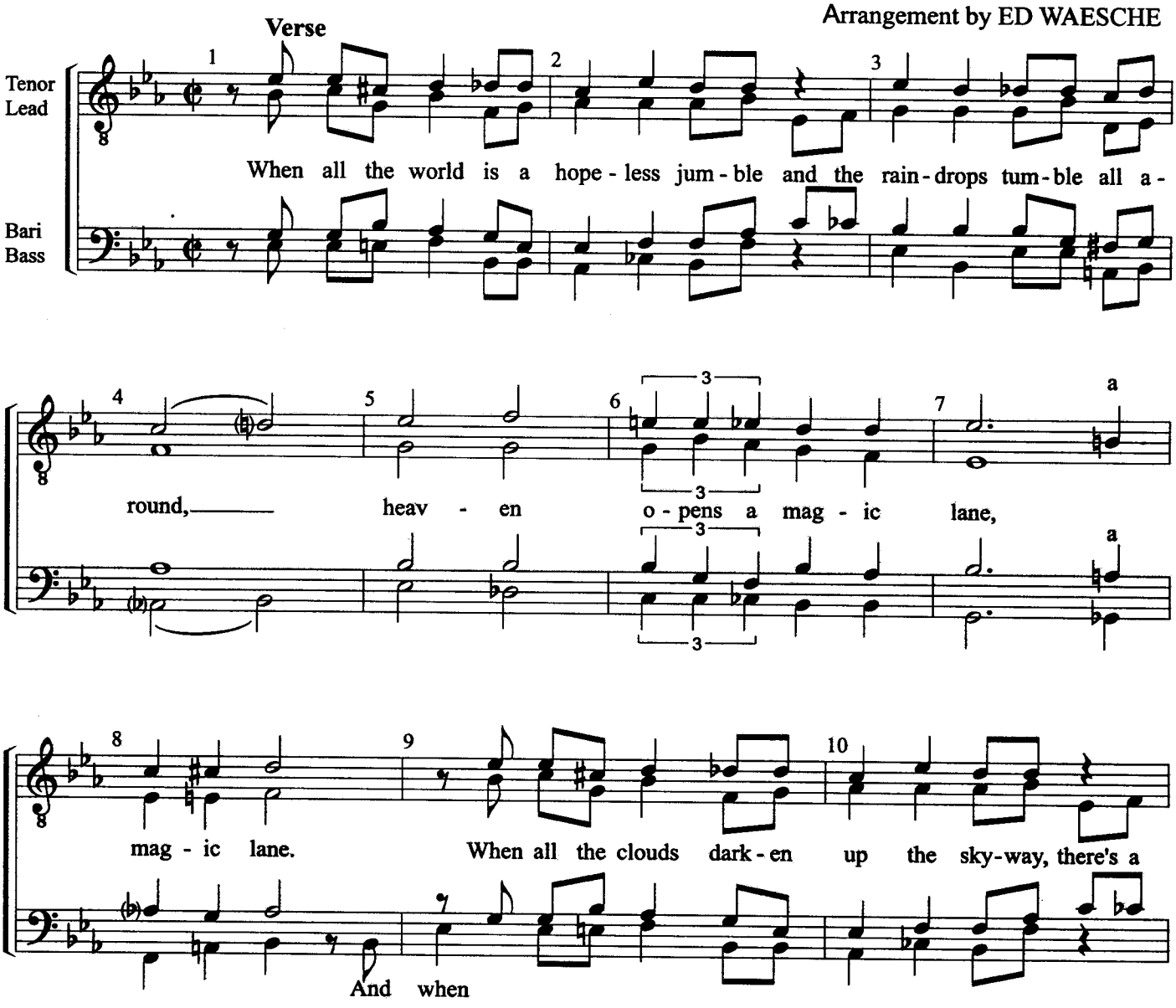
The Barbershop Harmony Society
7930 Sheridan Road Kenosha [illegible]
Stock No. 8837

OVER THE RAINBOW

Words by E.Y. HARBURG

as sung by Second Edition

Music by HAROLD ARLEN
Arrangement by ED WAESCHE

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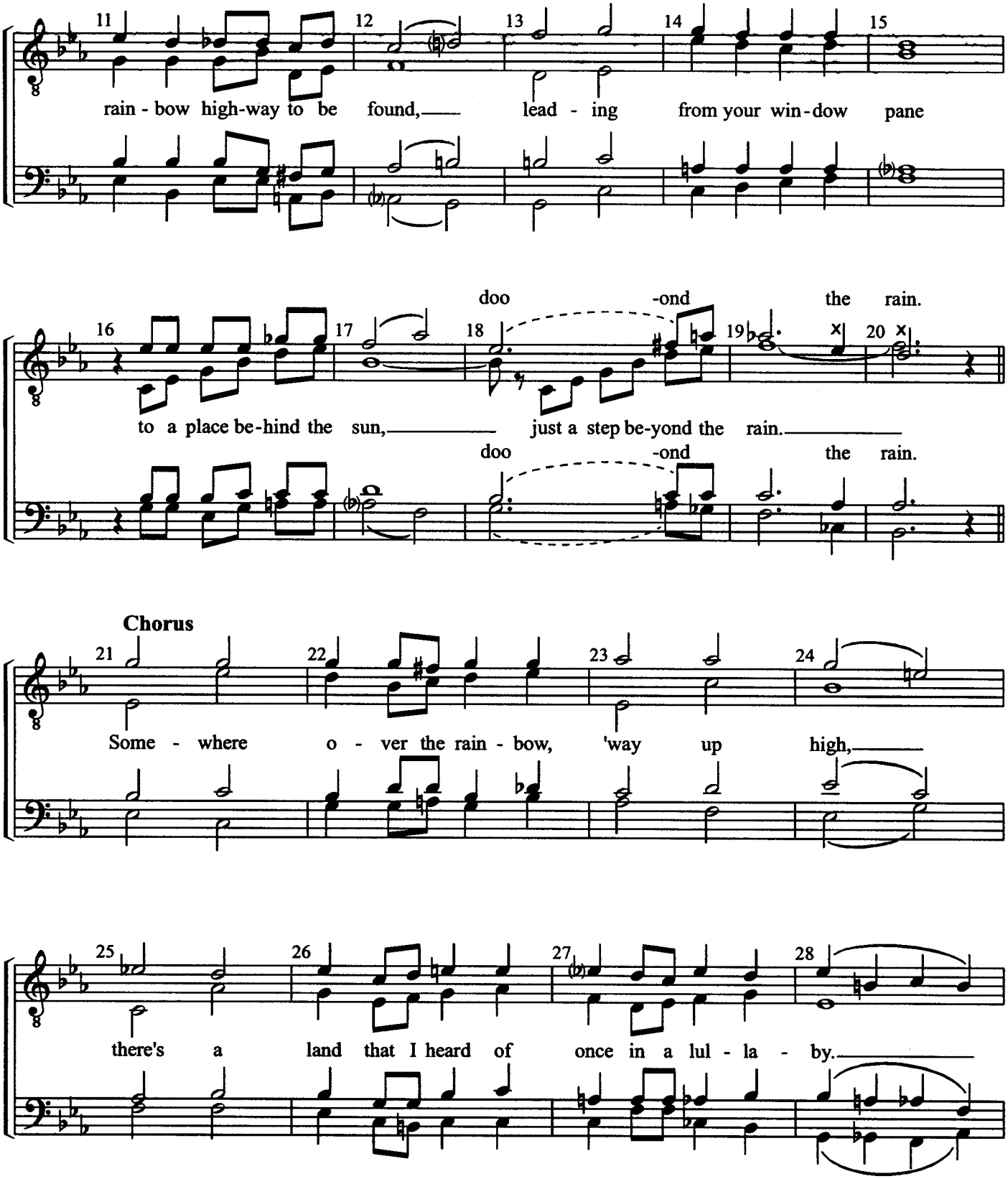
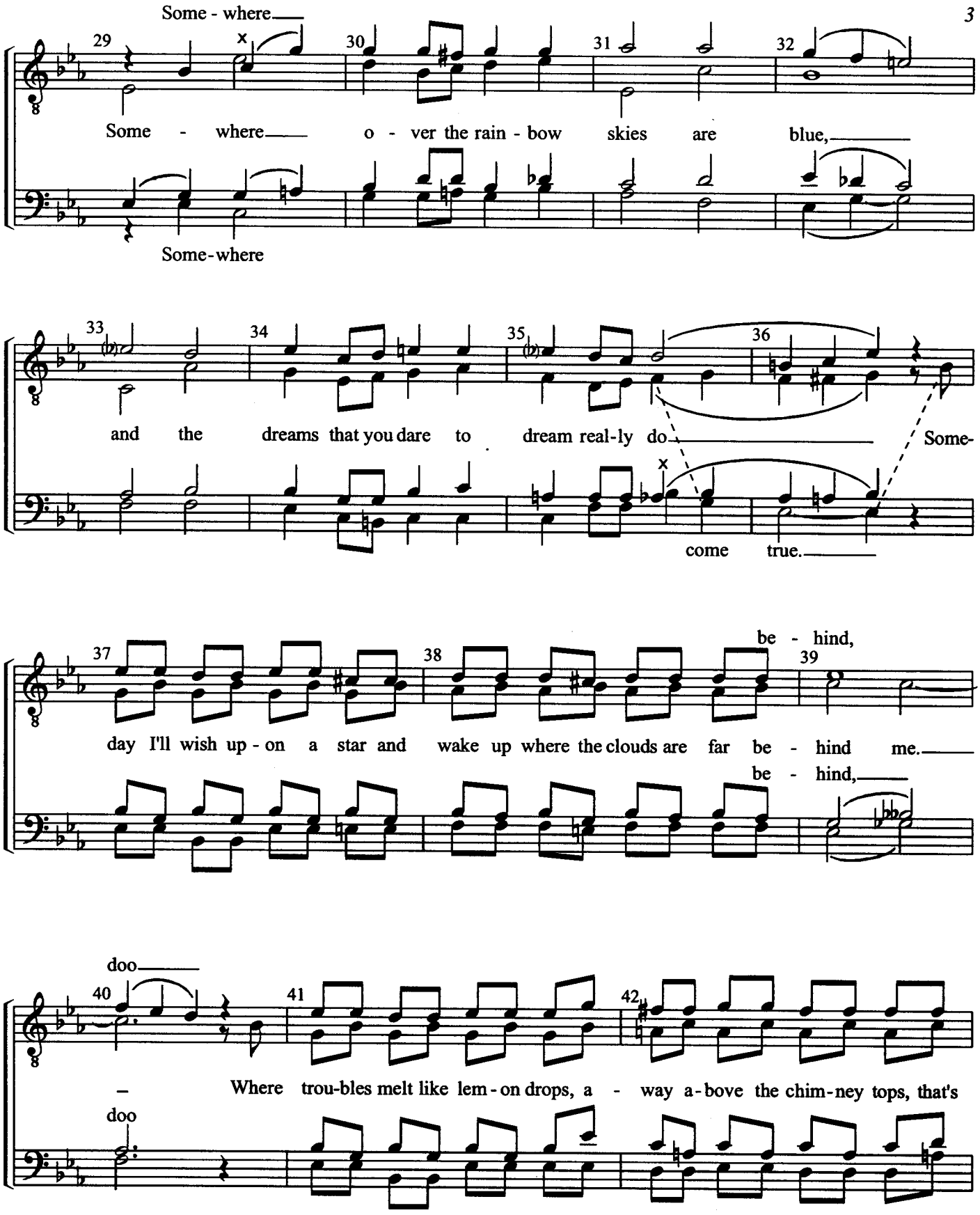
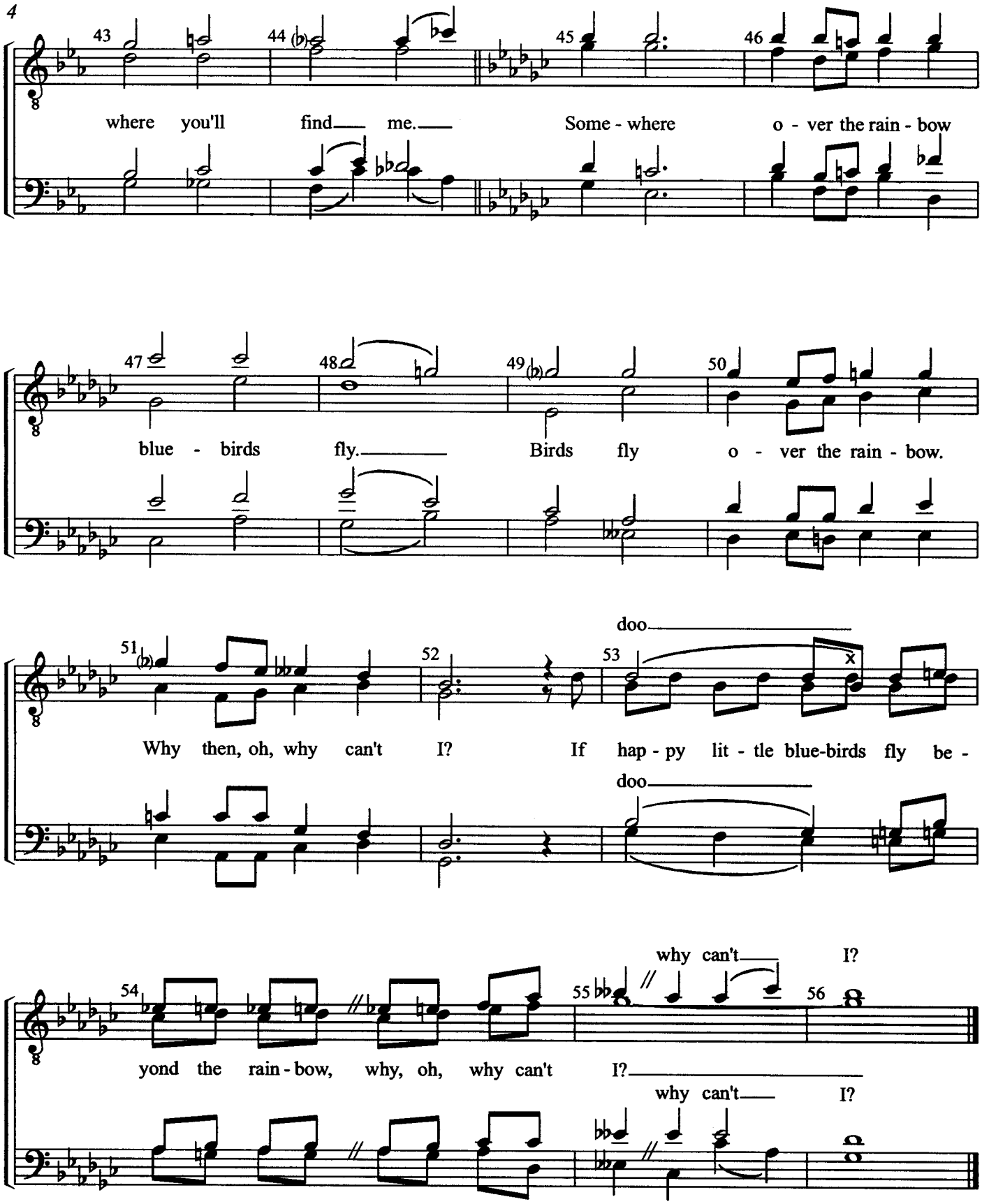
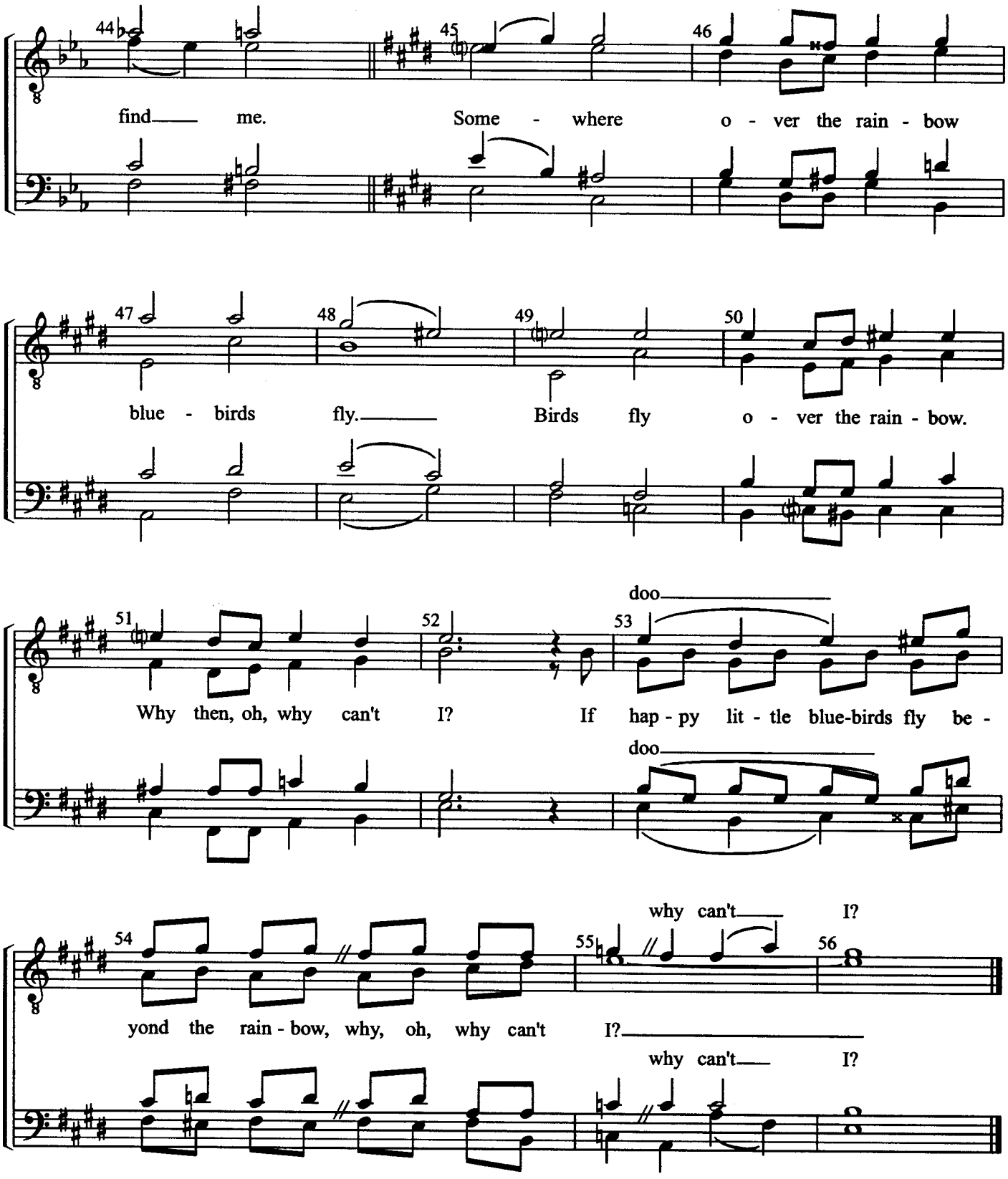

11 12 13 14 15
rain - bow high-way to be found, lead - ing from your win-dow pane
doo -ond the rain.
16 17 18 19 20
to a place be-hind the sun, just a step be-yond the rain.
doo -ond the rain.
Chorus
21 22 23 24
Some - where o - ver the rain - bow, 'way up high,
25 26 27 28
there's a land that I heard of once in a lul - la - by.

Some - where
29
30
31
32
Some - where o - ver the rain - bow skies are blue,
Some-where
33
34
35
36
and the dreams that you dare to dream real-ly do
Some-
come true.
be - hind,
37
38
39
day I'll wish up - on a star and wake up where the clouds are far be - hind me.
be - hind,
doo
40
41
42
Where trou-bles melt like lem - on drops, a - way a-bove the chim-ney tops, that's
doo

where you'll find me. Some - where o - ver the rain - bow
blue - birds fly. Birds fly o - ver the rain - bow.
doo
Why then, oh, why can't I? If hap - py lit - tle blue-birds fly be -
doo
why can't I?
yond the rain - bow, why, oh, why can't I?
why can't I?

Optional key lift at measure 44

Performance Notes

Over the Rainbow, from the 1939 movie **The Wizard of Oz**, won an Academy Award for composer Harold Arlen and lyricist E.Y. ("Yip") Harburg. This was a rare collaboration for the two. Before coming to Hollywood, Arlen had become known for his many bluesy songs for Harlem's Cotton Club performers (*Stormy Weather, I Gotta Right to Sing the Blues, I've Got the World on a String)* and his efforts with Johnny Mercer (*Blues In the Night, Come Rain or Come Shine).* Yip Harburg is best known to Barbershoppers through his lyrics to *It's Only a Paper Moon* and *Brother, Can You Spare a Dime.*

Over he Rainbow was deleted from the print of **The Wizard of Oz** three times. The publisher objected to the difficult-to-sing octave leap on the word "somewhere" and the simple melody of the B section (ms 37-44), which he likened to a "child's excercise." But each time Arlen and the movie's producer Arthur Freed prevailed, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Ed Waesche is a premiere arranger, quartet singer, coach, a certified judge in the Music category, and former president of the Barbershop Harmony Society. This is another one of his outstanding contributions to singers of harmony.

The song is one of hope. The lyrics of the Verse anticipate a happy ending, so acknowledge the purpose of the echo "a magic lane" in ms. 7 and 8. Other highlights in the Verse are the swipe on "sun" in ms. 17 (bright) and "rain, the rain" is ms. 19 (contrasting picture painting that suggests a stillness after the rain ends).

The lyrics in the so-called "child's exercise" in ms. 37-44 of the Chorus are full of anticipation, leading to the song's first climax after the key lift. Stay with the energy of the climax through ms. 48. That's followed by a natural letdown, with the voicings descending to the song's first ending at ms. 52. The composers wrote a brilliant ending. (Yes, ms. 53-56 contains the composers' melody and lyric!). It contains a question that only the performer can answer. If you try hard enough, you can!

The key lift at ms. 45 will put some leads and baritones into ranges they may not be able to handle with good vocal quality. The alternate key lift, and preparation for it, will make this climax easier to handle. If the high E in the bari part in ms. 45 is still too high for you baritones, sing the low E (bass note) and swipe to the B natural, which you've just sung as the last note in ms. 44. Coming to the ending, note the caesurae in ms. 54 and 55. There's a natural ritardando before the first one, and that caesura should be brief. The pleading of the lyrics after it leads to a strong major triad on the downbeat of ms. 55. This caesura is a little longer in duration, anticipating the natural drawing out of the final climax.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.