MERTON SONGS

I. Philosophers
II. Dirge for the World
III. Two British Airmen
IV. Poem (Here is the Man)
V. Poem (Light Plays)
VI. The City's Spring
VII. Dirge for the City
VIII. La Comparsa en Oriente
IX. The Strife Between
X. Hymn to Commerce
XI. From the Second
XII. Hymn of Not Much Praise
XIII. Tower of Babel
XIV. Nombril Walketh on the Loam
XV. Lent (A Fragment)
XVI. Sacred Heart II

Voice and Keyboard
Words by Thomas Merton
Music by Mark Alburger
Op. 30 (1986)

NEW MUSIC

MARK ALBURGER

MERTON SONGS, OP. 30 (September 2, 1986)

For Voice and Keyboard

Texts by Thomas Merton

I. The Philosophers
II. Dirge for the World Joyce Died In
III. Two British Airmen
IV. Poem (Here Is the Man)
V. Poem (Light Plays)
VI. The City's Spring
VII. Dirge for the City of Miami
VIII. La Comparsa en Oriente
IX. The Strife Between the Poet and Ambition
X. Hymn to Commerce
XI. From the Second Chapter of a Verse History of the World (Minotaur)
XII. Hymn of Not Much Praise for New York City
XIII. Tower of Babel (The Political Speech)
XIV. Nombril Walketh on the Loam
XV. Lent (A Fragment)
XVI. Sacred Heart II (A Fragment)

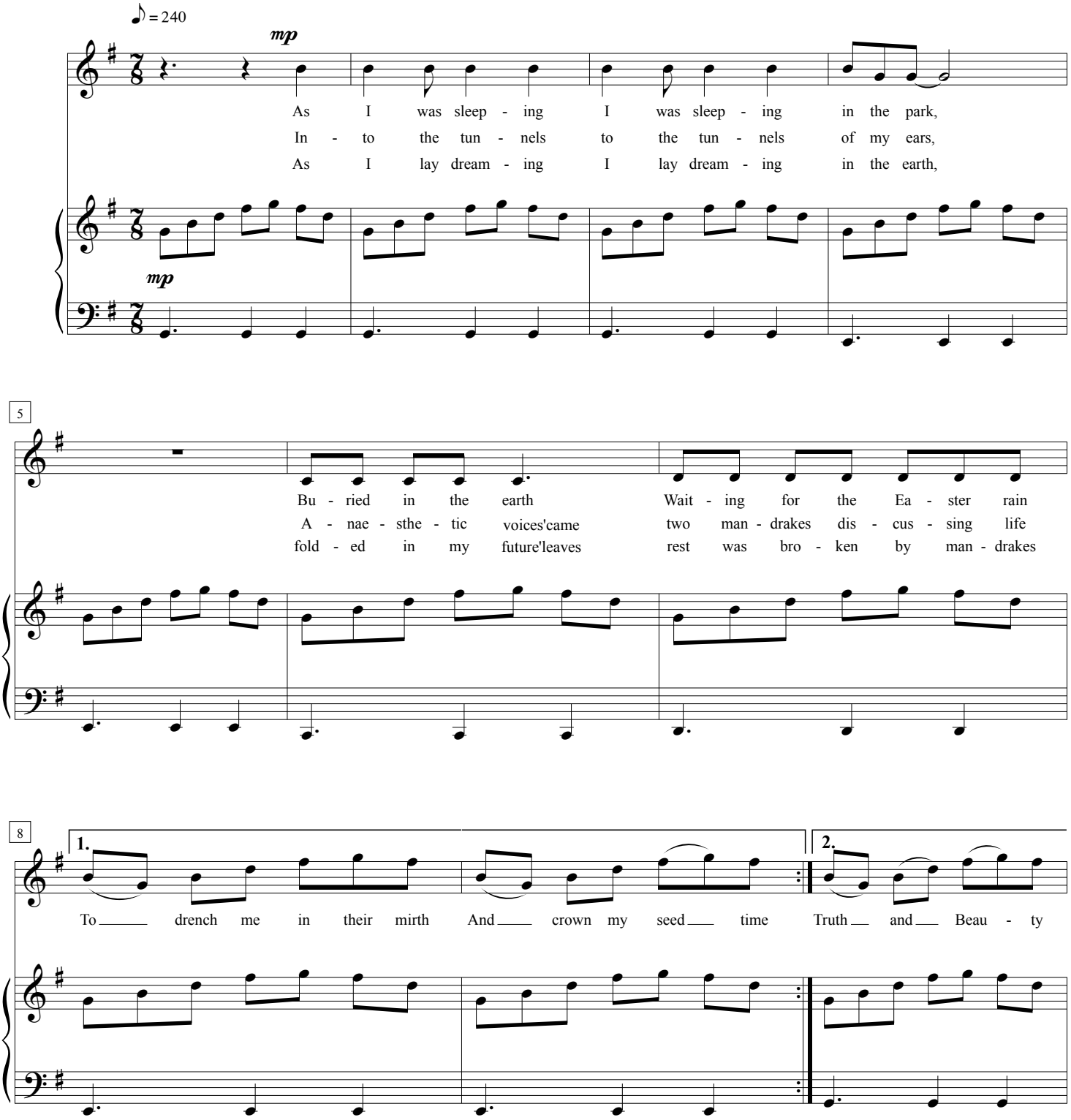
A syncretist theology enlightened by Sting's *Synchronicity*, Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 1*, Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, generic beguine / minimalism / punk, Lionel Bart's *Oliver!*, Morton Stevens's *Hawaii 5-0*, Arnold Schoenberg's *Six Little Piano Pieces*, Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, the Ancient Greek *First Delphic Hymn*, Edgar Varese's *Ionisation*, Guillaume de Machaut's *My End Is My Beginning*, George Crumb's *Madrigals, Book IV*, Alan Hovhaness's *Out of the Depths*, and J.S. Bach's *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*.

MERTON SONGS

THOMAS MERTON

MARK ALBURGER
OPUS 30 (1986)

I. THE PHILOSOPHERS



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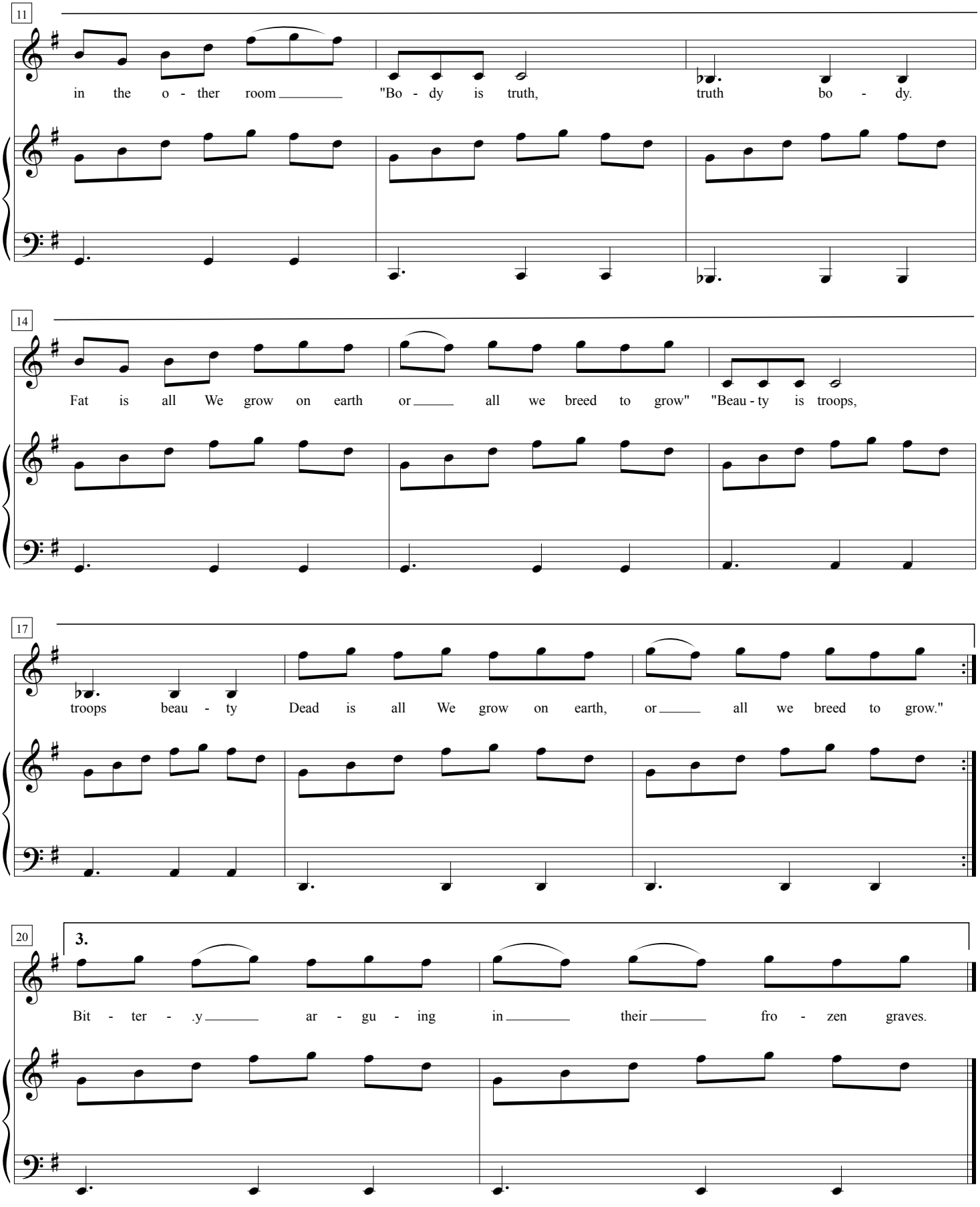
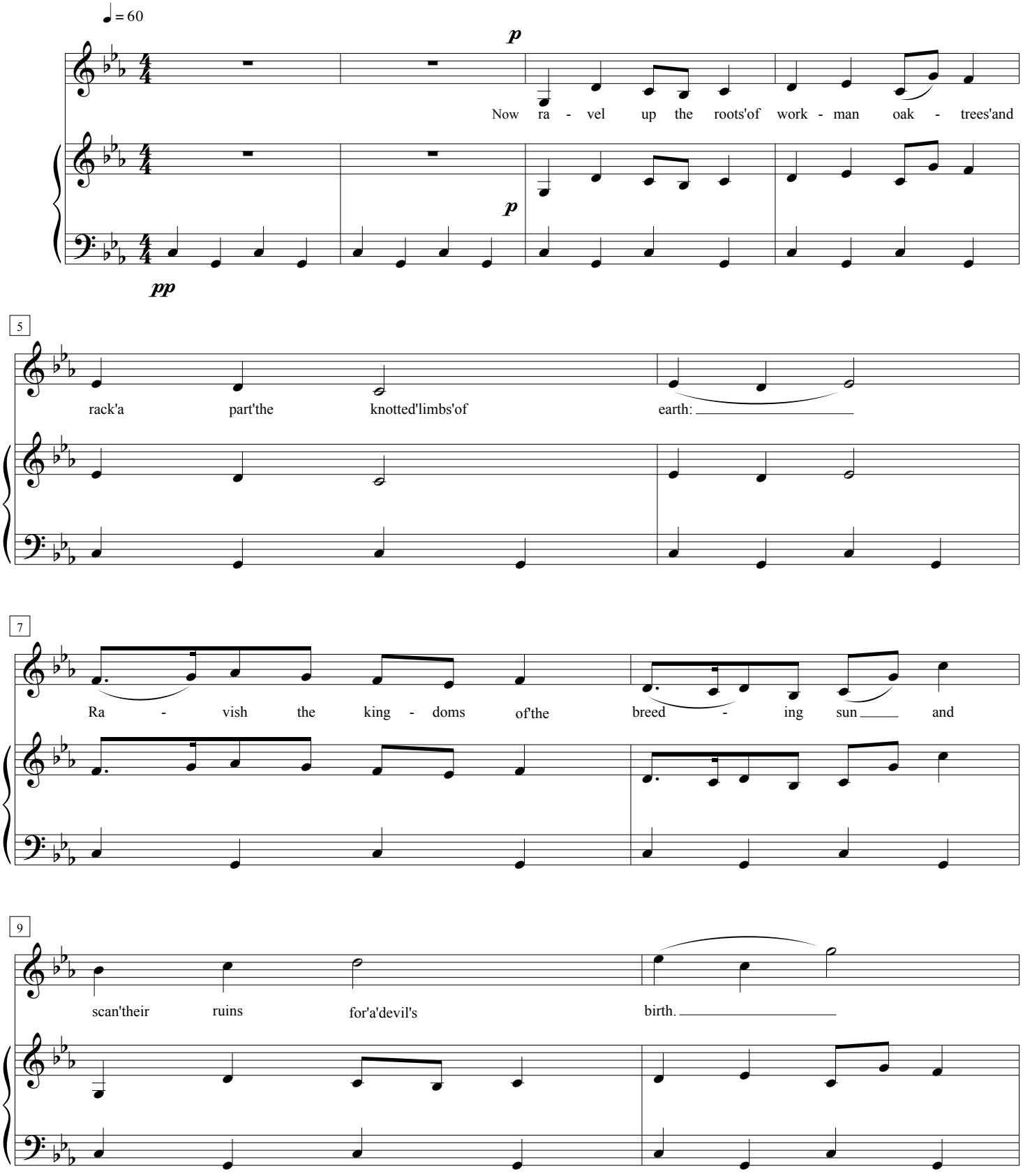
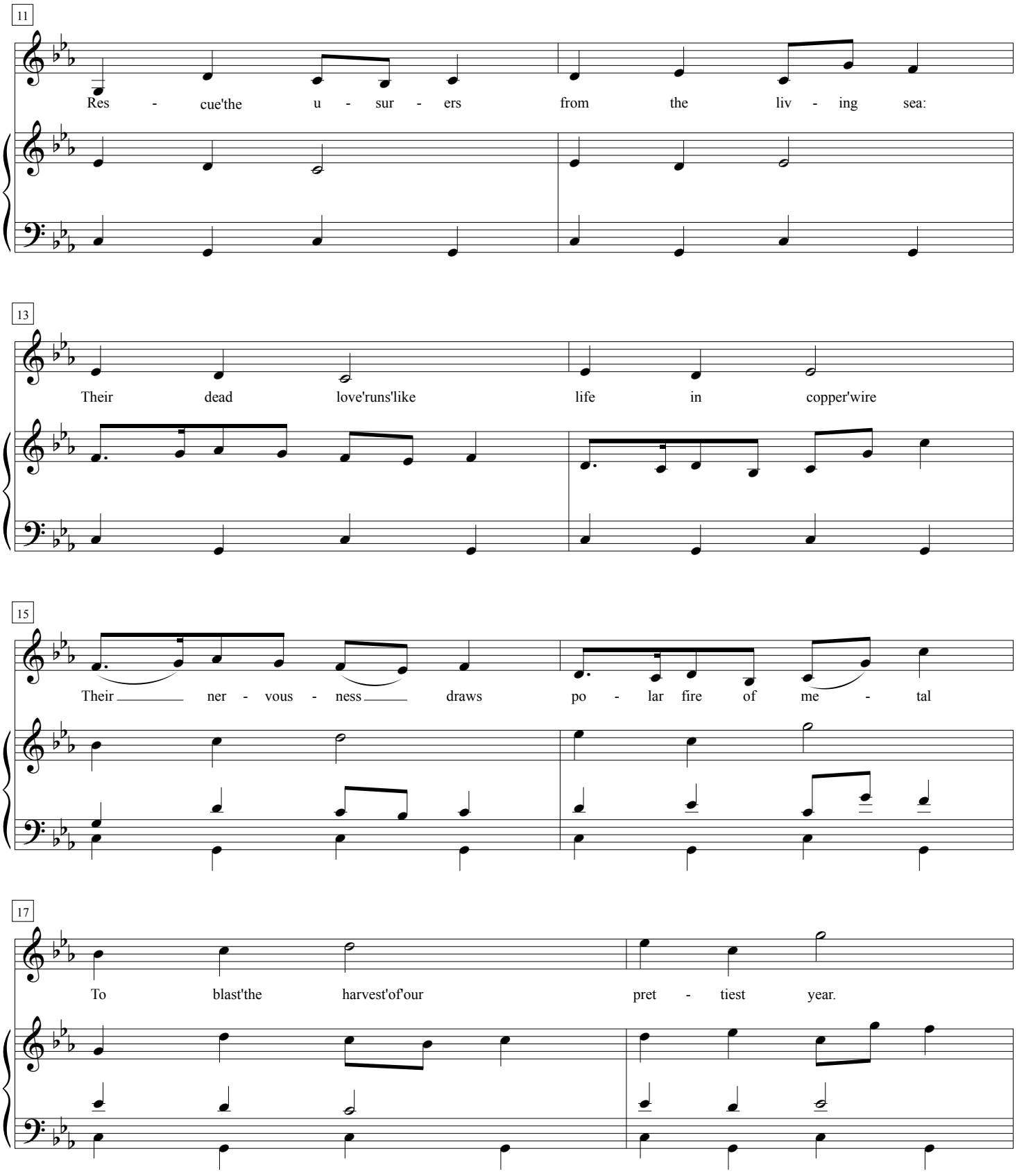
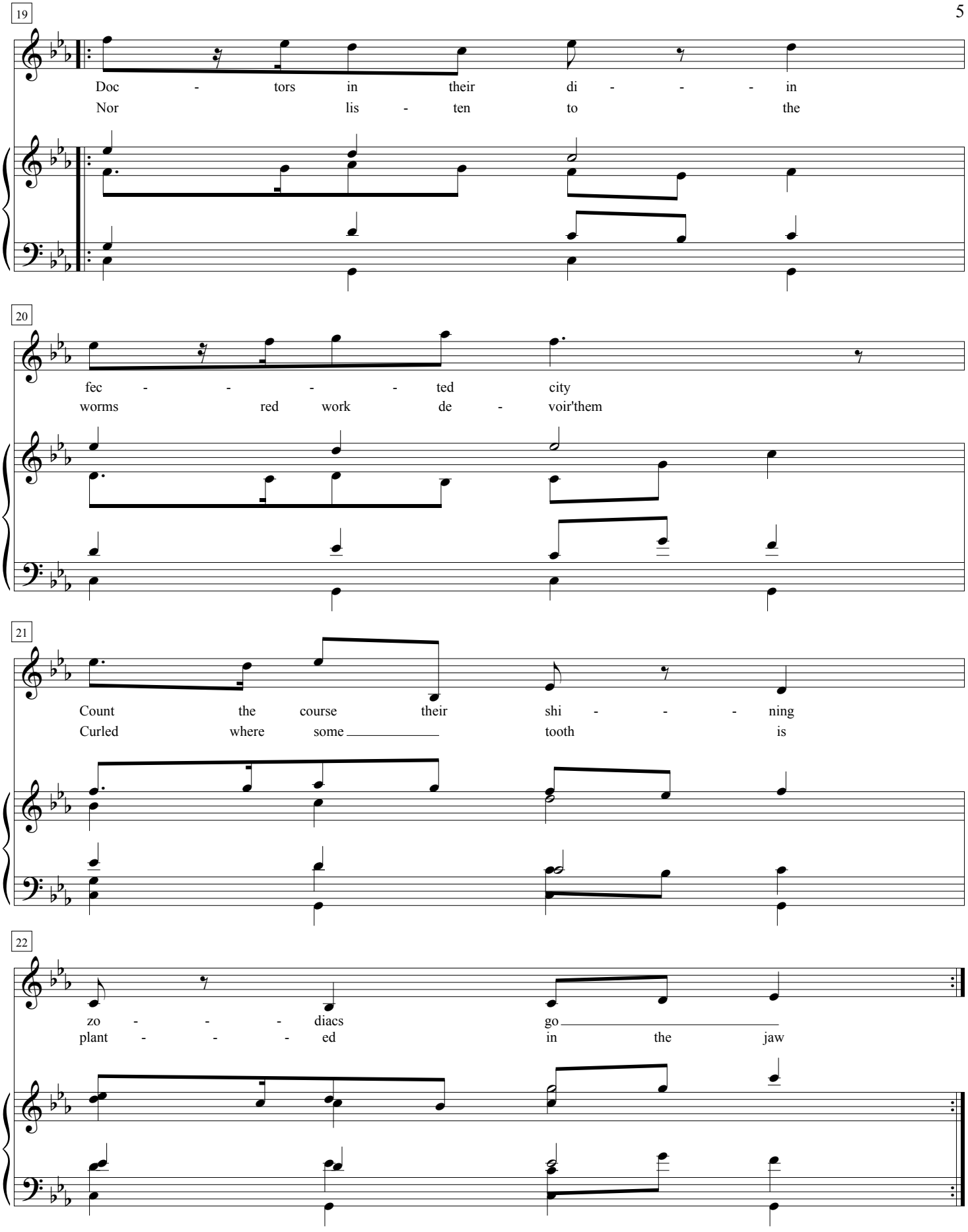
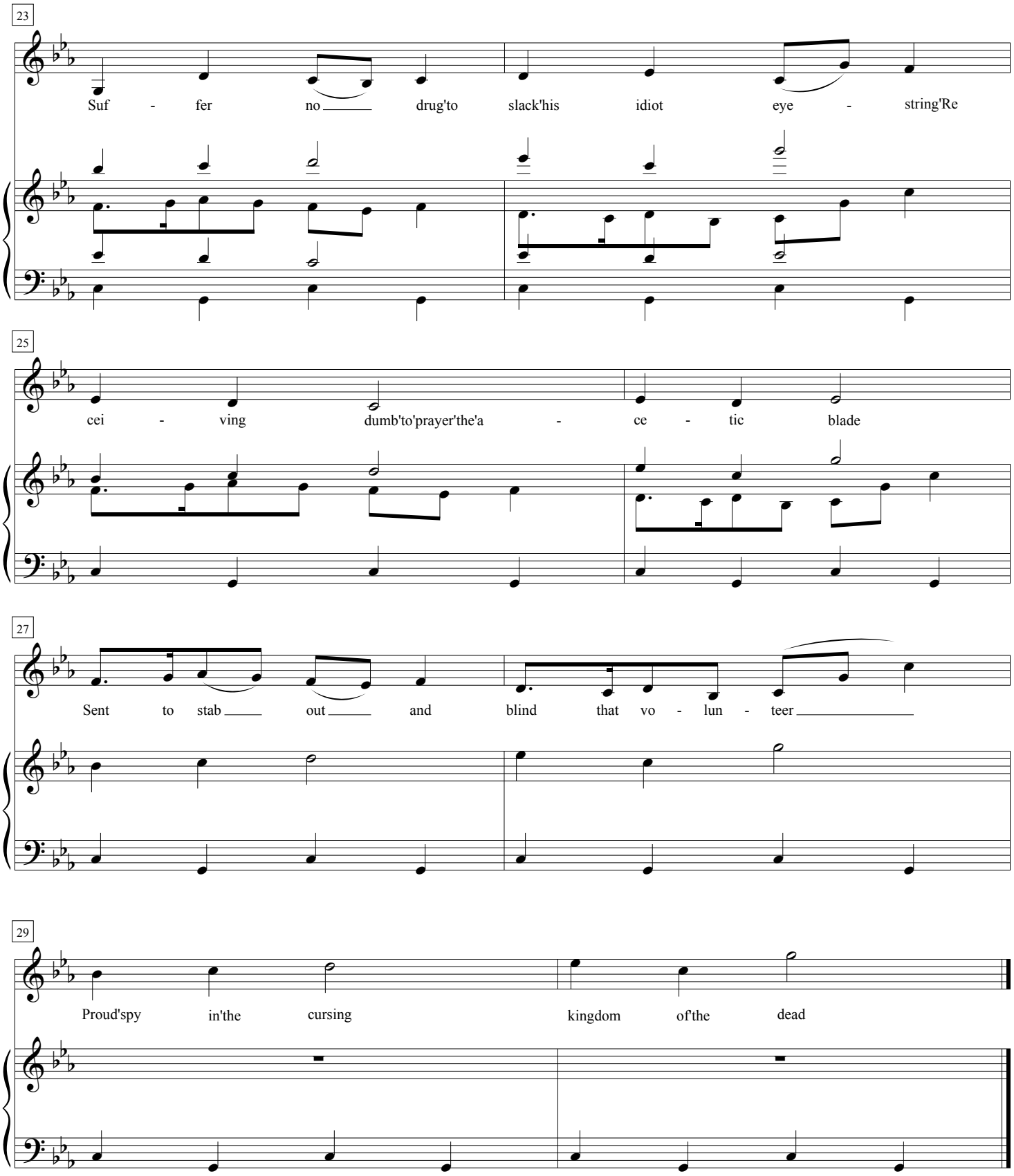

11
in the o - ther room "Bo - dy is truth, truth bo - dy.
14
Fat is all We grow on earth or all we breed to grow" "Beau - ty is troops,
17
troops beau - ty Dead is all We grow on earth, or all we breed to grow."
20
3.
Bit - ter - .y ar - gu - ing in their fro - zen graves.

II. DIRGE FOR THE WORLD JOYCE DIED IN

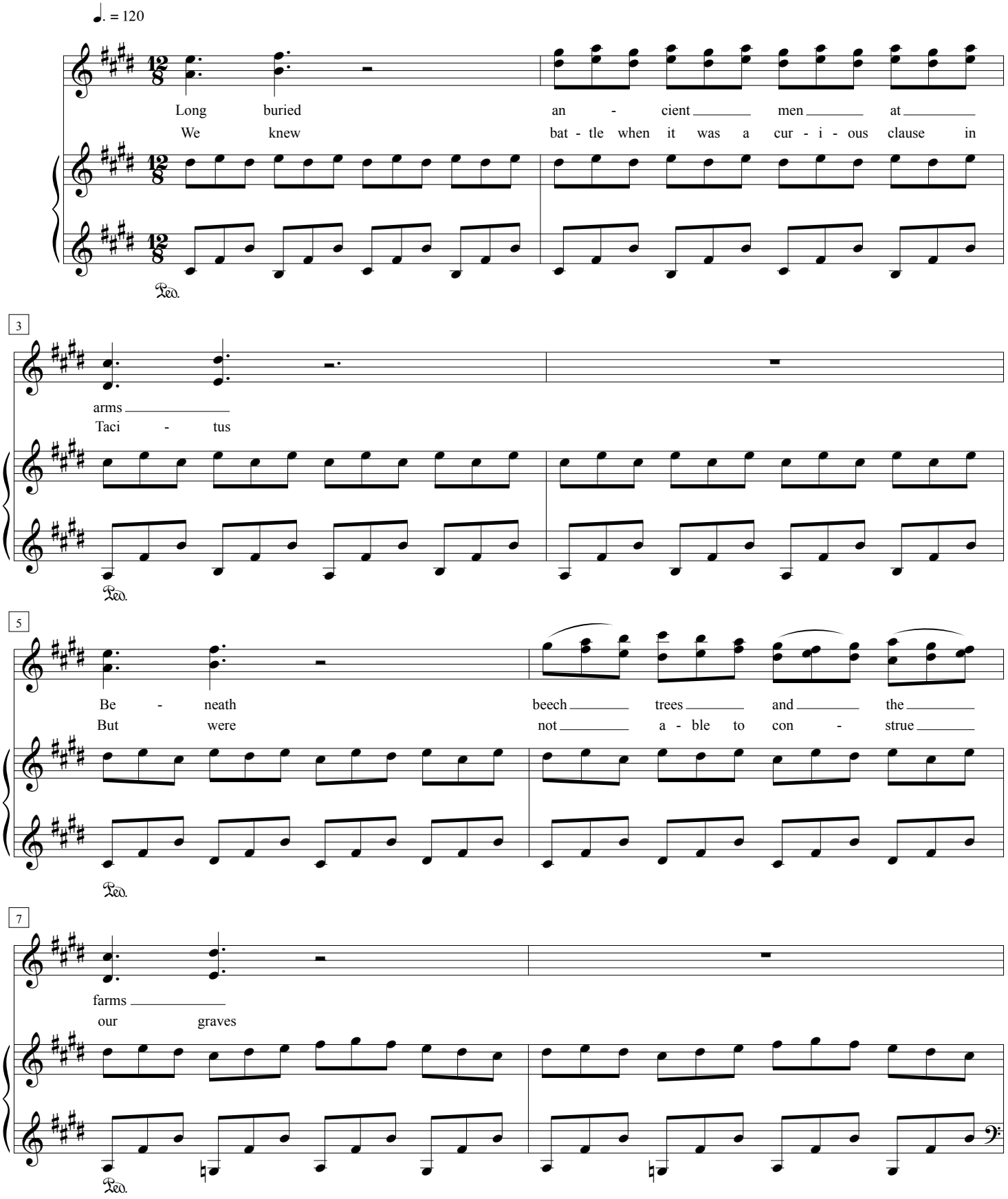



11
Res - cue'the u - sur - ers from the liv - ing sea:
13
Their dead love'runs'like life in copper'wire
15
Their ner - vous - ness draws po - lar fire of me - tal
17
To blast'the harvest'of'our pret - tiest year.


19
Doc - tors in their di - - - in
Nor lis - ten to the
20
fec - - - - ted city
worms red work de - voir'them
21
Count the course their shi - - - ning
Curled where some tooth is
22
zo - - - diacs go
plant - - - ed in the jaw


23
Suf - fer no drug'to slack'his idiot eye - string'Re
25
cei - ving dumb'to'prayer'the'a - ce - tic blade
27
Sent to stab out and blind that vo - lun - teer
29
Proud'spy in'the cursing kingdom of'the dead

III. TWO BRITISH AIRMEN



9

Sleep and syn - tax lock their
were in this fo - rest too and bu - ried, ne - ver through to have

Ped.

11

glo - - - - - ry
found

Ped.

13

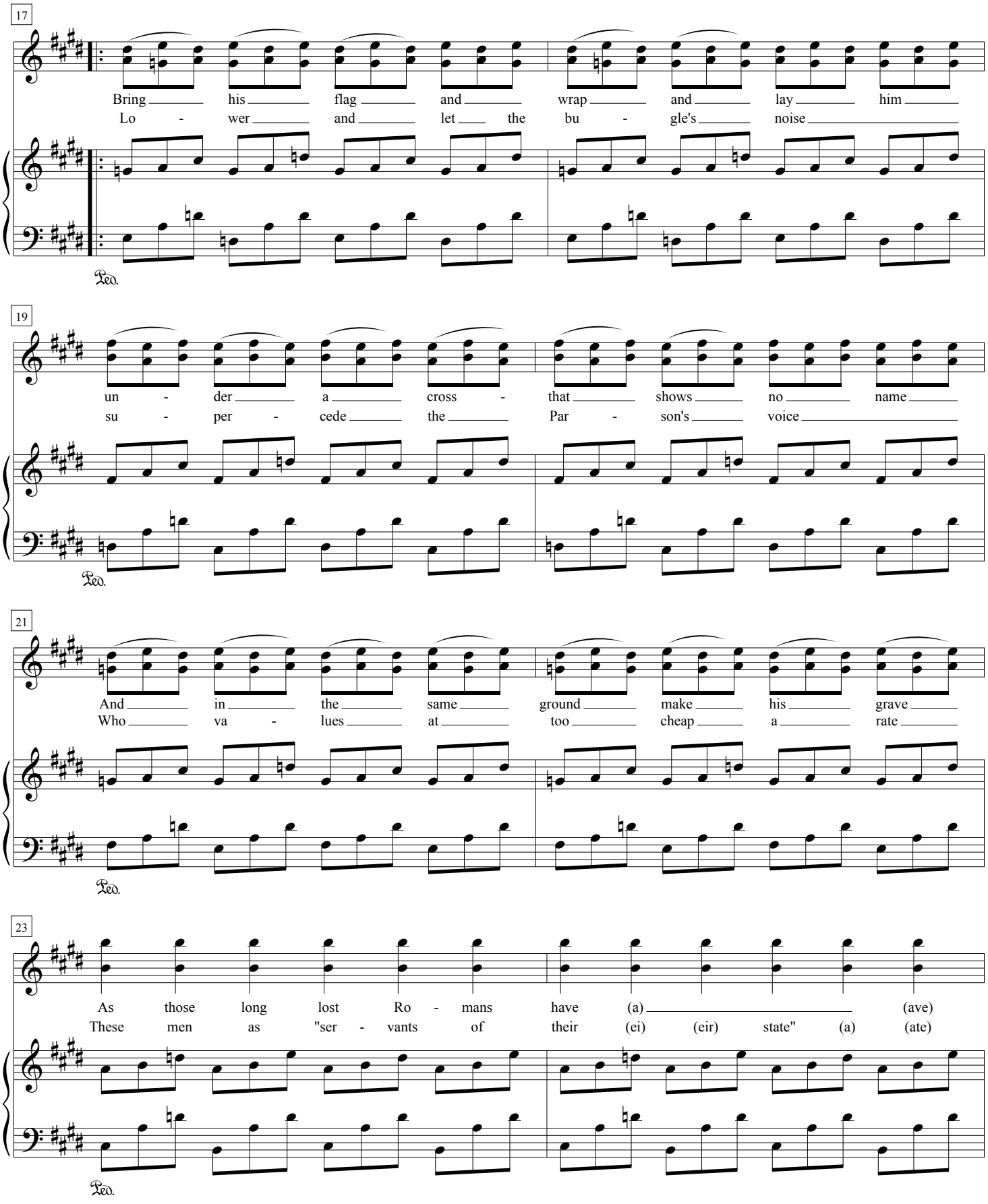
In the old pa - ges of a
such strange com - pa - nions un - der

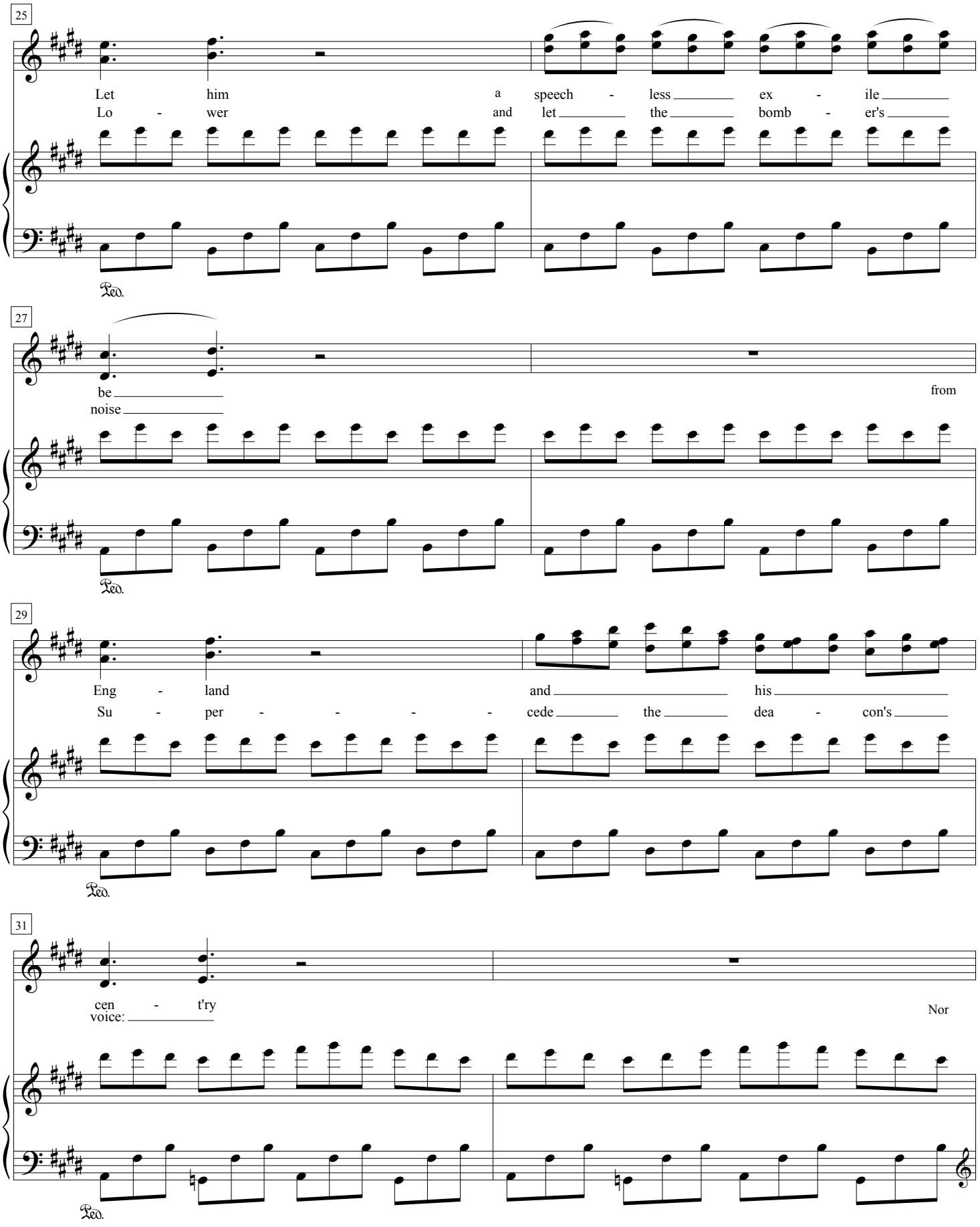
Ped.

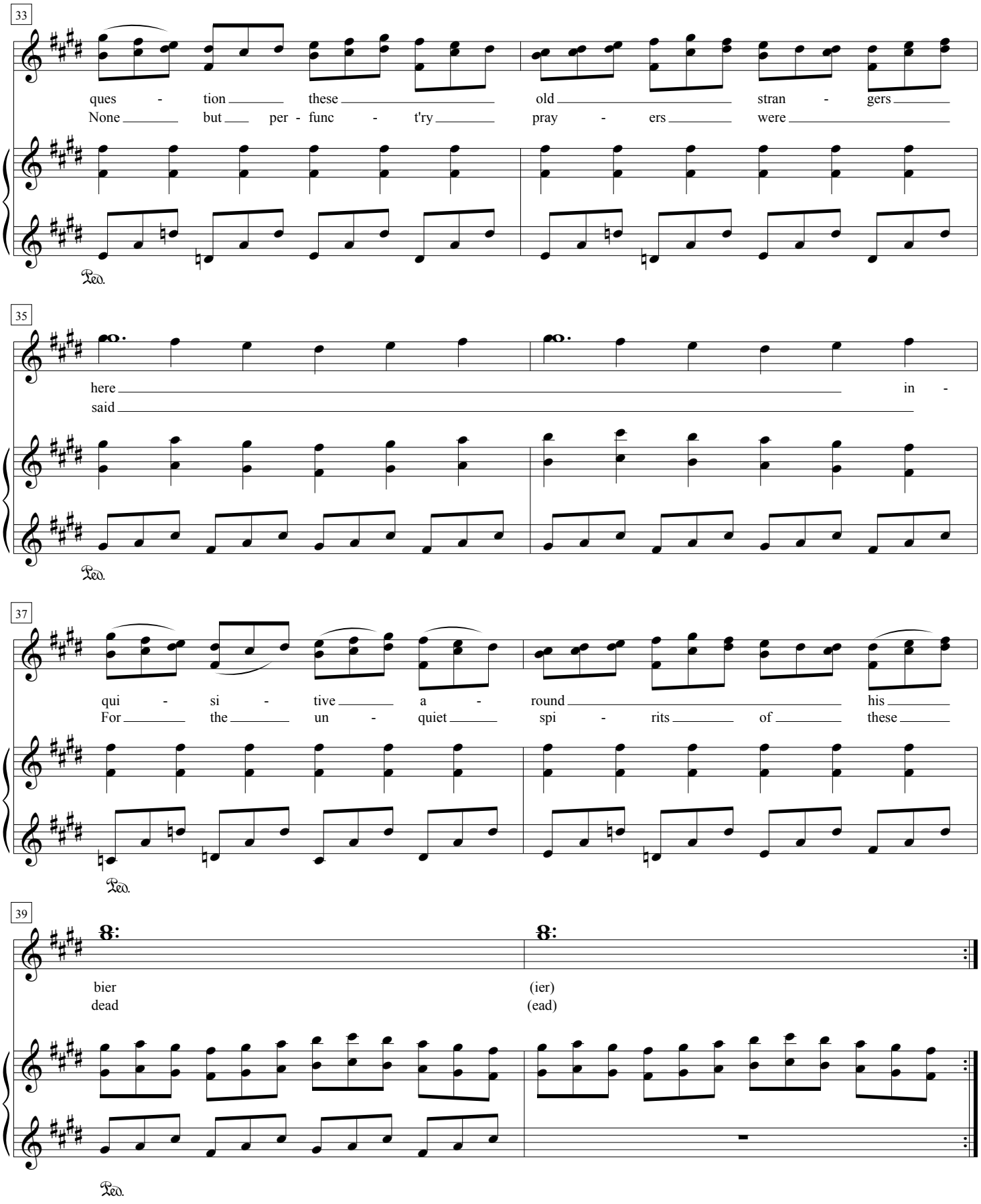
15

sto - - - - - ry
ground

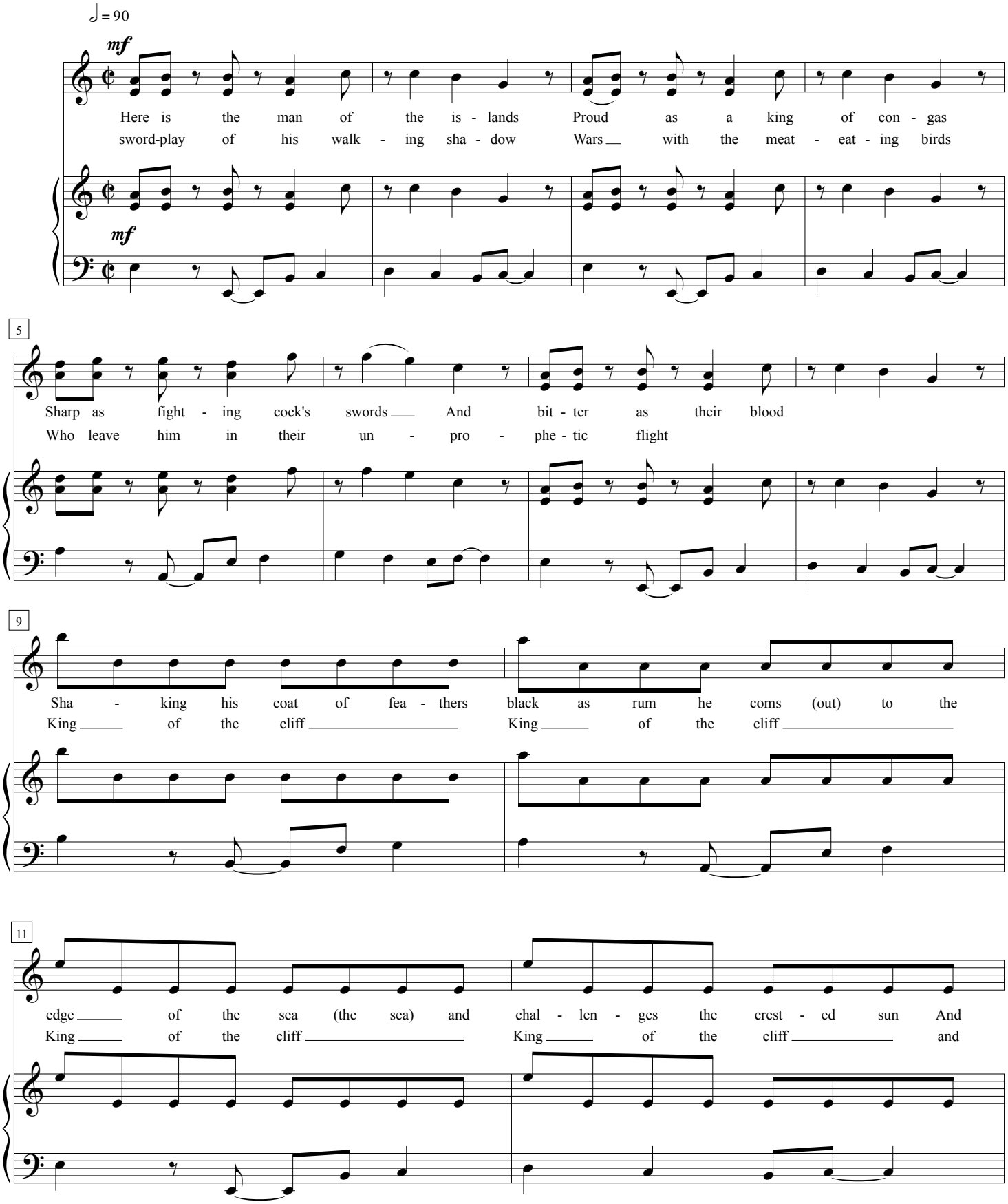
Ped.

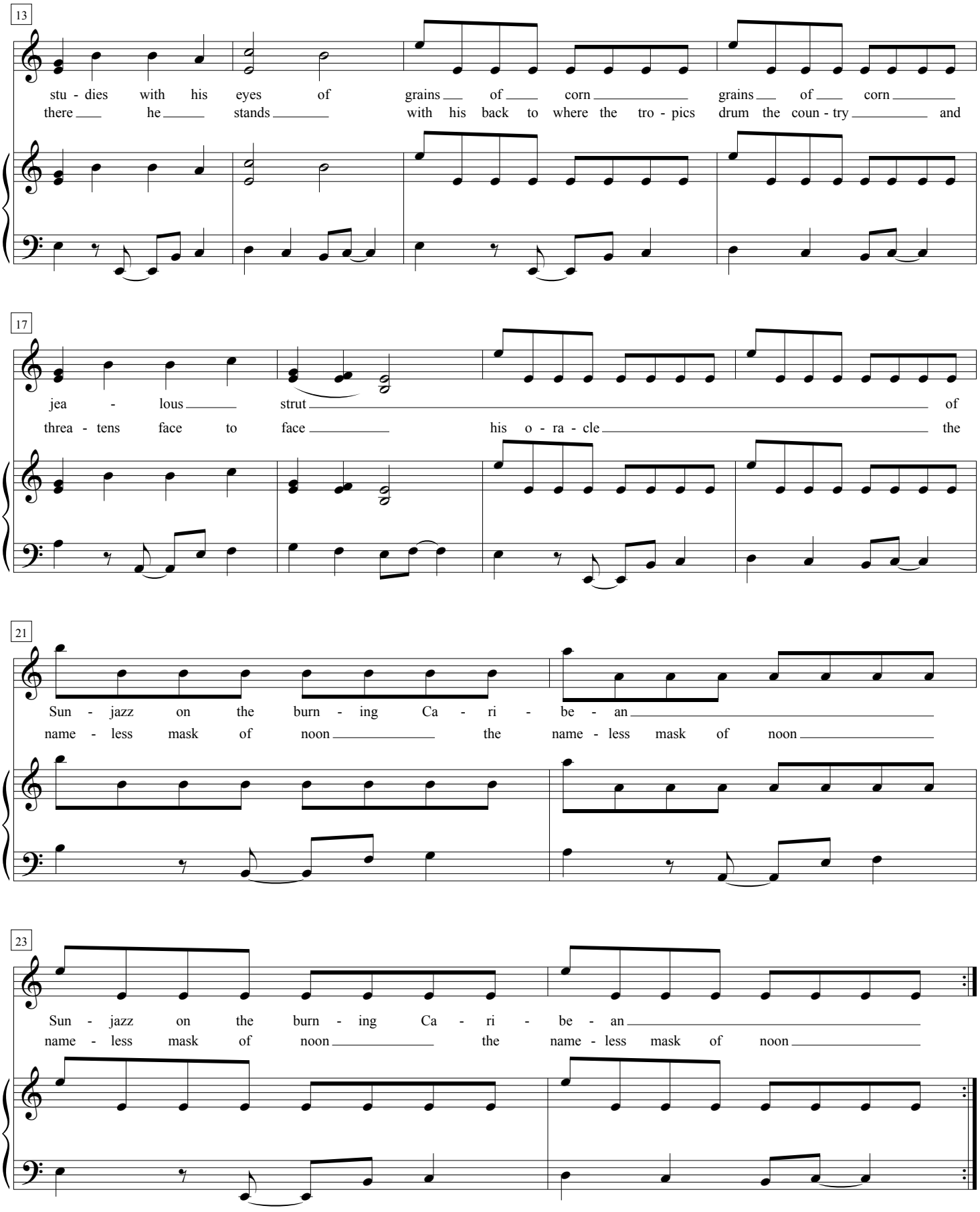

17
Bring his flag and wrap and lay him
Lo - wer and let the bu - gle's noise
Ped.
19
un - der a cross - that shows no name
su - per - cede the Par - son's voice
Ped.
21
And in the same ground make his grave
Who va - lues at too cheap a rate
Ped.
23
As those long lost Ro - mans have (a) (ave)
These men as "ser - vants of their (ei) (eir) state" (a) (ate)
Ped.


25
Let him a speech - less ex - ile
Lo - wer and let the bomb - er's
Ped.
27
be
noise
from
Ped.
29
Eng - land and his
Su - per - - - - cede the dea - con's
Ped.
31
cen - t'ry
voice:
Nor
Ped.

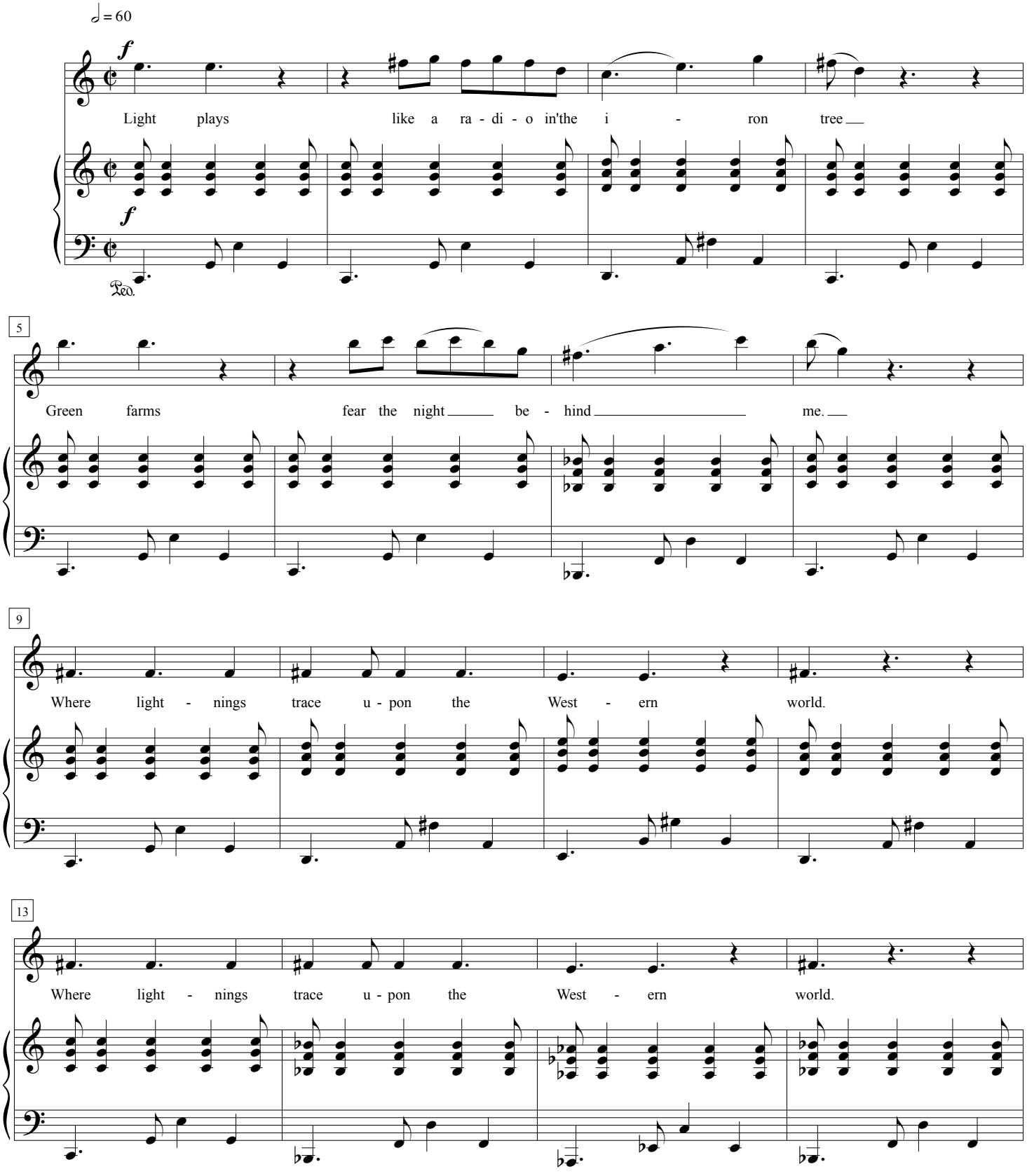

33
ques - tion these old stran - gers
None but per - func - t'ry pray - ers were
Ped.
35
here in -
said
Ped.
37
qui - si - tive a - round his
For the un - quiet spi - rits of these
Ped.
39
bier (ier)
dead (ead)
Ped.

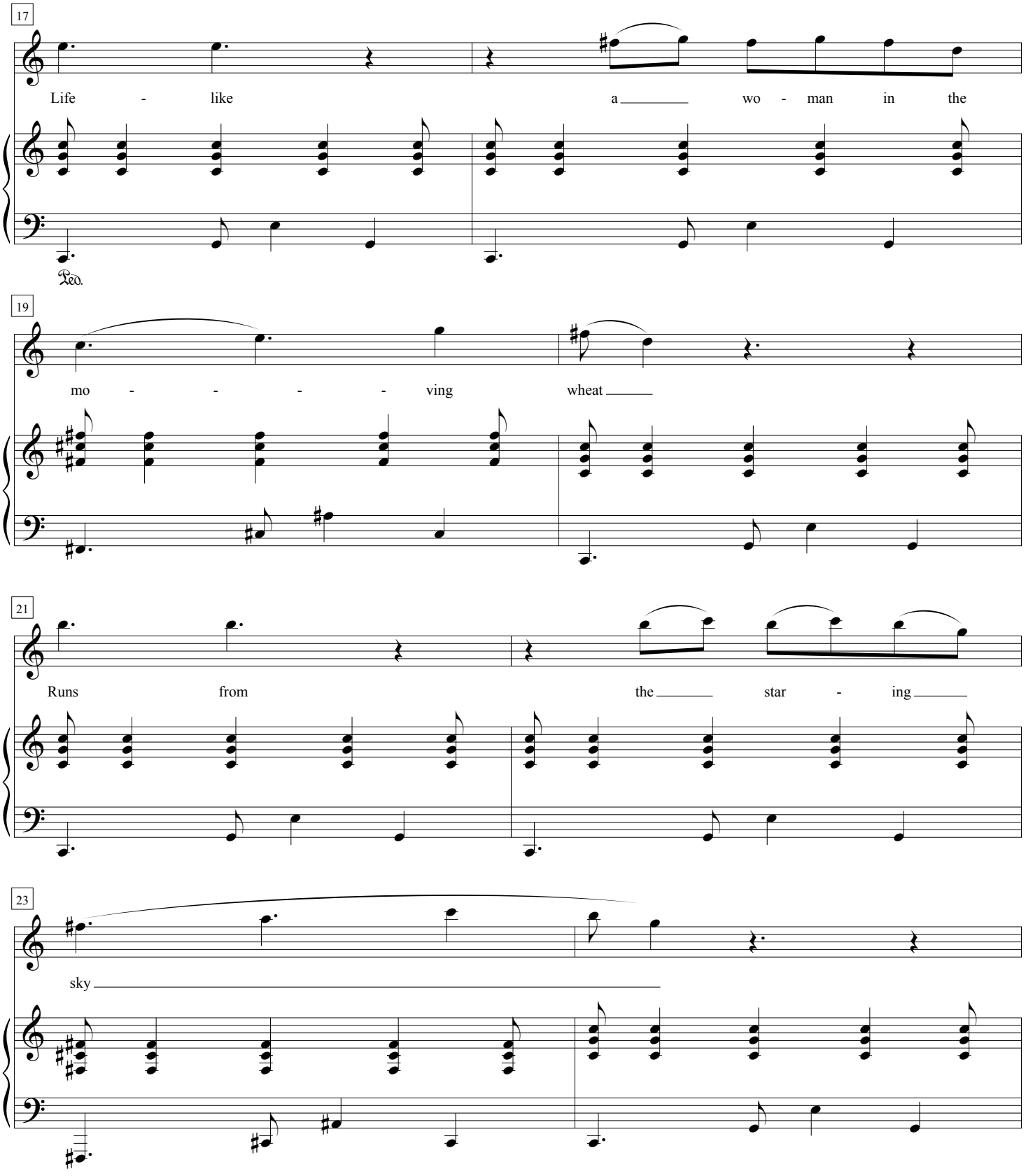
IV. POEM (HERE IS THE MAN)

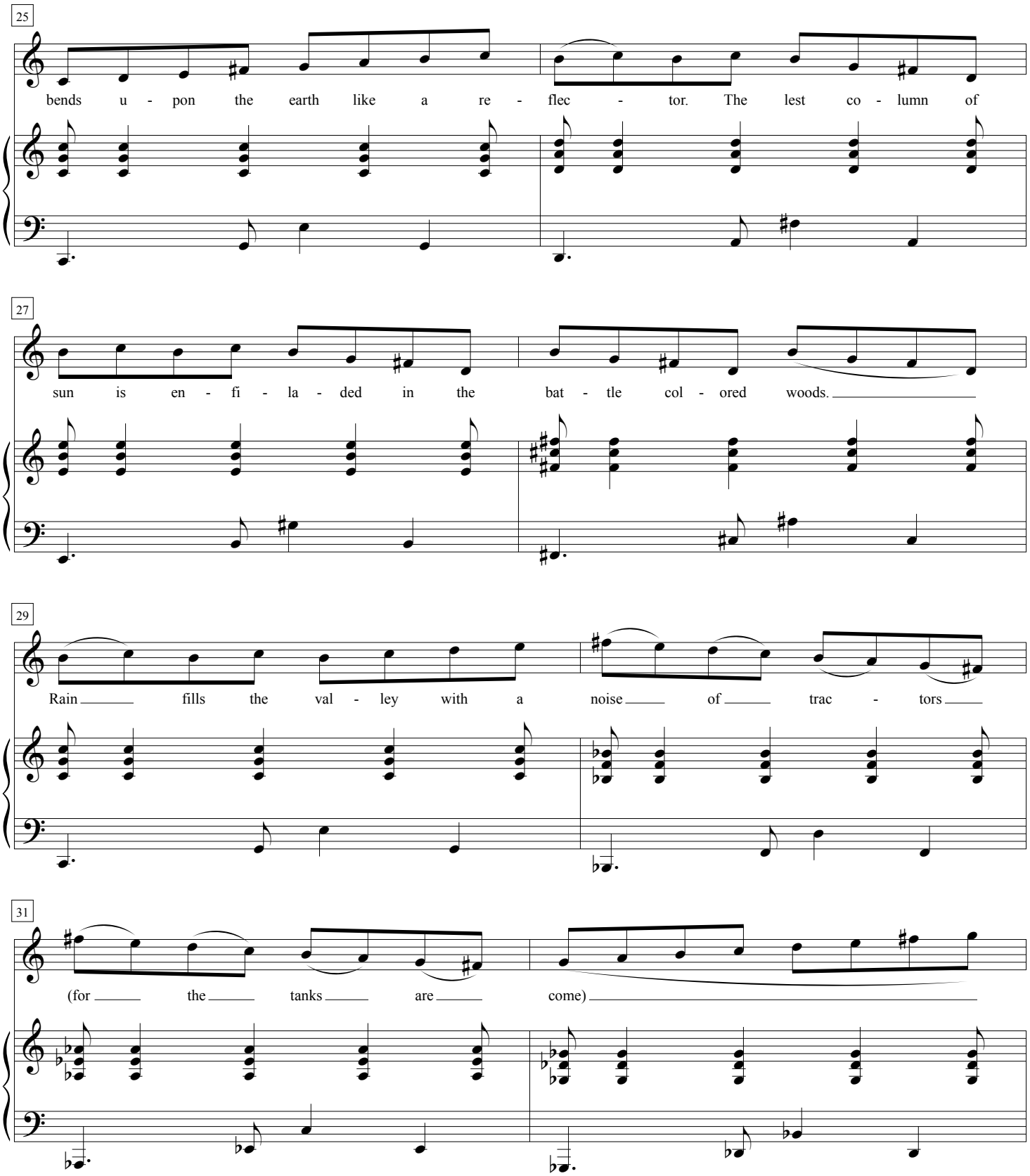


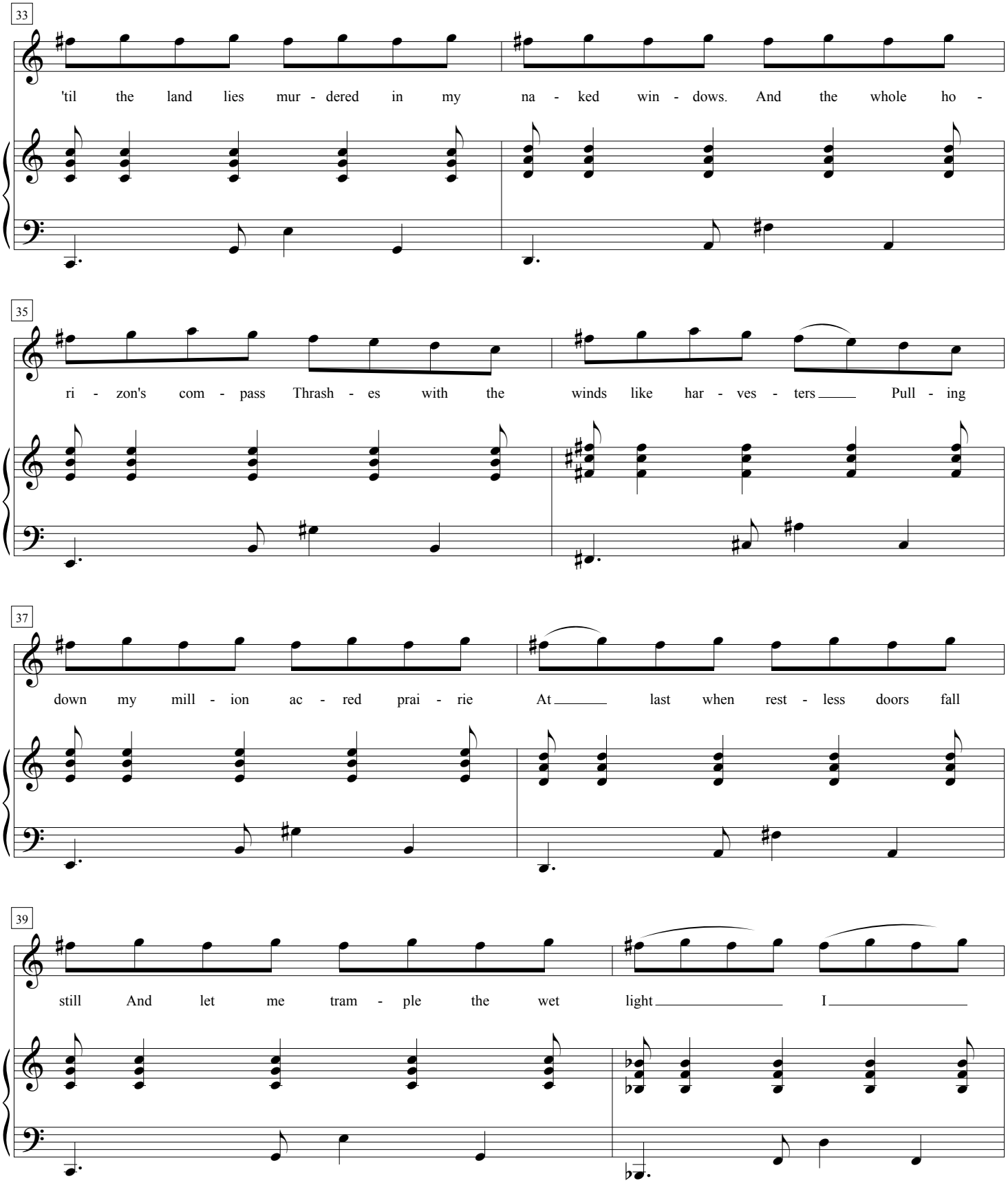

13
stu - dies with his eyes of grains of corn grains of corn
there he stands with his back to where the tro - pics drum the coun - try and
17
jea - lous strut of
threa - tens face to face his o - ra - cle the
21
Sun - jazz on the burn - ing Ca - ri - be - an
name - less mask of noon the name - less mask of noon
23
Sun - jazz on the burn - ing Ca - ri - be - an
name - less mask of noon the name - less mask of noon

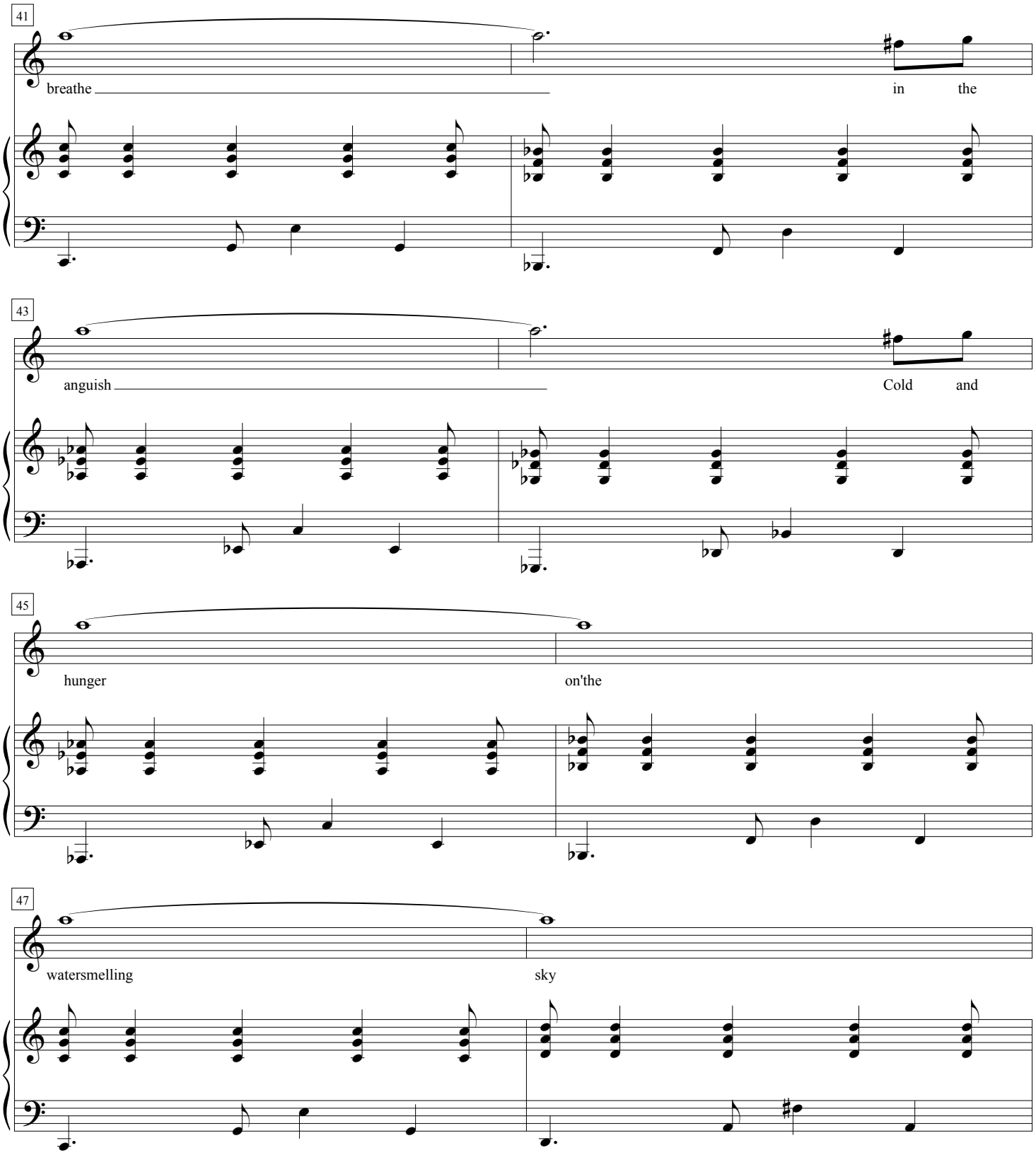
V. POEM (LIGHT PLAYS)

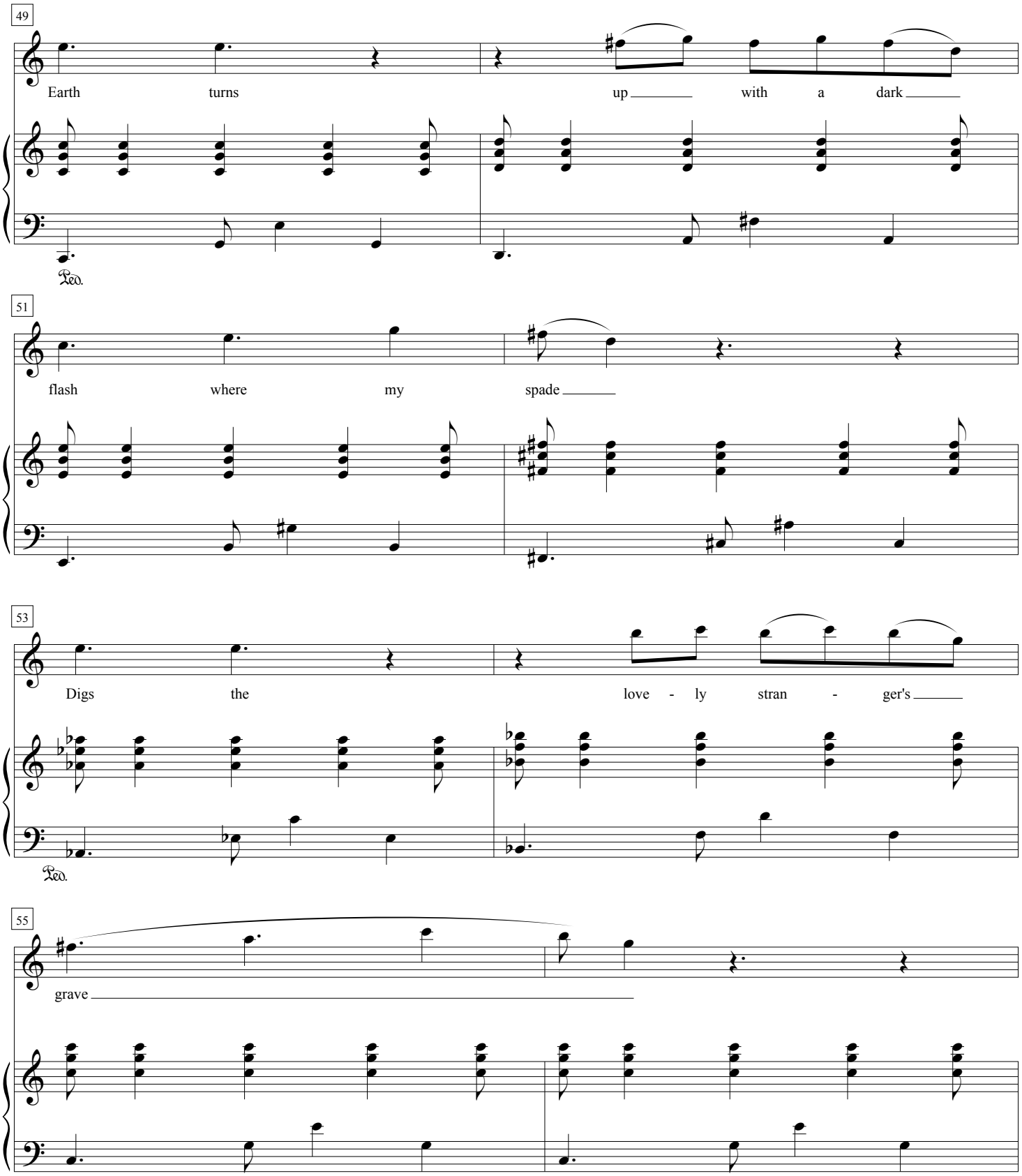


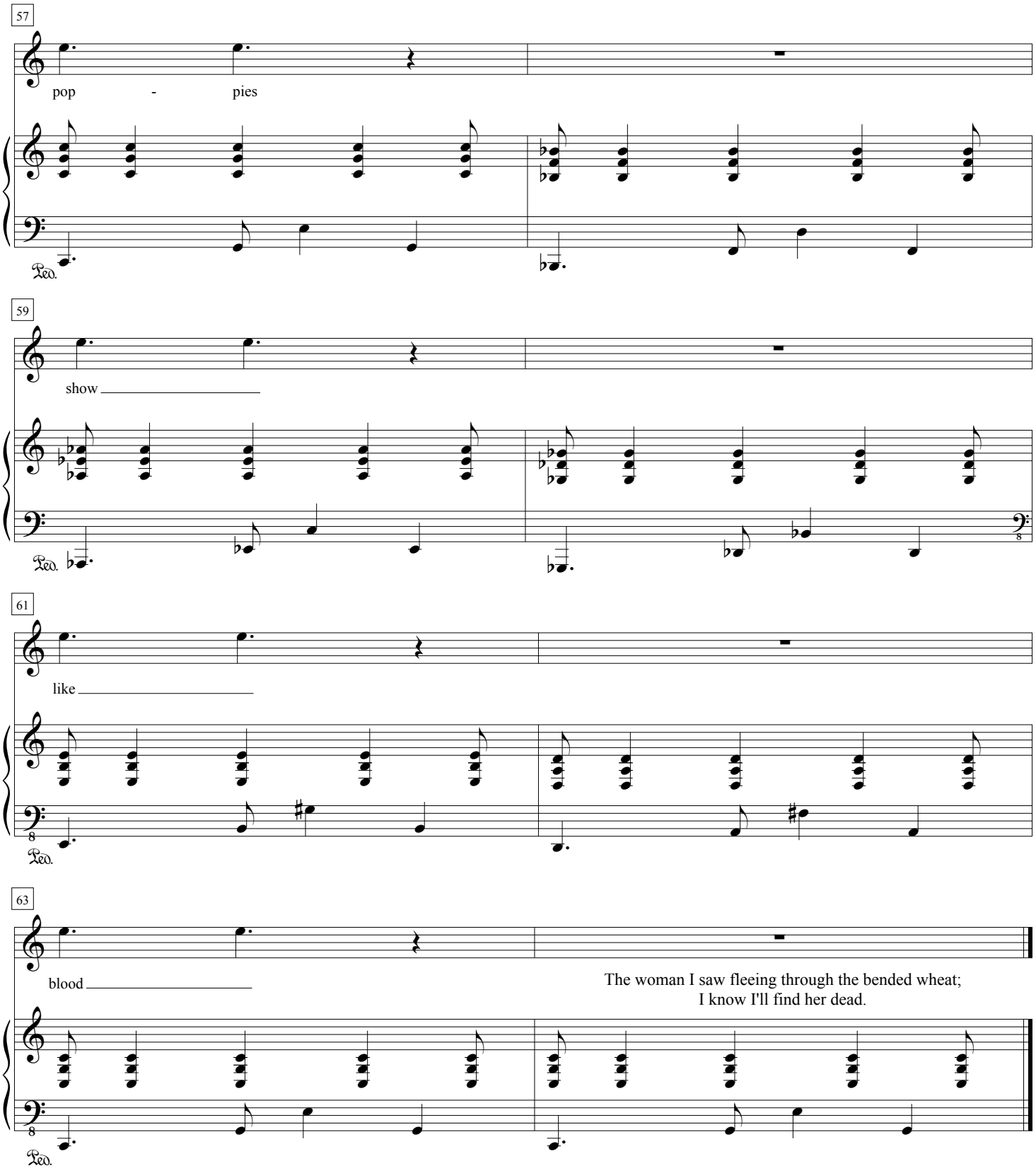

17
Life - like a wo - man in the
Ped.
19
mo - - - - ving wheat
21
Runs from the star - ing
23
sky


25
bends u - pon the earth like a re - flec - tor. The lest co - lumn of
27
sun is en - fi - la - ded in the bat - tle col - ored woods.
29
Rain fills the val - ley with a noise of trac - tors
31
(for the tanks are come)

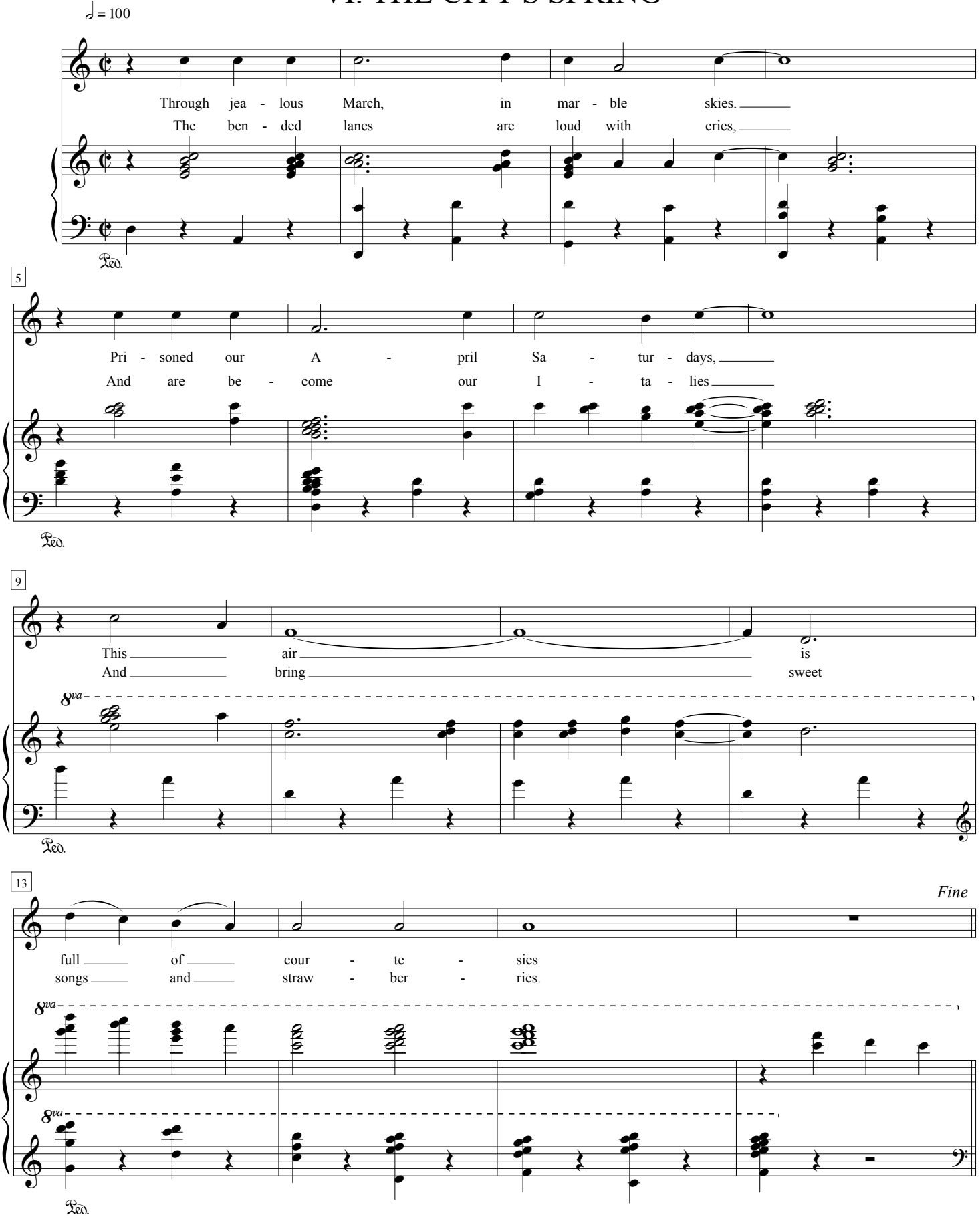

33
'til the land lies mur - dered in my na - ked win - dows. And the whole ho -
35
ri - zon's com - pass Thrash - es with the winds like har - ves - ters Pull - ing
37
down my mill - ion ac - red prai - rie At last when rest - less doors fall
39
still And let me tram - ple the wet light I

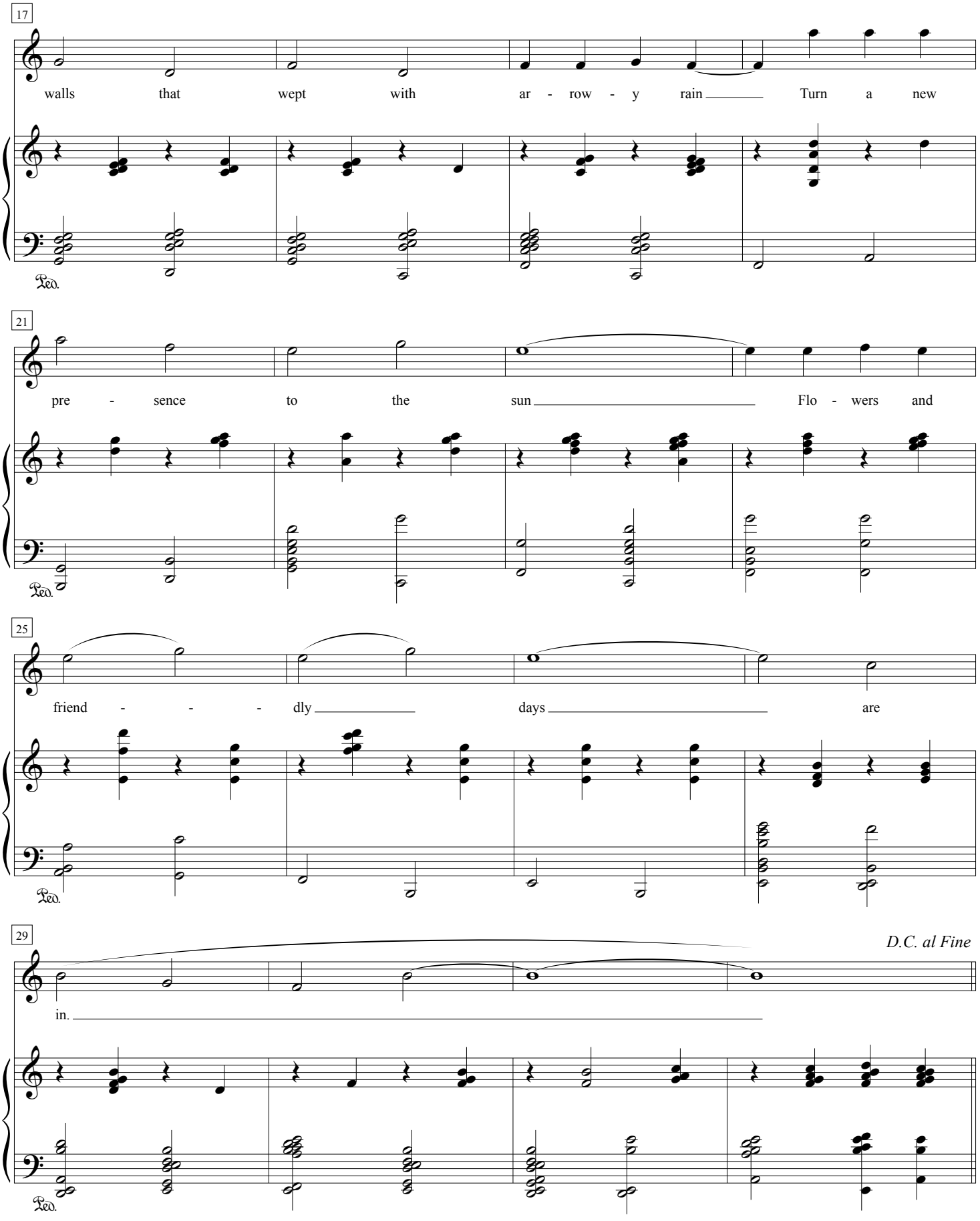

41
breathe
in the
43
anguish
Cold and
45
hunger
on'the
47
watersmelling
sky


49
Earth turns up with a dark
Ped.
51
flash where my spade
53
Digs the love - ly stran - ger's
Ped.
55
grave


57
pop - pies
Ped.
59
show
Ped.
61
like
Ped.
63
blood
The woman I saw fleeing through the bended wheat;
I know I'll find her dead.
Ped.

VI. THE CITY'S SPRING




17
walls that wept with ar - row - y rain Turn a new
Ped.
21
pre - sence to the sun Flo - wers and
Ped.
25
friend - - - dly days are
Ped.
29
D.C. al Fine
in.
Ped.

VII. DIRGE FOR THE CITY OF MIAMI

Beating a Driven Horse ♩ = 100

Oh what wealth of stuc -

5

co flo - wers will save your me - m'ry for two hours when those dis - ho -

9

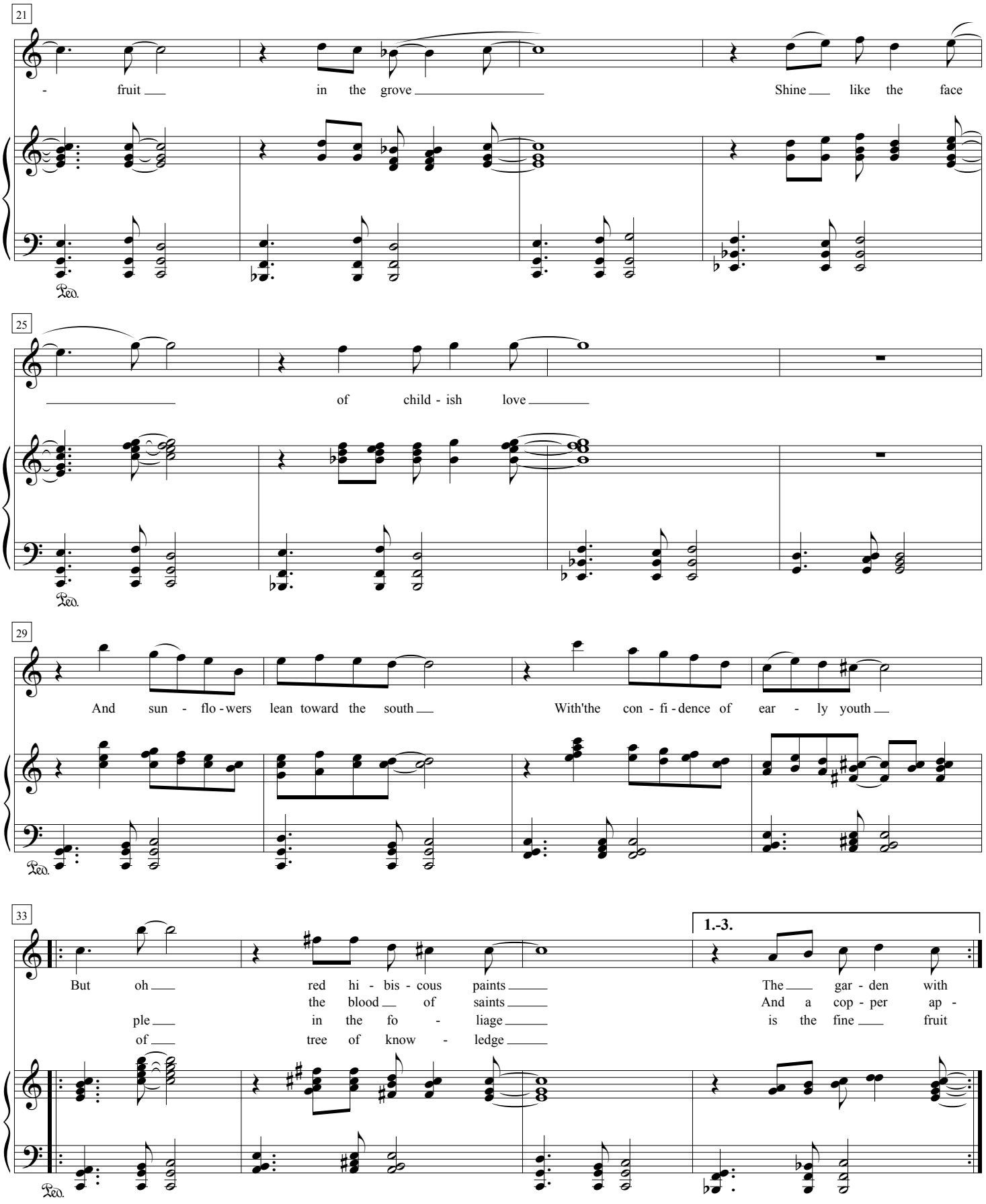
- nest fa - ces fade

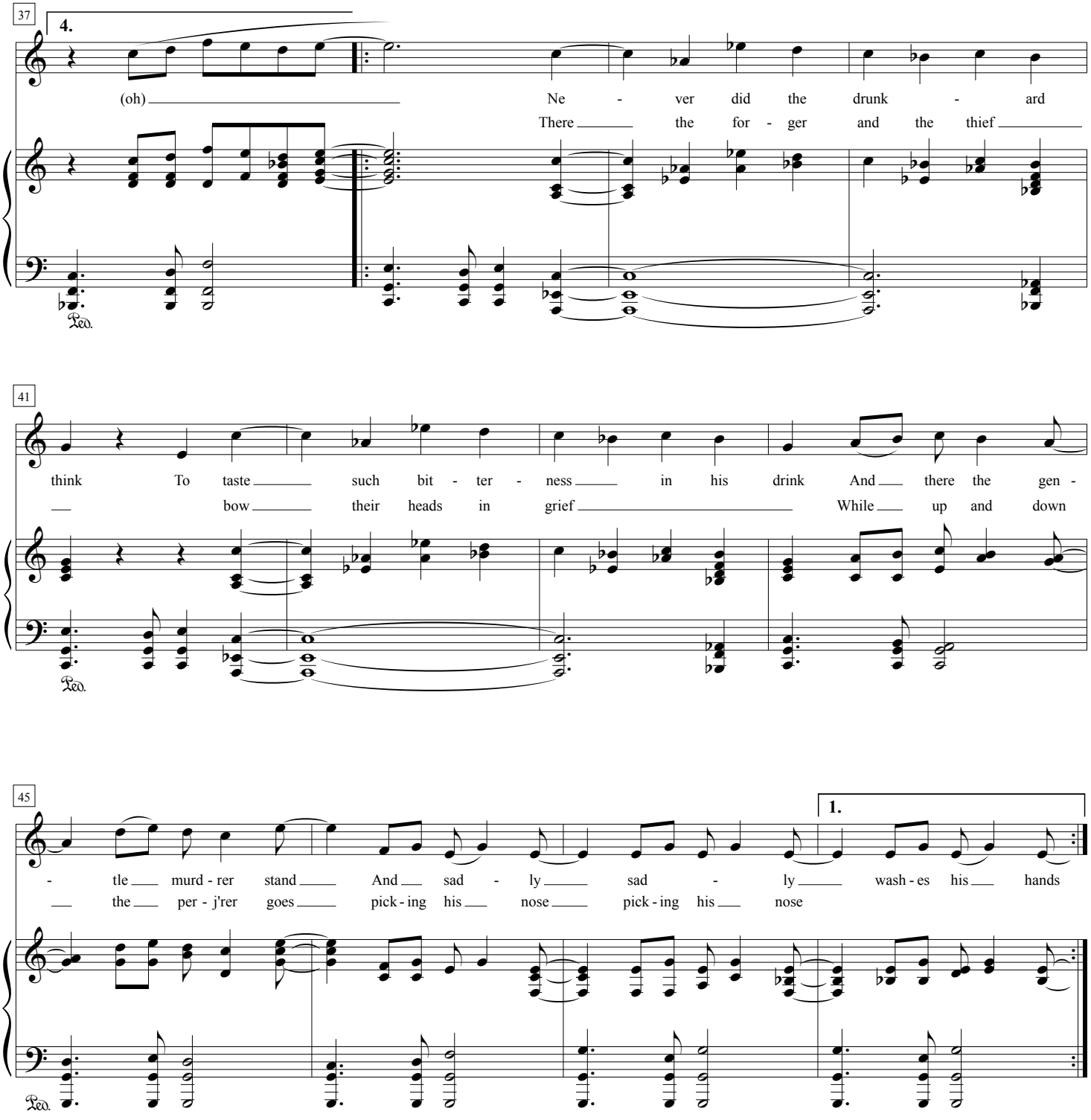
13

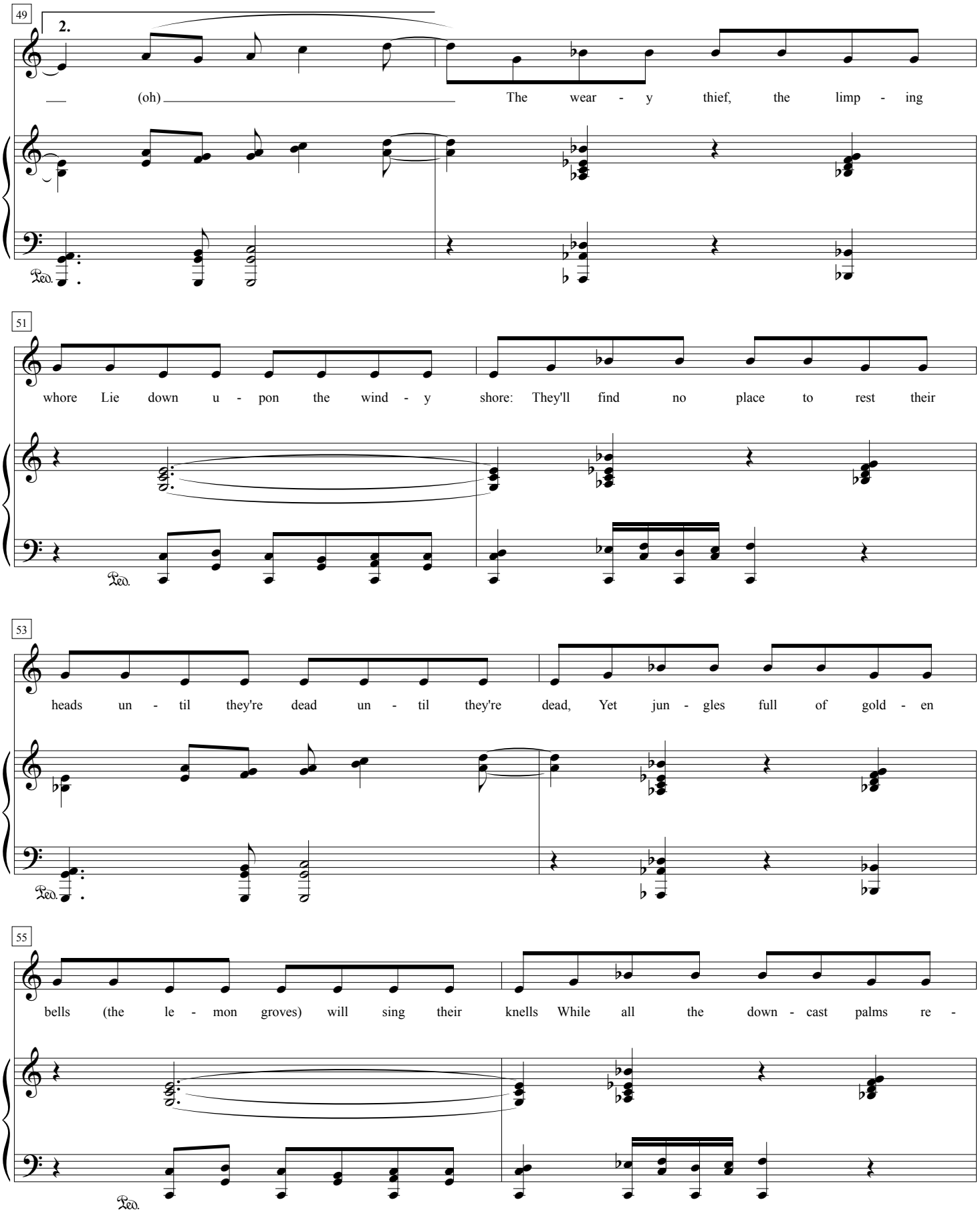
That bloom un - til the gang - ster (i)s dead. Where will you find such an i - ron

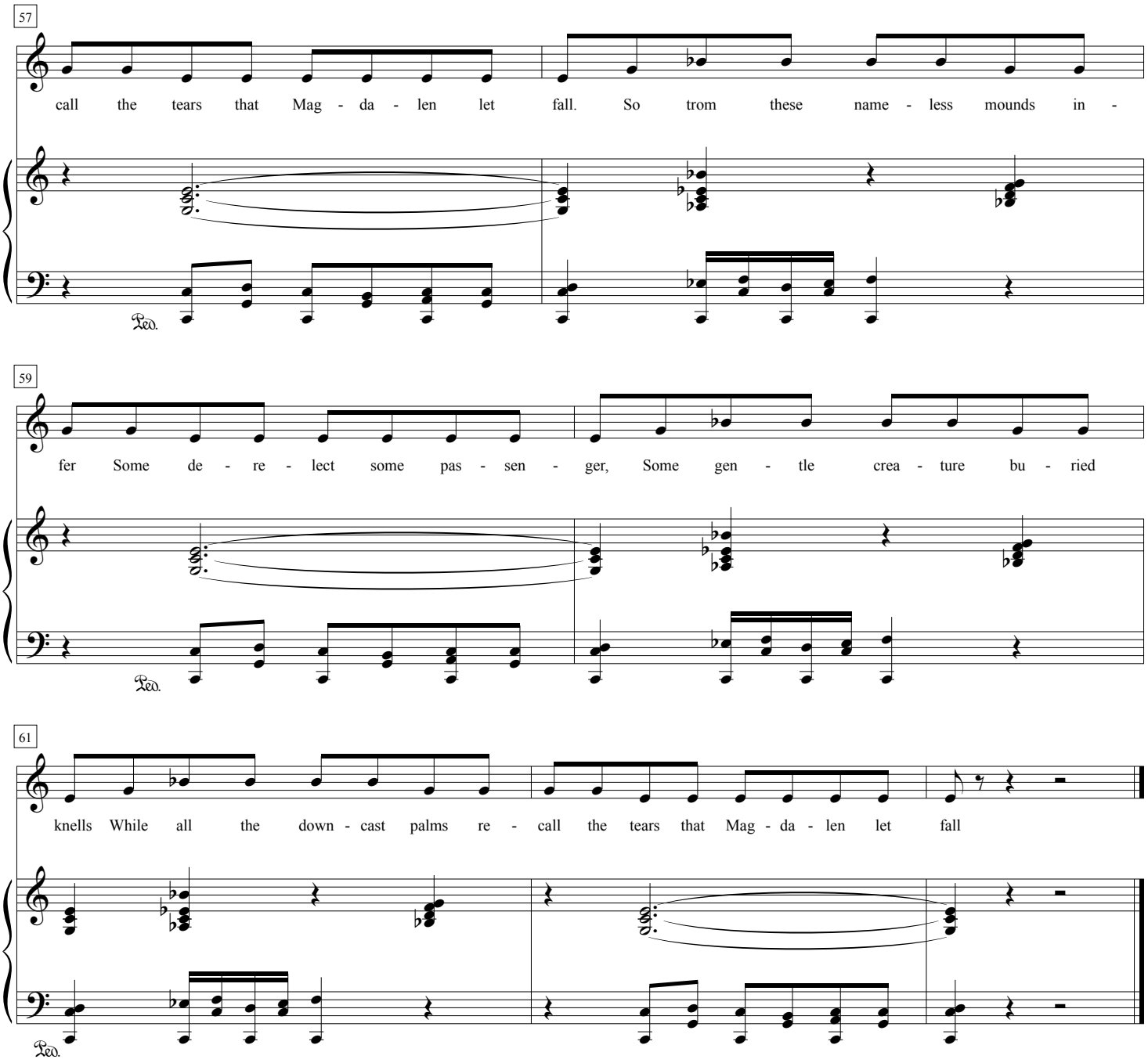
17

wreath 'pro - pri - ate to such a death The sim - ple grape -


21
- fruit in the grove Shine like the face
Ped.
25
of child - ish love
Ped.
29
And sun - flo - wers lean toward the south With'the con - fi - dence of ear - ly youth
Ped.
33
1.-3.
But oh red hi - bis - cous paints The gar - den with
the blood of saints And a cop - per ap -
ple in the fo - liage is the fine fruit
of tree of know - ledge
Ped.

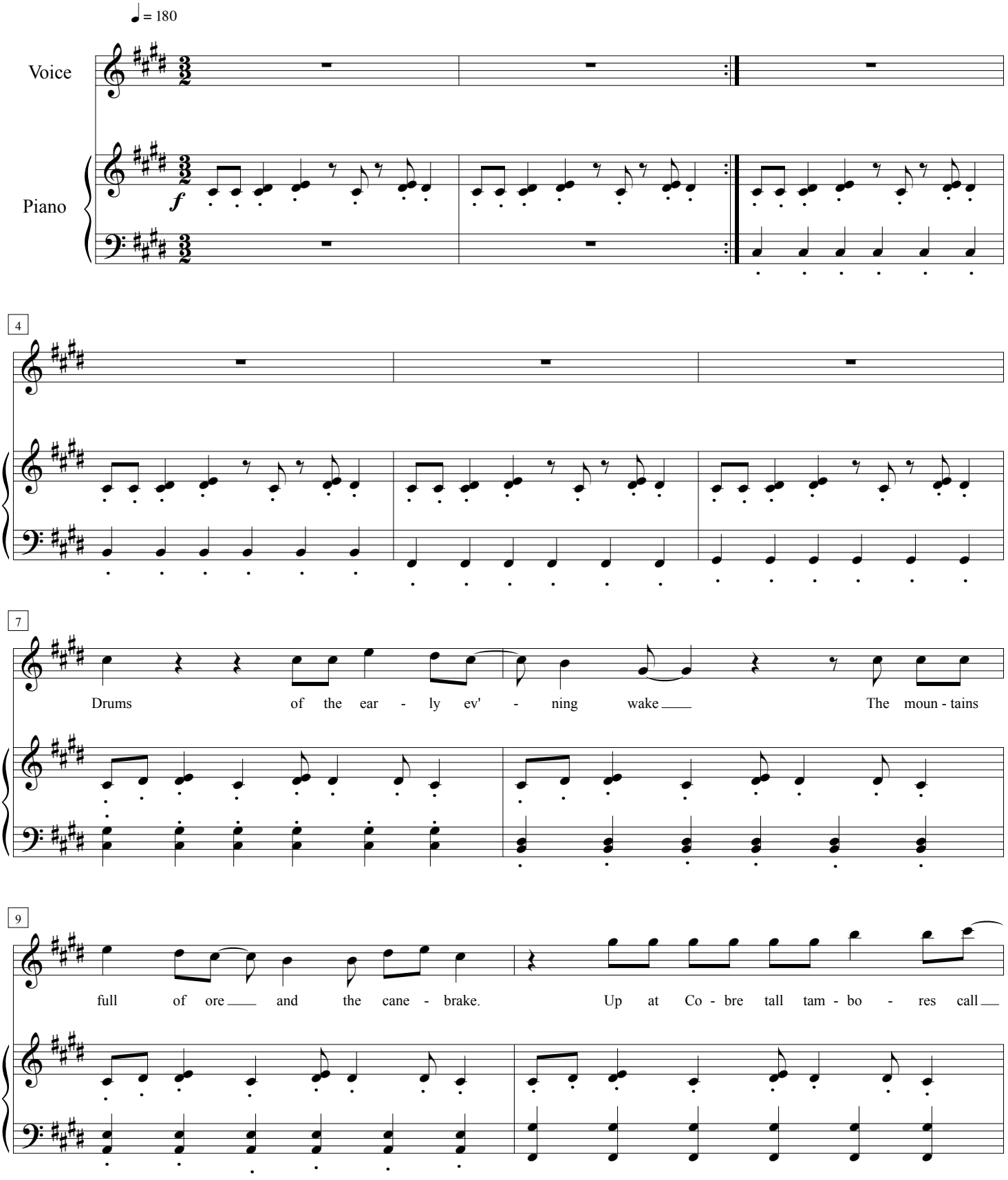

37
4.
(oh) Ne - ver did the drunk - ard
There the for - ger and the thief
Ped.
41
think To taste such bit - ter - ness in his drink And there the gen -
bow their heads in grief While up and down
Ped.
45
1.
- tle murd - rer stand And sad - ly sad - ly wash - es his hands
the per - j'rer goes pick - ing his nose pick - ing his nose
Ped.

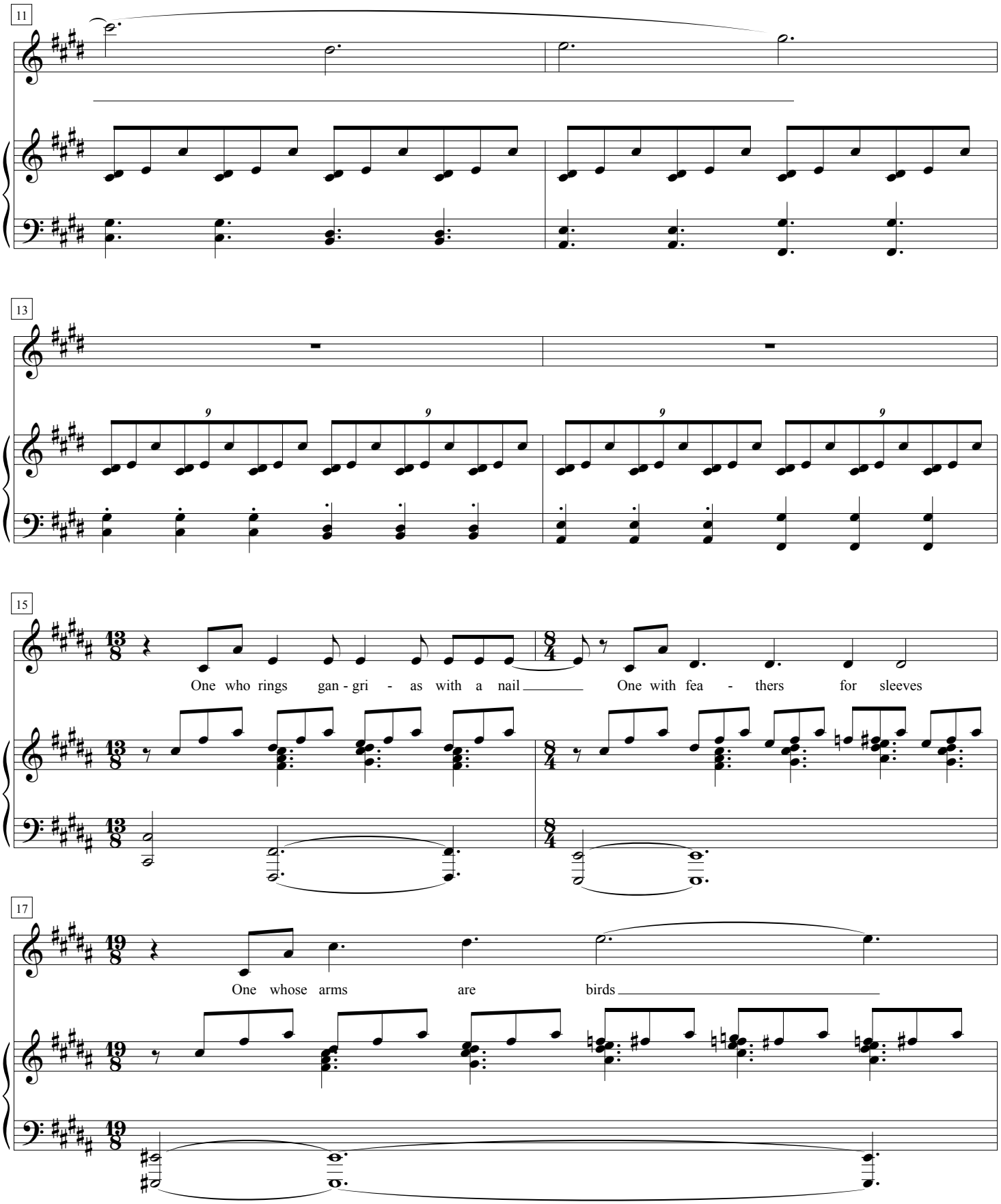

49
2.
(oh)
The wear - y thief, the limp - ing
Ped.
51
whore Lie down u - pon the wind - y shore: They'll find no place to rest their
Ped.
53
heads un - til they're dead un - til they're dead, Yet jun - gles full of gold - en
Ped.
55
bells (the le - mon groves) will sing their knells While all the down - cast palms re -
Ped.

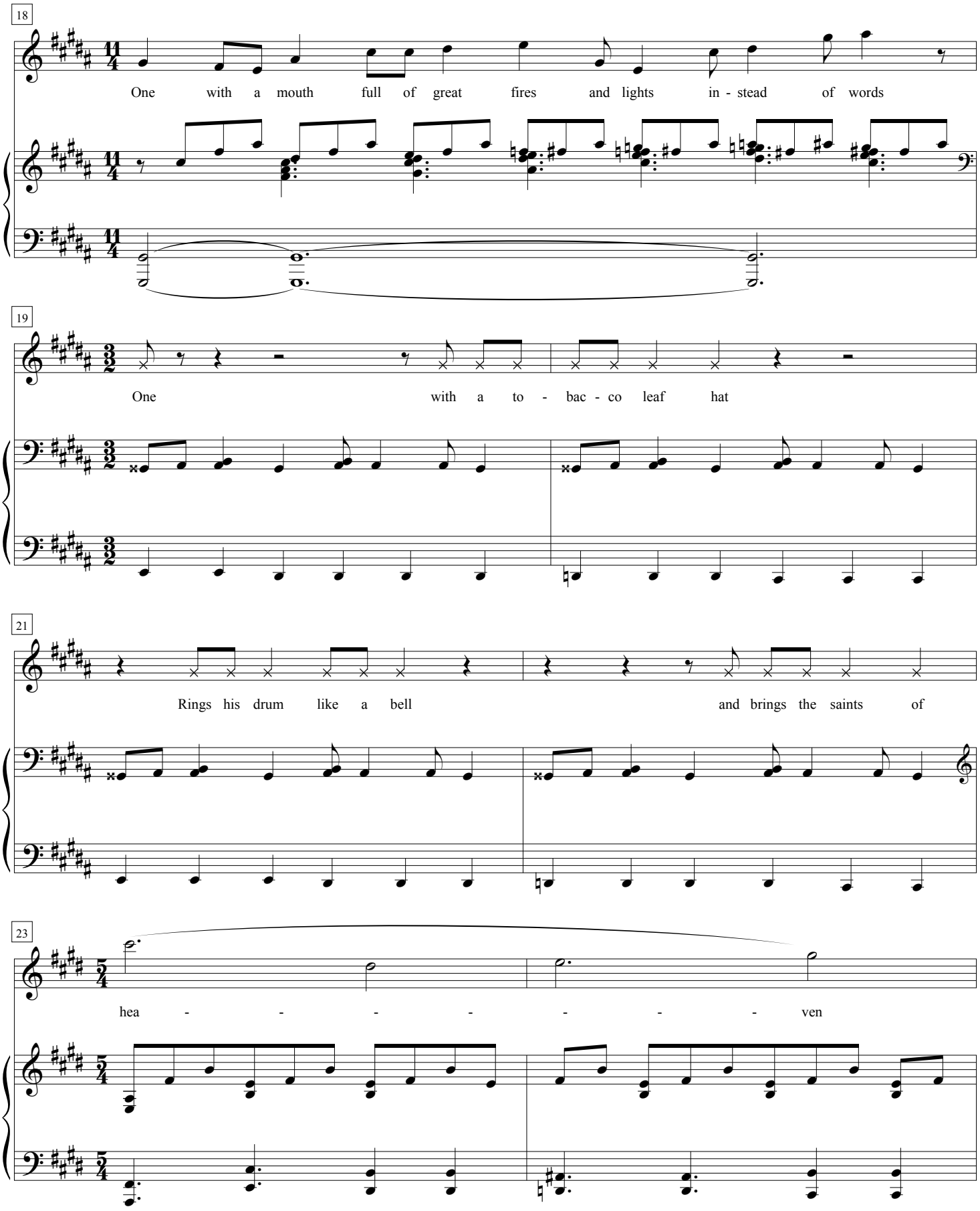

57
call the tears that Mag - da - len let fall. So trom these name - less mounds in -
Ped.
59
fer Some de - re - lect some pas - sen - ger, Some gen - tle crea - ture bu - ried
Ped.
61
knells While all the down - cast palms re - call the tears that Mag - da - len let fall
Ped.

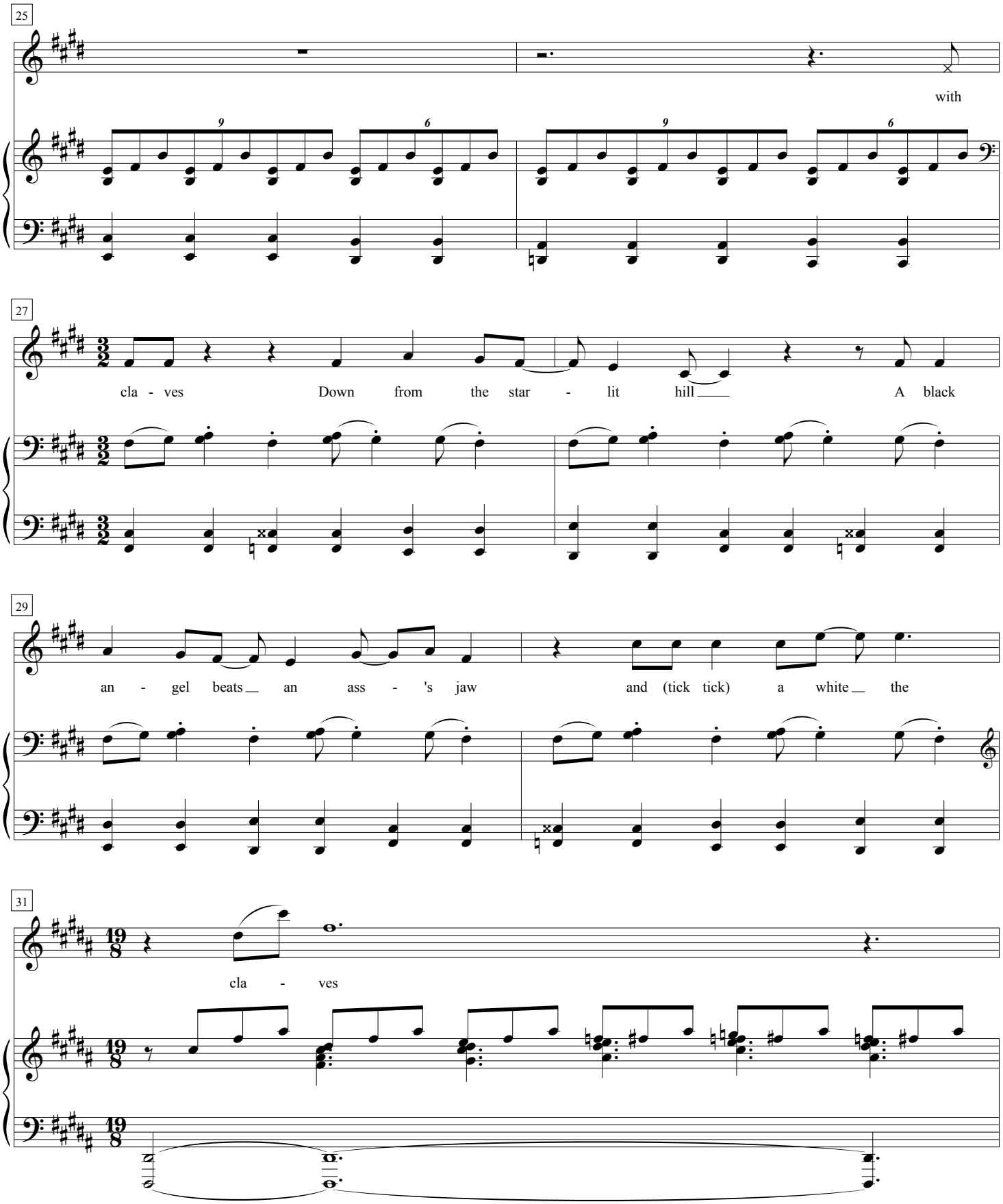
VIII. LA COMPARSA EN ORIENTE

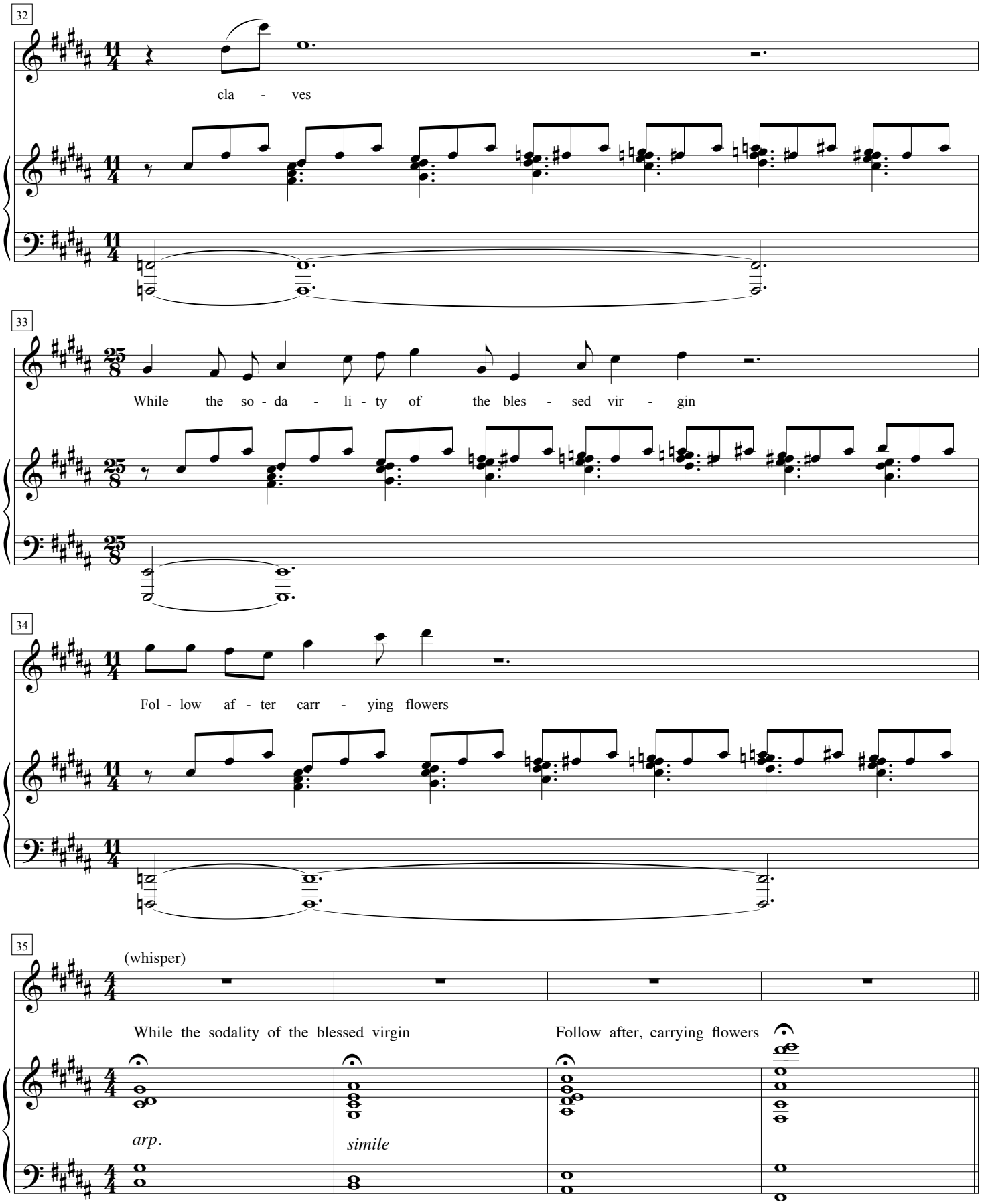
(I)



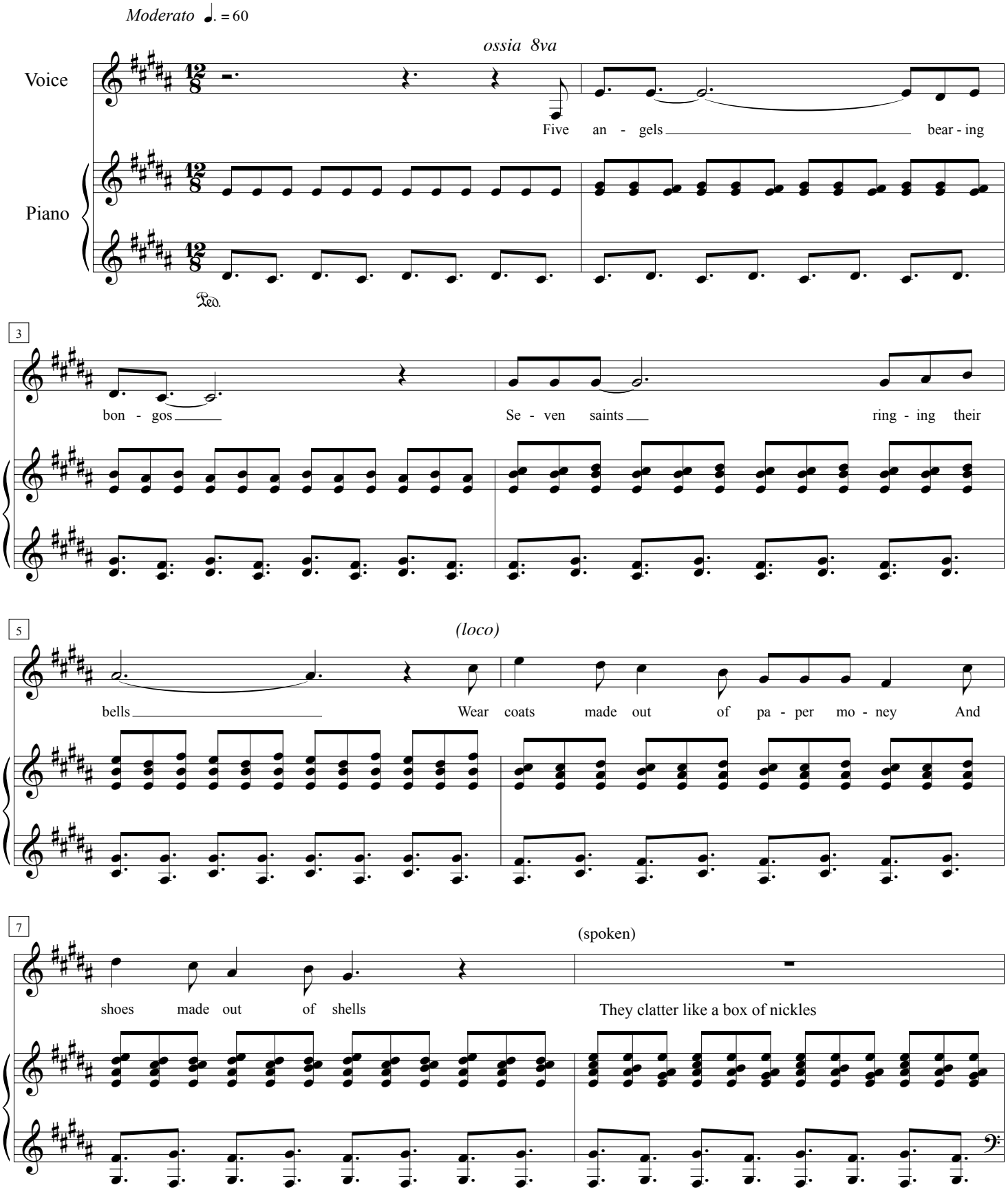

11
13
15
One who rings gan - gri - as with a nail
One with fea - thers for sleeves
17
One whose arms are birds

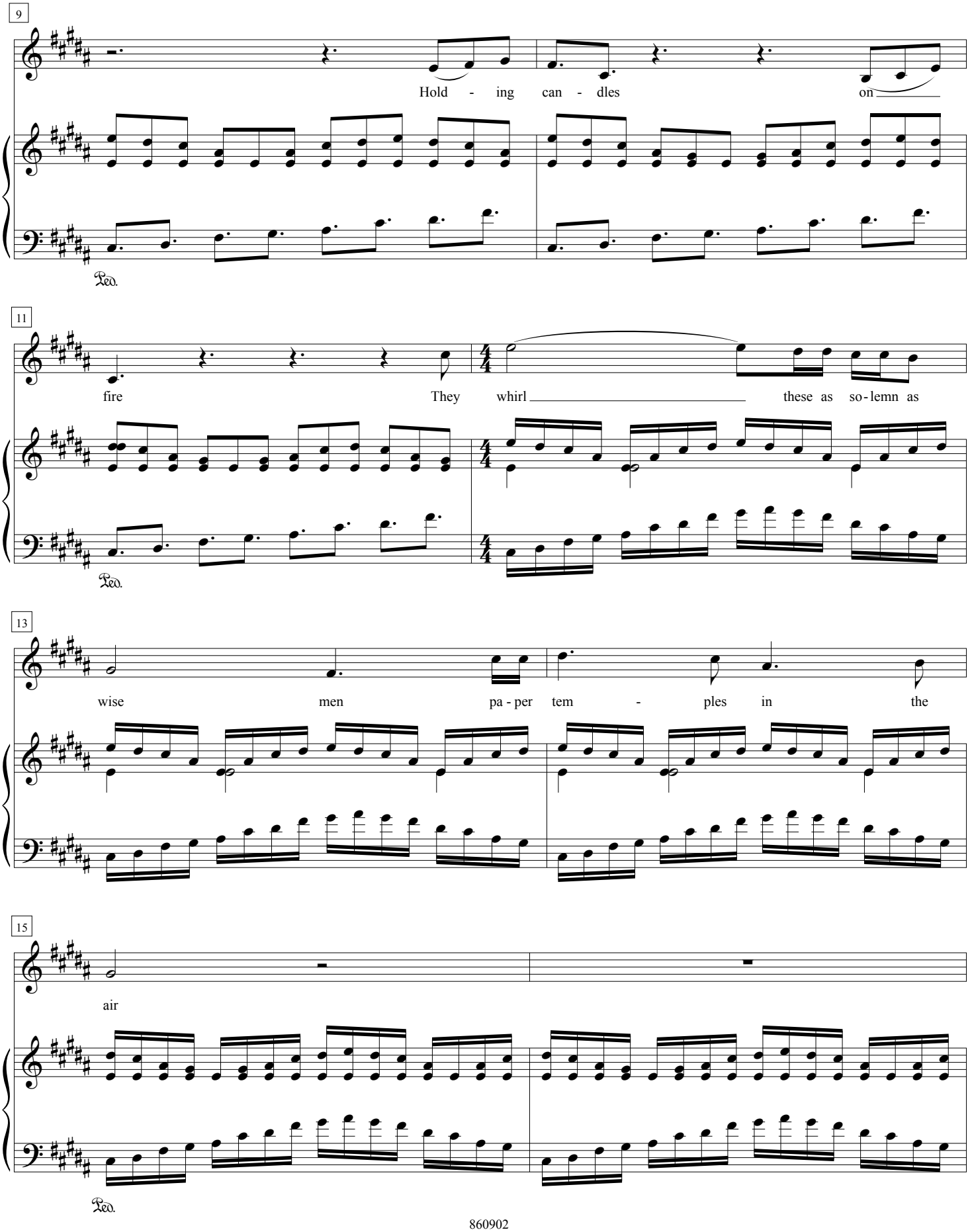

18
One with a mouth full of great fires and lights in - stead of words
19
One with a to - bac - co leaf hat
21
Rings his drum like a bell and brings the saints of
23
hea - - - - - - - ven

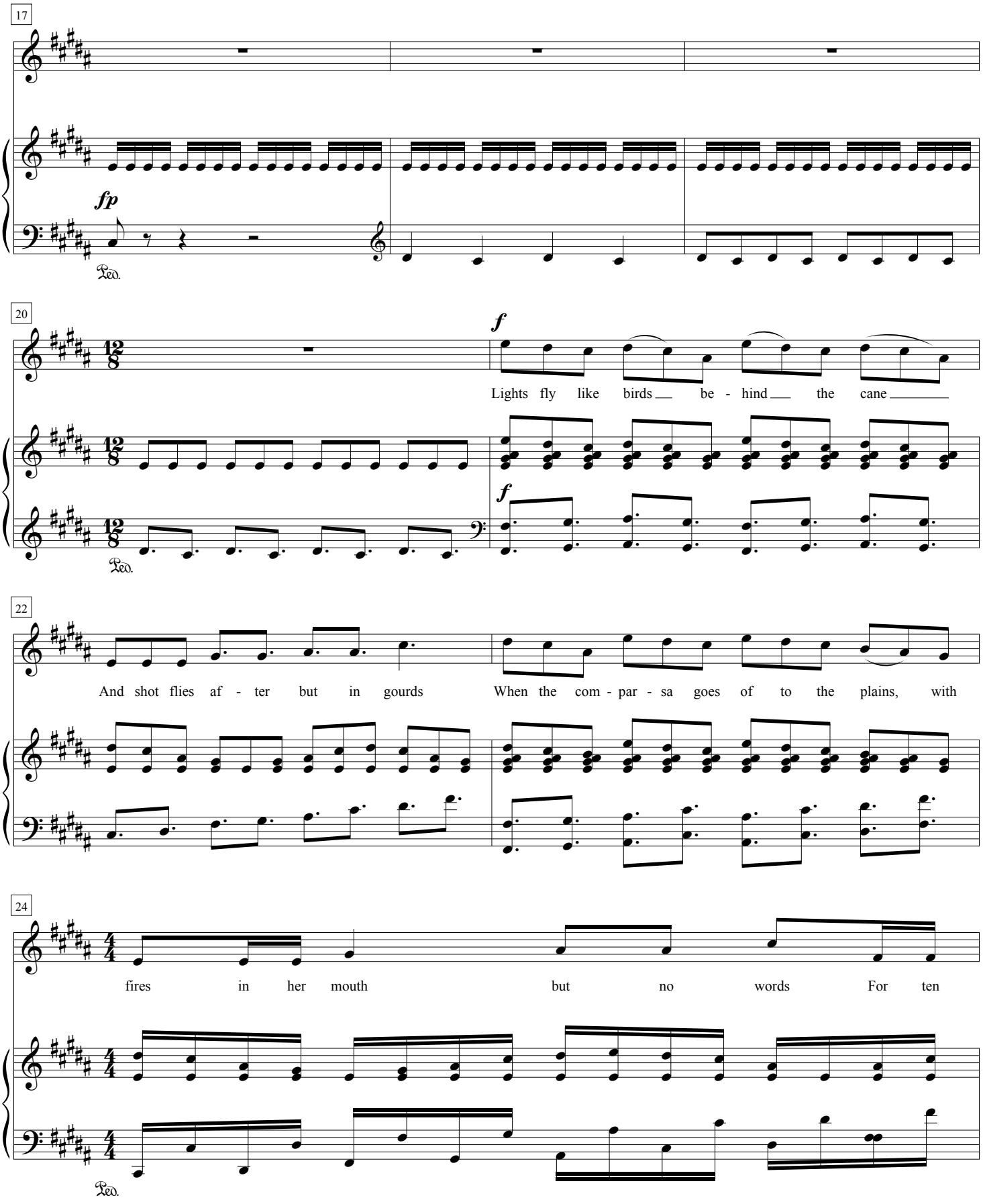

25
with
27
cla - ves Down from the star - lit hill A black
29
an - gel beats an ass - 's jaw and (tick tick) a white the
31
cla - ves

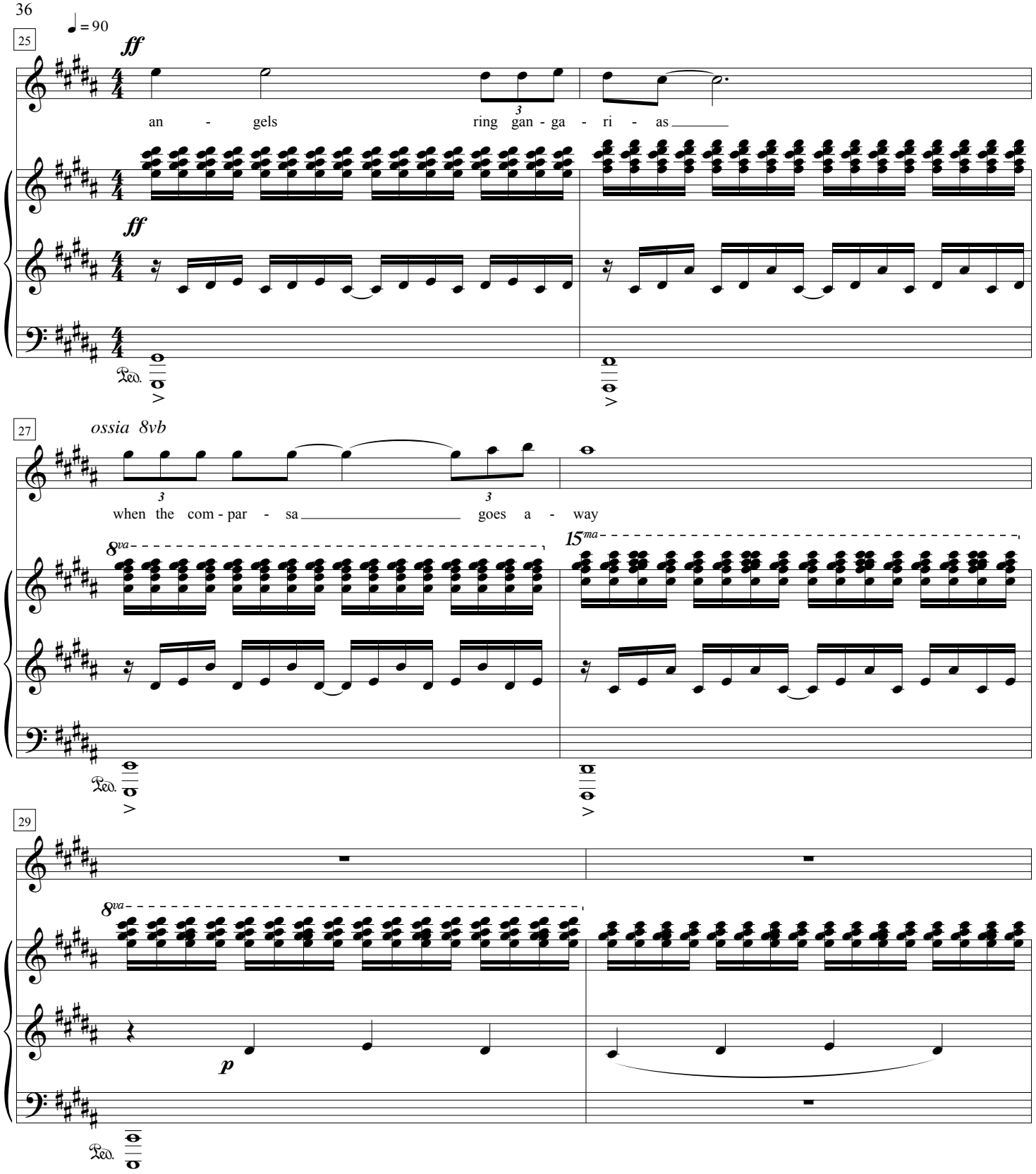


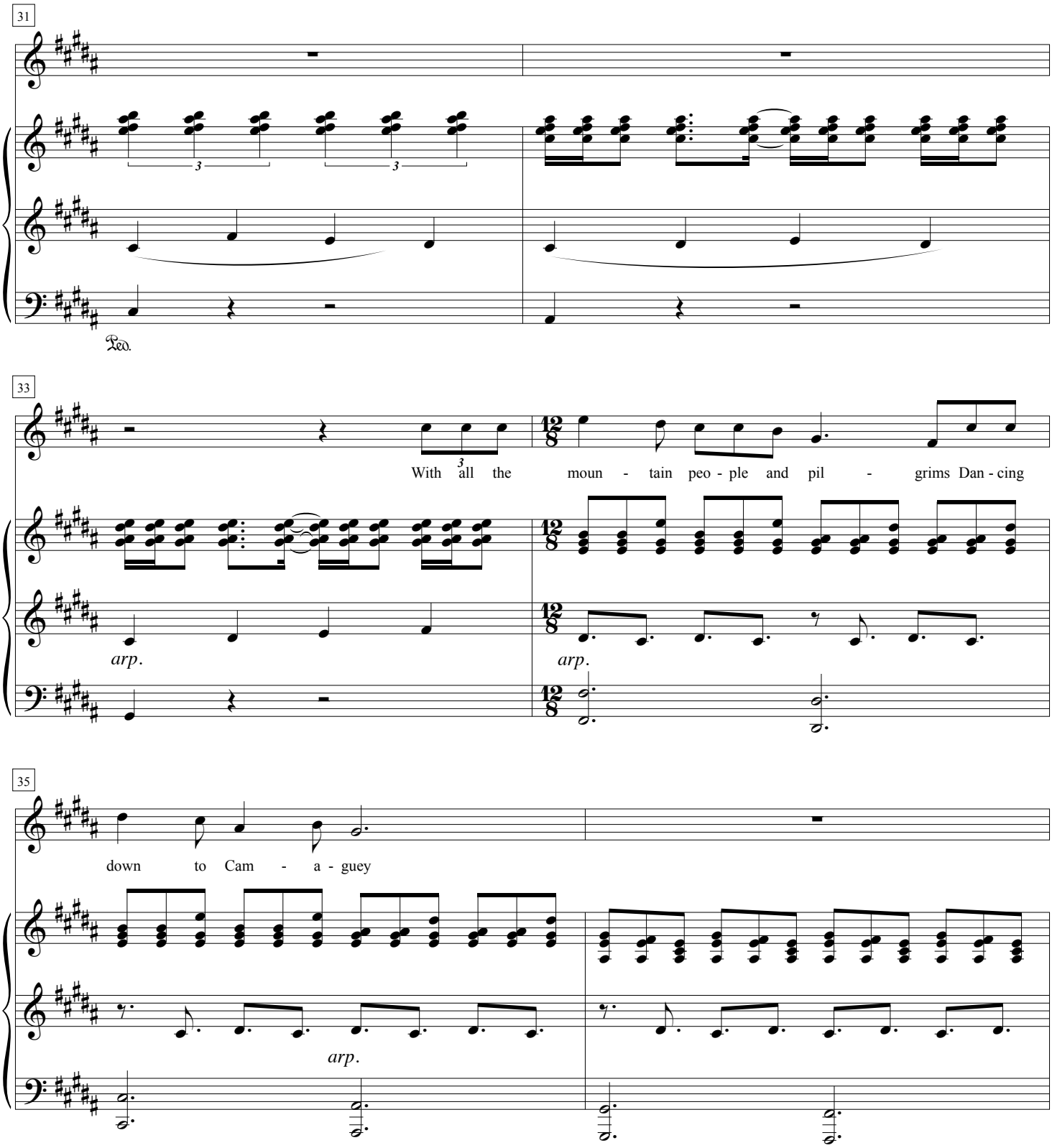
January 1986
Westtown, PA


Moderato ♩. = 60
ossia 8va
Voice
Five an - gels bear - ing
Piano
Ped.
3
bon - gos
Se - ven saints
ring - ing their
5
(loco)
bells
Wear coats made out of pa - per mo - ney And
7
(spoken)
shoes made out of shells
They clatter like a box of nickles


9
Hold - ing can - dles on
Ped.
11
fire They whirl these as so-lemn as
Ped.
13
wise men pa - per tem - ples in the
15
air
Ped.


17
fp
Ped.
20
f
Lights fly like birds be - hind the cane
f
Ped.
22
And shot flies af - ter but in gourds
When the com - par - sa goes of to the plains, with
24
fires in her mouth
but no words
For ten
Ped.


♩ = 90
25
ff
an - gels ring gan - ga - ri - as
ff
Ped.
27
ossia 8vb
when the com - par - sa goes a - way
8va
15ma
Ped.
29
8va
p
Ped.


31
Ped.
33
With all the moun - tain peo - ple and pil - grims Dan - cing
arp.
arp.
35
down to Cam - a - guey
arp.

37

Ped.

41

(whisper)

Then pray for us Mother of Jesus, Curidad, Merced, Queen of Cobre and the ten angels

arp. sempre

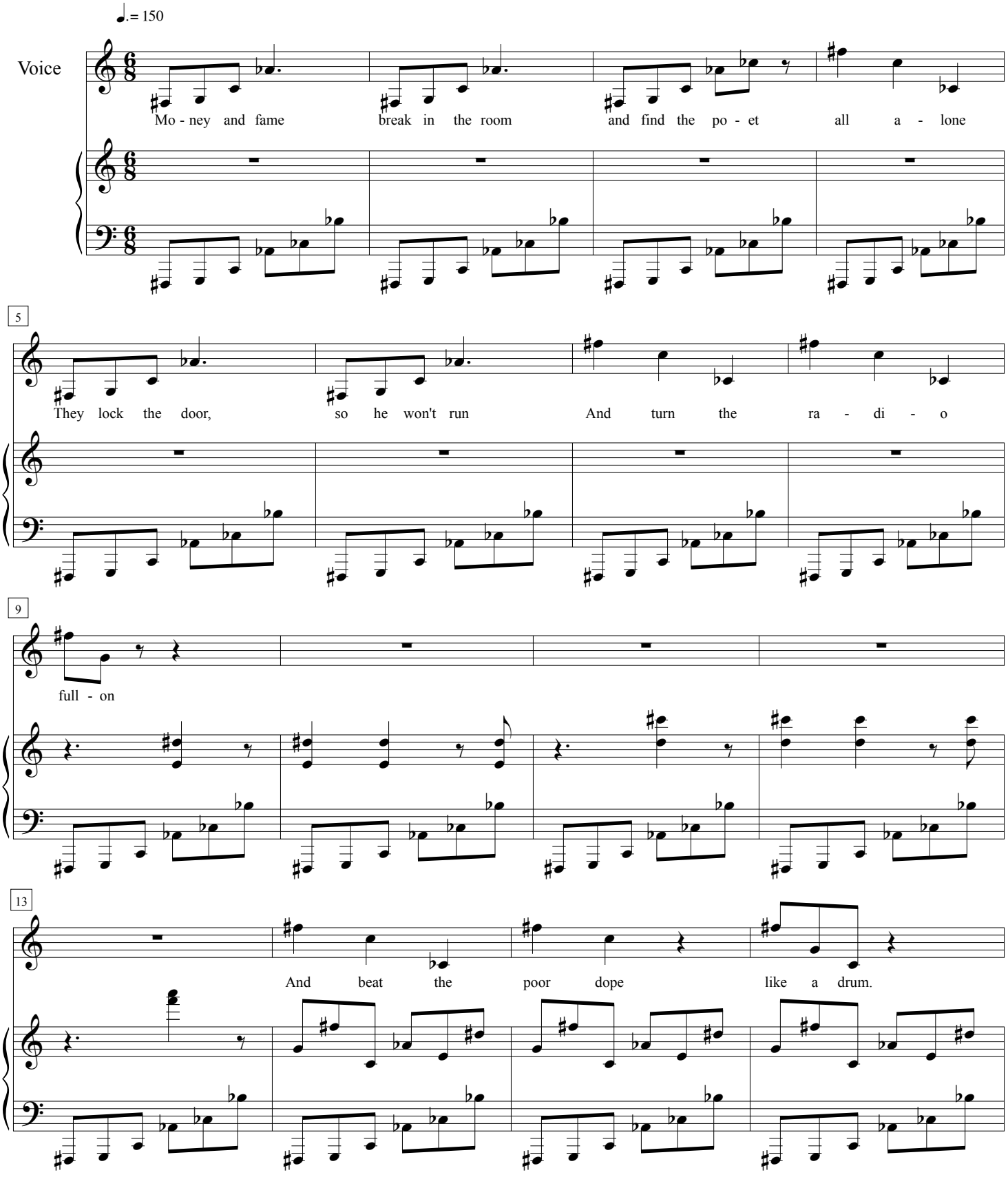
44

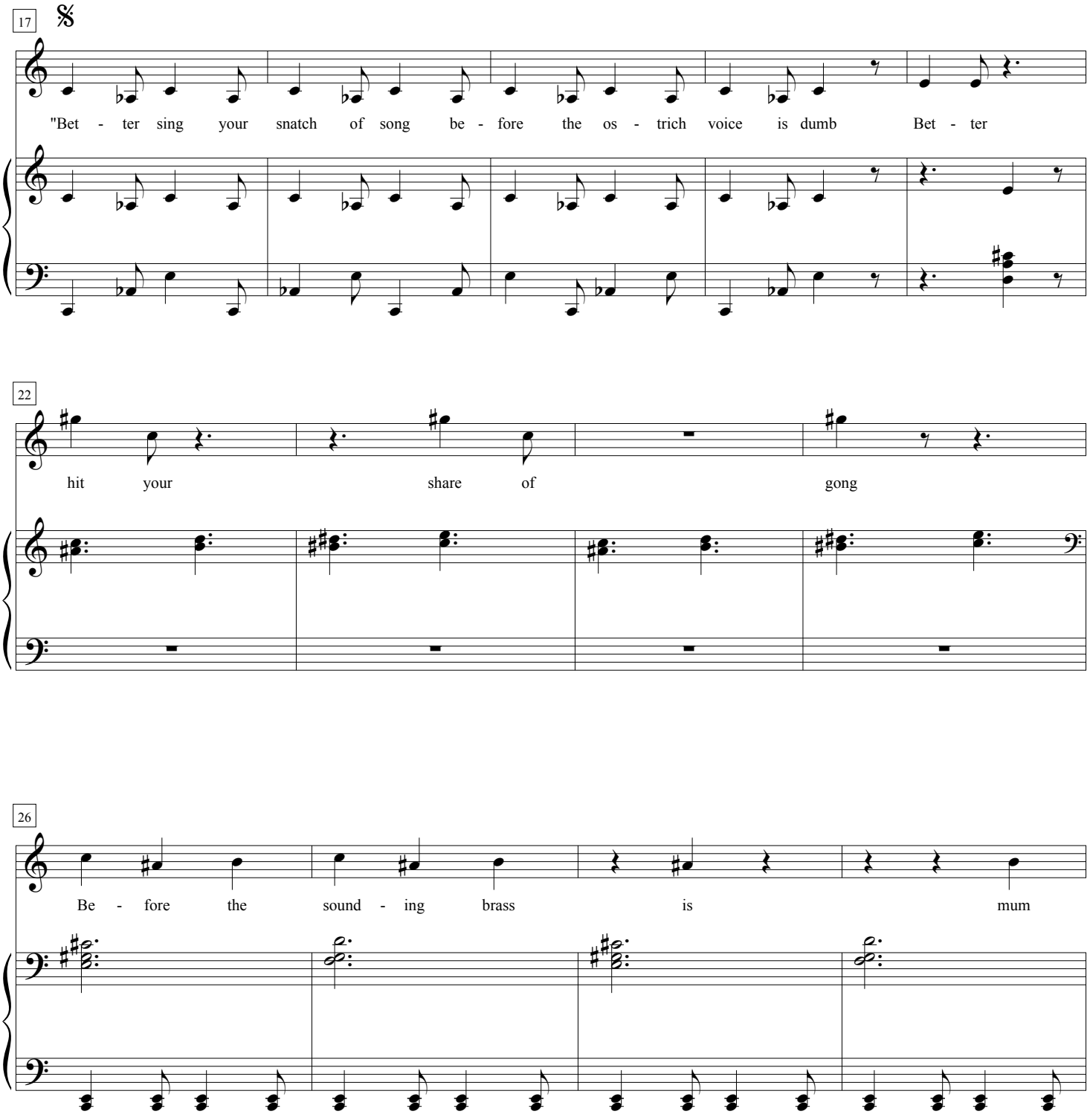
rit.

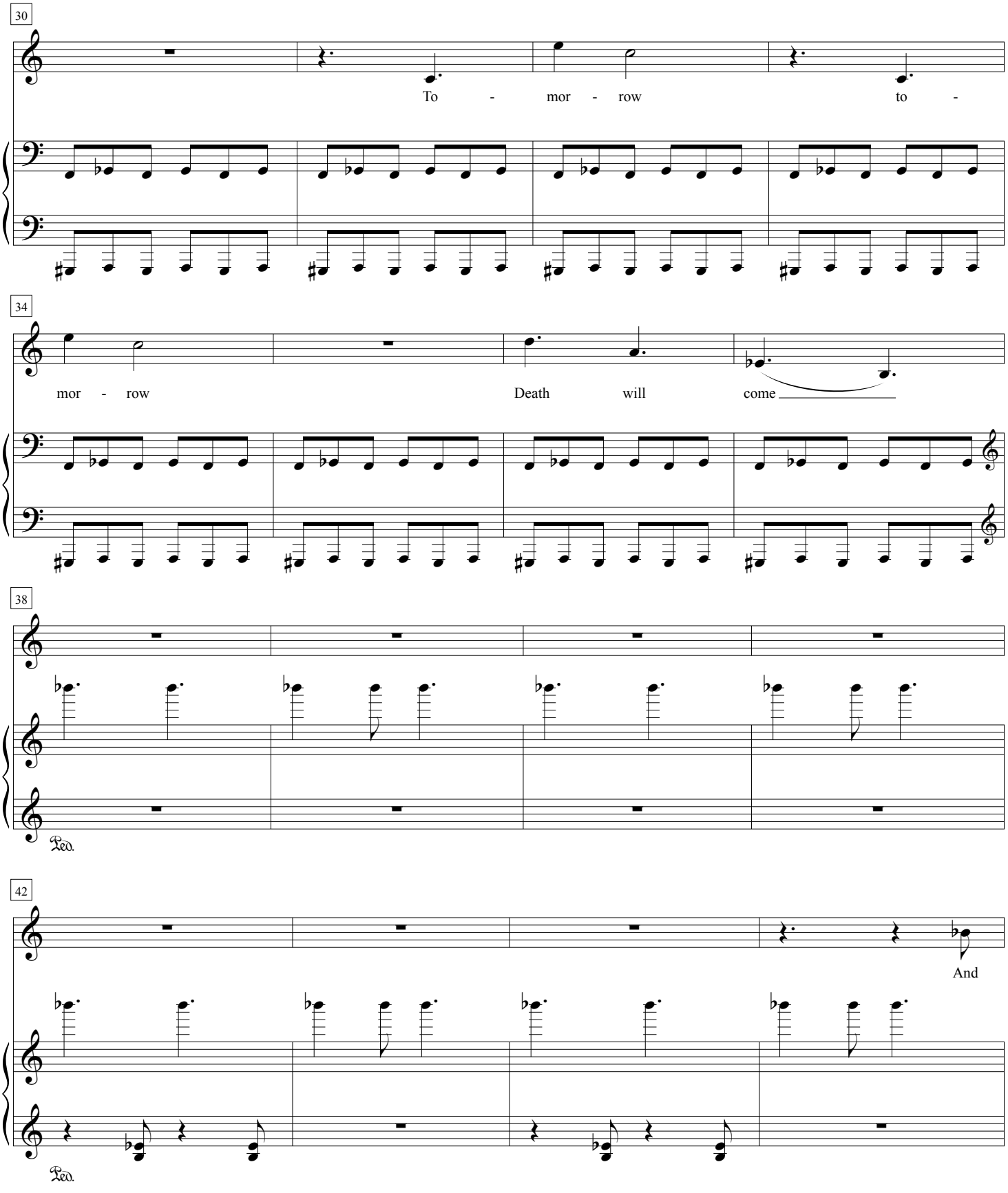
That watch over Camaguey The ten an - gels are play - ing gan - ga - ri - as and the com - par - sa goes a way

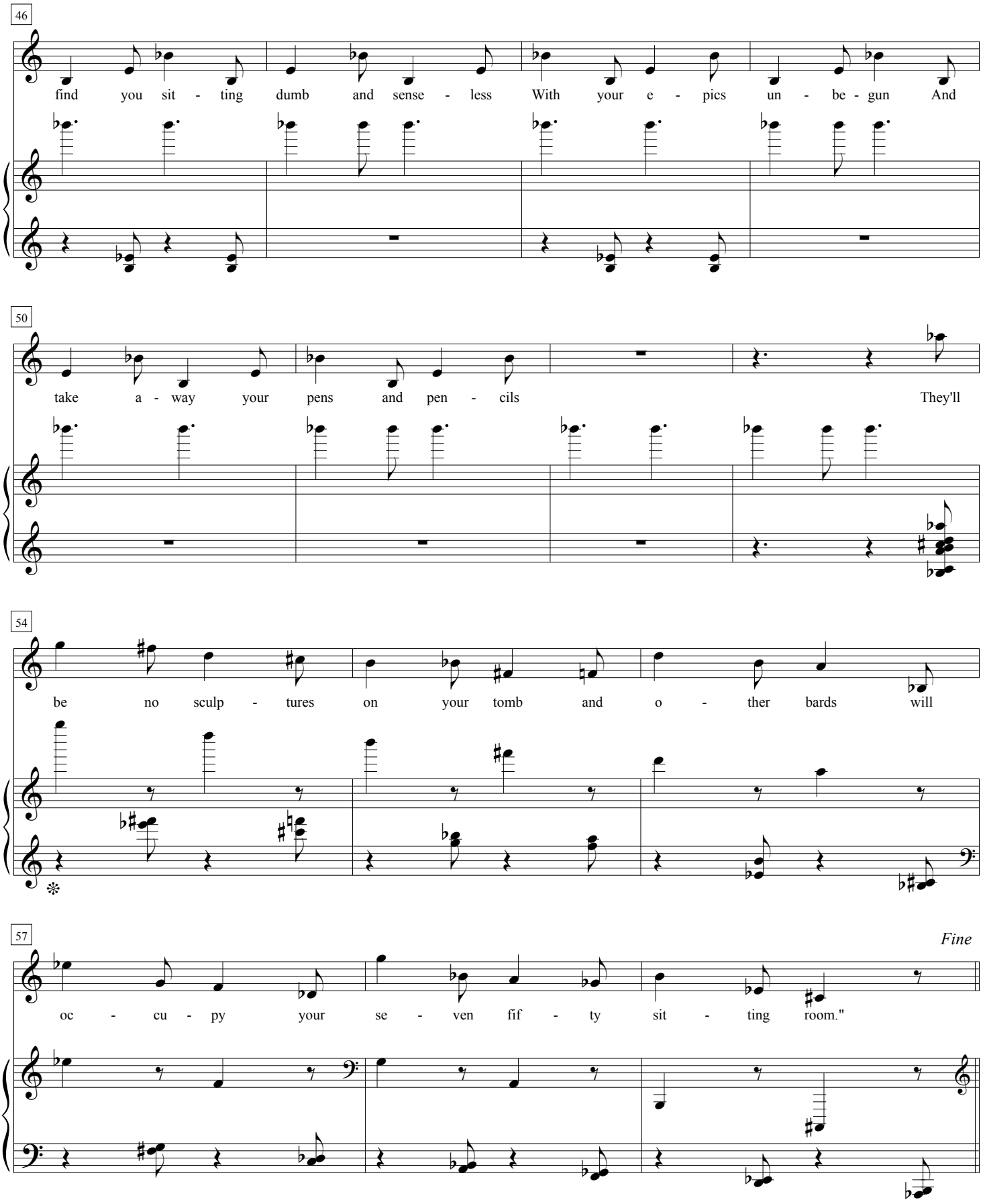
March 1986, Westtown, PA

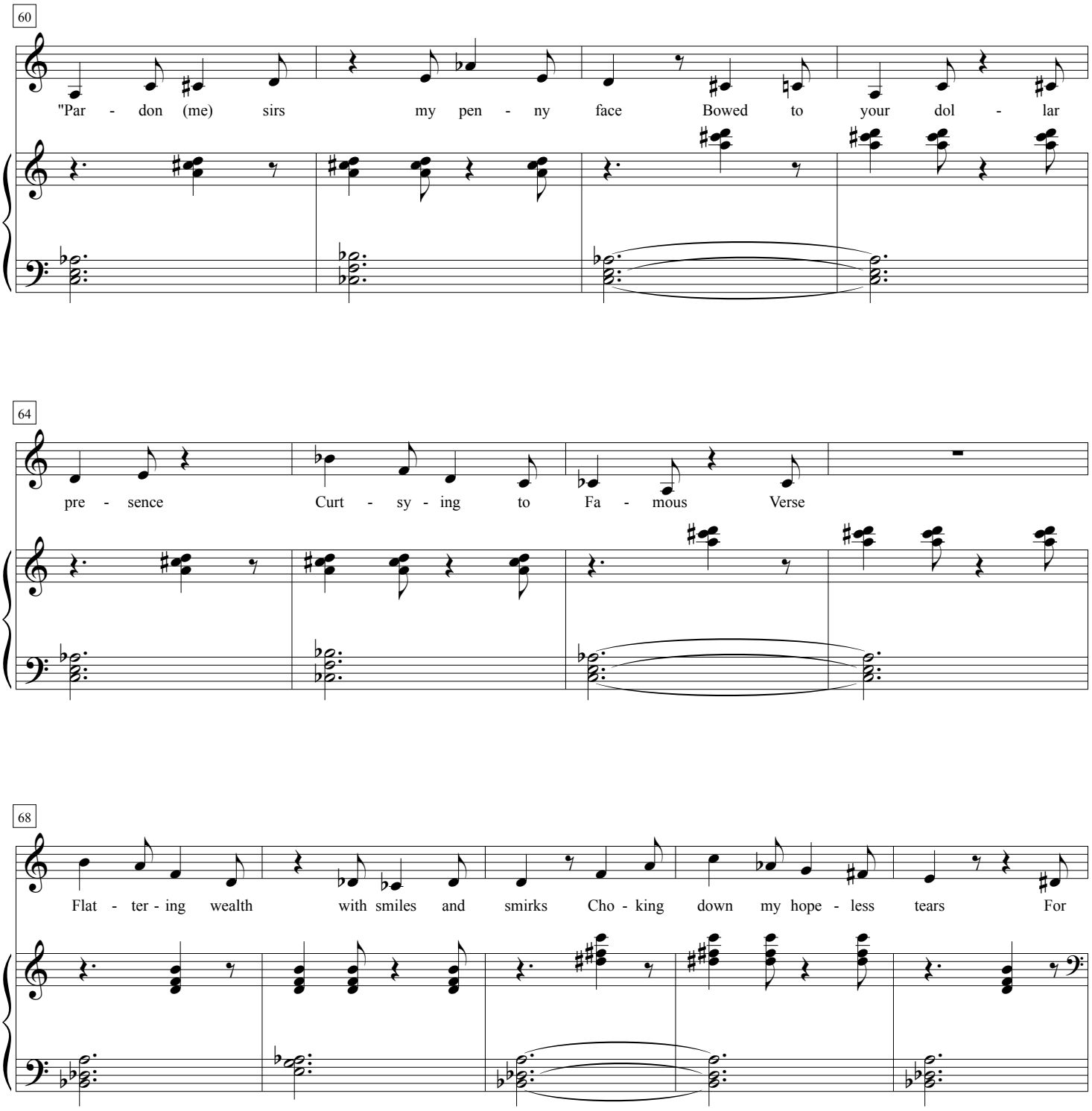
IX. THE STRIFE BETWEEN THE POET AND AMBITION

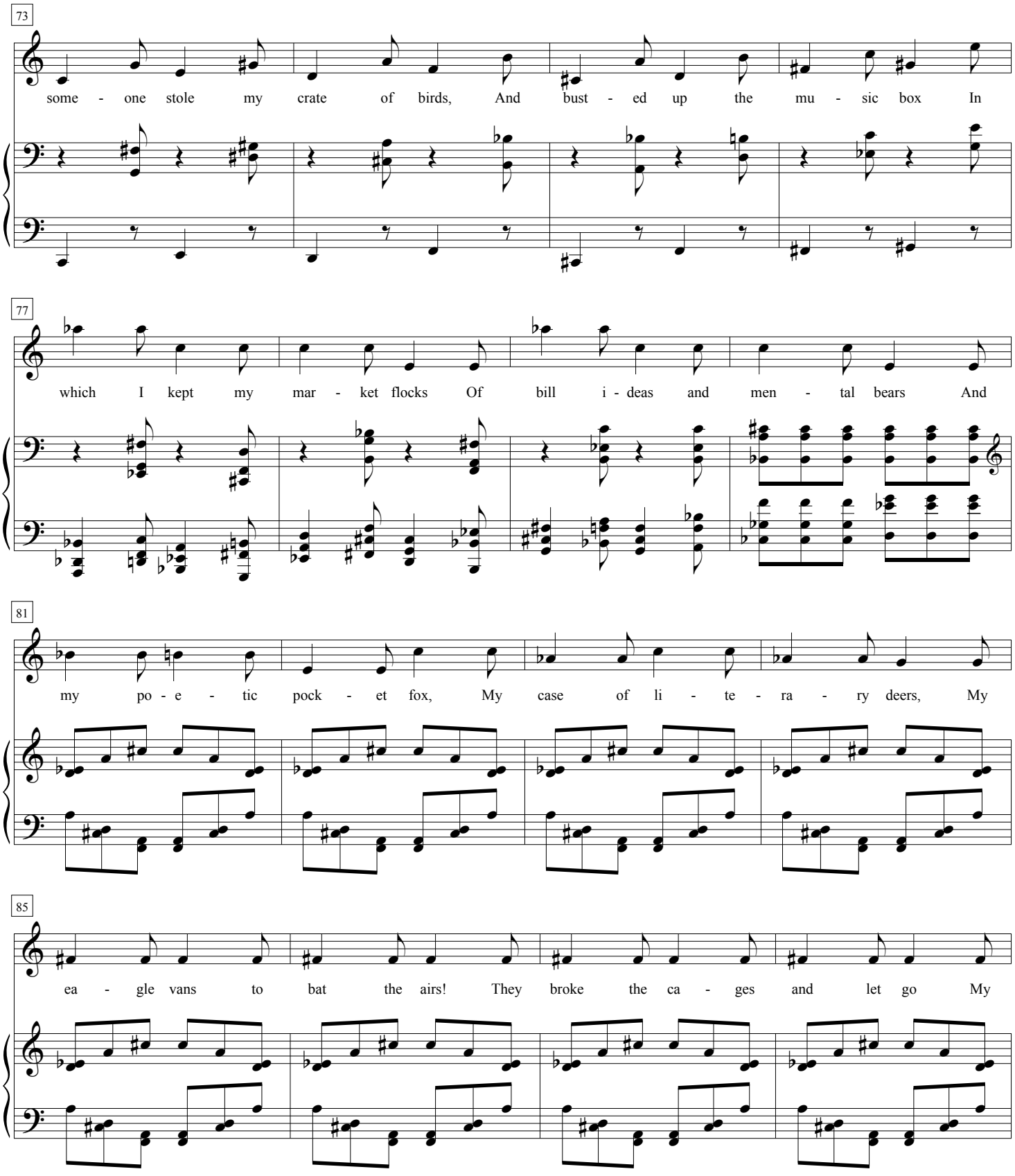


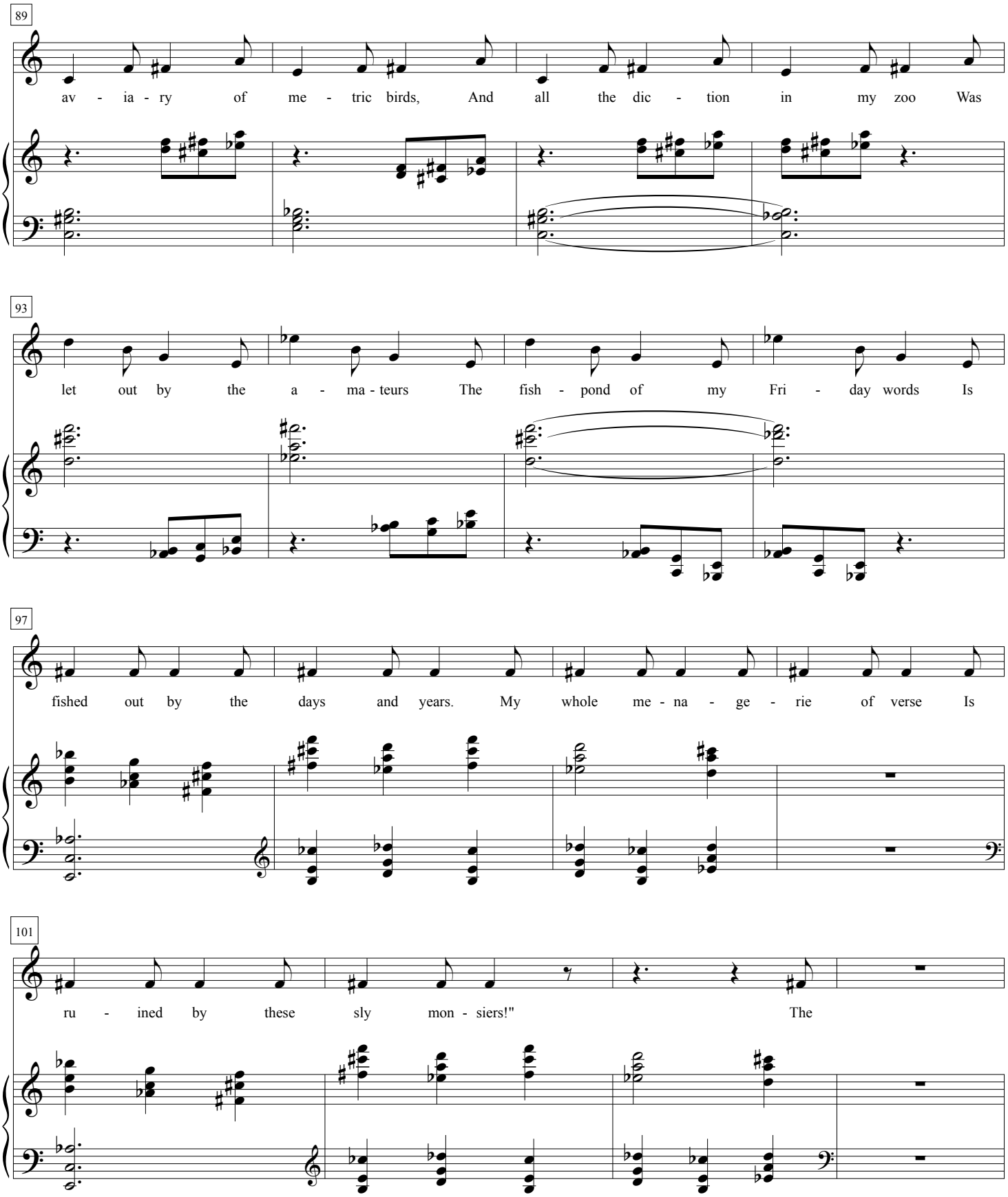

17
"Bet - ter sing your snatch of song be - fore the os - trich voice is dumb Bet - ter
22
hit your share of gong
26
Be - fore the sound - ing brass is mum

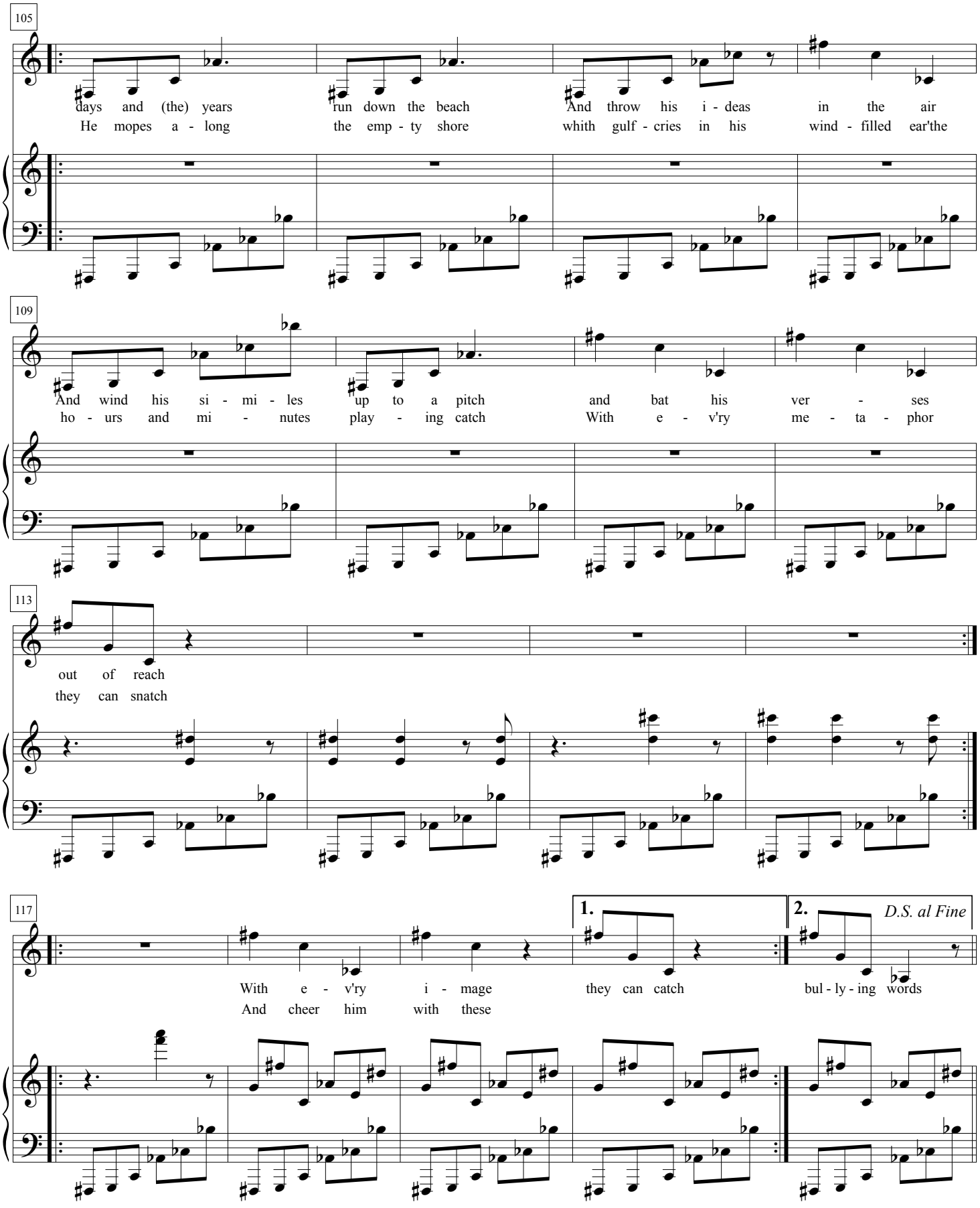

30
To - mor - row to -
34
mor - row Death will come
38
Ped.
42
And
Ped.

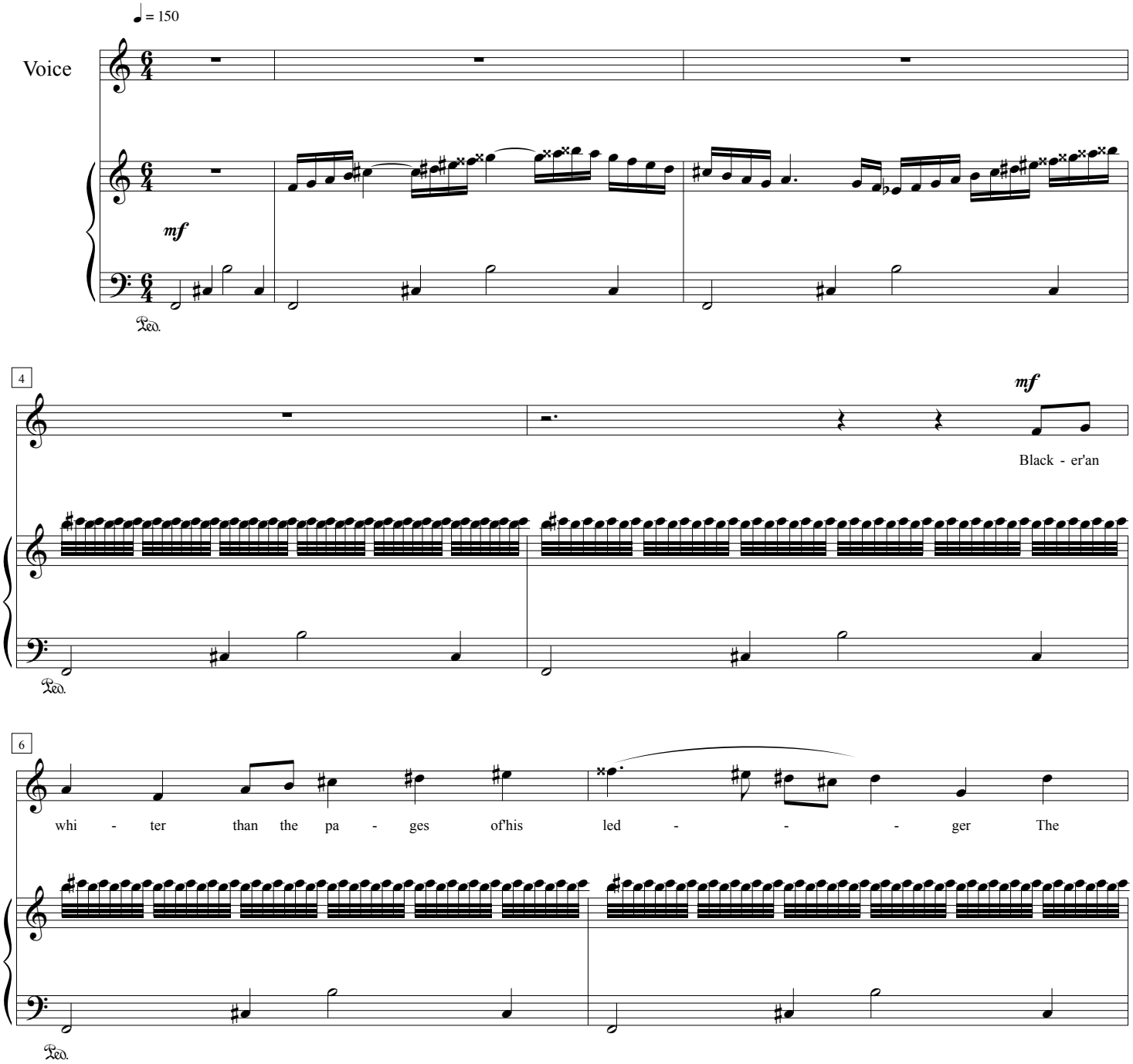

46
find you sit - ting dumb and sense - less With your e - pics un - be - gun And
50
take a - way your pens and pen - cils They'll
54
be no sculp - tures on your tomb and o - ther bards will
57
Fine
oc - cu - py your se - ven fif - ty sit - ting room."

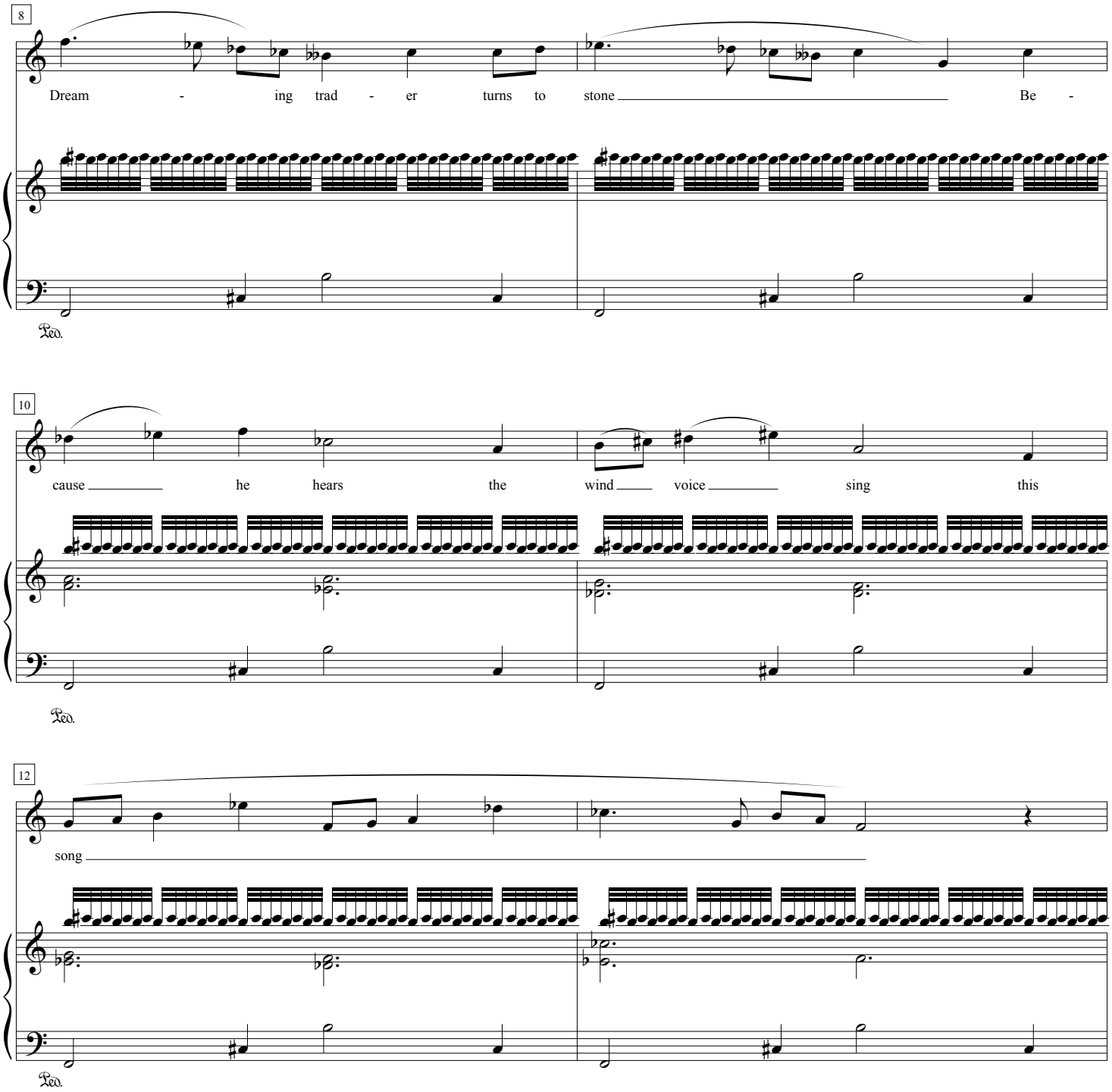

60
"Par - don (me) sirs my pen - ny face Bowed to your dol - lar
64
pre - sence Curt - sy - ing to Fa - mous Verse
68
Flat - ter - ing wealth with smiles and smirks Cho - king down my hope - less tears For

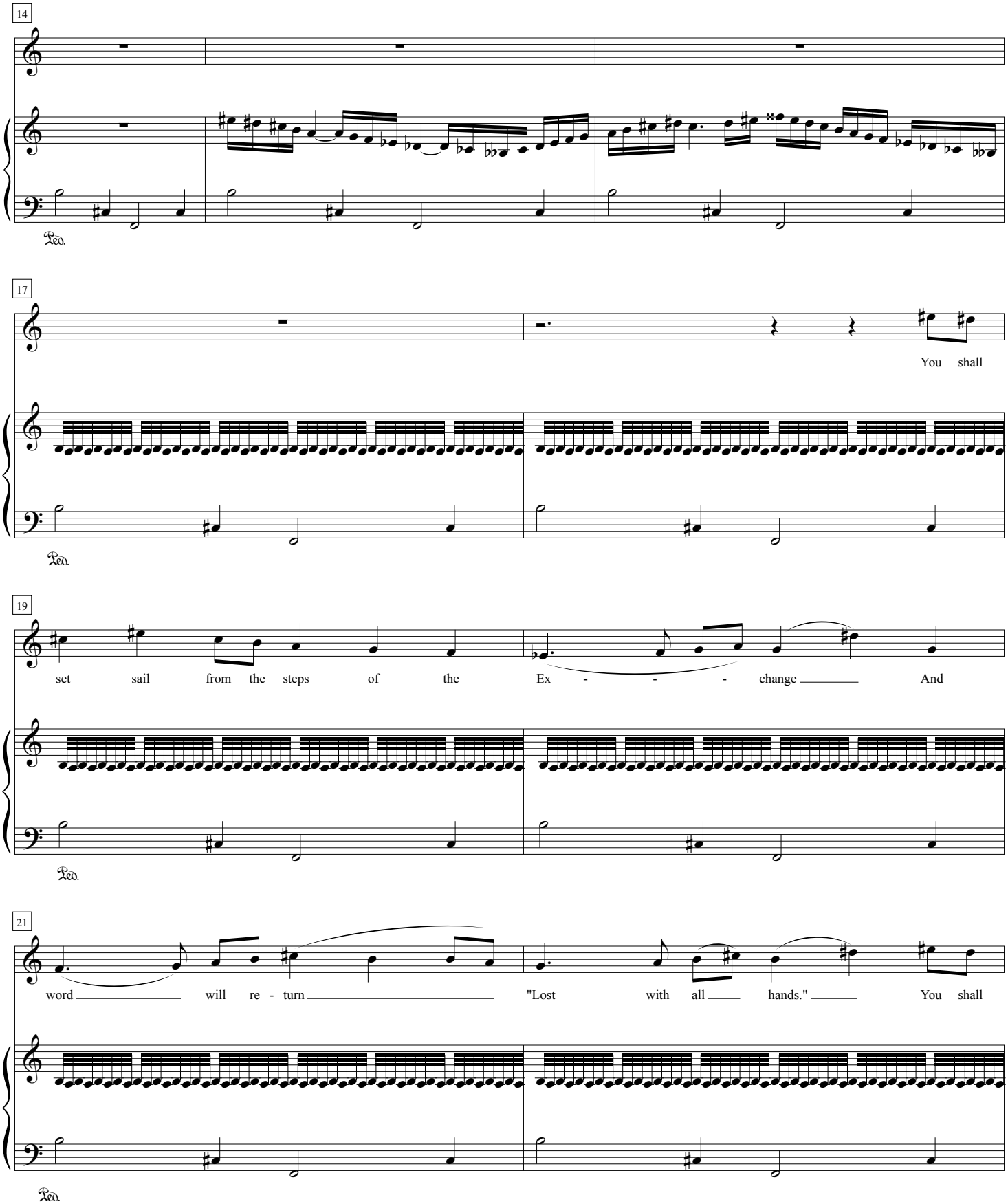

73
some - one stole my crate of birds, And bust - ed up the mu - sic box In
77
which I kept my mar - ket flocks Of bill i - deas and men - tal bears And
81
my po - e - tic pock - et fox, My case of li - te - ra - ry deers, My
85
ea - gle vans to bat the airs! They broke the ca - ges and let go My

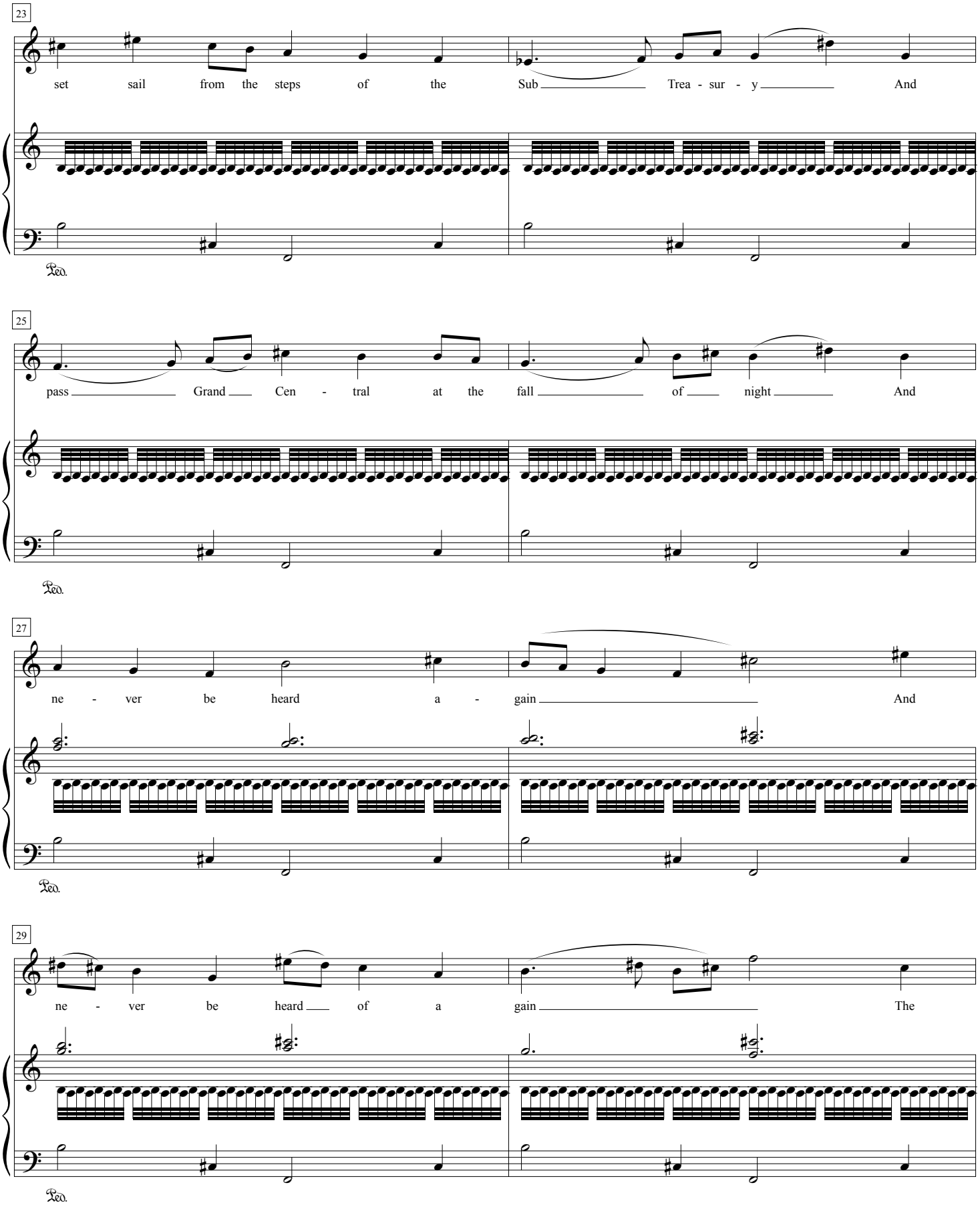

89
av - ia - ry of me - tric birds, And all the dic - tion in my zoo Was
93
let out by the a - ma - teurs The fish - pond of my Fri - day words Is
97
fished out by the days and years. My whole me - na - ge - rie of verse Is
101
ru - ined by these sly mon - siers!" The

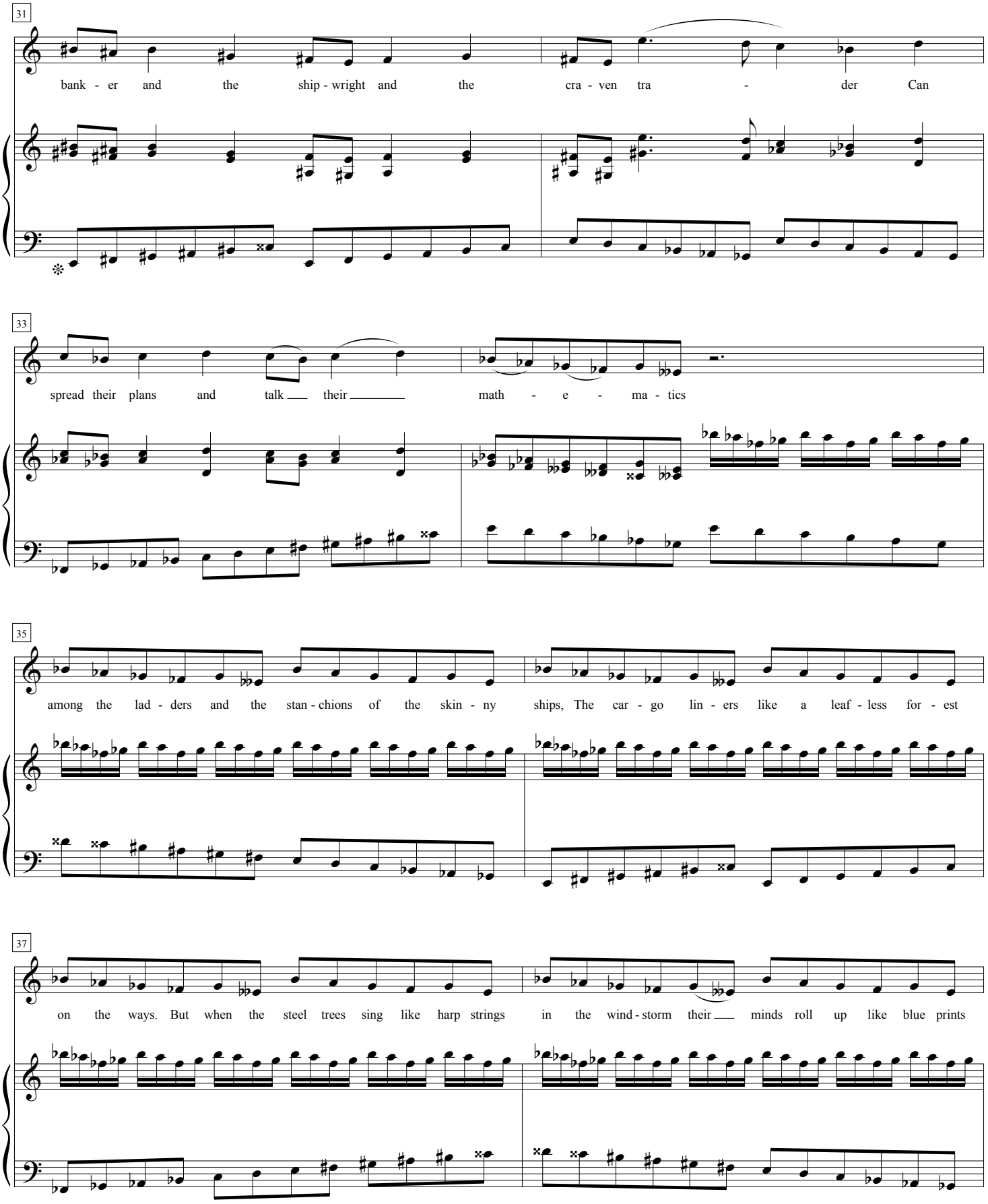

105
days and (the) years run down the beach And throw his i - deas in the air
He mopes a - long the emp - ty shore whith gulf - cries in his wind - filled ear'the
109
And wind his si - mi - les up to a pitch and bat his ver - ses
ho - urs and mi - nutes play - ing catch With e - v'ry me - ta - phor
113
out of reach
they can snatch
117
1.
2.
D.S. al Fine
With e - v'ry i - mage they can catch bul - ly - ing words
And cheer him with these

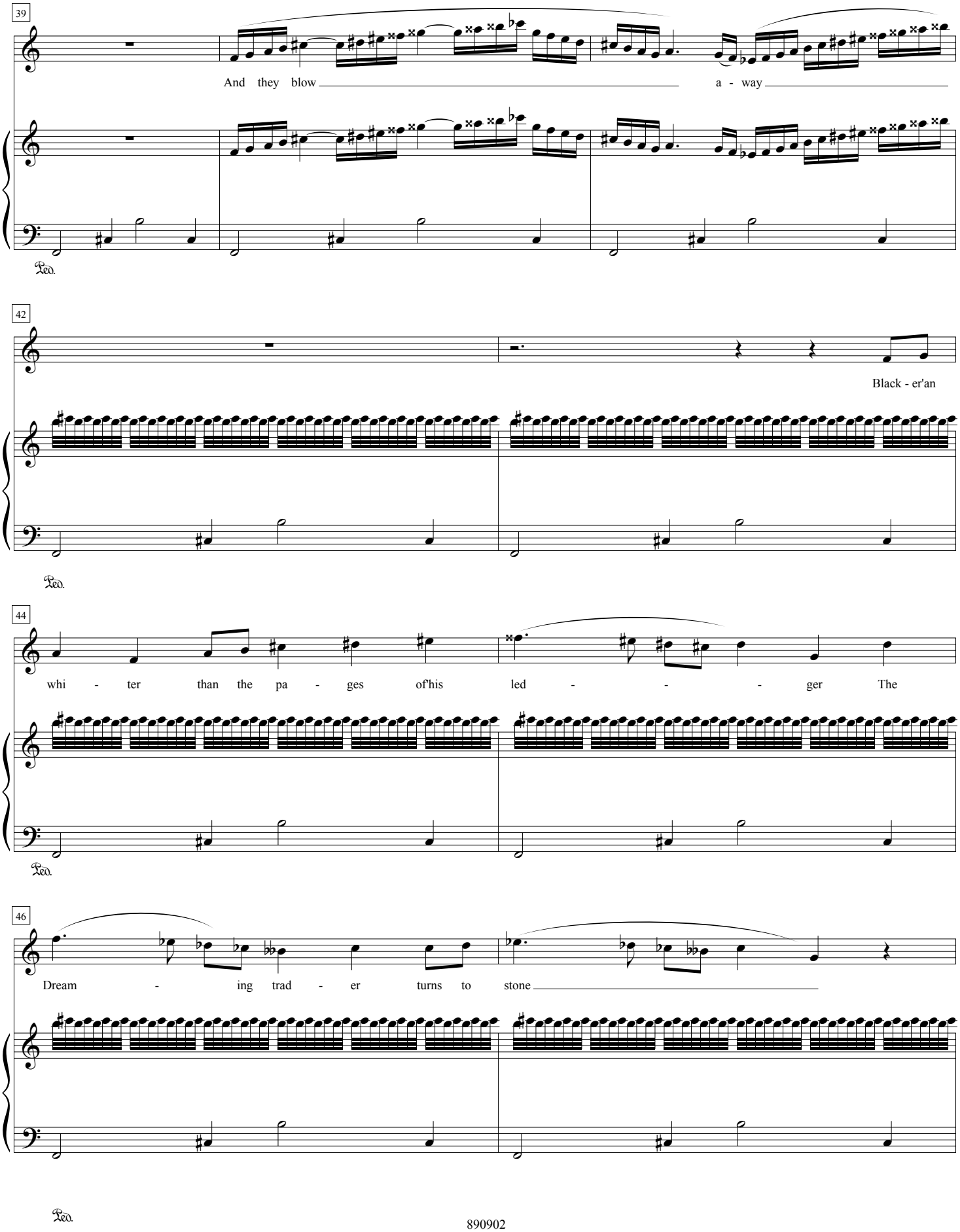

♩ = 150
Voice
mf
Ped.
4
mf
Black - er'an
Ped.
6
whi - ter than the pa - ges of his led - - - ger The
Ped.

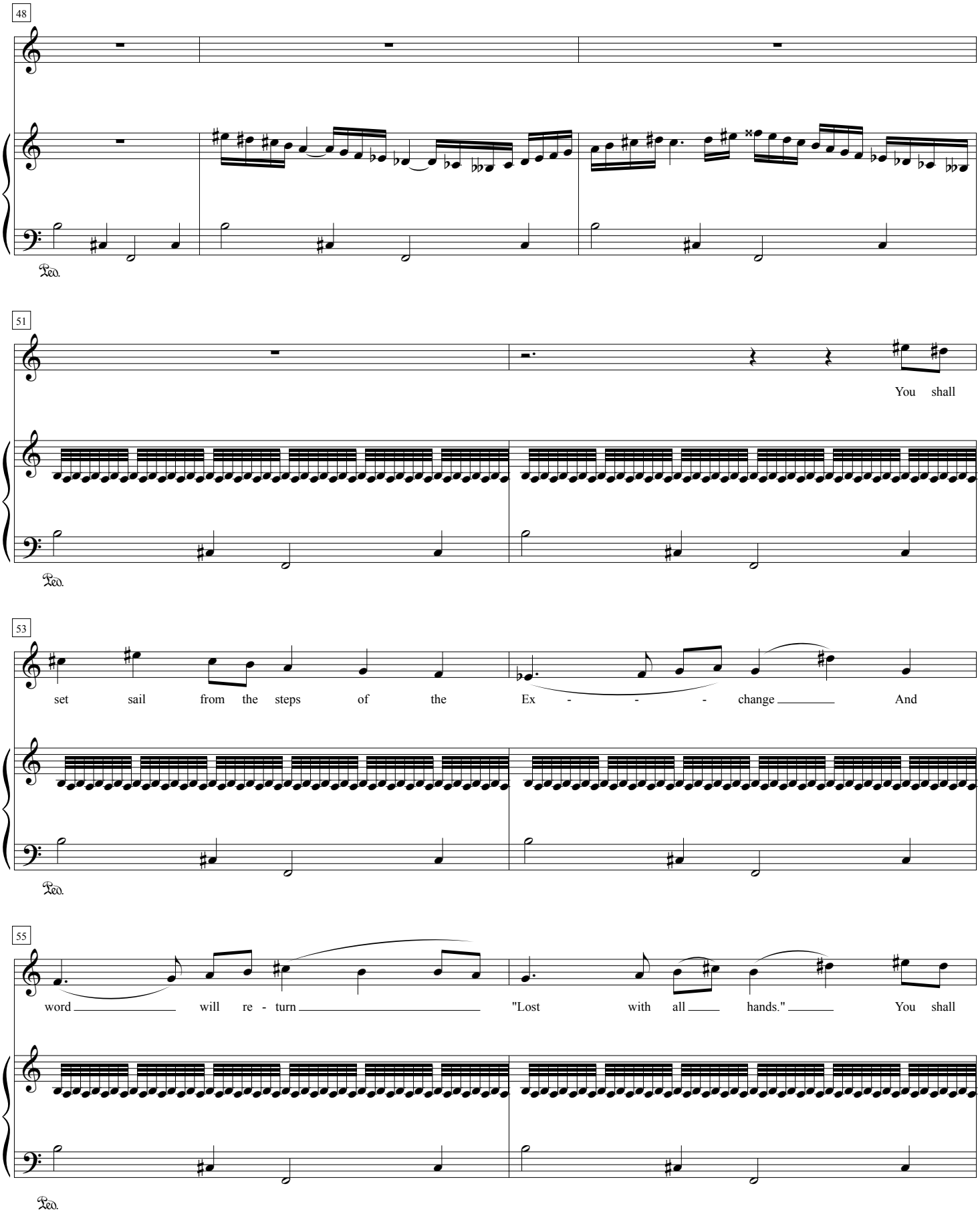

8
Dream - ing trad - er turns to stone Be -
Ped.
10
cause he hears the wind voice sing this
Ped.
12
song
Ped.

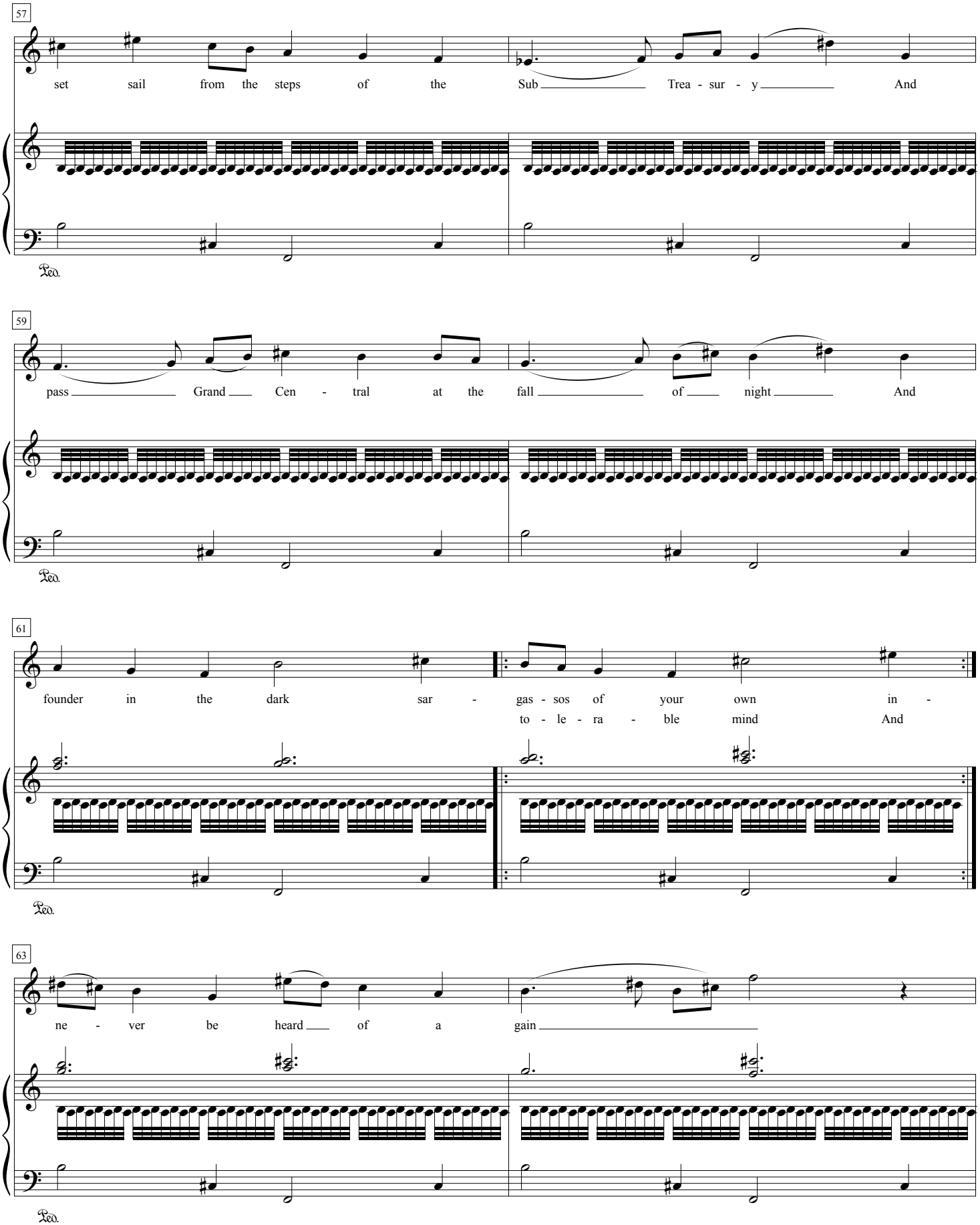

14
Ped.
17
You shall
Ped.
19
set sail from the steps of the Ex - - - change And
Ped.
21
word will re - turn "Lost with all hands." You shall
Ped.

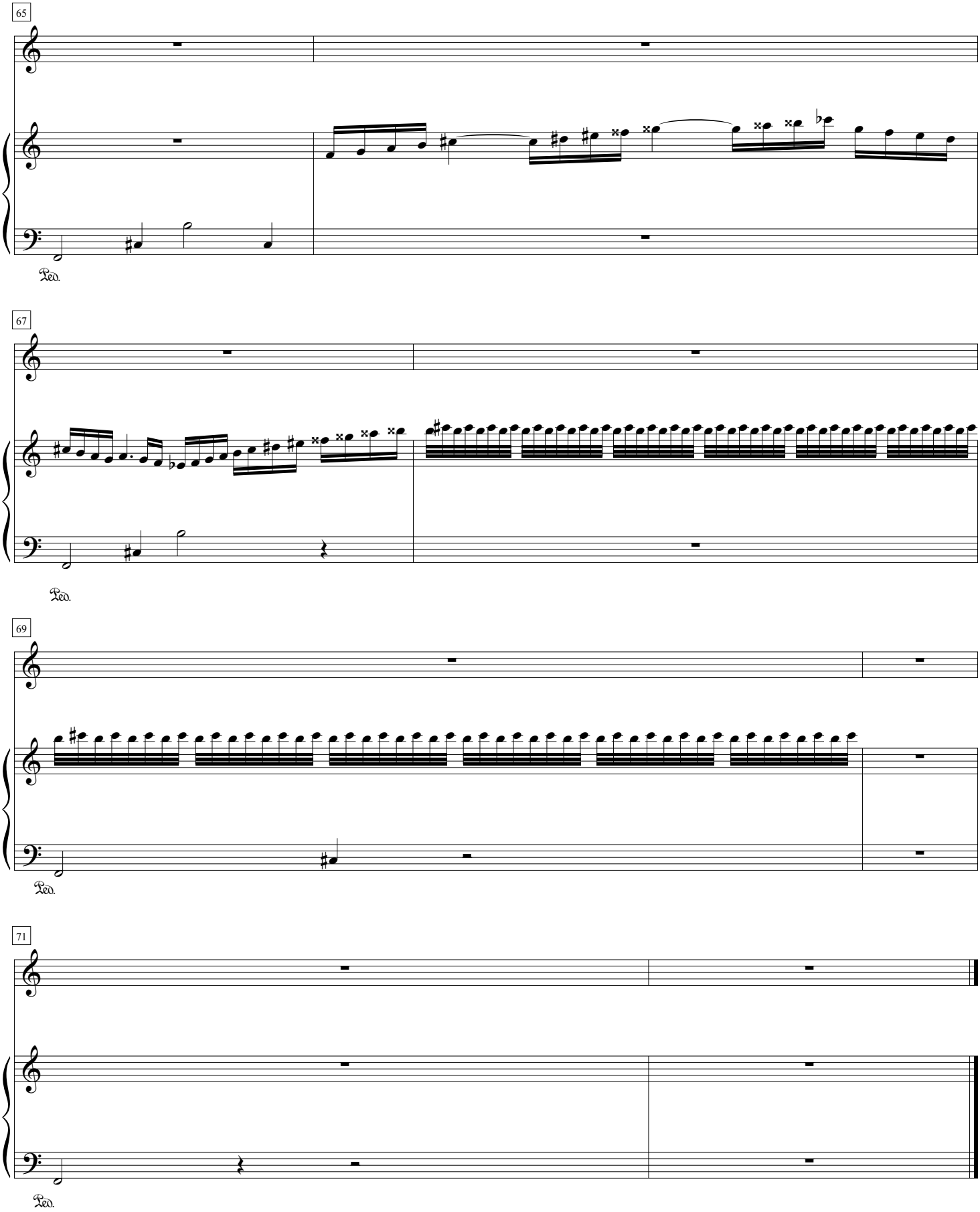

23
set sail from the steps of the Sub Trea - sur - y And
Ped.
25
pass Grand Cen - tral at the fall of night And
Ped.
27
ne - ver be heard a - gain And
Ped.
29
ne - ver be heard of a gain The
Ped.


31
bank - er and the ship - wright and the cra - ven tra - der Can
33
spread their plans and talk their math - e - ma - tics
35
among the lad - ders and the stan - chions of the skin - ny ships, The car - go lin - ers like a leaf - less for - est
37
on the ways. But when the steel trees sing like harp strings in the wind - storm their minds roll up like blue prints


39
And they blow a - way
Ped.
42
Black - er'an
Ped.
44
whi - ter than the pa - ges of'his led - - - ger The
Ped.
46
Dream - ing trad - er turns to stone
Ped.

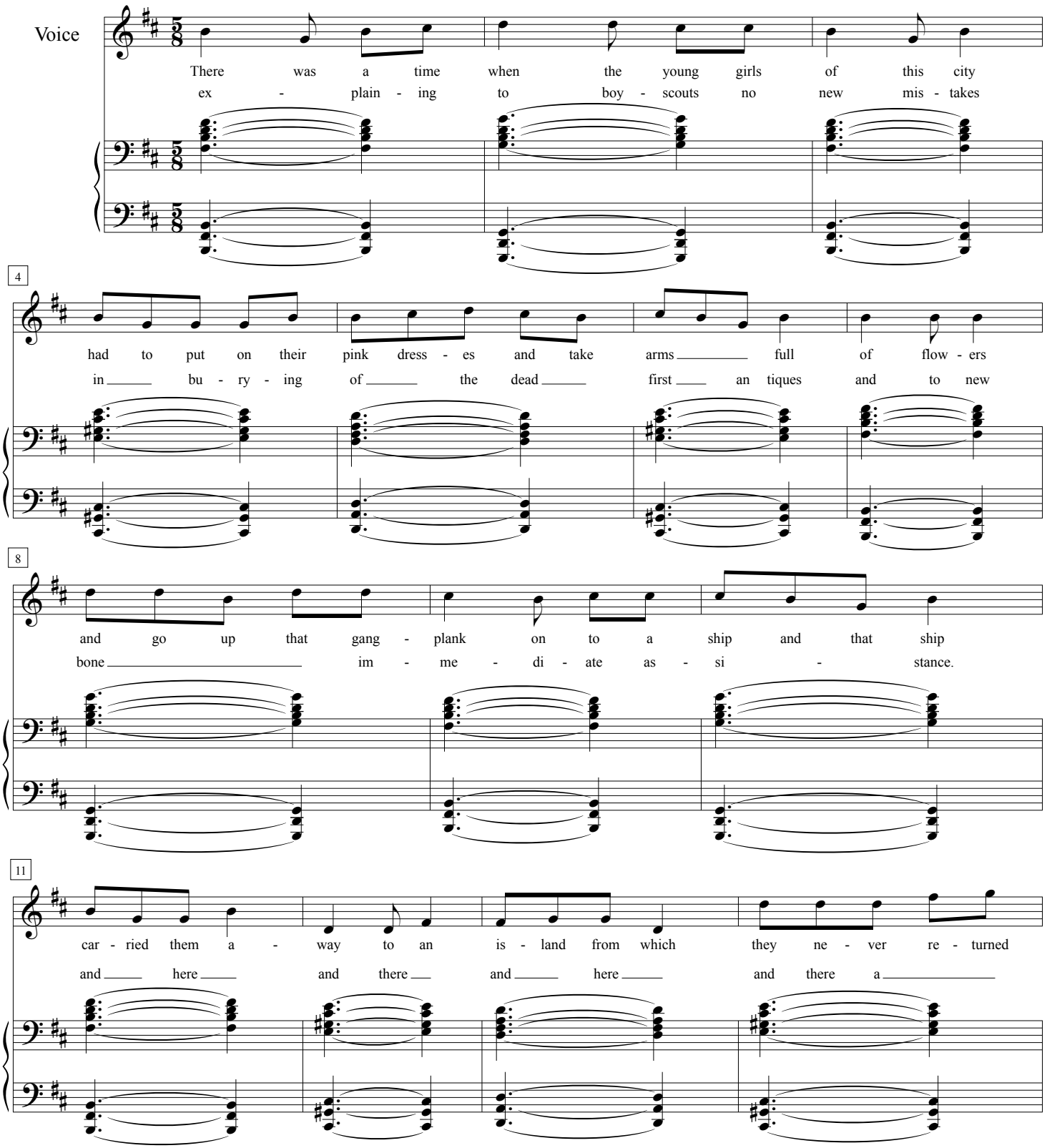

48
Ped.
51
You shall
Ped.
53
set sail from the steps of the Ex - - - change And
Ped.
55
word will re - turn "Lost with all hands." You shall
Ped.


57
set sail from the steps of the Sub Trea - sur - y And
Ped.
59
pass Grand Cen - tral at the fall of night And
Ped.
61
founder in the dark sar - gas - sos of your own in -
to - le - ra - ble mind And
Ped.
63
ne - ver be heard of a gain
Ped.

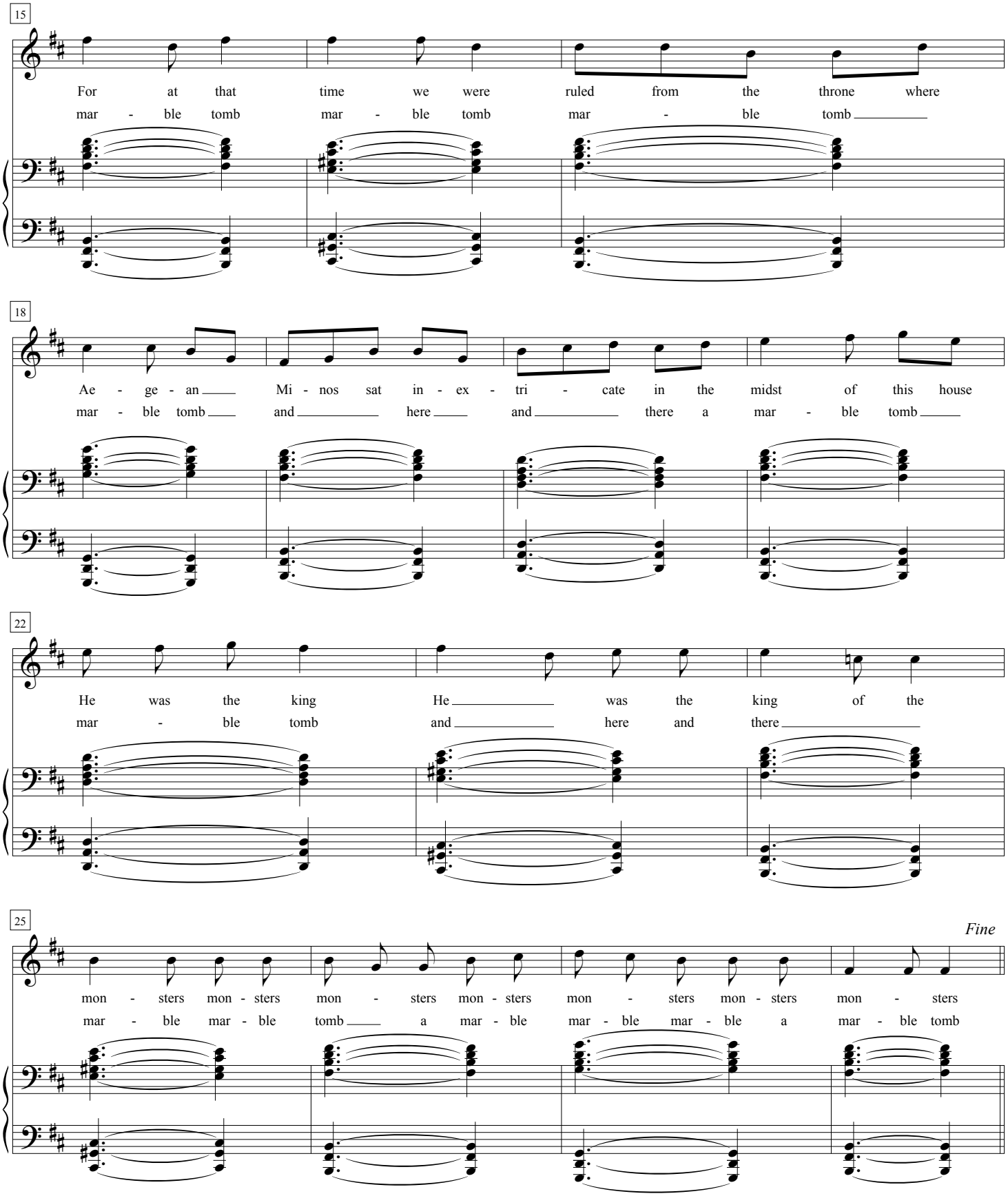

65
Ped.
67
Ped.
69
Ped.
71
Ped.

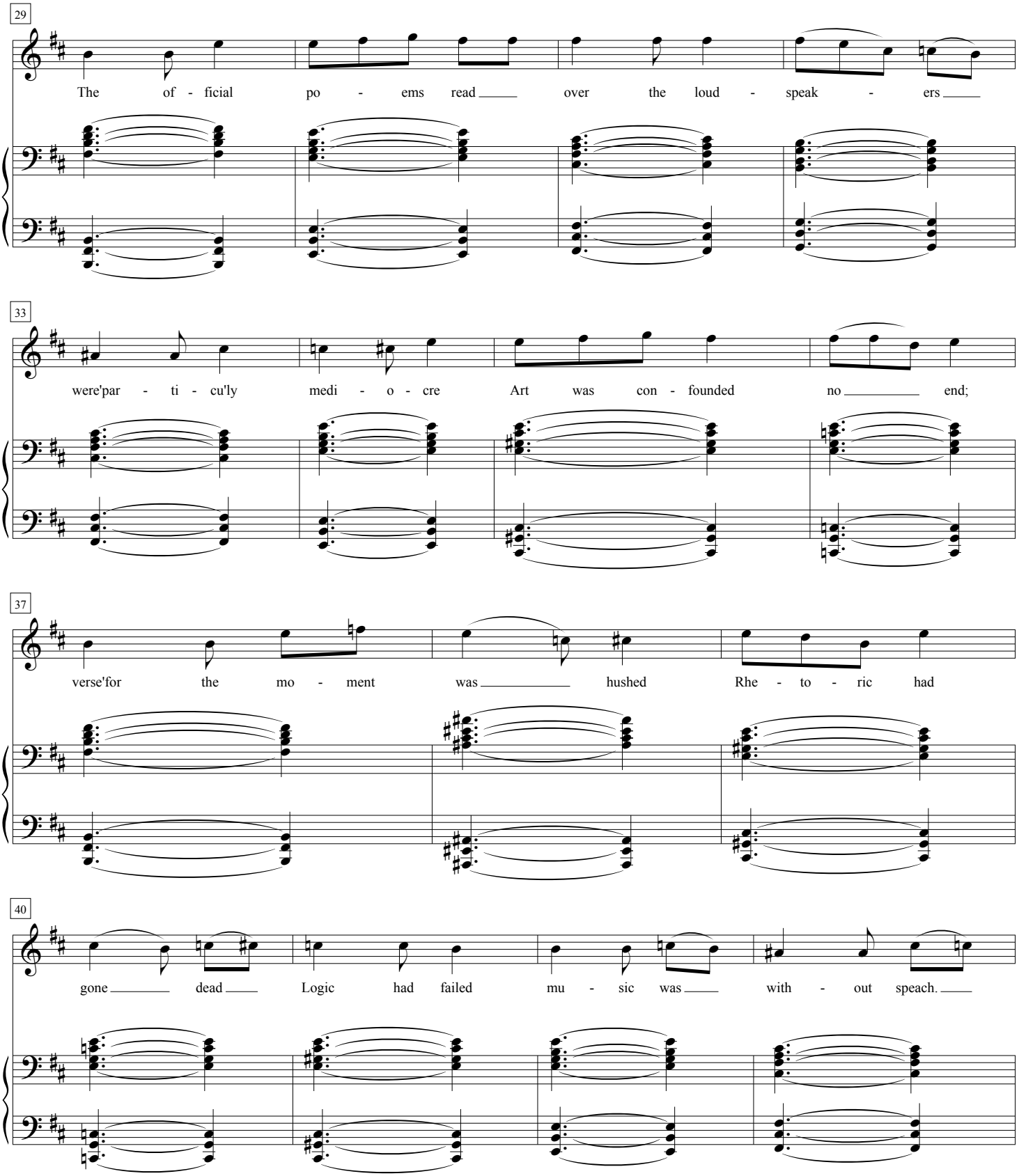
XI. FROM THE SECOND CHAPTER OF A VERSE HISTORY OF THE WORLD
Minotaur

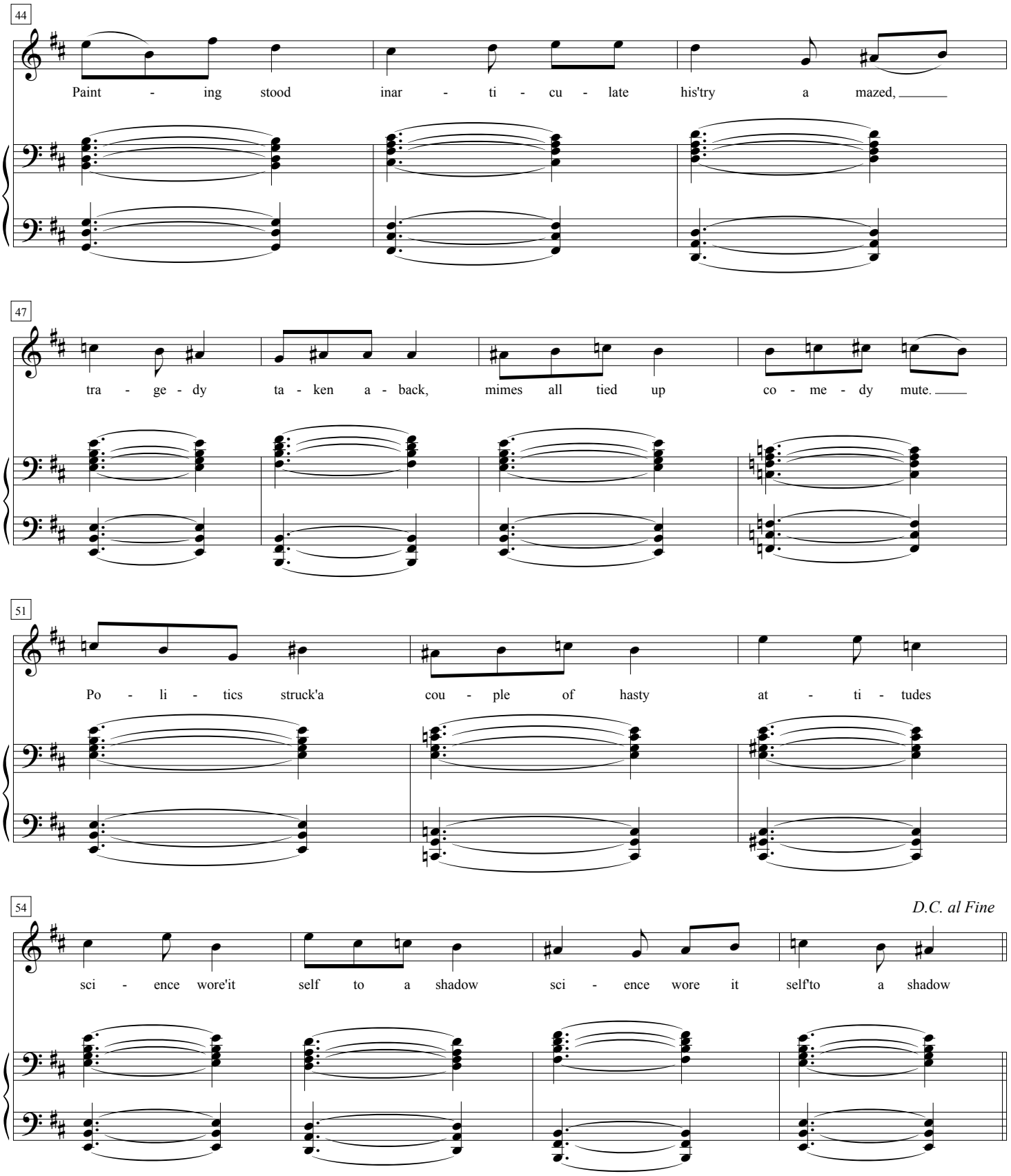
♪ = 250 (Spoken or sung, in or out of notated rhythm*)



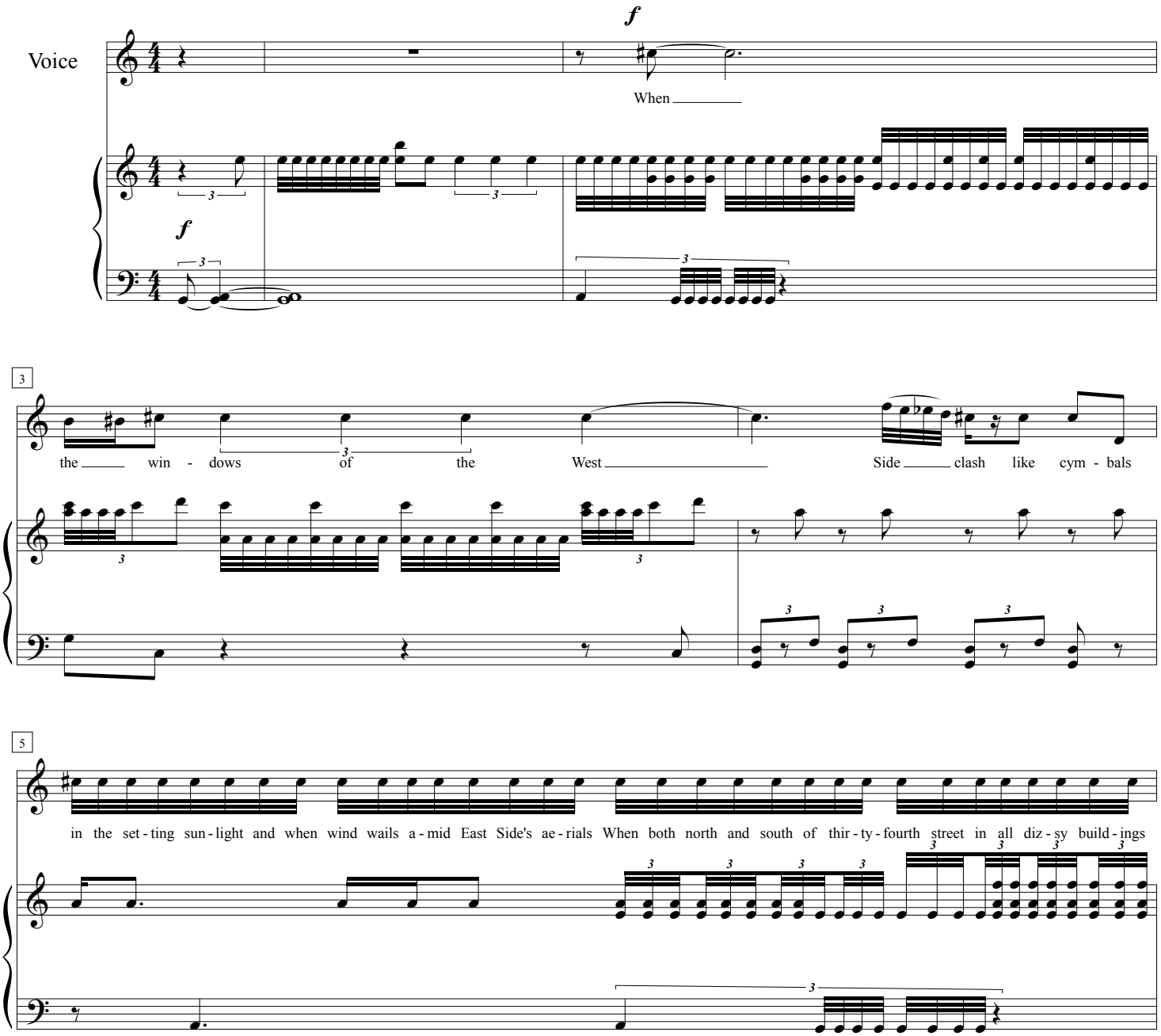
N.B. Melody may be performed on any instrument, in lieu of, or in addition to, singer

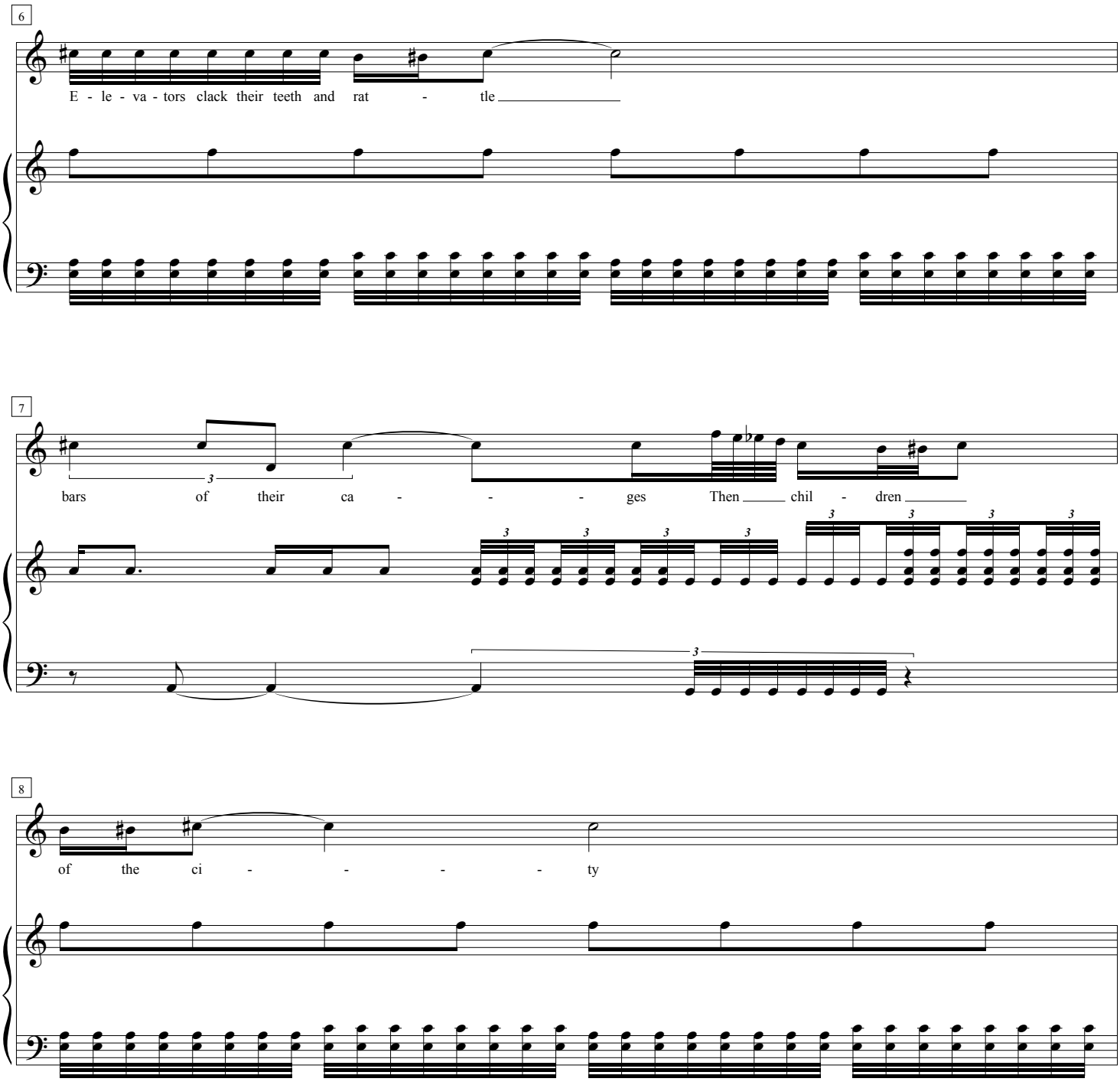

15
For at that time we were ruled from the throne where
mar - ble tomb mar - ble tomb mar - ble tomb
18
Ae - ge - an Mi - nos sat in - ex - tri - cate in the midst of this house
mar - ble tomb and here and there a mar - ble tomb
22
He was the king He was the king of the
mar - ble tomb and here and there
25
Fine
mon - sters mon - sters mon - sters mon - sters mon - sters mon - sters mon - sters
mar - ble mar - ble tomb a mar - ble mar - ble mar - ble a mar - ble tomb

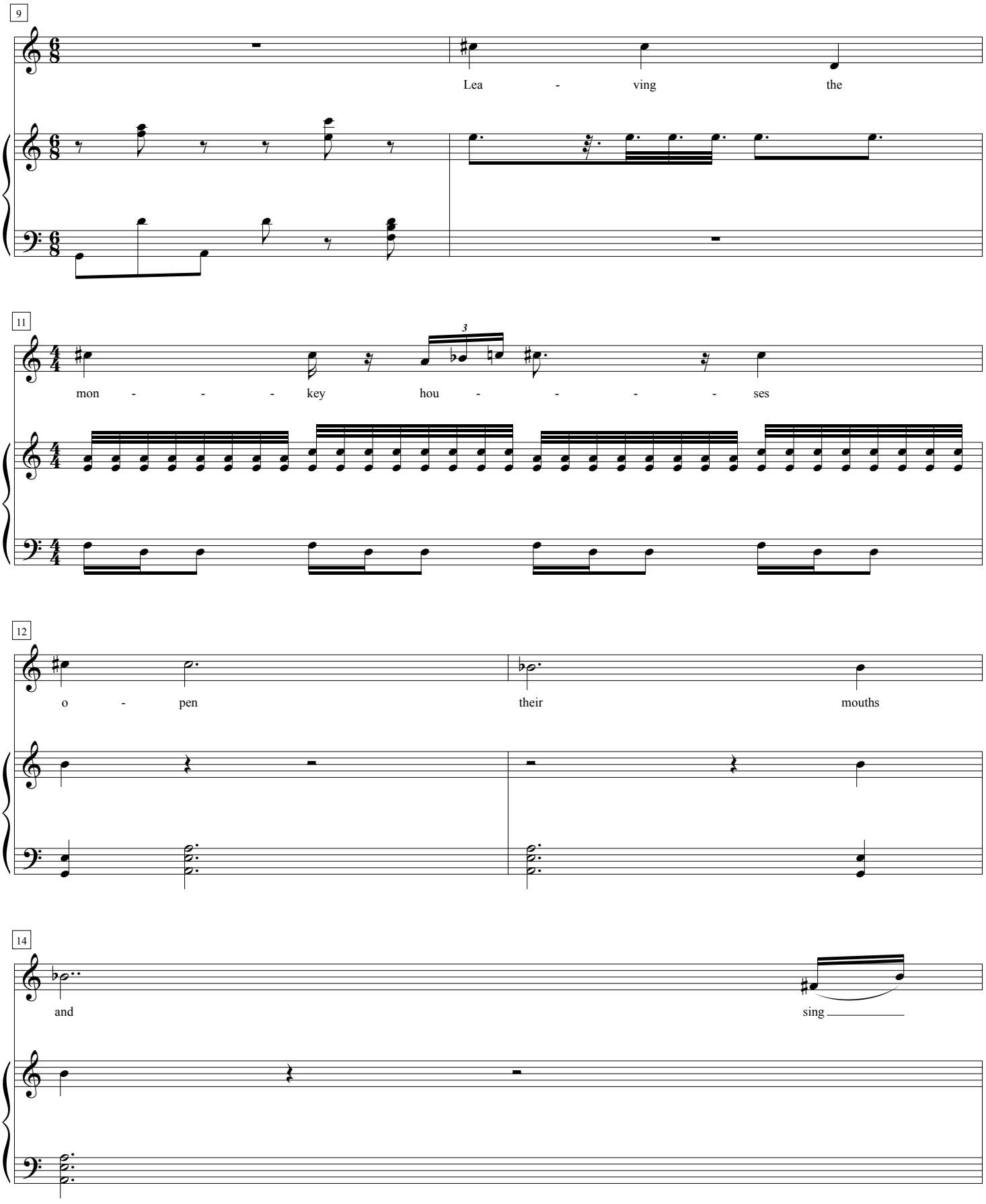

29
The of - ficial po - ems read over the loud - speak - ers
33
were'par - ti - cu'ly medi - o - cre Art was con - founded no end;
37
verse'for the mo - ment was hushed Rhe - to - ric had
40
gone dead Logic had failed mu - sic was with - out speach.


44
Paint - ing stood inar - ti - cu - late his'try a mazed,
47
tra - ge - dy ta - ken a - back, mimes all tied up co - me - dy mute.
51
Po - li - tics struck'a cou - ple of hasty at - ti - tudes
54
D.C. al Fine
sci - ence wore'it self to a shadow sci - ence wore it self'to a shadow

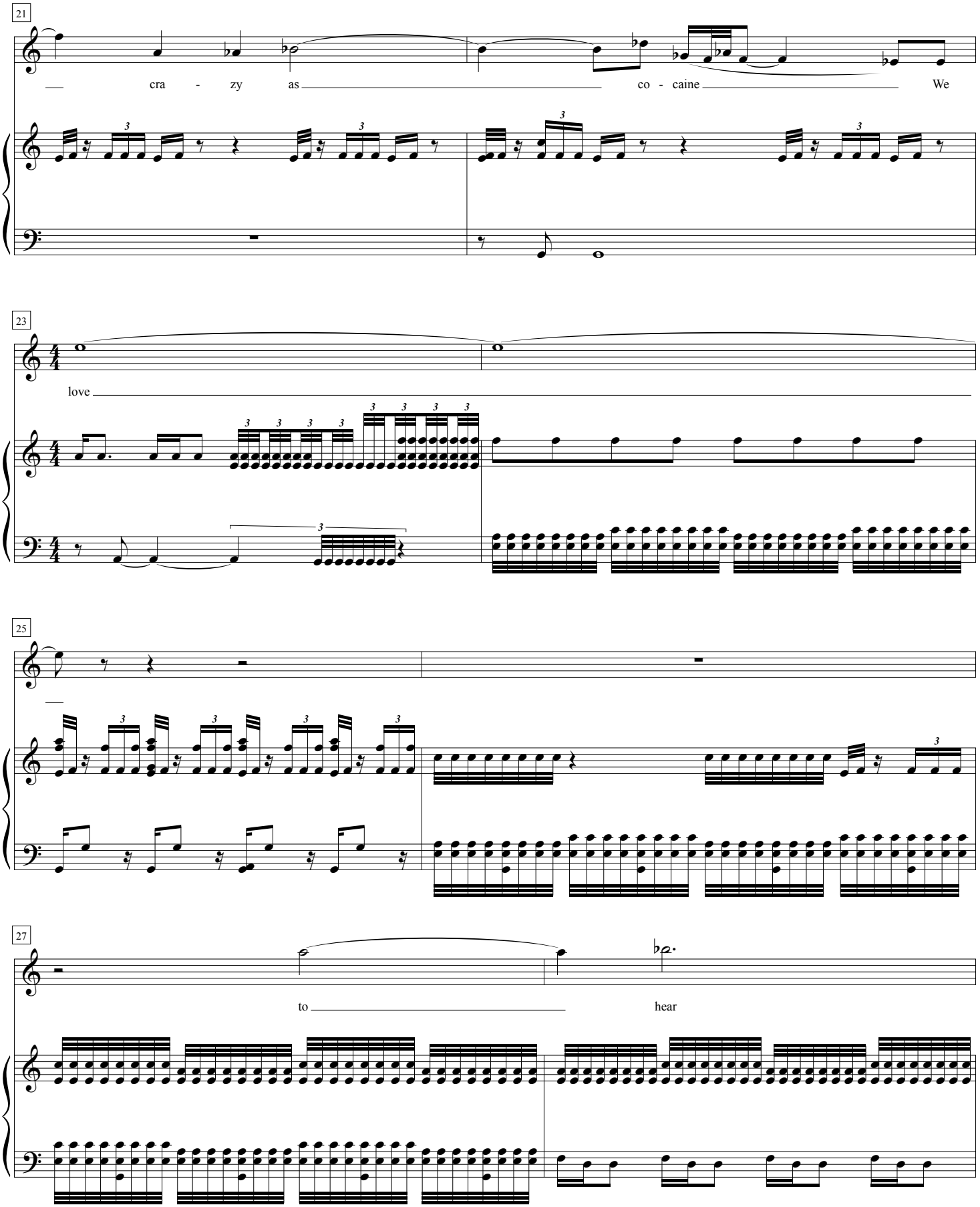
XII. HYMN OF NOT MUCH PRAISE FOR NEW YORK CITY

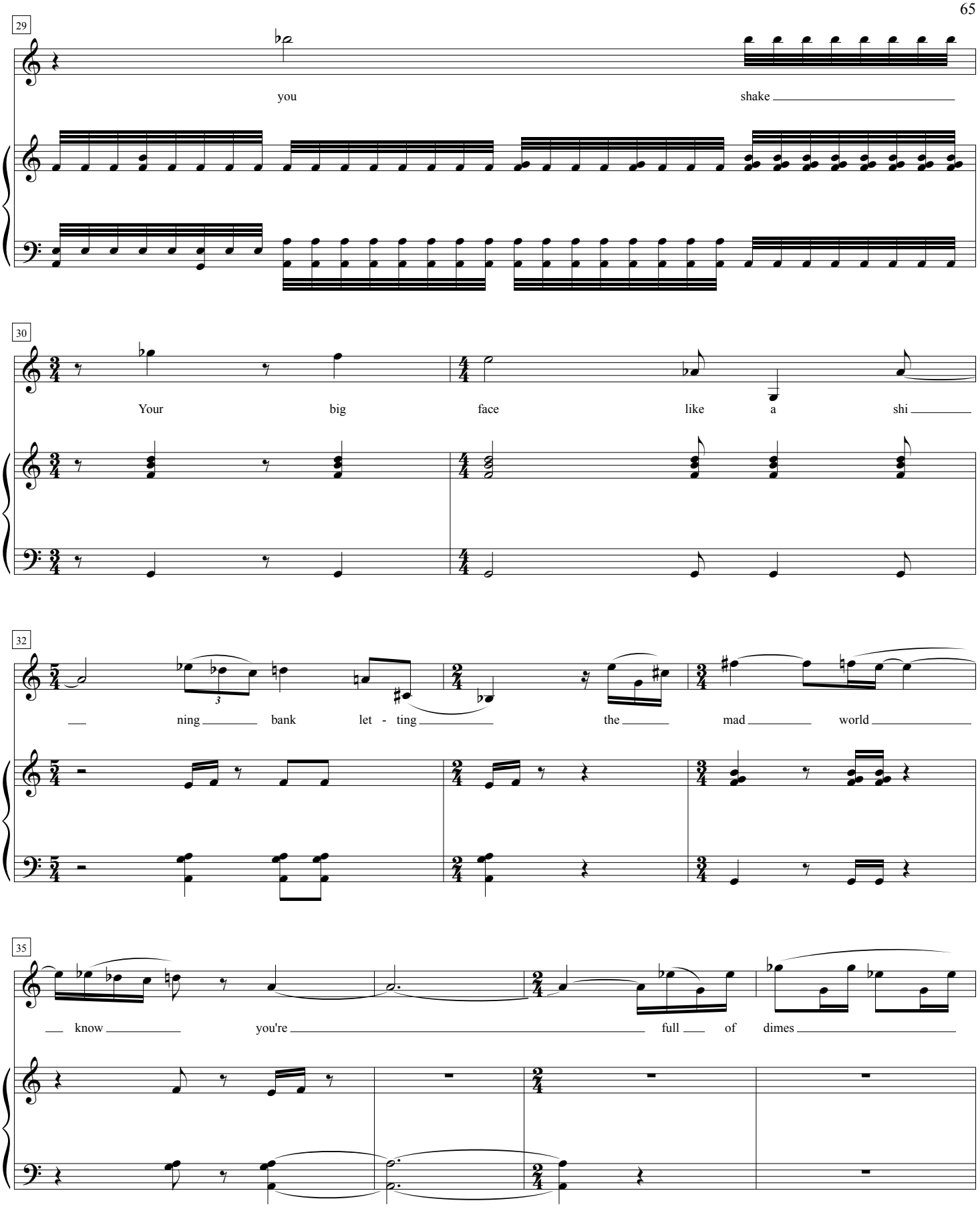


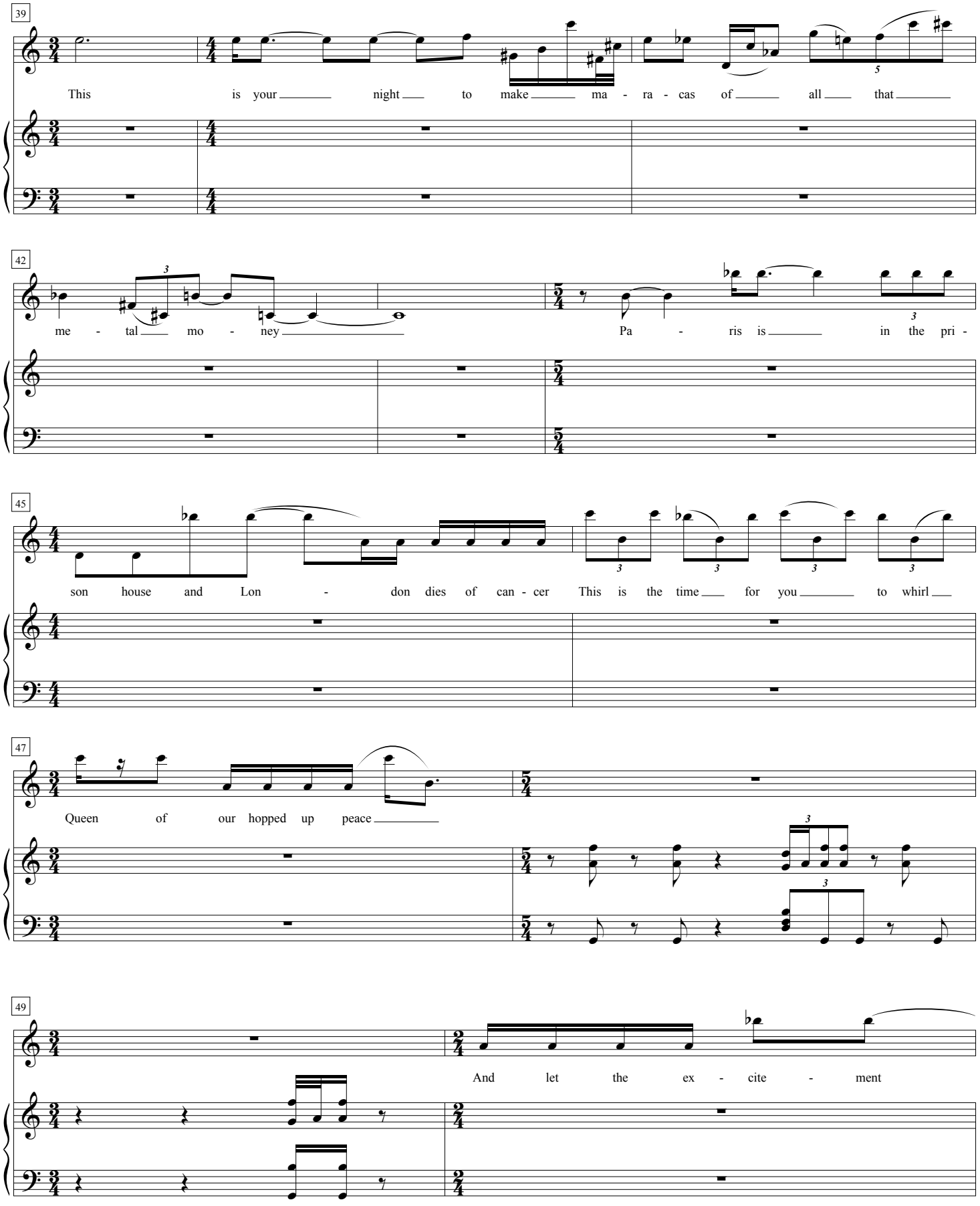

6
E - le - va - tors clack their teeth and rat - tle
7
bars of their ca - - - ges Then chil - dren
8
of the ci - - - - ty

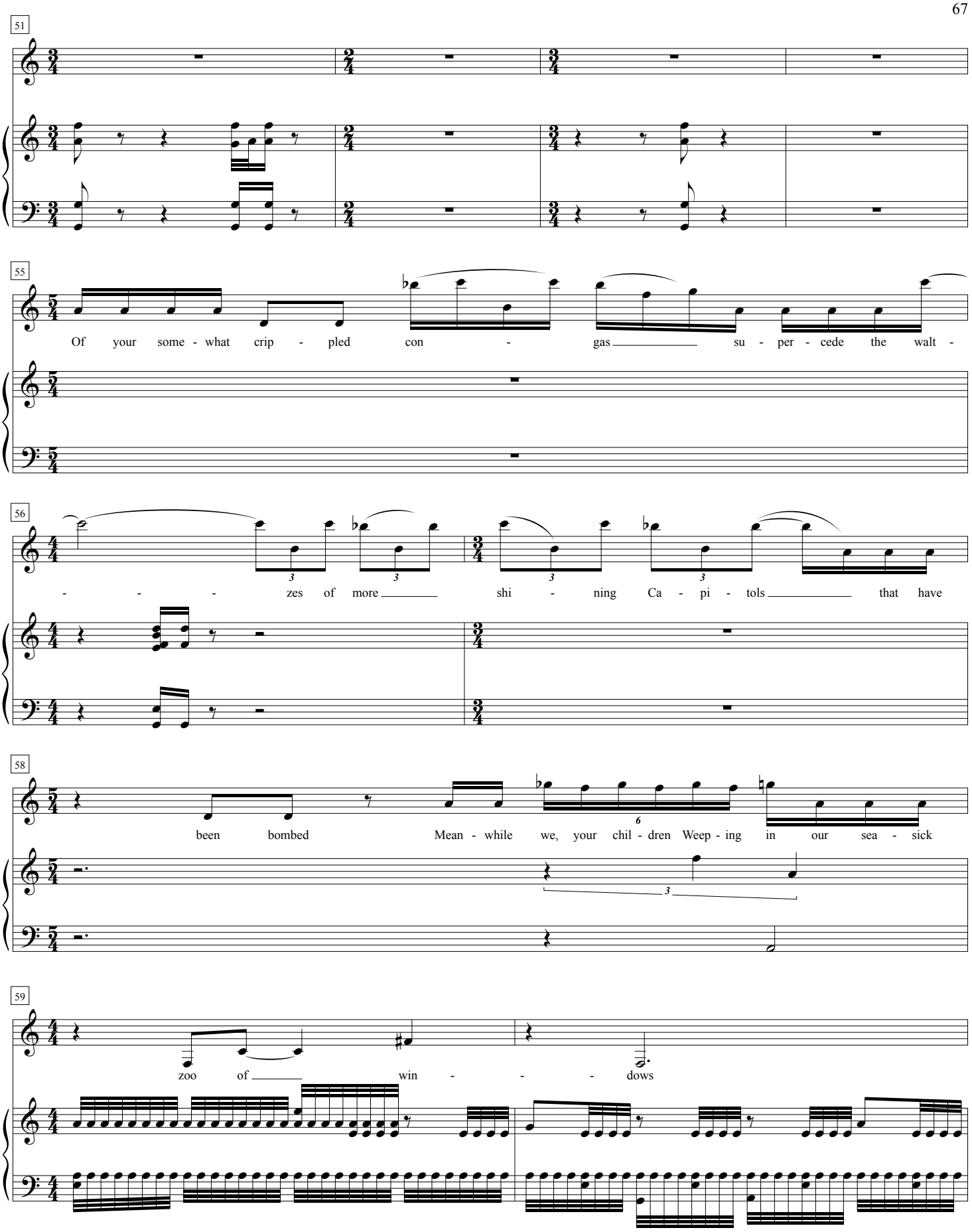

9
Lea - ving the
11
3
mon - - - key hou - - - - ses
12
o - pen their mouths
14
and
sing

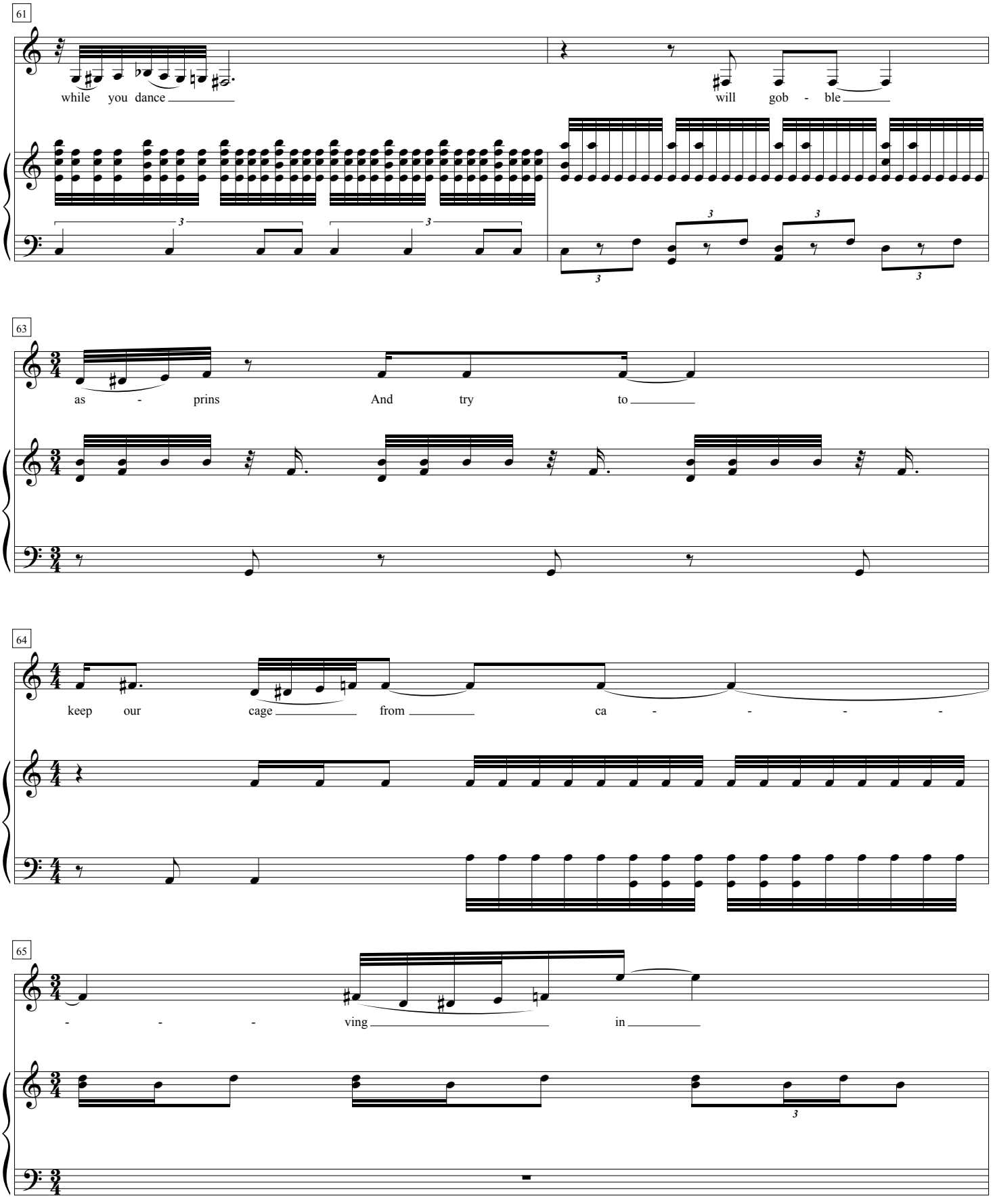
15
Queen a - mong ci - ties of Earth: New York! Rich as a cake a com - mon dough - nut
17
19
pri - cy as a fur

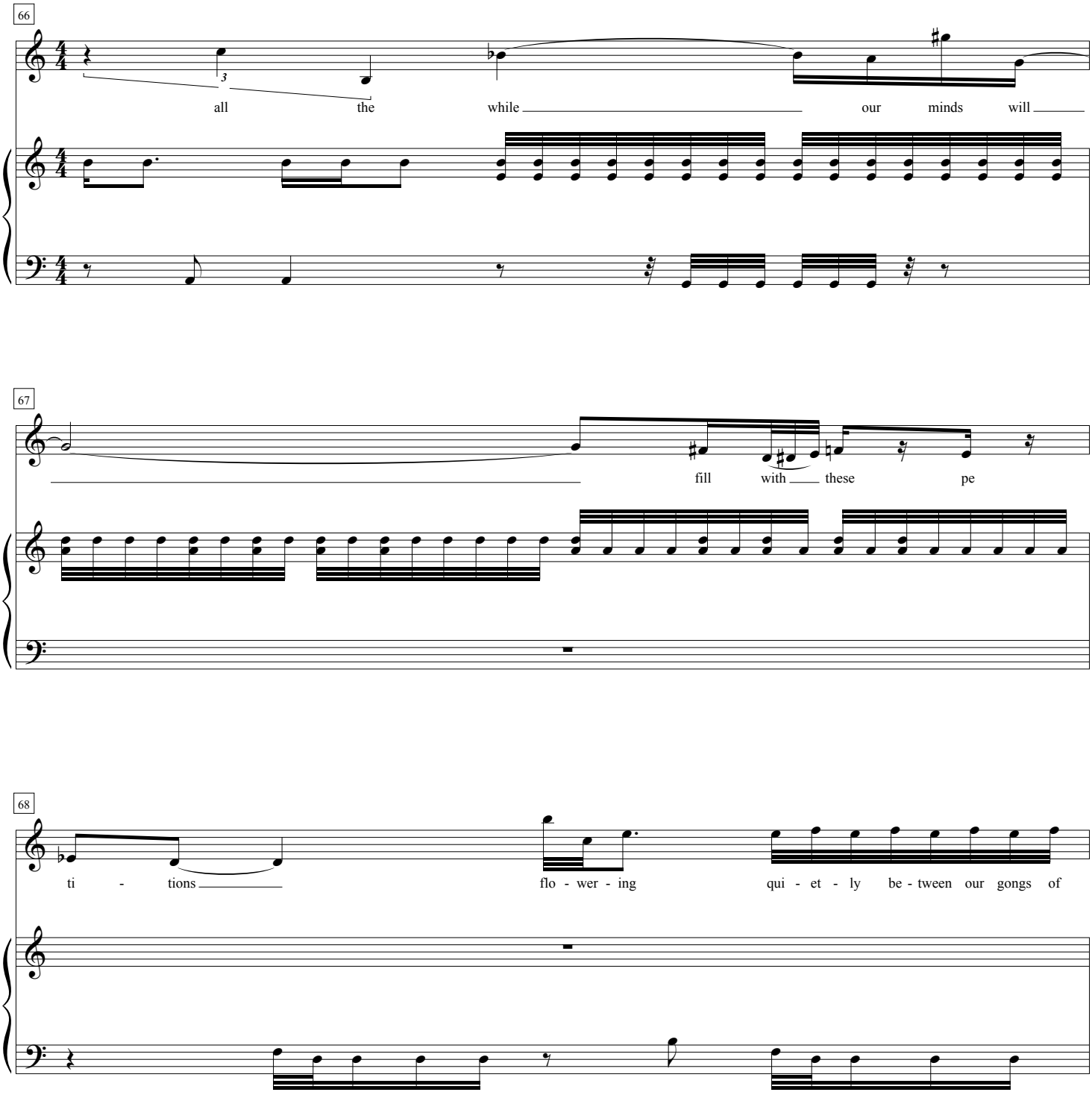

21
cra - zy as co - caine We
23
love
25
27
to hear

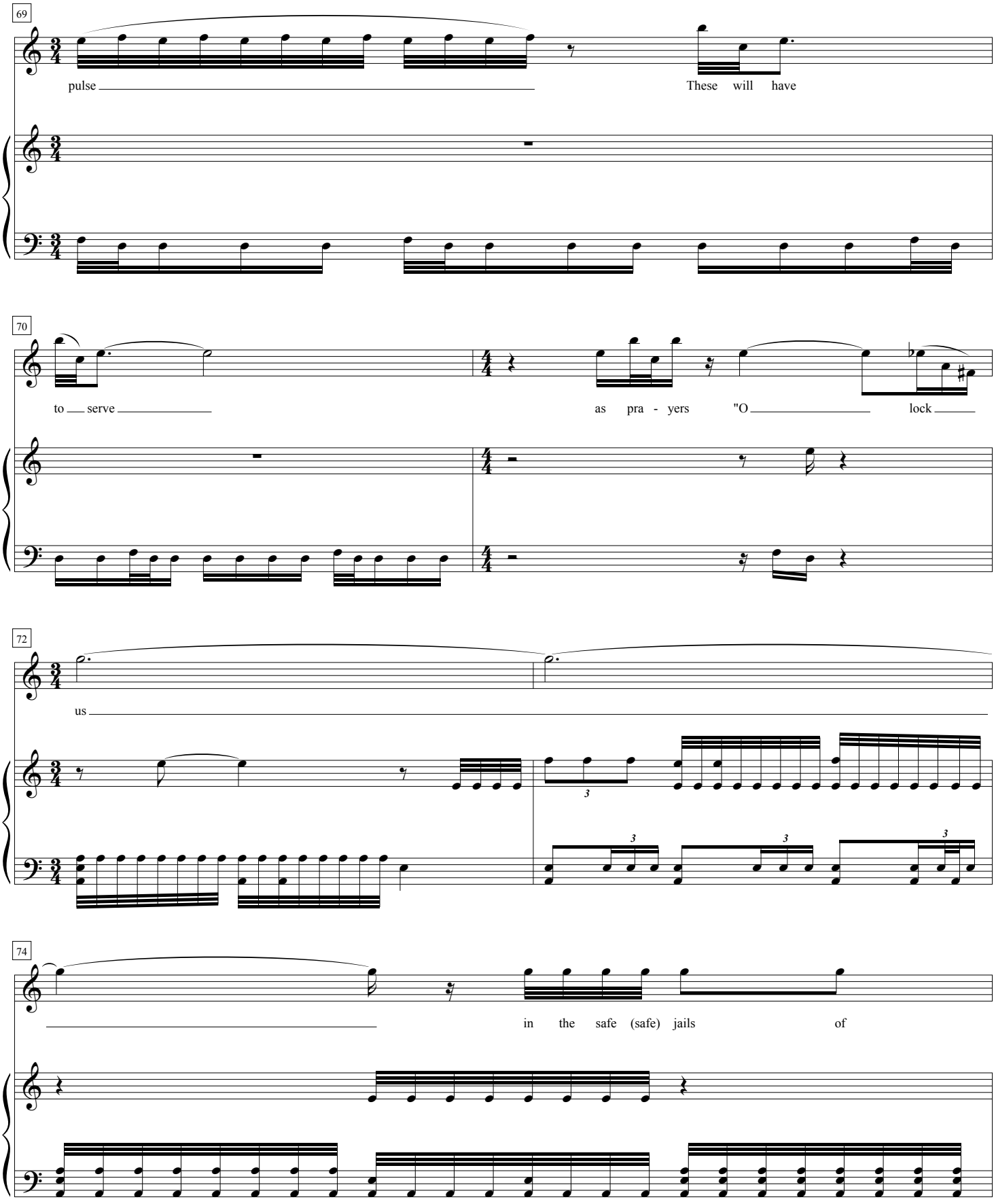

29
you
shake
30
Your
big
face
like
a
shi
32
ning
bank
let - ting
the
mad
world
35
know
you're
full
of
dimes

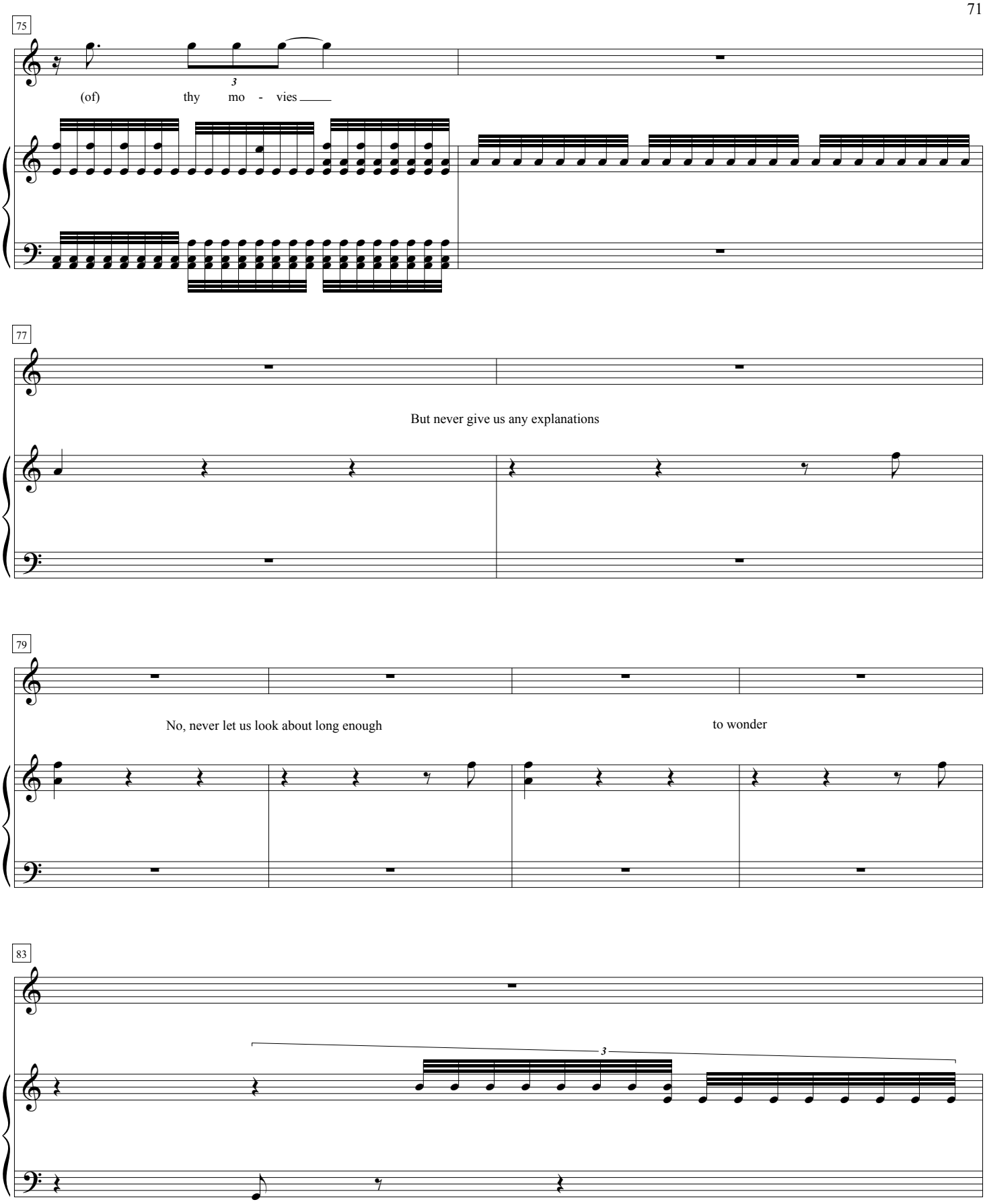

39
This is your night to make ma - ra - cas of all that
42
me - tal mo - ney
Pa - ris is in the pri -
45
son house and Lon - don dies of can - cer
This is the time for you to whirl
47
Queen of our hopped up peace
49
And let the ex - cite - ment

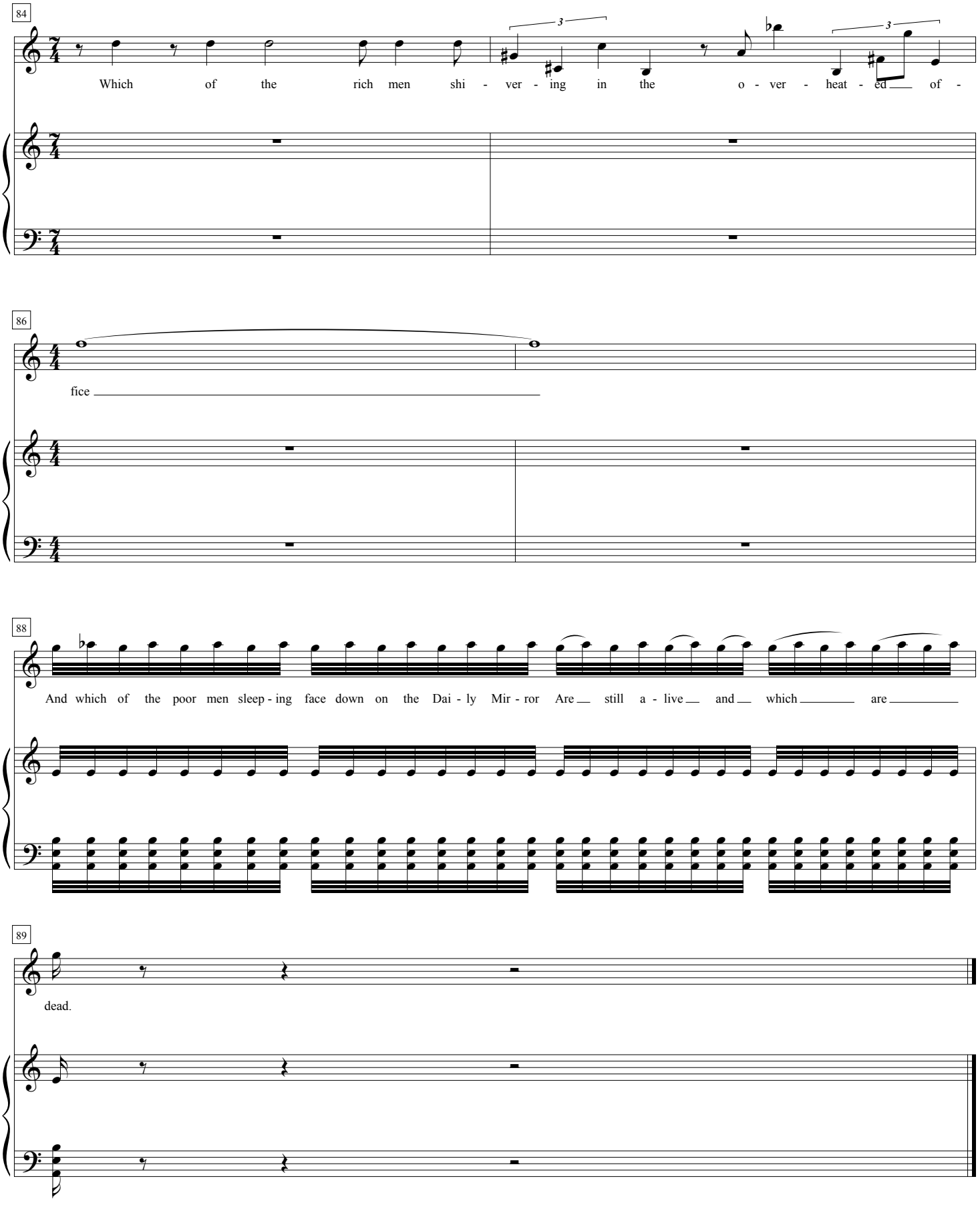

51
55
Of your some - what crip - pled con - gas su - per - cede the walt -
56
- - - zes of more shi - ning Ca - pi - tols that have
58
been bombed Mean - while we, your chil - dren Weep - ing in our sea - sick
59
zoo of win - - - dows


61
while you dance
will gob - ble
63
as - prins
And try to
64
keep our cage from ca - - - -
65
- - - ving in

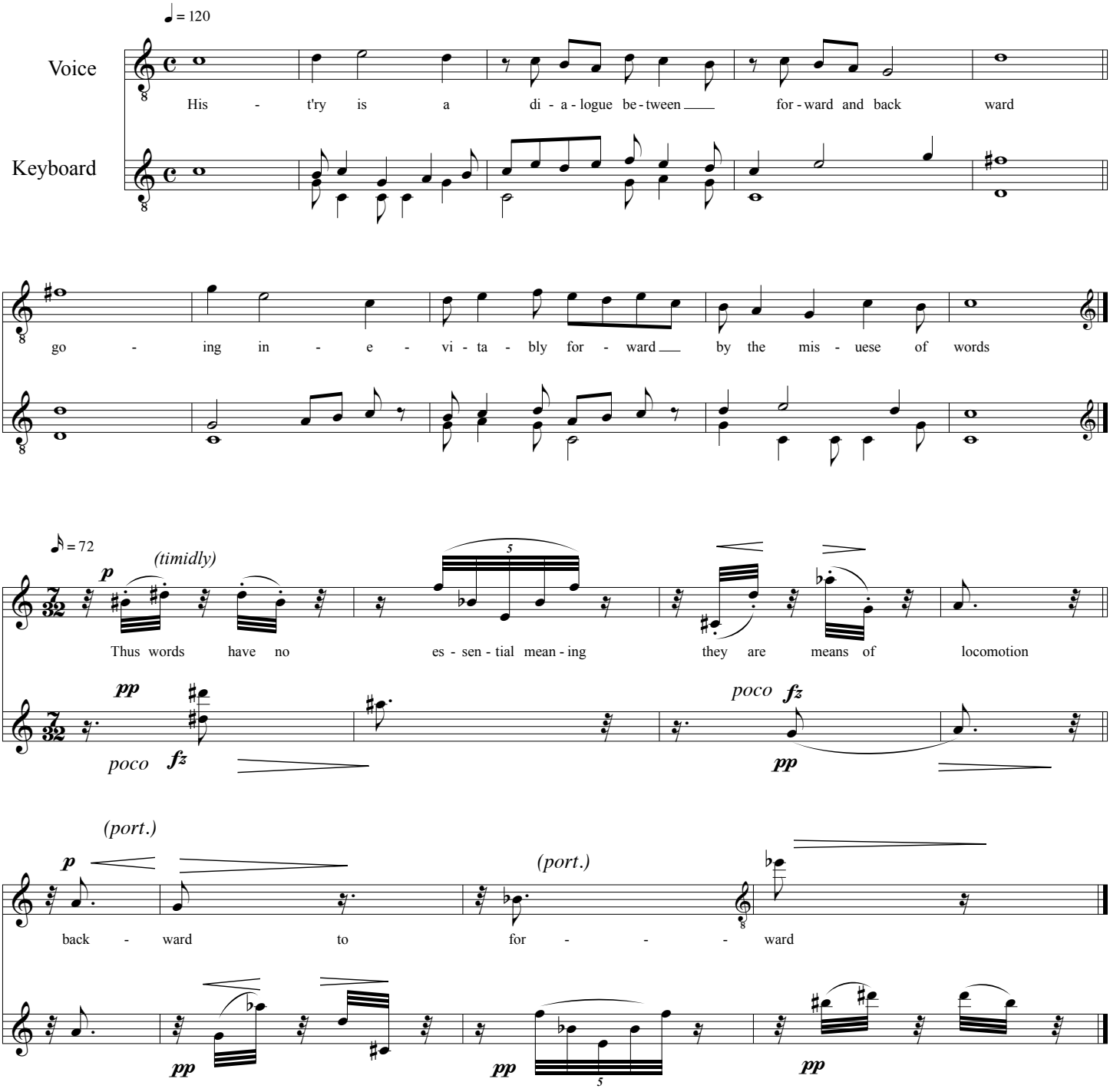

66
all the while our minds will
67
fill with these pe
68
ti - tions
flo - wer - ing qui - et - ly be - tween our gongs of


69
pulse
These will have
70
to serve
as pra - yers "O lock
72
us
3
3
3
3
74
in the safe (safe) jails of


75
(of) thy mo - vies
77
But never give us any explanations
79
No, never let us look about long enough
to wonder
83

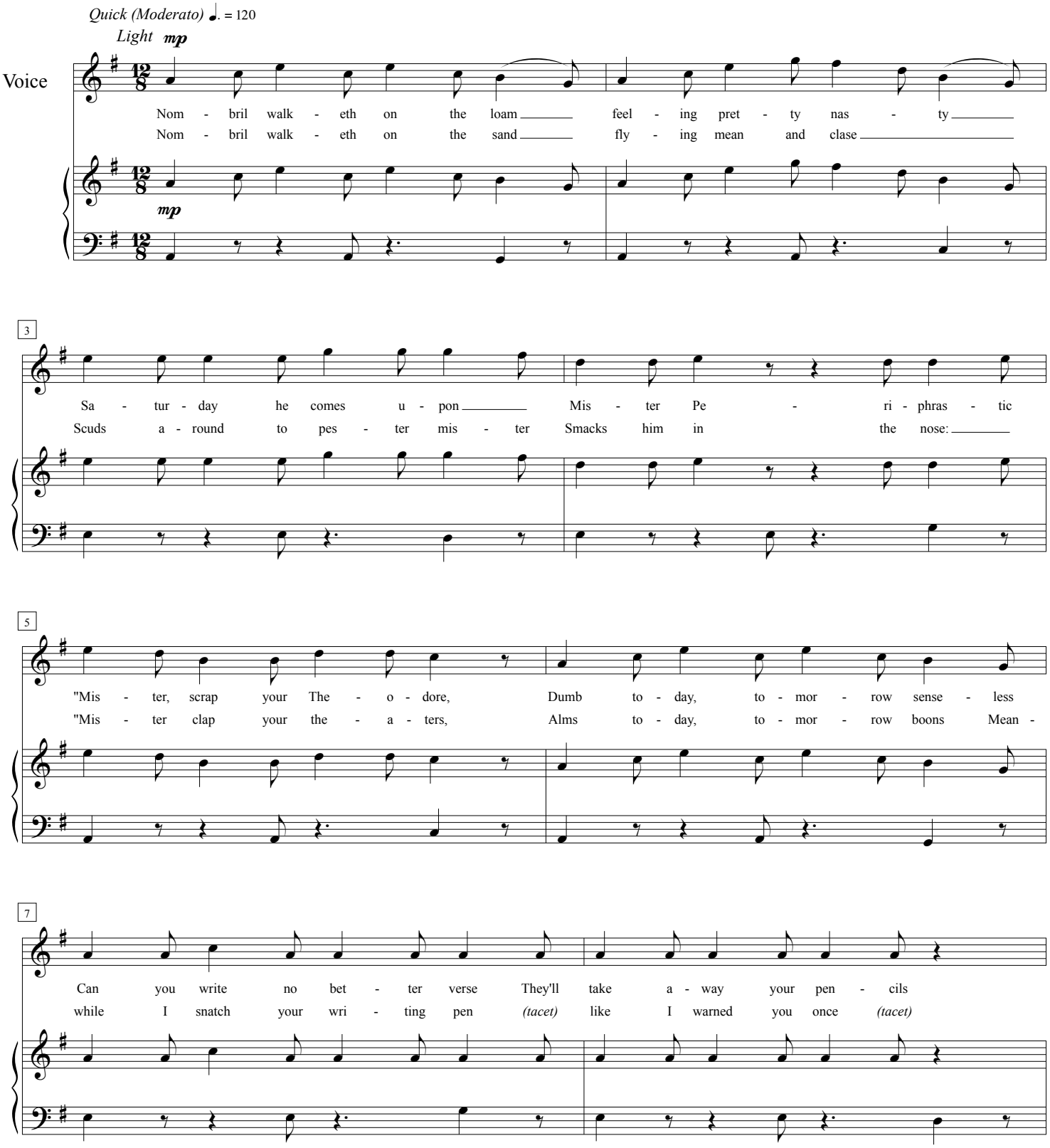

84
Which of the rich men shi - ver - ing in the o - ver - heat - ed of -
86
fice
88
And which of the poor men sleep - ing face down on the Dai - ly Mir - ror Are still a - live and which are
89
dead.

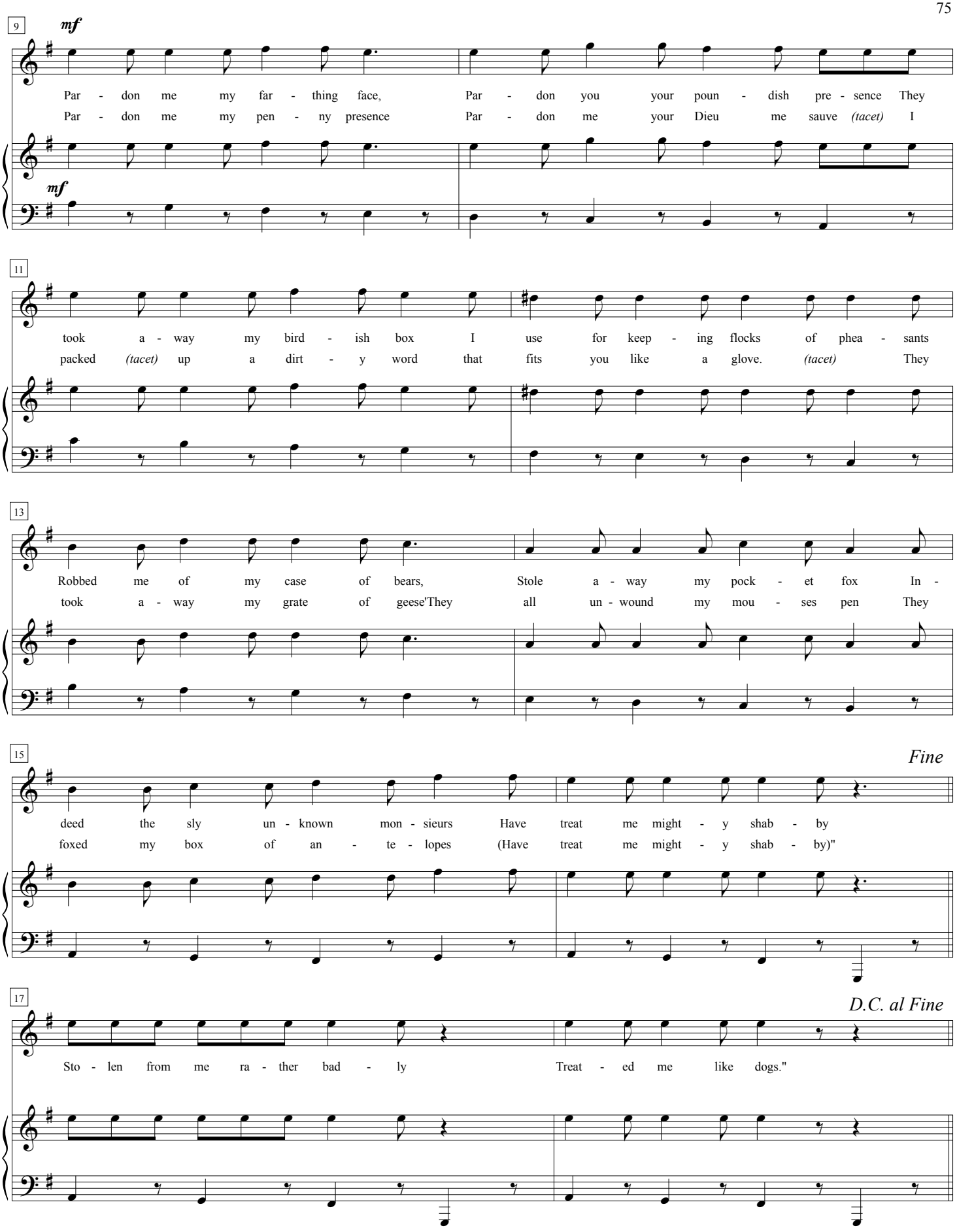
XIII. TOWER OF BABEL
The Political Speech*



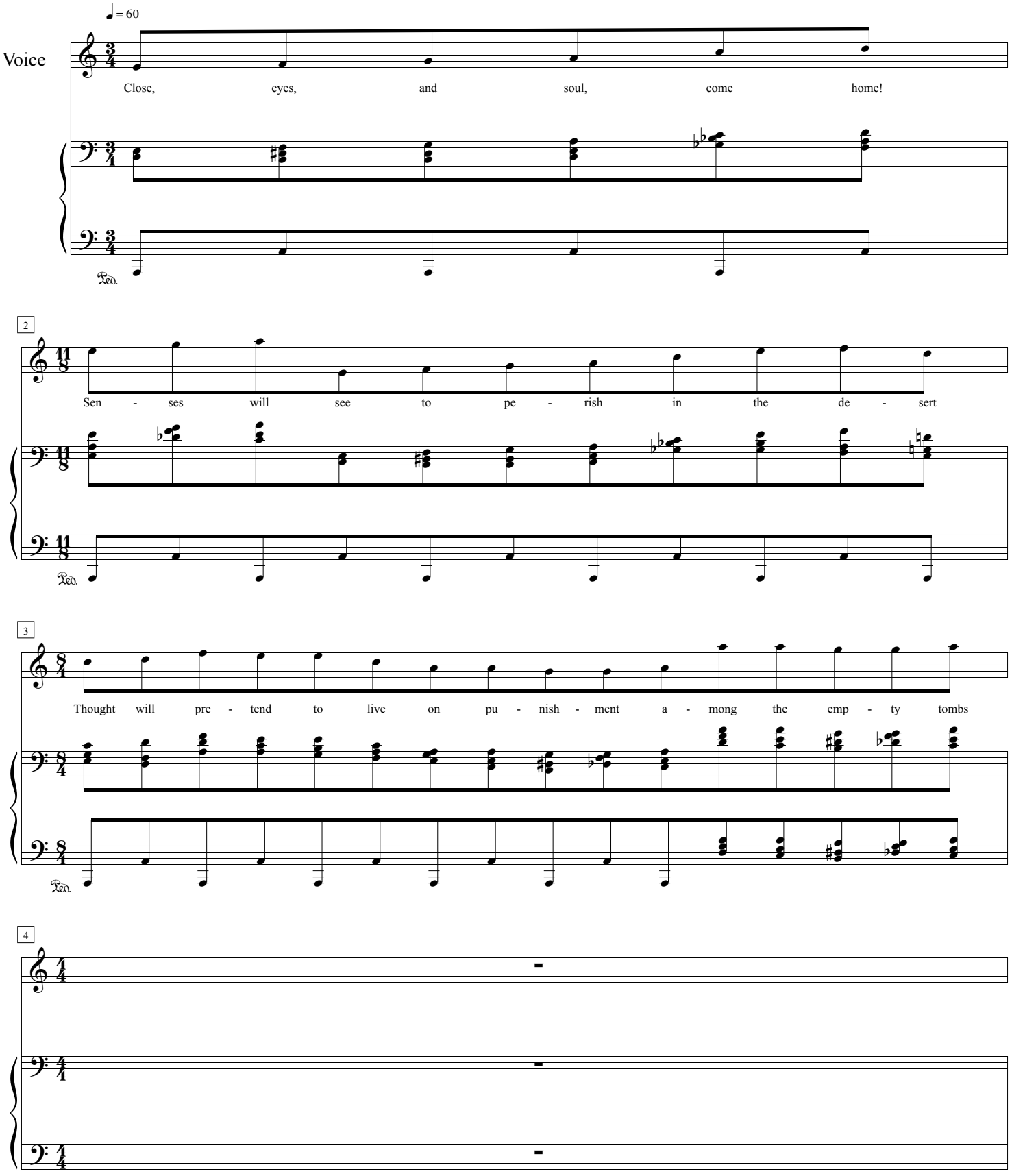
*after Guillaume de Machaut
and George Crumb

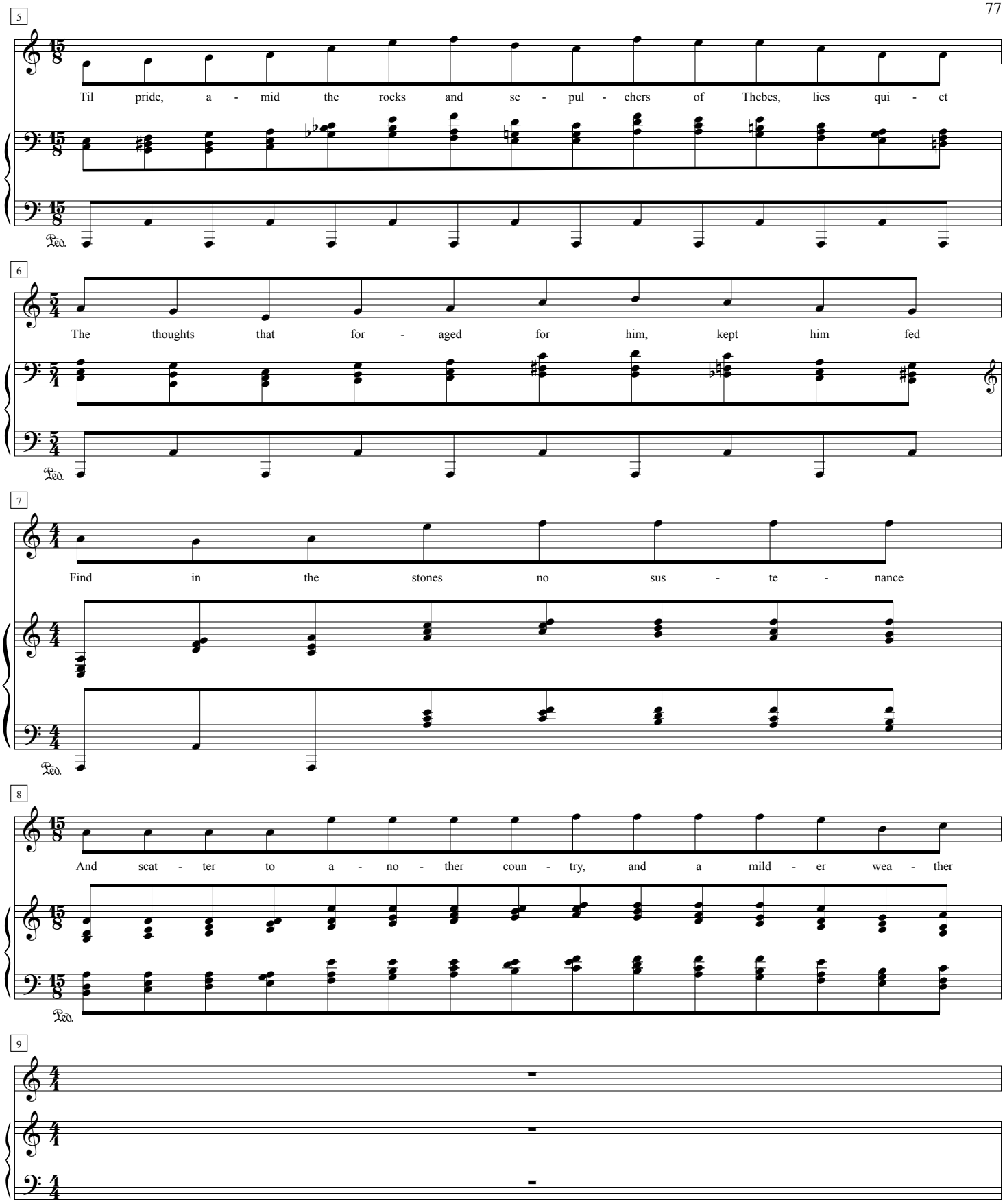
XIV. NOMBRIL WALKETH ON THE LOAM

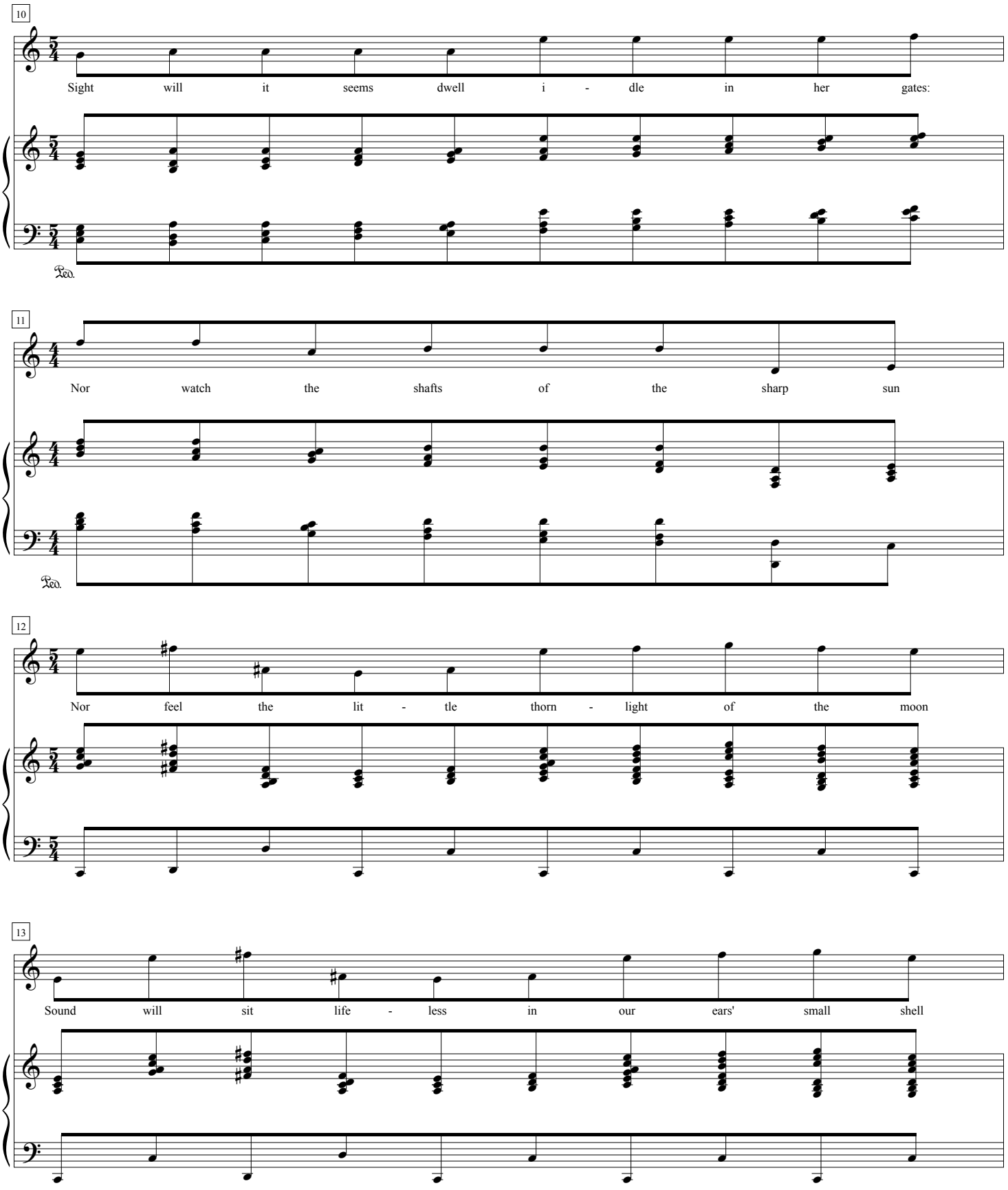


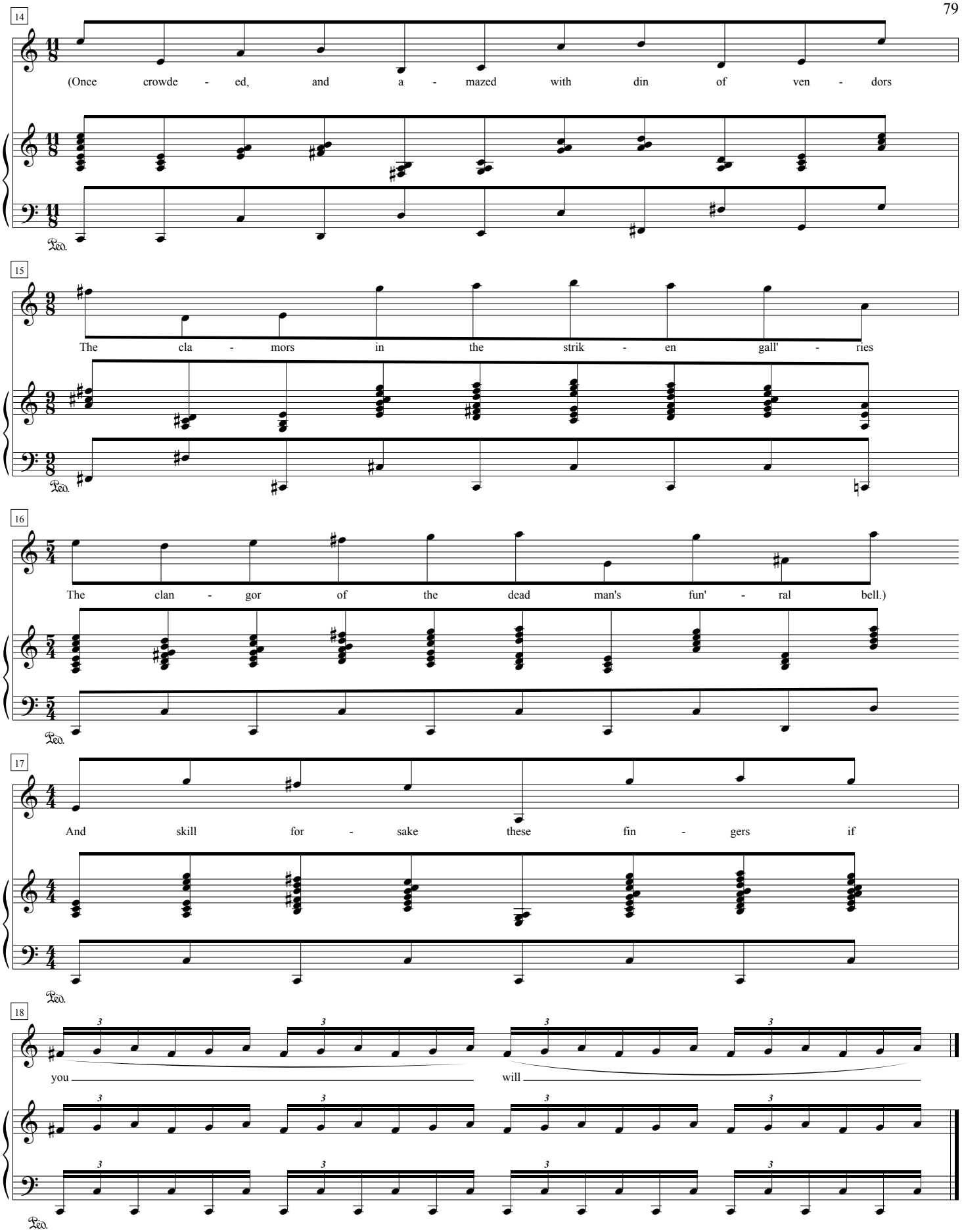

9
mf
Par - don me my far - thing face, Par - don you your poun - dish pre - sence They
Par - don me my pen - ny presence Par - don me your Dieu me sauve (tacet) I
mf
11
took a - way my bird - ish box I use for keep - ing flocks of phea - sants
packed (tacet) up a dirt - y word that fits you like a glove. (tacet) They
13
Robbed me of my case of bears, Stole a - way my pock - et fox In -
took a - way my grate of geese'They all un - wound my mou - ses pen They
15
Fine
deed the sly un - known mon - sieurs Have treat me might - y shab - by
foxed my box of an - te - lopes (Have treat me might - y shab - by)"
17
D.C. al Fine
Sto - len from me ra - ther bad - ly Treat - ed me like dogs."

XV. LENT

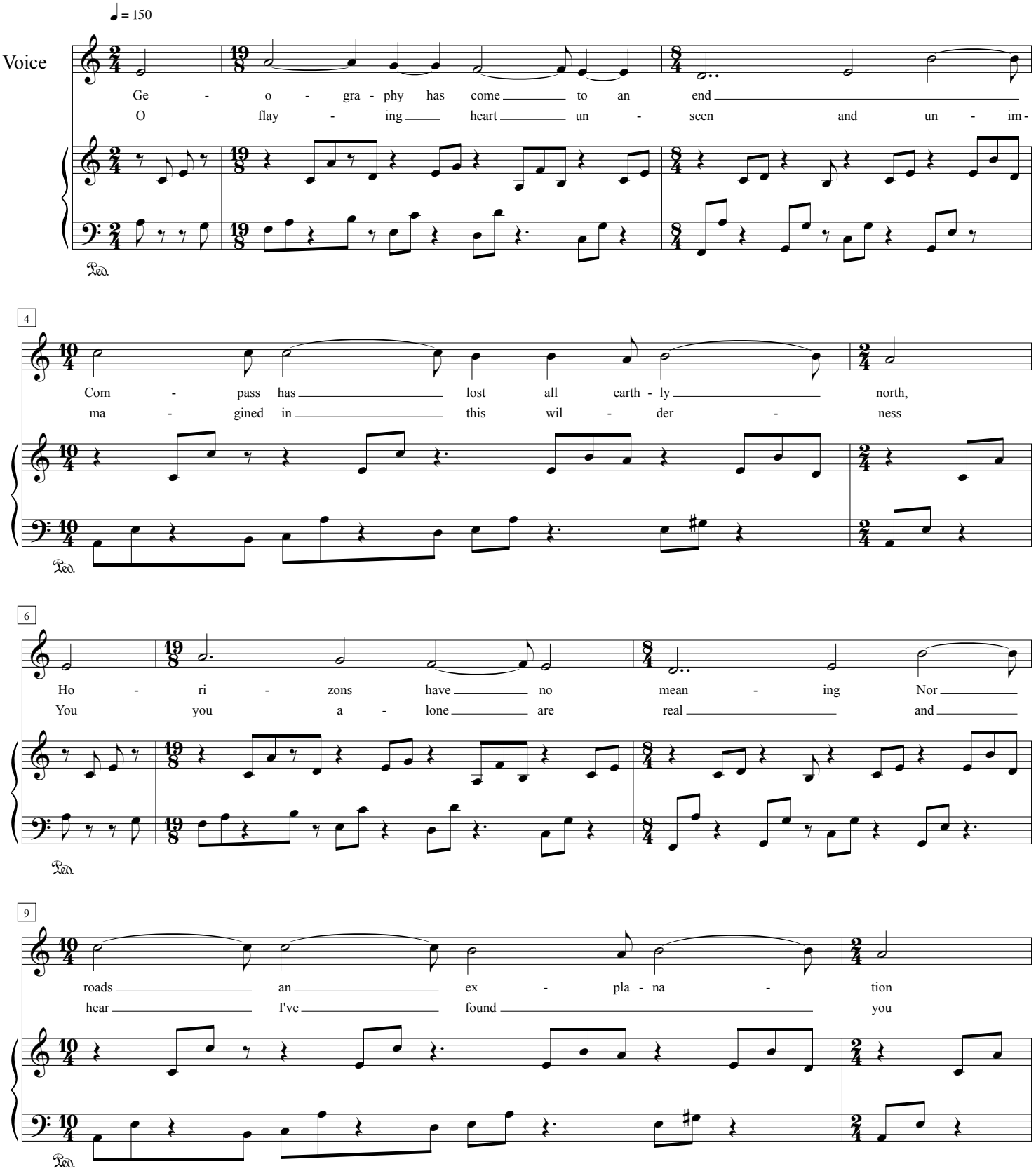

♩ = 60
Voice
Close, eyes, and soul, come home!
Ped.
2
Sen - ses will see to pe - rish in the de - sert
Ped.
3
Thought will pre - tend to live on pu - nish - ment a - mong the emp - ty tombs
Ped.
4

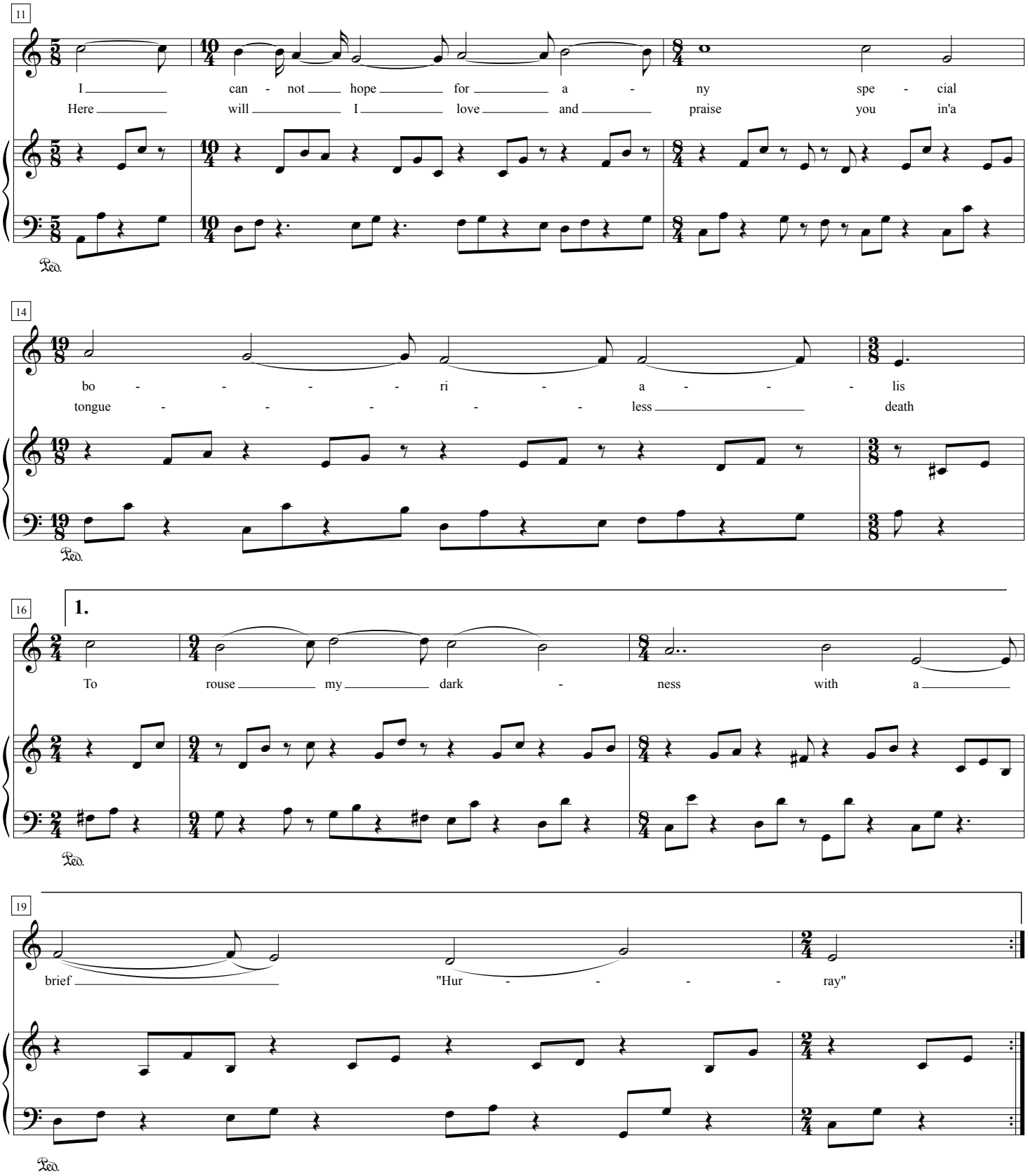

5
Til pride, a - mid the rocks and se - pul - chers of Thebes, lies qui - et
Ped.
6
The thoughts that for - aged for him, kept him fed
Ped.
7
Find in the stones no sus - te - nance
Ped.
8
And scat - ter to a - no - ther coun - try, and a mild - er wea - ther
Ped.
9

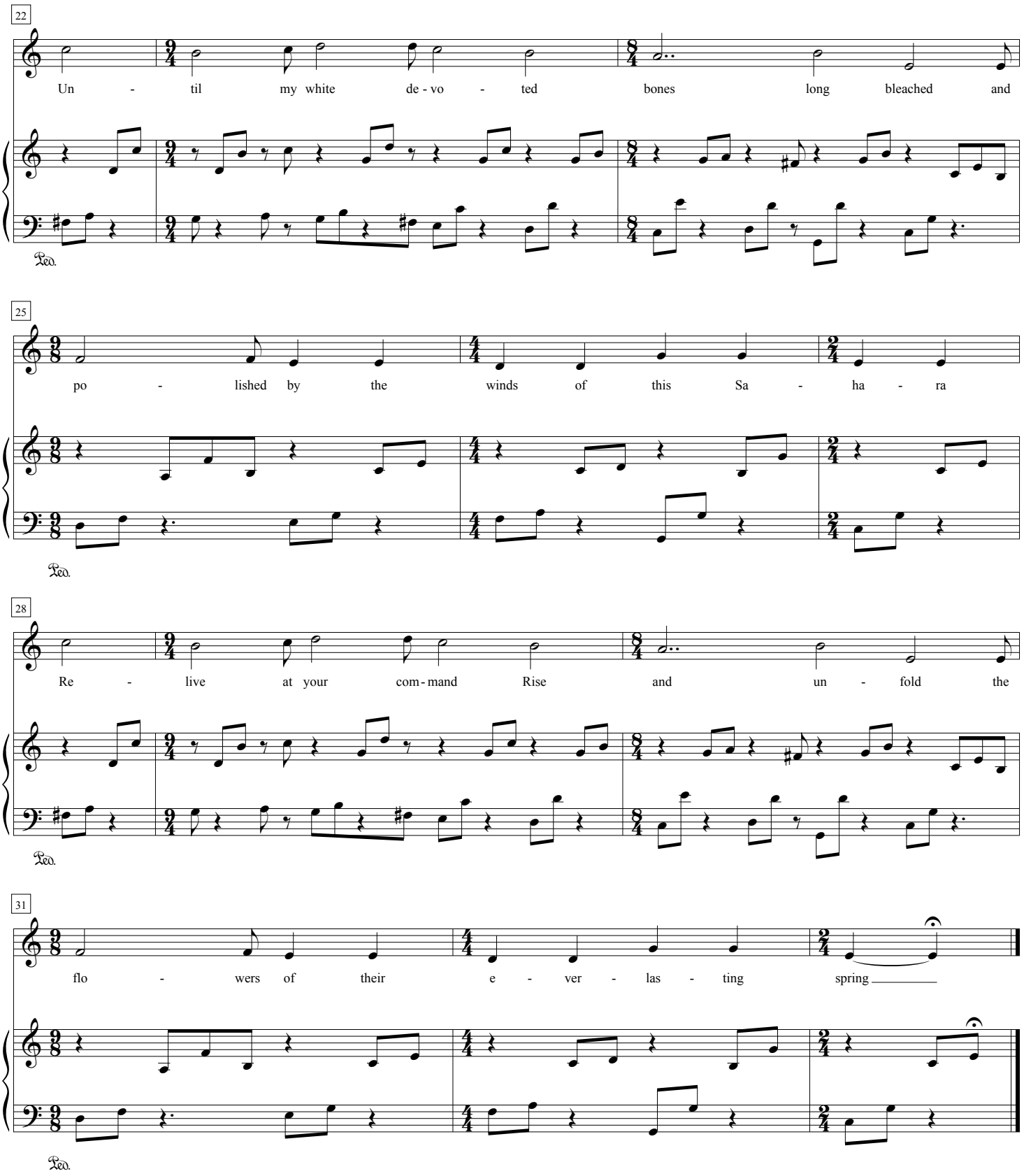

10
Sight will it seems dwell i - dle in her gates:
Ped.
11
Nor watch the shafts of the sharp sun
Ped.
12
Nor feel the lit - tle thorn - light of the moon
13
Sound will sit life - less in our ears' small shell


14
(Once crowde - ed, and a - mazed with din of ven - dors
Ped.
15
The cla - mors in the strik - en gall' - ries
Ped.
16
The clan - gor of the dead man's fun' - ral bell.)
Ped.
17
And skill for - sake these fin - gers if
Ped.
18
you will
Ped.

XVI. SACRED HEART 2




11
I can - not hope for a - ny spe - cial
Here will I love and praise you in'a
Ped.
14
bo - - - - ri - a - - - lis
tongue - - - - - less death
Ped.
16
1.
To rouse my dark - ness with a
Ped.
19
brief "Hur - - - - ray"
Ped.


22
Un - til my white de - vo - ted bones long bleached and
Ped.
25
po - lished by the winds of this Sa - ha - ra
Ped.
28
Re - live at your com - mand Rise and un - fold the
Ped.
31
flo - wers of their e - ver - las - ting spring
Ped.