MOZART'S THE MAGIC FLUTE

AN OFTY ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

Opera for the Young's version with
Libretto adapted by Diane Garton Edie
Music adapted by Jeffrey Sykes
Performed by Lyric Opera of the North's Little LOON

Original source music by W.A. Mozart & Emanuel Schikaneder

STUDENT PREP HANDBOOK

STUDENT CHORUS PREPARATION CHECKLIST

1. SELECT A MAXIMUM OF 16 STUDENTS (total) to play the onstage chorus, the **ALIEN COUNCIL OF WISDOM**. Listen to the provided recordings before selecting choristers; most likely any gung ho singers could do it. NOTE: for a brief time during the show, 8 of these kids - please select them ahead of time- will temporarily appear as the **DRAGON**. We request that ***TWO TEACHERS HELP CARRY IN THE DRAGON*** - for strength, moral support, and added fun!
2. Among the 16 choristers, **choose 3 for the speaking role of SARASTRO**. Select students WHO ARE VERY NEARLY THE SAME HEIGHT to play this 3-headed character. These are speaking roles and can be played by girls and/or boys. These students will also sing with the **COUNCIL OF WISDOM**. Since these kids will be moving together inside one big costume, please select older or very responsible students.
3. If you want more children to be directly involved in the show, please create a **SIDE-STAGE CHORUS** on risers (or standing) at the side. These students participate in all of the songs and gestures of the **COUNCIL OF WISDOM** and should arrive with them for rehearsal.
4. Using the **TUTORIAL RECORDINGS, THIS HANDBOOK, THE LIBRETTO,** and **SHEET MUSIC** (see following pages), prepare your **CHORUS(ES)**, both onstage and offstage if you would like, by teaching them the designated music, lines and sound effects. Encourage students to perform with gusto – musical accuracy is admirable, but experiencing the joy of performance is the ultimate goal!

SAFETY NOTE:

FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN AND THE CAST, DO NOT SEND MORE THAN 16 CHORUS MEMBERS FOR THE CAST TO WORK WITH ONSTAGE.

IMPORTANT NOTES REGARDING YOUR PERFORMANCE

- Little LOON artists will arrive at your school 80 minutes prior to the scheduled performance time. **We need the performance space (gym) to be cleared and empty for our set-up and rehearsal with the student chorus. Please re-route other activities ordinarily scheduled in the gym for that time period.**

- **Artists will meet with student participants 50 minutes before the performance (45 minutes rehearsal + 5 minutes audience seating).** Make certain the kids are prepared and on time for this. The pianist will rehearse with them musically and the singers will go over simple stage movement and lines. Encourage students to listen carefully to instructions and be ready to work quickly. They should not feel pressured to be perfect; it is the fun of both the process of preparation and the product of performance that should stay with everyone! Little LOON artists will work hard to help students do their best and feel proud of their efforts.

- **Two members of your school faculty or staff is invited to help carry the DRAGON.** These adults will be stationed at the head of the **DRAGON** and will serve as leaders (and cheerleaders) for the 8 choristers who carry the **DRAGON**'s body/tail down the aisle to the performance area. Little LOON cast members will train your volunteers (who should show up 20 minutes before the show).

- **Little LOON brings basic costume pieces for each onstage student participant** (for the **COUNCIL OF WISDOM** and **SARASTRO** plus a large parade-type **DRAGON**). You may wish to give your performers a more unified look by suggesting they wear similar outfits underneath, e.g., all one color or any solid color. Kids shouldn't worry about this, though.

- If there is a **side-stage chorus**, they can be encouraged to dress like aliens or astronauts AND/OR they can paint their faces. Masks or big head pieces are discouraged; deely boppers are fine *if they don't fall off.*

- The whole student body is invited to join the chorus on any of their songs. It is often the case that –when the actual show is unfolding –audience members are too transfixed (or, self-conscious) to sing. But it's highly likely they still get more out of the experience if they know the music!

- **We strongly recommend teaching everyone the first chorus piece, "Now come to where a light is gleaming" which is found on Tutorial track #2 and Cast Recording track #4.** At that point in the show, the onstage chorus will be split in half (half are in the **DRAGON**) and the remaining 8 onstage kids could use some support from their friends! In addition, there are two times when the **COUNCIL OF WISDOM** makes alien honks, beeps, and hoots. It would be lots of fun if the audience could join at those points! The first is recorded on Tutorial Track #3 and Cast Recording Track #12, and comes in between two sections of dialogue by the 3-headed **SARASTRO**. The second is found at the beginning of of Cast Recording #20 and is right before the finale. Again, an obvious stop cue will be given. If you DO teach the student body to do this, please alert them to the necessity of stopping *as soon as* **SARASTRO** *gives an obvious stop cue.*

- **Please share the synopsis and other appropriate activities with the classroom teachers – it aids everyone's understanding and enjoyment to be prepared.** Many teachers take advantage of this opportunity to do some pre-or post-performance activity.

- **Please provide a microphone if you have one available** – it would be helpful to the Little LOON cast during the intro and Q & A session after the performance.

- **By far, our main and favorite venue is the school gym.** (Please see the drawing of possible gym arrangements on page 20 of the Teacher Guide.) Occasionally, we perform in a church basement, an actual auditorium with stage, or a multi-purpose room. If you have more than one space available, here are a few things to consider:
    - ***Potential for fun interaction between audience and performers*** – being on same level promotes this impact! Small stages in gyms do not work for safety reasons, among others. Auditorium stages are great in some ways (acoustics and sight lines), but we lose the interactive potential. We do need a central aisle for performers to move up down; please provide traffic cones for cast to use.
    - ***Acoustics*** – sometimes gyms are quite 'boomy' and lyrics might get lost, but with typical operatic repetition of words and vivid characterizations, the meaning shouldn't be lost. Also, your students will have become acquainted with the show through teaching activities. In addition, if you could turn off anything noisy (e.g. fans), that helps.
    - ***Audience comfort and sight lines*** – if the gym IS your space, maybe the older kids could bring in chairs and the younger ones could sit on mats or cushions. If you happen to have bleachers, older kids and adults could sit there with the littlest ones on the floor while the opera is staged in the middle of the gym (facing bleachers).

NOTE to calm nerves:
a Little LOON cast member always cues and/or leads kids in entrances, exits, actions, songs and lines during the performance.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS
(script material and explanations)

In the following pages, along with student lyrics and lines, there are minimal story line and staging notes to give you a general idea of what's happening. The Little LOON cast will work with the kids to ensure that everyone has a comfortable and fun experience.

- The chunks of student-involvement are divided by dots● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
- Sung words (lyrics) are *italicized*, **CHORUS** words are **bold**
- **FULL CHORUS** = **SARASTRO** *AND* **COUNCIL OF WISDOM**
- Listen to **TUTORIAL RECORDINGS** for run-through of the student material, piano accompaniment, and instruction.
- **NOTE:** Track numbers for the **CAST RECORDING** of the entire opera are listed in the **LIBRETTO** and synopsis for older students. The track numbers listed in this section are for the **TUTORIAL RECORDING**.
- **THE CAVE** is the designated area near the pianist on stage right where the chorus sits during the show when they are not onstage.

SETTING THE SCENE: At the beginning of the opera, half of the onstage chorus (8 kids) are in the school hallway with their adult volunteer(s), waiting for the **DRAGON**'s entrance. The other 8 are quietly waiting "backstage" behind the "Magic Flute" scenery. After the **QUEEN OF THE NIGHT**'s opening aria, **PAMINA** sings her sad aria ("Ah, I feel") and collapses in tears.

MOVEMENT An adult cast member brings out the chorus kids (including the 3-headed **SARASTRO**) who were backstage. They cluster near him underneath his Satellite (a large, decorated golf umbrella) and speak their first line which leads into their first song.

Tutorial Track #2 - Chorus line, "Now come to where a light is gleaming"
Tutorial Track #7 – Piano accompaniment
Tutorial Track #12 – Tutorial

NON-DRAGON CHORUS (speak):
Good Princess Pamina, listen! We are Sarastro's COUNCIL OF WISDOM.
You are not alone! Join us on the Sun Planet!

" " " (sing): ***Now come to where a light is gleaming, the sun with golden rays.***
Discover peace - awake or dreaming - the dawn of better days.
Oh, leave this planet far behind you;
Come where evil laws cannot bind you.
The Queen is wrong, Sarastro's right,
Just as the day dawns after night,
Just as the day dawns after night!

NON-DRAGON CHORUS are escorted behind scenery and wait for cue for their entrance to the right-side-of-the-stage seating area ("The Cave") which is next to the piano.

SETTING THE SCENE: PAMINA sings an exciting song, the **QUEEN** overhears and angrily calls out the cue for the **DRAGON CHORUS** to begin their entrance:

QUEEN: I summon the DRAGON!!

MOVEMENT Immediately, the **DRAGON CHORUS** start hissing and slowly "chasing" a Little LOON cast member - **TAMINO -** as he sings his first aria ("Oh help me"). **TAMINO** and the **DRAGON** move through the audience and into the performing area where they zig zag. It's basically the **DRAGON** playing follow-the-leader **(TAMINO).**

TAMINO faints and the **3 LADIES** appear and sing**:** *Back, Monster, back into your cave!*

... at which point the **LADIES** zap their light sabers and the **DRAGON** kids (lead by the adult volunteer) deposit the **DRAGON** either backstage or behind the "Cave" the chorus seating area. Then they settle into their previously assigned sitting positions.

SETTING THE SCENE: The next part the **CHORUS** is in is at the beginning of Act Two. By this time, all of the student performers are together as **COUNCIL OF WISDOM** members... the **DRAGON** assignment is finished.

MOVEMENT Directly after the scene change (accompanied by entr'acte piano music), and in a manner explained by the Little LOON cast the day of the show, the **CHORUS** will enter the stage from The Cave and get into position to sing. There will be simple hand motions for the song that also will be taught by Little LOON cast.

Tutorial Track #3 – "Oh welcome to our planet"
Tutorial Track #8 - Piano accompaniment
Tutorial Track #13 - Tutorial

CHORUS: ***Oh, welcome to our planet, a sunny, cheerful land.***
Sarastro gives you greeting, the Council shakes your hand.
Combining the wisdom and forces that spring from these alien sources,
Together we work without cease, creating a cosmos of peace.
Creating a cosmos of peace, together we work without cease,
Creating a cosmos of peace,
And our labors won't cease 'til we all live in peace!

At the conclusion of the song, there is dialogue:

SARASTRO (A, B, and C represent each of the three students in the SARASTRO costume):

A: There is a great disturbance within the power field.
B: The Queen's lies have upset the balance of the galaxy.
C: But, good can come from bad: Princess Pamina has joined us!

The **COUNCIL OF WISDOM** - and, perhaps, the entire student audience - will make alien honks and beeps to represent cheering. The 3-headed **SARASTRO** needs to calm them all down with a big gesture. Then comes this dialogue:

A: The time for cheering will come later.
B: Another flight pattern has appeared on the horizon.
C: Let us retreat for now.

The **COUNCIL** and **SARASTRO** will then follow the staging instructions given them by the OFtY cast.

SETTING THE SCENE: Right after the last scene, **TAMINO** sings and plays his Magic Flute. During the Magic Flute (piano) music, the **COUNCIL** and **SARASTRO** will get into a straight line position for this dialogue:

Tutorial Track #4 - CHORUS lines, "Stop and Listen"
Tutorial Track #9 - Piano accompaniment
Tutorial Track #14 - Tutorial

TAMINO: It is magic! Are you King Sarastro?

SARASTRO: **Yes, Prince Tamino.**

TAMINO: And is this the Alien Council of Wisdom?

CHORUS: **Yes, Prince Tamino. Welcome to the Sun Planet.**

TAMINO: They don't seem bad or dangerous. Let's see if their politeness continues when I state my mission. By the power vested in me by the Interstellar Peace Force, I request that you hand over that Sun Crest and release Pamina so I can bring them back to the Queen of the Night on the Moon Planet!

MOVEMENT At this point, the **CHORUS** and **SARASTRO** must immediately be very agitated (silently) and start wiggling around during the piano introduction. Little LOON performers will teach the staging for the song, but I encourage you to have each of your onstage **CHORUS** students invent their "signature" agitated alien movements (jerky head wiggles, circling, little hops or skips). It will be fun if this is how they could respond to **TAMINO'S** request because they are so worried he has misunderstood the situation. Ideally, they will move into singing position during the piano introduction using these alien movements. (At the conclusion of the song, **TAMINO** will indicate the students should sit back down in The Cave).

CHORUS and SARASTRO (sing):

Stop and listen while we tell you what you have misunderstood:
King Sarastro leads the fight 'gainst evil, he is really good,
Can't you see that he is good?
But the Queen, now she's a bad one, followed by her Ladies three,
Followed by her Ladies three.
Find your friend and save Pamina or the Queen will end her life,
Or the Queen will end her life, or the Queen will end her life!

SETTING THE SCENE: After several moments of adult musical action, the **CHORUS** and **SARASTRO will** be invited to stand up in The Cave position by **PAPAGENO** and/or **TAMINO** for this next part.

MOVEMENT During the "la la la" sections, the **CHORUS** and **SARASTRO** gently and happily conduct the music with their hands while the **QUEEN** dances. (After this song is ended, the adult performers will settle the **CHORUS** down in The Cave and **SARASTRO** will be lead offstage by **PAPAGENO**.)

Tutorial Track #5 – "That music so lovely"
Tutorial Track #10 – Piano accompaniment
Tutorial Track #15 – Tutorial

TAMINO: Take a chance, make her dance, you can calm her with a tune.

PAPAGENO: Come you little silver bells, let us hear your cheerful ringing; it will set her spirit singing!

(There is a moment of piano music representing bells during which the **QUEEN** does a goofy dance.)

CHORUS, SARASTRO, TAMINO and **PAPAGENO** (sing):

That music so lovely, it touches my soul! La la la la la la..
Our future together in peace, what a goal! La la la la la..

SETTING THE SCENE: Although there is no more singing for the students, there is important staging yet to come, during the music heard in **Cast Recording #18, #20, and #21**.

MOVEMENT First of all, after the end of "That music so lovely," the **QUEEN** has a monologue (**Cast Recording #18**) where she asks the audience if she was a fabulous dancer and we invite all the chorus and audience kids to laugh and say "NO!" Then, in the midst of some very dramatic adult singing, **PAPAGENO** leads **SARASTRO** back onstage. The **CHORUS** rises as if ready for action. The **QUEEN** grabs and threatens **SARASTRO** with her light saber. Another **CHORUS** member - to be selected by the Little LOON cast the day of the show - will leap up to try to save **SARASTRO.** The **3 LADIES** threaten that student with their light sabers. The music of **TAMINO'S** Magic Flute settles everyone down and helps them return to their peaceful senses! The students "stand by" during the next bit of adult singing. Just before the final adult quartet, chorus(es) and audience do their alien cheers (**Cast Recording #21**) and movement after this:

QUEEN: Let our planets re-unite! (which is at the end of **Cast Recording #20**)

There is a final quartet which is followed by adult singers giving cue to **CHORUS** and **SARASTRO** for the curtain call.

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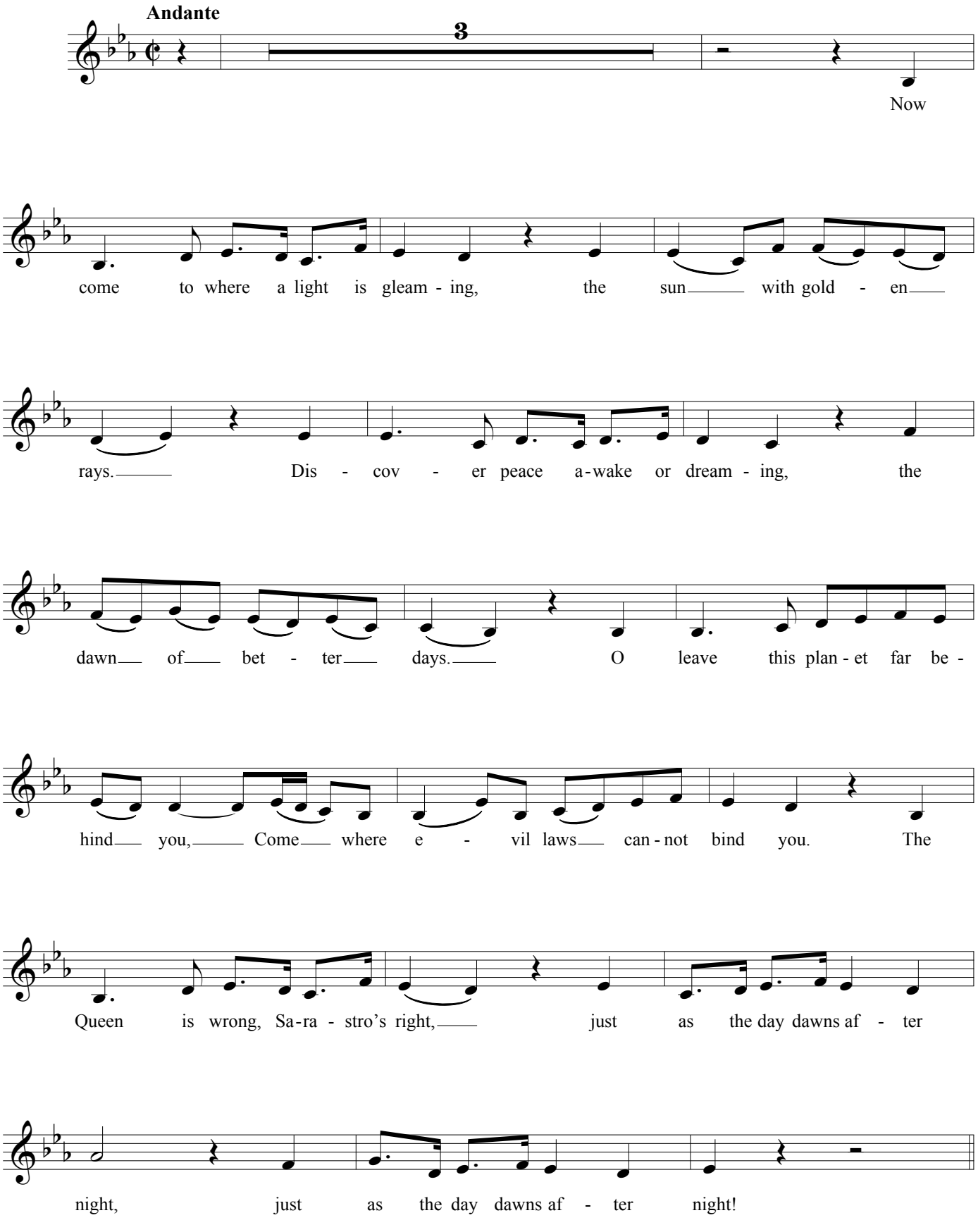
Original source music by W.A. Mozart
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THE MUSIC FOR THE CHORUS IS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES IN THIS ORDER:
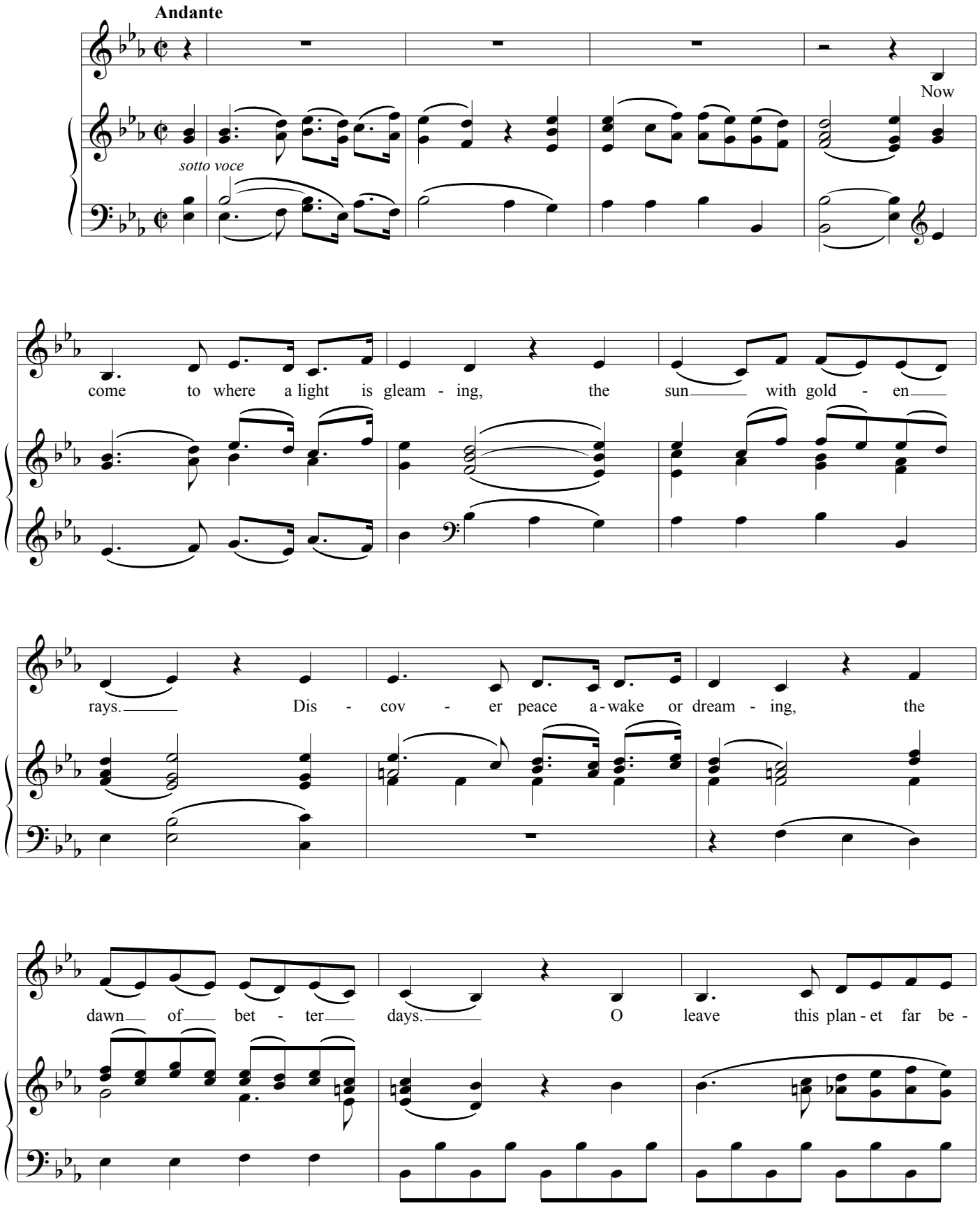
Now come to where a light is gleaming	Melody Only	Page 10
Now come to where a light is gleaming	Piano Score	Page 11
Oh welcome to our planet	Melody Only	Page 13
Oh welcome to our planet	Piano Score	Page 14
Stop and listen	Melody Only	Page 16
Stop and listen	Piano Score	Page 17
That music so lovely	Melody Only	Page 20
That music so lovely	Piano Score	Page 21

Note to Music Teacher:
Please copy and distribute any of these materials to students and teachers, as needed.
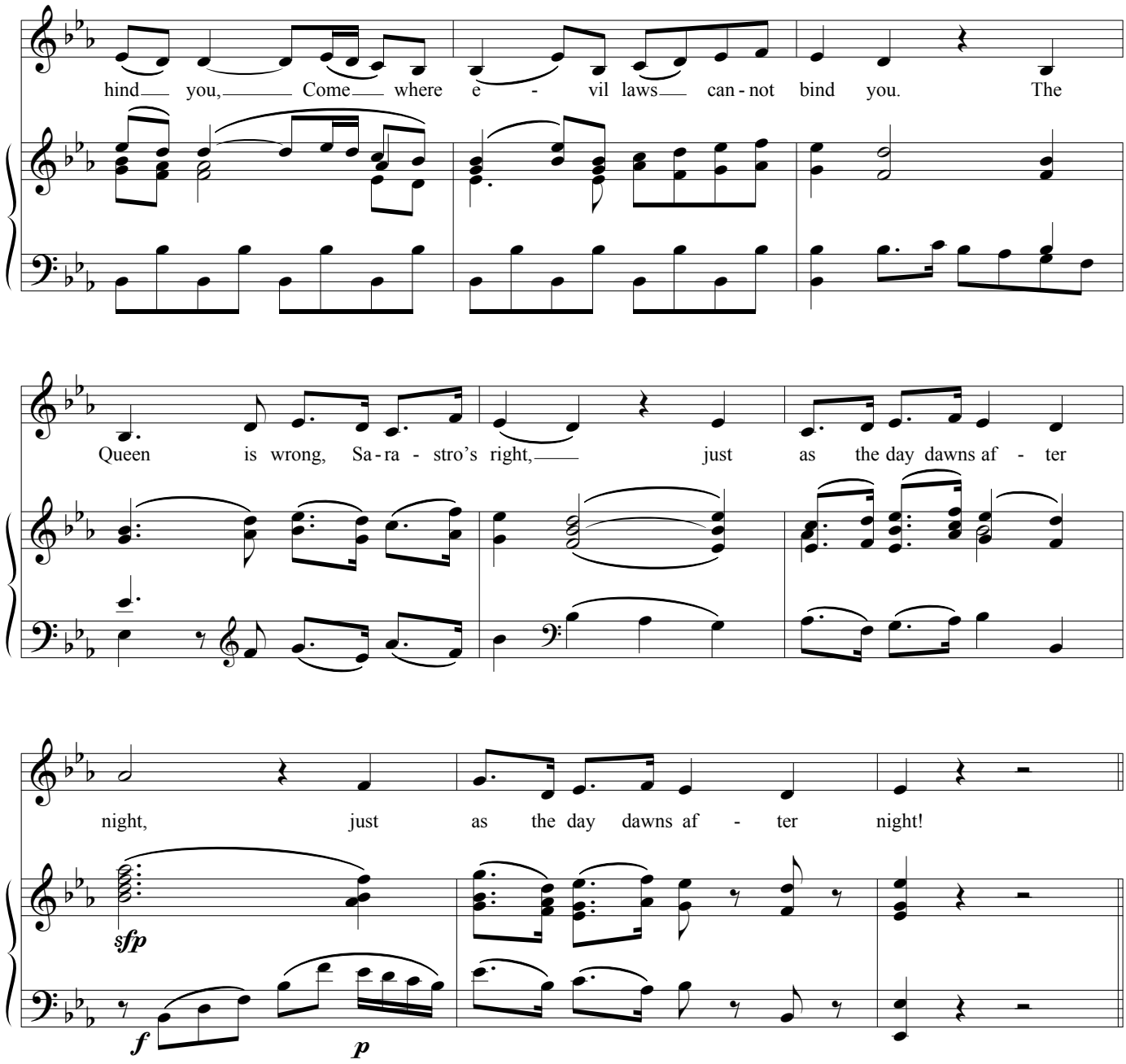
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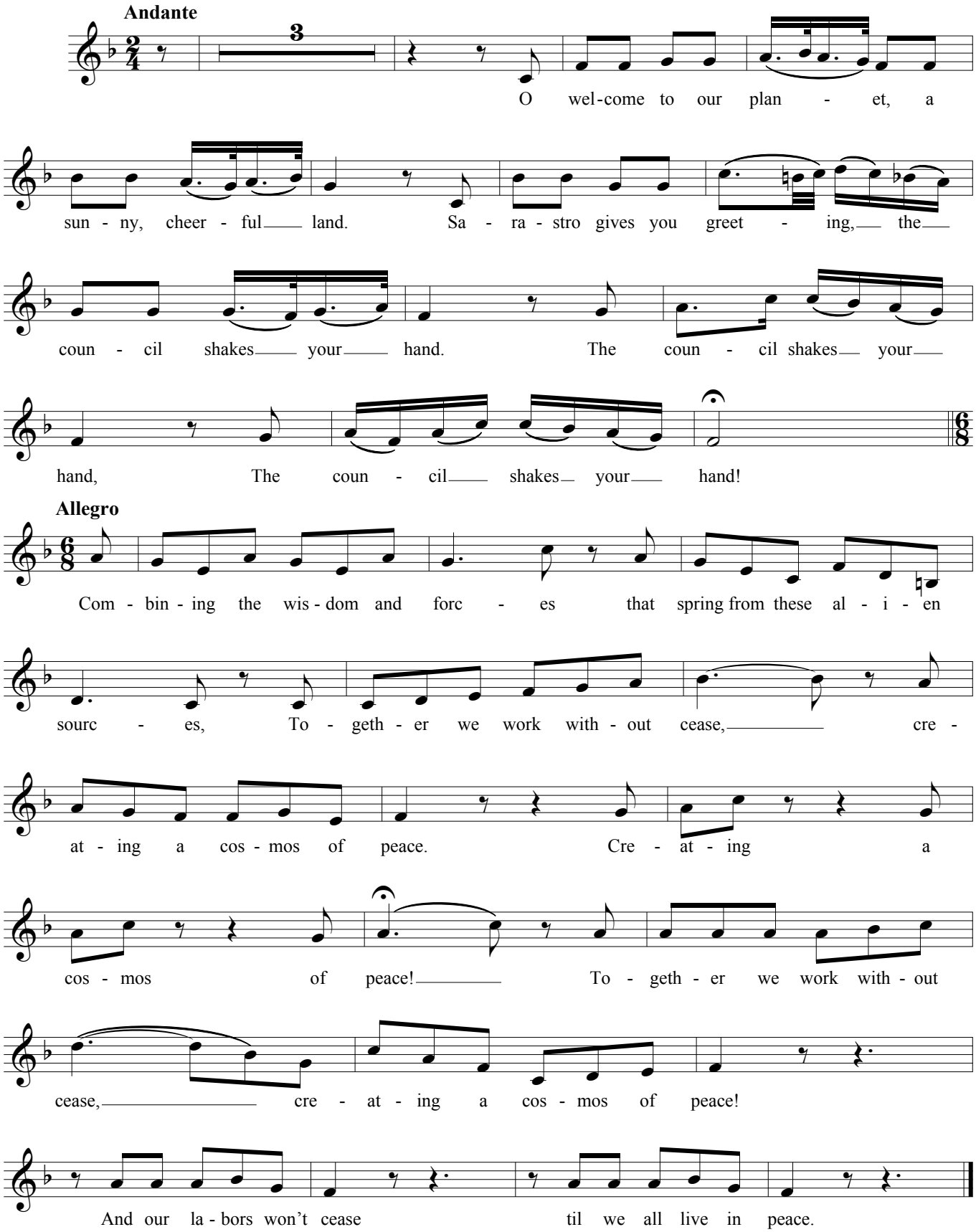


Now come to where a light is gleaming Piano Score - Page 1
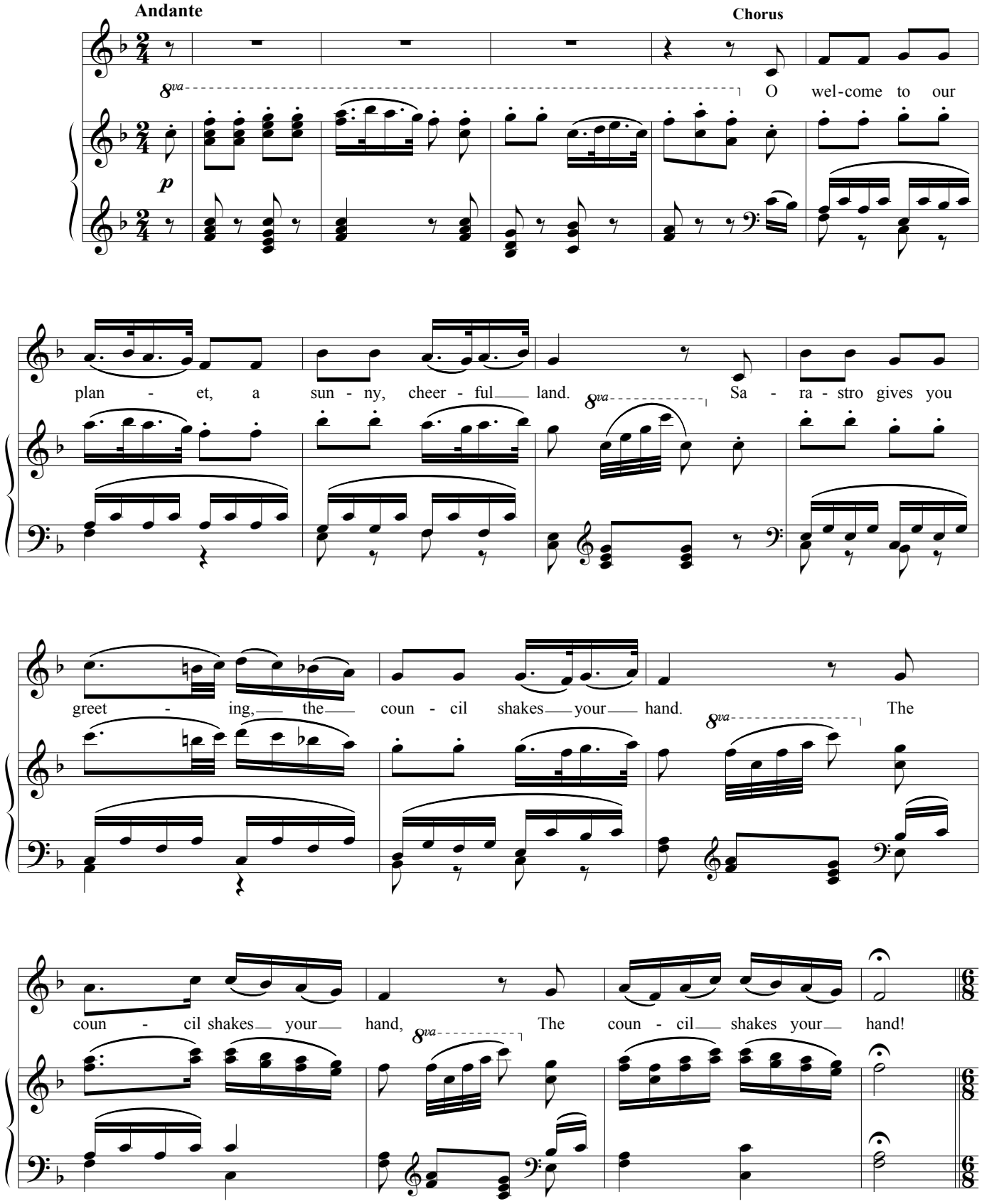


Now come to where a light is gleaming Piano Score - Page 2
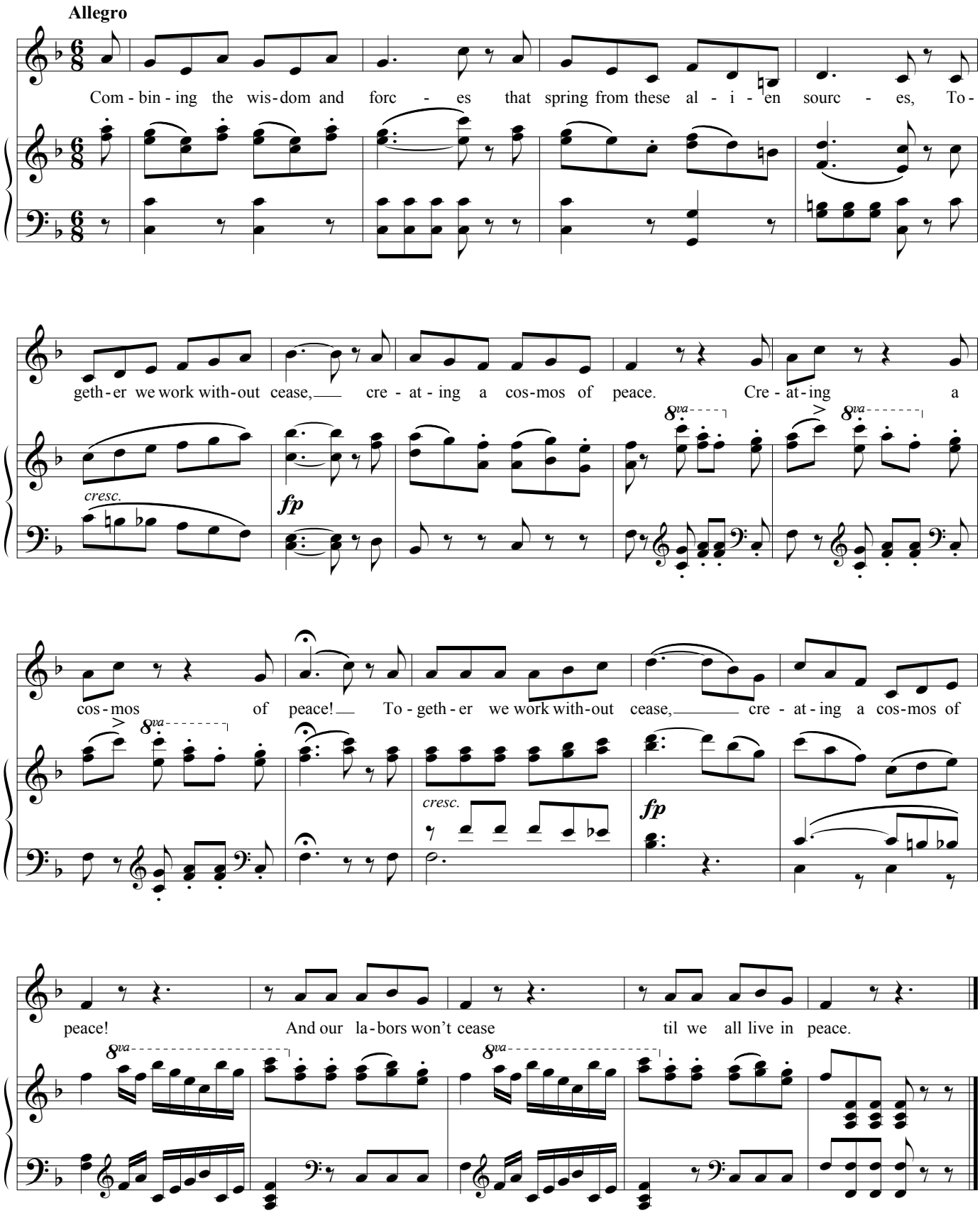


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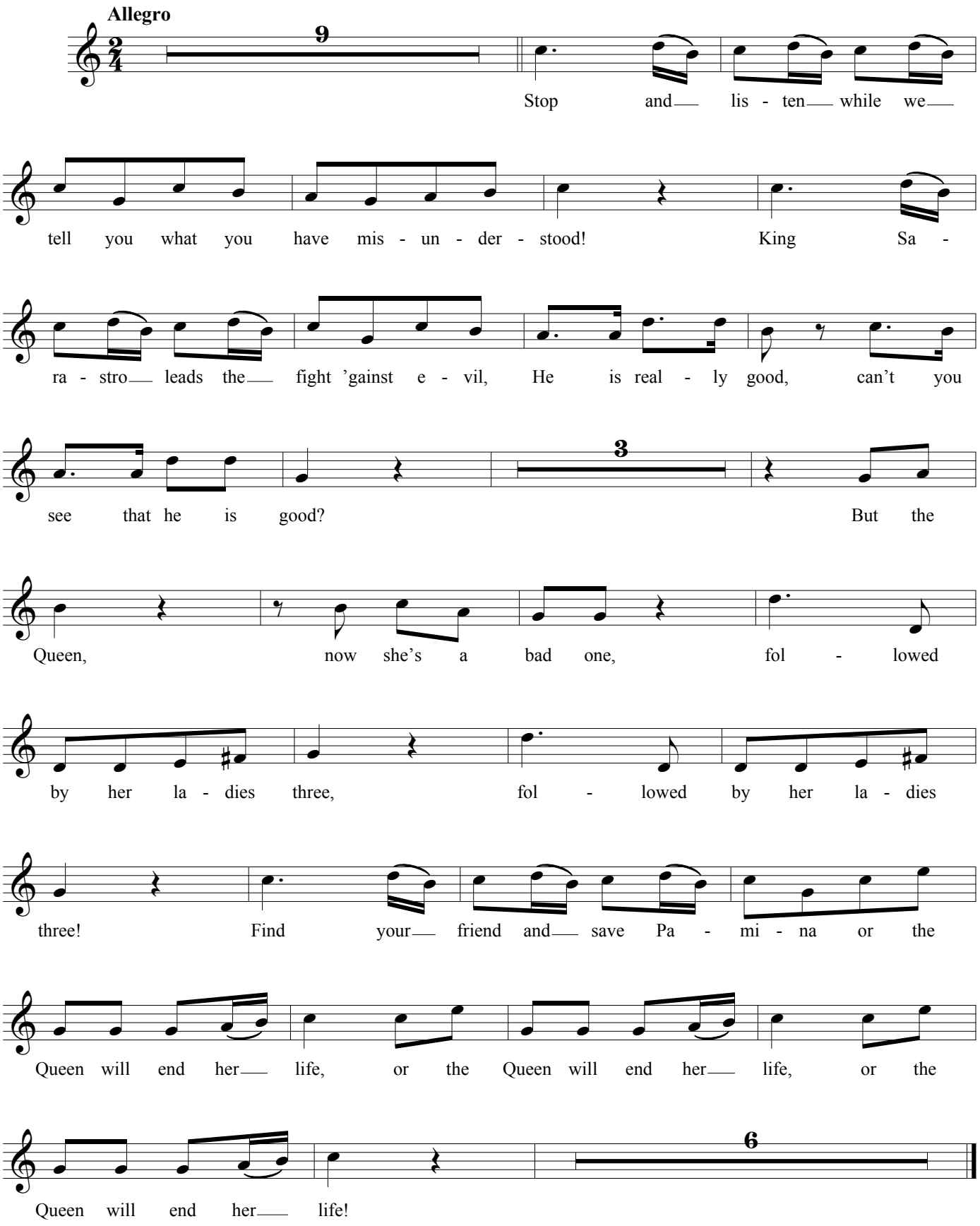


O welcome to our planet Piano Score - Page 1
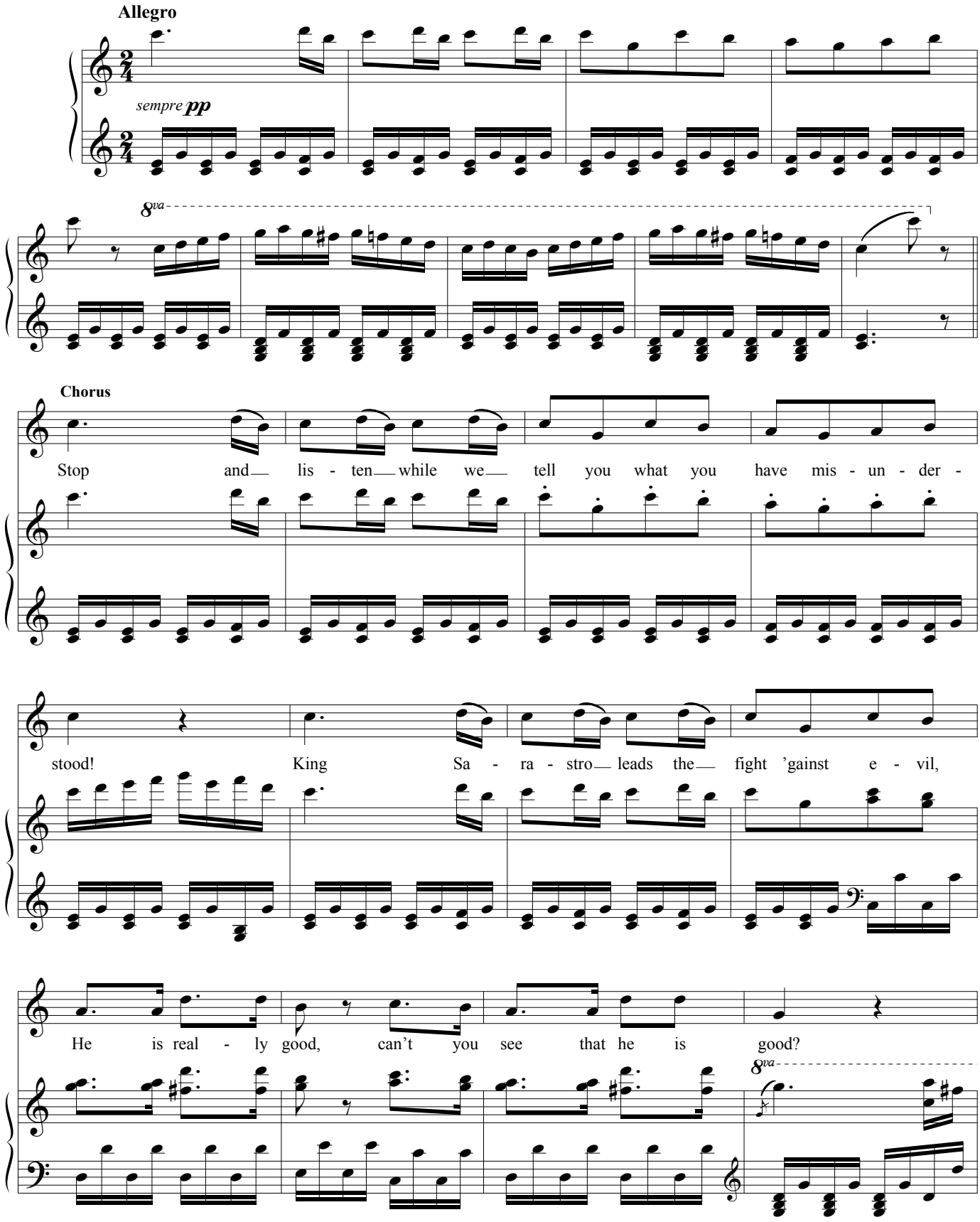



Allegro
Com - bin - ing the wis - dom and forc - es that spring from these al - i - en sourc - es, To -
geth - er we work with - out cease, cre - at - ing a cos - mos of peace. Cre - at - ing a
cresc.
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8va
cos - mos of peace! To - geth - er we work with - out cease, cre - at - ing a cos - mos of
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peace! And our la - bors won't cease til we all live in peace.
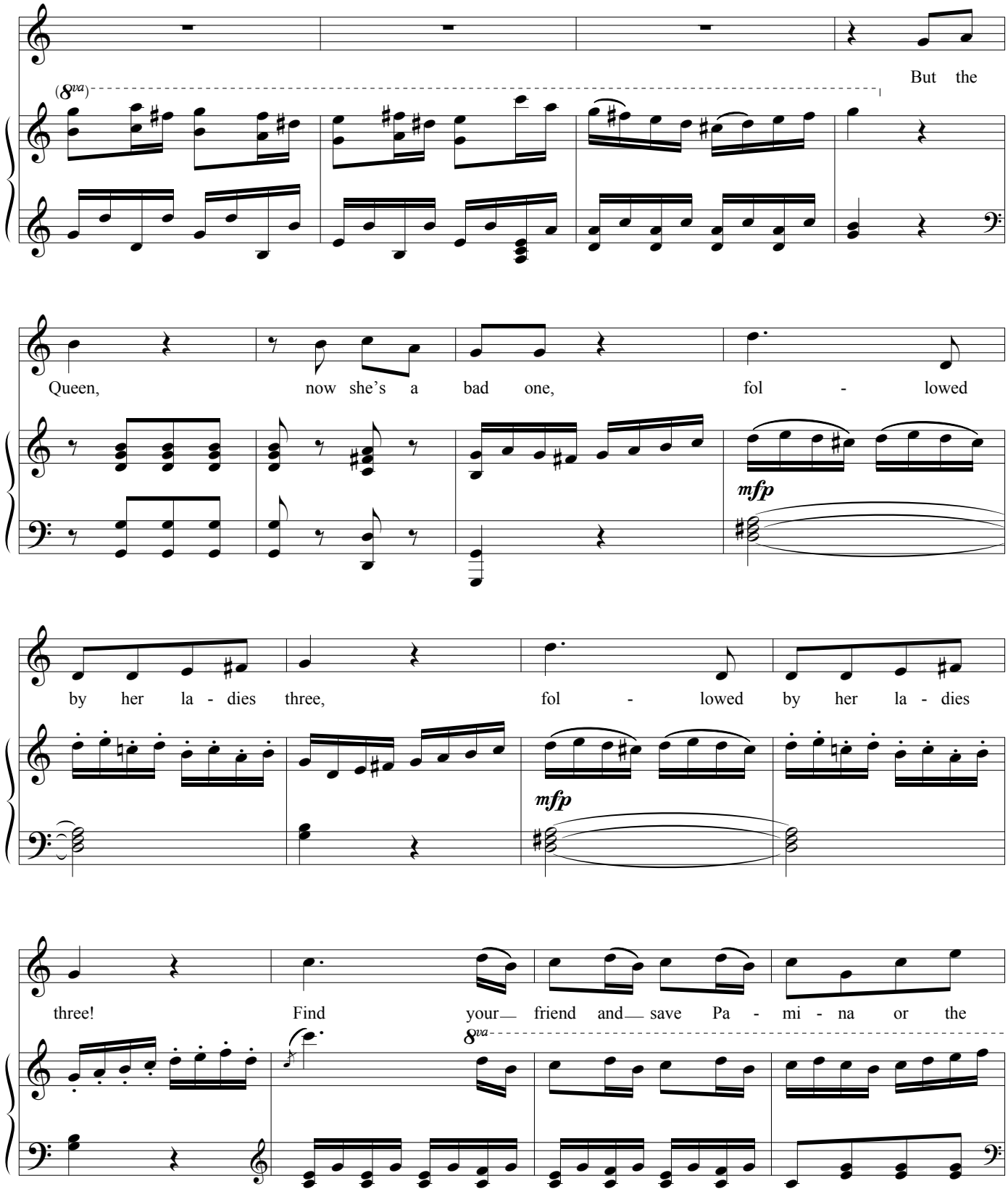
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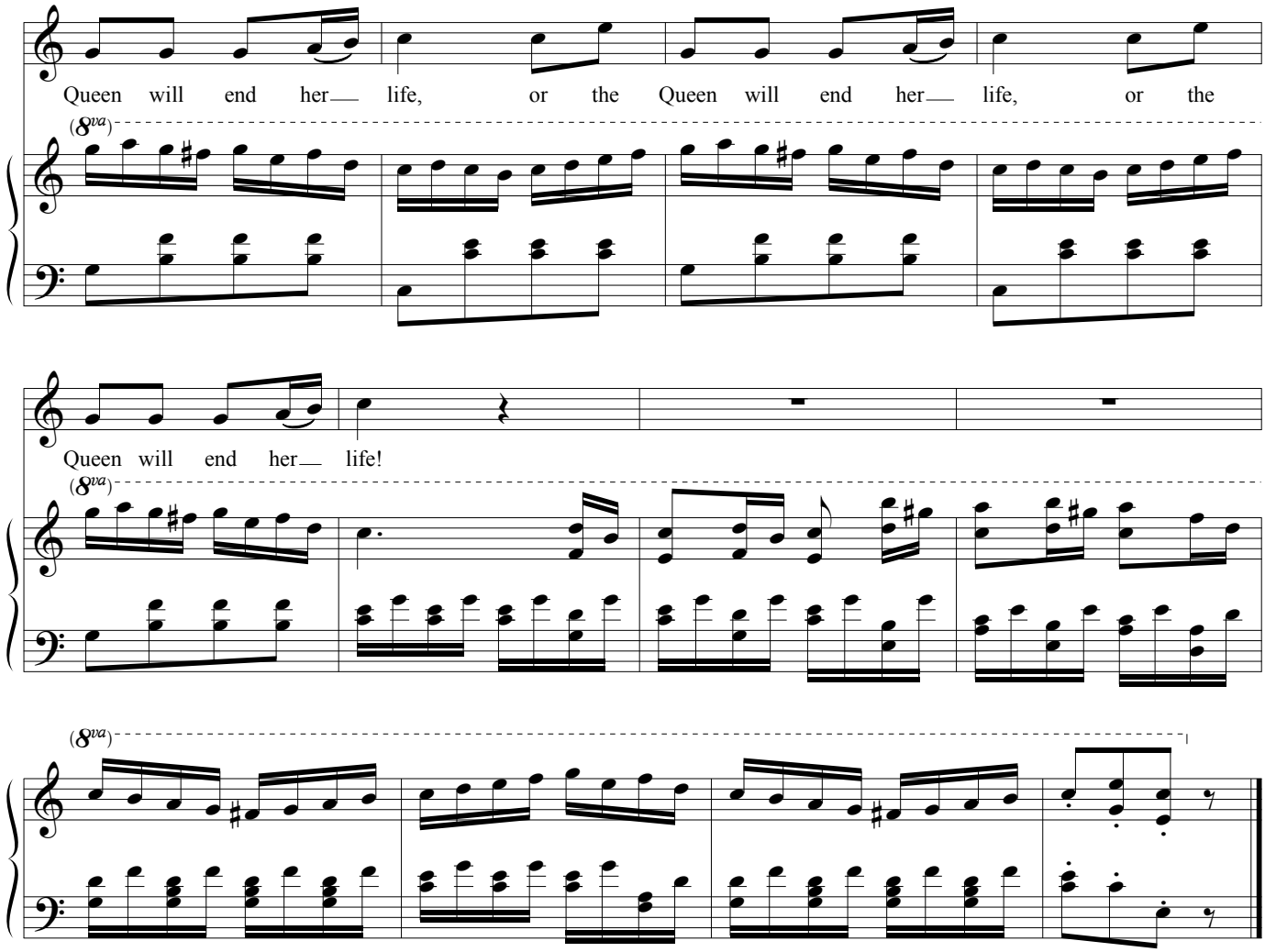


Stop and listen Piano Score - Page 1
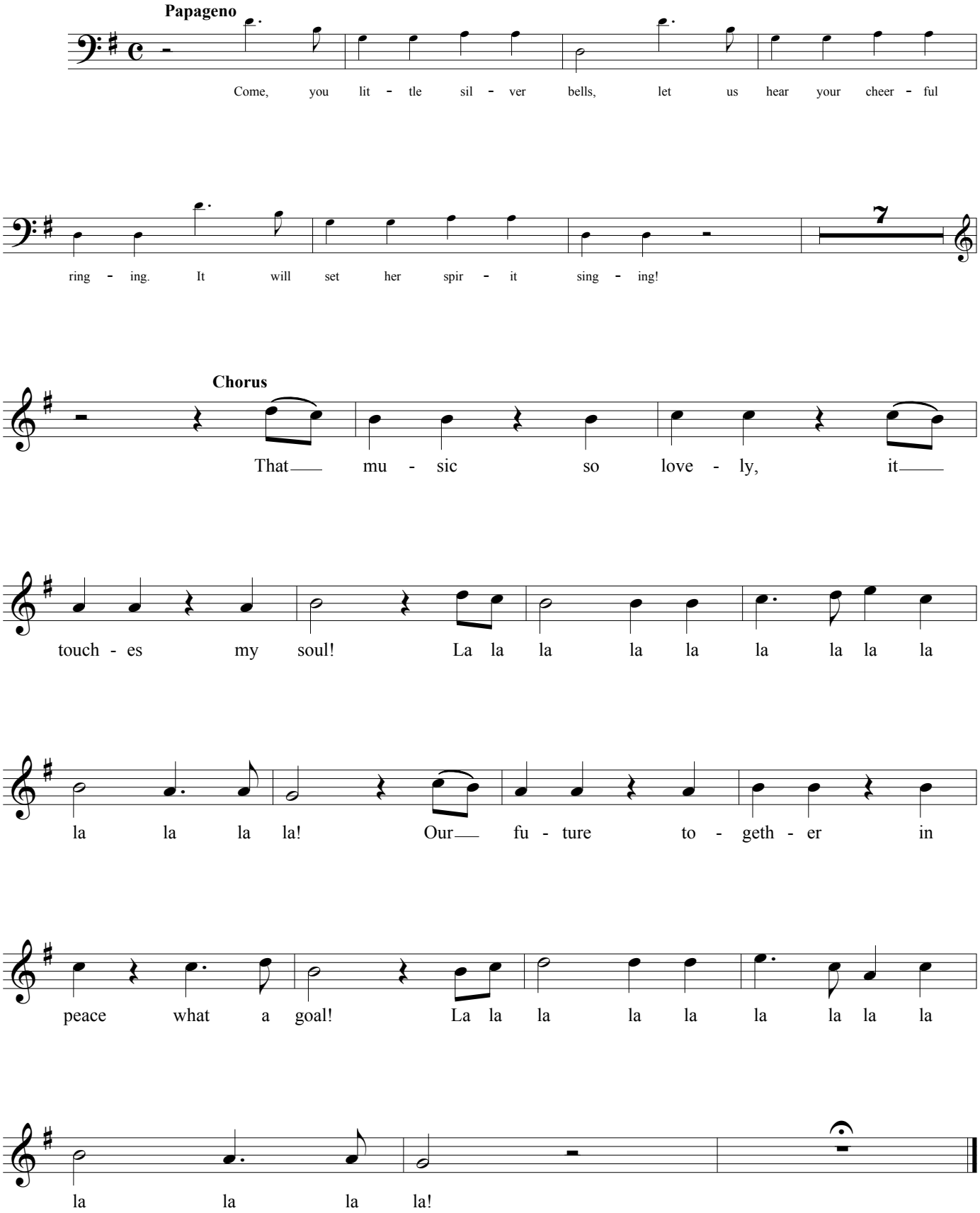


Stop and listen Piano Score - Page 2
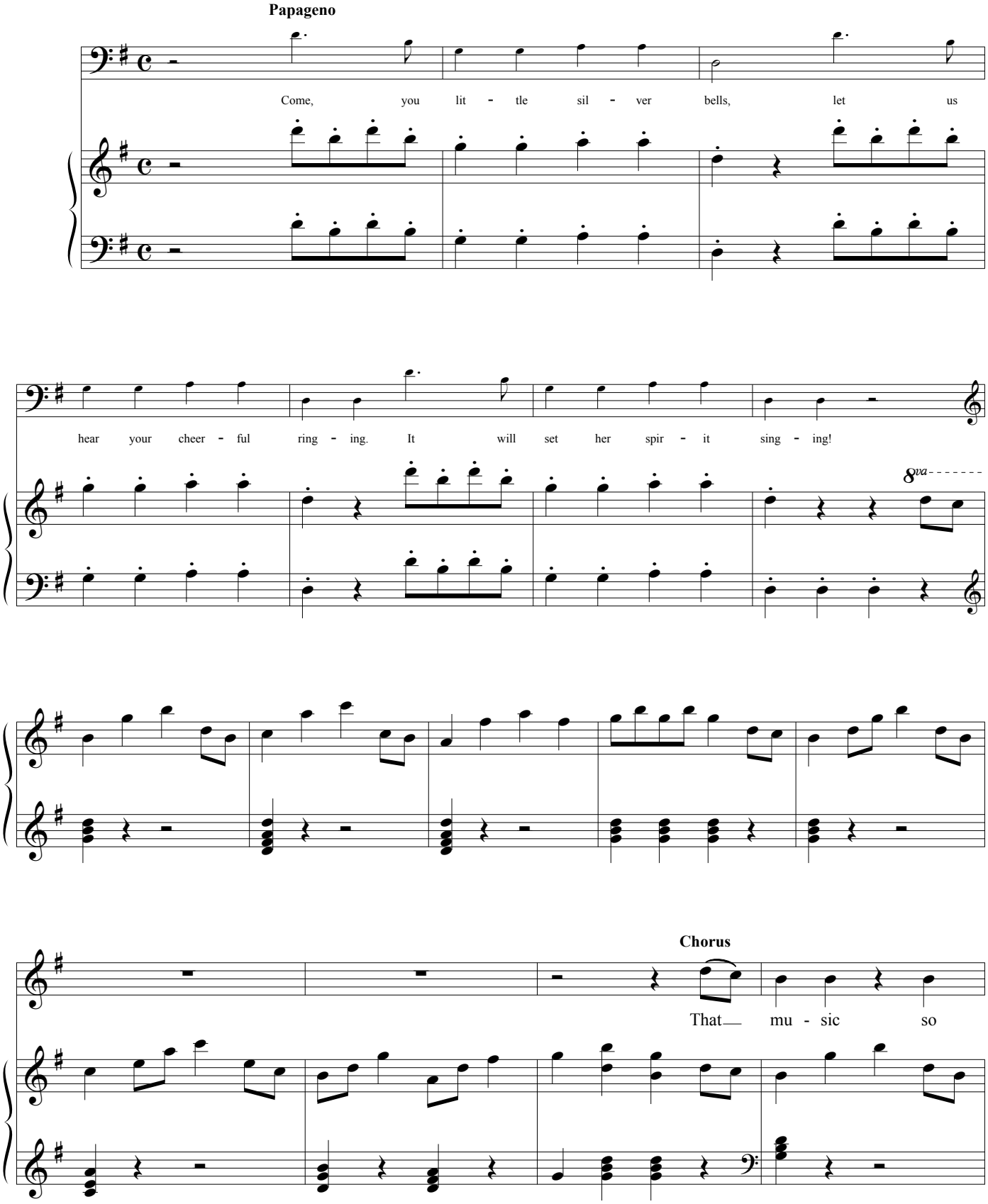


Stop and listen Piano Score - Page 3



That music so lovely Melody



That music so lovely Piano Score - Page 1


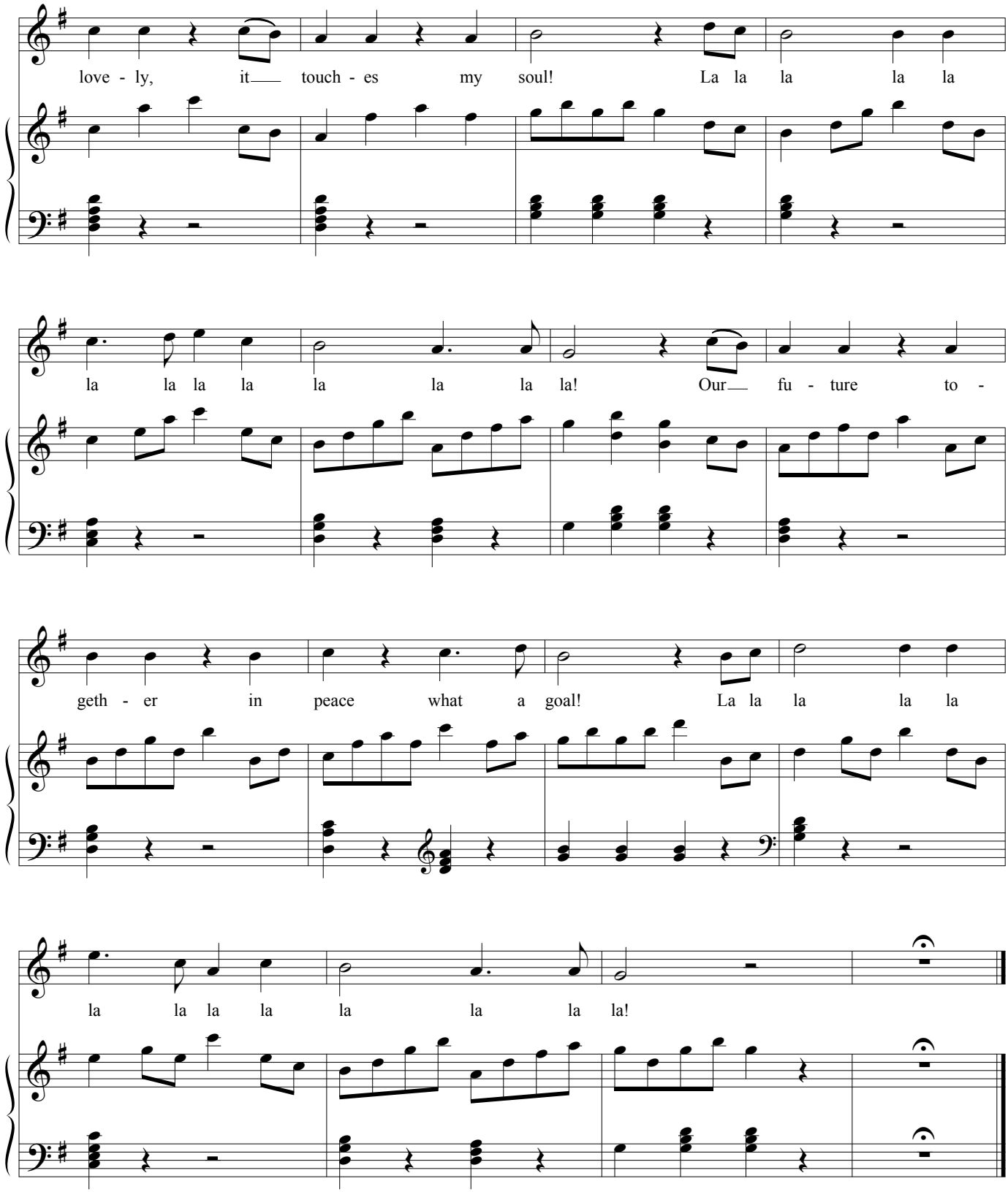
That music so lovely Piano Score - Page 2

