FROM THE FIRST HELLO TO THE LAST GOODBYE

as sung by the Boston Common

Words and Music by JOHNNY BURKE

Arrangement by LOU PERRY

Verse *freely*

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Our song was a song of to - mor - row. Our

hearts were as high as the sky. But

songs are for - got - ten, and skies of - ten gray.

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From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye

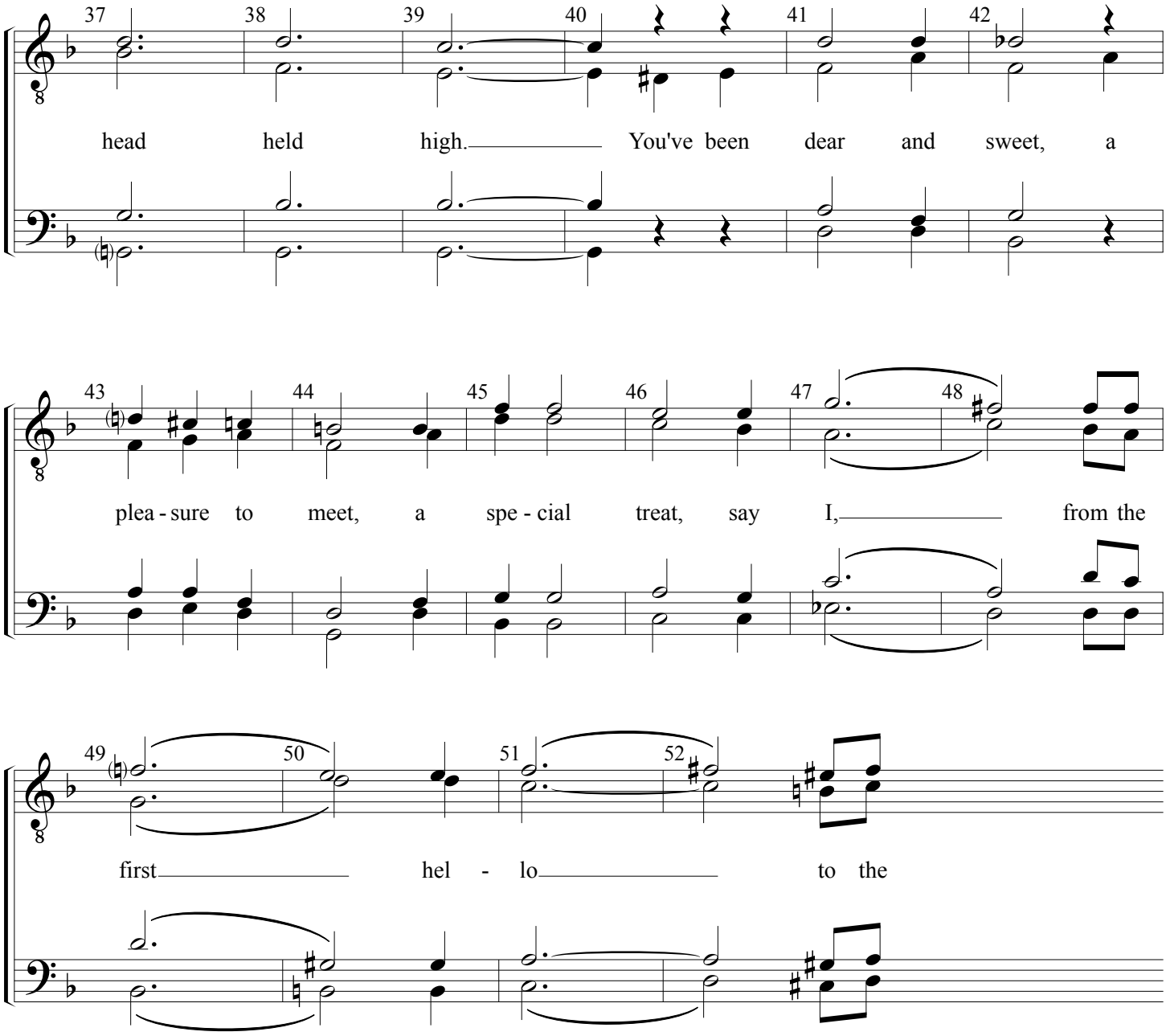
Chorus

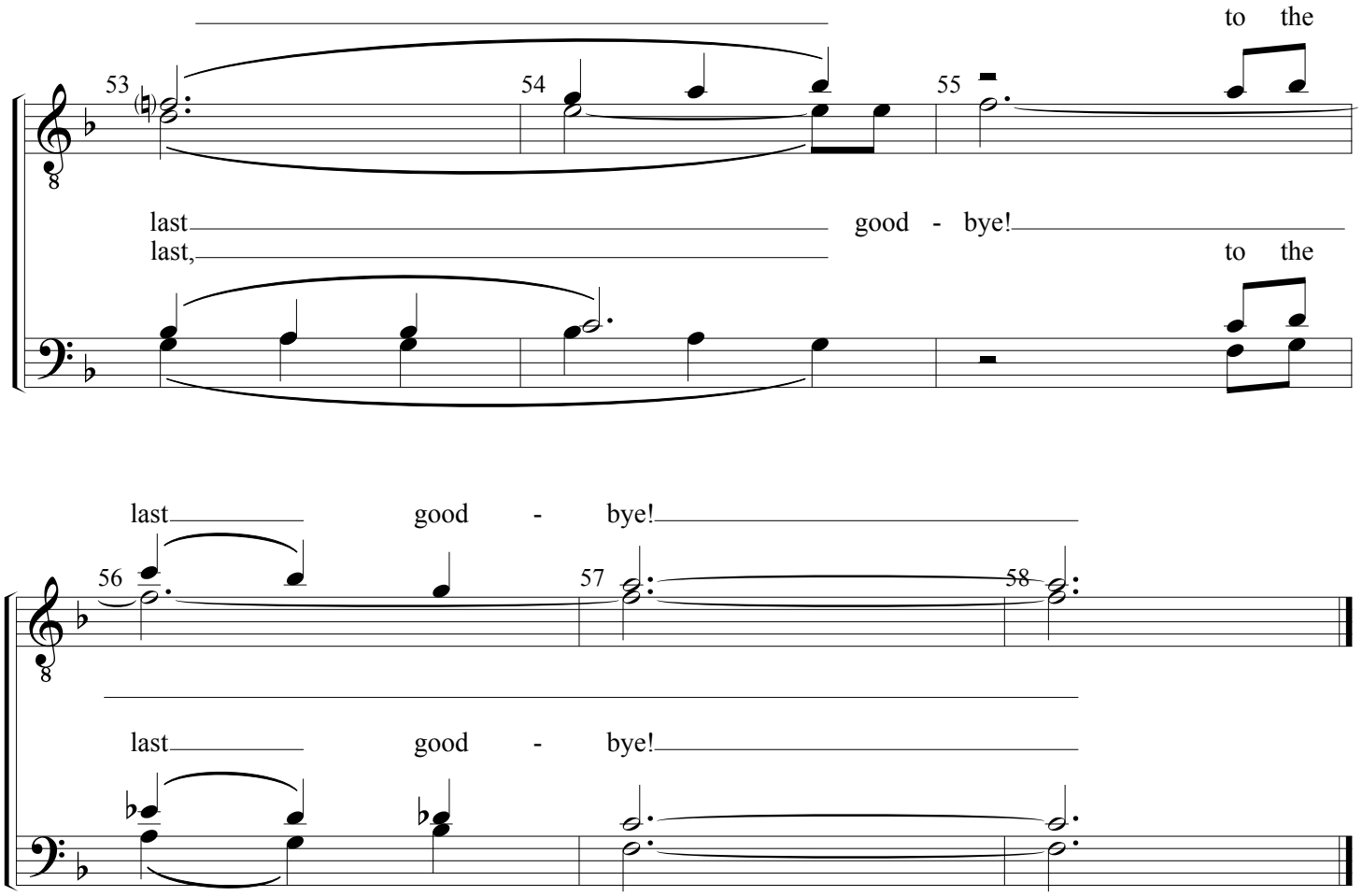
Nev - er - the - less, there is this I can say: From the first

hel - lo to the last good - bye, it's been

aw - f'ly nice to know you. So ex - cuse the part - ing

sigh. And I'll watch you go with my


37 38 39 40 41 42
head held high. You've been dear and sweet, a
43 44 45 46 47 48
plea - sure to meet, a spe - cial treat, say I, from the
49 50 51 52
first hel - lo to the



Performance Notes

Johnny Burke was a successful musician, active from the 1920s to the 1960s. He started working at the Irving Berlin Publishing Company selling pianos and moonlighting as a pianist in dance bands and in the vaudeville scene. Burke collaborated as the lyricist with many successful musicians, most notably Jimmy Van Heusen. Among his best remembered songs are *Pennies From Heaven*, *Imagination*, *Moonlight Becomes You*, and *Swingin' on a Star*, the last of which won Burke an Academy Award.

Arranger Lou Perry is considered one of the finest barbershop arrangers the Barbershop Harmony Society ever had. Known for writing very singable arrangements, his style is studied by both the new arranger as well as the veteran. Lou wrote many lasting arrangements, among them being *From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye*, *That Old Quartet of Mine*, *Little Pal*, and *Smilin' Through*.

From the First Hello is one of the most enduring barbershop arrangements. Its gentle range makes it an excellent song for the everyman, yet its profound lyric keeps it in the repertoire of the most polished ensembles. A signature song for the Boston Common, this arrangement features a beautiful, straight-forward lyric with no frills or unnecessary movements. Although the Common used the lower ending, a secondary, more climactic tag emerged as a viable option.

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 guidelines. Ask *before* you sing.