Prelude *and* Fugue *on*

Vom Himmel Hoch

A traditional German Christmas Hymn

in a setting for Carillon

2021

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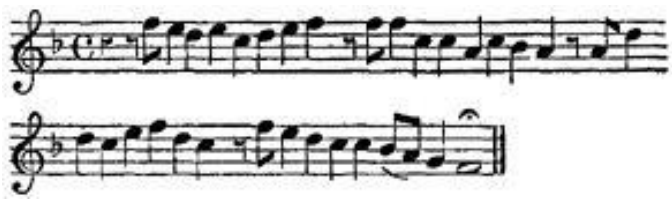

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vom_Himmel_hoch,_da_komm_ich_her

Prelude *and* **Fugue** *on*

Vom Himmel Hoch

A traditional fifteen verse Christmas text *by* Martin Luther

Above: One *of* three tunes applied *to and/or* written *for* Luther's text

Notes

A Triptych *of* **Martin Luther Hymns** presents three extended settings written for four-octave carillon (or larger). All three texts are ascribed to Luther, as are two of the three hymn tunes. One of the first publications of Luther's 15-verse text for *Vom Himmel Hoch* (1535) was paired with the melody of a popular song of the day, *"Ich kumm aus frembden Landen her."* Four years later, the text was paired with a new tune that is ascribed to Luther. His original hymn tunes display many traits of a compositional school and tradition that favored use of Christian church modes. Also of note, his compositions frequently include infusions of isorhythmic motifs applied within consecutive phrases of a hymn tune that provide a unique rhythmic impetus, while creating a sense of melodic unification by means of repetition. This latter trait is readily apparent in the tune composed for *Ein Feste Burg.*

Prelude *and* **Fugue** *on* ***Vom Himmel Hoch*** begins with a slow moving and introspective presentation of the hymn melody in lower bells, accompanied by a progression of *quasi faux bourdon* chords in treble range. The fugue — more accurately a loosely imitative *fugato* or ricercar — features phrase-by-phrase thematic points of imitation in treble bells, with each miniature exposition followed by a *cantus firmus* statement of the corresponding chorale phrase in lower bells; the final phrase is repeated in slow moving and richly arpeggiated chords.

N.B. from the publisher: Although expressly written for cast bell carillons, this setting will sound out effectively on a variety of keyboard and/or plucked string instruments. The setting bears an *In memoriam* honoring an uncle and namesake whom I never met. The collection of three Luther hymn tune settings bears three honorary inscriptions to friends and colleagues past and present (see the closing page for a detailed listing).

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In memory of
Ennis Frederick Bramley
Flight Sergeant, RCAF
[1911-1942]

Prelude *and* Fugue *on*

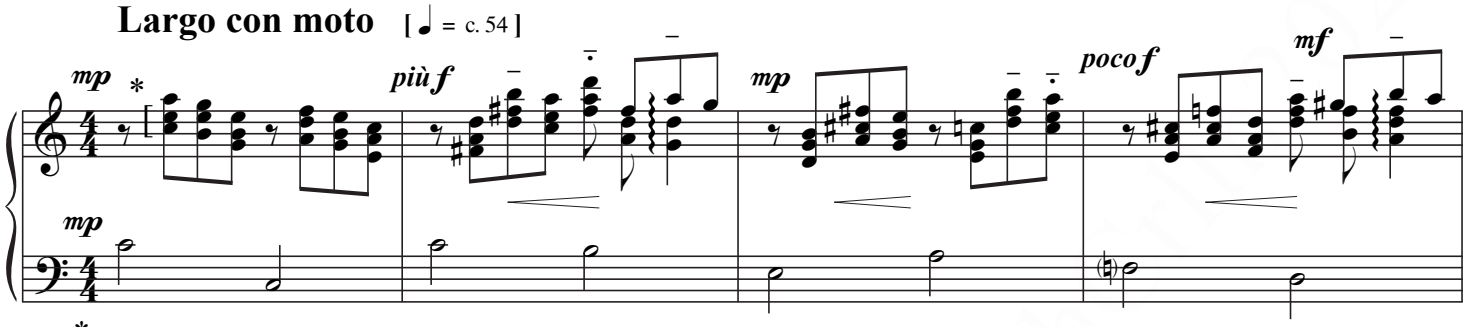
Vom Himmel Hoch

I. Prelude

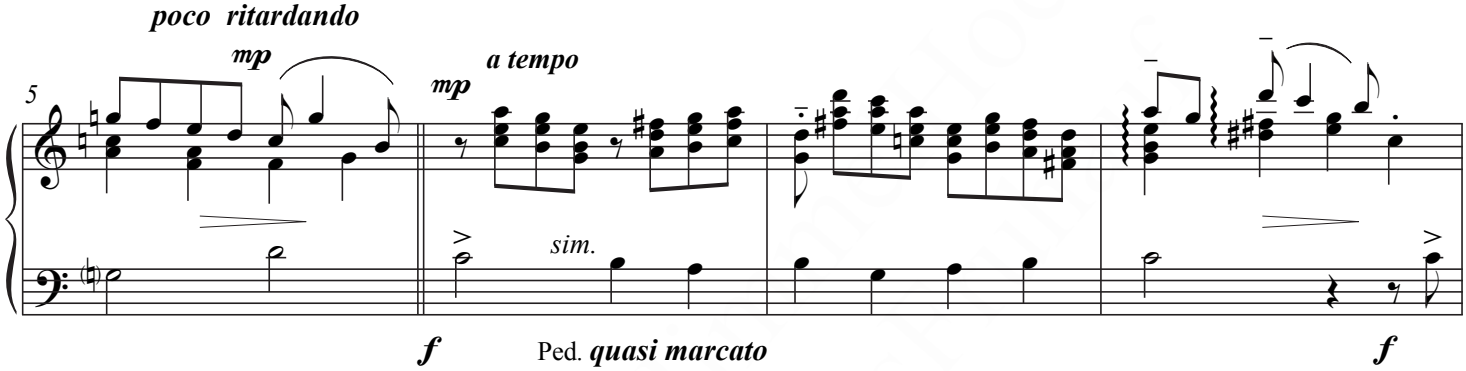
Traditional Christmas Hymn Text *by* **Martin Luther** (1483-1546)
Tune attributed *to* **Martin Luther**

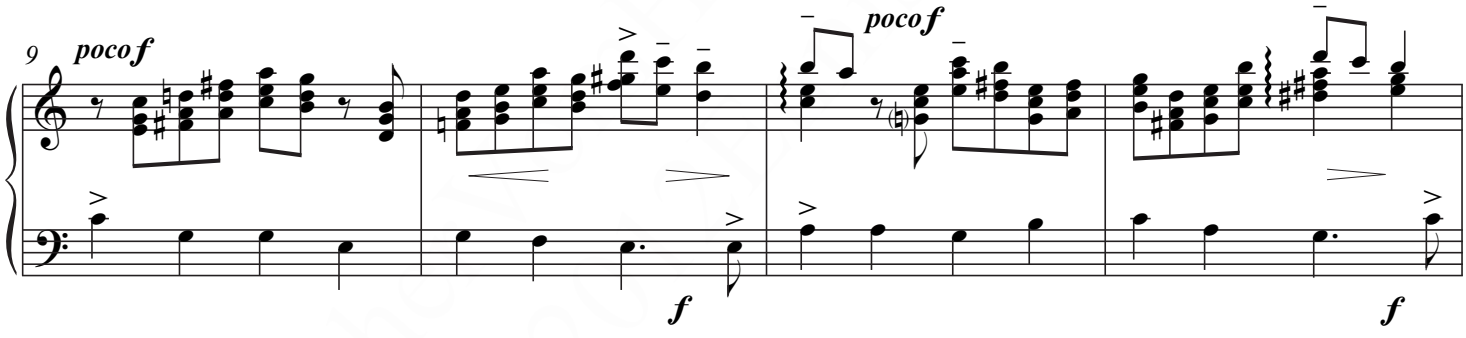
Setting for Carillon
Ennis Fruhauf

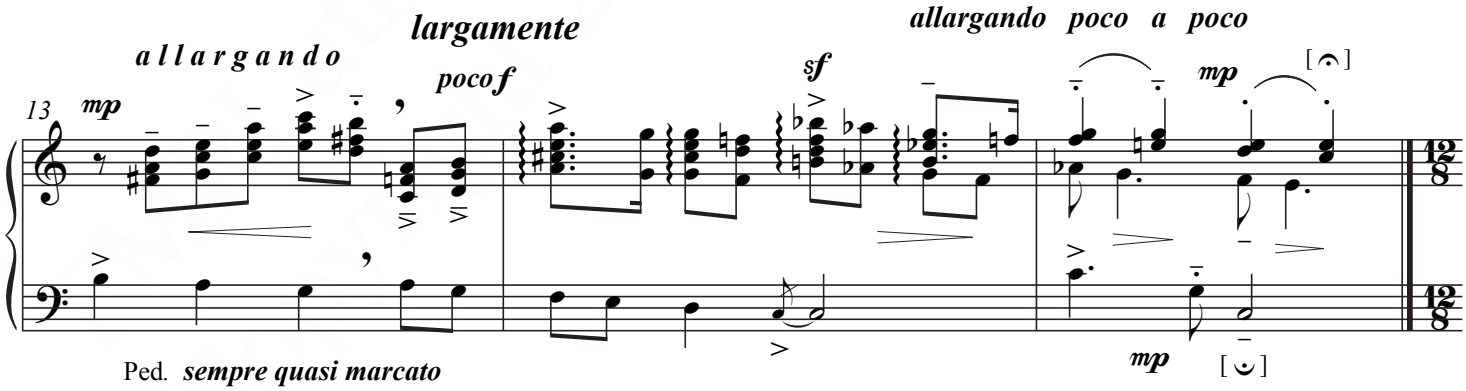
Largo con moto [♩ = c. 54]



* [*non-arpeggiando*, play 3rds with l.h. or r.h.]







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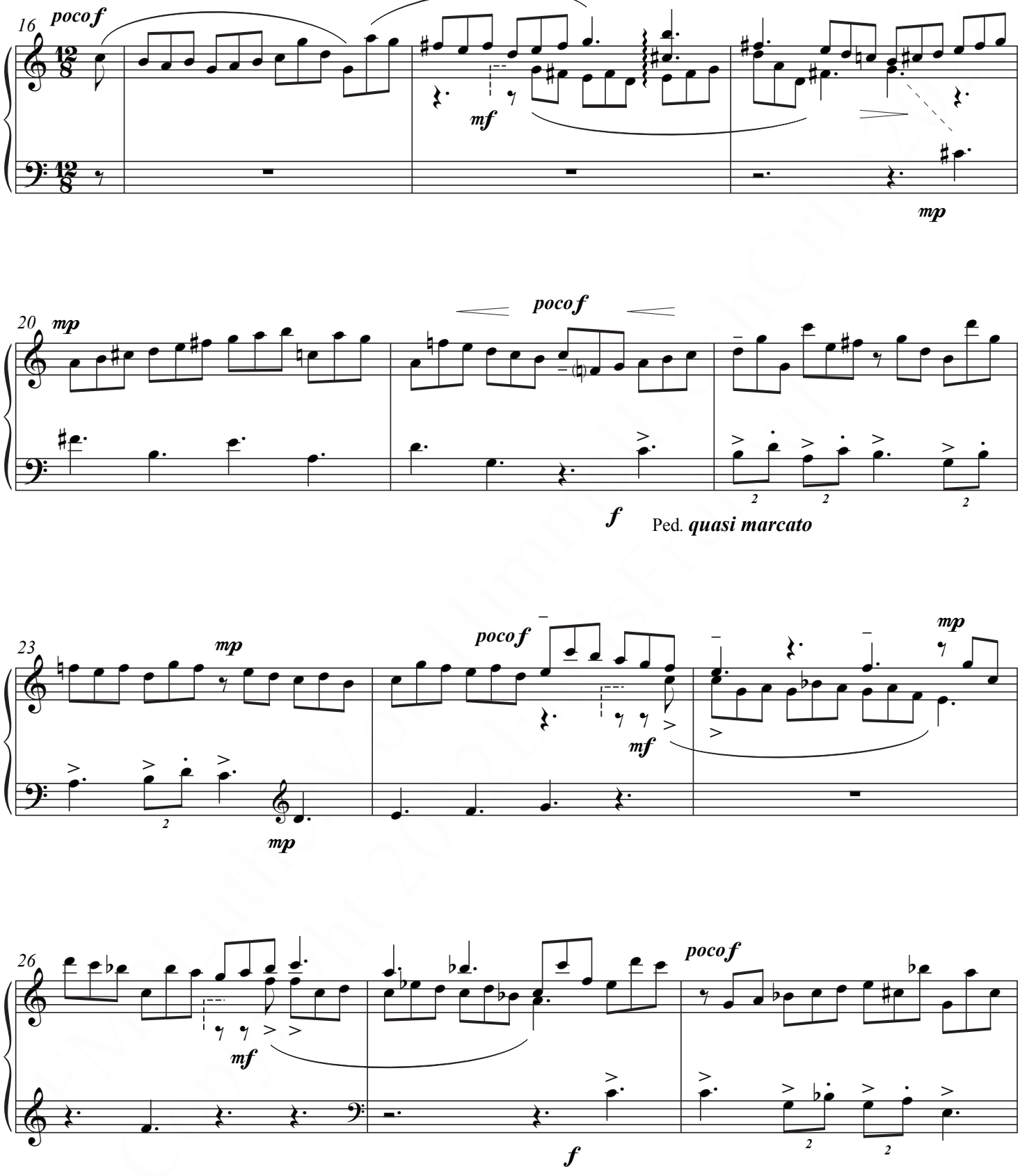
Prelude *and* Fugue *on* Vom Himmel Hoch ~ *for* ***Carillon***

II. Fugue

Largo animato [♩. = c. 60]



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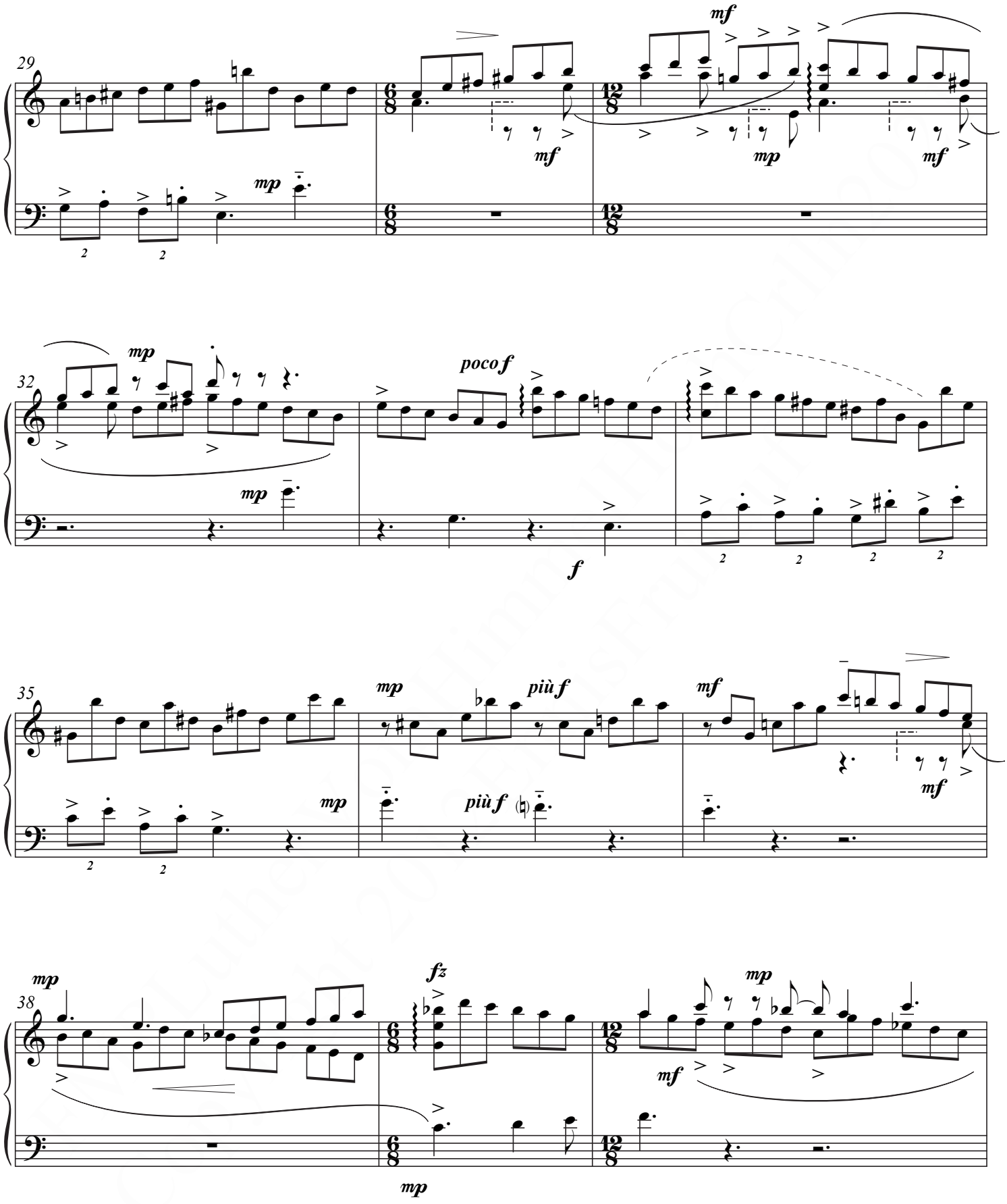
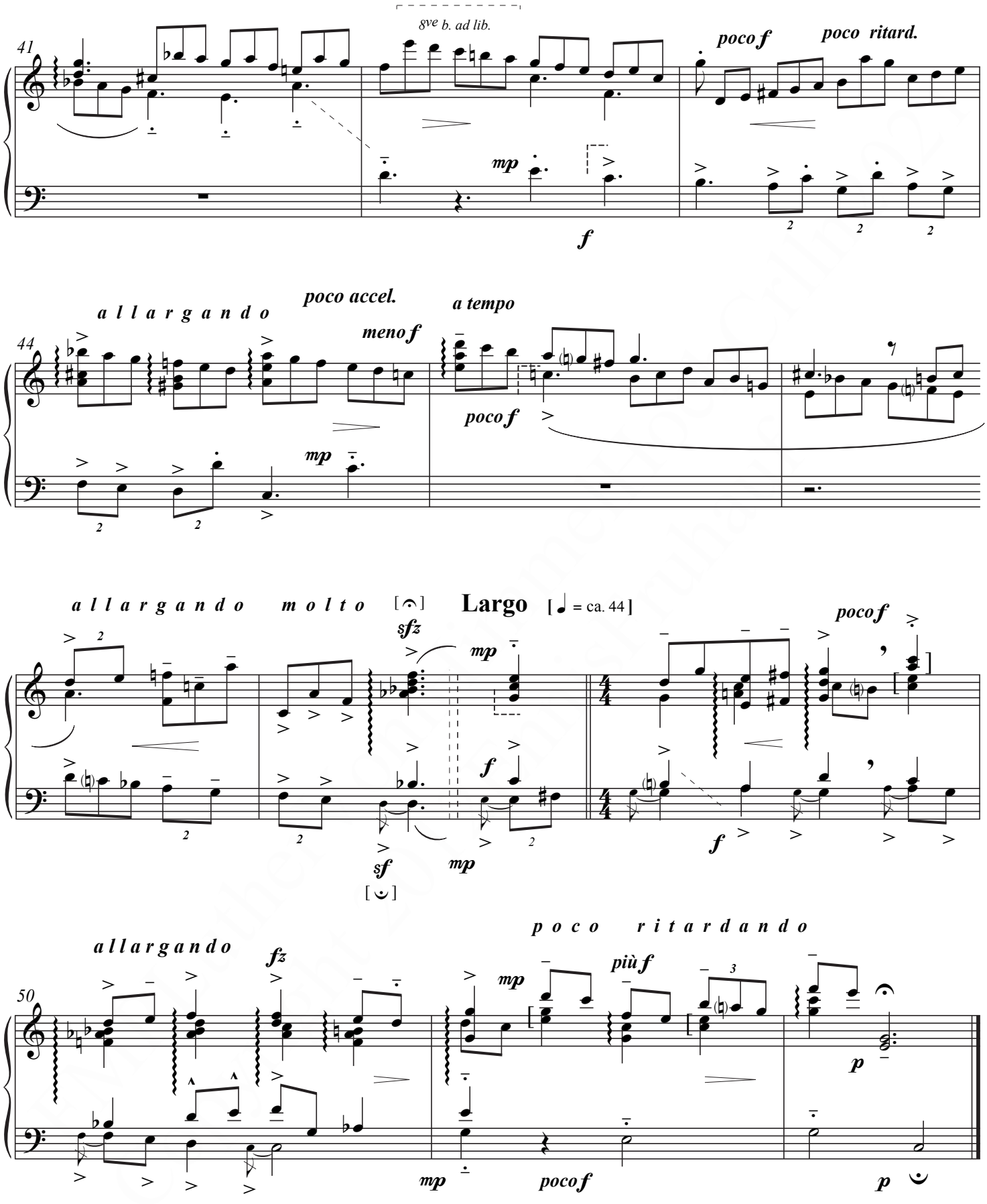


Prelude *and* Fugue *on* Vom Himmel Hoch ~ *for* ***Carillon***



A Triptych *of* Martin Luther Hymns

Settings *for* Carillon

Three Hymn Tunes written by or ascribed to Martin Luther (1483-1546)

~ *for* ~

Bruce *and* Hanna Clements
Dennis *and* Susan Curry
David *and* Lauri Herman

Prelude *and* **Fugue** *on*
Vom Himmel Hoch
("From Heaven Above")

Hymn Text *by* Luther
Tune *from* ***Kirche Gesang***
attr. *to* Luther

Three Verses *on*
Aus Tiefer Not
("Out of the Depths")

Hymn Text *by* Luther
Tune *from* ***Geystliche Gesangk Buchleyn***
attr. *to* Luther

Three Variations *on*
Ein Feste Burg
("A Mighty Fortress")

Hymn Text *by* Luther
Isometric Tune *from* ***Kirche Gesang***
attr. to Luther

IIII.
Ein Kinderlied/auff die Weihenachten/vom Kindlein Jhesu/Aus dem ij. Cap. des Euangelij S. Lucas gezogen ꝛc.
D. Mart. Luther.
Von himel hoch da kom ich her, ich bring euch
gute newe mehr, Der guten mehr bring ich so
viel, dauon ich singen vnd sagen wil.
Von Himel hoch da kom ich her/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vom_Himmel_hoch,_da_komm_ich_her

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