TREASURED BACH MELODIES FOR PIANO DUET

Three Arrangements for Recitals or Worship Services for 1 piano, 4 hands

Arranged by **Sharon Aaronson**

As a young piano student, I shied away from playing Bach's music because of its technical demands. It was not until studying music as an adult that I gained the utmost respect and appreciation for Bach's creativity, inventiveness and unparalleled genius.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) was a religious man. His love of God was primary and he served God in all aspects of his life, believing that the purpose of music was for "none else but the glory of God and the recreation of the mind." He was employed in positions as diverse as organ builder, church organist, choir director, and teacher, to name but a few, during which time he built upon his vast body of musical works. Although he composed in the different genres of his day, Bach was renowned as a keyboard virtuoso during his lifetime. It was for his students that he wrote some of his most important keyboard music, which remains to this day a staple in the repertoire of pianists.

These three musical treasures are among Bach's most cherished works. *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* is the celebrated Chorale from Cantata No. 147; *Siciliano* is from the Sonata in E-flat Major for Flute and Harpsichord, BWV 1031; and *Sheep May Safely Graze* is the soprano recitative and aria from the "Birthday" Cantata, BWV 208. These pieces are appropriate as performance or background music prior to or during regular worship services. *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* and *Sheep May Safely Graze* are often played at weddings while the restful mood of the *Siciliano* is appropriate at times during a service when a contemplative mood is needed. Additionally, these duet arrangements can serve as excellent recital pieces in a secular setting for those who enjoy Bach and Baroque music.

Sharon Aaronson

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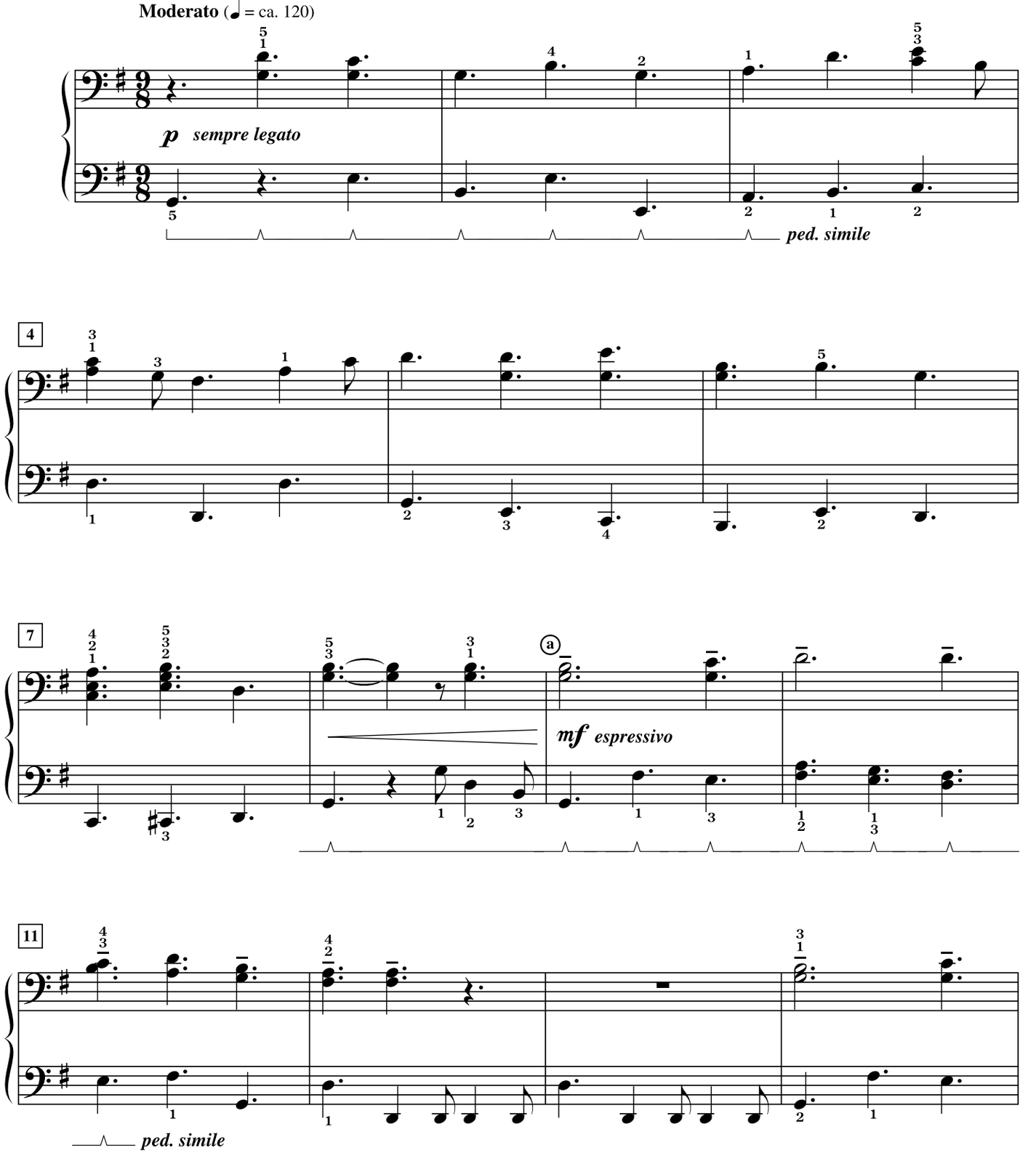
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Chorale

SECONDO

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
from Cantata No. 147
Arr. Sharon Aaronson



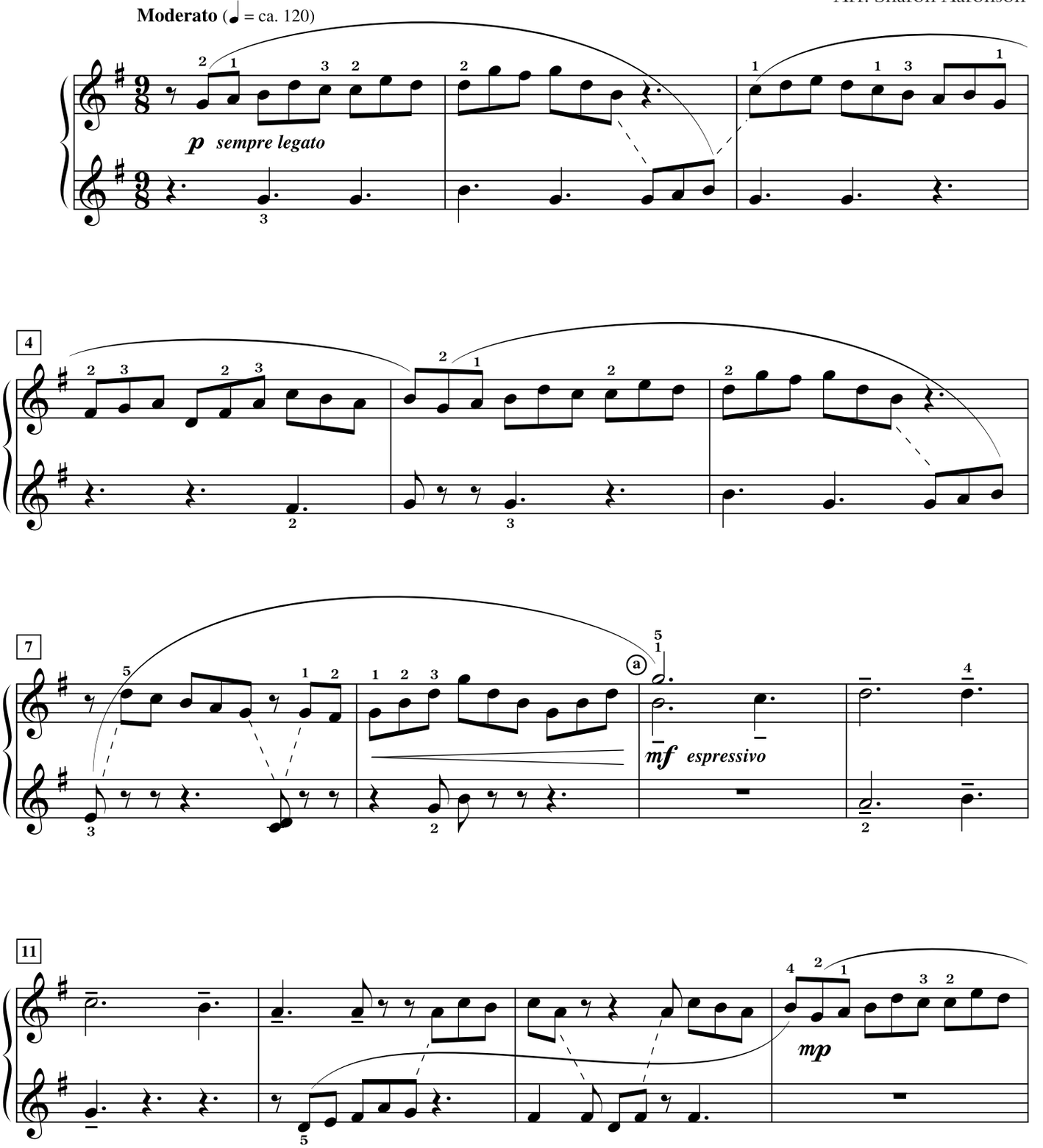
(a) Bring out the melody notes marked with tenuto (–) signs.

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Chorale

PRIMO

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
from Cantata No. 147
Arr. Sharon Aaronson



ⓐ Bring out the melody notes marked with tenuto (–) signs.