I'm Building Me a Home

SATB divisi

Anthony Trecek-King, arranger



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I'm Building Me a Home

SATB

Traditional Spiritual

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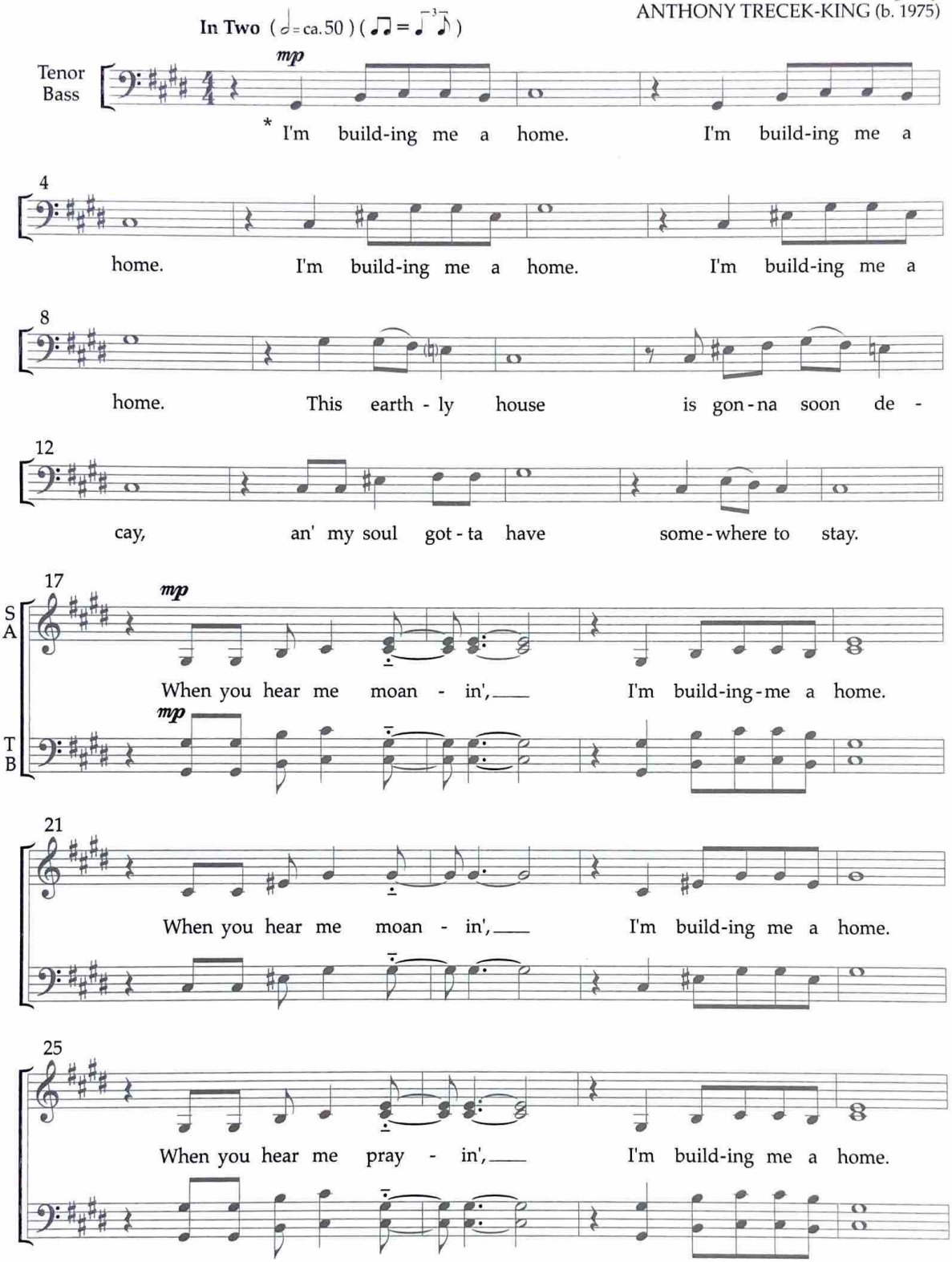
Arranged by
ANTHONY TRECEK-KING (b. 1975)



* *Tenors who are able, sing bass line until measure 17.*

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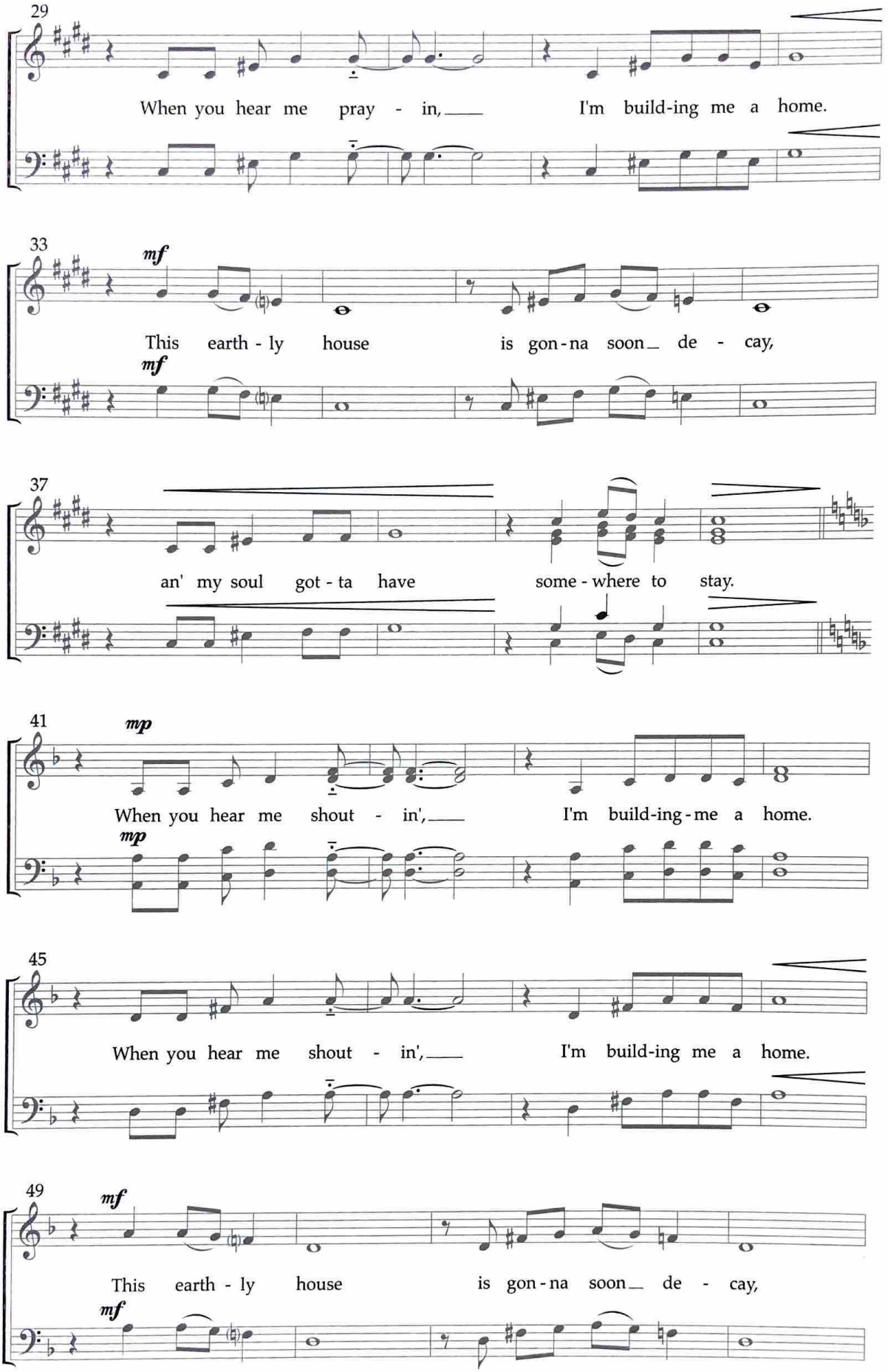
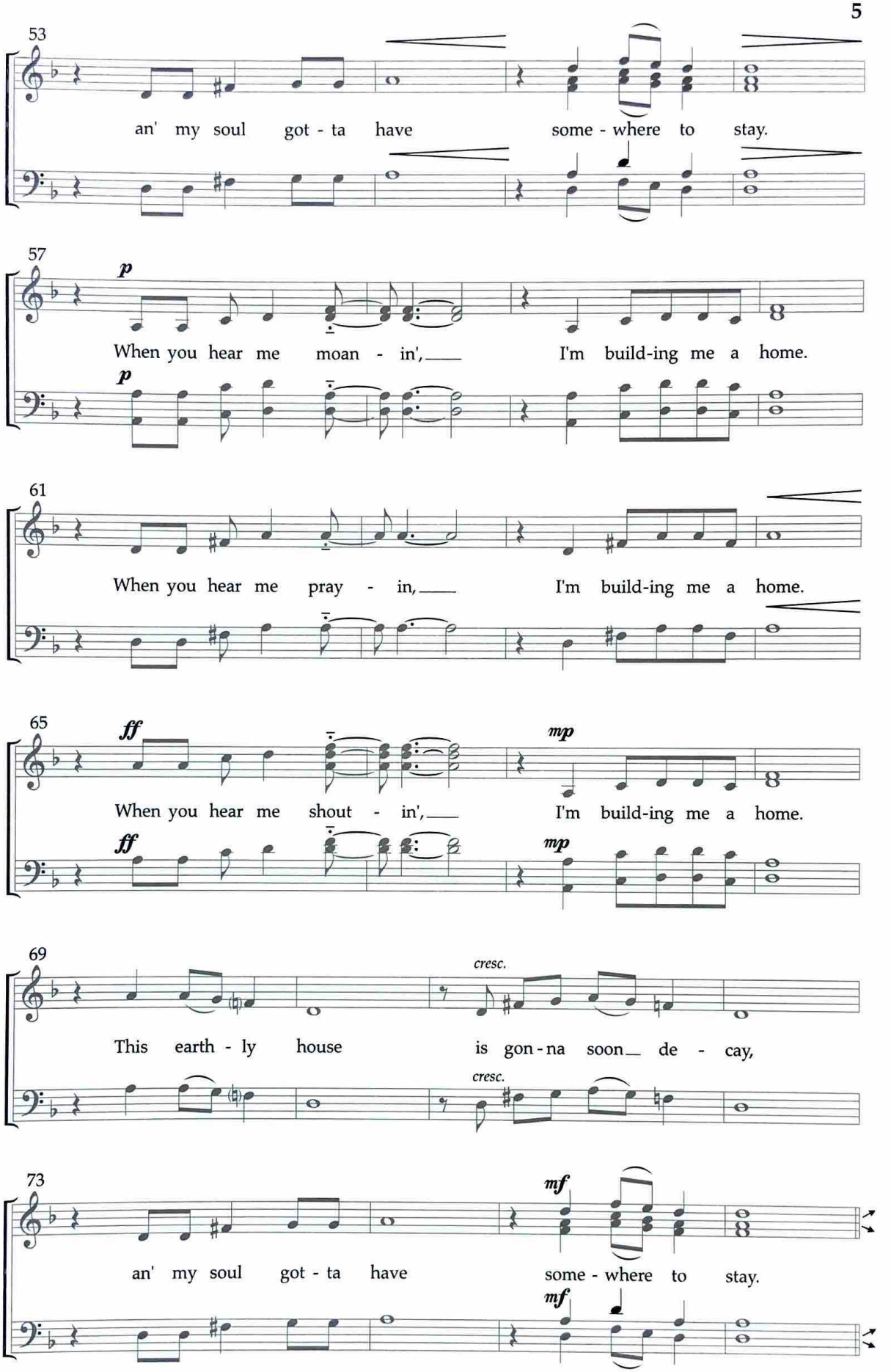
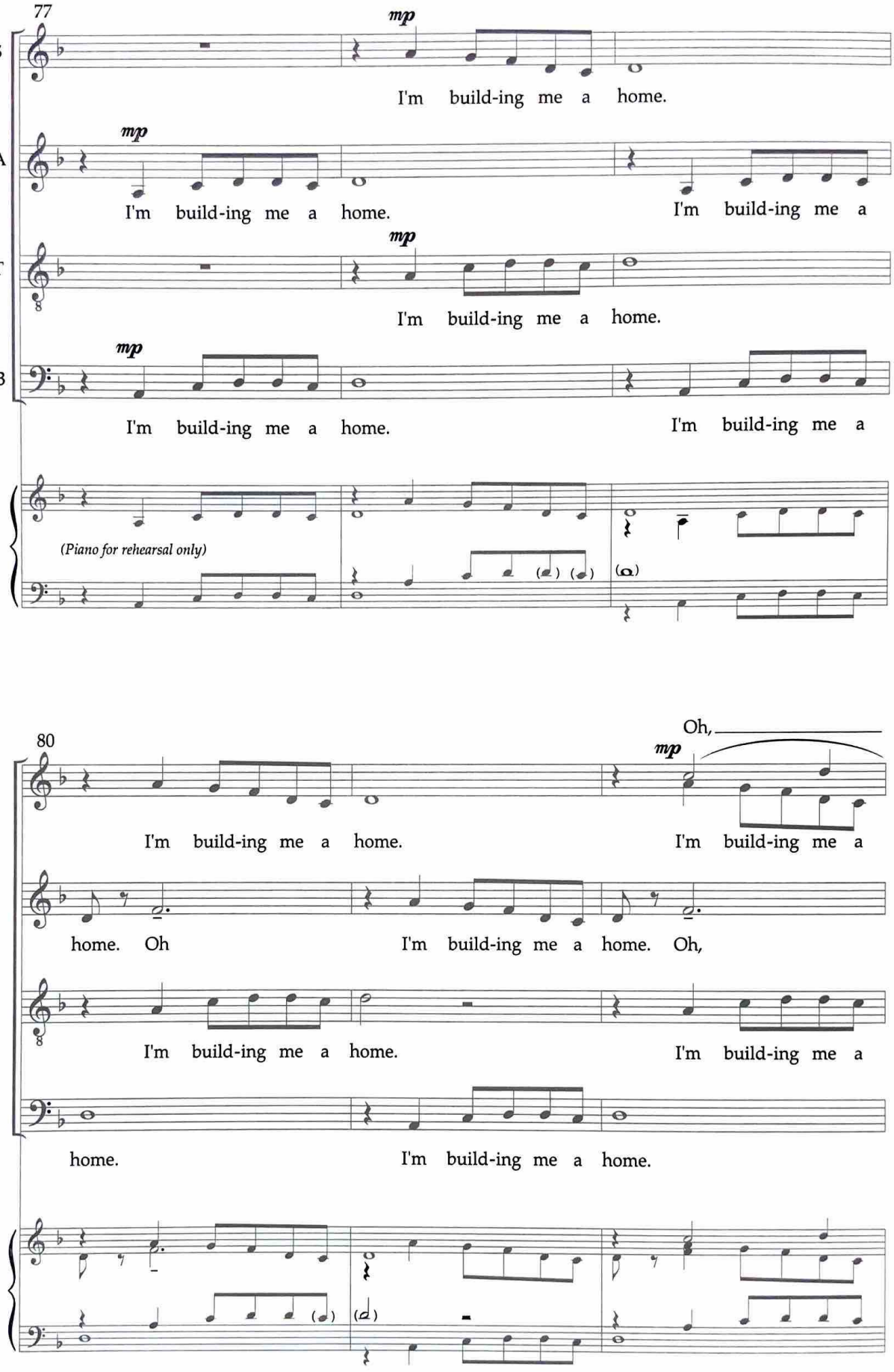
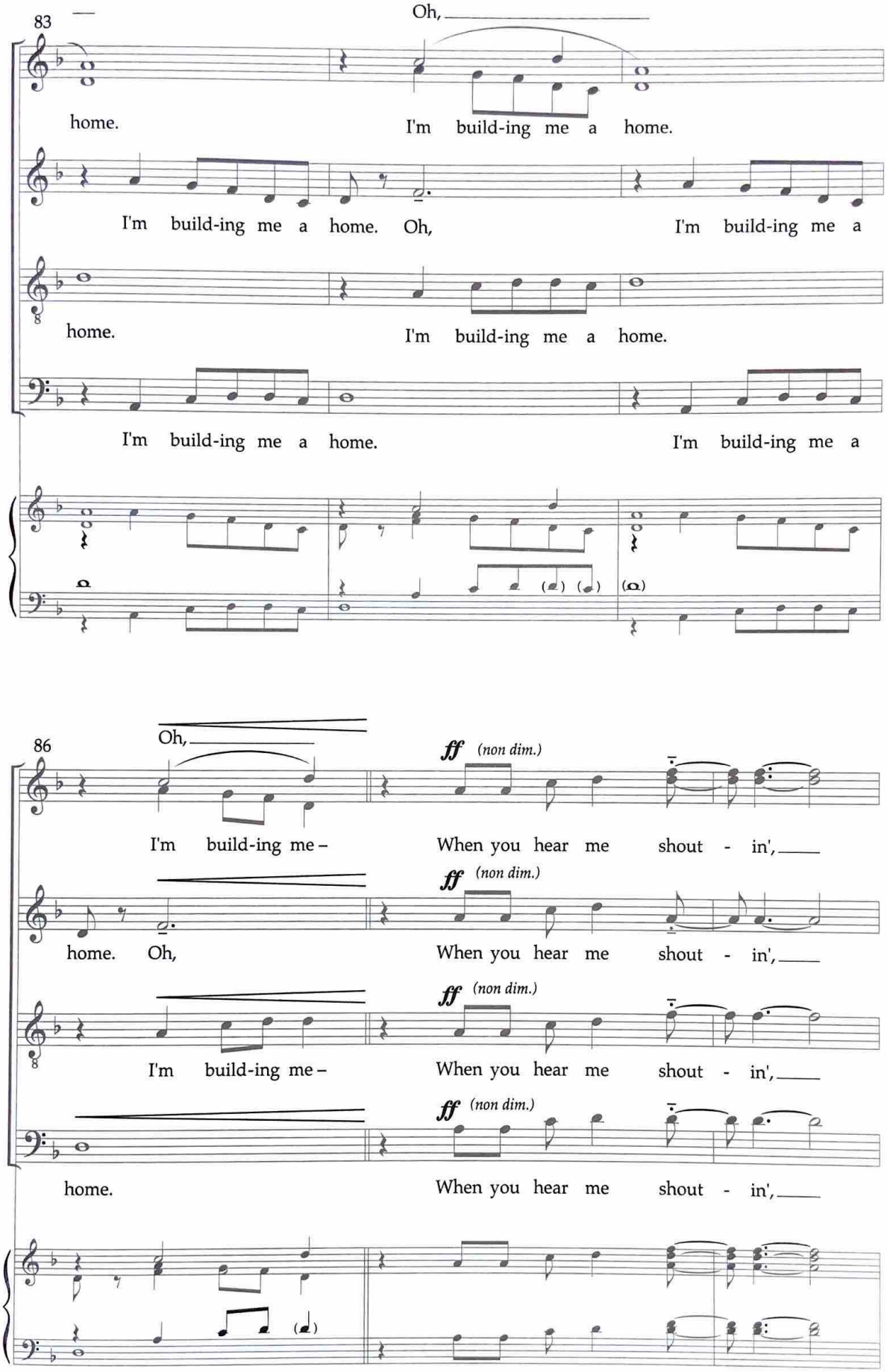
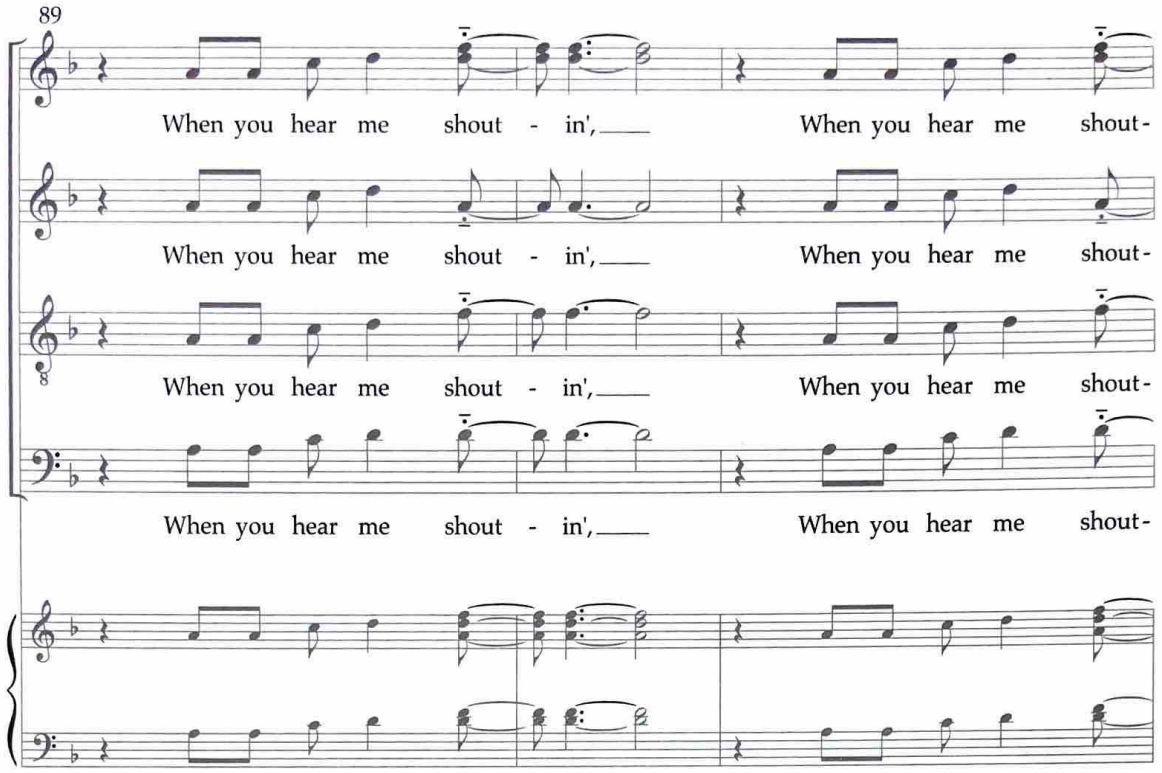
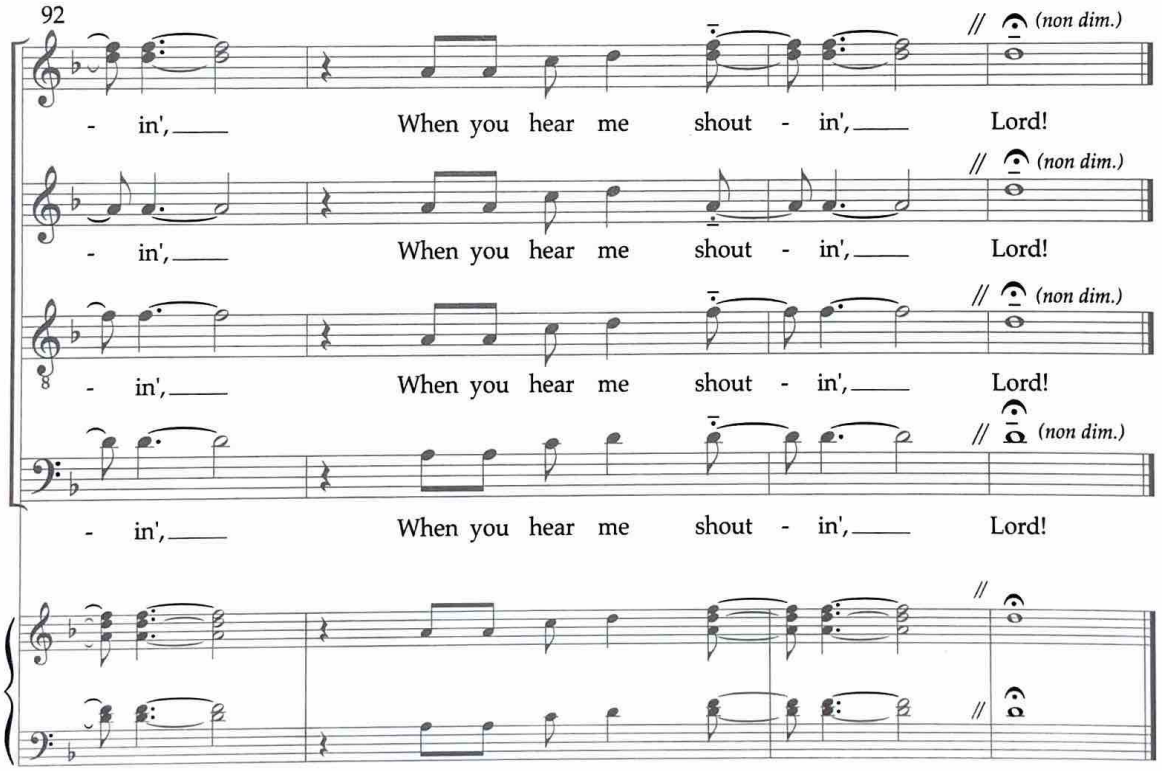

29
When you hear me pray - in, I'm build-ing me a home.
33
mf
This earth - ly house is gon - na soon de - cay,
mf
37
an' my soul got - ta have some - where to stay.
41
mp
When you hear me shout - in', I'm build-ing me a home.
mp
45
When you hear me shout - in', I'm build-ing me a home.
49
mf
This earth - ly house is gon - na soon de - cay,
mf


53
an' my soul got - ta have some - where to stay.
57
p
When you hear me moan - in', I'm build-ing me a home.
p
61
When you hear me pray - in, I'm build-ing me a home.
65
ff
When you hear me shout - in', I'm build-ing me a home.
ff
mp
mp
69
cresc.
This earth - ly house is gon - na soon de - cay,
cresc.
73
mf
an' my soul got - ta have some - where to stay.
mf


77
S
A
T
B
mp
I'm build-ing me a home.
I'm build-ing me a home.
I'm build-ing me a
I'm build-ing me a home.
I'm build-ing me a home.
I'm build-ing me a
(Piano for rehearsal only)
80
Oh,
I'm build-ing me a home.
I'm build-ing me a
home. Oh
I'm build-ing me a home. Oh,
I'm build-ing me a home.
I'm build-ing me a
home.
I'm build-ing me a home.


83
Oh,
home.
I'm build-ing me a home.
I'm build-ing me a home. Oh,
I'm build-ing me a
home.
I'm build-ing me a home.
I'm build-ing me a home.
I'm build-ing me a
86
Oh,
ff (non dim.)
I'm build-ing me –
When you hear me shout - in',
home. Oh,
When you hear me shout - in',
I'm build-ing me –
When you hear me shout - in',
home.
When you hear me shout - in',





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About the Work

I'm Building Me A Home is not a well known spiritual. In fact, when searching through the many collections of spirituals, such as *American Negro Songs* by John W. Work and *Negro Slave Songs in the United States* by Miles Mark Fisher, very few references can be found. There is a published arrangement by Uzee Brown Jr., which was recorded and performed by the Morehouse Glee Club. It is a call and response spiritual where the rhythms might have been used to coordinate a task like working in the fields. Here, the text draws on a theme of resilience toward freedom, toward home, in the face of slavery and its brutal working conditions.

This new setting of I'm *Building Me A Home* is scored for SATB chorus. The goal was to produce something raw, and not to overly arrange or modernize it with contemporary choral language. Set in C# minor, the tessitura for the singers is low, requiring access to the chest register (although transposing up a half step is acceptable). The atmosphere should be heavy, yet simple.

As with many spirituals, it is nearly impossible to capture all of the performance practice and improvisation style onto paper. The notation represents only part of the performance practice. Singers should bend notes, add inflections, delay or anticipate the beat, and improvise wails and moans within the texture. For example, the eighth-notes in this particular arrangement could be swung (preferred) or performed straight, but always on the back of the beat. The improvised wails and moans should build with the music to climax before the final unison cadence. It is encouraged to take the time explore the music and create your own culturally appropriate interpretation.

-Anthony Trecek-King

I'm Building Me a Home

I'm building me a home.
This earthly house is gonna soon decay,
an' my soul gotta have somewhere to stay.

When you hear me moanin', I'm building me a home.
When you hear me prayin', I'm building me a home.
When you hear me shoutin', I'm building me a home.

-Traditional Spiritual

About the Arranger

Dr. Anthony Trecek-King is the President and Artistic Director of the award winning Boston Children's Chorus (BCC). Under his direction, the chorus has earned a reputation as an ensemble of high distinction and, in 2013 received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from the White House. Trecek-King's performances have been heralded as possessing a "surprising range of dynamics and depth of expression." He has collaborated on performances with Keith Lockhart, John Williams, Simon Halsey, Yo Yo Ma, and Roomful of Teeth, and has led BCC in performances at Boston Symphony Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Carnegie Hall in New York City, and Royal Albert Hall in London. He is a frequent guest conductor for All State, Festival, and Honor Choirs. In addition to Trecek-King's conducting work, he can be seen on air and online on the WGBH television series "Sing That Thing", and two TEDx Boston talks. He holds a B.M. in Cello Performance from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, an M.M. in Orchestral Conducting from the Florida State University, and a D.M.A. in Choral Conducting from the Boston University.

Duration: Approx. 4:20