Psalm 37 is an acrostic Psalm with 22 sections built on each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This musical setting follows that pattern, with 22 "songlets." The last four measures of each songlet can be sung in counterpoint to the first four measures of the next songlet, creating a 22-link musical chain.

Psalm 37
An Antiphonal Acrostic:
Why do good things happen to bad people?

Words and music by
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Evil only brings more evil. Turn from wrath and walk away from anger.

Evil will end and the faithful will see their reward.

For soon the faithless will be no more; search high and low, still they won't be found.

But the meek will inherit it the earth, forever blessed with peace.

Grinding their teeth and licking their lips, the wicked make their plans for the righteous.

God only laughs as they lay their traps for he knows that their own downfall is coming.

Here they lie in wait with weapons drawn—their swords are sharpened, their bow strings are taut—hoping to harm the humble, the holy and the poor who walk in peace upon the
road. How confused they'll be to find their arrows broken, their bows all shattered. How could they have known that their own swords in their own hearts would find a home?

It's better to be impoverished with the innocent than enjoy the abundance of iniquity. The iron grip of the wicked will be broken, but God will hold the righteous in his hands. Jehovah leads the journey of the just; their legacy enduring like the sun. When catastrophe comes they'll stand strong; and in famine they'll still have enough.

Ring of all, and all must bow down. But the faithless, like fields on fire, All gone—gone up in smoke.
Loans to the crooked will never be repaid. God's people give with generosity and grace. Bless the Lord for countless blessings. Curse not for it comes to nothing.

Right is the Lord, who strengthens the steps of those who walk his way.

They may stumble but they'll never fall, Hand in hand with the Lord of all.

Now I am old, but once I was young. And I have never seen the righteous forsaken, or their children go hungry, or their families beg. Their riches they give freely—forever a blessing!

O only do good; turn from all sin; then you will dwell forever in the land.

For the Lord loves the just and will not abandon his faithful.
Psalm 37

PPeople of the Lord will abide with God forever, but
civil comes to nothing and the wicked come to nothing.

Quiet words of wisdom flow from the mouths of the just. Their tongues speak
righteousness for God's law is in their hearts. Therefore their feet do not slip. Re-
solved to trap the faithful the wicked will lie in wait. But God's
own will not be caught within their schemes of hate.

Stay on God's path. Hope in the Lord.

Your eyes shall see the triumph of good.
Tyrants may flourish like trees, their branches spreading like cedars. But they vanish in the breeze; they're forgotten like a fever. The right, the blameless, and those who seek God's peace will enjoy a glad future the unjust will never know.

Indication for the righteous comes from God, and God alone. Run to the Lord; you will find a fortress strong!

(Connects back to the beginning.)

Anger may come, but don't let it rule your heart. Don't envy those who do wrong.