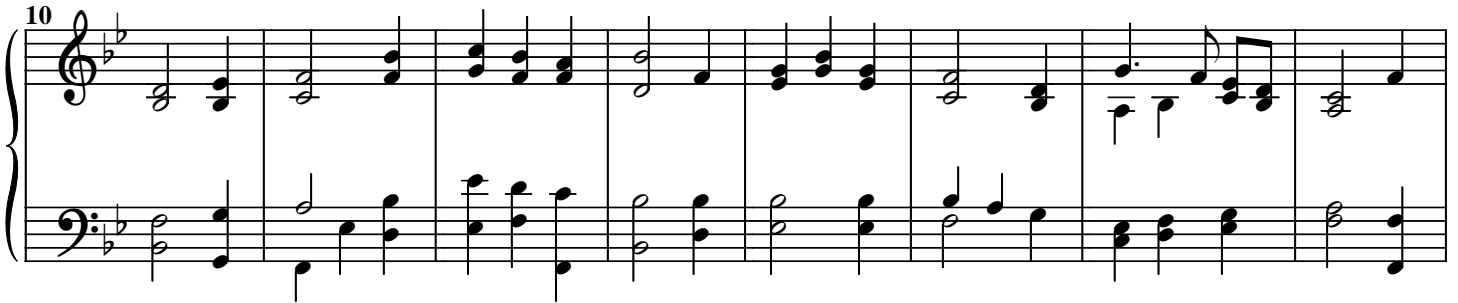
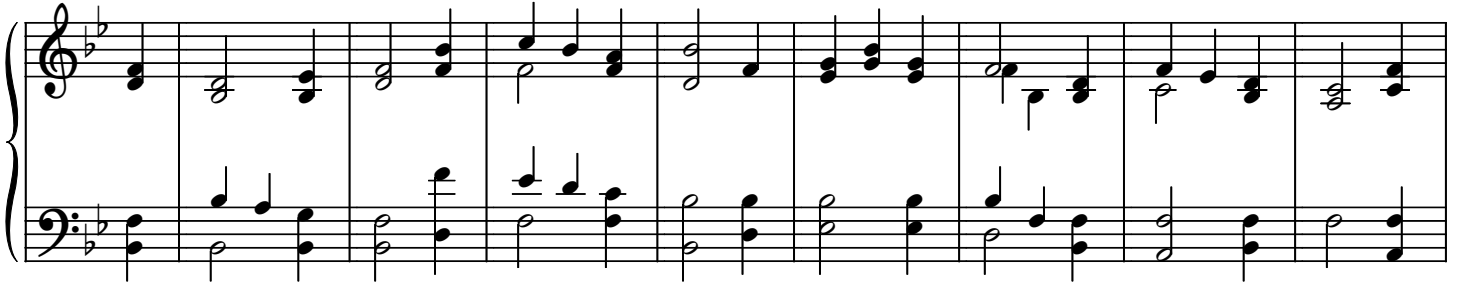


# Before thy throne, O God we kneel

Dmitri S. Bortniansky, 1825

St. Petersburg  
88.88.88



Before Thy throne, O God, we kneel;  
Give us a conscience quick to feel,  
A ready mind to understand  
The meaning of Thy chastening hand;  
Whate'er the pain and shame may be,  
Bring us, O Father, nearer Thee.

Search out our hearts and make us true,  
Wishful to give to all their due;  
From love of pleasure, lust of gold,  
From sins which make the heart grow cold,  
Wean us and train us with Thy rod;  
Teach us to know our faults, O God.

For sins of heedless word and deed,  
For pride ambitious to succeed;  
For crafty trade and subtle snare  
To catch the simple unaware;  
For lives bereft of purpose high,  
Forgive, forgive, O Lord, we cry.

Let the fierce fires, which burn and try,  
Our inmost spirits purify:  
Consume the ill; purge out the shame;  
O God! be with us in the flame;  
A newborn people may we rise,  
More pure, more true, more nobly wise.

William Carpenter