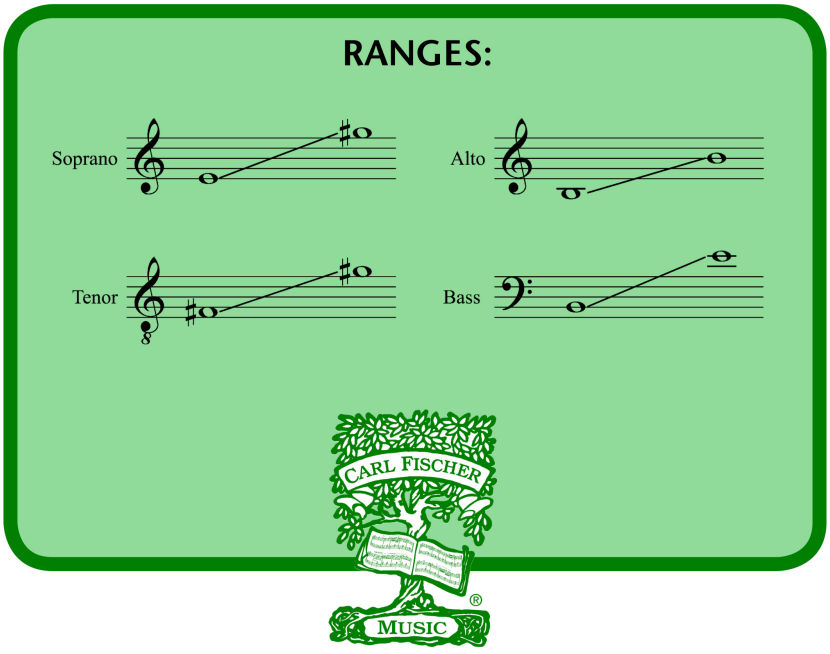
Kuimba Nafsi Yangu

JACOB NARVERUD

SATB Voices with Piano and Optional Percussion

Duration: 2:27



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Editor's Note

Sing my soul, sing my heart. Sing for peace, sing for joy.

There is so much love here, yes!

Kuimba Nafsi Yangu is a celebratory song derived from common Swahili phrases of joy. Intended as a concert opener, this spirited piece is pure energy from start to finish. The piano and djembes drive the momentum forward while the choir sings in traditional African call and response. Each section gets a chance to shine, all while building with anticipation to the final note and stomp.

Accents/articulations, vocal inflections, and three part chords in both SA and TB voices call for vocal flexibility, rhythmic intensity, and movement from the singers. If desired, mm. 3 and 4 may serve as a vamp, while the performers enter from around the auditorium to take the stage.

Pronunciation

Kuimba nafsi yangu,
[Koo-eehm-bah nahf-see yahn-goo,]
Kuimba moyo wangu.
[Koo-eehm-bah moh-yoh wahn-goo.]
Kuimba kwa amani,
[Koo-eehm-bah kwah ah-mah-nee,]
kuimba kwa furaha.
[Koo-eehm-bah kwah foo-rah-ha.]
Sana upendo, sana mpenzi wangu.
[Sah-nah oo-pehn-doh, sah-nah mmpehn-zee-wahn-goo.]
Na wewe. Ey na wewe. Ndiyo.
[Nah way-way. Ay nah way-way. Nn-dee-yoh.]
O hey na, hey na!
[Oh hey nah, hey nah!]

Kuimba Nafsi Yangu was commissioned by the Roudebush family, in loving memory of Tim and Ruth Roudebush, for their support of Camille Roudebush during her years in Allegro. The premiere performance took place at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts during the 2016 Southwest American Choral Director's Association Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

About the Composer
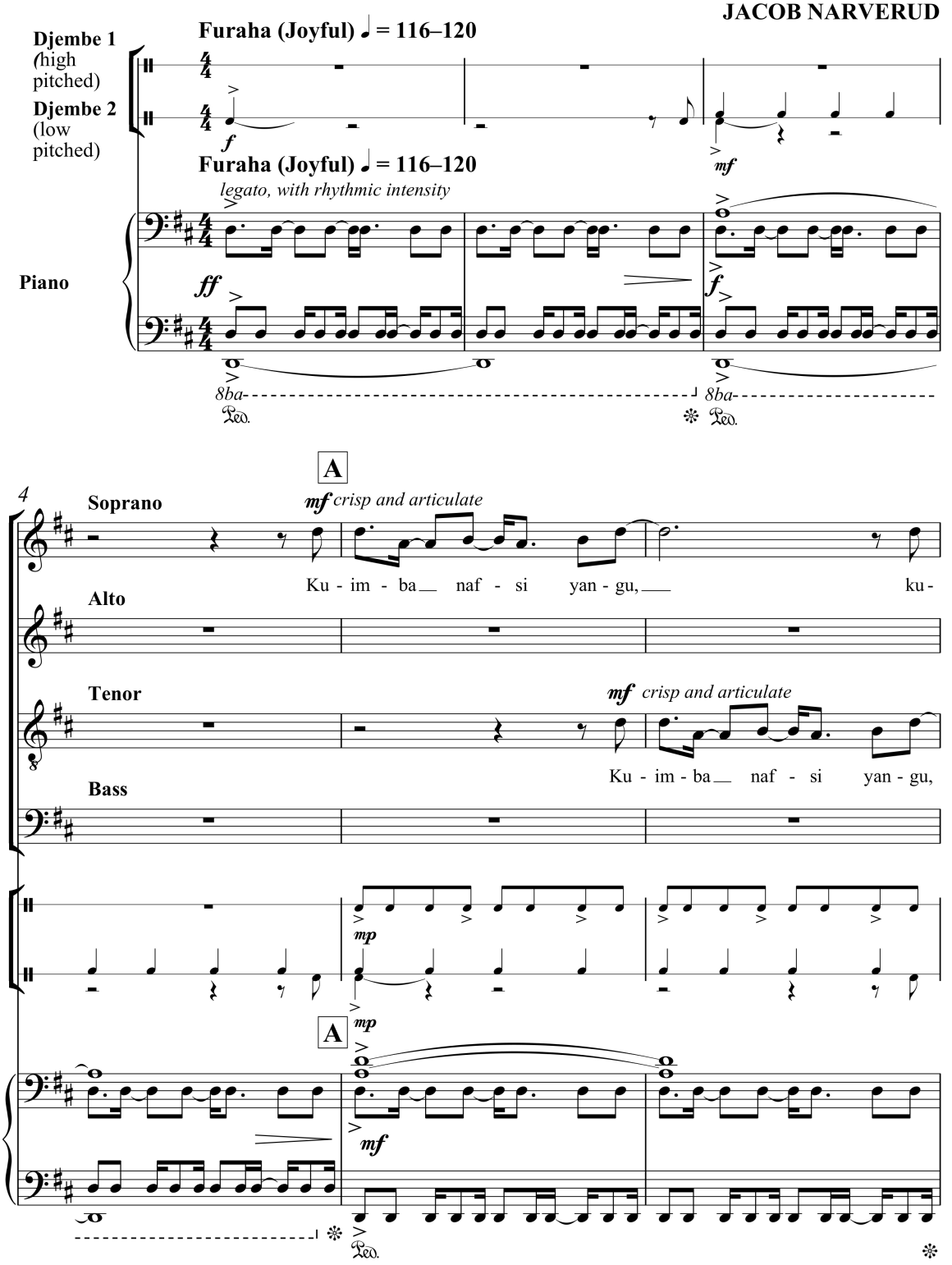
Jacob Narverud (b. 1986) is an American composer, arranger, and conductor. A native of Meriden, Kansas, Narverud studied voice performance at Emporia State University and is currently a doctoral student at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, where he holds a Master's degree in conducting. With a background in musical theater, instrumental, and choral music, Jake is a sought-after composer and an active guest conductor. As a vocalist, Narverud has performed with the Kansas City Chorale and the Kansas City Symphony as a backup singer for Ben Folds. He has also been a choir director at both secondary and collegiate levels. Jake is published with Santa Barbara, Alliance, Carl Fischer Music, G. Schirmer, Wingert-Jones, Alfred Music, Shawnee Press, and Hal Leonard. For more on Narverud's music, visit **jakenarverud.com**

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Kuimba Nafsi Yangu

for SATB Voices with Piano and Optional Percussion*

Words and Music by
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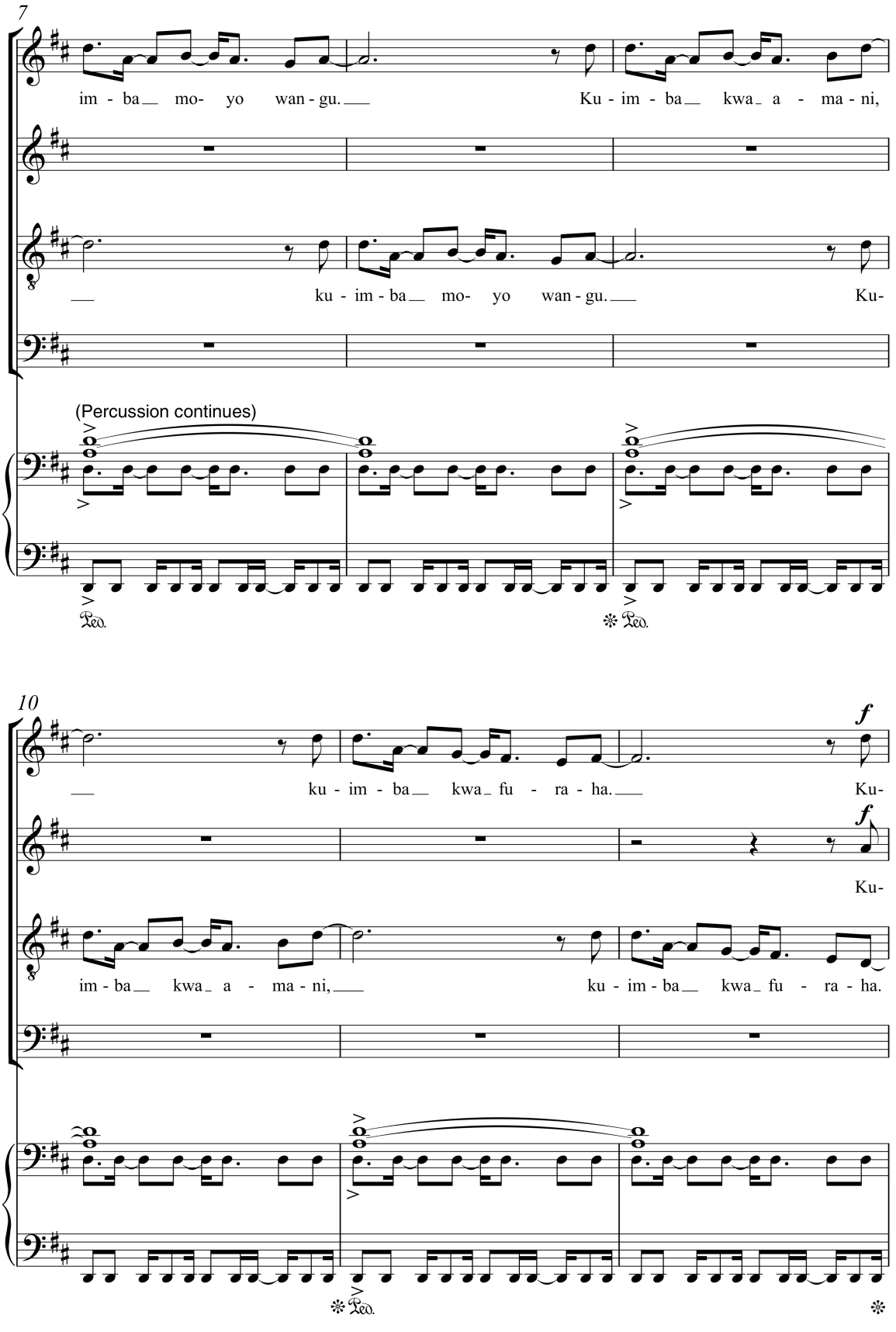


* The parts for Optional Percussion are available as downloads from http://carlfischer.com.
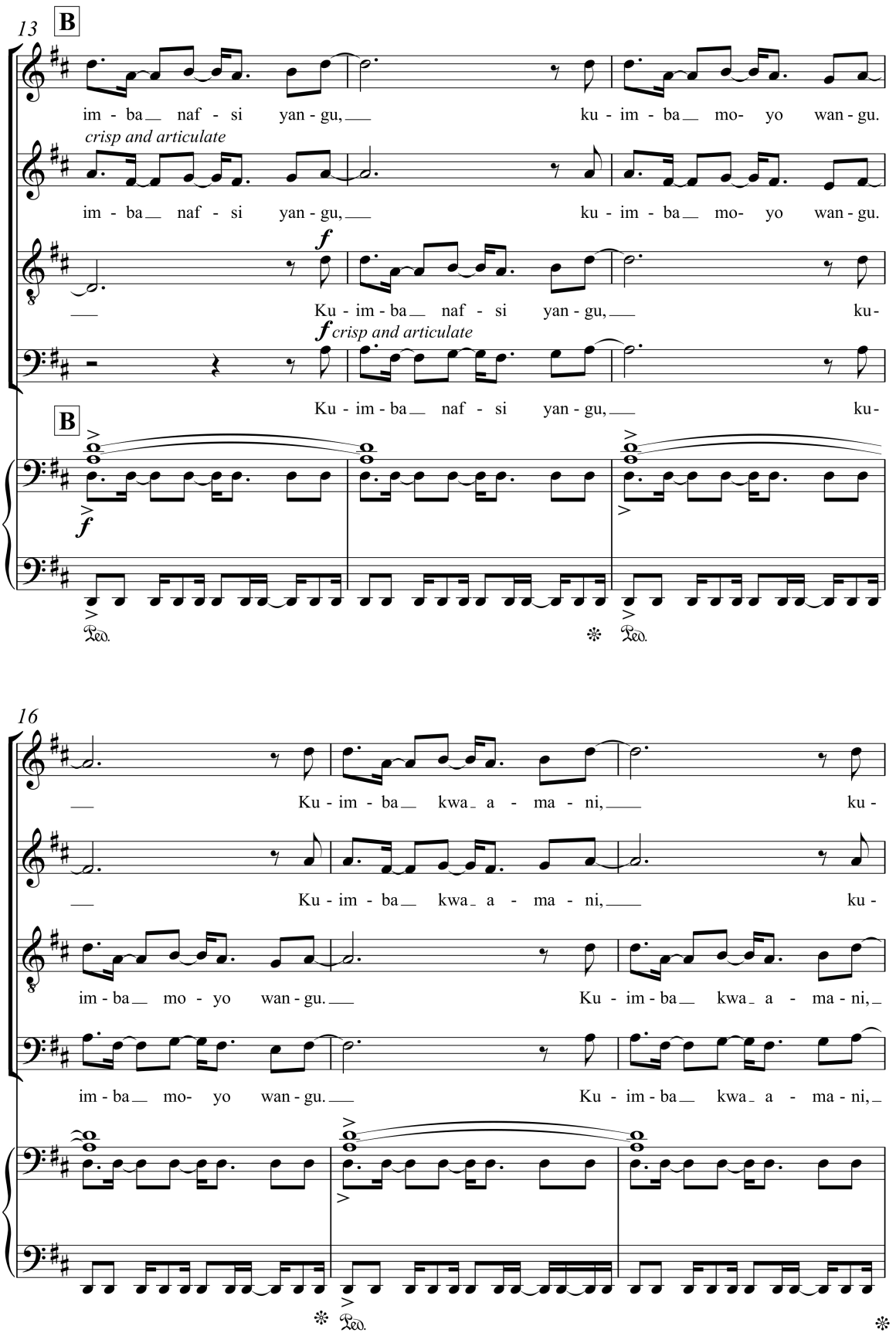
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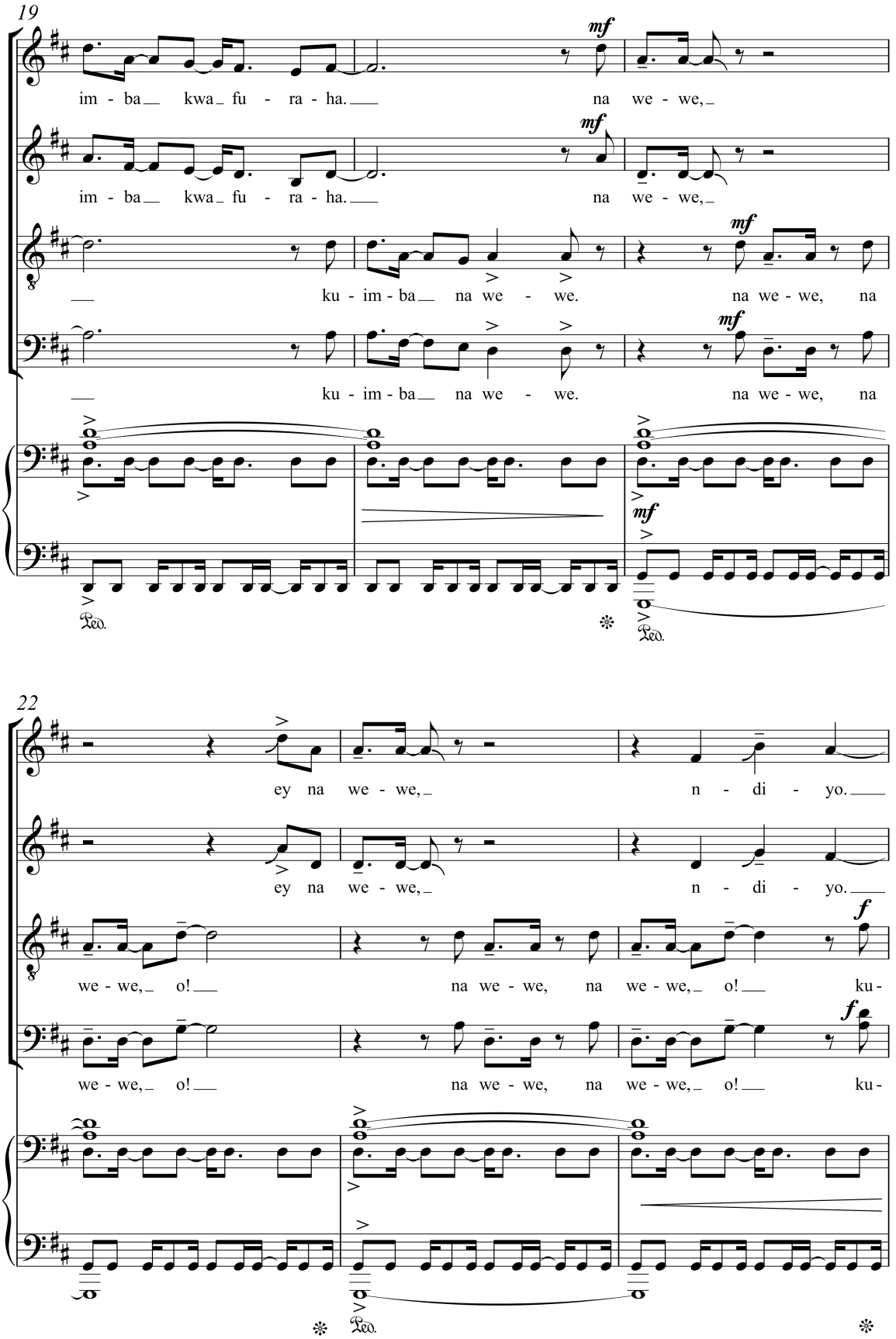
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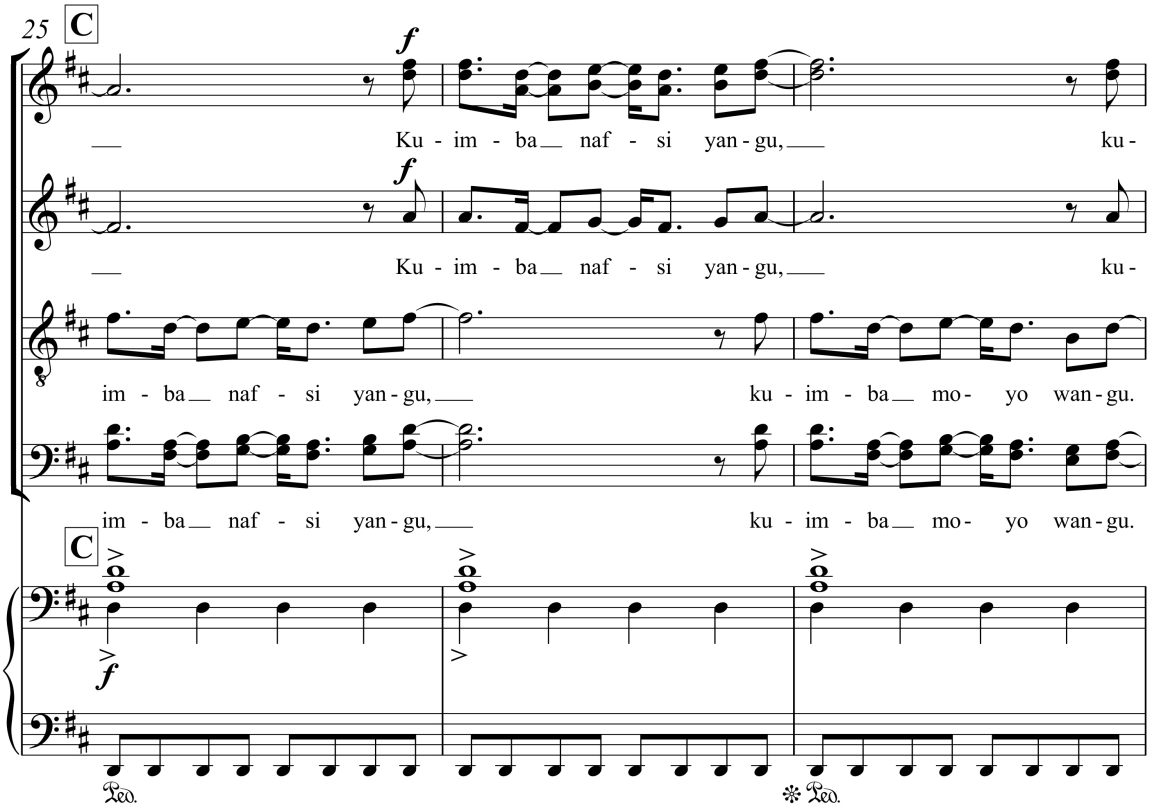


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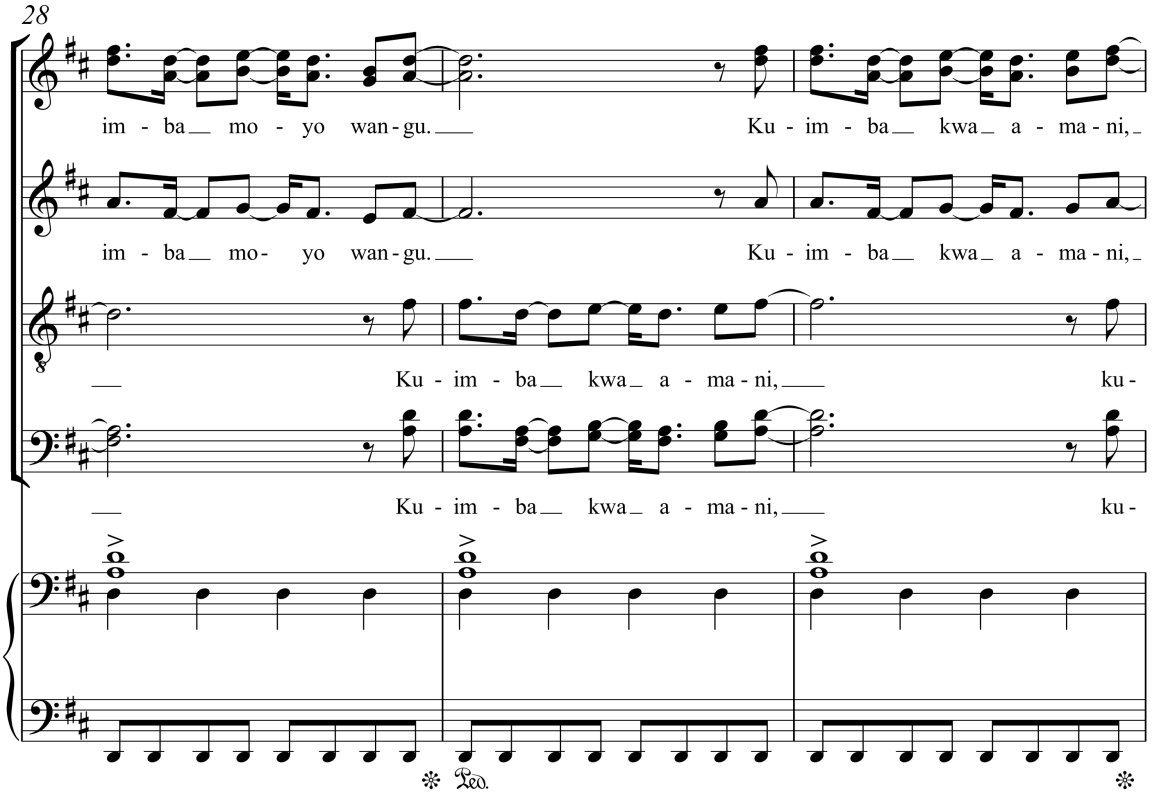


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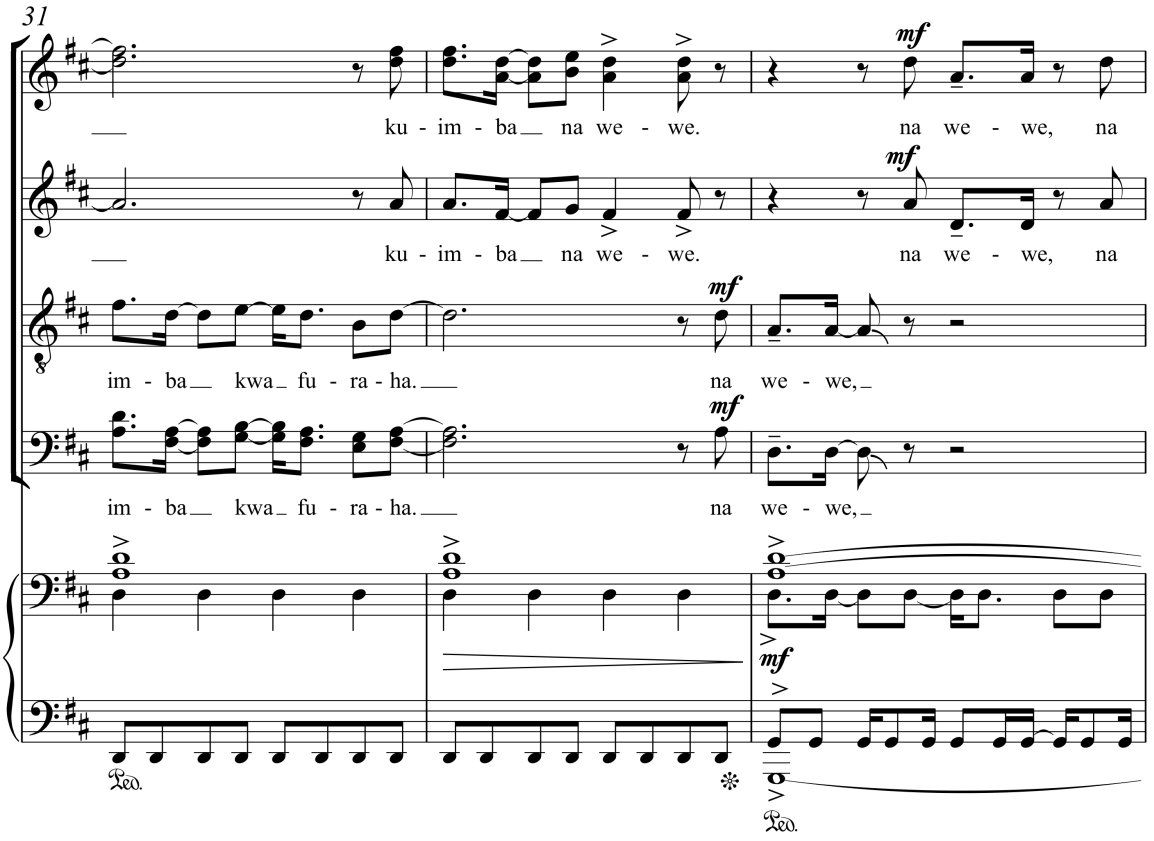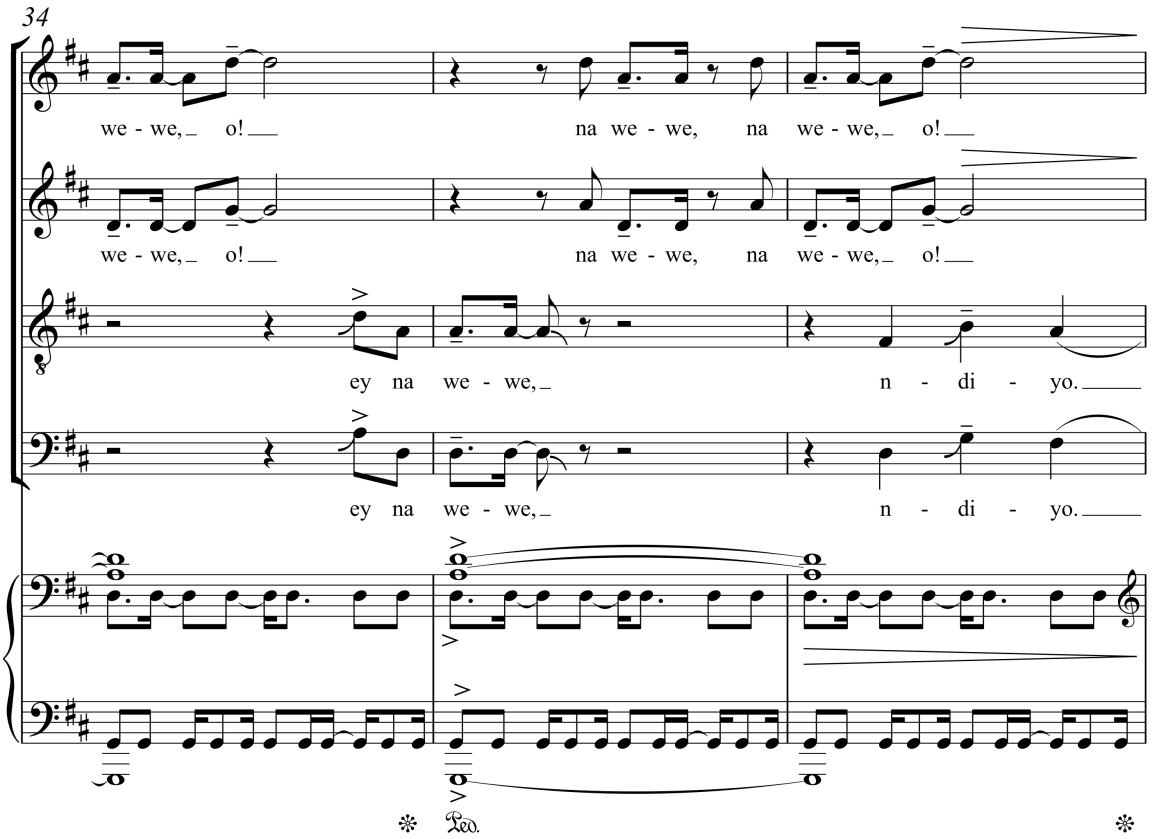


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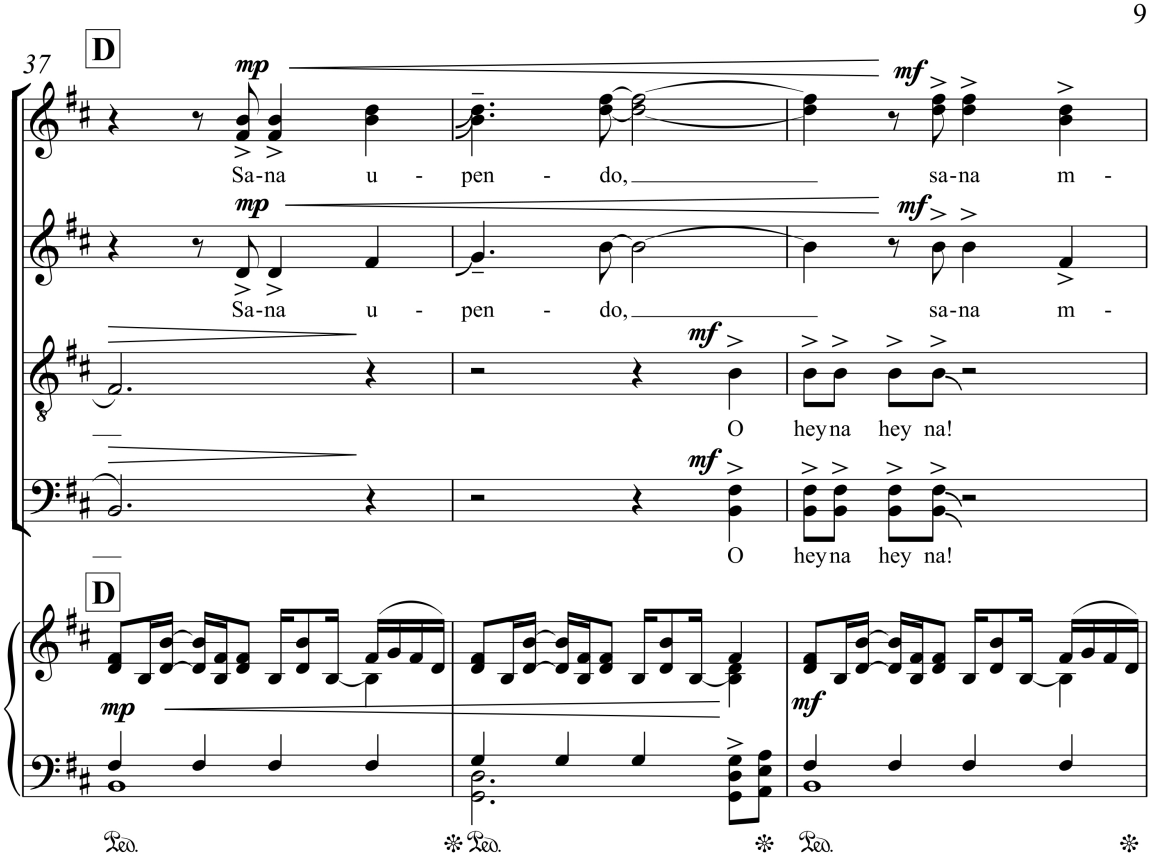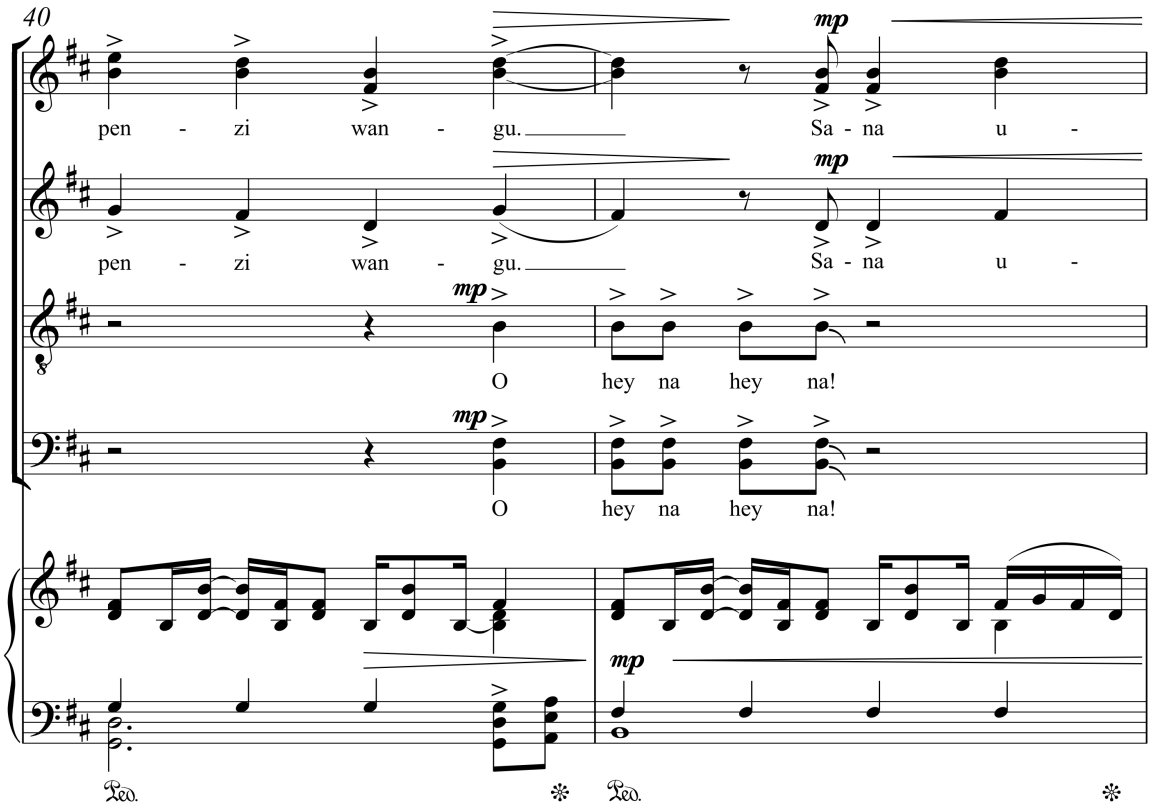




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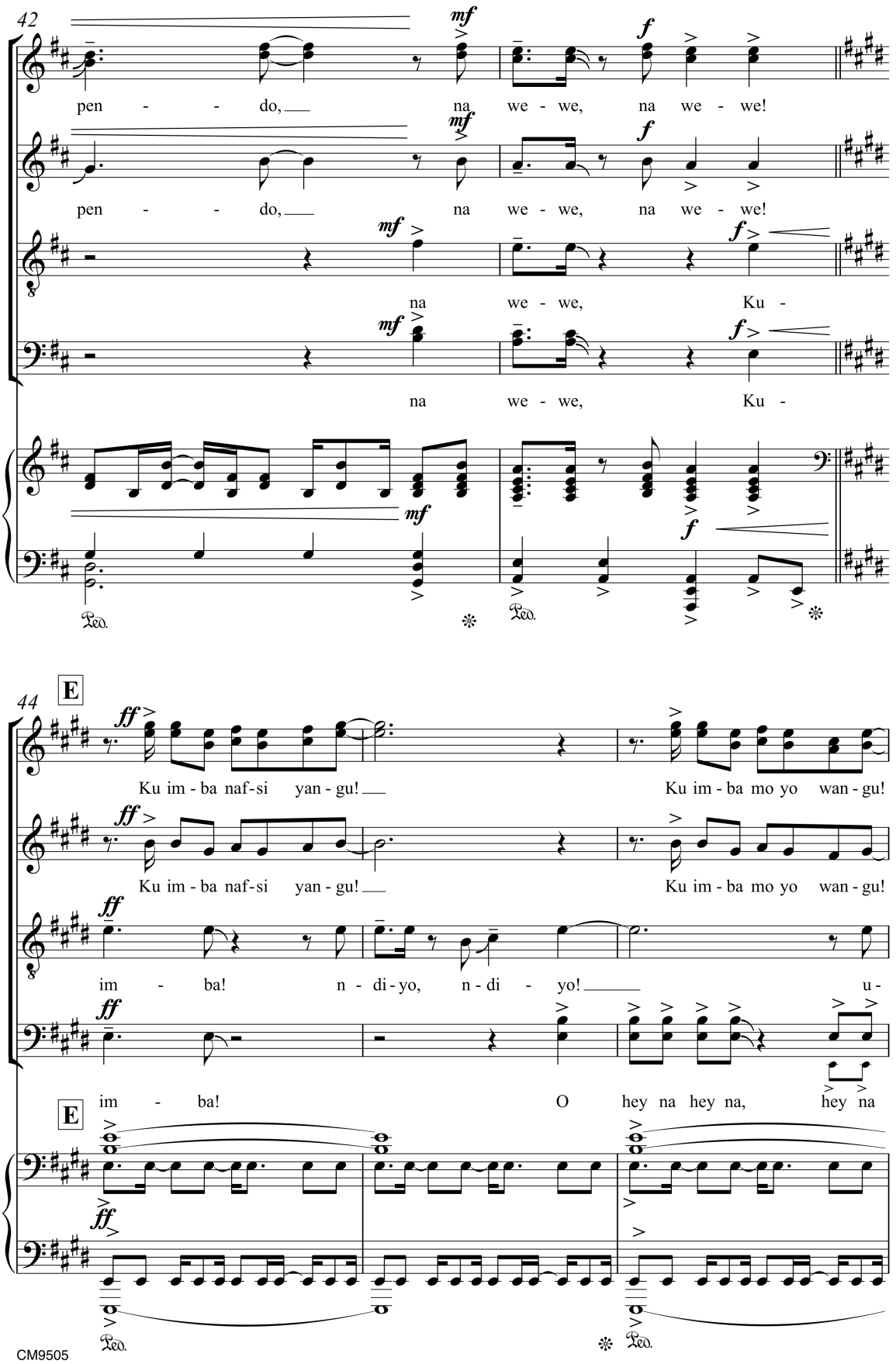




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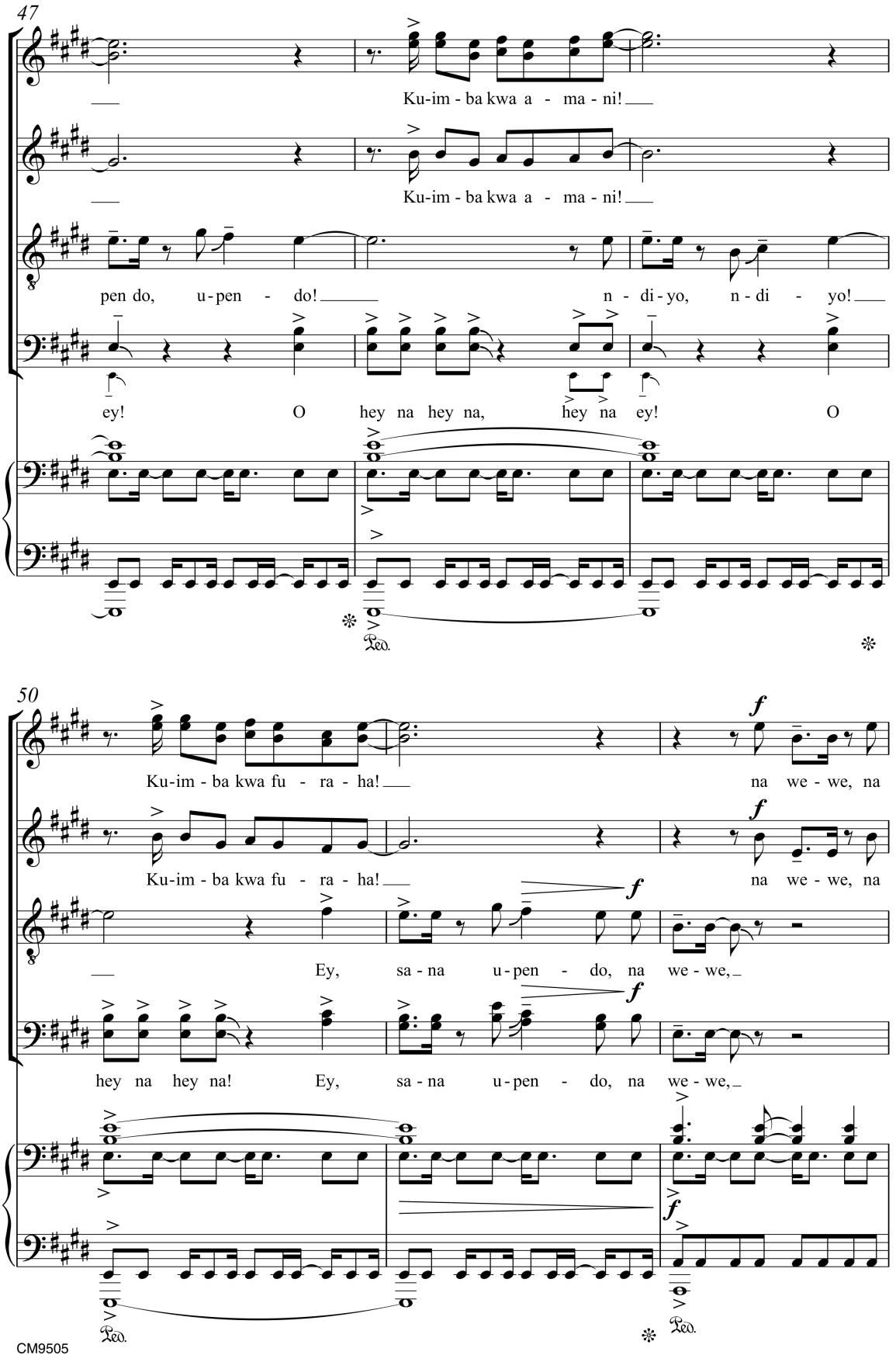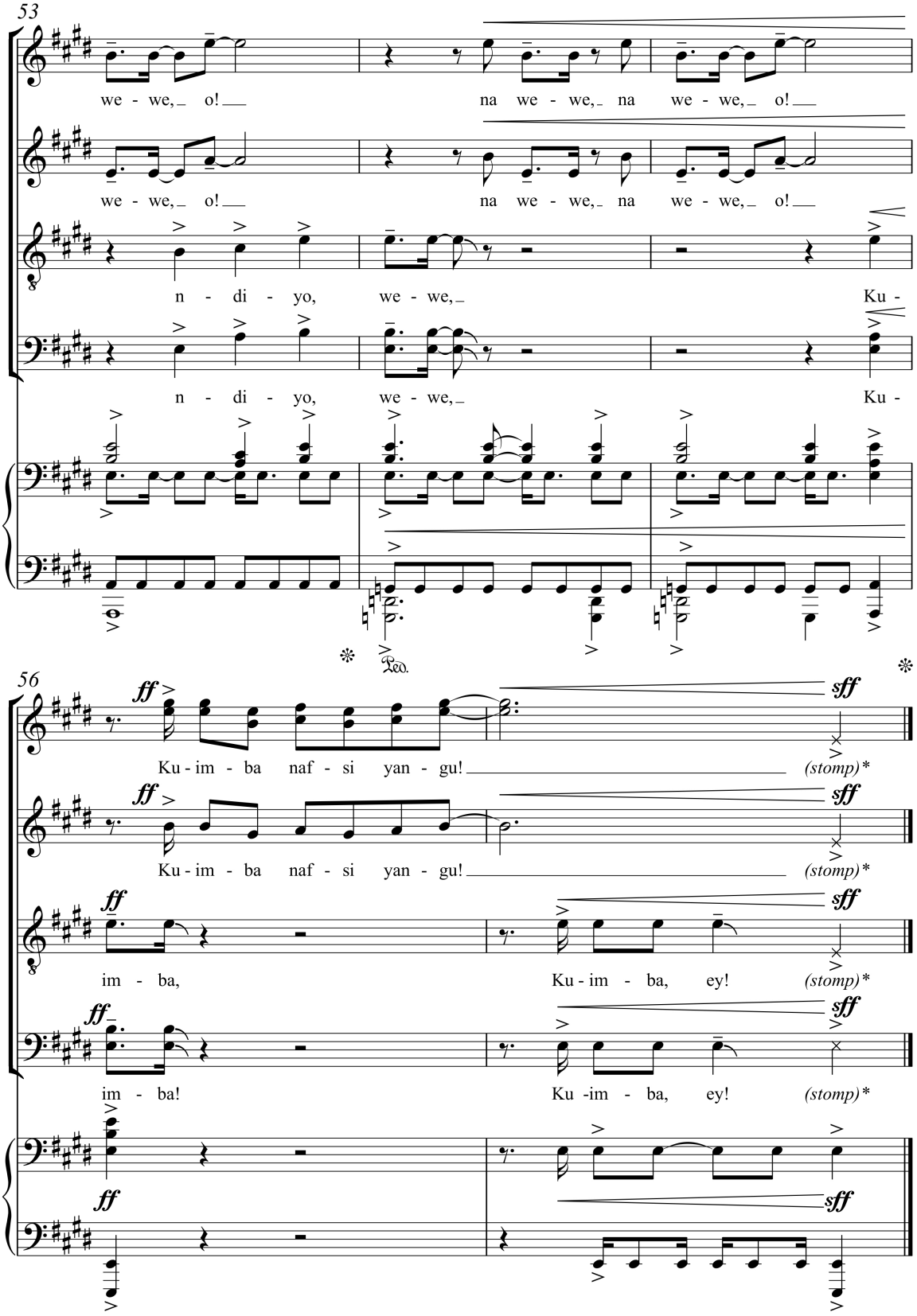




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* On beat 4 of the last measure, choir members should stomp with their right foot as their left arm and fist punch down toward the ground. Posture remains elevated.

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