BriLee Music
the Voice of Choral Music

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

Unison, opt. Two-Part, accompanied

Quaker Song

Arranged by
GINGER LITTLETON

The Main Street Singers
90 Main Street
New Britain, CT 06051

Bel Canto Series

Range:	I	B - c'
	II (opt.)	B - d' (f')

Language: English
Source: Quaker Song
Characteristics: Beautiful, strong melody; pentatonic, modulation
Use: General, contest/festival, sacred
Time: Approx. 2:36
*Difficulty: Moderately easy

Performance Notes

The Quakers, also known as Friends, are a non-violent, peace-loving religious group. They have spawned several well-known songs, of which the most beloved is this one. This tune is based on a pentatonic scale (do, re, mi, sol, la or 1, 2, 3, 5, 6) consisting of five tones. Should you choose, you could extract this melody and accompany it with xylophones and metalophones, using only those tones found in the pentatonic scale.

The text is powerful, with a sense of internal strength and hope pervading throughout. It reflects one of the main purposes in life, to rise above the problems and sorrows of this earth and find an inner calm and peacefulness. No matter how uncertain life is, there is a constant "song" throughout, if we only seek to hear it and to "sing" it. It echoes through our soul and gives us purpose in life.

The first verse should be sung calmly, yet with a sense of hope and inner strength. Although marked *mezzo piano,* don't be weak about it. Good breath support will help keep the tone vibrant and healthy sounding. The accompaniment gives only harmonic assistance, so you have to sustain a sense of movement to the line. The second verse accompaniment consists of moving broken chords which will propel you (or pull you) through the music. *Crescendo* into each musical phrase. Be more dynamic in this verse. The third verse, a repetition of the first verse text, should be sung with confidence and conviction.

Be expressive. Pick key words throughout and give them special attention–storm, calm, echo, tempest, roars, love, etc. Throughout this song sing *legato* with a beautiful tone quality. Discuss the words. What do they mean? How do they affect you? Performance of this song can result in a very moving musical experience.

Dedicated to the memory of Jean Sinor

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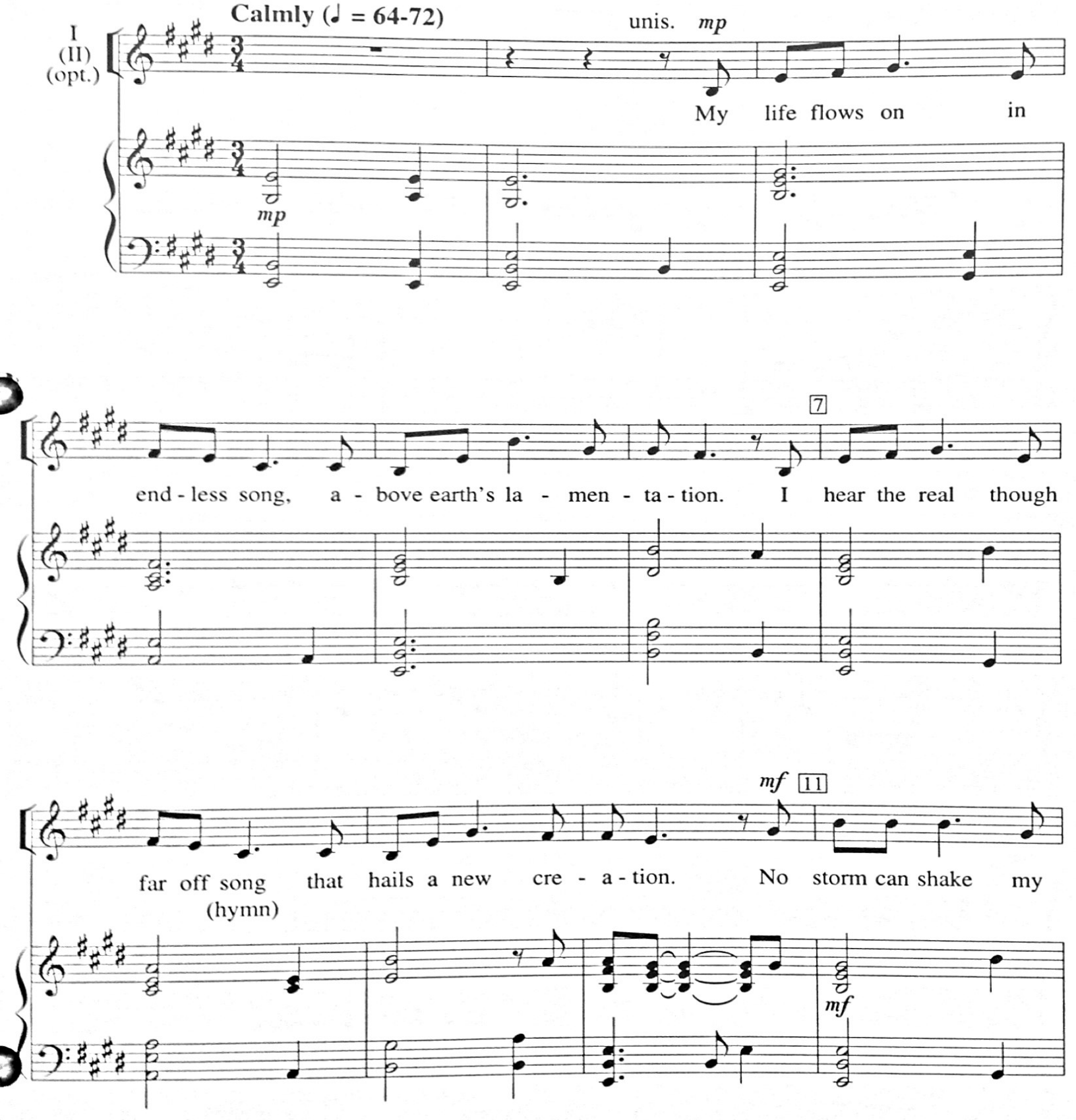
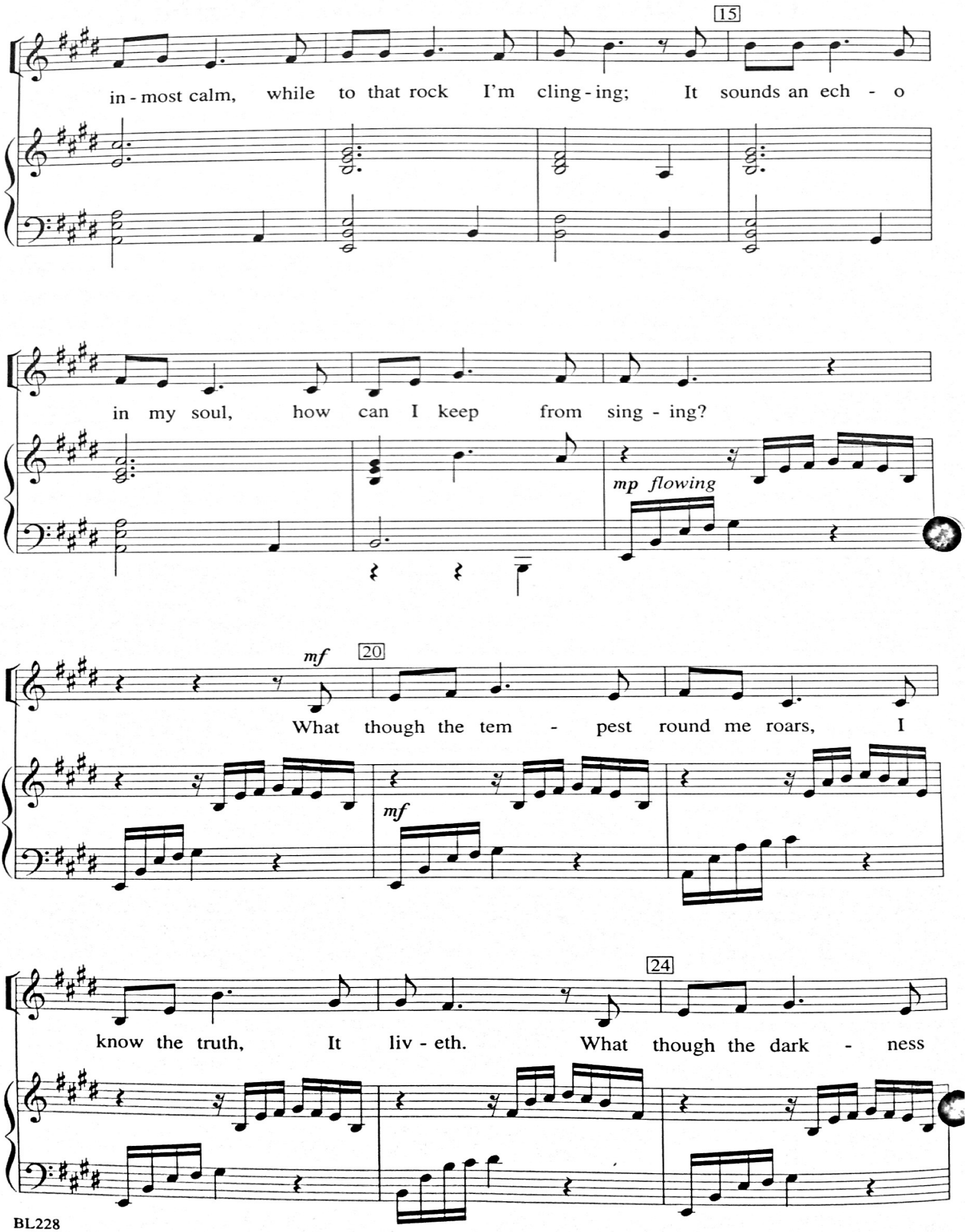
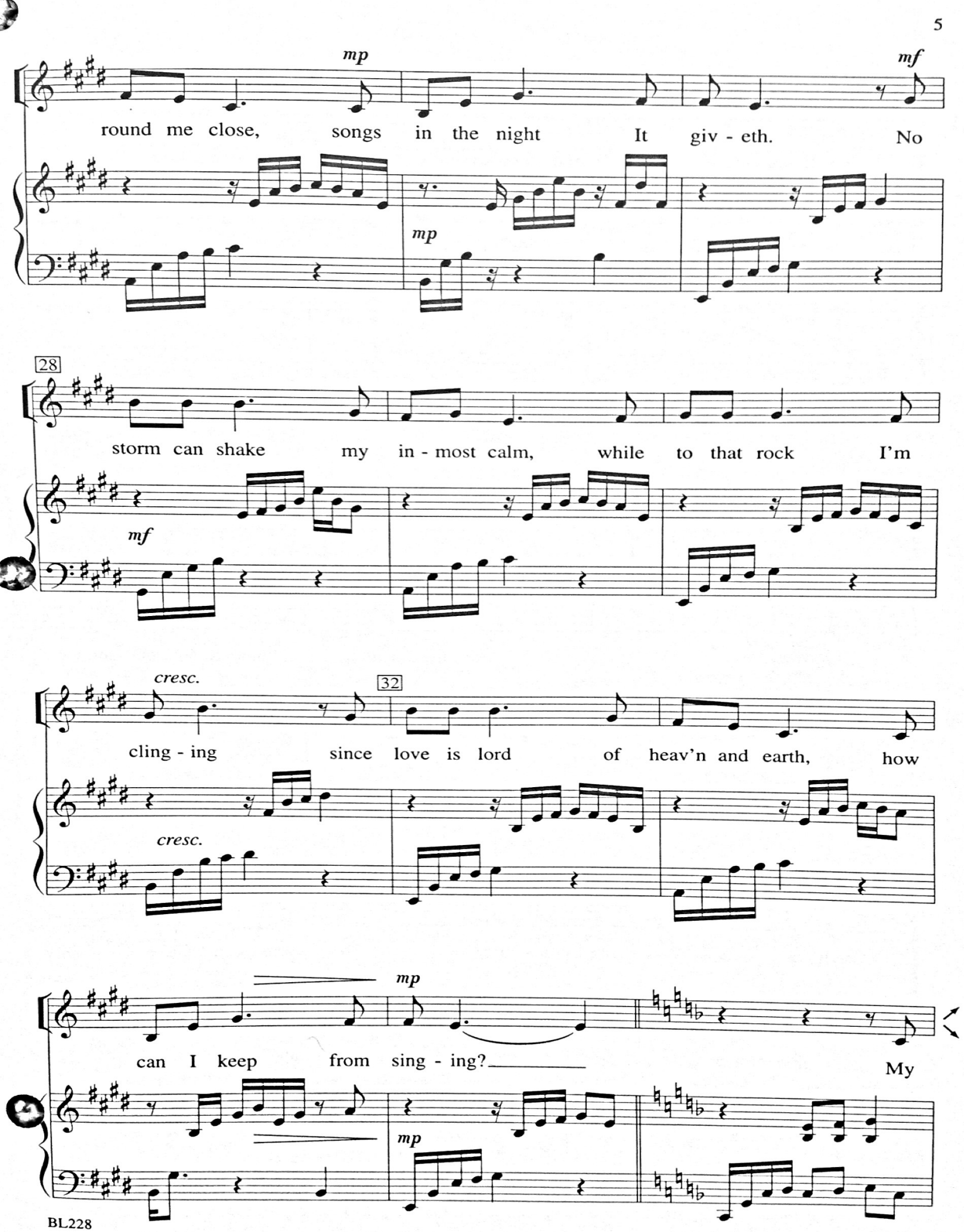
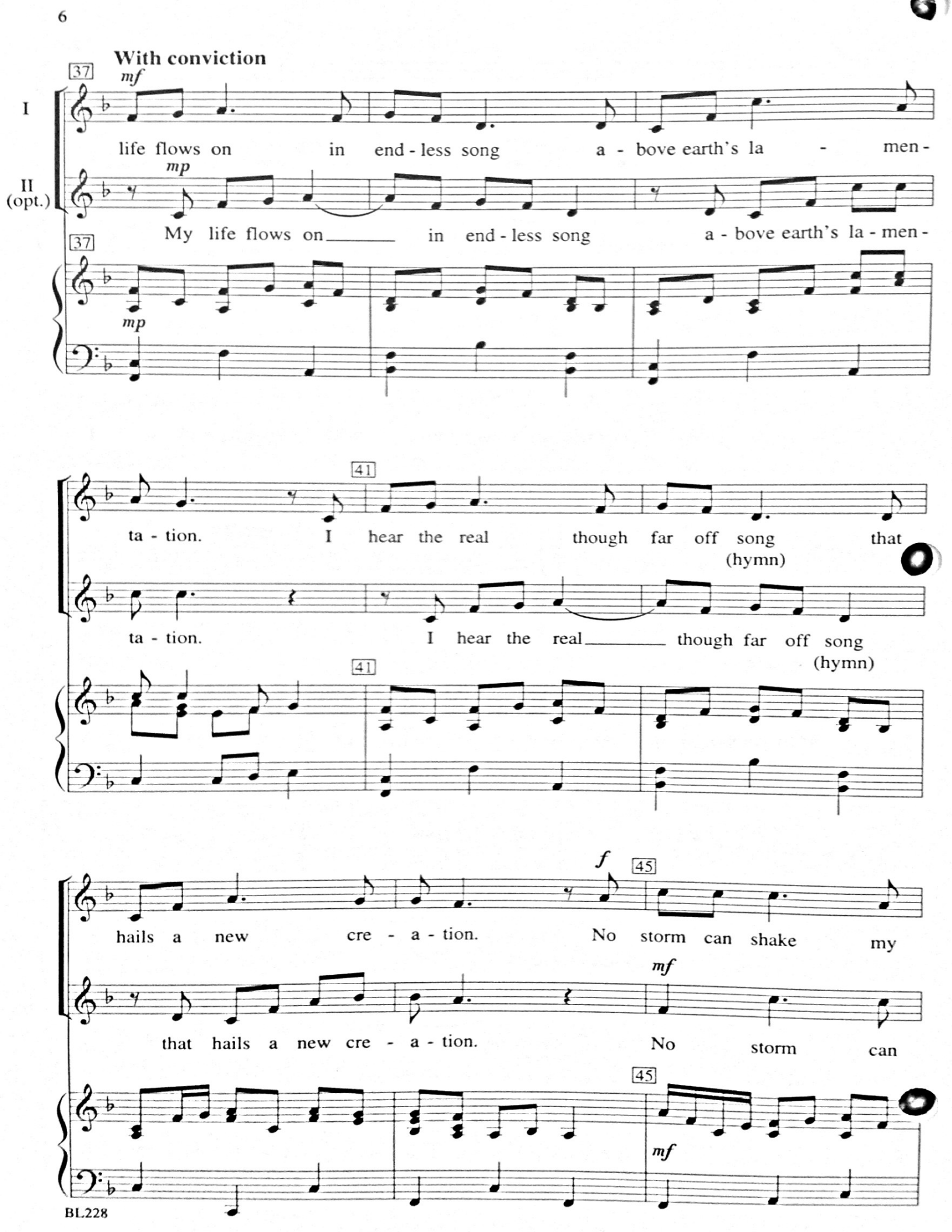
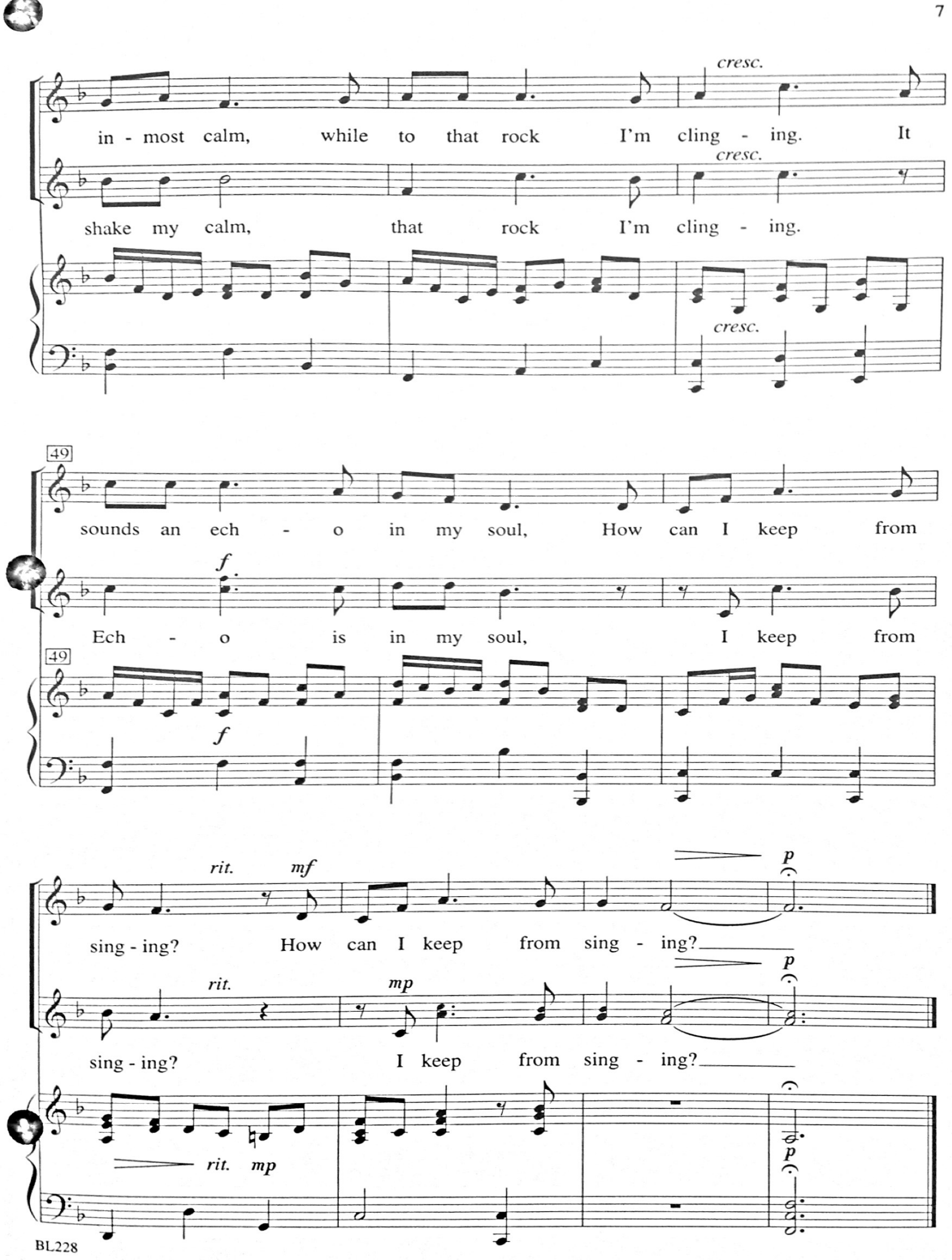



15
in - most calm, while to that rock I'm cling - ing; It sounds an ech - o
in my soul, how can I keep from sing - ing?
mp flowing
mf
20
What though the tem - pest round me roars, I
mf
24
know the truth, It liv - eth. What though the dark - ness


mp
mf
round me close, songs in the night It giv - eth. No
mp
28
storm can shake my in - most calm, while to that rock I'm
mf
cresc.
32
cling - ing since love is lord of heav'n and earth, how
cresc.
mp
can I keep from sing - ing? My
mp


With conviction
37
mf
I
life flows on in end - less song a - bove earth's la - men -
mp
II
(opt.)
My life flows on in end - less song a - bove earth's la - men -
37
mp
41
ta - tion. I hear the real though far off song that
(hymn)
ta - tion. I hear the real though far off song
(hymn)
41
f
45
hails a new cre - a - tion. No storm can shake my
mf
that hails a new cre - a - tion. No storm can
45
mf


cresc.
in - most calm, while to that rock I'm cling - ing. It
cresc.
shake my calm, that rock I'm cling - ing.
cresc.
49
sounds an ech - o in my soul, How can I keep from
f
Ech - o is in my soul, I keep from
49
f
rit.
mf
p
sing - ing? How can I keep from sing - ing?
rit.
mp
p
sing - ing? I keep from sing - ing?
rit.
mp
p