Joseph HAYDN

The Creation

Hob. XXI:2

Text: Gottfried van Swieten

Soli (STB), Coro (SATB) 3 Flauti, 2 Oboi, 2 Clarinetti, 2 Fagotti, Contrafagotto 2 Corni, 2 Clarini, 3 Tromboni, Timpani 2 Violini, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabbasso, Cembalo/Fortepiano

> edited by Wolfgang Gersthofer

Joseph Haydn · Oratorios Urtext

> Vocal score Paul Horn



Carus 51.990/04

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Foreword

In the first half of the 1790s Joseph Haydn made two concert tours to England which were of decisive importance for the composition of *The Creation*: Not only did the monumental performances in Westminster Abbey leave a lasting impression (in his London notebooks Haydn made note of 885 participants in the performance of the *Messiah* for the "Handel Commemoration" in 1791¹), but on his last departure from London in August 1795 he is supposed to have been given an older oratorio libretto on the biblical story of creation, originally intended for Handel, however its existence in this form has never been documented.

Following his return to Vienna, Haydn actually did set to work on the material at once, whereby Gottfried Bernhard Freiherr van Swieten (1733-1803), who was almost the same age, would become his most important contact. Born in Leyden, in the Netherlands, since 1755 a diplomat in the service of the Habsburgs, during his last assignment abroad at the Prussian Court of Frederick the Great van Swieten became acquainted with the music of Handel and Bach, which henceforth essentially shaped his musical preferences. Even after leaving his political functions he continued to make his mark in the intellectual life of the Imperial (musical) Metropolis as what could probably be called a "cultural manager."² With regard to The Creation, it was he who reworked the English libretto, which essentially was based on John Milton's epic Paradise Lost,³ guided by the following ideas:

[...] in order to provide our Fatherland the first enjoyment of [the oratorio], I decided to clothe the English poem with German garb. Thus my translation came to be, in which I faithfully followed the main design of the original, on the whole, indeed, but in detail deviating as often as I considered that musical progress and expression, of which the ideal was already present in my mind, seemed to require it [...].⁴

Haydn began the composition of The Creation probably in the fall of 1796 and may have completed it in spring, 1798. On 30 April 1798 the work was premiered in a private setting before many invited (esteemed) guests in the Vienna palace of Count Schwarzenberg - with considerable success. The musical direction fell to the composer himself. On the 19th of March 1799 the work was finally performed publicly for the first time, which means that through entry tickets the general public gained access to a performance in the K. K. Court Theatre next to the Burg. The "singers and orchestral forces [...] consisted of more than 180 persons."5 The great success appears to have advanced Haydn's plan to publish the score himself. In June 1799 he announced an invitation to subscribe to the work. As a result, Haydn raised a considerable subscription list of 409 people, among which were, in addition to fellow musicians, a number of personages of high and highest standing. The publication of the score at the end of February 1800 had evidently favored the rapid dissemination of The Creation, for still in the same year performances followed throughout Europe.

In addition to the German text the first edition of the score contains an English text. In accordance with the results of

present-day research, it can be asserted that Haydn set his composition to the German text, while the English text (for performances for an English public) was later underlaid by van Swieten, who may also have been responsible for the accompanying rhythmic adjustments and alternative notes which were printed in the original edition in small typeface.⁶ Only the English singing text is printed in the present vocal score in order to insure clear legibility (a German language vocal score is also available, whereas the full score is printed in both languages).

In view of the (alleged) weaknesses of the English singing text it was long assumed that van Swieten had made his own retranslation of the German version into English. However, new research has shown that essentially the text concerned is probably the original (lost) model. This is demonstrated not only by the conspicuous similarities to the wording of Milton's epic *Paradise Lost* and, as has been documented in the meantime, to James Thomson's *The Seasons*,⁷ but also by the literal coincidences to the influential *King James Bible*.

In the meantime, generally van Swieten's English text has been more favorably judged than in earlier times. Thus, according to modern assessment of the three main points of criticism of the past the following can be said:⁸

- The supposed false emphasis on normally unaccented syllables, e.g., the final syllable "-ed" in the past tense was quite normal in presentation of biblical texts in the 18th and 19th centuries. Moreover, similar peculiarities of declamation are also found, e.g., in some Handel librettos and present no compelling reason for a text revision.
- The mixing of different tenses, as in the beginning of No. 21, for example, can be understood as a deliberately introduced stylistic device.
- False word order could be due to van Swieten's efforts to make the English text more compatible to the composition (thus, the word order "The wonder of his works / displays the firmament" corresponds to the German "und seiner Hände Werk / zeigt an das Firmament" and thus insures an appropriate correspondence between text and music).

As a result of these considerations in the present edition the English singing text is rendered in its original form, with the exception of a few corrections listed in the Critical Report (see the full score) and the adaptation of modern syllabification.

- ³ Concerning the unknown authorship of the English libretto, see Georg Feder, Joseph Haydn. Die Schöpfung, Kassel, etc., 1999 (= Bärenreiter Werkeinführungen), p. 129.
- ⁴ Gottfried van Swieten's account which appeared in the Allgemeine Musikalische Zeitung (AMZ I, Sp. 254f., 3 Jan. 1799), Leipzig.
- ⁵ AMZ I, note **) to col. 446.

⁸ See Joseph Haydn Werke XXVIII/3: Die Schöpfung, ed. Annette Oppermann, Munich, 2008, S. XIXf.

¹ Joseph Haydn, *Gesammelte Briefe und Aufzeichnungen*. With the use of the source collection of H. C. Robbins Landon, ed. Dénes Bartha, Kassel, etc., 1965, pp. 485 and 506.

² Gottfried Scholz, Haydns Oratorien. Ein musikalischer Werkführer, Munich, 2008, p. 58.

⁶ See Feder (as in note 3), pp. 129-131.

⁷ See Neil Jenkins, "The libretto of Haydn's 'The Creation.' New sources and a possible librettist," in: *Haydn Society Journal*, No. 24/2 (2005), pp. 32–53.

In the original part-books for the vocal soloists the parts for the choirs are also notated - presumably as a recommendation for them to sing with the choir at will. The findings in the first edition of the score and in the original engraver's copy also point in this direction: Either a participation of the soloists is signified by designations such as "Colla Voce Dell Basso" or "Col Tutti," or by the notation of the first note/ the first notes of a tutti passage in the system of the solo voice, followed by the continuation of a (blank) stave. In the present edition, in these cases the appropriate tutti passages are reproduced in the stave of the solo voice. (However, the case also occurs that in the sources at the end of a solo passage, as well as before the reentry of the solo part rests are indicated and accordingly the affected tutti passages are not reproduced here: see No. 2. after measure 77. and before the entrance in measure 113 respectively.)

There is no original numbering for the movements of The Creation. In the engraver's copy for the first edition larger blocks of movements - always beginning with a secco recitative (often the keyword taken from the Bible) and ending with an aria (describing what has been created) or a choir (of praise) - are divided from one another through the use of three final strokes; within this block a double bar separates each movement from another. The numbering of our edition is orientated on this system, whereby for practical reasons a continuous numbering system, as opposed to a further subdivision using letters (1a, 1b, etc.) has been given preference here. The structure of the source is rendered in the present edition by means of a thin double stroke within a block of movements and an actual final stroke at the conclusion of a block. The numbering systems already introduced from previous editions partly differ from that of the present edition. Therefore, for purposes of orientation the numbers given in the scholarly-critical Haydn Complete Edition and in the two vocal scores widely used in English speaking regions are indicated on the right-hand side at the beginning of each movement:

GA = Gesamtausgabe/Complete Edition (*Joseph Haydn Werke*, XXVIII/3: *Die Schöpfung*, ed. Annette Oppermann, Munich, 2008);

N = New Novello (*Joseph Haydn*, *The Creation*. *Die Schöpfung*. Vocal Score, ed. Michael Pilkington, London, 1999);

O = Oxford University Press (*Joseph Haydn*, *Die Schöpfung*. *The Creation*. Vocal score, ed. A. Peter Brown with Julie Schnepel, Oxford/New York 1991).

Leipzig, January 2012 Wolfgang Gersthofer Translation: Earl Rosenbaum

For this work the following performance material is available for sale:

Full score (carton) (Carus 51.990/00) Full score (clothbound) (Carus 51.990/01) Vocal score, German (Carus 51.990/03) Vocal score, English (Carus 51.990/04) Choral score, German (Carus 51.990/05) Choral score, English (Carus 51.990/06) Study score (Carus 51.990/07) Instrumental parts (set, Carus 51.990/19)

The Creation



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edited by Wolfgang Gersthofer















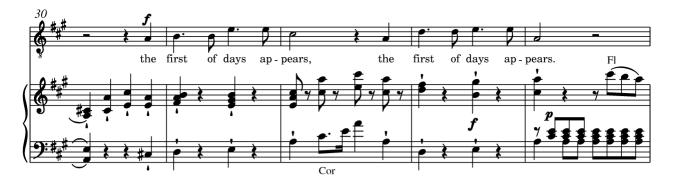
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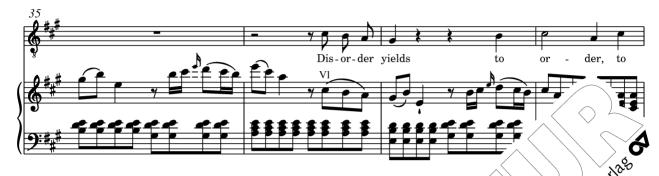


2. Aria (Uriel, Chorus)



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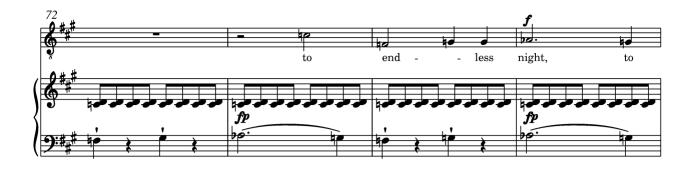














* Concerning the participation of the soloists in tutti passages see the Foreword.



* Differing text underlay compared to mm. 122f. in accordance to the sources. Carus 51.990/04





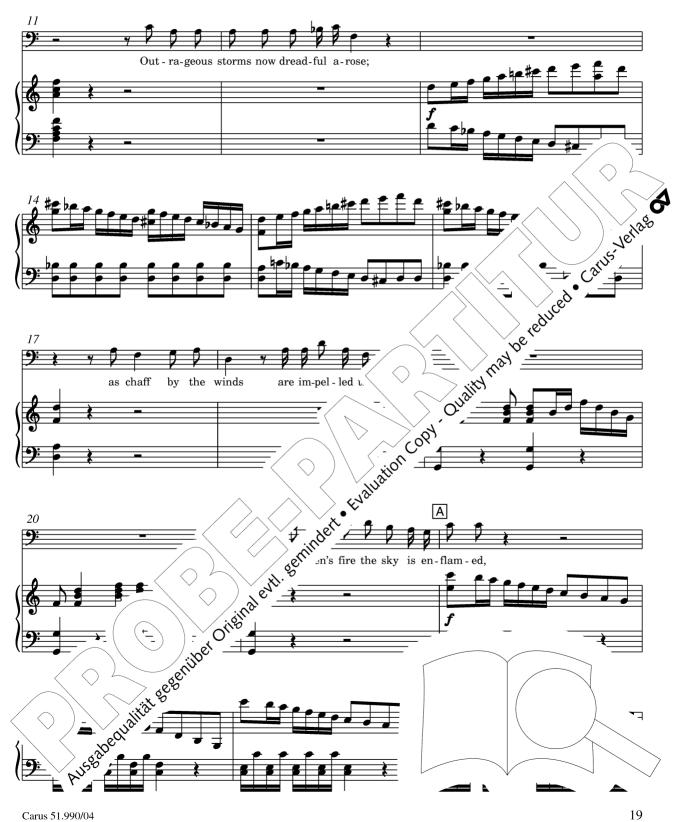














GA 2b • N4 • O5













5. Recitativo (Raphael)



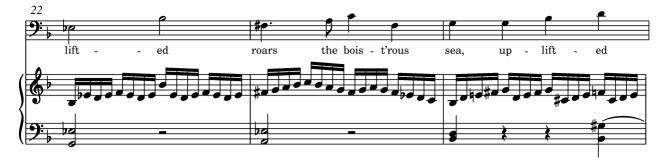


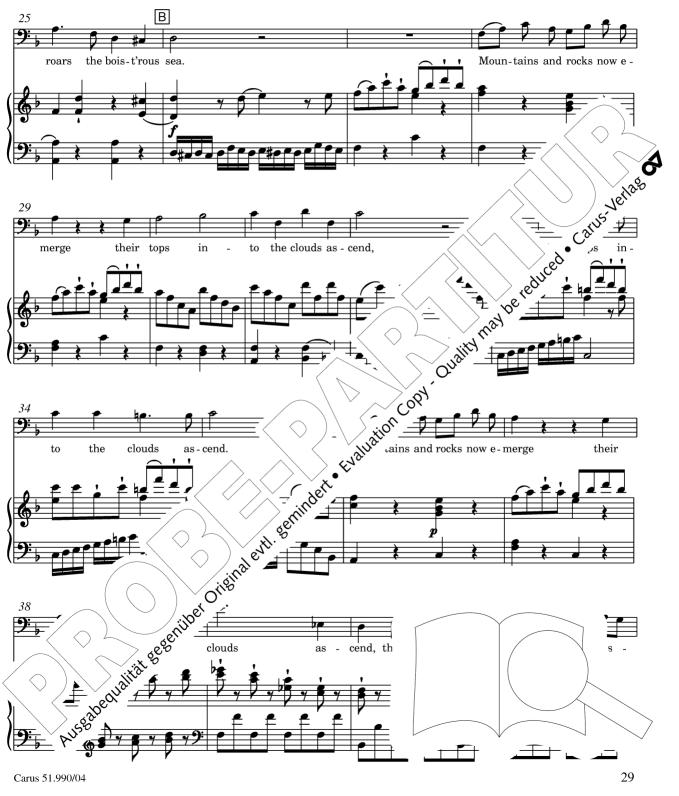


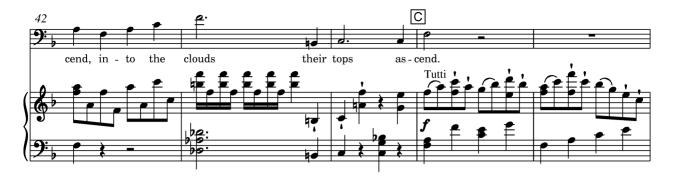








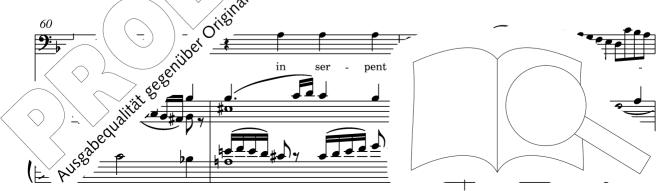


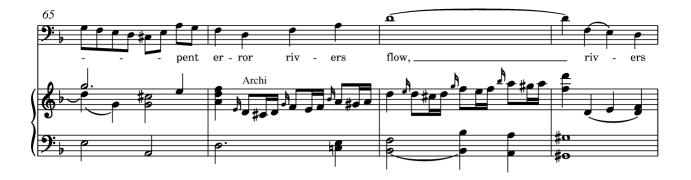




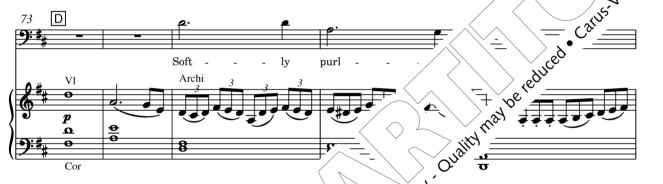








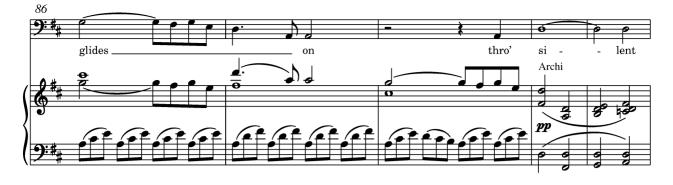


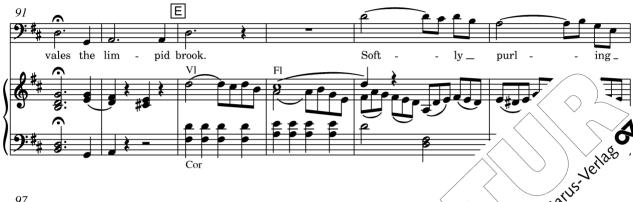






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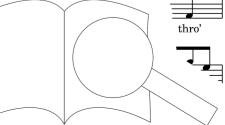


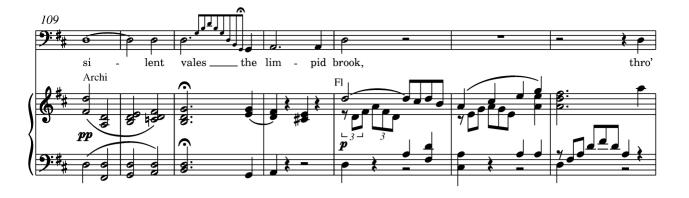
















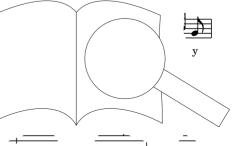


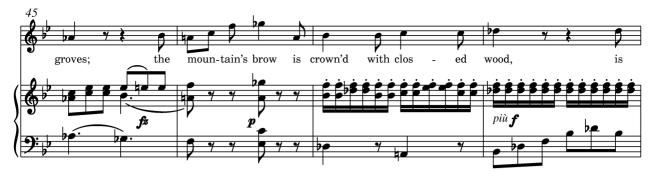




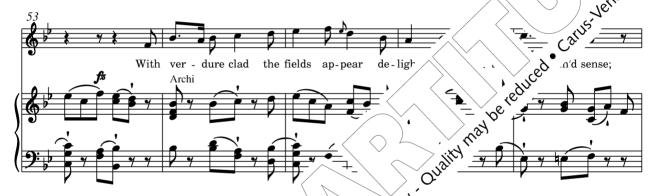








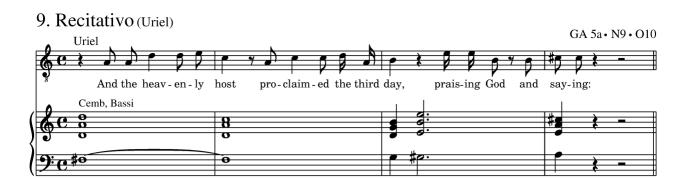




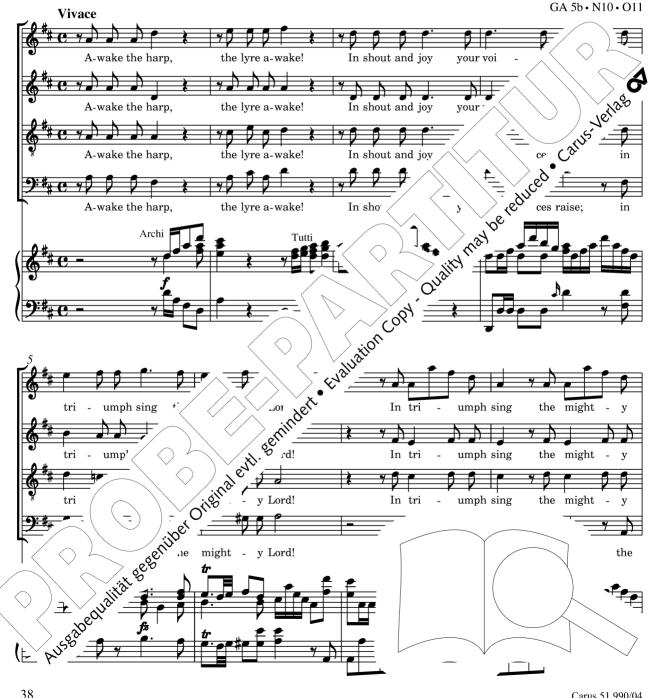








10. Chorus













11. Recitativo (Uriel)











13. Chorus (with Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael)



























Part Two



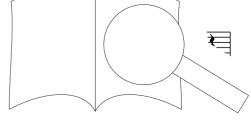


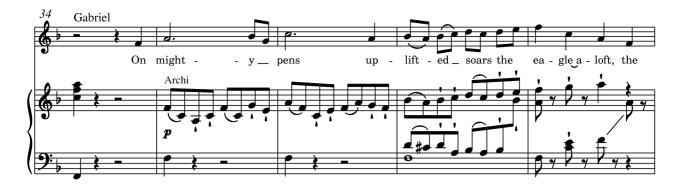


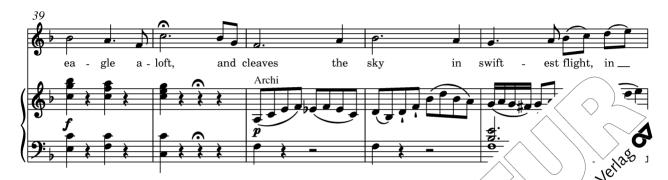








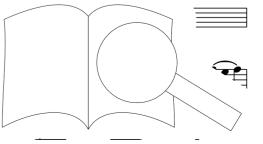










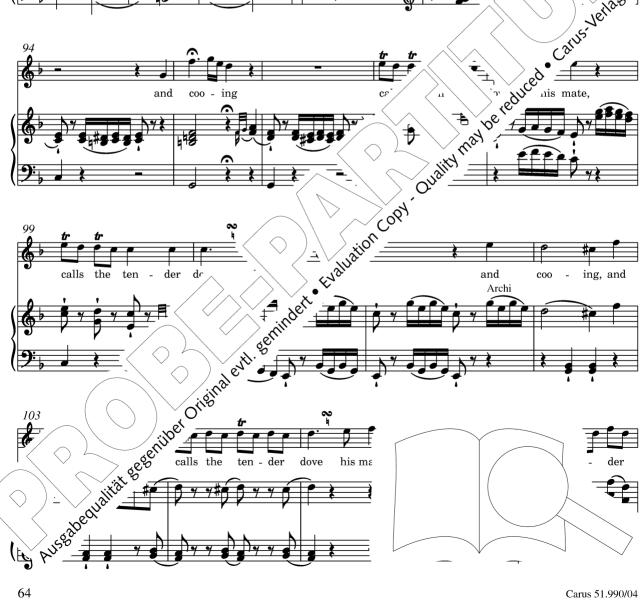


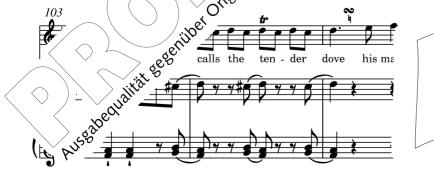






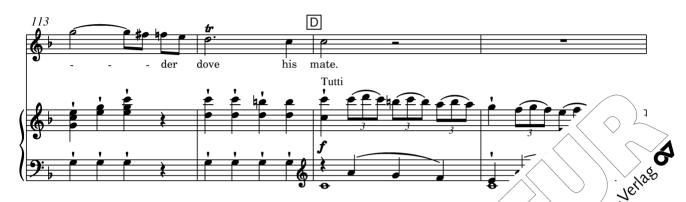










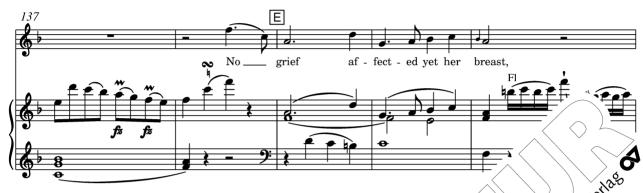








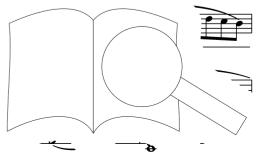










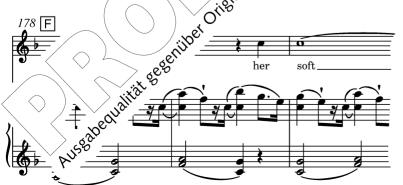


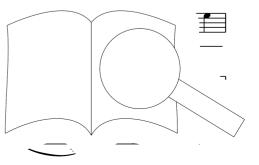


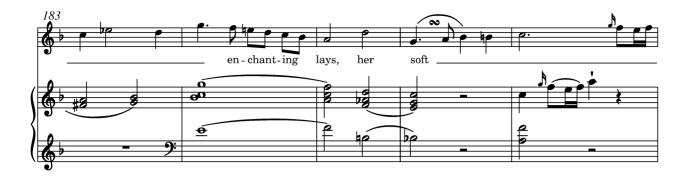


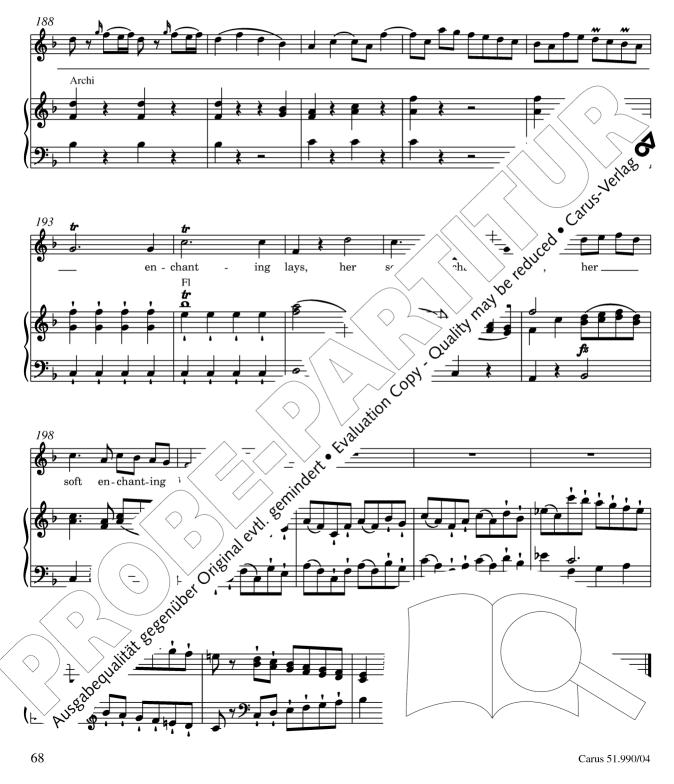










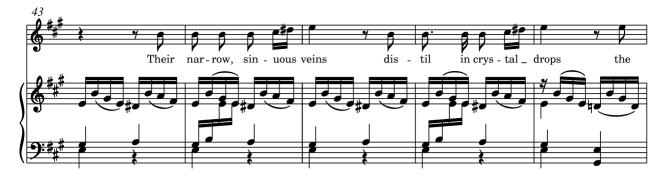


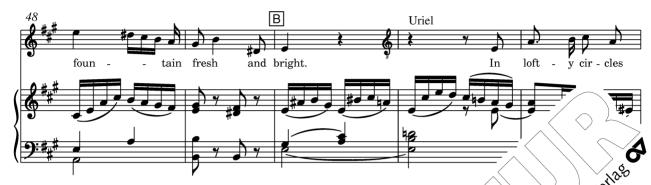








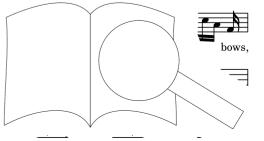


























18. Chorus (with Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael)







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19. Recitativo (Raphael)

GA 9a • N19 • O20





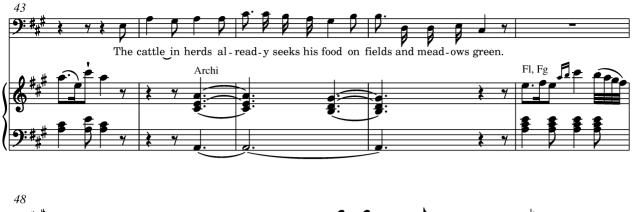








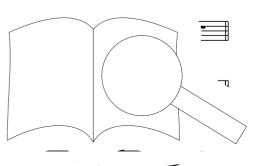
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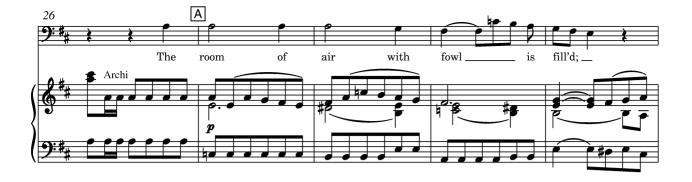


21. Aria (Raphael)

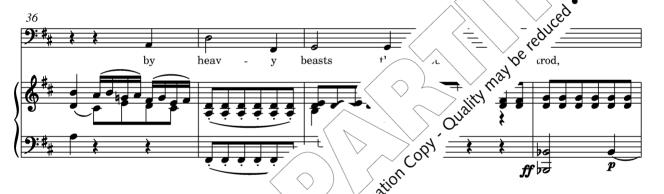






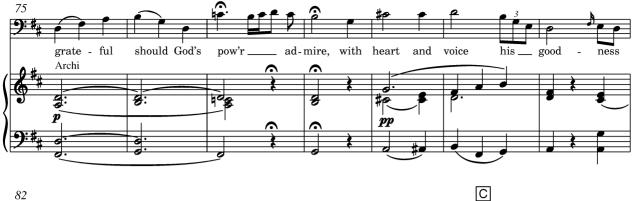






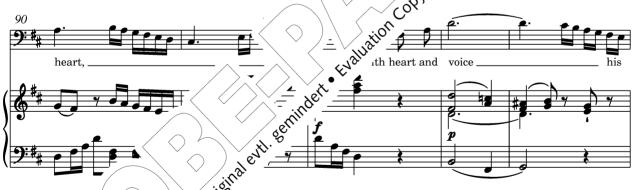




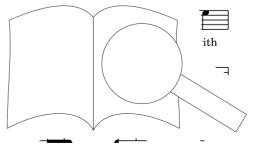


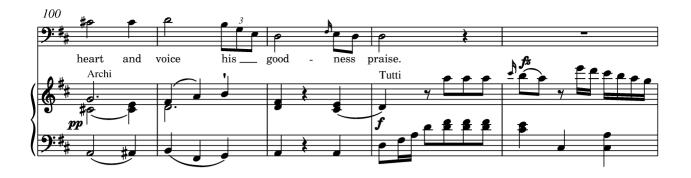










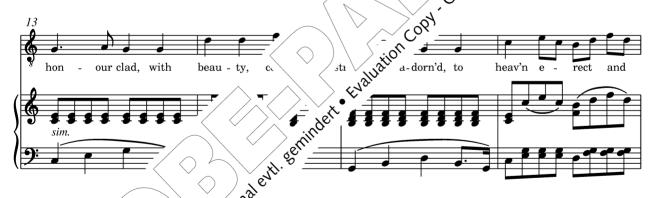




23. Aria (Uriel)









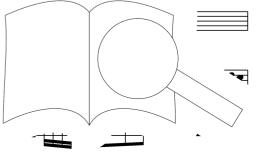


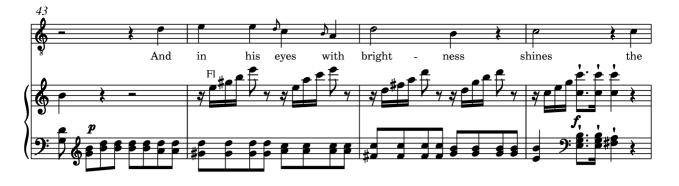


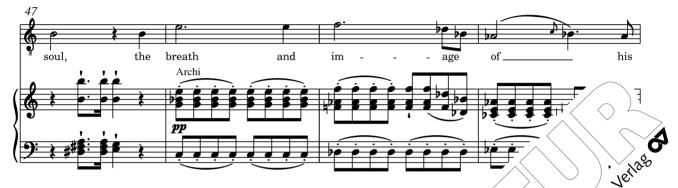


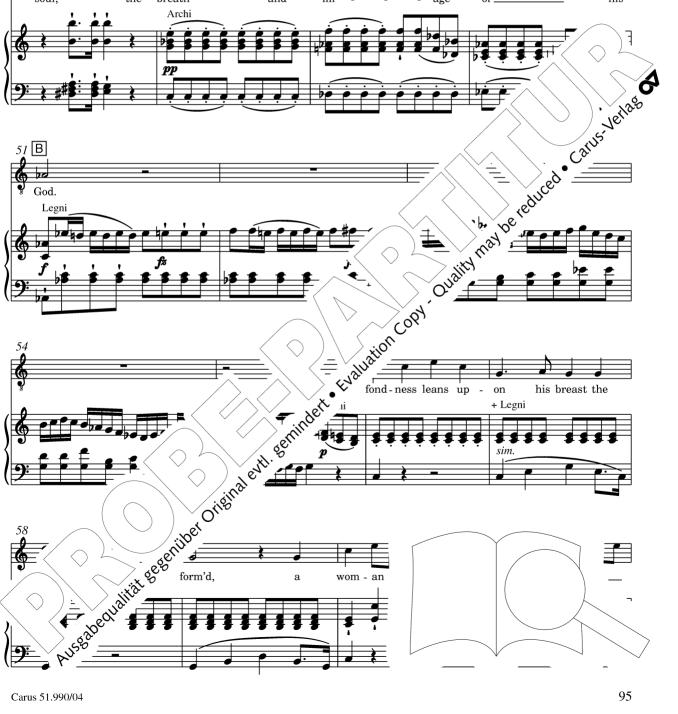


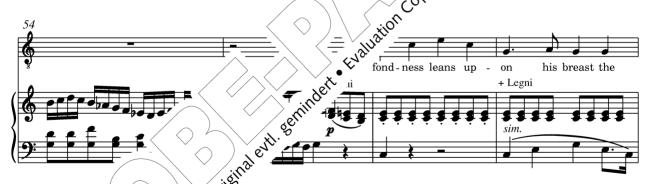




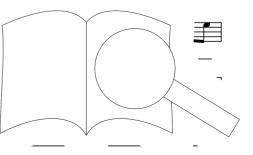


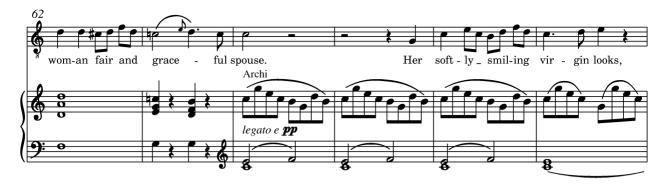


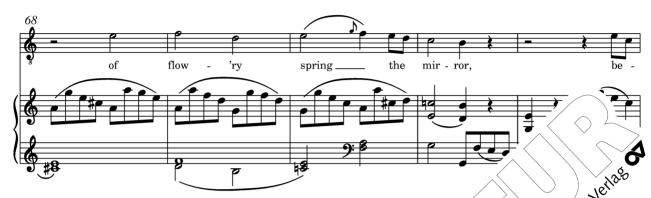






















25. Chorus

GA 11b • N25 • O26 Vivace Archi, Legni ρ

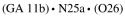


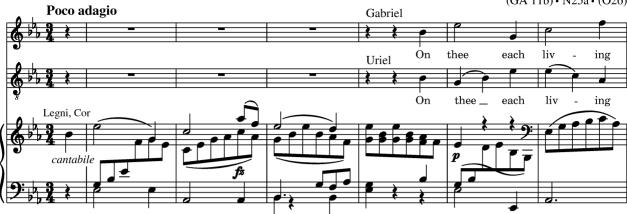






26. Terzetto (Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael)







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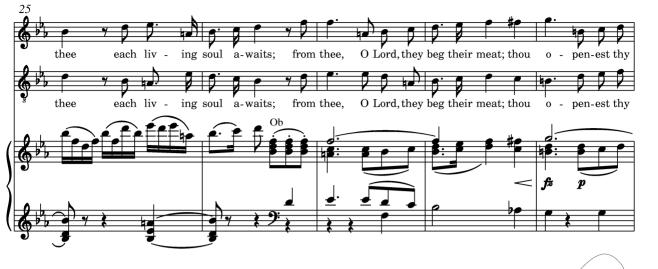
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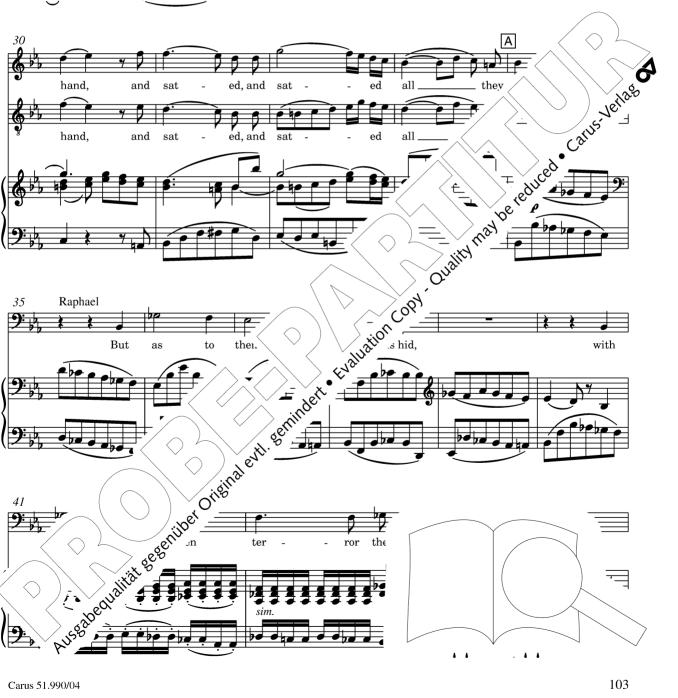
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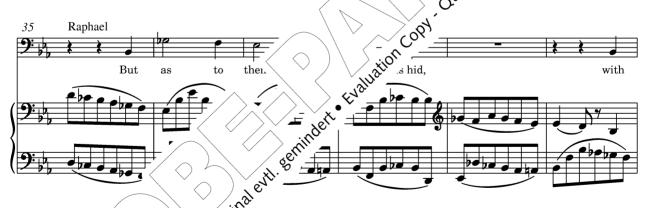
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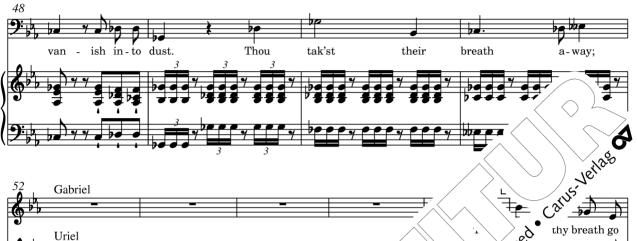




















27. Chorus	27.	Chorus
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(GA 11b) • N25b • (O26)











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Part Three



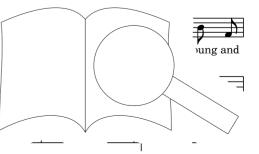








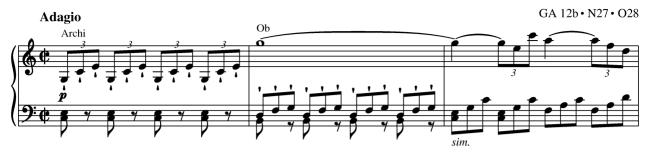








29. Chorus (with Adam and Eva)

























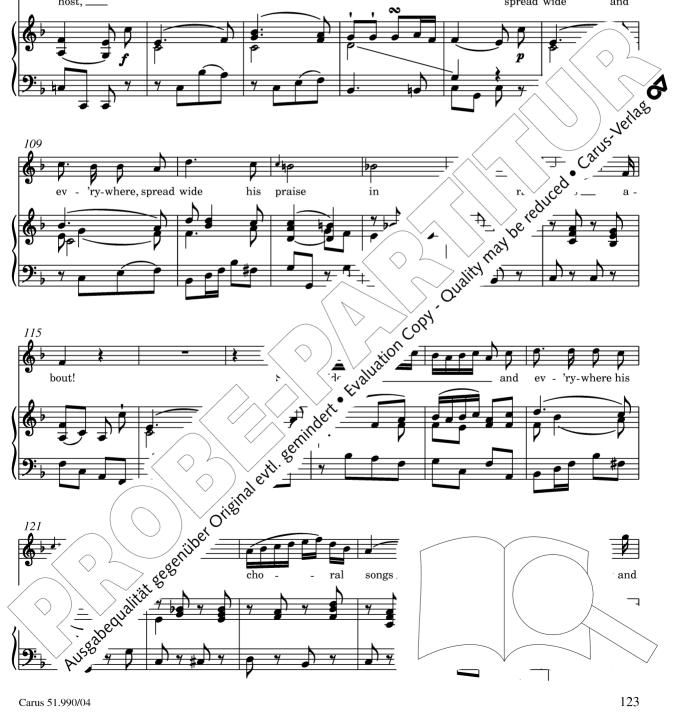
¹²² * Adam and Eva ad libitum together with the basso and the soprano tutti respectively.

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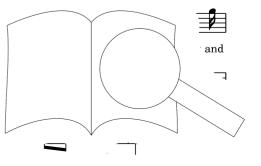














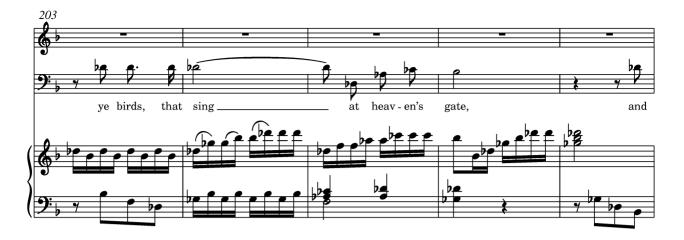


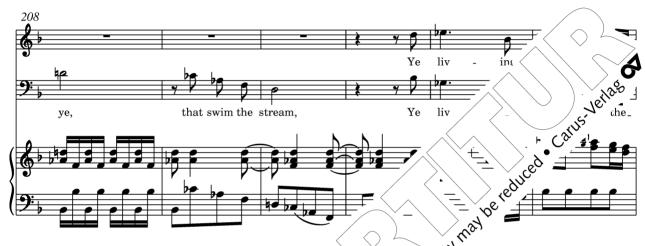


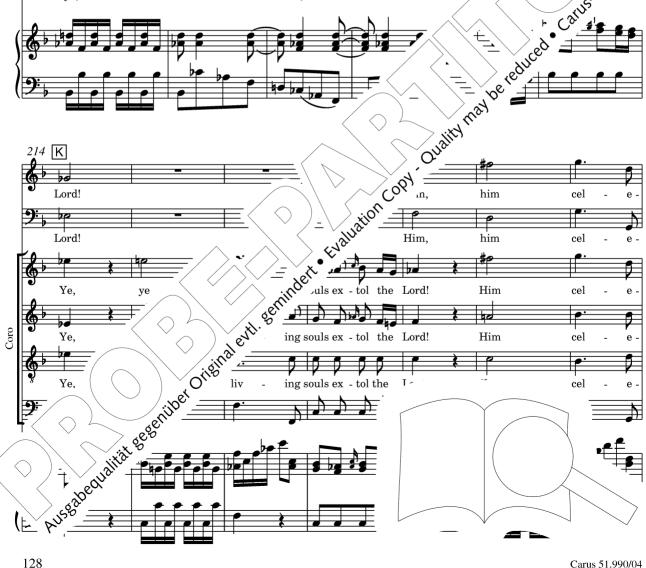




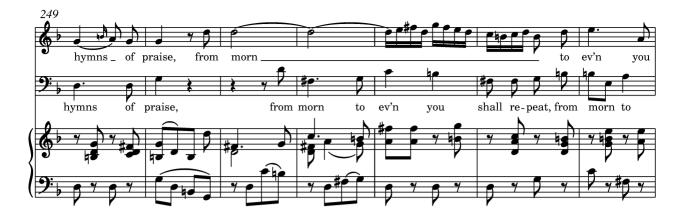
























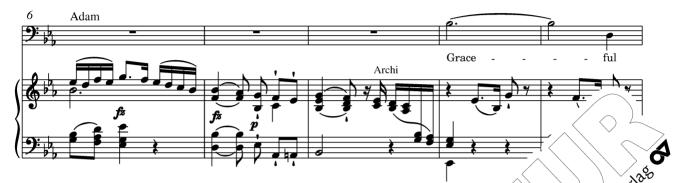








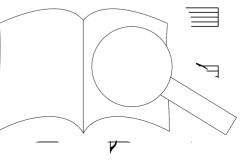




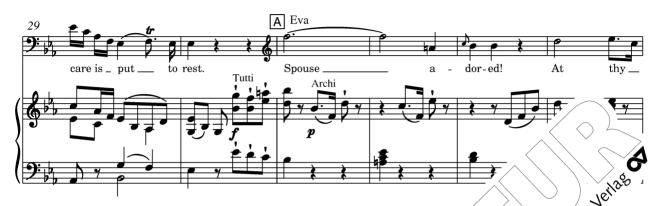








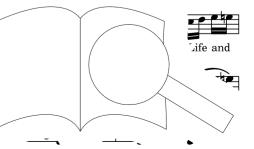


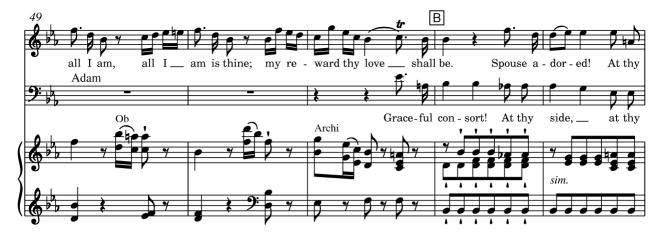


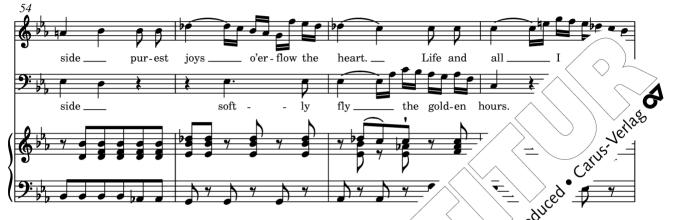








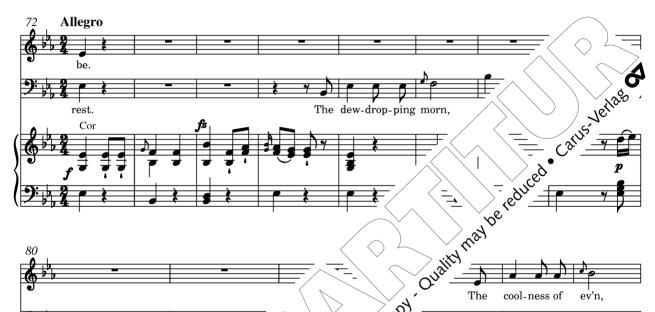








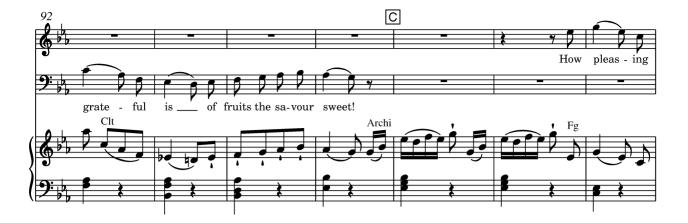




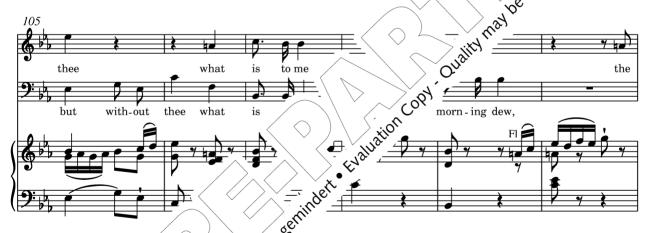




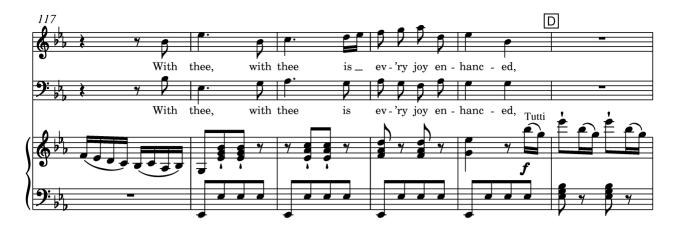












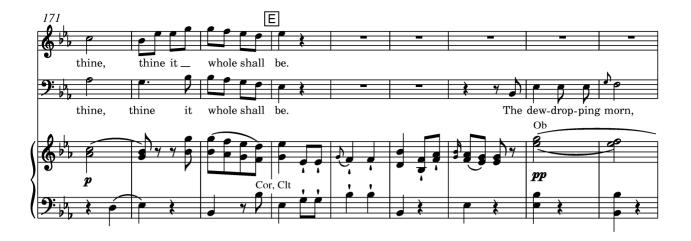








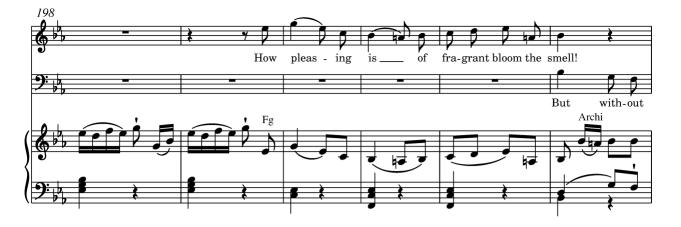








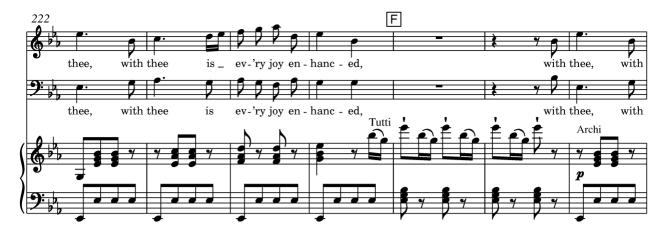










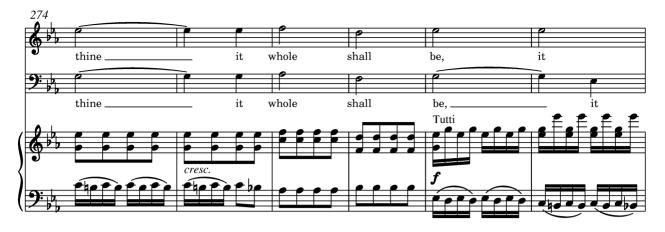














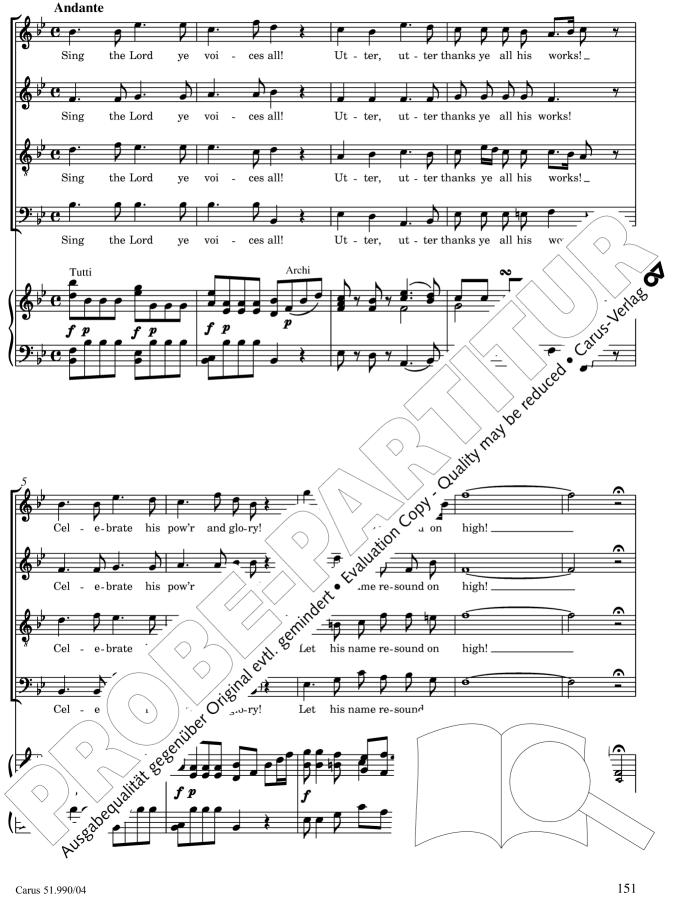


32. Recitativo (Uriel)



33. Chorus (with Soli SATB)

GA 14b • N31 • O32





















The Lad Carus 51.990/04