ORPHEUS BRITANNICUS

Crown the Altar, Deck the Shrine

FROM

Celebrate this Festival, 1693, Z321/6

COMPOS'D

By Mr. Henry Purcell

FOR

Soprano

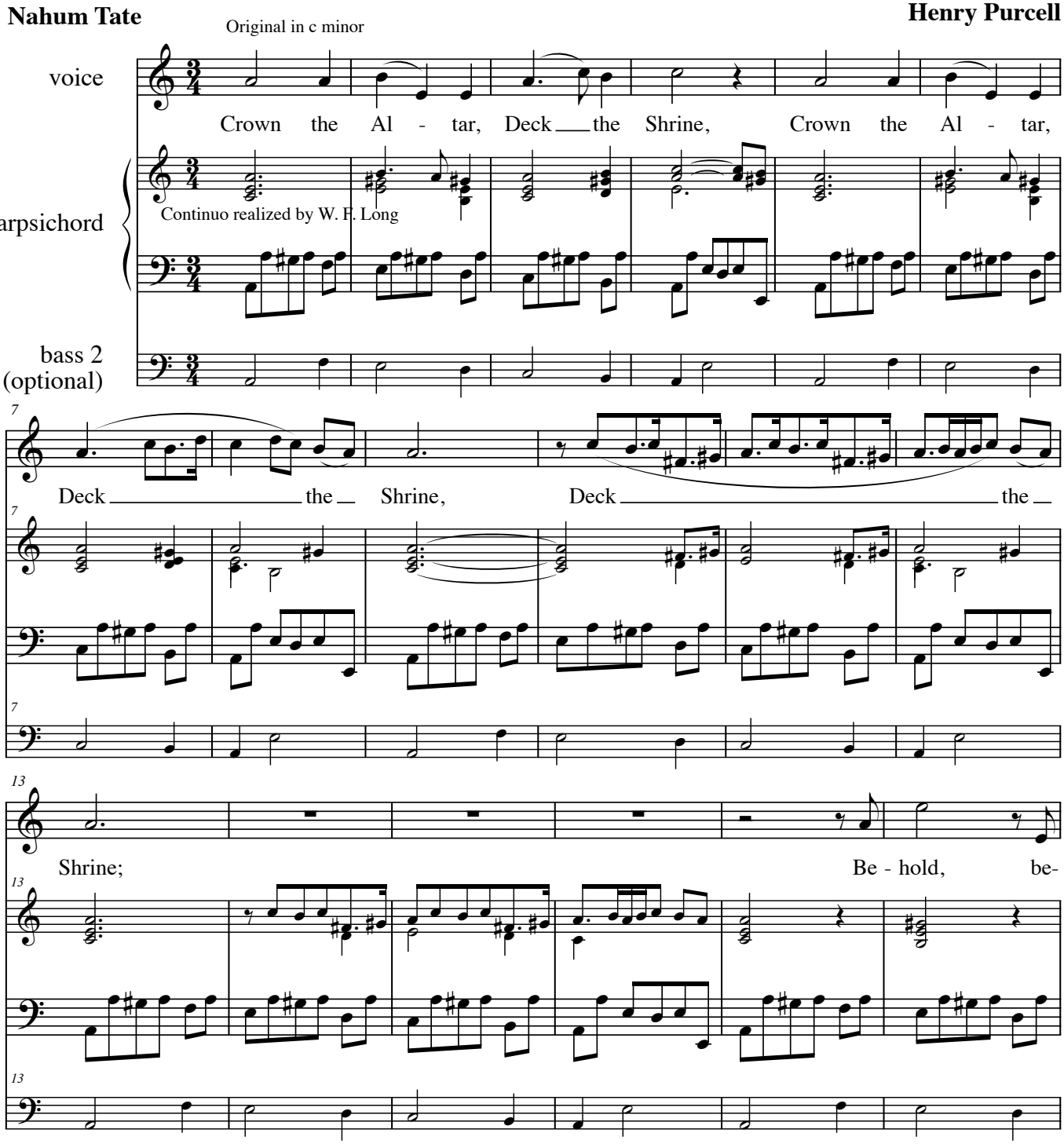
AND

A *THROUGH-BASS*

Copyright *William F. Long,* MMX

Crown the Altar, Deck the Shrine

Nahum Tate **Henry Purcell**

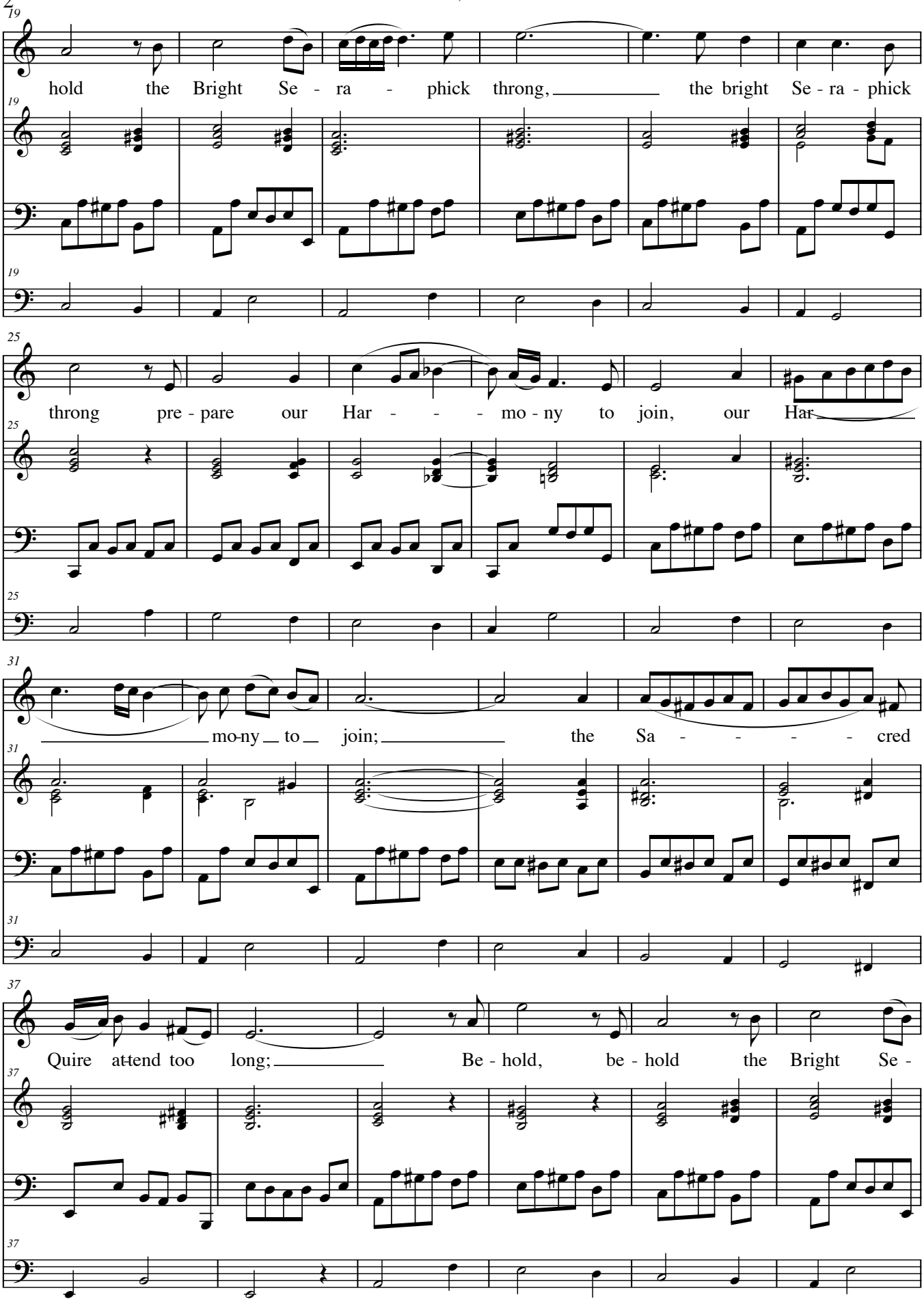


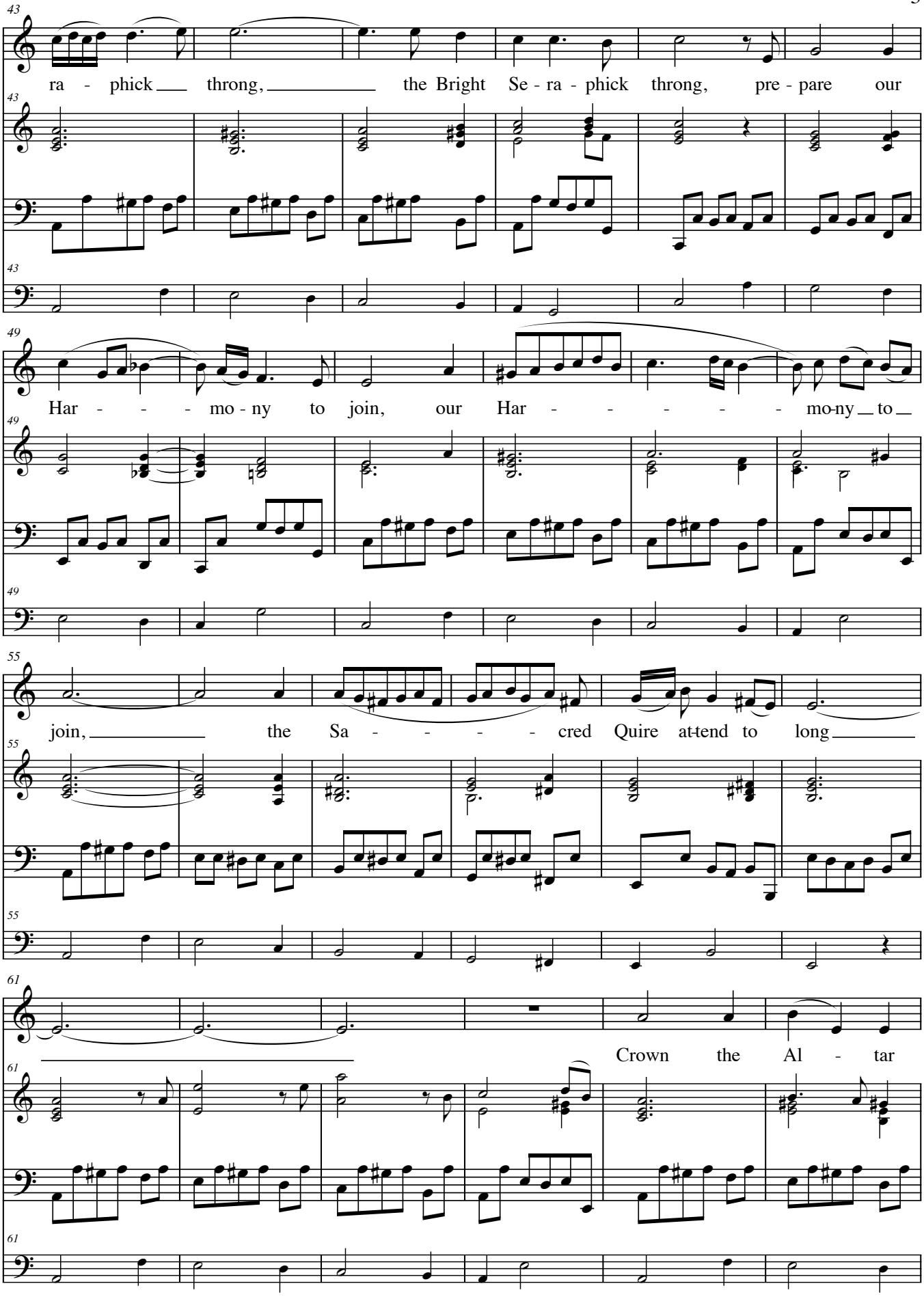
"Crown the Altar, Deck the Shrine" is an aria from *Celebrate this Festival* (1693). It is found on page 6 of Book II of *Orpheus Britannicus*.

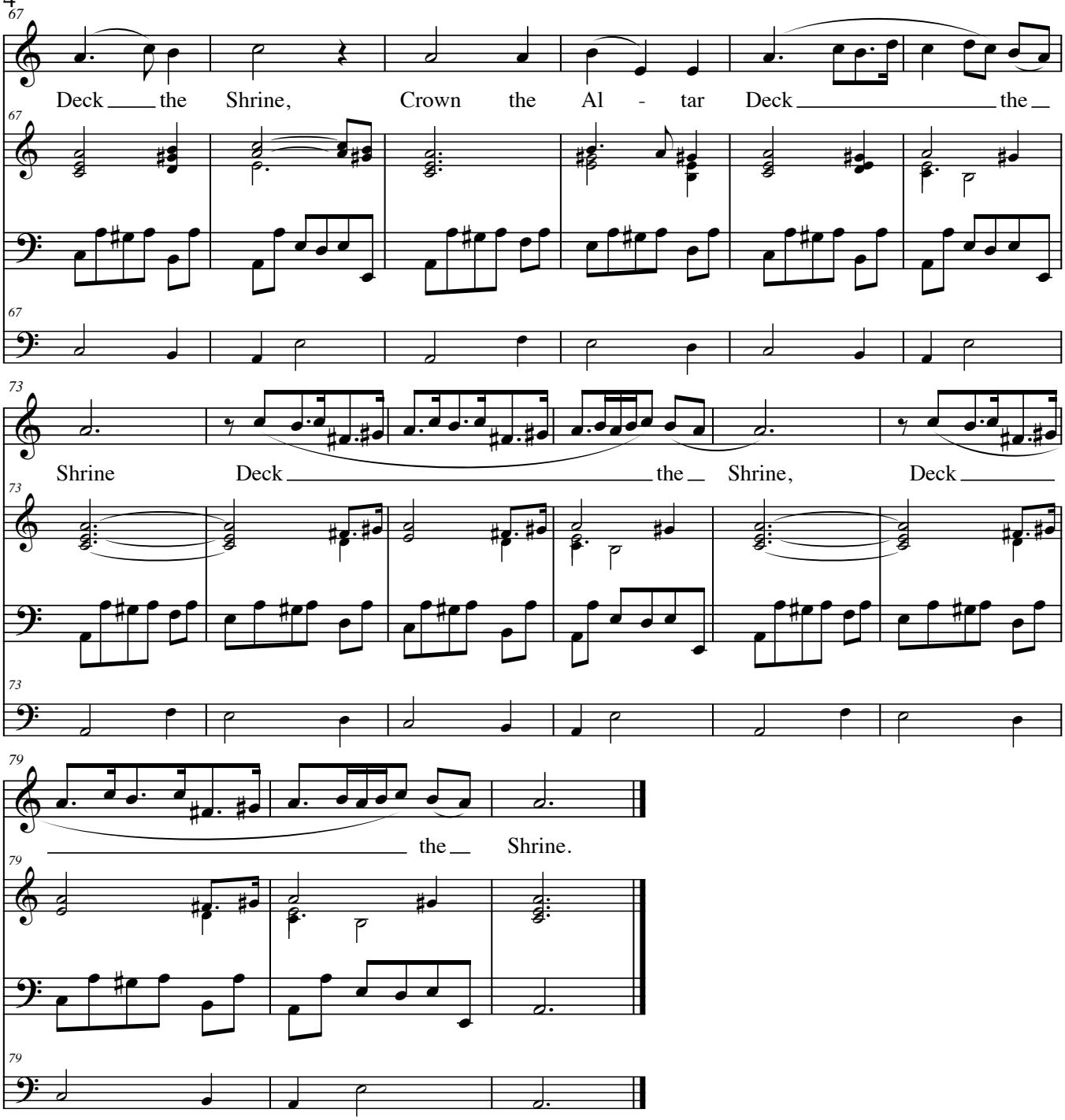
The bass is unfigured and, as usual with Purcell's compositions on a ground bass, the harmonies are often ambiguous. This aria was adapted for a harpsichord piece, *A Ground in D Minor*. Though that version does nothing to clarify the harmonies, it does clarify the continuo line by breaking it up into an eighth note pattern in the tenor over a more slowly descending pattern in a bass part. That bass line has been adapted for the optional bass 2 part in this version.

The song has been transposed down a third to a more comfortable tessitura.

© William F. Long, 2009
Reproduction for non-commercial use permitted.


19
hold the Bright Se - ra - phick throng, the bright Se - ra - phick
25
throng pre - pare our Har - - - mo - ny to join, our Har
31
mo-ny to join; the Sa - - - - - cred
37
Quire at-tend too long; Be - hold, be - hold the Bright Se -


43
ra - phick throng, the Bright Se - ra - phick throng, pre - pare our
49
Har - - - mo - ny to join, our Har - - - - - mo-ny to
55
join, the Sa - - - - cred Quire at-tend to long
61
Crown the Al - tar

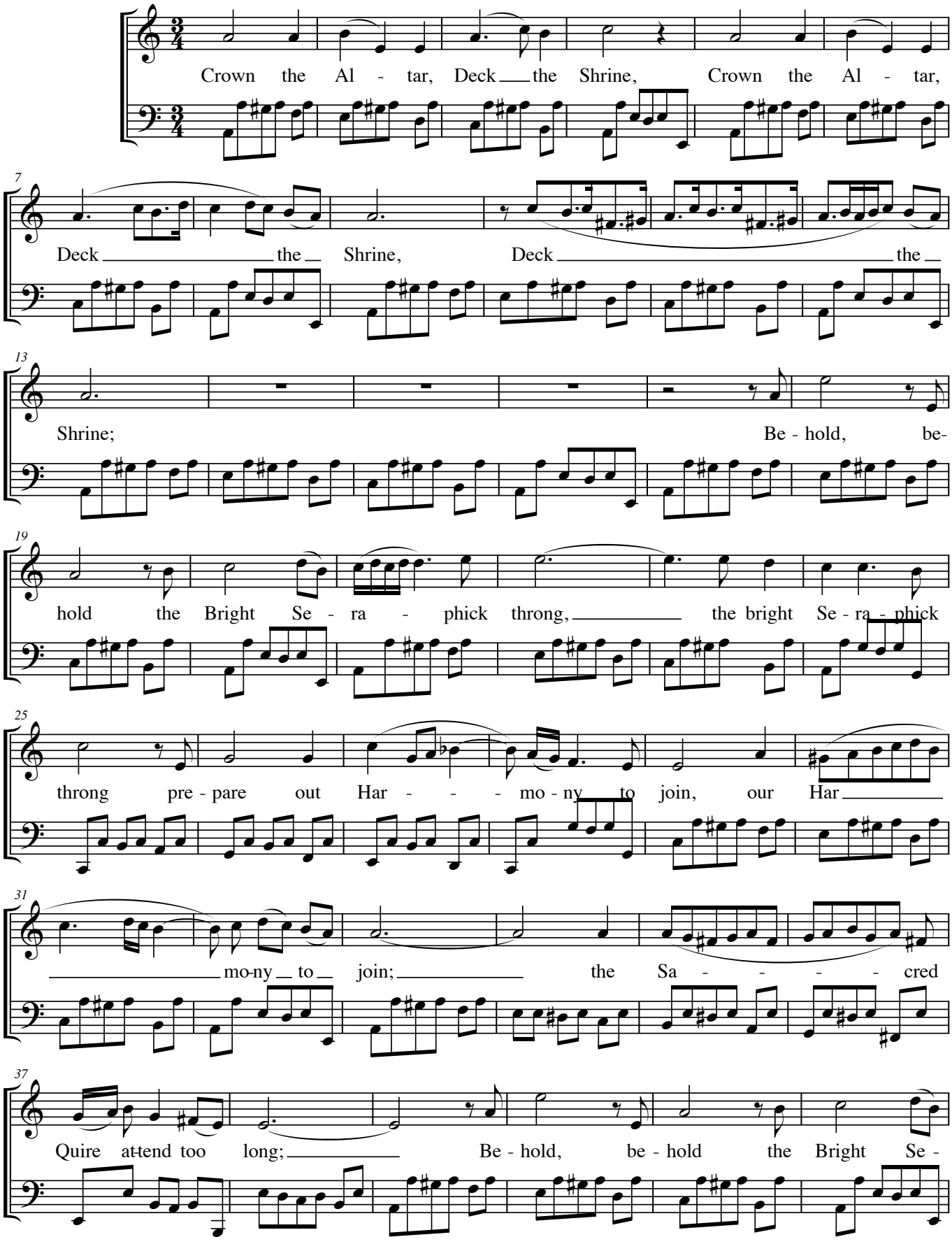

67
Deck the Shrine, Crown the Al - tar Deck the
73
Shrine Deck the Shrine, Deck
79
the Shrine.

Soprano &
Continuo

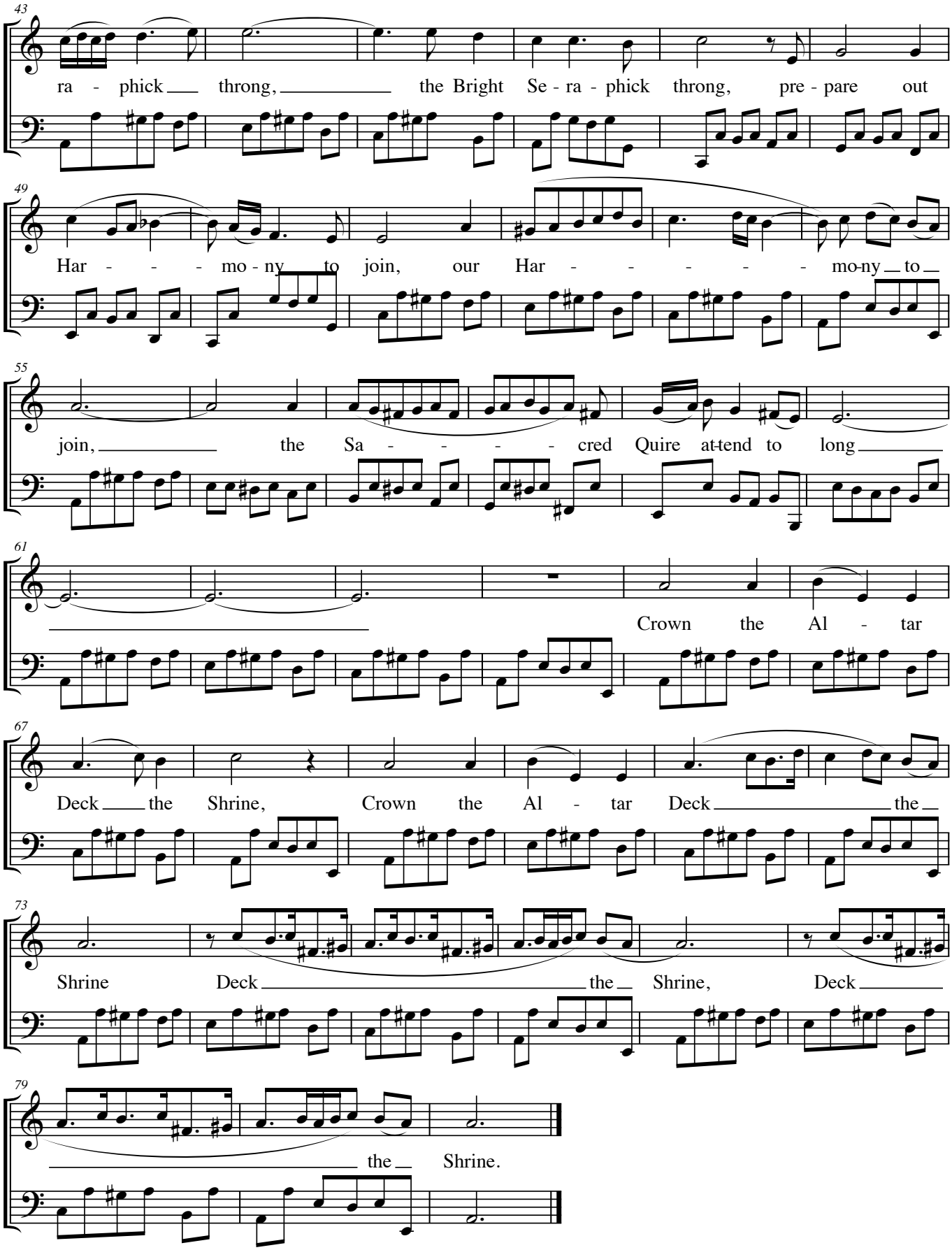
Crown the Altar, Deck the Shrine

Nahum Tate **Henry Purcell**

Original in c minor



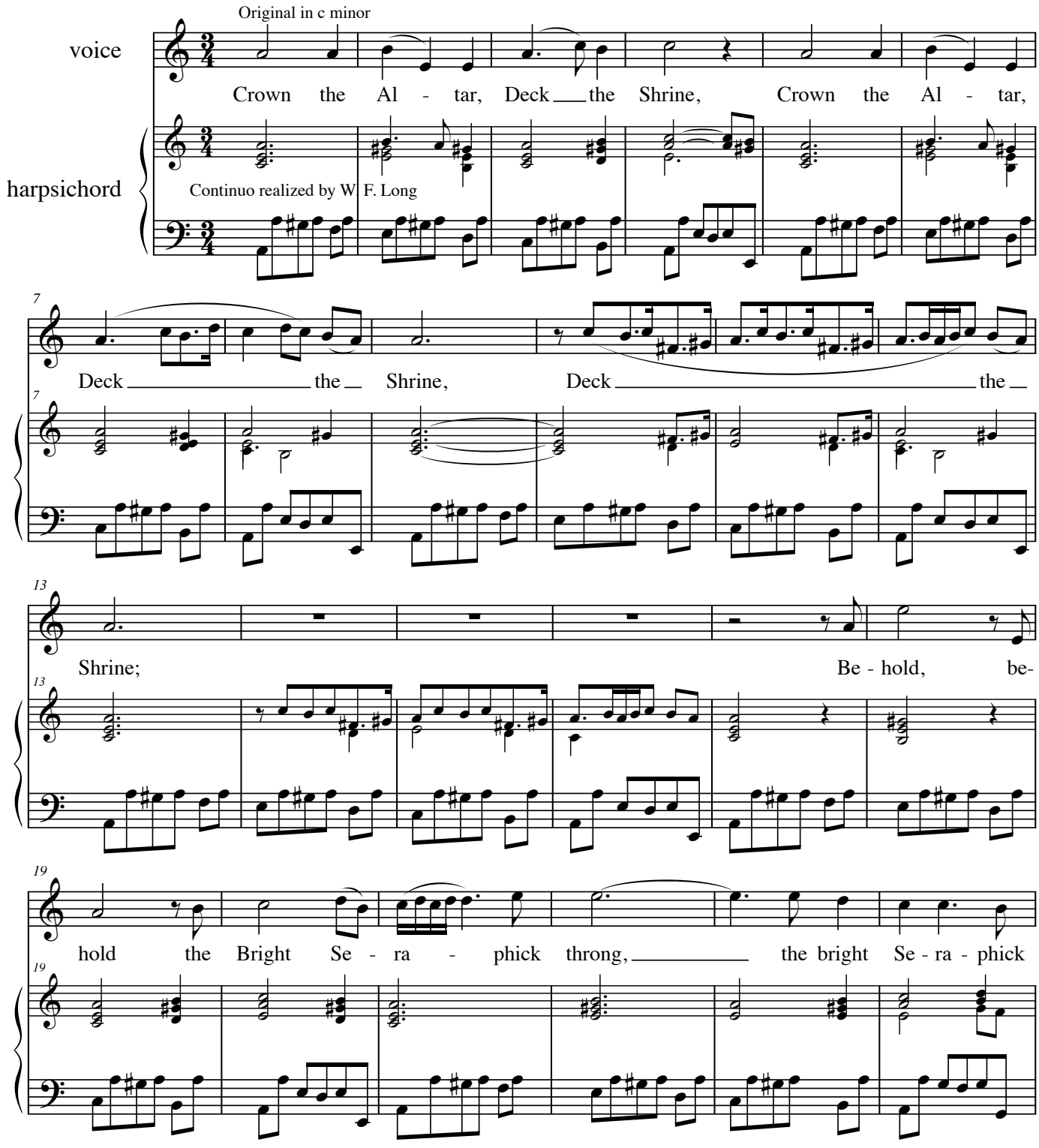
© William F. Long, 2009
Reproduction for non-commercial use permitted.


43
ra - phick throng, the Bright Se - ra - phick throng, pre - pare out
49
Har - - - mo - ny to join, our Har - - - - - mo-ny to
55
join, the Sa - - - - cred Quire at-tend to long
61
Crown the Al - tar
67
Deck the Shrine, Crown the Al - tar Deck the
73
Shrine Deck the Shrine, Deck
79
the Shrine.

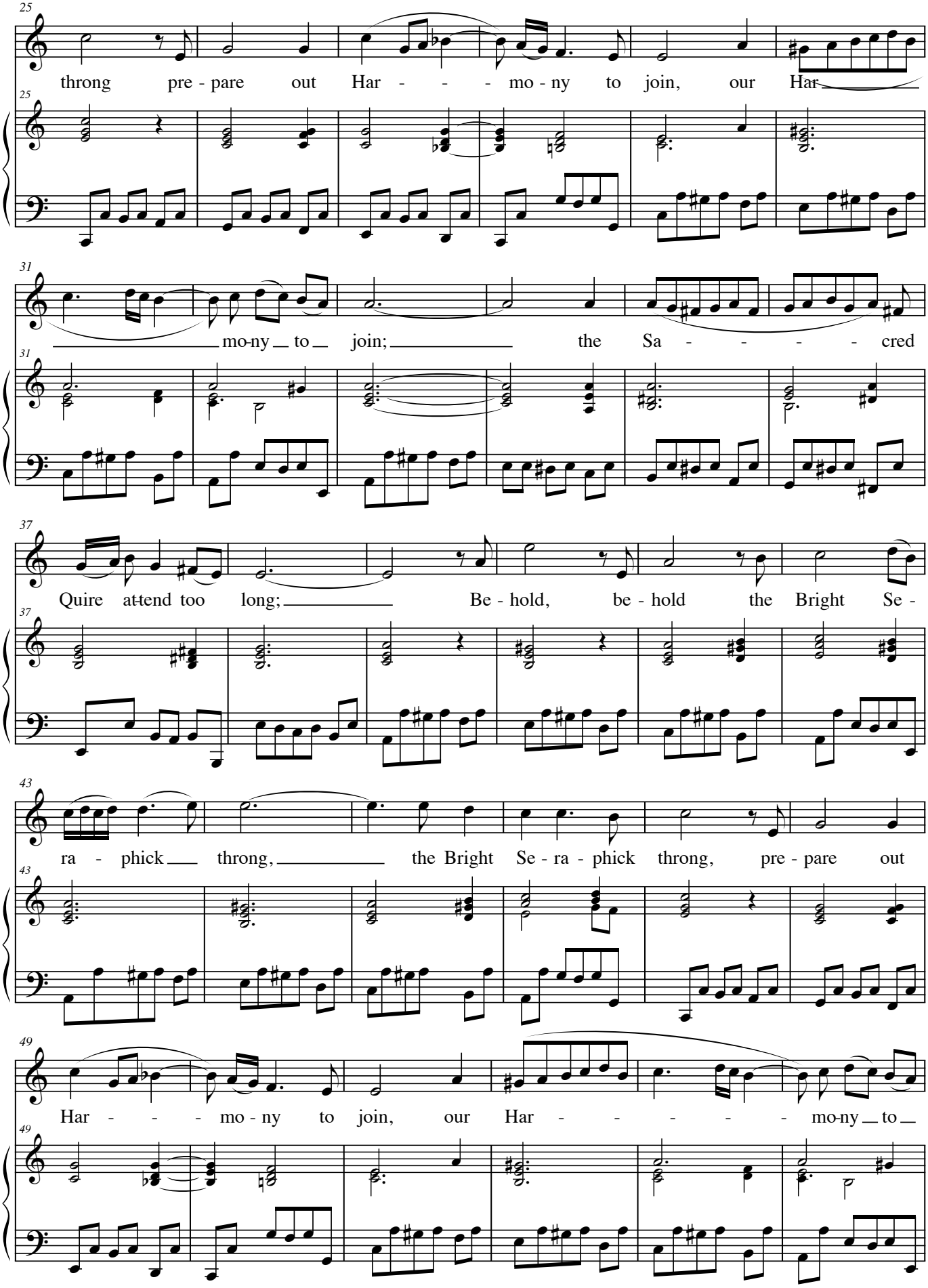
Soprano &
Harpsichord

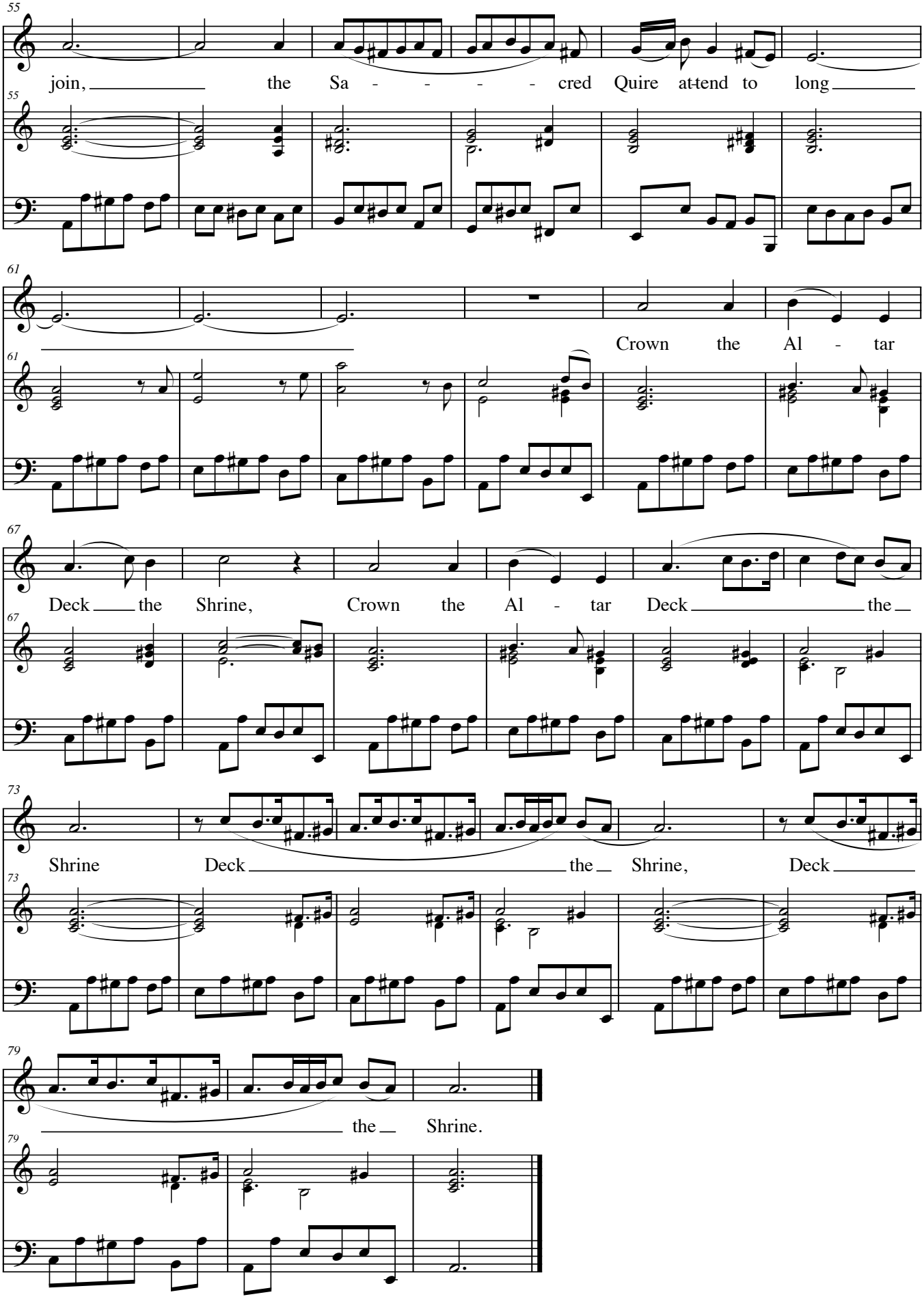
Crown the Altar, Deck the Shrine

Nahum Tate **Henry Purcell**



© William F. Long, 2009
Reproduction for non-commercial use permitted.

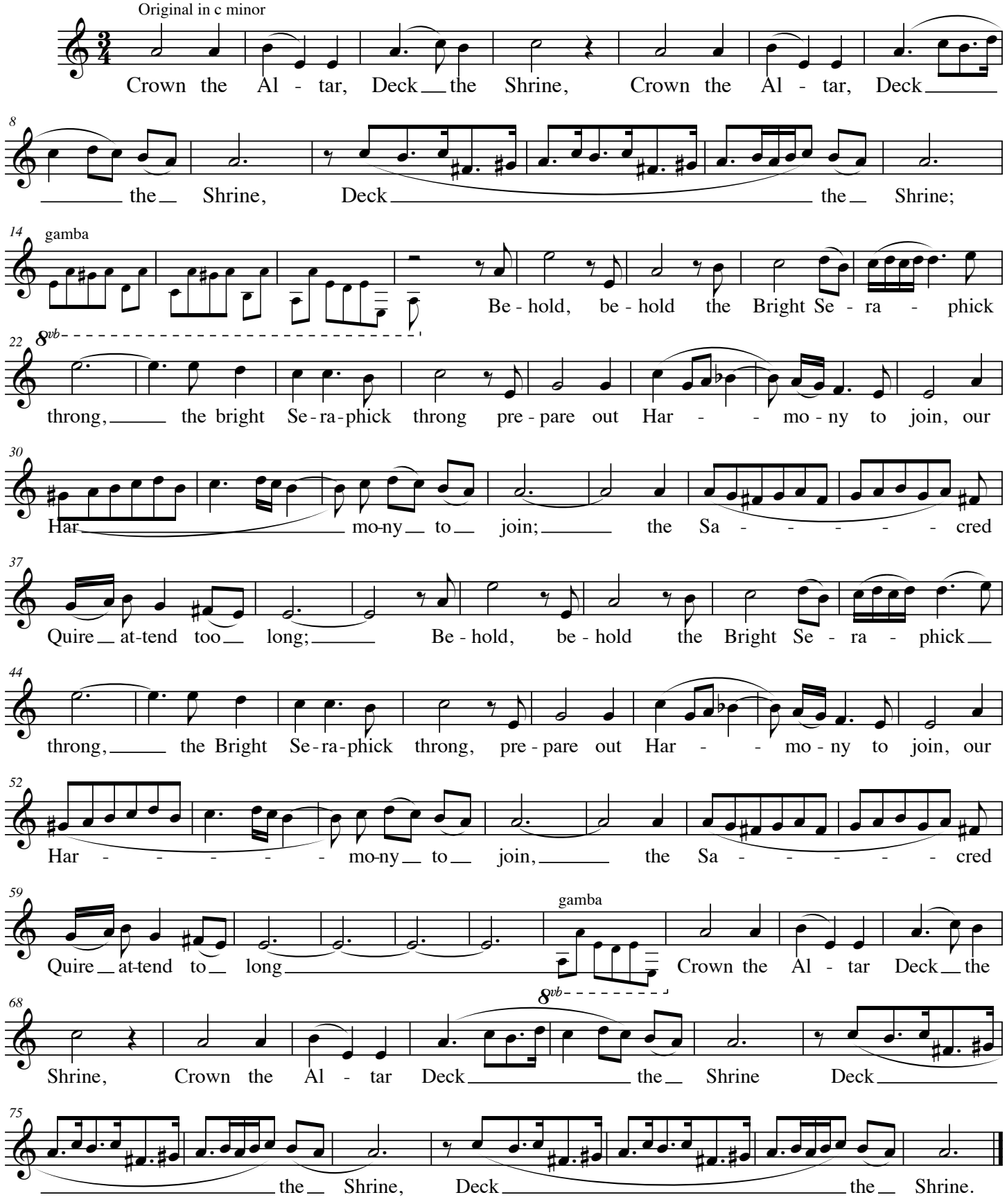

25
throng pre - pare out Har - - - mo - ny to join, our Har
31
mo-ny to join; the Sa - - - - - cred
37
Quire at-tend too long; Be - hold, be - hold the Bright Se -
43
ra - phick throng, the Bright Se - ra - phick throng, pre - pare out
49
Har - - - mo - ny to join, our Har - - - - - mo-ny to


55
join, the Sa - - - - cred Quire at-tend to long
61
Crown the Al - tar
67
Deck the Shrine, Crown the Al - tar Deck the
73
Shrine Deck the Shrine, Deck
79
the Shrine.

Soprano

Crown the Altar, Deck the Shrine

Nahum Tate **Henry Purcell**



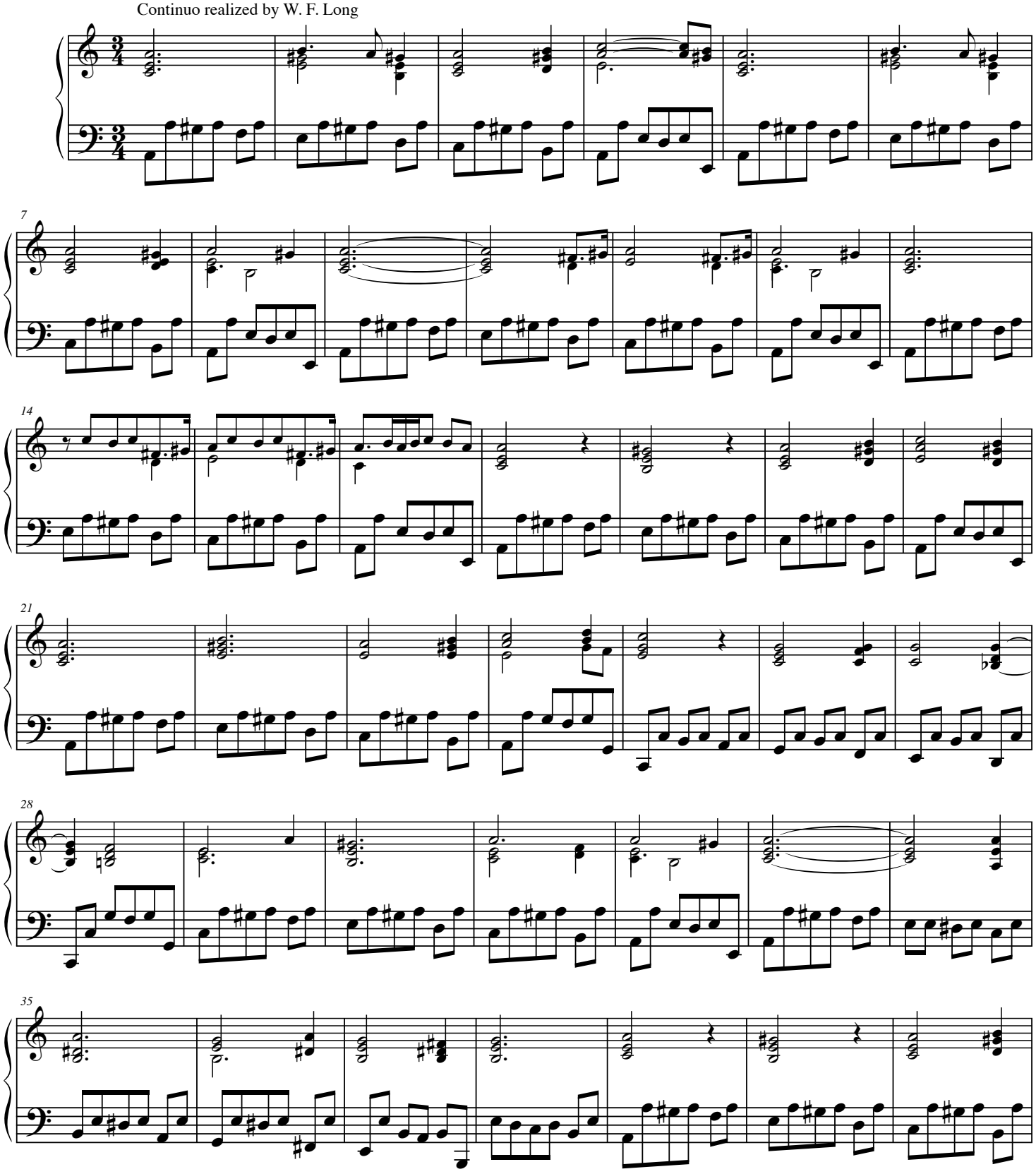
© William F. Long, 2009
Reproduction for non-commercial use permitted.

Harpsichord

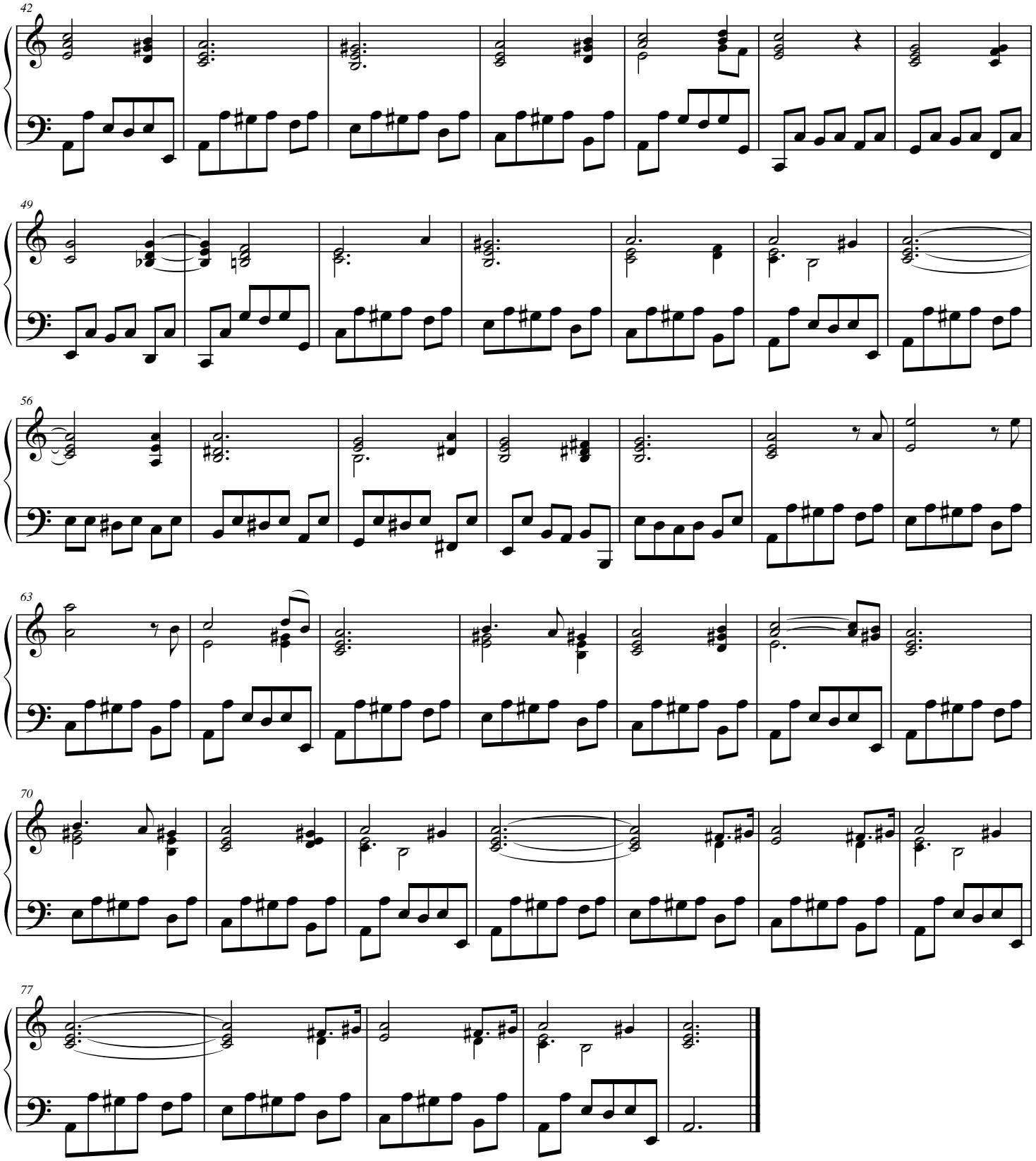
Crown the Altar, Deck the Shrine

Nahum Tate **Henry Purcell**

Continuo realized by W. F. Long



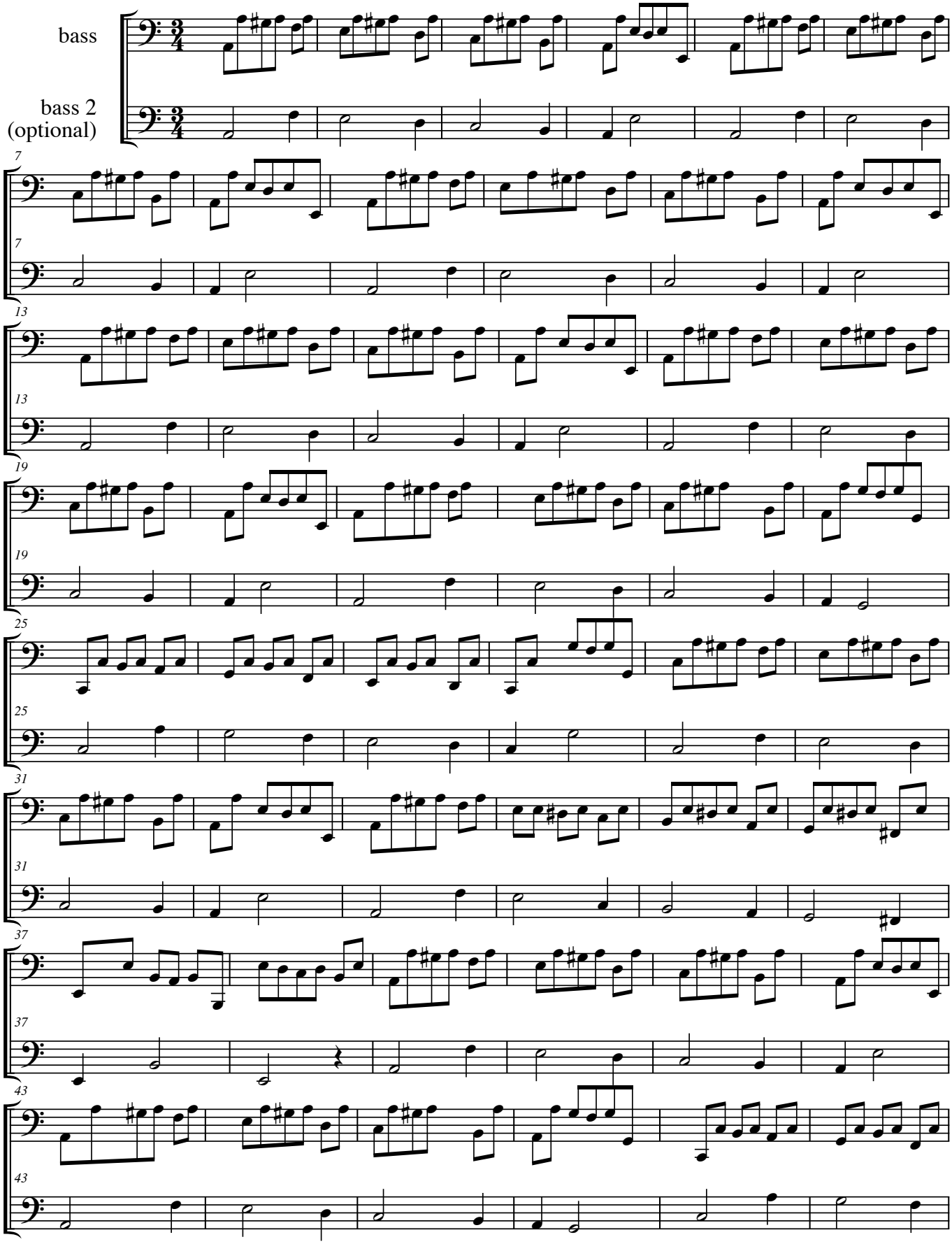
© William F. Long, 2009
Reproduction for non-commercial use permitted.


42
49
56
63
70
77

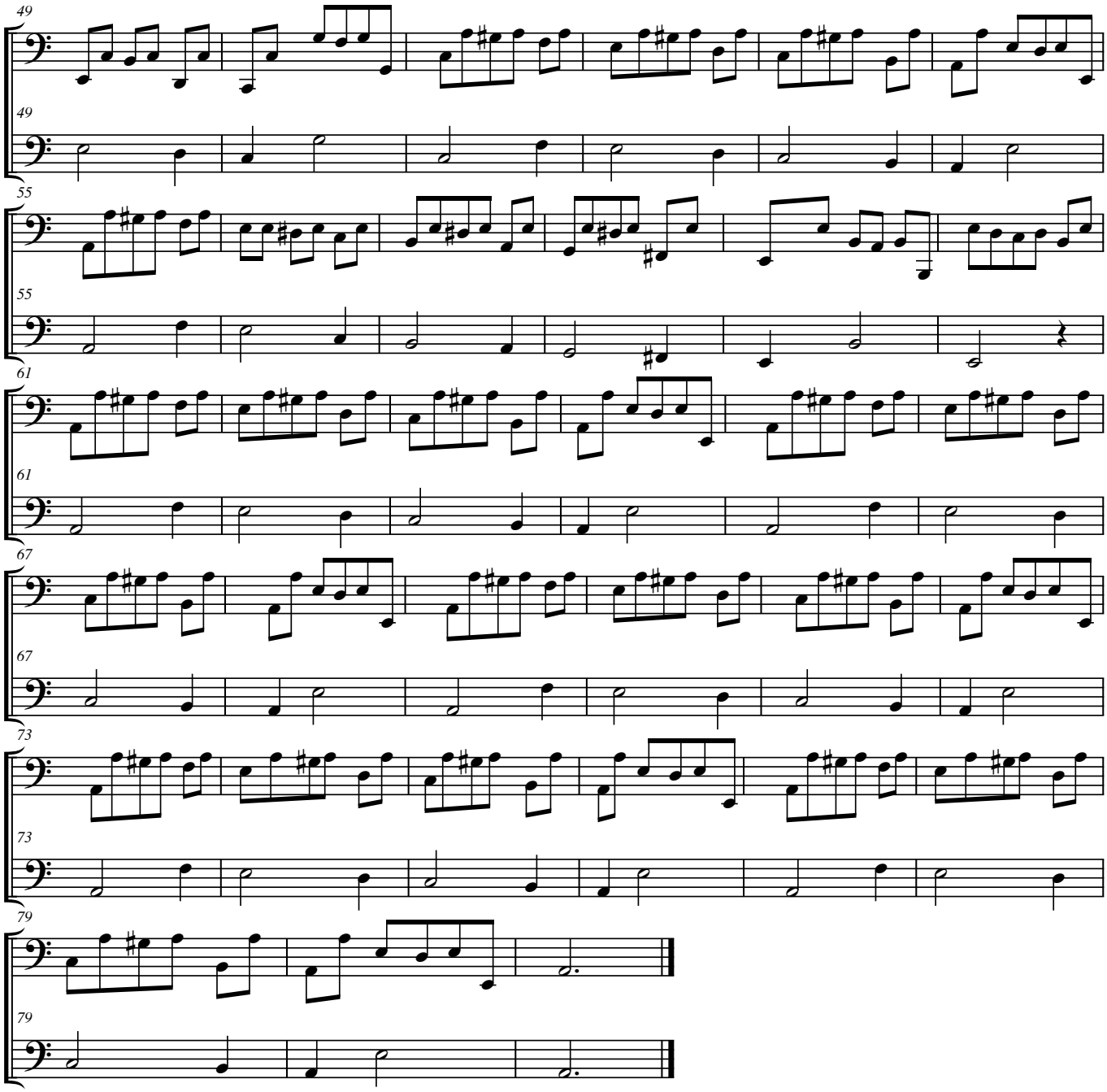
Viola da Gamba

Crown the Altar, Deck the Shrine

Nahum Tate **Henry Purcell**



© William F. Long, 2009
Reproduction for non-commercial use permitted.



This aria was adapted for a harpsichord piece, *A Ground in D Minor*. That version clarifies the continuo line by breaking it up into an eighth note pattern in the tenor over a more slowly descending pattern in a bass part. That bass line has been adapted for the optional bass 2 part in this version. If another instrument, e.g. the harpsichord, plays the regular bass line, the gambist (cellist, bassoonist, etc.) may play the bass 2 part