Thanks Be to Thee

SATB, Solo Voice, Cello, and Organ
New Year's Day, General

The music of this anthem is commonly attributed to George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), but this attribution has been traced back no earlier than the late 19th century.

The first to join this music with a text beginning with the words "Thanks be to thee" appears to have been Siegfried Ochs (1858-1929). Since then a multitude of arrangements have appeared, with wide variations in both music and lyric. No matter, I think. The anthem is a work of Handel-like dignity.

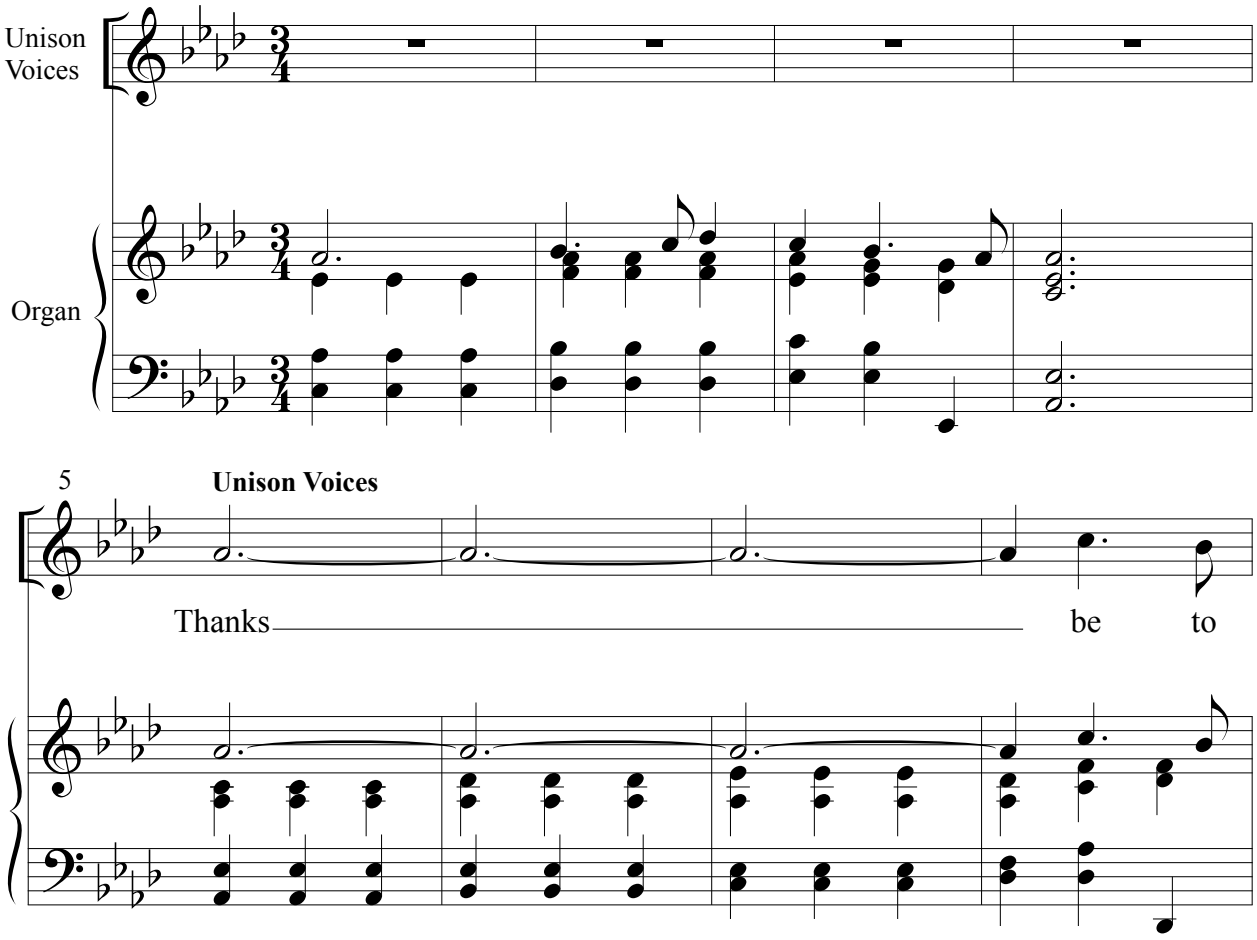
Why yet another version here? Many arrangements seem to me cluttered with elaborations of romantic harmony, interjections of distracting interludes, and the like. I have sought to keep the anthem simple, in accord with its innate poise and nobility, which the cello seems handsomely suited to express.

I am not aware of many anthems dedicated to New Year's Day, so I have modified traditional versions of the lyric to express thanksgiving for God's guidance "in safety to another year."

Albert Blackwell
January 16, 2012

Thanks Be to Thee

Attributed to G. F. Handel
Arr. Albert Blackwell



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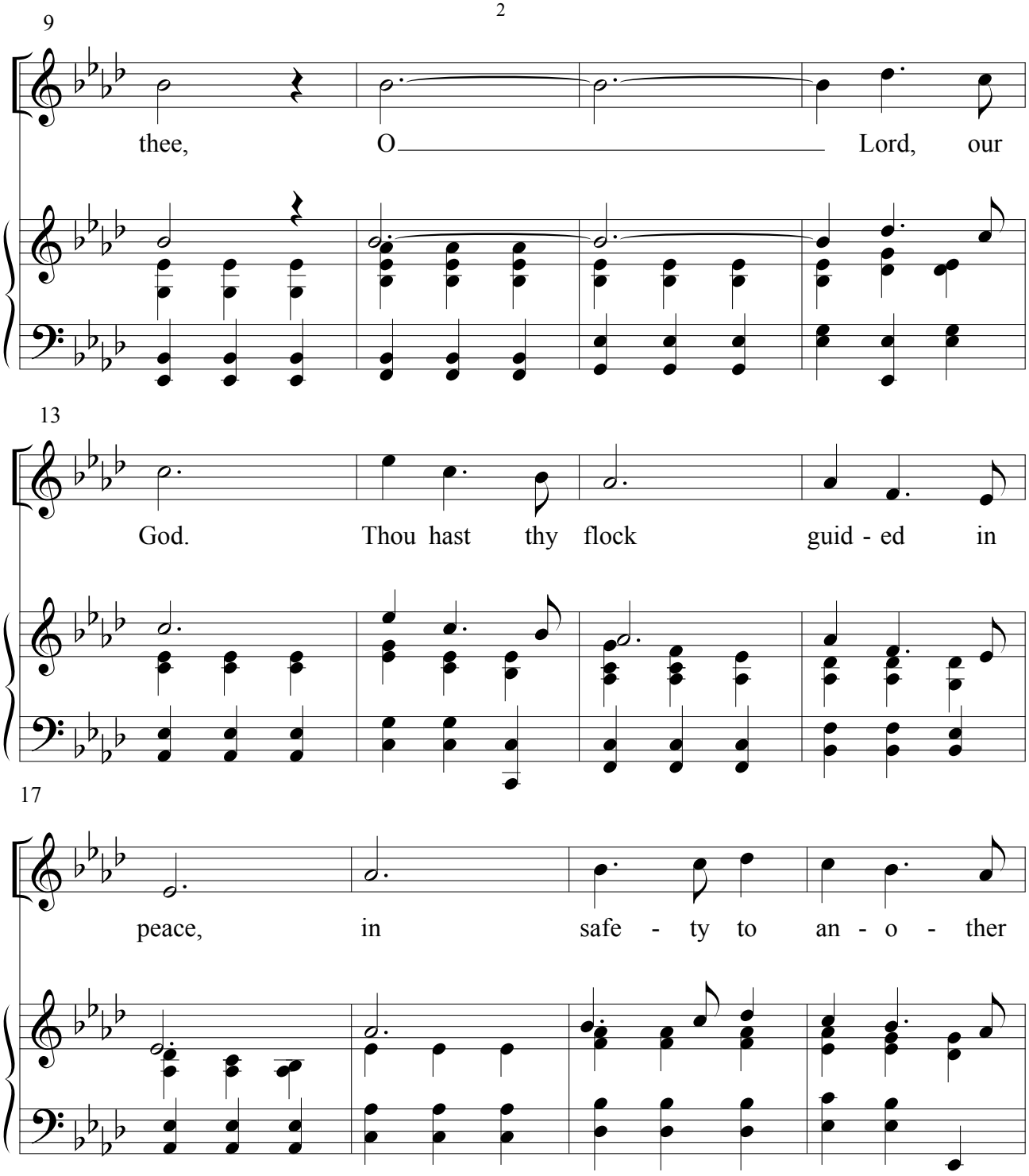
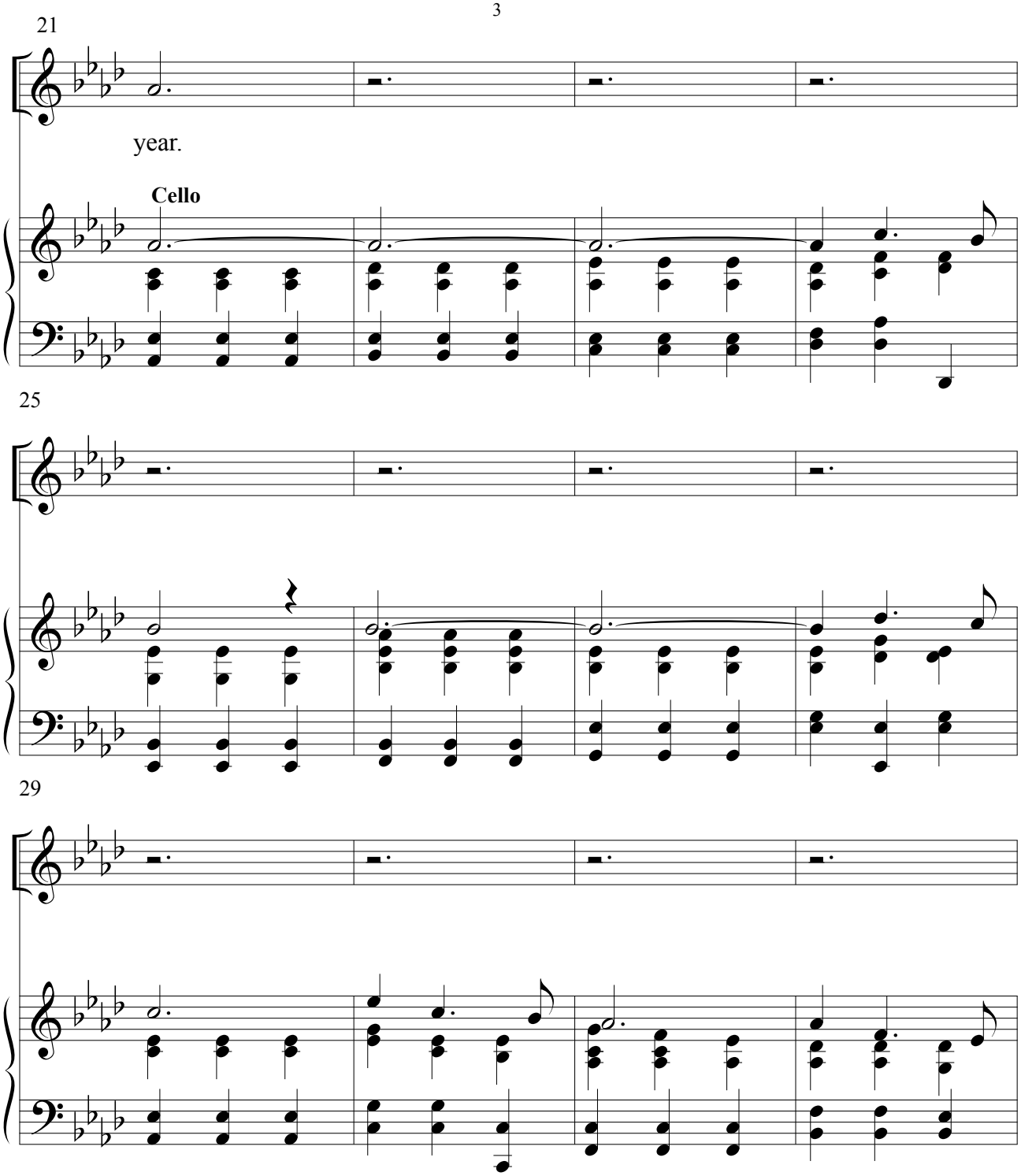
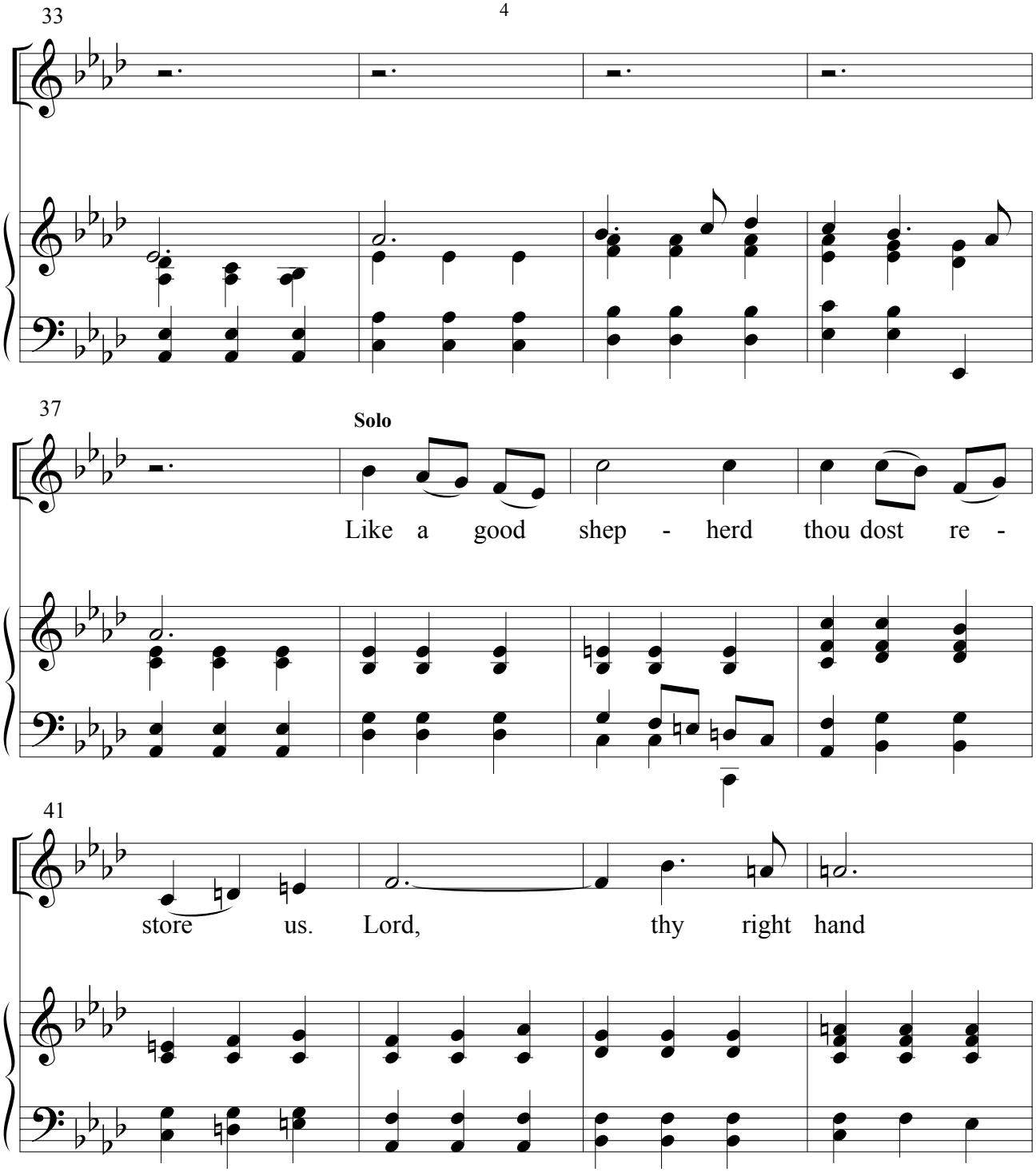
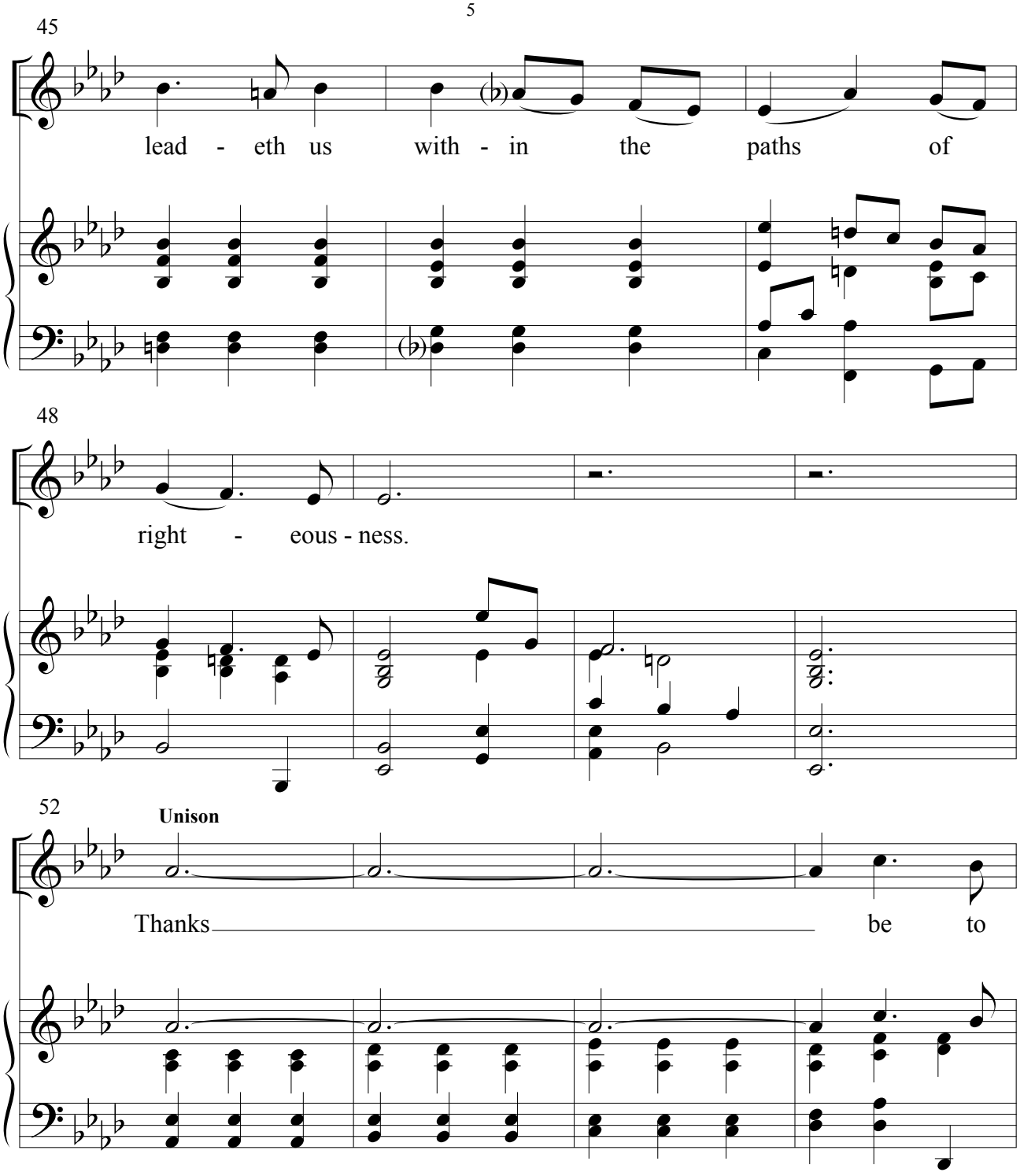
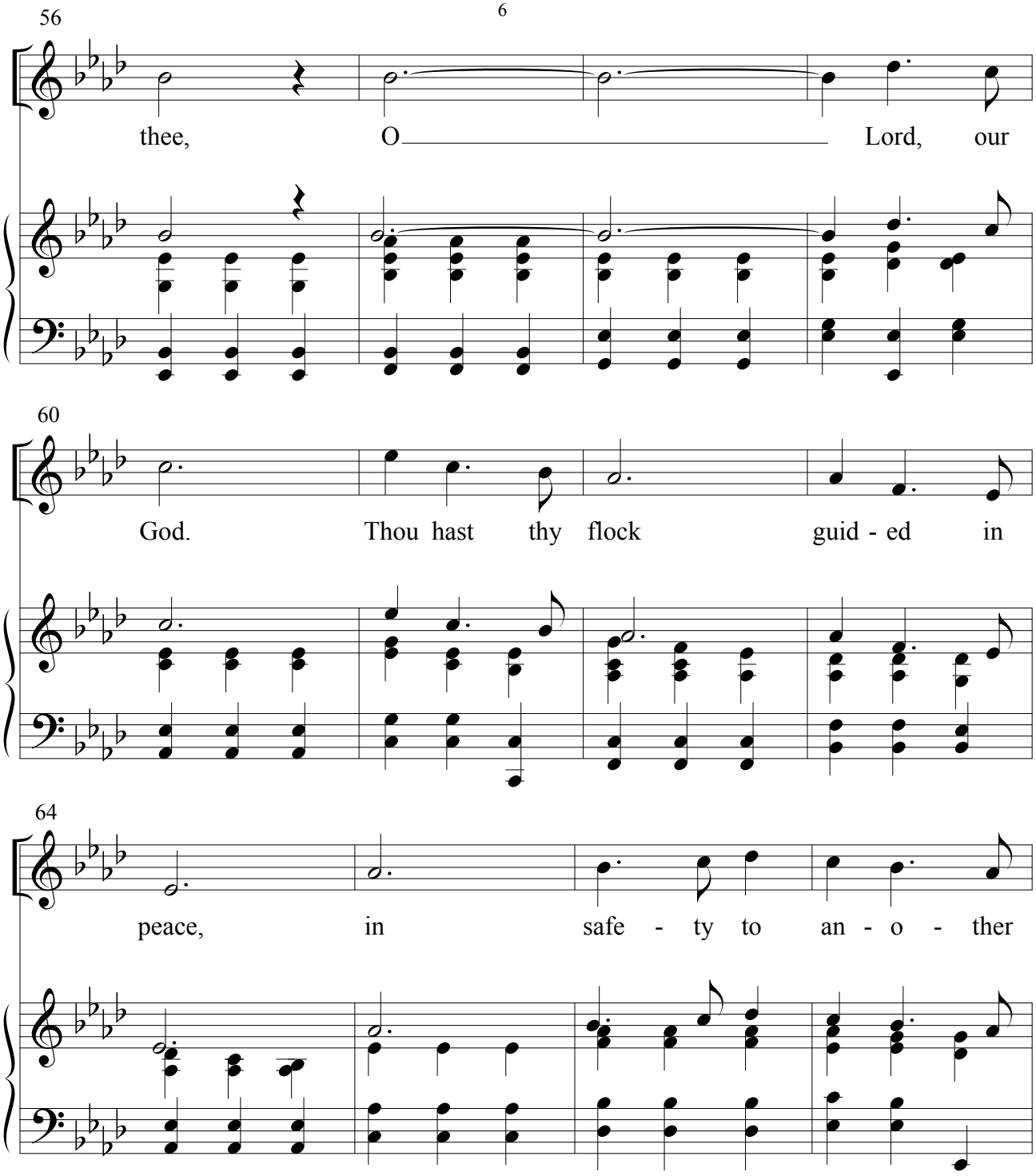

9
thee, O Lord, our
13
God. Thou hast thy flock guid - ed in
17
peace, in safe - ty to an - o - ther


21
year.
Cello
25
29


33
37
Solo
Like a good shep - herd thou dost re -
41
store us. Lord, thy right hand


45
lead - eth us with - in the paths of
48
right - eous - ness.
52
Unison
Thanks be to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thee, O Lord, our
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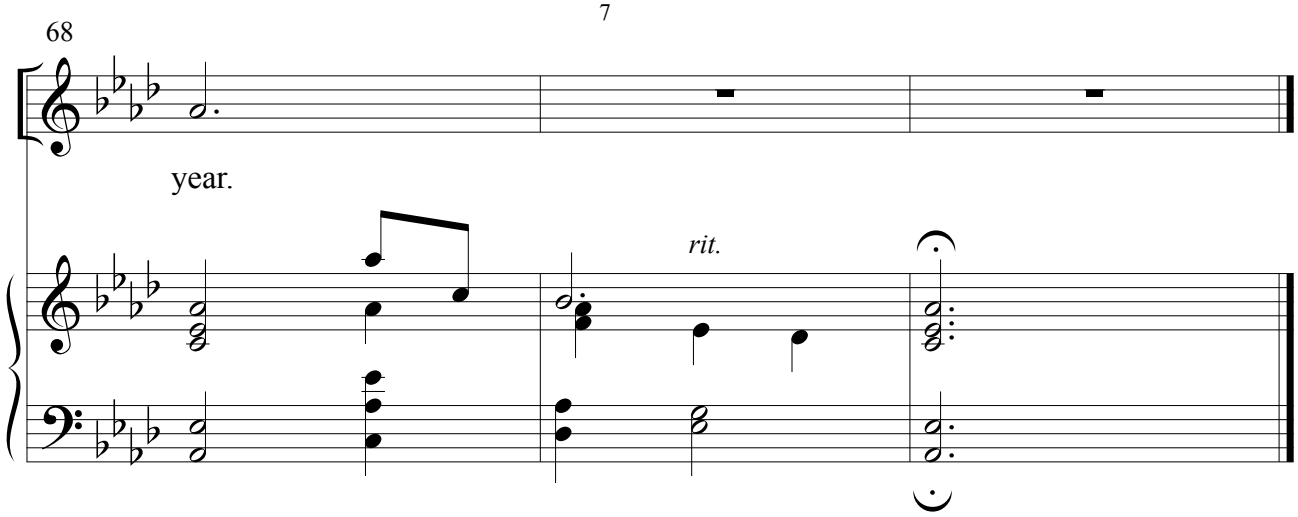
God. Thou hast thy flock guid - ed in
64
peace, in safe - ty to an - o - ther


68
year.
rit.

Thanks Be to Thee

(Cello)

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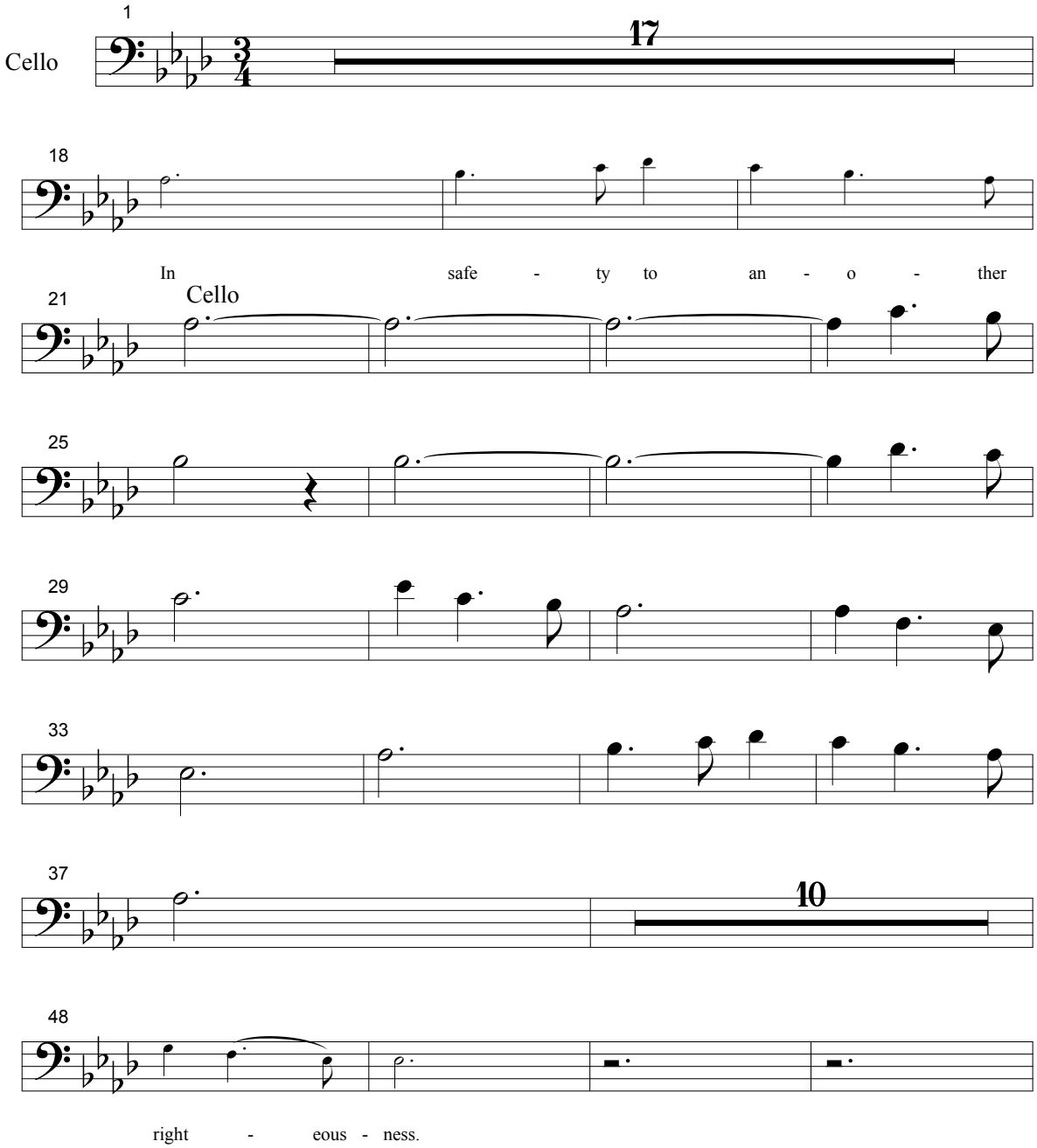

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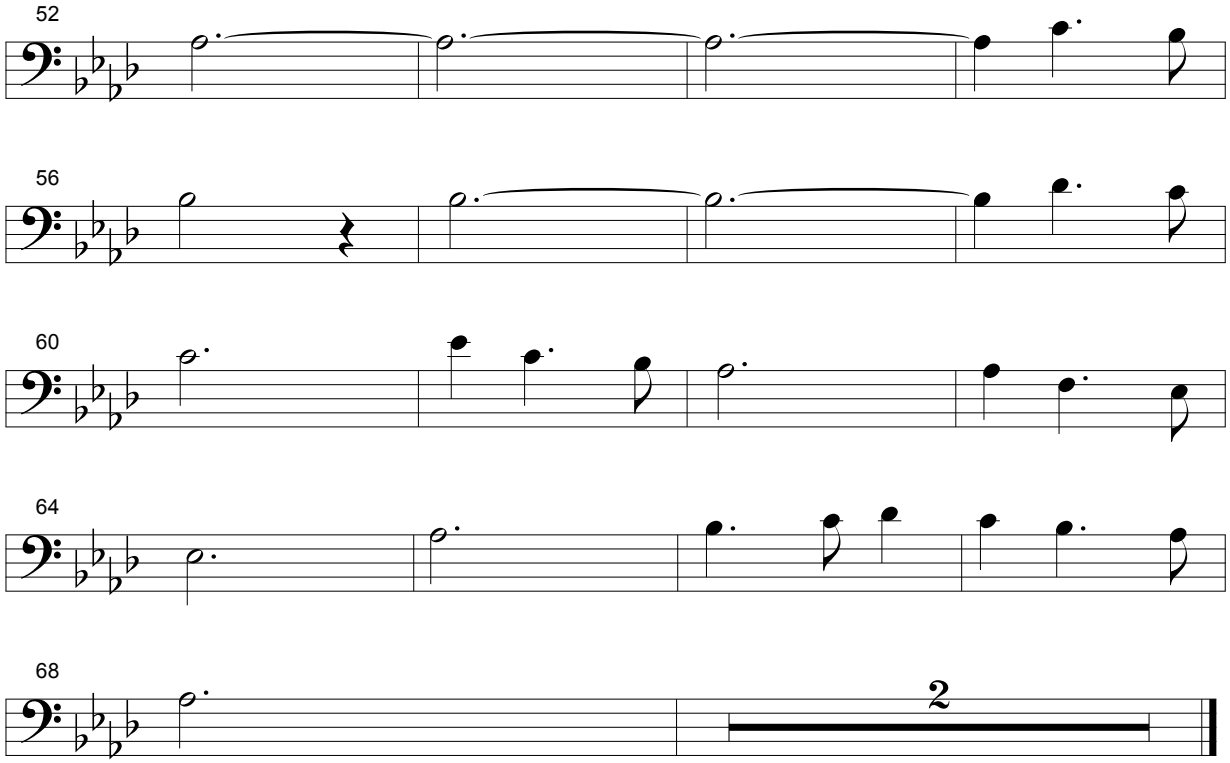
52
56
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64
68
2