ORPHEUS BRITANNICUS

Shepherd Leave Decoying

FROM

King Arthur, 1692

Z628/16

COMPOS'D

By Mr. Henry Purcell

FOR

Two Sopranos,

Two Treble Recorders,

AND

A *THROUGH-BASS*

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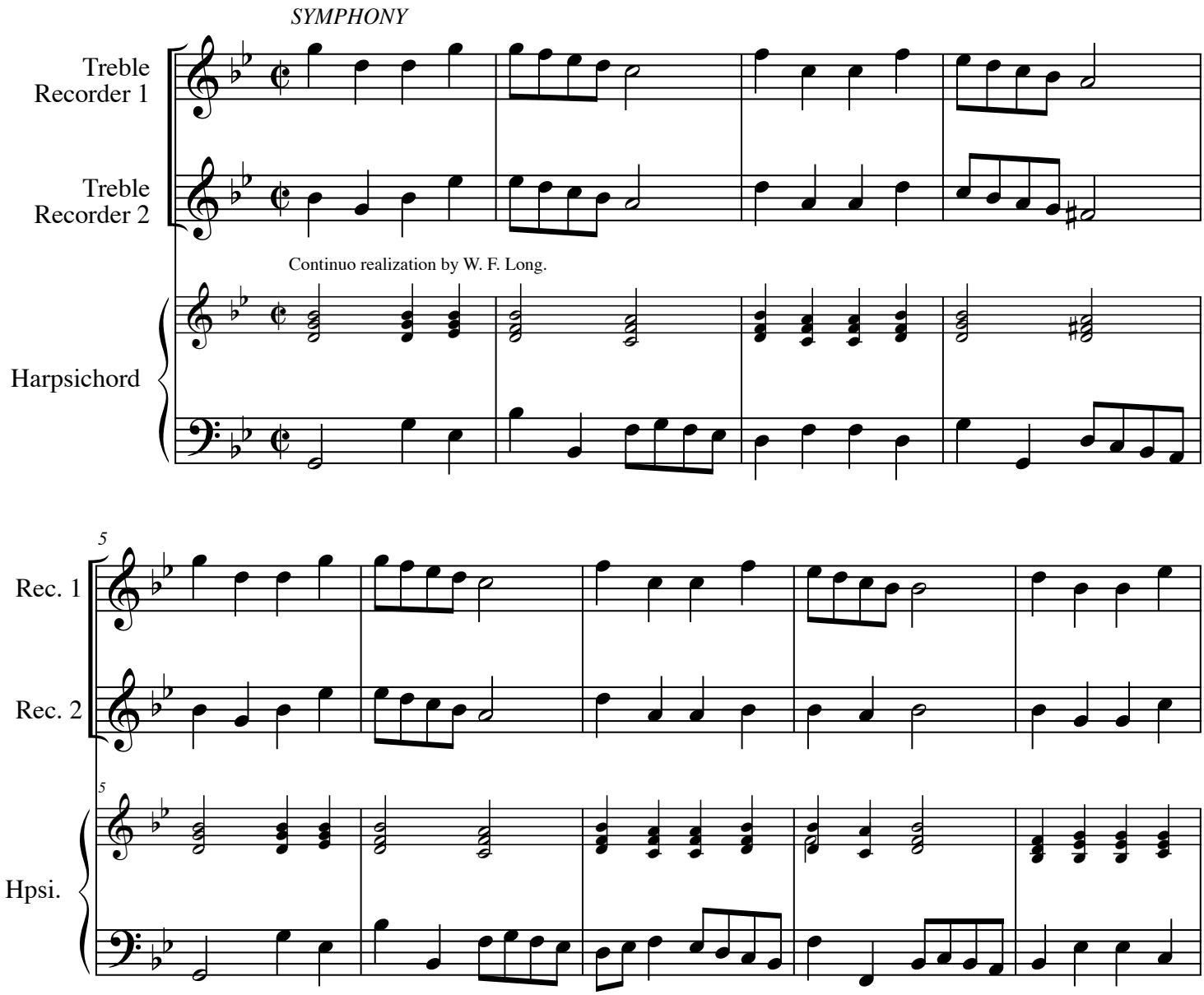
"Shepherd, leave decoying" from *Orpheus Britannicus*

John Dryden **Henry Purcell**



The brief song, "Shepherd, leave decoying," is Movement 16 of Purcell's Semi-Opera, *King Arthur* or *The British Worthy* (1691). It is on page 236 of Book I of *Orpheus Britannicus*. No instrumentation is specified in *Orpheus Britannicus,* but the upper instrumental parts fit the range of alto recorders and recorders would be consistent with the pastoral content of the text. Alternatively, soprano recorders could play the instrumental parts an octave higher than written.

The bass line in *Orpheus Britannicus* is unfigured.

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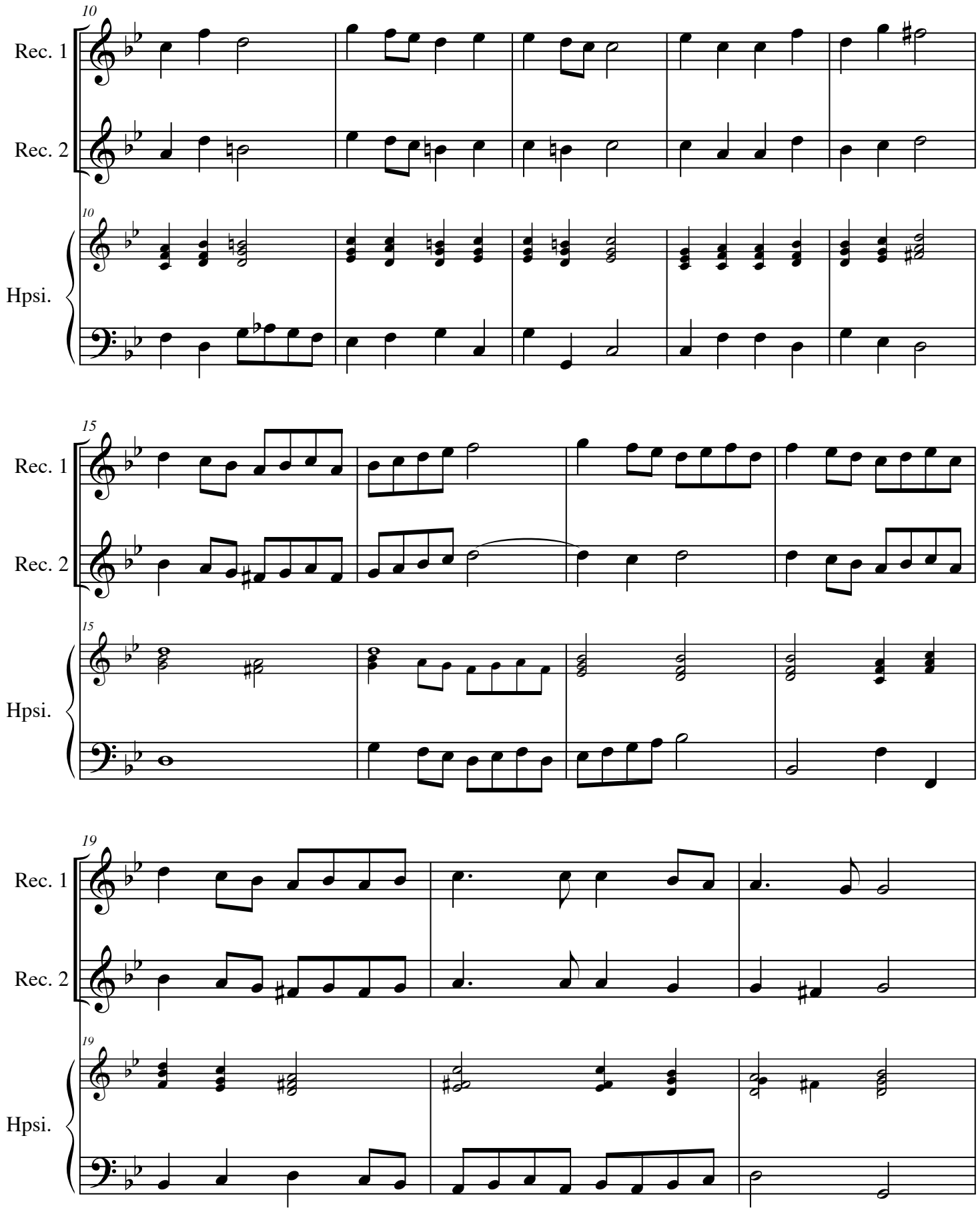

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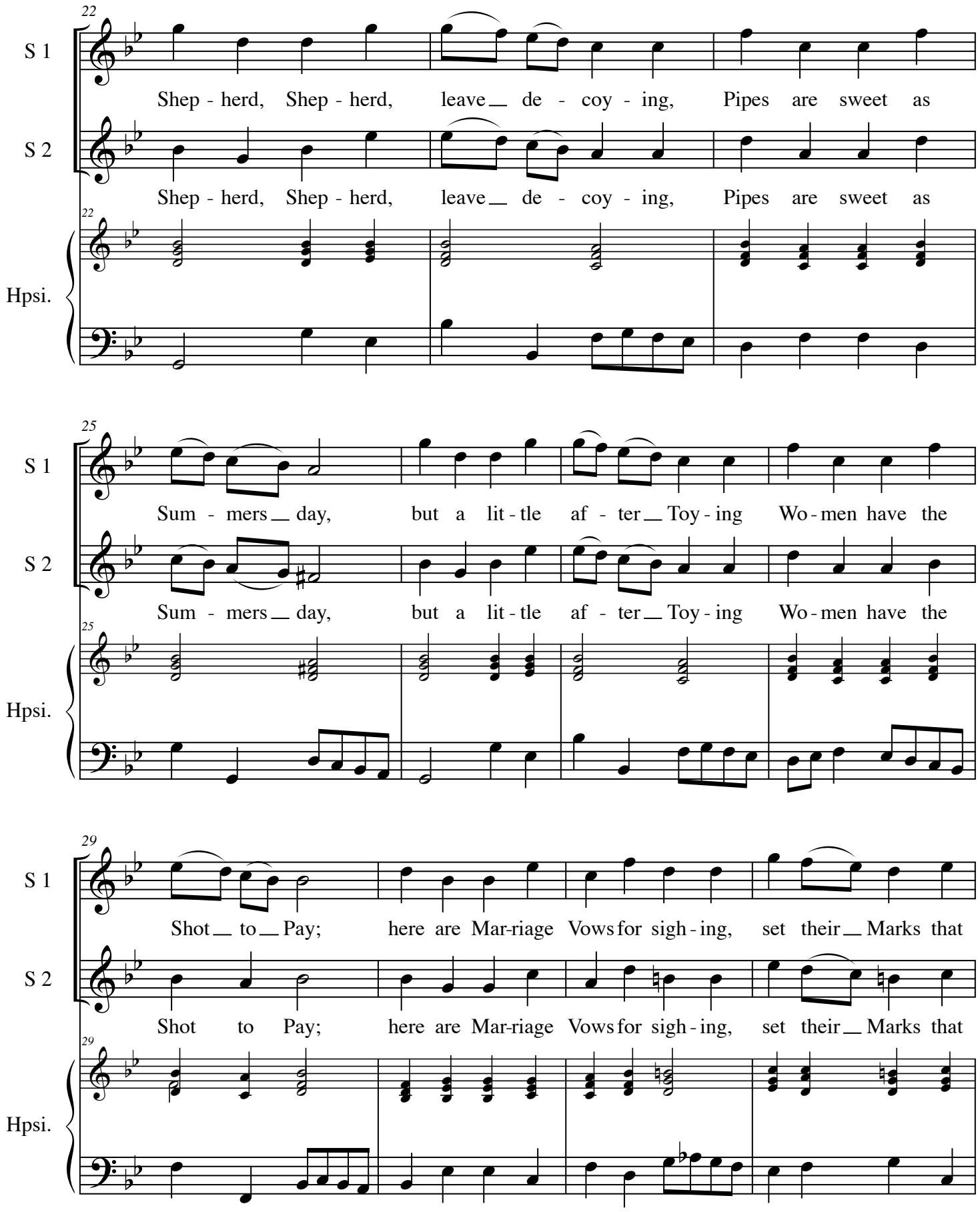

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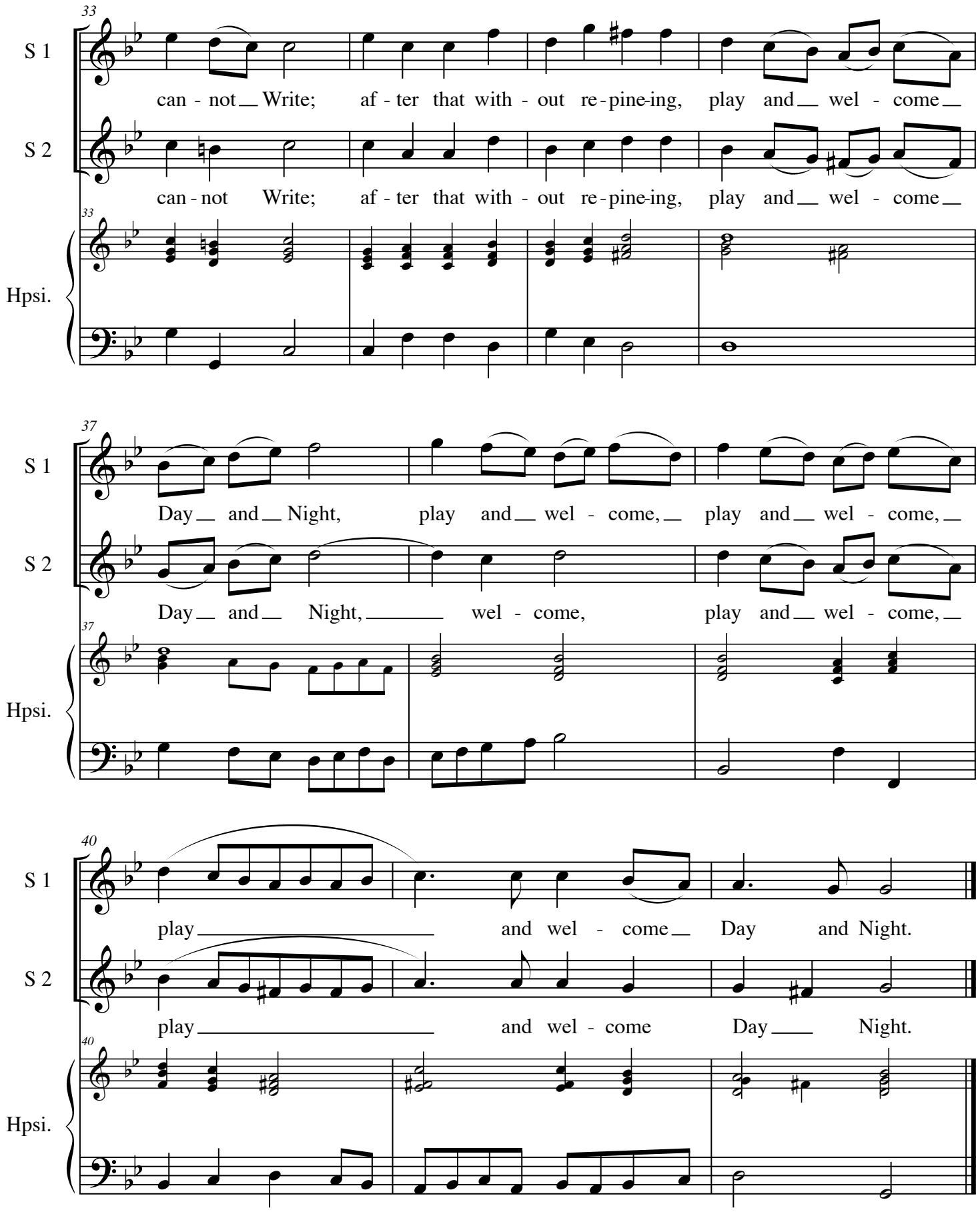

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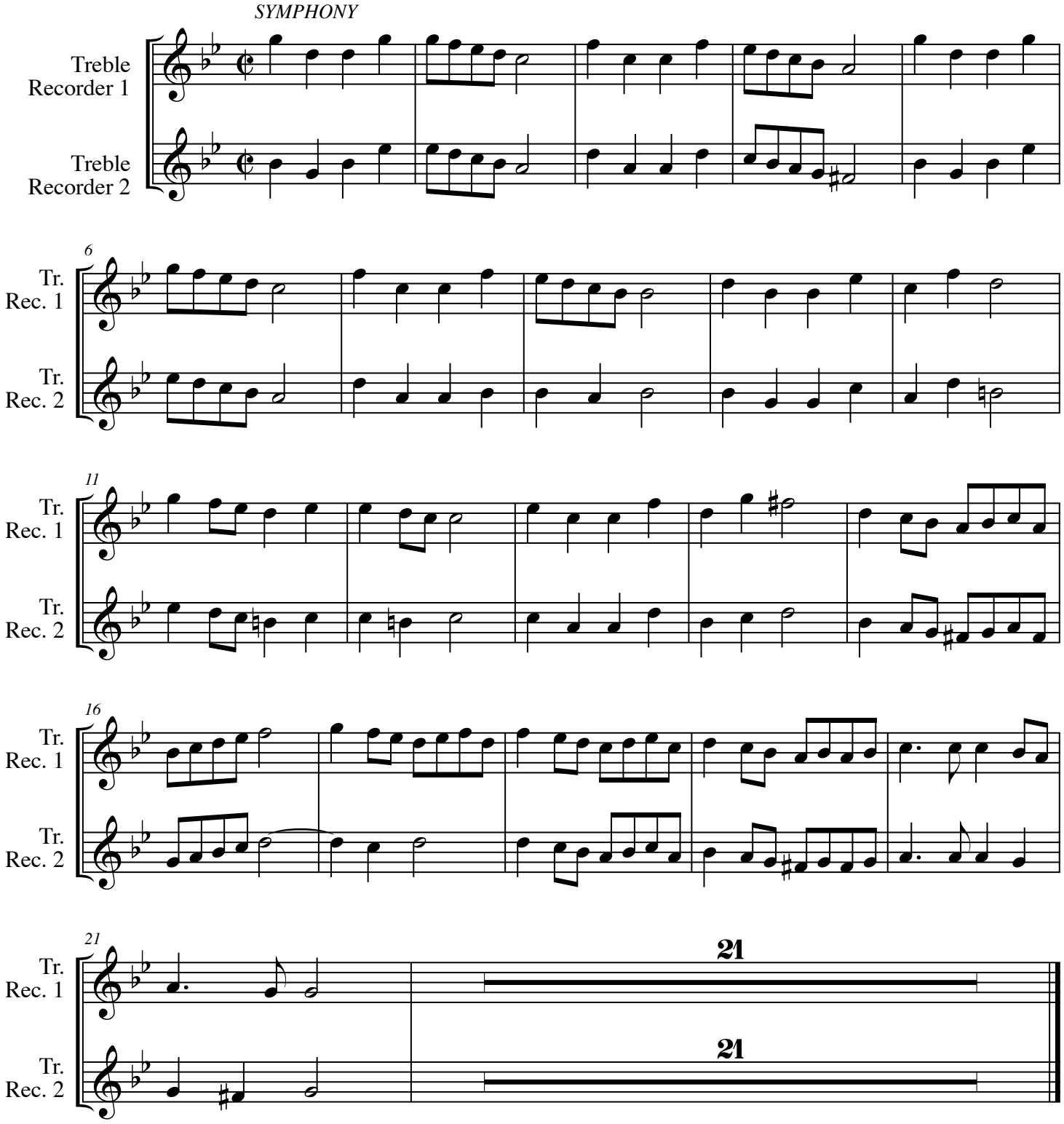
Recorders

"Shepherd, leave decoying" from *Orpheus Britannicus*

Henry Purcell



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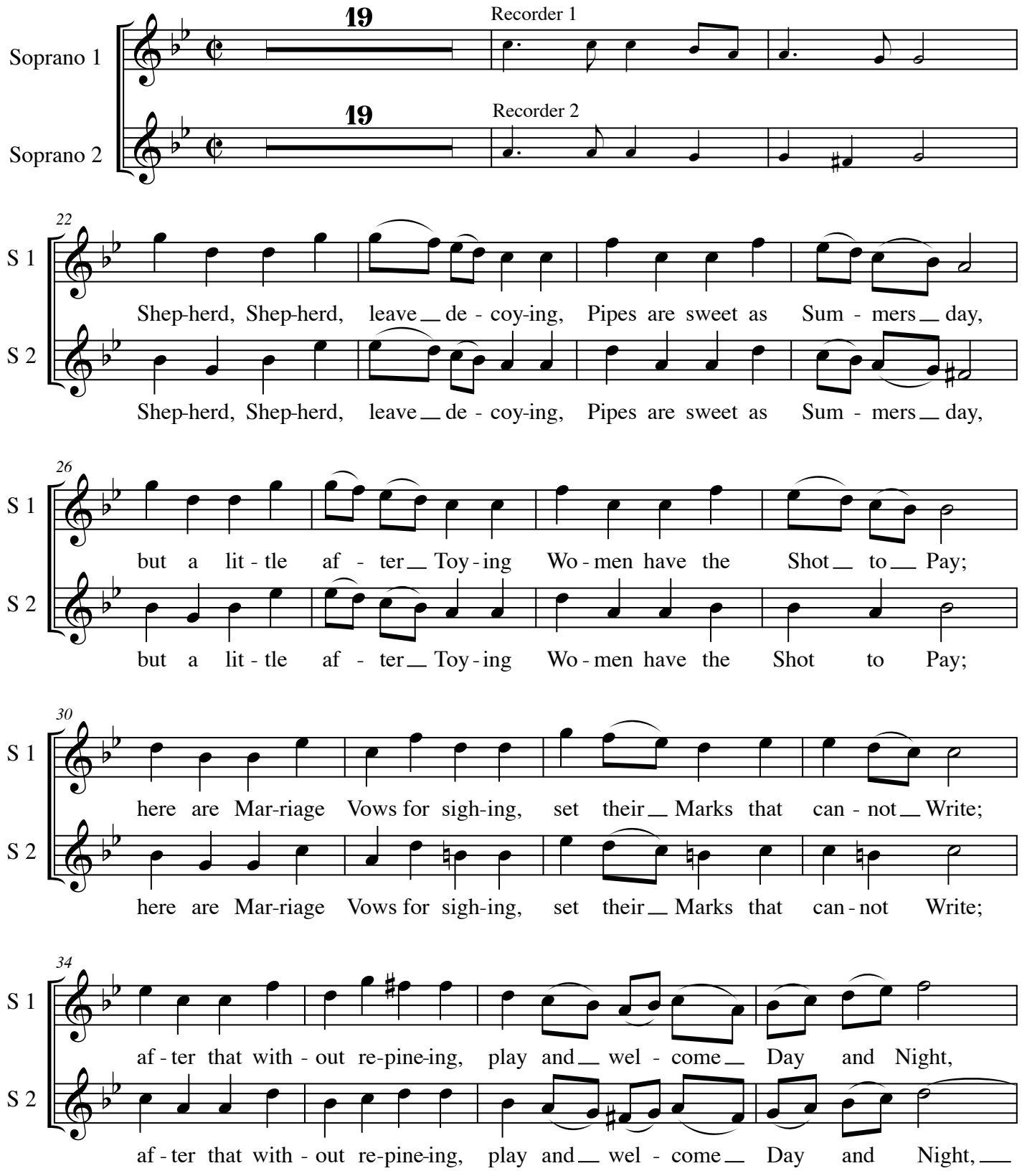
Sopranos

"Shepherd, leave decoying" from *Orpheus Britannicus*

John Dryden **Henry Purcell**



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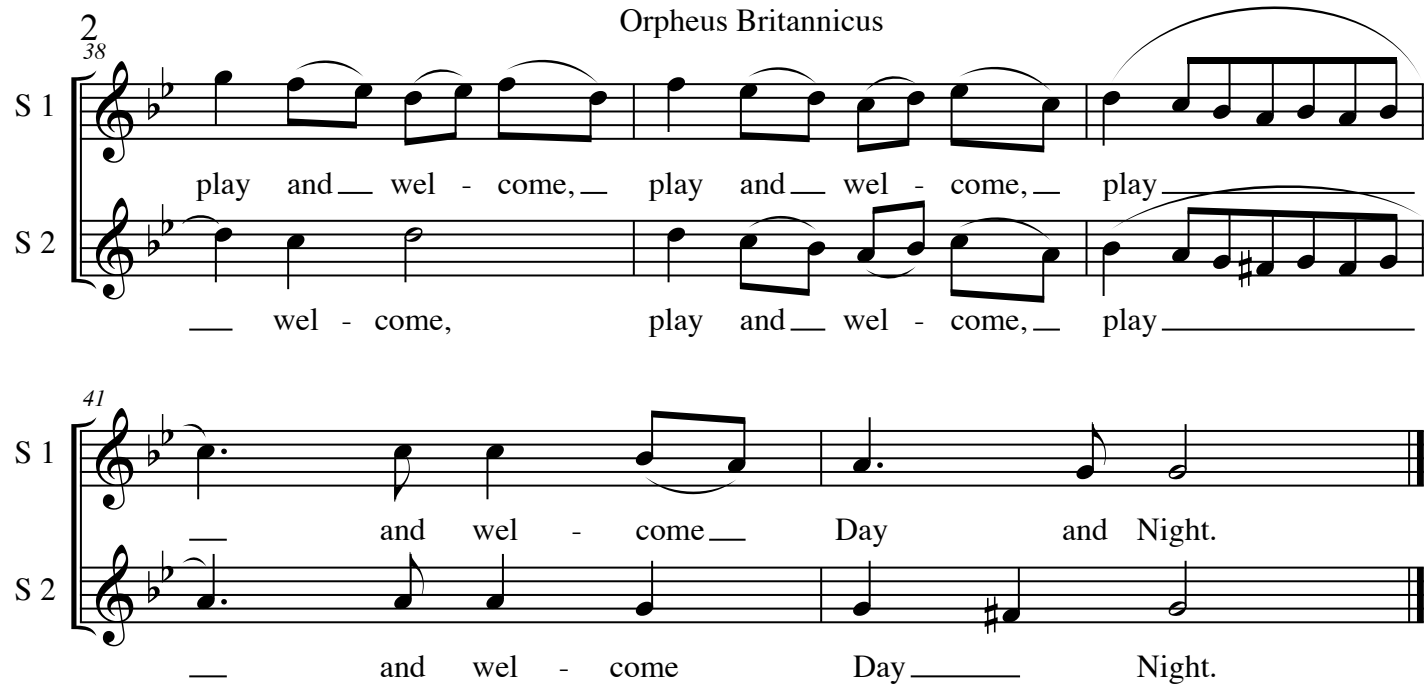
Orpheus Britannicus



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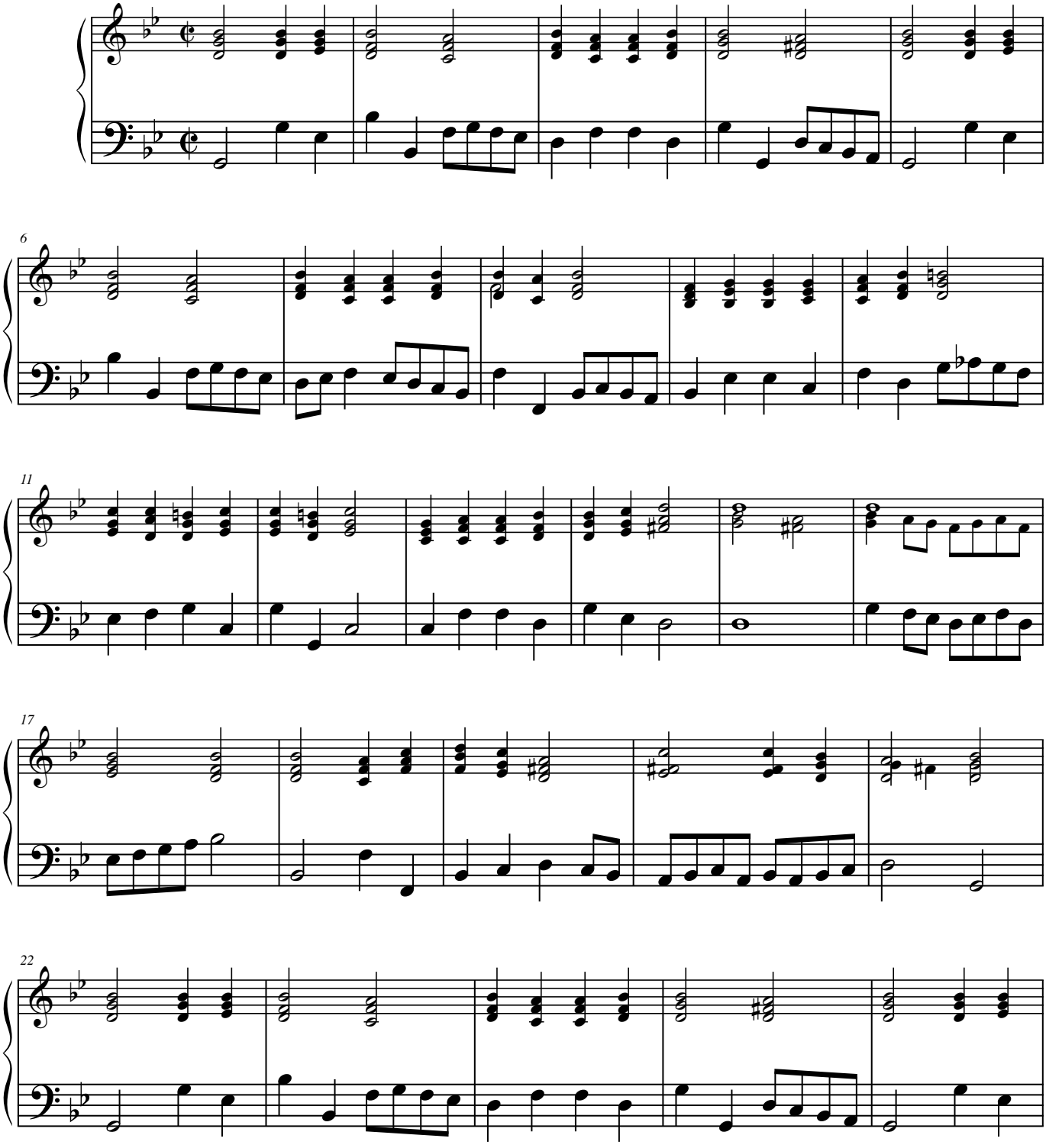
Harpsichord

"Shepherd, leave decoying" from *Orpheus Britannicus*

Henry Purcell

Continuo realization by W. F. Long.



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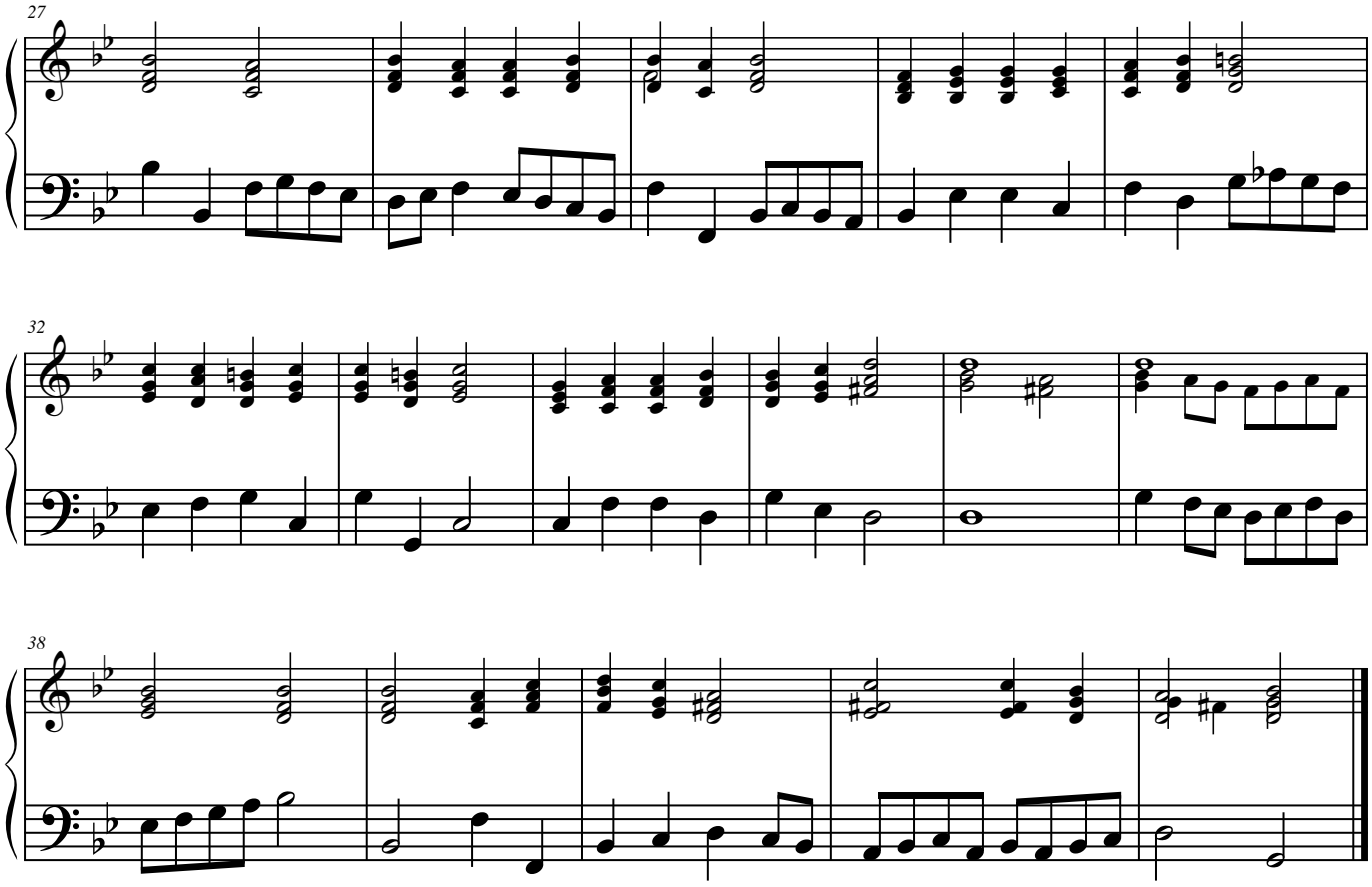

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Viola da Gamba

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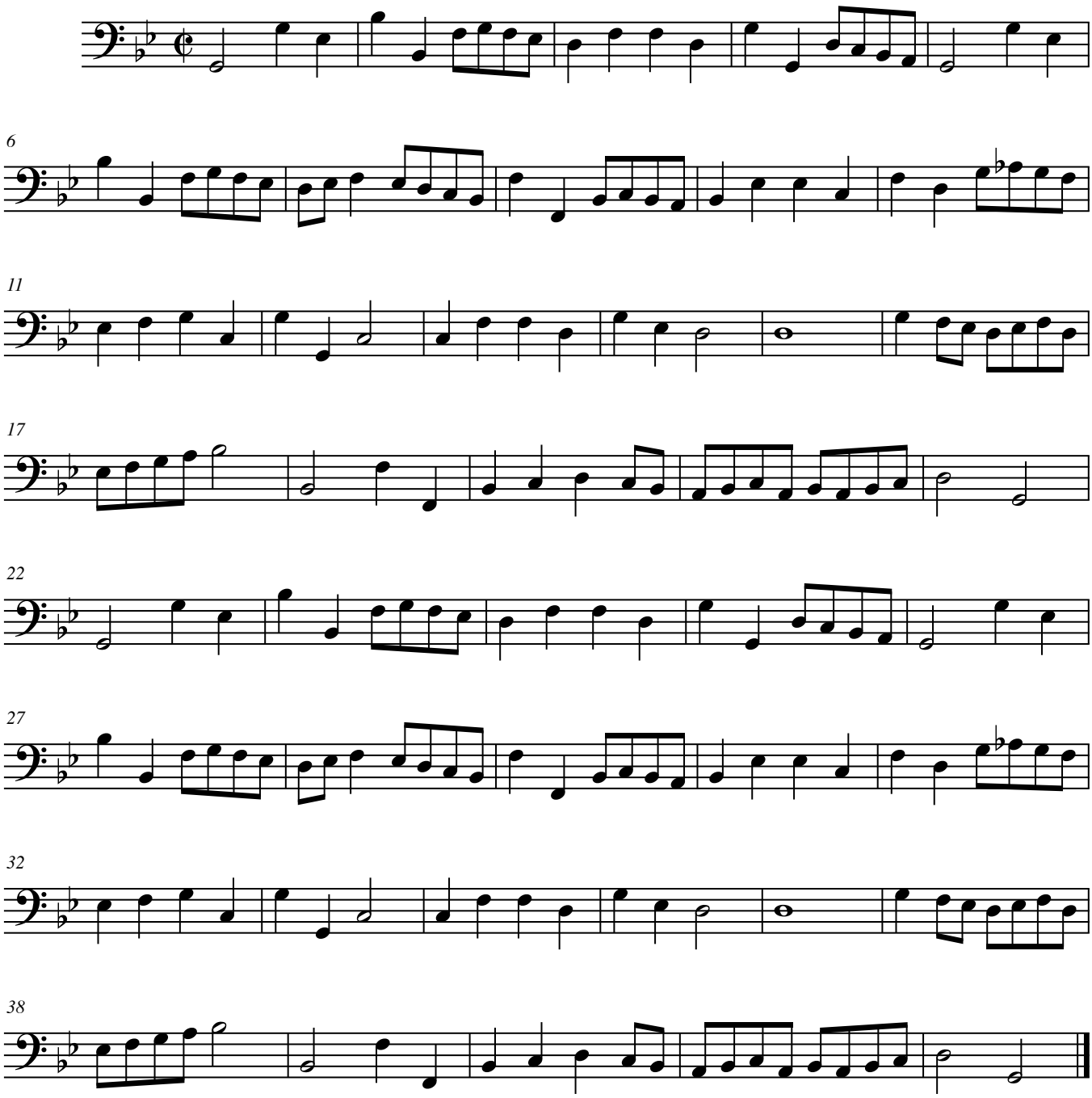

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