Rejoice, the King Is Born!

A Christmas Celebration for Solo Piano

Lloyd Larson

LORENZ PUBLISHING CO.

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Foreword

When we experience Christmas each year, I am reminded that God's plan to send Jesus into the world as a baby was Plan A, not Plan B. Many times, over the course of my life I have had to resort to Plan B because, for whatever reason, Plan A just did not work out. But God's plan from the very beginning – the original plan – included the sending of Jesus as a baby; as the prophesied Messiah; as Emmanuel, God with us.

The gospel writer, John, was one of the twelve disciples, and perhaps the closest of the twelve to Jesus Himself. He had a relationship and, in all likelihood, a level of understanding and insight into Jesus that exceeded his colleagues. John refers to Jesus as the "Word" in the gospel that bears his name. Whenever "Word" is used in that gospel, it is synonymous with Jesus. With that understanding, the Word (Jesus) was present with God, the Creator, from the very beginning of time: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. (Jn. 1:1-2)*

We also see God's original plan underscored in the writing of the prophets who hundreds of years before Christ's birth assured their hearers that a Messiah would come: *The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel. (Is. 7:14) You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me One who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. (Mic. 5:2)*

From the beginning, Jesus was God's Plan A. He came as a light into a dark world, which doesn't seem all that different from the world in which you and I live. The hope of a newborn King, the promise of a brighter new day found in this "light of the world," as Jesus called Himself, is so desperately needed by all of us. The carols of Christmas that we hear reverberate with these themes and remind us that God's Plan A was sufficient in Christ's day and it is sufficient in ours as well.

May you and those who hear you play these timeless Christmas melodies be encouraged by the assurances that God's original plan is one filled with a joy and hope for today and for tomorrow. *Rejoice, the King is born!*

—Lloyd Larson

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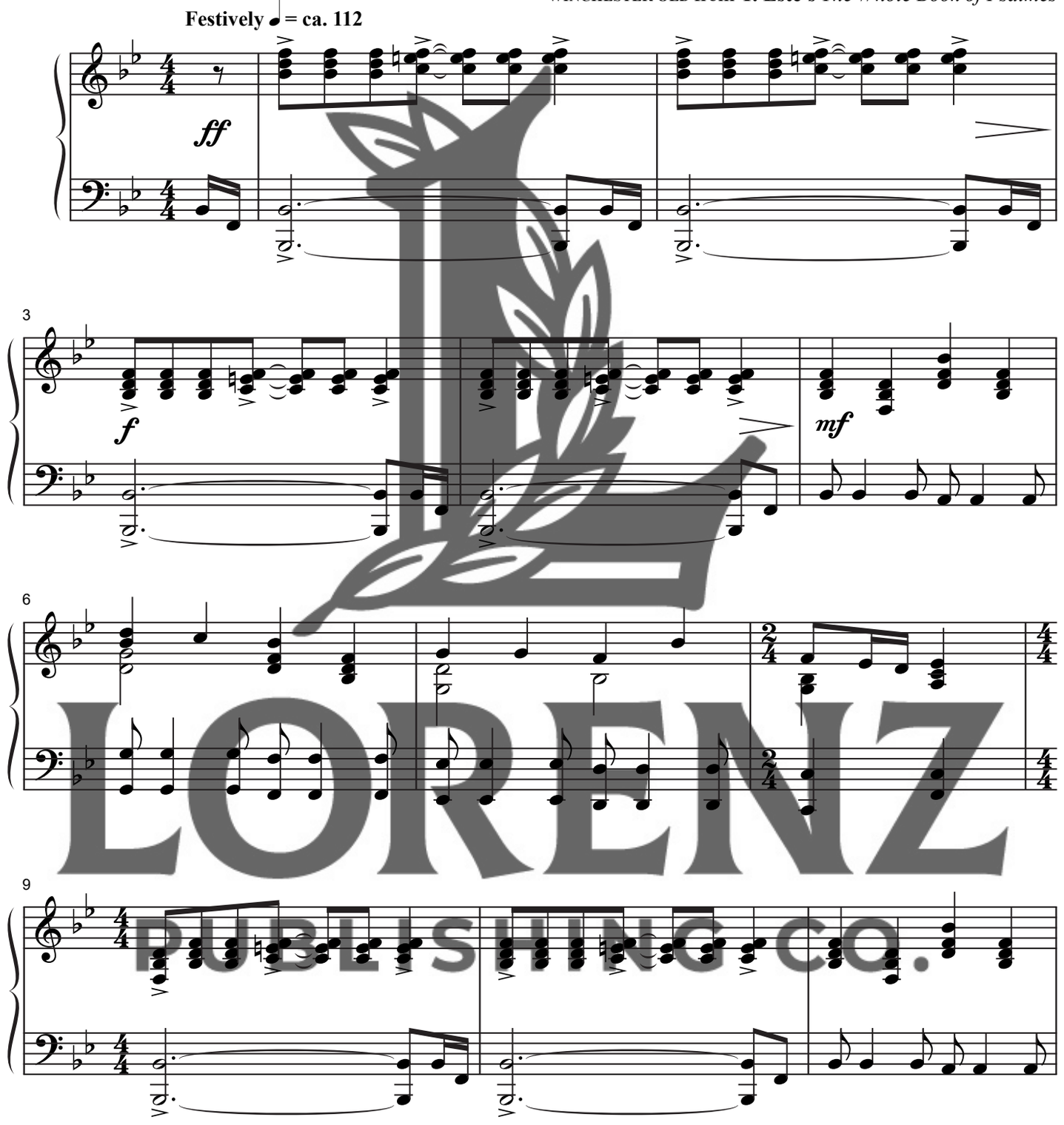
Worship Christ, the Newborn King!

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tunes: **REGENT SQUARE** by **Henry T. Smart,**
ADESTE FIDELES from **John F. Wade's** *Cantus Diversi,*
WINCHESTER OLD from **T. Este's** *The Whole Book of Psalmes*



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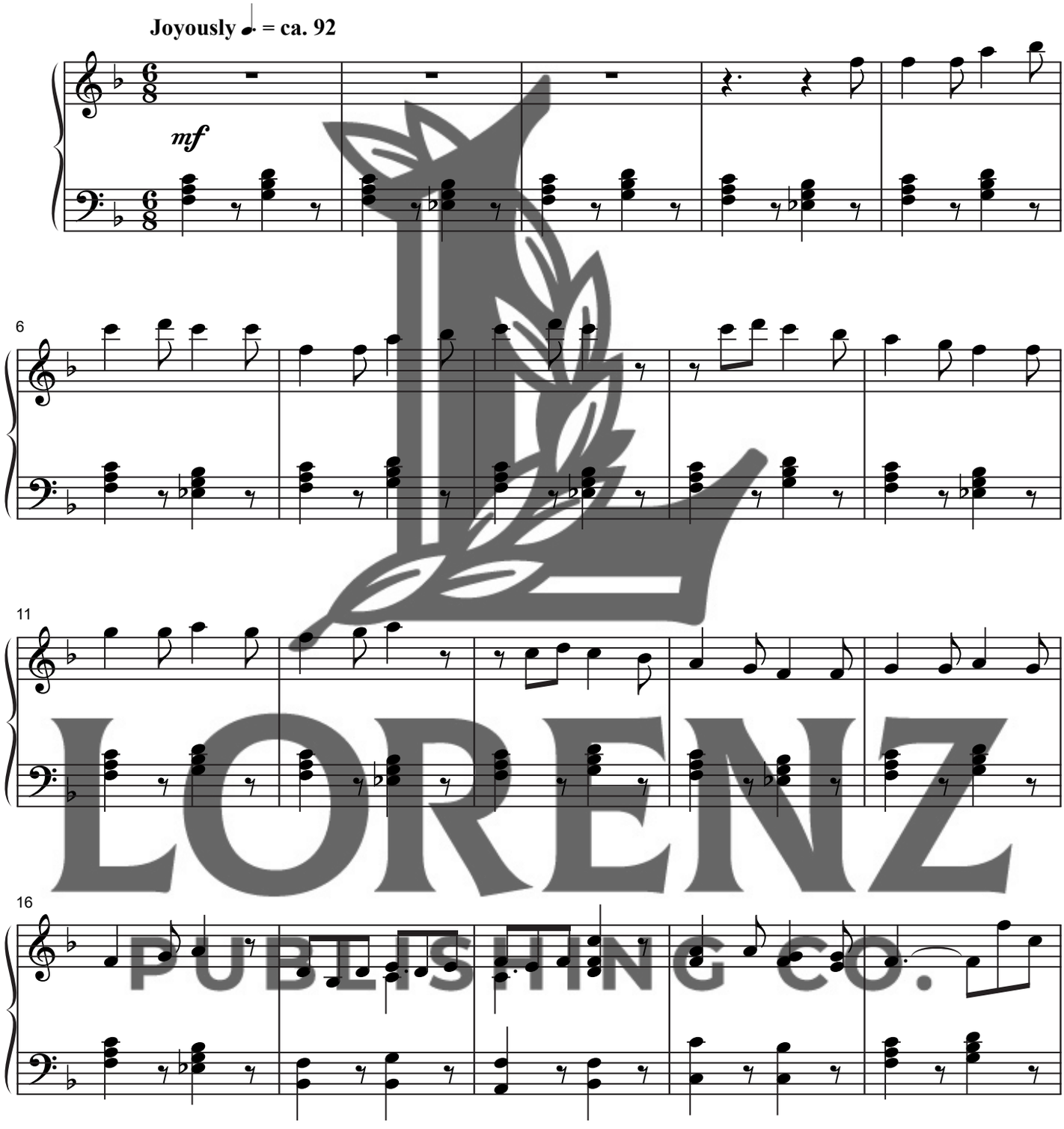
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **IN DULCI JUBILO**
Traditional German Melody, 14th c.



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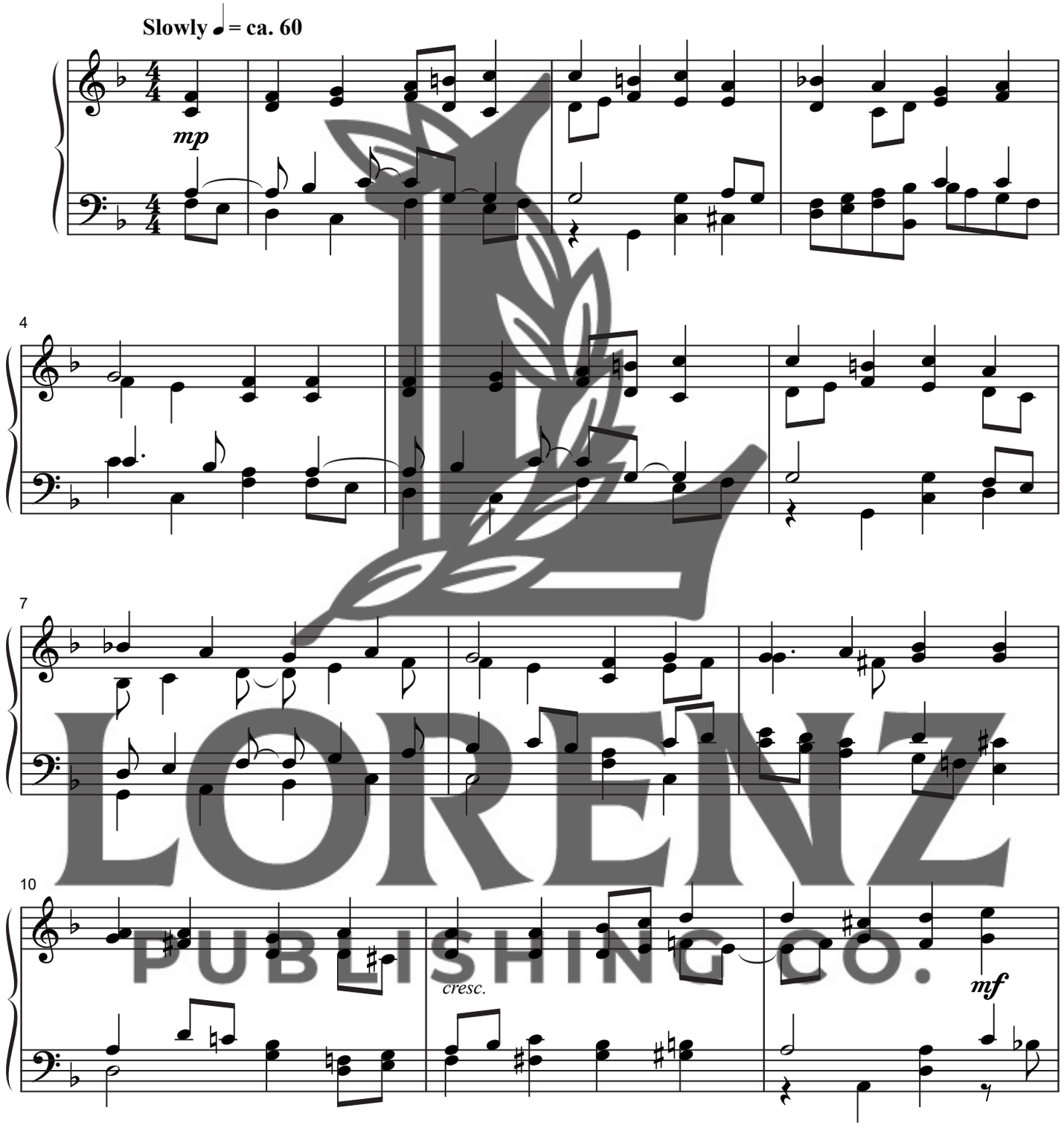
Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **ERMUNTRE DICH**
by **Johann Schop**



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47

f

51

54

mf

Grandly ♩ = ca. 76

57

cresc.

poco rit. *f*

60

ff

molto rit.

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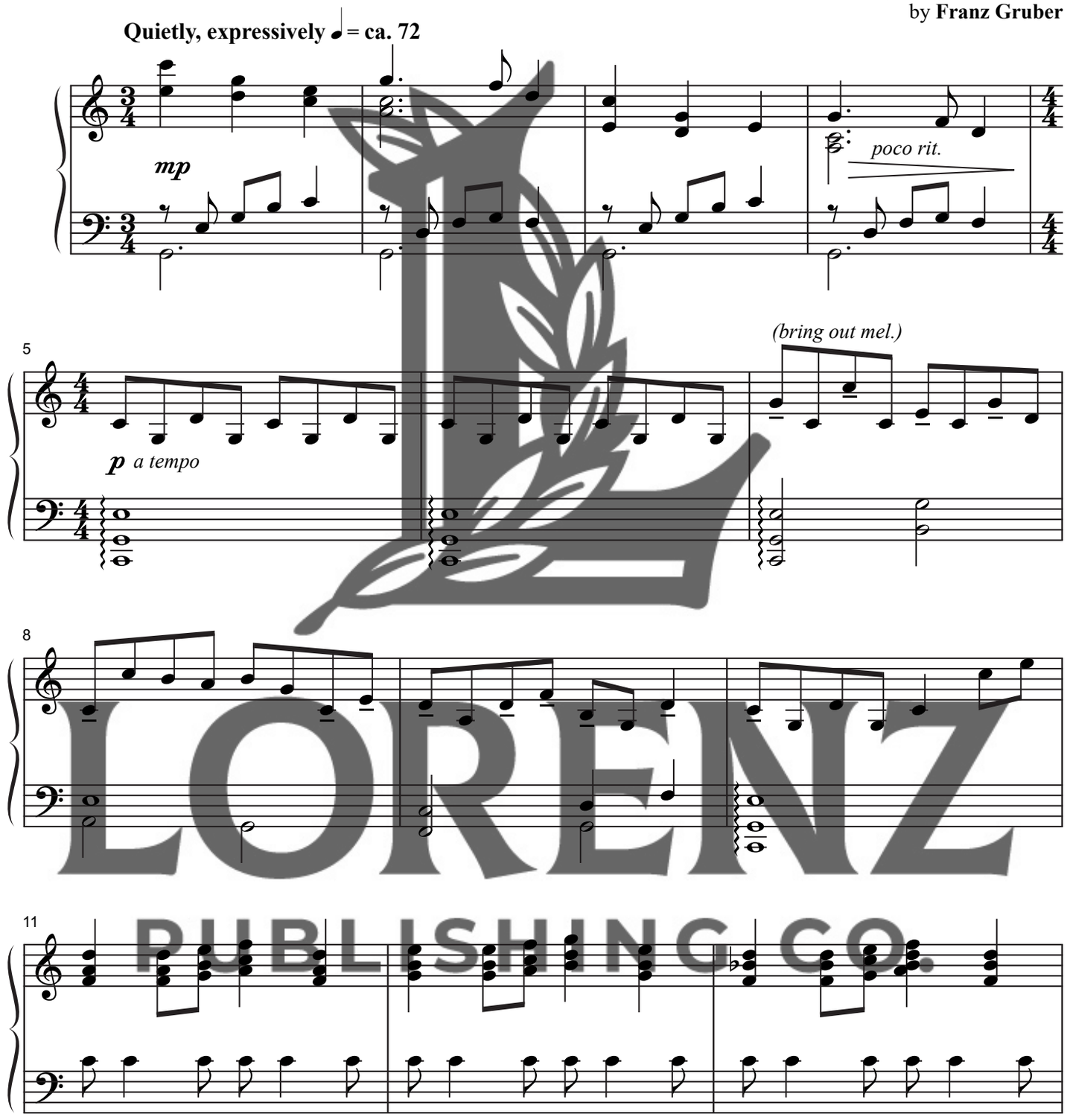
Still, Still, Still

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**

Tune: **STILL, STILL, STILL**
Traditional Austrian Melody
Quoting **STILLE NACHT**
by **Franz Gruber**



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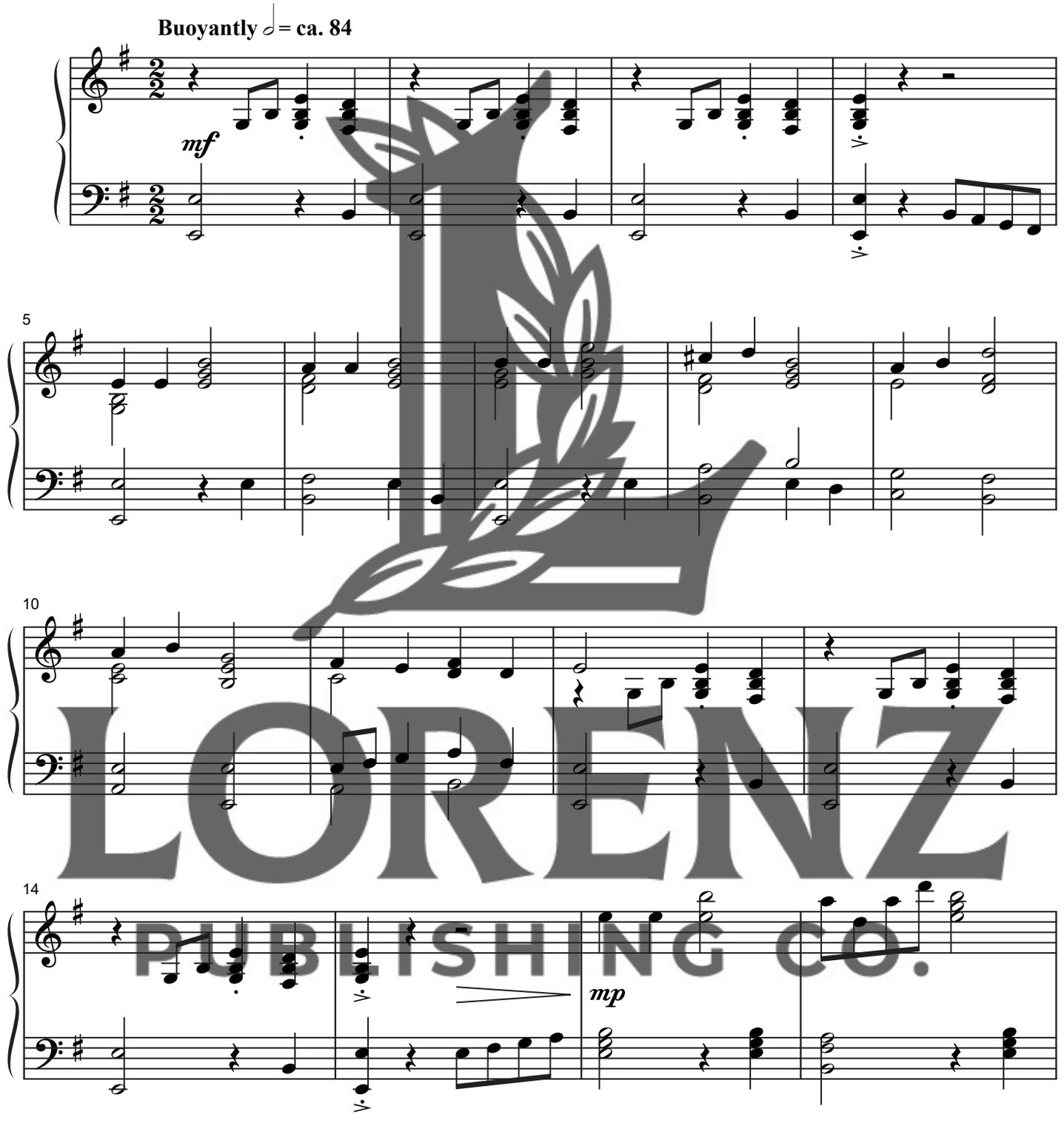
On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **PERSONENT HODIE**
From *Piae Cantiones,* 1582



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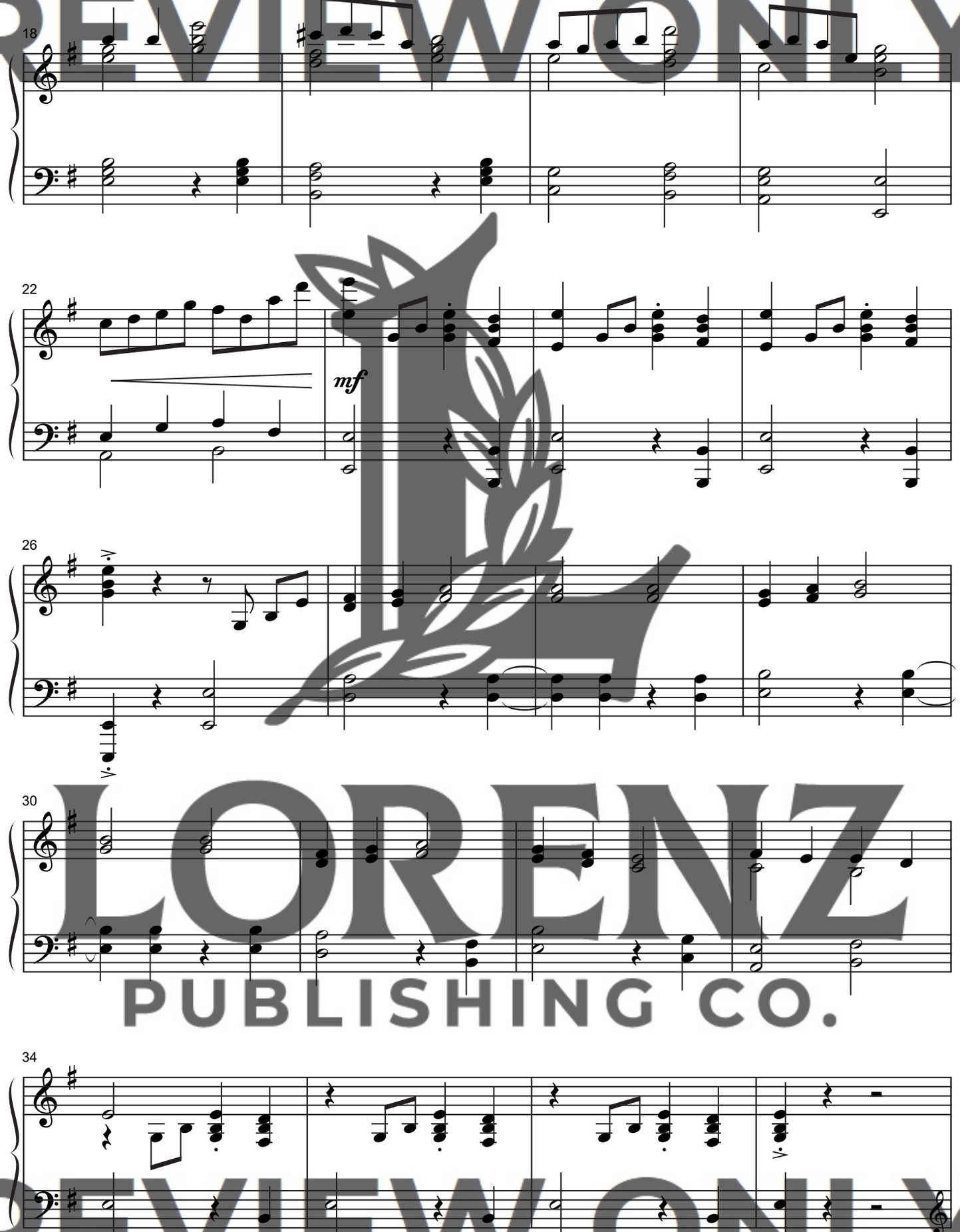

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78

82

3

86

ff

90

94

f

cresc.

ff

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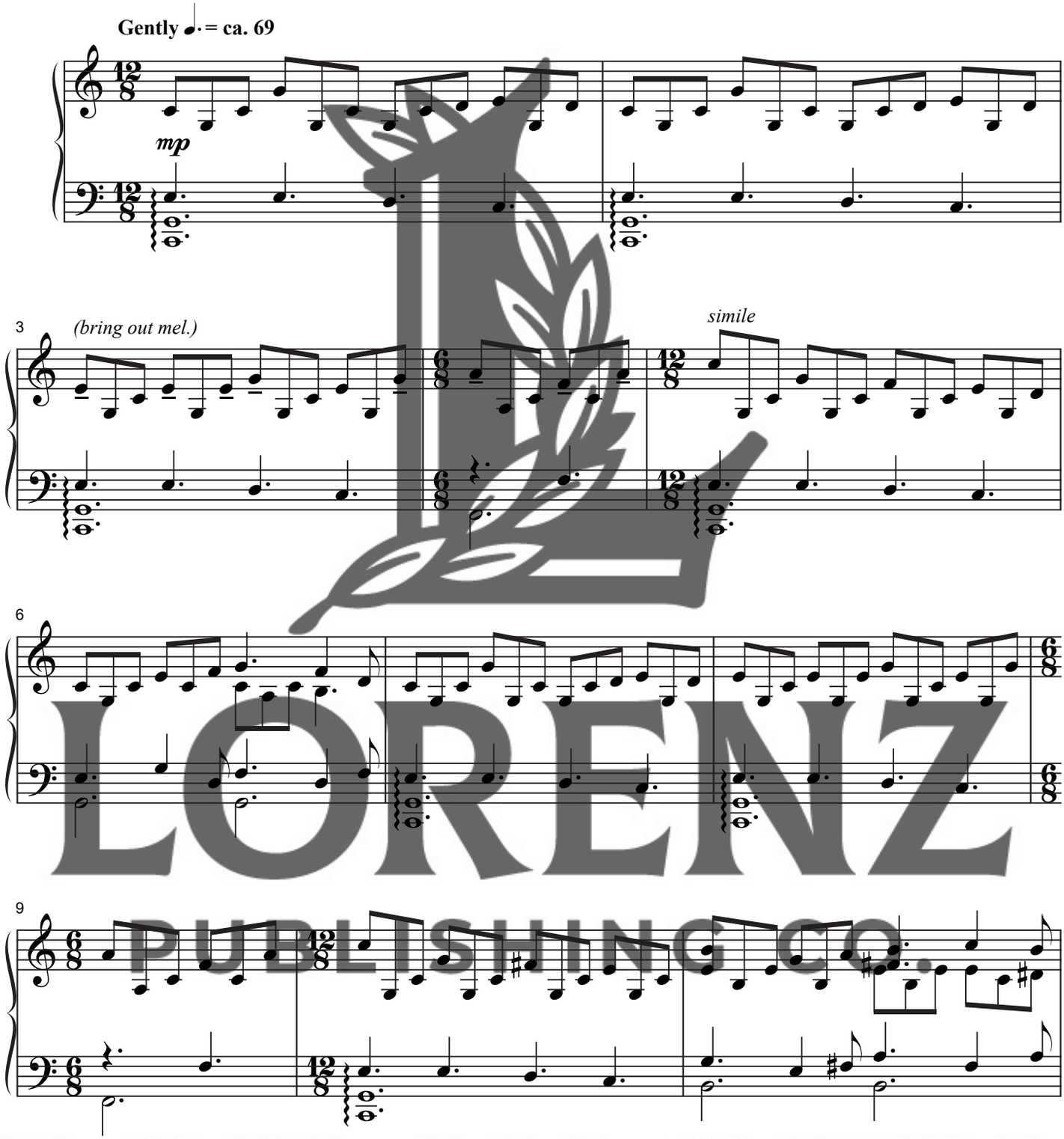
O Holy Night!

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **CANTIQUE DE NOEL**
by **Adolphe C. Adam**



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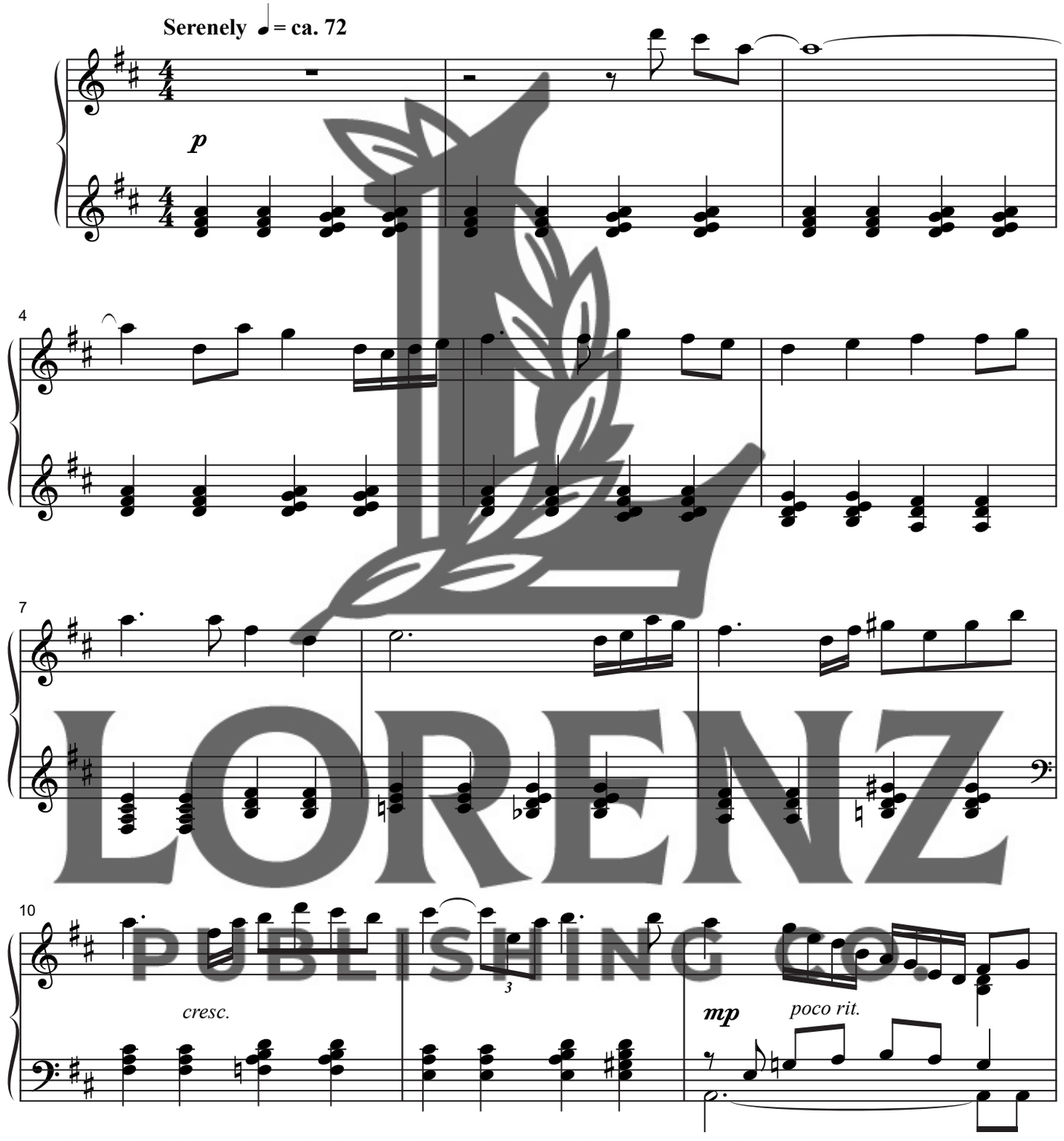
Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **MARGARET**
by **Timothy R. Matthews**



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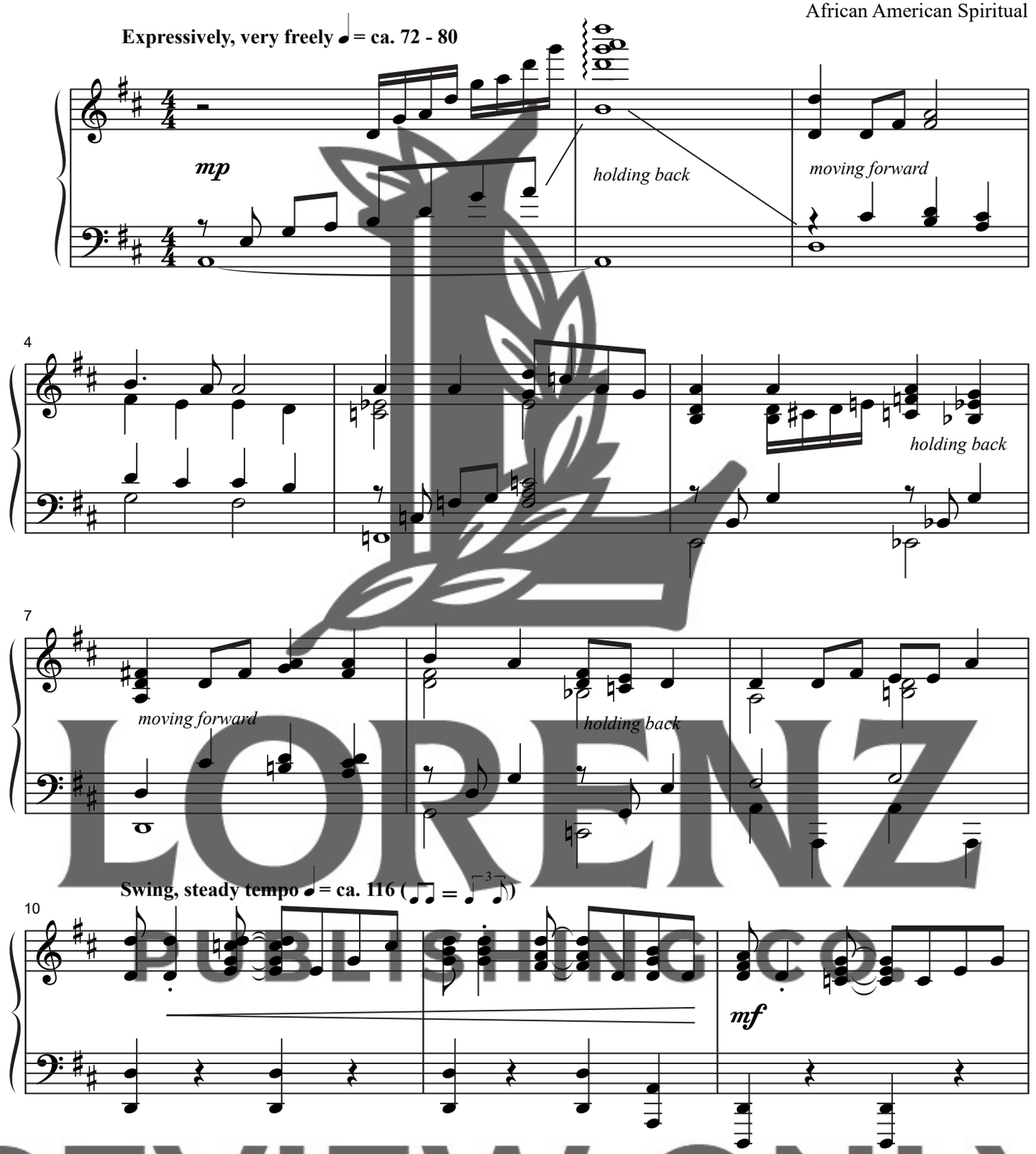
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **FOLLOW**
African American Spiritual



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