FRANK STEMPER

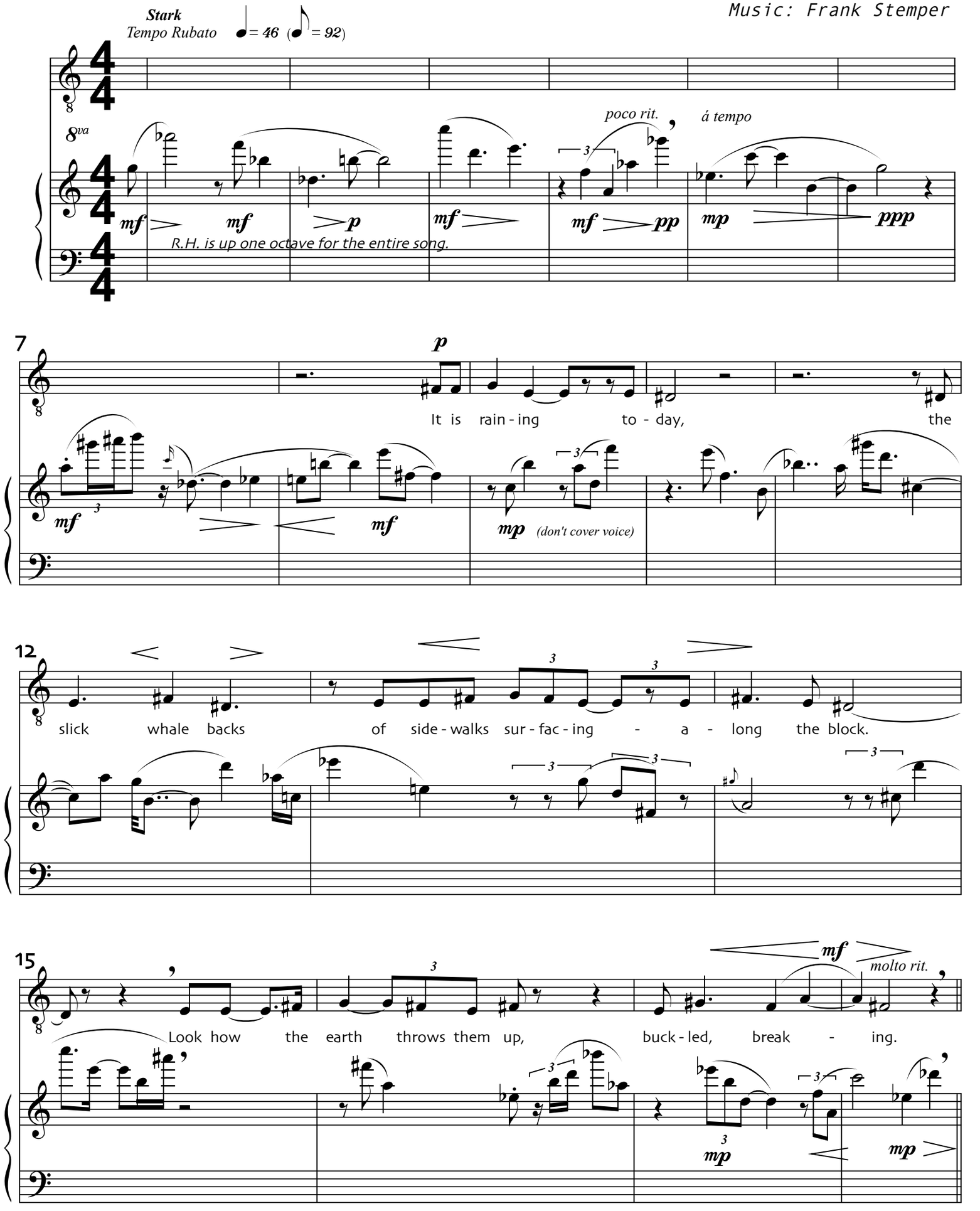
a love imagined

EIGHT SONGS FROM TEN POEMS BY HERBERT SCOTT

FOR VOICE AND PIANO

NOVEMBER

Text: Herbert Scott
Music: Frank Stemper



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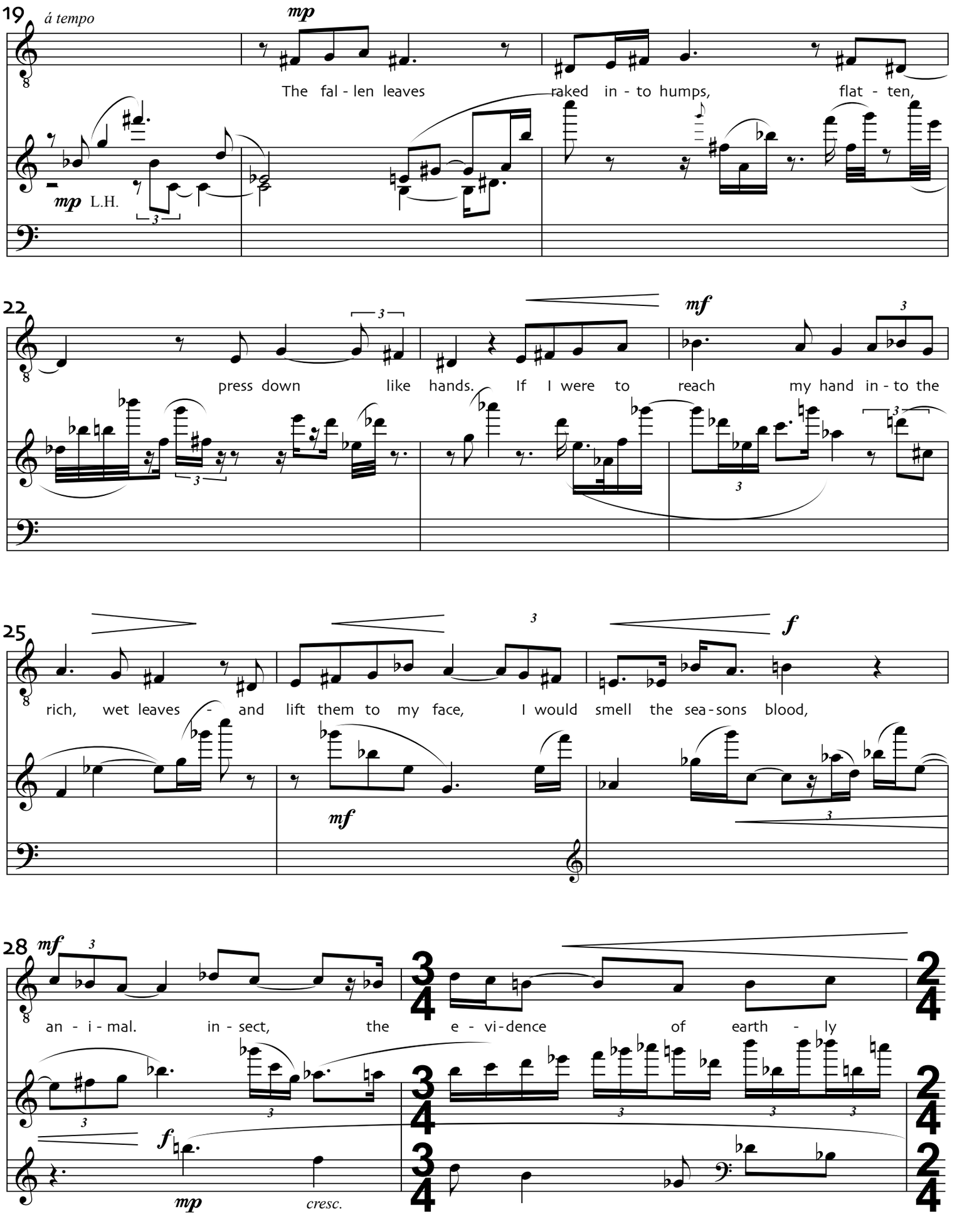
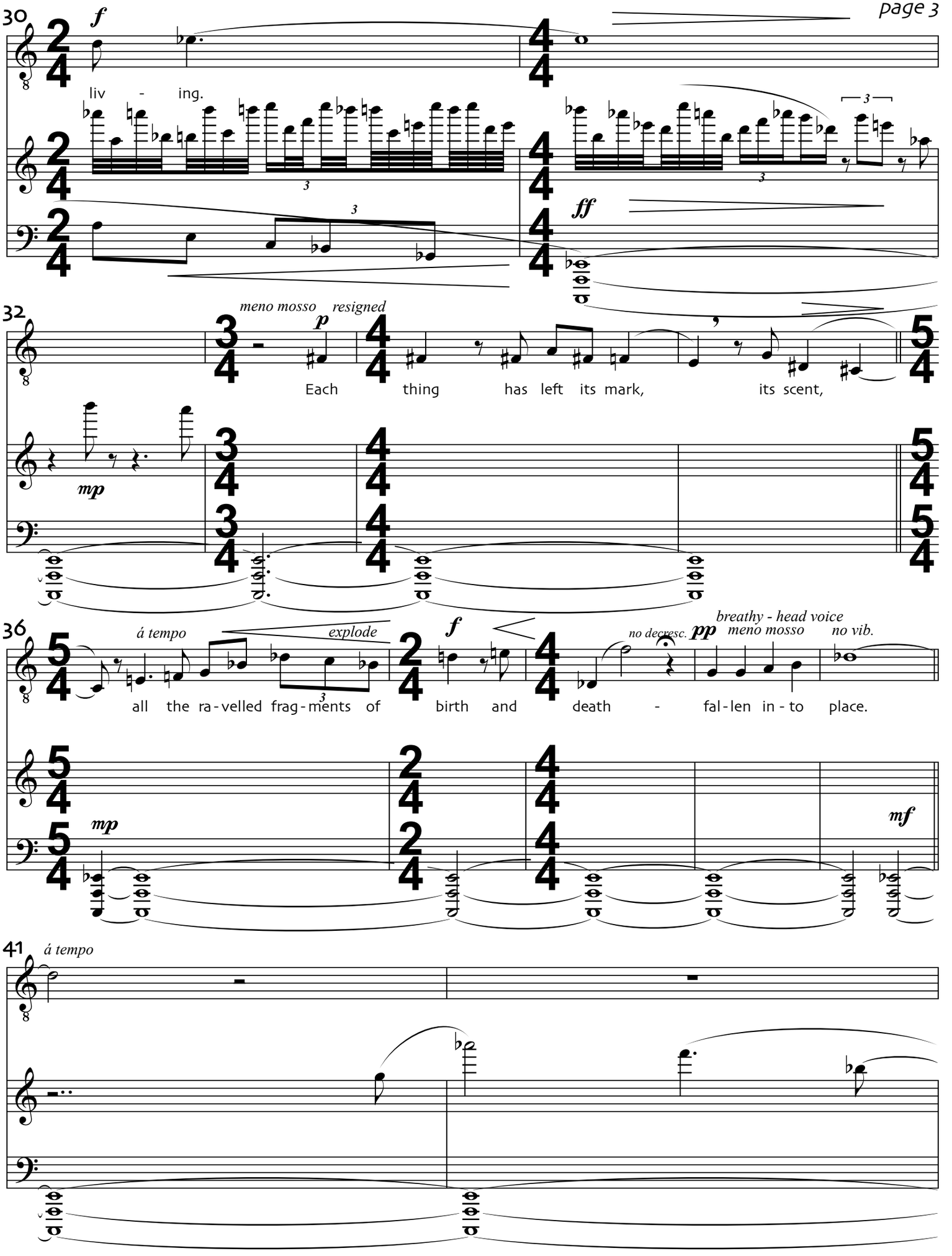
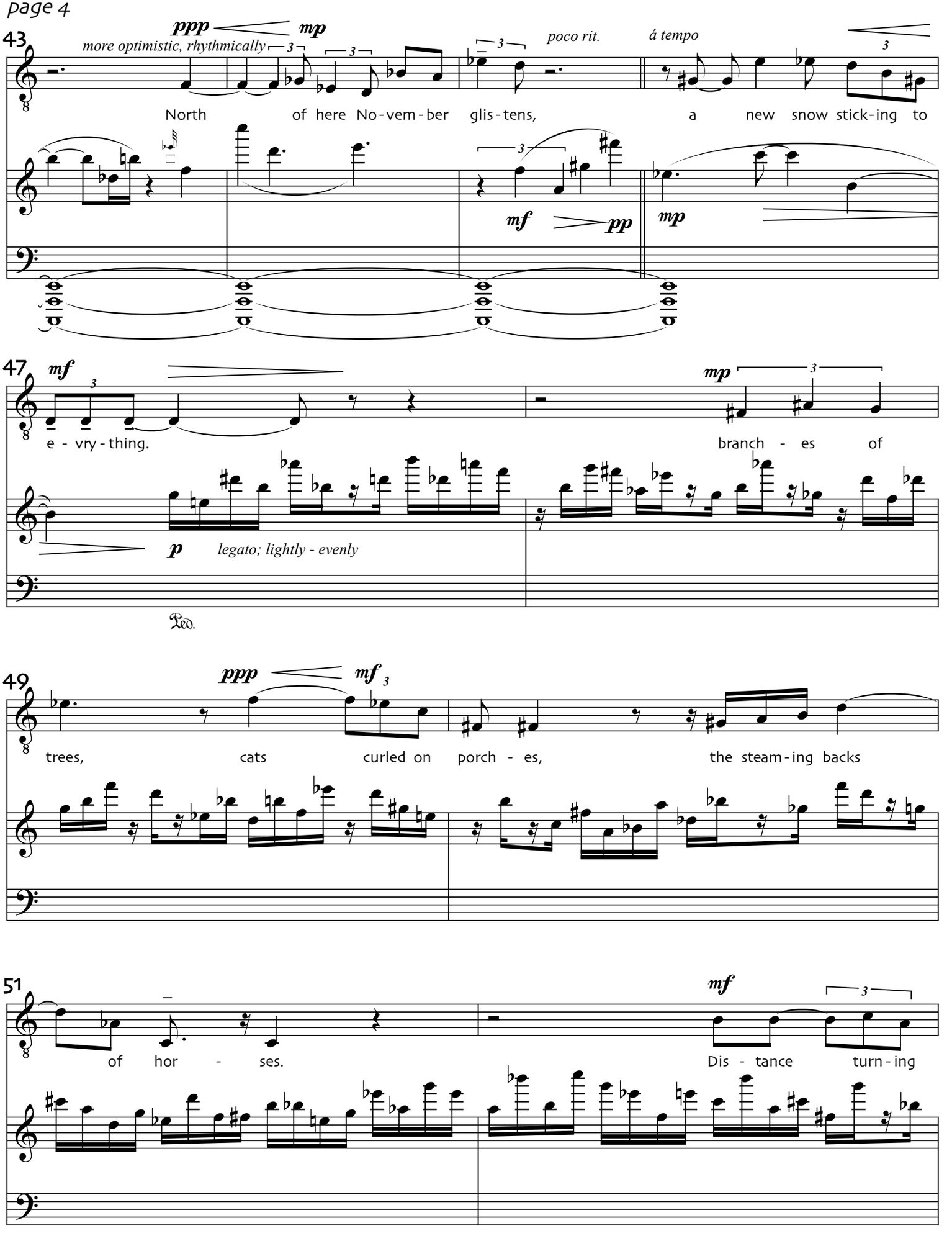

19
á tempo
mp
The fal - len leaves raked in - to humps, flat - ten,
mp L.H.
22
mf
press down like hands. If I were to reach my hand in - to the
25
f
rich, wet leaves - and lift them to my face, I would smell the sea - sons blood,
mf
28
mf
an - i - mal. in - sect, the e - vi - dence of earth - ly
f
mp
cresc.


30
f
liv - ing.
ff
32
meno mosso
resigned
p
Each thing has left its mark, its scent,
mp
36
á tempo
explode
f
all the ra-velled frag-ments of birth and death - fal-len in-to place.
no decresc.
pp
breathy - head voice
meno mosso
no vib.
mp
mf
41
á tempo


43
ppp
mp
more optimistic, rhythmically
poco rit.
á tempo
North of here No-vem-ber glis-tens, a new snow stick-ing to
mf
pp
mp
47
mf
e - vry - thing.
mp
branch - es of
p
legato; lightly - evenly
Ped.
49
ppp
mf
trees, cats curled on porch - es, the steam-ing backs
51
of hor - ses.
mf
Dis - tance turn-ing

53

breathy - head voice ***pp***

rain to snow or snow to rain Each is

57

pain and beau - ty, wet pave - ment

60

sub. mf

glow - ing in the pale Nov - em - ber noon, or snow

mf

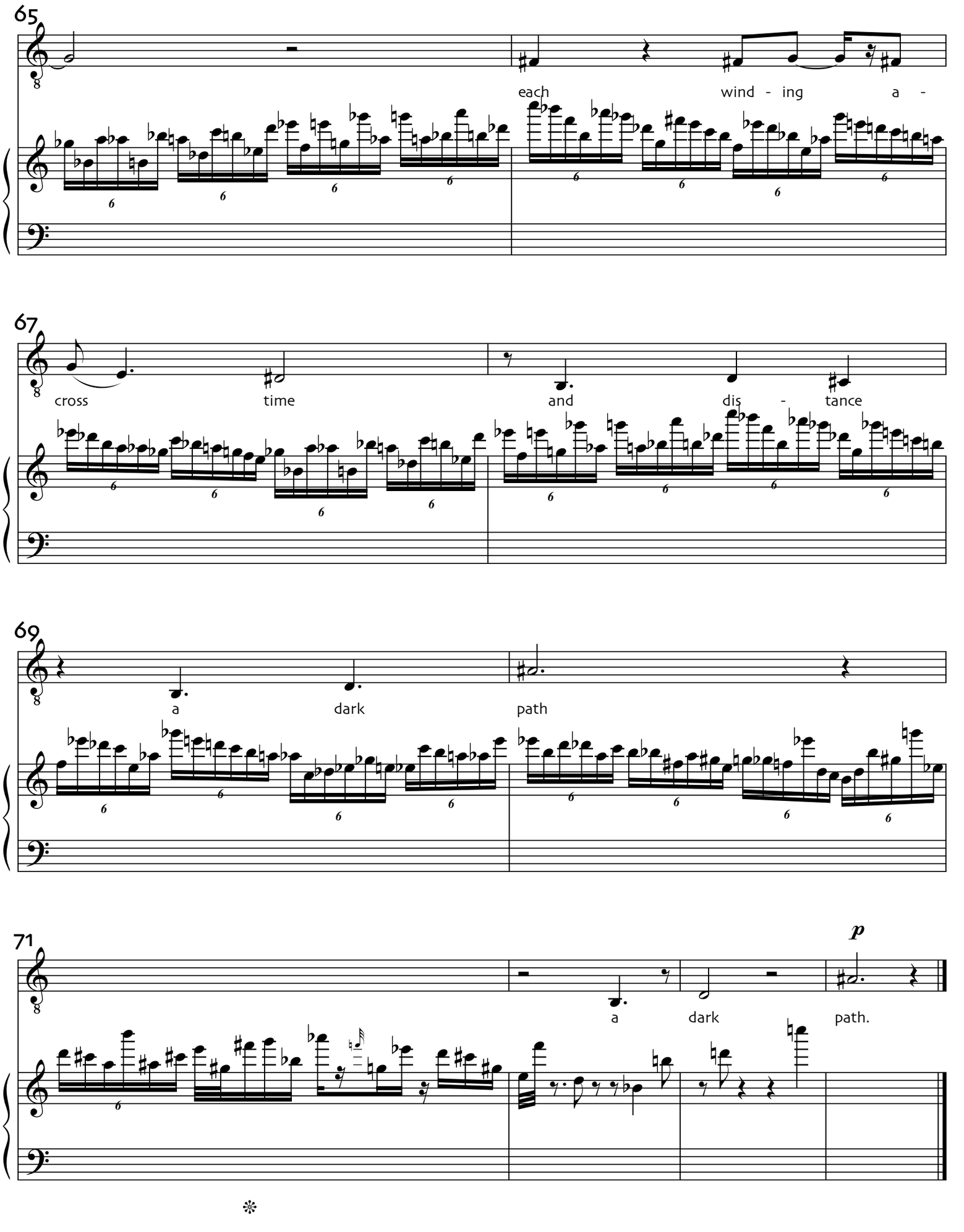
Ped.

63

nienté ***mp***

its own il - lu - - - - mi - na - tion,

mp *lightly, shimmering (Berceuse)*


65
each wind - ing a -
67
cross time and dis - tance
69
a dark path
71
p
a dark path.

IN A FIELD OF SUNLIGHT

Text: Herbert Scott
Music: Frank Stemper

♩= 132 *Light and a little zaney*

p

6

mf *animato*

accent naturally, not with meter

We will walk in in - to the field of gold - en - rod

mp

L.H. - legato

10

a little quieter, sneaky

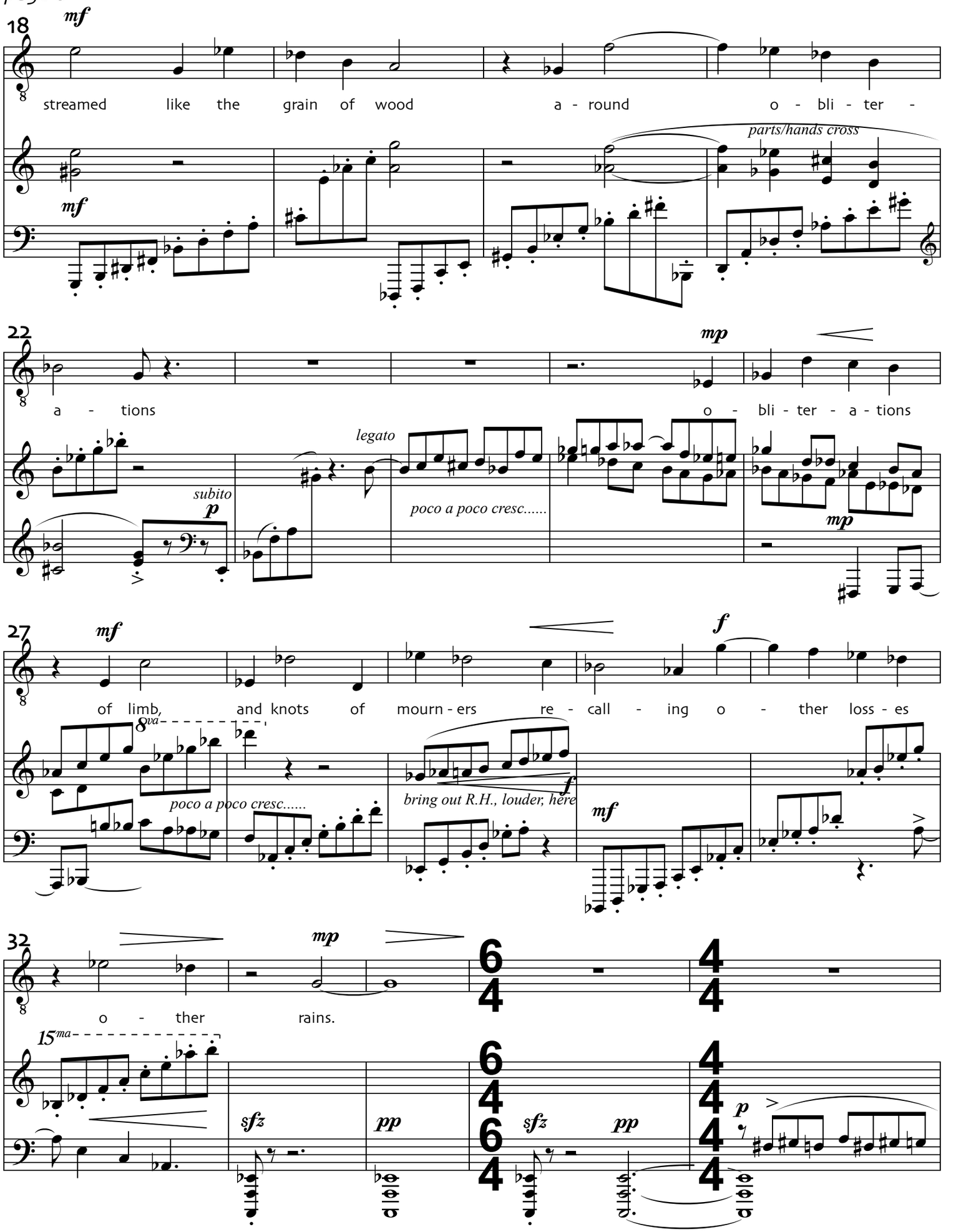
field - of gold - en rod splint - ered by the sun's the

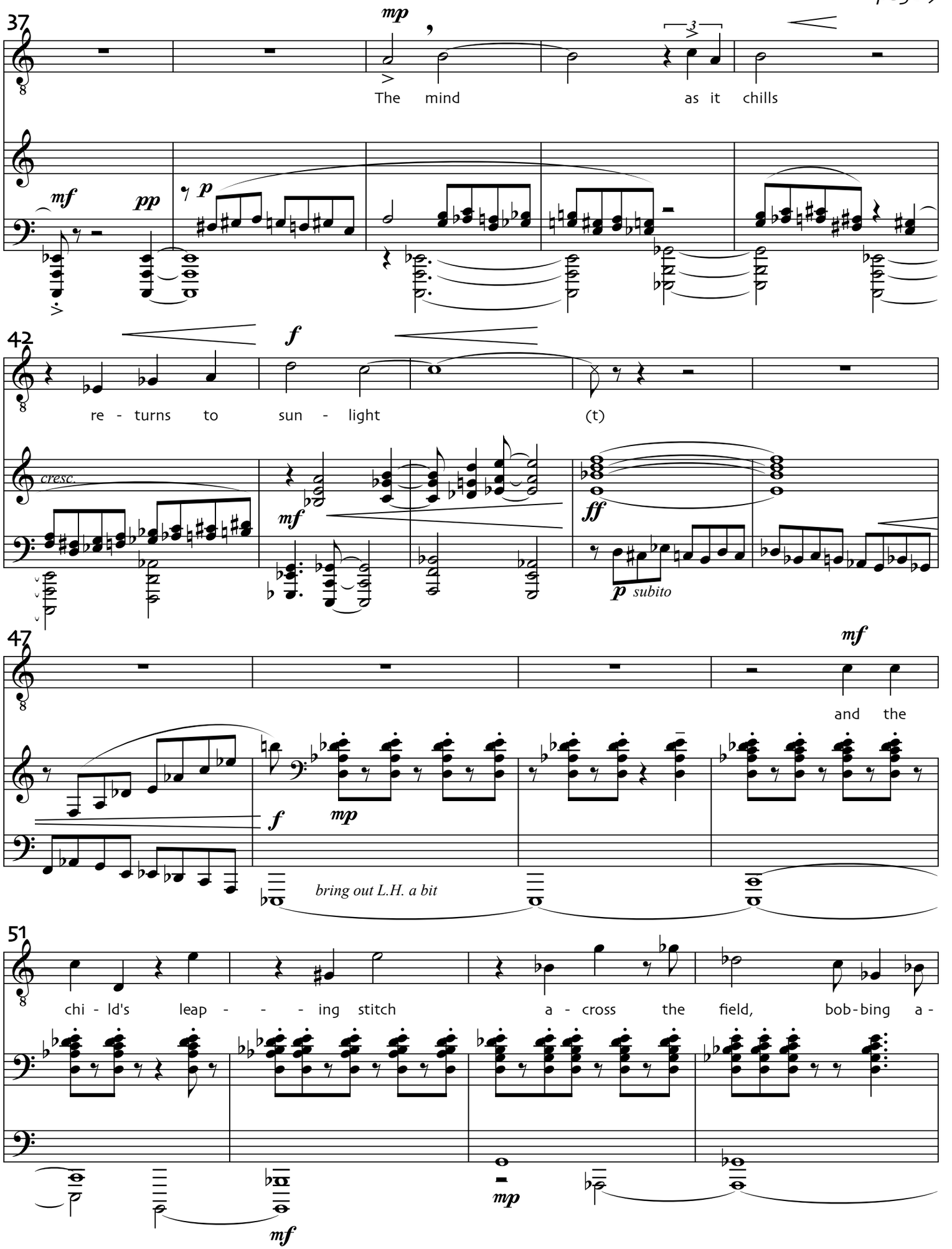
8vb

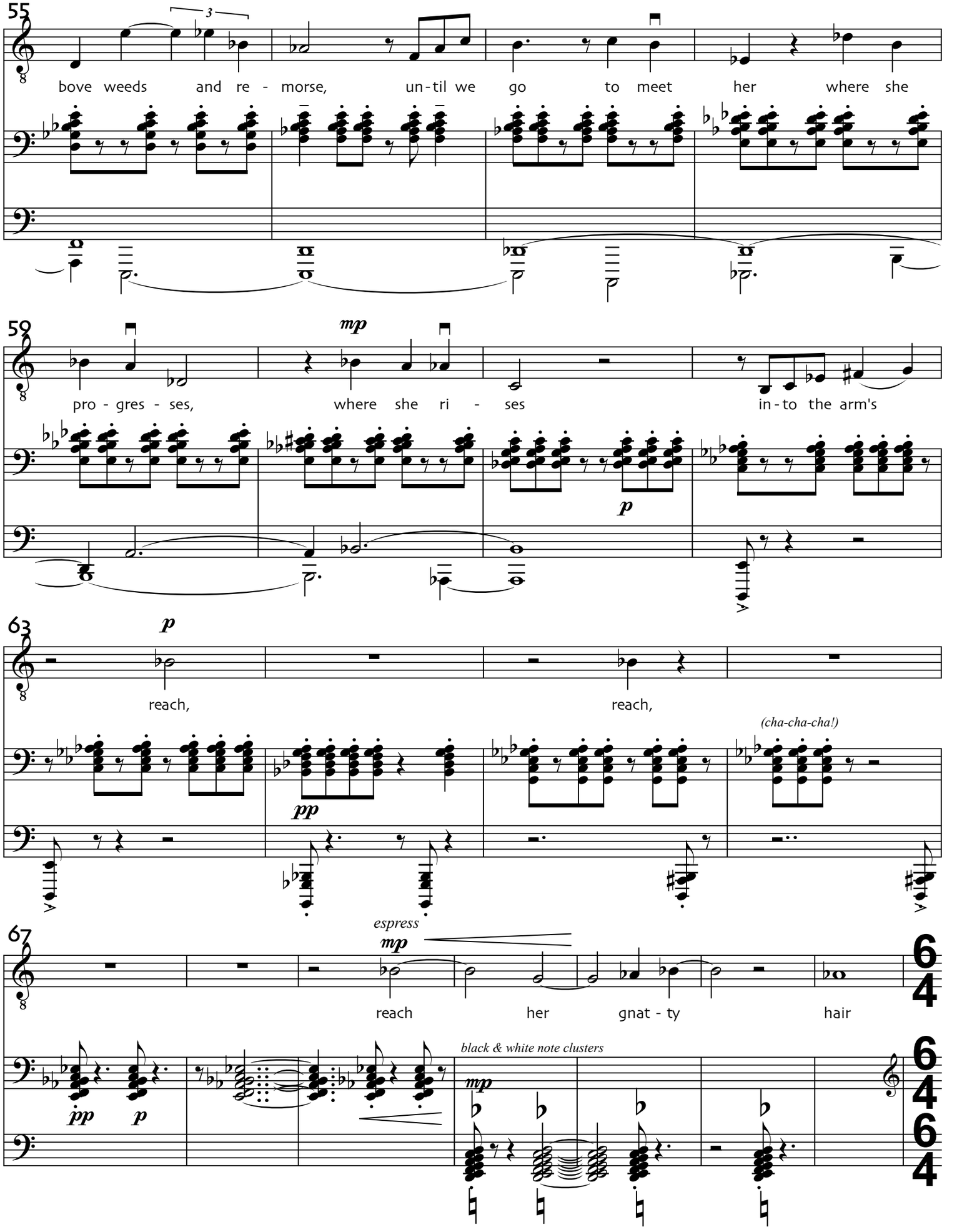
14

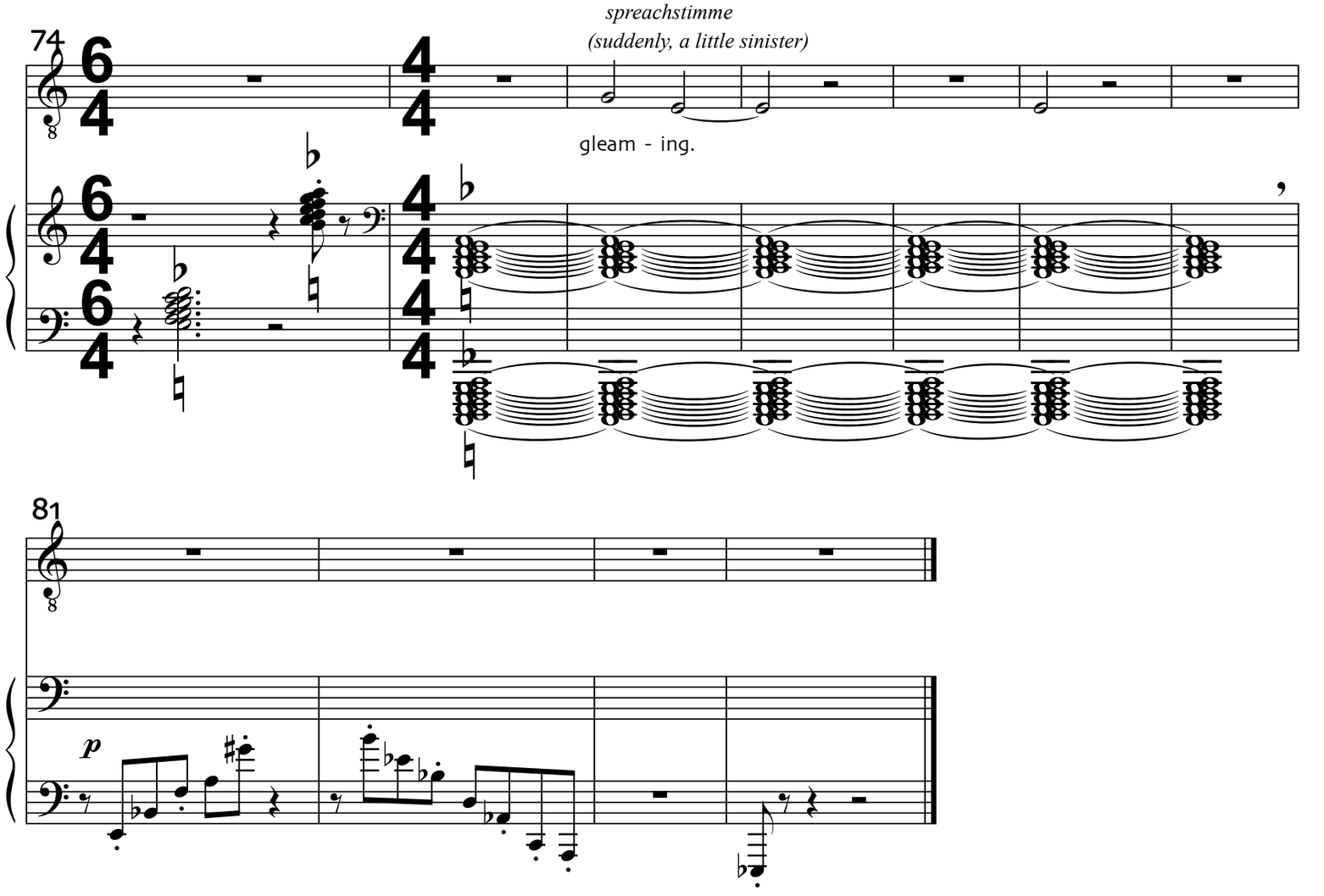
cresc.

sun's fool - ish - ness We have been there - be - fore, af - ter a rain - rain when the wa - ter


18
mf
streamed like the grain of wood a - round o - bli - ter -
parts/hands cross
22
mp
a - tions o - bli - ter - a - tions
legato
subito
p
poco a poco cresc.....
mp
27
mf
of limb, and knots of mourn - ers re - call - ing o - ther loss - es
8va
poco a poco cresc.....
f
bring out R.H., louder, here
mf
32
mp
o - ther rains.
15ma
sfz
pp
sfz
pp
p


37
mp
The mind as it chills
mf
pp
p
42
f
re - turns to sun - light (t)
cresc.
mf
ff
p subito
47
mf
and the
f
mp
bring out L.H. a bit
51
chi - ld's leap - - - ing stitch a - cross the field, bob - bing a -
mf
mp
mf


55
bove weeds and re - morse, un-til we go to meet her where she
59
mp
pro - gres - ses, where she ri - ses in-to the arm's
p
63
p
reach, reach,
(cha-cha-cha!)
pp
67
espress
mp
reach her gnat - ty hair
black & white note clusters
pp p mp
6/4 6/4 6/4



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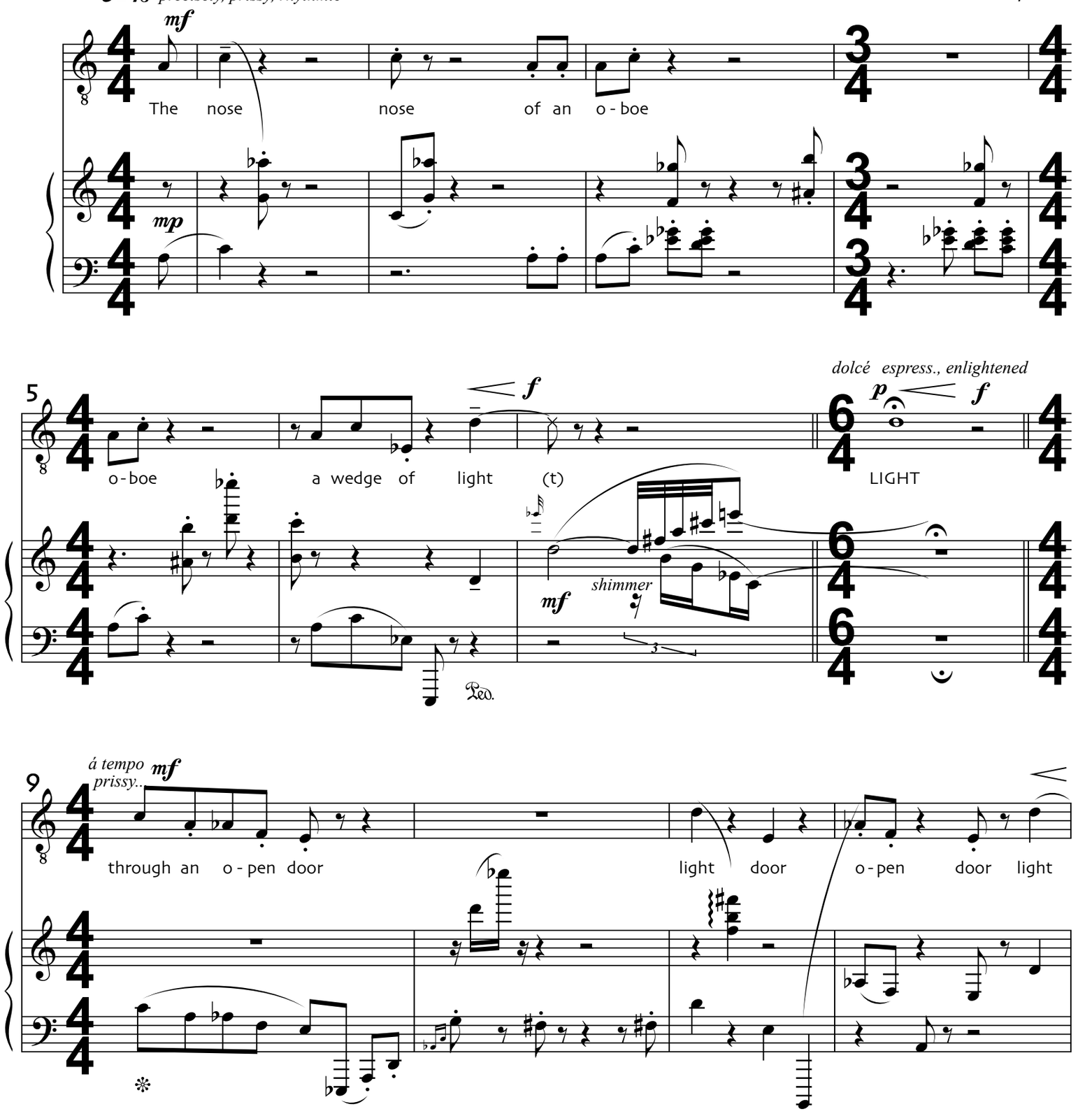
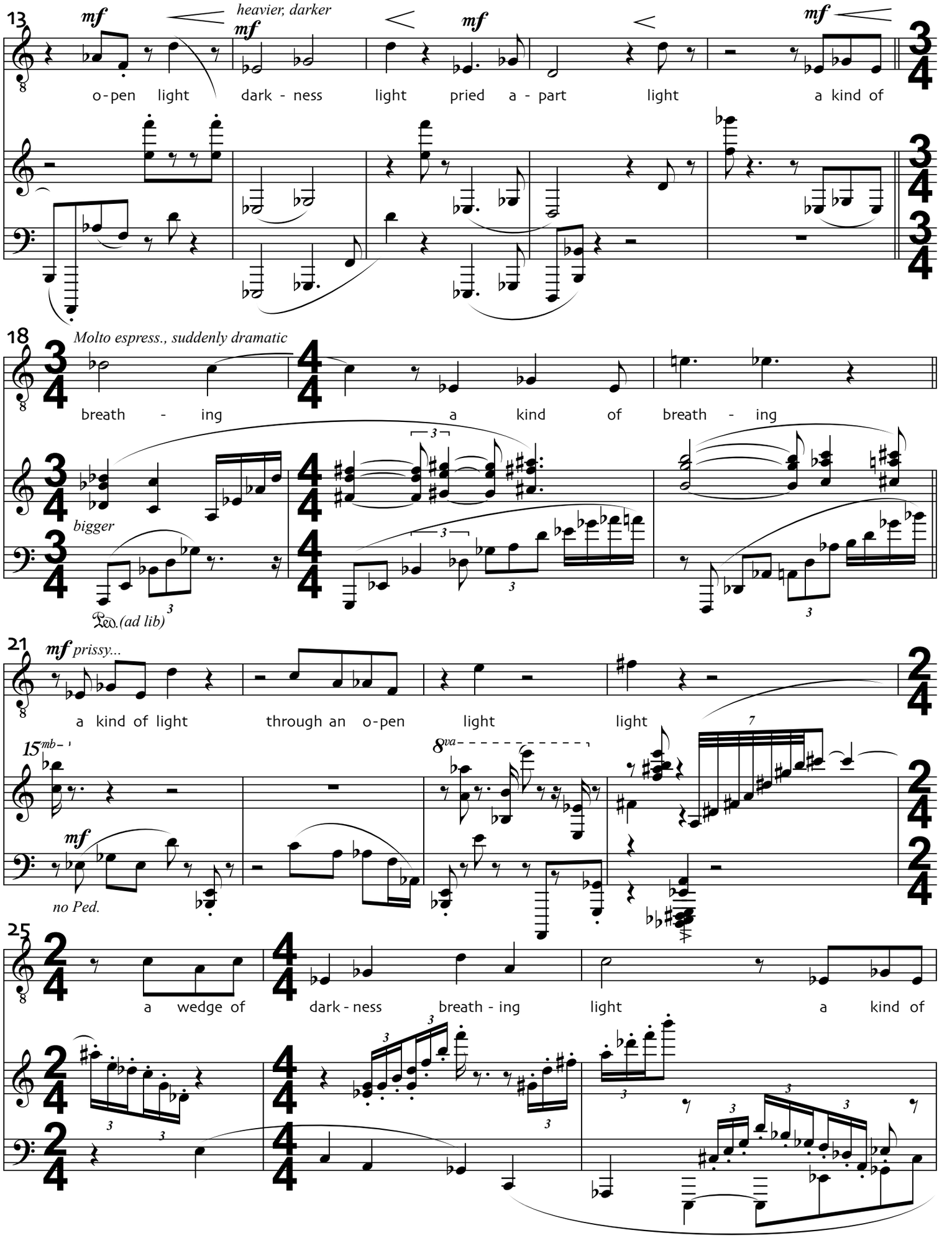
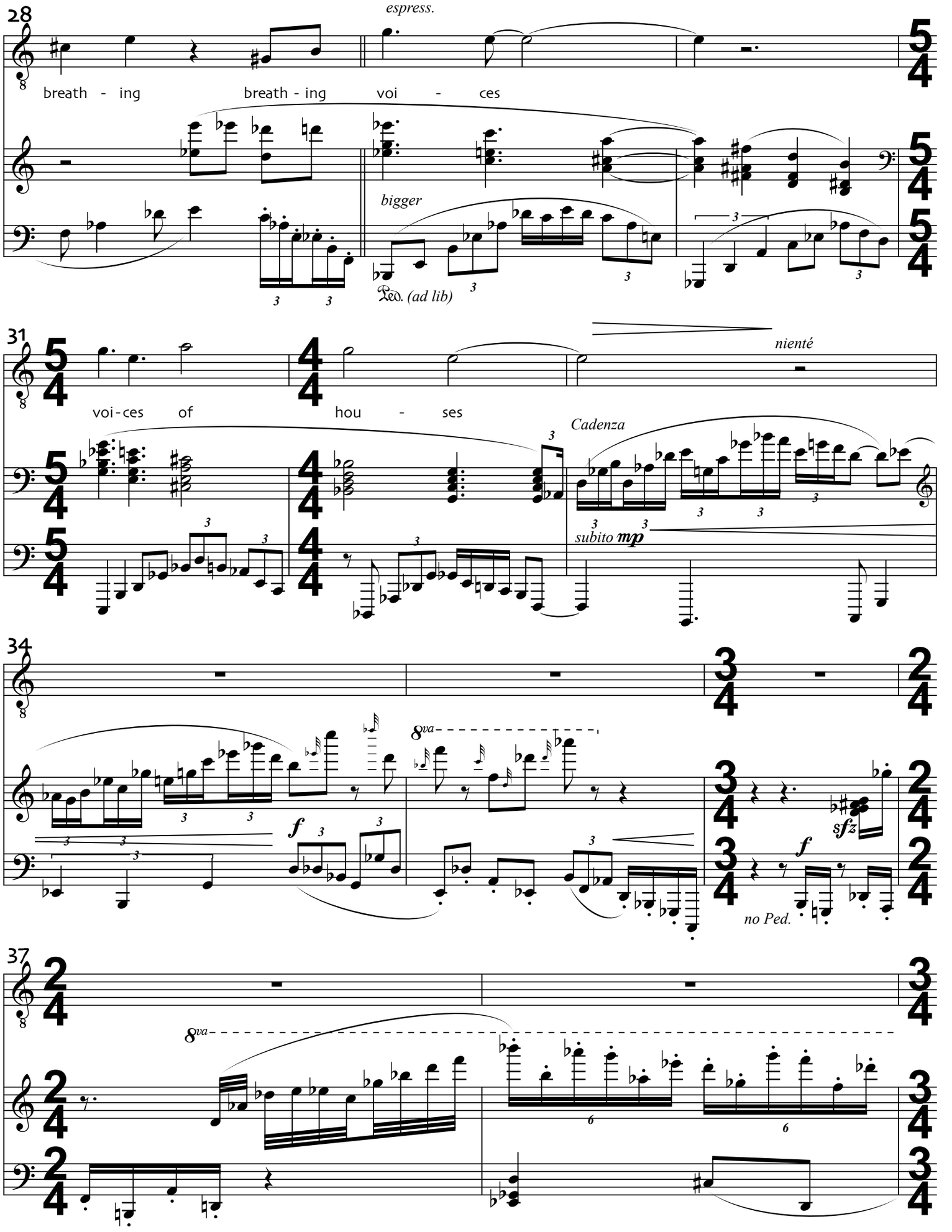
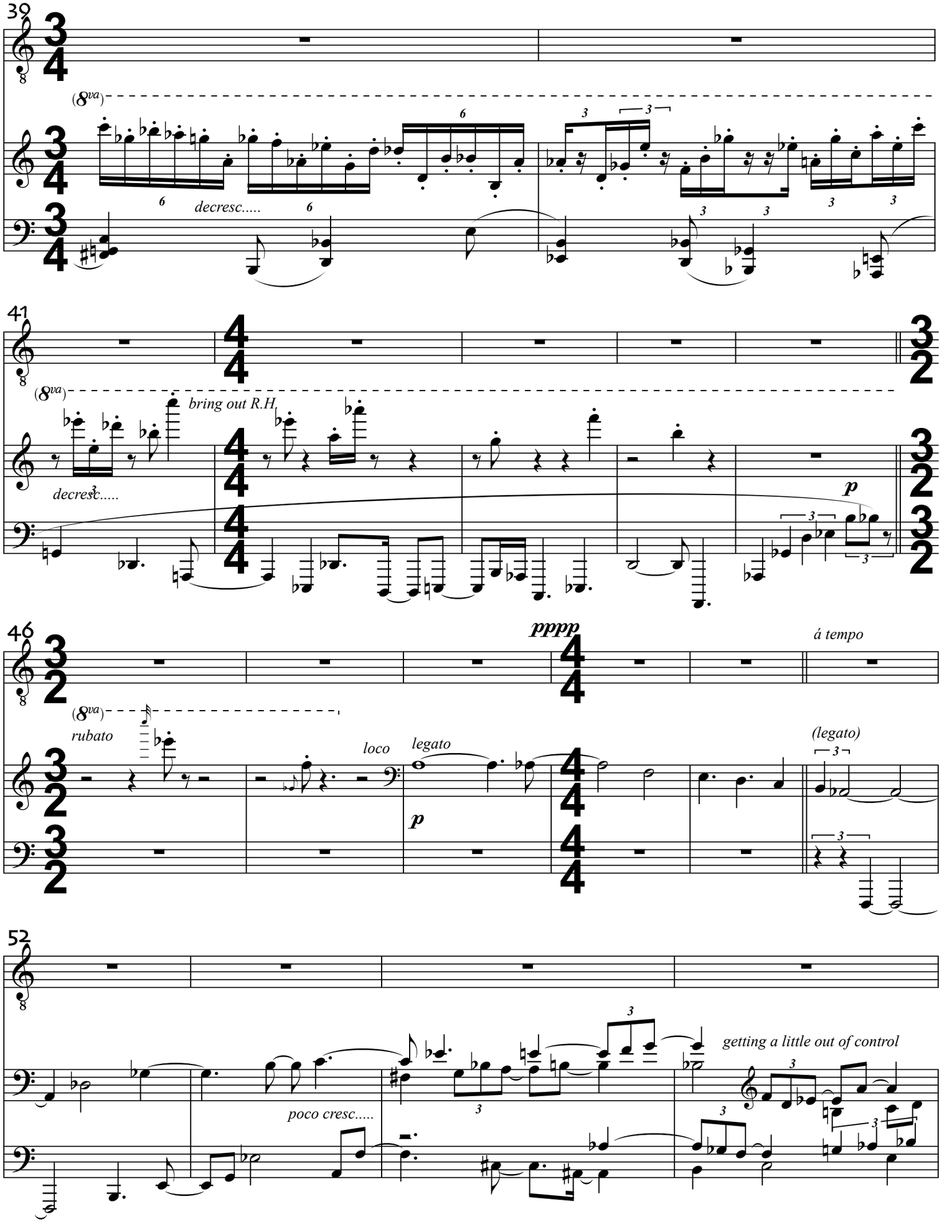
NIGHT WALKING

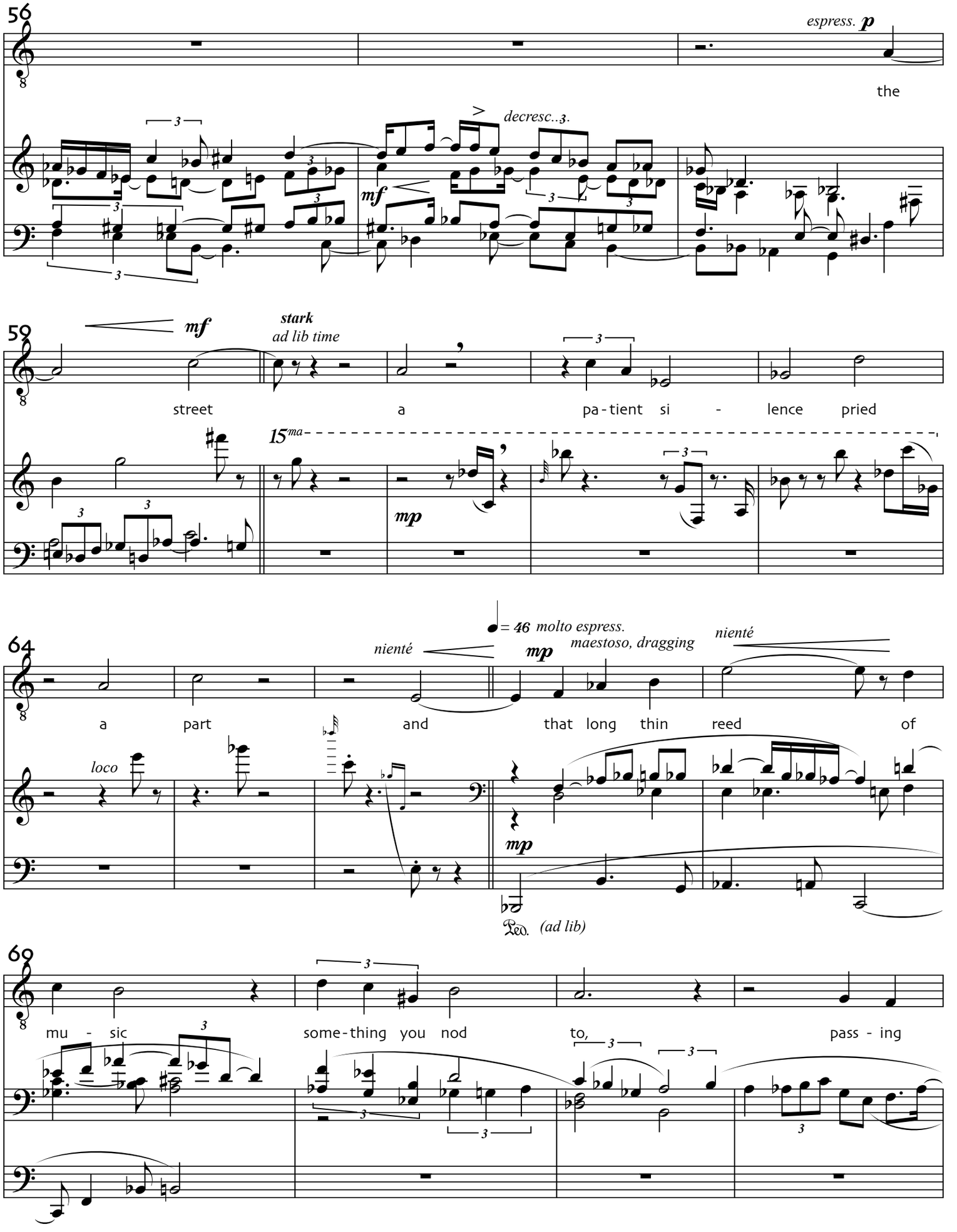
Text: Herbert Scott
Music: Frank Stemper

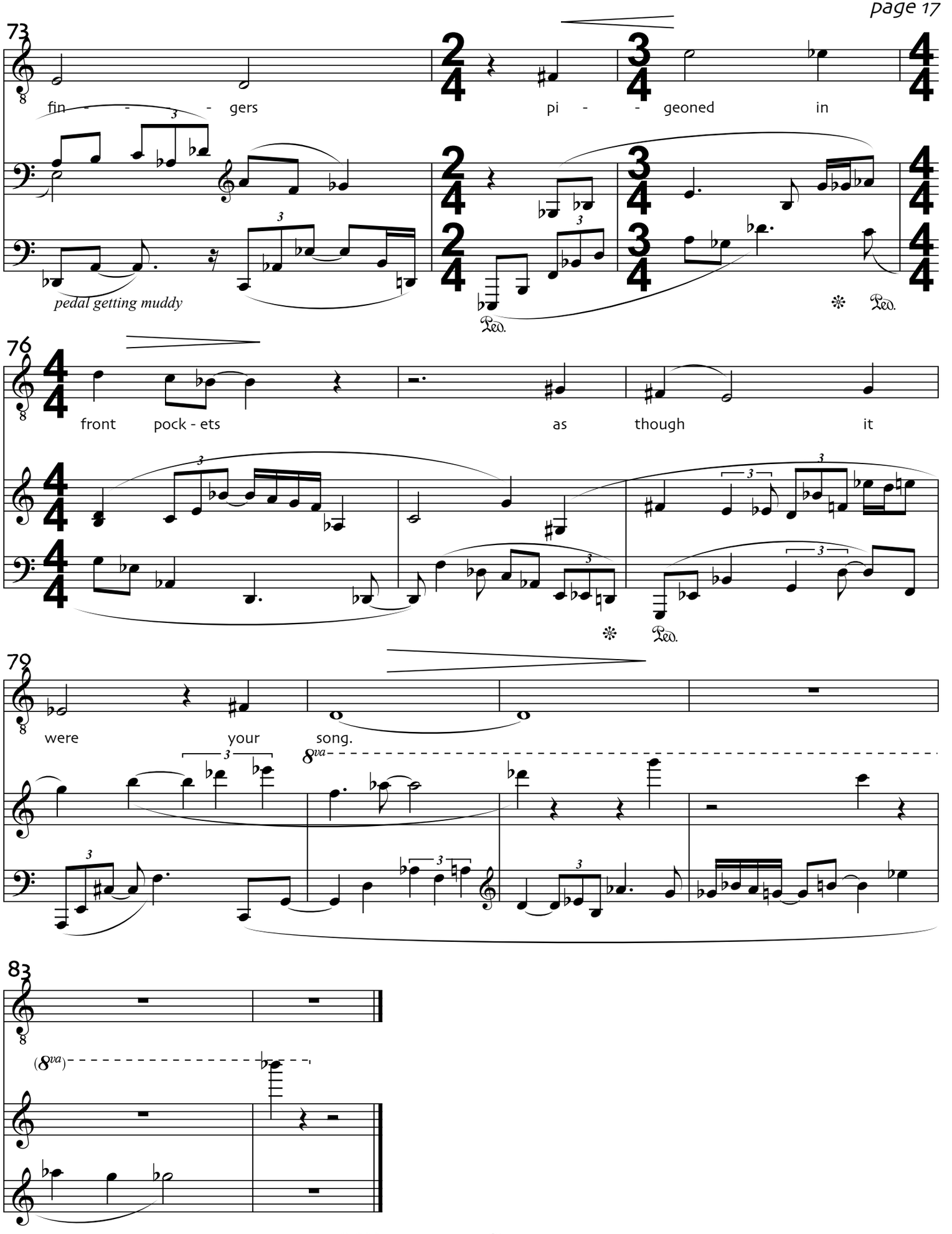



13
mf
heavier, darker
mf
mf
mf
o-pen light dark - ness light pried a - part light a kind of
18
Molto espress., suddenly dramatic
breath - ing a kind of breath - ing
bigger
Ped.(ad lib)
21
mf prissy...
a kind of light through an o-pen light light
15mb
8va
mf
no Ped.
25
a wedge of dark - ness breath - ing light a kind of


28
espress.
breath - ing
breath - ing
voi - ces
bigger
Ped. (ad lib)
31
nienté
voi - ces
of
hou - ses
Cadenza
subito mp
34
8va
f
sfz
f
no Ped.
37
8va


39
(8va)
decresc.....
41
(8va)
bring out R.H.
decresc.....
p
46
pppp
á tempo
(8va)
rubato
loco
legato
p
(legato)
52
poco cresc.....
getting a little out of control


56
espress. p
the
decresc..3.
mf
59
mf
stark
ad lib time
street
a
pa-tient si - lence pried
15ma
mp
64
nienté
= 46 molto espress.
maestoso, dragging
mp
nienté
a part
and
that long thin reed of
loco
mp
Ped. (ad lib)
69
mu - sic
some-thing you nod
to,
pass - ing



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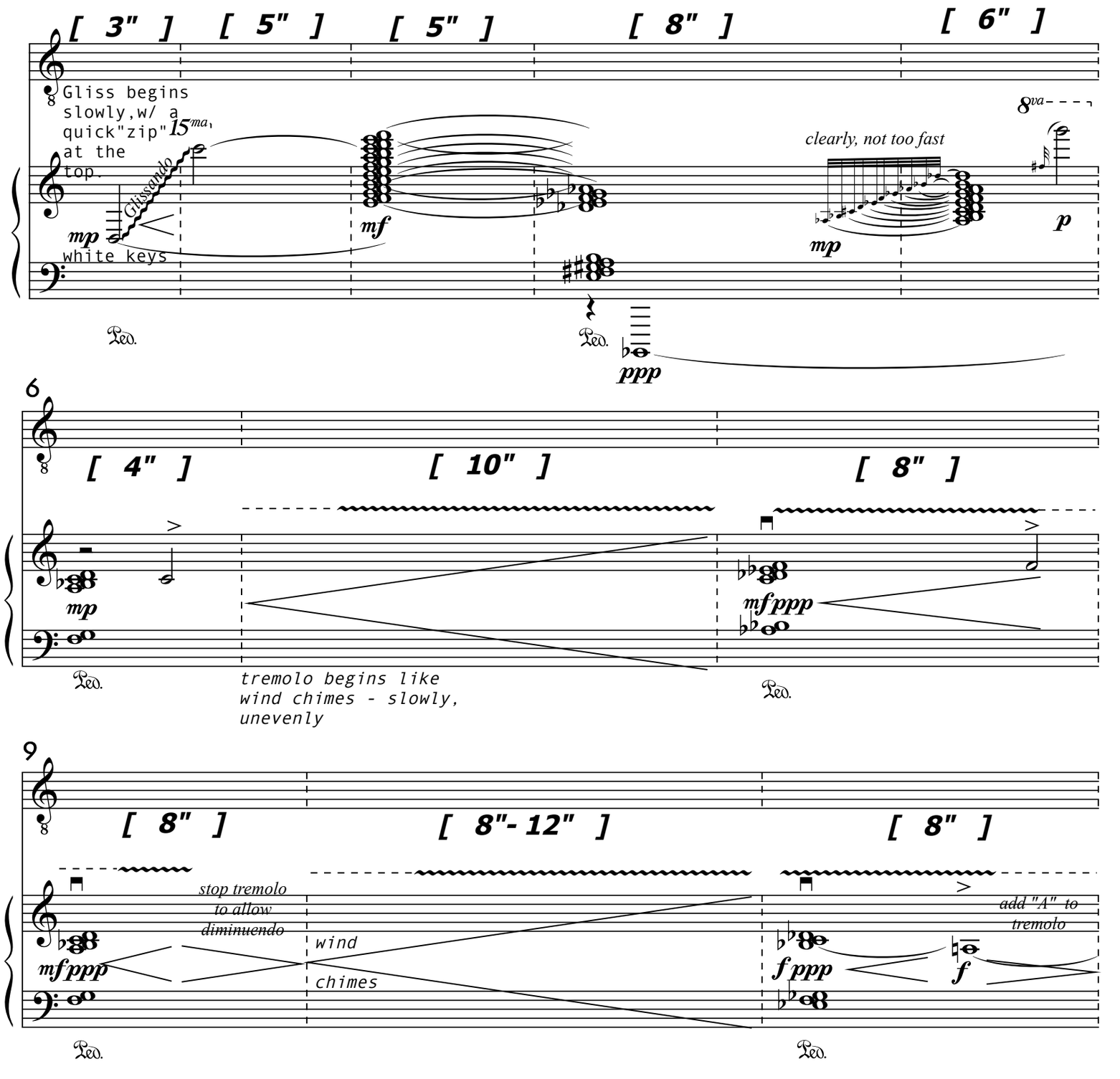
SNOWSTORM ON MOZART'S BIRTHDAY

Text: Herbert Scott
Music: Frank Stemper

••The trill symbol indicates tremolo.
••A dotted (dashed) line before the tremolo symbol indicates a less intense, irregular tremolo, usually a gradual easing into the tremolo; sometimes marked "Like Wind Chimes."
••The downbow symbol ⬒ indicates that a new harmony should be articulated clearly (normally) at the indicated dynamic, which is often fp, and begins tremolo cycle as described below.
••The dotted and trill symbol in combination with the crescendo symbol (which happens most often) indicate that the tremolo should begin quietly (initially using the soft pedal, which is gradually lifted, revealing the many colors that can be created) and irregularly (like wind chimes) gradually building in dynamic and tremolo intensity, and finally swelling aggressively just before the next harmonic change, which often begins the process again. In those cases where a new harmony is marked with a "down bow" symbol, the new chord should be struck fp, i.e. immediately beginning another progression of soft to loud dynamic and less to greater intensity of the tremolo.

FREE NOTATION



12 [4"] [10"]

♩ = 54 *Tempo rubato, ad lib.*

bring out this short melody crisply, espressivo

change unnoticeably, from one chord to the other, via light tremolo.

pp

16

fp *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

22

f

The tea - chers of Win - ter

subito *ppp*

Let down their long hair

mf

f

fp

Ped. Ped.

26

FREE NOTATION ***[10"]***

niente

We

Slowly and luxuriously

fp *fp* *fp*

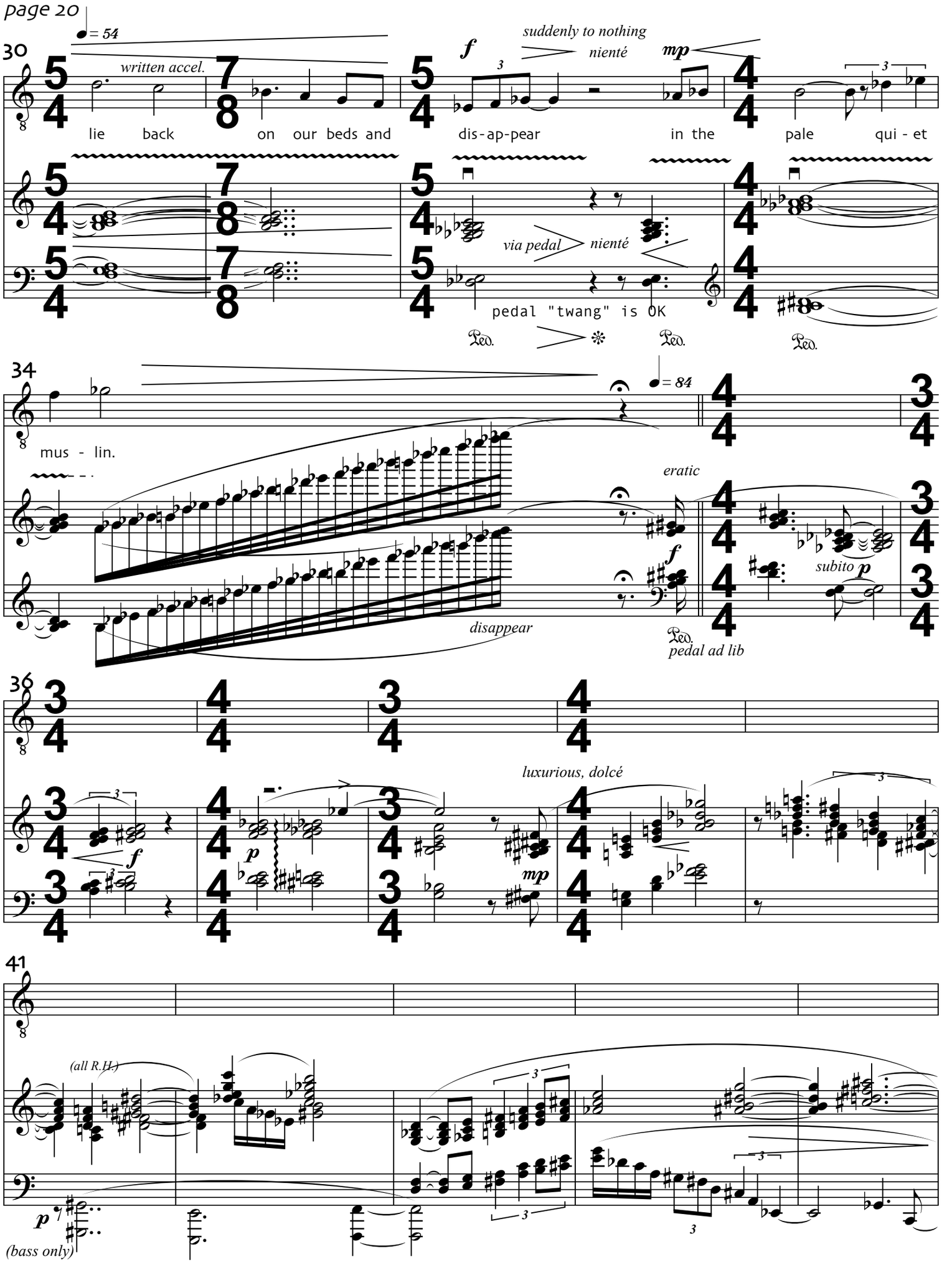
"snap" this F and let all ring (no trem.)

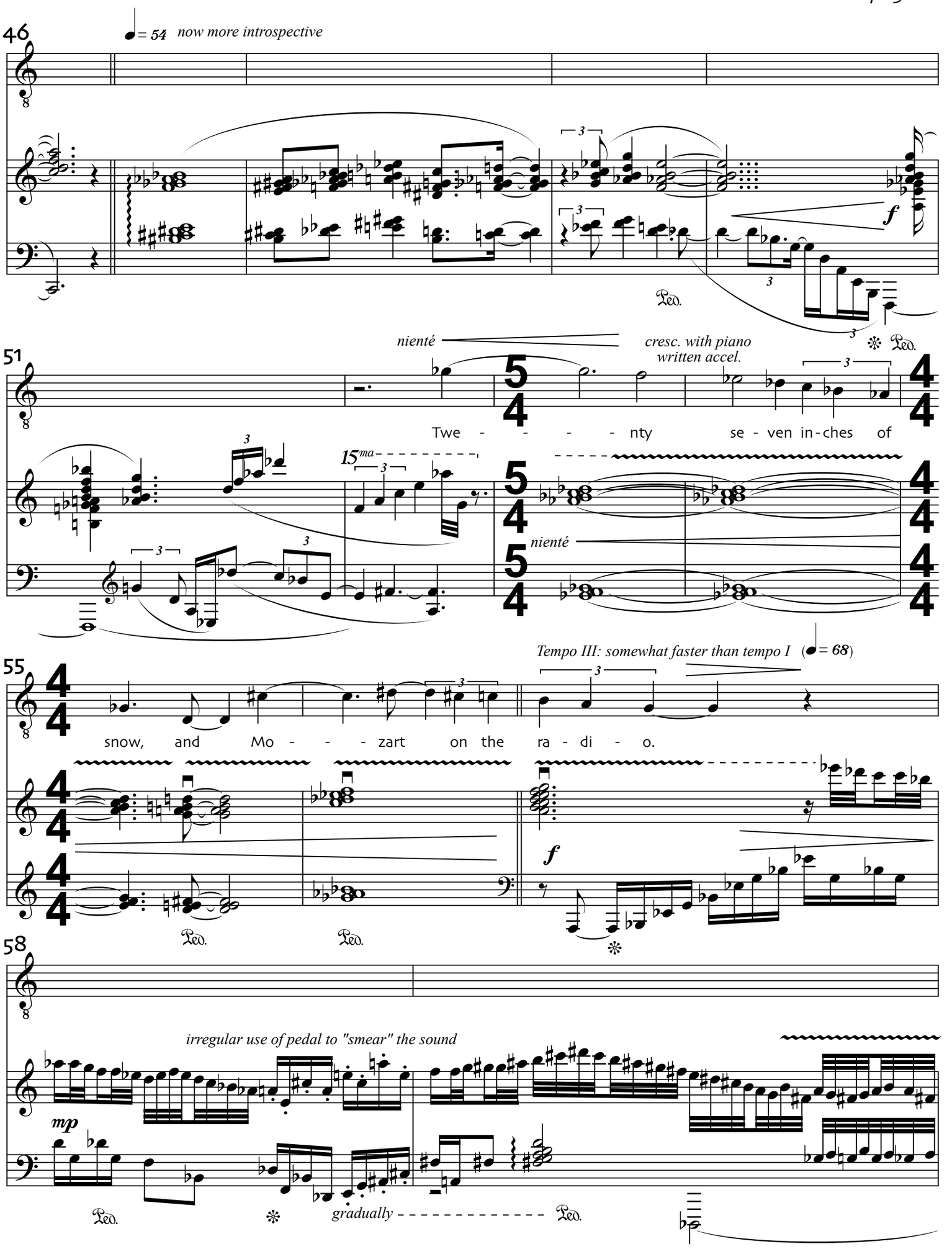
f

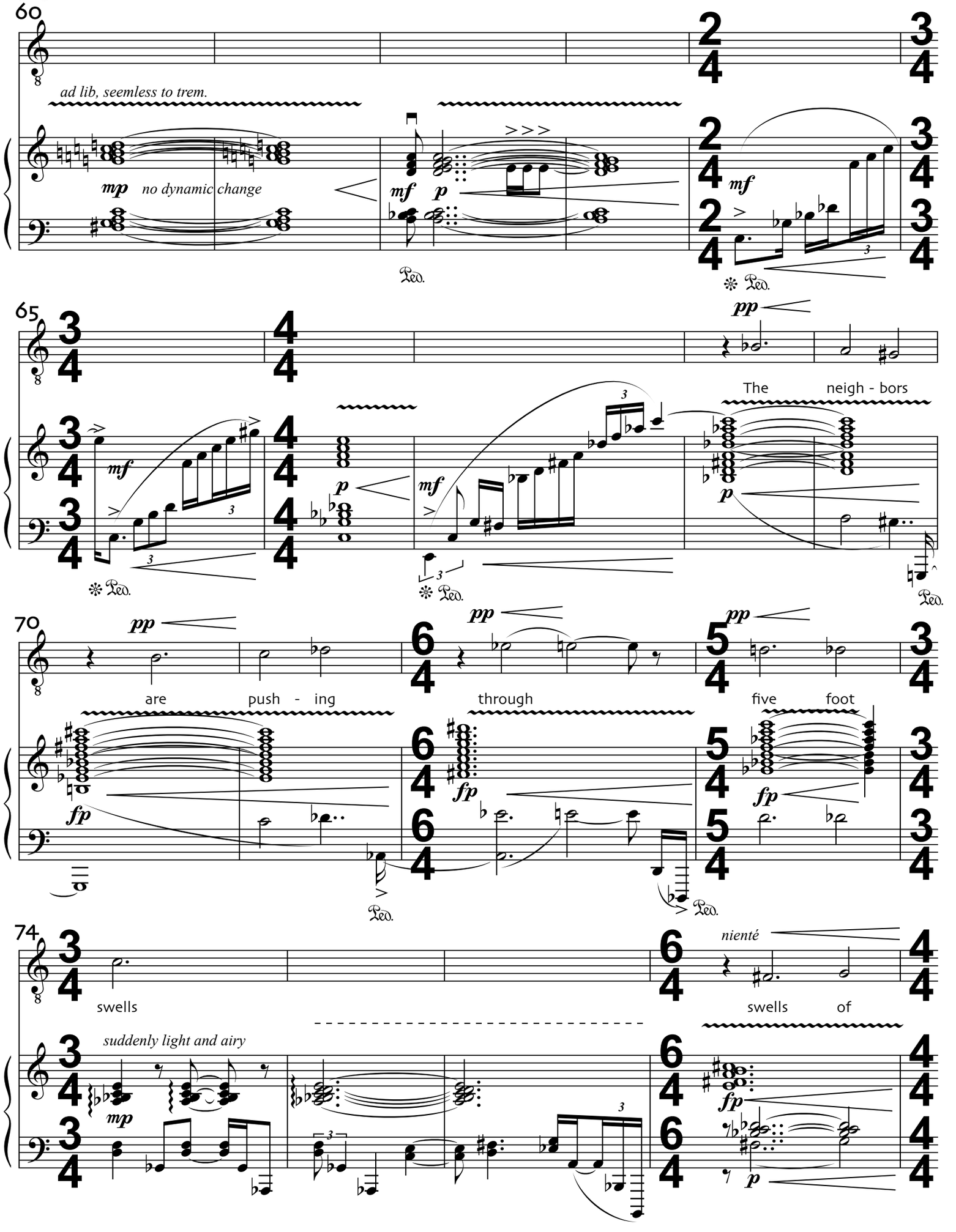
ppp

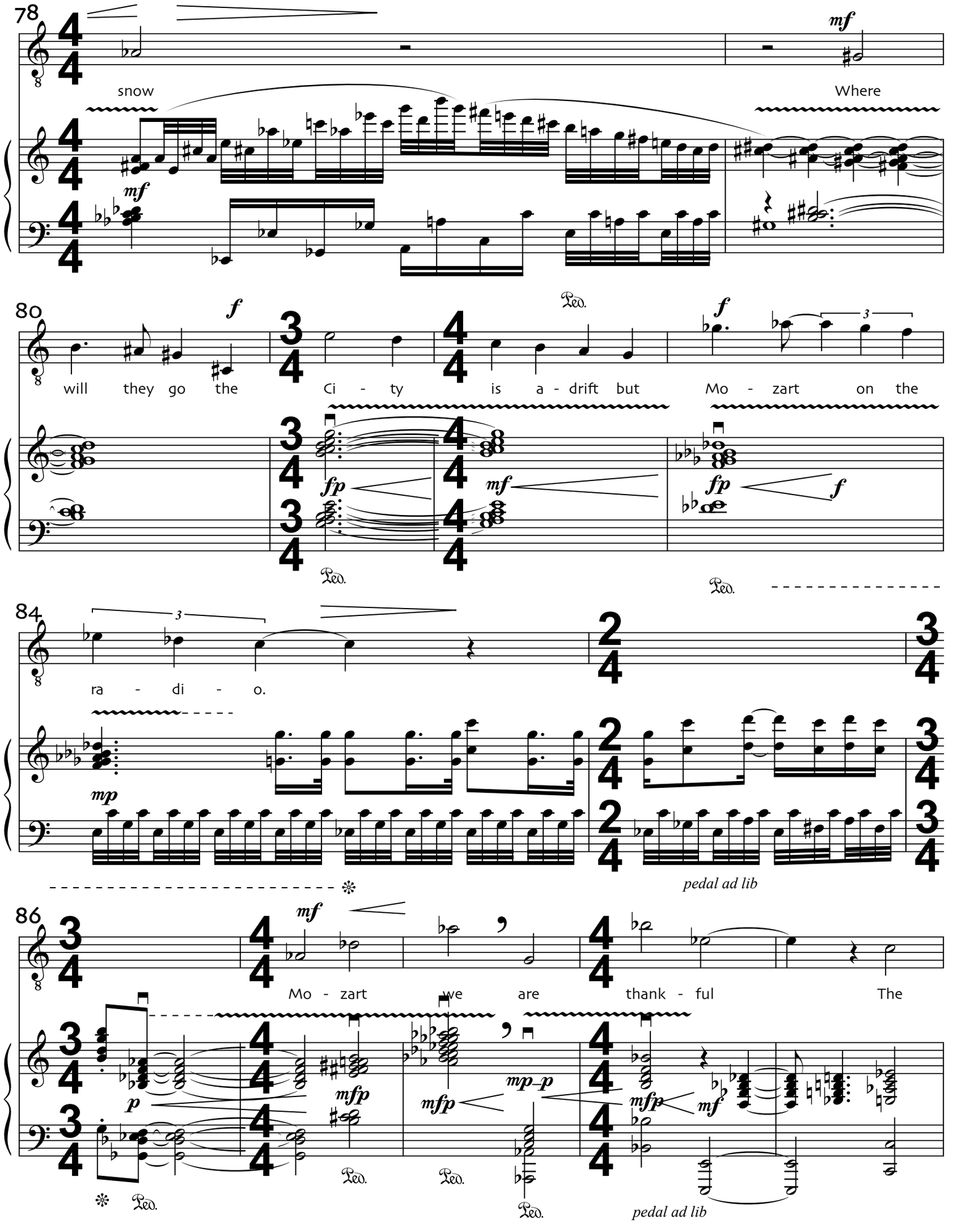
wind chimes

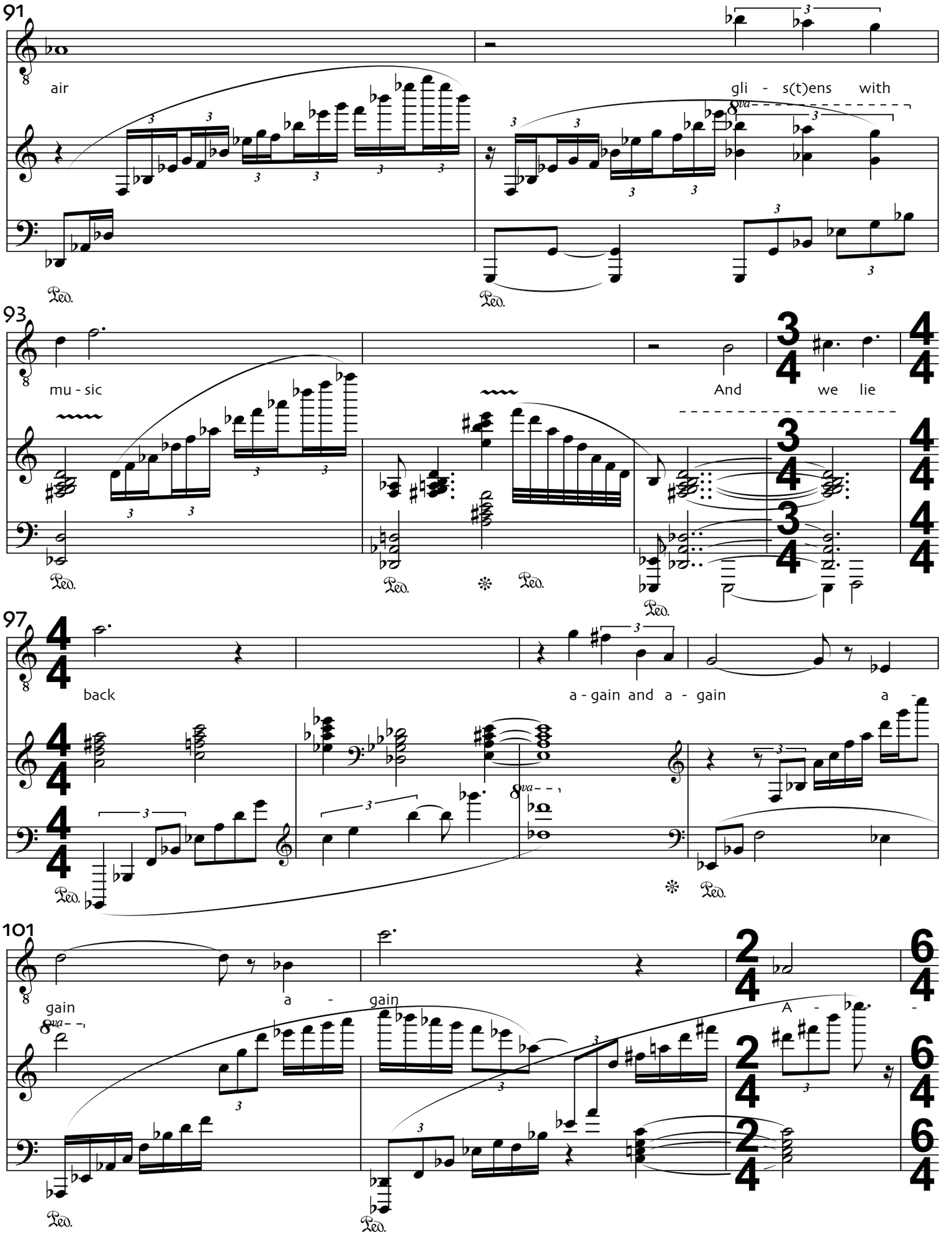
Ped. Ped. Ped.

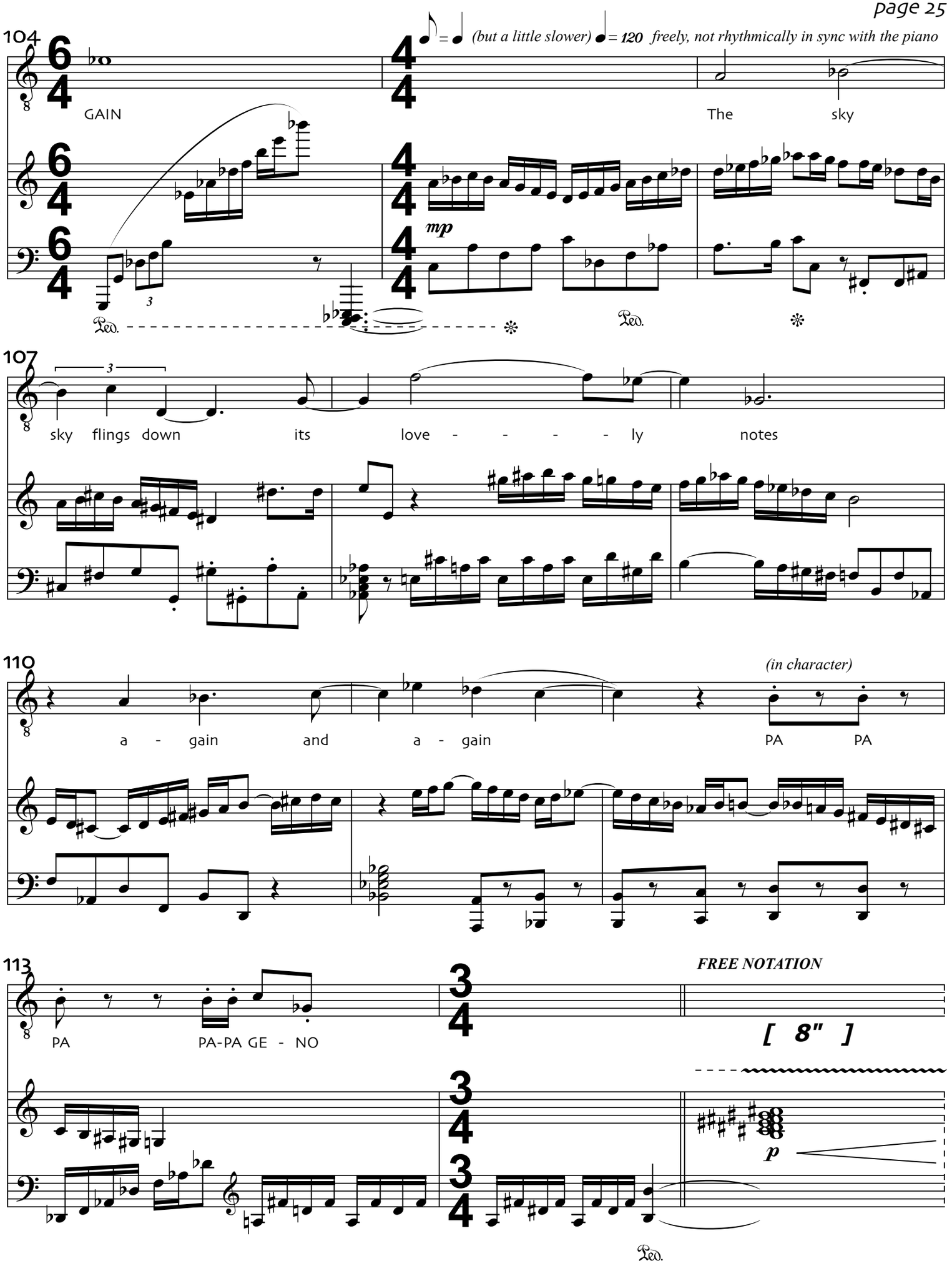

30
written accel.
lie back on our beds and
suddenly to nothing
nienté
dis-ap-pear in the pale qui - et
via pedal
nienté
pedal "twang" is OK
Ped.
34
mus - lin.
eratic
disappear
subito p
pedal ad lib
36
luxurious, dolcé
41
(all R.H.)
(bass only)

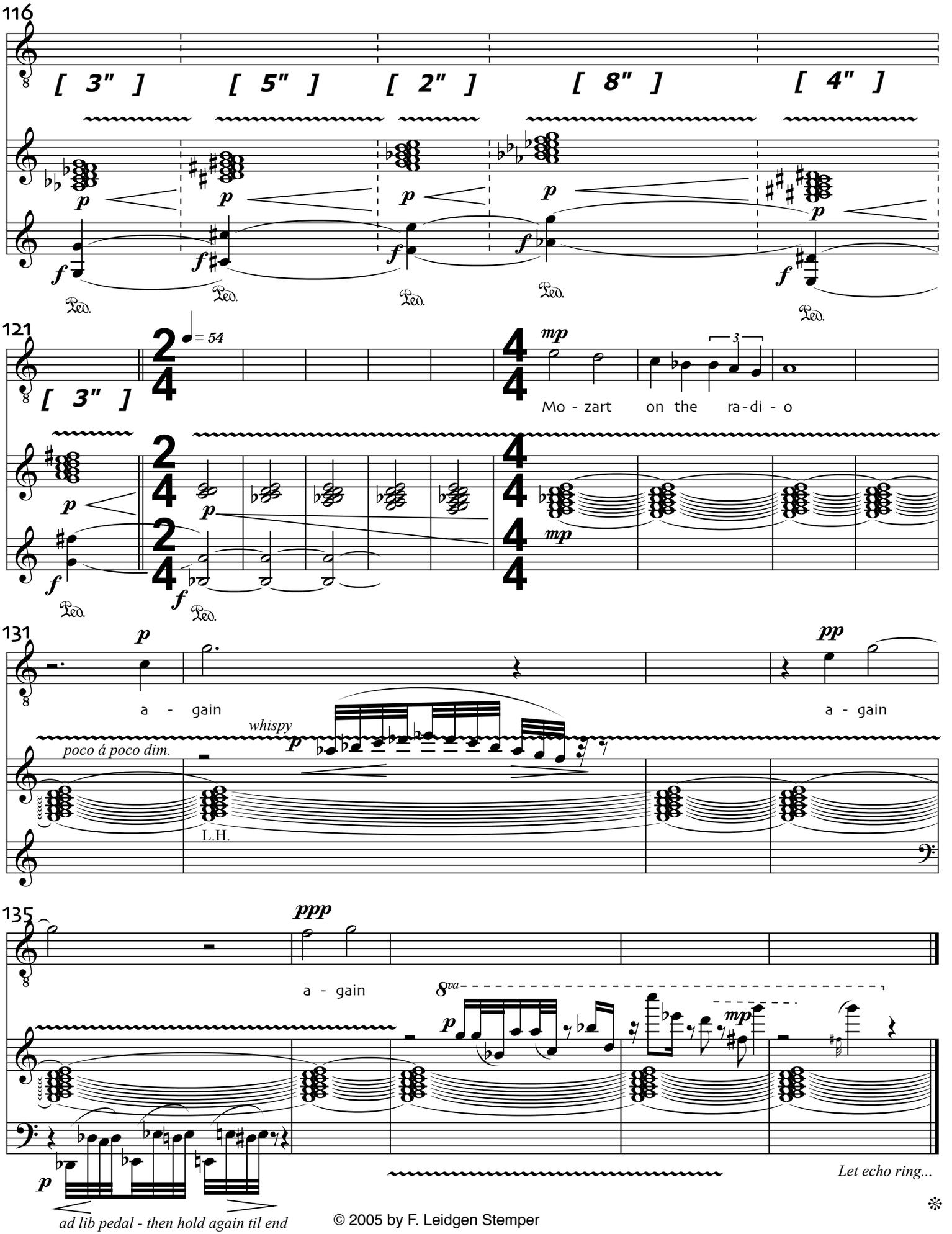

46
♩= 54 now more introspective
f
Ped.
51
nienté
cresc. with piano
written accel.
Twe - - - - nty se - ven in-ches of
15ma
nienté
55
snow, and Mo - - - zart on the ra - di - o.
Tempo III: somewhat faster than tempo I (♩= 68)
f
Ped.
Ped.
58
irregular use of pedal to "smear" the sound
mp
Ped.
gradually
Ped.


60
ad lib, seemless to trem.
mp
no dynamic change
mf
p
mf
65
pp
mf
p
The neigh - bors
70
pp
are push - ing
fp
through
five foot
74
swells
suddenly light and airy
mp
nienté
swells of
fp
p


78
mf
snow
Where
80
f
Ped.
will they go the Ci - ty is a - drift but Mo - zart on the
fp
mf
fp
f
Ped.
Ped.
84
ra - di - o.
mp
pedal ad lib
86
mf
Mo - zart we are thank - ful The
p
mfp
mfp
mp-p
mfp
mf
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
pedal ad lib


91
air
gli - s(t)ens with
8va
Ped.
93
mu - sic
And we lie
Ped.
97
back
a - gain and a - gain
a -
8va
Ped.
101
gain
a - gain
A -
8va
Ped.


104
GAIN
(but a little slower) ♩= 120 freely, not rhythmically in sync with the piano
The sky
mp
Ped.
107
sky flings down its love - - - - ly notes
110
(in character)
a - gain and a - gain PA PA
113
PA PA-PA GE - NO
FREE NOTATION
[8"]
p
Ped.



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MOTHER AT THE MIRROR, 1939
INVOCATION

Text: Herbert Scott
Music: Frank Stemper

♩ = 112

Unfolding, trying to dance, rhythmic

mf

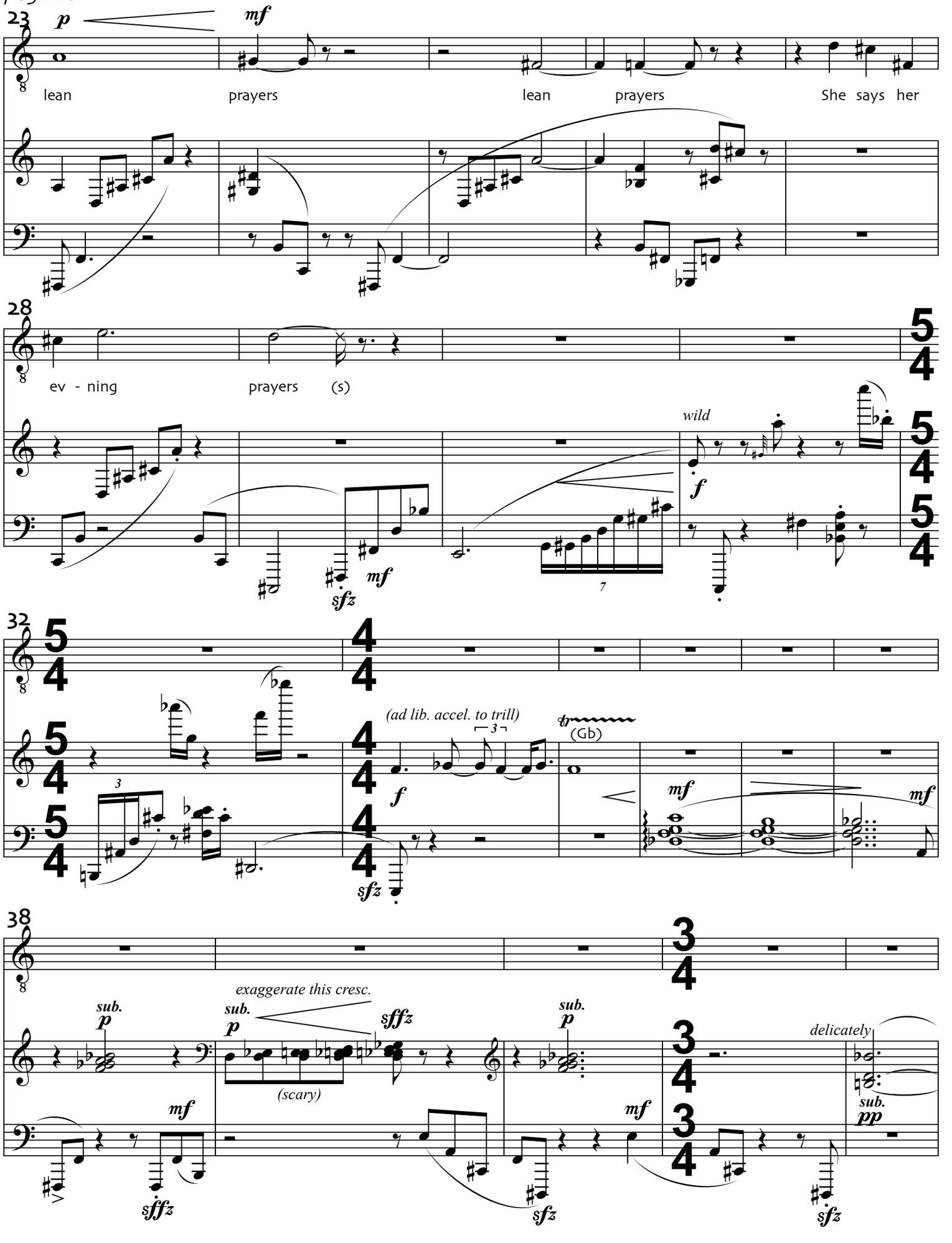
7

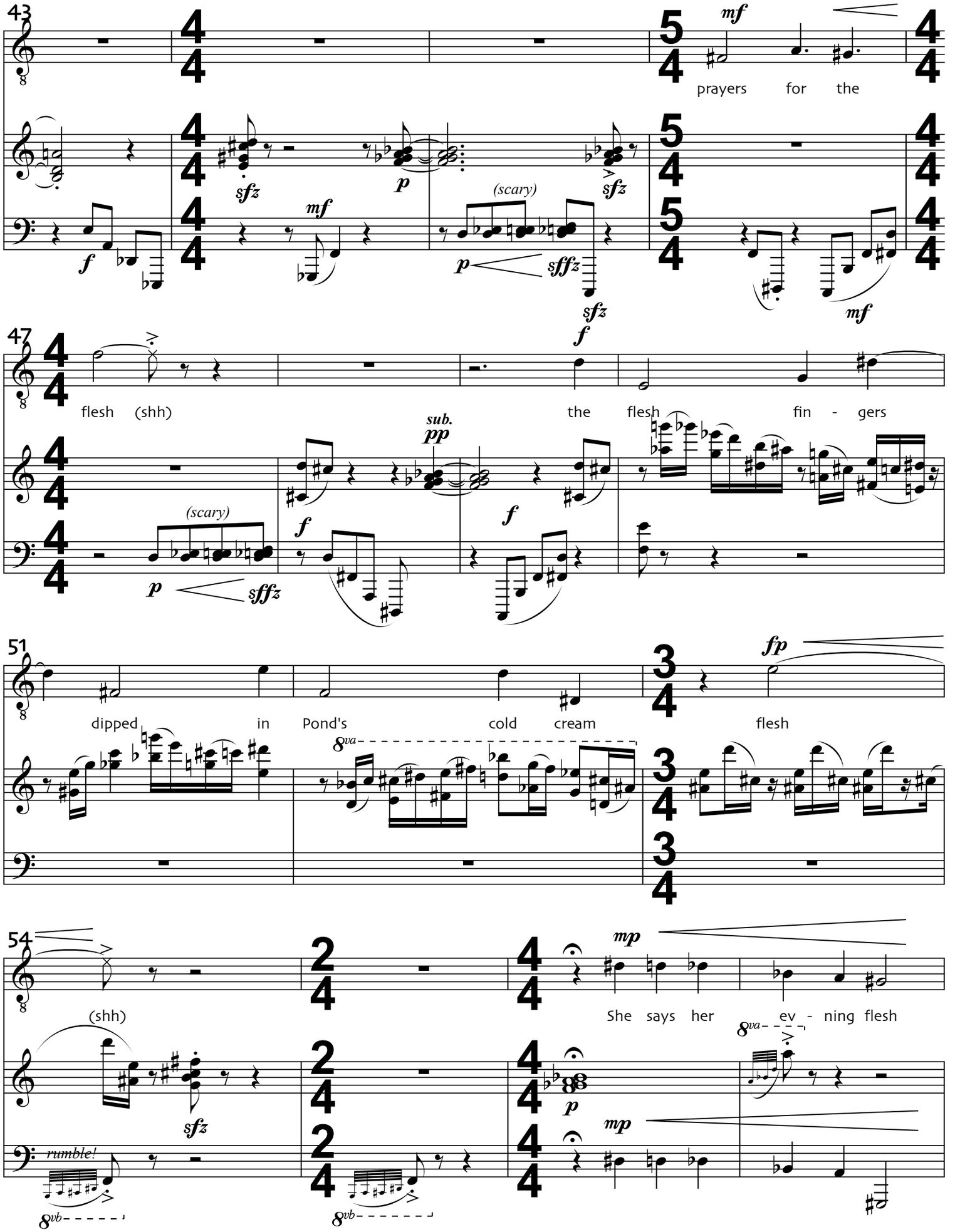
12

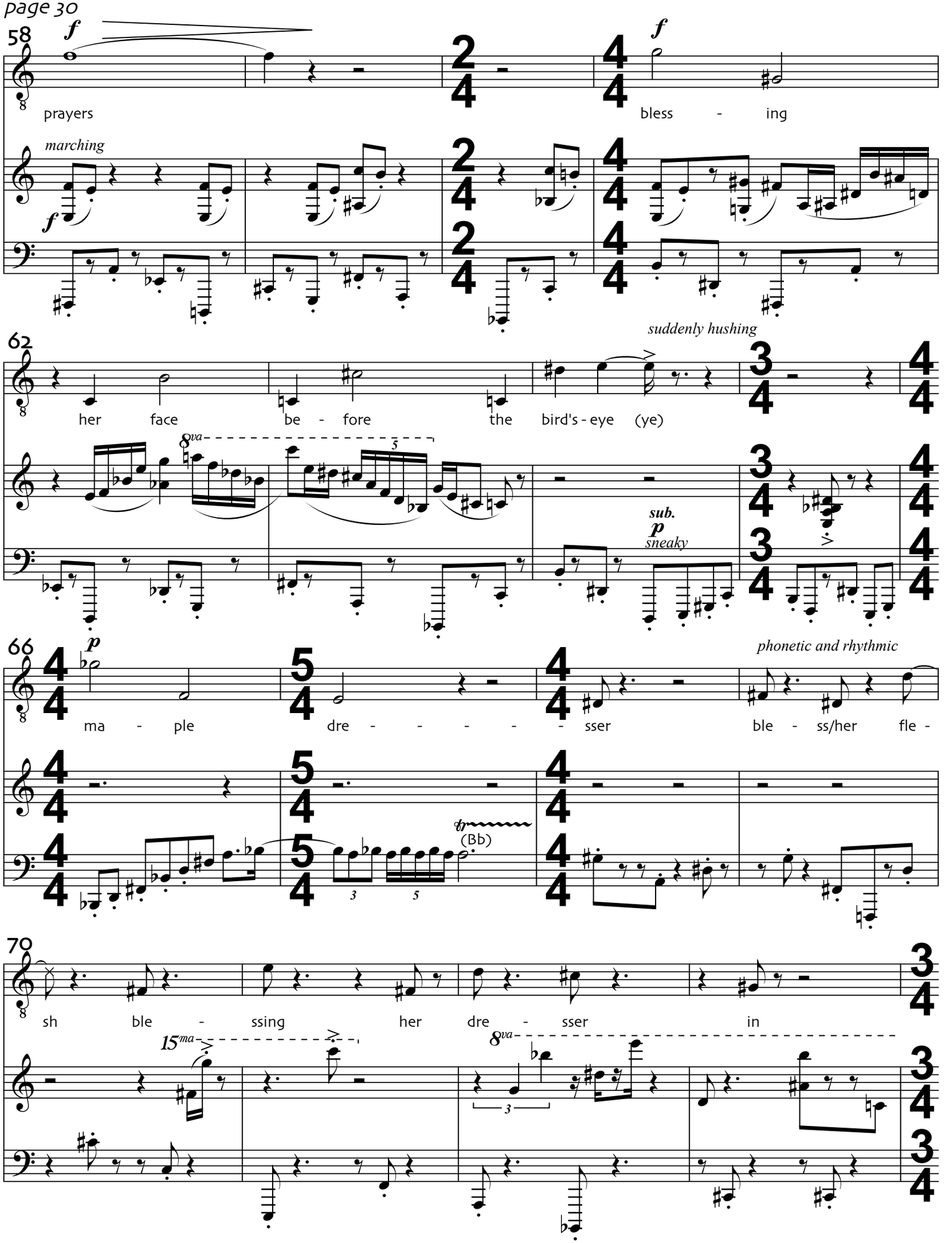
17

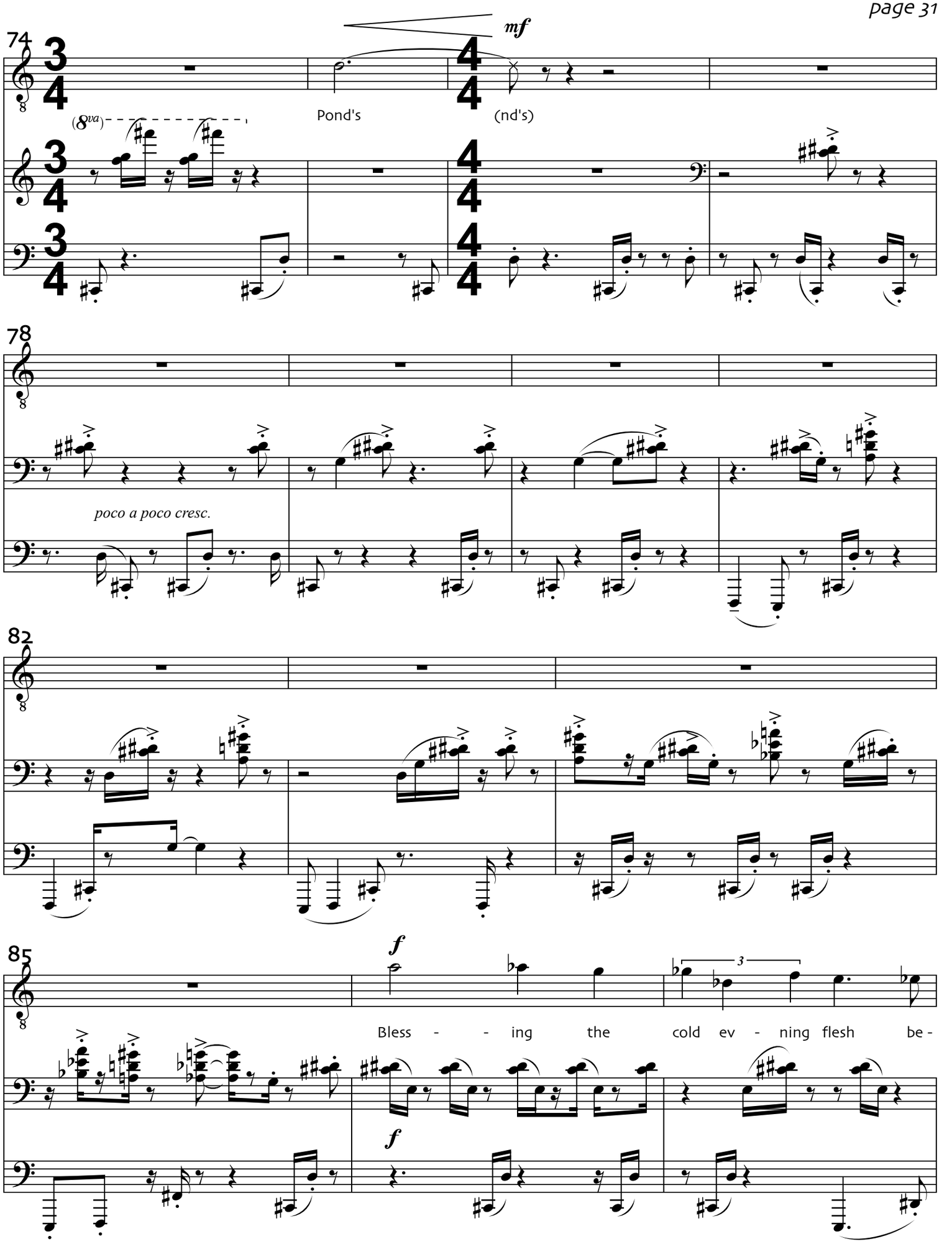
mf

She says She says (s) She says her


23
p
mf
lean
prayers
lean
prayers
She says her
28
ev - ning
prayers (s)
wild
f
mf
sfz
7
32
(ad lib. accel. to trill)
3
tr
(Gb)
f
mf
mf
sfz
38
exaggerate this cresc.
sub.
p
sub.
p
sffz
(scary)
sub.
p
delicately
mf
mf
sub.
pp
sffz
sfz
sfz


43
prayers for the
47
flesh (shh) the flesh fin - gers
51
dipped in Pond's cold cream flesh
54
(shh)
She says her ev - ning flesh
rumble!


58
f
prayers
f
bless - ing
marching
f
62
her face be - fore the bird's - eye (ye)
suddenly hushing
8va
5
sub.
p
sneaky
66
p
ma - ple dre - - - - - sser
phonetic and rhythmic
ble - ss/her fle -
tr
(Bb)
3
5
70
sh ble - ssing her dre - sser in
15ma
8va
3


74
mf
(8va)
Pond's
(nd's)
78
poco a poco cresc.
82
85
f
Bless - - ing the cold ev - ning flesh be -
f

88

neath the bird's - eyes face She says her lean

91

fin - gers cream be - fore her ma - ple dress - er

a little heavier

f

95

brittle and violent

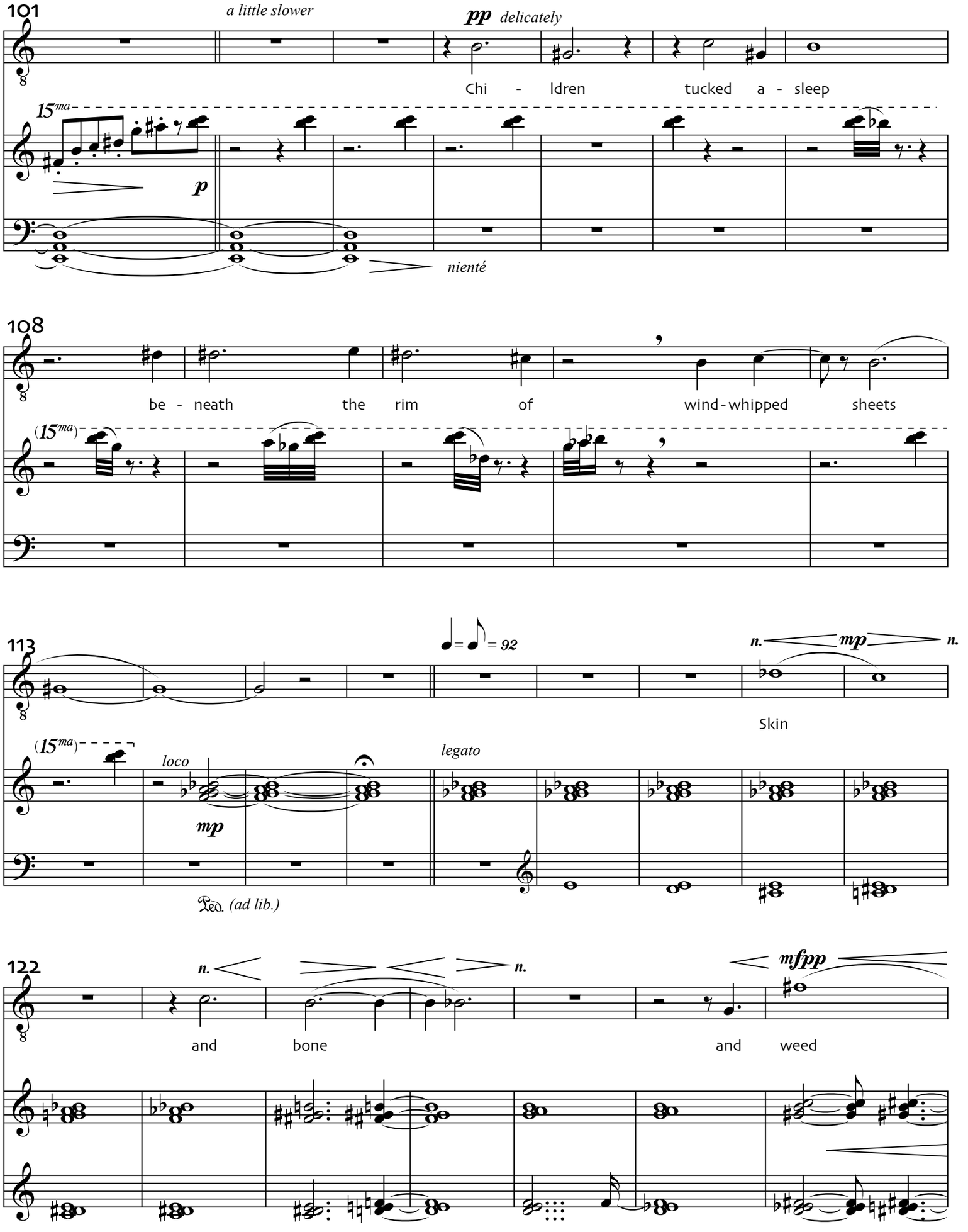
ff

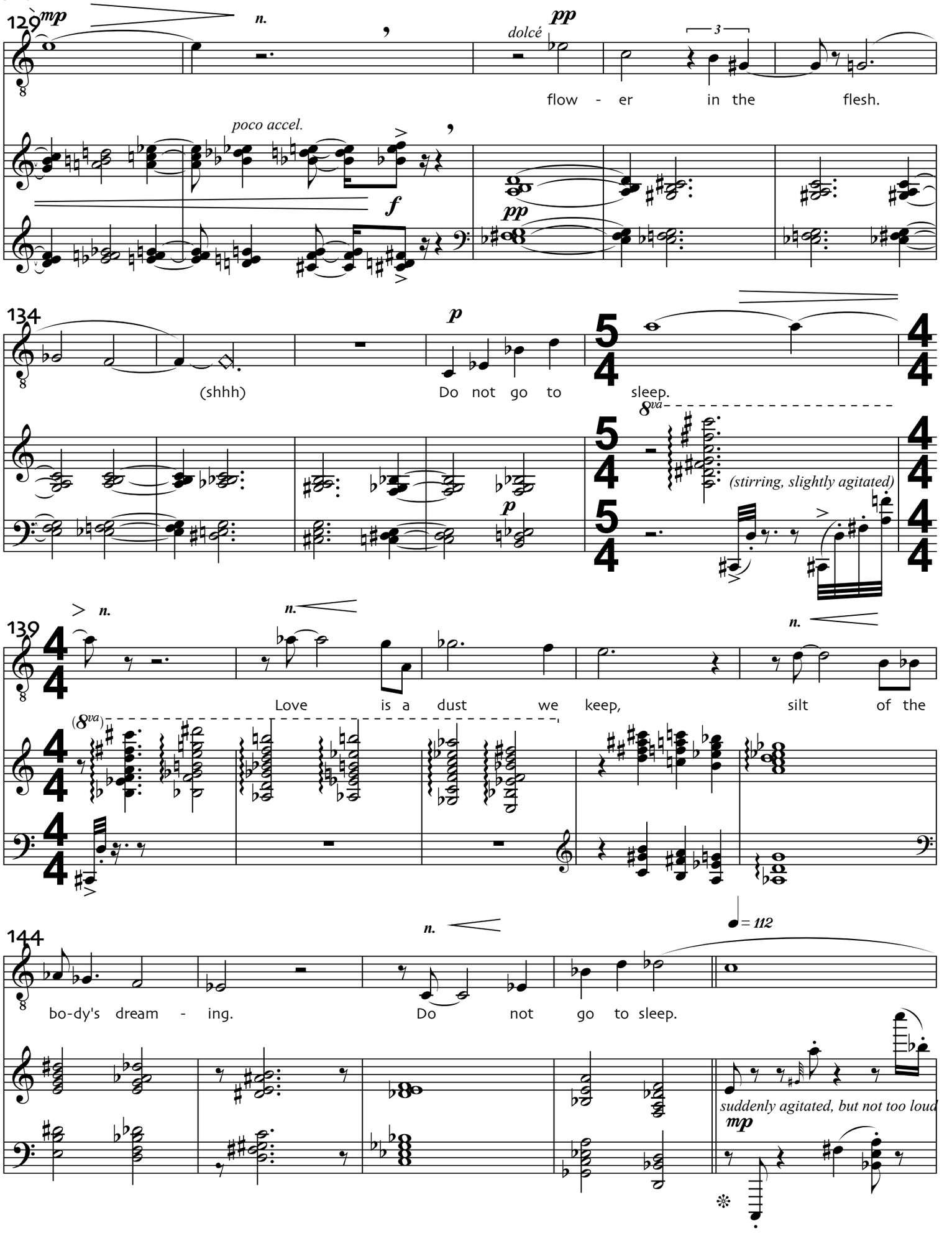
98

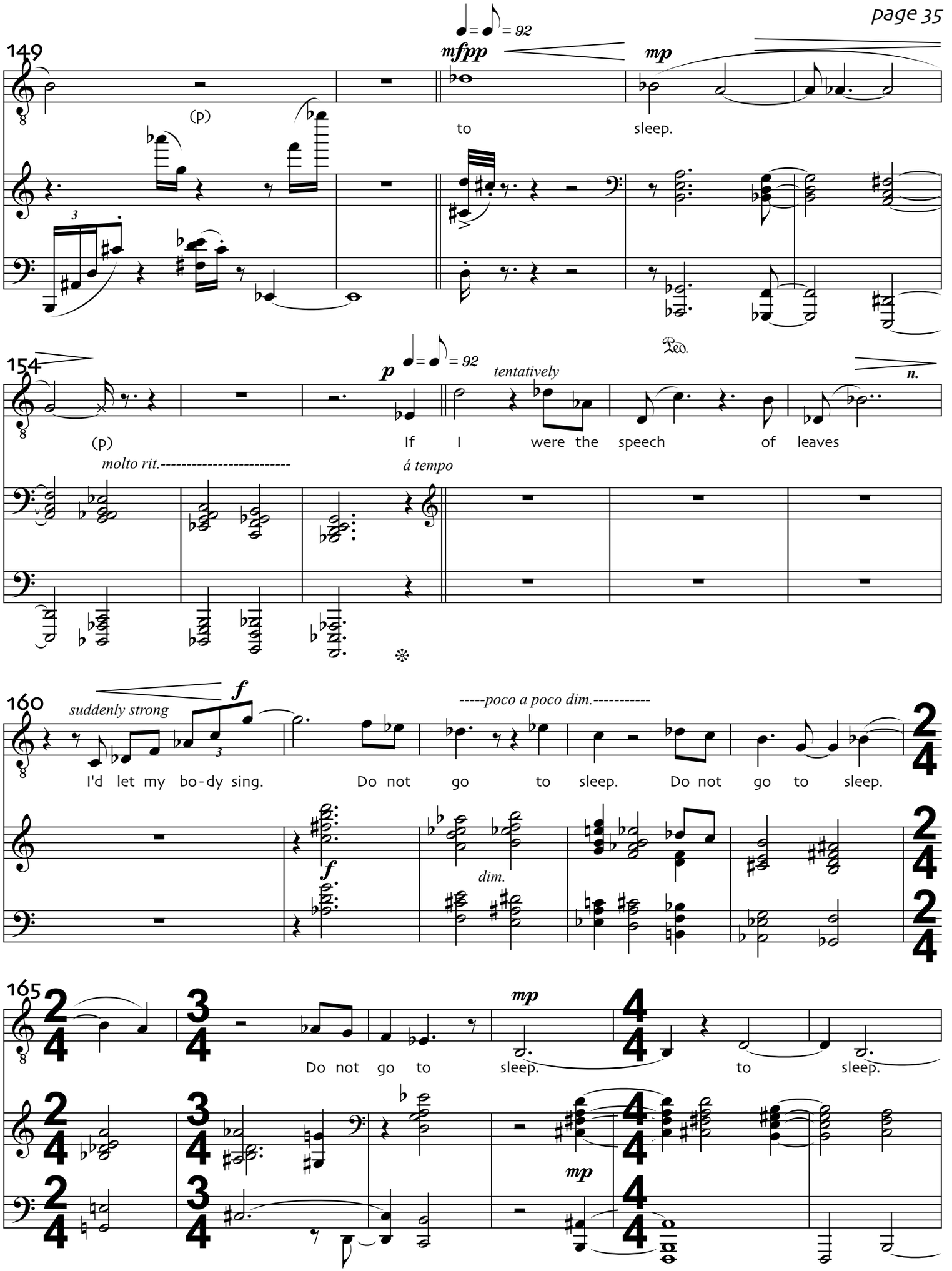
f

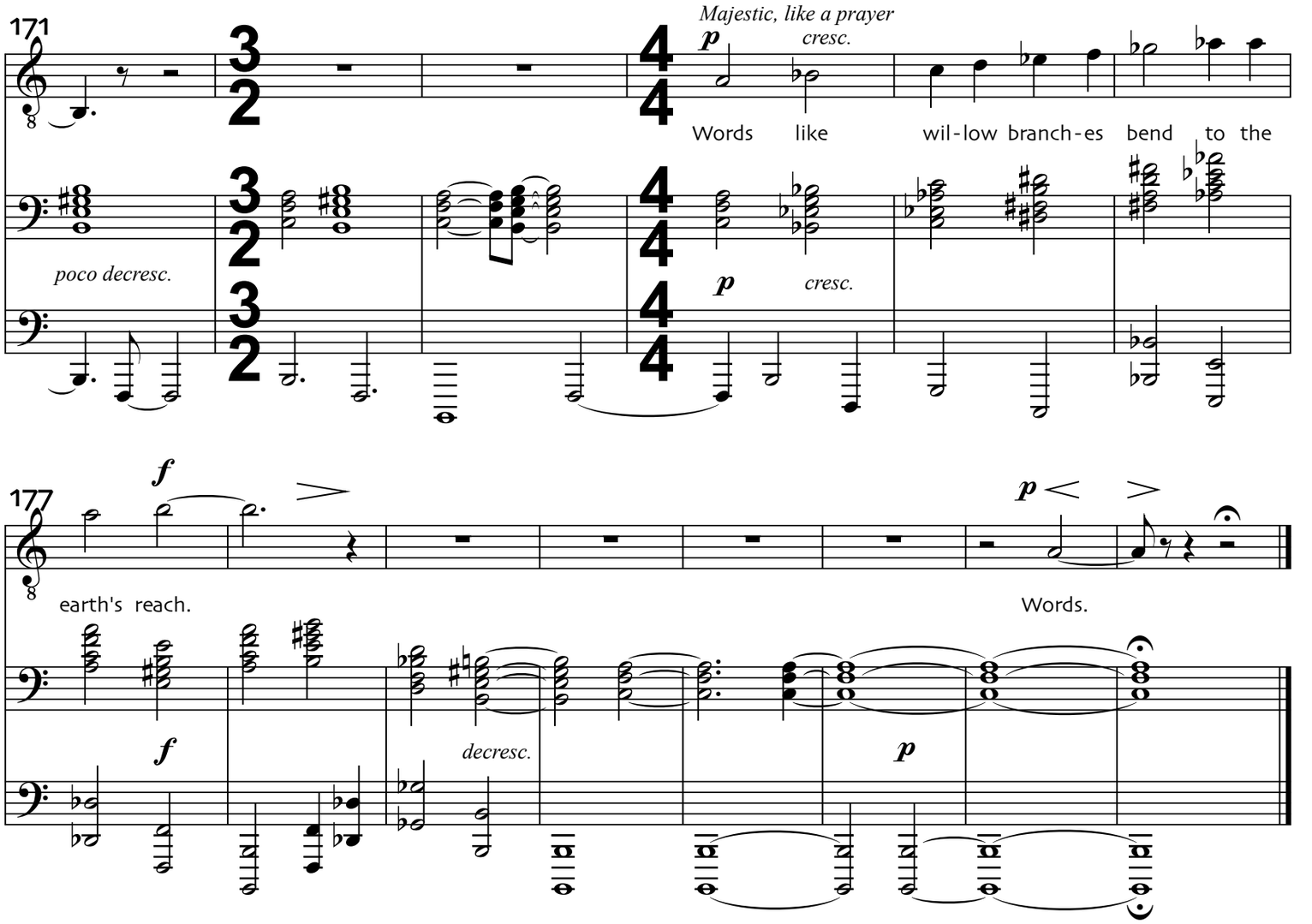
rit.

mp


101
a little slower
pp delicately
Chi - ldren tucked a - sleep
15ma
p
nienté
108
be - neath the rim of wind-whipped sheets
(15ma)
113
= = 92
n. mp n.
Skin
(15ma)
loco
mp
legato
Ped. (ad lib.)
122
n.
n.
mfpp
and bone and weed


129
mp
n.
dolcé
pp
3
flow - er in the flesh.
poco accel.
f
pp
134
p
(shhh) Do not go to sleep.
8va
(stirring, slightly agitated)
p
139
n.
n.
n.
Love is a dust we keep, silt of the
(8va)
144
n.
= 112
bo-dy's dream - ing. Do not go to sleep.
suddenly agitated, but not too loud
mp


149
mfpp
mp
(p)
to
sleep.
154
p
tentatively
(p)
If I were the speech of leaves
molto rit.----------
á tempo
Ped.
n.
160
suddenly strong
f
-----poco a poco dim.----------
I'd let my bo-dy sing.
Do not go to sleep.
Do not go to sleep.
dim.
165
mp
Do not go to
sleep.
to sleep.
mp



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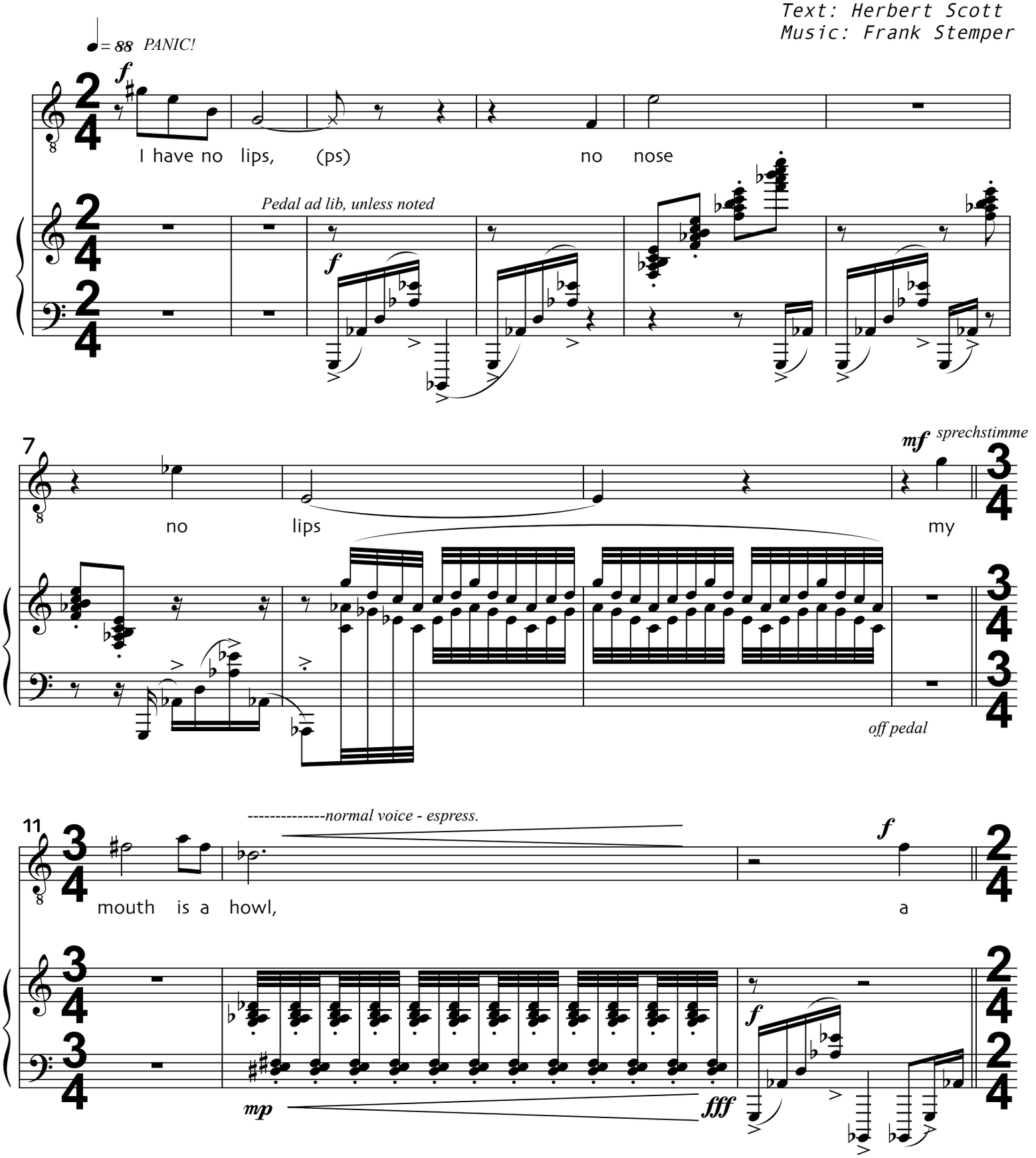
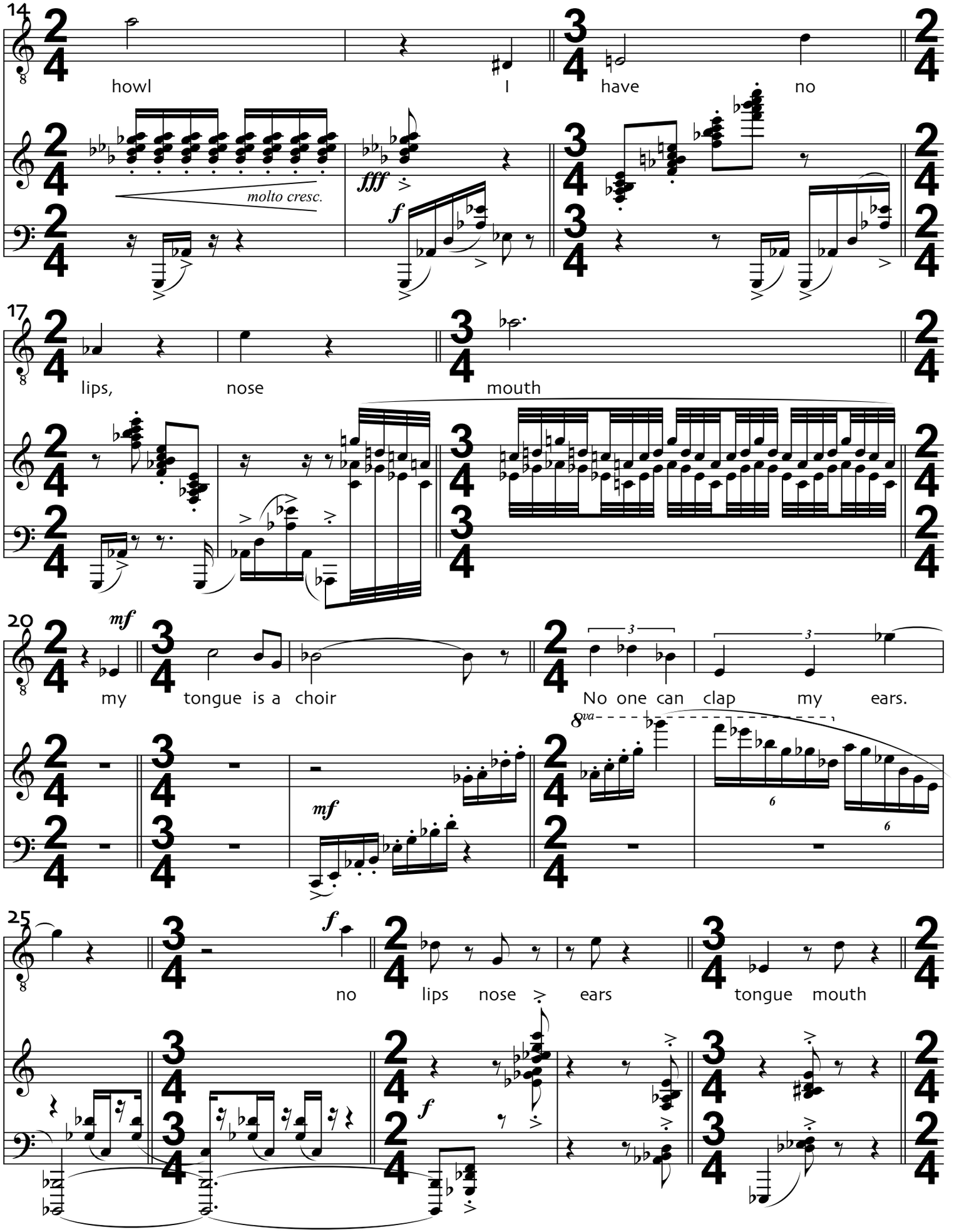
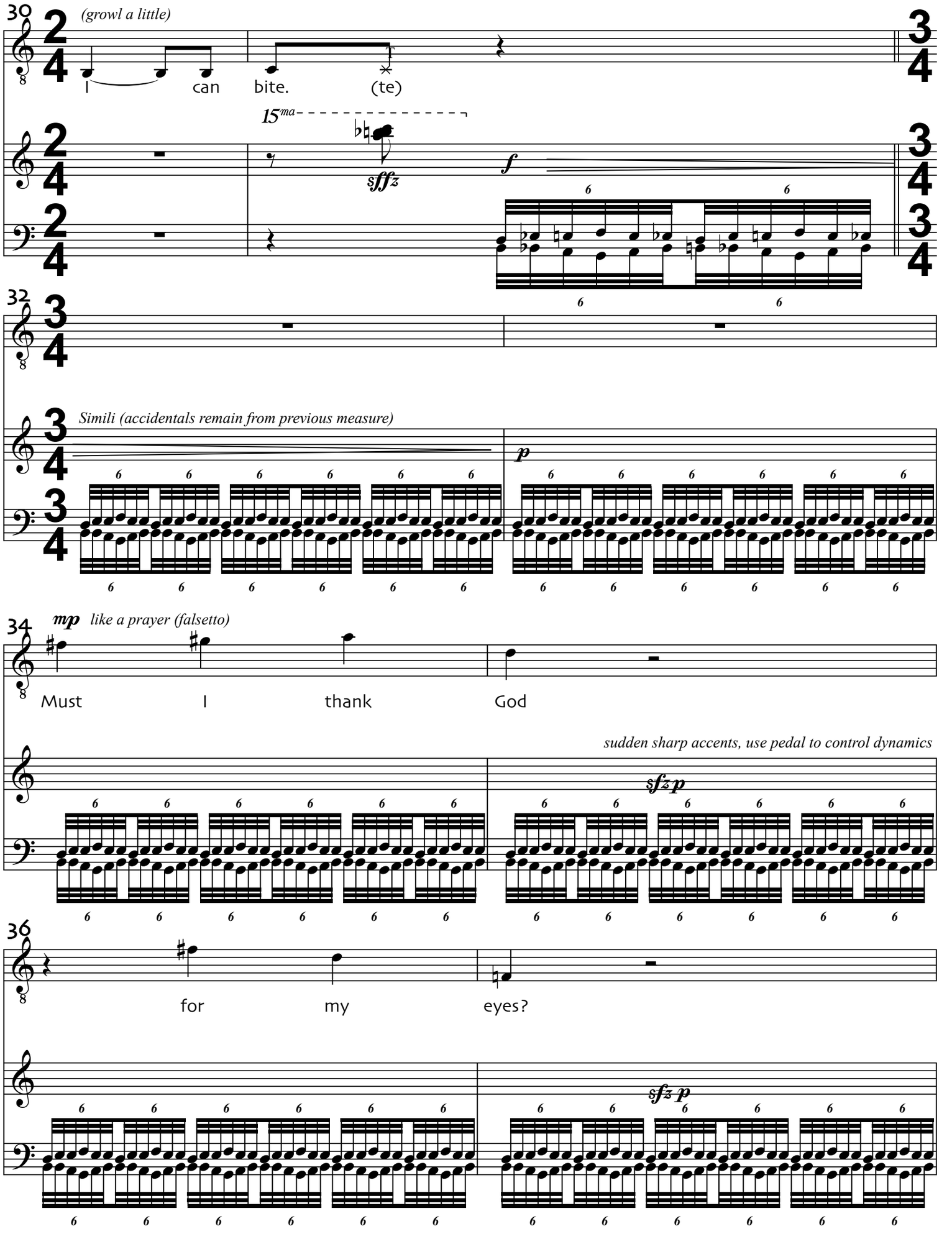
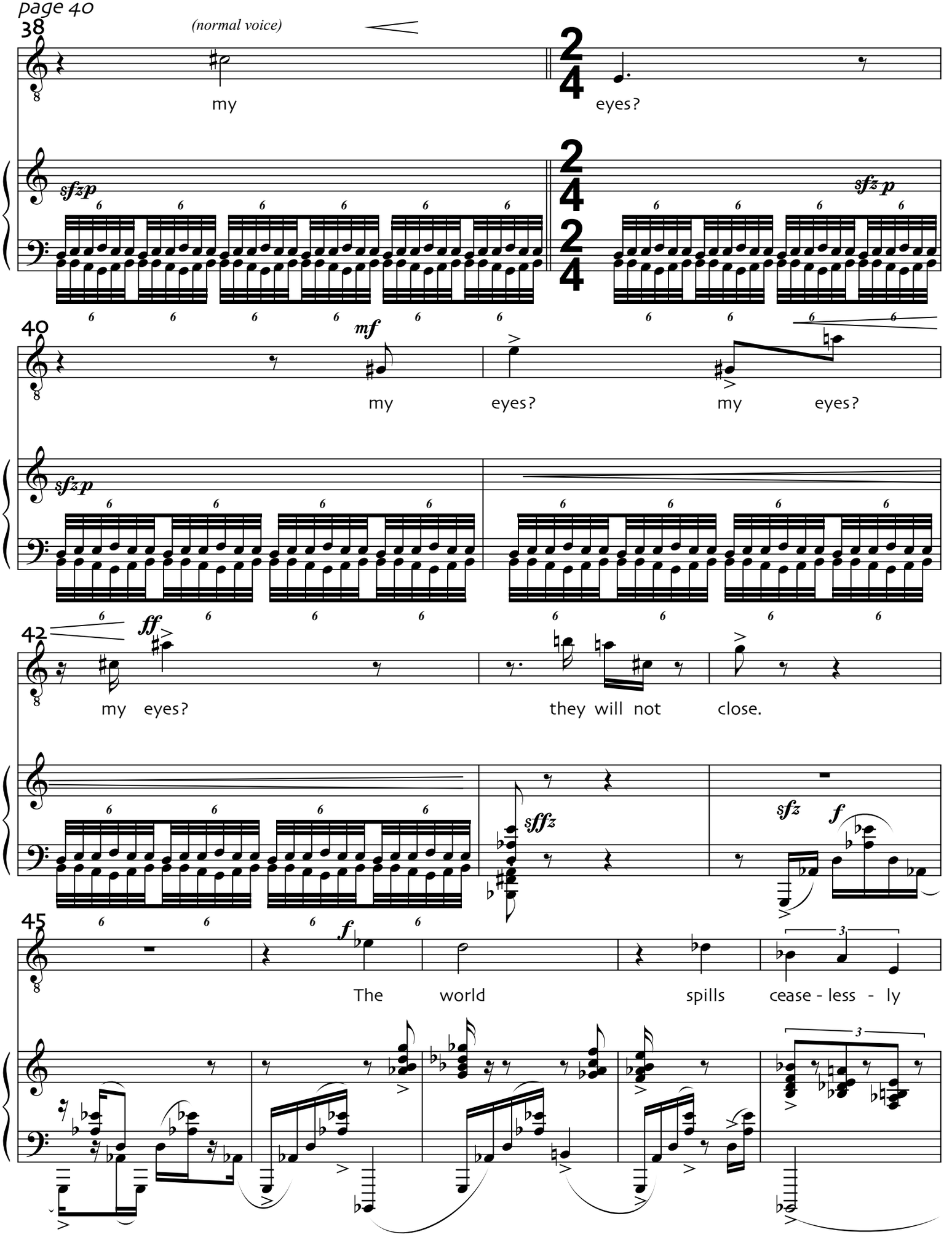
THE SONG THE BURNT CHILD SINGS

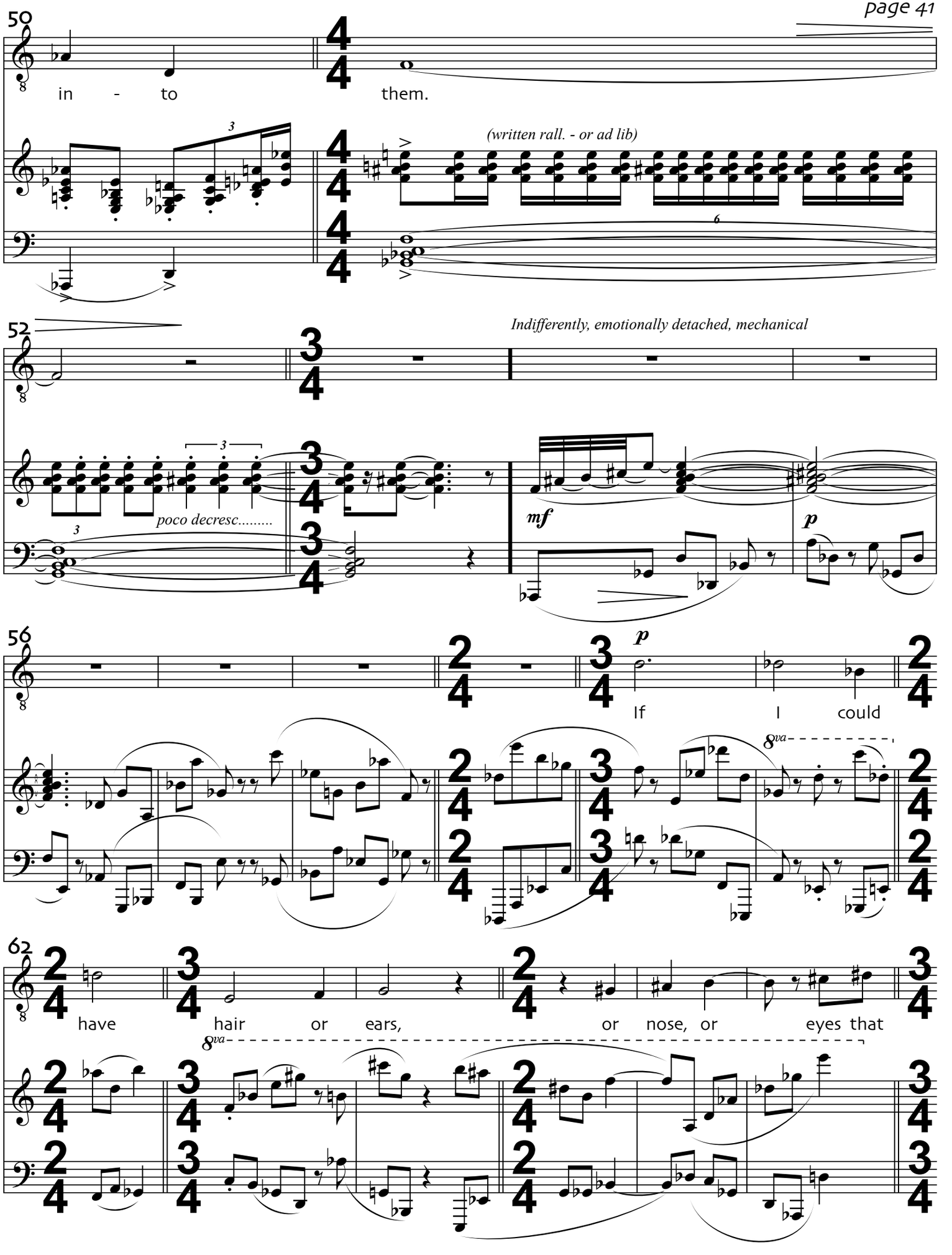
Text: Herbert Scott
Music: Frank Stemper

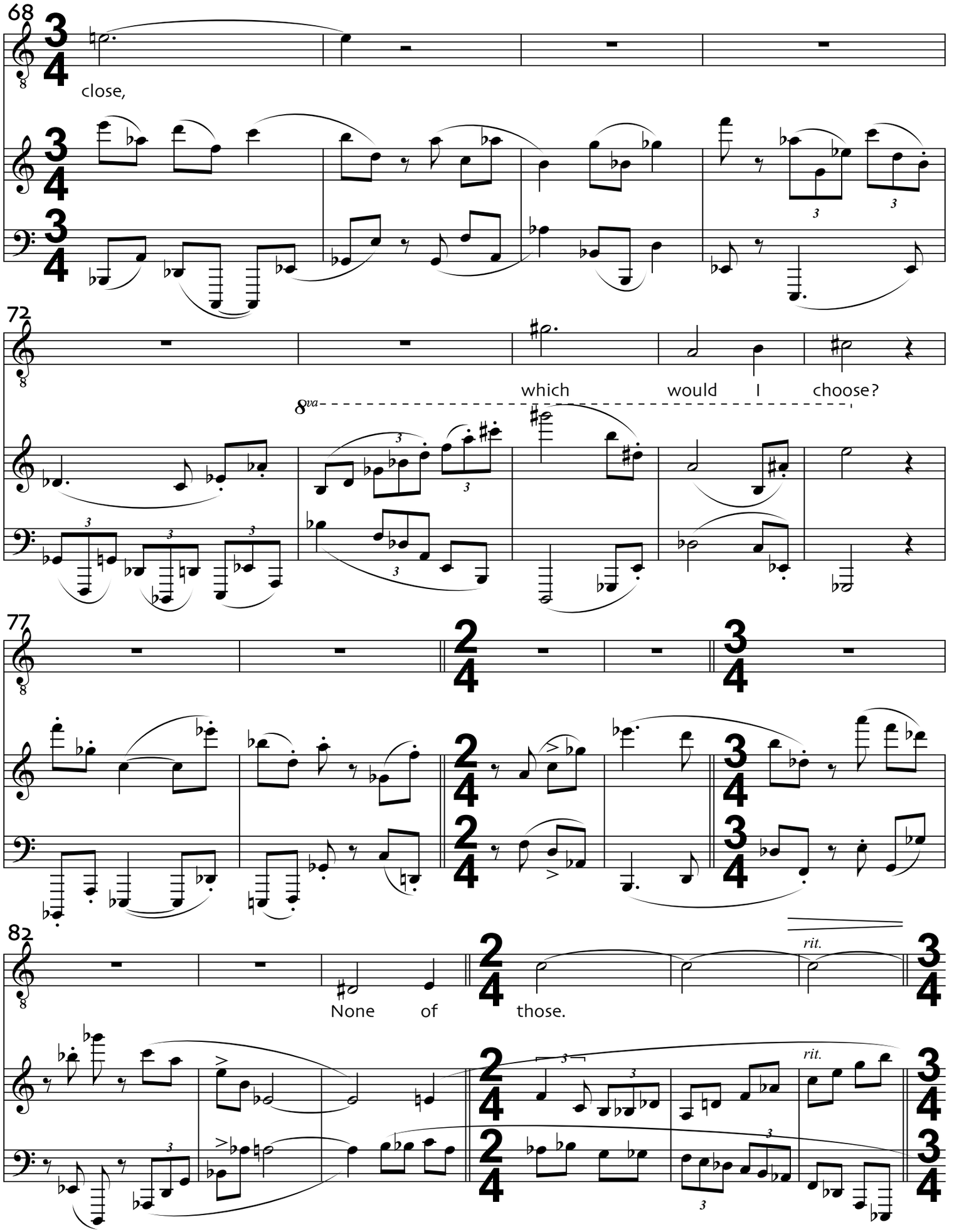


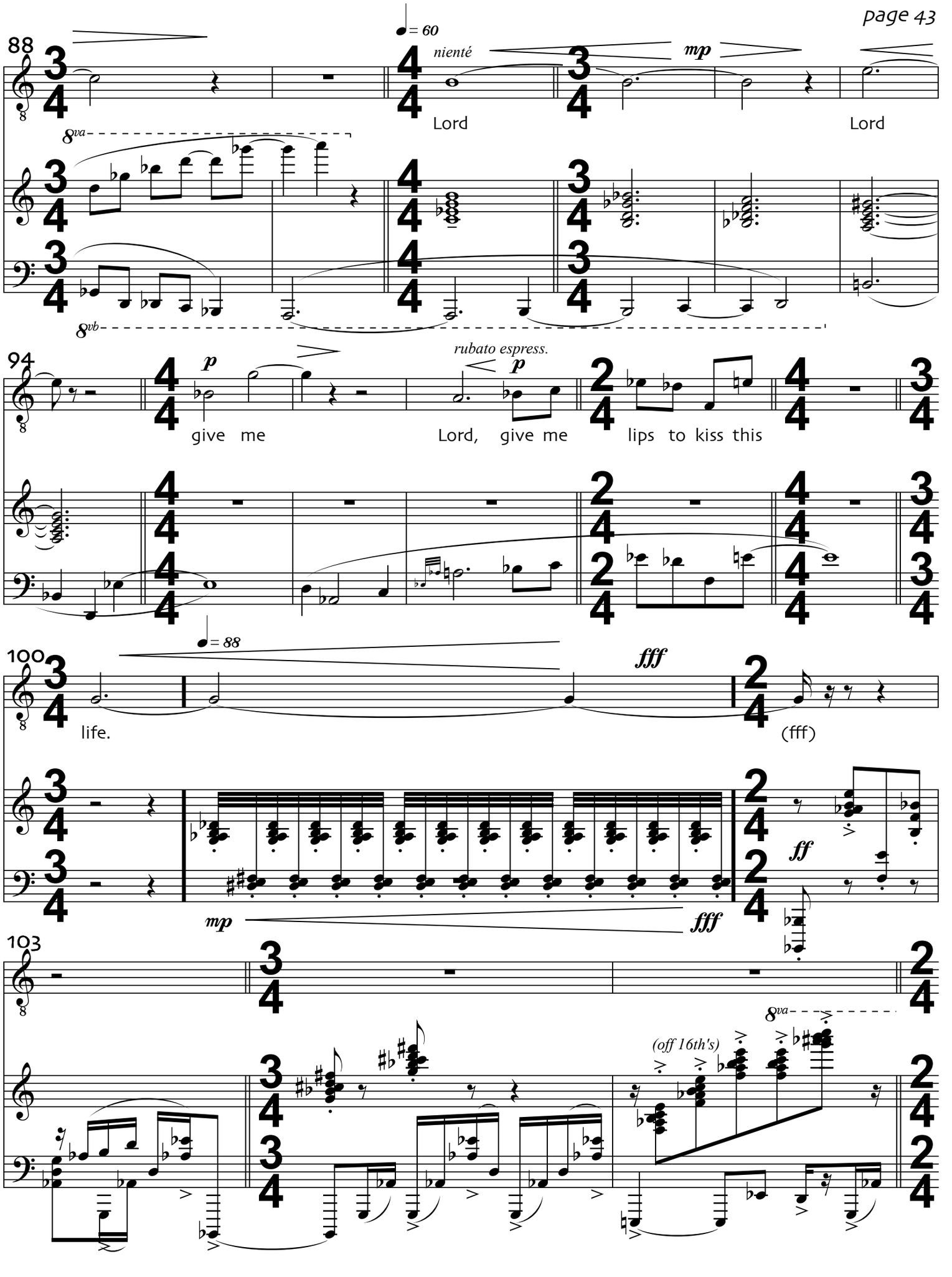

14
howl
I
have
no
molto cresc.
fff
f
17
lips,
nose
mouth
20
mf
my
tongue is a choir
No one can clap
my
ears.
8va
mf
25
f
no
lips
nose
ears
tongue
mouth
f

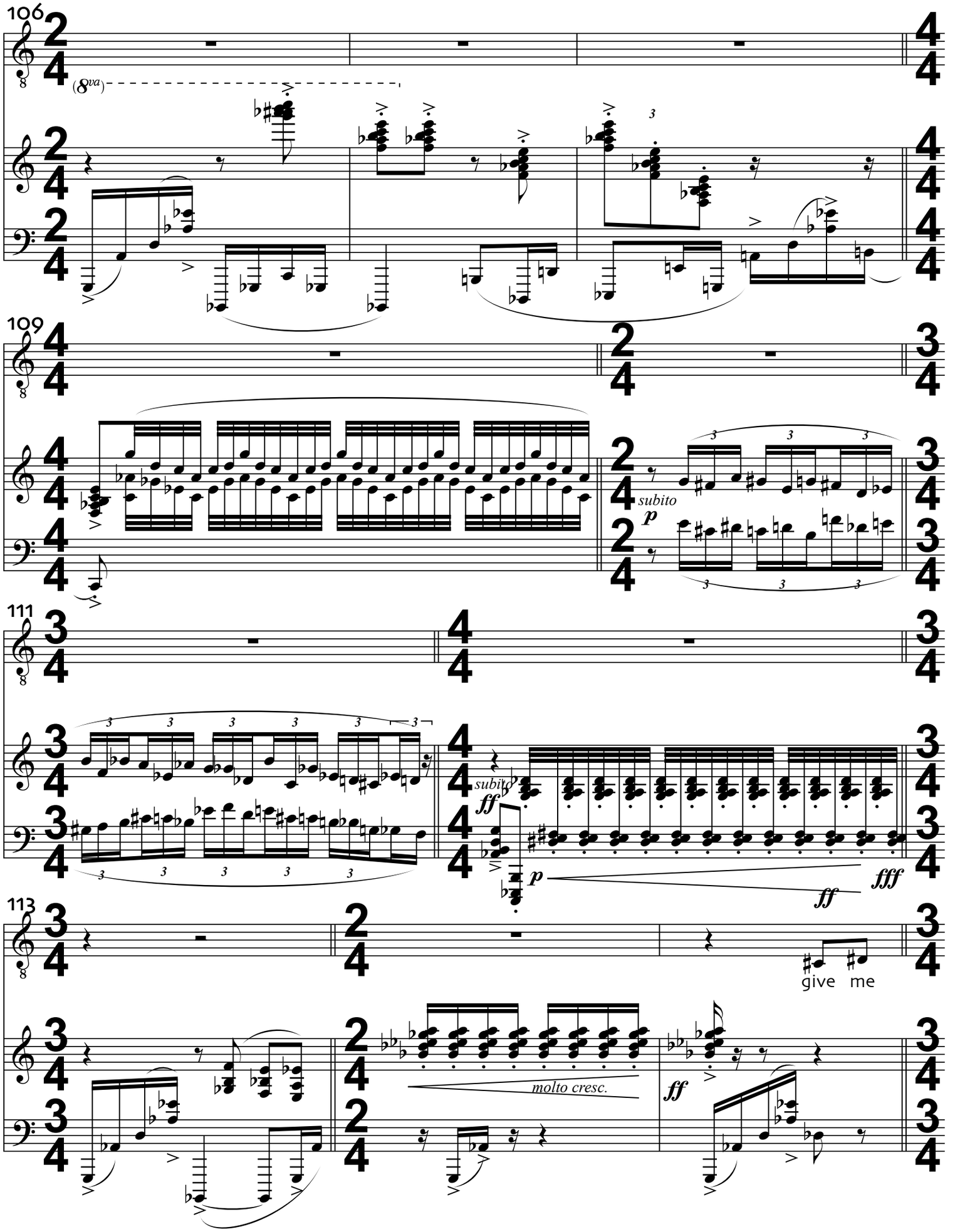

39
(growl a little)
I can bite. (te)
15ma
sffz
f
32
Simili (accidentals remain from previous measure)
p
34
mp like a prayer (falsetto)
Must I thank God
sudden sharp accents, use pedal to control dynamics
sfz p
36
for my eyes?
sfz p

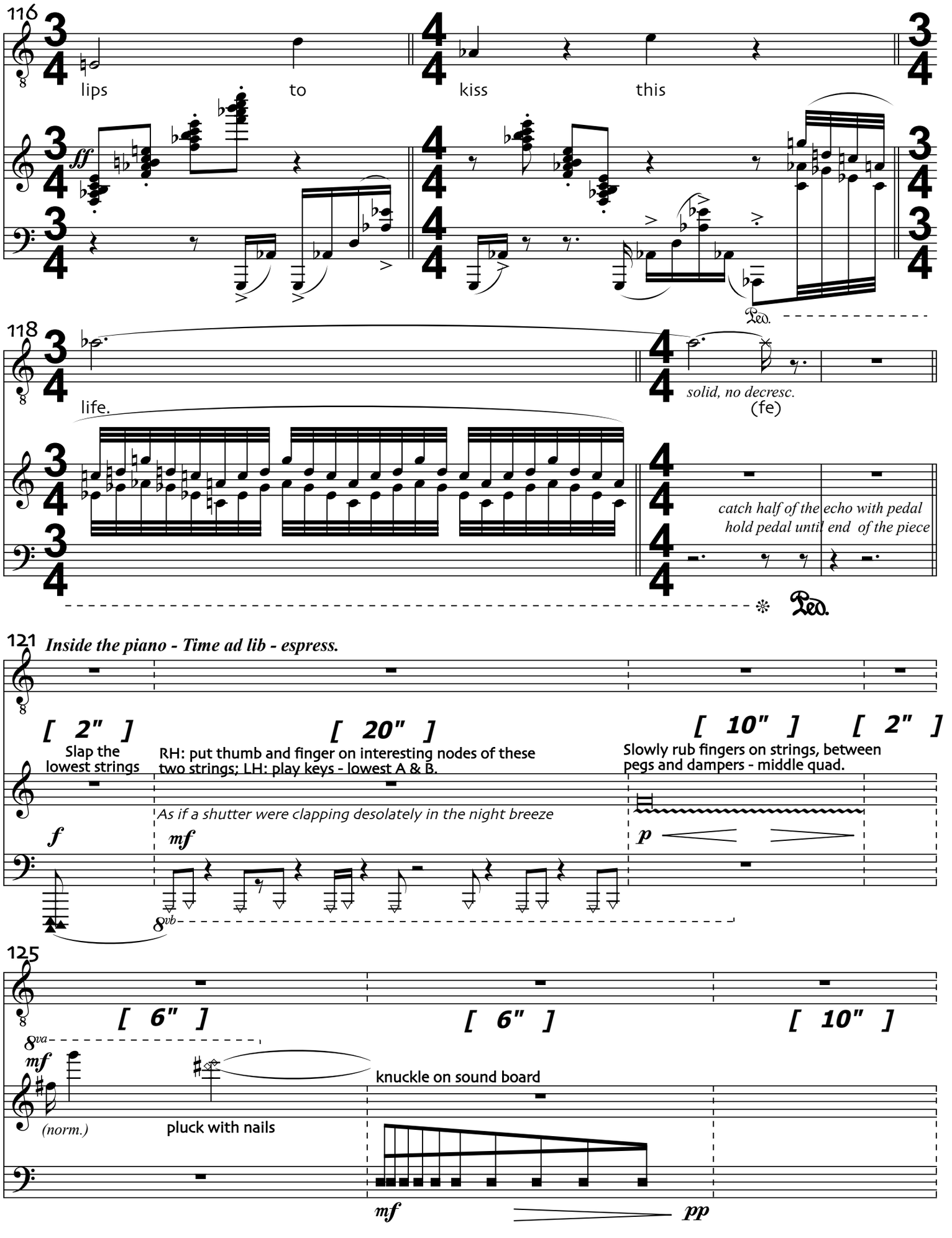

38
(normal voice)
my
eyes?
sfzp
sfz p
40
mf
my
eyes?
my
eyes?
sfzp
42
ff
my eyes?
they will not
close.
sffz
sfz
f
45
f
The
world
spills
cease - less - ly


50
in - to them.
(written rall. - or ad lib)
52
Indifferently, emotionally detached, mechanical
poco decresc.....
mf
p
56
p
If I could
8va
62
have hair or ears, or nose, or eyes that
8va


68
close,
72
which would I choose?
8va
77
82
None of those.
rit.
rit.


88
♩= 60
nienté
mp
Lord
Lord
8va
8vb
94
rubato espress.
p
p
give me
Lord, give me
lips to kiss this
100
♩= 88
fff
life.
(fff)
mp
fff
ff
103
8va
(off 16th's)


106
(8va)
109
subito
p
111
subito
ff
p
fff
ff
113
give me
molto cresc.
ff


116
lips
to
kiss
this
ff
Ped.
118
life.
solid, no decresc.
(fe)
catch half of the echo with pedal
hold pedal until end of the piece
Ped.
121
Inside the piano - Time ad lib - espress.
[2"]
[20"]
[10"]
[2"]
Slap the lowest strings
RH: put thumb and finger on interesting nodes of these two strings; LH: play keys - lowest A & B.
Slowly rub fingers on strings, between pegs and dampers - middle quad.
As if a shutter were clapping desolately in the night breeze
f
mf
p
8vb
125
[6"]
[6"]
[10"]
8va
mf
(norm.)
pluck with nails
knuckle on sound board
mf
pp

128

♩ = 60

rubato espress. **p**

The new wi - dow

[15"]

Slowly scratch the lowest strings - LENGTHWISE (faster and higher at the end)

Menacing, loud, disturbing

f

Slap the lowest strings

f

mf

Slowly rub fingers...

132

is walk - ing bare - - - - foot

like a slightly chilling breeze

Slap the lowest strings

mp

mp

With fingers on strings quickly, lightly, gently; mid-piano

136

wid - ow walk-ing bare

p

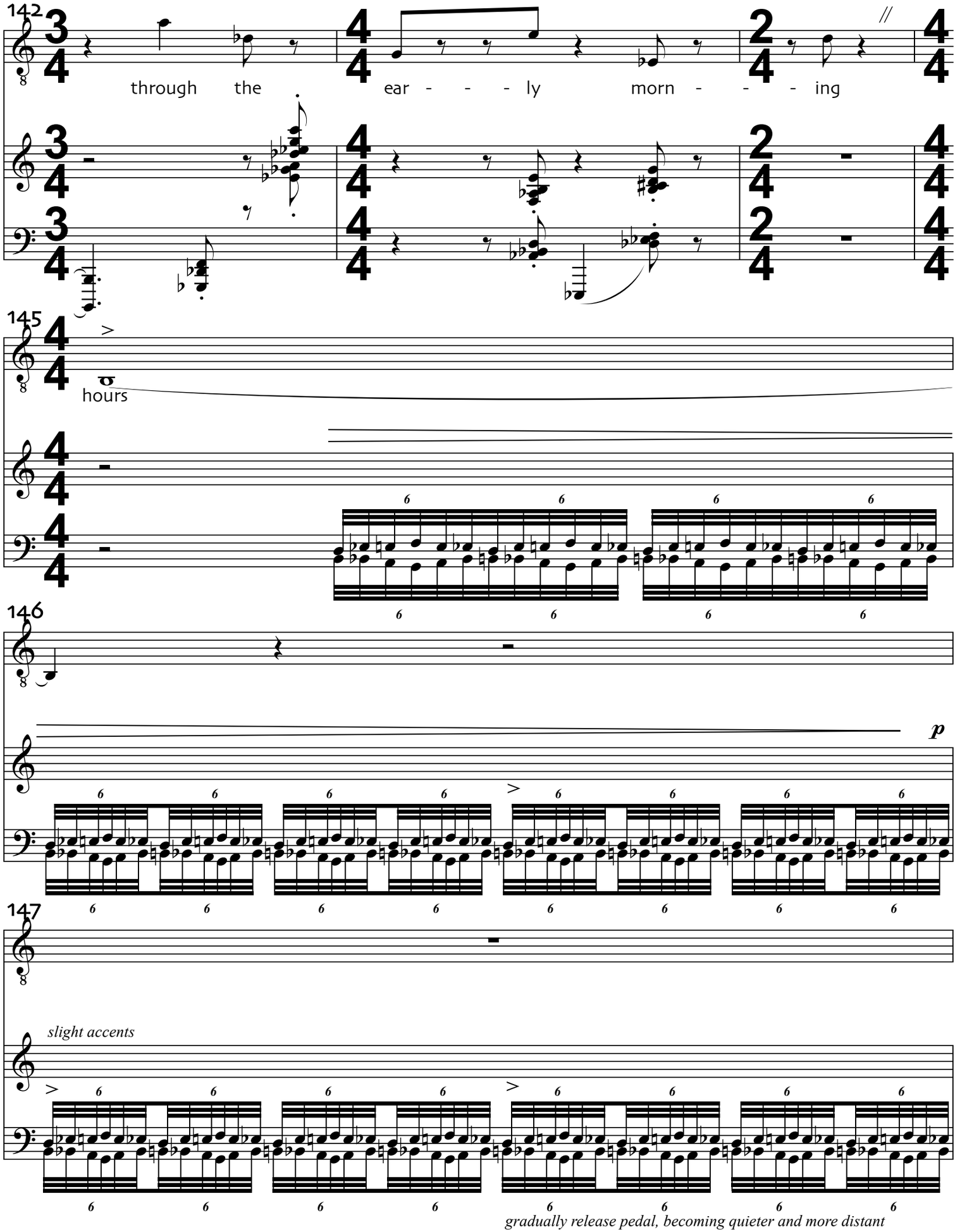
139

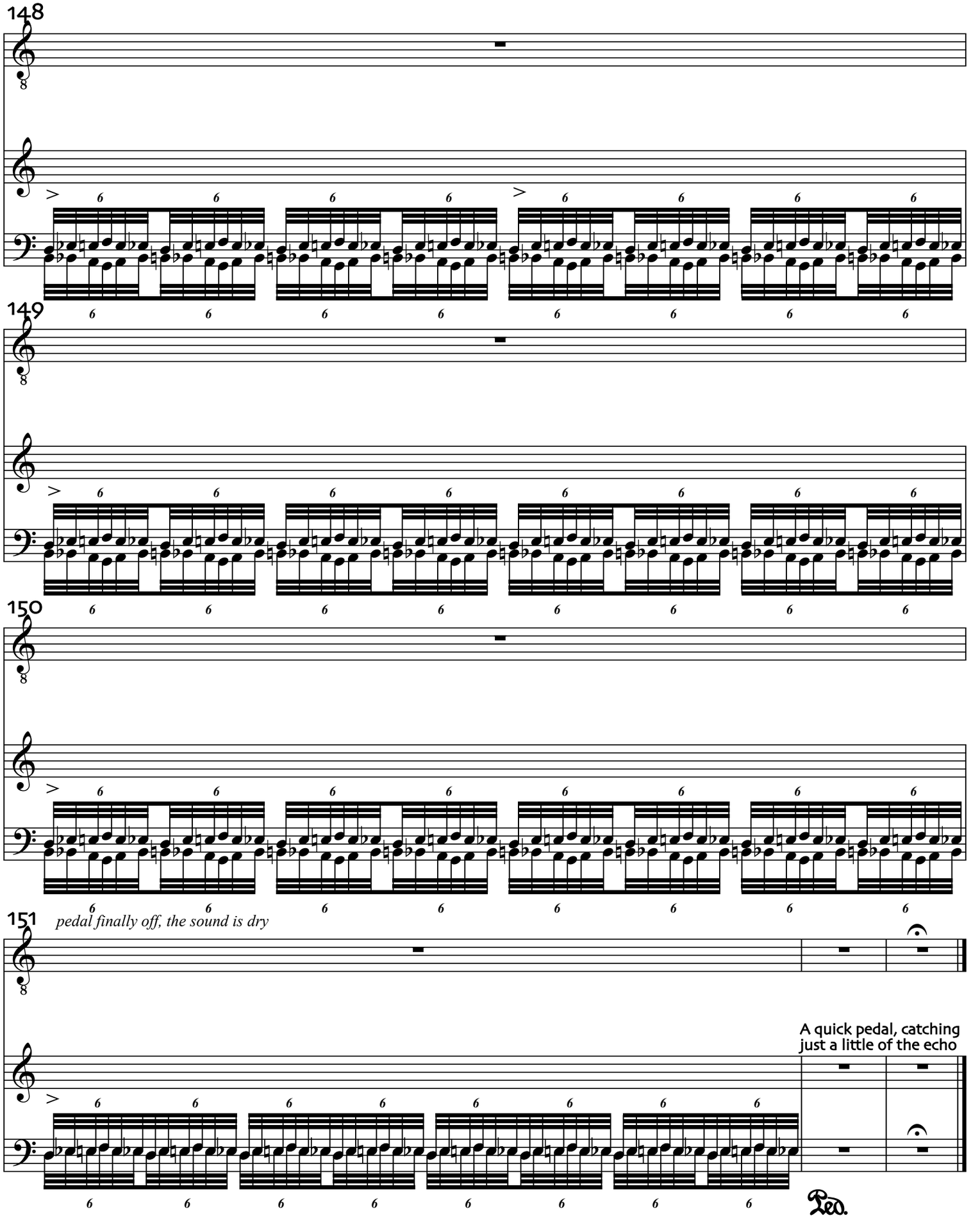
3 3

bare-foot on wood - en floors

8va

6 6


142
through the ear - - - ly morn - - - ing
145
hours
146
p
147
slight accents
gradually release pedal, becoming quieter and more distant



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for Shirley

POEM

Text: Herbert Scott
Music: Frank Stemper

♩ = 60 *Plodding*
heartfelt, espress.

mp

Is - n't it here in the un - named

resigned, rather mechanical

mp

5

giv - ing of light bod - ies of earth and

9

wa - ter lift - ed and tak - en

mf

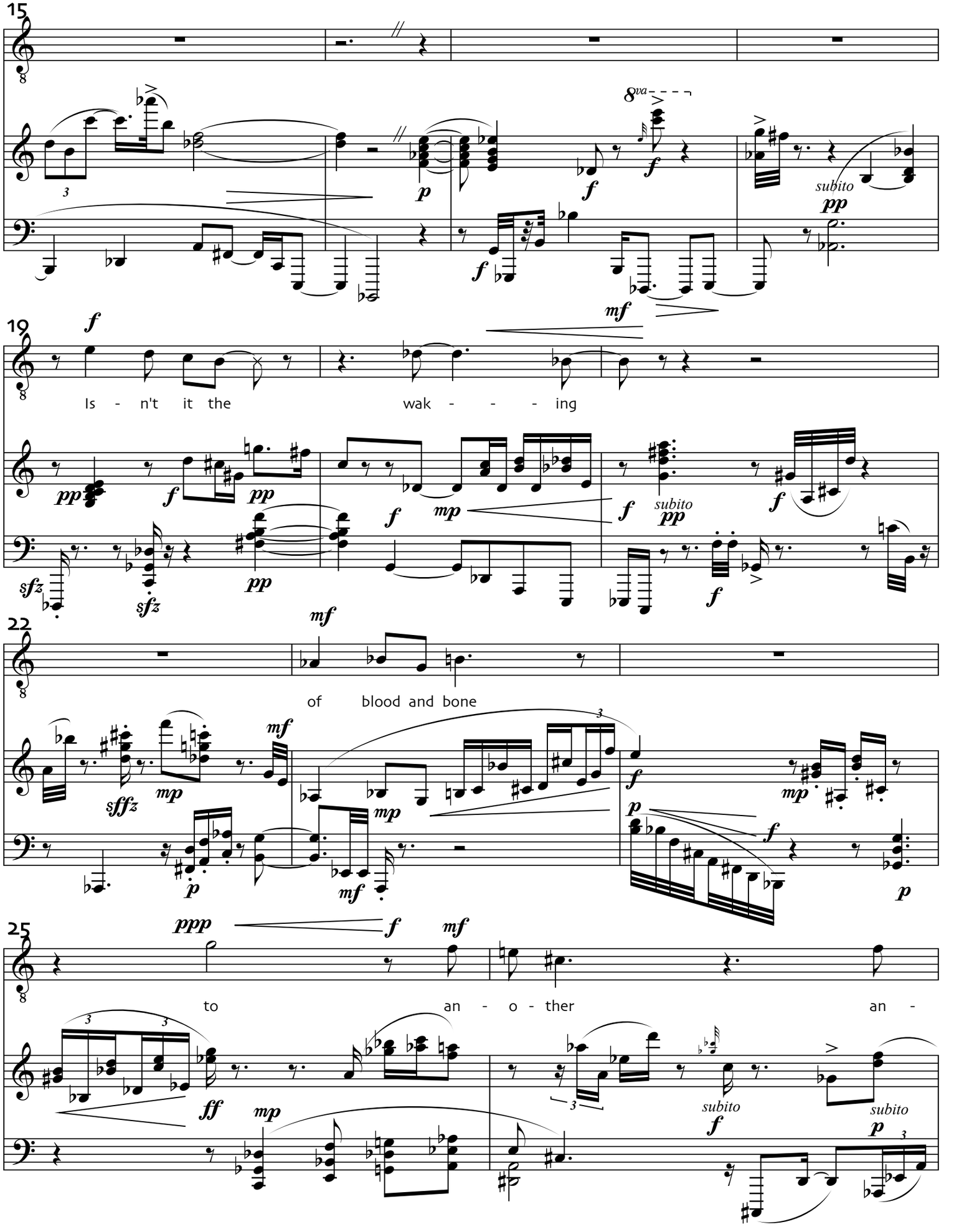
mf

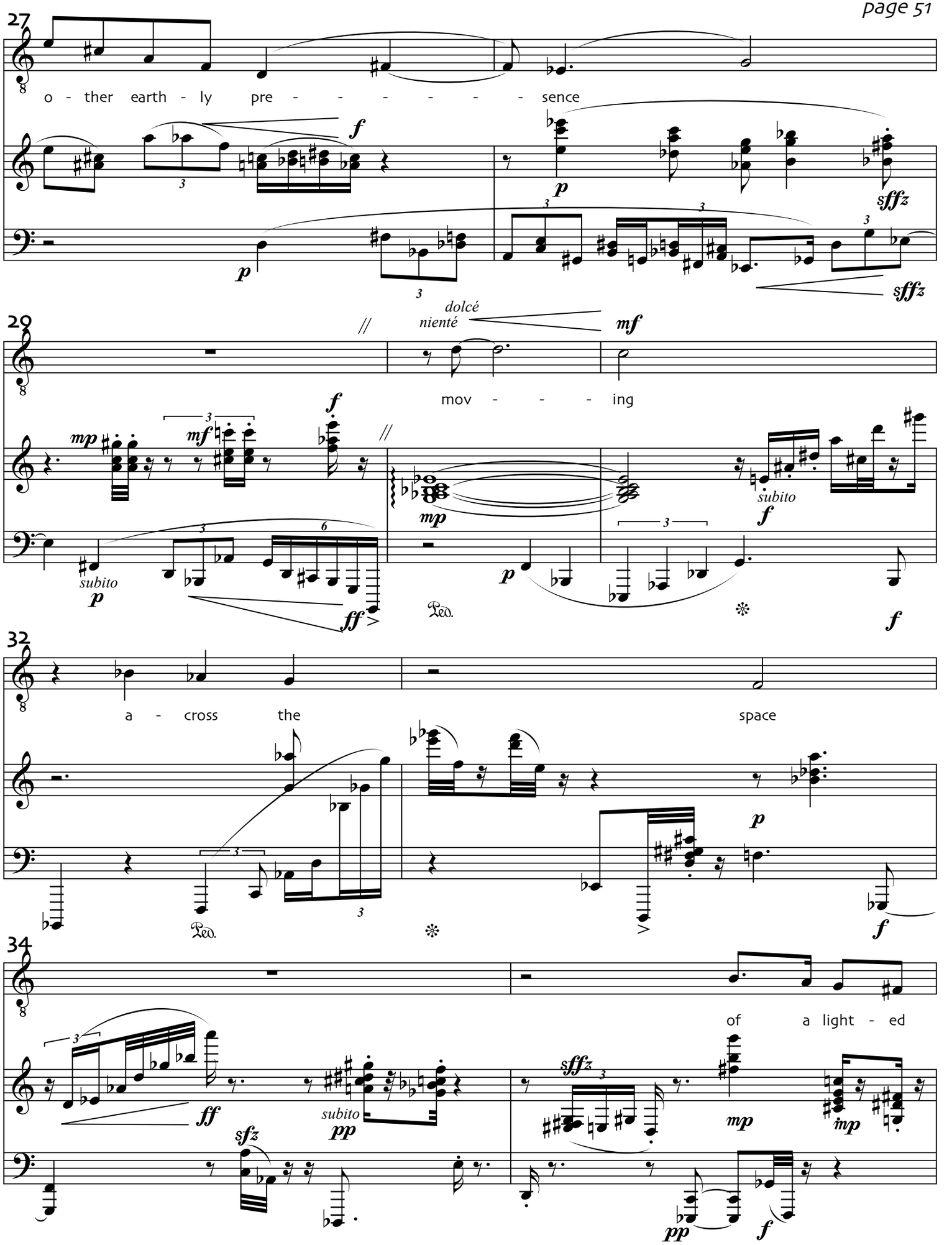
12

mp

in - to the or - bit of flesh

mp


15
8va
p
f
subito
pp
19
mf
Is - n't it the wak - - - - ing
pp
sfz
22
of blood and bone
sffz
25
ppp
to an - o - ther an -
ff
subito


27
o - ther earth - ly pre - - - - - - - sence
f
p
sffz
29
dolcé
nienté
mf
mov - - - ing
mp
f
subito
p
ff
Ped.
32
a - cross the space
34
of a light - ed
ff
subito
pp
sfz
sffz
mp
f

36

win - dow as though it were the u - - ni - verse;

39

with apprehension (rubato)

suddenly exploding

Is-n't it Is-n't it the break - ing that

43

sets free the co - min - gl - ing of sane and

45

sane of in - sane sane in - sane sane

47

and in - sane frag - ments

ff *mf* *p*

49

mp *mp* *p*

mo - ments when the light

pp *p*

52

wispy, airy

burns through to the meek sus - pen - sion of

8va

55

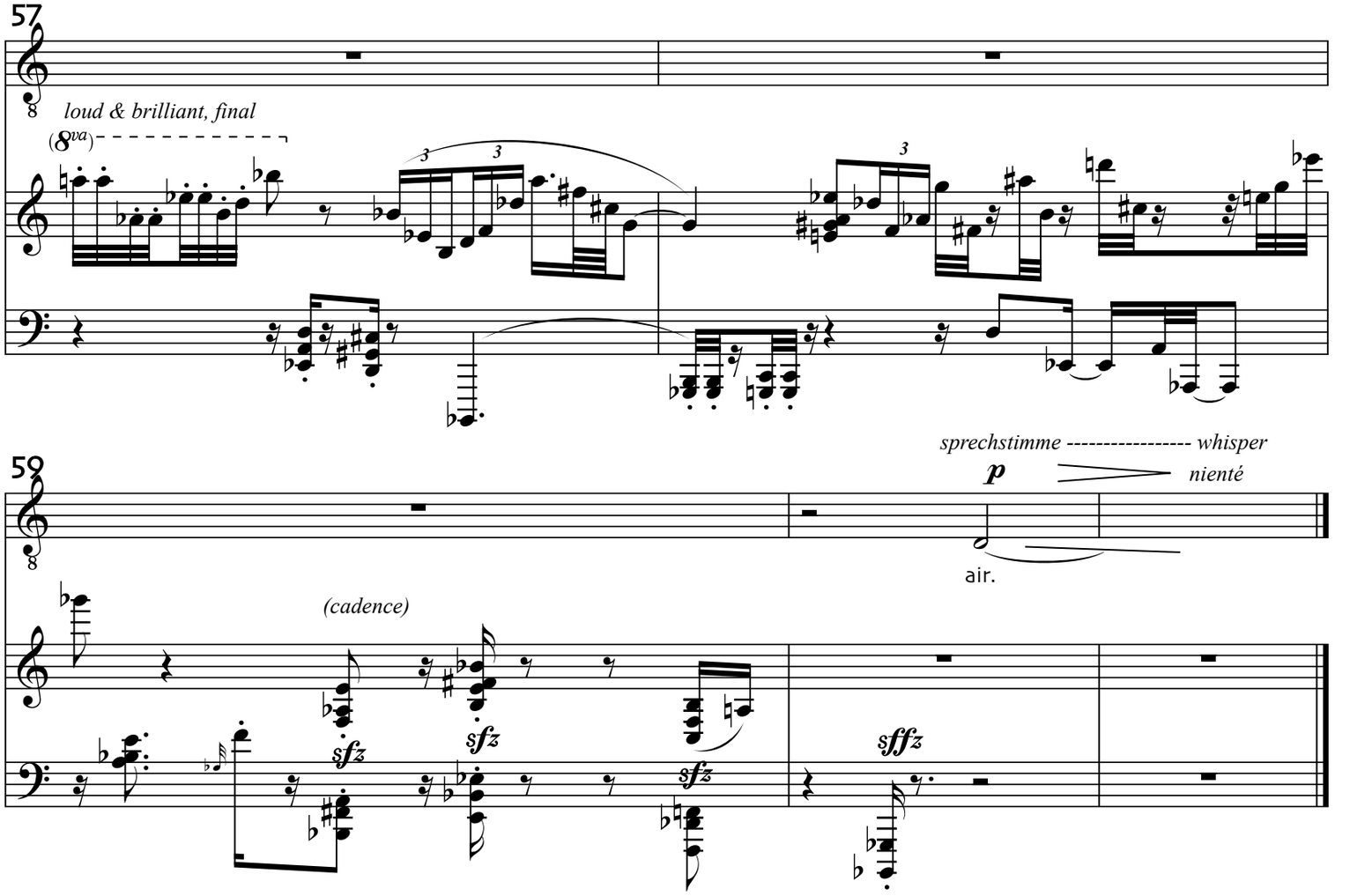
espress.

air?

8va

subito *f*

Ped. Ped.



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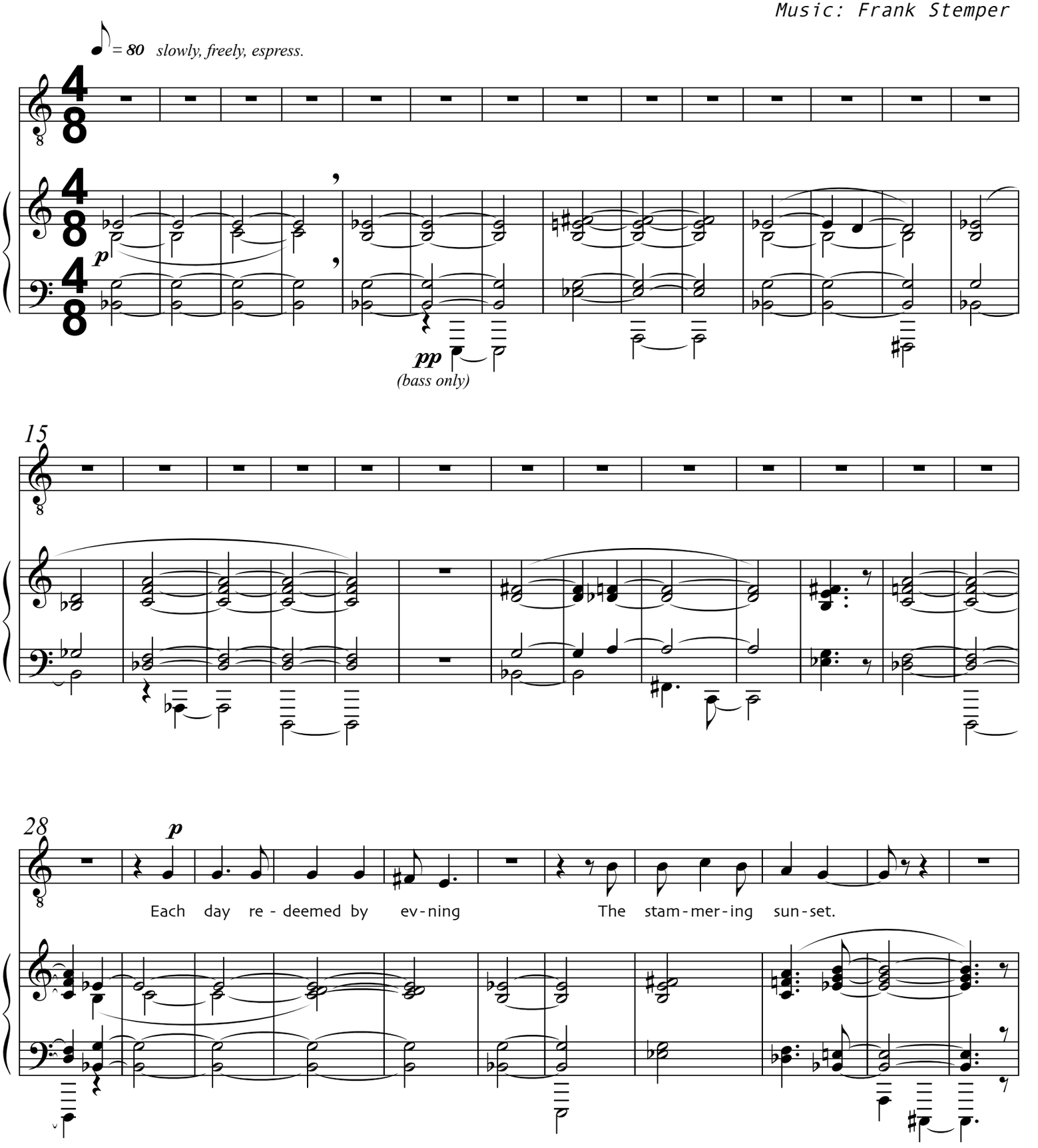
Evening, Milking

Text: Herbert Scott
Music: Frank Stemper



39

The moon in its rut of sky. The mind is white wick -

49

more rhythmic

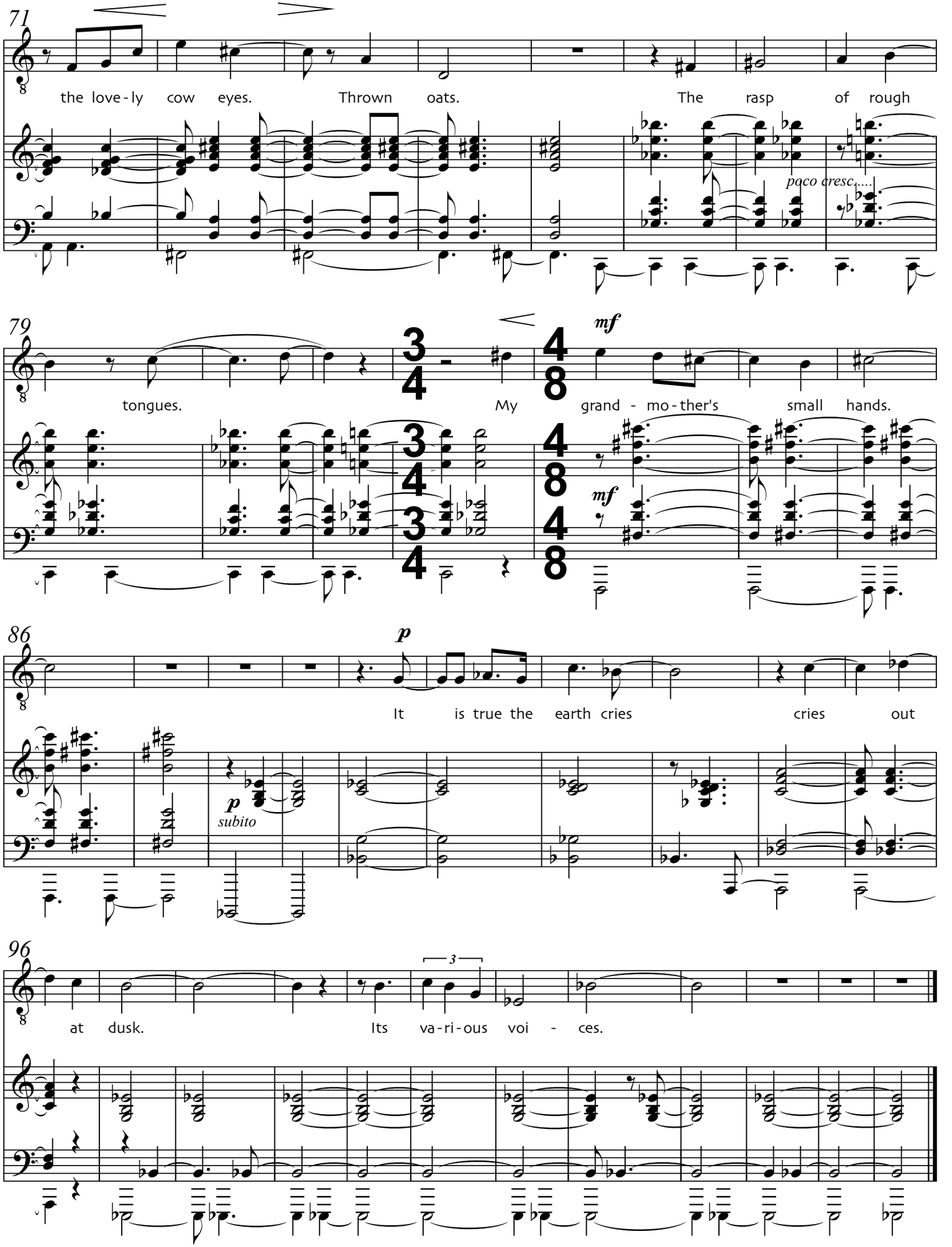
er. Cows, Cows, hea - vy with the biz -

56

ness of milk, nod home from the east pas - ture There

63

is a moan that milk makes. The clat - ter of hooves,


71
the love-ly cow eyes. Thrown oats. The rasp of rough
poco cresc.....
79
tongues. My grand - mo-ther's small hands.
mf
mf
86
p
It is true the earth cries cries out
p
subito
96
3
at dusk. Its va-ri-ous voi - ces.