Notes on Tunes

1

Now let all loudly
Sing praise to God the Lord;
Christendom, proudly
Laud Him with one accord.
Gently He bids thee come before Him;
Haste, then, O Israel, now adore Him.

(Matthaeus A. v. Loewenstern, 1644.
Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.)

Matthaeus Appelles von Loewenstern published this hymn in *Geistliche Kirchen- und Haus-Musik* (Breslau, 1644), where it is No. 12 of his "Apellis-Lieder." It was there coupled with the tune, also by von Loewenstern, to which it has since been wedded.

2

O darkest woe!
Ye tears, forth flow!
Has earth so sad a wonder?
God the Father's only Son
Now is buried yonder.

(Anonymous, 1628.
Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1863)

The tune and the first stanza of this hymn for the burial of our Lord appear for the first time in the *Wuerzburger Gesangbuch,* 1628. Both the author and composer are unknown.

Stanzas 2–7 as they appear in *The Lutheran Hymnal* were written by Johann Rist in 1641.

3

In peace and joy I now depart
At God's disposing;
For full of comfort is my heart,
Soft reposing.
So the Lord hath promised me,
And death is but a slumber.

(Martin Luther, 1524.
Tr., Leonard W. Bacon, 1884)

Both tune and text first appeared in *Geystliches Gesangk Buechleyn,* Wittenberg, 1524, with the heading "Simeon's Song of Praise." The composer of the tune remains anonymous.

In cantata No. 106, *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit,* Bach has the altos sing the first stanza of this comforting hymn in the background while the baritone affirms "Thou shalt be with me today in Paradise."

4

Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men,
Before His highest throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
And gives us His own Son.

(Nicolaus Herman, 1560.
Tr., August Crull, 1923)

This joyful tune was composed by Nikolaus Herman in 1554 for his children's song on the life and office of John the Baptist, beginning: "Kommt her, ihr liebste Schwesterlein."

Later, in 1560, he coupled this tune with the words of his Christmas hymn.

5

Now praise we Christ, the Holy One,
The blessed Virgin Mary's Son,
Far as the glorious sun doth shine
E'en to the world's remote confine.

(Coelius Sedulius, c. 450.
German version, Martin Luther, 1524.
Tr., Richard Massie, 1854)

The tune "Christum wir sollen loben schon," which first appeared in the *Erfurt Enchiridion,* 1524, is based on the ancient plainsong tune "A solis ortus cardine," which has been called "a most elegant example of the Phrygian tone."

It should be noted that in this prelude the original plainsong melody is used for the interludes between the phrases of the chorale; they should be played with appropriate rhythmical freedom.

6

The royal banners forward go;
The cross shines forth in mystic glow
Where He in flesh, our flesh who made,
Our sentence bore, our ransom paid.

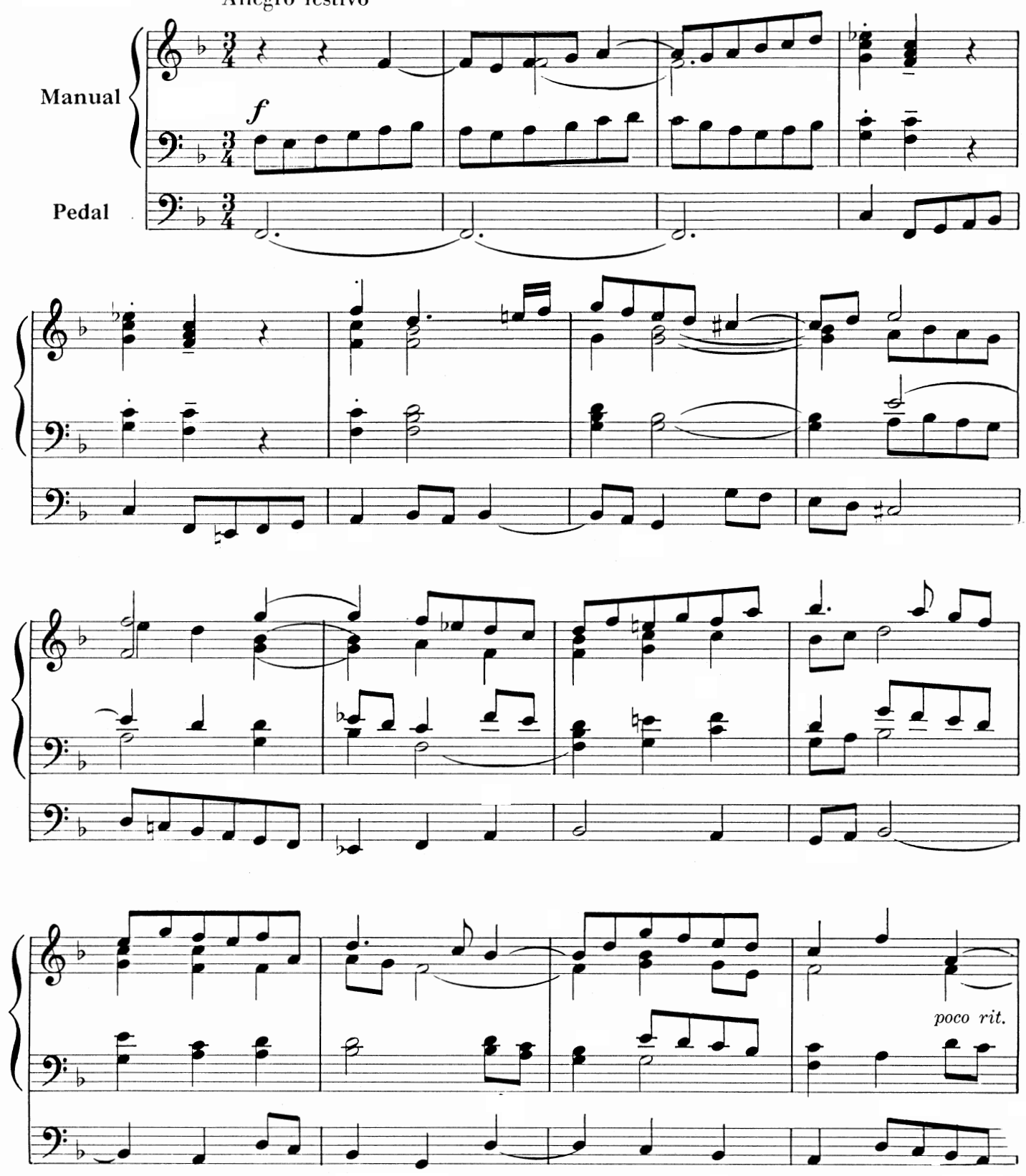
(Venantius Fortunatus, 569, cento.
Tr., John M. Neale, 1851)

The prelude is based on the original plainsong tune, which is undoubtedly as old as the words of the hymn. "Vexilla Regis" is the Vesper office hymn from Passion Sunday to Wednesday in Holy Week.

1. Chorale Prelude

On the Melody "Nun preiset alle"

HEALEY WILLAN



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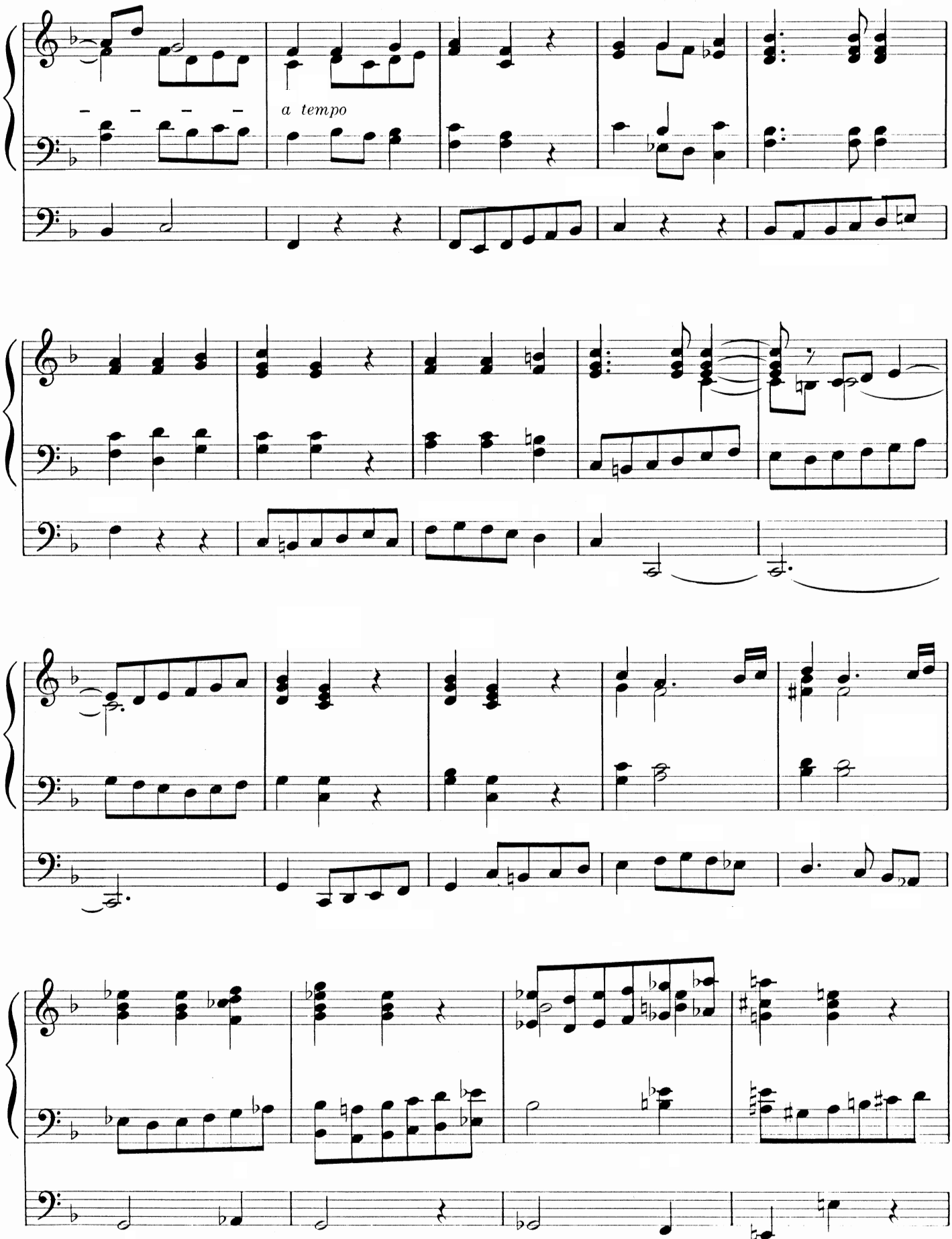
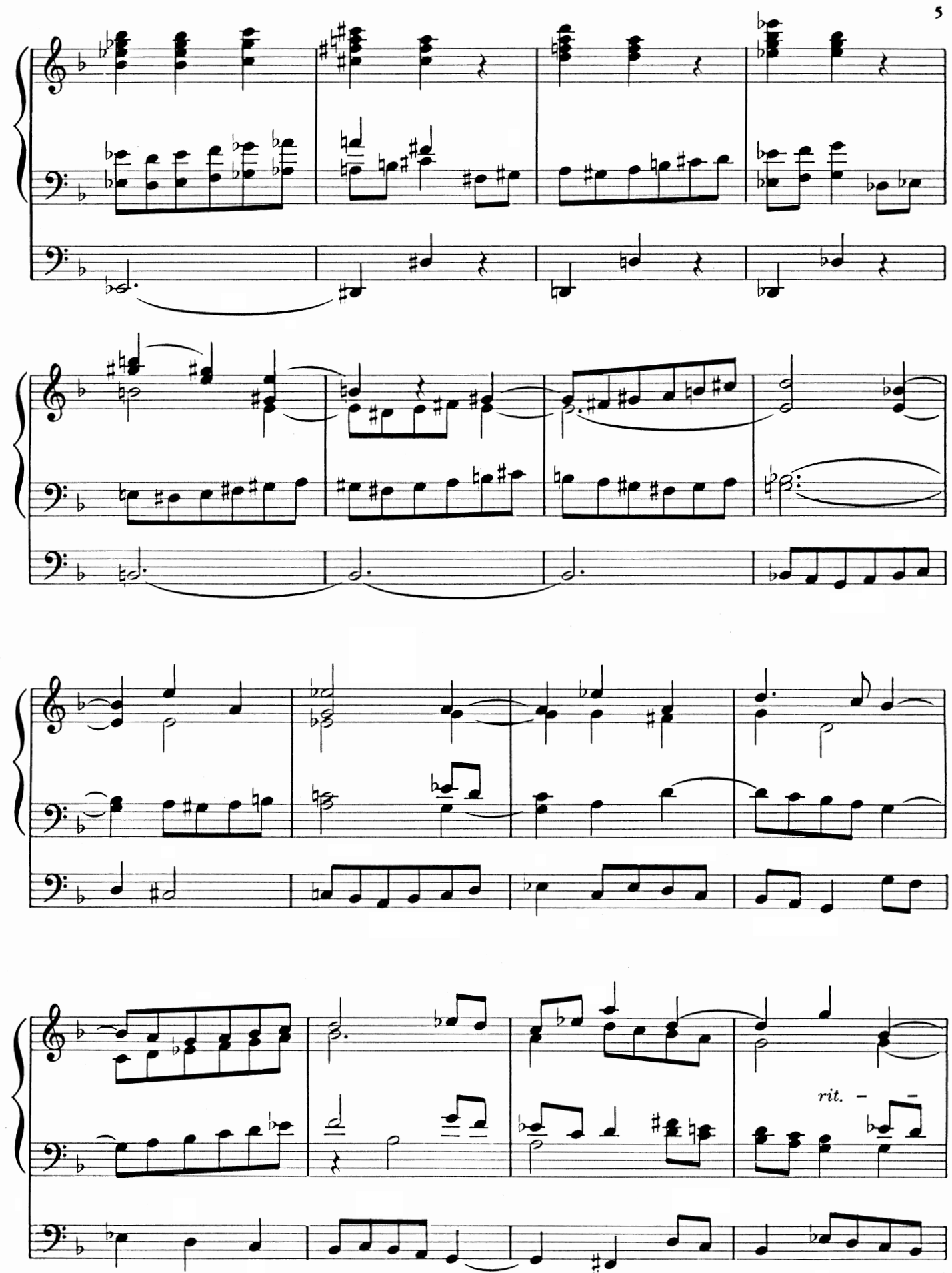
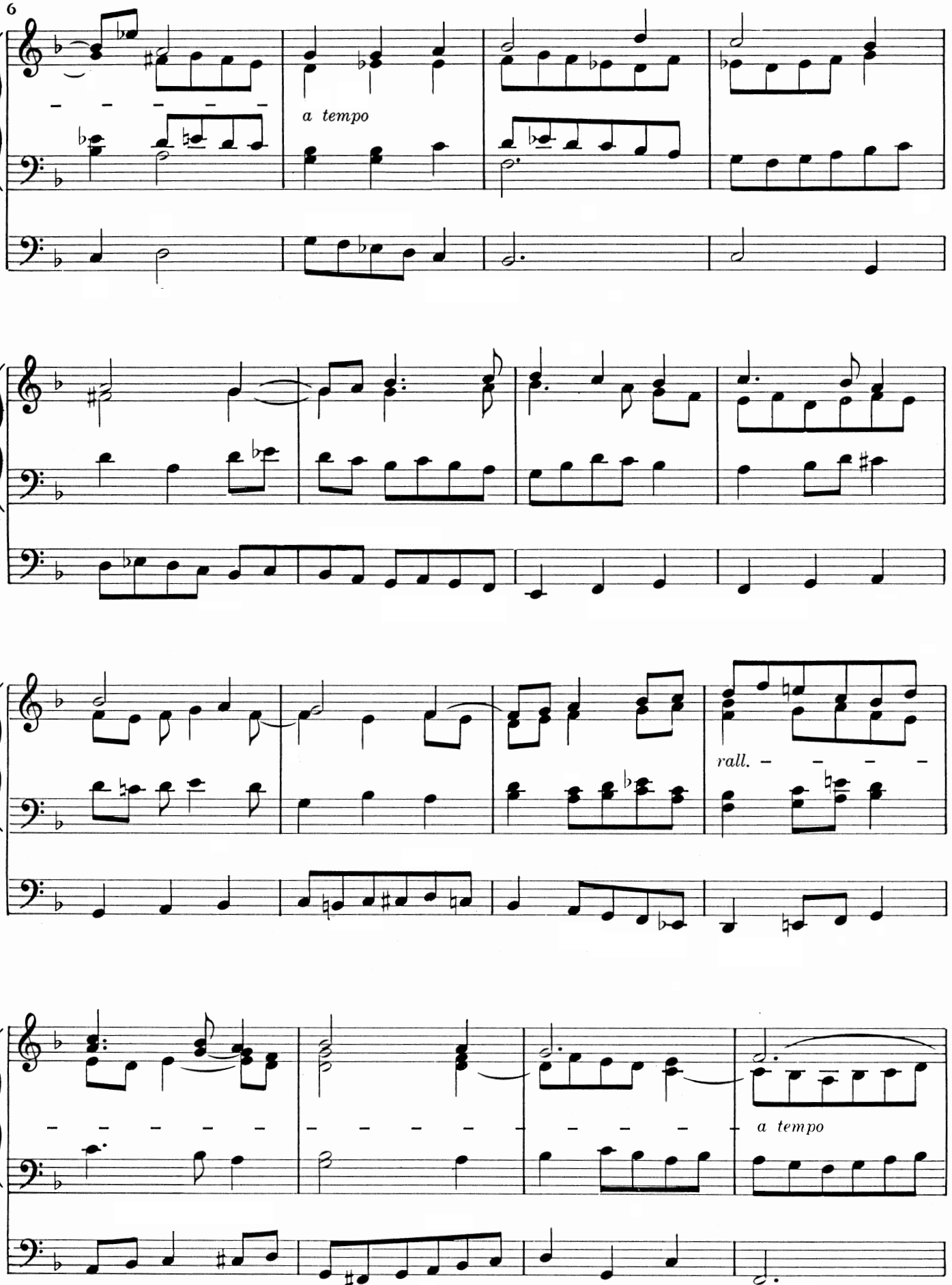
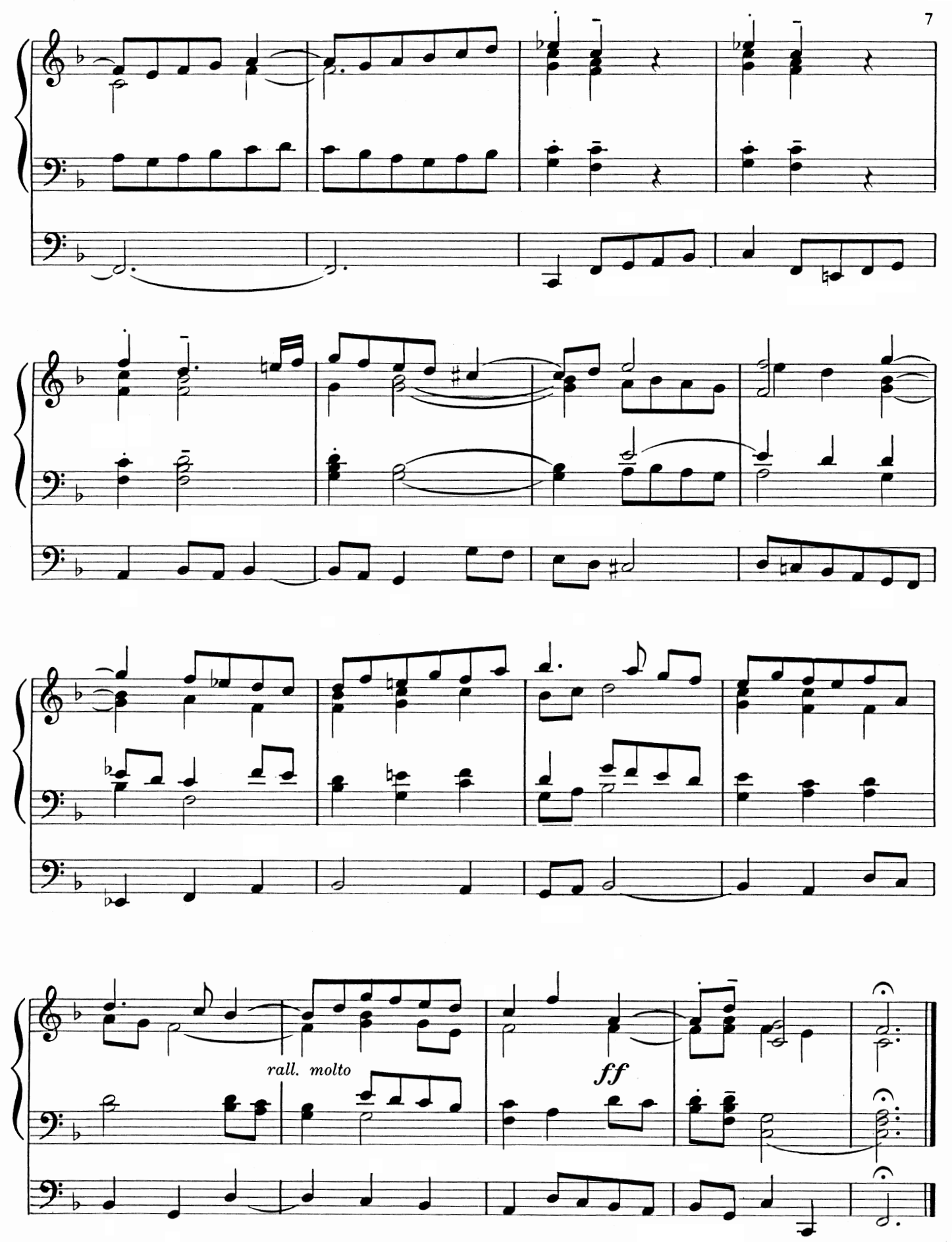

a tempo


rit.

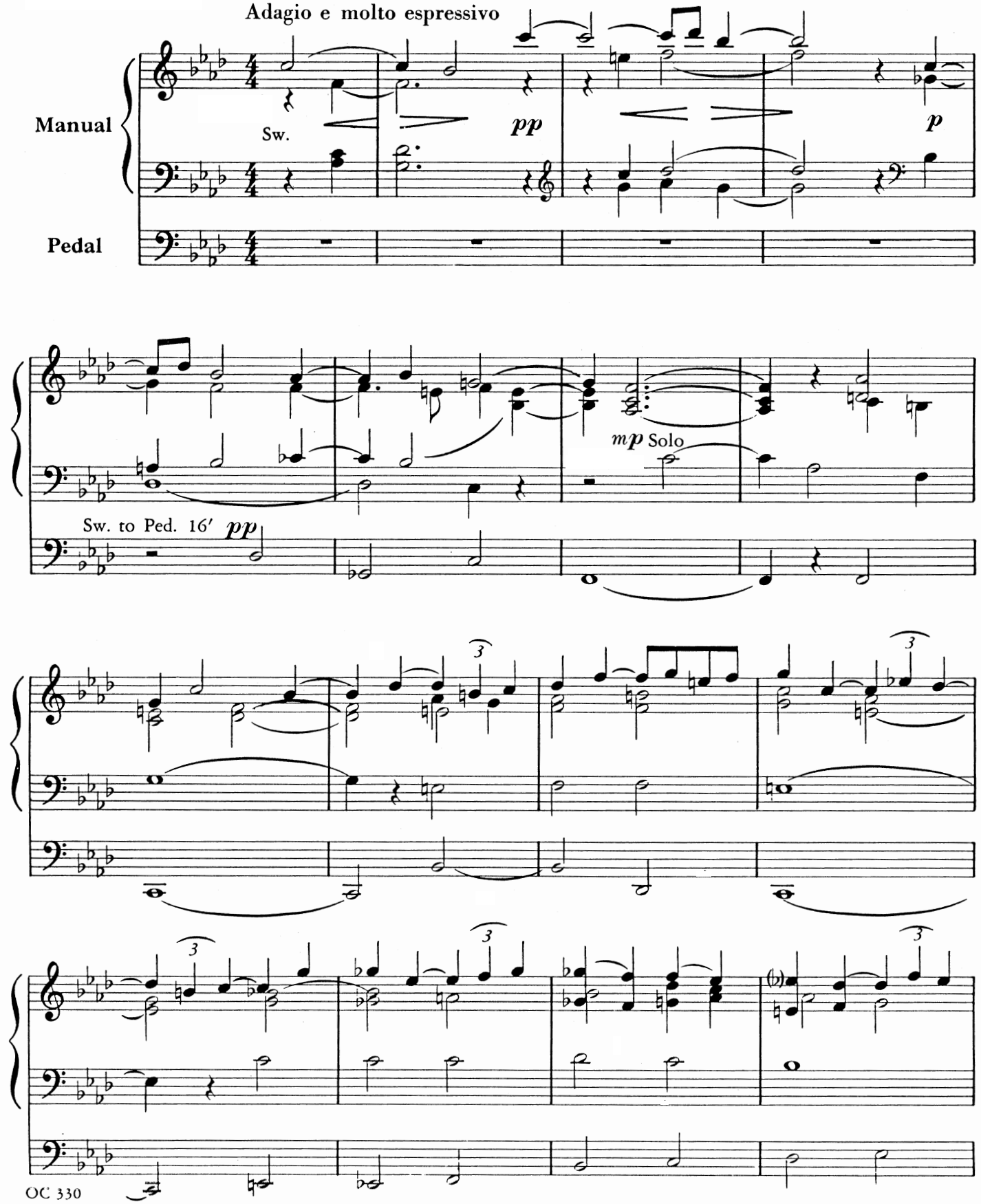

a tempo
rall.
a tempo

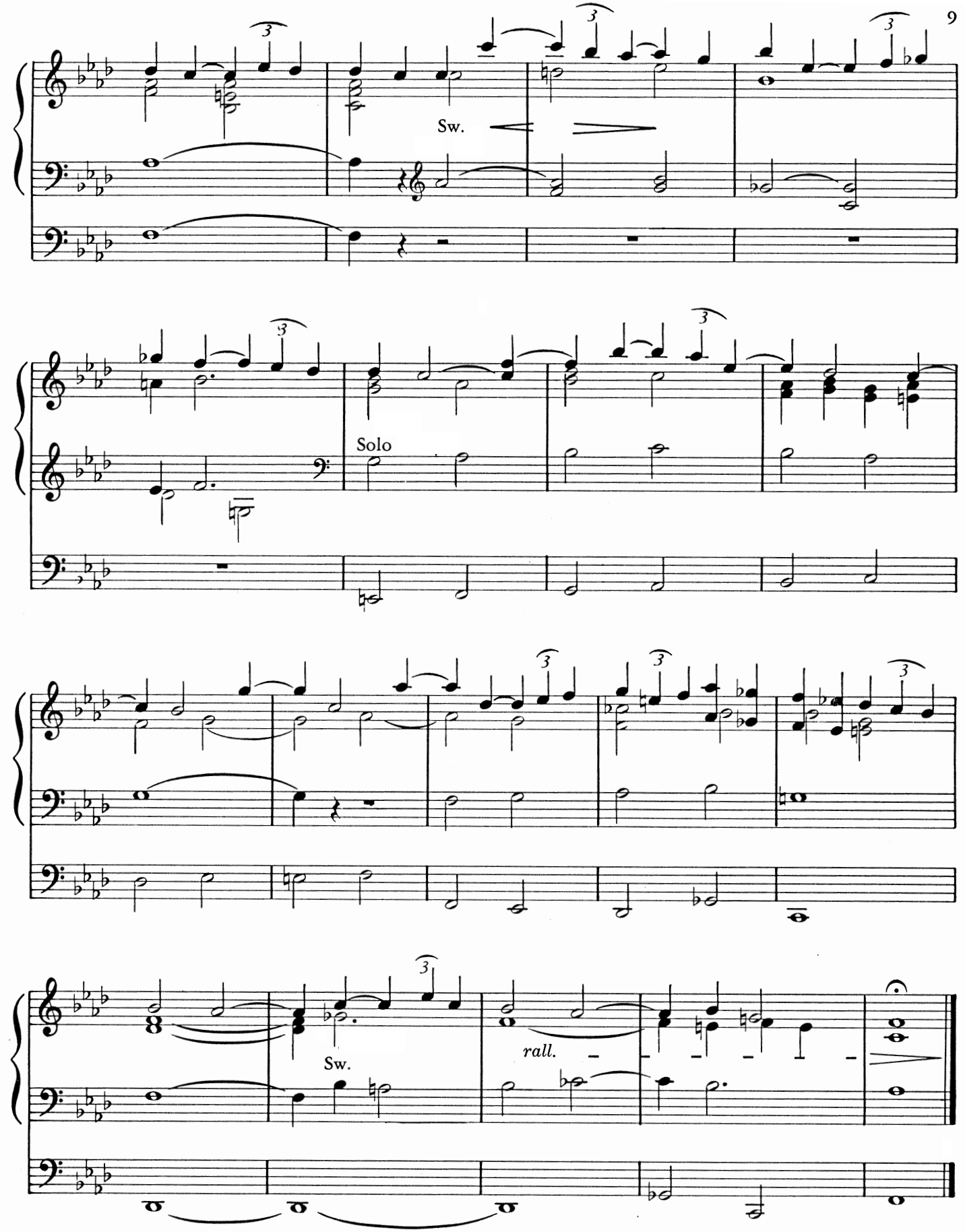

rall. molto
ff

2. Chorale Prelude

On the Melody "O Traurigkeit"

HEALEY WILLAN



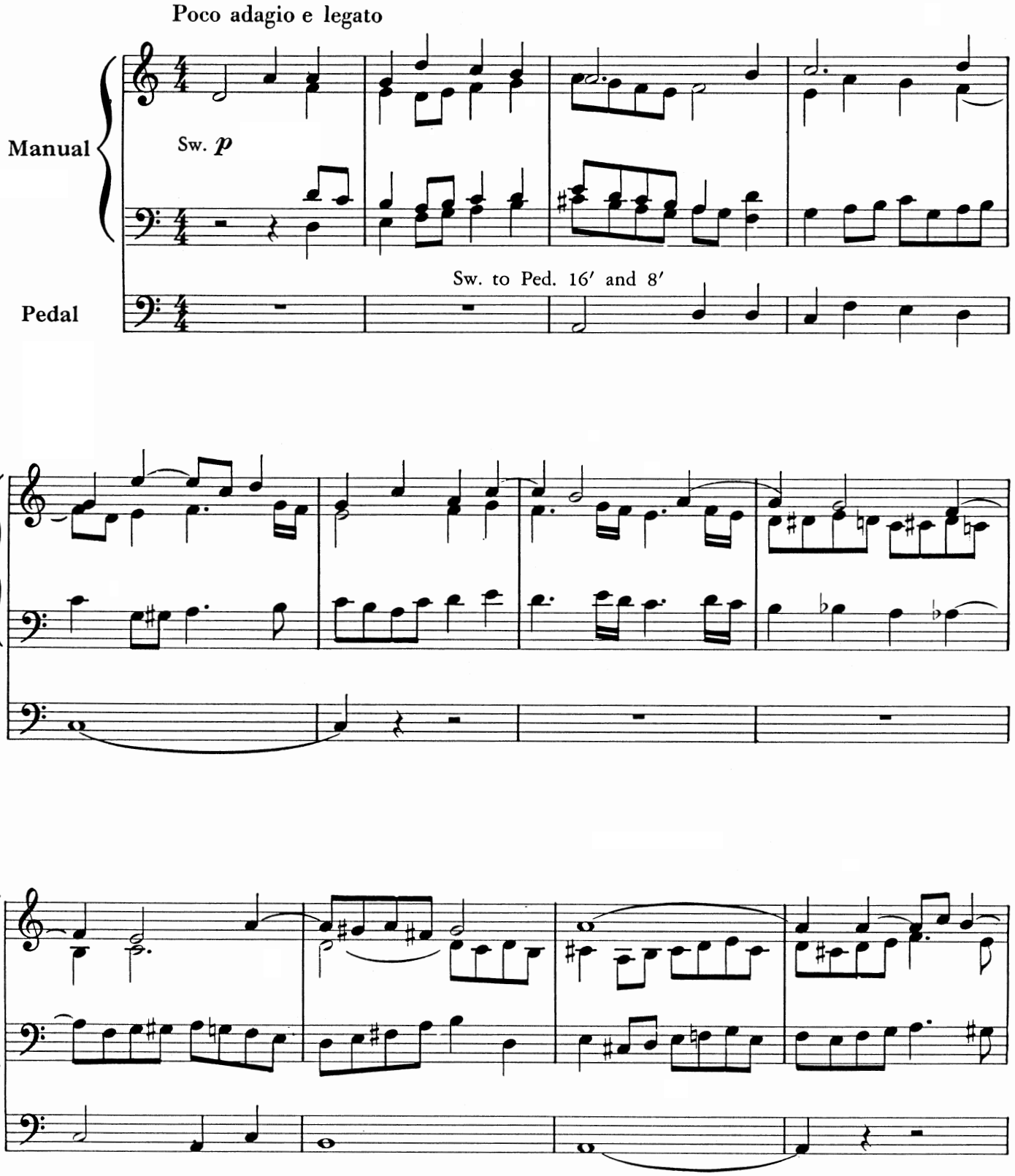


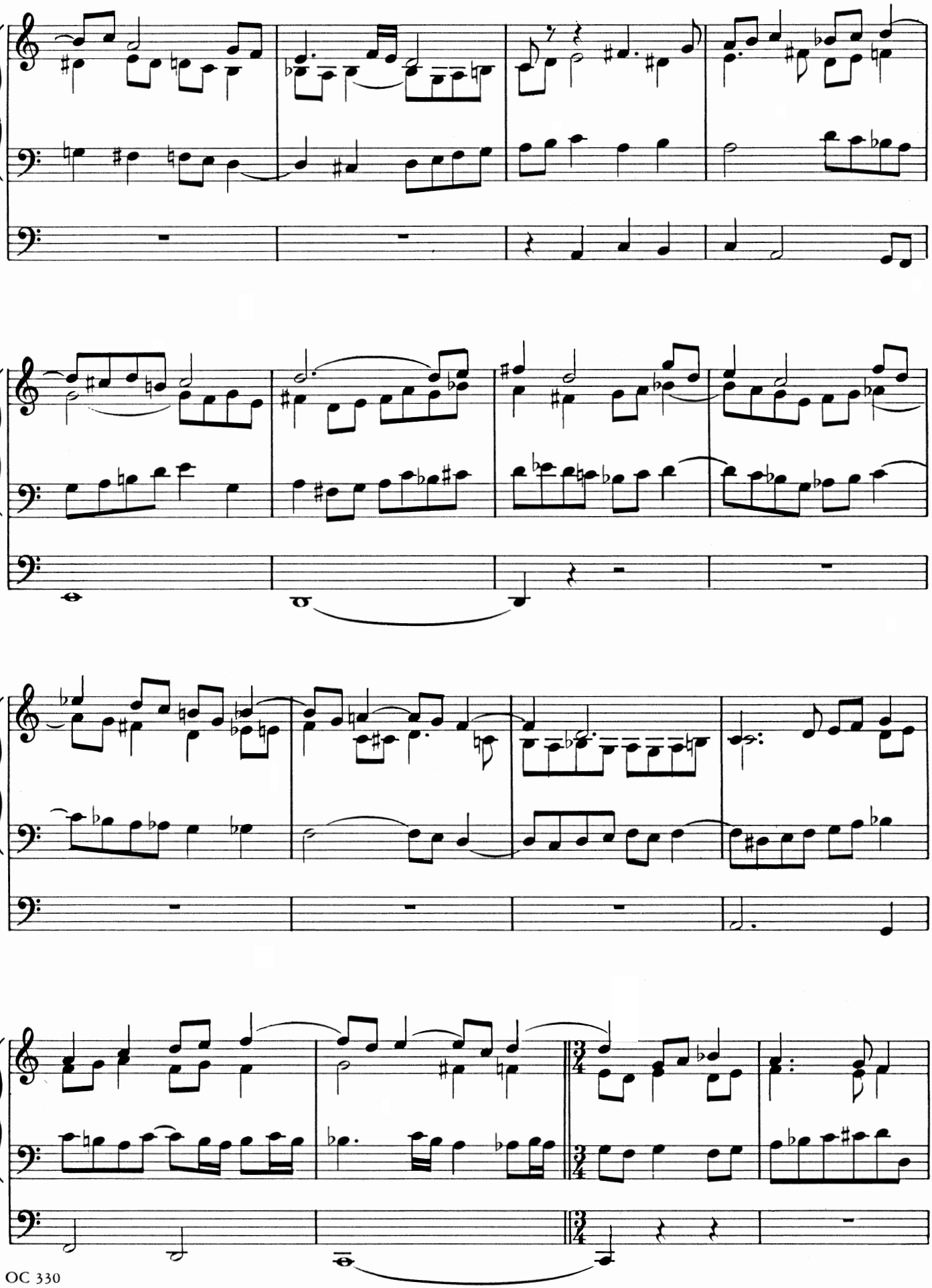
NOTE: If the solo is played on the Great, certain notes in the R.H. may be played with ease by the L.H. reaching up to the Swell. If the R.H. is played on the Choir, with Soft Swell coupled, it is easier to reach down with the thumb. See bars 17, 18, B flat and C; bar 28, F.

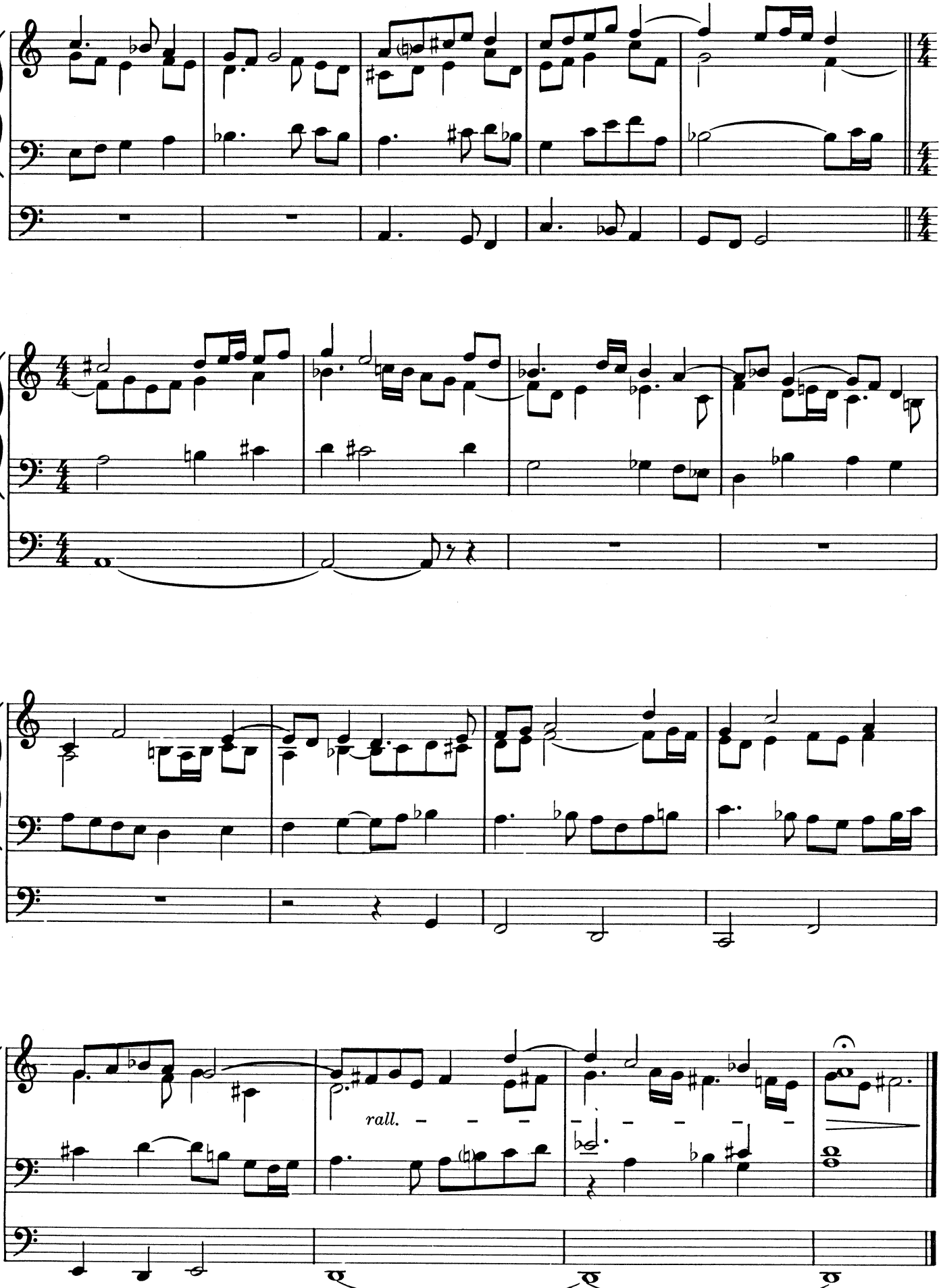
3. Chorale Prelude

On the Melody "Mit Fried' und Freud'"

HEALEY WILLAN



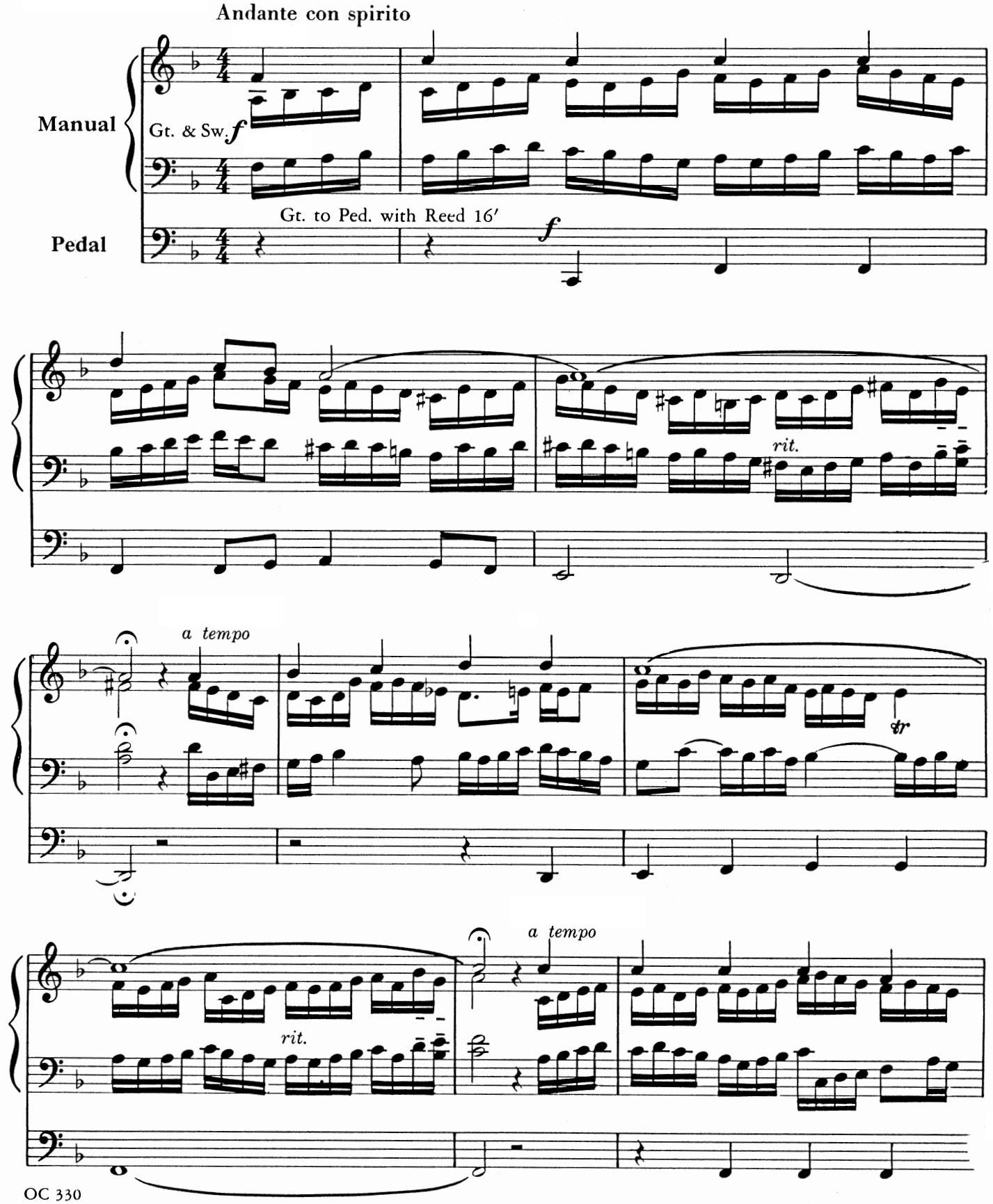


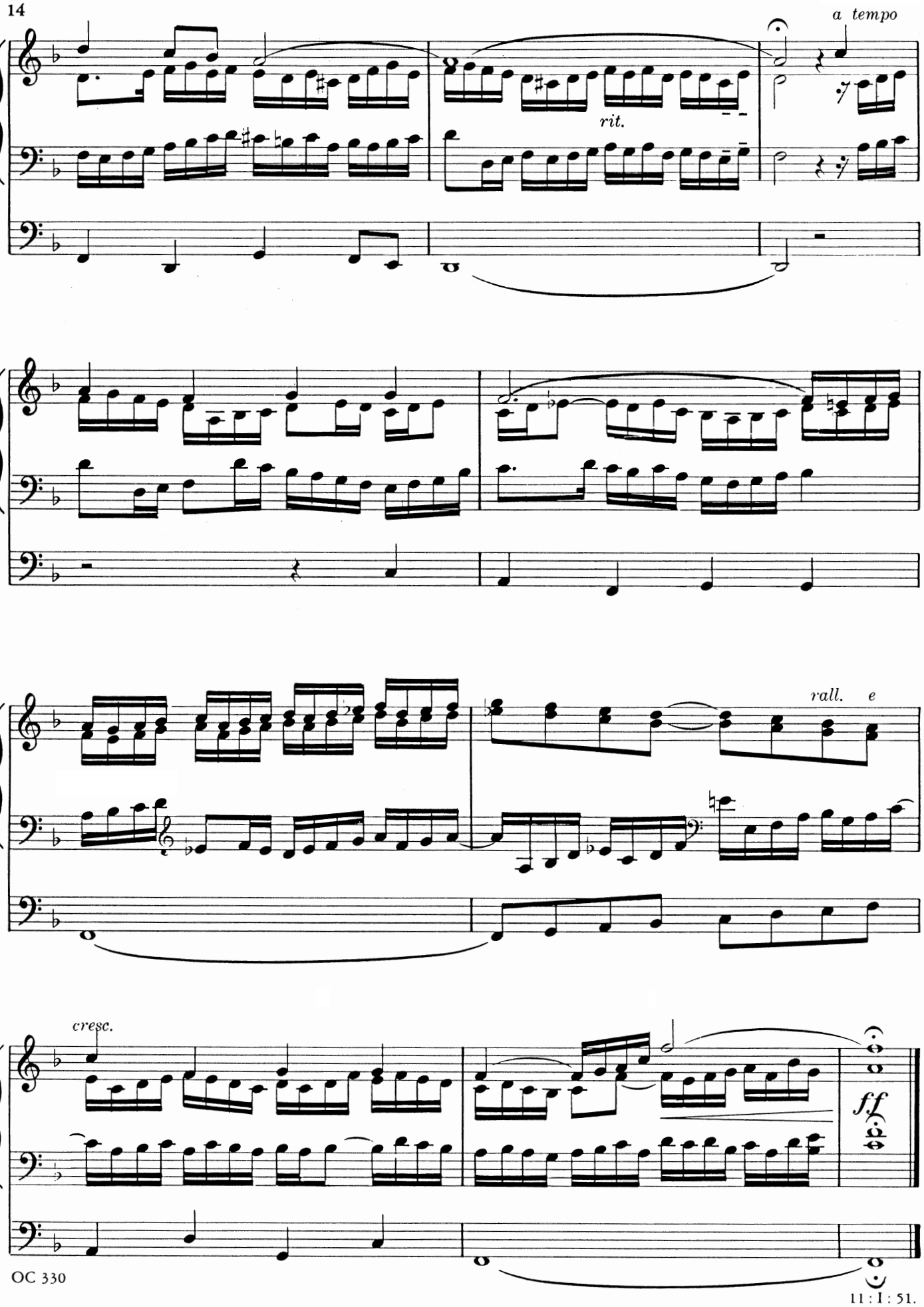

rall.

4. Chorale Prelude

On the Melody "Lobt Gott, ihr Christen"

HEALEY WILLAN

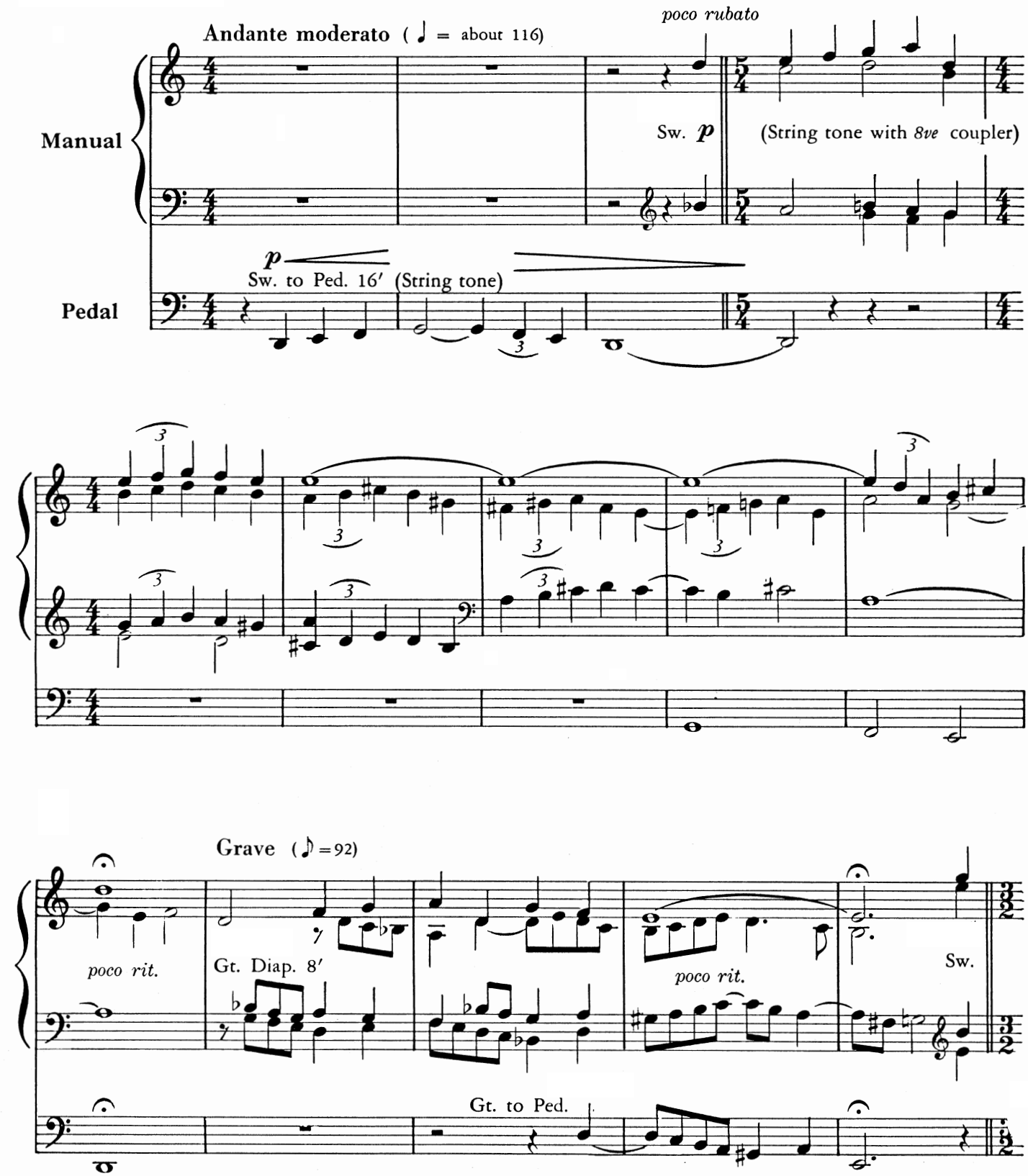


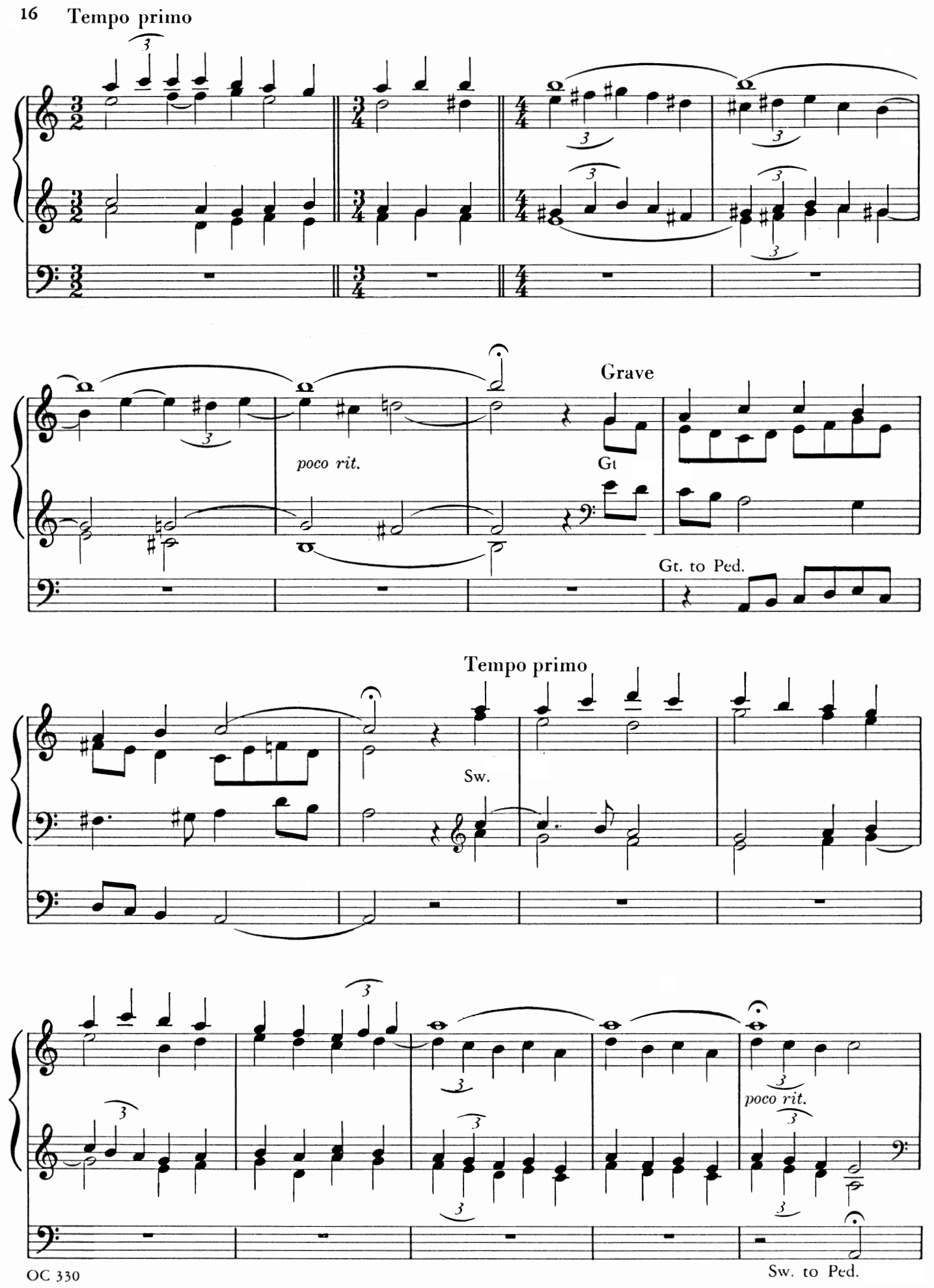

a tempo
rit.
rall.
e
cresc.
ff

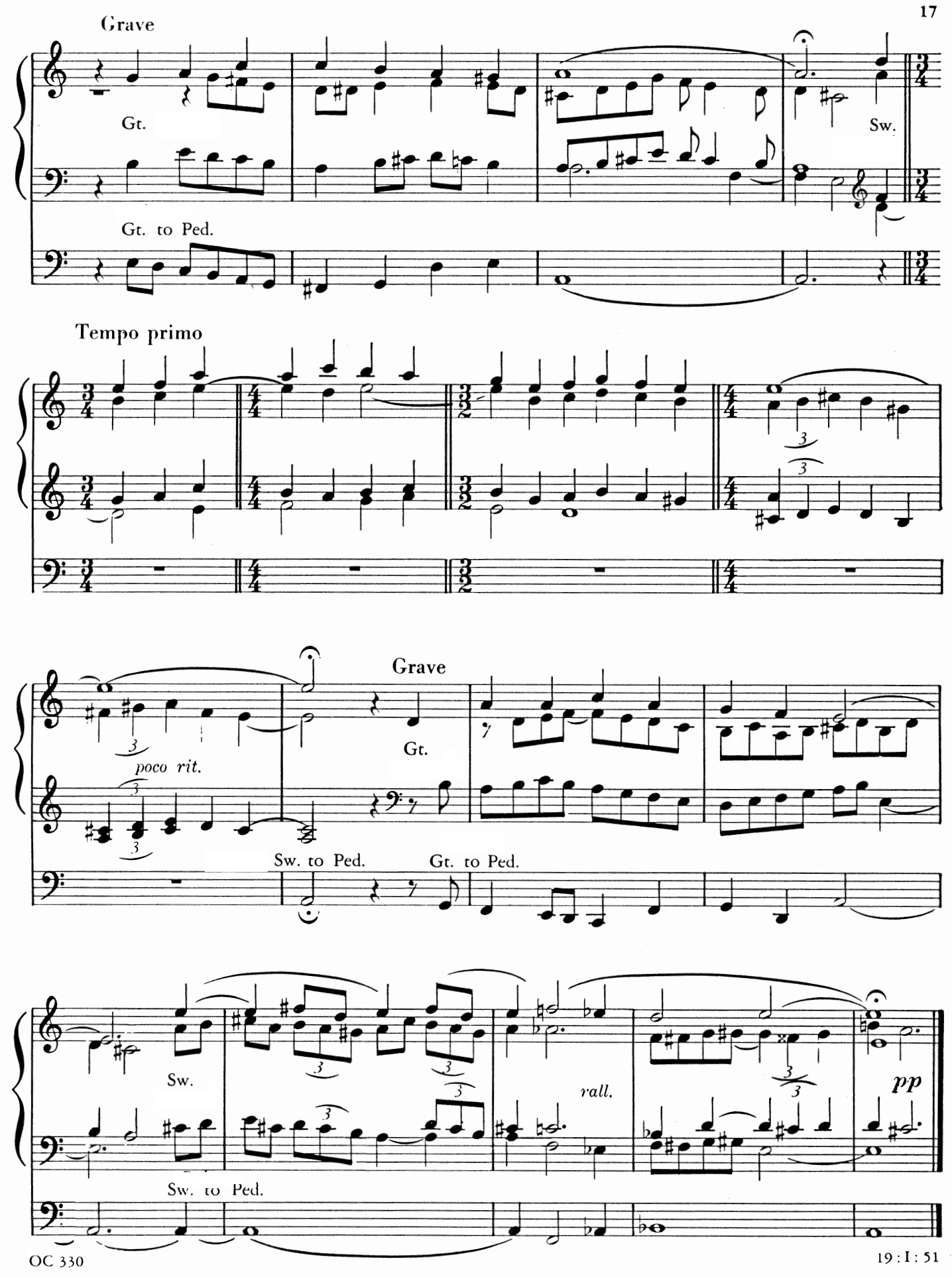
5. Chorale Prelude

On the Melody "Christum wir sollen loben schon"
(Based on the Plainsong Melody "A solis ortus cardine")

HEALEY WILLAN



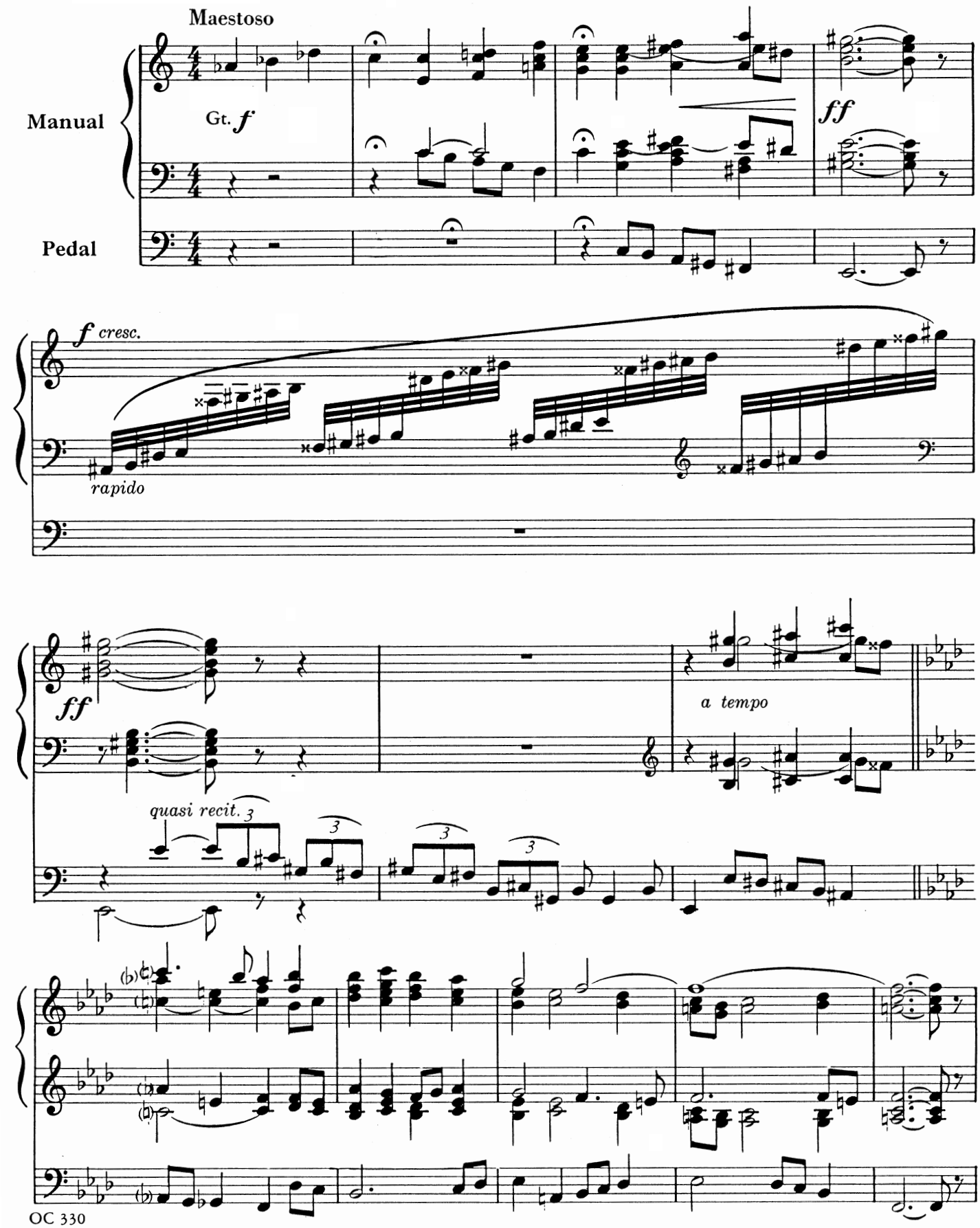

Tempo primo
poco rit.
Grave
Gt
Gt. to Ped.
Tempo primo
Sw.
poco rit.
Sw. to Ped.

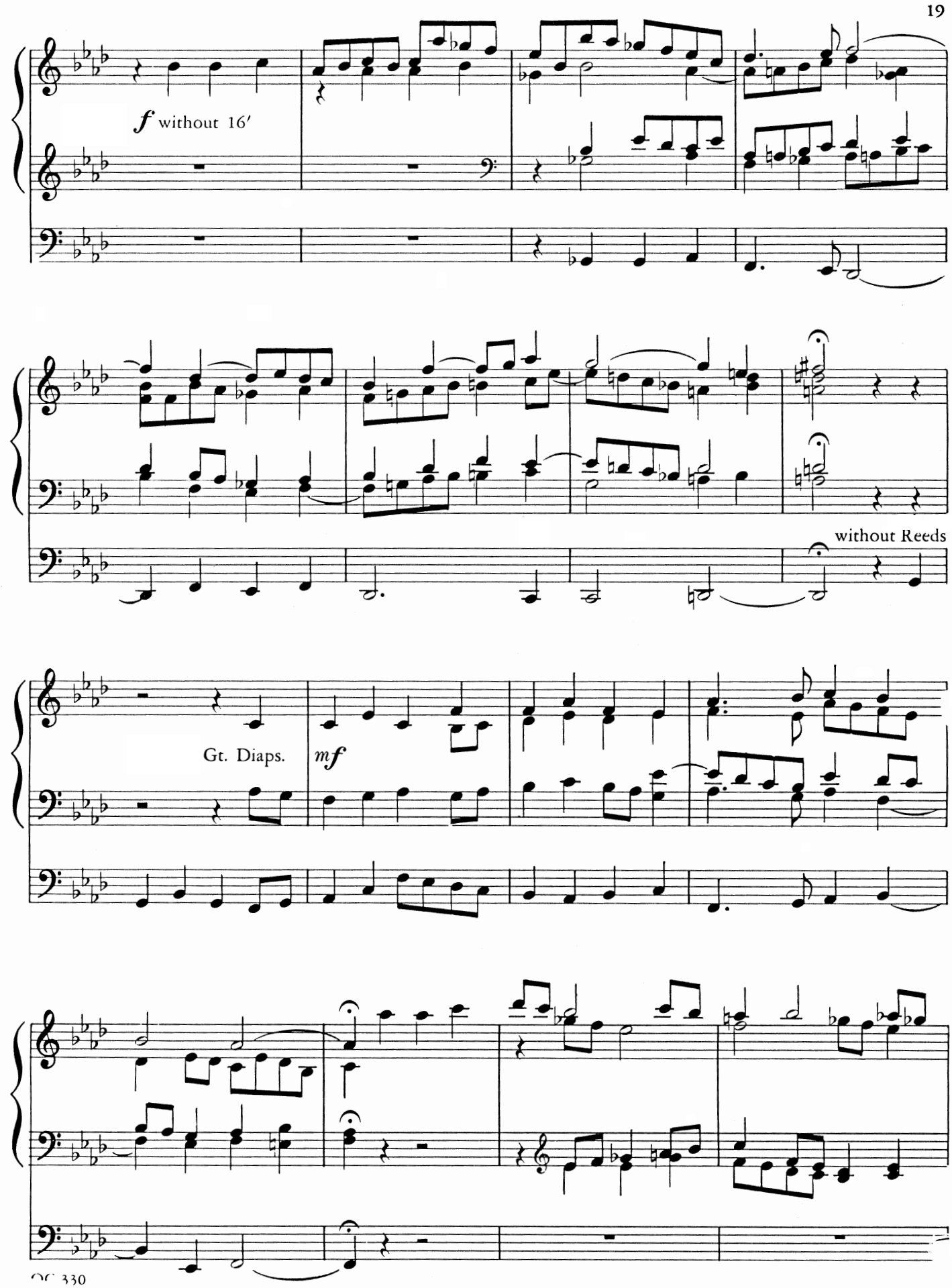

Grave
Gt.
Sw.
Gt. to Ped.
Tempo primo
poco rit.
Grave
Gt.
Sw. to Ped.
Gt. to Ped.
Sw.
rall.
pp
Sw. to Ped.

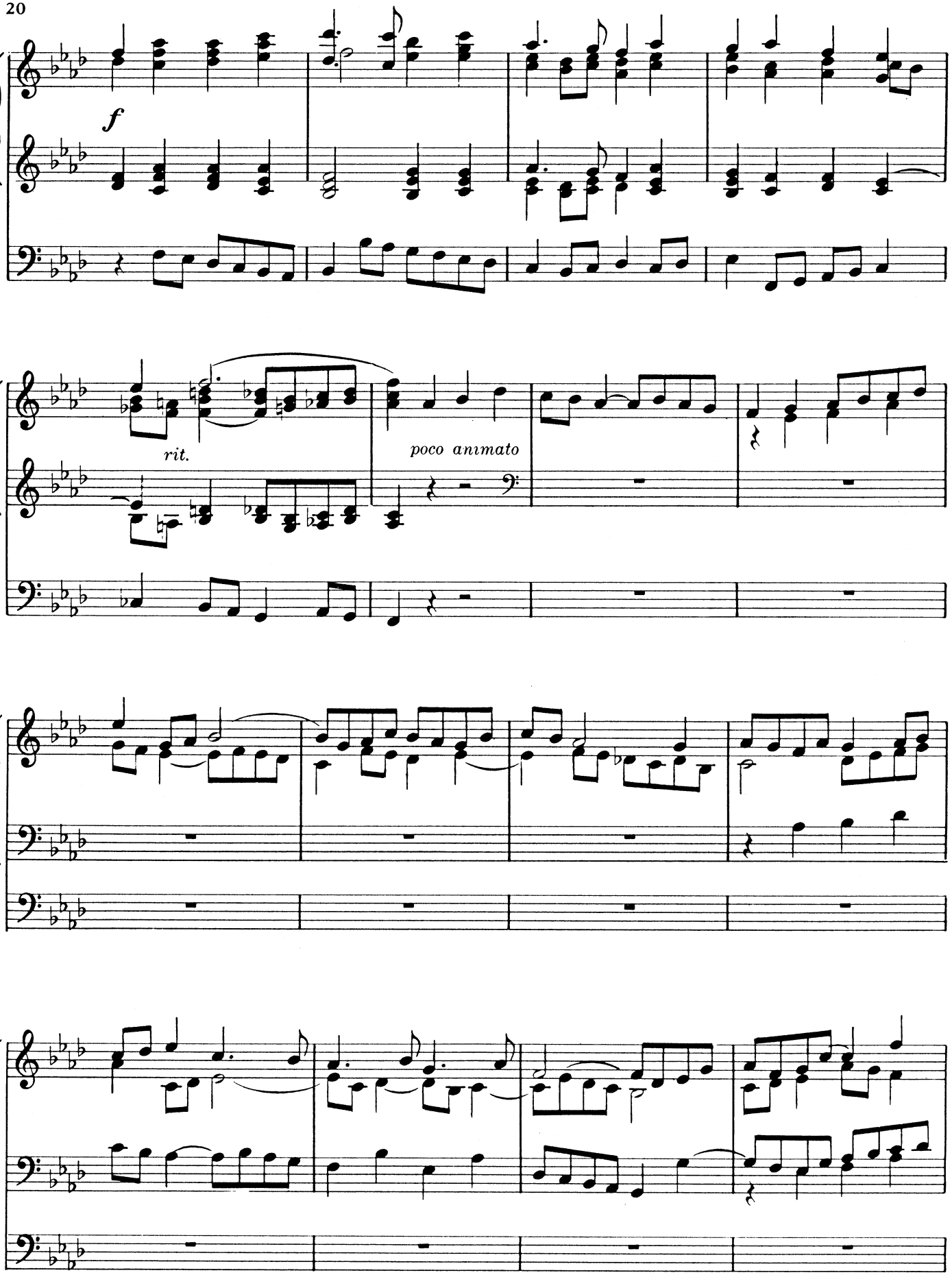
6. Chorale Prelude

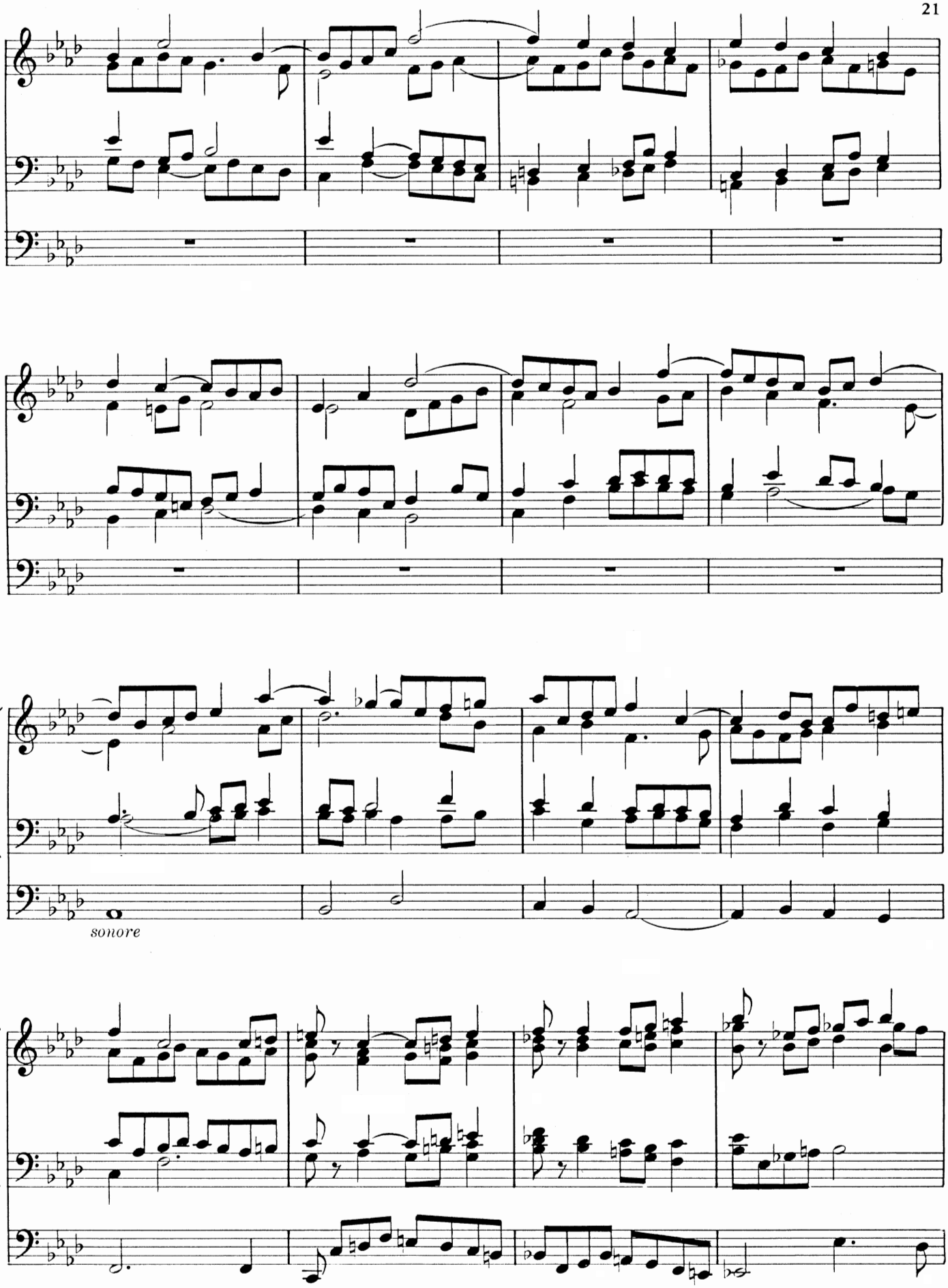
On the Melody "Vexilla Regis"

HEALEY WILLAN




f without 16′
without Reeds
Gt. Diaps.
mf


f
rit.
poco animato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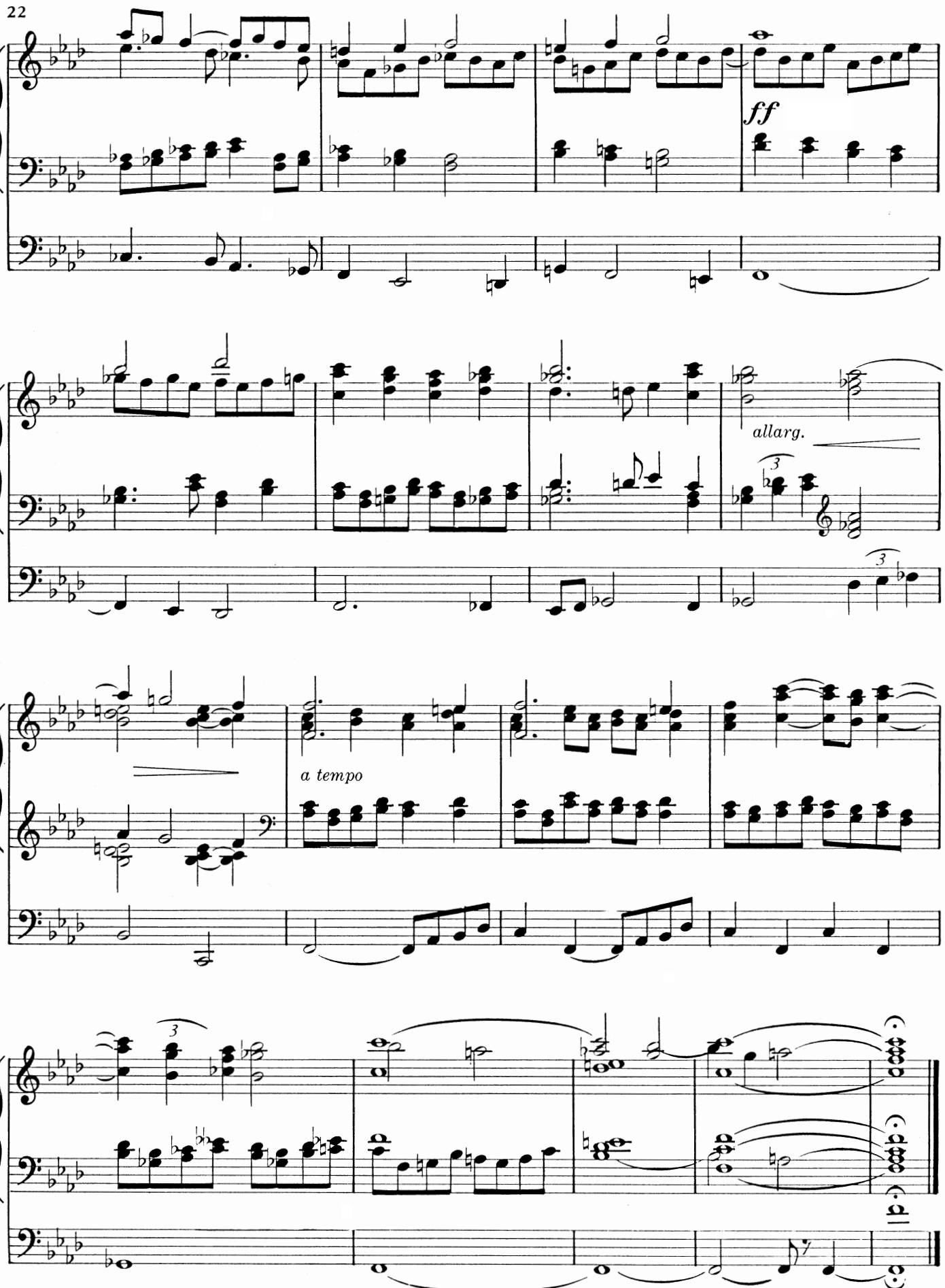
ff
allarg.
a tempo