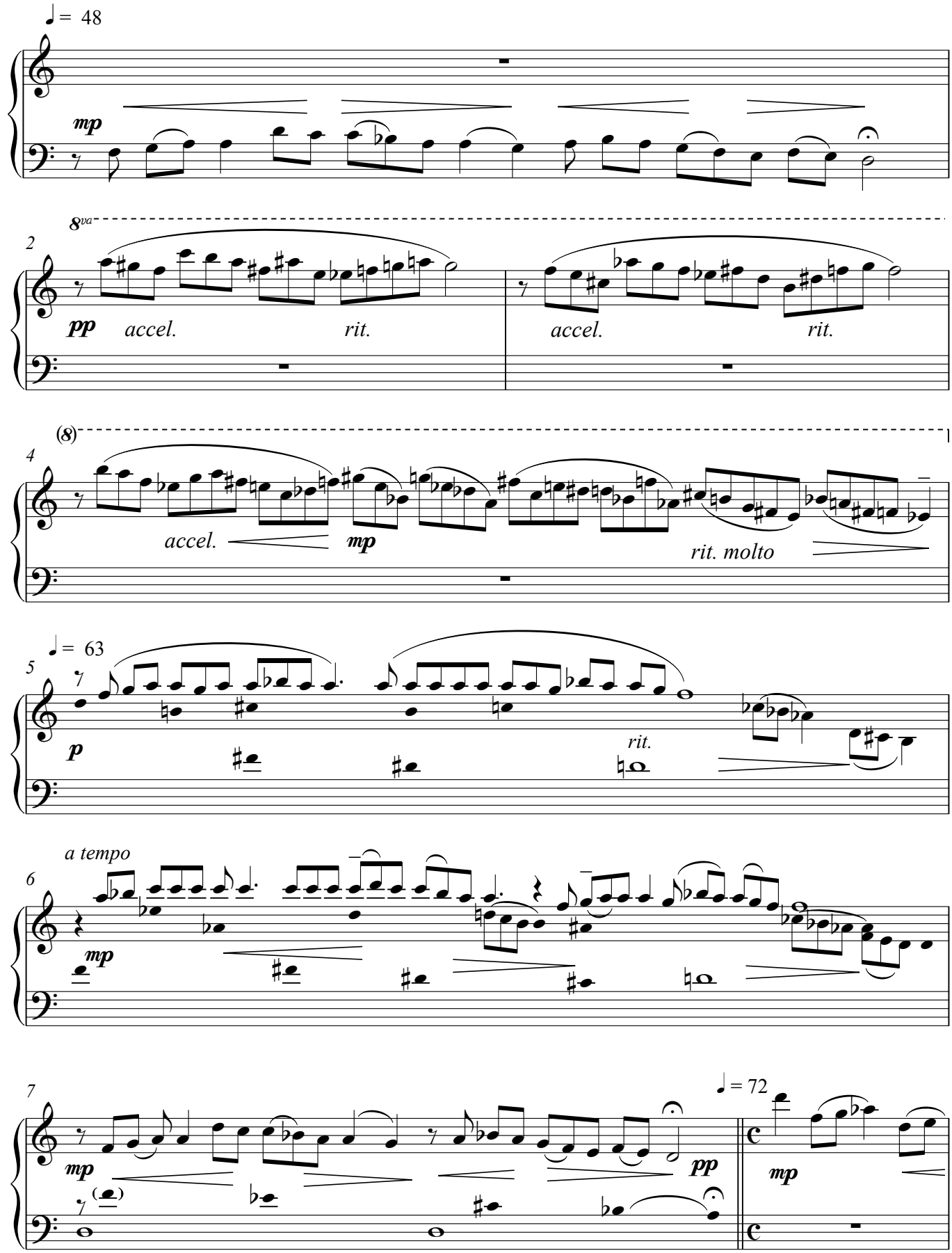
Advent Fantasie

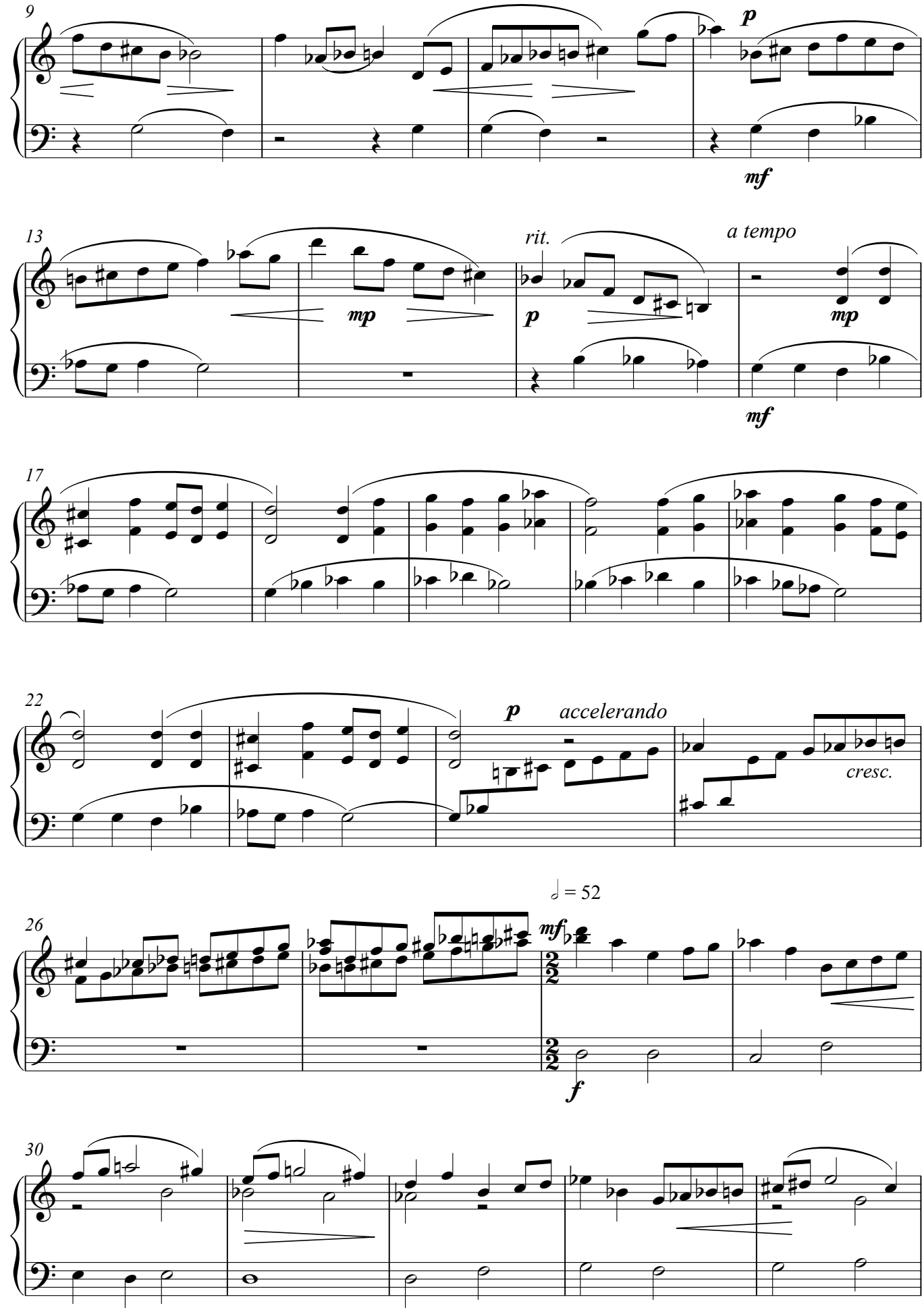
for carillon

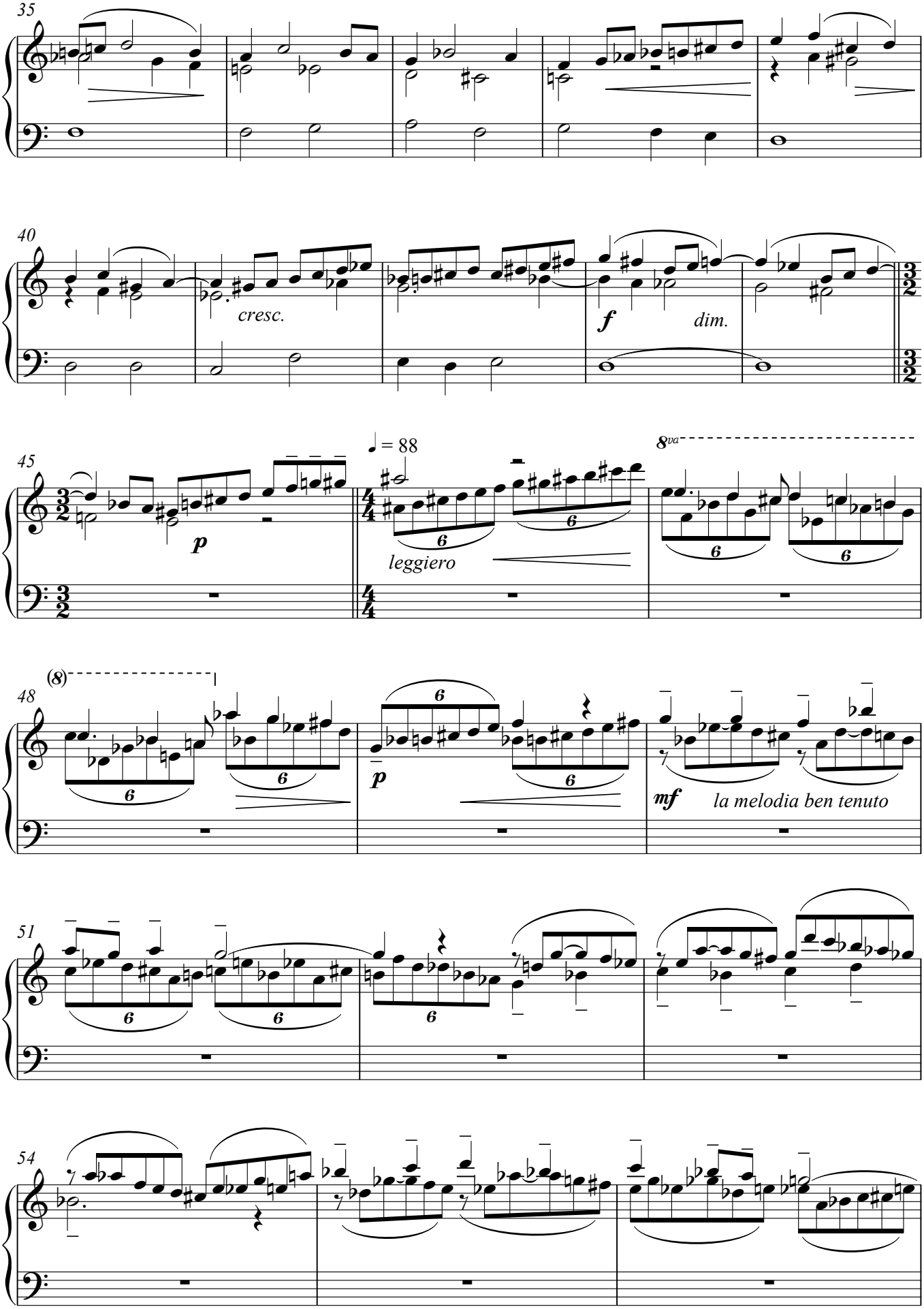
(dedicated to Georg Köppl)

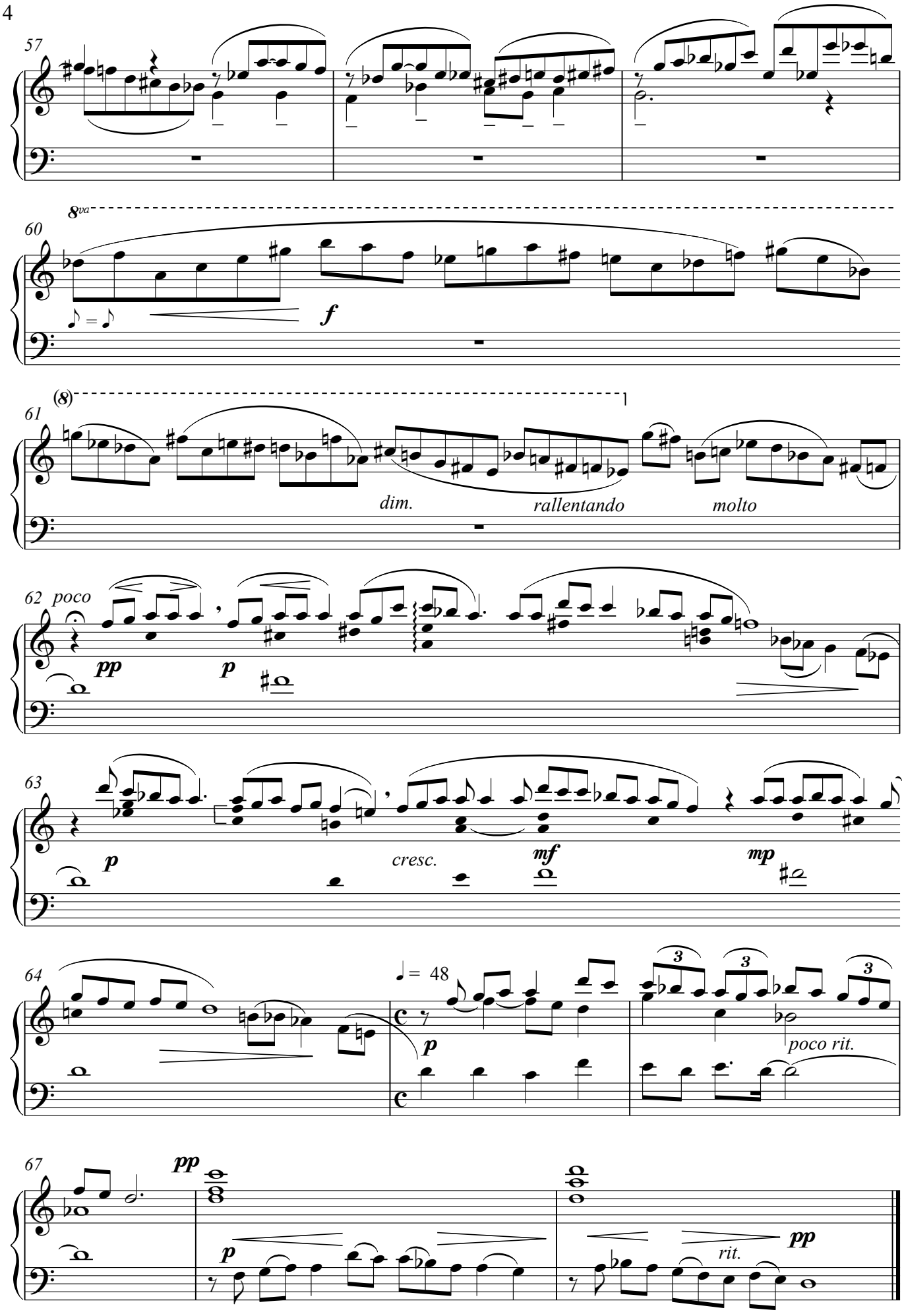
In chant rhythm

John Courter




9
p
mf
13
rit.
a tempo
mp
p
mp
mf
17
22
p
accelerando
cresc.
♩ = 52
26
mf
f
30


35
40
cresc.
f
dim.
45
p
♩ = 88
leggiero
8va
48
(8)
p
mf
la melodia ben tenuto
51
54


57
8va
60
f
(8)
61
dim.
rallentando
molto
62 poco
pp
p
63
p
cresc.
mf
mp
64
♩= 48
p
poco rit.
67
pp
p
rit.
pp

ADVENT FANTASIE for Carillon
By John Courter

"Advent Fantasie" for carillon was originally written for the *Aschaffenburg Carillon Book (1996),* a publication issued on the occasion of the Congress of the World Carillon Federation, held from July 20-August 2, 1996, in Aschaffenburg, Germany. The piece is dedicated to my good friend and colleague, Georg Köppl, carillonneur of Munich, Germany, and editor and publisher of the aforementioned book. The current edition, using the Sibelius computer notation program, was prepared in 2005 by Frans Haagen of Almelo, The Netherlands for a supplement to *Klok en Klepel*, the journal of the Netherlands Carillon Society (NKV).

The "Advent Fantasie" is for a four-octave carillon (CDE chromatic to c5). It is based on two hymns of the Advent season: the Gregorian chant *Rorate caeli* and the chorale *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland.* The inspiration for using the *Rorate* text came from a new floor sculpture installed in the Church of St. Francis Xavier in Amersfoort, The Netherlands, in Advent, 1995. The sculpture, in white marble and aluminum, also incorporates two round discs with the text of the antiphon. It is the work of the Dutch artist Jerome Symons, a resident of Arnhem, The Netherlands.

The text of the chant antiphon (measure 1, 7, 63-68) is:

Rorate caeli desuper,	Drop down dew, from the heavens on high,
et nubes pluant justum.	And clouds rain upon the just.

Measures 2-4 create a brief effect of the falling rain. The text of the chant verses is reflected in the music of measures 5-6, where harmonies with a bleak, vague atmosphere predominate:

Ne irascaris Domine,	Be not angry, Lord;
ne ultra mimineris iniquitatis;	remember not our offences;
ecce civitas Sancti facta est deserta;	Behold, the Holy City has become a desert ;
Sion deserta facta est;	Sion has become a desert;
Jerusalem desolata est.	Jerusalem is abandoned.

The text of verses 1, 3, & 4 of the Lutheran chorale is as follows:

1. Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland	Savior of the nations, come;
der Jungfrauen Kind erkannt,	Virgin's Son, here revealed;
daß sich wunder alle Welt,	Marvel now, all the earth,
Gott solch Geburt ihm bestellt.	That God chose such a birth.
3. Sein lauf kam vom Vater her	You came forth from the eternal Father
und kehrt wieder zum Vater,	And returned to the Father;
fuhr hinunter zu der Hőll	You descended to the depths of hell
und wieder zu Gottes Stuhl.	And returned again to the throne of God.
4. Dein Krippen glänzt hell und klar,	Your cradle shines in glory bright;
die Nacht gibt ein neu Licht dar.	The night gives there a new light.
Dunkel muß nicht kommen drein,	Darkness shall not come therein;
der Glaub bleibt immer im "Schein."	Faith remains forever radiant.

The chorale *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* is treated initially within the framework of an octatonic scale (d, e, f, g, a-flat, b-flat, b, c-sharp, d). Measures 8-15 hint at the tune in the pedal; verse 1 of the chorale is then heard octatonically in canon at the fifth (m. 16-24). A rising, accelerating scale passage leads to the chorale being heard in its true form in the bass, with chromatic accompaniment (m. 24-44), reflecting verse 3 of the text. The chorale melody ascends to the treble register, with phrases alternating between soprano and alto range (m. 50-59); verse 4 of the chorale text is the inspiration.

The "falling rain" motive (m. 60-61) provides a transition to another chant verse, one with a more hopeful mood, as reflected in the less dissonant harmonies accompanying the chant (m. 62-63). The text is as follows:

Consolamini, consolamini, populе meus;	Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people;
cito veniet salus tua;	Soon your Saviour shall come.
Salvabo te, noli timere,	I shall rescue you; do not be afraid,
ego enim sum Dominus Deus tuus,	I am ever the Lord thy God,
Sanctus Israël, redemptor tuus.	The Holy One of Israel, your Redeemer.

The two advent themes are heard together for the only time in measures 65-67, with the chant rhythmically altered to fit the boundaries of common time. The text of the final line of the chorale is *immer und in Ewigkeit* (now and for eternity). With two sustained chords in the treble acting as a prolonged "Amen," the piece ends with the chant antiphon again heard in the bass range.

John Courter
March 21, 1996
Amersfoort, The Netherlands
November 15, 2005
Berea, Kentucky USA