University of Mount Union
Minimum Requirements in Piano Proficiency

- All parts must be played no slower than quarter note equals 60 on the metronome.
- Bachelor of Music degree students must pass parts A, B, C, D of the piano proficiency as part of their degree requirements. Bachelor of Arts degree students majoring in music must pass parts A and B of the piano proficiency as part of their degree requirements.
- Part A is to be taken at the end of the first semester, freshman year, and will count as the final exam for MUS 143.
- Part B is to be taken at the end of the second semester, freshman year, and will count as the final exam for MUS 144.
- Part C is to be taken at the end of the first semester, sophomore year, and will count as the final exam for MUS 243.
- Part D is to be taken at the end of the second semester, sophomore year, and will count as the final exam for MUS 244.
- If any part of the proficiency has not been accomplished by the end of the sophomore year, the student must register for MUS 460 Applied Piano and retake any remaining parts the following semester. All parts of the Piano Proficiency exam must be passed before registering for MUS 310, 320, 330, 331, 438, 487, and 490.
- The requirements below refer to Alfred's *Group Piano for Adults*, 2nd edition, Book 1, by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon D. Renfrow (hereafter Alfred Book 1). Copies of this book may be found for purchase at your local music store, the UMU bookstore, or online, and one is available for perusal on reserve in the Sturgeon Music Library at the University of Mount Union.

Part A (perform the following skills at the level of unit 9 in Alfred Book 1):

1. Sight-reading and transposition of a two-handed example (mostly in five-finger patterns)
2. One-hand improvisation using a given rhythmic pattern (mostly in five-finger positions)
3. Harmonization of a given melody using tonic and dominant single notes in the left hand
4. Repertoire at the level of unit 9 in Alfred Book 1

Part B (perform skills 1–4 below at the level of unit 18 in Alfred Book 1):

1. Sight-reading and transposition
2. Improvisation: Improvise a right-hand melody over a given chord progression that is to be played in the left hand. Includes tonic, subdominant and dominant chords.
3. Harmonization of a given melody using tonic, subdominant, and dominant chords in the left hand. Can use blocked chords or accompaniment patterns.
4. Repertoire at the level of unit 18 in Alfred Book 1

5. Scales and arpeggios, 2 octaves ascending and descending, hands together, played with correct fingering. All major keys. Refer to fingering charts in the Alfred Book 1, p. 347. (Exam will cover 6 of the major keys; those specific keys will be announced during week 12 of the semester).
6. Cadences: play the harmonic progression I, IV 6/4, I, V 6/5, I using blocked chords in the right hand and the root of each chord in the left hand. (Refer to examples of cadences in piano proficiency packet, p. 3). All major keys. (Exam will cover 6 of the major keys; those specific keys will be announced during week 12 of the semester).

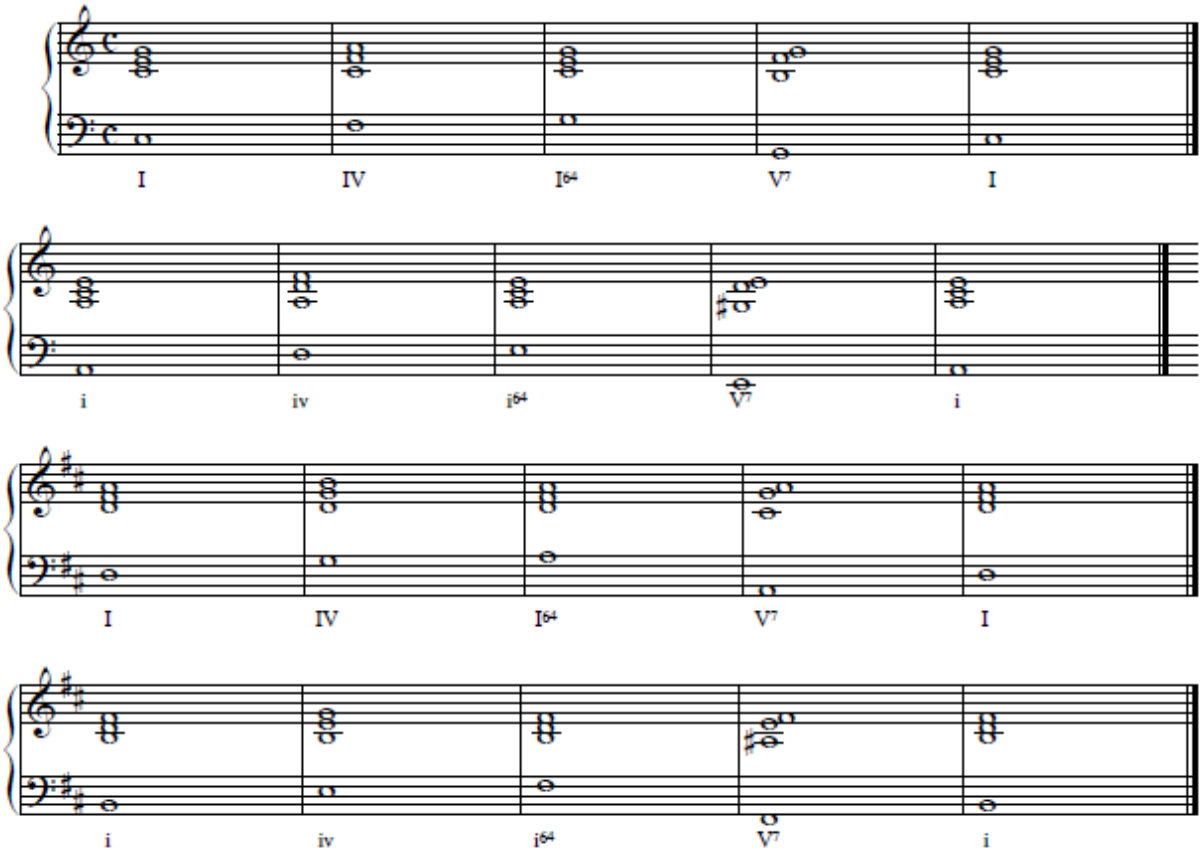
Part C (perform skills 1–4 below at the level of unit 24 in Alfred Book 1):

1. Sight-reading and transposition
2. Improvisation: Improvise a right-hand melody over a given chord progression that is to be played in the left hand. May include any of I, IV, V(7), ii, vi, and iii chords.
3. Harmonization of a given melody using left hand blocked chords or accompaniment patterns. May include any of I, IV, V(7), ii, vi, and iii chords.
4. Repertoire at the level of unit 24 in Alfred Book 1
5. Scales and arpeggios, 2 octaves ascending and descending, hands together, played with correct fingering. Harmonic and melodic minors in C, D, E, F, G, A, and B minor. Refer to fingering charts in the Alfred Book 1, p. 348.
6. Cadences: play the harmonic progression I, IV 6/4, I, V 6/5, I using blocked chords in the right hand and the root of each chord in the left hand. (Refer to examples of cadences in piano proficiency packet, p. 3). Minor keys in C, D, E, F, G, A, and B minor.

Part D

1. Scales and arpeggios, 2 octaves ascending and descending, hands together, played with correct fingering. Harmonic and melodic minors in C-sharp, E-flat, F-sharp, G-sharp, and B-flat minor. Refer to fingering charts in the Alfred Book 1, p. 348.
2. Cadences: play the harmonic progression I, IV 6/4, I, V 6/5, I using blocked chords in the right hand and the root of each chord in the left hand. (Refer to examples of cadences in piano proficiency packet, p. 3). Minor keys in C-sharp, E-flat, F-sharp, G-sharp, and B-flat minor.
3. Harmonization of a given melody using left hand blocked chords or accompaniment patterns. Will include at least one secondary dominant chord.
4. Play a prepared vocal accompaniment from the *24 Italian Songs and Arias* or *Get America Singing...Again!* (handed out week 8 of the semester)
5. Play a prepared assembly song from those listed on pp. 4–10 of this proficiency packet.
6. Play a prepared example of a four-voice vocal score or three-part instrumental score with 1 transposing instrument. (handed out week 12 of the semester)
7. From a full score, play—at concert pitch—a single melody for a transposing band or orchestral instrument.

Examples of Major and Relative Minor Cadences



America

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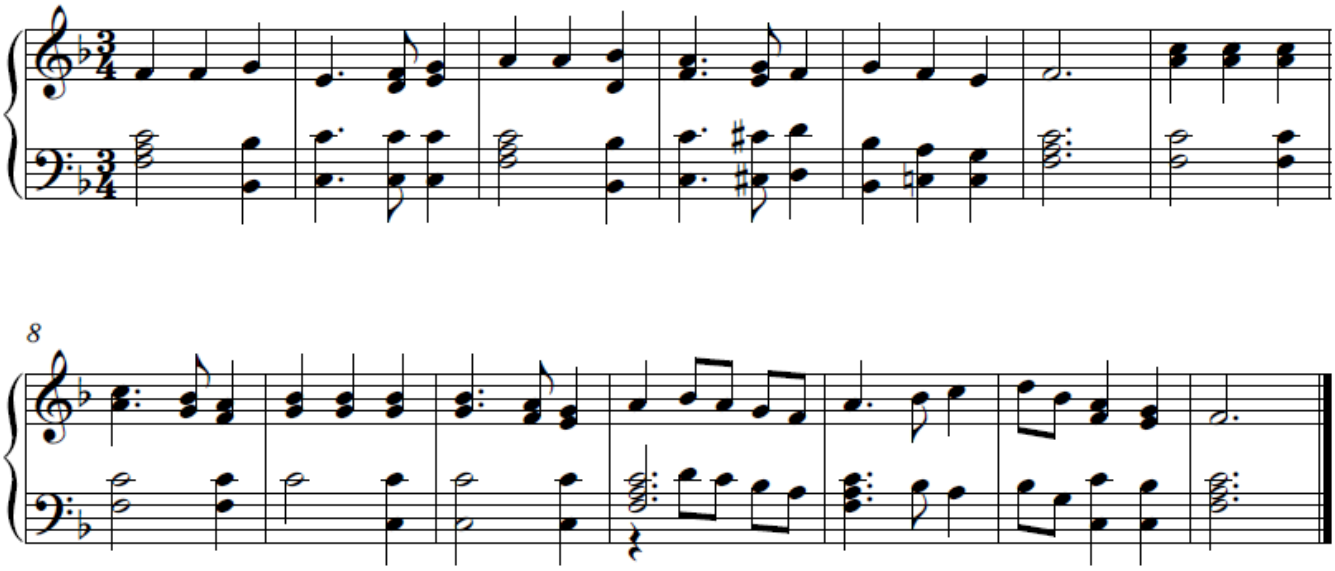

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Star - Spangled Banner

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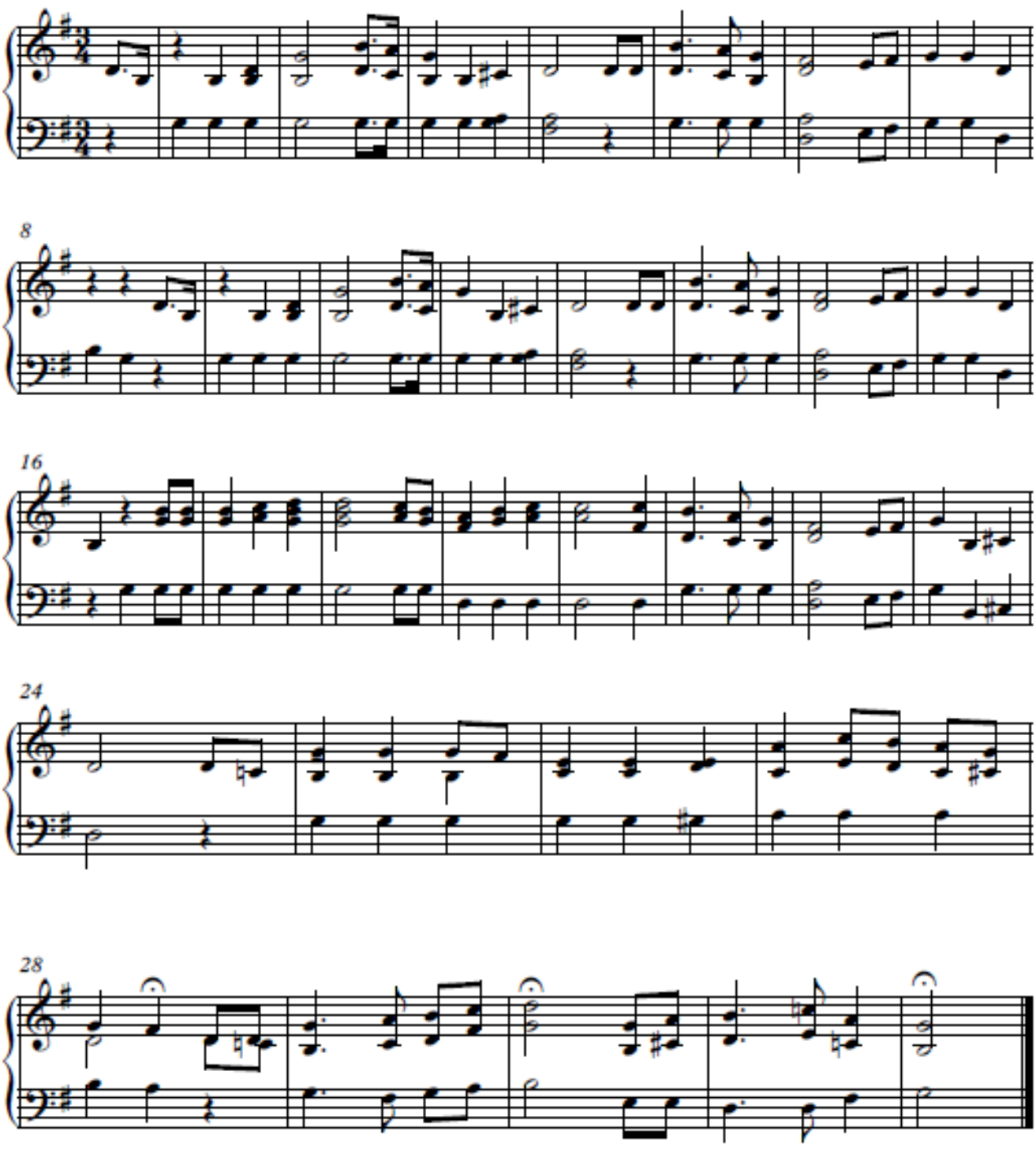

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Lightly Row

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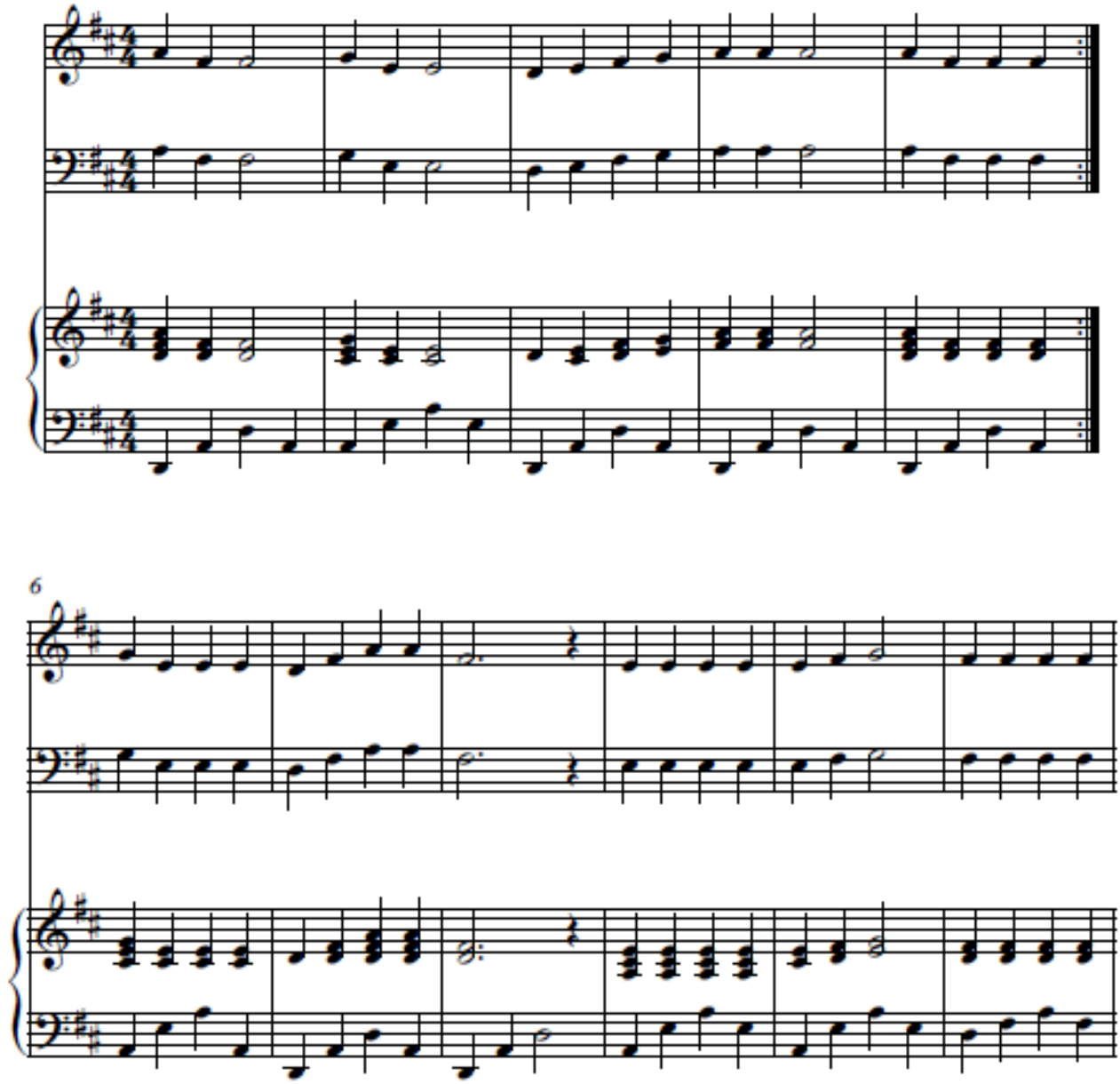

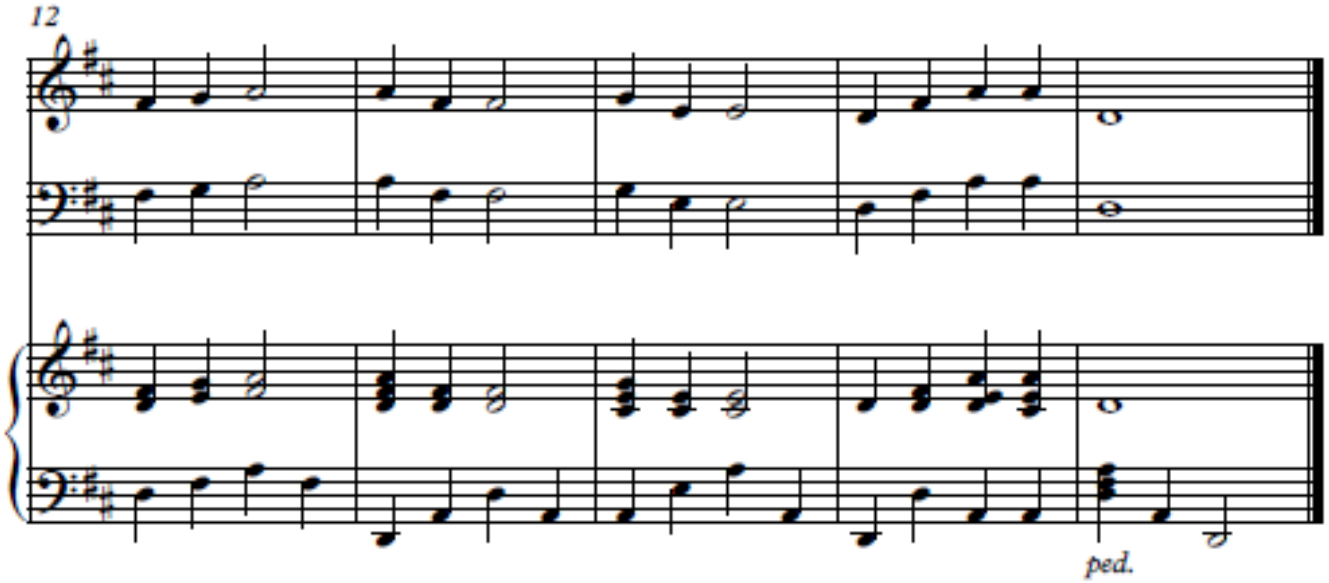

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The Muffin Man

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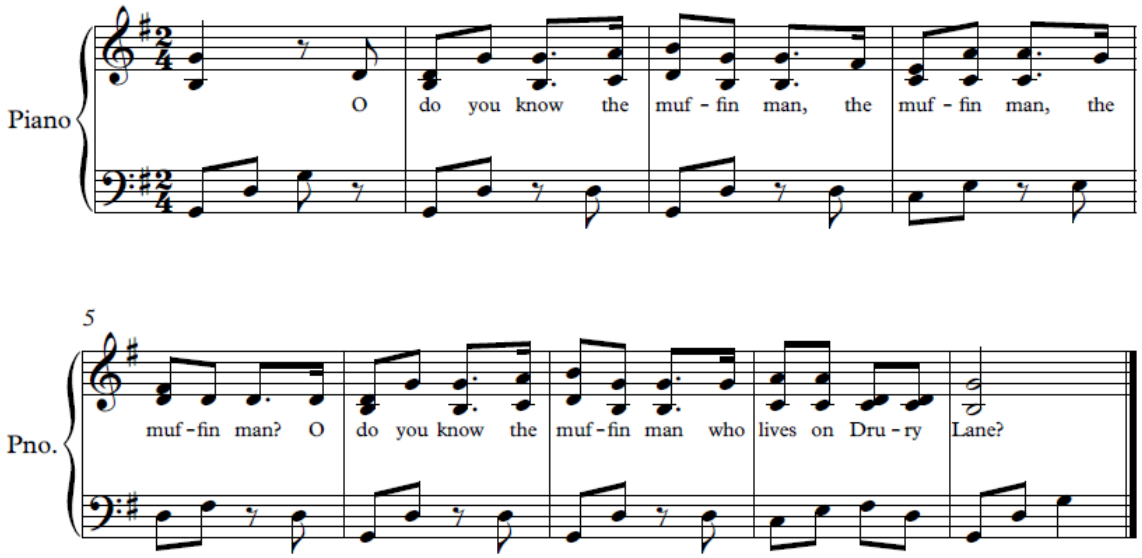

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When the Saints Go Marching In

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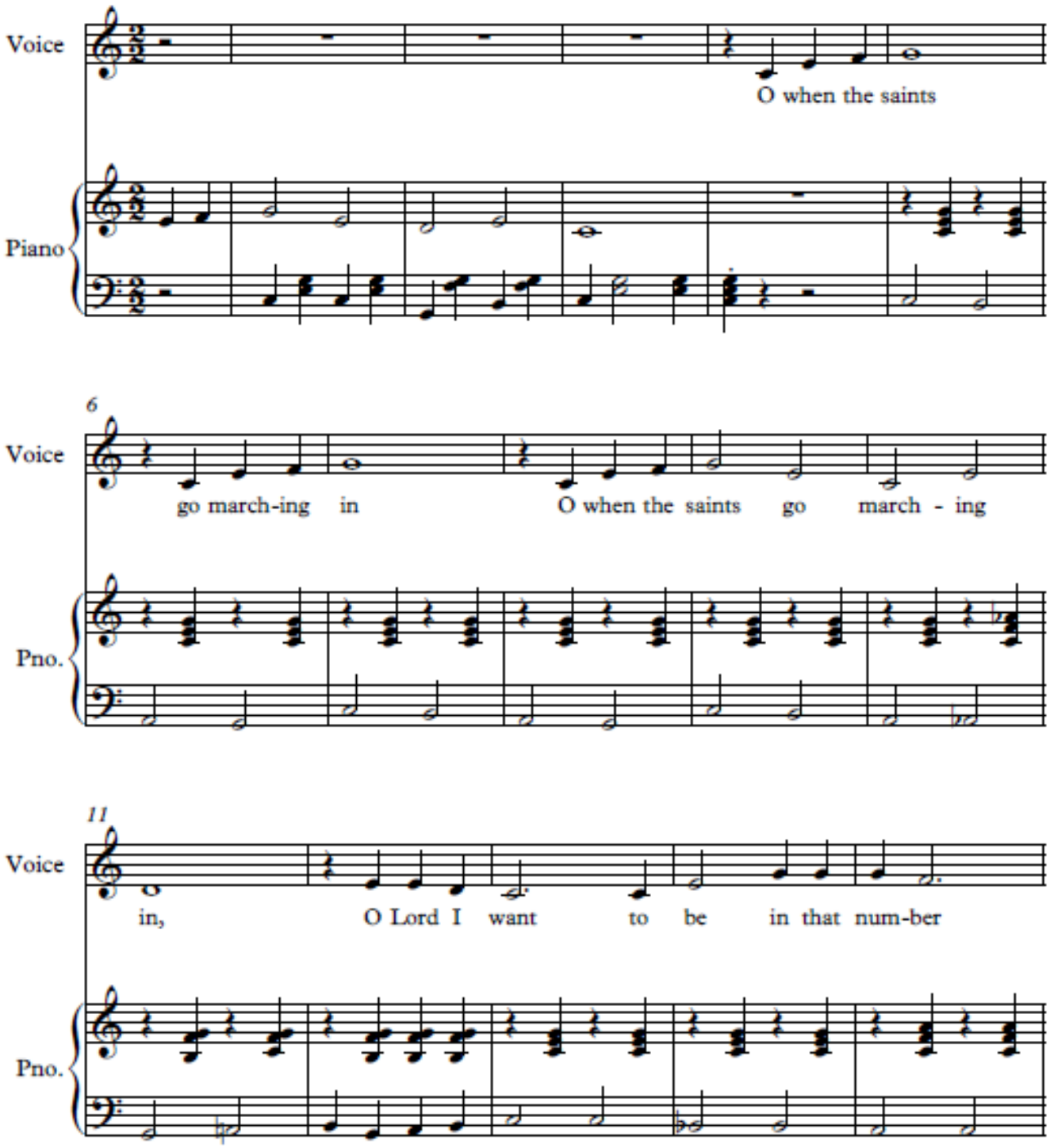

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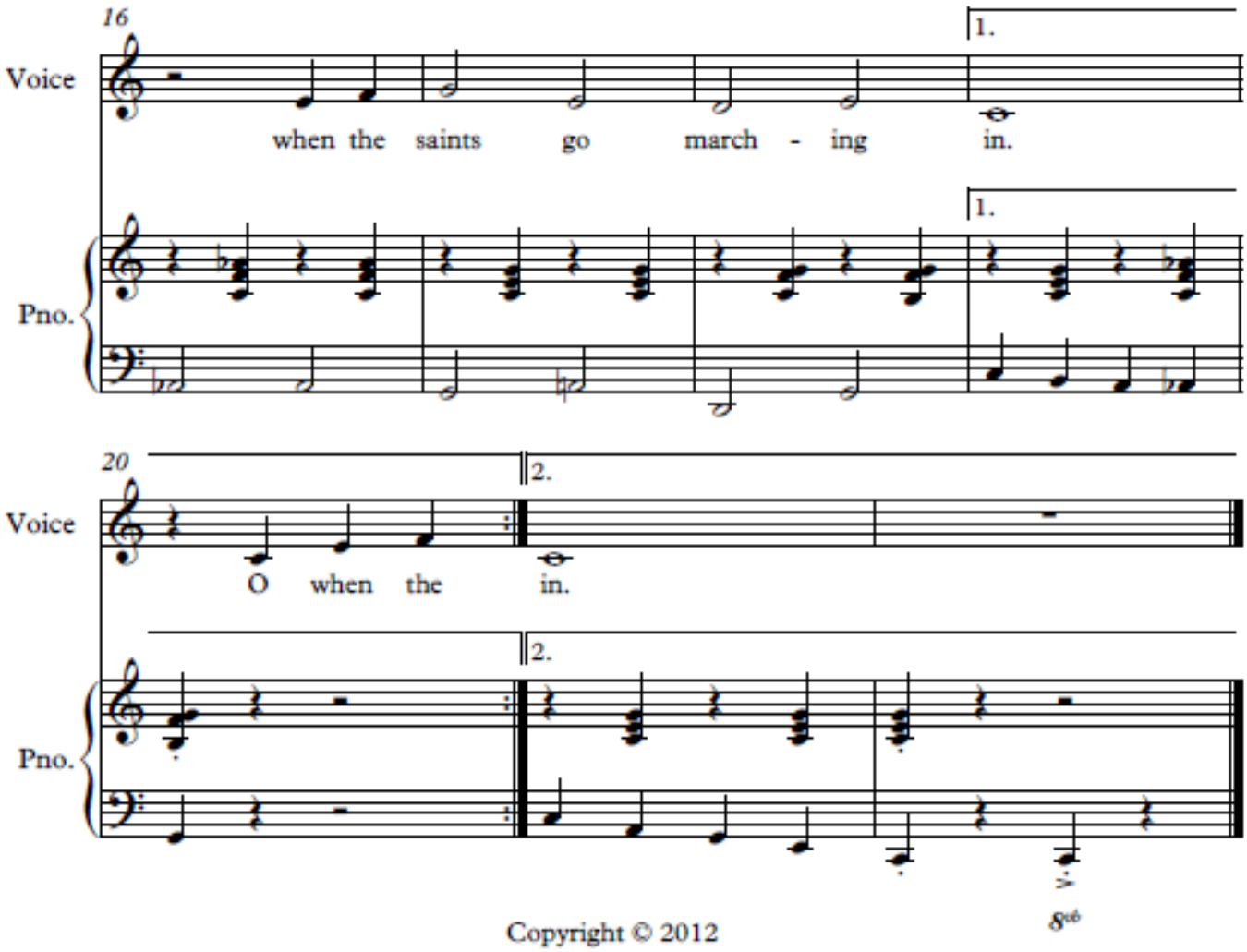

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