Malcolm Hill

(1944 -)

Let Whoever Blames

Text from Tasso

for Soprano and Chamber Organ (or 3 Viols)

mj331.4 composed 2013

www.malcolm-hill.co.uk

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Five Vocal Symphonies to fit between

Six Motets by Don Carlo Gesualdo

In a letter to Gesualdo of 10 December 1592 the poet Torquato Tasso (1544-95) wrote that he had sent over 40 texts for Gesualdo's sole use in madrigals, following the composer's specific requirements. Six days later he sent another five sonnets. Although they were great friends, Gesualdo set only a few of these texts. The friendship abruptly stopped when Tasso produced two poems which seemed to side with the murdered couple.

Malcolm Hill divided each of two Tasso sonnets *In Morte di due Nobilissimi Amanti* and *Sullo Stresso Argomento* in two, to give the freely-translated text for four vocal symphonies to be sung between the first five Gesualdo motets. While the motets should be performed unaccompanied, the vocal lines of the symphonies are accompanied by either chamber organ or three viols.

Gesualdo : *Deus refugium*
Solo vocal symphony : *Weep, O Graces*

Gesualdo : *Reminiscere miserationum*
Duo vocal symphony : *Weep, Erato*

Gesualdo : *Ave, dulcissima Maria* [SATTB]
Solo vocal symphony : *O souls*

Gesualdo : *Gaudeamus omnes*

This motet is scored for SSAATB, the text was used for the Feasts of All Saints, the Assumption and St Thomas.

Gaudeamus omnes diem festum celebrantes sub honore sanctorum omnium, de quorum solemnitate gaudent Angeli, et collaudant Filium Dei.

We all rejoice, celebrating this feast day in honour of all the Saints, concerning which the Angels rejoice and together they praise the Son of God.

Solo vocal symphony : ***Let whoever blames you***

Let whoever blames you for straying amongst the sad sigh of love, let them accuse the sun, which, when wandering stars erred so much, heralded the day.

Gesualdo : *Peccantem me*
Solo vocal symphony : *Nobles are exempt*

Gesualdo : *Ave sanctissima* [SSATTB]

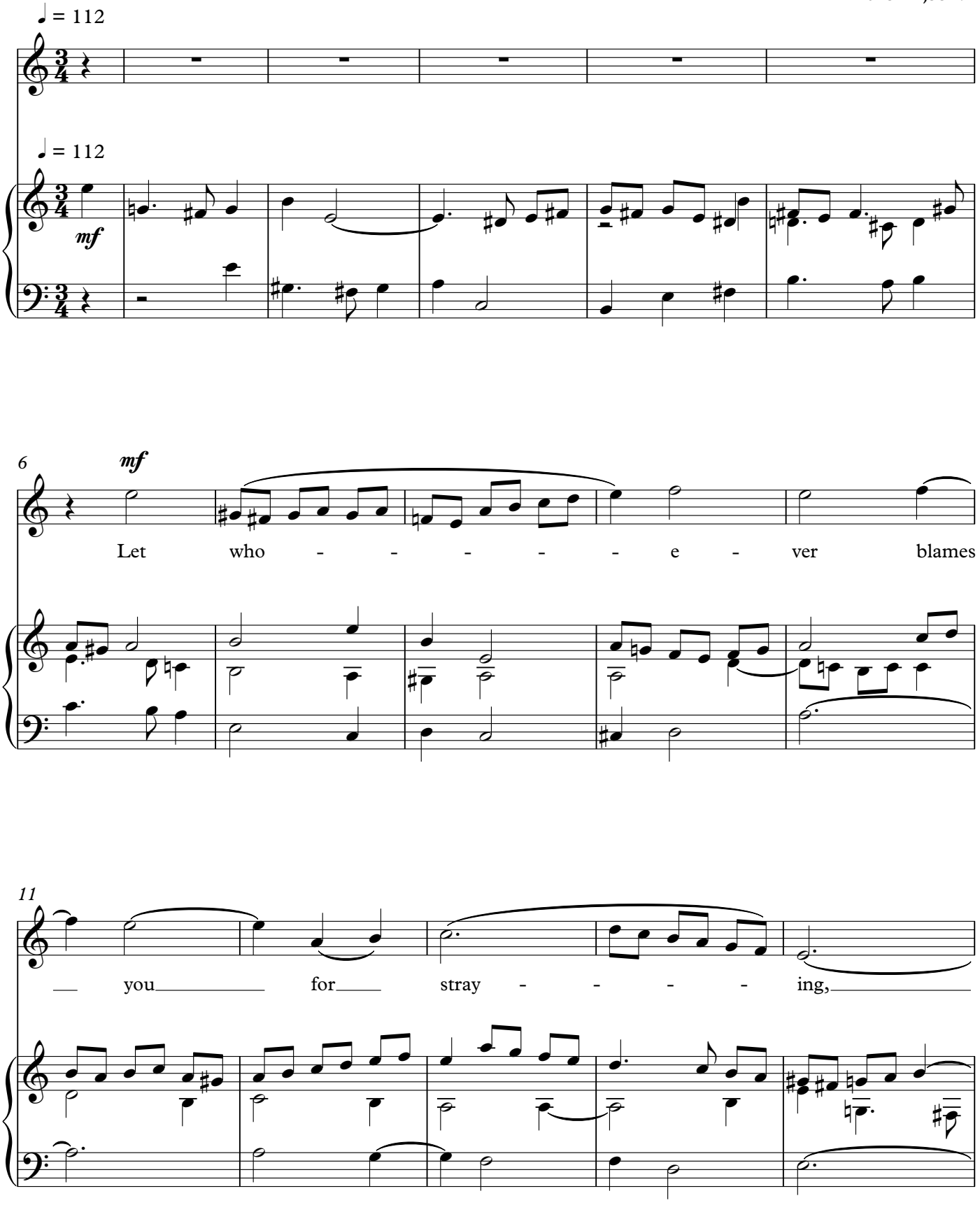
Let Whoever Blames You

Between Gesualdo's *Gaueamus* and *Peccantem*

for Soprano and Chamber Organ (or 3 Viols)

Tasso

Malcolm Hill
2013 mj331.4



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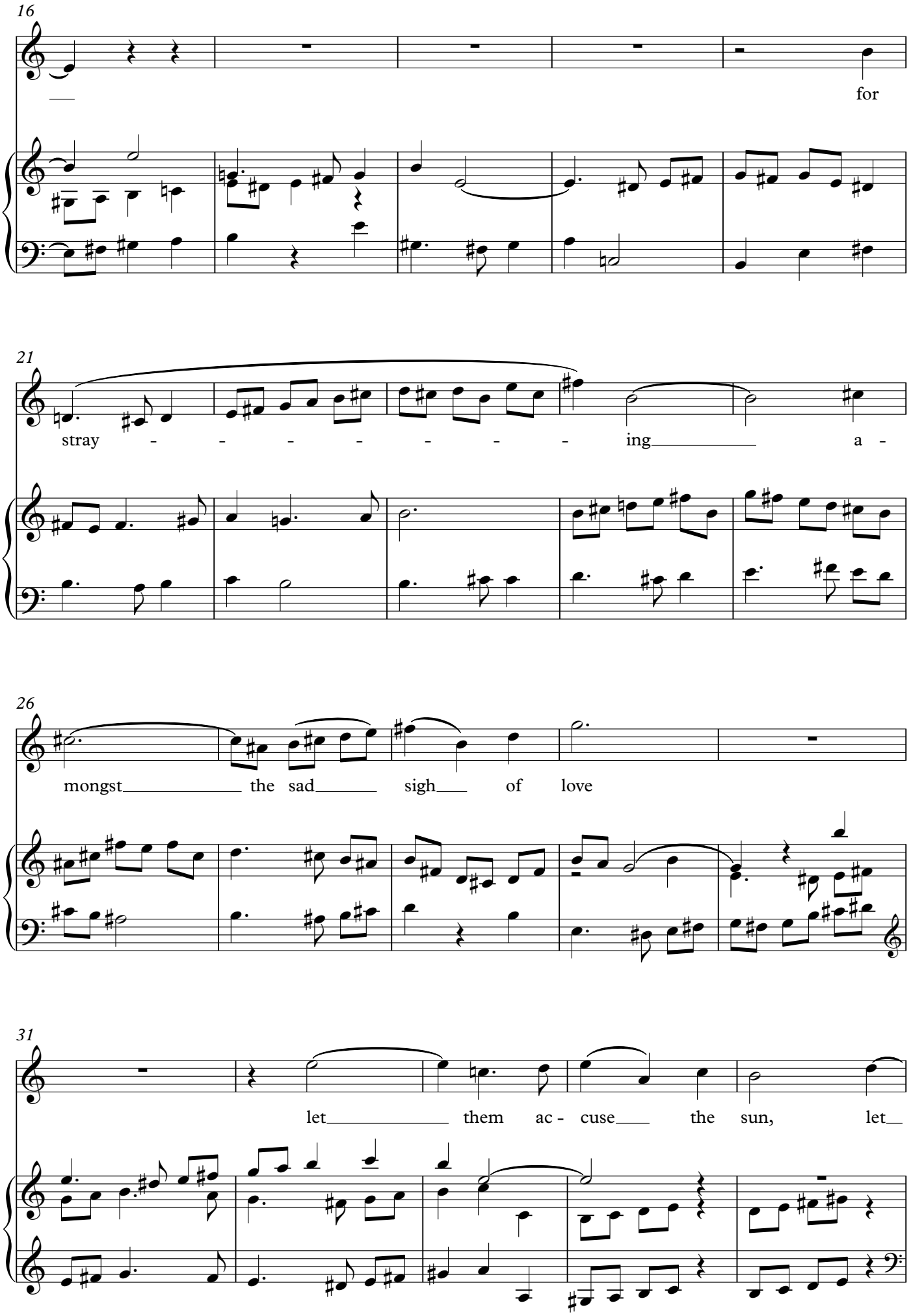
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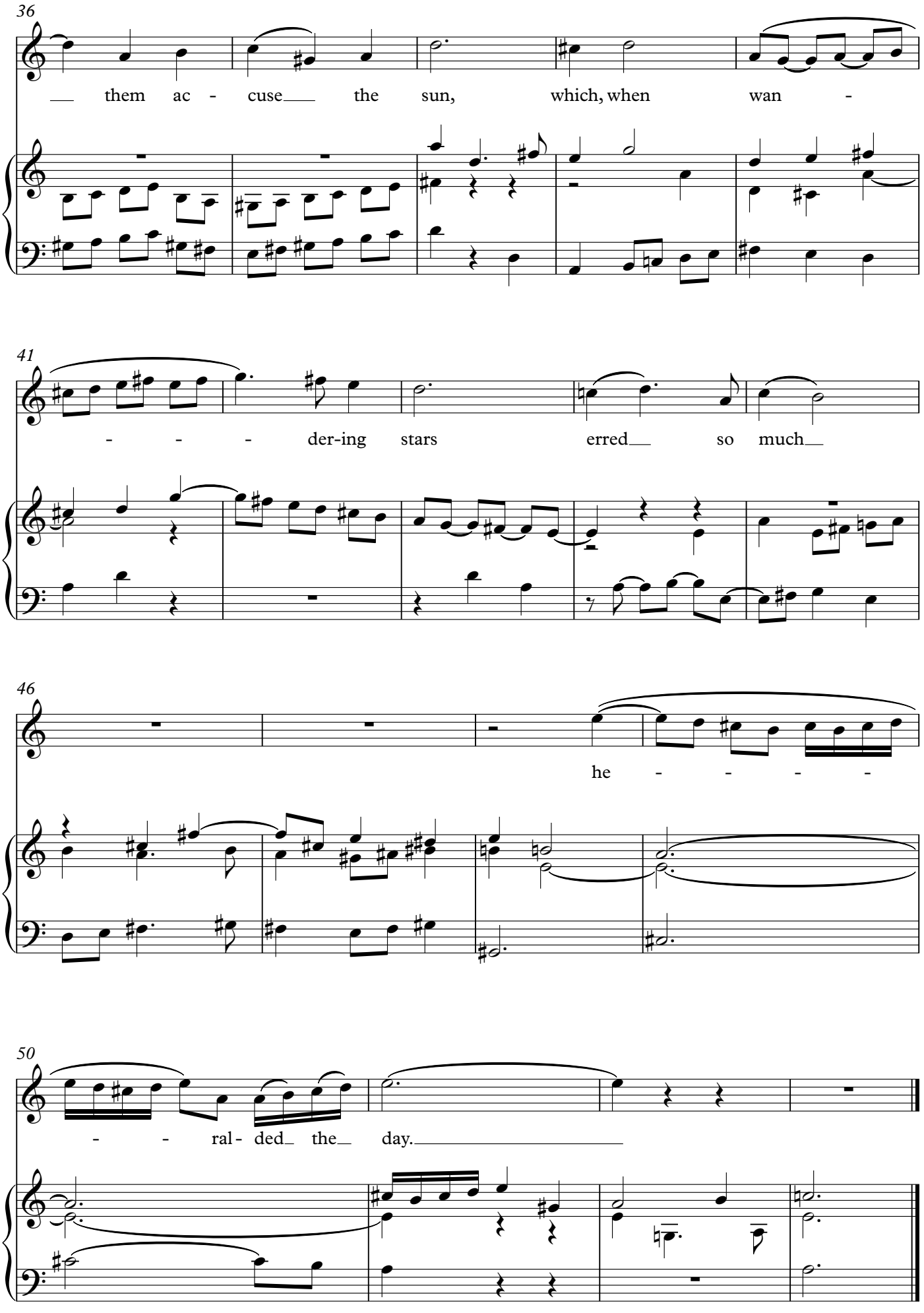
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