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Ages of Ages

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Author
Johnson, Kirsten

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Kirsten Johnson

Ages of Ages

Ages of Ages is inspired by text taken from the medieval Old Hispanic chant, León 8, fol. 273:

Et non deficiet ex te vir qui compleat voluntatem meam;

and León 8, fol. 88v:

Gloria et honor patri et filio et spiritui sancto et nunc and semper et in saecula saeculorum.

I have used the English translation for my piece.*

I have been inspired by the neumes and melisma patterns evident in the León 8 setting of these words. In preparation, I hand-copied out the neumes to get a feel for the notation and what it might mean.

The use of freedom within repetition appeals to me, and this aspect is evident in the work I've composed. I was tempted by a more formal structure, but in the end decided to follow the text and use smaller patterns to unify the whole.

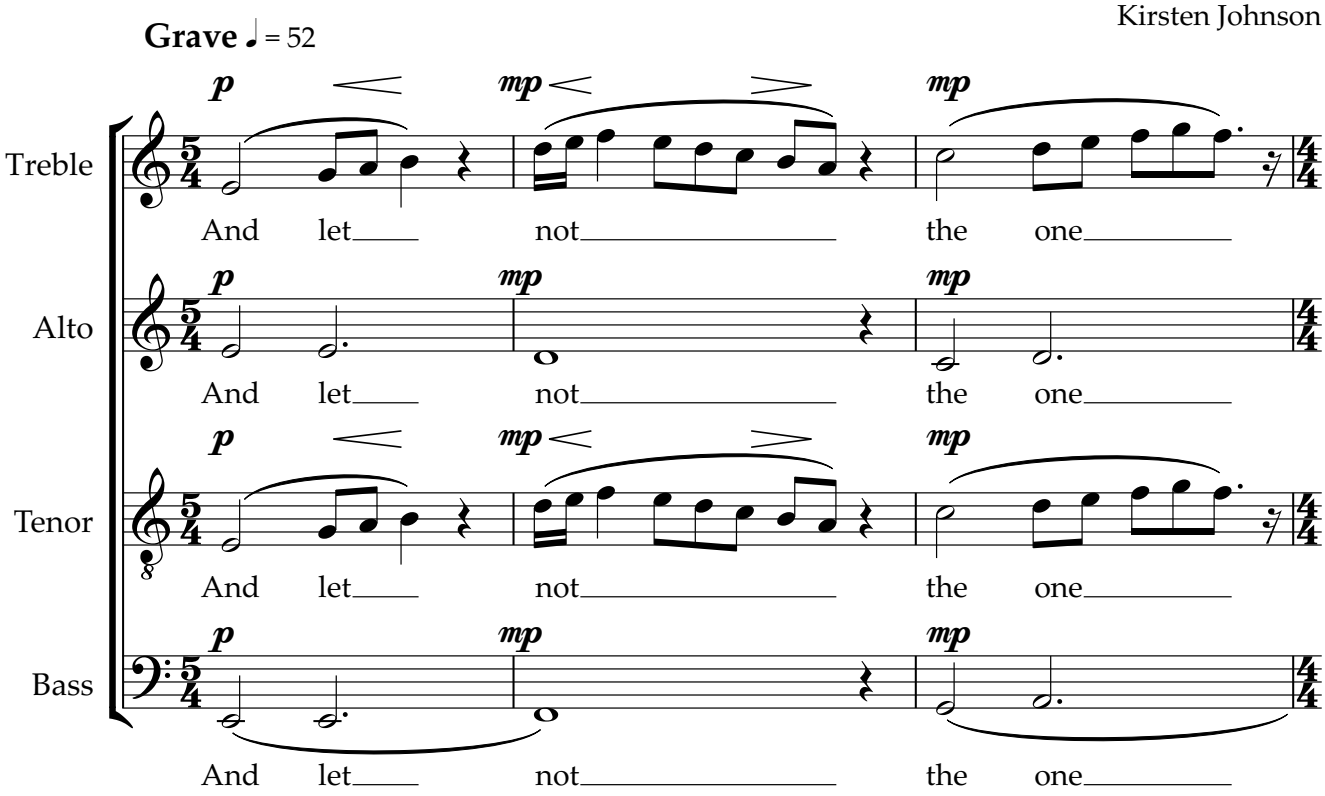
The treble line resembles the shapes of the patterns found in the León 8 setting, and other parts imitate this or are sometimes in unison. I initially worked with an unmetered score, but I found using time signatures better for performers to follow.

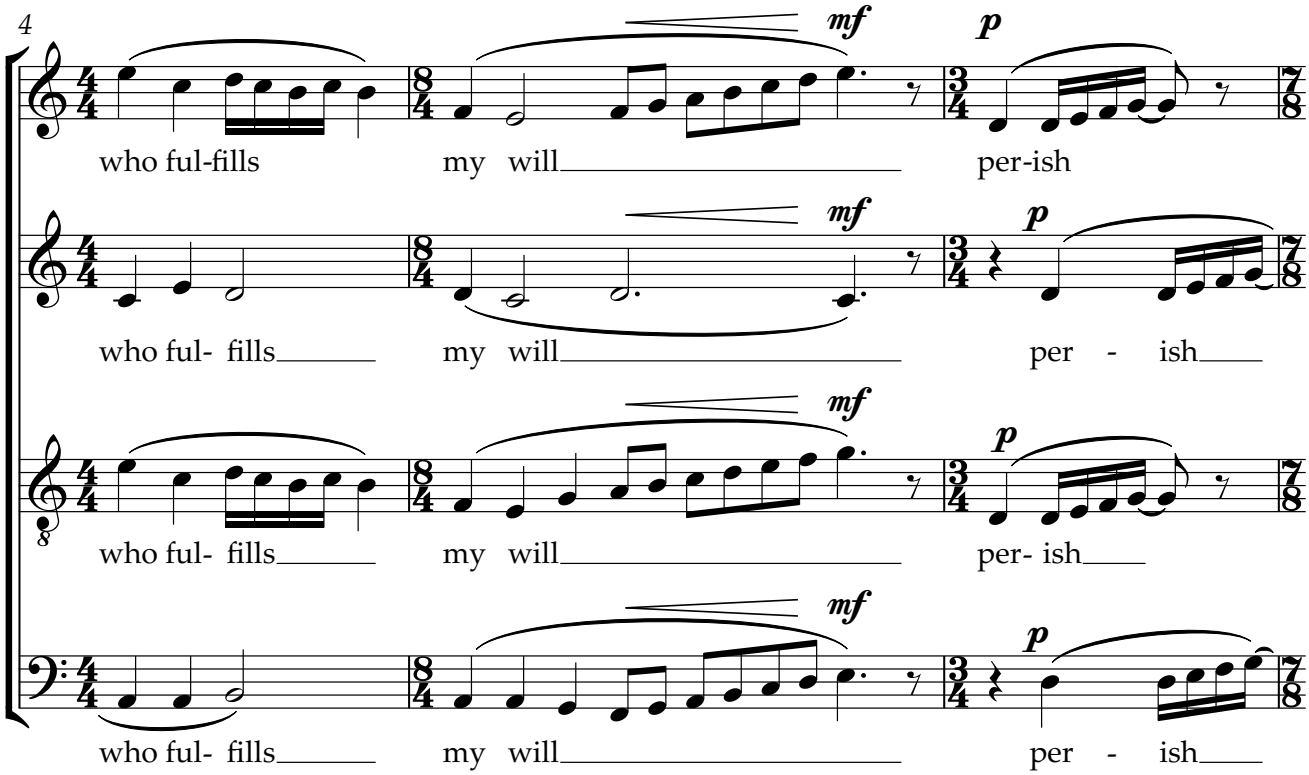
There are frequent changes of meter to give the feel of unmetered, freely evolving textual realisation. Structurally, I analysed the *Gloria* from León 8 and followed a similar A B A B′ A B′′ A, etc., in setting that part of ***Ages of Ages.***

***"Old Hispanic Chant and the Early History of Plainsong," by Rebecca Maloy, in the Journal of the American Musicological Society, Vol. 67, No. 1 (Spring 2014), pp. 1-76.**

Ages of Ages

Kirsten Johnson





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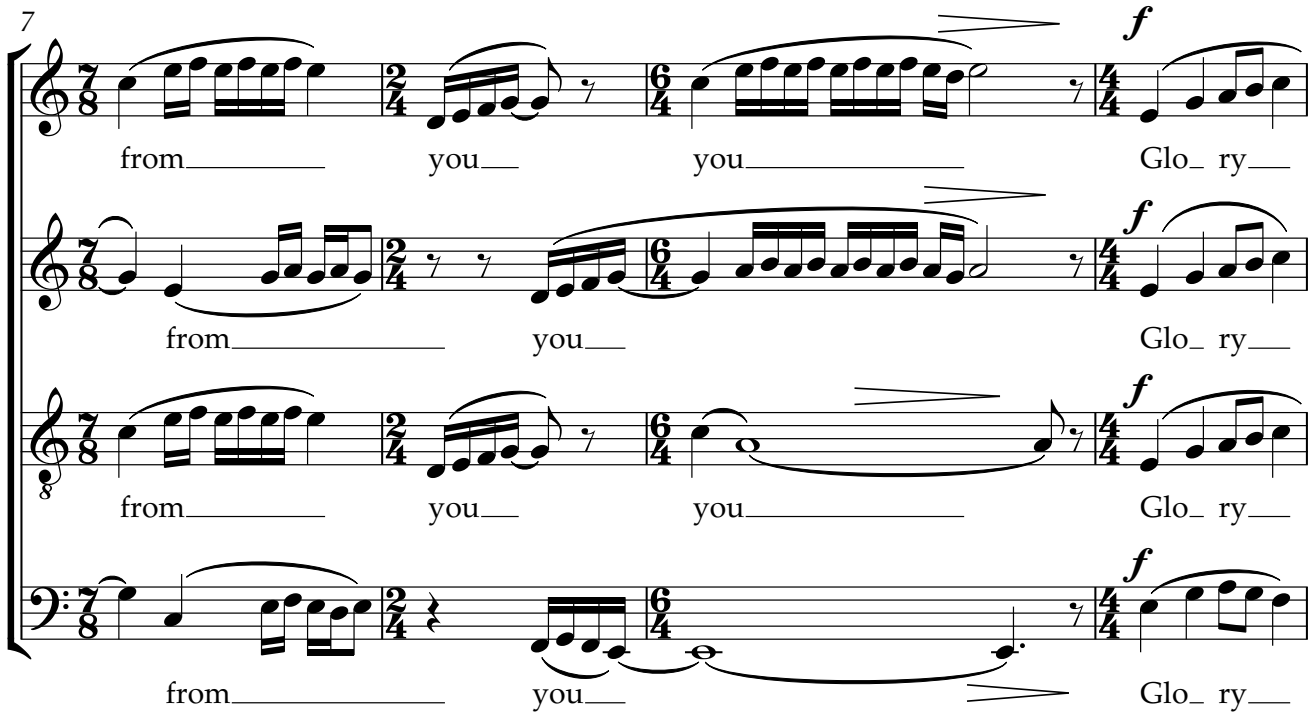
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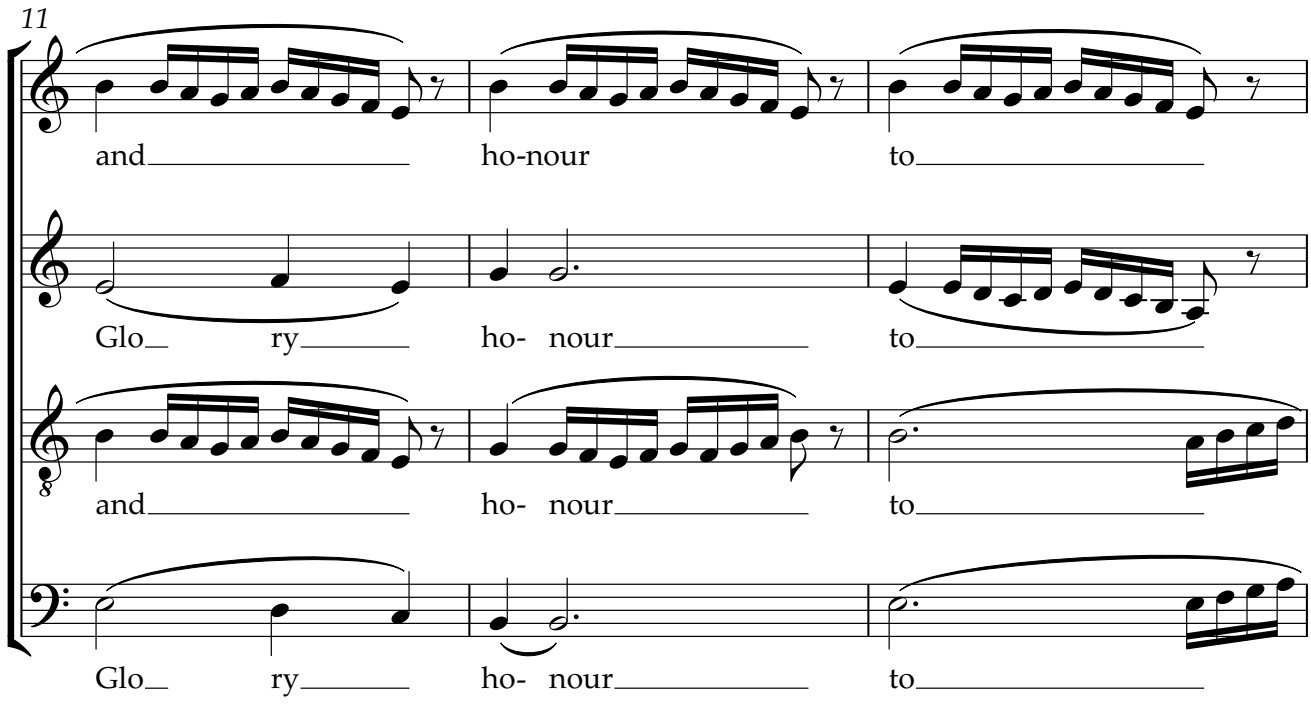
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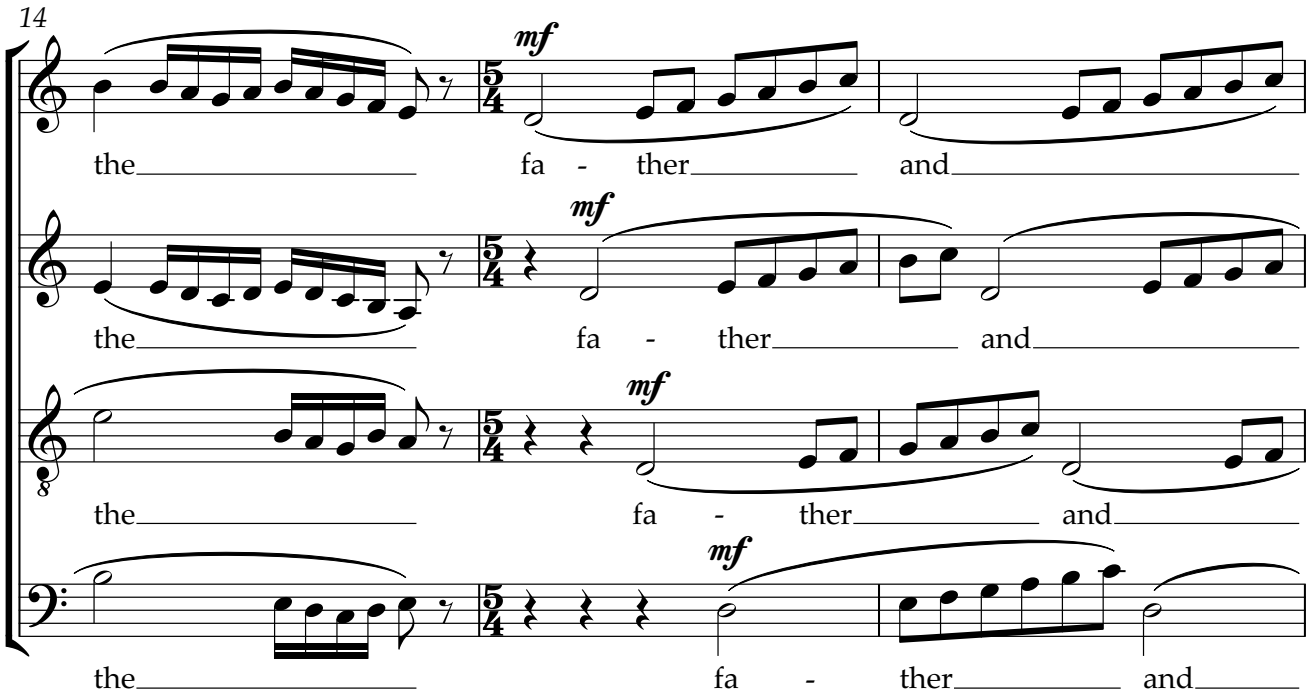
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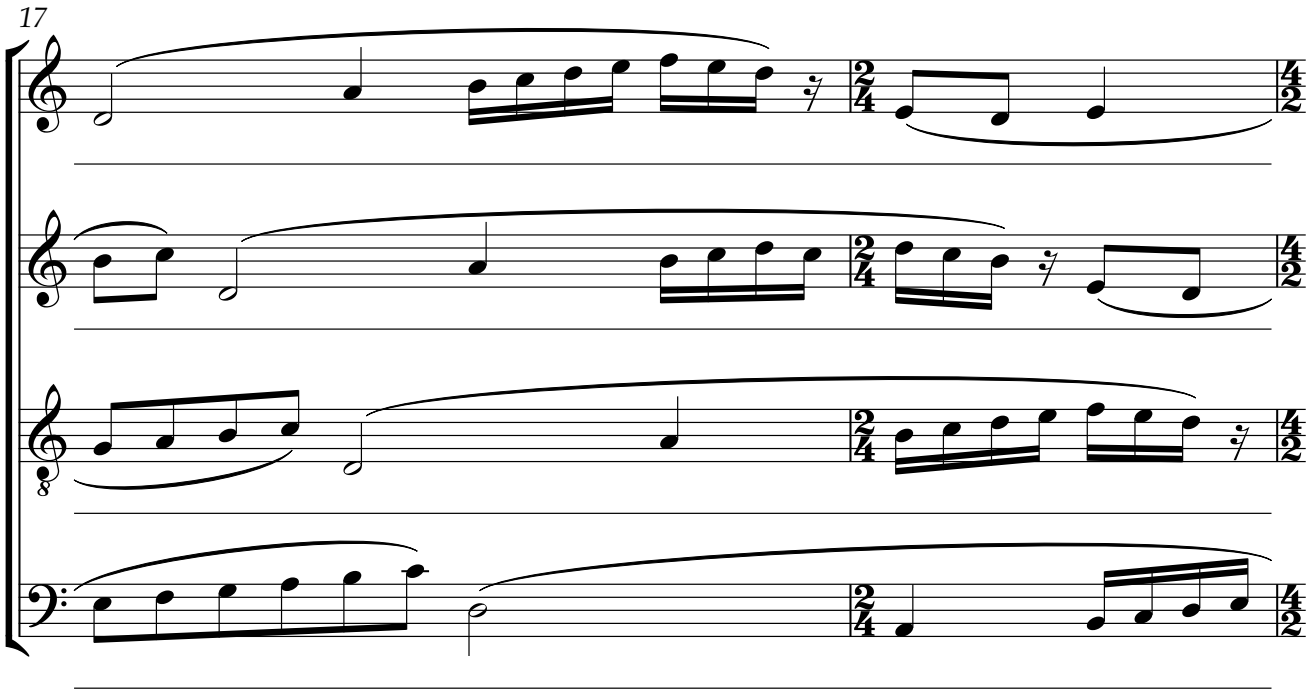
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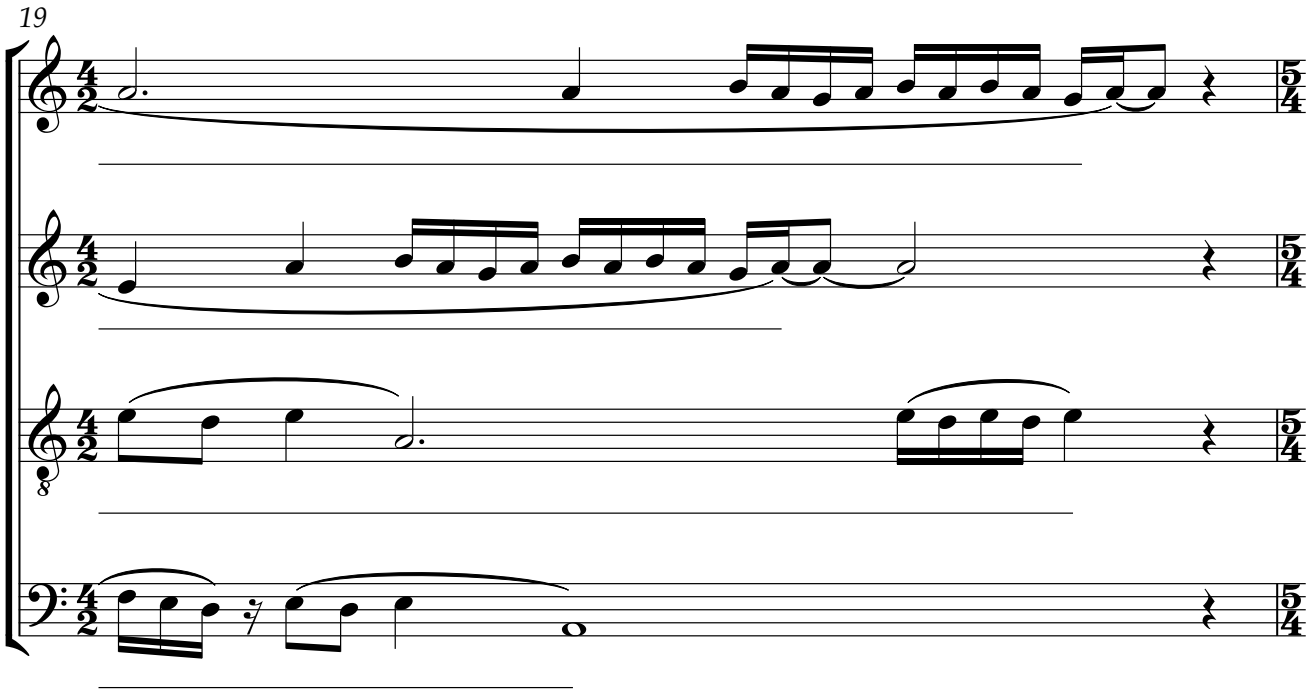
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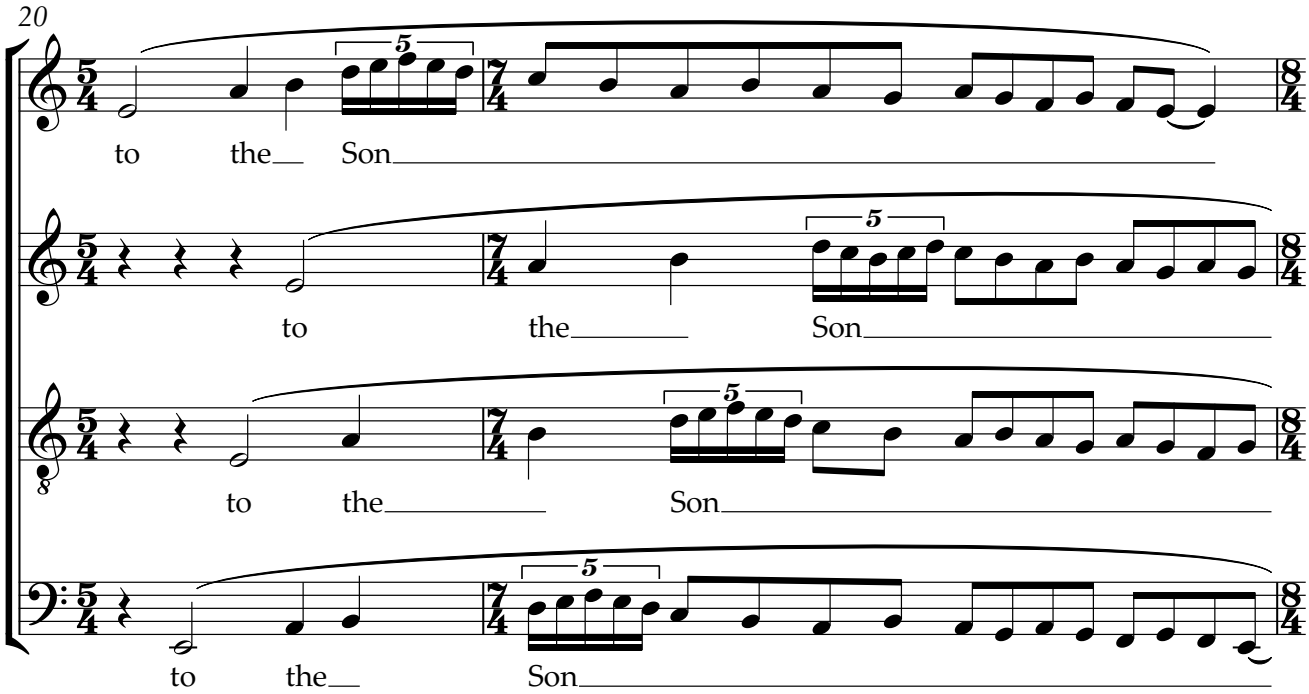
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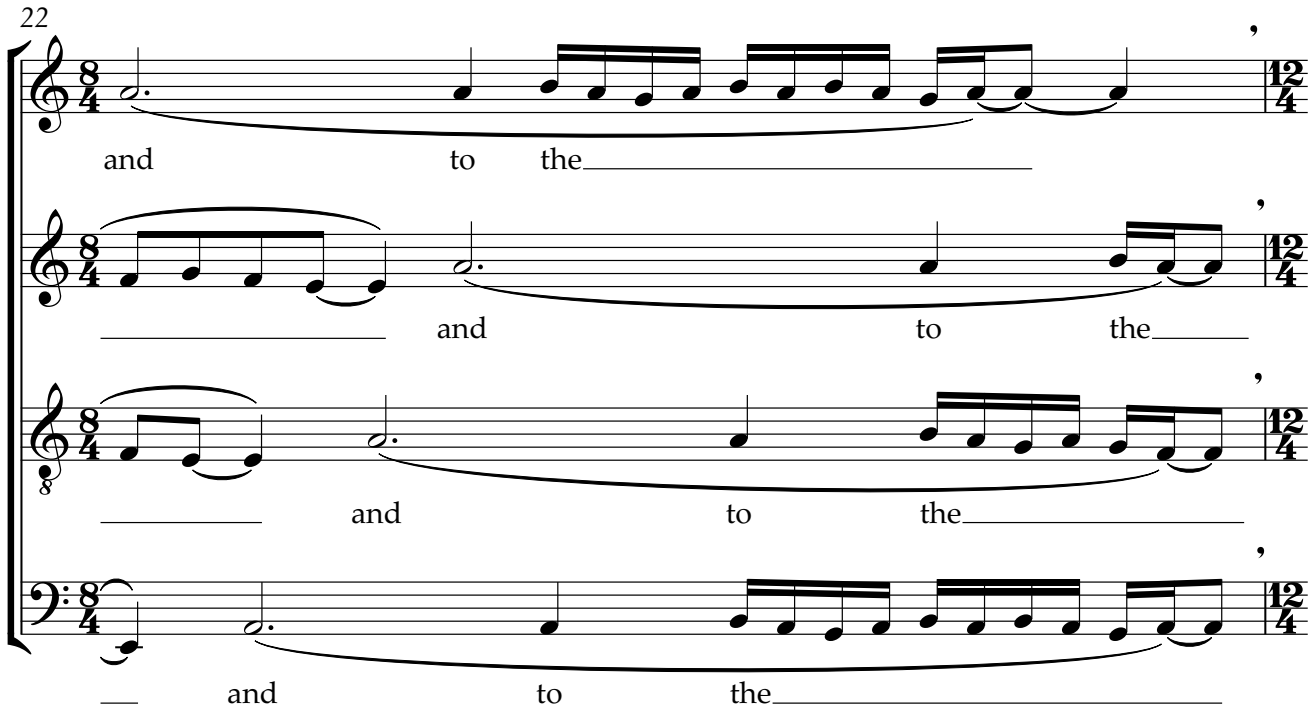
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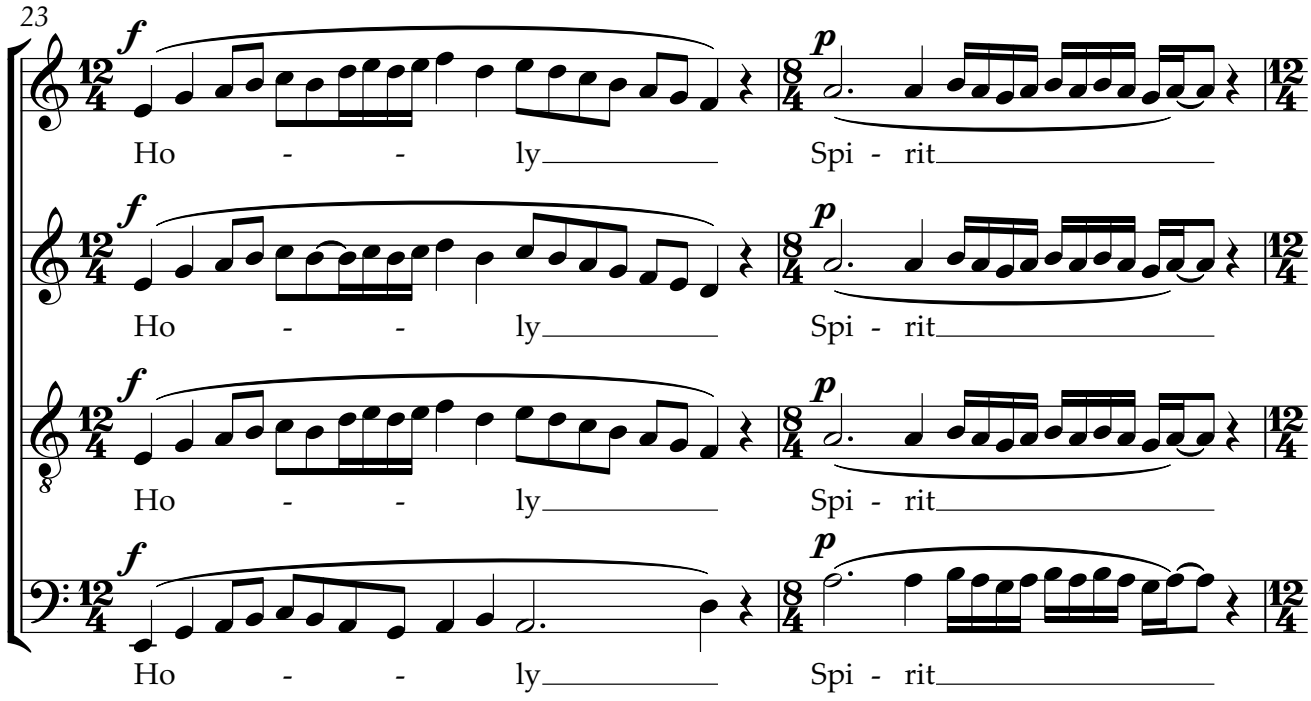
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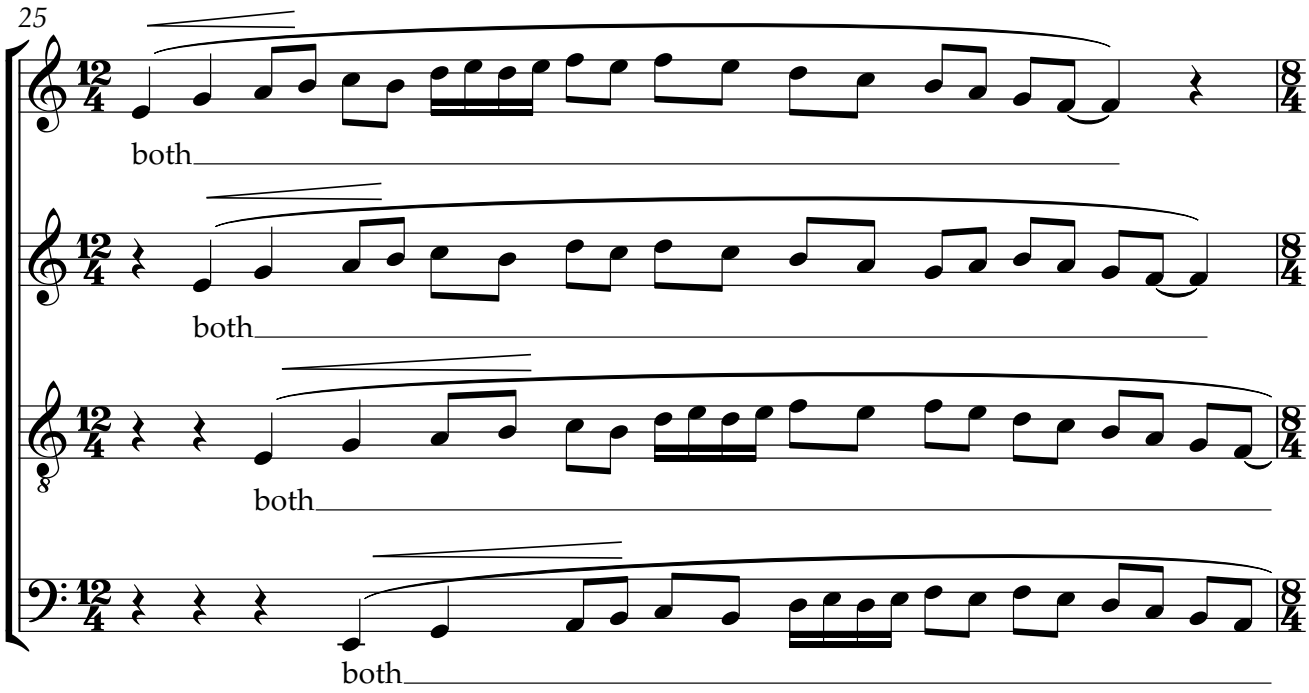
Ho - - ly Spi - rit
Ho - - ly Spi - rit
Ho - - ly Spi - rit
Ho - - ly Spi - rit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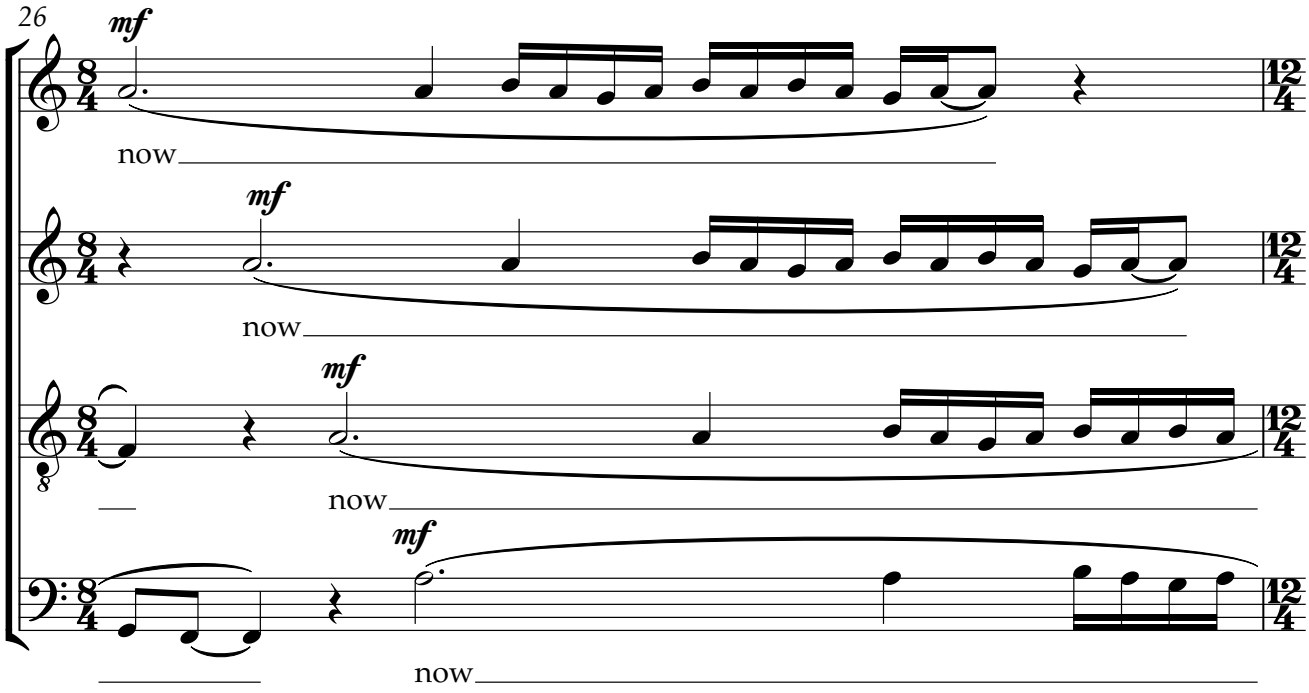
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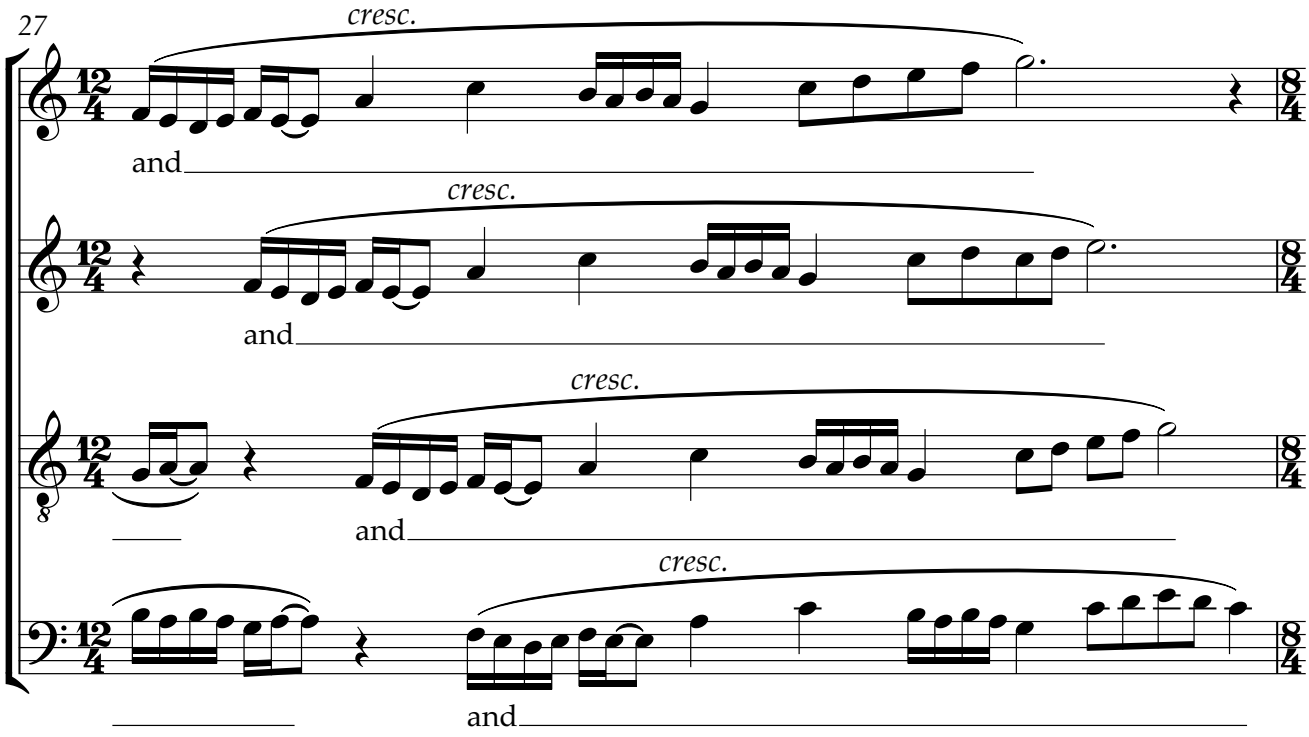
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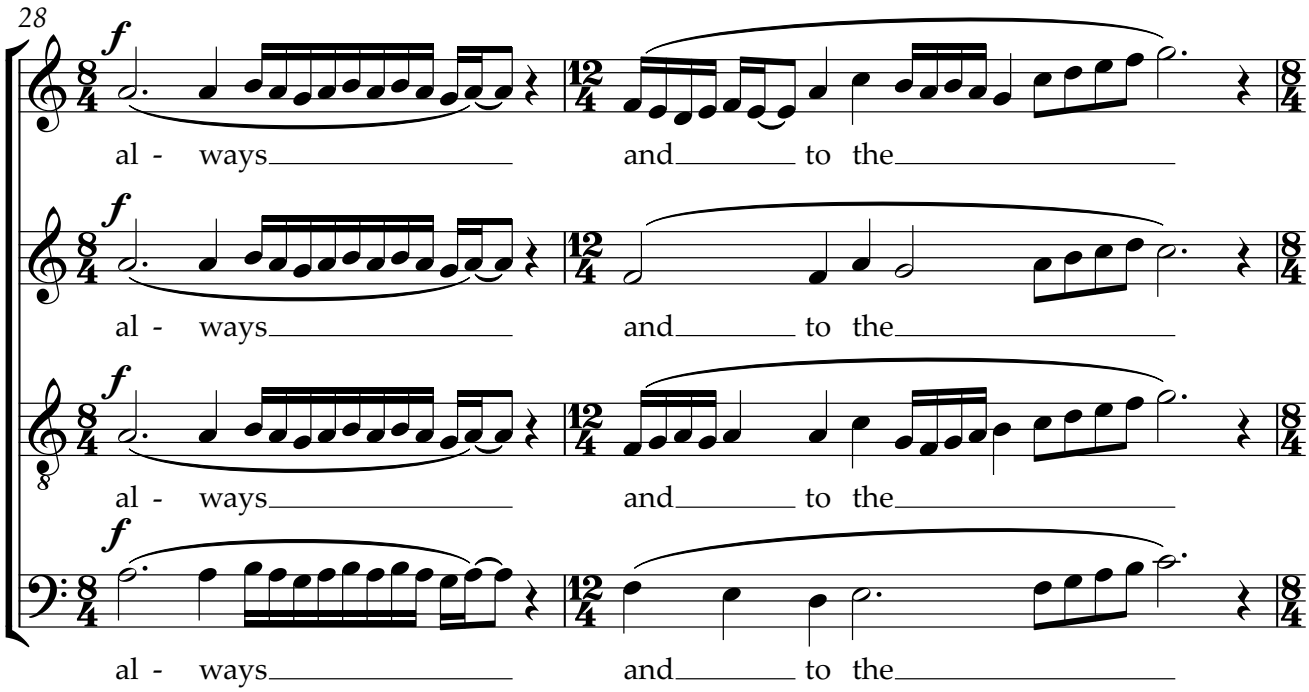
28
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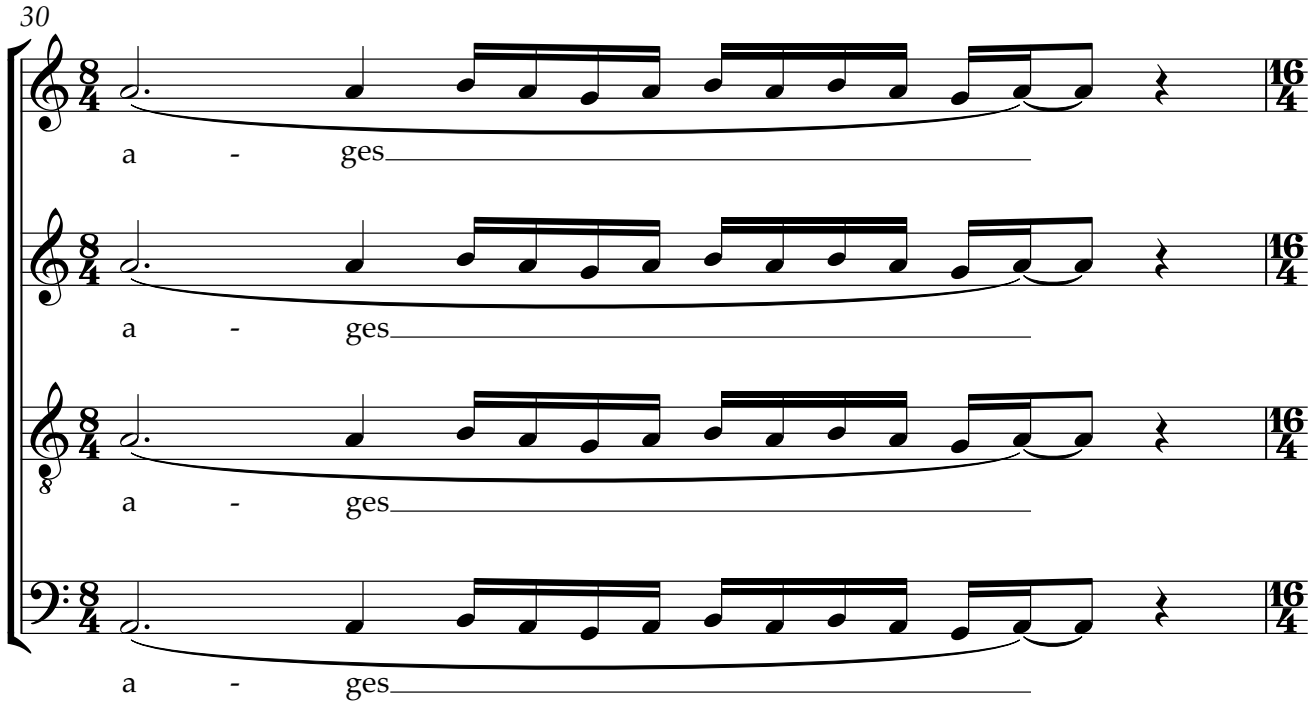
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a - ges
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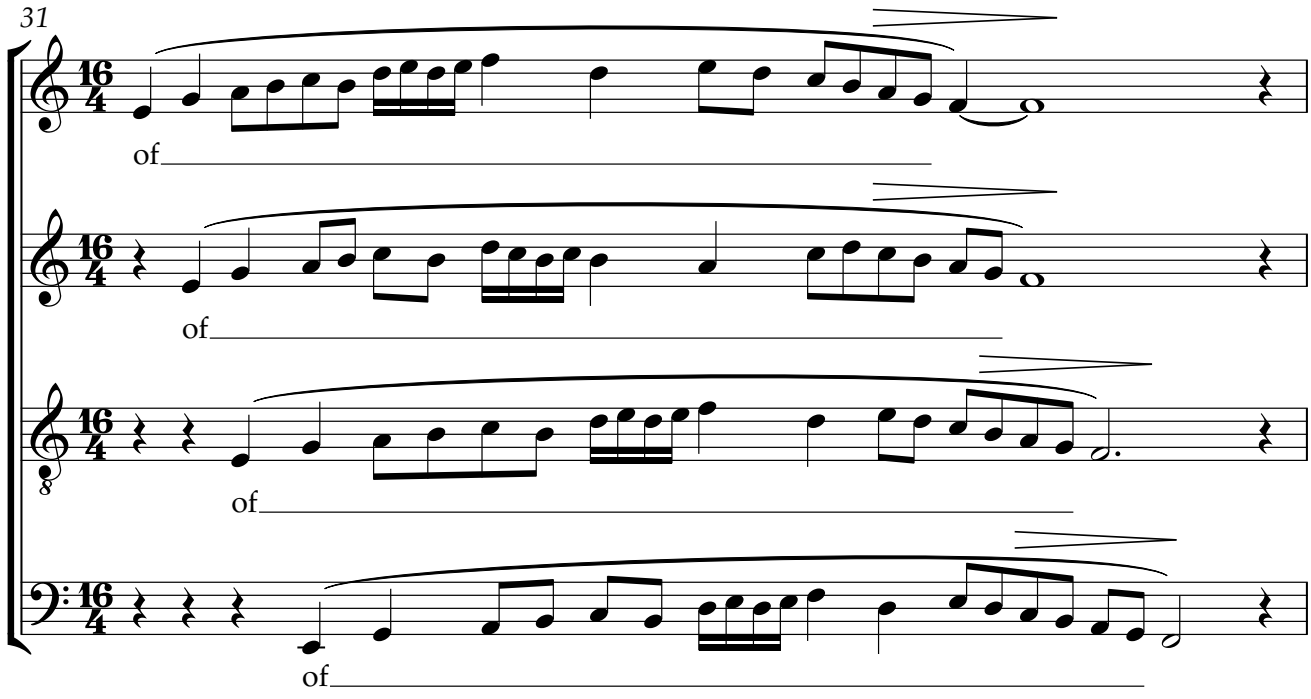
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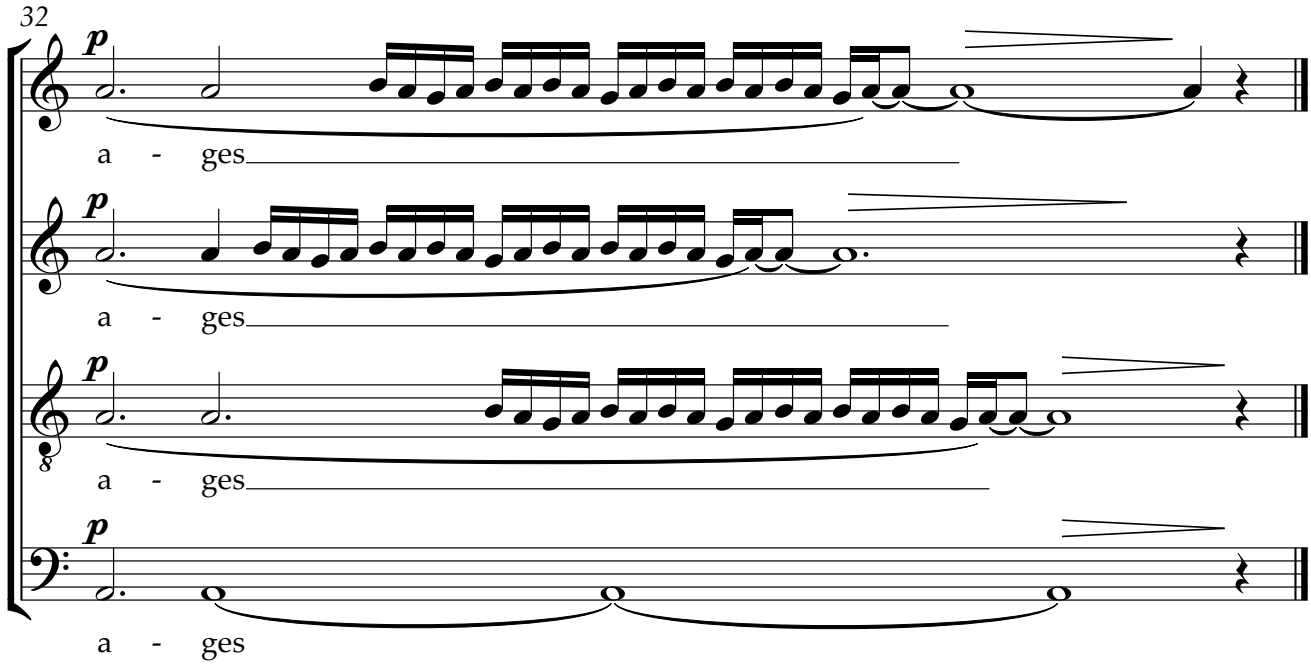
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p
a - ges
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