The Violet

Henry Leslie
(1822-1896)

Henry David Leslie (1822-1896) was born in London, England. He studied the cello as a youth, later playing in the Sacred Harmonic Society. In 1855, he organized an a cappella singing society. The society grew to 200 voices and became known as "Henry Leslie's Choir." The choir won numerous international competition prizes and enjoyed a strong reputation for singing unaccompanied music, both ancient and modern. He also became conductor of the Guild of Amateur Musicians. In 1864, Leslie established a National College of Music, but the college survived only two years. In 1878, Leslie and others made another attempt to form a national music school. This effort was successful, becoming the predecessor of the Royal College of Music. After he retired, he founded the Oswestry School of Music and its Festival of Village Choirs. Throughout his life, he was a champion of amateur choral musicians. He composed symphonies, oratorios, sacred works as well as chamber music, piano music and many part-songs.

Gentle daughter of the year,
Violet! fairest gem of spring,
Blooming by the streamlet clear,
Fann'd by Zephyr's balmy wing.

Violet! Violet! thy leaves unclose,
Waft thy sweets in dewy air,
Though we prize the blushing rose,
Thou art still beyond compare.

Why unheeded waste thy day
Violet! brief is beauty's transient hour,
Cruel time brooks no delay
To be wooed be thine lone flower.

Violet! Violet! so gently sweet.
Haste thy treasures to impart.
From thy cool and loved retreat,
Glad the eye and cheer the heart.

Lowly Herald of the Spring!
Violet! from thy fairy circled shrine,
Come on incense breathing wing,
Ere thy fleeting charms decline.

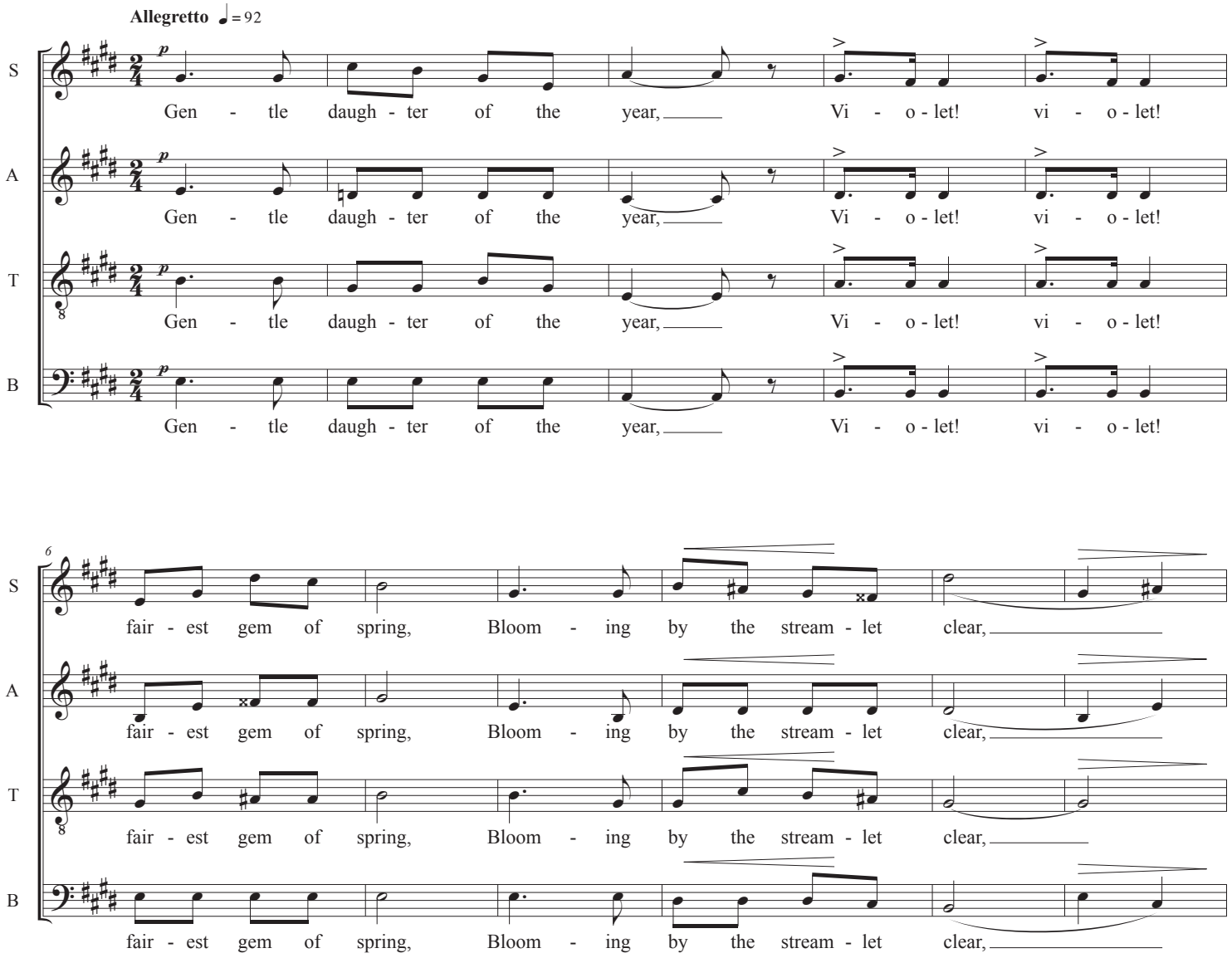
Welcome then the noontide ray.
Drink with joy the golden light,
Beams unfold and pass away
Darker grows the coming night.

Violet! Lowly Herald of the Spring.

Eliza Pudsey Freake (1822-1900)
Wife of Sir Charles James Freake (1814-1884)

The Violet

Henry Leslie



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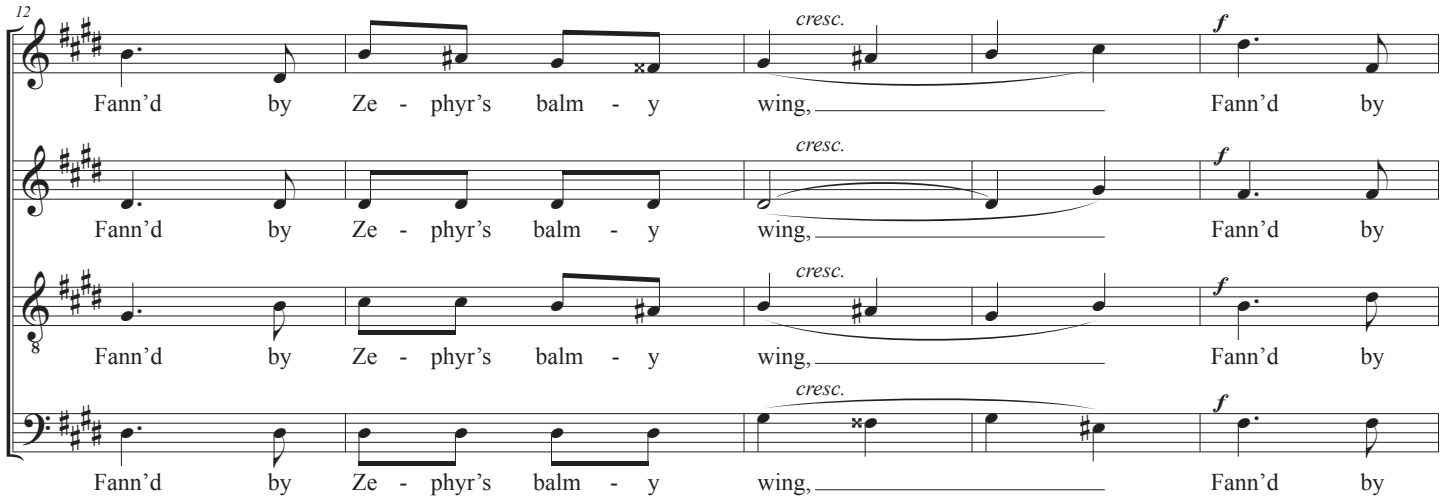
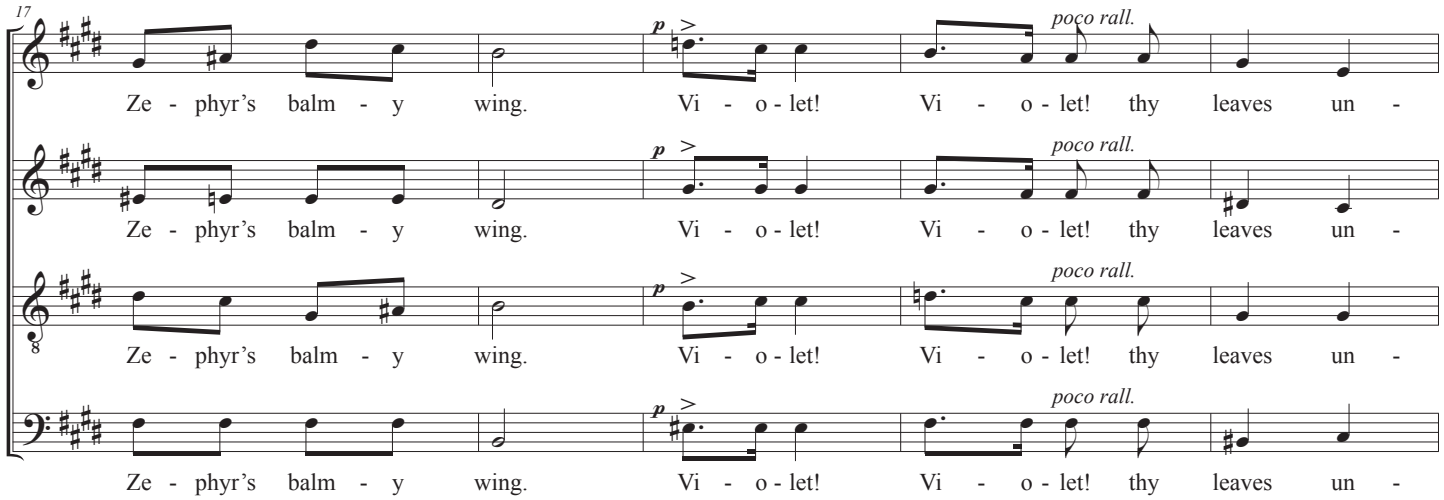
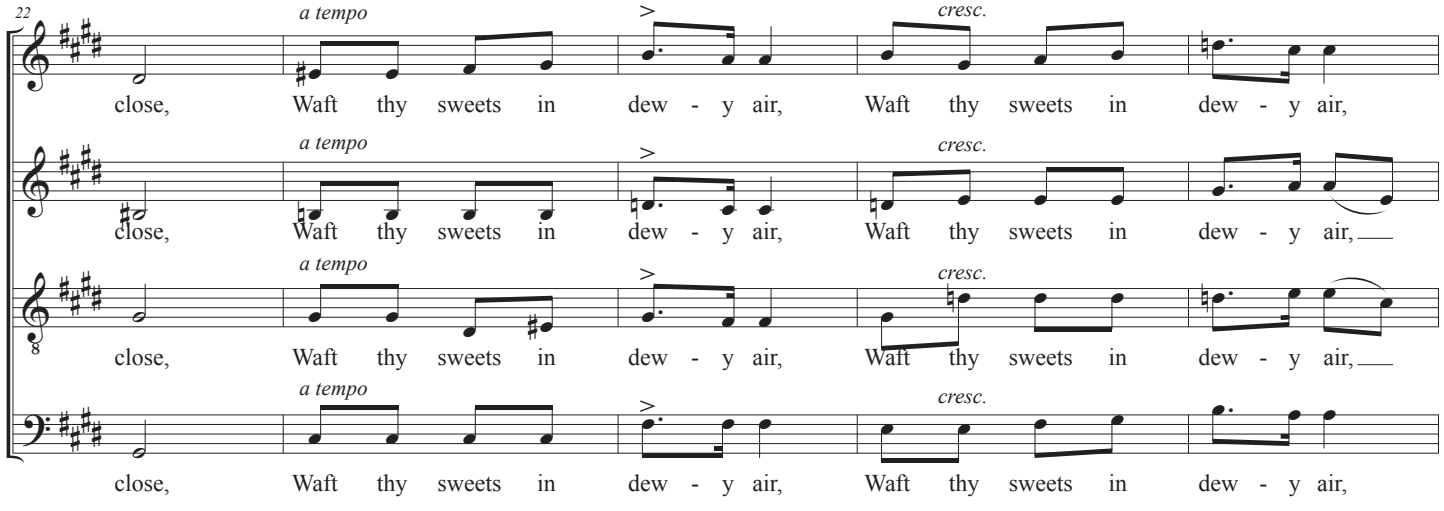
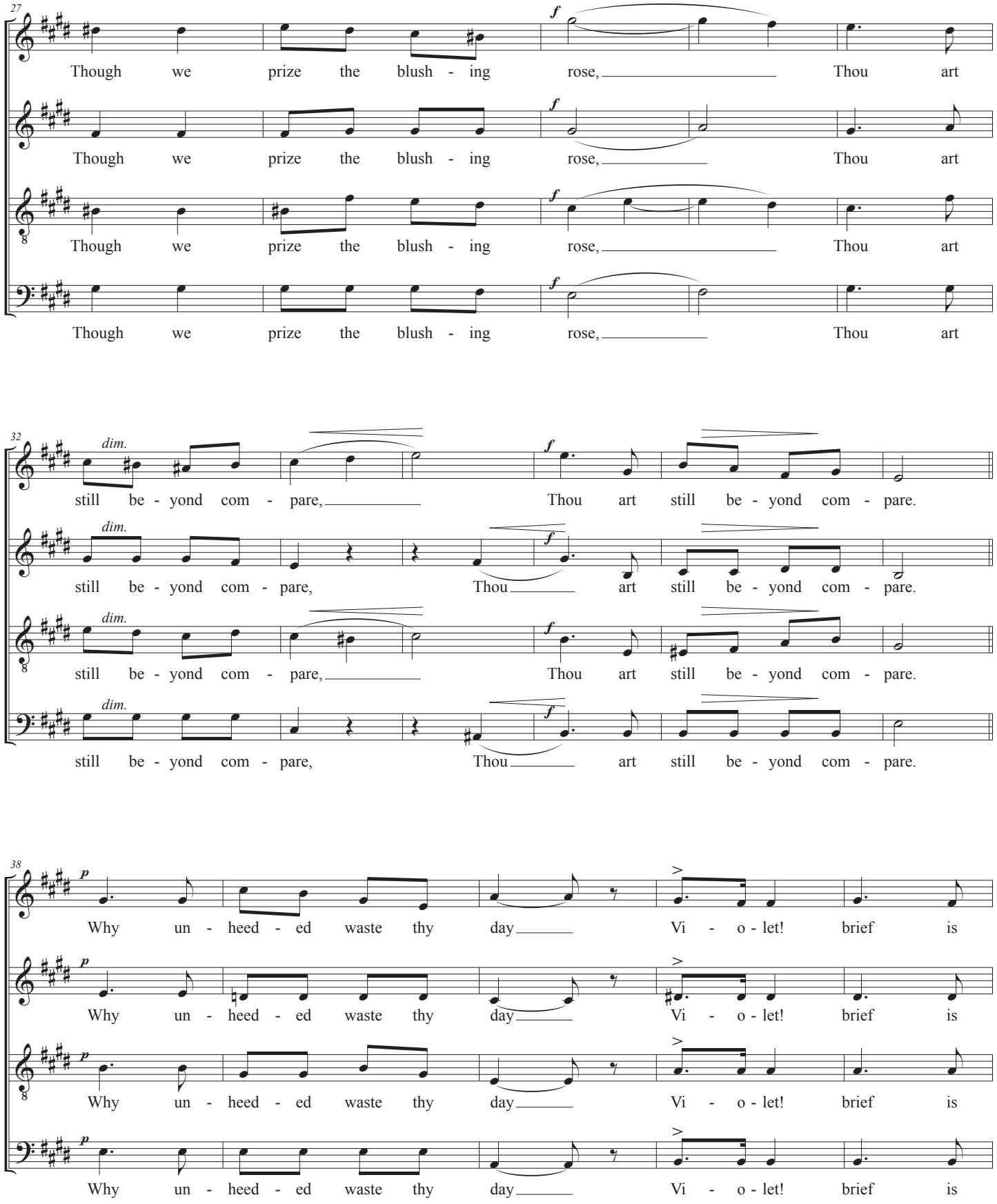
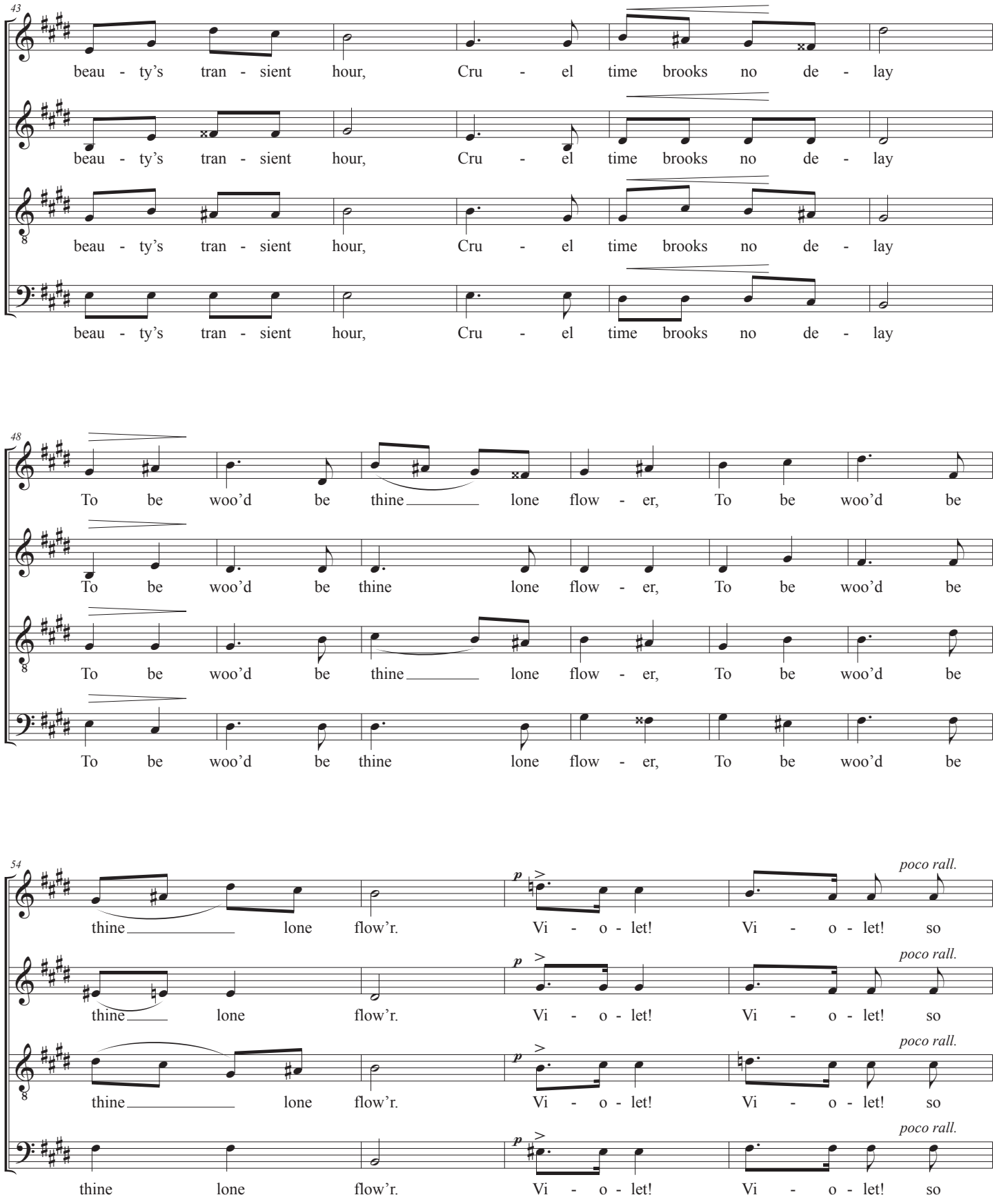
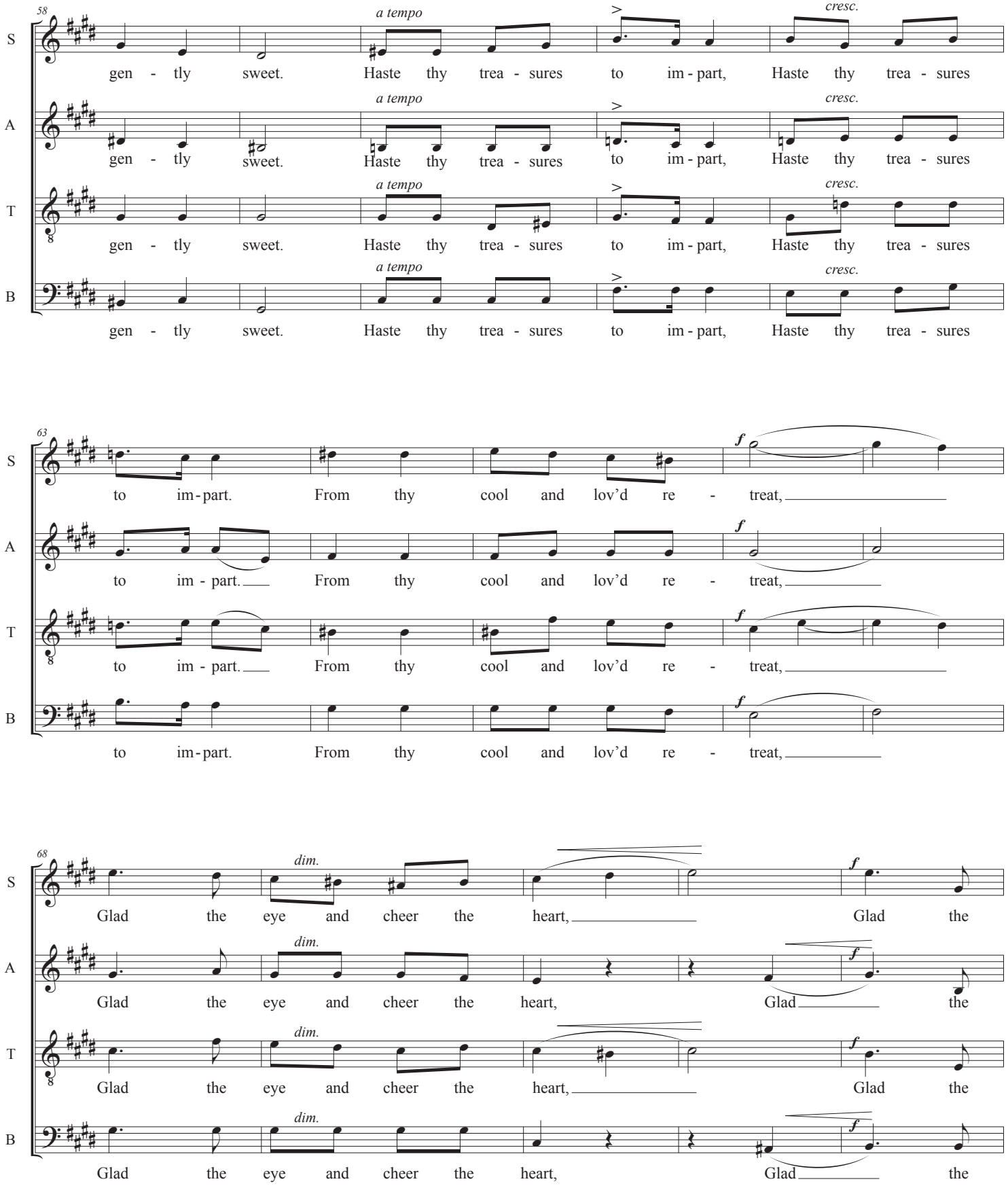

12
S
A
T
B
cresc.
f
Fann'd by Ze - phyr's balm - y wing, Fann'd by

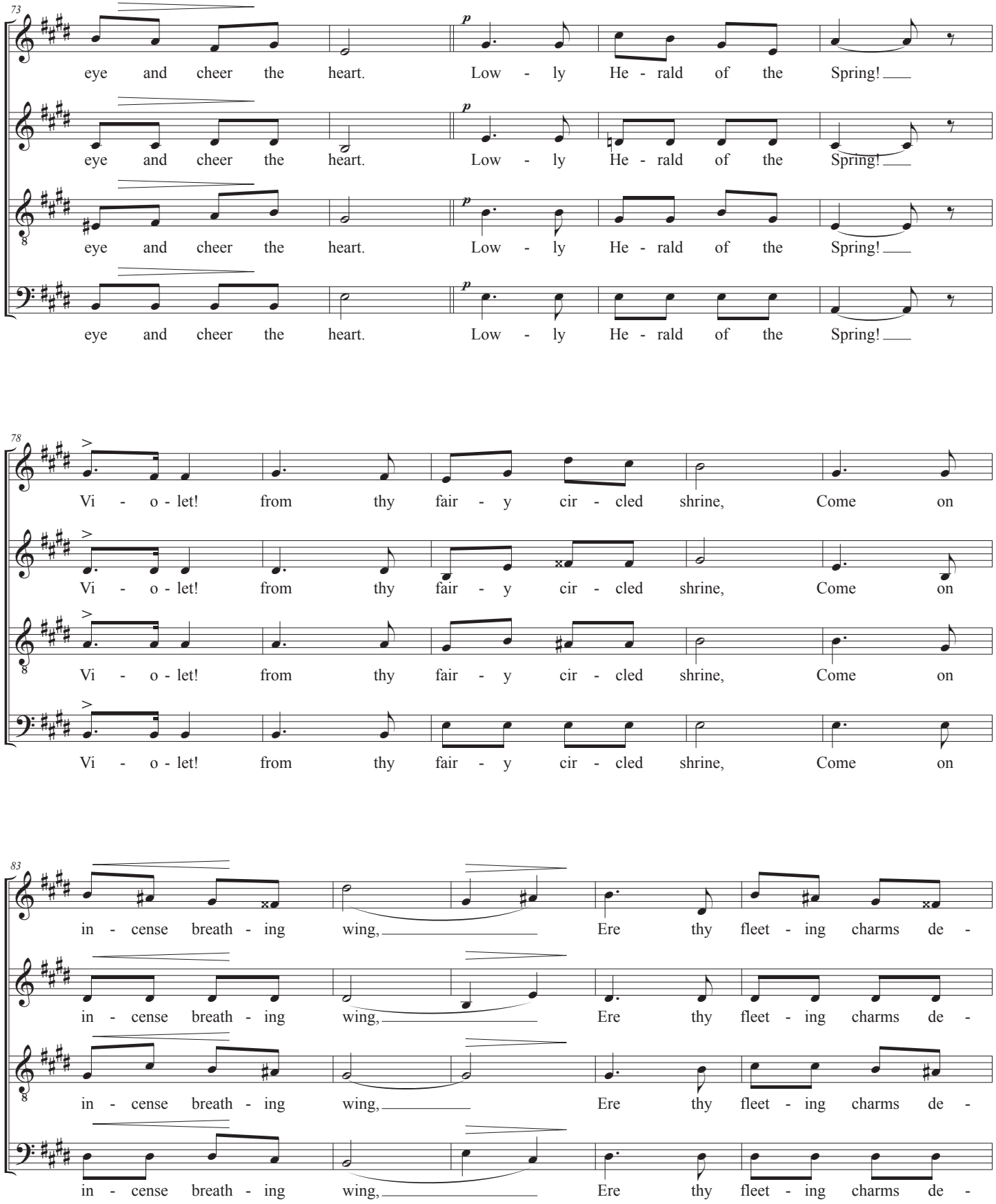

17
S
A
T
B
p
poco rall.
Ze - phyr's balm - y wing. Vi - o - let! Vi - o - let! thy leaves un -

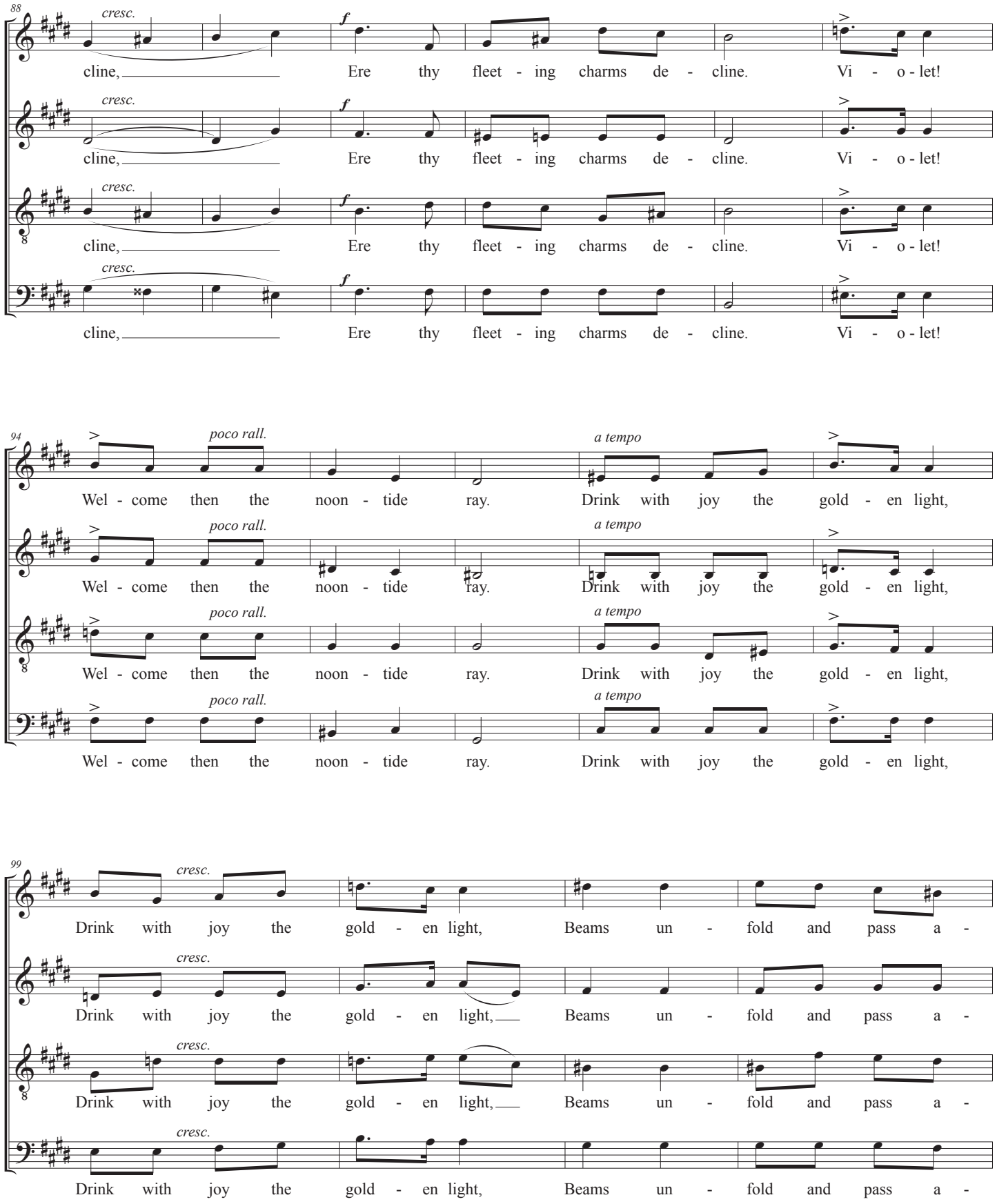

22
S
A
T
B
a tempo
cresc.
close, Waft thy sweets in dew - y air, Waft thy sweets in dew - y air,

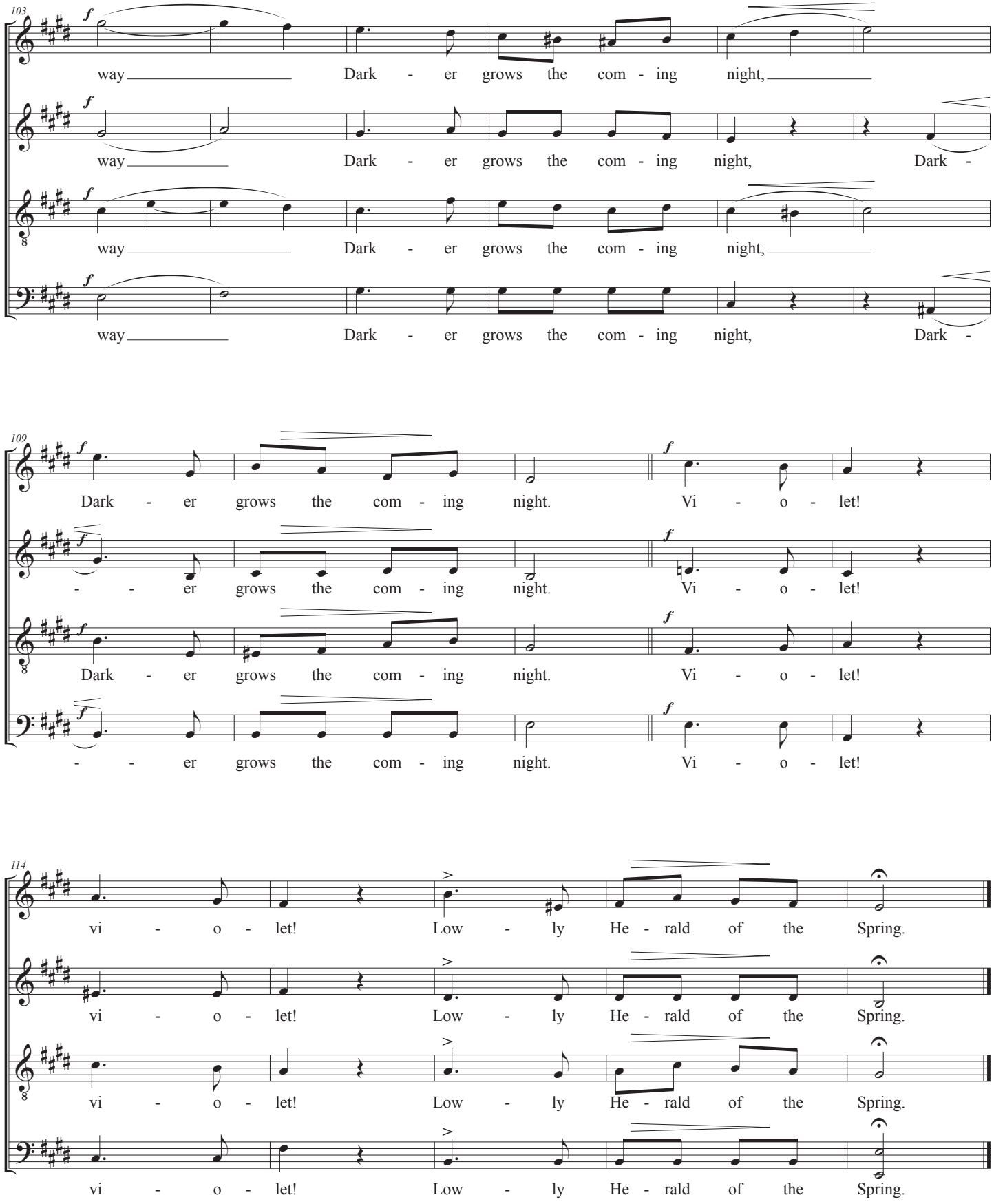

27
S
A
T
B
Though we prize the blush - ing rose, Thou art
32
dim.
still be - yond com - pare, Thou art still be - yond com - pare.
38
Why un - heed - ed waste thy day Vi - o - let! brief is


43
S
A
T
B
beau - ty's tran - sient hour, Cru - el time brooks no de - lay
48
To be woo'd be thine lone flow - er, To be woo'd be
54
thine lone flow'r. Vi - o - let! Vi - o - let! so
p
poco rall.


58
a tempo
cresc.
S
A
T
B
gen - tly sweet. Haste thy trea - sures to im - part, Haste thy trea - sures
63
f
to im - part. From thy cool and lov'd re - treat,
68
dim.
Glad the eye and cheer the heart, Glad the


73
S
A
T
B
eye and cheer the heart. Low - ly He - rald of the Spring!
78
Vi - o - let! from thy fair - y cir - cled shrine, Come on
83
in - cense breath - ing wing, Ere thy fleet - ing charms de -


88
cresc.
f
S
cline, Ere thy fleet - ing charms de - cline. Vi - o - let!
A
cline, Ere thy fleet - ing charms de - cline. Vi - o - let!
T
cline, Ere thy fleet - ing charms de - cline. Vi - o - let!
B
cline, Ere thy fleet - ing charms de - cline. Vi - o - let!
94
poco rall.
a tempo
Wel - come then the noon - tide ray. Drink with joy the gold - en light,
99
cresc.
Drink with joy the gold - en light, Beams un - fold and pass a -



Novello, Ewer, and Co.
(1875-1890)

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