1512-09

About the Reader's Versions of the Grand Staff

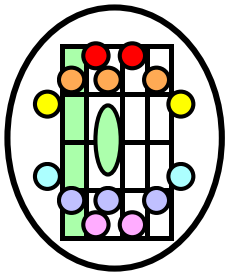
RT-10

With Examples

Note Colors

- Sharps - #
- Naturals
- Flats - b
- #, b, x, bb played on white keys

From the Music Innovators Workshop



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Introduction ***- A Reader's Version can be thought of as a next step to be taken following the completion of a musical composition. Composers typically write down their musical ideas in a form of musical shorthand called "traditional notation." The fact that this is a form of shorthand saves the composer a lot of time writing down his/her ideas. Unfortunately, this shorthand can be very difficult for some people to read rapidly enough to play at the appropriate tempo. It's as though the composer stopped writing just before he/she finished the job of making the music readable for the ones who have to read and play it.***

The next step in the process of preparing a keyboard piece for the reader could be to modify the piece into a Reader's Version which makes small changes in the way the notation looks but makes very big changes for the reader. The version provides information in a readable format that is otherwise hidden in notes, key signatures and enharmonic codes of traditional notation.

The Reader's Versions are notated on the grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and are compatible with the traditional notation that composers and arrangers use. These Reader's Versions of the traditional notation can easily be read by anyone that can read standard traditional notation. For those who want to become skilled at reading traditional notation, the Reader's Versions provide an excellant step in that direction.

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About the Rhythm Format of the Reader's Versions - The Reader's Versions use a TIMELINE FORMAT for the rhythm component of the notation. The Reader's Versions use colored highlights to positively identify the sharped and flatted notes. These colored highlights can't be used with traditional rhythm notation because with that notation, color is required to indicate rhythm (to show the diference between quarter notes and half notes). Because of this (and for other reasons as well), the Reader's Versions use a horizonal version of the the timeline format used for our key maps. This format works perfectly well and is easy to learn and to read. For the TIMELINE FORMAT, notes are stretched horizontally in proportion to the time that they take, in terms of beats. The musical beats on the staff are marked by single vertical lines placed across the staff.

About Sharps, Flats, Double Sharps and Double Flats Played on White Keys - For the sake of readability (our main objective), these notes are being notated as their enharmonic equivalents. This means that on the rare occasions that altered notes (b, bb, #, or x) are to be played on white keys, these notes are replaced by notes for the corresponding natural white keys and are colored gray, as are all natural notes. Example: When a B# occurs, the note is shown as a black (or gray) C.

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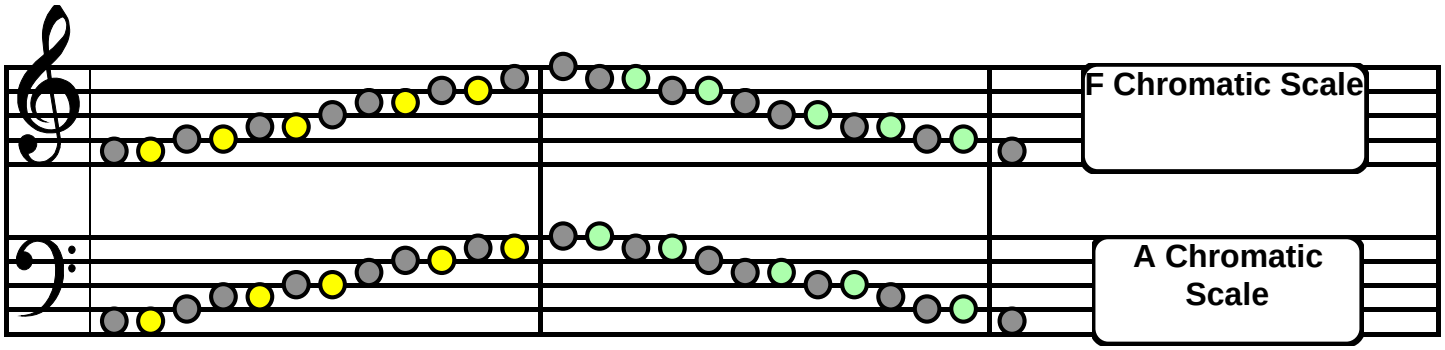
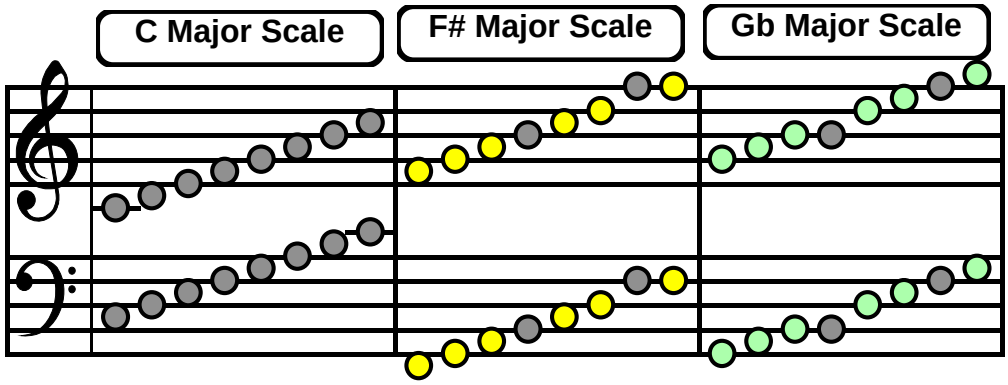
Some Examples of the Coloring on Scales





Note Colors

Sharps - #

Naturals

Flats - b

#, b, x, bb played on white keys

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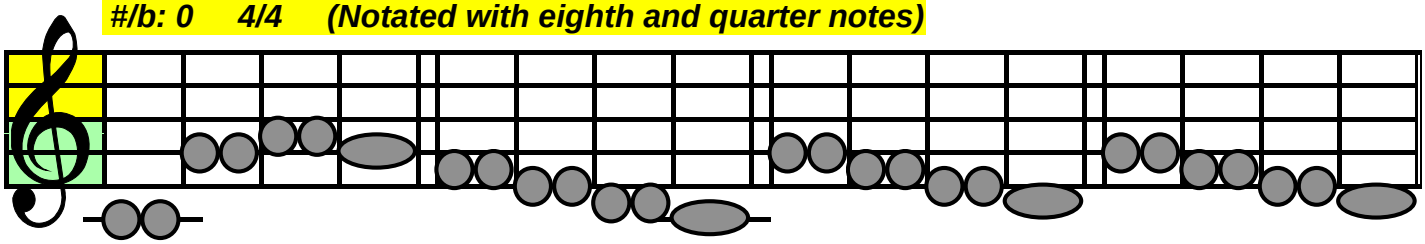
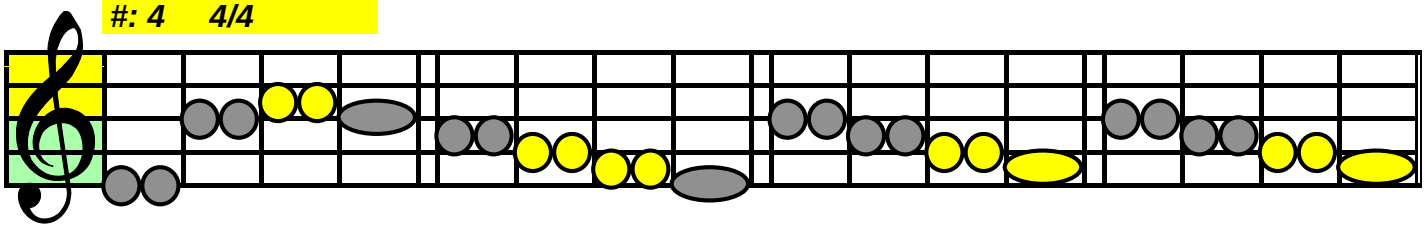
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star - First Four Measures

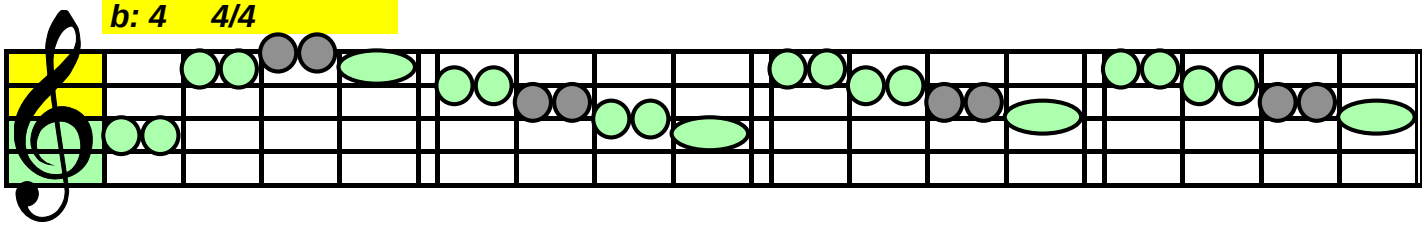
#/b: 0 4/4 (Notated with eighth and quarter notes)



#: 4 4/4



b: 4 4/4



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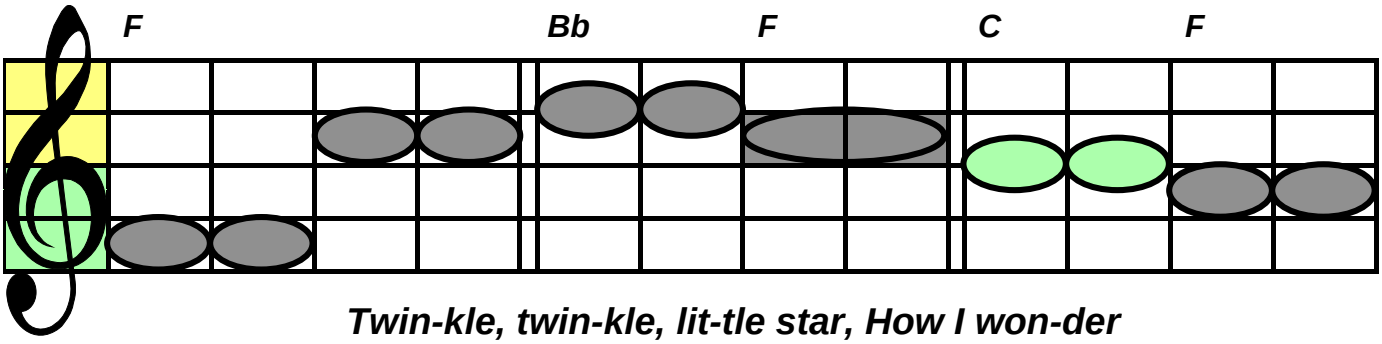
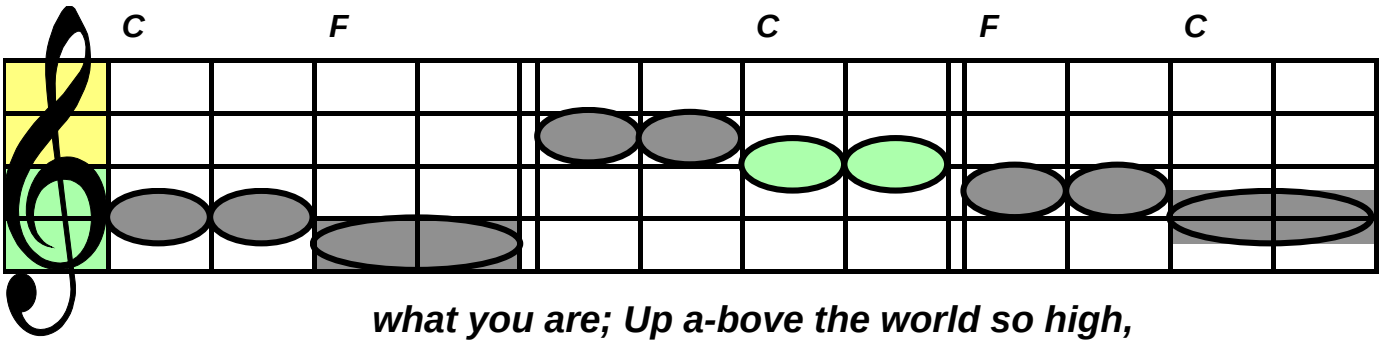
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Moderately b: 1 4/4 (Notated with quarter and half notes.)

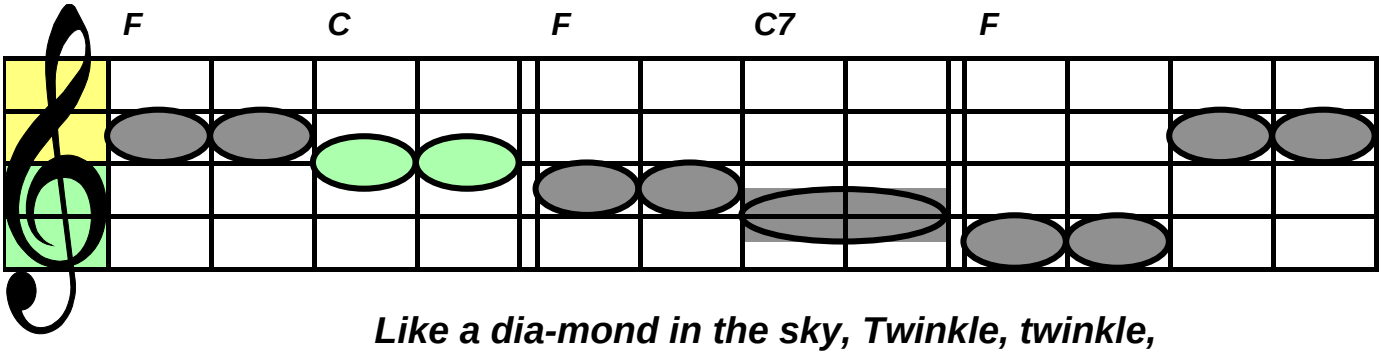
Leadsheet version with chords and text.



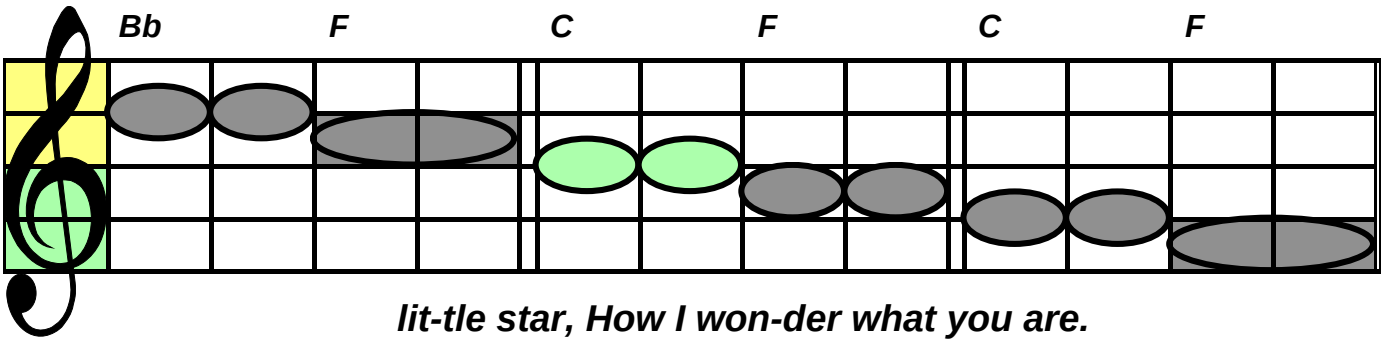
Twin-kle, twin-kle, lit-tle star, How I won-der



what you are; Up a-bove the world so high,



Like a dia-mond in the sky, Twinkle, twinkle,



lit-tle star, How I won-der what you are.

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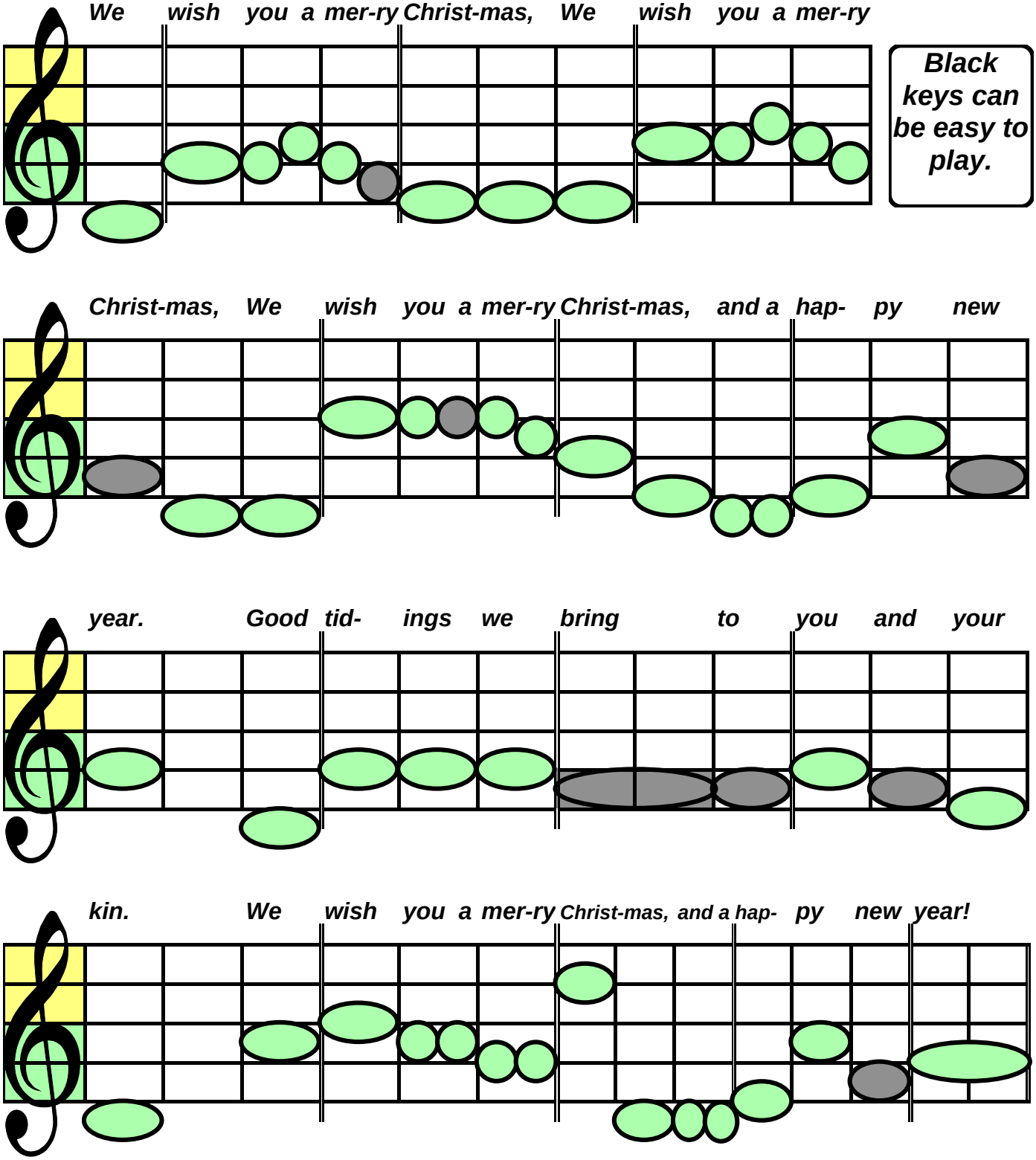
We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Traditional English

Happily b: 6 3/4



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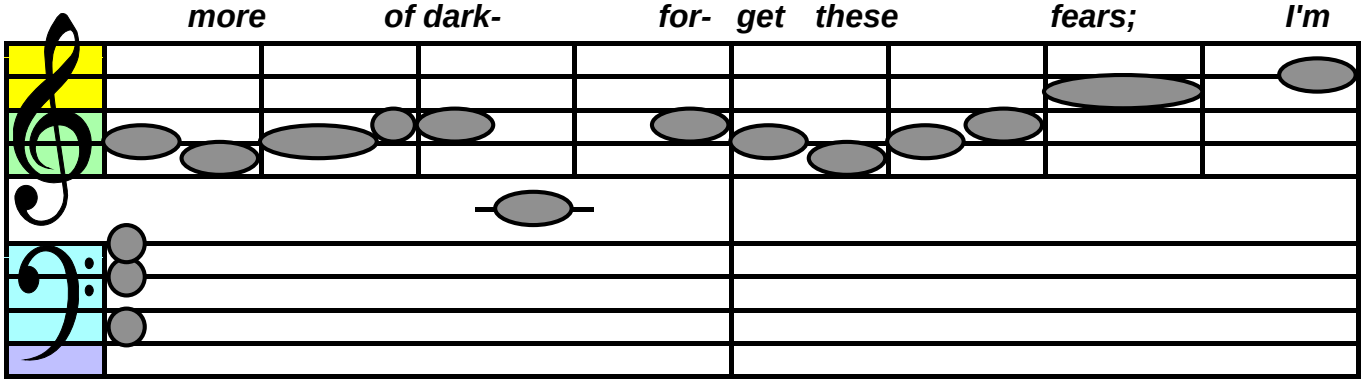
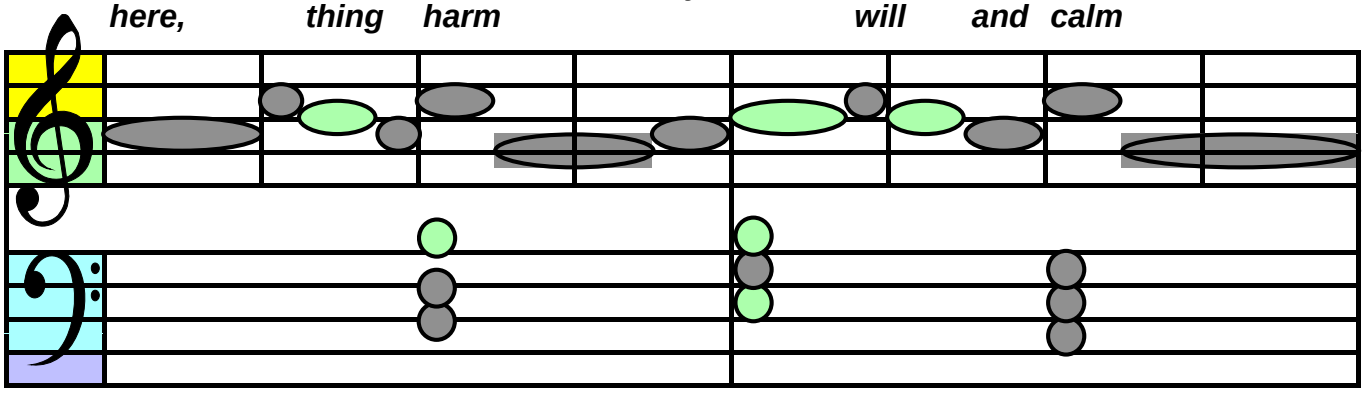
Charles Hart **All I Ask of You** from PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Thoughtfully b: 1 4/4 Leadsheet Version Andrew Lloyd Webber

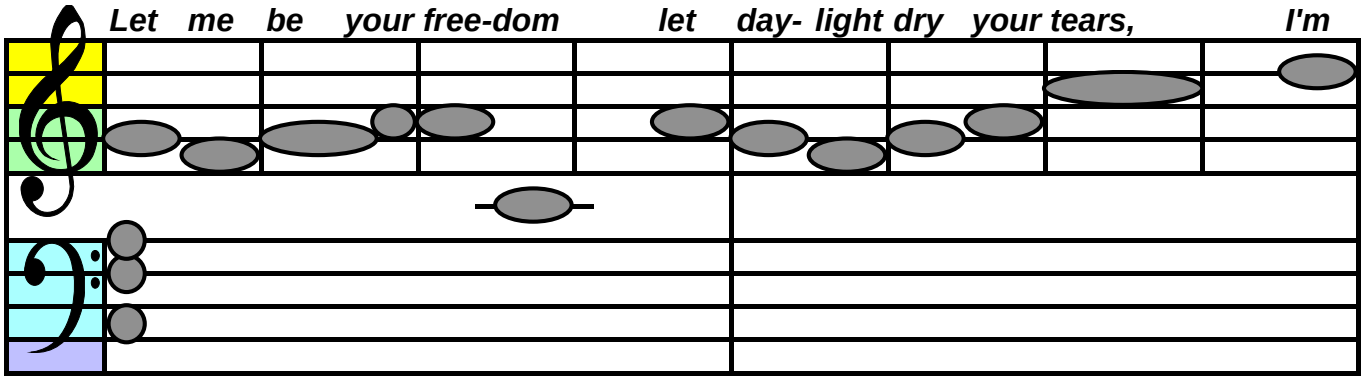
No talk ness, wild-eyed
more of dark- for- get these fears; I'm



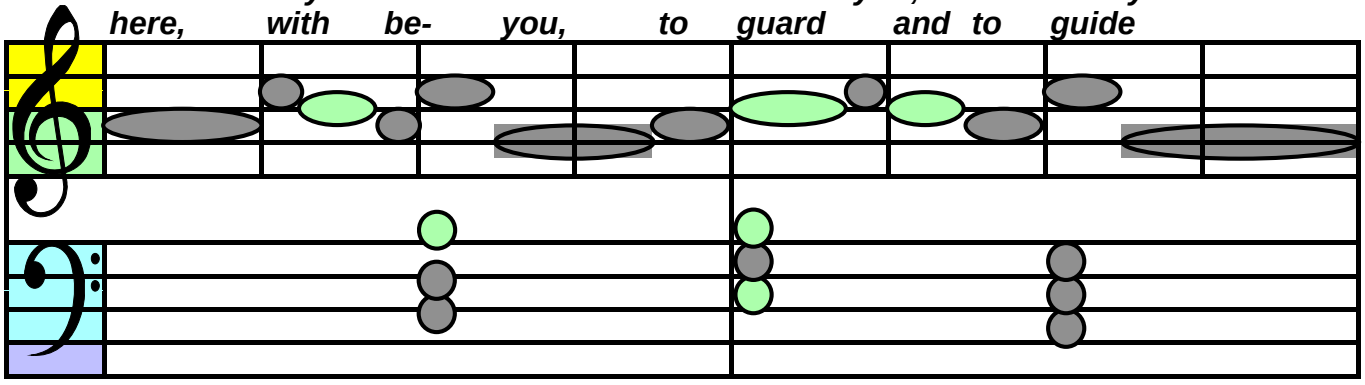
no- can you, my words warm you.
here, thing harm will and calm



Let me be your free-dom let day- light dry your tears, I'm



you side you, you ...
here, with be- you, to guard and to guide



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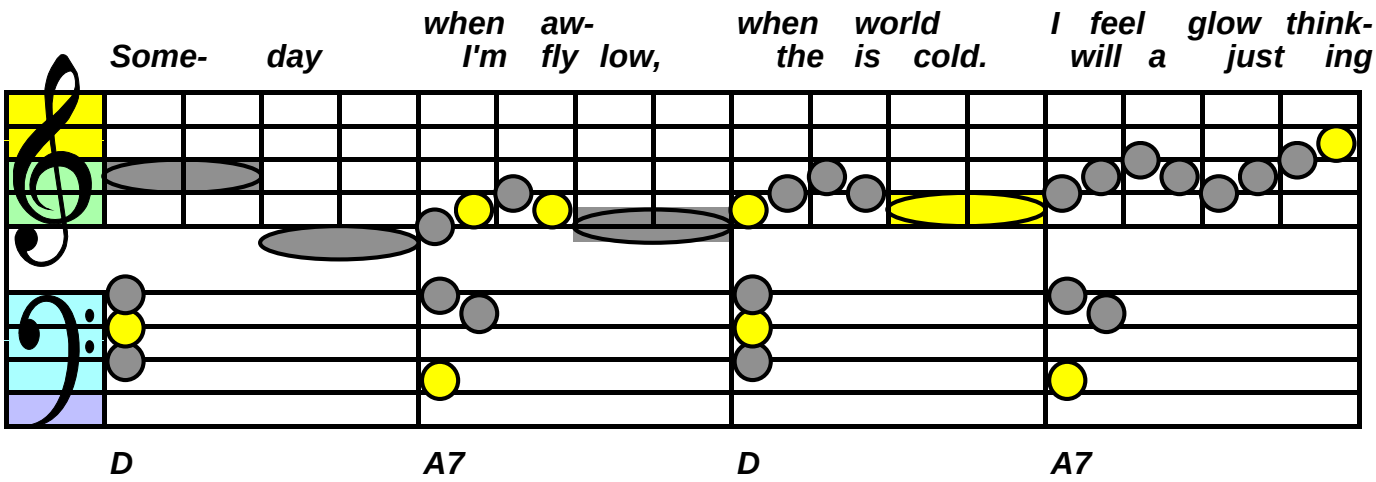
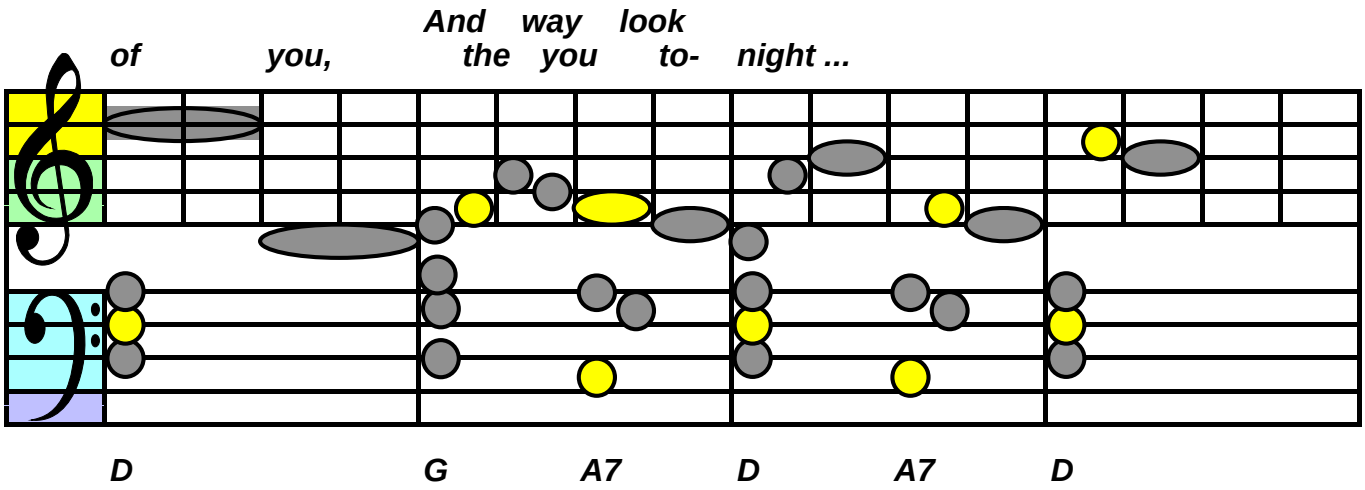
The Way You Look Tonight

Dorothy Fields from SWING TIME Jerome Kern

Quietly #: 2 4/4 Leadsheet Version including standard chord symbols.





The leadsheet can include standard chord symbols as well as the notated chords.

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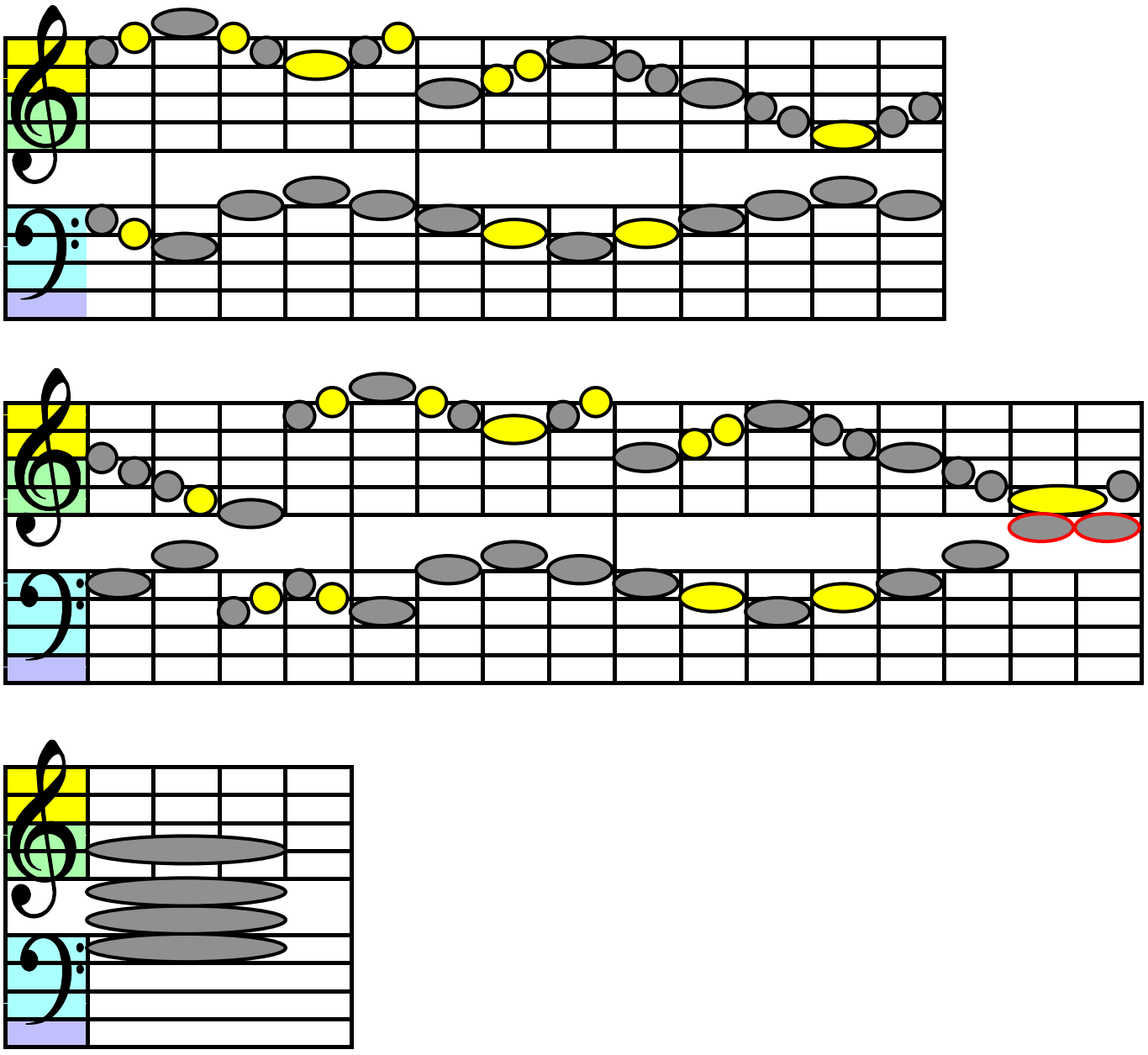
Bourree

from Suite in E Minor for Lute *J.S. Bach*

Lightly #: 1 4/4



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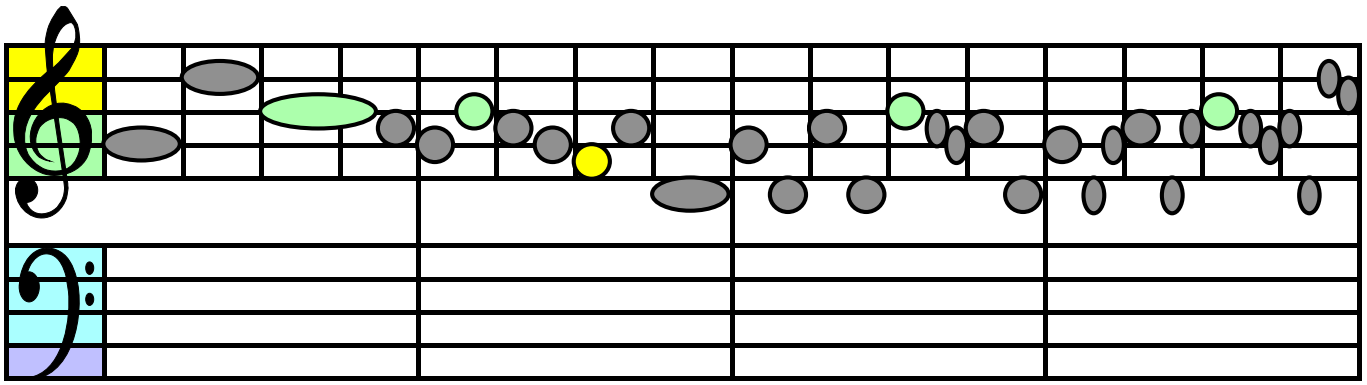
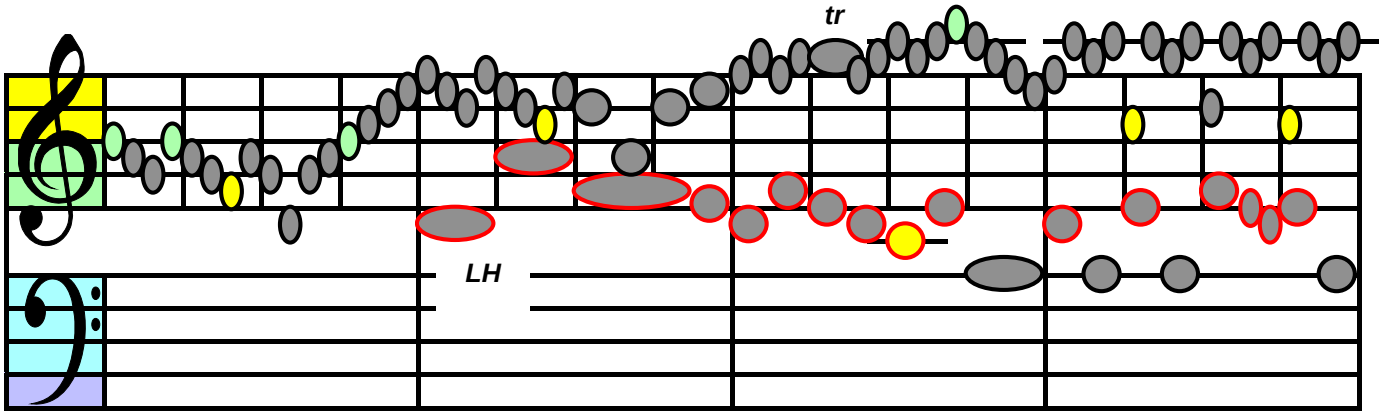
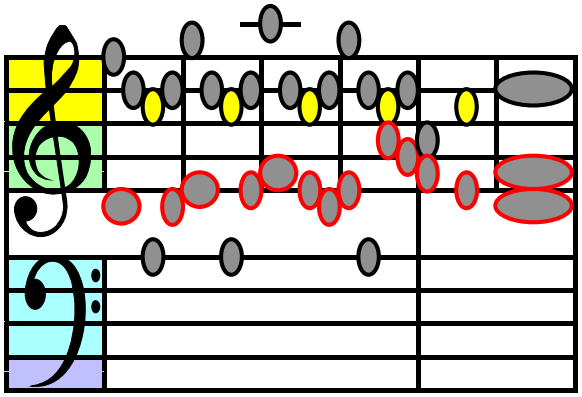
Little Fugue in G Minor

Originally for Organ *J.S. Bach*

With Vigor b: 2 4/4 Version 3







When music is notated on the compact grand staff, LEFT hand notes for Middle C and above have RED borders. (Notes for the RIGHT hand below Middle C also have red borders.)

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Prelude No. 14

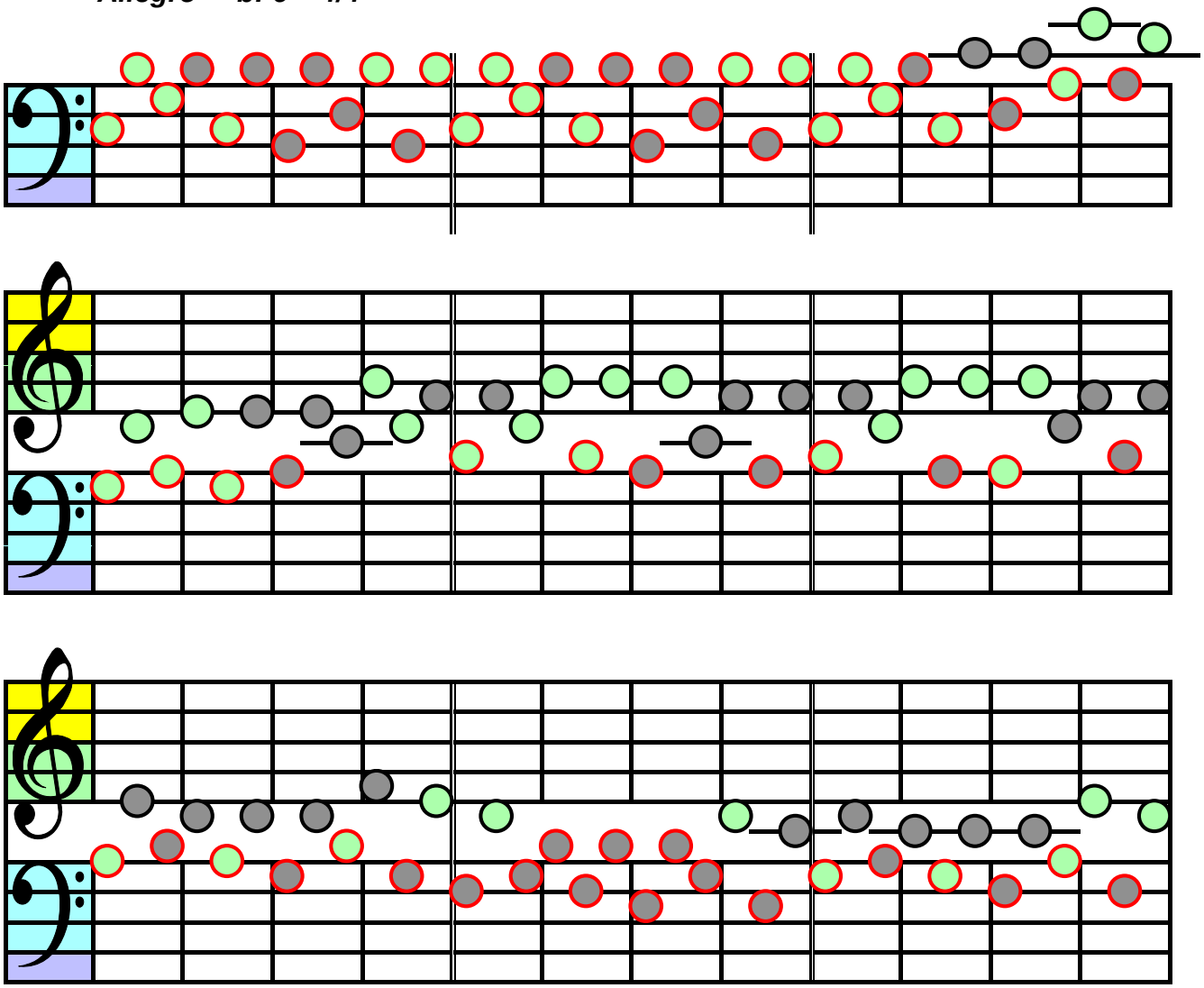
This piece is in 6 flats and is loaded with accidentals and double flats.

Performance Notice:

All of the notes (except the last one) are played by the RIGHT hand. The left hand simultaneously plays the same notes AN OCTAVE LOWER.

F. CHOPIN, Op. 28, No. 14

Allegro b: 6 4/4



When music is notated on the compact grand staff, notes for the RIGHT hand below Middle C have RED borders. (LEFT hand notes for Middle C and above also have red borders.)

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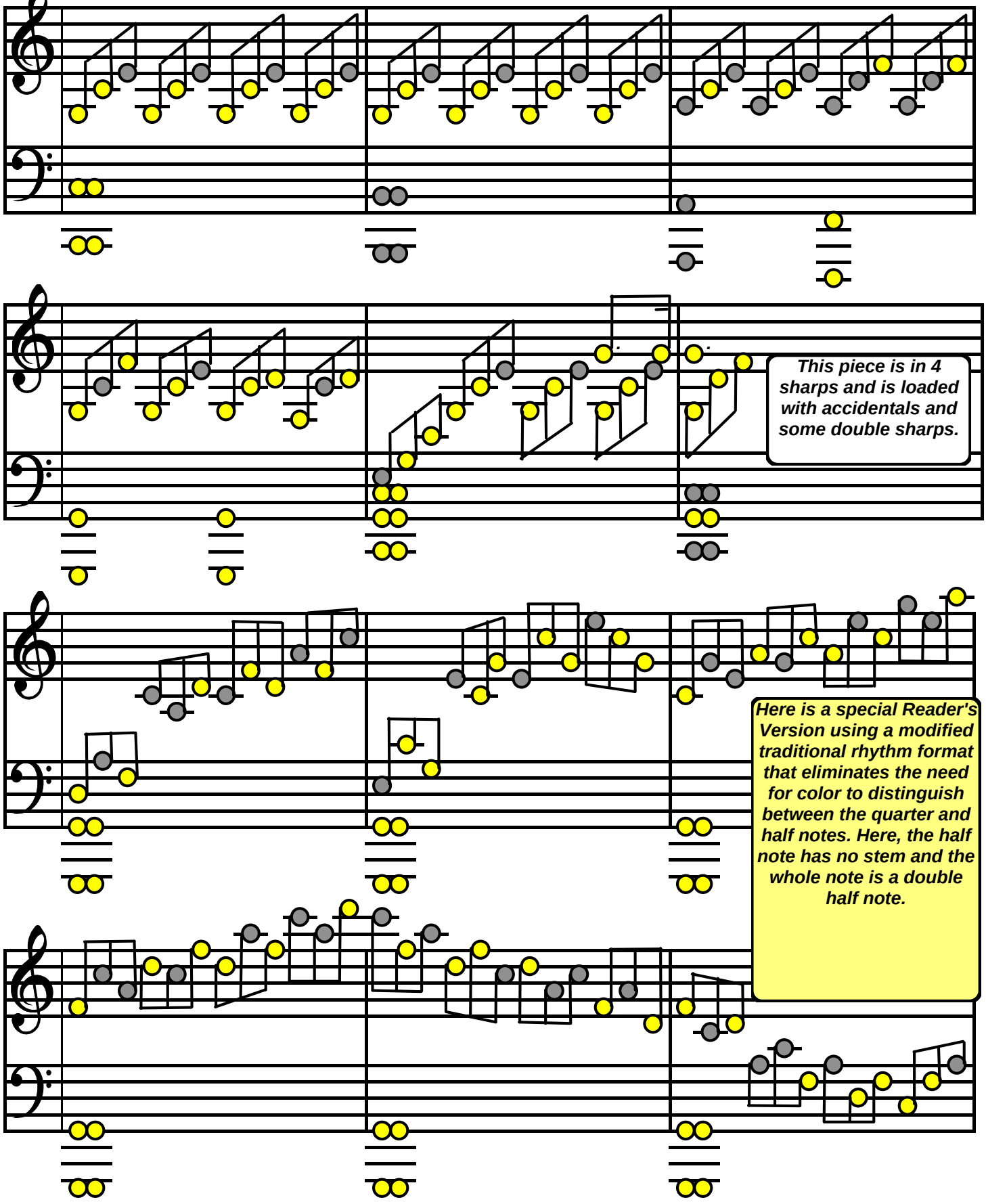
Adagio Sostenuto #: 4 4/4 R-Spl

Moonlight Sonata Excerpts Beethoven



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