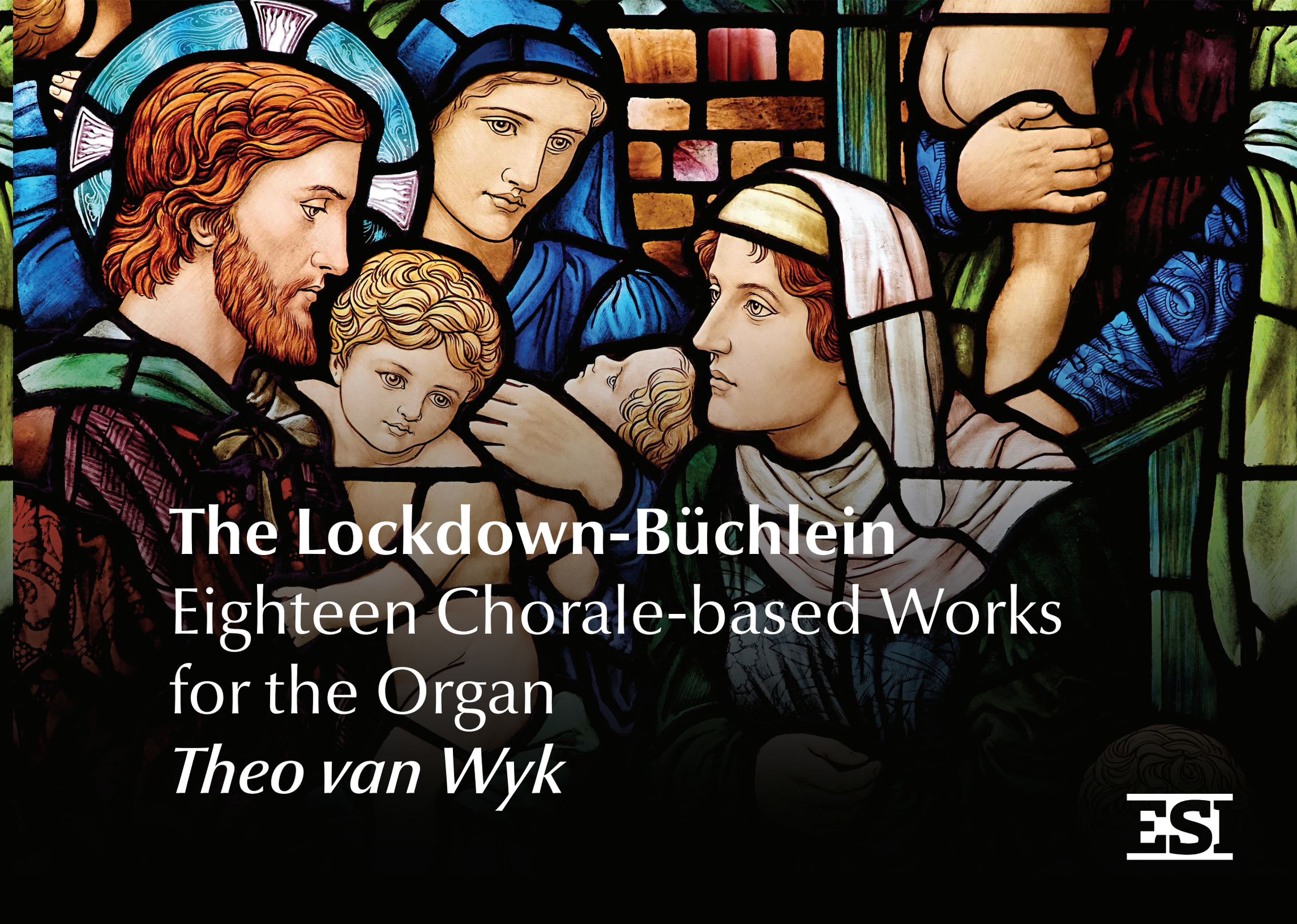

The Lockdown-Büchlein

Eighteen Chorale-based Works for the Organ

Theo van Wyk

ESI

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The Lockdown-Büchlein
Eighteen Chorale-based Works for the Organ

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Editor and Score Typesetting: Wesley Pietersen

Foreword

The lockdown period in 2020 was challenging, bringing the world to a standstill. However, for many, it also became a time of introspection and creativity. Prof Theo van Wyk used this period to analyse chorale preludes, resulting in a collection of 18 beautifully crafted compositions. His influences stemmed from the classical and romantic French organ schools, particularly the works of J. S. Bach and other German composers of that era. Prof van Wyk composed the preludes in various forms, such as the ciacona, canon, and the motive chorale prelude, drawing inspiration from Brahms and neo-baroque composers. The chorales on which these preludes are based include well-known hymns sung across many denominations, as well as contemporary hymns from the New Apostolic Church, making this collection significant. The technical demands of these works vary; some are intended for the average church organist, while others are designed as concert pieces. *The Lockdown-Büchlein* is a valuable addition to the repertoire of chorale preludes and will be appreciated by SAKOV and other local and international institutions. I hope that performers of these works will bring the text to life through the music, thereby inspiring their listeners.

Dr Gerrit Jordaan
Southern African Church and Concert Organists Society (SAKOV)
George
2024

Prologue

In a time when the world stood still, and the regular patterns of life were interrupted by an unforeseen force, this collection of chorale preludes came into being. *The Lockdown-Büchlein* is more than a set of compositions; it is a reflection of a period when the world was quiet, and the echoes of our deepest thoughts and the ageless tunes of faith were the only sounds that filled the silence. The title pays homage to Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), whose *Orgelbüchlein* has long been a foundational work in organ literature. Like Bach's collection, this new work aspires to contribute to both the current moment and the future of organ music.

Created during the global COVID-19 pandemic, these chorale preludes embody the contrast between isolation and connection. While the world outside was characterised by quietness and separation, music became a conduit—a way to connect with the divine, with each other, and with the enduring tradition of organ music that has guided us through many hardships. The chorales chosen for these preludes are drawn from various traditions, creating a rich tapestry of faith that transcends boundaries. Chorales serve as a reminder that, even in our most solitary moments, we are never truly alone; the familiar melodies of hope, sorrow, and praise have always been with us, offering solace and strength.

These compositions engage in a dialogue between the past and the present. Inspired by the great composers of the Baroque era and extending into the stylistic developments of the 21st century, these preludes are both a homage to, and a continuation of a vibrant tradition. They are meant not only for the reverence of divine services, but also for the hands of students, who will bring them to life through practice. Each prelude, though rooted in historical forms, reflects the distinctive character of our times—demonstrating how the music of the past can be reinterpreted to resonate with contemporary experiences.

As you explore these preludes, I encourage you to see them not merely as compositions, but as ongoing conversations. Conversations between composer and performer, between the organ and the listener, and between history and the present day. In a time when our voices were muted and our movements limited, this music provided a means to reach out, to communicate what words could not, and to find comfort in the timeless chorales that have been cherished for generations. May *The Lockdown-Büchlein* be both a reminder of these challenging times, and a testament to the enduring power of music to uplift, connect, and heal, and ultimately, to the honour and glory of God.

Theo van Wyk
Pretoria
2024

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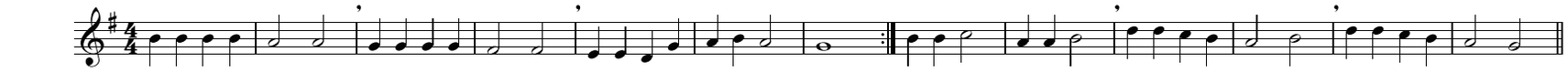
For Dèrion-Lee May

1. Chorale Prelude on 'Wunderbarer König'

2 Clavier et Pedale

Gt: Trumpet 8', Oktave 4'
Sw: 8', 4', 2'
Ped: 6', 8', 4'

Joachim Neander (1650-1680)



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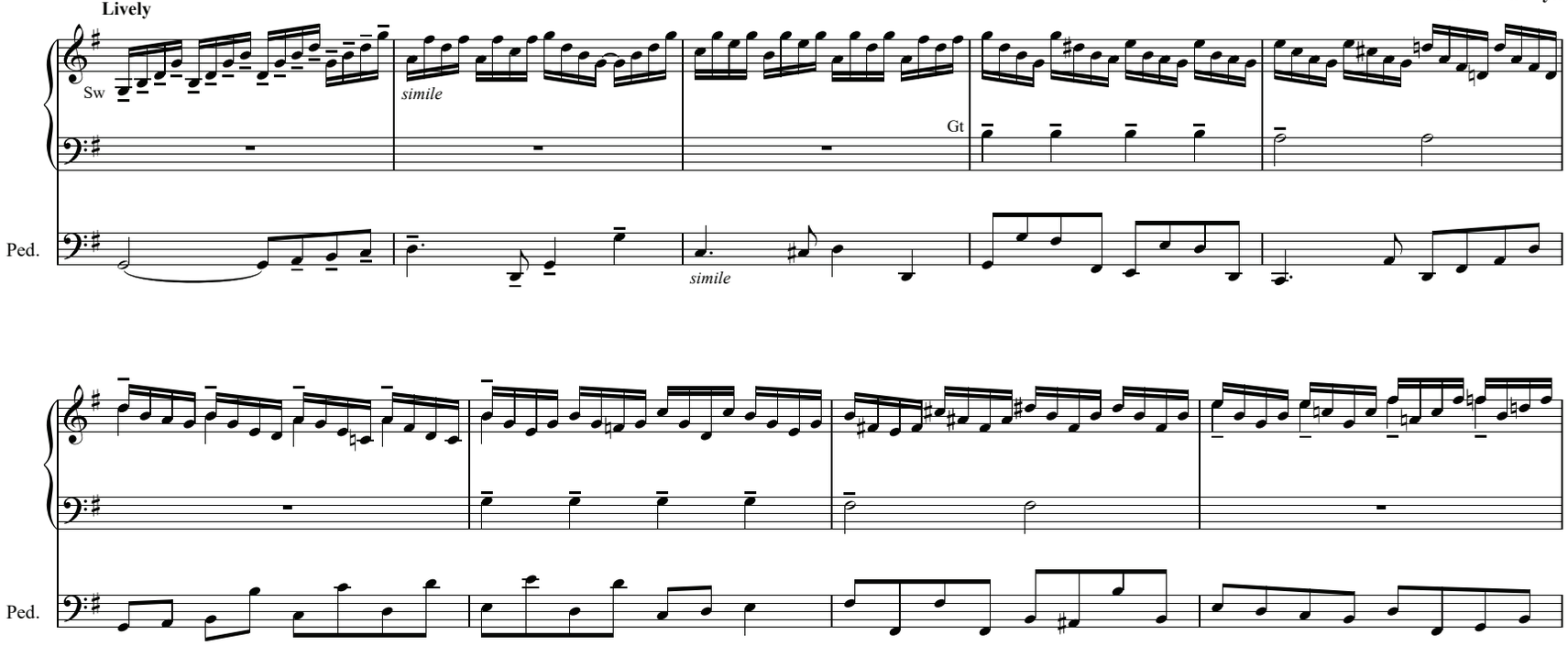
Lively



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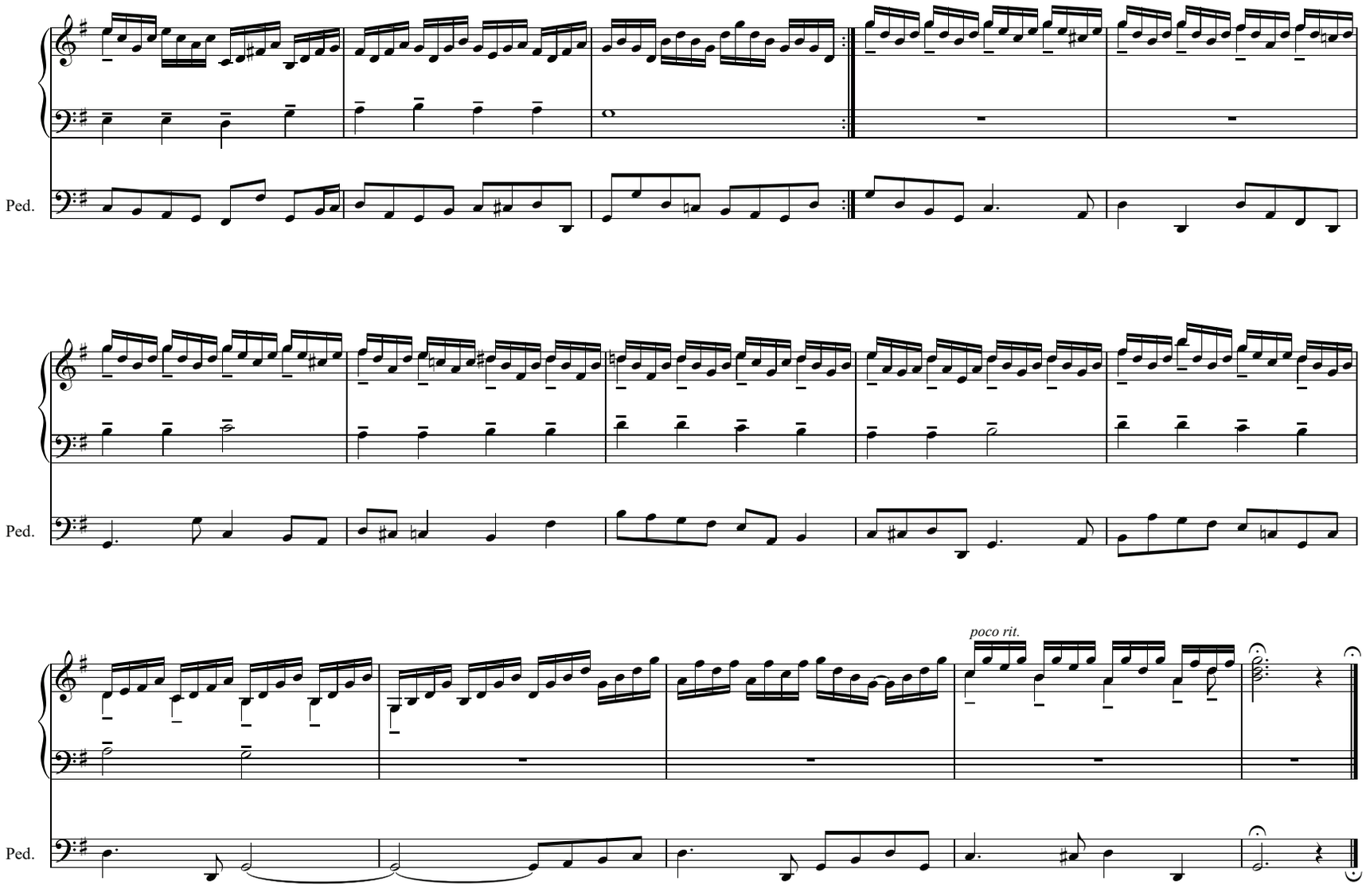

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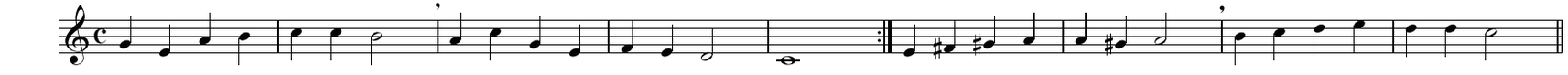
For Quinton Loock

2. Chorale Prelude on 'Jesu, meine Zuversicht'

Canto Fermo in Bass

Sw: Salicional 8', Voix Celeste 8'
Gt: Flute 4'
Ped: Gedek 8', Principal

Johann Crüger (1598-1662)



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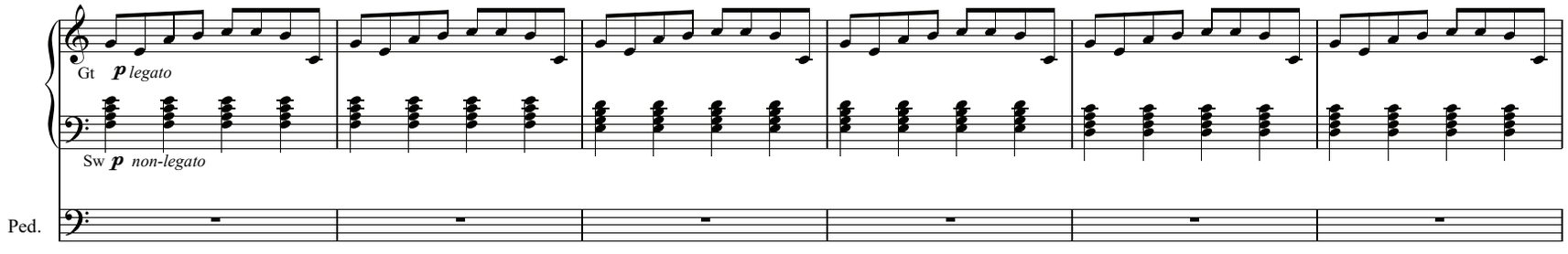
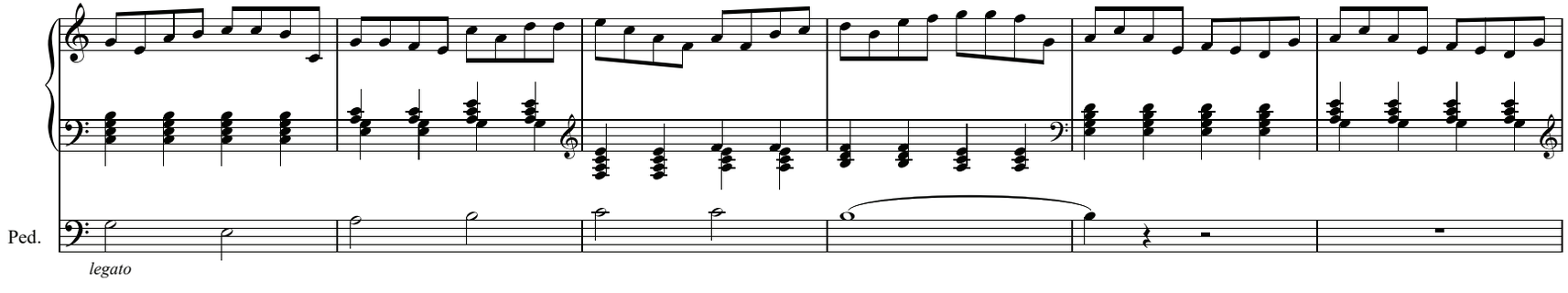
Andantino





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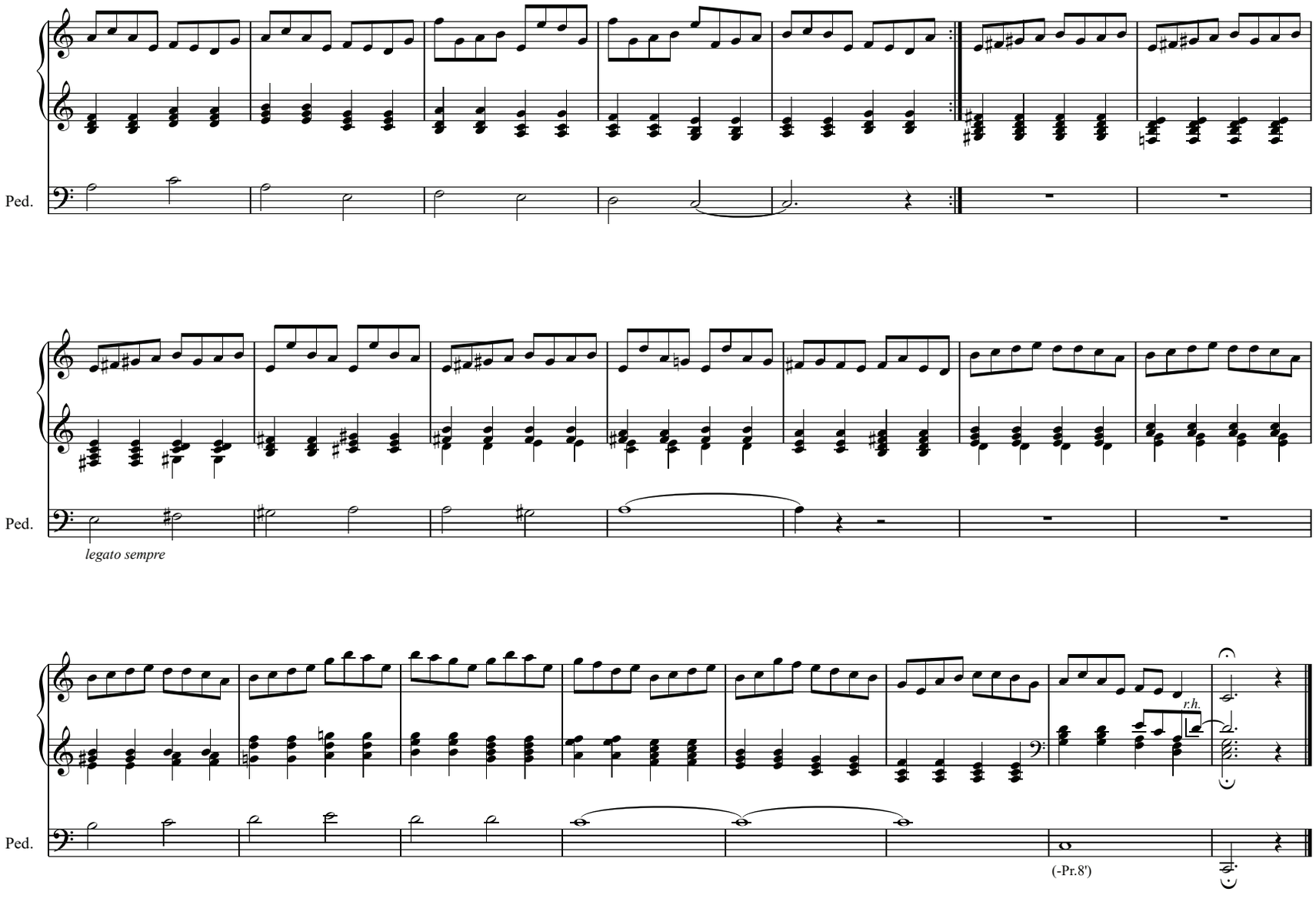

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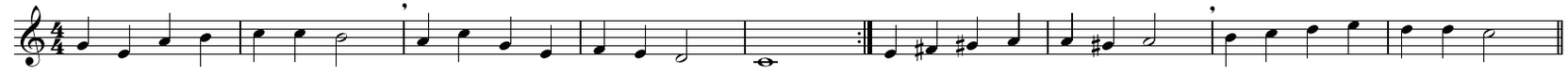
For Emile Felix

3. Chorale Prelude on 'Jesu, meine Zuversicht'

Manualiter alla J. G. Walther

Manual: Gedackt 8' and Flute 4'

Johann Crüger (1598-1662)



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Andante

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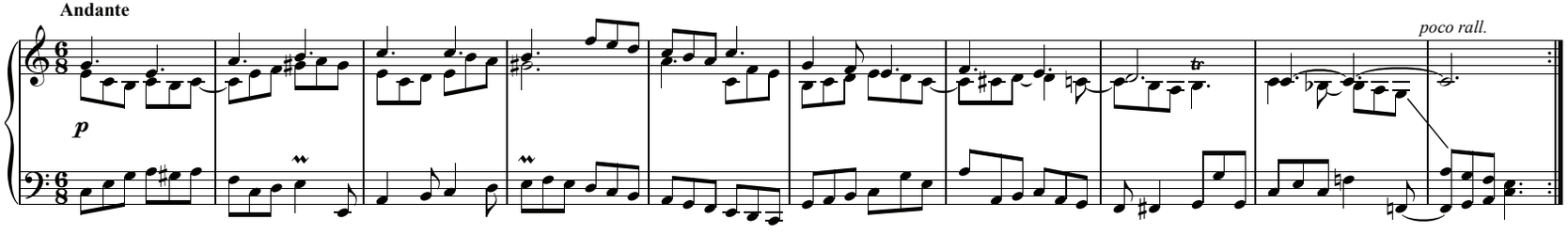

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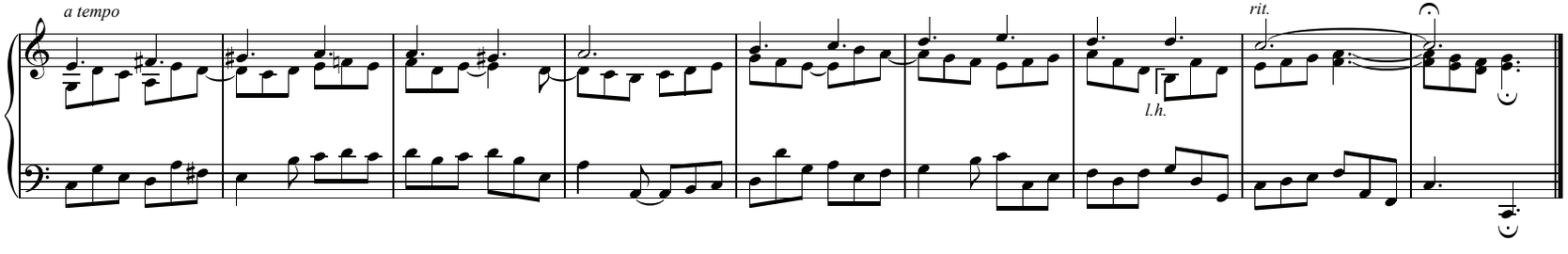

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4

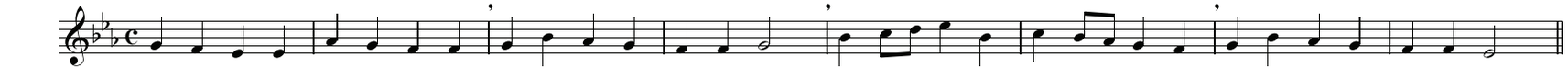
For Selwyn Carlo

4. Chorale Prelude on 'Sieh, ich breite voll Verlangen'

2 Clavier et Pedale

Gt: Soft 8'
Sw: Soft 8'
Ped: Solo 4'

K. G. Kuhle (1818-1909)



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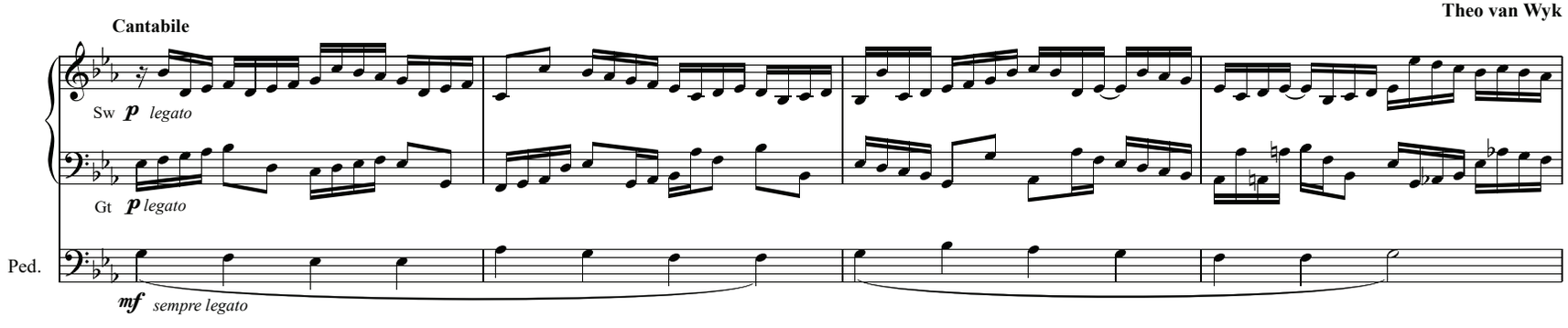

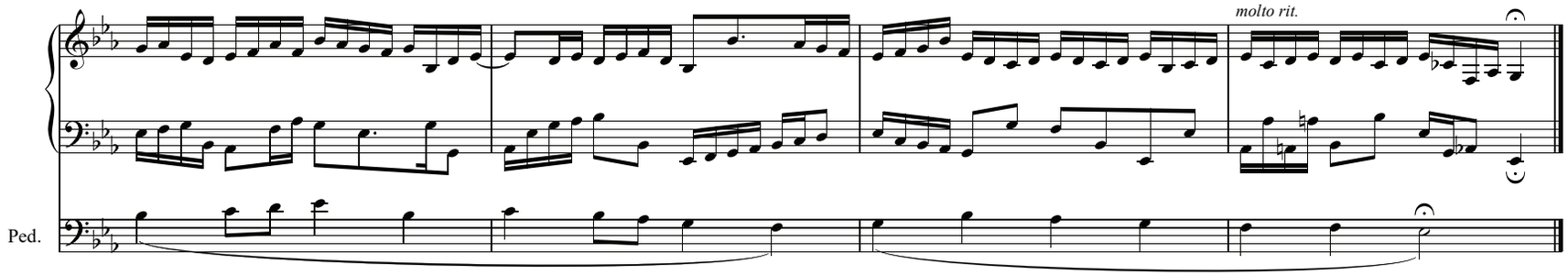

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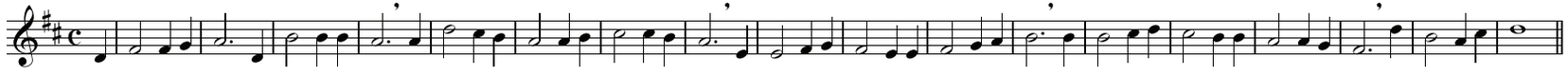
In memoriam Gillian van Wyk (1948-2004)

5. Chorale Prelude on 'Not human advice'

Chorale Trio

Pos: Krummhorn 8', Flute 8', Flute 4' (+opt. Tremulant)
Gt: Flute 8', Oktave 4'
Ped: Subbass 16', Gedackt 8', Flute 4'

Andreas Sulger (ca. 1829)



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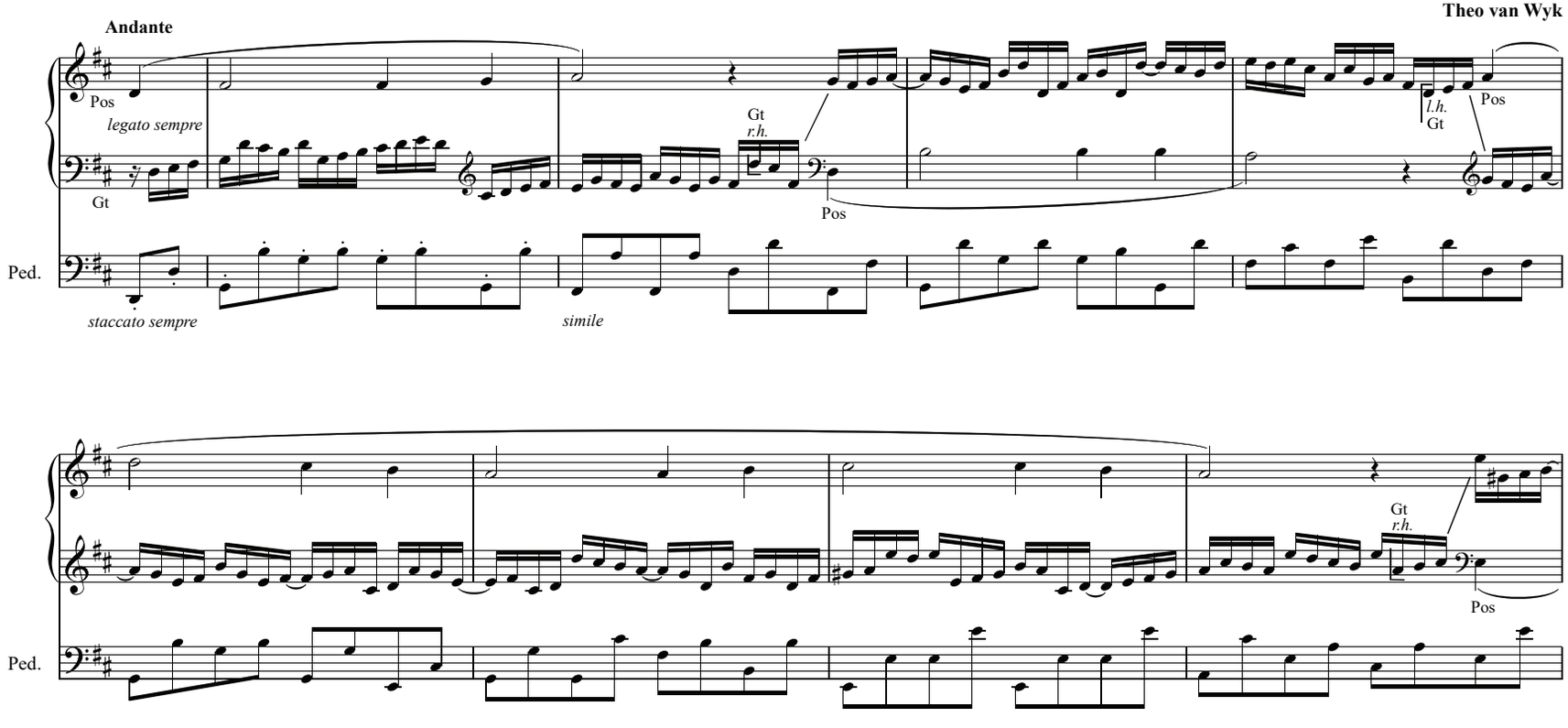

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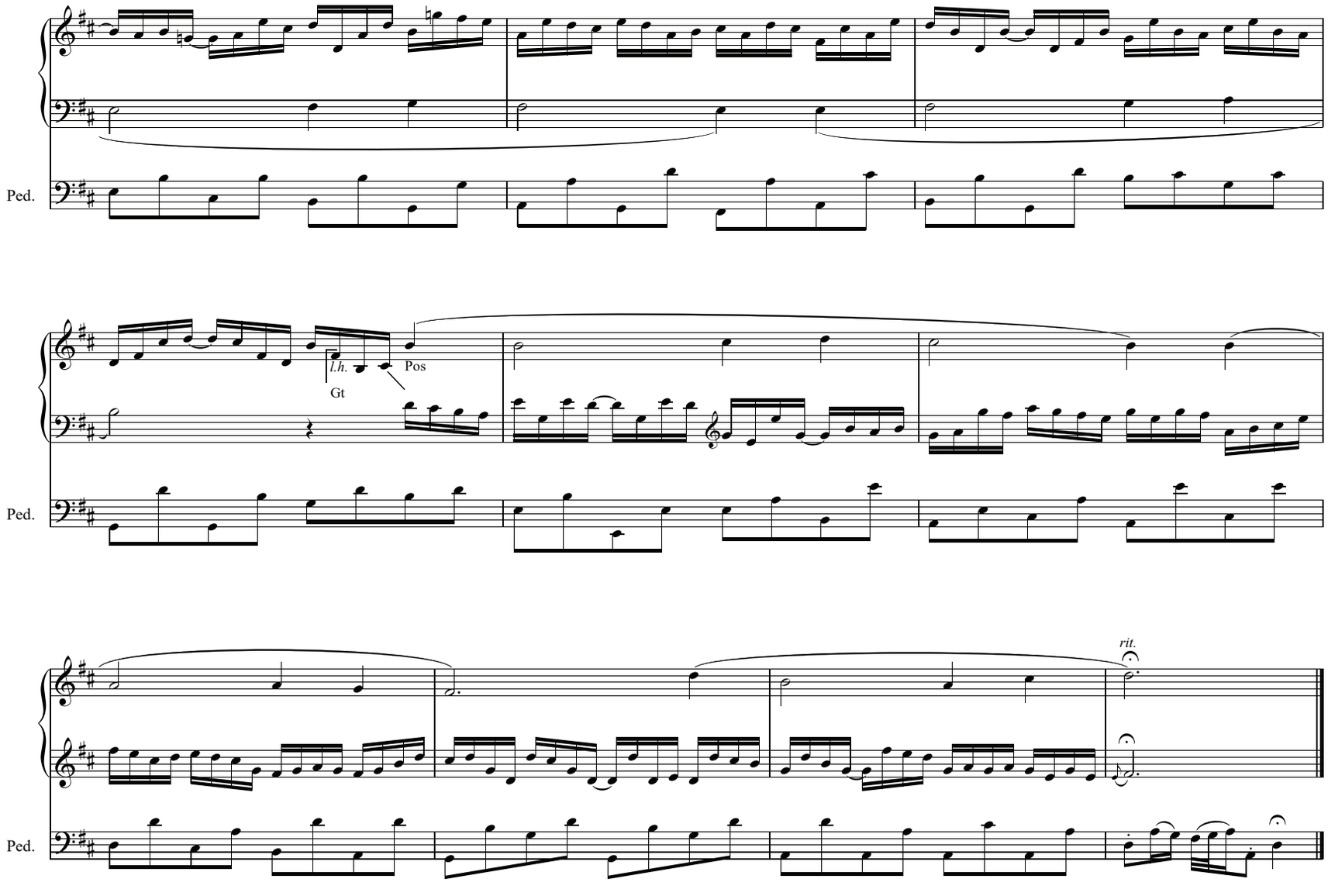

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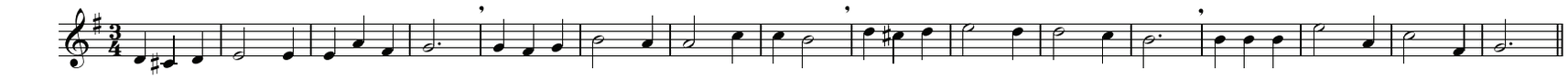
For Edwin Mitas

6. Choral Prelude on 'Teach us, O Lord'

Aria

Gt: Principal / Diapason 8', Flute 8'
Sw: Bourdon / Gedek 8', Salicional / Gamba 8'
Ped: No stops drawn - Coupled to Sw

Composer unknown



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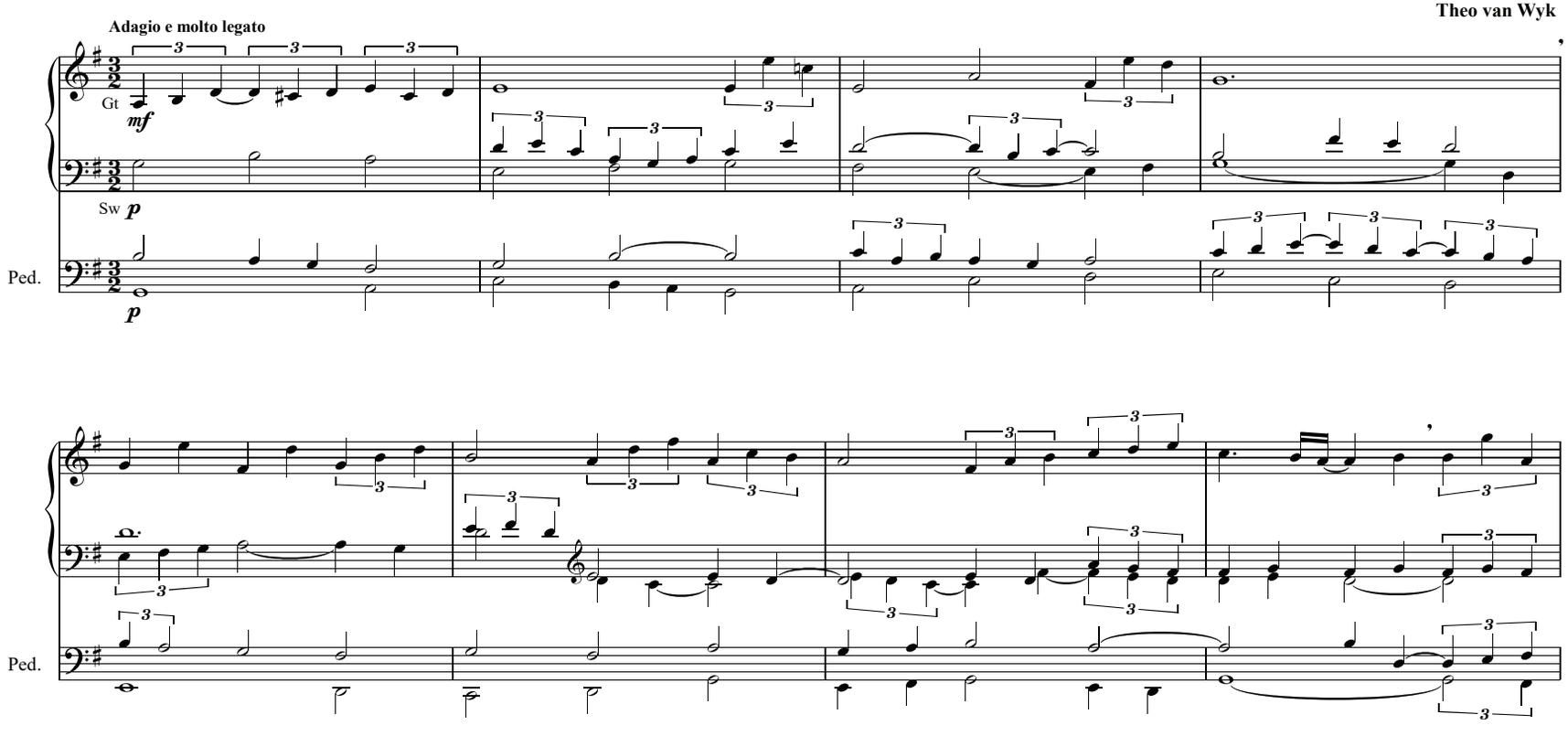

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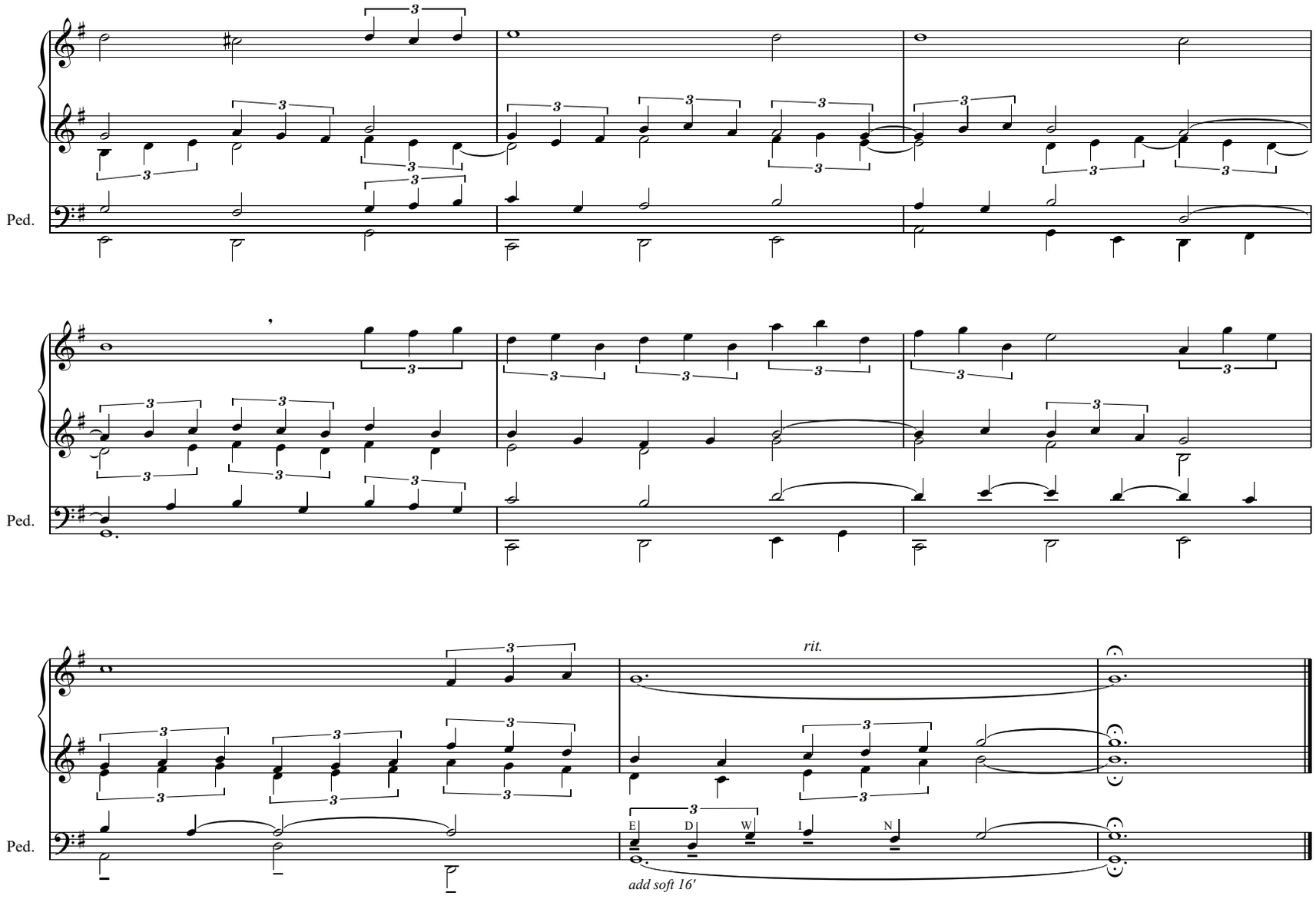

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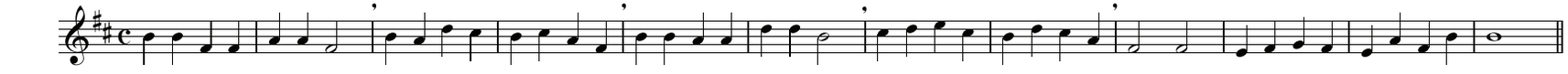
For Garth Botto

7. Chorale Prelude on 'Home eternal known to me'

Canon in the Octave

Sw: Viola da Gamba 8', Voix Celeste 8'
Ped: Flute 4'

Heinz Lau (1925-1975)



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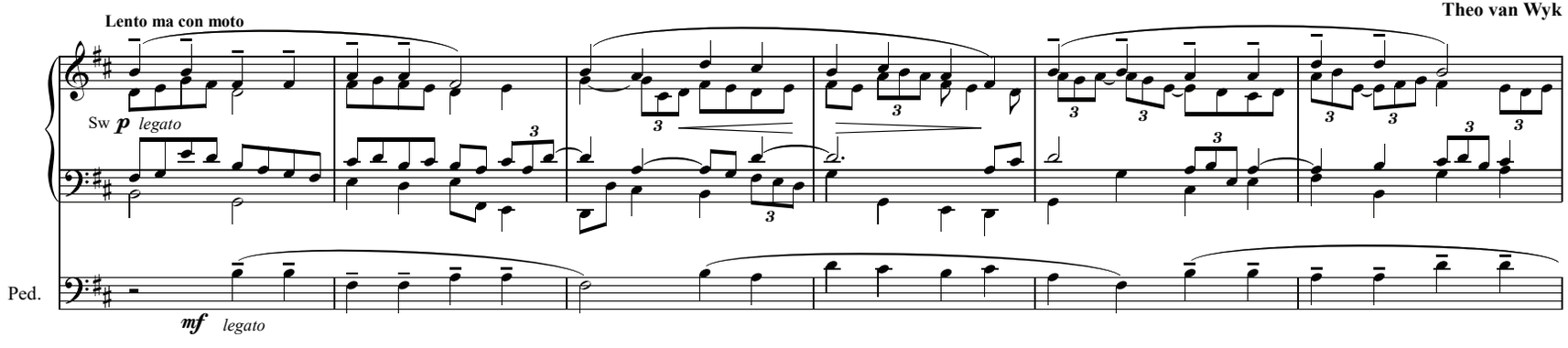
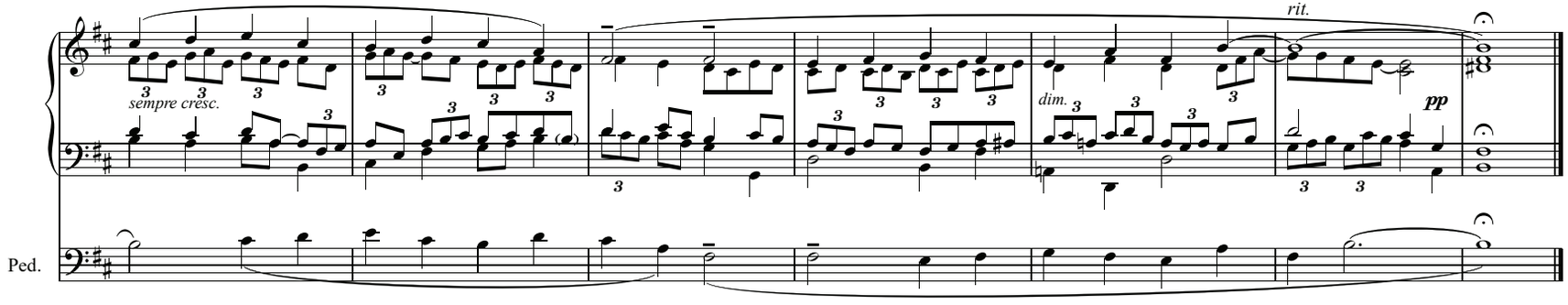
Lento ma con moto





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8

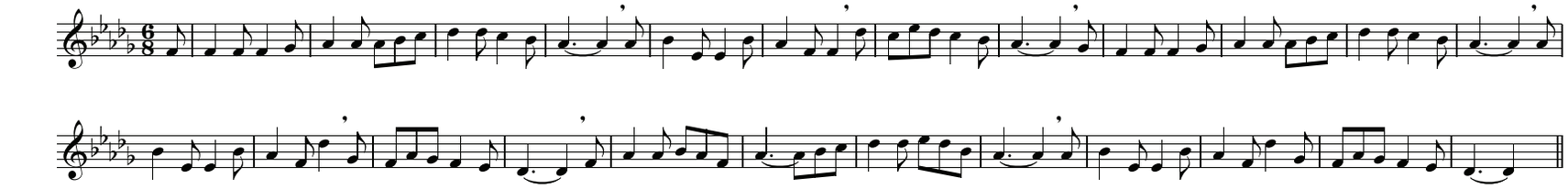
For Adrian de Villiers

8. Chorale Prelude on 'I found a place of peace and rest'

Meditation-Pastorale

Gt: Flute 8'
Sw: Flute 8', Strings 8'
Ped: Subbass 16', Bourdon 8'
Sw/Gt, Sw/Ped

William A. Ogden (1841-1897)



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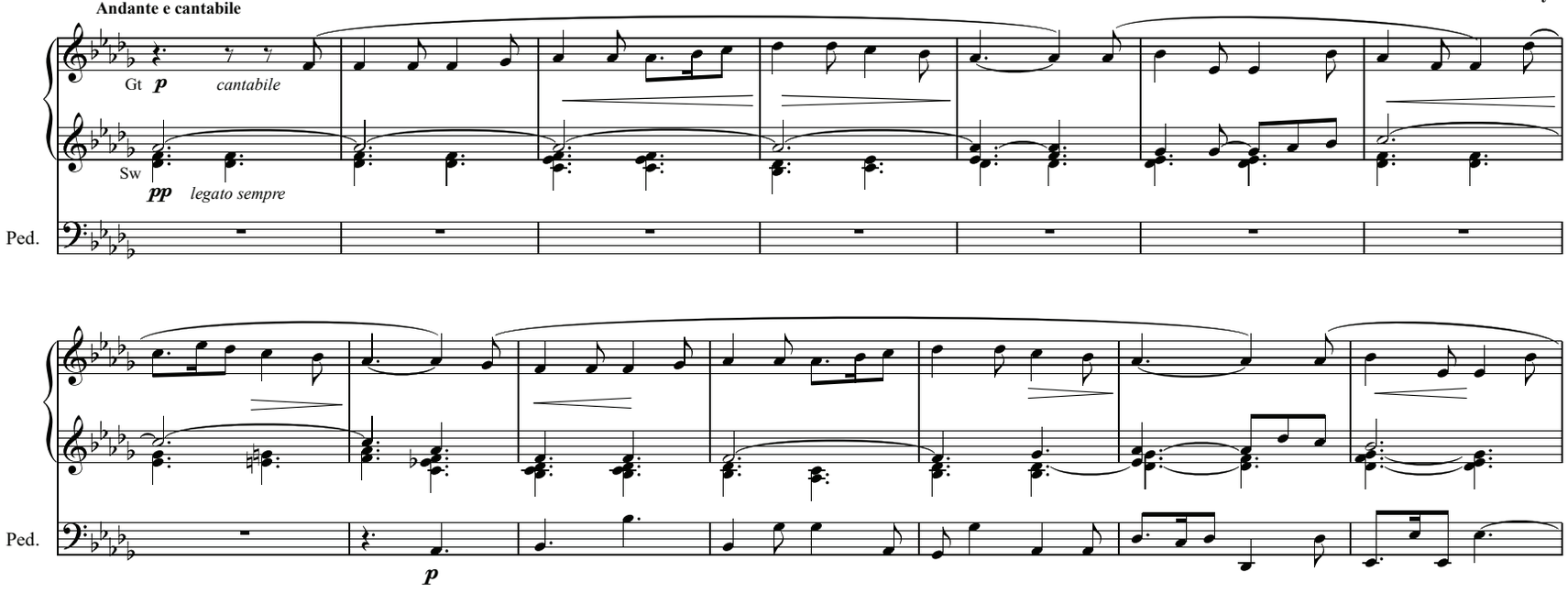

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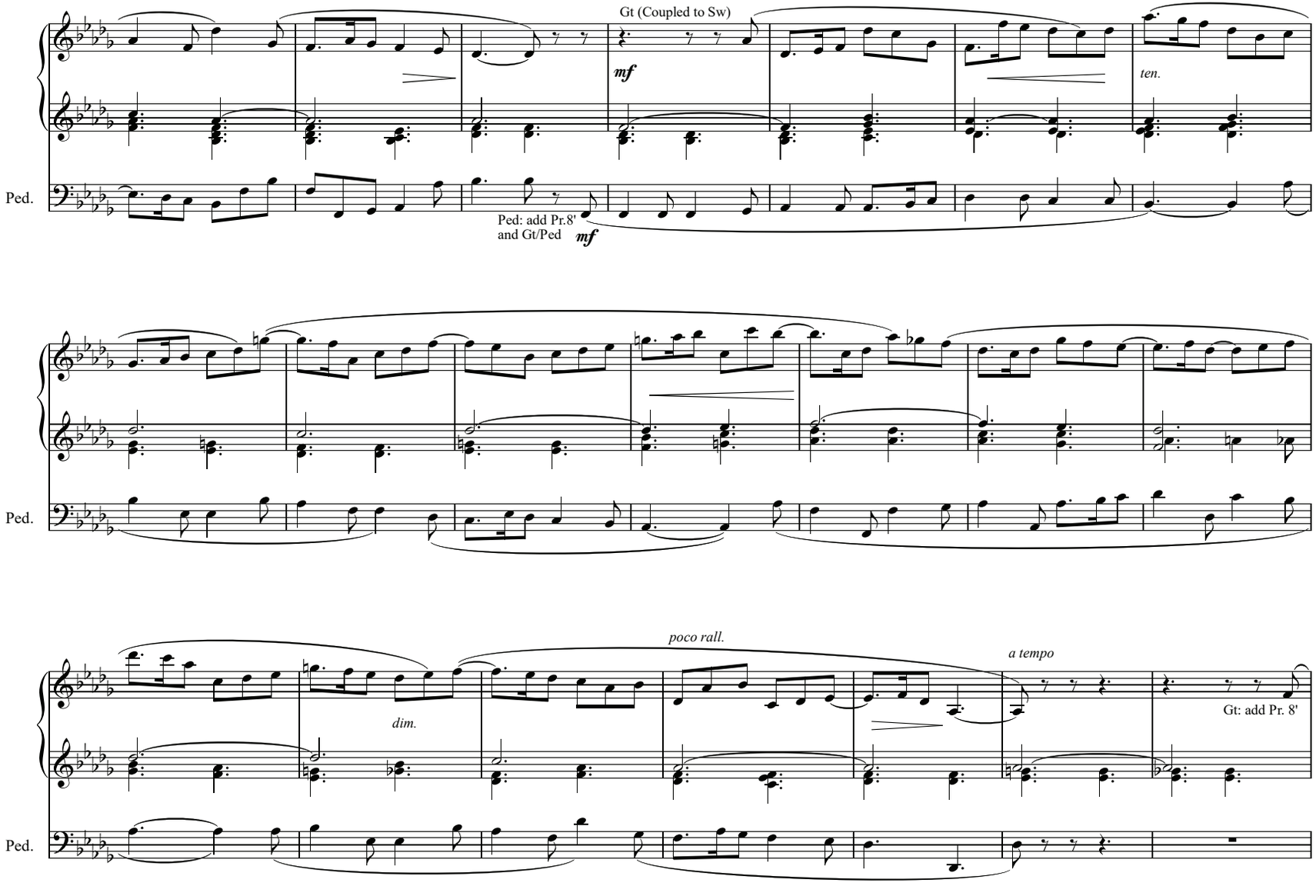

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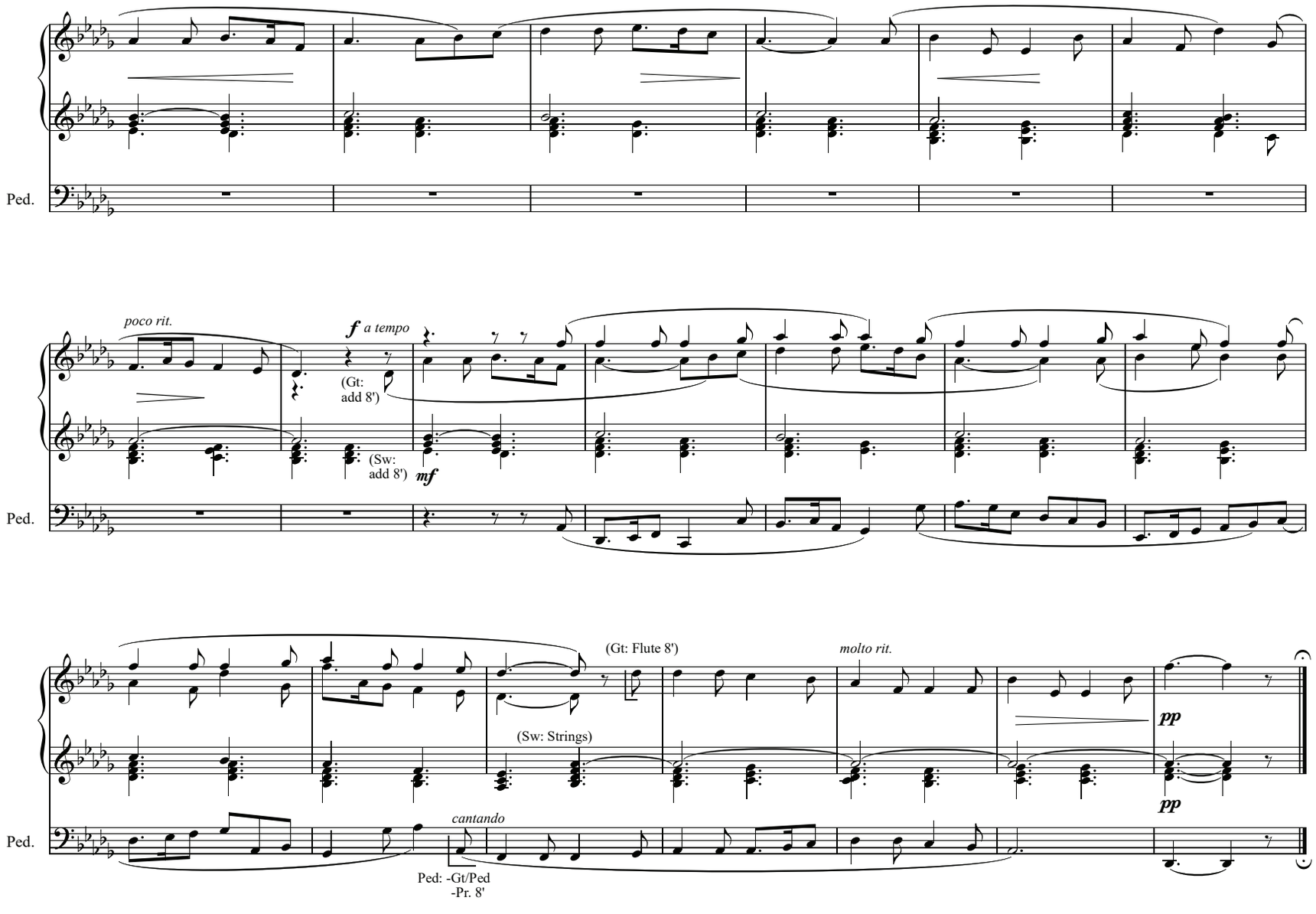

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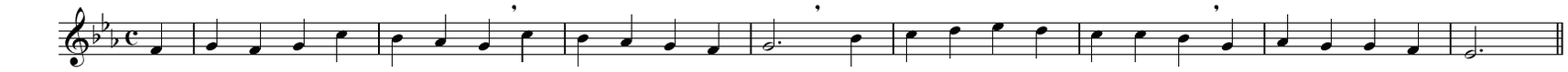
For Jay Inambao

9. Chorale Motet on 'Christus, der ist mein Leben'

Chorale in Alto

Gt: Fonds 8' Pos: Fonds 8'
Sw: Fonds 8', Flutes 8' & 4', Oboe
Ped: Soft Fonds 16', 8'
All manuals coupled to Ped.

Melchior Vulpius (1570-1615)



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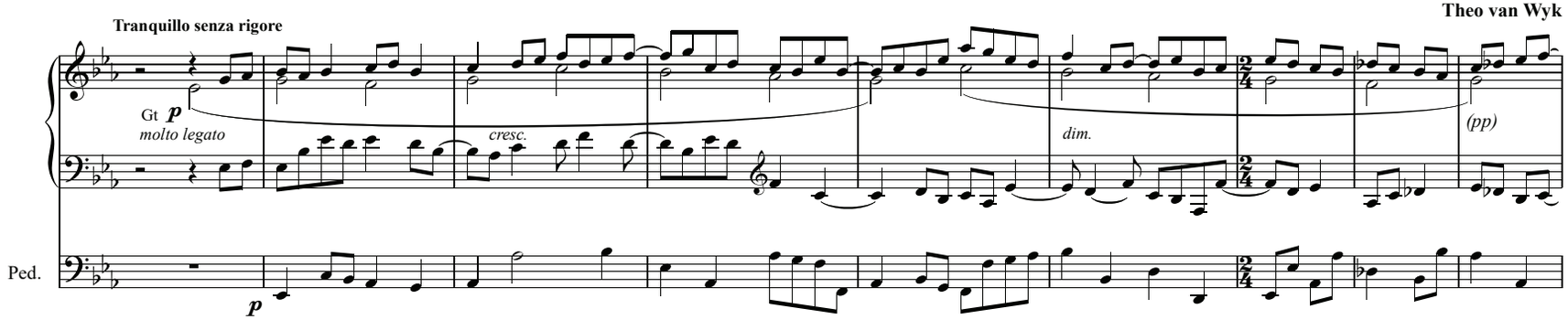

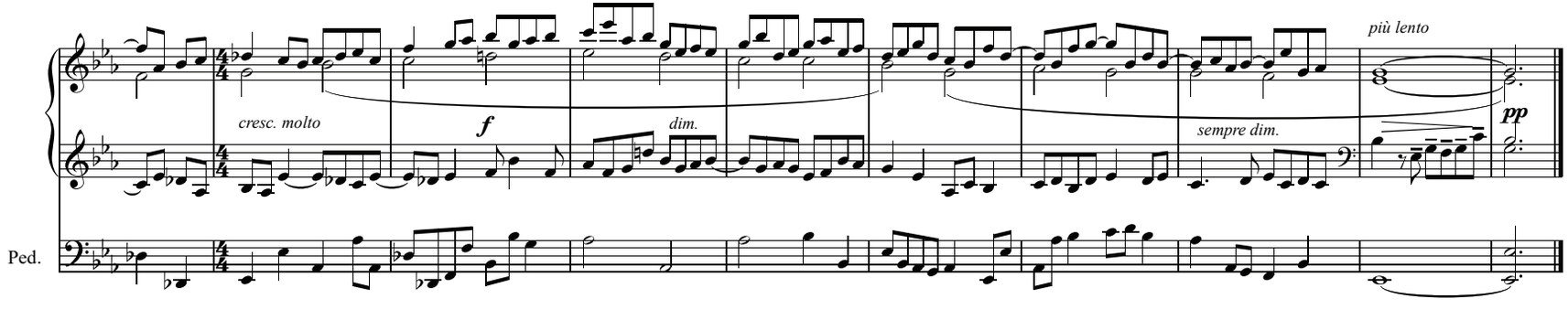

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10

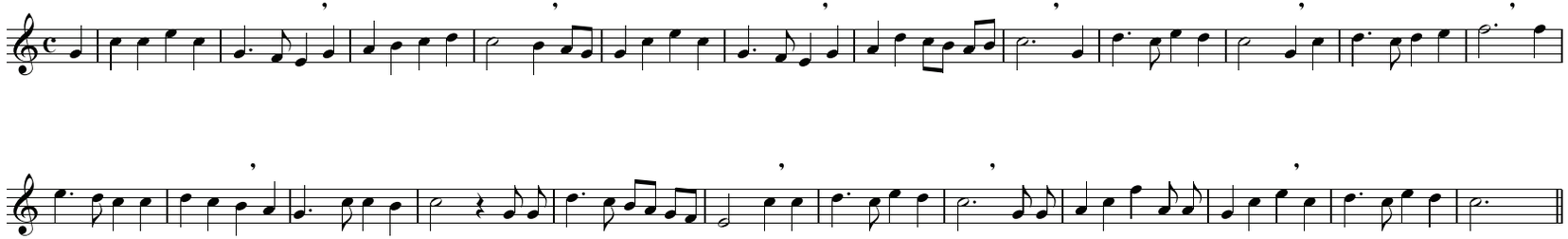
For Oscar Musowoya

10. Chorale Prelude on 'Ten thousand times ten thousand'

Basse de Trompette le style Francais Classique

Gt: Trompette 8', Bourdon 8', Prestant 4'
Sw: Bourdon 8', Prestant 4'

Ira D. Sankey (1841-1908)



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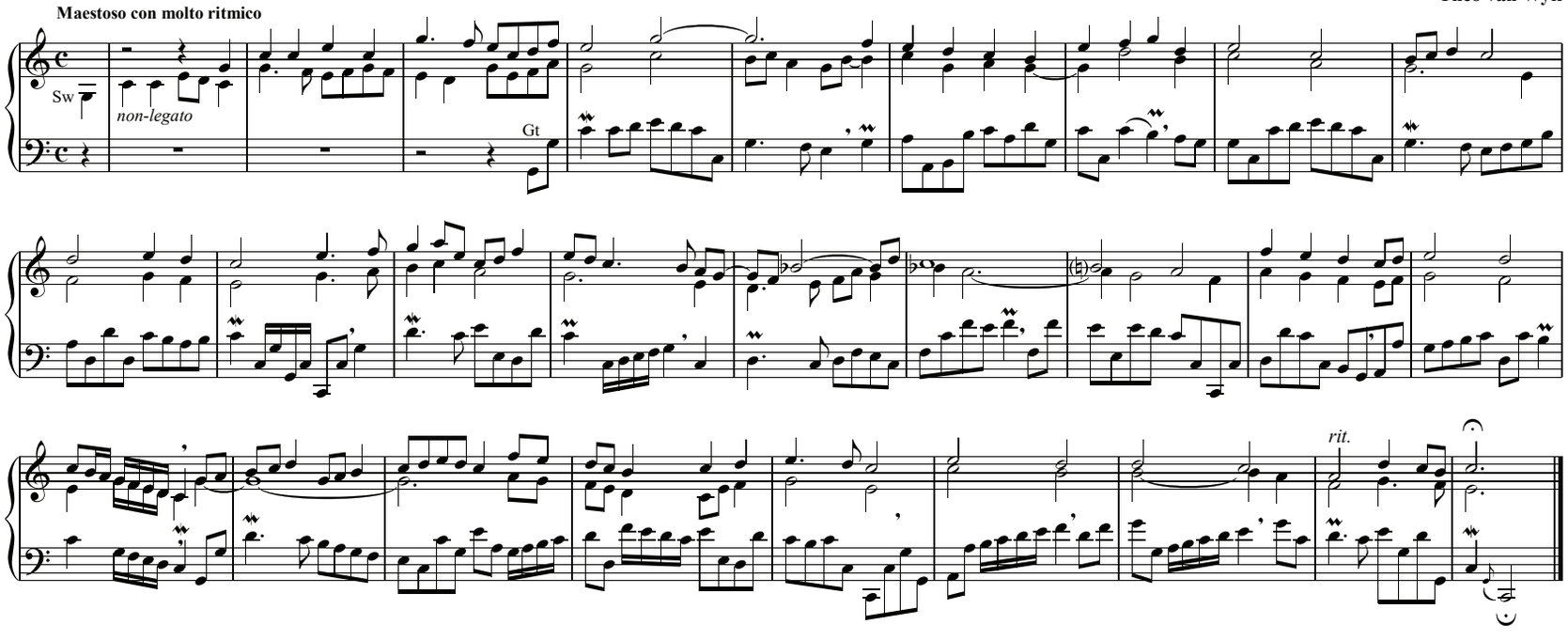

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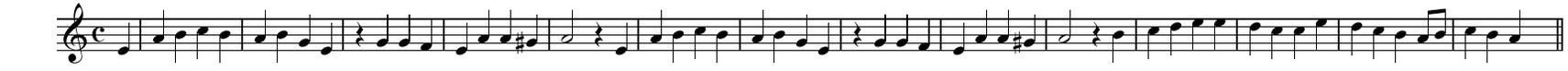
For Francisco Salies

11. Chorale Prelude on 'Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten'

Intermezzo

Gt: Fonds and Reeds 8', 4' | Sw: Full
Pos: Fonds and Reeds 8' 4' | Ped: Fonds and Reeds 16', 8', 4'
All manuals coupled
All manuals coupled to Pedal

Georg Neumark (1621-1681)



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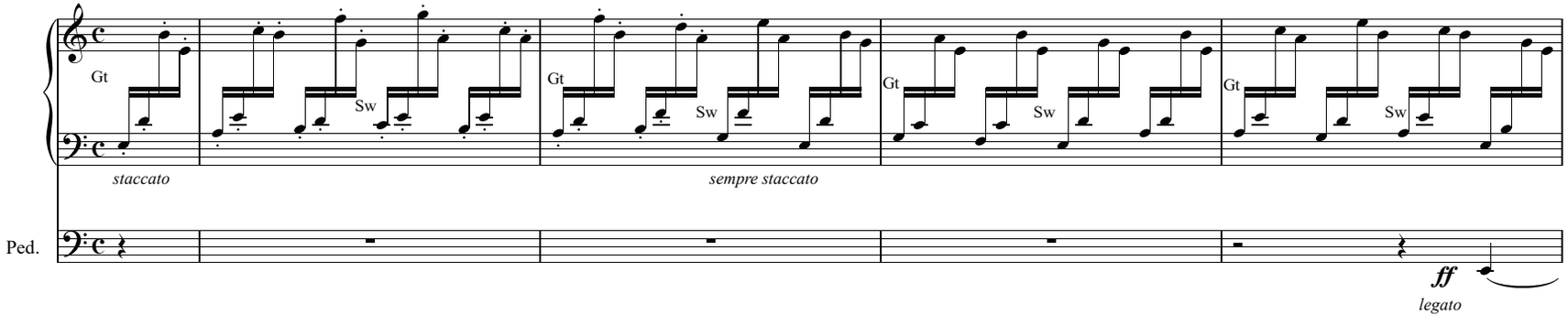
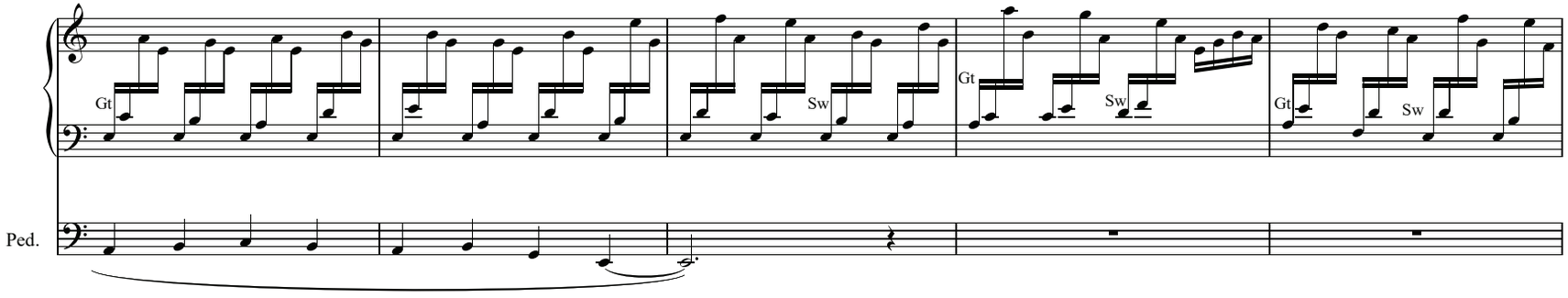
Allegro maestoso





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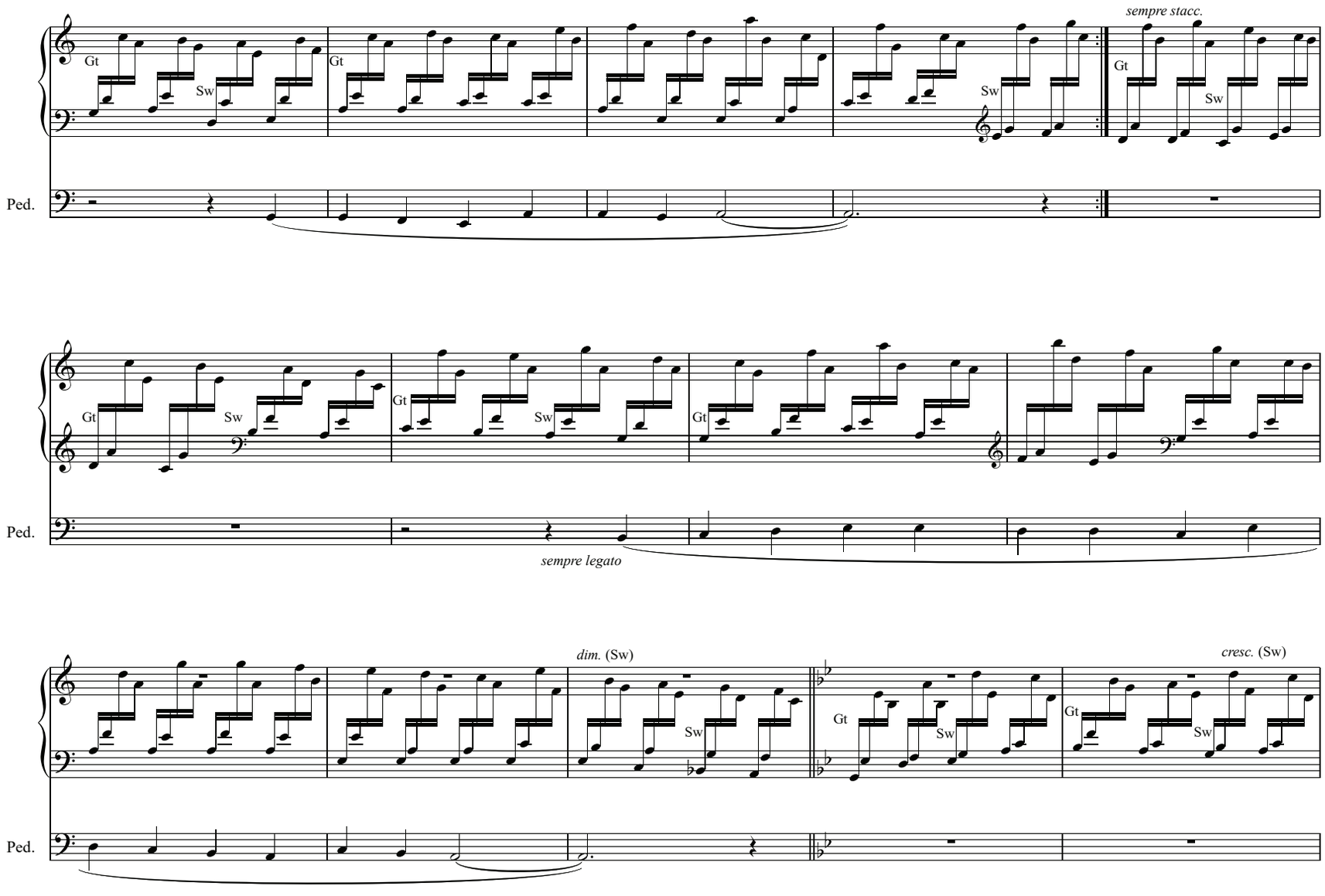

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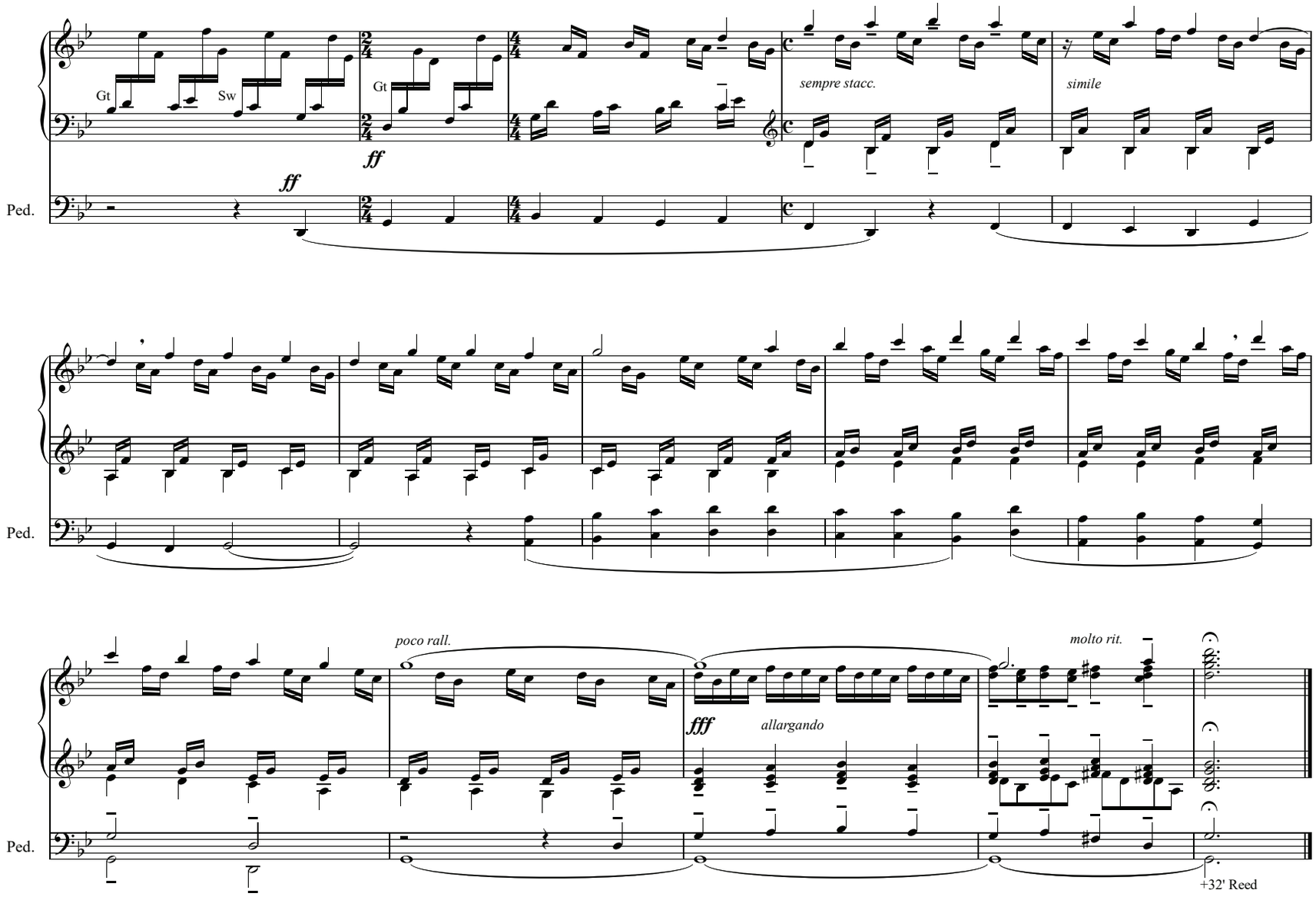

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12

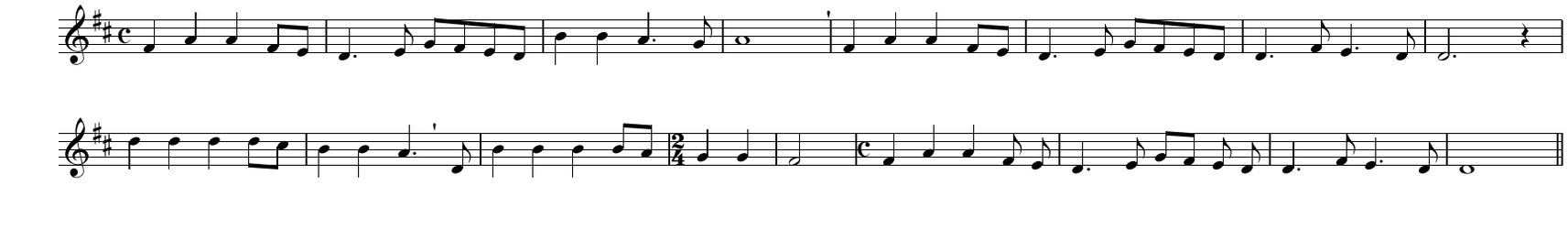
In memoriam Marinda Heunis (1970 - 2021)

12. Chorale Prelude on 'As the Deer pants for the Water'

Meditation

Sw: Oboe, Flute 8', Flute 4'
Gt: Flute 8', Bourdon 8'
Ped: Bassflute 8', Principal 8'
Gt/Ped

Martin Nystrom (b.1956)



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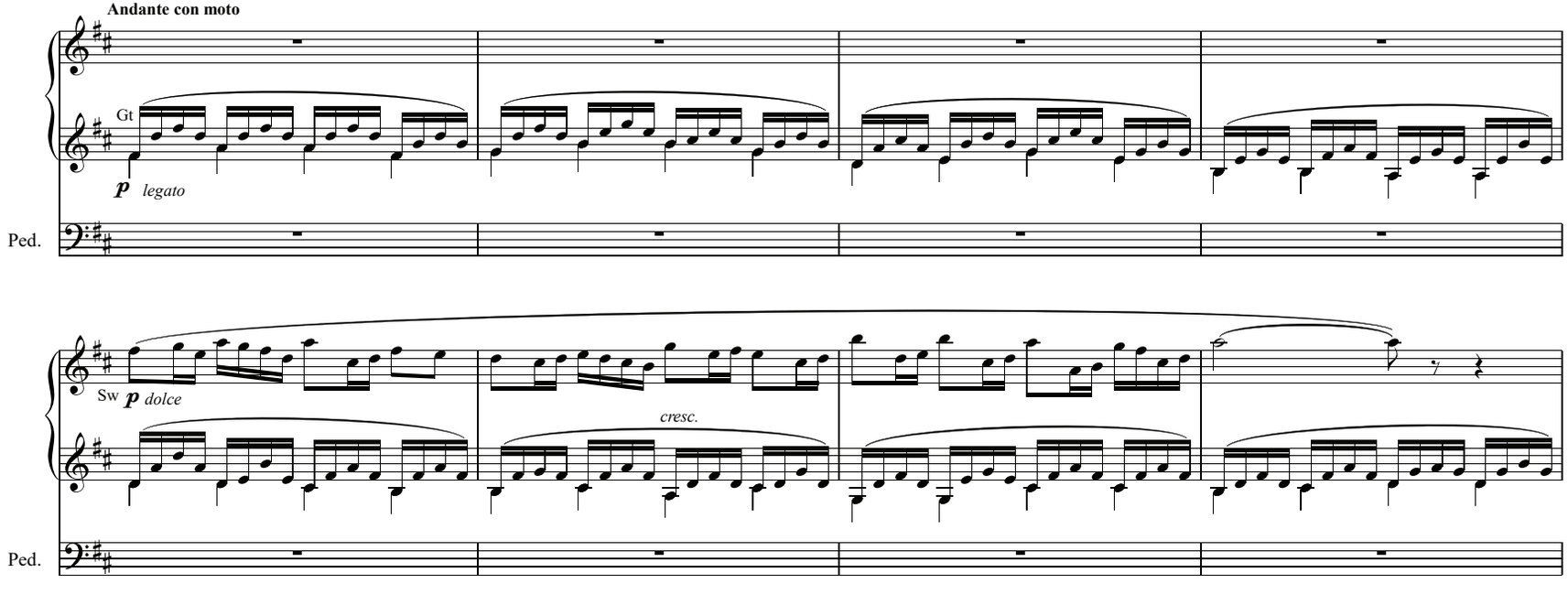

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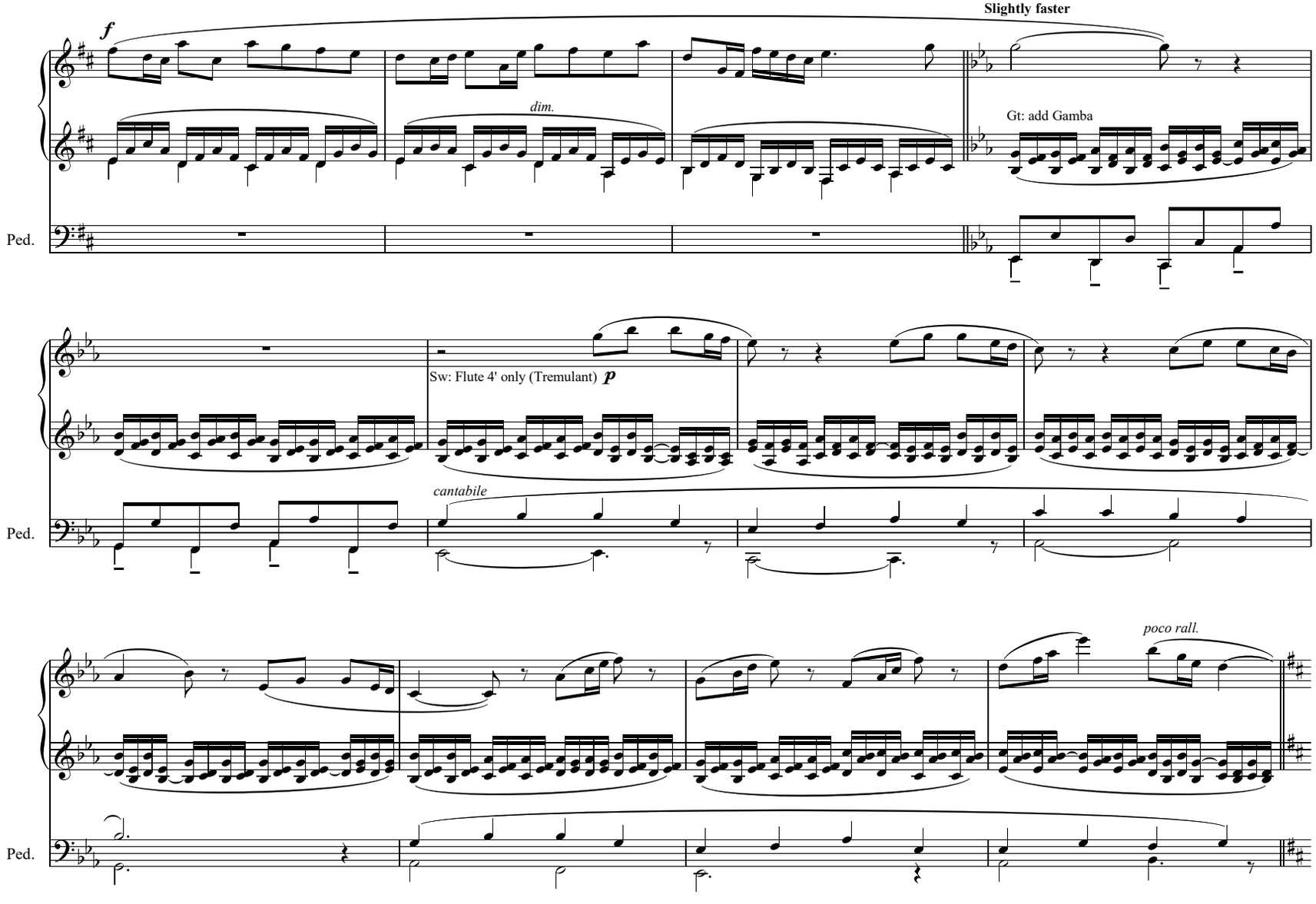

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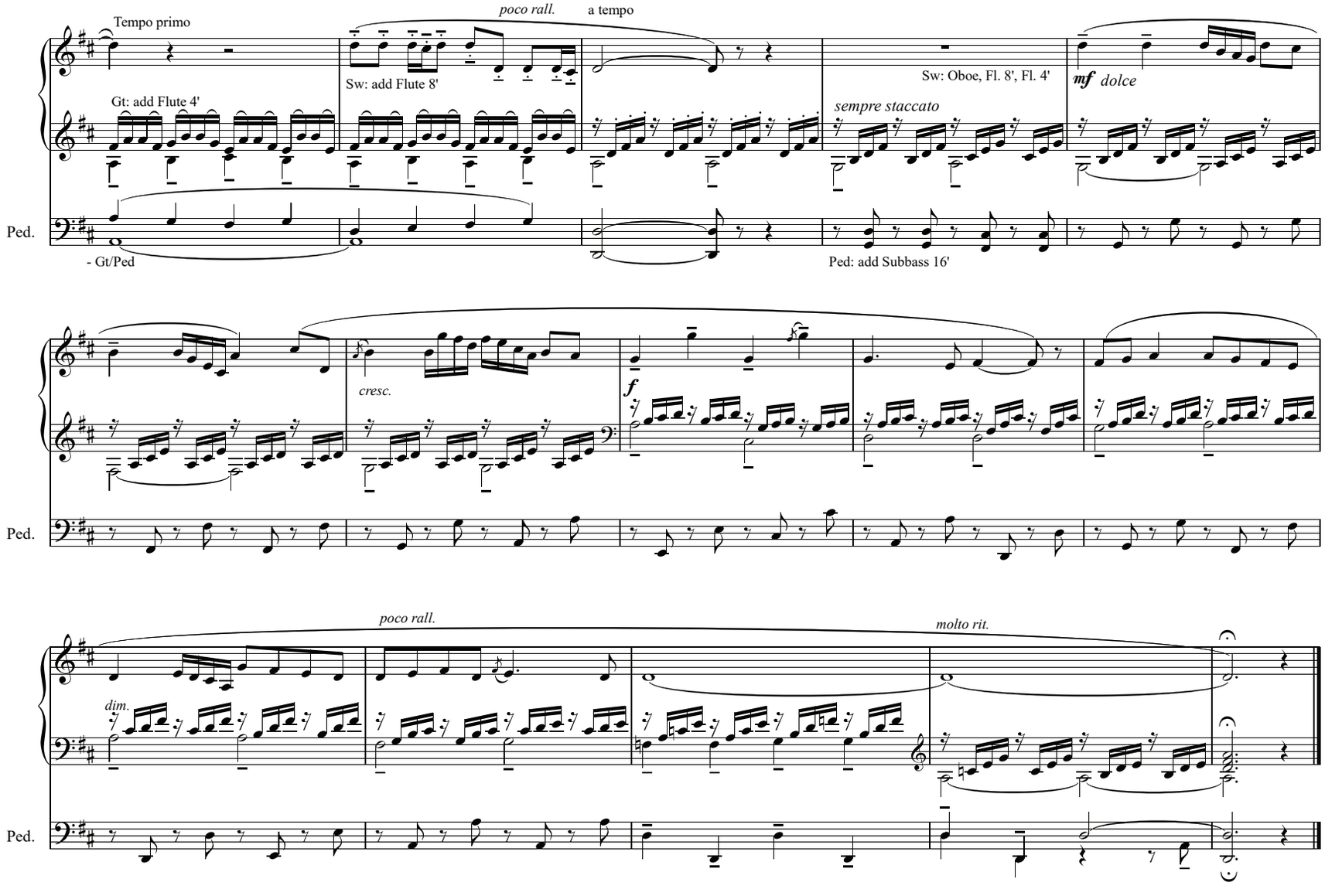

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For Joey Moses

13. Chorale Prelude on 'O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden'

Paraphrase Basso Ostinato

Sw: ***p*** | *Ped:* ***p***
Gt: ***f*** | *Sw/Gt, Sw/Ped*

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

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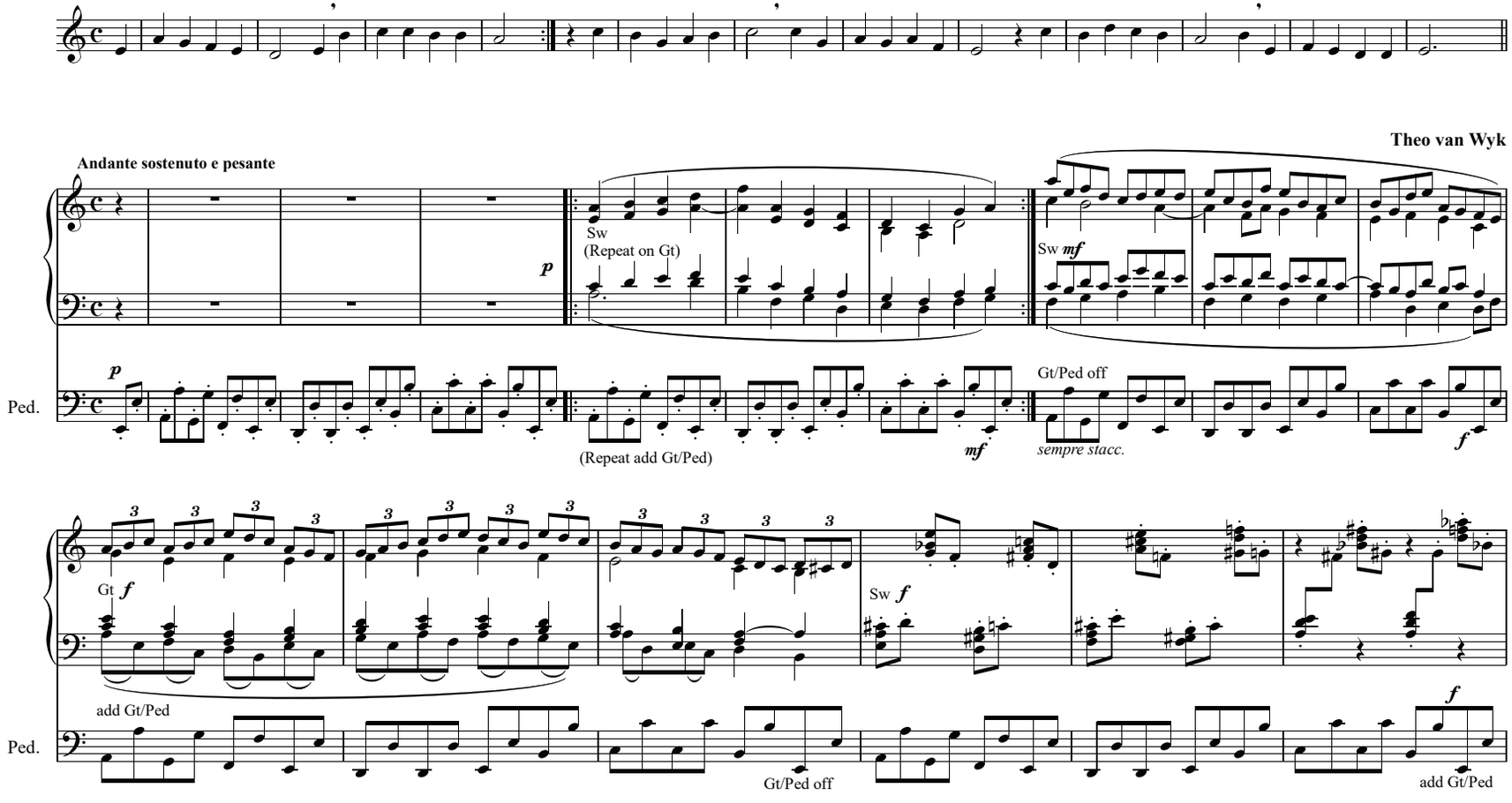

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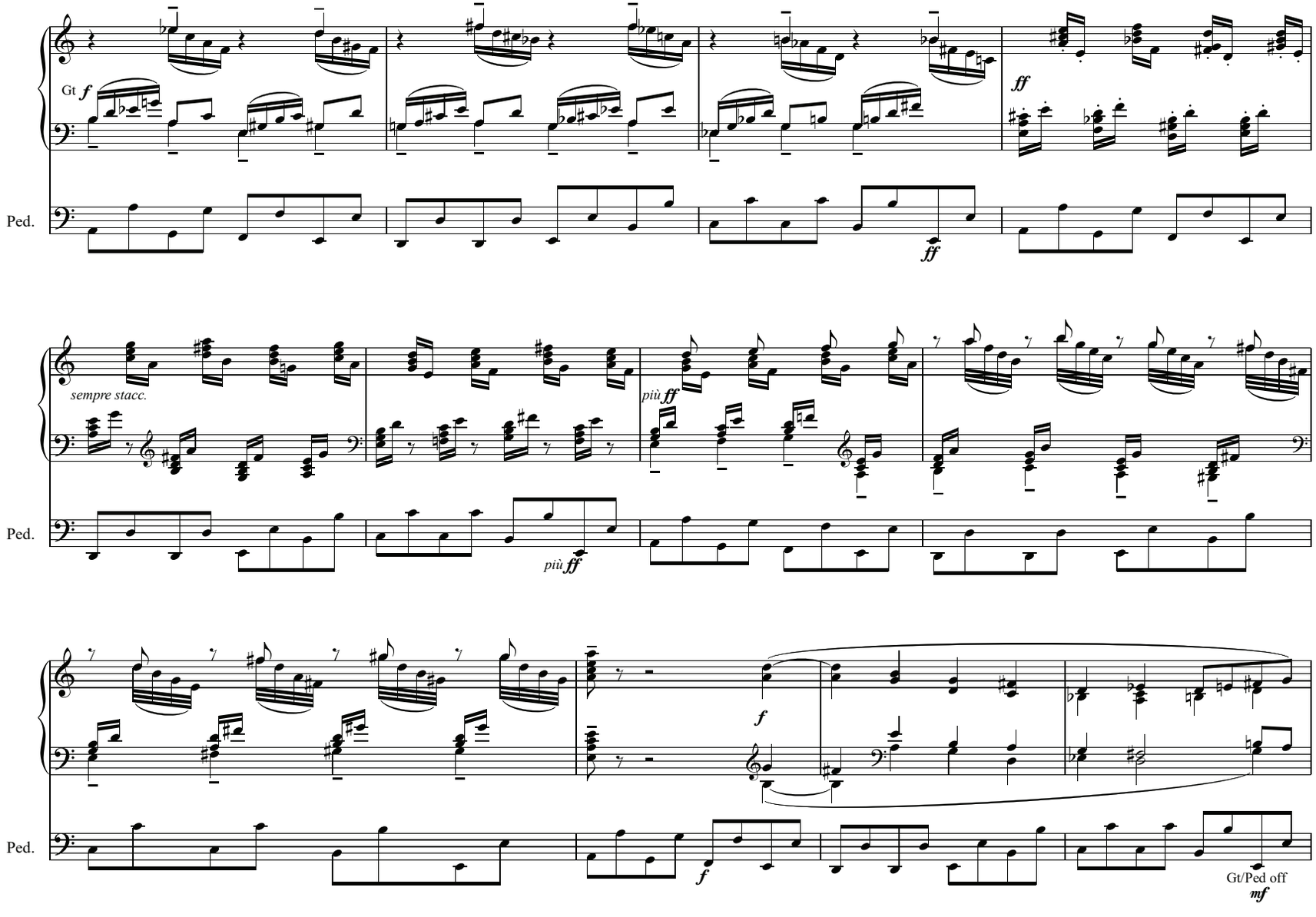

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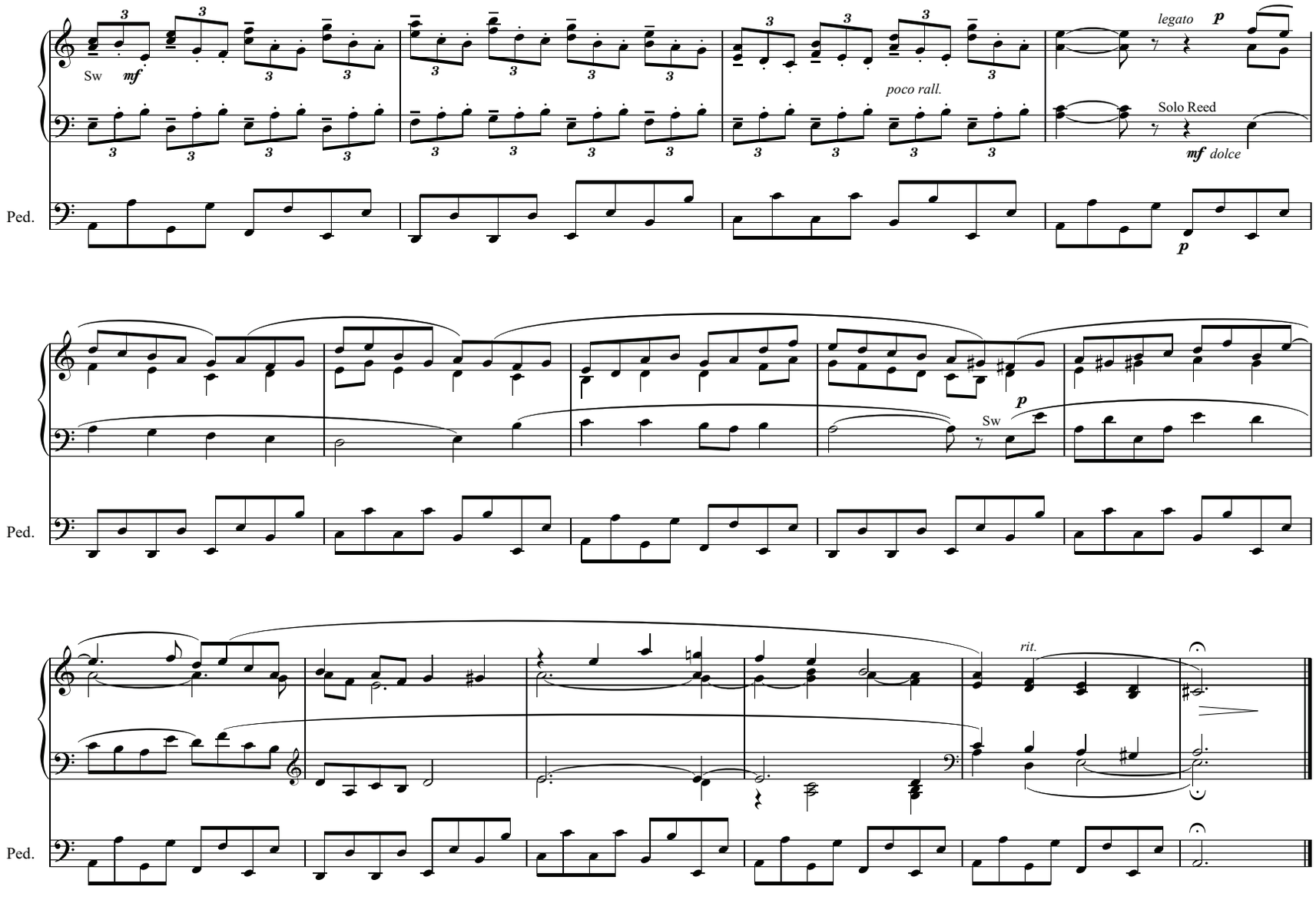

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14

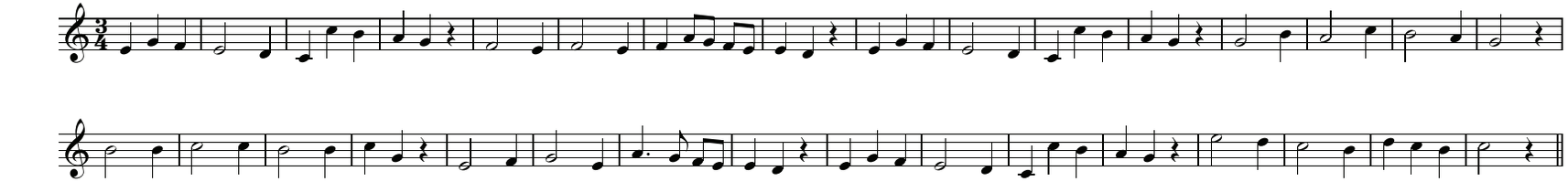
For Lance Phillip

14. Chorale Prelude on 'Dich zu lieben, das ist Leben'

Chorale-Vêpres

Gt: Principal 8', Flute 8', Flute 4'
Sw: Gedeck 8', Salicional/Gamba 8'
Ped: Subbass 16', Gedeck 8'
Sw/Gt, Sw/Ped

Johann Jakob Walder (1750-1817)



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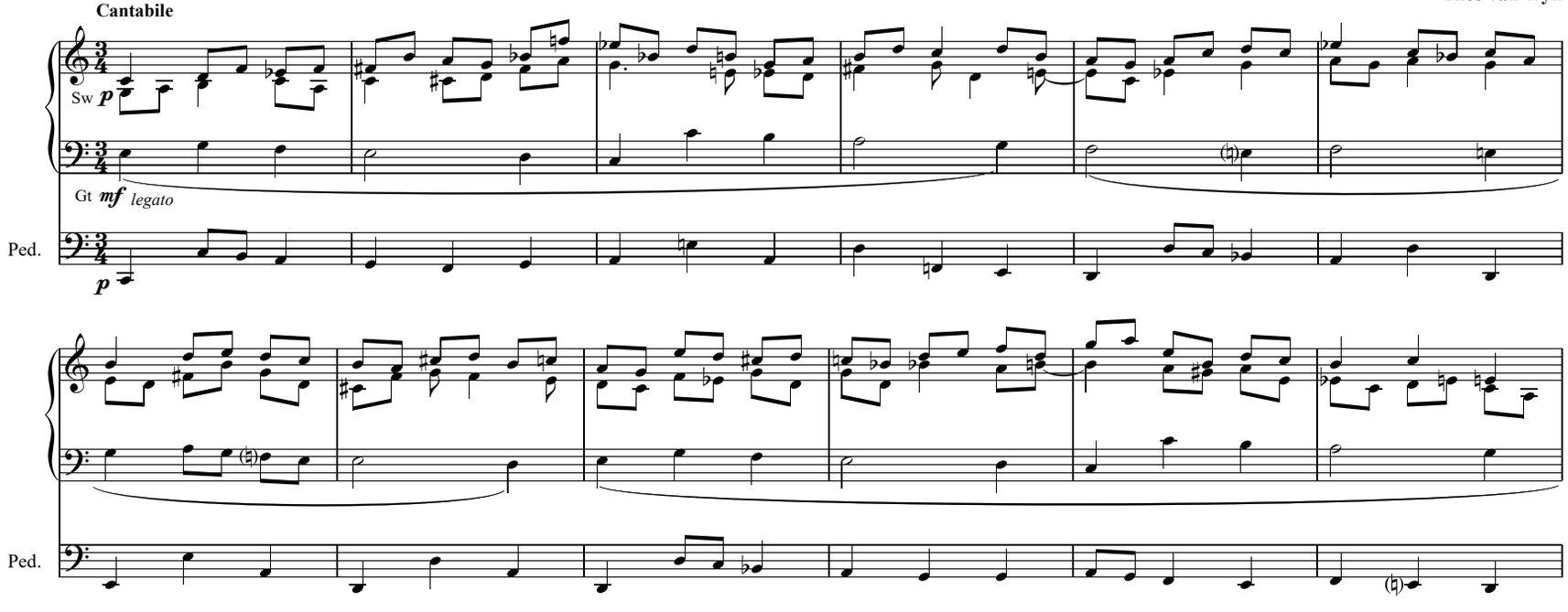

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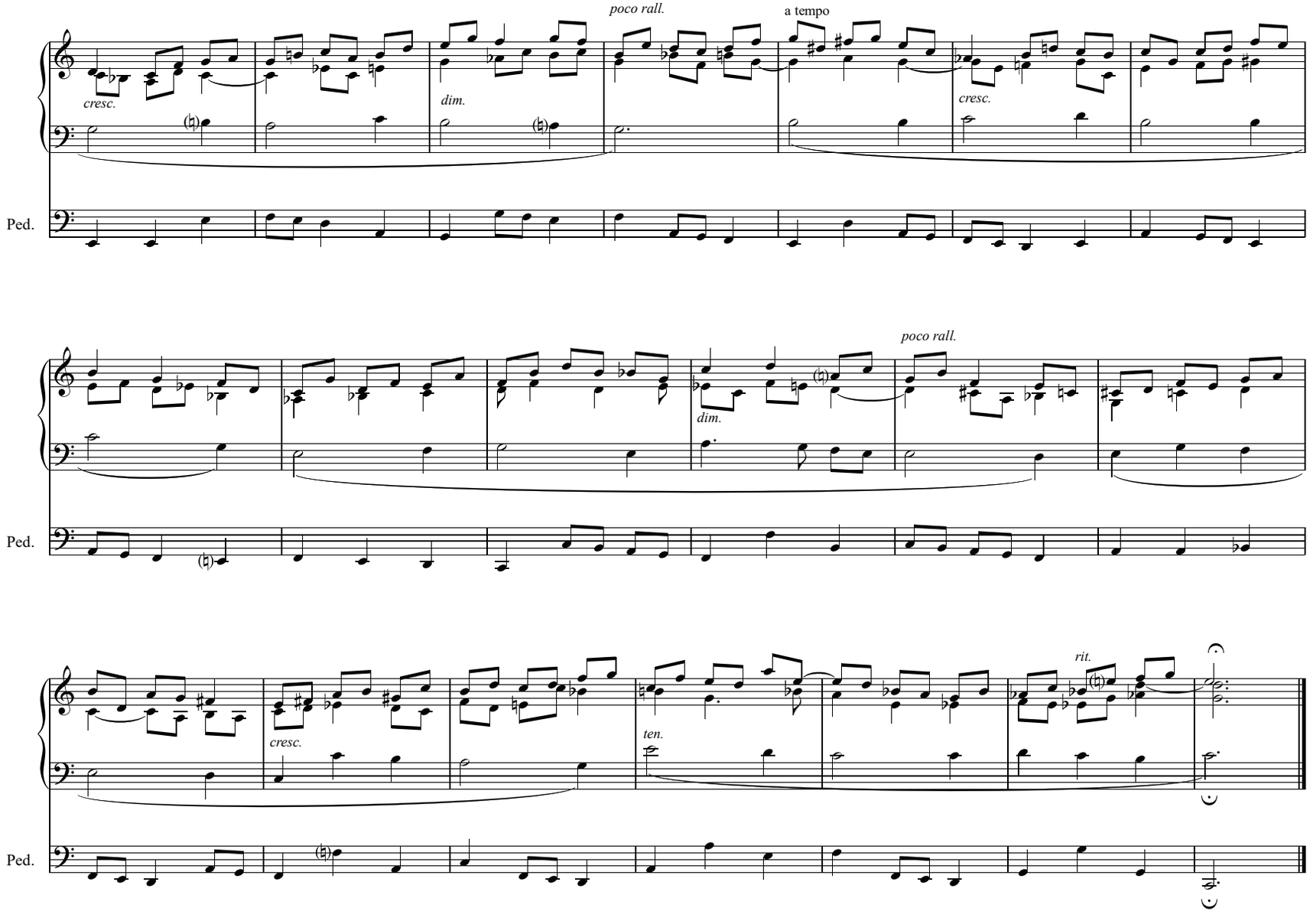

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15

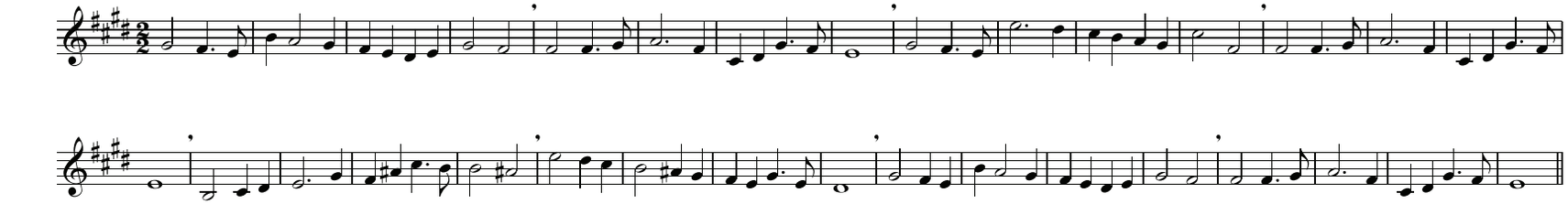
For Sheherazade Mintoor

15. Chorale Prelude on 'How will it be?'

Fughetta

Manuals: Soft 8' Foundations
Ped: Soft 8' and 16' Foundations
Manuals coupled
Manuals coupled to Ped

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)



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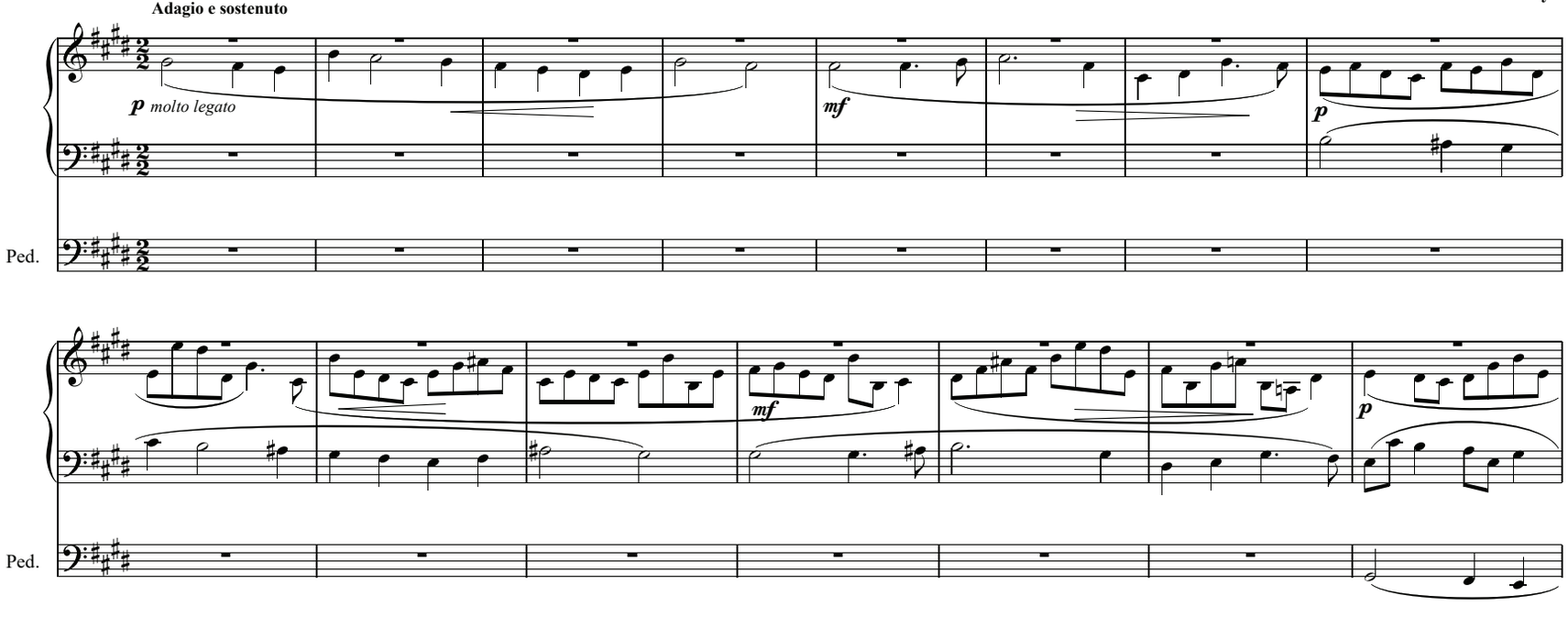

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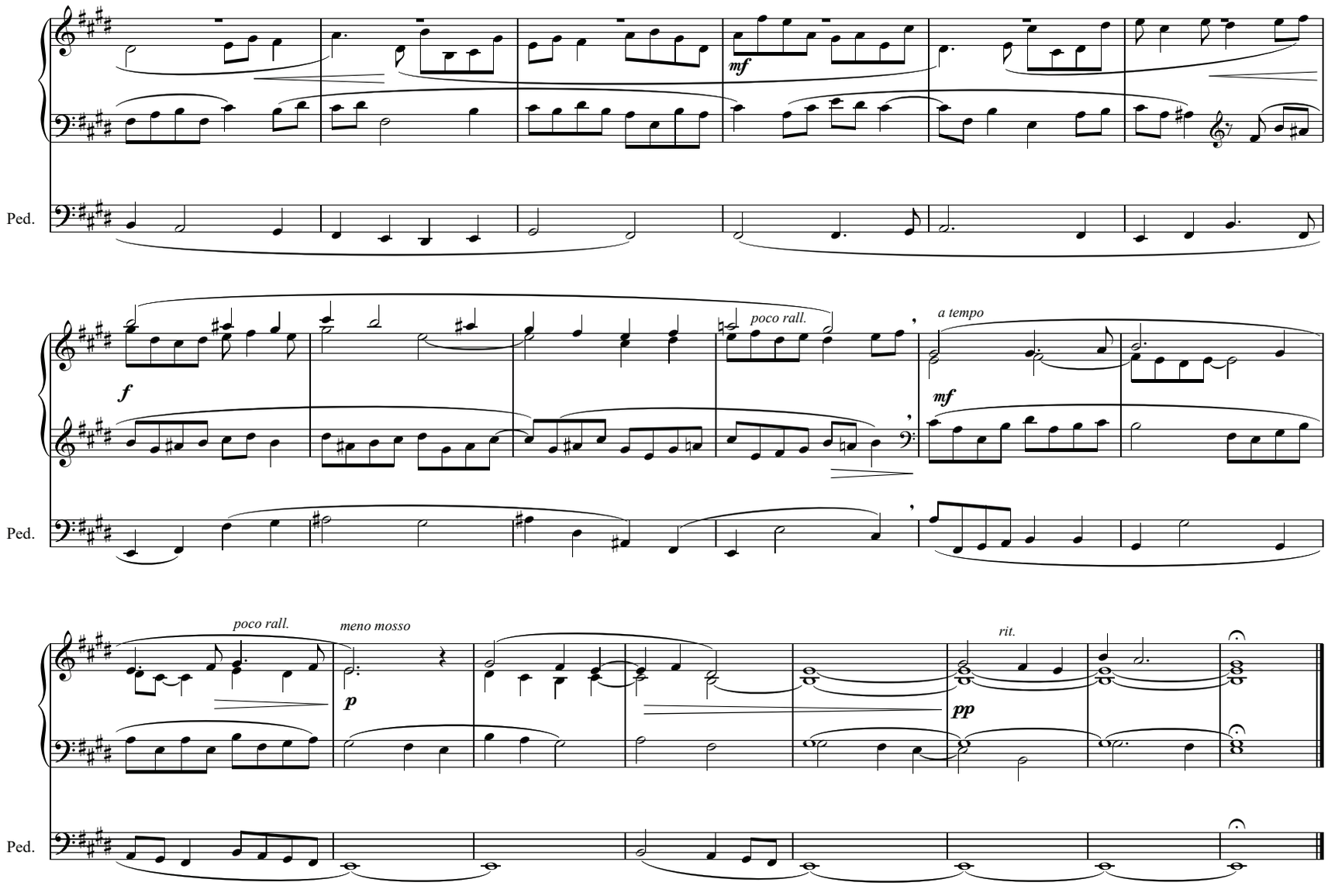

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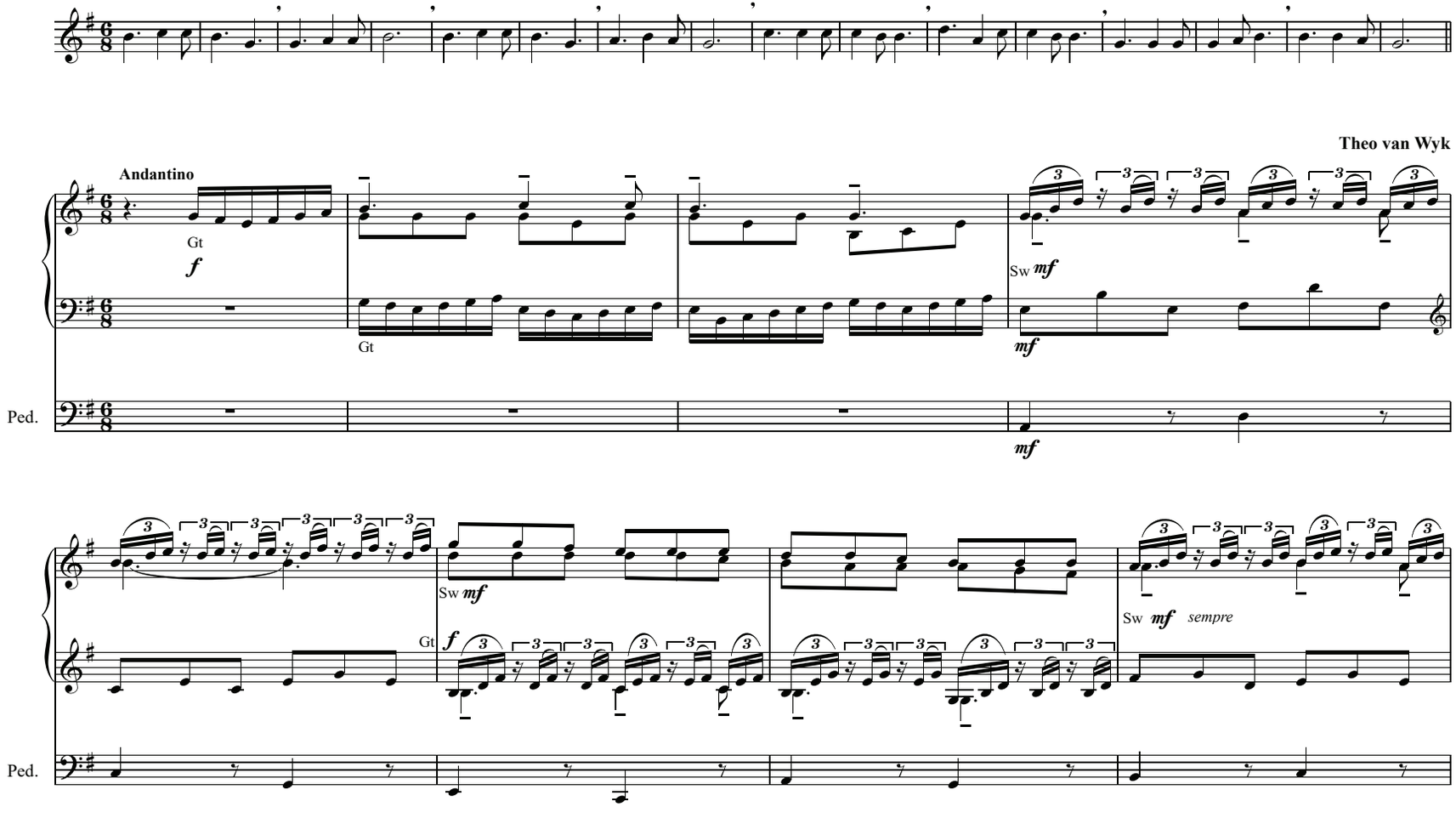
16

For Bart Ford

16. Chorale Prelude on 'Endless compassion'

Preludio

Phillip P Bliss (1838-1876)



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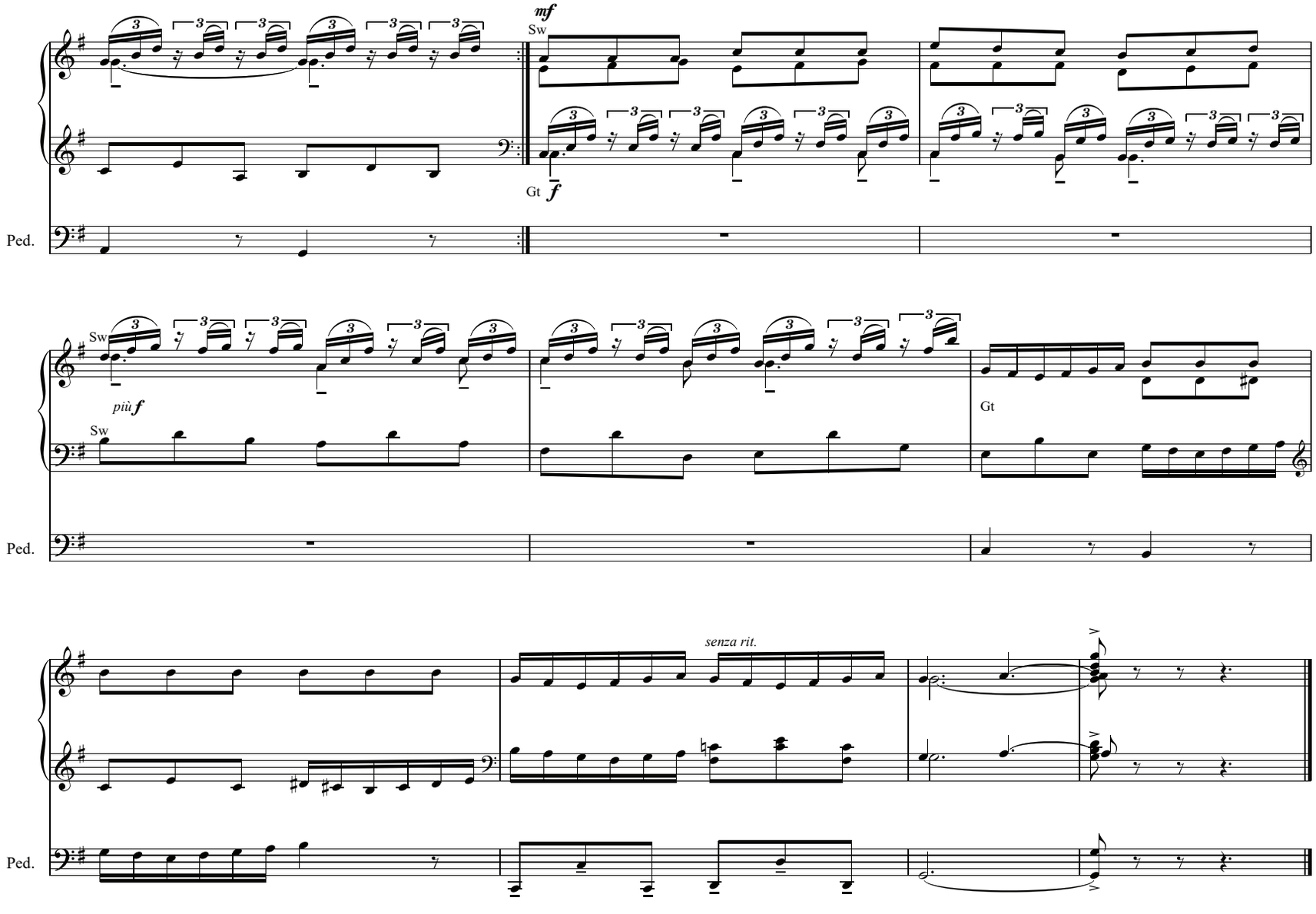

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17

For Cecil Daniels

17. Chorale Prelude on 'Herz und Herz vereint zusammen'

Postlude in Organo Pleno

Gt: Principals (16') 8', 4', 2 2/3', 2', Mixture
Pos: Principals 8', 4', 2', Scharff
Ped: Subbass 16', Oktave 8', Choralbas 4', Bazuin 16', (Mixture)
Pos/Gt, Gt/Ped

Johannes Thommen (1711-1783)

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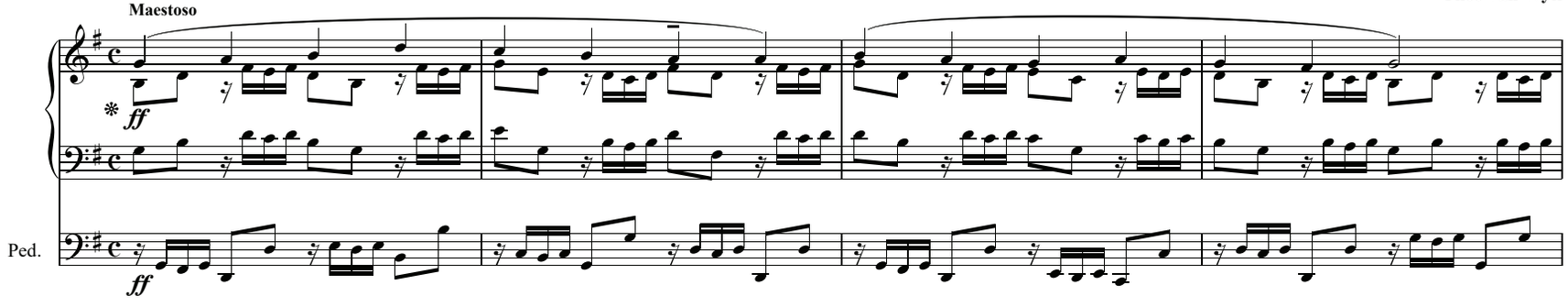
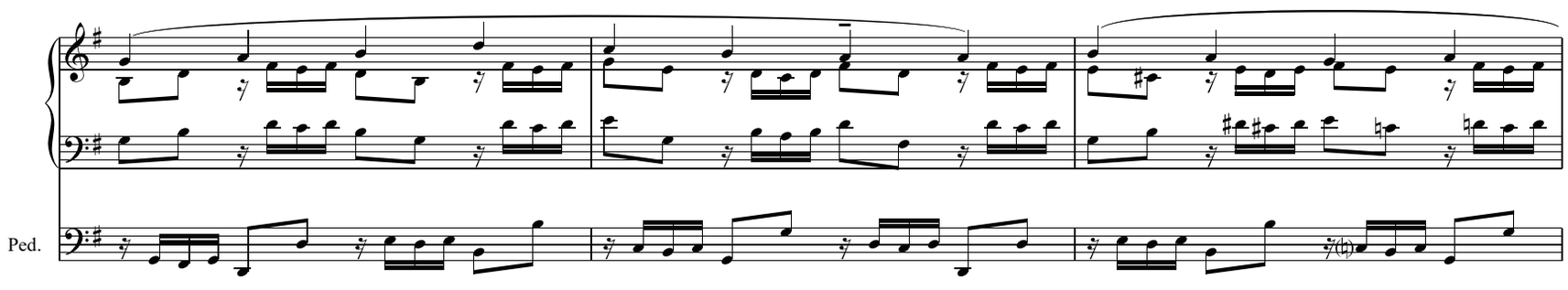
Maestoso





❋ Theme: Legato | Accompanying voices: Detached

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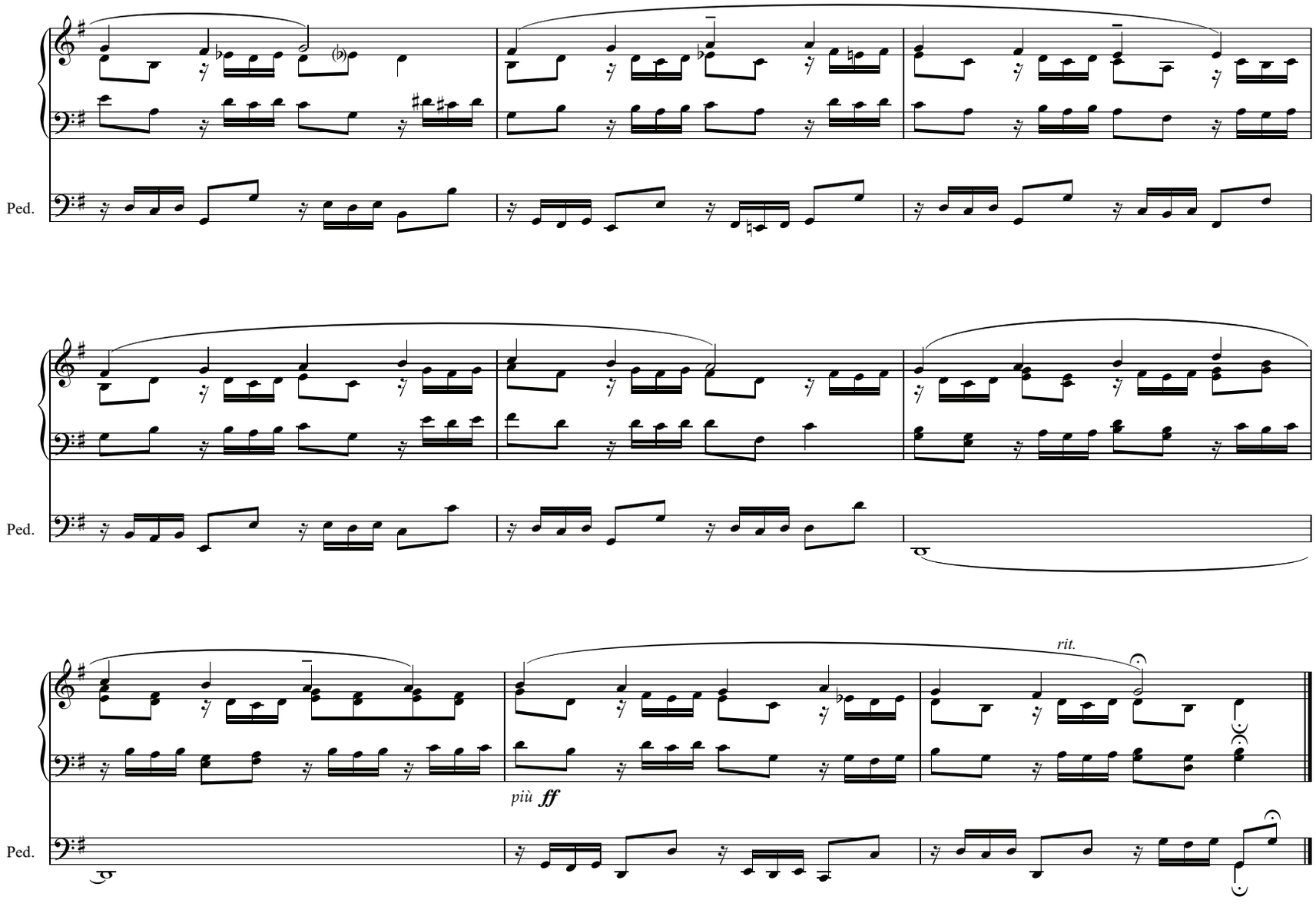

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18

For Joshua Oliver

18. Toccata on 'Nun danket alle Gott'

Hommage à Charles-Marie Widor

Gt / Pos / Sw: ***fff***
Ped: ***fff***
All manuals coupled
All manuals coupled to Ped

Johann Crüger (1598-1692)

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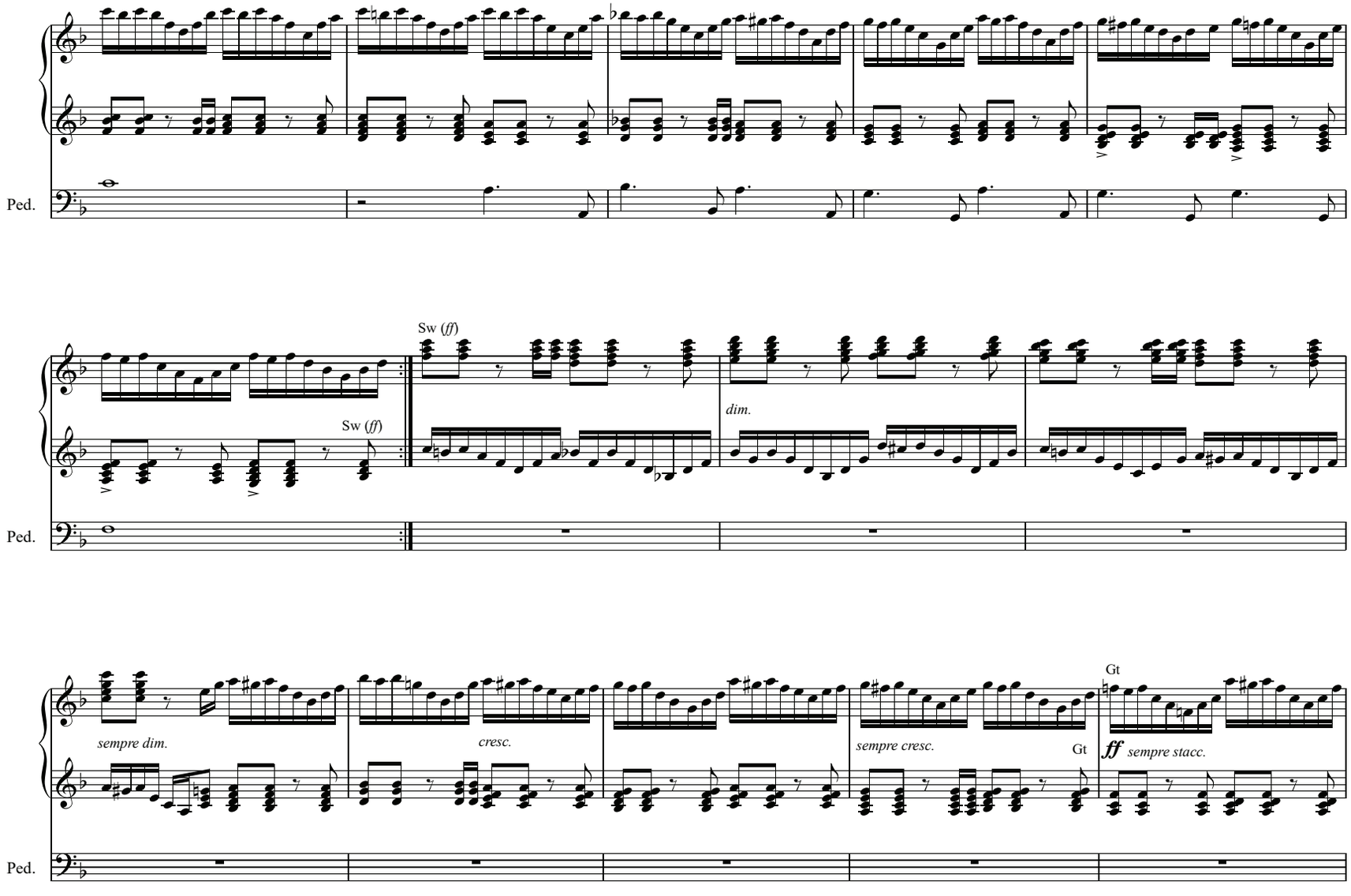

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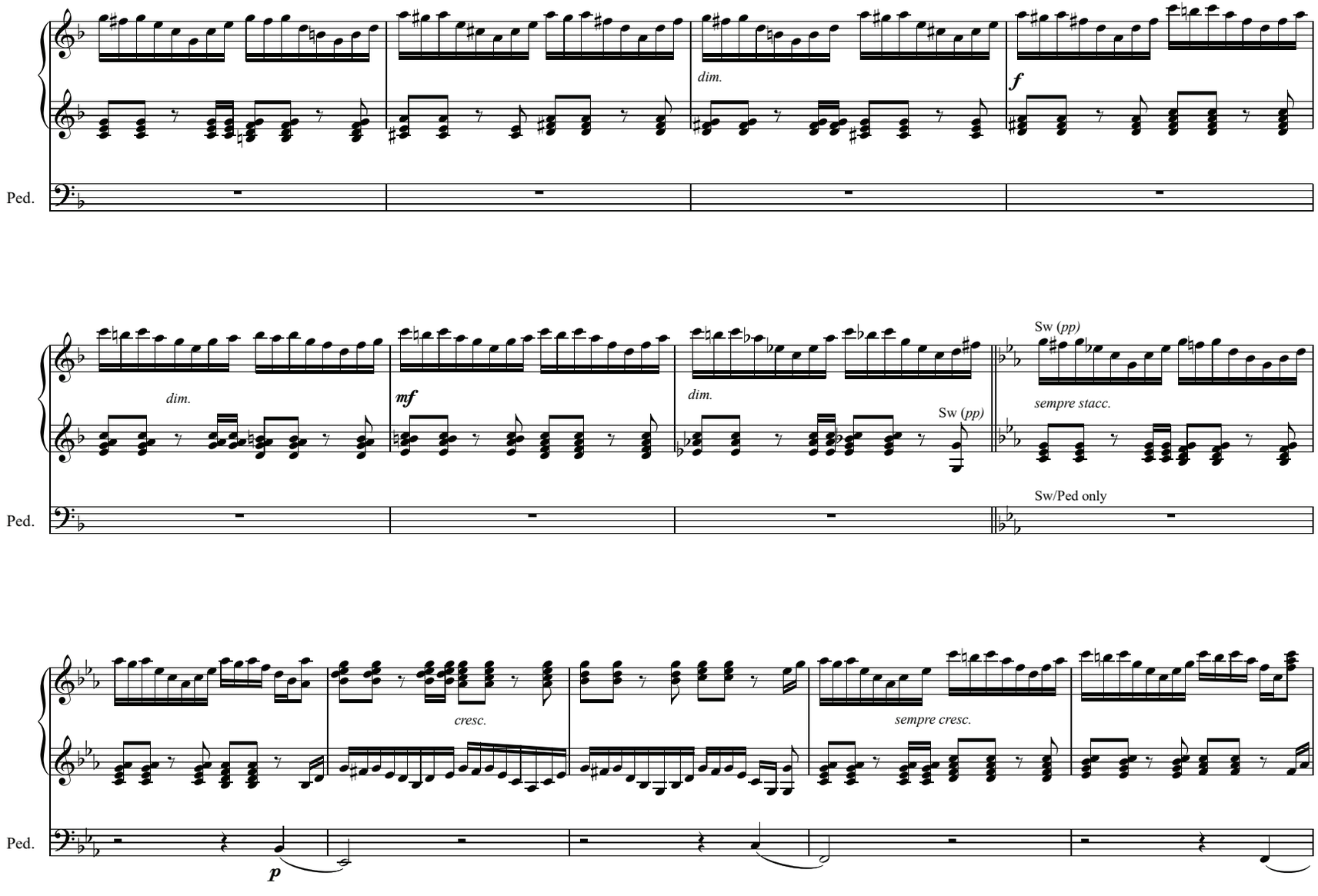

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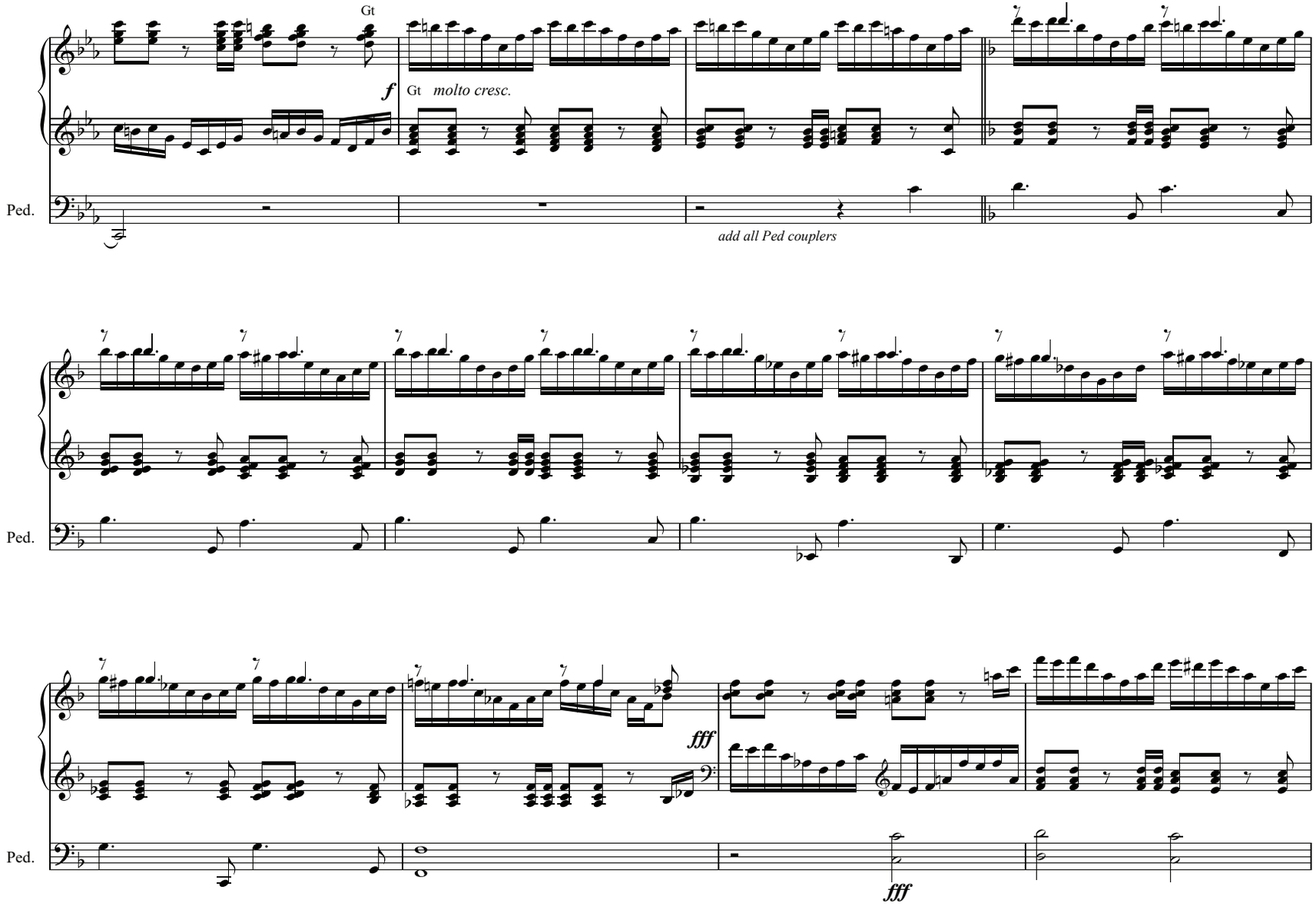

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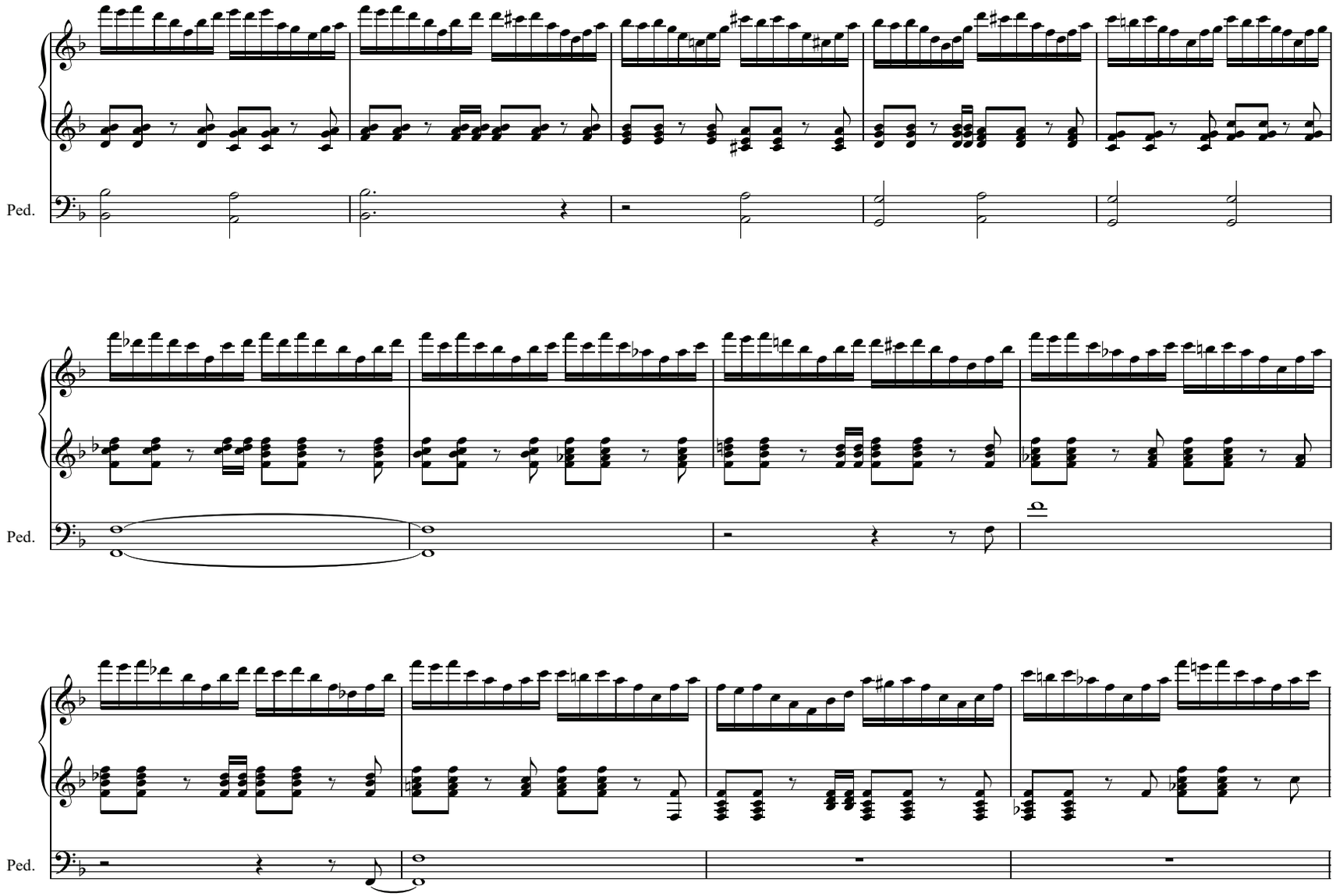

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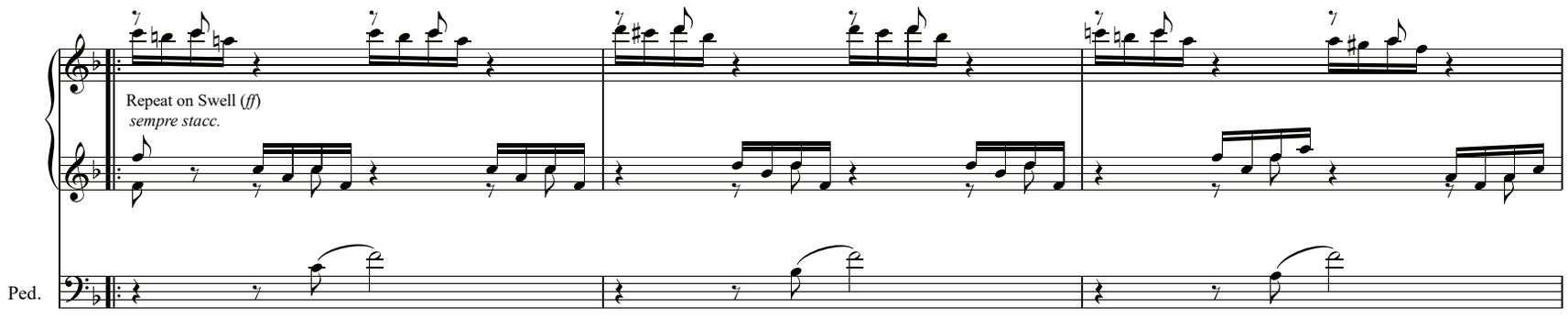

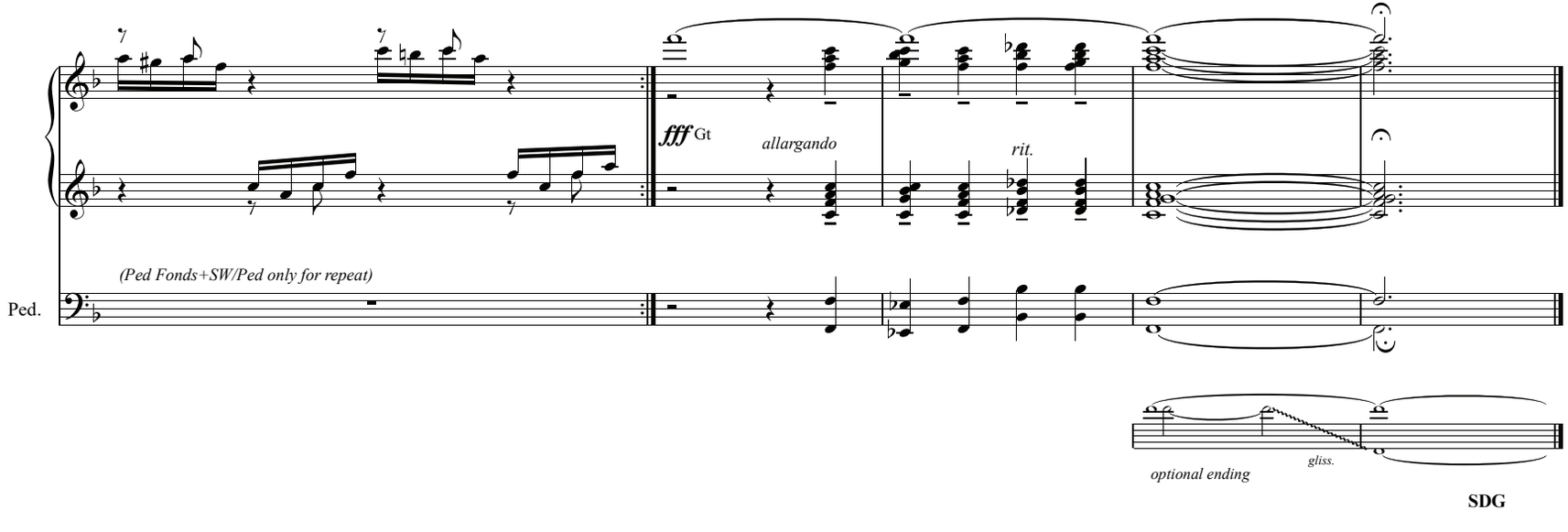

SDG

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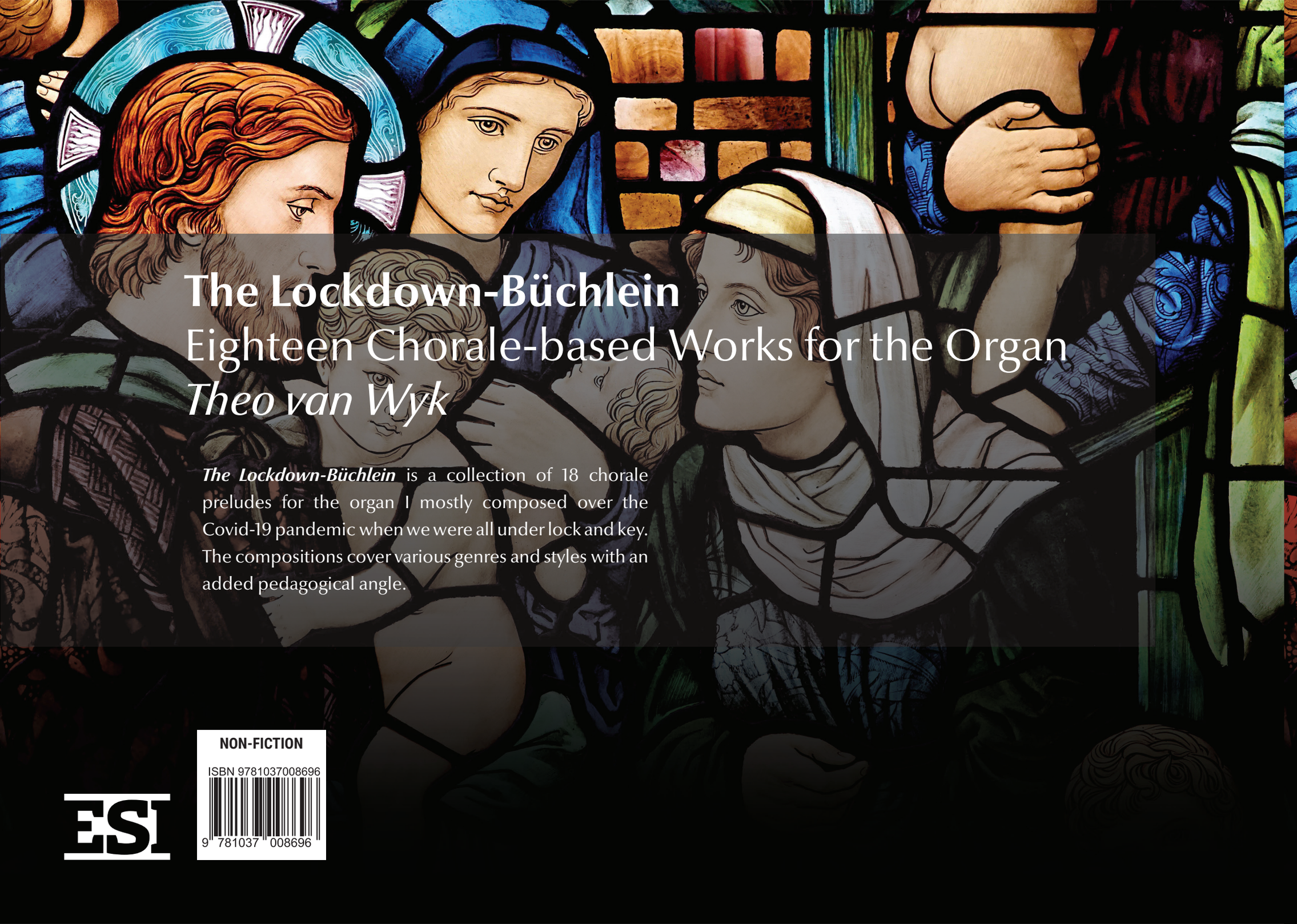

The Lockdown-Büchlein

Eighteen Chorale-based Works for the Organ

Theo van Wyk

The Lockdown-Büchlein is a collection of 18 chorale preludes for the organ I mostly composed over the Covid-19 pandemic when we were all under lock and key. The compositions cover various genres and styles with an added pedagogical angle.

NON-FICTION

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