THE DARKEST MIDNIGHT IN DECEMBER
Main

TTBB divisi, accompanied

145112

HL00126745
WW1527
$2.25

THE DARKEST MIDNIGHT IN DECEMBER

TTBB Chorus, Divisi, with Celesta or Piano

Music by
Stephen Main

50 years of timeless choral music

WALTON MUSIC
A DIVISION OF GIA PUBLICATIONS, INC.

waltonmusic.com

About the Work

The Darkest Midnight in December is set to a text published in 1728 by William Devereux, an Irish priest. The text is remarkable for its sensuality. Fr. Devereux makes his point with striking images: cold wind on a starry night, offerings of incense, the dazzling glory of the Christ child, and the softness of Mary's arms.

The tune is presented by different sections of the choir throughout the work, while other sections remain wordless in the background, evoking nighttime stillness and the rustling wind. By alternating between major and minor modes, the melody brings out the contrasting themes of the shepherds' great joy and the shivering infant. From a compositional point-of-view, the assignment of writing for celesta provided a palette of unusual musical colors. The sparkling pure tones of the instrument are especially adept at evoking mystery, innocense, and vulnerability all at the same time.

-Stephen Main

About the Composer

Stephen Main (b. 1963) got his start in music as a choirboy at St. Thomas Church, New York City, under Gerre Hancock. He went on to study organ, theory, and composition at the Choate School and then at Oberlin Conservatory, where he earned a B. Mus. While at Oberlin he also pursued his parallel interest in religious studies, ultimately earning a B.A. and later a Ph.D. in religious philosophy from the University of Chicago. He is currently the Music Director at Piedmont Community Church in the Bay Area.

Since 2004, Stephen has turned full-time to his lifelong passion of composing, leading to the recent publication of several choral and orchestral pieces, multiple commissions, and the completion of the scores for four films. The *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* has hailed Stephen's work as "evocative" music that "captures mystery." His music has won several awards, including the John Ness Beck Foundation competition for new American choral music, as well as a commission-prize from the American Composers Forum. He lives in San Francisco.

Walton Choral Works by Stephen Main

The Darkest Midnight in December	SATB div., accompanied	WW1416/HL08501696
The Darkest Midnight in December	SSAA div., accompanied	WW1504/HL00117450
Rejoice, Ye Heavenly Powers	SATB div., accompanied	WW1433/HL08501742
Blessed Be That Maid Mary	SATB, accompanied	WW1531/HL00126214
The Holly and the Ivy	SATB, accompanied	WW1532/HL00126215

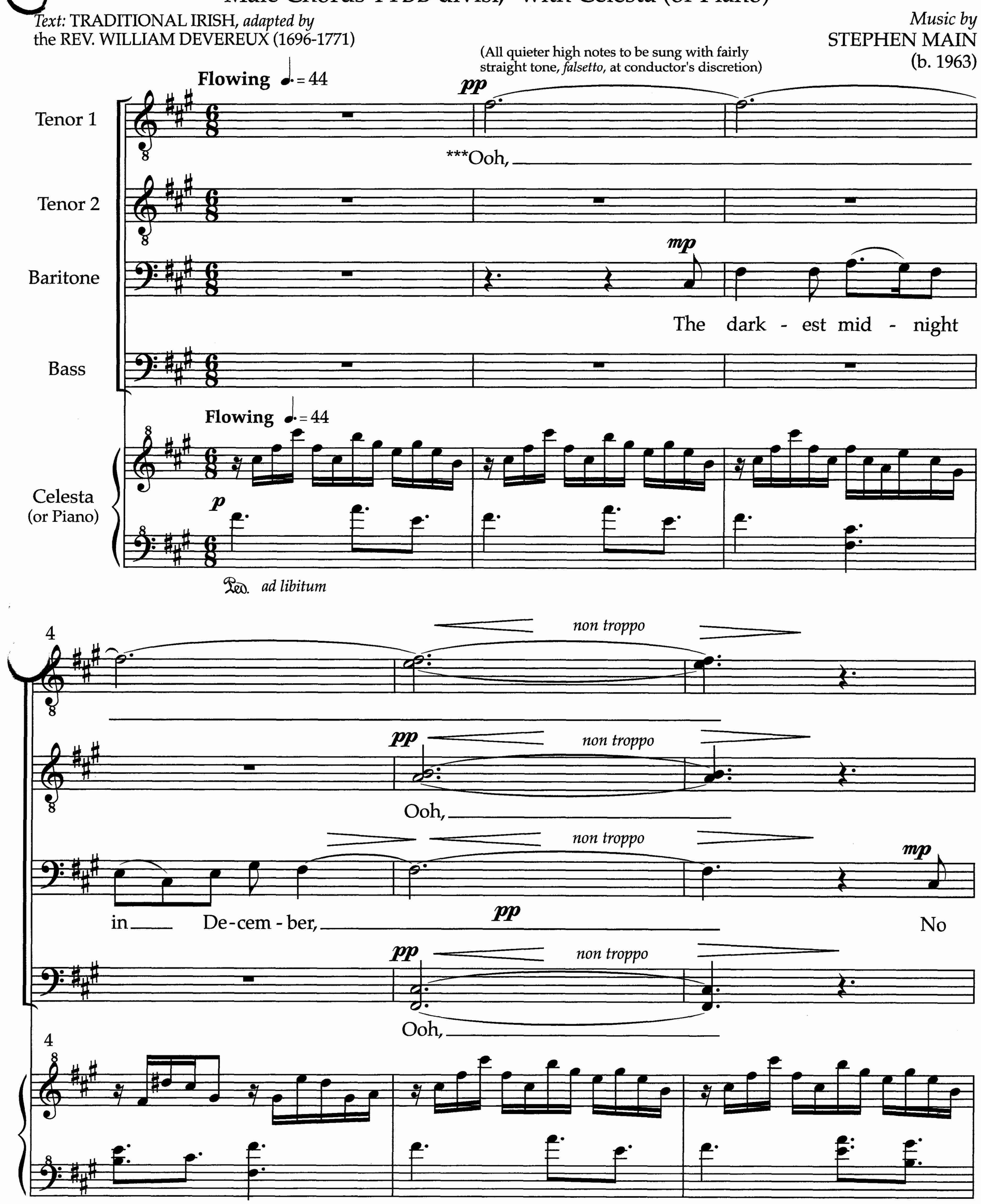
Full-length recording available at waltonmusic.com.
Duration: Approx. 2:50

The Darkest Midnight in December

Male Chorus TTBB divisi,* with Celesta (or Piano)**

Text: TRADITIONAL IRISH, *adapted by* the REV. WILLIAM DEVEREUX (1696-1771)

Music by STEPHEN MAIN (b. 1963)



* Also available for SATB and SSAA voices (harp part available for SSAA version).

** Separate celesta part is found on pages 13-16. *If no celesta is available, this part should be played on piano or synthesizer using the celesta sound an octave lower than written.*

*** Vowels used throughout (ooh, oh, ah, etc.) are intentional and are meant to indicate lips slightly wider apart for more sound.

Copyright © 2009, 2013 and 2014 by Walton Music Corporation
A Division of GIA Publications, Inc.
www.waltonmusic.com
International Copyright Secured Made in U.S.A. All rights reserved

7

Ooh,

Ooh, *mf* shall

snow nor hail nor win - ter's storm,

Ooh,

7

10

mp Oh,

hin - der us to re - mem - ber,

mp Oh, *mp* The

mp Oh,

10

12

p

Oh.

p

Oh.

Babe that on this night was born.

p

Oh.

12

15

mf

'Twas pure love that from a-bove Brought

mf

'Twas but pure love that from a-bove Brought

mf

'Twas but pure love that from a-bove Brought

mf

'Twas pure love that from a-bove Brought

15

mf

18

Him to save us from all harms;

Him to save us from all harms;

Him to save us from all harms;

Him to save us from all harms;

18

f

21

p

— Then let us sing and wel - come Him, The

p

— Then let us sing and wel - come Him, The

p

— Then let us sing and wel - come Him, The

p

— Then let us sing and wel - come Him, The

21

mp

mp

God of Love in Ma - ry's arms.

God of Love in Ma - ry's arms.

God of Love in Ma - ry's arms.

God of Love in Ma - ry's arms.

24

27

pp

Ooh,

pp

Ooh,

mp *dolce*

No cost - ly gifts can we pre - sent Him,

27

Oh, Oh,

p

Oh,

No gold nor myrrh nor

pp

Oh,

30

33

p

Oh,

pp *p* *mp*

Oh, Oh, But if with our

o - dors sweet; Oh,

p

Oh,

33

p

35

Ah, Oh.

hearts we can con - tent Him, Oh.

We hum - bly lay them

Oh.

35

38

at His feet.

mf With

mf With

38

41

mf

Shep - herds we are come to see This love - ly In - fant's

Shep - herds we are come to see This love - ly In - fant's

Shep - herds we are come to see This love - ly In - fant's

mf

Shep - herds we are come to see This love - ly In - fant's

41

f

44

straight tone

(head voice only)

glo - - - rious charms;

straight tone

glo - - - rious charms;

straight tone

glo - - - rious charms;

straight tone

glo - - - rious charms;

44

f

Born of a maid as pro - phets said, The

p

Born of a maid as pro - phets said, The

p

Born of a maid as pro - phets said, The

p

Born of a maid as pro - phets said, The

46

mp

p

49

God of Love in Ma - ry's

God of Love in Ma - ry's

God of Love in Ma - ry's

God of Love in Ma - ry's

49

p

arms.

pp

arms.

pp

arms.

pp

(upper note more quietly)

arms.

52

55

molto rit.

pp

Hmm.

pp

Hmm.

pp

Hmm.

pp

Hmm.

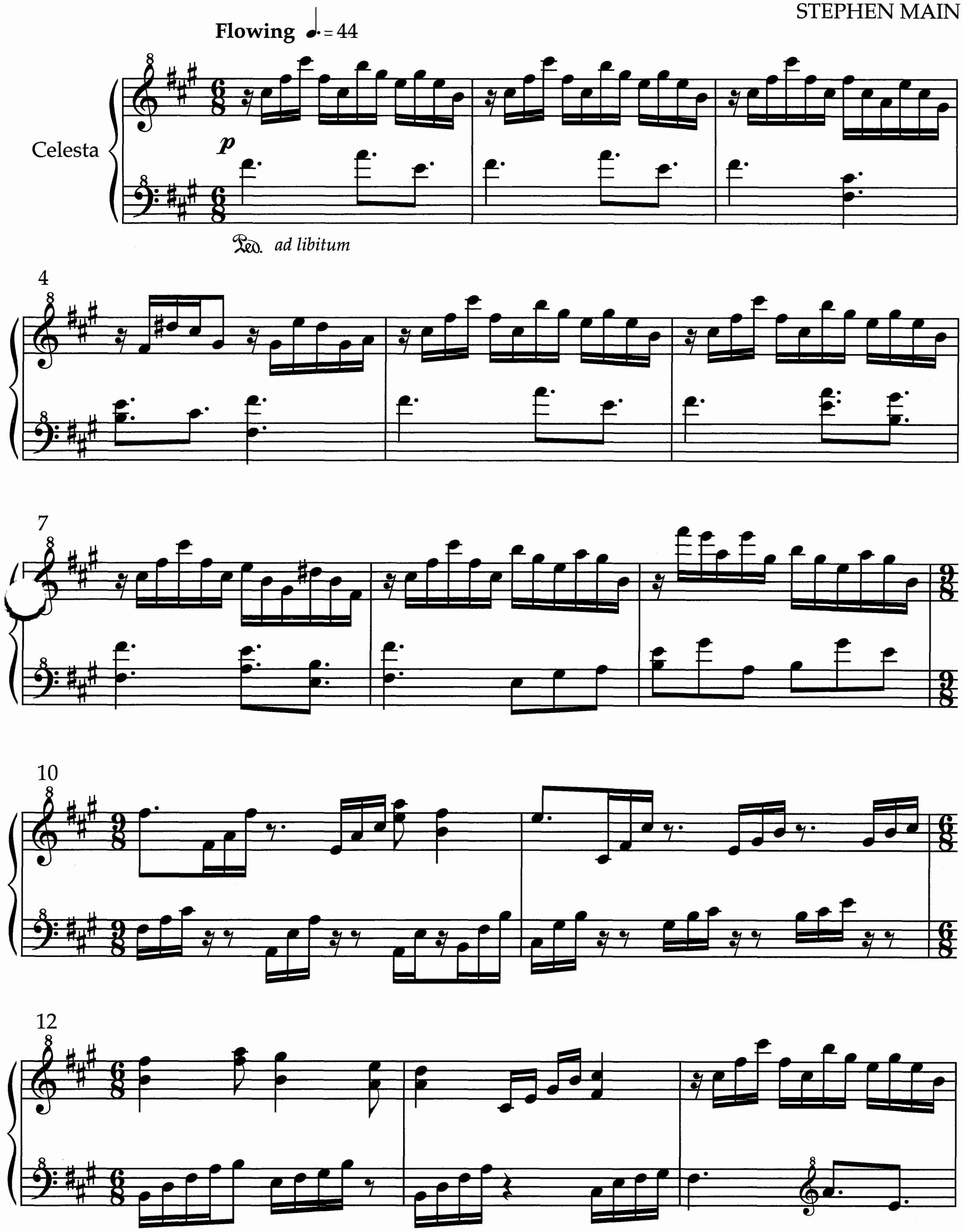
molto rit.

55

p

The Darkest Midnight in December

STEPHEN MAIN



Copyright © 2009, 2013 and 2014 by Walton Music Corporation
A Division of GIA Publications, Inc.
www.waltonmusic.com
International Copyright Secured Made in U.S.A. All rights reserved

15

mf

18

f

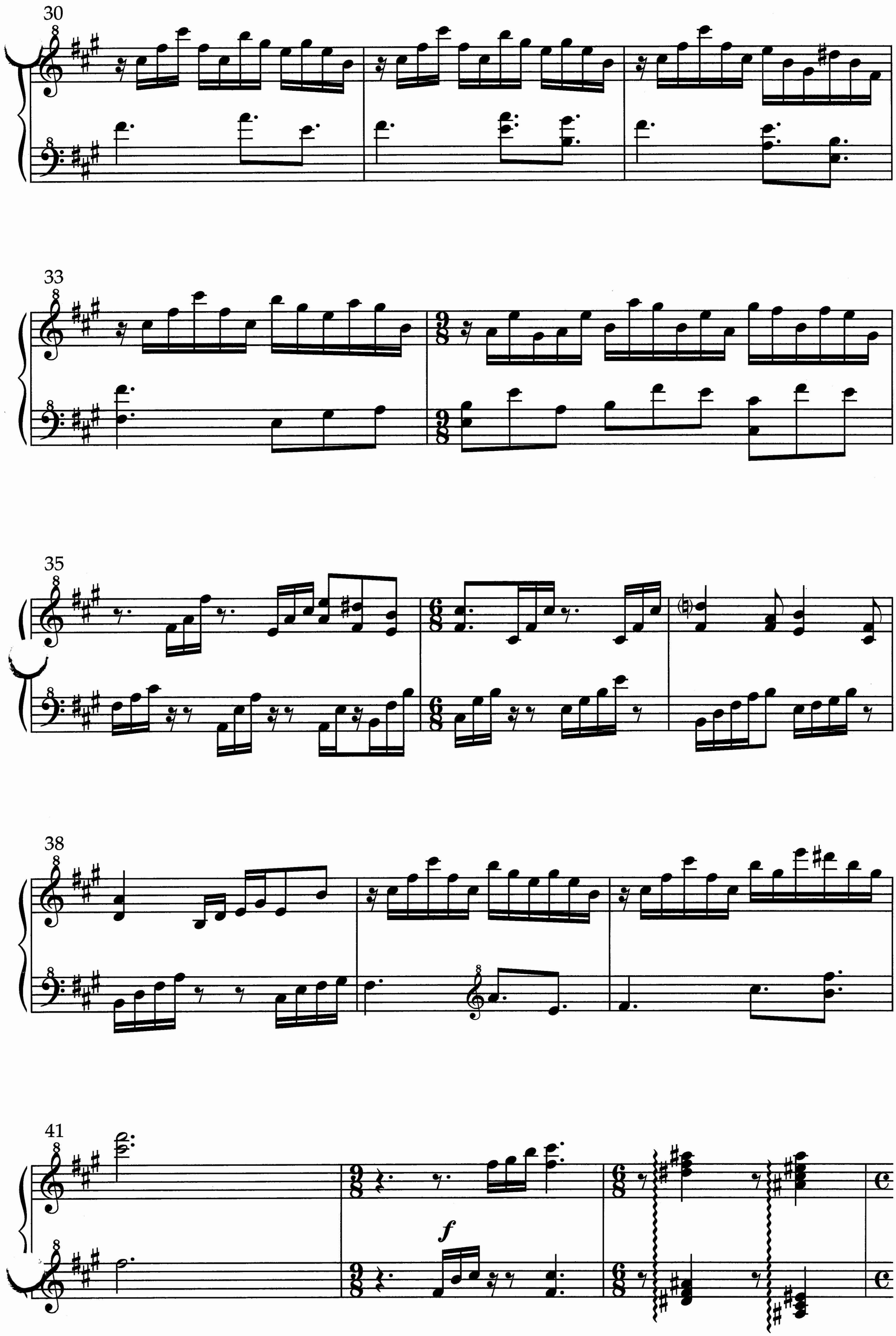
21

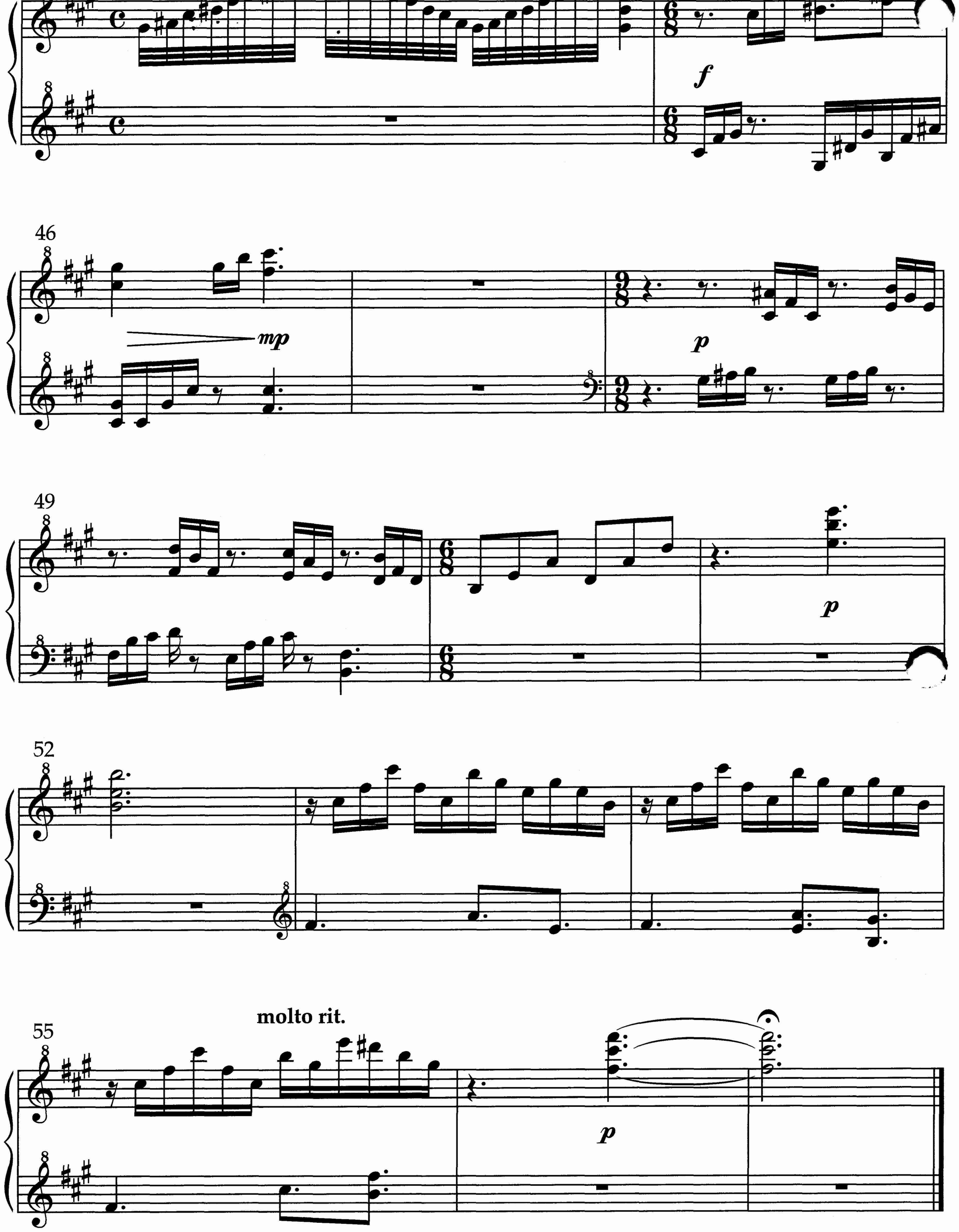
mp

mp

24

27


30
33
35
38
41
f



8 88680 00521 4

WALTON MUSIC
A DIVISION OF GIA PUBLICATIONS, INC.

EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY
HAL•LEONARD® CORPORATION
7777 W. BLUEMOUND RD. P.O. BOX 13819 MILWAUKEE, WI 53213