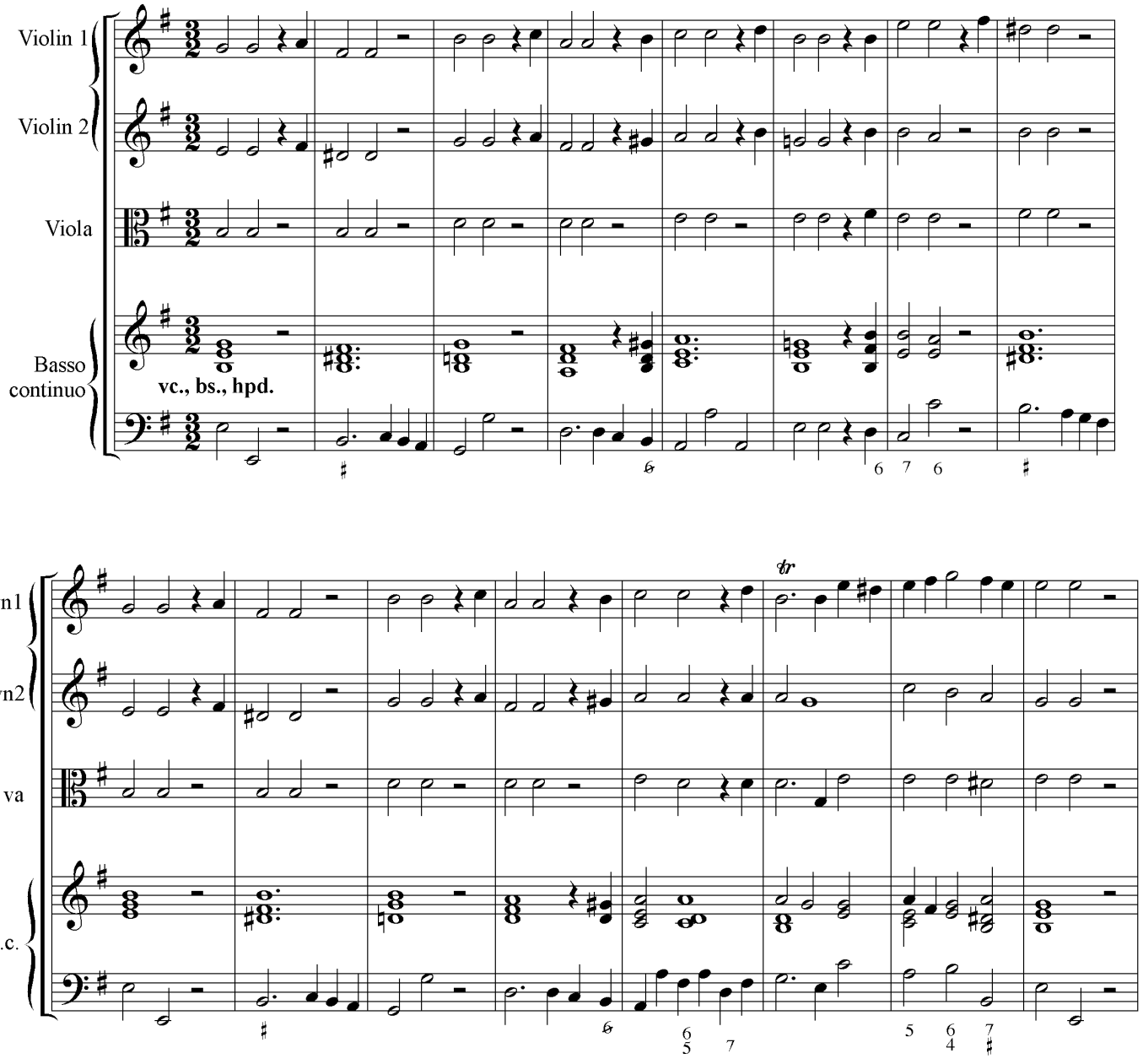
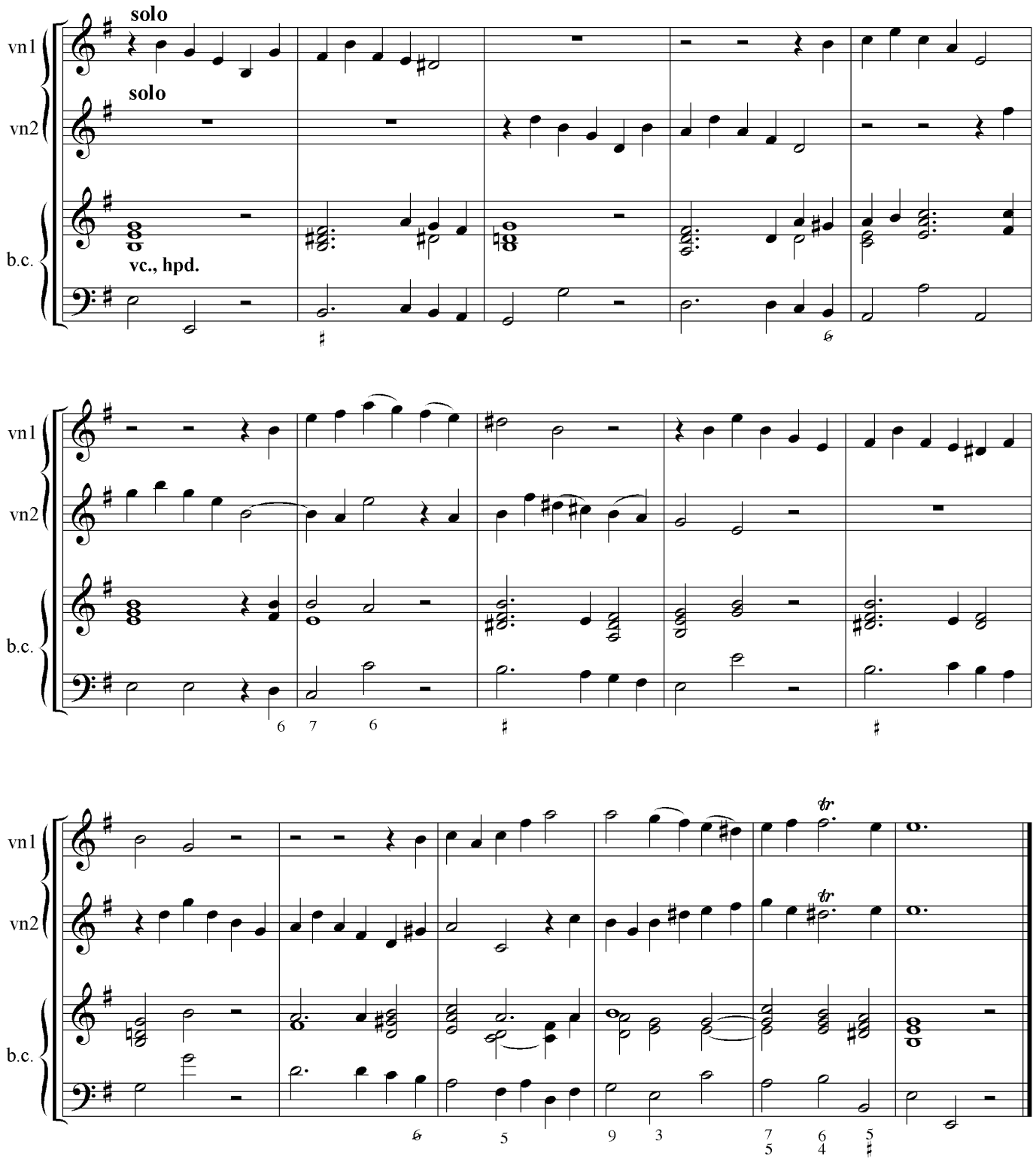
Songs in The Beggar's Opera by John Gay

Act 3

[Before the act: Sarabande]



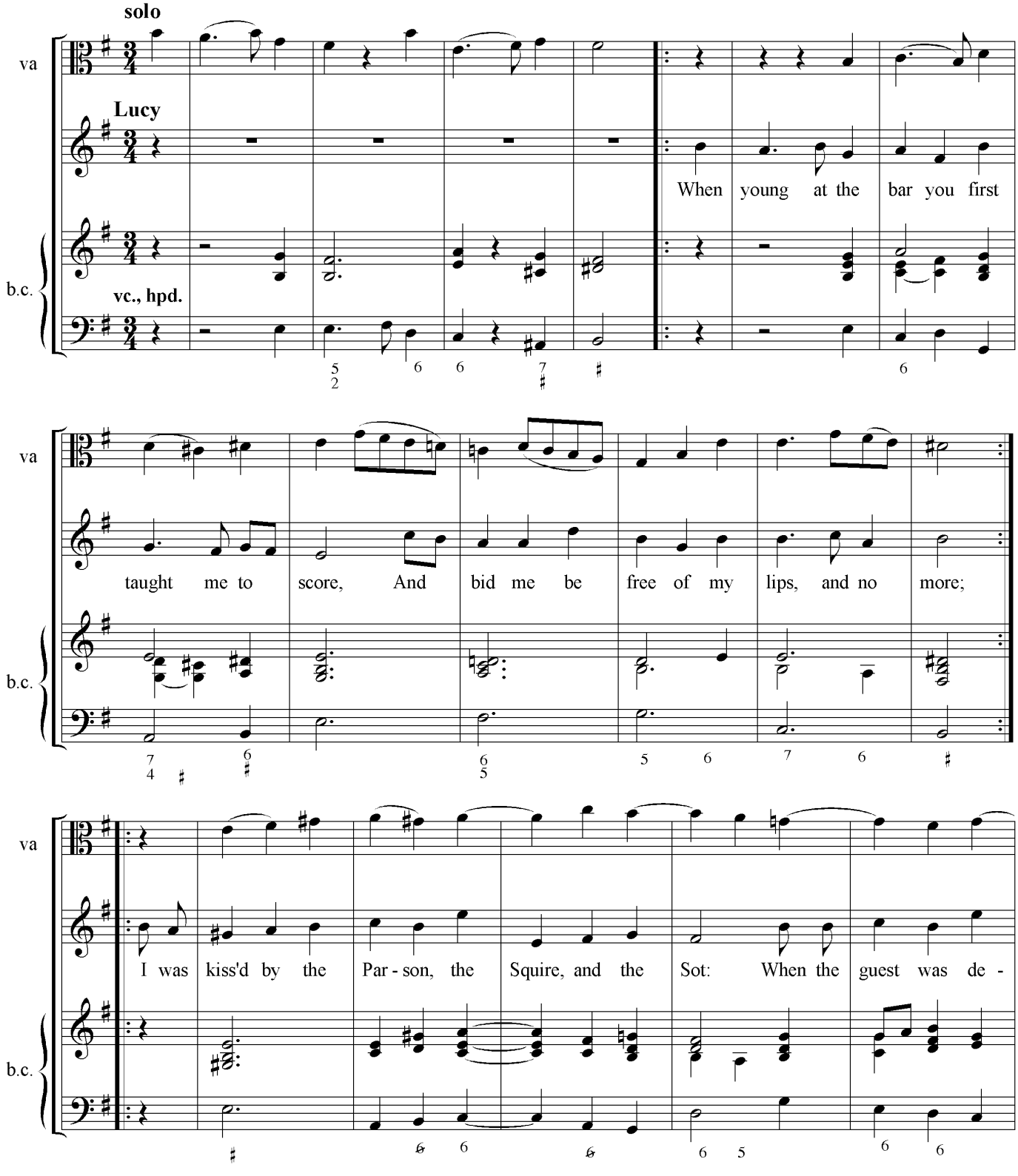


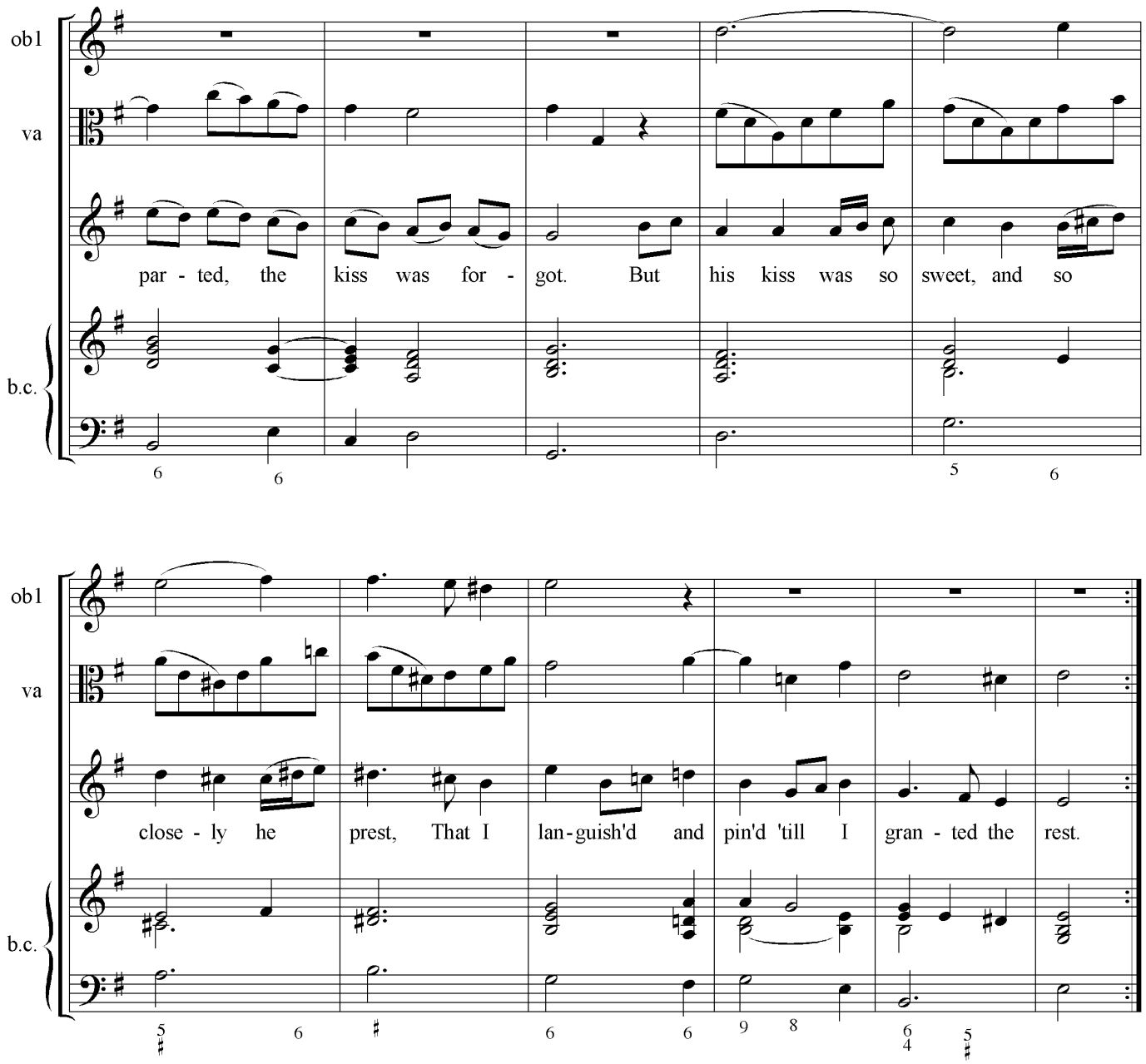
Sarabanda da capo se piace.

Air 41. If Love's a sweet passion

Cue: Dear sir, mention not my education, for to that I owe my ruin.

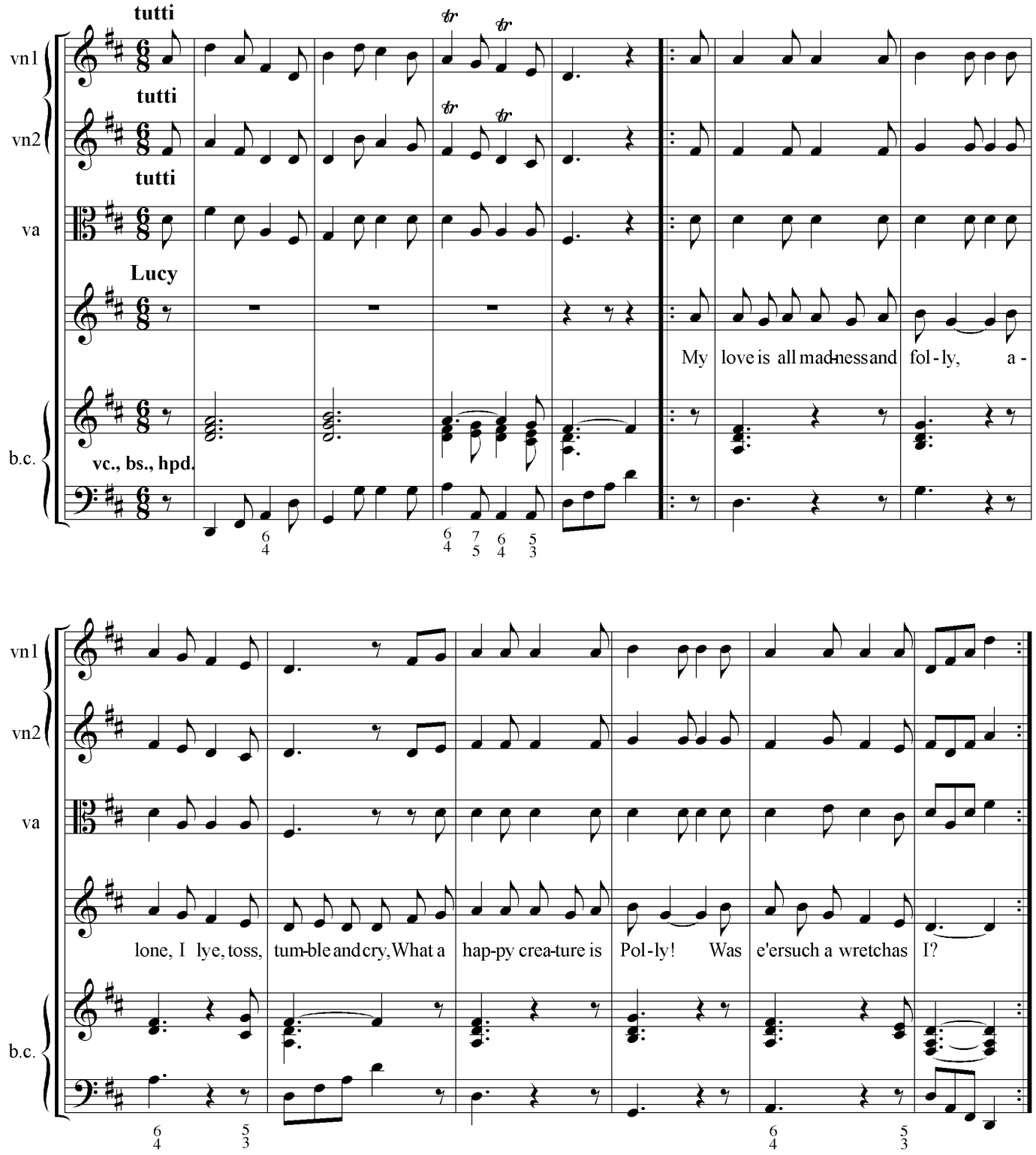
solo

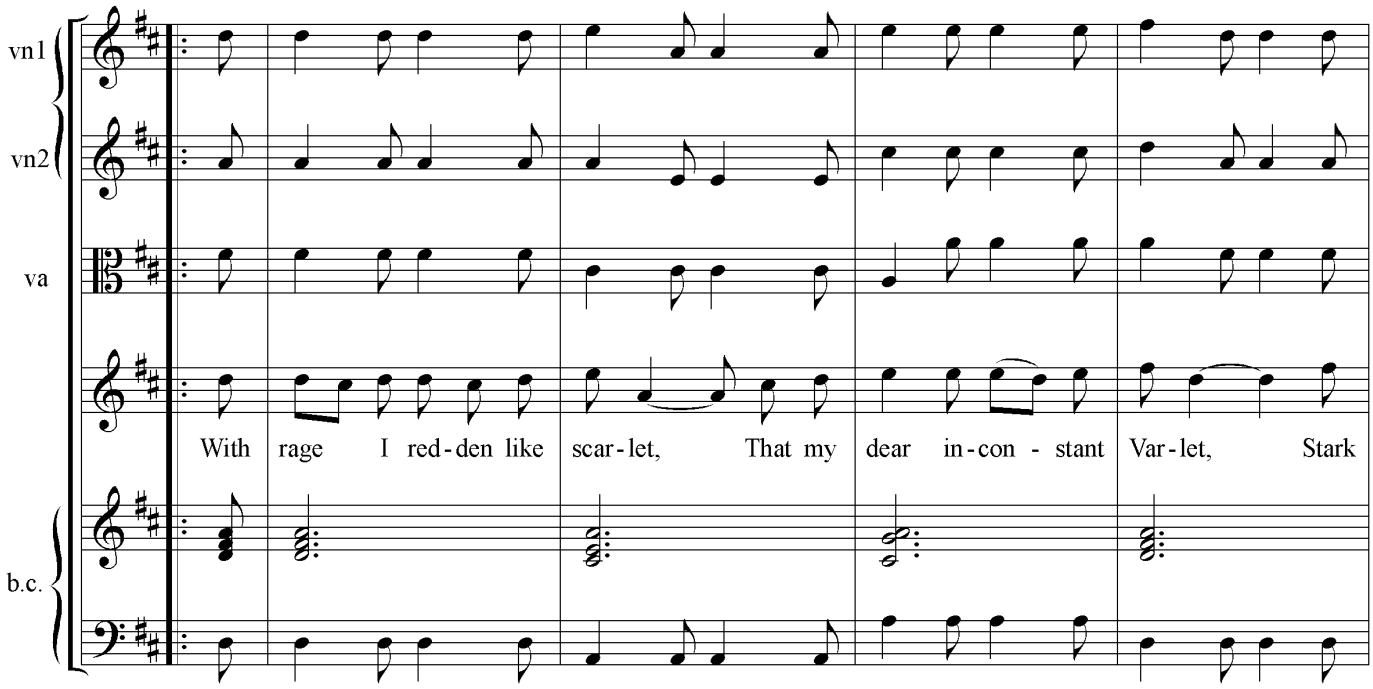


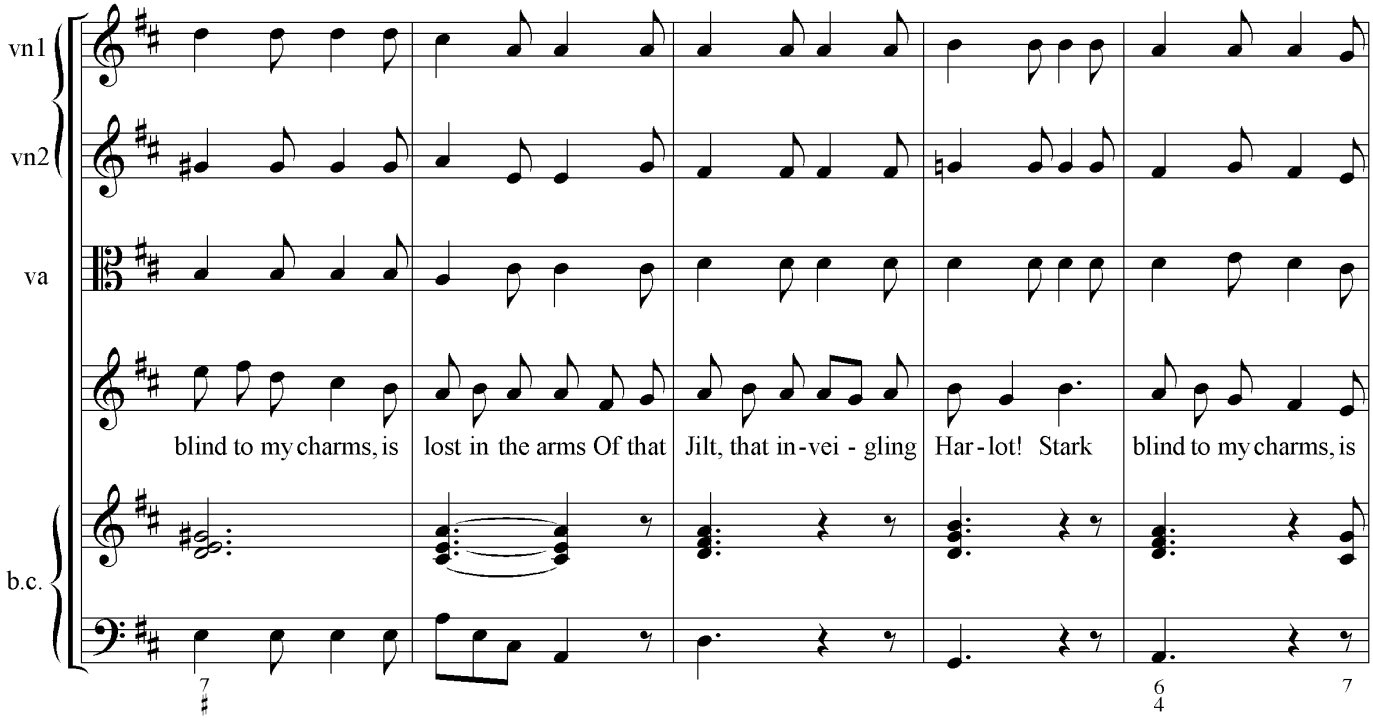

ob1
va
b.c.
par - ted, the kiss was for - got. But his kiss was so sweet, and so
close - ly he prest, That I lan-guish'd and pin'd 'till I gran - ted the rest.

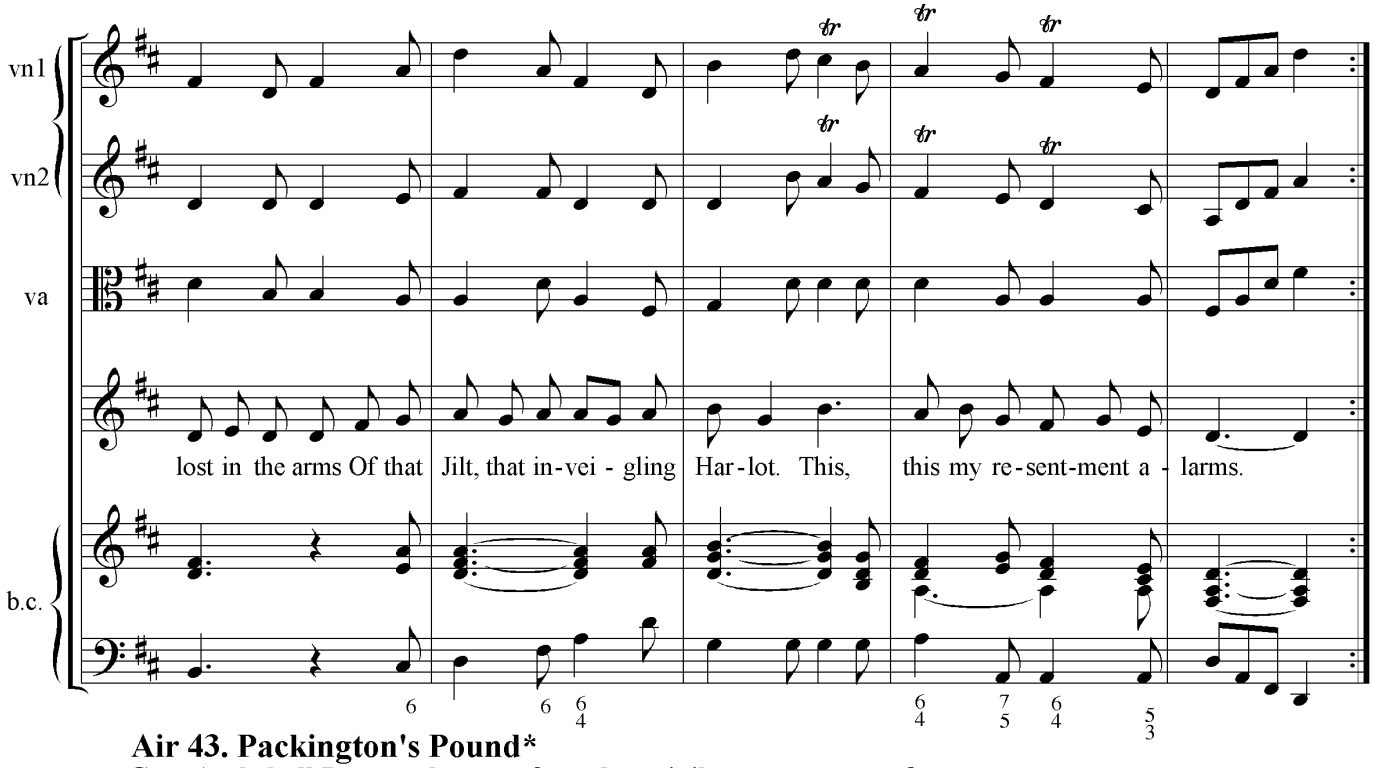
Air 42. South Sea Ballad [originally in C]

Cue: I gave him his life . . . Ungrateful Macheath!




vn1
vn2
va
With rage I red-den like scar-let, That my dear in-con - stant Var-let, Stark
b.c.

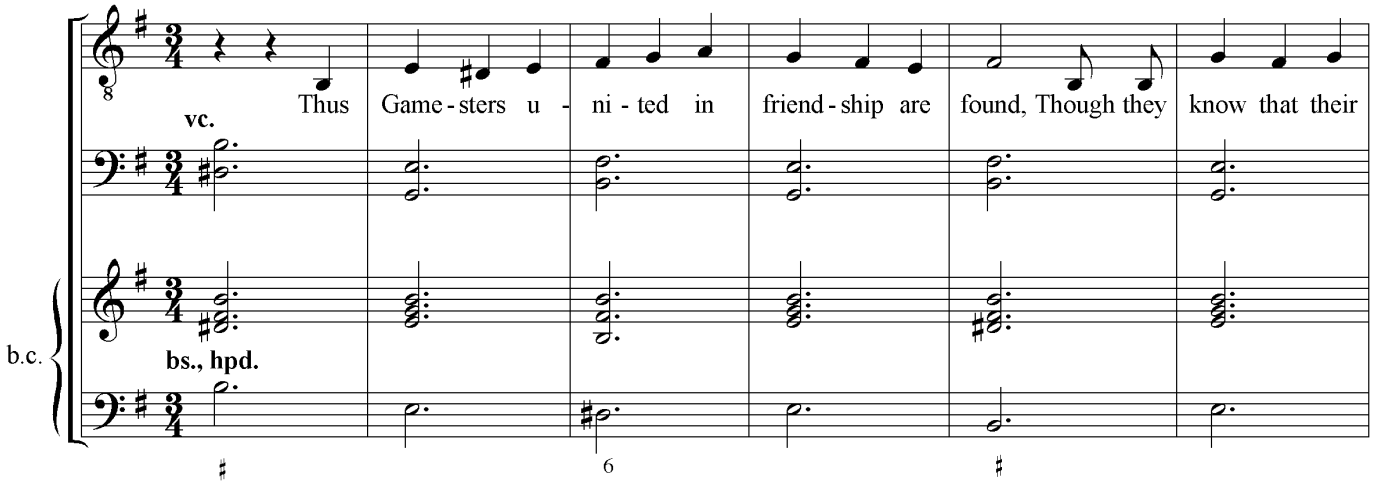

vn1
vn2
va
blind to my charms, is lost in the arms Of that Jilt, that in-vei - gling Har-lot! Stark blind to my charms, is
b.c.
7
6
4
7



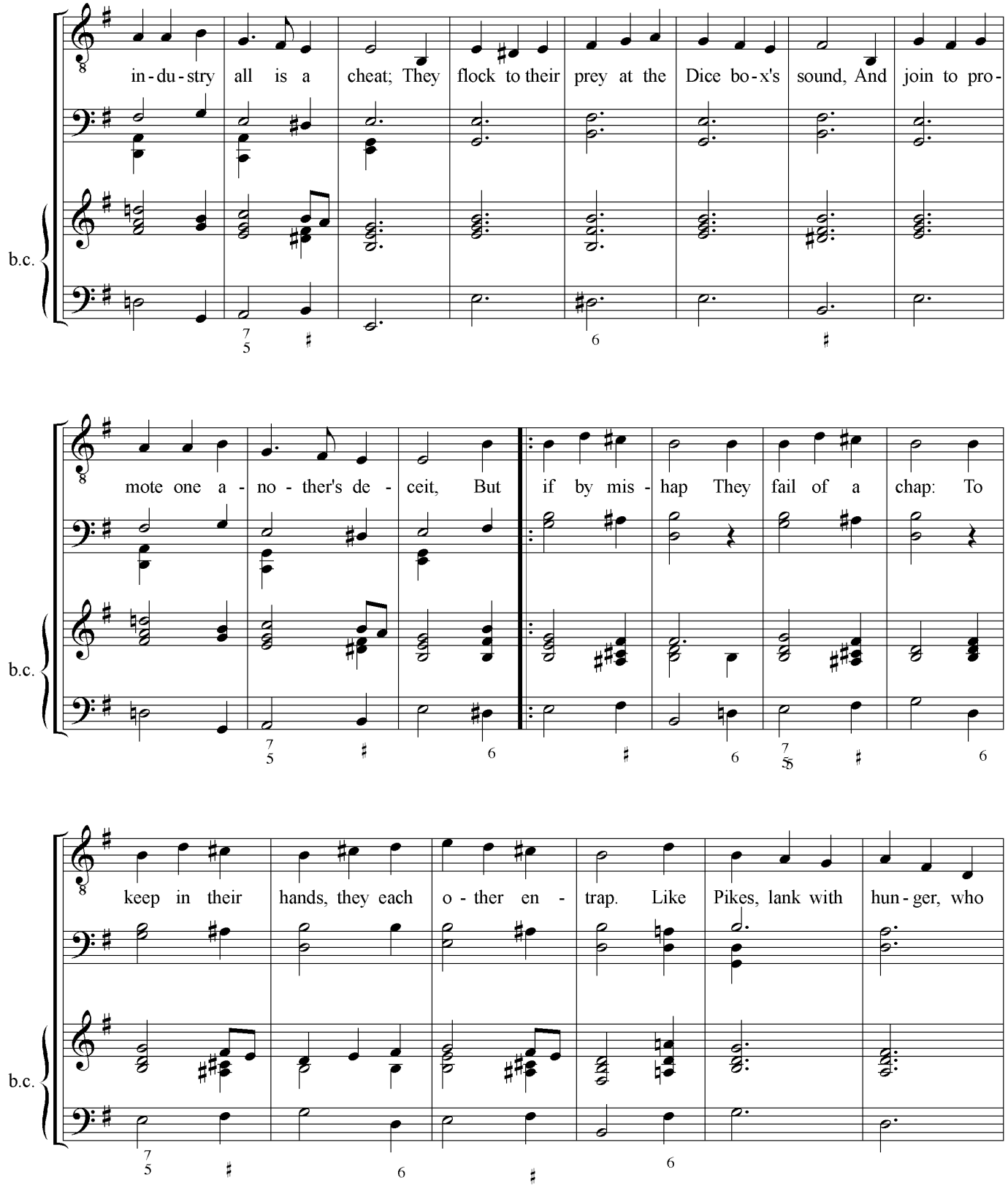
Air 43. Packington's Pound*

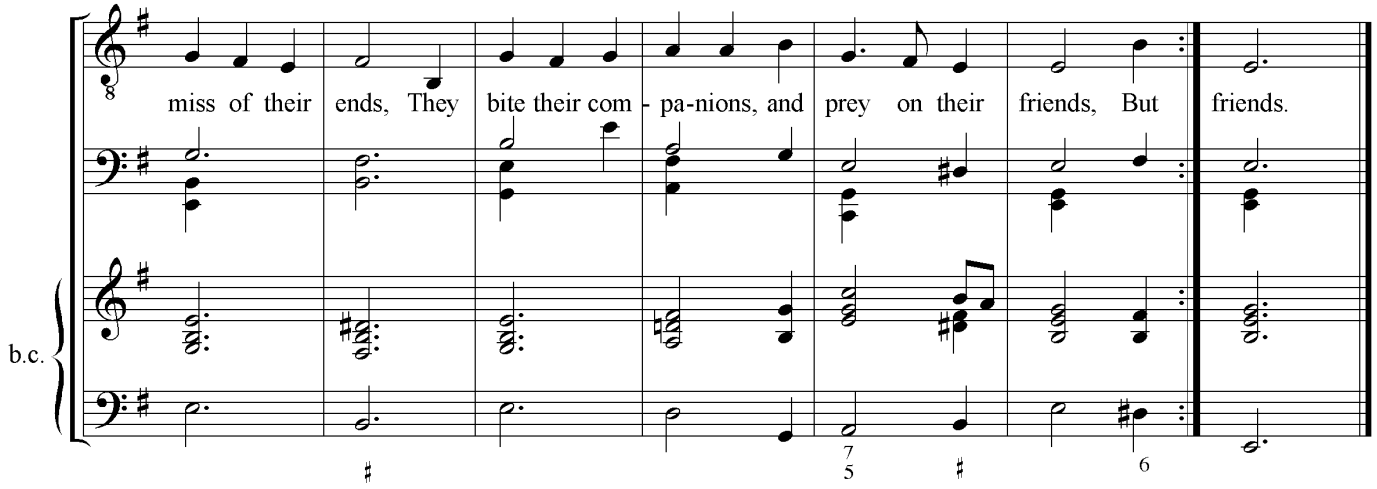
Cue: And shall I not make use of . . . the privilege . . . a return?

Lockit



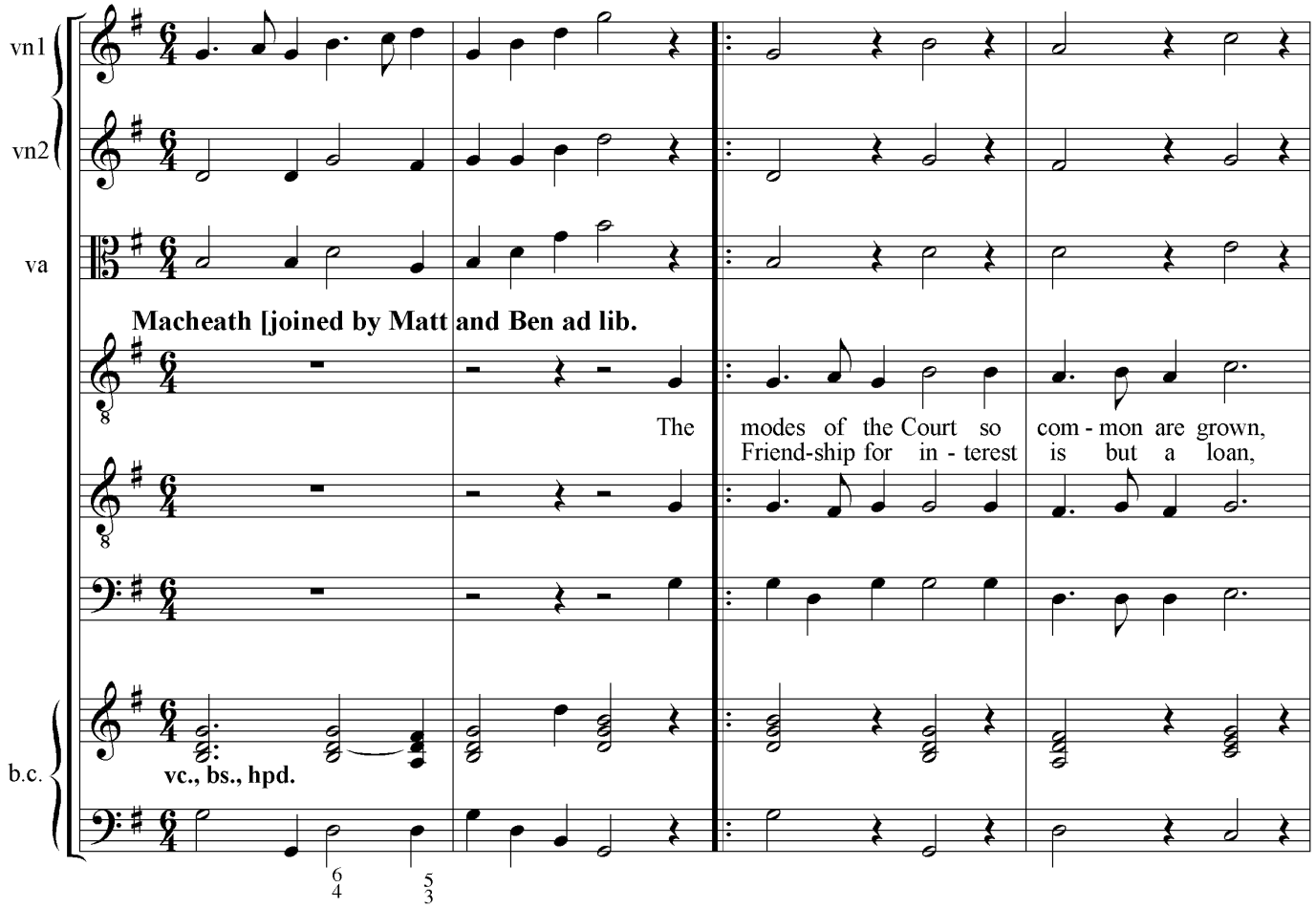
*Ooriginally in G minor.

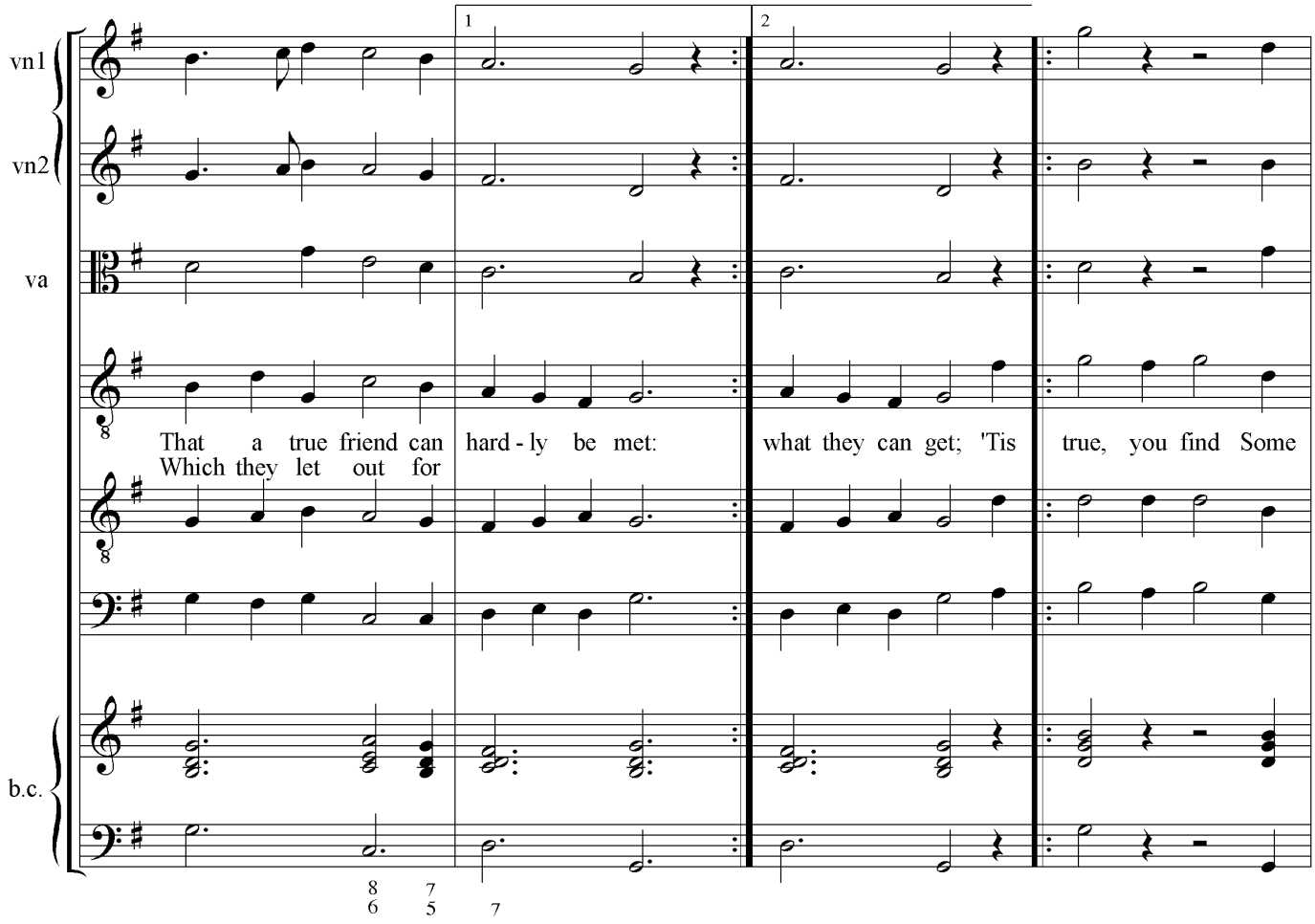

in-du-stry all is a cheat; They flock to their prey at the Dice bo-x's sound, And join to pro-
mote one a-no-ther's de-ceit, But if by mis-hap They fail of a chap: To
keep in their hands, they each o-ther en-trap. Like Pikes, lank with hun-ger, who
b.c.

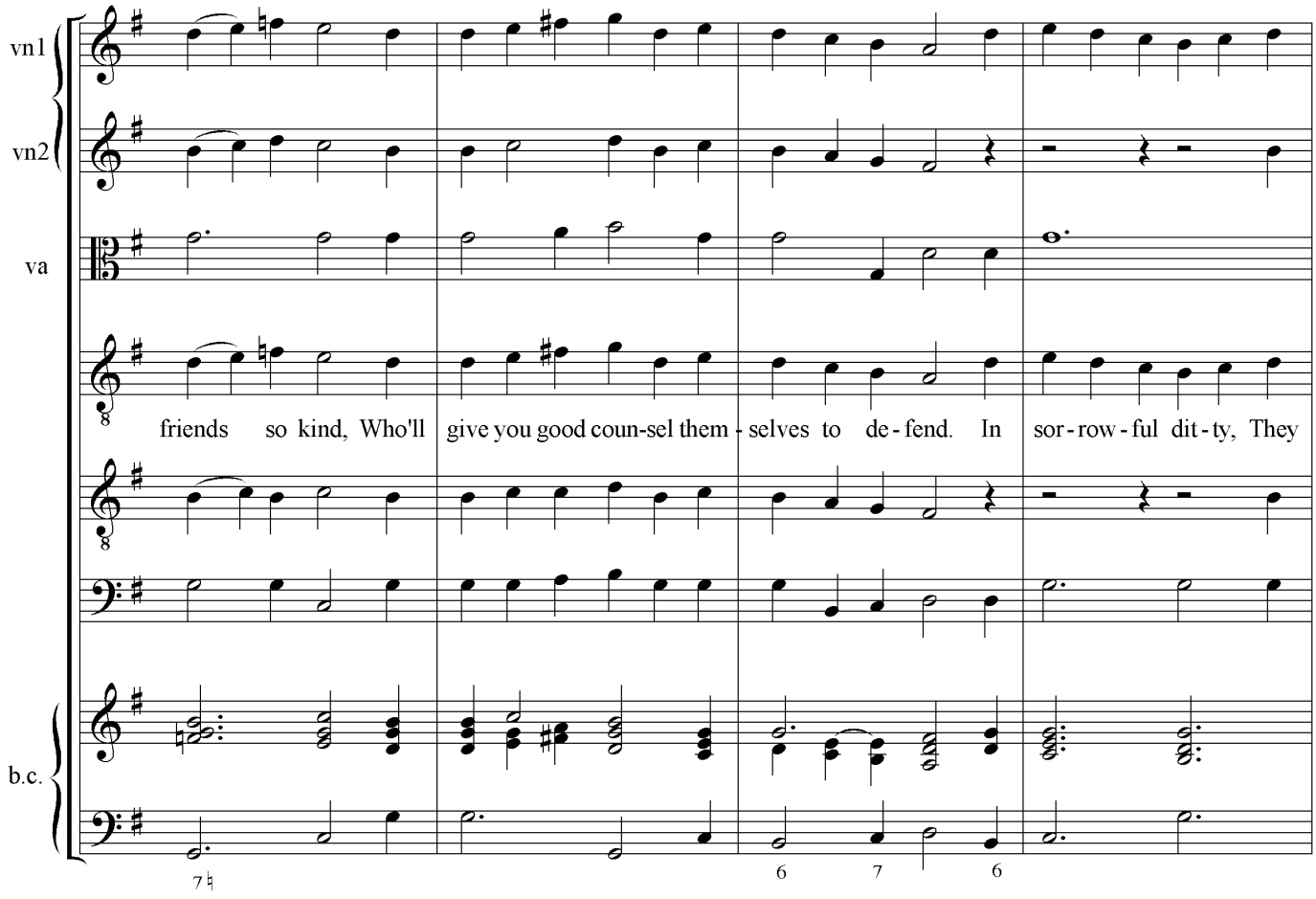


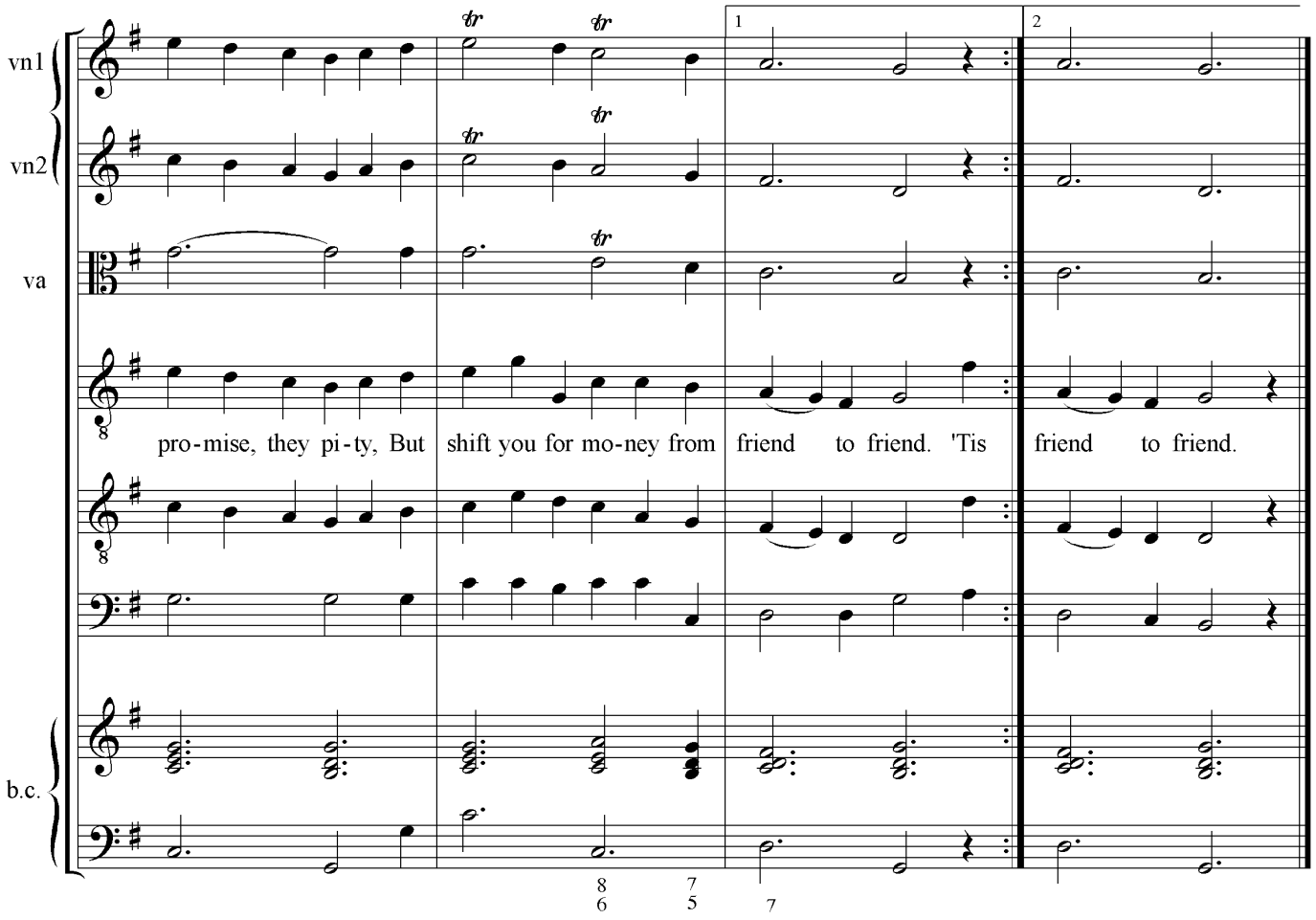
Air 44. Lillibulero

Cue: I am not a mere court friend . . . and will do nothing.



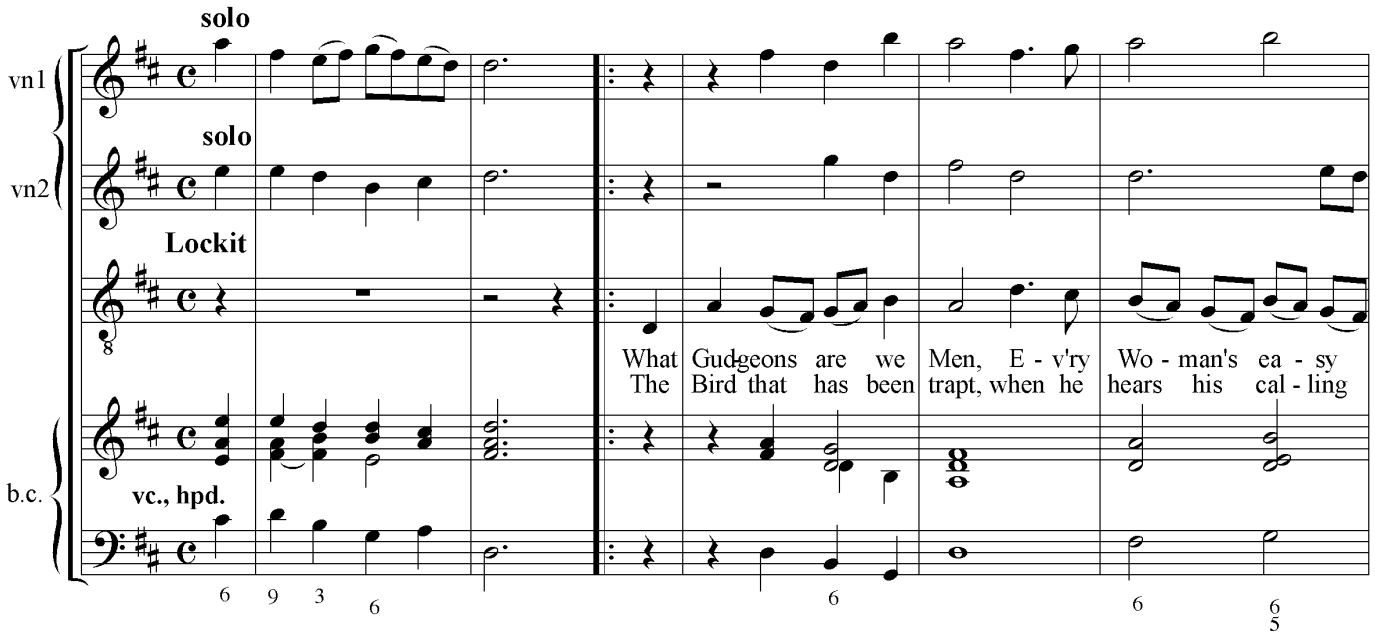

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
1
2
That a true friend can hard - ly be met: what they can get; 'Tis true, you find Some
Which they let out for


vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
friends so kind, Who'll give you good coun-sel them - selves to de - fend. In sor - row - ful dit - ty, They
7♮
6
7
6

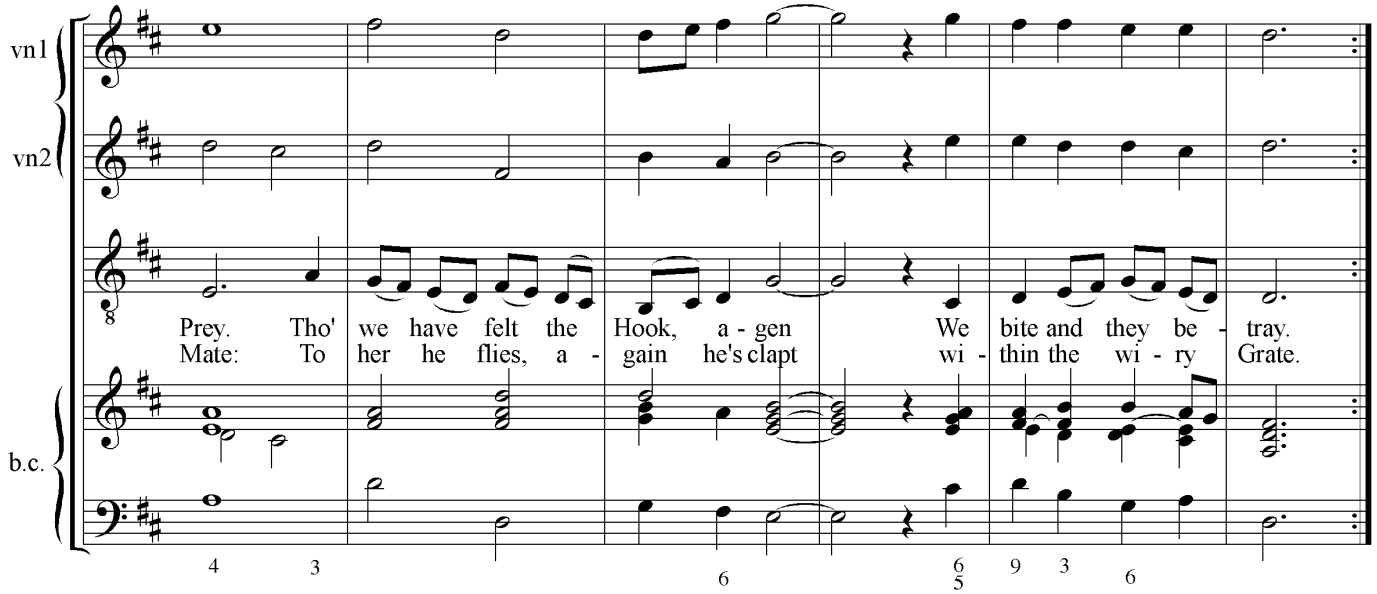


Air 45. Down in the North Country*

Cue: Keep a watchful eye upon Polly . . . shall be our own again.

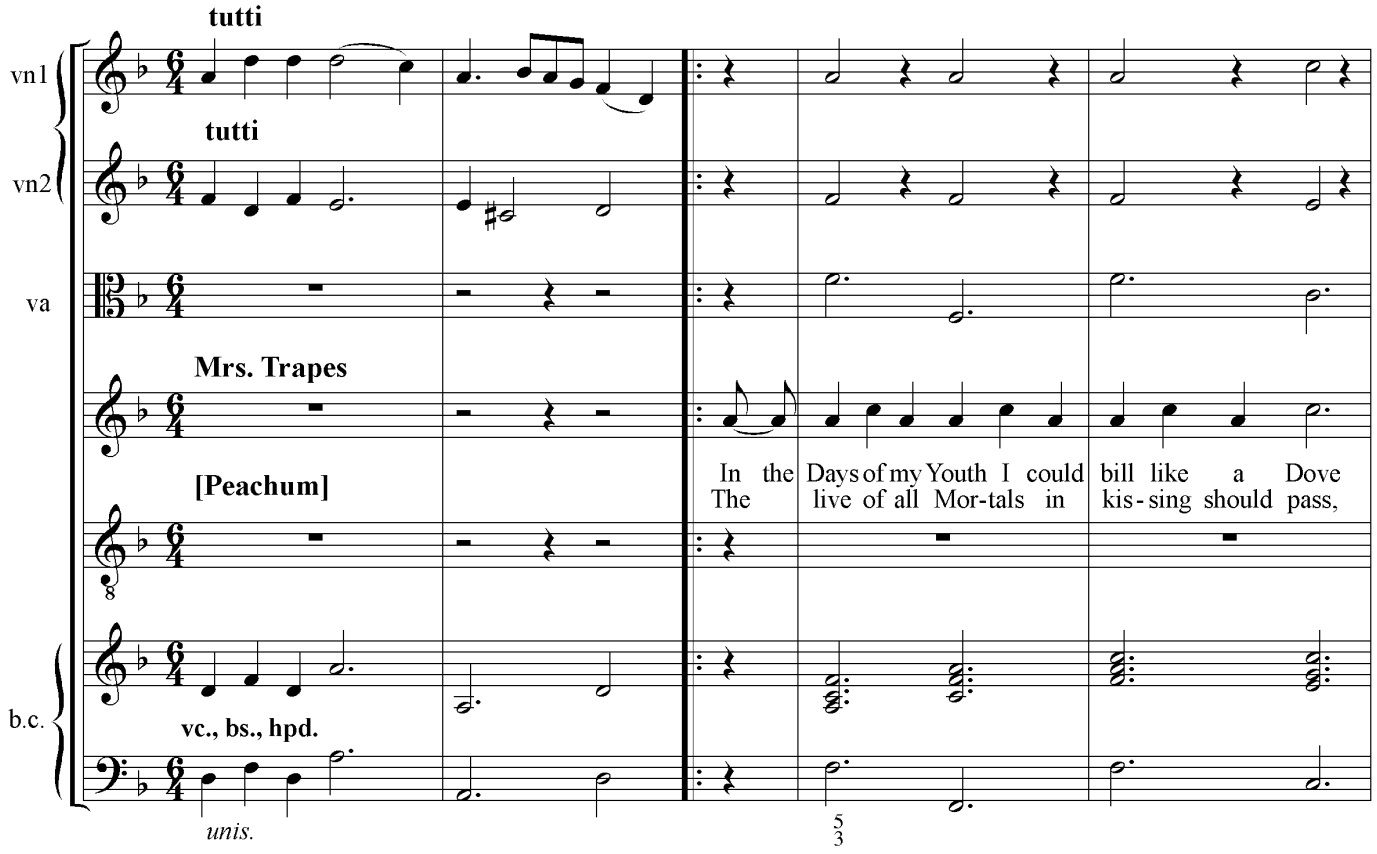


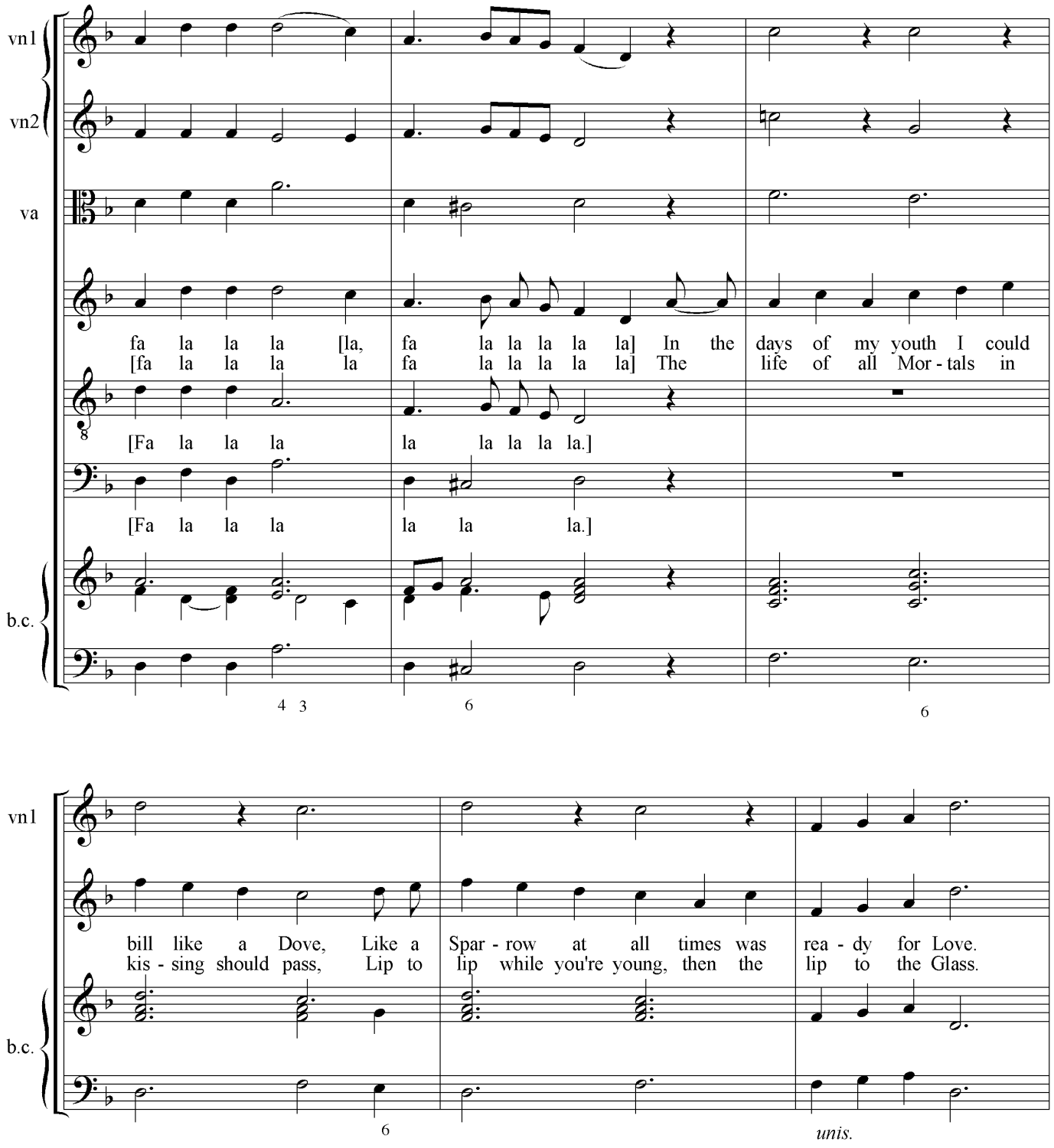
*Originally in F.

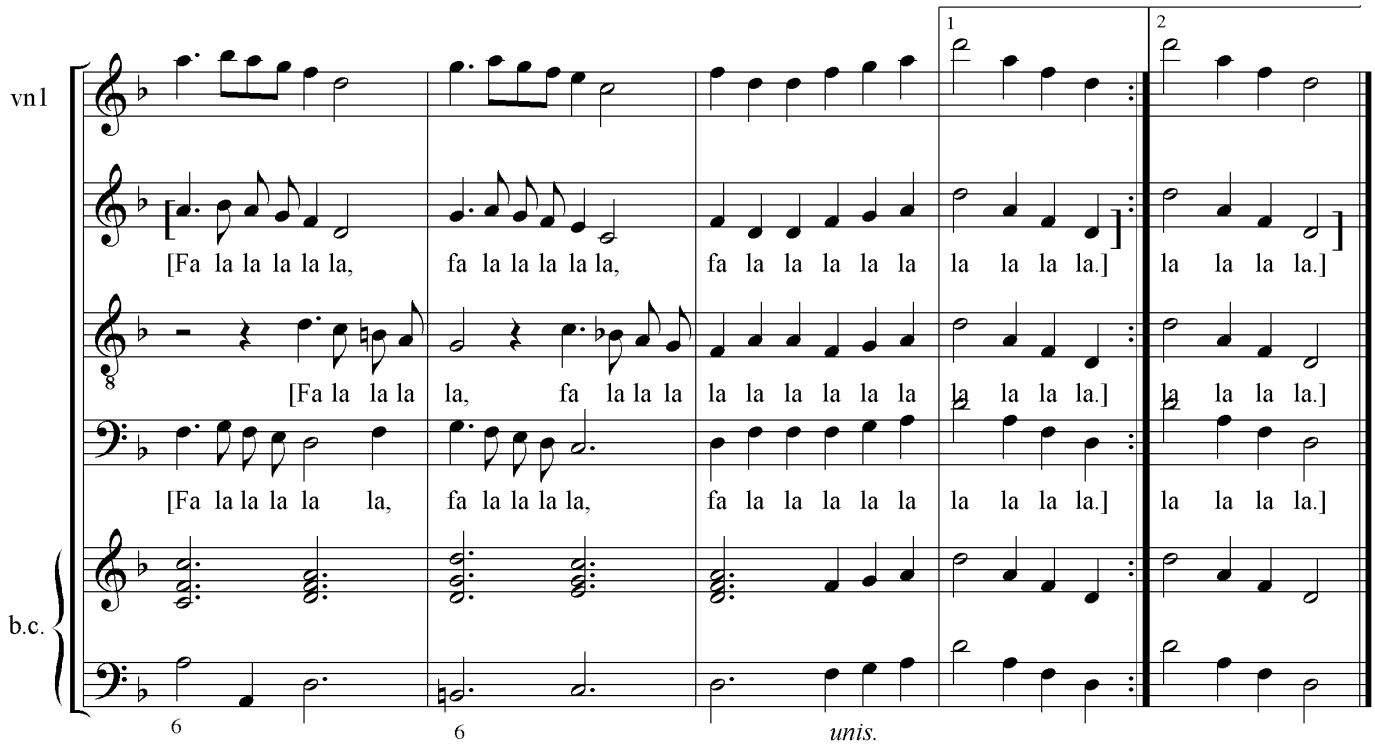


Air 46. A Shepherd kept sheep

Cue: I hate a flincher in either

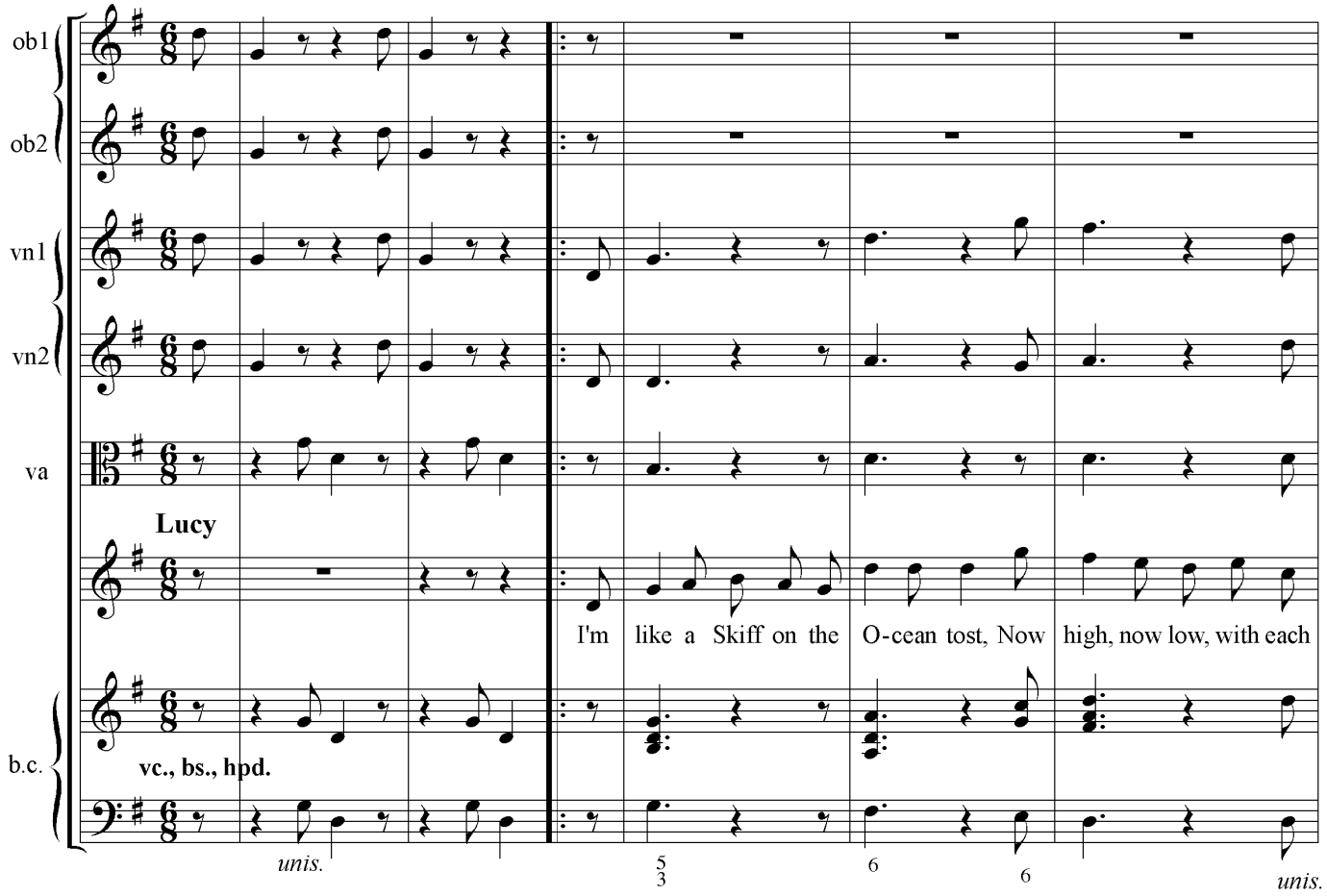


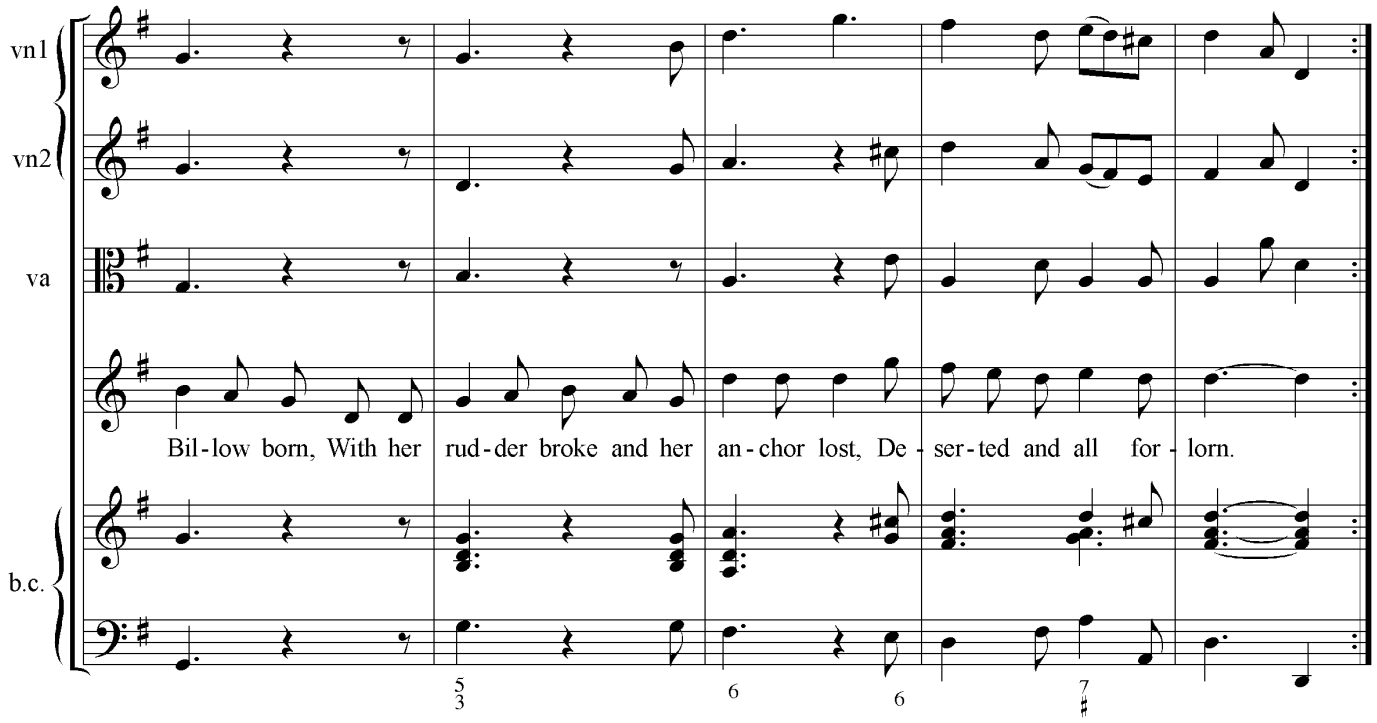

vn1
vn2
va
fa la la la [la, fa la la la la la] In the days of my youth I could
[fa la la la la fa la la la la la] The life of all Mor - tals in
[Fa la la la la la la la la.]
[Fa la la la la la la.]
b.c.
4 3
6
6
bill like a Dove, Like a Spar - row at all times was rea - dy for Love.
kis - sing should pass, Lip to lip while you're young, then the lip to the Glass.
6
unis.

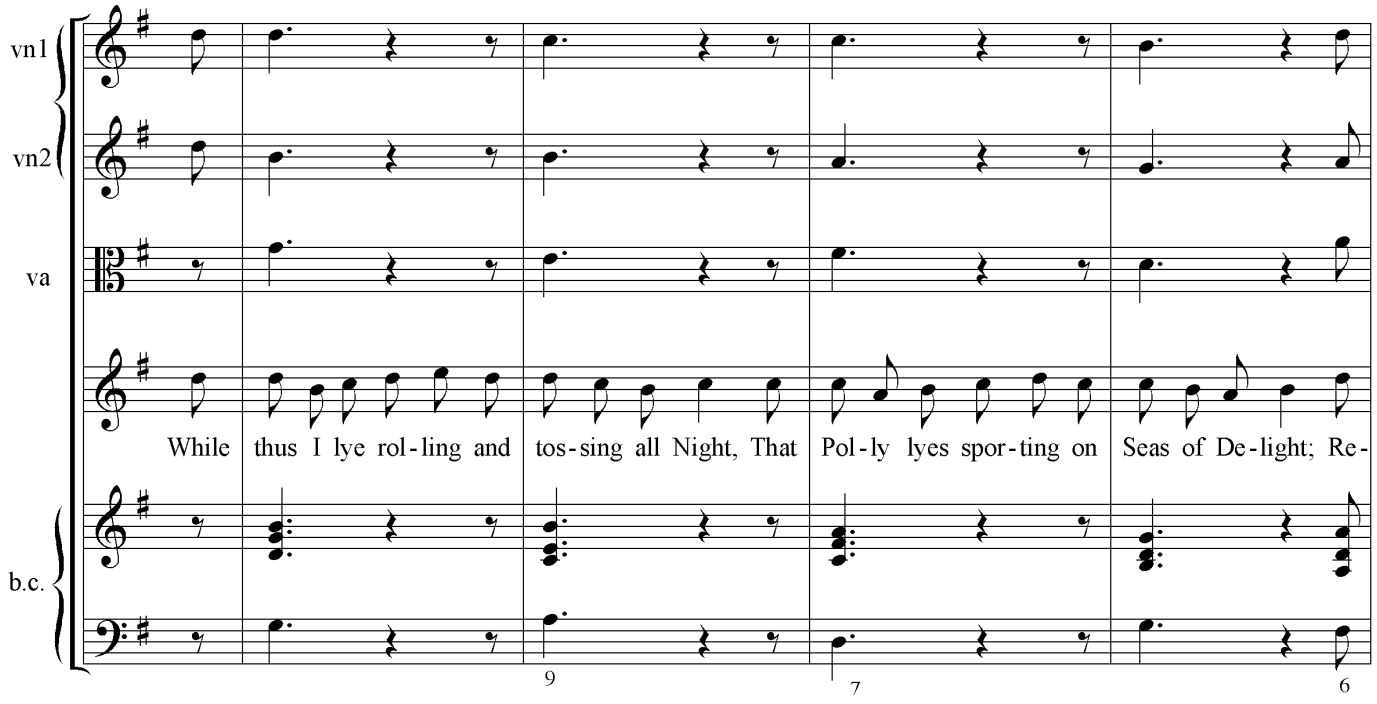

vn1
b.c.
1
2
[Fa la la la la la, fa la la la la la, fa la la la la la la la la la.] la la la la.]
[Fa la la la la, fa la la la la la la la la la la la.] la la la la.]
[Fa la la la la la, fa la la la la la, fa la la la la la la la la la.] la la la la.]
6
6
unis.

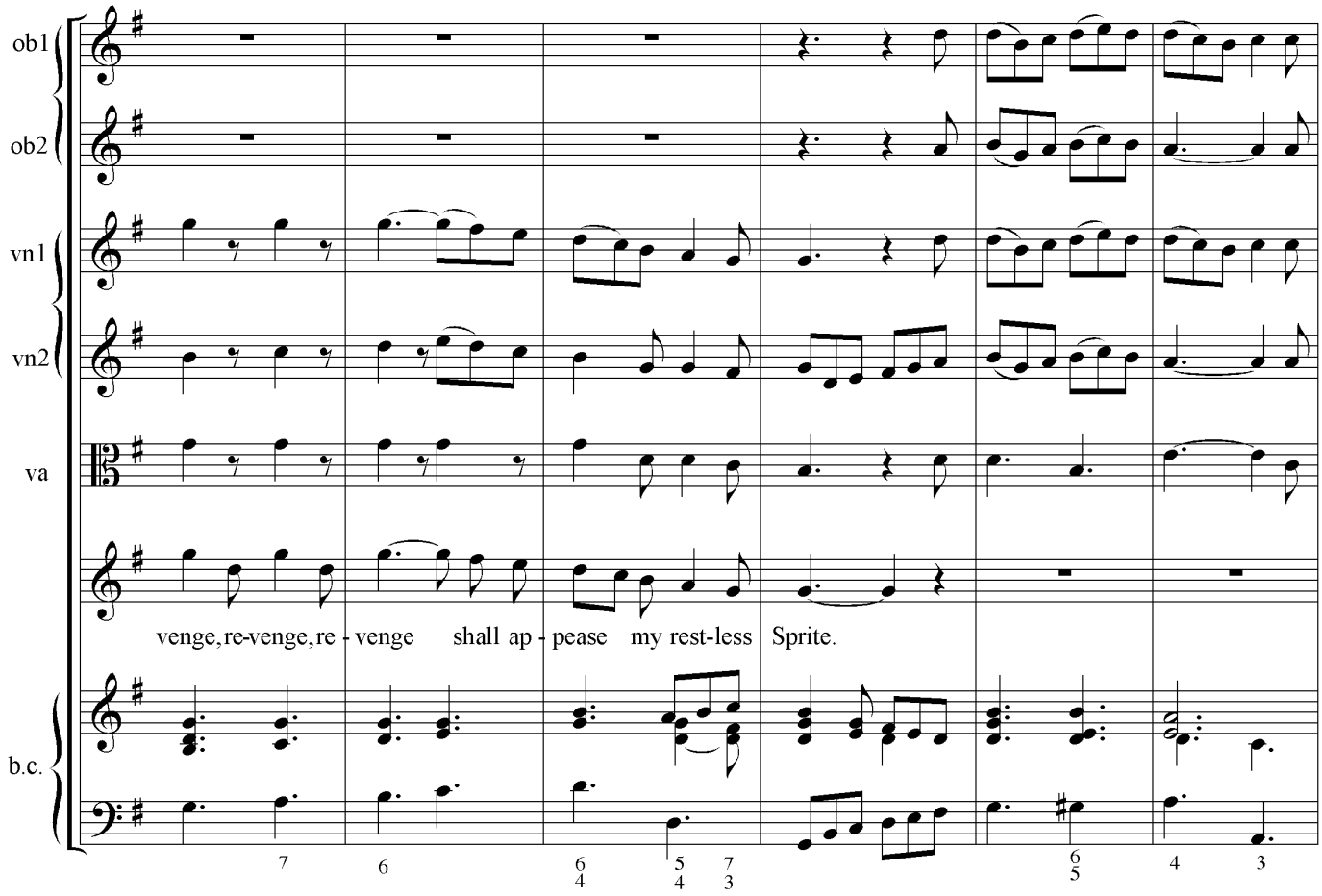
Air 47. One evening having lost my way

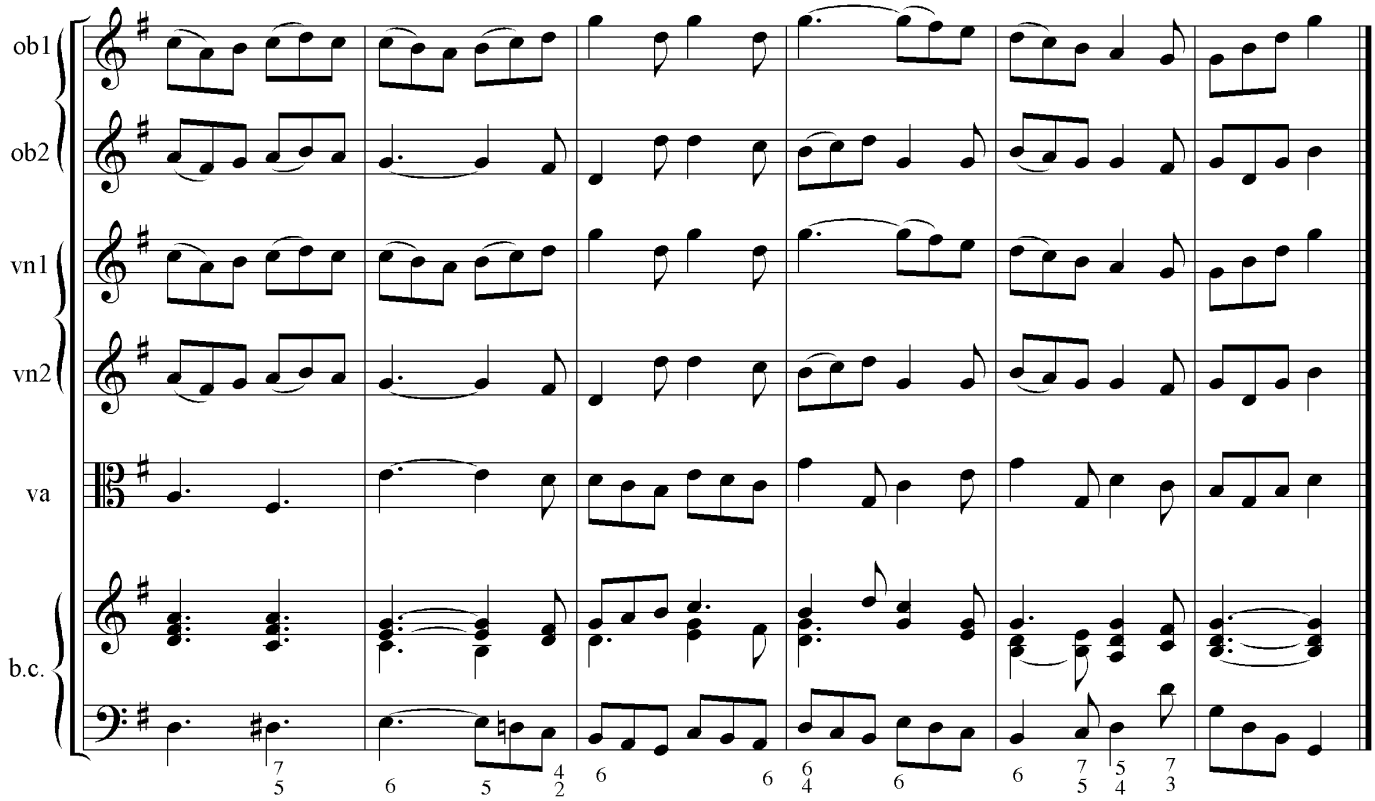
Cue: How I am weather-beaten and shattered with distresses!




vn1
vn2
va
Bil-low born, With her rud-der broke and her an-chor lost, De-ser-ted and all for-lorn.
b.c.
5/3
6
6
7/♯

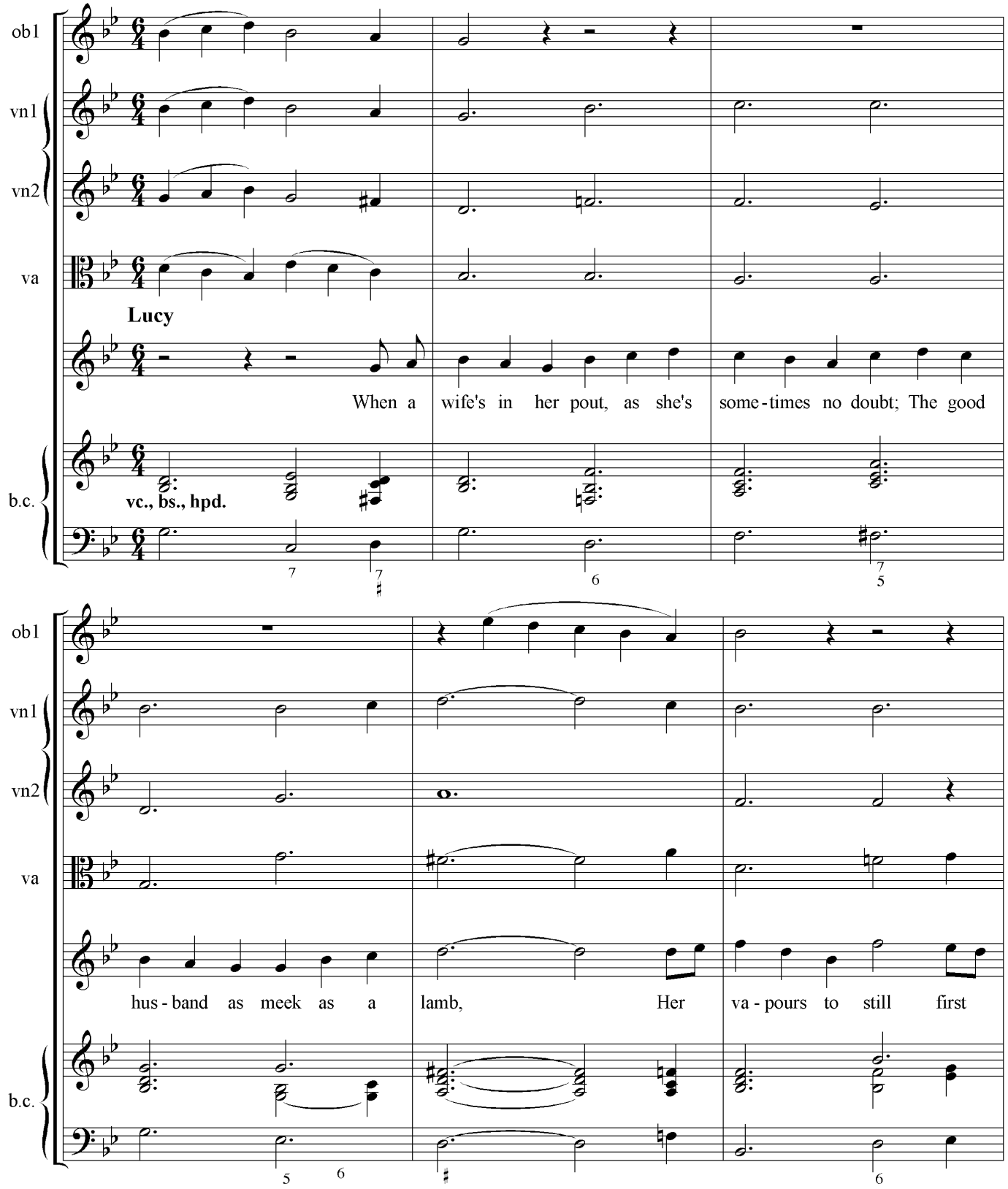

vn1
vn2
va
While thus I lye rol-ling and tos-sing all Night, That Pol-ly lyes spor-ting on Seas of De-light; Re-
b.c.
9
7
6

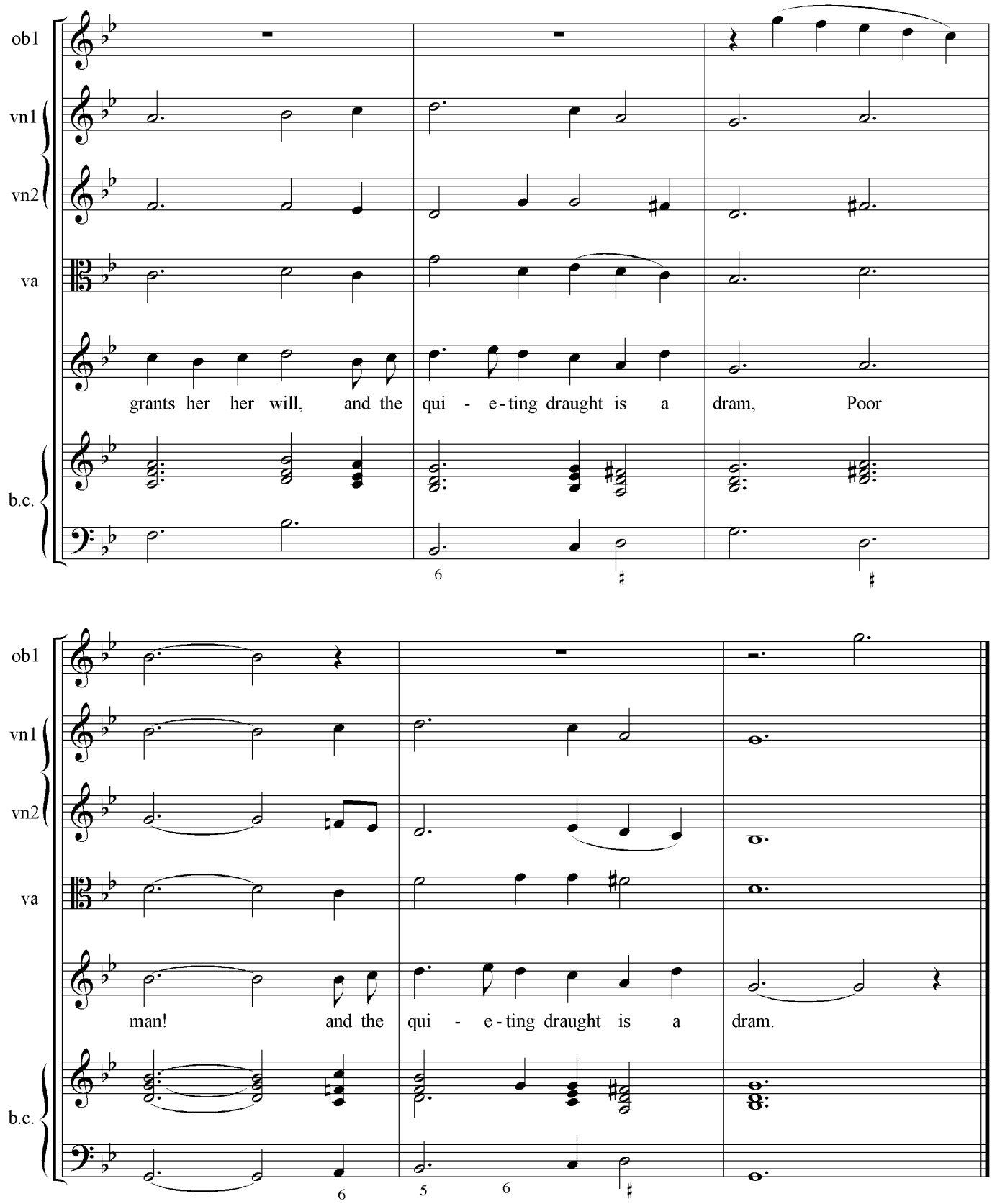

ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
venge, re-venge, re - venge shall ap - pease my rest-less Sprite.
b.c.


ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.

Air 48. Now Roger, I'll tell thee, because thou'rt my Son

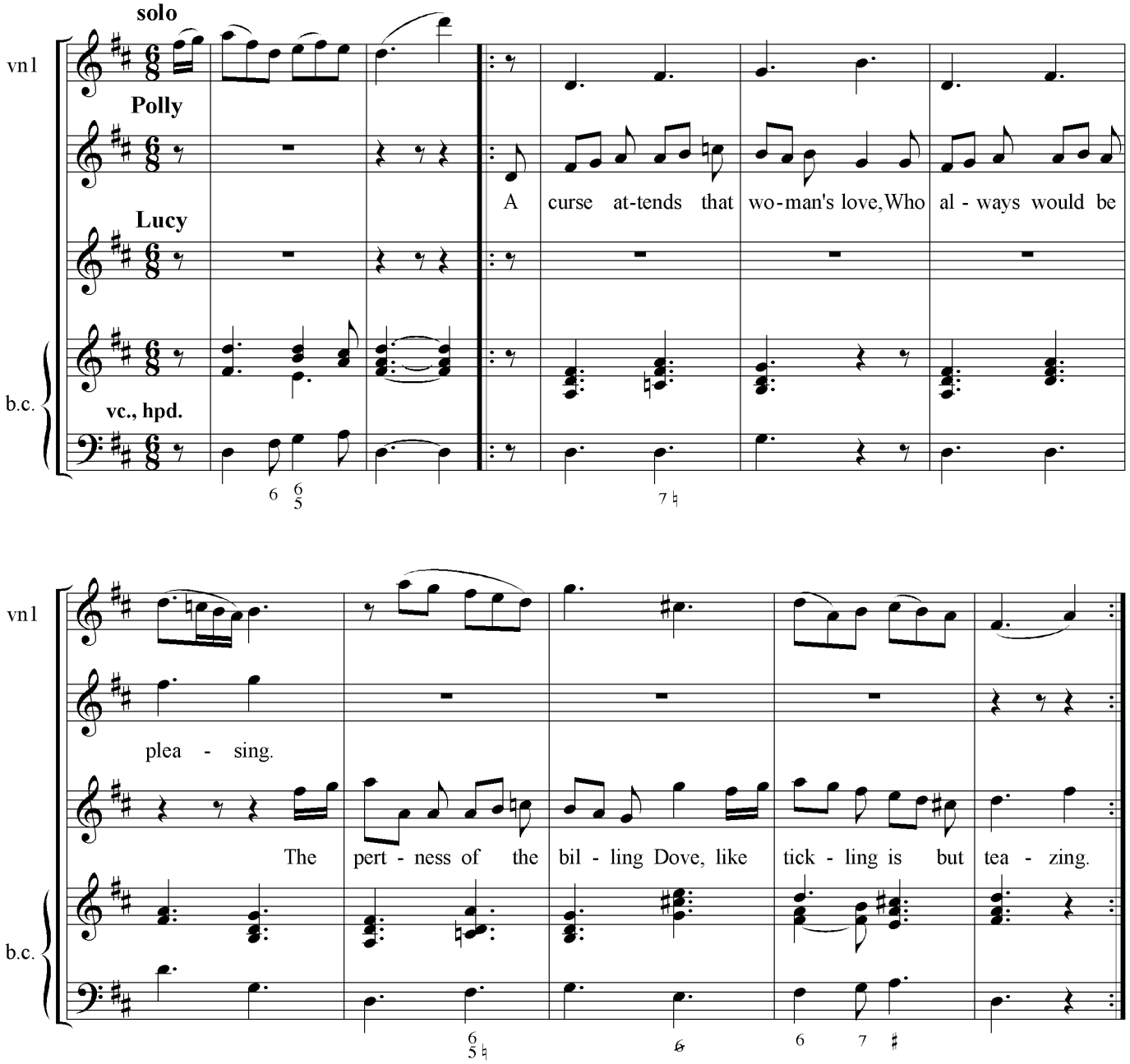
Cue: When one hath the spleen, everything is to be excused by a friend.

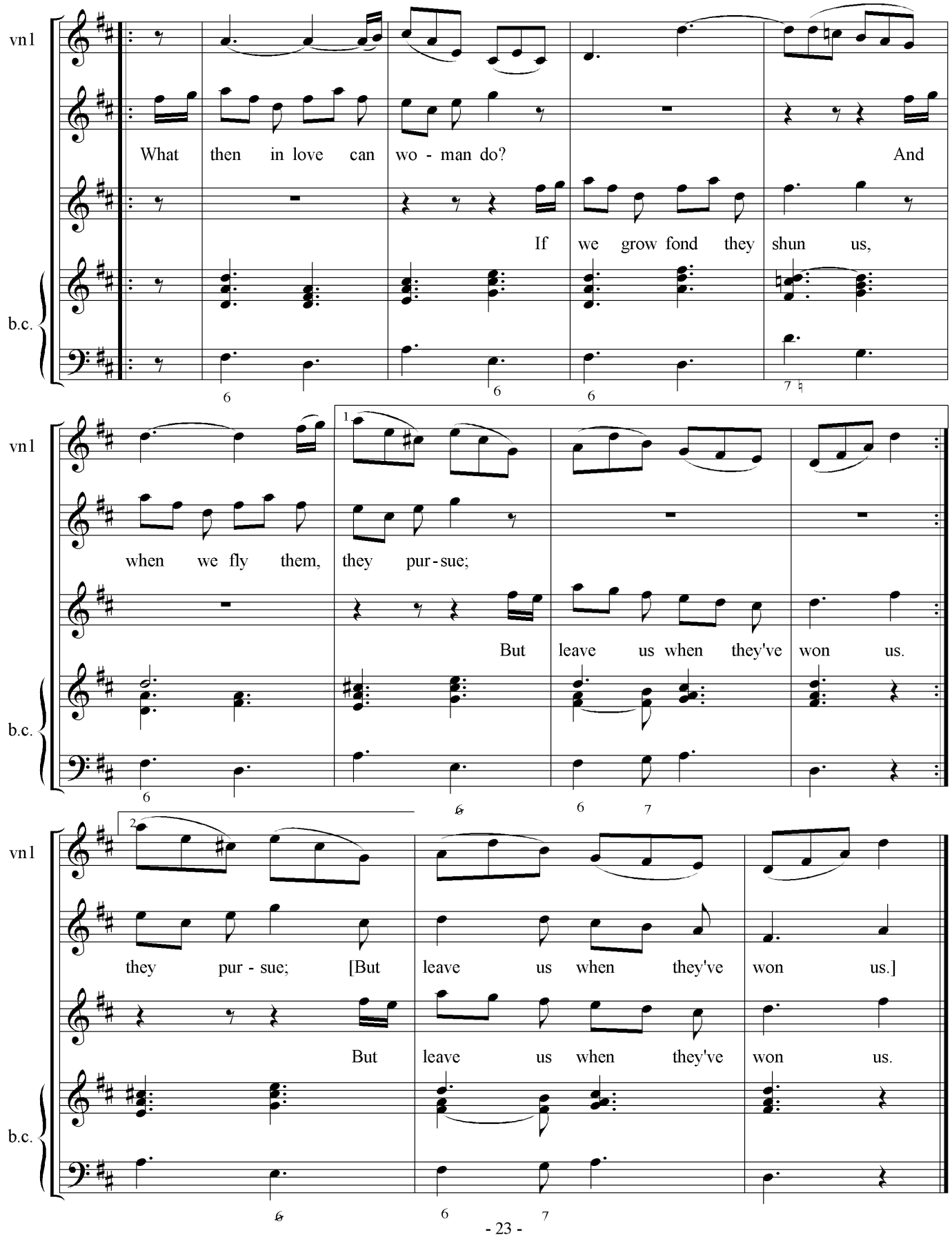



ob1
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
grants her her will, and the qui - e - ting draught is a dram, Poor
man! and the qui - e - ting draught is a dram.

Air 49. O Bessy Bell

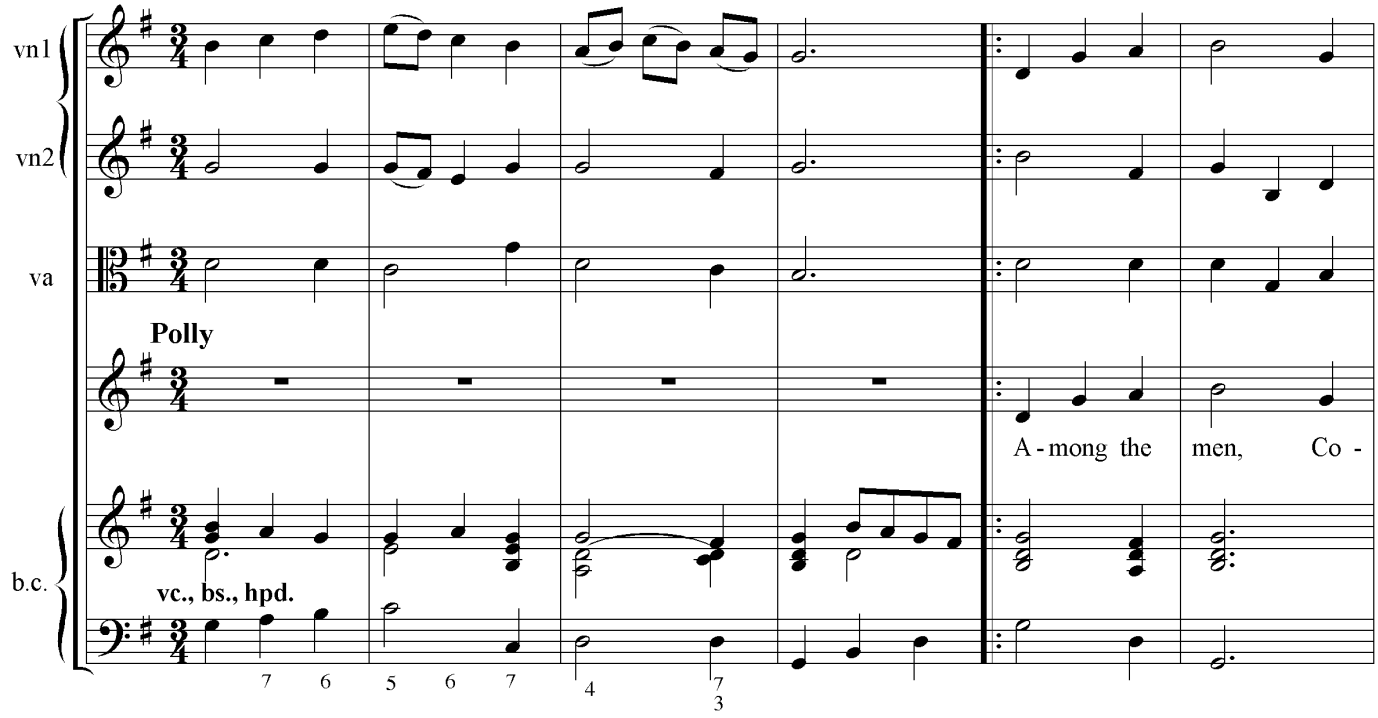
Cue: Then our cases . . . are alike . . . have been too fond.

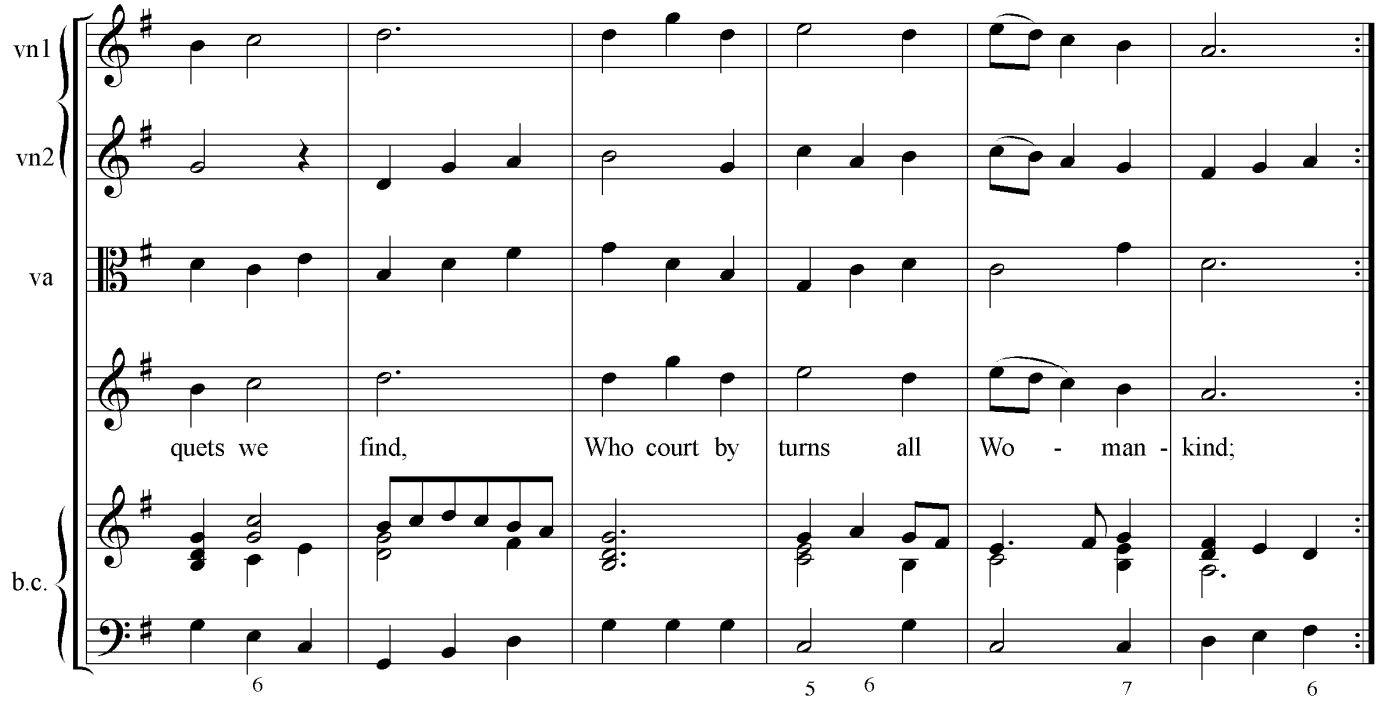


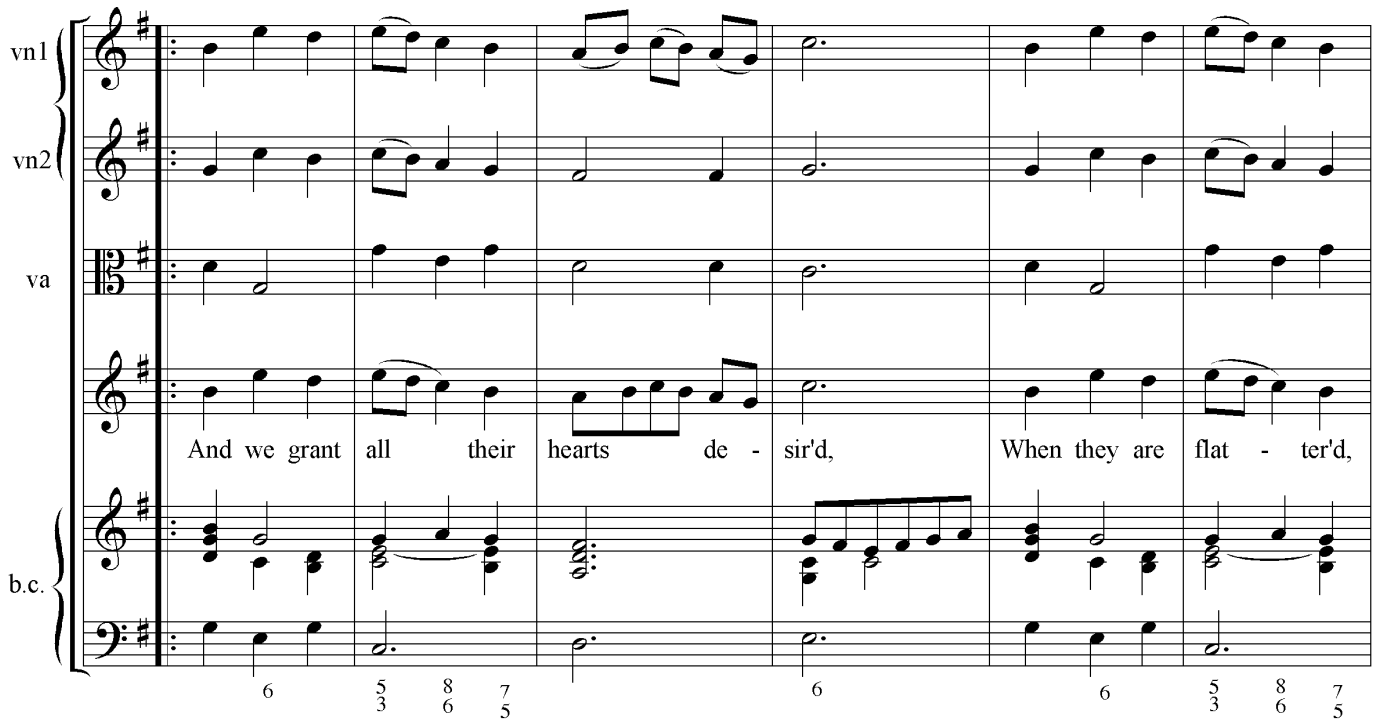

vn1
b.c.
What then in love can wo - man do?
And
If we grow fond they shun us,
when we fly them, they pur - sue;
But leave us when they've won us.
they pur - sue; [But leave us when they've won us.]
But leave us when they've won us.

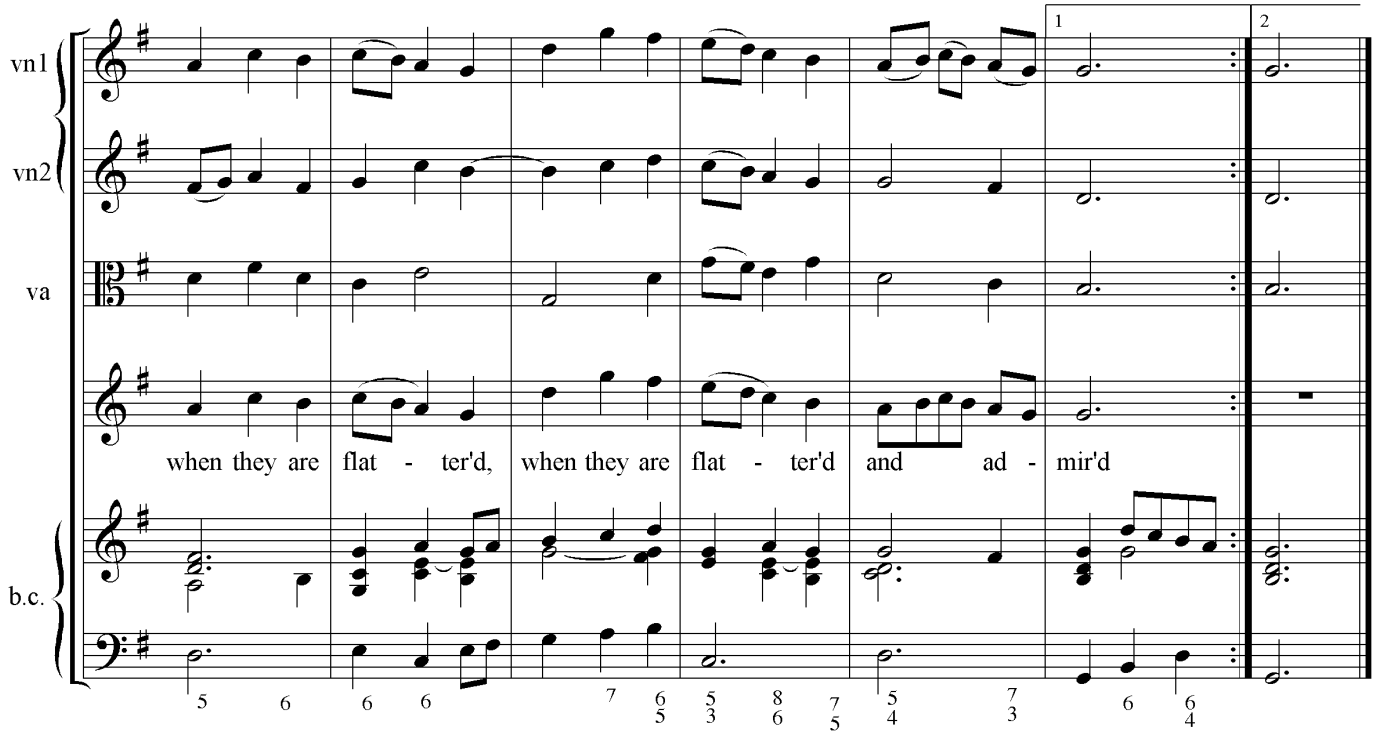
Air 50. Wou'd Fate to me Belinda give

Cue: But perhaps he hath a heart not capable of it.



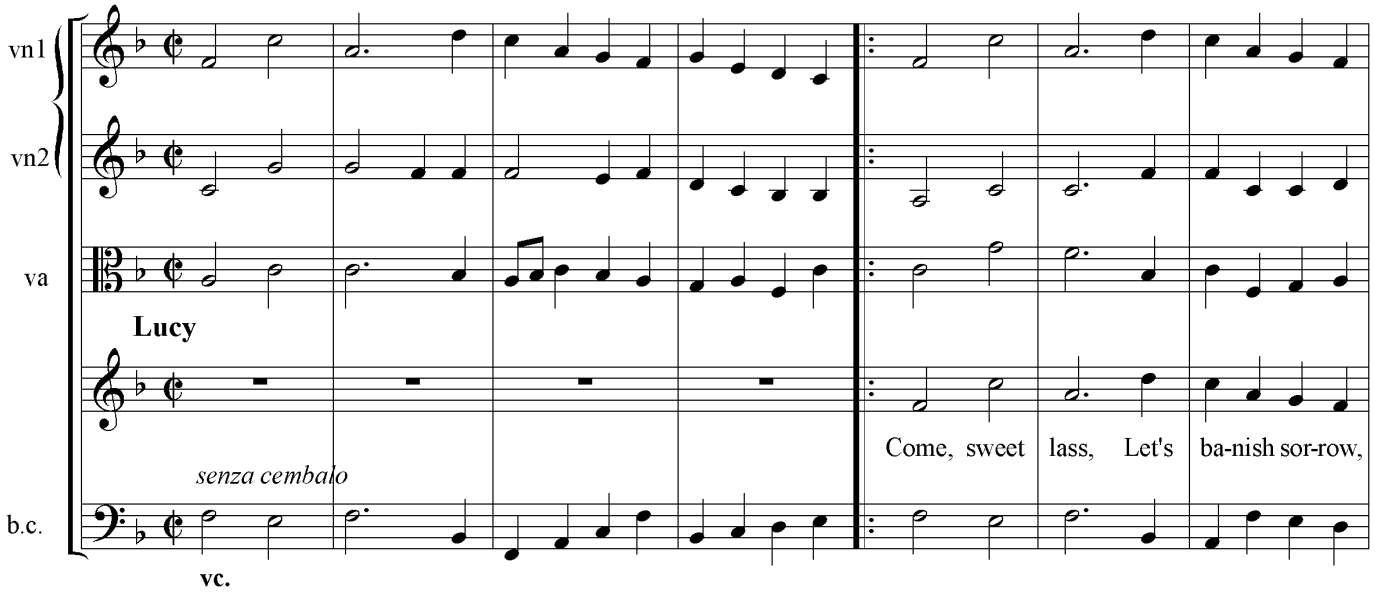


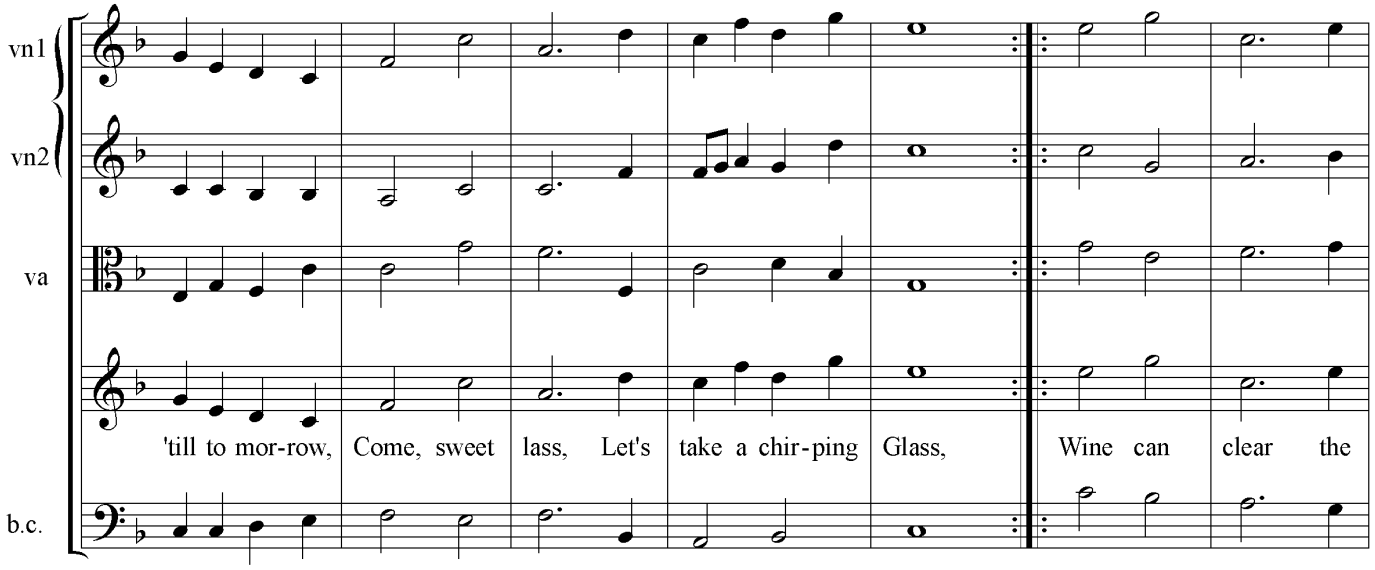

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
And we grant all their hearts de - sir'd, When they are flat - ter'd,

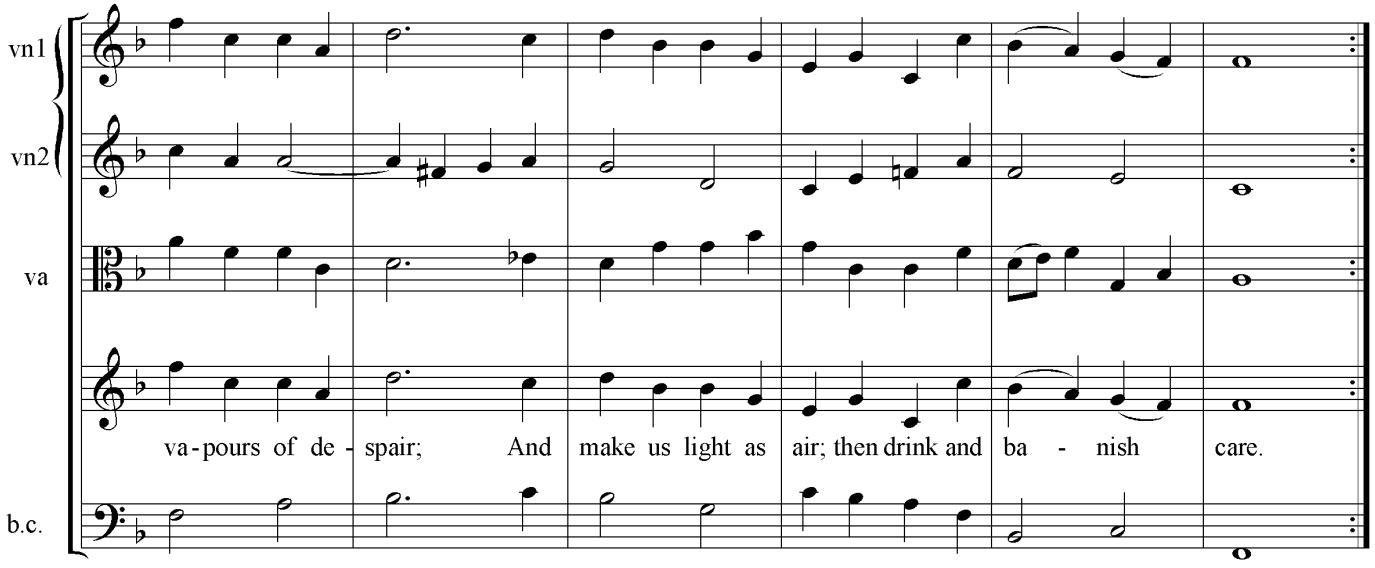

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
1
2
when they are flat - ter'd, when they are flat - ter'd and ad - mir'd

Air 51. Come, sweet lass

Cue: Let me prevail upon you to accept of my offer.

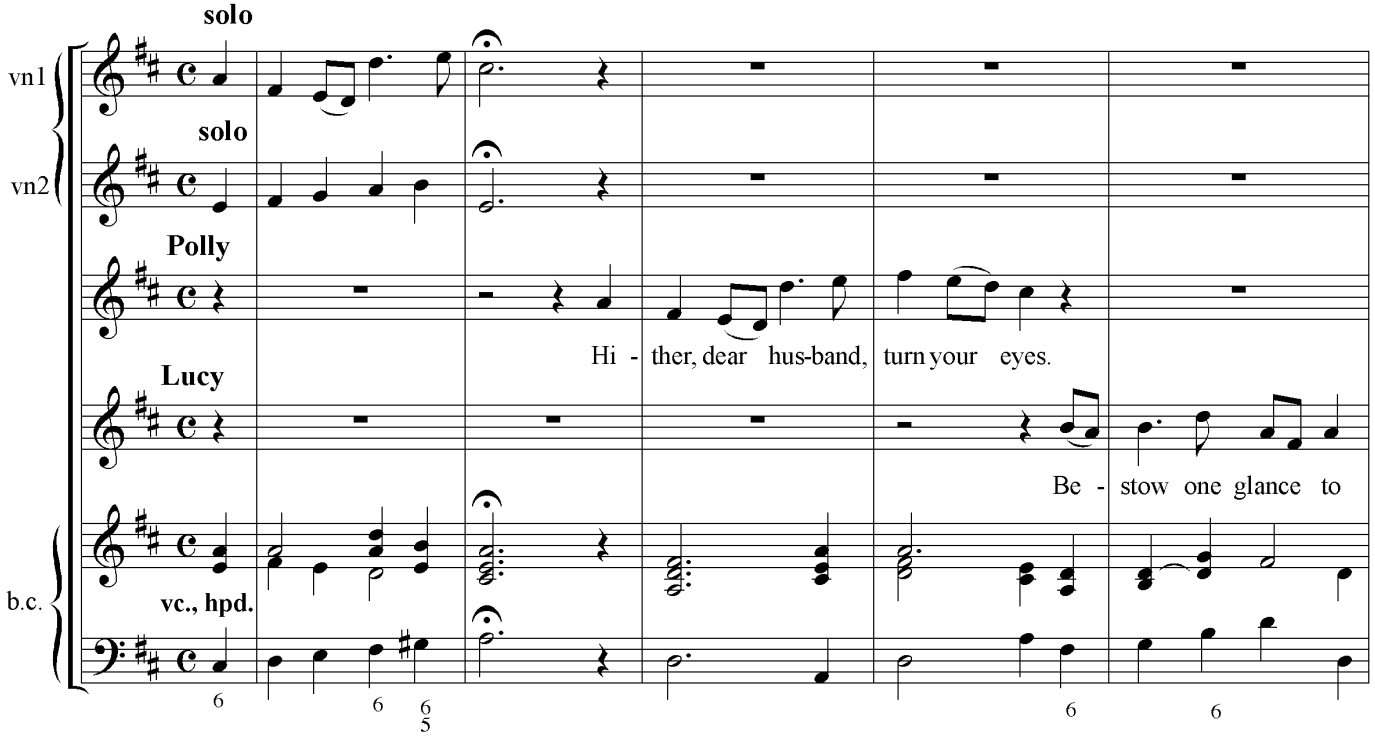


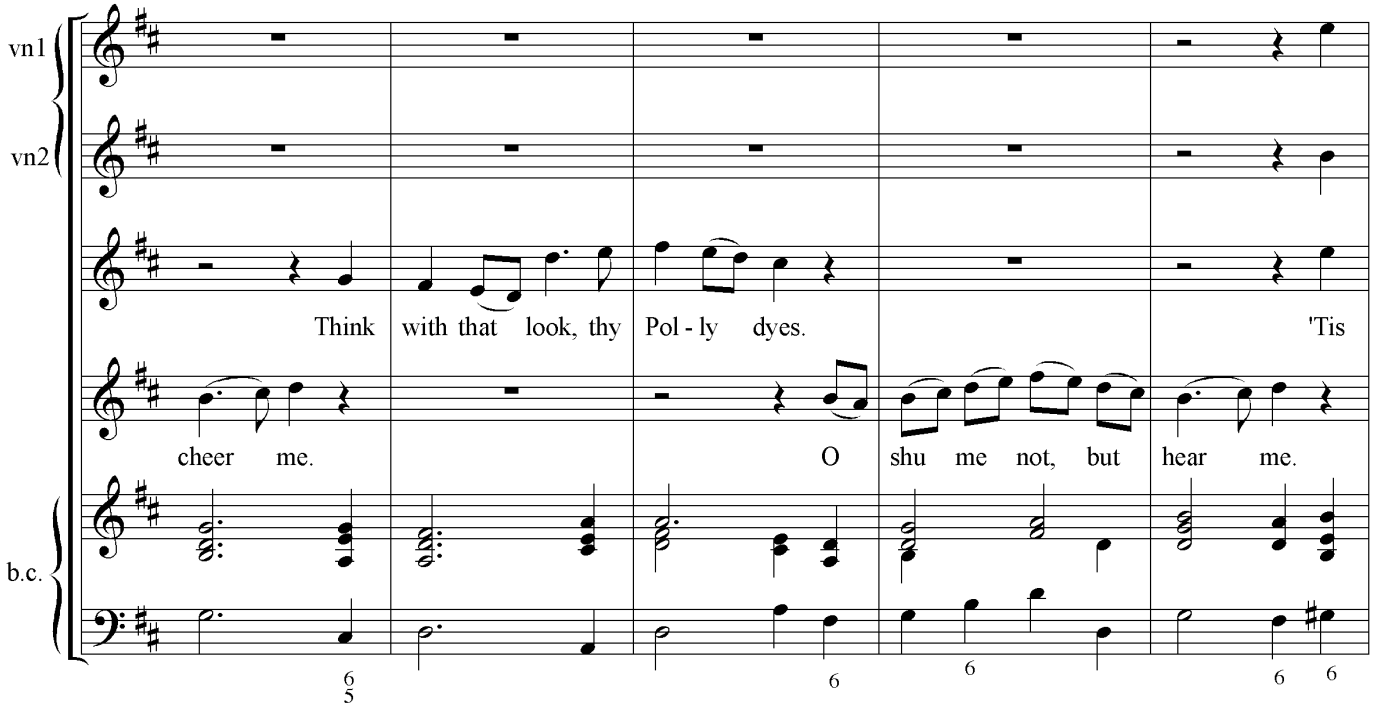


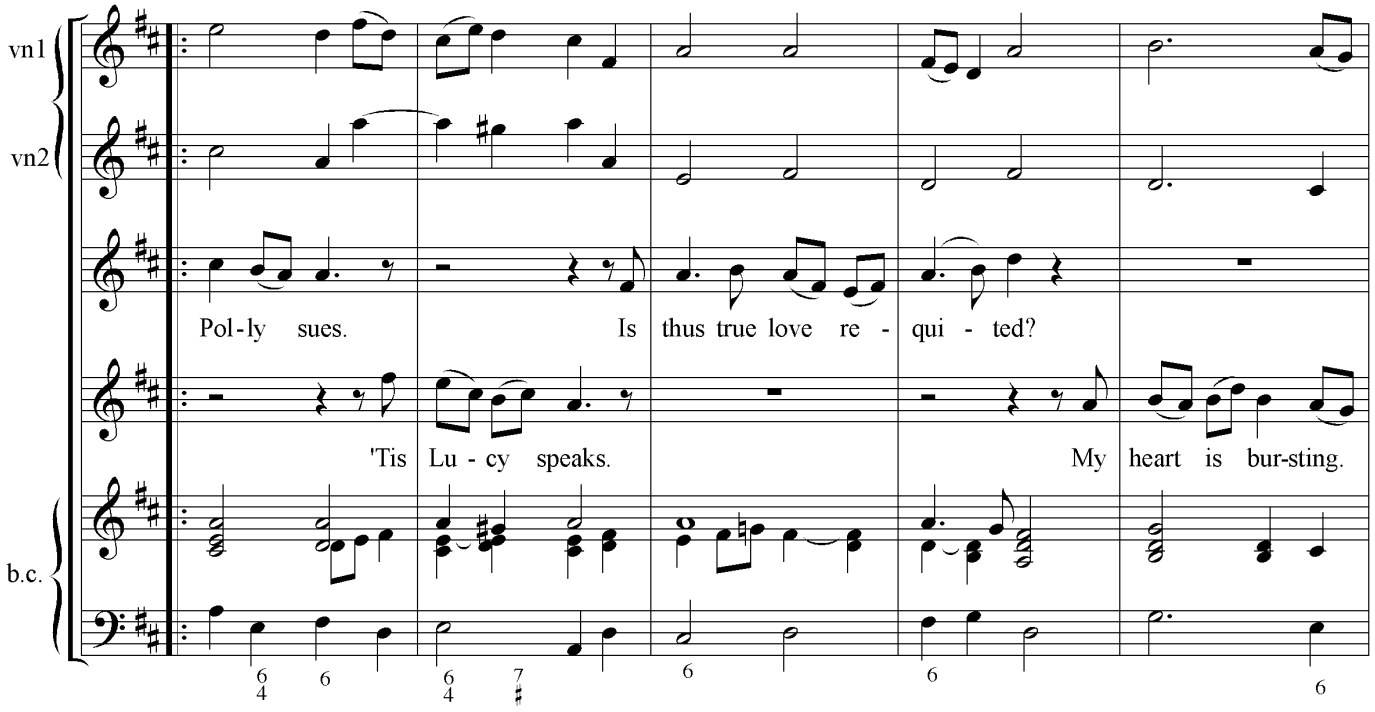


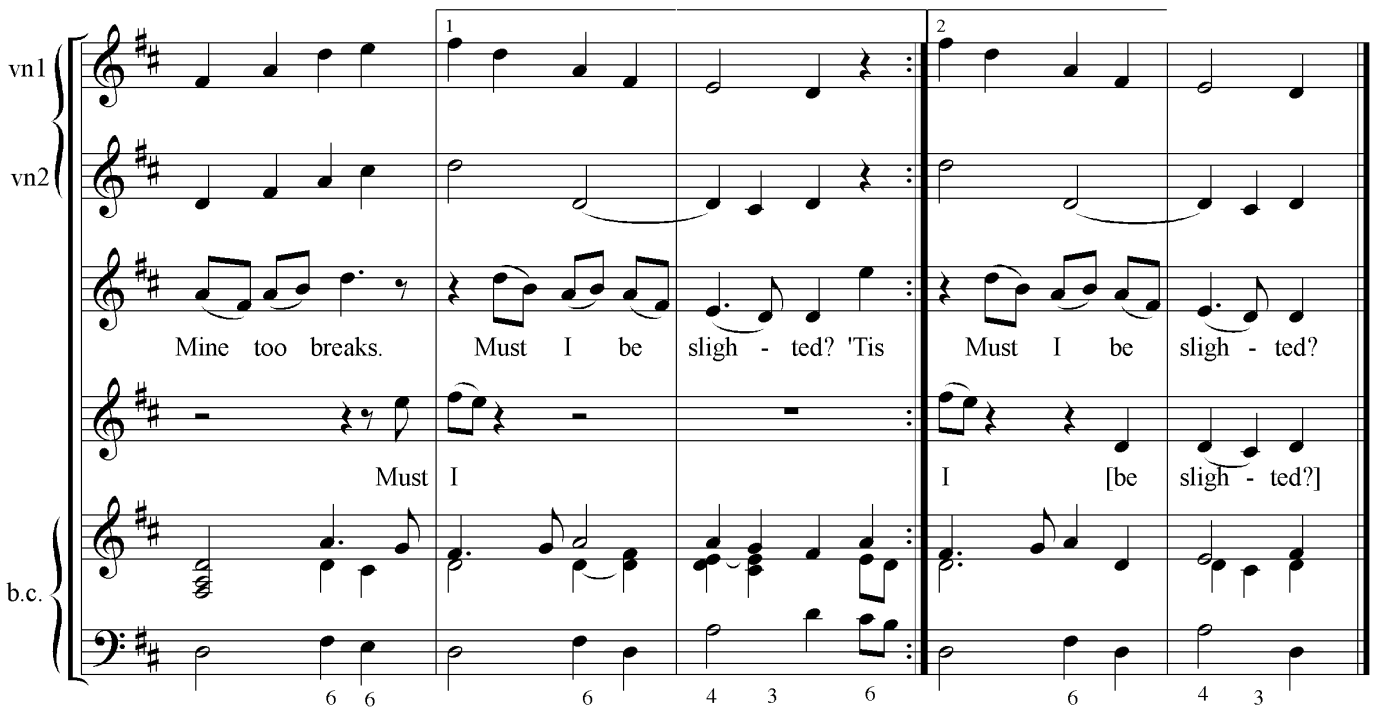
Air 52. The last time I went o'er the Moor

Cue: Will not my husband look upon Polly . . . with me thou hadst been safe.



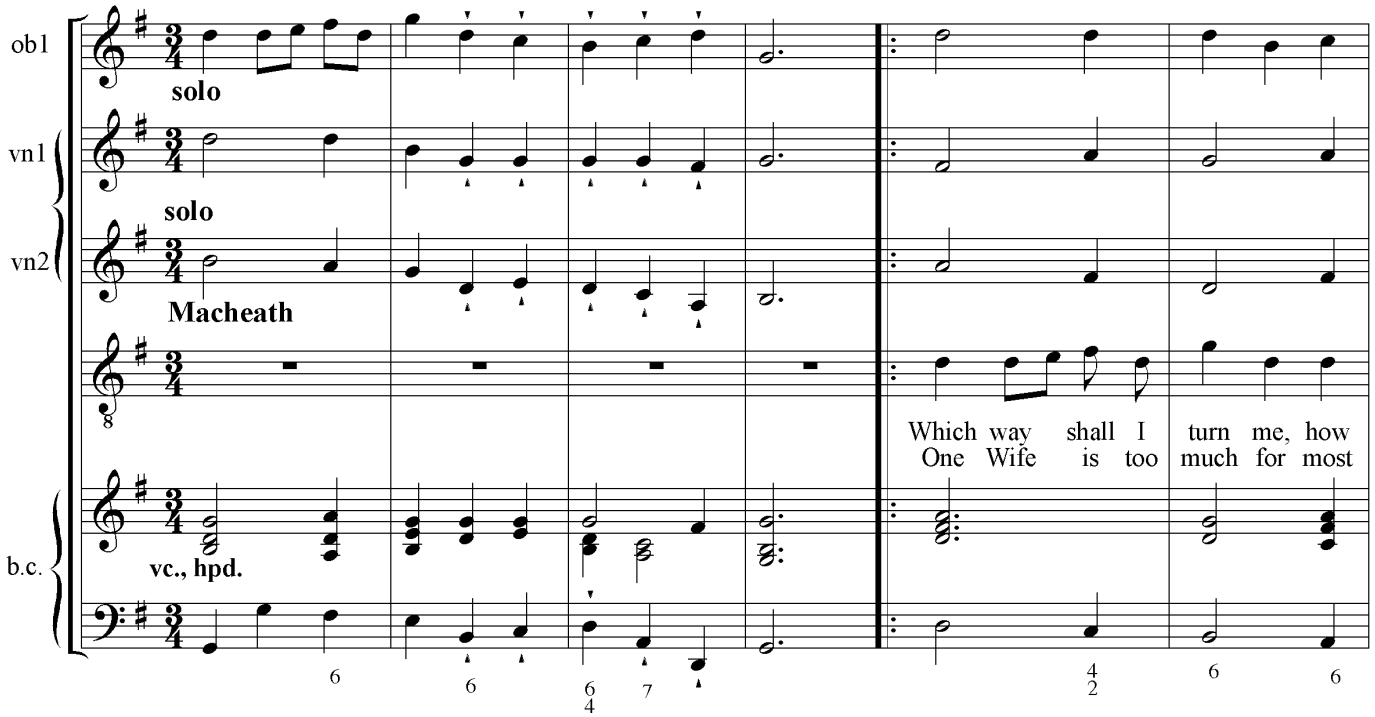

vn1
vn2
Think with that look, thy Pol - ly dyes. 'Tis
cheer me. O shu me not, but hear me.
b.c.

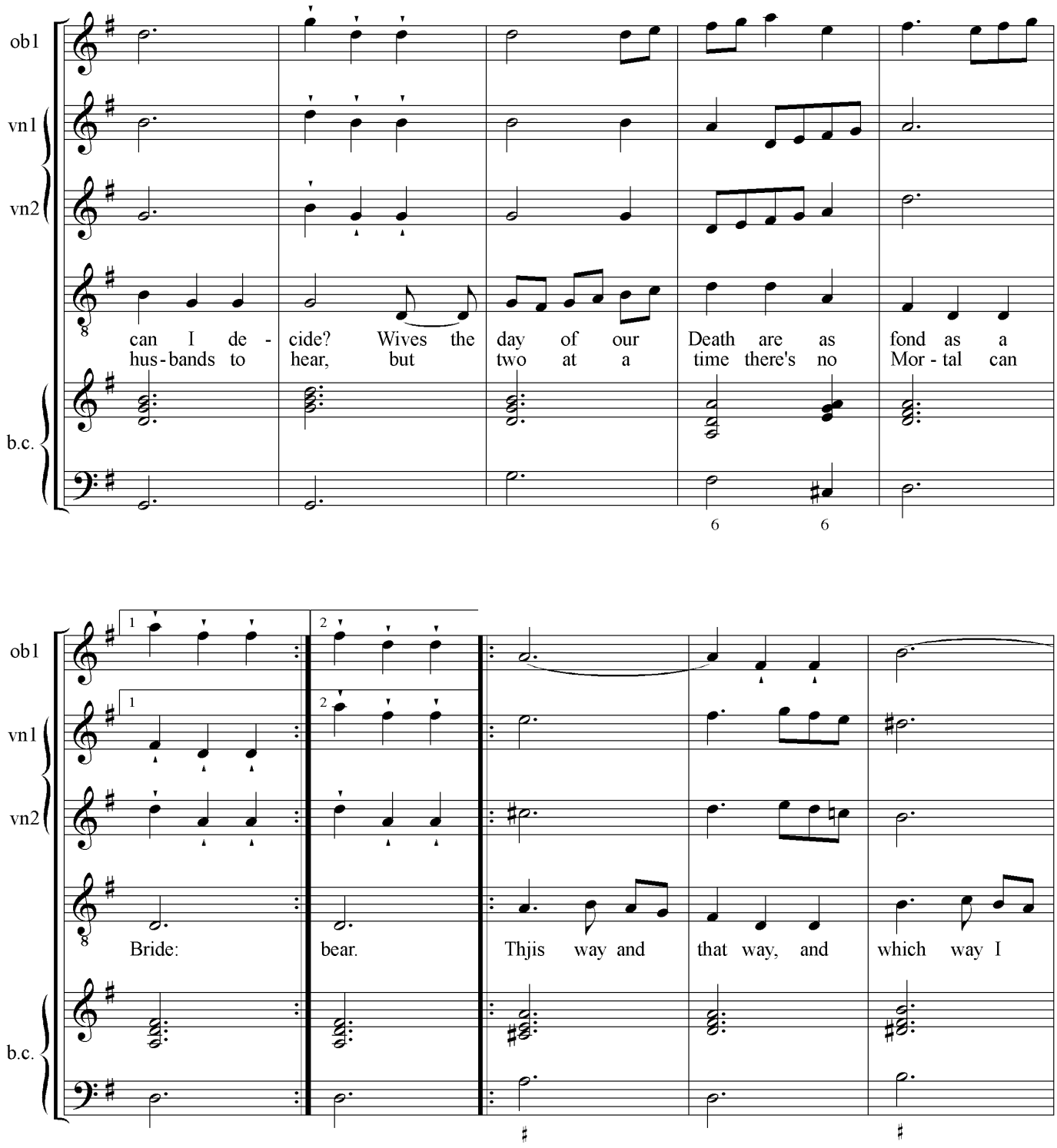

vn1
vn2
Pol - ly sues. Is thus true love re - qui - ted?
'Tis Lu - cy speaks. My heart is bur-sting.
b.c.

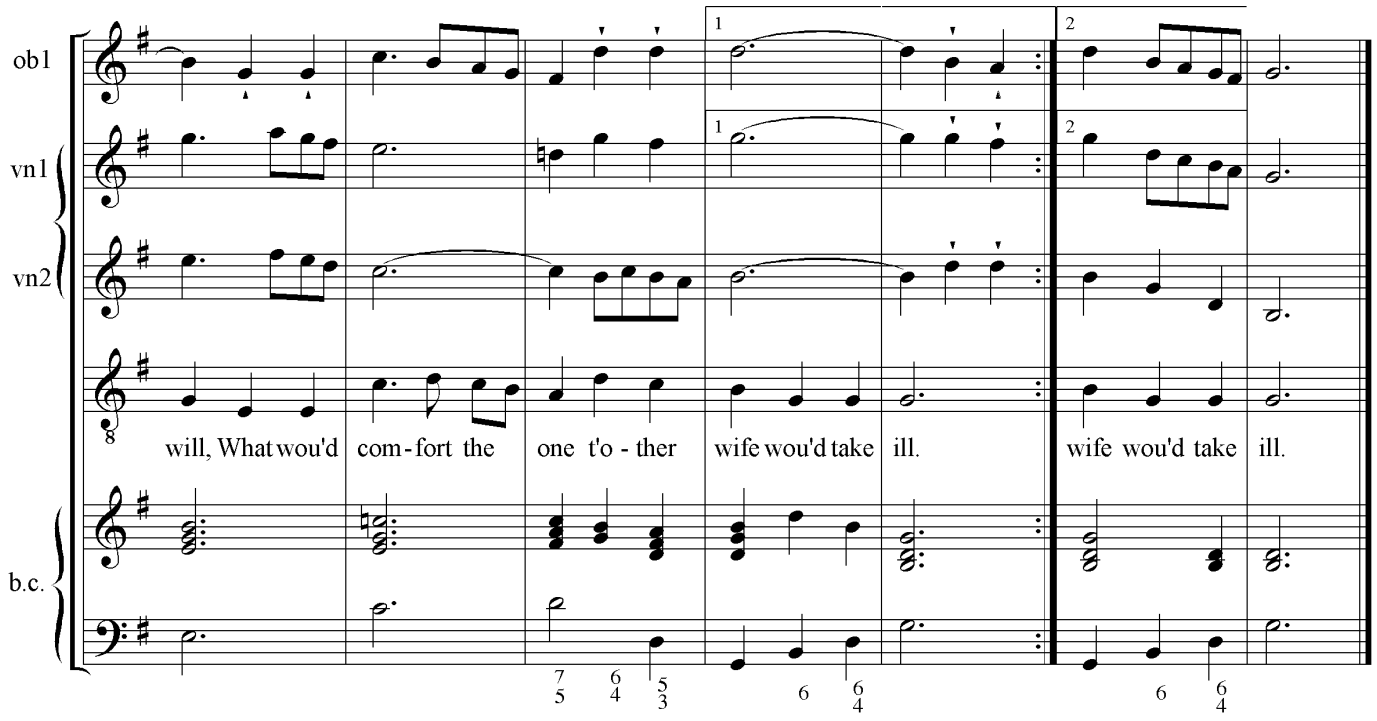


Air 53. Tom Tinker's my true love

Cue: But the settling this point . . . lawsuit between your two widows.

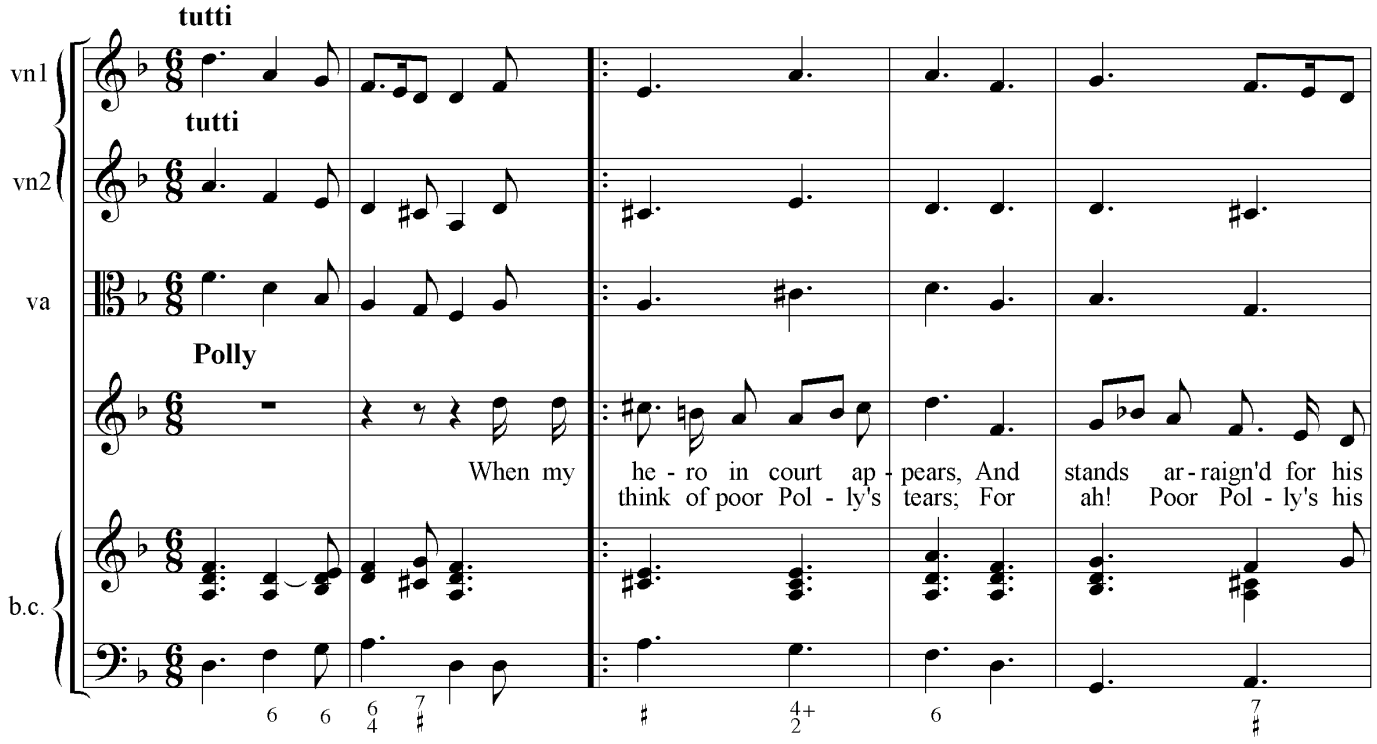


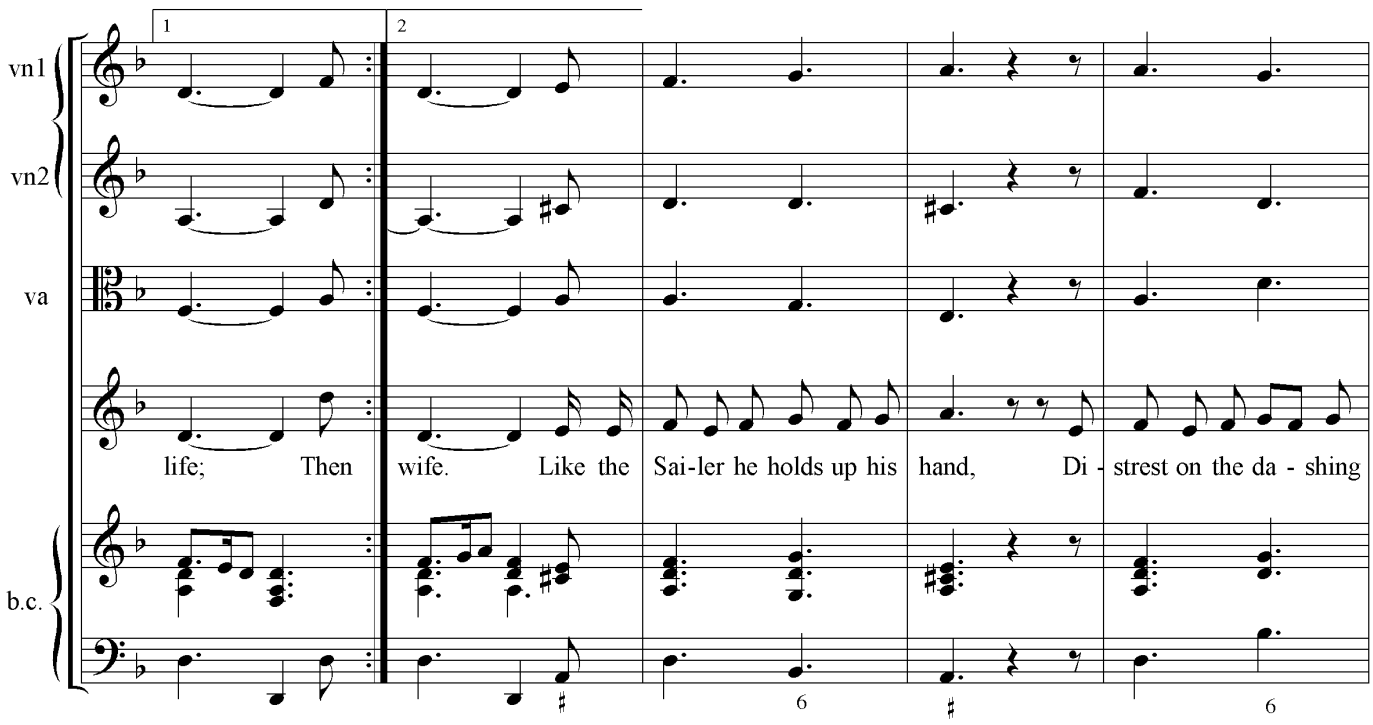

ob1
vn1
vn2
b.c.
can I de - cide? Wives the day of our Death are as fond as a
hus - bands to hear, but two at a time there's no Mor - tal can
6 6
1 2
Bride: bear. Thjis way and that way, and which way I

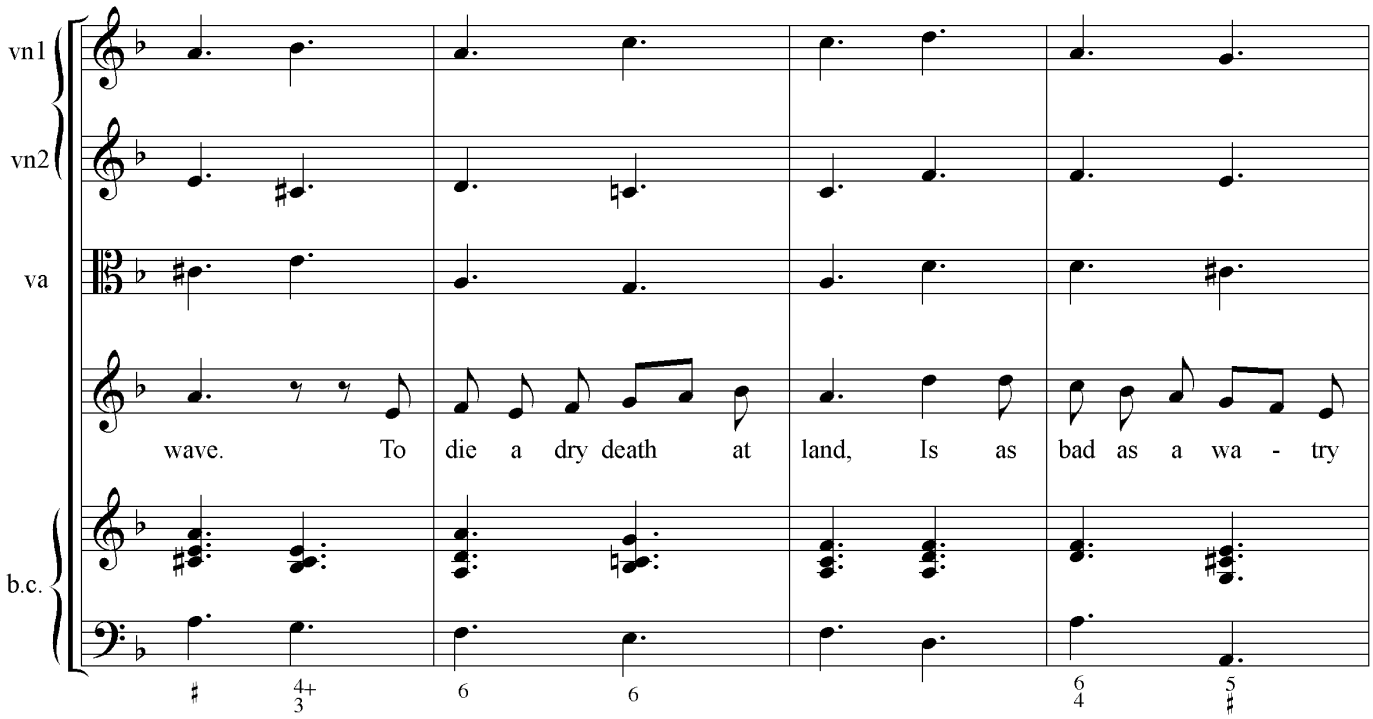


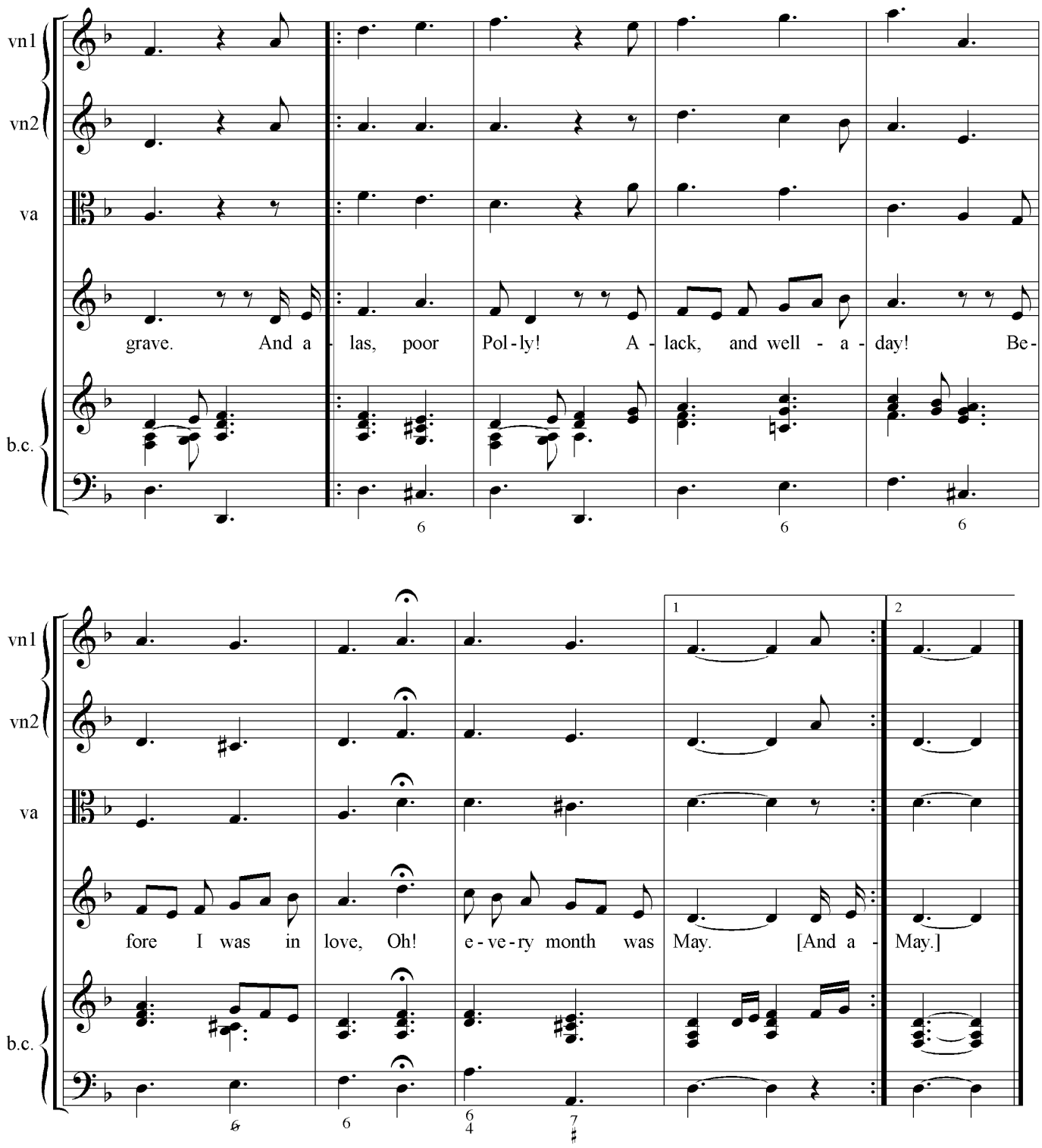
Air 54. I am a poor Shepherd undone

Cue: Polly upon her knees begs it of you.



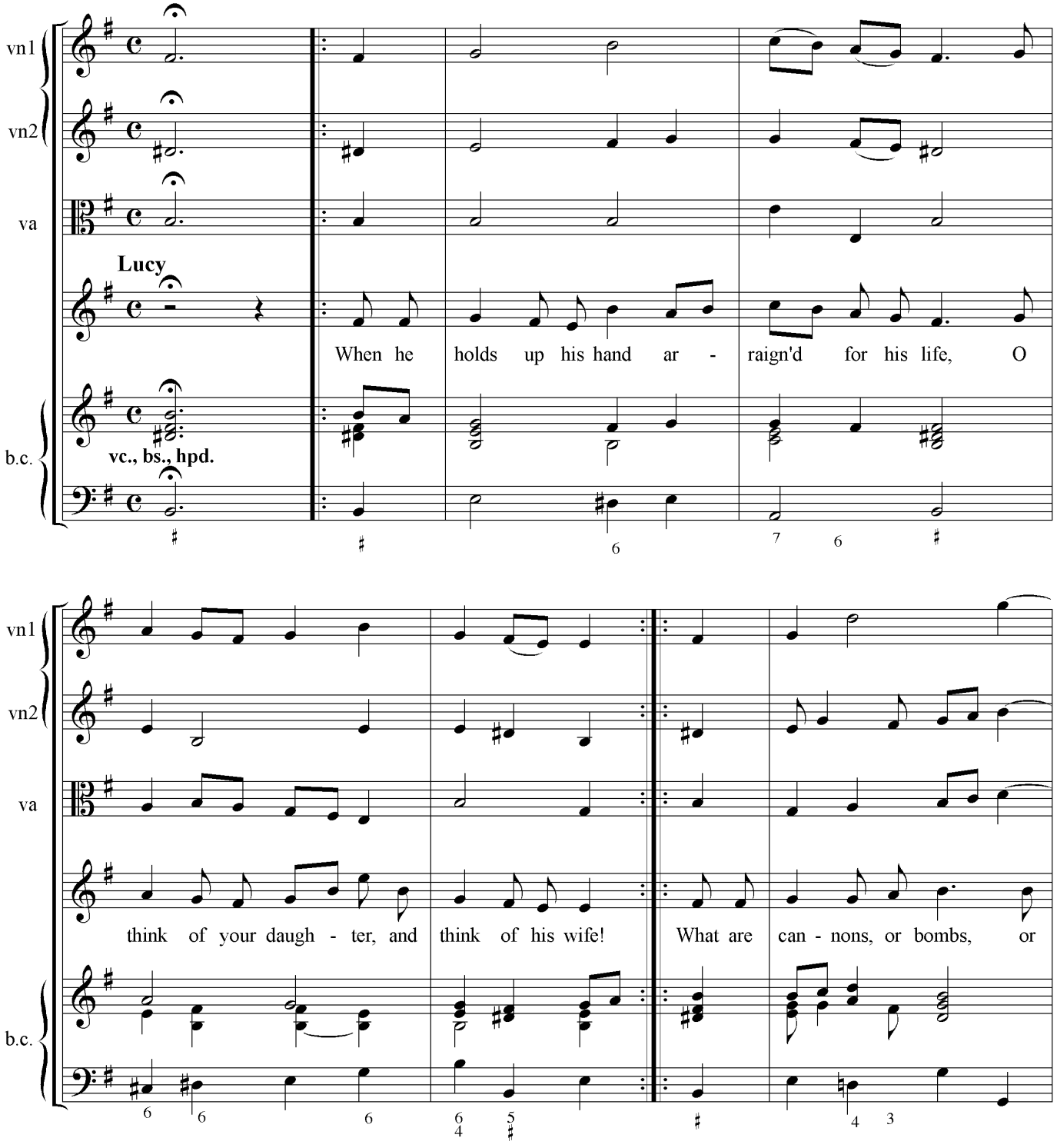

1
2
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
life; Then wife. Like the Sai-ler he holds up his hand, Di - strest on the da - shing

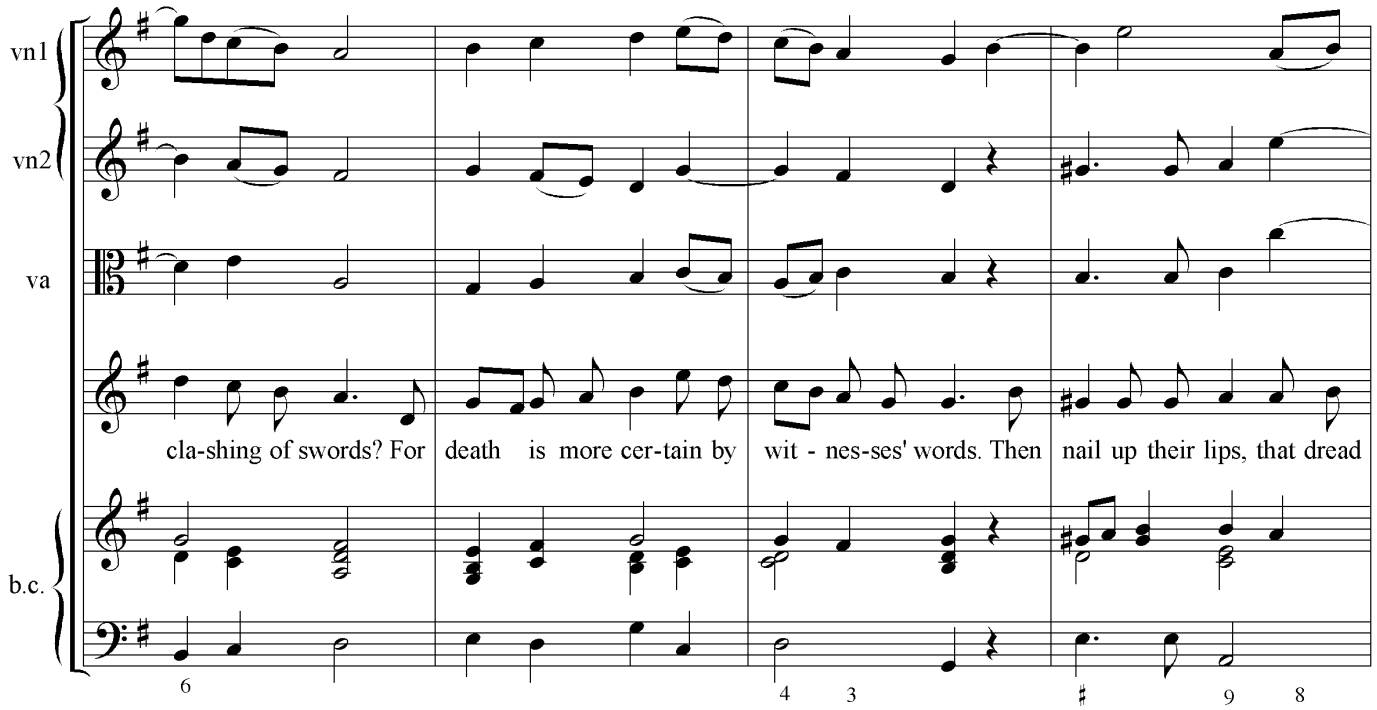

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
wave. To die a dry death at land, Is as bad as a wa - try

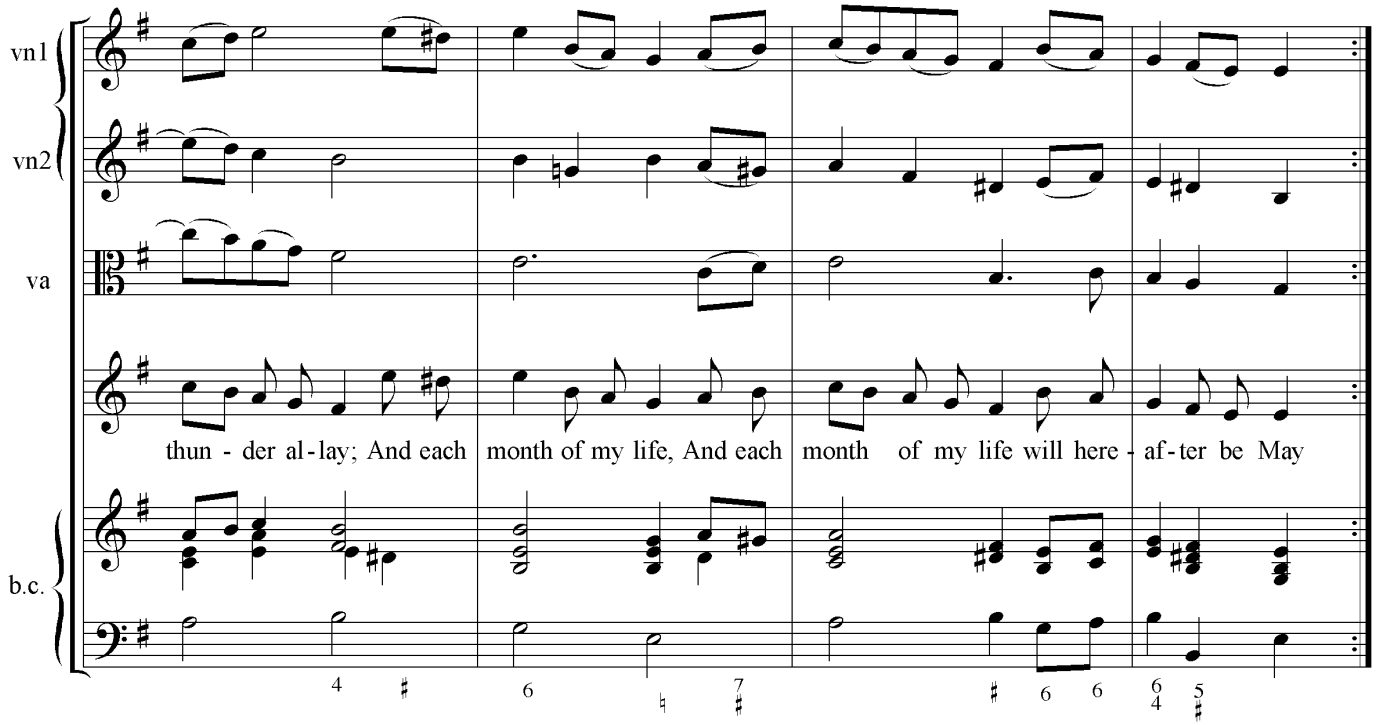

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
grave. And a - las, poor Pol - ly! A - lack, and well - a - day! Be-
fore I was in love, Oh! e - ve - ry month was May. [And a - May.]
1
2

Air 55. Ianthe the lovely

Cue: How then can you be a tyrant to me?

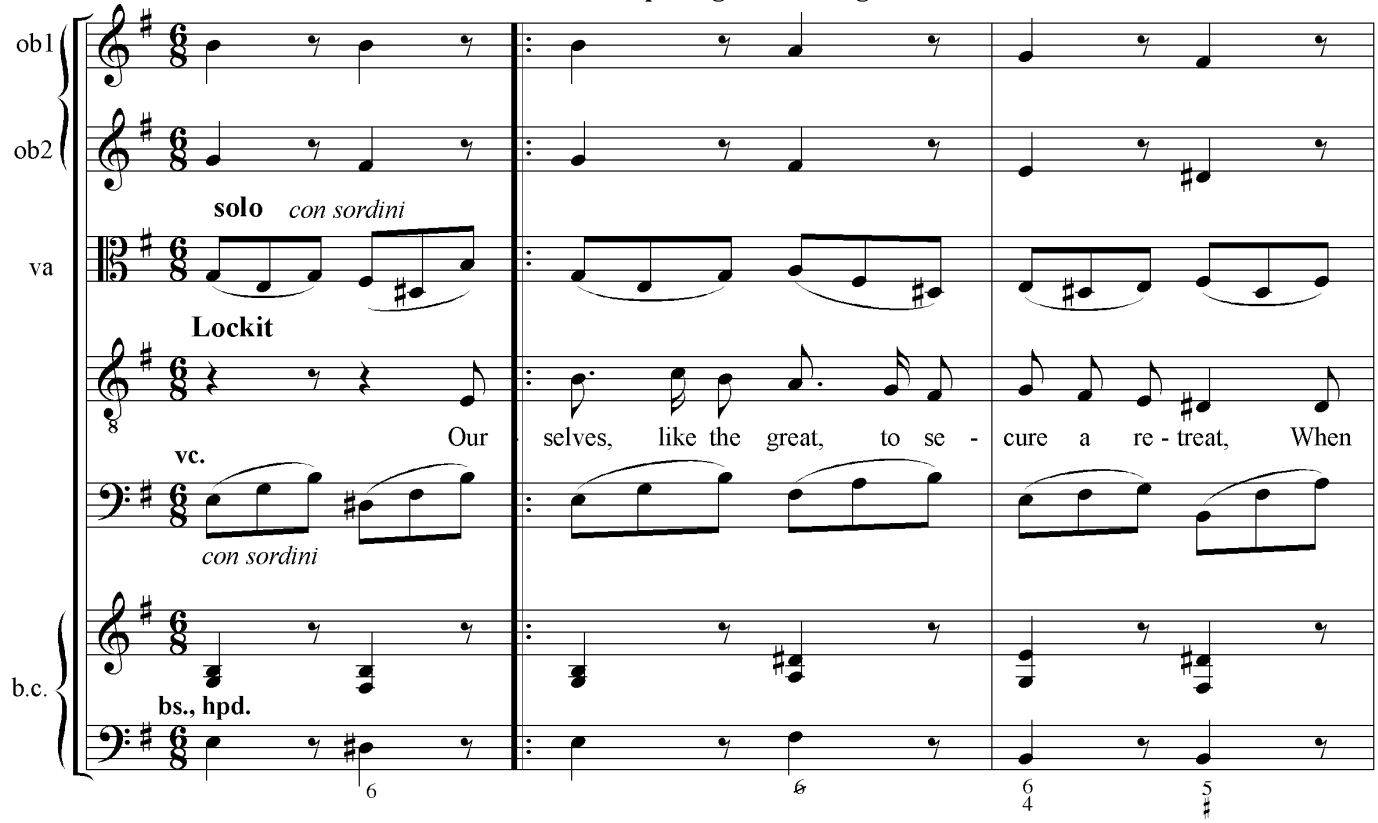


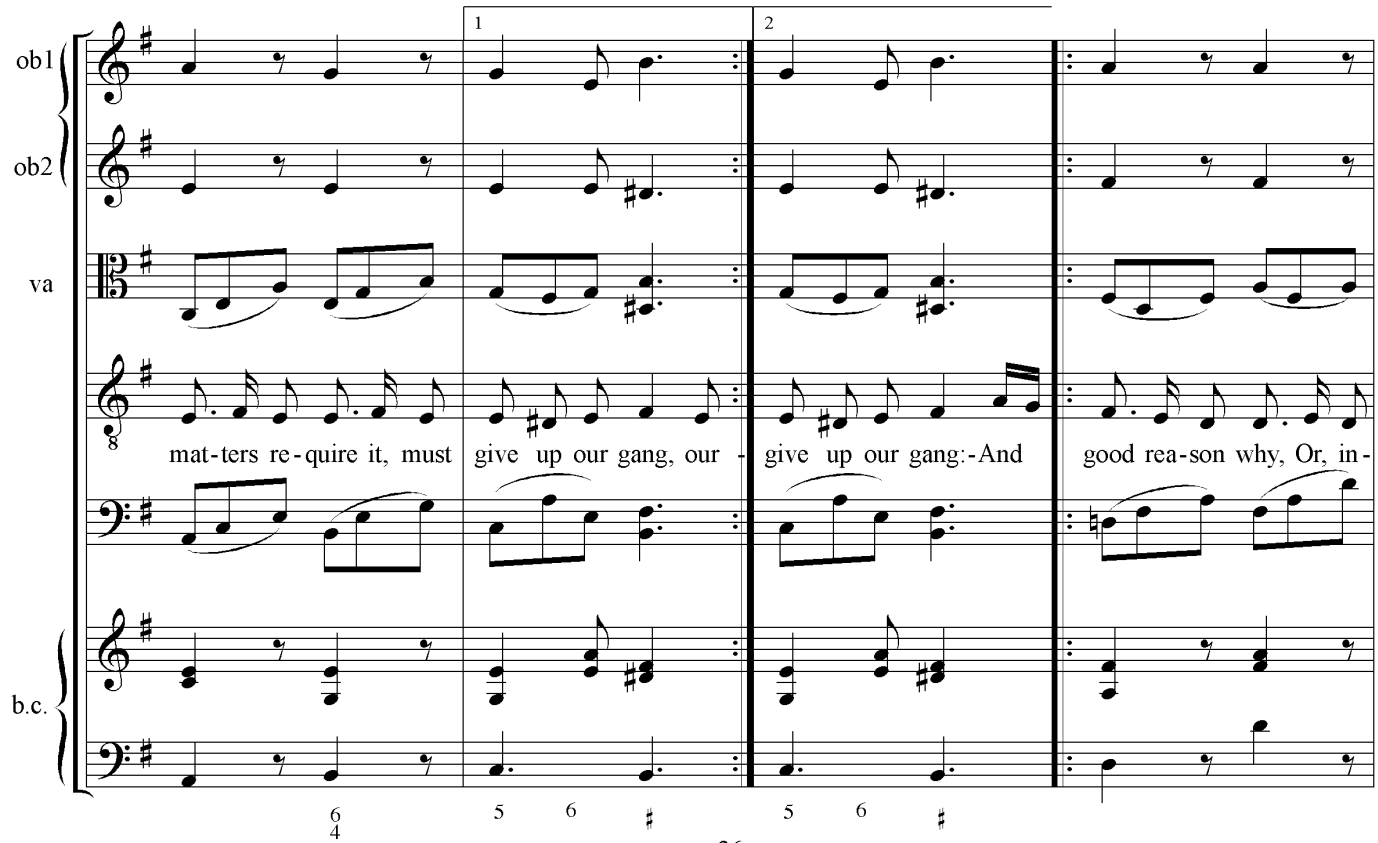

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
cla-shing of swords? For death is more cer-tain by wit - nes-ses' words. Then nail up their lips, that dread


vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
thun - der al-lay; And each month of my life, And each month of my life will here - af-ter be May

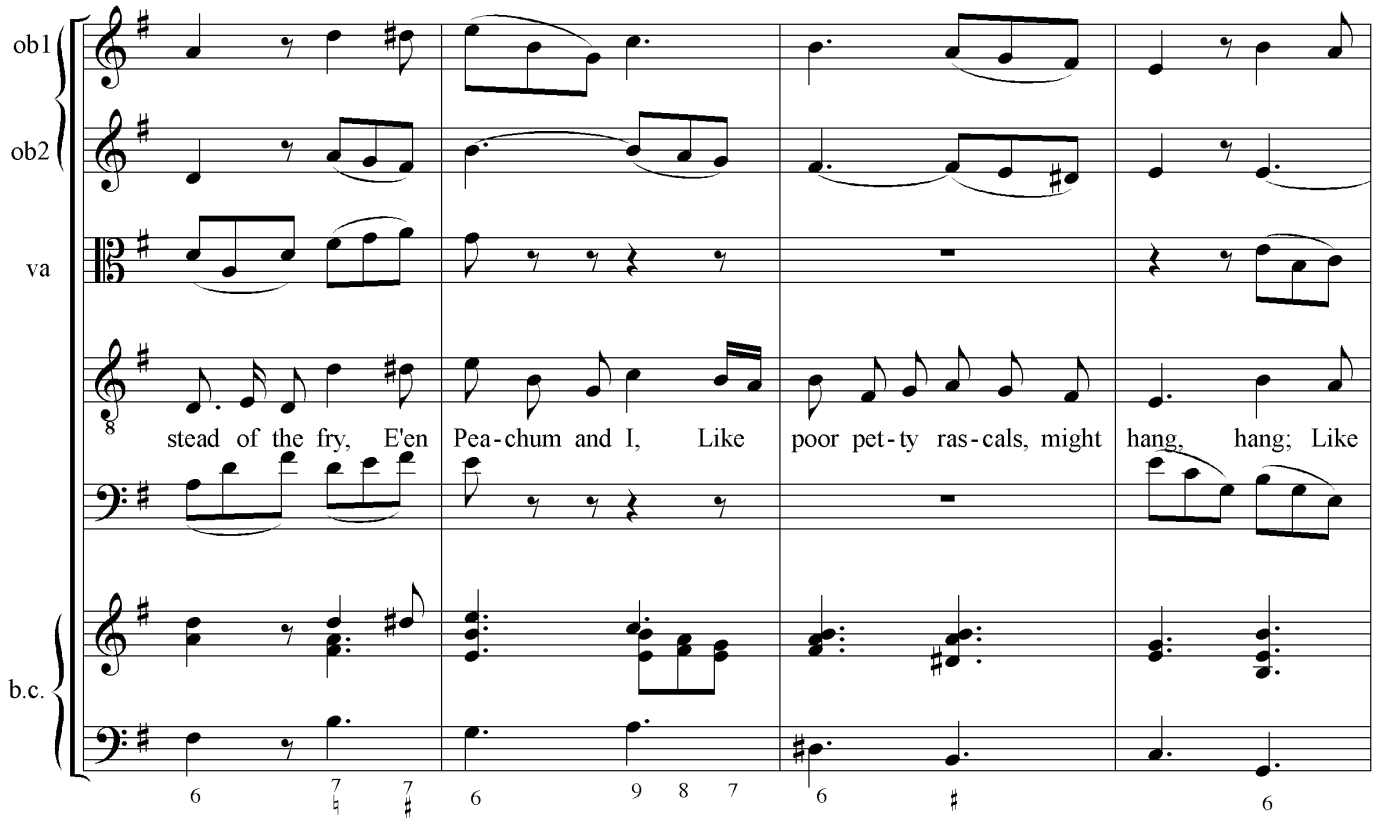
Air 56. A Cobler there was*

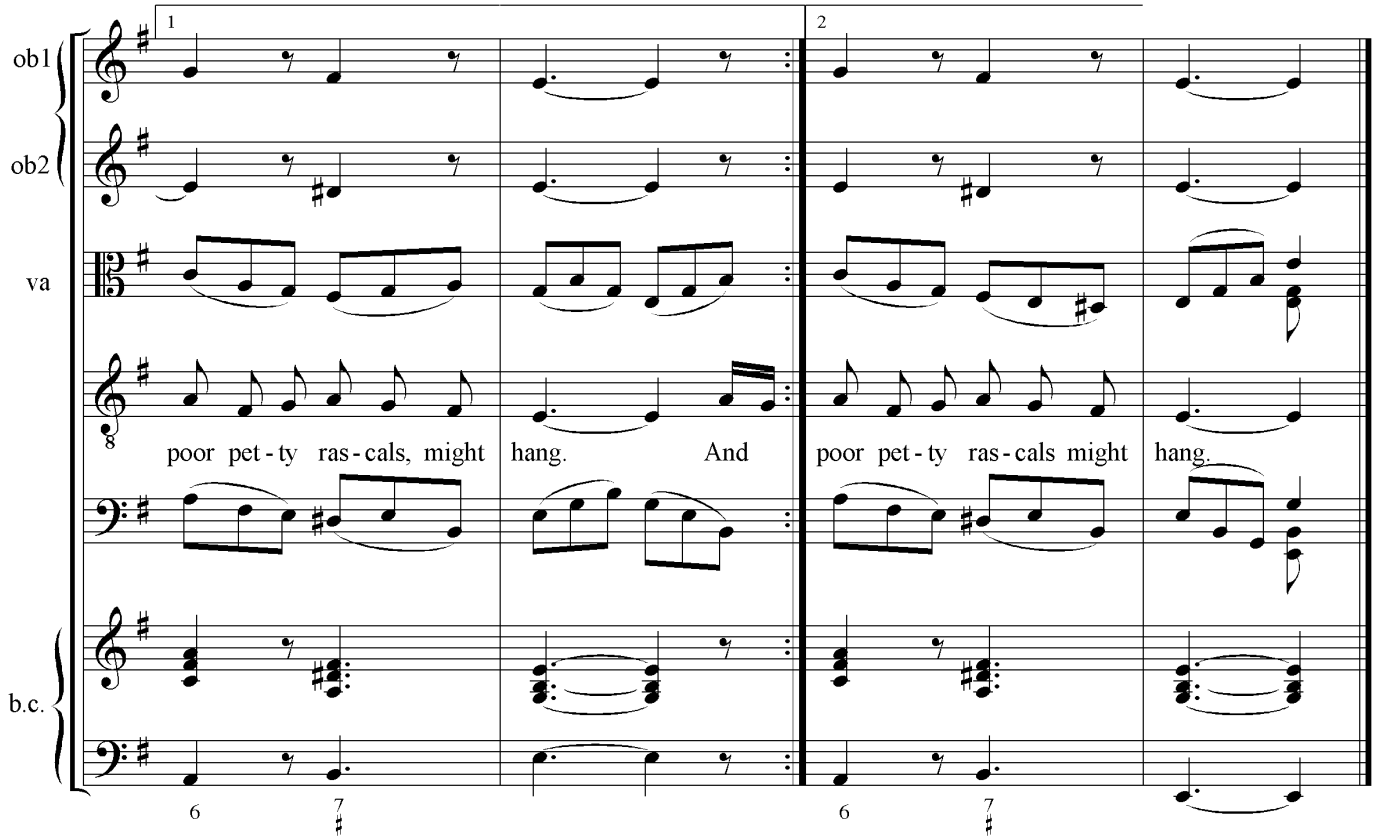
Cue: Macheath's time is come . . . whimpering or whining.





*Originally in G minor.

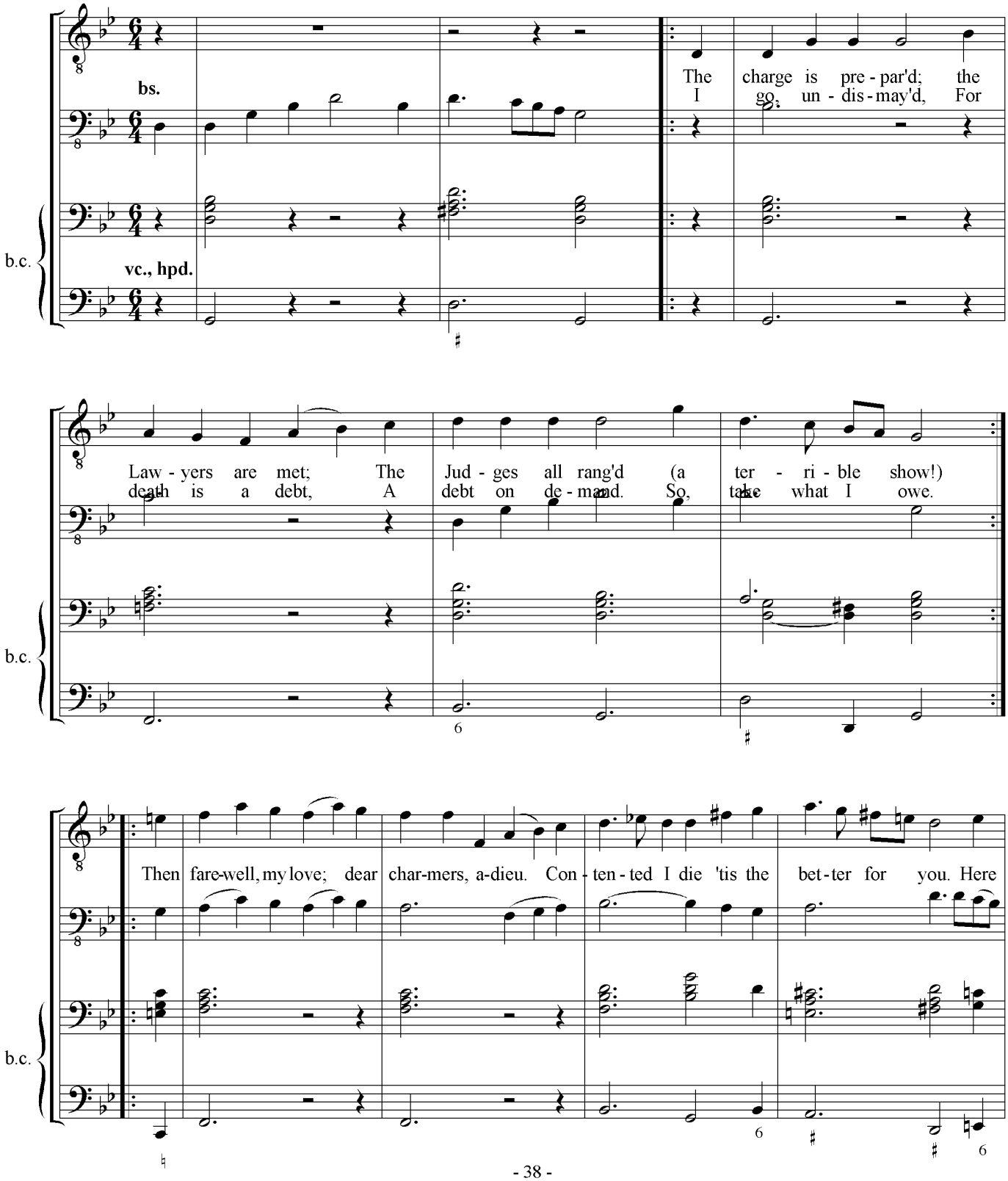

ob1
ob2
va
stead of the fry, E'en Pea-chum and I, Like poor pet-ty ras-cals, might hang, hang; Like
b.c.

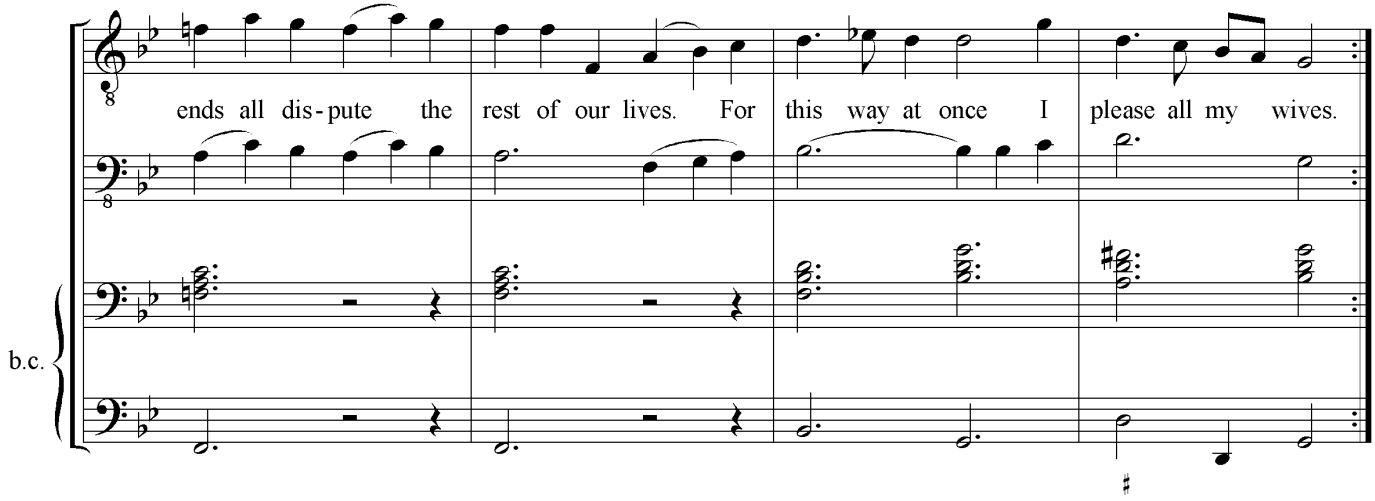

1
2
ob1
ob2
va
poor pet-ty ras-cals, might hang. And poor pet-ty ras-cals might hang.
b.c.

Air 57. Bonny Dundee

Cue: We are ready sir to conduct you to the Old Bailey.

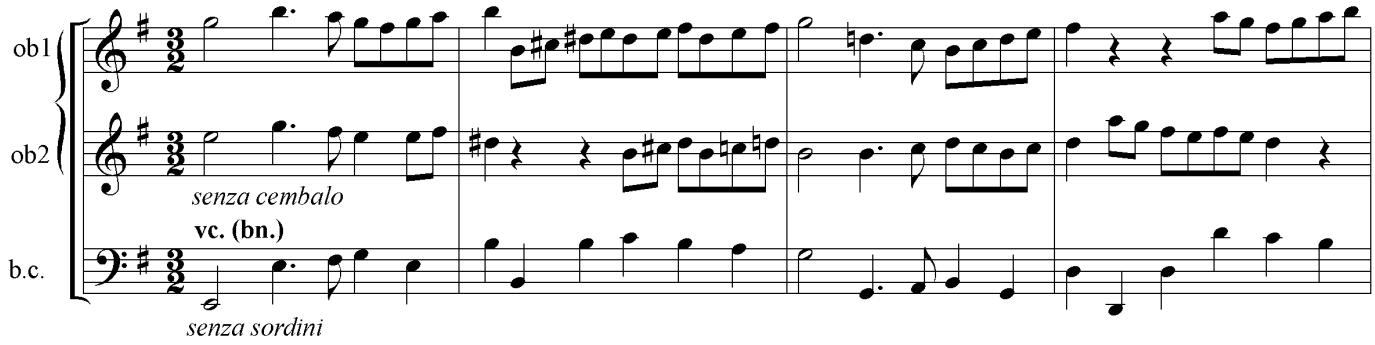
Macheath

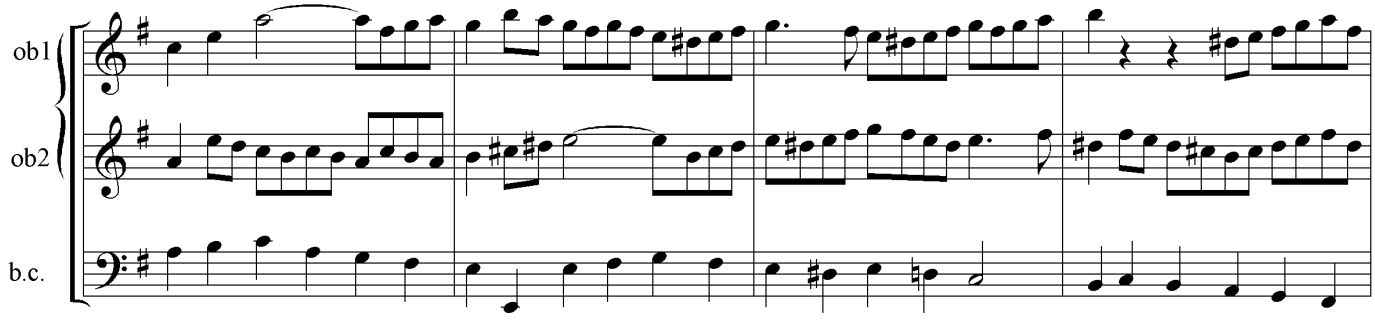


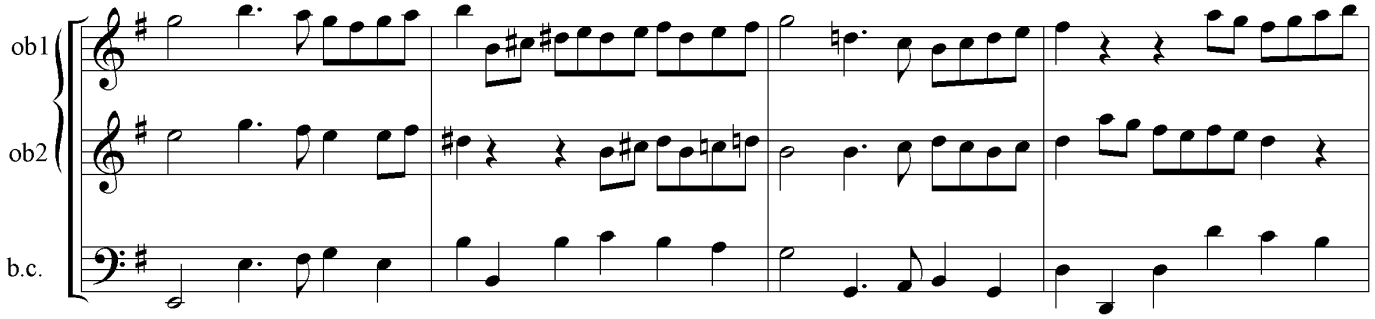


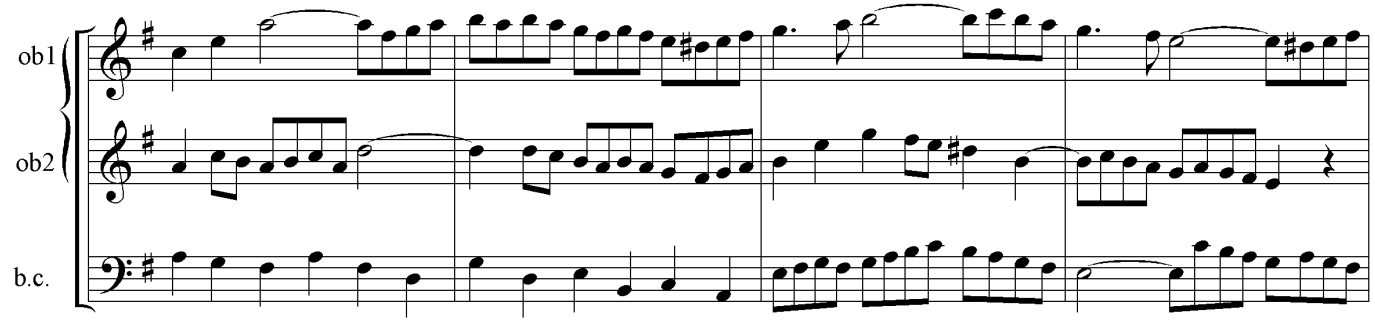
Prisoners' Dance [Hornpipe, oboes and bassoon onstage]

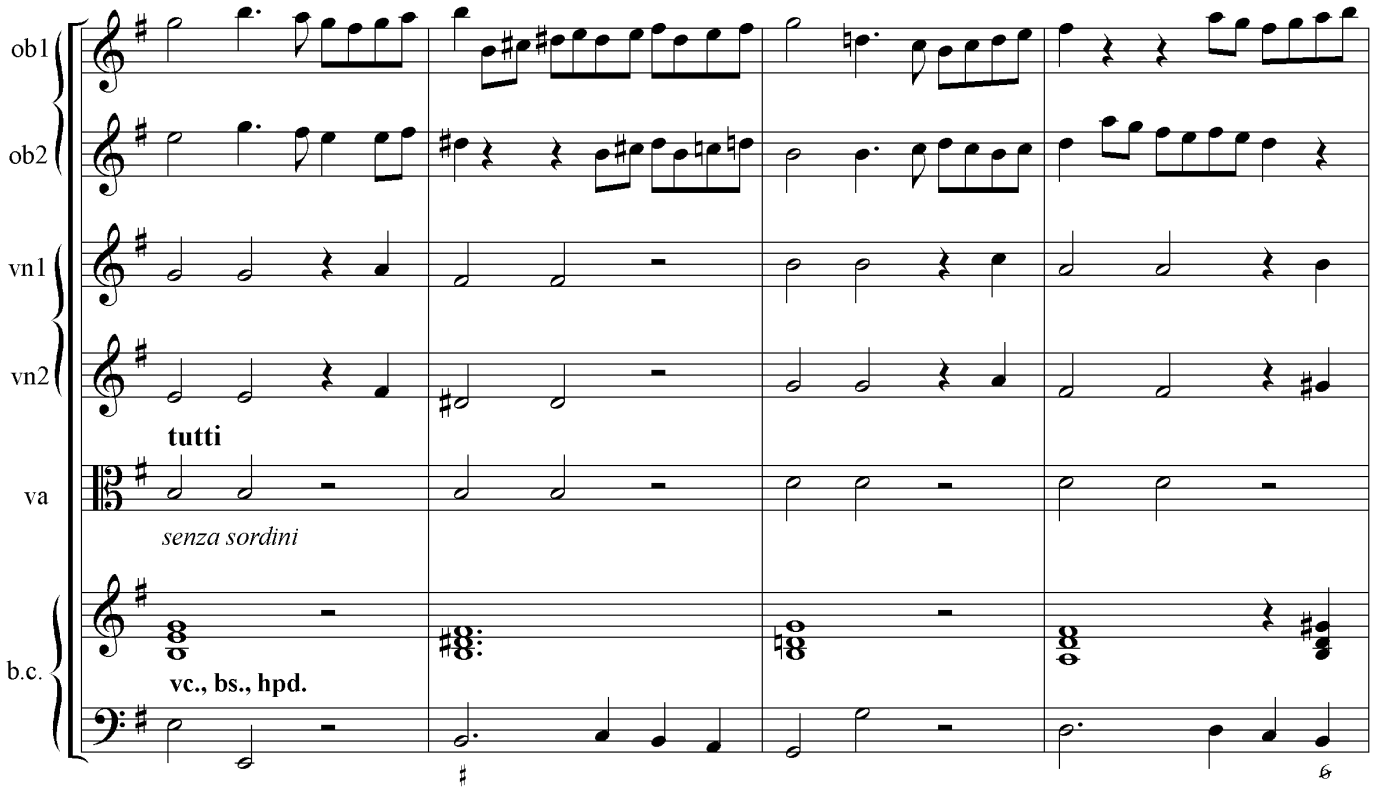
Cue: You'll find me here with Miss Lucy.

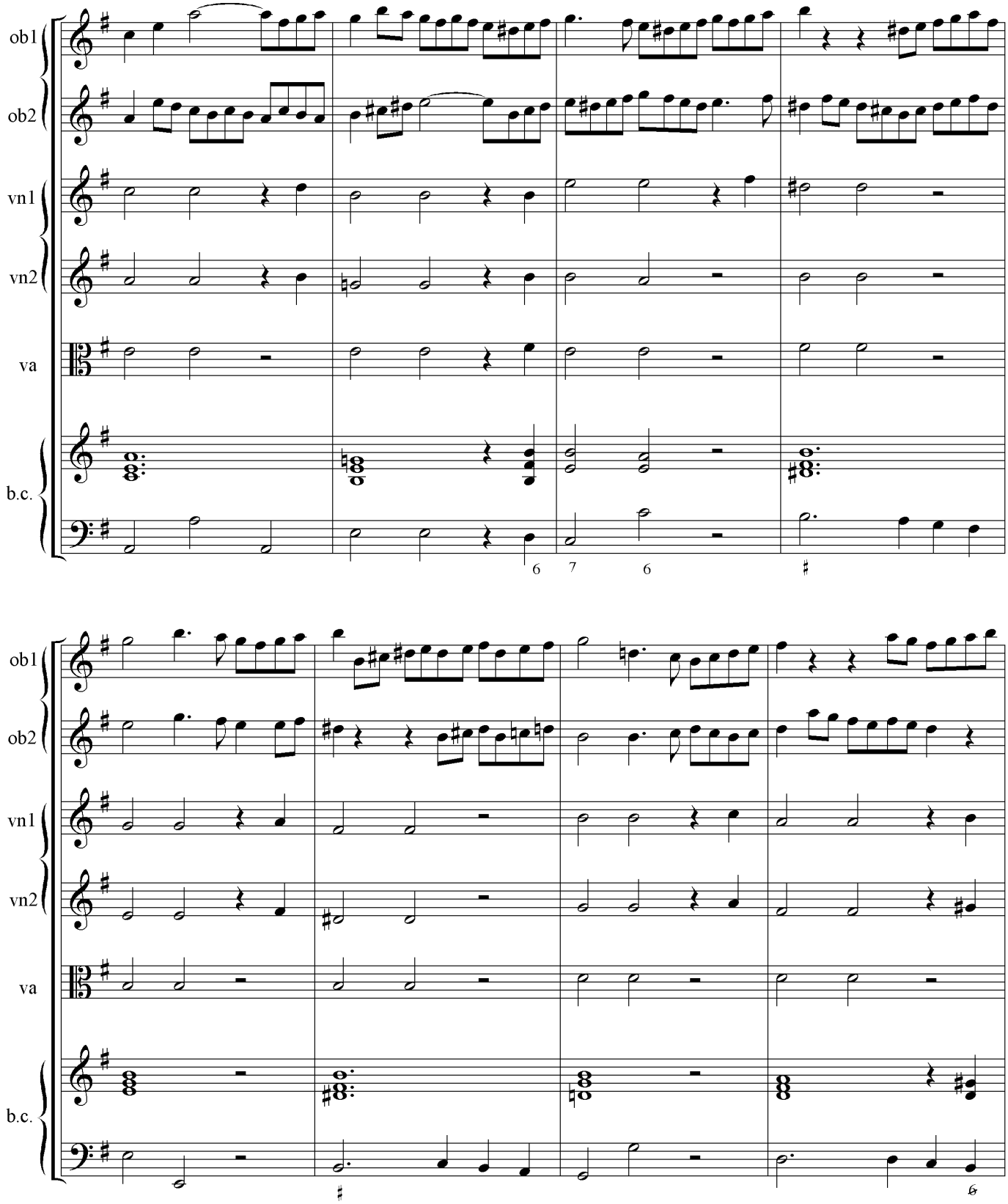


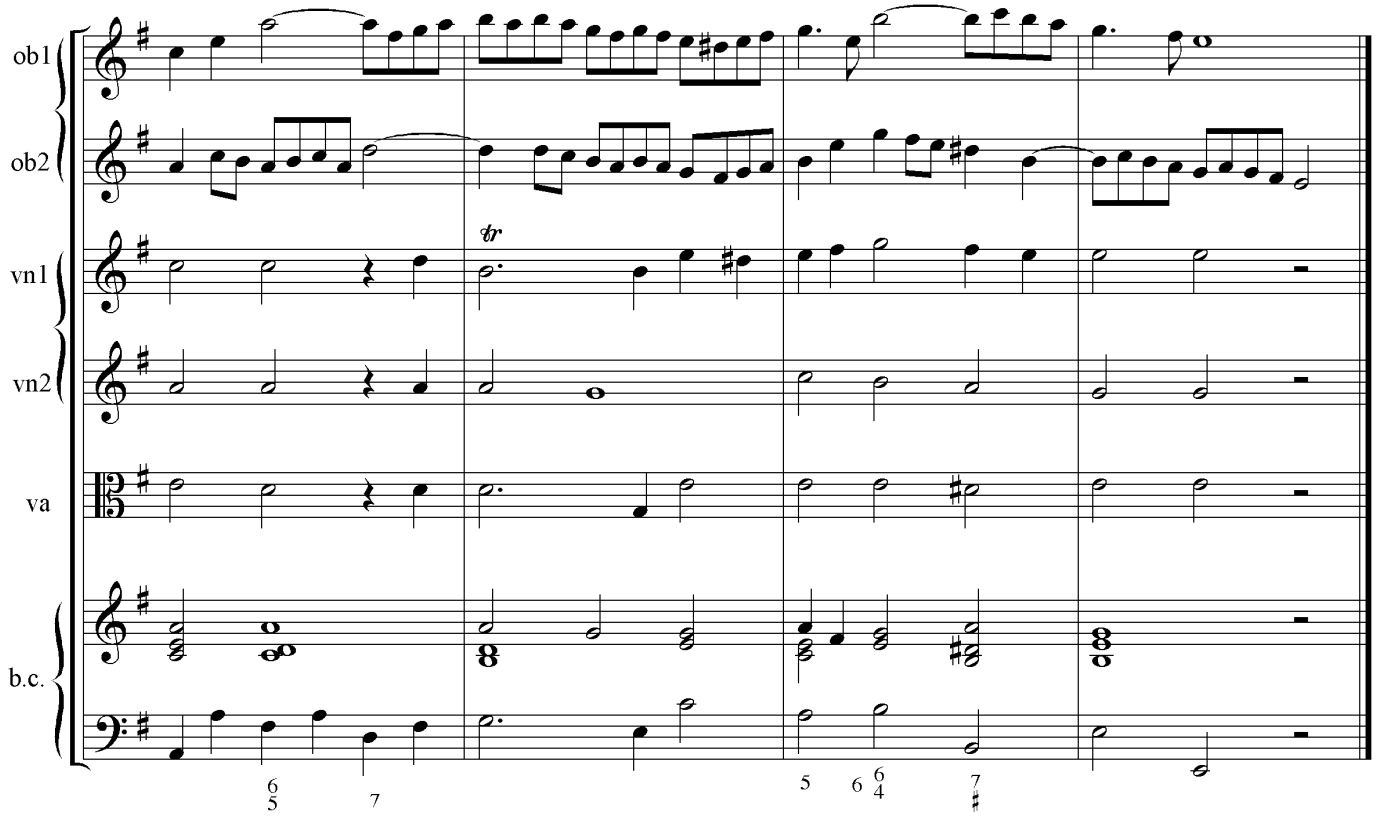



ob1
ob2
b.c.


ob1
ob2
b.c.

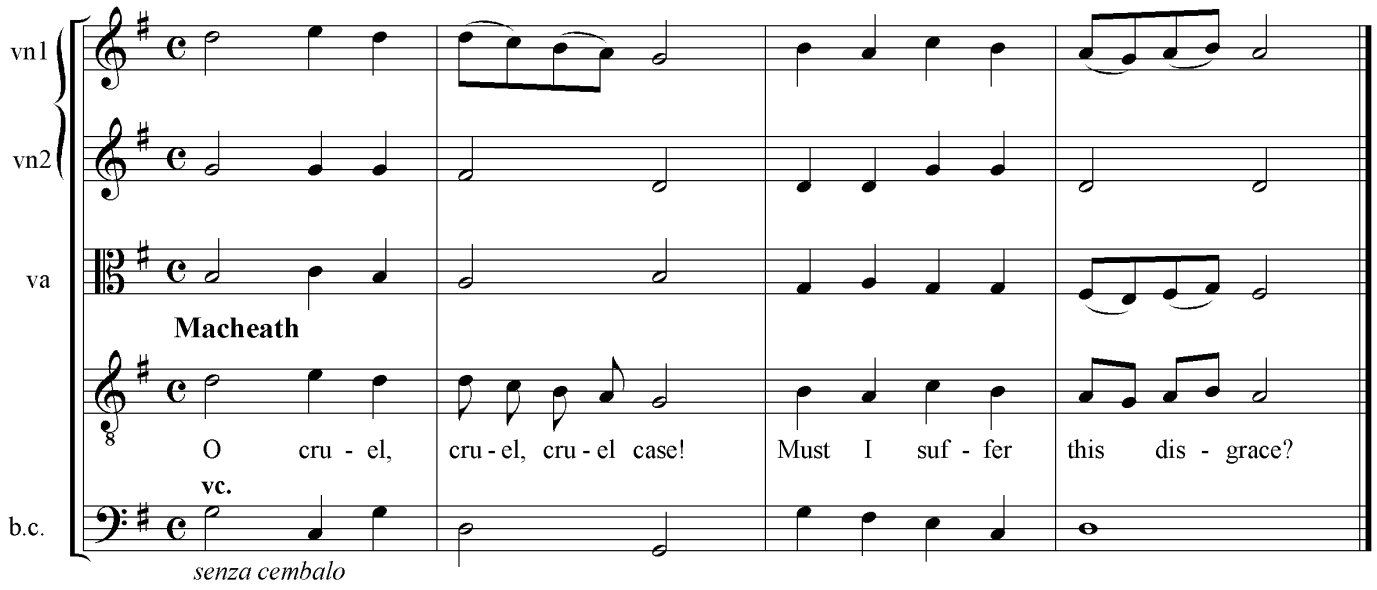

ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
tutti
va
senza sordini
b.c.
vc., bs., hpd.


ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.



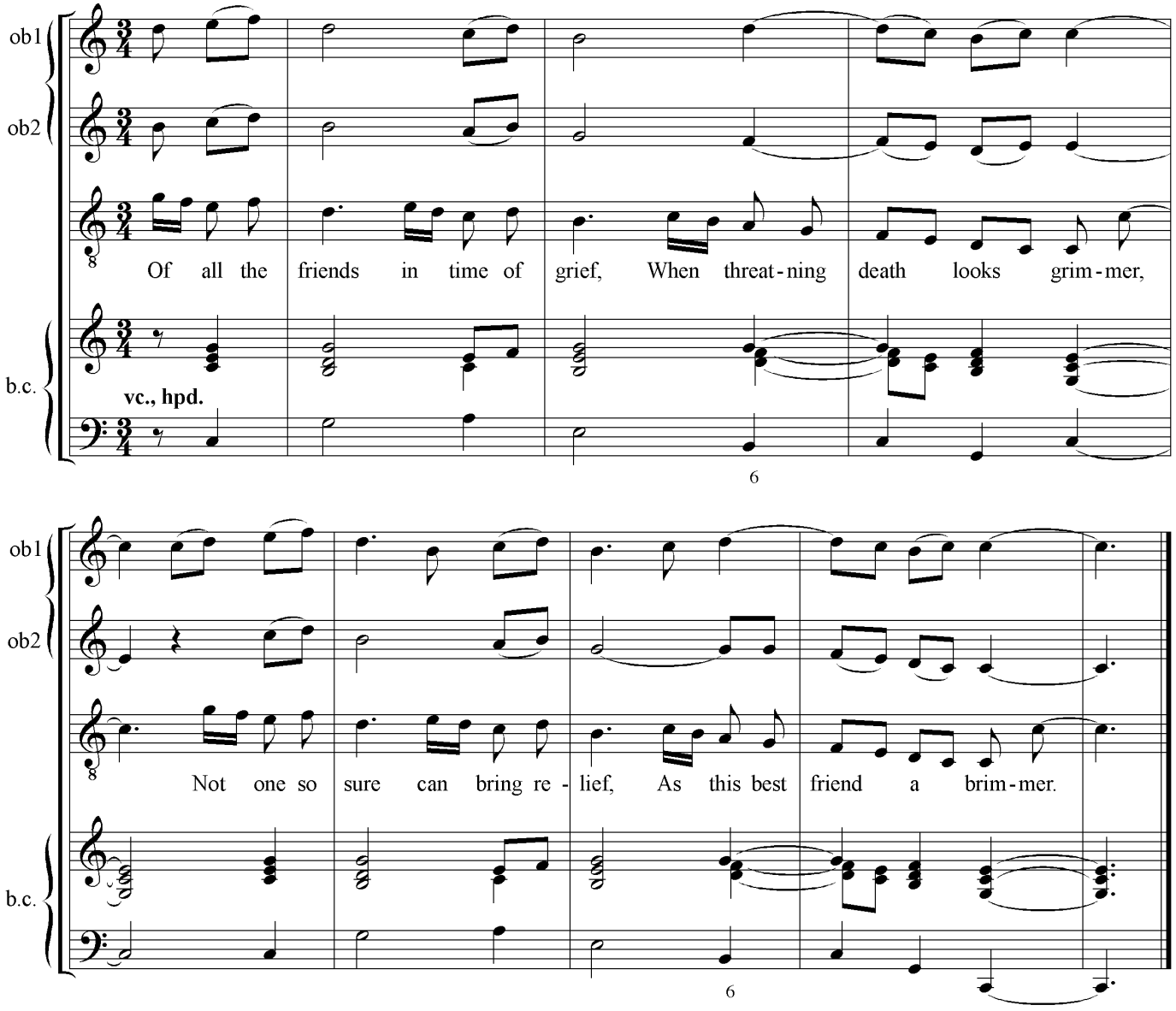
Air 58. Happy Groves

Cue: [this air immediately follows the Prisonerrs' Dance and scene change.]

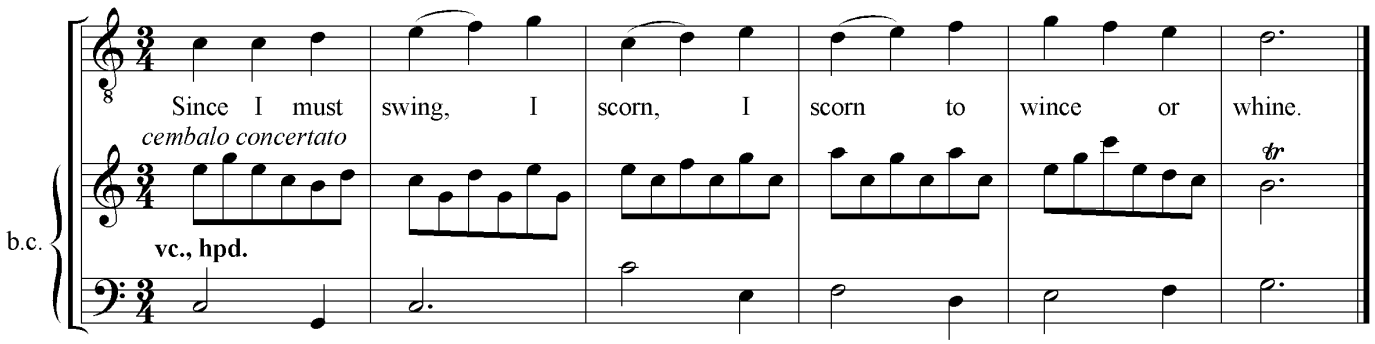


Air 59. Of all the girls that are so smart

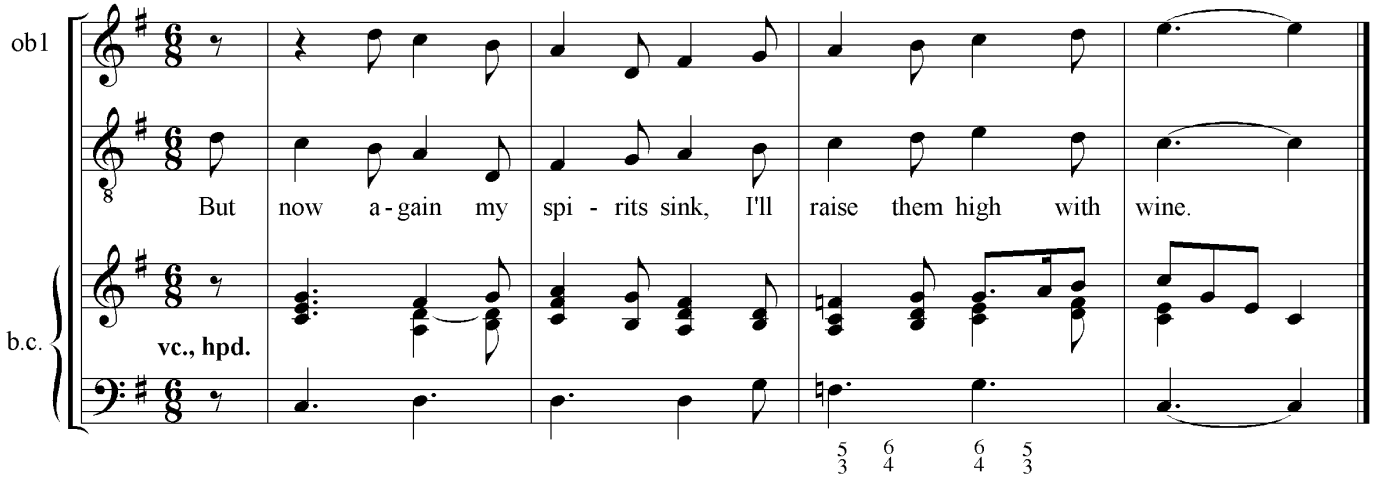
[Airs 59-67 succeeded one another without breaks.]



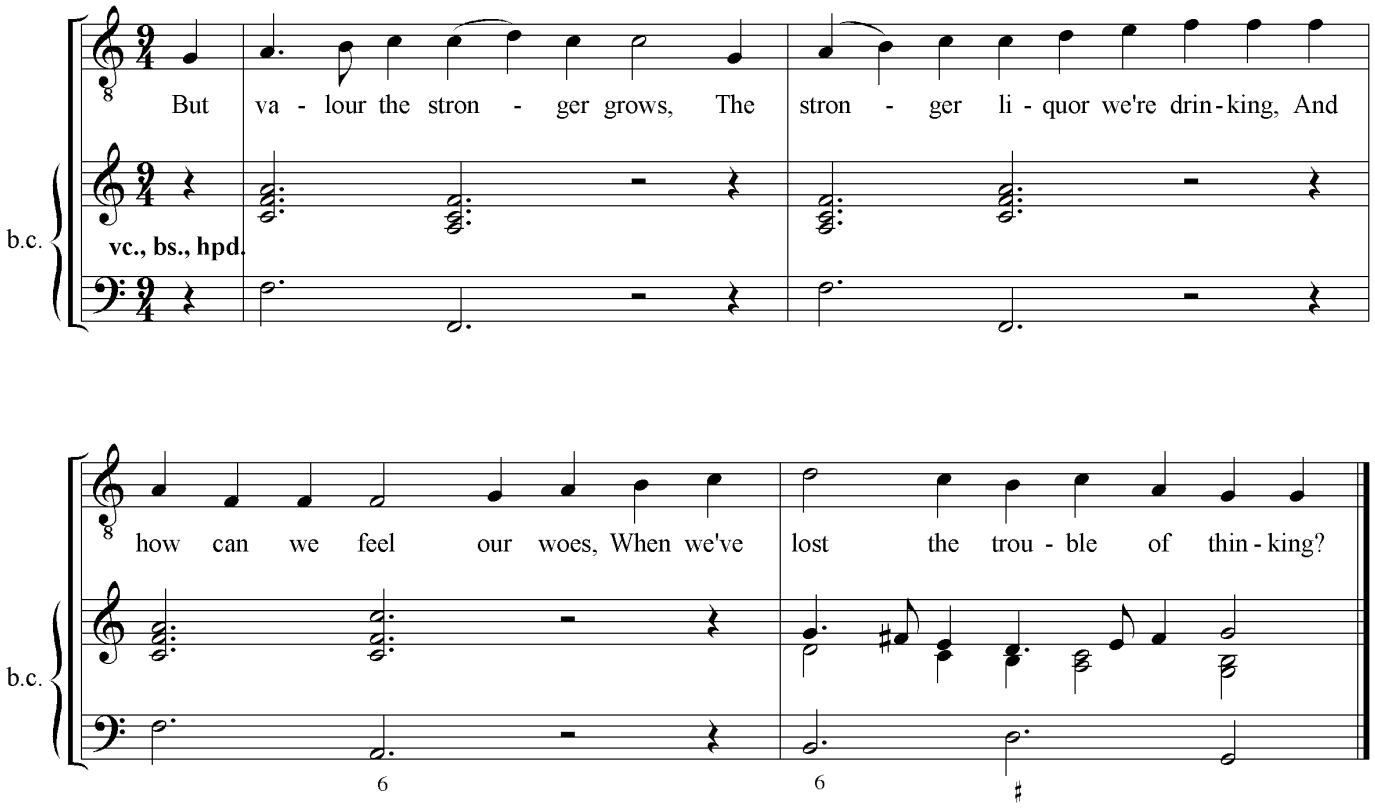
Air 60. Britons strike Home.



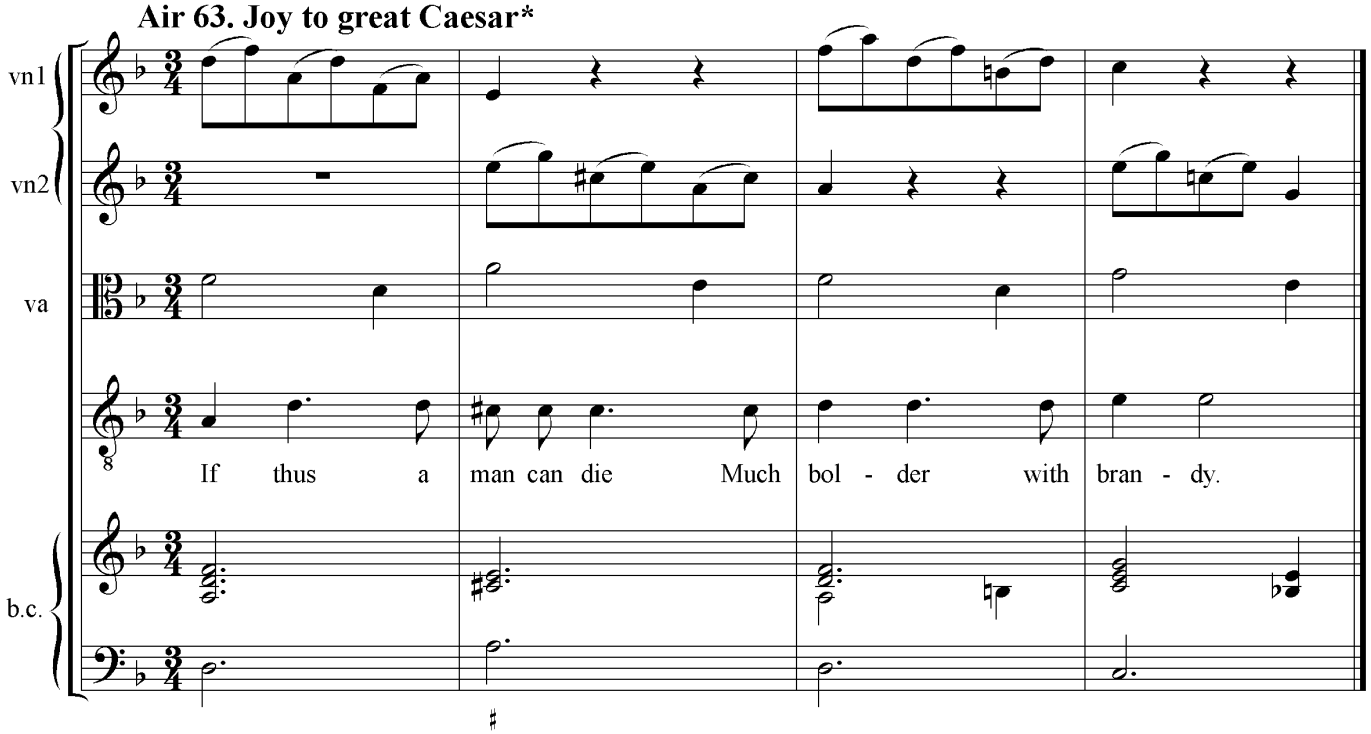
Air 61. Chevy Chase



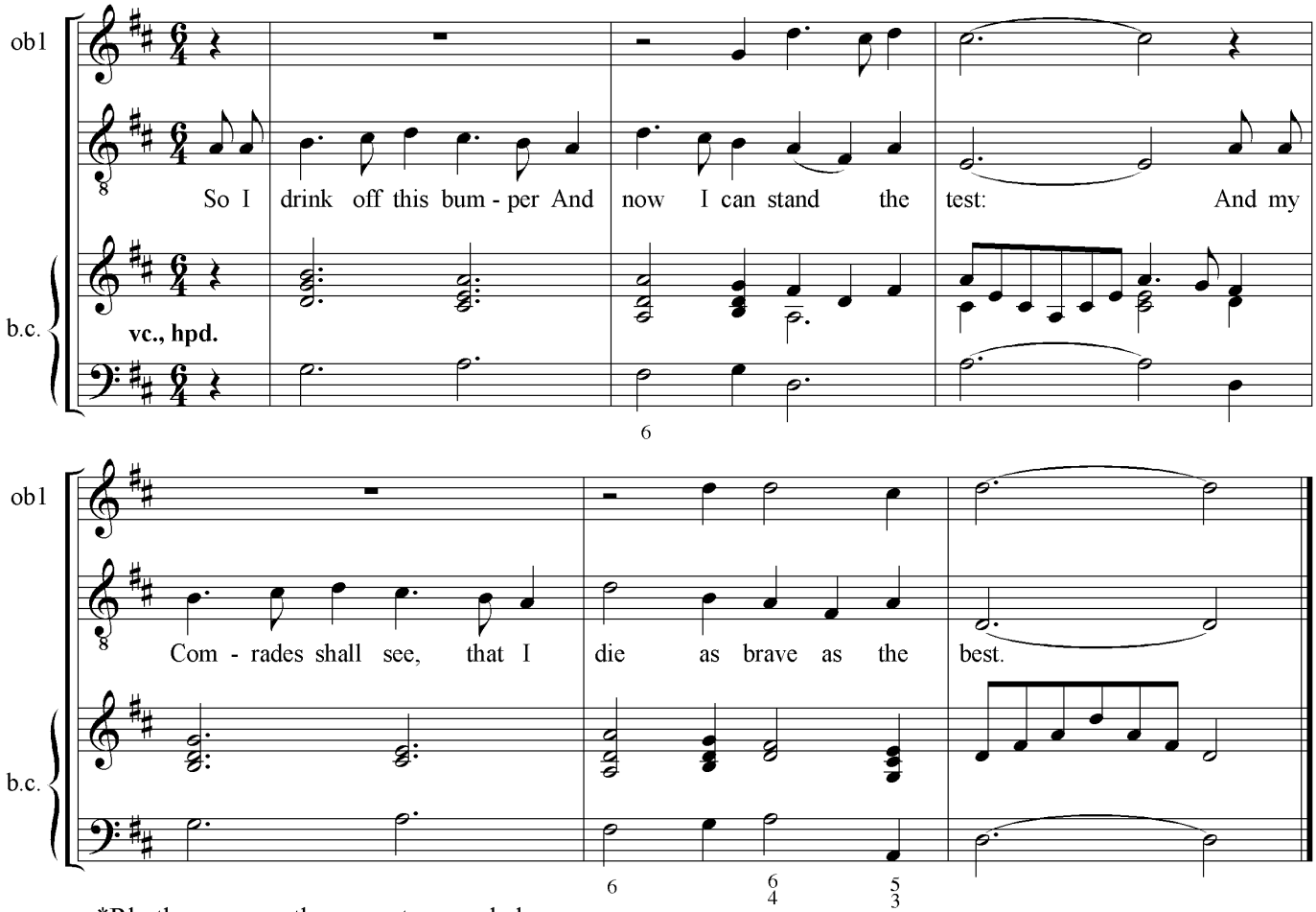
Air 62. To old Sir Simon the King



Air 63. Joy to great Caesar*

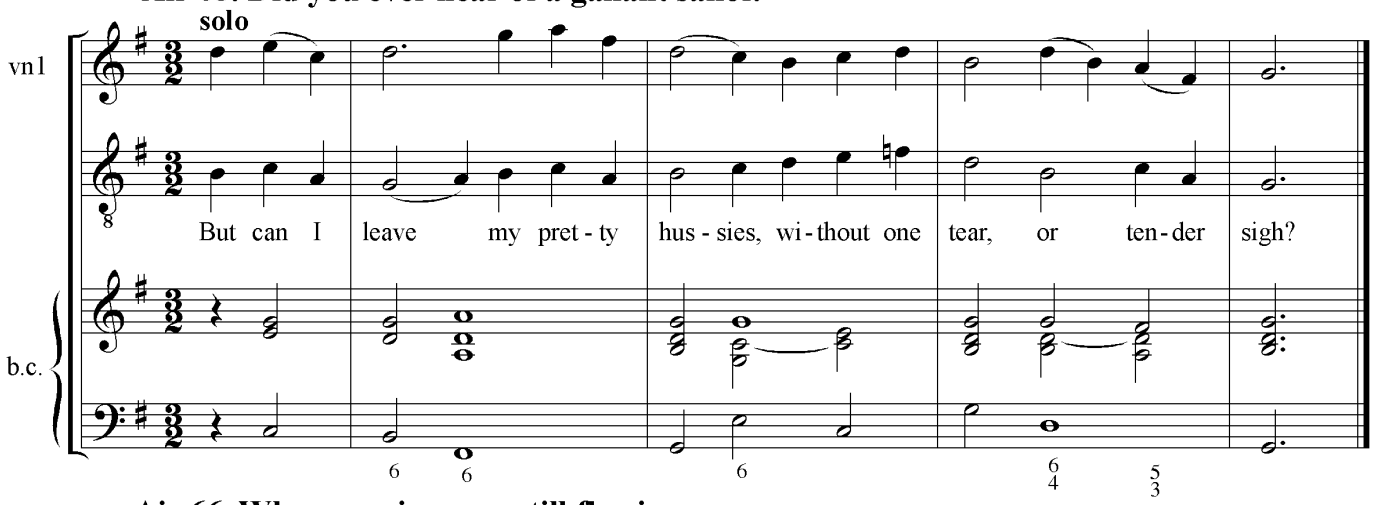


Air 64. There was an old woman

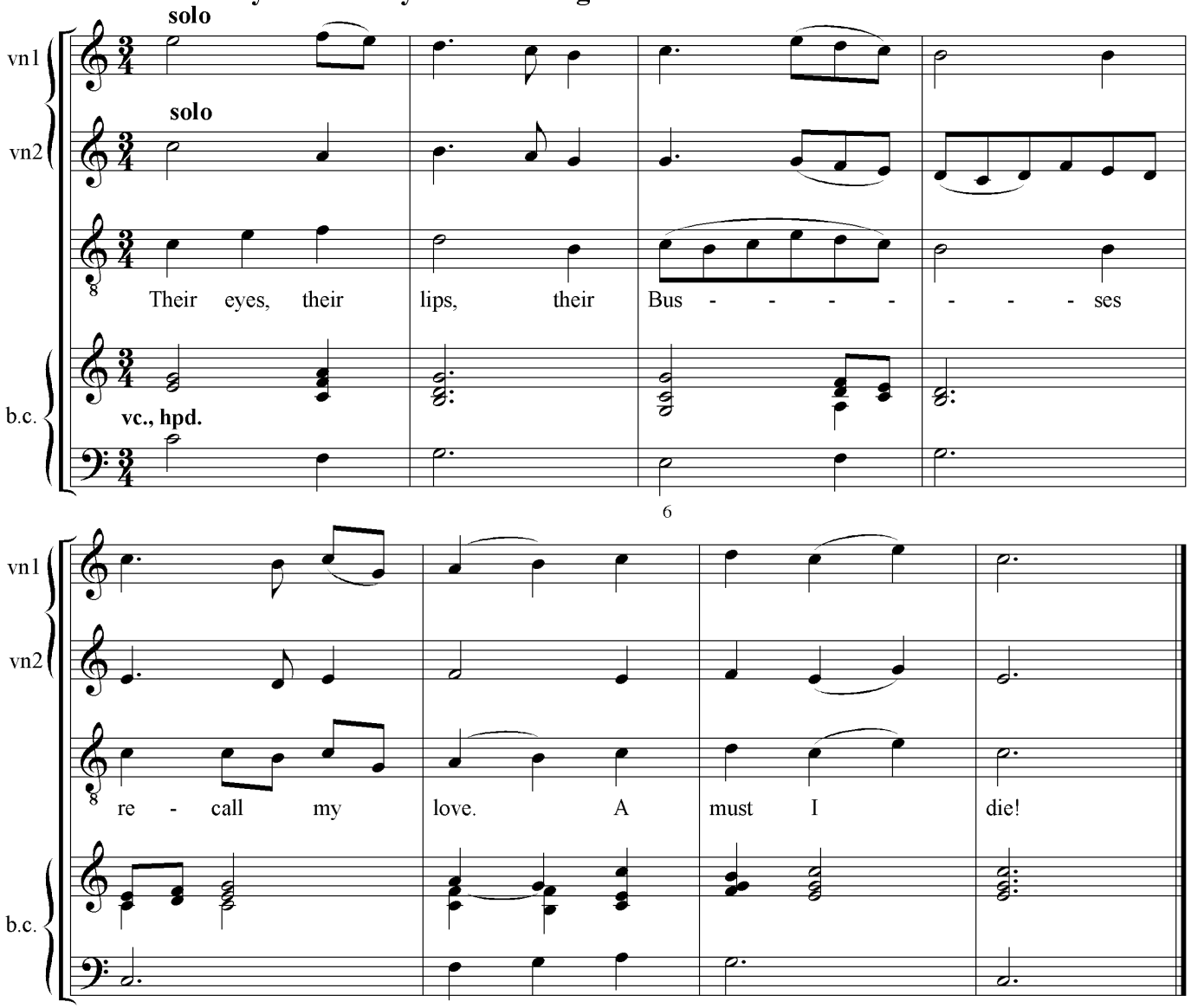


*Rhythm apparently corrupt; emended.

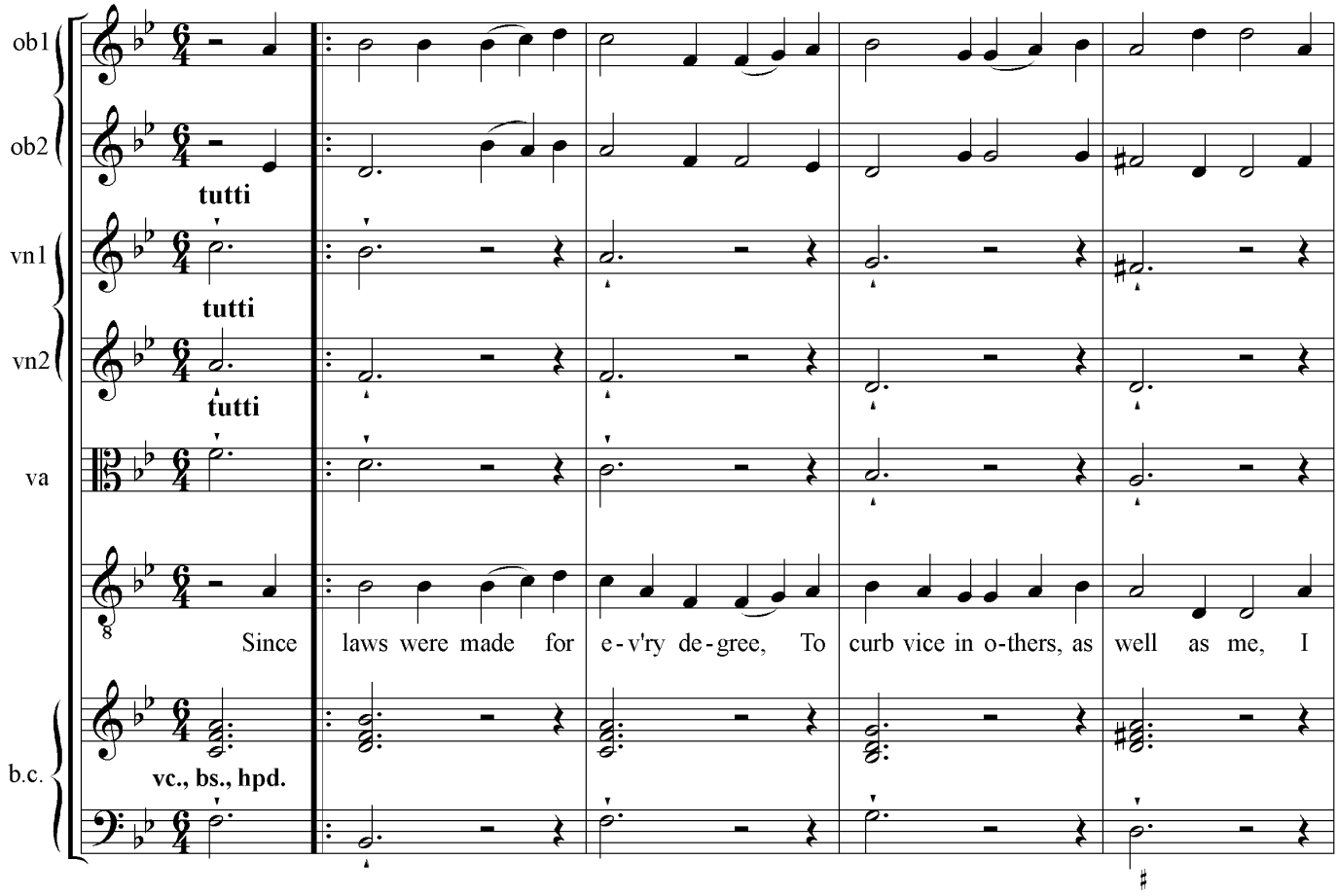
Air 65. Did you ever hear of a gallant sailor.

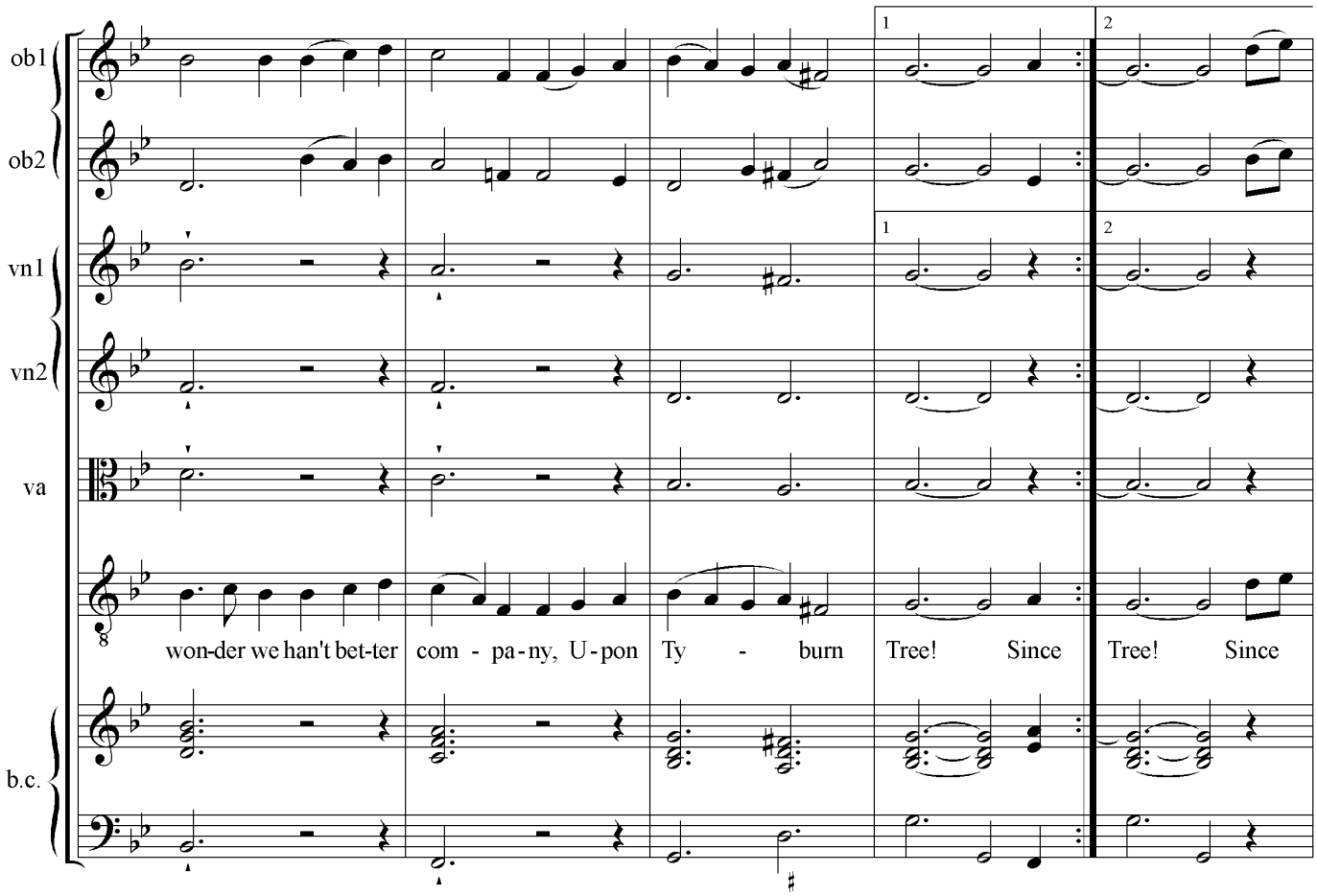


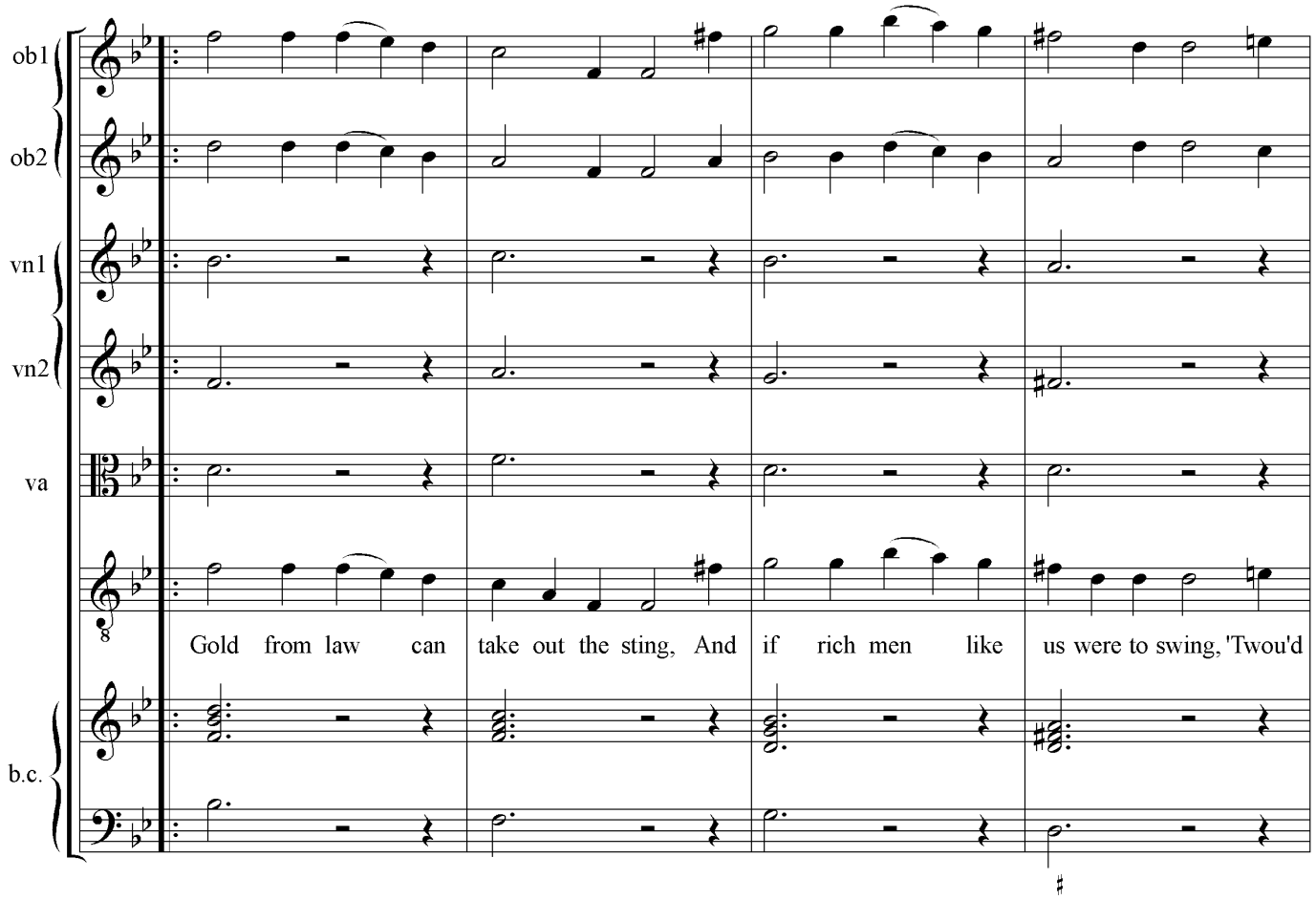
Air 66. Why are mine eyes still flowing.

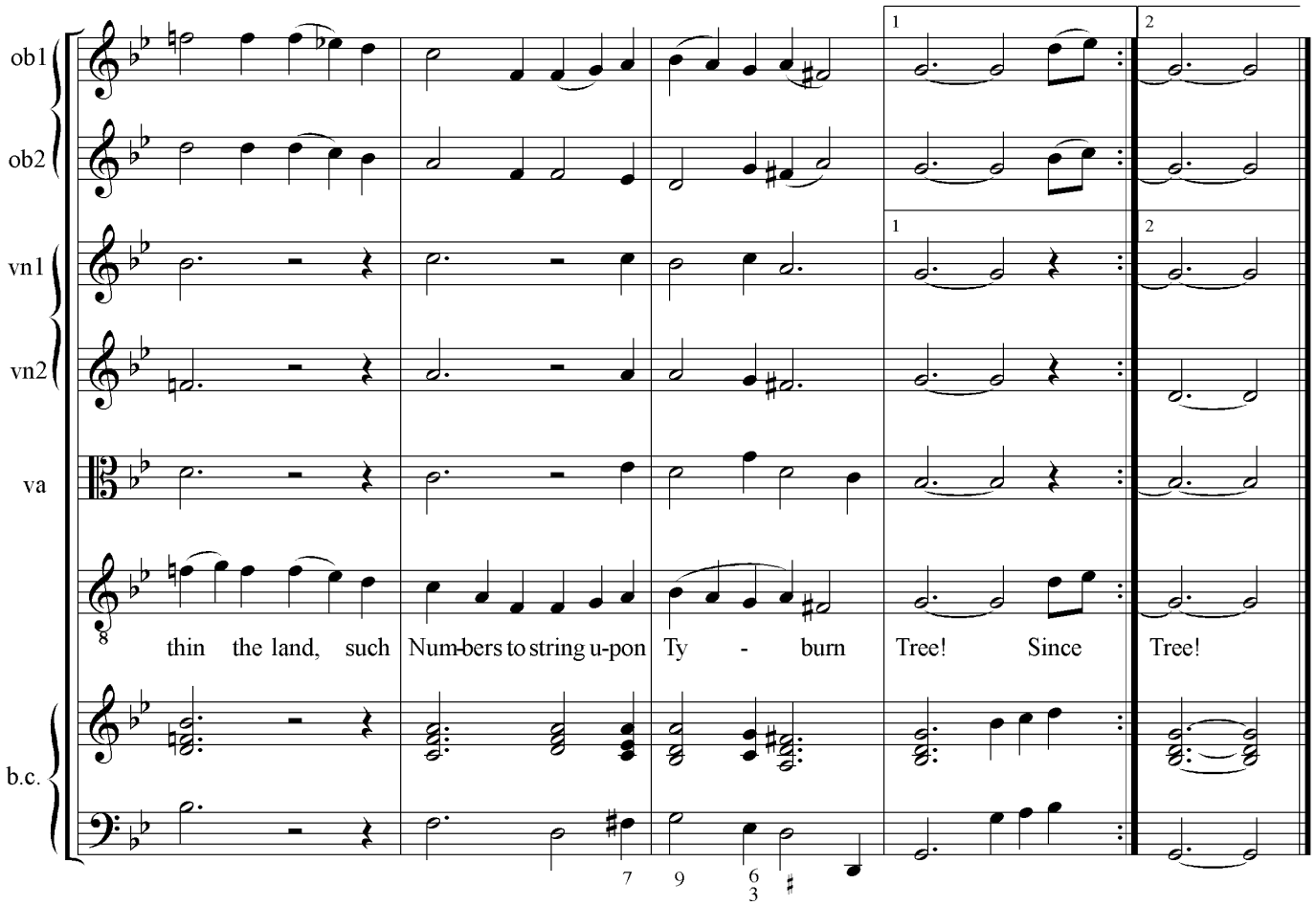


Air 67. Greensleeves




ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
won-der we han't bet-ter com - pa-ny, U-pon Ty - burn Tree! Since Tree! Since
1
2
1
2

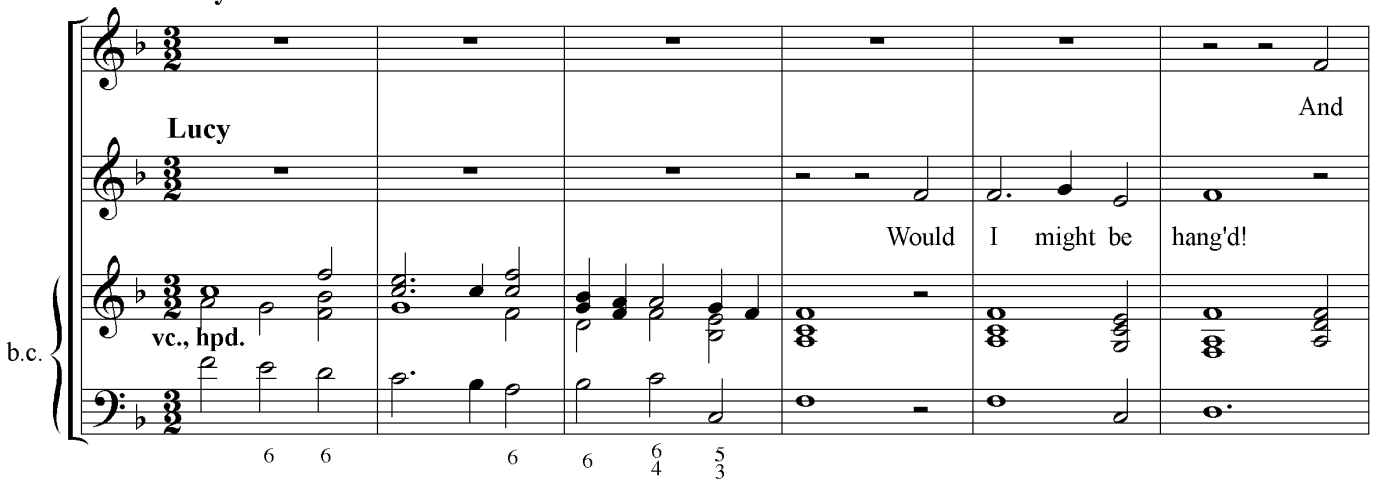

ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
Gold from law can take out the sting, And if rich men like us were to swing, 'Twou'd

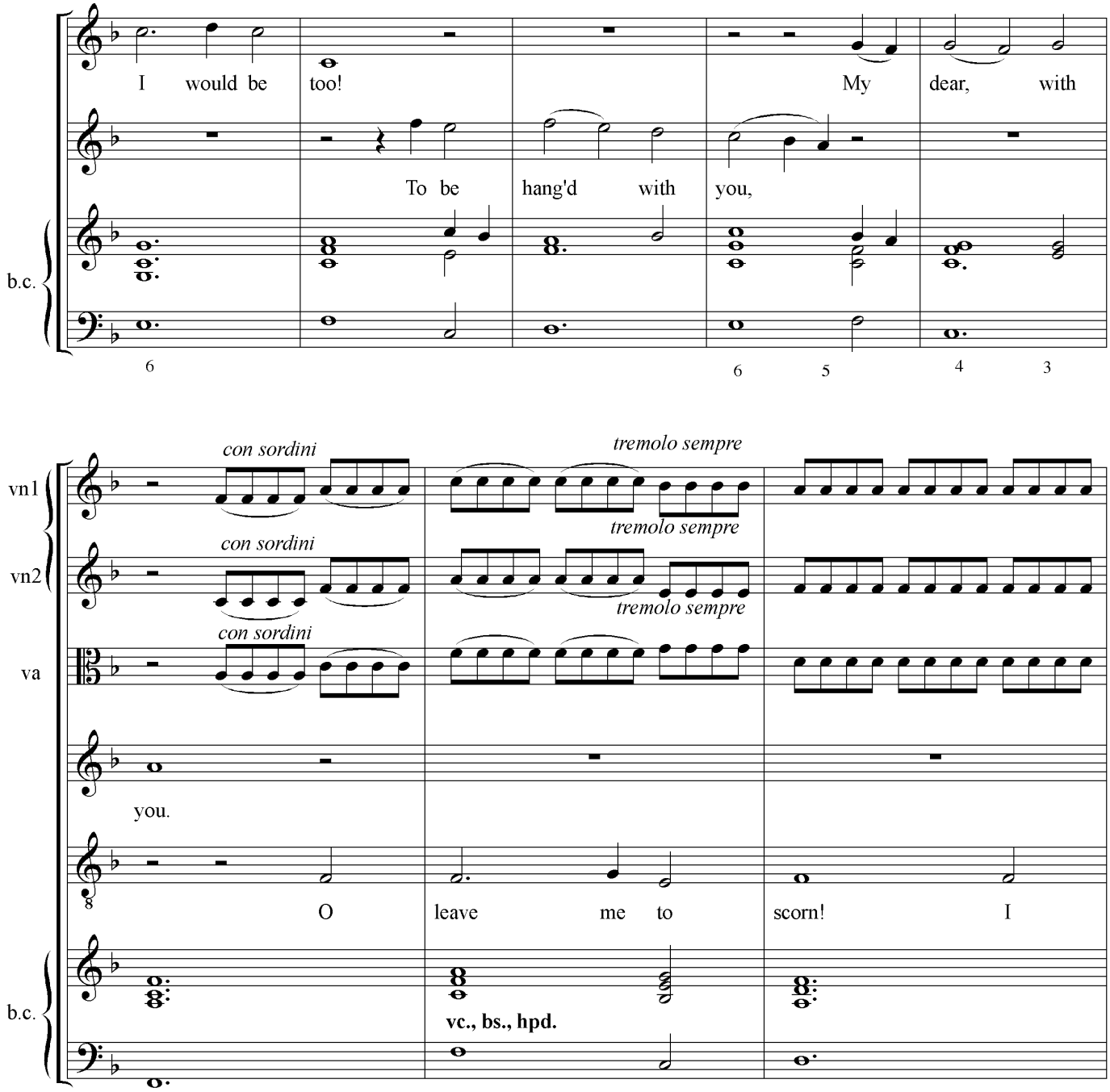


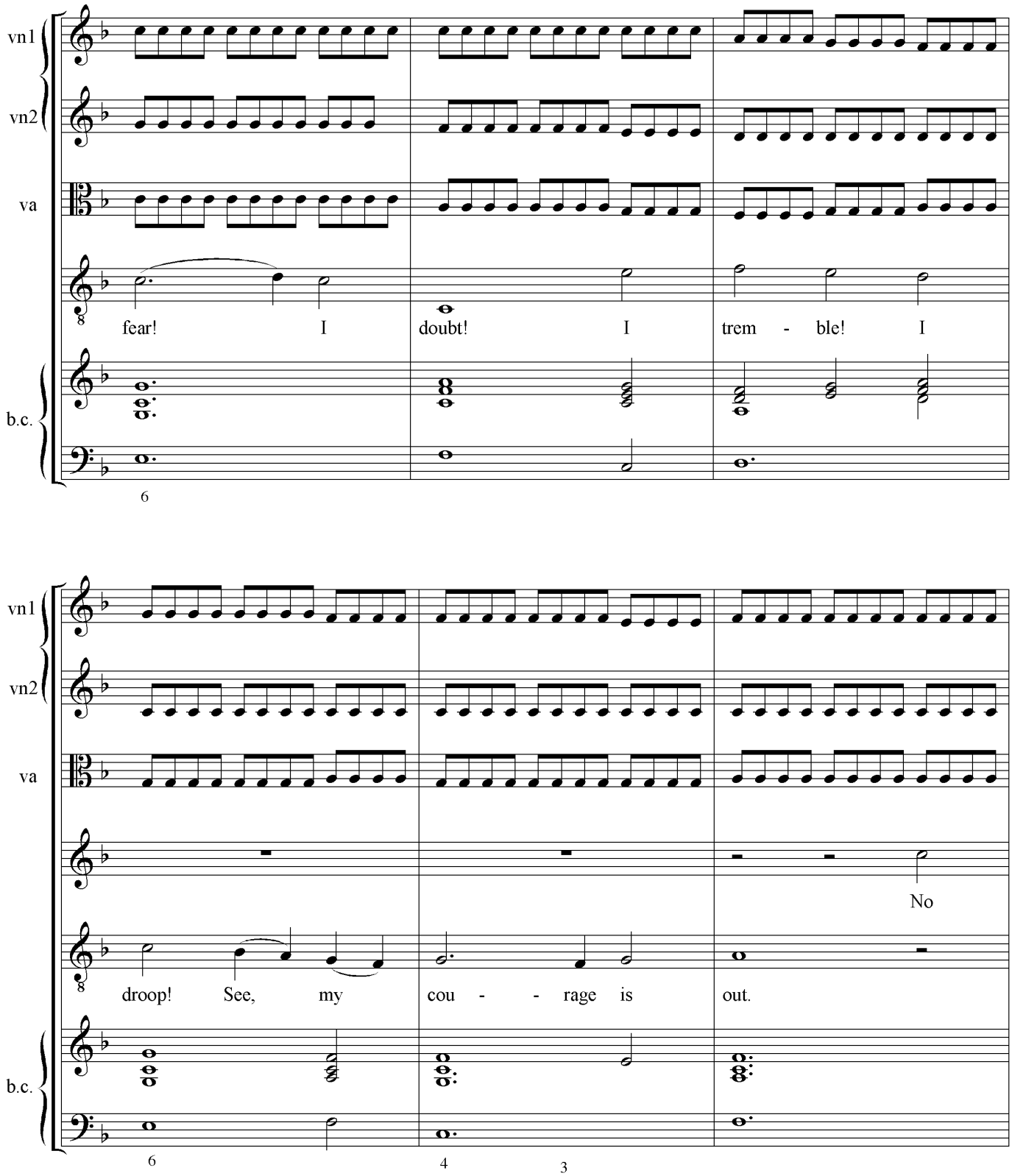
Air 68. All you that must take a leap

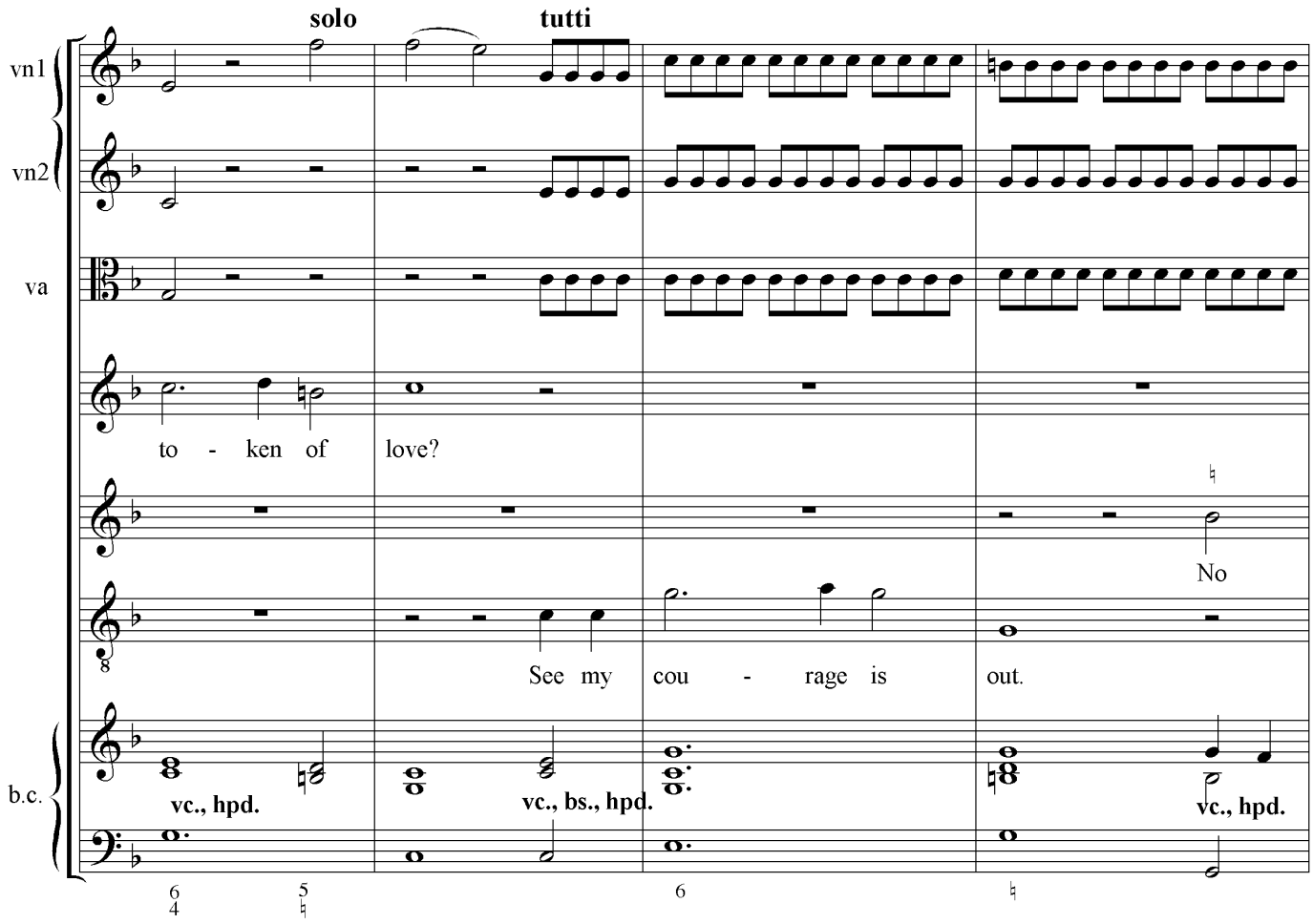
Cue: There is nothing moves one so much as a great man in distress.

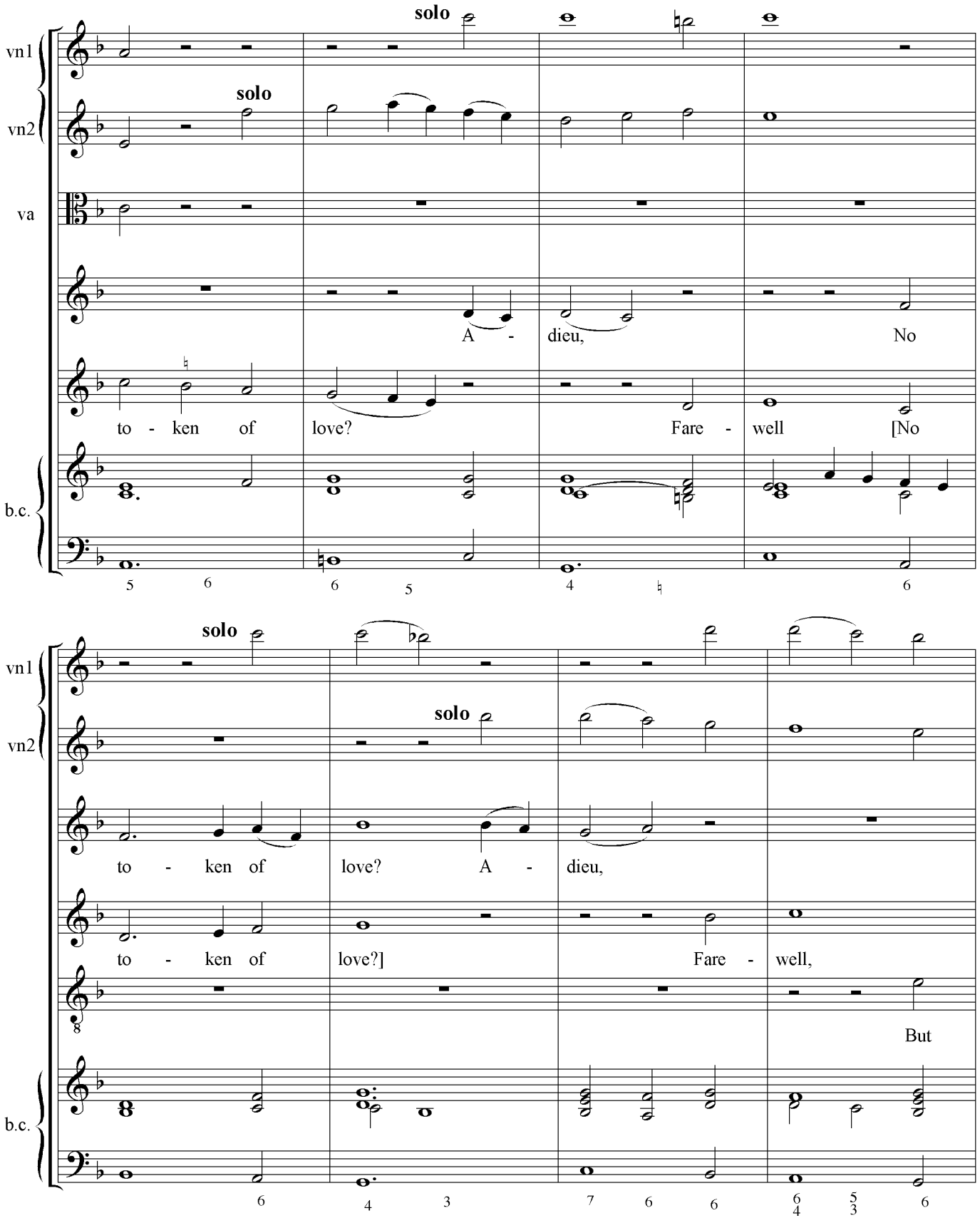
Polly

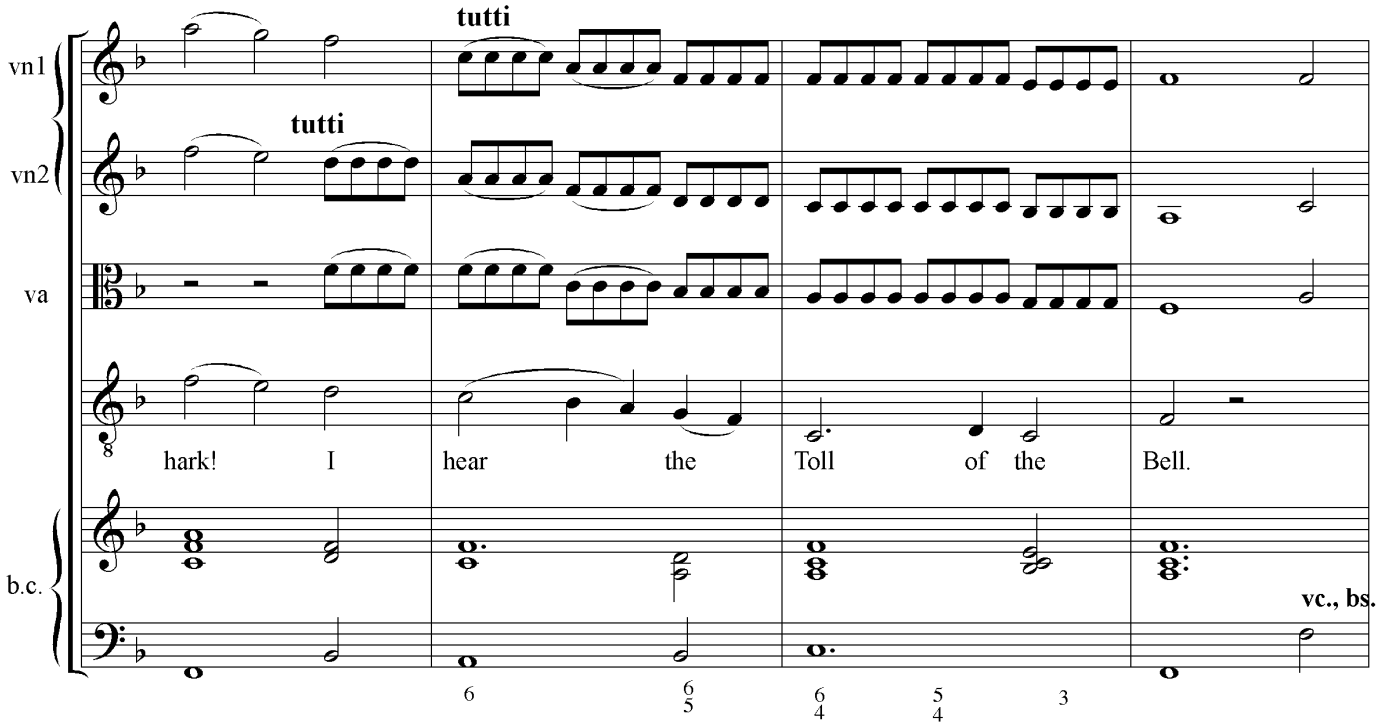


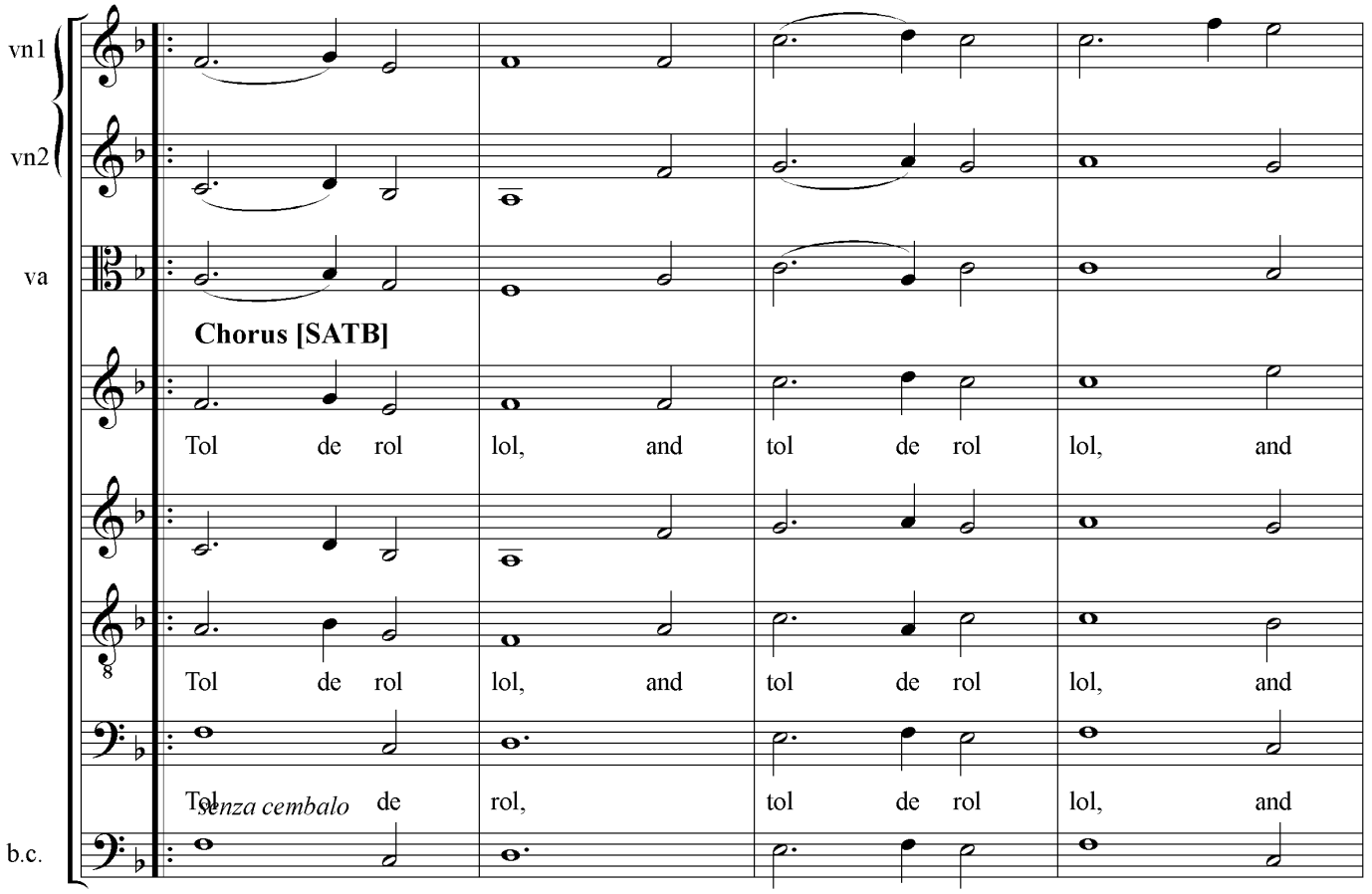

I would be too! My dear, with
To be hang'd with you,
b.c.
6
6 5 4 3
con sordini
tremolo sempre
vn1
vn2
va
you.
O leave me to scorn! I
vc., bs., hpd.

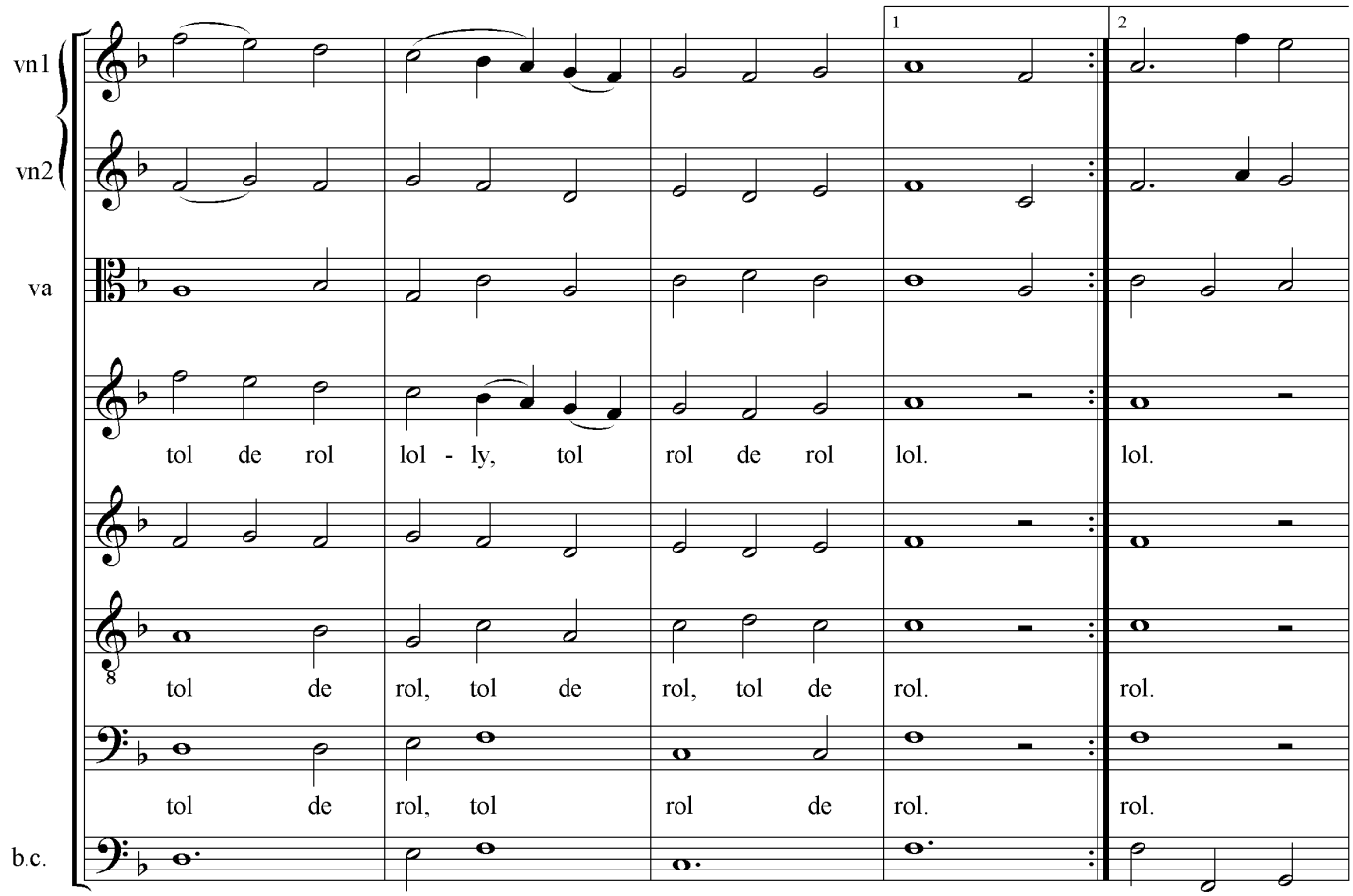

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
fear! I doubt! I trem - ble! I
droop! See, my cou - - rage is out.
No
6
6
4
3

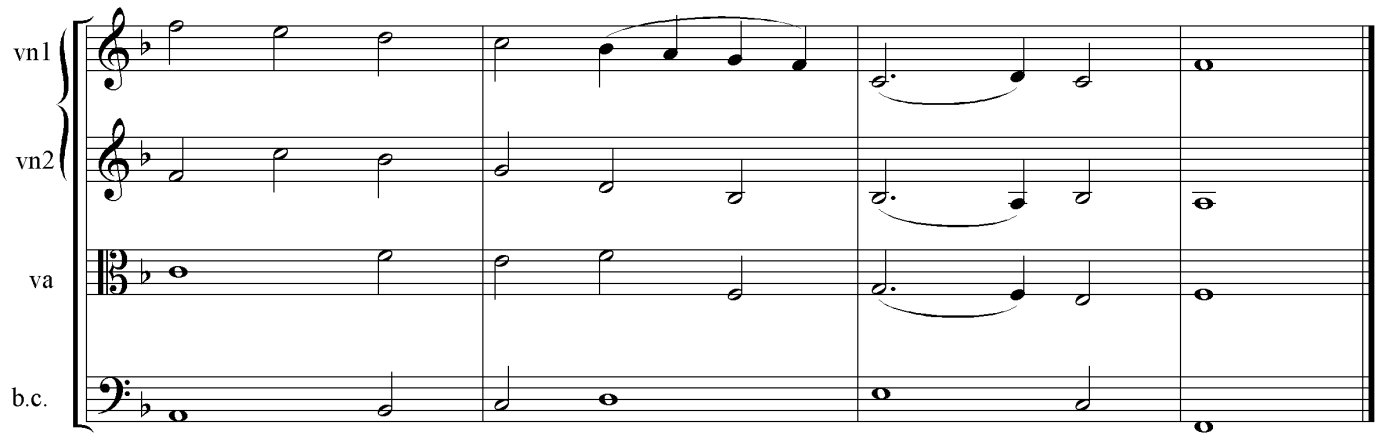

solo
tutti
vn1
vn2
va
to - ken of love?
No
See my cou - rage is out.
b.c.
vc., hpd.
vc., bs., hpd.
vc., hpd.


solo
solo
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
A - dieu,
No
to - ken of
love?
Fare - well
[No
solo
solo
vn1
vn2
b.c.
to - ken of
love?
A - dieu,
to - ken of
love?]
Fare - well,
But


vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
tutti
tutti
hark! I hear the Toll of the Bell.
vc., bs.

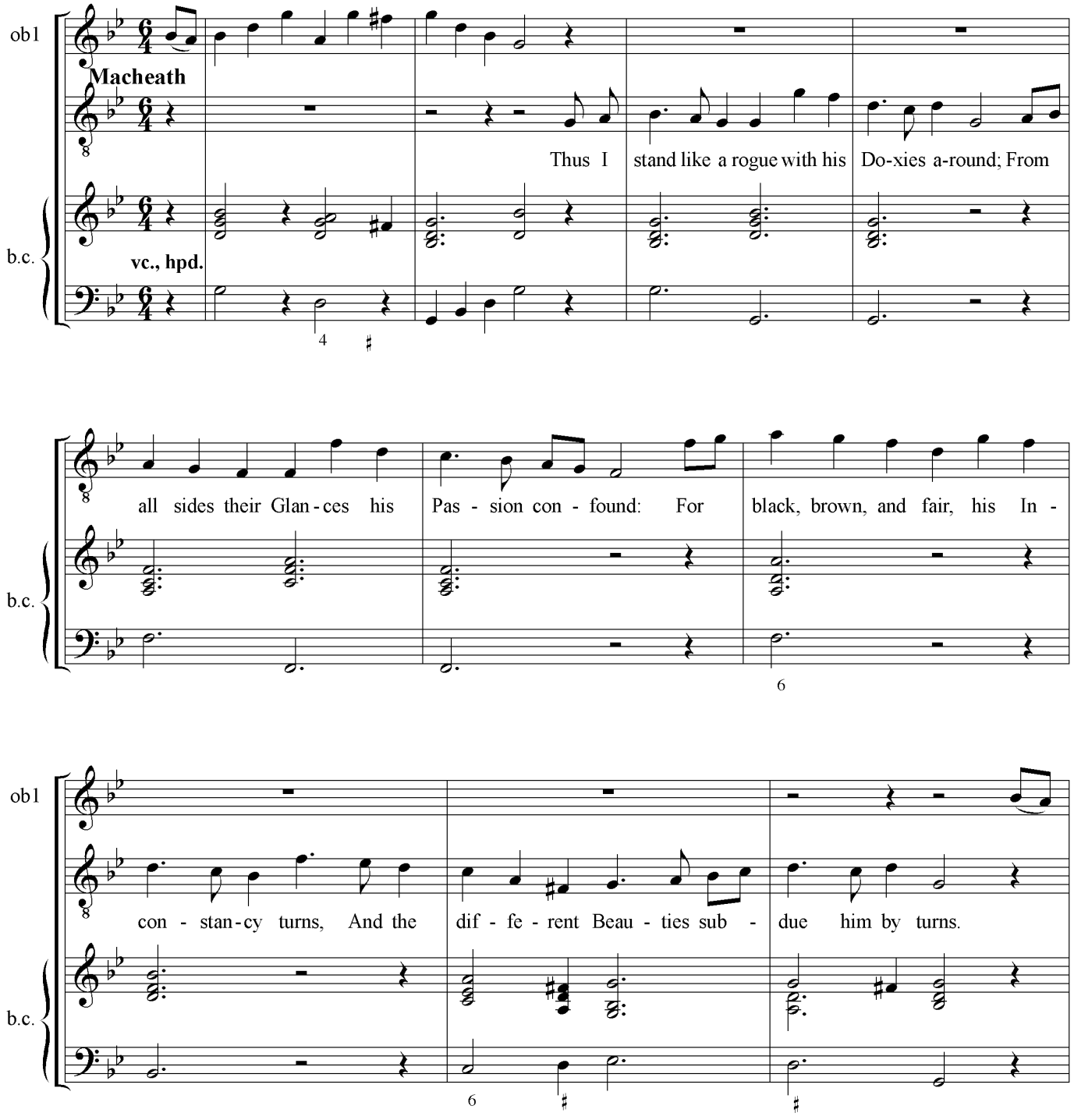

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
Chorus [SATB]
Tol de rol lol, and tol de rol lol, and
Tol de rol lol, and tol de rol lol, and
Tol de rol lol, and tol de rol lol, and
Tol de rol lol, and tol de rol lol, and
senza cembalo

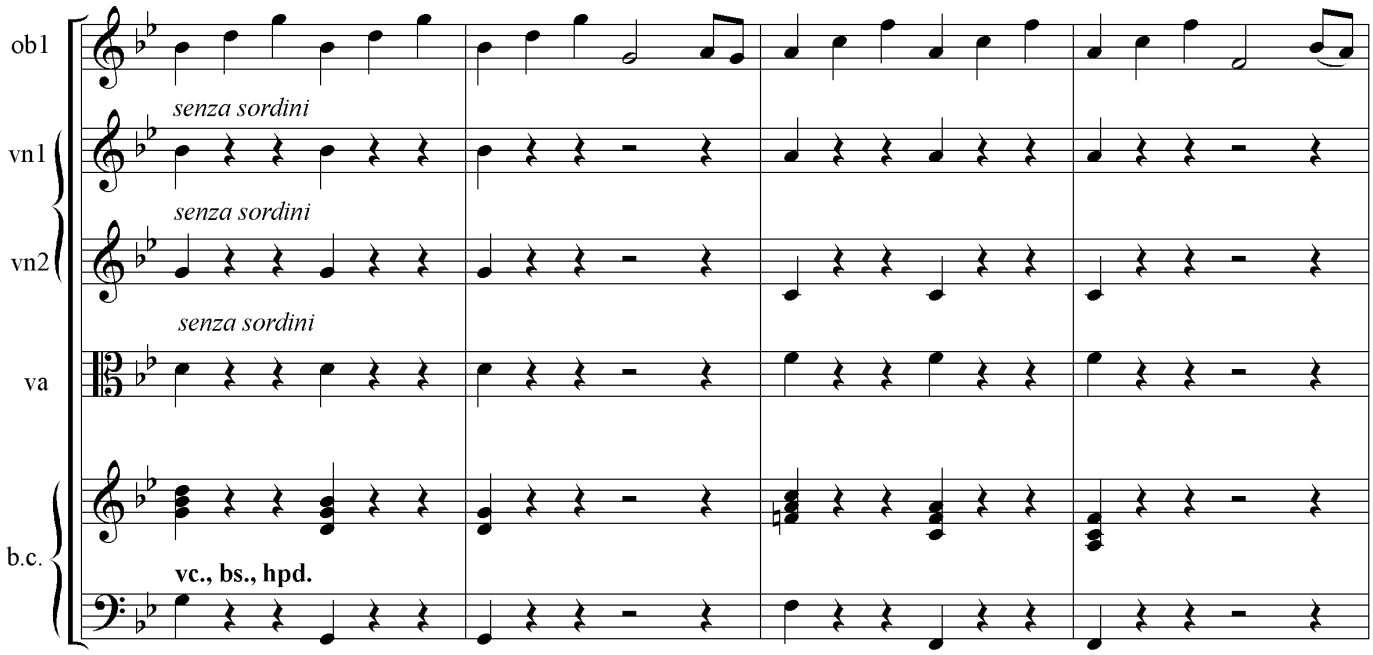

vn1
vn2
va
tol de rol lol - ly, tol rol de rol lol.
lol.
tol de rol, tol de rol, tol de rol.
rol.
tol de rol, tol rol de rol.
rol.
b.c.
1
2

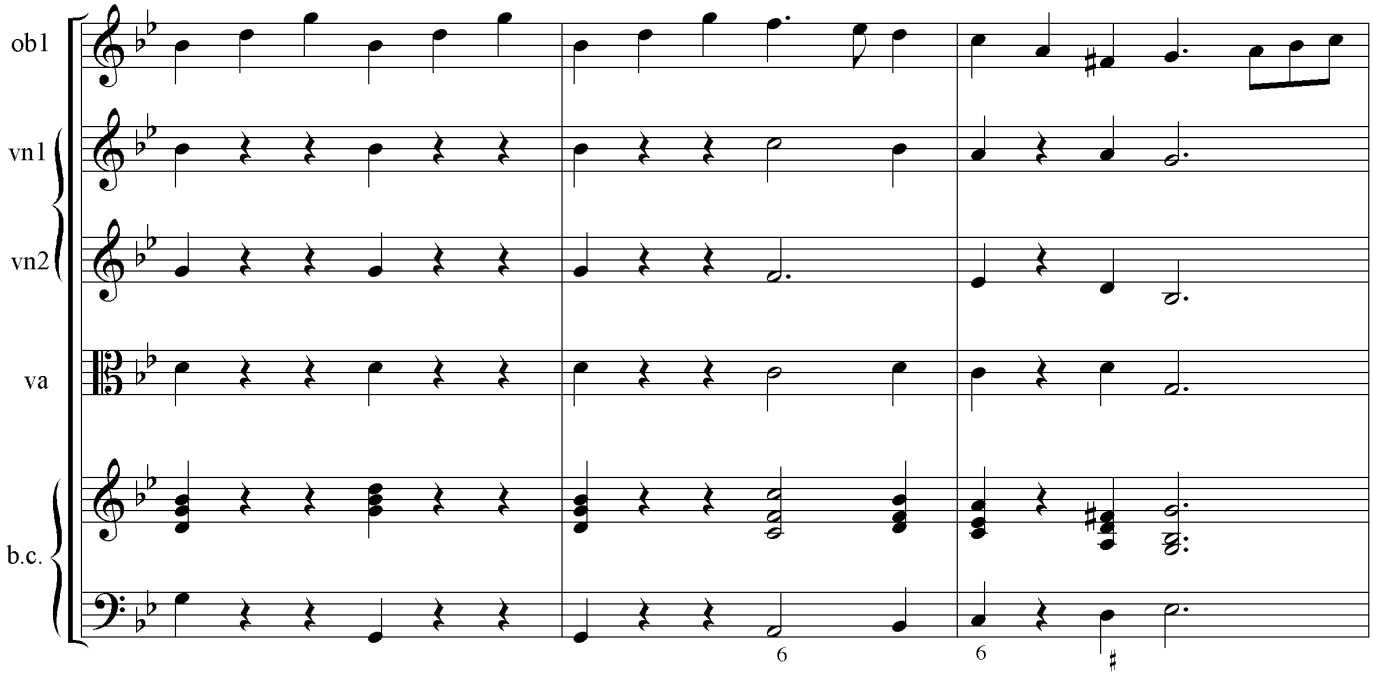

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.

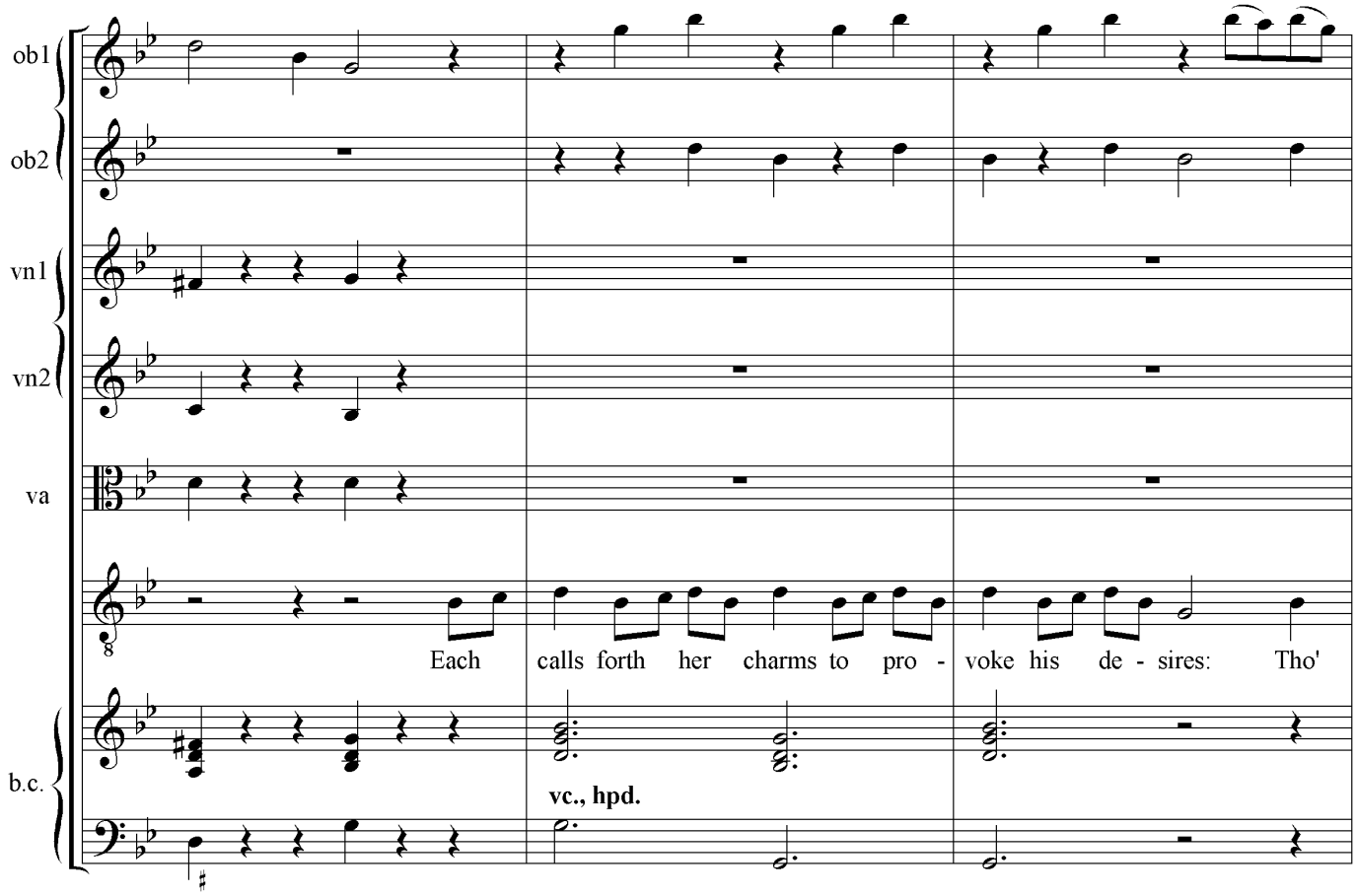
Air 69. Lumps of Pudding

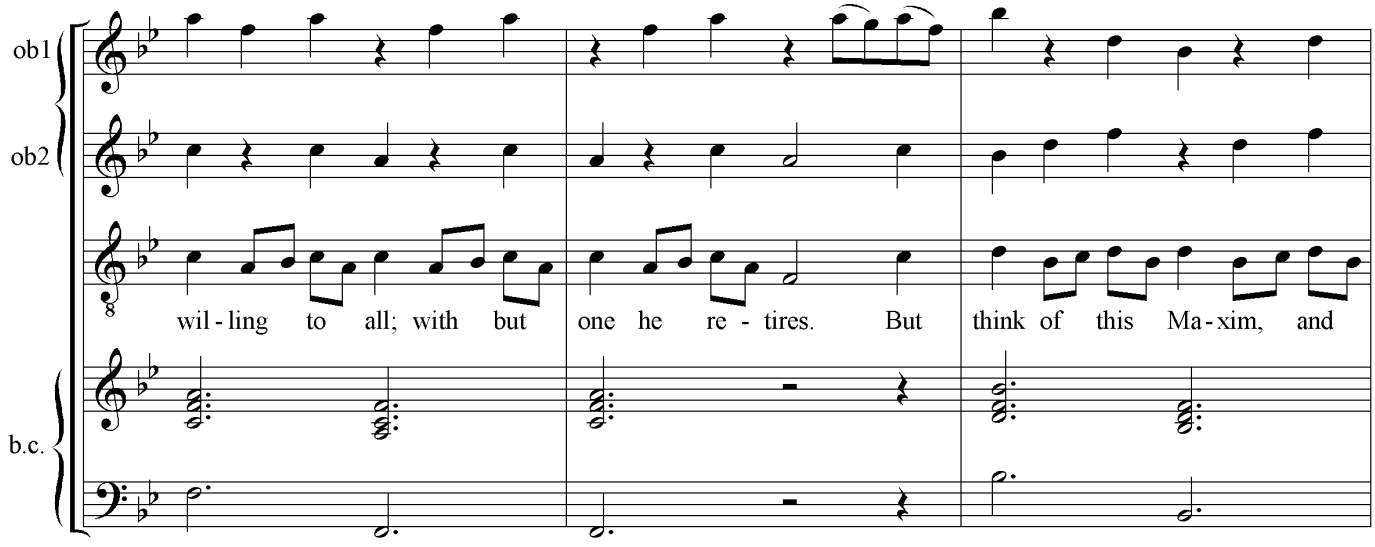
Cue: But at present keep your secret.

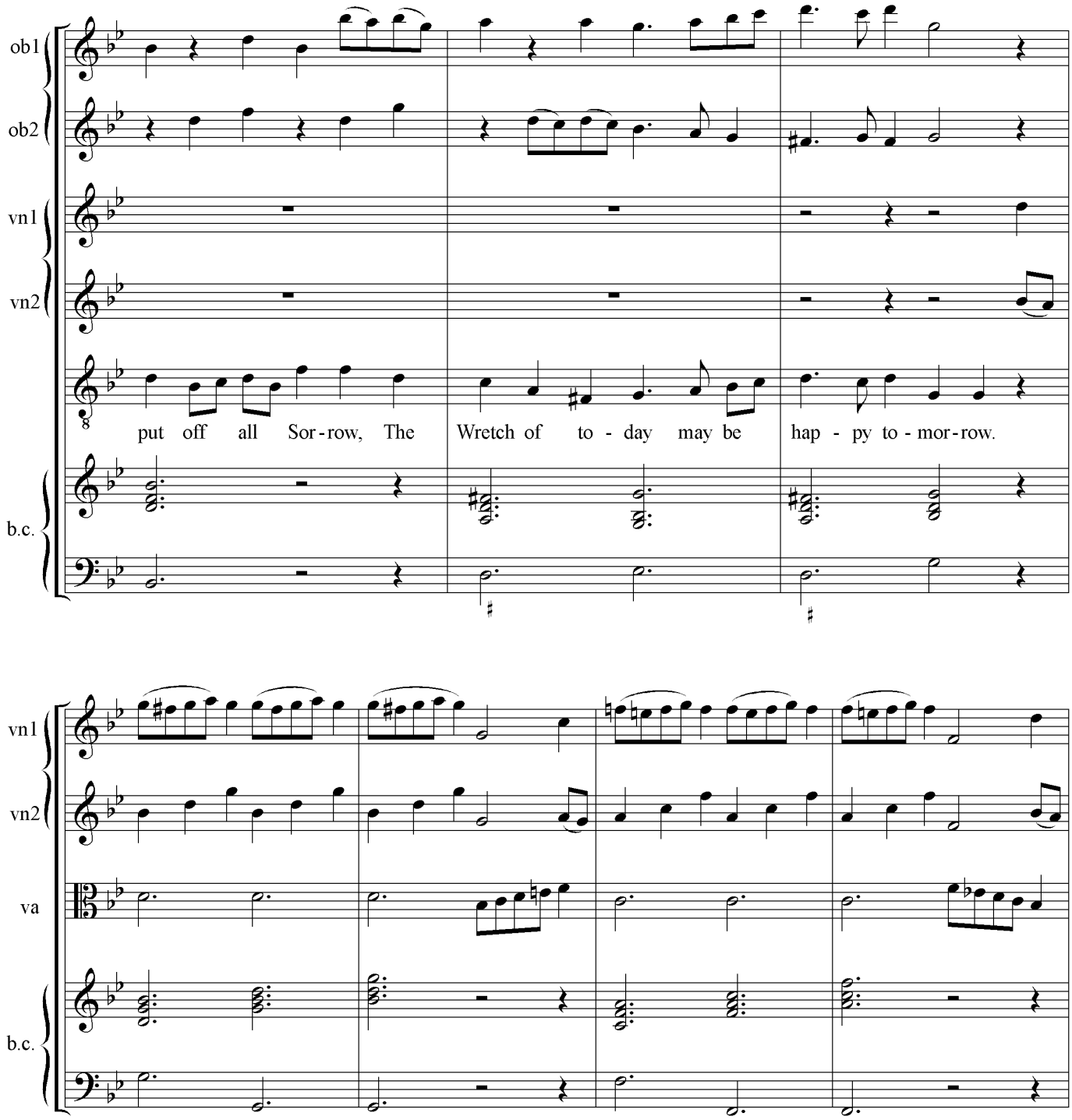


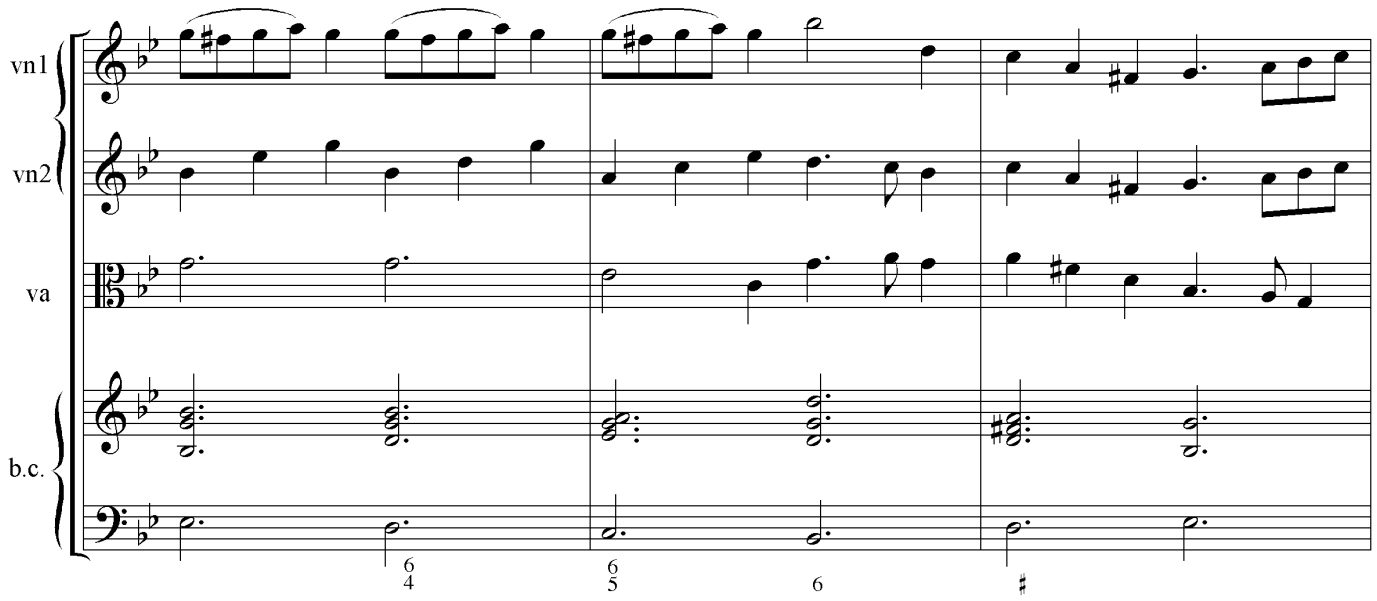

ob1
senza sordini
vn1
senza sordini
vn2
senza sordini
va
b.c.
vc., bs., hpd.

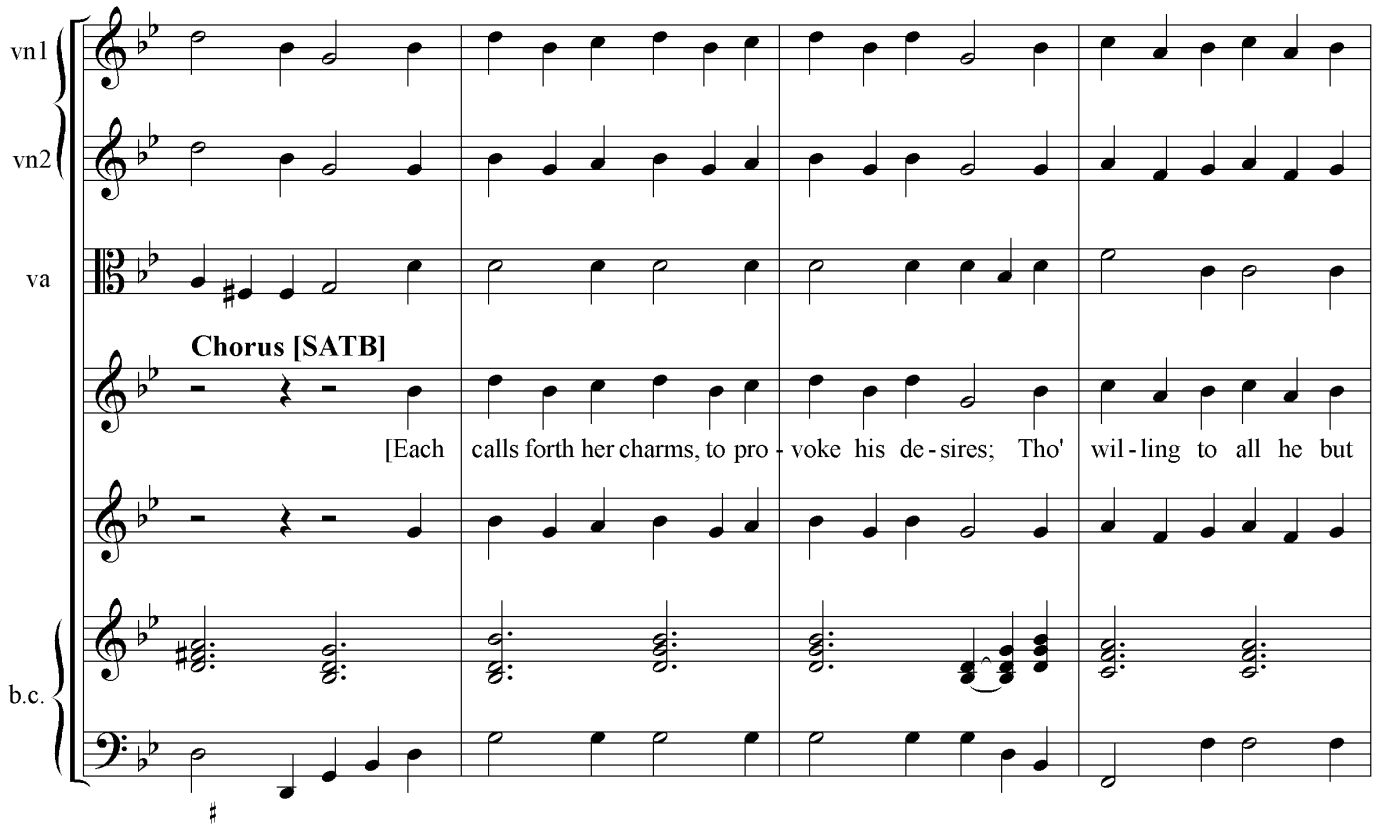

ob1
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
6
6

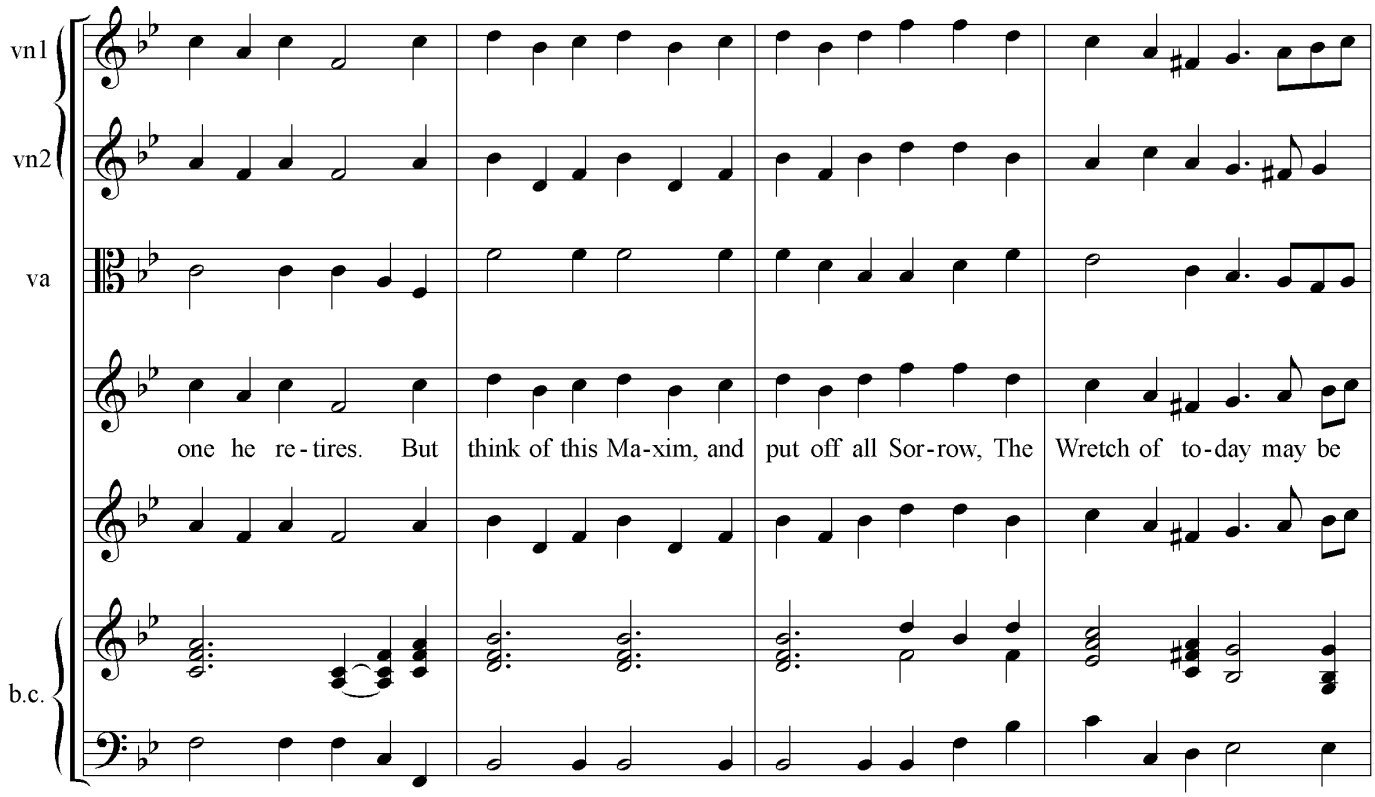

ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
Each calls forth her charms to pro - voke his de - sires: Tho'
b.c.
vc., hpd.

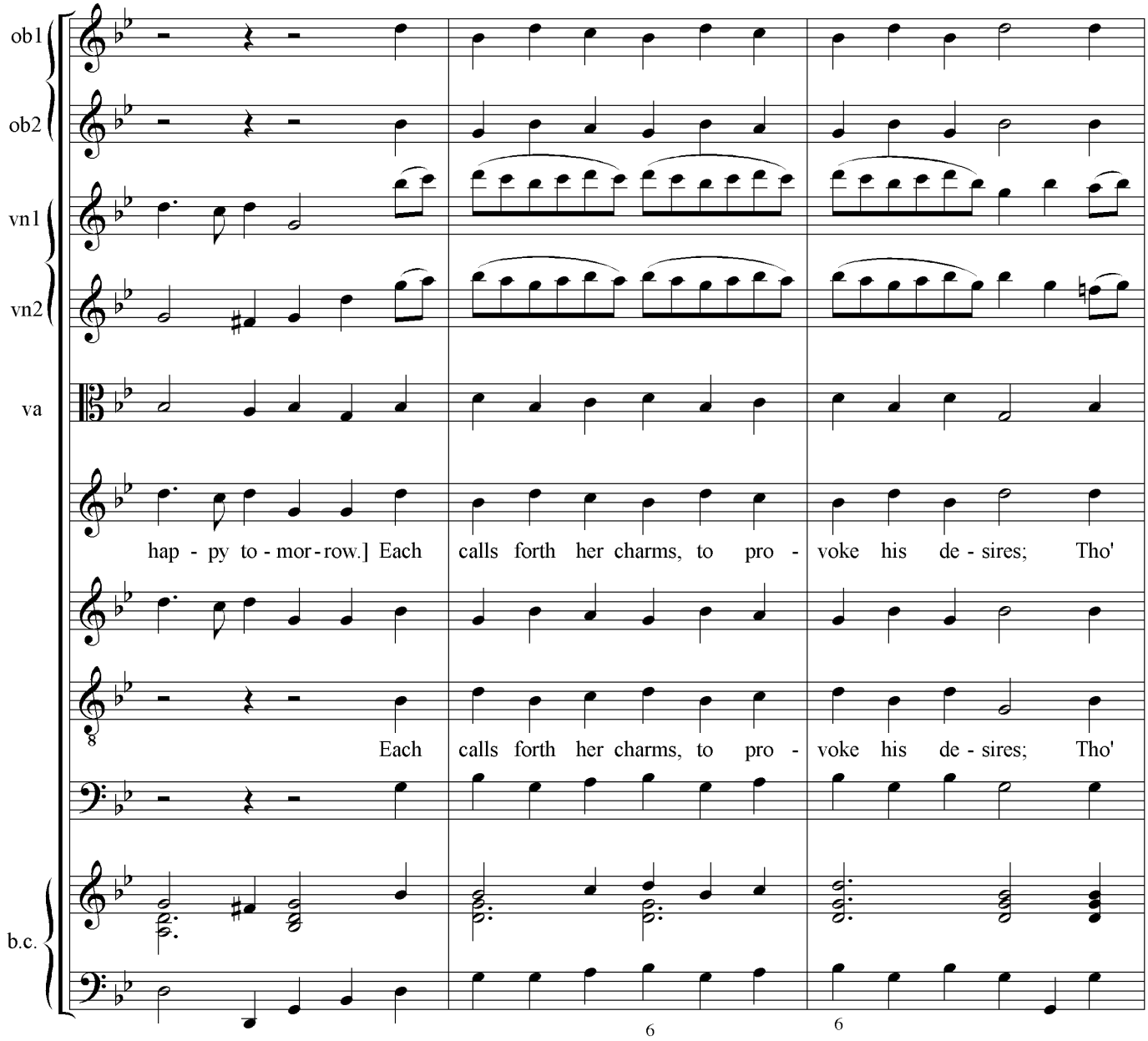

ob1
ob2
wil - ling to all; with but one he re - tires. But think of this Ma - xim, and
b.c.

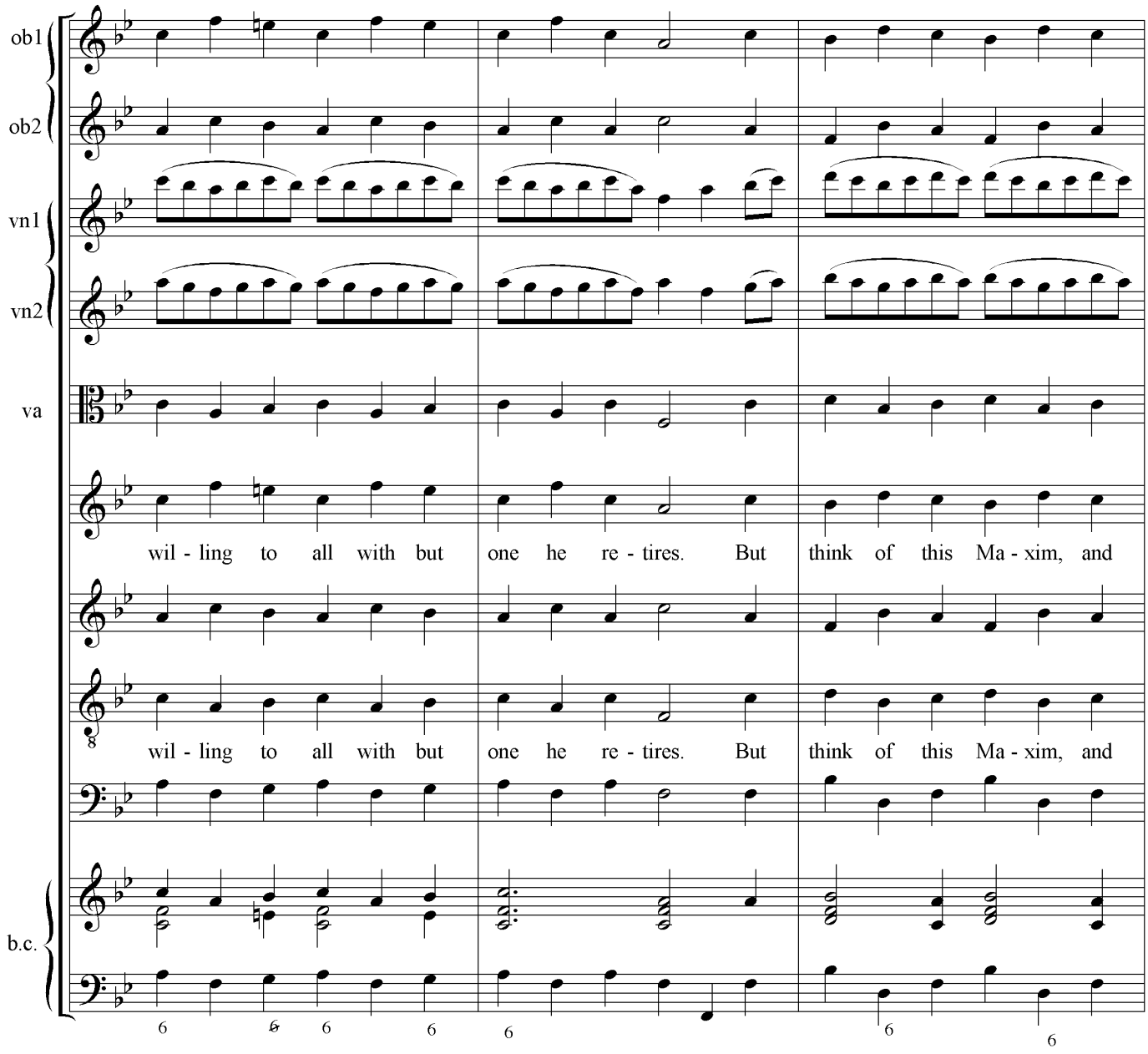

ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
b.c.
put off all Sor-row, The Wretch of to-day may be hap-py to-mor-row.
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.

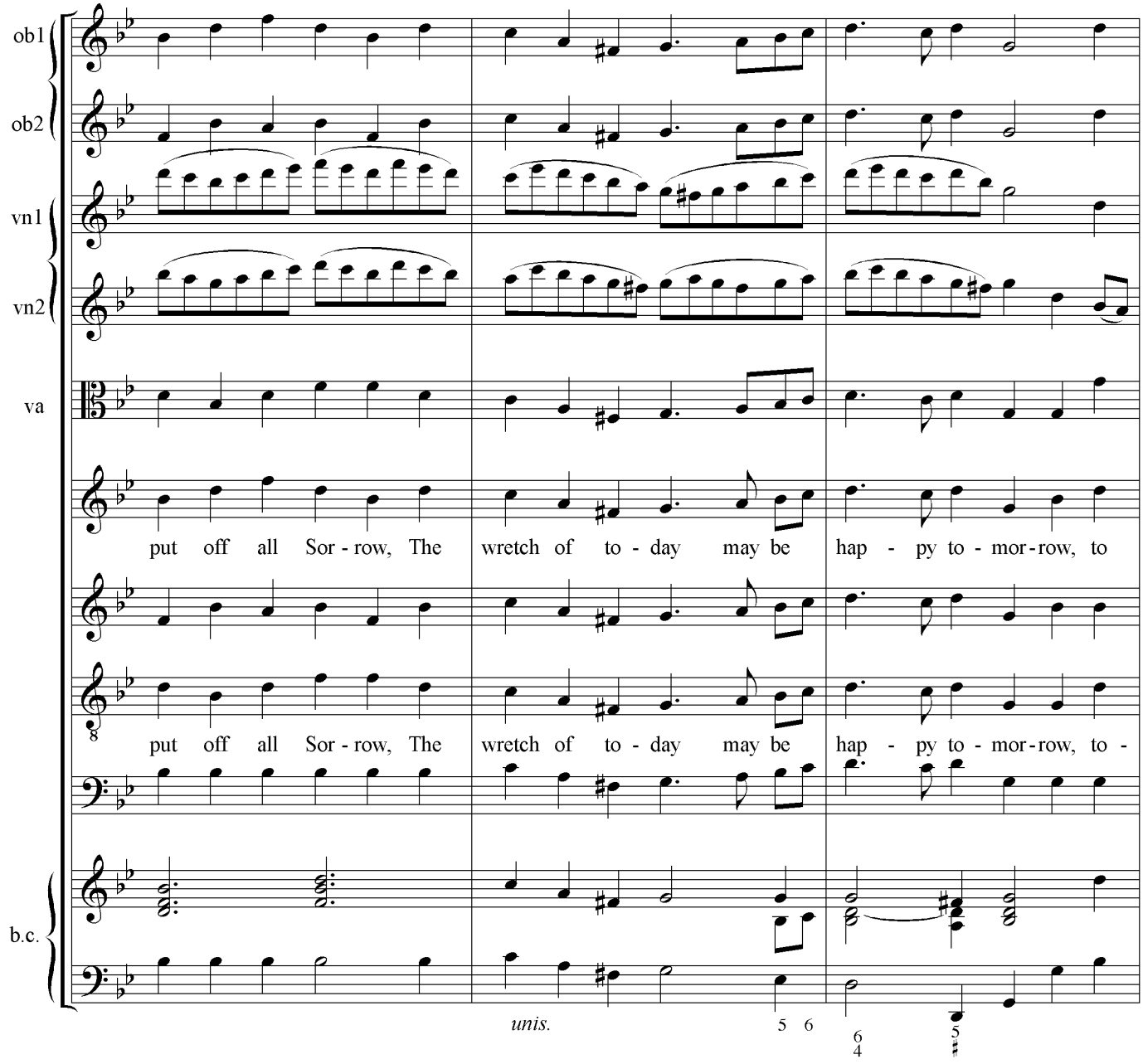

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.

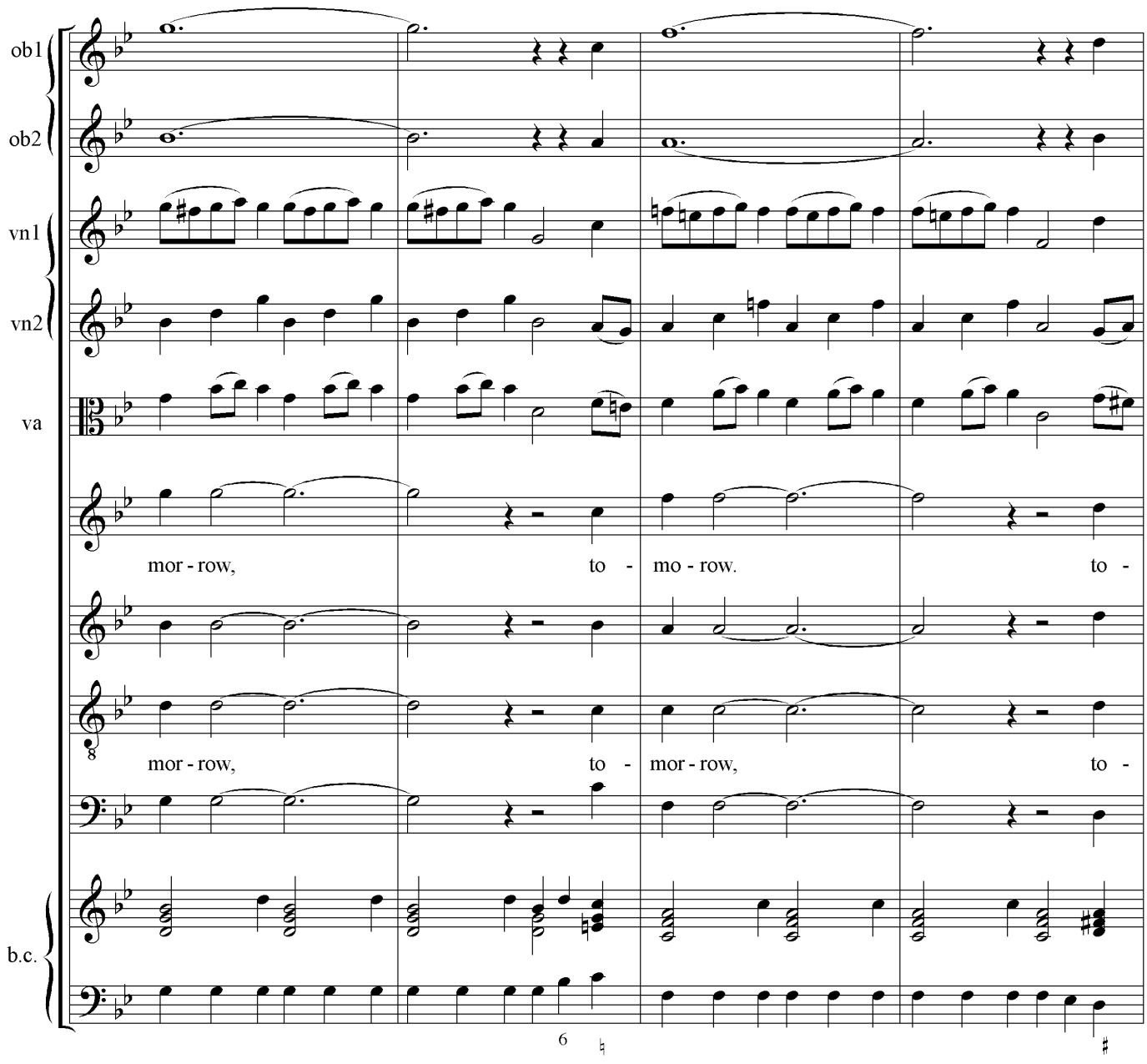

vn1
vn2
va
Chorus [SATB]
[Each calls forth her charms, to pro - voke his de - sires; Tho' wil - ling to all he but
b.c.

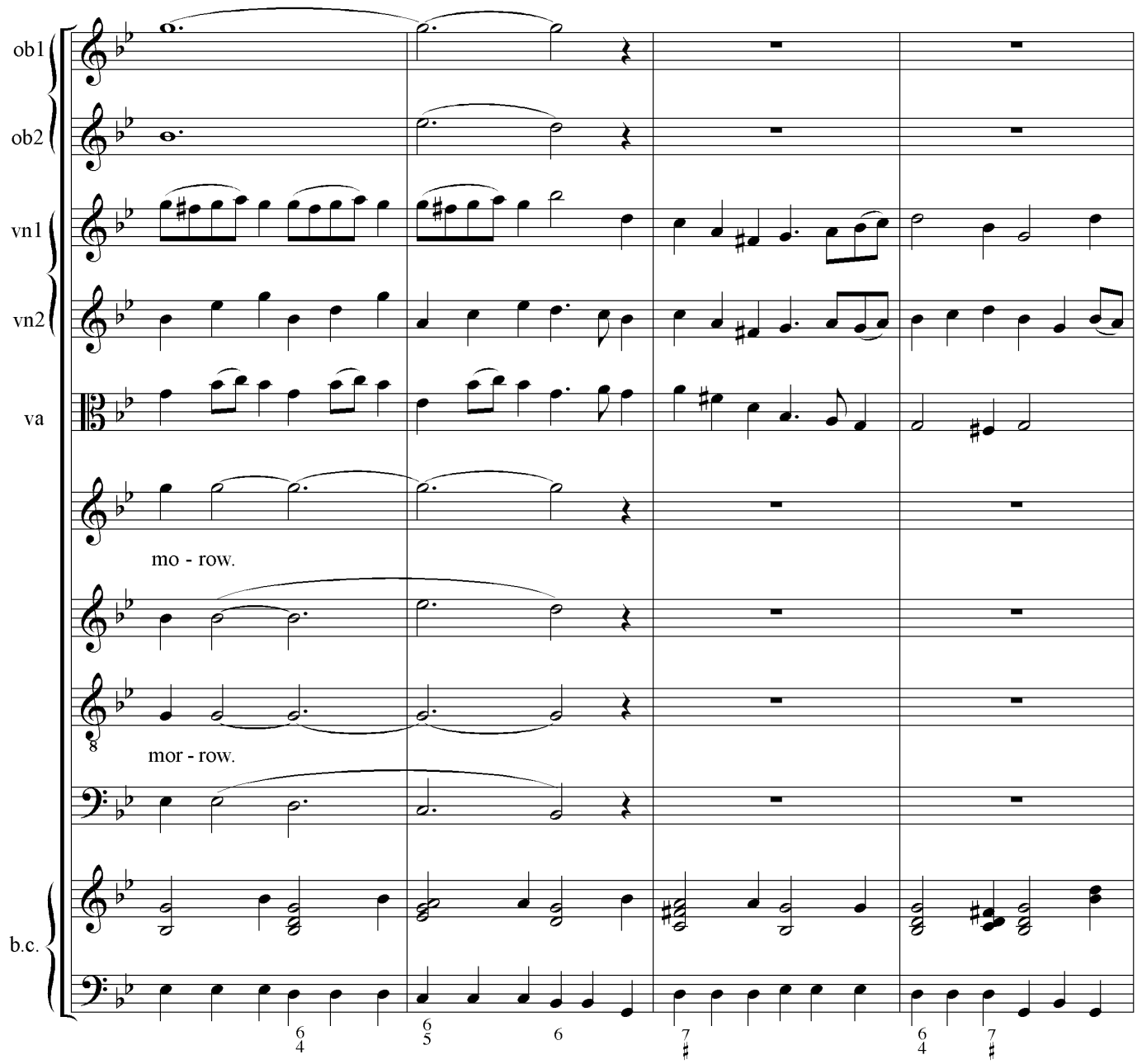

vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
one he re-tires. But think of this Ma-xim, and put off all Sor-row, The Wretch of to-day may be

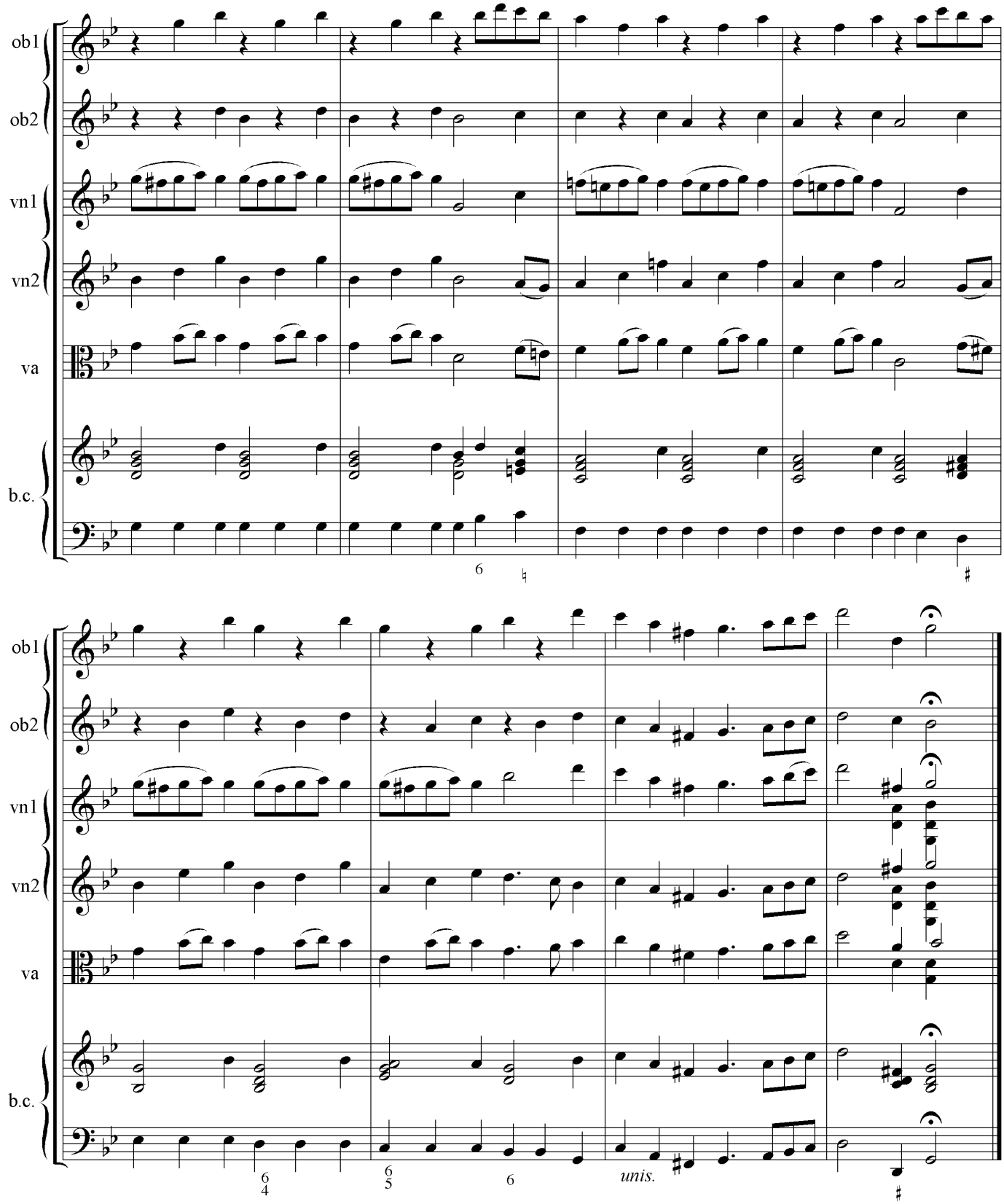

ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
hap - py to - mor - row.] Each calls forth her charms, to pro - voke his de - sires; Tho'
8
Each calls forth her charms, to pro - voke his de - sires; Tho'
b.c.
6
6


ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
wil - ling to all with but one he re - tires. But think of this Ma - xim, and
8
wil - ling to all with but one he re - tires. But think of this Ma - xim, and
b.c.
6
6
6
6
6
6
6


ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
put off all Sor - row, The wretch of to - day may be hap - py to - mor - row, to
8
put off all Sor - row, The wretch of to - day may be hap - py to - mor - row, to -
b.c.
unis.
5 6
6
4
5
♯


ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
mor - row,
to -
mo - row.
to -
8
mor - row,
to -
mor - row,
to -
b.c.
6


ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
mo - row.
mor - row.
b.c.


ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
6
♮
♯
ob1
ob2
vn1
vn2
va
b.c.
6/4
6/5
6
unis.
♯