BriLee Music
the Voice of Choral Music

THE HANUKKAH JEWEL

Two-Part, accompanied

Words and Music by
DAVID EDDLEMAN

BriLee Music
Part-by-Part
Free MP3 rehearsal and accompaniments
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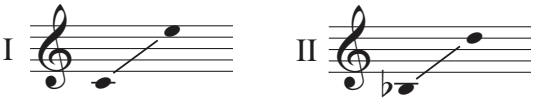
Range:



Time: Approx. 2:50
*Difficulty: Moderate

Performance Notes

The Hanukkah Jewel, while being completely original in music and text, nevertheless has the style, feel and modal devices that are associated with Hebrew and Yiddish folk song, especially in its dancelike quality. The *hora*, a dance that actually originated in Romania and was carried to Palestine in the 19th century by Romanian Jews, could be danced to it.

Why does it sound so Jewish? For a number of reasons. One is the use of the minor scale, or mode. The minor mode is common in Jewish and Hebrew folk songs. Its association with sad or tragic feelings is purely cultural in Western countries. In the Middle East, however, it is often thought of as a joyous and happy mode.

Another reason *The Hanukkah Jewel* sounds so Jewish is in its rhythm, especially in its extensive use of syncopation, or "off beats," placing the emphasis on the second half of the beat.

If the choir is having trouble with syncopations, have them sing a syncopated passage "straight," making a pattern of ♪♩♪♪♩♪ into ♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪. Have the singers say the straight eighth notes on a neutral syllable such as "pa" or "da." Then ask them to say the pattern again, but this time just thinking through the second and third eighth notes as well as the sixth and seventh eighth notes. Once they have gotten the feel of the syncopation, return to the syncopated passage and sing the passage on neutral syllables, again thinking through the syncopated notes as if they are still two eighths. Finally, have them sing the passage adding the text.

It isn't necessary to go into a long technical explanation of what a syncopation is. That will usually confuse the singers even more. The feel and internalization of the syncopation is more important than a dry technical lecture about it.

To Miriam

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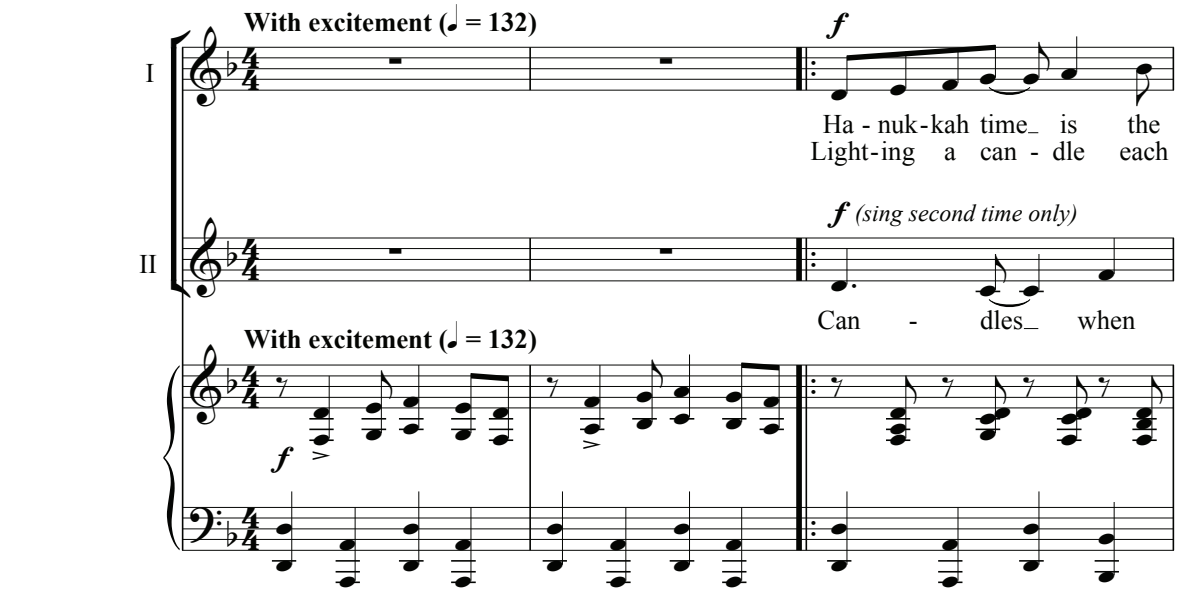

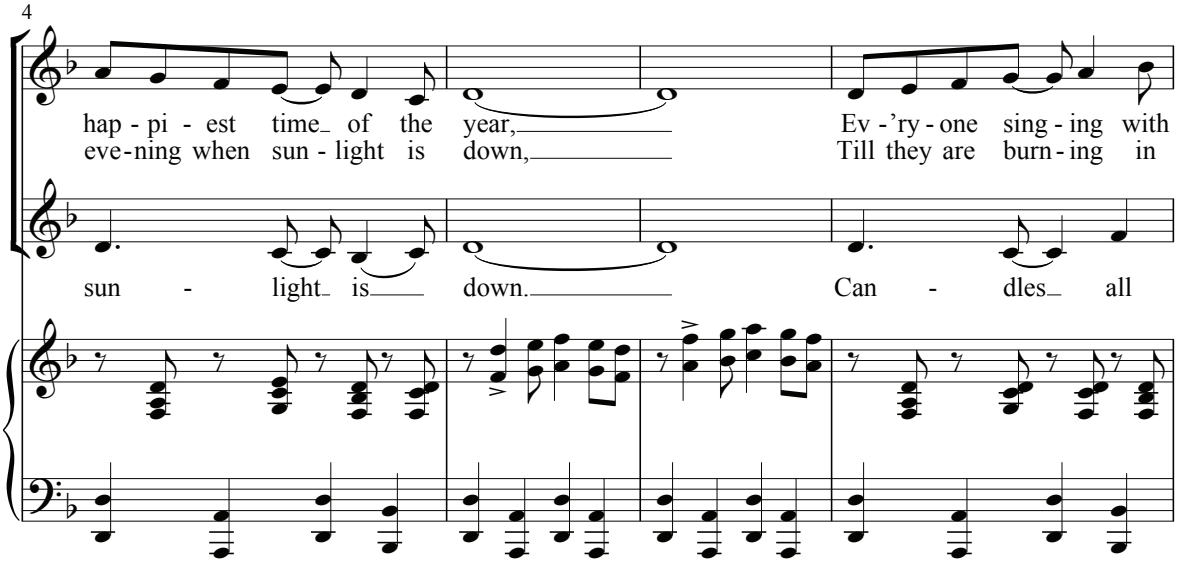

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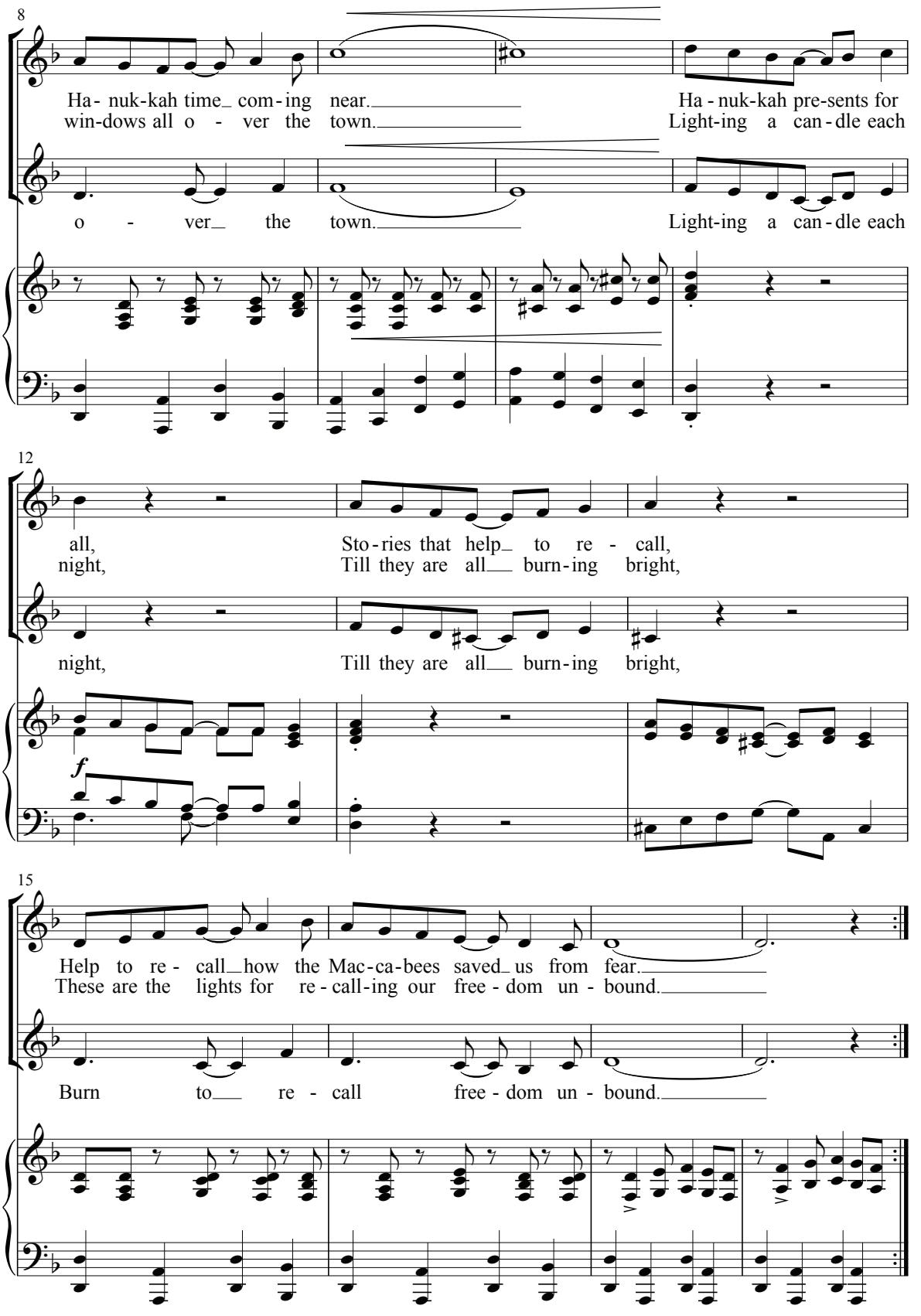
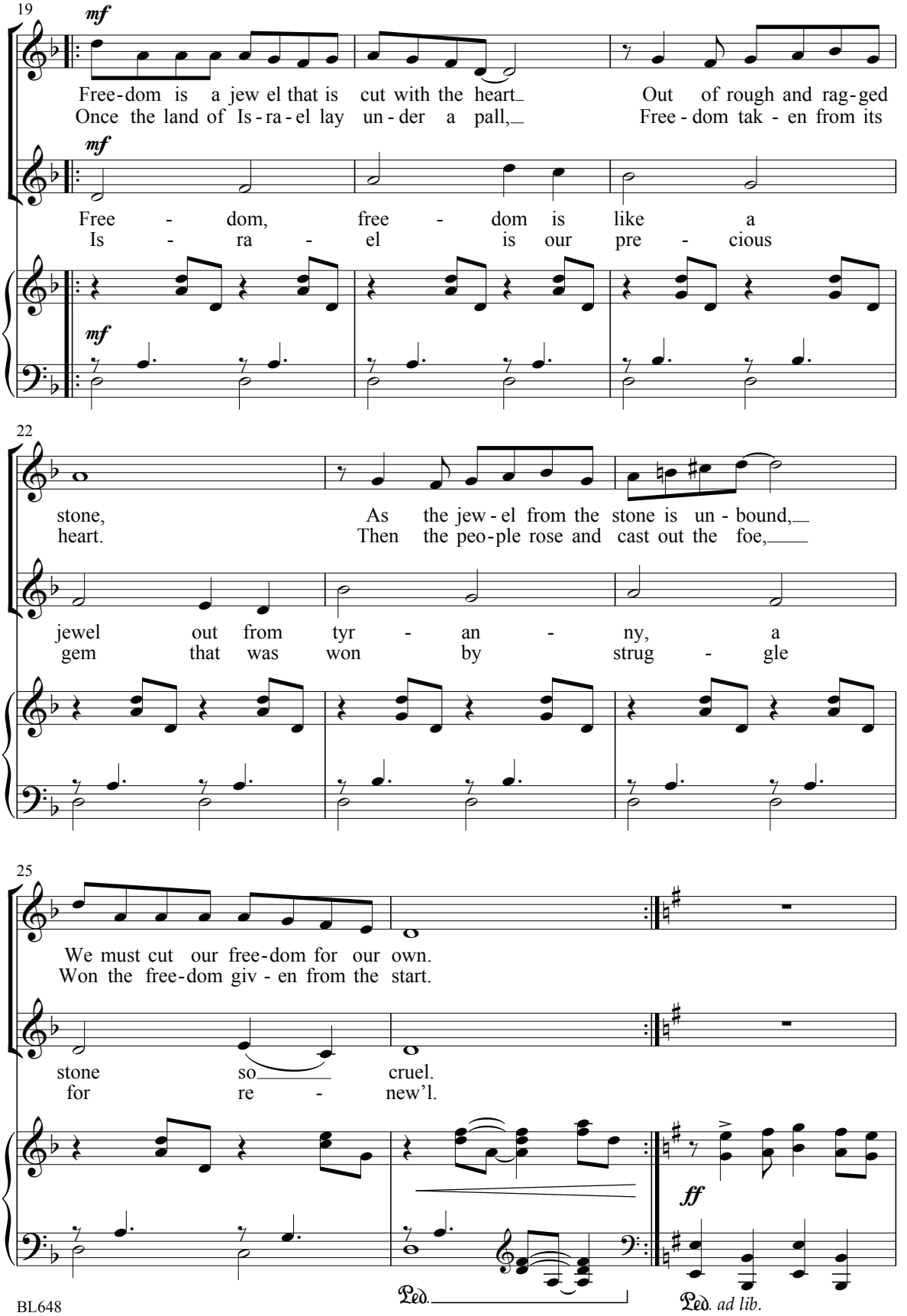
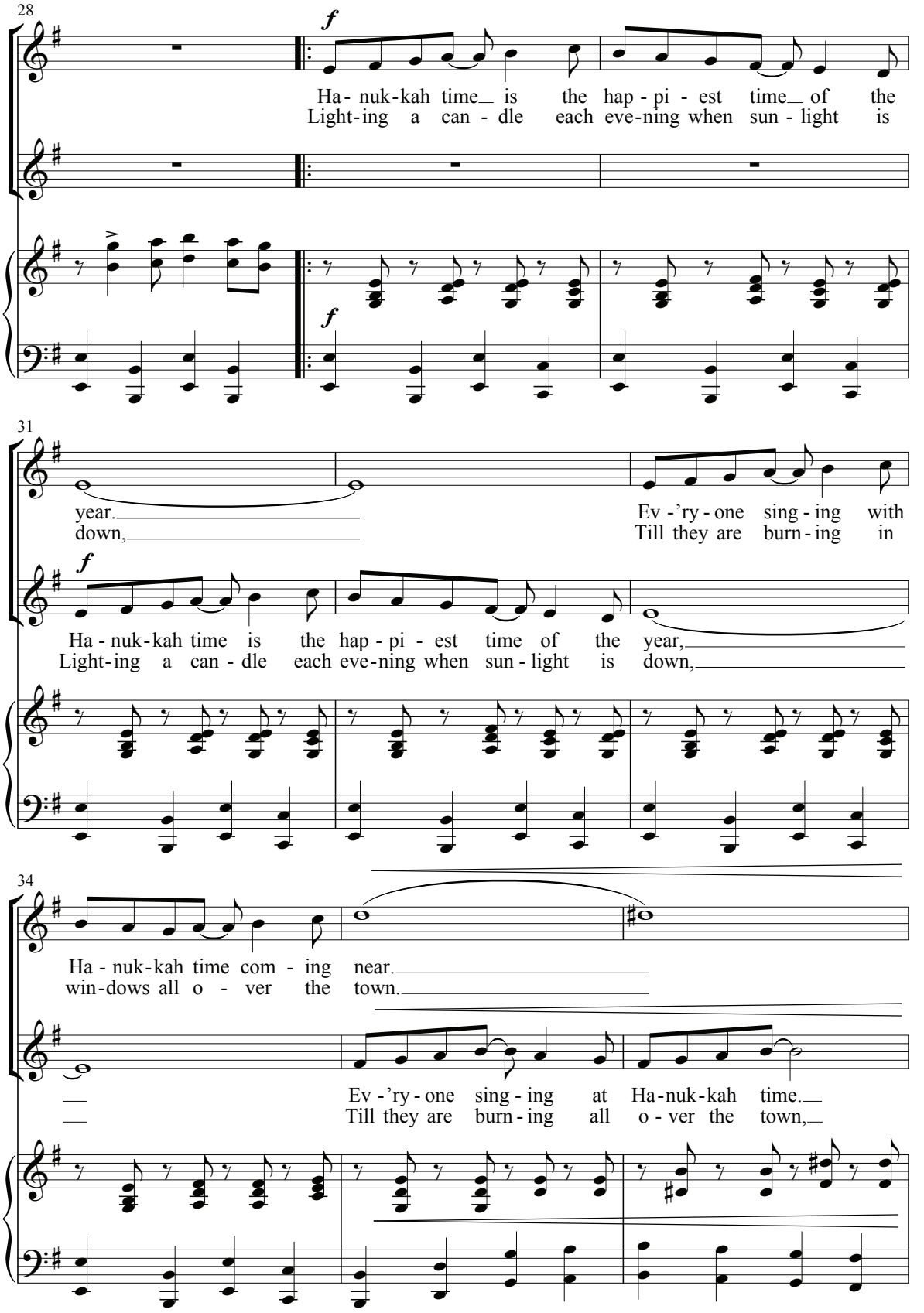
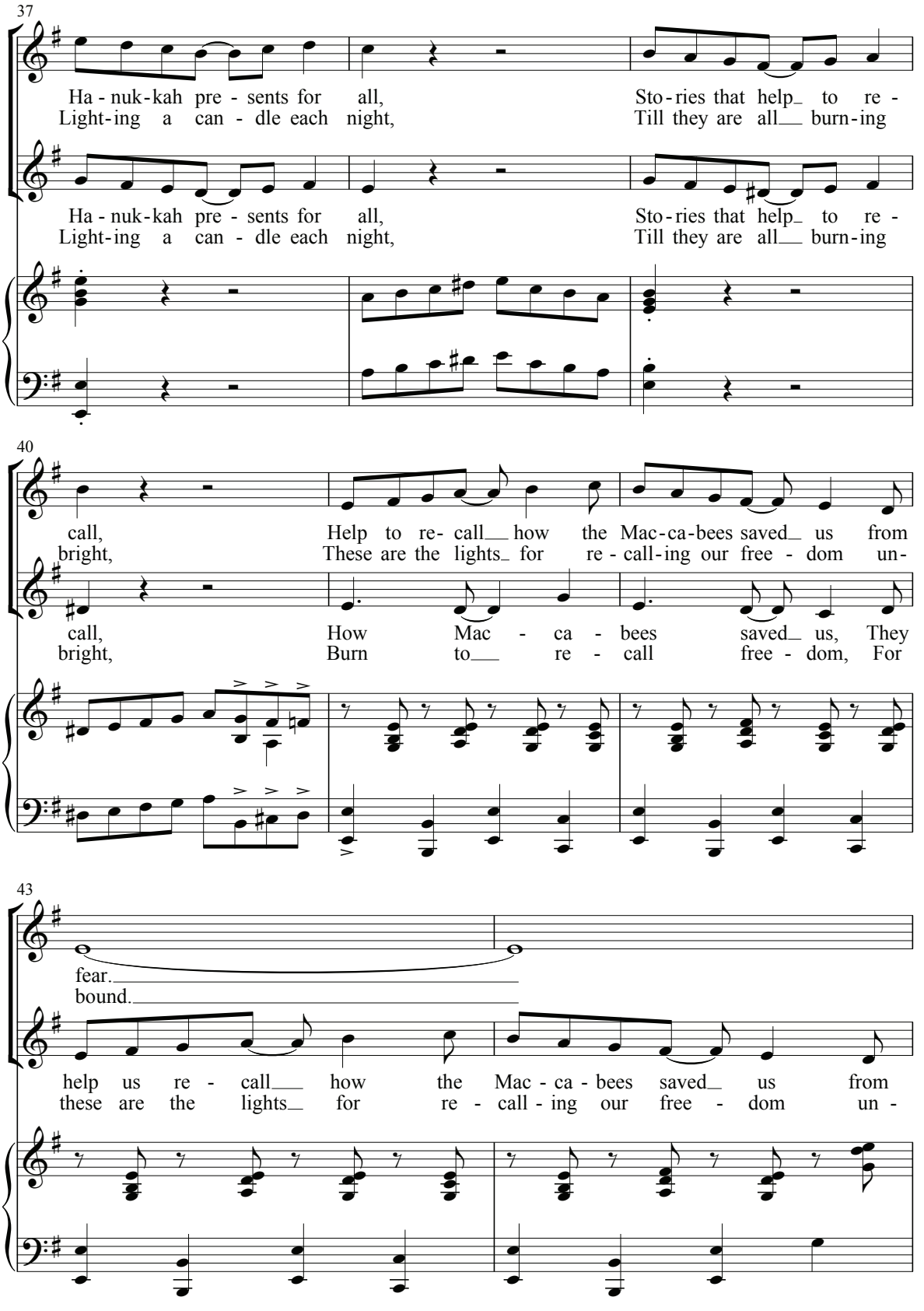
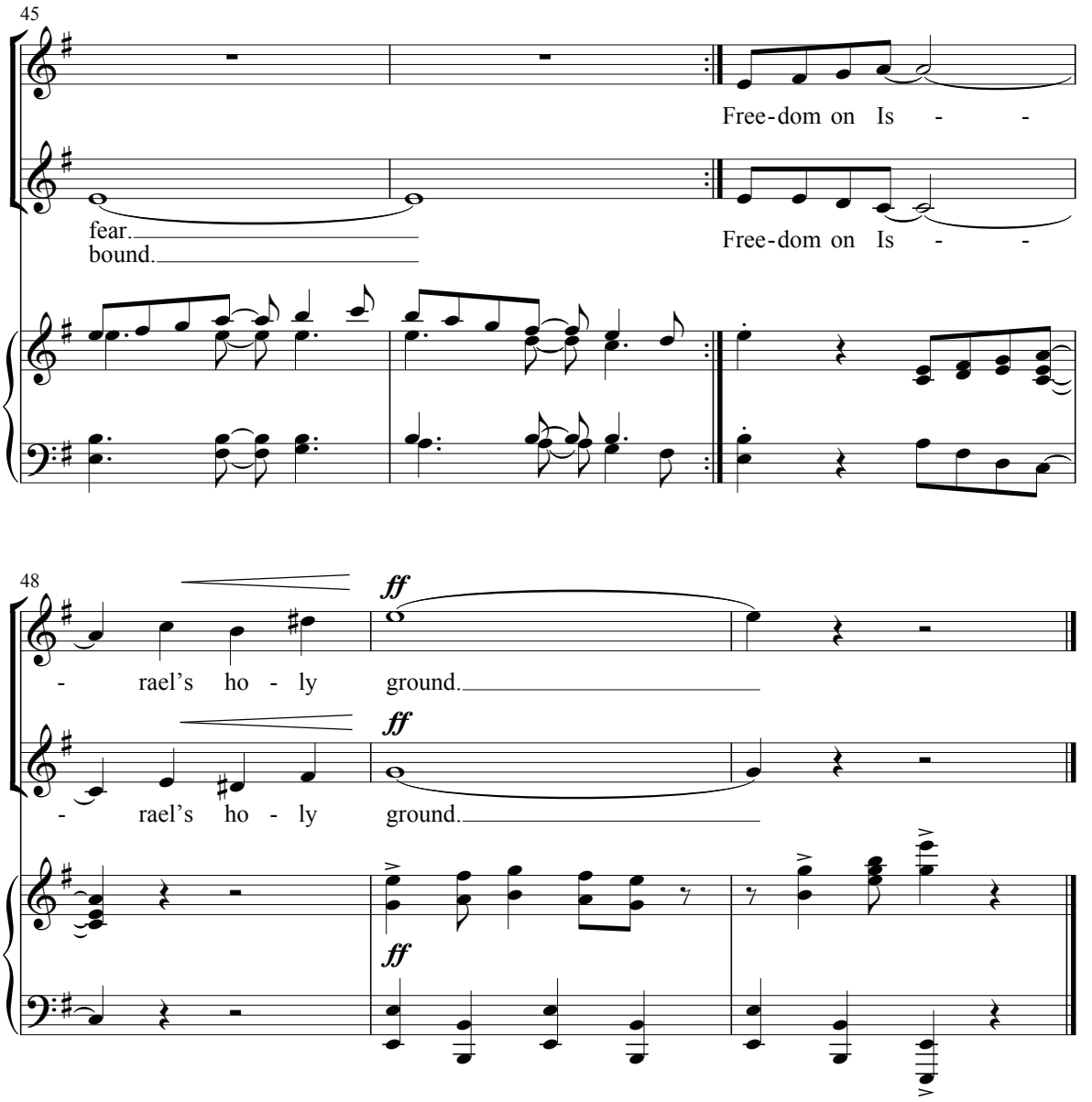

8
Ha- nuk-kah time com-ing near.
win-dows all o - ver the town.
Ha - nuk-kah pre-sents for
Light-ing a can-dle each
o - ver the town.
Light-ing a can-dle each
12
all,
night,
Sto-ries that help to re - call,
Till they are all burn-ing bright,
night,
Till they are all burn-ing bright,
f
15
Help to re - call how the Mac-ca-bees saved us from fear.
These are the lights for re-call-ing our free - dom un - bound.
Burn to re - call free - dom un - bound.


19
mf
Free-dom is a jew el that is cut with the heart_ Out of rough and rag-ged
Once the land of Is-ra-el lay un-der a pall,_ Free-dom tak-en from its
mf
Free - dom, free - dom is like a
Is - ra - el is our pre - cious
mf
22
stone, As the jew-el from the stone is un-bound,_
heart. Then the peo-ple rose and cast out the foe,_
jewel out from tyr - an - ny, a
gem that was won by strug - gle
25
We must cut our free-dom for our own.
Won the free-dom giv-en from the start.
stone so_ cruel.
for re - new'l.
ff
Ped.
Ped. ad lib.


28
f
Ha - nuk-kah time is the hap - pi - est time of the
Light-ing a can - dle each eve-ning when sun - light is
f
31
year.
down,
Ev -'ry - one sing - ing with
Till they are burn - ing in
f
Ha - nuk-kah time is the hap - pi - est time of the year,
Light-ing a can - dle each eve-ning when sun - light is down,
34
Ha - nuk-kah time com - ing near.
win-dows all o - ver the town.
Ev -'ry - one sing - ing at Ha-nuk-kah time.
Till they are burn - ing all o - ver the town,


37
Ha - nuk - kah pre - sents for all,
Light - ing a can - dle each night,
Sto - ries that help to re -
Till they are all burn - ing
Ha - nuk - kah pre - sents for all,
Light - ing a can - dle each night,
Sto - ries that help to re -
Till they are all burn - ing
40
call,
bright,
Help to re - call how the Mac - ca - bees saved us from
These are the lights for re - call - ing our free - dom un -
call,
bright,
How Mac - ca - bees saved us, They
Burn to re - call free - dom, For
43
fear.
bound.
help us re - call how the Mac - ca - bees saved us from
these are the lights for re - call - ing our free - dom un -



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