Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

A setting of the Old English
traditional carol for SATB
with piano accompaniment

Rilla Paterson 1995
Revised 2025.

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Duration: 2:20

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day is a traditional Old English carol, thought to date from Medieval times and to derive from the Cornish Mystery Plays.

The verses of the hymn, originally very numerous, progress through the story of Christ told in his own voice, with episodes being characterised as a dance, an idea that reappears in the modern hymn Lord of the Dance.

Many of the original verses have now been dropped and this setting features only the first four. It was set in four-part harmony in 1995 and dedicated to Chris Weaver and Andrew Day in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the musical life of Rickmansworth School, Herts, UK.

It was later recorded and illustrated for YouTube in May 2020: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sxu19gq2Jwk.
The recording artists are Josh Cooter (tenor) and Bethany Partridge (soprano).

The score for this piece was revised in 2025 and the revised version can be downloaded free from the author's website https://rillapaterson.com.
The piano accompaniment can, if preferred, drop out between bars 53 and 65.
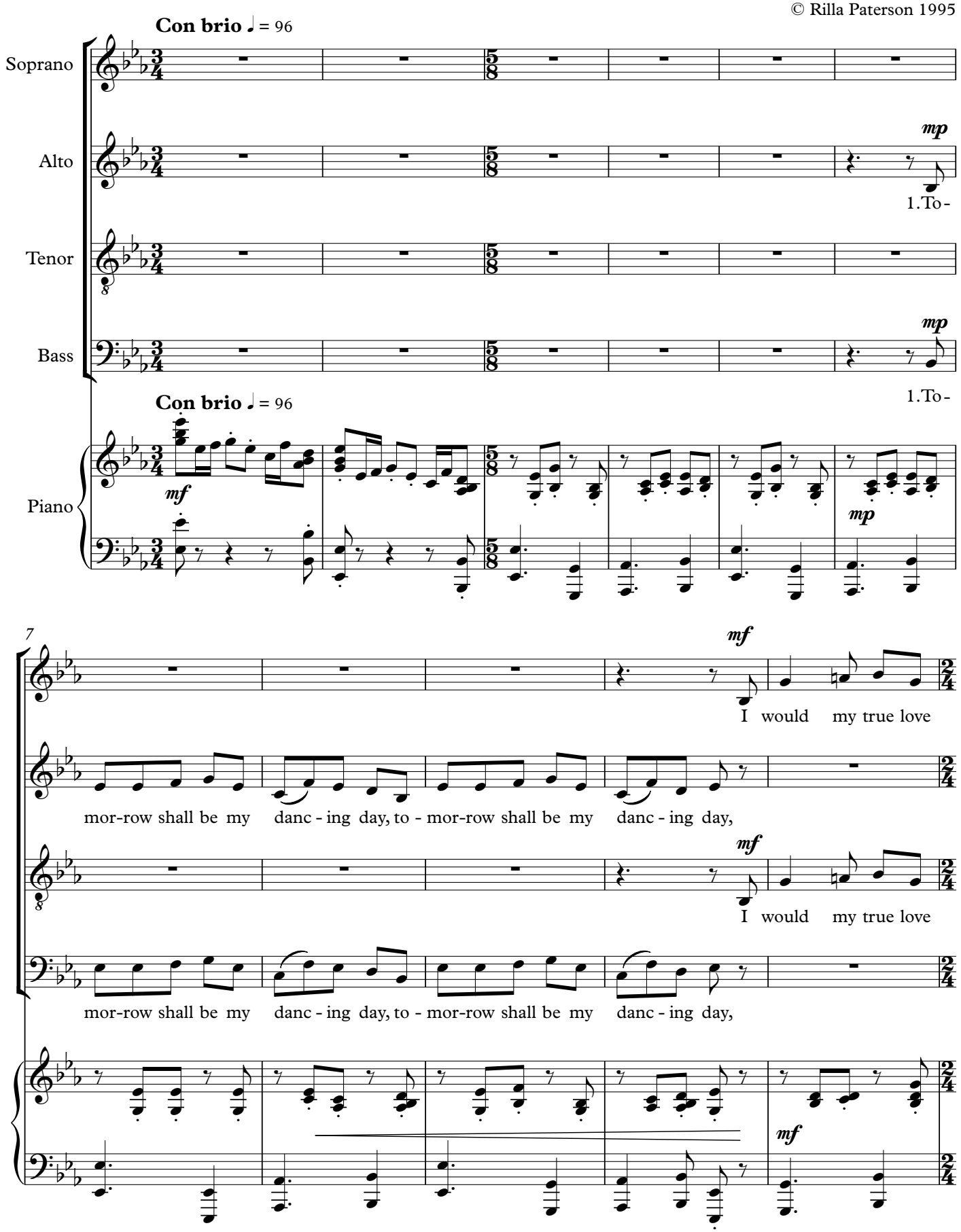
Home-made music played an important part in the life of the nation during the Covid-19 lockdown, and the song's revival at that time served as a reminder that even in the face of adversity, singing and dancing will always be part of the human condition.
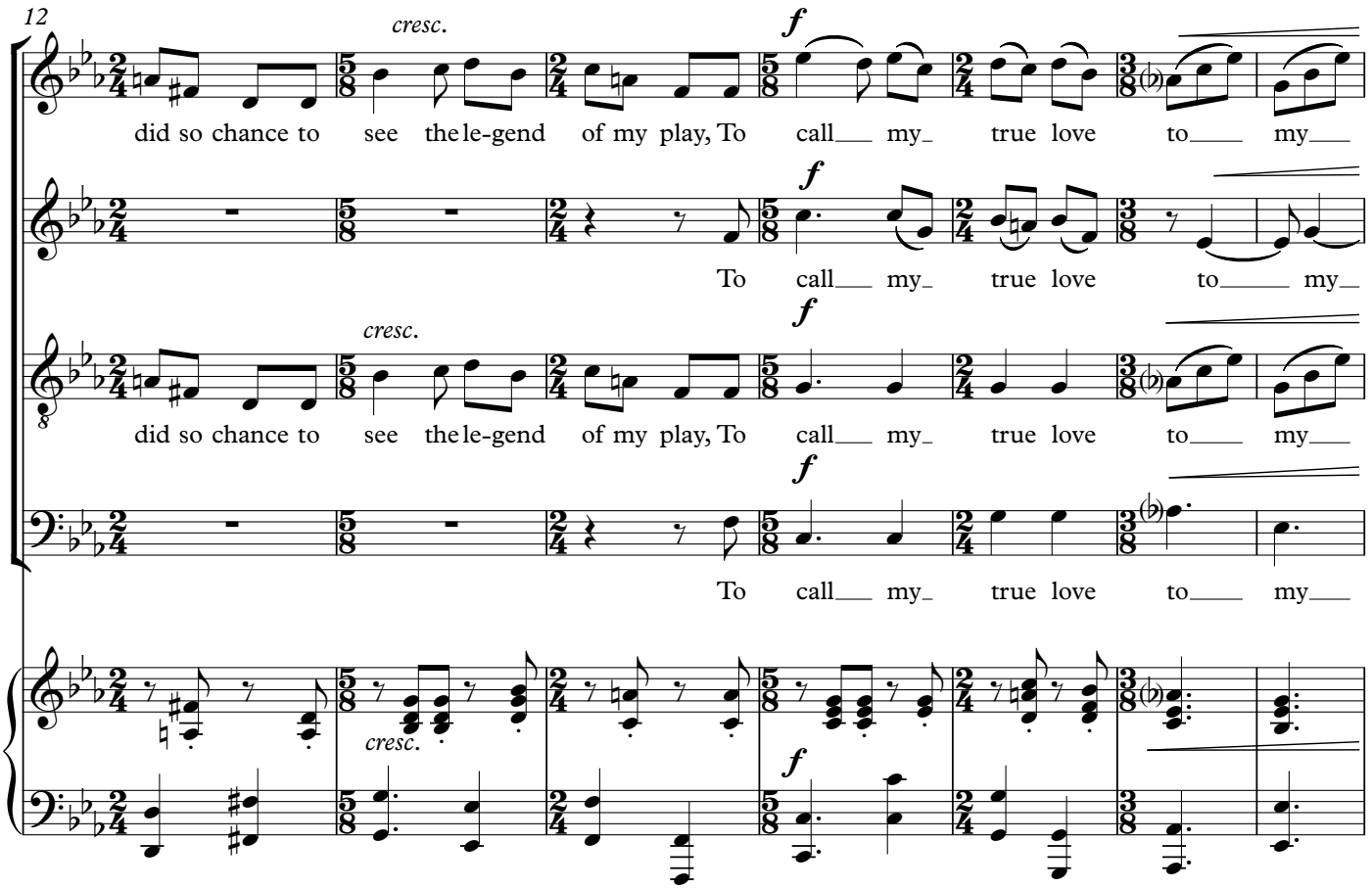
The first public performance took place on 3rd December 2023 in the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kenton, Harrow, by the Stanmore Choral Society.
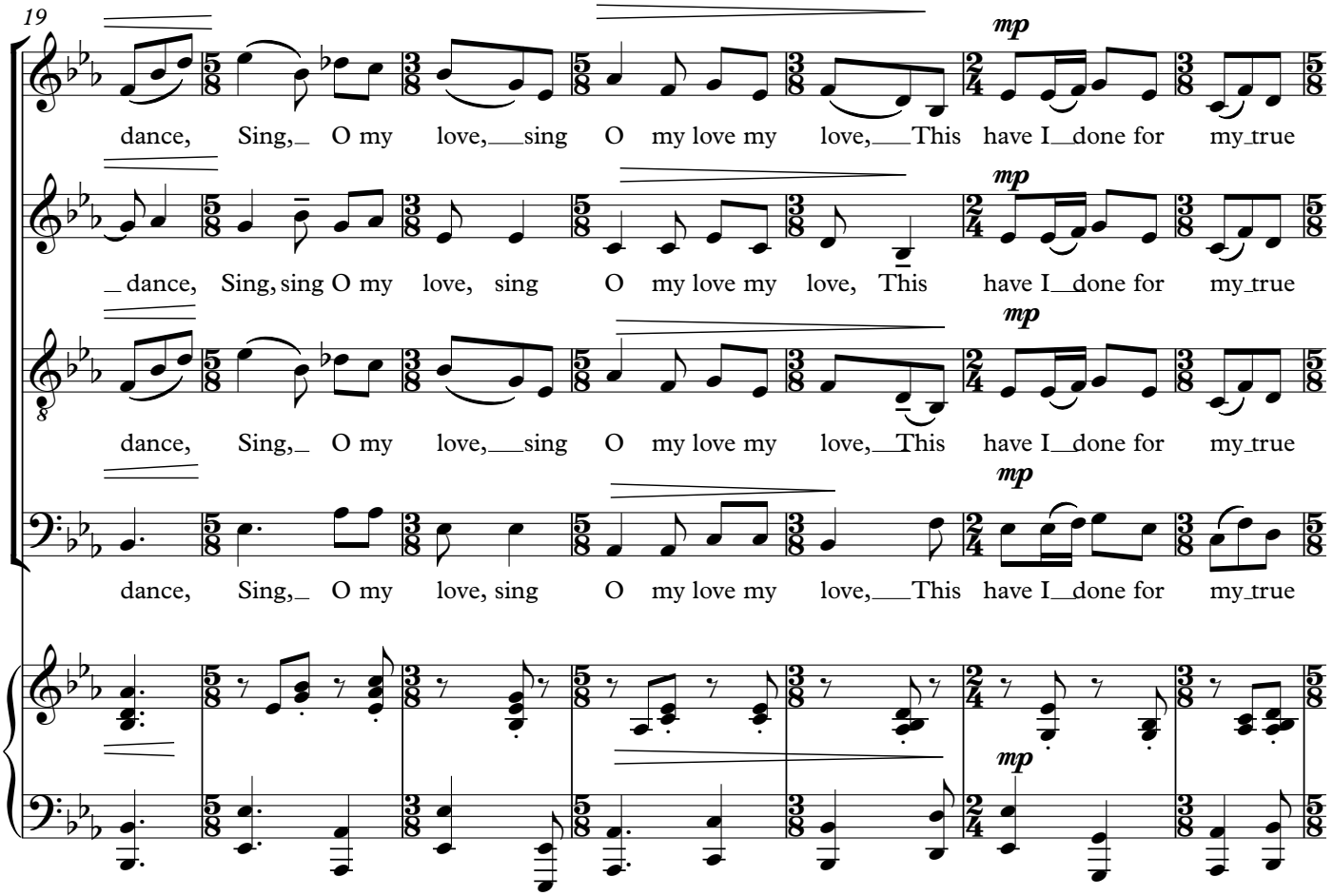
Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day
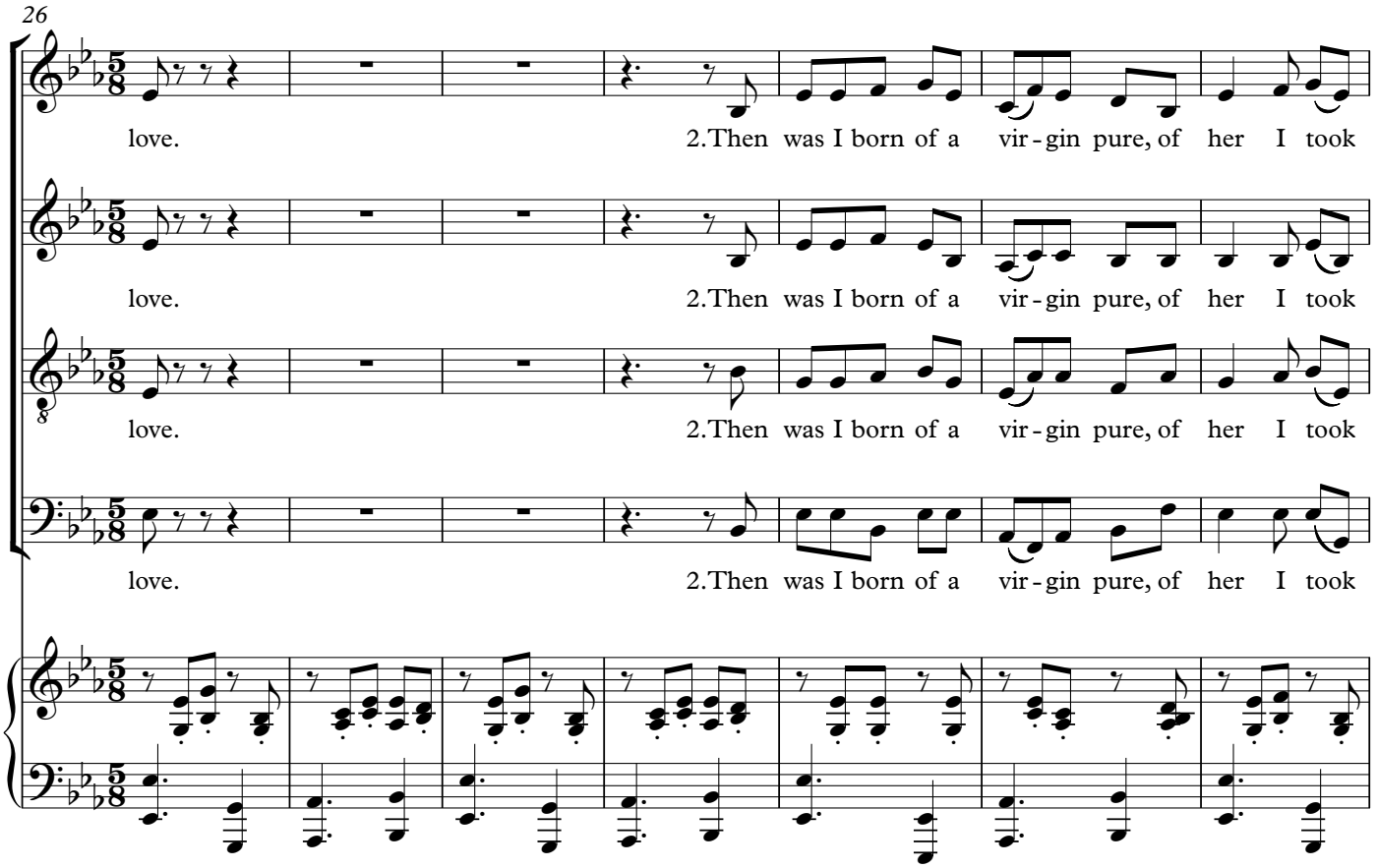
for C Weaver and A Day, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the musical life of Rickmansworth School
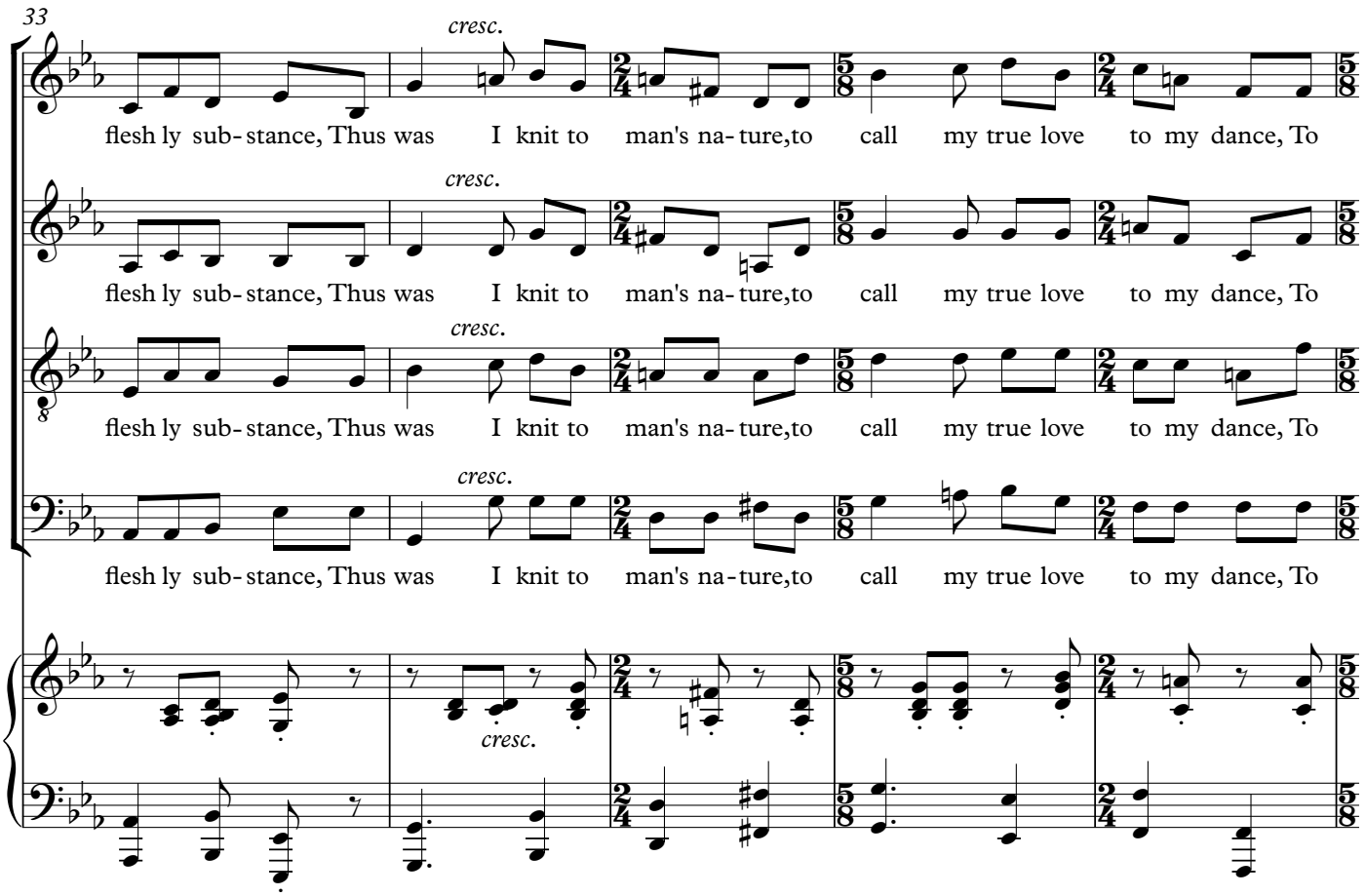
© Rilla Paterson 1995
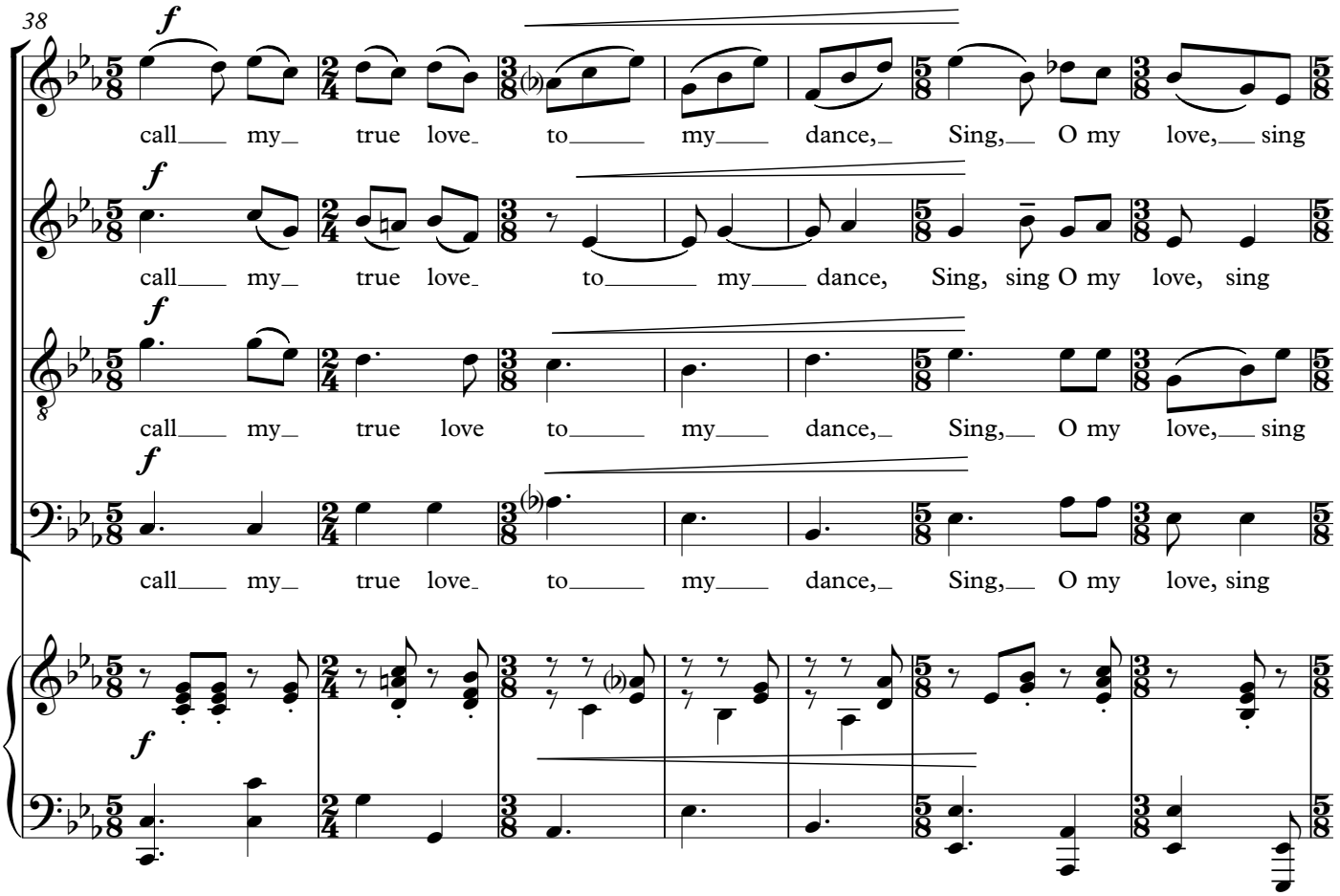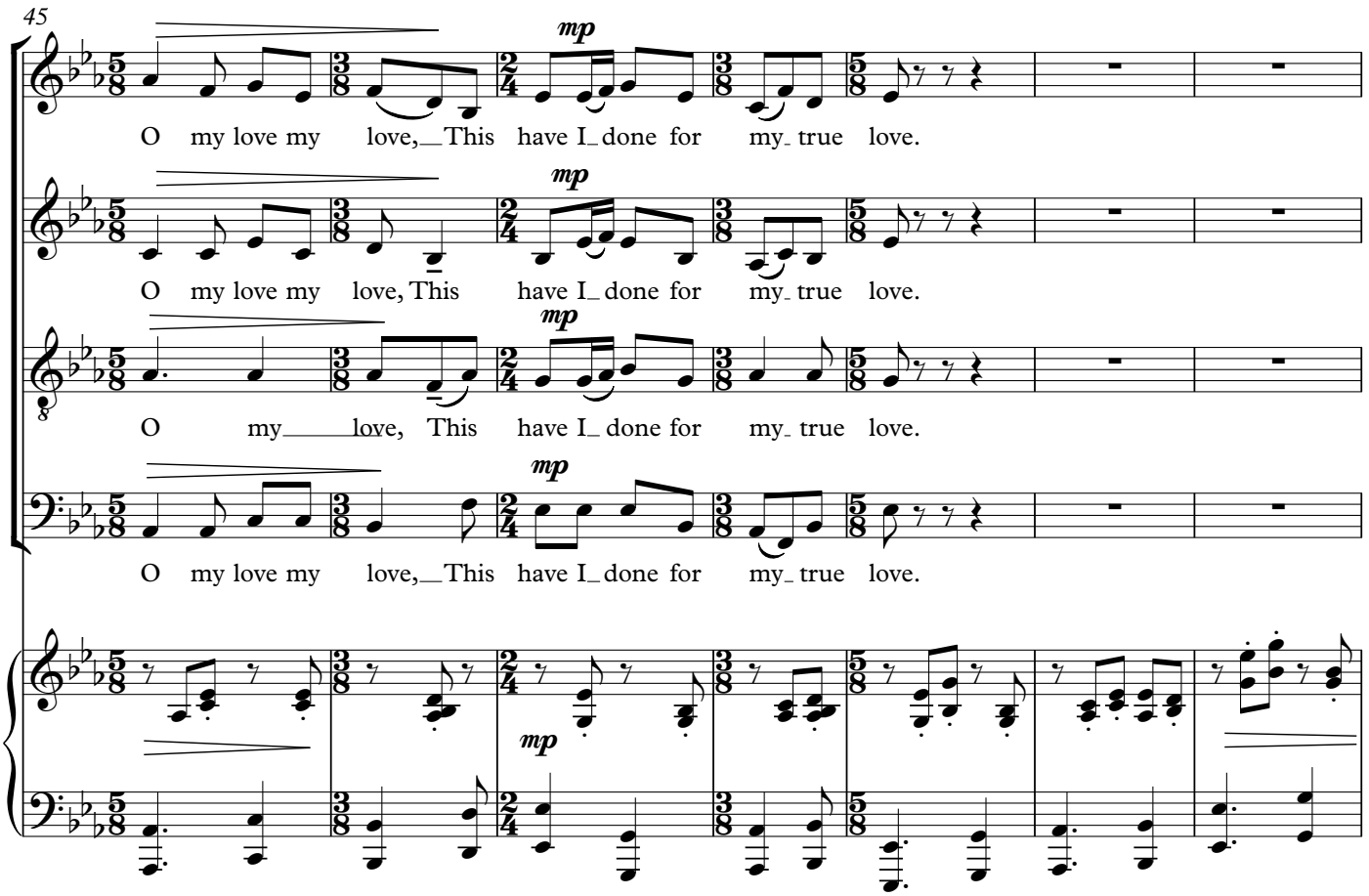



12
cresc.
f
did so chance to see the le-gend of my play, To call my true love to my
To call my true love to my
cresc.
f
did so chance to see the le-gend of my play, To call my true love to my
To call my true love to my
cresc.
f
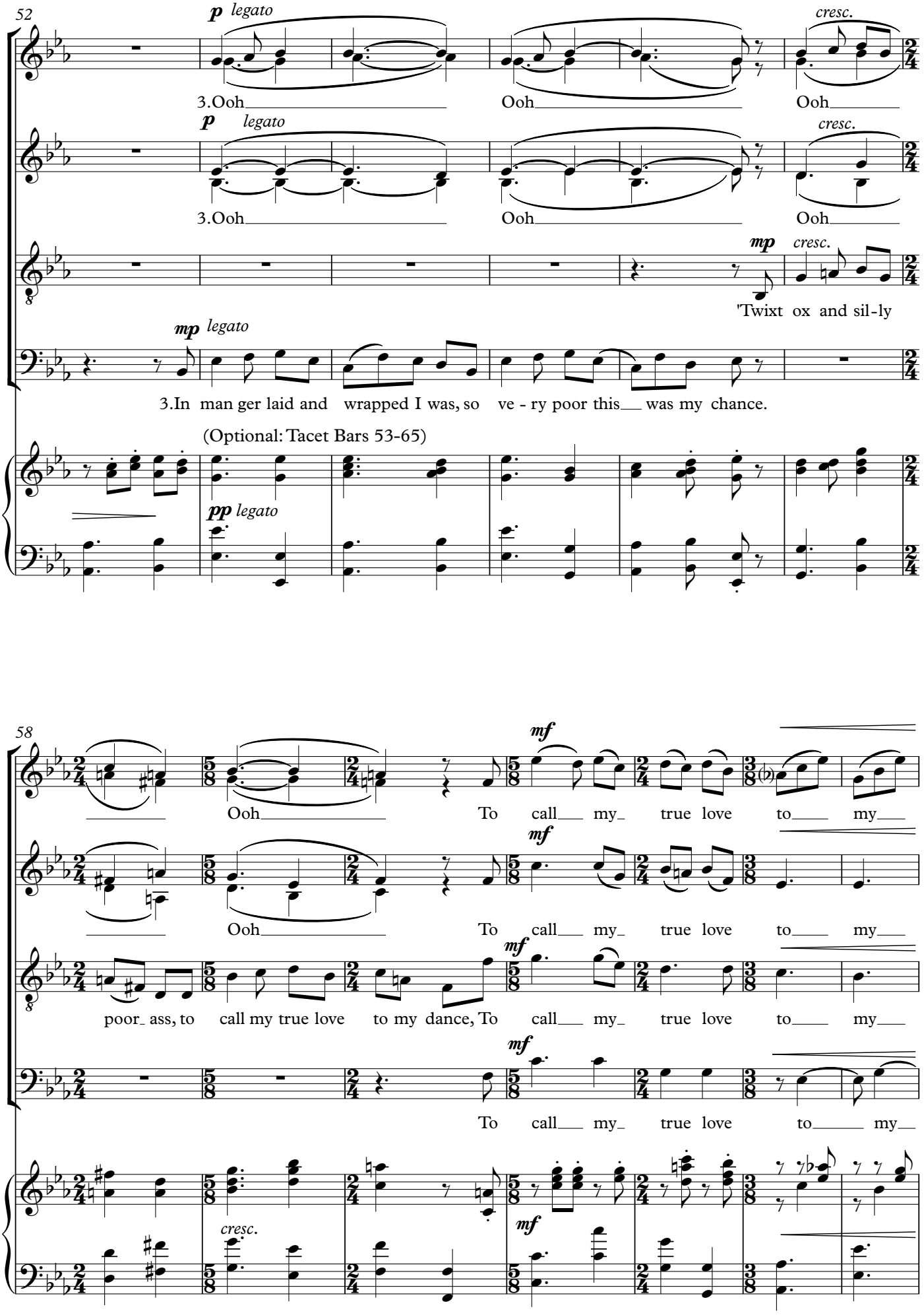

19
mp
dance, Sing, O my love, sing O my love my love, This have I done for my true
dance, Sing, sing O my love, sing O my love my love, This have I done for my true
dance, Sing, O my love, sing O my love my love, This have I done for my true
dance, Sing, O my love, sing O my love my love, This have I done for my true
mp
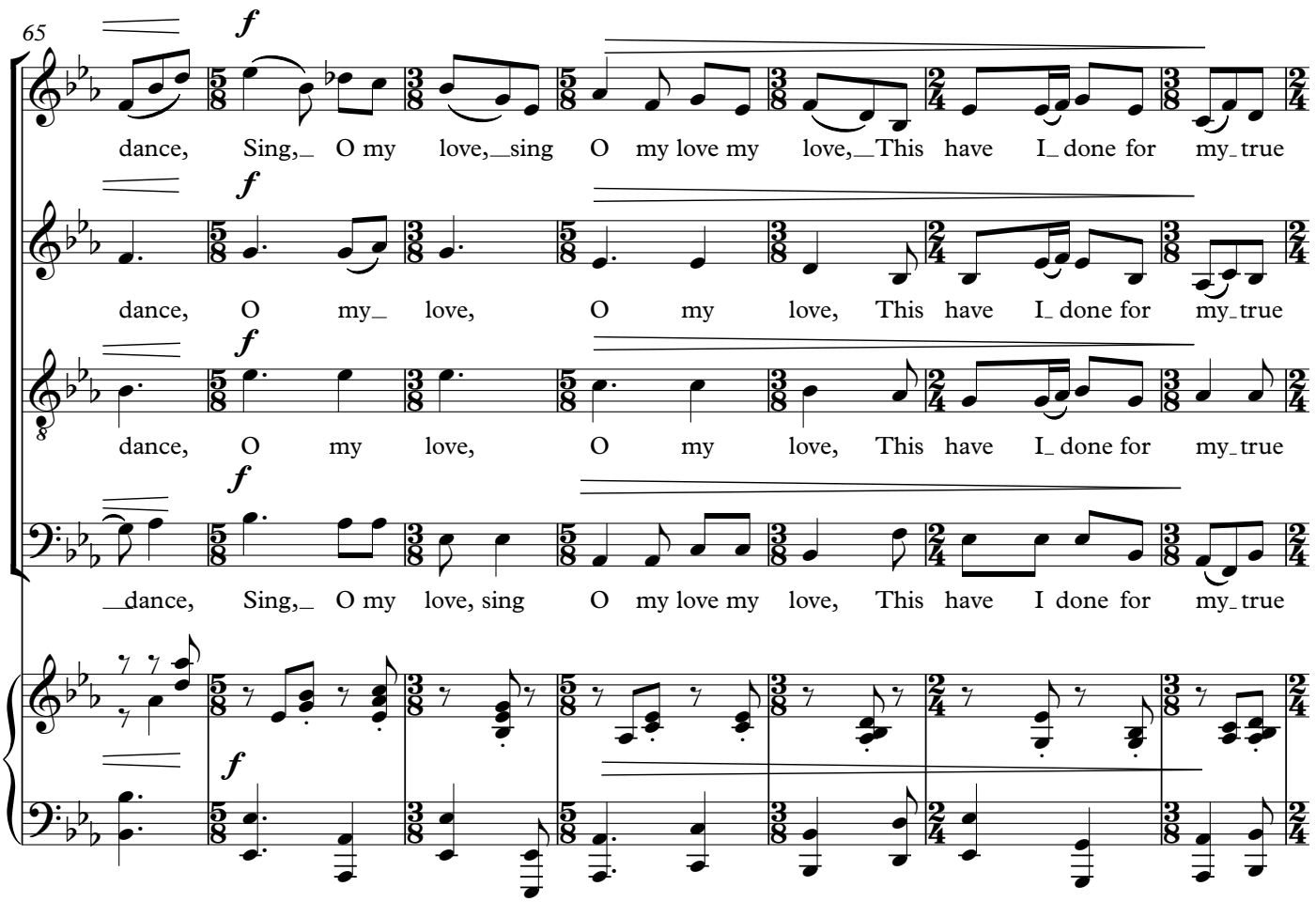

26
love.
2.Then was I born of a vir - gin pure, of her I took
love.
2.Then was I born of a vir - gin pure, of her I took
love.
2.Then was I born of a vir - gin pure, of her I took
love.
2.Then was I born of a vir - gin pure, of her I took
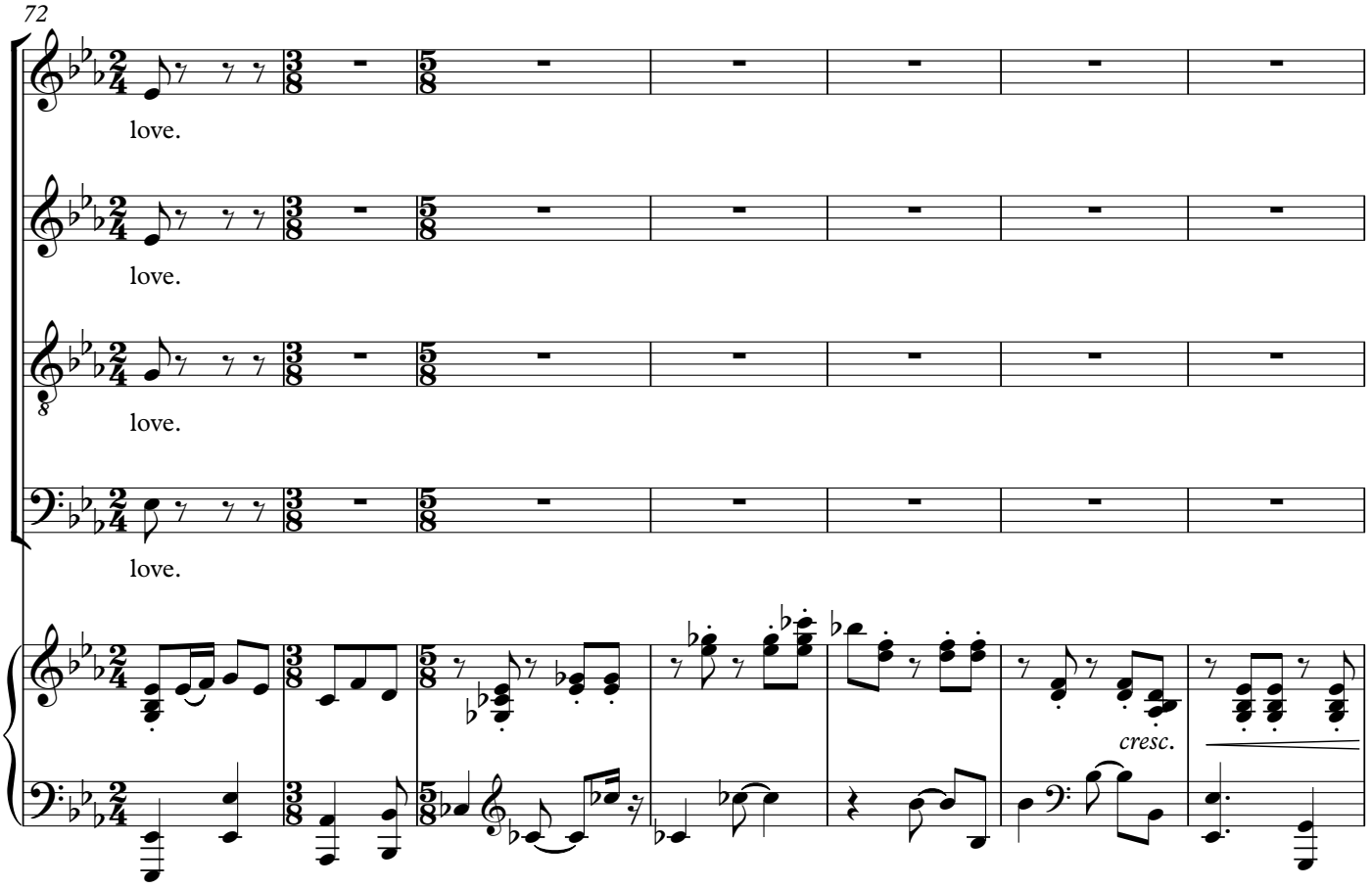

33
cresc.
flesh ly sub - stance, Thus was I knit to man's na - ture,to call my true love to my dance, To
cresc.
flesh ly sub - stance, Thus was I knit to man's na - ture,to call my true love to my dance, To
cresc.
flesh ly sub - stance, Thus was I knit to man's na - ture,to call my true love to my dance, To
cresc.
flesh ly sub - stance, Thus was I knit to man's na - ture,to call my true love to my dance, To
cresc.
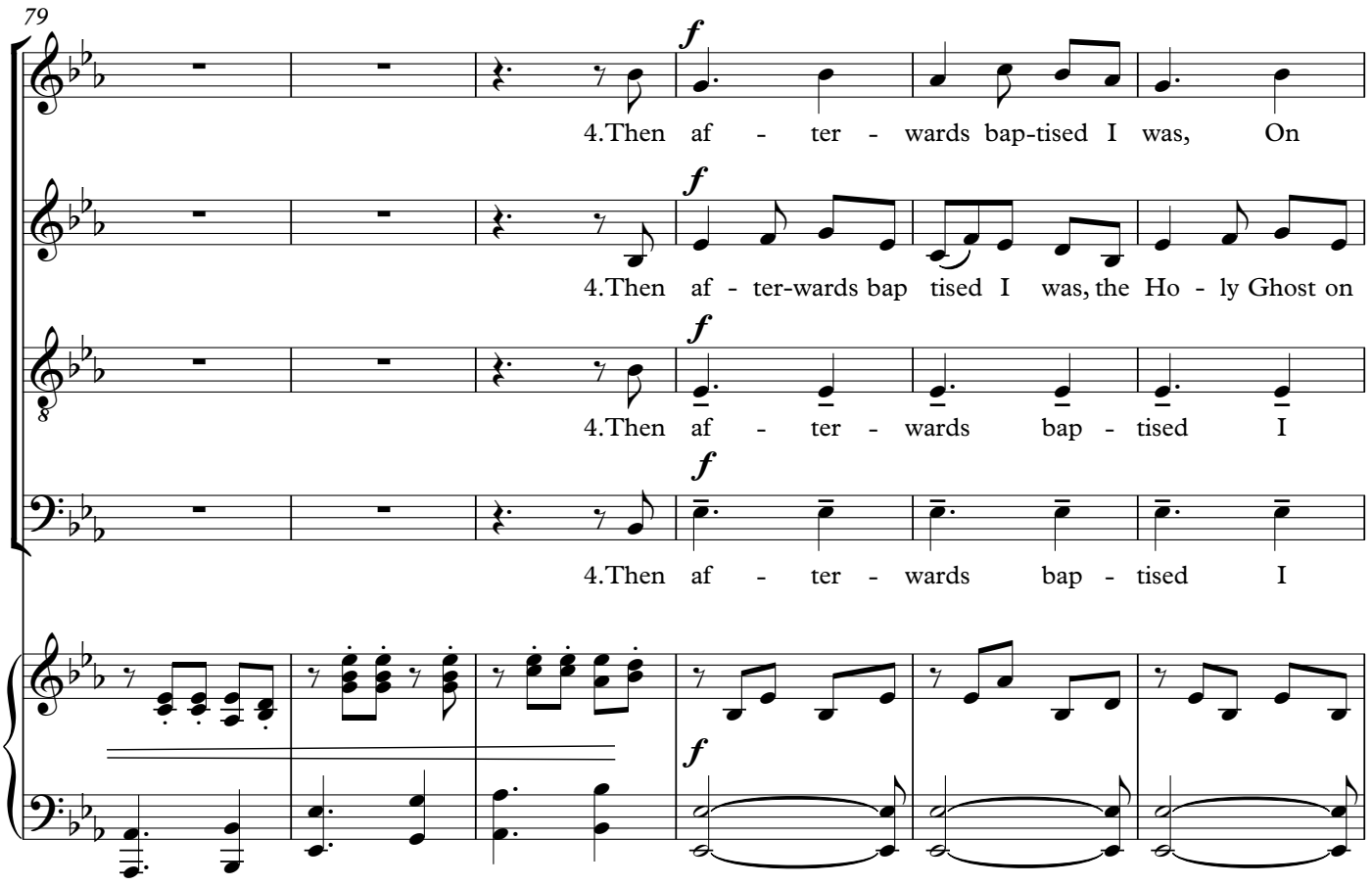

38
f
call my true love to my dance, Sing, O my love, sing
call my true love to my dance, Sing, sing O my love, sing
call my true love to my dance, Sing, O my love, sing
call my true love to my dance, Sing, O my love, sing

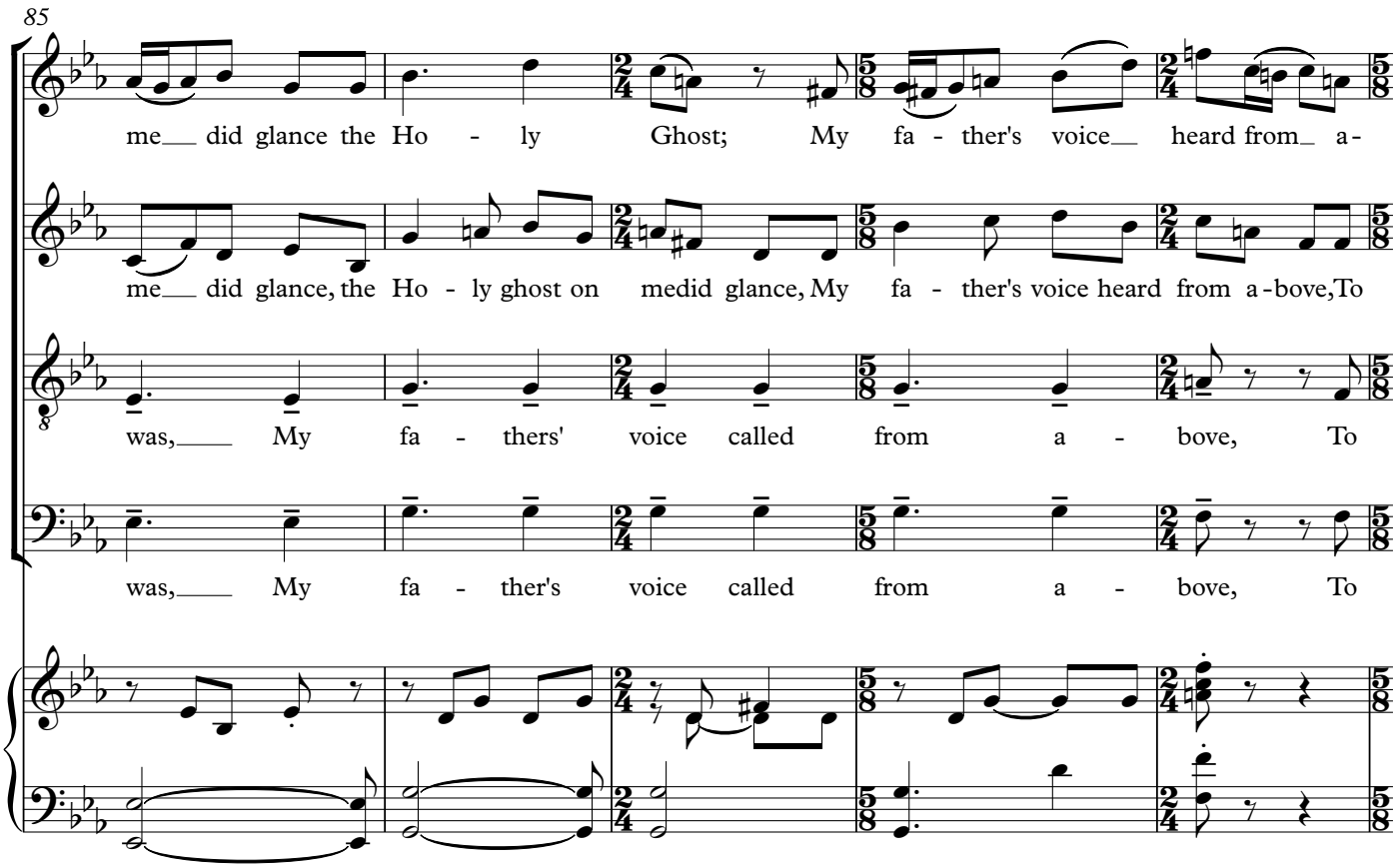

45
mp
O my love my love, This have I done for my true love.
O my love my love, This have I done for my true love.
O my love, This have I done for my true love.
O my love my love, This have I done for my true love.
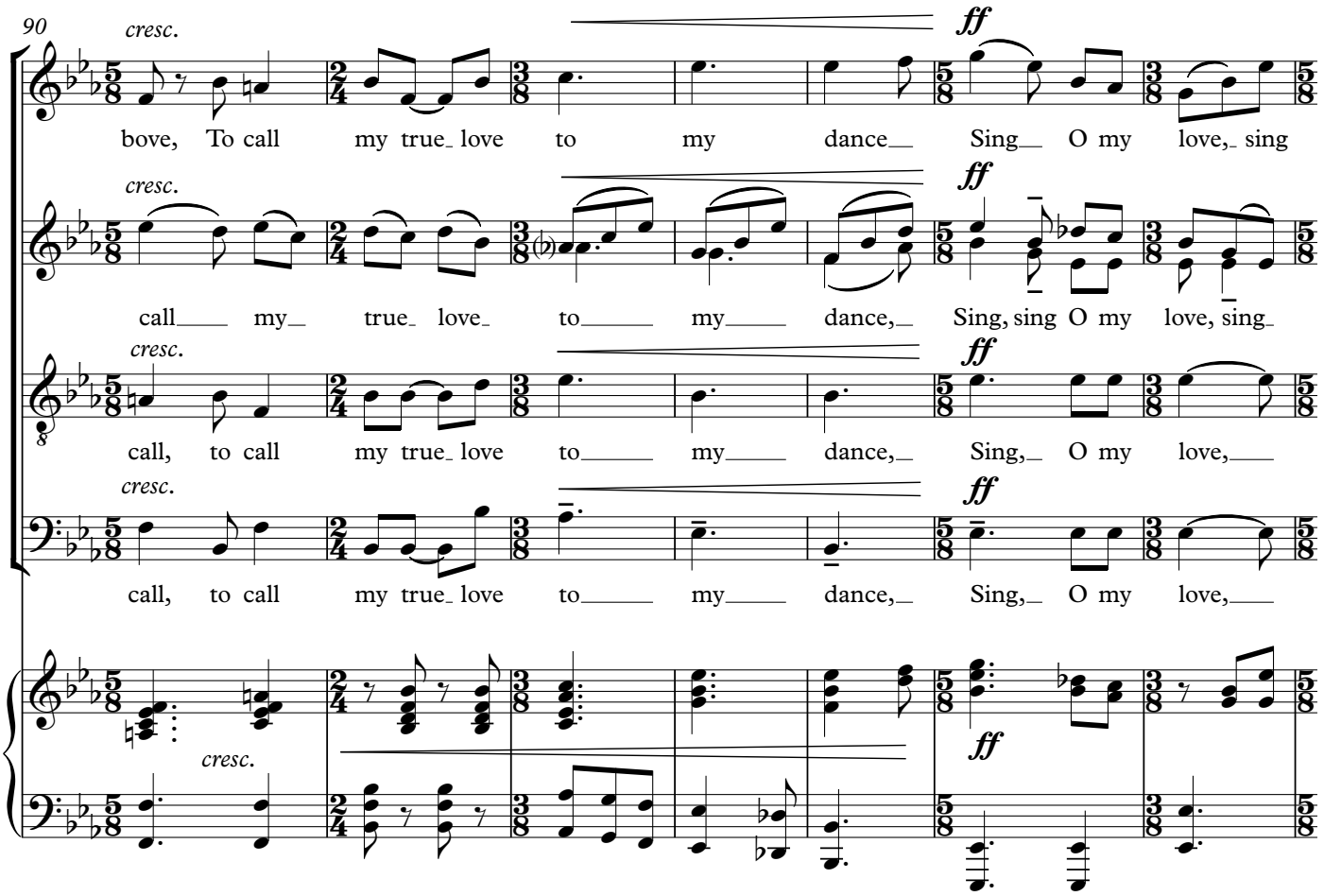

52
p legato
cresc.
3.Ooh
Ooh
Ooh
p legato
cresc.
3.Ooh
Ooh
Ooh
mp
cresc.
'Twixt ox and sil-ly
mp legato
3.In man ger laid and wrapped I was, so ve - ry poor this was my chance.
(Optional: Tacet Bars 53-65)
pp legato
58
mf
Ooh
To call my true love to my
mf
Ooh
To call my true love to my
mf
poor ass, to call my true love to my dance, To call my true love to my
mf
To call my true love to my
cresc.
mf

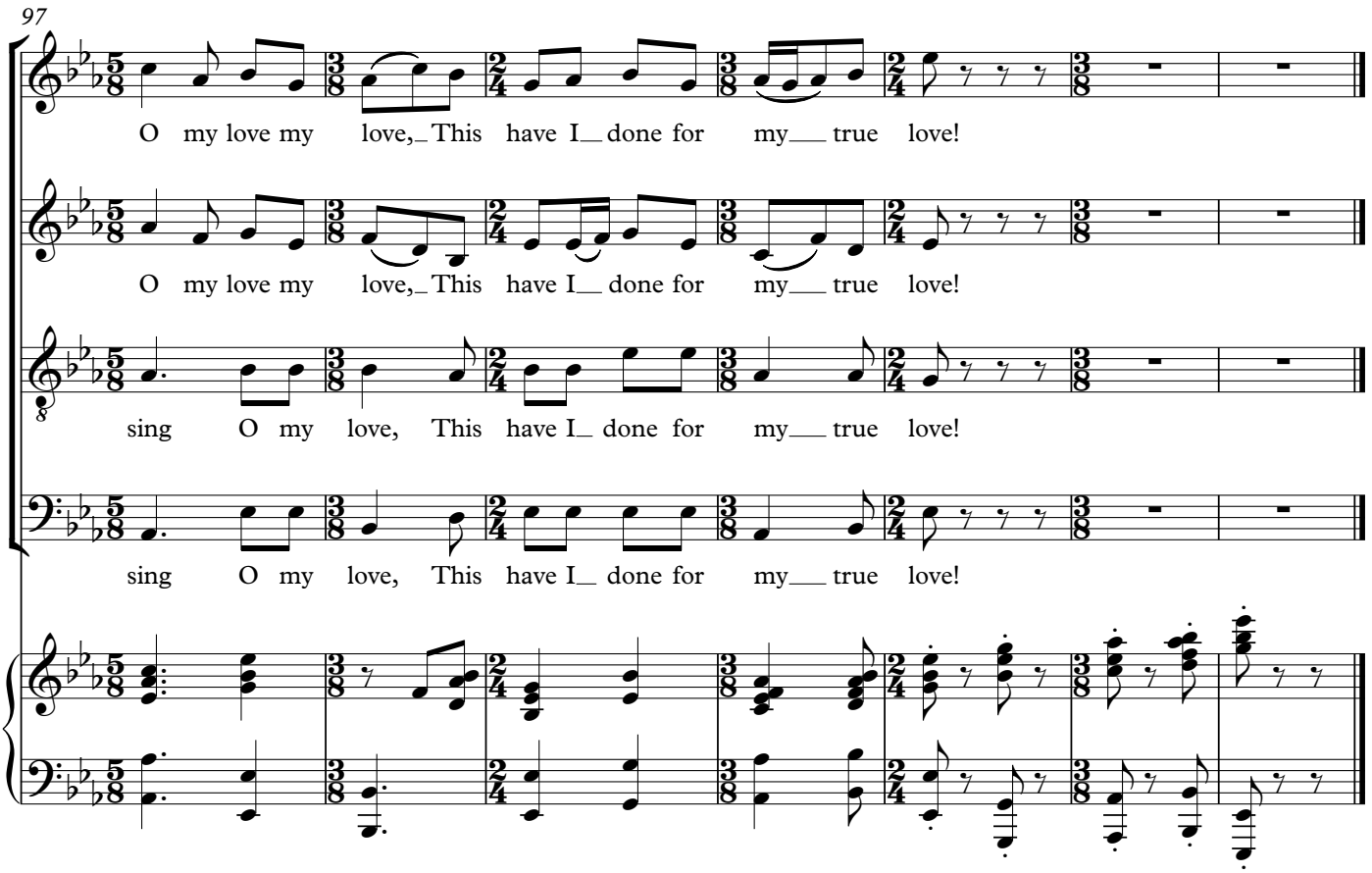

65
f
dance, Sing,_ O my love,_sing O my love my love,_This have I_ done for my_true
dance, O my_ love, O my love, This have I_ done for my_true
dance, O my love, O my love, This have I_ done for my_true
dance, Sing, O my love, sing O my love my love, This have I done for my_true


72
love.
love.
love.
love.
cresc.


79
f
4.Then af - ter - wards bap-tised I was, On
4.Then af - ter-wards bap tised I was, the Ho - ly Ghost on
4.Then af - ter - wards bap - tised I
4.Then af - ter - wards bap - tised I


85
me did glance the Ho - ly Ghost; My fa - ther's voice heard from a-
me did glance, the Ho - ly ghost on medid glance, My fa - ther's voice heard from a-bove,To
was, My fa - thers' voice called from a - bove, To
was, My fa - ther's voice called from a - bove, To


90
cresc.
ff
bove, To call my true_ love to my dance_ Sing_ O my love,_ sing
call_ my_ true_ love_ to_ my_ dance,_ Sing, sing O my love, sing_
call, to call my true_ love to_ my_ dance,_ Sing,_ O my love,_
call, to call my true_ love to_ my_ dance,_ Sing,_ O my love,_


97
O my love my love,_ This have I_ done for my_ true love!
O my love my love,_ This have I_ done for my_ true love!
sing O my love, This have I_ done for my_ true love!
sing O my love, This have I_ done for my_ true love!