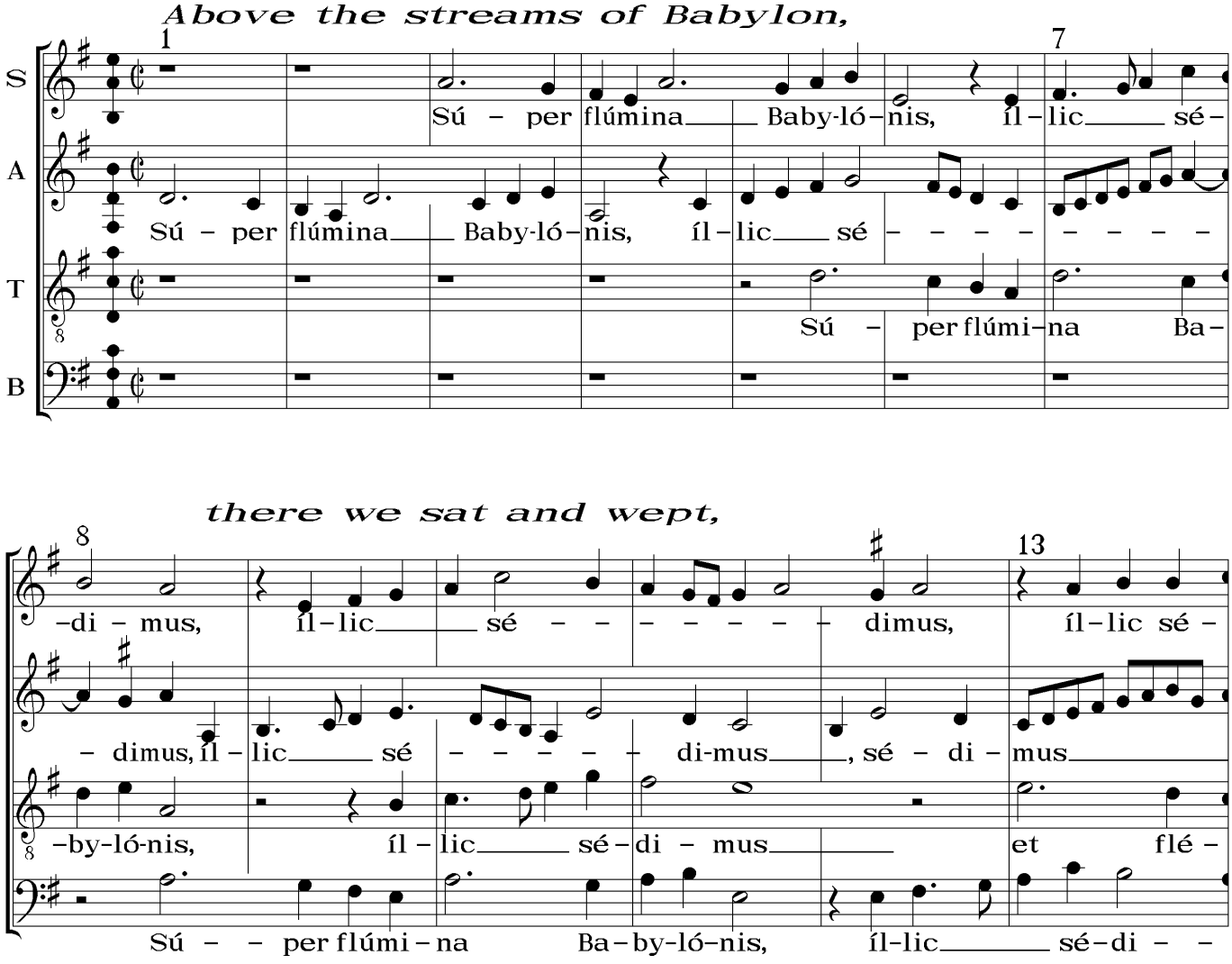
PSALM 136 (137): 1–4

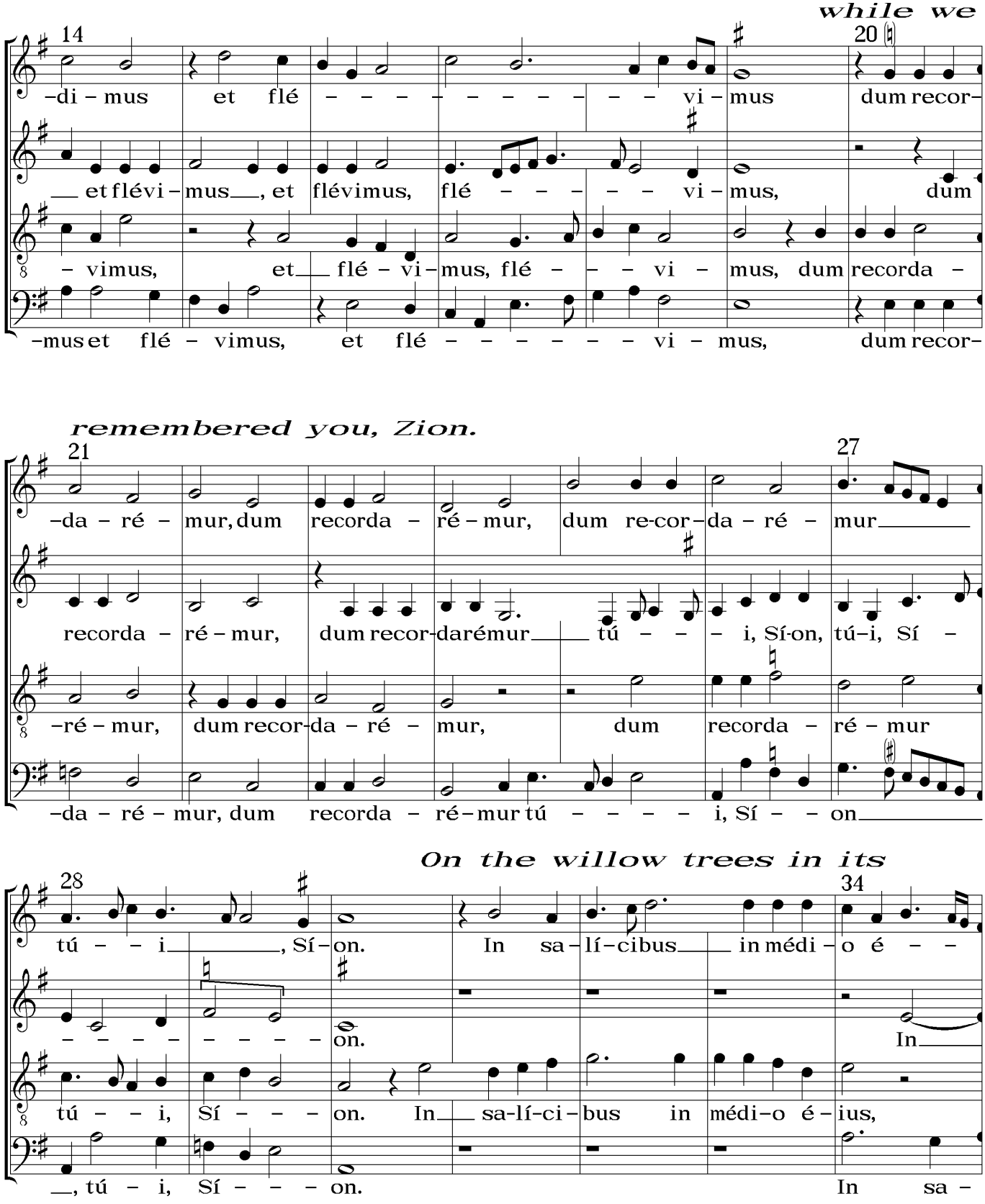
Súper flúmina Babylónis, íllic sédimus et flévimus, dum recordarémur túi, Síon. In salícibus in médio éius suspéndimus órgana nóstra. Quía íllic interrogavérunt nos, qui captívos duxérunt nos, vérba cantiónum. Et qui abduxérunt nos: "Hýmnum cantáte nóbis de cánticis Síon." Quómodo cantábimus cánticum Dómini in térra aliéna?	Above the streams of Babylon, there we sat and wept, while we remembered you, Zion. On the willow trees in its center we hung up our instruments. For there they demanded of us, who led us into captivity, the words of songs. And they who led us away: "Sing us a hymn from the songs of Zion." How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

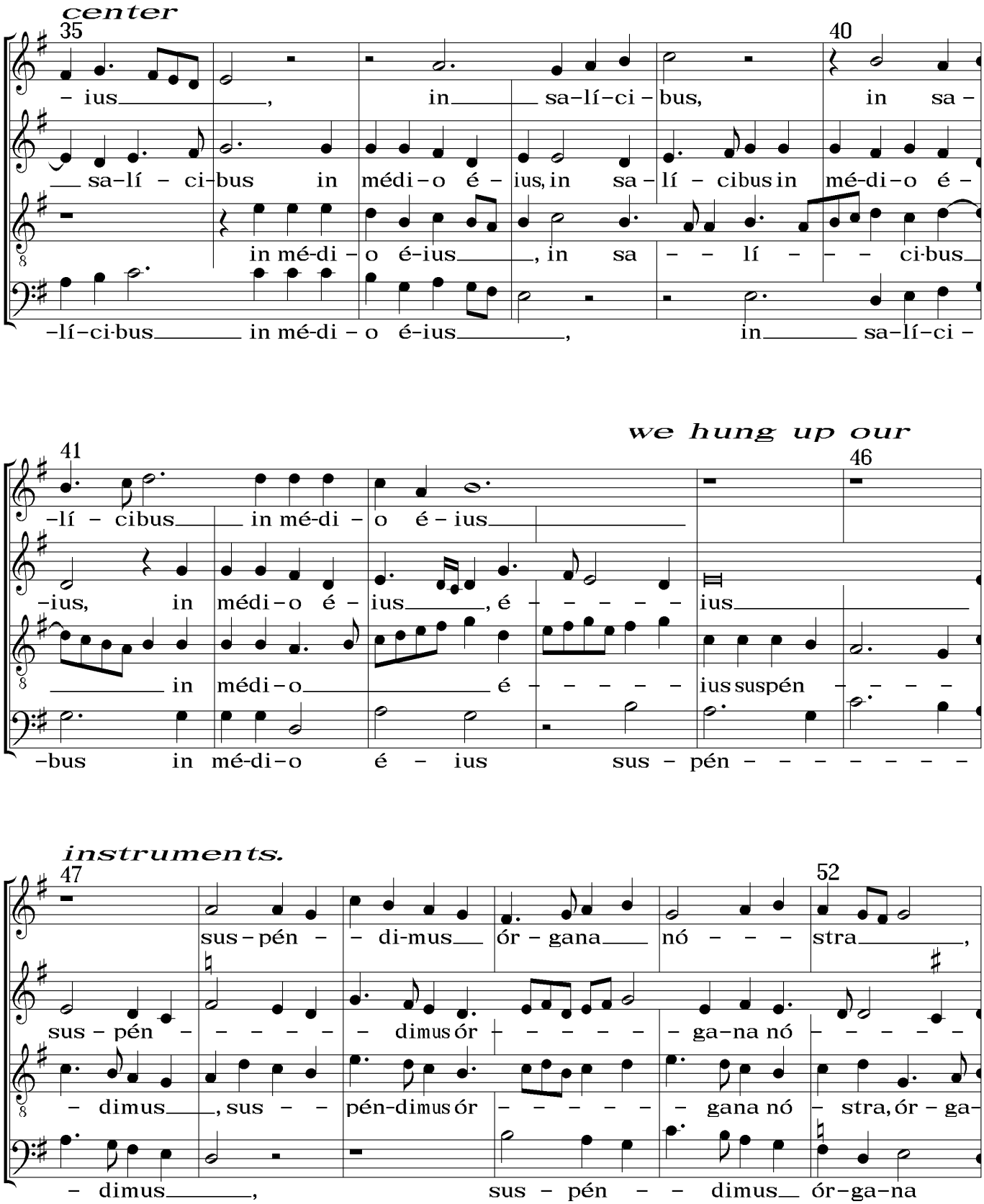
Super flumina Babylonis

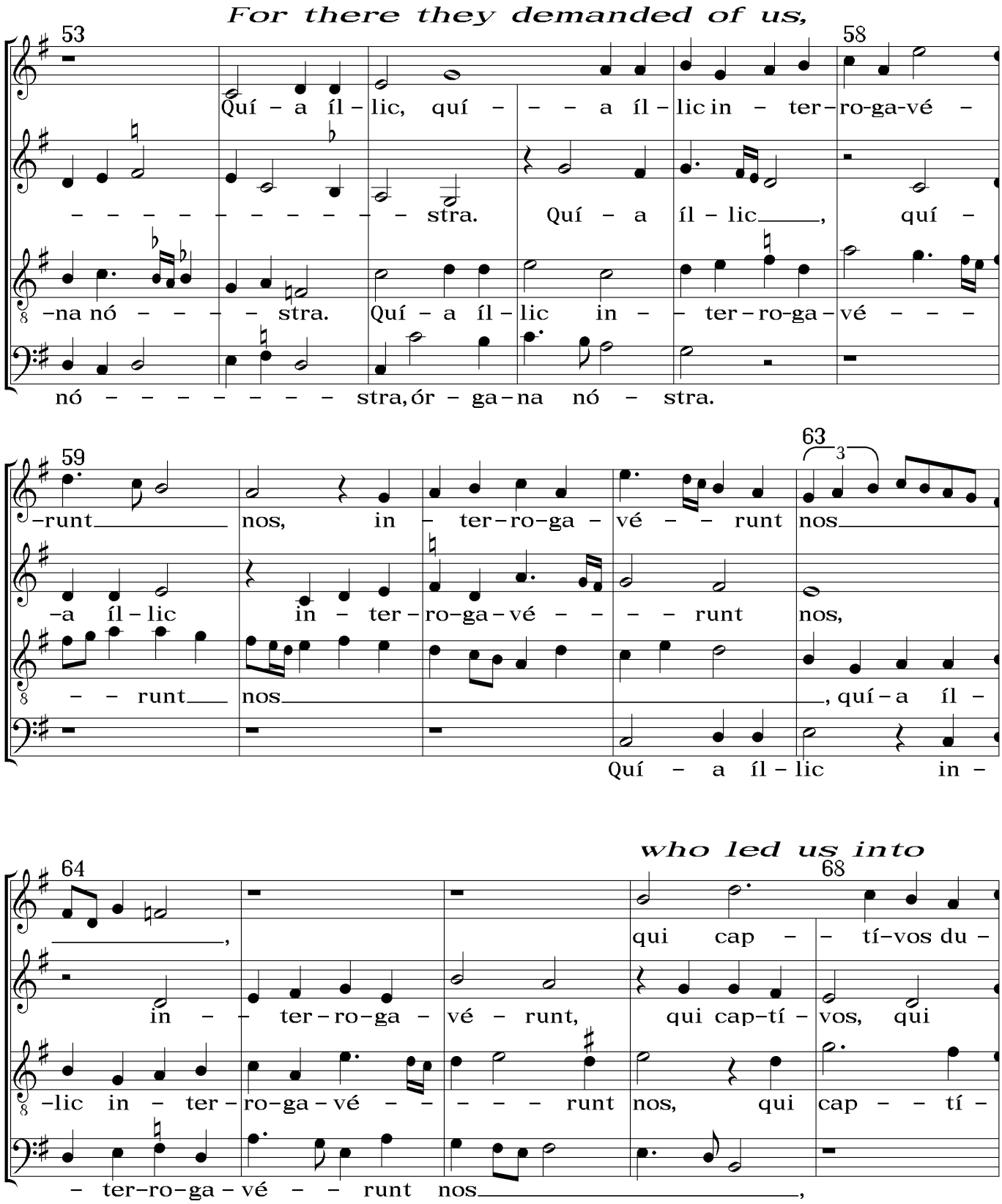
Nicolas Gombert
(Flemish, c.1495–c.1560)

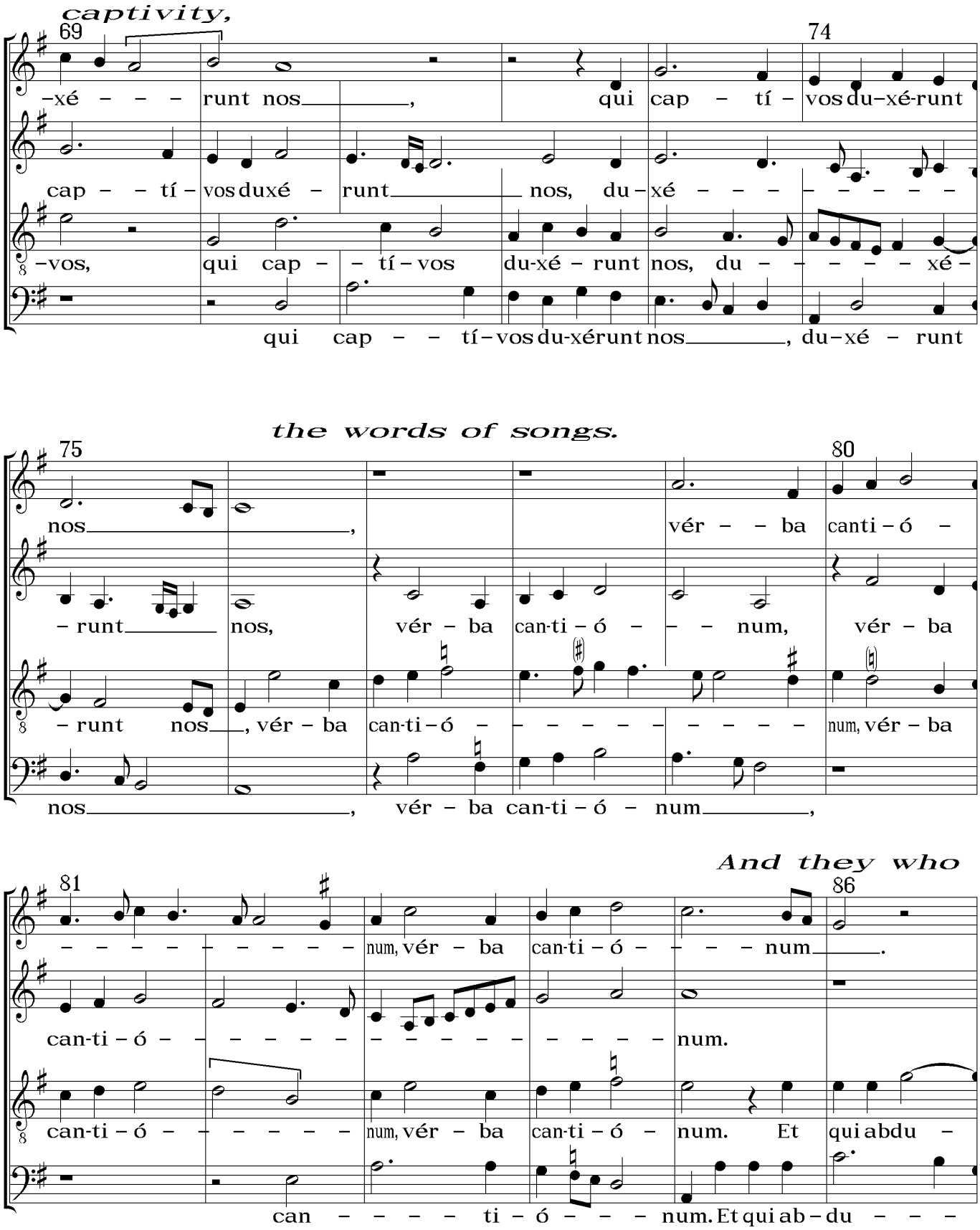


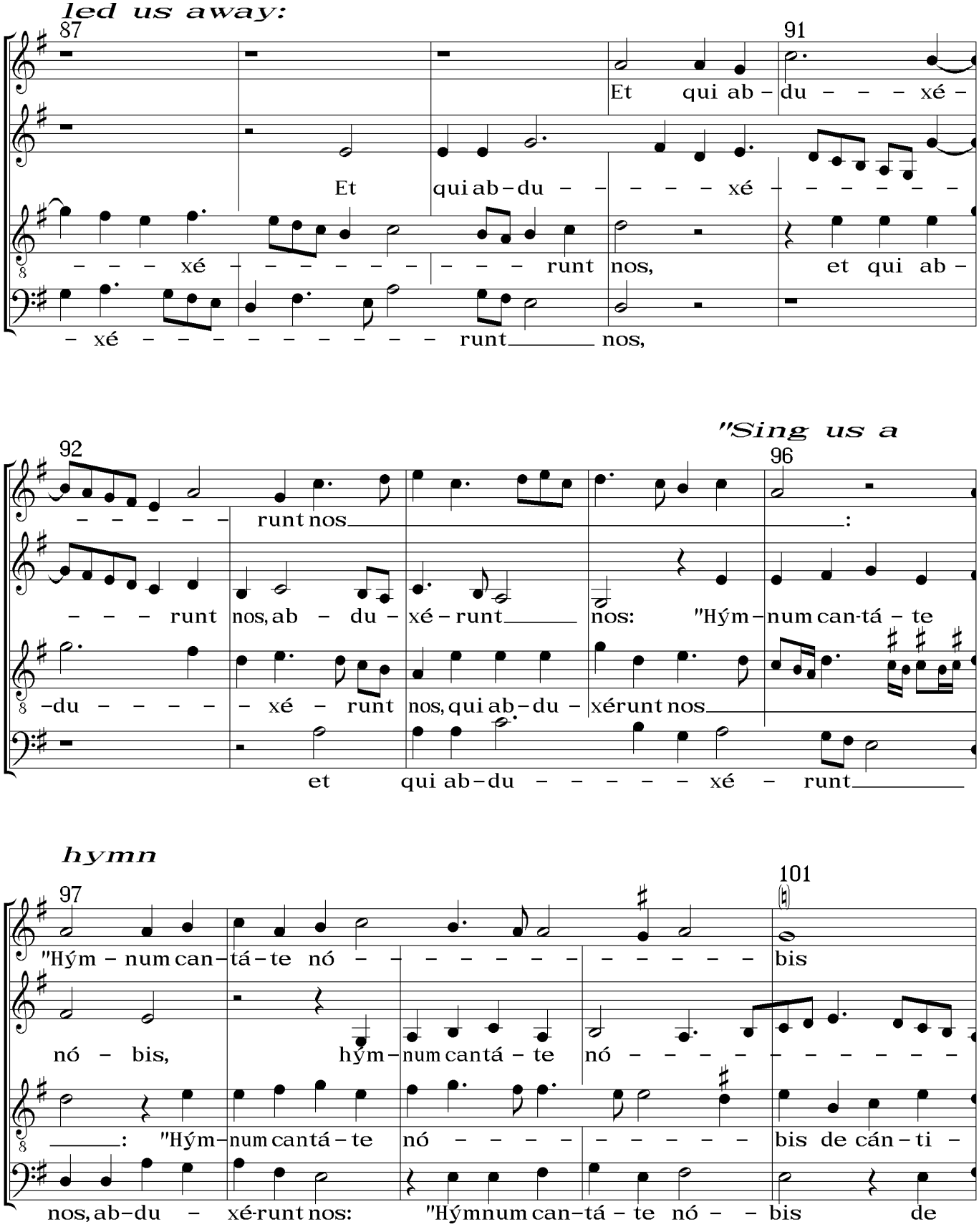
From Gombert's first book of motets for four voices, provided on microfilm by the New York Public Library. The notation here is a tone higher than in the original, with time values halved. Translation, text underlay and *musica ficta* by John Hetland and The Renaissance Street Singers.

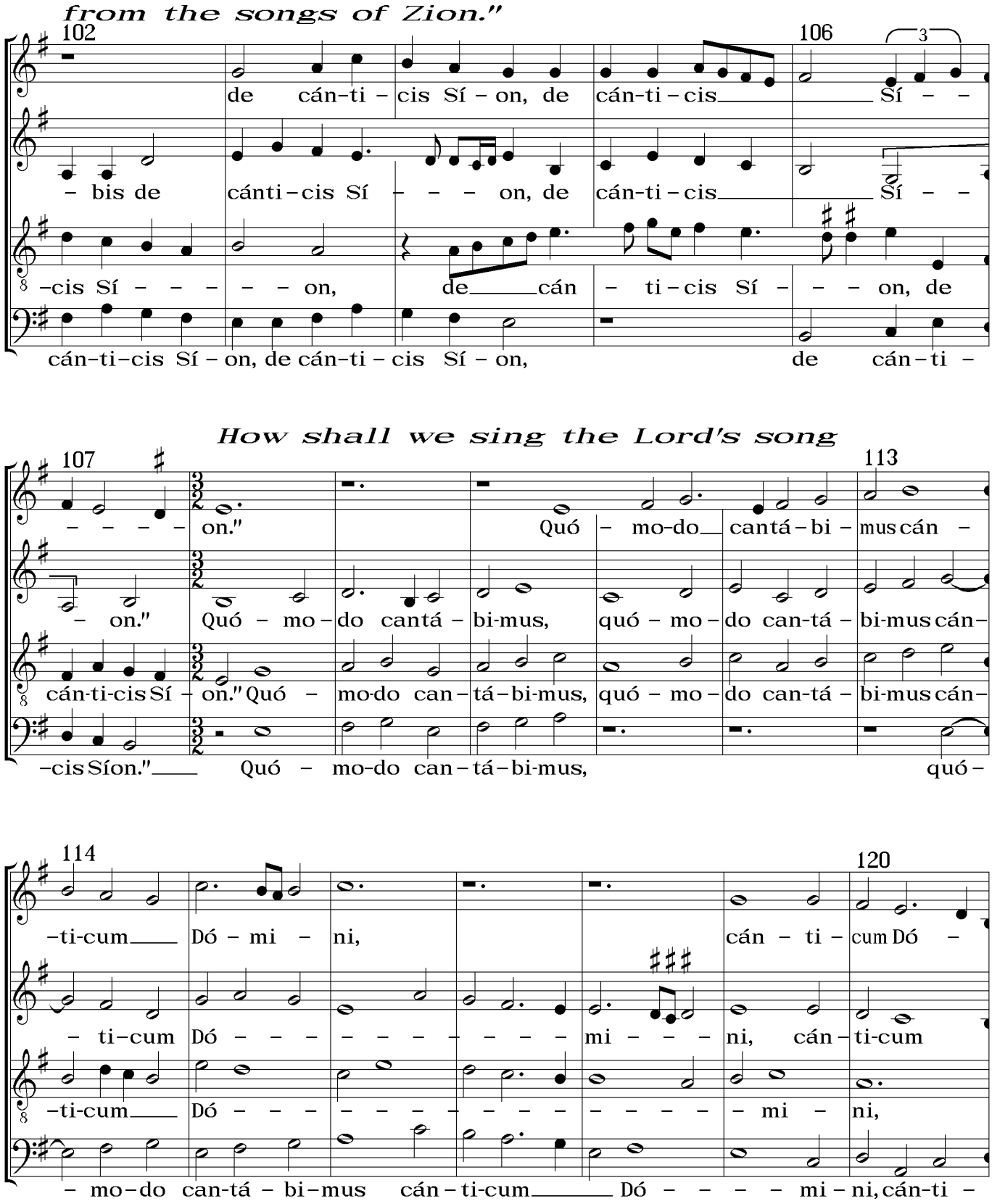

while we
14
20
–di – mus et flé – – – – – – – – – – vi – mus dum recor–
– et flévi – mus, et flévimus, flé – – – – – vi – mus, dum
– vimus, et flé – vi – mus, flé – – vi – mus, dum recorda –
–mus et flé – vimus, et flé – – – – – – – vi – mus, dum recor–
remembered you, Zion.
21
27
–da – ré – mur, dum recorda – ré – mur, dum re-cor–da – ré – mur
recorda – ré – mur, dum recor-darémur tú – – – i, Sí-on, tú–i, Sí –
–ré – mur, dum recor-da – ré – mur, dum recorda – ré – mur
–da – ré – mur, dum recorda – ré – mur tú – – – – i, Sí – – on
On the willow trees in its
28
34
tú – – i, Sí – on. In sa – lí – cibus in médi – o é – –
– – – – – – – – on. In
tú – – i, Sí – – – on. In sa-lí-ci–bus in médi–o é–ius,
, tú – i, Sí – – – on. In sa –

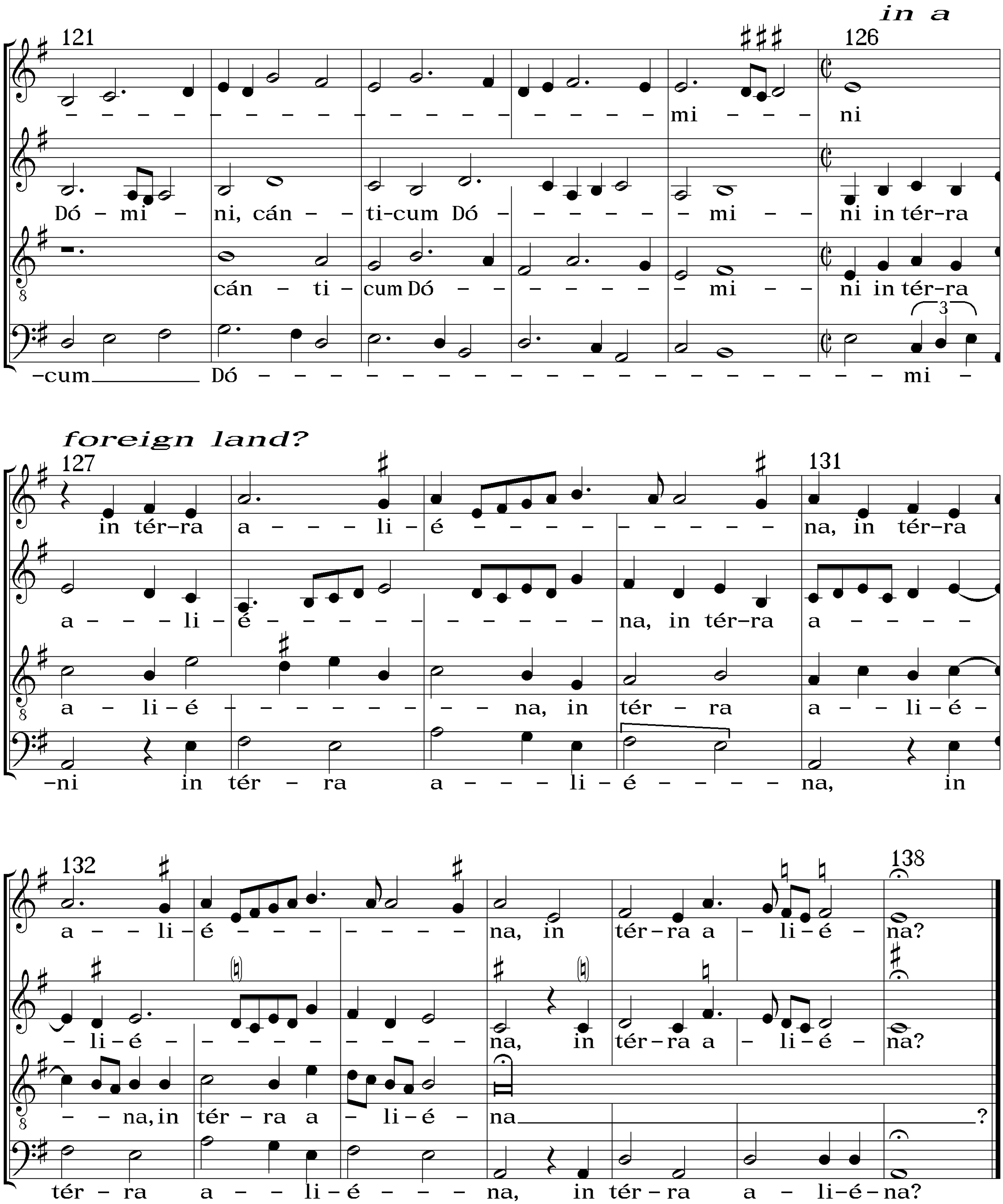

center
35
40
– ius, in sa-lí-ci-bus, in sa –
sa-lí – ci-bus in médi-o é – ius, in sa – lí – cibus in mé-di-o é –
in mé-di – o é-ius, in sa – – lí – – – ci-bus
-lí-ci-bus in mé-di – o é-ius, in sa-lí-ci –
we hung up our
41
46
-lí – cibus in mé-di – o é – ius
-ius, in médi-o é – ius, é – – – – – ius
in médi-o é – – – – – ius suspén – – – –
-bus in mé-di-o é – ius sus – pén – – – – – – – –
instruments.
47
52
sus – pén – – di-mus ór – gana nó – – – stra,
sus – pén – – – – – – dimus ór – – – – – – ga-na nó – – – – – –
– dimus, sus – – pén-dimus ór – – – – – – gana nó – stra, ór – ga-
– dimus, sus – pén – – dimus ór-ga-na


For there they demanded of us,
53
58
Quí – a íl – lic, quí – – – a íl – lic in – ter – ro-ga-vé –
– – – – – – – – – – – stra. Quí – a íl – lic ___, quí –
–na nó – – – – – stra. Quí – a íl – lic in – – ter – ro-ga – vé – – –
nó – – – – – – – – – stra, ór – ga – na nó – stra.
59
63
3
–runt ___ nos, in – ter – ro – ga – vé – – runt nos ___
–a íl – lic in – ter – ro – ga – vé – – – – runt nos,
– – runt ___ nos ___ , quí – a íl –
Quí – a íl – lic in –
who led us into
64
68
___ ,
qui cap – – tí – vos du –
in – – ter – ro – ga – vé – runt, qui cap – tí – vos, qui
–lic in – ter – ro – ga – vé – – – – – runt nos, qui cap – – tí –
– ter – ro – ga – vé – – runt nos ___ ,


captivity,
69
74
–xé – – – runt nos_____, qui cap – tí – vos du–xé-runt
cap – – tí – vos duxé – runt_____ nos, du – xé – – – – – – – –
–vos, qui cap – – tí – vos du-xé – runt nos, du – – – – – – xé –
qui cap – – tí – vos du-xérunt nos_____, du–xé – runt
the words of songs.
75
80
nos_____, vér – – ba canti – ó –
– runt_____ nos, vér – ba can-ti – ó – – – num, vér – ba
– runt nos__, vér – ba can-ti – ó – – – – – – – – – – num, vér – ba
nos_____, vér – ba can-ti – ó – num_____,
And they who
81
86
– – – – – – – – – – num, vér – ba can-ti – ó – – – – num_____.
can-ti – ó – – – – – – – – – – – – – – – num.
can-ti – ó – – – – – – num, vér – ba can-ti – ó – num. Et qui abdu –
can – – – – ti – ó – – – num. Et qui ab – du – – –


led us away:
87
91
Et qui ab – du – – – xé –
Et qui ab – du – – – – – xé – – – – – – –
– – – xé – – – – – – – – – runt nos, et qui ab –
– xé – – – – – – – – – – runt nos,
"Sing us a
92
96
– – – – – runt nos :
– – – runt nos, ab – du – xé – runt nos: "Hým – num can-tá – te
– du – – – – – xé – runt nos, qui ab – du – xé runt nos
et qui ab – du – – – – – xé – runt
hymn
97
101
"Hým – num can – tá – te nó – – – – – – – – – – – bis
nó – bis, hým – num cantá – te nó – – – – – – – – – –
: "Hým – num cantá – te nó – – – – – – – – bis de cán – ti –
nos, ab – du – xé – runt nos: "Hým num can – tá – te nó – – bis de


from the songs of Zion."
102
106
3
de cán-ti-cis Sí-on, de cán-ti-cis Sí - -
- bis de cánti-cis Sí - - - on, de cán-ti-cis Sí - -
-cis Sí - - - - - on, de cán - ti-cis Sí - - - on, de
cán-ti-cis Sí-on, de cán-ti-cis Sí-on, de cán-ti -
How shall we sing the Lord's song
107
113
- - - - - on."
- on." Quó - mo-do cantá-bi-mus, quó - mo-do can-tá - bi-mus cán-
cán-ti-cis Sí - on." Quó - mo-do can-tá-bi-mus, quó - mo-do can-tá - bi-mus cán-
-cis Síon." Quó - mo-do can-tá-bi-mus, quó-
114
120
-ti-cum Dó - mi - ni,
- ti-cum Dó - - - - - - - - - - mi - - - ni, cán-ti-cum
-ti-cum Dó - - - - - - - - - - - - - - mi - ni,
- mo-do can-tá - bi-mus cán-ti-cum Dó - - - - mi-ni, cán-ti -


in a
foreign land?
mi – ni
Dó – mi – ni, cán – ti-cum Dó – mi – ni in tér–ra
cán – ti – cum Dó – mi – ni in tér–ra
–cum Dó – mi –
in tér–ra a – li – é – na, in tér–ra
a – li – é – na, in tér–ra a –
a – li – é – na, in tér – ra a – li – é –
–ni in tér – ra a – li – é – na, in
a – li – é – na, in tér–ra a – li – é – na?
– li – é – na, in tér–ra a – li – é – na?
– na, in tér – ra a – li – é – na ?
tér – ra a – li – é – na, in tér – ra a – li – é – na?