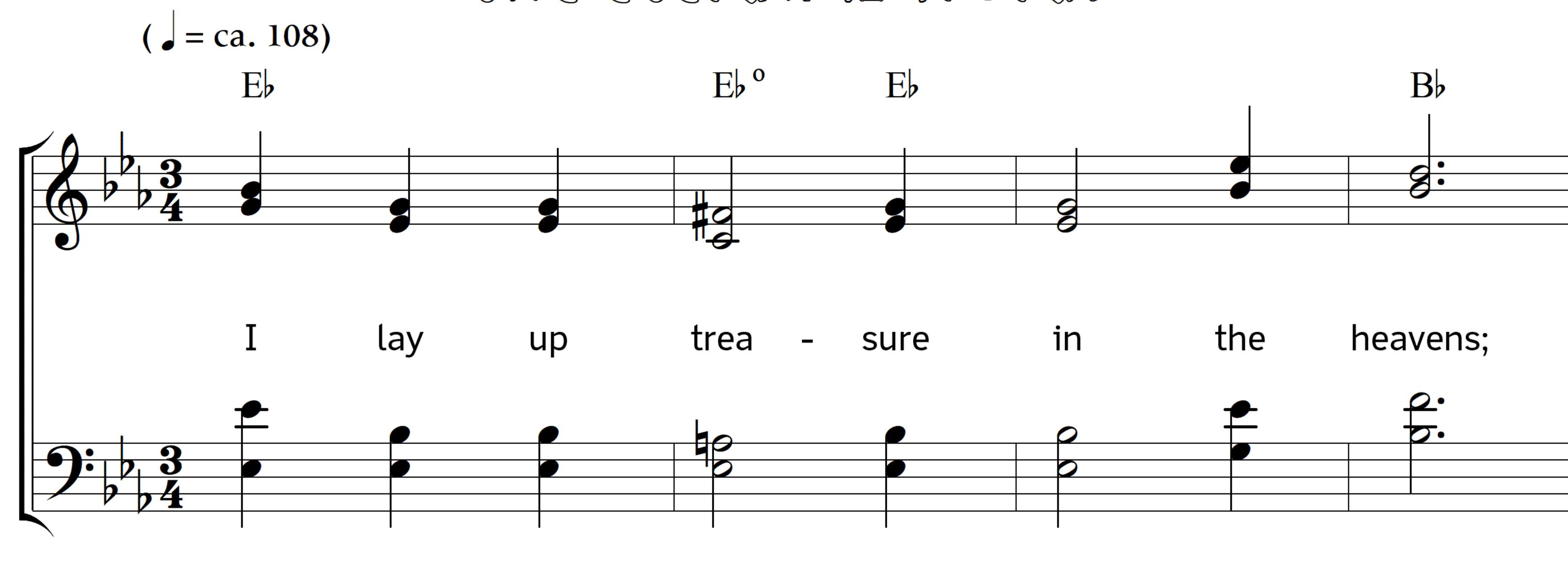
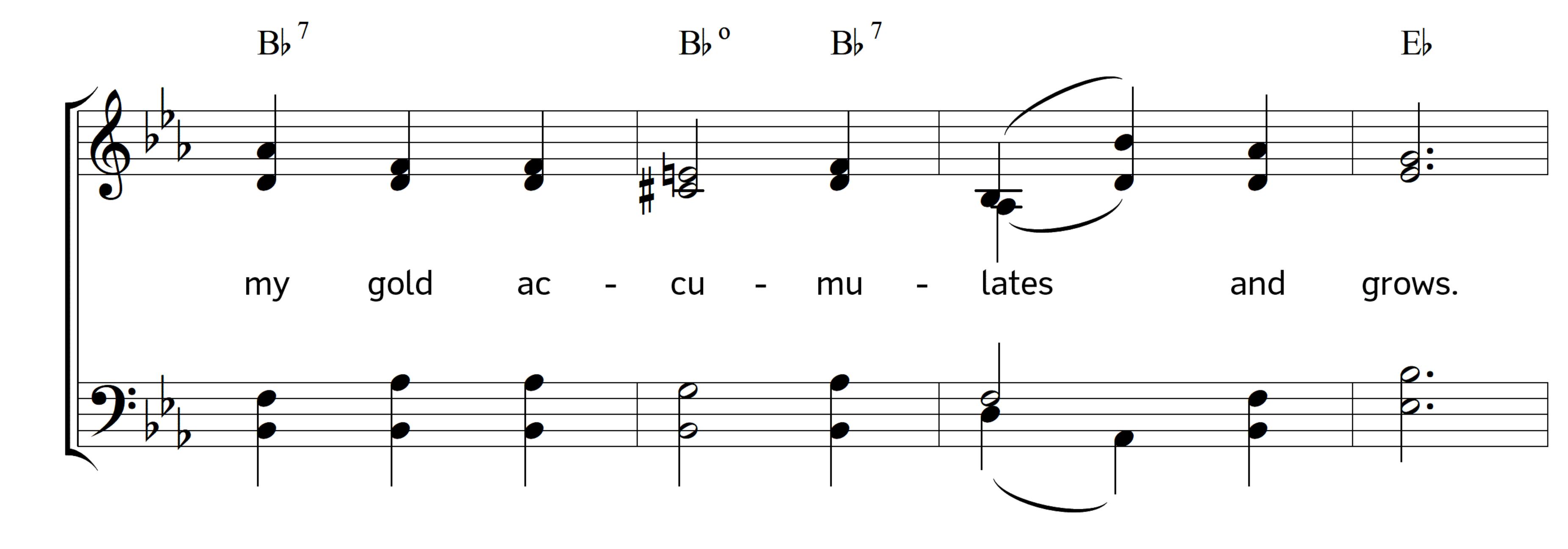
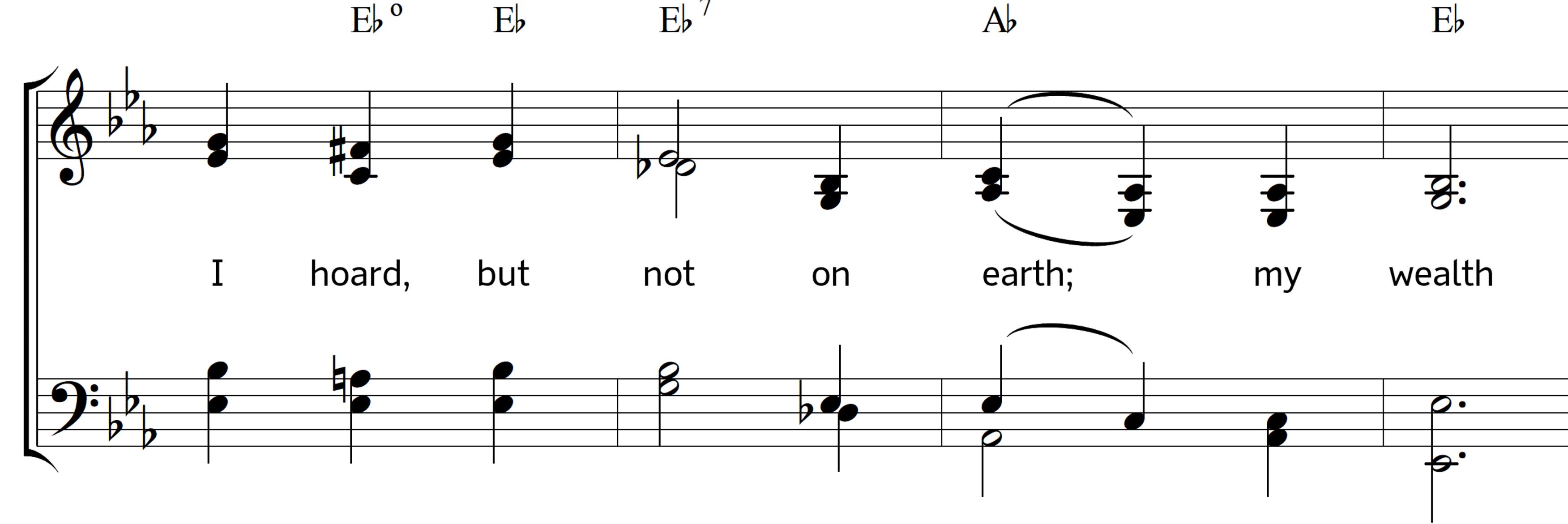
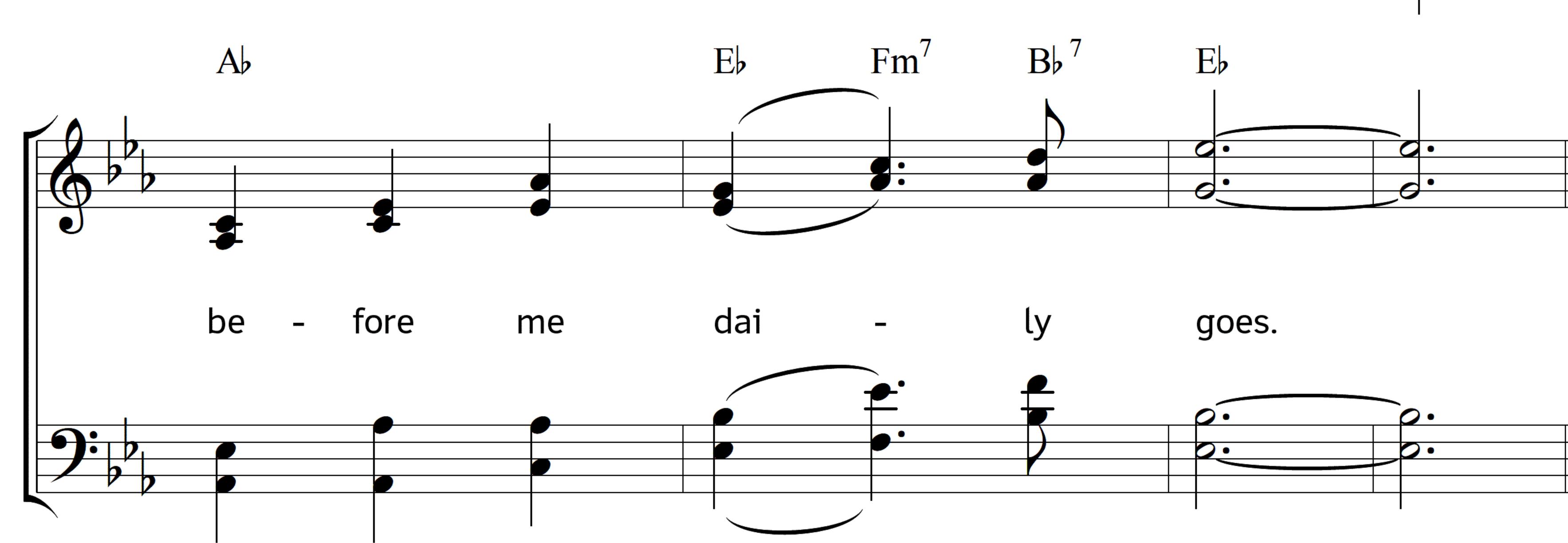
THE ETERNAL WORK









- 2. My hands, my lips, each power within, I fain would educate for heaven. Here is the school where we are trained, and here the lessons given.
- 3. I shall not die at death, nor shall my past of life all useless be: these powers within me, lodged by God, are for eternity.
- 4. This is the seed-time, here the seed; I pass into the soil and spring; but far above me, out of sight, is the bright blossoming.
- 5. 'Tis for eternity I read, and do, and think, and study here; pruning and purging every branch, that it may fruitage bear.
- 6. Not leaves without the fruit, nor yet fruit without leaves; but side by side, the leaf and fruit; and both through him in whom I here abide.
- 7. What God hath given me, that I count too precious and too great to lose; and all I have I treasure up for everlasting use.
- 8. My little garden-plot of life, though poor, must all be duly tilled; its future is a vast unknown, and I must see it filled.

- 9. I work that I may fitted be for more than angel's work above; when of this life's strange mystery the meaning I shall prove.
- 10. By earthly discipline and toil I sharpen these my blunted powers, for nobler work awaiting them in vaster fields than ours.
- 11. For I have other fields above to reap, when autumns here are done; and so my sickle would I whet for harvests yet unknown.
- 12. And all this discipline of time, the pain, the weariness, the strife, tells on my endless usefulness in the unmeasured life.
- 13. What here I learn will one day tell; what I shall reap I now must sow; and nothing shall be lost of all this varied life below.
- 14. A higher and more useful life above, shall mine for ever be; and all that I have learned on earth shall then be used for thee.
- 15. In higher service shall I then these renovated powers employ; work without weariness be mine, and everlasting joy.

Words: Horatius Bonar. Music: Johannes Thomas Rüegg.
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