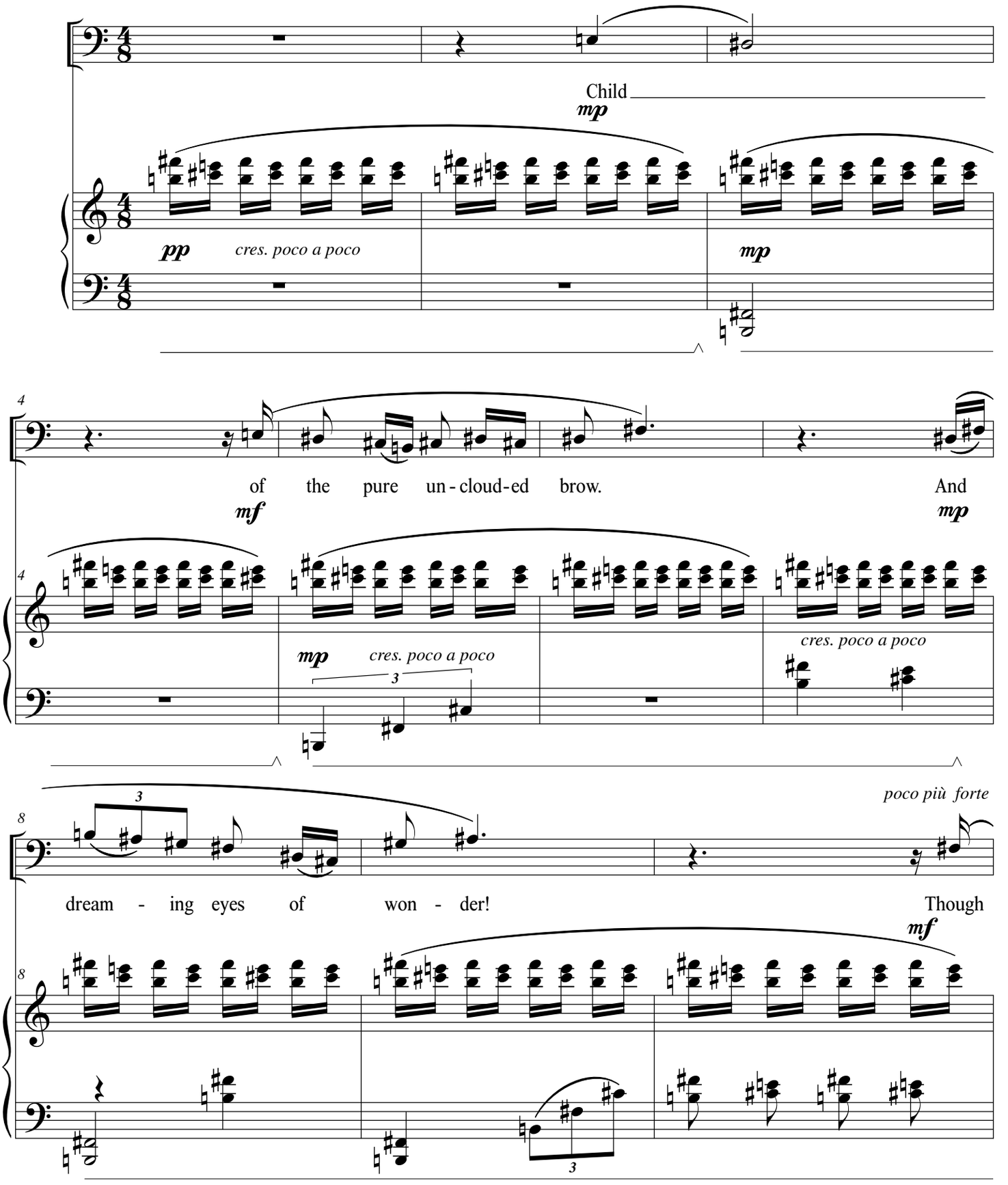
Six Songs
from
Alice Through the Looking-Glass

William Osborne

I. Prelude: The Love-Gift of a Fairy-Tale

Ephemeral, *cres. poco a poco* (♪= ca. 72)



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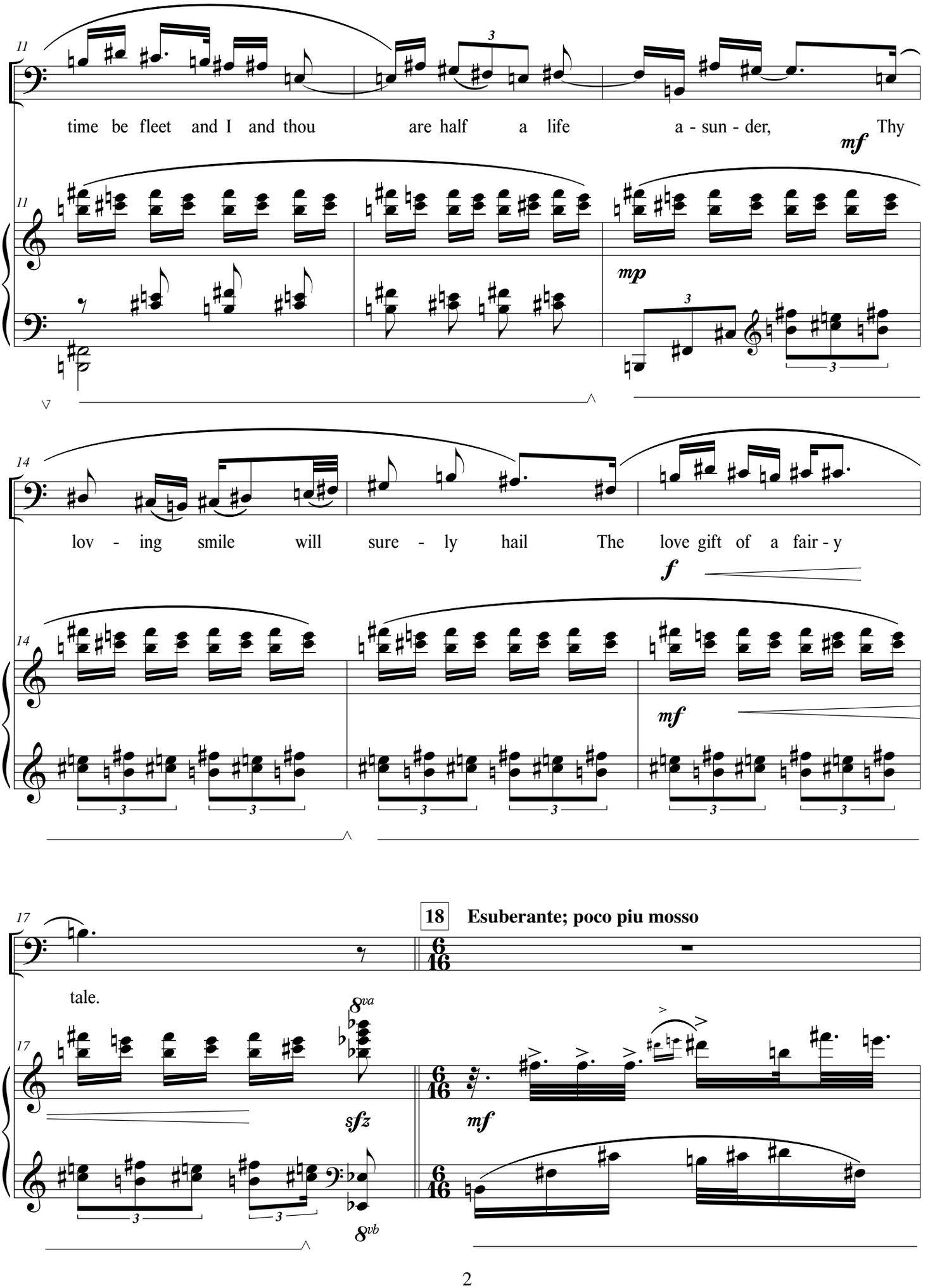
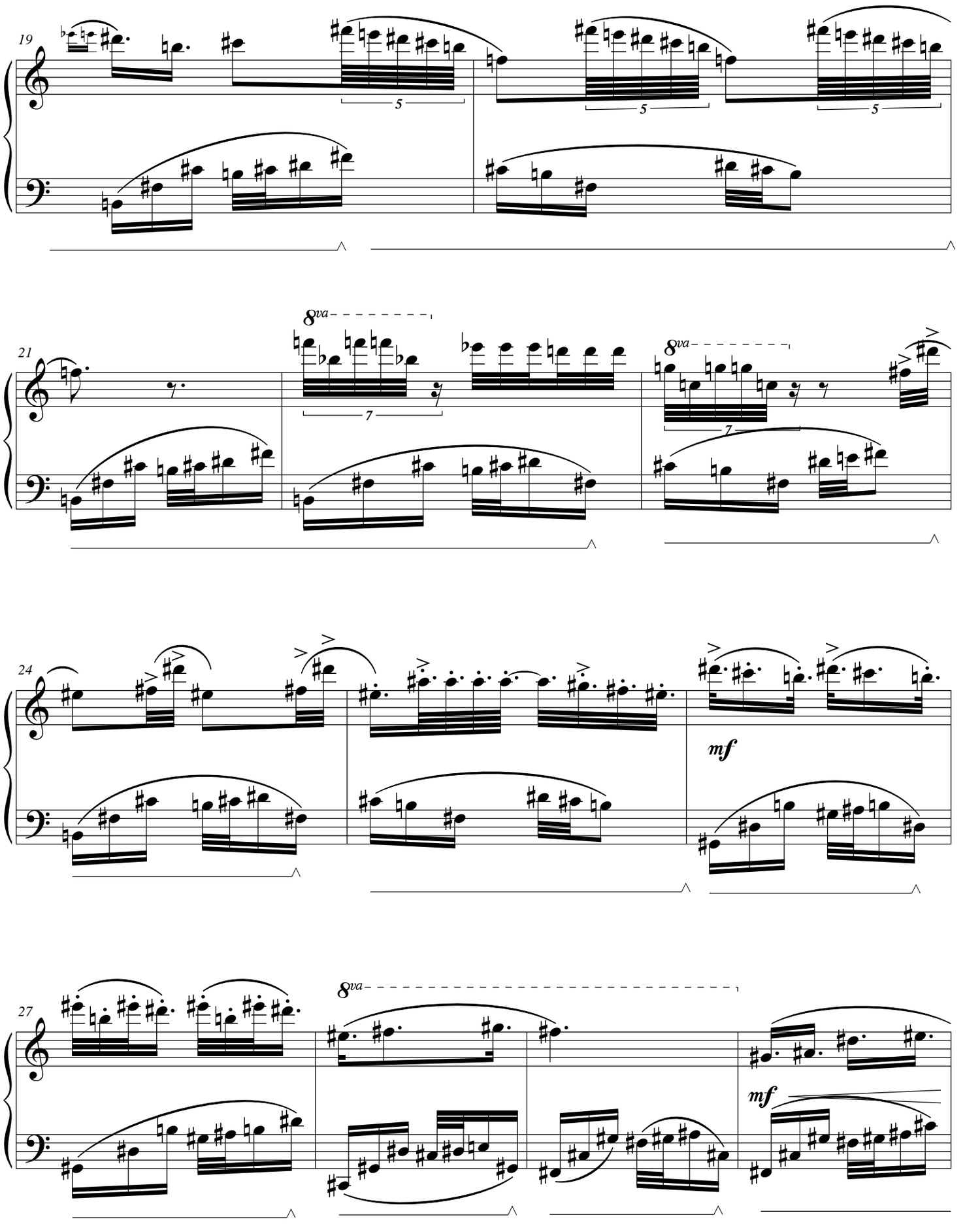
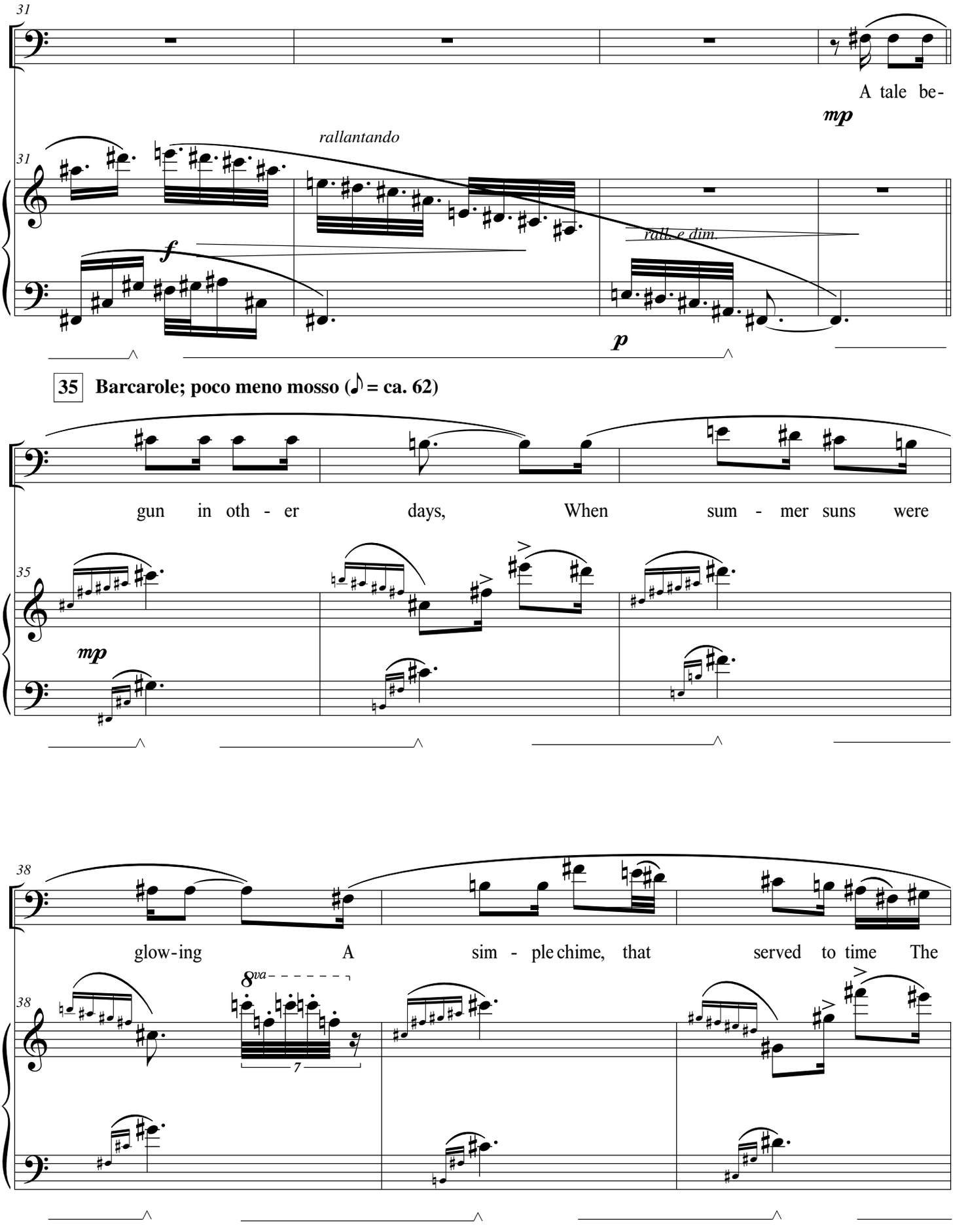
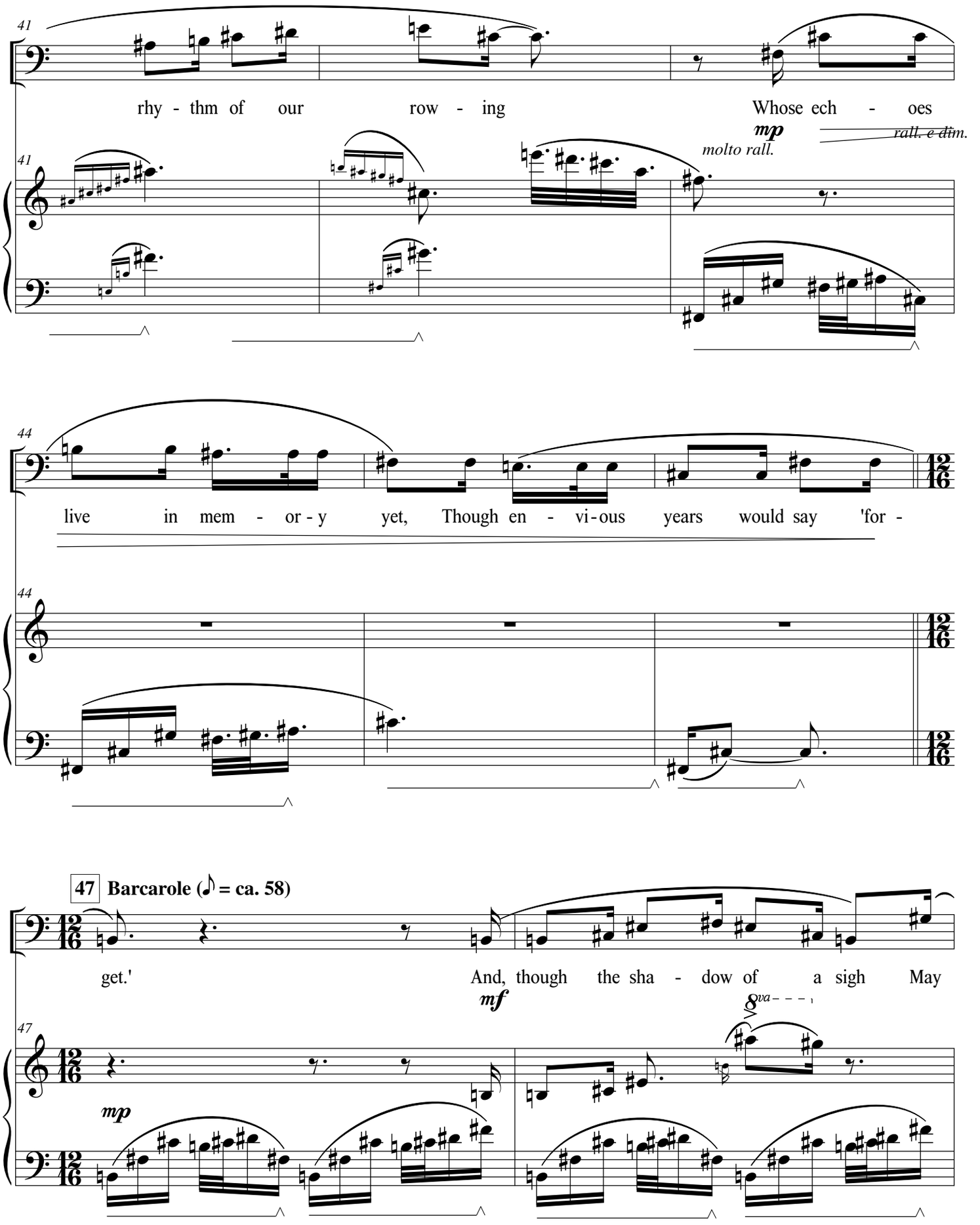
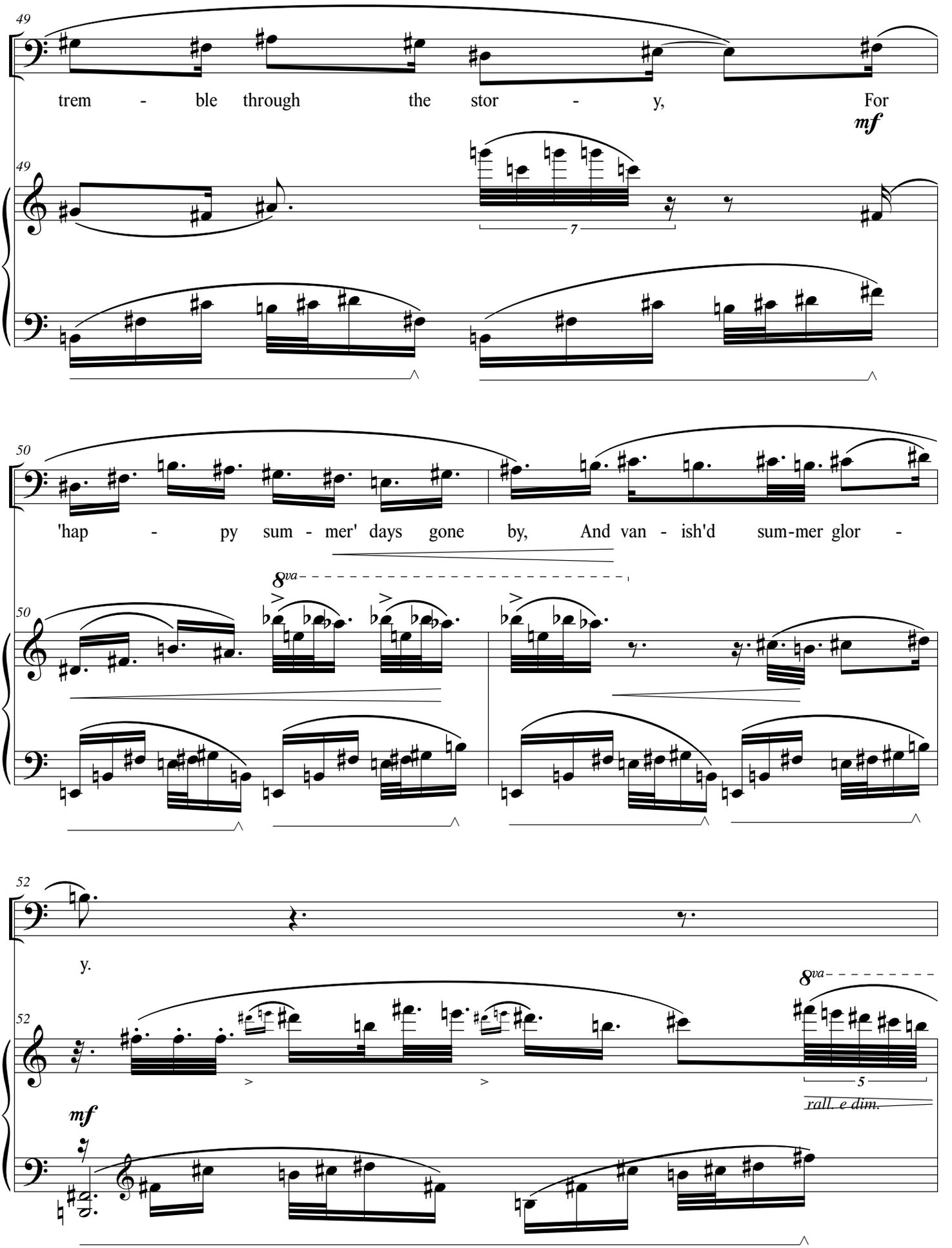
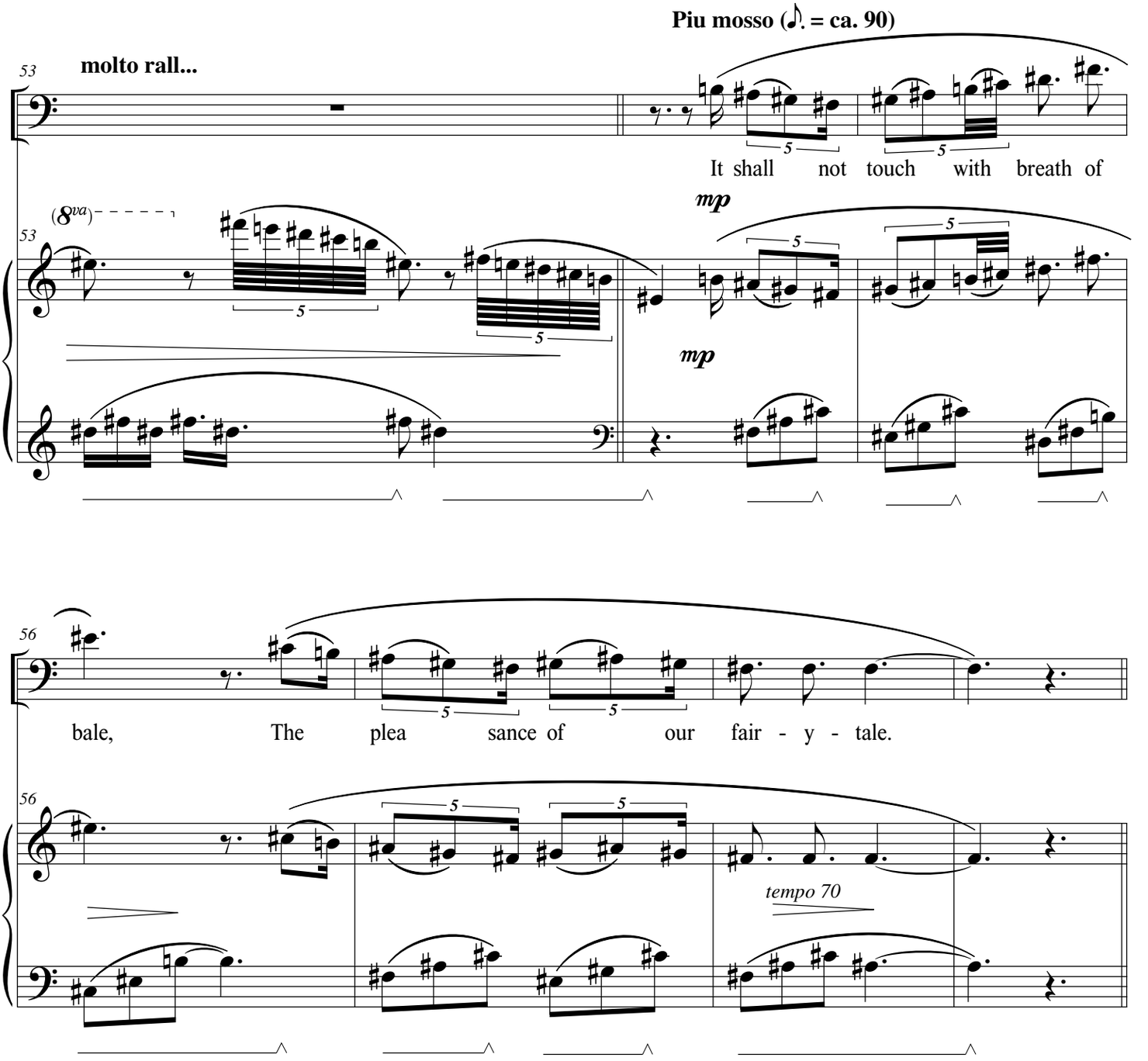

11
time be fleet and I and thou are half a life a - sun - der, Thy
mf
mp
14
lov - ing smile will sure - ly hail The love gift of a fair - y
f
mf
17
tale.
18
Esuberante; poco piu mosso
8va
sfz
mf
8vb


19
5
5
5
21
8va
7
8va
7
24
mf
27
8va
mf


31
A tale be-
mp
rallantando
31
f
rall. e dim.
p
35 Barcarole; poco meno mosso (♪ = ca. 62)
gun in oth - er days, When sum - mer suns were
35
mp
38
glow-ing A sim - ple chime, that served to time The
38
8va
7


41
rhy - thm of our row - ing Whose ech - oes
mp
rall. e dim.
molto rall.
44
live in mem - or - y yet, Though en - vi - ous years would say 'for -
47 Barcarole (♪ = ca. 58)
get.' And, though the sha - dow of a sigh May
mf
8va
mp

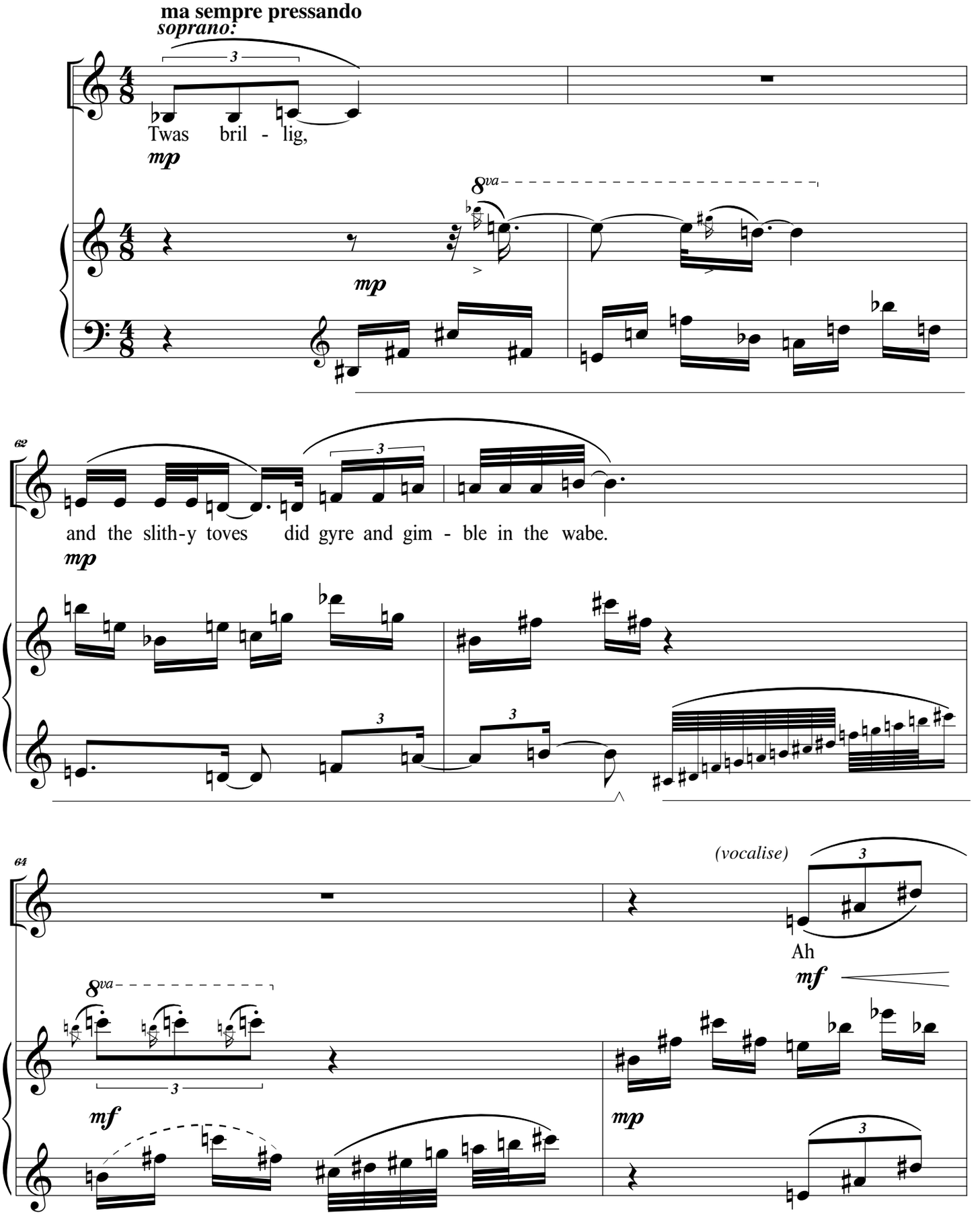

49
trem - ble through the stor - y, For
mf
49
7
50
'hap - py sum - mer' days gone by, And van - ish'd sum-mer glor -
8va
50
52
y.
8va
52
5
rall. e dim.
mf

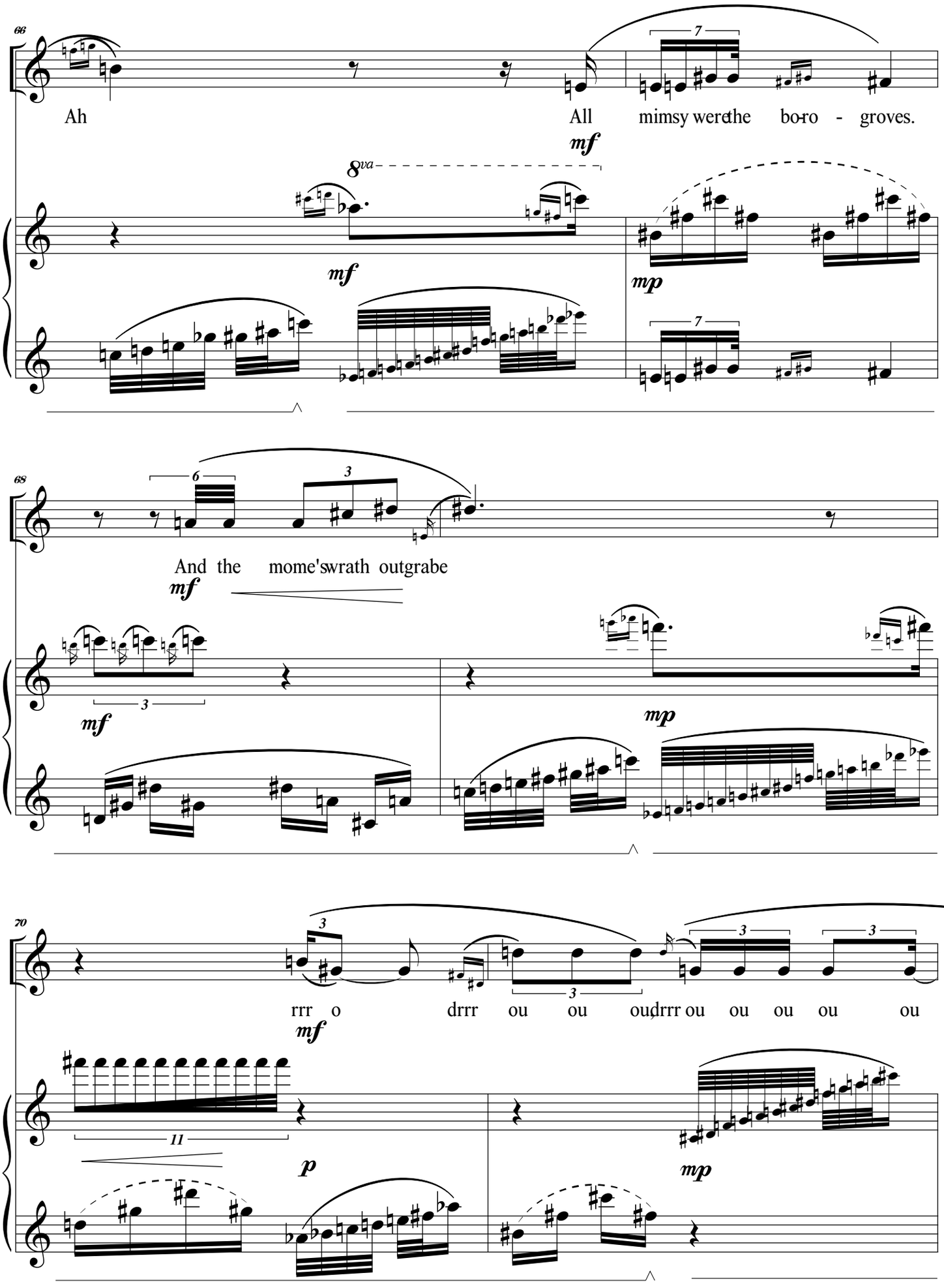

Piu mosso (♪. = ca. 90)
53
molto rall...
It shall not touch with breath of
(8va)
mp
mp
56
bale, The plea sance of our fair - y - tale.
tempo 70

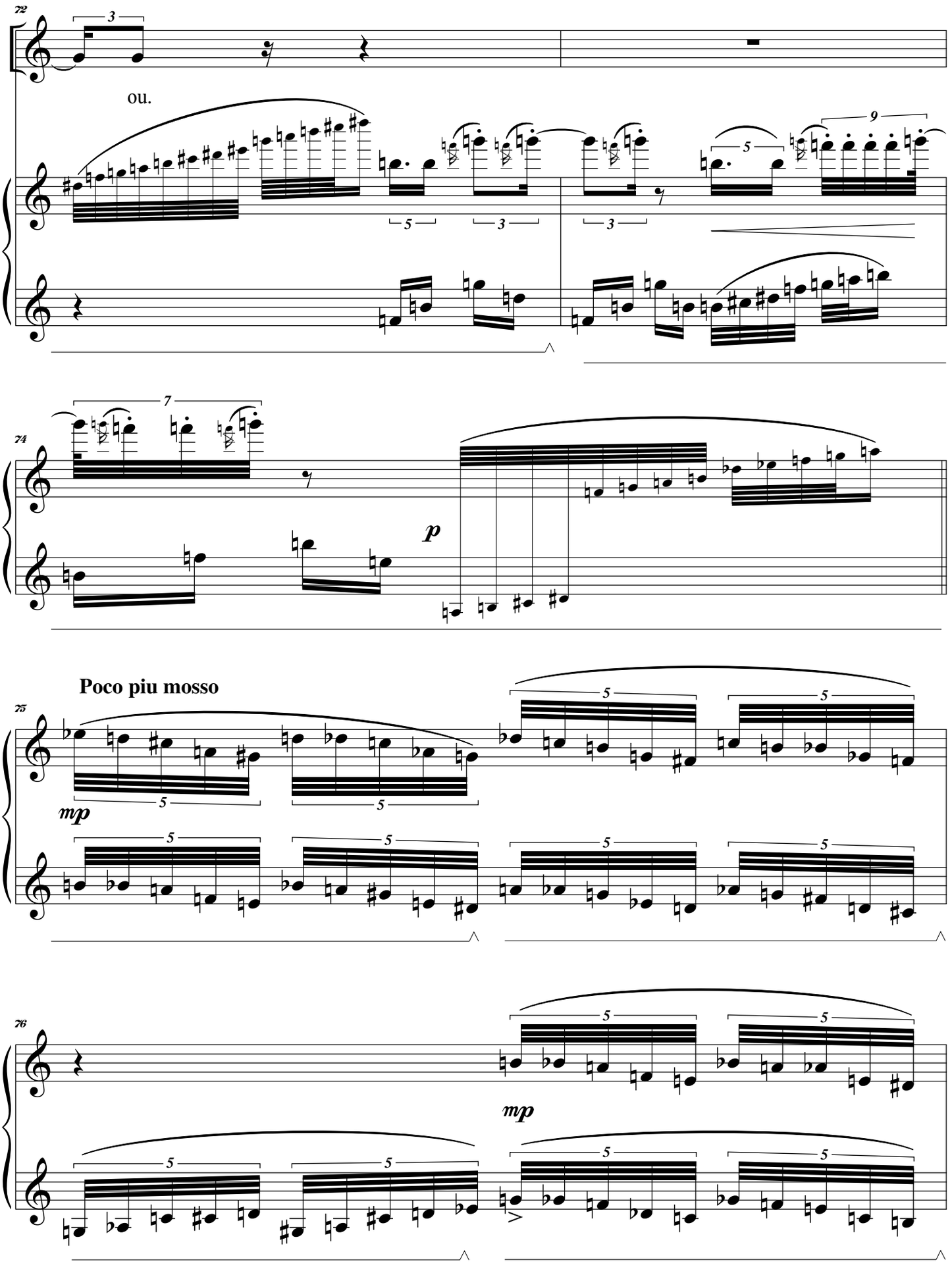
II. Jabberwocky

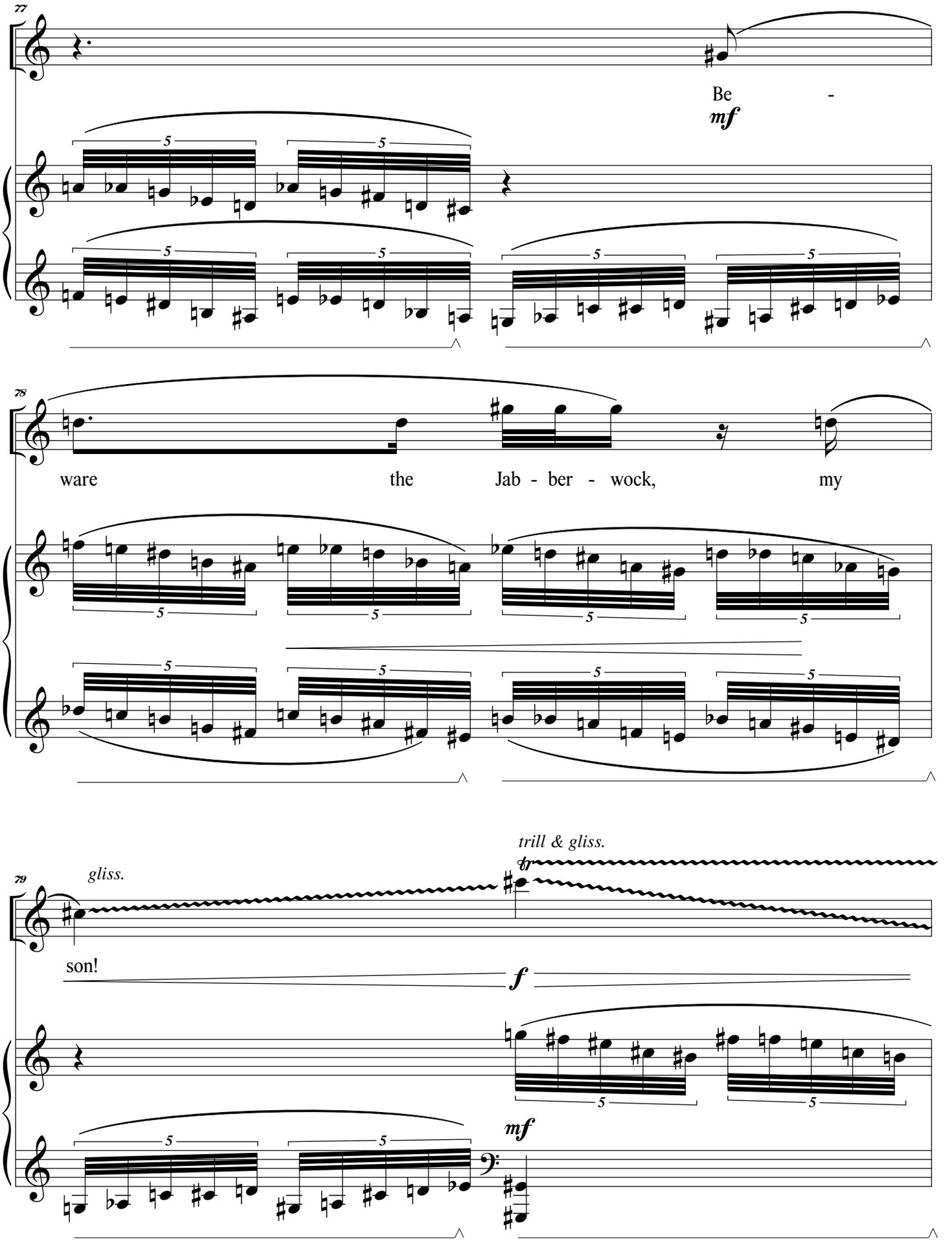
Quieto e magico; suspended (♪=ca. 85)

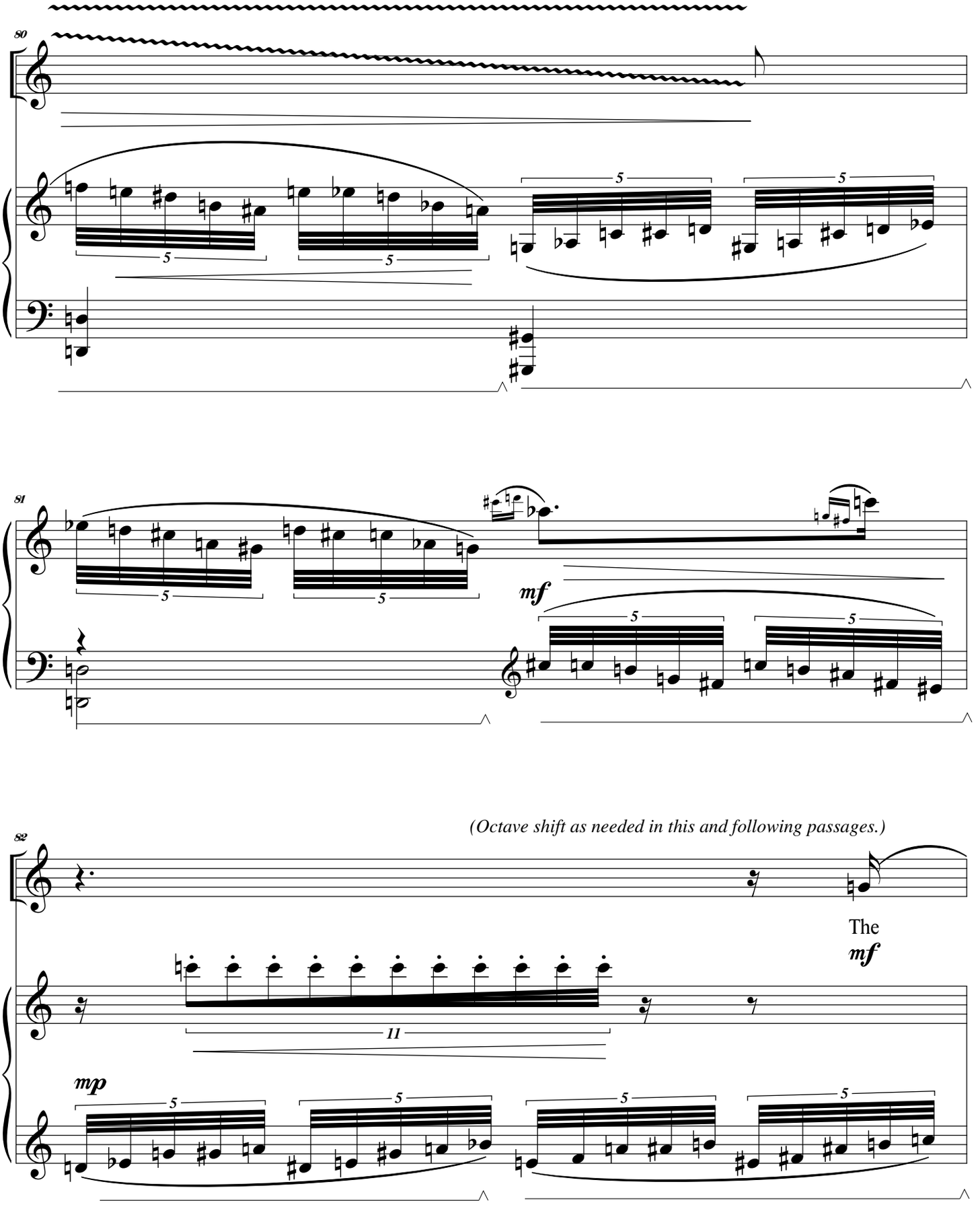
ma sempre pressando

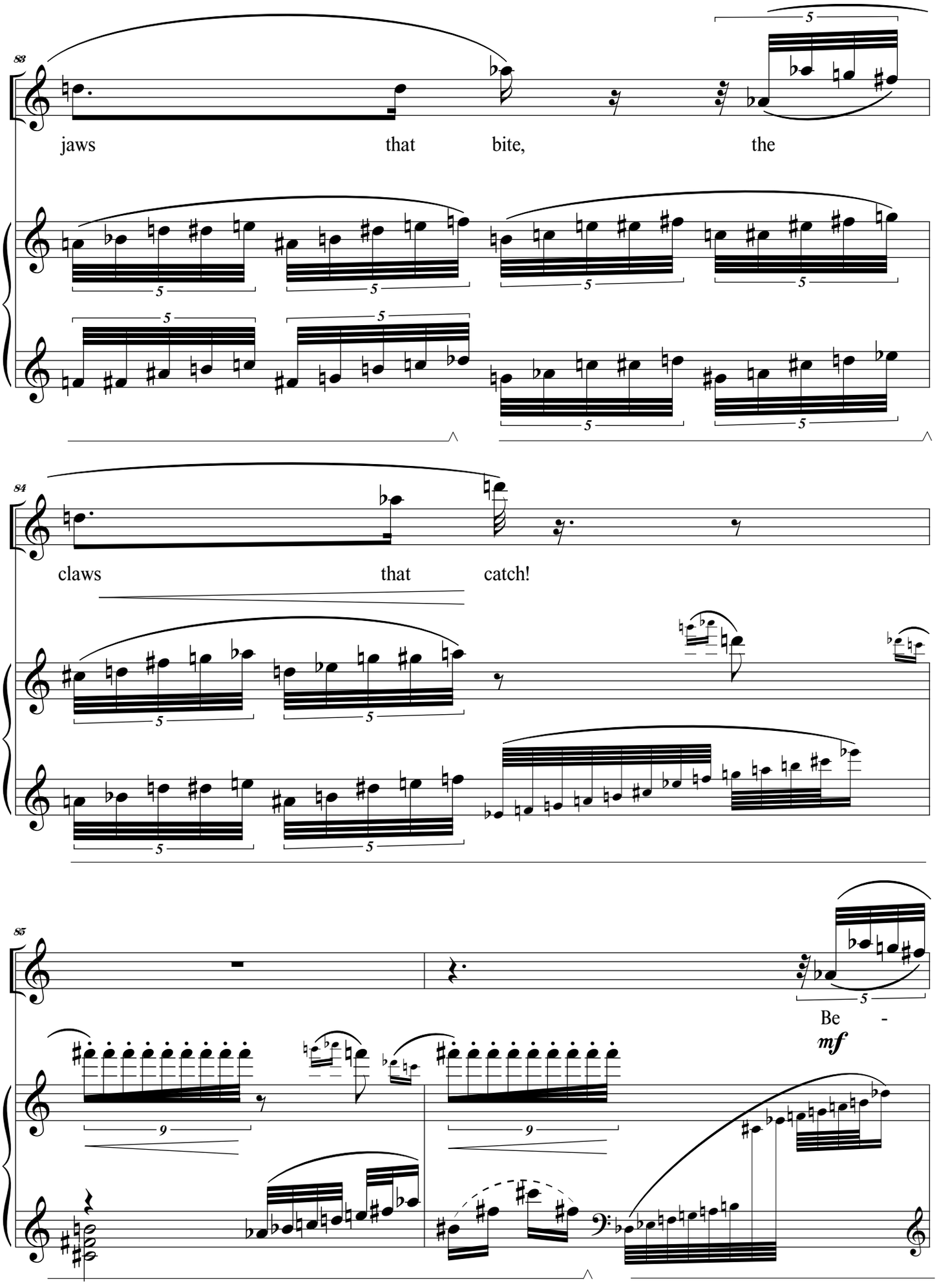


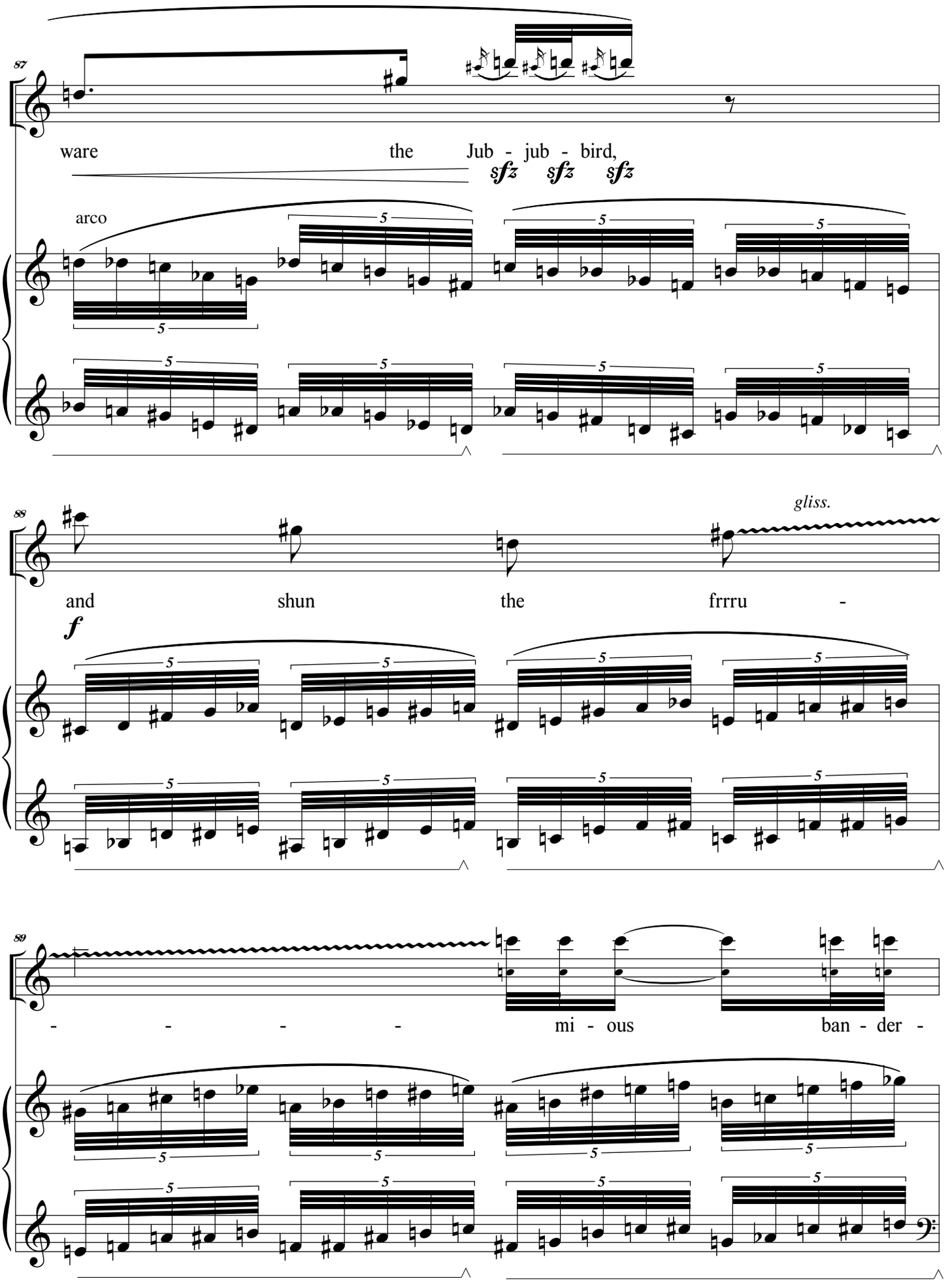

66
Ah
All mimsy were the bo-ro - groves.
mf
8va
mf
mp
68
And the mome's wrath outgrabe
mf
mf
mp
70
rrr o drrr ou ou ou drrr ou ou ou ou ou
mf
p
mp

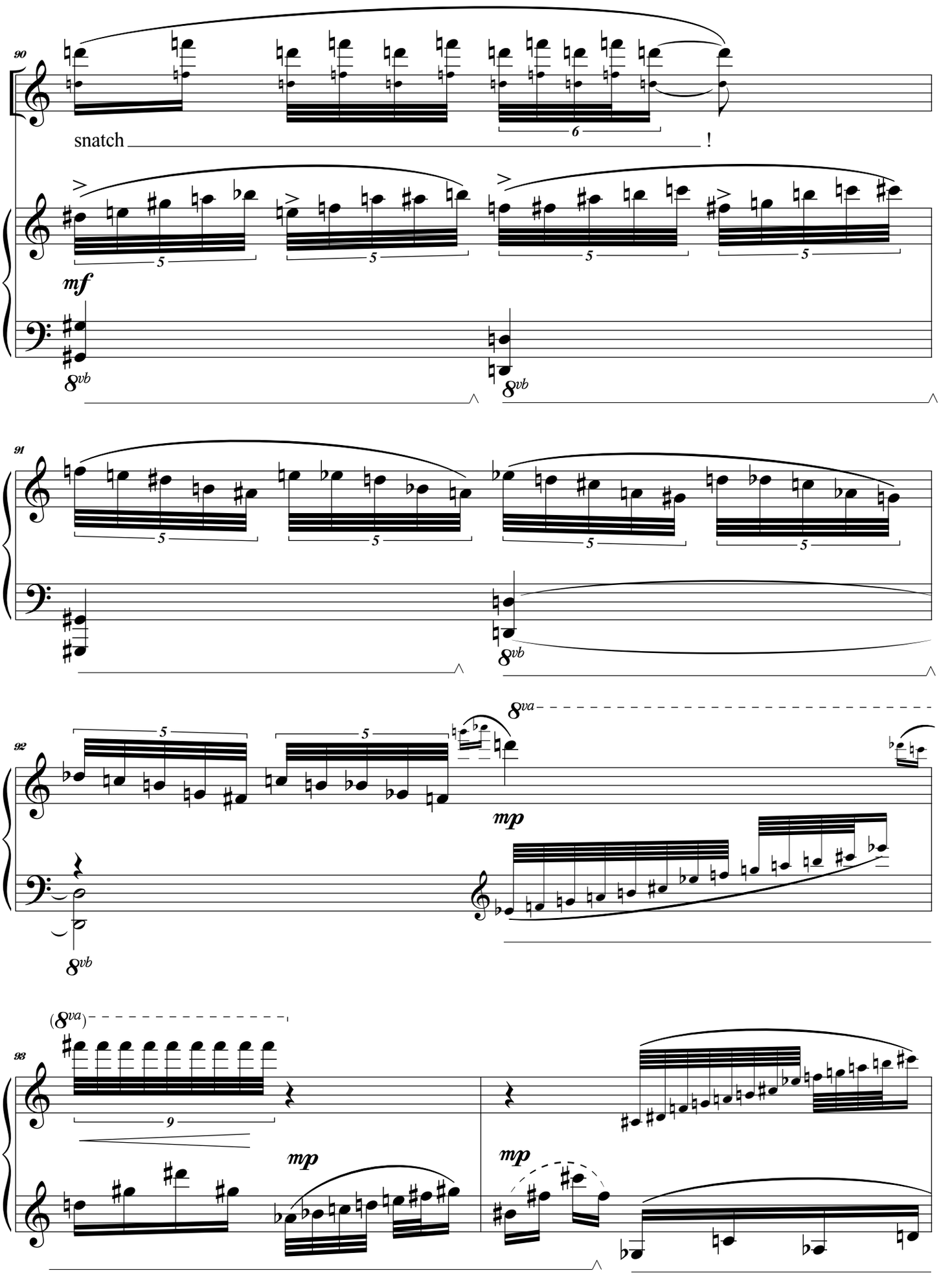

72
ou.
74
p
Poco piu mosso
75
mp
76
mp

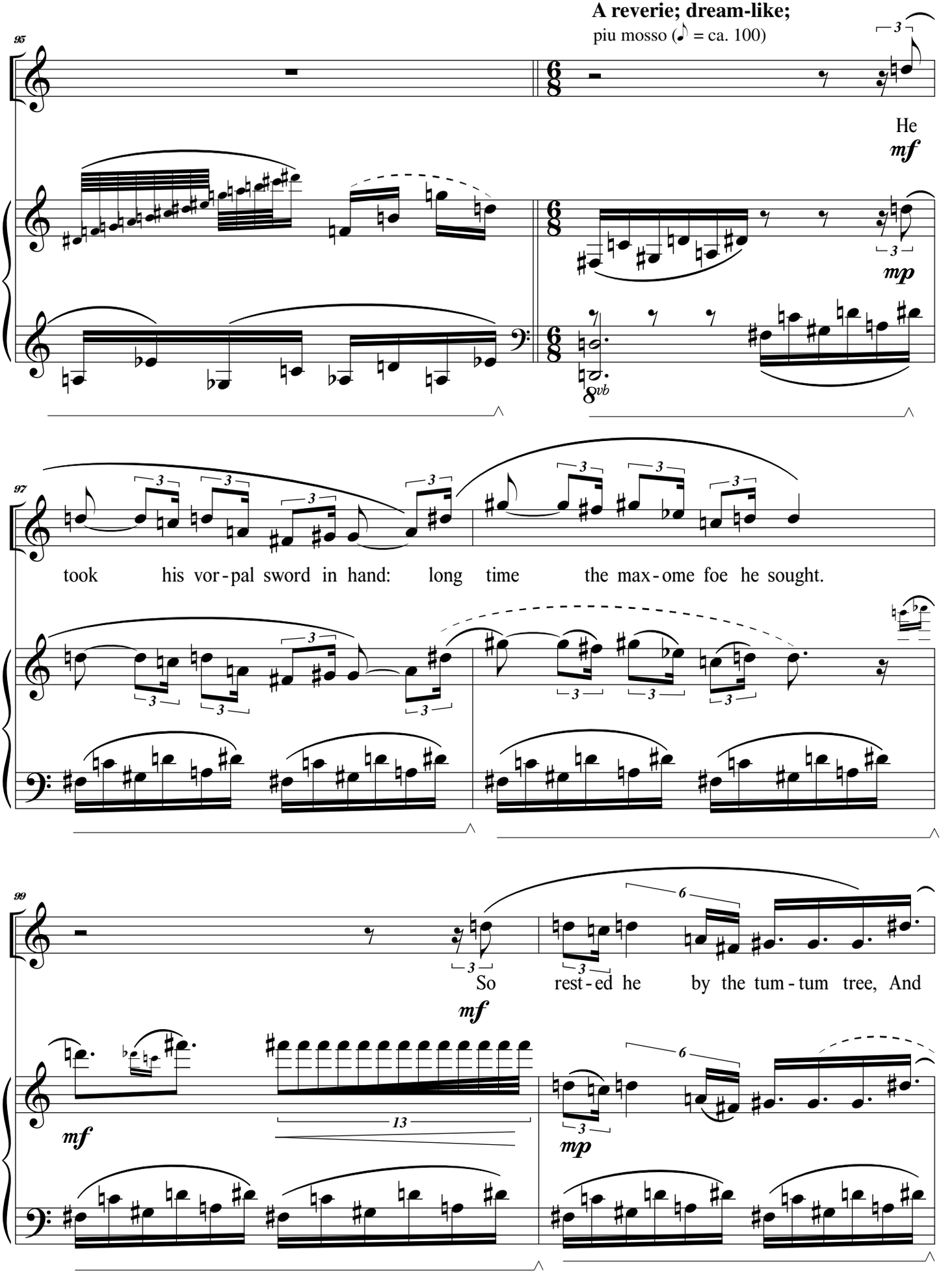

77
Be -
mf
78
ware the Jab - ber - wock, my
79
gliss.
trill & gliss.
tr
son!
f
mf

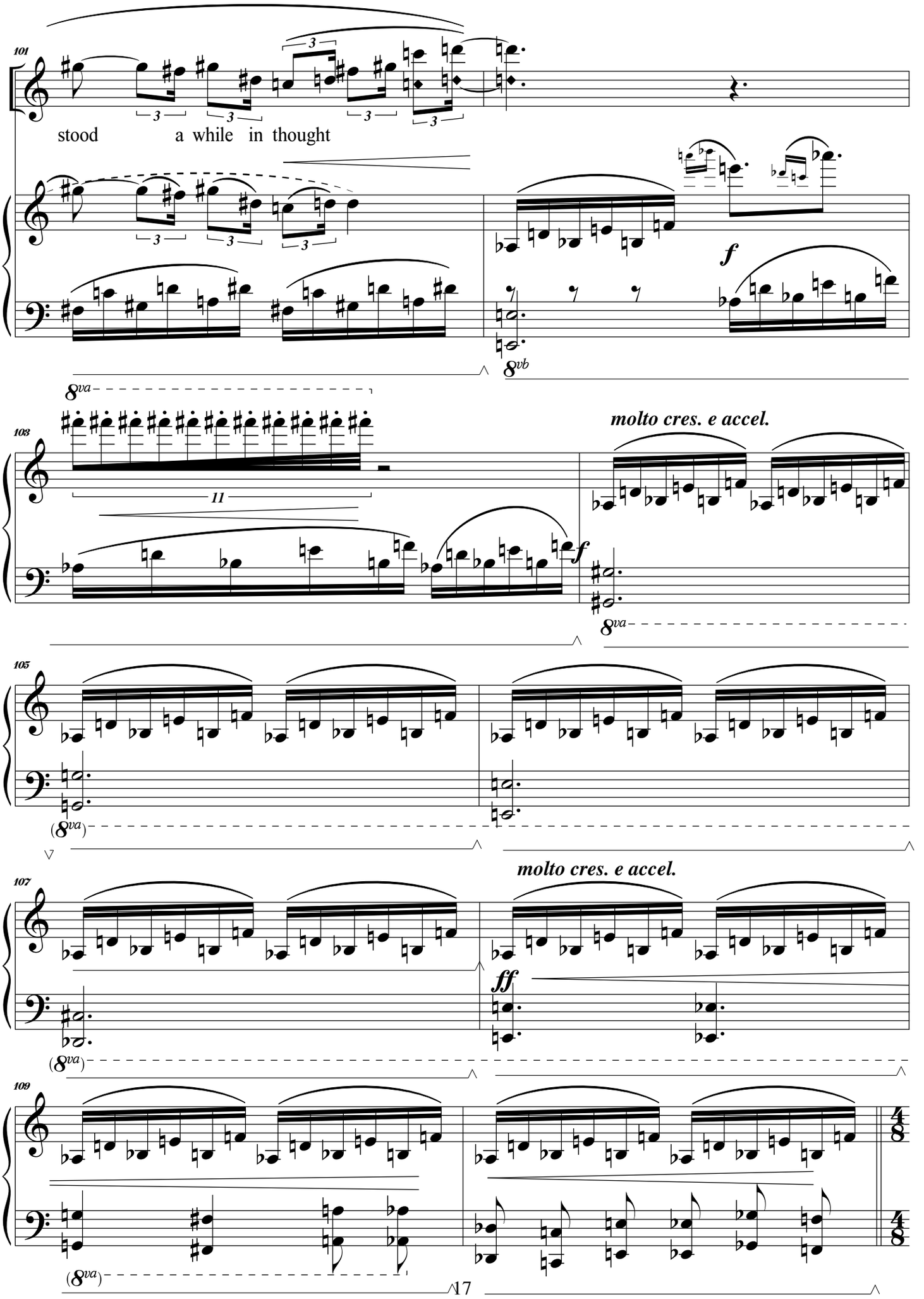

80
5
5
5
5
81
5
5
mf
5
5
(Octave shift as needed in this and following passages.)
82
The
mf
11
mp
5
5
5
5


83
jaws that bite, the
84
claws that catch!
85
Be -
mf

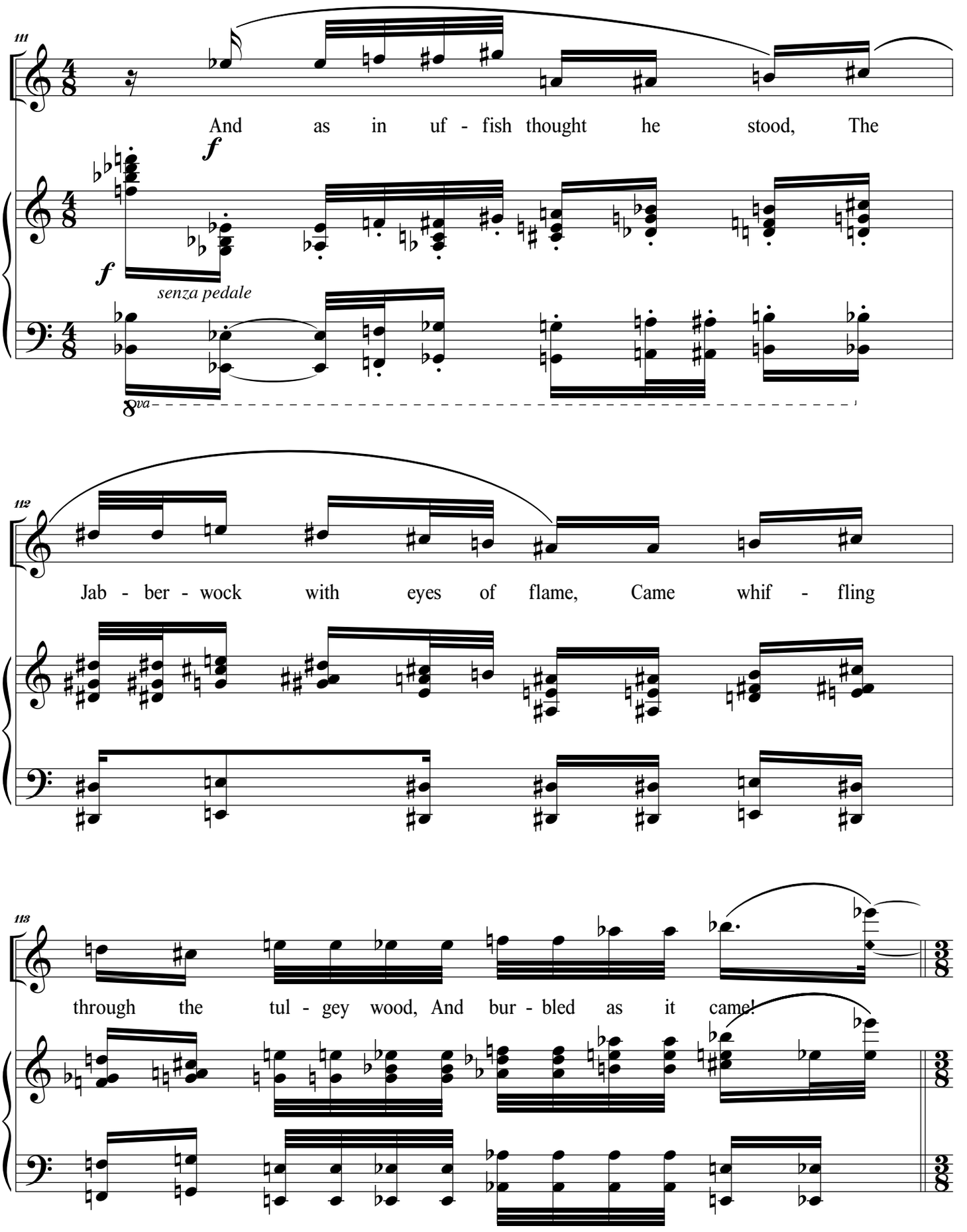

87
ware the Jub - jub - bird,
sfz sfz sfz
arco
88
gliss.
and shun the frrru -
f
89
- - - - mi - ous ban - der -


90
snatch
!
mf
8vb
91
92
8va
mp
93
(8va)
9

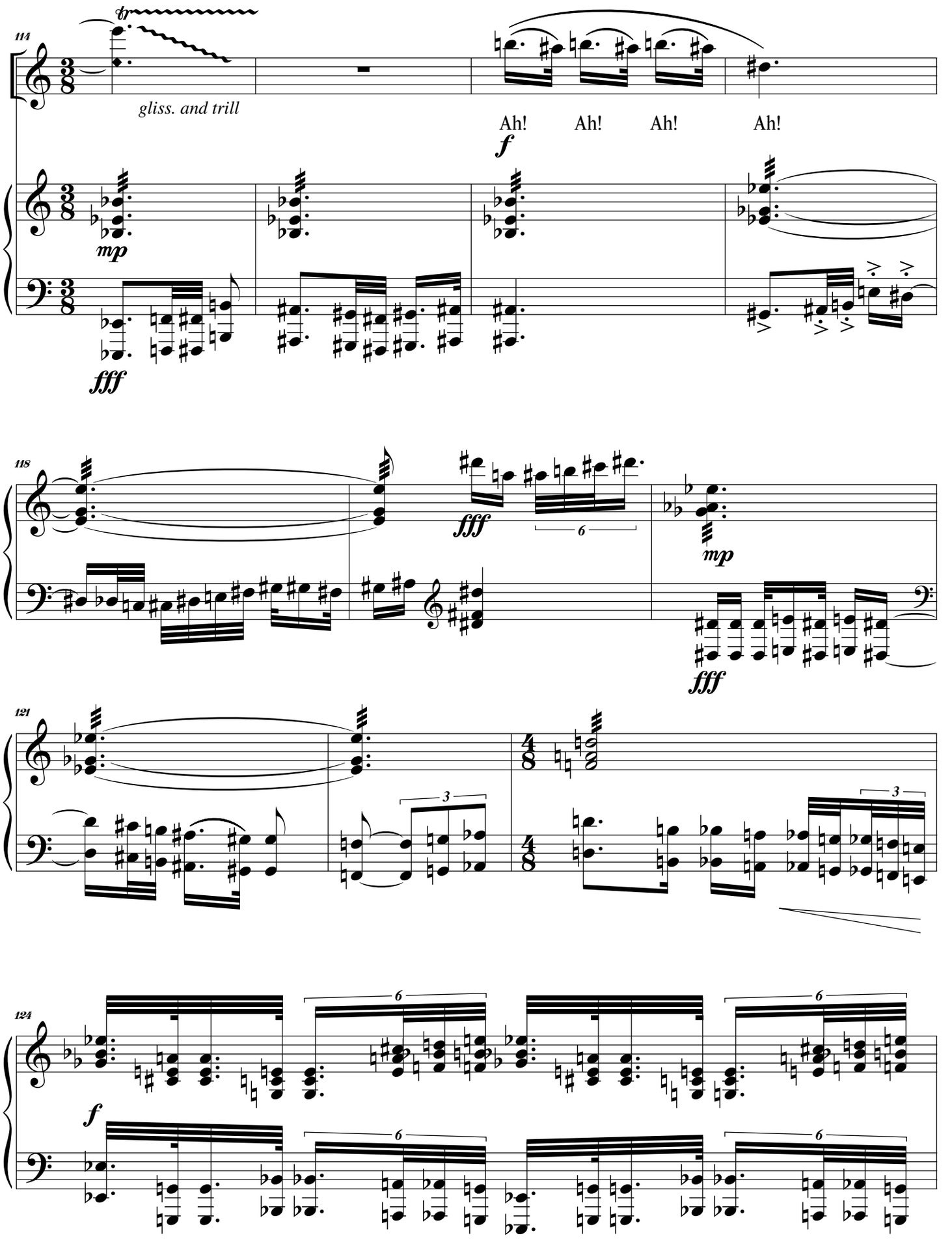

A reverie; dream-like;
piu mosso (♪ = ca. 100)
95
He
mf
mp
8vb
97
took his vor-pal sword in hand: long time the max-ome foe he sought.
99
So rest-ed he by the tum-tum tree, And
mf
mf
13
mp

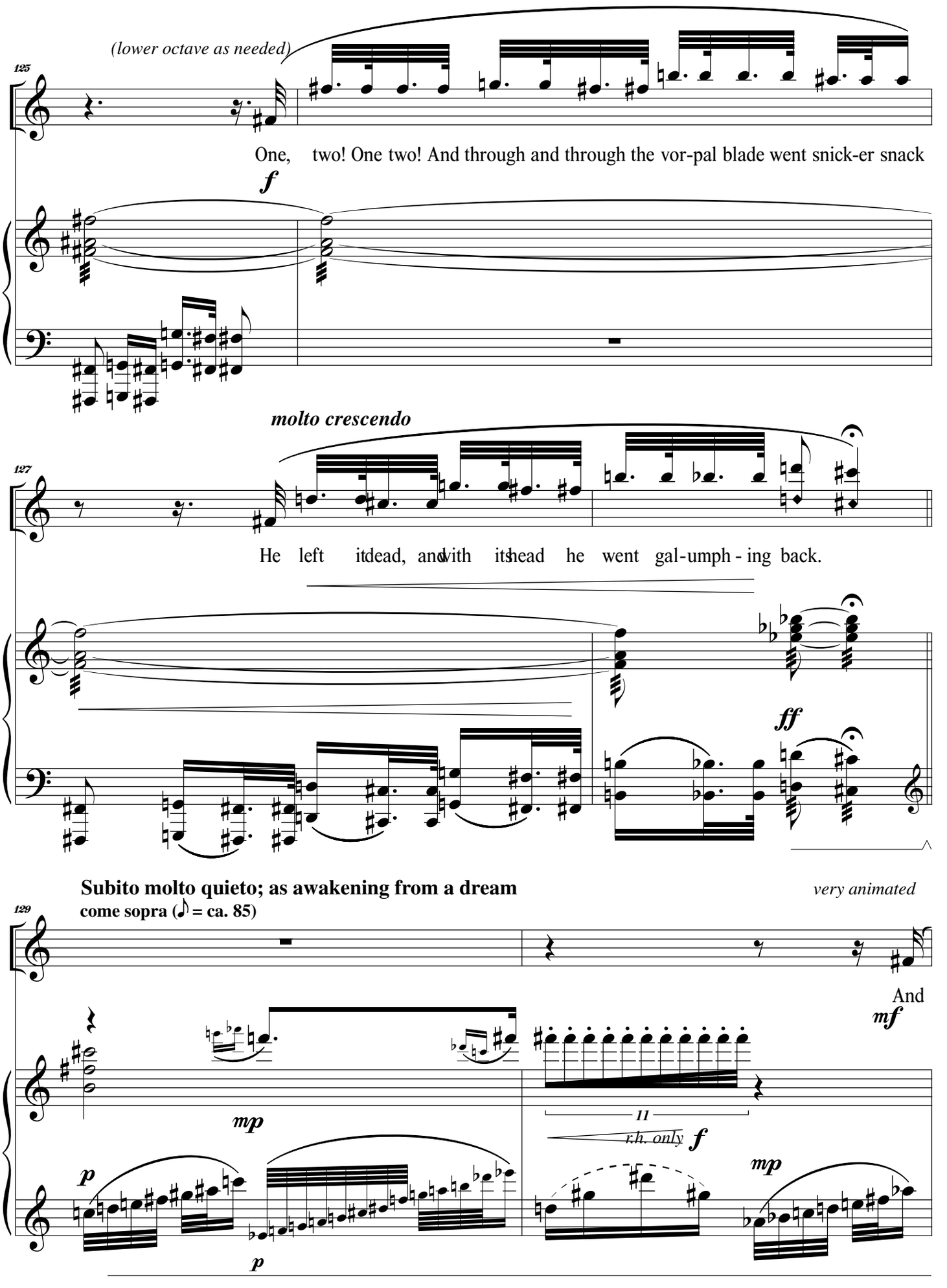

101
stood a while in thought
f
8vb
8va
103
molto cres. e accel.
11
f
8va
105
(8va)
107
molto cres. e accel.
ff
(8va)
109
(8va)

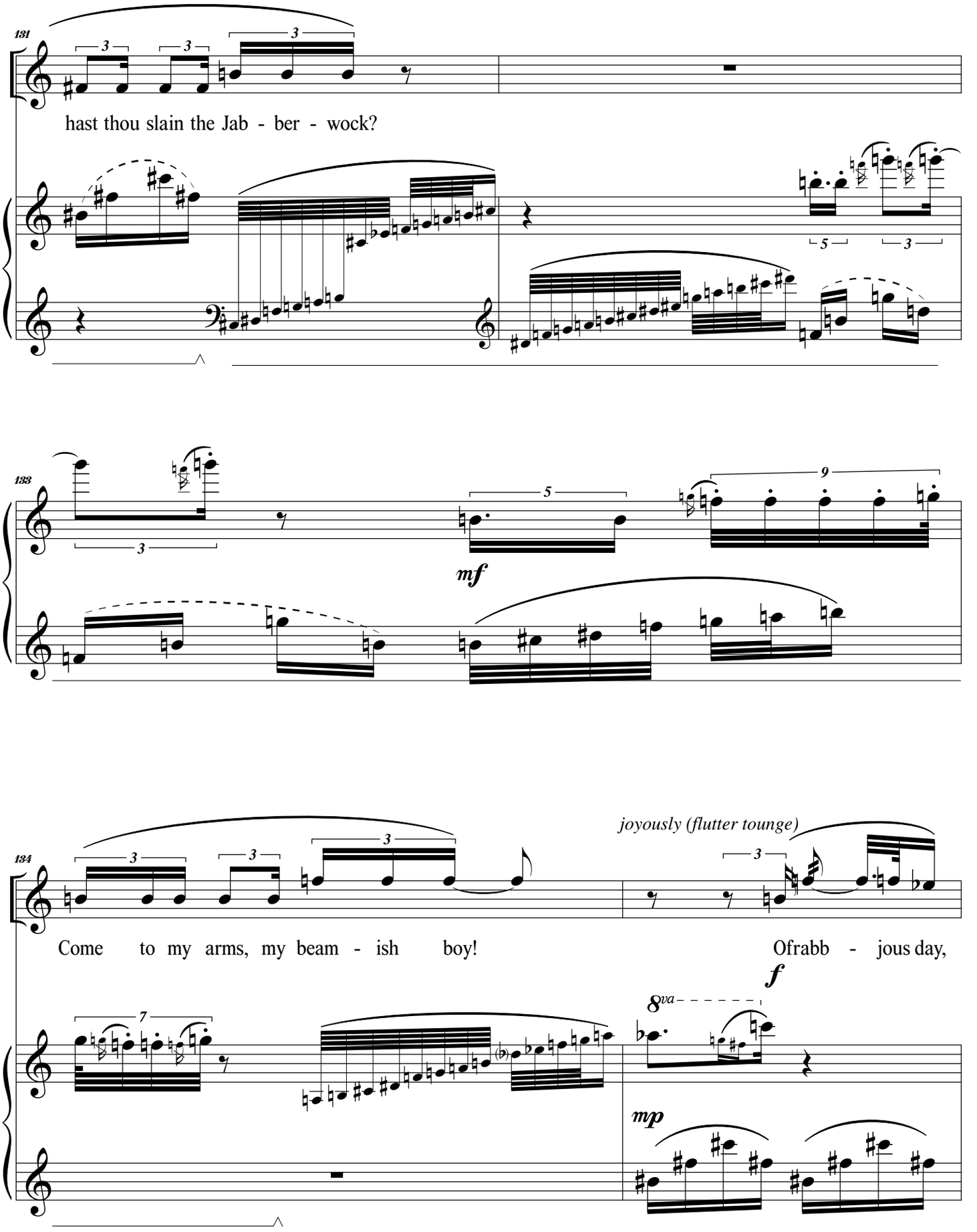
Very animated, urgently (♪ = ca. 92)

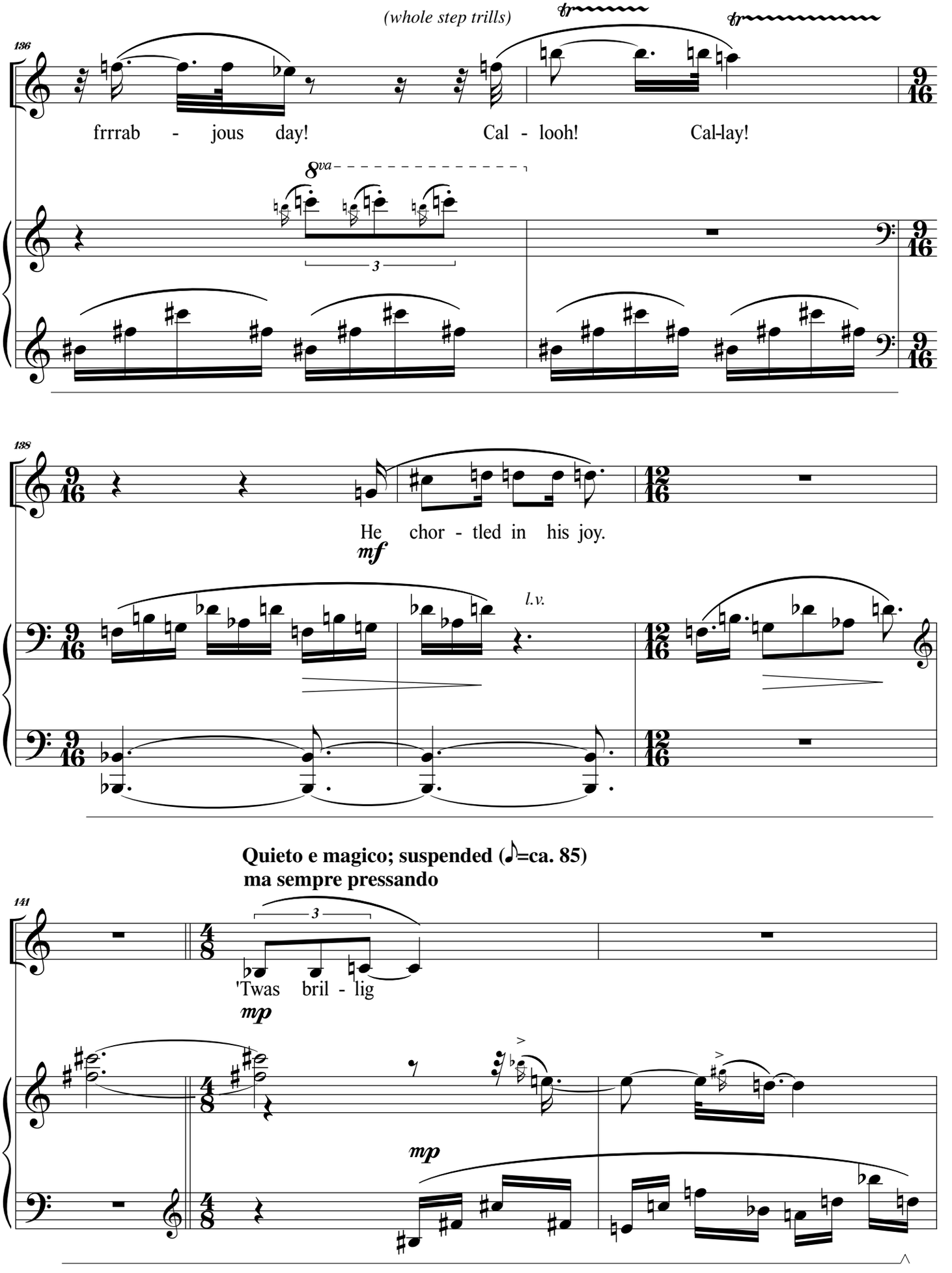


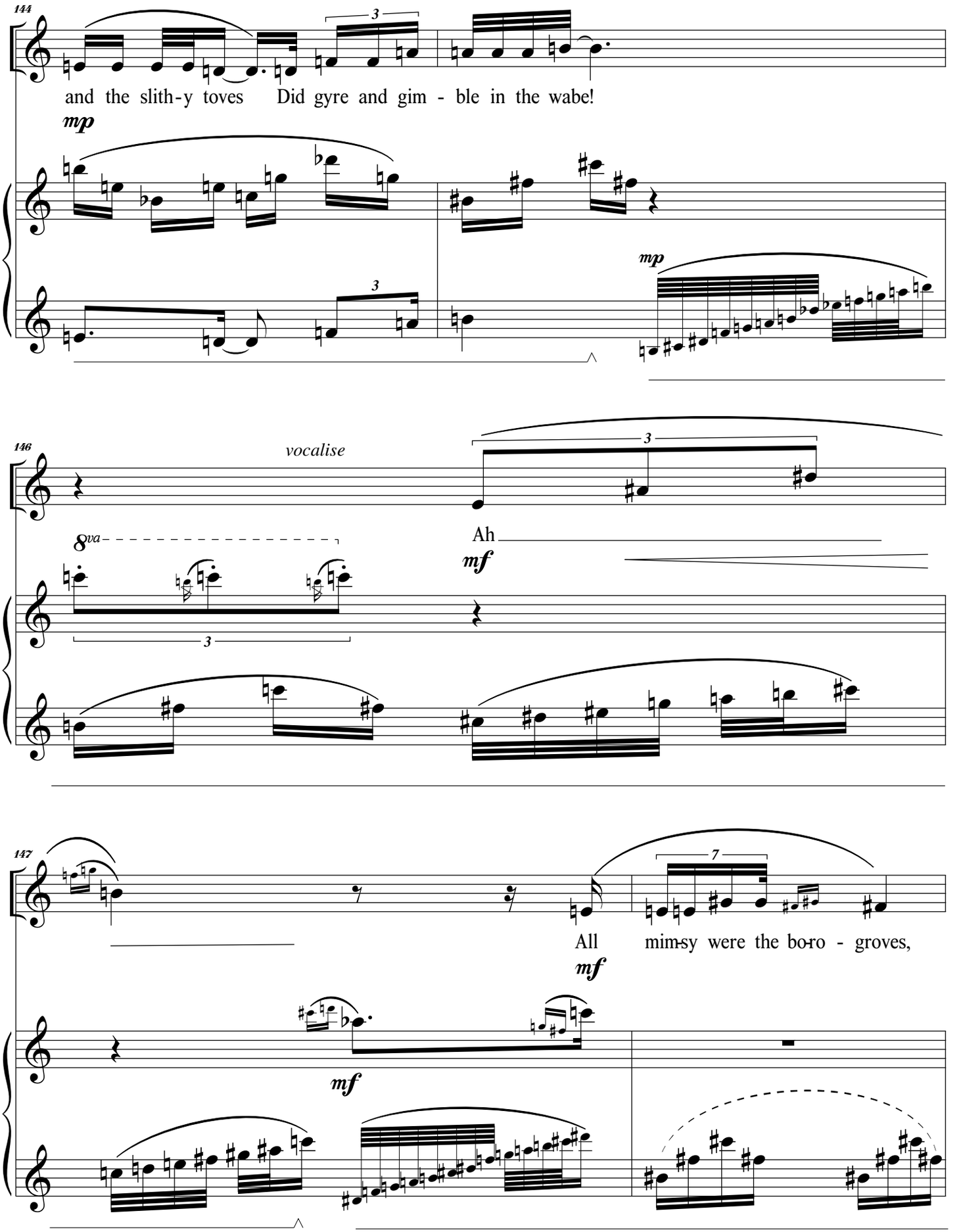
As a melodram; humorful; lo stesso tempo (♪ = ca. 92)

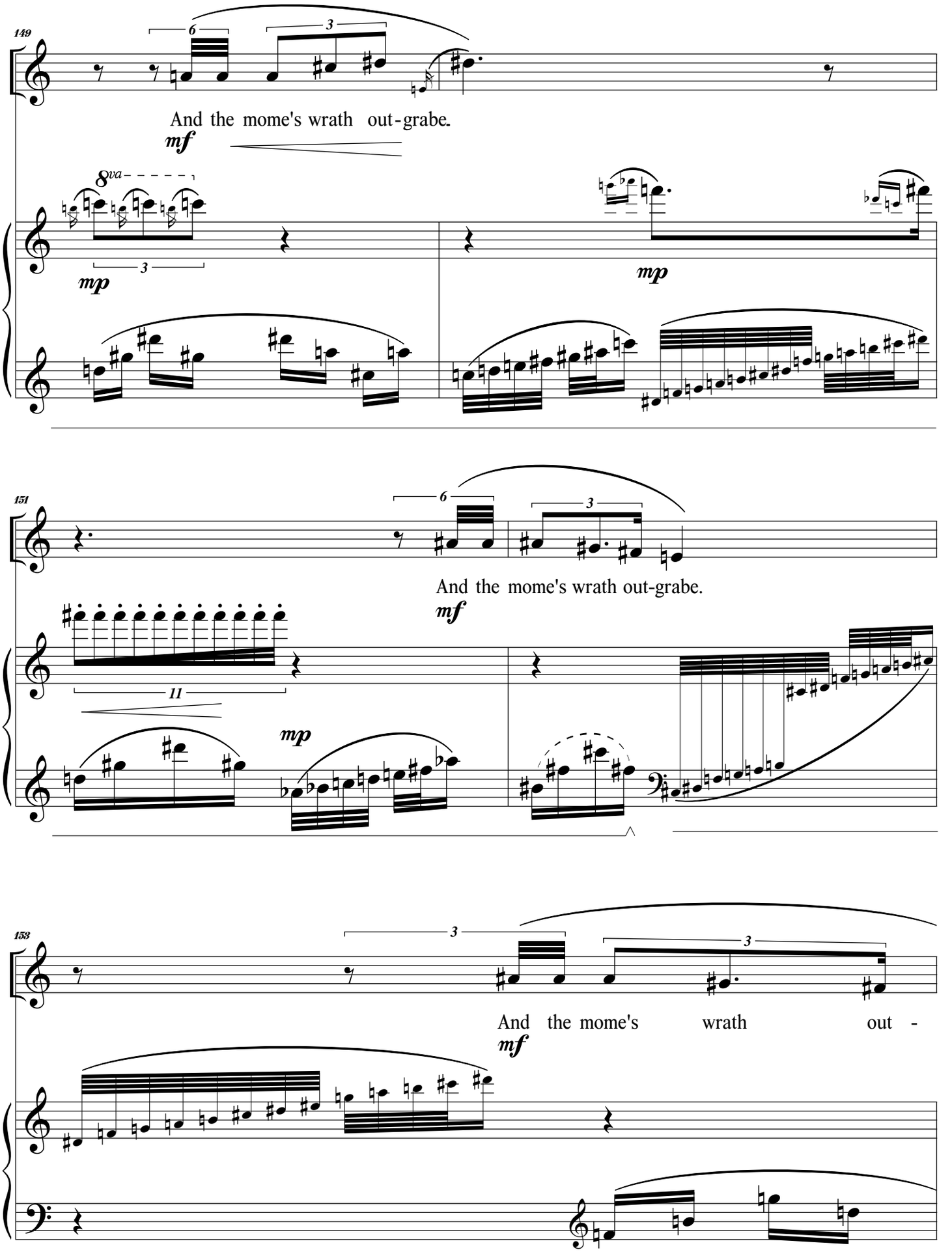


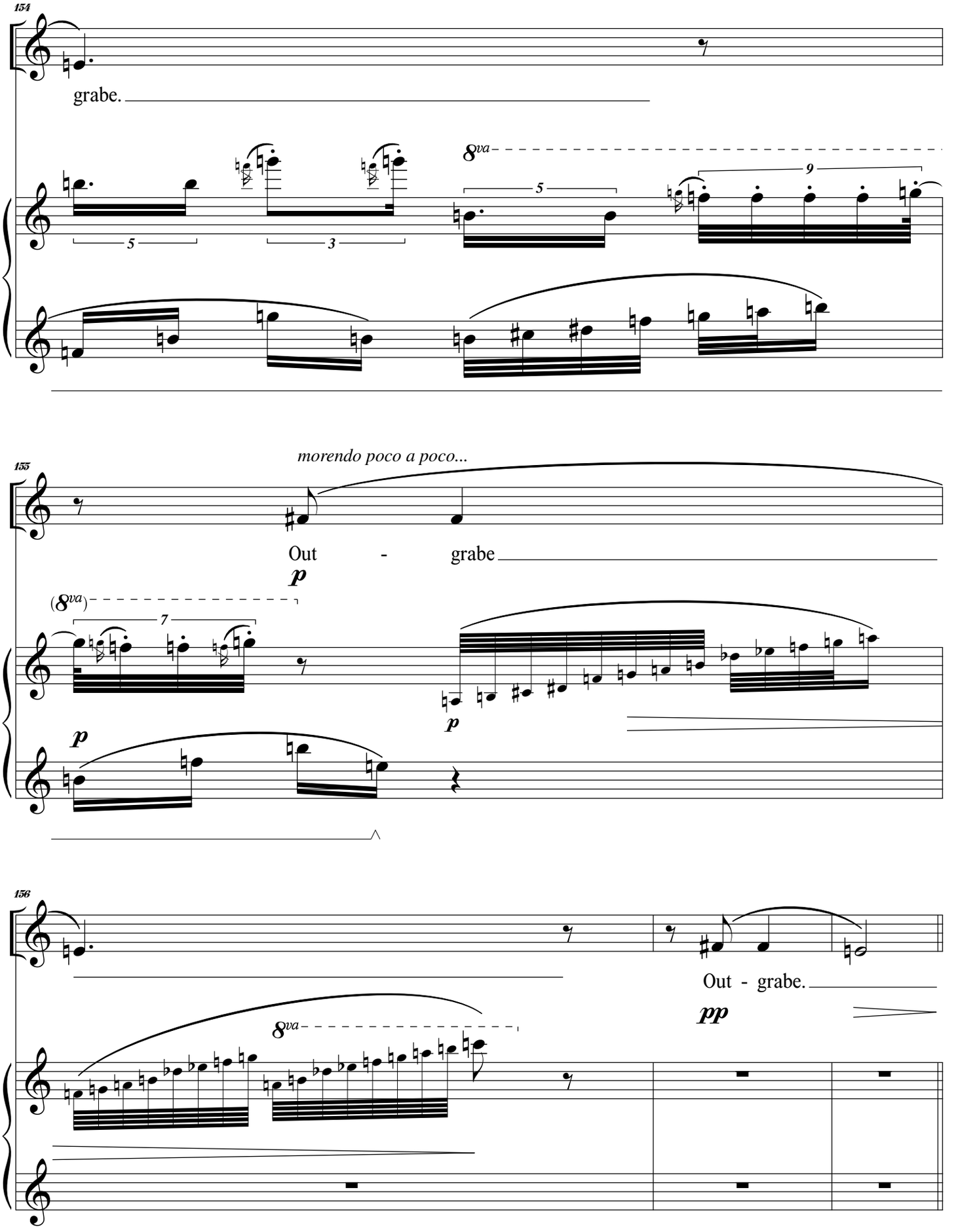

(lower octave as needed)
125
One, two! One two! And through and through the vor-pal blade went snick-er snack
f
molto crescendo
127
He left it dead, and with its head he went gal-umph - ing back.
ff
Subito molto quieto; as awakening from a dream
come sopra (♪ = ca. 85)
very animated
129
And
mf
mp
11
r.h. only
f
p
mp
p


131
hast thou slain the Jab - ber - wock?
133
mf
134
joyously (flutter tounge)
Come to my arms, my beam - ish boy!
Ofrabb - jous day,
f
8va
mp


(whole step trills)
136
frrrab - jous day!
Cal - looh!
Cal-lay!
8va
3
138
He chor - tled in his joy.
mf
l.v.
Quieto e magico; suspended (♪=ca. 85)
ma sempre pressando
141
3
'Twas bril - lig
mp
mp

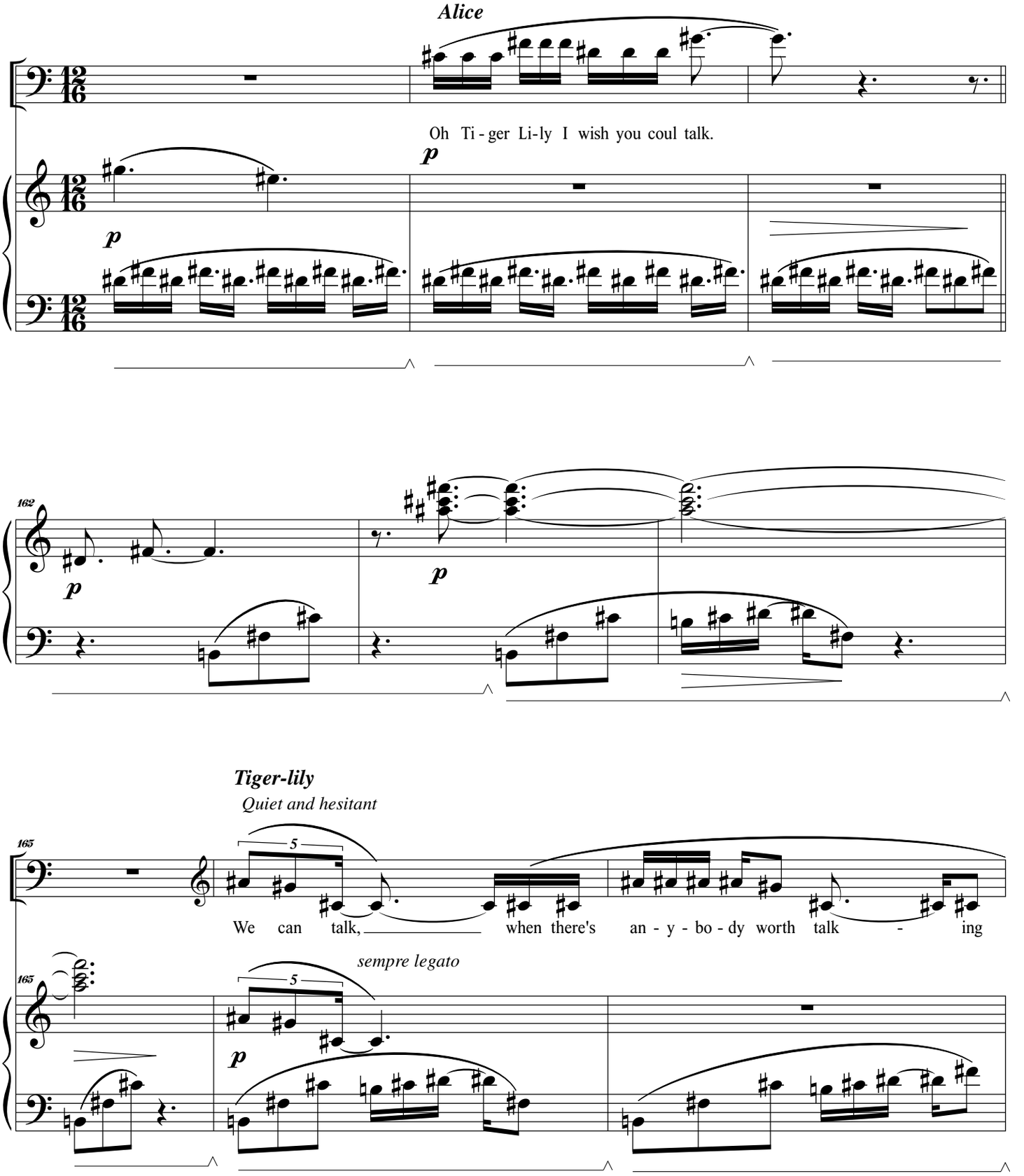

144
and the slith-y toves Did gyre and gim - ble in the wabe!
mp
mp
146
vocalise
Ah
mf
8va
147
All mim-sy were the bo-ro - groves,
mf
mf


149
6
3
And the mome's wrath out-grabe.
mf
8va
3
mp
mp
151
6
3
And the mome's wrath out-grabe.
mf
11
mp
158
3
3
And the mome's wrath out -
mf

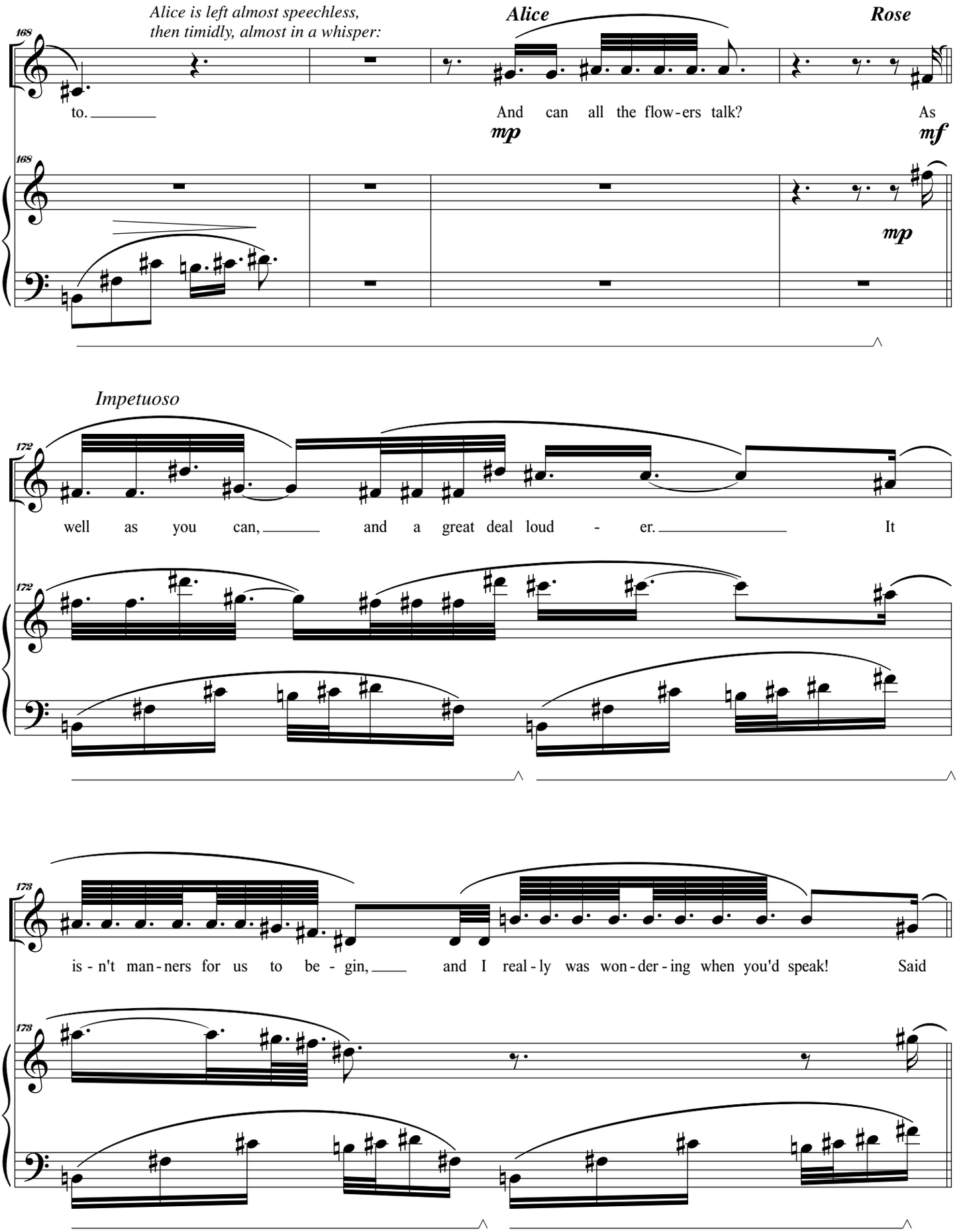

154
grabe.
8va
5
3
5
9
155
morendo poco a poco...
Out - grabe
p
(8va)
7
p
p
156
Out - grabe.
pp
8va

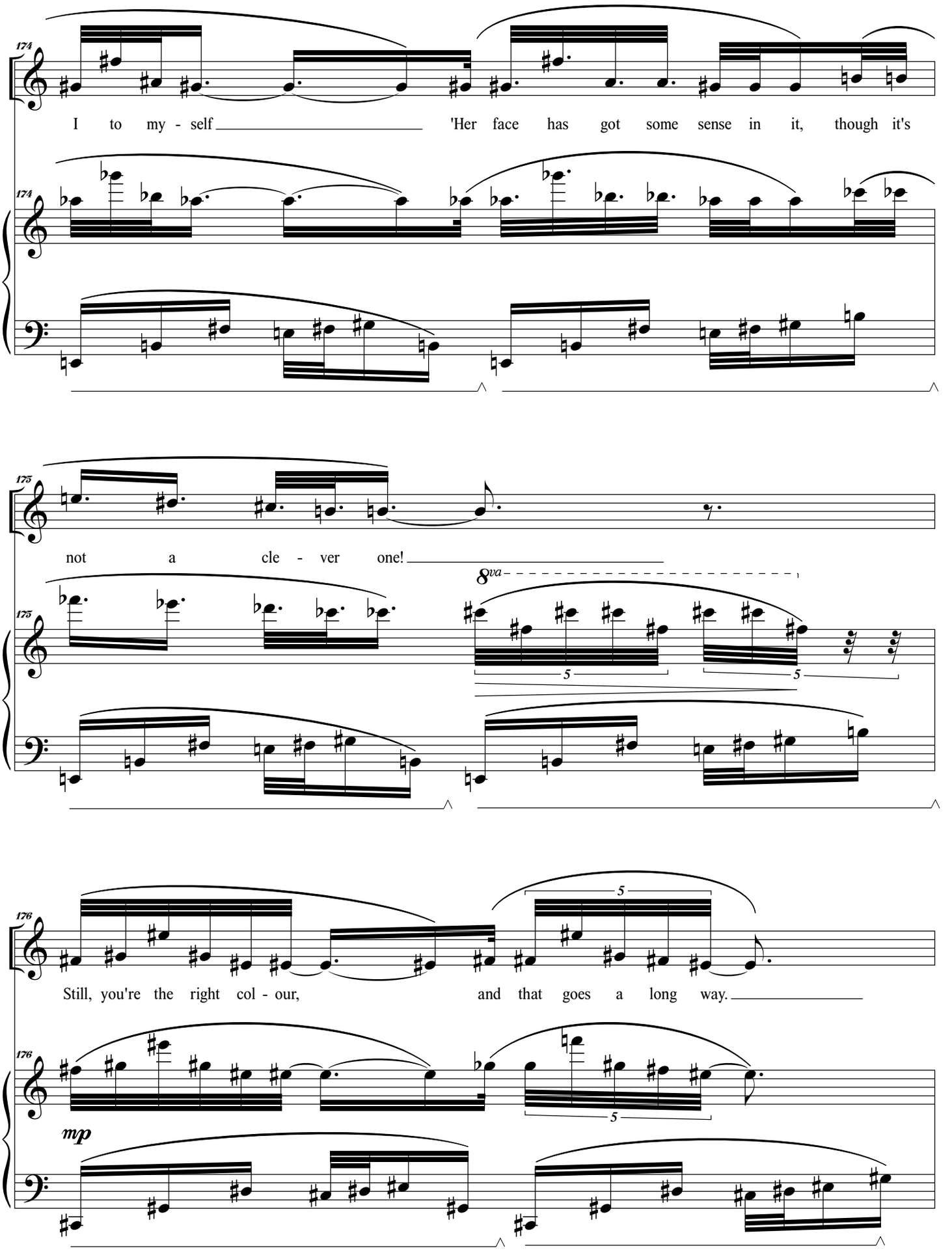
III. The Garden of Live Flowers*

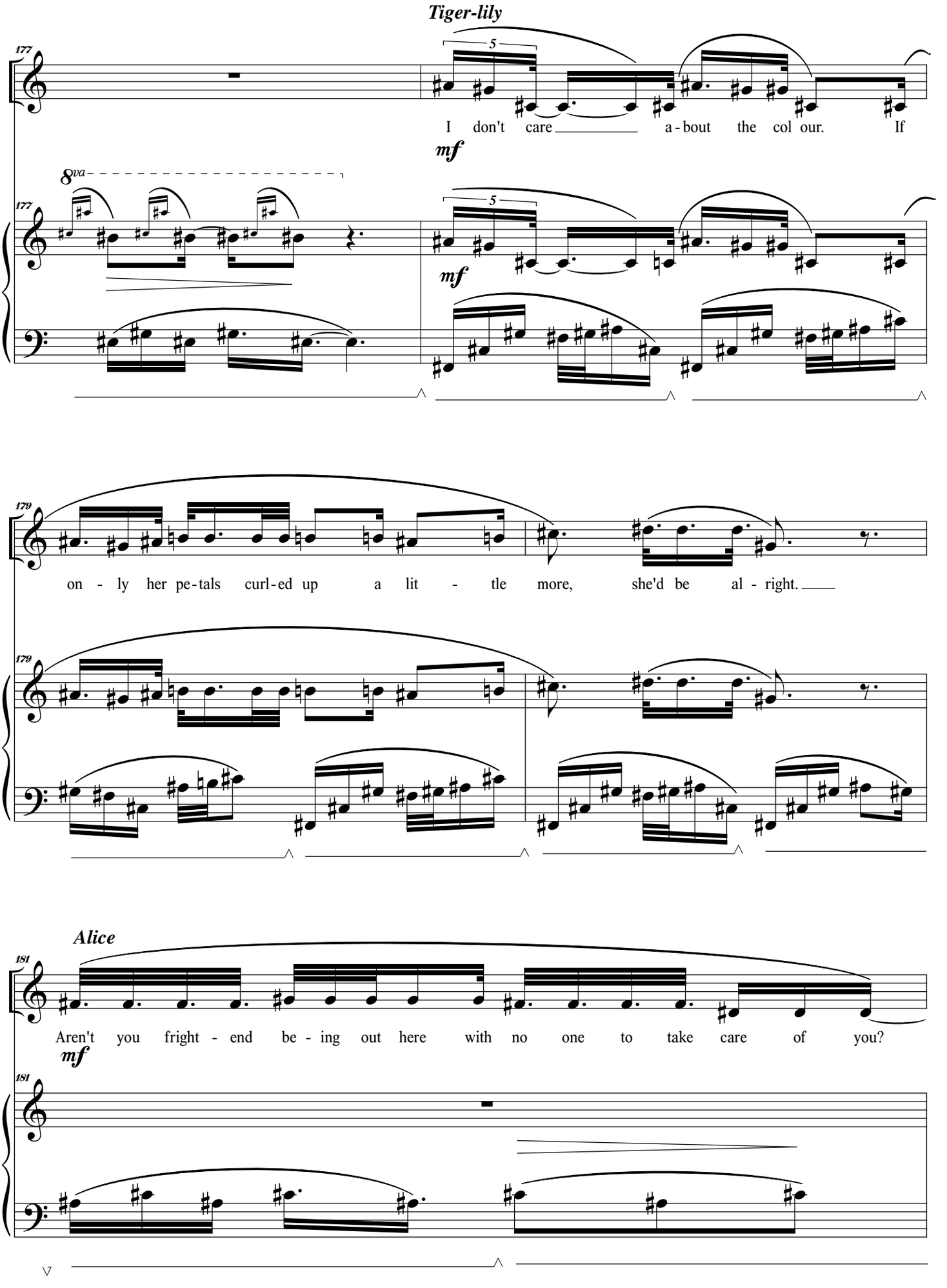
With fantasy (♪ = ca. 72)

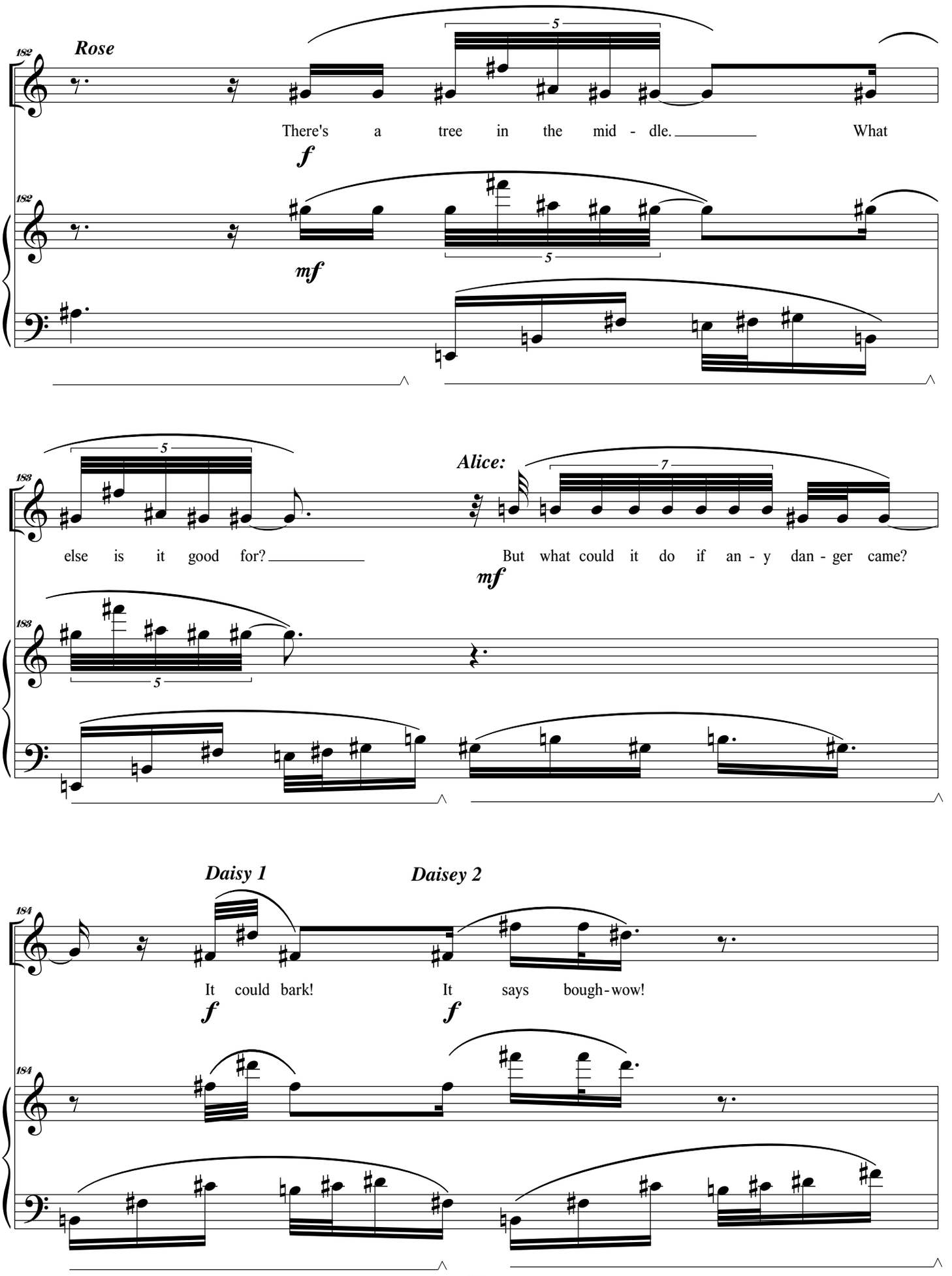


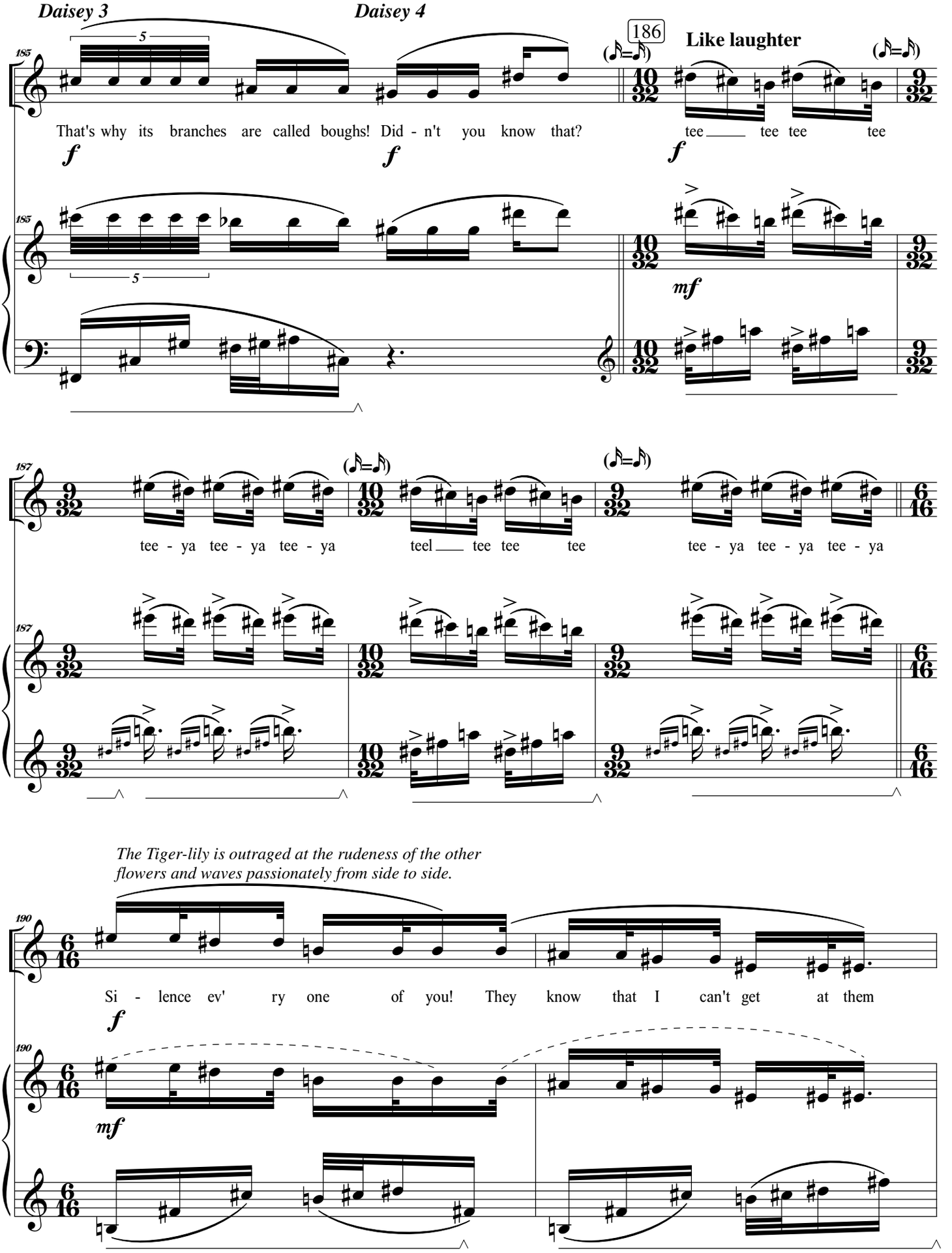
*This movement can optionally be performed with hand puppets for the Lily, Rose, and Daisies. Or more radically, the bariton can sing the Lily falsetto. It can also be performed as just a piano interlude.

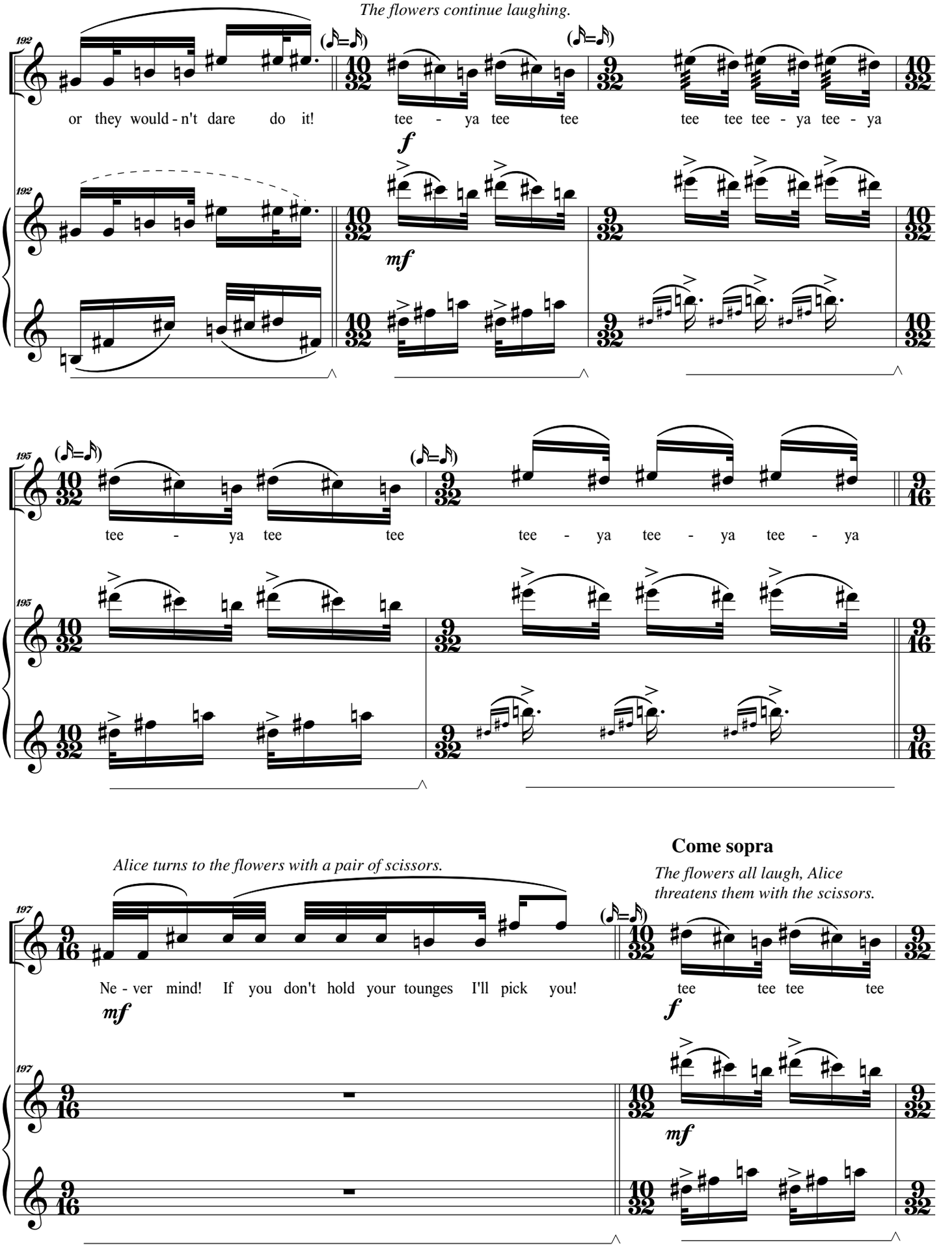

Alice is left almost speechless,
then timidly, almost in a whisper:
Alice
Rose
168
to.
And can all the flow-ers talk?
As
mp
mf
mp
Impetuoso
172
well as you can,
and a great deal loud - er.
It
172
178
is-n't man-ners for us to be - gin,
and I real-ly was won-der-ing when you'd speak!
Said
178

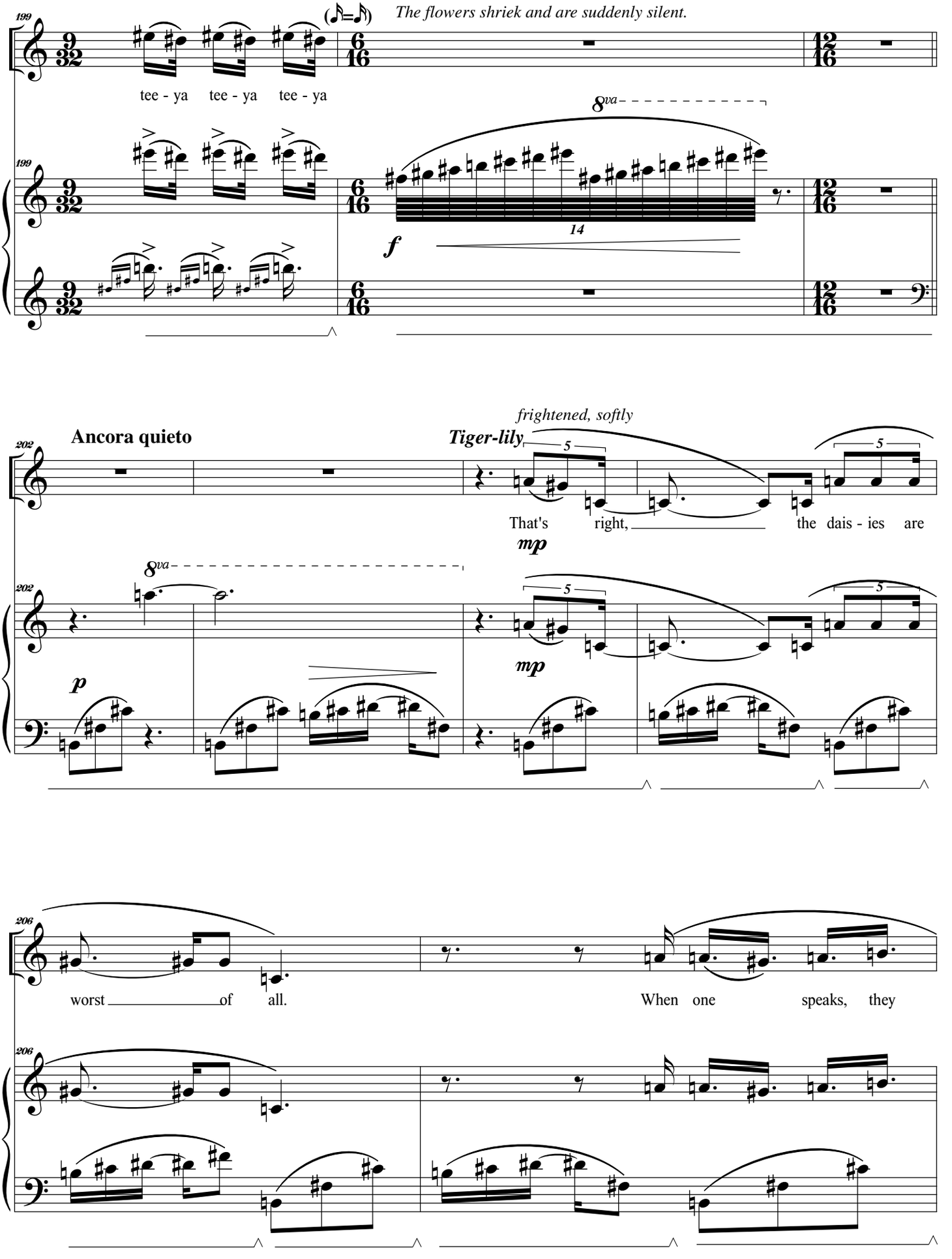

174
I to my - self 'Her face has got some sense in it, though it's
174
175
not a cle - ver one!
8va
5
5
175
176
Still, you're the right col - our, and that goes a long way.
5
176
mp
5

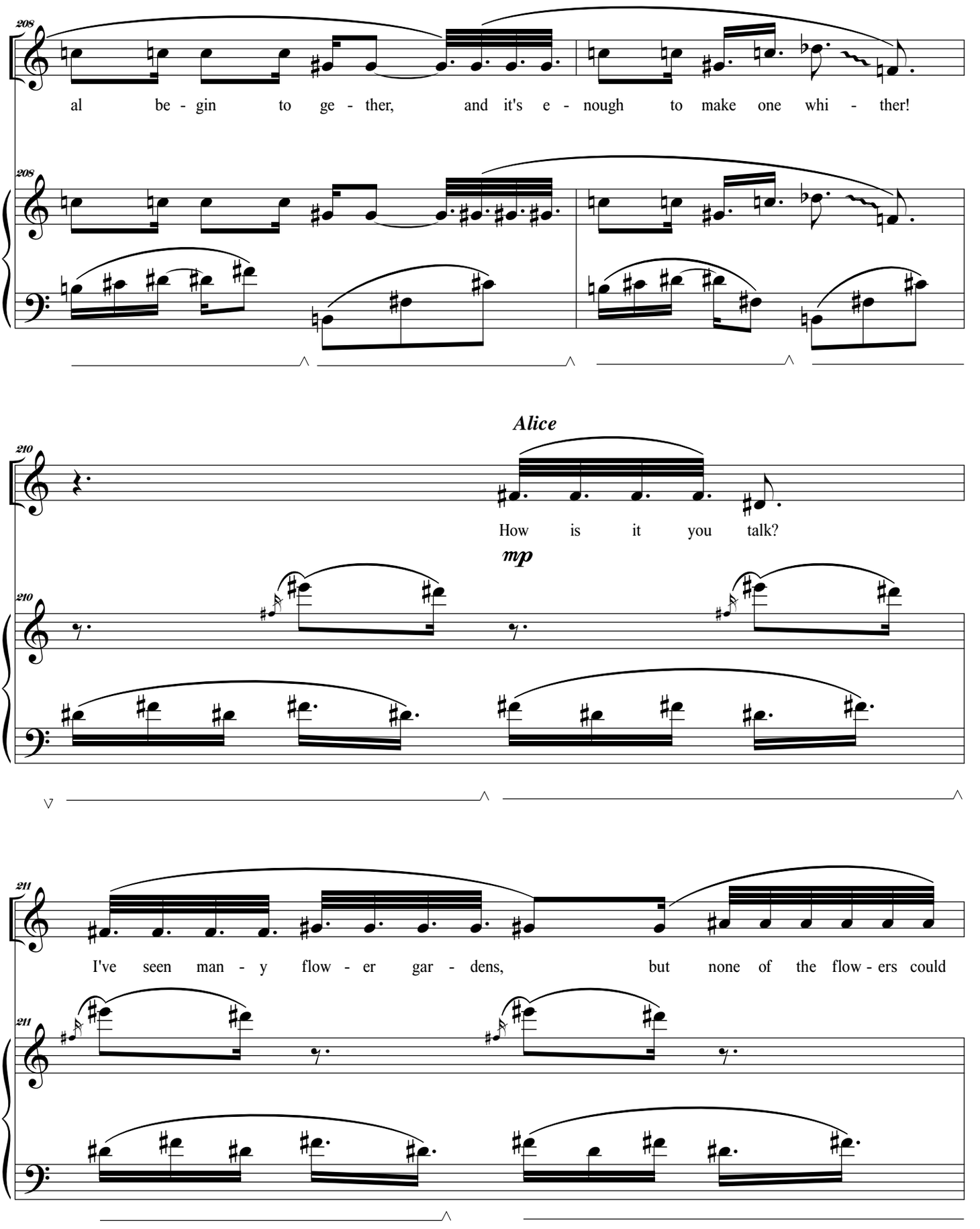

Tiger-lily
177
5
I don't care a - bout the col our. If
mf
8va
177
5
mf
179
on - ly her pe - tals curl - ed up a lit - tle more, she'd be al - right.
179
Alice
181
Aren't you fright - end be - ing out here with no one to take care of you?
mf
181

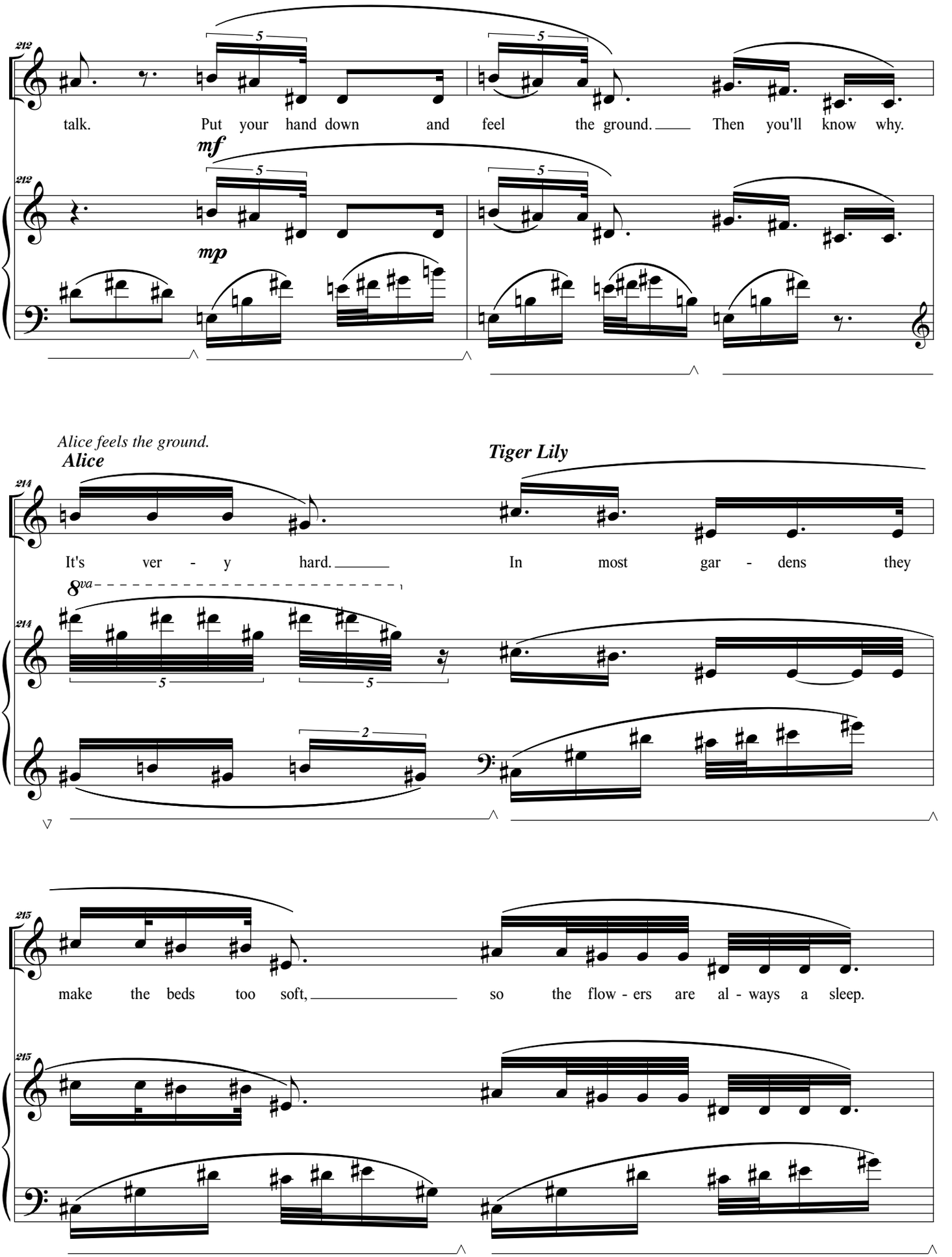

182
Rose
5
There's a tree in the mid - dle. What
f
182
mf
5
188
5
Alice:
7
else is it good for? But what could it do if an - y dan - ger came?
mf
188
5
Daisy 1
Daisey 2
184
It could bark! It says bough-wow!
f
f
184

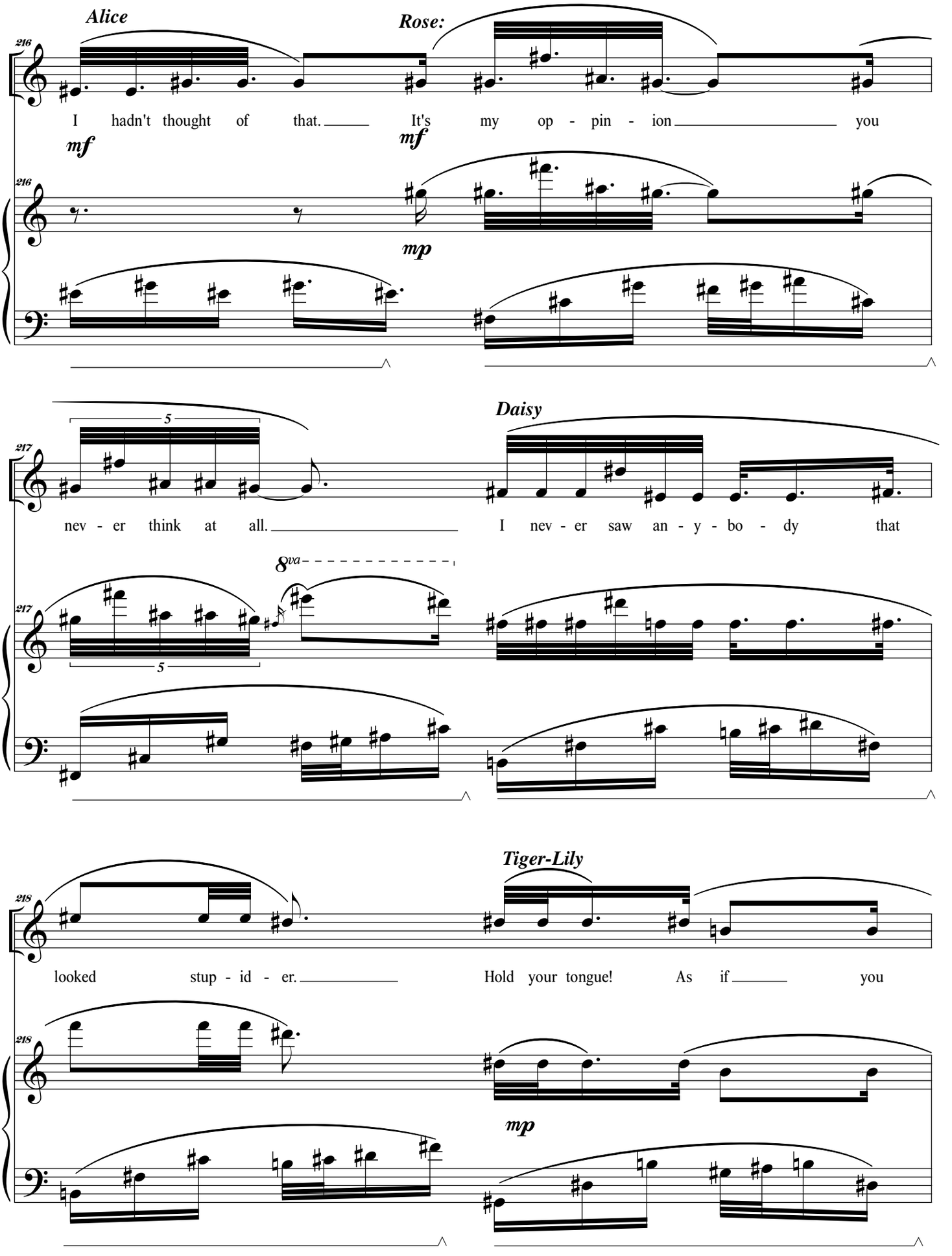

Daisey 3
Daisey 4
186
Like laughter
That's why its branches are called boughs! Did - n't you know that?
tee tee tee tee
tee - ya tee - ya tee - ya
teel tee tee tee
tee - ya tee - ya tee - ya
The Tiger-lily is outraged at the rudeness of the other flowers and waves passionately from side to side.
Si - lence ev' ry one of you! They know that I can't get at them

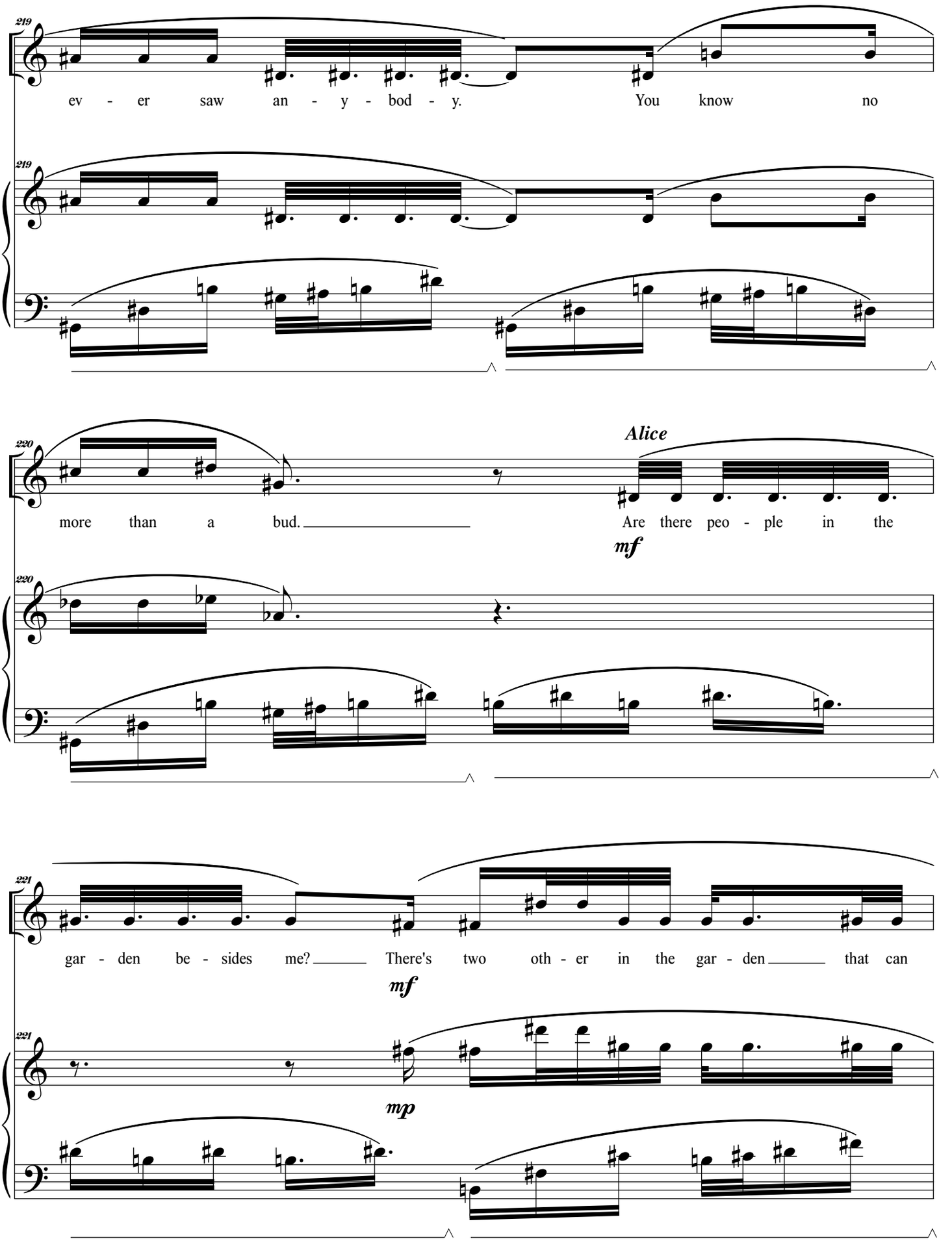

The flowers continue laughing.
192
or they would - n't dare do it!
tee - ya tee tee
tee tee tee - ya tee - ya
f
mf
195
tee - ya tee tee
tee - ya tee - ya tee - ya
Alice turns to the flowers with a pair of scissors.
Come sopra
The flowers all laugh, Alice threatens them with the scissors.
197
Ne - ver mind! If you don't hold your tounges I'll pick you!
tee tee tee tee
mf
f
mf

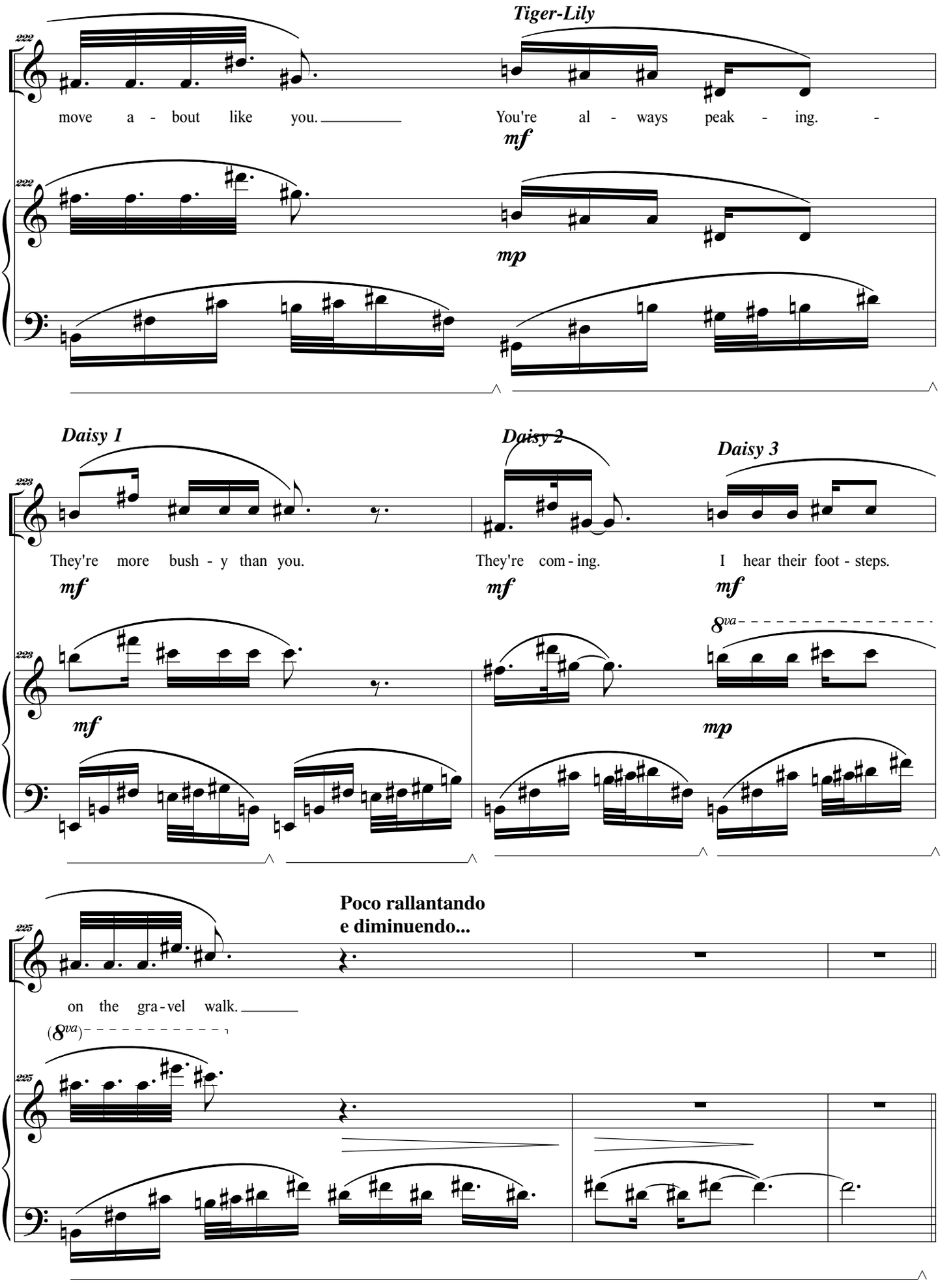

199
(♪=♪)
The flowers shriek and are suddenly silent.
tee - ya tee - ya tee - ya
8va
14
f
202
Ancora quieto
frightened, softly
Tiger-lily
5
That's right, the dais - ies are
mp
p
206
worst of all.
When one speaks, they


208
al be - gin to ge - ther, and it's e - nough to make one whi - ther!
208
Alice
210
How is it you talk?
mp
210
211
I've seen man - y flow - er gar - dens, but none of the flow - ers could
211


212
talk. Put your hand down and feel the ground. Then you'll know why.
mf
mp
Alice feels the ground.
Alice
Tiger Lily
214
It's ver - y hard. In most gar - dens they
8va
215
make the beds too soft, so the flow - ers are al - ways a sleep.

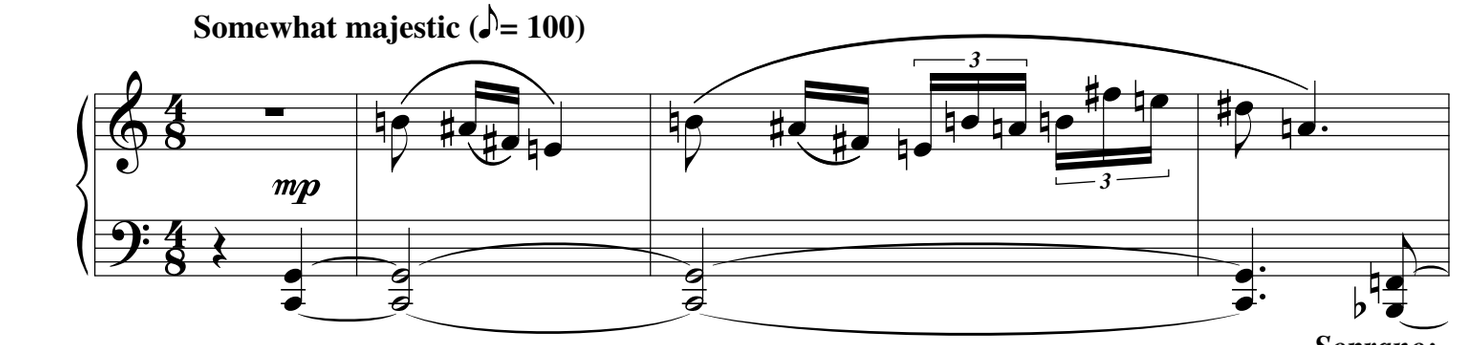

Alice
Rose:
216
I hadn't thought of that. It's my op - pin - ion you
mf
mf
mp
Daisy
217
5
nev - er think at all. I nev - er saw an - y - bo - dy that
8va
Tiger-Lily
218
looked stup - id - er. Hold your tongue! As if you
mp


219
ev - er saw an - y - bod - y. You know no
219
220
Alice
more than a bud. Are there peo - ple in the
mf
220
221
gar - den be - sides me? There's two oth - er in the gar - den that can
mf
221
mp

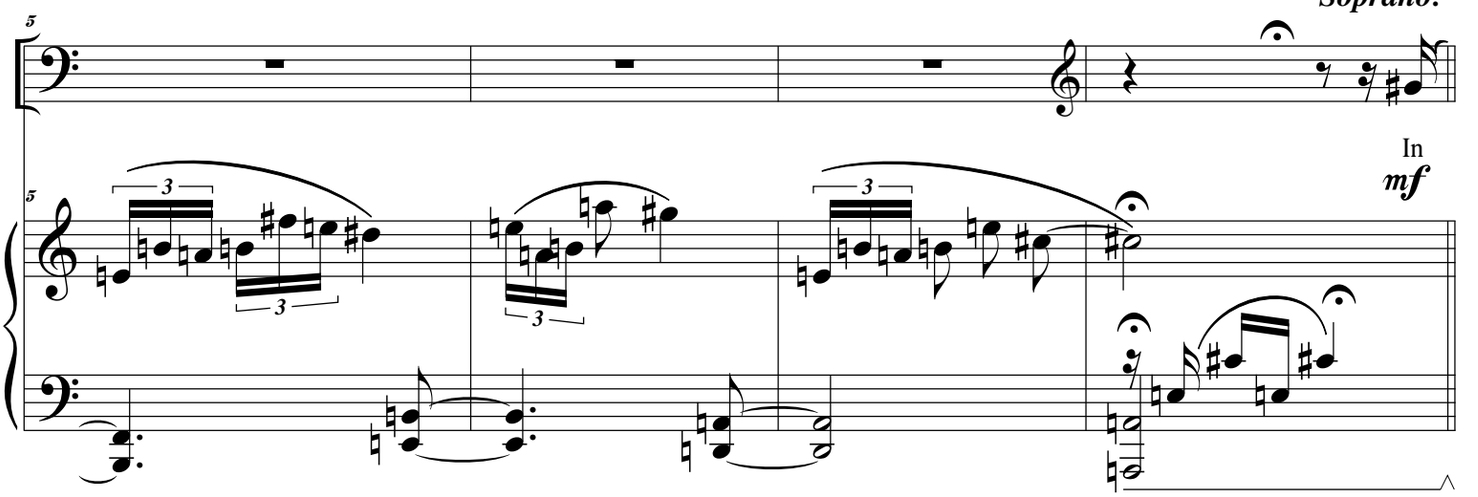

Tiger-Lily
move a - bout like you.
You're al - ways peak - ing. -
mf
mp
Daisy 1
Daisy 2
Daisy 3
They're more bush - y than you.
They're com - ing.
I hear their foot - steps.
mf
mf
mf
8va
mf
mp
Poco rallantando
e diminuendo...
on the gra - vel walk.
(8va)

IV. Humpty-Dumpty

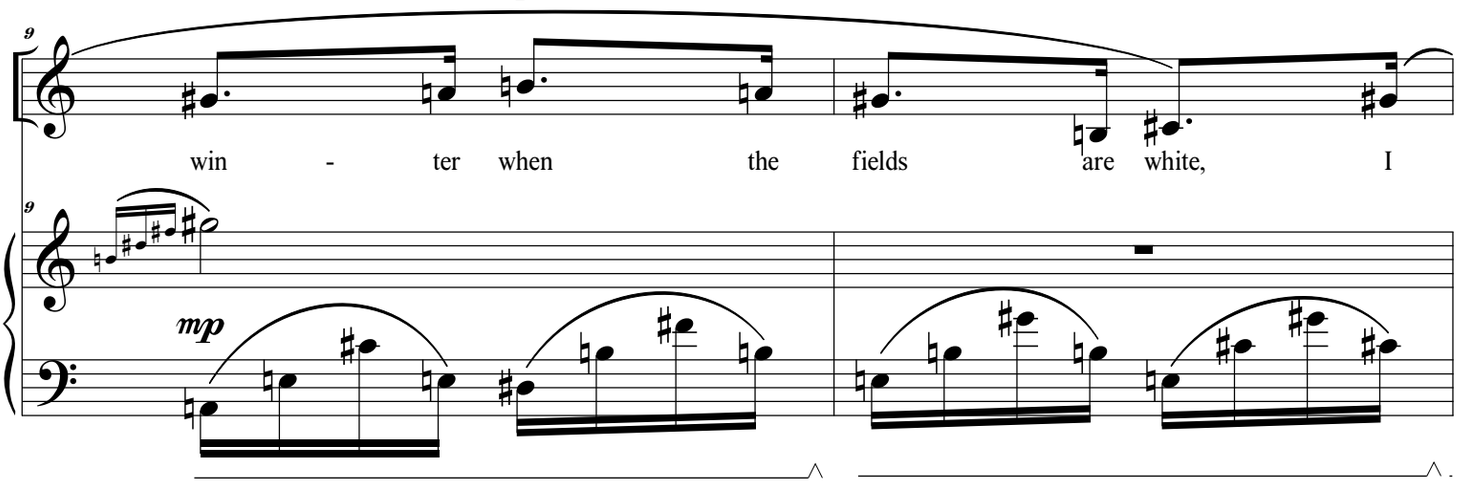
Somewhat majestic (♪= 100)

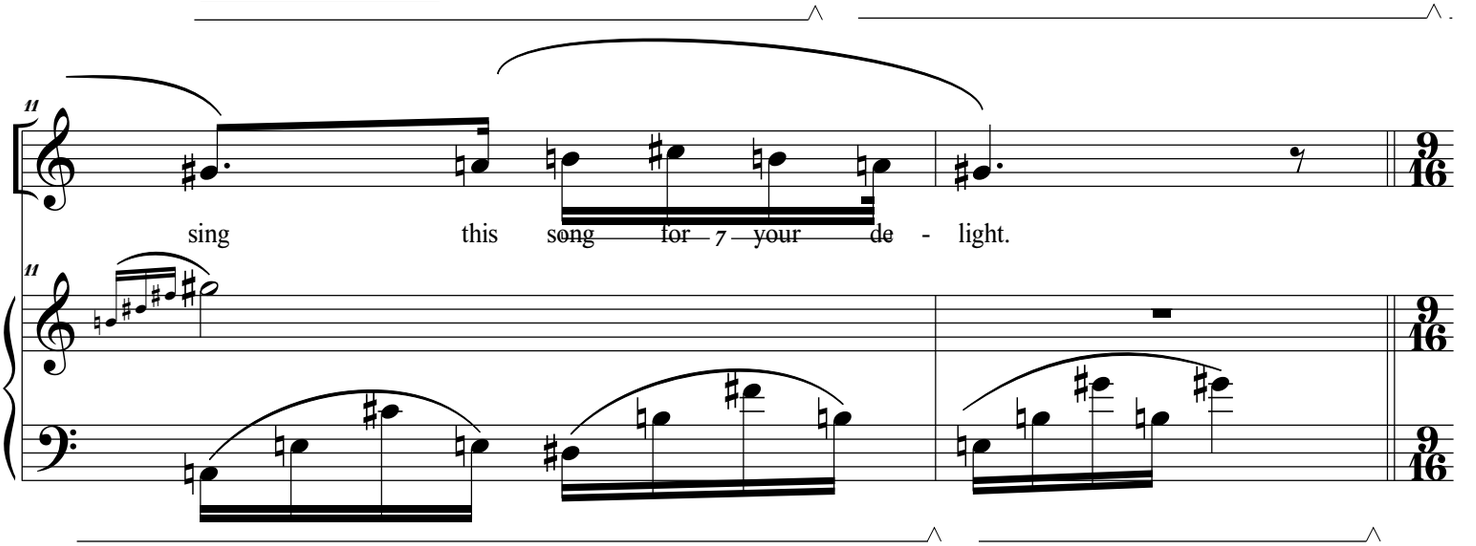


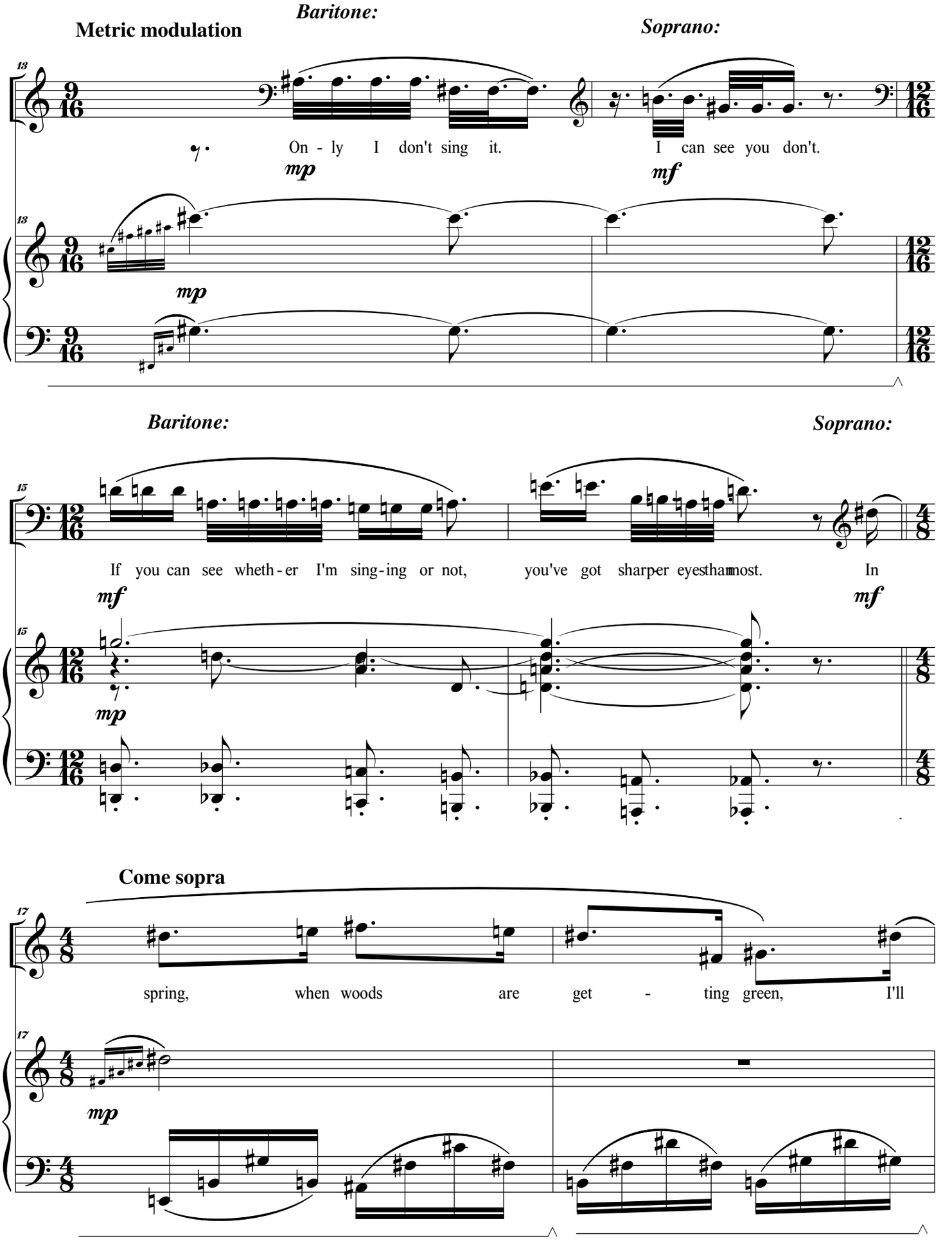
Soprano:

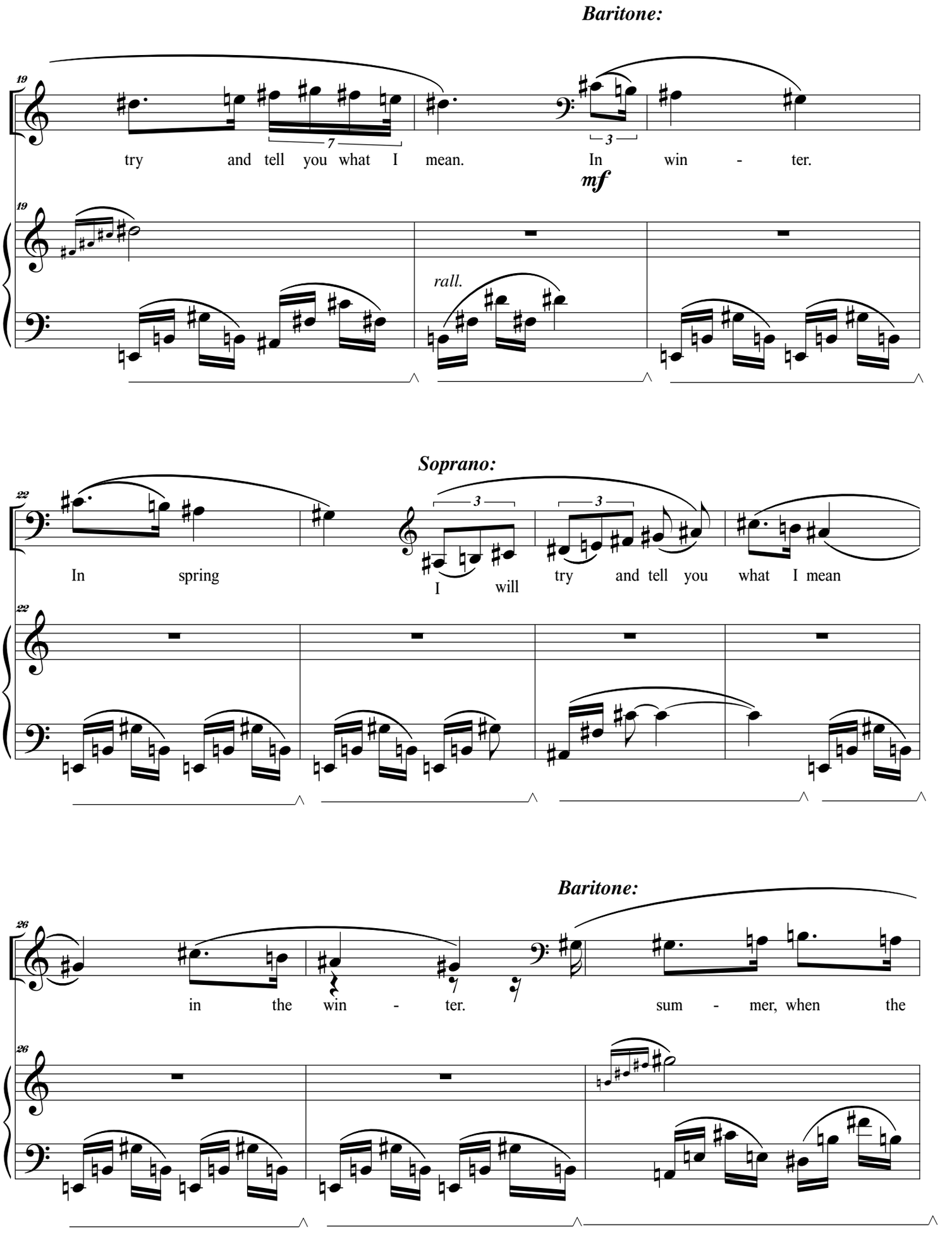


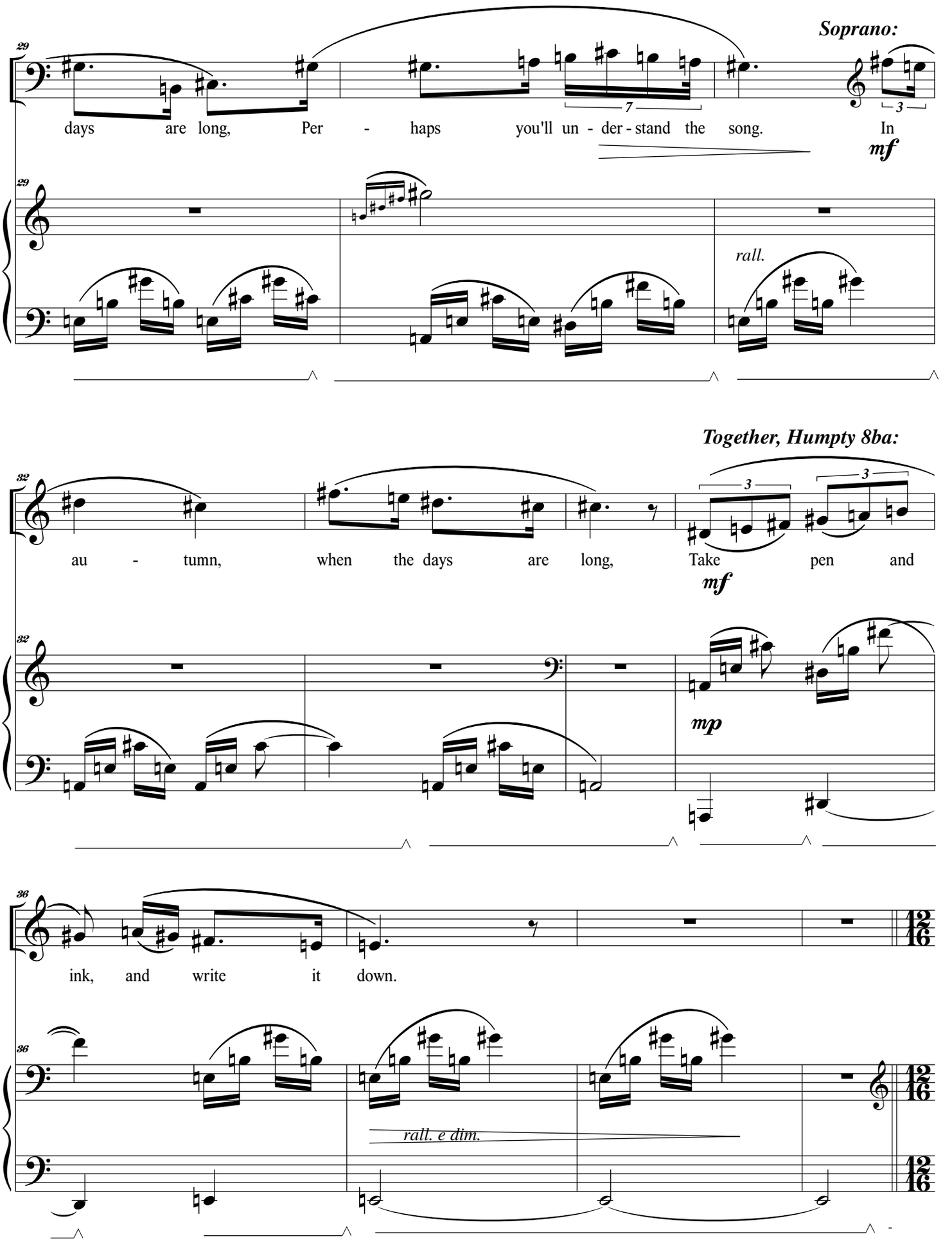
Molto cantabile ma semplice

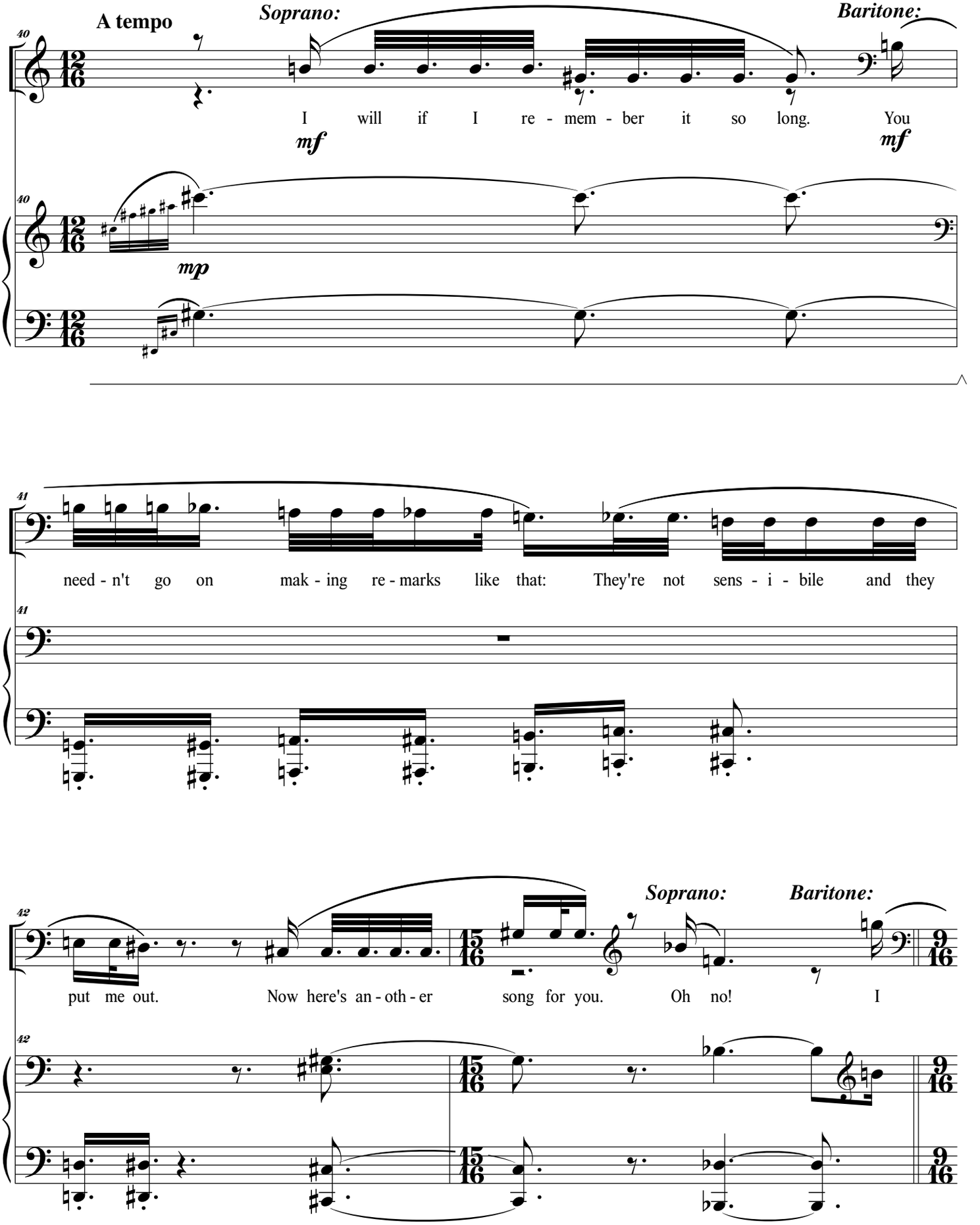




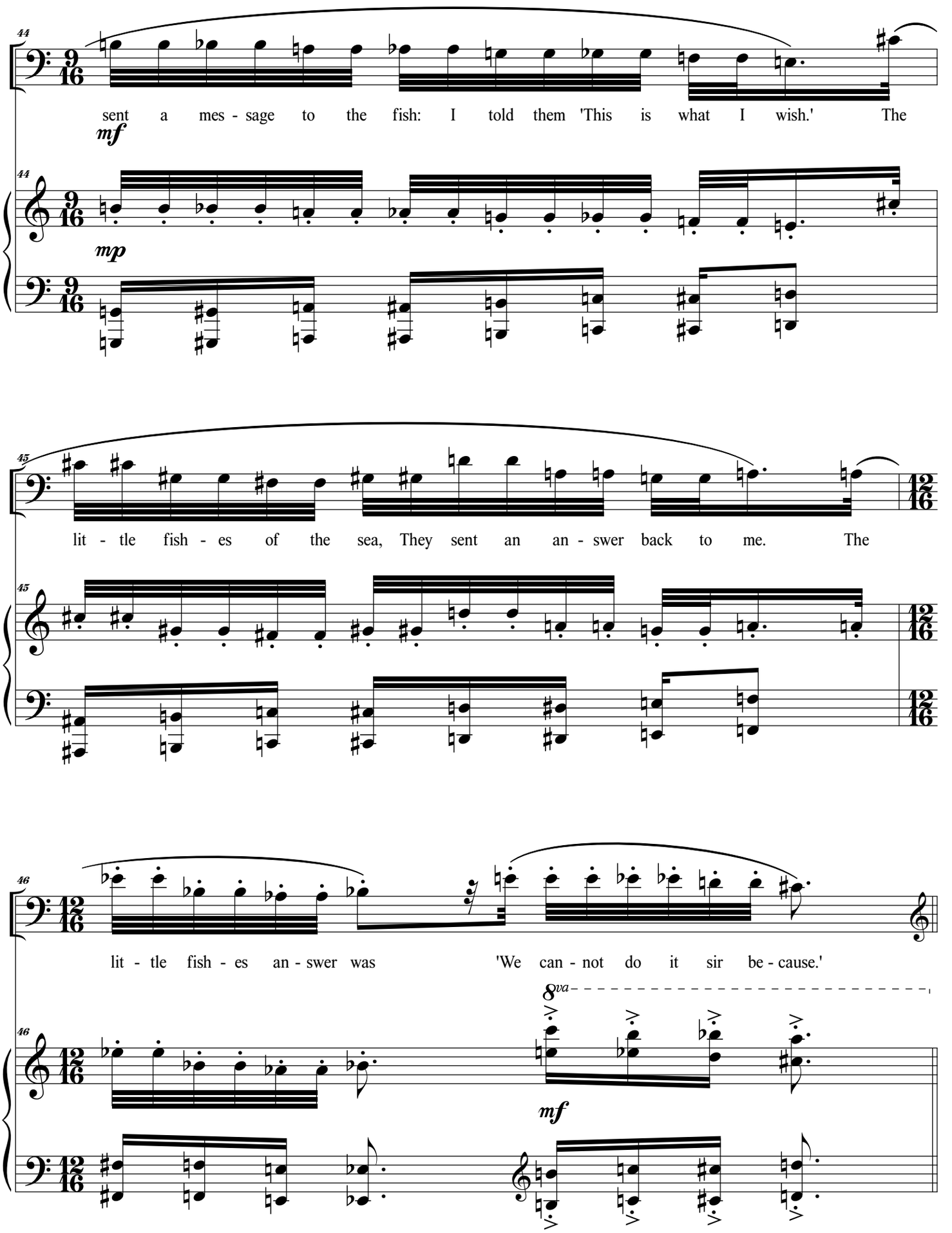

Metric modulation
Baritone:
Soprano:
On - ly I don't sing it.
I can see you don't.
mp
mf
Baritone:
Soprano:
If you can see wheth - er I'm sing - ing or not, you've got sharper eyes than most. In
mf
mf
mp
Come sopra
spring, when woods are get - ting green, I'll
mp

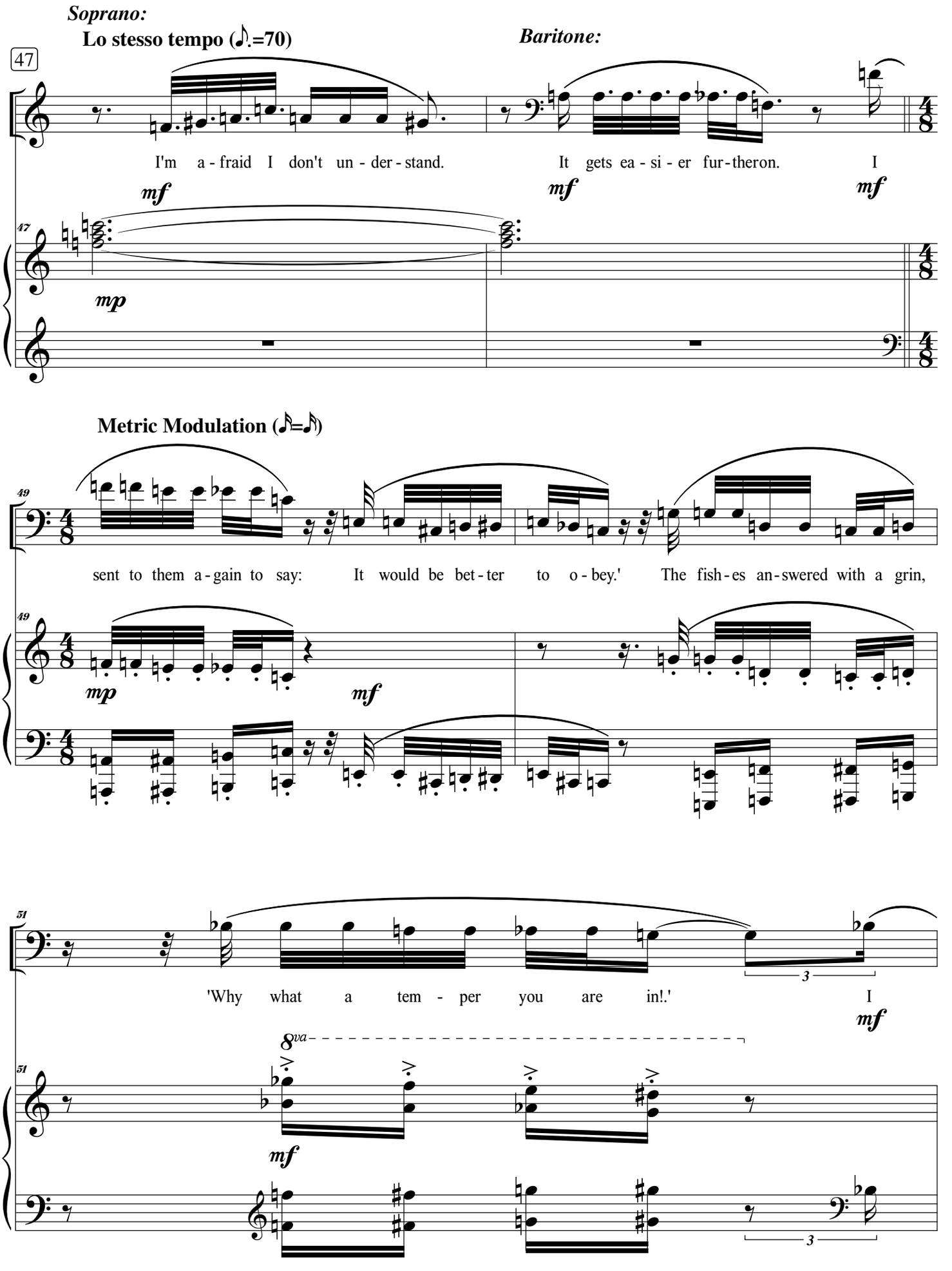

Baritone:
19
try and tell you what I mean.
In win - ter.
mf
19
rall.
Soprano:
22
In spring
I will try and tell you what I mean
22
Baritone:
26
in the win - ter.
sum - mer, when the
26

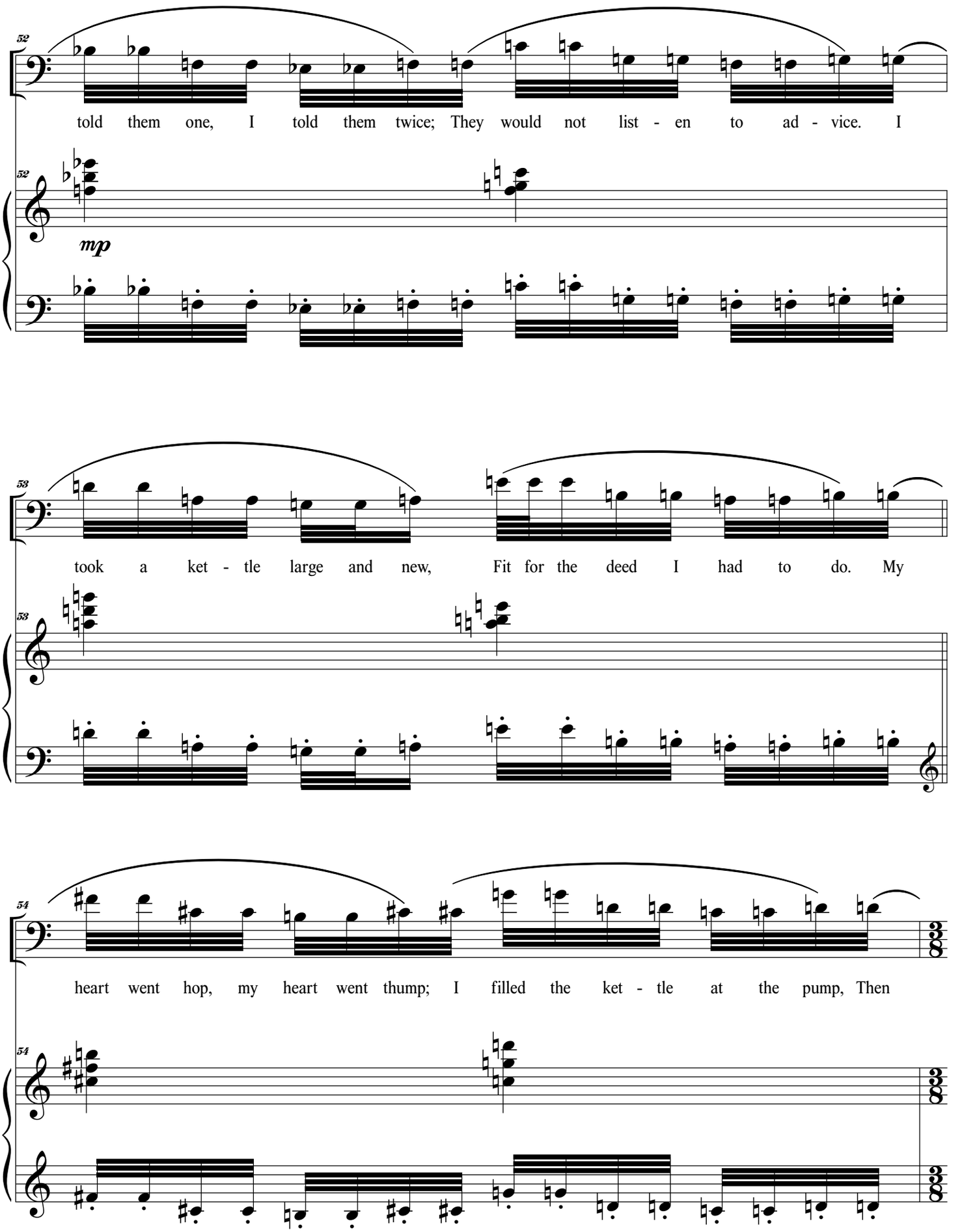

Soprano:
29
days are long, Per - haps you'll un - der - stand the song. In
mf
rall.
Together, Humpty 8ba:
32
au - tumn, when the days are long, Take pen and
mf
mp
36
ink, and write it down.
rall. e dim.


A tempo
Soprano:
Baritone:
I will if I re - mem - ber it so long. You
mf
mf
mp
need - n't go on mak - ing re - marks like that: They're not sens - i - bile and they
Soprano:
Baritone:
put me out. Now here's an - oth - er song for you. Oh no! I

Lo stesso tempo (♪.=70)




Soprano:
Lo stesso tempo (♪.=70)
Baritone:
47
I'm a - fraid I don't un - der - stand.
It gets ea - si - er fur - theron.
I
mf
mf
mf
47
mp
Metric Modulation (♪=♪)
49
sent to them a - gain to say:
It would be bet - ter to o - bey.'
The fish - es an - swered with a grin,
49
mp
mf
51
'Why what a tem - per you are in!.'
I
mf
8va
51
mf
3
3


52
told them one, I told them twice; They would not list - en to ad - vice. I
52
mp
53
took a ket - tle large and new, Fit for the deed I had to do. My
53
54
heart went hop, my heart went thump; I filled the ket - tle at the pump, Then
54

Subito a tempo

some - one came to me and said, The lit - tle fish - es are in bed.' I

mf

Metric Modulation (♪=♪)

New Tempo (♩=70)

said to him, I said it plain: you must wake them up a - gain.'

mf

Soprano: ***Baritone:***

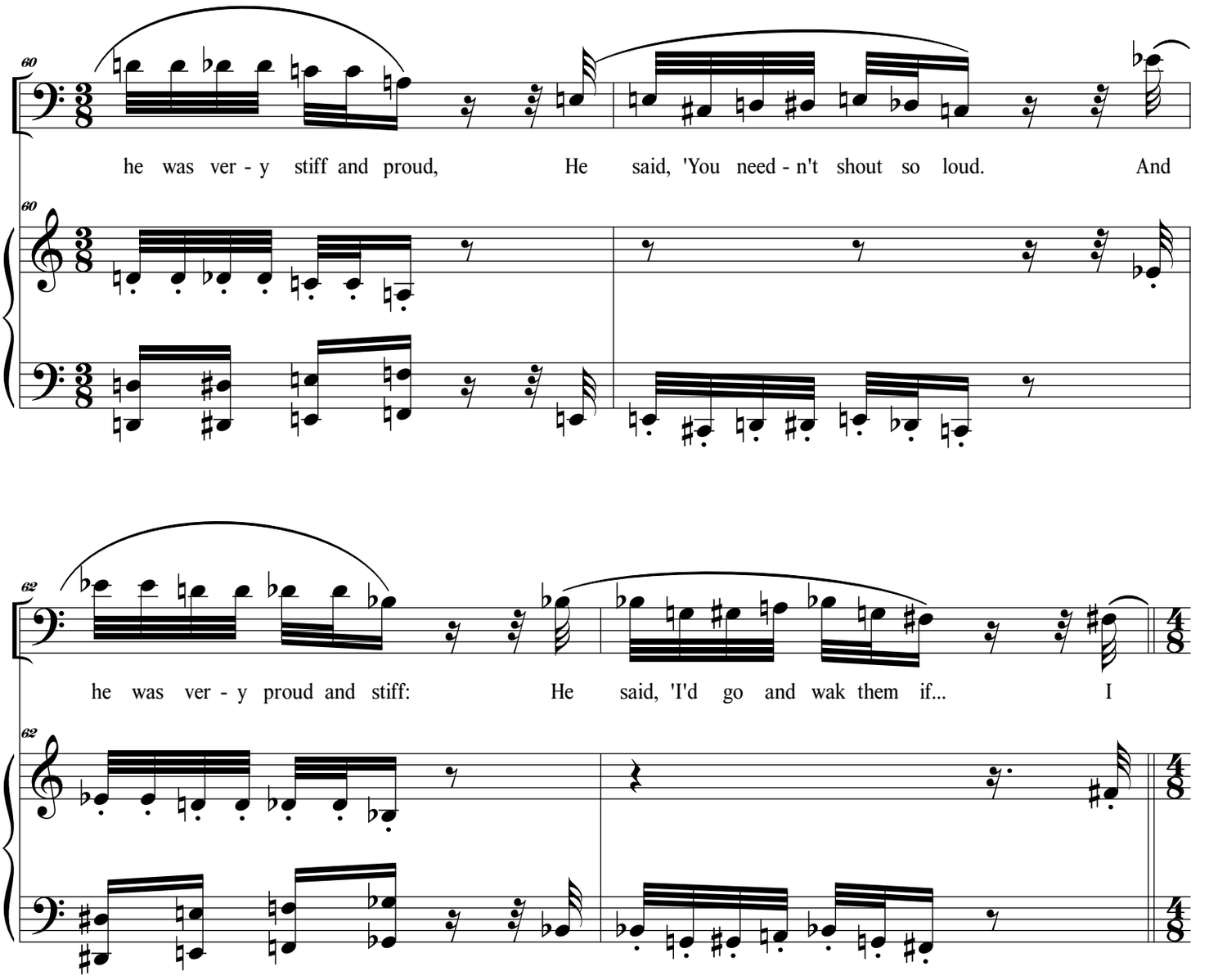
I would - n't have been that meso - sen - ger for an - y - thing. But

mf *mf*

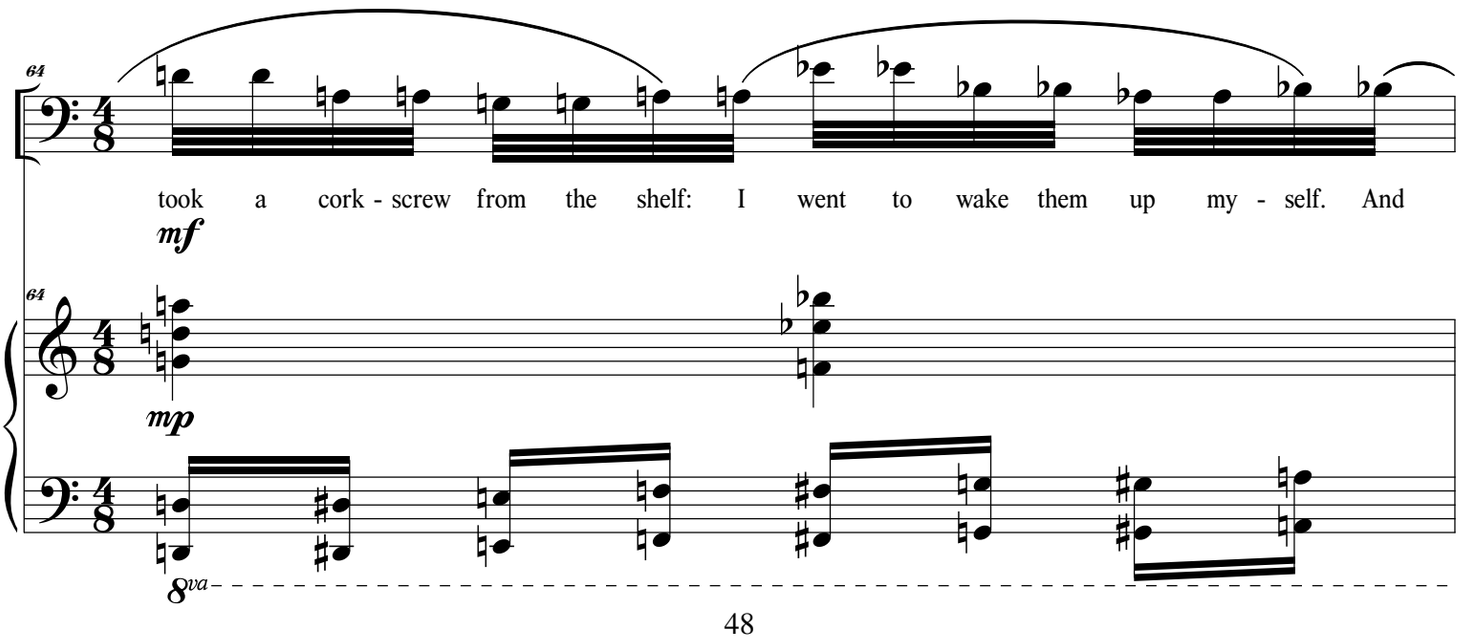
mp *mp*

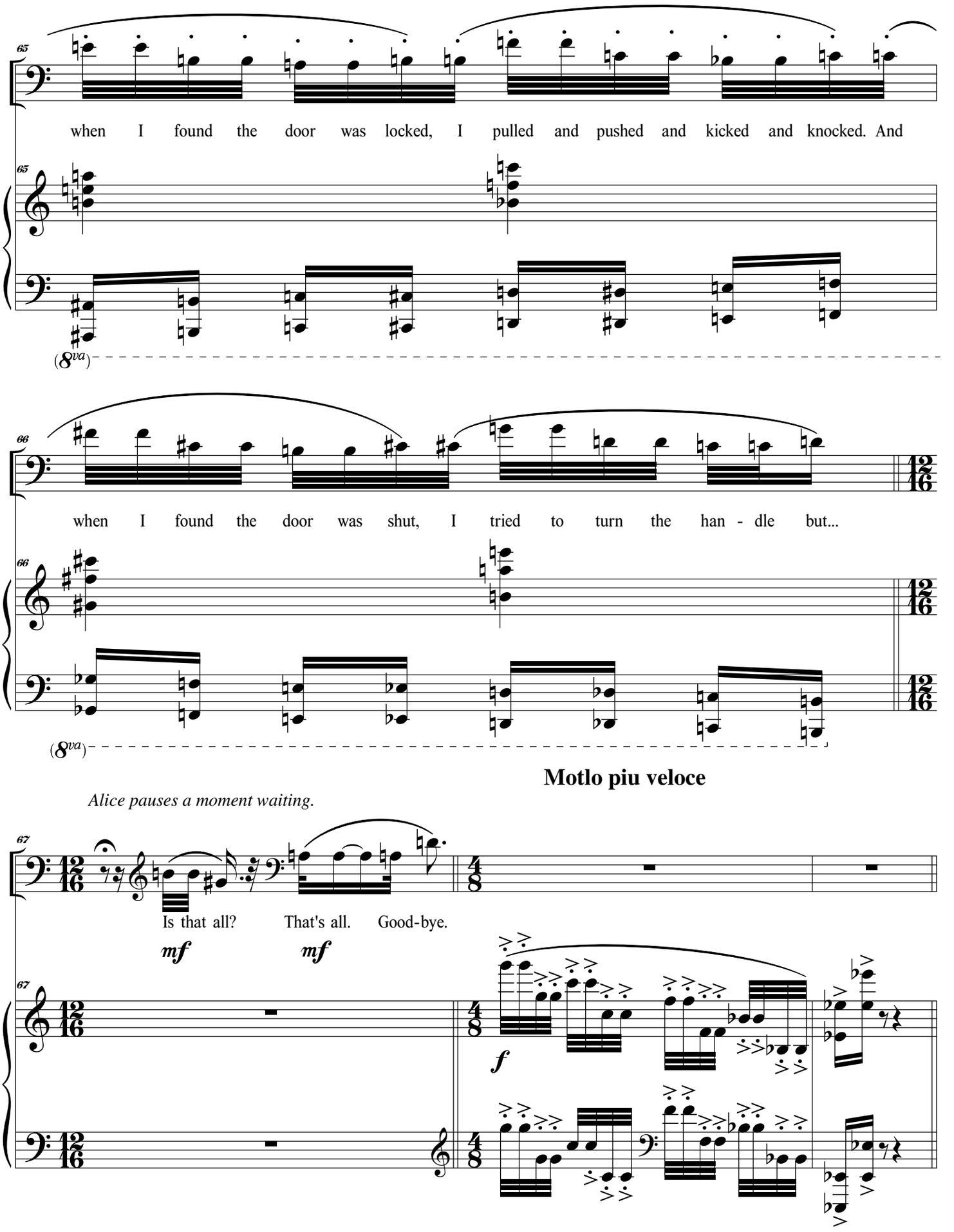
Metric Modulation (♪=♪)

New Tempo (♩=93)



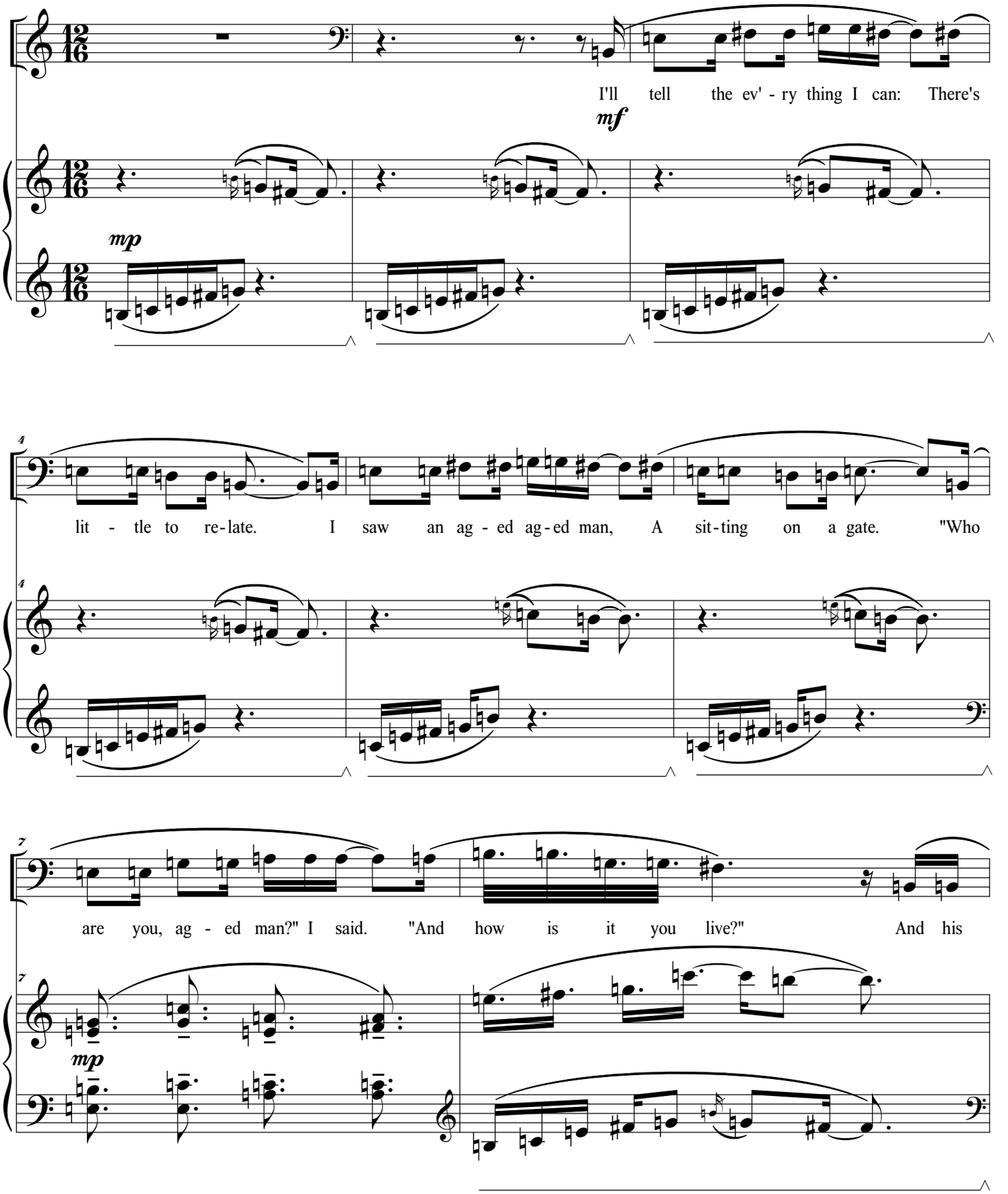
Accelerando e crescendo...

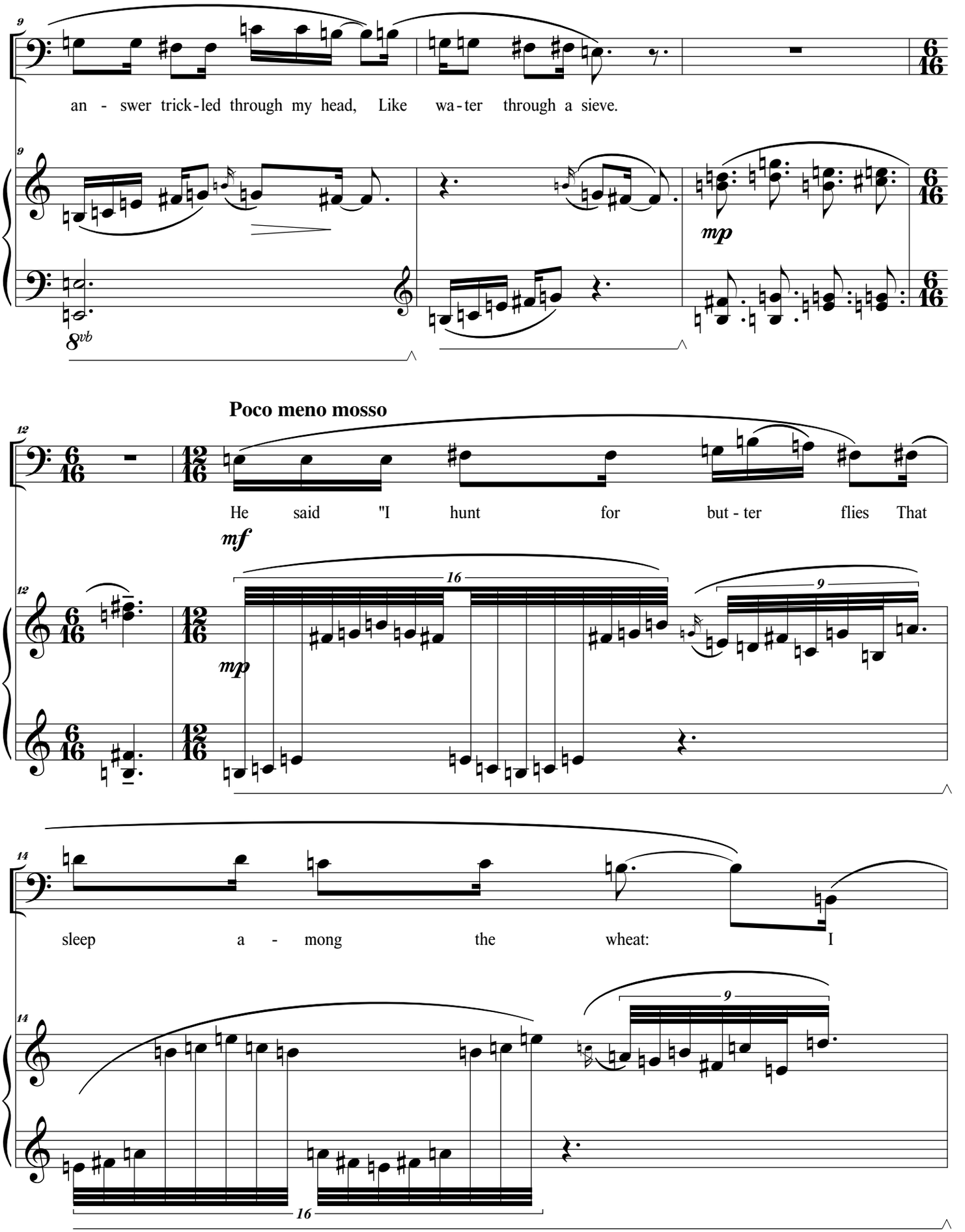


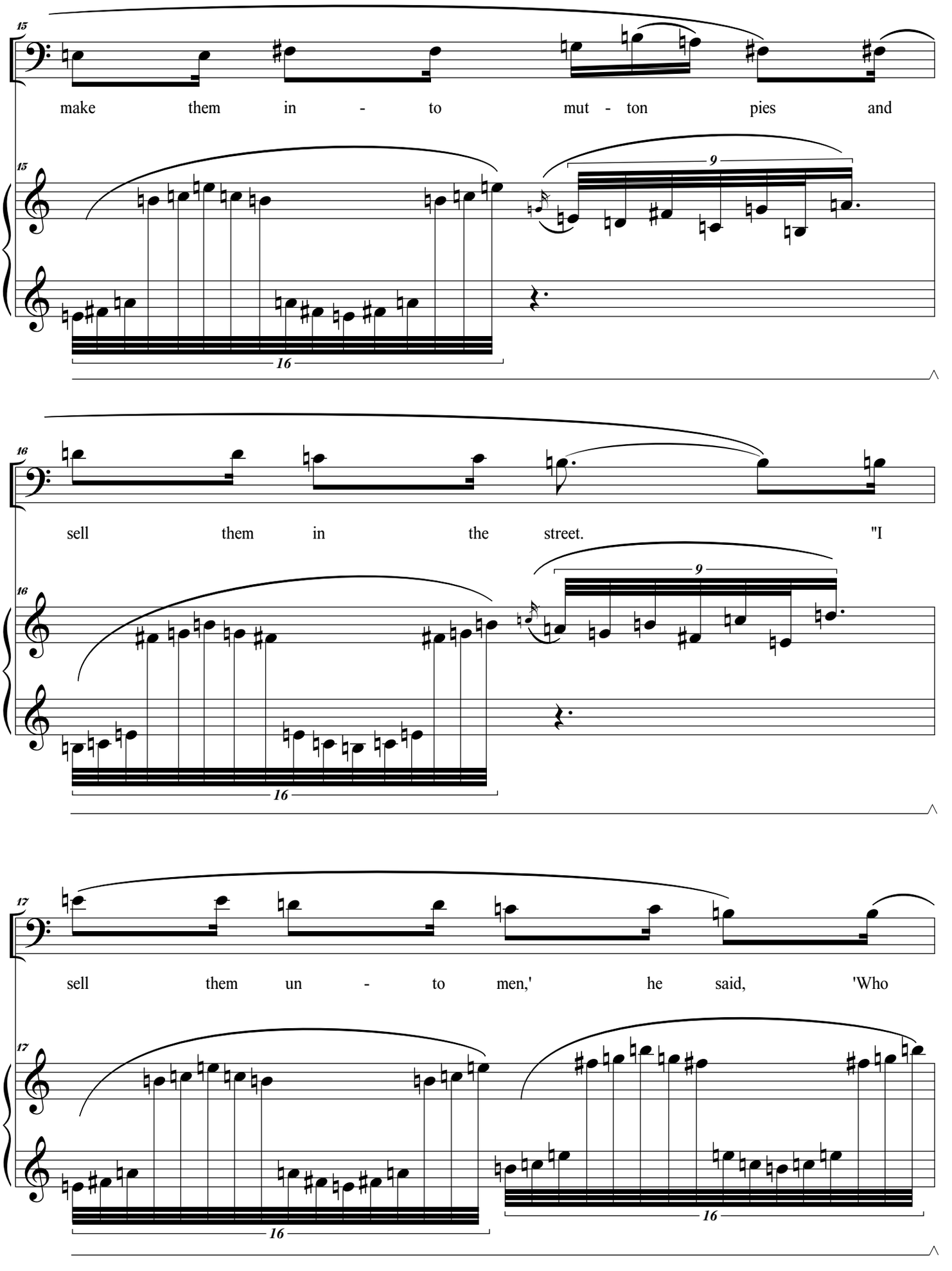

65
when I found the door was locked, I pulled and pushed and kicked and knocked. And
(8va)
66
when I found the door was shut, I tried to turn the han - dle but...
(8va)
Motlo piu veloce
Alice pauses a moment waiting.
67
Is that all? That's all. Good-bye.
mf
mf
f

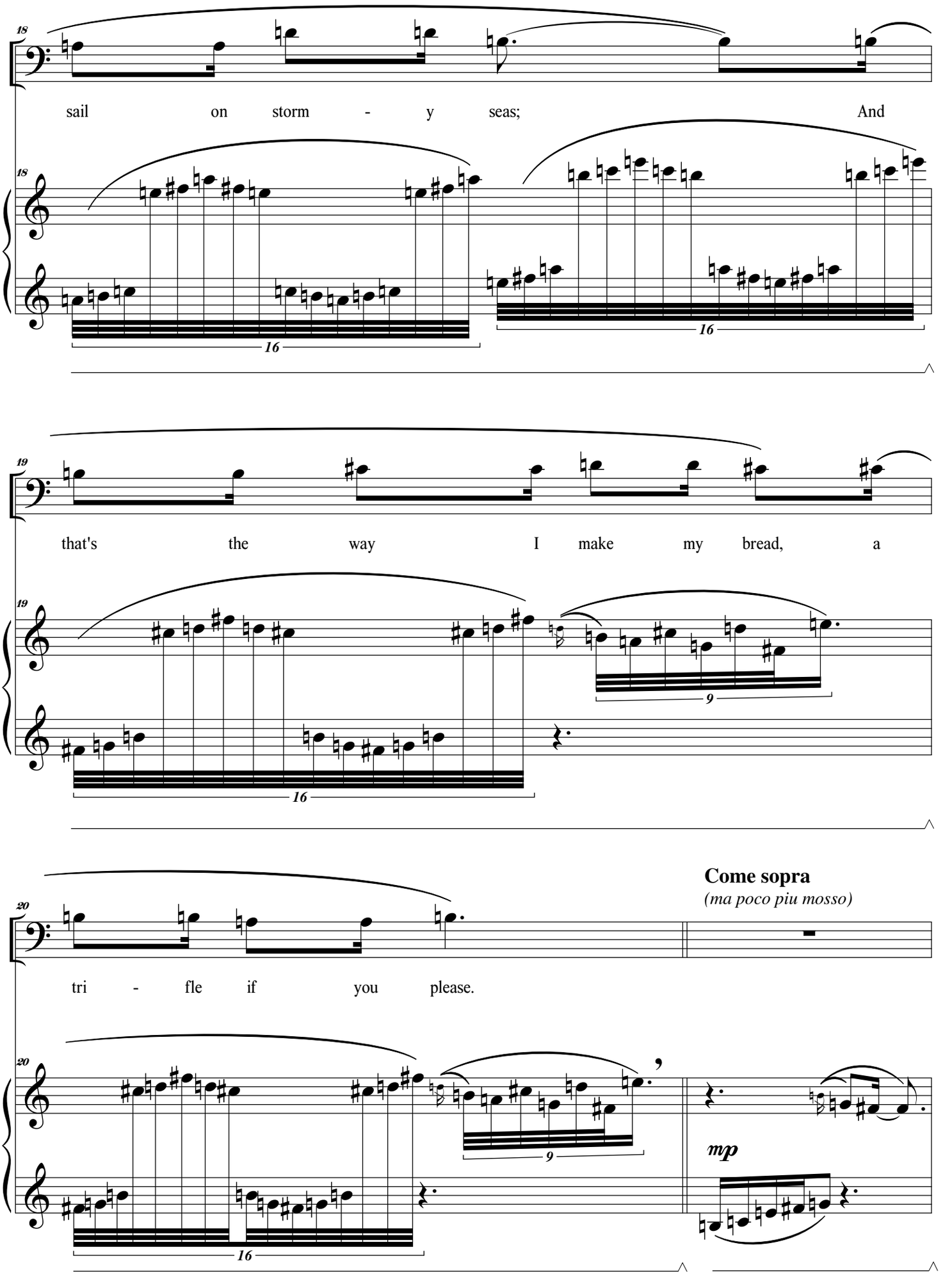
V. A-sitting On A Gate

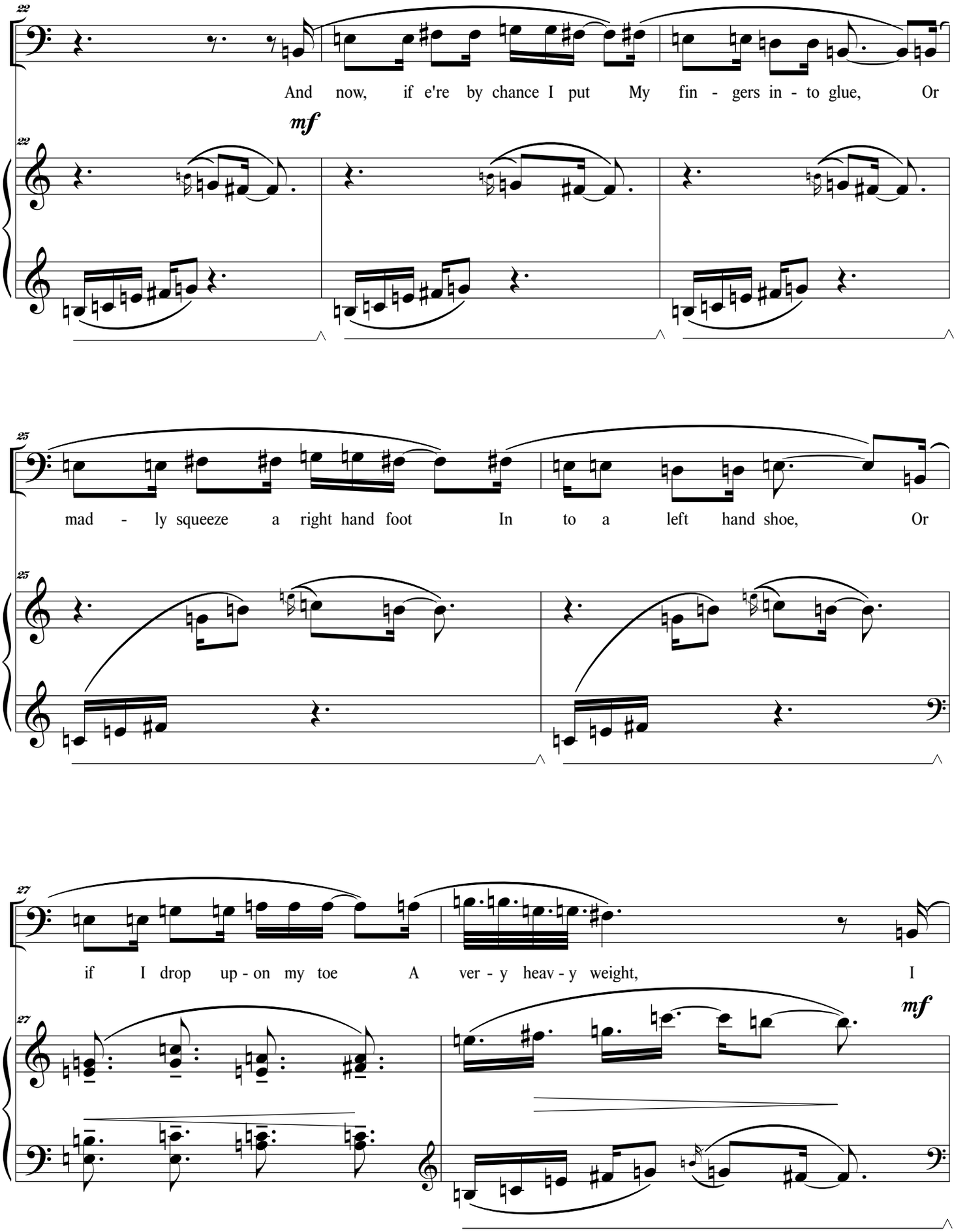
Semplice e cantabile, ma non troppo lento (♪ = ca. 80)

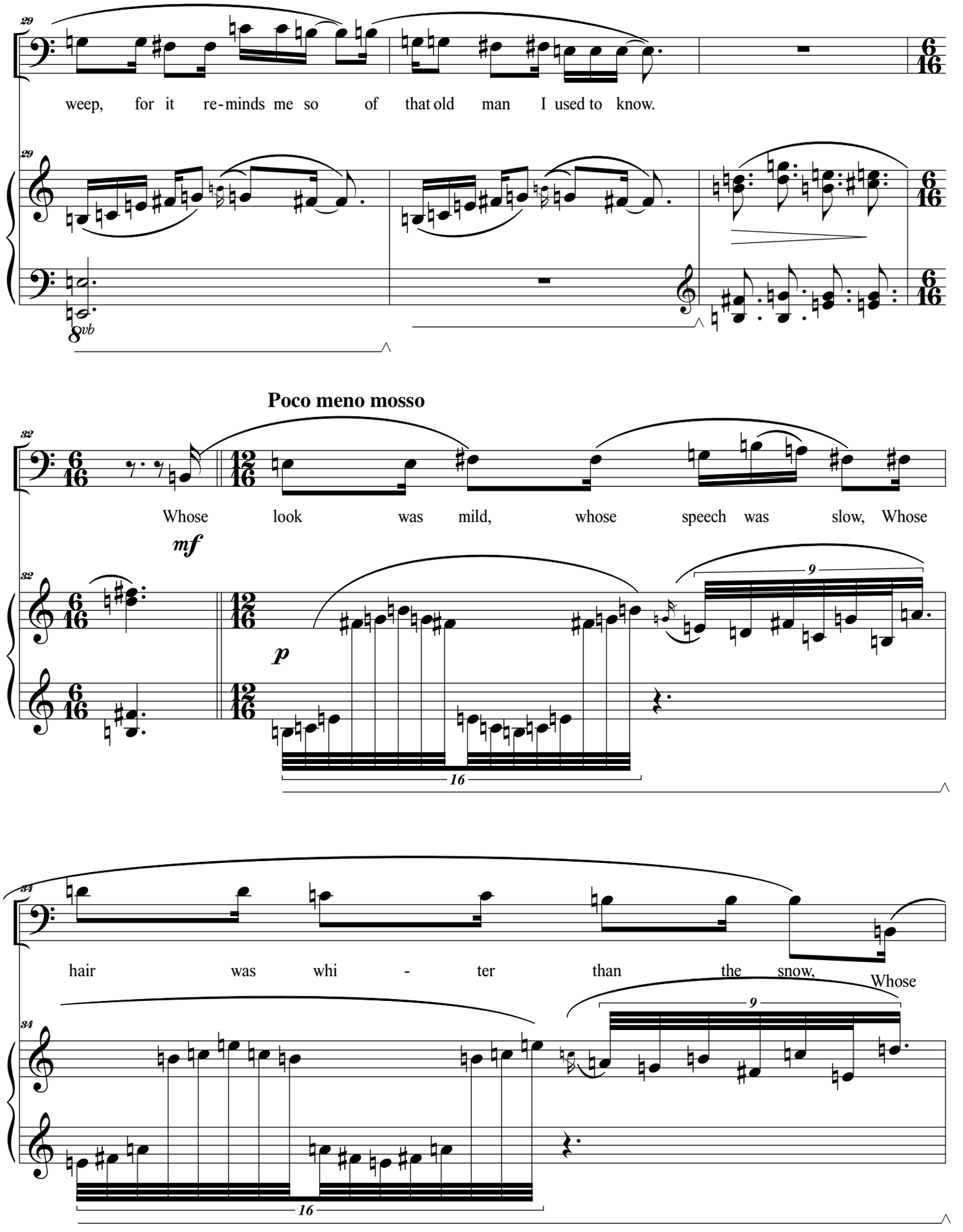


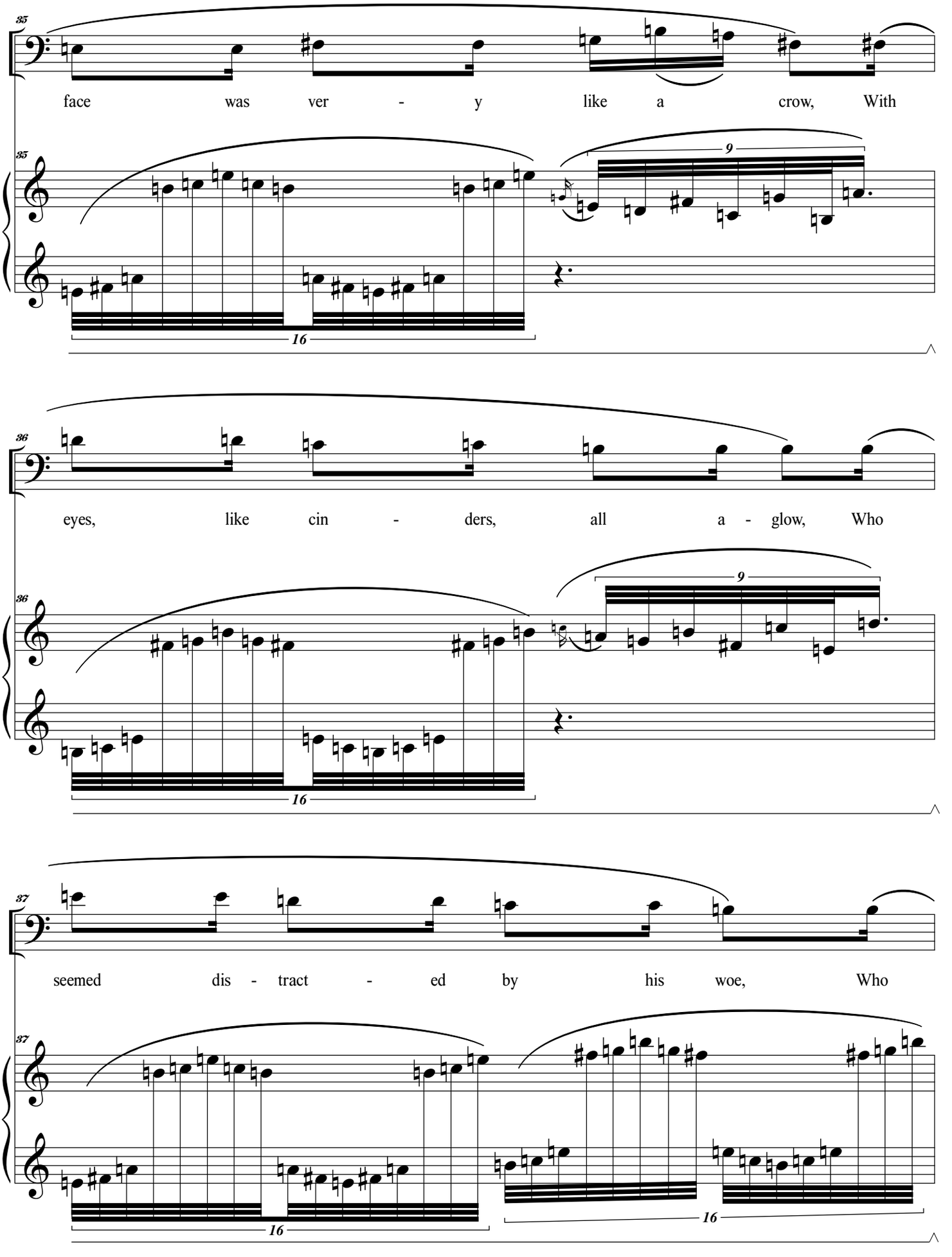

9
an - swer trick-led through my head, Like wa-ter through a sieve.
8vb
mp
Poco meno mosso
12
He said "I hunt for but - ter flies That
mf
16
mp
9
14
sleep a - mong the wheat: I
9
16

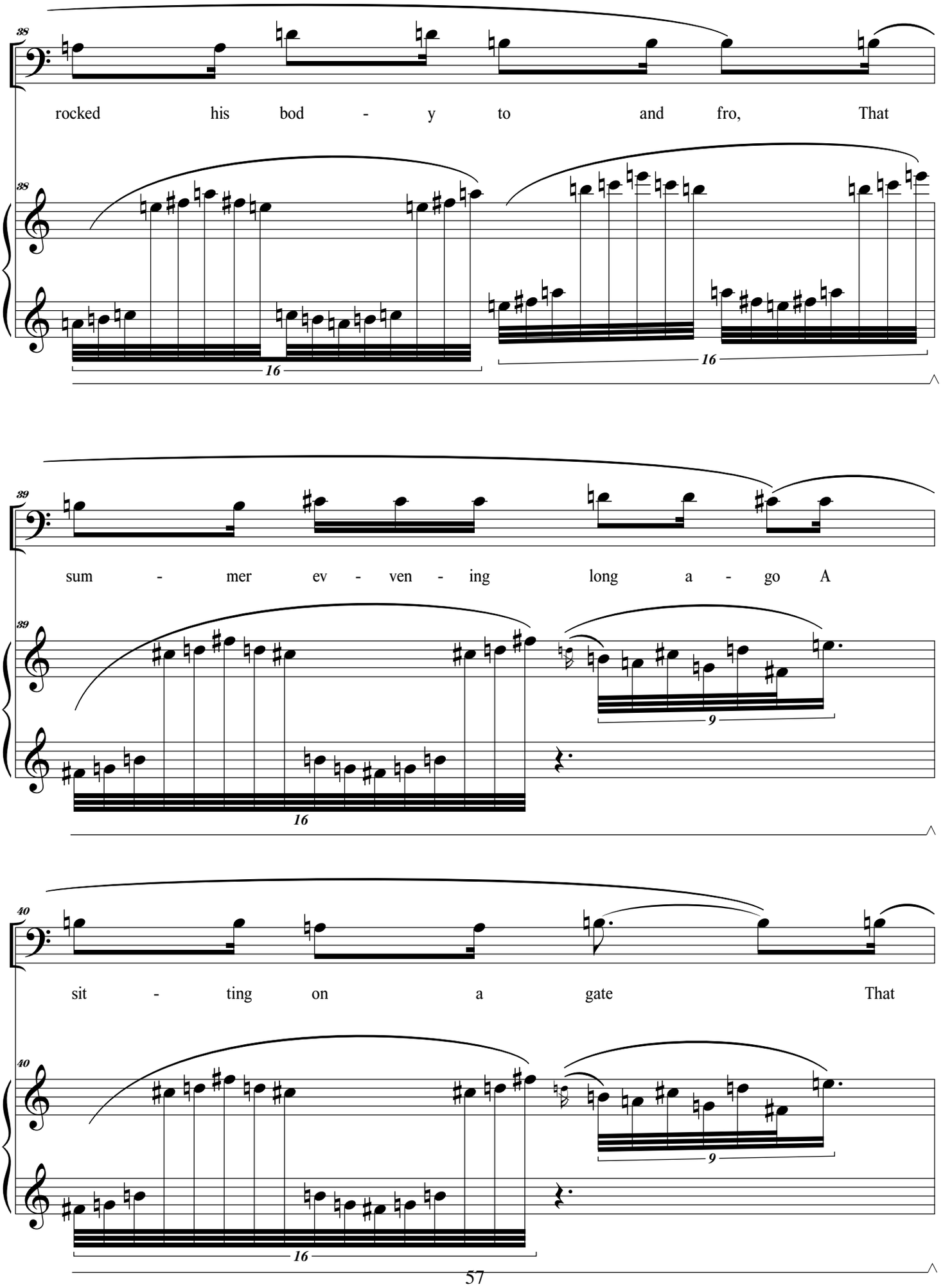

15
make them in - to mut - ton pies and
9
16
16
sell them in the street. "I
9
16
17
sell them un - to men,' he said, 'Who
16
16

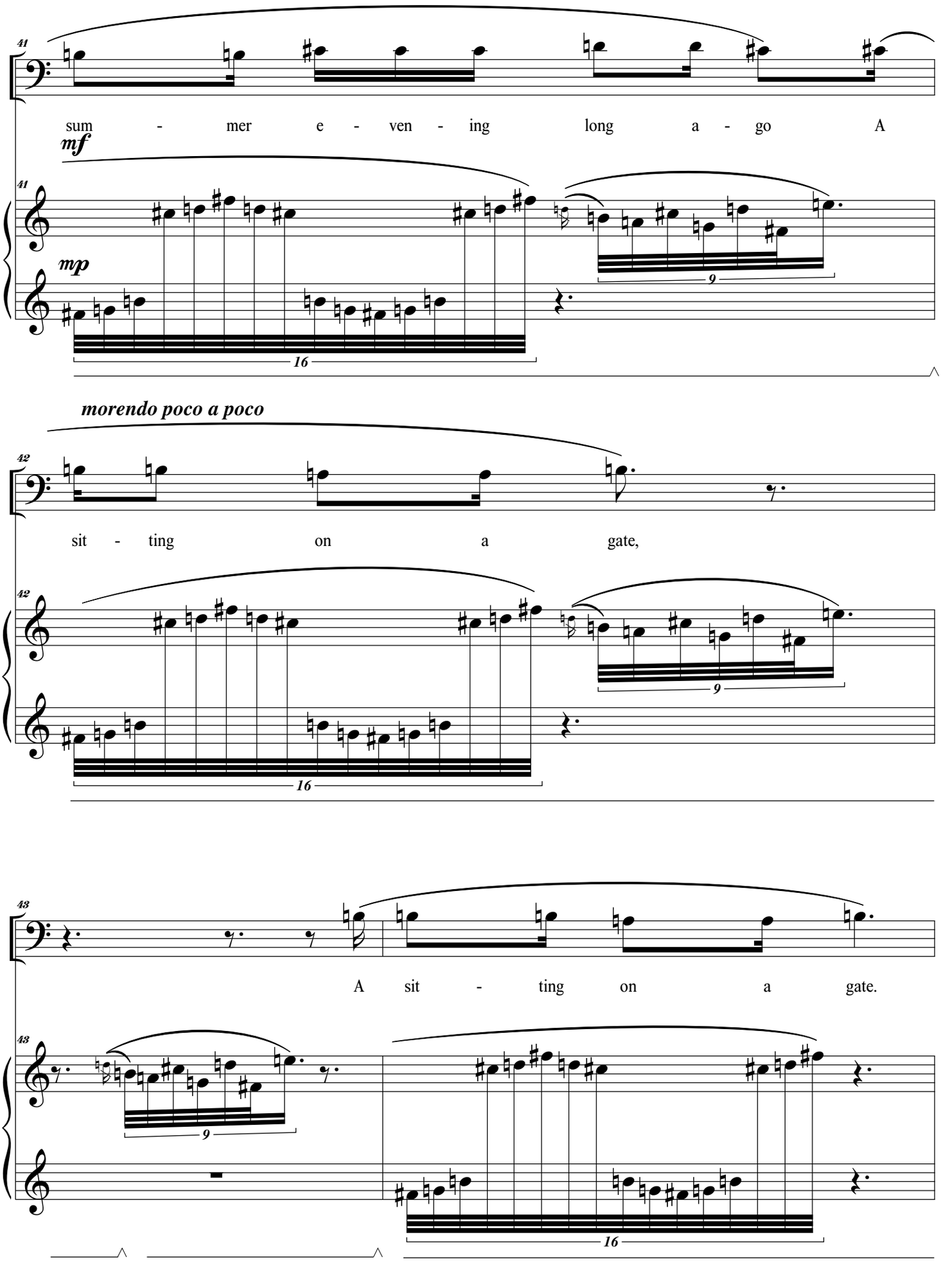

18
sail on storm - y seas; And
16
16
19
that's the way I make my bread, a
9
16
20
tri - fle if you please.
Come sopra
(ma poco piu mosso)
9
mp
16

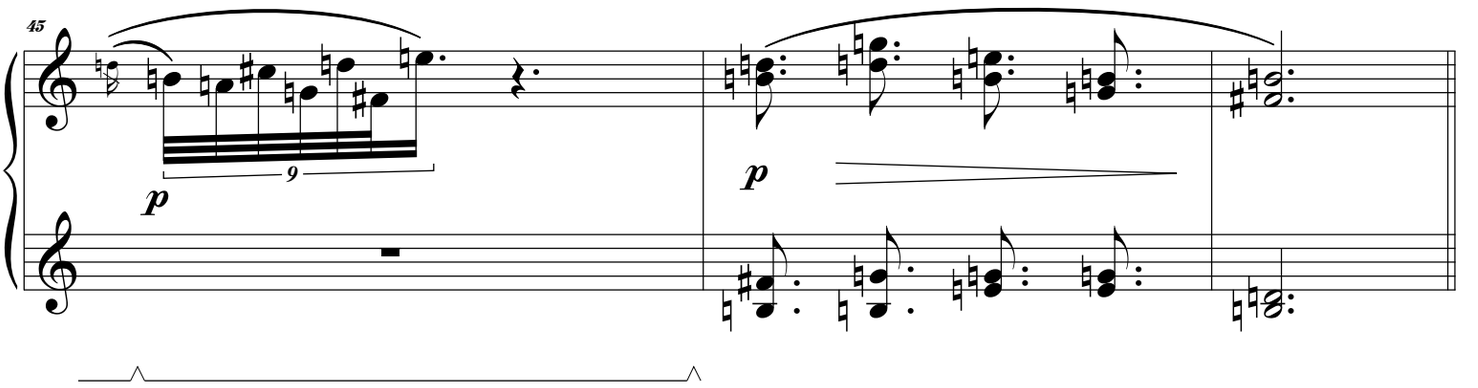

22
And now, if e're by chance I put My fin - gers in - to glue, Or
mf
22
25
mad - ly squeeze a right hand foot In to a left hand shoe, Or
25
27
if I drop up - on my toe A ver - y heav - y weight, I
27
mf


29
weep, for it re-minds me so of that old man I used to know.
8vb
Poco meno mosso
32
Whose look was mild, whose speech was slow, Whose
mf
p
9
16
34
hair was whi - ter than the snow, Whose
9
16


35
face was ver - y like a crow, With
9
16
36
eyes, like cin - ders, all a - glow, Who
9
16
37
seemed dis - tract - ed by his woe, Who
16
16

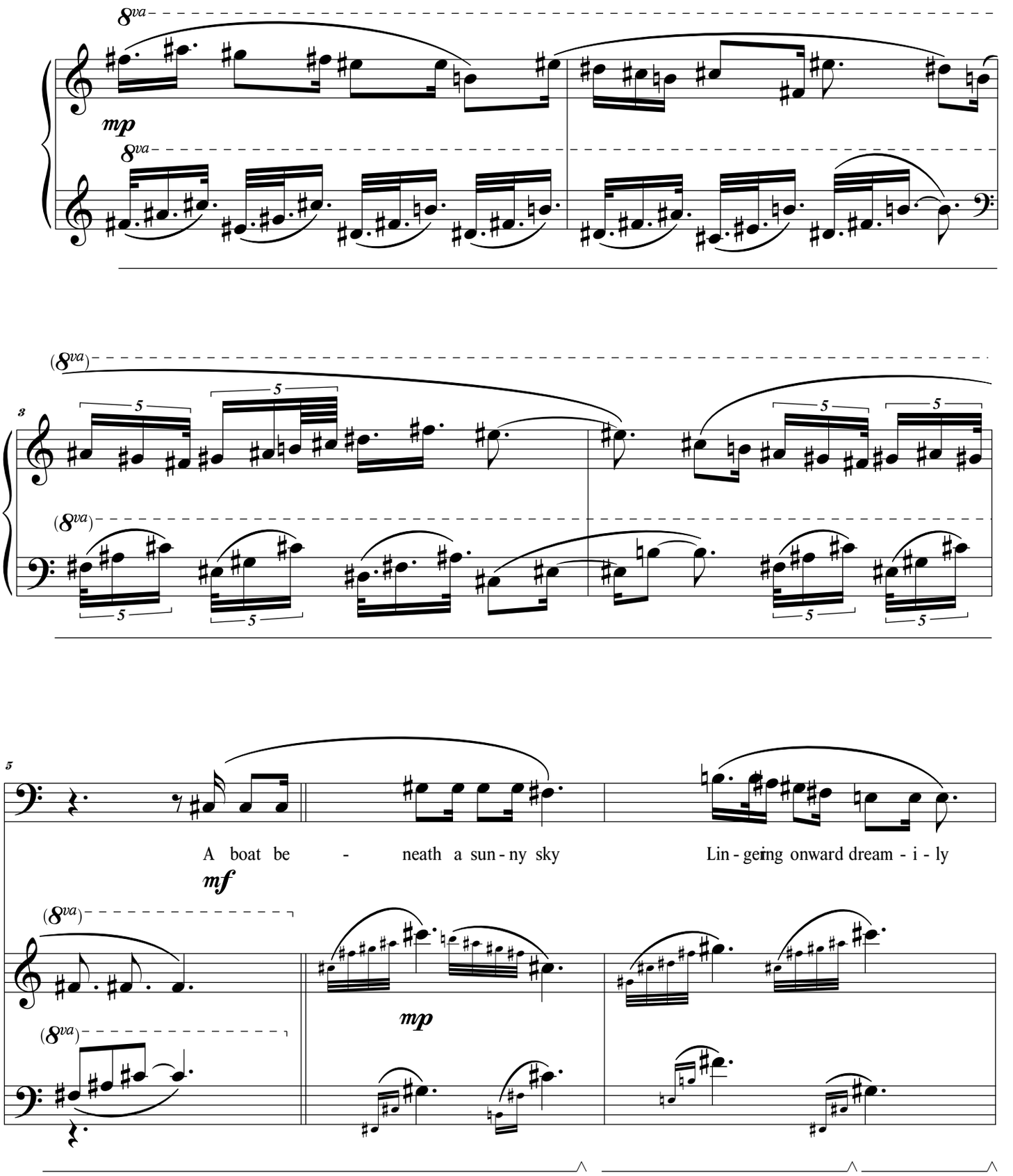

38
rocked his bod - y to and fro, That
16
16
39
sum - mer ev - ven - ing long a - go A
9
16
40
sit - ting on a gate That
9
16

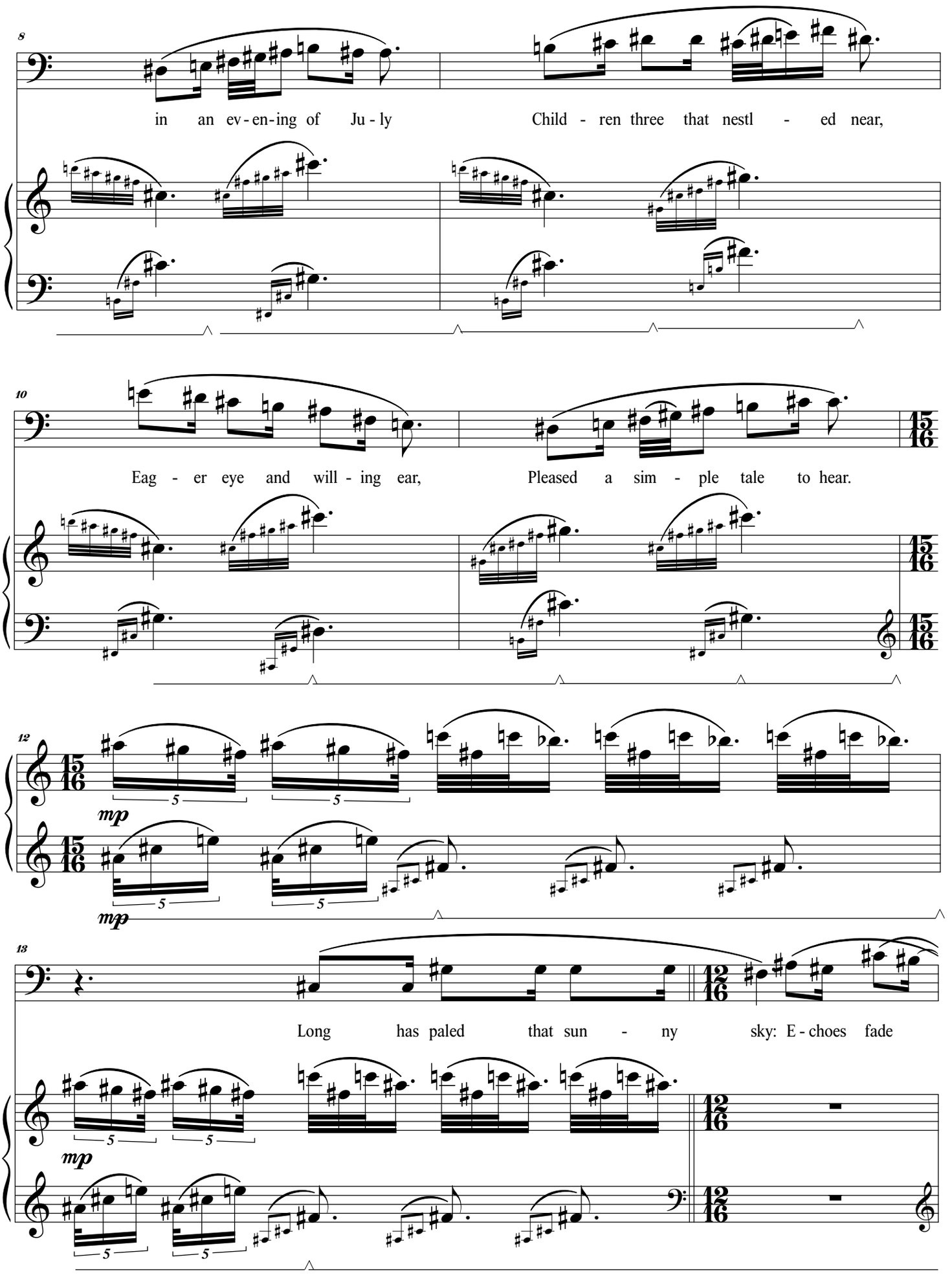

41
sum - mer e - ven - ing long a - go A
mf
41
mp
9
16
morendo poco a poco
42
sit - ting on a gate,
42
9
16
43
A sit - ting on a gate.
43
9
16

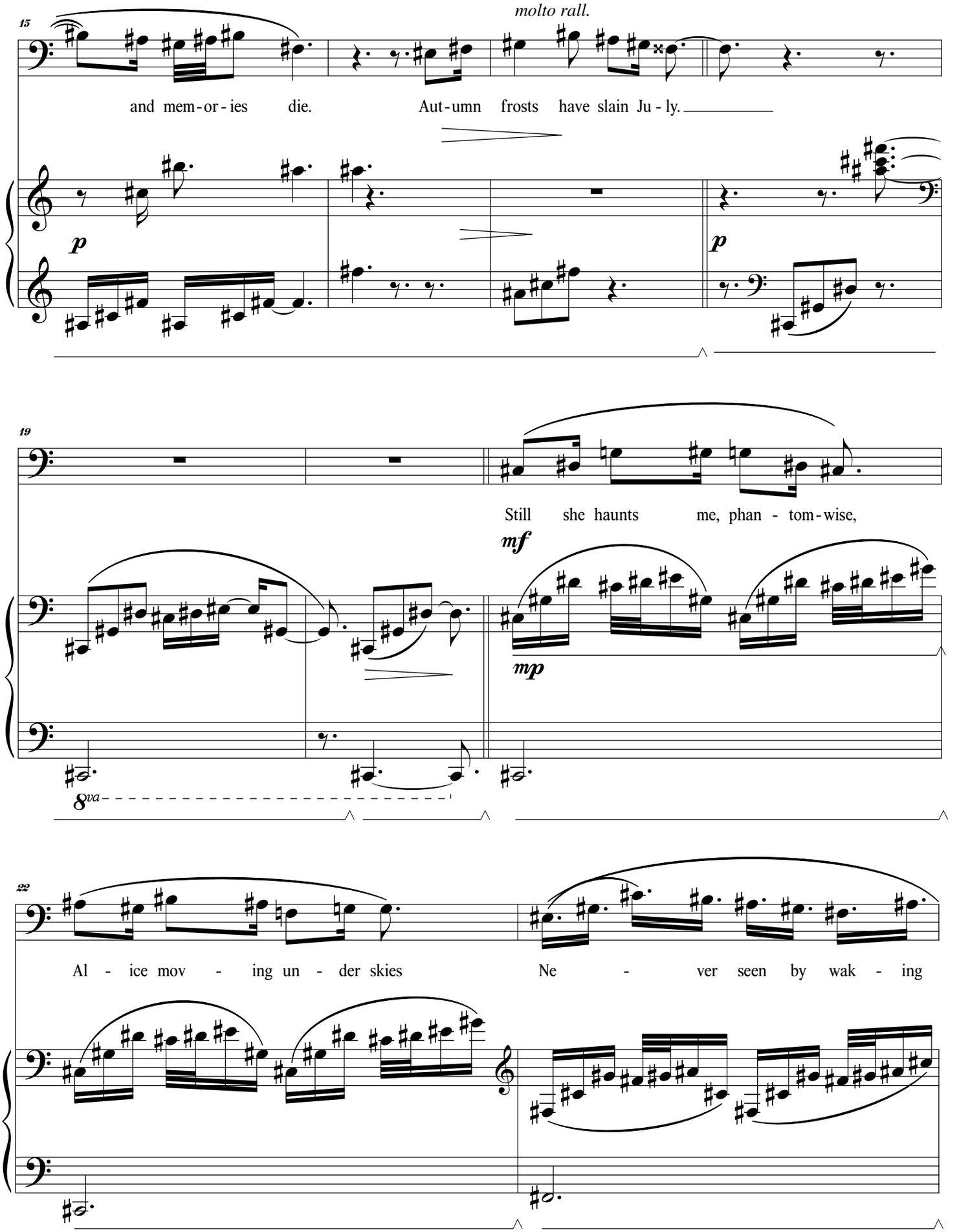

45
9
p
p

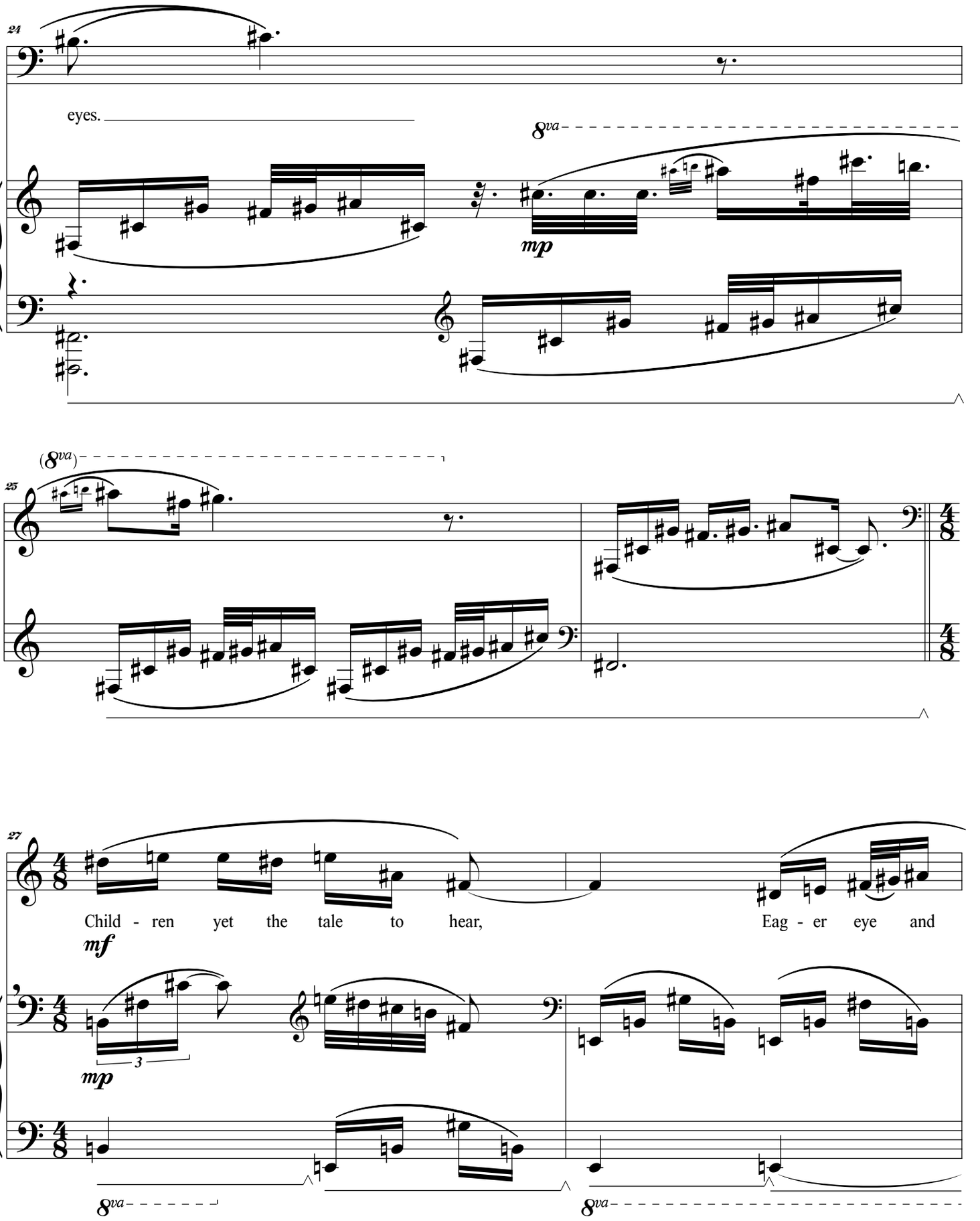
VI. Epilouge: A Boat Beneath A Sunny Sky

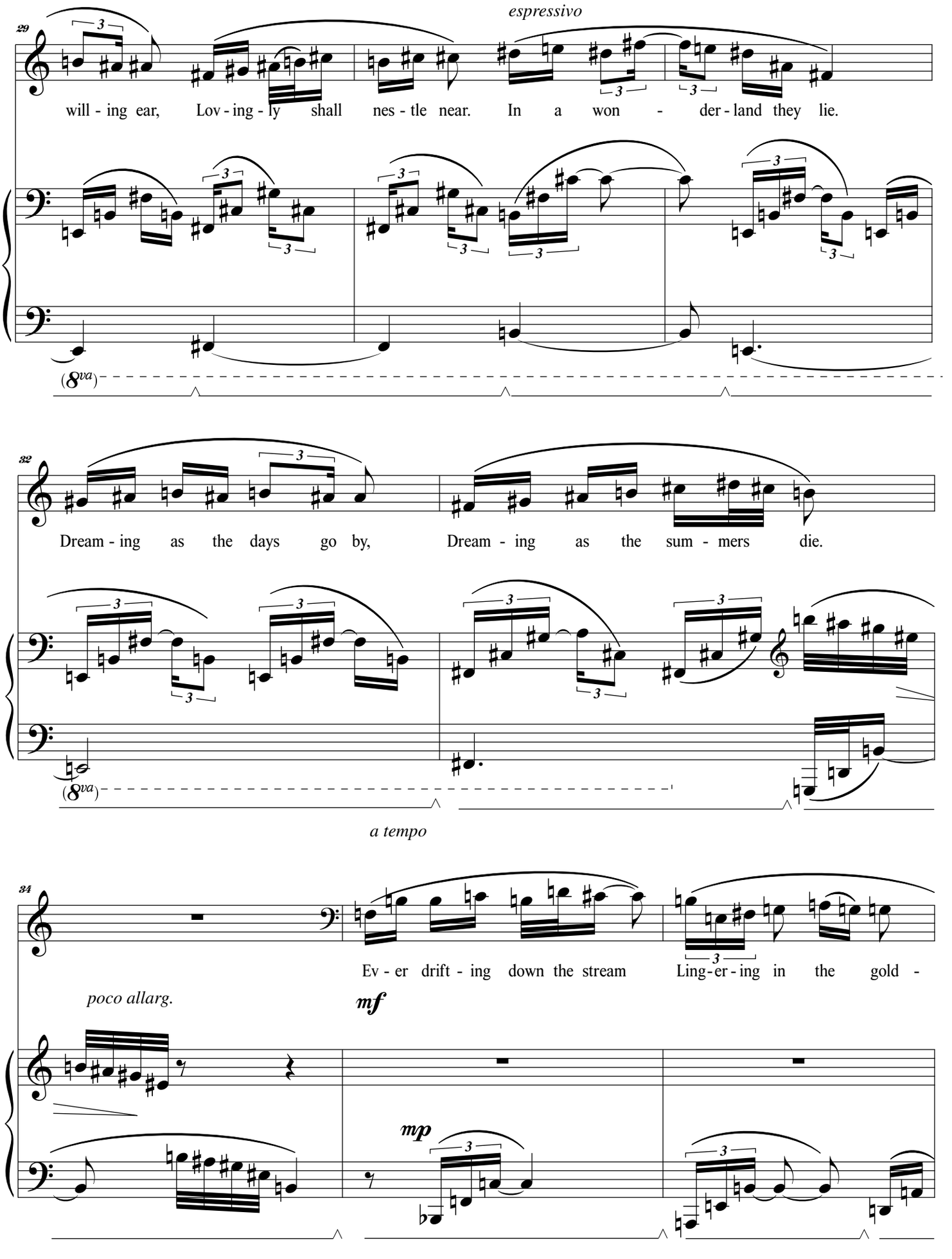
Cantabile e delicato; molto quieto e lento (♪. = ca. 52)

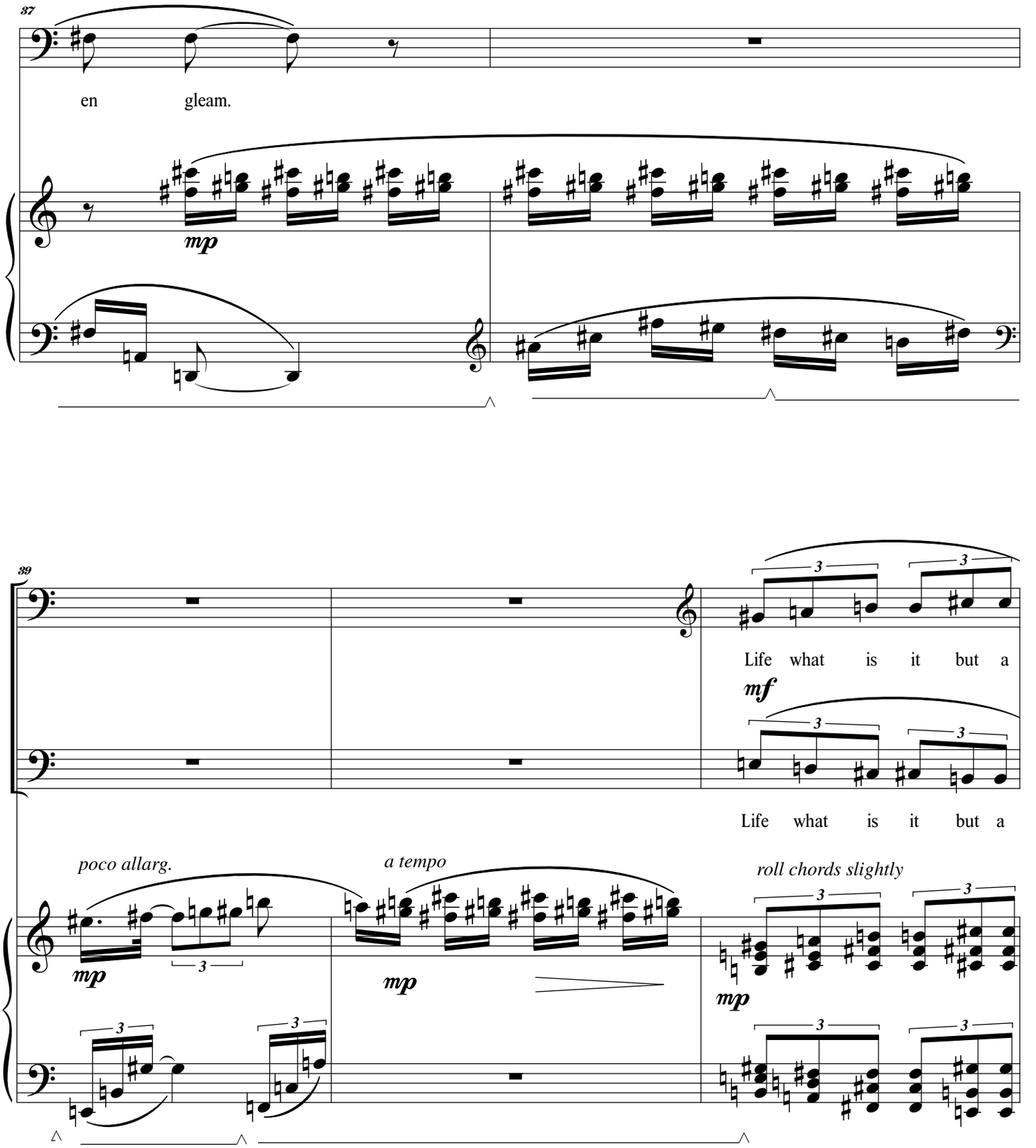


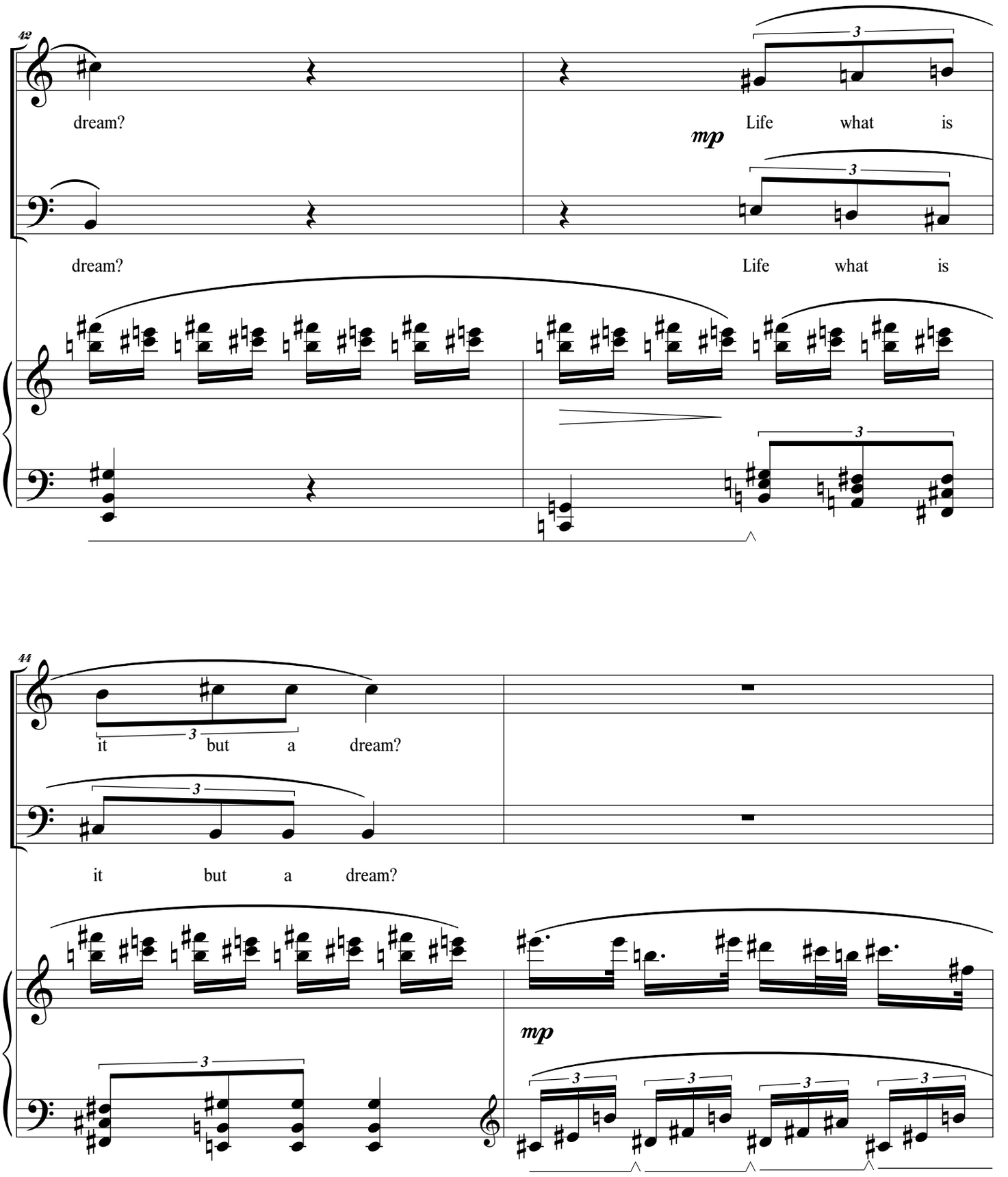

8
in an ev-en-ing of Ju-ly
Child - ren three that nestl - ed near,
10
Eag - er eye and will - ing ear,
Pleased a sim - ple tale to hear.
12
mp
mp
13
Long has paled that sun - ny sky: E - choes fade
mp

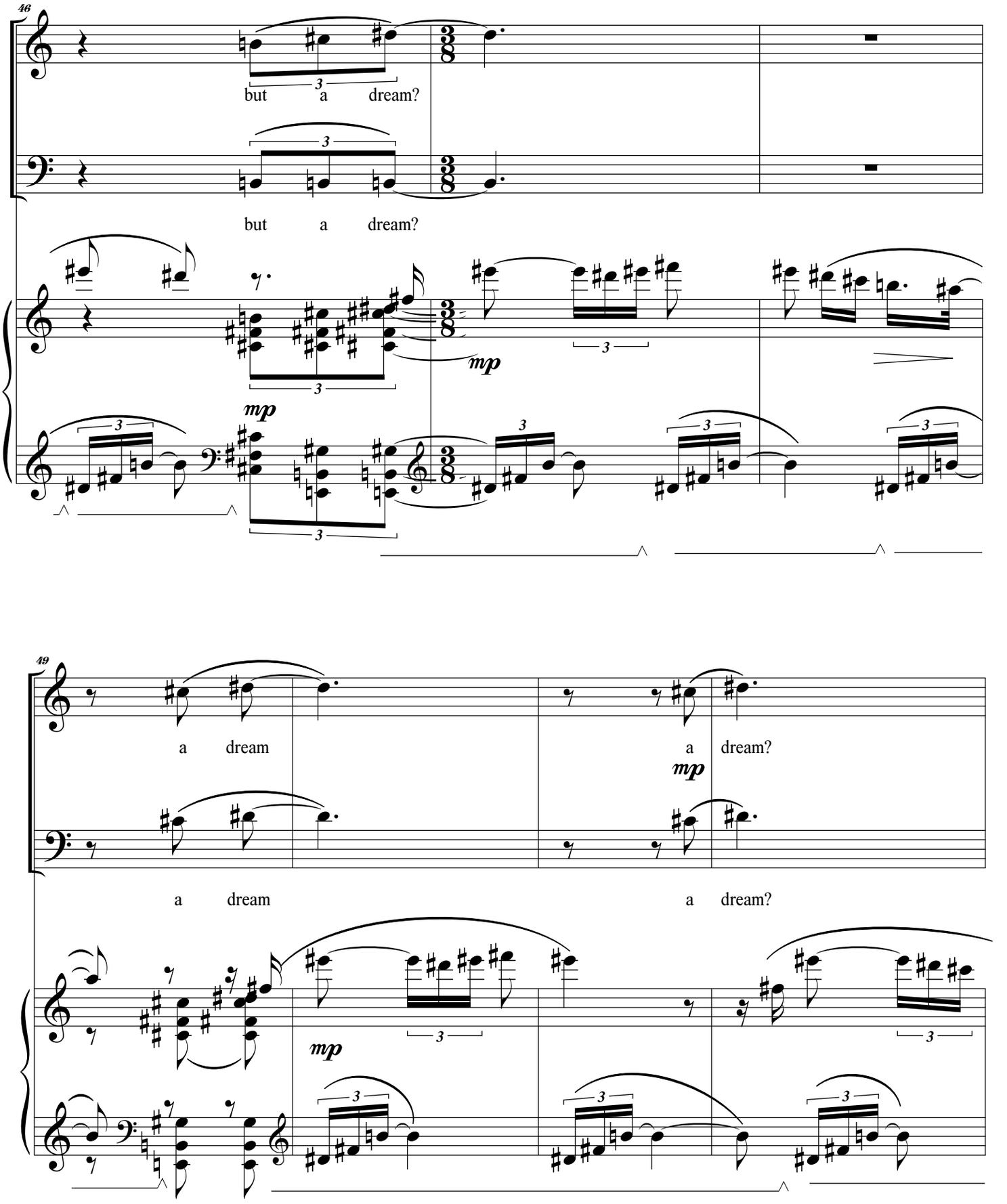

15
molto rall.
and mem-or-ies die. Aut-umn frosts have slain Ju-ly.
p
p
19
Still she haunts me, phan-tom-wise,
mf
mp
8va
22
Al-ice mov-ing un-der skies Ne-ver seen by wak-ing

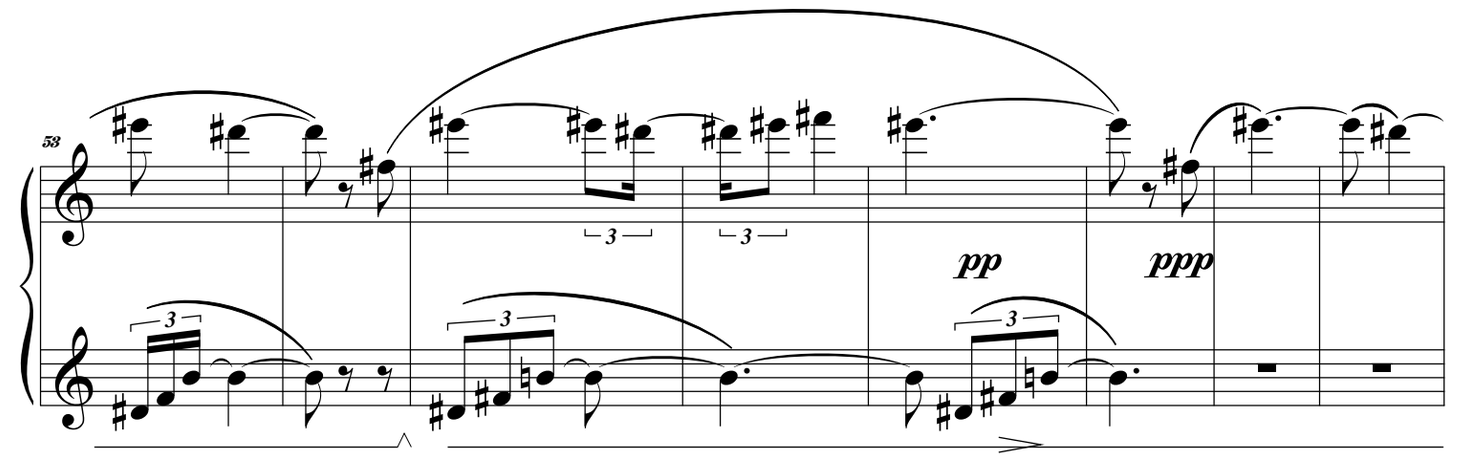

24
eyes.
8va
mp
(8va)
25
27
Child - ren yet the tale to hear, Eag - er eye and
mf
mp
3
8va
8va

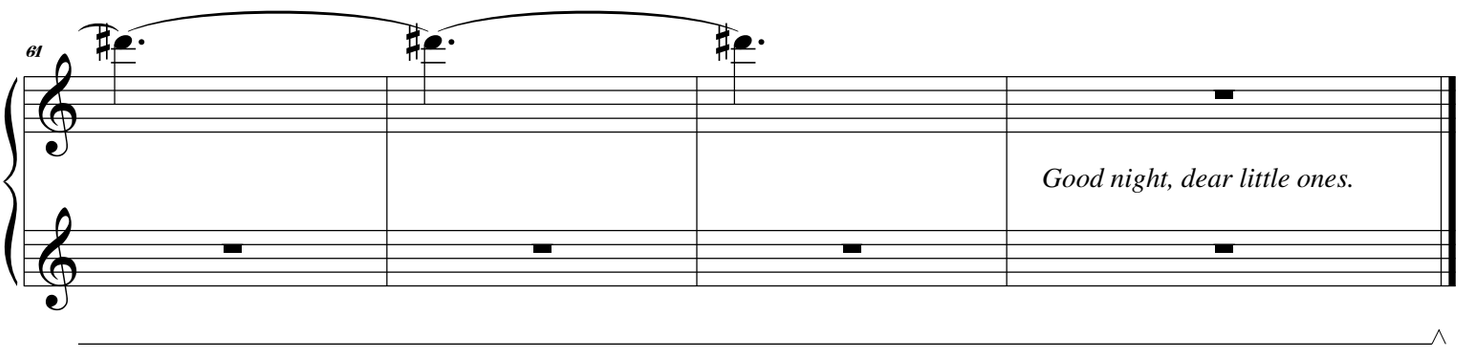

espressivo
29
will - ing ear, Lov - ing - ly shall nes - tle near. In a won - der - land they lie.
(8va)
32
Dream - ing as the days go by, Dream - ing as the sum - mers die.
(8va)
a tempo
34
Ev - er drift - ing down the stream Ling - er - ing in the gold -
poco allarg.
mf
mp


37
en gleam.
mp
39
Life what is it but a
mf
Life what is it but a
poco allarg.
a tempo
roll chords slightly
mp
mp
mp


42
dream?
mp
Life what is
dream?
Life what is
44
it but a dream?
it but a dream?
mp


46
but a dream?
but a dream?
mp
mp
49
a dream
a dream?
a dream
a dream?
mp
mp


58
3
3
3
3
pp
ppp


61
Good night, dear little ones.