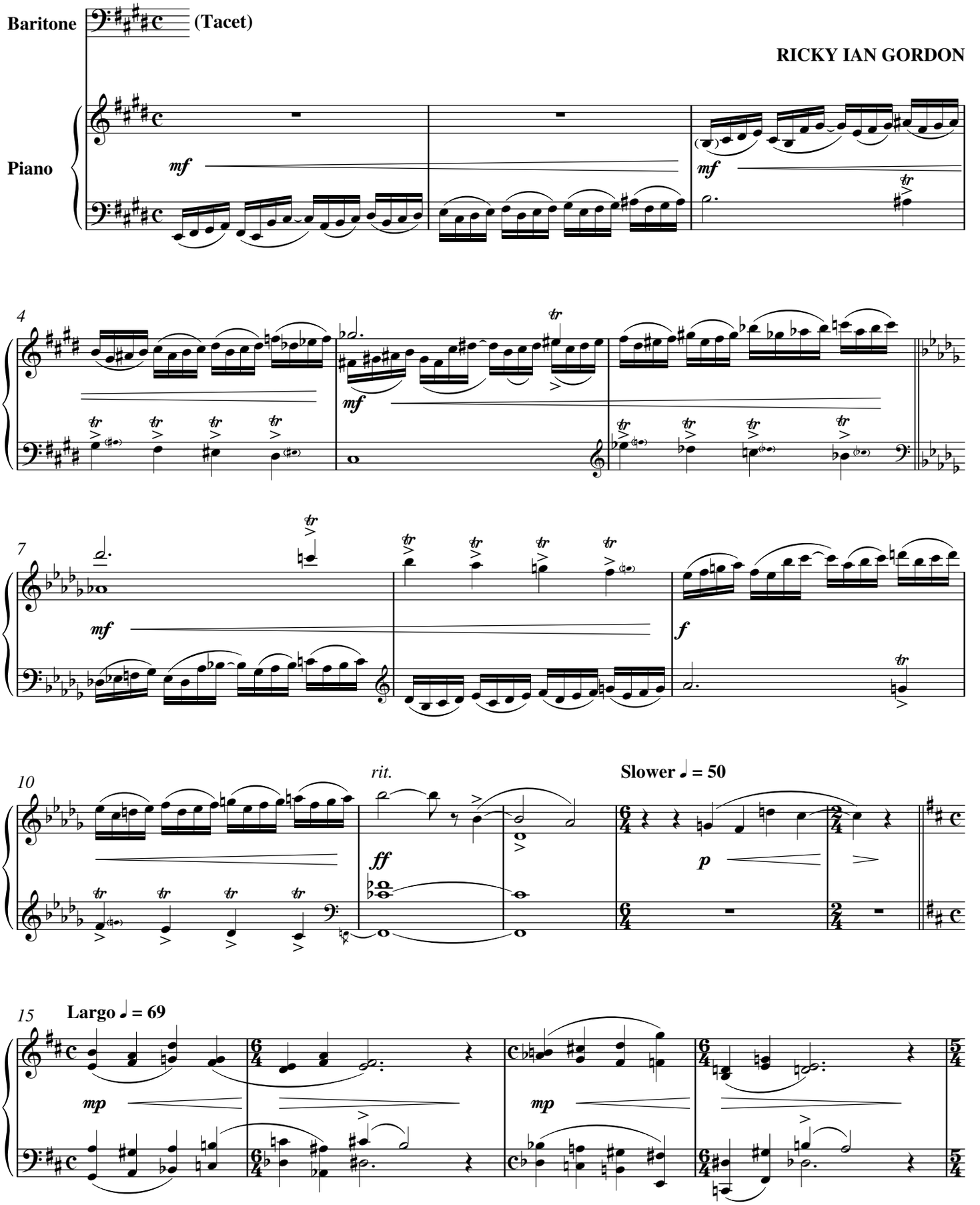
Green Sneakers

for Baritone and String Quartet

No. 1 Prelude

RICKY IAN GORDON



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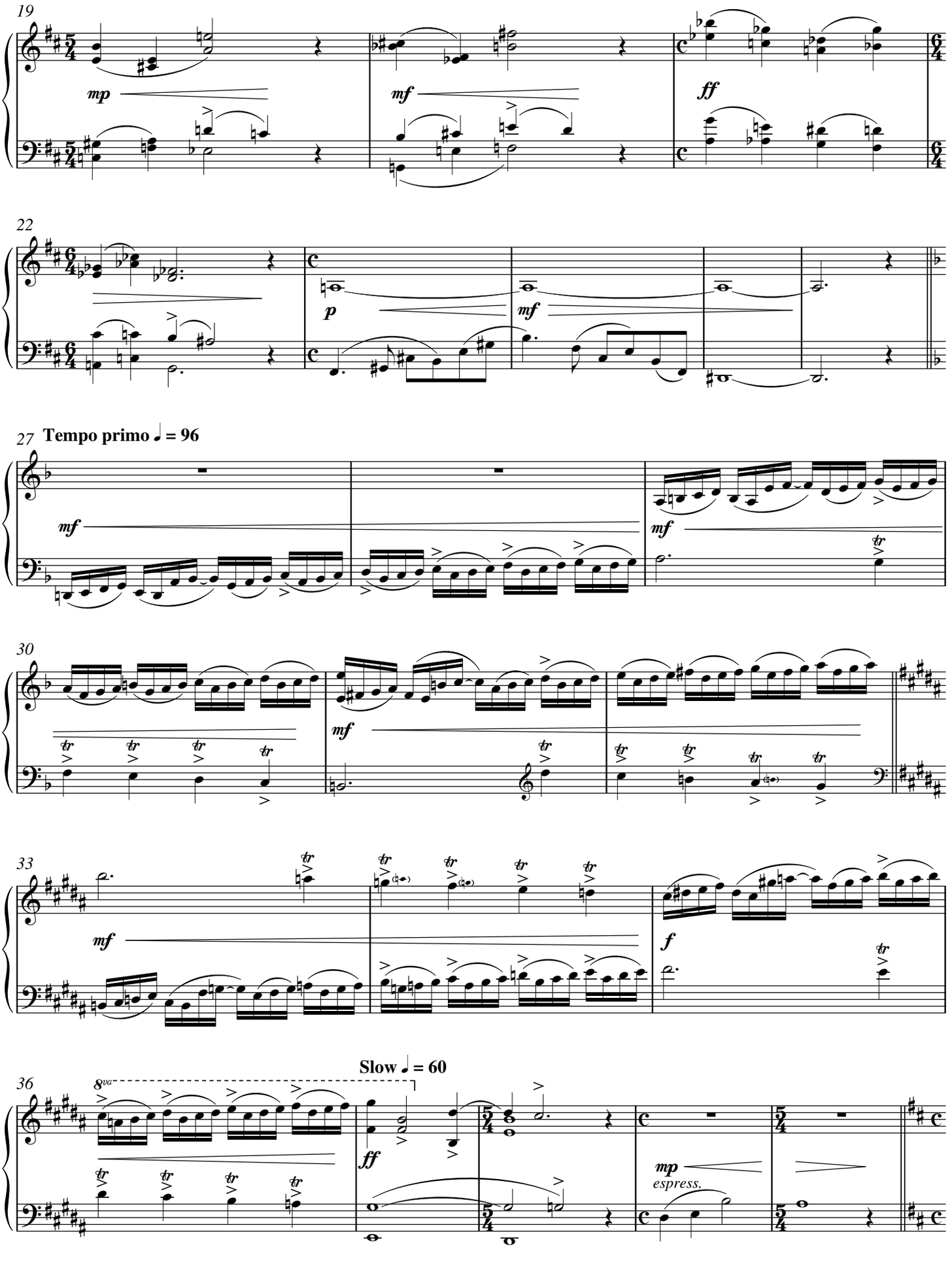
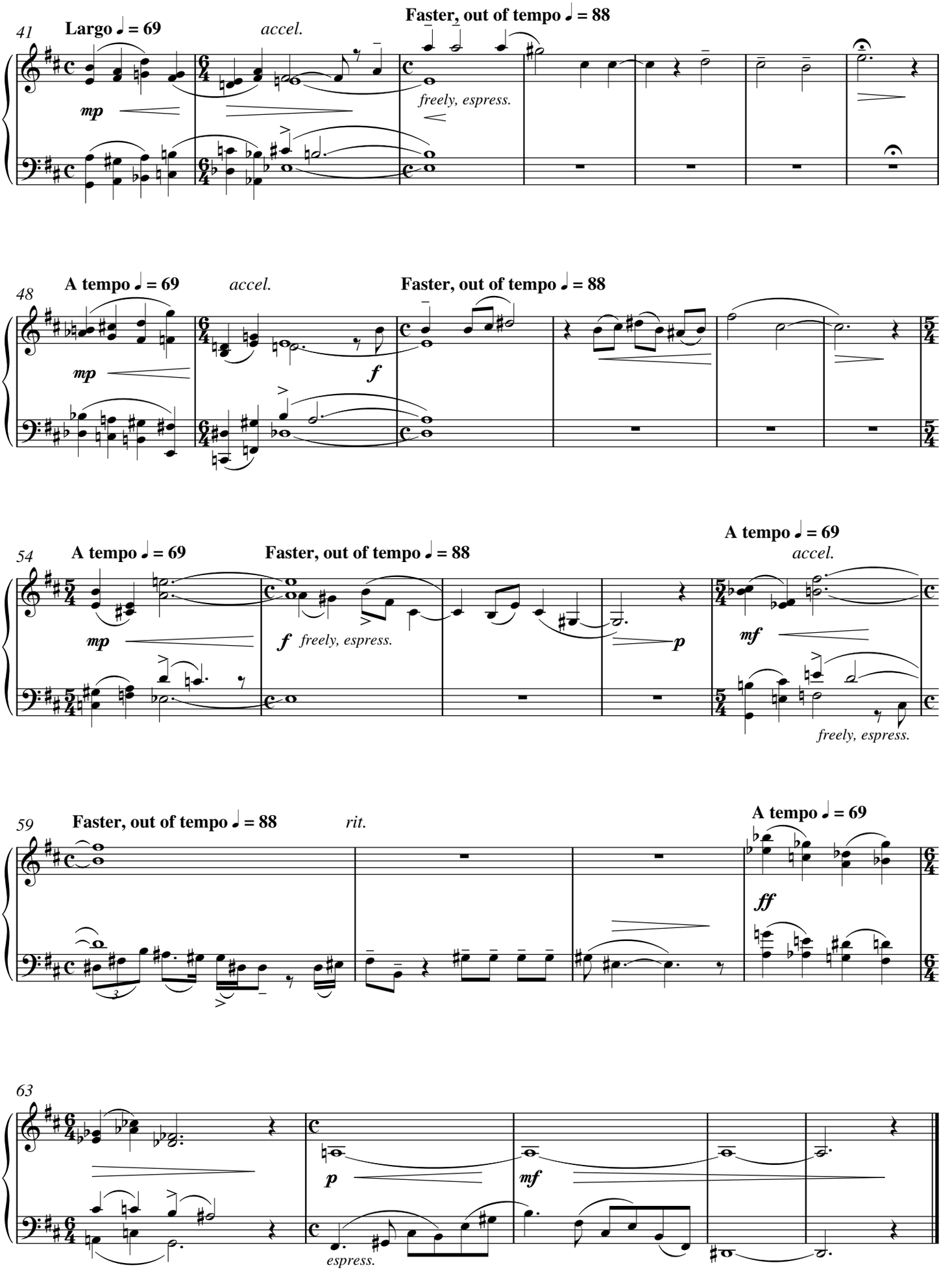

19
mp
mf
ff
22
p
mf
27
Tempo primo ♩ = 96
mf
mf
30
mf
33
mf
f
36
8va
ff
mp
espress.
Slow ♩ = 60


41
Largo ♩ = 69
accel.
Faster, out of tempo ♩ = 88
mp
freely, espress.
48
A tempo ♩ = 69
accel.
Faster, out of tempo ♩ = 88
mp
f
54
A tempo ♩ = 69
Faster, out of tempo ♩ = 88
A tempo ♩ = 69
accel.
mp
f
freely, espress.
p
mf
freely, espress.
59
Faster, out of tempo ♩ = 88
rit.
A tempo ♩ = 69
ff
63
p
mf
espress.

No. 2 If Only Someone Could Have Told Me

Conversational ♩ = 72

Baritone

If on - ly some-one could have told me, "It will feel like the blink of an eye. You

Piano

p *mp* *mf*

5

can - not af - ford the lux - ur - y of im - pa- tience. You'll re - gret it la- ter."

p *mf* *mp*

10

But then, I pro-ba-bly woul-dn't have li- stened.

p *mf* *mp*

14

If on - ly some - one could have told me...

mf *mf* *p* *p*

No. 3 In Particular

Semplice ♩ = 44

Baritone

In par - ti - cu - lar it was the pair of green snea - kers

Piano

3

al-most a - ni - mate in his clo - set. More than the tee shirts, the care-ful-ly hung pants, e-ven the

sempre simile

6

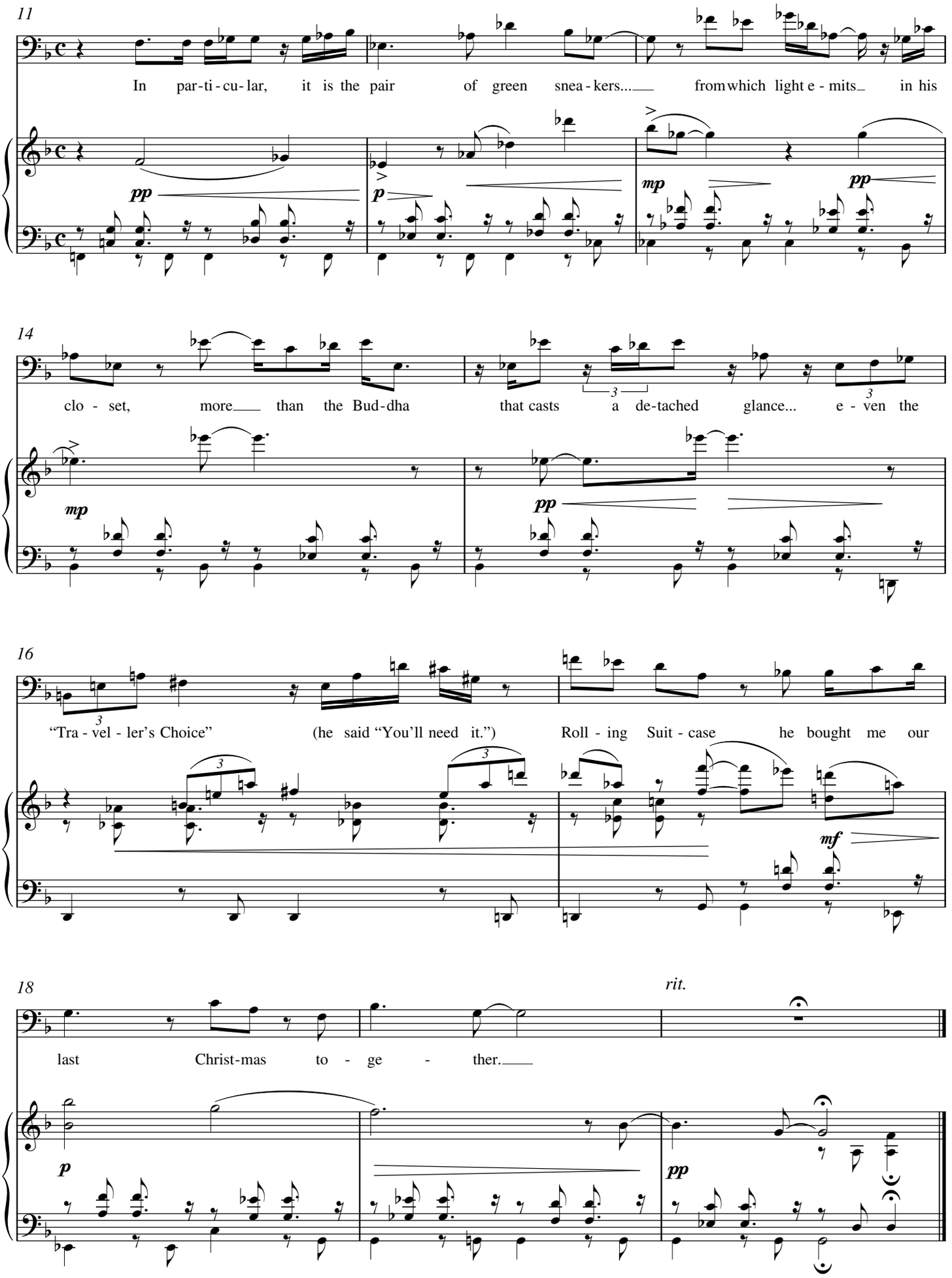
sun - flow - er gold (his fav -'rite co - lor) cash - mere swea - ter I bought him our

mf

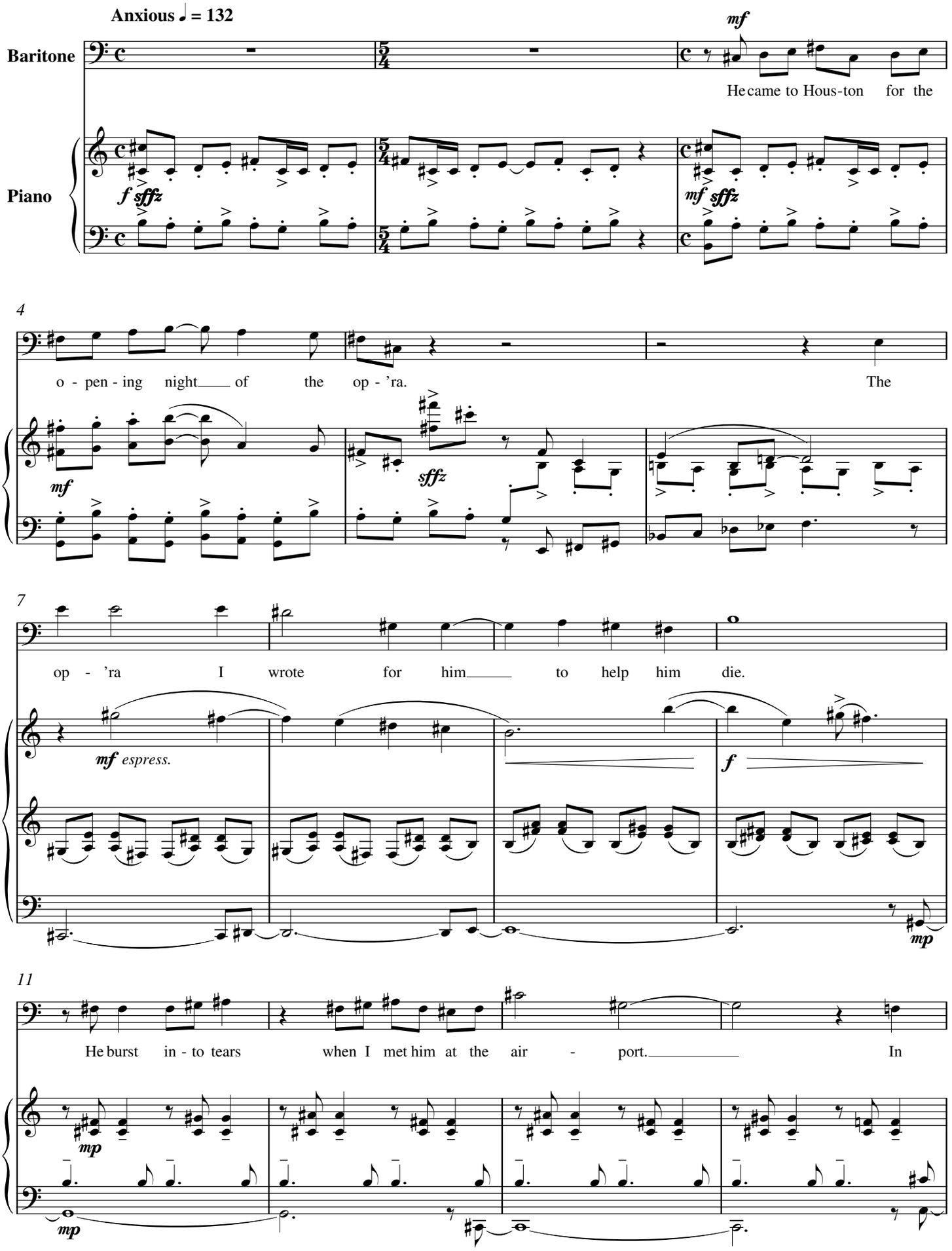
8

first Christ-mas to - ge - ther

p *mp* *pp*


11
In par-ti-cu-lar, it is the pair of green snea-kers... from which light e-mits in his
pp
p
mp
pp
14
clo-set, more than the Bud-dha that casts a de-tached glance... e-ven the
mp
pp
16
"Tra-vel-ler's Choice" (he said "You'll need it.") Roll-ing Suit-case he bought me our
3
3
3
mf
18
rit.
last Christ-mas to-ge-ther.
p
pp

No. 4 He Came to Houston



15

two weeks, he had lost e - ven more weight.

18

He could see the shock in my eyes.

mf *sffz* *mf*

21

Suddenly slower ♩ = 69

3

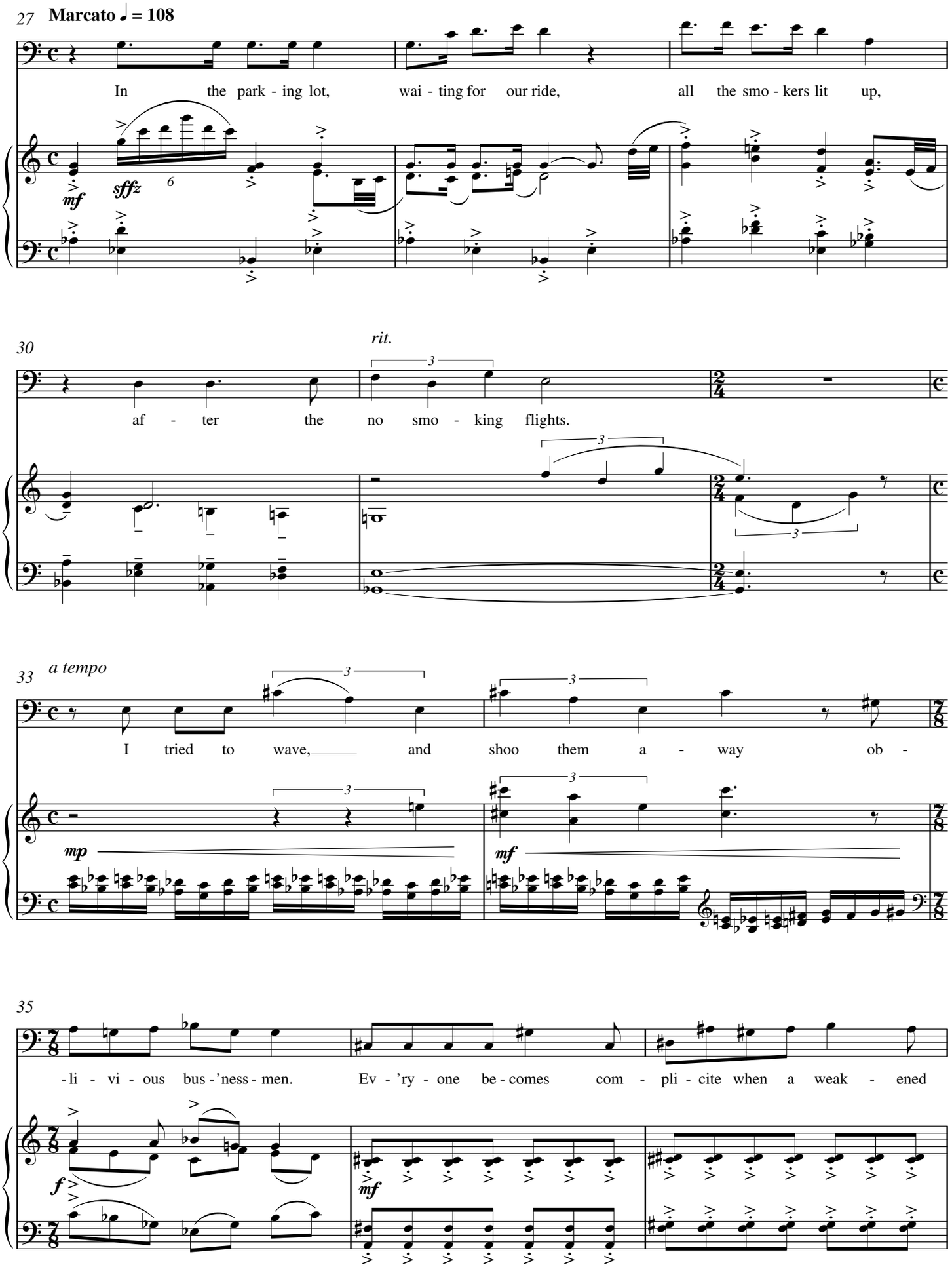
We nee-ded a cart to

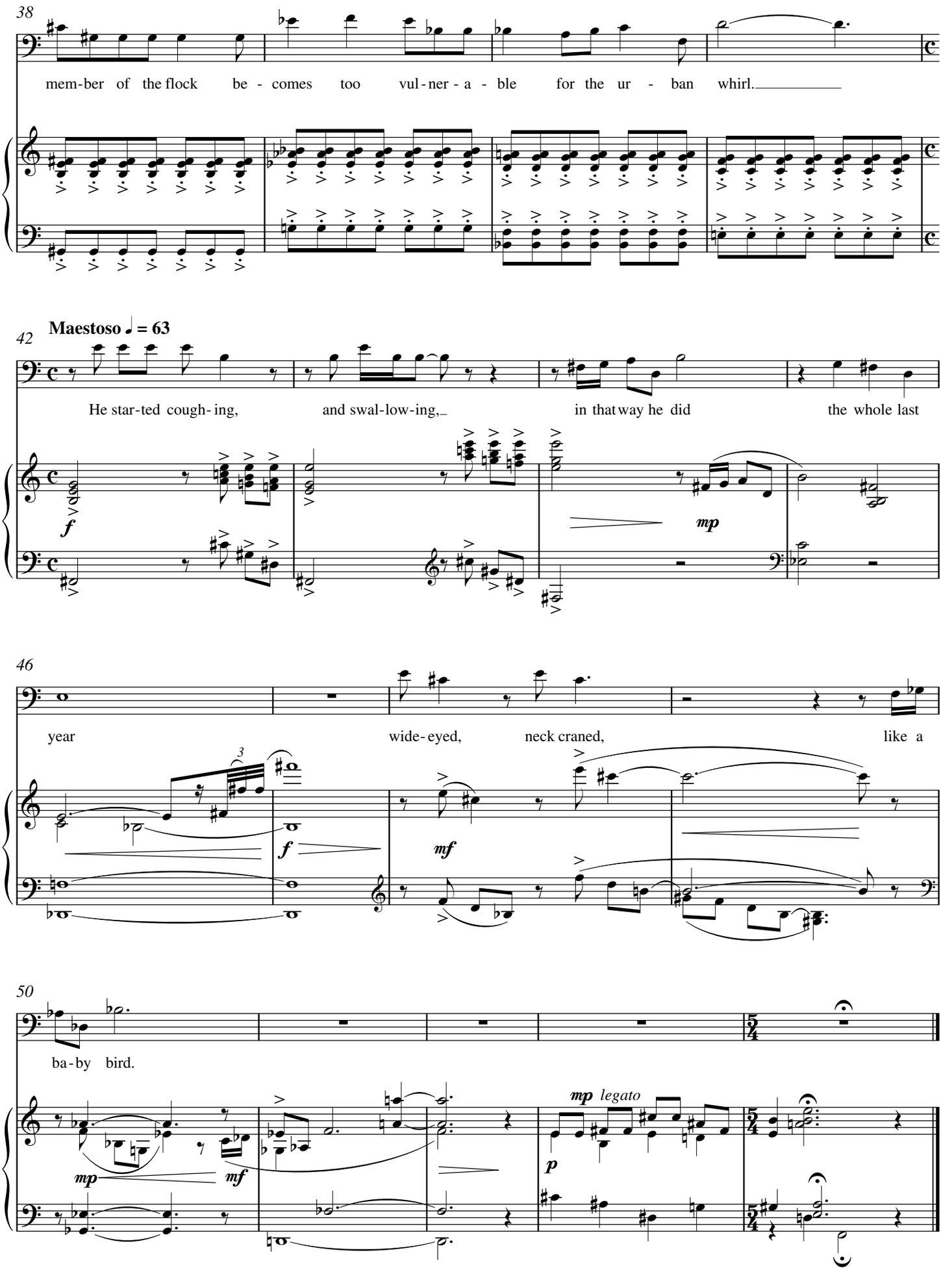
sffz *subito* ***p***

24

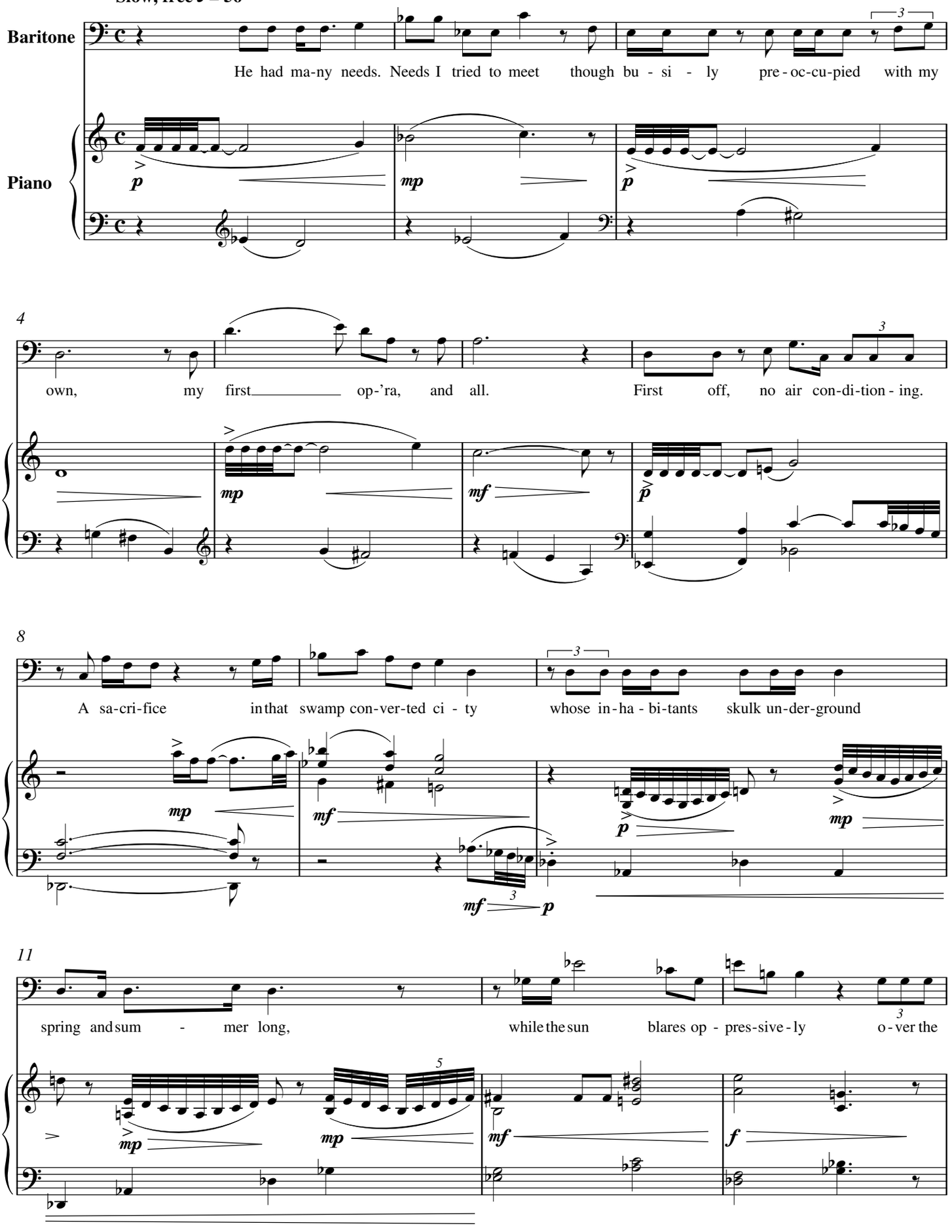
get him to the ex - it.

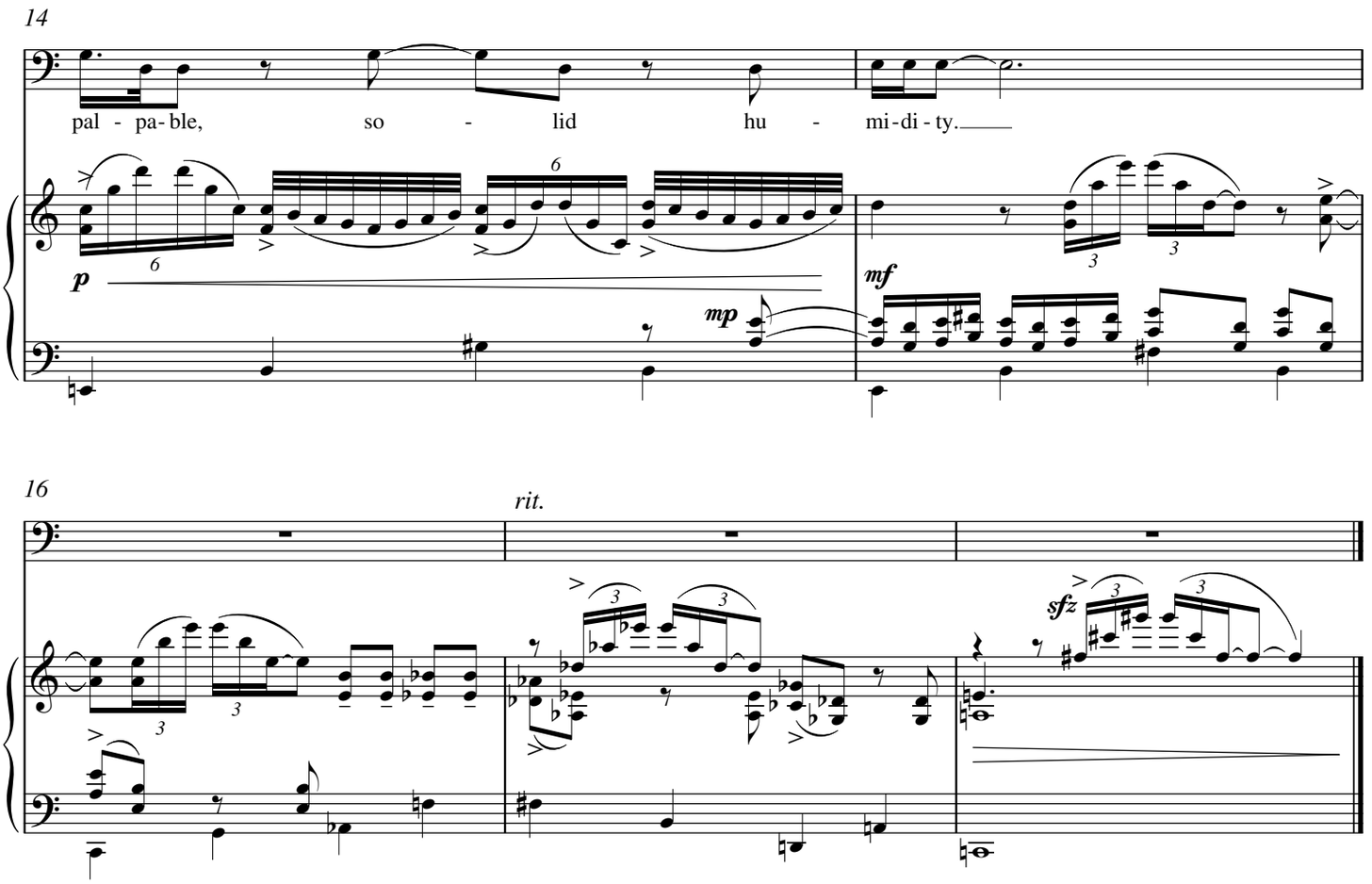
mf *mp*


27
Marcato ♩ = 108
In the park - ing lot, wai - ting for our ride, all the smo - kers lit up,
mf
sffz
6
30
rit.
af - ter the no smo - king flights.
3
33
a tempo
I tried to wave, and shoo them a - way ob -
mp
mf
35
- li - vi - ous bus - 'ness - men. Ev - 'ry - one be - comes com - pli - cite when a weak - ened
f
mf

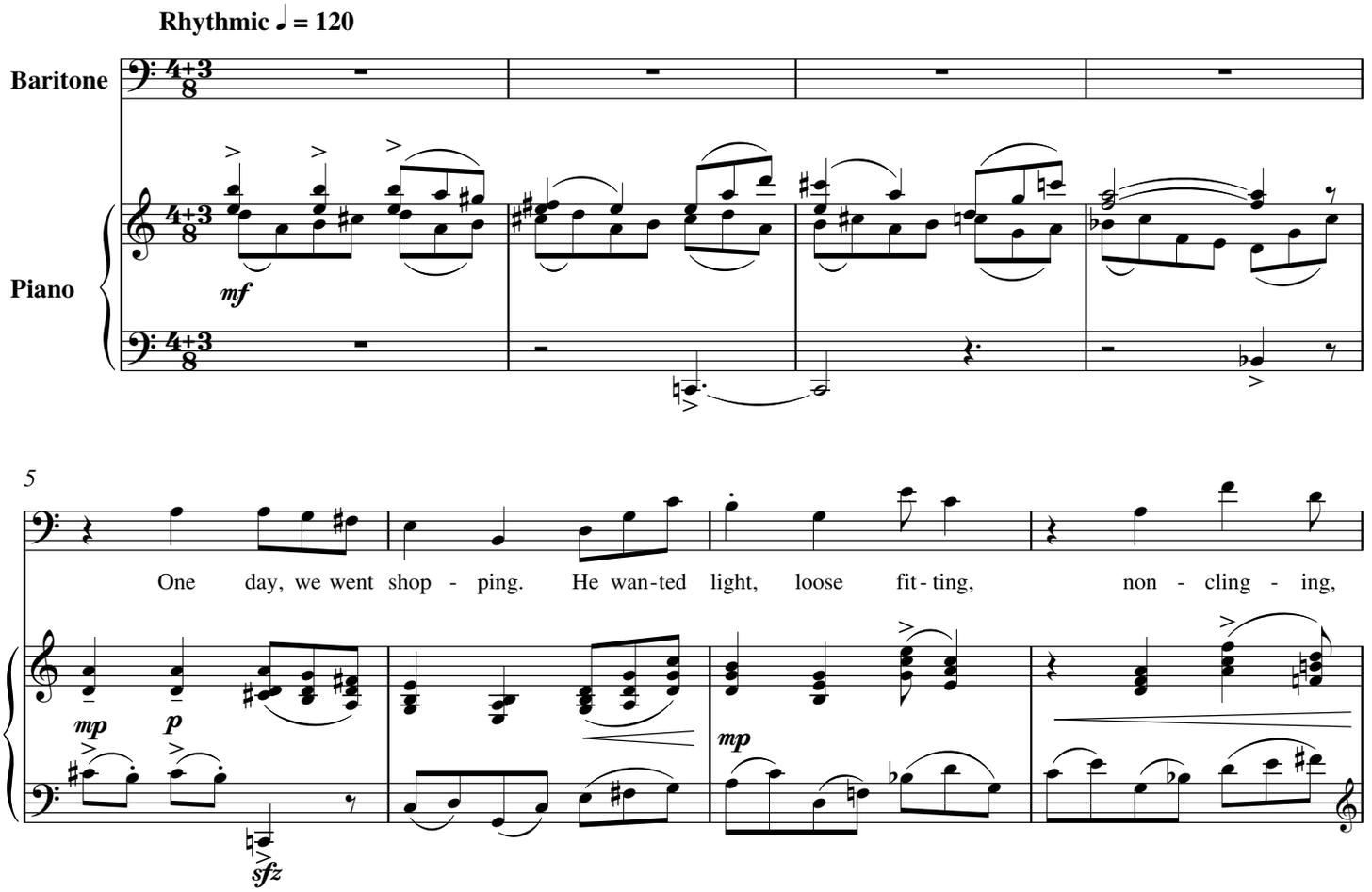

38
mem-ber of the flock be - comes too vul - ner - a - ble for the ur - ban whirl.
42
Maestoso ♩ = 63
He star-ted cough-ing, and swal-low-ing, in that way he did the whole last
f
mp
46
year wide-eyed, neck craned, like a
3
f
mf
50
ba-by bird.
mp
mf
mp legato
p

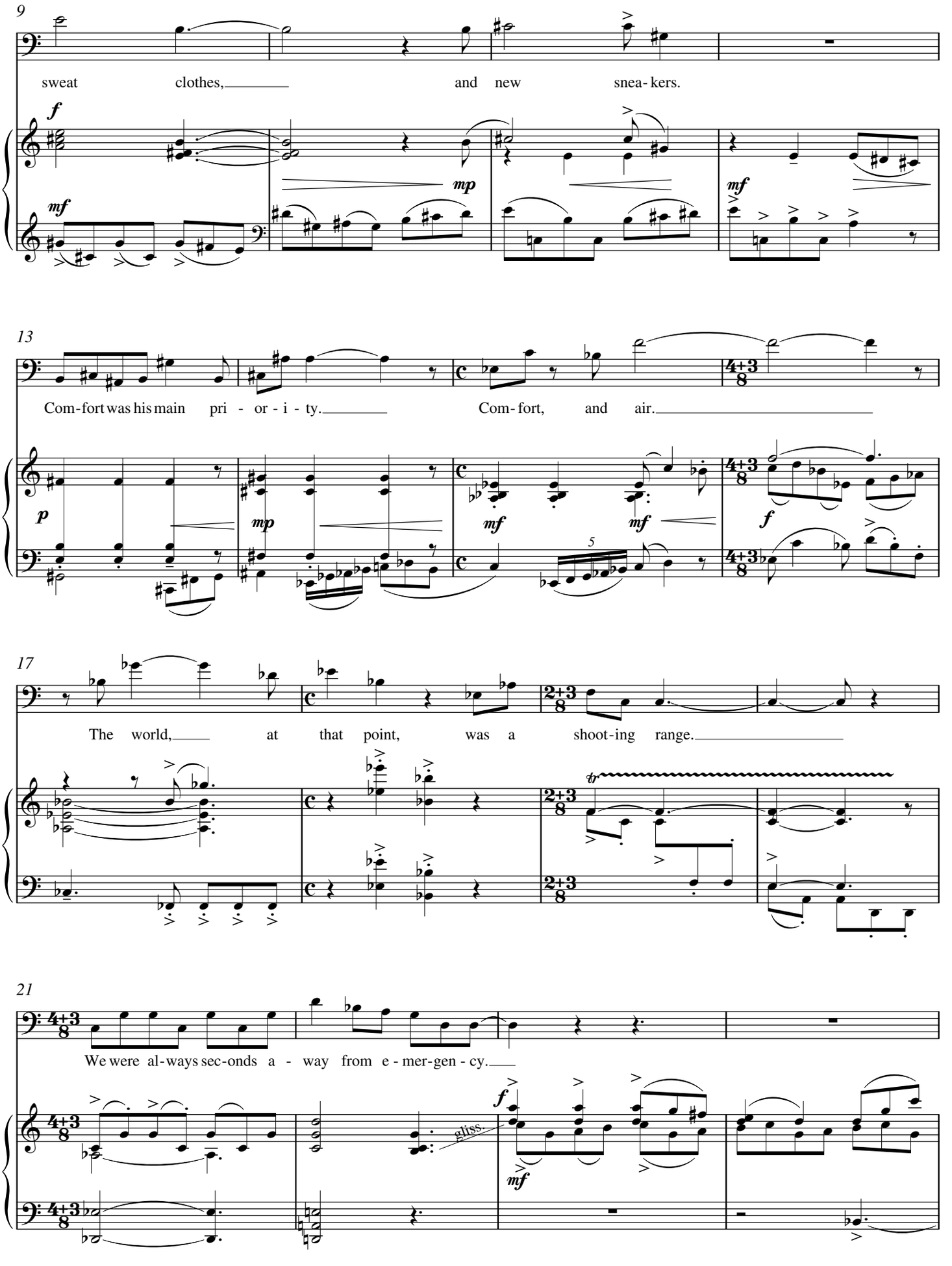
No. 5 Needs

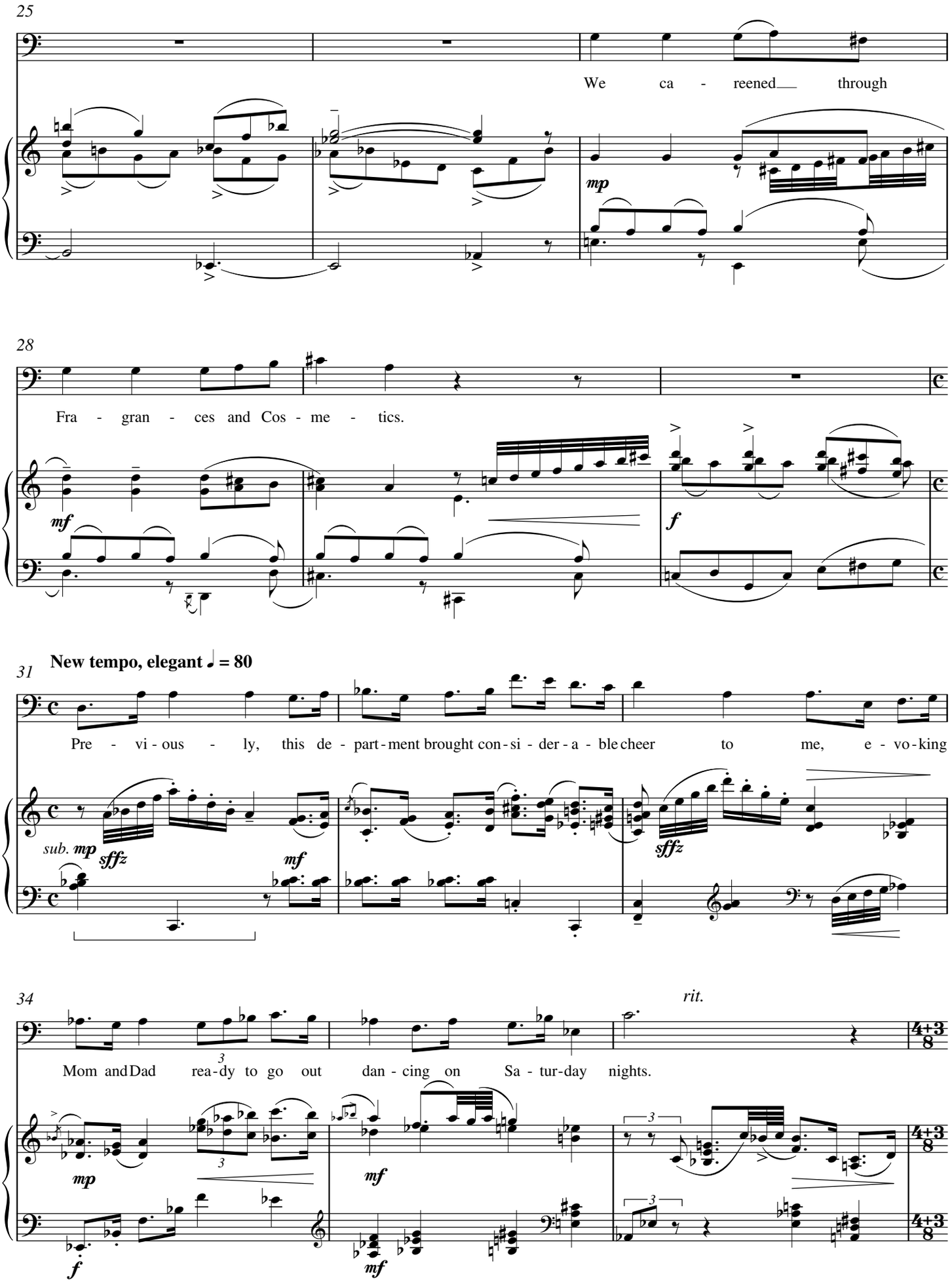

Slow, free ♩ = 56
Baritone
He had ma-ny needs. Needs I tried to meet though bu - si - ly pre - oc-cu-pied with my
Piano
4
own, my first op-'ra, and all. First off, no air con-di-tion - ing.
8
A sa-cri-fice in that swamp con-ver-ted ci - ty whose in-ha - bi-tants skulk un-der-ground
11
spring and sum - mer long, while the sun blares op - pres-sive - ly o - ver the

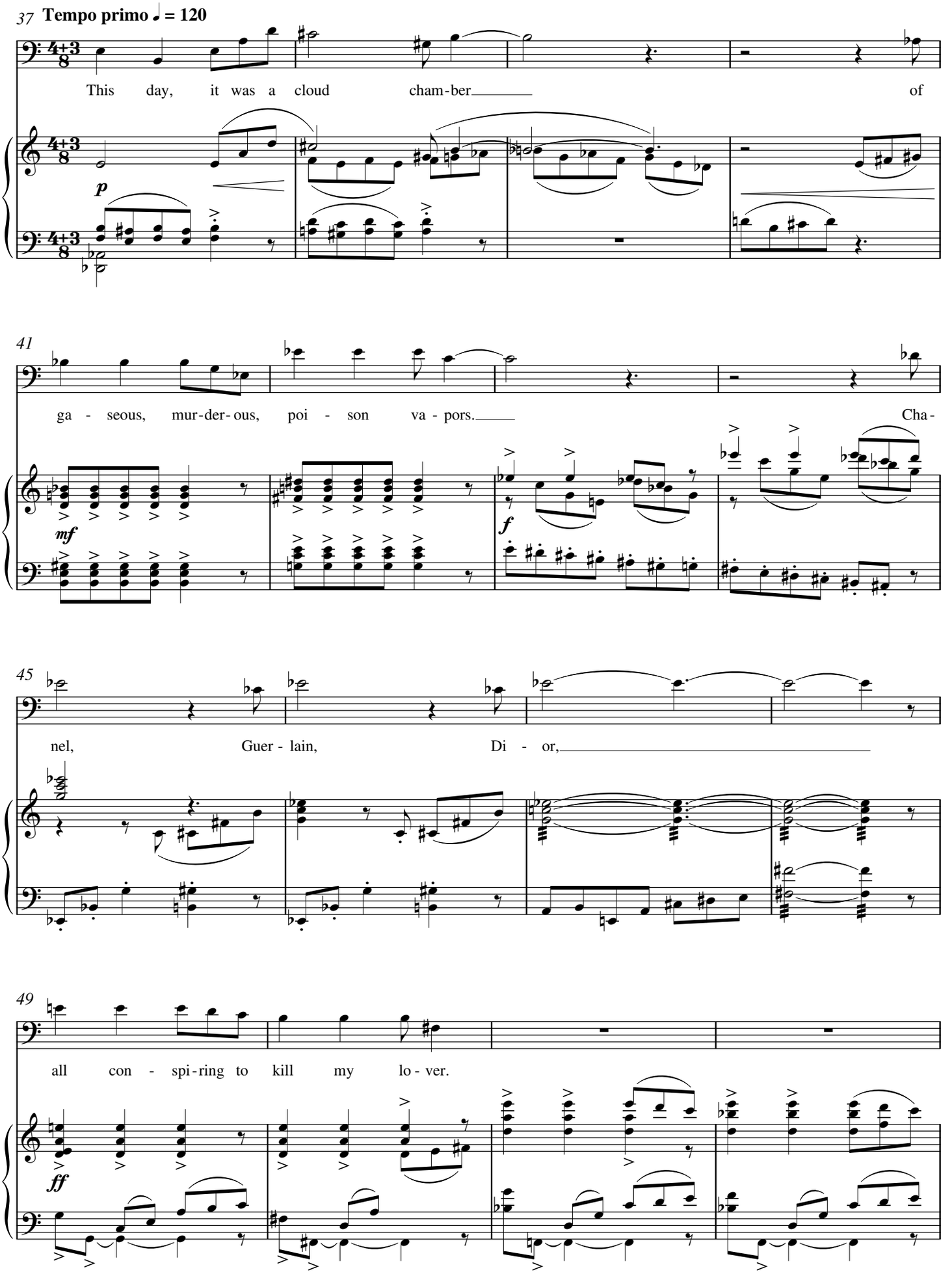


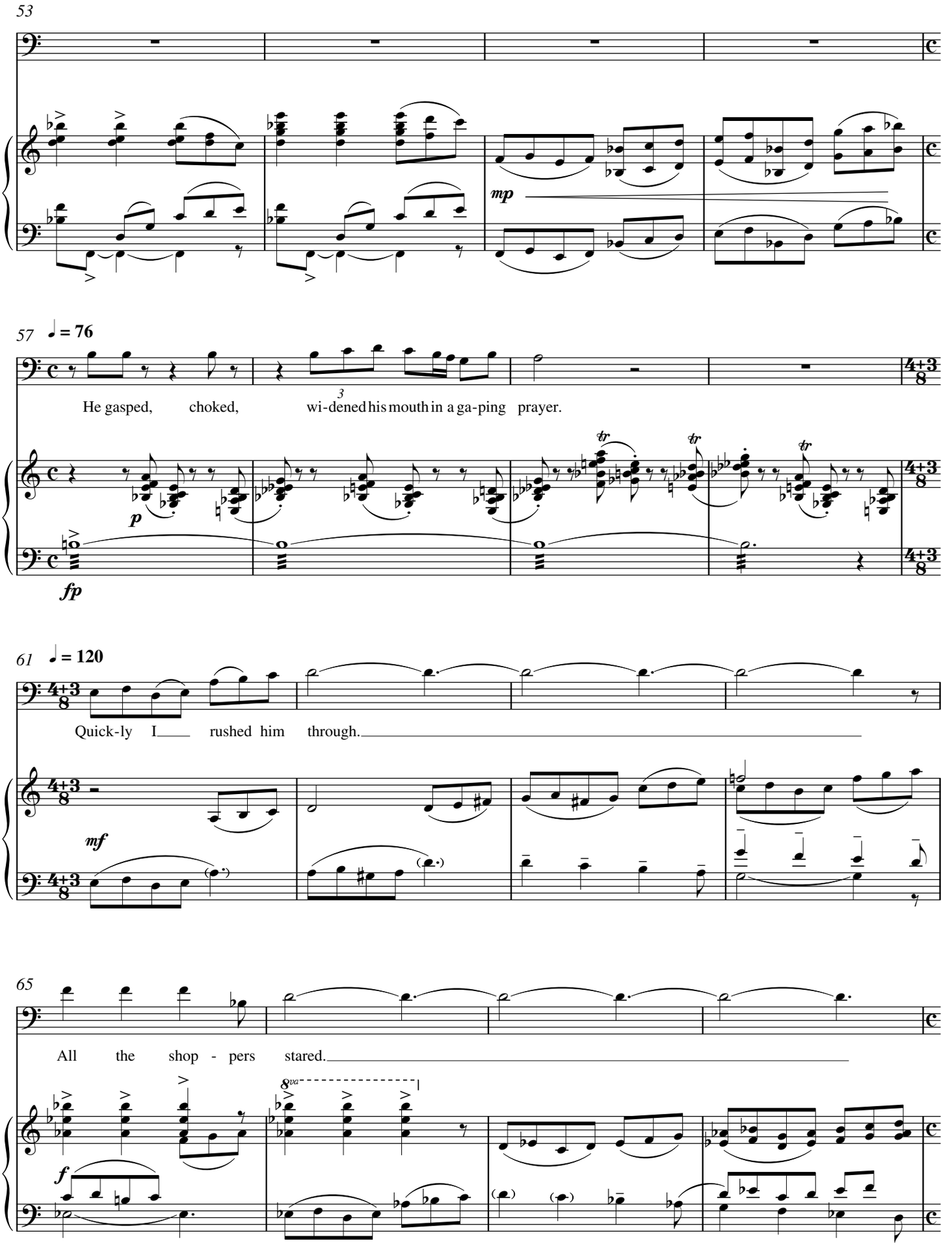
No. 6 Shopping




9
sweat clothes, and new snea- kers.
13
Com- fort was his main pri - or - i - ty. Com- fort, and air.
17
The world, at that point, was a shoot- ing range.
21
We were al- ways sec- onds a - way from e - mer- gen - cy.
gliss.


25
We ca - reened through
mp
28
Fra - gran - ces and Cos - me - tics.
mf
f
31
New tempo, elegant ♩ = 80
Pre - vi - ous - ly, this de - part - ment brought con - si - der - a - ble cheer to me, e - vo - king
sub. mp
sffz
mf
sffz
34
rit.
Mom and Dad rea - dy to go out dan - cing on Sa - tur - day nights.
mp
mf
f
mf
4+3/8


37 Tempo primo ♩ = 120
This day, it was a cloud cham-ber of
p
41
ga - seous, mur-der-ous, poi - son va - pors. Cha-
mf
f
45
nel, Guer - lain, Di - or,
49
all con - spi-ring to kill my lo - ver.
ff


53
mp
57
♩ = 76
3
He gasped, choked, wi-dened his mouth in a ga-ping prayer.
p
fp
tr
61
♩ = 120
Quick-ly I rushed him through.
mf
65
All the shop - pers stared.
f
8va

69

Slow, with tenderness ♩ = 63

rit.

a tempo

In Shoes, I held him,

f *espress.*

mp *dolce*

p

73

as he re - gained his com - po - sure.

77

mf

sfz

81

mf

sfz

mf

sfz

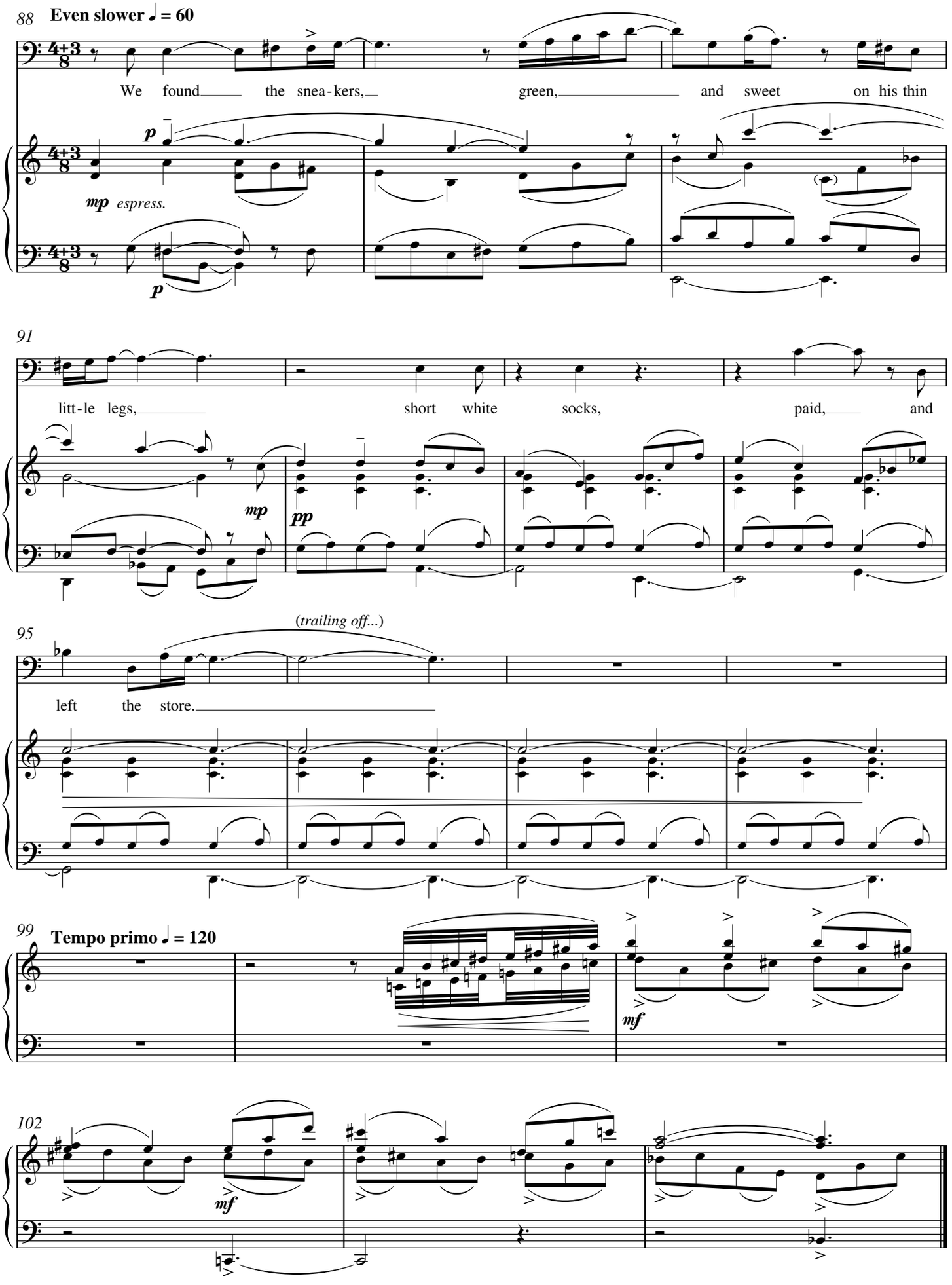
sfz

84

pp

4+3
8

4+3
8


88
Even slower ♩ = 60
We found the snea-kers, green, and sweet on his thin
p
mp espress.
p
91
litt-le legs, short white socks, paid, and
mp
pp
95
(trailing off...)
left the store.
99
Tempo primo ♩ = 120
mf
102
mf

No. 7 Sportswear

Irritable, annoyed ♩ = 120

Baritone

Piano

quasi gliss. *(simile)*

4

7

9 **Slower, hypnotic ♩ = 82**

p *insistent* ***p*** ***mp*** ***mp***

quasi pizz.

13

We drove a-round and a - round, stop-ping and star - ting, here and there,

p p mp mp

17

in des - p'rate search for the right sports - wear.

p p mp mp

21

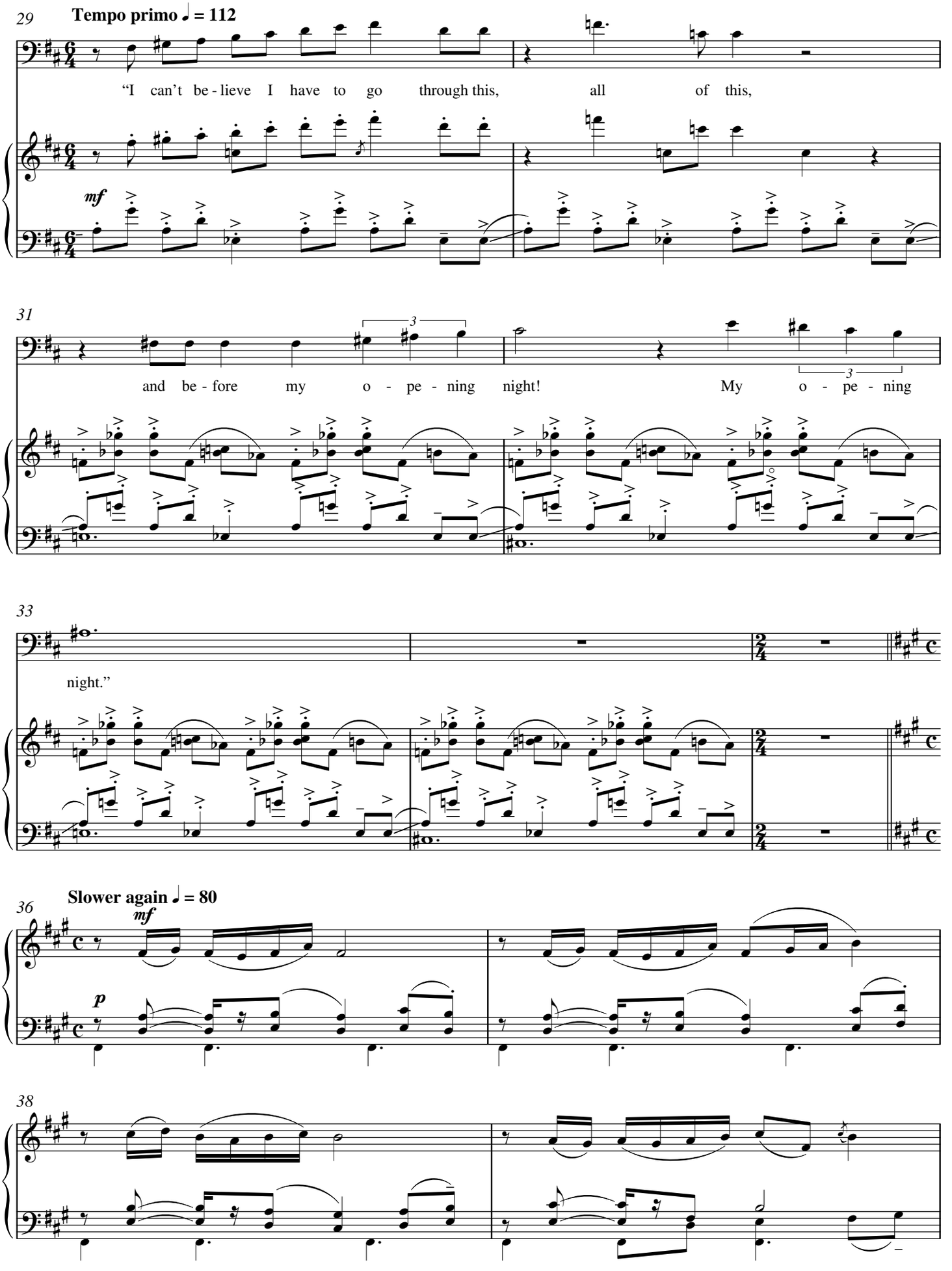
We drove a - round and a - round, stop-ping and star - ting, here and

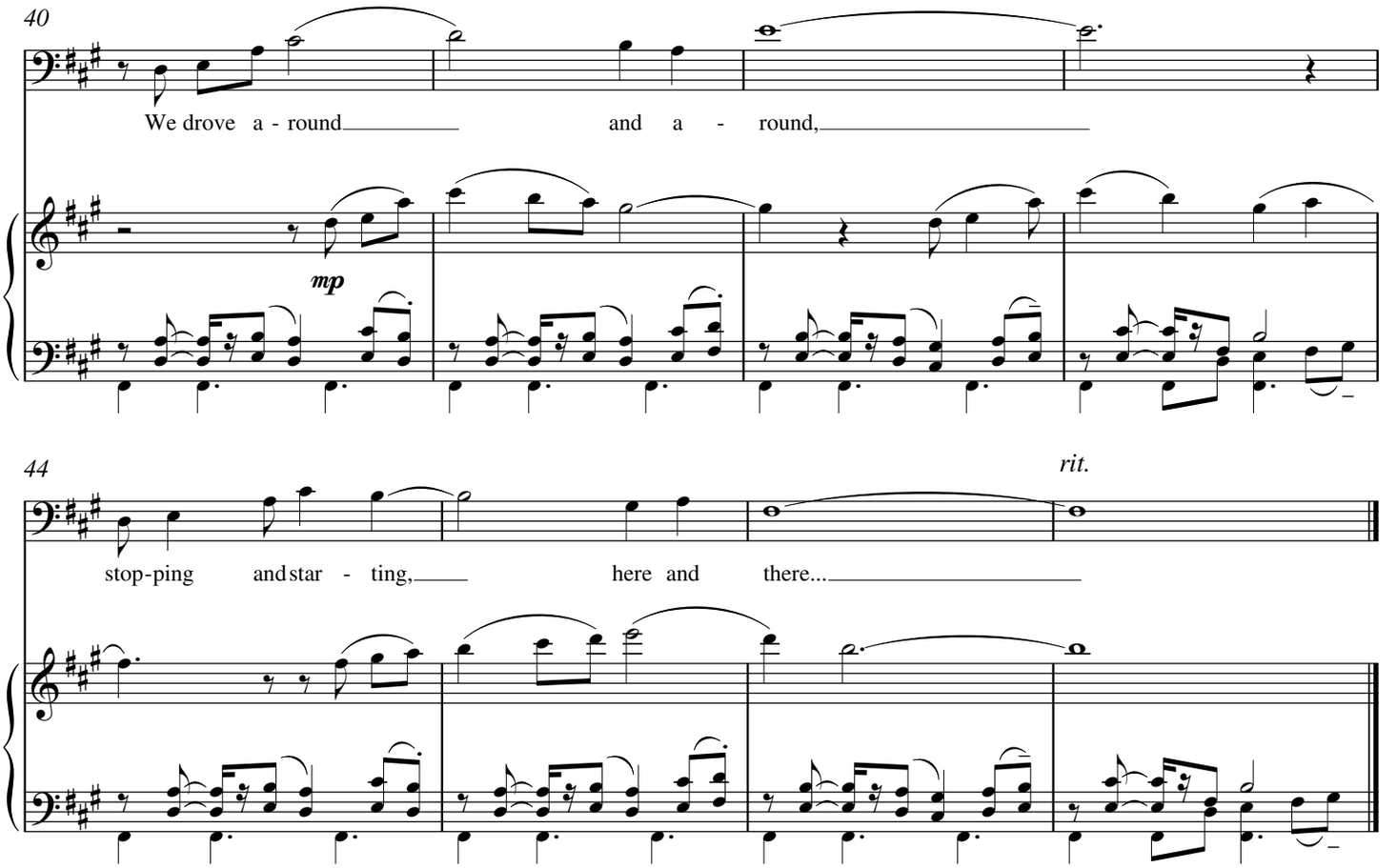
mp

25

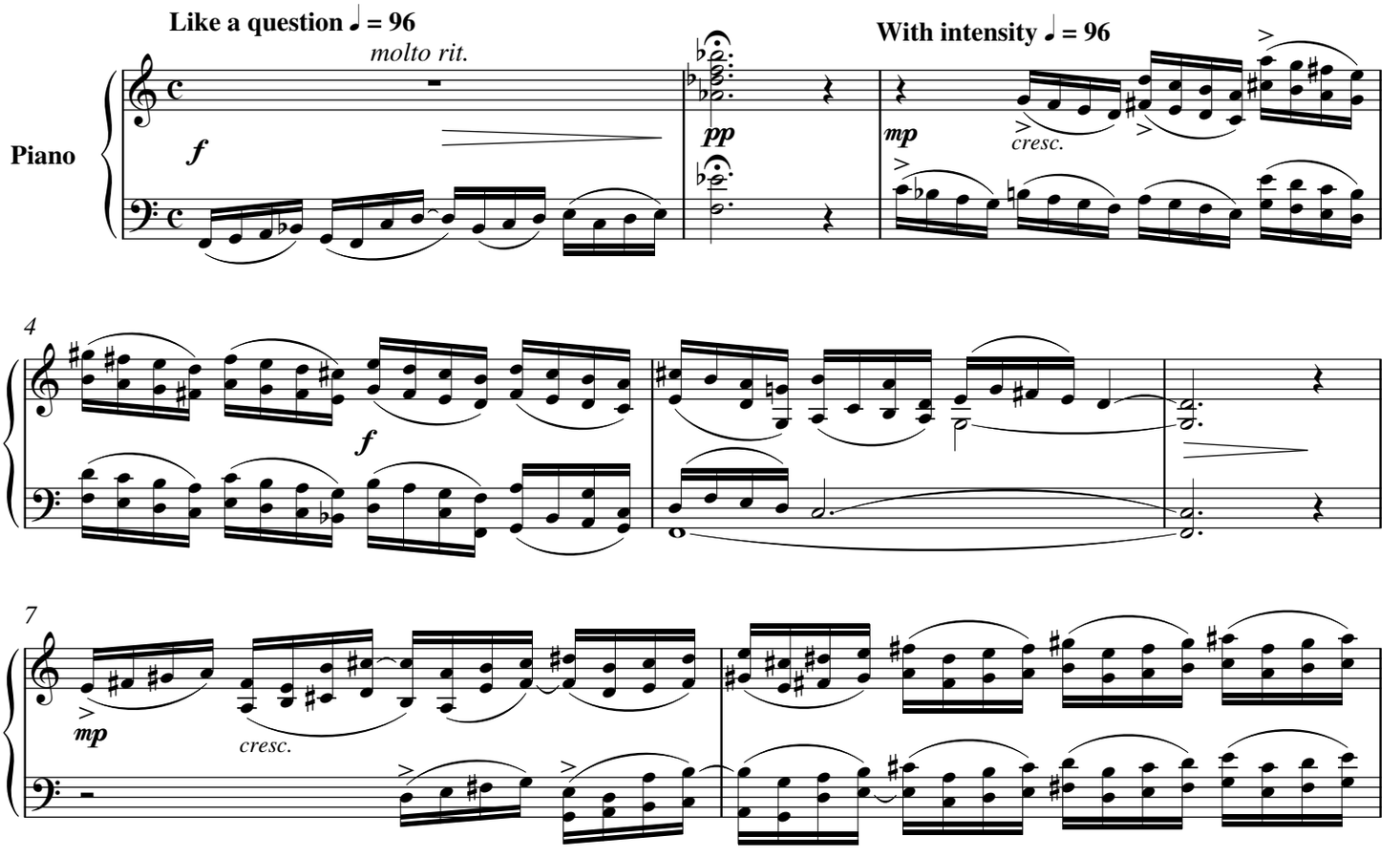
rit.

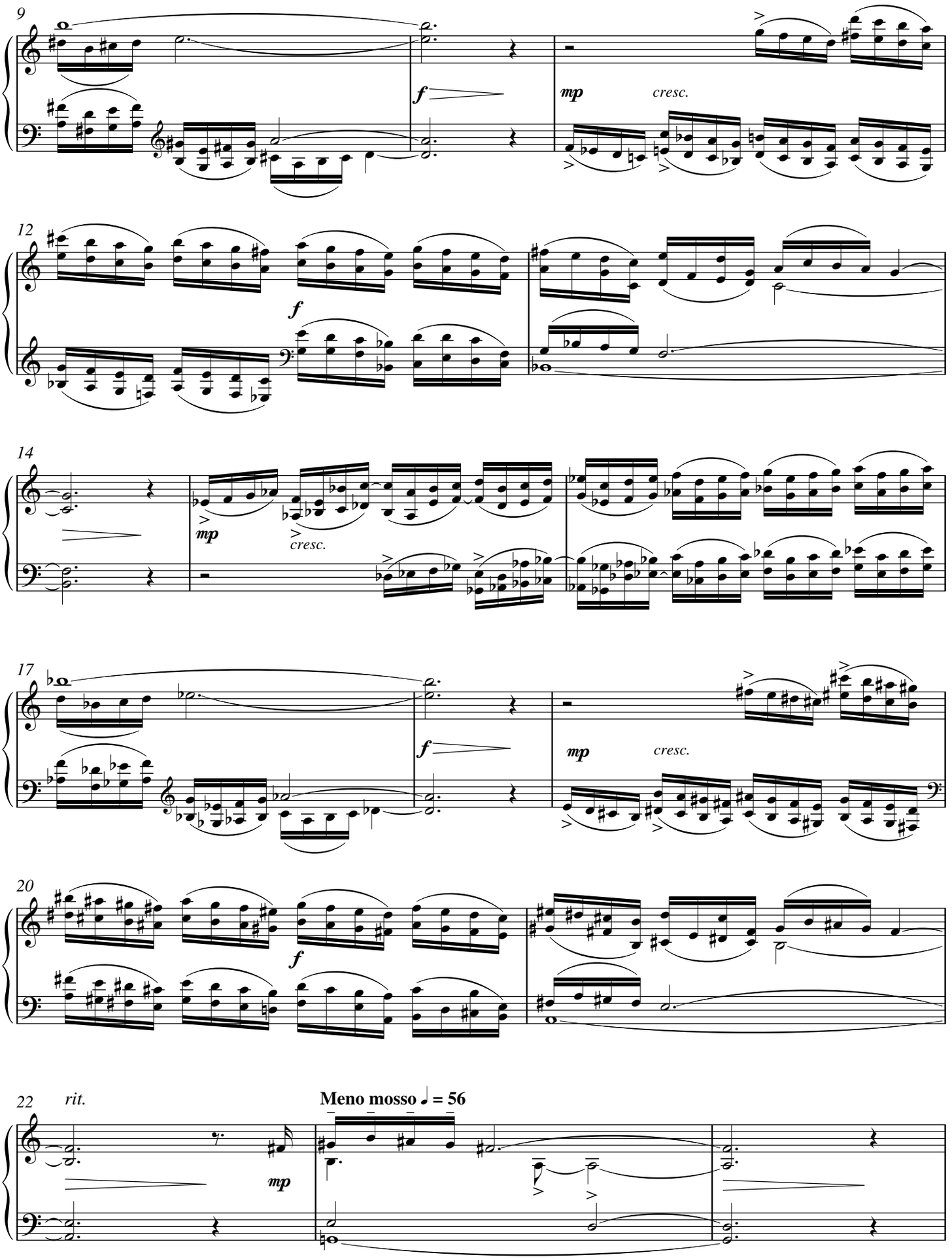
there, in des-p'rate search for the right sports - wear. I thought,


29
Tempo primo ♩ = 112
"I can't be - lieve I have to go through this, all of this,
mf
31
and be - fore my o - pe - ning night! My o - pe - ning
33
night."
36
Slower again ♩ = 80
mf
p
38



No. 8 Opening Night




9
f
mp
cresc.
12
f
14
mp
cresc.
17
f
mp
cresc.
20
f
22
rit.
Meno mosso ♩ = 56
mp

25 **Exasperated ♩ = 66**

He ne - ver made it to o - pen - ing night. A fit of cough - ing, and

28

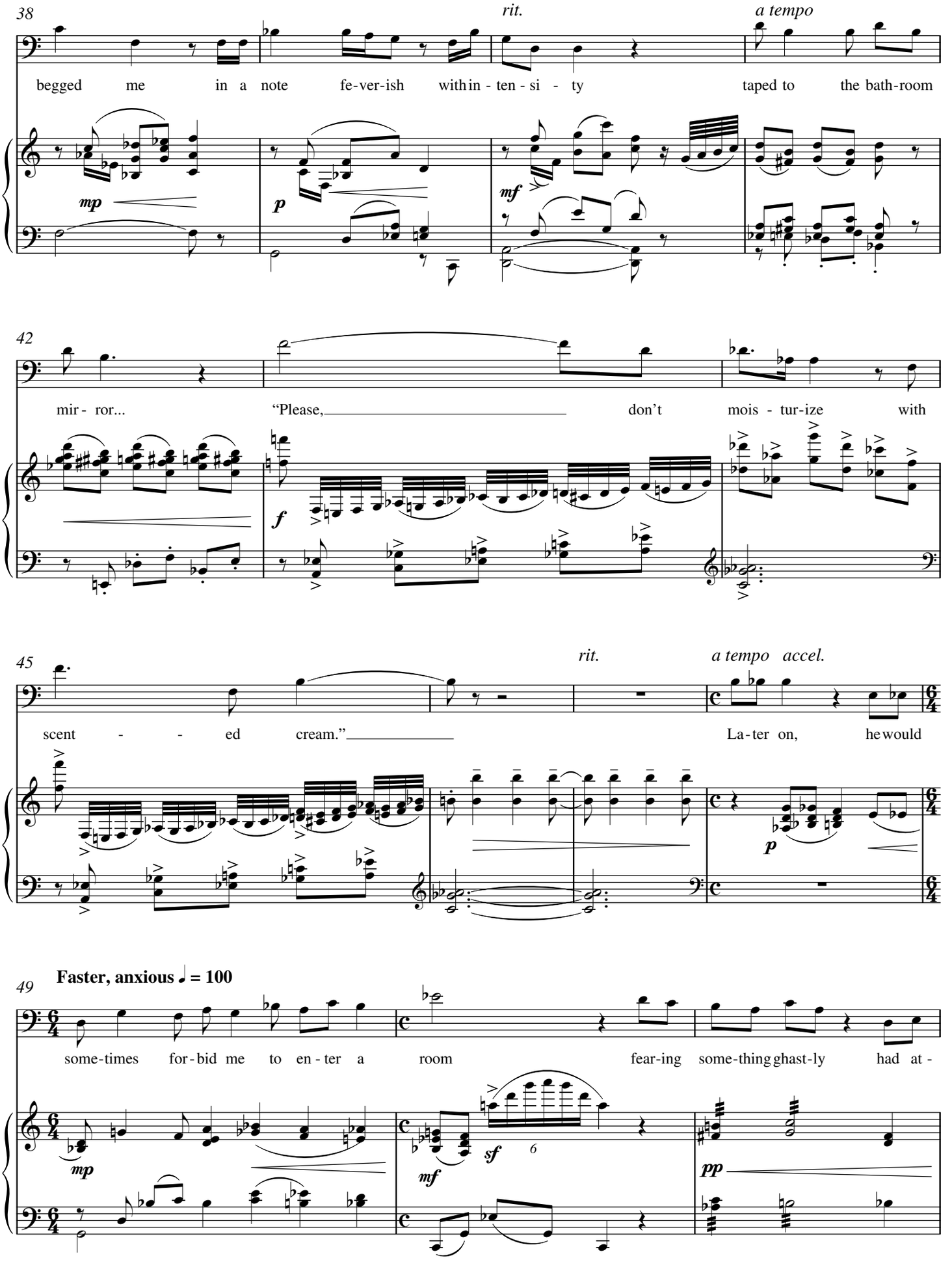
cough - ing, and cough - ing, wracked his lit - tle bo - dy un - til I thought he would

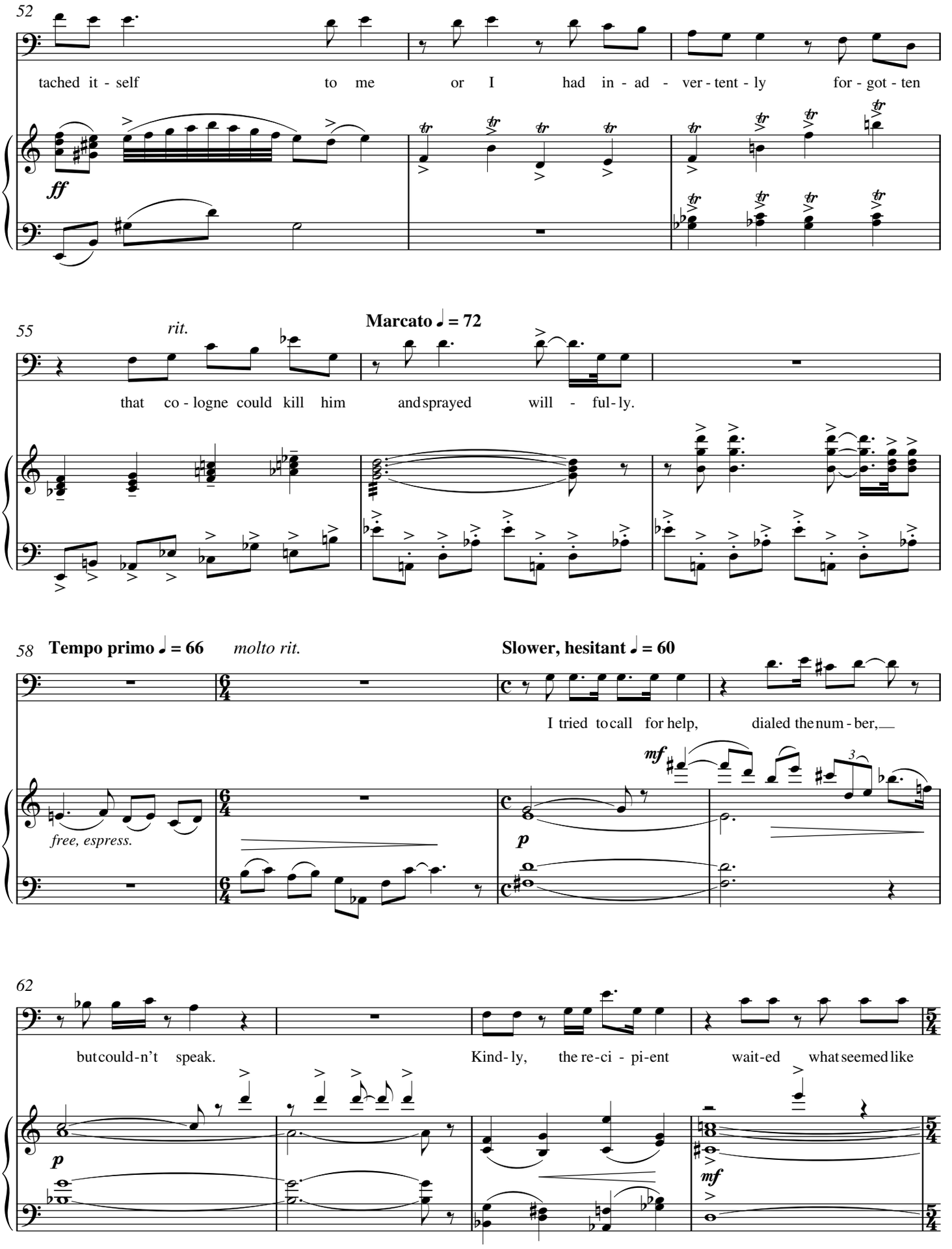
31

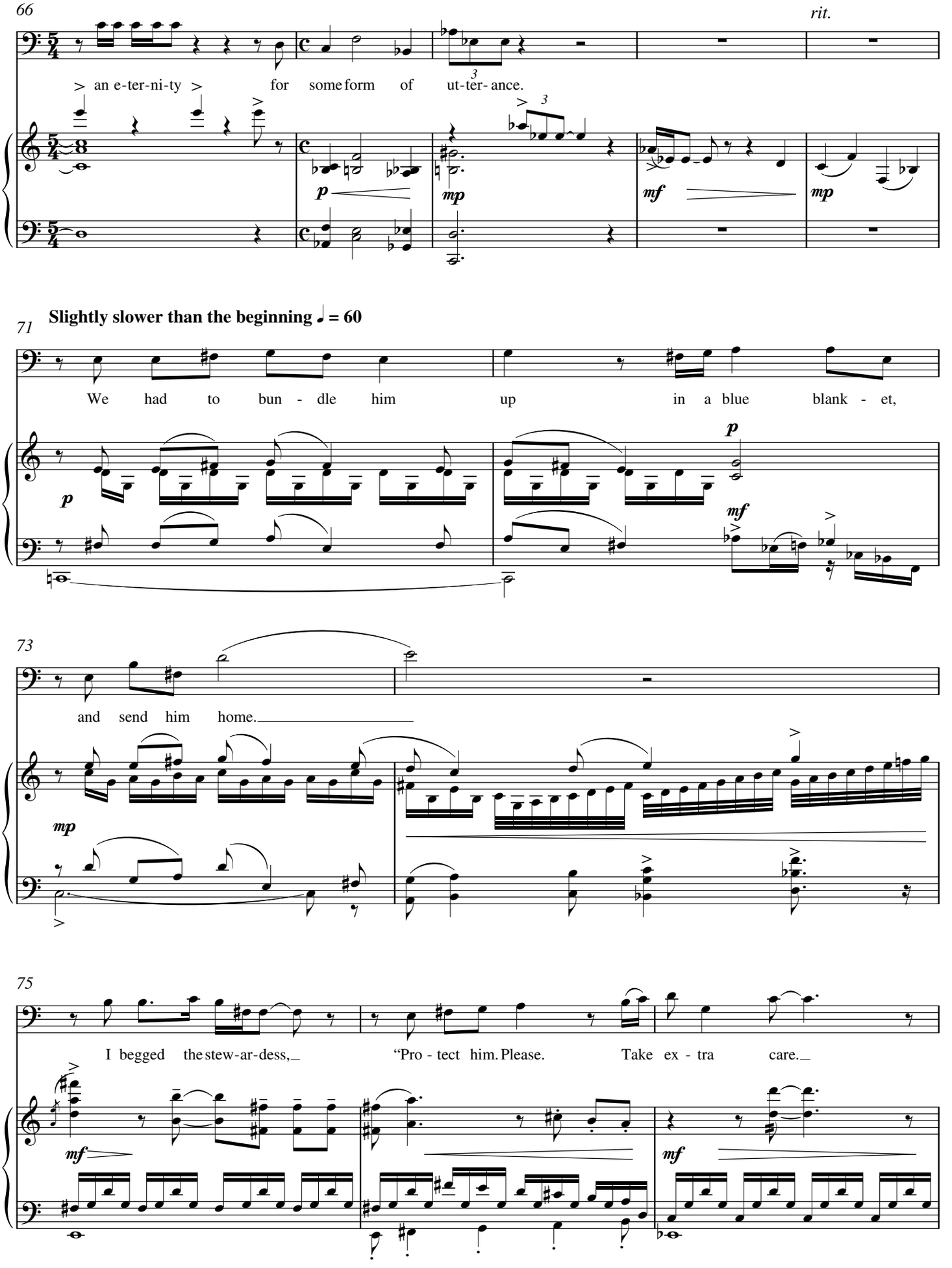
morph in - to a mo - bi-us strip. Was it the car-pet - ing,

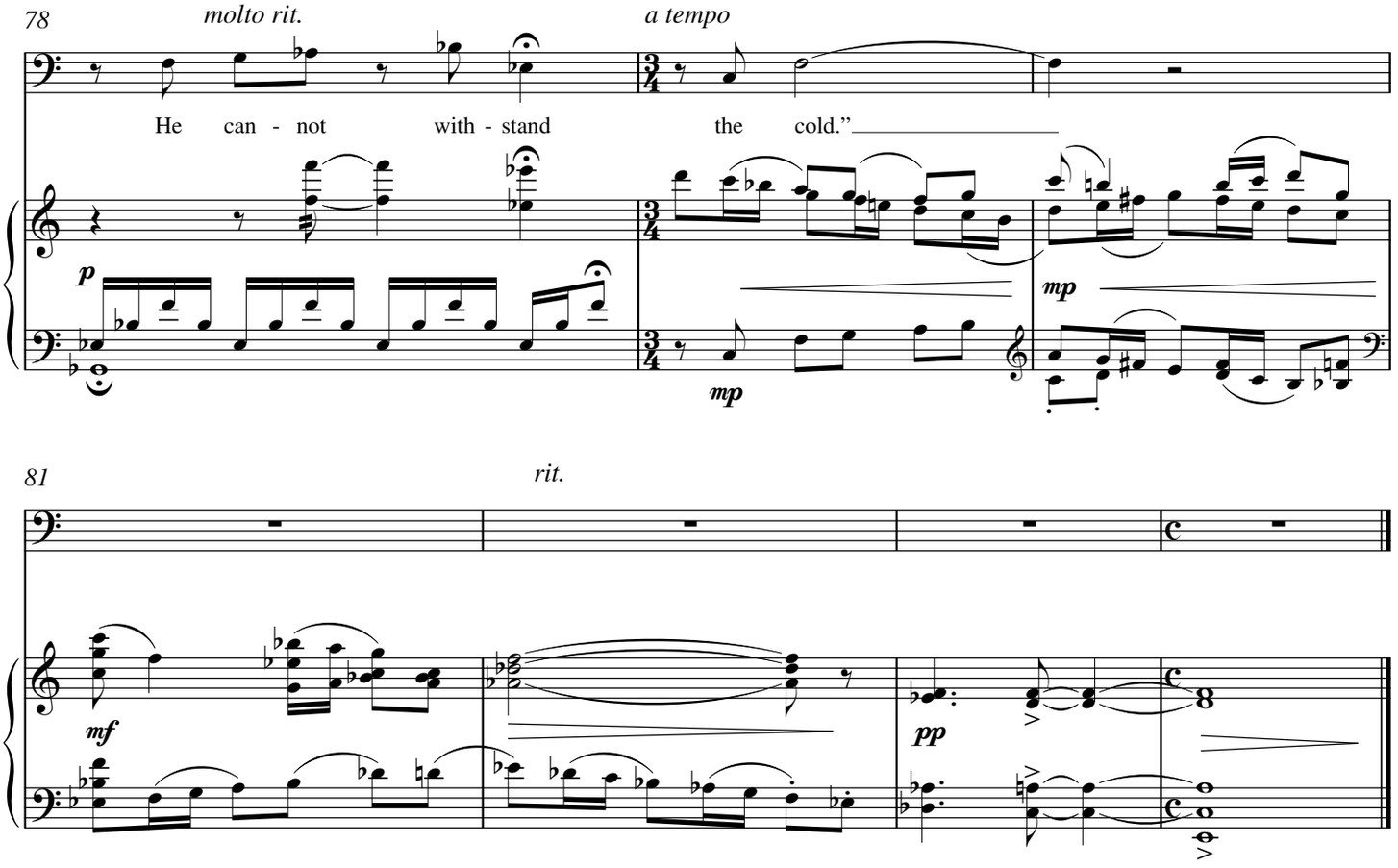
34

the fau - na, the flo - ra, the heat? The night be-fore he

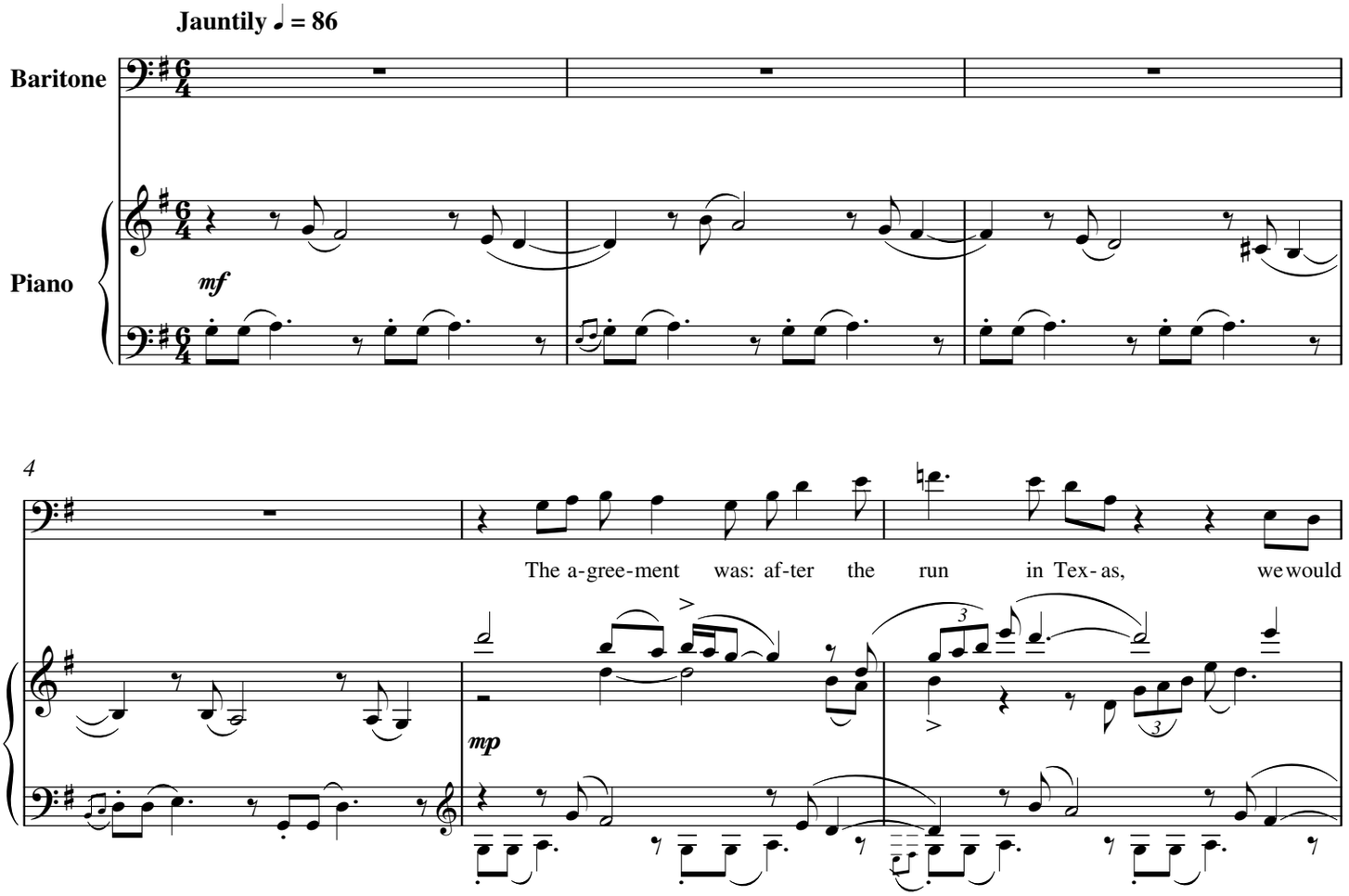

38
rit.
a tempo
begged me in a note fe-ver-ish with in - ten - si - ty taped to the bath-room
mp
p
mf
42
mir - ror... "Please, don't mois - tur-ize with
f
45
rit.
a tempo accel.
scent - - ed cream." La-ter on, he would
p
49
Faster, anxious ♩ = 100
some-times for-bid me to en - ter a room fear-ing some-thing ghast-ly had at -
mp
mf
sf
6
pp

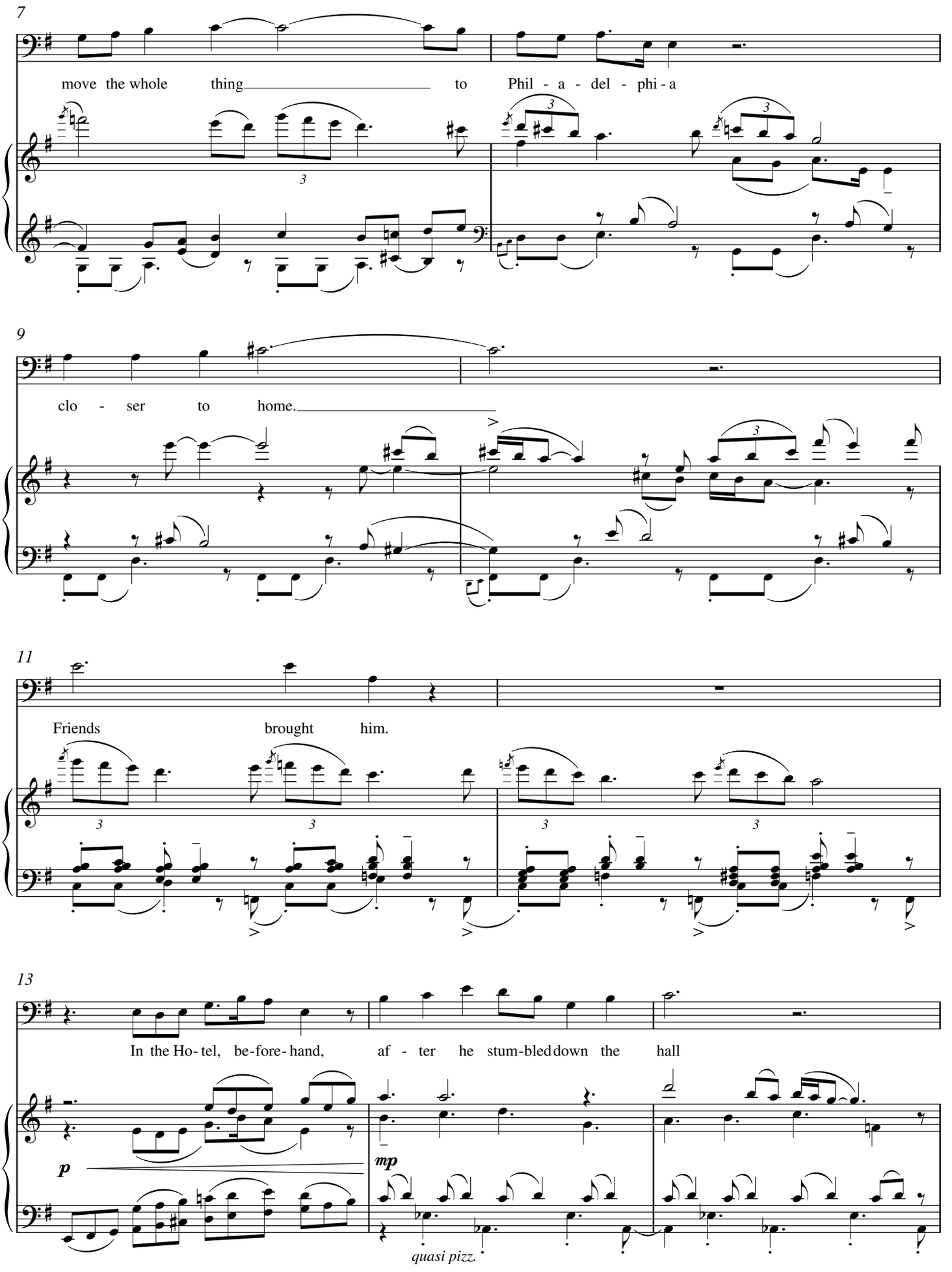

52
tached it - self to me or I had in - ad - ver - tent - ly for - got - ten
ff
55
rit.
Marcato ♩ = 72
that co - logne could kill him and sprayed will - ful - ly.
58
Tempo primo ♩ = 66
molto rit.
Slower, hesitant ♩ = 60
I tried to call for help, dialed the num - ber,
free, espress.
mf
p
62
but could - n't speak. Kind - ly, the re - ci - pi - ent wait - ed what seemed like
p
mf

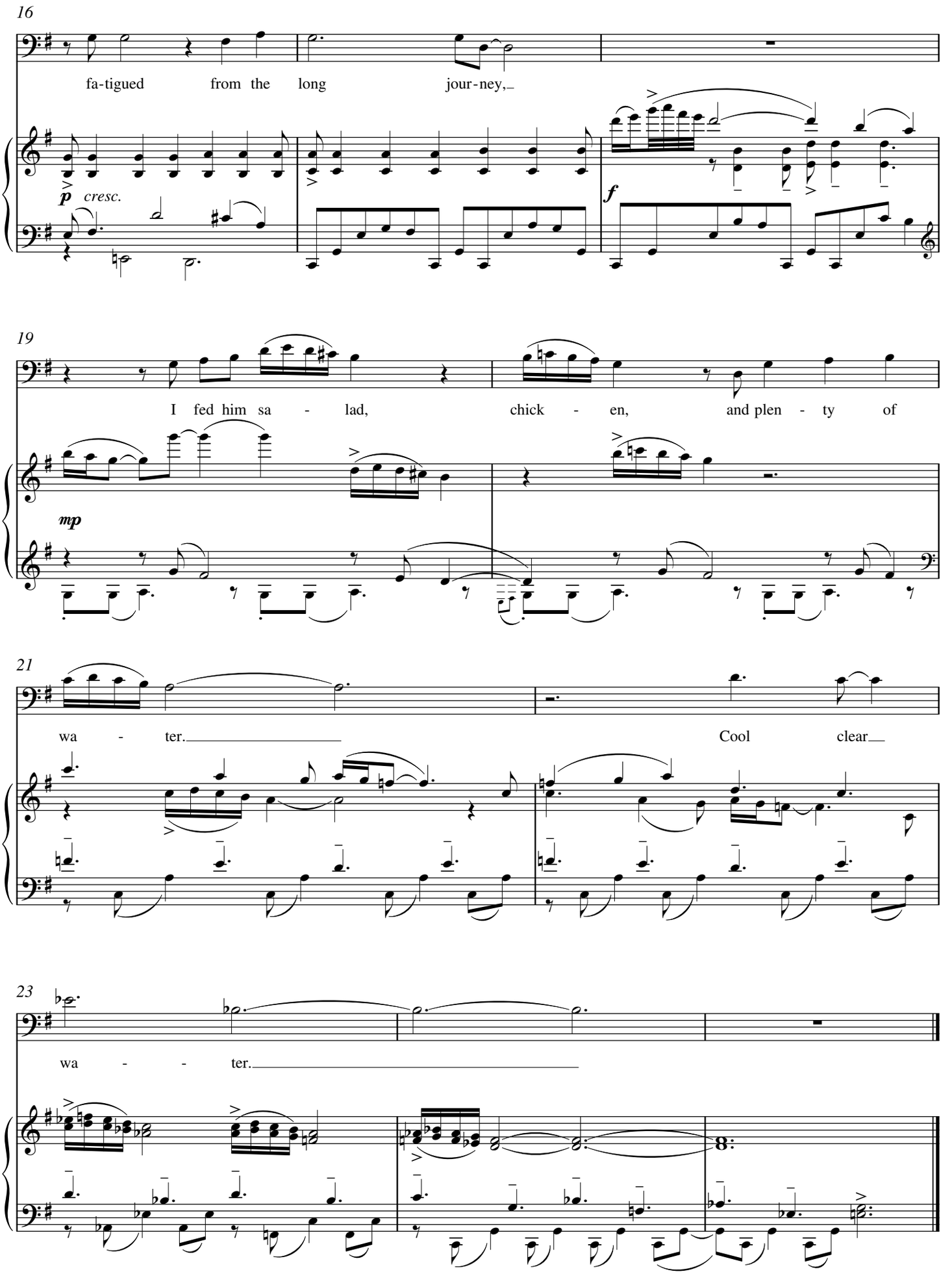

66
rit.
an e-ter-ni-ty for some form of ut-ter- ance.
71
Slightly slower than the beginning ♩ = 60
We had to bun - dle him up in a blue blank - et,
73
and send him home.
75
I begged the stew-ar-dess, "Pro - tect him. Please. Take ex - tra care.



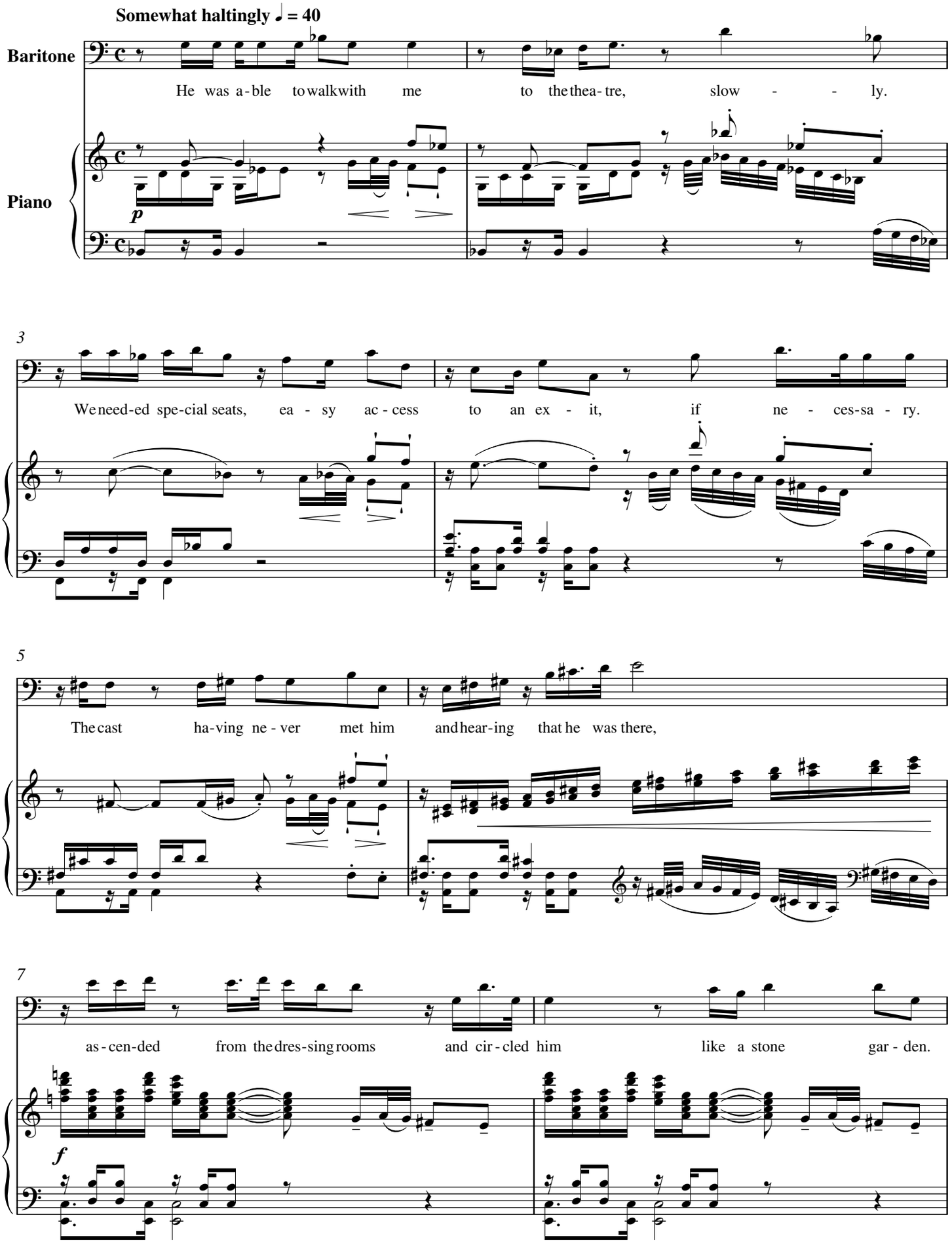
No. 9 Philadelphia

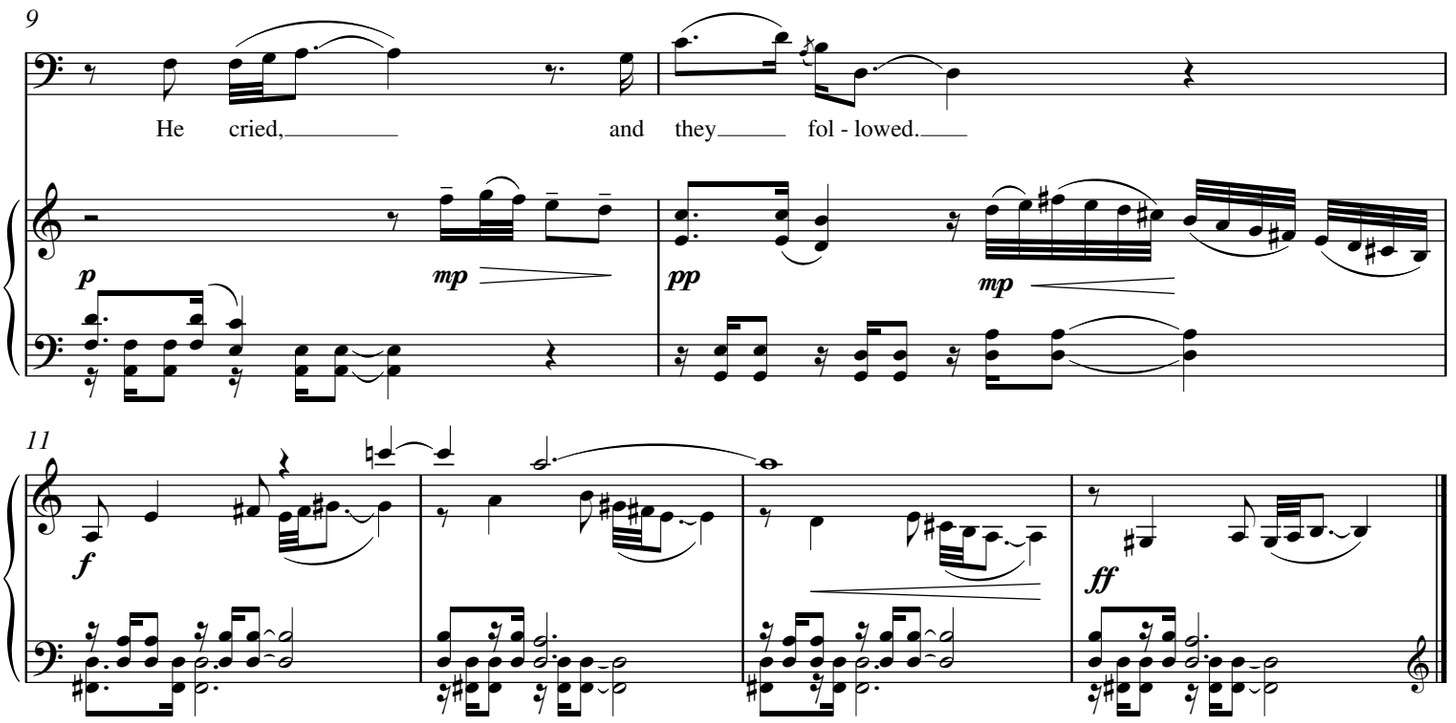



7
move the whole thing to Phil - a - del - phi - a
9
clo - ser to home.
11
Friends brought him.
13
In the Ho- tel, be-fore- hand, af - ter he stum-bled down the hall
p
mp
quasi pizz.

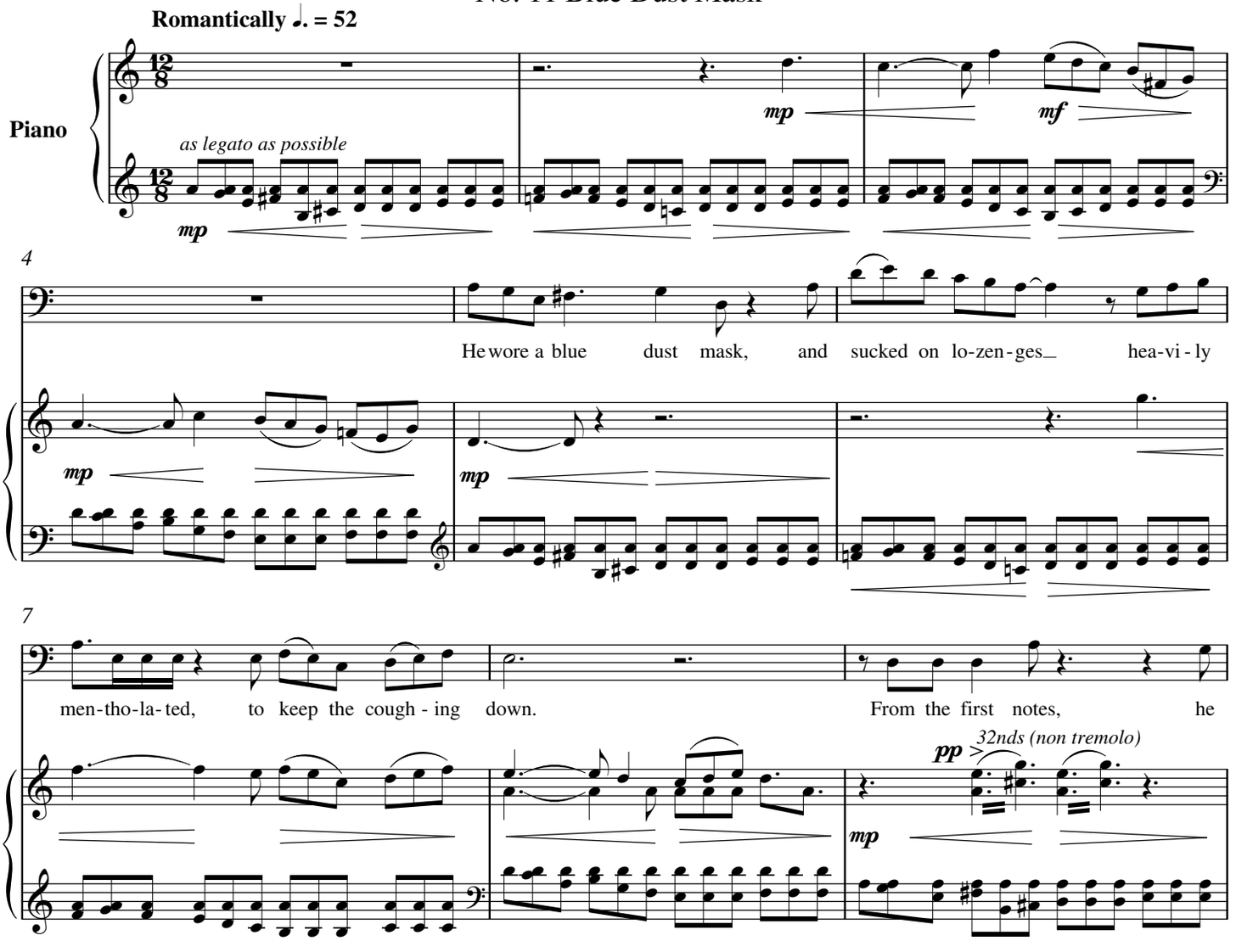

16
fa-tigued from the long jour-ney,
p cresc.
f
19
I fed him sa - lad, chick - en, and plen - ty of
mp
21
wa - ter. Cool clear
23
wa - - ter.

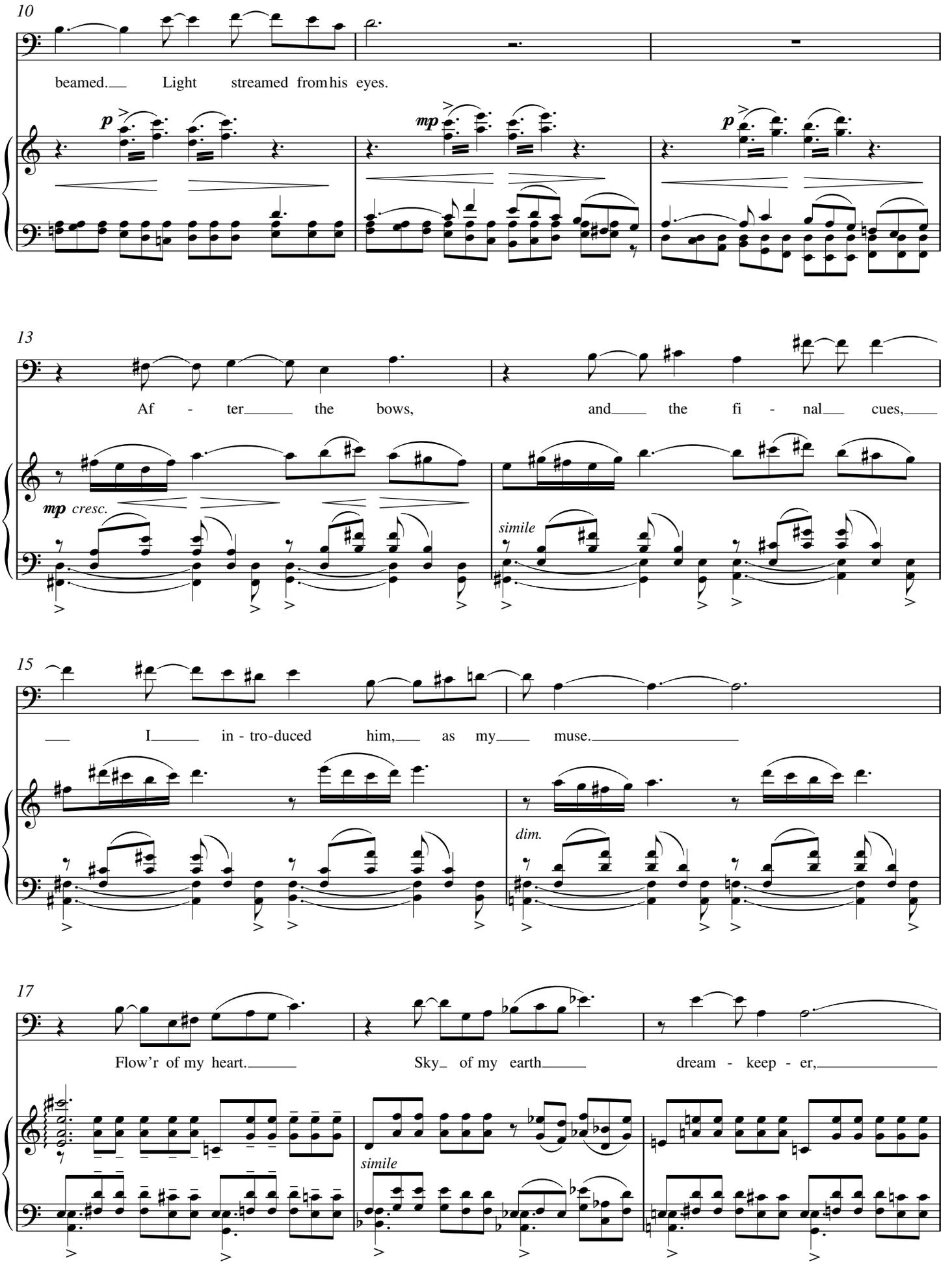
No. 10 Stone Garden

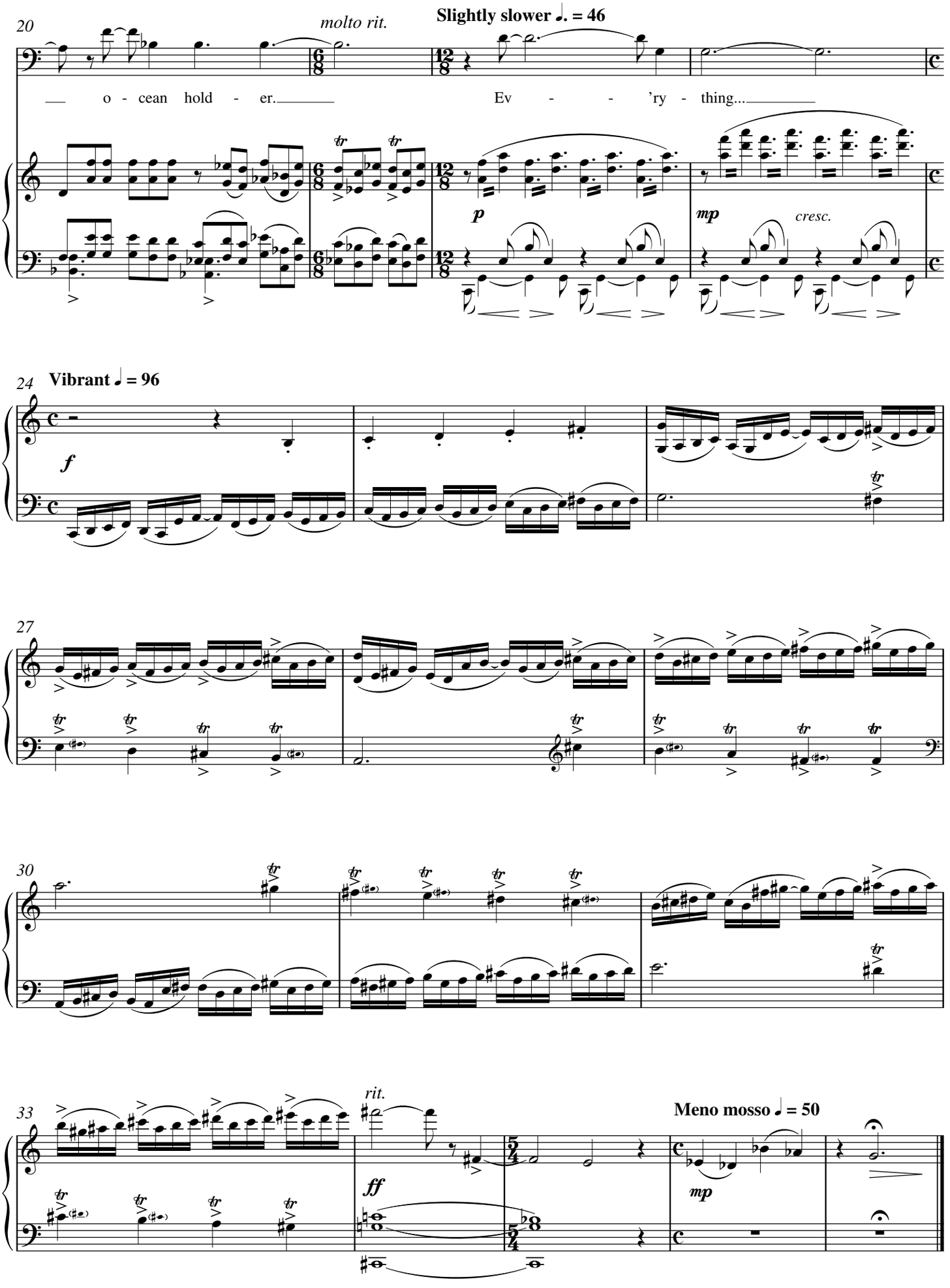




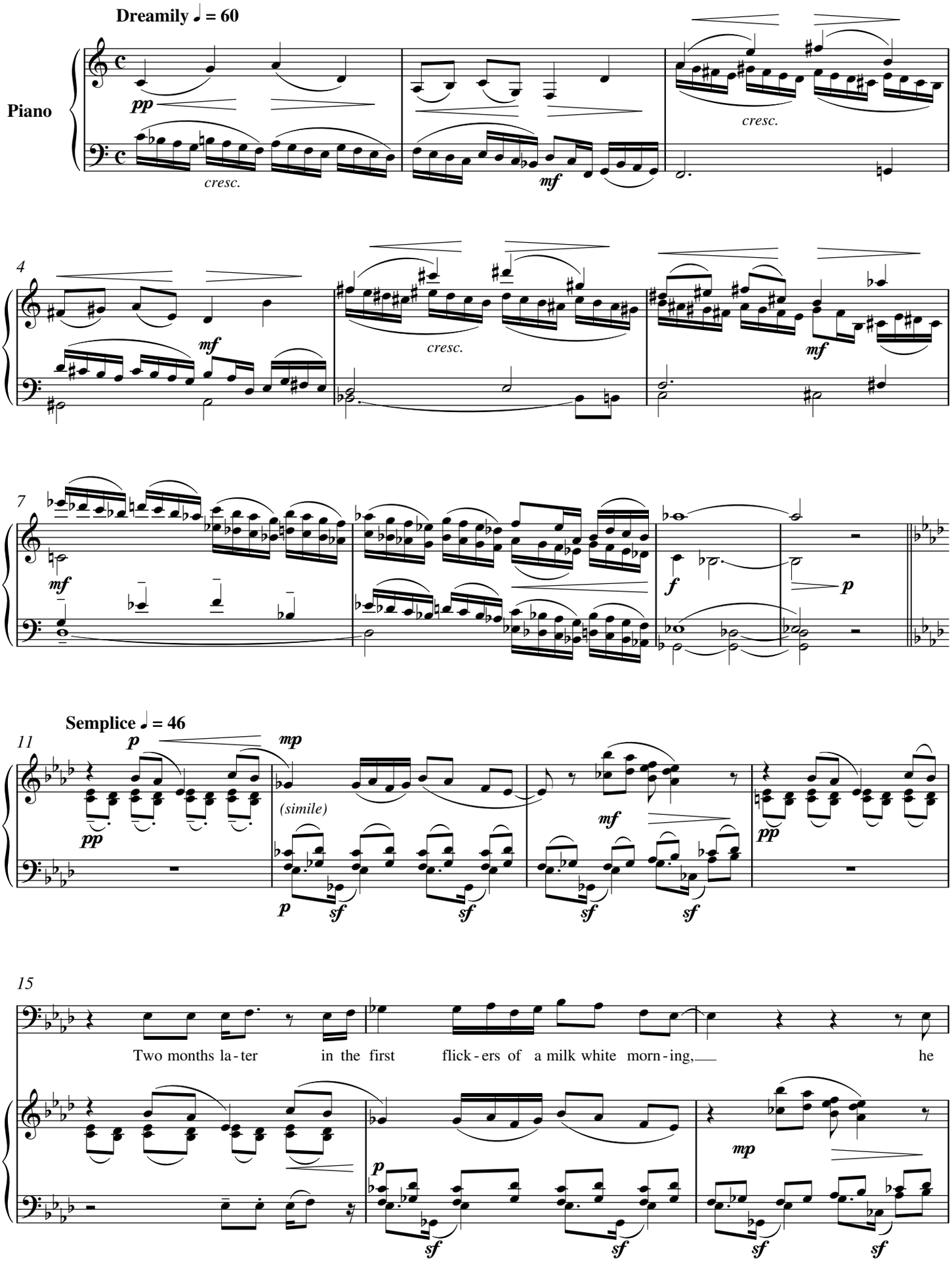
No. 11 Blue Dust Mask

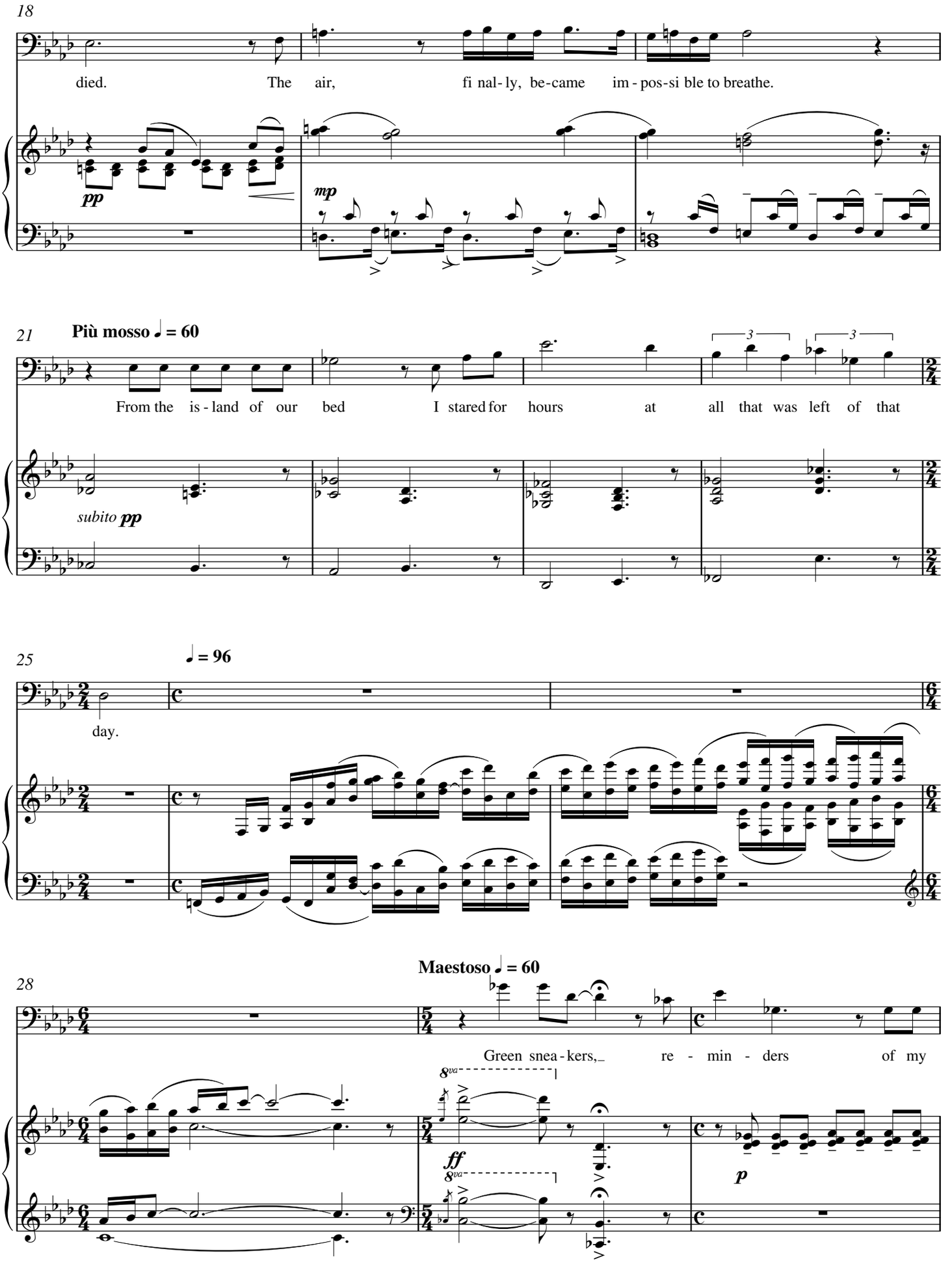


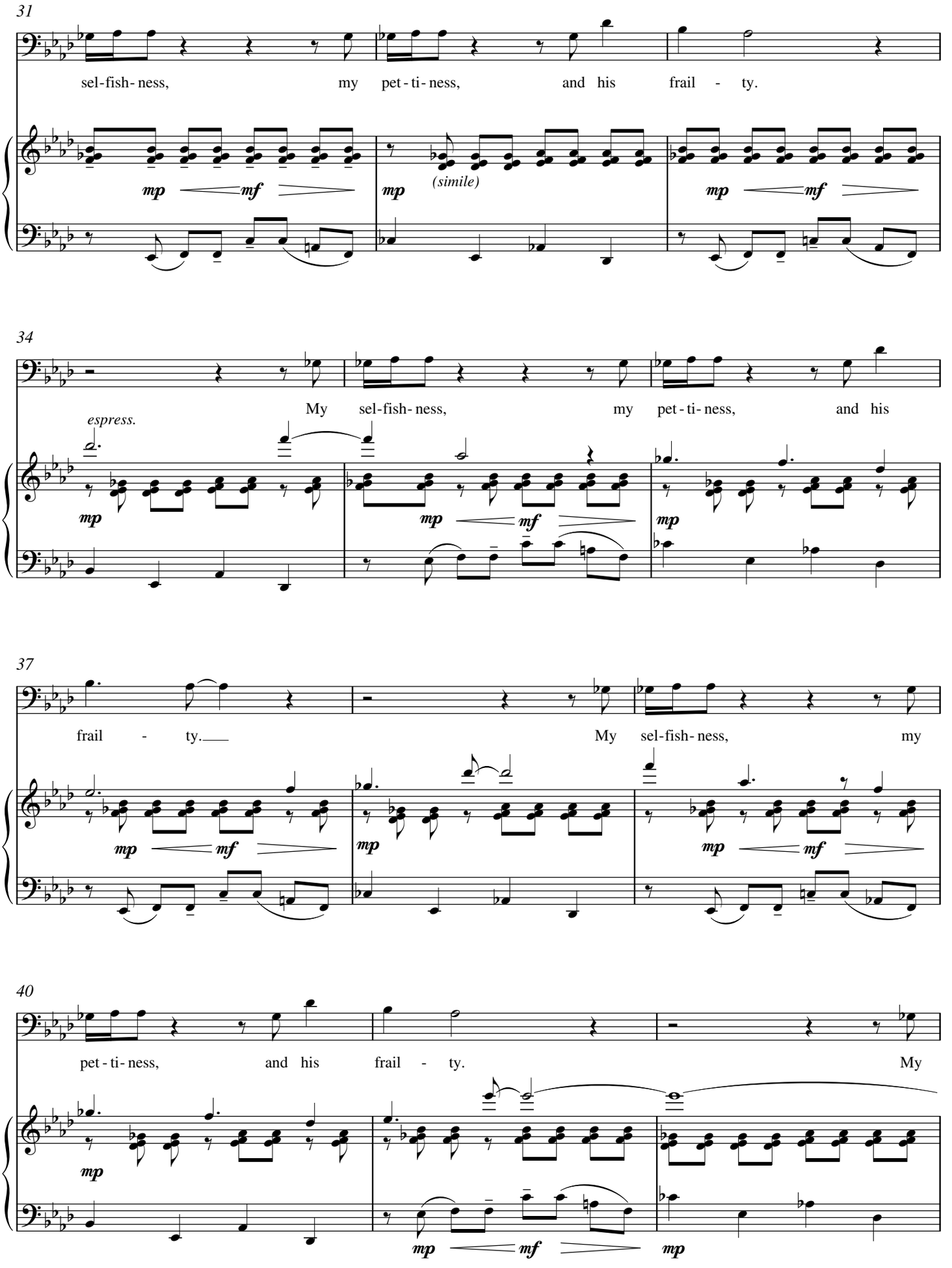

10
beamed. Light streamed from his eyes.
p
mp
p
13
Af - ter the bows, and the fi - nal cues,
mp cresc.
simile
15
I in - tro-duced him, as my muse.
dim.
17
Flow'r of my heart. Sky of my earth dream - keep - er,
simile

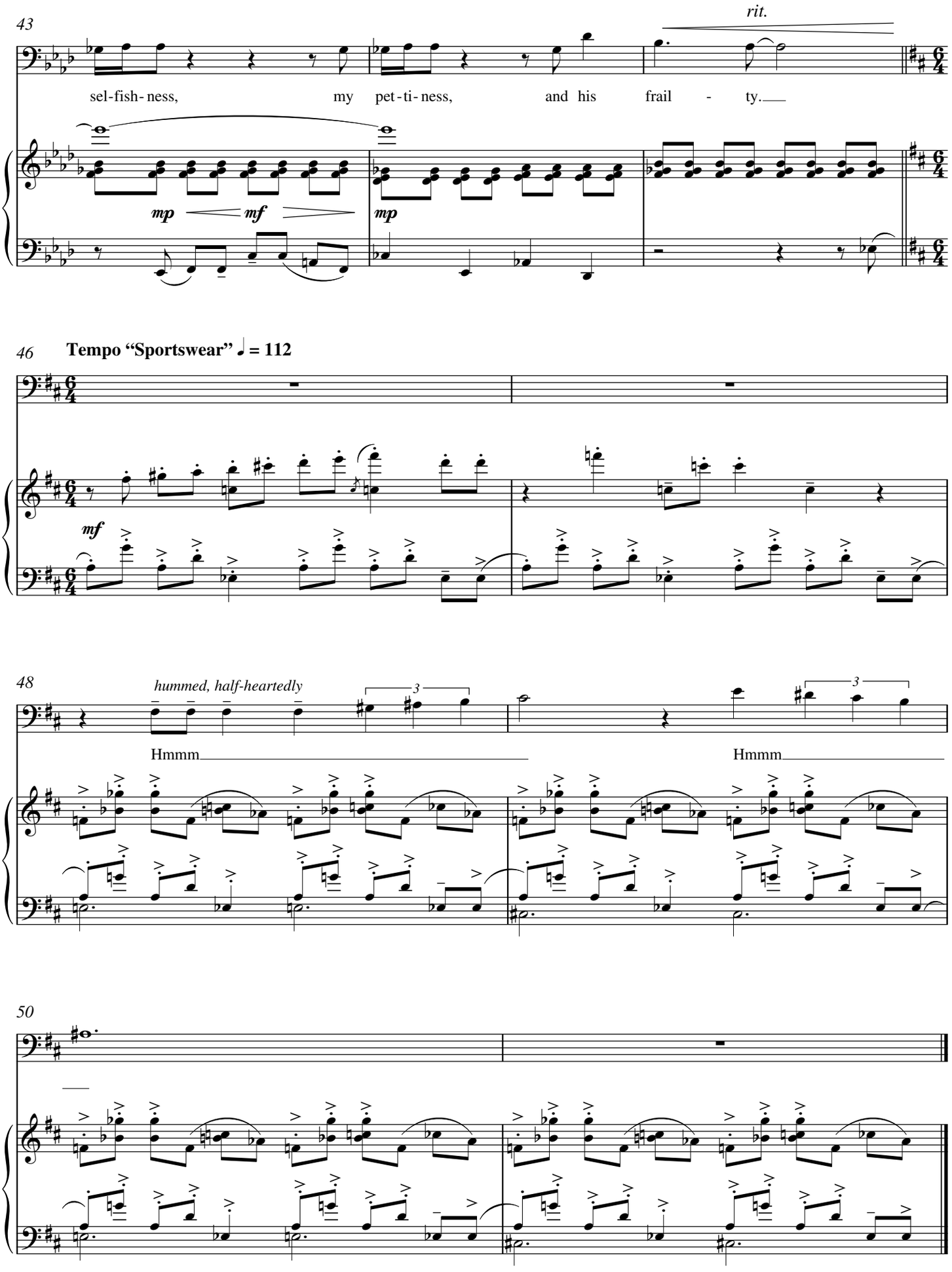

20
molto rit.
Slightly slower ♩. = 46
o - cean hold - er.
Ev - - 'ry - thing...
p
mp
cresc.
24
Vibrant ♩ = 96
f
27
30
33
rit.
ff
Meno mosso ♩ = 50
mp

No. 12 Two Months Later




18
died. The air, fi nal-ly, be-came im-pos-si ble to breathe.
pp
mp
21
Più mosso ♩ = 60
From the is-land of our bed I stared for hours at all that was left of that
subito pp
25
♩ = 96
day.
28
Maestoso ♩ = 60
Green snea-kers, re-min-ders of my
8va
ff
8va
p


31
sel-fish-ness, my pet-ti-ness, and his frail - ty.
mp mf
mp
(simile)
mp mf
34
espress.
My sel-fish-ness, my pet-ti-ness, and his
mp
mp mf
mp
37
frail - ty. My sel-fish-ness, my
mp mf
mp
mp mf
40
pet-ti-ness, and his frail - ty. My
mp
mp mf
mp


43
rit.
sel-fish-ness, my pet-ti-ness, and his frail - ty.
mp mf mp
46
Tempo "Sportswear" ♩ = 112
mf
48
hummed, half-heartedly
3
Hmmm
Hmmm
50

No. 13 Would You Consider...

Reflective ♩ = 63

Baritone

Piano

p *f* *subito p* *p*

6

"Would you con - si - der learn - ing Bud - dhi - sm?"

f *mp* *p*

11

— he asked, propped up a - gainst his pil - lows, re - mo - ving his glass - es as I

15

rit.

en - tered the room. "Why?" I re - plied. "Be - cause I think, I

19 *a tempo*

want to die as a Bud - dhist, but I may need your help.

p *f* *subito p*

23 *rit.* **Meno mosso ♩ = 56**

Help me." "Yes." I said.

p

26 **Freely** *rit.*

So I wrote him an op - 'ra. "The Ti - be - tan Book of the Dead..."

f *p*

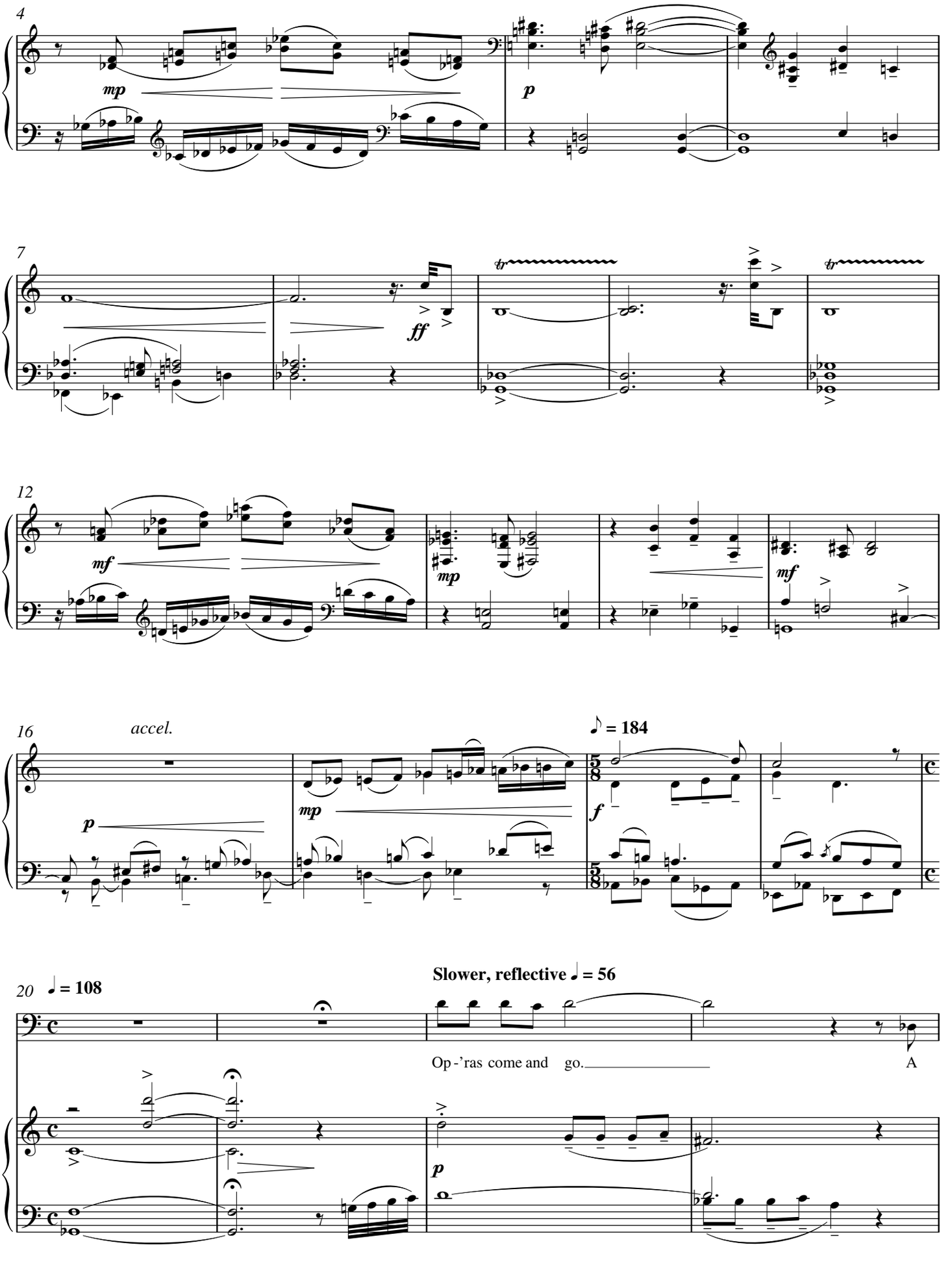
attacca

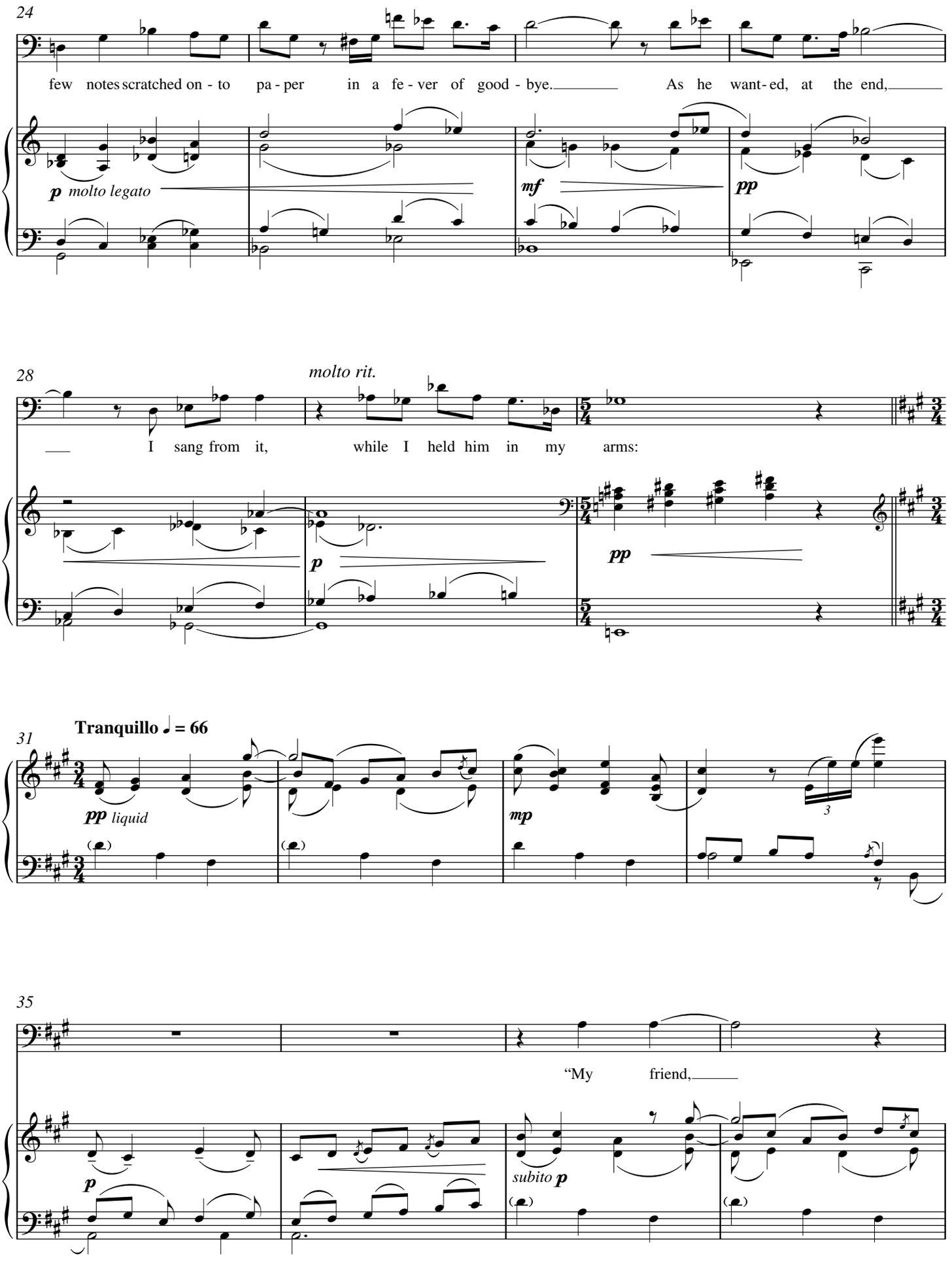
No. 14 Operas Come and Go

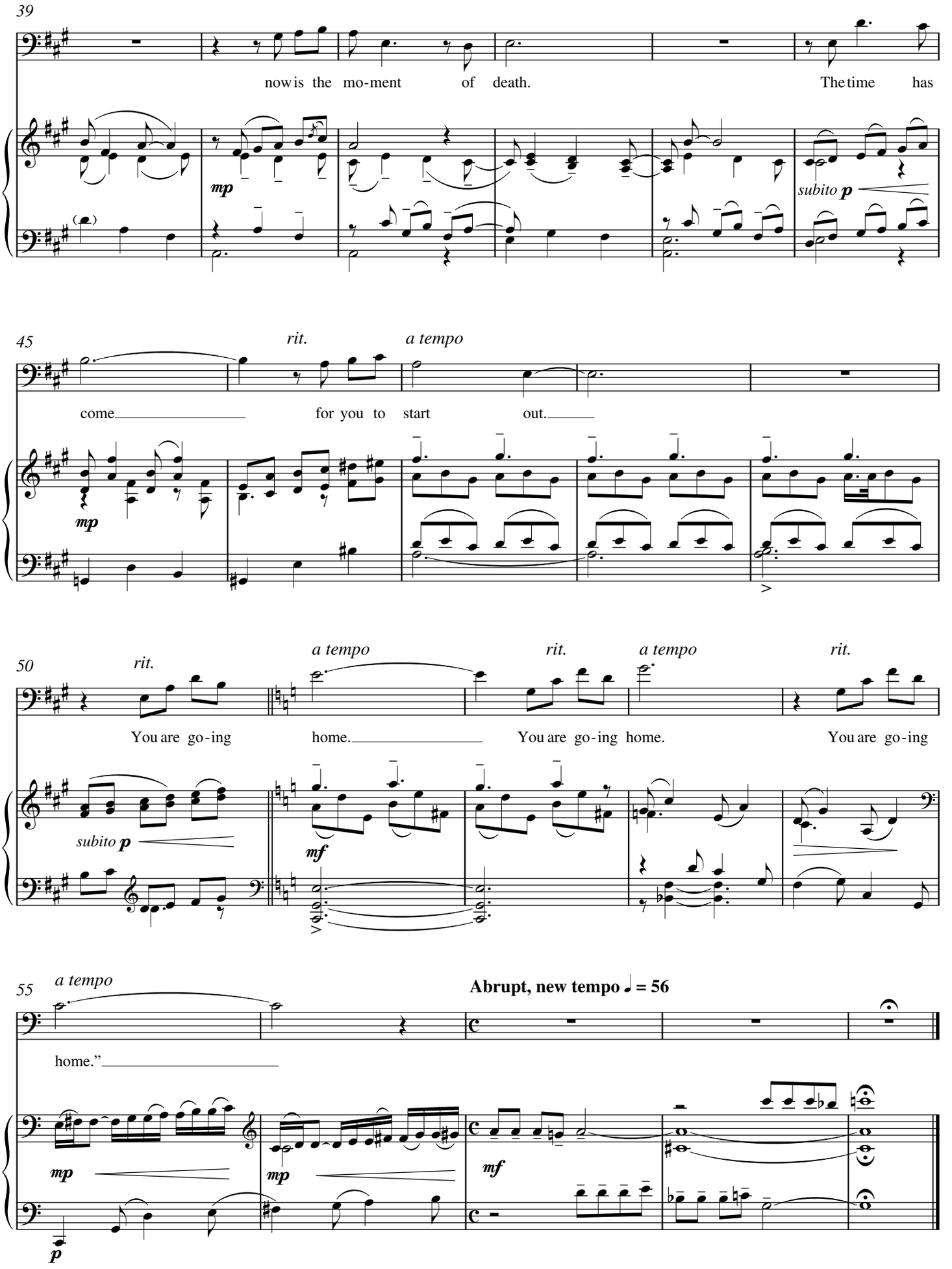
Abrupt, as if from another world ♩ = 80

Piano

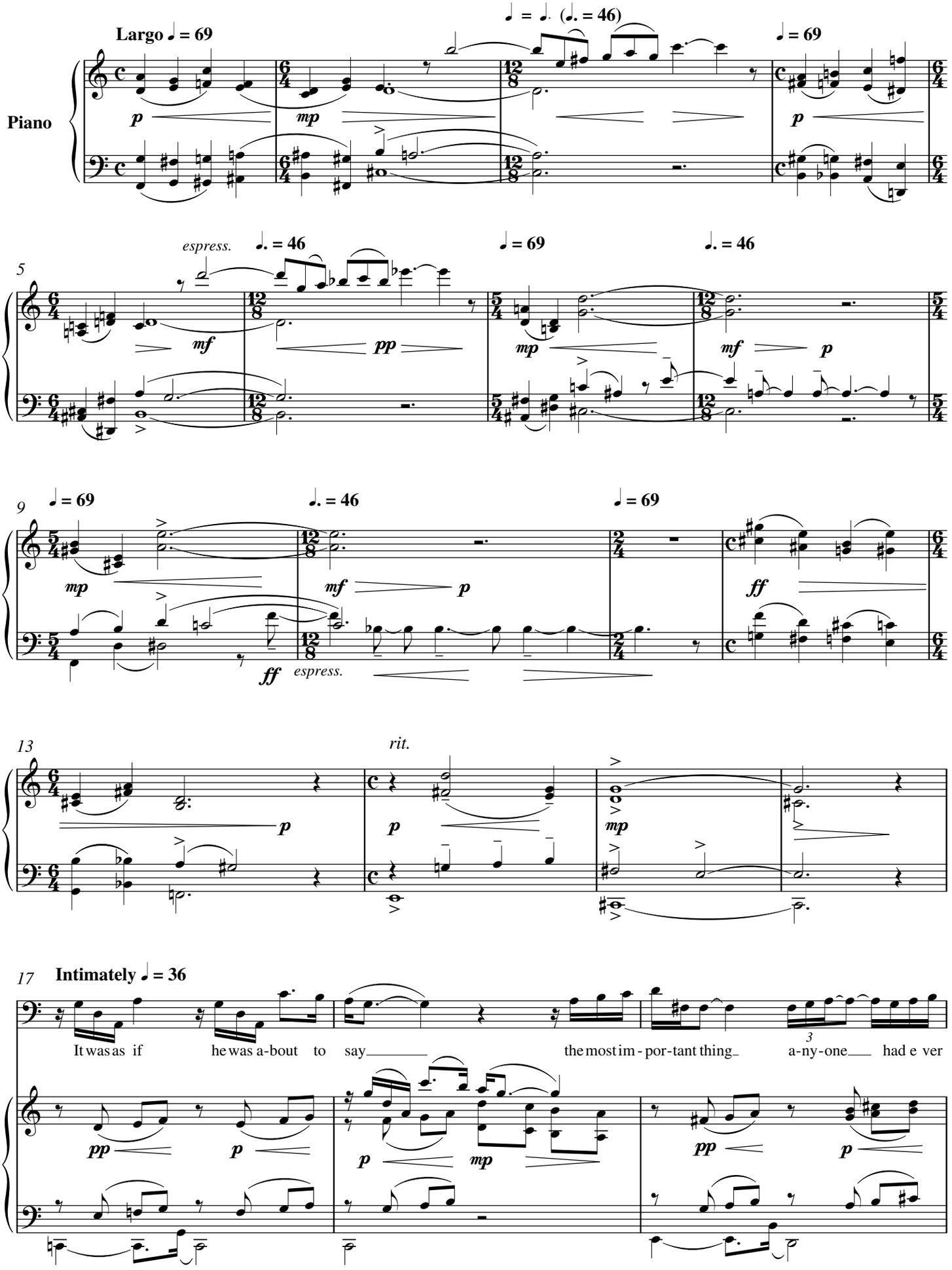
ff

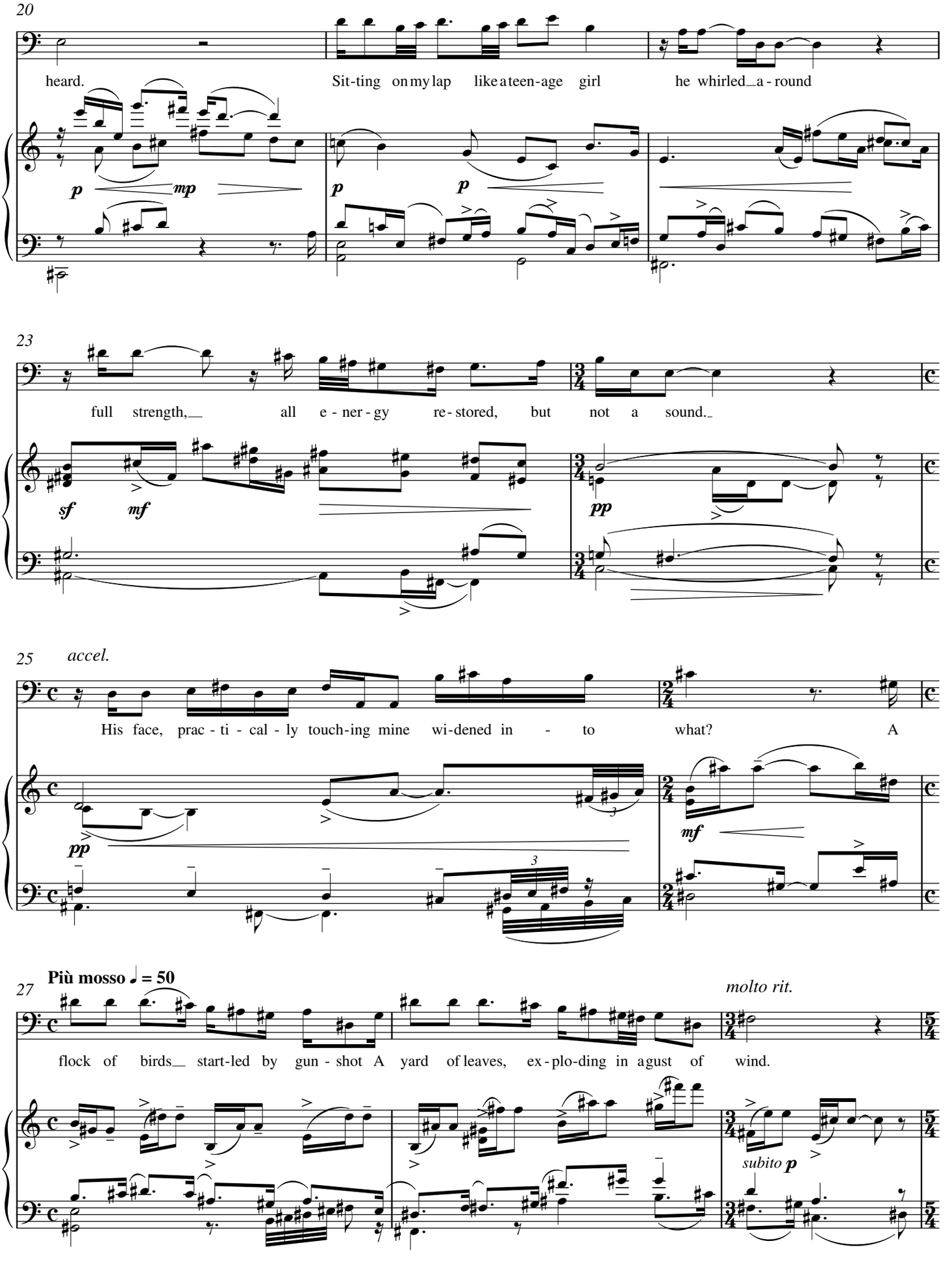

4
mp
p
7
ff
tr
tr
12
mf
mp
mf
16
accel.
p
mp
♪ = 184
f
20
♩ = 108
Slower, reflective ♩ = 56
Op - 'ras come and go.
A
p


24
few notes scratched on - to pa - per in a fe - ver of good - bye. As he want - ed, at the end,
p molto legato
mf
pp
28
molto rit.
I sang from it, while I held him in my arms:
p
pp
31
Tranquillo ♩ = 66
pp liquid
mp
3
35
"My friend,
p
subito p


39
now is the mo-ment of death. The time has
mp
subito p
45
rit.
a tempo
come for you to start out.
mp
50
rit.
a tempo
rit.
a tempo
rit.
You are go-ing home. You are go-ing home. You are go-ing
subito p
mf
55
a tempo
Abrupt, new tempo ♩ = 56
home."
mp
mp
mf
p

No. 15 It Was As If...




20
heard.
Sit-ting on my lap like a teen-age girl
he whirled a - round
p
mp
p
p
23
full strength,
all e - ner - gy re - stored, but not a sound.
sf
mf
pp
25
accel.
His face, prac - ti - cal - ly touch-ing mine wi-dened in - to what? A
pp
mf
27
Più mosso ♩ = 50
molto rit.
flock of birds start-led by gun - shot A yard of leaves, ex - plo-ding in a gust of wind.
subito p

30 **A tempo, ma poco meno mosso ♩ = 34**

And his mouth a per-fect O. One tear trick-led from his left eye. Ho-ly Wa-ter

33 *rit.* **As before ♩ = 36**

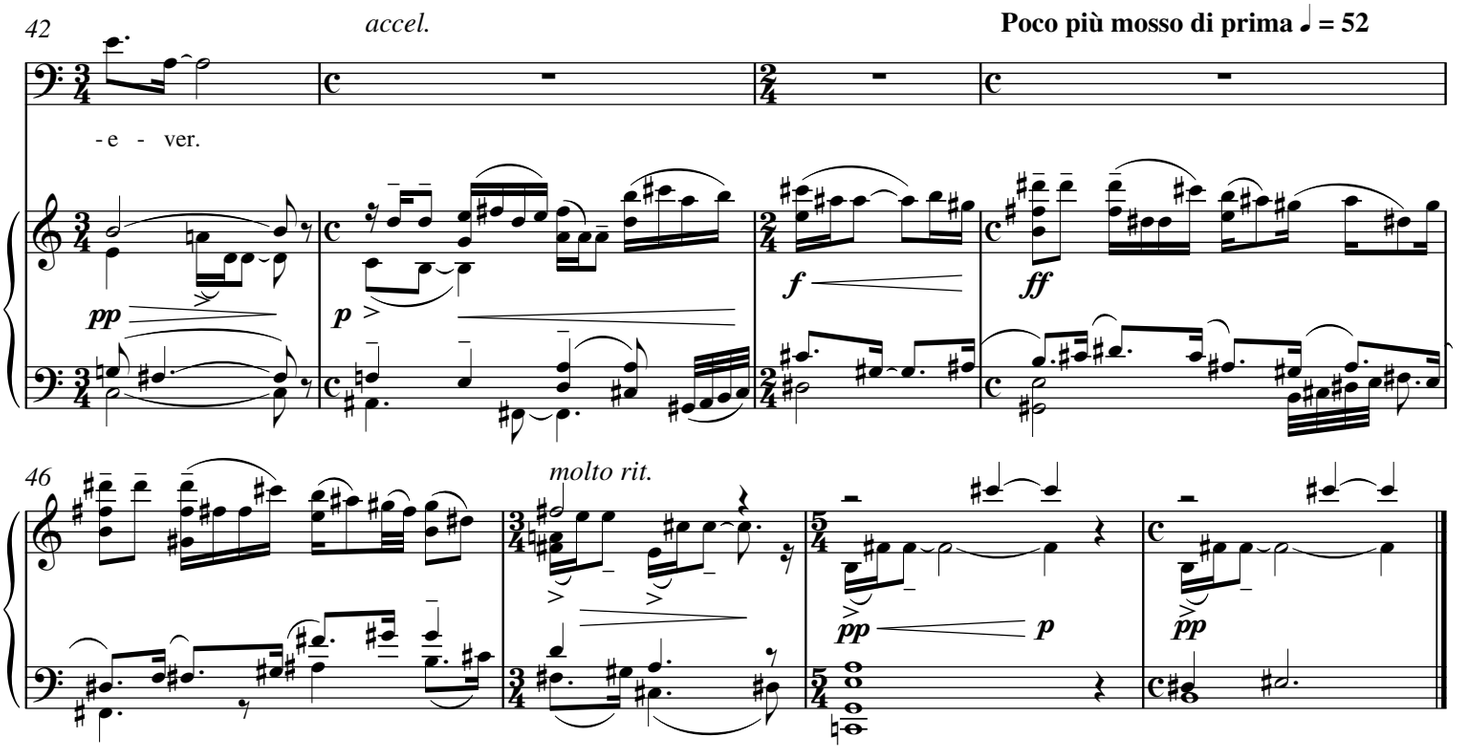
and then the ra-di-ance, the peace. What was it you meant to say, Jeff-rey? What

36 *rit.*

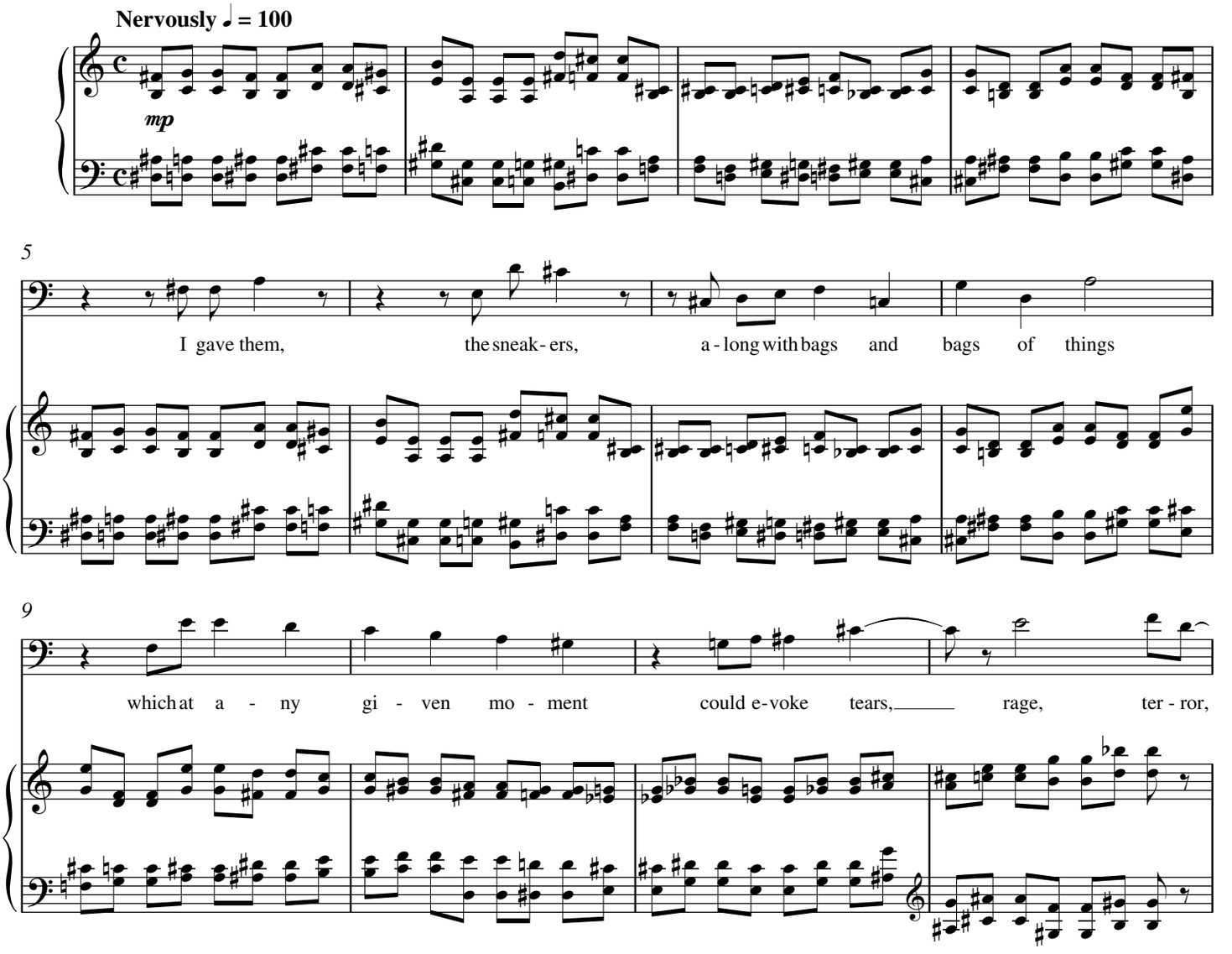
was it? The clo-set doors are still shi-ver-ing. And the for-mi-ca siz-zles with your last ap-proach.

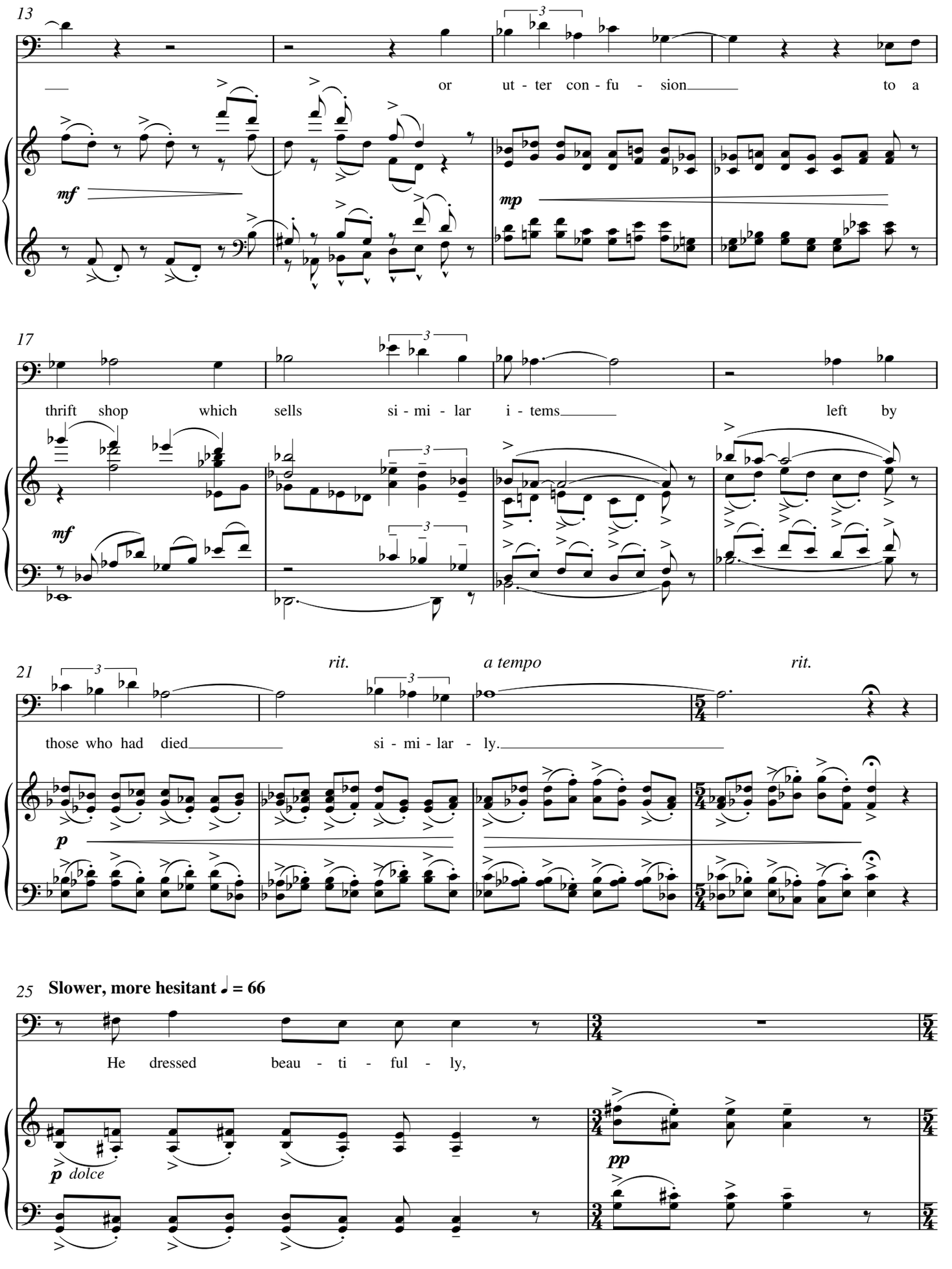
39 *a tempo*

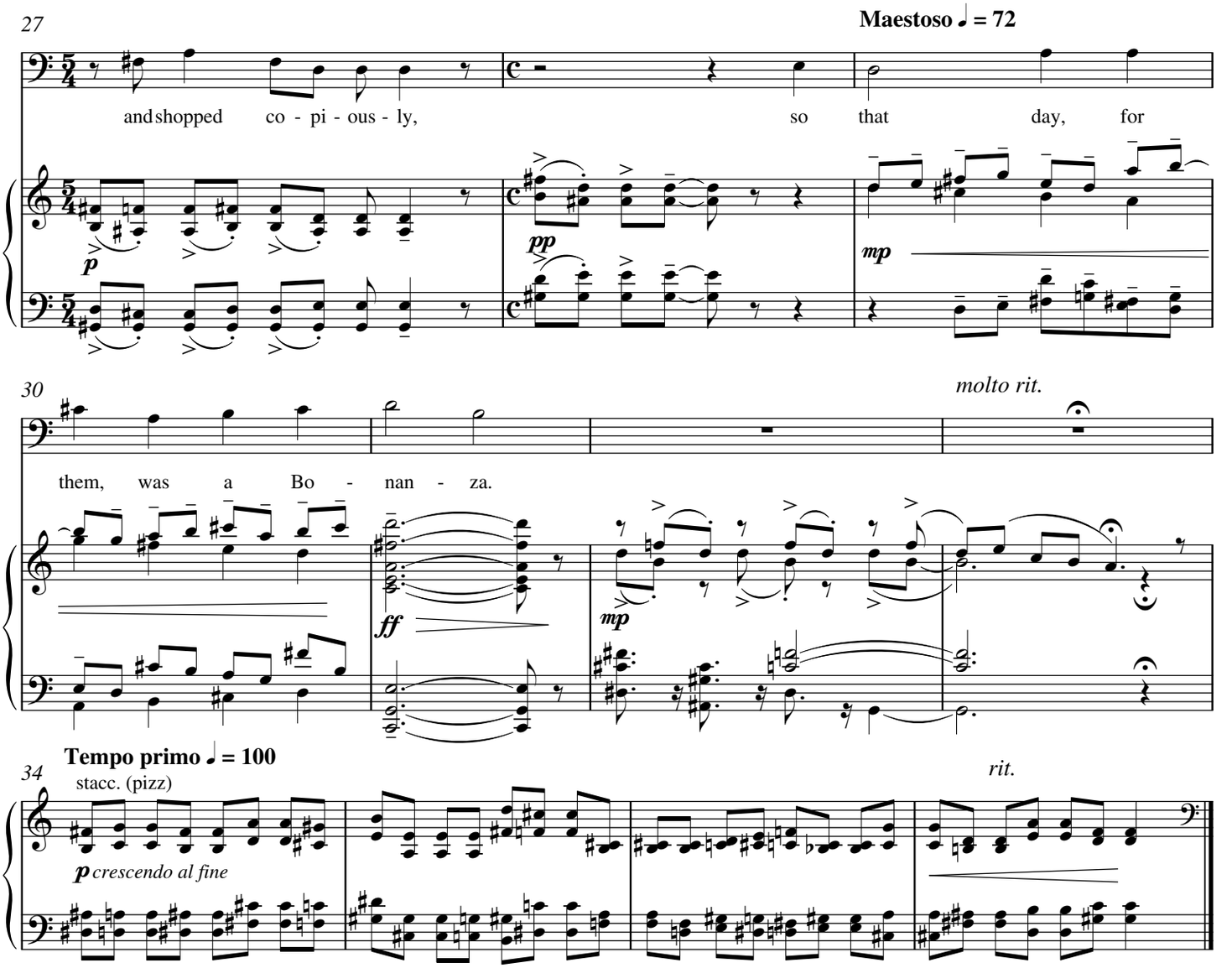
I am wri-ting this poem on your com-pu-ter. Here are the words... I love you, dar-ling. For



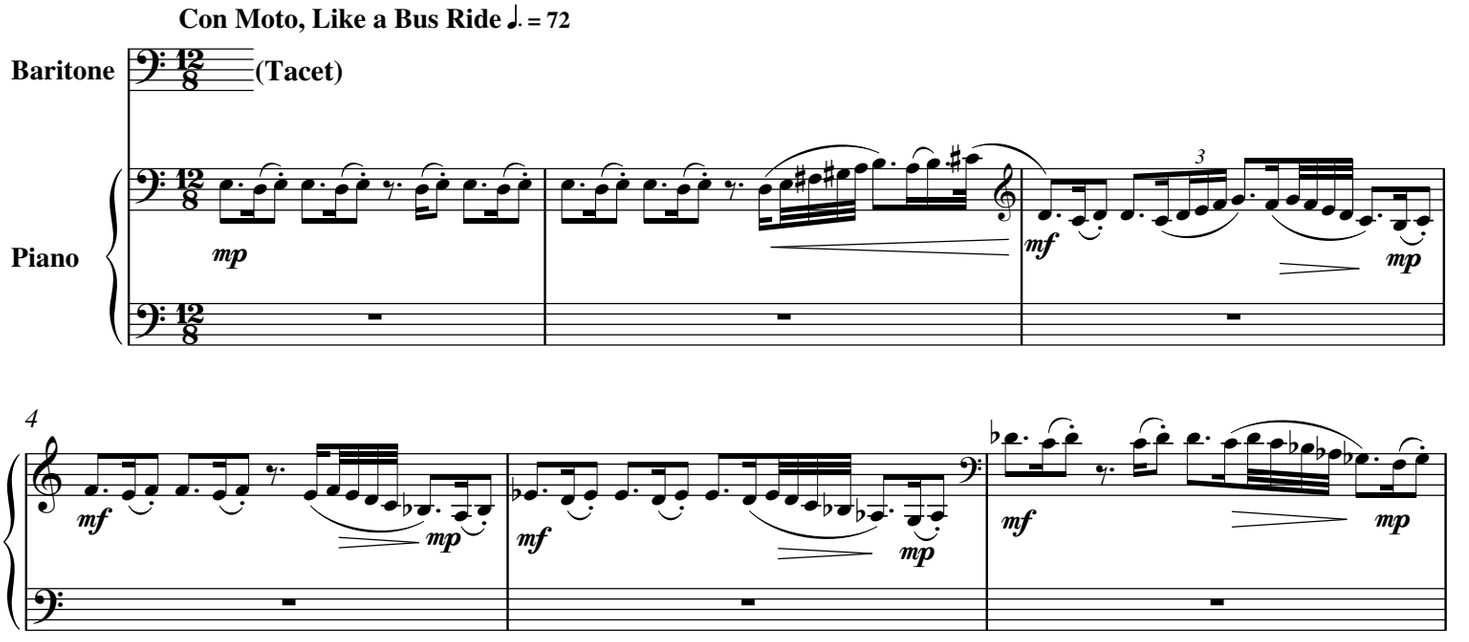
No. 16 Bonanza

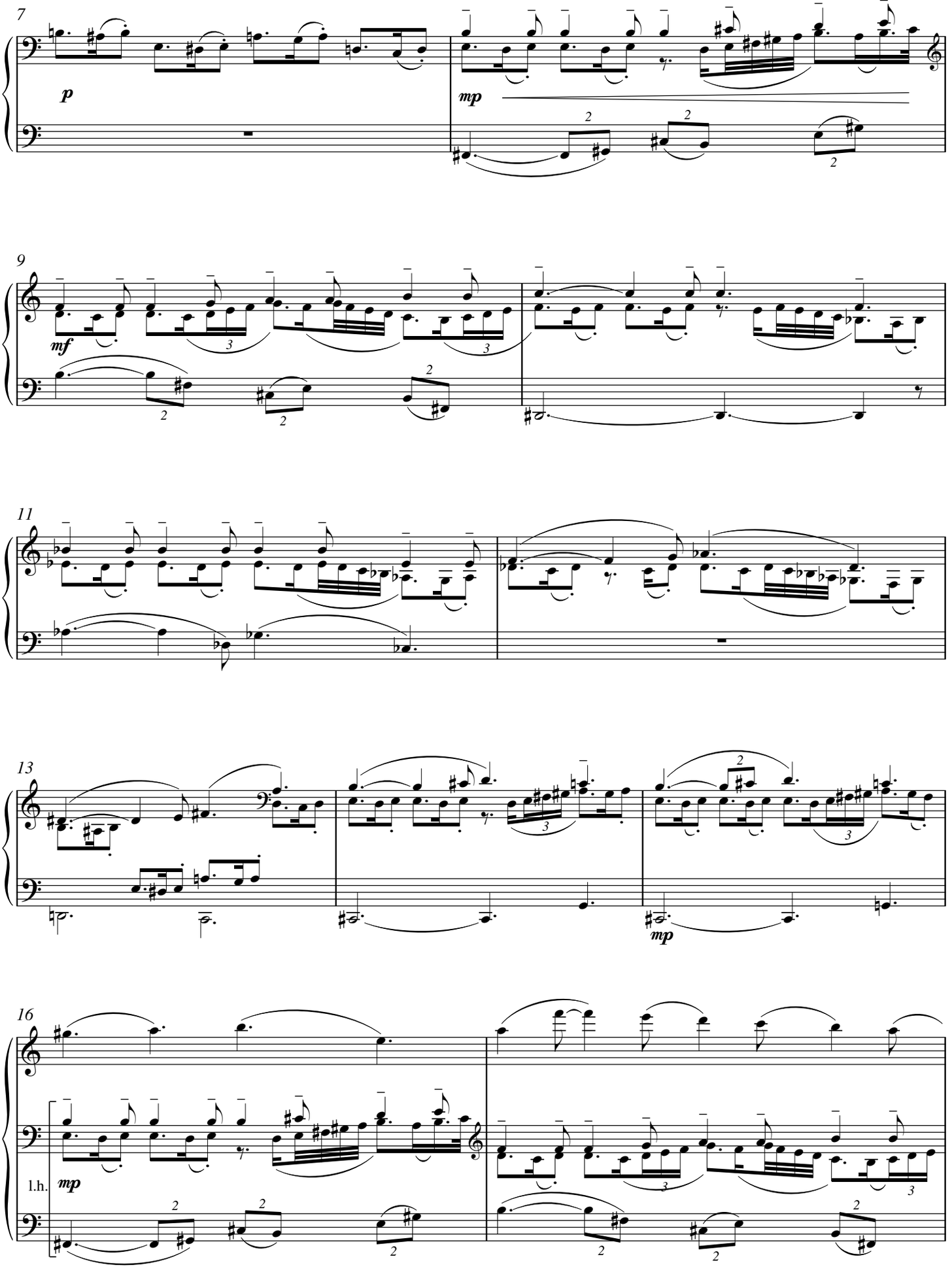


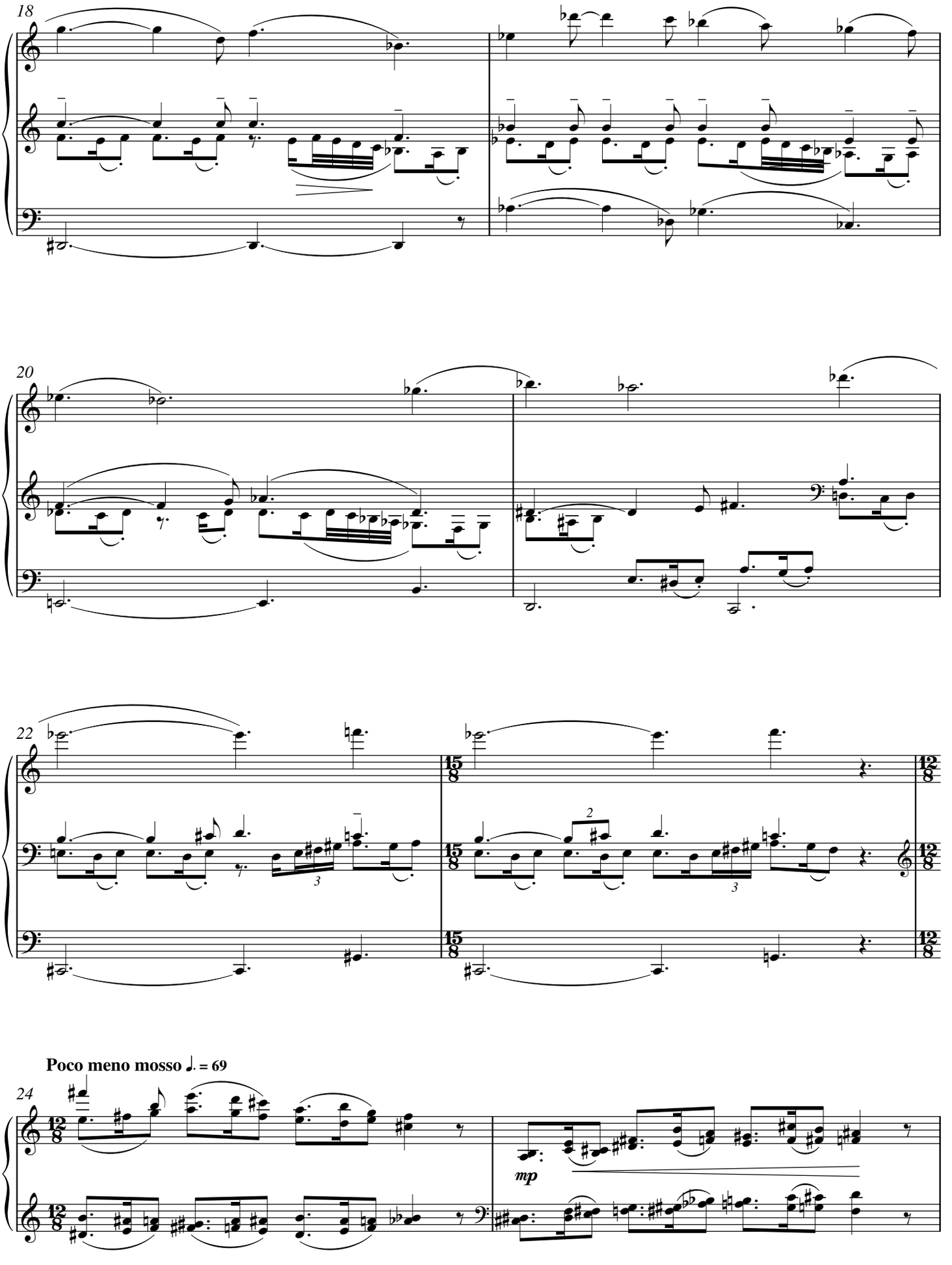

13
or ut - ter con - fu - sion to a
mf
mp
17
thrift shop which sells si - mi - lar i - tems left by
mf
21
rit.
a tempo
rit.
those who had died si - mi - lar - ly.
p
25 Slower, more hesitant ♩ = 66
He dressed beau - ti - ful - ly,
p dolce
pp

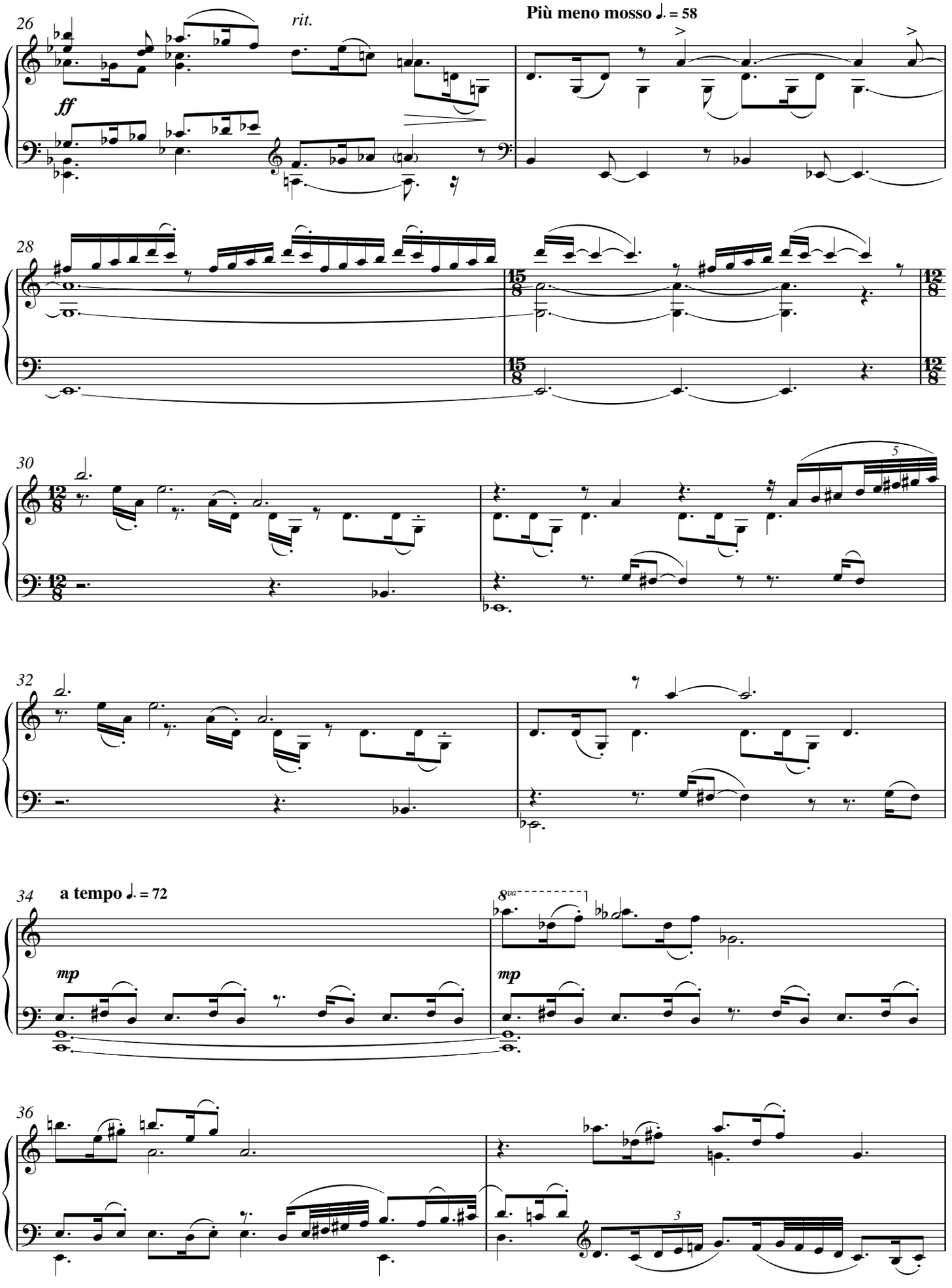


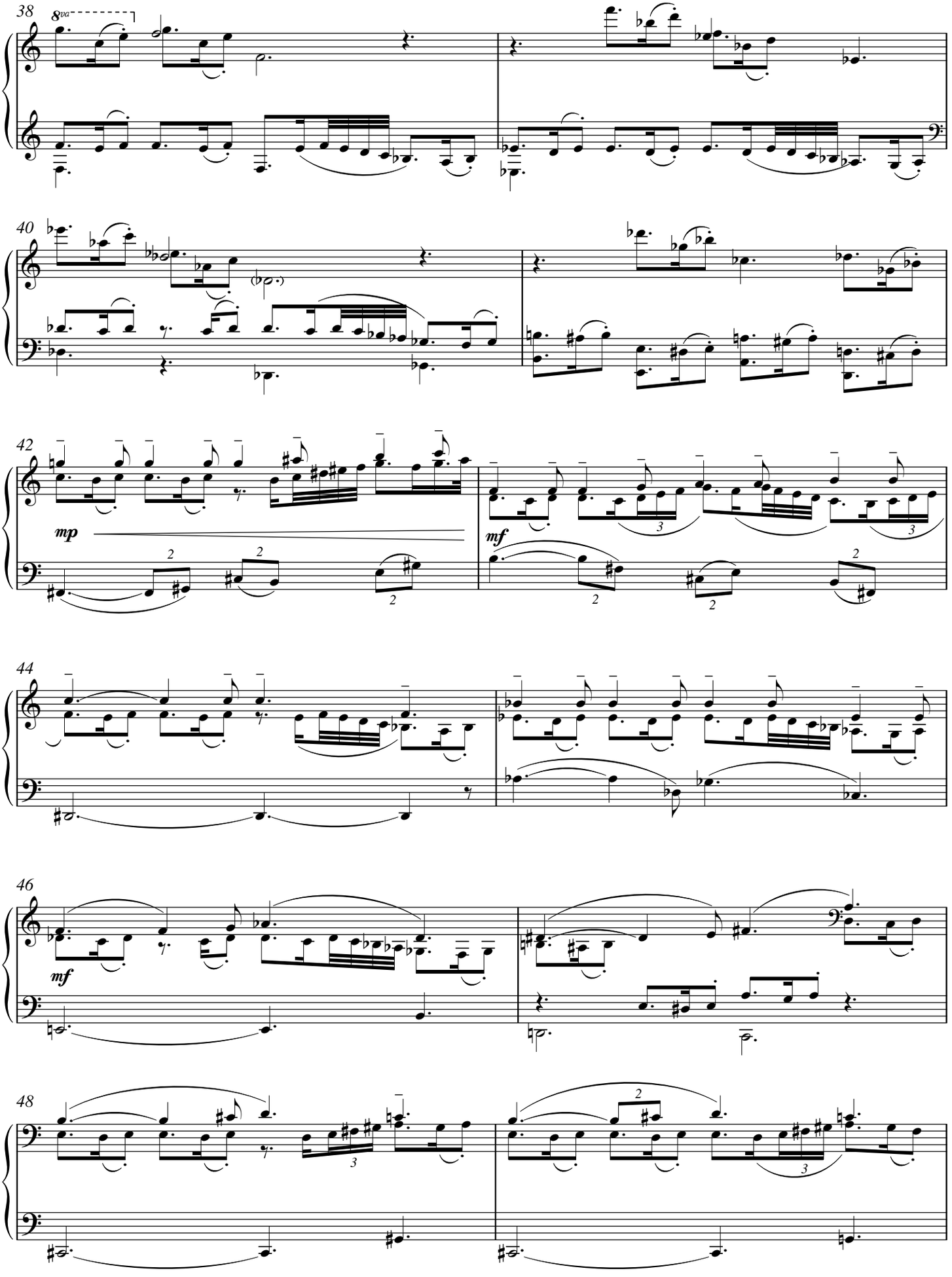
No. 17 Bus Ride

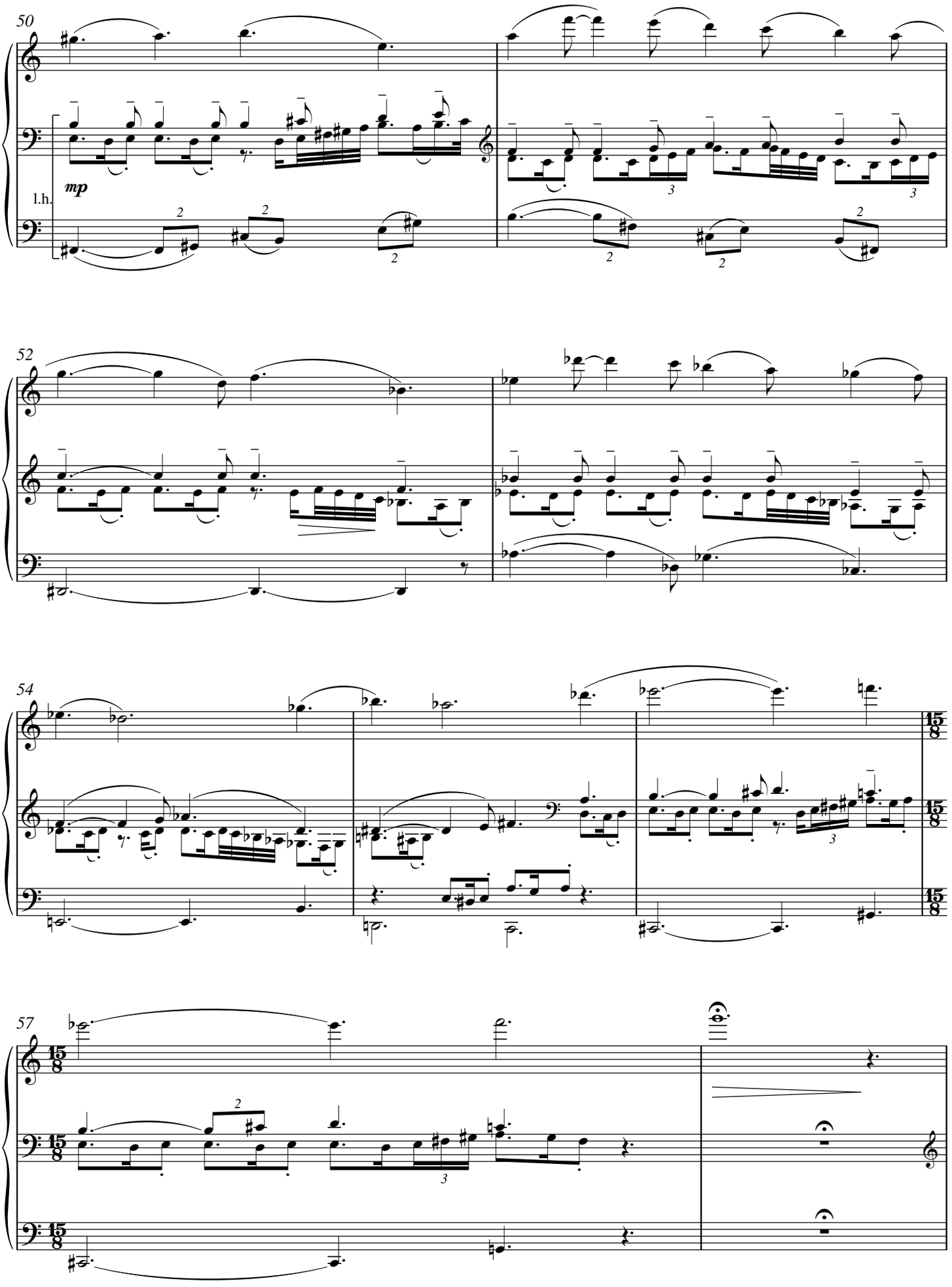


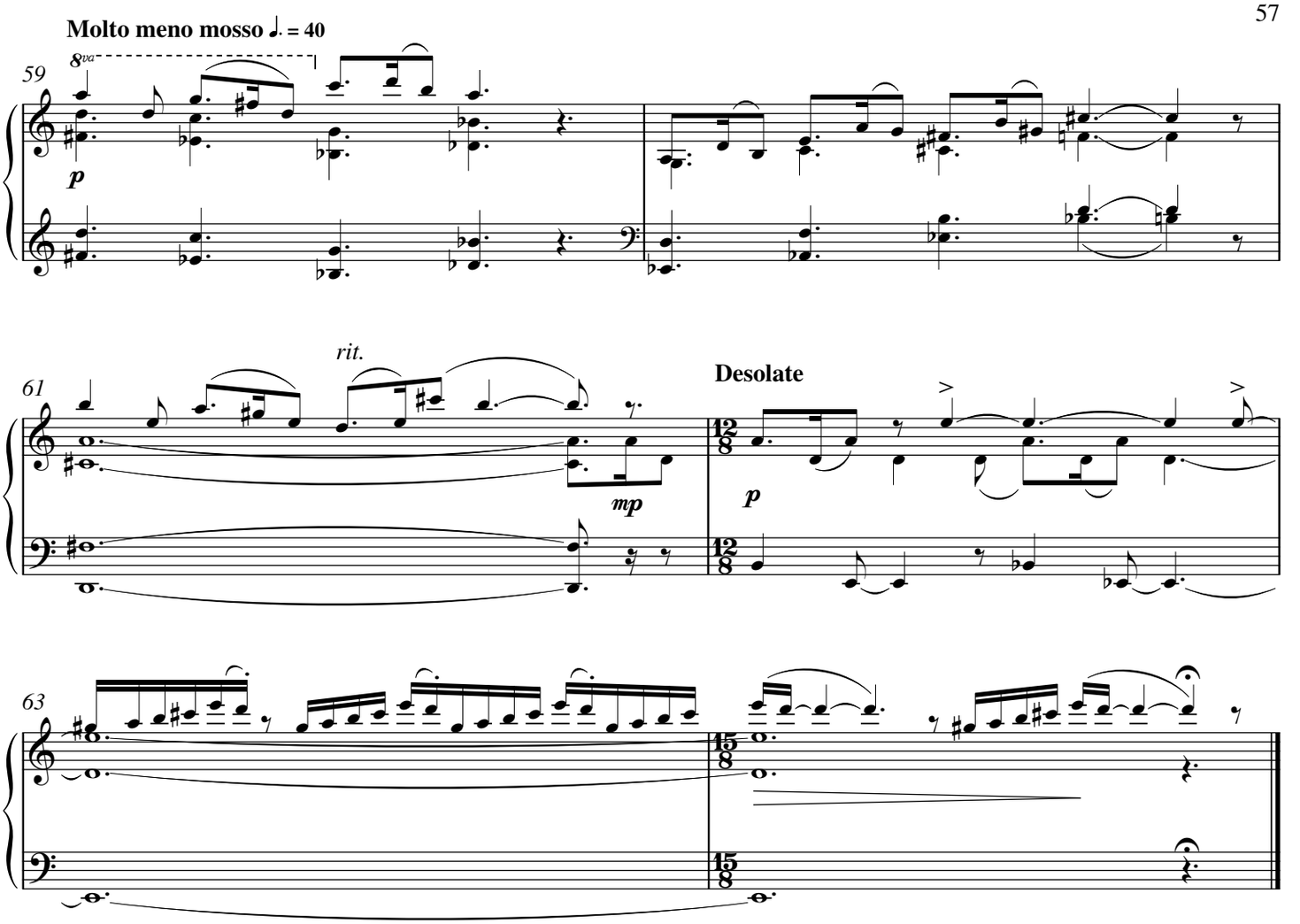

7
p
mp
9
mf
11
13
mp
16
l.h.
mp


18
20
22
15/8
12/8
2
3
Poco meno mosso ♩. = 69
24
mp

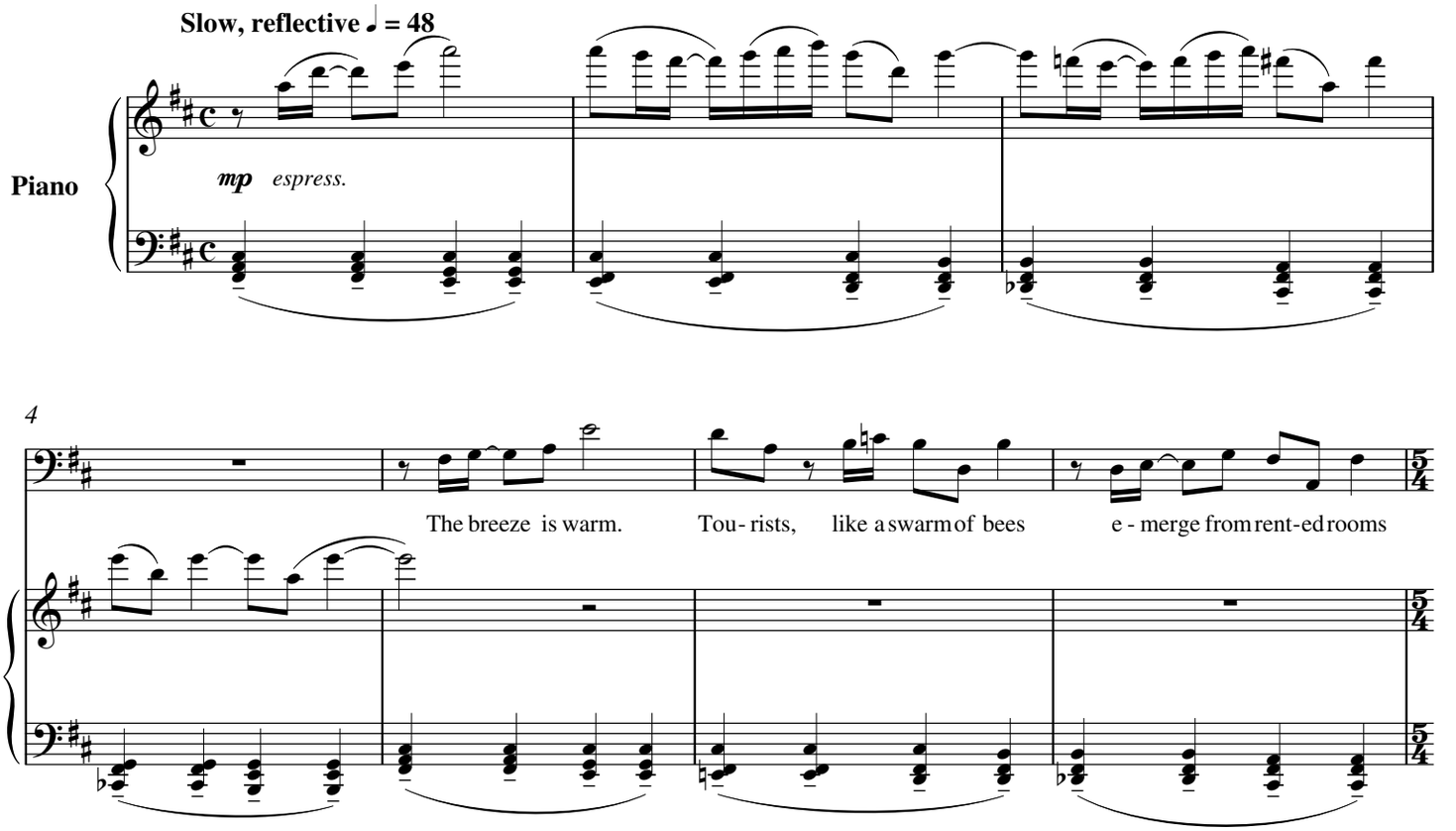

26
rit.
Più meno mosso ♩. = 58
ff
28
15/8
12/8
30
5
32
34
a tempo ♩. = 72
8va
mp
mp
36
3

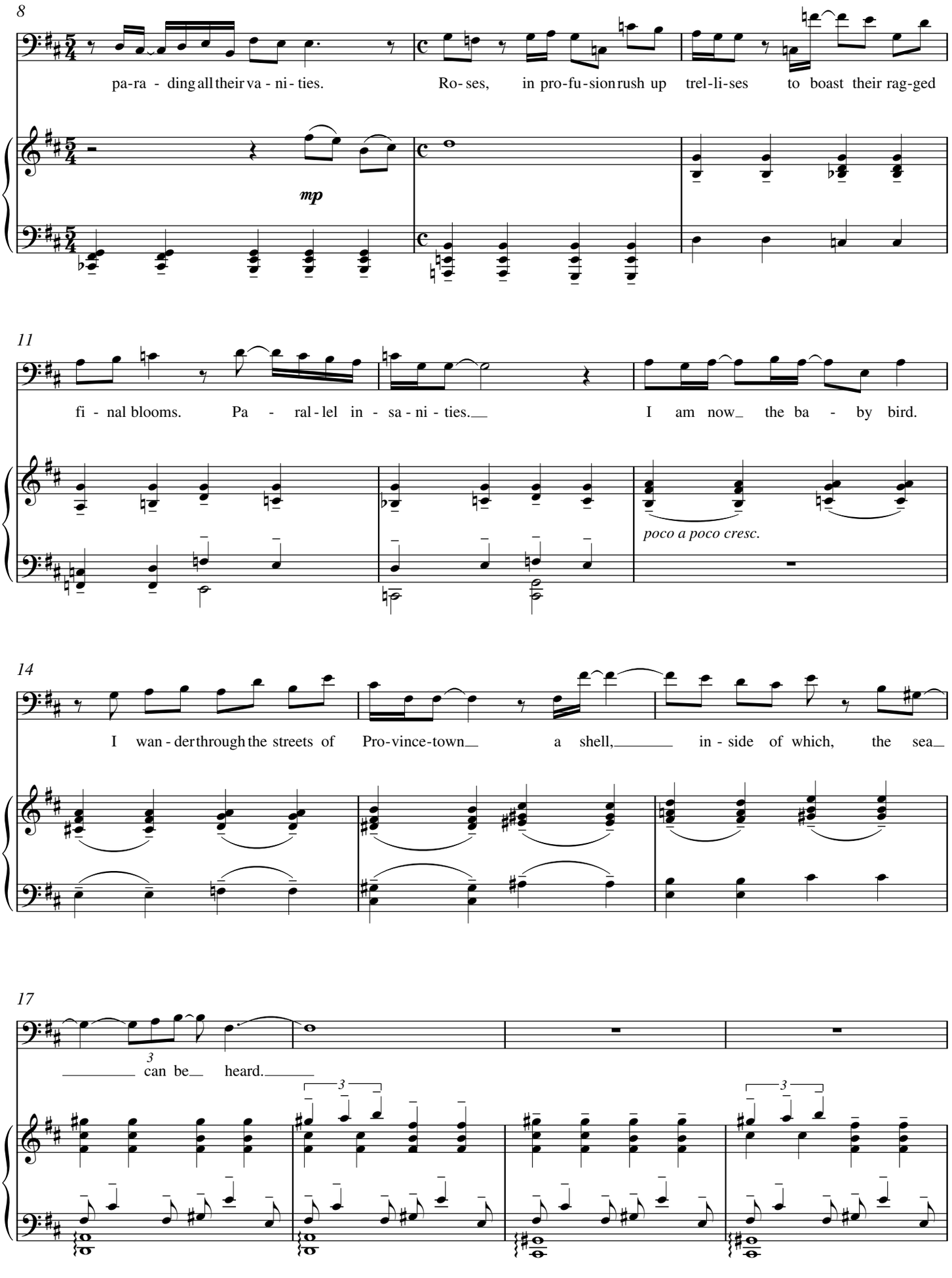

38
8va
40
42
mp
mf
44
46
mf
48

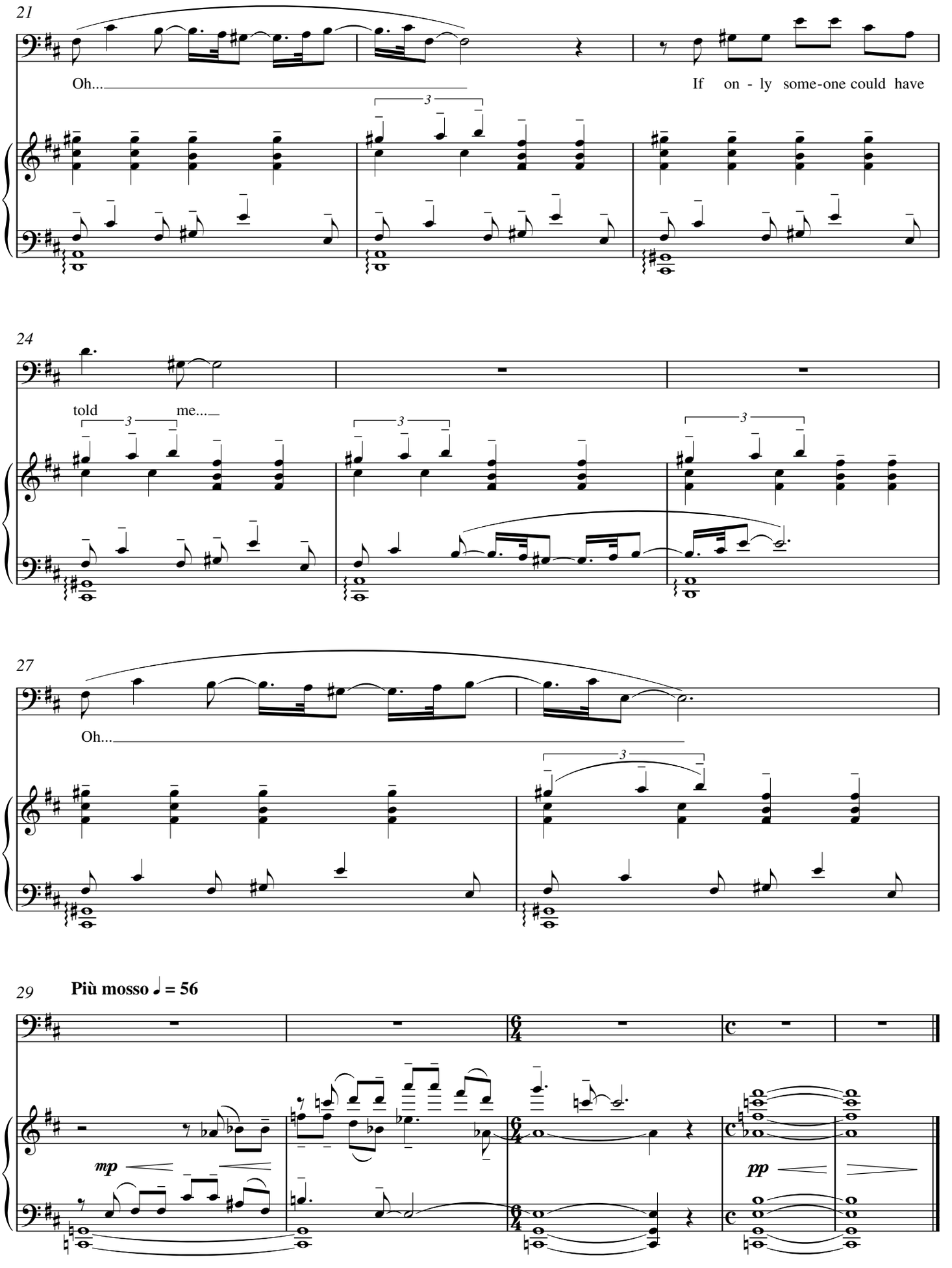

50
mp
l.h.
52
54
15/8
57
15/8
15/8



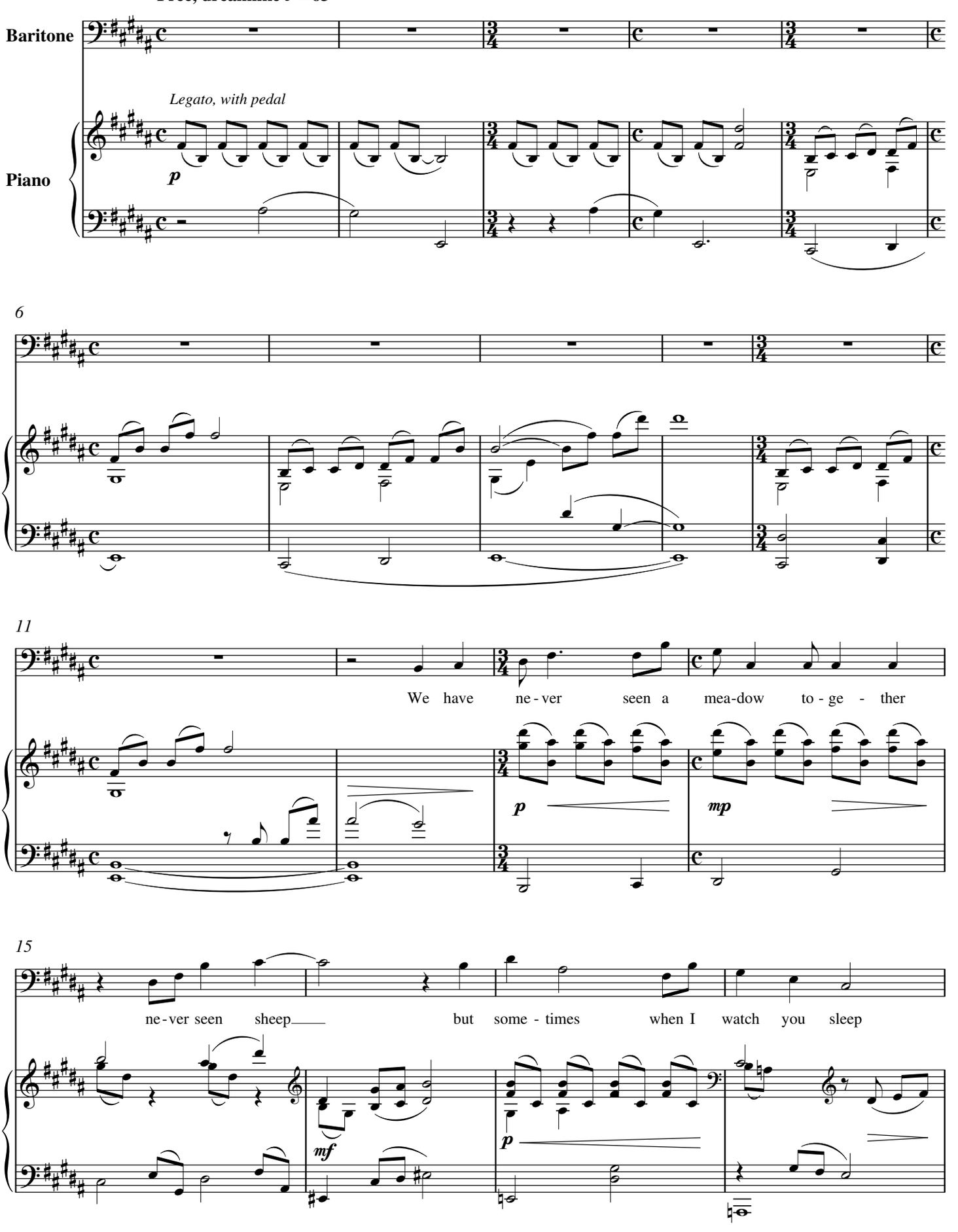
No. 18 Provincetown

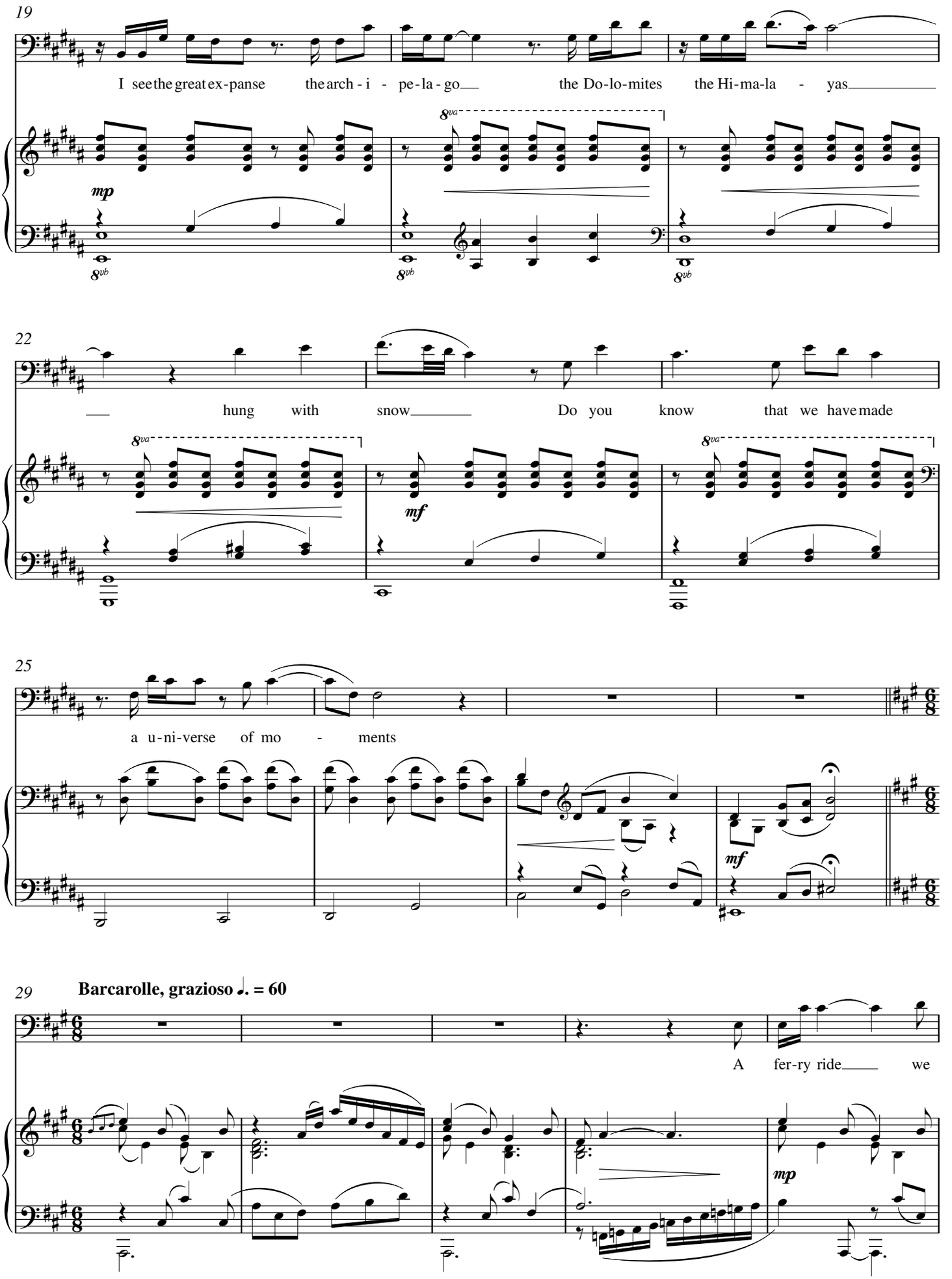


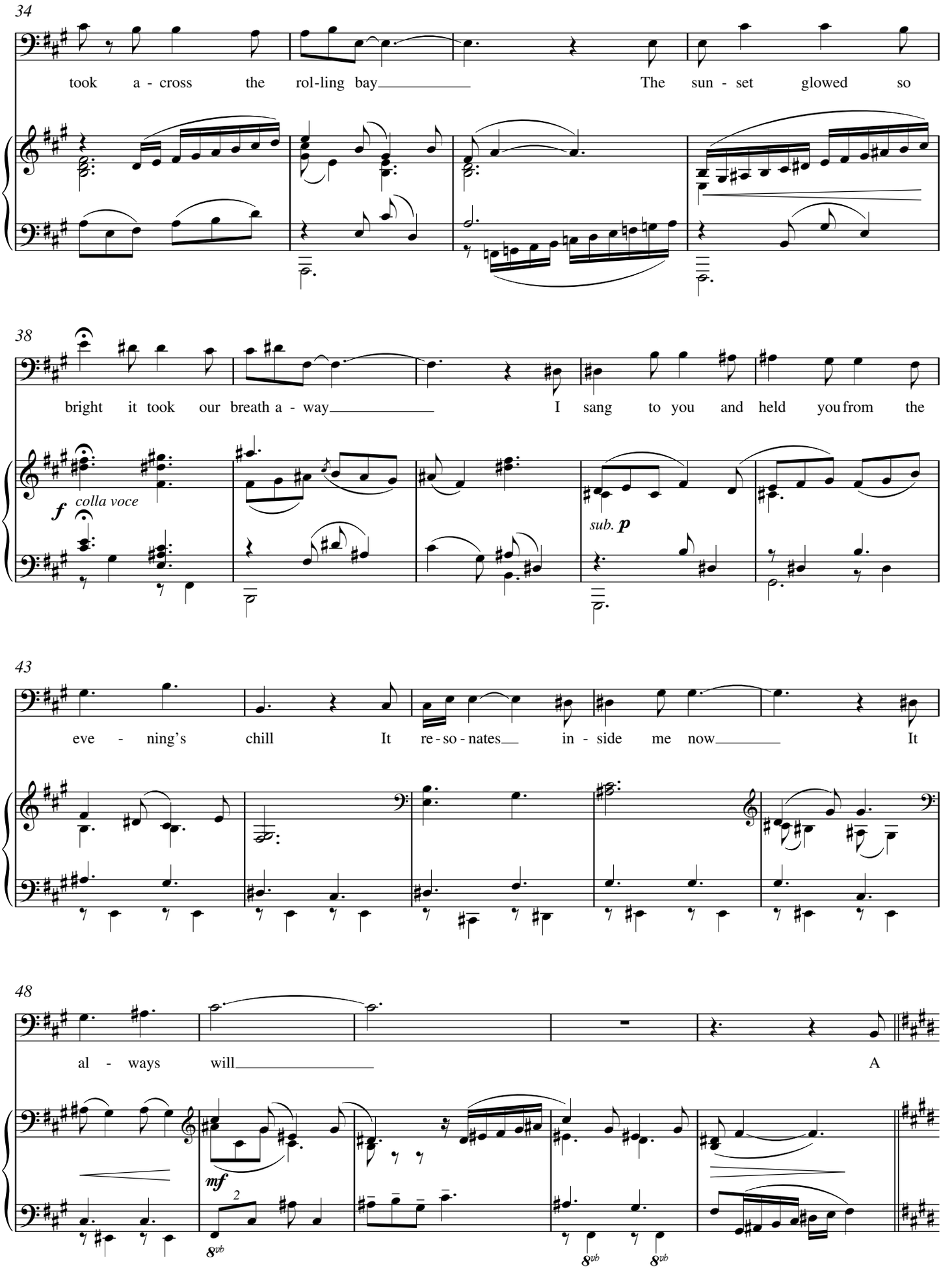

8
pa-ra - ding all their va - ni - ties.
Ro- ses, in pro-fu-sion rush up trel-li-ses to boast their rag-ged
mp
11
fi - nal blooms. Pa - ral - lel in - sa - ni - ties.
I am now the ba - by bird.
poco a poco cresc.
14
I wan - der through the streets of Pro-vince-town a shell, in - side of which, the sea
17
3
can be heard.
3
3

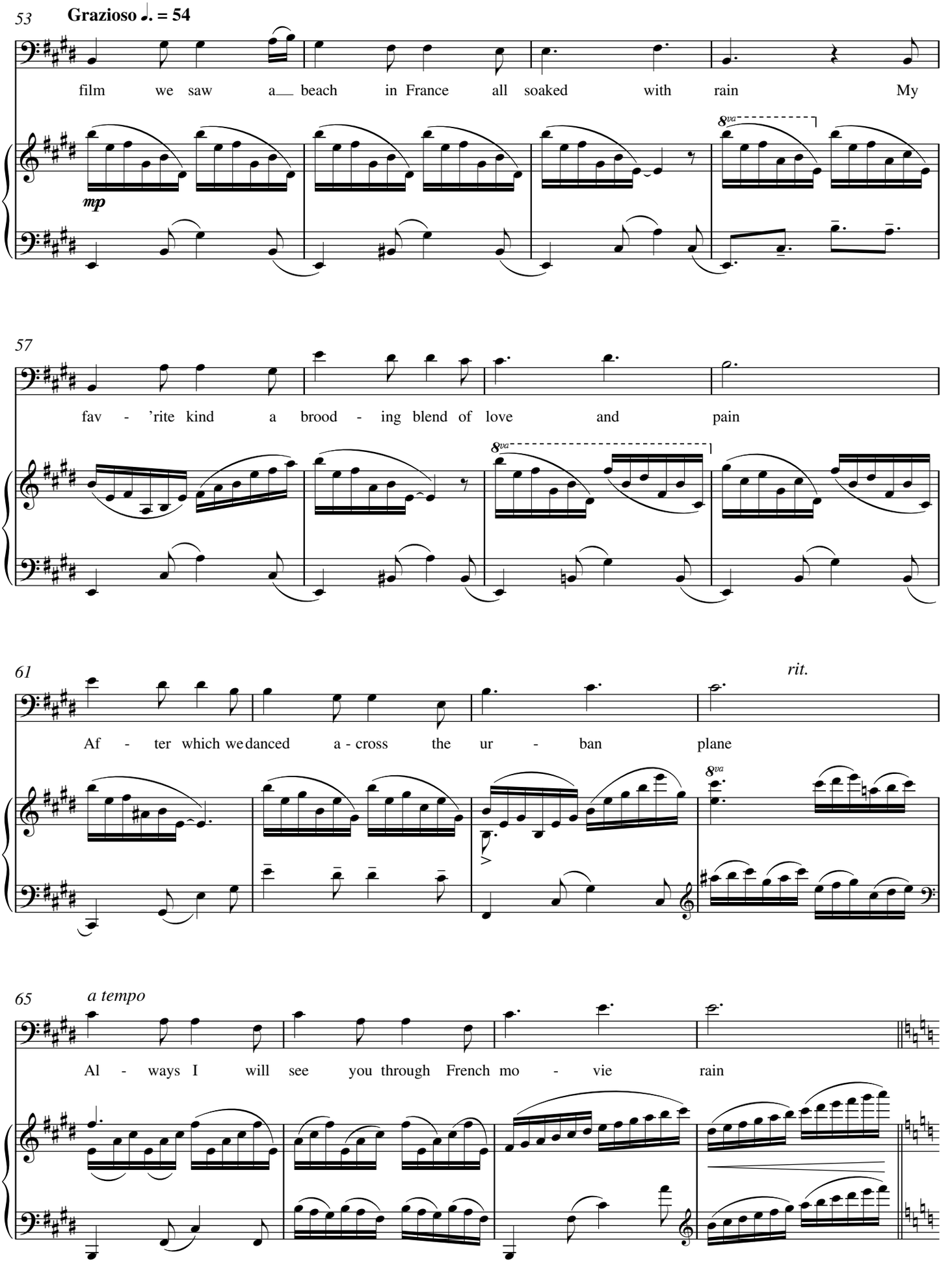

21
Oh...
If on - ly some-one could have
24
told me...
27
Oh...
29
Più mosso ♩ = 56
mp
pp

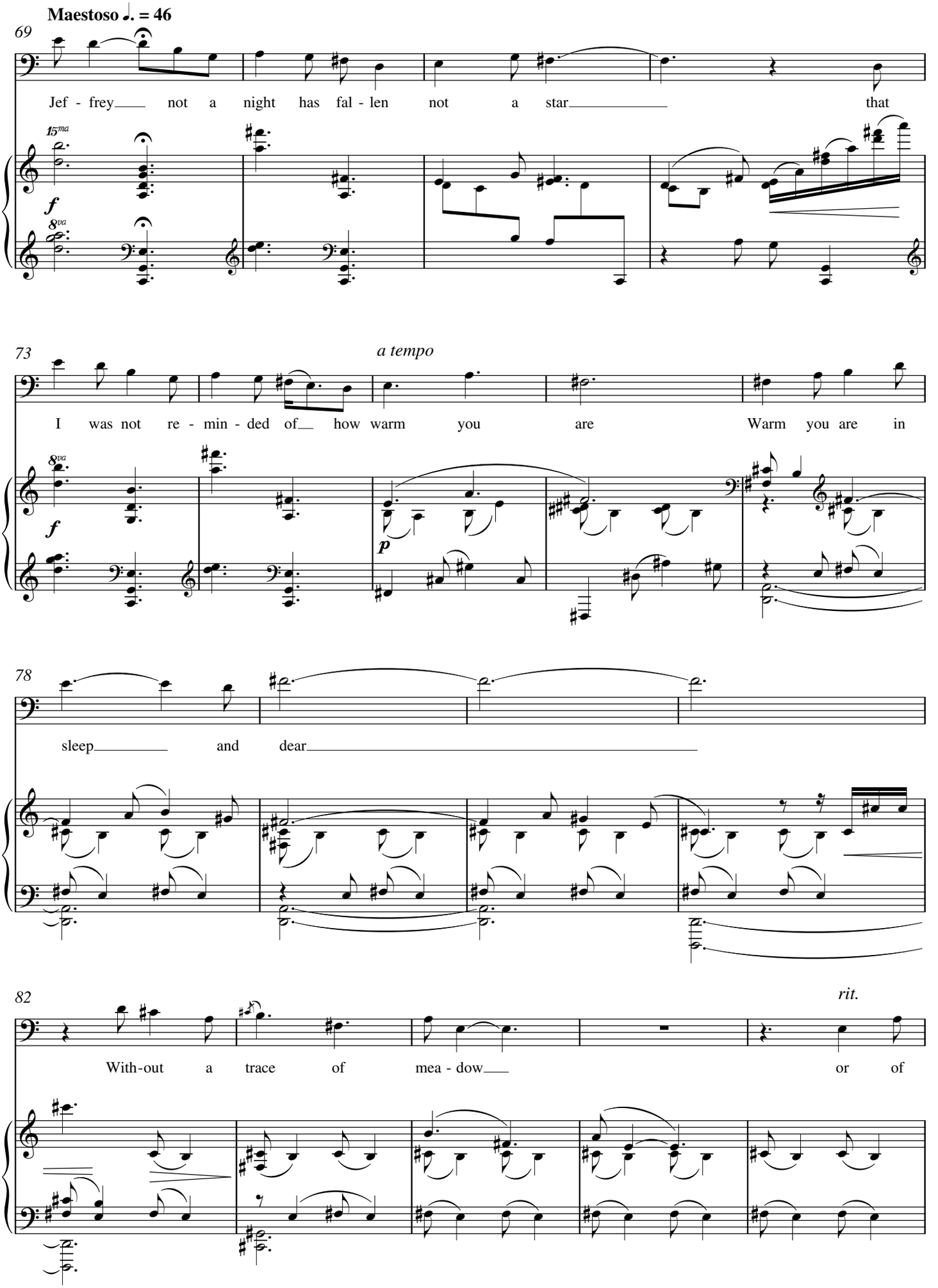
No. 19 Epilogue–Sleep




19
I see the great ex-panse the arch - i - pe-la - go the Do-lo-mites the Hi-ma-la - yas
mp
8va
8vb
22
hung with snow Do you know that we have made
mf
25
a u-ni-verse of mo - ments
29
Barcarolle, grazioso ♩. = 60
A fer-ry ride we


34
took a - cross the rol-ling bay
The sun - set glowed so
38
bright it took our breath a - way
I sang to you and held you from the
f
colla voce
sub. p
43
eve - ning's chill
It re - so - nates
in - side me now
It
48
al - ways will
A
mf
8vb
8vb
8vb


53
Grazioso ♩. = 54
film we saw a beach in France all soaked with rain My
mp
8va
57
fav - 'rite kind a brood - ing blend of love and pain
8va
61
rit.
Af - ter which we danced a - cross the ur - ban plane
8va
65
a tempo
Al - ways I will see you through French mo - vie rain


Maestoso ♩. = 46
69
Jef - frey not a night has fal - len not a star that
15ma
8va
f
73
a tempo
I was not re - min - ded of how warm you are Warm you are in
8va
f
p
78
sleep and dear
82
rit.
With-out a trace of mea - dow or of

Poco più lento ♩. = 56,
gradually to ♩. = 44 by the end of the piece

87

sheep near sleep

pp

92

dear sleep dear

97

Hmm

p

102

rit.

sleep

pp