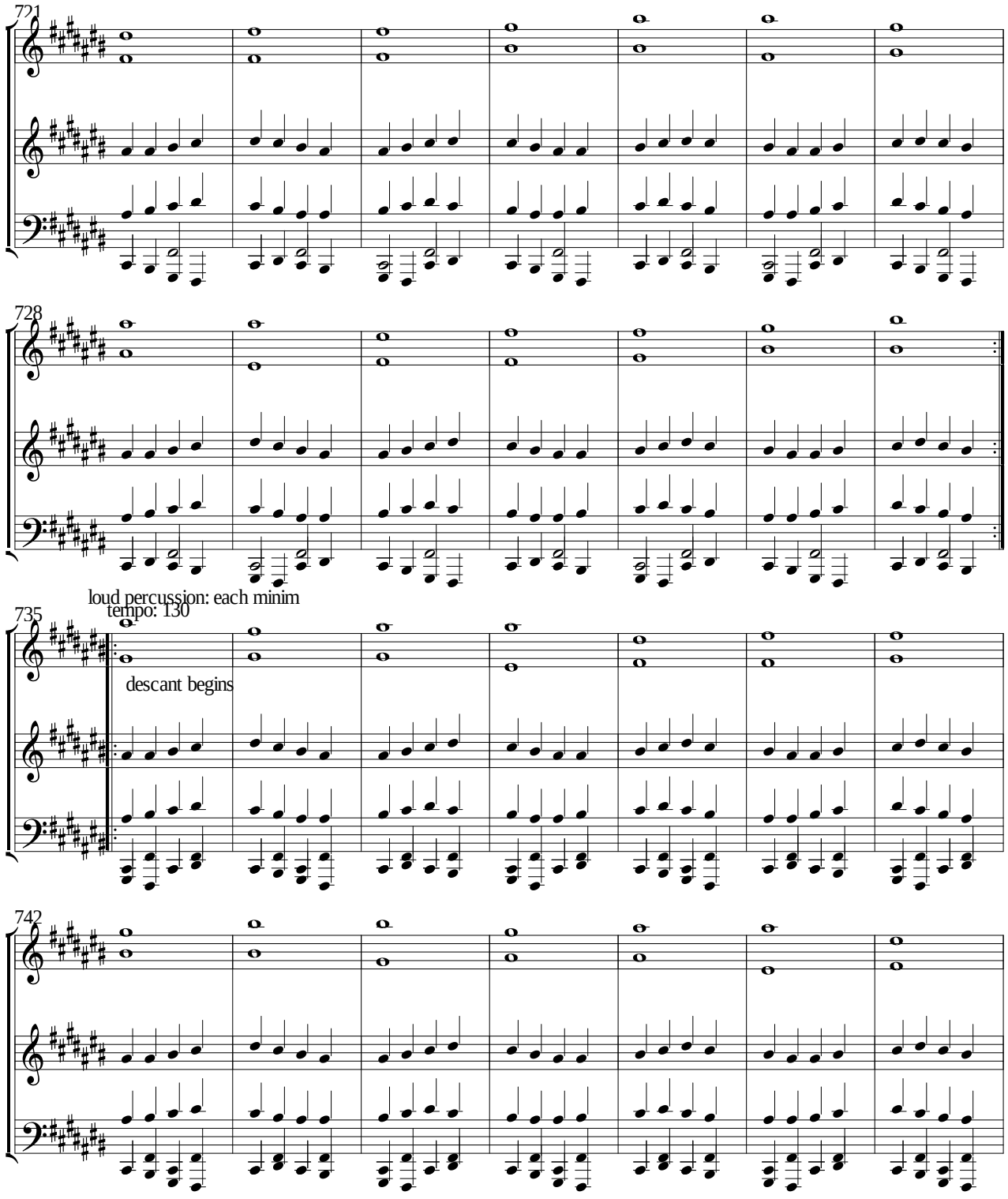

700
loud percussion: on beat 1
leaflets begin to fall on the audience
tempo: 120
These sheets have the following on them:
God is dead
God doesn't exist
God is losing
702
707
714



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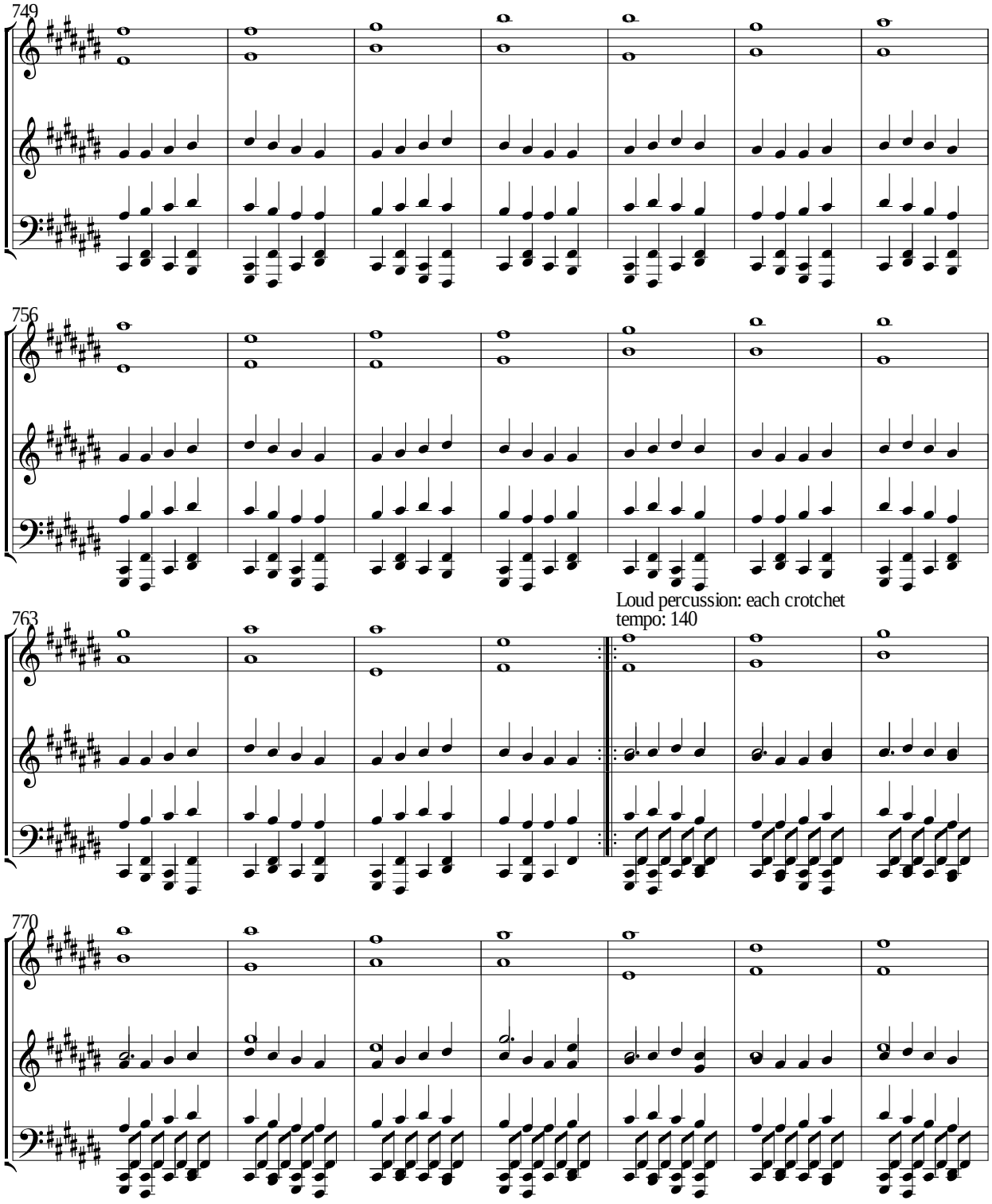

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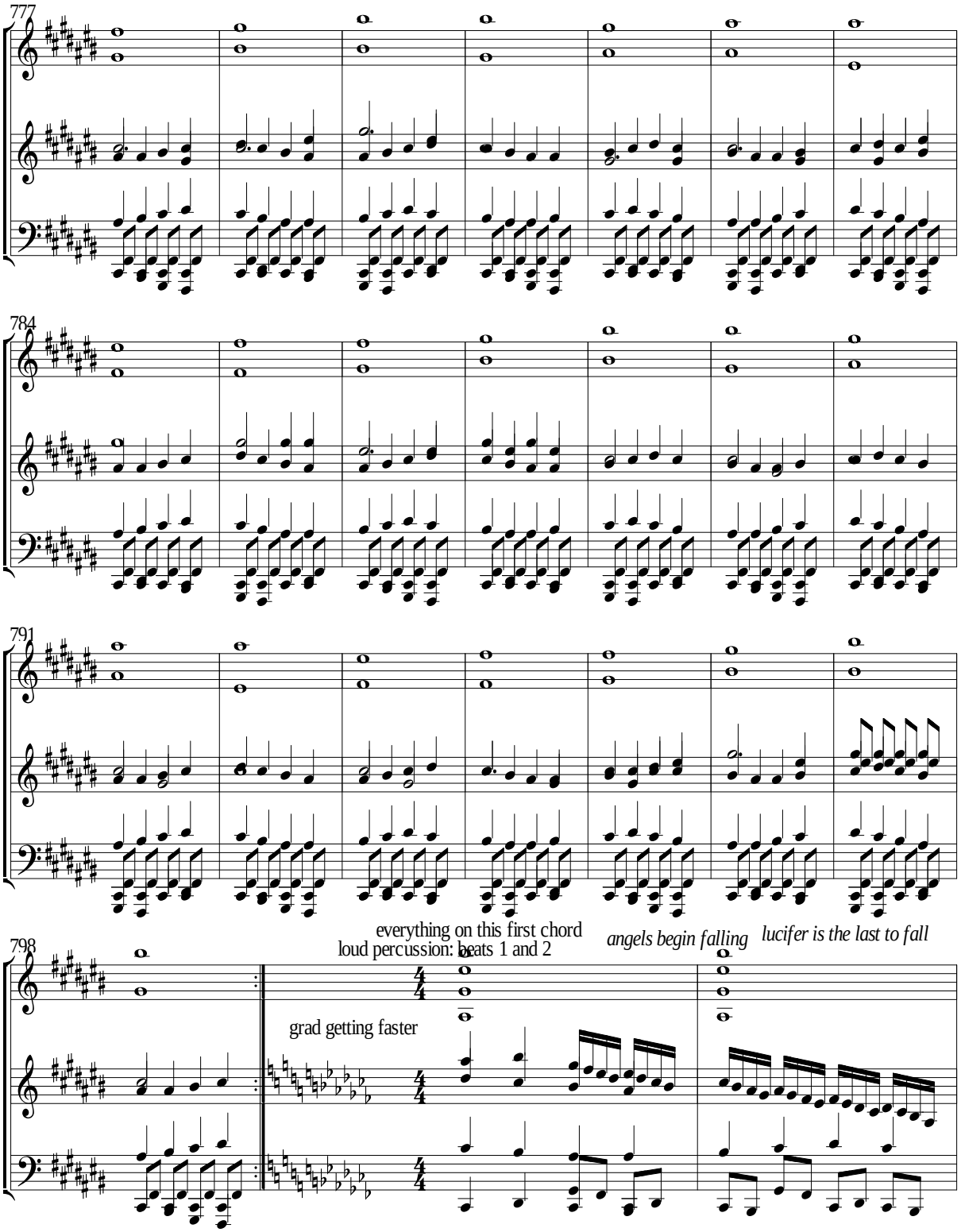
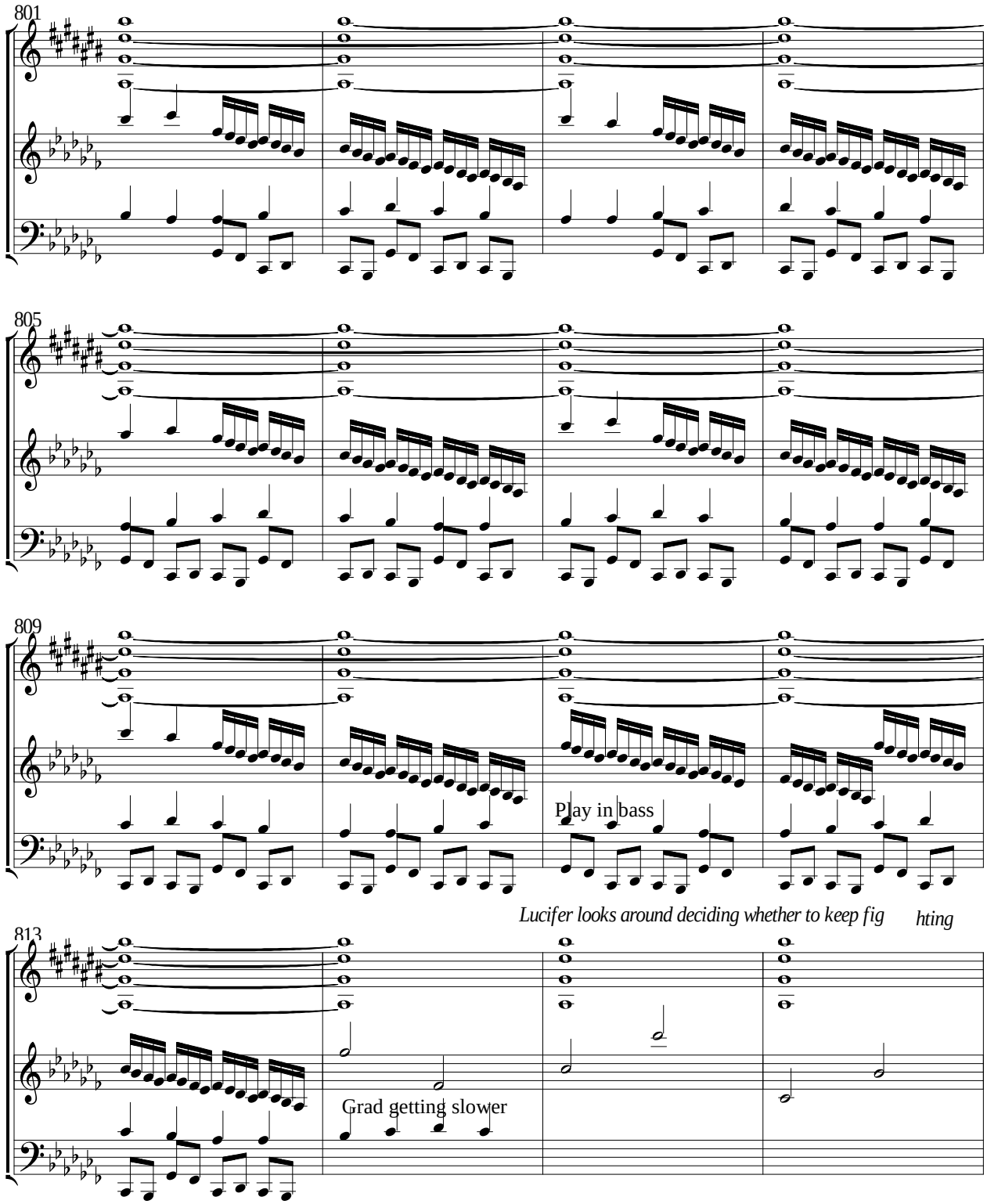
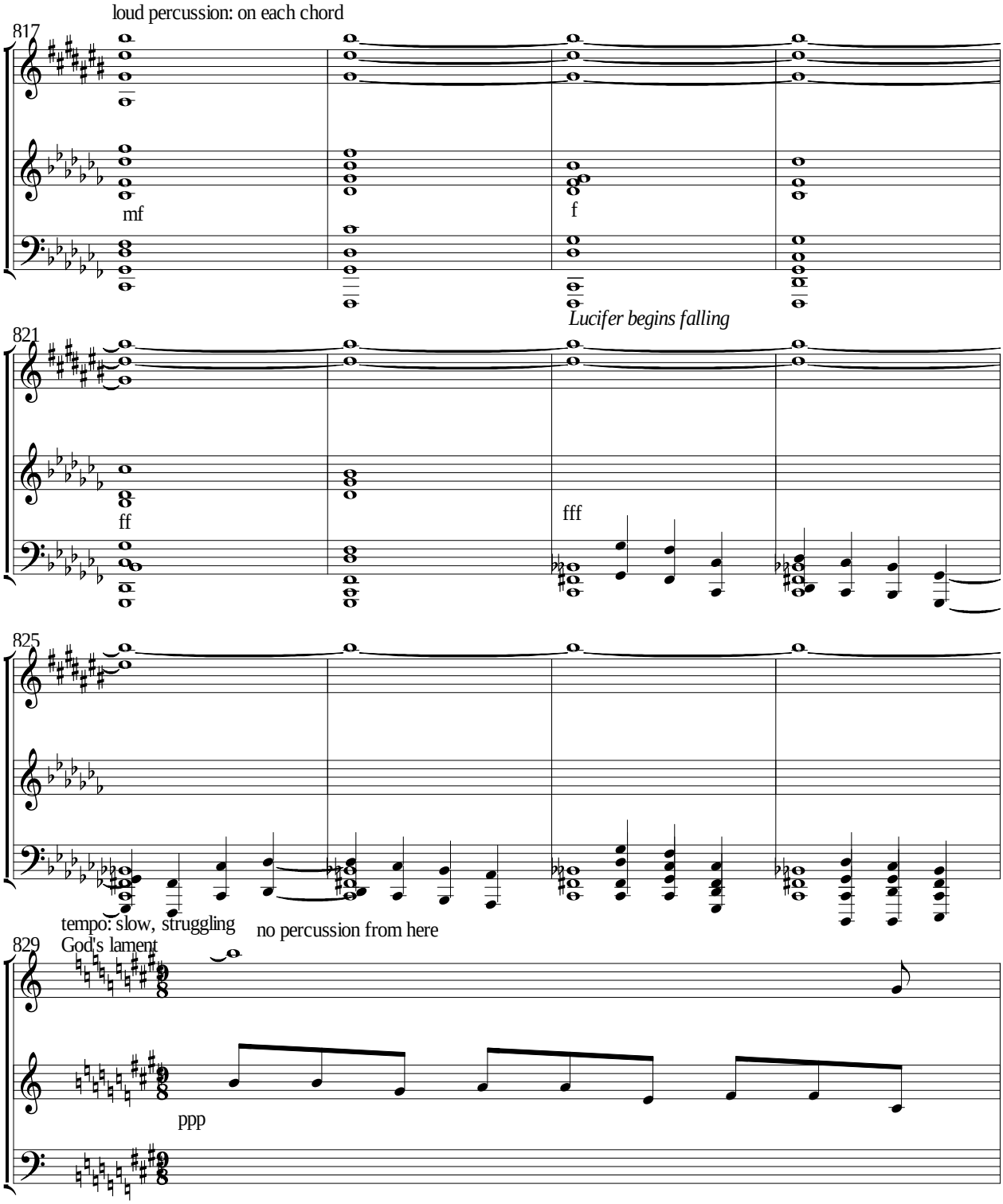
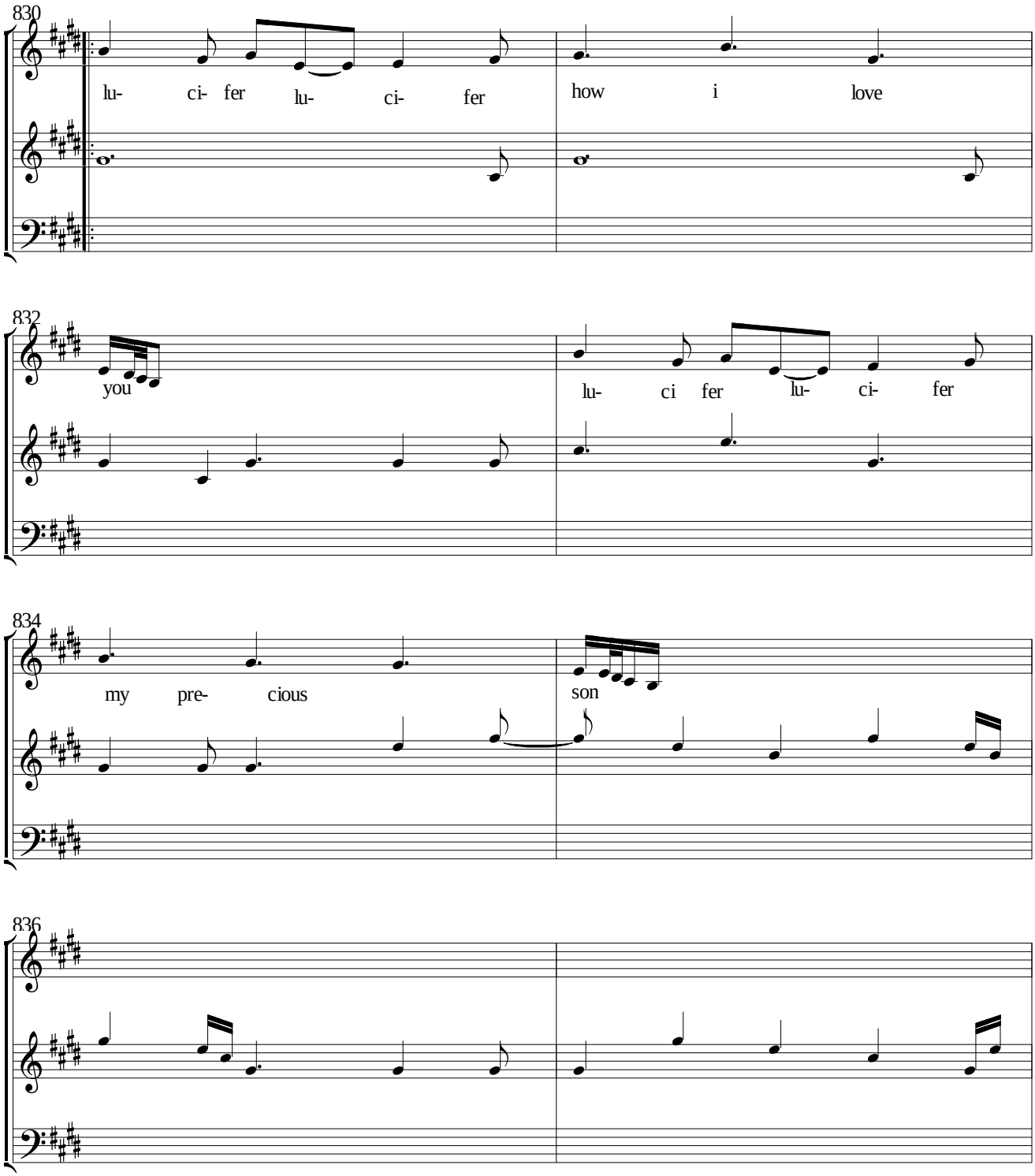

777
784
791
798
everything on this first chord
loud percussion: beats 1 and 2
angels begin falling
lucifer is the last to fall
grad getting faster


801
805
809
Play in bass
Lucifer looks around deciding whether to keep fig hting
813
Grad getting slower


loud percussion: on each chord
817
mf
f
Lucifer begins falling
821
ff
fff
825
tempo: slow, struggling
no percussion from here
829
God's lament
ppp



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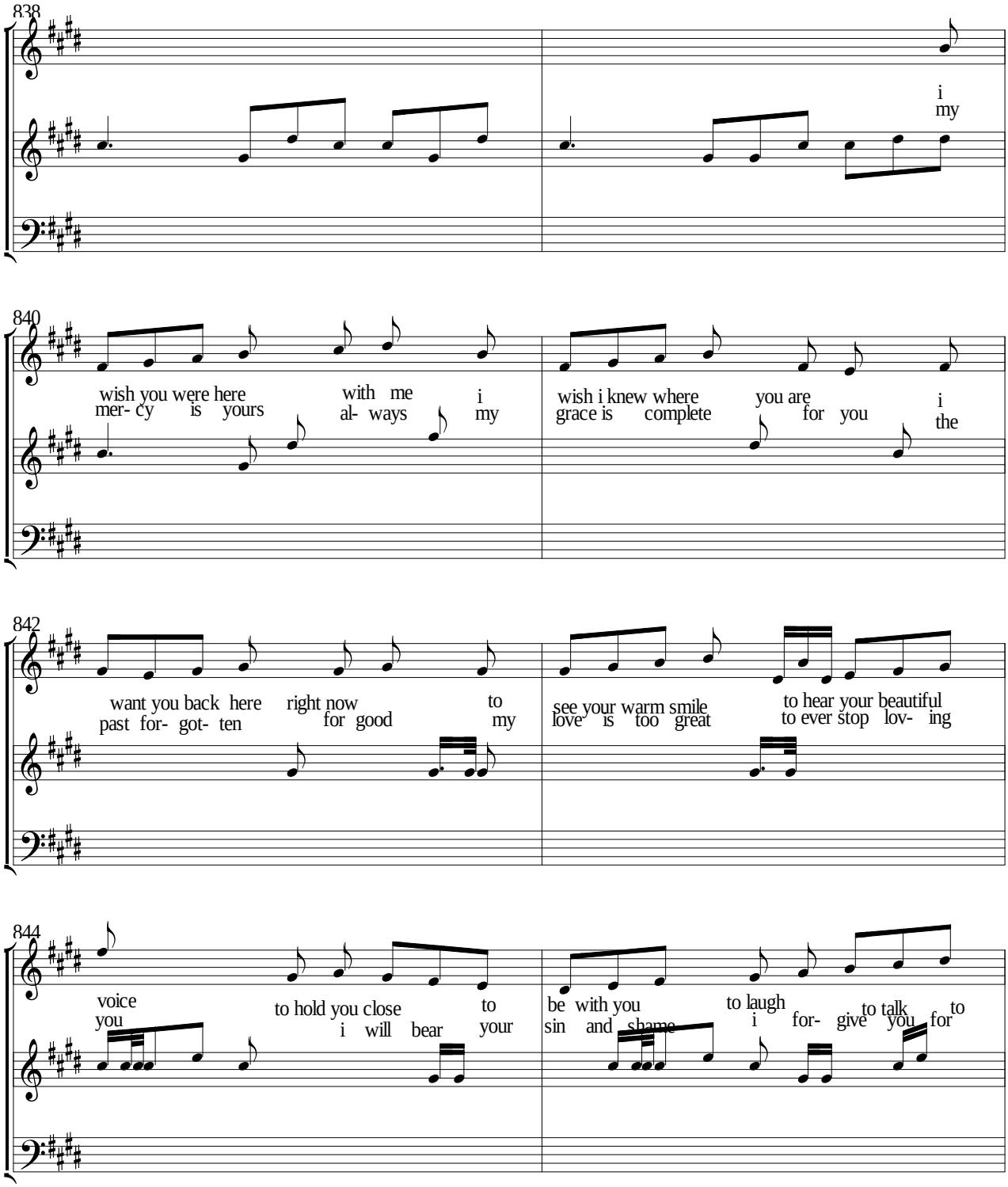

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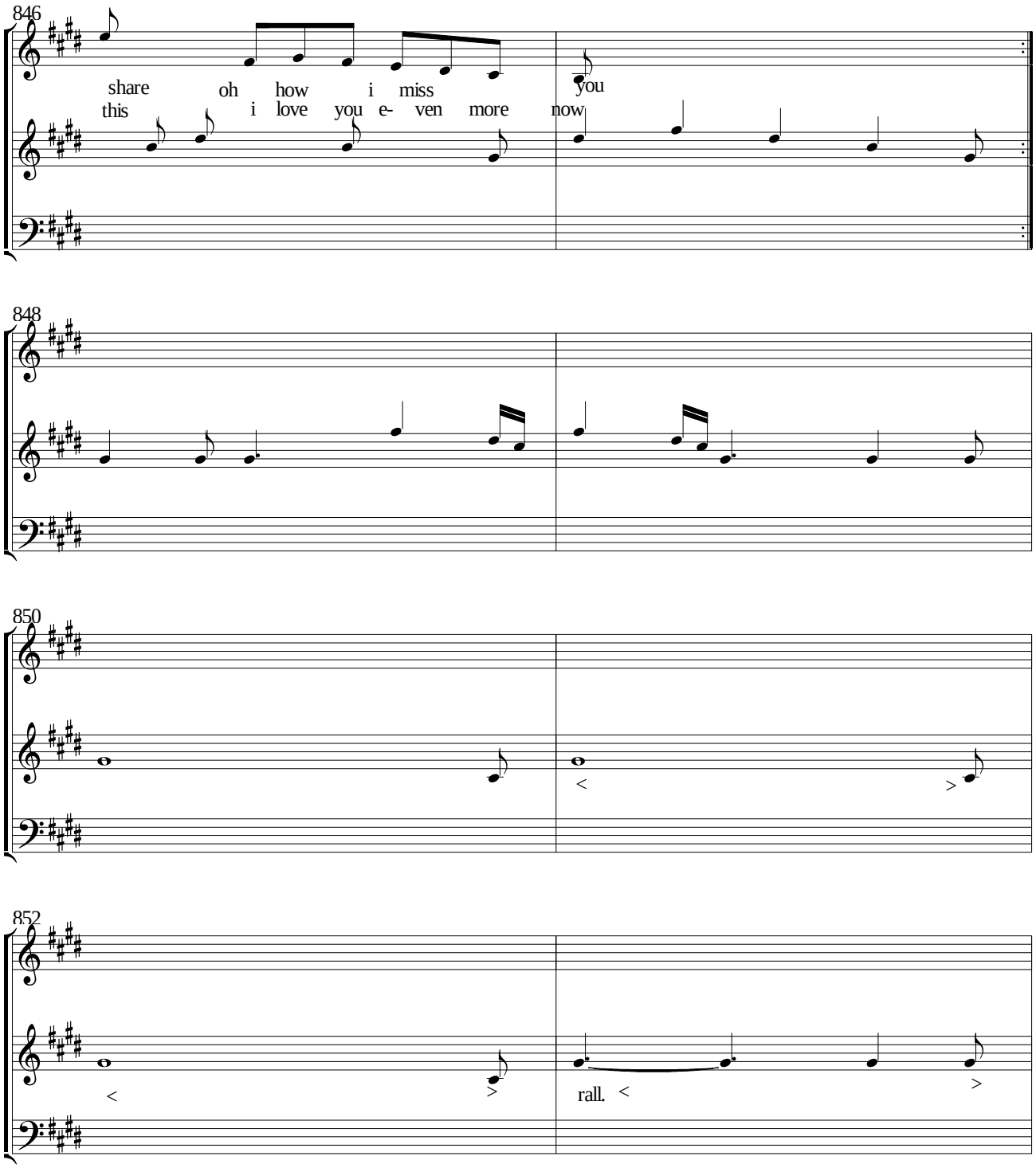

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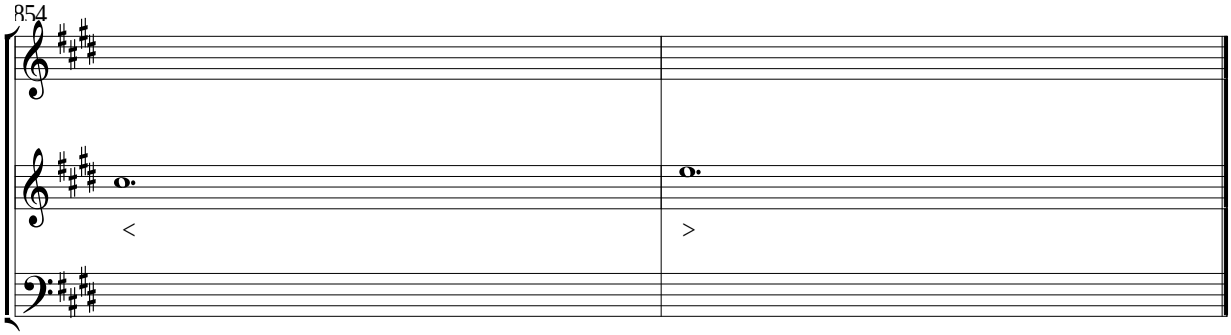

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