Hillsdale Blues

book by Sean P. Breen
music by Sean P. Breen
lyrics by Sean P. Breen

CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR	A townsperson
TAMMY VAGEL	Registrar
GAVIN HILTON	Assistant Registrar
MICHAEL SESSIONS	An 18 and 9 year-old student
DOUG INGLES	Mayor/Business owner
CHIPPER INGLES	An 18 and 9 year-old student
HARPO	An 18 and 9 year-old student/A street musician
MILTON	An 18 and 9 year-old student
REPORTER #1	A TV reporter from Detroit
REPORTER #2	A TV reporter from New York
REPORTER #3	A TV reporter from Toledo
WALLY	a 9 year-old
BRUCE	a 9 year-old
TIM	a 9 year-old
SCOTT SESSIONS	An adult. Michael's father
MR. MORSE	A high school teacher
HECTOR	A fashion consultant
WILLIAM	A fashion consultant
JACKIE	A fashion consultant
BILLY TAYLOR	A townsperson
CODY KLINGLE	A townsperson
WILMA REES	A townsperson

ENSEMBLE
TOWNSPEOPLE
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
HARMONICA CLUB

SETTINGS

Hillsdale

Town Square
Town Hall
Hillsdale High School Auditorium
Registrar's Office

Musical Numbers

			script	integrated script
1.	Hillsdale.....	..Harpo/Ensemble	1	11
2.	Reporters #1.....	Reporters	5	29
3.	Reporters #2.....	Reporters	7	35
4.	The Harmonica Anthem	Wally, Tim, Bruce, Harmonica Club	11	43
5.	No Right To Sing the Blues.....	Harpo	21	75
6.	Monica.....	Michael	24	86
7.	Ice Cream and Roller Skates.....	Doug/Chipper	29	93
8.	Monica(Reprise)	Instrumental	33	106
10.	Let's Go Win an Election.....	Michael/Milton	38	111
11.	Tom Cuise.....	TMC	50	127
12.	I'm the Mayor of this Town	Doug/Chipper/Townspeople	54	146
13.	Reporters #3.....	Reporters	59	168
14.	Hillsdale Reprise.....	Harpo/Ensemble	66	176

PRODUCTION NOTES

This musical is a work of fiction. While inspired by certain historical events or eras, it is not intended to be a factual account and may deviate from documented history for dramatic purposes.

"Hillsdale Blues" came about as a reaction to a news story about a high school student who ran successfully for mayor. I kept the original inspiration while creating an entirely fictitious set of plot points and circumstances. Instead of considering a deep message, I simply went for fun!

The original cast was a class of 8th grade boys, however, almost every aspect of the musical can be adapted to reflect non-gender specific roles.

There are no elaborate sets, props, or lighting requirements. The songs can either be accompanied from the piano scores or with completely arranged audio files, set in comfortable keys.

Thank you for your interest.

Sean P. Breen

For access to materials, copy and paste the following into your browser:
WEBSITE:

https://breensmusicals.com/musicals/hillsdale-blues/

YOUTUBE Channel
https://www.youtube.com/playlist? list=PLFj_ALSeUePkH1Mx6dGEQ6D4_DXhtBiv
v

ACT I SCENE 1 HILLSDALE

(Town square in Hillsdale. USR is a high school, and several trees. DSR is a bench with HARPO, a young adult street musician. UC is a sign for INGLES' Roller Skating and Ice Cream Parlor. SL is Hillsdale City Hall. SCL is a folding table with a ballot box. There are two chairs at the table. HARPO opens his guitar case, removes his guitar, and places the case on the ground, ready for donations. After a little tuning, HARPO begins.)

HARPO sings **1. HILLSDALE**

HARPO

LISTEN EVERYBODY TO THE STORY THAT I TELL
ABOUT A TOWN, HARMONICAS, AND AN 18-YEAR-OLD MALE
WHO WANTED MORE THAN ANYTHING TO IMPRESS A CERTAIN GIRL
THREW HIS HAT INTO THE RING, GAVE POLITICS A WHIRL

HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS HILLS AND
HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS DALES
THAT'S WHY WE CALL IT HILLSDALE

NOW SEATTLE'S GOT ITS NEEDLE AND LA'S GOT ITS SMOG
ST. LOUIS' GOT THE MIGHTY ARCH SAN FRANCISCO'S GOT ITS FOG
DENVER'S GOT THE ROCKIES MILWAUKEE'S GOT THE MEAT
BOSTON'S GOT THE BAKED BEANS AND MIAMI'S GOT THE HEAT

(Enter TOWNSPEOPLE From USL, USR, DSR, AND DSL. As TOWNSPEOPLE enter some chat, listen to HARPO, give money to HARPO, or just hang out.)

HARPO & TOWNSPEOPLE

HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS HILLS AND
HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS DALES
THAT'S WHY WE CALL IT HILLSDALE

HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS HILLS AND
HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS DALES
THAT'S WHY WE CALL IT HILLSDALE

(ENTER HECTOR, JACQUES and WILLIAM, all three dressed beautifully. They lead in DOUG INGLES, who is quite well-dressed as well. Following DOUG INGLES is his son CHIPPER INGLES. CHIPPER is dressed like a regular young adult. DOUG INGLES and CHIPPER INGLES greet everyone like politicians looking for votes.)

HARPO

NOW THERE GOES MR.INGLES HE'S THE MAYOR OF OUR TOWN
HE LIKES TO PLAY HARMONICA WHILE WEARING NERO'S CROWN
AND HERE COMES HIS SON CHIPPER HE'S A CHUNK OFF THE OLD BLOCK
WITH FREE ICE CREAM AND ROLLER SKATES
TO ENSURE THE VOTE'S A LOCK

HARPO & TOWNSPEOPLE
HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS HILLS AND
HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS DALES
THAT'S WHY WE CALL IT HILLSDALE
HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS HILLS AND

HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS DALES
THAT'S WHY WE CALL IT HILLSDALE
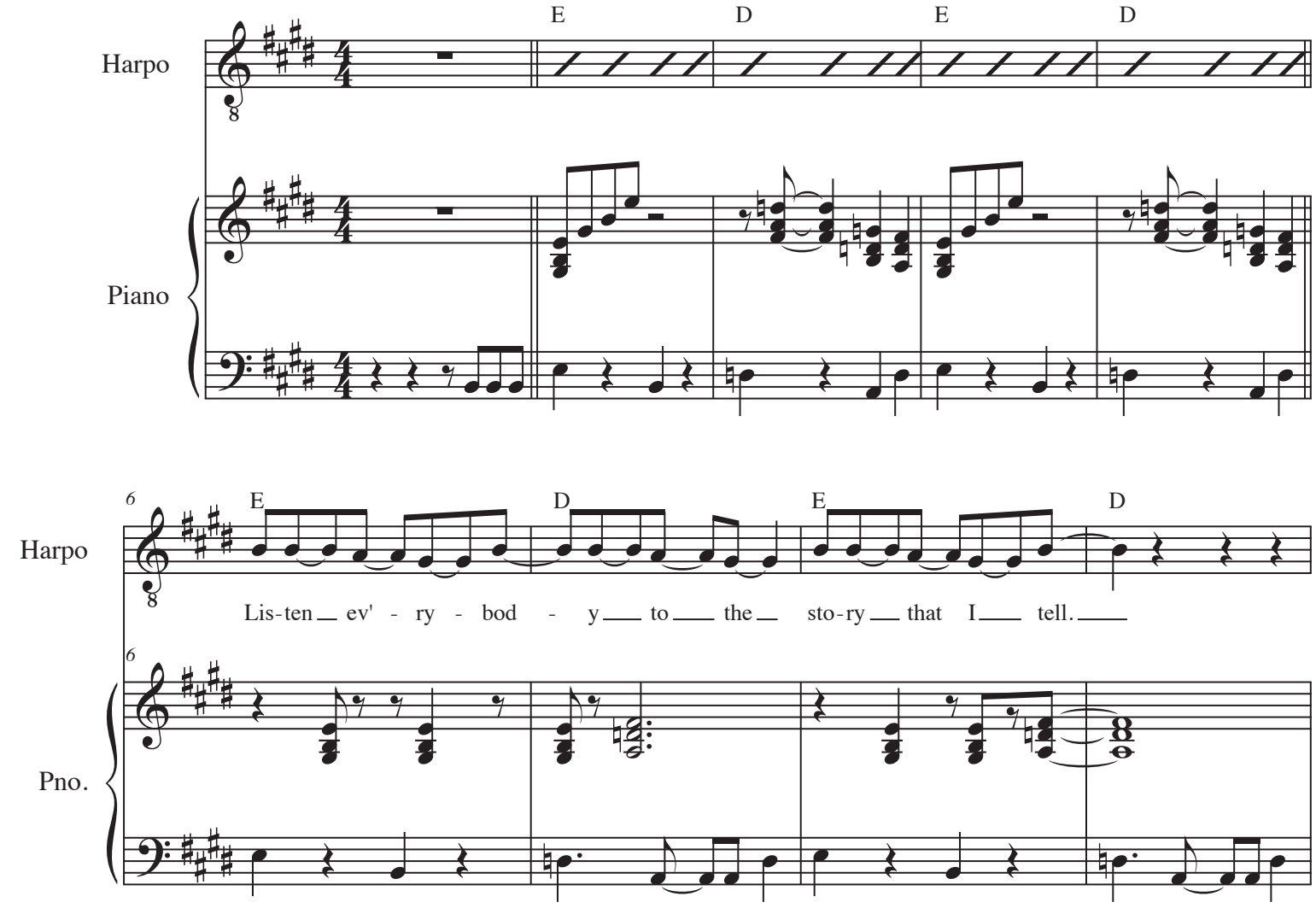
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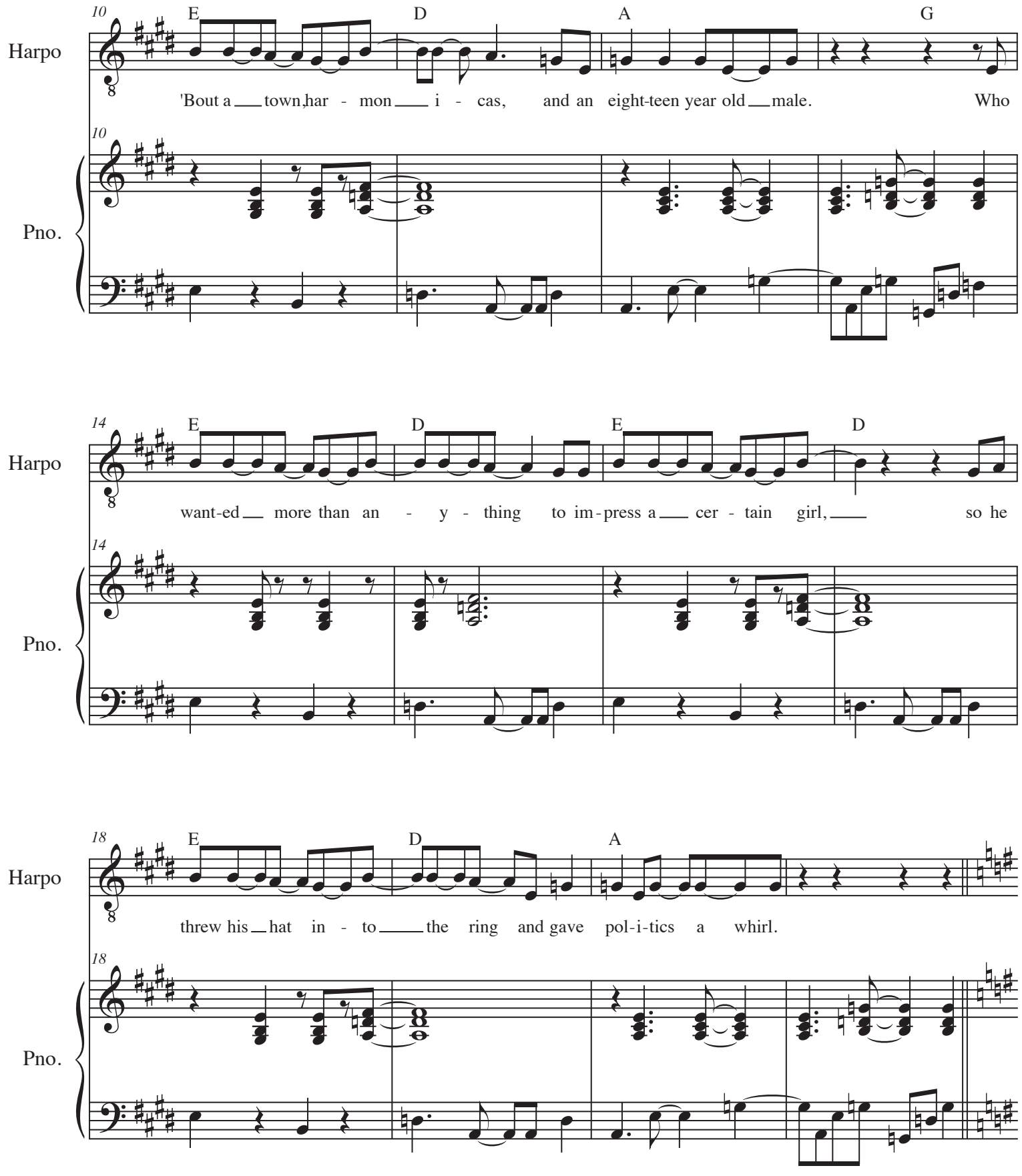
(Harpo/Ensemble)
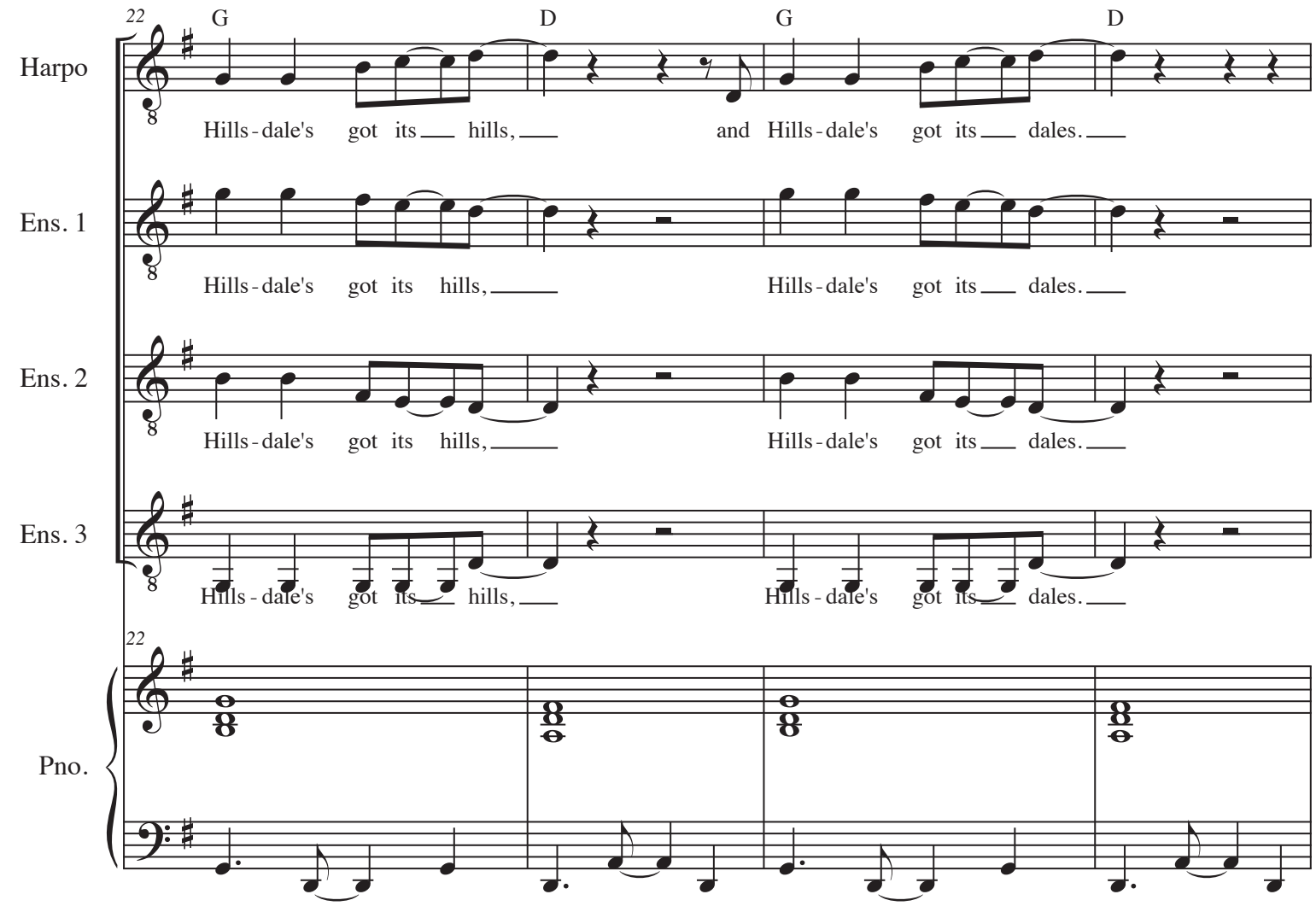
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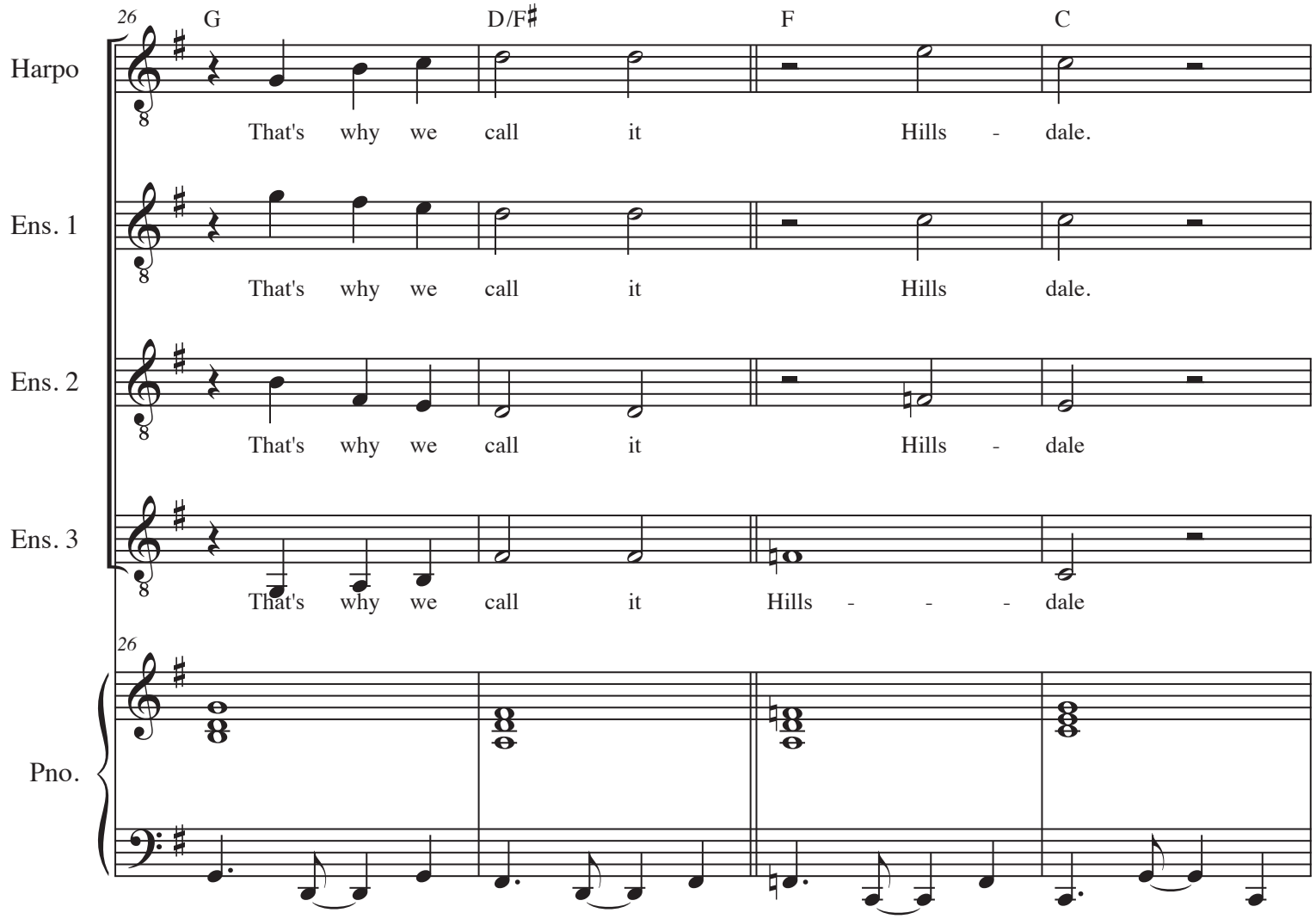
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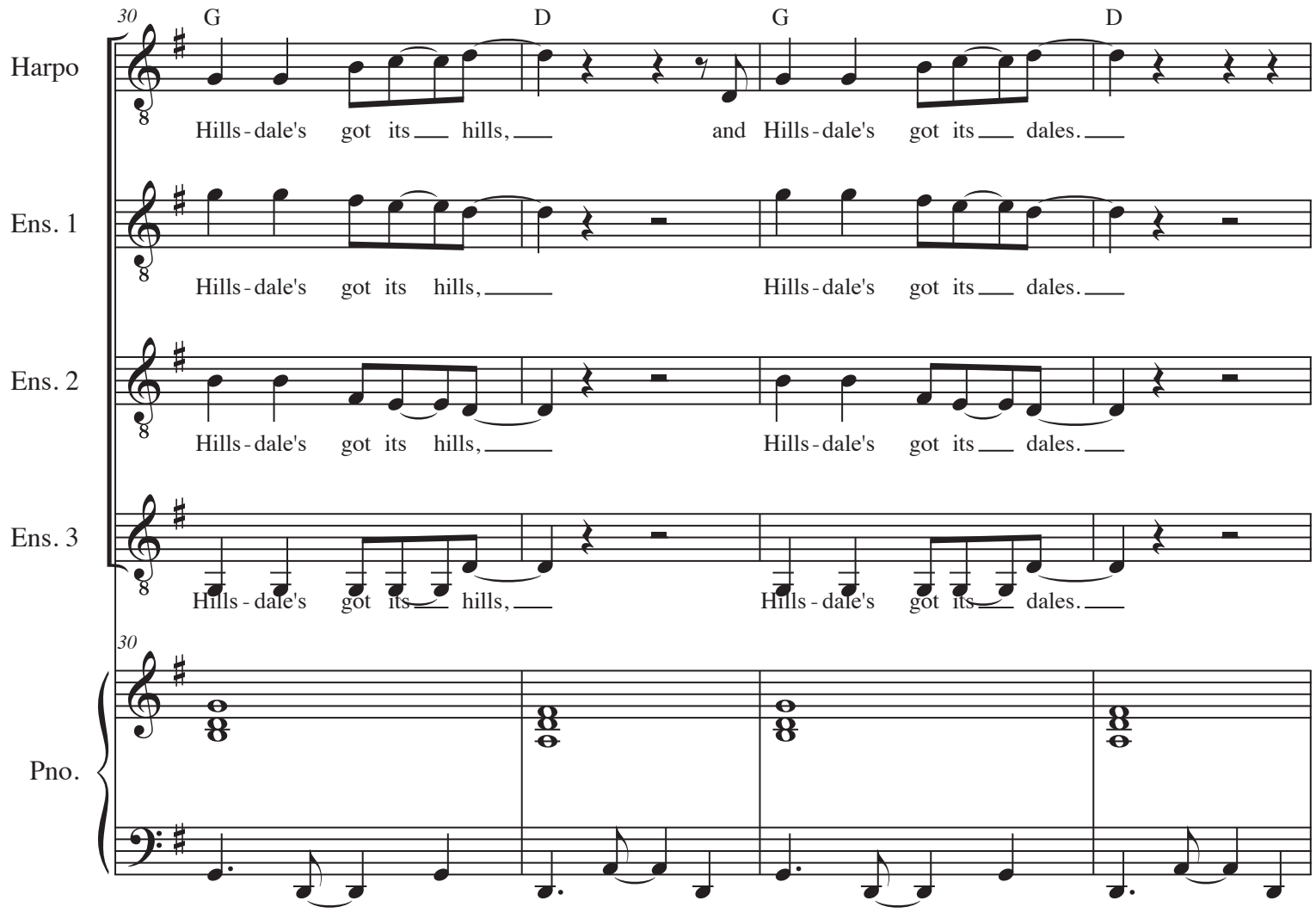
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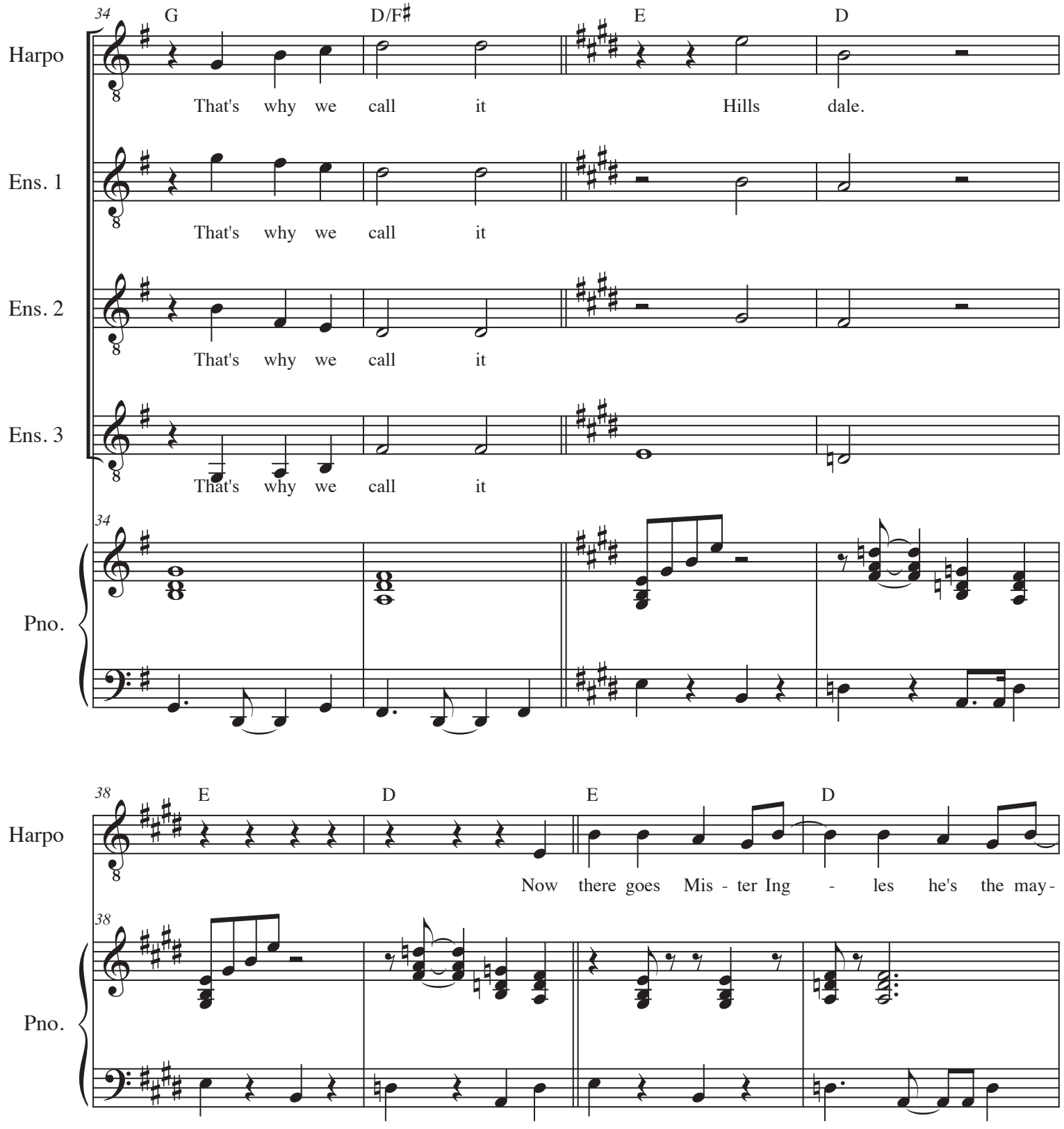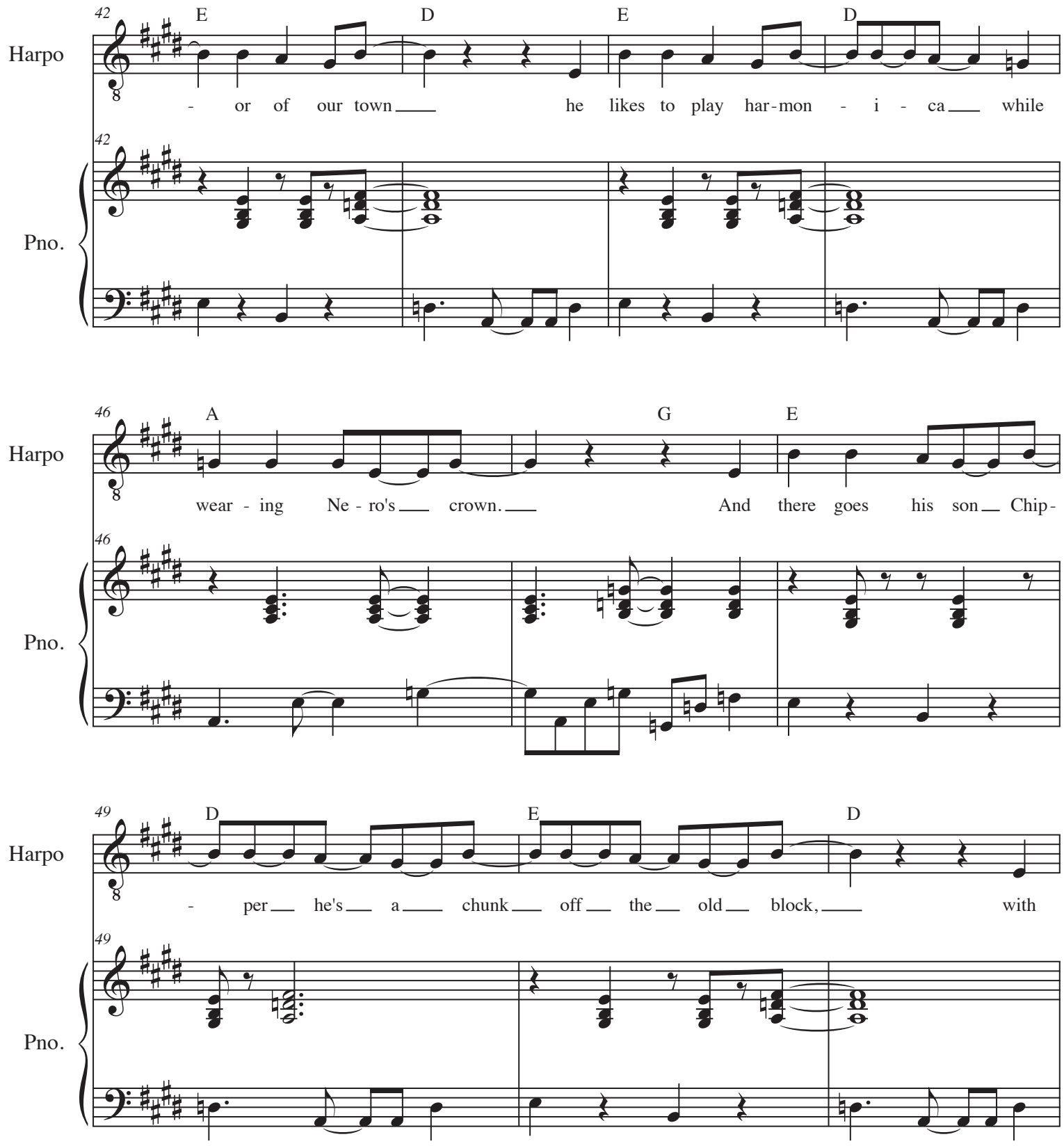



10
E
D
A
G
Harpo
'Bout a town, har - mon i - cas, and an eight-teen year old male. Who
Pno.
14
E
D
E
D
Harpo
want-ed more than an - y - thing to im-press a cer - tain girl, so he
Pno.
18
E
D
A
Harpo
threw his hat in - to the ring and gave pol-i-tics a whirl.
Pno.
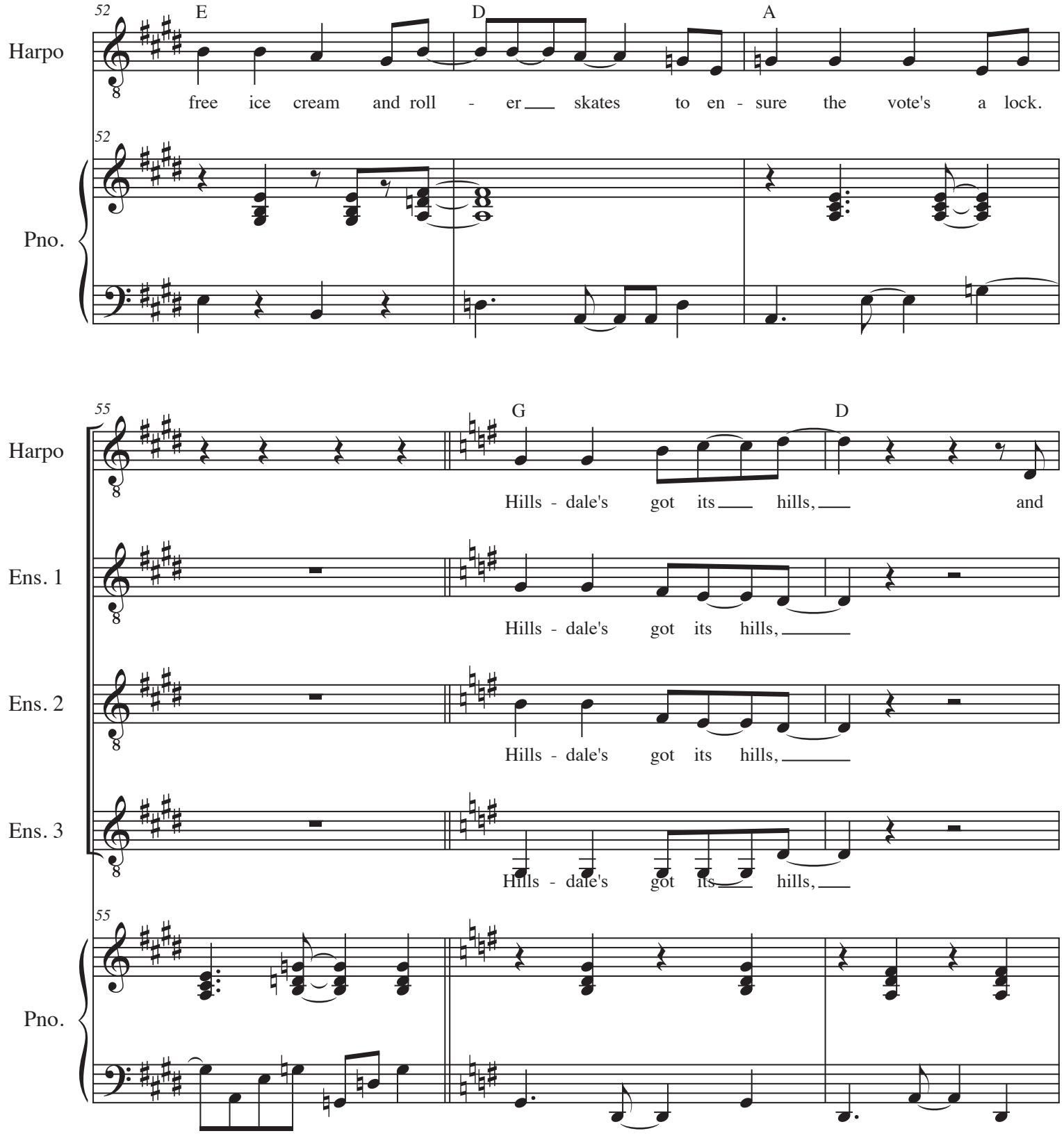

22
G
D
G
D
Harpo
Hills - dale's got its hills, and Hills - dale's got its dales.
Ens. 1
Hills - dale's got its hills, Hills - dale's got its dales.
Ens. 2
Hills - dale's got its hills, Hills - dale's got its dales.
Ens. 3
Hills - dale's got its hills, Hills - dale's got its dales.
22
Pno.
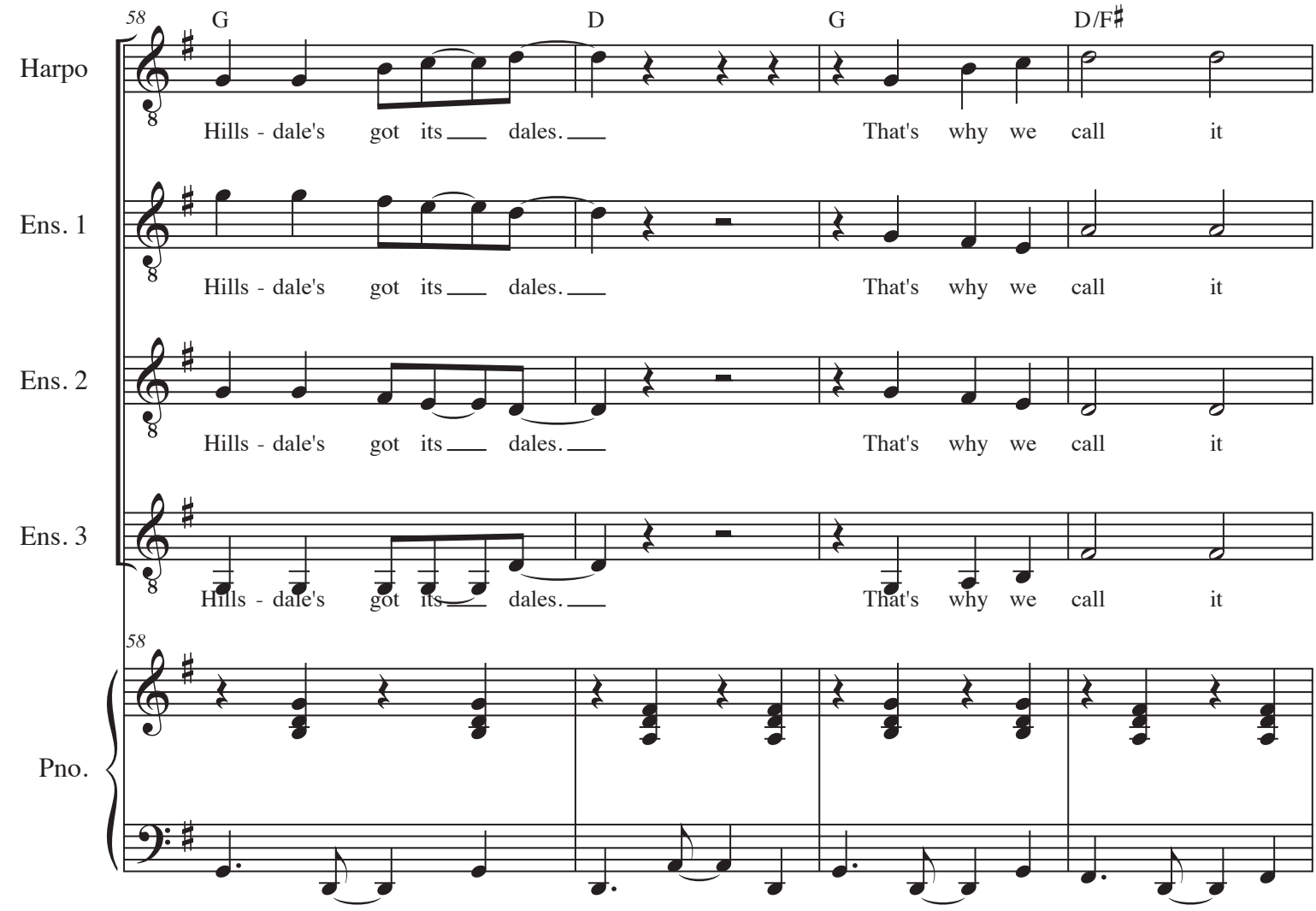

26
G
D/F♯
F
C
Harpo
That's why we call it Hills - dale.
Ens. 1
That's why we call it Hills dale.
Ens. 2
That's why we call it Hills - dale
Ens. 3
That's why we call it Hills - - - dale
26
Pno.
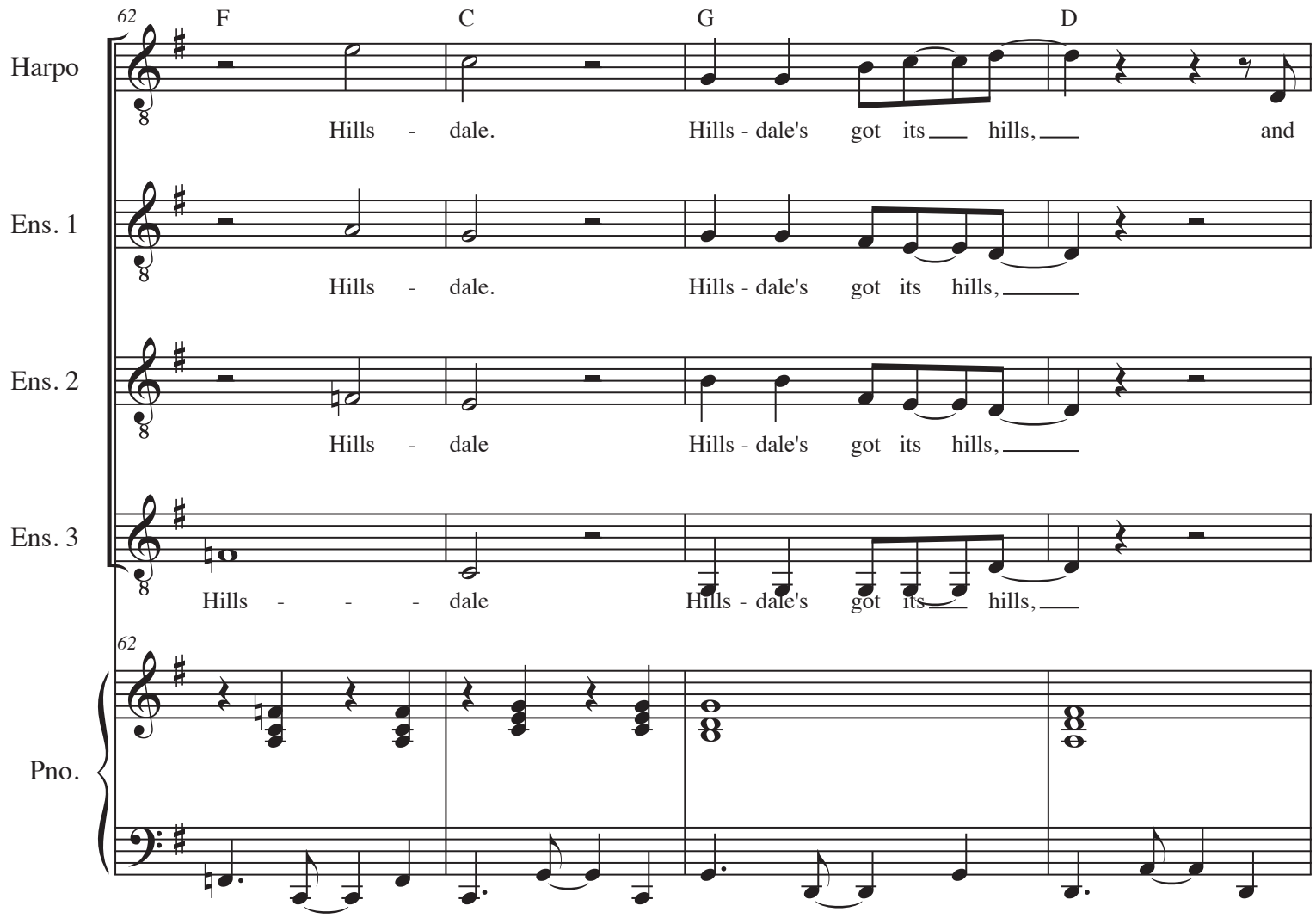

30
G
D
G
D
Harpo
Hills - dale's got its hills, and Hills - dale's got its dales.
Ens. 1
Hills - dale's got its hills, Hills - dale's got its dales.
Ens. 2
Hills - dale's got its hills, Hills - dale's got its dales.
Ens. 3
Hills - dale's got its hills, Hills - dale's got its dales.
30
Pno.
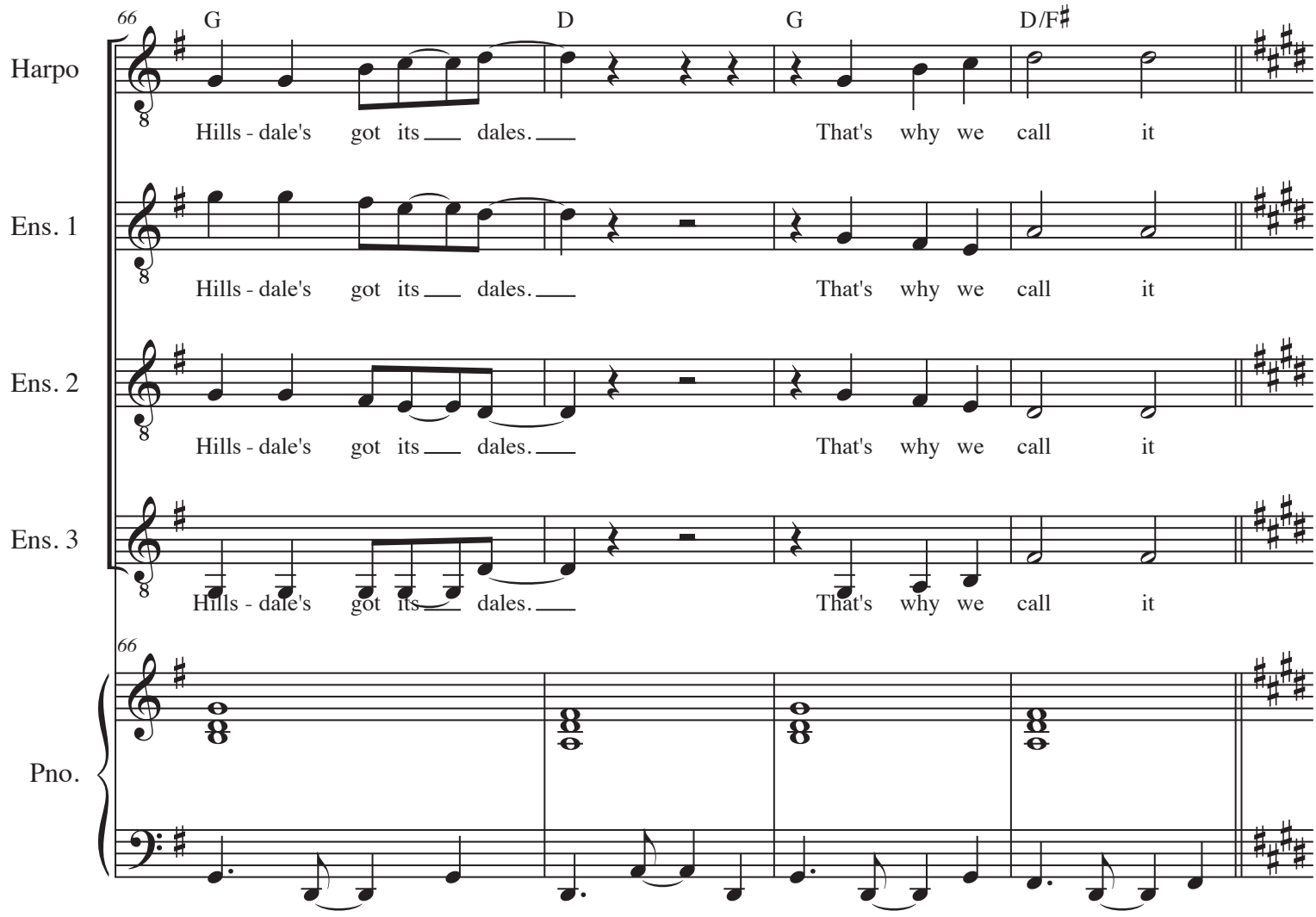

34
G
D/F♯
E
D
Harpo
That's why we call it Hills dale.
Ens. 1
That's why we call it
Ens. 2
That's why we call it
Ens. 3
That's why we call it
34
Pno.
38
E
D
E
D
Harpo
Now there goes Mis - ter Ing - les he's the may -
38
Pno.
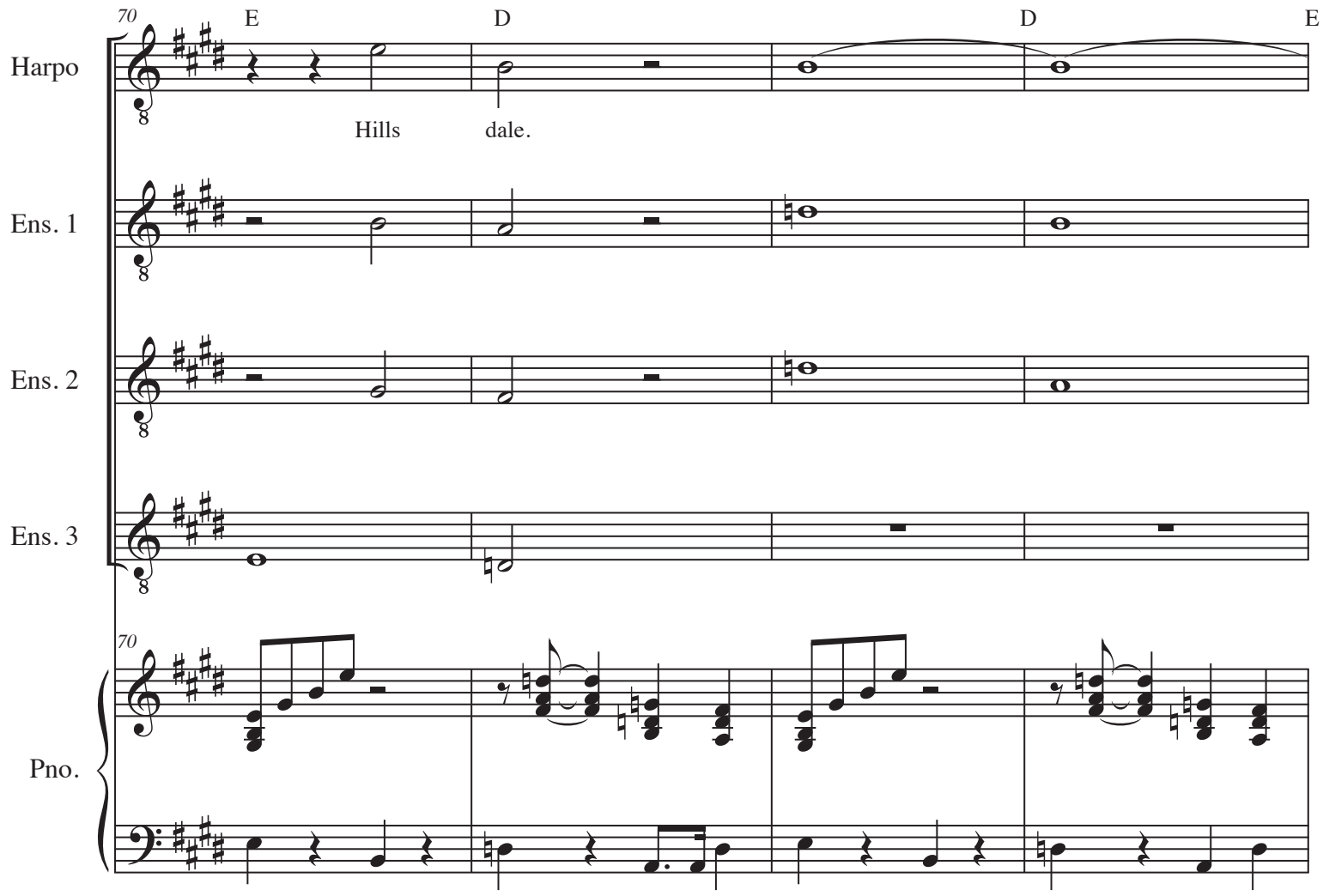

42
E
D
E
D
Harpo
- or of our town he likes to play har-mon - i - ca while
Pno.
46
A
G
E
Harpo
wear - ing Ne - ro's crown. And there goes his son Chip-
Pno.
49
D
E
D
Harpo
- per he's a chunk off the old block, with
Pno.

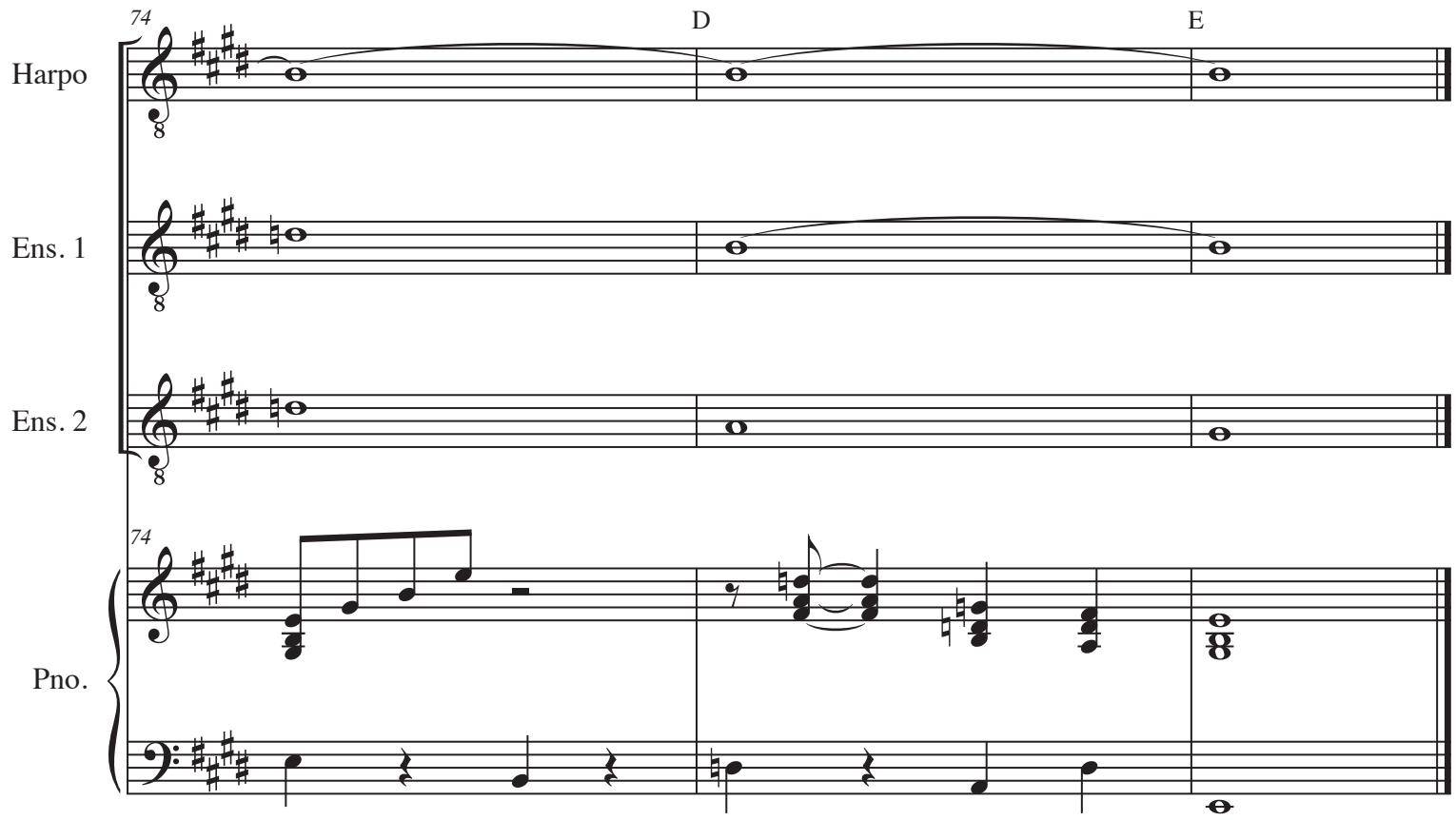

52
E
D
A
Harpo
free ice cream and roll - er skates to en - sure the vote's a lock.
Pno.
55
G
D
Harpo
Hills - dale's got its hills, and
Ens. 1
Hills - dale's got its hills,
Ens. 2
Hills - dale's got its hills,
Ens. 3
Hills - dale's got its hills,
Pno.


58
G
D
G
D/F♯
Harpo
Hills - dale's got its dales. That's why we call it
Ens. 1
Hills - dale's got its dales. That's why we call it
Ens. 2
Hills - dale's got its dales. That's why we call it
Ens. 3
Hills - dale's got its dales. That's why we call it
58
Pno.


62
F
C
G
D
Harpo
Hills - dale.
Hills - dale's got its hills, and
Ens. 1
Hills - dale.
Hills - dale's got its hills,
Ens. 2
Hills - dale
Hills - dale's got its hills,
Ens. 3
Hills - - - dale
Hills - dale's got its hills,
62
Pno.


66
G
D
G
D/F♯
Harpo
Hills - dale's got its dales.
That's why we call it
Ens. 1
Hills - dale's got its dales.
That's why we call it
Ens. 2
Hills - dale's got its dales.
That's why we call it
Ens. 3
Hills - dale's got its dales.
That's why we call it
66
Pno.


70
E
D
D
E
Harpo
Hills
dale.
Ens. 1
Ens. 2
Ens. 3
70
Pno.


74
D
E
Harpo
Ens. 1
Ens. 2
74
Pno.

(TOWNSPEOPLE begin to gather around the folding table. DOUG INGLES, CHIPPER INGLES, HECTOR, JACKIE, and WILLIAM remain and also crowd around the folding table. At the table is TAMMY VAGEL, the REGISTRAR and GAVIN HILTON, ASSISTANT REGISTRAR.)

SCENE 2 ELECTION DAY PART 1

(REGISTRAR and ASSISTANT REGISTRAR enter at the end of the song and take their places at a table in the square, stage left. REGISTRAR is counting votes out of a ballot box. On the front of the table are two equal piles of ballots. There is an ASSISTANT REGISTRAR at the table who is keeping a running tally of the votes. TOWNSPEOPLE move around the table eagerly awaiting an outcome. Directly behind REGISTRAR and breathing down his neck is DOUG INGLES. He is a 50-ish man in an over-the-top suit. Behind him are HECTOR, JACKIE, and WILLIAM, the 3 members of The Toledo Makeover Consultants (TMC), three very well-dressed adults. DOUG INGLES is sweating each and every ballot as it is read. NARRATOR has taken a seat on the bench next to HARPO. NARRATOR is dressed in stereotypical small town clothing.)

NARRATOR
Well...here we are in Hillsdale. It's a typical town, in a run-of-the-mill area, in a perfectly common state. Yet, as normal as it appears, something remarkable is about to happen.

(Enter SR REPORTER #1 (WDTD Detroit), REPORTER #2 (WYRK New York), and REPORTER #3 (WEDO Toledo.) They are dressed in similar fashion, windbreaker with the call letters on the front and baseball caps with the station logo and call letters on the front. They cross to CS.)

REPORTERS sing: **2. THE REPORTERS #1**

WE’RE THE REPORTERS WHO REPORT THE NEWS
WE REPORT ON "WHAT’S WHAT" AND "WHO’S WHO"
WHEN TO LEAVE AND WHERE TO GO AND
WHY YOU EVEN NEED TO KNOW
REPORTERS WHO REPORT THE NEWS
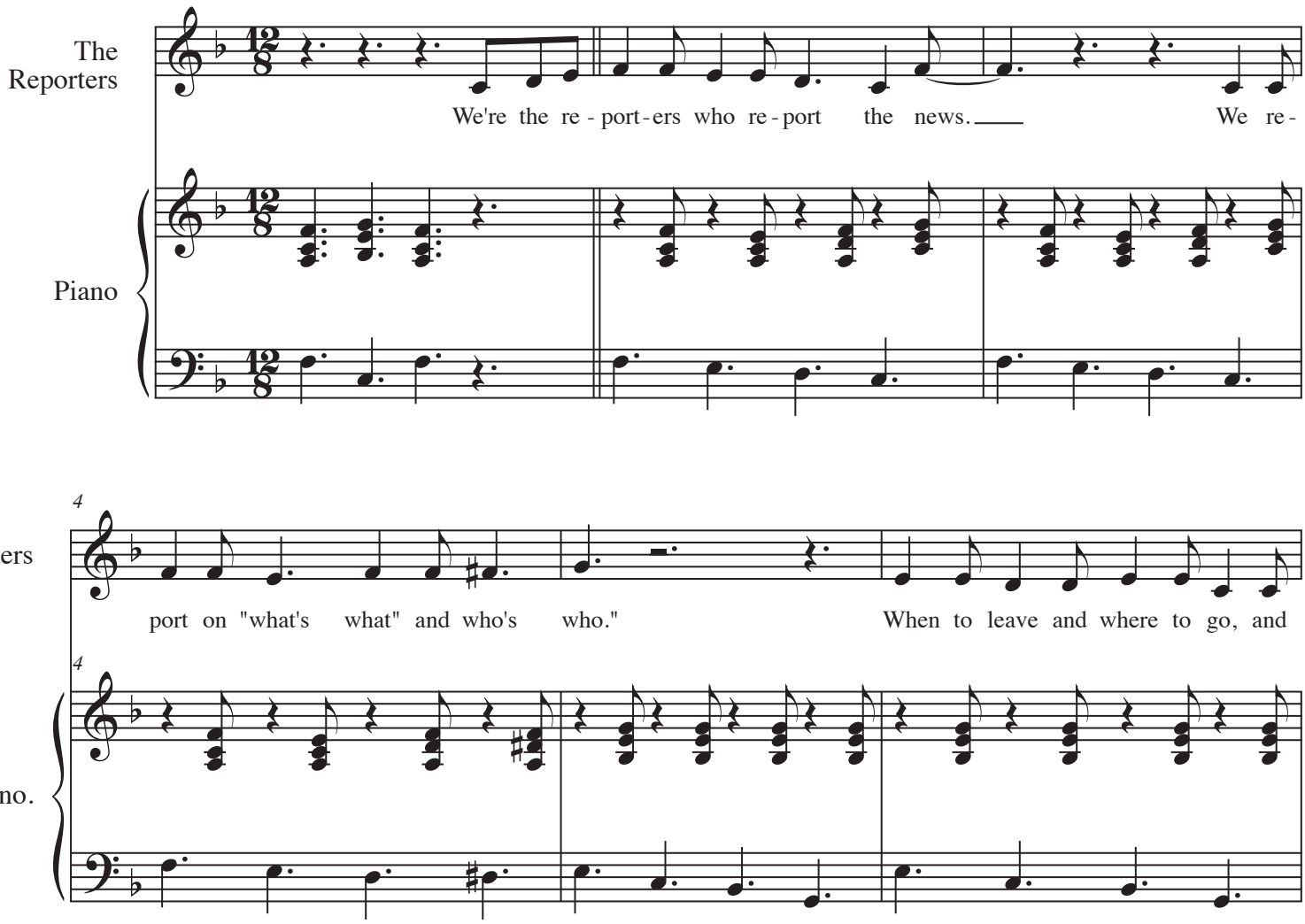
2. The Reporters #1

(Reporters)

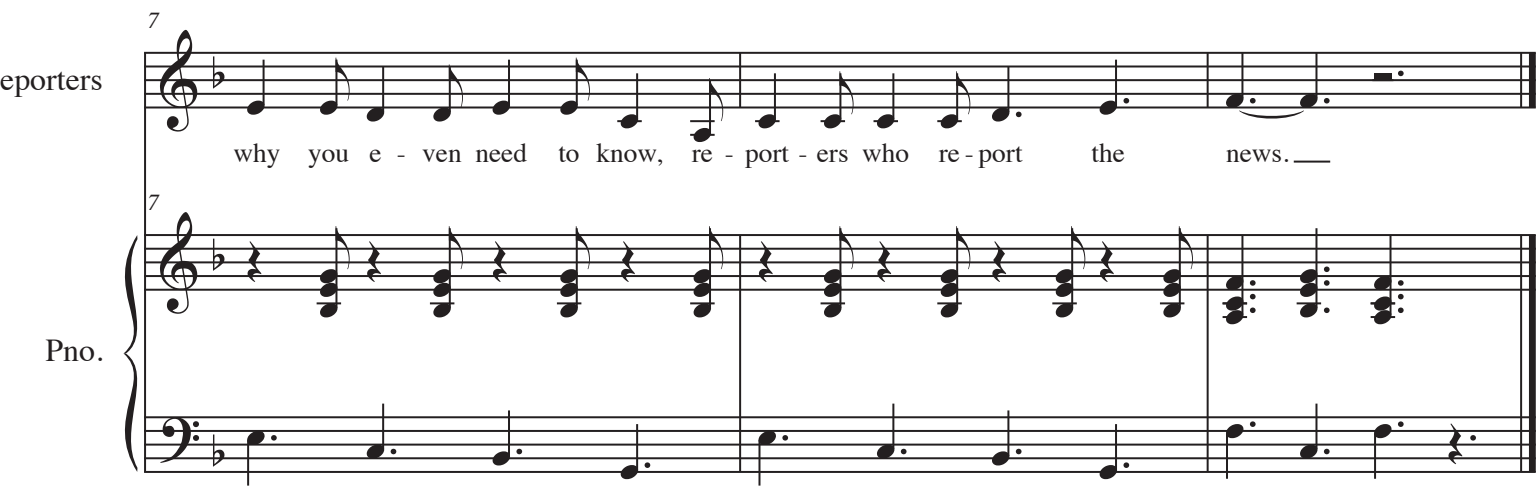
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Cue: Enter REPORTERS



2. The Reporters #1



REPORTER #1
I am standing in the Town Square of Hillsdale. In this sleepy settlement of 6,000, something startling might transpire, tonight...

REPORTER #2
...tonight, Hillsdale elects its Mayor. While the election of a mayor is in itself not unusual, what is out of the ordinary is that one of the candidates is only, believe it or not, 18 years old...

REPORTER #3
...years old, a high school senior, still wet behind the ears, and a veritable fledgling in the grown-up birdhouse of rough and tumble politics...

REPORTER #1
Could this political puppy possibly have the pluck to overpower the present politico, Douglas "Doug" Ingles, or is this all a pitiless practicum in political pointlessness?

REPORTER #2
The votes are being counted.

REPORTER #3
Now...we wait.

REPORTERS sing: **3. THE REPORTERS #2**

WE'RE THE REPORTERS WHO REPORT THE NEWS
JUICY GOSSIP AND INTERVIEWS
WE REPORT THE NEWS YOU MIGHT FORGET
WE STEAL IT OFF THE INTERNET
REPORTERS WHO REPORT THE NEWS
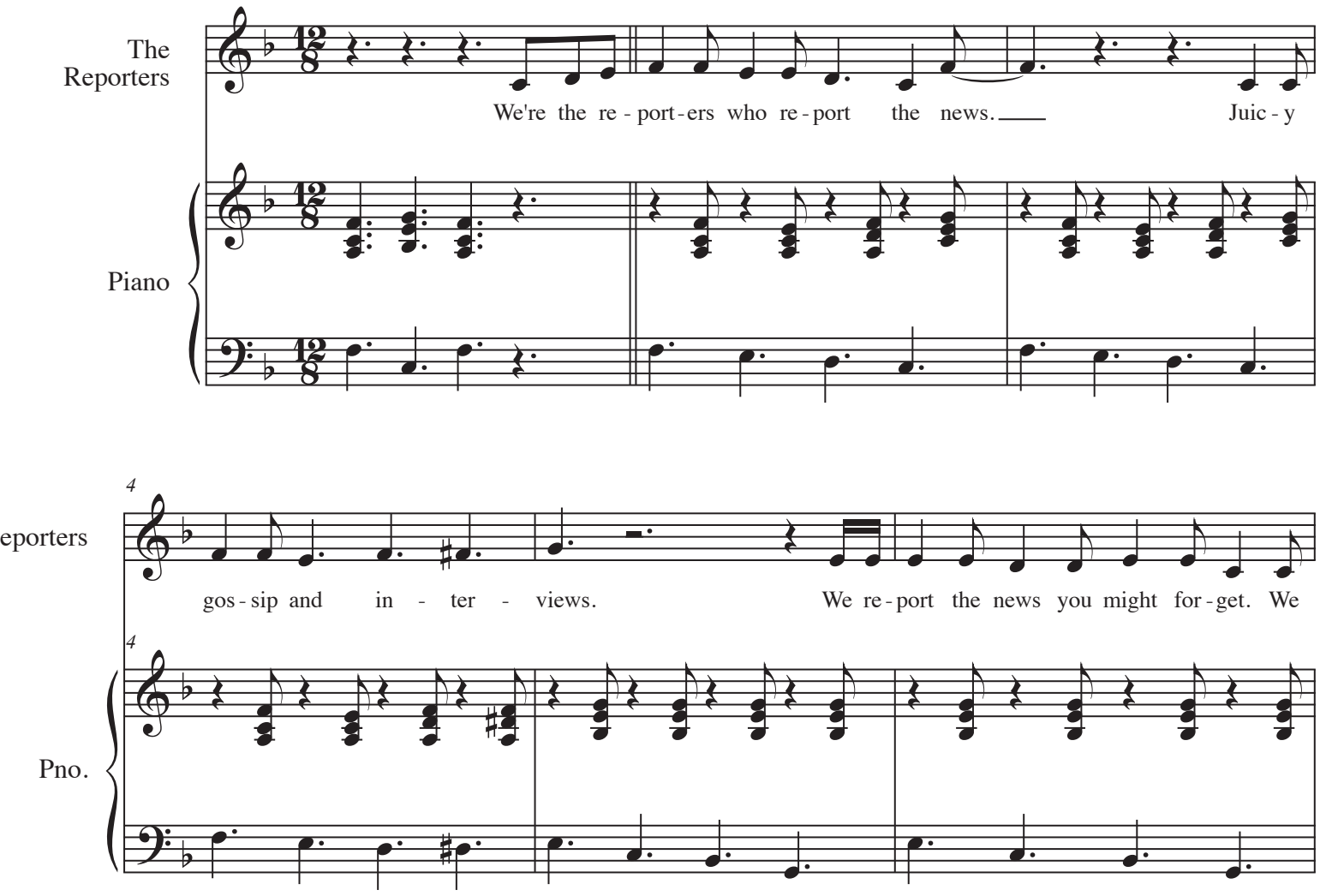
3. The Reporters #2

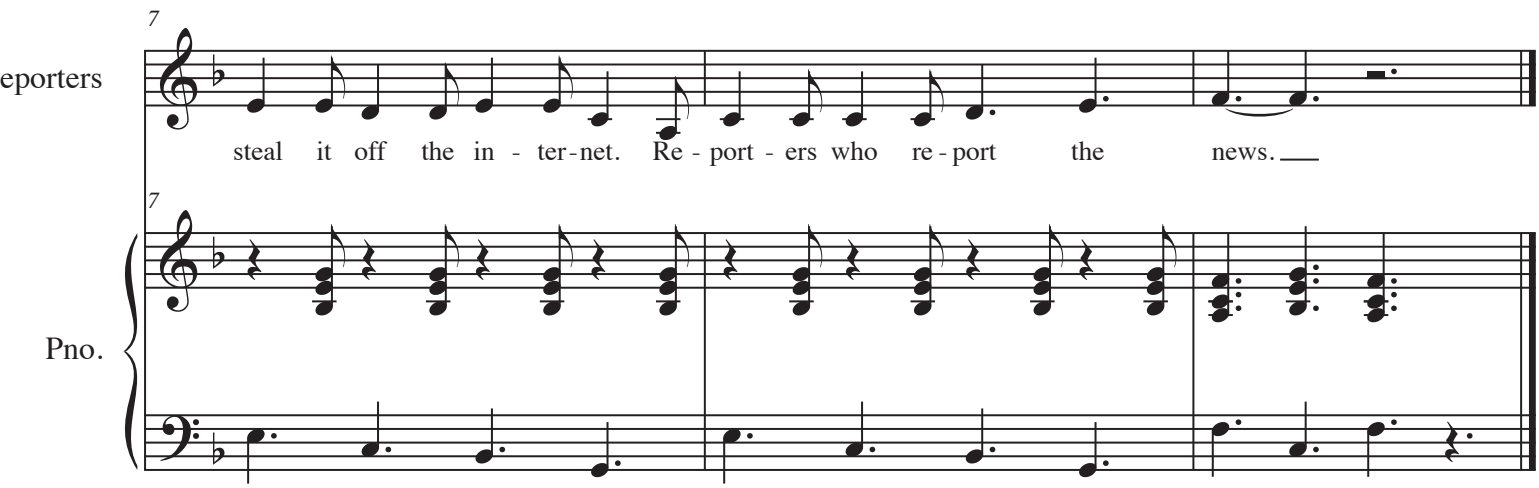
(Reporters)

Rev. 4/26/25

music by Sean P. Breen
lyrics by Sean P. Breen

Cue :REPORTER #3: Now, we wait.




eporters
7
steal it off the in - ter-net. Re - port - ers who re - port the news.
Pno.
7

(MICHAEL, an 18 year-old high school senior enter SL. As he walks by the reporters...)

REPORTER #3
Wait a minute, here comes the young man right now...Michael! Mr. Sessions!

(The REPORTERS pull MICHAEL to UCS.)

REPORTER #1
Michael, Michael, how would it feel if you were to be elected the youngest mayor in the United States?

MICHAEL
Actually, I'd be second youngest, there's a mayor in Arizona who is 4 days younger than I am.

REPORTER #2
...but you're only 18, pretty young to be taking on a position of such responsibility.

MICHAEL
Well, I know, but I want to do all I can to help the town of Hillsdale. If I didn't think I could do it, I would have never become a candidate.

REPORTER #3
Michael, can you tell us how it started? When did you first know that you were infected by a virus of civic duty? When did you decide to scratch your political itch?

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL removes a harmonica from his jacket pocket and considers it for moment.)
Well, it started with a harmonica.

(Lights out. REPORTERS exit DR. TOWNSPEOPLE exit where they came in. REGISTRAR and ASST. REGISTRAR exit SL. DOUG INGLES and CHIPPER INGLES exit SL with TMC. MICHAEL, HARPO, and NARRATOR remain on stage.)

SCENE 3 JUNIOR HAHA

NARRATOR
Well, now we travel back to 1996. Same town, but a different election.

(The square is transformed from the Election Day setting to the year 1996. There is a banner for the JUNIOR HILLSDALE AREA HARMONICA ASSOCIATION (JHAHA.) The same podium is there. DOUG INGLES is standing behind it. He is dressed in a very sloppy way. DOUG is 9 years younger and wears a hat that says "HEAD TOOT" on it. In front of him is a group of 15 seated 9 year-old CHILDREN that include MICHAEL, his friend MILTON, and HARPO as well as CHIPPER INGLES, DOUG INGLES' son. There is the horrible sound of 15 harmonicas playing at the same time.)

DOUG INGLES
Alright, alright stop!!

(Holding up his hands, but there are still one or two sounds coming from the kids.)
Remove the harmonicas from your mouths. Now, Place them in our "safe" position.

(CHILDREN eventually stop playing and place their harmonicas in their shirt pockets.)
That's better. Ok, now listen while I play the song one more time.

(DOUG INGLES plays Hot Cross Buns on his harmonica.)
You got it? Ok? Ok. Now slowly take your harmonica out of our "safe" position and place it close to your mouth, but not in your mouth.

(One CHILD plays one note, DOUG INGLES holds up one finger to silence the offender.)
Now, place the harmonica on your lips so that the 7th hole is in the middle of you lips, not the 6th, not the 8th...now, let's try it again. One, two ready and...

(Cacophony.)

...better!

(Exactly as before.)

Ok, now take the harmonicas away from your mouths. Place them in our "lock down" position.

(CHILDREN do so, except a few stragglers.)

Before we proceed to the main order of business, I would like us to sing the HAHA anthem.

(One hand rises impatiently out of the crowd. The kid can hardly control himself.)

Yes, Walter, what is it?

WALLY REES

Tim and me and Bruce, we made a slide show about the history of the harmonica to go along with the anthem.

DOUG INGLES

Walter, that sounds great. Let’s see it.

(WALLY, TIM and BRUCE scramble over to a slide projector and load in a tray of slides. During the following song, images are displayed that go along with the spoken words and the sung lyrics.)

HARMONICA CLUB sings: **4. THE HARMONICA ANTHEM**

WALLY REES

The harmonica was invented by Christian Buschmann in 1821.
All harmonicas have two rows of holes, an upper and a lower.
Each hole contains two reeds.
There are three different kinds of harmonicas.
Plain harmonicas have ten tone holes.
Each hole produces two notes.
Concert harmonicas also have two rows of holes, which each produce two notes, but the notes produced by the upper holes are pitched one octave (eight notes) higher than the notes produced by the lower holes.
The third type of harmonica is the chromatic harmonica.
This has a sliding metal plate that can be adjusted so that the harmonica will play sharps and flats.
The air goes in and the air comes out.
And that's what harmonicas are all about.

HARMONICA CLUB

HARMONICA, HARMONICA, HARMONICA

TIM

Harmonicas are better than pianos because a piano is hard to fit in your pocket.
Harmonicas are better than saxophones because saxophones aren't supposed to play 2 notes at once.
Harmonicas are better than electric guitars because you never have to tune a harmonica.
Harmonicas are better than drums because you can't play Hot Cross Buns on a drum.
Harmonicas are better than oboes because harmonicas only cost a few dollars and you can buy them lots of places.
Harmonicas are better than bassoons because nobody cool ever played bassoon...nobody.

HARMONICA CLUB

HARMONICA, HARMONICA, HARMONICA

BRUCE

LITTLE WALTER PLAYED

HARMONICA CLUB

HARMONICA

BRUCE
MAMA THORNTON PLAYED

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
BOB DYLAN PLAYS

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
HARMONICATS PLAYED

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
TOOTS THEIELMANS PLAYED

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
JOHN POPPER PLAYS

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
JOHN MAYALL PLAYS

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
NEIL YOUNG PLAYS

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
BRUCE WILLIS PLAYS

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
STEVIE WONDER PLAYS

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
CALVIN COOLIDGE PLAYED

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
ALVIN PLAYED

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
GHANDI PLAYED

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
MOSES PLAYED

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA

BRUCE
MOTHER TERESA PLAYED

HARMONICA CLUB
HARMONICA HARMONICA, HARMONICA, HARMONICA HARMONICA, HARMONICA, HARMONICA
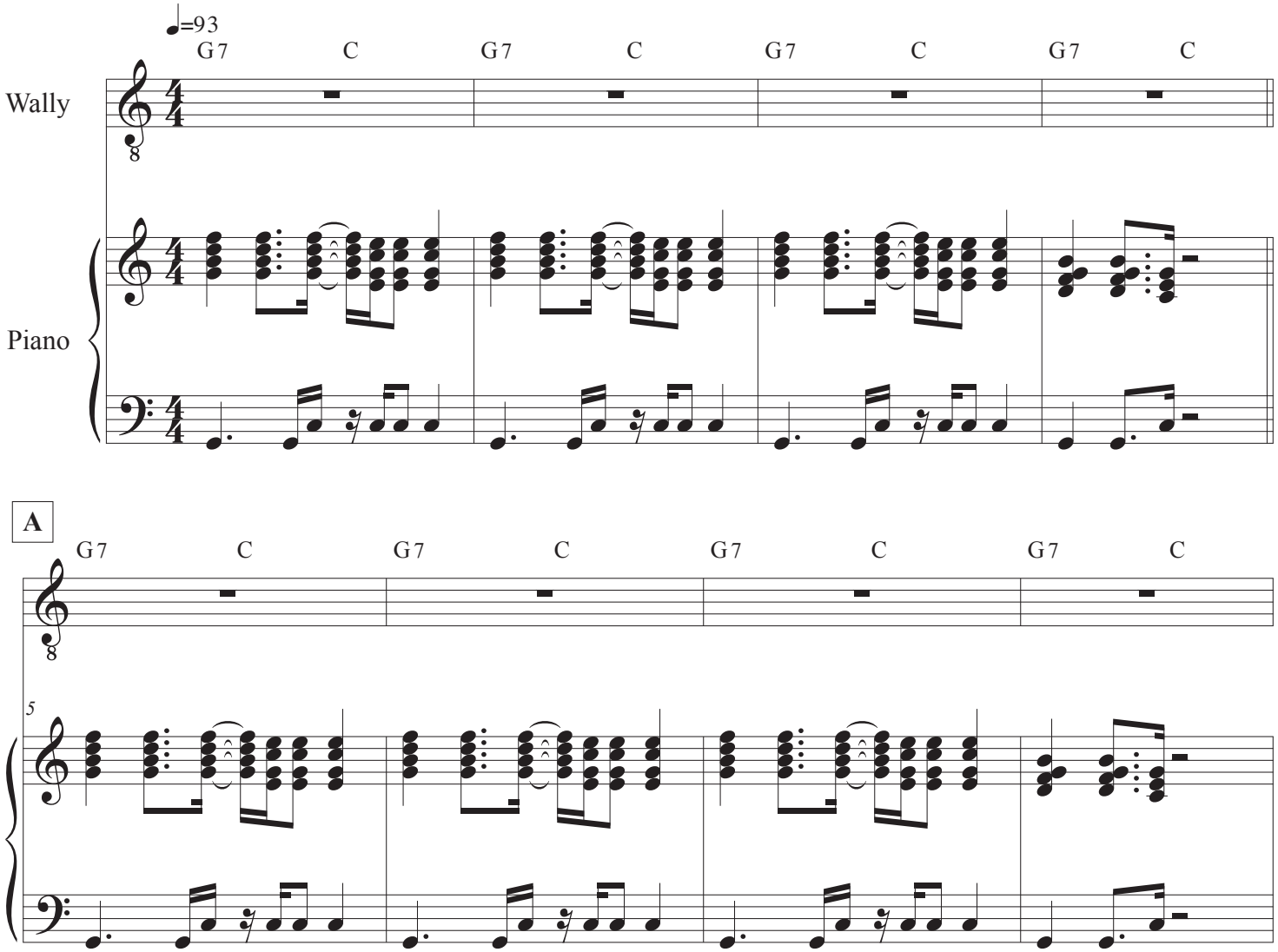
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Piano/Vocal
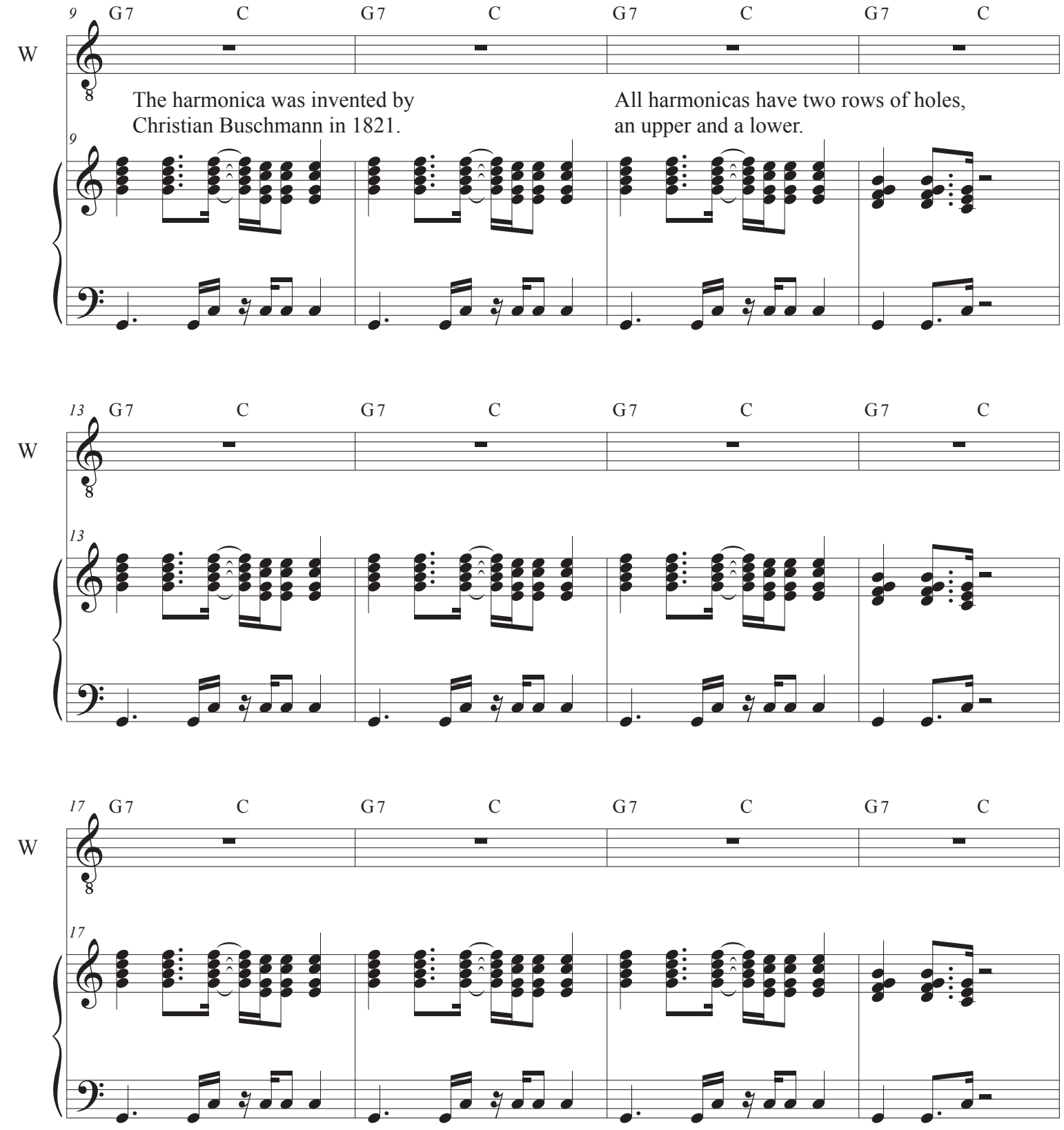
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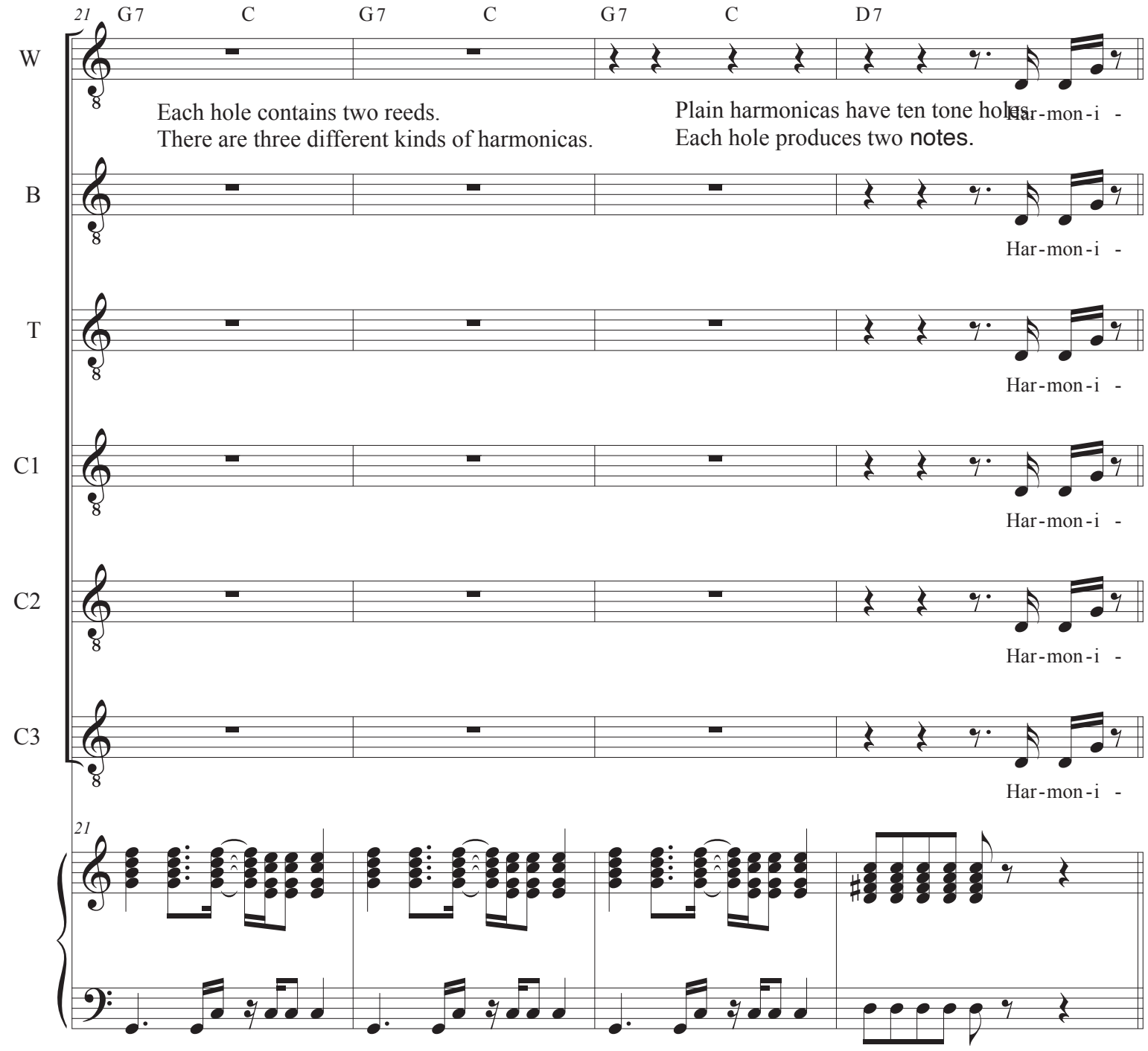
(Wally/Tim/Bruce/Harmonica Club)

Rev. 4/10/25
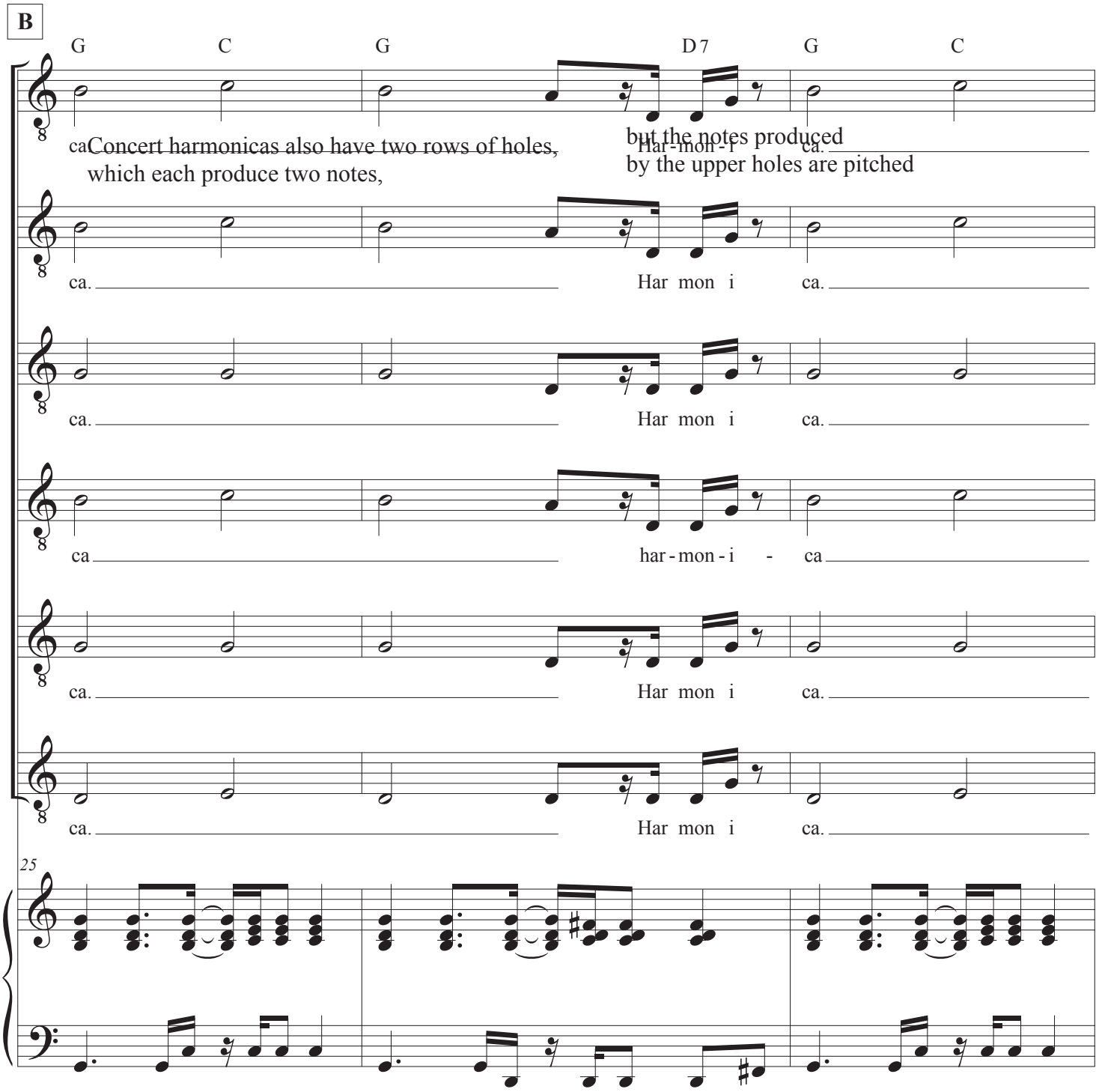
music by Sean P. Breen
lyrics by Sean P. Breen
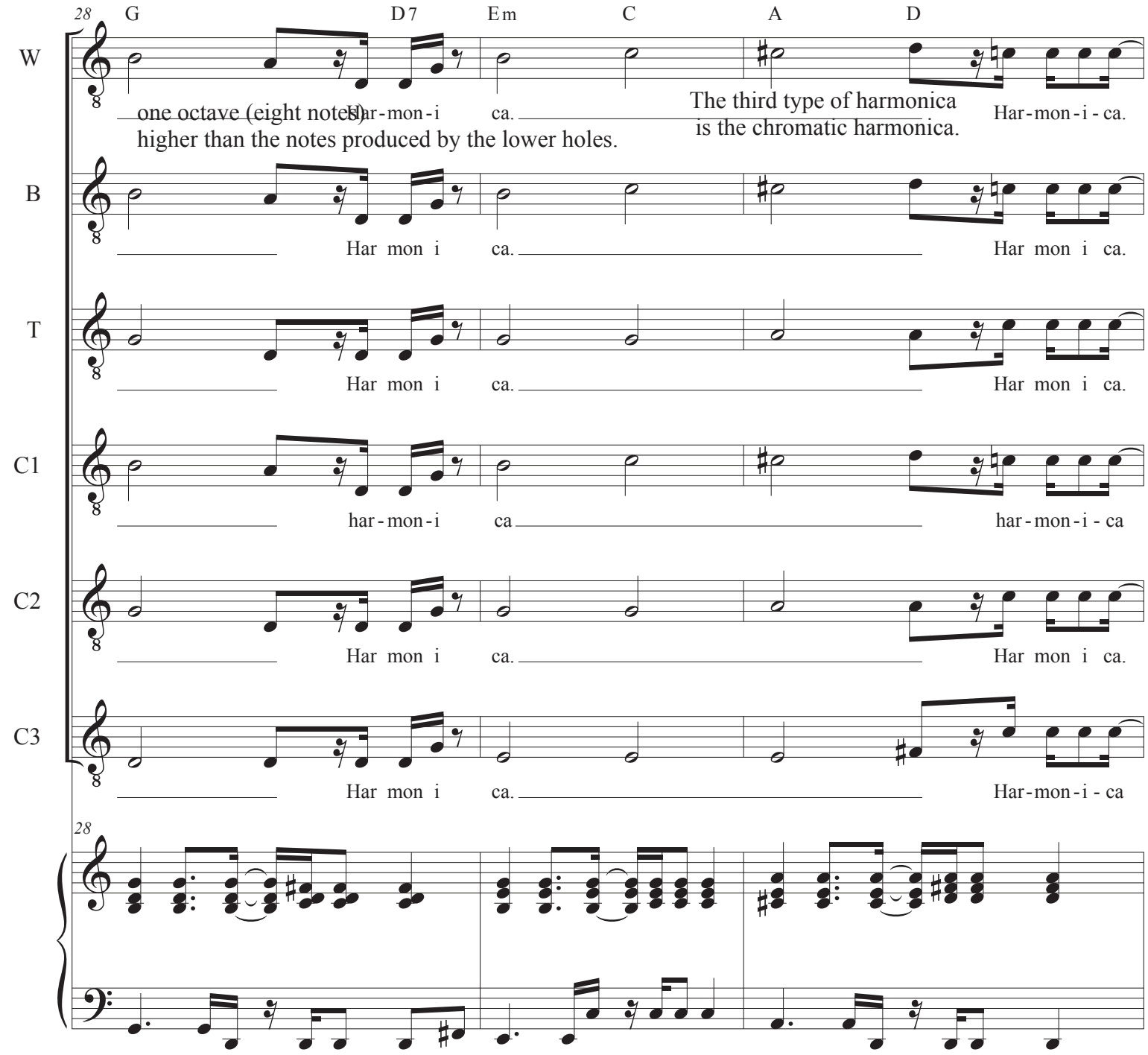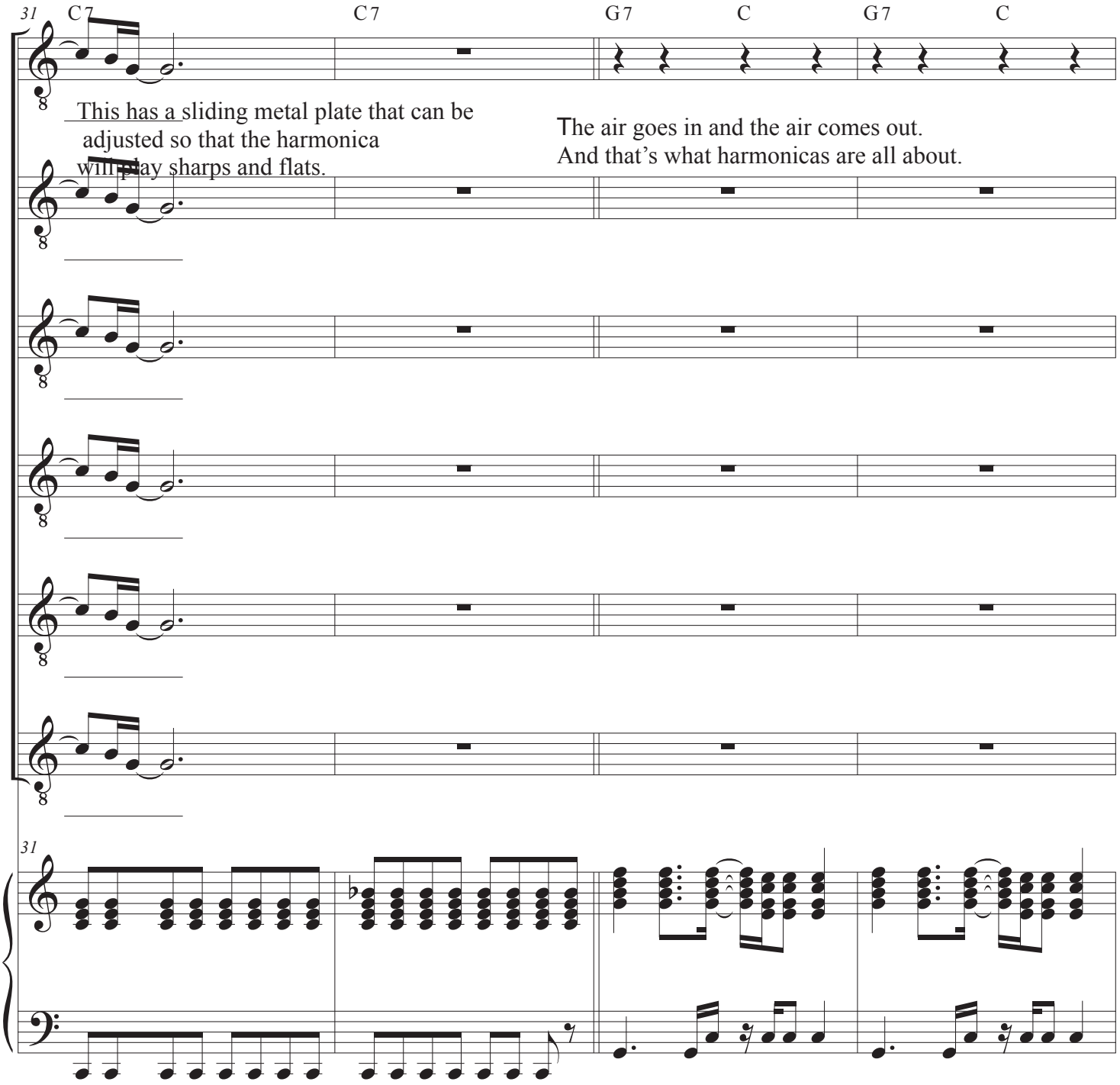



9
G7 C G7 C G7 C G7 C
W
The harmonica was invented by
Christian Buschmann in 1821.
All harmonicas have two rows of holes,
an upper and a lower.
13
G7 C G7 C G7 C G7 C
W
17
G7 C G7 C G7 C G7 C
W
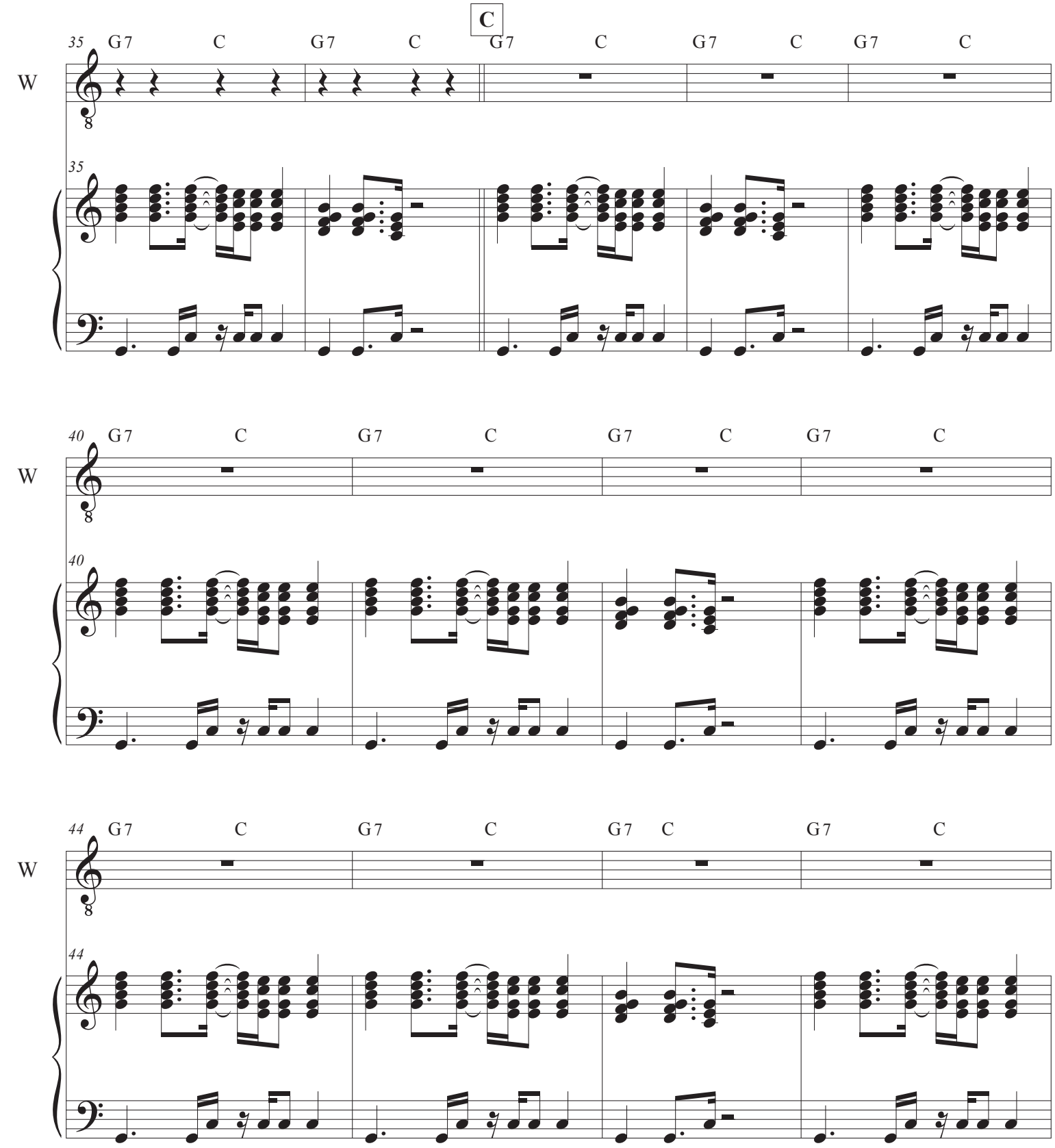

21
G7
C
G7
C
G7
C
D7
W
Each hole contains two reeds.
There are three different kinds of harmonicas.
Plain harmonicas have ten tone holes.
Each hole produces two notes.
Har-mon-i -
B
Har-mon-i -
T
Har-mon-i -
C1
Har-mon-i -
C2
Har-mon-i -
C3
Har-mon-i -
21
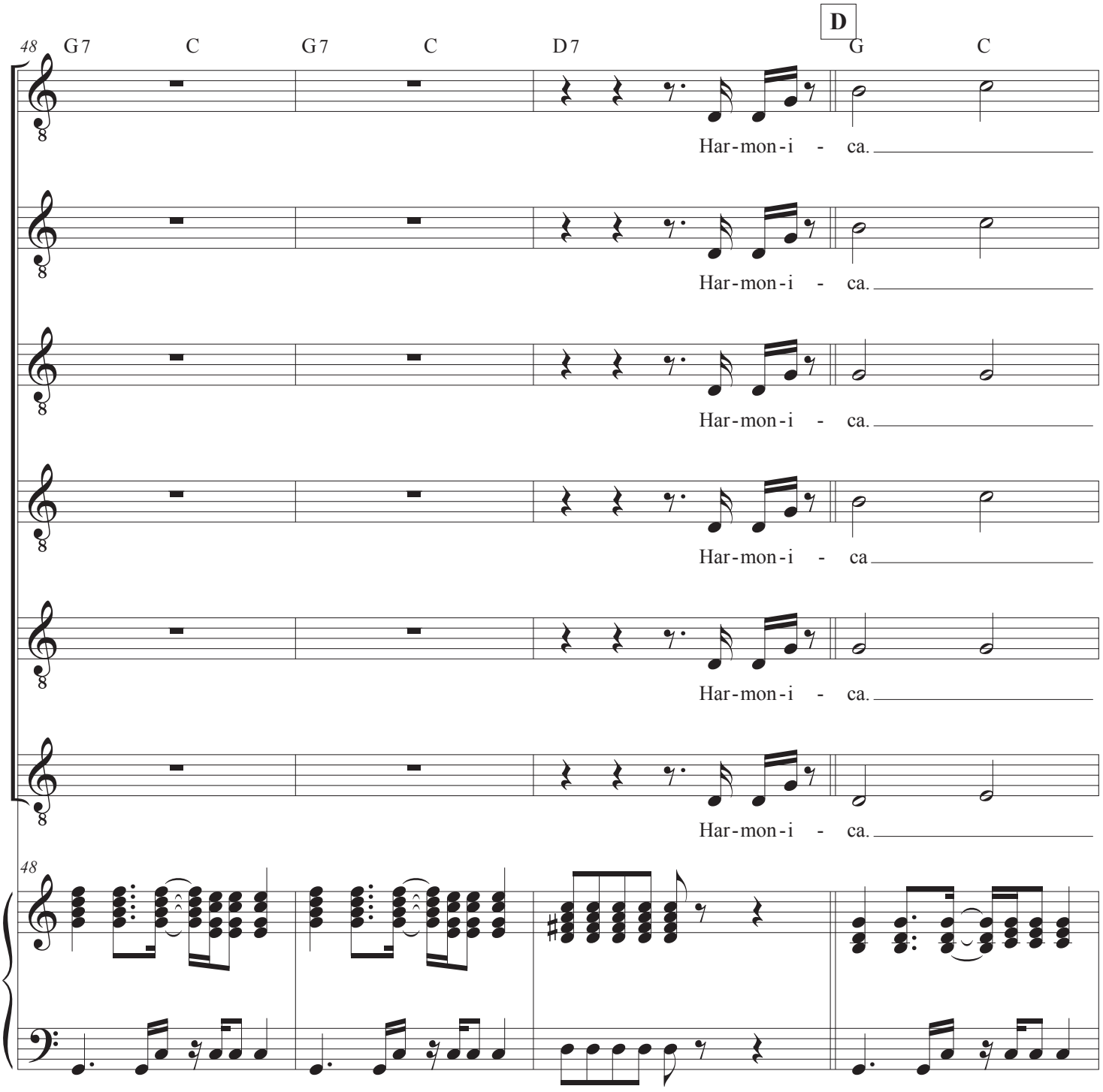
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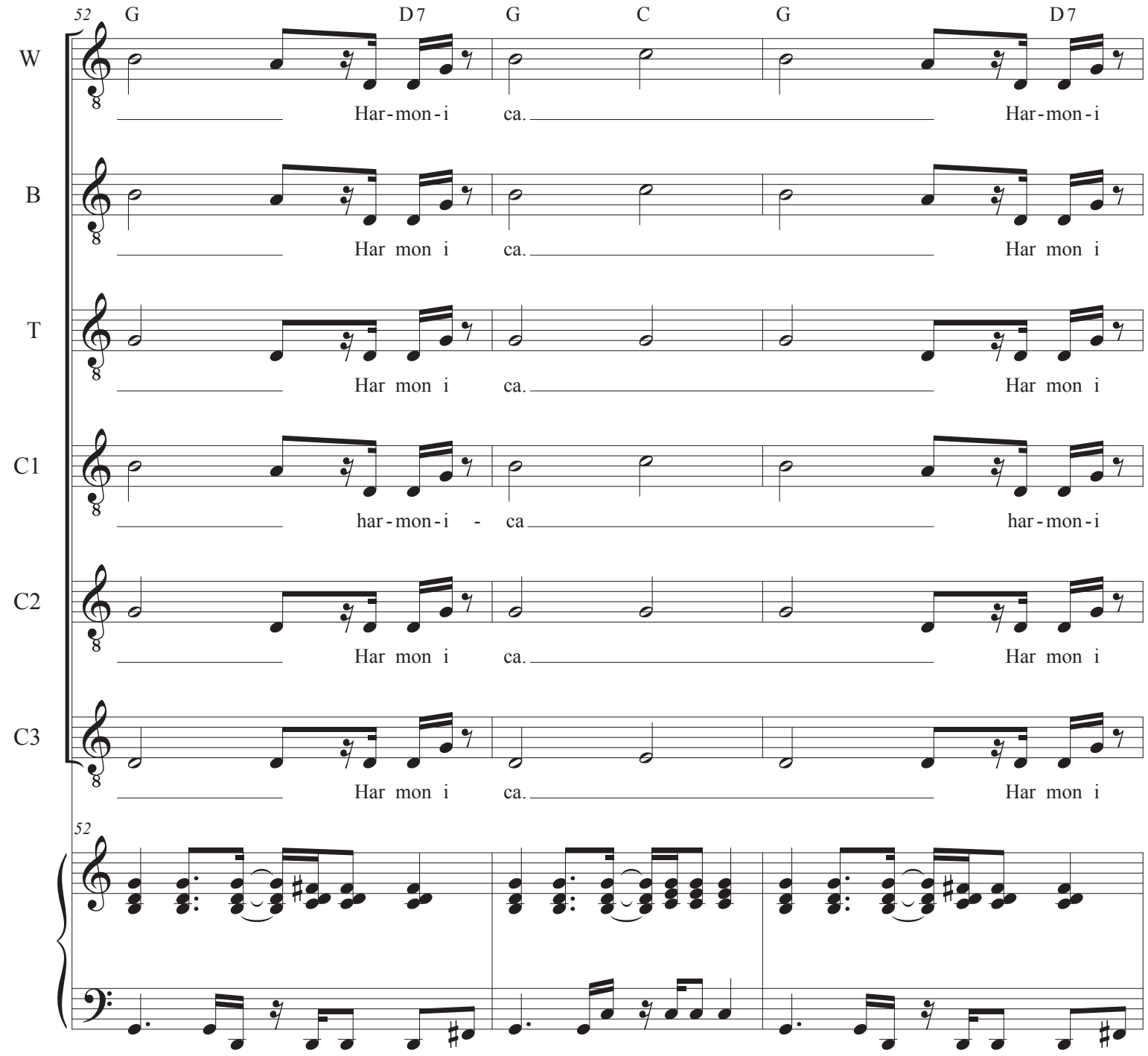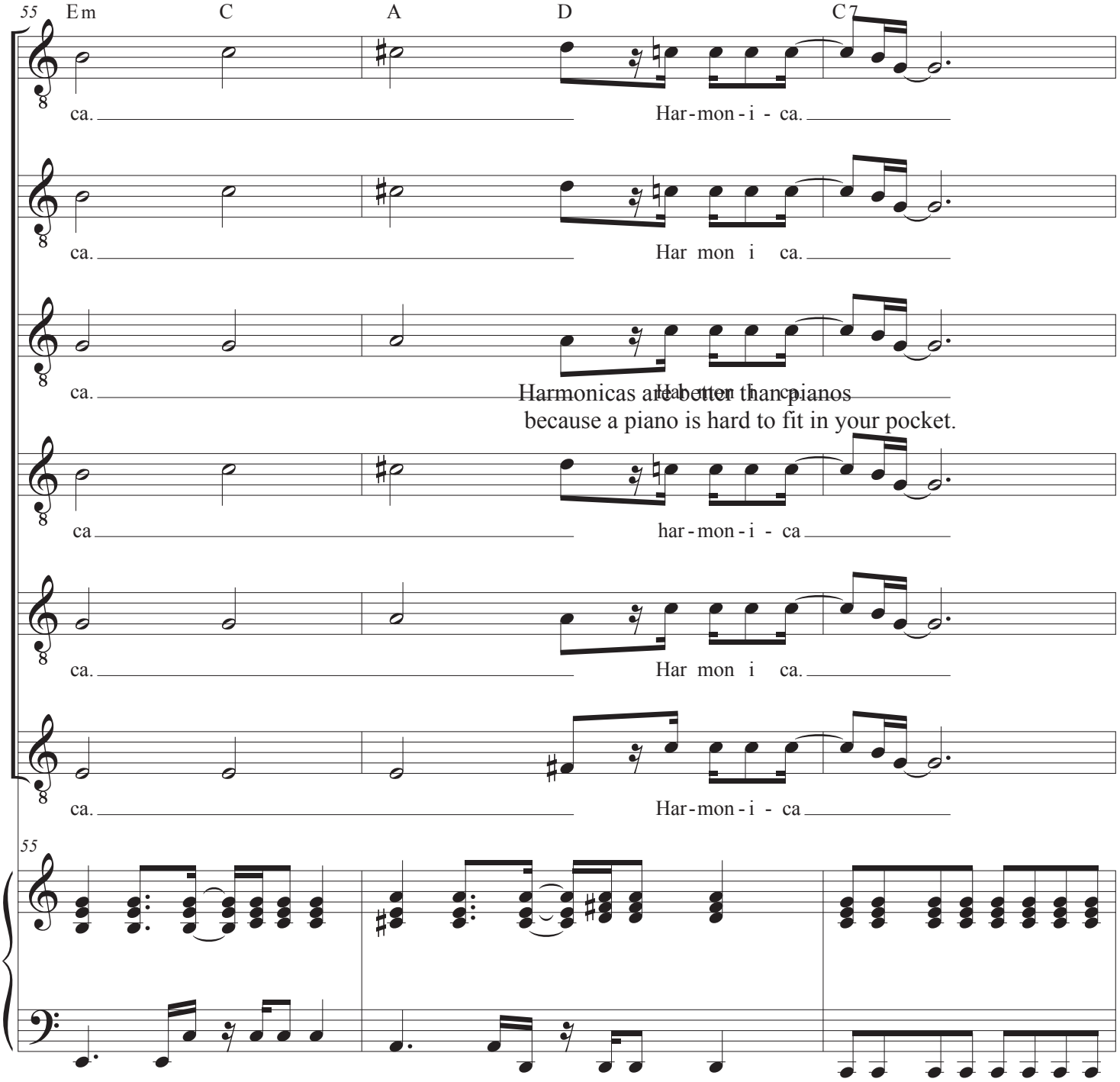



28
G
D7
Em
C
A
D
W
one octave (eight notes)
higher than the notes produced by the lower holes.
Har-mon-i
ca.
The third type of harmonica
is the chromatic harmonica.
Har-mon-i-ca.
B
Har mon i
ca.
Har mon i ca.
T
Har mon i
ca.
Har mon i ca.
C1
har-mon-i
ca
har-mon-i-ca
C2
Har mon i
ca.
Har mon i ca.
C3
Har mon i
ca.
Har-mon-i-ca
28

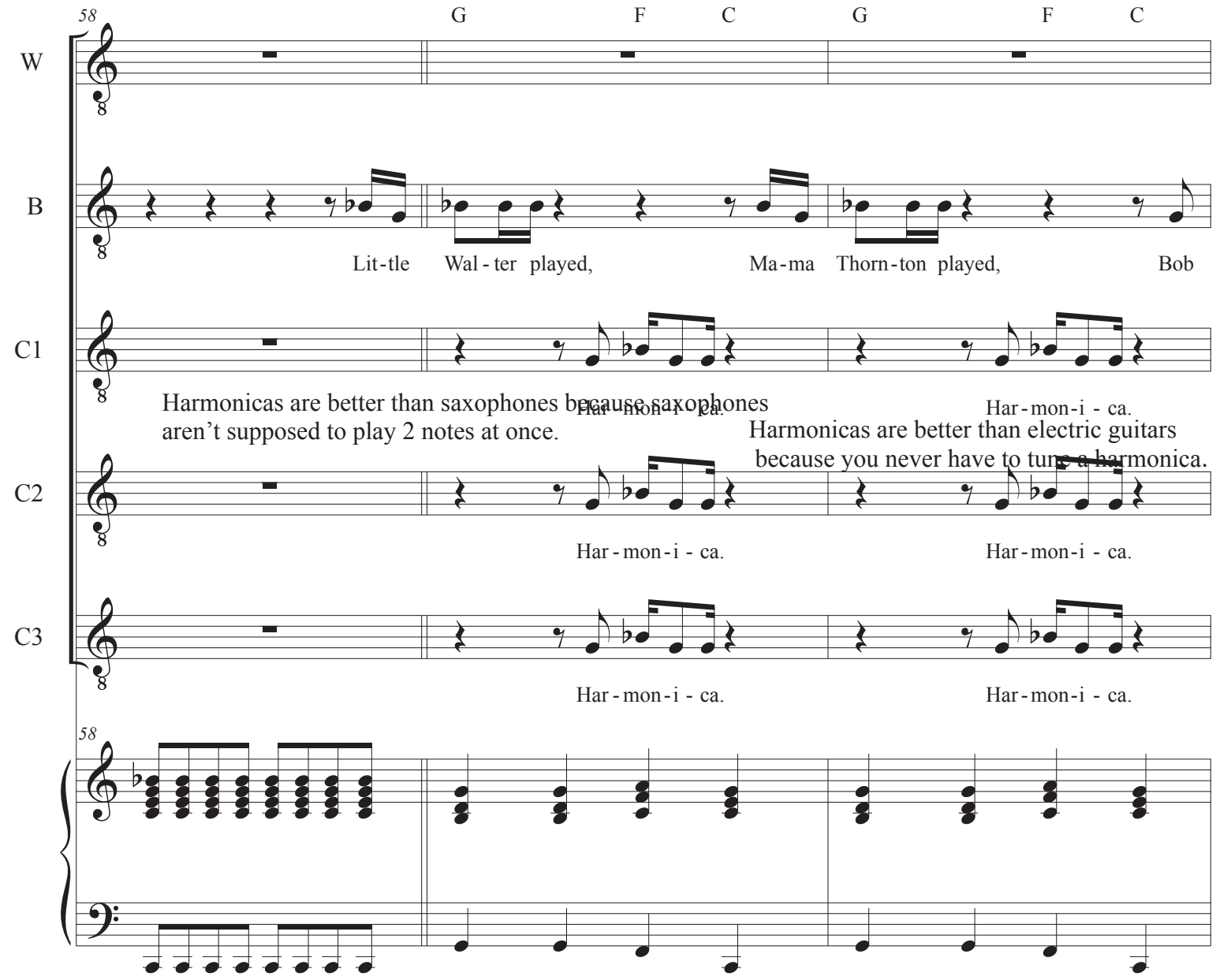

31
C7
C7
G7
C
G7
C
W
This has a sliding metal plate that can be adjusted so that the harmonica will play sharps and flats.
The air goes in and the air comes out.
And that's what harmonicas are all about.
B
T
C1
C2
C3
31


C
35
G7 C G7 C G7 C G7 C G7 C
W
35
40
G7 C G7 C G7 C G7 C
W
40
44
G7 C G7 C G7 C G7 C
W
44
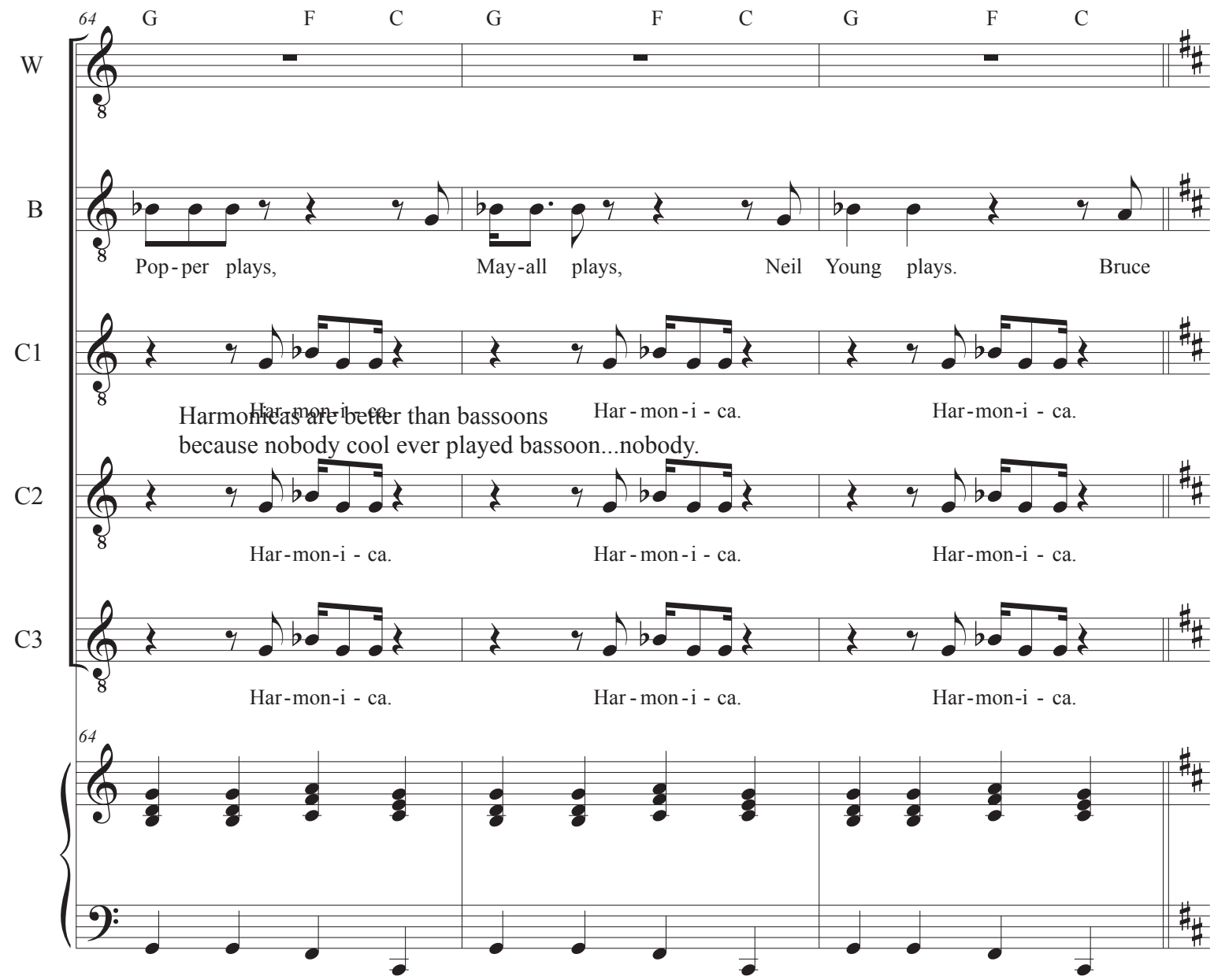

48
G7
C
G7
C
D7
D
G
C
W
Har-mon-i - ca.
B
Har-mon-i - ca.
T
Har-mon-i - ca.
C1
Har-mon-i - ca
C2
Har-mon-i - ca.
C3
Har-mon-i - ca.
48
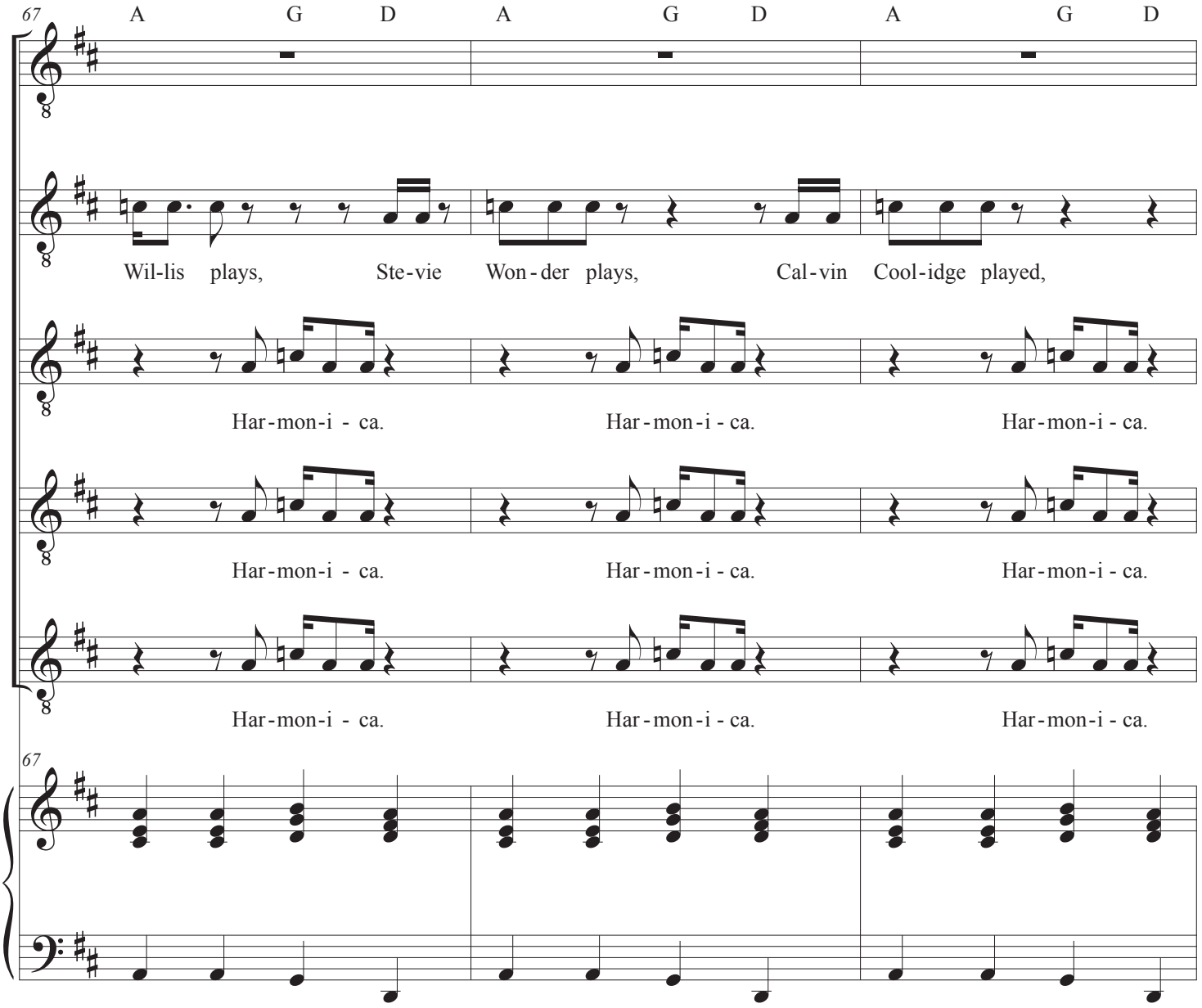

52
G
D7
G
C
G
D7
W
Har-mon-i ca. Har-mon-i
B
Har mon i ca. Har mon i
T
Har mon i ca. Har mon i
C1
har-mon-i - ca har-mon-i
C2
Har mon i ca. Har mon i
C3
Har mon i ca. Har mon i
52
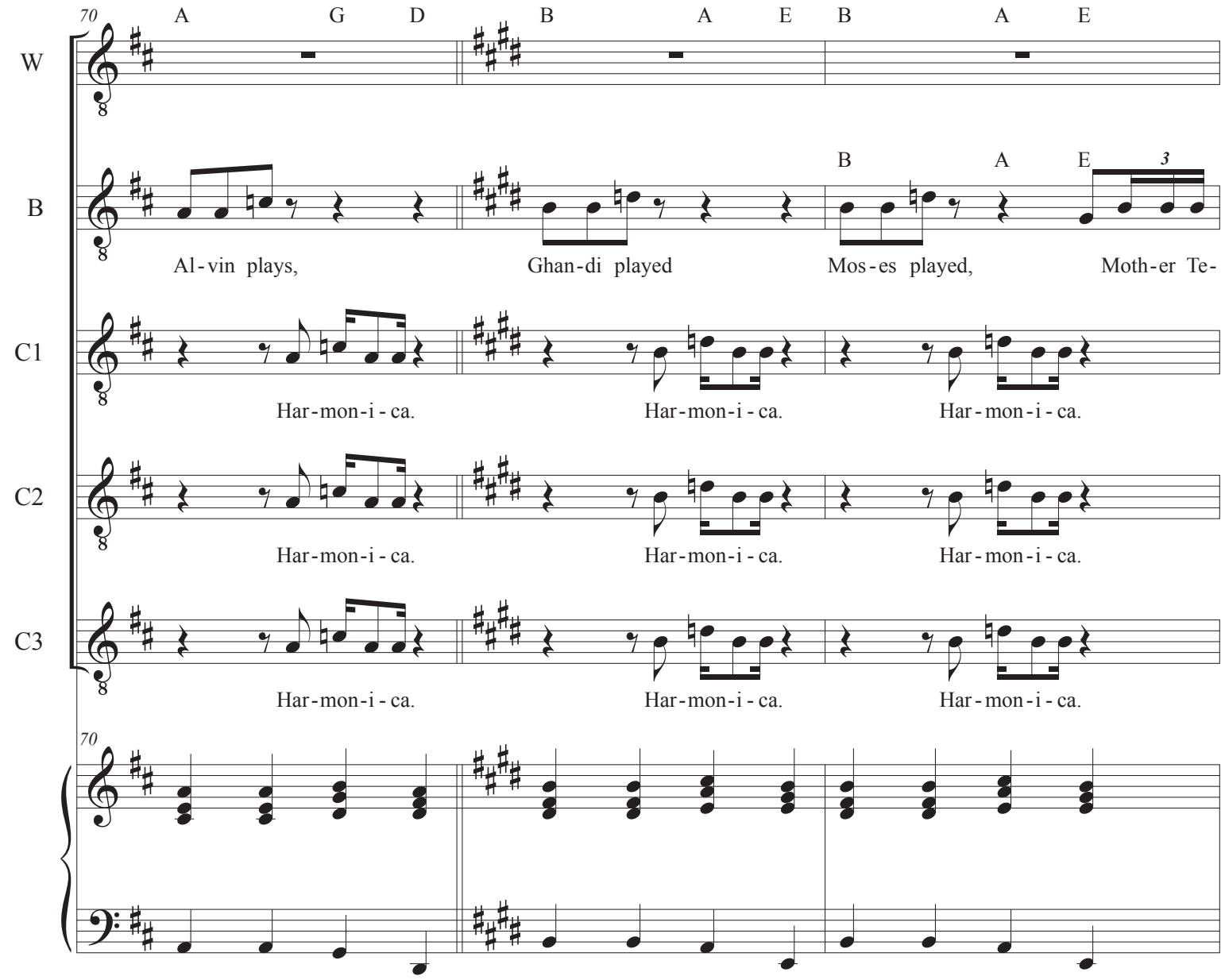

55
Em
C
A
D
C7
W
ca.
Har-mon-i - ca.
B
ca.
Har mon i ca.
T
ca.
Harmonicas are better than pianos
because a piano is hard to fit in your pocket.
C1
ca
har-mon-i - ca
C2
ca.
Har mon i ca.
C3
ca.
Har-mon-i - ca
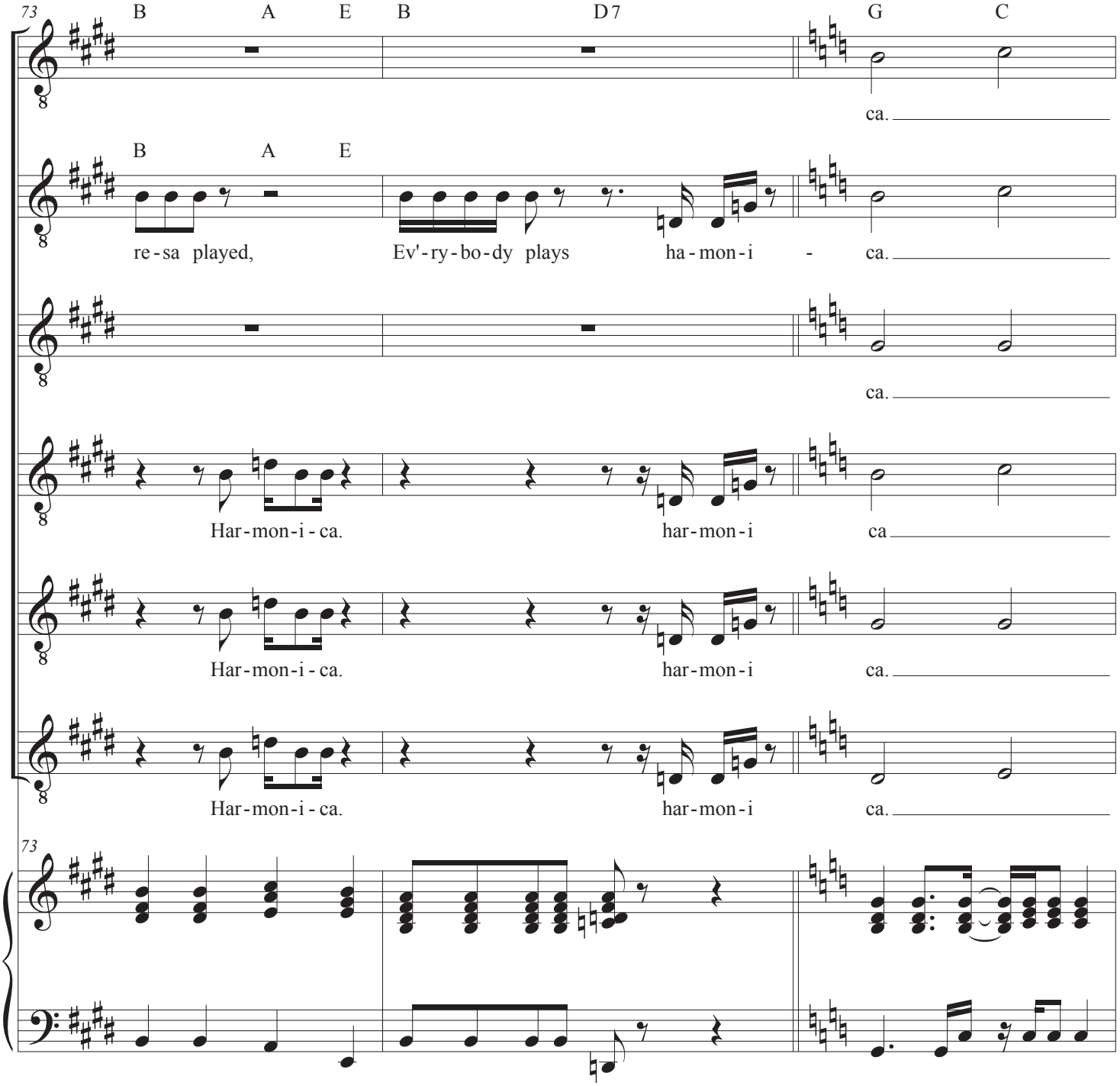

58
G F C G F C
W
B
Lit-tle Wal-ter played, Ma-ma Thorn-ton played, Bob
C1
Harmonicas are better than saxophones because saxophones aren't supposed to play 2 notes at once.
Har-mon-i-ca.
Har-mon-i-ca.
Harmonicas are better than electric guitars because you never have to tune a harmonica.
C2
Har-mon-i-ca.
Har-mon-i-ca.
C3
Har-mon-i-ca.
Har-mon-i-ca.
58
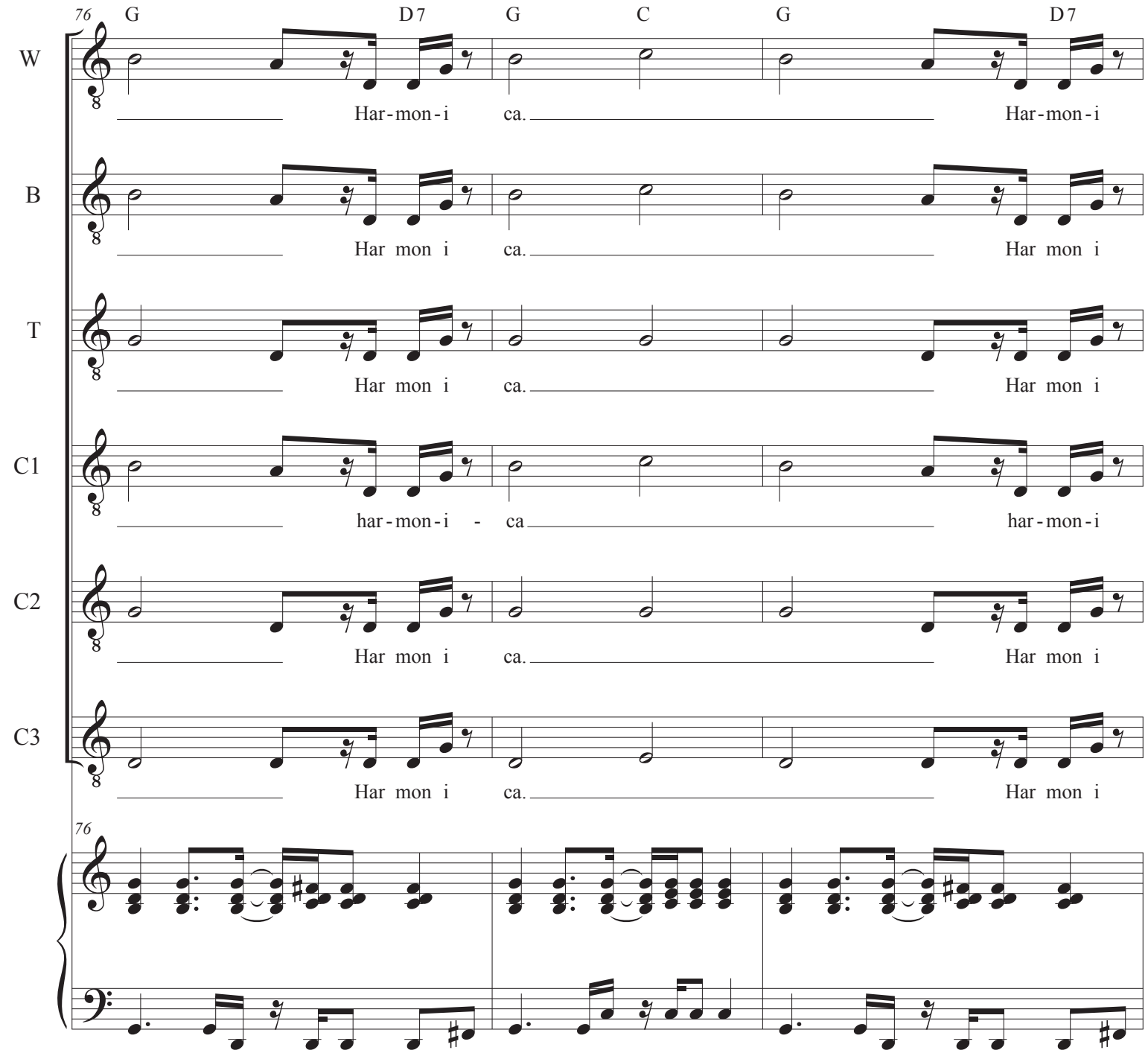

61
G F C G F C G F C
W
B
Dy-lan plays, Har - mon-i-cats played, Toots Theil-mans played, John
C1
Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca.
Harmonicas are better than drums
because you can't play Hot Cross Buns on a drum.
Harmonicas are better than oboes
because harmonicas only cost a few dollars and
you can buy them lots of places.
C2
Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca.
C3
Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca.
61
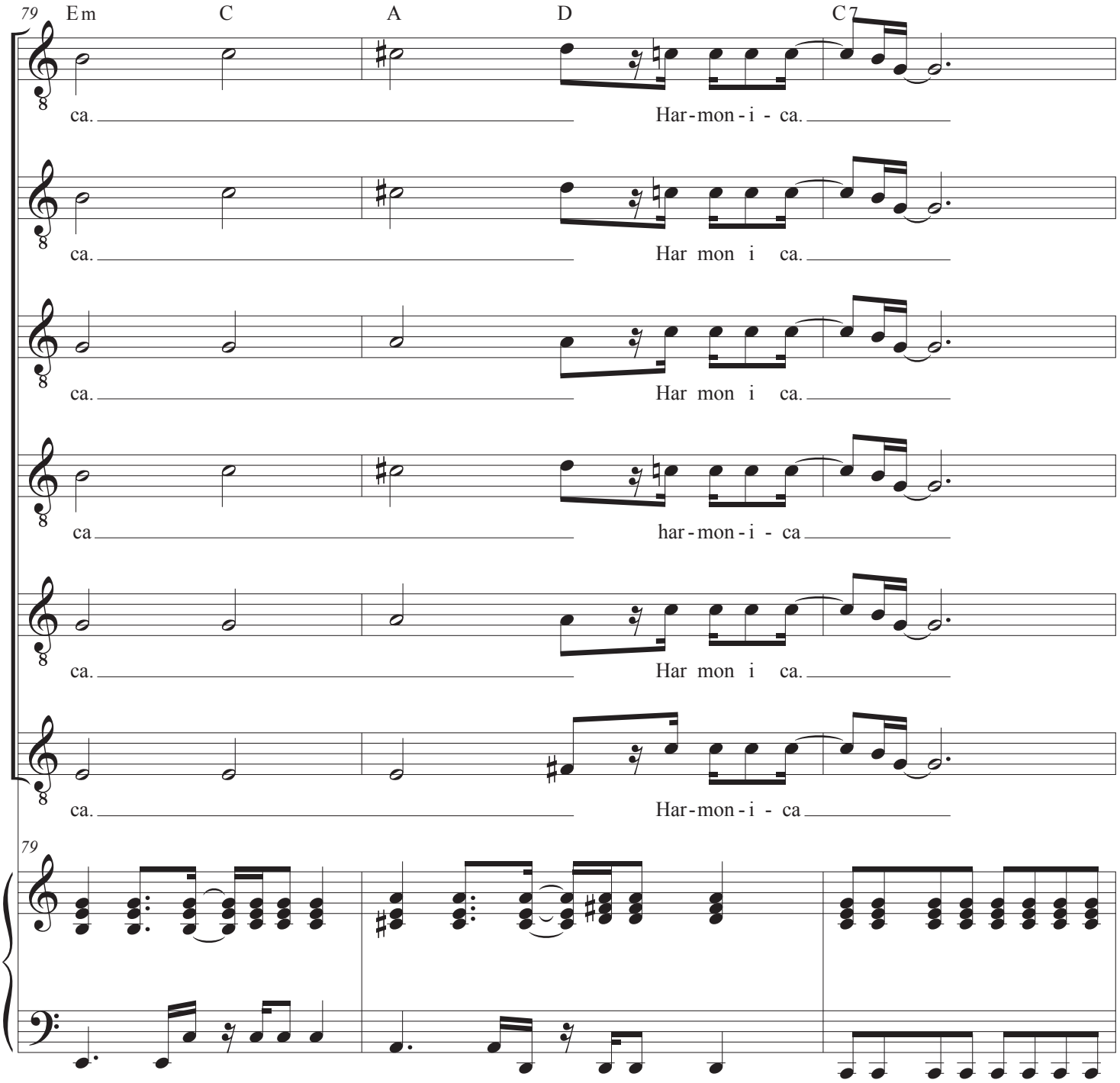

64
G F C G F C G F C
W
B
Pop-per plays, May-all plays, Neil Young plays. Bruce
C1
Har-mon-i-ca. Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca.
Harmonicas are better than bassoons
because nobody cool ever played bassoon...nobody.
C2
Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca.
C3
Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca.
64
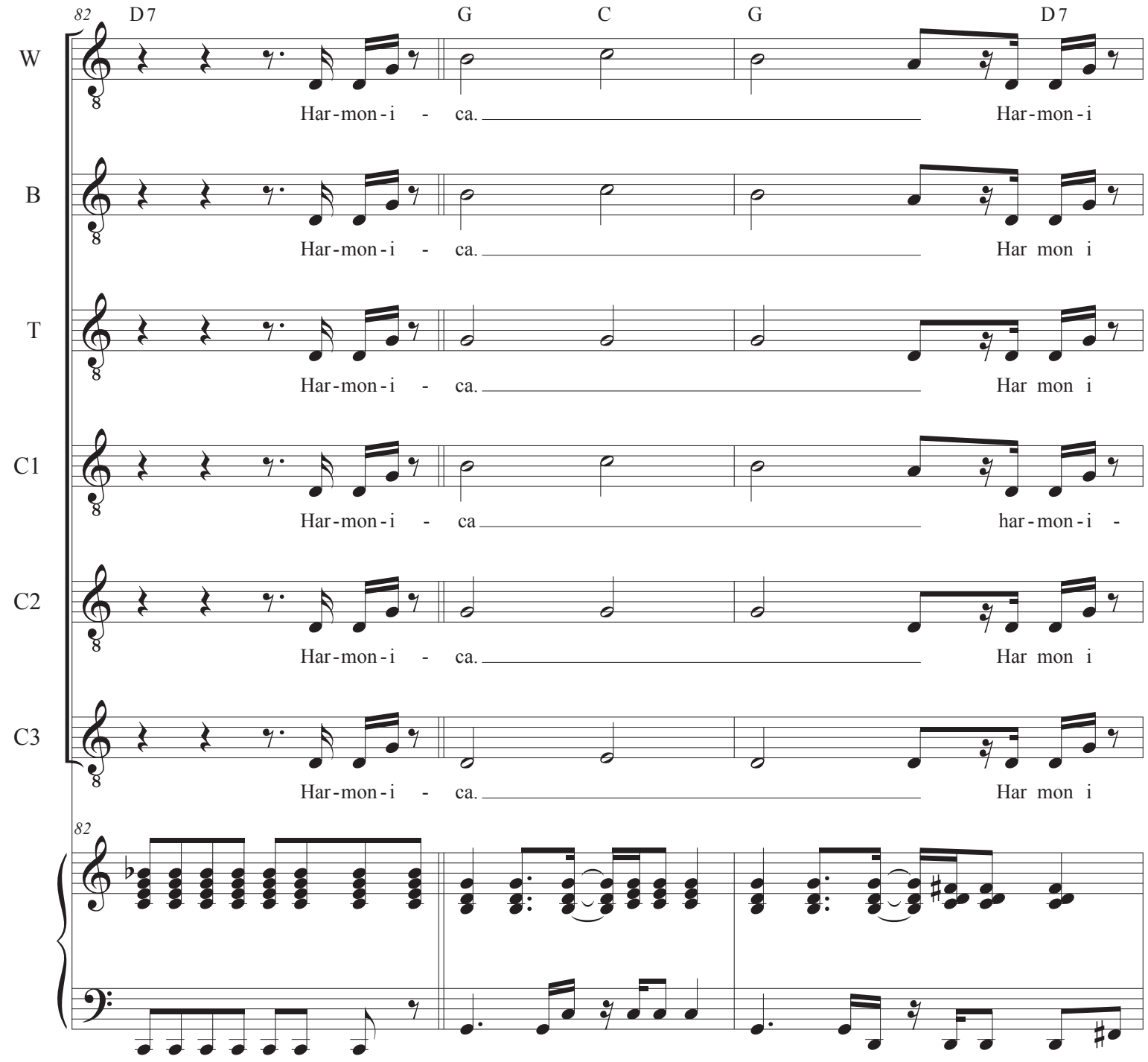

67
A G D A G D A G D
W
B
Wil-lis plays, Ste-vie Won-der plays, Cal-vin Cool-idge played,
C1
Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca.
C2
Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca.
C3
Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca. Har-mon-i - ca.
67
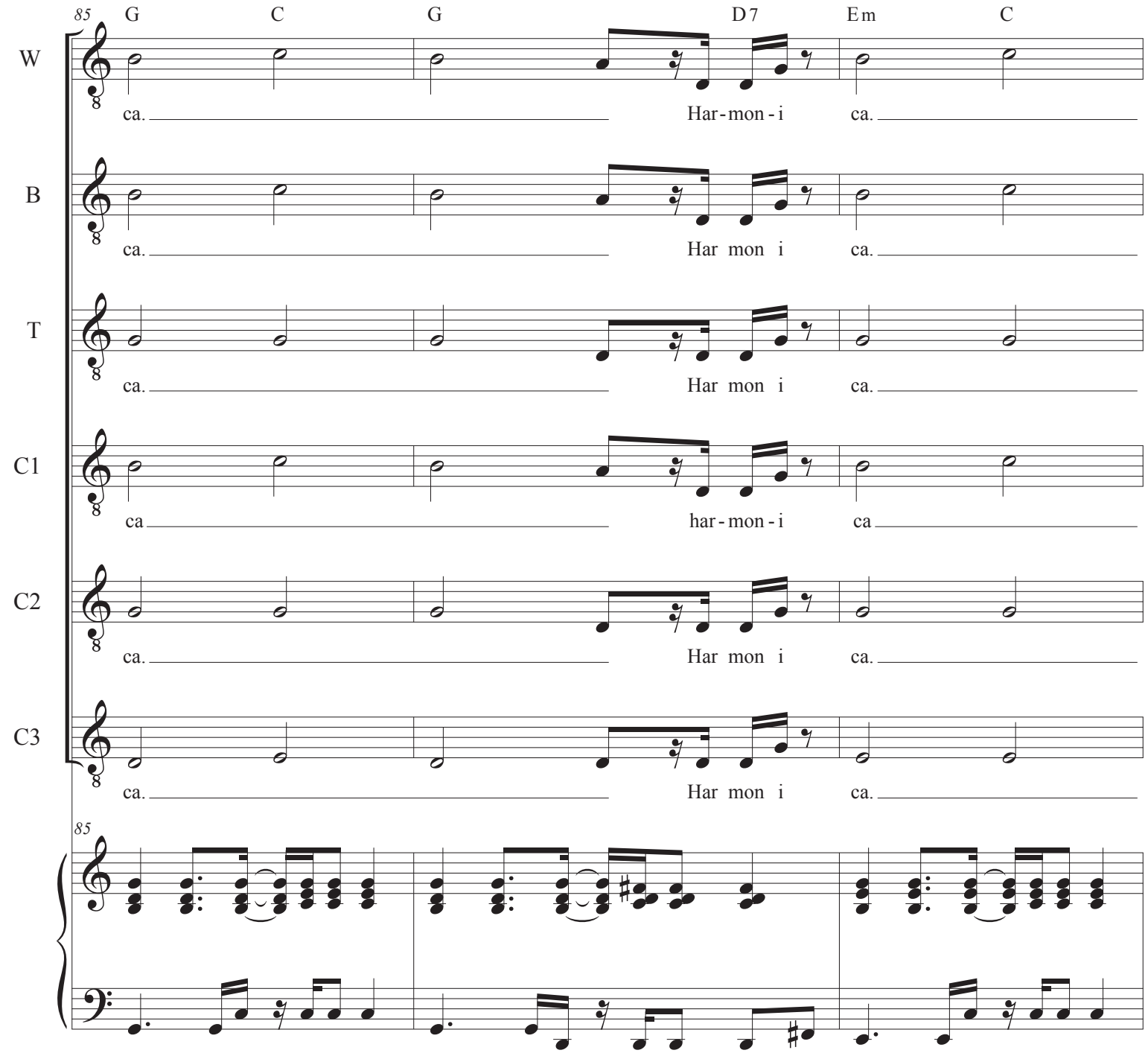

70
A G D
B A E
B A E
W
B
B A E 3
Al-vin plays, Ghan-di played Mos-es played, Moth-er Te-
C1
Har-mon-i-ca. Har-mon-i-ca. Har-mon-i-ca.
C2
Har-mon-i-ca. Har-mon-i-ca. Har-mon-i-ca.
C3
Har-mon-i-ca. Har-mon-i-ca. Har-mon-i-ca.
70
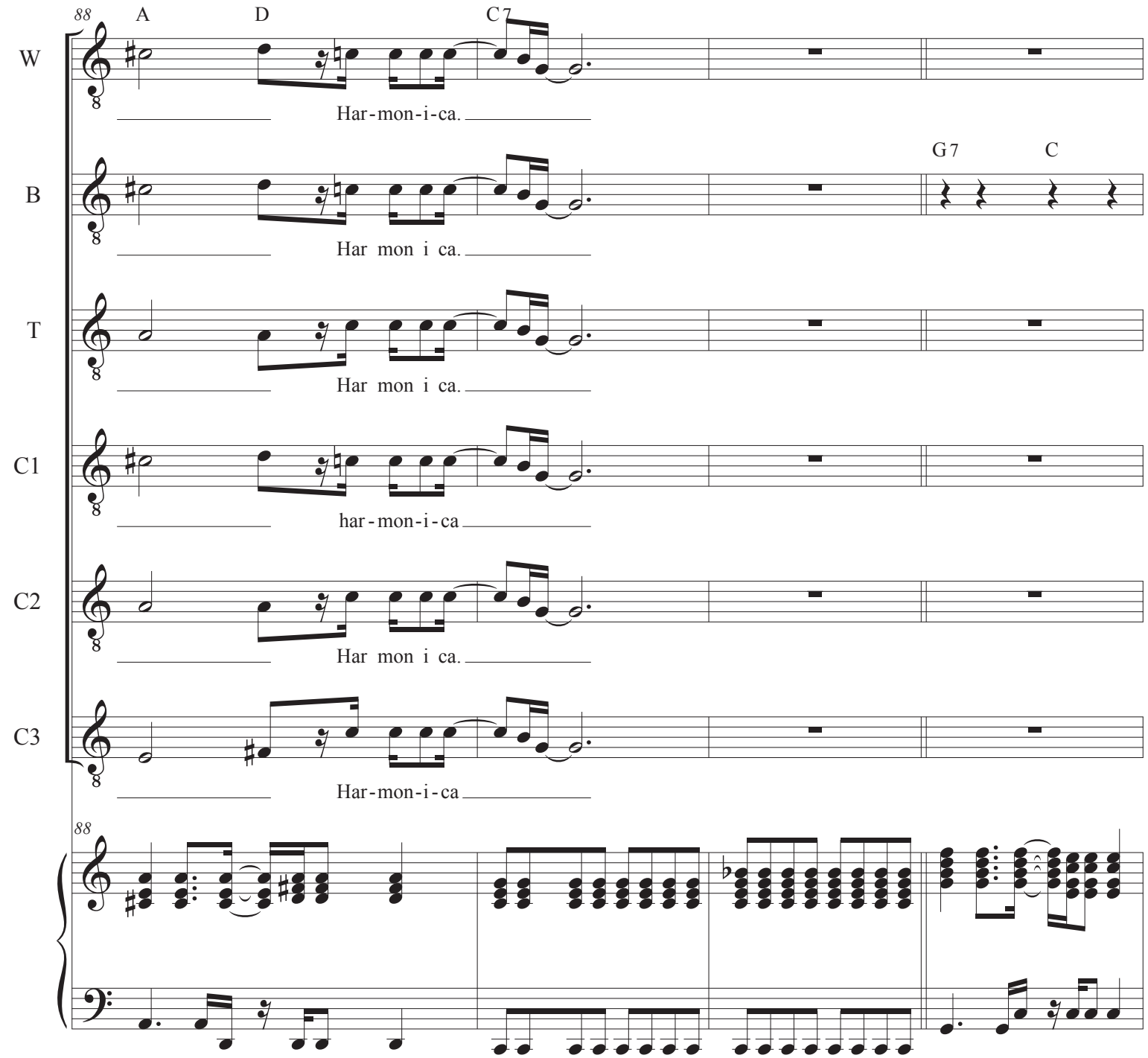

73
B A E B D7 G C
W
ca.
B A E
B
re-sa played, Ev'-ry-bo-dy plays ha-mon-i - ca.
T
ca.
C1
Har-mon-i-ca. har-mon-i ca
C2
Har-mon-i-ca. har-mon-i ca.
C3
Har-mon-i-ca. har-mon-i ca.
73

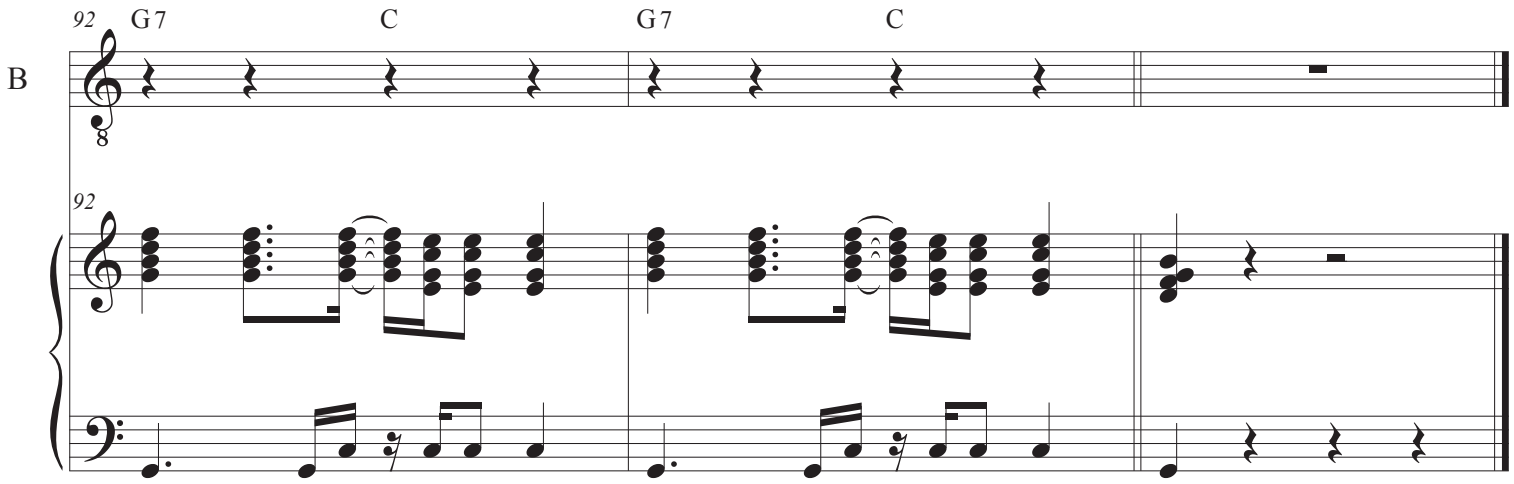

76
G
D7
G
C
G
D7
W
Har-mon-i ca. Har-mon-i
B
Har mon i ca. Har mon i
T
Har mon i ca. Har mon i
C1
har-mon-i - ca har-mon-i
C2
Har mon i ca. Har mon i
C3
Har mon i ca. Har mon i
76


79
Em
C
A
D
C7
W
ca.
Har-mon-i - ca.
B
ca.
Har mon i ca.
T
ca.
Har mon i ca.
C1
ca
har-mon-i - ca
C2
ca.
Har mon i ca.
C3
ca.
Har-mon-i - ca
79


82
D7
G
C
G
D7
W
Har-mon-i - ca.
Har-mon-i
B
Har-mon-i - ca.
Har mon i
T
Har-mon-i - ca.
Har mon i
C1
Har-mon-i - ca
har-mon-i -
C2
Har-mon-i - ca.
Har mon i
C3
Har-mon-i - ca.
Har mon i
82


85
G
C
G
D7
Em
C
W
ca.
Har-mon-i
ca.
B
ca.
Har mon i
ca.
T
ca.
Har mon i
ca.
C1
ca
har-mon-i
ca
C2
ca.
Har mon i
ca.
C3
ca.
Har mon i
ca.
85


88
A
D
C7
W
Har-mon-i-ca.
G7
C
B
Har mon i ca.
T
Har mon i ca.
C1
har-mon-i-ca
C2
Har mon i ca.
C3
Har-mon-i-ca
88


92
G 7
C
G 7
C
B
92

(As CHILDREN return to normalcy, DOUG INGLES stares in disbelief at BRUCE, TIM and WALLY.)

DOUG INGLES
Are you sure about Mother Teresa?

BRUCE
Uh, huh, yea, it was in a book I read.

SCENE 4 HAHA ELECTION

DOUG INGLES

(Regaining his composure.)
Now, we come to the moment we've all been waiting for,

(CHILDREN get all excited.)
That's right, today, you are going to elect your first Junior Head Toot.

(CHILDREN excitedly approve.)
Now, hold on a minute, let me remind you of the duties of the Junior Head Toot. He...or she...will lead all of your meetings of the Junior HAHA, AND decide which songs you will play, and, this is very important, the Junior Head Toot will decide how your membership dues will be spent.

CHILDREN
Ooooo!

(CHILDREN talk until it is quite disorderly.)

DOUG INGLES
Alright, alright...STOP! Abrupt silence. Well alright, now. We have two young men who have indicated to me that they would like to be your Junior Head Toot, but we can only have one Junior Head Toot, or else it wouldn't be called "Head" Toot...so, that means we are gonna have an election.

CHILDREN
Cool...

(Excited talking builds until again disorderly.)

DOUG INGLES

STOP!

Instant quiet.
Alright, so let's meet our first candidate, little Mikey Sessions.

(Polite applause. 8-year-old MICHAEL SESSIONS walks up and whispers in DOUG INGLES' ear.)

DOUG INGLES

(To MICHAEL.)
Oh, sure, no problem.

(To CHILDREN, correcting himself.)
Little Mikey wants us to call him Michael. Ok then, Michael...Michael Sessions.

MICHAEL

(Takes out a prepared speech.)
A public office is about trust. Vote for me and you will be able to trust me. I will make sure that our money is spent on harmonicas and harmonica accessories only, not on stuff that is not harmonica related. Thank you.

(Polite applause except MILTON, a friend of MICHAEL'S. MILTON is dressed in a suit with a vest and big black glasses. MILTON stands and applauds wildly, then collects himself and sits down. MICHAEL, slightly embarrassed, returns to his seat.)

DOUG INGLES
Thank you Mikey. Now, it's time to hear from our other candidate, your friend, and my son...Chip "Chipper" Ingles!

(DOUG INGLES leads the applause is a very energetic way. Big applause from CHILDREN. CHIPPER INGLES walks up to the podium as a conquering hero. CHIPPER is very together in a small town kind of way. He is wearing a baseball hat and a button that both say, "CHIPPER 1996." The applause continues.)

CHIPPER

Alright...STOP!

(Total silence.)

First, I would like to thank Mikey for the good speech. It was good. But, I don't know about you, but I don't think he is right. If I am elected, I will have ice cream at every meeting, and we will go roller-skating once a month!

(Wild applause, except from MICHAEL, MILTON and HARPO and. HARPO is sitting near the back. HARPO just kinda sits there with his hand cupped around his harmonica in the style of a blues performer.)

Alright, alright...

(But this time CHIPPER doesn't stop the applause, he encourages it. MICHAEL gets up and moves dejectedly to the edge of the stage, followed by MILTON, who is constantly pushing his glasses up.)

MICHAEL

(Dejectedly.)

Ice cream and roller-skating...

SCENE 5

MILTON

(Comforting.)

Your attempt to stabilize the economic status of Junior HAHA was noble but almost certainly futile given the electorate's predilection for material goods.

(MICHAEL looks confused.)

You can't beat ice cream and roller skates.

MICHAEL

I know. I just wanted to...

MILTON

...wanted to what? Win? Why was it so important for you to win?

(In the background, DOUG INGLES is counting the votes, however, it is clear that CHIPPER will win. CHILDREN stay on stage.)

ACT I SCENE 5 UNBELIEVABLE

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL gets up and walks to stage left. There he sees his father SCOTT SESSIONS. A TV is on in front of them with sound from the Whitewater investigation of 1994.)

When I was a little kid, my dad and I would sit down and watch the news, every night. And there would always be something for us to talk about...

SCOTT SESSIONS

... look at that Mikey, un-be-liev-a-ble, an army of police cars and helicopters can't stop one white Ford Bronco? Un-be-liev-a-ble.

MICHAEL

...or...

SCOTT SESSIONS

... look at that Mikey, it's un-be-liev-a-ble...this ice skater Tanya arranges for this other ice skater Nancy to get her knees broken, un-be-liev-a-ble.

MICHAEL

One night we're watching the news, and it's all about something called "Whitewater"...and my Dad gets more upset than ever.

SCOTT SESSIONS

... it's un-be-lie-v-able. Do you know what the United States needs more than anything? What we need are honest politicians. We need honest politicians. Un-be-liev-a-ble.

MICHAEL

Honest politicians. I made up my mind, right then and there, to be an honest politician.

MILTON

Cheer up, there will be other elections.

(SCOTT SESSIONS leaves SL. MILTON, HARPO and MICHAEL get back up and rejoin the Junior HAHA meeting.)

DOUG INGLES
...and the final tally is... little Mikey Sessions 2 votes...Chip "Chipper" Ingles 12 votes the winner, and new Junior Head Toot...is Chip "Chipper" Ingles!

(Applause and harmonica playing.)

CHILDREN
Speech!

CHIPPER
Alright, alright...STOP! Alright everyone, let's all go down to my dad's roller skating rink. Ice cream for everyone.

SEYMORE
Everyone?

CHIPPER

(Looks at DOUG, gets an approval, then says...)
Everyone.

MICHAEL

(CHILDREN, DOUG INGLES, and CHIPPER leave. MILTON starts to leave when MICHAEL speaks to him.)

(To MILTON.)
Thanks Milton for believing in me.

(Counting himself and MILTON.)
3 votes...I wonder who else voted for me?

MILTON
Believing in you? Sorry, but I didn't vote for you...you know, ice cream, for everyone!

MICHAEL
If you didn't vote for me...

(MICHAEL looks around for who may have voted for him. The only other people there are HARPO, who is playing the blues on the harmonica. MICHAEL is intrigued, and approaches HARPO.)

ACT I SCENE 6 THE BLUES

MICHAEL
How do you do that?

HARPO

(Without looking up.)
How do I do what?

MICHAEL
That's not Hot Crossed Buns.

HARPO
Nope...No, no, no, it's definitely not Hot Crossed Buns.

(Long pause.)
Nope, it's the blues.

(Continues to play.MILTON comes over.)

MICHAEL
Mr. Ingles never taught us the blues.

HARPO
'Cause Dingles never had the blues.

MILTON
And you have...uh, had the blues.

(HARPO dismisses MILTON with a glance.)

HARPO

(To MICHAEL.)
What's your handle?

(MICHAEL is confused by the question.)

HARPO
What's your name?

MICHAEL
Mikey...Michael.

HARPO
Listen here Michael, if you wanna play the blues, you gotta pay your dues...

(MILTON interrupting by singing.)

MILTON
...and you know it don't come easy! That's a Ringo Starr song! I love Ringo Starr! Do you love Ringo too? My parents play Ringo Starr every night when I go to bed?

(MILTON sings song in very light-hearted way, until HARPO freezes him with a stare.)

MICHAEL
What does that mean? What do you mean, "you gotta pay your dues?"

HARPO
It means you gotta have the blues to play the blues. Something has to be terribly wrong in your life.

MICHAEL
Like what?

HARPO
Like, your dog died...

HARPO
...or your cat died...

MILTON
...or somebody stole your Pokemon Cards.

MICHAEL
I just got creamed in an election; my best friend didn't even vote for me, I can't play this useless instrument...

HARPO
...nah, minor stuff, not good enough, not worthy of the blues.

Harpo sings: **5. No Right To Sing The Blues**

HARPO
YOU TELL ME YOUR NOSE IS BLOODIED
AND YOUR SHINS ARE A LITTLE BRUISED
YOUR PANTS ARE A LITTLE MUDDIED
AND THERE'S DOG POOP ON YOUR SHOES

YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT, NO, YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT
THOUGH EVERY THING YOU'RE SAYING MAY BE THE GOSPEL
TRUTH YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT, NO RIGHT TO SING THE
BLUES

ONE DAY YOU WILL GET IT, ONE DAY YOU'LL READ THE NEWS
ONE DAY YOU'LL COME TO REALIZE THAT YOU WERE BORN TO LOSE
THEN ON THAT DAY WHEN YOU'RE SITTING THERE
NURSING YOUR BOO-BOO'S
YOU'LL REALIZE YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT,
THE RIGHT TO SING THE BLUES
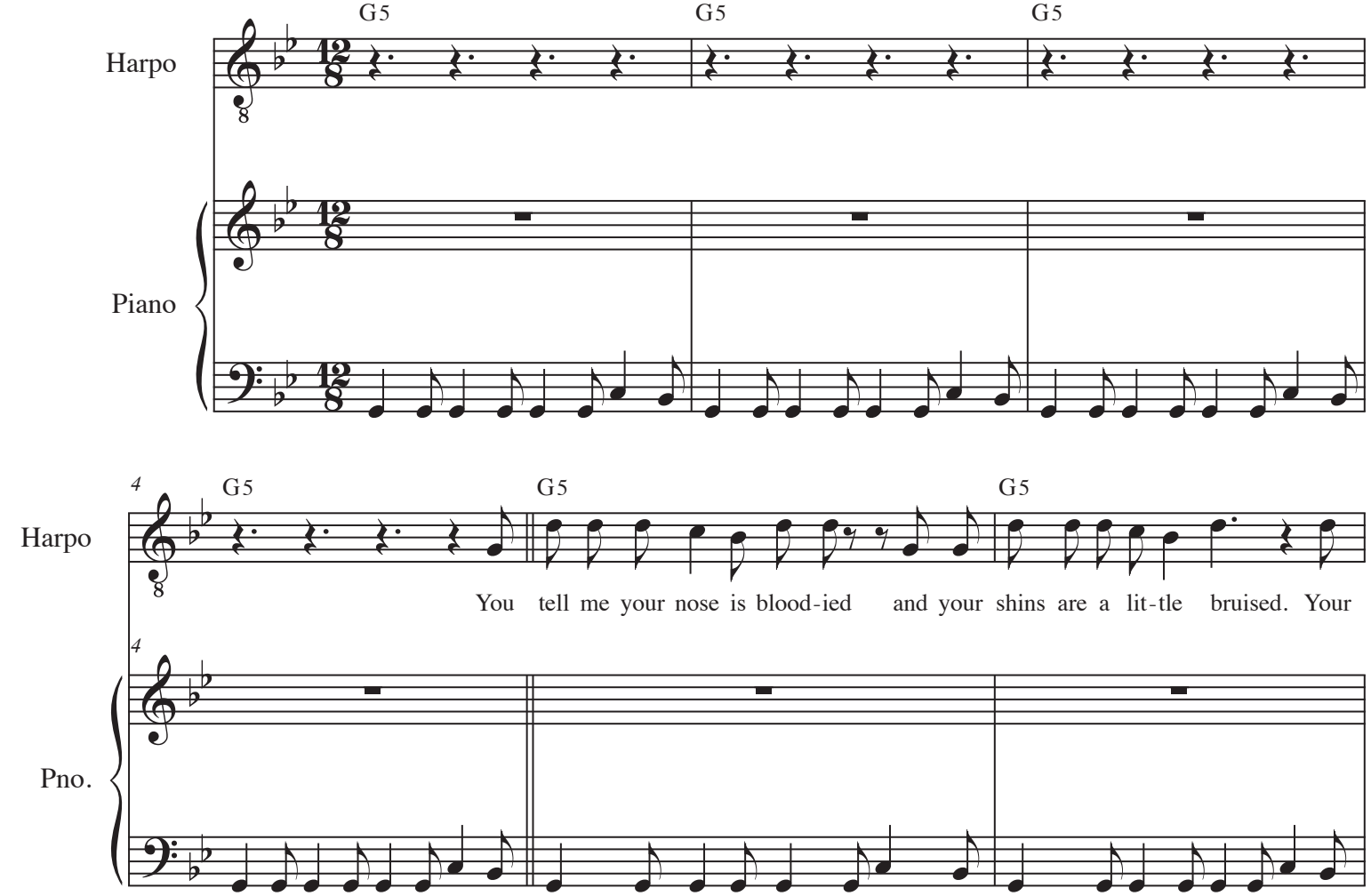
YOU'LL HAVE THE RIGHT YES YOU'LL HAVE THE RIGHT
THEN YOU'LL KNOW THAT WHAT I'M SAYING IS THE GOSPEL
TRUTH TILL THEN YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT,
NO RIGHT TO SING THE BLUES

12. No Right To Sing The Blues
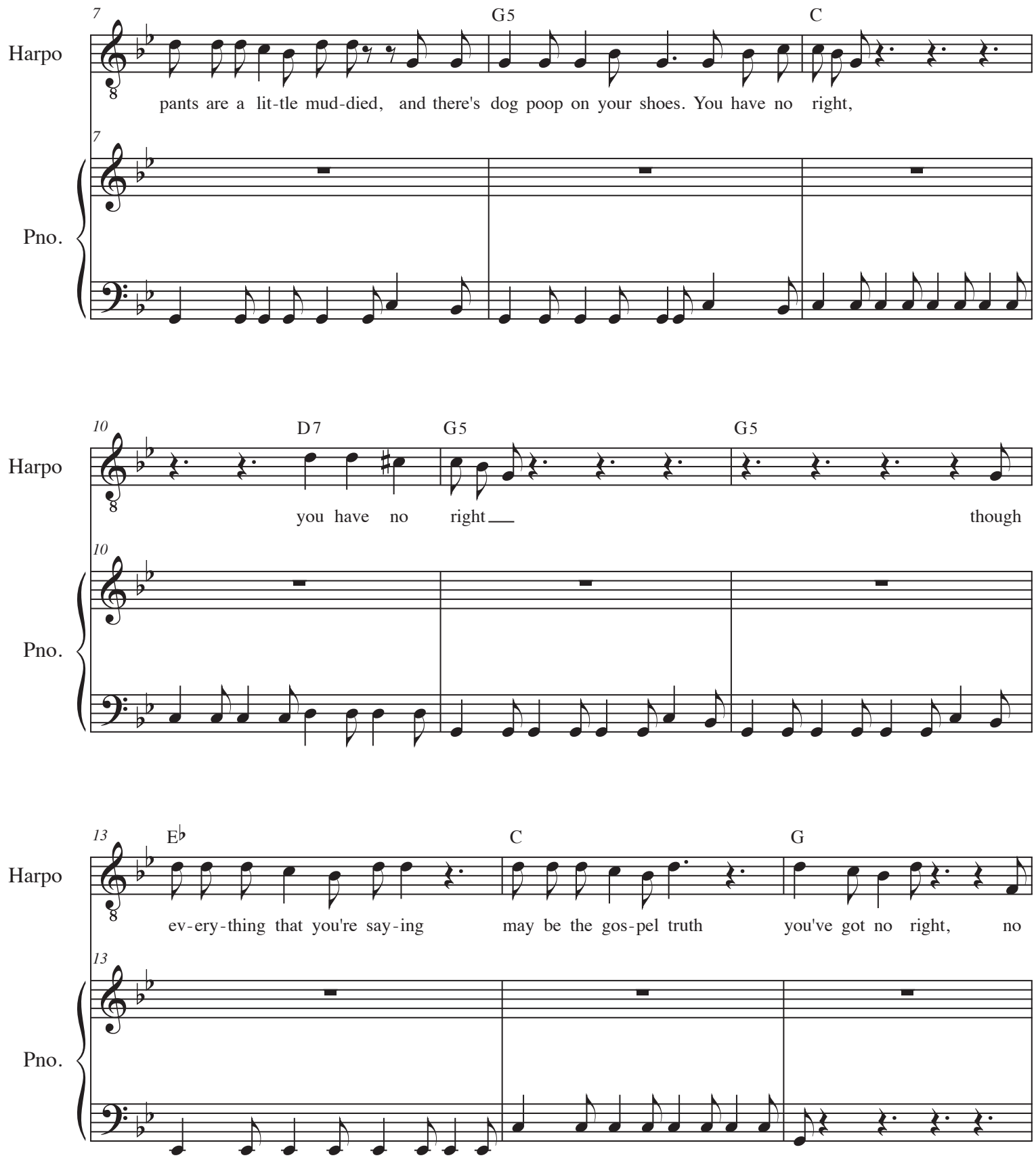
Hillsdale Blues
Piano/Vocal
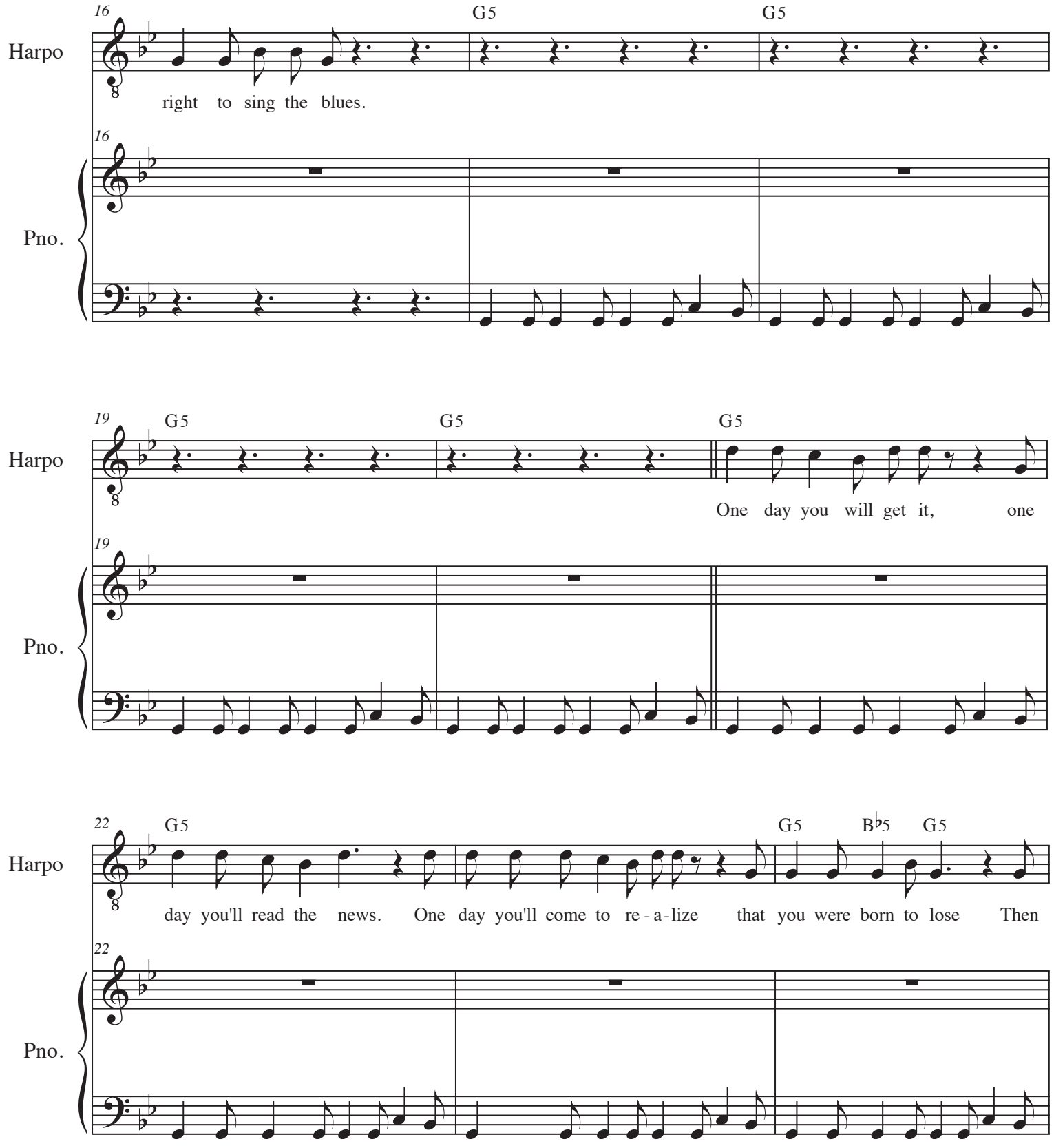
(Harpo)
Rev. 4/10/25
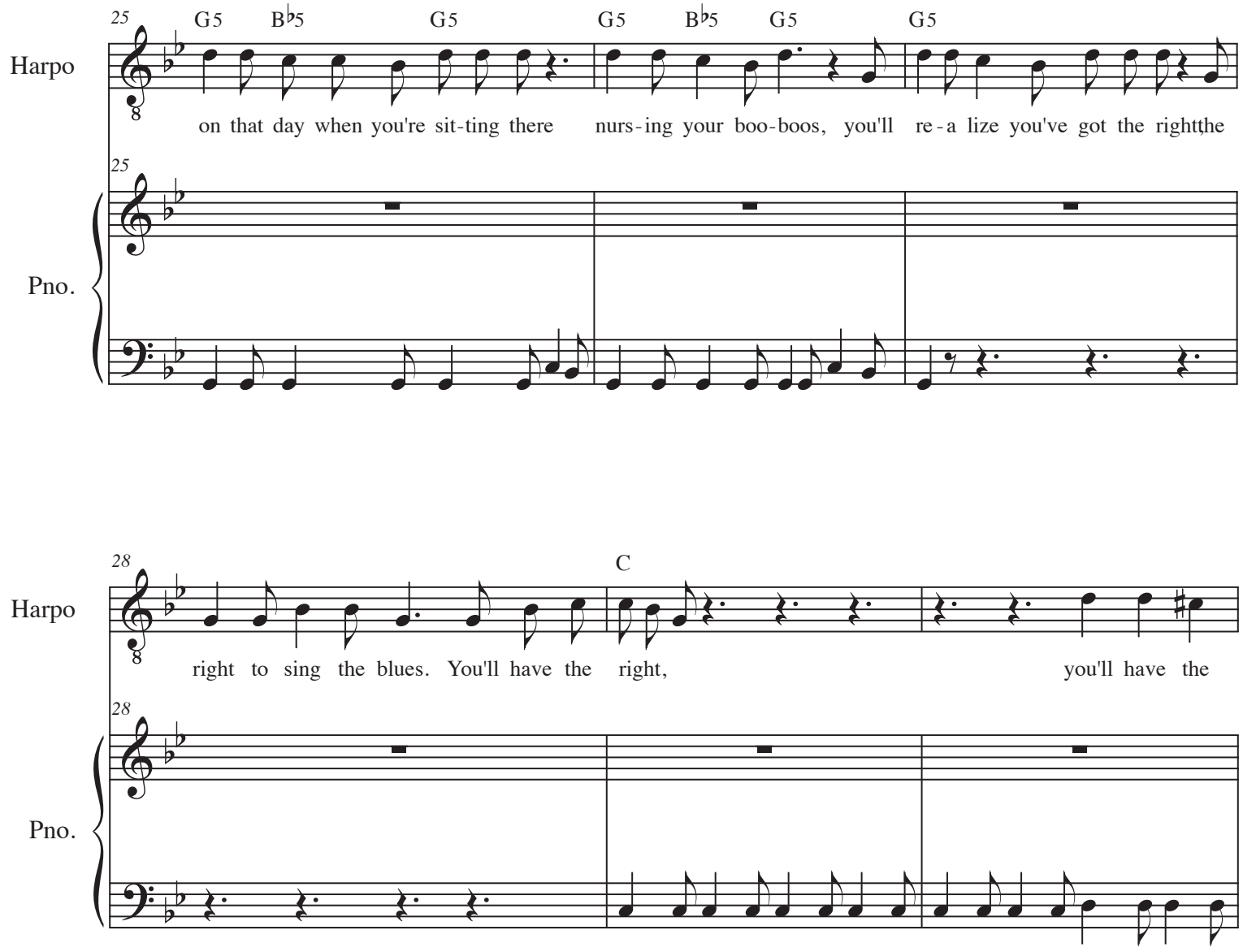
music by Sean P. Breen
lyrics by Sean P. Breen
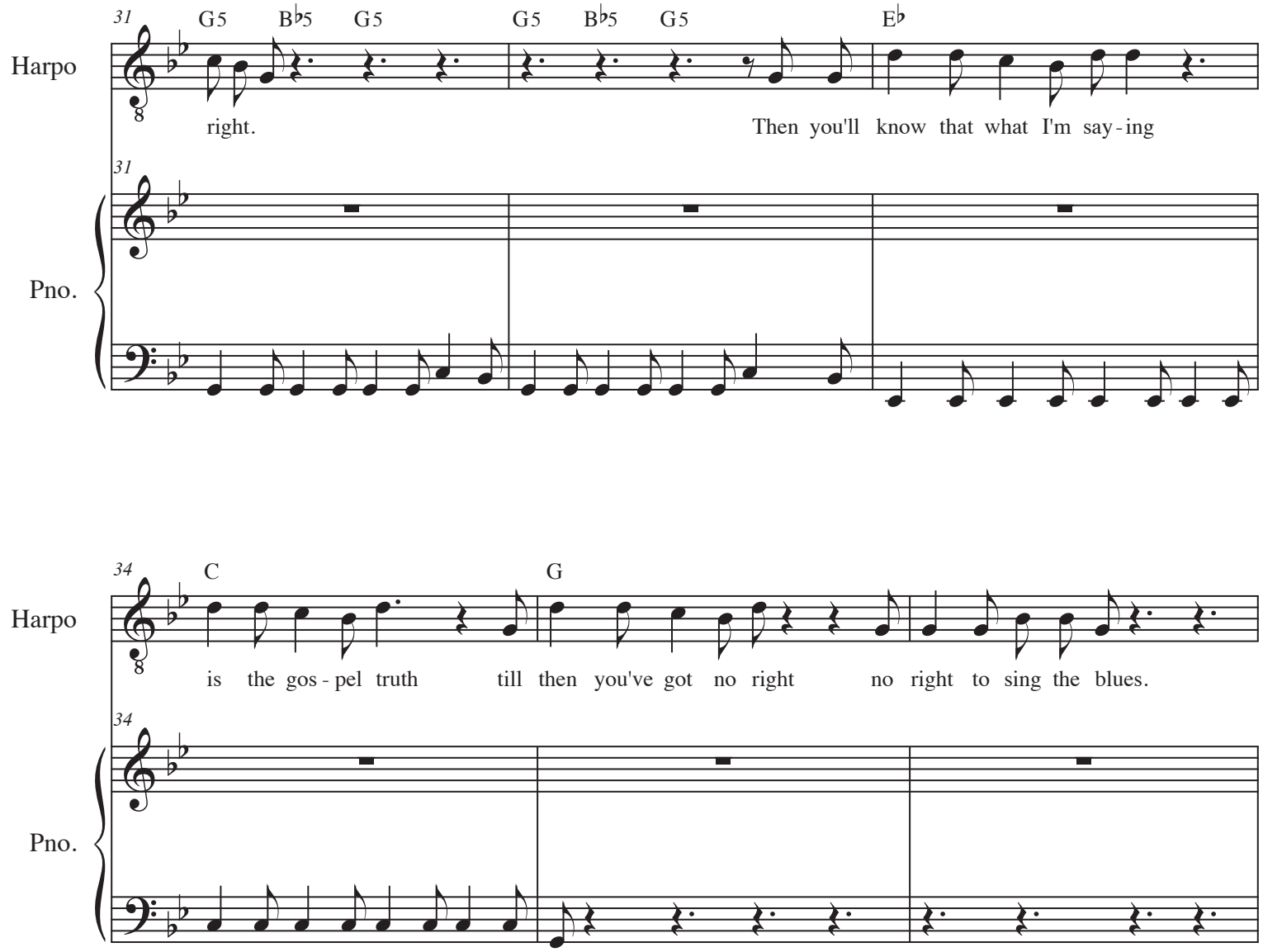


5. No Right To Sing The Blues
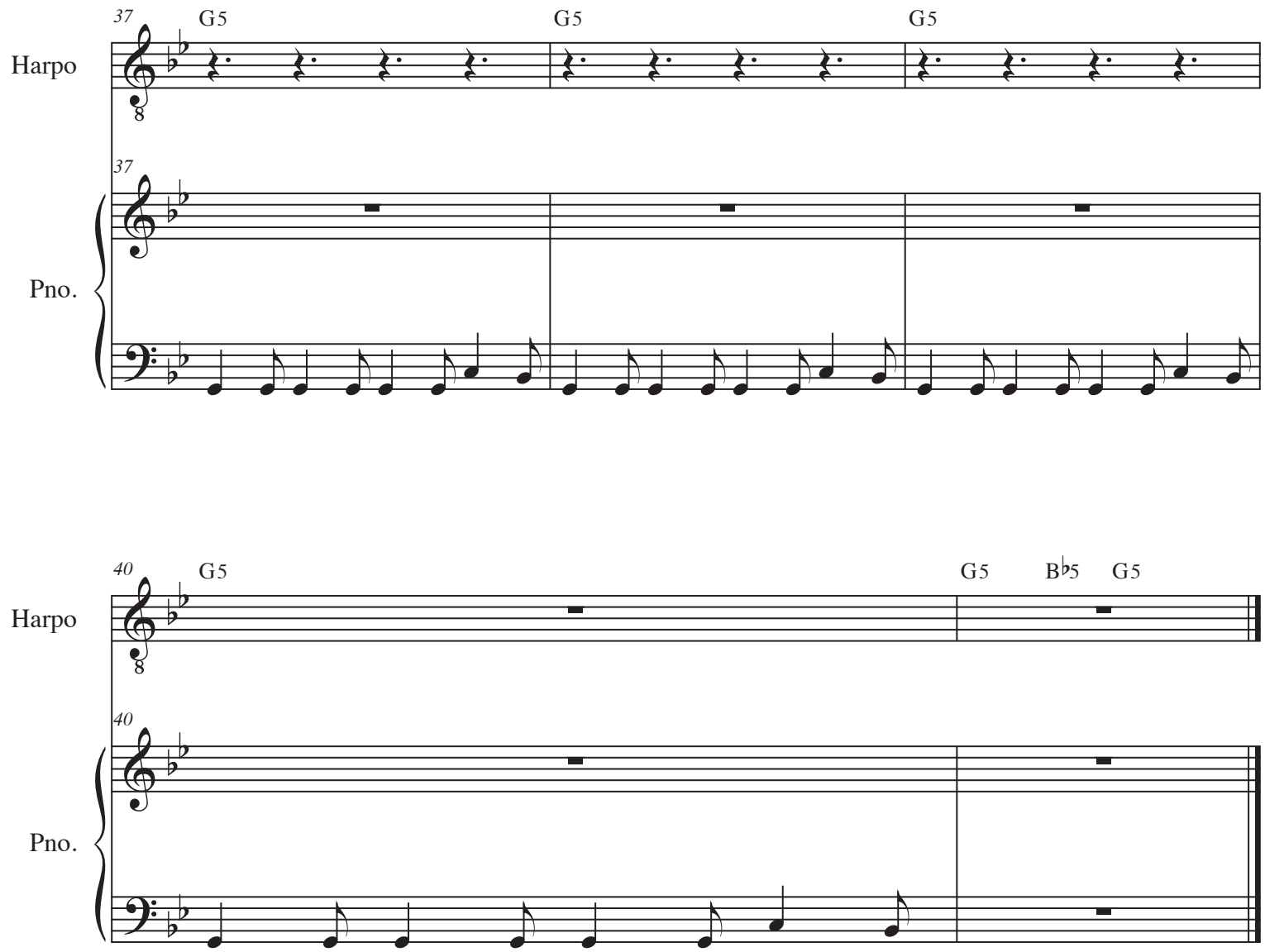



16
G5
G5
Harpo
right to sing the blues.
16
Pno.
19
G5
G5
G5
Harpo
One day you will get it, one
19
Pno.
22
G5
G5
B♭5
G5
Harpo
day you'll read the news. One day you'll come to re-a-lize that you were born to lose Then
22
Pno.


25
G5
B♭5
G5
G5
B♭5
G5
G5
Harpo
on that day when you're sit-ting there nurs-ing your boo-boos, you'll re-a lize you've got the rightthe
Pno.

28
C
Harpo
right to sing the blues. You'll have the right, you'll have the
Pno.


31
G5 B♭5 G5 G5 B♭5 G5 E♭
Harpo
right. Then you'll know that what I'm say-ing
Pno.
34
C G
Harpo
is the gos-pel truth till then you've got no right no right to sing the blues.
Pno.

5. No Right To Sing The Blues



MILTON
So he has no right to play the blues?

HARPO
Nope...

MICHAEL
...does it count if the one girl I really like doesn't even know I exist?

(HARPO ponders.)

HARPO
Yea, that counts, a girl doesn't even know you exist...that's definitely got blues potential.

MILTON
Wait a minute...you like a girl? You didn't tell me. Who? Who is it? Is it Jamie with the braces? Oh, it's Audrey the brain, isn't it? Oh, no, no, no...it's not my sister Maxine.

MICHAEL
No, no, and definitely no.

MILTON
Whew...then who?

MICHAEL
...Monica

MILTON
Monica? Oh, Monica.

(With a shake of his head and a little knowing laugh.)
Monica...

MICHAEL

(Getting defensive.)
What's wrong with Monica?

MILTON
Oh, nothing, I just thought it was kind of a weird coincidence, you know her name is Monica, and you play the har-monica, it's weird, don't you think?

MICHAEL
You're weird.

HARPO
Bottom line, even if this Monica is blues worthy, we can't teach you how to play the blues...you'll learn that for your self.

(After a long pause.

MILTON

(To HARPO and MICHAEL.)
Wanna go get some ice cream? It's free!?

MICHAEL
Go ahead I'll catch up.

(HARPO and MILTON exit to the right, while MICHAEL plays on his harmonica.)

MICHAEL sings: **5. MONICA**

YOU LOOKED SO PRETTY THE MOMENT WE MET
FIRST DAY OF NURSERY SCHOOL
WITH YOUR POKEMON LUNCH BOX I'LL NEVER FORGET
THE FEELING I GOT FROM YOU

MONICA, MONICA WHAT CAN I DO,
TO MAKE YOU SEE THAT I'M HERE?
MONICA, MONICA THIS MUCH IS TRUE
I'LL DANCE WITH YOU SOMEDAY

(LIGHTS OUT.)

Hillsdale Blues
Harmonica

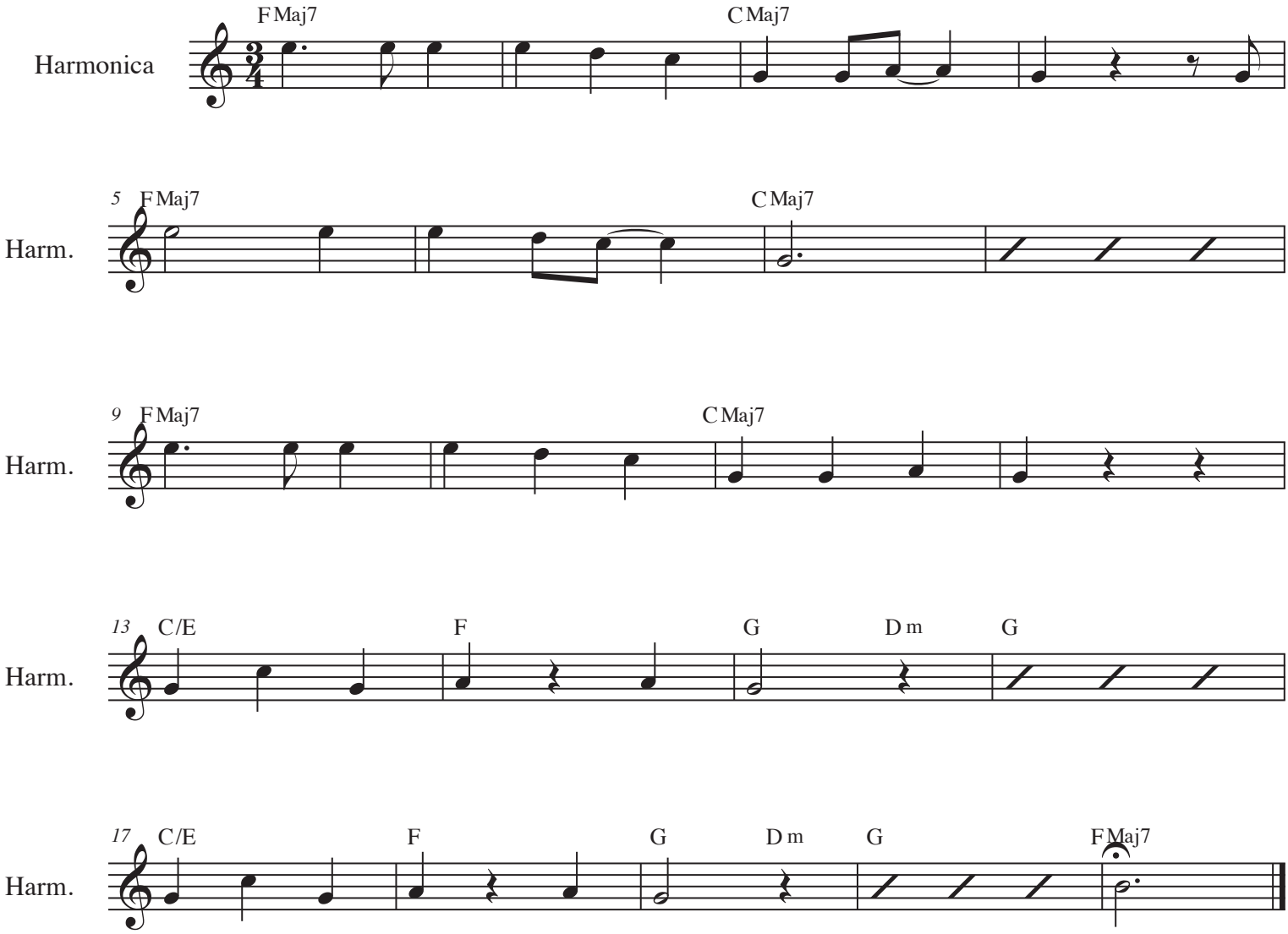
8. Monica Reprise

(Instrumental)

Rev. 9/24/24

music by Sean P. Breen
lyrics by Sean P. Breen

Cue: MICHAEL: Well, I got a few more votes than I did before.
MILTON: A few more.



ACT 1 SCENE 7 ELECTION DAY PART 2

(LIGHTS ON. ST is back to town square. Back in 2005 at the gymnasium with the REPORTERS and TOWNS PEOPLE. MICHAEL is now back at the podium, still holding the harmonica.)

NARRATOR
Now we're back to 2005. Michael has explained how he got started in politics. Reporters being how they are, want to know more...

MICHAEL
...and for a while, I thought I'd never run for public office ever again.

REPORTER #1
But you did...didn't you. You ran for public office again, didn't you??

MICHAEL

(Quietly, a little embarrassed.)
Yes.

REPORTER #2
Would you care to elaborate?

MICHAEL
Sure...Yes...In High School...In High School I ran for Student Council President.

ACT 1 SCENE 8 HIGH SCHOOL ELECTION

(The stage is changed into a site for a debate by the two candidates for Student Council President. There are many signs for Chipper "Chip" Ingles, and none for Michael Sessions.)

NARRATOR
Welcome to Hillsdale High School, home of the Hillsdale Hornets. 584 students who are about to become the next chapter in Michael Session's story.

(The gym is full of high school students.

There is a podium with an American flag and the flag of Michigan. There are also three chairs, one for each candidate and one for the faculty moderator MR. MORSE. There is plenty of exuberant noise in the gym as MR. MORSE attempts to get them quiet. MICHAEL, HARPO, and MILTON are off to one side.)

MR. MORSE
Welcome fine young students of Hillsdale High School! Welcome to our 2005 Student Council Debate. We are so fortunate to have with us not one, but two candidates for the office of Student Council President. Today, each candidate will share with you his or her vision for the school. Your job is to carefully weigh what each candidate has to offer. Then, armed with this knowledge, vote for the candidate you feel is most qualified to lead the school.

MICHAEL

(While MILTON straightens MICHAEL'S tie.)

MICHAEL
Have you seen her? Is she here?

MILTON
She's here. Hold still.

MICHAEL
Where is she?

MILTON

(Without even looking and still fumbling with MICHAEL'S tie.)
She's over there.

MICHAEL
Where?

HARPO
For a girl. That's why you're doing this. You're running for Student Council President. For a girl.

SLIM
You should be ashamed of yourself.

MICHAEL
No...Maybe...No! I'm running because I can't stand the thought of Chip "Chipper" Ingles becoming Student Council President.

MILTON
Are you sure?

MICHAEL
Don't you remember how he ruined the harmonica club? How he spent all the money on ice cream and Pokemon cards? I can't let that happen again. If he becomes Student Council President, he'll ruin everything, and we'll never have enough money for the Senior Trip.

MR. MORSE
All right young people, give a warm welcome to our first candidate, Michael Sessions.

MILTON
I wrote a speech for you.

(Gives MICHAEL a speech 10 pages long. MICHAEL approaches the podium, shakes the hand of MR. MORSE. There is a polite smattering of applause.)

MICHAEL
Principal Askin, Mr. Morse, faculty and students. My name is Michael Sessions and I want to be your next Student Council President. If you elect me I will make sure that our money is spent wisely and prudently. I will not waste it on things we don't need. I will make sure that we will have enough money at the end of the year for our Senior Trip, even if it means ending the free ice cream Fridays and the roller skating parties...and...and. That's what I would do. Vote for me. Thank You.

(Very little applause while MICHAEL walks back to the side. MR. MORSE walks back to the podium.)

MR. MORSE
Well said Michael, well said. Now for our next candidate...

(MR. MORSE continues while attention shifts to the other side of the stage where CHIPPER is having his tie straightened by his dad.)

DOUG INGLES
...and remember, we gotta win this election. Right? Those ice cream Fridays and roller skating parties are an important source of income. Right Chipper?

CHIPPER
Right Dad!

DOUG INGLES
Now, remember what you're gonna say?

CHIPPER
I sure do. I promise them anything and everything.

CHIPPER AND DOUG sing: **7. ICE CREAM AND ROLLER SKATES**

DOUG INGLES
WHEN RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE
THERE ARE A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW
LIKE WHAT THE PUBLIC CARES ABOUT
AND WHO IS FRIEND OR FOE

BUT AT THE END OF ANY DAY
THERE'S ONE THING TO KEEP IN MIND
WHEN THERE'S VERY LITTLE GOLD OUT THERE
PROMISE THEM THE MINE

PROMISE ICE CREAM AND ROLLER SKATES MY BOY
IT'S THE STRATEGY THAT I ALWAYS EMPLOY
DON'T THINK ABOUT WHAT IT WILL COST
BY THEN THE RACE IS WON OR LOST
ICE CREAM AND ROLLER SKATES MY BOY

IMAGINE A MAYOR WHO'S BEEN A LITTLE NAUGHTY
AND THE PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S WHAT
WHEN HE REALIZES HE WILL SOON BE CAUGHT,
HE NEEDS TO GET THE PEOPLE OFF HIS BUTT

CHIPPER
HE SHOULD TAKE THE STAND AND CROSS HIS HEART TO DIE
IT MATTERS NOT THAT WHAT HE SAYS IS A GREAT BIG LIE
HE SHOULD PROMISE....

DOUG INGLES

ICE CREAM AND ROLLER SKATES MY BOY
IT'S THE STRATEGY THAT I ALWAYS EMPLOY

CHIPPER
WHICH CANDIDATE HAS TOLD THE TRUTH
IS NOT AN ISSUE IN THE VOTING BOOTH

DOUG INGLES
ICE CREAM AND ROLLER SKATES MY BOY

CHIPPER
WHEN THE CITIZENS ARE WISE TO YOUR INDISCRETIONS
AND THEY'RE CALLING FOR YOUR HEAD UPON A PLATE
IS IT TIME TO OWN UP TO YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS
AND ALLOW THE JURY TO DECIDE YOUR FATE?

THANKS TO YOU I KNOW JUST WHAT I'D DO
TO ENSURE A STEADY FLOW OF REVENUE

DOUG INGLES
ICE CREAM AND ROLLER SKATES MY BOY

DOUG AND CHIPPER

IT'S THE STRATEGY THAT WE ALWAYS EMPLOY
IT MAKES A HAPPY FAMILY WHEN
FATHER AND SON CAN BOTH AGREE
ICE CREAM AND ROLLER SKATES MY BOY

music by Sean P. Breen
lyrics by Sean P. Breen
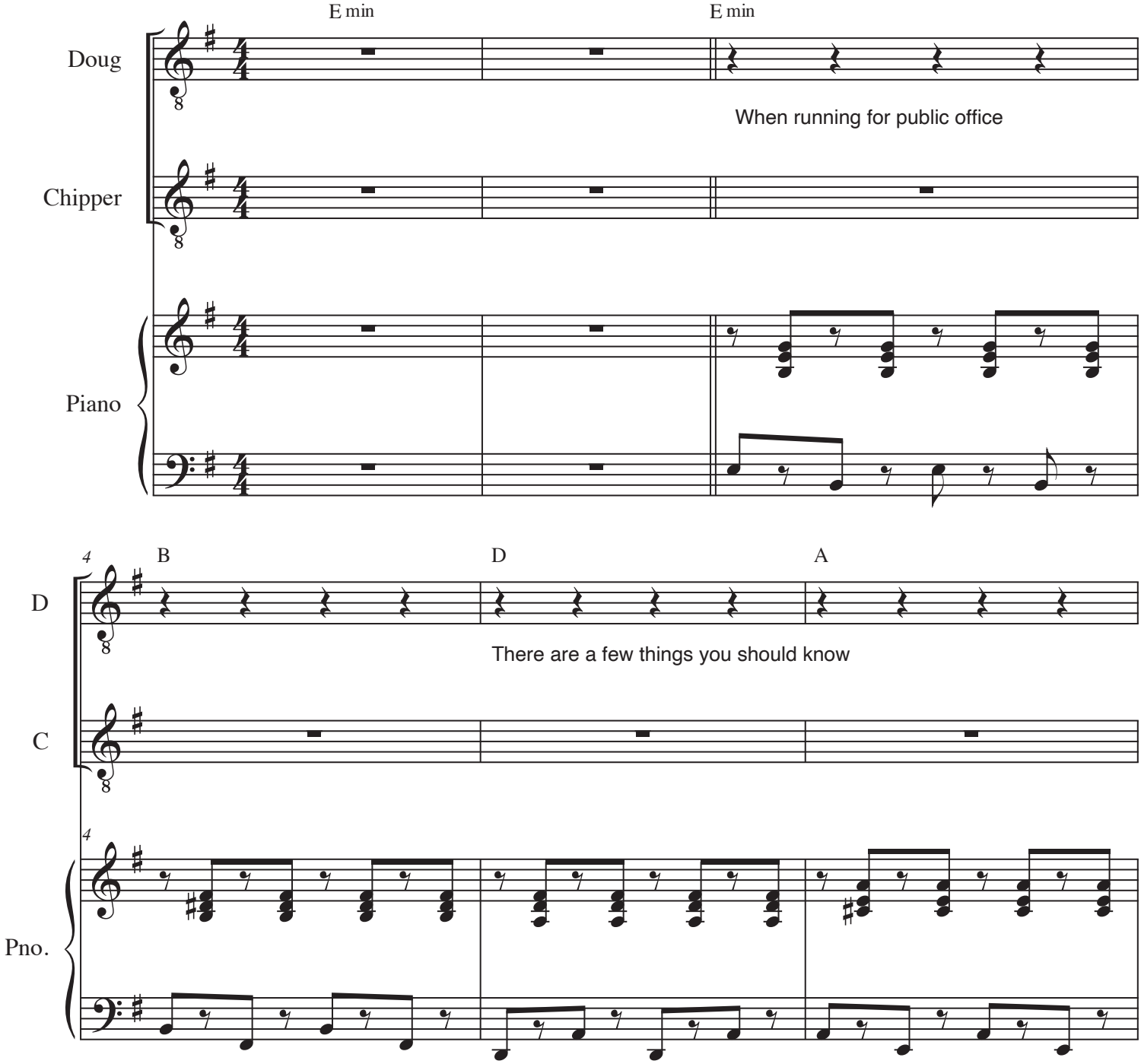
7. Ice Cream and Roller Skates

(Doug/Chipper)
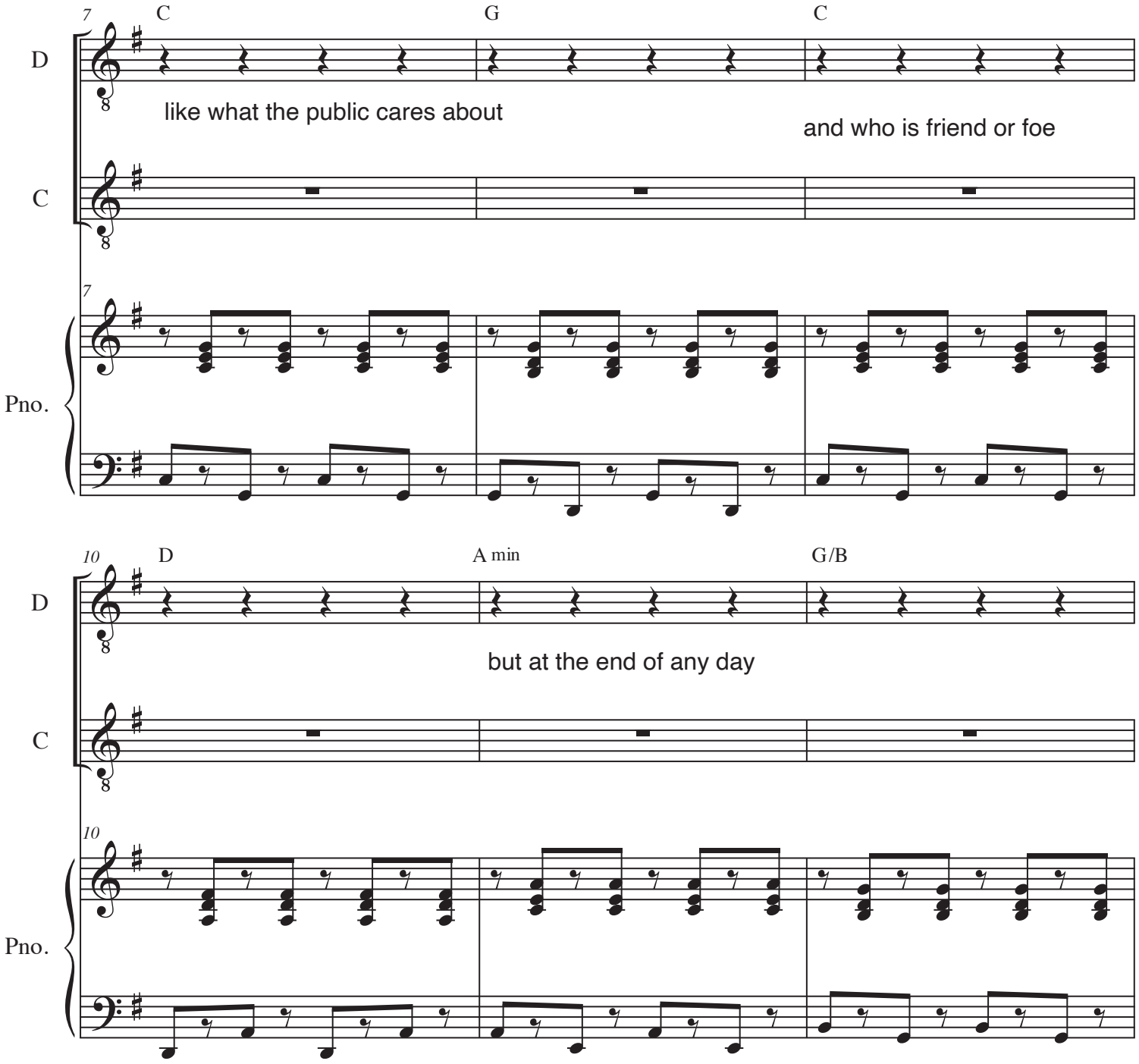
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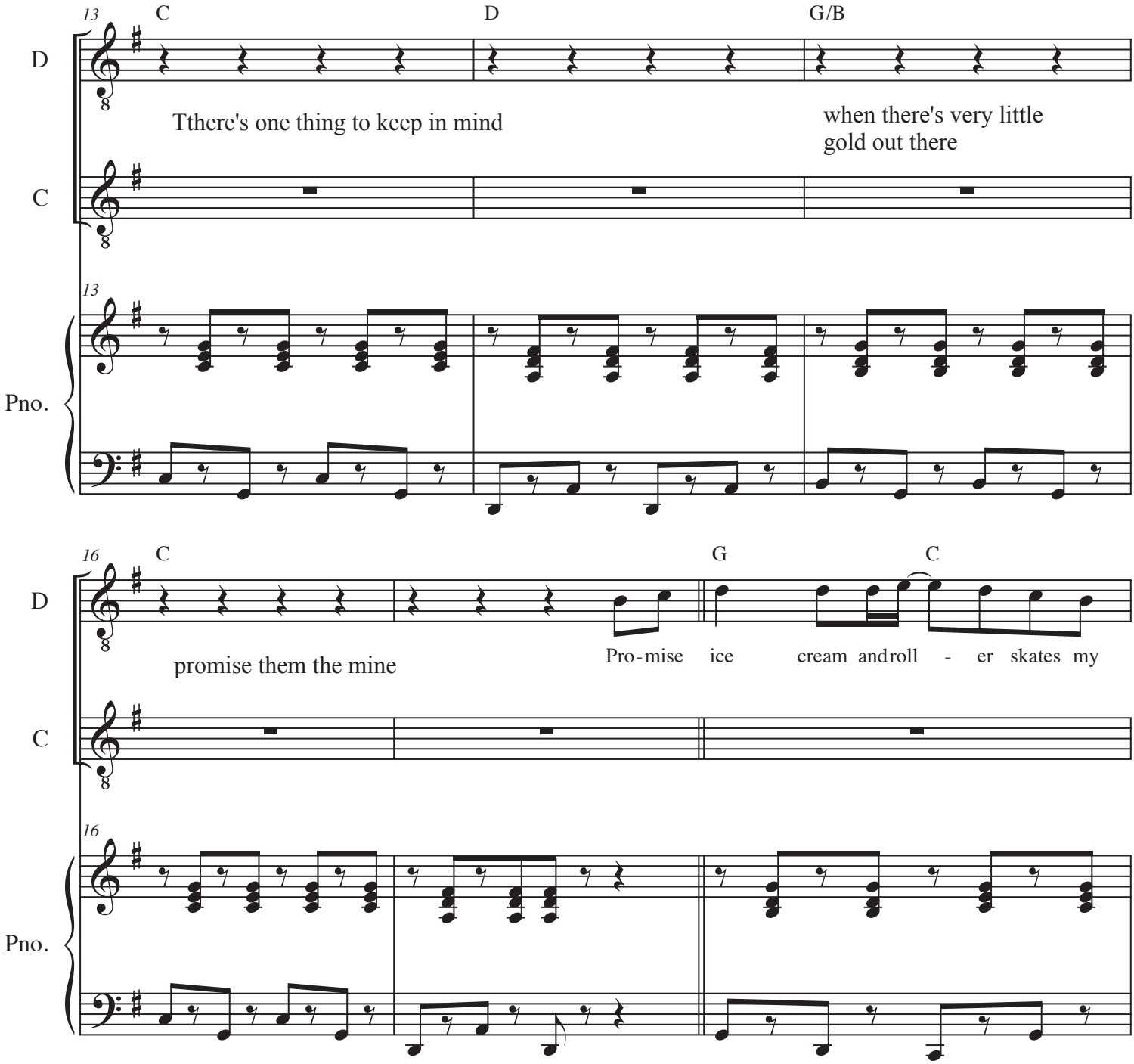
Cue: DOUG: Now, remember what you're gonna say?

CHIPPER: I sure do. Promise them anything and everything.

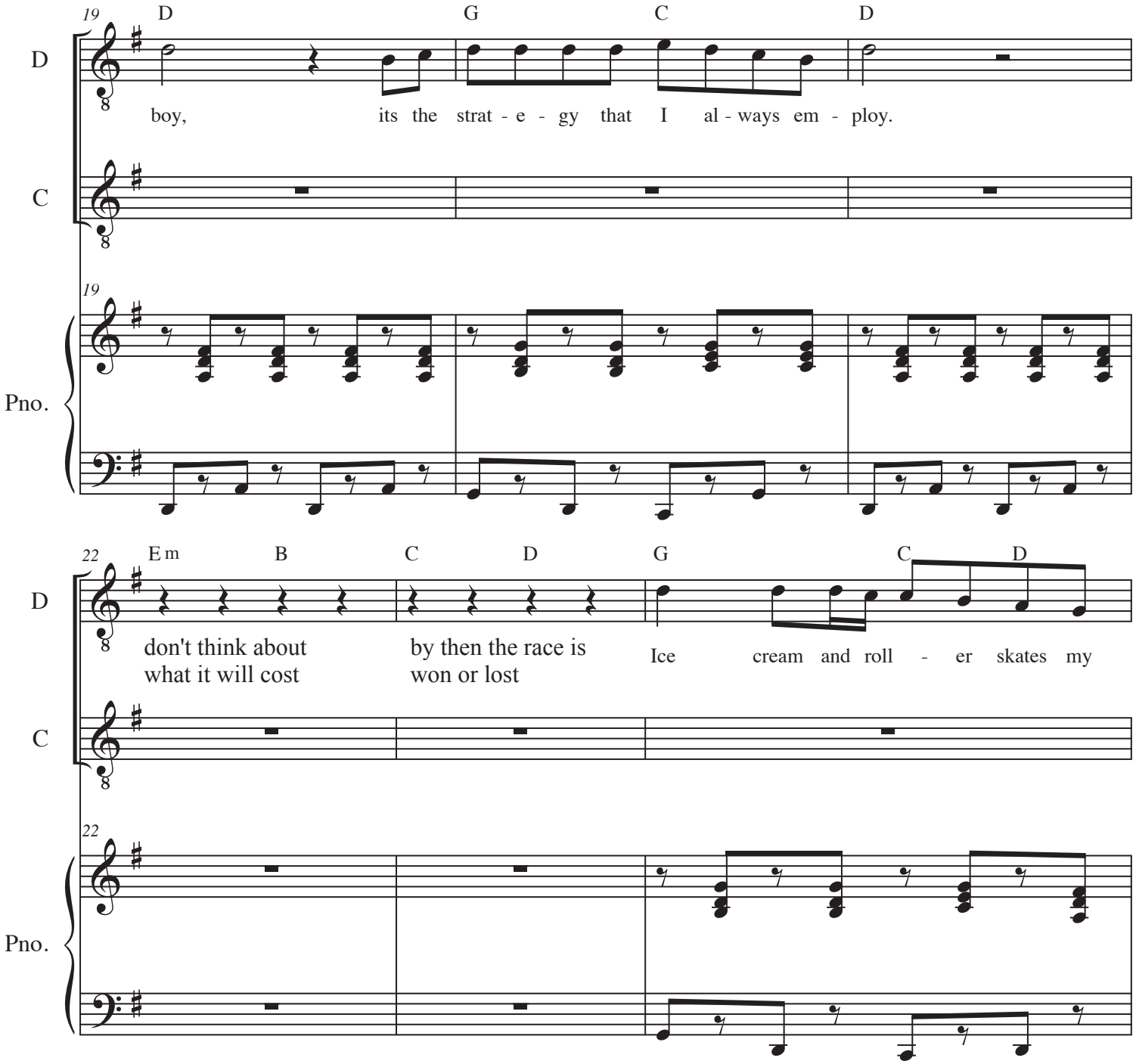


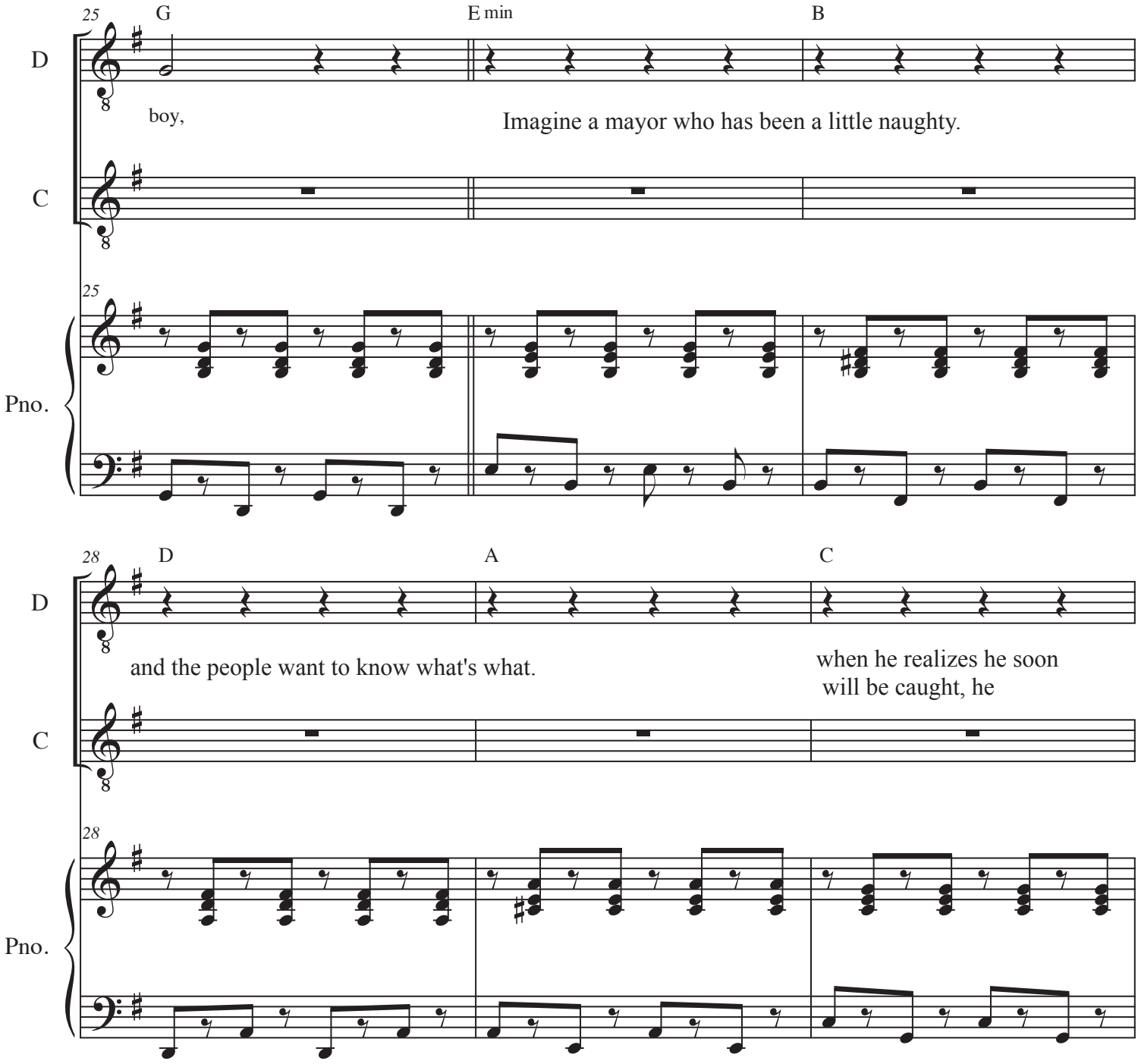
7 Ice Cream and Roller Skates
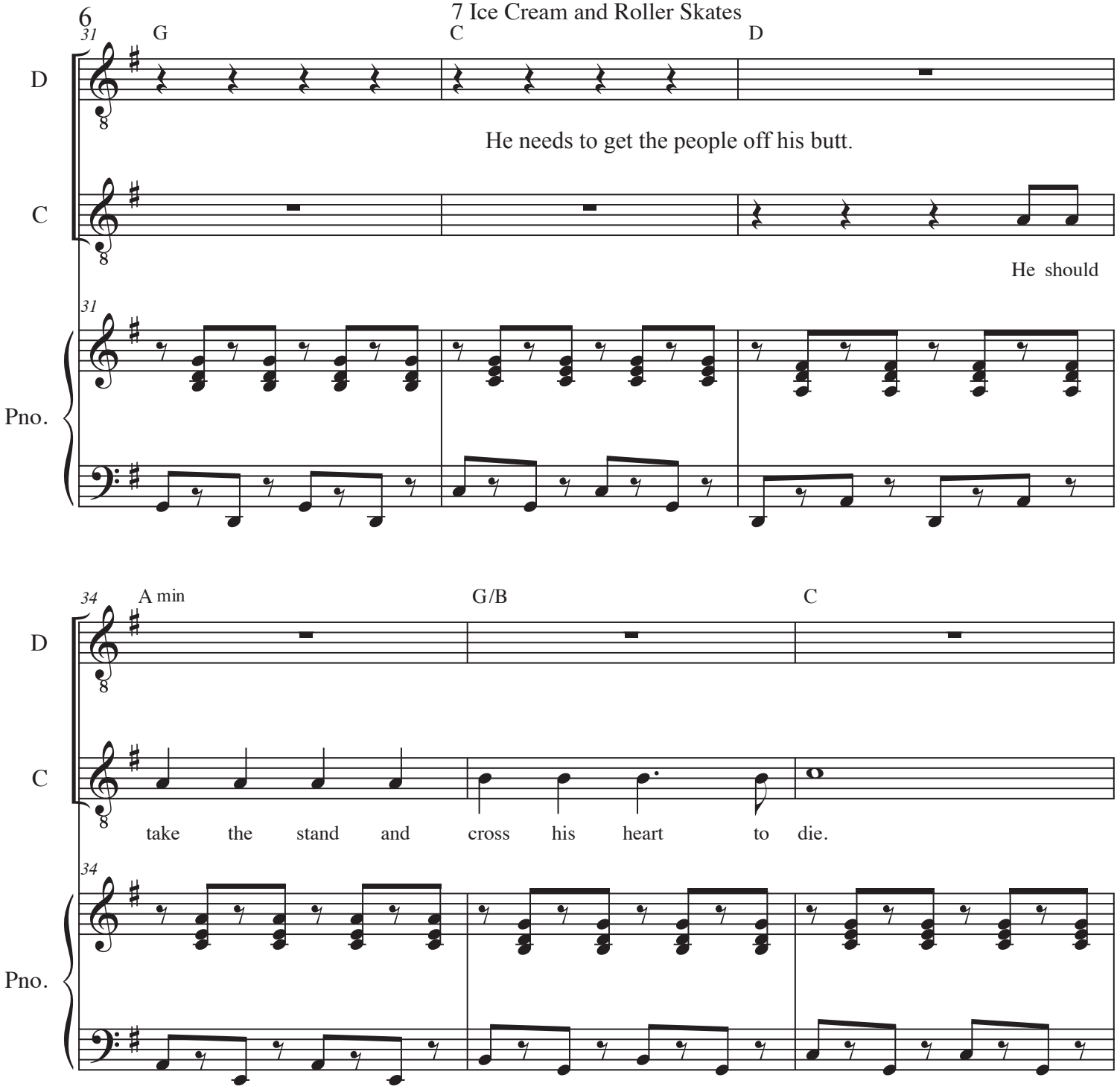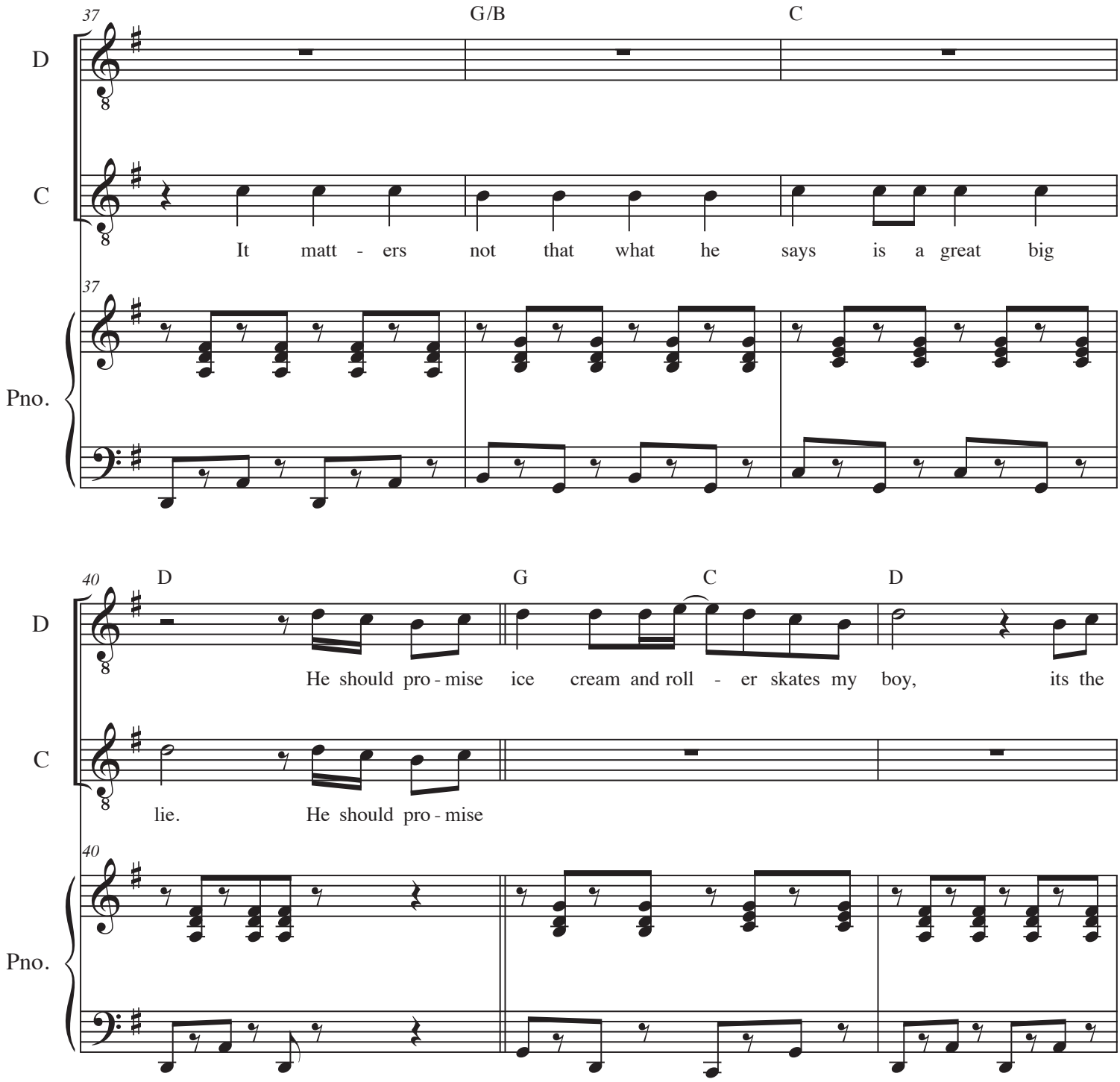



13
C
D
G/B
D
Tthere's one thing to keep in mind
when there's very little
gold out there
C
13
Pno.
16
C
G
C
D
promise them the mine
Pro-mise ice cream androll - er skates my
C
16
Pno.
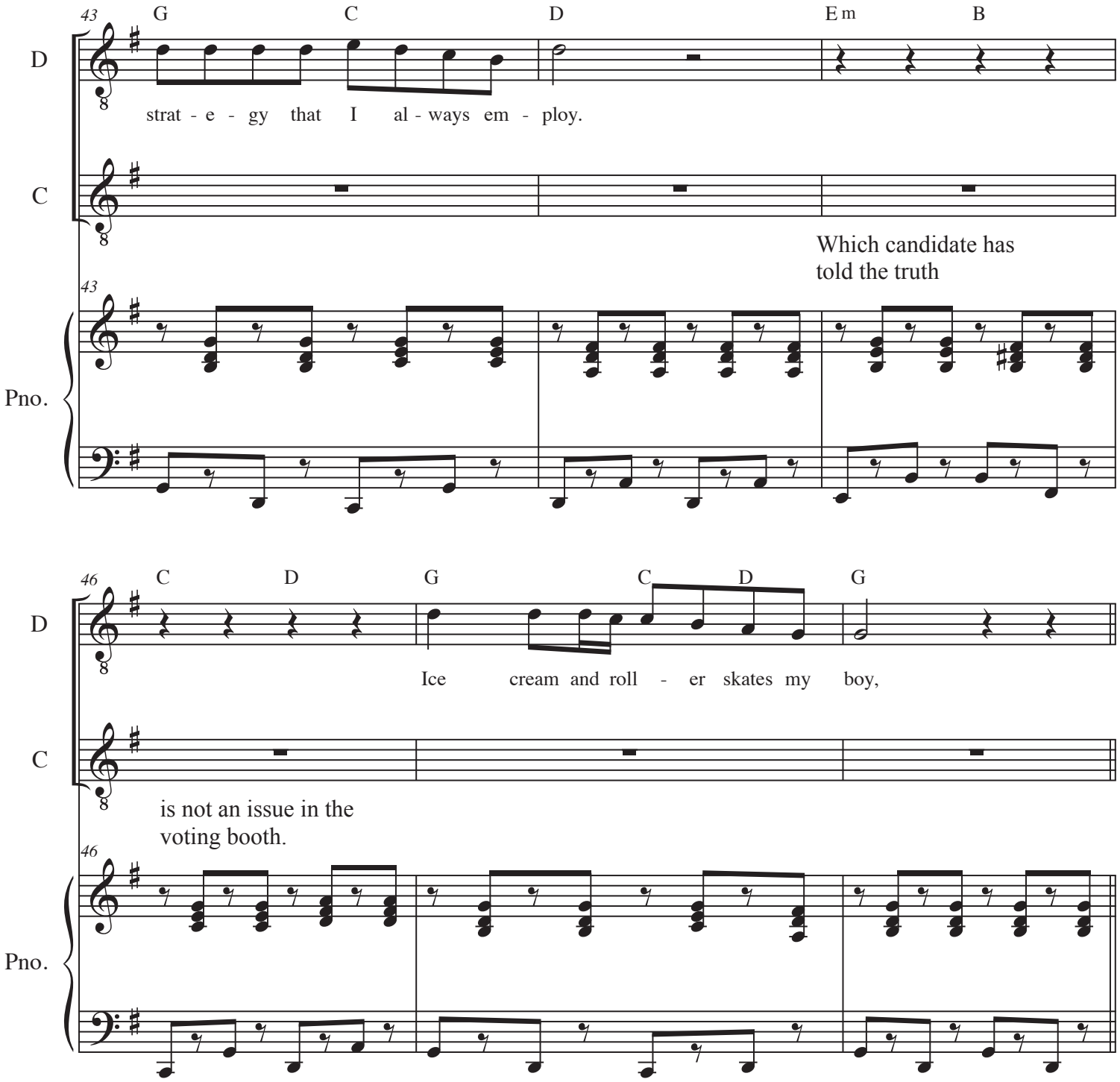
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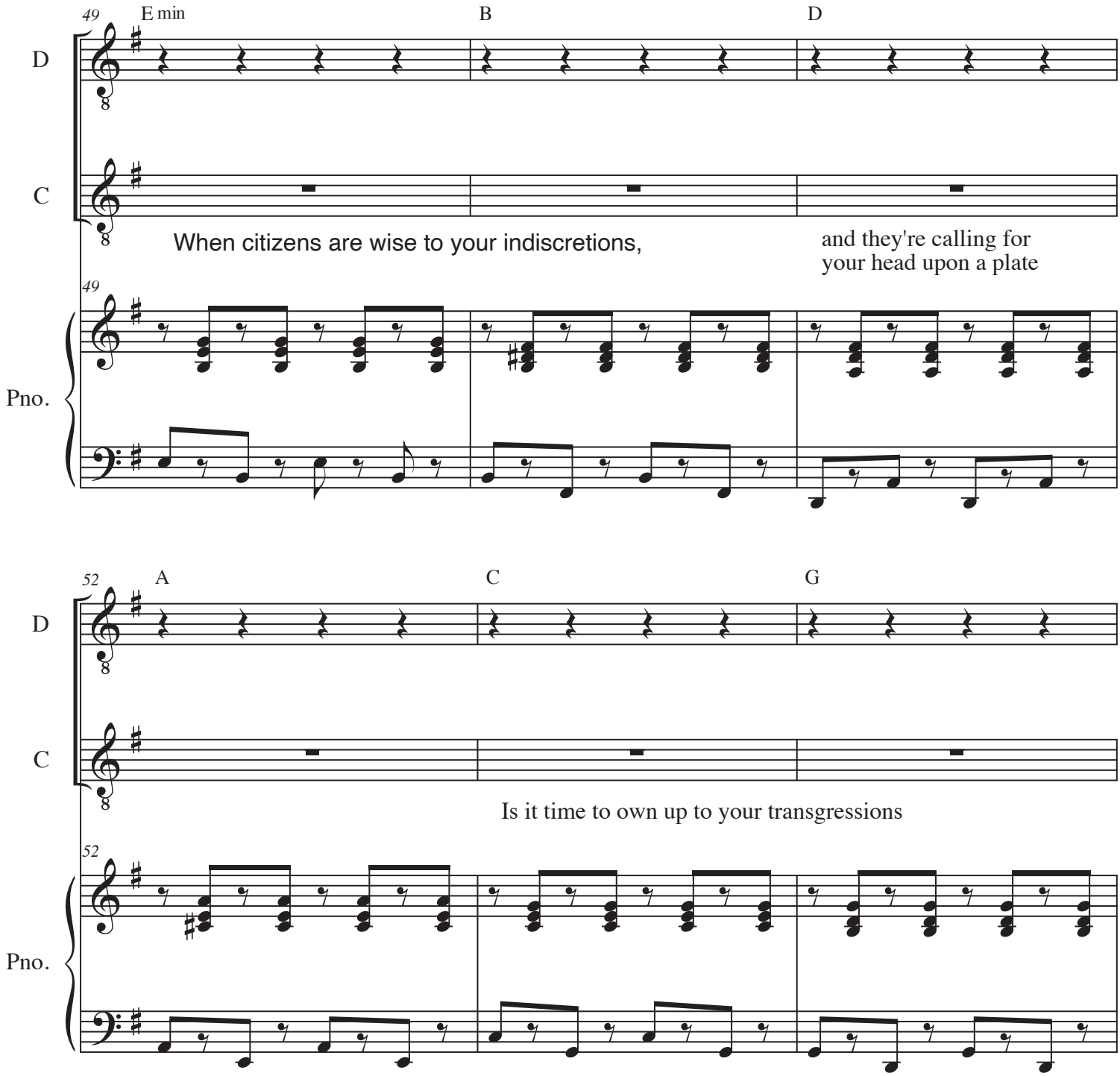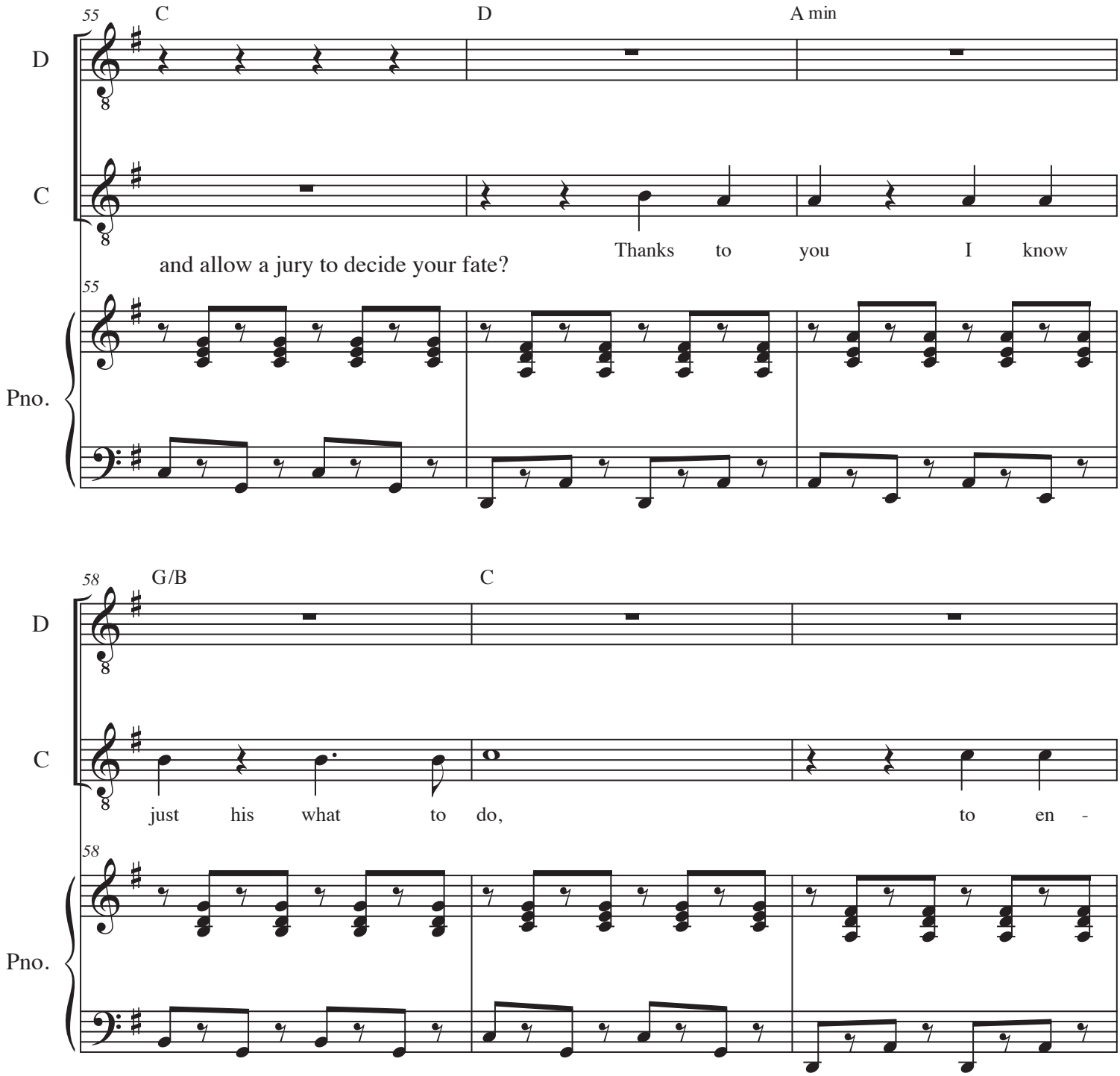



25
G
E min
B
D
boy,
Imagine a mayor who has been a little naughty.
C
25
Pno.
28
D
A
C
D
and the people want to know what's what.
when he realizes he soon will be caught, he
C
28
Pno.
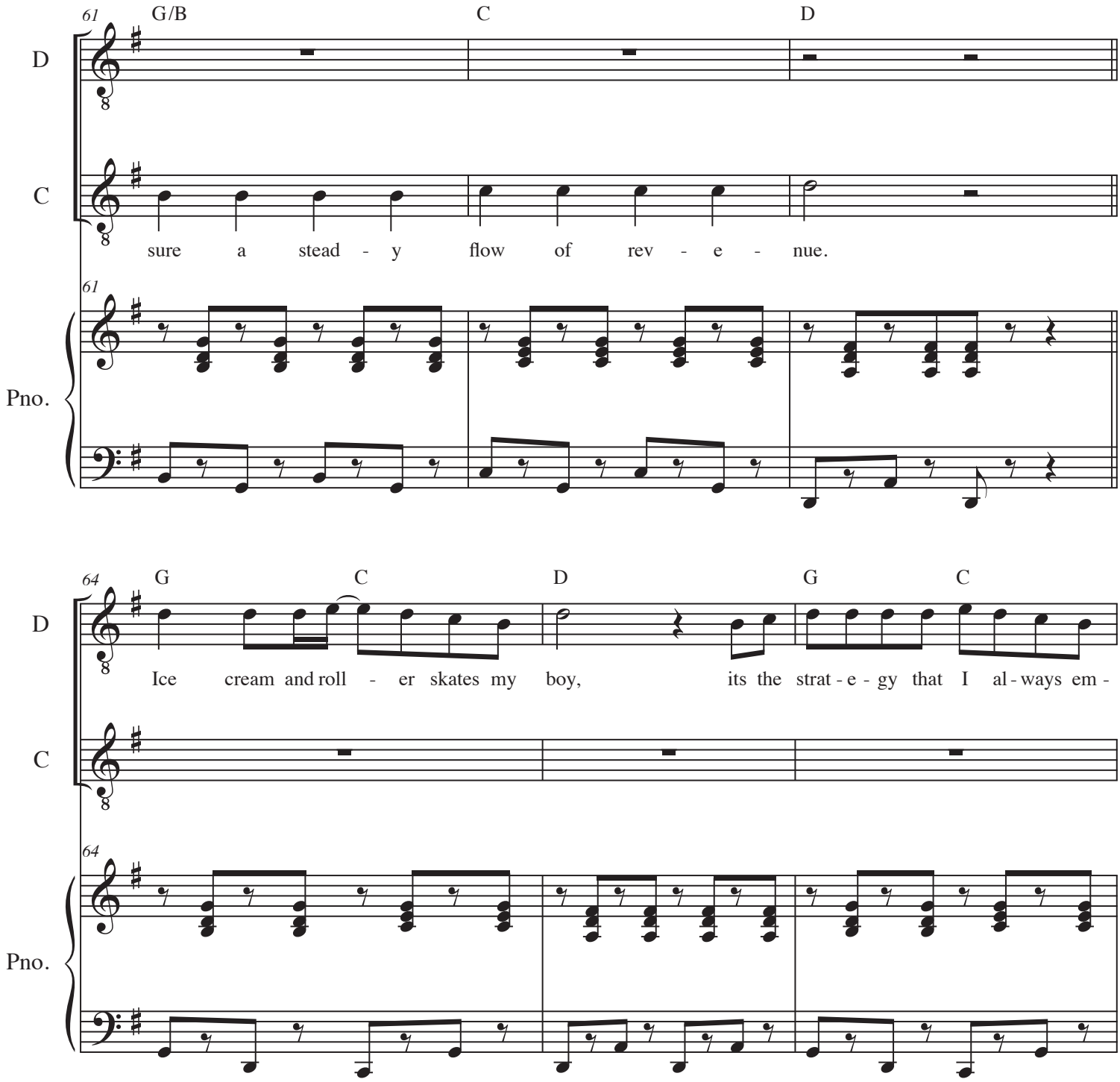

31
G
C
D
D
He needs to get the people off his butt.
C
He should
31
Pno.
34
A min
G/B
C
D
C
take the stand and cross his heart to die.
34
Pno.
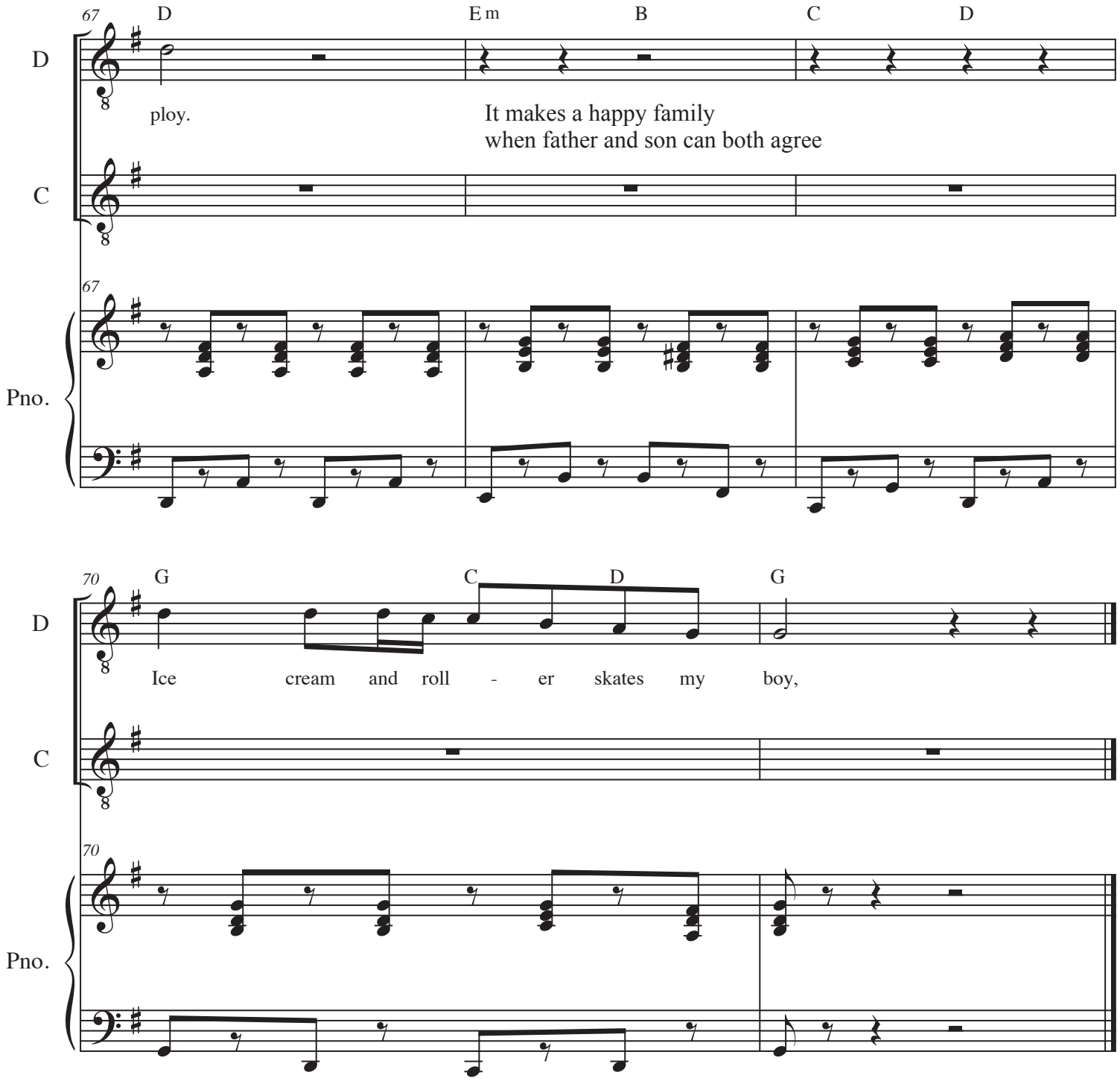

37
G/B
C
D
C
It matt - ers not that what he says is a great big
Pno.
40
D
G
C
D
He should pro - mise ice cream and roll - er skates my boy, its the
lie. He should pro - mise


43
G
C
D
E m
B
D
strat - e - gy that I al - ways em - ploy.
C
Which candidate has
told the truth
43
Pno.
46
C
D
G
C
D
G
D
Ice cream and roll - er skates my boy,
C
is not an issue in the
voting booth.
46
Pno.


49
E min
B
D
D
C
When citizens are wise to your indiscretions,
and they're calling for
your head upon a plate
49
Pno.
52
A
C
G
D
C
Is it time to own up to your transgressions
52
Pno.


55
C
D
A min
D
C
Thanks to you I know
and allow a jury to decide your fate?
55
Pno.
58
G/B
C
D
C
just his what to do, to en -
58
Pno.


61
G/B
C
D
D
C
sure a stead - y flow of rev - e - nue.
Pno.
64
G
C
D
G
C
Ice cream and roll - er skates my boy, its the strat - e - gy that I al - ways em -
D
C
Pno.


67
D
E m
B
C
D
D
ploy.
It makes a happy family
when father and son can both agree
C
67
Pno.
70
G
C
D
G
D
Ice cream and roll - er skates my boy,
C
70
Pno.

DOUG INGLES
Good boy.

MR. MORSE
...Chip "Chipper" Ingles!

(Big time applause. CHIPPER enters as conquering hero, waving his arms Richard Nixon style.)

CHIPPER
Alright...alright...stop!

(Total silence except for one harmonica in the distance.)
Principal Askin, Mr. Morse, fellow students. First, I would like to acknowledge my worthy opponent, Mikey Sessions...

(CHIPPER directs polite applause in the direction of MICHAEL SESSIONS.)
A vote for Mikey Sessions would not be a bad thing. A vote for him would however be a mistake. I for one do not subscribe to my opponent's doom and gloom projections for our high school. I for one do not buy into the idea that in order for us to have a Senior Trip we must get rid of the very things that make this school great. I'm not against ice cream. I'm not against roller-skating. You know what I'm for...you know what I'm for? Let me tell you what I am for. I am for America...and an American high school in the greatest city in Michigan, heck, maybe even the whole upper mid-west, and I am for the values that make that school great...its history...its tradition. Look around at other high schools. Ask the kids that go to Barnsworth High, or Chapel, or Saint Timothy's, ask them why they all want to transfer to Hillsdale High. Do you know what they'll tell you? Do you? They'll tell you it's the traditions our school has...the soda machines...the pizza lunches...the roller-skating...and yes, the ice cream. My favorite flavor is vanilla. My name is Chip "Chipper" Ingles and I would appreciate your vote.

(MICHAEL, HARPO, and MILTON move down to the edge of the stage.

In the background a show of hands election is taking place, first just a few hands, then a whole bunch. The crowd behind leaves, except for MR. MORSE, who is holding a piece of paper.)

MICHAEL
Did you see her? Was she here?

(MR. MORSE approaches MICHAEL, MILTON and HARPO holding a piece of paper.)

MR. MORSE
I'm afraid this is not good news.

(Hands the paper to MICHAEL.)

MICHAEL
Well, I got more votes then I did before.

(He shows the paper to MILTON and HARPO.)

MILTON
A few more...

(MICHAEL crumbles the paper and throws it away. He then takes out his harmonica and plays Monica. It is not good. HARPO leaves with MILTON.)

MICHAEL plays: **SONG #8-MONICA REPRISE**

ACT I SCENE 8 MAYOR?

(Students, DOUG and CHIPPER exit. MICHAEL and MILTON move CS. At the Registrar's office. Sitting at the desk is Asst. Registrar.)

NARRATOR
After Michael's crushing defeat, he decided to give up on politics. And that's probably how things would have stayed if it weren't for an assignment he had from his US Government teacher, Mr. MORSE.

(Setting: 11:59 AM. Interior of City Hall office. ASSISTANT REGISTRAR is sitting behind the desk working diligently on a stack of papers while working a calculator. Enter MICHAEL and MILTON.)

MICHAEL
What are we doing here?

MILTON
Mr. Morse thought it would be a good idea.

MICHAEL
Ah, what does he know?

MILTON
We just need some information for our report on the election for mayor.

MICHAEL
Whatever.

MILTON
Excuse me, kind sir?

(To ASSISTANT REGISTRAR.)

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
You will have to come back later. City statute 14.7.b states, and I quote, "All employees of the City of Hillsdale shall be entitled to one 45-minute lunch break." I'm taking mine now.

(ASSISTANT REGISTRAR leaves abruptly.)

(MICHAEL and MILTON are left standing alone. They get ready to leave when REGISTRAR appears at the door.)

REGISTRAR
Michael...Milton...playing hooky?

MILTON
Hooky? Us? No. Mr. Zelinsky sent us here to research the upcoming election for mayor.

REGISTRAR
Well, I hate to disappoint you, but it doesn't look like there will be an election.

MILTON
No election? Why not?

REGISTRAR
Well, it's hard to have an election when there is only one candidate.

MILTON
Again...

REGISTRAR
Yep, once again Mayor Ingles is the only candidate.

(MICHAEL shakes his head in mild disbelief.)

MILTON
That's ridiculous. Mayor Ingles is a nice man, and quite a fine harmonica player...but he's a terrible mayor. The unemployment rate is sky high...the town cut the fire budget, the police budget, the education budget...and he's gonna be mayor again.

(Long pause while MICHAEL starts to get an idea.)

MICHAEL
It's not right.

(MILTON and REGISTRAR look at MICHAEL.)
It's not right. It's not an election without at least 2 names on the ballot.

MILTON
Well, maybe you should run.

MICHAEL
Maybe I can't. You know, you have to be 18 to get your name on the ballot. I was only 17 when it was time to register.

REGISTRAR
But you're 18 now...you could be a write-in candidate.

MILTON
You're kidding.

REGISTRAR
I kid you not. Any person 18 years or older can have his or her name recognized as a write-in candidate.

MILTON
Anyone?

REGISTRAR
Anyone. But noon today is the deadline.

MILTON
How much does it cost to register as a write-in candidate?

REGISTRAR
$75.

(MILTON takes out his wallet, counts out some bills, clearly not enough, when MICHAEL throws in all he has in his pocket, when that comes up a little short, REGISTRAR throws in the last dollar.)

Sign here.

(MICHAEL signs.)

Congratulations young man, you are now officially a write-in candidate for the office of Mayor of Hillsdale. I'll just take the form down to the courthouse.

(REGISTRAR takes completed form and begins to leave.)

Well, now that we have two candidates, we should have a couple of debates. How about Thursday evening, say 6:30, in the high school gym?

MILTON
He'll be there.

(REGISTRAR leaves.)

MICHAEL
What have I done? I can't be a candidate; I'm barely 18 years old. I only did it because there should always be another person to vote for.

MILTON
Calm down, it's not like you're a real candidate.

MICHAEL
Whoa, wait...wait...what do you mean I'm not a "real candidate."

MILTON
You said it yourself; you only did it because there should always be another person to vote for...

(Long pause.)
...unless, of course, you think you would be a better mayor than Mayor Ingles.

(Long pause.)
I'd vote for you.

MICHAEL
No free ice cream?

MILTON
I'd vote for you, and so would Harpo and and who knows, you just might get a few more votes here and there.

MICHAEL
You'd help me? I haven't got much money...

MILTON
You don't need money to win an election, just ideas.

MICHAEL
I got plenty of those.

MILTON
Then let's go win an election.

MICHAEL and MILTON sing: 9 LET'S GO WIN AN ELECTION

MICHAEL
To win an election we will run a fair, honest and positive campaign. We won't run any negative ads. We won't promise what we can't deliver. We will work hard to get our ideas out to the public. We will tell the truth, no matter how hard it may be for some people to hear. We will honor the intelligence of the voting public. We will listen to what the people have to say. We will believe in the democratic process. Win or lose, we will continue to work for the betterment of the town of Hillsdale, the state of Michigan and the United States of America, the greatest country in the world. Win or lose...but I do not intend to lose

MICHAEL & MILTON
LET'S GO WIN AN ELECTION LET'S GO GATHER EVERY VOTE
LET'S GO WIN AN ELECTION LET'S GO ROCK THE BOAT

MICHAEL
WE'VE GOT BROCHURES TO PRINT AND PHOTOS TO TINT

MILTON
VILLAINS TO HISS AND BABIES TO KISS OOOH

MICHAEL & MILTON
LET'S GO WIN AN ELECTION
LET'S GO CAUSE A HULLABALOO
LET'S GO WIN AN ELECTION AND SHOW 'EM WHAT WE CAN DO

MICHAEL

WE GOT VOTERS TO CALL UP AND PLANS TO DRAW UP

MILTON
RALLIES TO ATTEND AND POSITIONS TO DEFEND

MICHAEL
ENDORSEMENTS TO GET

MILTON

PUPPIES TO PET OOOH

MICHAEL
OOH, OOH IT'S TIME TO THROW MY HAT INTO THE RING

MILTON
IT'S TIME TO PUT OUR THINKING CAPS ON
SO WE DON'T MISS A THING

MICHAEL

WE GOT HANDS TO SHAKE AND CAKES TO BAKE

MILTON

BIASES TO BREAK AND SMILES TO FAKE

MICHAEL

MEETINGS TO MAKE POLLS TO TAKE, OOOH

MICHAEL & MILTON

LET'S GO WIN AN ELECTION LET'S GO GATHER EVERY VOTE
LET'S GO WIN AN ELECTION LET'S GO ROCK THE BOAT

MICHAEL

SPEECHES TO SPEAK

MILTON

ENDORSEMENTS TO SEEK

MICHAEL

AND RUMORS TO LEAK

MILTON
INTEREST TO PIQUE

MICHAEL

PLATFORMS TO TWEAK

MILTON

ALL IN A WEEK

MICHAEL & MILTON
OOOOOH

MICHAEL

WE GOT EARS TO CHEW

MILTON
INTERVIEWS TO DO

MICHAEL

BY YOU KNOW WHO’S IN EVENING NEWS

MILTON

CREWS TO CHOOSE HOW NOT TO LOSE

MICHAEL

WE GOT DEBATES TO PREPARE FOR MOMENTS OF PRAYER FOR

MILTON

ELECTING A NEW MAYOR FOR OUR TOWN WITH THE WHEREFORE

MICHAEL

AND THEREFORE CARE FOR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

MILTON & MICHAEL

FOR THE MAYOR’S UNAWARE THAT THAT’S WHAT A MAYOR IS FOR

LET’S GO WIN AN ELECTION LET’S GO CAPTURE A VOTE OR TWO
LET’S GO WIN AND ELECTION OR ACT LIKE WE’RE GOING TO

SCENE 9

NARRATOR
Michael and Milton campaigned hard. They went door to door to get their message across. And while most people were cordial, they really didn't seem to take Michael seriously. Then came the first debate.

(High school gym is set up for a debate, with the same set up as for the other two debates Michael has been involved in, except this time there is a banner for the ice cream parlor/roller skating rink right in front of the podium. There is a rather disinterested crowd of TOWNSPEOPLE standing around talking small talk. TAMMY VAGEL, the city manager, approaches the podium.)

TAMMY VAGEL
If I could please get everyone to kindly take their seats. Cody...Bobby ..Wally. ..Wally....Wally..please...thanks.

(TOWNSPEOPLE sit down.)
Well, in case you're new to this town, and even if you're not, my name is Tammy Vagel. I am the City Manager of Hillsdale, and I am here to welcome you to our first debate among the candidates for the office of Mayor. Now, since we haven't had a debate in I don't know how long, because we've never had more than one candidate, well, this is how a debate works. Our two candidates will each answer questions from you fine people. You just raise your hand, and I'll call on you, and you state your question, and the candidates will do their best to answer. Ok? Ok. So, does anyone have a question for either Mayor Ingles or his challenger Michael Session?

(Quiet and light talking but no one raises a hand.)
C'mon now, there must be something on somebody's mind.

(A hand goes up in the middle.)
Yes, Billy Taylor, what is your question?

BILLY TAYLOR
Doug, I mean, uh, Mayor Ingles,

DOUG INGLES
Yes, Billy,

BILLY TAYLOR
Who do you think is gonna be better this year, Michigan or Michigan State?

TAMMY VAGEL
Now Billy, let's keep this political.

DOUG INGLES
That's alright, I'll answer this one...Michigan State.

(TOWNSPEOPLE murmur.)

TIM VAGEL
Next question please.

CODY KLINGEL
Mayor Ingles, what's your favorite flavor of ice cream?

DOUG INGLES
I like vanilla.

TAMMY VAGEL
Now how about a question for our other candidate? Yes, Wally.

WILMA REES
Don't you think you're too young to be a mayor?

(MICHAEL nervously searches for the right index card.)

MICHAEL
Uh, well, Michigan's first Governor was only 19 years old. He was called the boy Governor. So, I think Michiganders are open minded enough to realize that age really doesn't matter.

WILMA REES
What do you think Mayor Ingles?

DOUG INGLES
I think it's honorable what our young friend has done here. I think his running for Mayor should prove to be a fun project for his civics class.

But let's face it, he's just a high school student, there's nothing he can do to help this town. Next question.

(After a long pause, a voice from the back of the gym.)

BRANDON SHARP
I have a question. When is this town going to hire another fire fighter?

(DOUG INGLES covers his eyes and searches for the source of the voice.)

DOUG INGLES
Bruce, Bruce Sharp, that is you Brandon, isn't it? How's the wife and...what's your question Bruce?

(BRANDON SHARP now standing, arms folded across his chest.)

BRANDON SHARP

(Plain and simple.)
My question Mr. Mayor, is when is this town going to hire another firefighter...you know, the firefighter you promised to hire during the last election?

DOUG INGLES

(Looking nervously over his notes.)
You sure about that Brandon? I...don't recall promising another fire fighter.

BRUCE SHARP

(While never taking his eyes off of the Mayor, he lifts a newspaper and reads.)
"...and if I am elected I promise that I will provide our fire department with an additional firefighter."

DOUG INGLES

(Incredulously.)
You kept a newspaper from the last election?

BRANDON SHARP
I did.

Disbelieving silence.
Well, what about the firefighter?

DOUG INGLES

(Deflecting the question.)
Well, I will have to talk it over with the City Manager...

BRANDON SHARP
...because the way it is right now, we firefighters can't protect this town this way it should be protected. And the fine people of this town deserve the best protection possible, and as mayor it's your responsibility to see that the highest level of protection is made available.

(Beginnings of the sounds of discontent within the gym.)

DOUG INGLES
Now, Bruce, you need to understand, it's all very complicated...

BRANDON SHARP
...you also promised more police, better staffing at the hospital and more money for the schools.

DOUG INGLES
Bruce...people...currently we don't have the financial resources to fund an acceptable solution. I'd love to hire another fire fighter, but there's no money. Now, perhaps I could cut some more money from the police budget, or the school budget, but I don't think you'd want me to do that, now would you BRandon? How would these fine townspeople feel if I went and did that, Brandon?

(An almost angry silence takes over the gym.)

(MICHAEL speaks.)

MICHAEL
Uh, I have an idea.

DOUG INGLES
Sit down Mikey, the question was for me.

BRANDON SHARP
Let him speak.

(DOUG INGLES reluctantly motions for MICHAEL to speak. MICHAEL searches through his note cards, and after having a difficult time finding the right one, closes his eyes, and puts down the cards.)

MICHAEL
I don't think...I don't think the Mayor's response was adequate. I think it is the job of a mayor to come up with ideas and solutions that the rest of us might not think about. It's not enough to just say that it's complicated; the Mayor is getting paid to deal with complicated issues. So, if he's unwilling or unable to work on solving a problem, then maybe he shouldn't be mayor.

(Stunned silence in the gym. Then applause starts to rise, not overwhelming, but appreciative of the effort.)

DOUG INGLES
Hold it! Hold it...Stop! Now listen here boy, it's one thing to play act like you really are a candidate, and quite another thing to be one. So, if you think for one minute that you really want to be a candidate, then tell these fine townspeople how you would pay for a new fire fighter, and police officers and hospital workers and schools.

(MICHAEL looks fragile. He nervously fingers his harmonica, then looks at it while he gets an idea.)

MICHAEL
What did you do last Saturday?

DOUG INGLES
Last Saturday? Curious question young man...what did I do? I went to Bellville for their Strawberry Festival.

MICHAEL
Were there a lot of people there?

DOUG INGLES
Of course, tons of people.

MICHAEL
And the weekend before that what did you do?

DOUG INGLES
I went to Oxford for the Blues and Bar-B-Q festival.

(To TOWNSPEOPLE.)
They got really good barbecue in Oxford.

MICHAEL
Was there a good crowd there also?

DOUG INGLES
Ah, everyone likes Blues and Bar-B-Q!

(To DOUG INGLES.)

MICHAEL
We could have our own festival.

DOUG INGLES
Now you're showing your youth. A festival? In Hillsdale? We don't have one thing that anyone would want to see or do. What kinda festival would anybody want to come to Hillsdale for?

(Long knowing pause.)

MICHAEL

(Nervously fingers his harmonica.)
A harmonica festival. A harmonica festival. We could have our very own harmonica festival. We could invite the greatest players to come here and compete for a championship. We could get the major harmonica makers to sponsor the prize money; we could put on shows and sell CD's and DVD's. And the people who come would have to stay in our hotels and eat our food and buy stuff in our stores. And in no time we'd have enough money to hire not only a new fire fighter, but also a couple of badly needed paramedics.

(Nice big agreeable applause. The debate continues in the background while the next speech is given.)

NARRATOR
Well, things picked up from there. The townspeople started listening to what Michael had to say, and some of them agreed with him.

TAMMY VAGEL
And that's the end of our first debate. We'll see you again in two weeks for our second and final debate. Everybody drive safely now.

(TOWNSPEOPLE crowd around MICHAEL, while DOUG INGLES frustratedly moves off.)

(A little shaken, but also a little giddy. To MILTON and HARPO.)

MICHAEL
What just happened?

MILTON
You became a real candidate.

MICHAEL
Cool.

HARPO
Monica was here.

MICHAEL
Very cool.

ACT I SCENE 10 HOT CROSSED BLUES

(In the empty town square, MILTON and HARPO sit on the bench. MILTON plays Hot Crossed Buns. When he finishes, HARPO plays a wicked blues line. They repeat. On the 3rd time through, MILTON plays a wicked blues line, and HARPO is reduced to Hot Cross Buns.)

ACT I SCENE 11 TMC

(Setting: Inside the office of the Mayor. DOUG INGLES is sitting at his desk with his son CHIPPER who is pacing.)

DOUG INGLES
This is getting serious.

CHIPPER
I know.

DOUG INGLES
Ever since that debate two weeks ago, people have been talking about little Mikey Sessions as if he could actually win. After the fire fighters endorsed him, so did the police, the teachers, the hospital workers and who knows who's next. We gotta do something.

CHIPPER
Dad, I've got it all figured out. Now follow me on this. Michael Sessions' brand of politics is appealing to older voters. Admit it, he beat you to the punch on the firefighter thing. So now you've got to fight back. If he wants the older voters, then it means you have to appeal to the younger voters.

DOUG INGLES
Huh?

CHIPPER
We need to change your image. No more fuddy duddy stuff. I gonna make you the hippest mayor since Gavin Newsom.

DOUG INGLES
You are?

CHIPPER
Well, not me exactly. I've enlisted some help in updating your image.

DOUG INGLES
Help? Who?

CHIPPER
Gentlemen...

(CHIPPER opens the door. Enter SL, HECTOR, WILLIAM, and JACKIE, dressed in GQ type clothing. TOLEDO MAKEOVER CONSULTANTS walk into the office.)

Dad, may I introduce to you, the Toledo Makeover Consultants.

DOUG INGLES
What in the name of...

HECTOR
Mr. Ingles...

DOUG INGLES
...Doug...

HECTOR
...Mr. Ingles. My name is Mr. Hector...this is William...and this is Jackie. Separately we are just 3 spectacularly well-dressed professionals, but collectively, we are TMC, the Toledo...Makeover...Consultants.

DOUG INGLES
I don't need a makeover.

(Knowing laughter among the TMC.)

HECTOR
Mr. Ingles...your clothes look like mis-aligned wallpaper. Your hair looks as if it were cut during an earthquake and your physique...well, let's not go there.

DOUG INGLES
I work out!

WILLIAM
Mr. Doug...may I call you that? Mr. Doug. Look at yourself. You are nothing but a noodle...a noodle! Why would anyone vote for a noodle? Why? Why? Bush...he's not a noodle. Arnold Schwarzenegger...he's not a noodle...Bill Clinton...he's definitely not a noodle... John Kerry...right, right, a noodle...people want a candidate that is, how can I say it, a candidate who is substantial.

DOUG INGLES
I don't know...

JACKIE
Let's be real. Who's gonna vote for a someone doesn't look like Tom Cruise...

(All three TMC bow heads in reverence to their hero.)

HECTOR/WILLIAM/JACKIE
Tom Cruise...

JACKIE
A wash...a rinse...some silver highlights for the baby boomer vote, a little length in the back to attract the youth vote, a little spike on the part to bring in the Gen-x voters...in two weeks your hair will be perfect.

DOUG INGLES
Two weeks? Now hold on a minute...

HECTOR
Mr. Ingles, let's get real. You're what, 60 years old?

DOUG INGLES
40.

HECTOR
40? Really? Isn't it time you stopped shopping in the big boy's section of Wal-Mart? I know, I know, you're not the first. But I can only work with one lost soul at a time, and you are that lost soul, Mr. Ingles. When I am finished with you, you will be the George Clooney of the upper midwest.

HECTOR/WILLIAM/JACKIE
George Clooney.

DOUG INGLES
George Clooney, huh? Well, how much is all this gonna cost me?

(HECTOR takes out a calculator and does the math.)

HECTOR
$39,244.

DOUG INGLES
What!!!? $39,244... I can't afford that.

CHIPPER
I have a coupon from the Toledo Daily News. 50% off!

HECTOR
Ok. $19,622.

DOUG INGLES
No, no, no... I may not be as pretty as George Tom Clooney Cruise...but I'm fashionable enough with out your help.

HECTOR/WILLIAM/JACKIE SING: **11. TOM CRUISE**

TOM CRUISE

TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF, YOU'RE A MODEL OF DISTRESS
IN THE WORLD OF STYLE BEACONS YOU'RE A FASHION "SOS"
AND THAT'S A BAD THING
IT REALLY IS A BAD THING

YOUR JACKET'S FAR TOO AMPLE YOUR PANTS ARE WAY TOO LONG
YOUR SHIRT LOOKS LIKE IT'S TRAMPLED
YOUR BUTTON'S SEWN ON WRONG
YOU'RE A BIG MESS SUCH A BIG MESS

YOUR IMAGE IS A YAWN, YOU NEED A TOTALLY NEW DESIGN
WHAT YOU NEEDS IS SOME ARMANI WHAT YOU NEEDS IS CALVIN KLEIN
'CAUSE YOU'RE A BIG MESS

HECTOR

Mr. Ingles, Mr. Ingles Mr. Ingles, you are indeed a mess But not to worry, not to worry Your son has come to the right place He understands that when one thinks of style, haute couture, fashion...one thinks of Ohio, and when one thinks of Ohio, one thinks of the fashion capital of Northern Ohio, one thinks of Toledo, and the Toledo Makeover Consultants

HECTOR/WILLIAM/JACKIE
YOU GOTTA HAVE BROWN SHOES
AND YOUR SOCKS SHOULD MATCH YOUR SUIT
IF YOU WANT TO STRIKE AN IMAGE IN YOUR POLITICAL PURSUIT

WHATEVER YOU CALL IT THERE'S NO WAY CAN IT BE HIP
SO GET RID OF THE WALLET AND USE A MONEY CLIP

HECTOR
SHIRT BY LORENZINI

JACQUES

SHOES BY ERMENEGILDO

WILLIAM
TIE FROM TIA COSMA AND LOTS OF STUFF BY PRADA

HECTOR/WILLIAM/JACKIE
YA GOTTA HAVE THE PRADA

HECTOR

LOOKING AT YOU NOW I'D SAY YOU'RE LOOKING KINDA GOONY

JACQUES
BY THE TIME WE'RE FINISHED
YOU'LL LOOK BETTER THAN GEORGE CLOONEY THAN GEORGE CLOONEY

WILLIAM
BETTER THAN GEORGE CLOONEY

HECTOR/WILLIAM/JACKIE
WITH SOME SOCKS BY PANTHERELLA AND SOME JM WESTON SHOES THEY WON'T BE SEEING INGLES THEY'LL BE SEEING TOM CRUISE
TOM CRUISE, YOU'LL BE CUTER THAN TOM CRUISE

(Lights out.)

Hillsdale Blues
Piano/Vocals
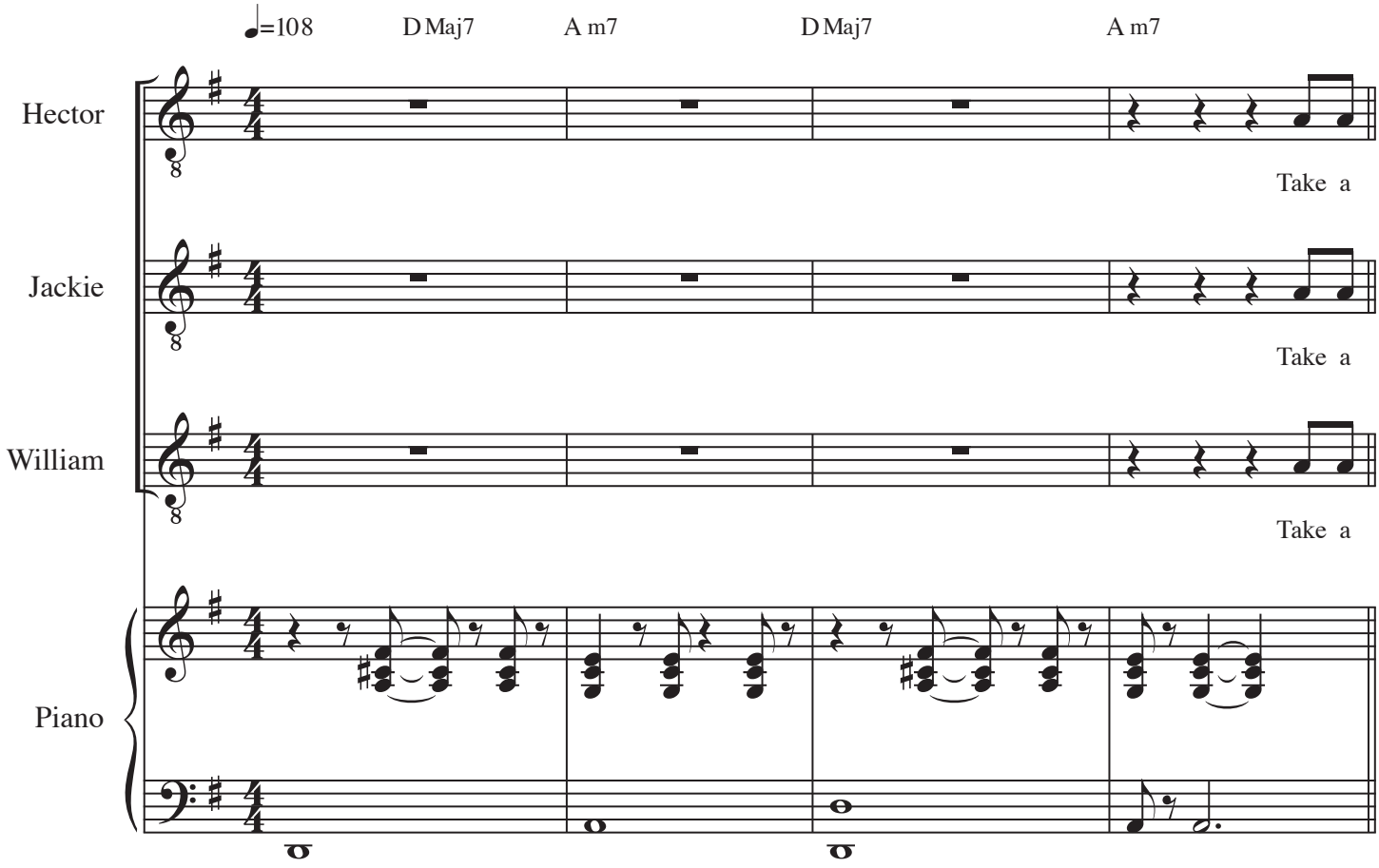
11. Tom Cruise

(Hector/Jackie/William)

Rev. 4/22/25

music by Sean P. Breen
lyrics by Sean P. Breen

Cue: DOUG: No, no, no...I may not be as pretty as George Tom Clooney Cruise
...but I'm fashionable enough without your help.



11. Tom Cruise

D Maj7 A m7 D Maj7

5

H look at your-self, you're a mod-el of dis-tress. In a world of sty - le bea - cons you're a

J look at your-self, you're a mod-el of dis-tress. In a world of sty - le bea - cons you're a

W look at your-self, you're a mod-el of dis-tress. In a world of sty - le bea - cons you're a

5

Pno.

A m7 D Maj7 A m7 D Maj7

8
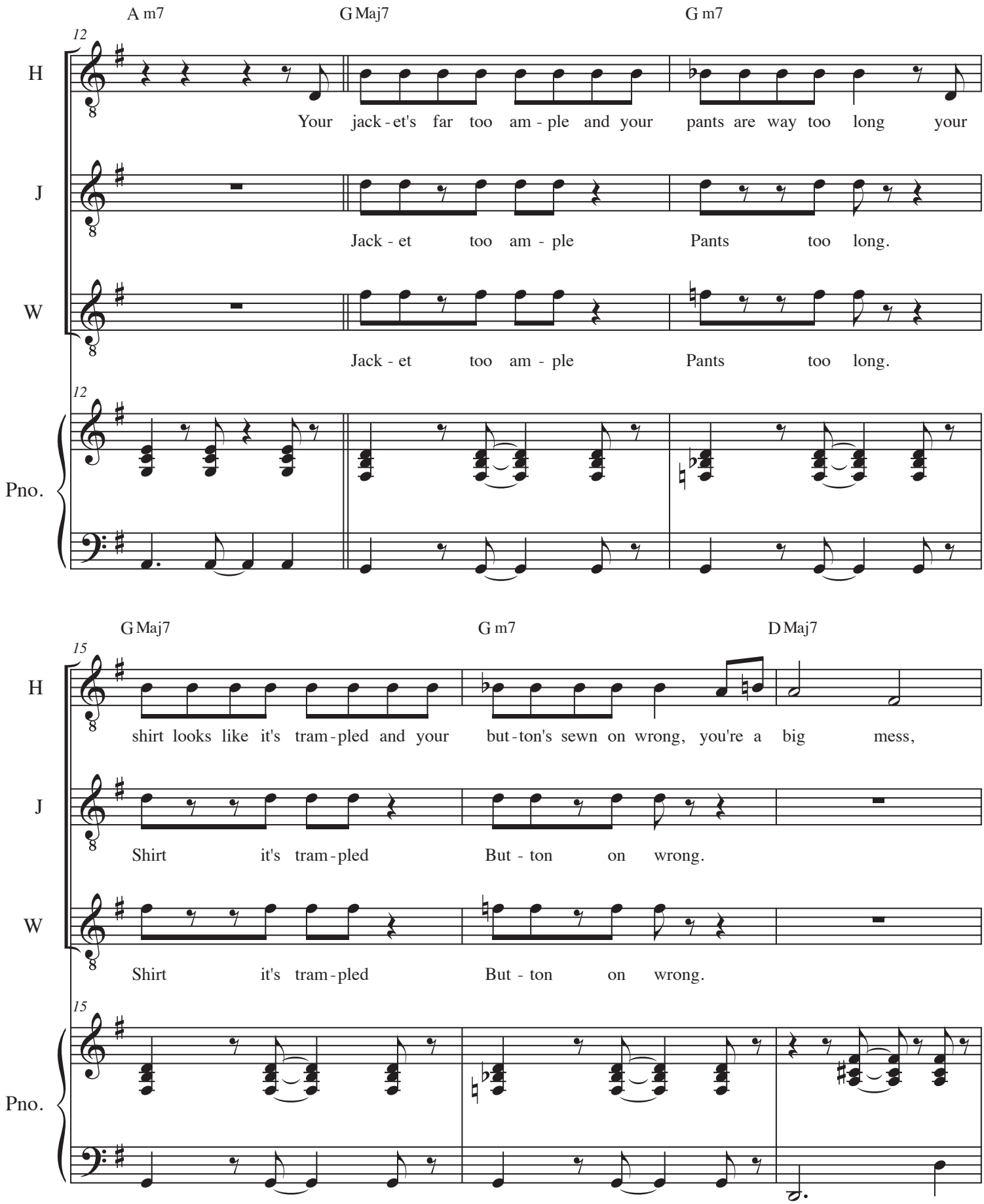
H fash - ion S - O - S and that's a bad thing, it real - ly is a bad thing.

J fash - ion S - O - S and that's a bad thing, it real - ly is a bad thing.
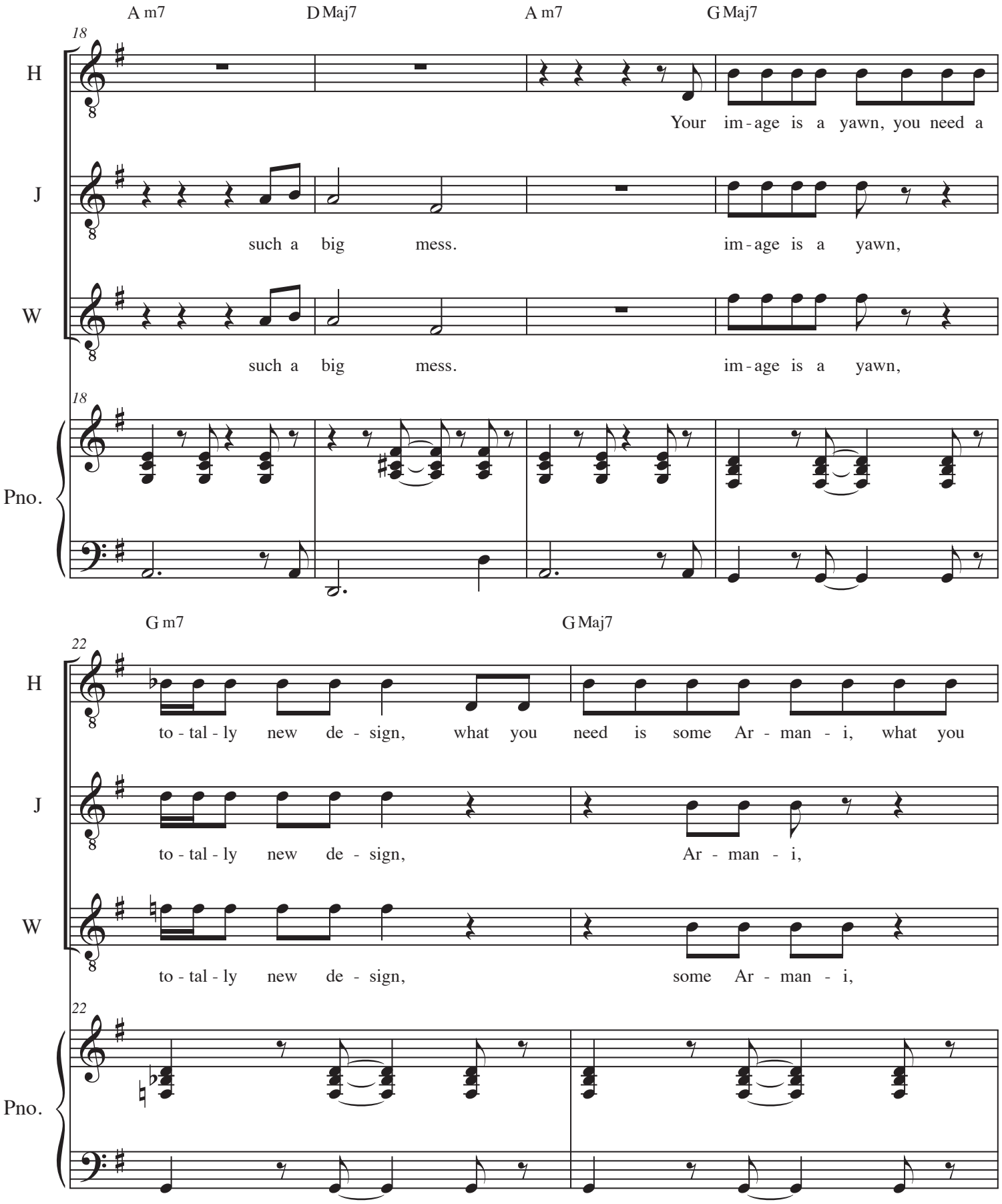
W fash - ion S - O - S and that's a bad thing, it real - ly is a bad thing.
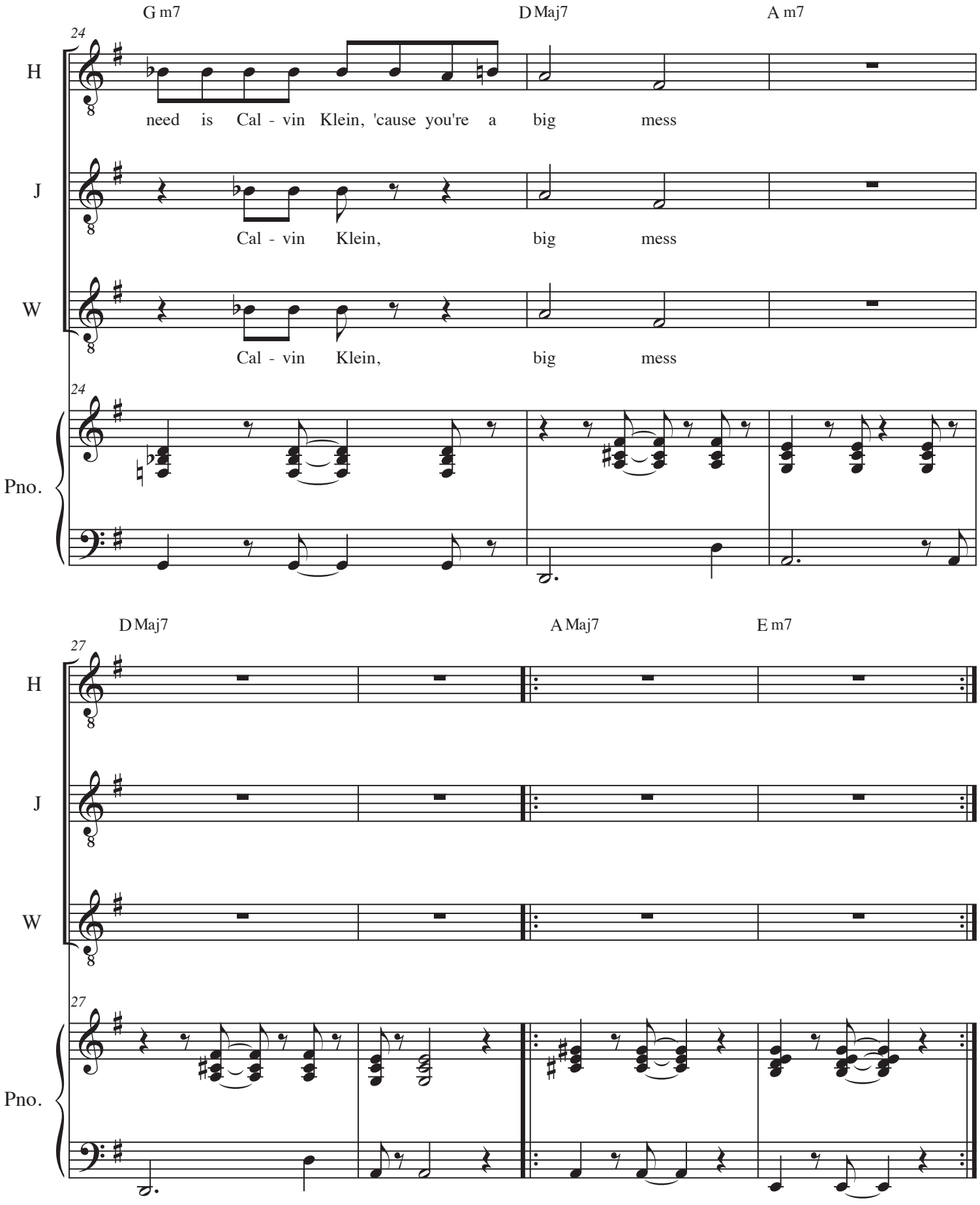
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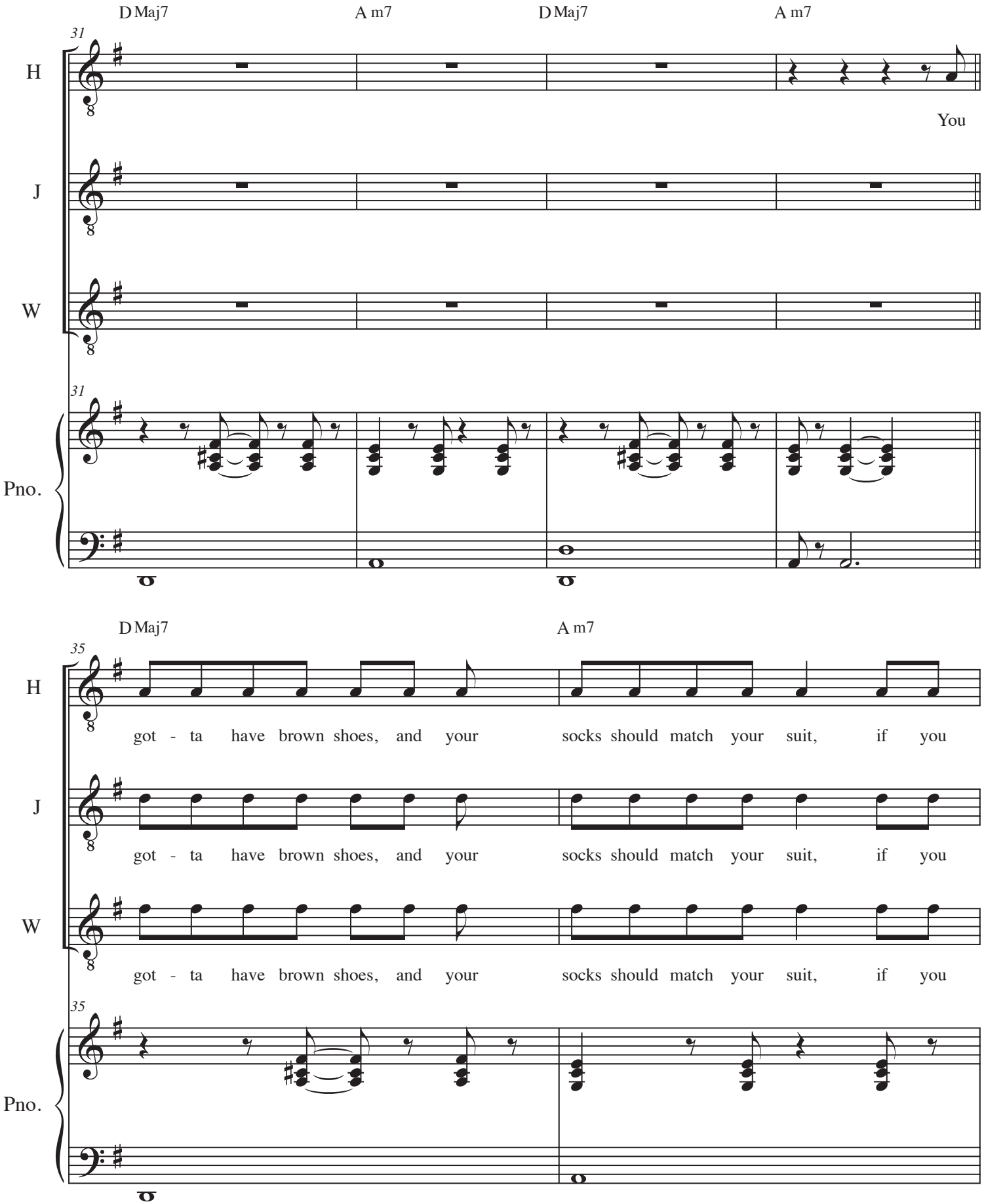

A m7
G Maj7
G m7
12
H
Your jack - et's far too am - ple and your pants are way too long your
J
Jack - et too am - ple Pants too long.
W
Jack - et too am - ple Pants too long.
Pno.
G Maj7
G m7
D Maj7
15
H
shirt looks like it's tram - pled and your but - ton's sewn on wrong, you're a big mess,
J
Shirt it's tram - pled But - ton on wrong.
W
Shirt it's tram - pled But - ton on wrong.
Pno.
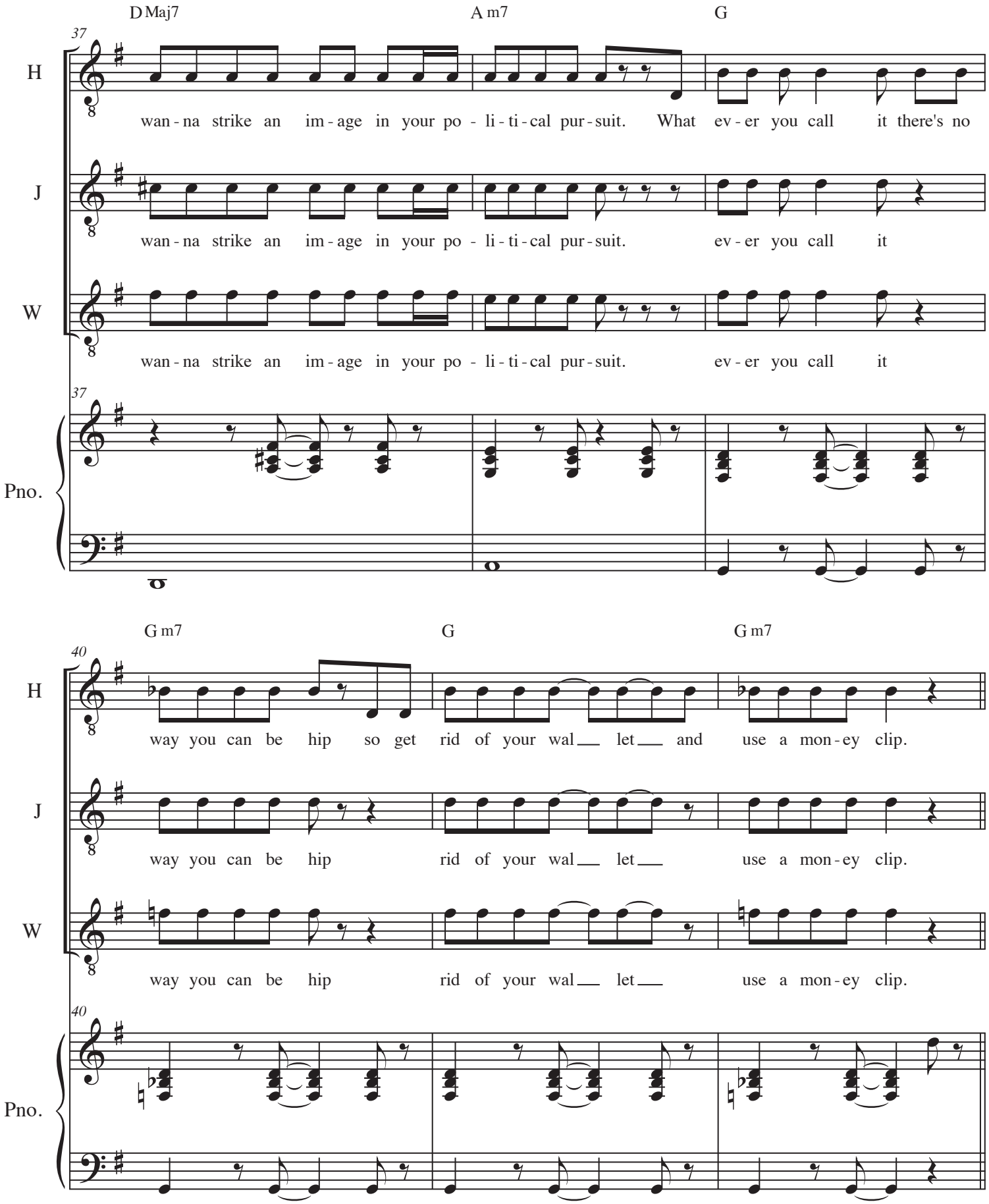
11. Tom Cruise




G m7
D Maj7
A m7
24
H
need is Cal - vin Klein, 'cause you're a big mess
J
Cal - vin Klein, big mess
W
Cal - vin Klein, big mess
Pno.
D Maj7
A Maj7
E m7
27
H
J
W
Pno.

11. Tom Cruise




D Maj7
A m7
G
37
H
wan - na strike an im - age in your po - li - ti - cal pur - suit. What ev - er you call it there's no
J
wan - na strike an im - age in your po - li - ti - cal pur - suit. ev - er you call it
W
wan - na strike an im - age in your po - li - ti - cal pur - suit. ev - er you call it
37
Pno.
G m7
G
G m7
40
H
way you can be hip so get rid of your wal___ let___ and use a mon - ey clip.
J
way you can be hip rid of your wal___ let___ use a mon - ey clip.
W
way you can be hip rid of your wal___ let___ use a mon - ey clip.
40
Pno.

11. Tom Cruise

D Maj7 A m7 D Maj7

43

H

Shirts by Lo - ren - zi - ni,

J

Shoes by Er - men gil - do

W

Tie from Ti - a Cos - ma and

43

Pno.

A m7 D Maj7 A m7

46

H

you got - ta have the

J
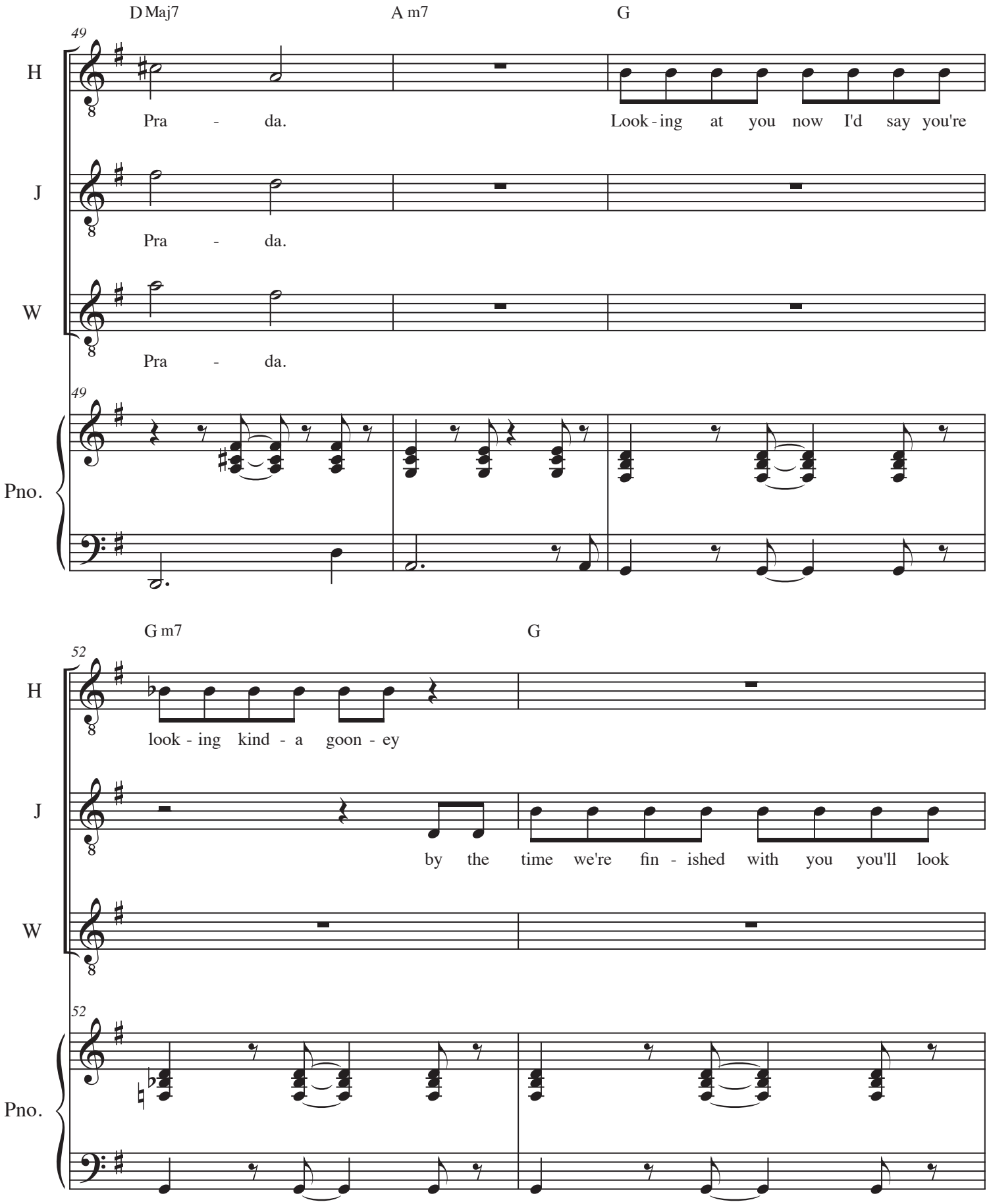
You got - ta have the

W
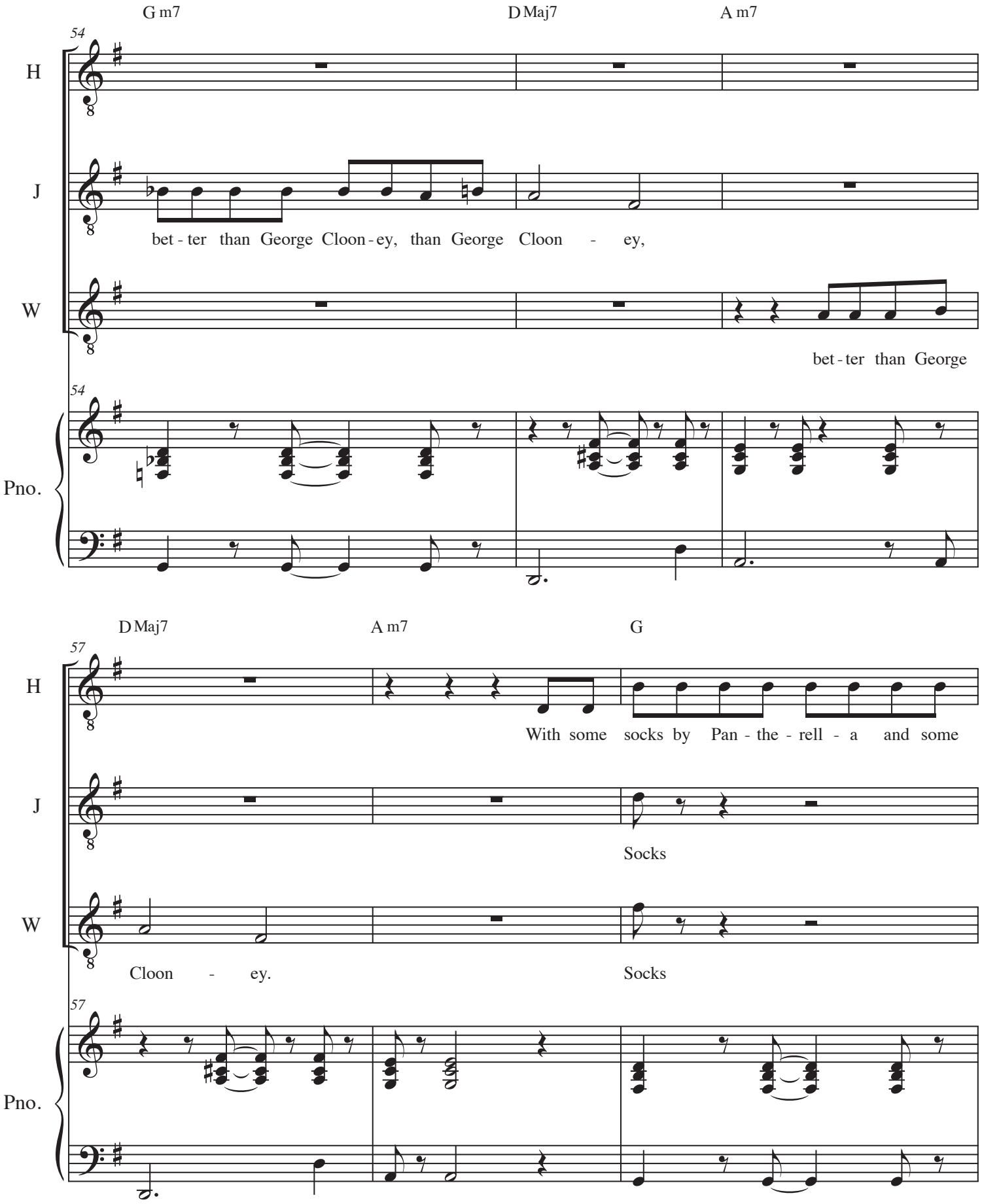
lots of stuff by Pra - da, stuff by Pra - da, you got - ta have the
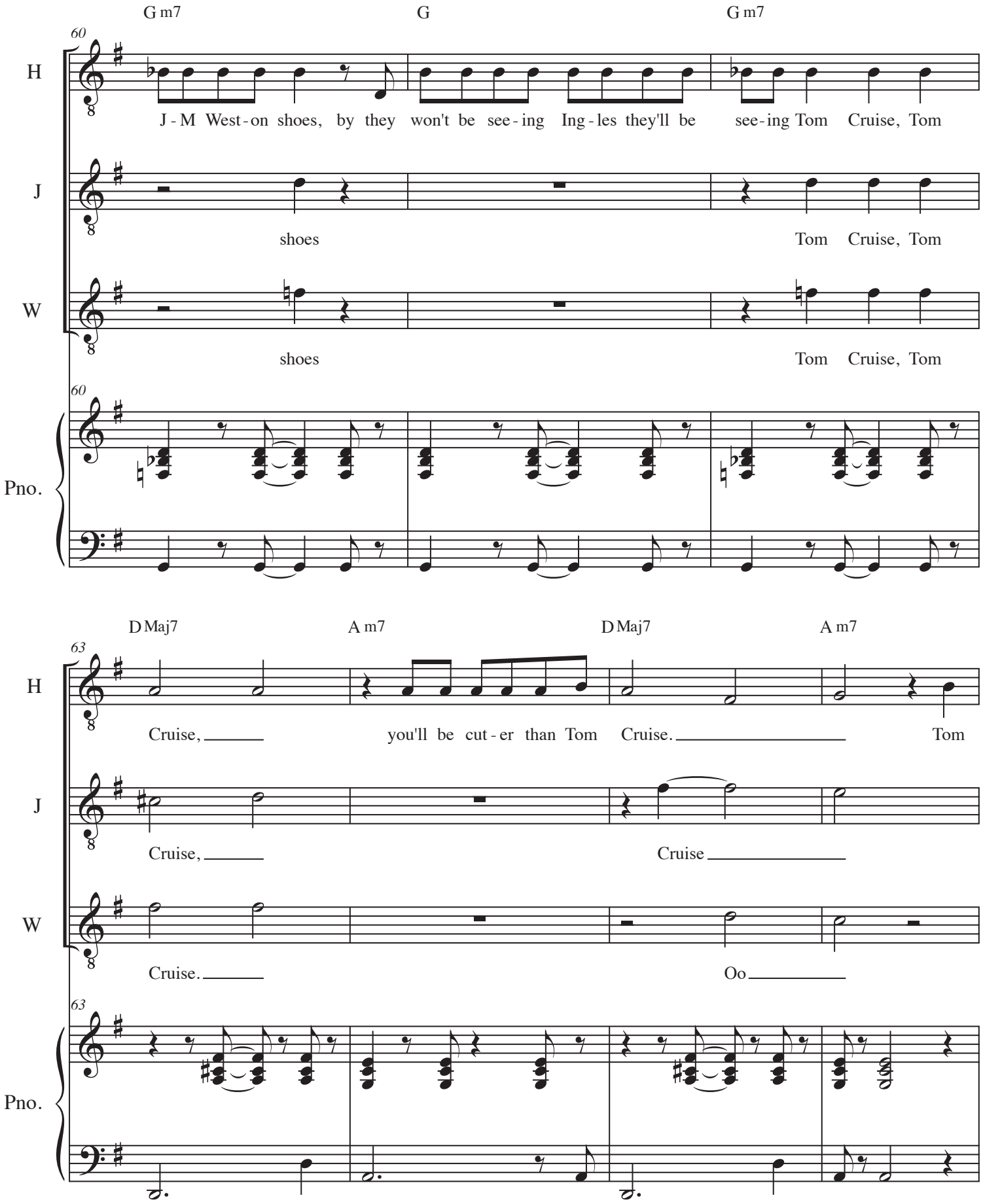
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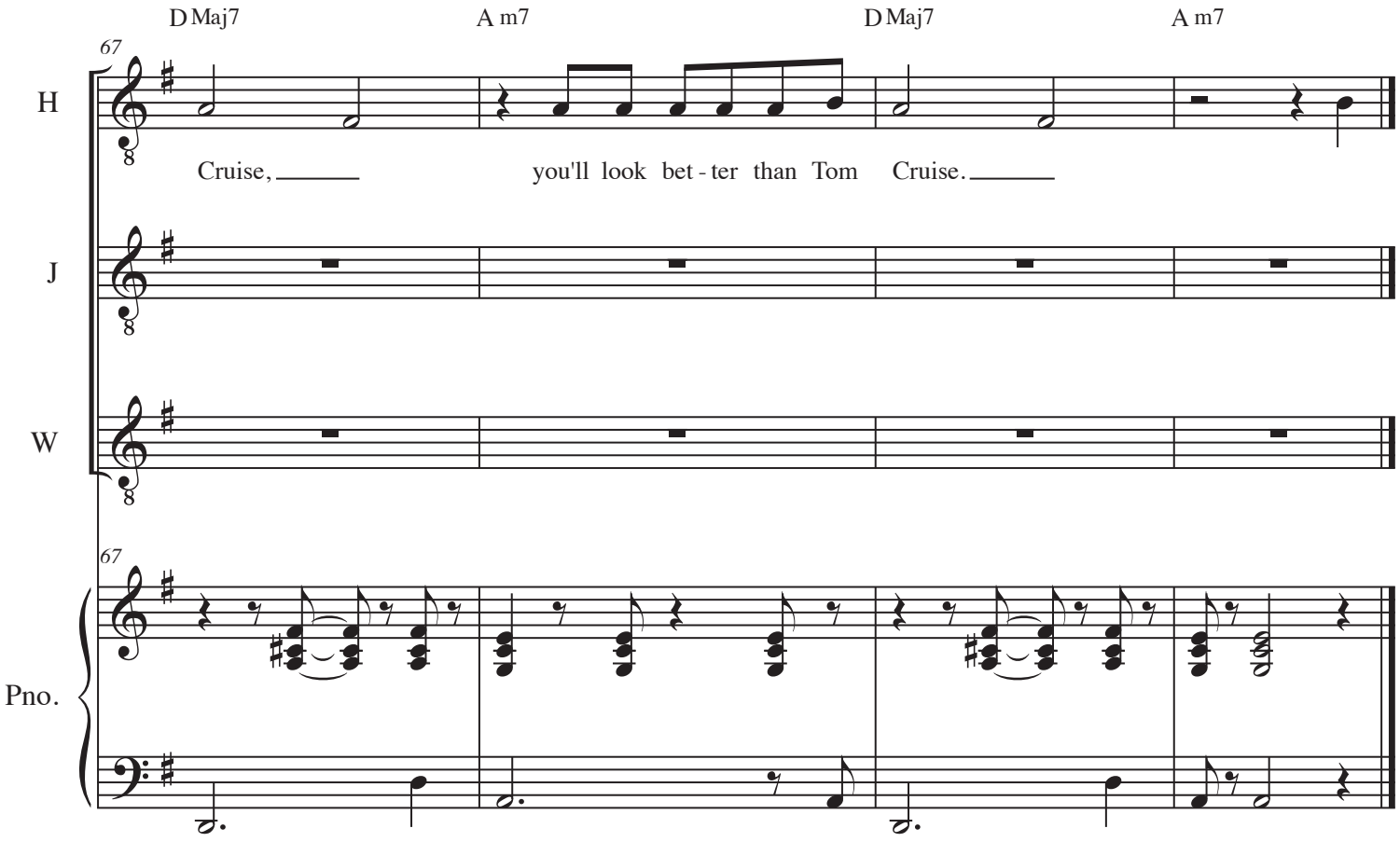

D Maj7
A m7
G
49
H
Pra - da.
Look - ing at you now I'd say you're
J
Pra - da.
W
Pra - da.
Pno.
G m7
G
52
look - ing kind - a goon - ey
by the time we're fin - ished with you you'll look

11. Tom Cruise




G m7
G
G m7
60
H
J - M West - on shoes, by they won't be see - ing Ing - les they'll be see - ing Tom Cruise, Tom
J
shoes
Tom Cruise, Tom
W
shoes
Tom Cruise, Tom
Pno.
D Maj7
A m7
D Maj7
A m7
63
H
Cruise, you'll be cut - er than Tom Cruise. Tom
J
Cruise, Cruise
W
Cruise. Oo
Pno.

11. Tom Cruise



ACT I SCENE 12

NARRATOR
Mayor Ingles got his makeover, and Michael got respect. People liked his ideas, his fiscal conservatism, his creative approach to the town's problems. But he was still barely 18 years old, and that alone made some people not listen to him, or if they did listen, they couldn't bring themselves to support him, he was, after all, only 18 years old.

(Setting: Gym for second debate.)

MICHAEL

(Looking to the door.)
Where is he?

MILTON
Maybe he isn't coming.

(To the side we see DOUG INGLES and CHIPPER. DOUG is not completely dressed in his makeover clothes. His jacket is off, his tie undone, and his shoes are not on. CHIPPER stands over him.)

CHIPPER

(Trying to cheer up DOUG.)
Dad, don't get down. Remember, that at the end of the day, it's your job to win or lose. Michael can say what he wants, but, who is he? He's a kid with a few ideas, and you, you're the person who has led our town through good times and bad. So, at the end of the day, there's only one thing that matters. You're the Mayor of this town.

(DOUG looks up at CHIPPER.)
Dad...say it...say...it.

DOUG INGLES

(Hesitating.)
I'm...the ...Mayor...of this town.

CHIPPER
Again...

DOUG INGLES
I'm the Mayor... of this town.

(CHIPPER motions with his arms for DOUG to say it again. DOUG repeats, this time with a slight rap feeling.)

DOUG/CHIPPER/TOWNSPEOPLE SING

12. I'm The Mayor Of This town

DOUG

I'M THE MAYOR OF THIS TOWN
AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT
I'M THE MAYOR OF THIS TOWN

I'M THE MAYOR OF THIS TOWN
I TAKE CARE OF THIS TOWN
AND I SWEAR TO THIS TOWN
I'M THE ONLY PRAYER FOR THIS TOWN

TOWNSPEOPLE

HE'S THE MAYOR OF THIS TOWN
HE TAKES CARE OF THIS TOWN
AND HE SWEARS TO THIS TOWN
HE'S THE ONLY PRAYER FOR THIS TOWN

DOUG INGLES

CHECK OUT ALL THESE OTHER CITIES
FLUSHED WITH CASH AND SITTING PRETTY
WALL STREET'S WHERE THEY PLACED THEIR TRUST
WHAT WAS SHINY NOW IS RUST

NOW THESE CITIES HAVE IT ROUGH
'CAUSE THEIR FAITH'S IN CARS AND STEEL AND STUFF
NOW THEY'RE CRYIN' "TIMES ARE TOUGH!"
BUT IN HILLSDALE WE HAVE ENOUGH

'CAUSE I'M THE MAYOR OF THIS TOWN
I TAKE CARE OF THIS TOWN
AND I SWEAR TO THIS TOWN
I WILL NEVER LET IT DOWN

ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, HOUSING MARKET UPSIDE DOWN
INNER CITY BROKEN DOWN/POLITICIANS

TOWNSPEOPLE

THUMBS DOWN!

DOUG INGLES

VEGAS.

TOWNSPEOPLE

IT WENT UNDER.

DOUG INGLES

COMPTON.

TOWNSPEOPLE
IT WENT UNDER.

DOUG INGLES
FRESNO.

TOWNSPEOPLE
IT WENT UNDER. BOOM GOES BUST!

DOUG INGLES
STOCKTON.

TOWNSPEOPLE
IT WENT UNDER.

DOUG INGLES
CLEVELAND.

TOWNSPEOPLE
IT WENT UNDER.

DOUG INGLES
DETROIT.

TOWNSPEOPLE
IT WENT UNDER. BUST GOES BOOM!

CHIPPER
But not Hillsdale. You see when the economic downturn came, Hillsdale was ready. While other towns made deals with big business for steel, and cars, and stuff, you made sure Hillsdale kept its economy small.
So we make sure we spend all our money on local business. The day we start to depend on outside money, is the day we become just another entry on the list of towns that have gone belly up.
But not Hillsdale. Because...

DOUG INGLES
I'M THE MAYOR OF THIS TOWN
PEOPLE GAVE ME THIS CROWN
AND I AIN'T ABOUT TO GIVE IT UP
TO SOME EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD CLOWN

SO THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GO DOWN
IN THIS ELECTORAL SHOWDOWN

(DOUG pretends to do a mic drop.)
MIC TO YOU CHIPPER
LET THE PEOPLE HAVE THE LOWDOWN

CHIPPER
BORN AND RAISED IN THIS TOWN
SPENT MY DAYS IN THIS TOWN
BEFORE MY LIFE IS OVER
I'LL BE PRAISED

I'LL BE THE MAYOR OF THIS TOWN
THEN I'LL TEAR IT ALL DOWN
'TILL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT GROUND
THEN I'LL BUILD IT ALL UP WITH

CONDOS, CASINOS
LIKE THE ONES IN RENO
SHOW MY POWER, BUILD A TOWER
TRUMP THE ONE IN JERSEY, OH

TOWNSPEOPLE
CHIPPER INGLES
CHIPPER INGLES
CHIPPER INGLES

DOUG INGLES
What was that son?

CHIPPER
YOU'RE THE MAYOR OF THIS TOWN
NOBODY CAN MATCH YOU
IN THE SQUARE OF THIS TOWN
THEY'RE GONNA BUILD YOU A STATUE

DOUG INGLES
I'M THE MAYOR OF THIS TOWN
A MAJOR PLAYER IN THIS TOWN
AND I SWEAR TO THIS TOWN
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS TOWN
'CAUSE I'M THE MAYOR OF THIS TOWN!

(LIGHTS OUT.)

Hillsdale Blues
Piano/Vocals
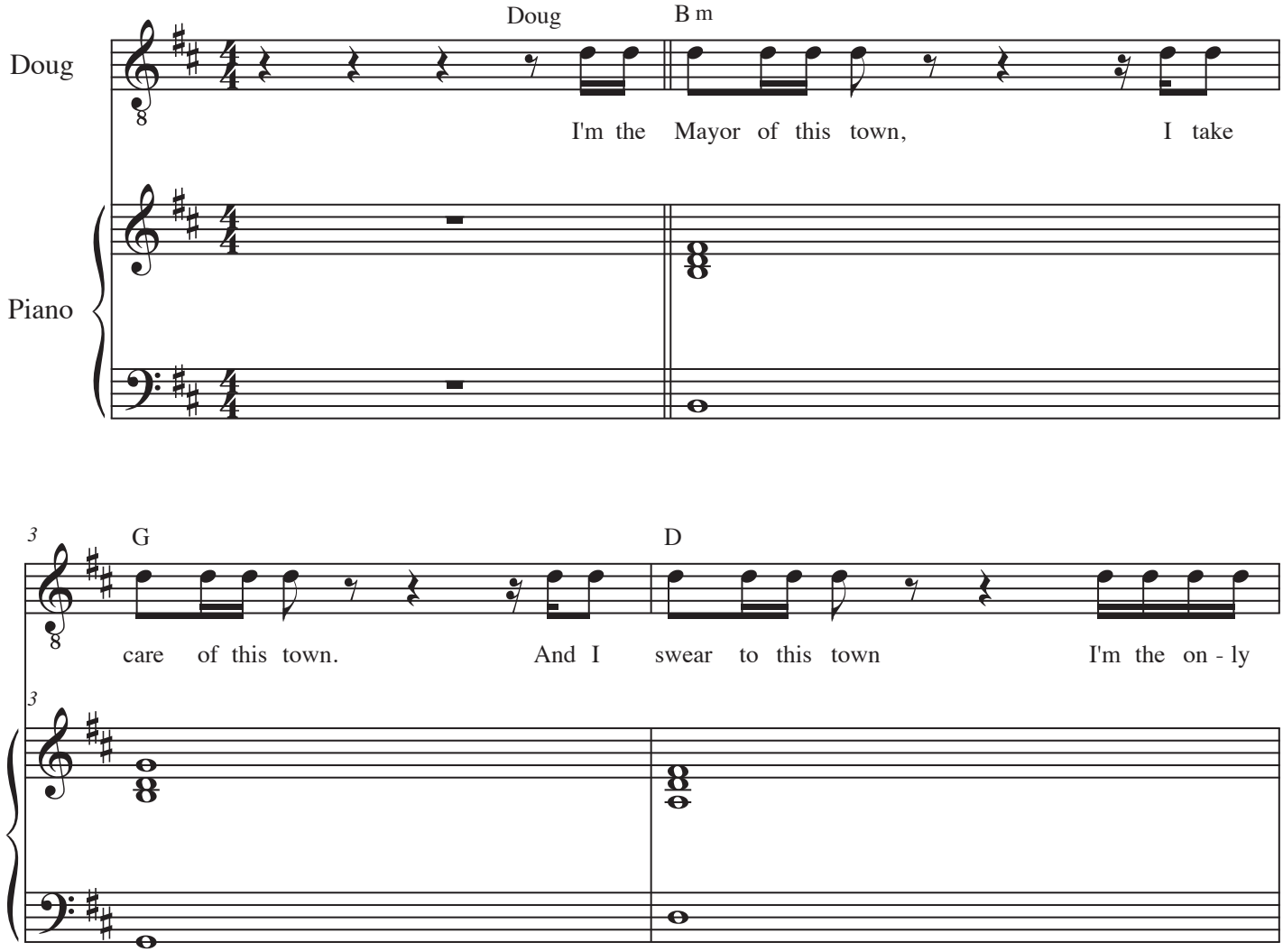
music by Sean P. Breen
lyrics by Sean P. Breen

10. I'm The Mayor of This Town
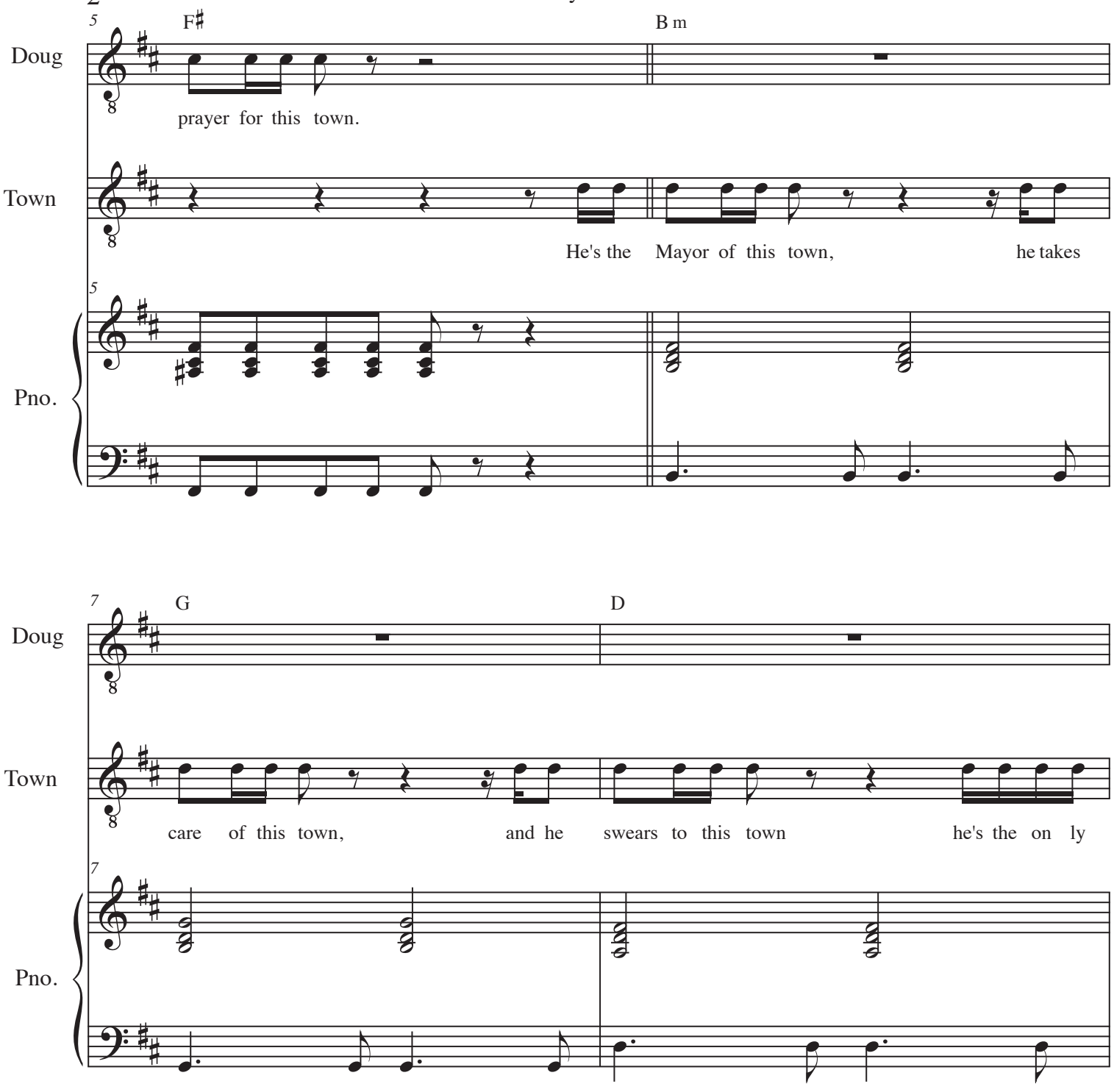
(Doug/Chipper/Townspeople)
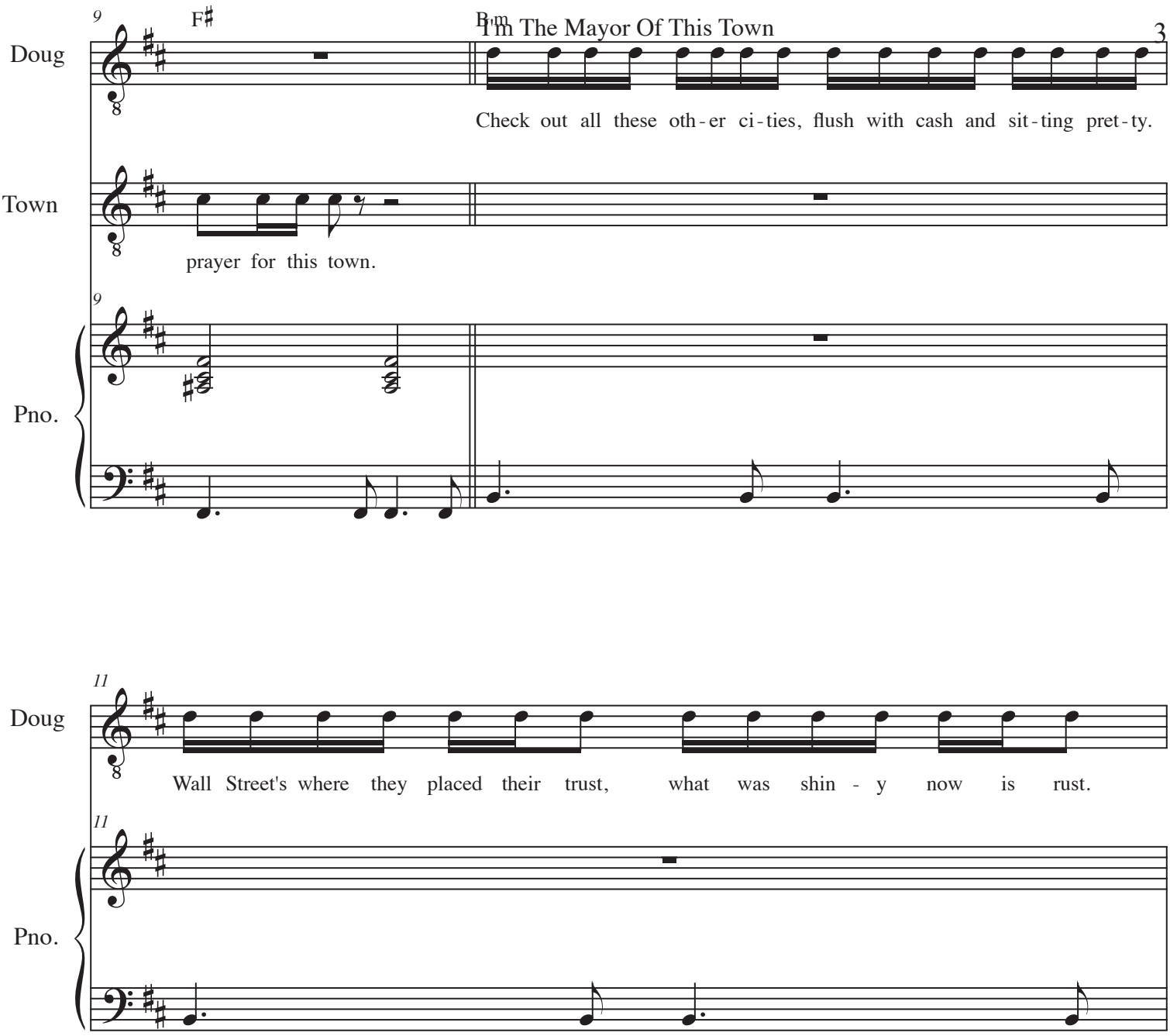
Rev. 4/21/25
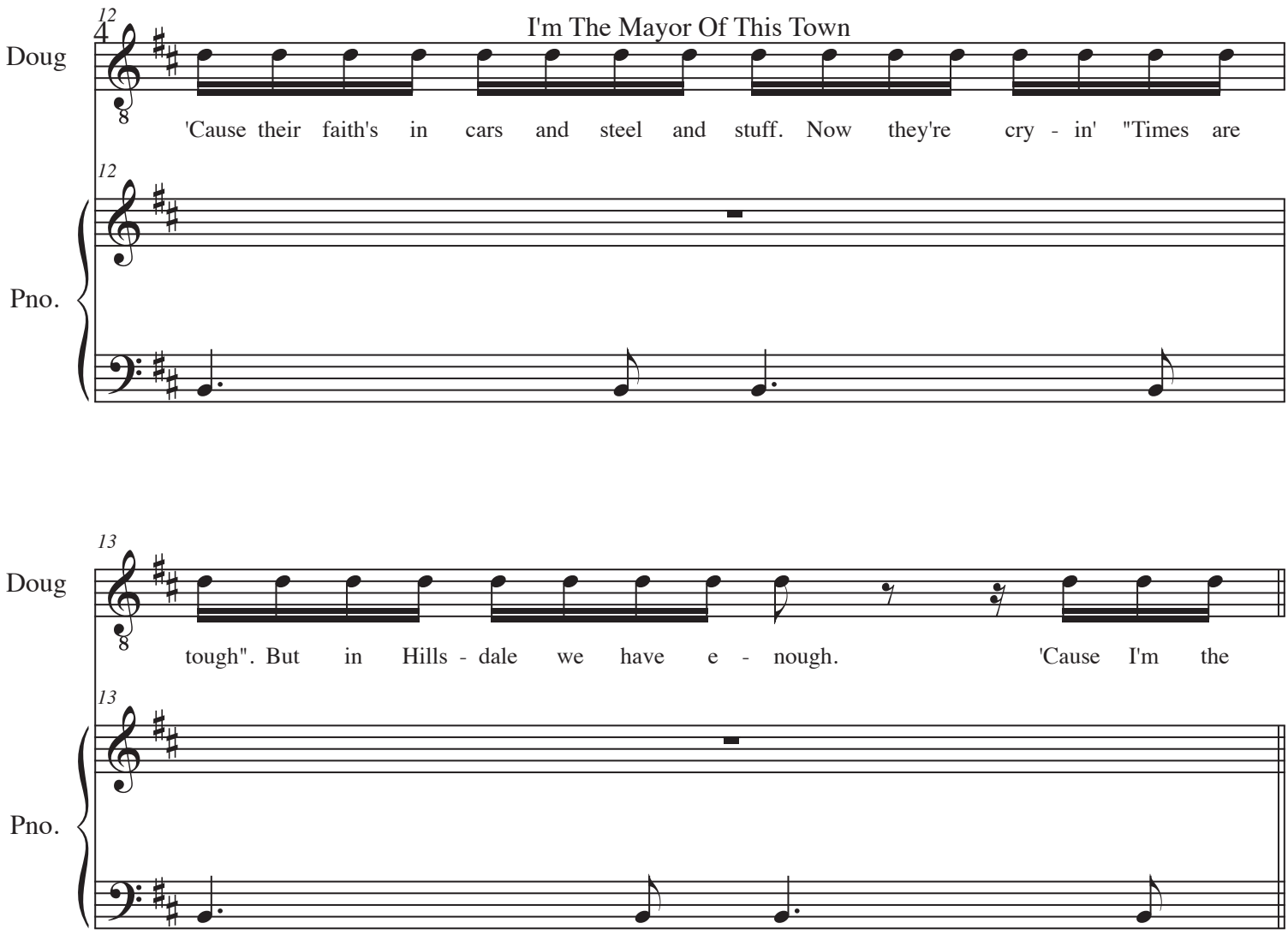
Cue: CHIPPER: Dad...say it...say...it.
DOUG: I'm...the...Mayor...of this town
CHIPPER: Again..
DOUG: I'm the Mayor...of this town
I'm the Mayor of this town
And don't you forget it
I'm the Mayor of this town
CHIPPER: That's right!
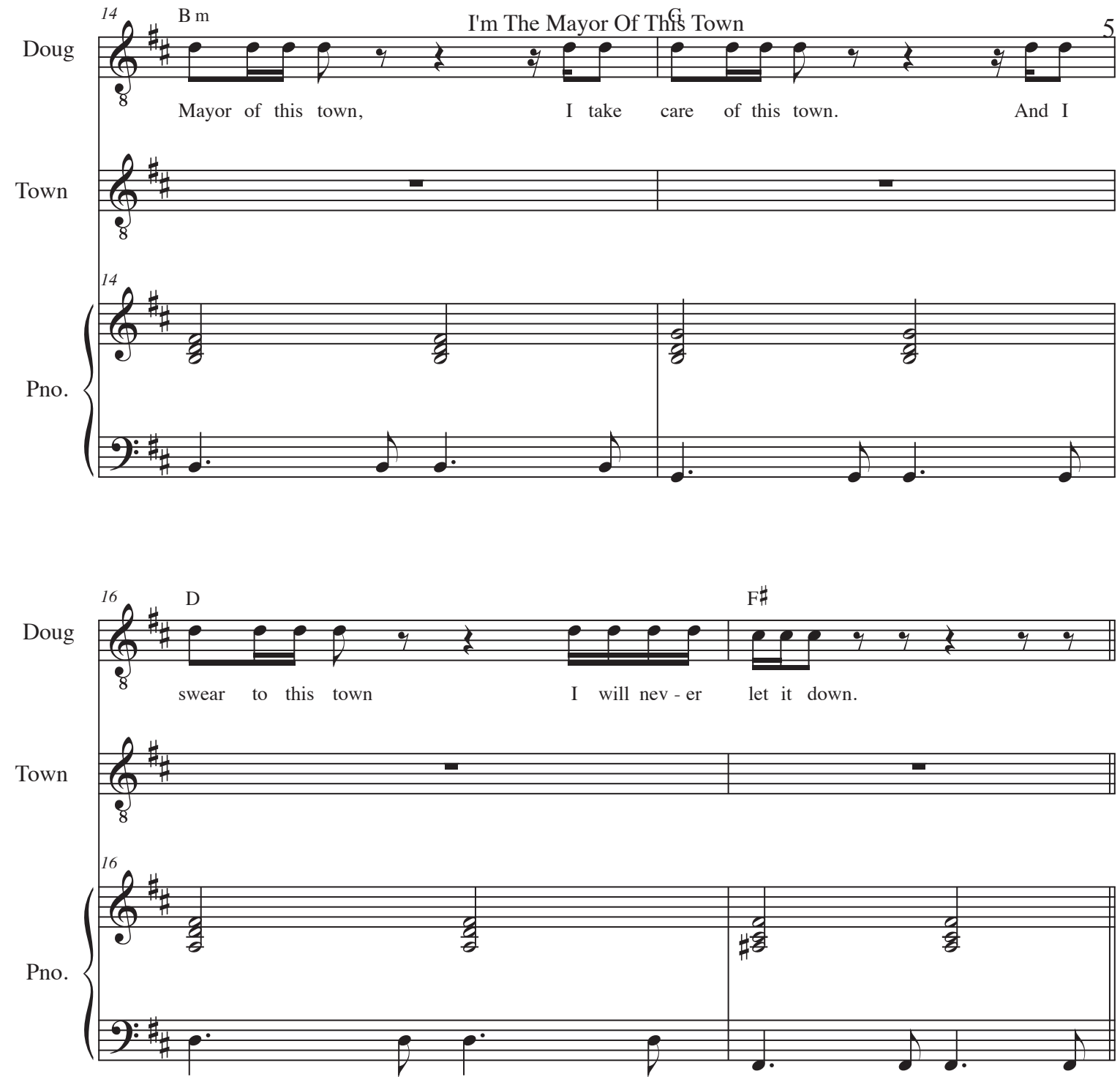


I'm The Mayor Of This Town
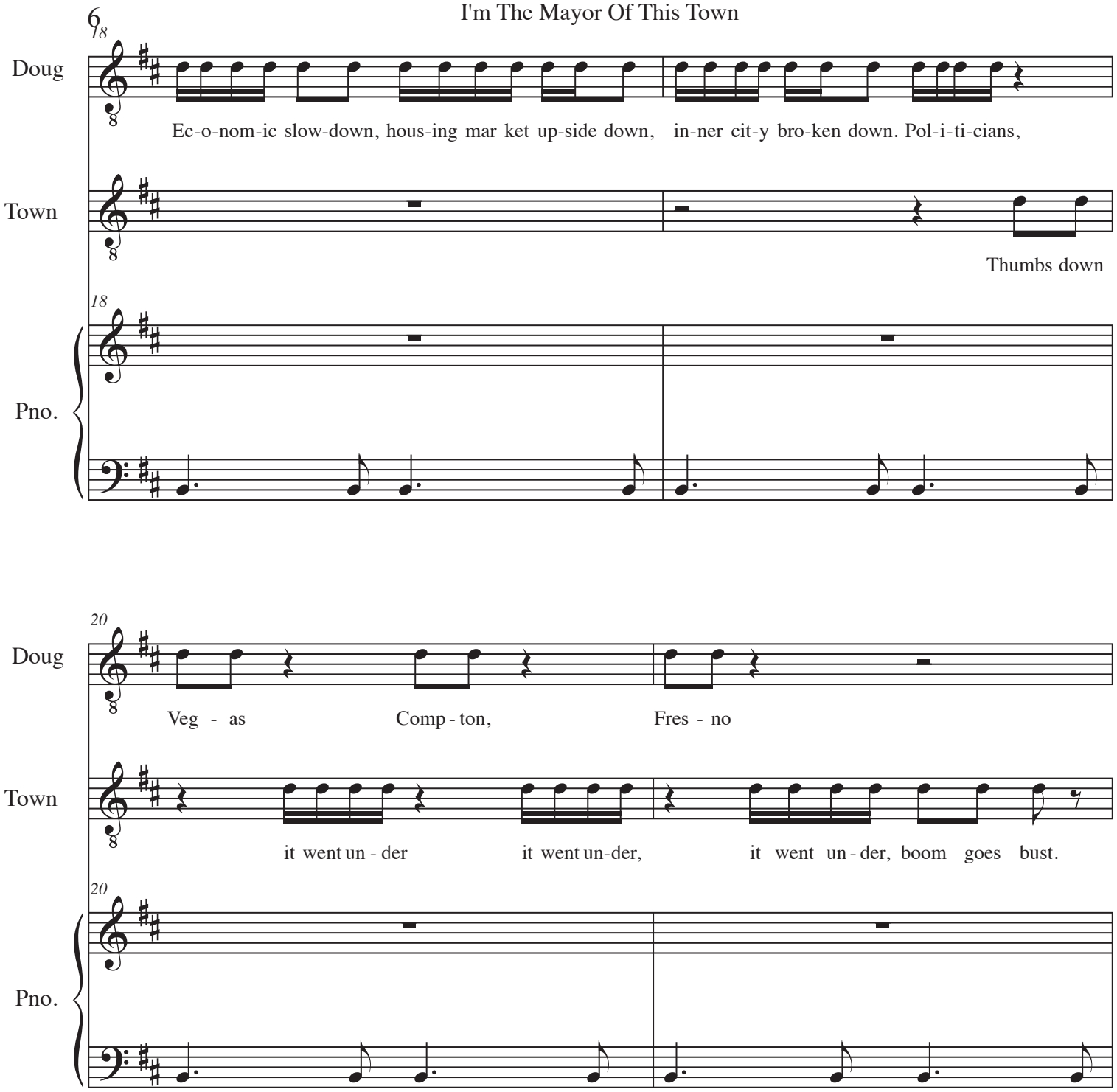



9
F♯
B m
Doug
Check out all these oth-er ci-ties, flush with cash and sit-ting pret-ty.
Town
prayer for this town.
9
Pno.
11
Doug
Wall Street's where they placed their trust, what was shin - y now is rust.
11
Pno.
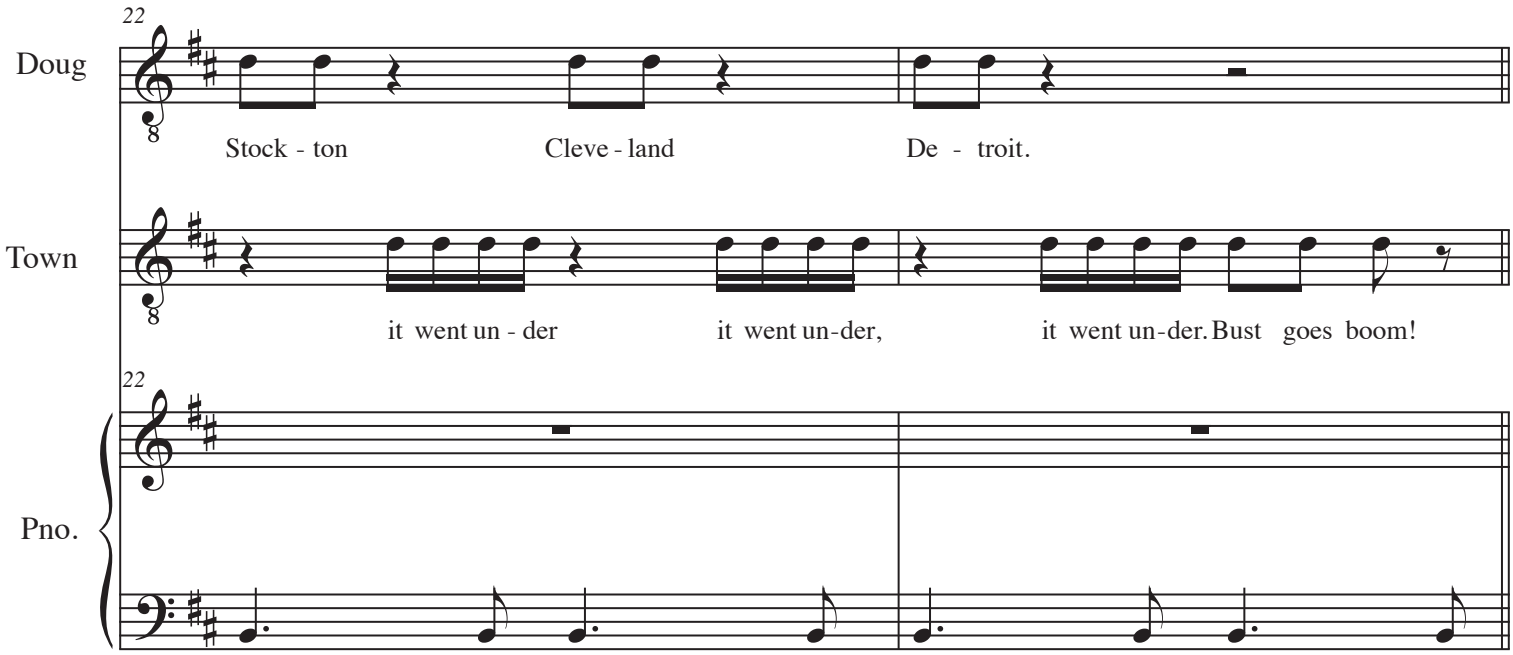

12
Doug
'Cause their faith's in cars and steel and stuff. Now they're cry - in' "Times are
12
Pno.
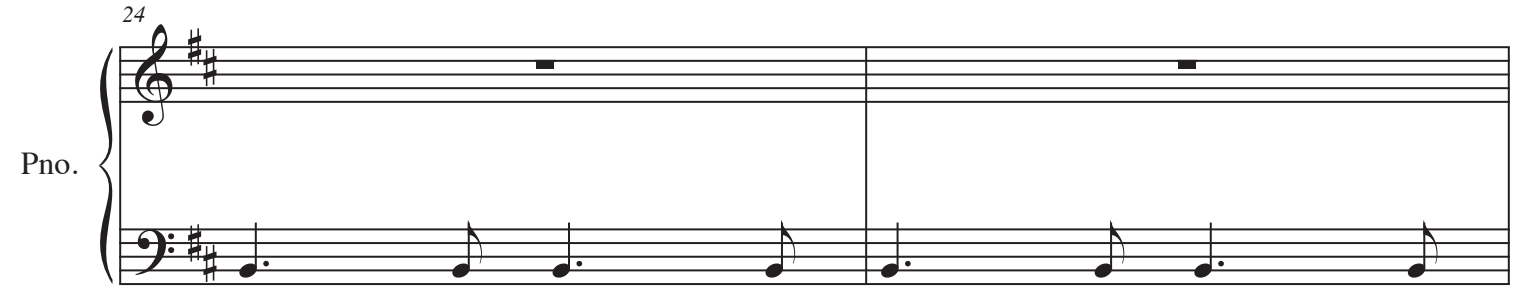
13
Doug
tough". But in Hills - dale we have e - nough. 'Cause I'm the
13
Pno.
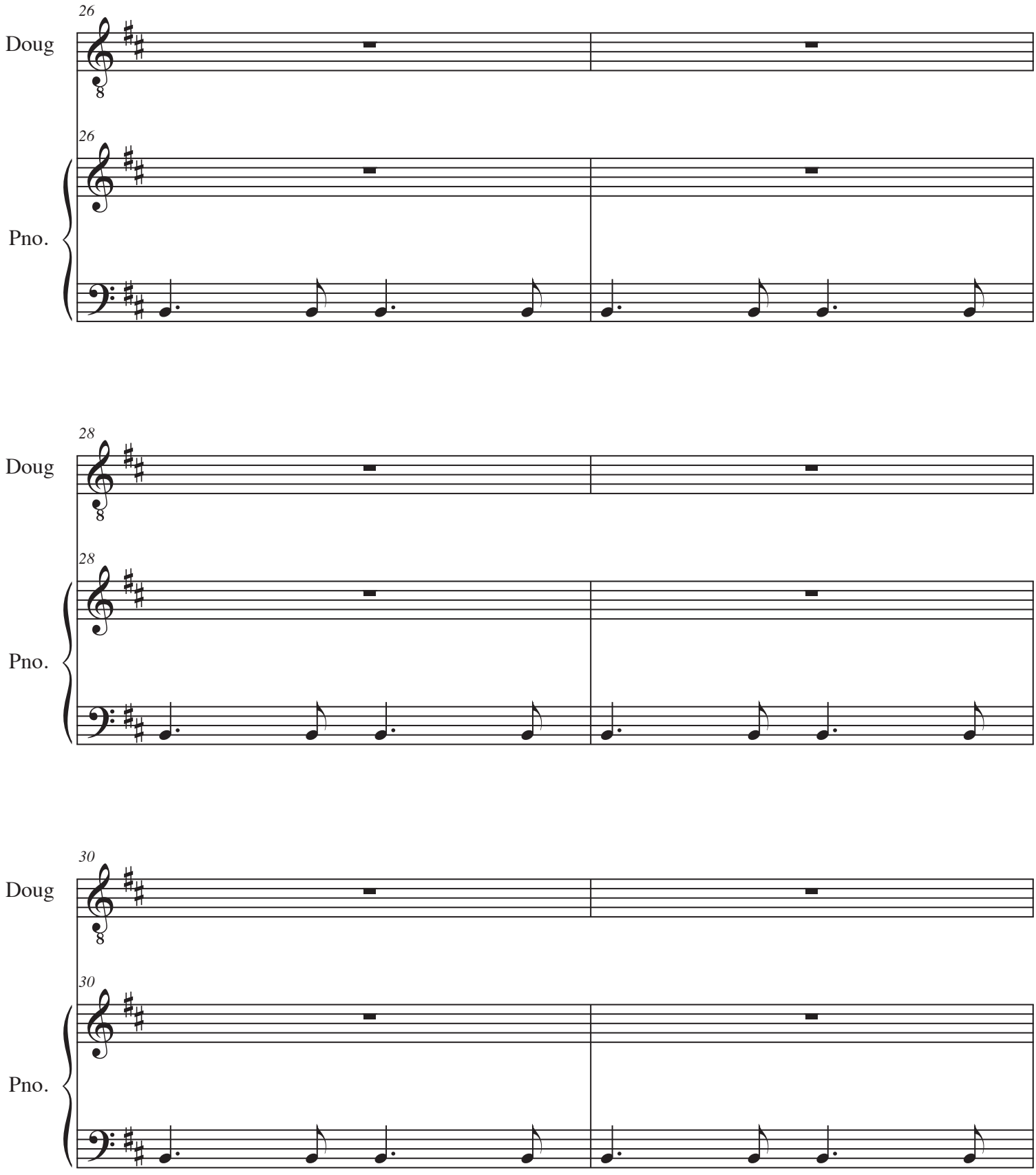

14
B m
G
Doug
Mayor of this town, I take care of this town. And I
Town
14
Pno.
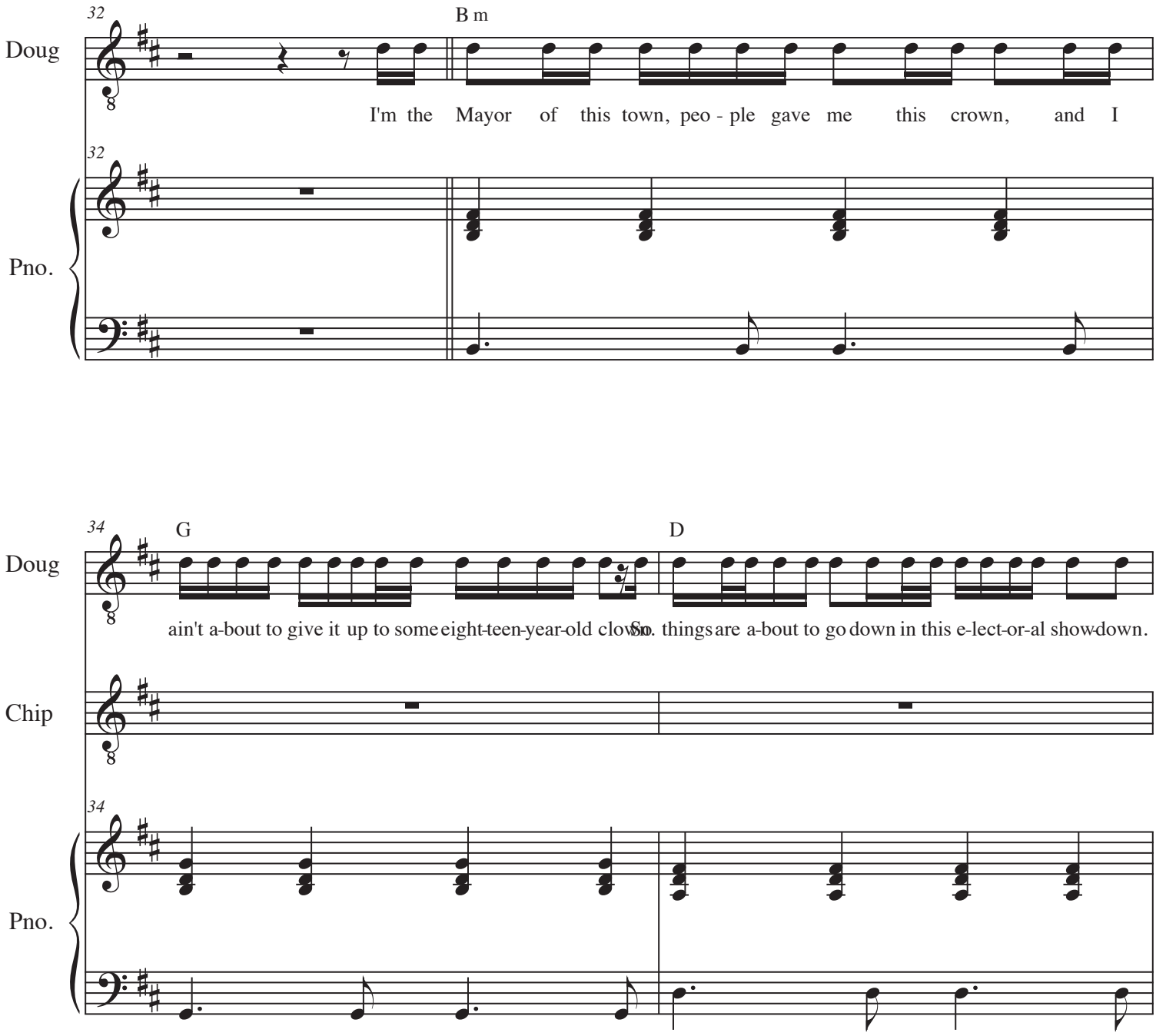
16
D
F♯
Doug
swear to this town I will nev - er let it down.
Town
16
Pno.


6/8
Doug
Ec-o-nom-ic slow-down, hous-ing mar ket up-side down, in-ner cit-y bro-ken down. Pol-i-ti-cians,
Town
Thumbs down
18
Pno.
20
Doug
Veg - as Comp - ton, Fres - no
Town
it went un - der it went un-der, it went un - der, boom goes bust.
20
Pno.
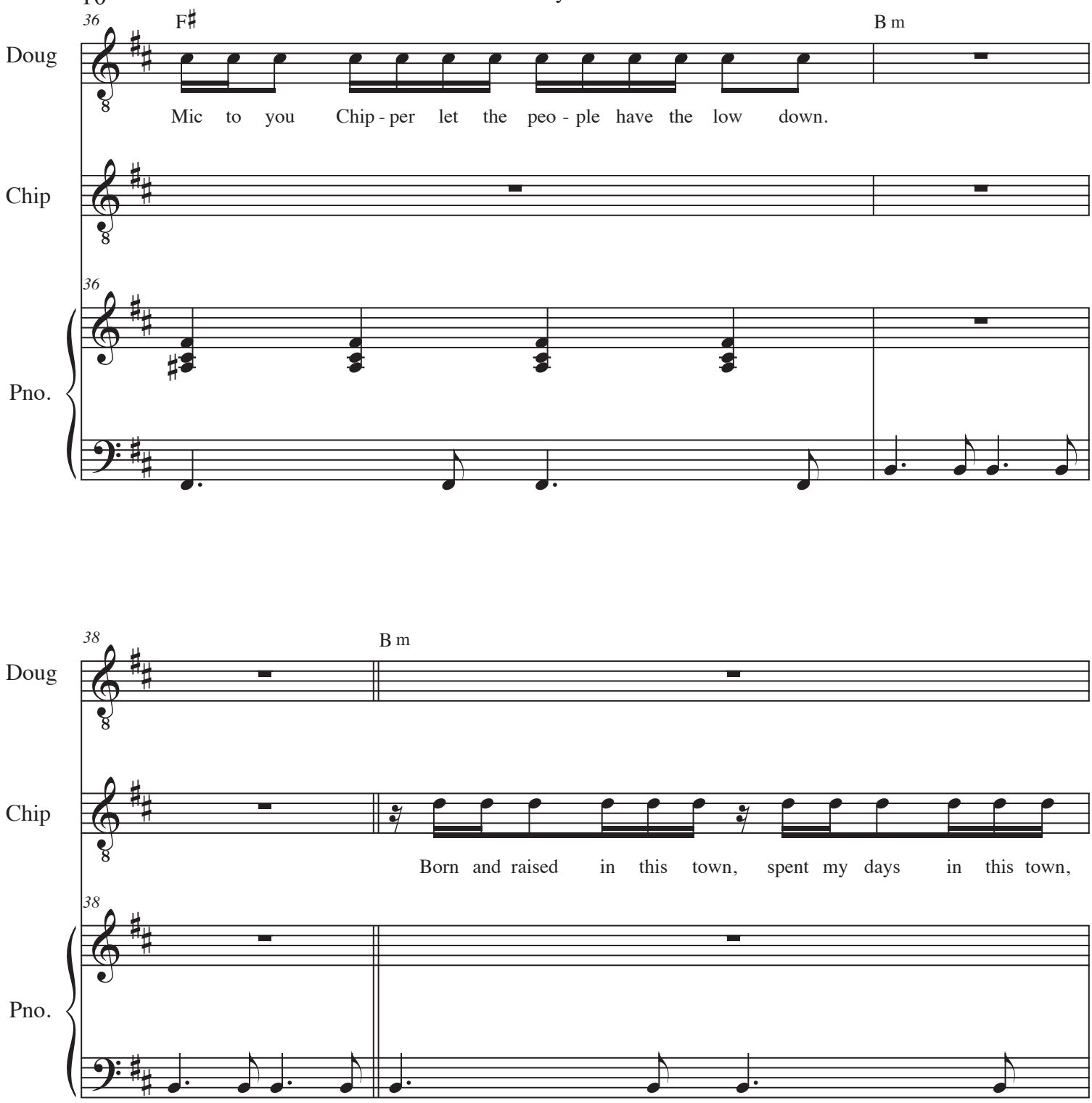

22
Doug
Stock - ton
Cleve - land
De - troit.
Town
it went un - der
it went un-der,
it went un-der. Bust goes boom!
22
Pno.

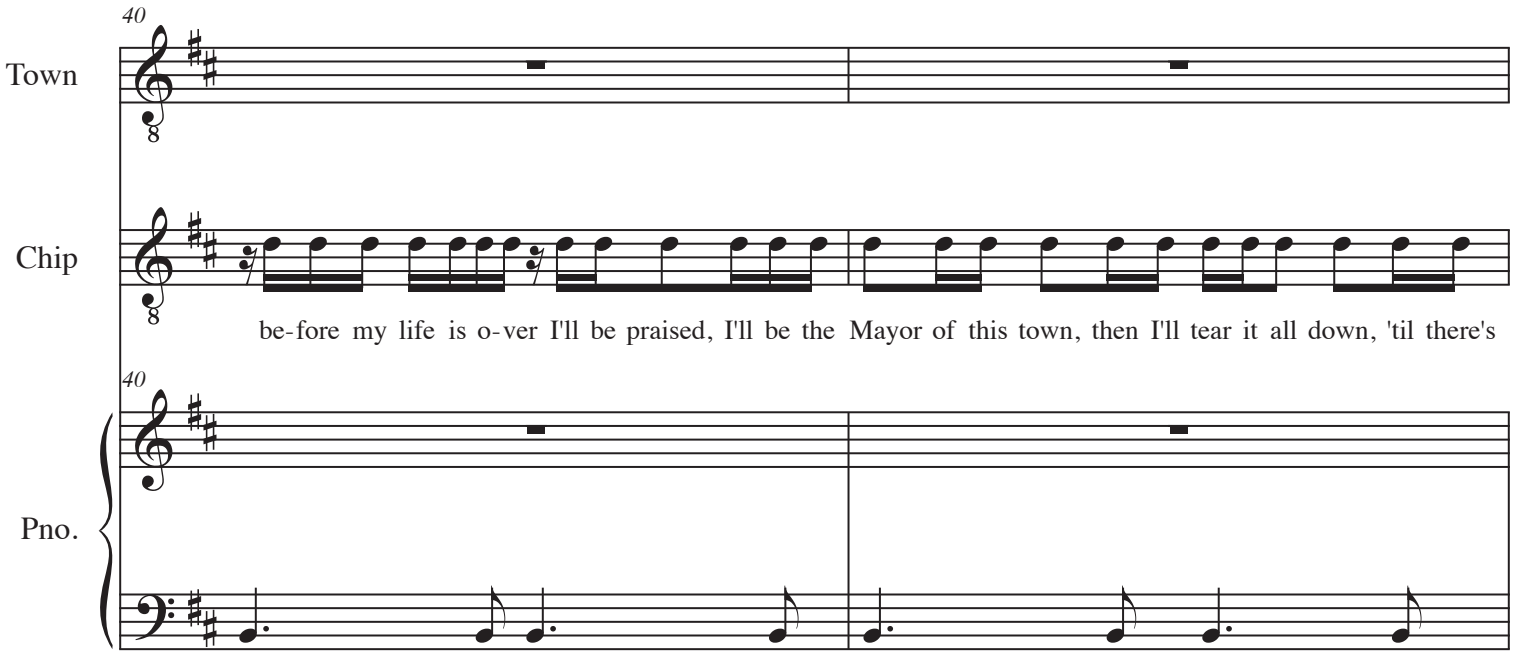

24
Pno.
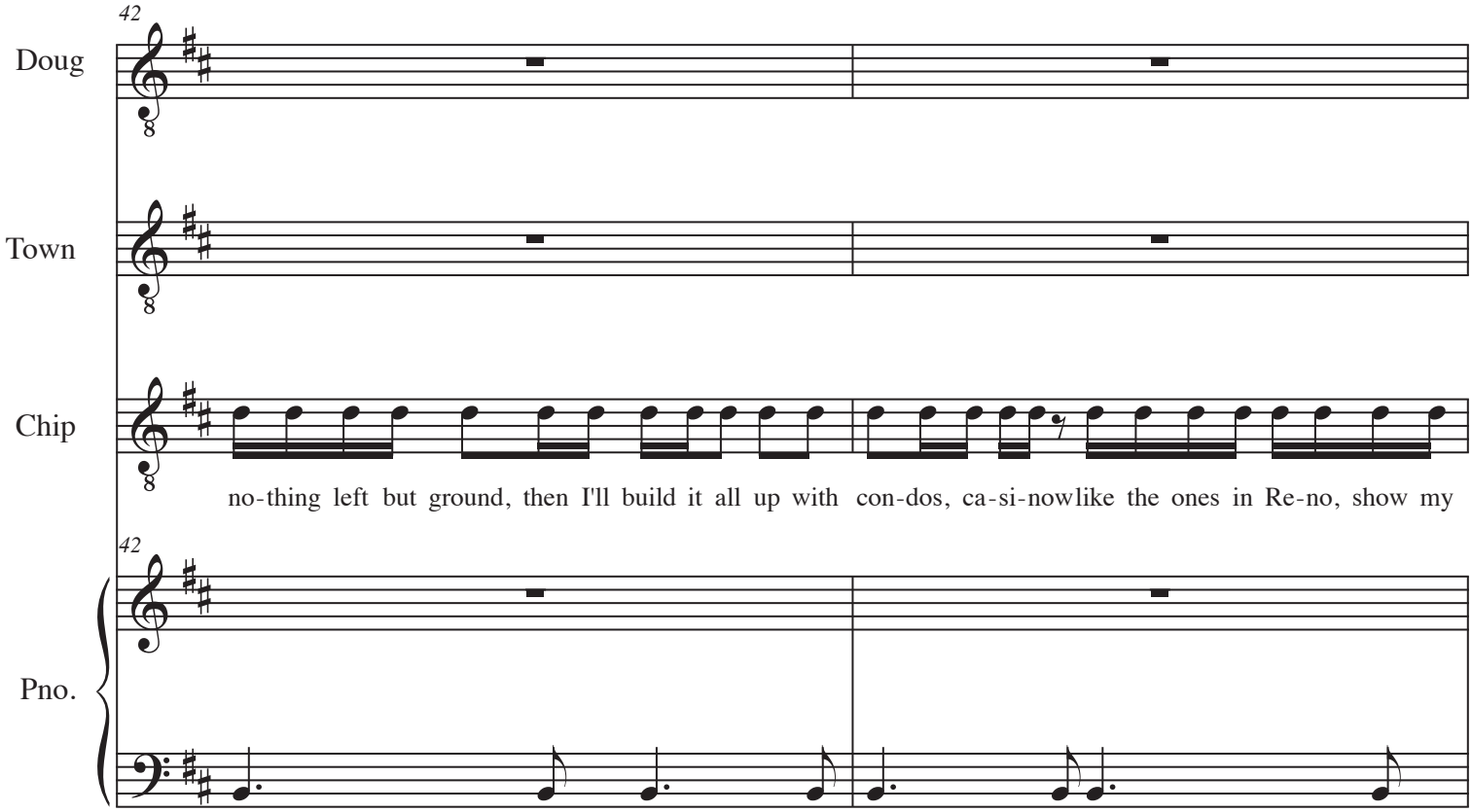

26
Doug
26
Pno.
28
Doug
28
Pno.
30
Doug
30
Pno.


32
B m
Doug
I'm the Mayor of this town, peo - ple gave me this crown, and I
32
Pno.
34
G
D
Doug
ain't a-bout to give it up to some eight-teen-year-old clown. So, things are a-bout to go down in this e-lect-or-al show-down.
Chip
34
Pno.
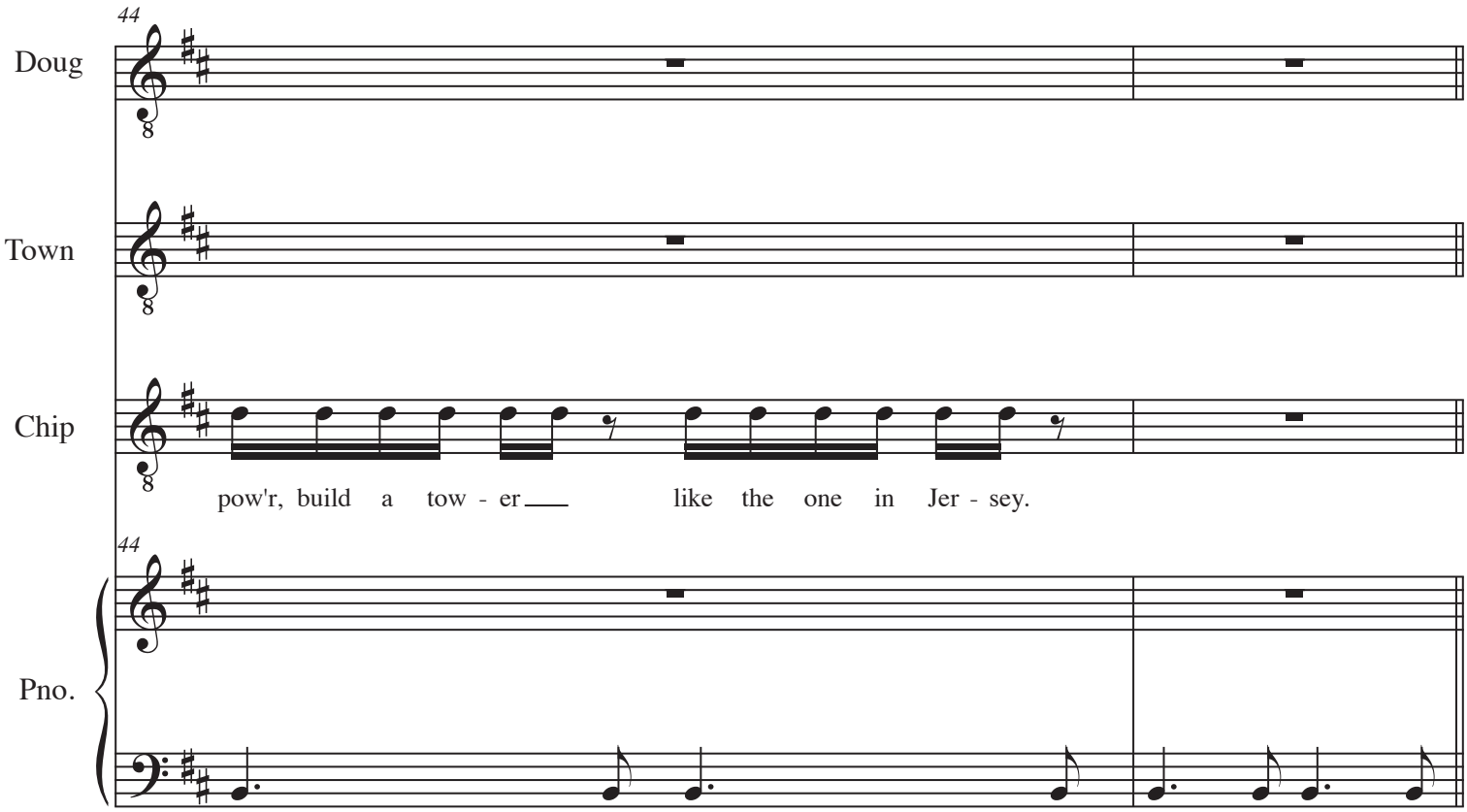
I'm The Mayor Of This Town
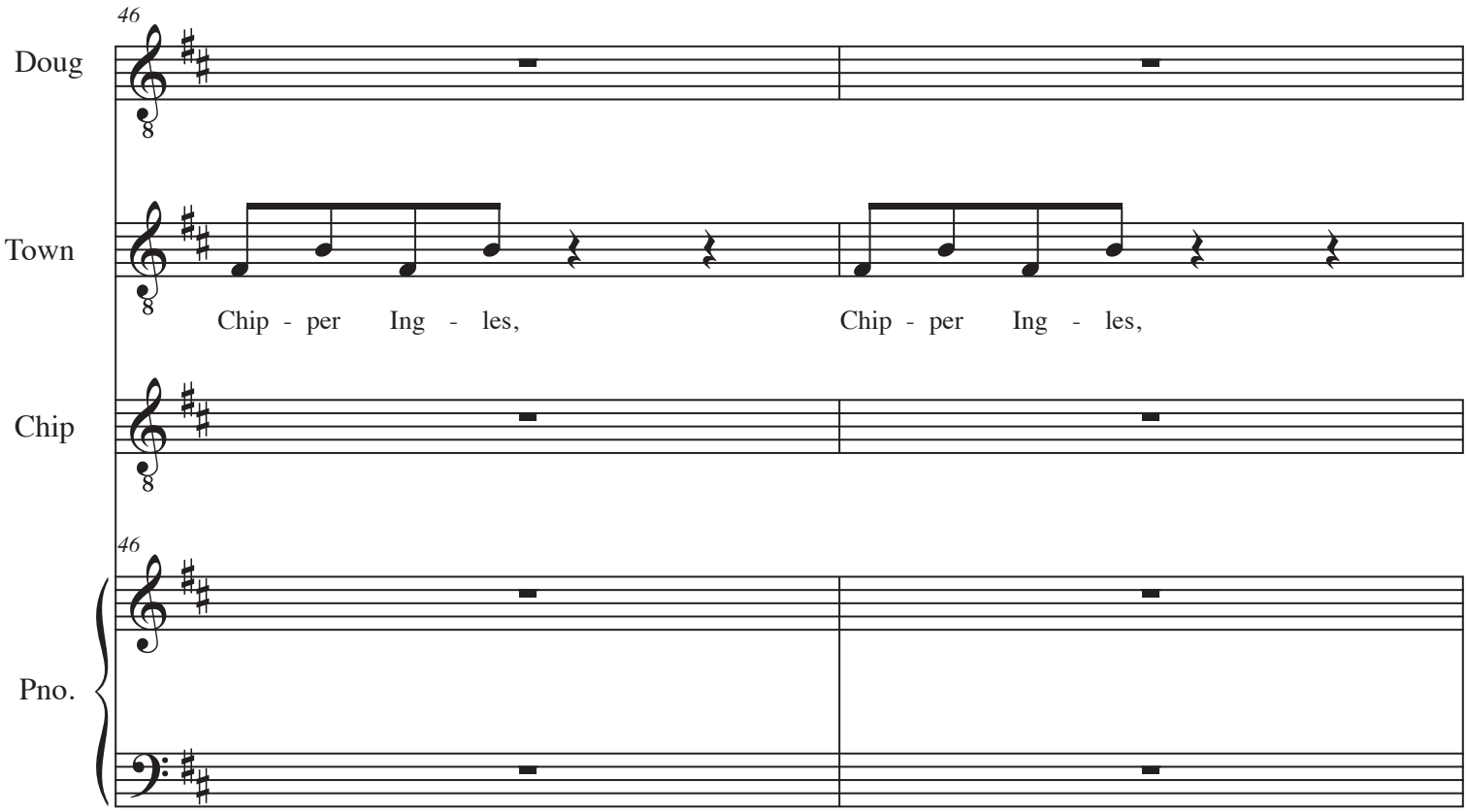



40
Town
Chip
be-fore my life is o-ver I'll be praised, I'll be the Mayor of this town, then I'll tear it all down, 'til there's
40
Pno.

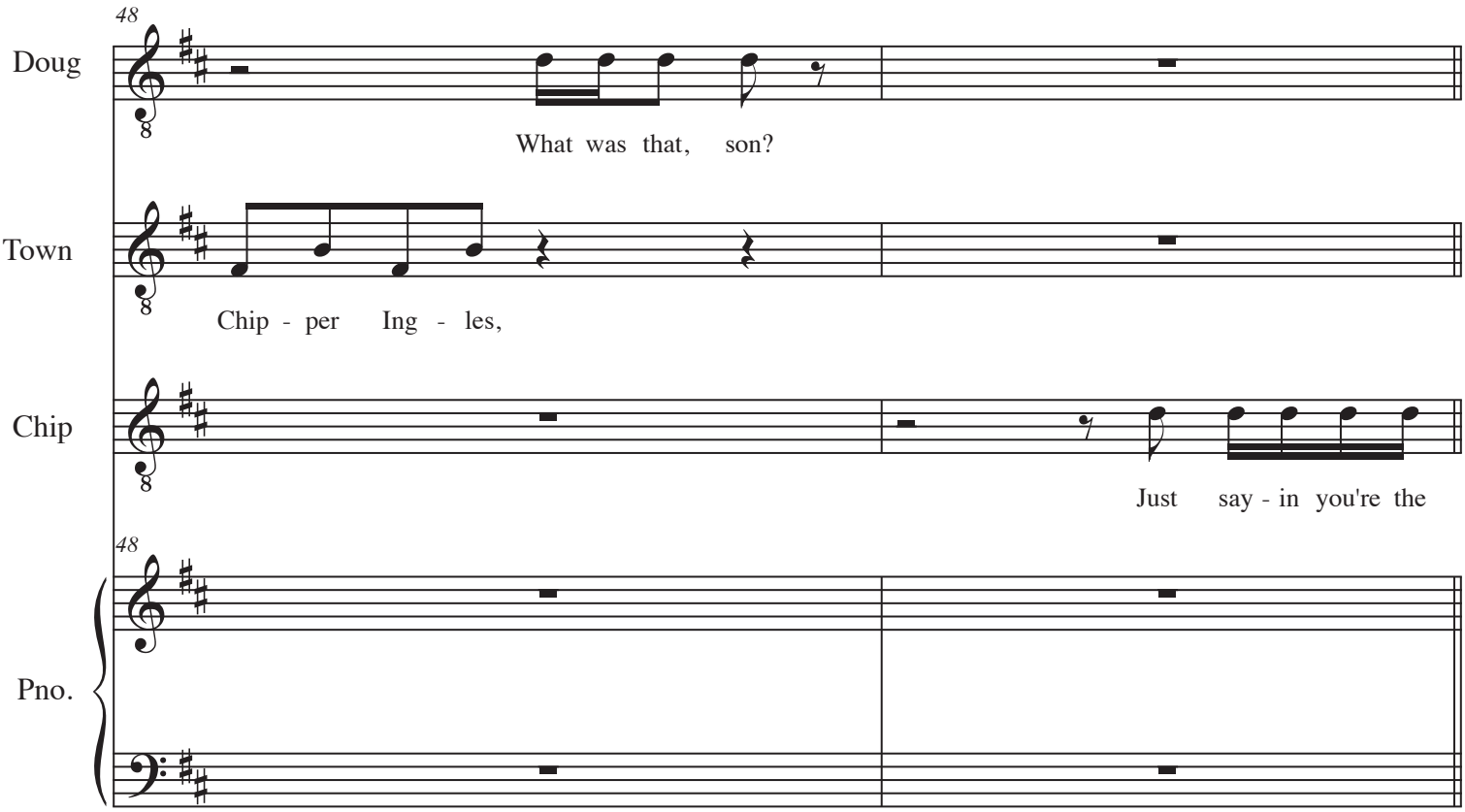

42
Doug
Town
Chip
no-thing left but ground, then I'll build it all up with con-dos, ca-si-nowlike the ones in Re-no, show my
42
Pno.

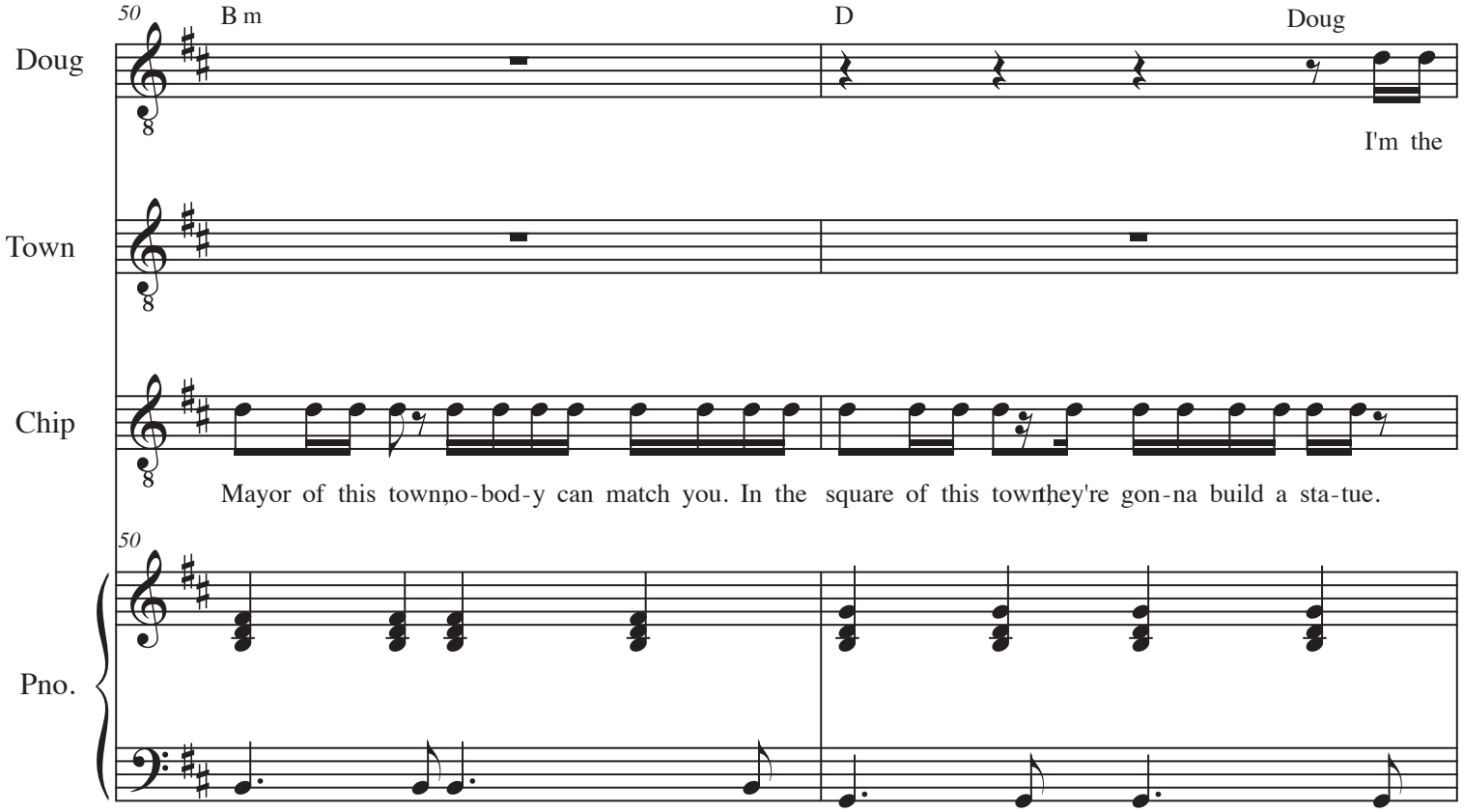
I'm The Mayor Of This Town



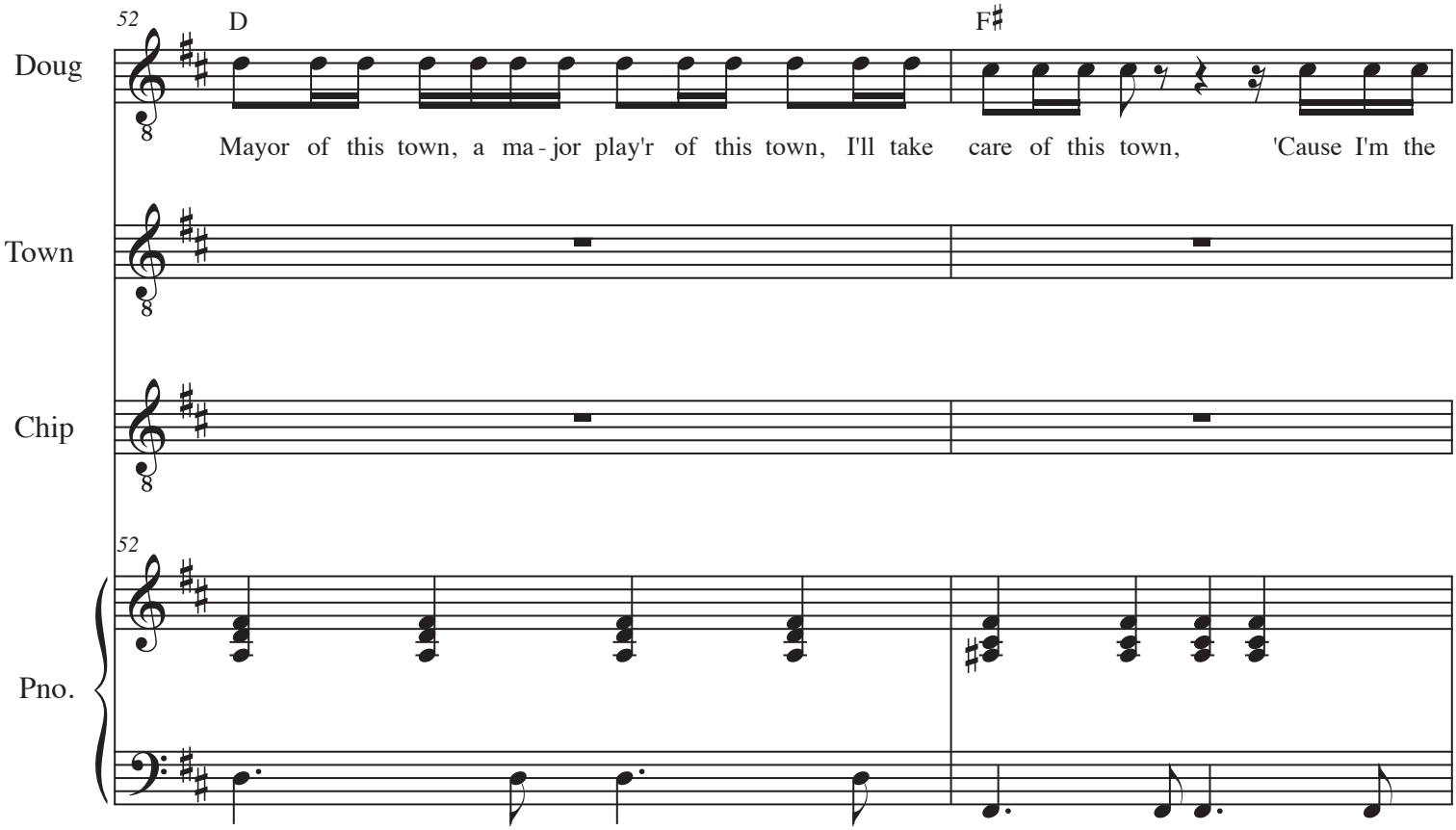

46
Doug
Town
Chip - per Ing - les, Chip - per Ing - les,
Chip
46
Pno.

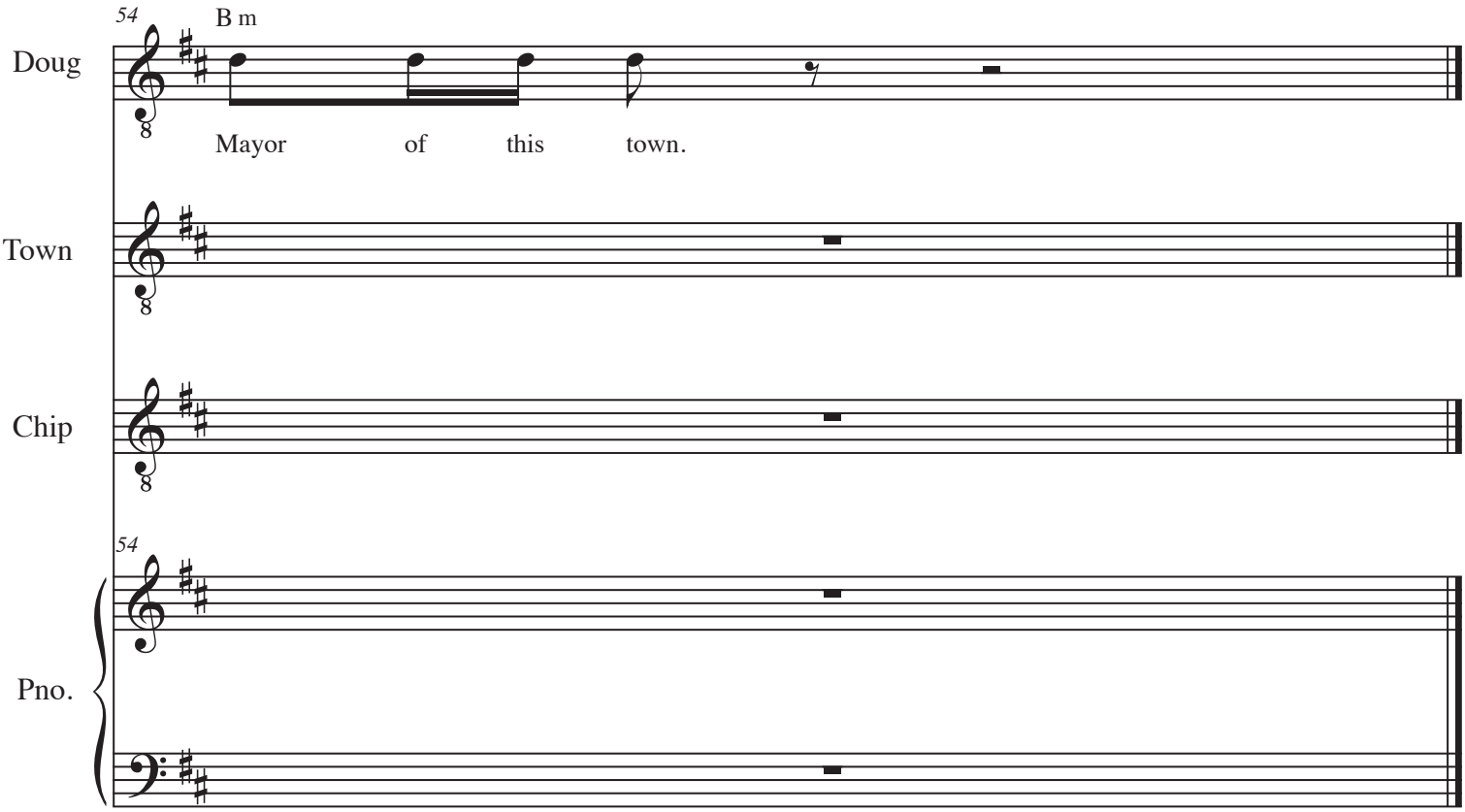
I'm The Mayor Of This Town




50
B m
D
Doug
Doug
I'm the
Town
Chip
Mayor of this townno-bod-y can match you. In the square of this townthey're gon-na build a sta-tue.
50
Pno.

I'm The Mayor Of This Town




54
B m
Doug
Mayor of this town.
Town
Chip
54
Pno.

ACT II SCENE 12 ELECTION DAY PART 2

(MICHAEL and MILTON mingle in the town square with TOWNSPEOPLE. NARRATOR has taken a seat on the bench next to HARPO. Commotion from the side. First in is TMC, then CHIPPER and finally, DOUG dressed in the most GQ clothes, and a great haircut.)

MICHAEL

What's he up to?

TAMMY VAGEL

Well Hillsdale, tomorrow is election day; so let's just have few words from each candidate.

MICHAEL

I want to thank all of you who have supported me and my candidacy. I feel confident that if I am elected. I will make you proud.

(TMC turns on a boom box with hip sounding music on it.)

DOUG INGLES

Thank you, thank you. You know, it was 16 years ago that I became your mayor. A lot has happened in those 16 years. Children have grown up; some of our friends and family have gone on. We've lost a few jobs. You know, Mrs. Chalmers, you know she's 89 today, happy birthday Mrs. Chalmers, you know, she asked me down at Miss Dawson's diner, she asked me if I regretted anything I have done in the 16 years I have been Mayor. I'll tell you what I told her. No. I regret nothing. But we need to finish what we started 16 years ago. It hasn't been easy but nothing of value is? Now I'm sure my opponent has some qualifications...but when you get right down to it...at the end of the day...isn't it about substance?

(Everyone plays out continued questioning.)

ACT II Scene 13 Election Day Part 3

(Setting: Same as Election Day Part 1.)

NARRATOR
Election day, November 2005. The town seemed split about 50-50. It wasn't until later that night that the results were known.

(REPORTERS sing **SONG: 13. THE REPORTERS #3**)

WE’RE THE REPORTERS WHO REPORT THE NEWS
WE REPORT ON "WHAT’S WHAT" AND "WHO’S WHO"
WHEN TO LEAVE AND WHERE TO GO
AND WHY YOU EVEN NEED TO KNOW
REPORTERS WHO REPORT THE NEWS.
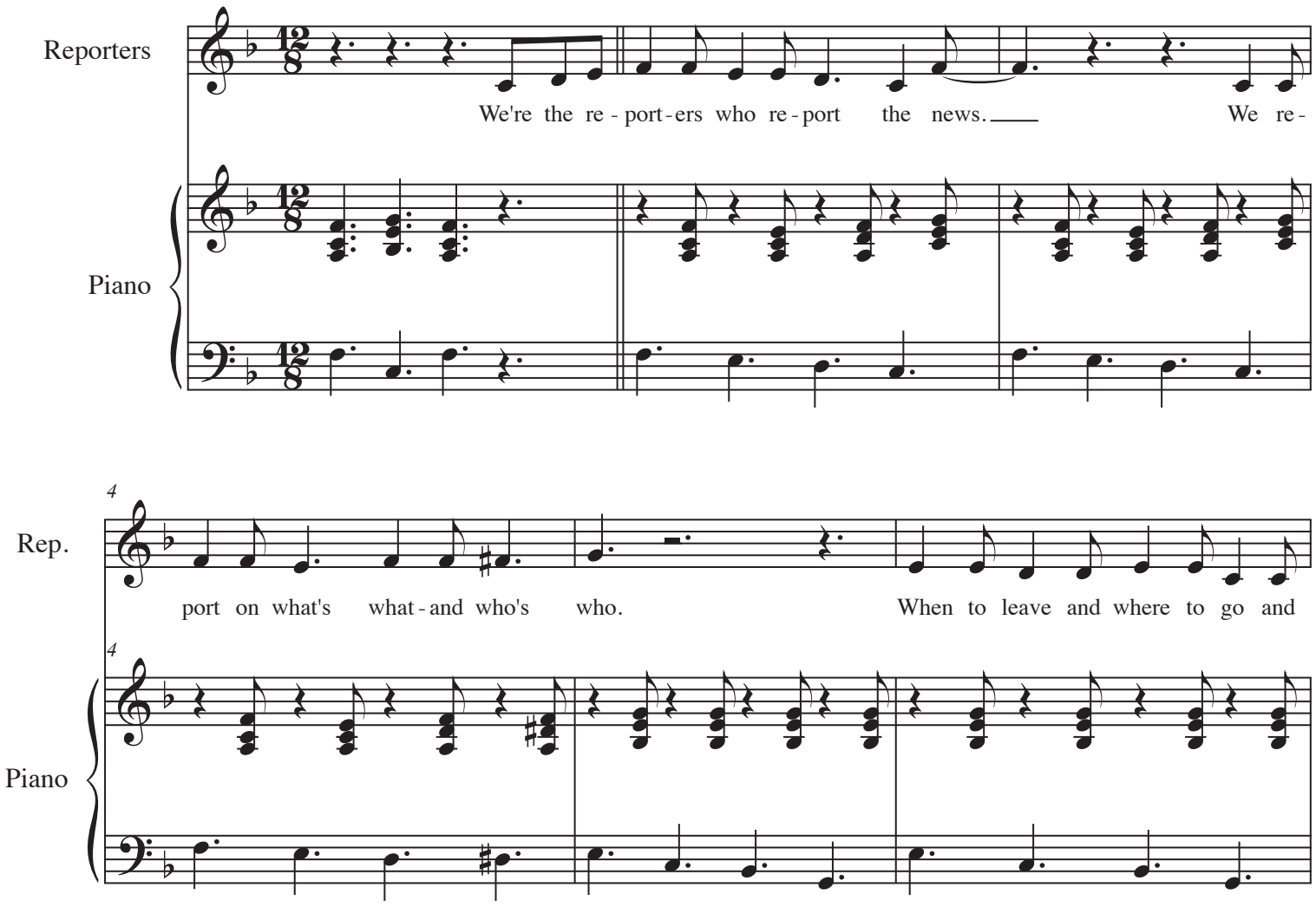
13. The Reporters #3

(Reporters)

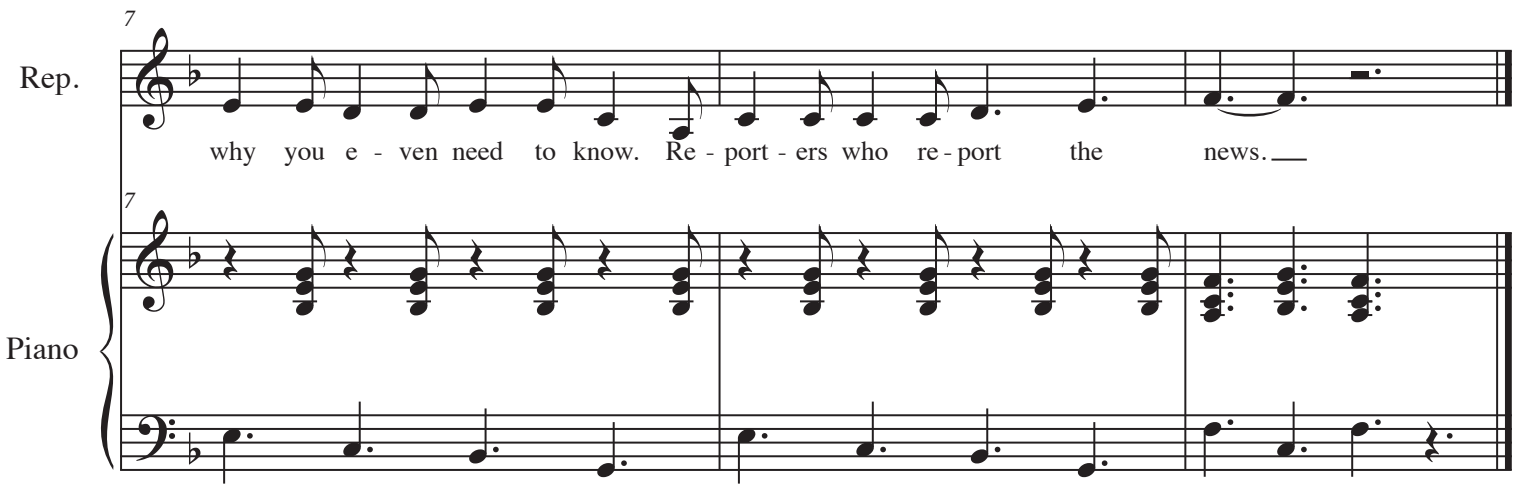
Rev. 9/23/24

music by Sean P. Breen
lyrics by Sean P. Breen

Cue :NARRATOR: Election day, November 2005. The town seemed split about 50-50. It wasn't until later that night that the results were known.



13. The Reporters #3



REPORTER #1
This election is hotter than a Times Square Rolex.

REPORTER #2
Mayor Dingles once humongous lead is now as thin as turnip soup.

REPORTER #3
Hillsdale is like a sauna for these two candidates. All they can do is sit and sweat.

REPORTER #1
This election is closer than Timmy and Lassie.

REPORTER #2
As tight as pages in a book.

REPORTER #3
This race is shakier than cafeteria jell-o.

REPORTER #1
This race is tight like a too-small bathing suit on a too-long ride home from the beach.

REPORTER #2
It's spandex tight...

REGISTRAR

(Reaching into the ballot box for the final four ballots.)

...vote for Ingles, vote for Session, vote for Ingles, vote for Session.

(To ASSISTANT REGISTRAR.)
Well?

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

(Using a calculator and checking his figures.)
Well, by my sums...Hillsdale has elected a Mayor.

REGISTRAR

(To ASSISTANT REGISTRAR.)
Billy?

(TOWNSPEOPLE bend closer to hear what they expect will be the name of the new mayor. ASSISTANT REGISTRAR gets right back to work.)

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

(Without looking up.)
Yes.

REGISTRAR

(With some patience.)
Billy, all these fine townspeople have come here today to vote for the next Mayor. And then, these fine people stayed around on the hope that they might learn whom the winner is. And, you see, it's our job to count the votes to determine who the winner is. So, I think it would be a good idea if we told them.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
Sir, if I may, the Hillsdale town charter specifically states, and I quote, "Election results shall be released to the public no sooner than 8 hours after the polls have closed." The polls closed at 4 pm, so the election results cannot be released until that clock says that it is midnight.

(Goes over to a clock on the wall and moves it past 12:00.)

REGISTRAR
It's midnight.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
The final...unofficial tally is...Douglas Ingles 602 votes...Michael Sessions 604 votes. The new Mayor of Hillsdale, is Michael Sessions.

(A grand mix of cheers and regrets from the crowd.)

DOUG INGLES

(Starts to grab the ballots, REGISTRAR and ASSISTANT REGISTRAR hold him back.)
That can't be...

(As the scene continues with reactions from the crowd, disbelief from INGLES, gestures from HECTOR, WILLIAM, and JACKIE, re-counting from REGISTRAR and ASSISTANT REGISTRAR.)

REGISTRAR

(Motioning for people to move back.)

Folks, people, wait, hold it, hold it, if...if every body would just move back we might be able to get a few words from our new Mayor...

(The crowd moves back out of the way.)

Good people of Hillsdale, may I present to you your new Mayor, Michael Sessions.

(Through the crowd comes MICHAEL SESSIONS. He wears jeans, basketball shoes and a Hillsdale High School cap. He walks through the crowd with an air of disbelief, and approaches a small high school podium on the middle of the gym. Immediately a group of REPORTERS crouch down in front of him with microphones pointed in his direction.)

TOWNSPEOPLE

Speech.

MICHAEL

I...I...don’t know what to say.

(With reluctant hesitancy.)

TOWNSPEOPLE

Play your harmonica!

(ALL laugh. MICHAEL pulls a harmonica out of his back pocket, smiles knowingly, then puts it on the podium.)

MICHAEL

Maybe later. Thank you for voting for me. I hope I can justify your faith in me.

Now if you don't mind, I have a festival to plan. Thank you and good night.

(ALL exit leaving only MICHAEL, MILTON and HARPO. MICHAEL sits down with a bit of sadness.)

Was Monica here?

MILTON

I don't know.

(HARPO pulls the harmonica out of MICHAEL'S pocket, and hands it to him, gives him an encouraging nod, and MICHAEL plays the blues. Fade out.)

POSTLUDE

(Current.)

NARRATOR

Well, right after Michael Sessions was elected Mayor of Hillsdale, Michigan, something else happened. The Senior class at Hillsdale High school voted for their Homecoming Queen and Homecoming King. Michael won the election by a landslide, and was crowned Homecoming King.... and the Homecoming Queen...

MICHAEL

Monica, of course.

(Like the beginning WITH HARPO LEADING THE WAY IN A SHORTENED VERSION OF THE OPENING SONG.)

HARPO sings **SONG #14 HILLSDALE REPRISE**

HARPO
LISTEN EVERYBODY TO THE STORY THAT I TELL
ABOUT A TOWN, HARMONICAS, AND AN 18-YEAR-OLD MALE
WHO WANTED MORE THAN ANYTHING TO IMPRESS A CERTAIN GIRL
THREW HIS HAT INTO THE RING, GAVE POLITICS A WHIRL

ENSEMBLE
HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS HILLS AND
HILLSDALE'S GOT ITS DALES
THAT'S WHY WE CALL IT HILLSDALE

THE END
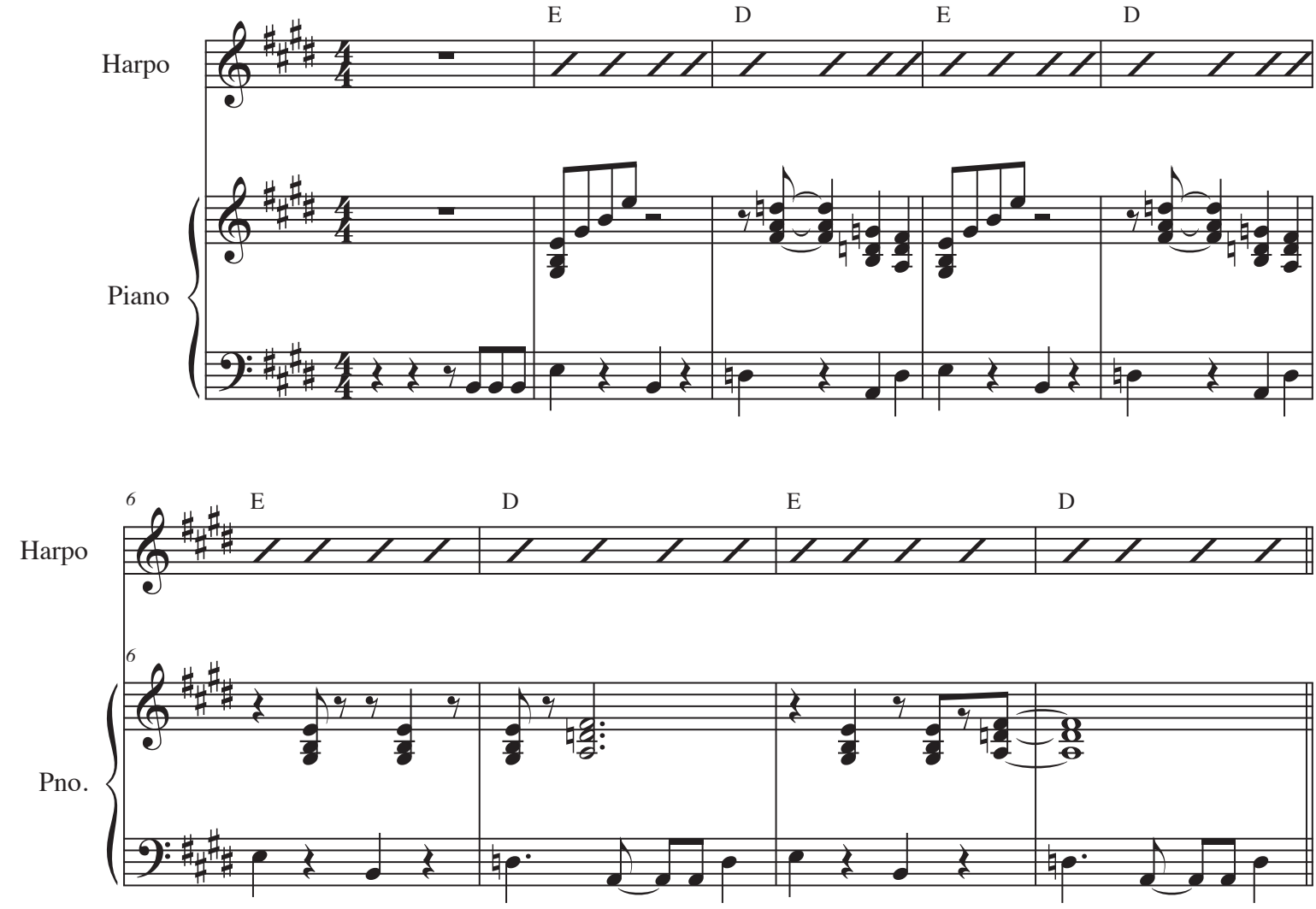
14. Hillsdale Reprise
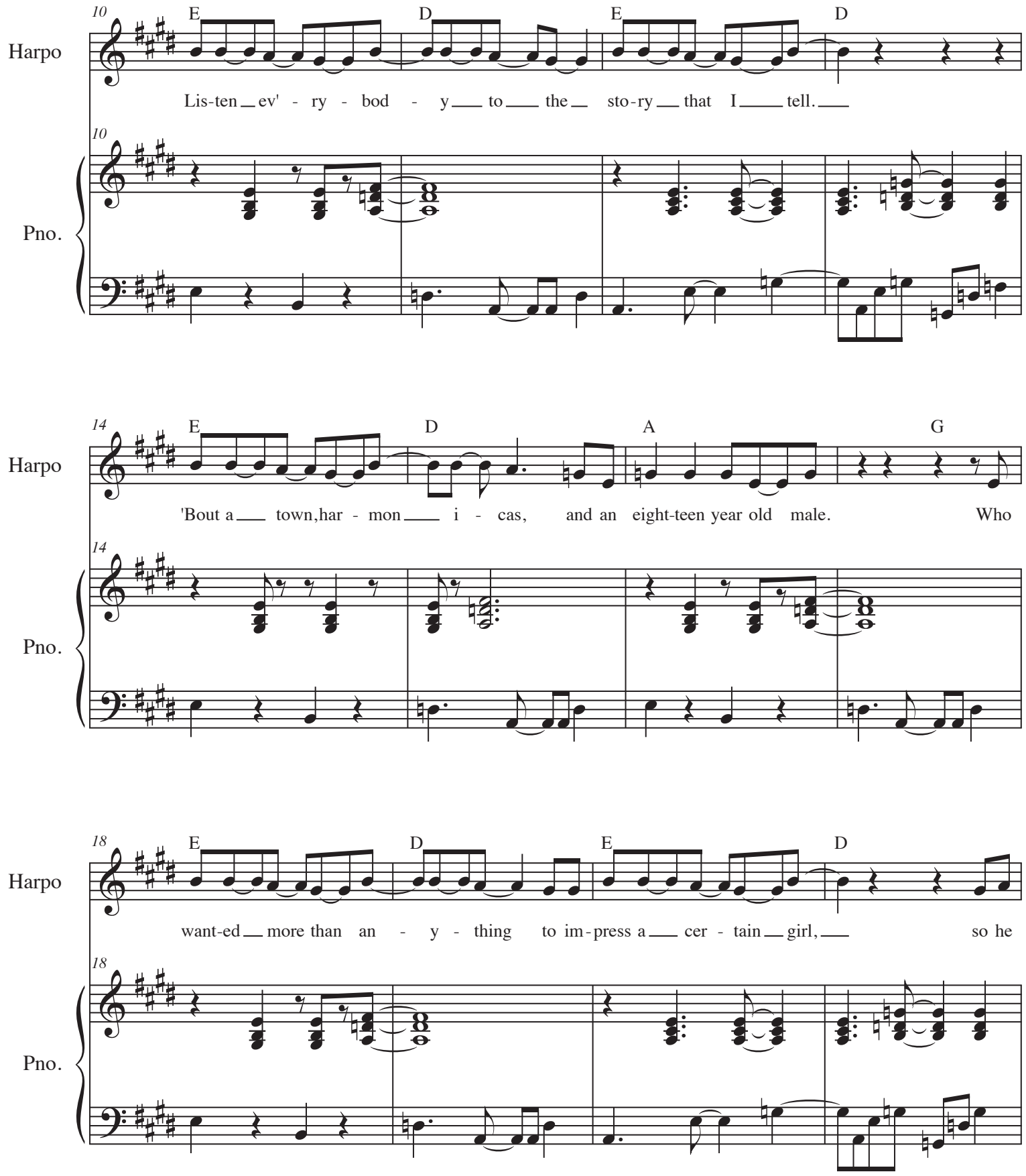
(Harpo/Ensemble)
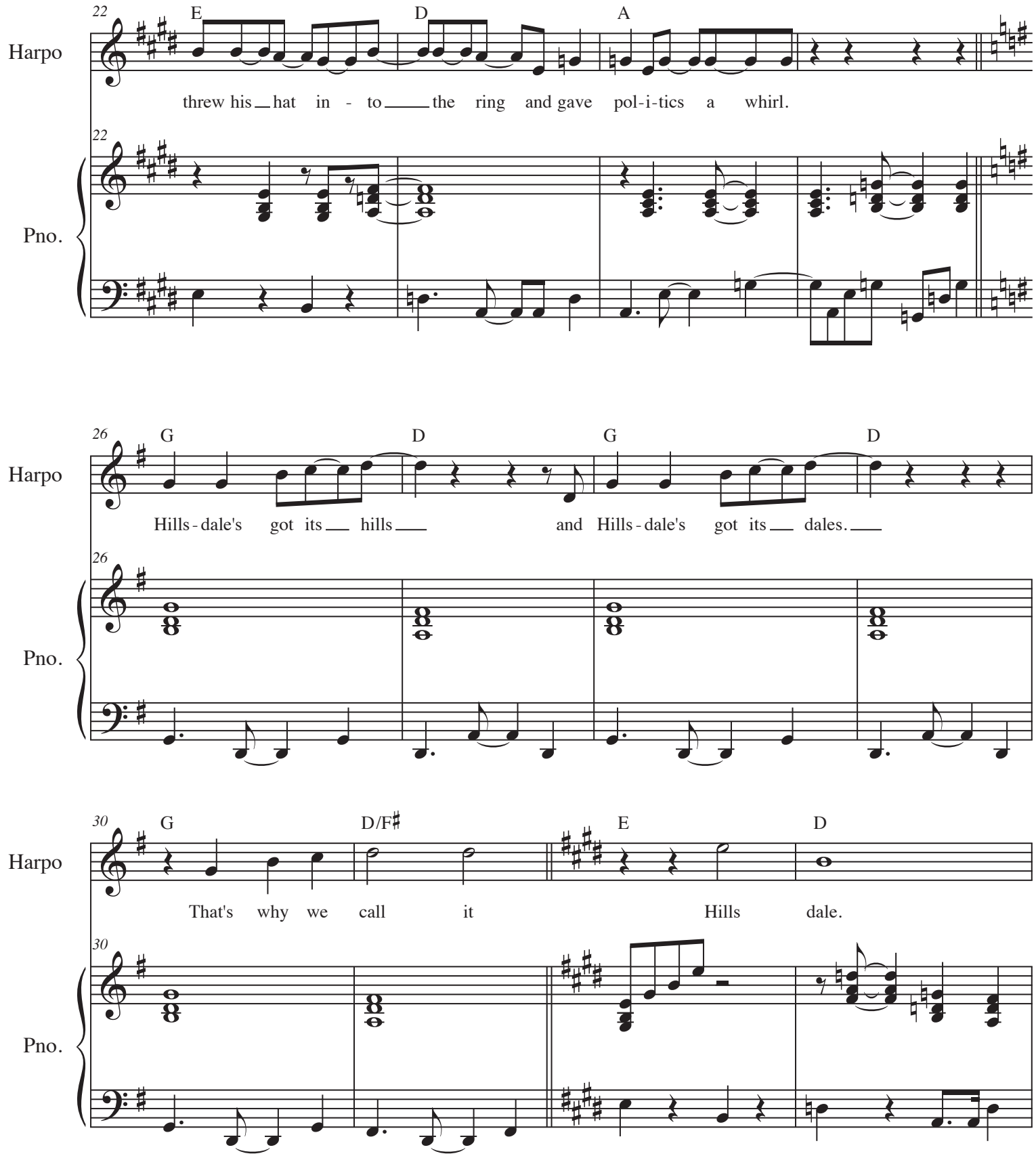
Rev. 4/21/25

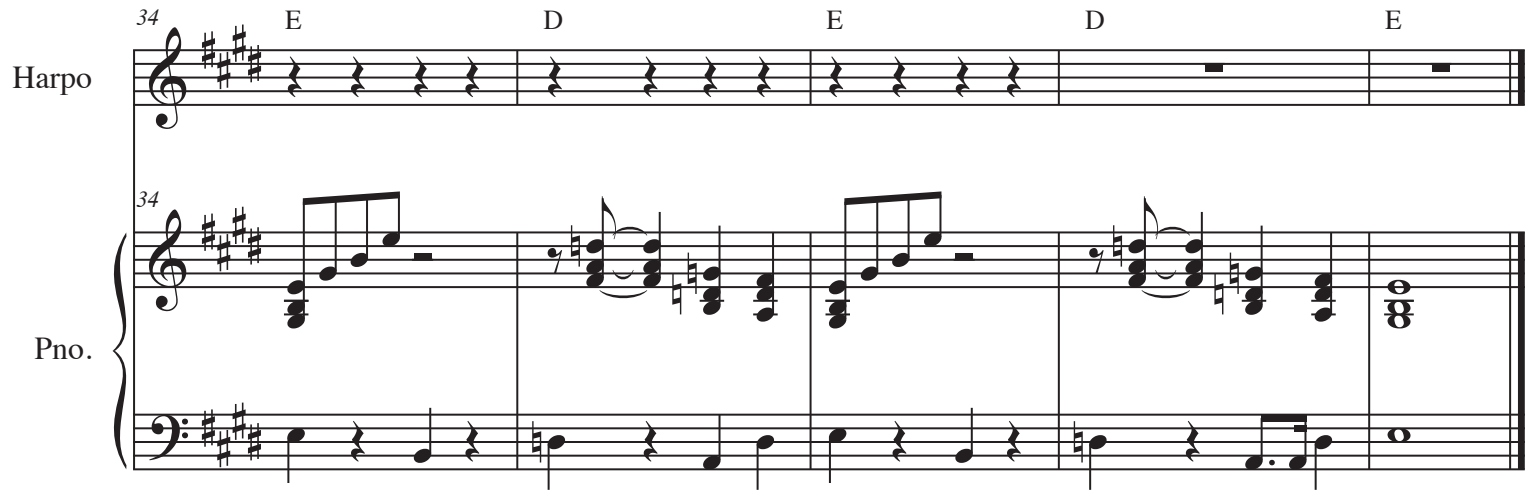
music by Sean P. Breen
lyrics by Sean P. Breen

Cue: LIGHTS UP




10
E
D
E
D
Harpo
Lis-ten ev' - ry - bod - y to the sto-ry that I tell.
10
Pno.
14
E
D
A
G
Harpo
'Bout a town, har - mon i - cas, and an eight-teen year old male. Who
14
Pno.
18
E
D
E
D
Harpo
want-ed more than an - y - thing to im-press a cer - tain girl, so he
18
Pno.


22
E
D
A
Harpo
threw his hat in - to the ring and gave pol-i-tics a whirl.
22
Pno.
26
G
D
G
D
Harpo
Hills - dale's got its hills and Hills - dale's got its dales.
26
Pno.
30
G
D/F♯
E
D
Harpo
That's why we call it Hills dale.
30
Pno.


34
E
D
E
D
E
Harpo
34
Pno.