Six Songs for Soprano and Baritone

Alice Through the Looking-Glass

William Osborne

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Six Songs for Soprano and Baritone from

Alice Through the Looking-Glass

by William Osborne

Six Songs from

Alice Through the Looking-Glass

(from the opera by the same name)

I. Child of the Pure Unclouded Brow

William Osborne

Ephemeral *(♪ =ca. 60)*

cantabile

ossilando; crescendo poco a poco

Child — of

mp ***mp***

pp ***p***

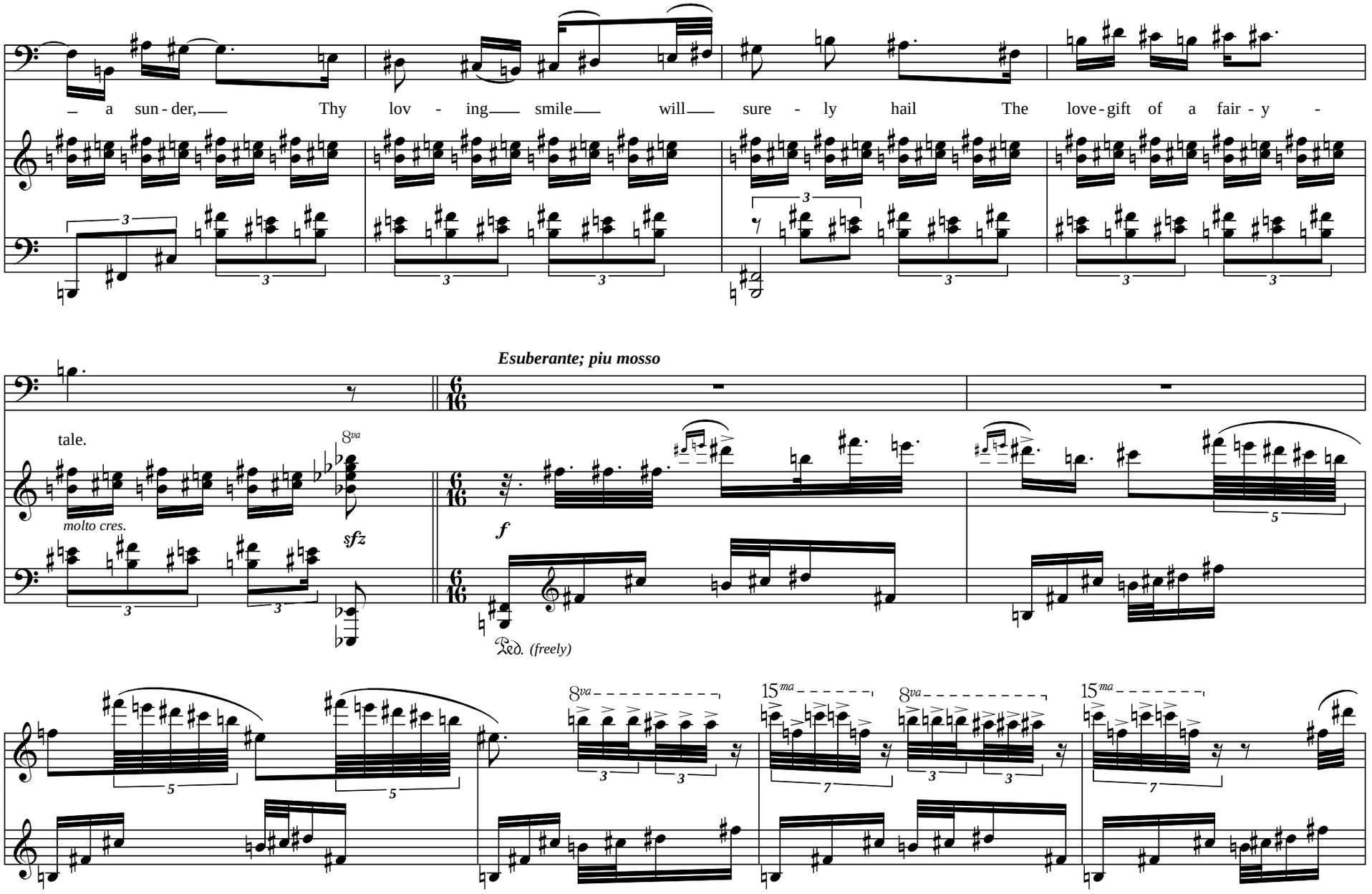
Ped. (hold)

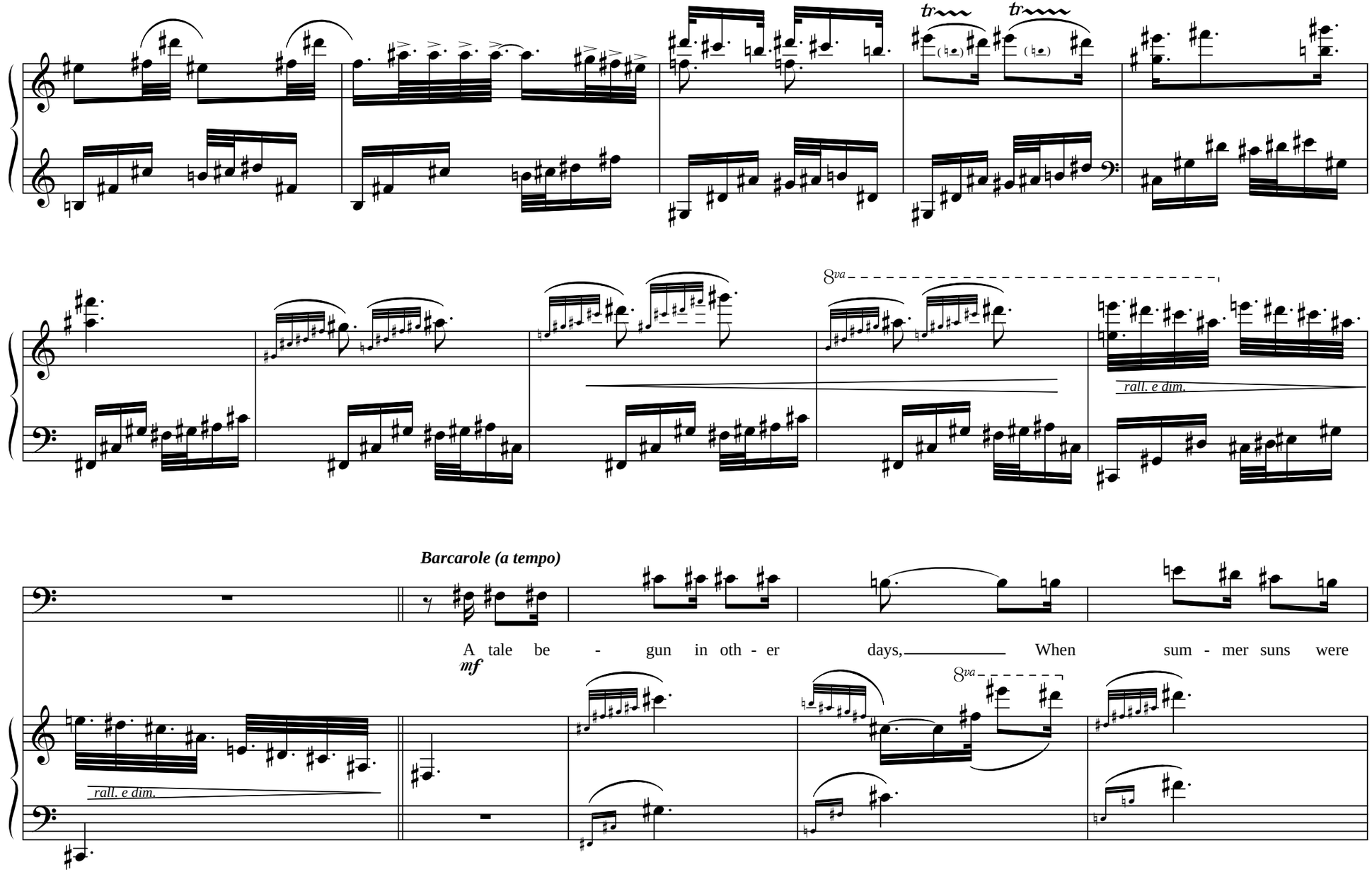
the pure — un - cloud - ed brow — And — dream - ing — eyes of —

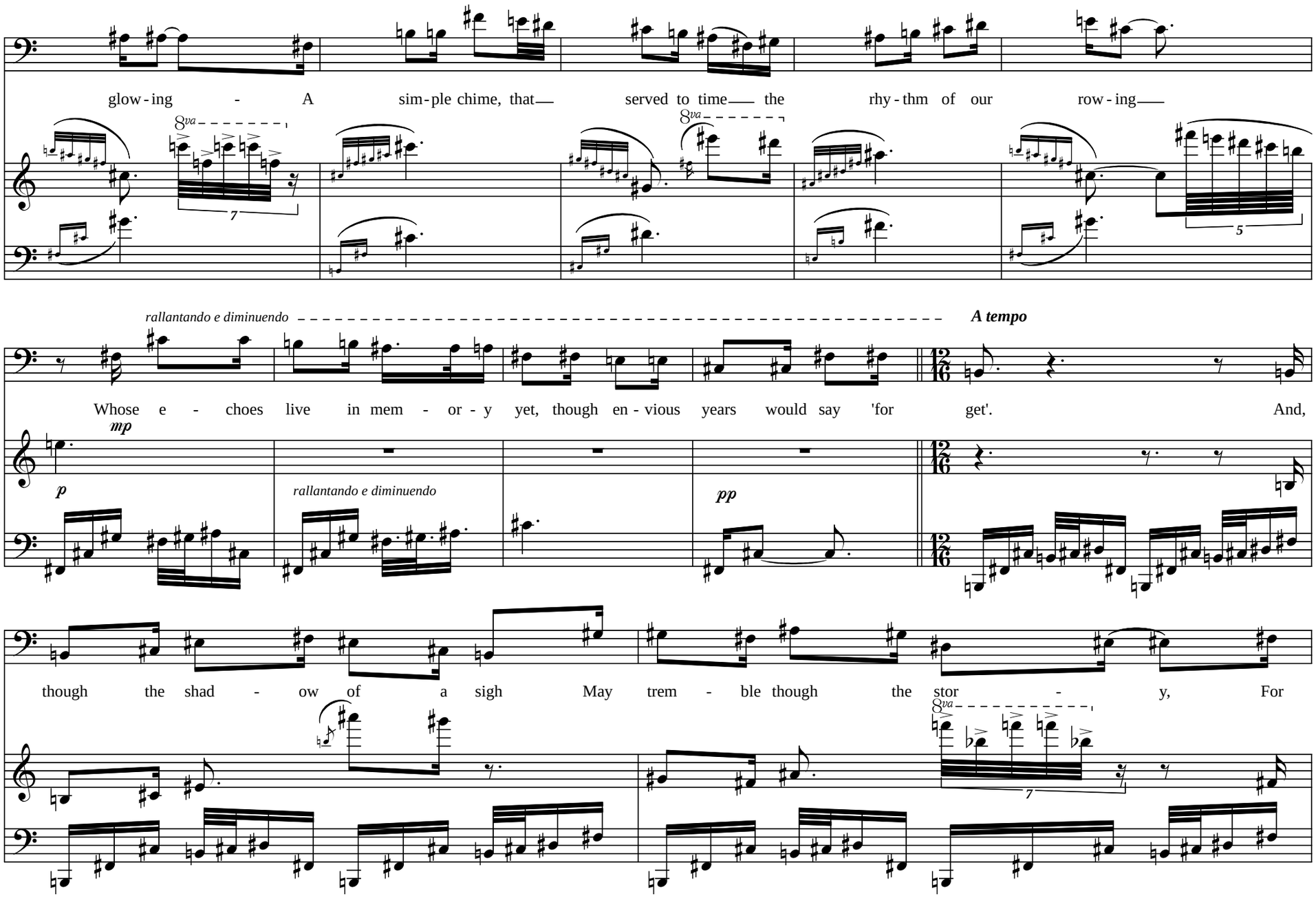
mp

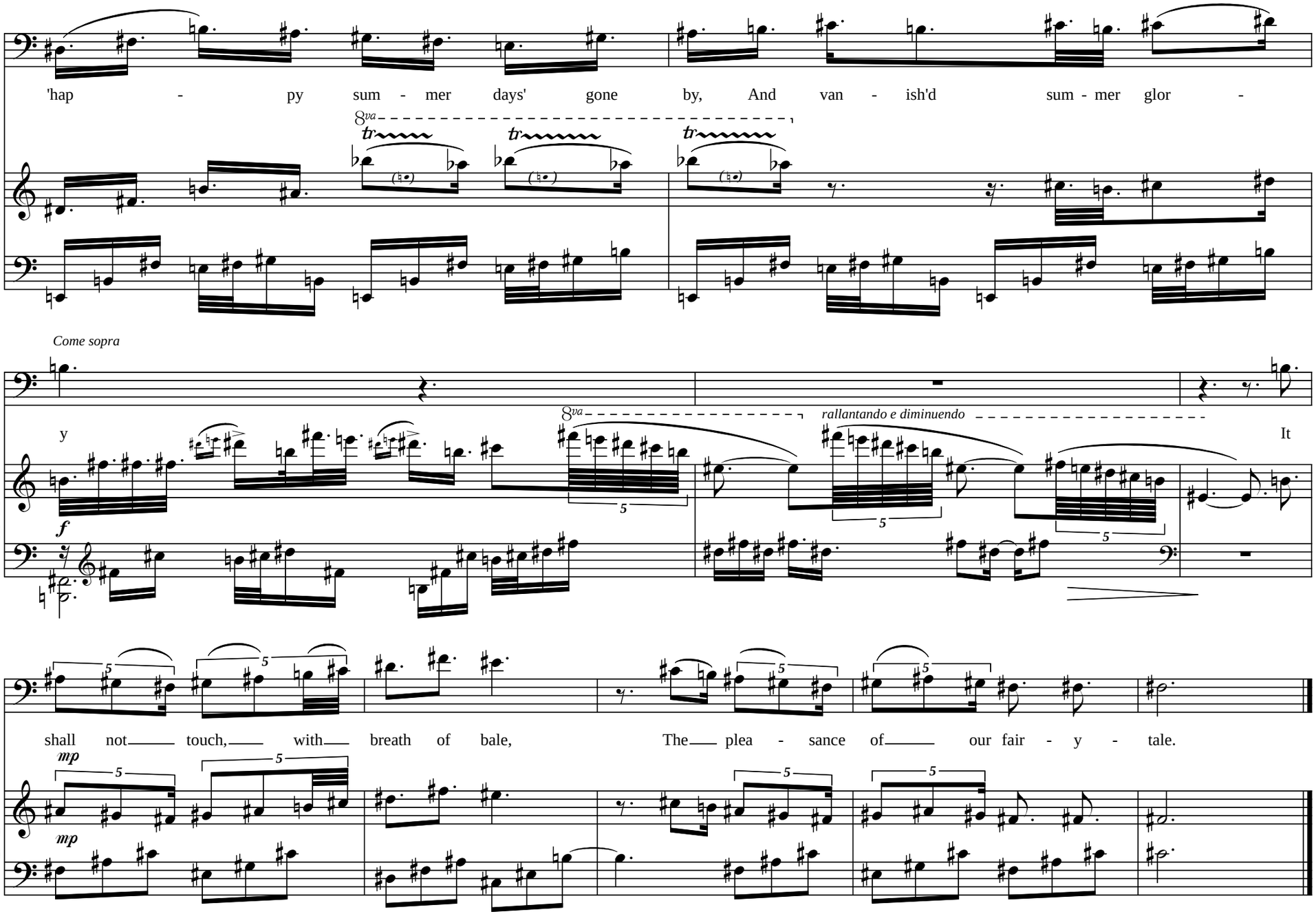
won - der! Though time be fleet, and I and thou — Are half a — life —

mf


– a sun - der, Thy lov - ing smile will sure - ly hail The love - gift of a fair - y -
Esuberante; piu mosso
tale.
molto cres.
sfz
f
Ped. (freely)
8va
15ma

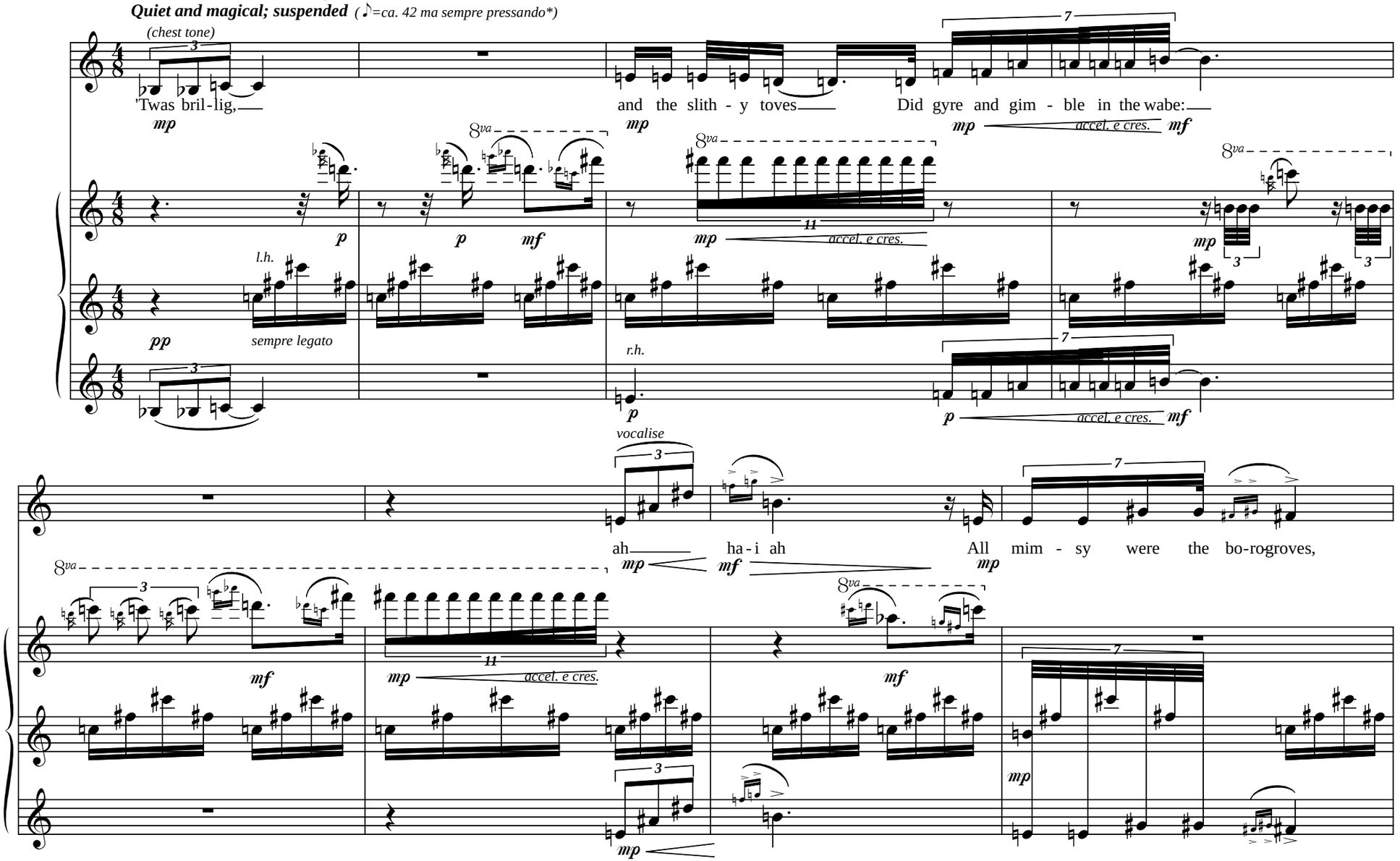

8va
rall. e dim.
Barcarole (a tempo)
A tale be - gun in oth - er days, When sum - mer suns were
mf
8va
rall. e dim.


glow - ing - A sim - ple chime, that served to time the rhy - thm of our row - ing
8va
8va
7
5
rallantando e diminuendo
A tempo
Whose e - choes live in mem - or - y yet, though en - vious years would say 'for get'. And,
mp
p
rallantando e diminuendo
pp
though the shad - ow of a sigh May trem - ble though the stor - y, For
8va
7

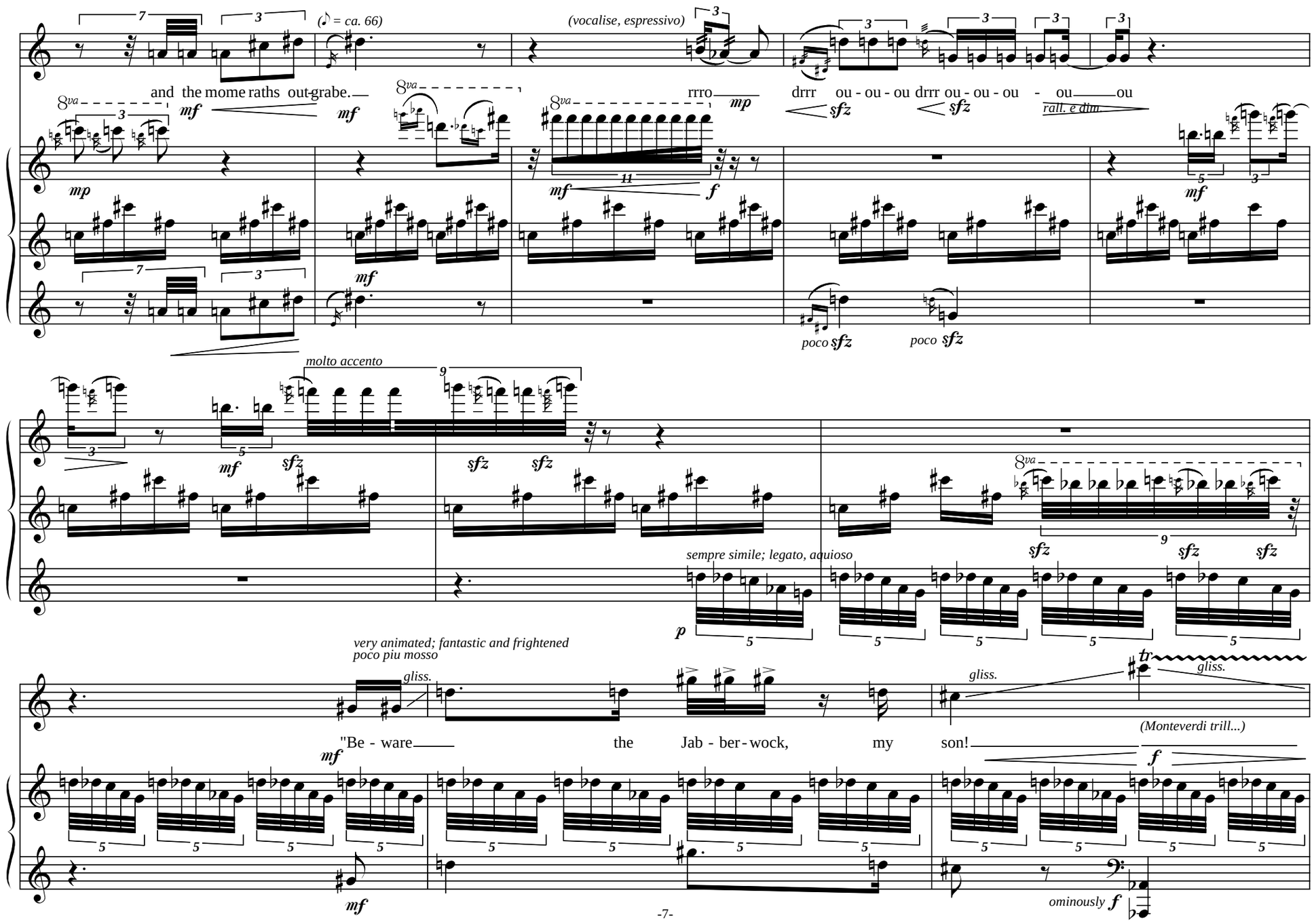

'hap - py sum - mer days' gone by, And van - ish'd sum - mer glor -
8va
tr
tr
tr
Come sopra
y
8va
rallantando e diminuendo
It
f
5
shall not touch, with breath of bale, The plea - sance of our fair - y - tale.
mp
mp

II. The Jabberwocky

Quiet and magical; suspended *(♪=ca. 42 ma sempre pressando*)*



*New tempo markings are given peridoically. The moving forward of the tempo need not be a mechanical, measure by measure accelarando, but a natural pressando according to the musicians' musical sensibilities.


(♪ = ca. 66)
(vocalise, espressivo)
and the mome raths out-grabe.
rrro
drrr ou - ou - ou drrr ou - ou - ou - ou ou
rall. e dim.
poco sfz
poco sfz
molto accento
sempre simile; legato, aquioso
very animated; fantastic and frightened
poco piu mosso
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
"Be - ware the Jab - ber - wock, my son!
(Monteverdi trill...)
ominously f

(trilled glissando continues)
(...fantastic, almost as the cry of a mythical creature)

tr

(♪ = ca. 96, tempo stabile)

mf

The

mf

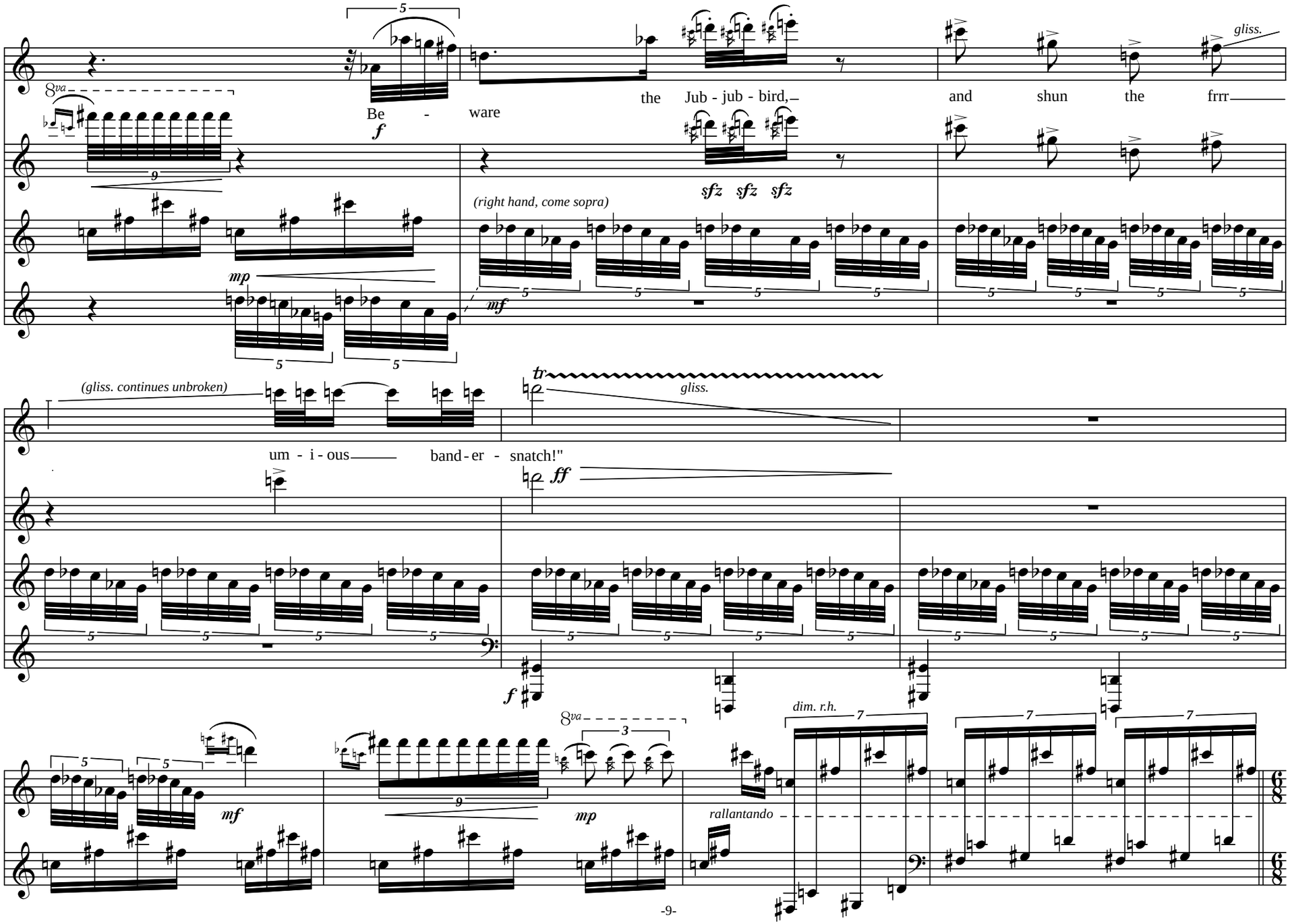
jaws that bite, the claws that catch!

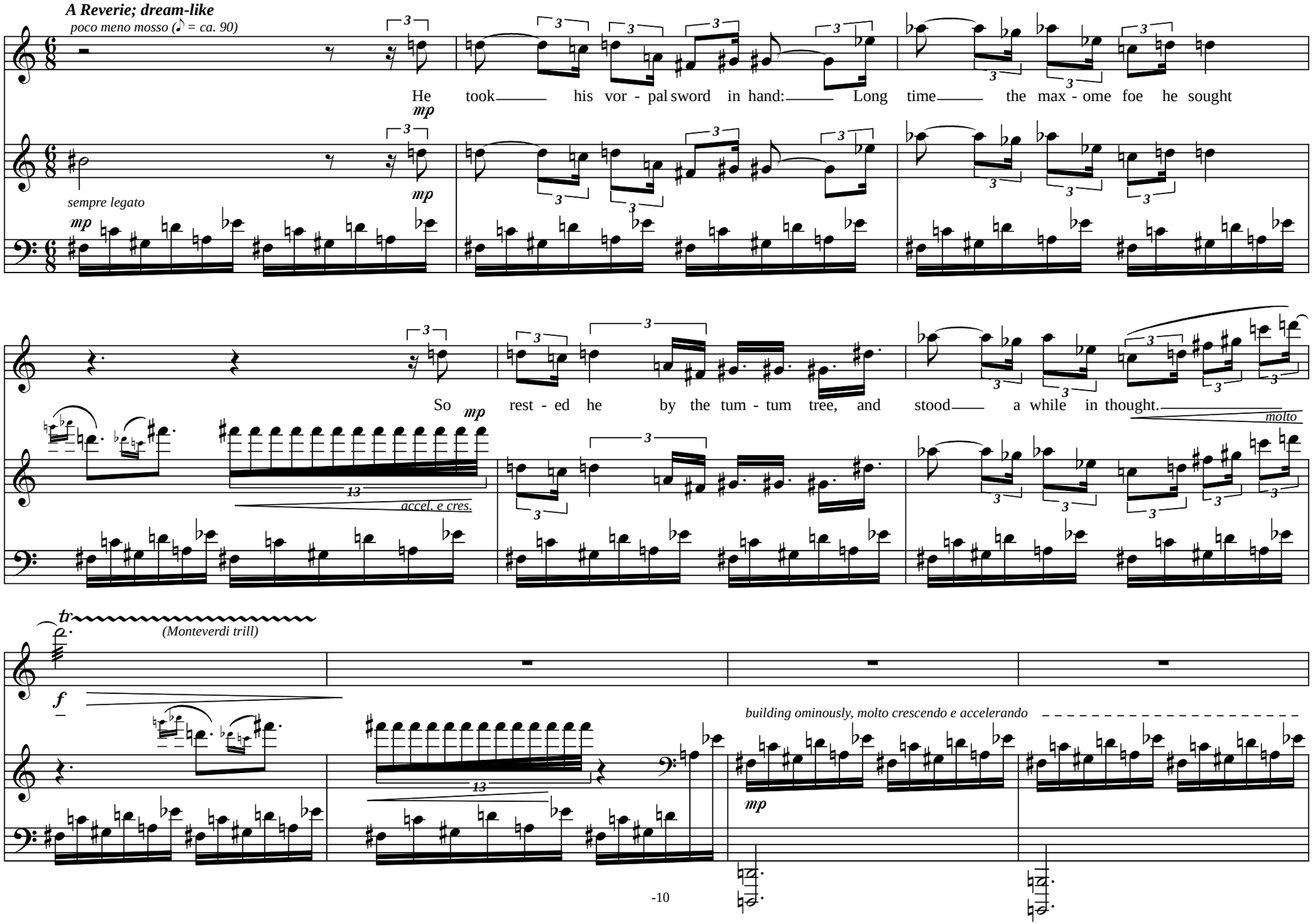
sfz

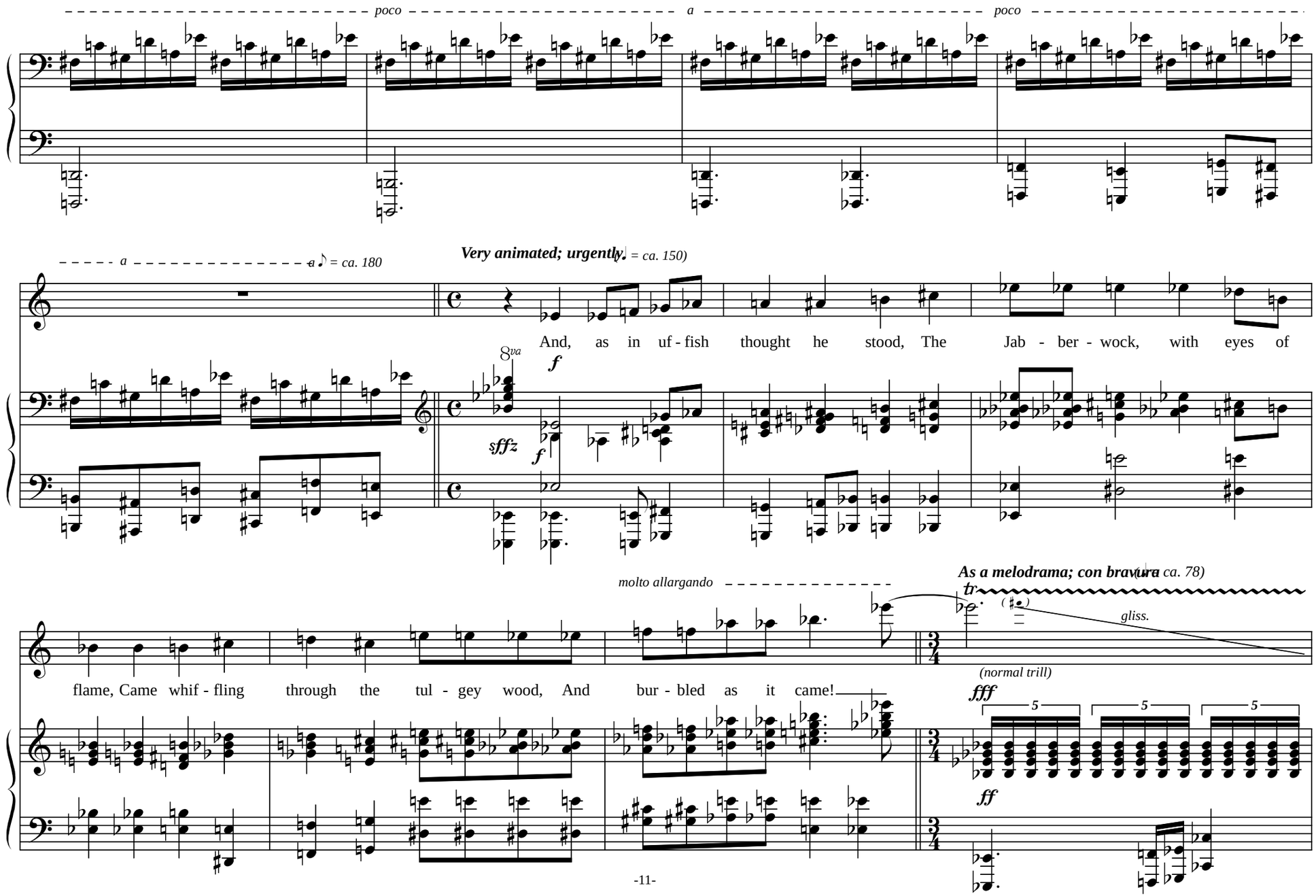
(right hand)

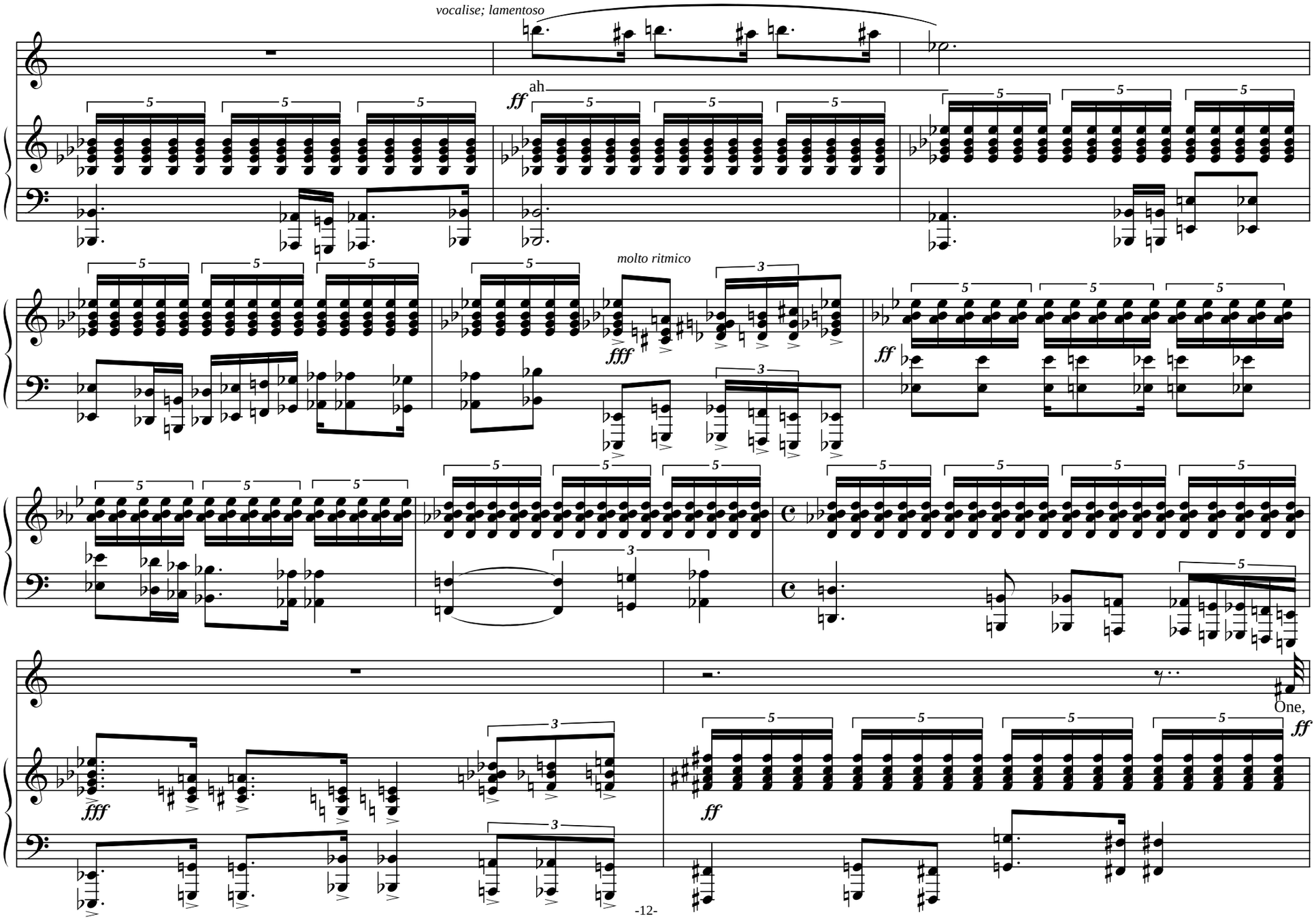
f

8va


8va
Be - ware
the Jub - jub - bird,
and shun the frrr
gliss.
(right hand, come sopra)
(gliss. continues unbroken)
gliss.
um - i - ous band - er - snatch!"
8va
dim. r.h.
rallantando


A Reverie; dream-like
poco meno mosso (♪ = ca. 90)
He took his vor - pal sword in hand: Long time the max - ome foe he sought
mp
sempre legato
mp
So rest - ed he by the tum - tum tree, and stood a while in thought.
molto
accel. e cres.
tr
(Monteverdi trill)
f
building ominously, molto crescendo e accelerando
mp


poco
a
poco
a
a ♪ = ca. 180
Very animated; urgently. (♩ = ca. 150)
8va
f
sfffz
f
And, as in uf - fish thought he stood, The Jab - ber - wock, with eyes of
molto allargando
As a melodrama; con bravura (♩ ca. 78)
tr
gliss.
flame, Came whif - fling through the tul - gey wood, And bur - bled as it came!
(normal trill)
fff
5
5
5
ff


vocalise; lamentoso
ah
ff
molto ritmico
fff
ff
One,
ff
fff
ff

two! One, two! The vor - pal blade went snick - er snack!

He left it dead, and with its head He went ga - lumph - ing back.

ff

fff

spoken; very animated

Subito come sopra; molto quieto *(♪ = ca. 66)*

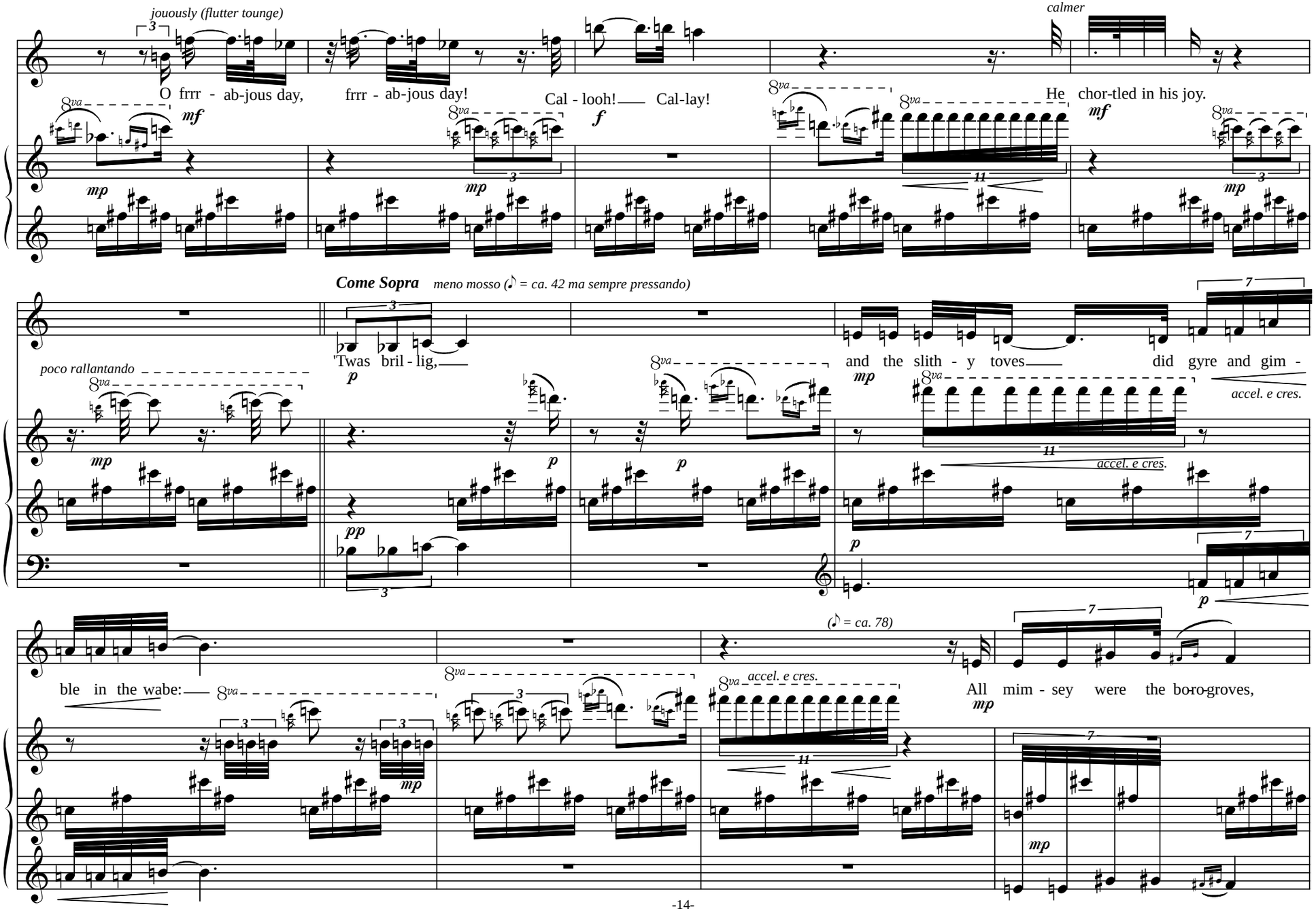
mf "And hast though slain the Jab - ber - wock?

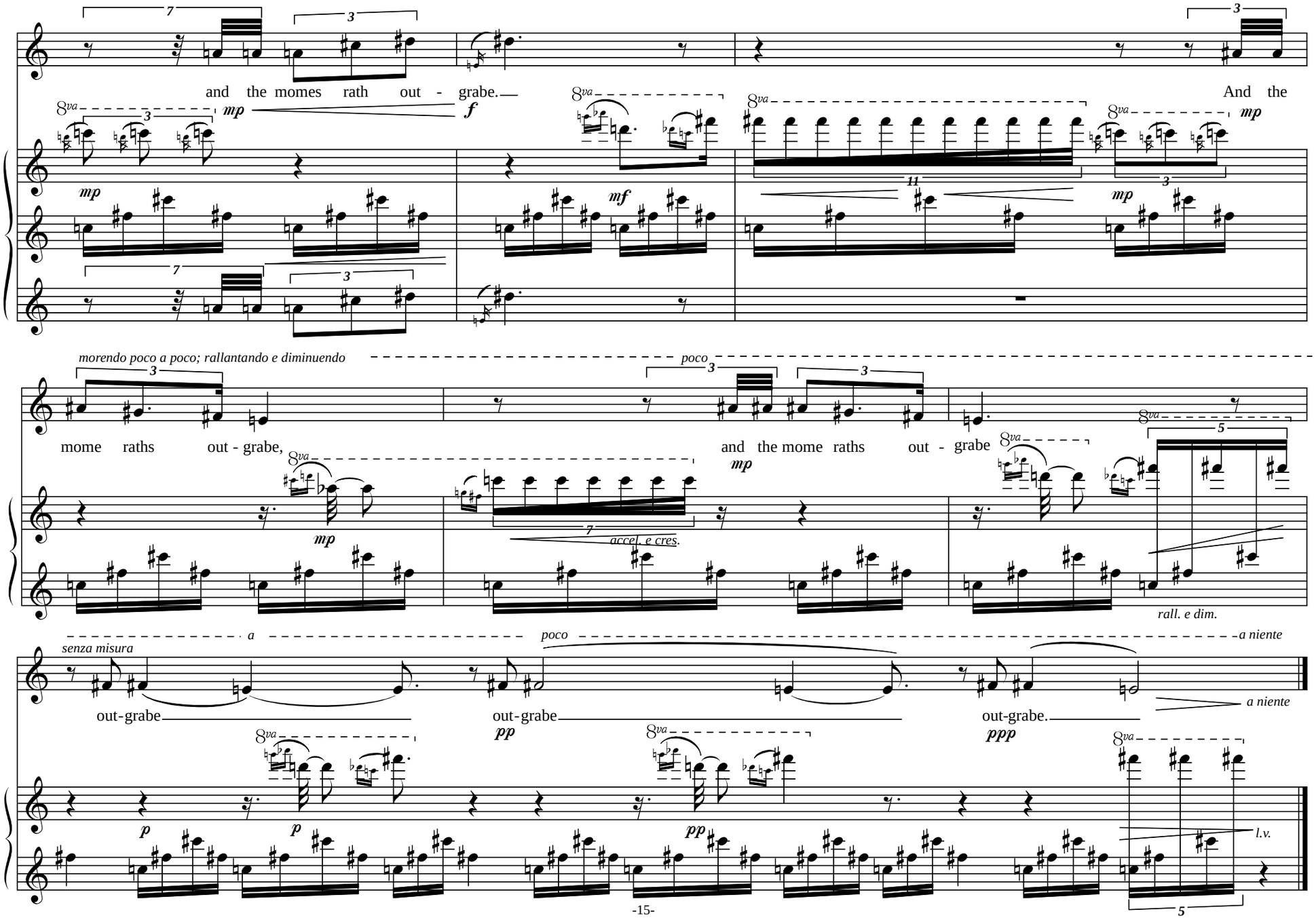
accel. e cres.

joyously!

Oh come to my arms, my beam - ish boy!

accel. e cres.


jouously (flutter tounge)
O frrr - ab-jous day,
frrr - ab-jous day!
Cal - looh!
Cal-lay!
calmer
He chor-tled in his joy.
Come Sopra
meno mosso (♪ = ca. 42 ma sempre pressando)
'Twas bril - lig,
and the slith - y toves
did gyre and gim -
poco rallantando
accel. e cres.
ble in the wabe:
(♪ = ca. 78)
All mim - sey were the bo-ro-groves,


and the momes rath out - grabe.
And the
morendo poco a poco; rallantando e diminuendo
poco
mome raths out - grabe,
and the mome raths out - grabe
accel. e cres.
rall. e dim.
senza misura
a
poco
a niente
out-grabe
out-grabe
out-grabe.
a niente
l.v.

III. The Garden of Live Flowers

With Fantasy *(♪. = ca. 72)*

Alice: * *plaintively*

Oh Ti-ger-Lil-y, I wish you could talk.

mp

Tiger-Lily: *Almost a whisper:*

We can

pp

quietly emerging, sempre legato

pp *pp* *pp*

talk when there's an - y - bo - dy worth talk - ing to.

Alice is almost speechless:

5

And can all the flow - ers talk?

mp

rall. e dim.

chirping, impudently, humorous,

Rose:

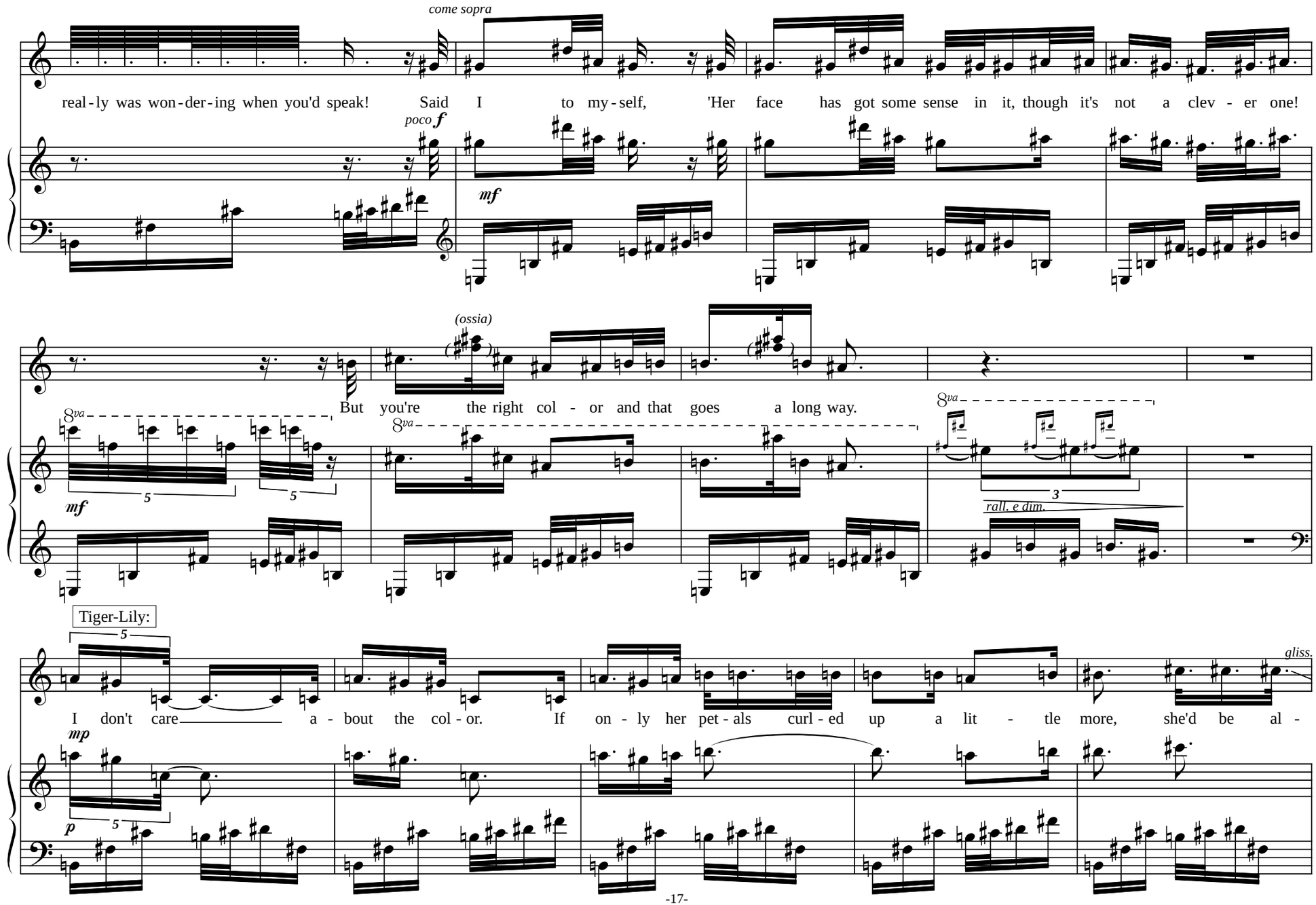
(spoken, similar voice)

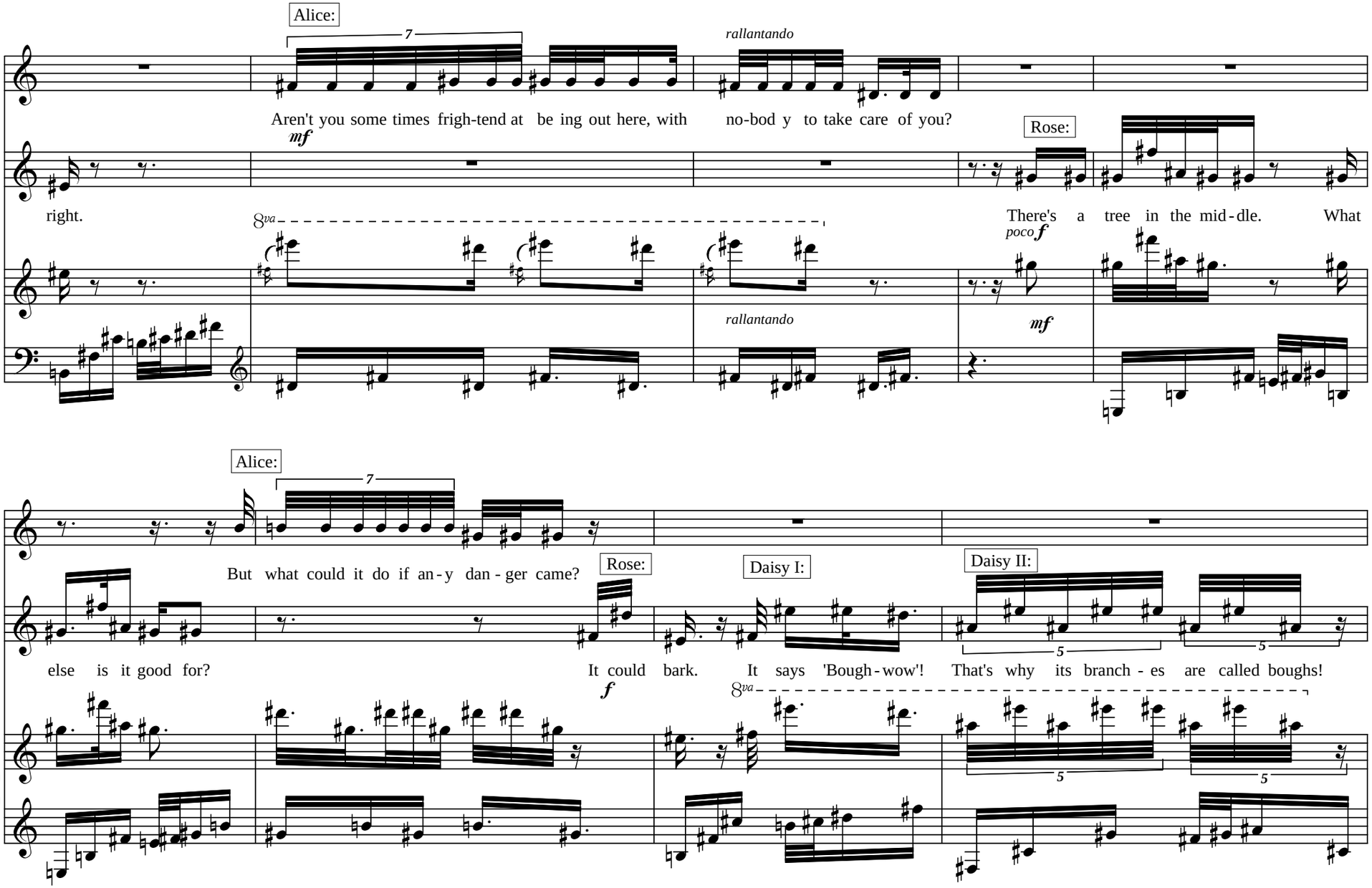
As well as you can, and a great deal loud - er. It is - n't man - ners for us to be - gin, and I

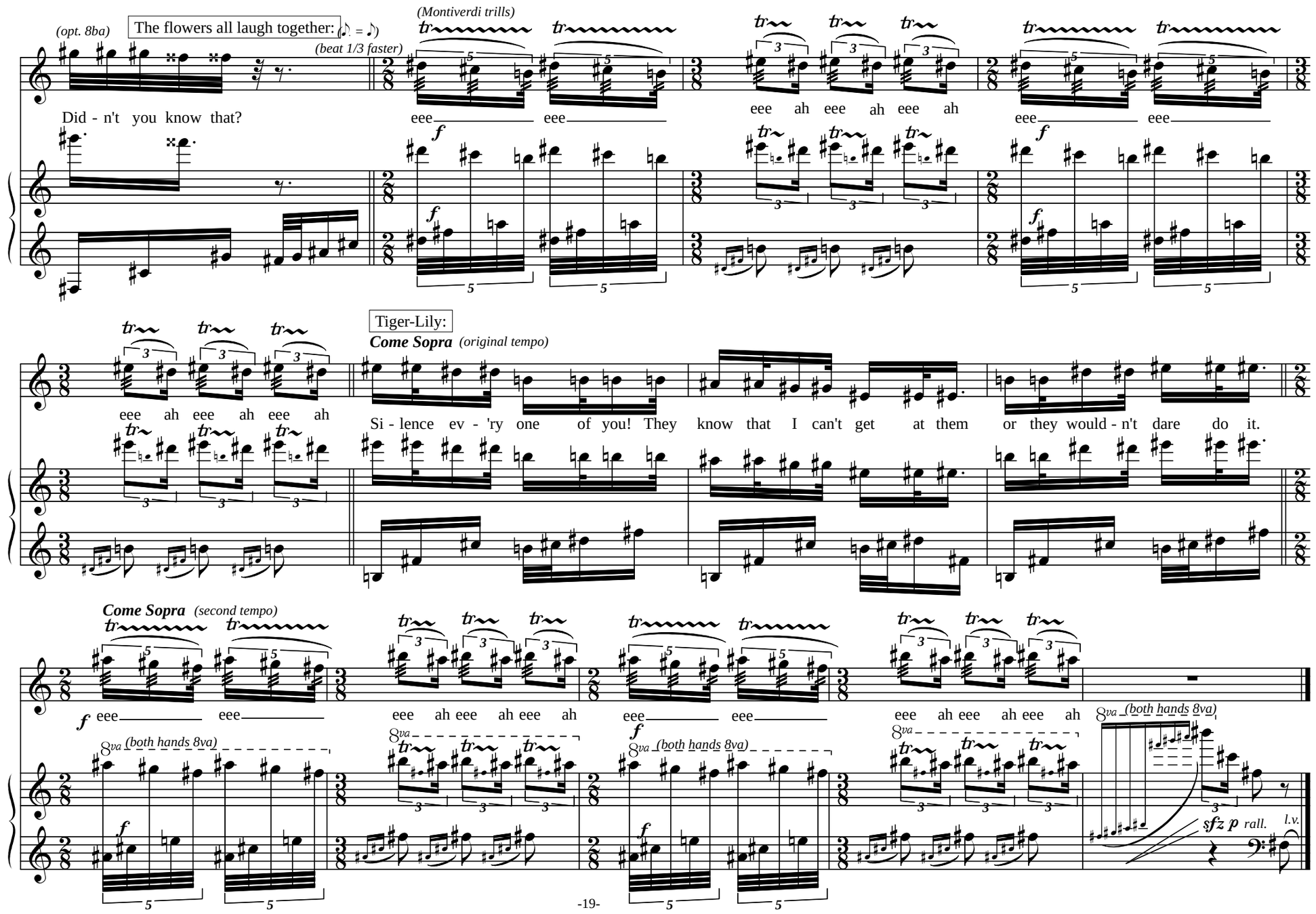
poco *f*

mf

*The voicies of Alice and the various flowers can be divided between the two singers and the pianist. The baritone should use falsetto. The pianist can optionally speak Alice's part instead of singing it.


come sopra
real-ly was won-der-ing when you'd speak! Said I to my-self, 'Her face has got some sense in it, though it's not a clev - er one!
poco f
mf
(ossia)
But you're the right col - or and that goes a long way.
8va
mf
rall. e dim.
Tiger-Lily:
I don't care a - bout the col - or. If on - ly her pet - als curl - ed up a lit - tle more, she'd be al -
gliss.
mp
p


Alice:
rallantando
Aren't you some times frigh-tend at be ing out here, with no-bod y to take care of you?
mf
Rose:
right.
There's a tree in the mid-dle. What
8va
poco f
rallantando
mf
Alice:
But what could it do if an-y dan-ger came?
Rose:
Daisy I:
Daisy II:
else is it good for?
It could bark. It says 'Bough-wow'! That's why its branch-es are called boughs!
f
8va


(opt. 8ba)
The flowers all laugh together:
(beat 1/3 faster)
(Montiverdi trills)
Did - n't you know that?
eee eee
eee ah eee ah eee ah
eee eee
Tiger-Lily:
Come Sopra (original tempo)
eee ah eee ah eee ah
Si - lence ev - 'ry one of you! They know that I can't get at them or they would - n't dare do it.
Come Sopra (second tempo)
eee eee
eee ah eee ah eee ah
eee eee
eee ah eee ah eee ah
8va (both hands 8va)
sfz p rall.
l.v.

IV. In Winter

Somewhat majestic (lento)

Humpty clears his throat and vocalizes softly:

Humpty: *(pompously)* The piece I am going to sing was written entirely for your amusement.

Humpty is still clearing his throat, etc.
Since he is not ready, Alice sings:

Molto cantabile ma semplice

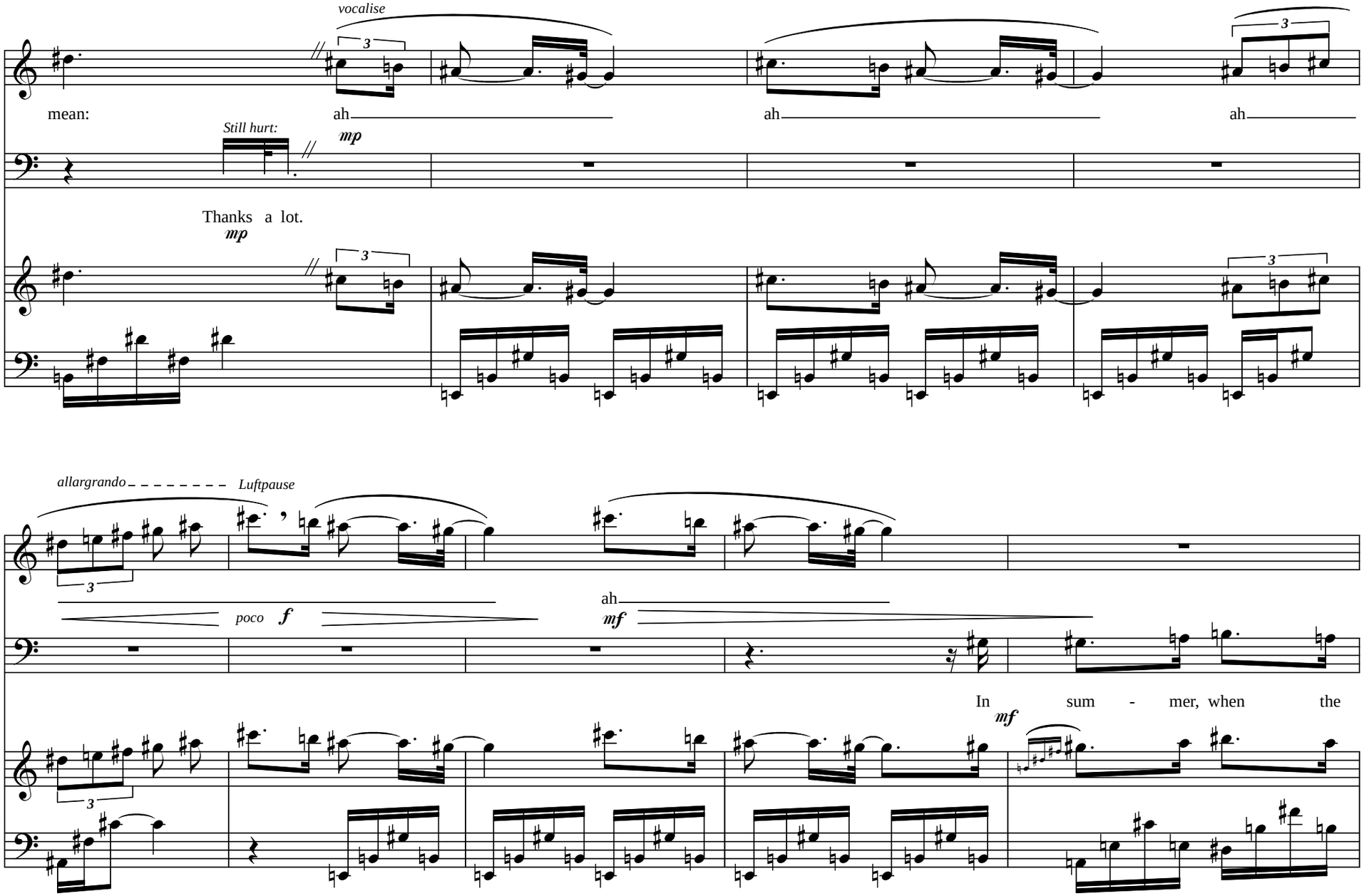
In win - ter, when the fields are white, I sing this song for your de - light...

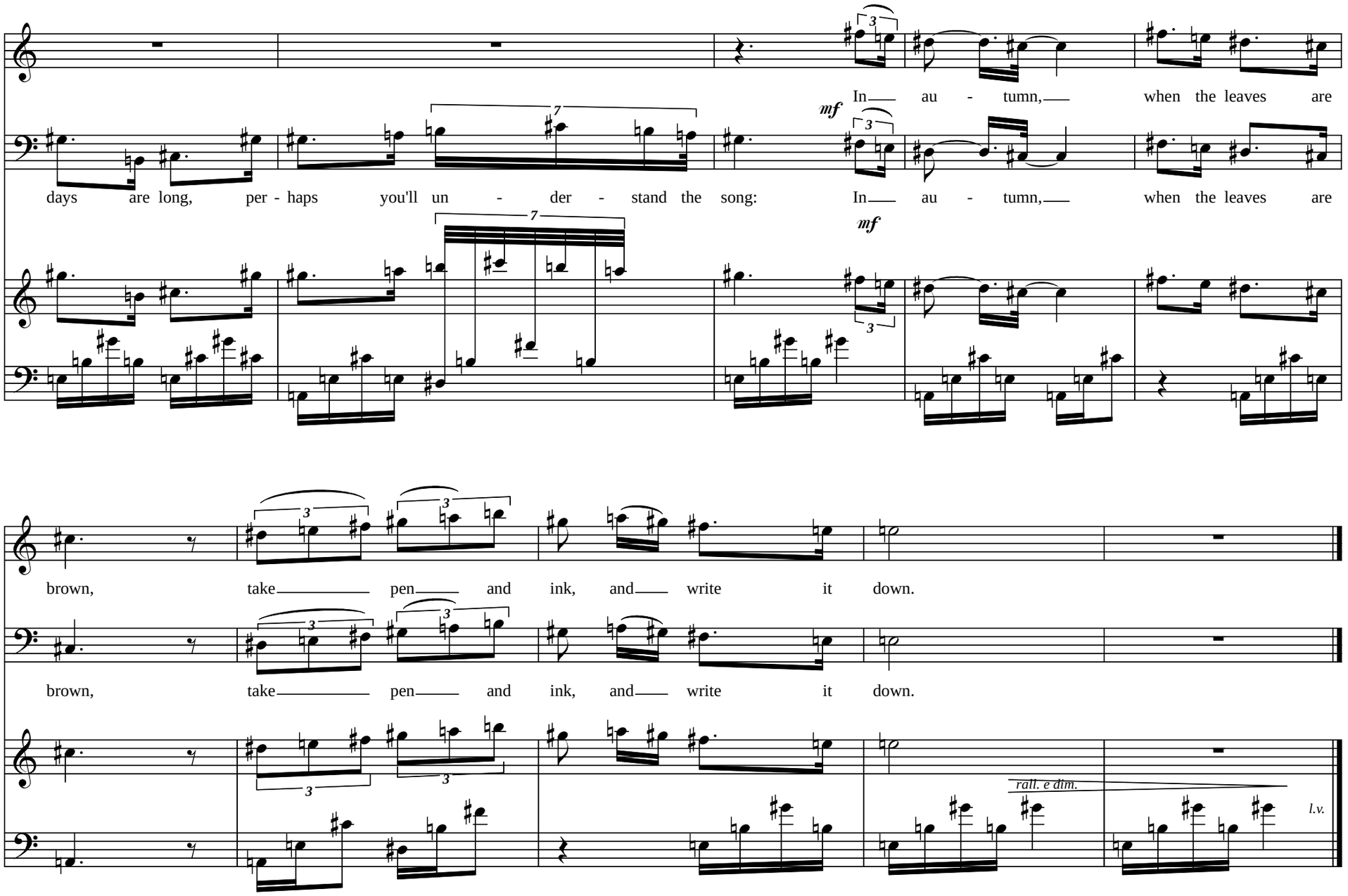
l.v.

ancora cantabile

In spring, when things are get - ting green, I'll try and tell you what I

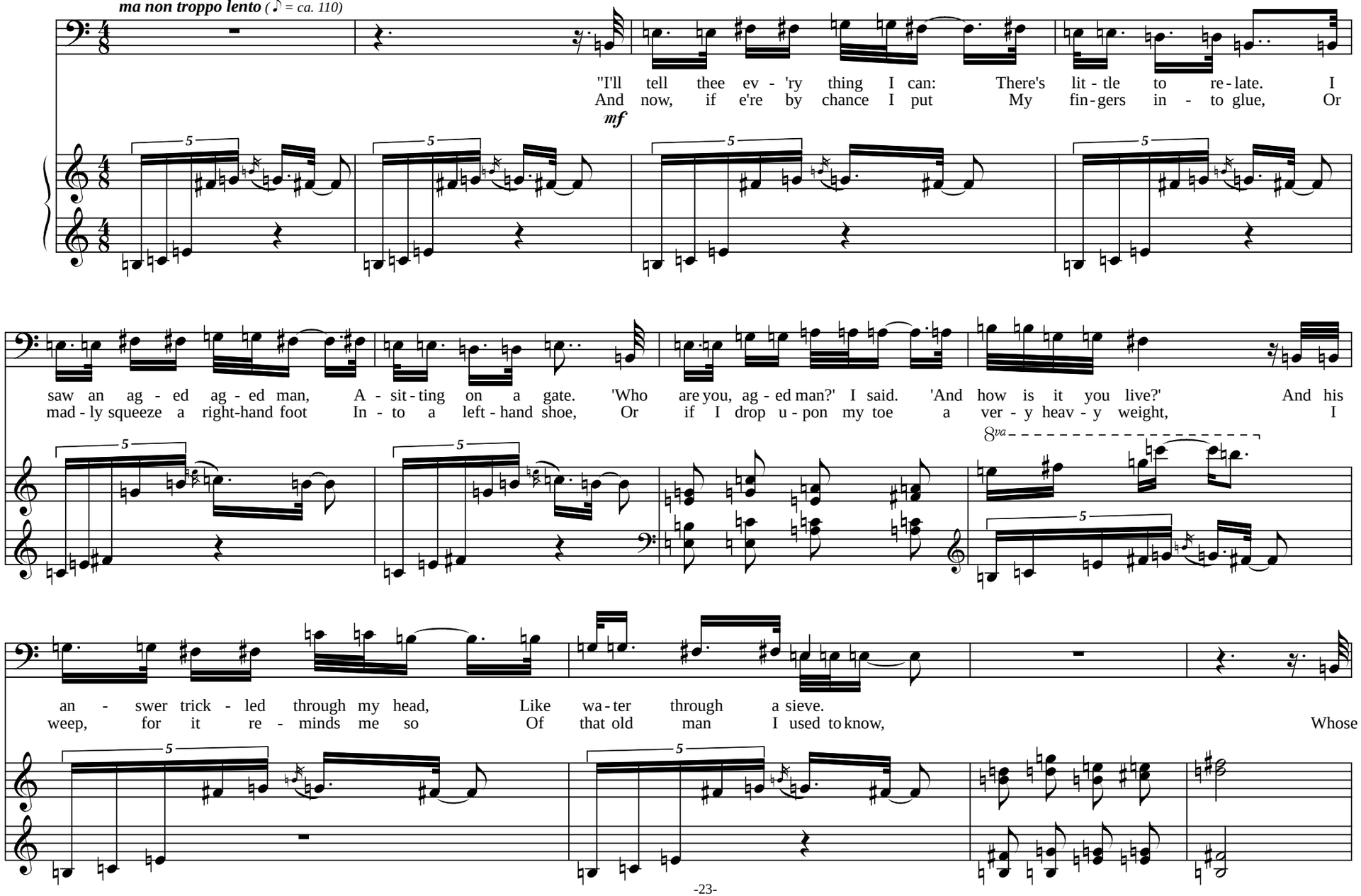
Humpty: *(offended:)* Only I don't sing it.
Alice: I see that.
Humpty: *(perturbed:)* If you can see whether I am singing or not, you've got sharper eyes than most.
(Alice resumes singing:)

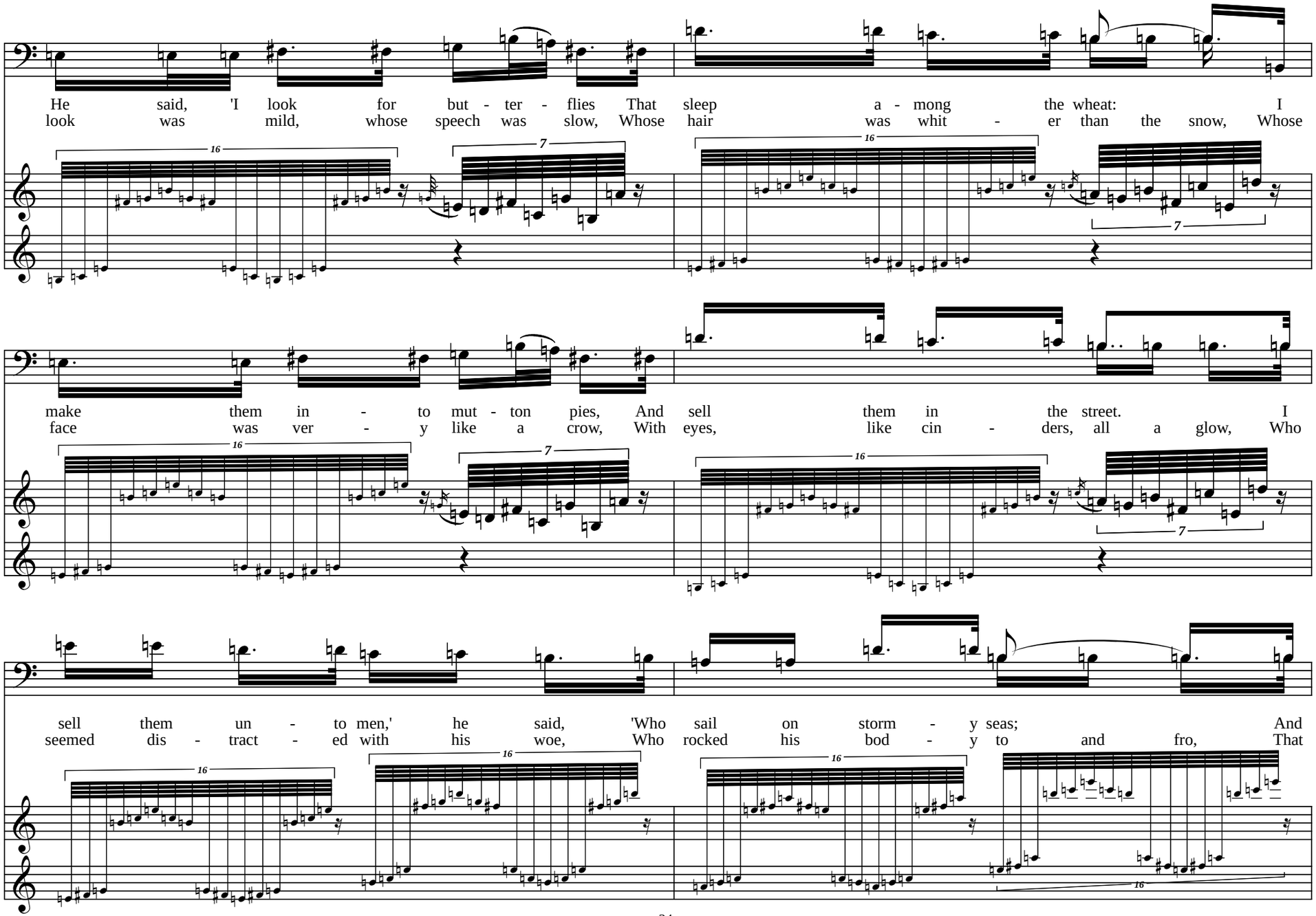

vocalise
mean:
ah
ah
ah
Still hurt:
mp
Thanks a lot.
mp
allargrando
Luftpause
poco
f
ah
mf
In sum - mer, when the
mf

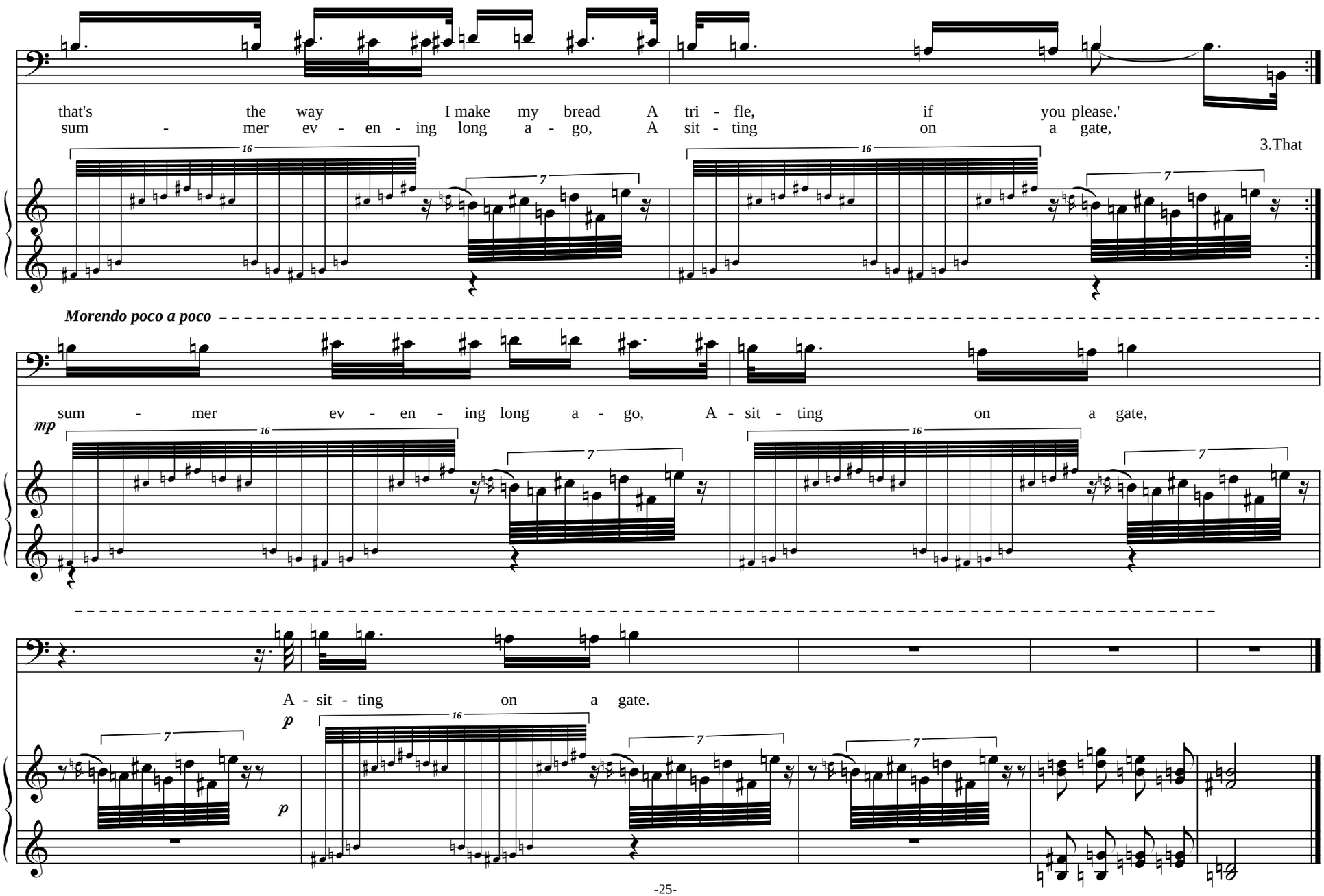

In au - tumn, when the leaves are
days are long, per - haps you'll un - der - stand the song:
mf
In au - tumn, when the leaves are
brown, take pen and ink, and write it down.
brown, take pen and ink, and write it down.
rall. e dim.
l.v.

IV. A-Sitting On A Gate

As a folk ballad; semplice e cantablile
ma non troppo lento *(♪ = ca. 110)*

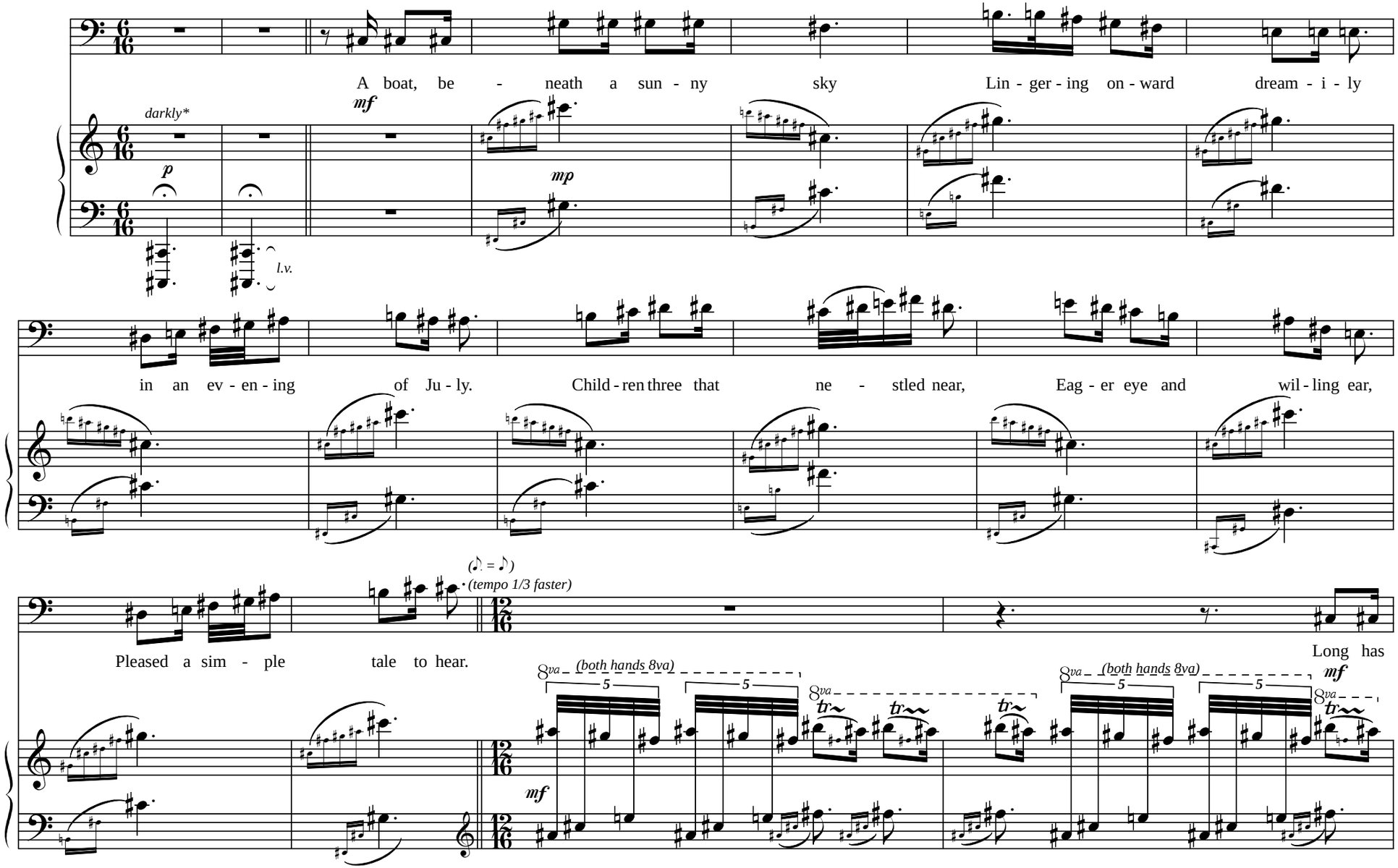



He said, 'I look for but - ter - flies That sleep a - mong the wheat: I
look was mild, whose speech was slow, Whose hair was whit - er than the snow, Whose
make them in - to mut - ton pies, And sell them in the street. I
face was ver - y like a crow, With eyes, like cin - ders, all a glow, Who
sell them un - to men,' he said, 'Who sail on storm - y seas; And
seemed dis - tract - ed with his woe, Who rocked his bod - y to and fro, That

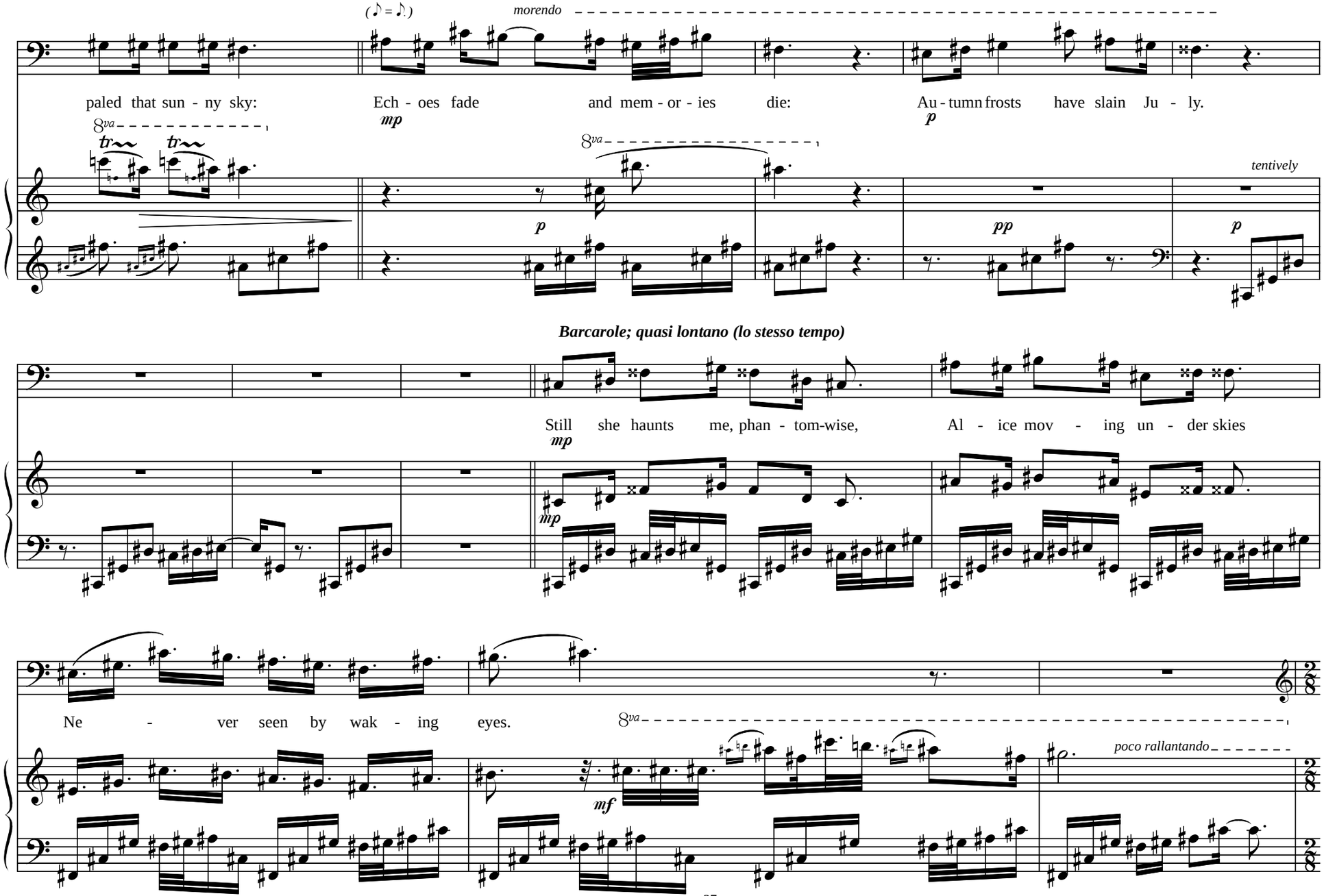

that's the way I make my bread A tri - fle, if you please.'
sum - mer ev - en - ing long a - go, A sit - ting on a gate,
3.That
Morendo poco a poco
mp
sum - mer ev - en - ing long a - go, A - sit - ting on a gate,
A - sit - ting on a gate.
p
p

VI. A Boat Beneath A Sunny Sky

Barcarole *(♪ = ca. 48)*



*If the song is not performed directly after song V leave out these two measures.


(♪ = ♪.)
morendo
paled that sun - ny sky:
Ech - oes fade
and mem - or - ies
die:
Au - tumn frosts
have slain Ju - ly.
mp
p
8va
tr
tentively
pp
Barcarole; quasi lontano (lo stesso tempo)
Still she haunts me, phan - tom-wise,
Al - ice mov - ing un - der skies
Ne - ver seen by wak - ing eyes.
mf
poco rallantando

Cantabile; poco rubato e molto legato

(soprano)

Child - ren yet, the tale to hear, Ea - ger eye and wil - ling ear, Lov - ing - ly shall nes - tle near.

mf

mf

allarg. *a tempo*

In a Won - der - land they lie, Dream - ing as the days go by, Dream - ing as the sum - mers die:

baritone

poco rallantando

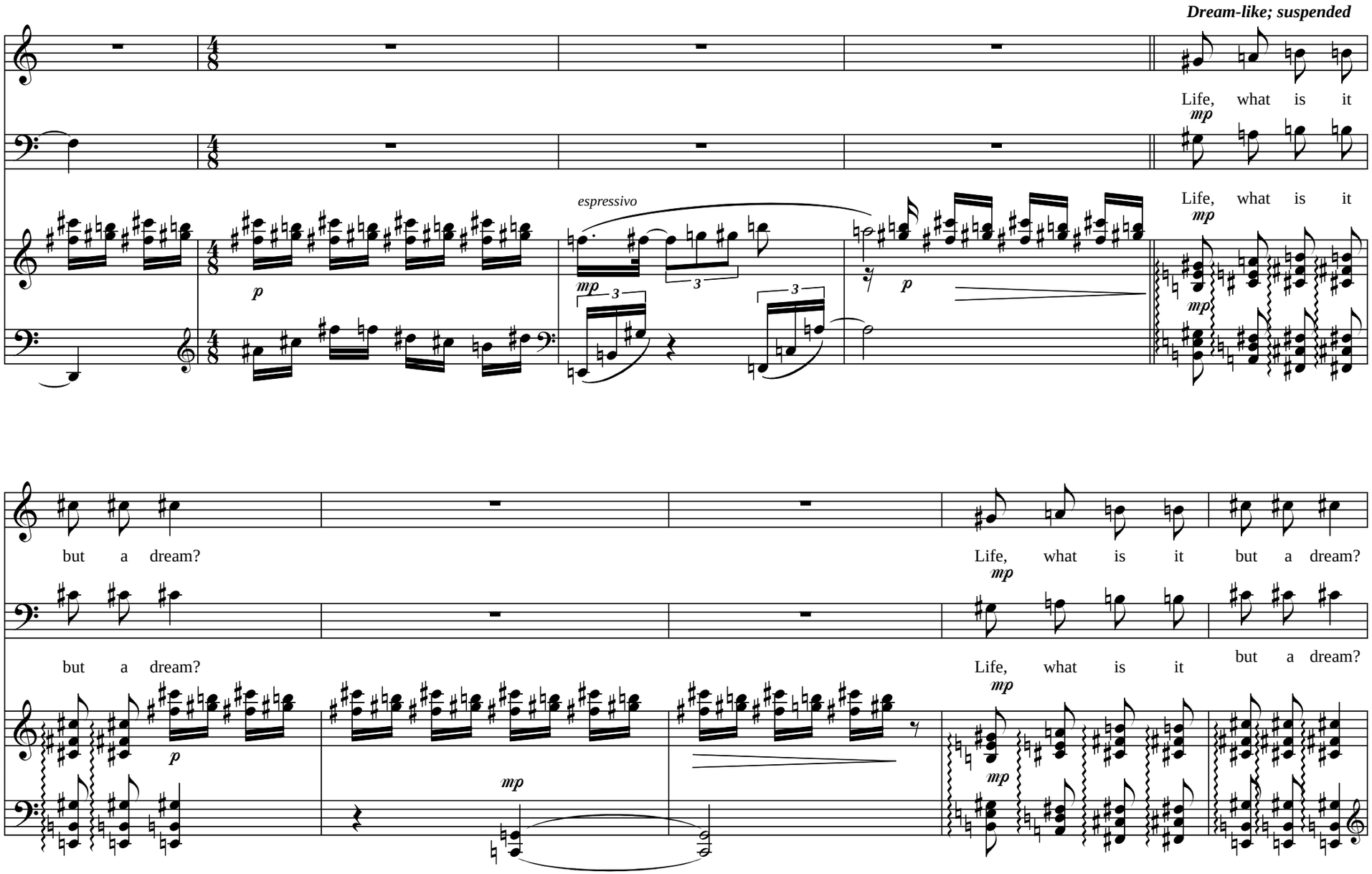
rallantando e diminuendo

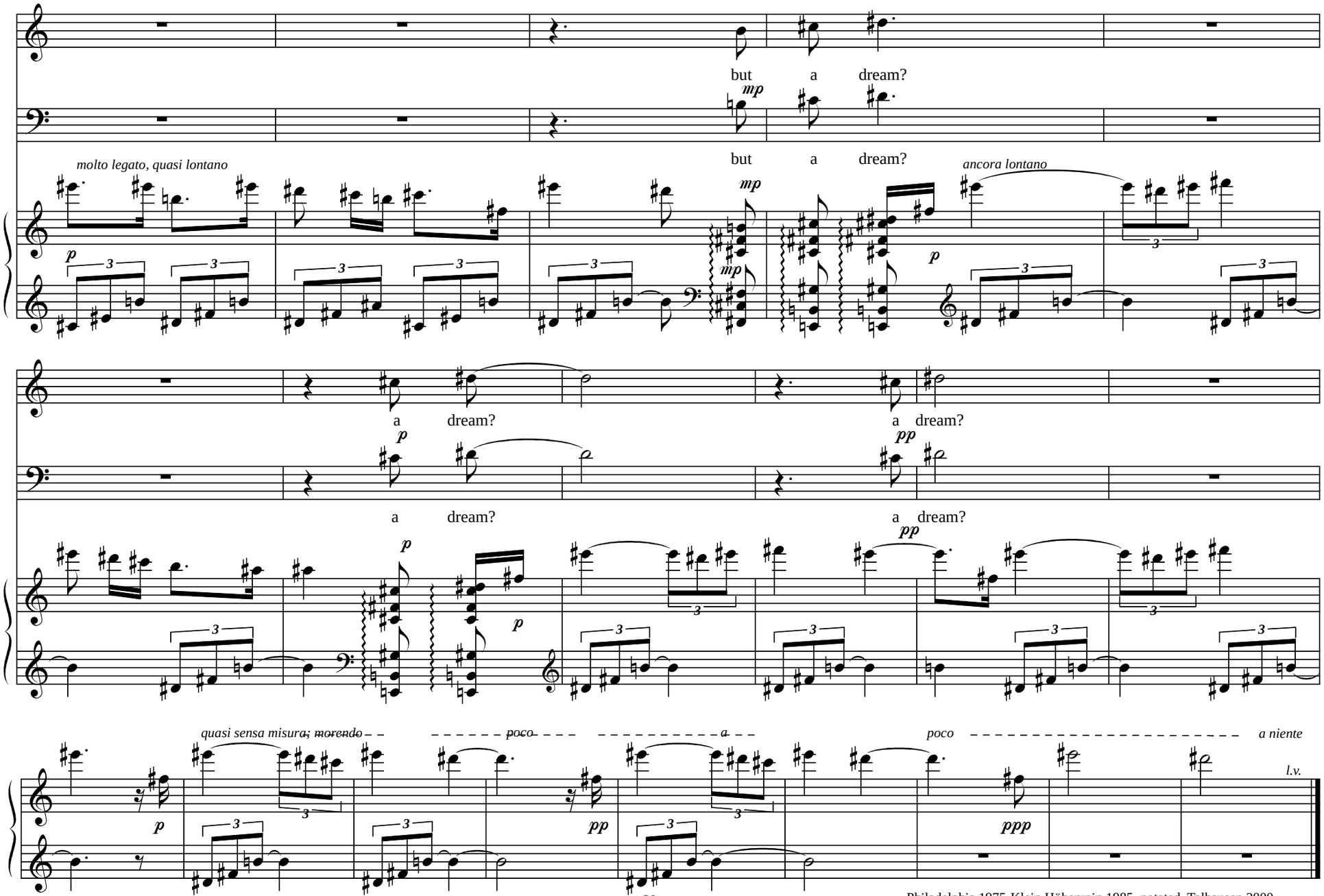
Ev - er drift - ing down the stream Ling - er - ing in the gold - en gleam.

mp

mp

p


Dream-like; suspended
Life, what is it
Life, what is it
espressivo
but a dream?
Life, what is it but a dream?
but a dream?
Life, what is it but a dream?



Philadelphia 1975-Klein Höhenrain 1985, notated, Talhausen 2000