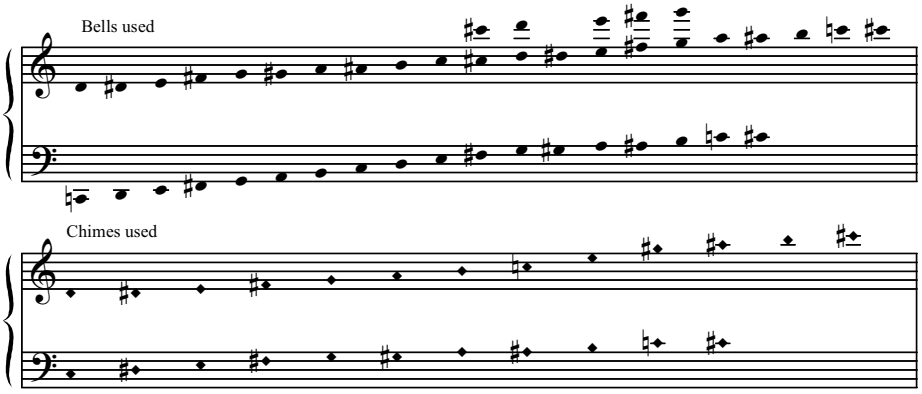
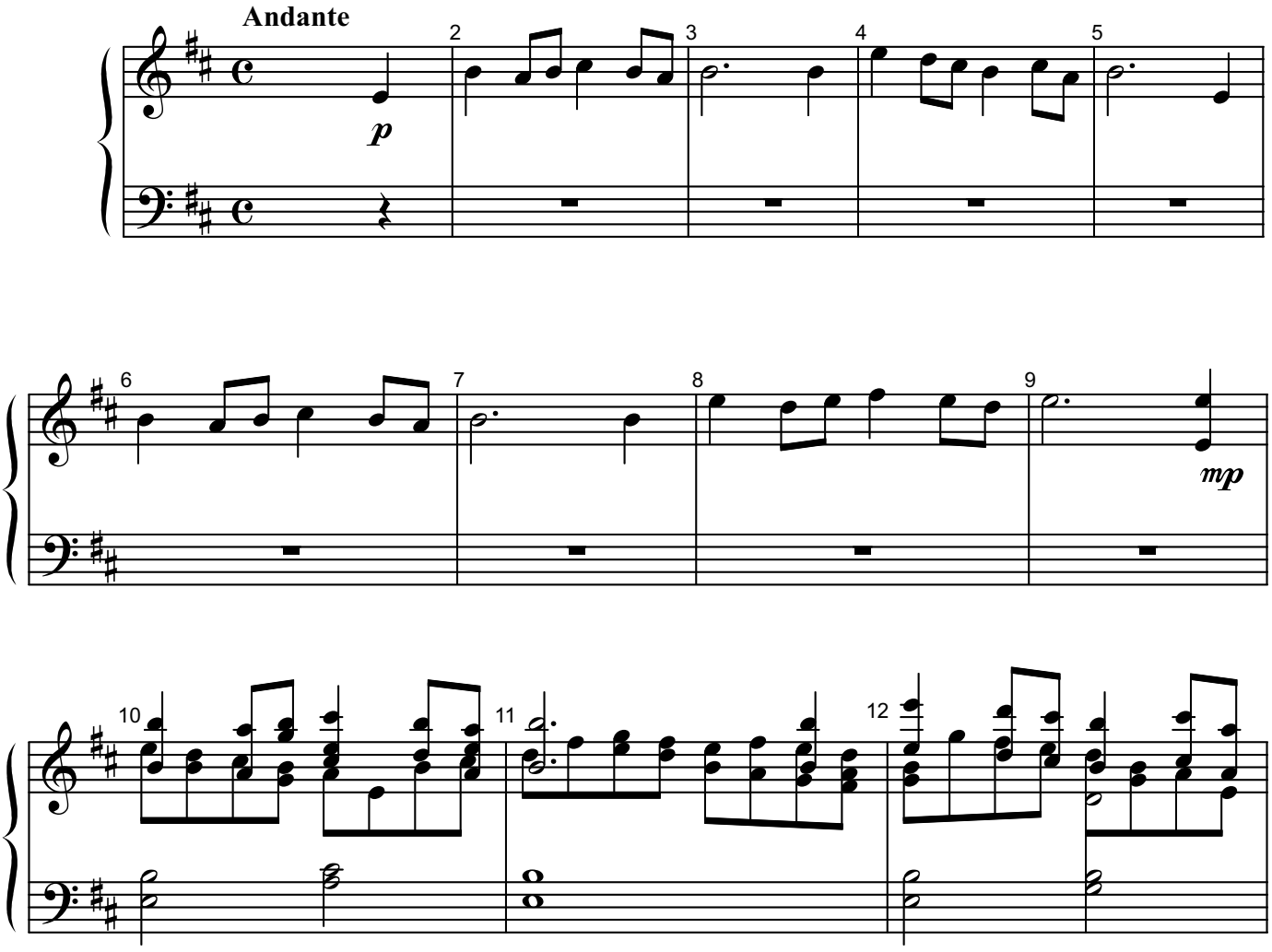
Sarah At The Tent

For Five Octave Handbells and Chimes



Sarah At the Tent comes from the story in Genesis 18 vs. 9-15, when the Lord visits Abraham and Sarah at their tent. He tells Sarah that when he returns in the spring, she will have a son. She laughs in disbelief. The Lord replies, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" The music depicts Sarah as a beautiful, calm, self-possesed lady. The middle section is a cautiously joyful dance of anticipation. This movement is adapted from the larger work Le Porte del Paradiso for chorus by Catherine McMichael, inspired by the magnificent Gates of Paradise, sculpted by Lorenzo Ghiberti from 1404-1424. The doors are presently in the Duomo Museum in Florence, with replicas mounted on the Baptistry there, at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and Trinity Lutheran Church, Hicksville, Long Island, New York.

Catherine McMichael



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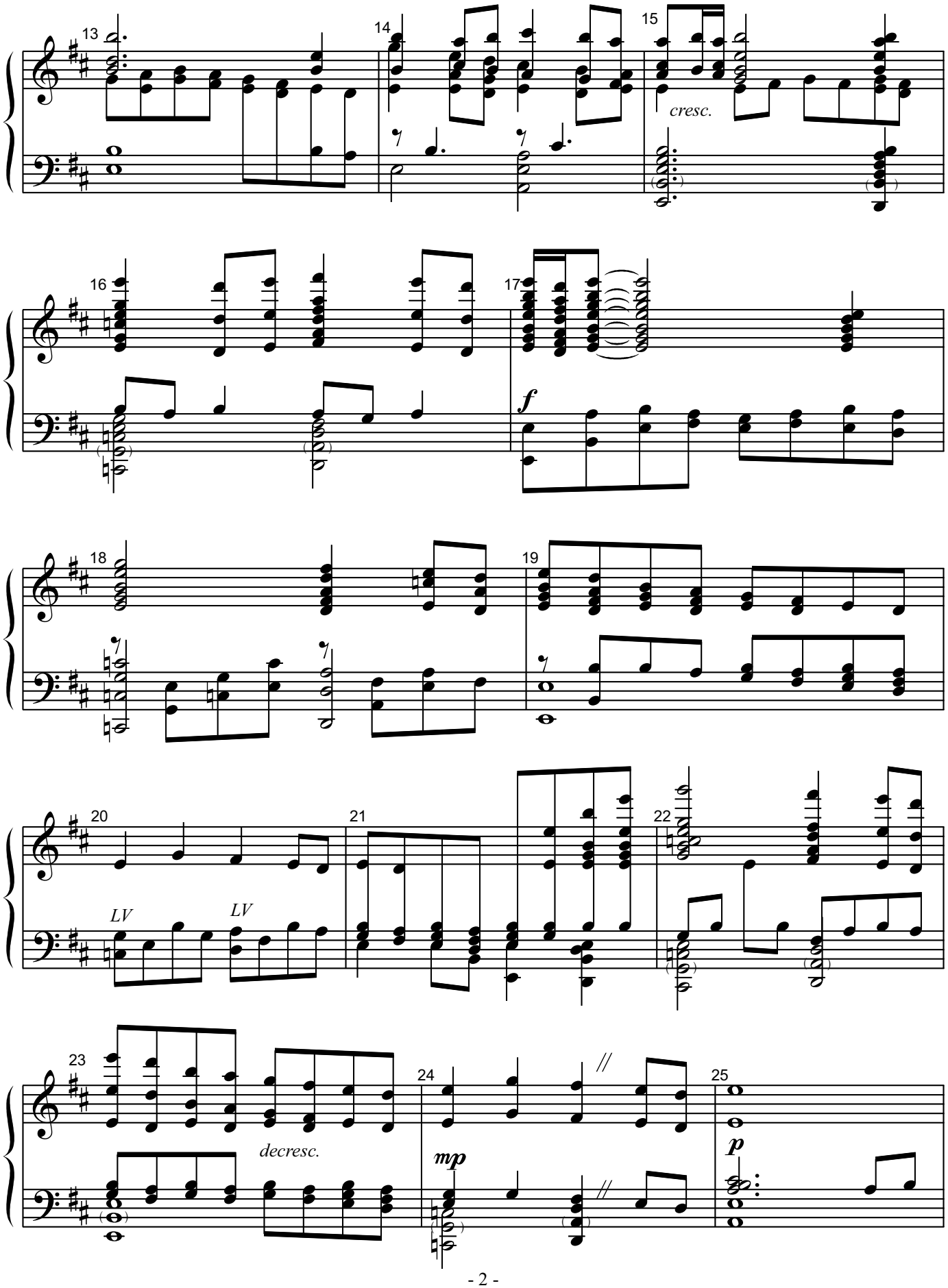
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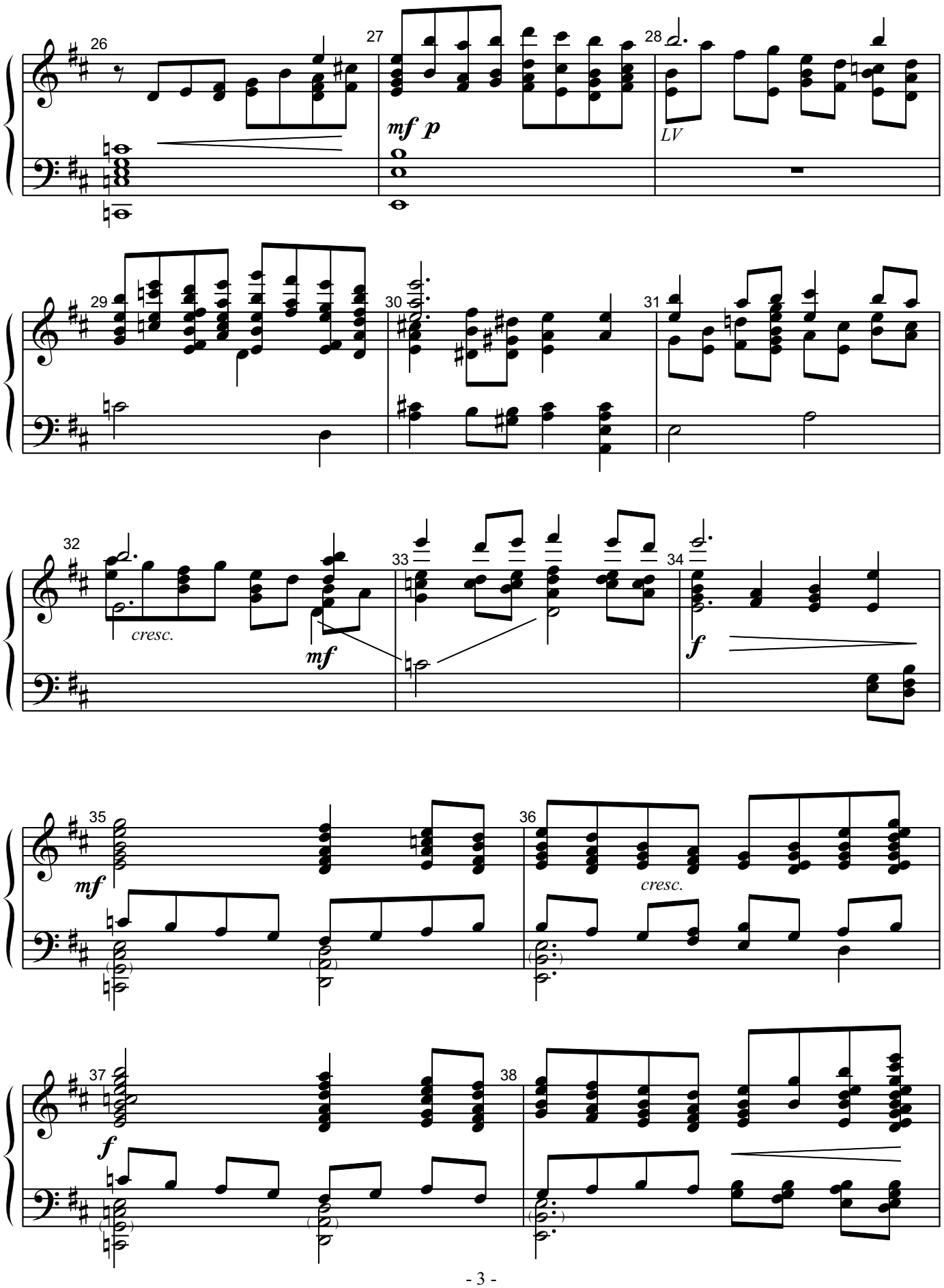
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