DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

MIDNIGHT SONG

For Soprano and Chamber Orchestra

LRC 112b

Piano Version

magni

Magni Publications

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

MIDNIGHT SONG
for Soprano and Chamber Orchestra
LRC 112a

Duration: ca. 11 min.

Midnight Song is based on a cluster of half steps. This is evident at the very beginning of the work, and octave displacements later create melodic figures of a lyrical nature. In fact, this cluster was created from the beginning of an old, evocative Nat King Cole song. The interplay of tonal and atonal elements achieves changes of mood and affects the overall structure of the piece. *Midnight Song* begins with a cluster of three notes leading to a nightingale's song. Occasionally fast descending sonorities interrupt the tranquil mood of the music.

A dramatic middle section embellished by short, fast passages brings the music back to the opening three-note cluster. A highly contrapuntal section builds up to some very loud sonorities echoed by very soft clusters. The nightingale's song appears again as an epilogue to the entire piece. The composition ends with some haunting sonorities enhanced by antique cymbals and triangles.

PINKIE GORDON LANE

MIDNIGHT SONG

If I were sitting
on the banks of the river
I would write poems
about seaweed or flotsam
making their way
to the end of the sea
or the expense of the bridge
that falls into the sky

If a flight to nowhere
curled waves of air
beneath my feet
or framed my vision, a poem
would draw images
from wings of the jet
filling corners of clouds

But my blue room –
where I die each night –
frames this poem
The curtain is striped
blue on white
the walls the color
of twilight just before death
of the sun
and the doors pale
as the morning sky

And so I write
a blue room poem
my mind penetrates walls
and hangs like mist
on the wake of trees
swaying low over the town

Only the crickets know
I am there, and they
sing songs
to the low-touching wind
only they will know
I have passed over the earth
gathering periwinkles
and ivy
to take to the hills

This poem plants itself
and grows like the jasmine
coating my fence
it creeps over the page
like hollyfern
and bore into the depths
of my mind like the wild palm
that sentinels my yard's
center, spreading fan-like
at all points
caught up in a web
of light –
a ring of gold
painting the earth.

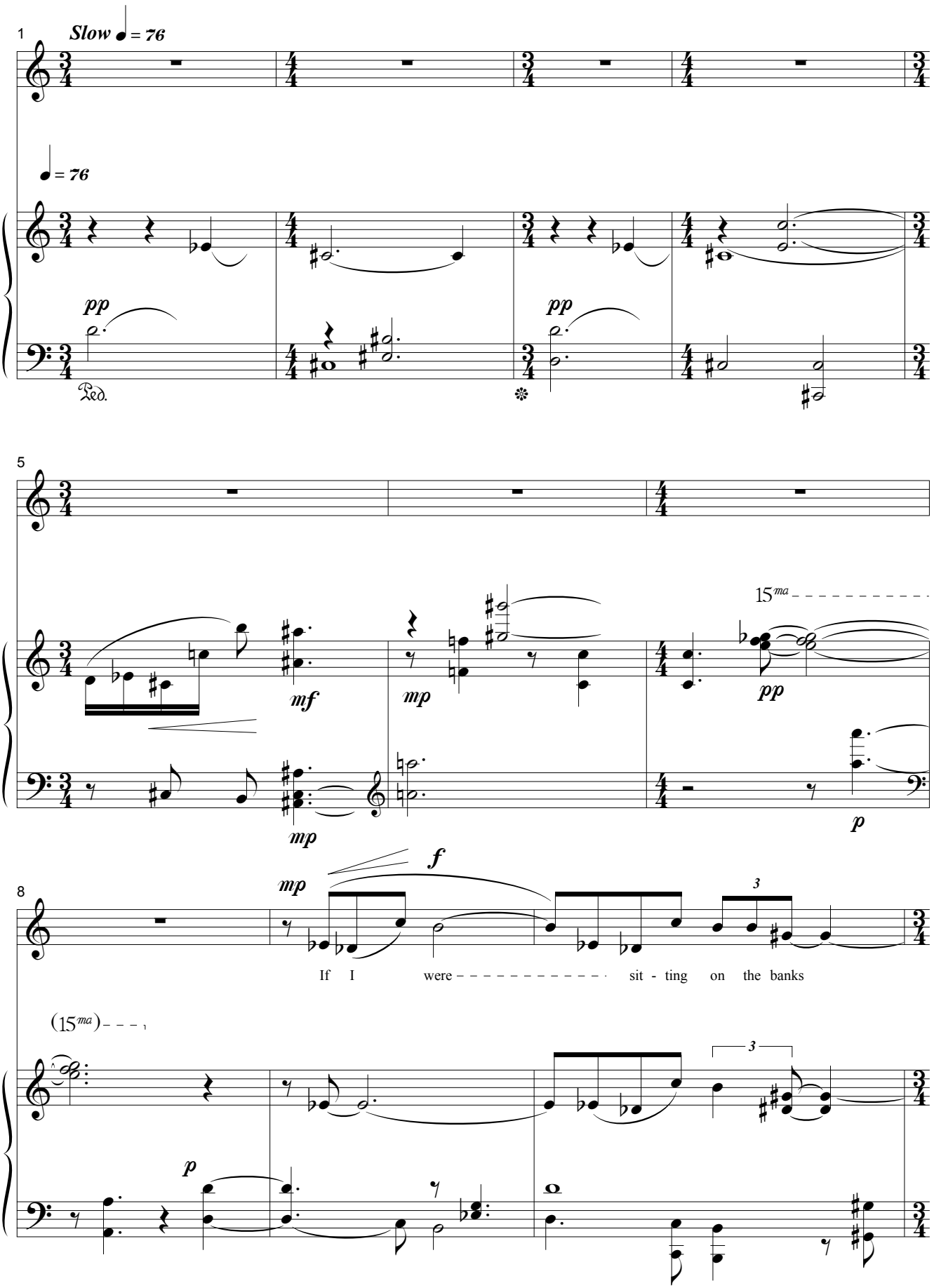
MIDNIGHT SONG

for soprano and Chamber Orchestra

Poetry: PINKIE GORDON LANE

Piano Version

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES



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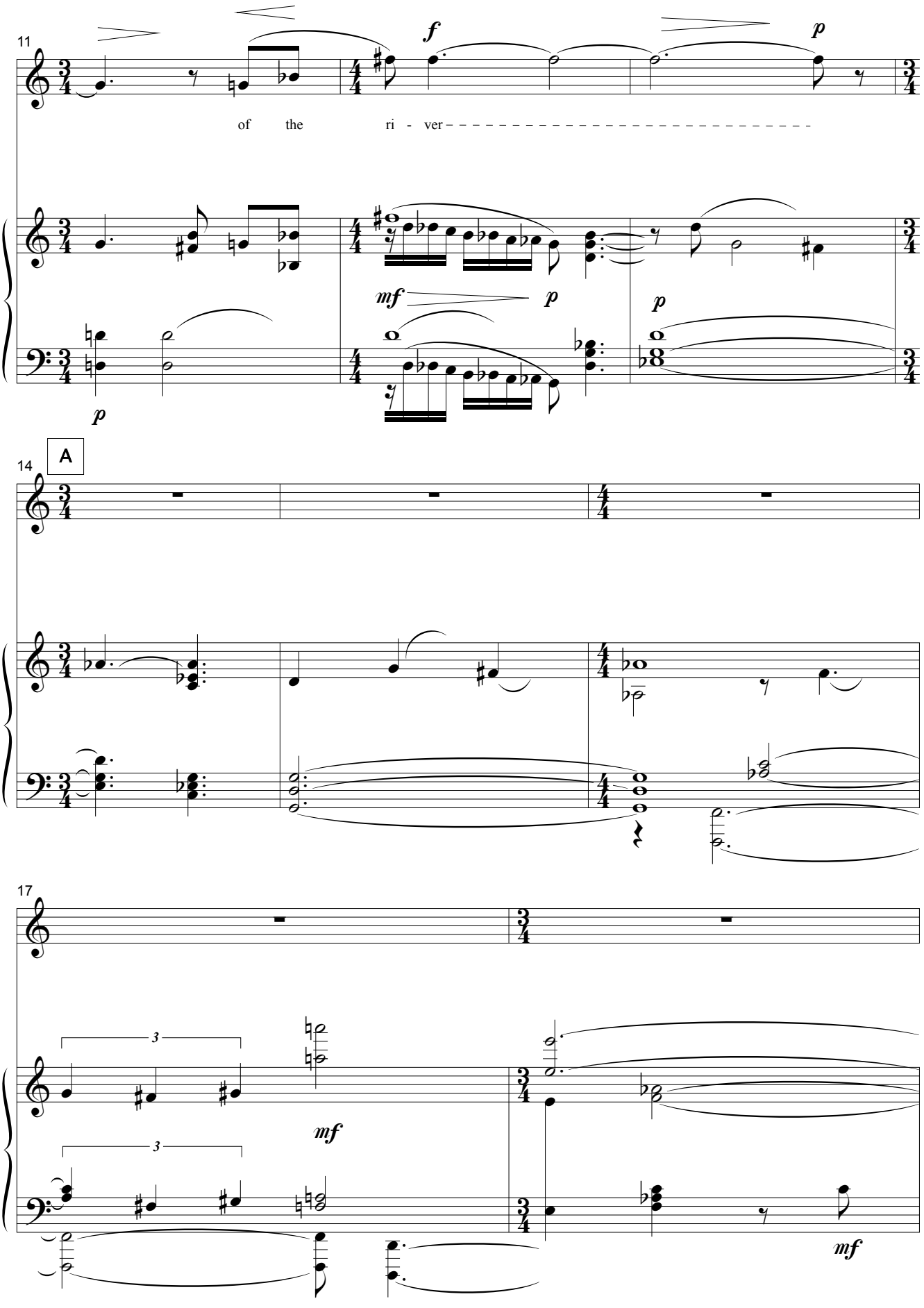
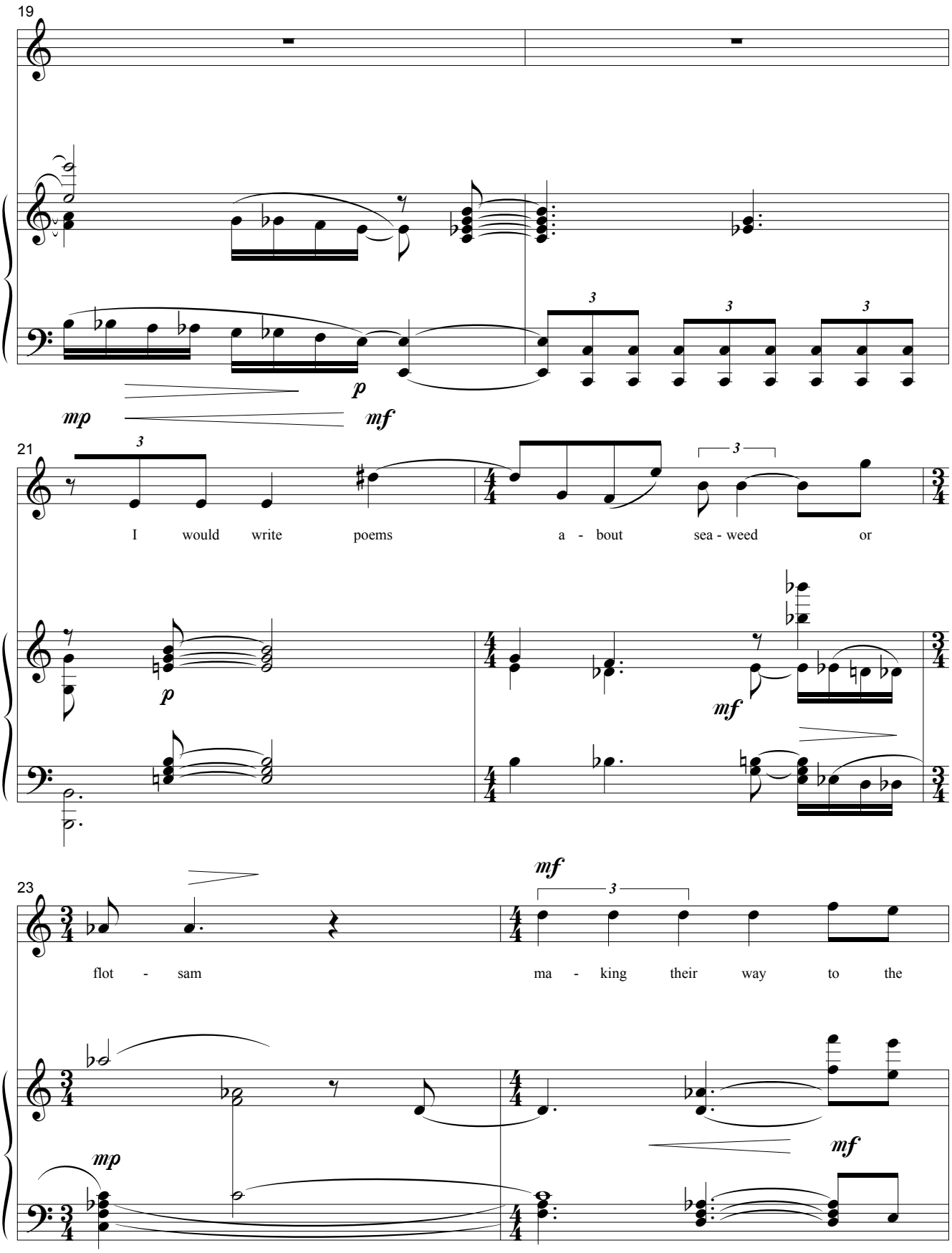
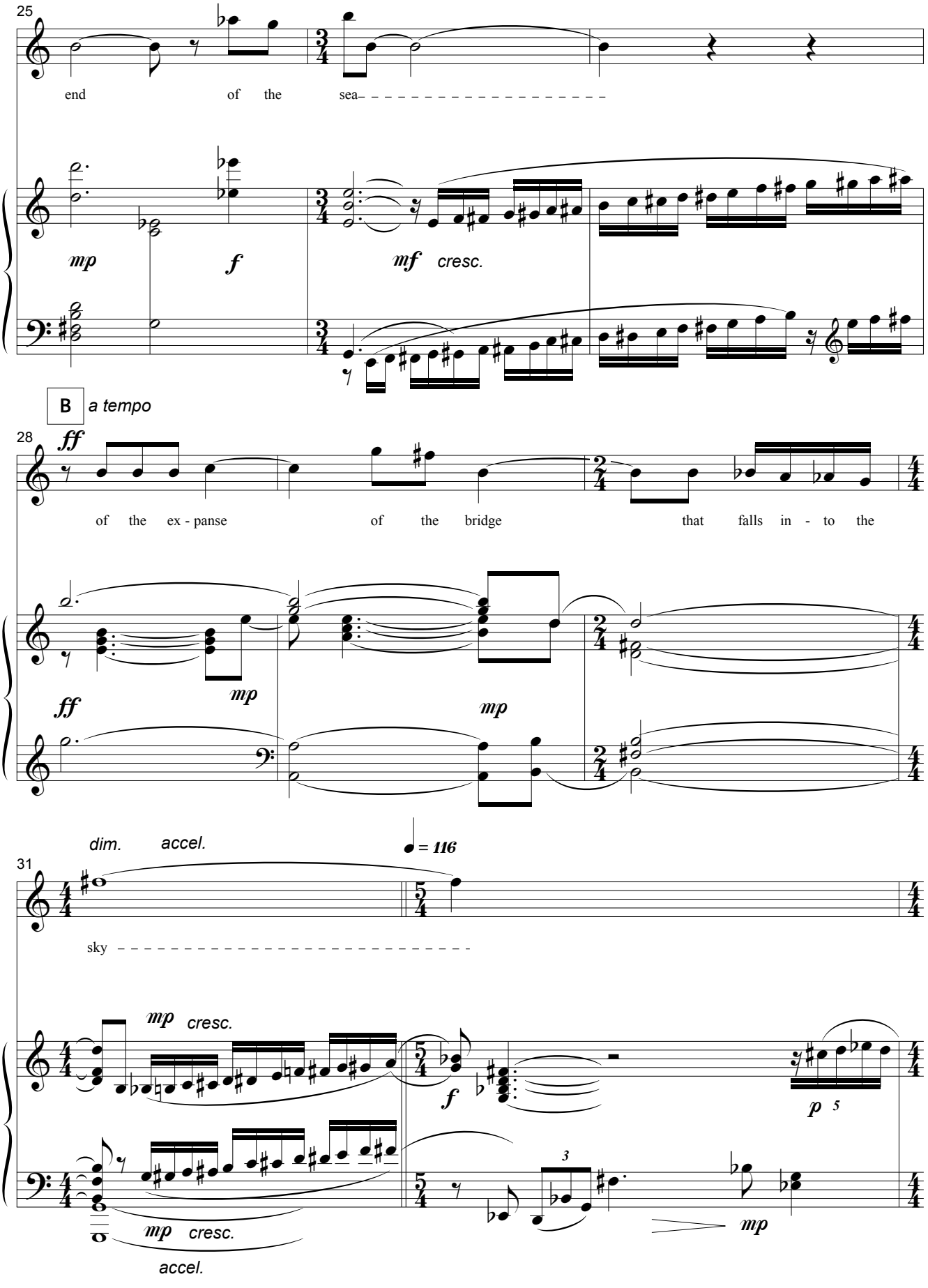
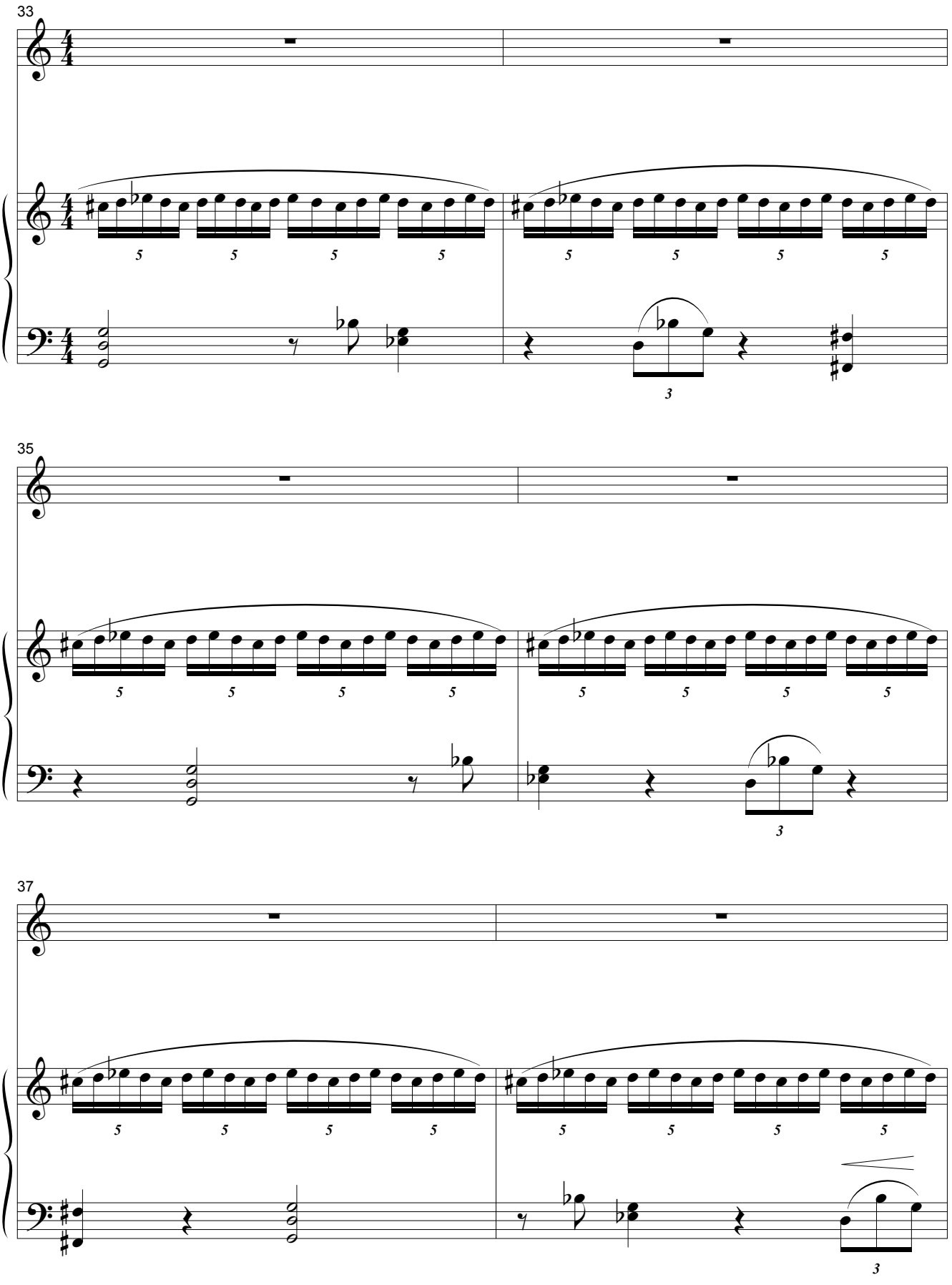
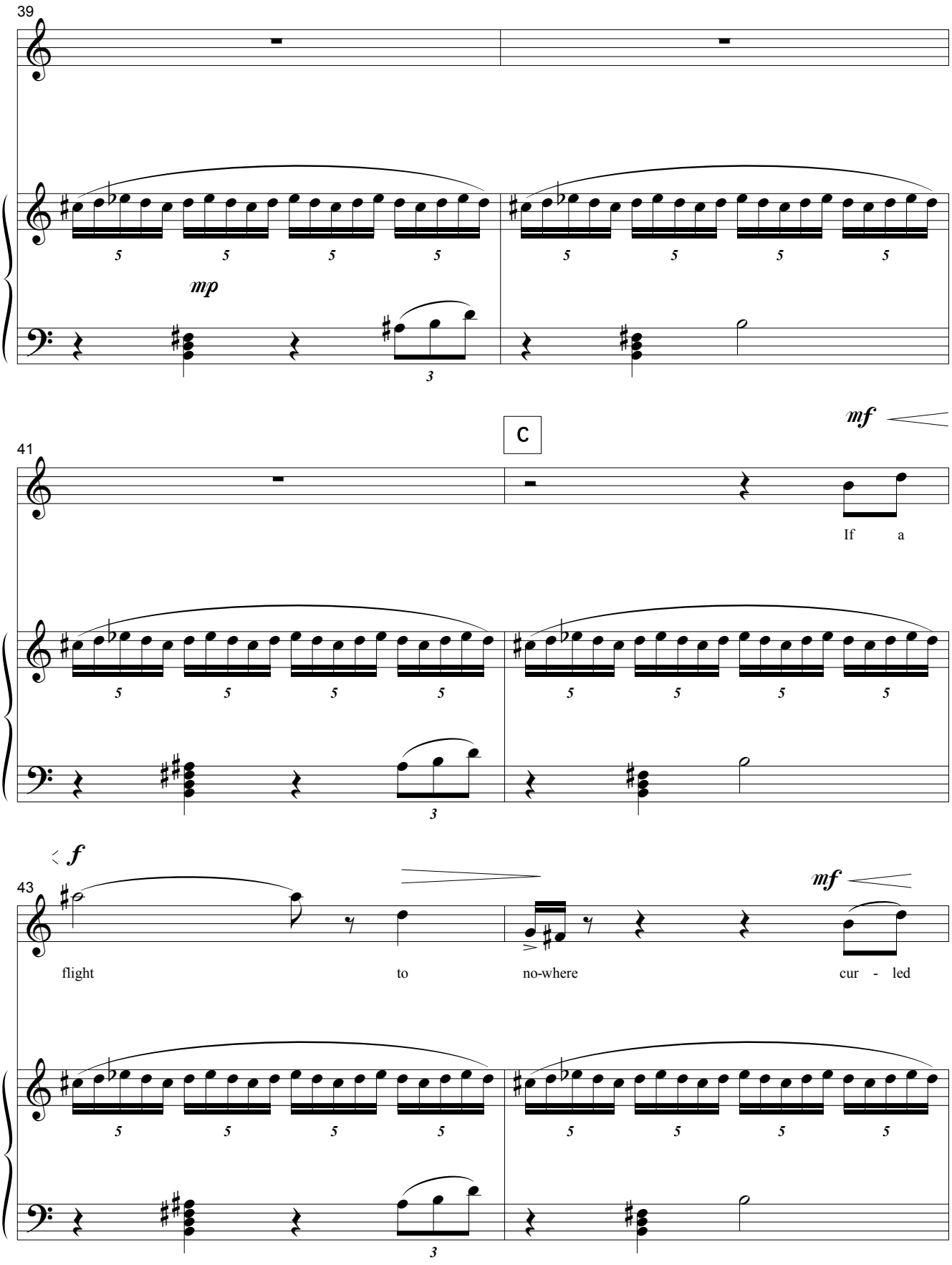
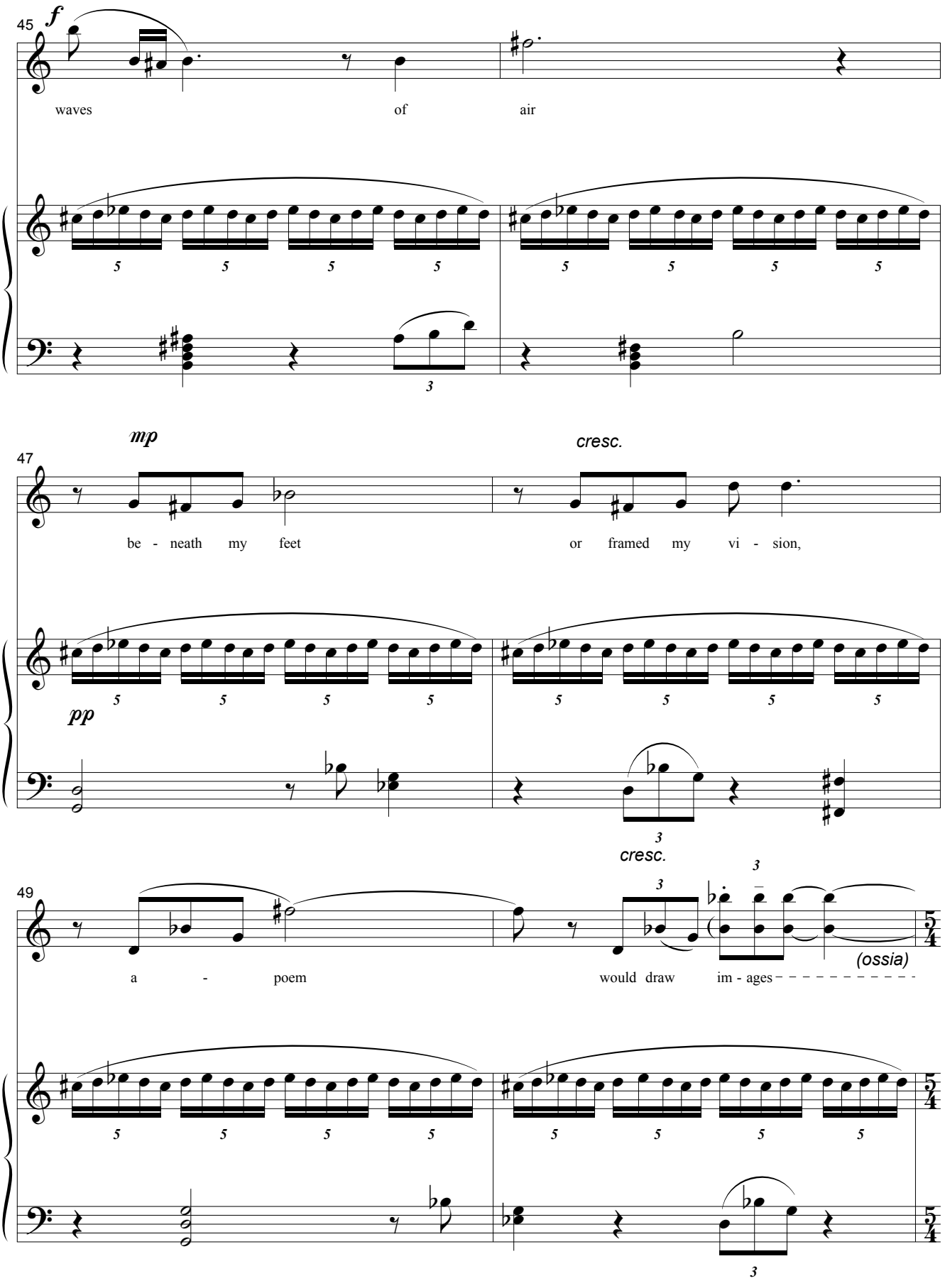

11
of the ri - ver
A
14
17

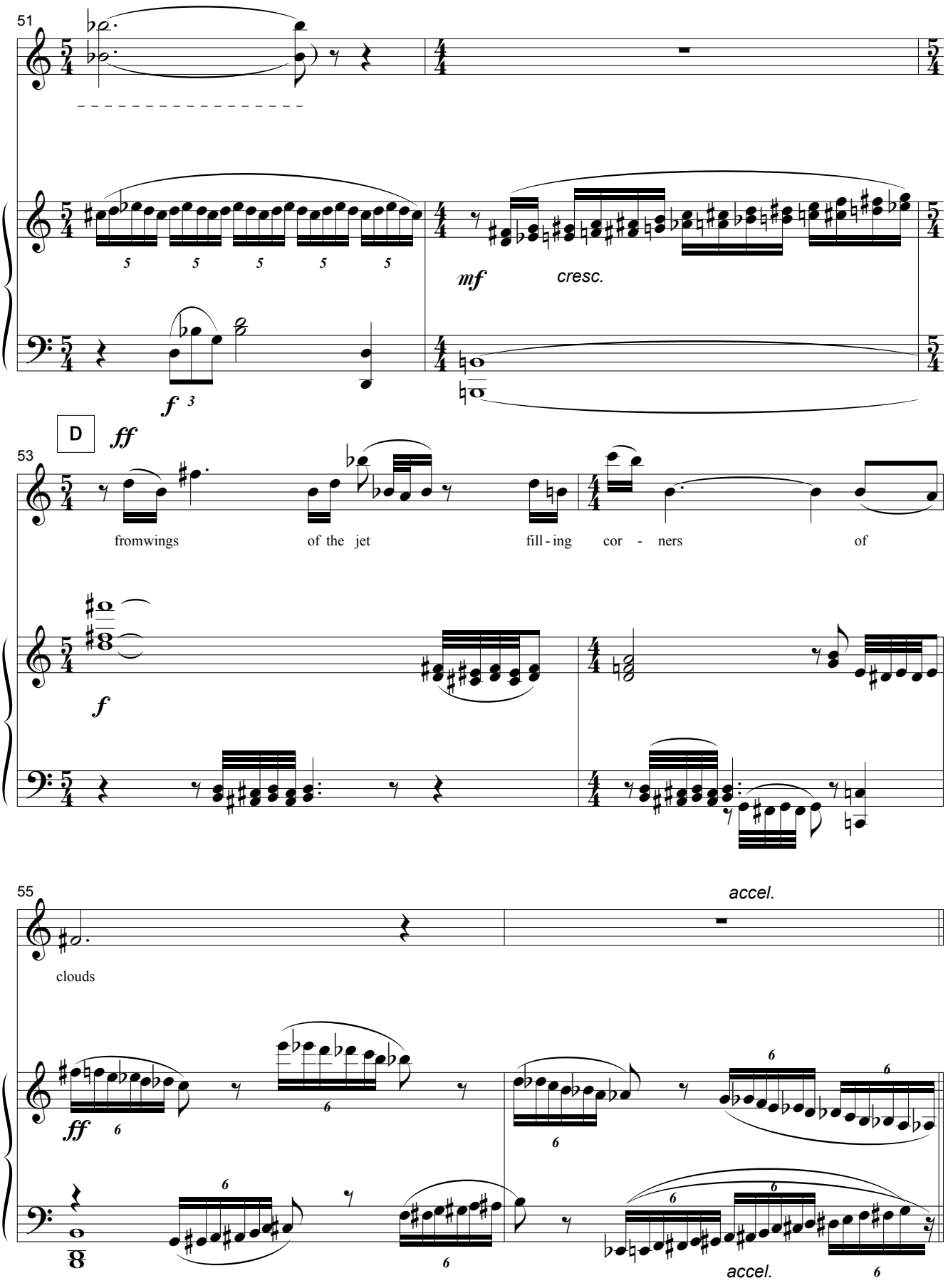

19
p
mp
mf
21
I would write poems a - bout sea - weed or
p
mf
23
mf
flot - sam ma - king their way to the
mp
mf

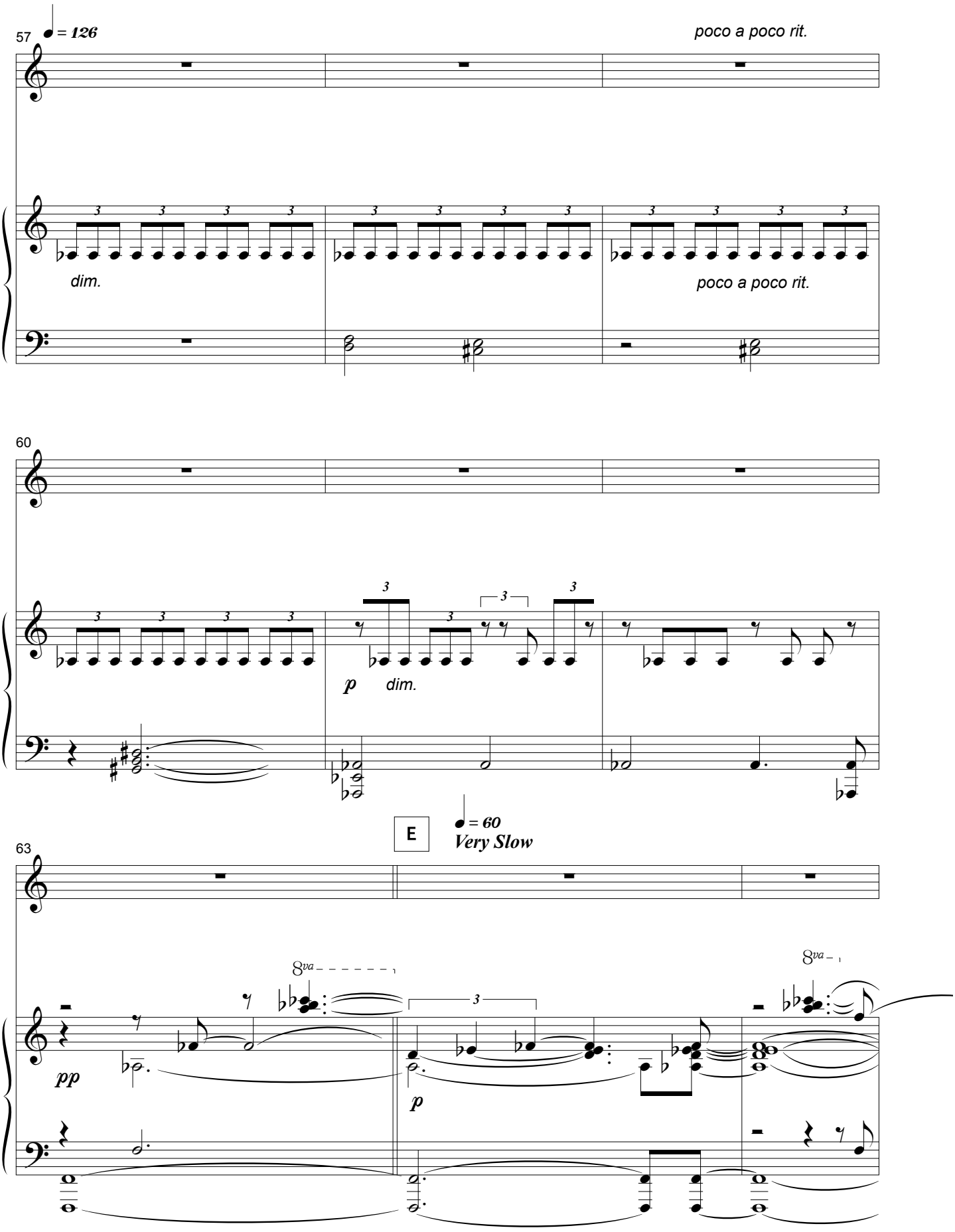

25
end of the sea
mp
f
mf cresc.
B
a tempo
28
ff
of the ex - panse of the bridge that falls in - to the
ff
mp
mp
dim. accel.
♩ = 116
31
sky
mp cresc.
f
p
5
mp cresc.
accel.
3
mp

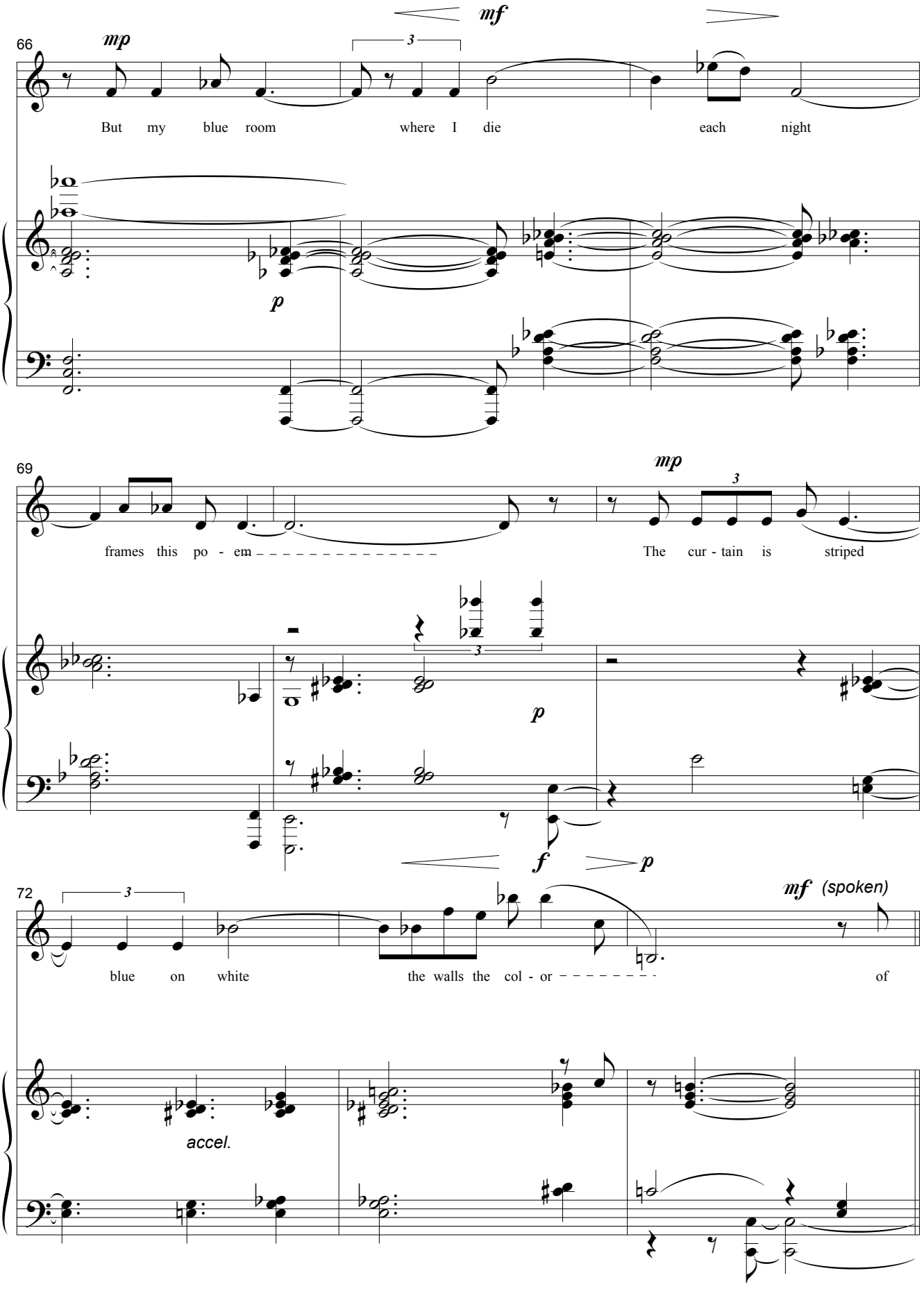

33
35
37

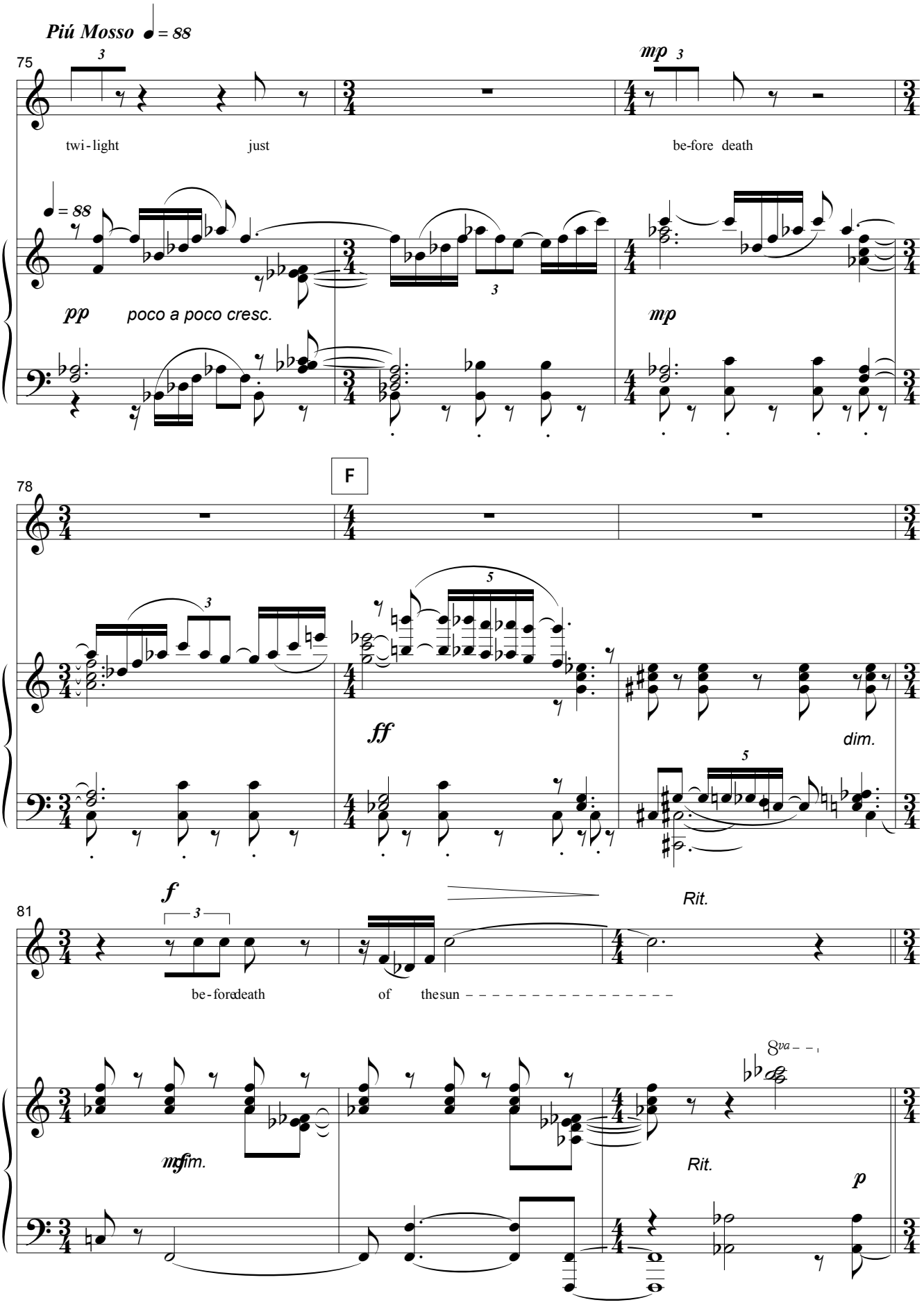

39
mp
C
mf
41
If a
f
43
mf
flight to no-where cur - led

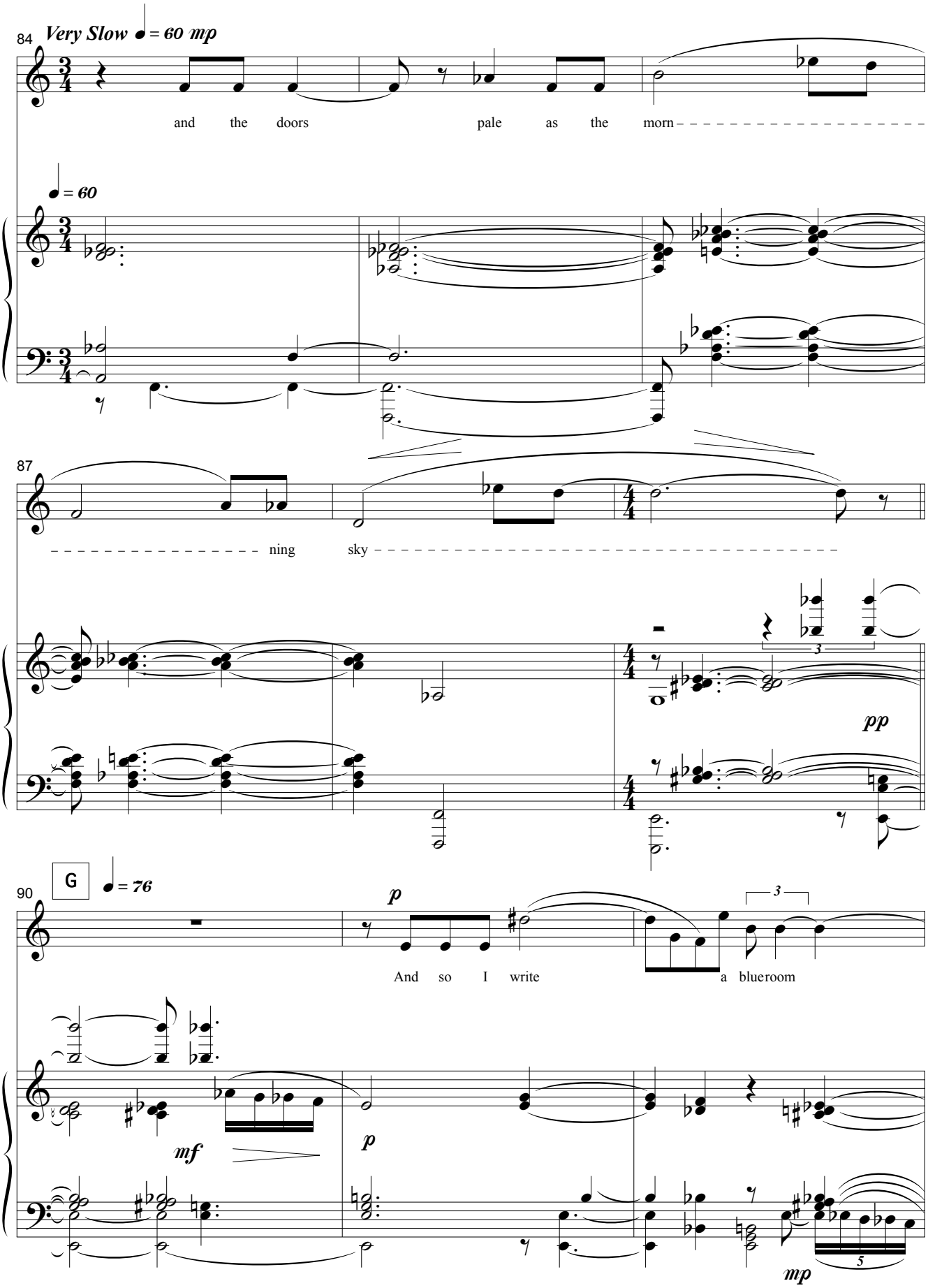

45
f
waves
of
air
mp
47
be - neath my feet
cresc.
or framed my vi - sion,
pp
cresc.
49
a - poem
would draw im - ages
(ossia)

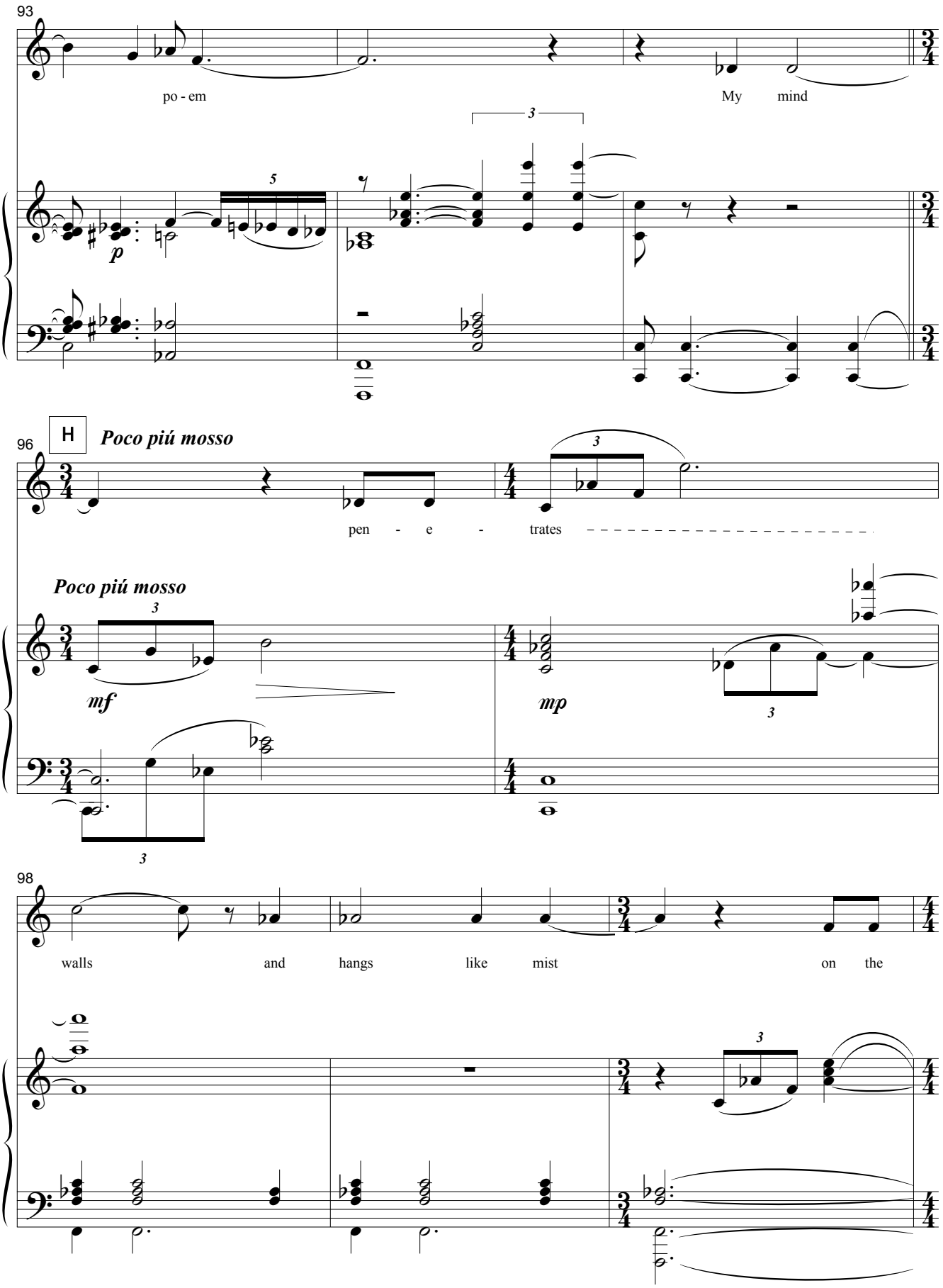

51
mf
cresc.
f
D
ff
53
fromwings
of the jet
fill - ing
cor - ners
of
f
55
accel.
clouds
ff
accel.

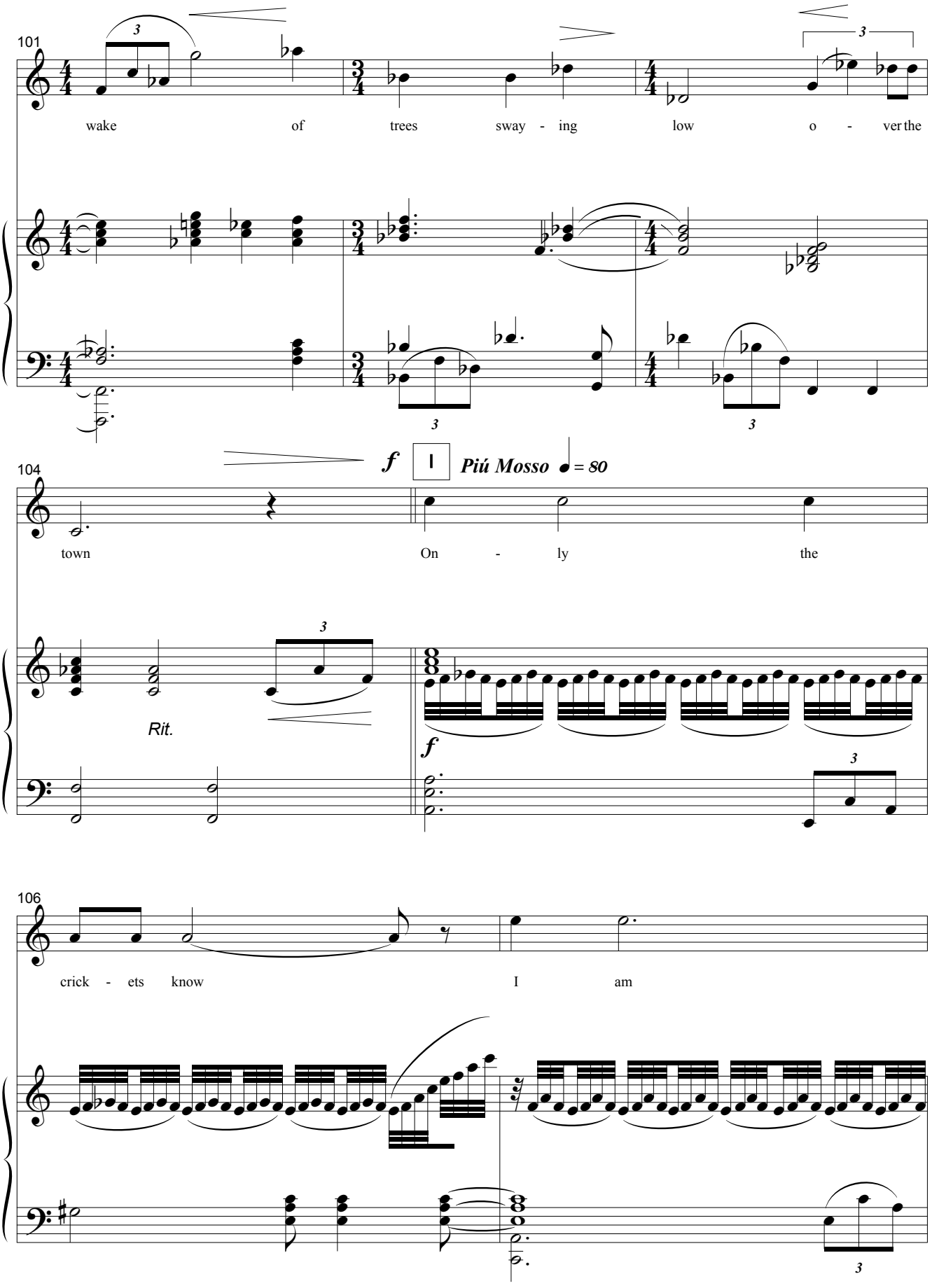

57
♩ = 126
poco a poco rit.
dim.
poco a poco rit.
60
p
dim.
E
♩ = 60
Very Slow
63
8va
pp
8va
p

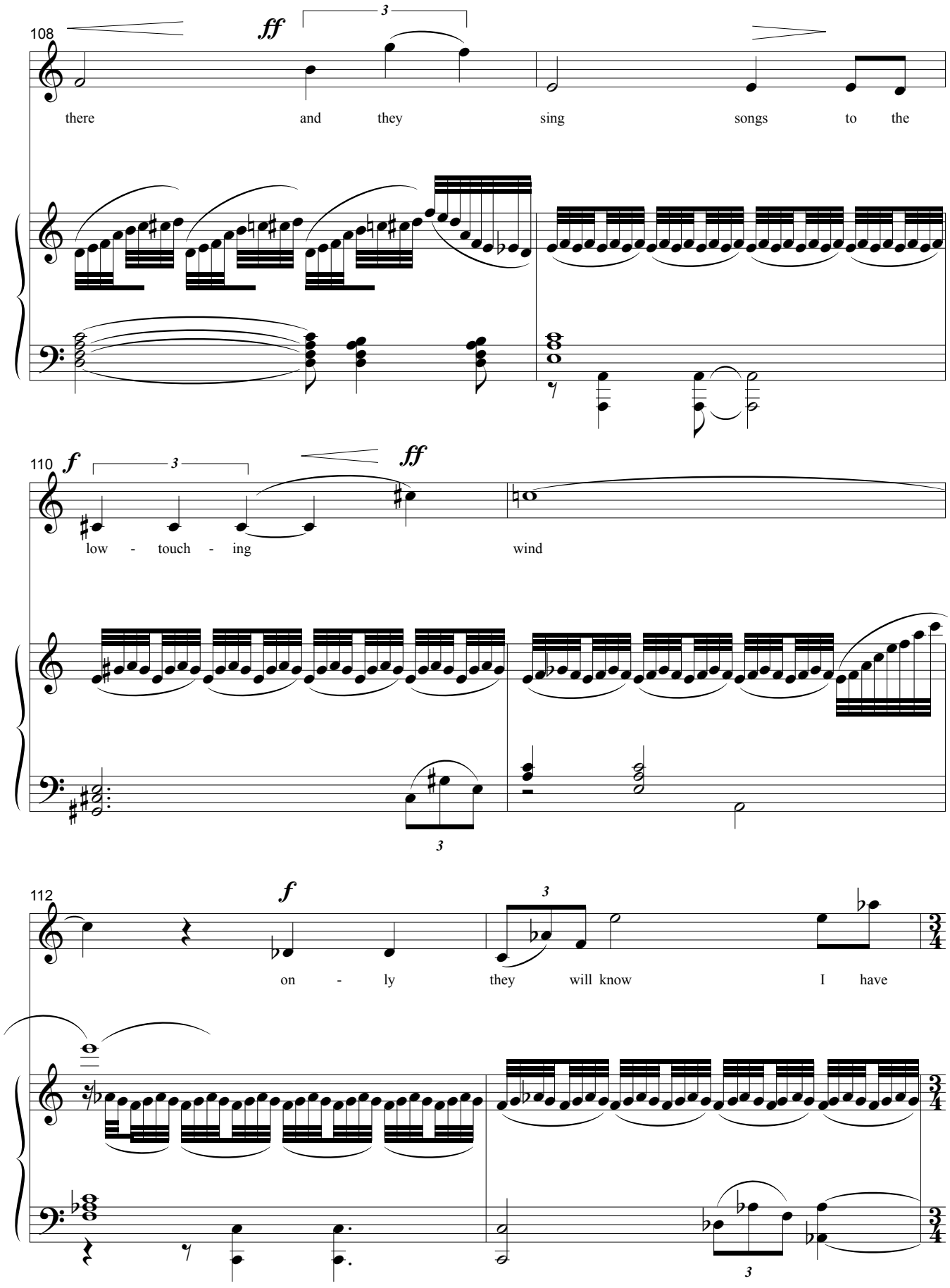

66
mf
mp
3
But my blue room where I die each night
p
69
mp
3
frames this po - em
The cur - tain is striped
3
p
f
p
72
3
mf (spoken)
blue on white
the walls the col - or
of
accel.

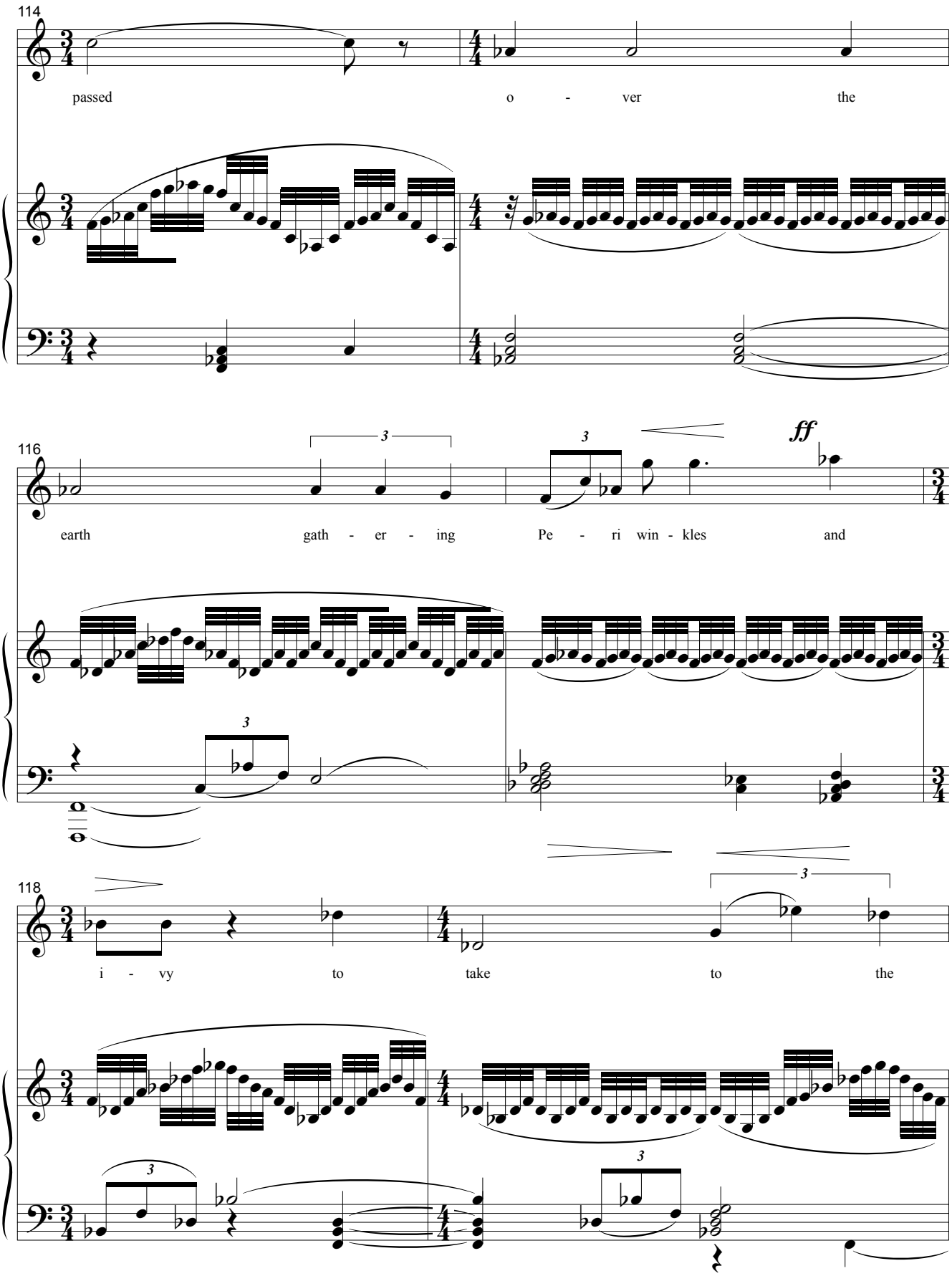

Piú Mosso ♩= 88
75
twi-light just
mp
be-fore death
♩= 88
pp
poco a poco cresc.
mp
78
F
ff
dim.
81
f
be-fore death of the sun
Rit.
mf
dim.
Rit.
8va
p

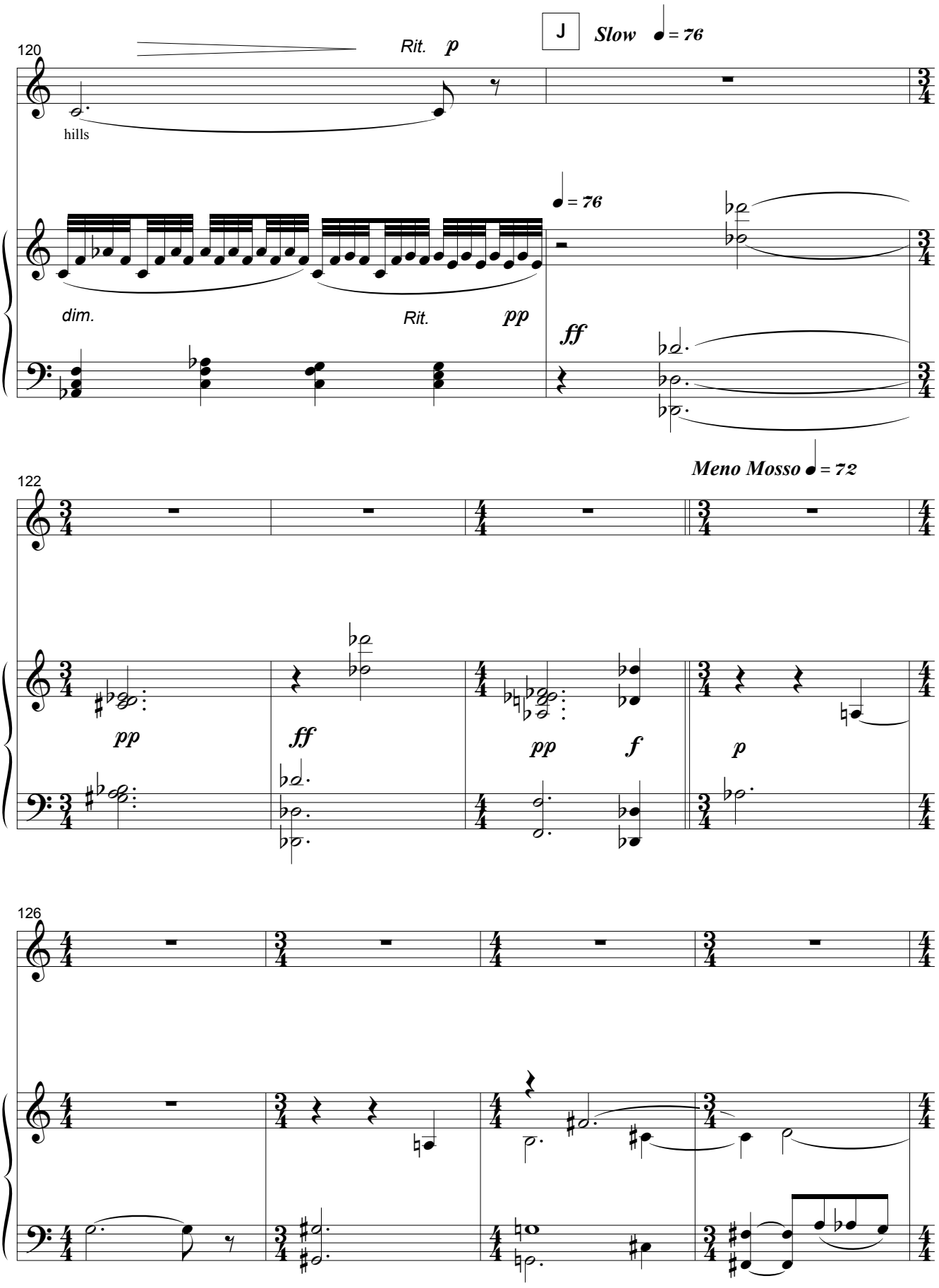

84
Very Slow ♩ = 60 mp
and the doors pale as the morn
♩ = 60
87
ning sky
pp
90
G
♩ = 76
p
And so I write a blueroom
mf
p
mp

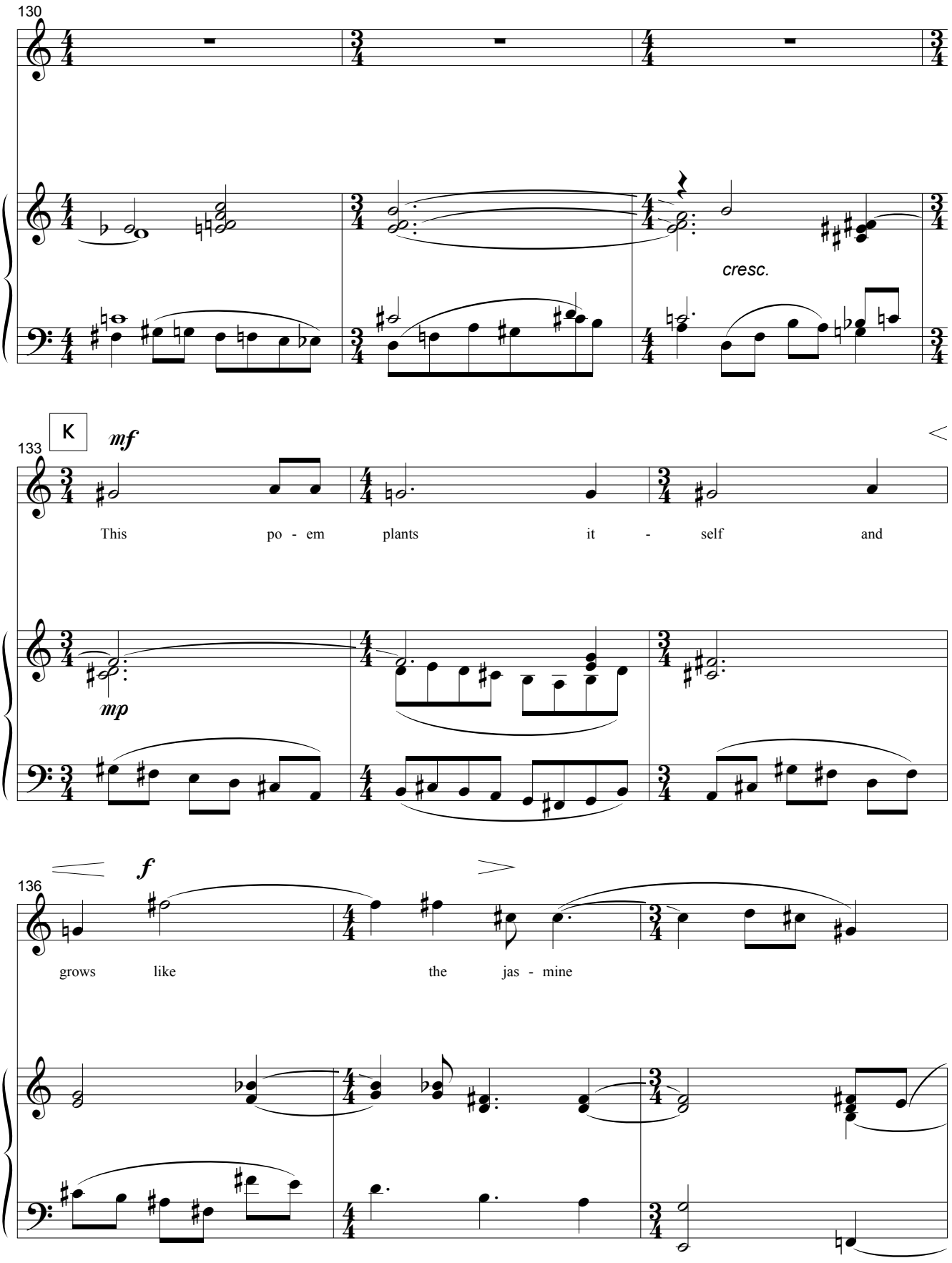

93
po - em
My mind
p
96
H
Poco piú mosso
pen - e - trates
Poco piú mosso
mf
mp
98
walls and hangs like mist on the

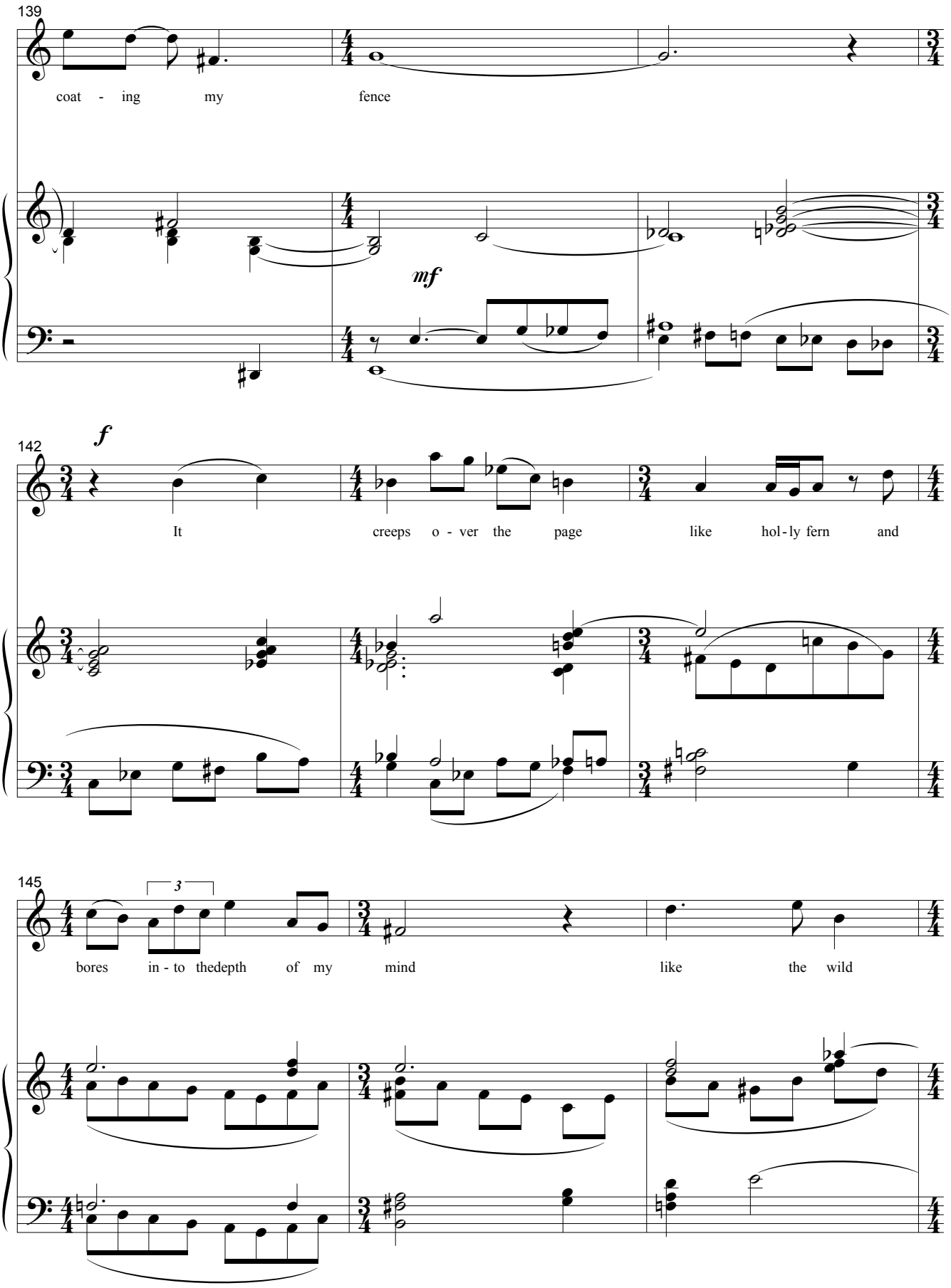

101
wake of trees sway - ing low o - ver the
104
town On - ly the
Rit.
f
I
Piú Mosso = 80
106
crick - ets know I am

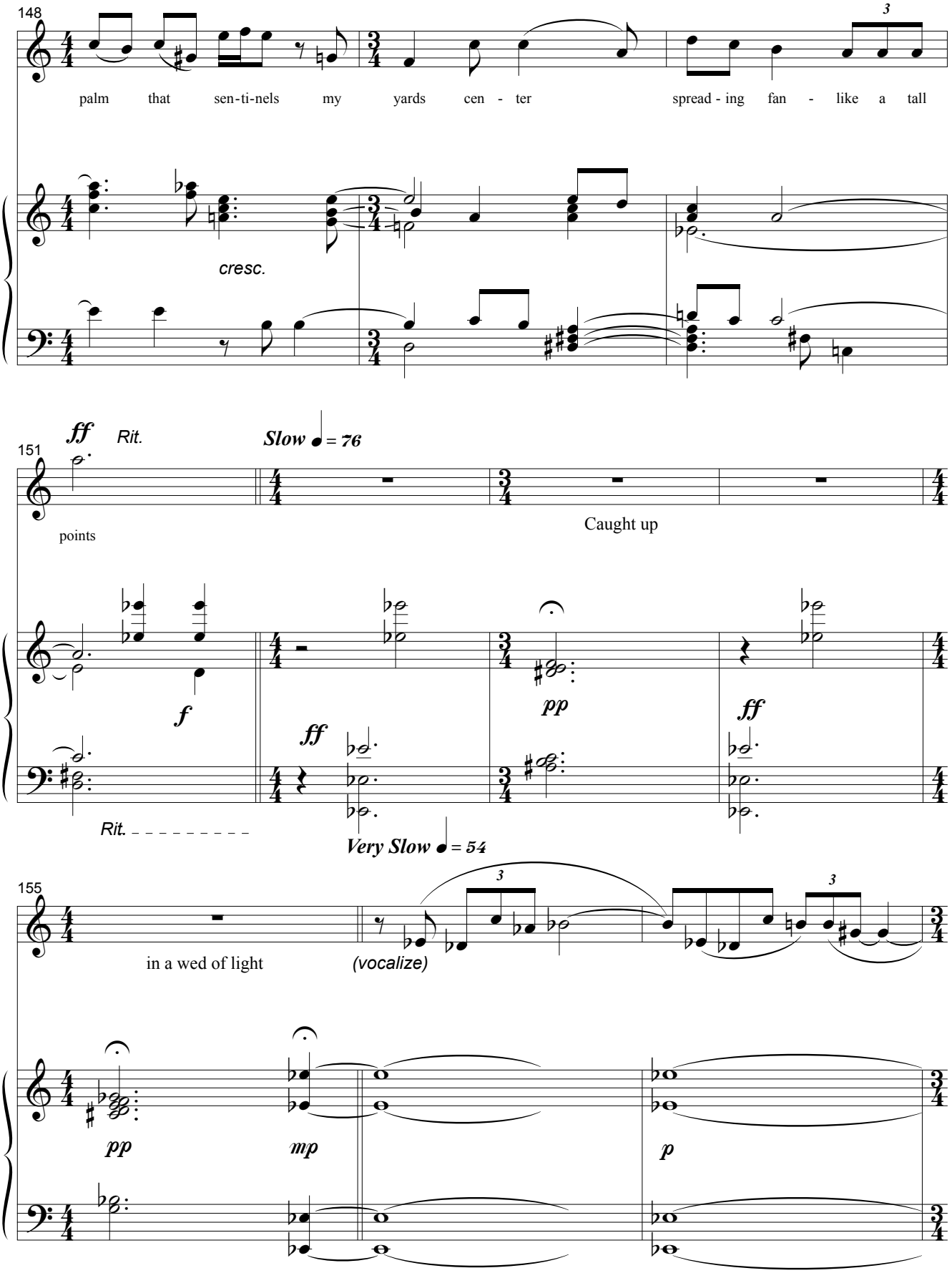

108
ff
3
there and they sing songs to the
110
f
3
ff
low - touch - ing wind
3
112
f
3
on - ly they will know I have
3

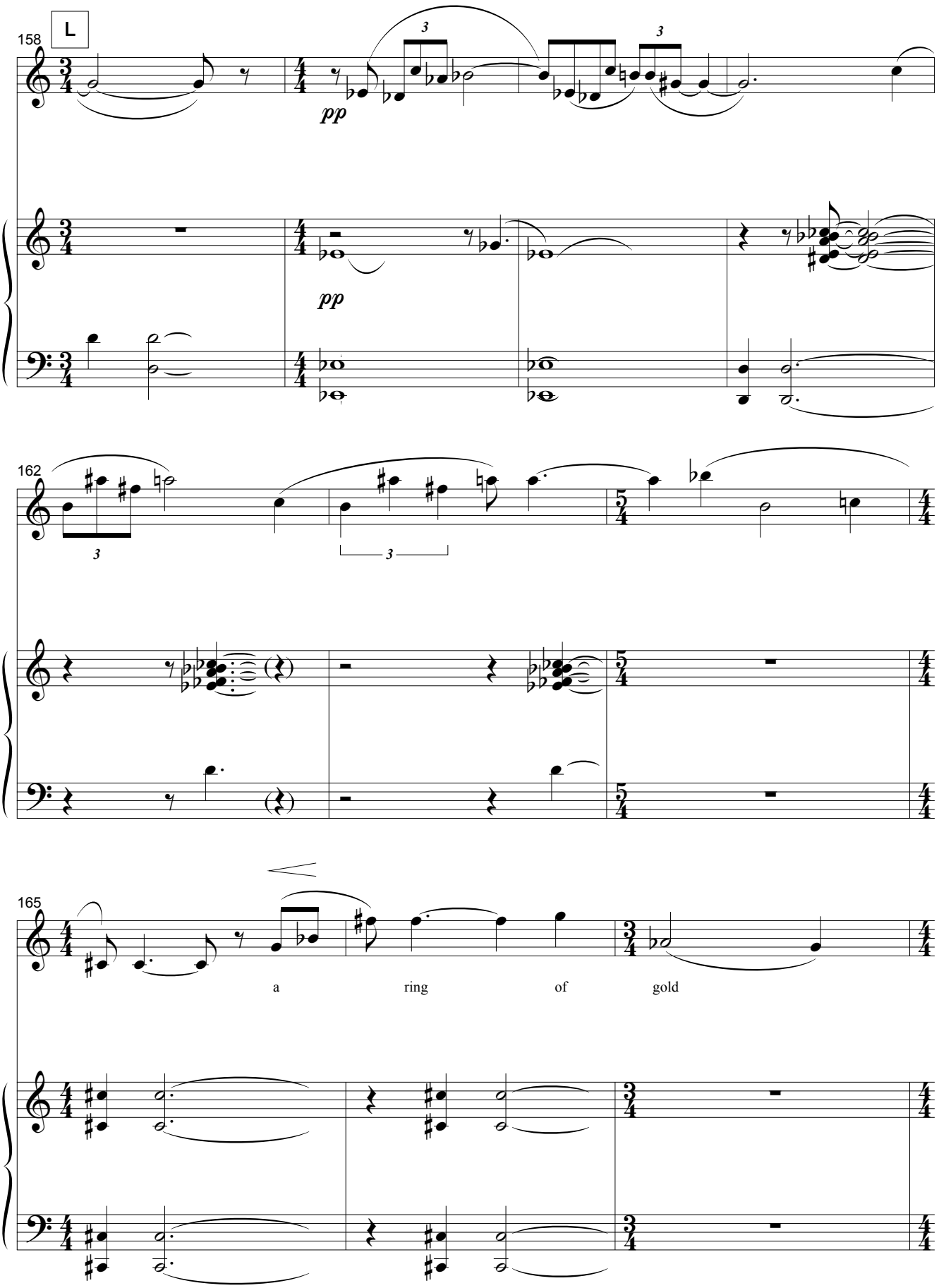

114
passed
o - ver
the
116
earth
gath - er - ing
Pe - ri win - kles
and
ff
118
i - vy
to
take
to
the

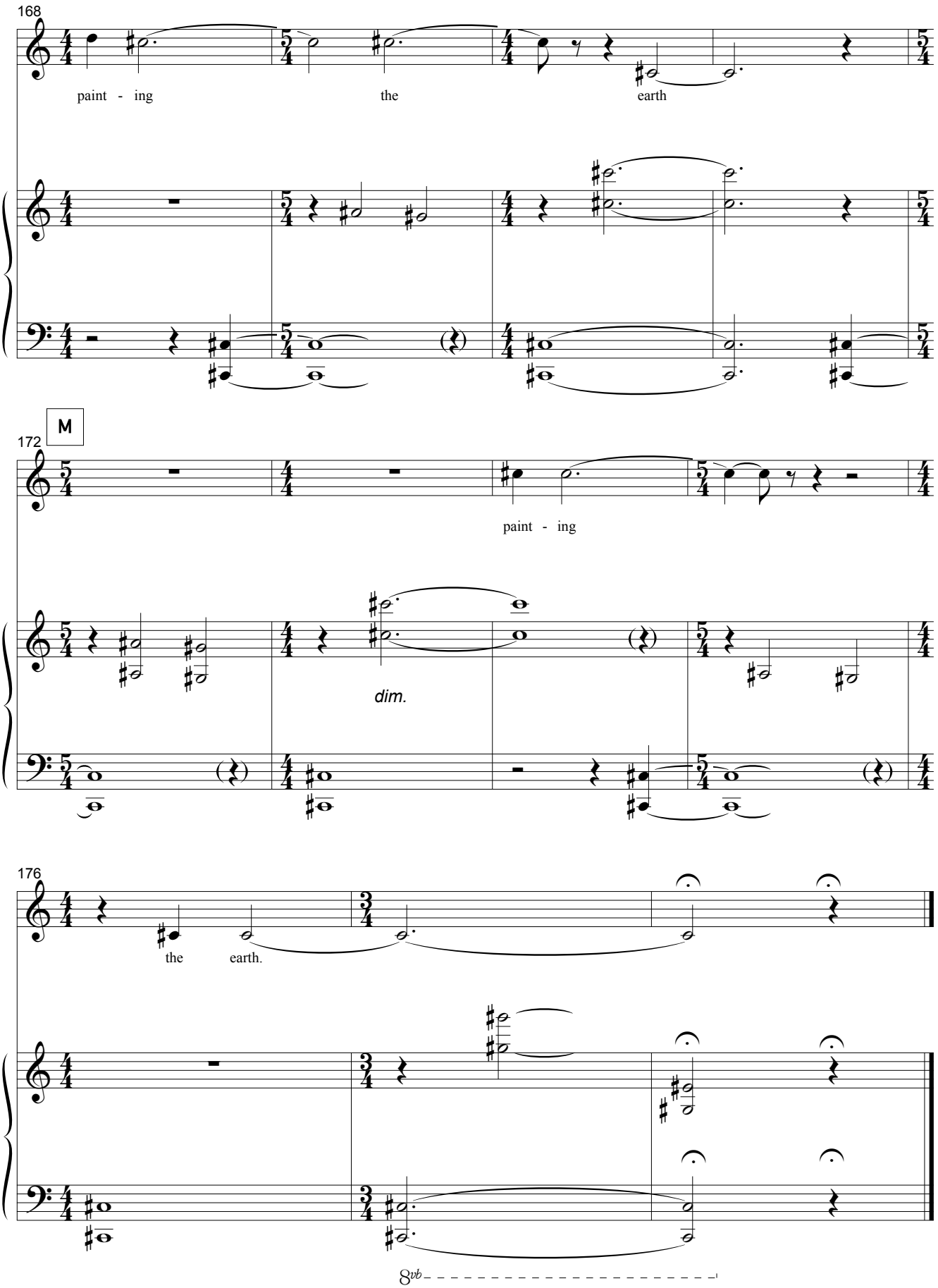

120
J
Slow ♩= 76
Rit. p
hills
♩= 76
dim.
Rit.
pp
ff
Meno Mosso ♩= 72
122
pp
ff
pp
f
p
126


130
cresc.
K
133
mf
mp
This po - em plants it - self and
f
136
grows like the jas - mine


139
coat - ing my fence
mf
142
f
It creeps o - ver the page like hol - ly fern and
145
3
bores in - to thedepth of my mind like the wild


148
palm that sen-ti-nels my yards cen - ter spread - ing fan - like a tall
3
cresc.
151
ff
Rit.
Slow ♩ = 76
points
Caught up
f
ff
pp
ff
Rit.
Very Slow ♩ = 54
155
in a wed of light
(vocalize)
3
3
pp
mp
p


L
158
pp
pp
162
3
3
165
a
ring
of
gold


168
paint - ing
the
earth
M
172
paint - ing
dim.
176
the
earth.
8vb