Deep in the Harp of Texas

Stephen Wentworth Arndt

Contents

The Texas Bluebonnets

The White-Tailed Deer of Texas

The Rolling Plains of Texas

The Texas Sage

The Bighorn Sheep of Texas

The Texas Panhandle

The Texas Mesquite

The Texas Mustangs

The Gulf Coast of Texas

The Texas Tumbleweeds

The Texas Coyote

The Texas Blacklands

The Texas Prickly Pear

The Texas Prairie Dog

The Texas Hill Country

The Texas Sunflowers

The Gray Wolf of Texas

The Piney Woods of Texas

The Redbud Trees of Texas

The Texas Armadillo

The Texas Valley

The Texas Firewheels

The Black Antelope of Texas

The Davis Mountains of Texas

The East Texas Dogwood Trees

The Origin of Irish Harp Music

A Historical Account

It was exactly ten thousand years ago this year, or if it wasn't, it was still pretty long ago, that the ancient Texans took to the seas. For centuries, they had made their home on the range, where the buffalo (and the longhorn!) roamed. Yes, they worked hard on the range while the deer and the antelope just played, but in the evenings they sat around their campfires, ate their chili, and sang songs like this to the strains of the harp:

My Texas 'tis of thee,

Sweet land of tumbleweeds,

Of thee I sing.

Land where the cowboys ride,

Land of the longhorn pride,

From every pasture side,

Let cowbells ring.

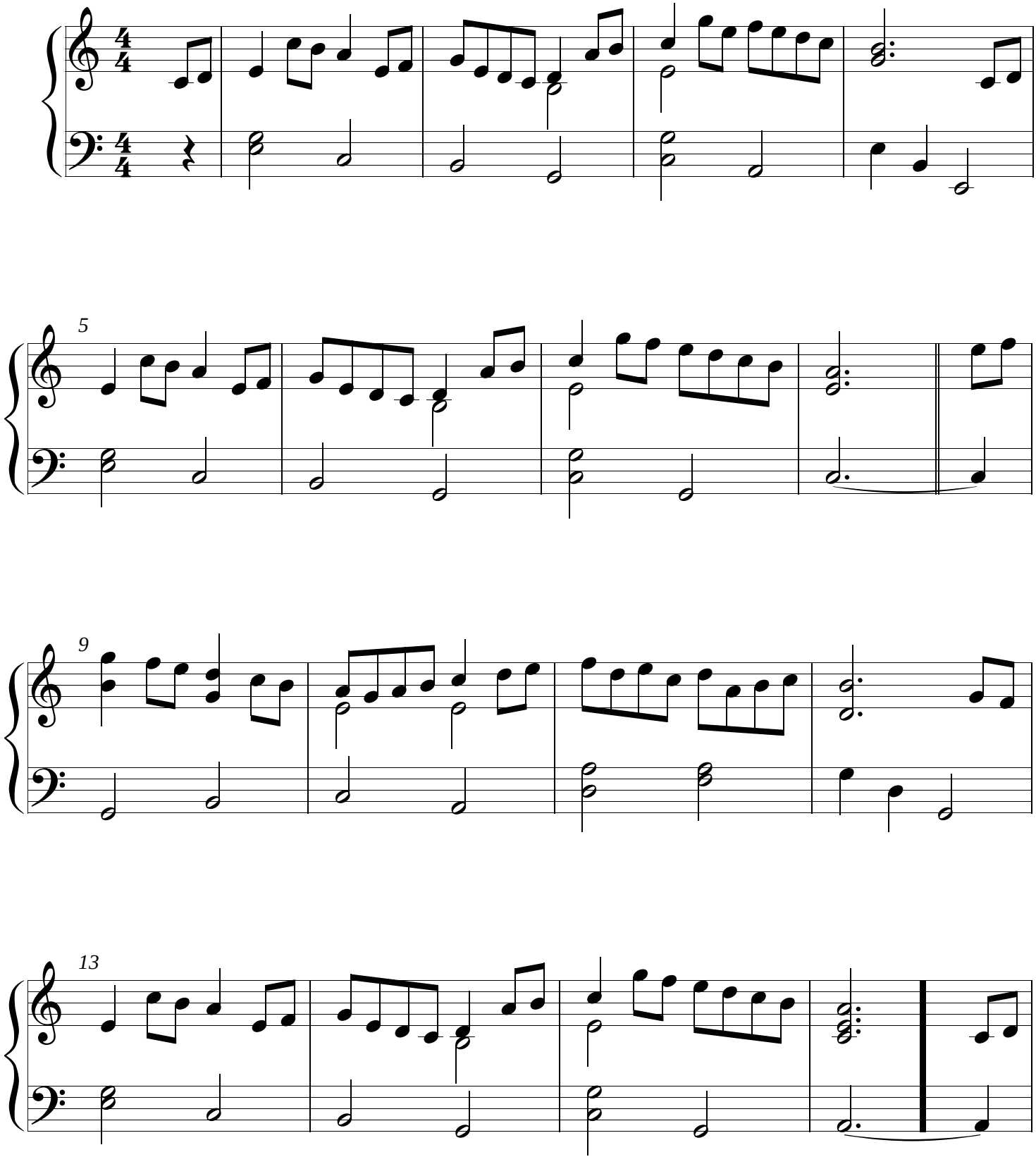
Now, the ancient Texans were an adventurous lot. After centuries of working the range, eating chili, and singing around the campfire, some of them got a hankering to go exploring. So, attired in their cowboy hats, chaps, and spurs, which they wore everywhere (even to church on Sundays), they loaded up their harps and set sail for uncharted lands. After many months of navigating the perilous sea, they arrived at an unknown, uninhabited, and unnamed island far, far away. But, since the ancient Texans were an industrious bunch, it didn't remain unknown, uninhabited, and unnamed for long. In just a short while, they had explored it, populated it, and named it "Lyreland," for in ancient Texan the word "lyre" actually meant "harp," and they intended, after a hard day of working the range, to sit around their campfires in the evening, eat their chili, and sing to the strains of their harps, just as they had back home in Texas. Human languages change over time, though, and because of the Texas drawl "Lyreland" eventually came to be pronounced "Yreland" and then spelled "Ireland." And that, my friends, was the origin of Irish harp music.

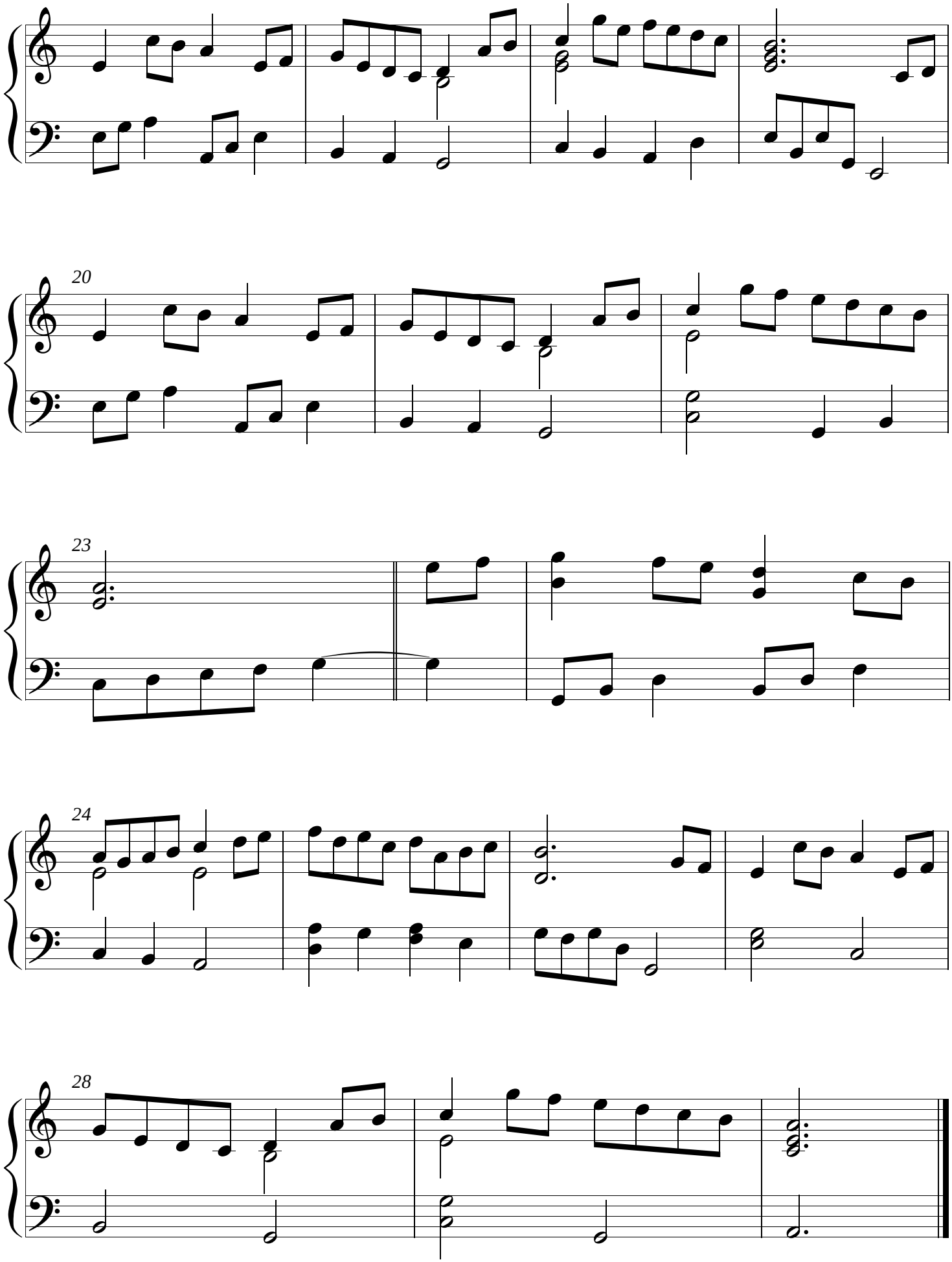
Unfortunately, in the passage of time, all the historical documents corroborating the foregoing account have been lost. Perhaps barbarian invasions are to blame, or maybe mice just ate the parchment on which they were written. I don't know, but I do swear that the above story is true, and if it isn't, I sure wish it were. In any event, you can pretend it is—I do.

The following collection of original harp music is written in the Irish (that is, ancient Texan) style. May you enjoy listening to them as much as I have writing and playing them, and may the spirit of the ancient Texans live on.

The Texas Bluebonnets

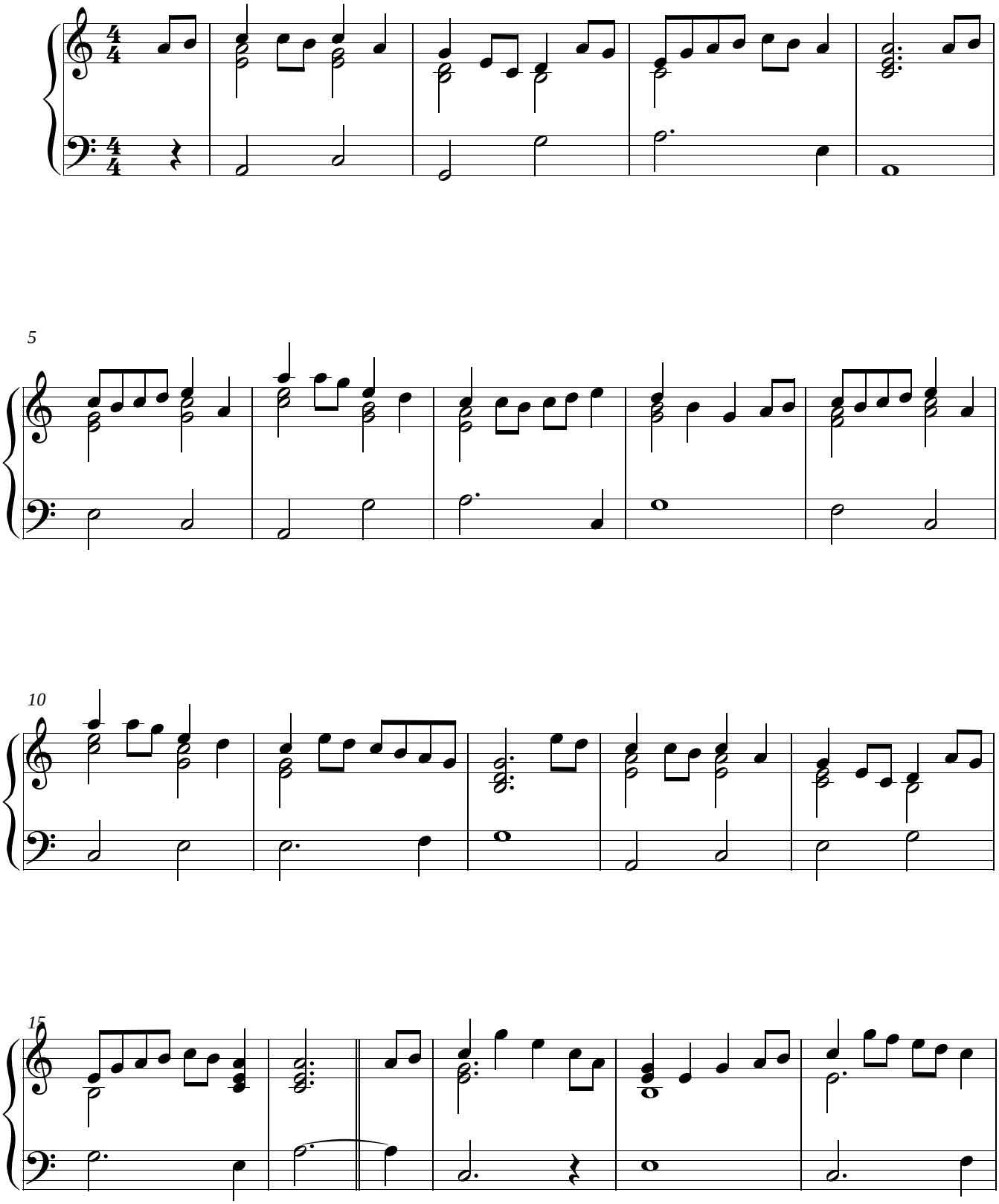
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

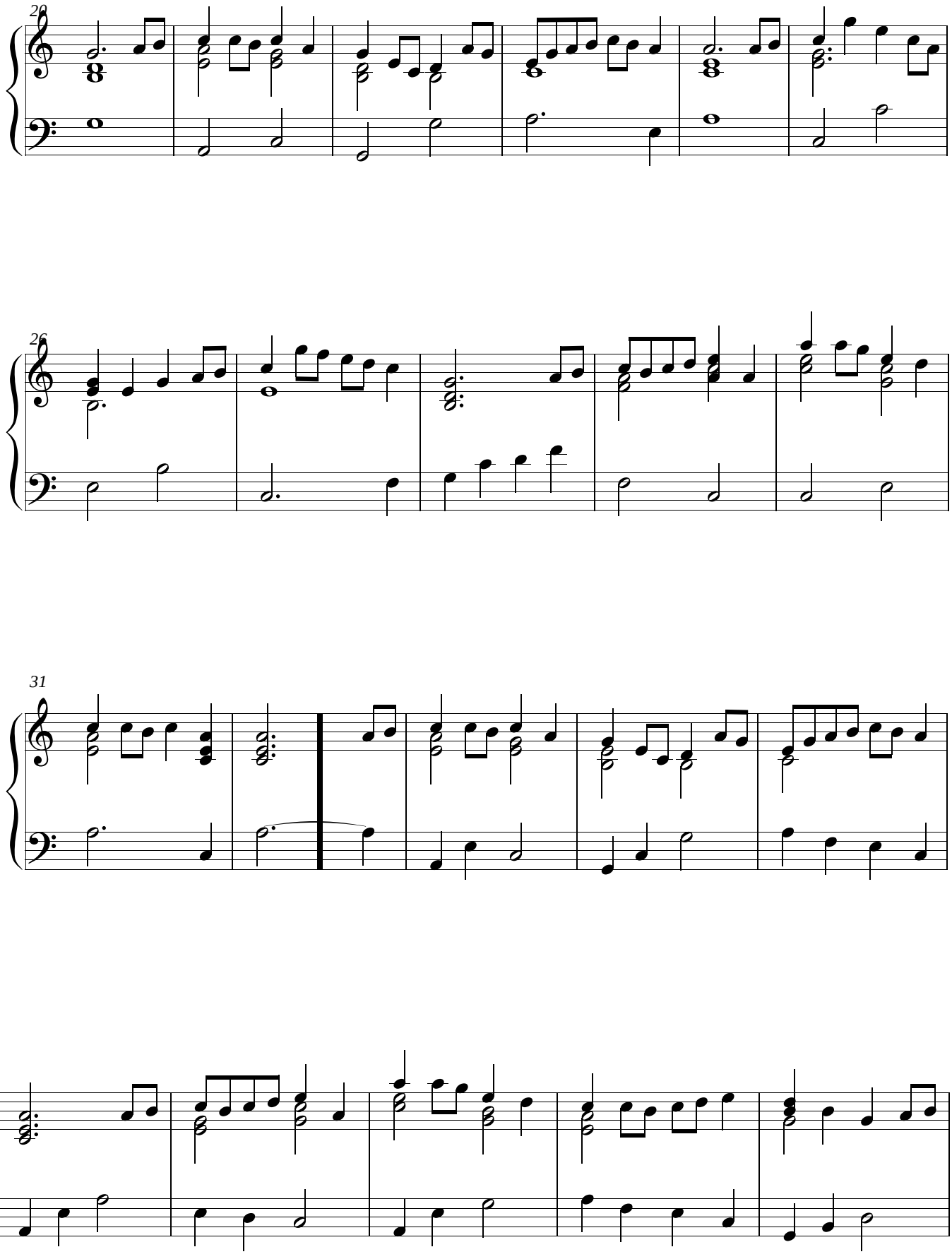


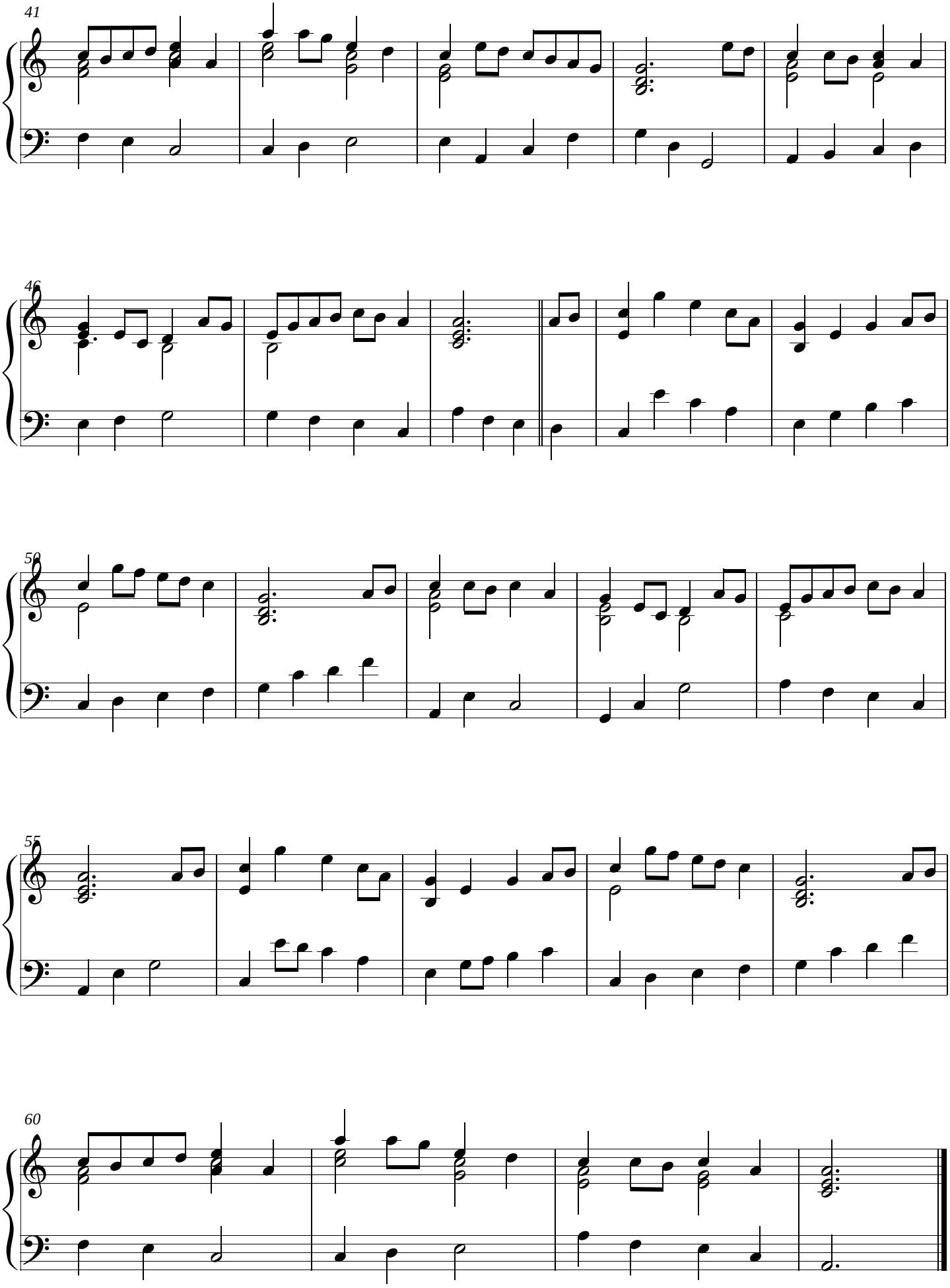

20
23
24
28

The White-Tailed Deer of Texas

Stephen Wentworth Arndt

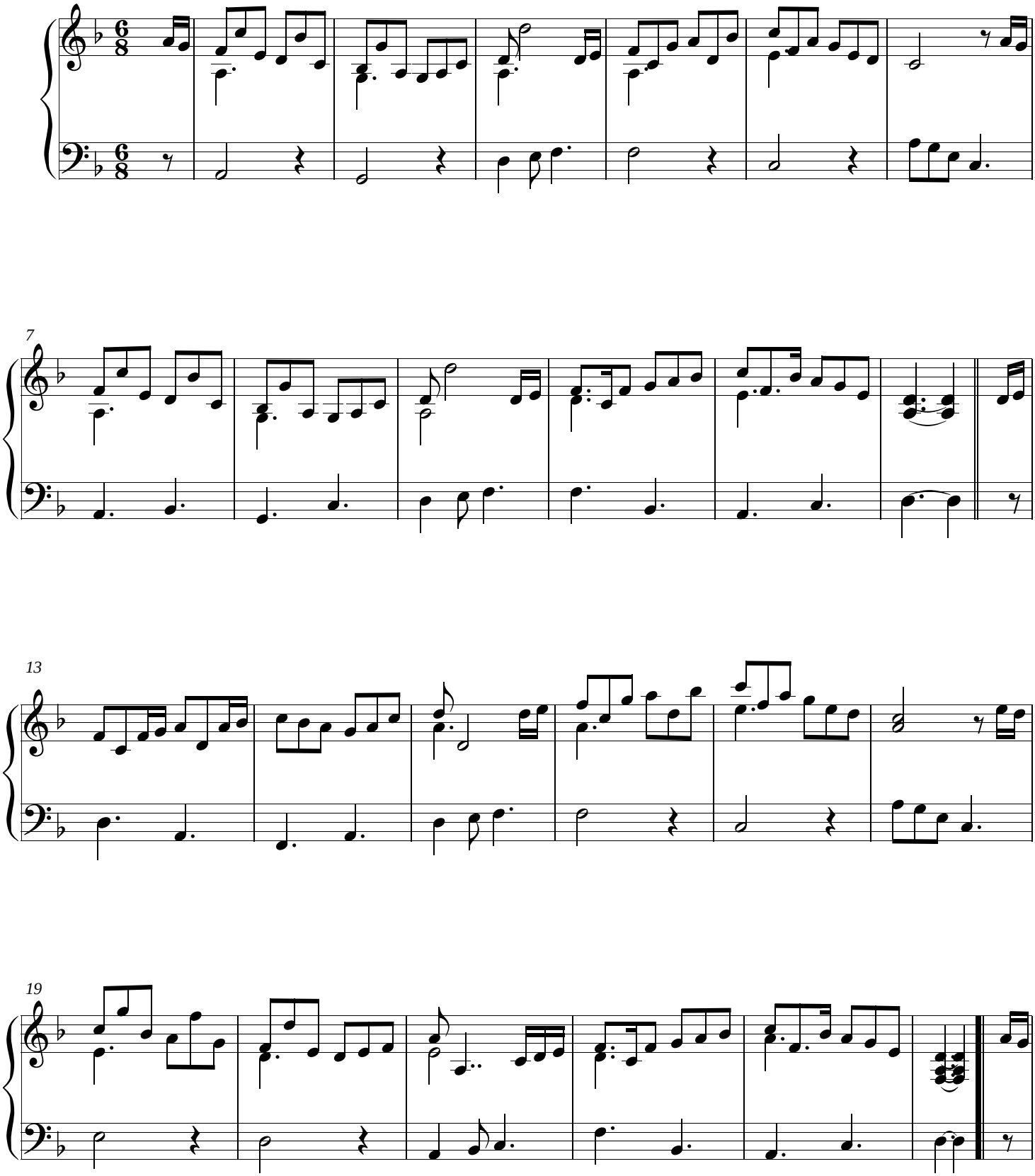


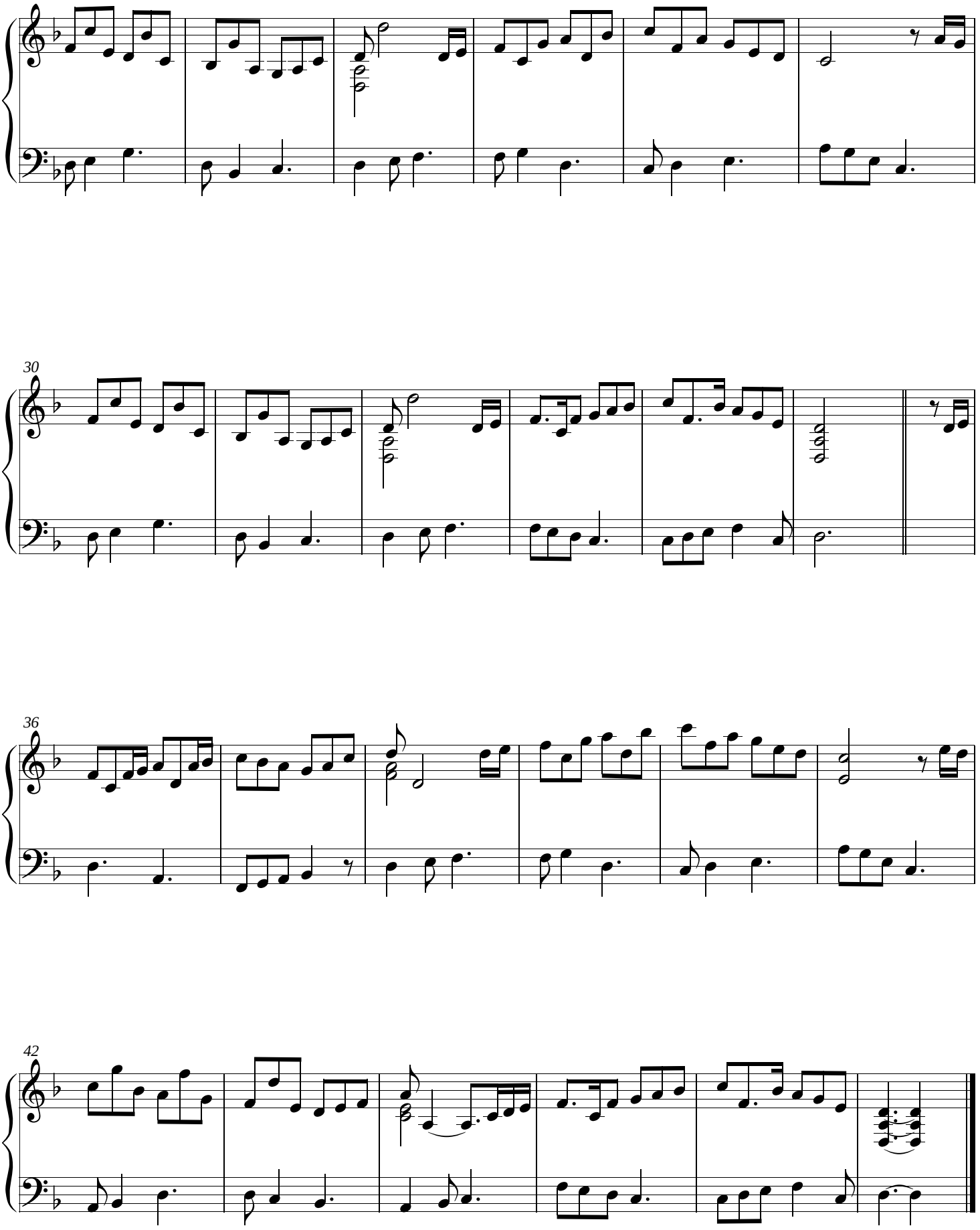

21
26
31
36


41
46
50
55
60

The Rolling Plains of Texas

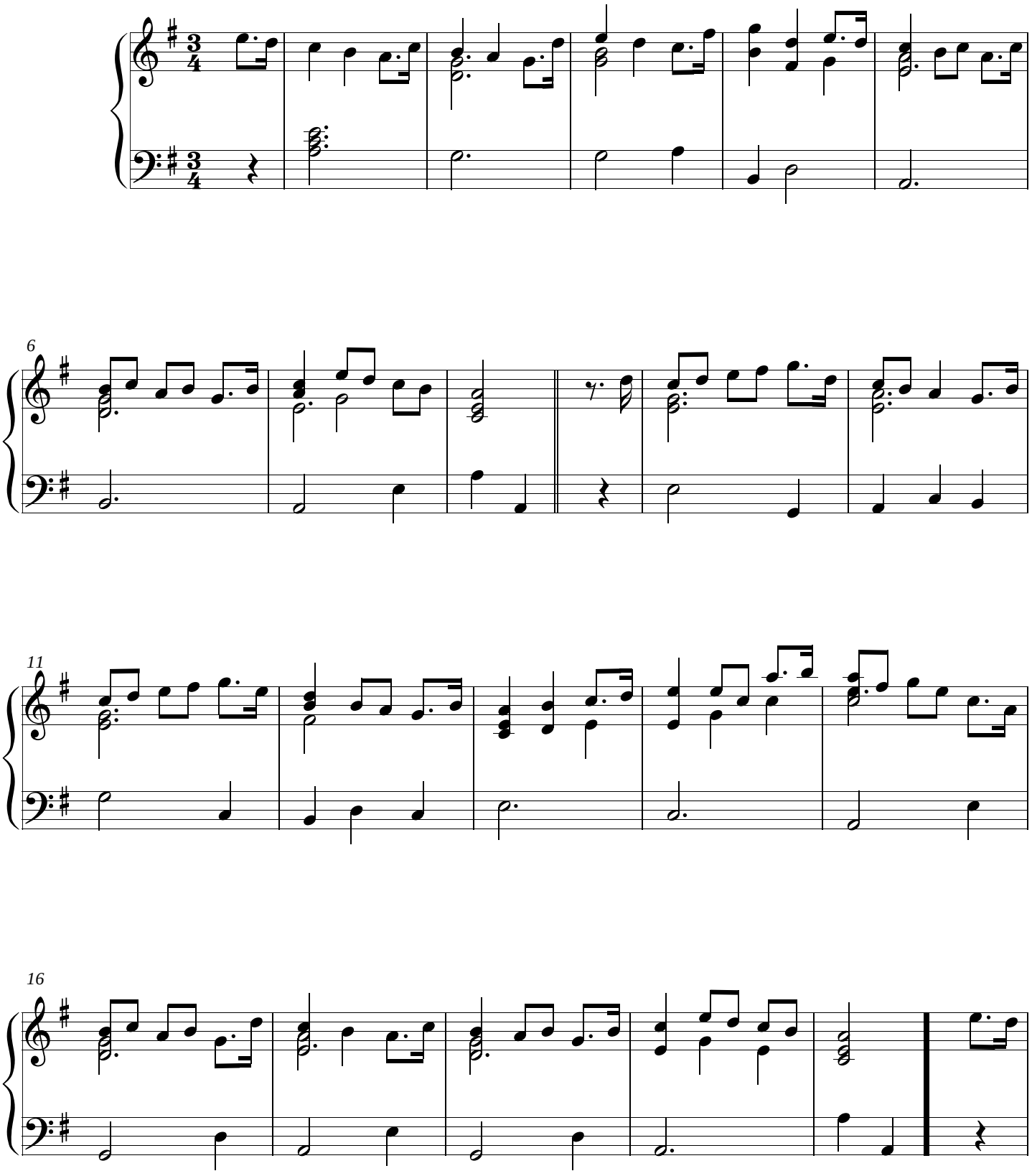
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

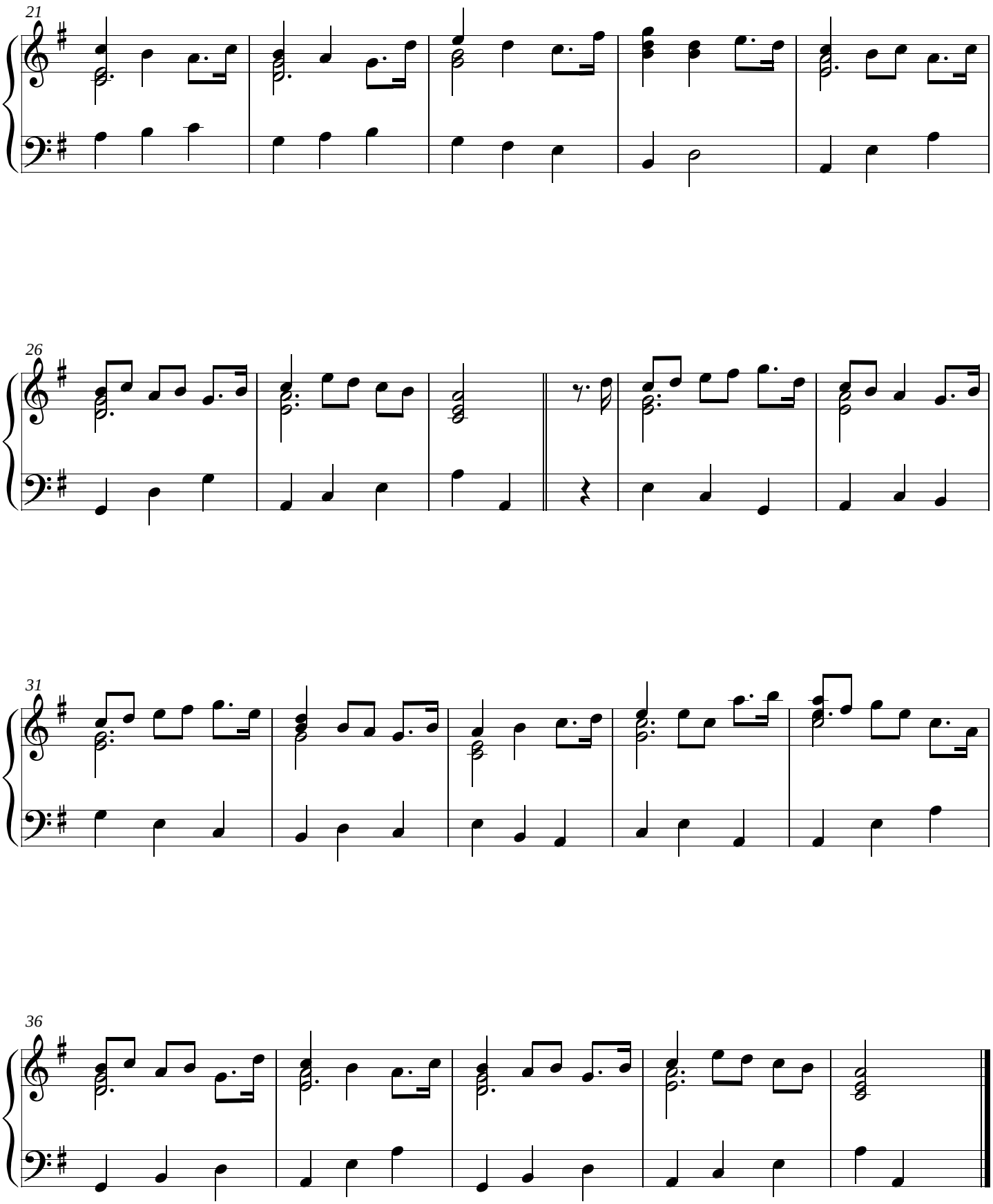



30
36
42

The Texas Sage

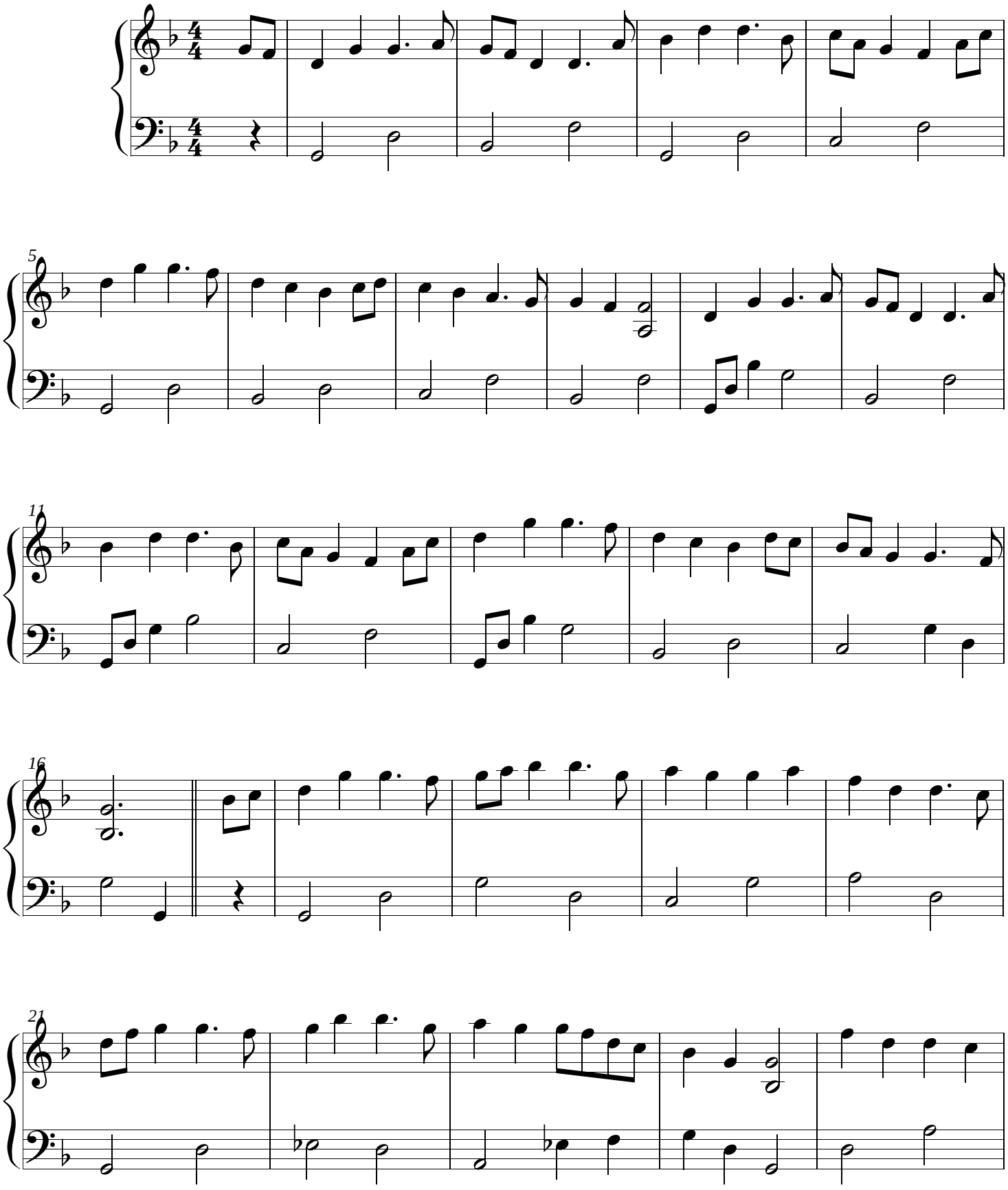
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

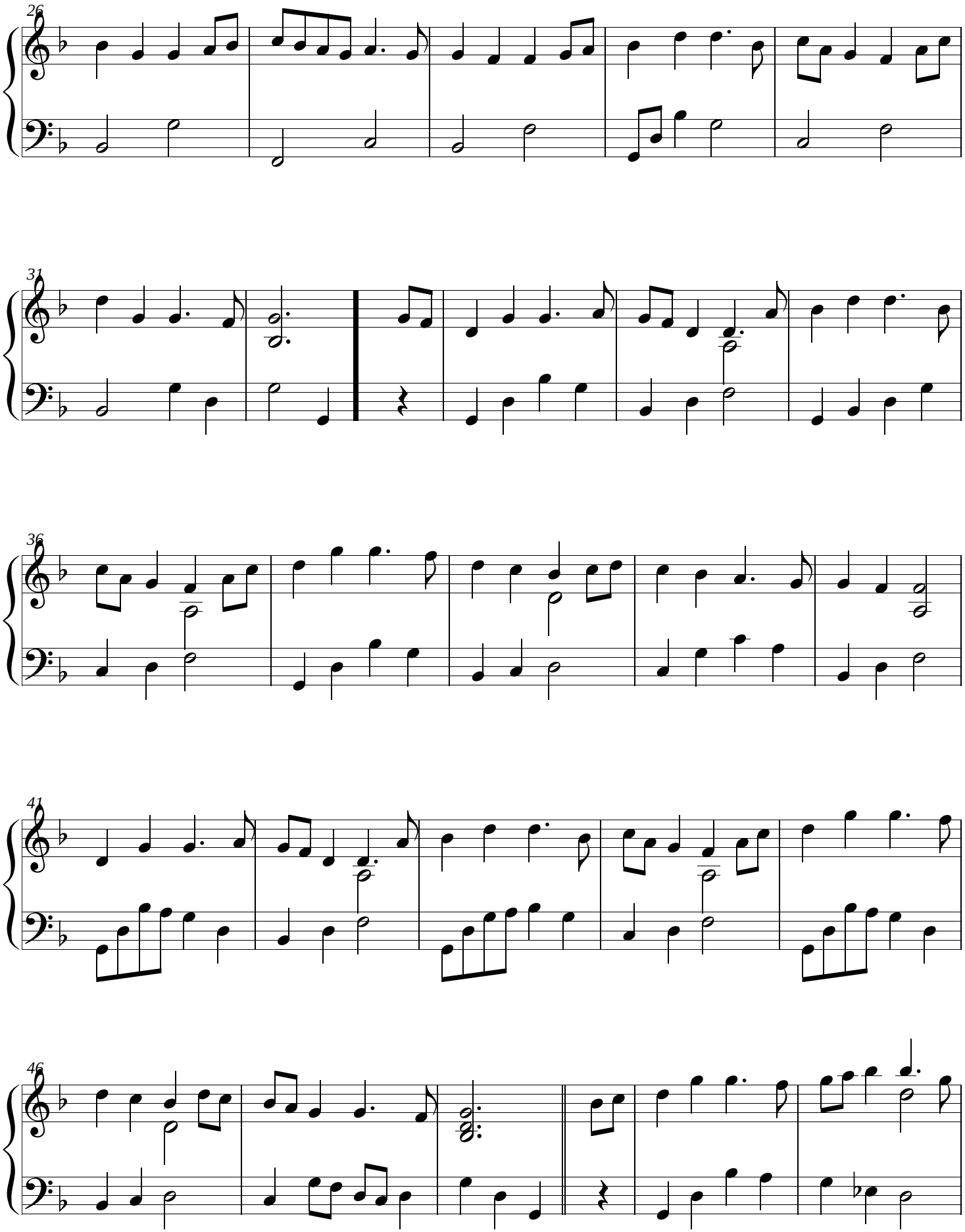


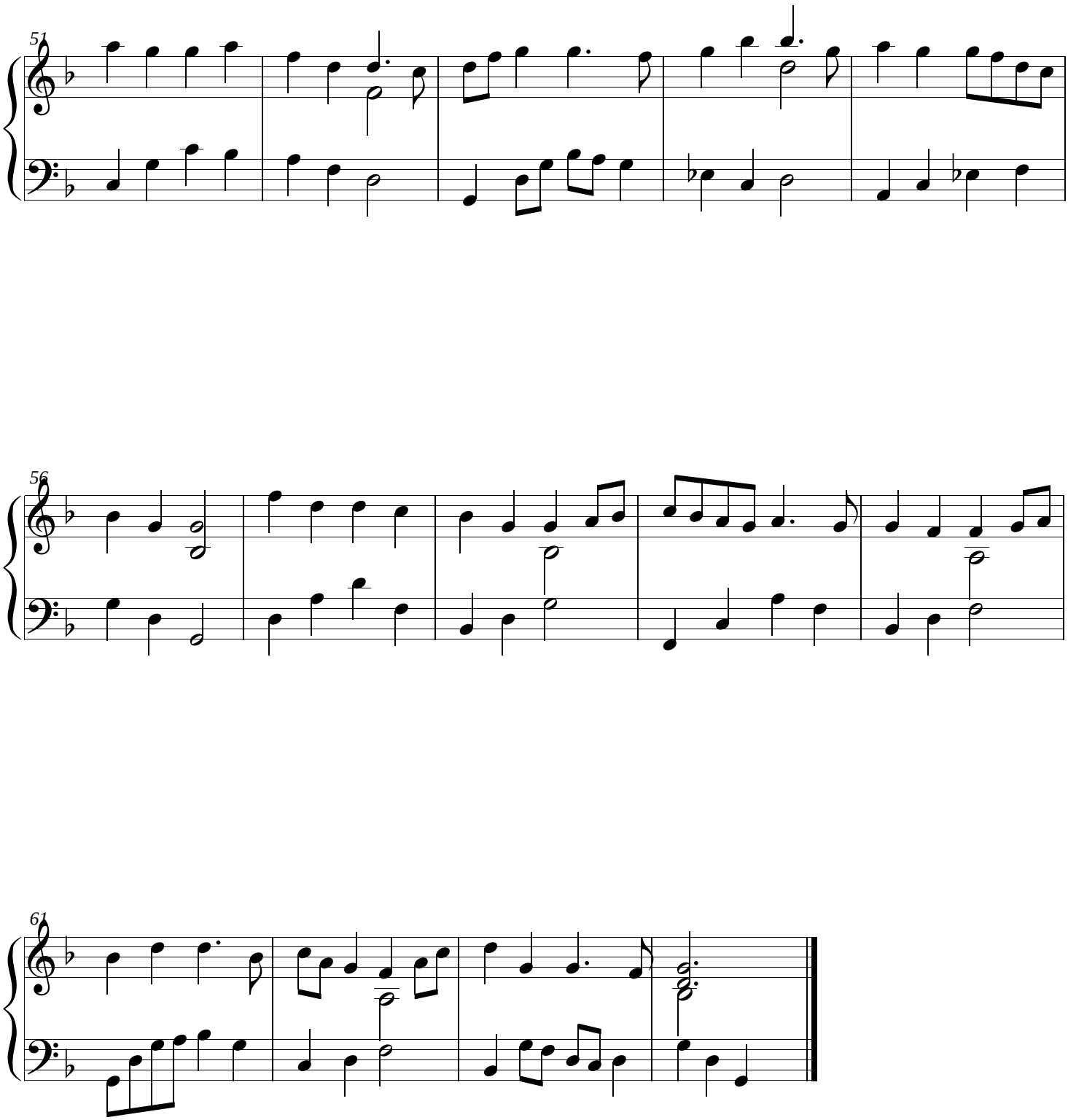

21
26
31
36

The Bighorn Sheep of Texas

Stephen Wentworth Arndt

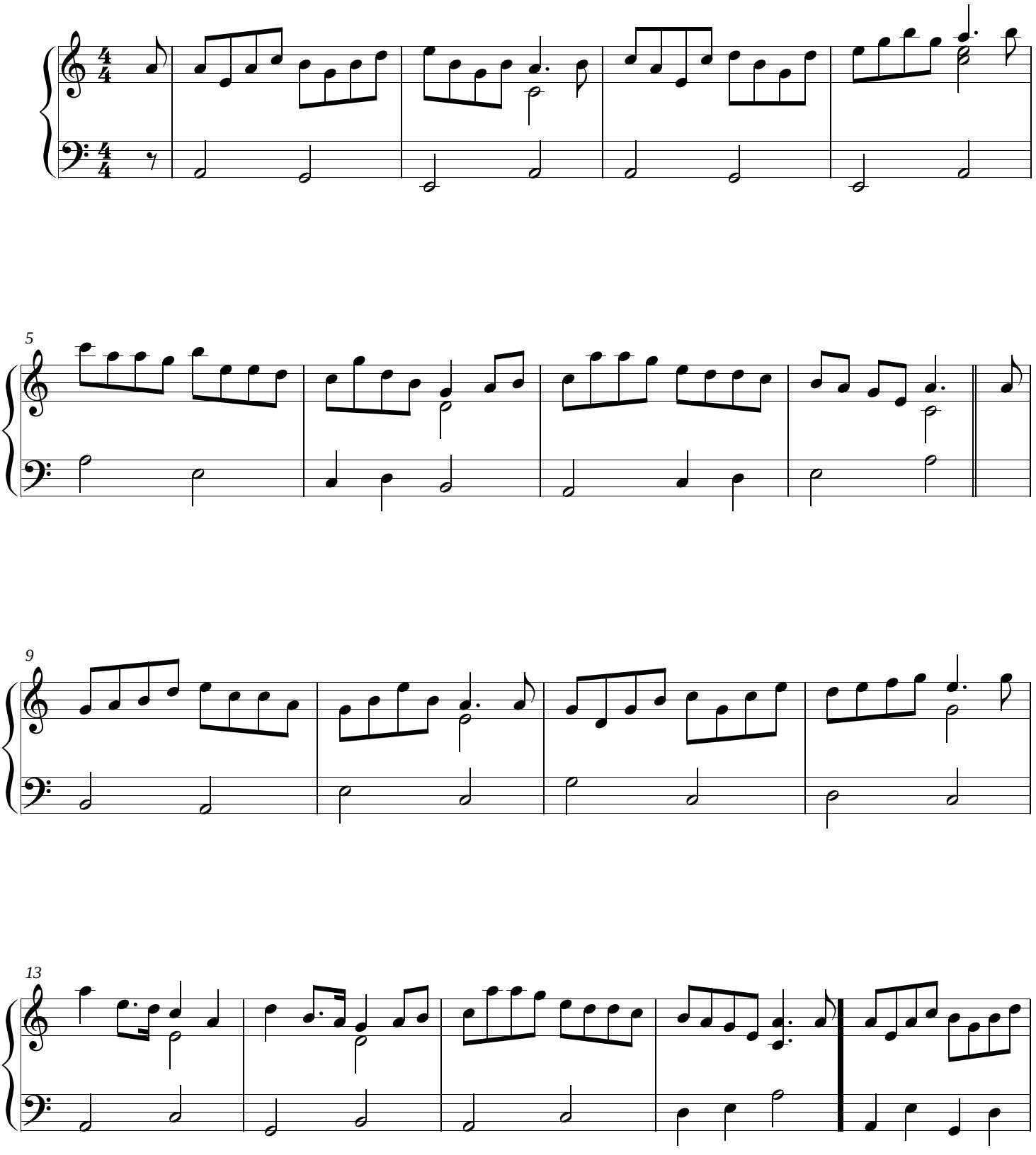


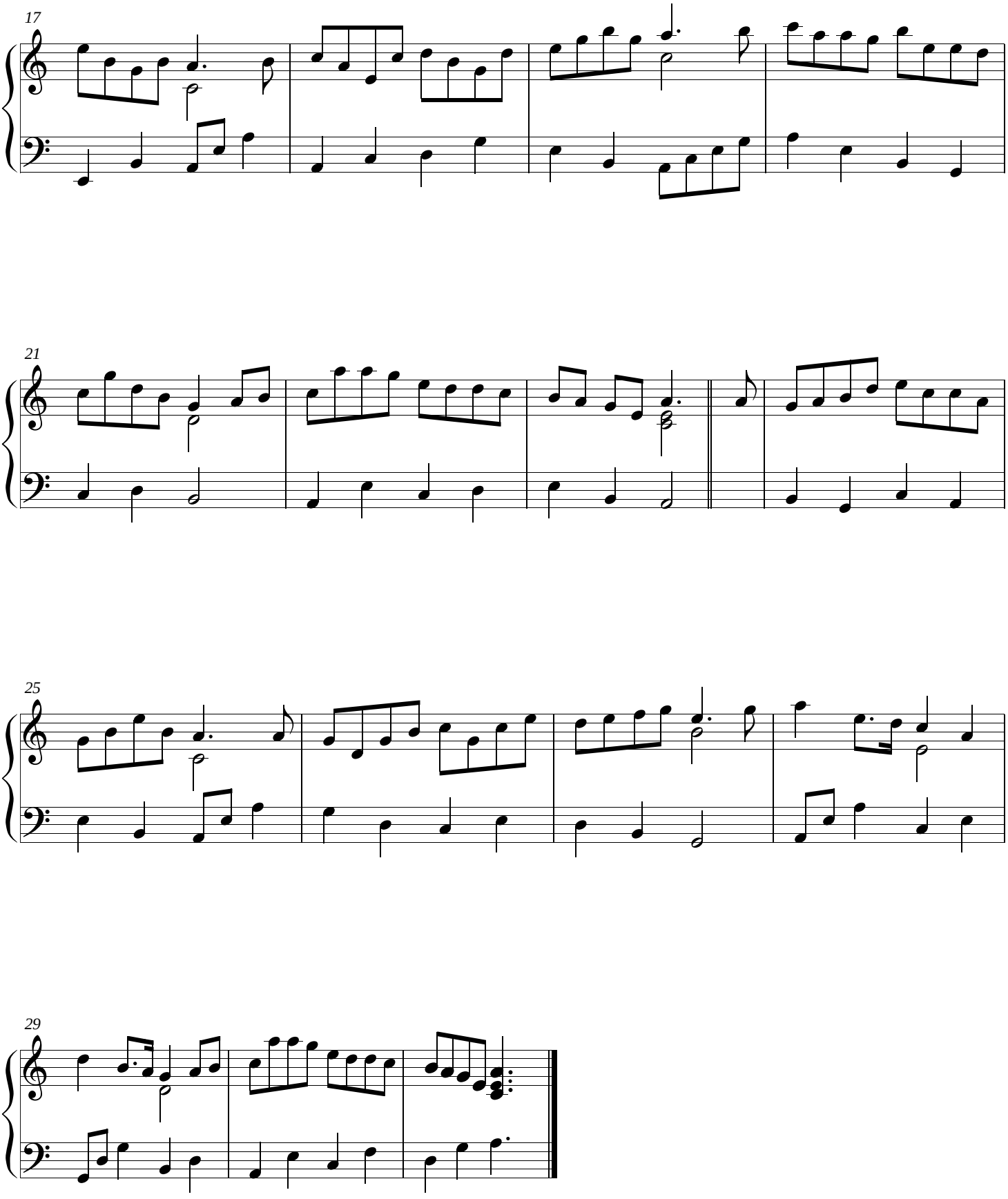

26
31
36
41
46


51
56
61

The Texas Panhandle

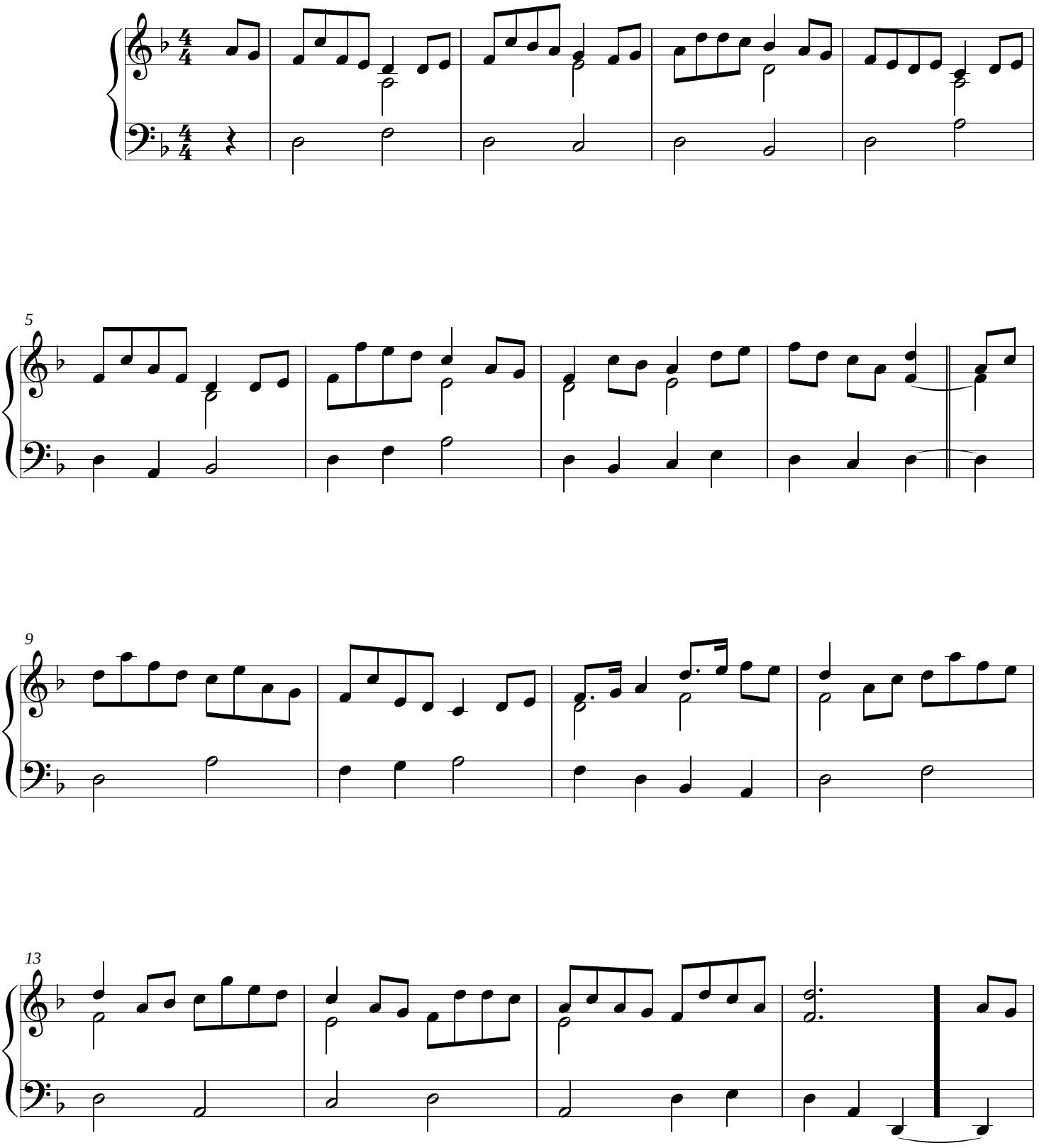
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

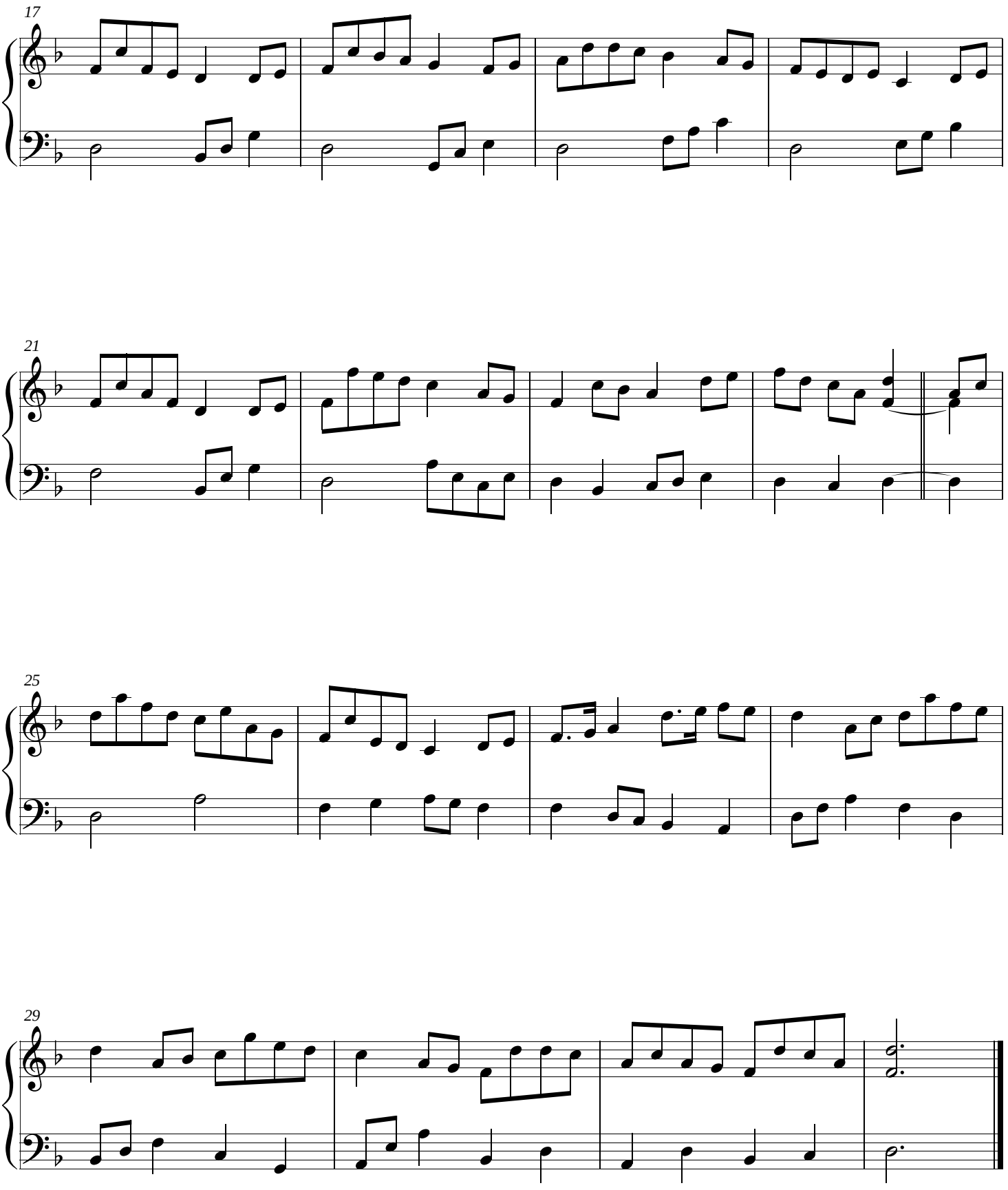



17
21
25
29

The Texas Mesquite

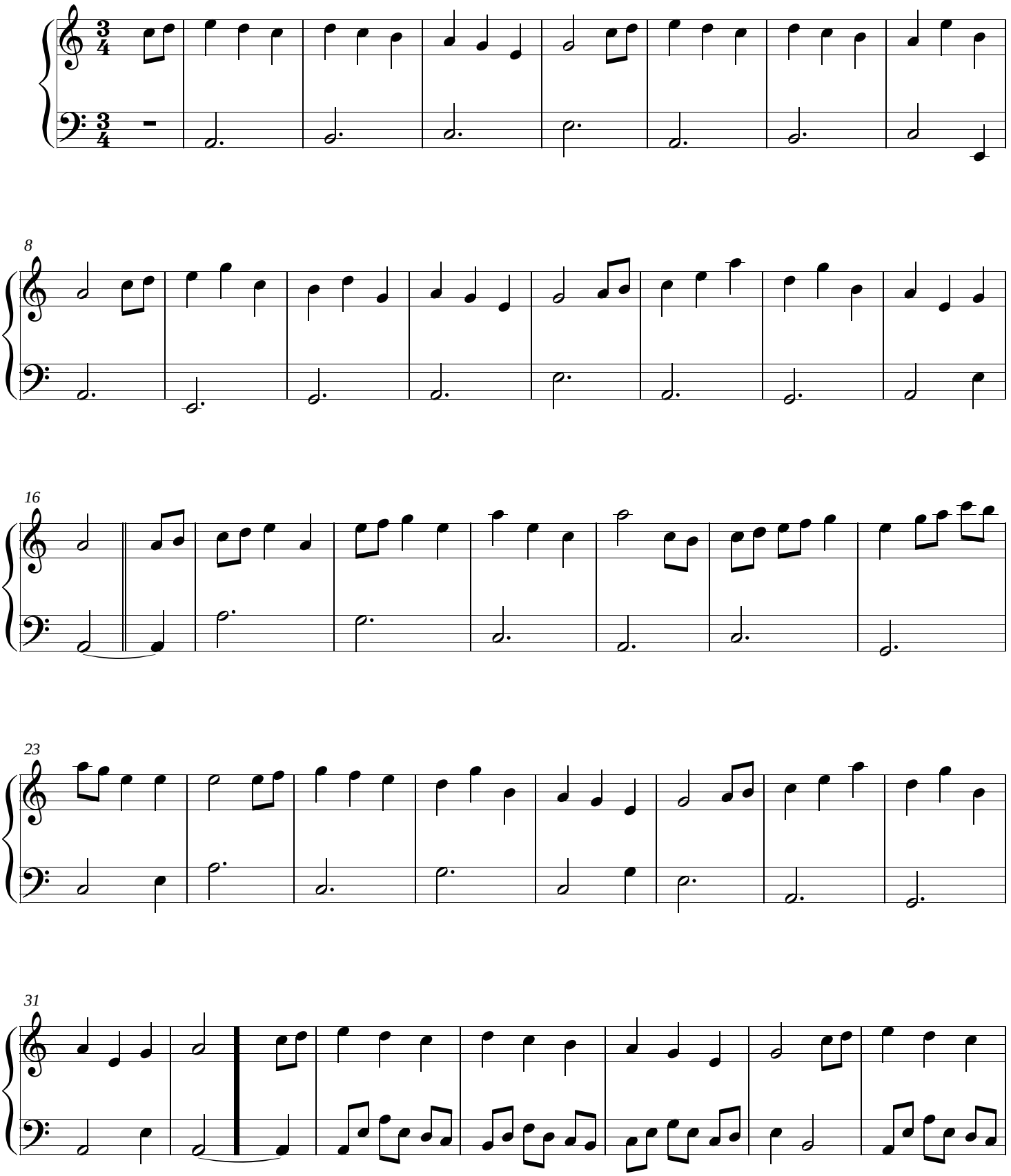
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

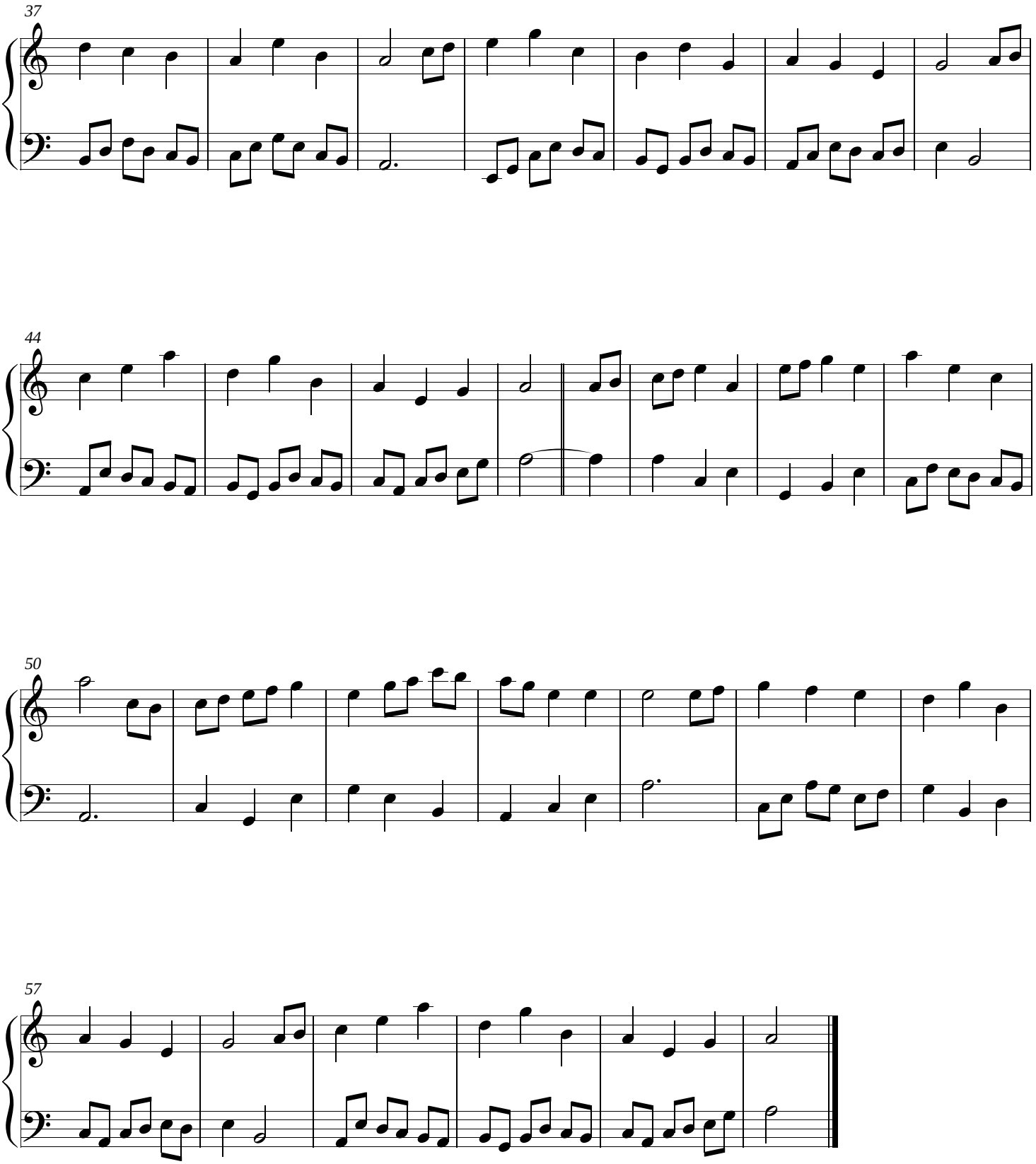



17
21
25
29

The Texas Mustangs

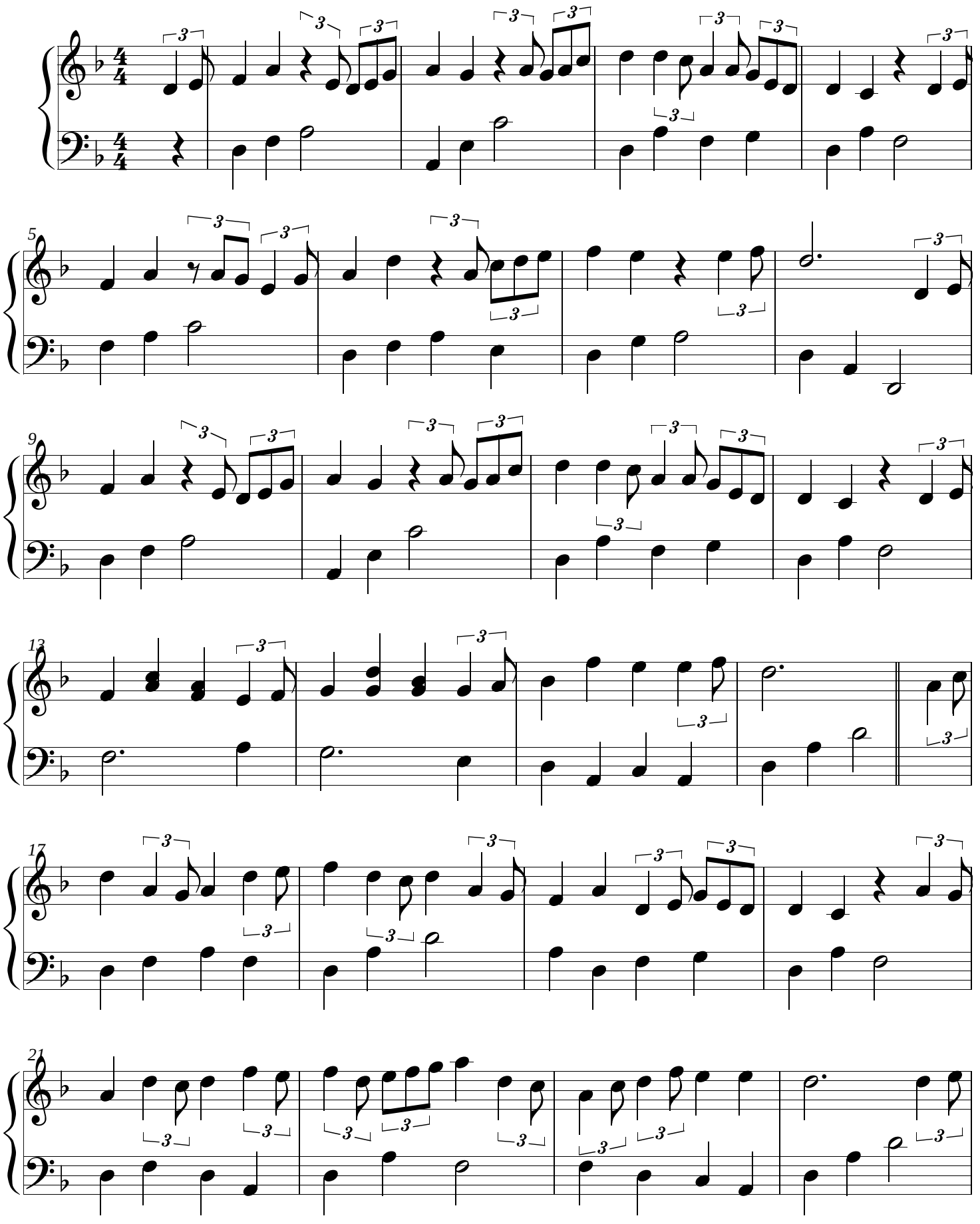
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

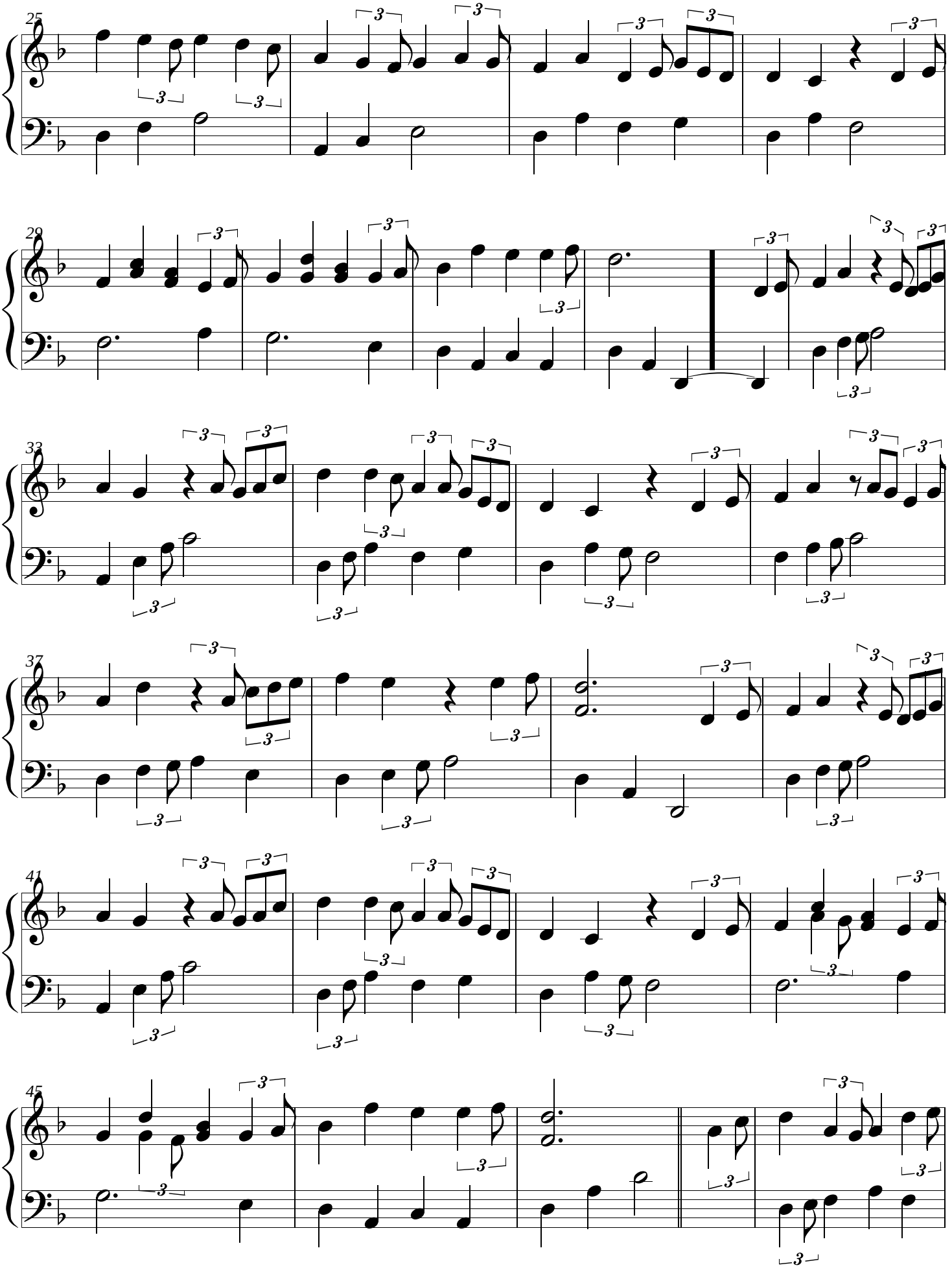


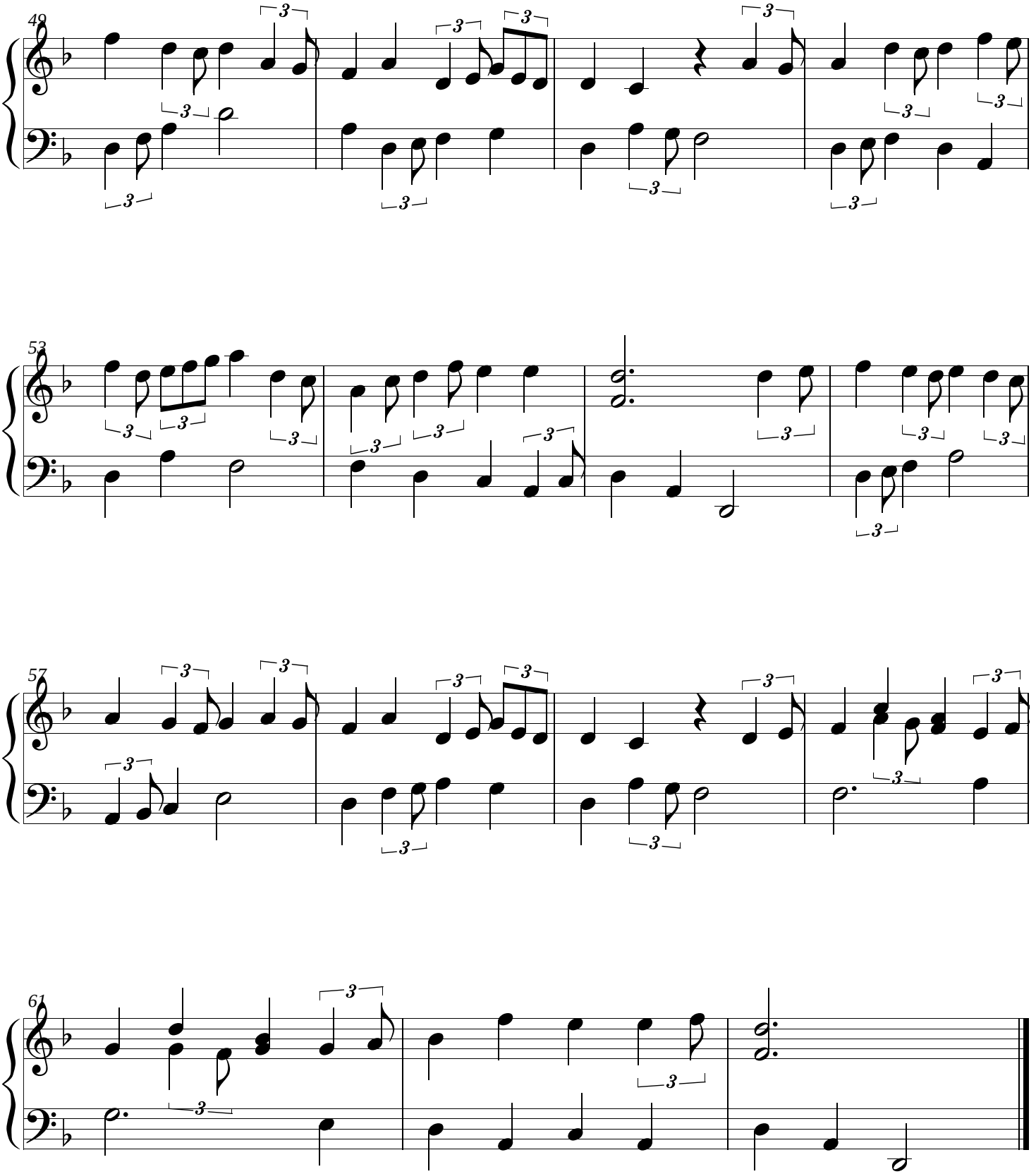

37
44
50
57

The Gulf Coast of Texas

Stephen Wentworth Arndt

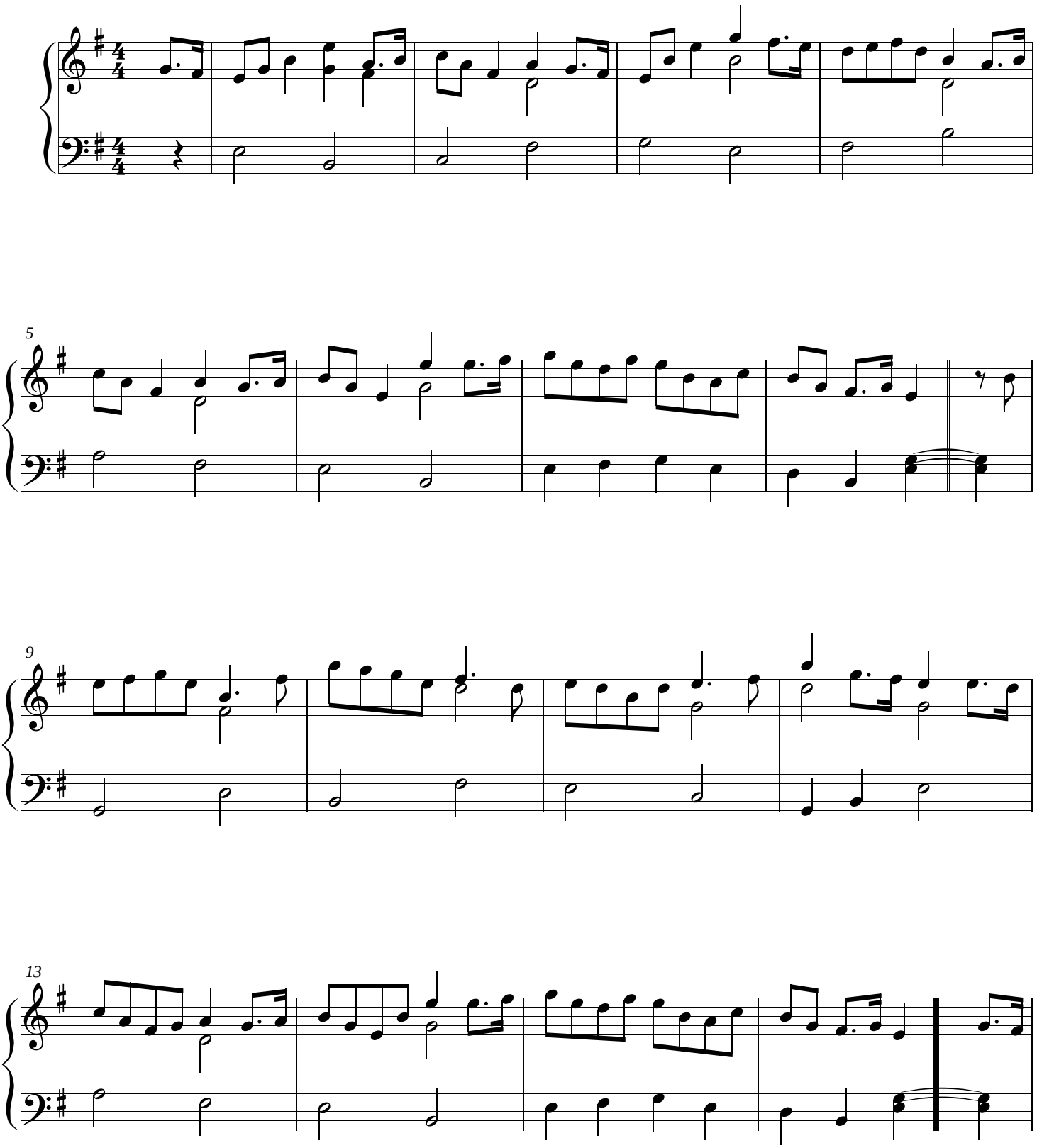


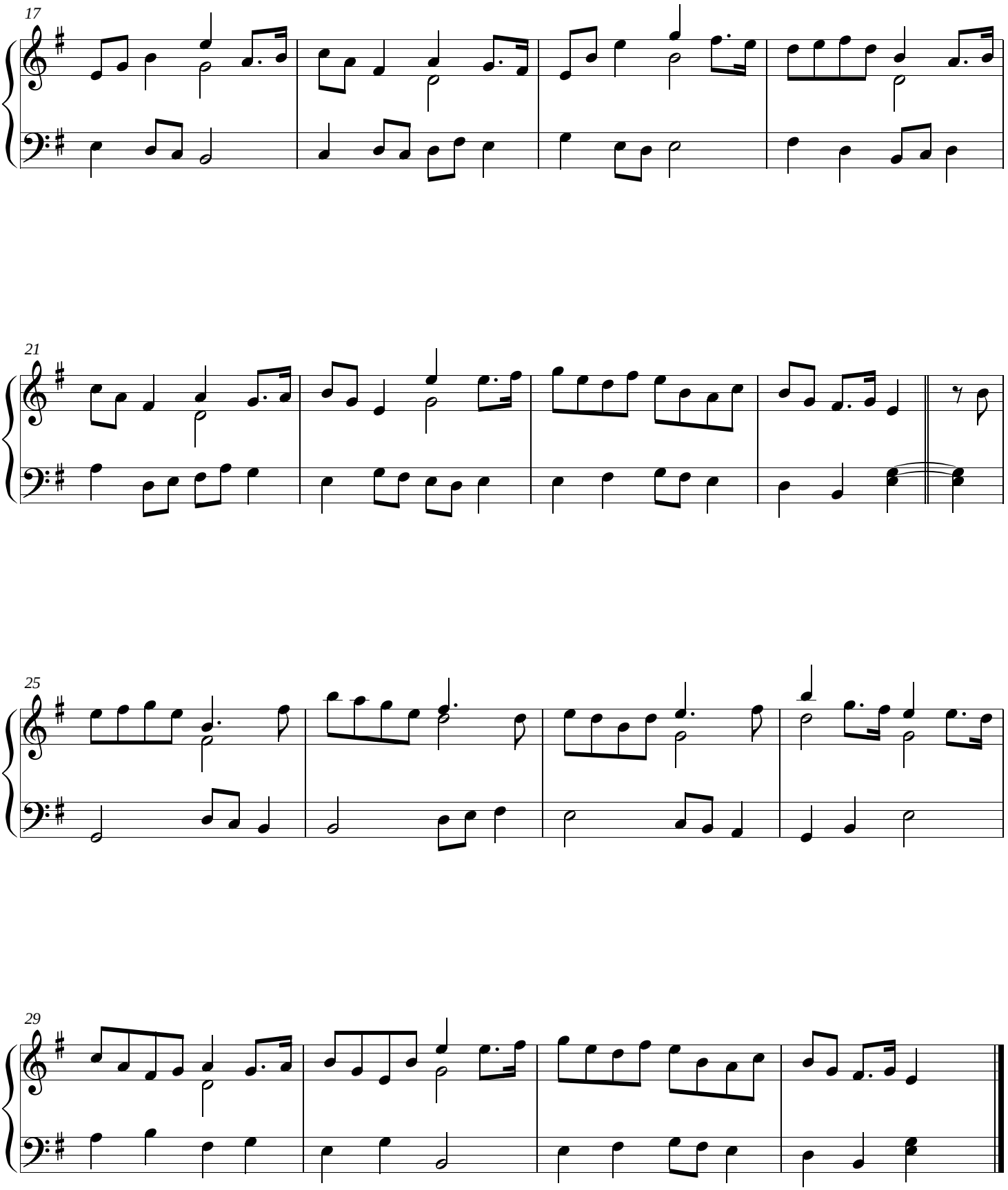

25
29
33
37
41
45


49
53
57
61

The Texas Tumbleweeds

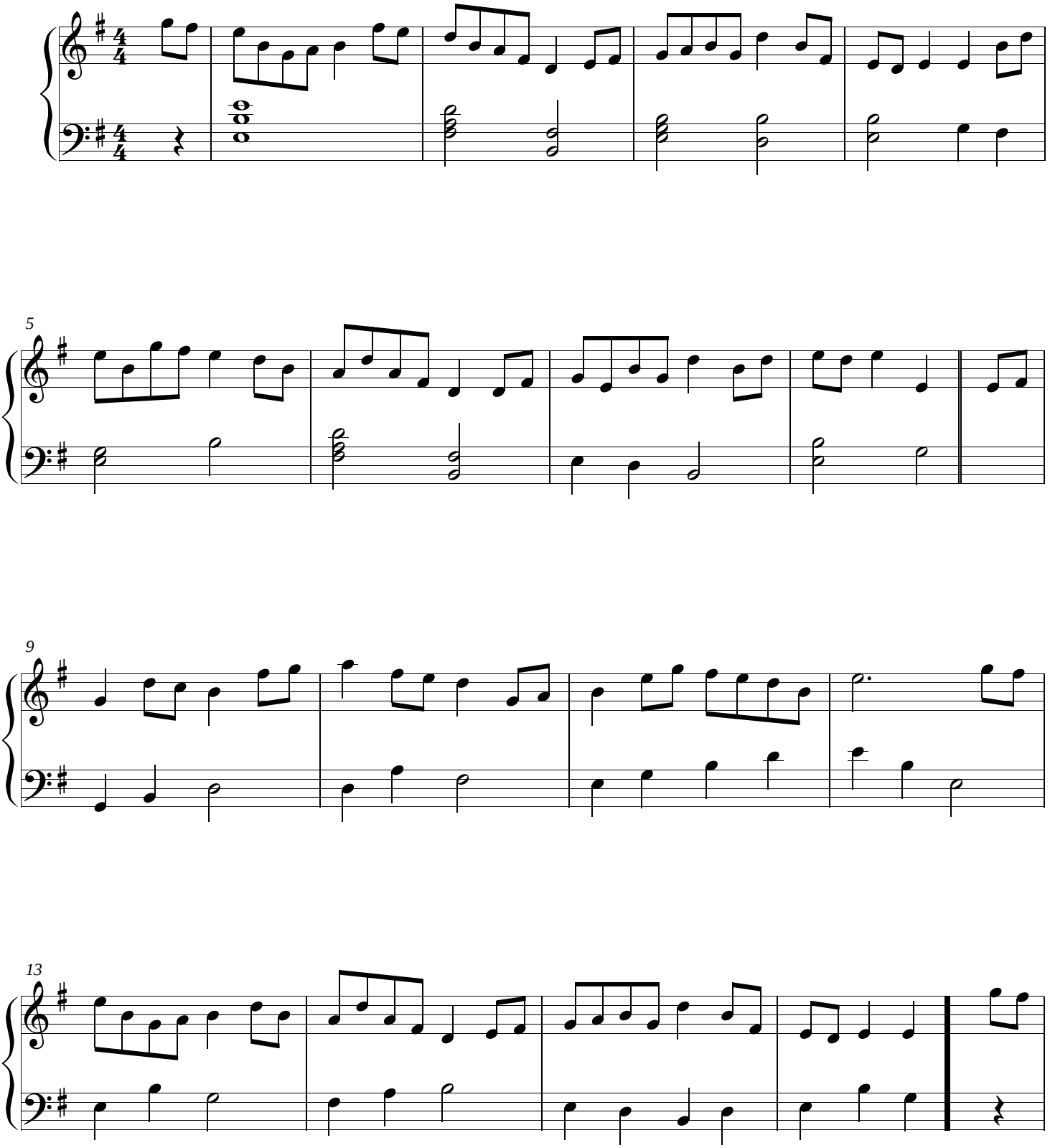
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

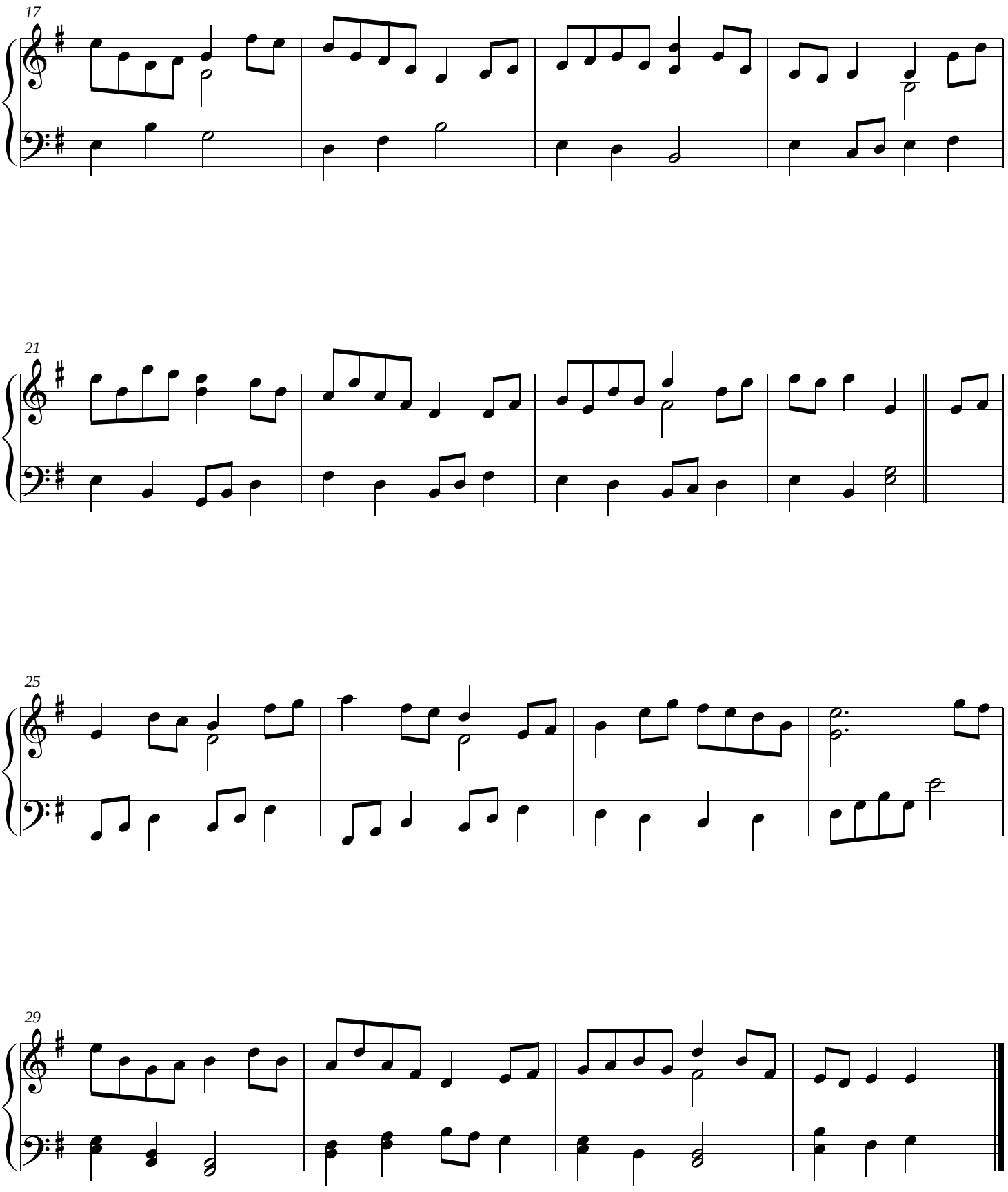



17
21
25
29

The Texas Coyote

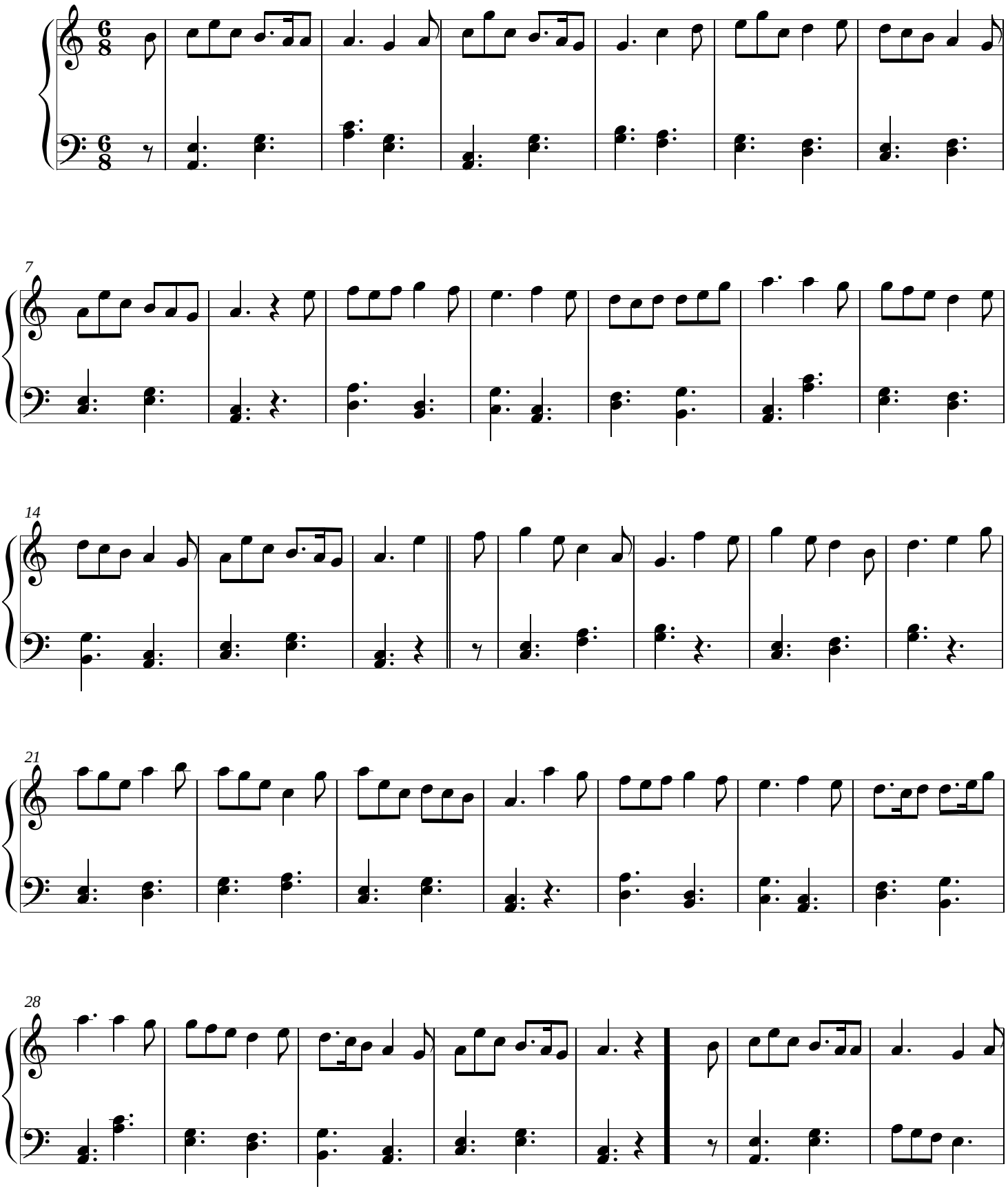
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

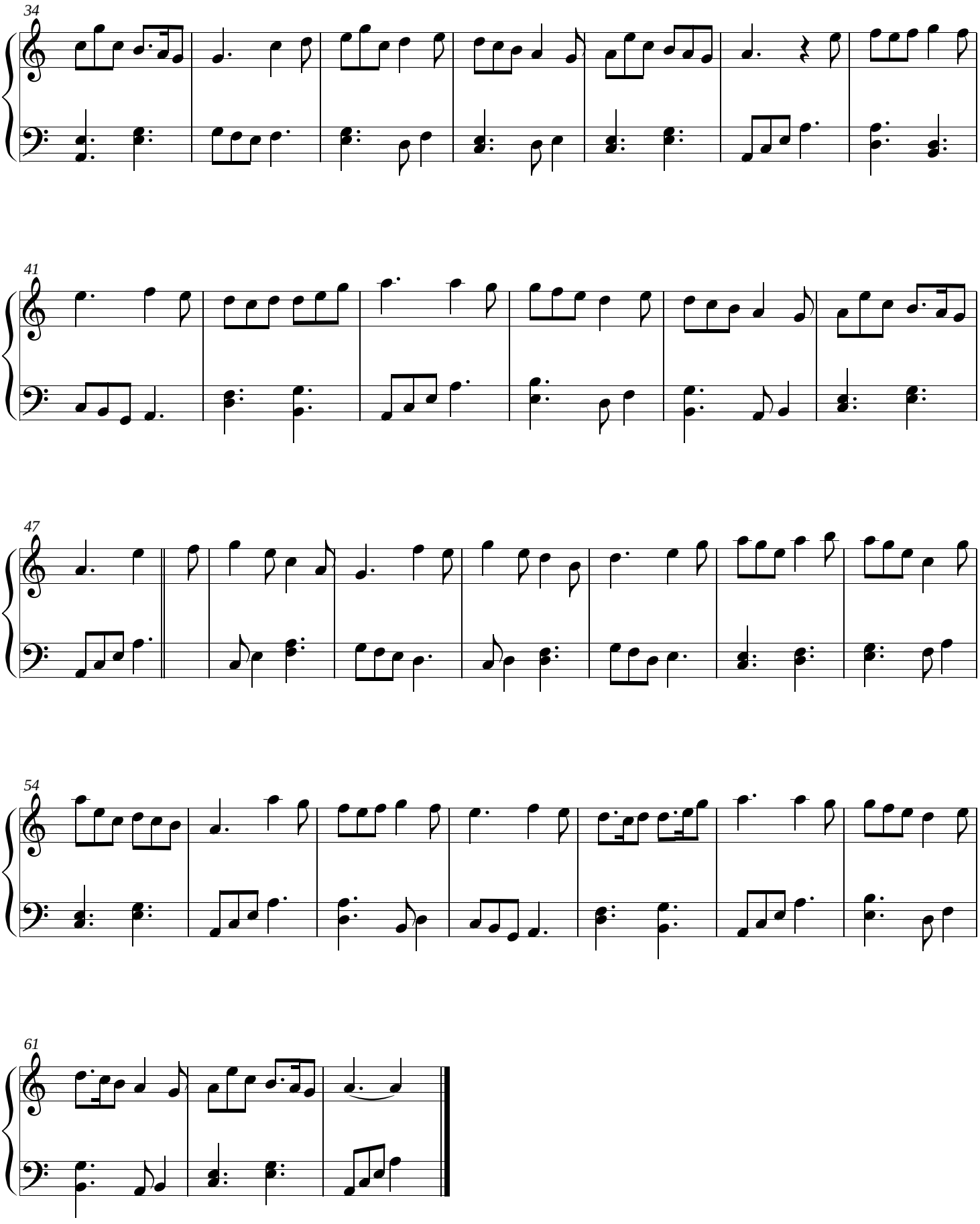



17
21
25
29

The Texas Blacklands

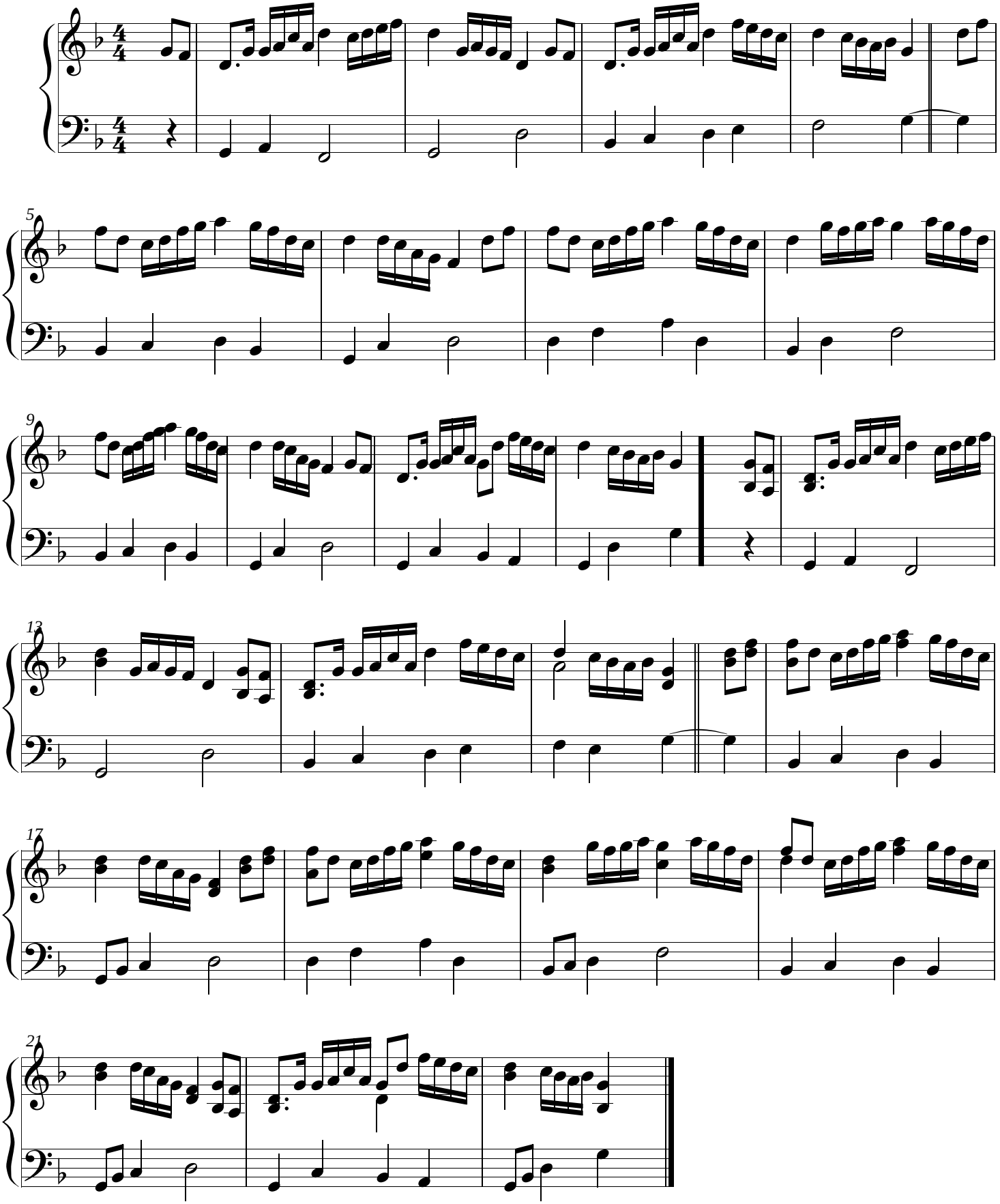
Stephen Wentworth Arndt




34
41
47
54
61

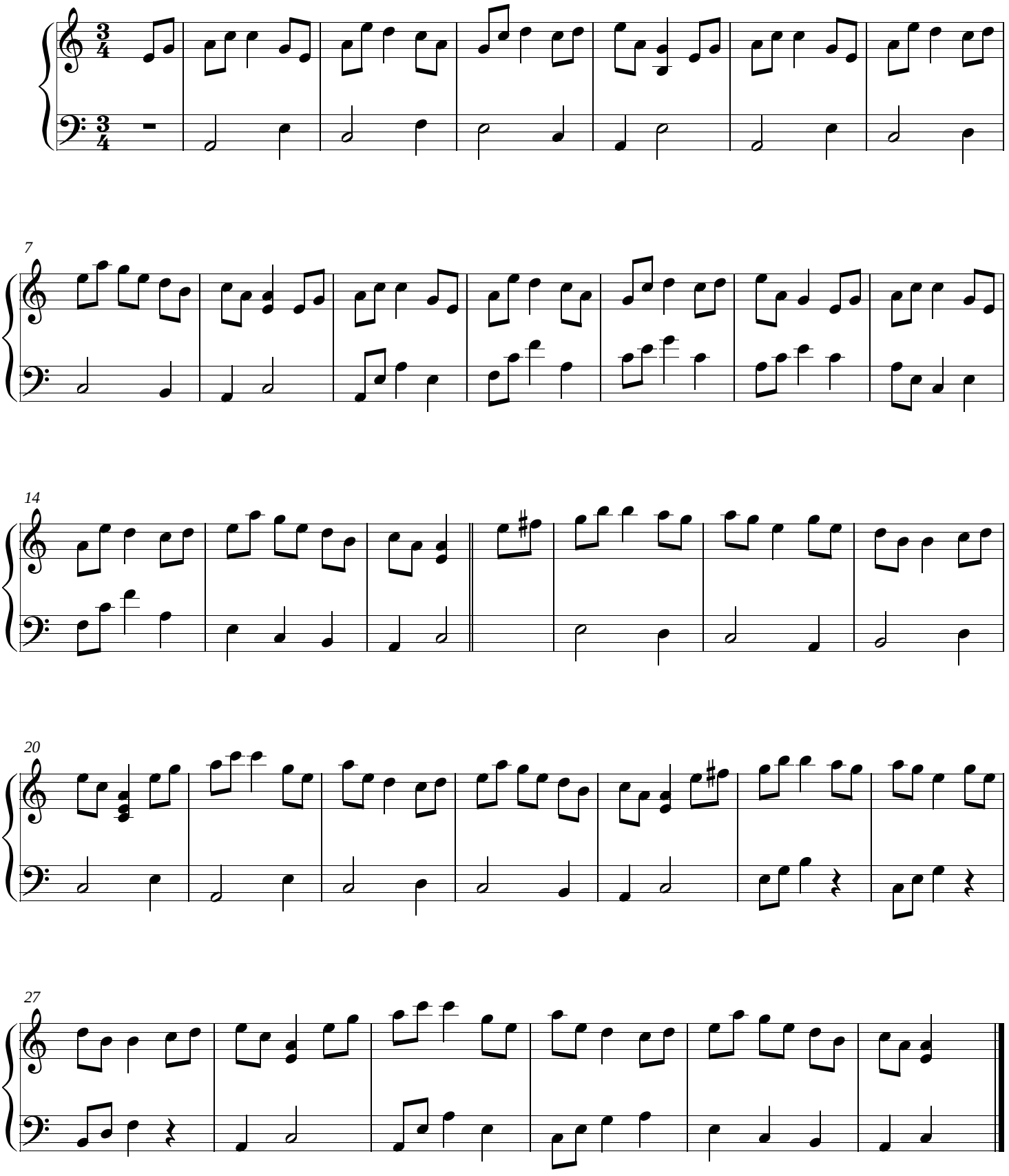
The Texas Prickly Pear

Stephen Wentworth Arndt



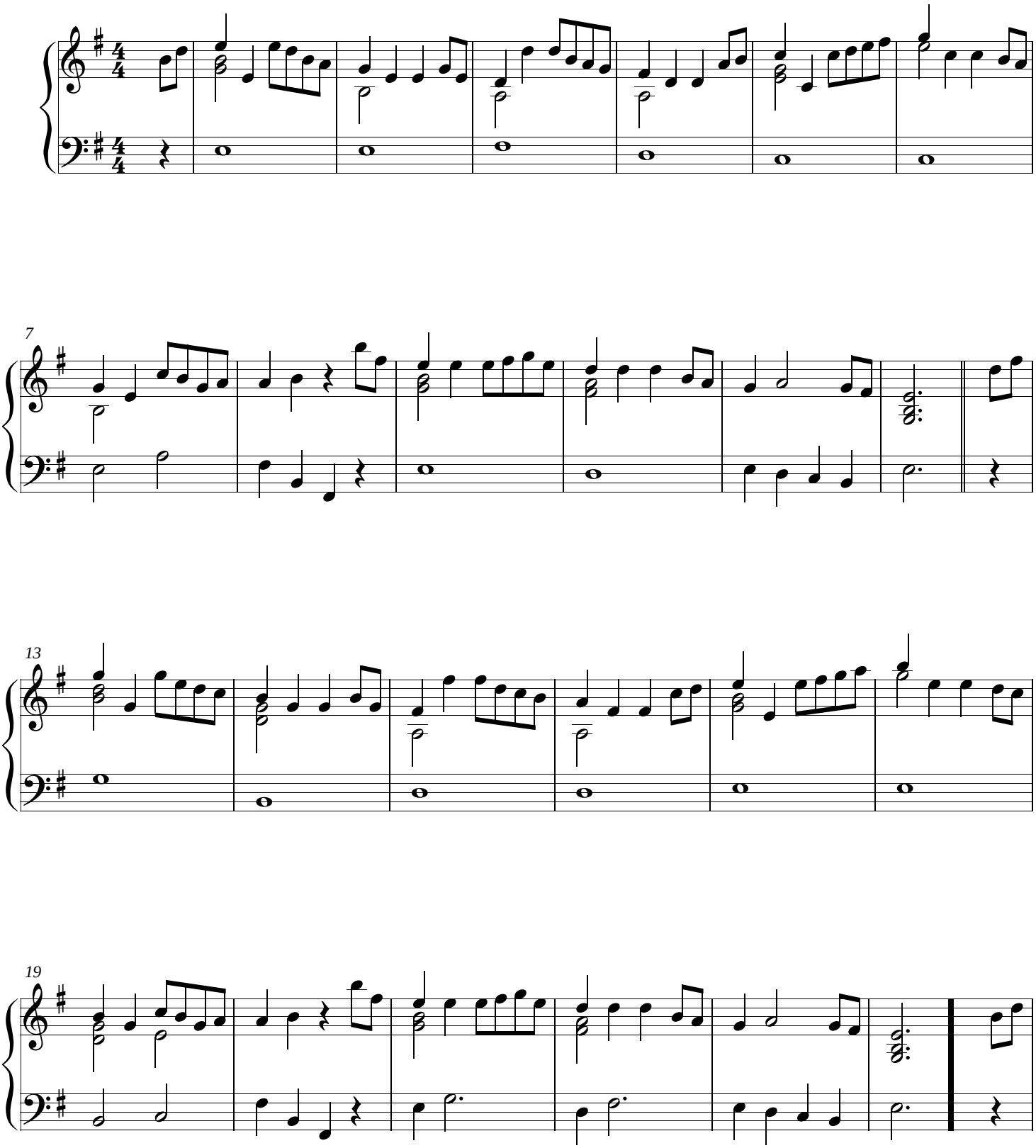
The Texas Prairie Dog

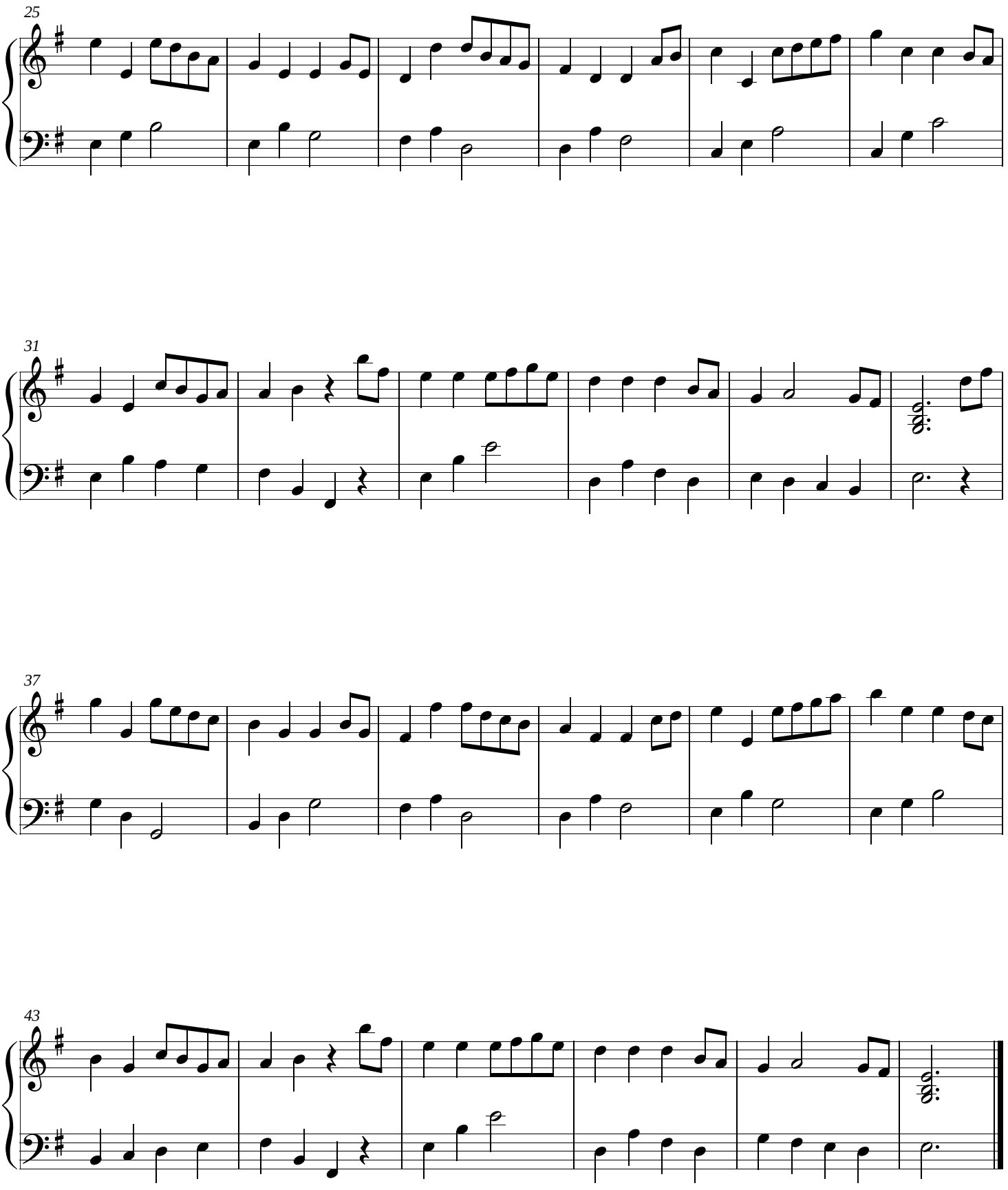
Stephen Wentworth Arndt



The Texas Hill Country

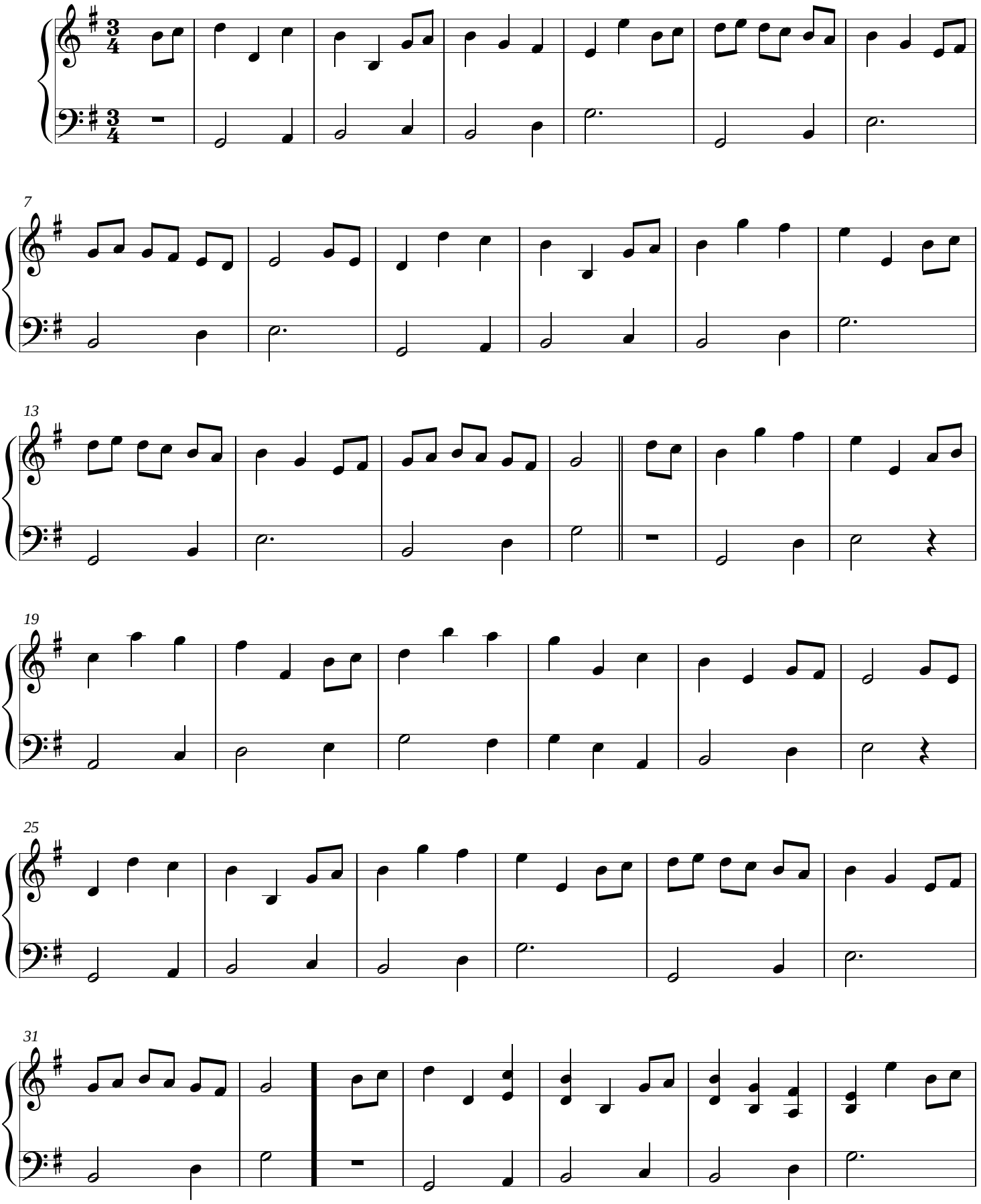
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

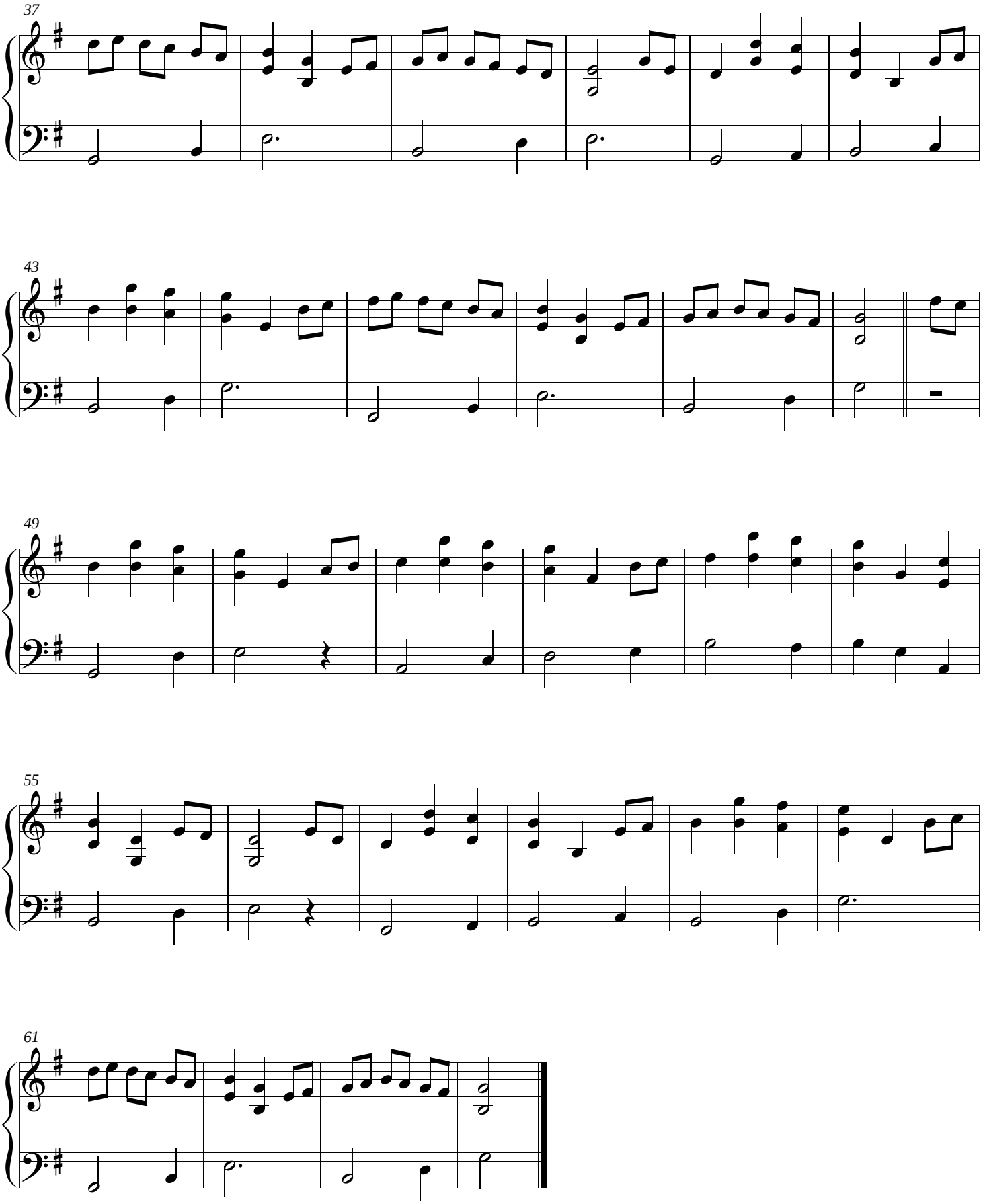



25
31
37
43

The Texas Sunflowers

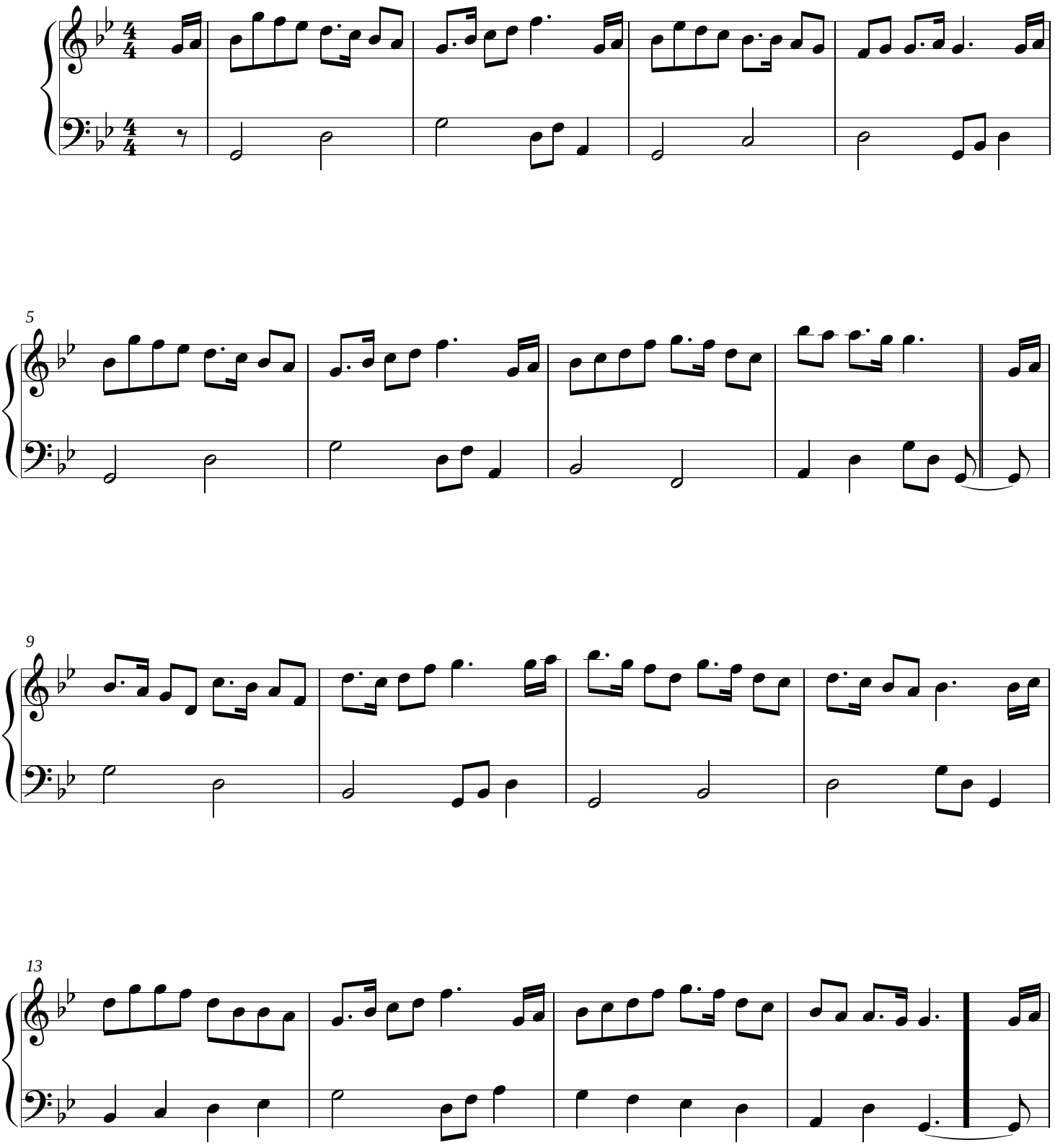
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

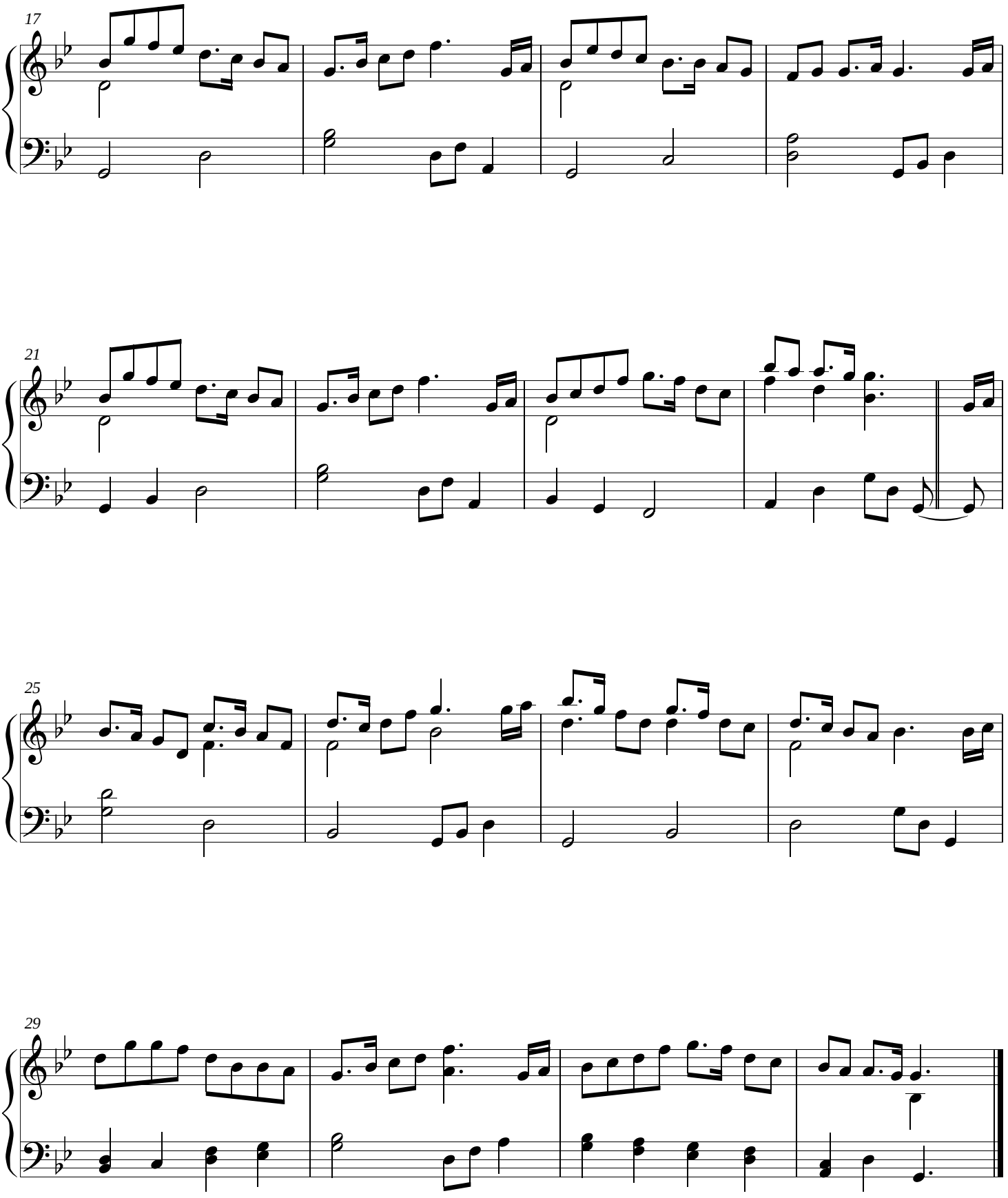



37
43
49
55
61

The Gray Wolf of Texas

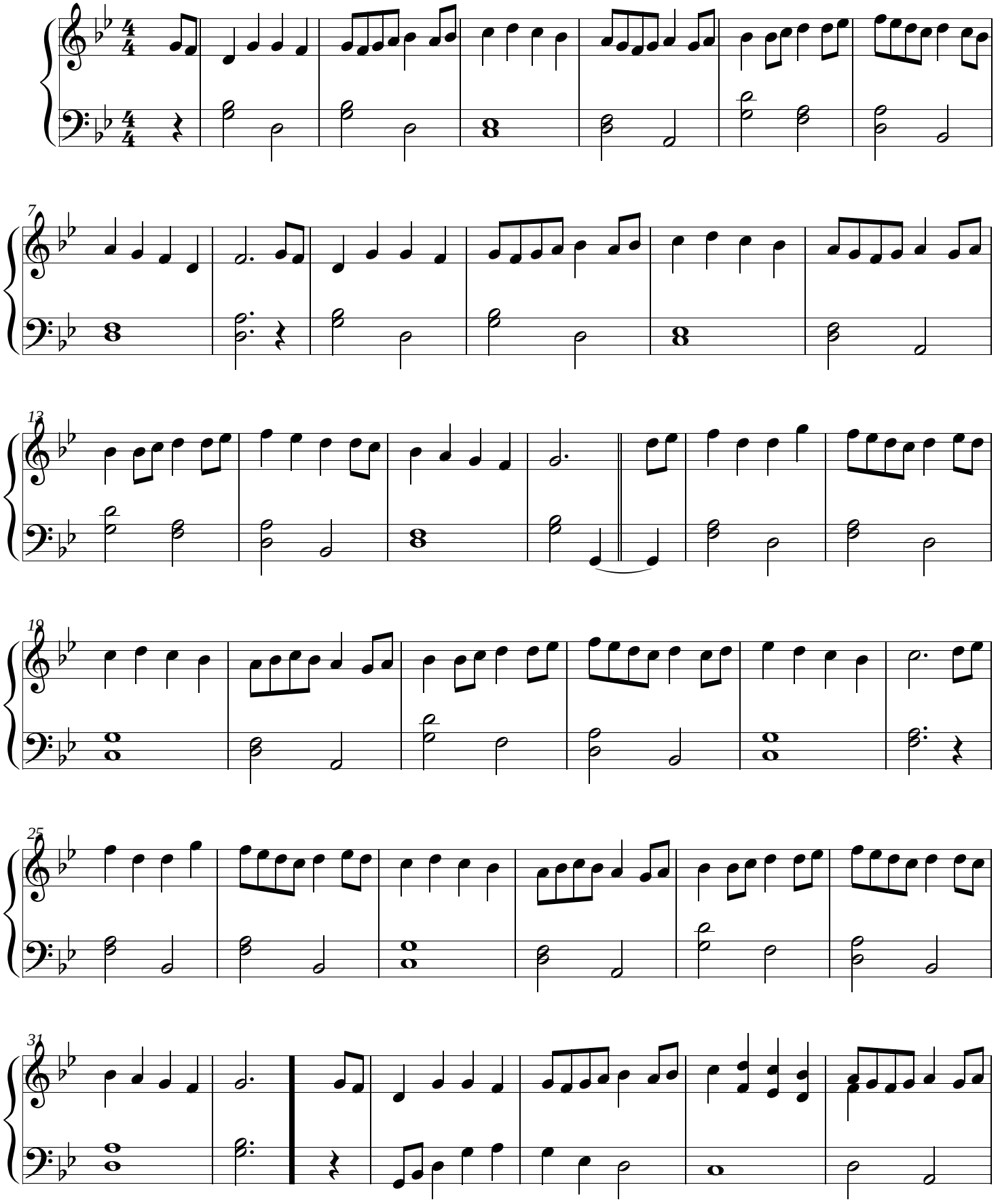
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

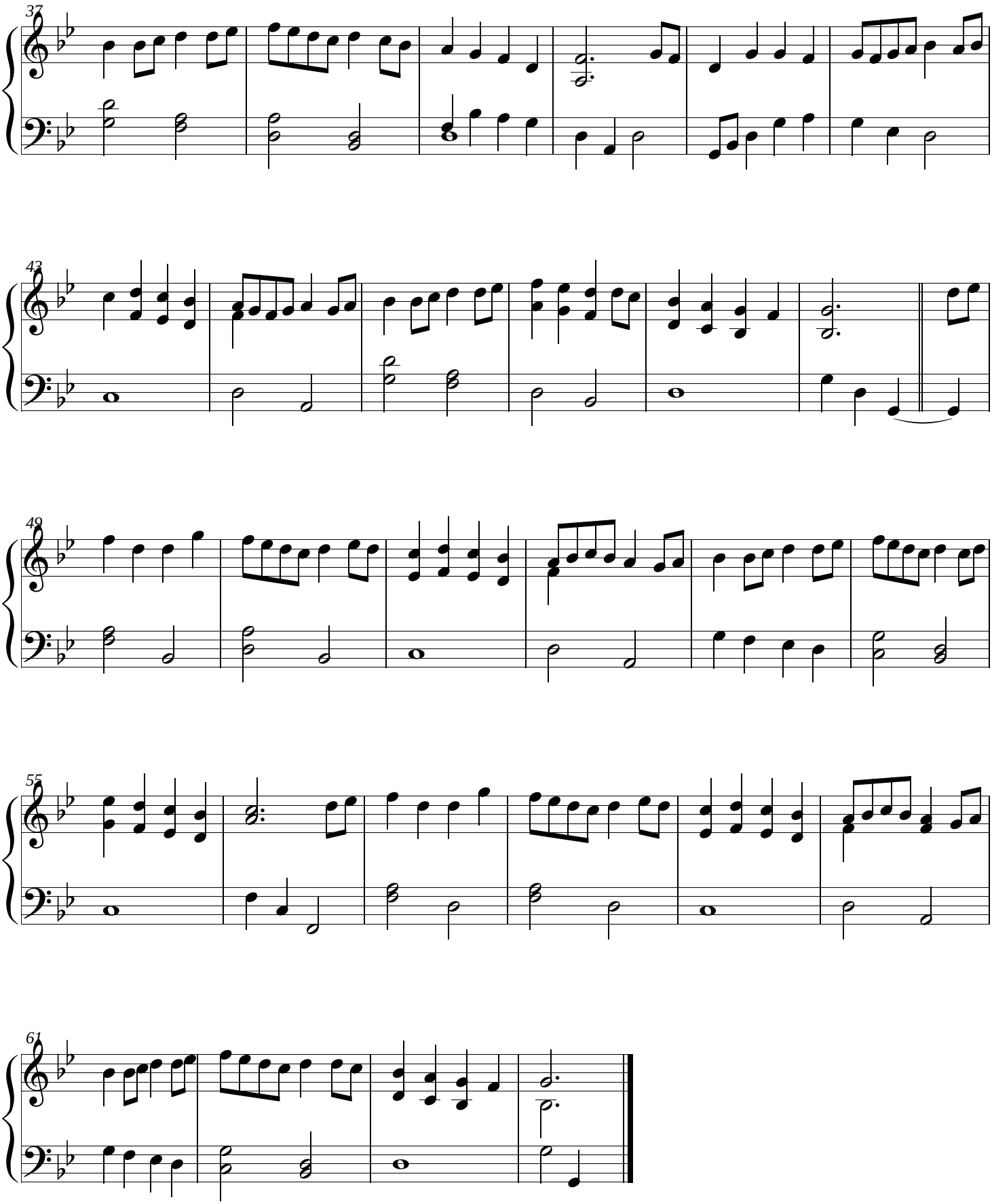



17
21
25
29

The Piney Woods of Texas

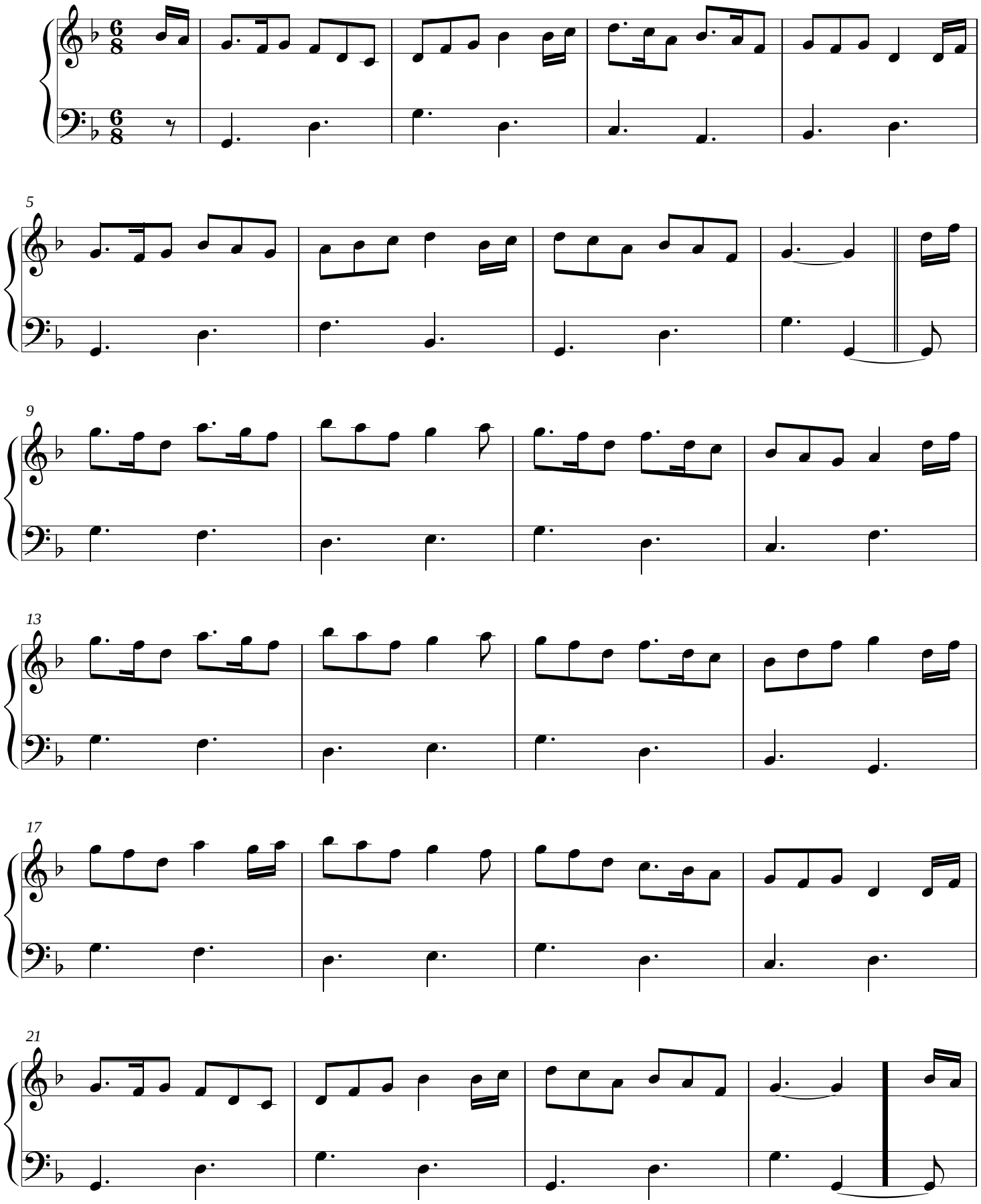
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

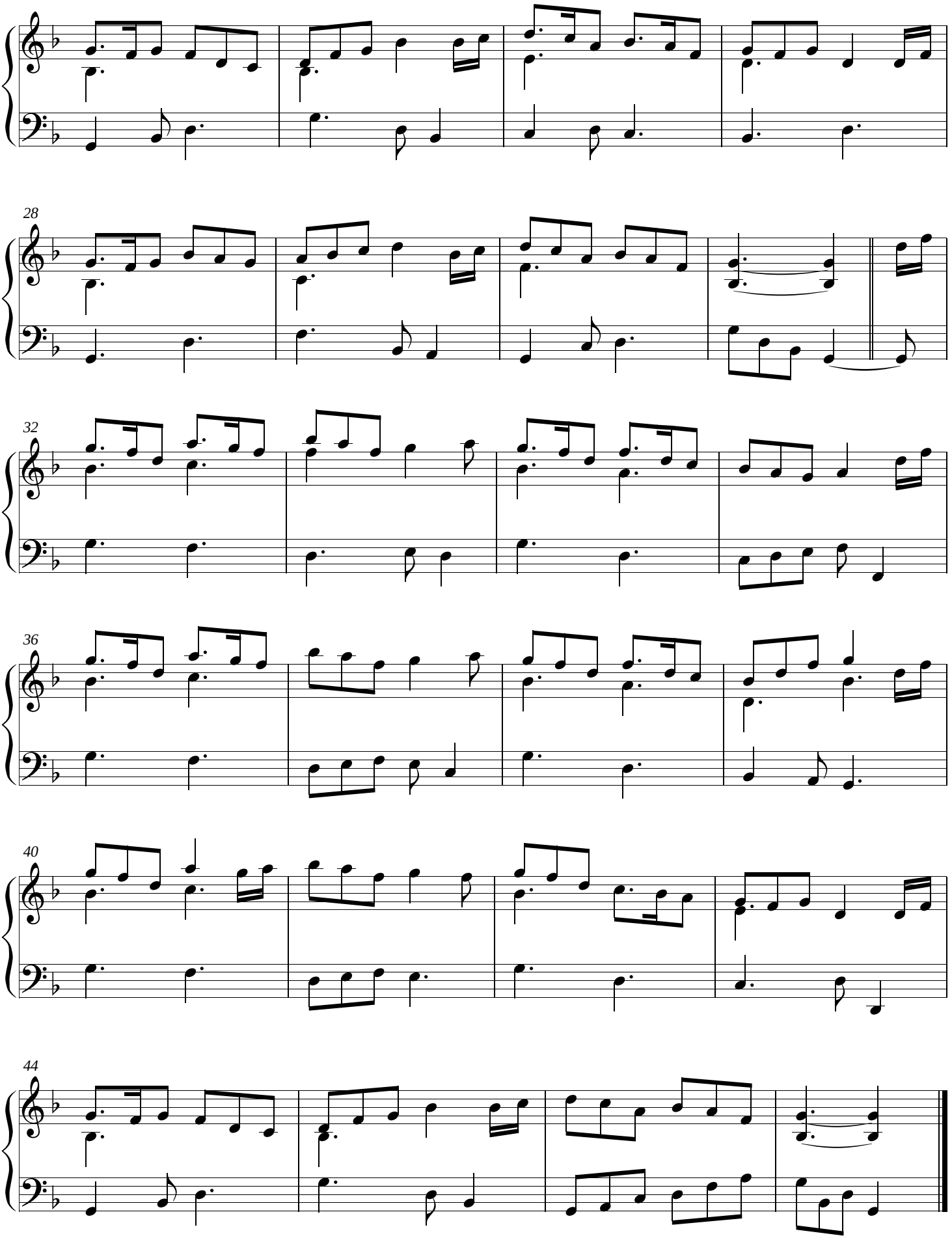



37
43
49
55
61

The Redbud Trees of Texas

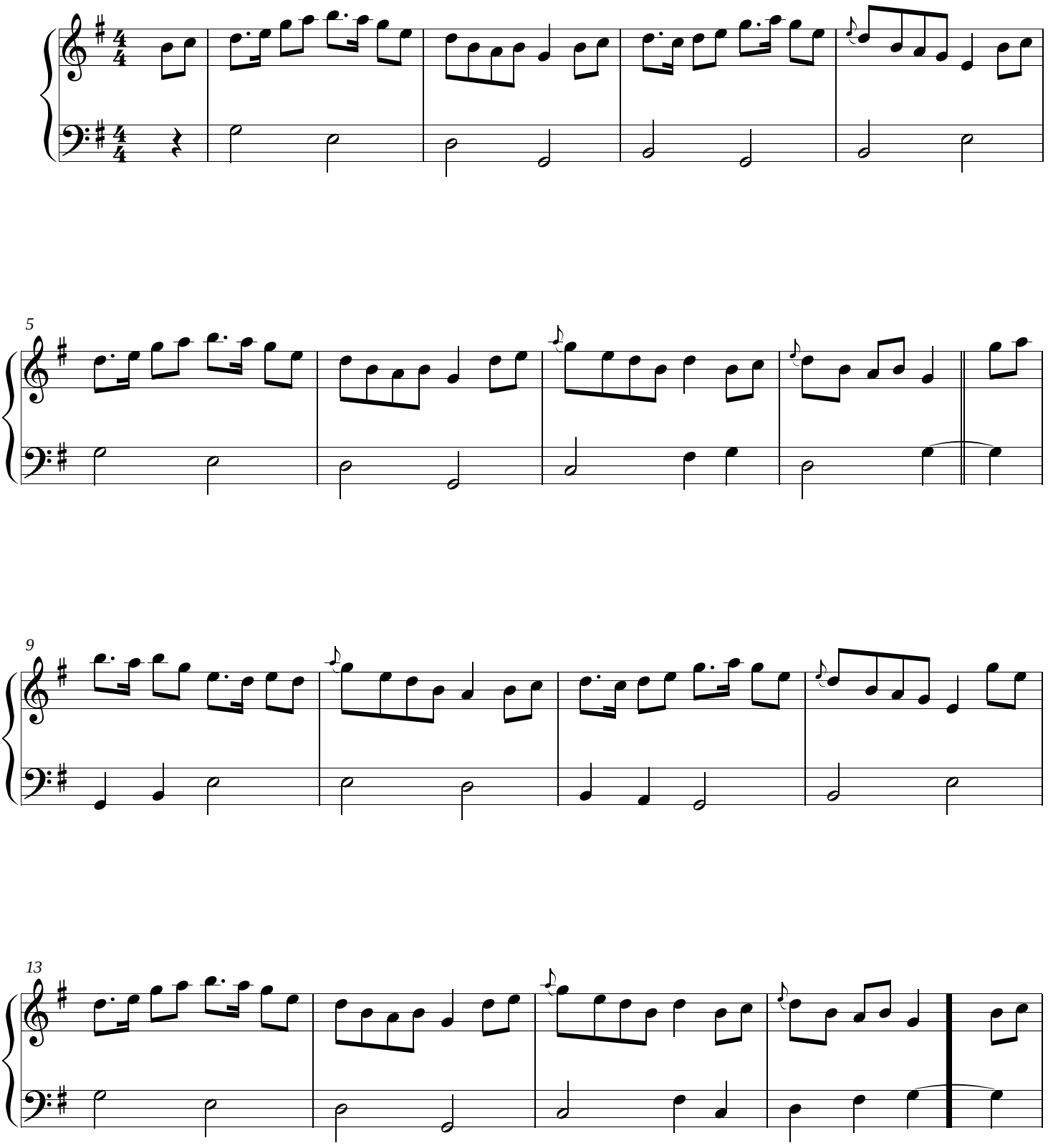
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

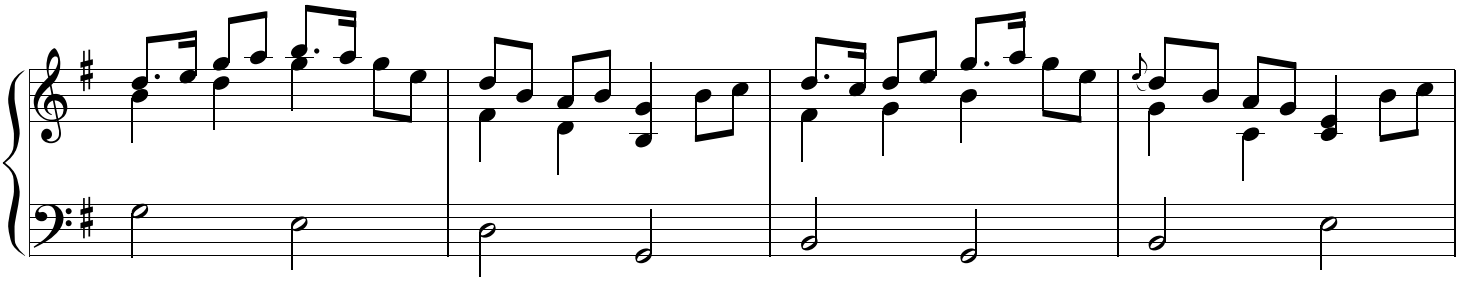


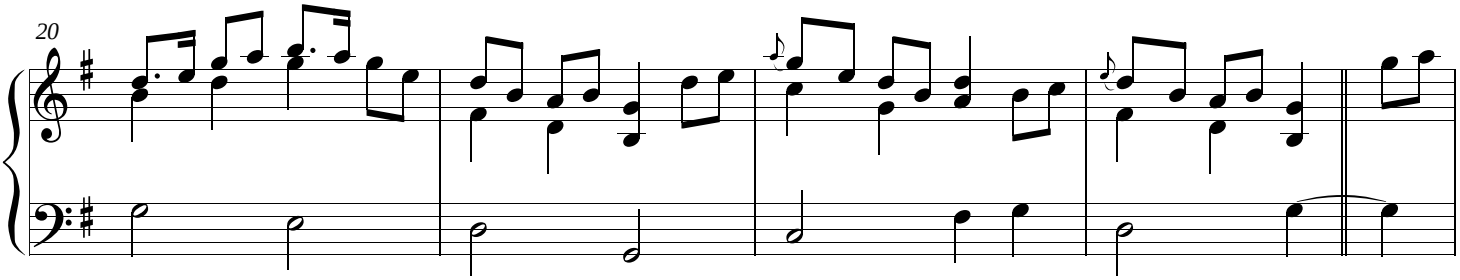

28
32
36
40
44

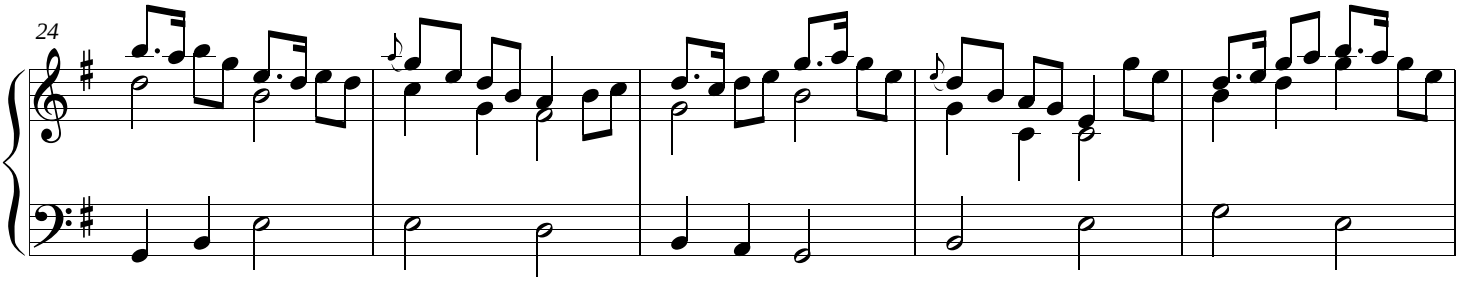
The Texas Armadillo

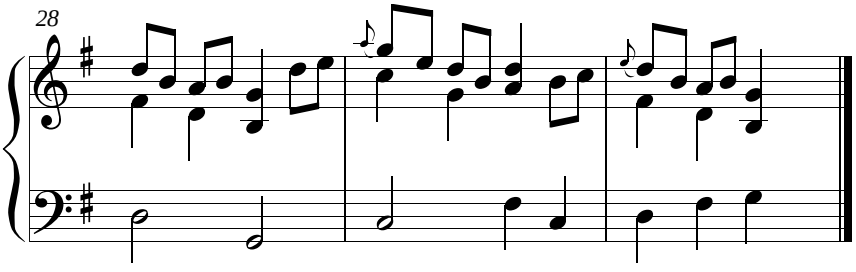
Stephen Wentworth Arndt





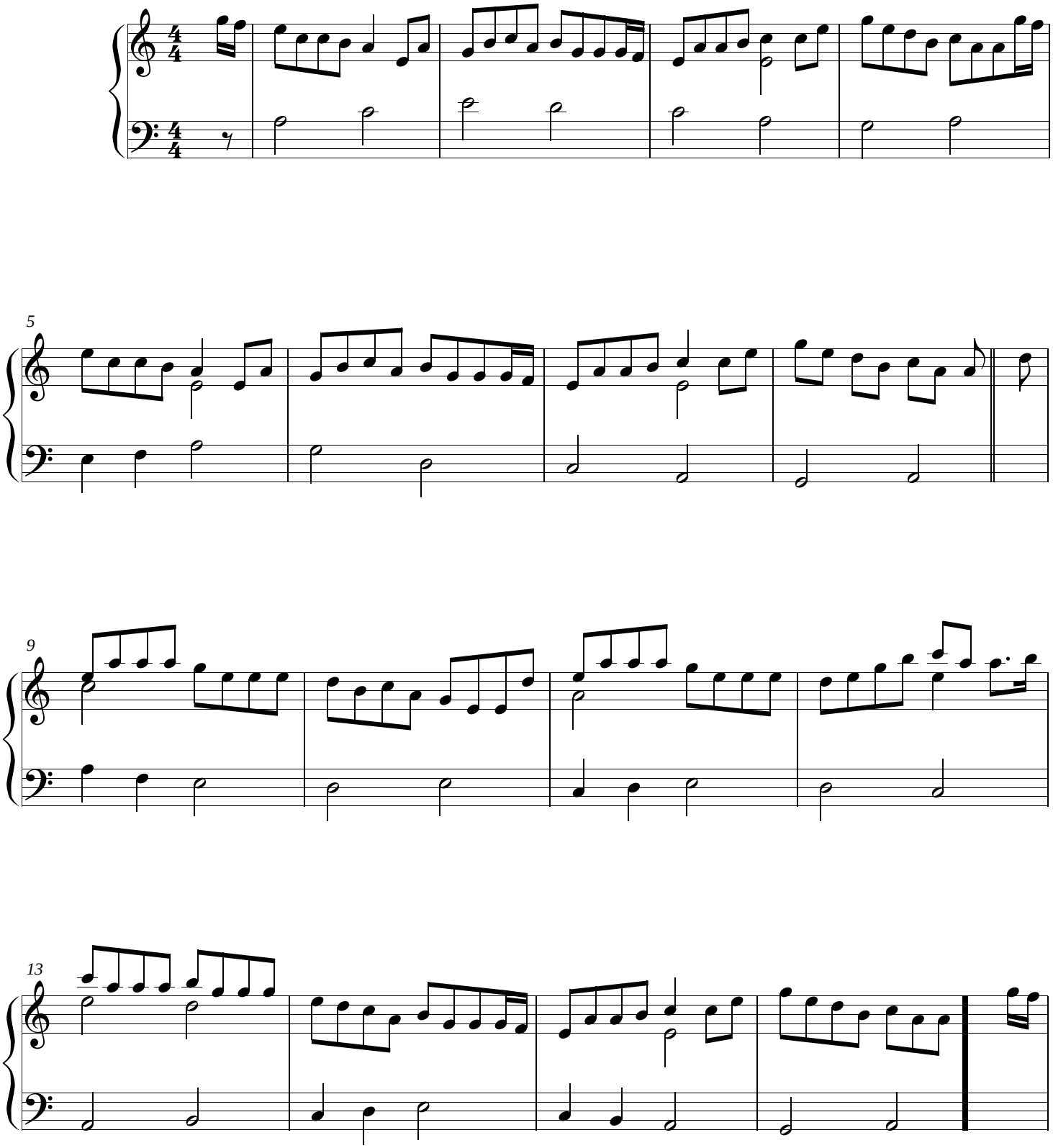

20

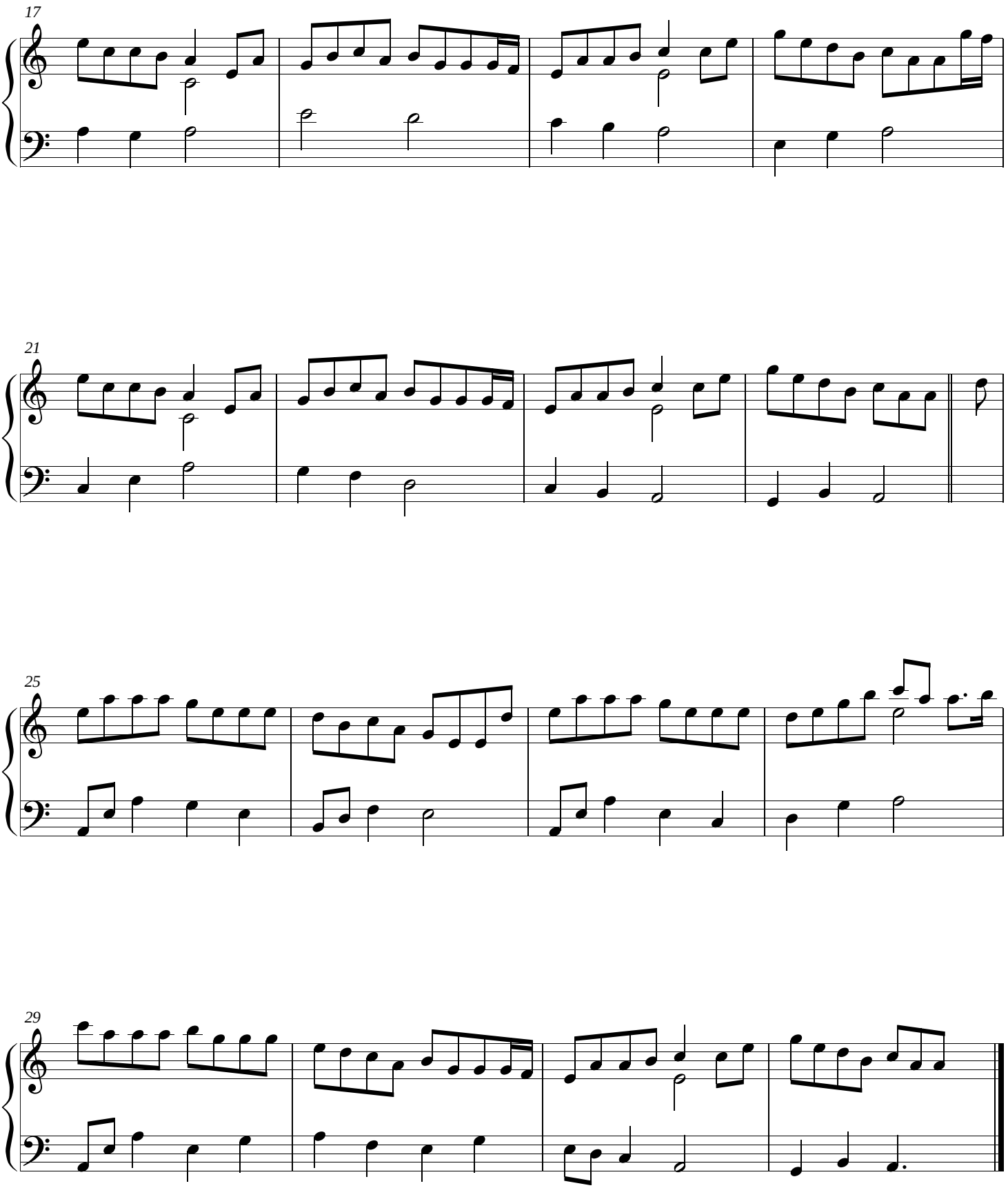

24


28

The Texas Valley

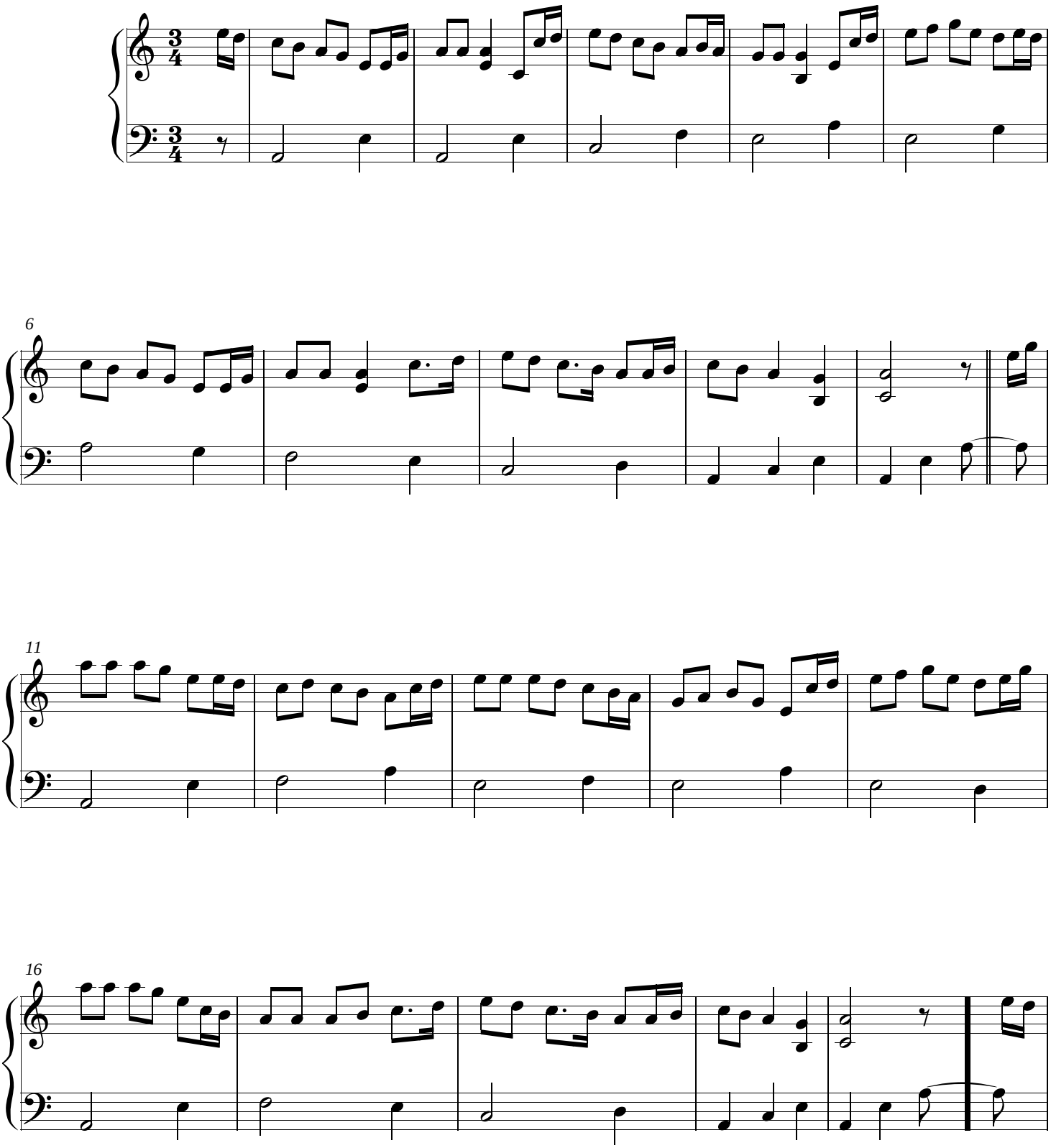
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

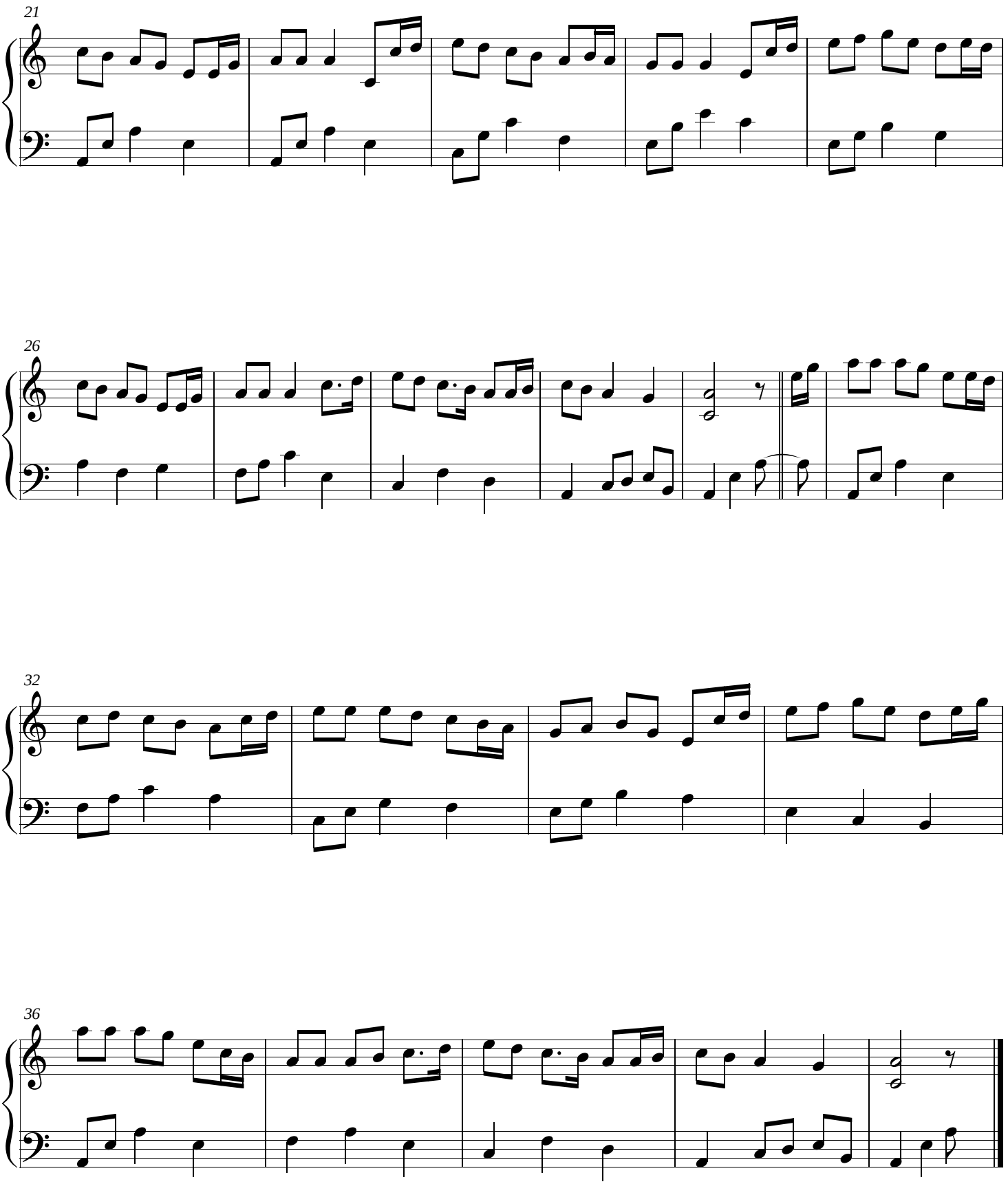



17
21
25
29

The Texas Firewheels

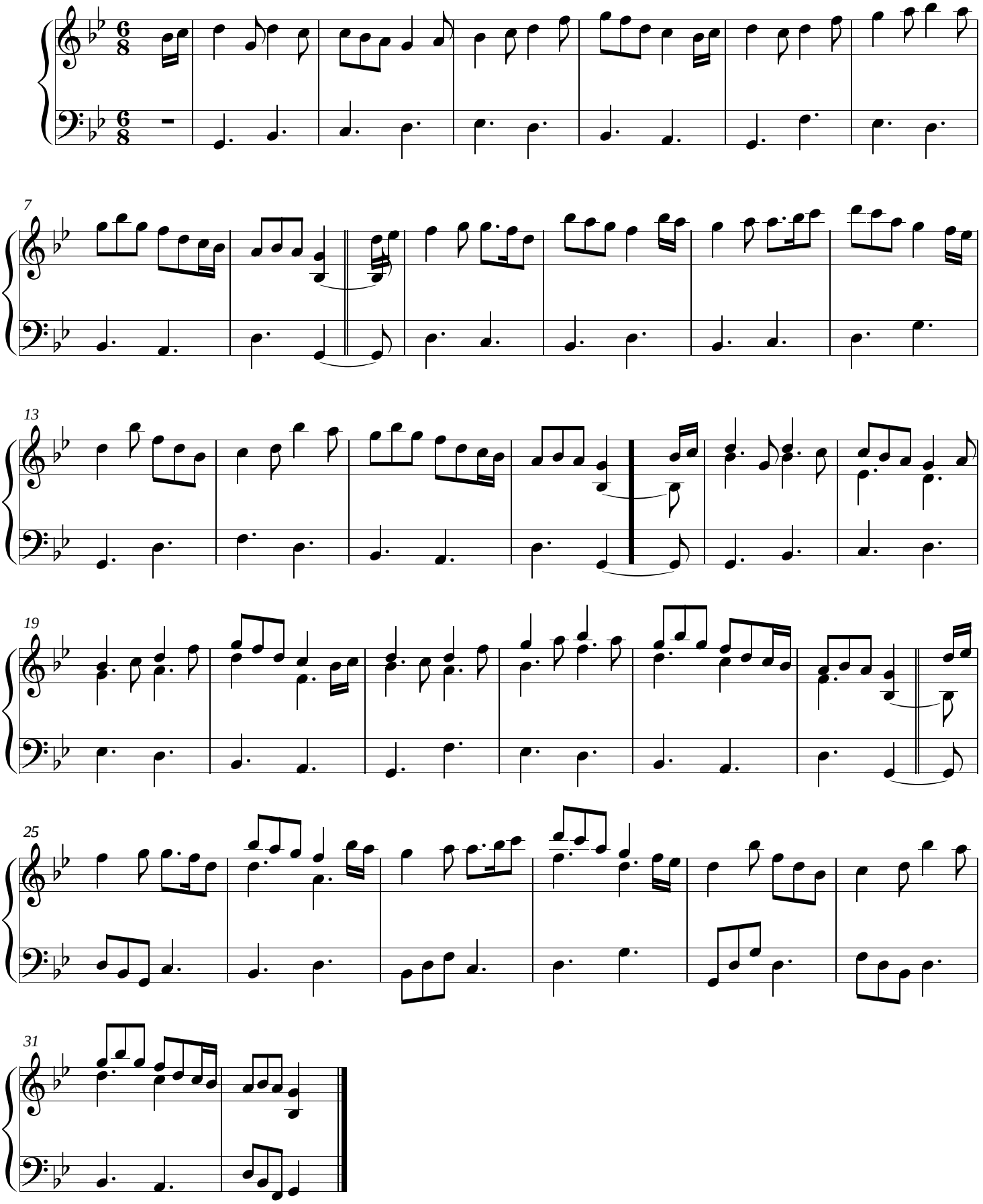
Stephen Wentworth Arndt




21
26
32
36

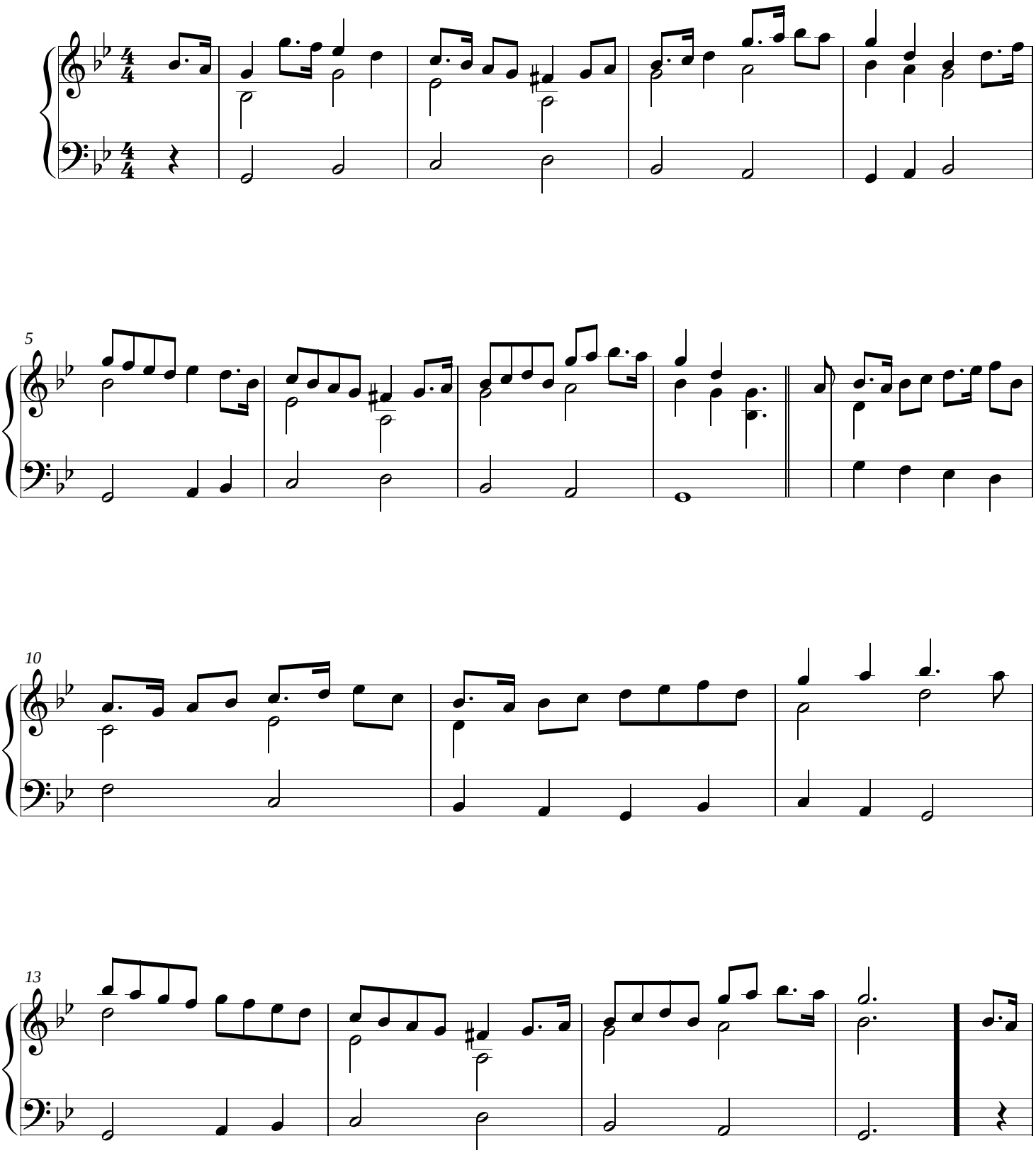
The Blackbuck Antilope of Texas

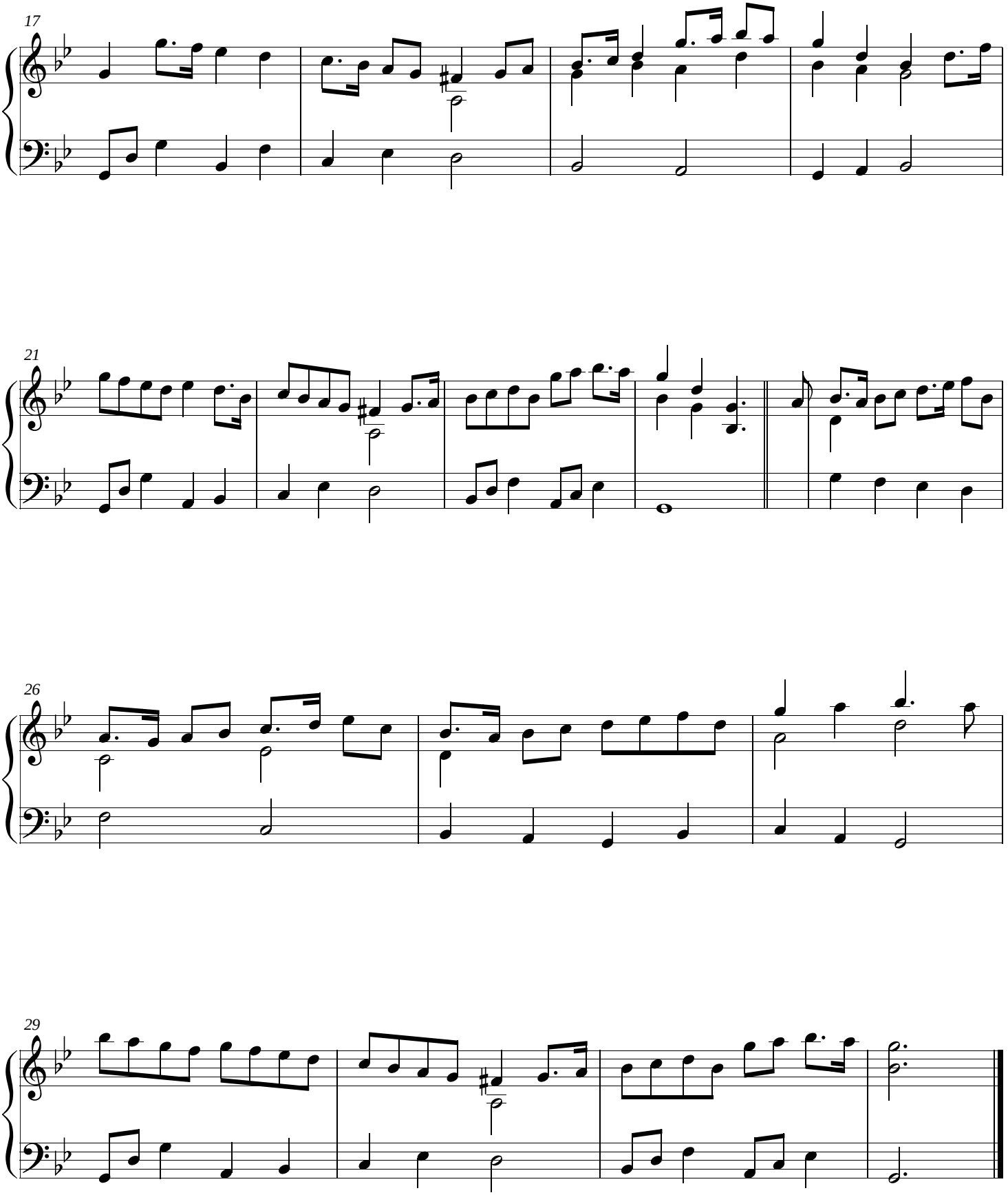
Stephen Wentworth Arndt



The Davis Mountains of Texas

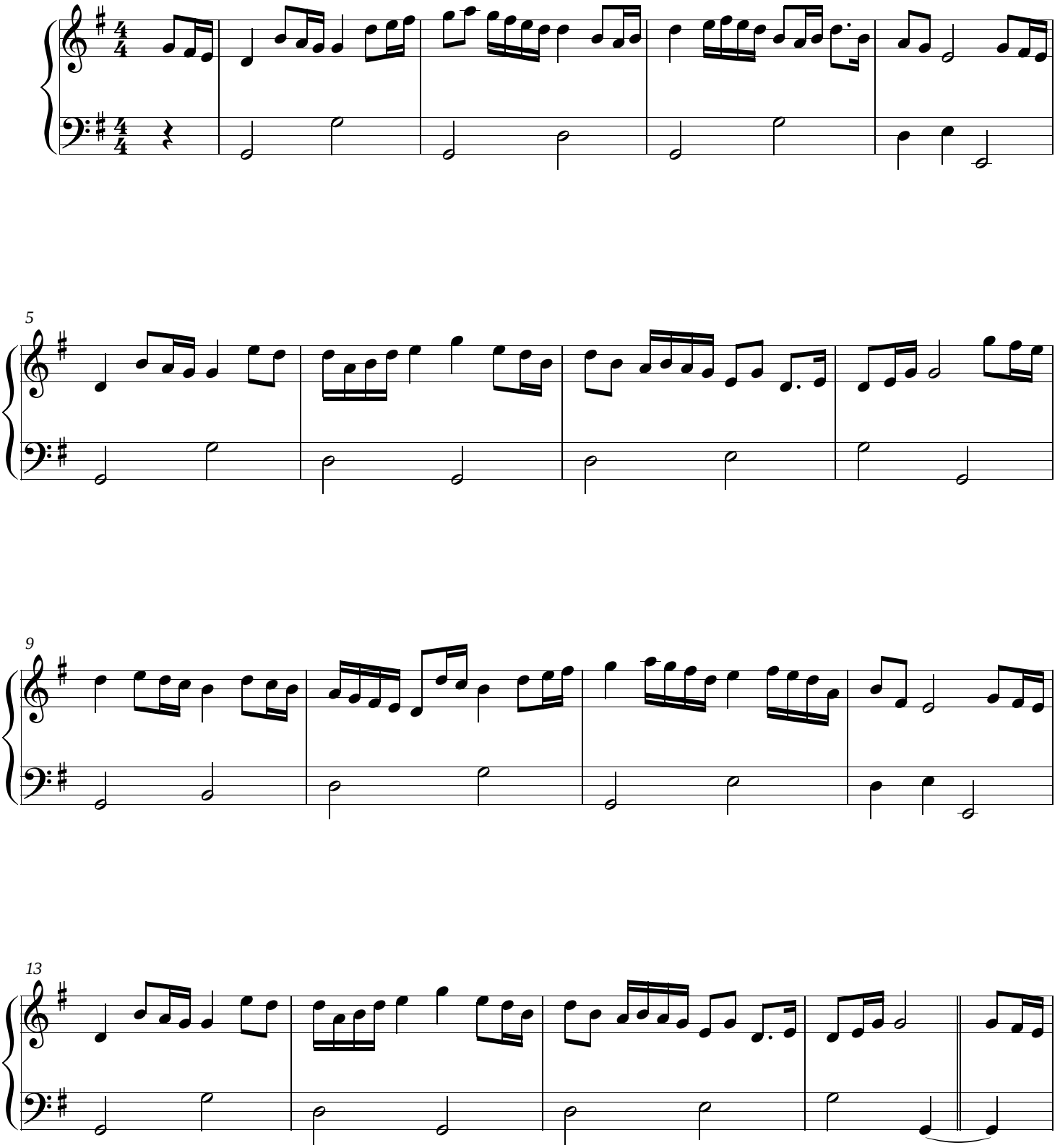
Stephen Wentworth Arndt

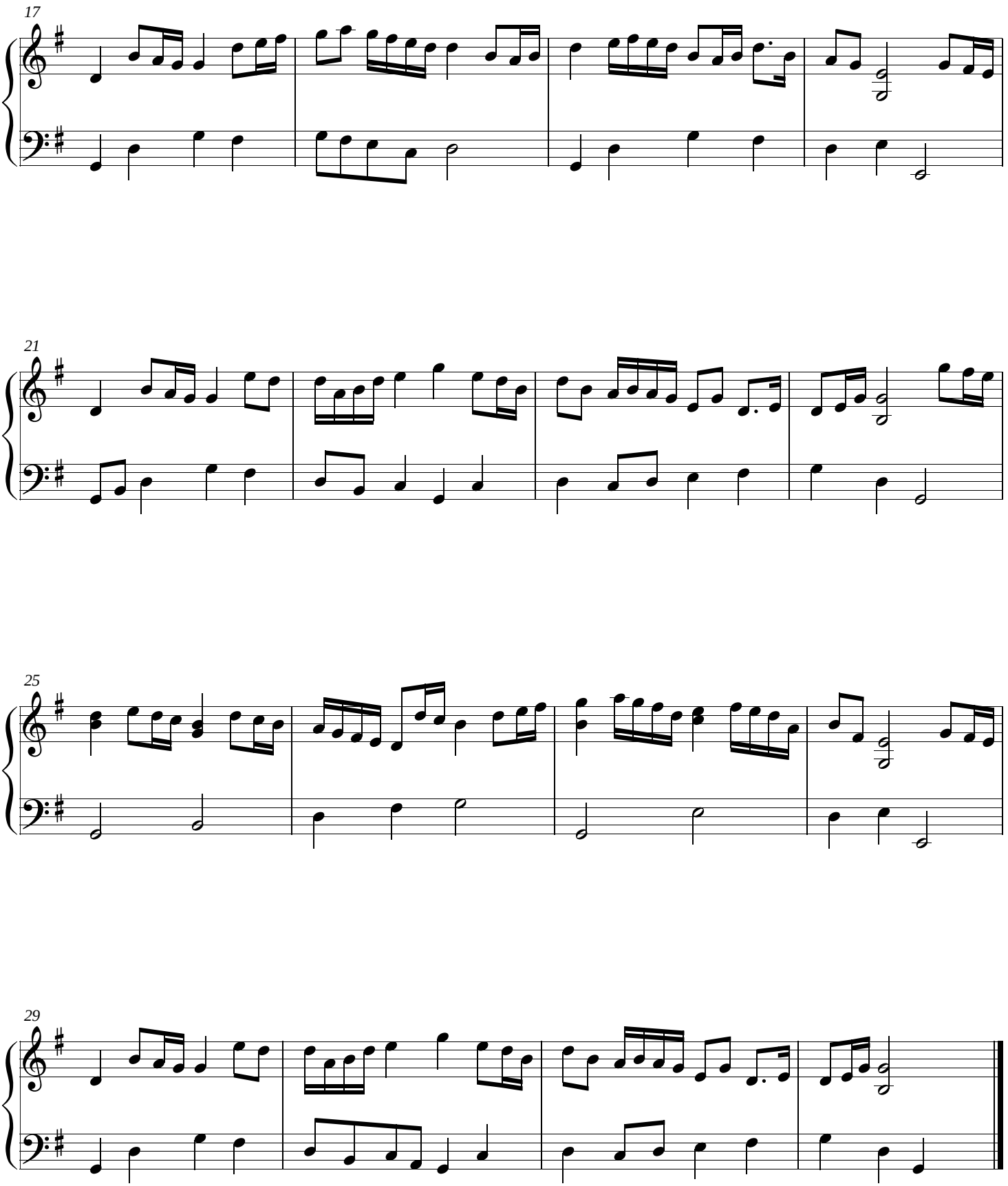



17
21
26
29

The East Texas Dogwood Tree

Stephen Wentworth Arndt




17
21
25
29