Program Notes

Morning Songs is a set of three short pieces for organ. They take the form of prelude, meditation and postlude. Each work is signaled by the announcement of a thematic motive associated with the title.

Welcome, Day! is bouncy, with triplet accompaniment. The words "welcome day" are introduced in a rhythmic pattern of eighth-note (rest), eighth-note (rest) and dotted-half-note—as if to say "Welcome Day!" This is joyful music, with filigree patterns running throughout.

In This Still Room (Are Angel Voices) is an homage to the Quaker poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, in his poem *In This Still Room*. The Whittier poem speaks of the presence of God within the quiet Quaker meeting. This meditation for organ is inspired by the imagery of the still room (church), often expressed in slowly-unfolding low-range sonorities, and the active presence of the spirit (perhaps angel voices), expressed by rapid patterns in a high range. The room, the stillness, the voices, the spirit appear as musical fragments which are juxtaposed and superimposed. The movement ends with one, lone high (angel) voice.

Go Forth With Joy! is an energetic postlude. The rhythmic thematic contour (pick-up quarter, followed by half-notes and a dotted-half-note) celebrates the words "go forth with joy!" This 4-note theme recurs in many guises, including a syncopated statement near the end.

The themes of all three movements are interrelated, spanning the interval of a fourth.

—Gwyneth Walker

Catalog No. 7620

Composed for Carson Cooman
Premiered by Carson Cooman, January 10, 2002,
The Memorial Church at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Morning Songs

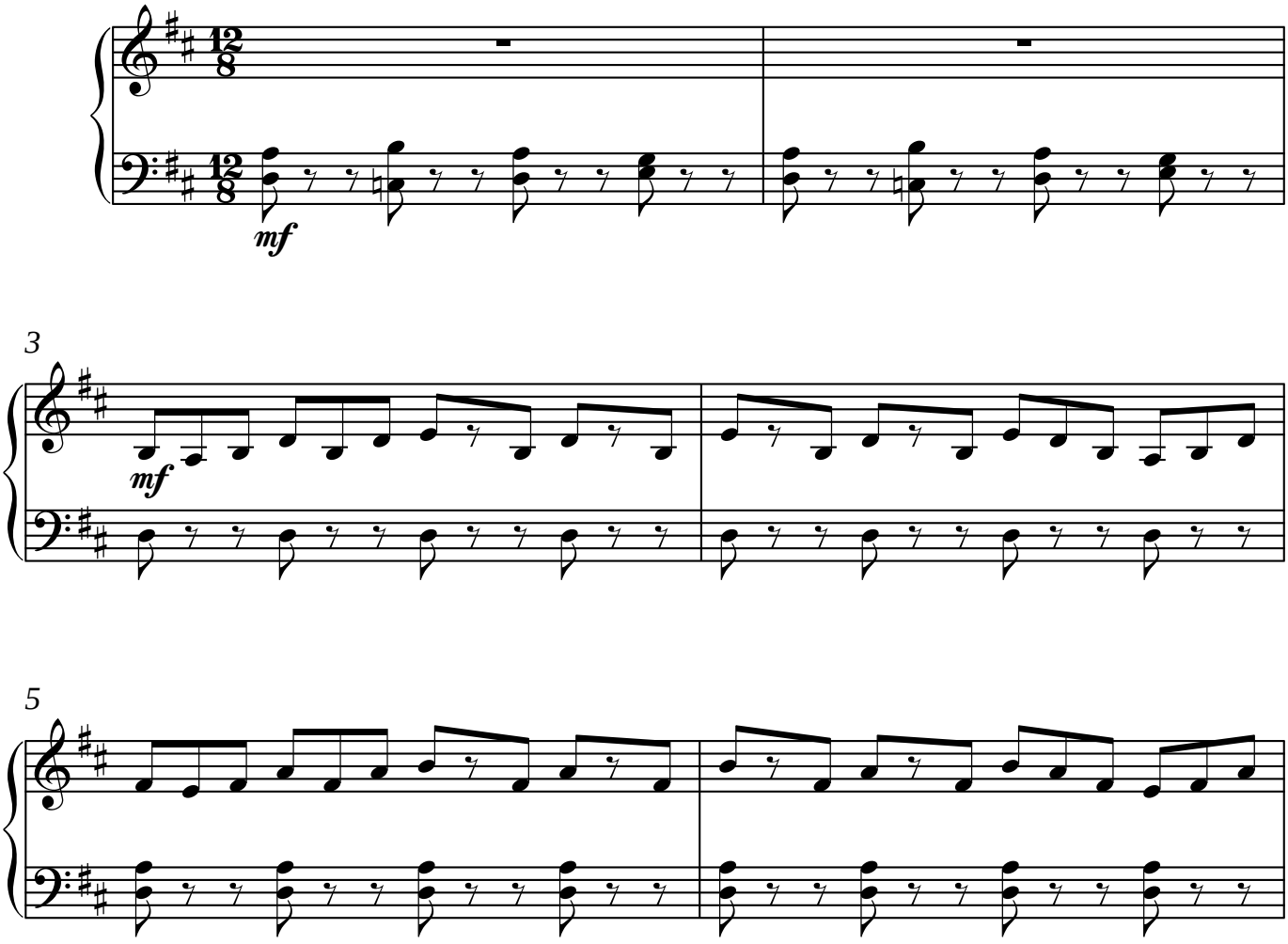
for Organ Solo

Gwyneth Walker

I. Welcome, Day!

Light, bright stops/colors
Man. 8', 4' (2') foundations, plus opt. colorful mutation
Ped. 16', 8' (4') foundations

With a joyful bounce ♩. **= 132** *or faster*



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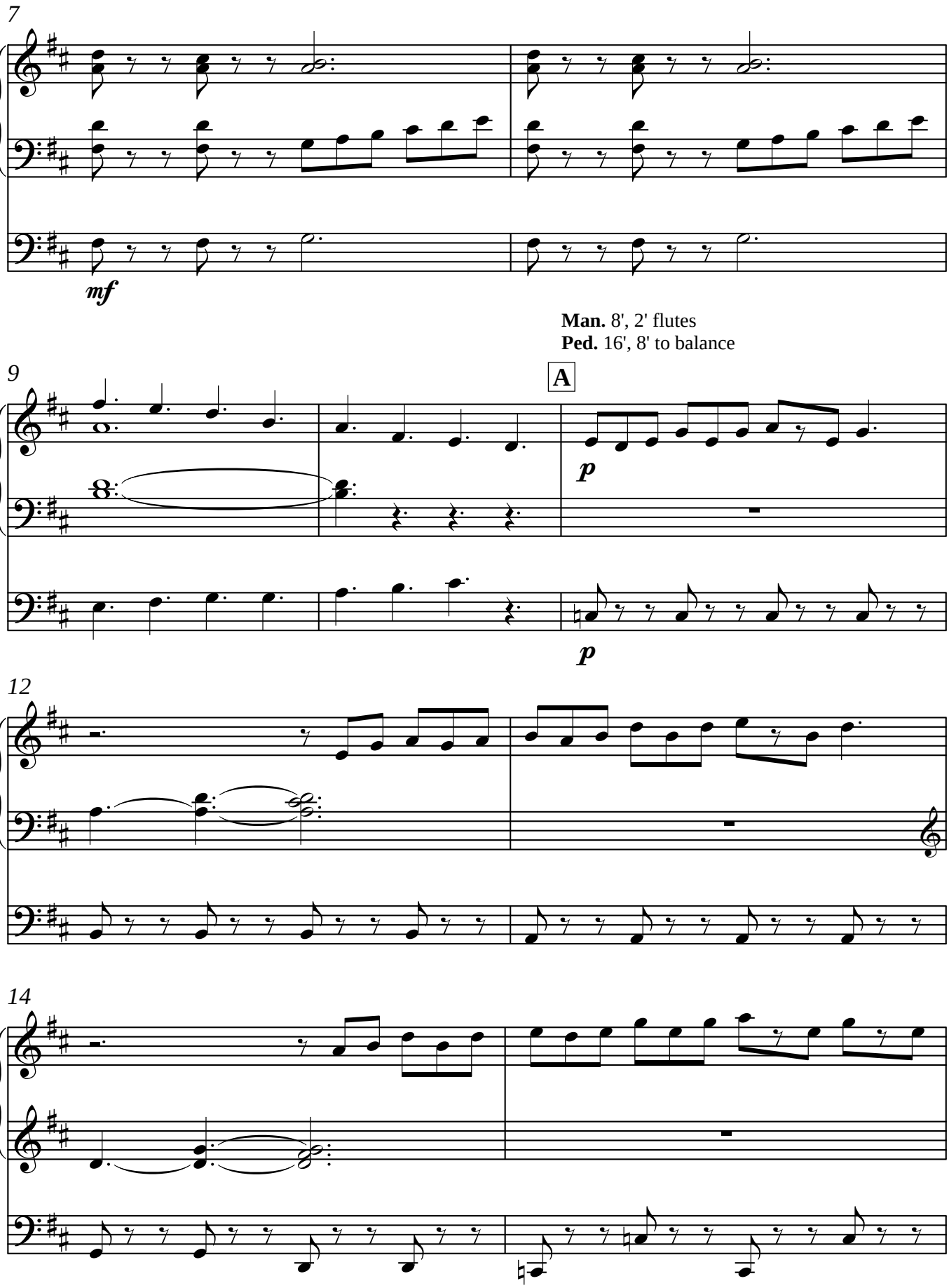
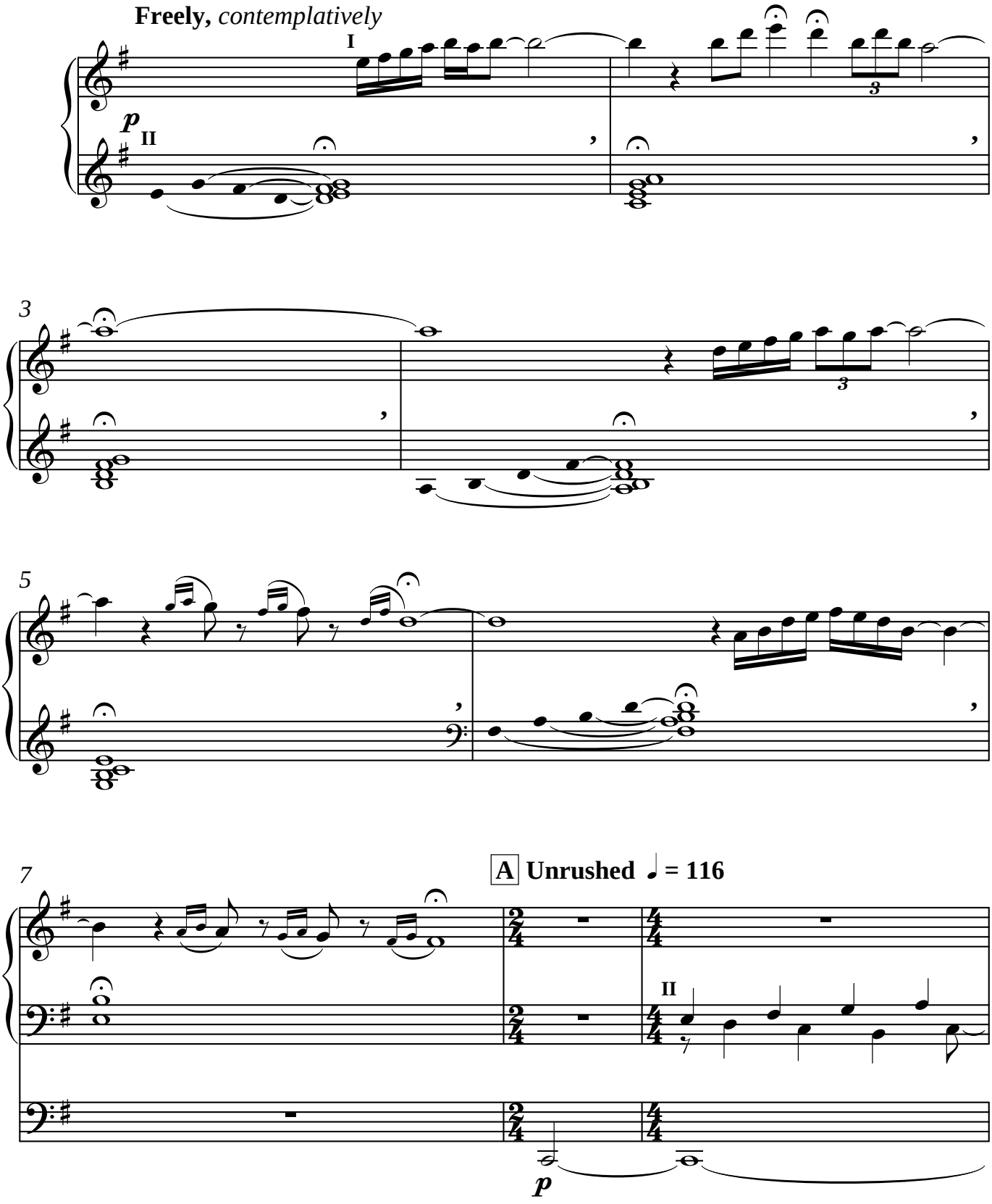
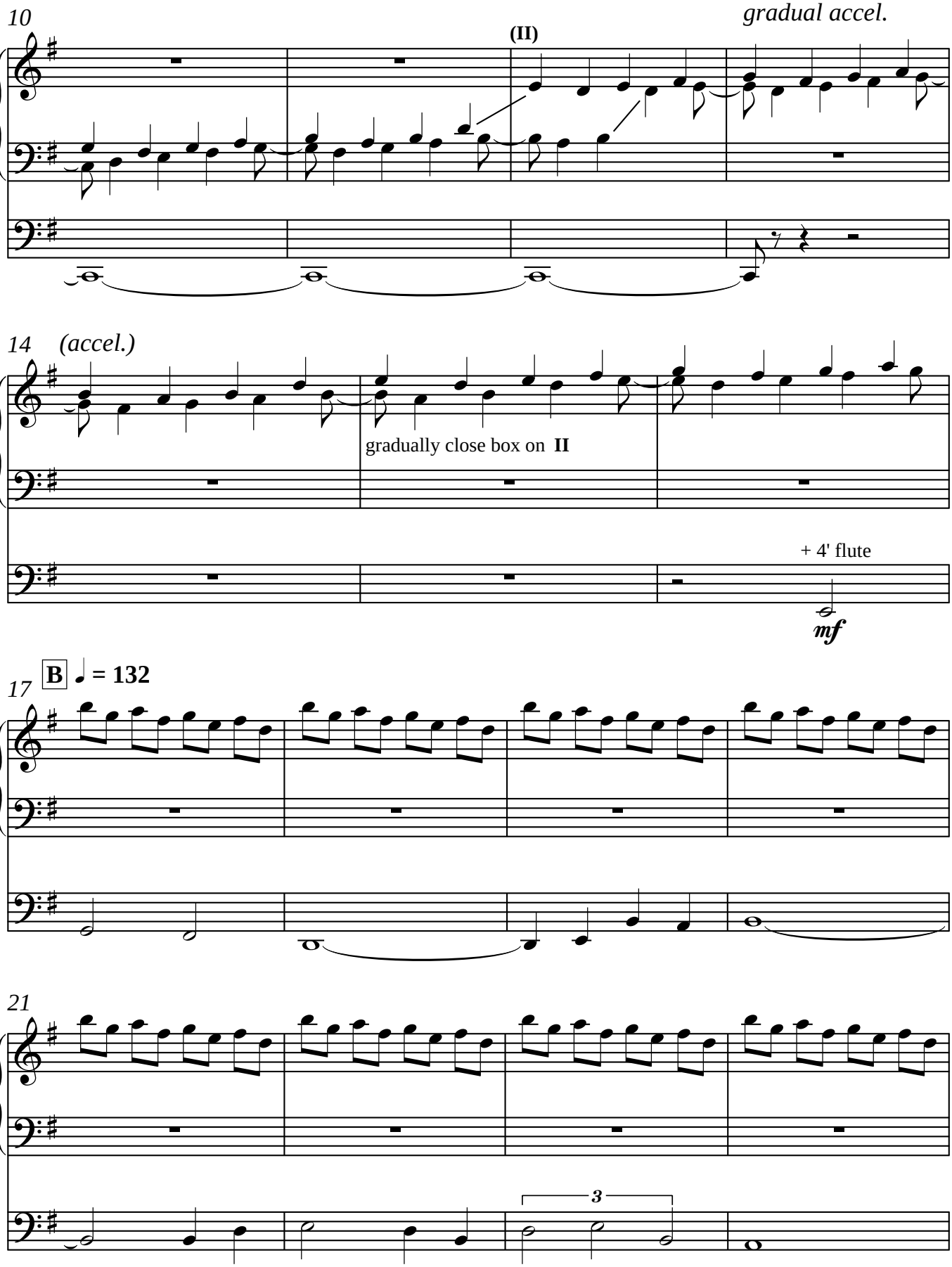

7
mf
Man. 8', 2' flutes
Ped. 16', 8' to balance
9
A
p
p
12
14

II. In This Still Room (Are Angel Voices)

I. 8' solo flute
II. 8' flute (or quiet string) + celeste – (encl. division)
Ped. 16' flute

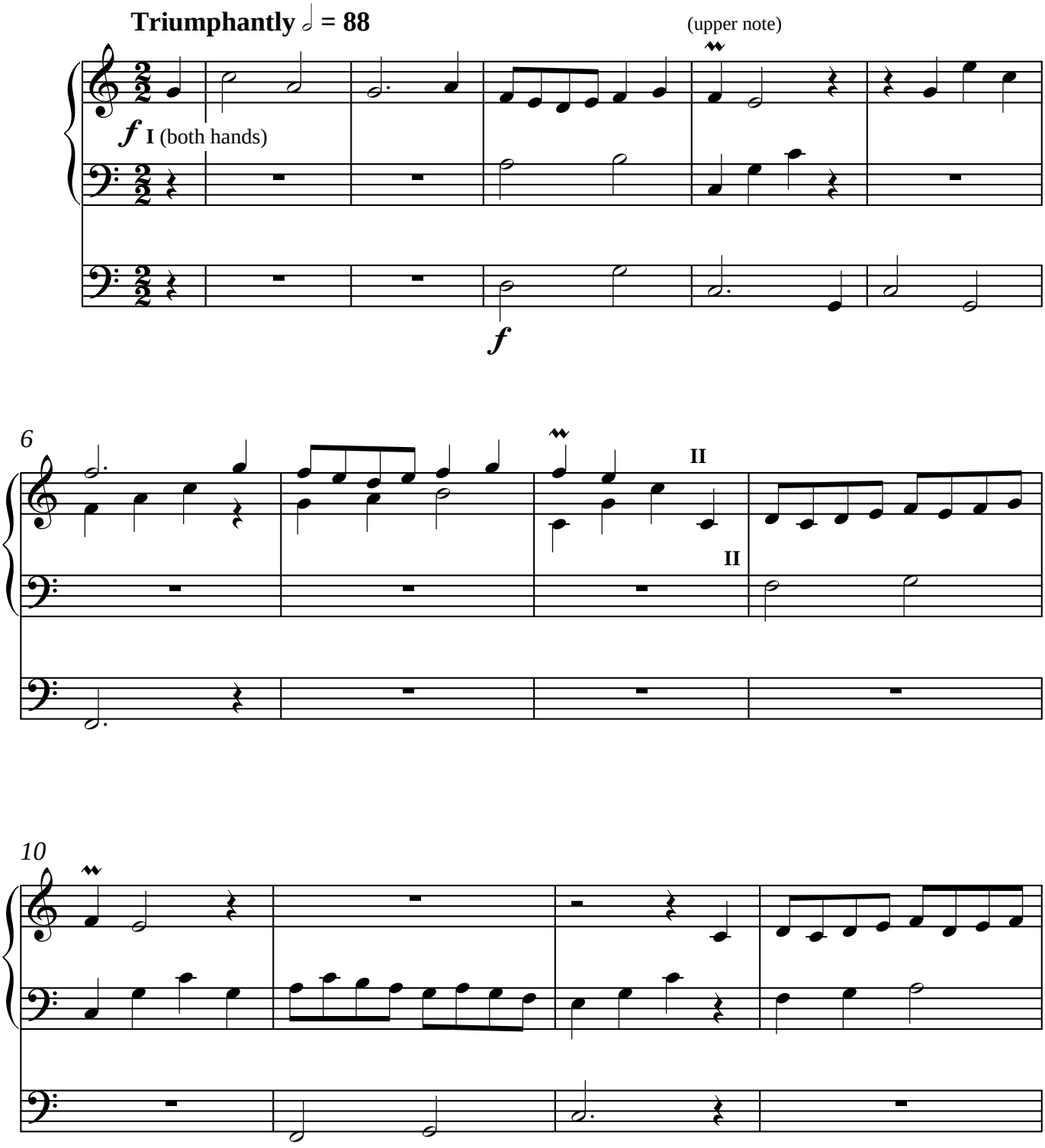
Freely, *contemplatively*

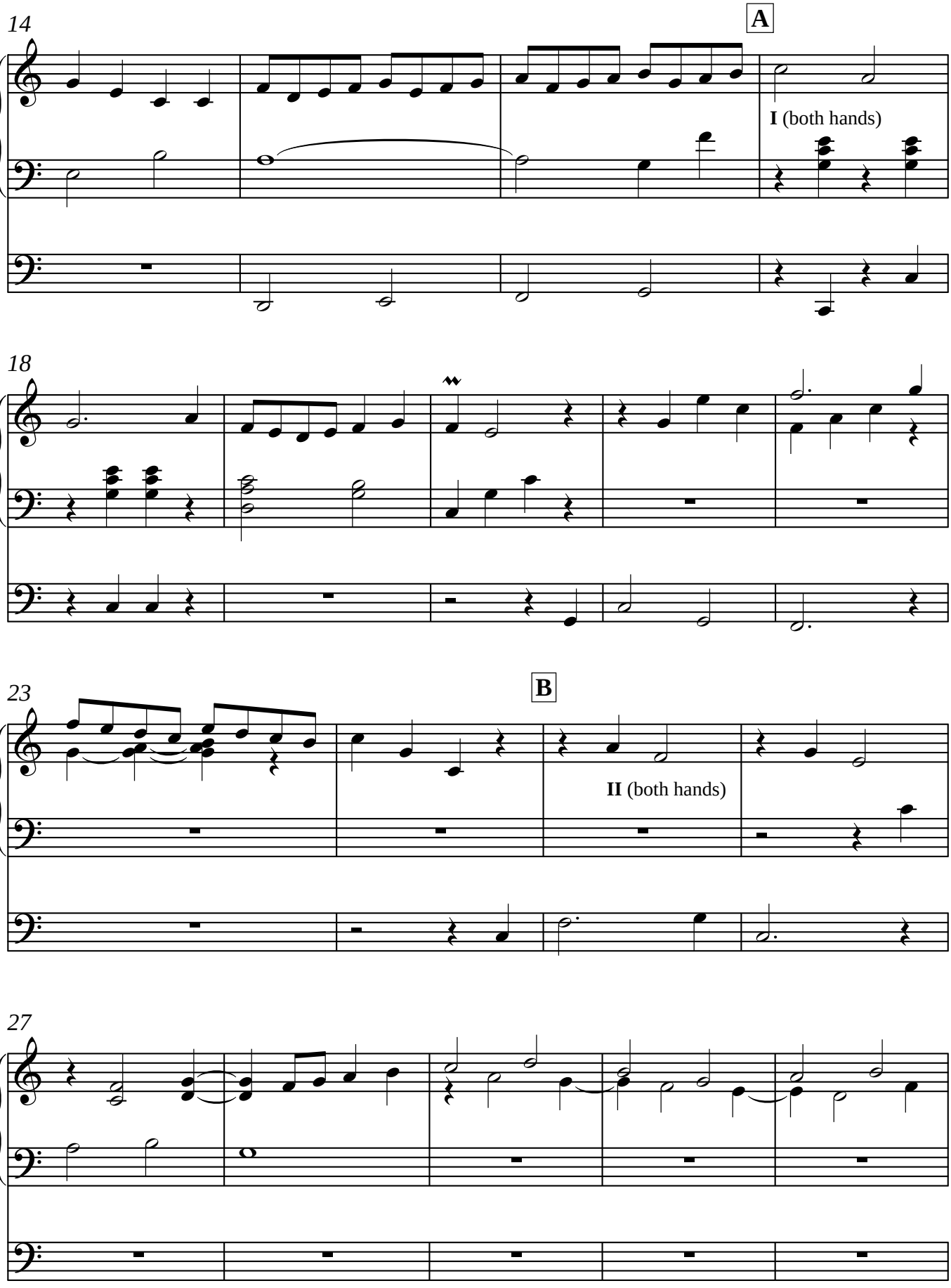



10
gradual accel.
(II)
14
(accel.)
gradually close box on II
+ 4' flute
mf
17
B
♩ = 132
21
3

III. Go Forth With Joy!

I. 8', 4', 2' principals and flutes, Mixture III
II. 8', 4', 2' principals and flutes
Ped. 16', 8', 4' principals




14
A
I (both hands)
18
23
B
II (both hands)
27