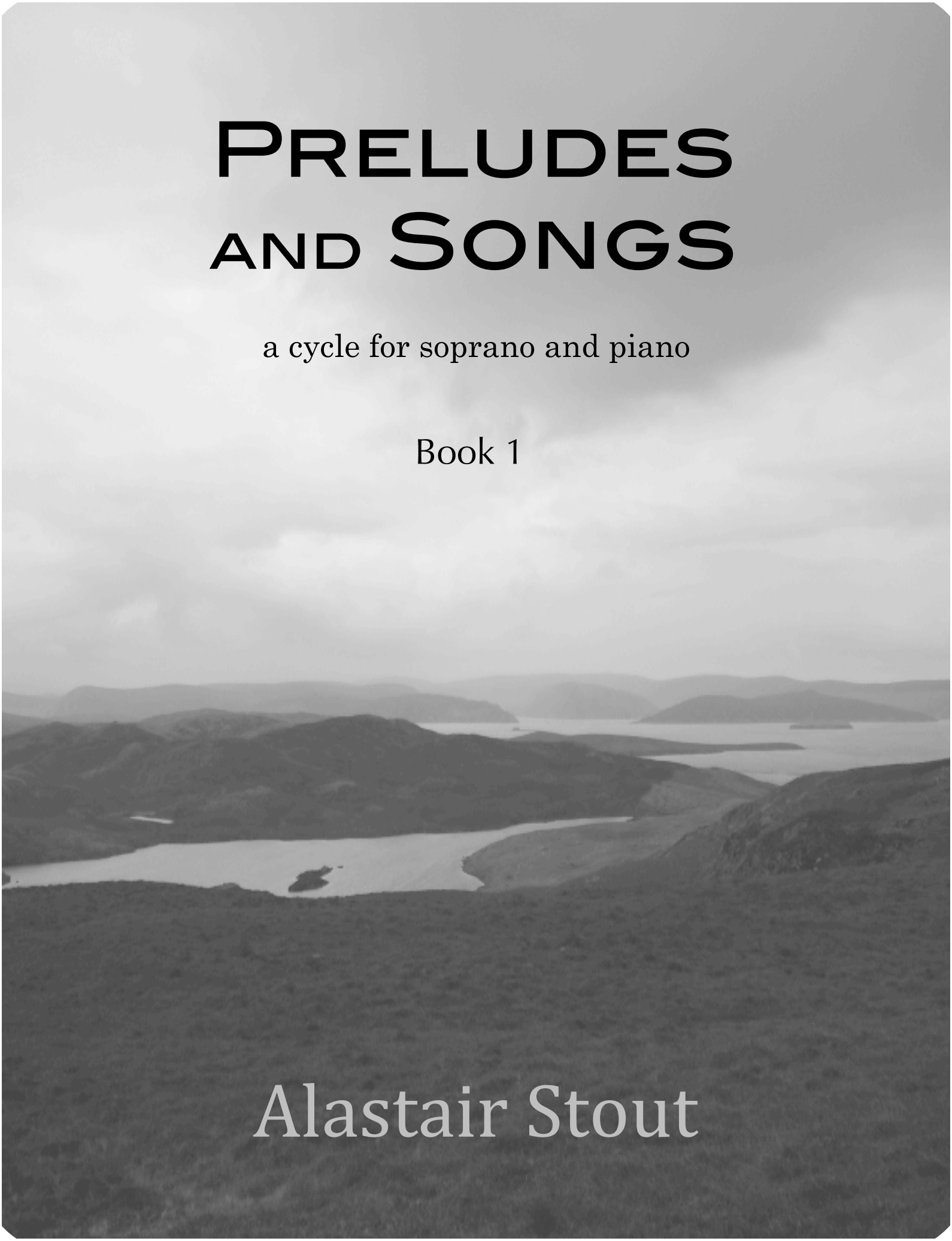


Preludes and Songs

a cycle for soprano and piano

Book 1

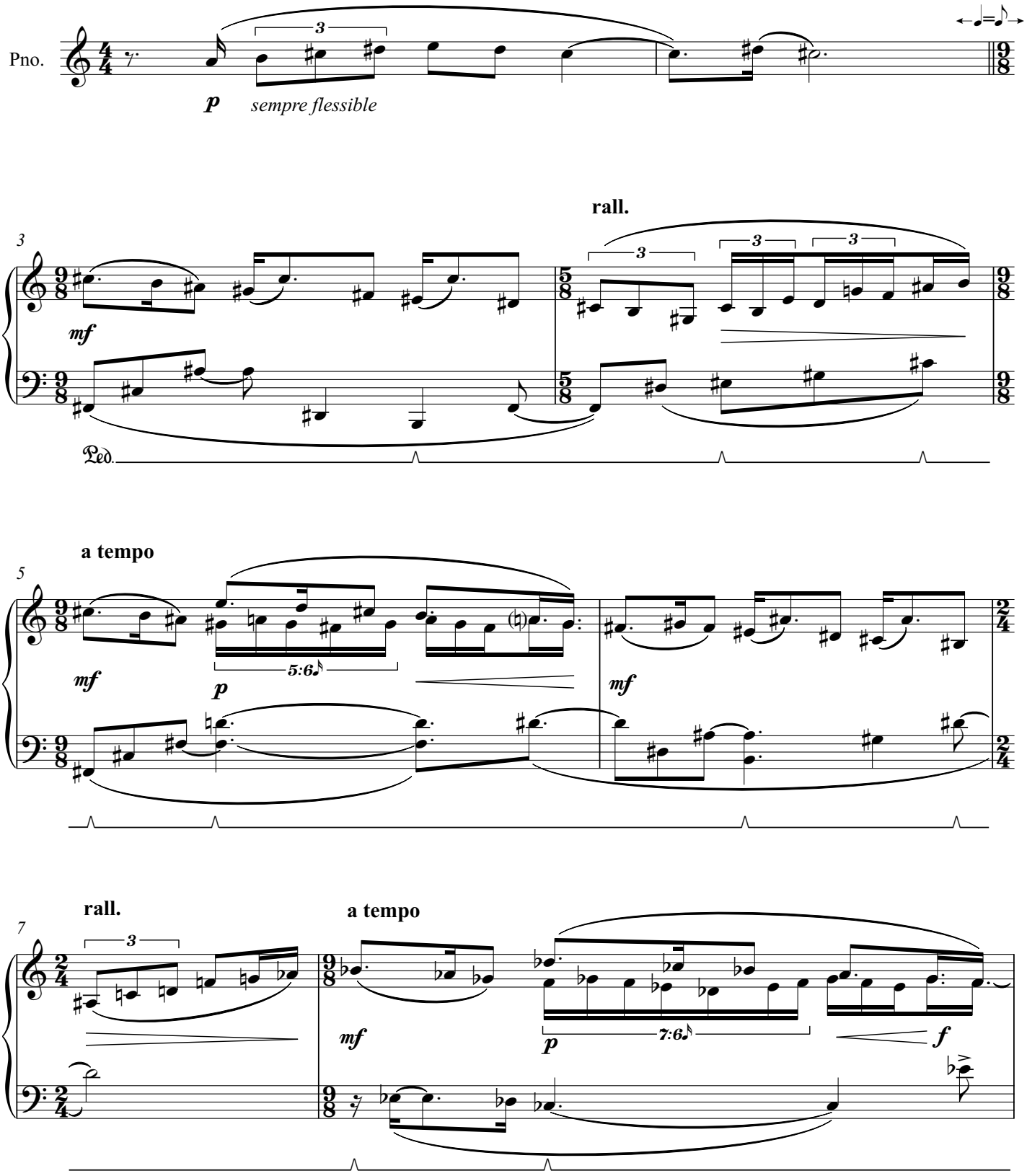
Alastair Stout

to my Mother at 63 - May 30th, 2007

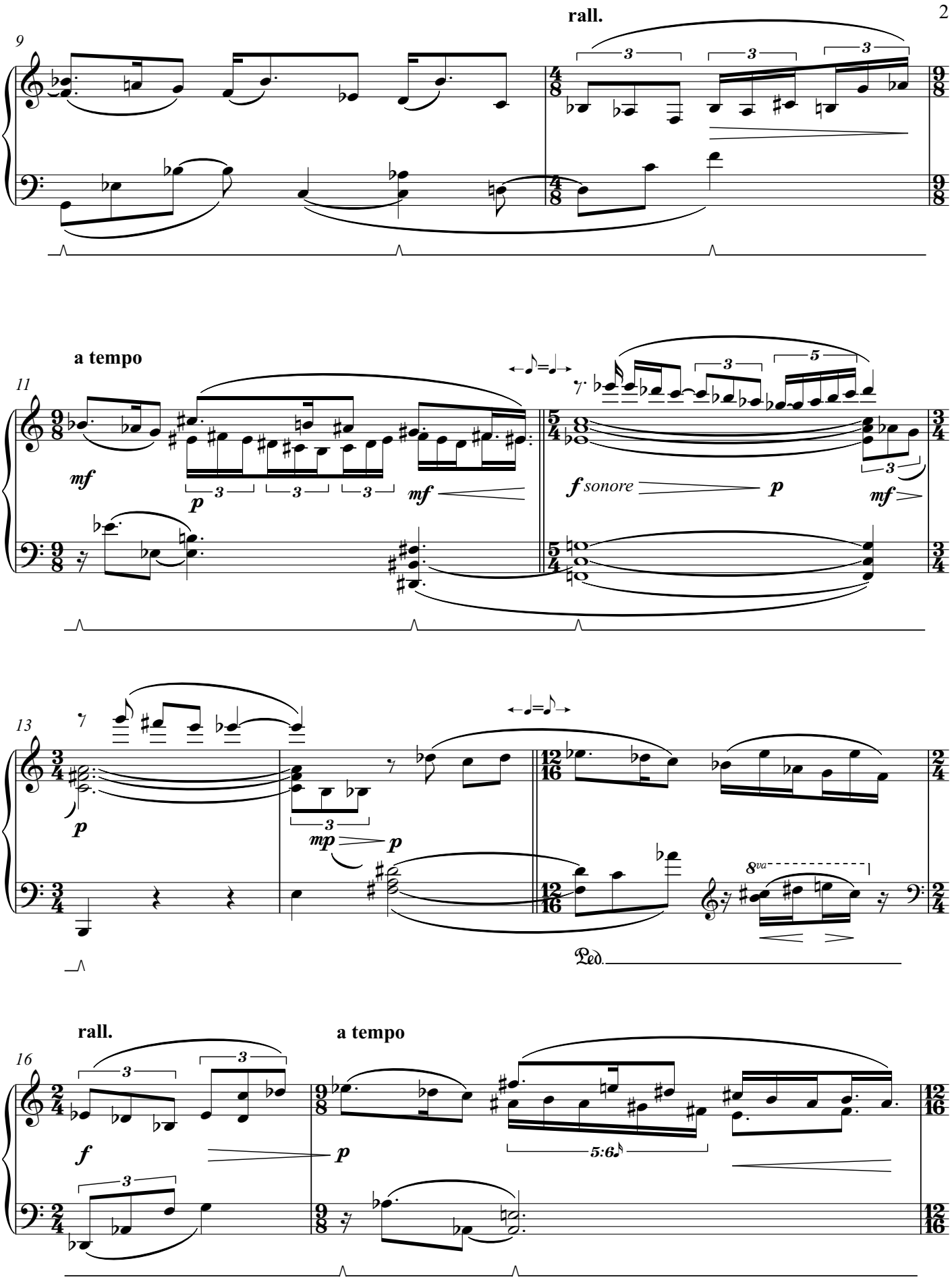
Prelude

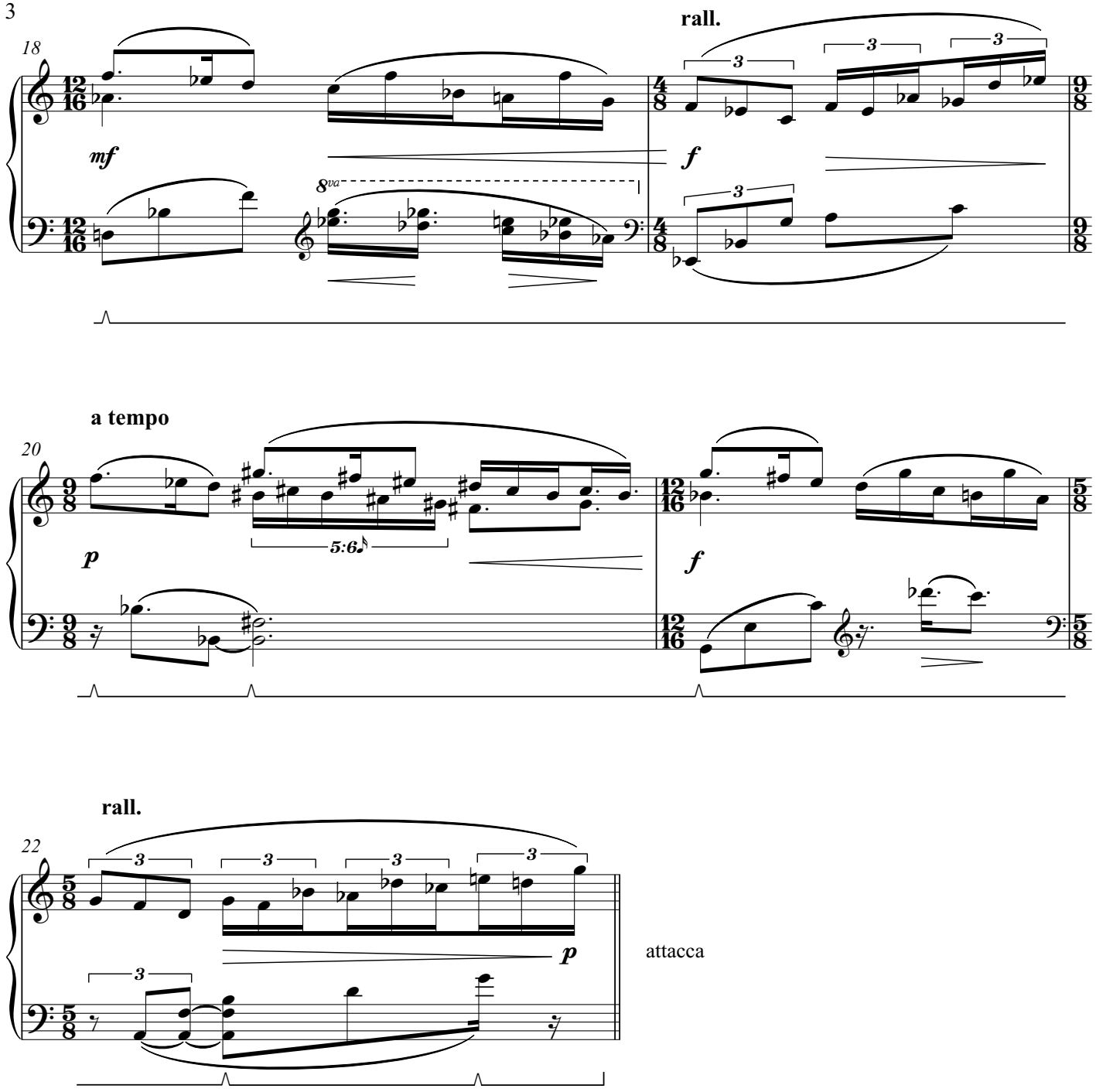
ALASTAIR STOUT

molto rubato (♩. = c.126)



© 2020 by ALASTAIR STOUT


rall.
9
a tempo
11
mf
p
mf
f sonore
p
mf
13
p
mp
p
8va
Ped.
rall.
a tempo
16
f
p
5:6

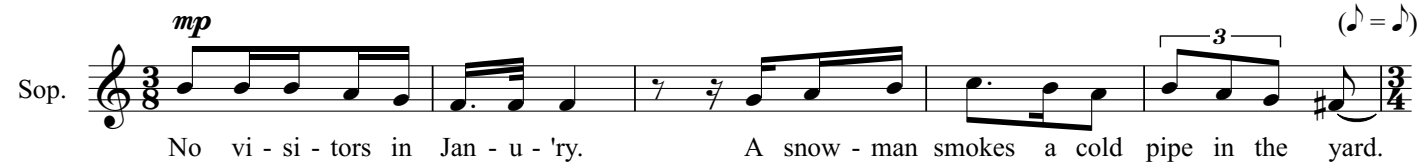


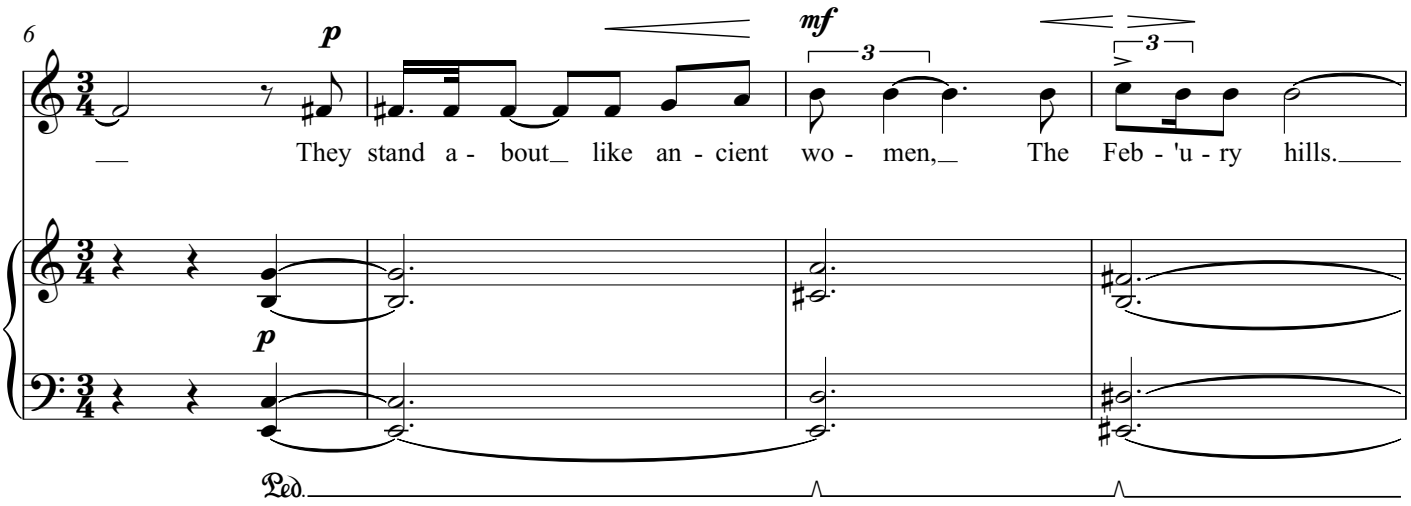
Song

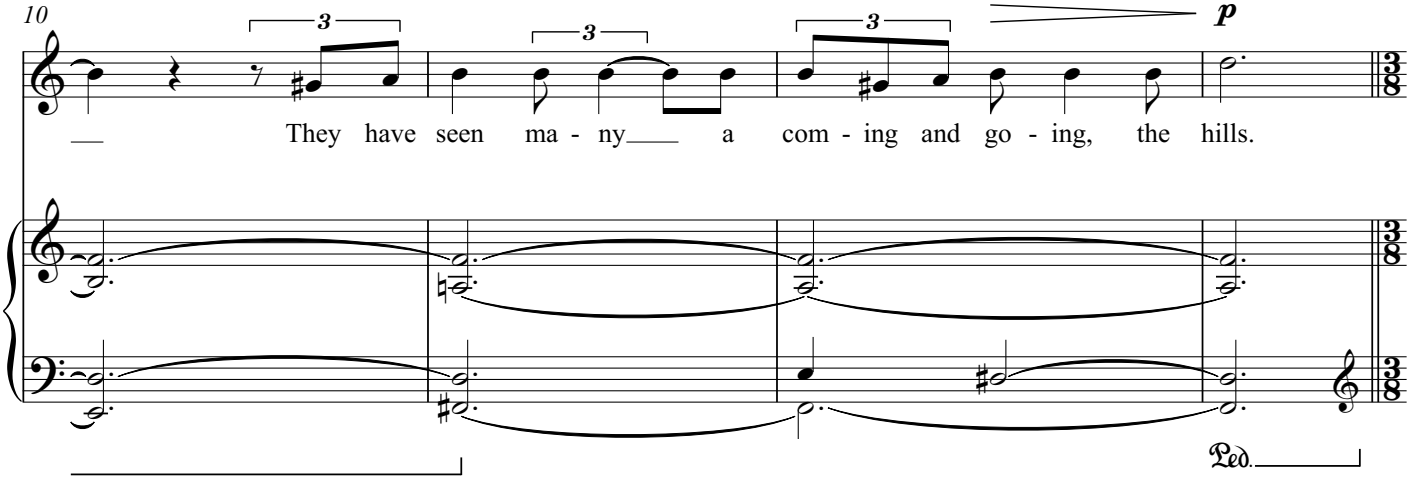
GEORGE MACKAY BROWN

Text: *A Child's Calendar* from *Fishermen with Ploughs* (1971)
John Murray (Publishers), 1991.

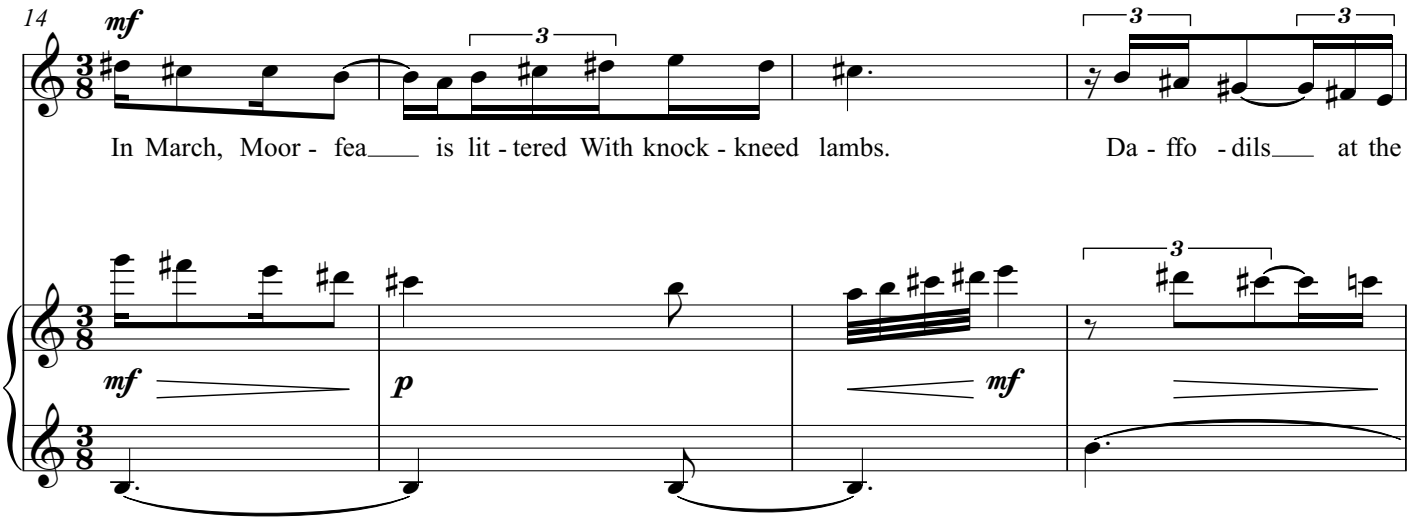
quasi recit., molto flessibile (♪ = c.100)

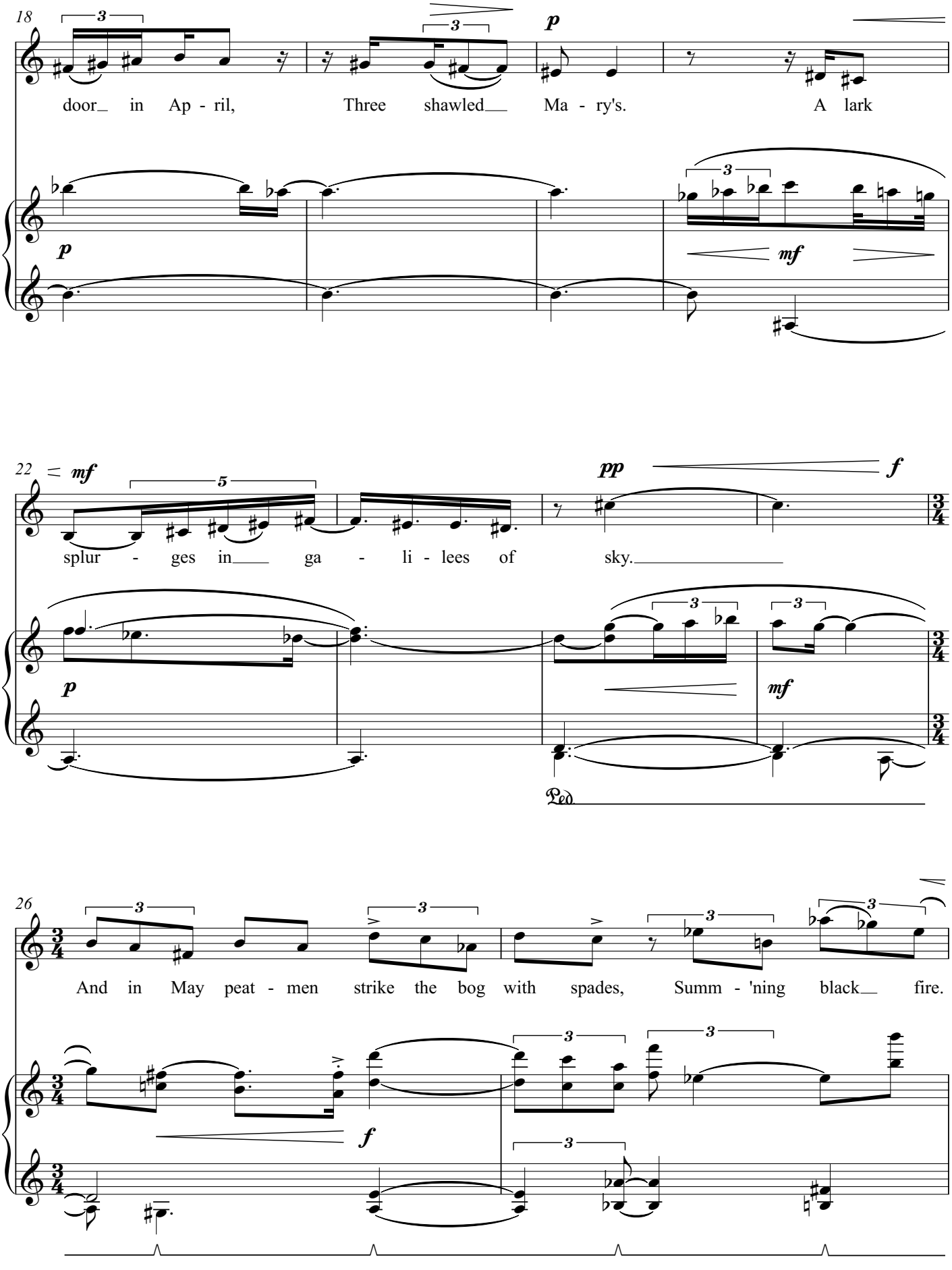


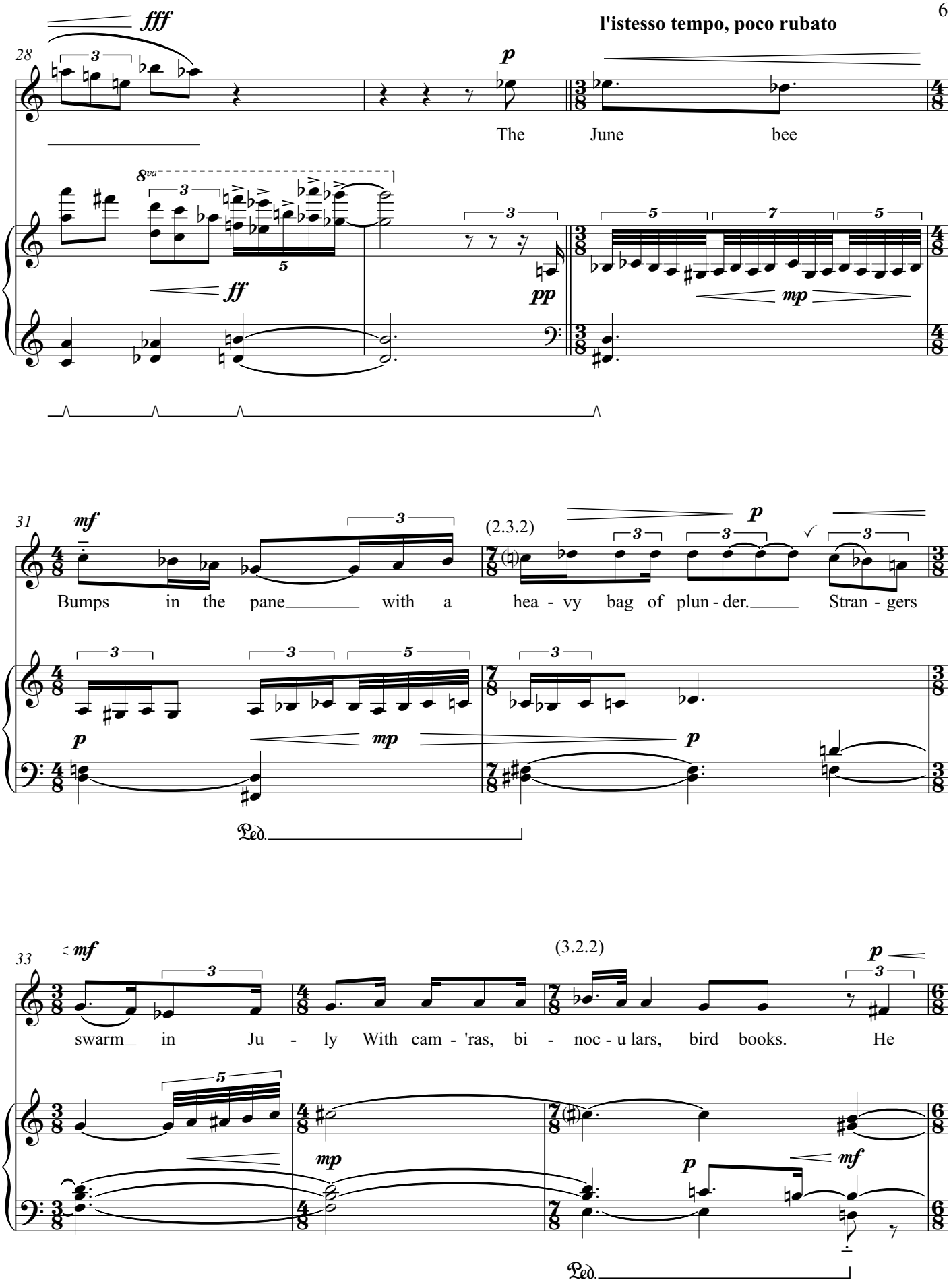


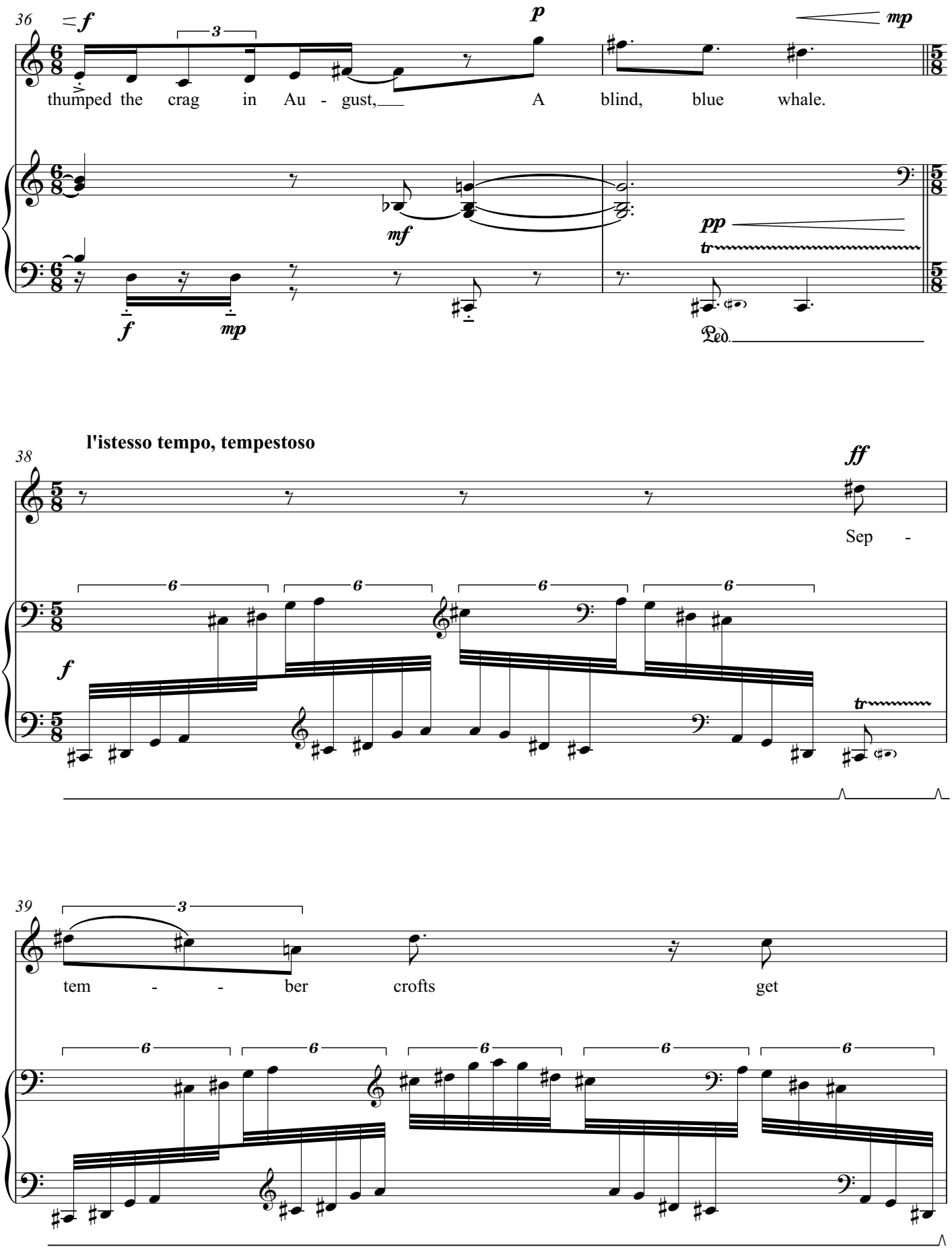


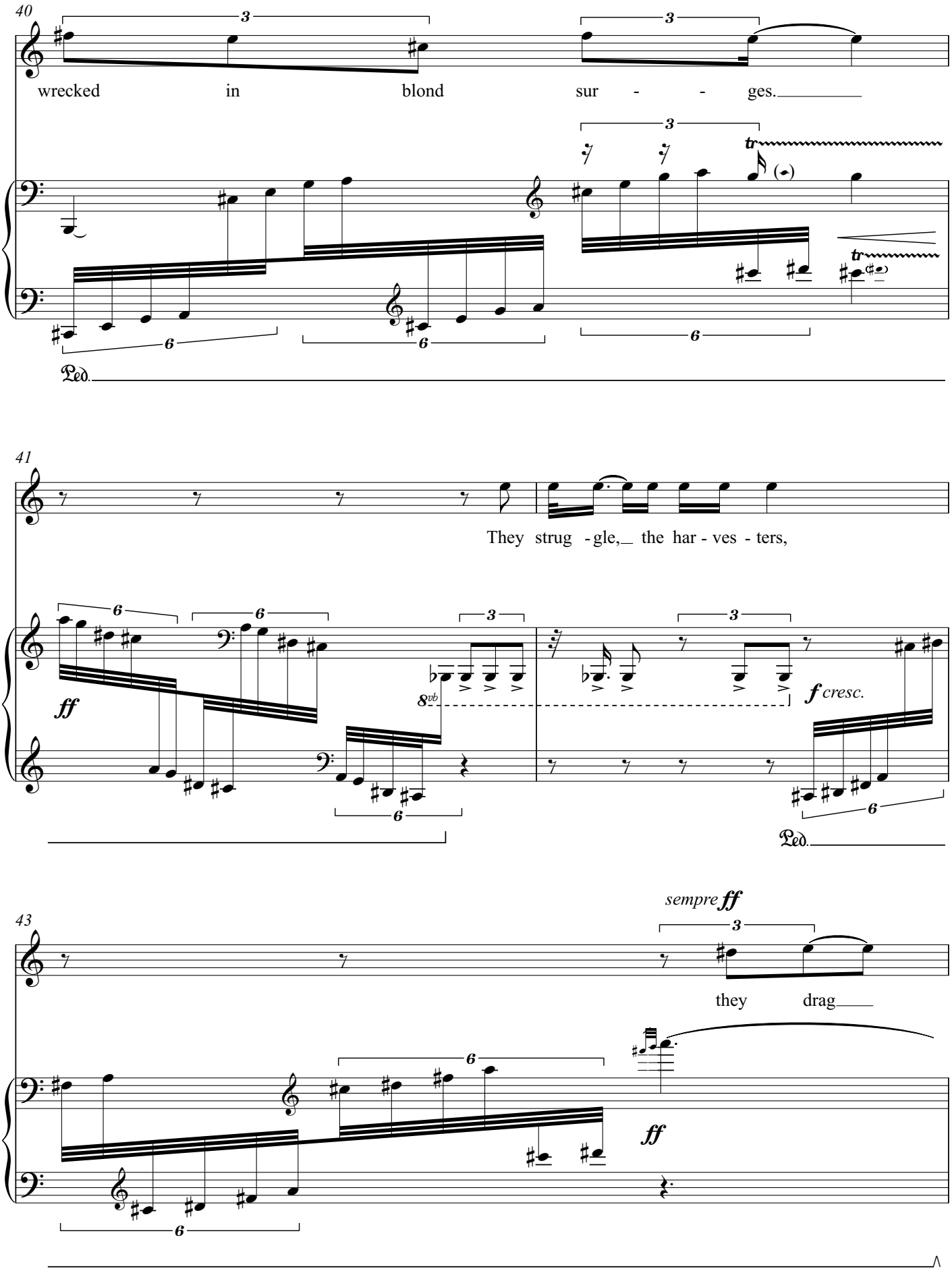
tempo giusto, spiritoso

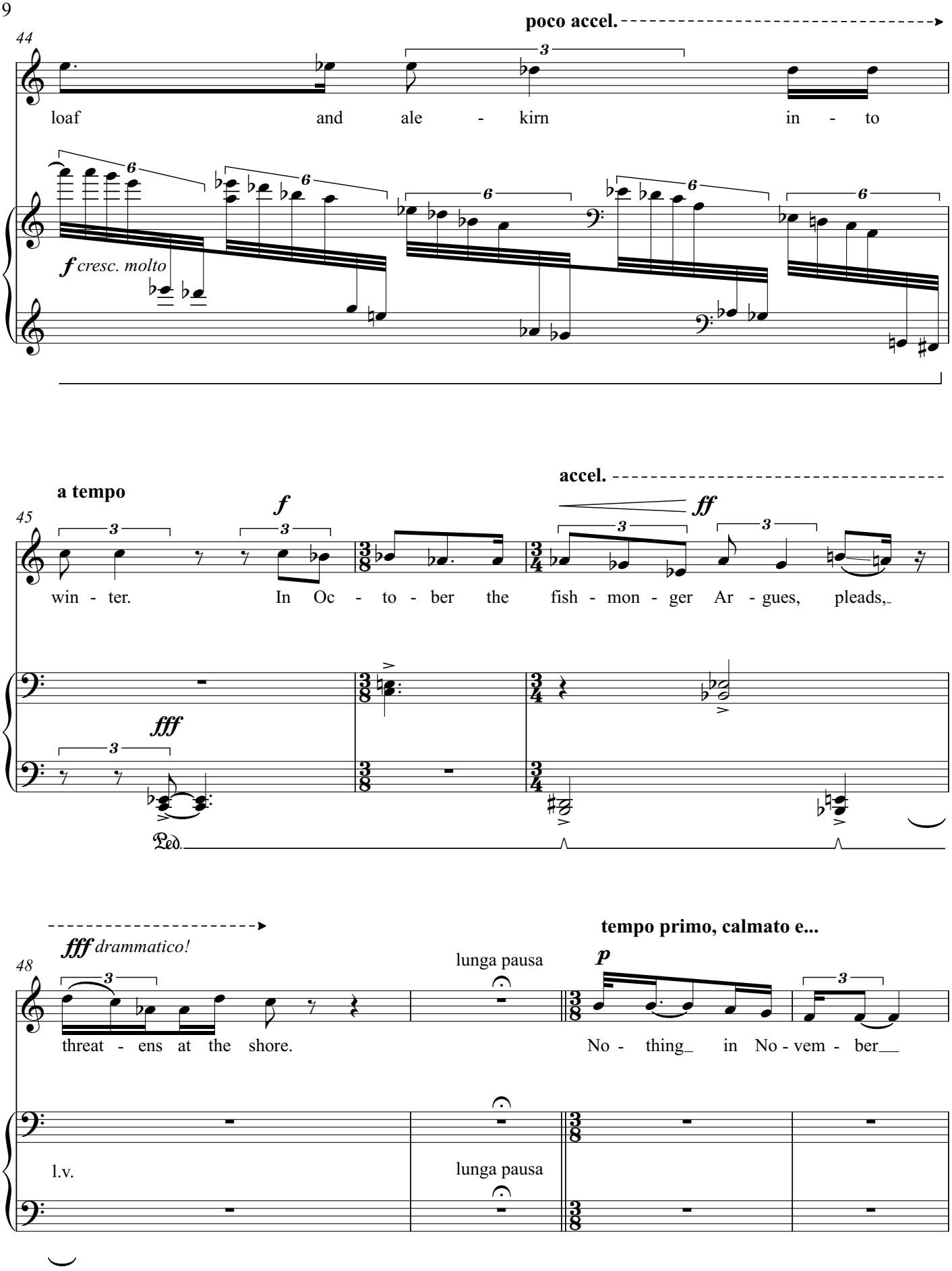


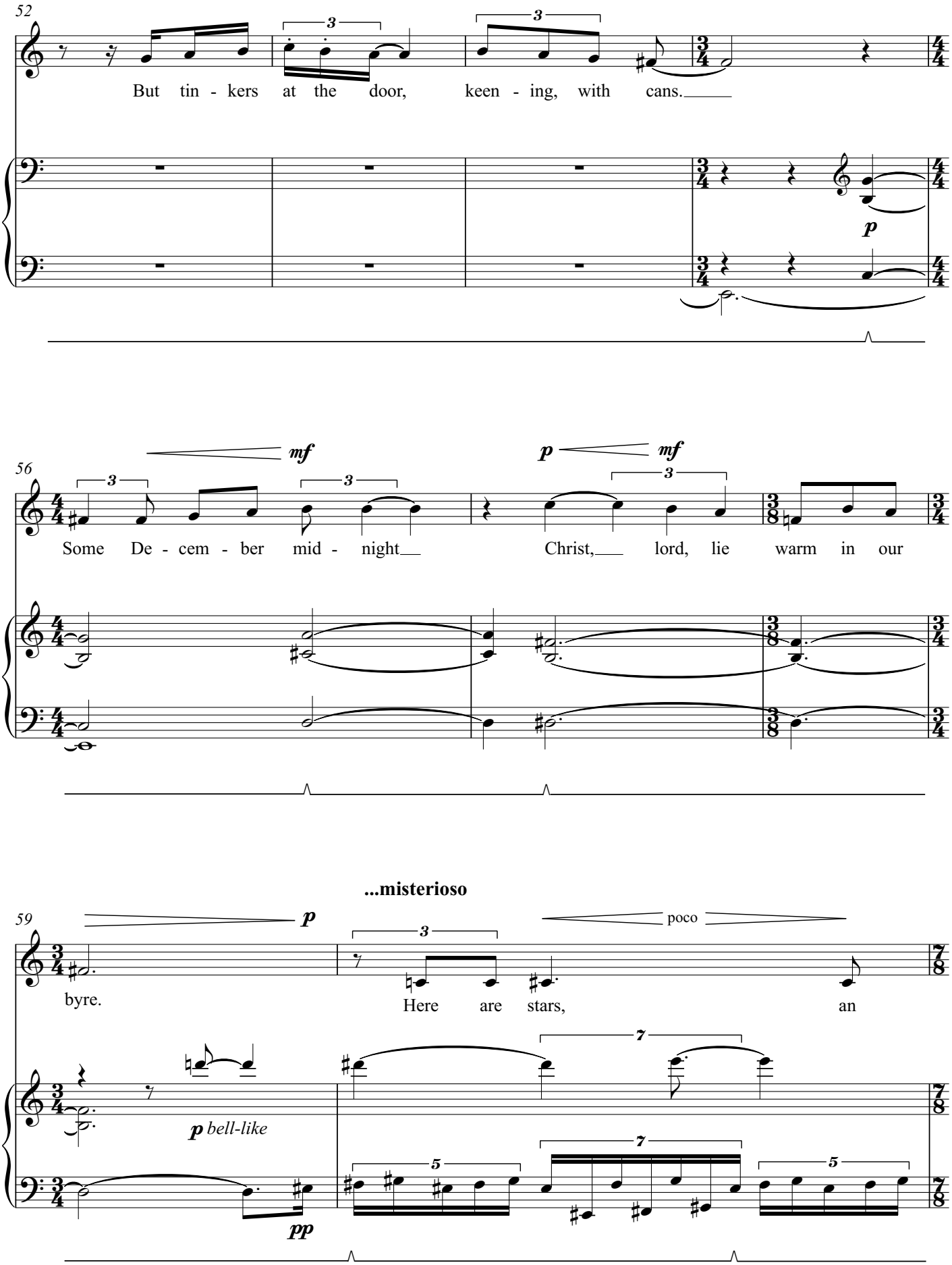

18
door_ in Ap - ril, Three shawled__ Ma - ry's. A lark
22
splur - ges in__ ga - li - lees of sky.__
26
And in May peat - men strike the bog with spades, Summ - 'ning black__ fire.

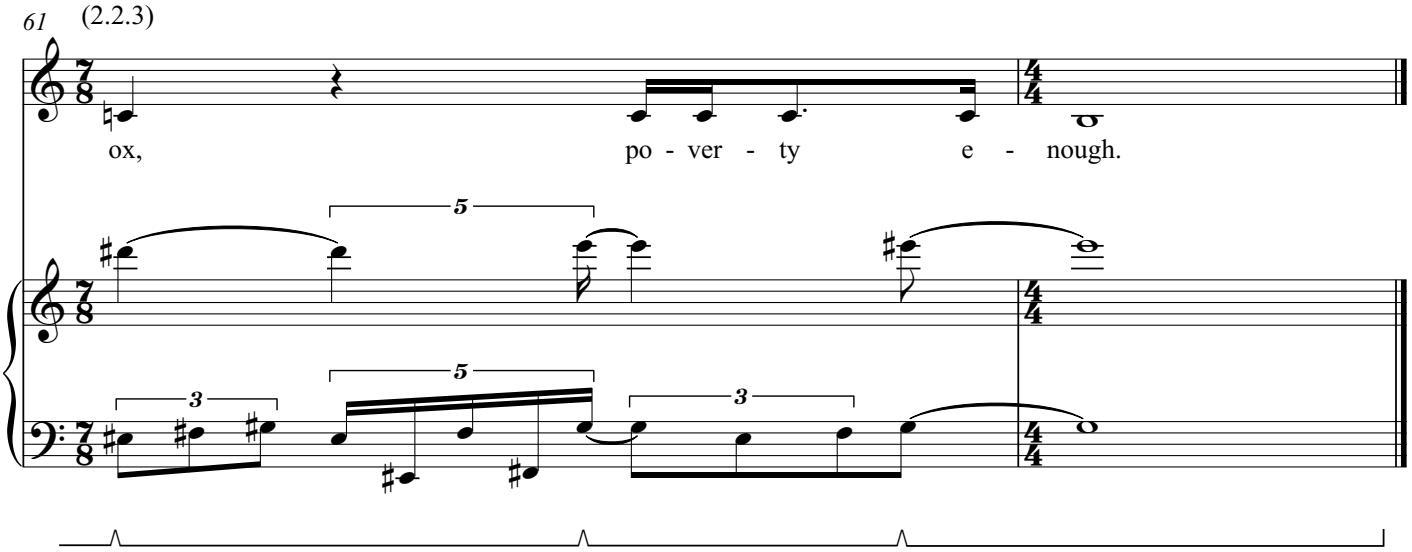

28
fff
l'istesso tempo, poco rubato
p
The June bee
8va
ff
pp
mp
31
mf
(2.3.2)
p
Bumps in the pane with a hea - vy bag of plun - der. Stran - gers
mp
p
Ped.
33
mf
(3.2.2)
p
swarm in Ju - ly With cam - 'ras, bi - noc - u lars, bird books. He
mp
p
mf
Ped.


36
f
p
mp
thumped the crag in Au - gust, A blind, blue whale.
mf
pp
tr
f
mp
Ped.
l'istesso tempo, tempestoso
38
ff
Sep -
f
tr
39
tem - - ber crofts get


40
wrecked in blond sur - - ges.
Ped.
41
They strug - gle, the har - ves - ters,
ff
8vb
f cresc.
Ped.
43
sempre ff
they drag
ff


poco accel.
44
loaf and ale - kirn in - to
f cresc. molto
a tempo
accel.
45
win - ter. In Oc - to - ber the fish - mon - ger Ar - gues, pleads,
f
ff
fff
Ped.
fff drammatico!
48
threat - ens at the shore.
lunga pausa
tempo primo, calmato e...
p
No - thing in No - vem - ber
l.v.
lunga pausa


52
But tin - kers at the door, keen - ing, with cans.
p
56
mf
p
mf
Some De - cem - ber mid - night Christ, lord, lie warm in our
...misterioso
59
p
poco
byre. Here are stars, an
p bell-like
pp



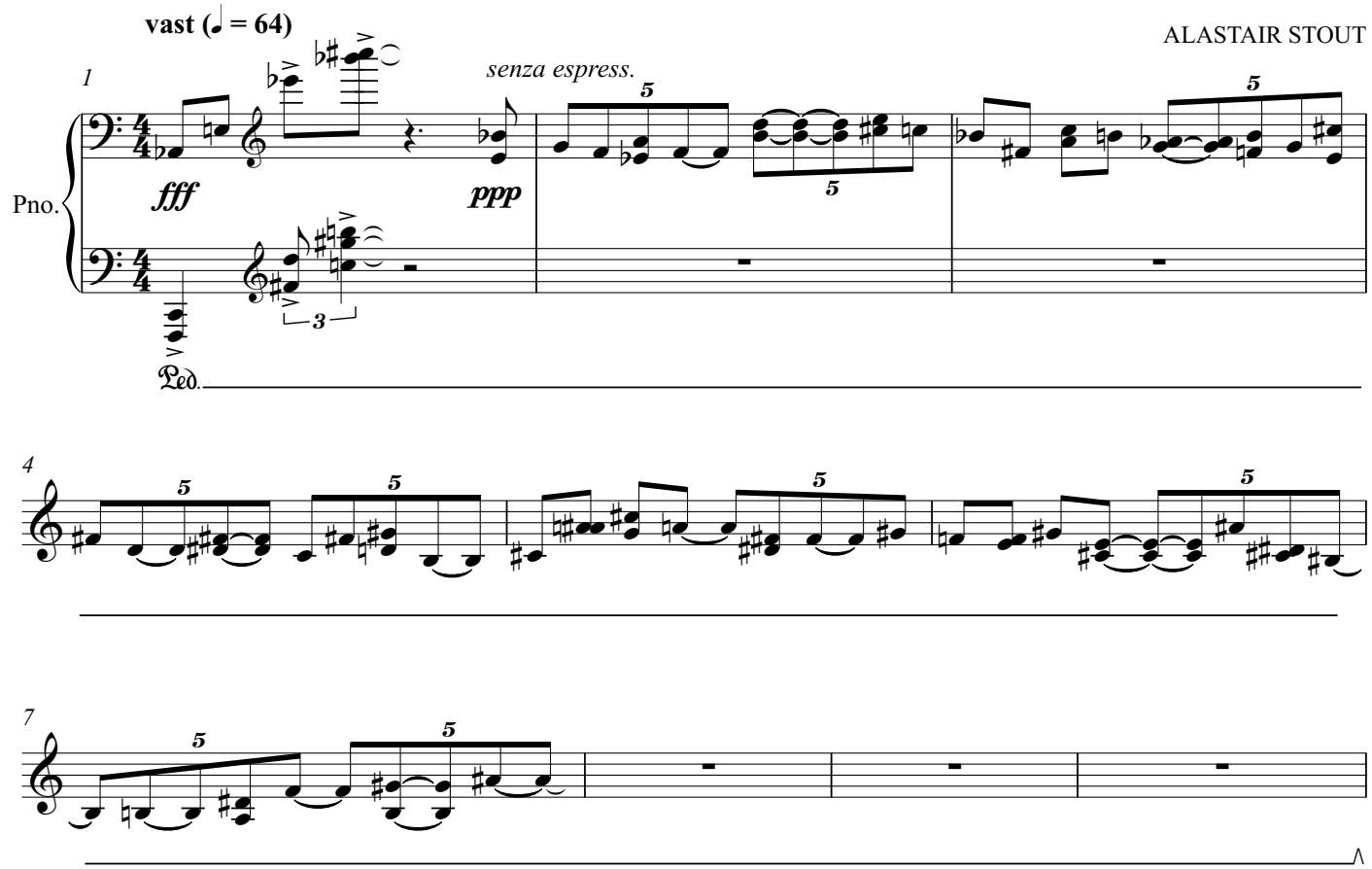
Feb - April 2007
Pittsburgh USA

to my Grandfather at 100 - March 7th, 2011

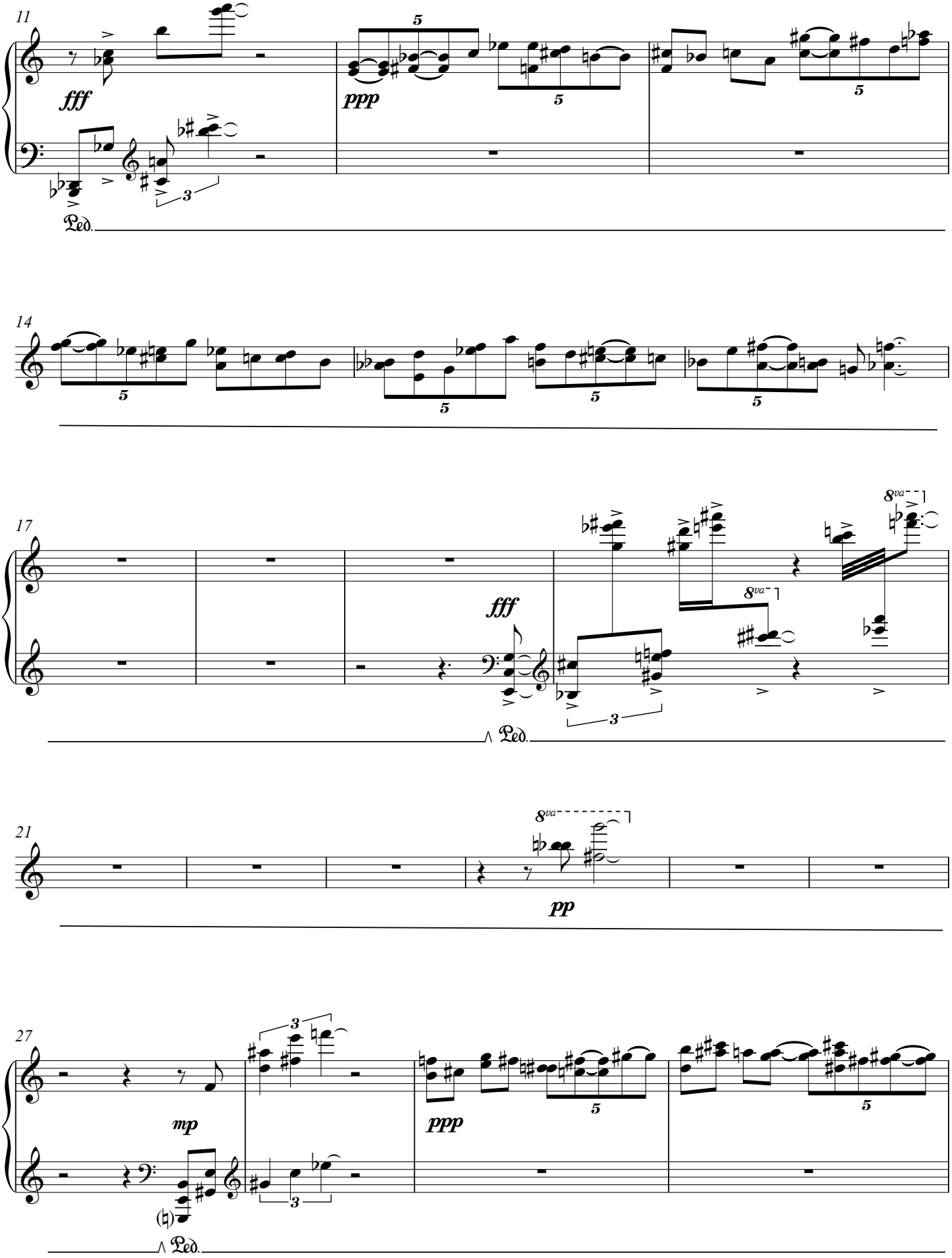
Prelude

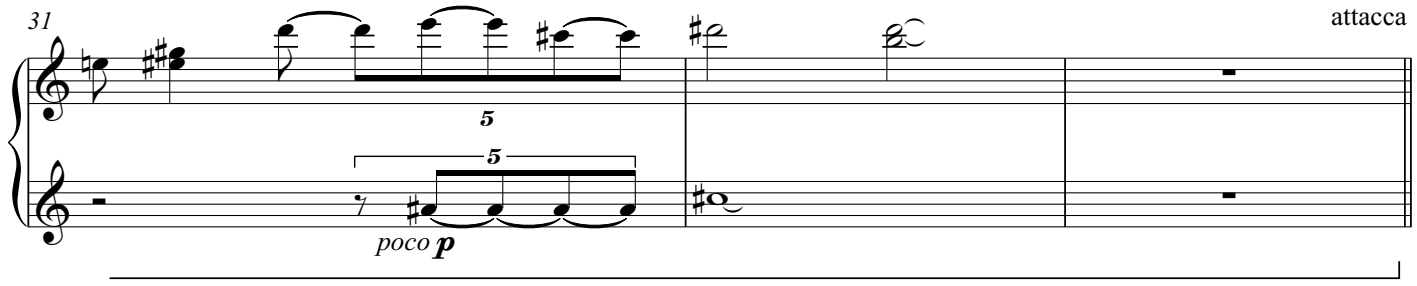
The Image in the Hills

ALASTAIR STOUT



Duration: c.5 1/2 minutes

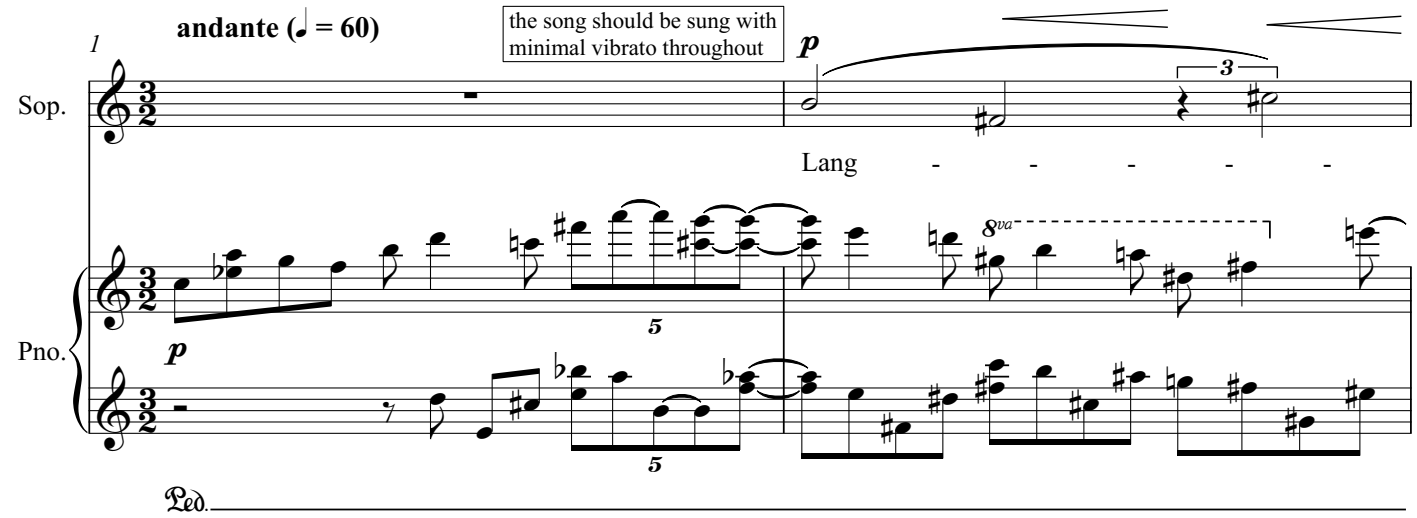

11
fff
ppp
Ped.
14
17
fff
8va
Ped.
21
8va
pp
27
mp
ppp
Ped.

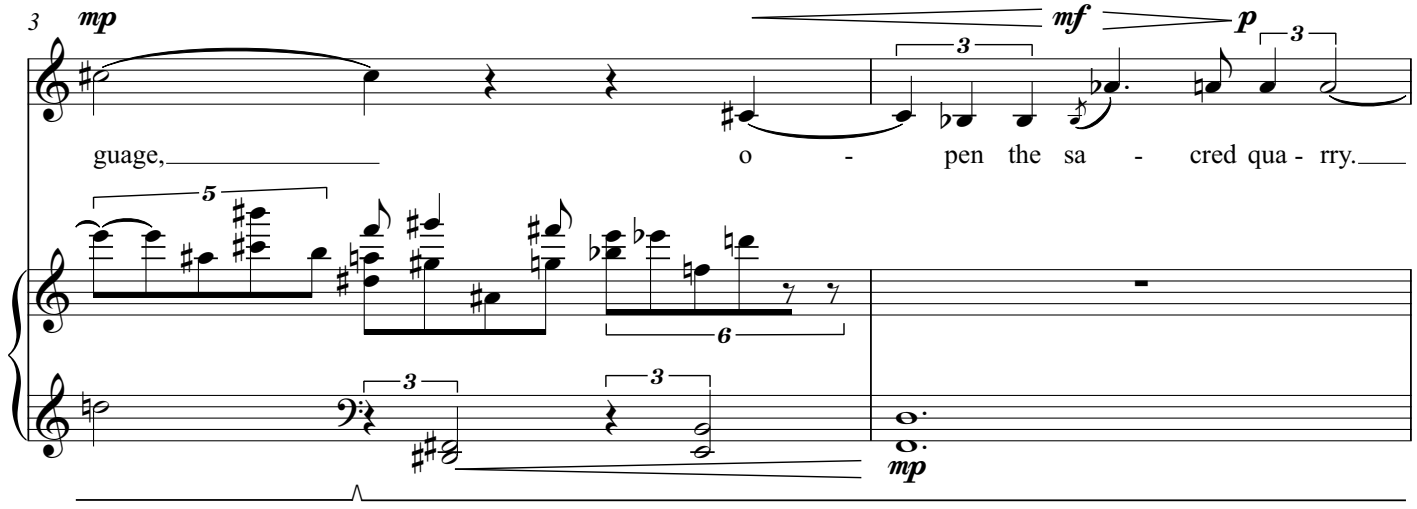


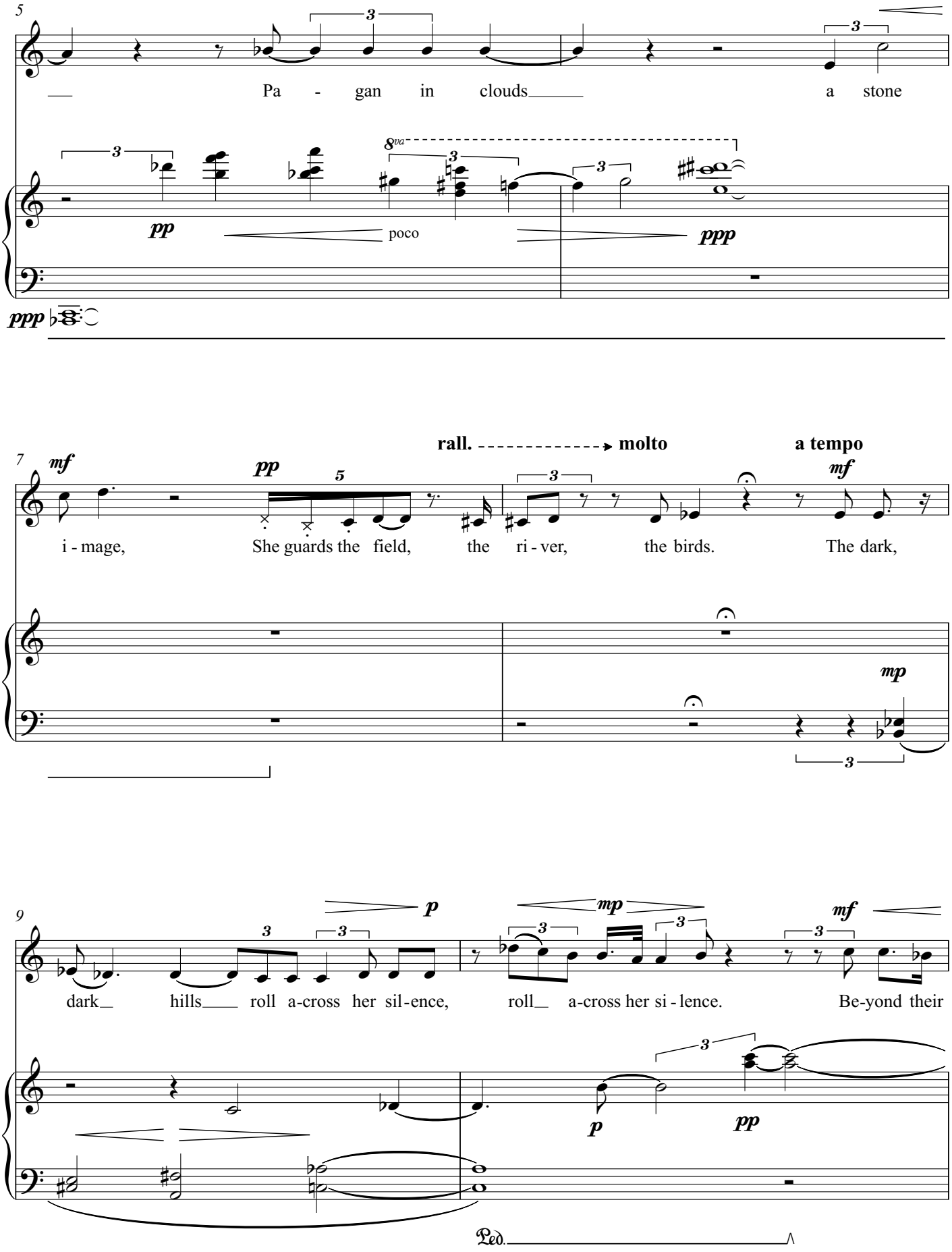
Song

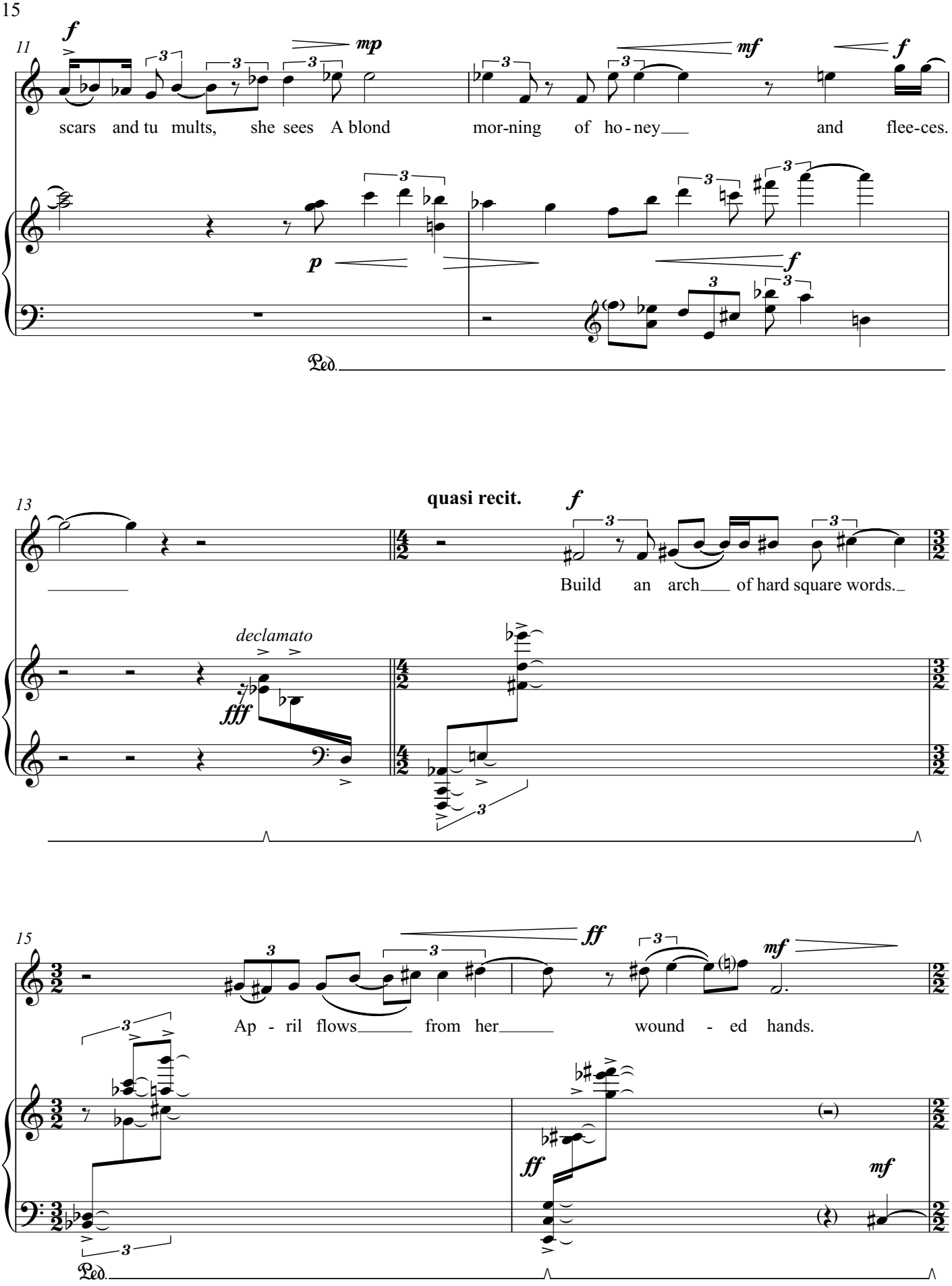
GEORGE MACKAY BROWN

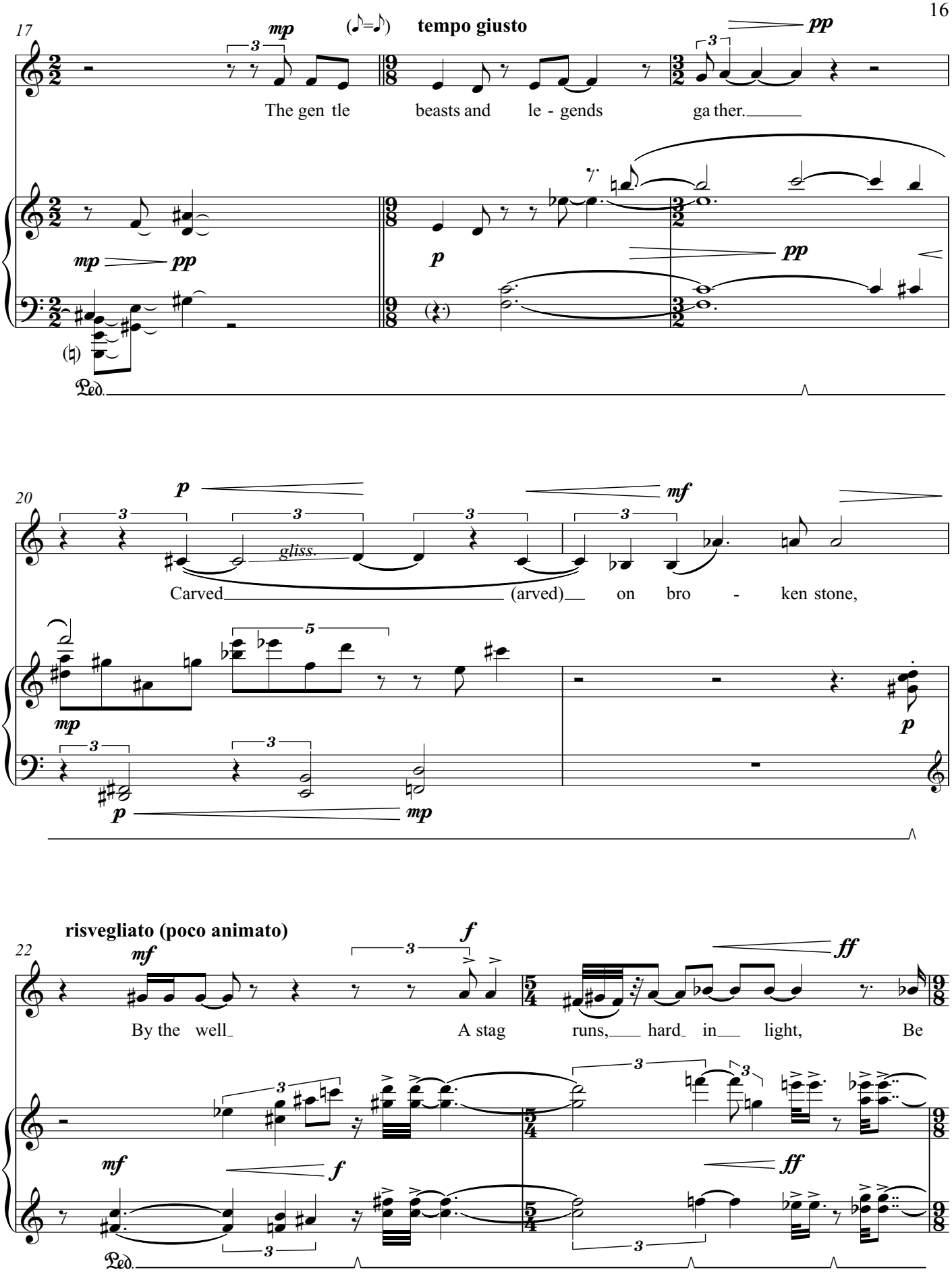
Text: *The Image in the Hills* from *The Year of the Whale* (1965)
John Murray (Publishers), 2005.

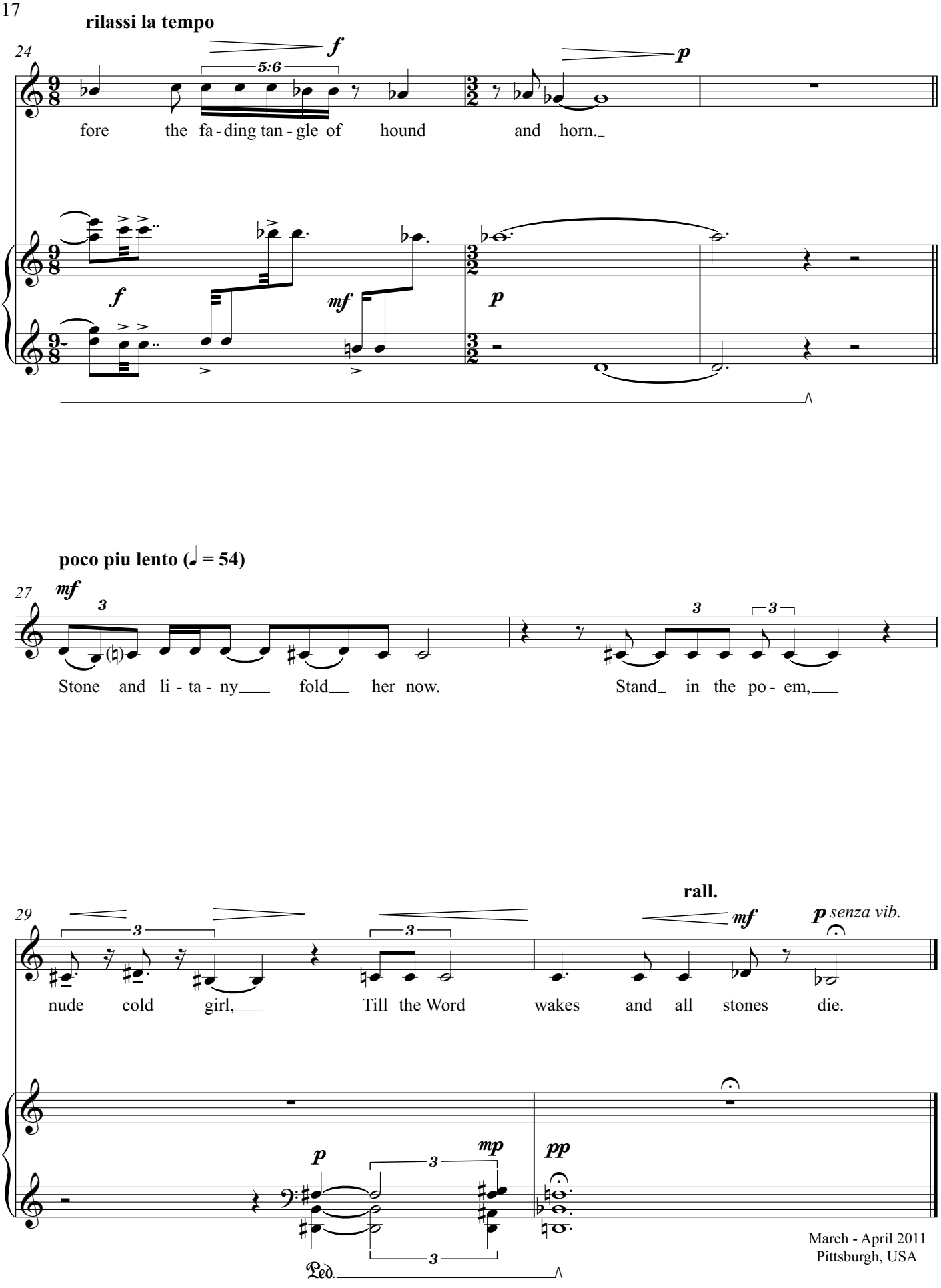





5
Pa - gan in clouds a stone
8va
pp
poco
ppp
ppp
7
mf
pp
rall.
molto
a tempo
mf
i - mage, She guards the field, the ri - ver, the birds. The dark,
mp
9
p
mp
mf
dark hills roll a-cross her sil-ence, roll a-cross her si - lence. Be-yond their
p
pp
Ped.


11
f
mp
mf
f
scars and tu mults, she sees A blond mor-ning of ho - ney and flee-ces.
p
f
Ped.
13
quasi recit.
f
Build an arch of hard square words.
declamato
fff
15
ff
mf
Ap - ril flows from her wound - ed hands.
ff
mf
Ped.


17
mp
(♪=♪)
tempo giusto
pp
The gen tle beasts and le - gends ga ther.
mp
pp
p
pp
Ped.
20
p
mf
gliss.
Carved (arved) on bro - ken stone,
mp
p
p
mp
22
risvegliato (poco animato)
mf
f
ff
By the well A stag runs, hard in light, Be
mf
f
ff
Ped.

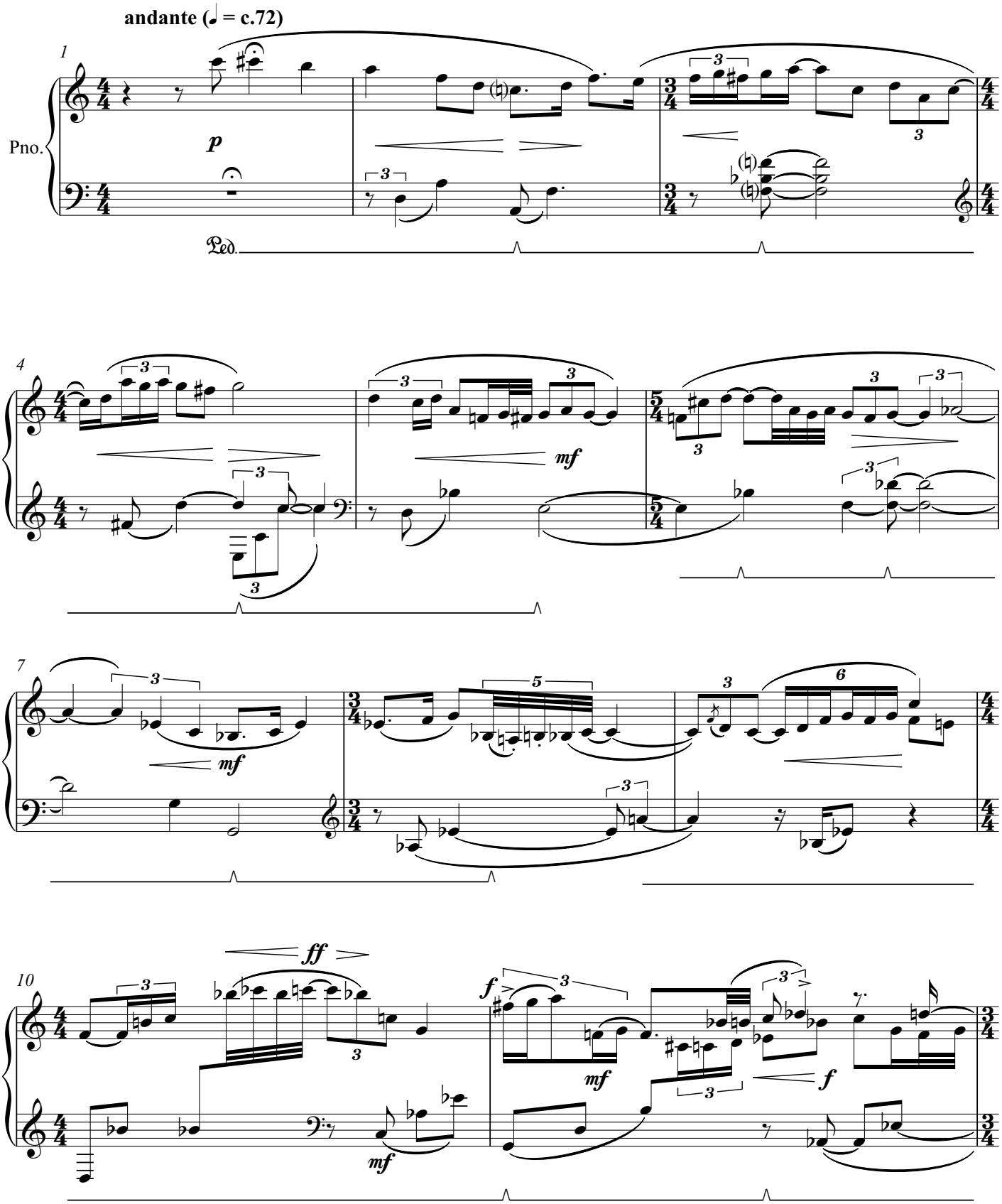


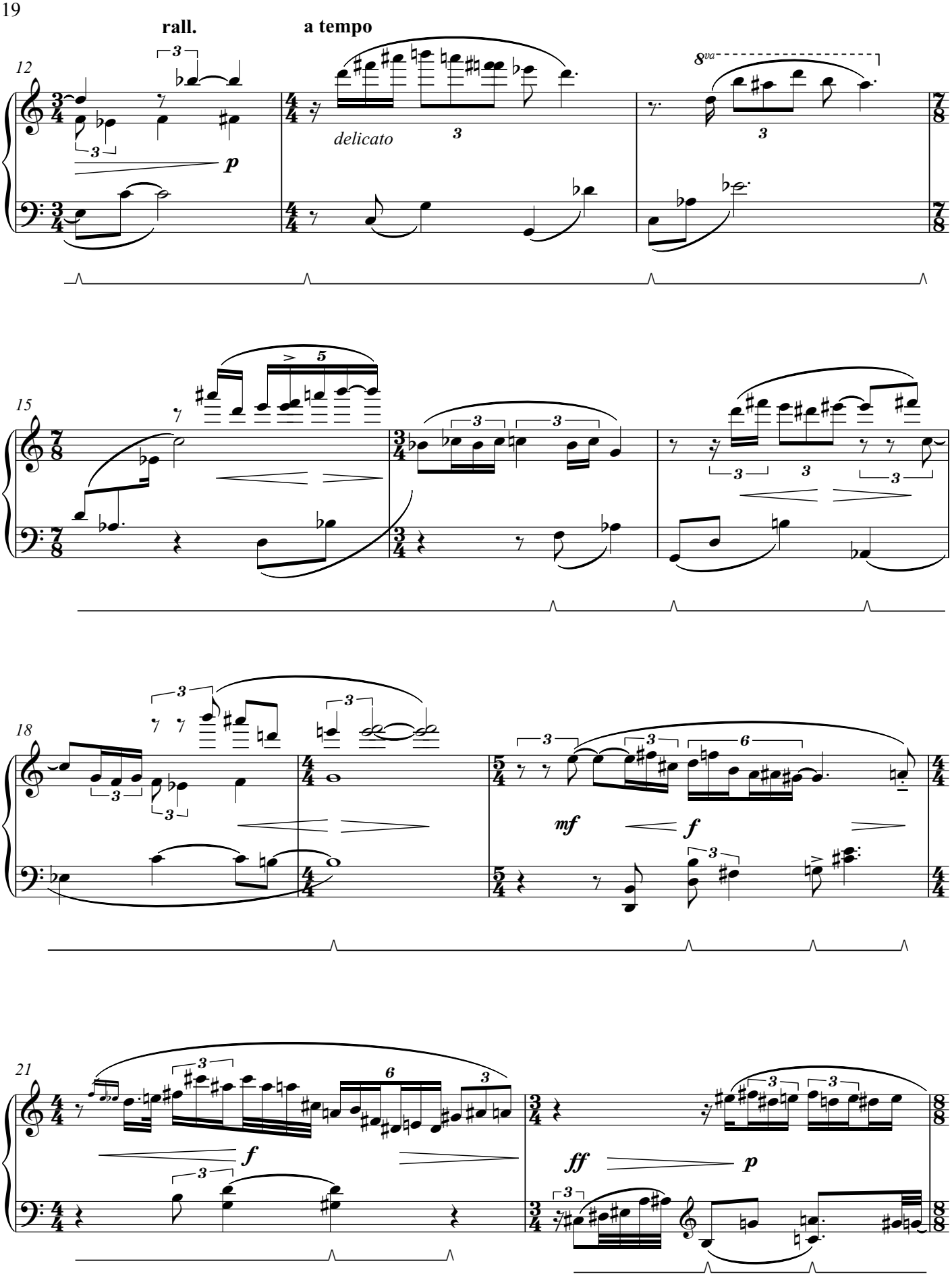
March - April 2011
Pittsburgh, USA

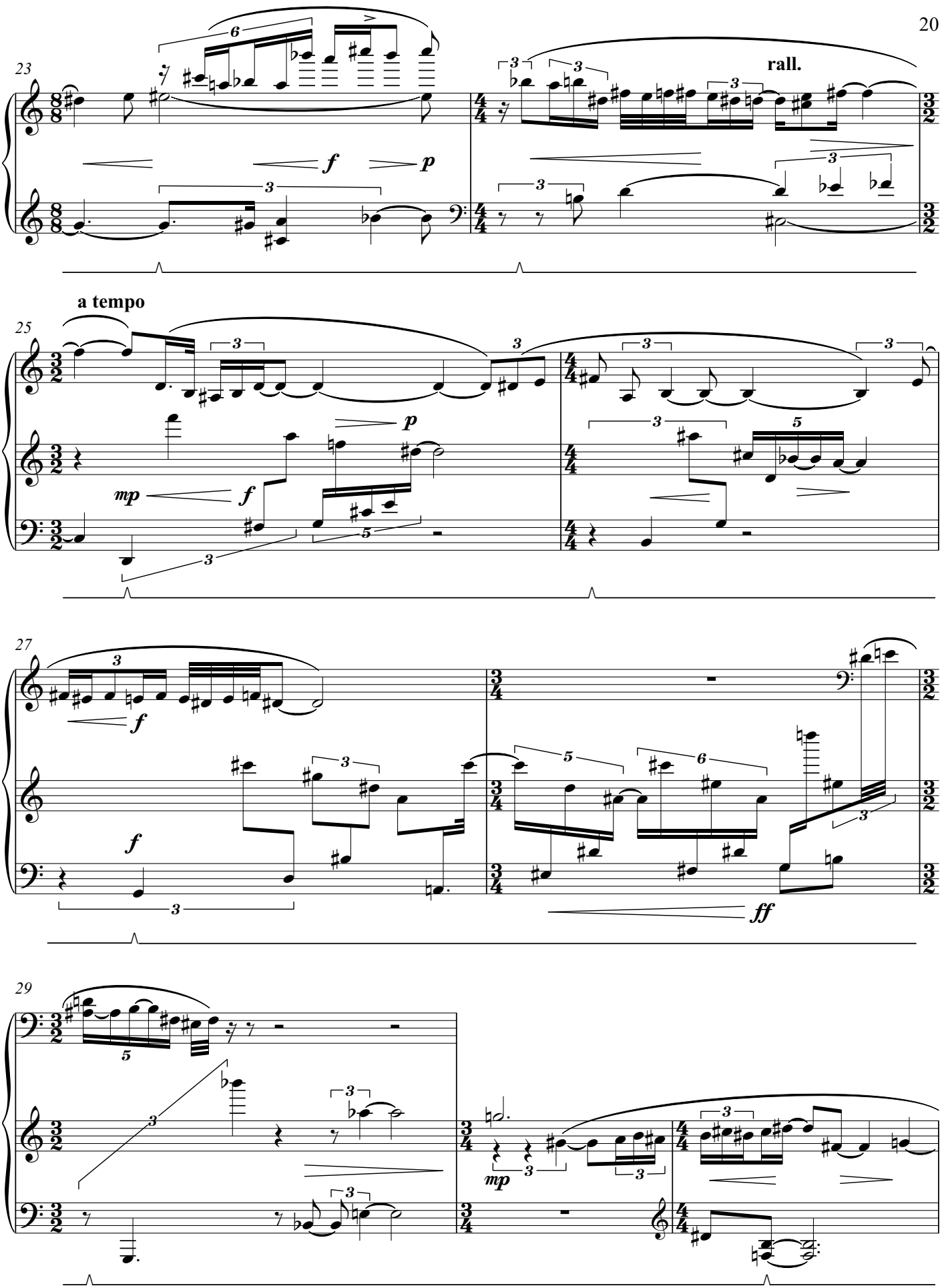
to Krista at 30 - June 29th, 2011

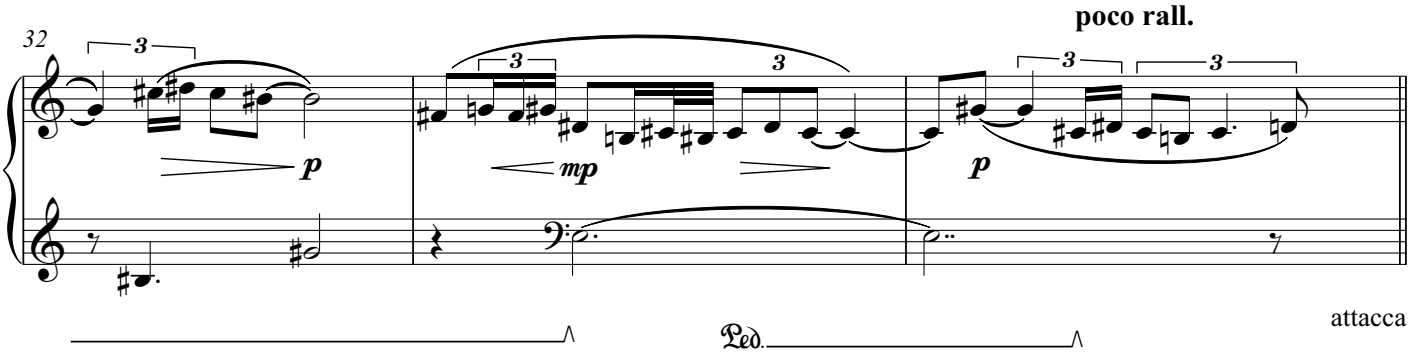
Prelude

...events at the Leaping Dolphin...




rall.
a tempo
12
delicato
8va
15
18
mf
f
21
ff
p

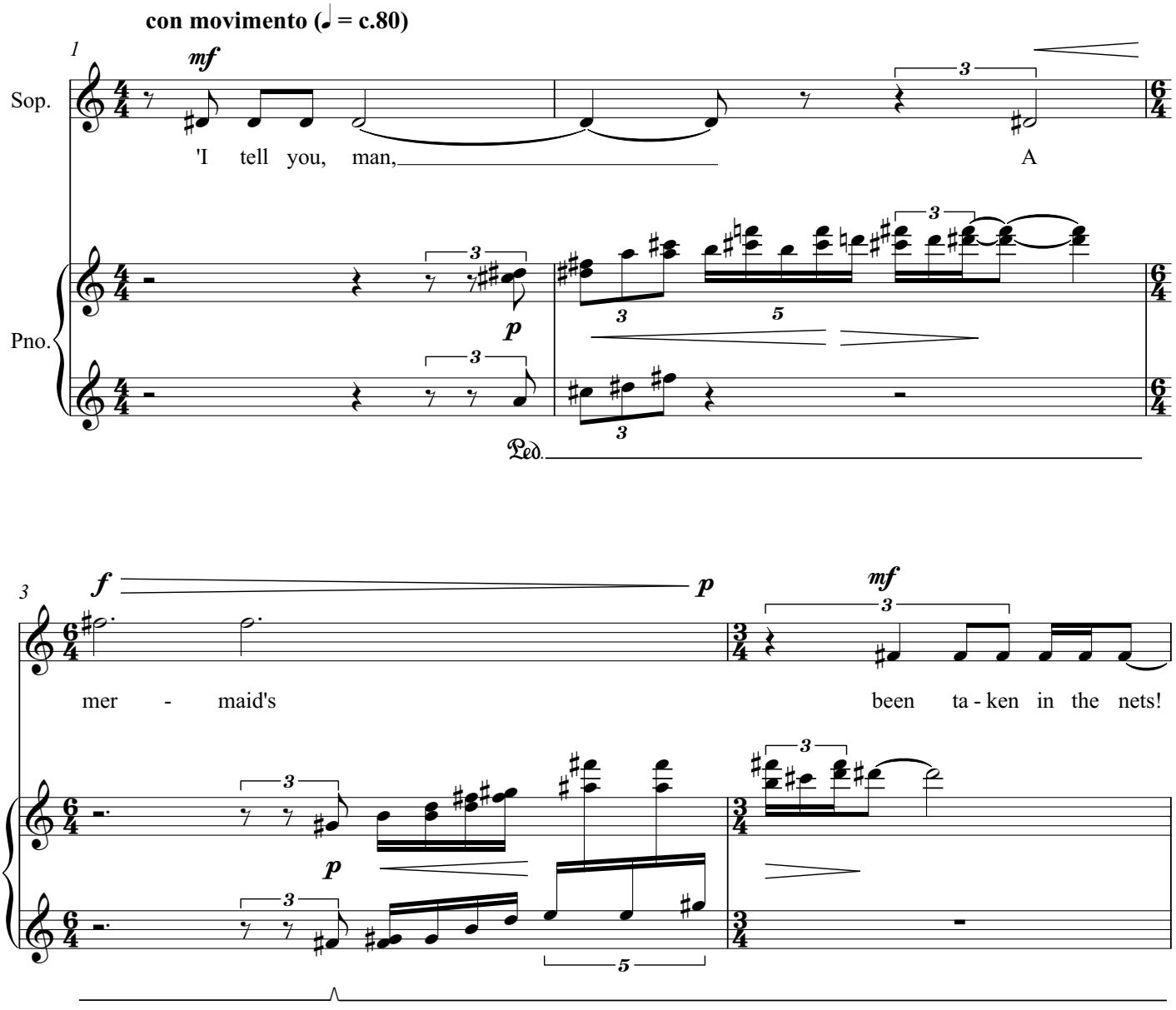

23
rall.
a tempo
25
27
29

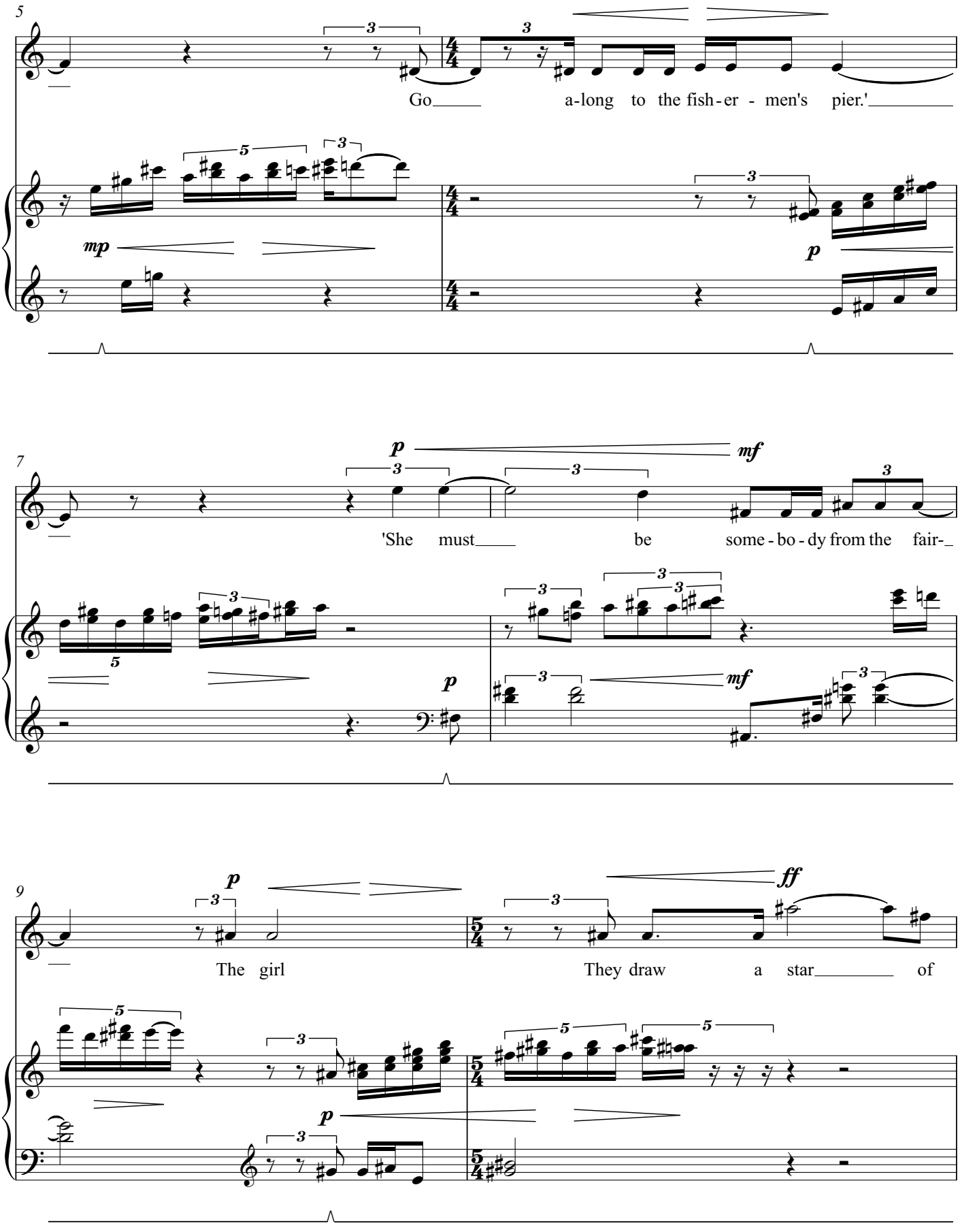


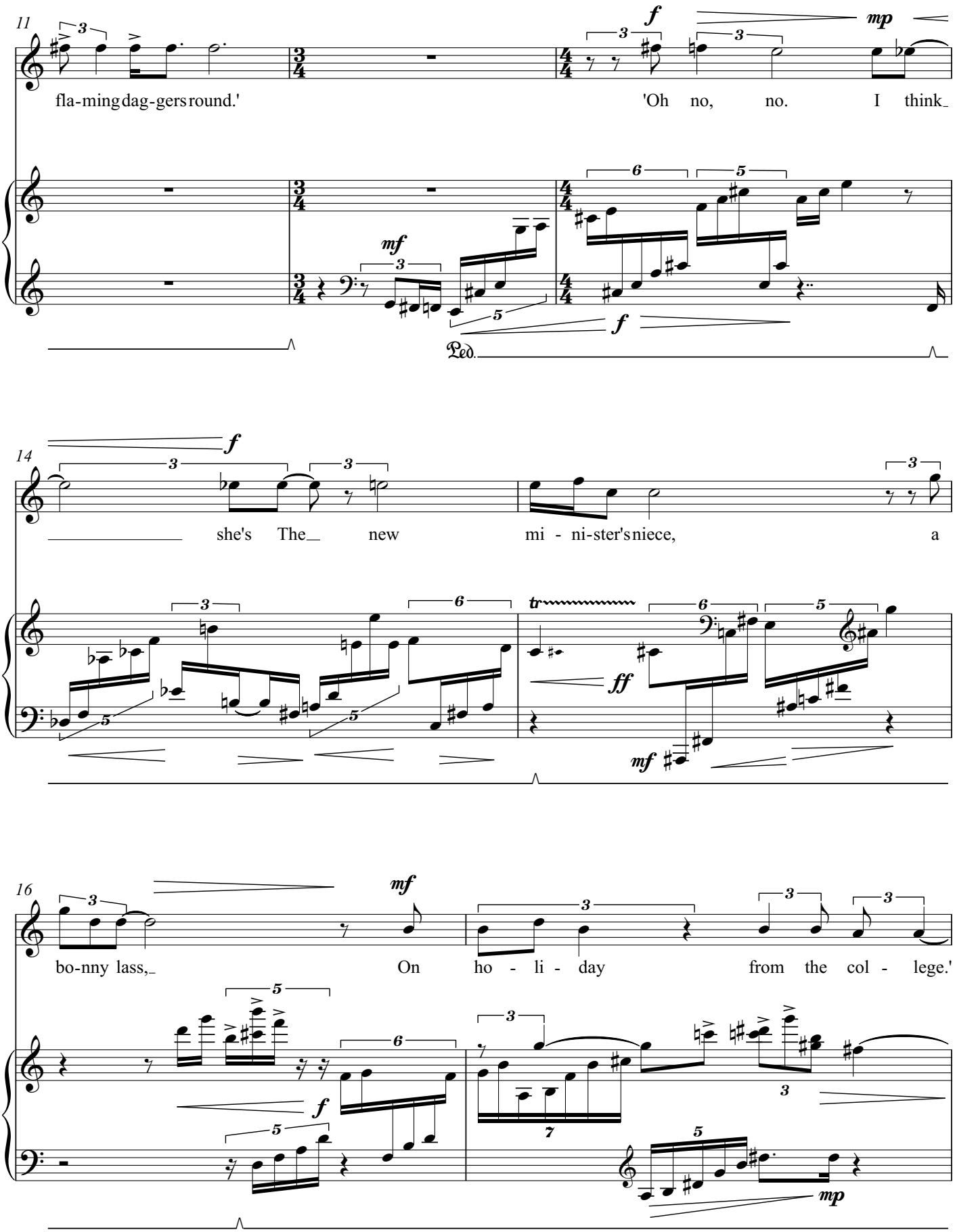
Song

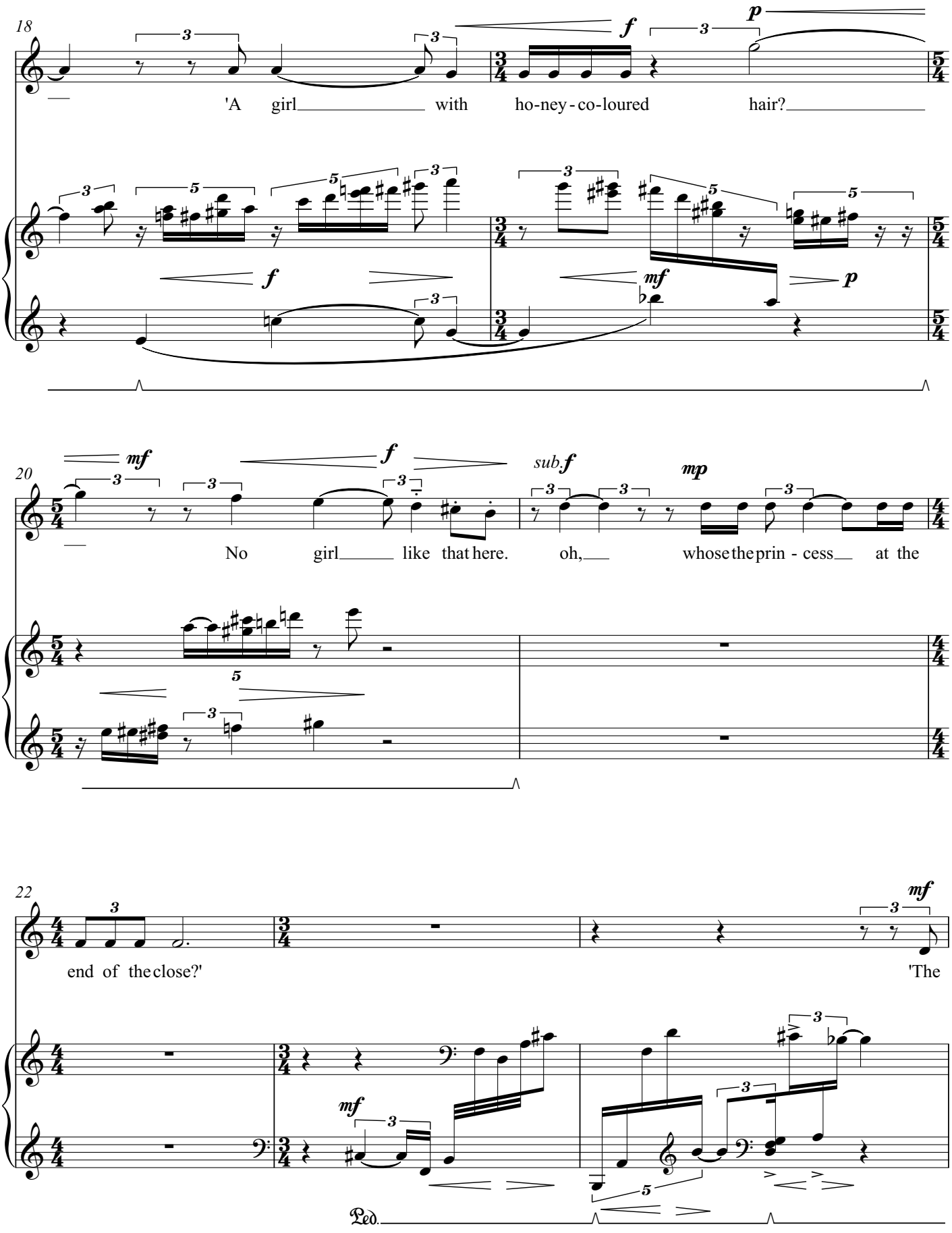
GEORGE MACKAY BROWN

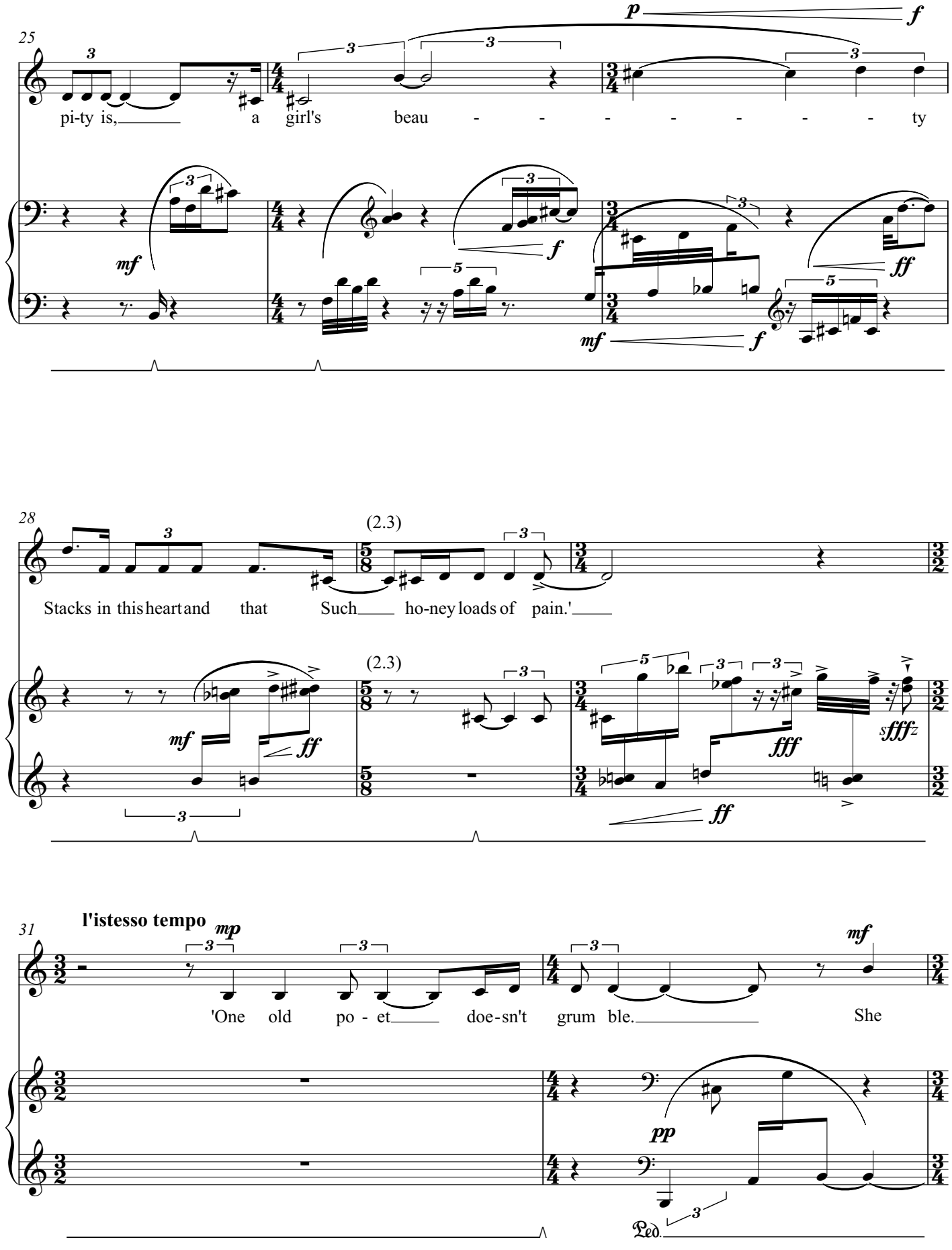
Text: *Gossip in Hamnavoe: About a Girl* from *Travellers* (2001)
John Murray (Publishers), 2005.

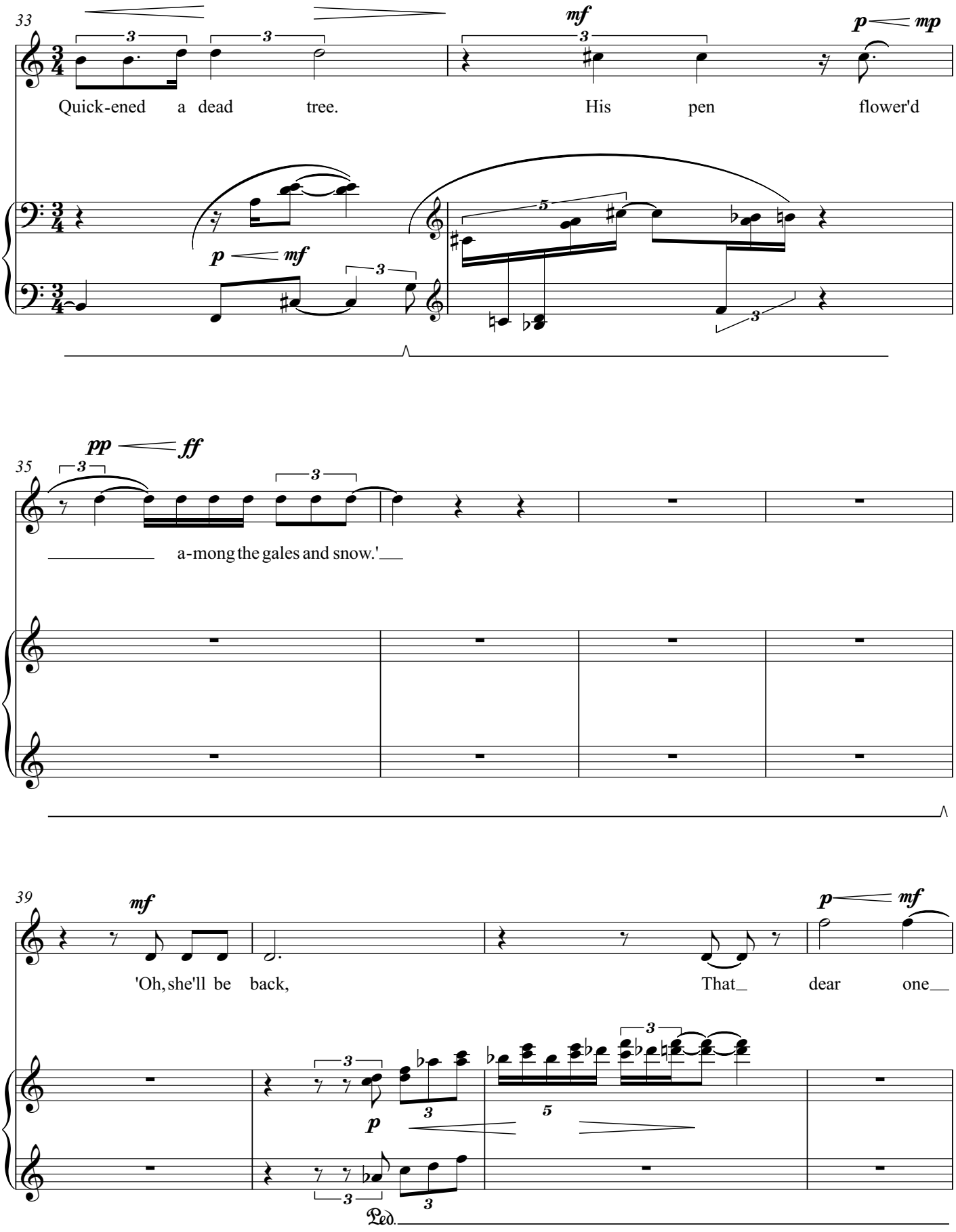


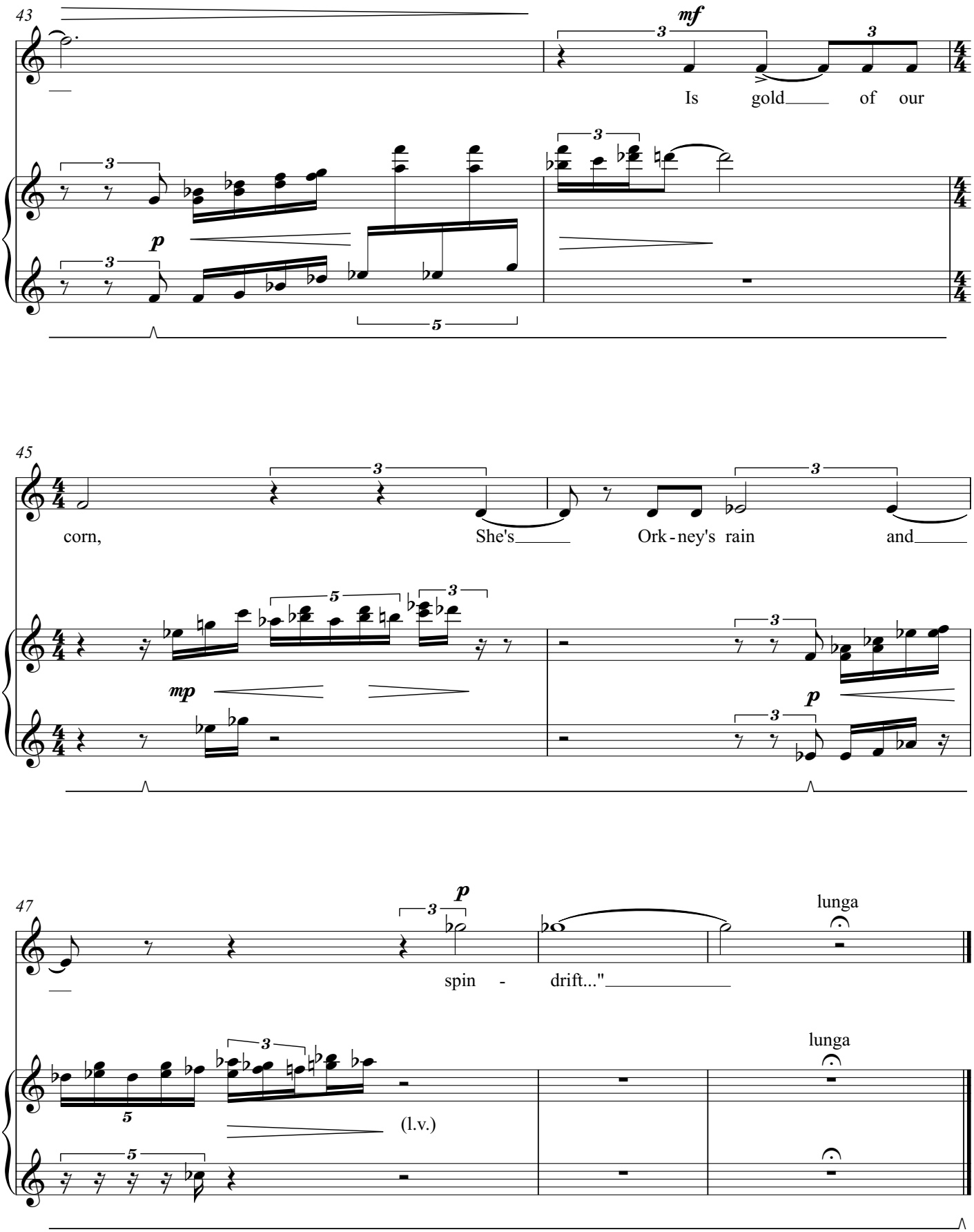

5
Go a-long to the fish-er - men's pier.'
mp
p
7
'She must be some-bo-dy from the fair-
p
mf
p
mf
9
The girl
They draw a star of
p
ff
p


11
fla-ming dag-gers round.'
'Oh no, no. I think_
14
she's The_ new mi - ni-ster's niece, a
16
bo-nny lass,_ On ho - li - day from the col - lege.'

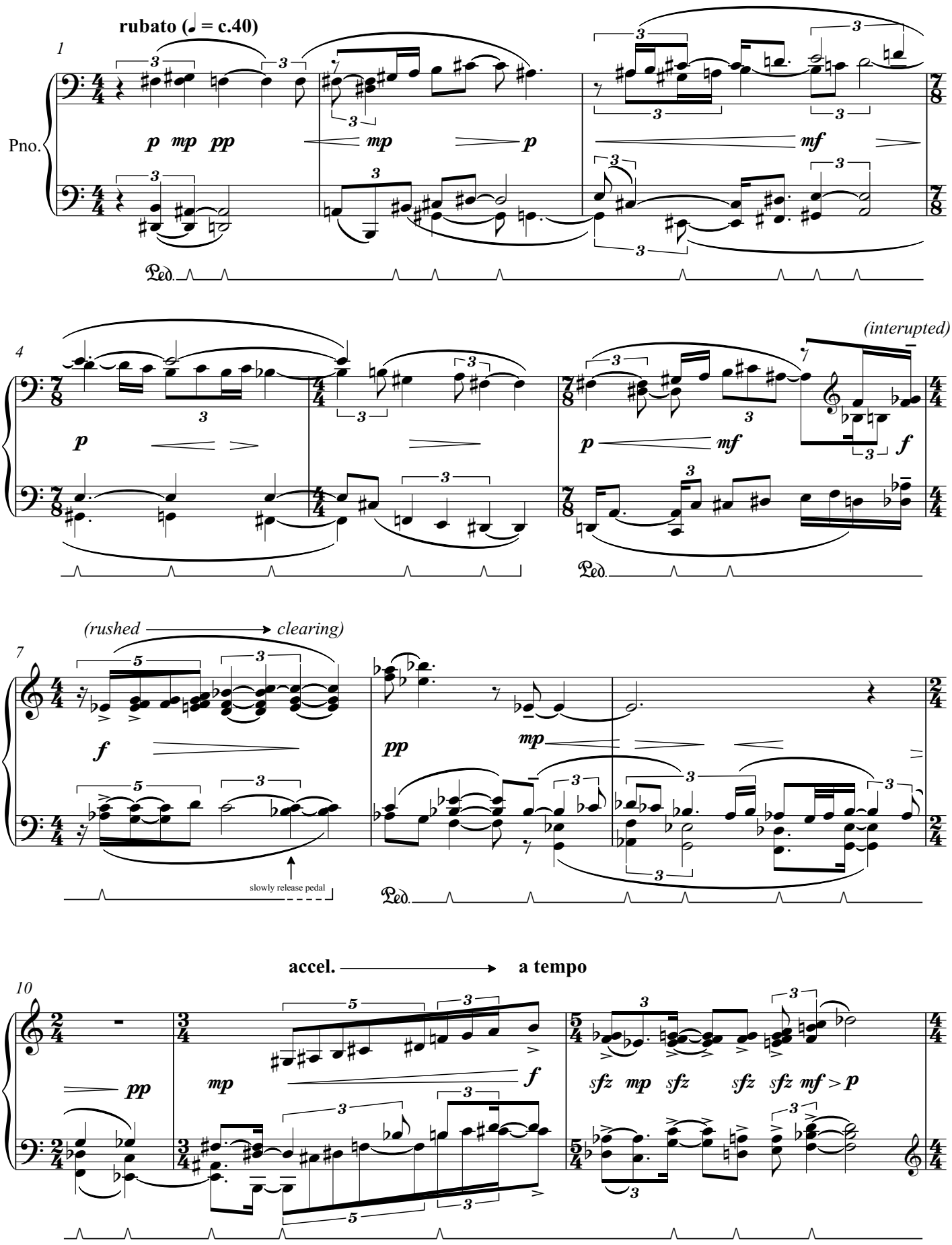

18
'A girl with ho-ney-co-loured hair?
20
No girl like that here. oh, whose the prin-cess at the
22
end of the close?'
'The
Ped.

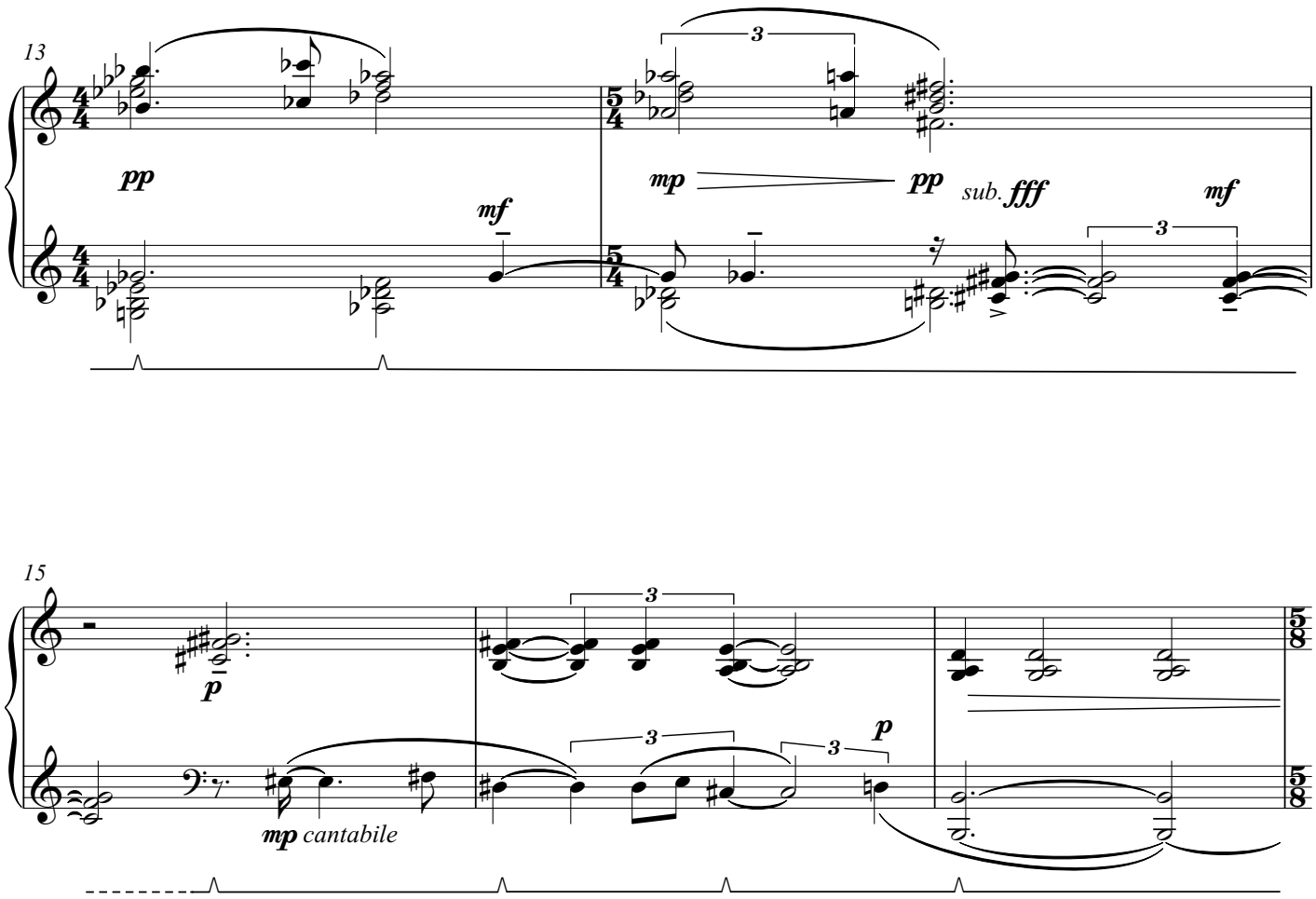

25
p
f
pi-ty is, a girl's beau - - - - - - - ty
mf
f
ff
mf
f
28
(2.3)
Stacks in this heart and that Such ho-ney loads of pain.'
(2.3)
mf
ff
fff
sfffz
ff
31
l'istesso tempo
mp
'One old po - et doe-sn't grum ble. She
mf
pp
Ped.


33
mf
p mp
Quick-ened a dead tree. His pen flower'd
p mf
35
pp ff
a-mong the gales and snow.'
39
mf
p mf
'Oh, she'll be back, That dear one
p
Ped.


43
mf
Is gold of our
p
45
corn, She's Ork - ney's rain and
mp
p
47
p
spin - drift..."
lunga
lunga
(l.v.)

Prelude

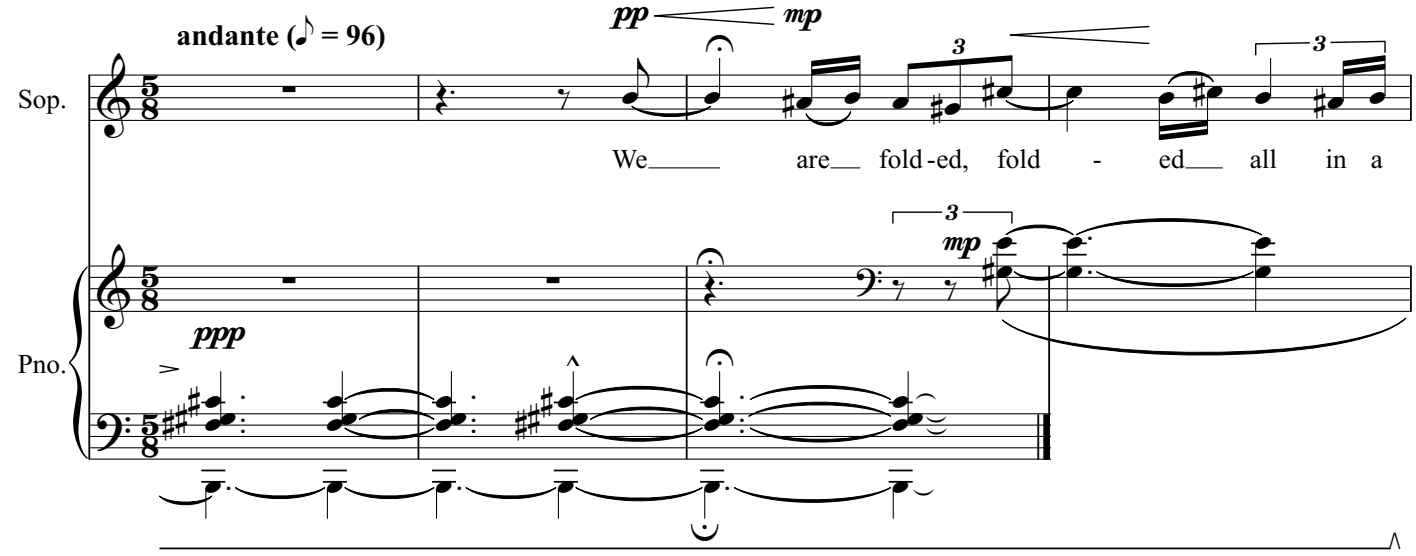

rubato (♩ = c.40)
1
Pno.
p mp pp
mp
p
mf
Ped.
4
(interupted)
p
p
mf
f
Ped.
7
(rushed → clearing)
f
pp
mp
slowly release pedal
Ped.
accel. → a tempo
10
pp
mp
f
sfz mp sfz sfz sfz mf > p

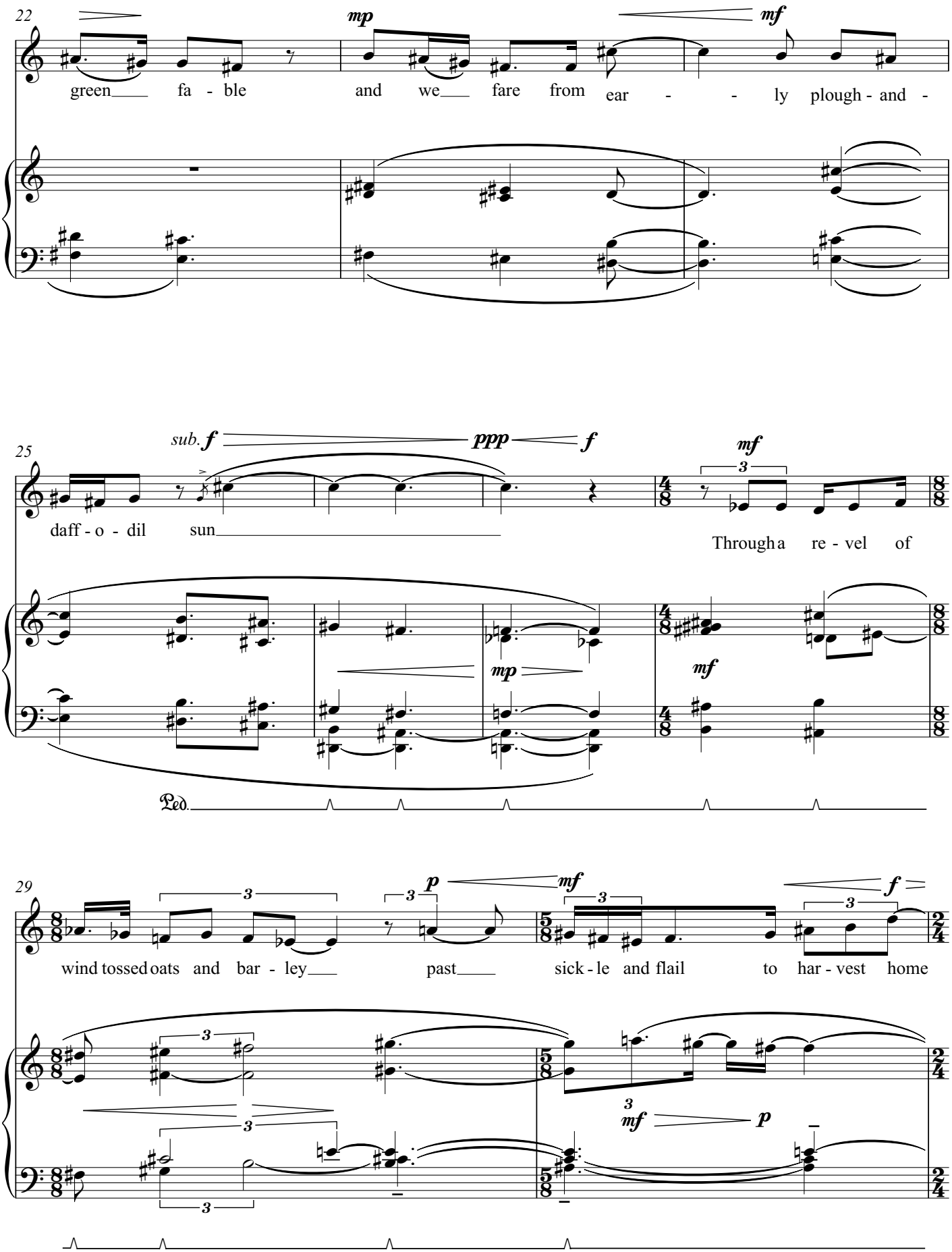


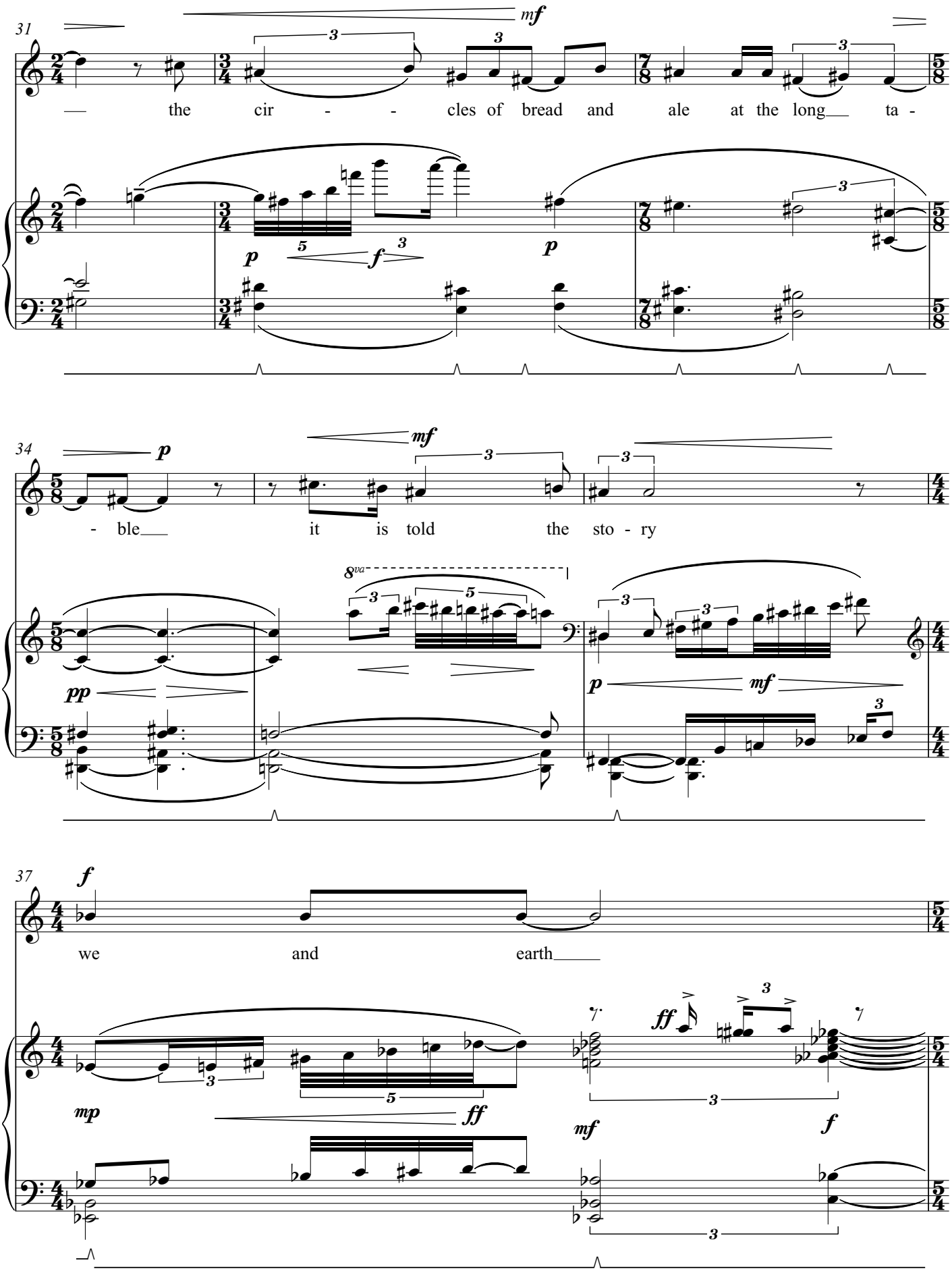
Song

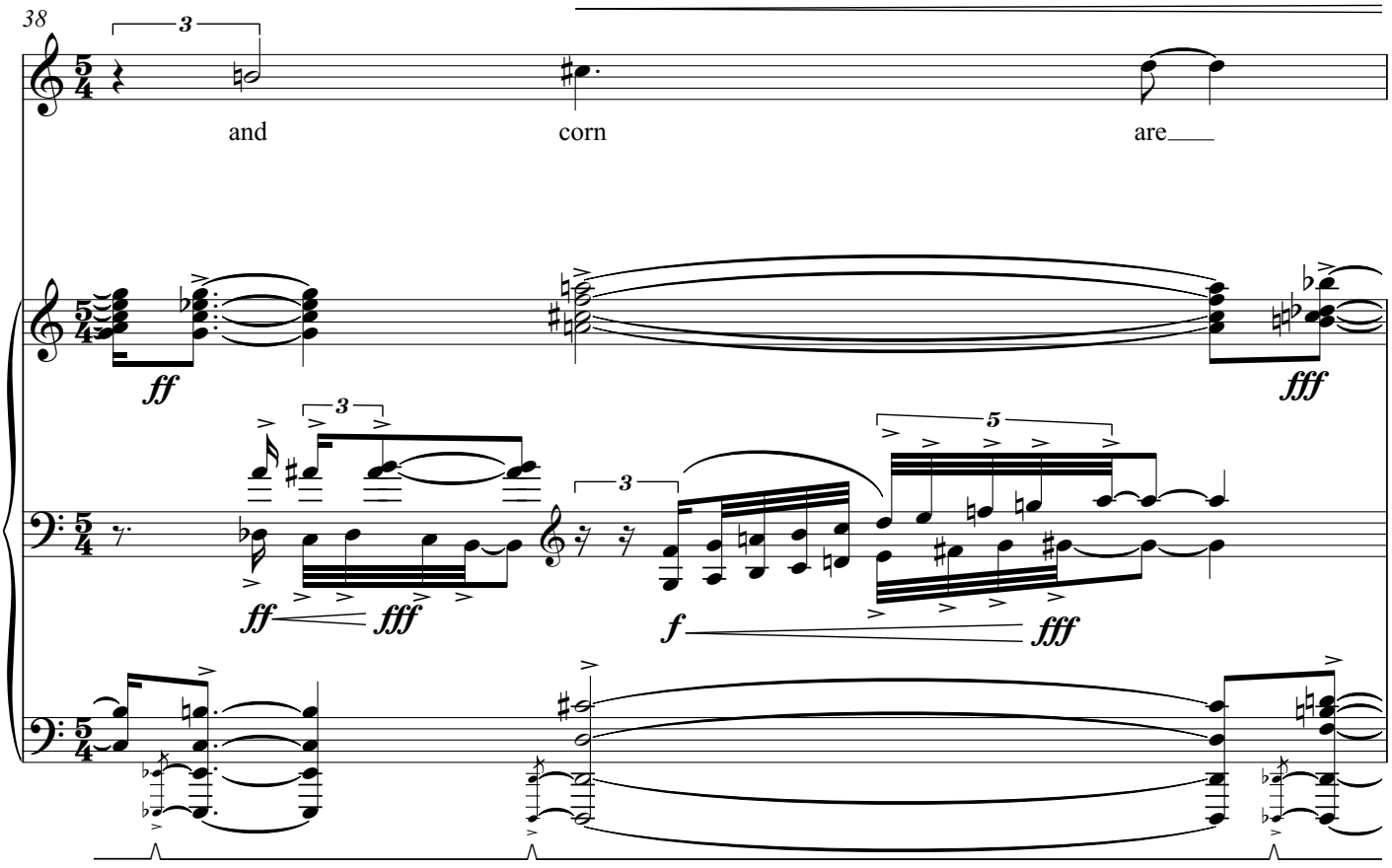
GEORGE MACKAY BROWN

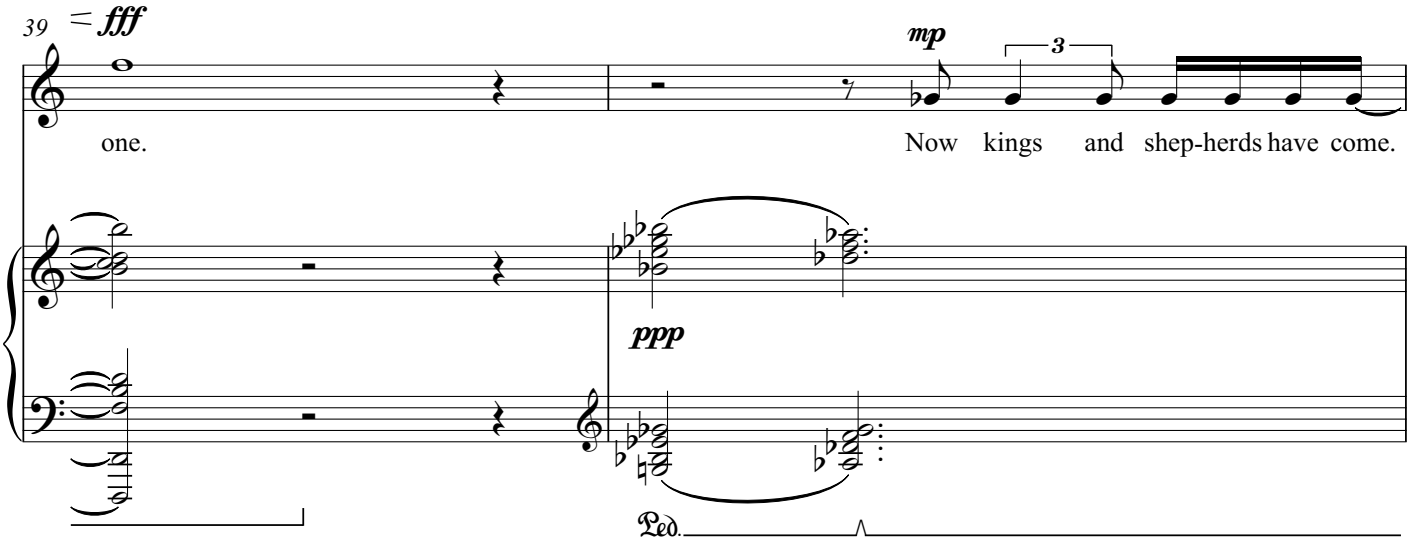
Text: *Christmas Poem* from *The Wreck of the Archangel* (1989)
John Murray (Publishers), 2005.

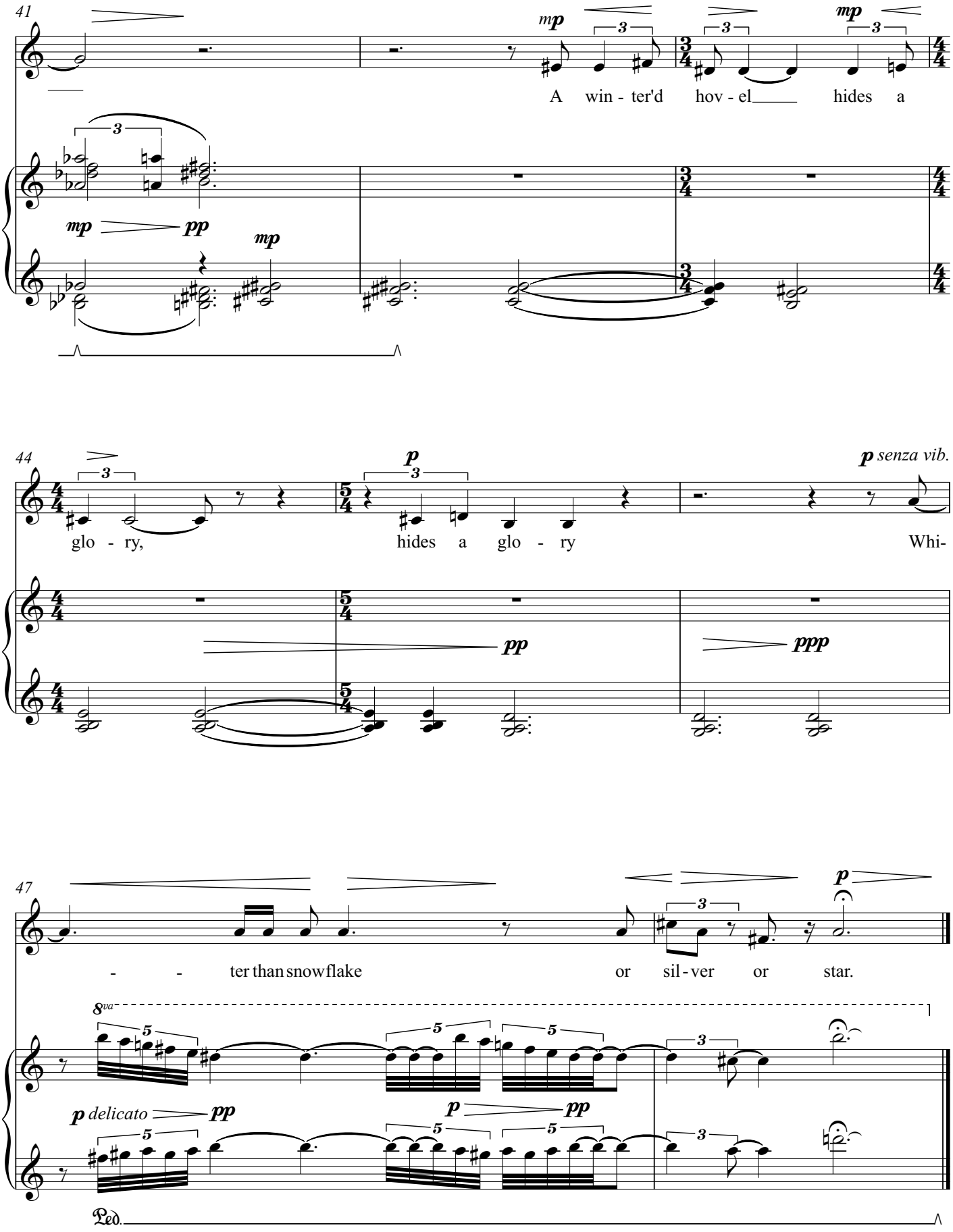



22
mp
mf
green fa - ble
and we fare from ear - - ly plough - and -
25
sub. f
ppp
f
mf
daff - o - dil sun
Through a re - vel of
mp
mf
Ped.
29
p
mf
f
wind tossed oats and bar - ley past
sick - le and flail to har - vest home
mf
p


31
mf
the cir - - cles of bread and ale at the long ta -
p
f
p
34
p
mf
- ble
it is told the sto - ry
8va
pp
p
mf
37
f
we and earth
mp
ff
mf
ff
f


38
and
corn
are
ff
fff
ff
fff
f
fff


39
fff
one.
mp
Now kings and shep-herds have come.
ppp
Ped.


41
mp
A win - ter'd hov - el hides a
mp pp
mp
44
p
senza vib.
glo - ry, hides a glo - ry Whi-
pp
ppp
47
p
- - ter than snowflake or sil - ver or star.
8va
p delicato pp
p pp
Ped.