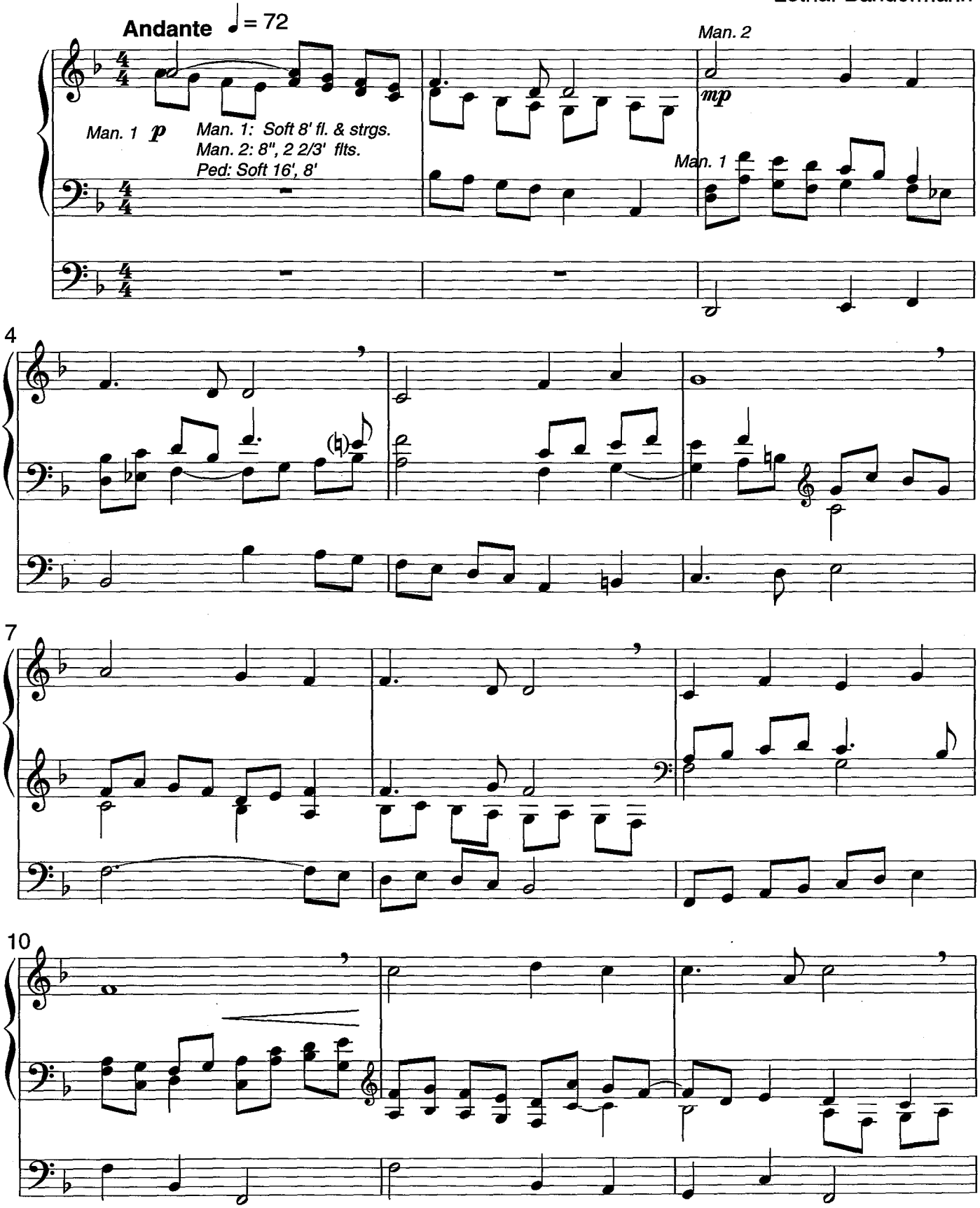
Duration app. 4 min

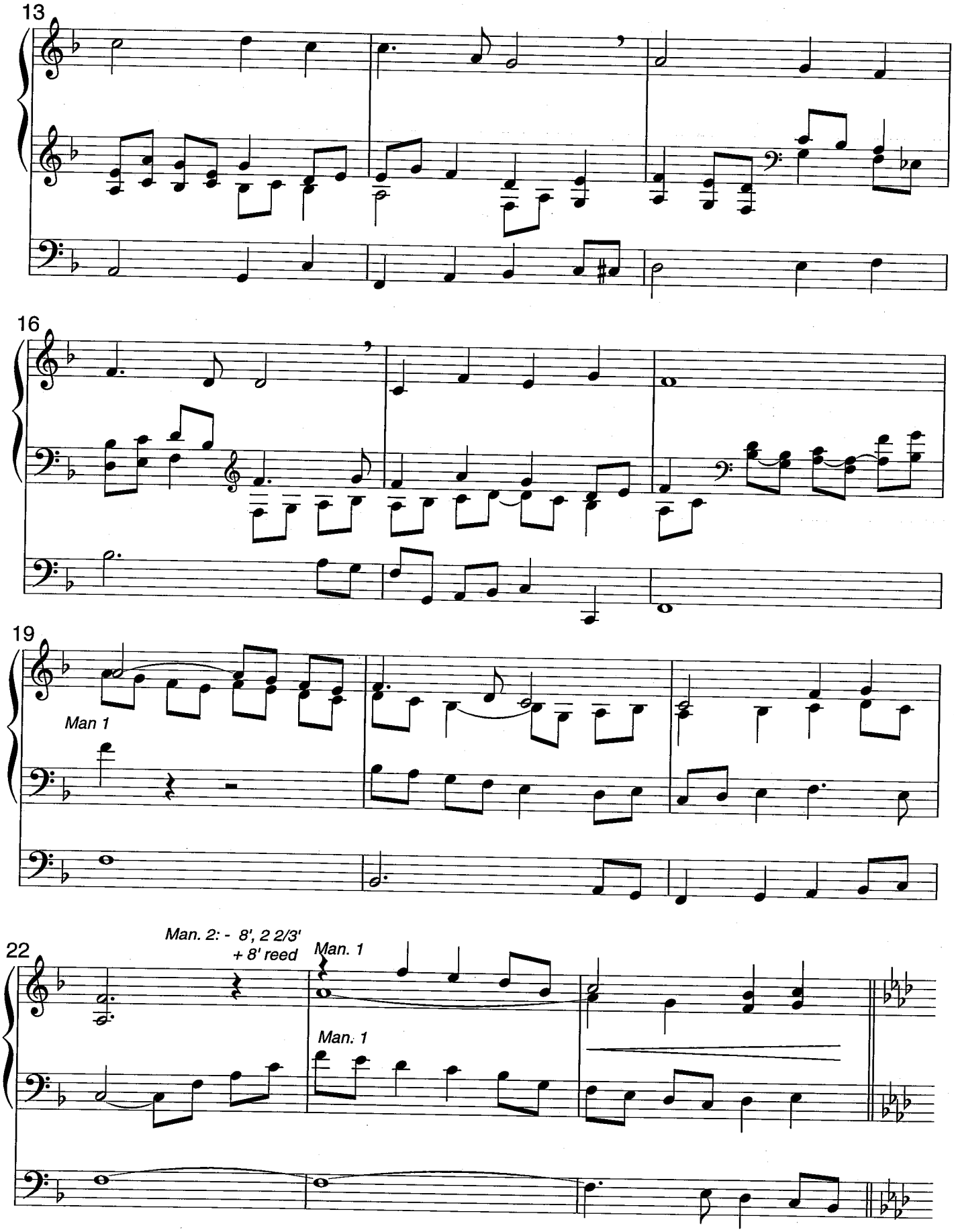
to Libby Codd

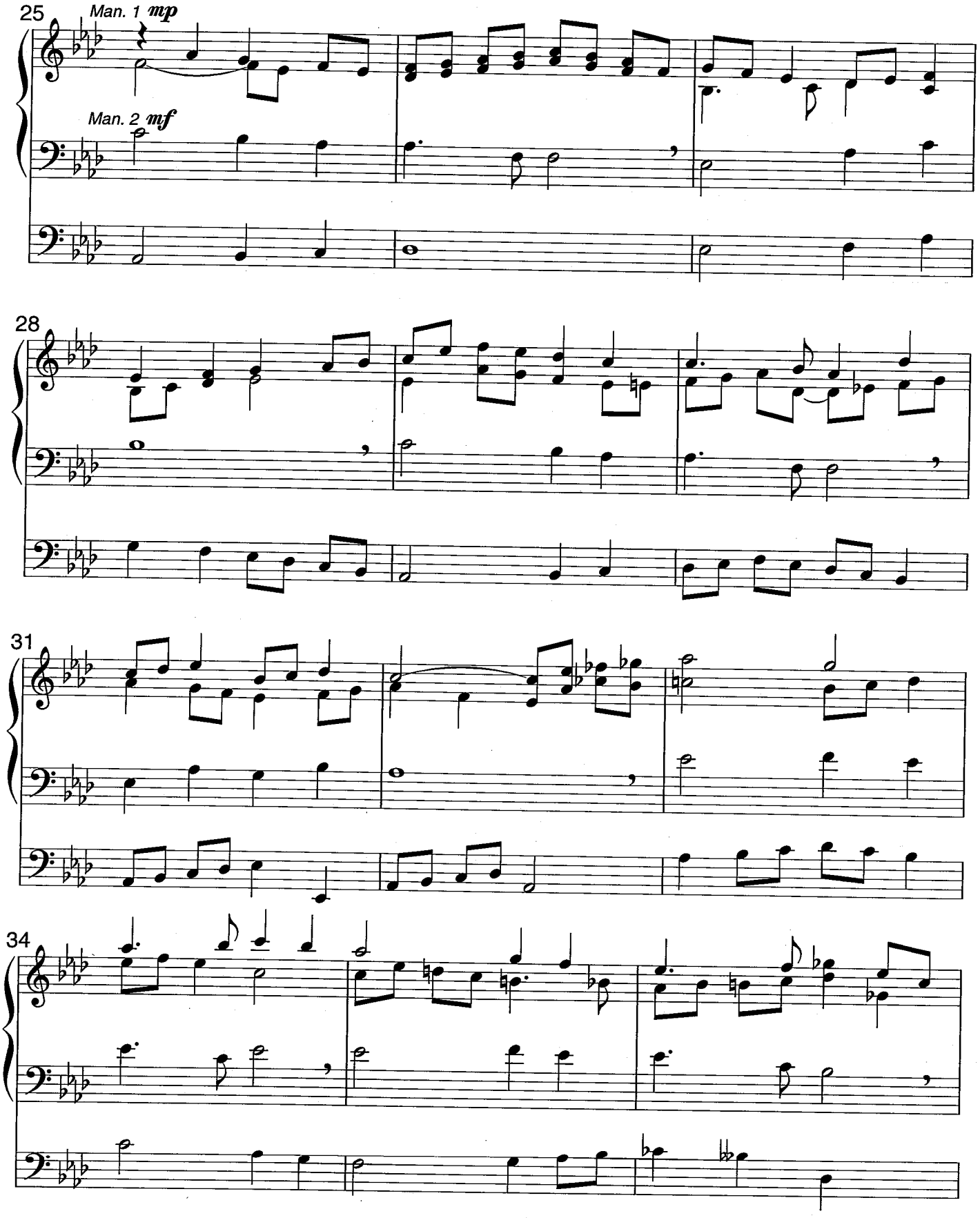
Nearer, My God, To Thee

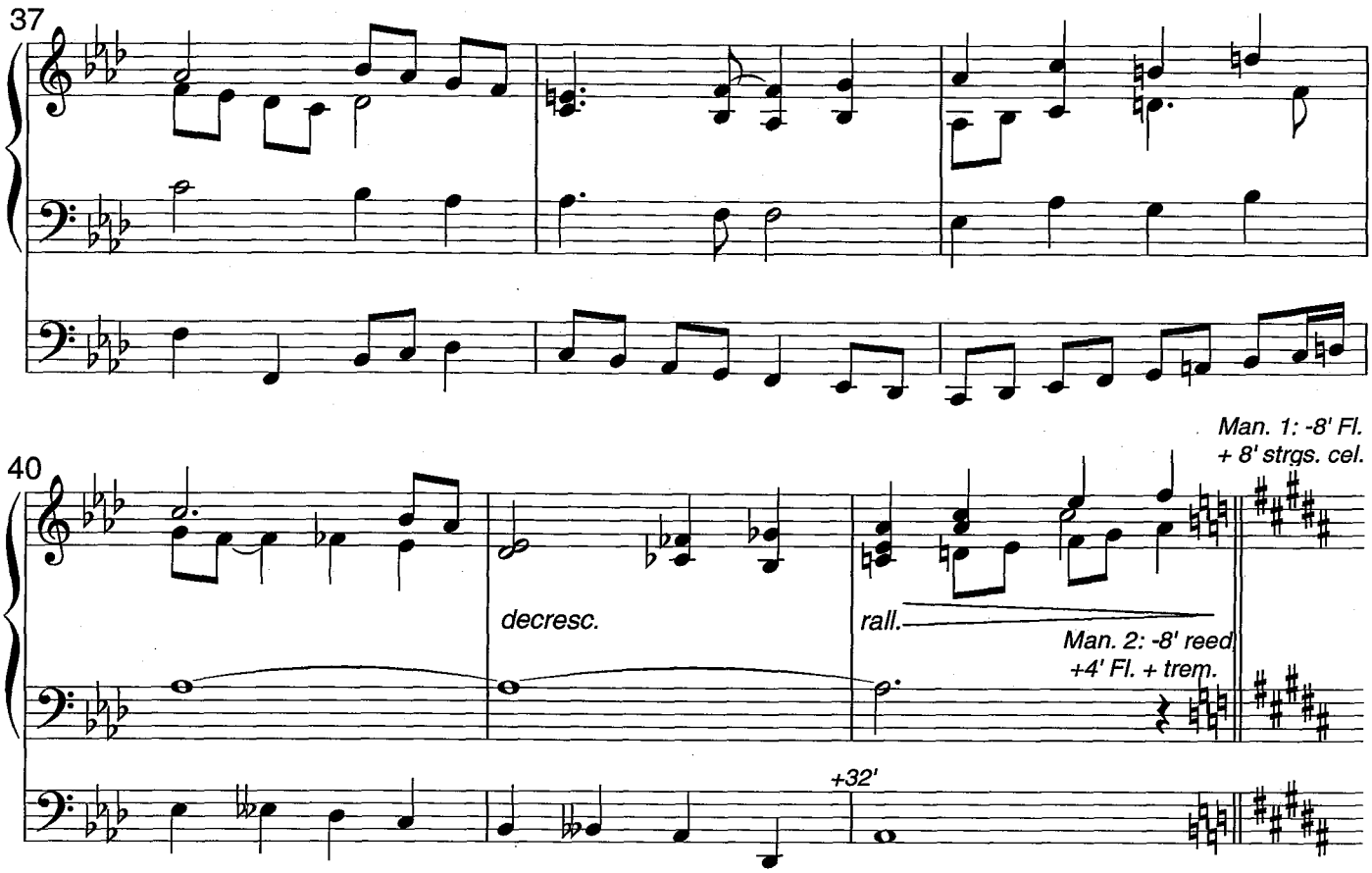
Tune BETHANY
by Lowell Mason (1856)

Lothar Bandermann

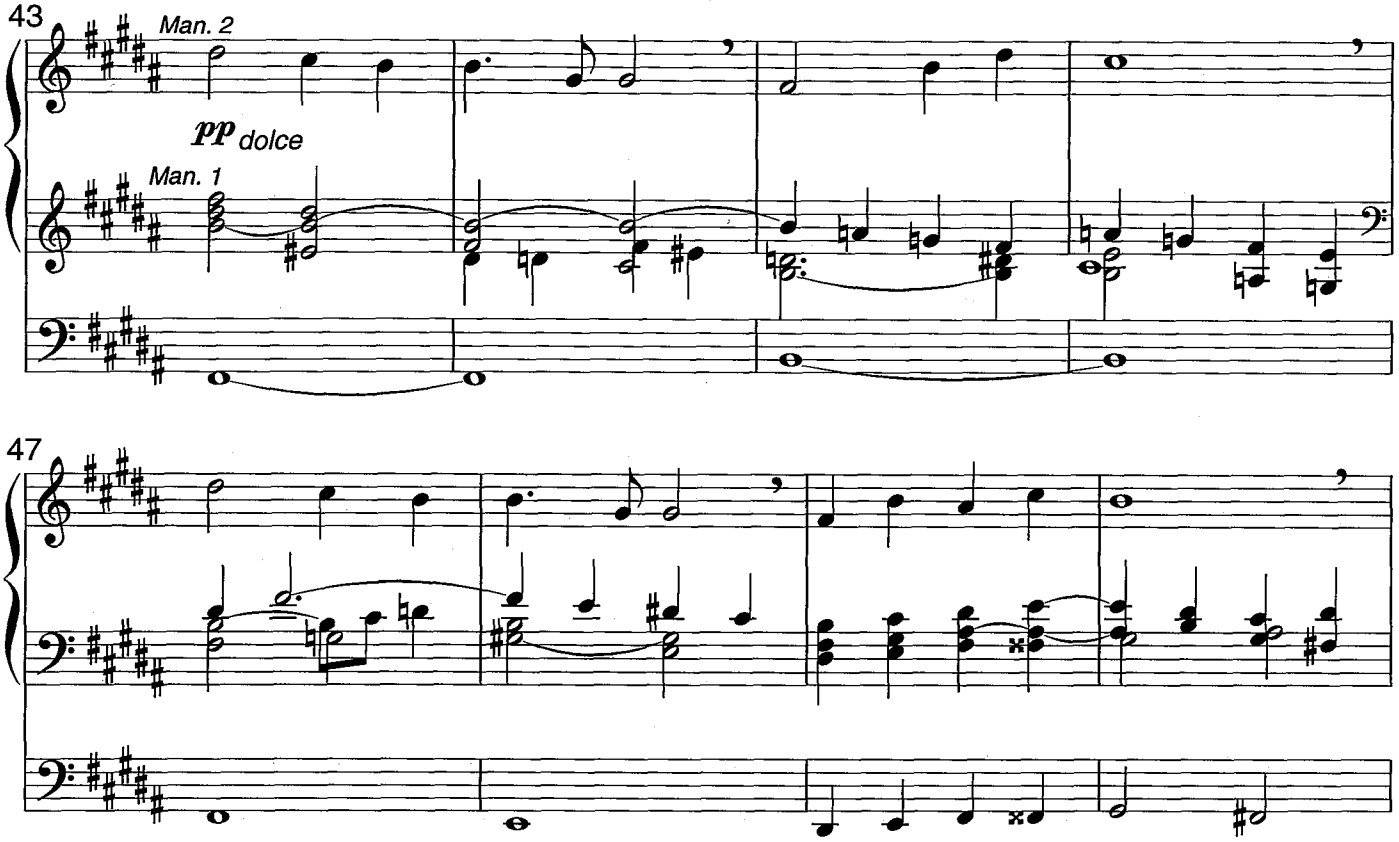


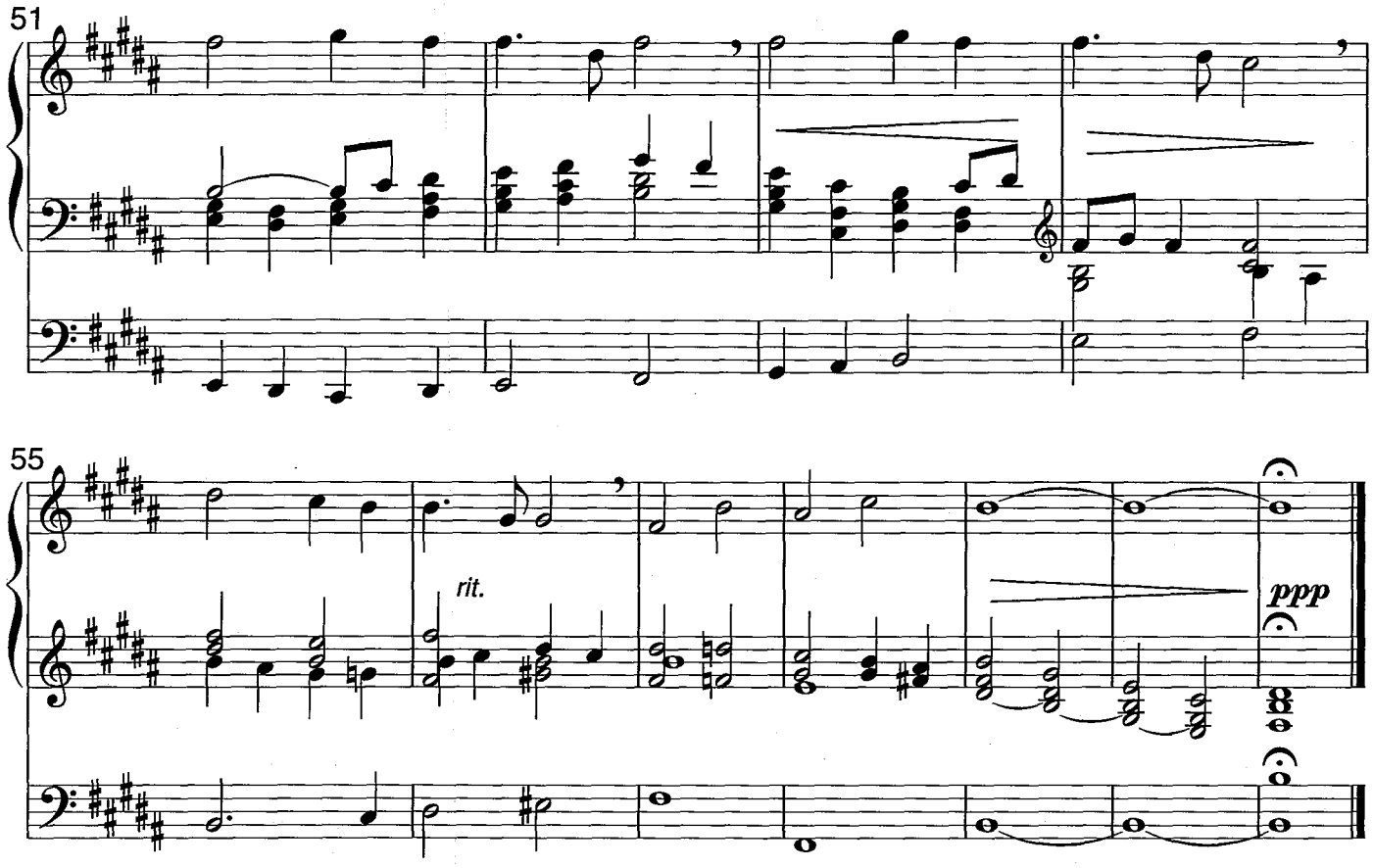

13
16
19
Man 1
22
Man. 2: - 8', 2 2/3'
+ 8' reed
Man. 1
Man. 1


25
Man. 1 mp
Man. 2 mf
28
31
34



Poco meno mosso





Cupertino, Jan. 2007

Symbolism in this piece

The ascension of keys, F-A*flat*-B, signifies the ascension of the soul to heaven. The first two verses begin in minor representing the soul's imperfection, the third verse in major: the soul is cleansed. In the first verse (in F), the melody being played in the right hand (treble range) by flutes signifies the soul's happier, lighter life experiences while in the second verse (in A-flat), the melody being played in the tenor range (left hand) with a reed stop signifies, together with greater chromaticism in this verse, the darker, troubling ones. The third verse (in B) describes the purified soul (represented by a 4' flute and beginning in major) is in heaven (represented by a string celeste stop in the left hand), coming to rest (descending chords in the left hand in the next-to-last measure) in the arms of our Lord who is represented by the soft, low pedal voice.