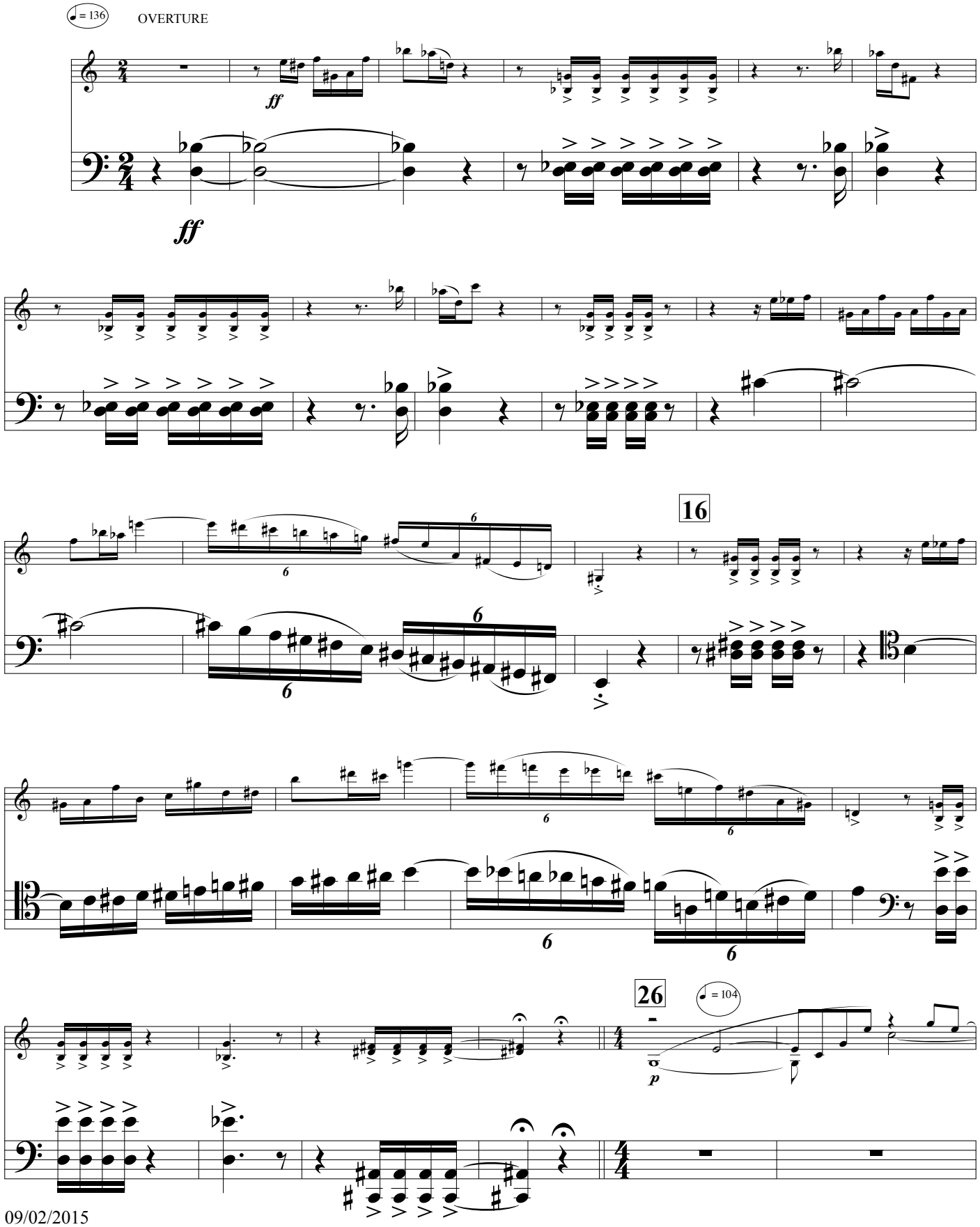
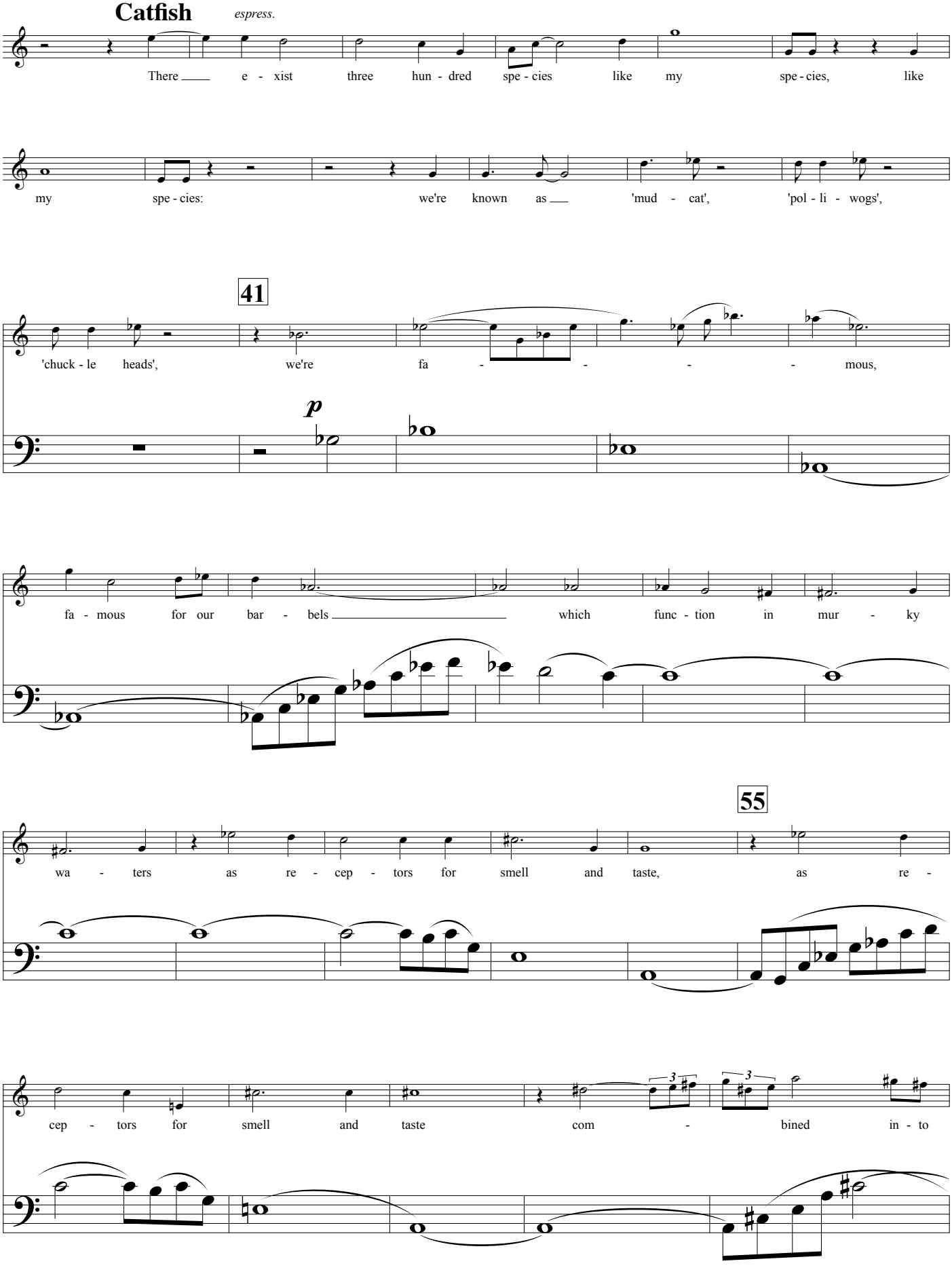
Cello

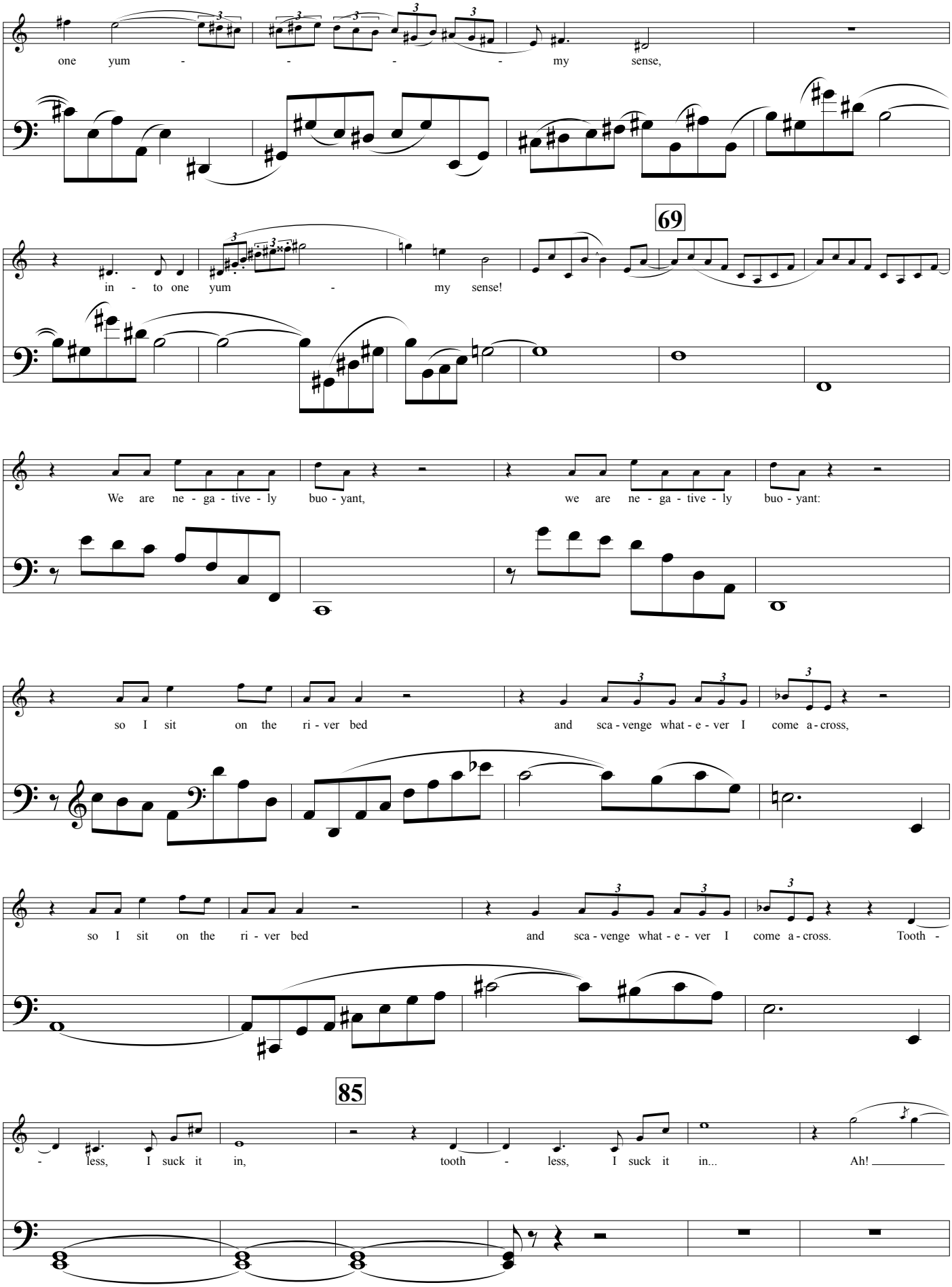
The Catfish Conundrum

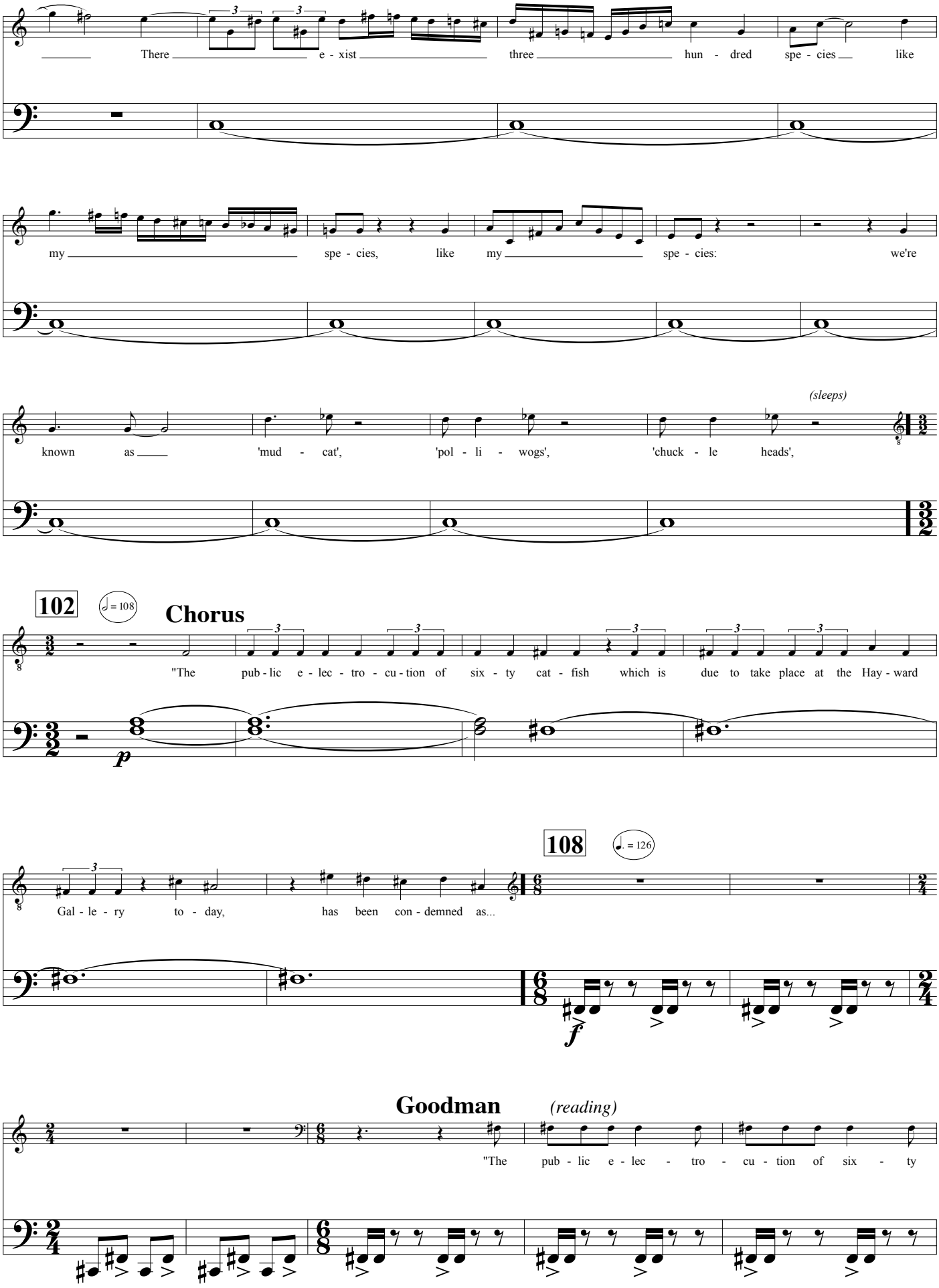
words & music
Edward Lambert

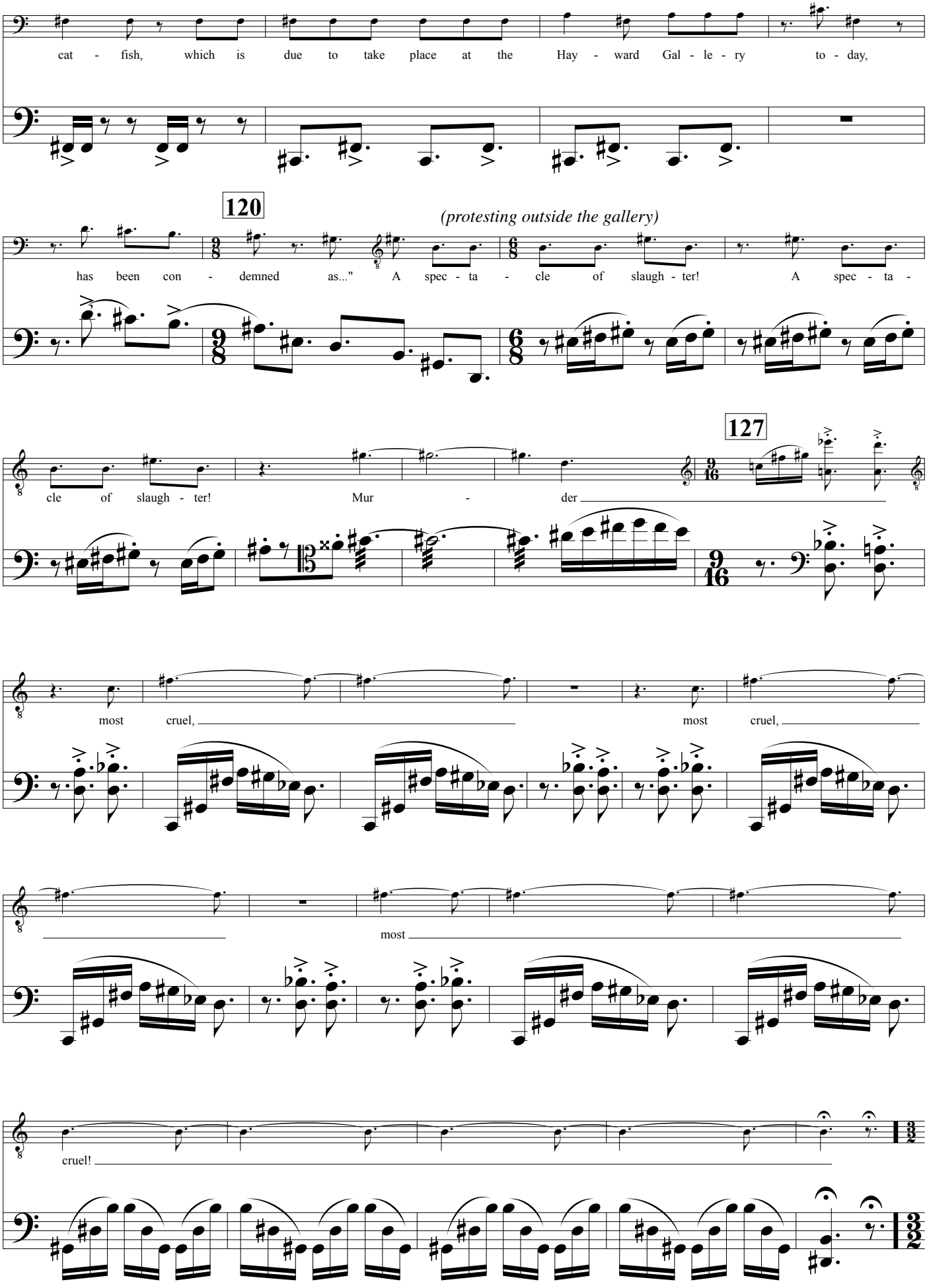


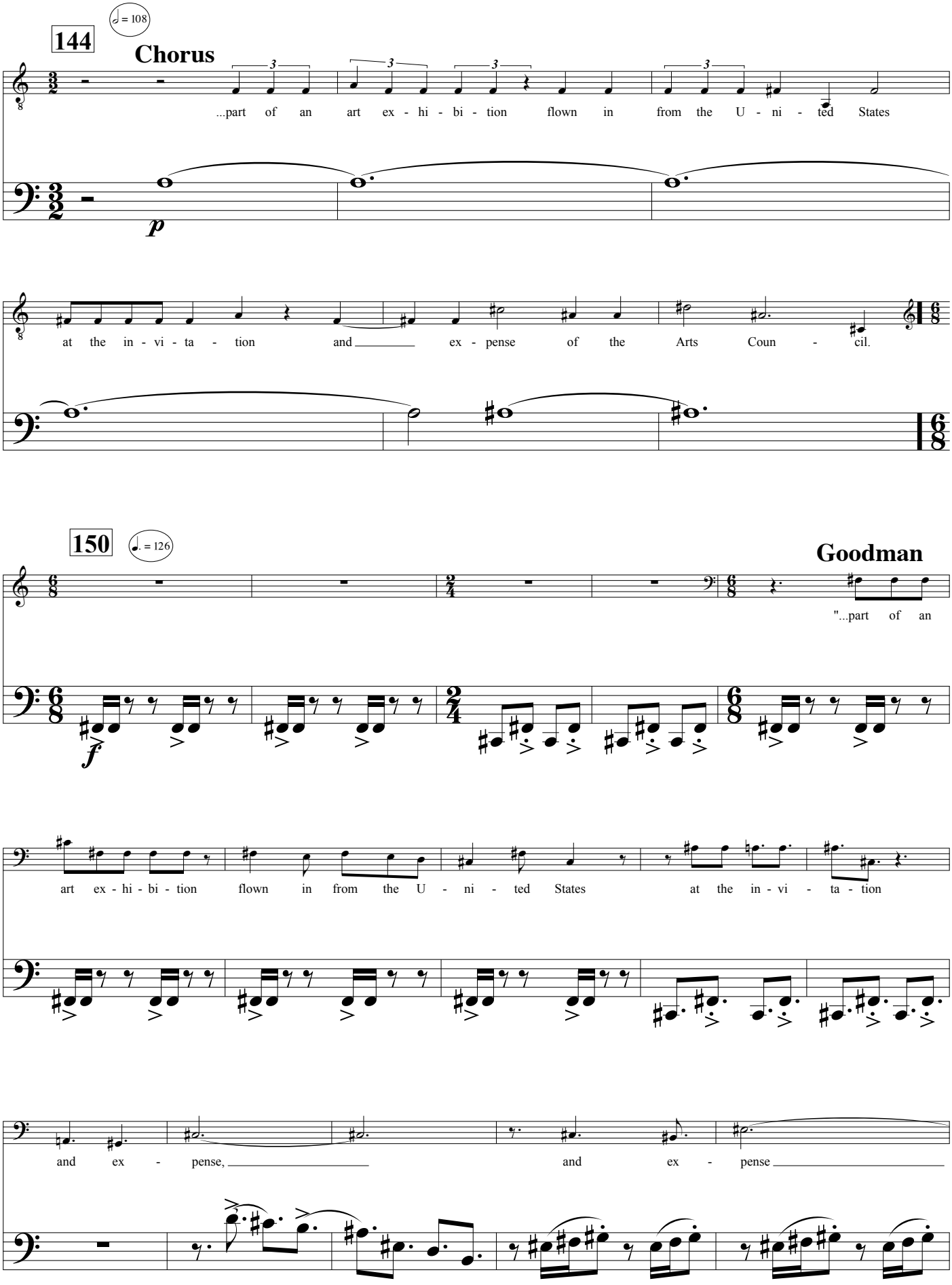
09/02/2015

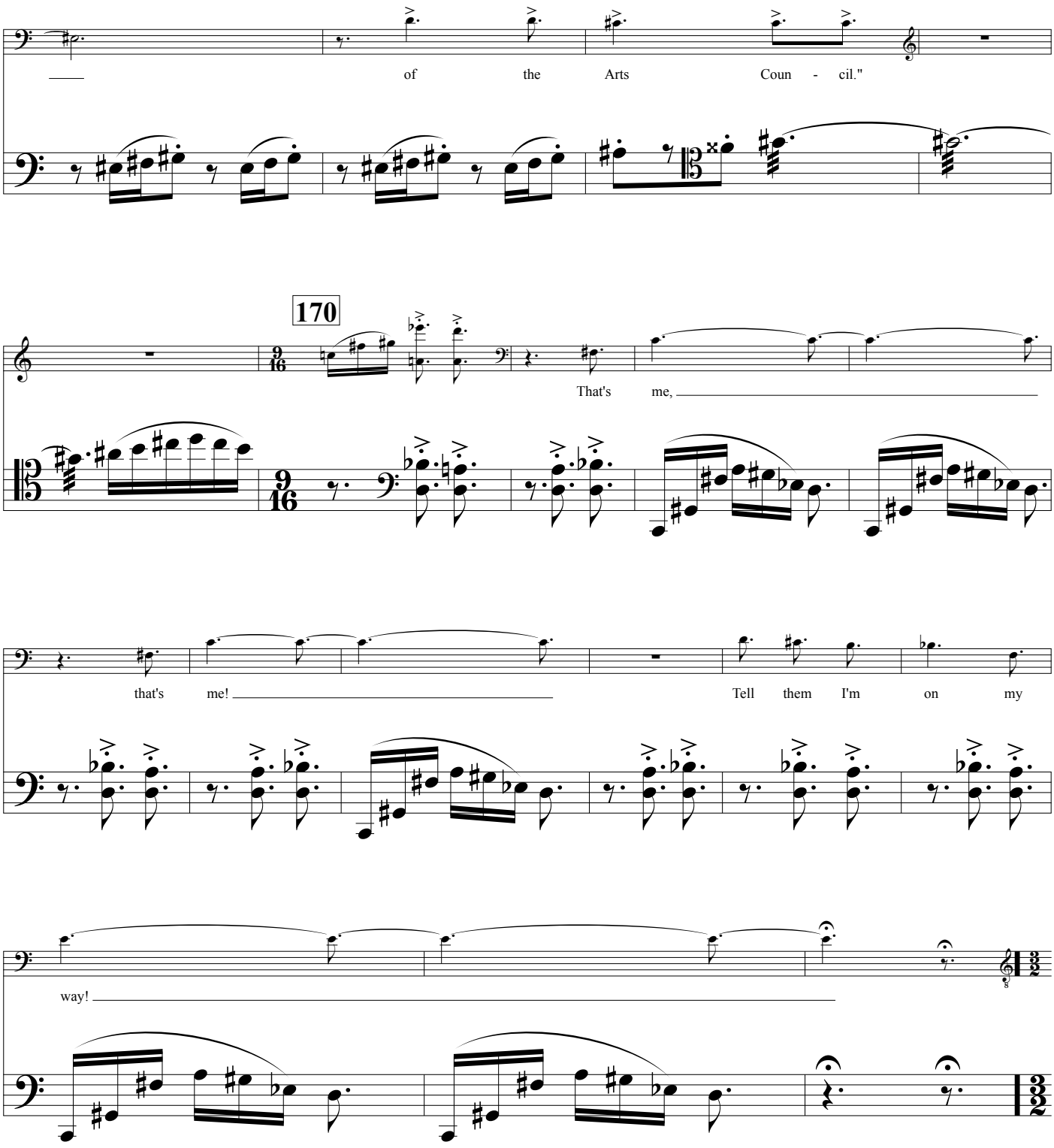

Catfish
espress.
There ___ e - xist three hun - dred spe - cies like my spe - cies, like
my spe - cies: we're known as ___ 'mud - cat', 'pol - li - wogs',
41
'chuck - le heads', we're fa - - - - mous,
p
fa - mous for our bar - bels ___ which func - tion in mur - ky
55
wa - ters as re - cep - tors for smell and taste, as re -
cep - tors for smell and taste com - bined in - to

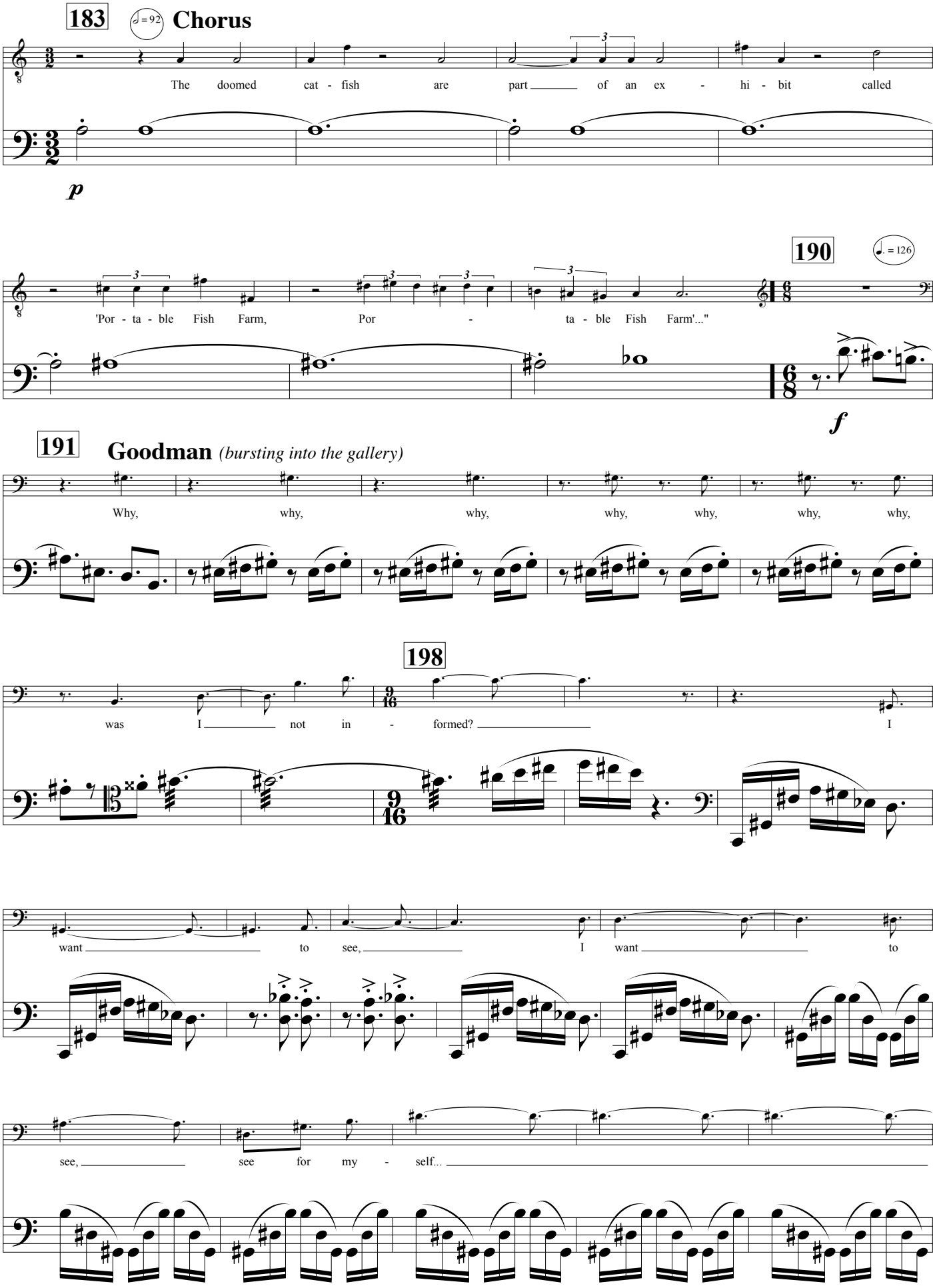

one yum - - - - my sense,
69
in - to one yum - my sense!
We are ne - ga - tive - ly buo - yant, we are ne - ga - tive - ly buo - yant:
so I sit on the ri - ver bed and sca - venge what - e - ver I come a - cross,
so I sit on the ri - ver bed and sca - venge what - e - ver I come a - cross. Tooth -
85
- less, I suck it in, tooth - less, I suck it in... Ah!

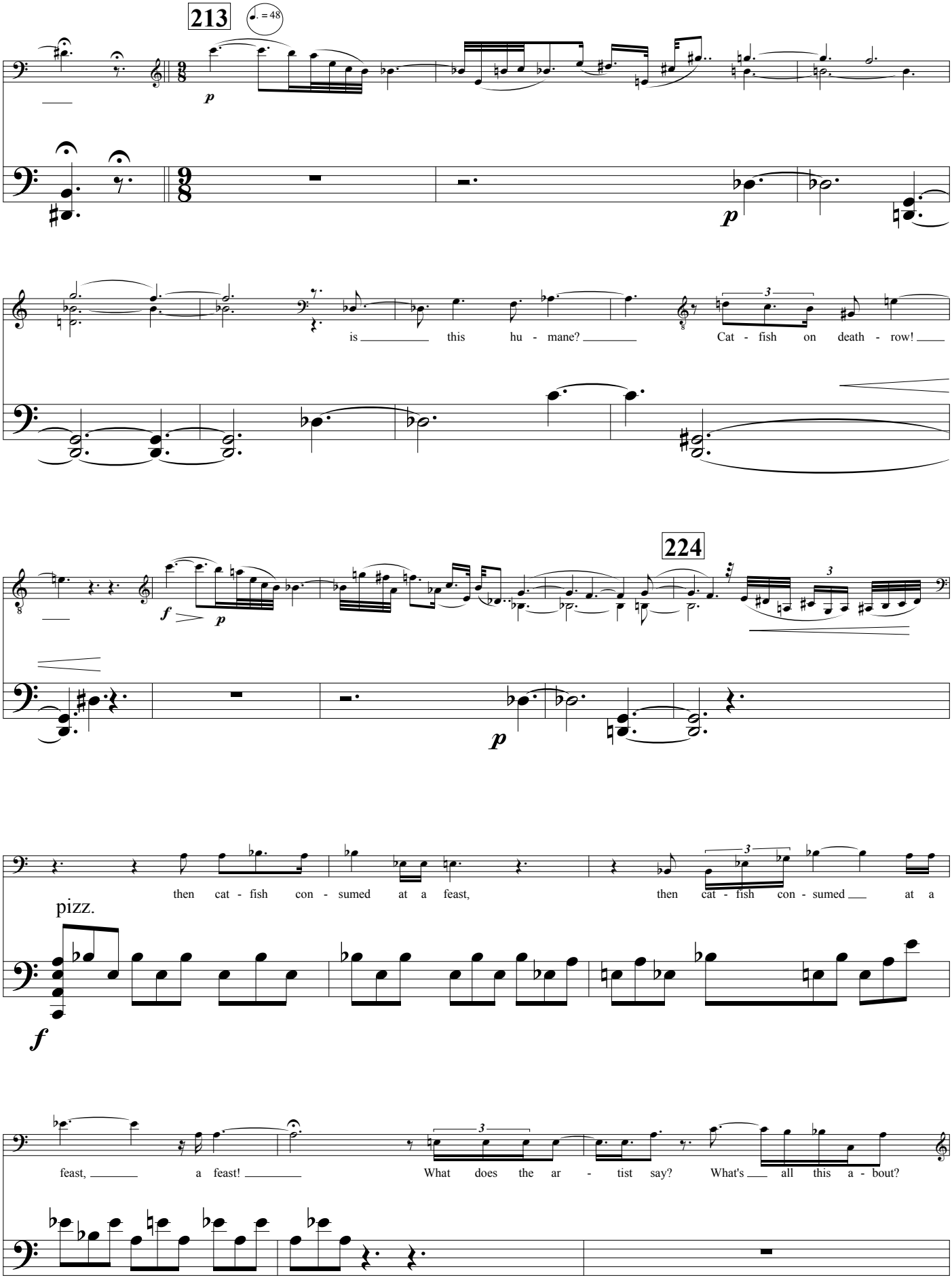

There e - xist three hun - dred spe - cies like
my spe - cies, like my spe - cies: we're
(sleeps)
known as 'mud - cat', 'pol - li - wogs', 'chuck - le heads',
102
♩ = 108
Chorus
"The pub - lic e - lec - tro - cu - tion of six - ty cat - fish which is due to take place at the Hay - ward
p
108
♩. = 126
Gal - le - ry to - day, has been con - demned as...
f
Goodman
(reading)
"The pub - lic e - lec - tro - cu - tion of six - ty

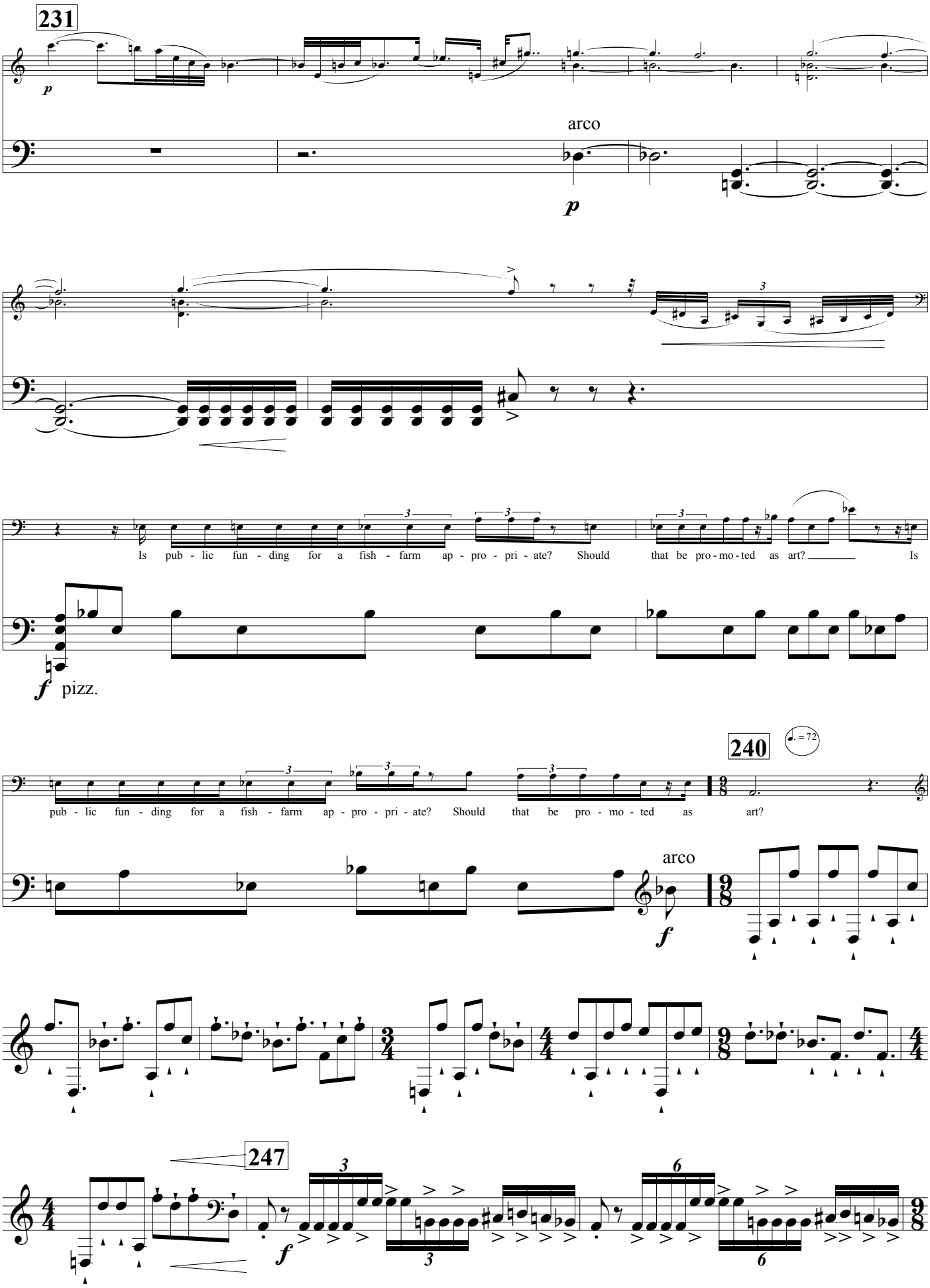

cat - fish, which is due to take place at the Hay - ward Gal - le - ry to - day,
120
(protesting outside the gallery)
has been con - demned as..." A spec - ta - cle of slaugh - ter! A spec - ta -
cle of slaugh - ter! Mur - der
127
most cruel, most cruel,
most
cruel!

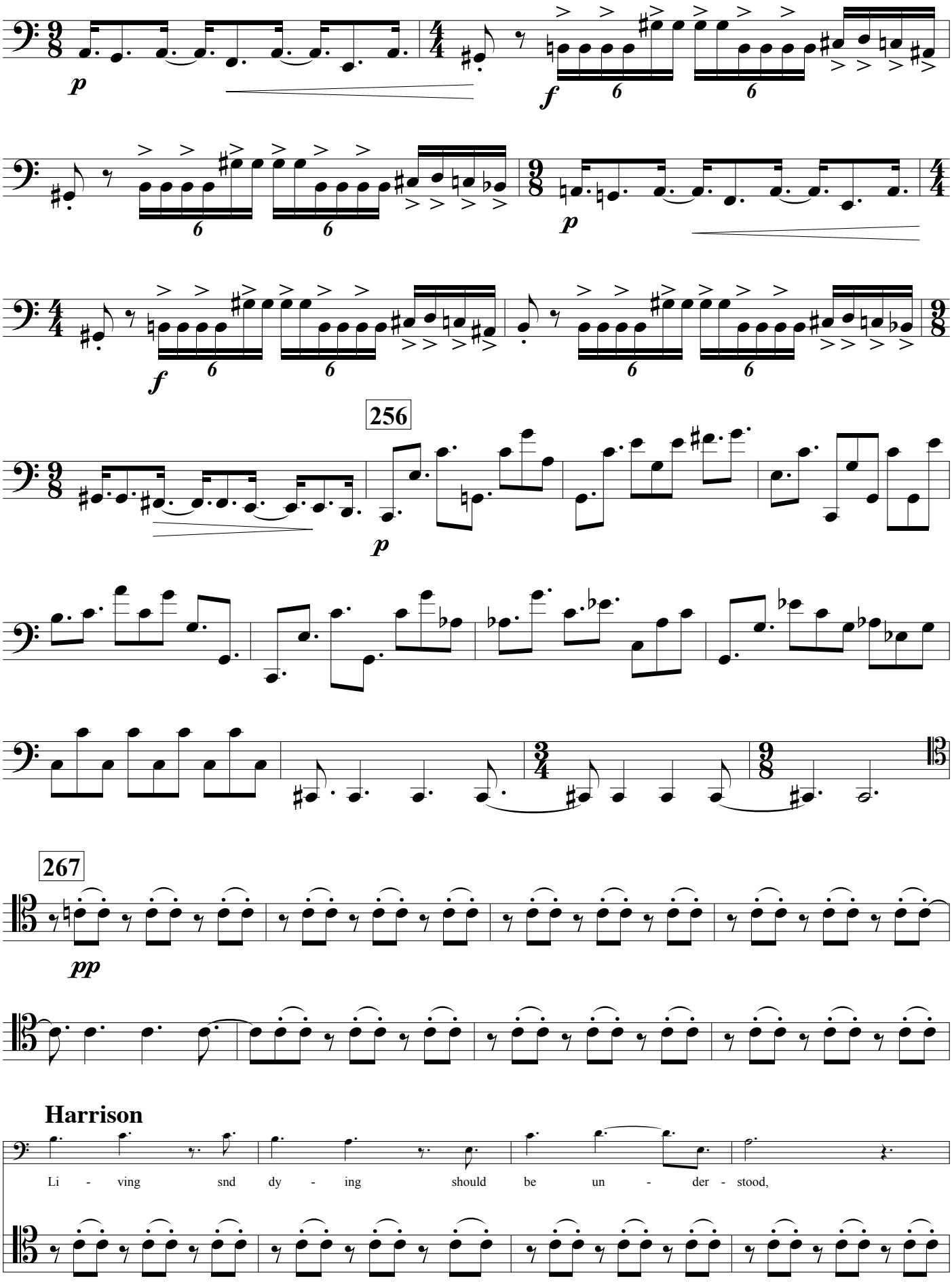

144
♩ = 108
Chorus
...part of an art ex - hi - bi - tion flown in from the U - ni - ted States
p
at the in - vi - ta - tion and ex - pense of the Arts Coun - cil.
150
♩. = 126
Goodman
"...part of an
f
art ex - hi - bi - tion flown in from the U - ni - ted States at the in - vi - ta - tion
and ex - pense, and ex - pense

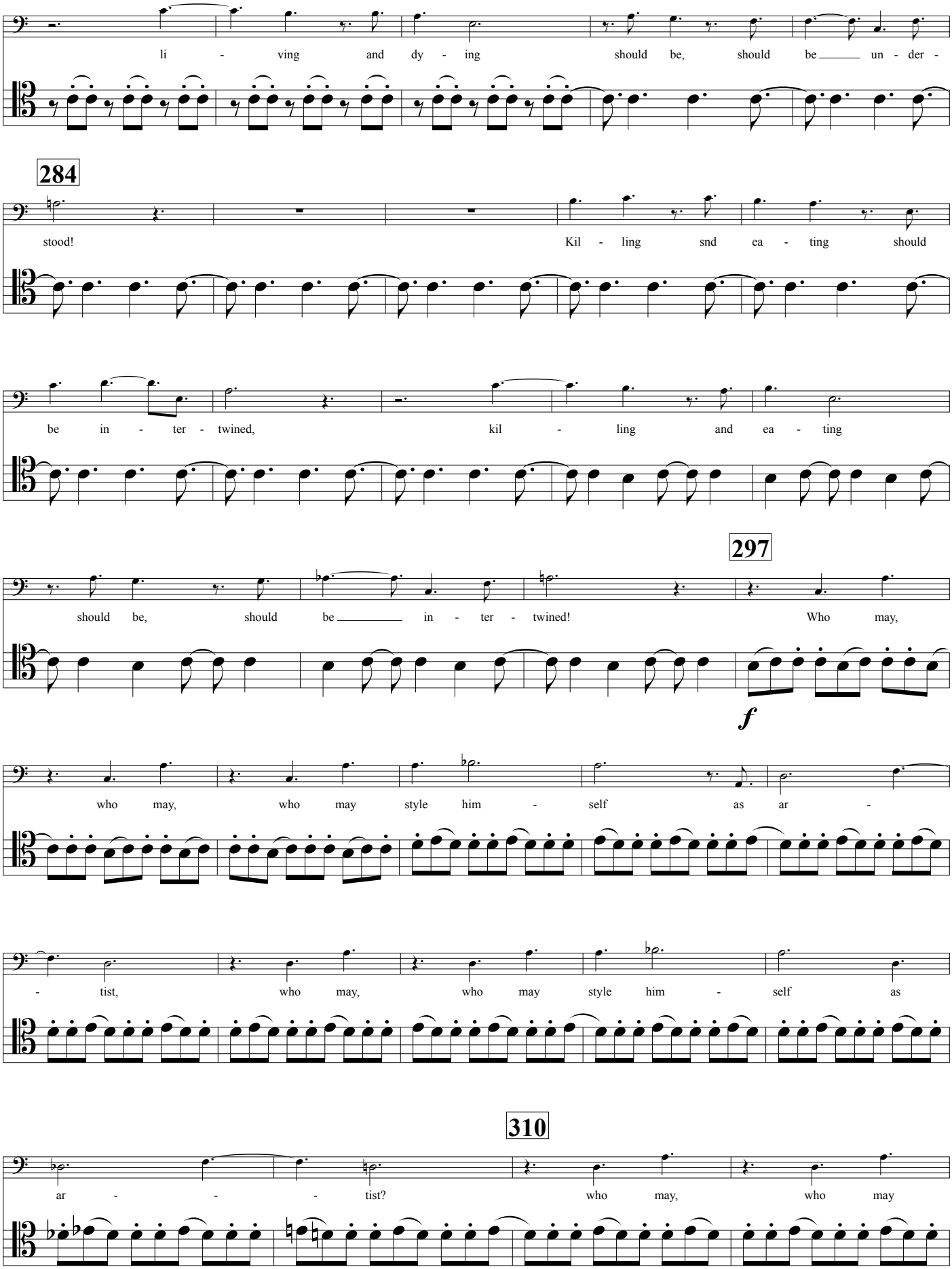

of the Arts Coun - cil."
170
That's me,
that's me!
Tell them I'm on my
way!

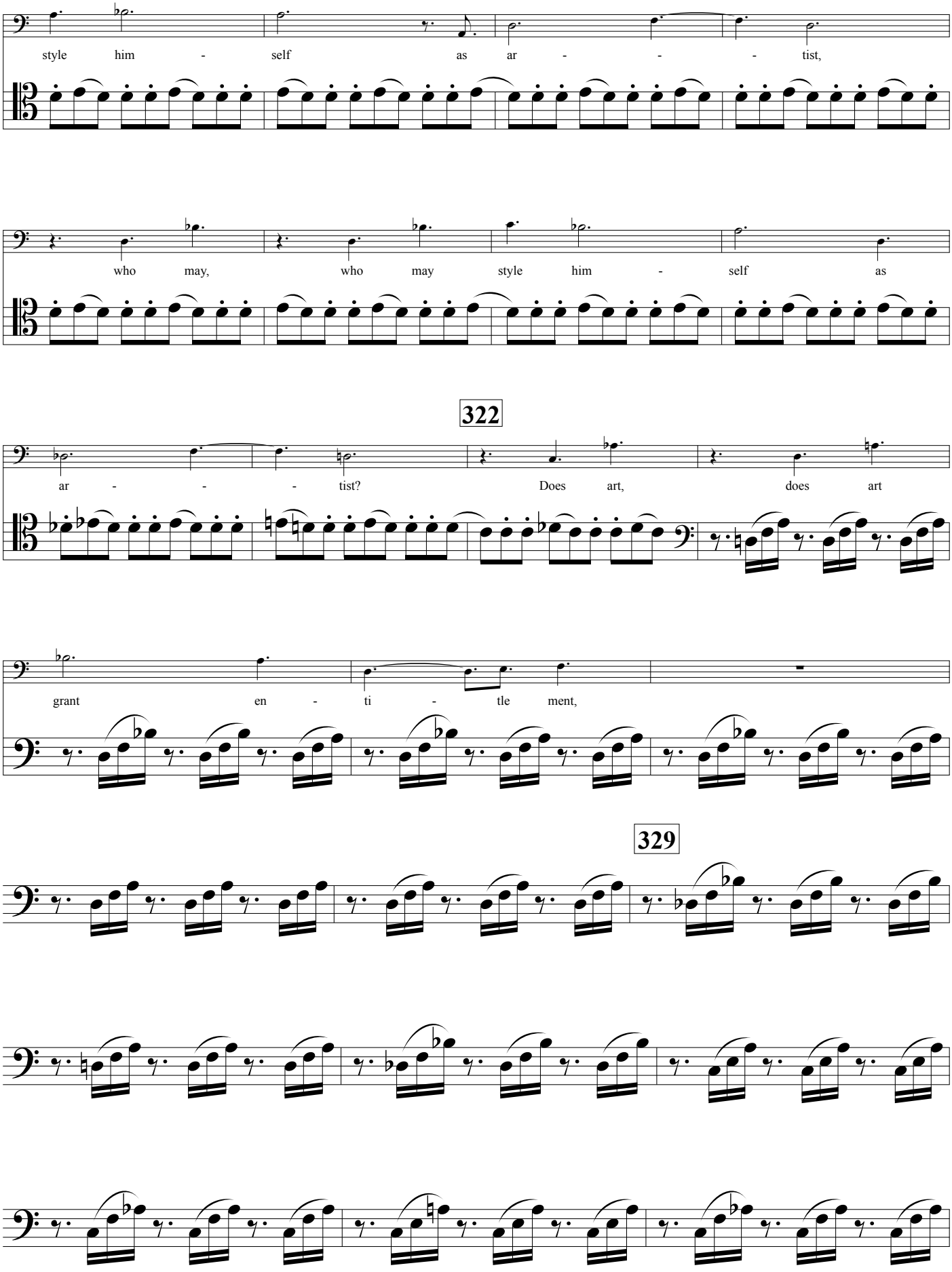

183
♩ = 92
Chorus
The doomed cat - fish are part of an ex - hi - bit called
p
190
♩. = 126
'Por - ta - ble Fish Farm, Por - ta - ble Fish Farm'..."
f
191
Goodman (bursting into the gallery)
Why, why, why, why, why, why, why,
198
was I not in - formed? I
want to see, I want to
see, see for my - self...

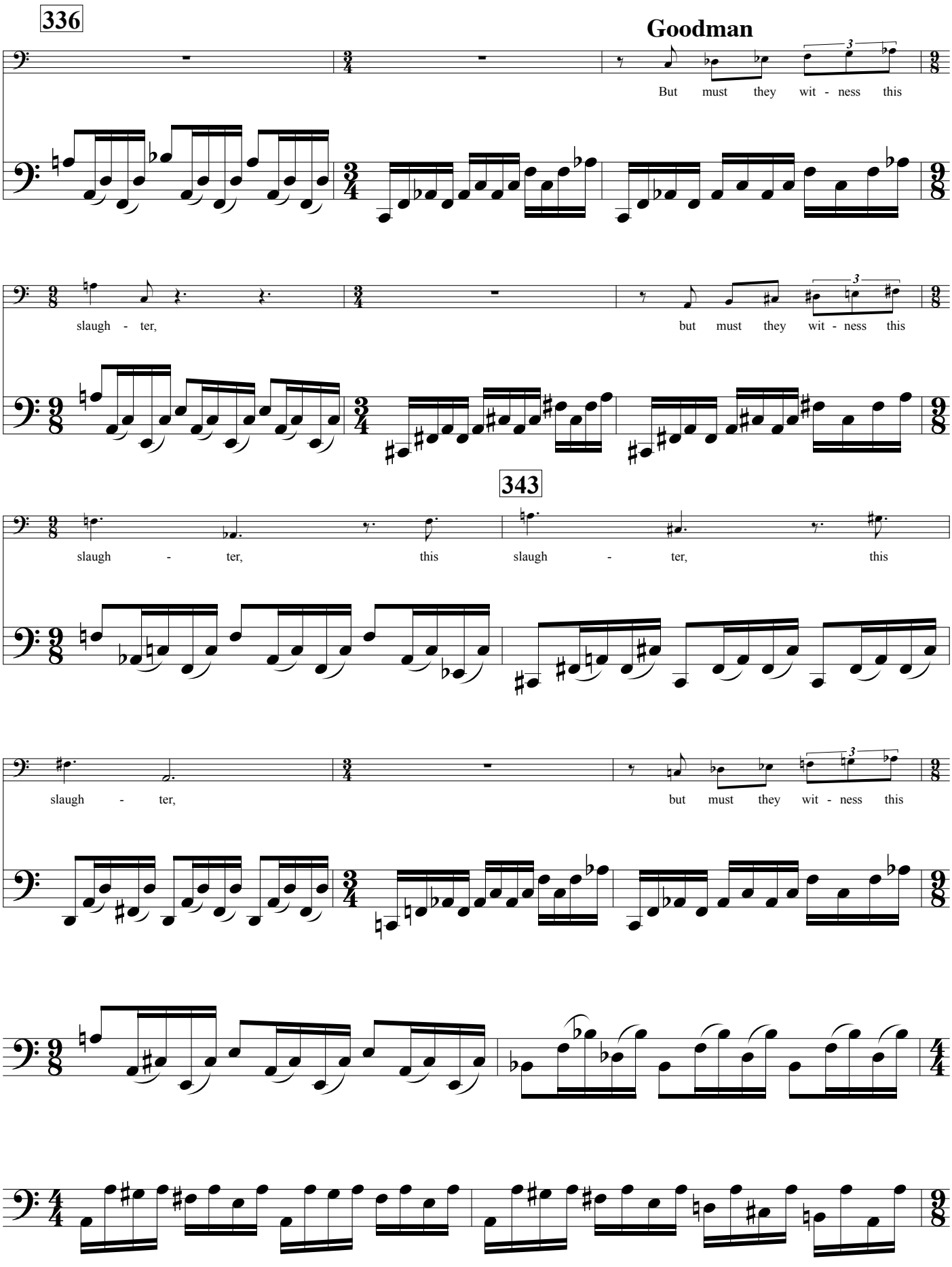

213
♩. = 48
p
p
is this hu - mane?
Cat - fish on death - row!
224
f
p
p
then cat - fish con - sumed at a feast,
then cat - fish con - sumed at a
pizz.
f
feast, a feast!
What does the ar - tist say?
What's all this a - bout?

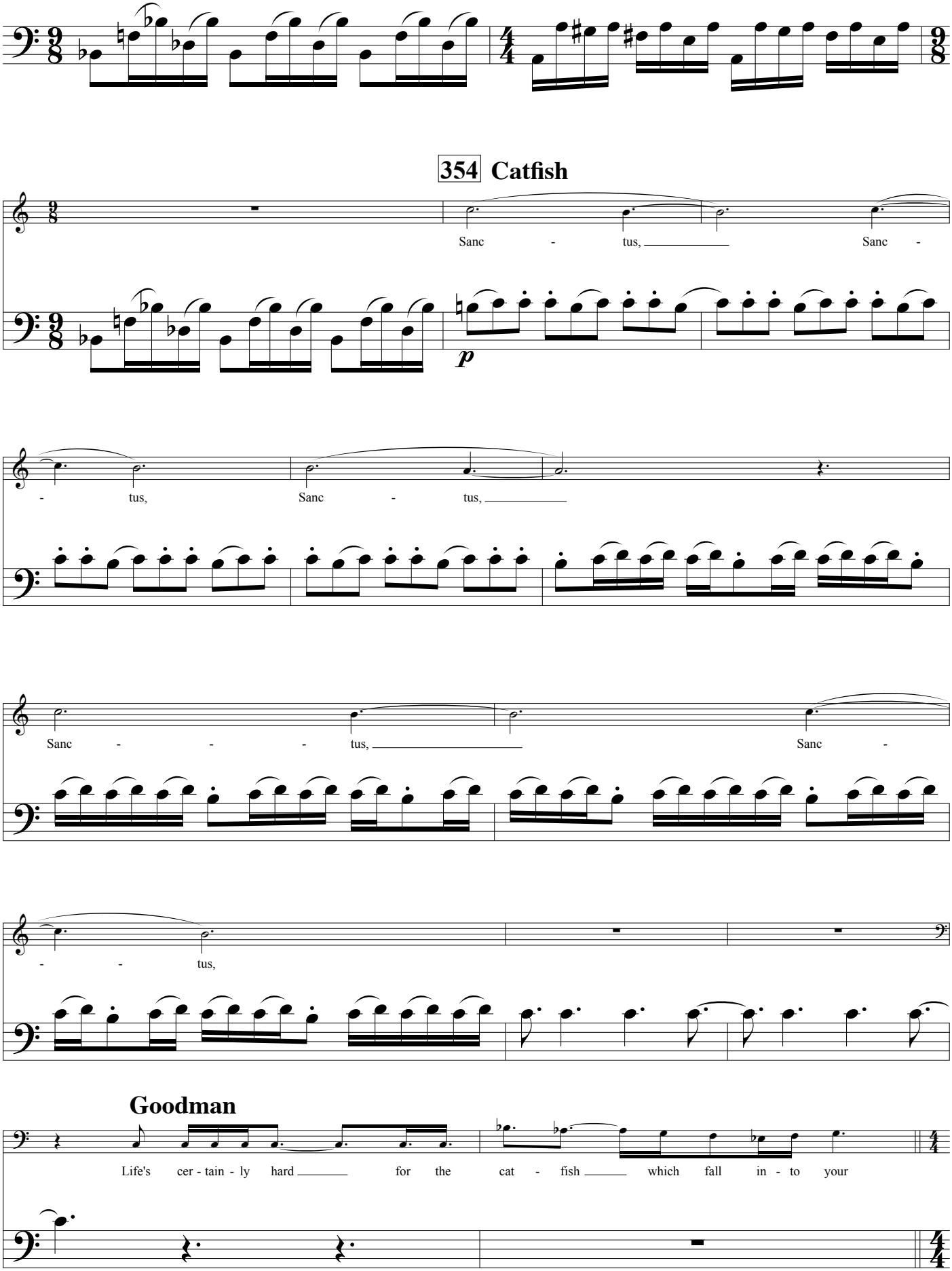

231
p
arco
p
Is pub - lic fun - ding for a fish - farm ap - pro - pri - ate? Should that be pro - mo - ted as art? Is
f pizz.
240
♩. = 72
pub - lic fun - ding for a fish - farm ap - pro - pri - ate? Should that be pro - mo - ted as art?
arco
f
247
f

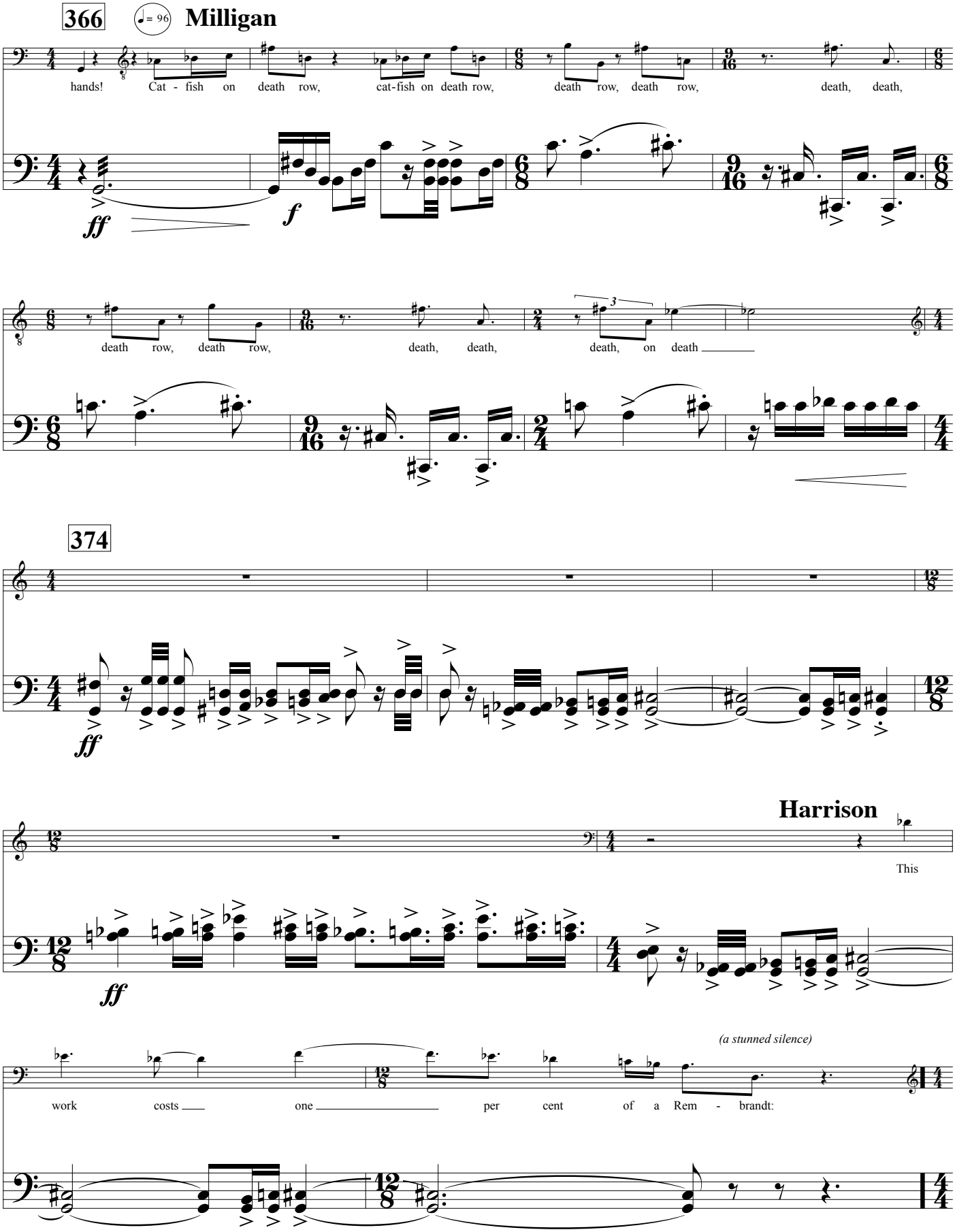

256
267
Harrison
Li - ving snd dy - ing should be un - der - stood,

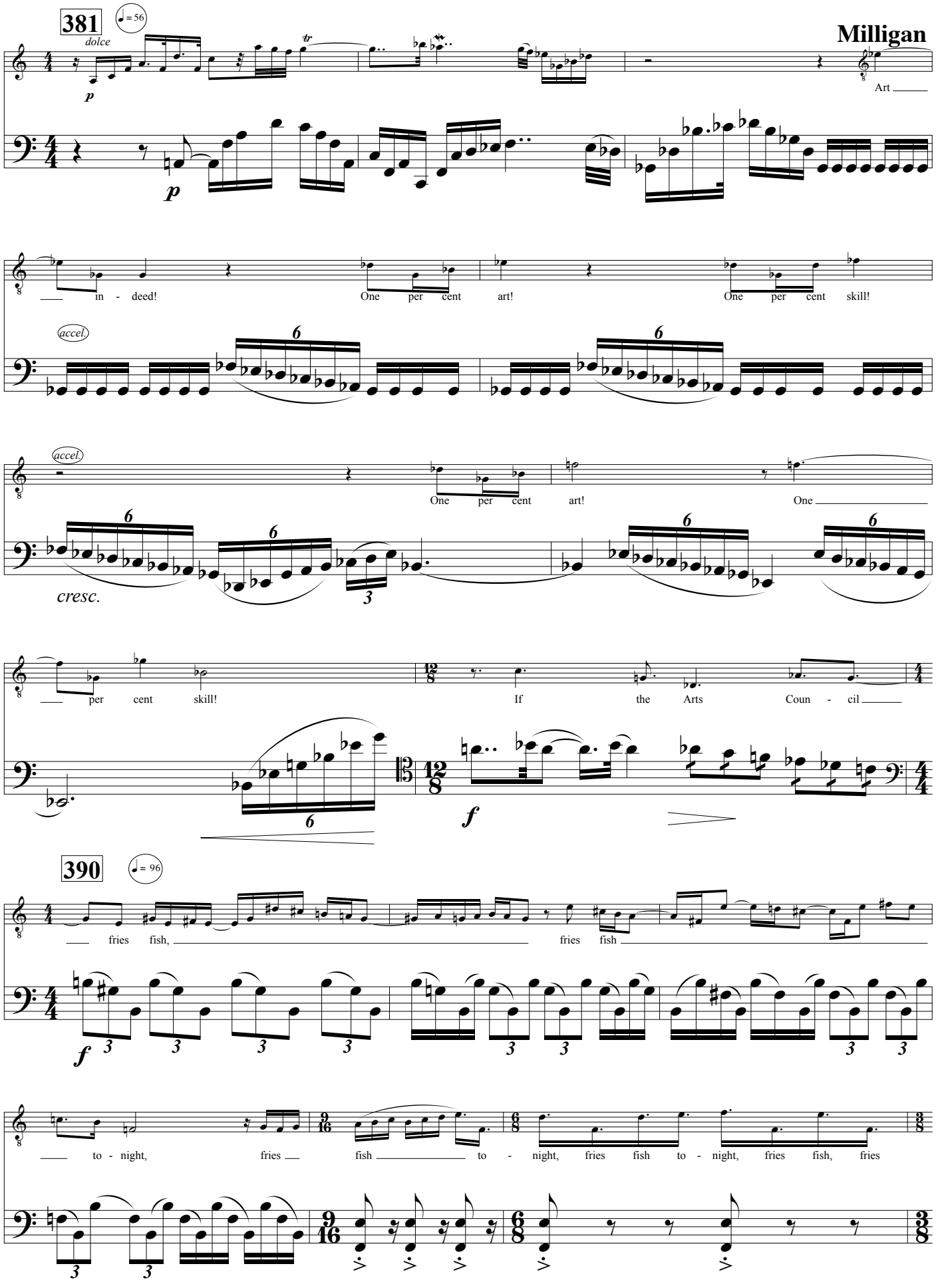

li - ving and dy - ing should be, should be un - der -
284
stood! Kil - ling snd ea - ting should
be in - ter - twined, kil - ling and ea - ting
297
should be, should be in - ter - twined! Who may,
f
who may, who may style him - self as ar -
- tist, who may, who may style him - self as
310
ar - - - tist? who may, who may

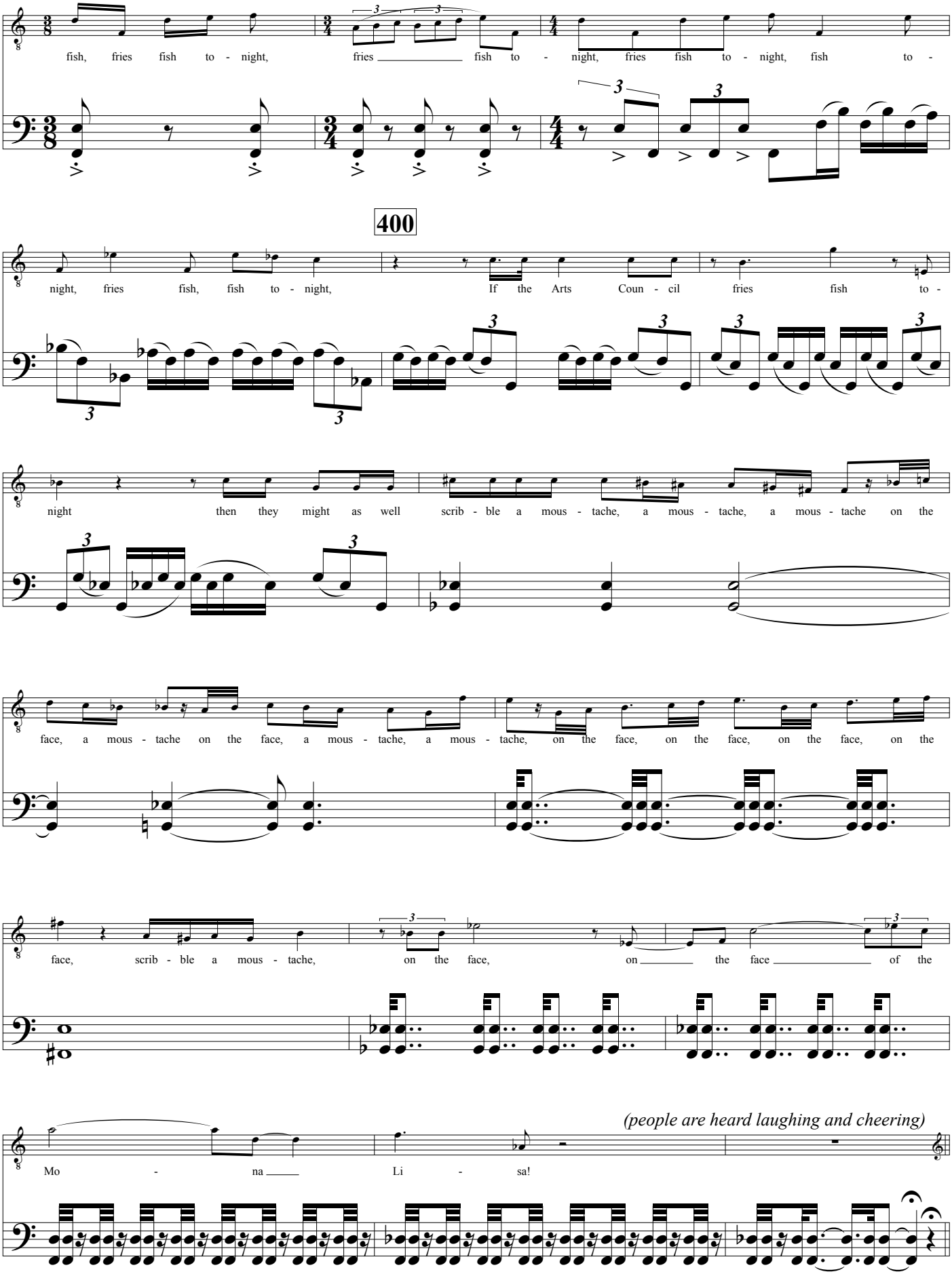

style him - self as ar - - - tist,
who may, who may style him - self as
322
ar - - - tist? Does art, does art
grant en - ti - tle ment,
329


336
Goodman
But must they wit - ness this
slaugh - ter, but must they wit - ness this
343
slaugh - ter, this slaugh - ter, this
slaugh - ter, but must they wit - ness this

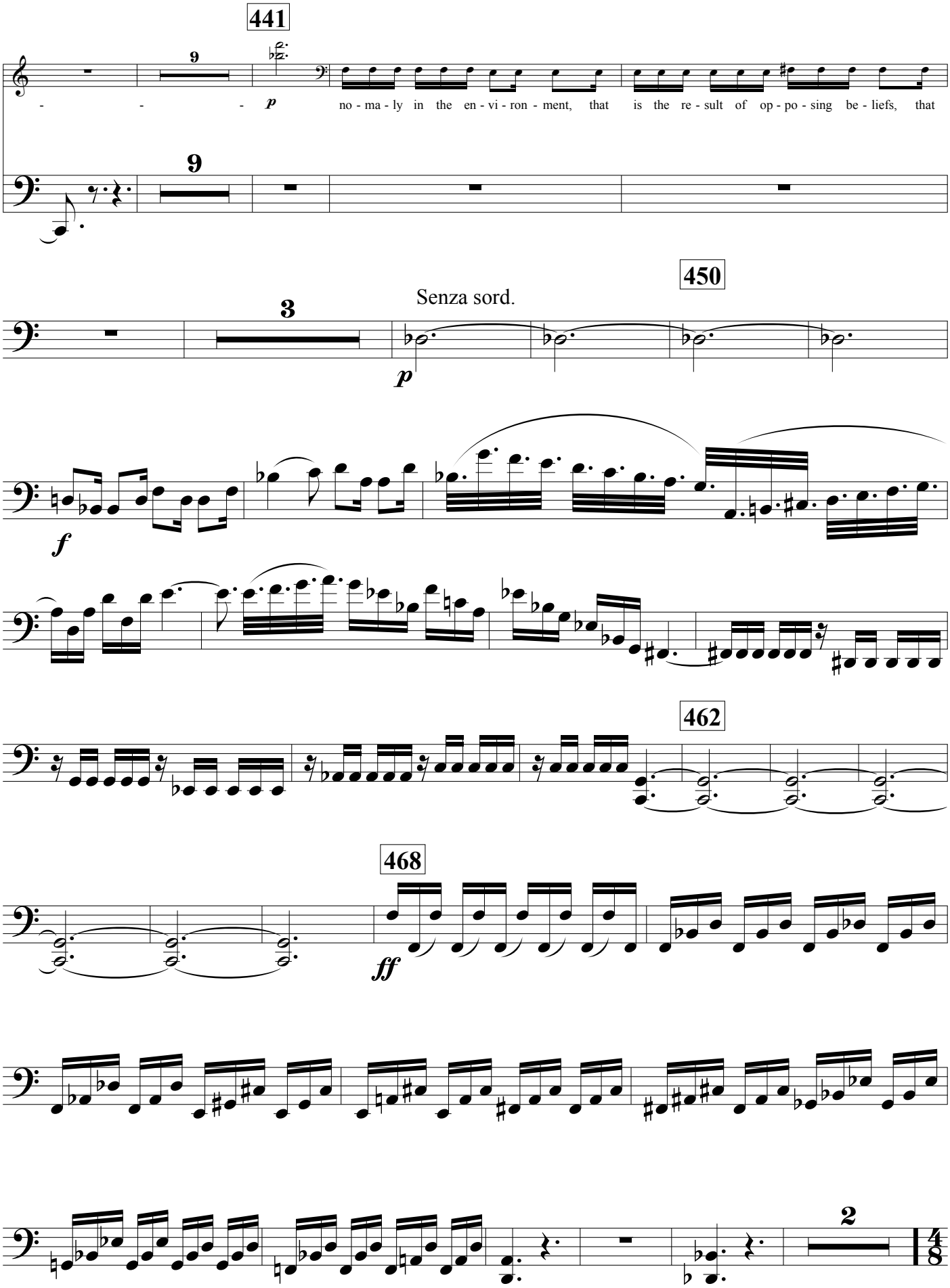

354 Catfish
Sanc - tus, Sanc -
p
- tus, Sanc - tus,
Sanc - - - tus, Sanc -
- - tus,
Goodman
Life's cer - tain - ly hard for the cat - fish which fall in - to your

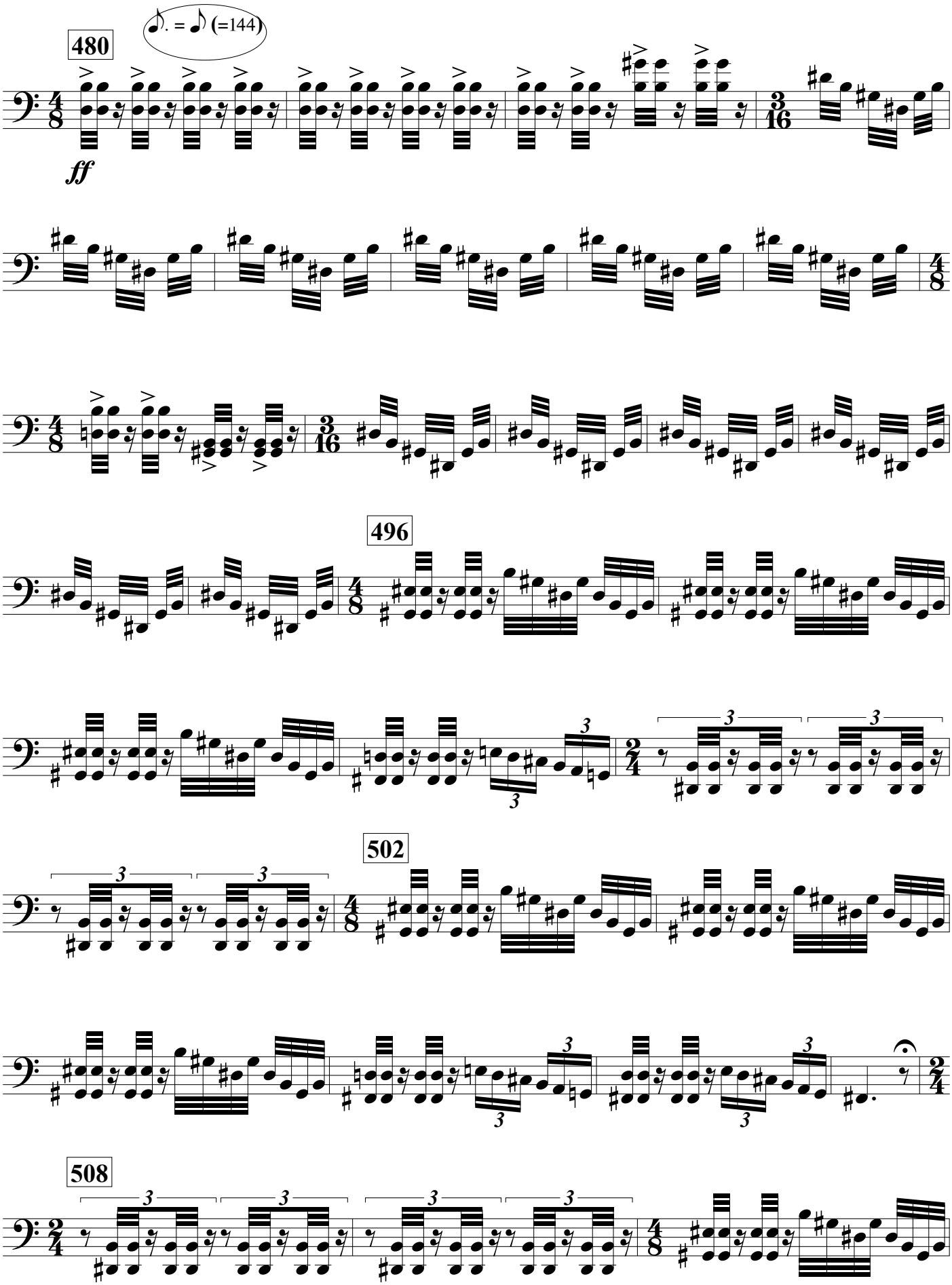

366
♩= 96
Milligan
hands! Cat - fish on death row, cat-fish on death row, death row, death row, death, death,
ff
f
death row, death row, death, death, death, on death
374
ff
Harrison
This
ff
(a stunned silence)
work costs one per cent of a Rem - brandt:

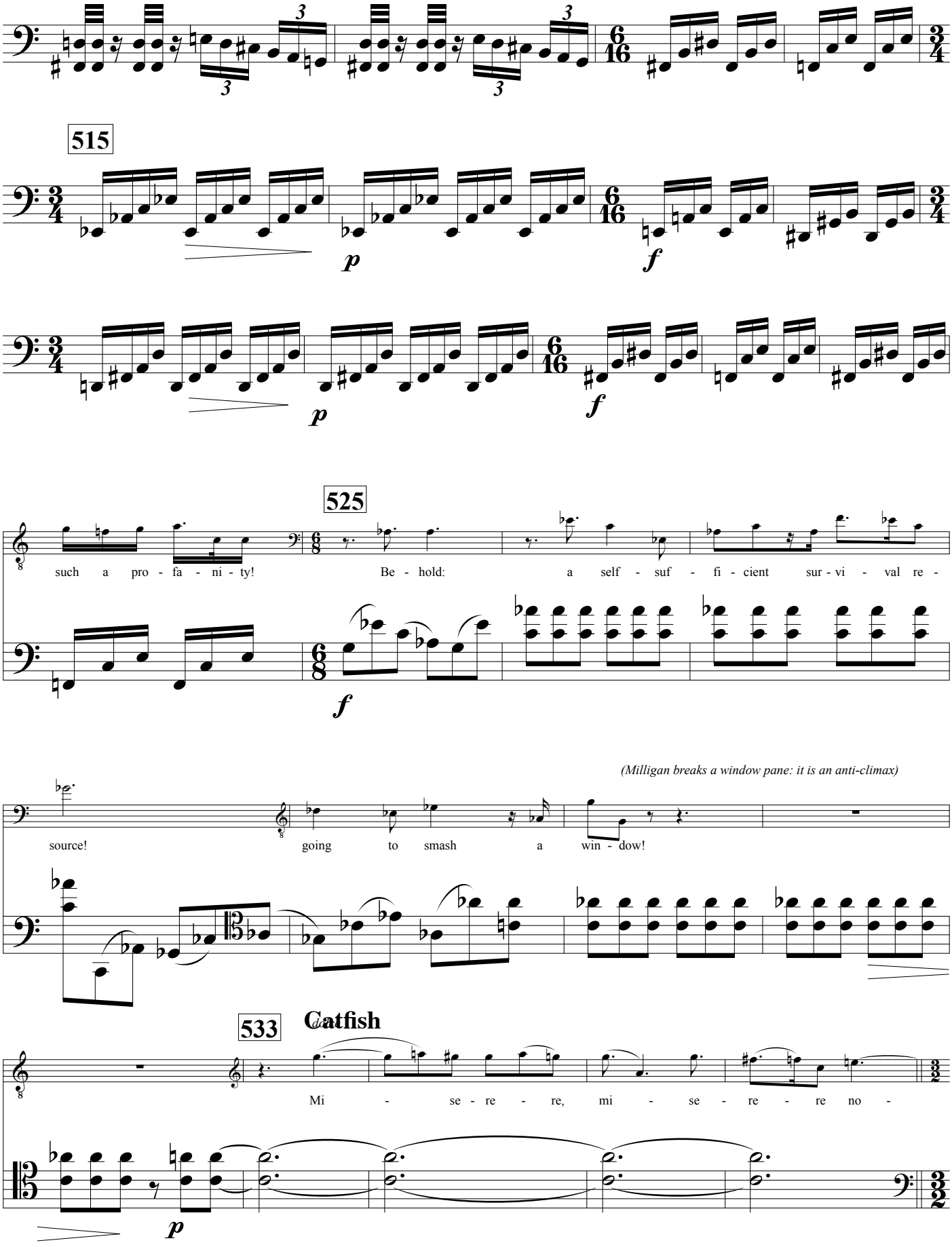

381
dolce
♩= 56
Milligan
Art
in - deed! One per cent art! One per cent skill!
accel.
One per cent art! One
cresc.
per cent skill! If the Arts Coun - cil
390
♩= 96
fries fish, fries fish
to - night, fries fish to - night, fries fish to - night, fries fish, fries

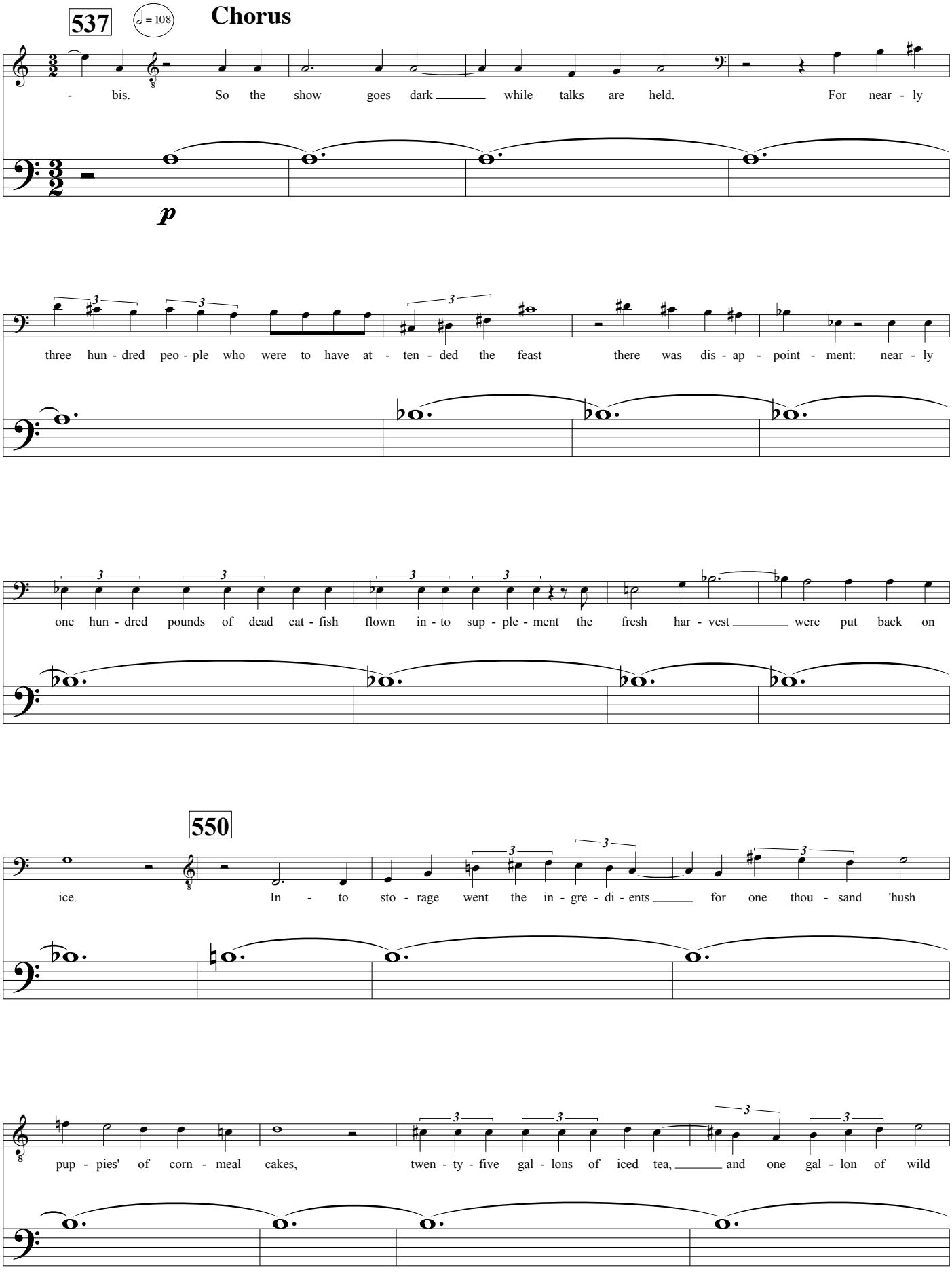

fish, fries fish to - night, fries fish to - night, fries fish to - night, fish to -
400
night, fries fish, fish to - night, If the Arts Coun - cil fries fish to -
night then they might as well scrib - ble a mous - tache, a mous - tache, a mous - tache on the
face, a mous - tache on the face, a mous - tache, a mous - tache, on the face, on the face, on the face, on the
face, scrib - ble a mous - tache, on the face, on the face of the
(people are heard laughing and cheering)
Mo - na Li - sa!

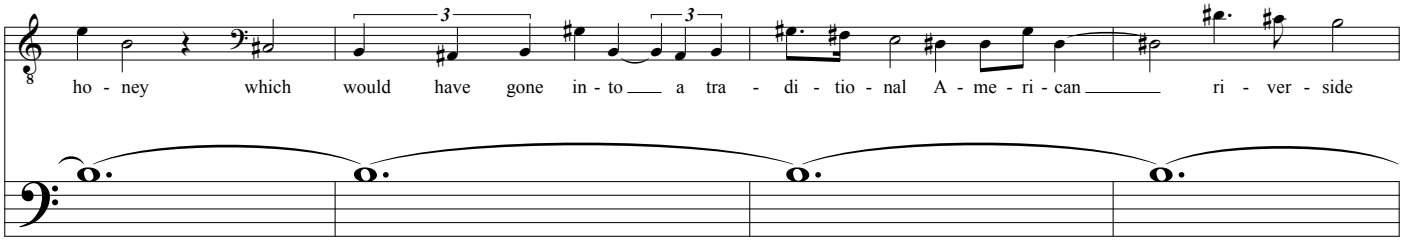
412
♩ = 56
Con sord.
p
Harrison
Mo - ments
Con sord.
p
(preparing the filleting knives)
when re - a - li - ty no lon - ger ap - pears seam - less and the cost of be - lief has be -
come out - ra - geous of - fer the op - por - tu - ni - ty to cre - ate, to cre - ate
new spa - ces, first in the mind and there - af - ter in e - very
430
♪. = 144
day life. My work be - gins when I per - ceive an a -


441
9
p
- - - no - ma - ly in the en - vi - ron - ment, that is the re - sult of op - po - sing be - liefs, that
9
450
Senza sord.
3
p
f
462
468
ff
2

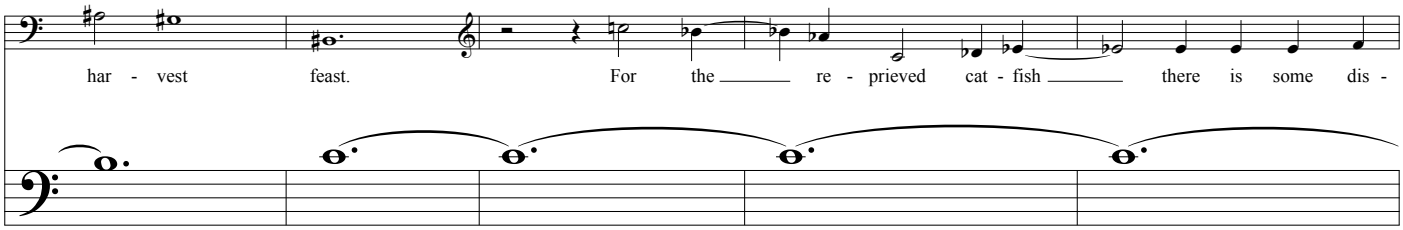

480
♩. = ♩ (=144)
ff
496
502
508

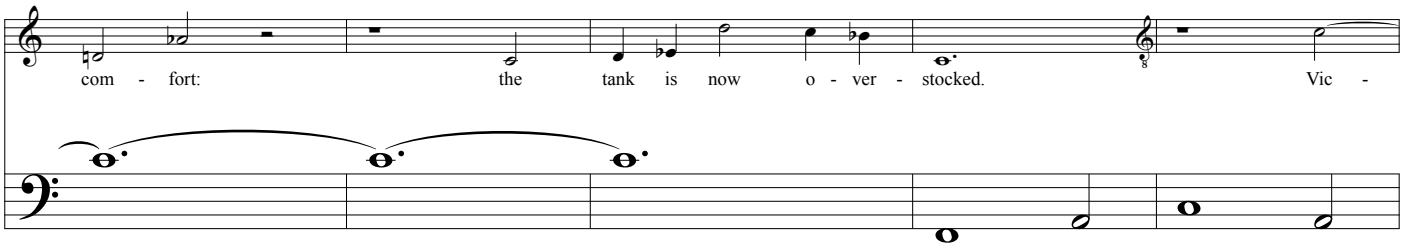

515
525
such a pro - fa - ni - ty!
Be - hold:
a self - suf - fi - cient sur - vi - val re -
(Milligan breaks a window pane: it is an anti-climax)
source!
going to smash a win - dow!
533
Catfish
Mi - se - re - re, mi - se - re - re no -

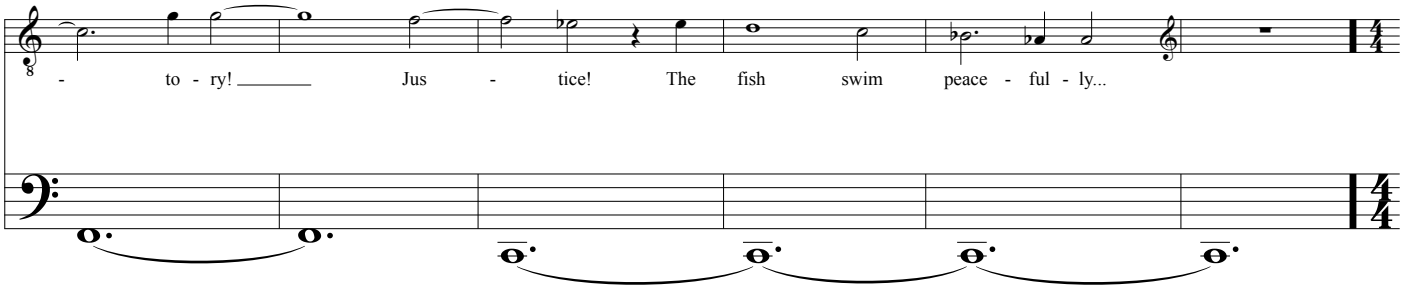

537
♩ = 108
Chorus
- bis. So the show goes dark while talks are held. For near - ly
p
three hun - dred peo - ple who were to have at - ten - ded the feast there was dis - ap - point - ment: near - ly
one hun - dred pounds of dead cat - fish flown in - to sup - ple - ment the fresh har - vest were put back on
550
ice. In - to sto - rage went the in - gre - di - ents for one thou - sand 'hush
pup - pies' of corn - meal cakes, twen - ty - five gal - lons of iced tea, and one gal - lon of wild

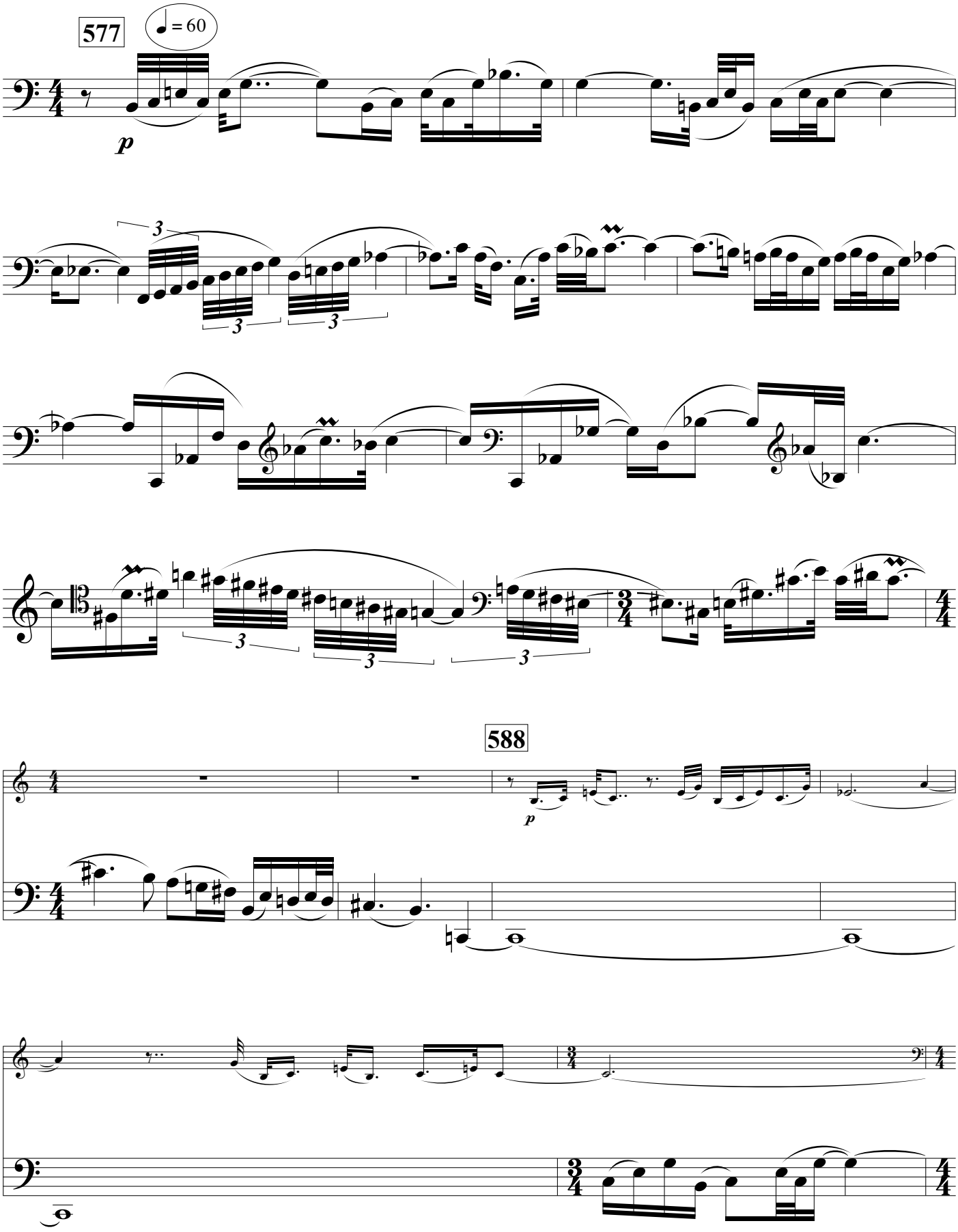

ho - ney which would have gone in - to a tra - di - tio - nal A - me - ri - can ri - ver - side

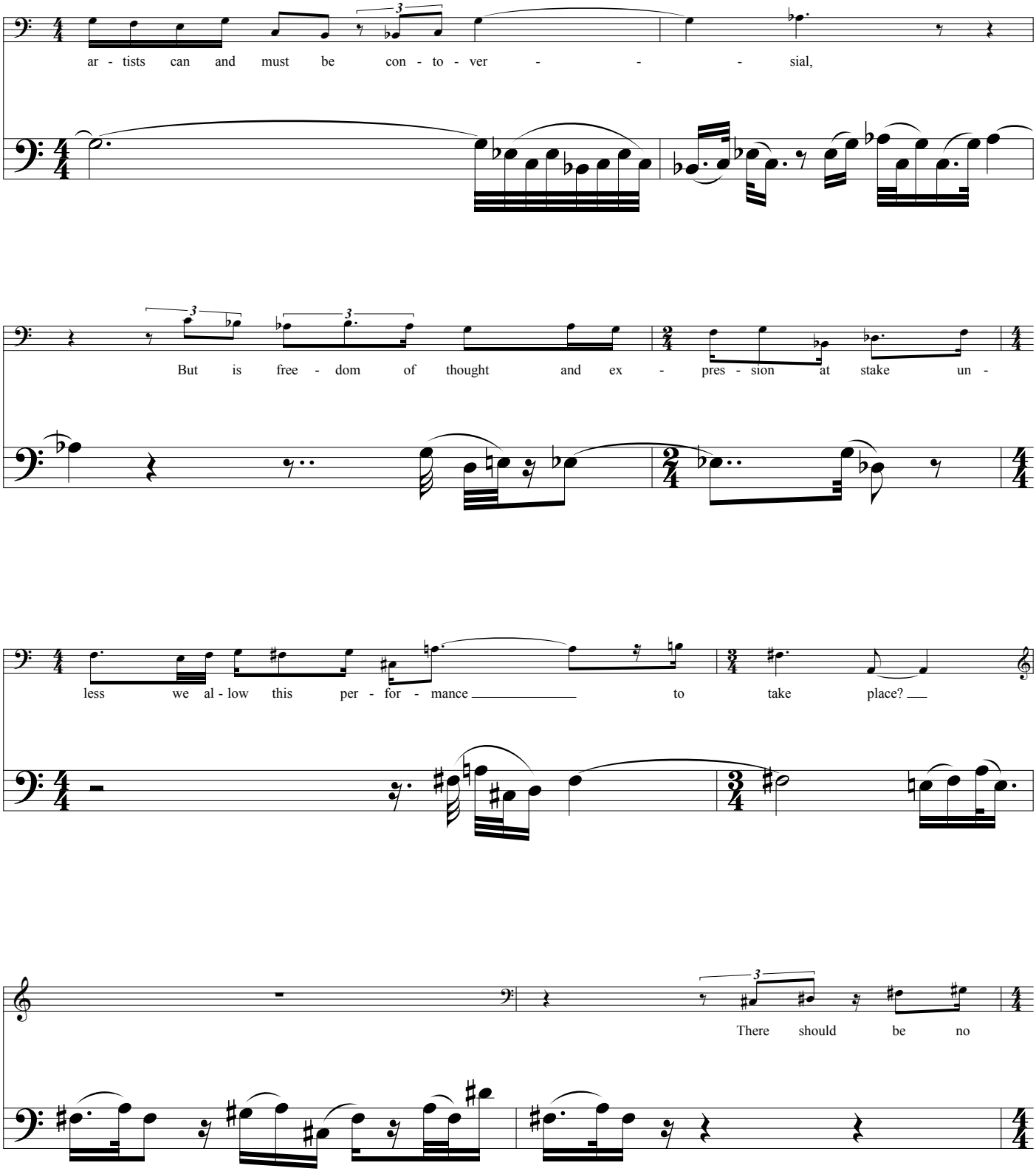
563 **Catfish**

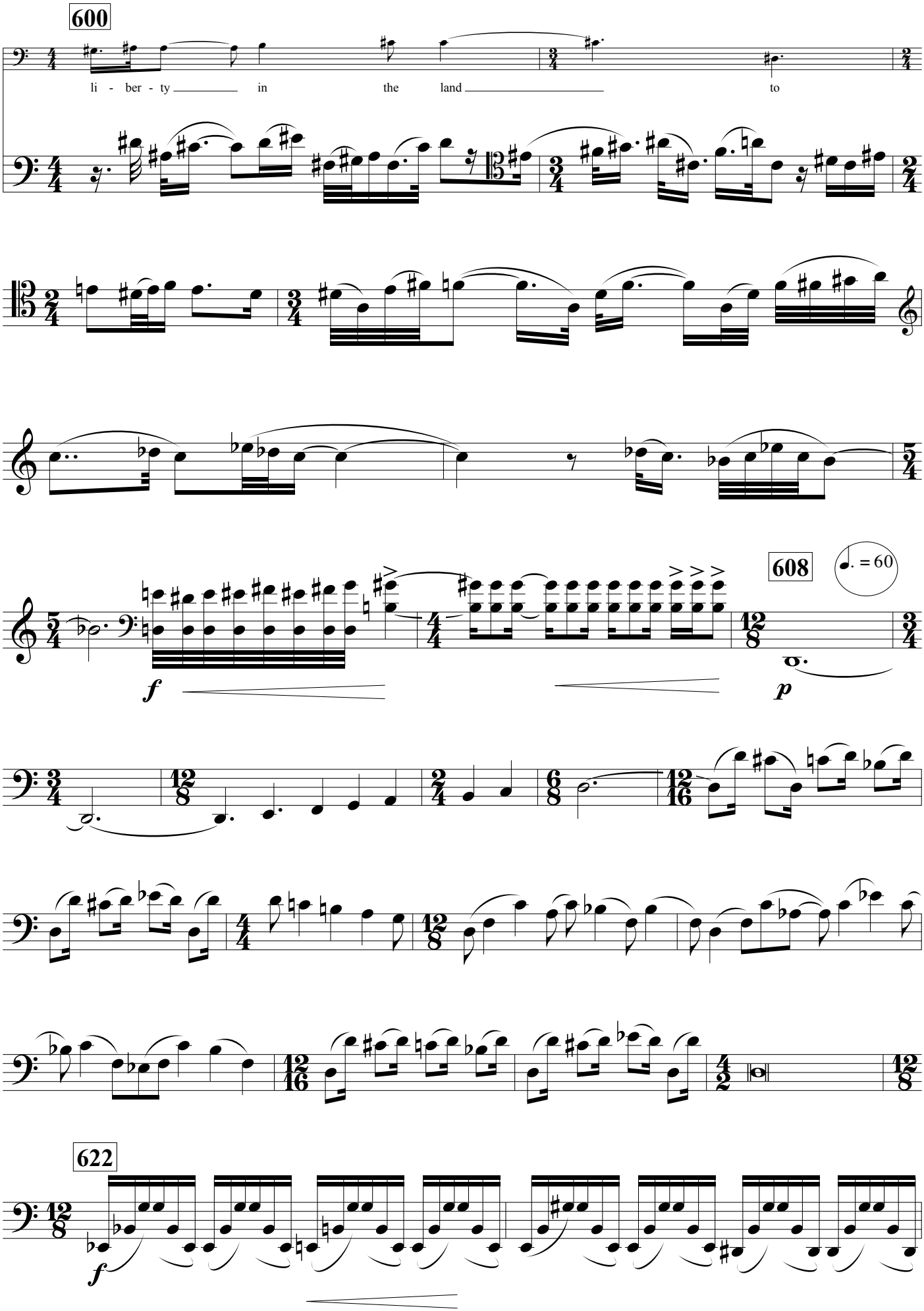

har - vest feast. For the re - prieved cat - fish there is some dis -

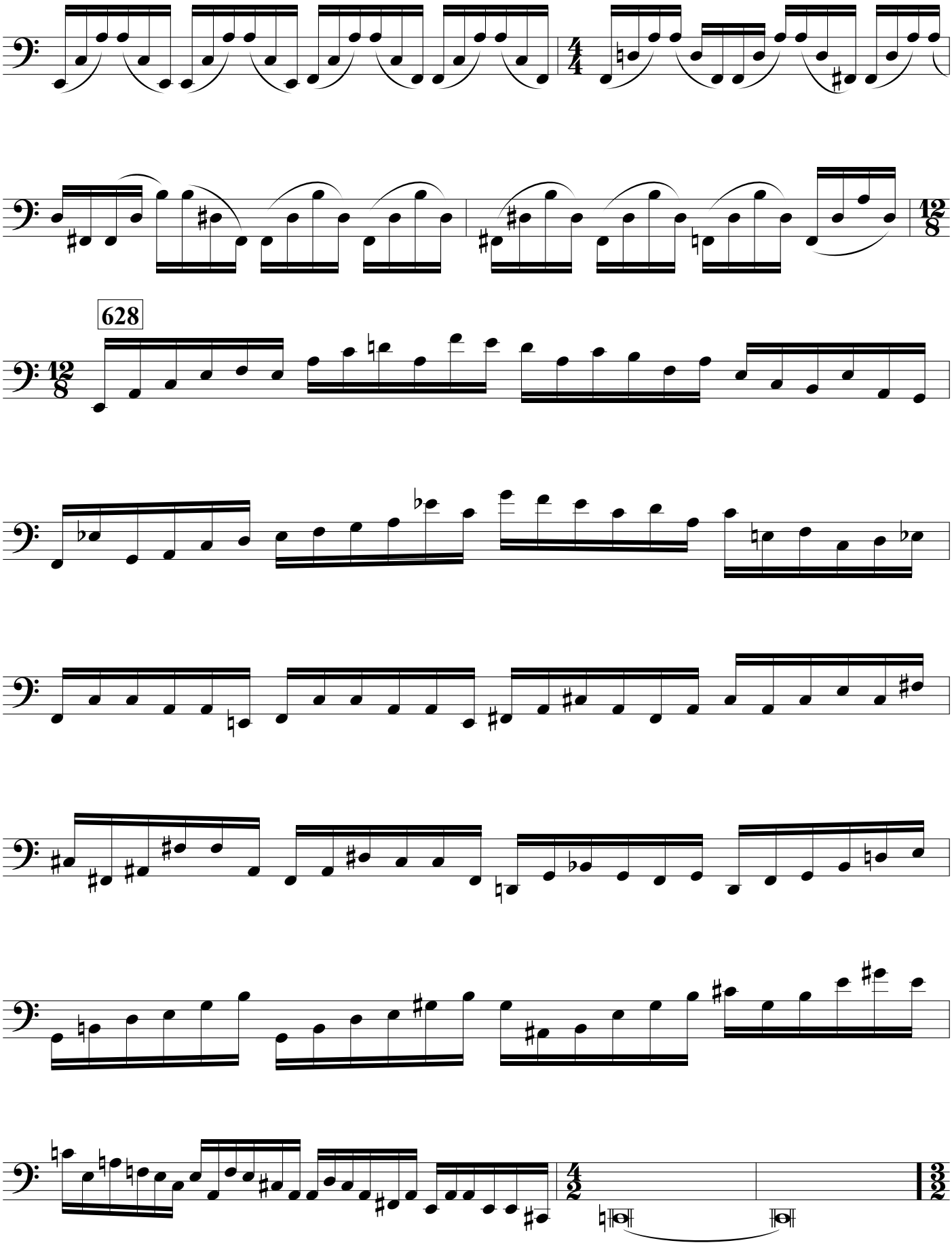

com - fort: the tank is now o - ver - stocked. Vic -

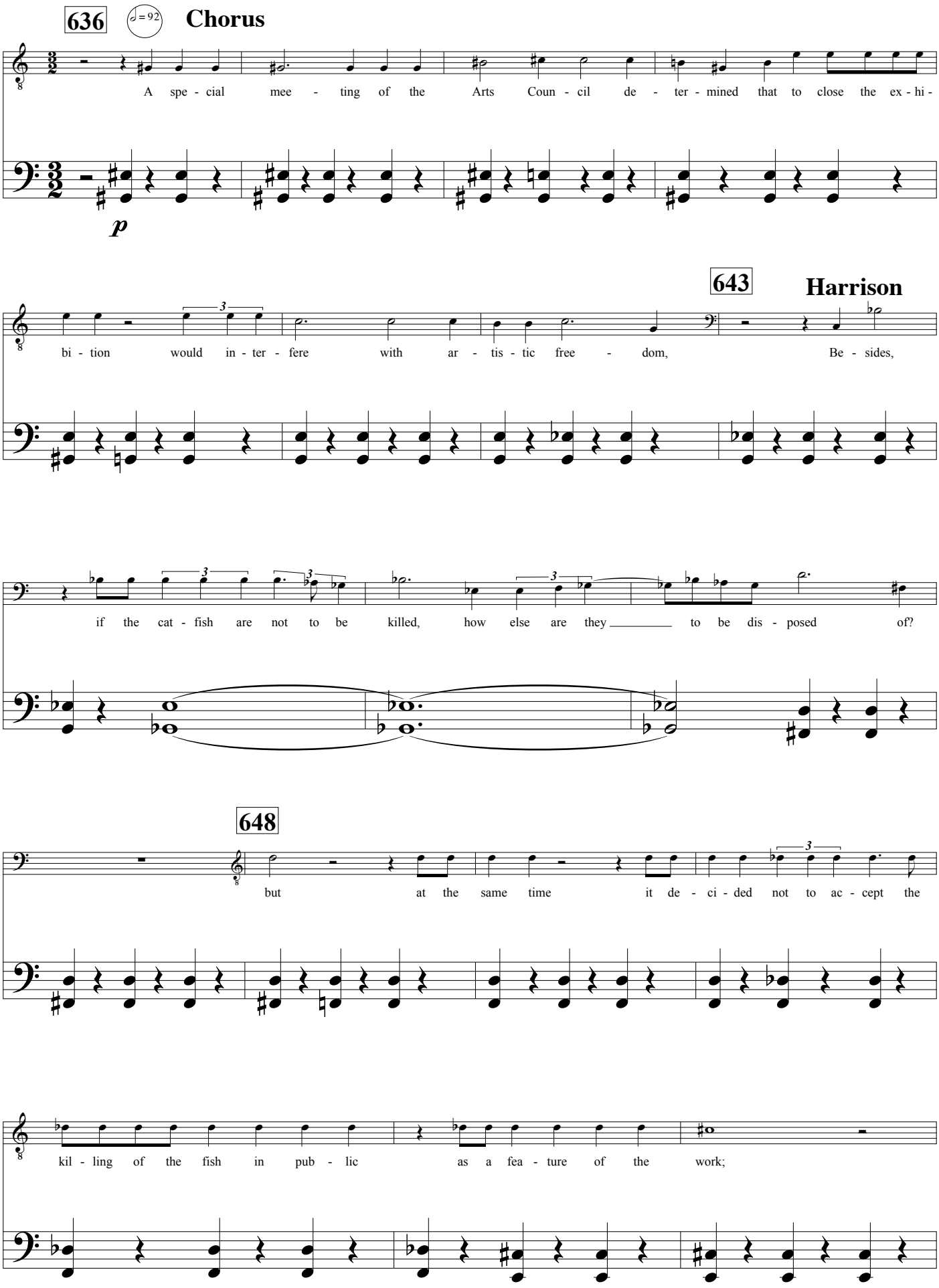

- to - ry! Jus - tice! The fish swim peace - ful - ly...

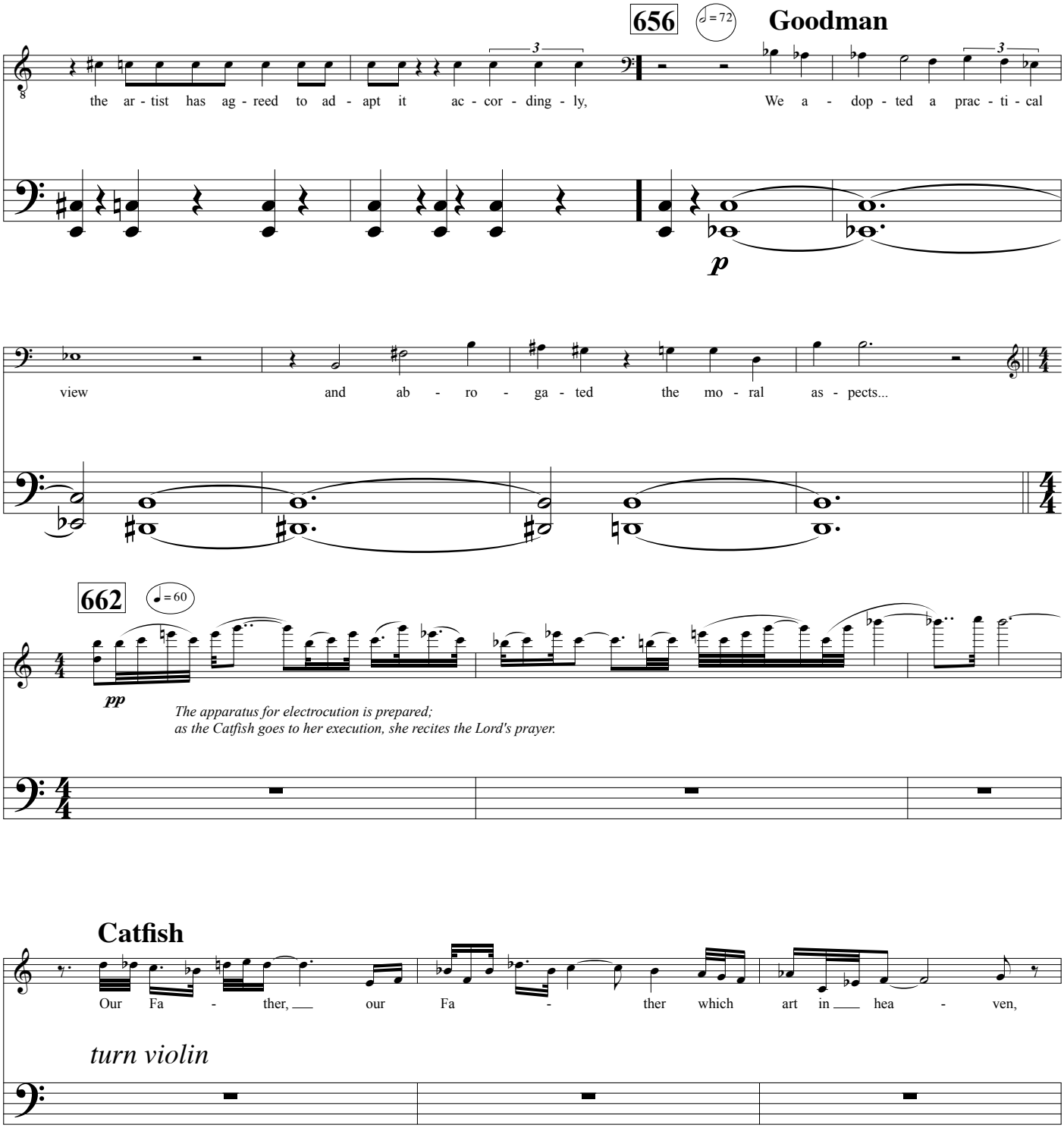

577
♩ = 60
p
3
588
p

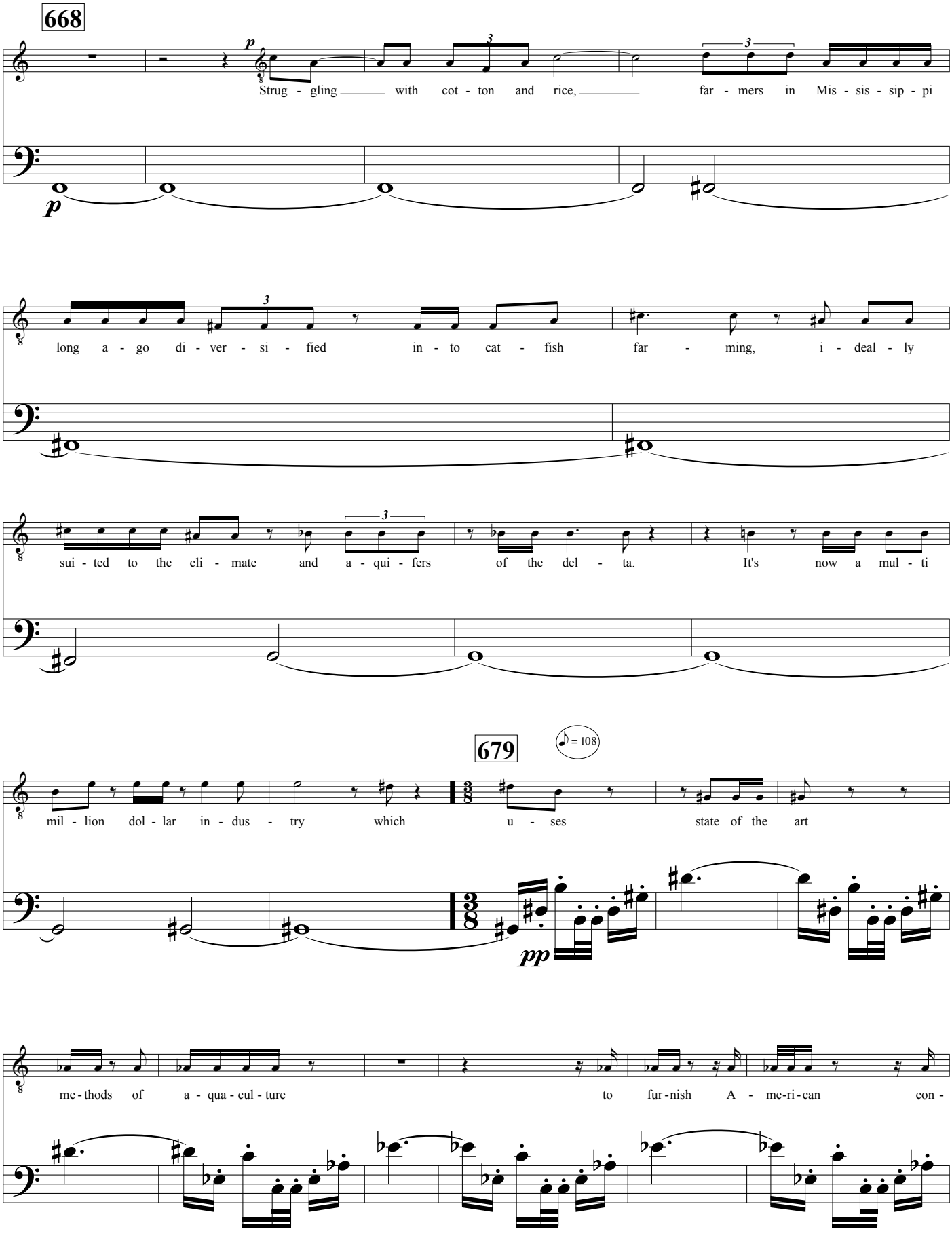

ar - tists can and must be con - to - ver - - - sial,
But is free - dom of thought and ex - pres - sion at stake un -
less we al - low this per - for - mance to take place?
There should be no

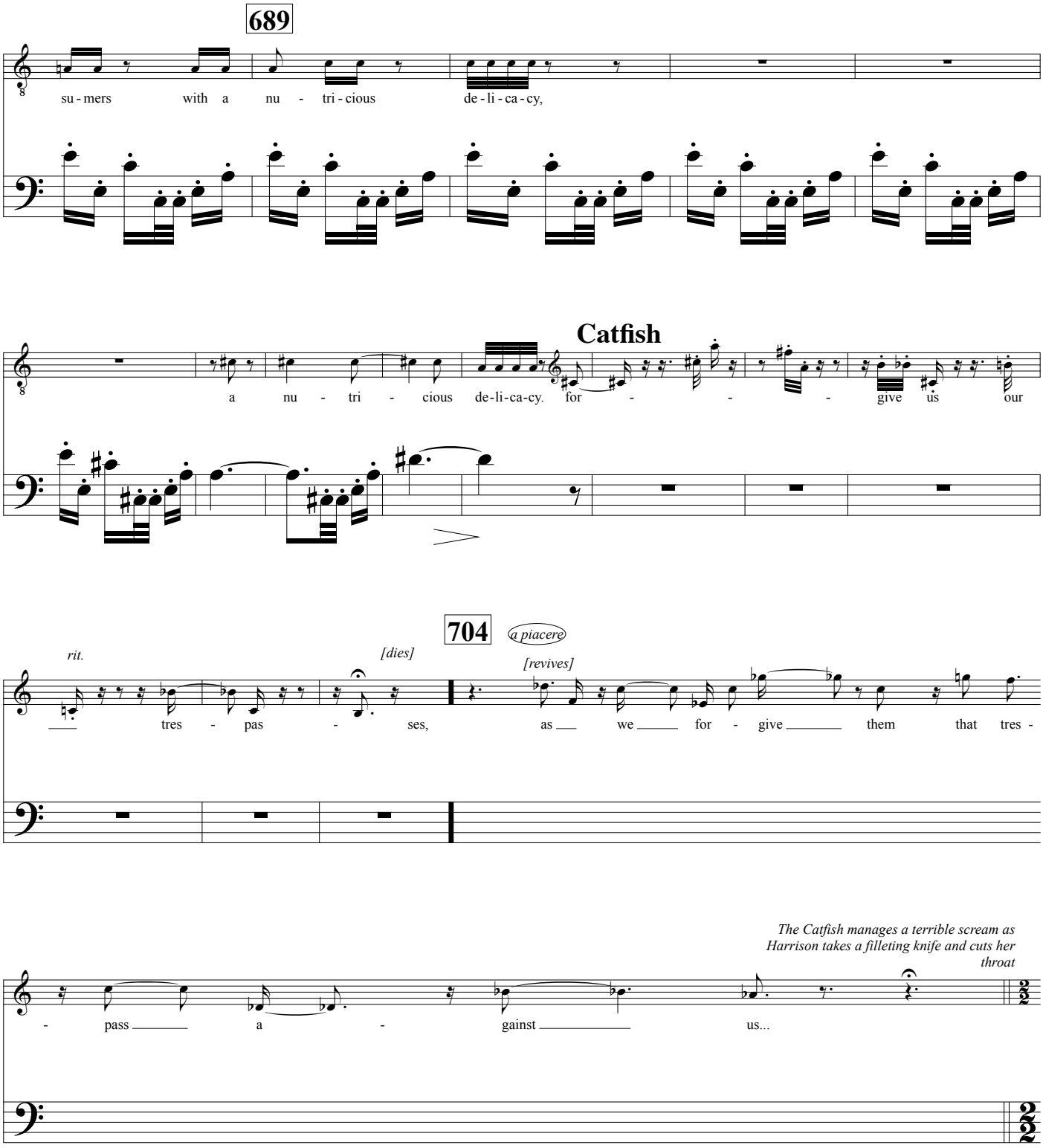

600
li - ber - ty in the land to
608
♩. = 60
f
p
622
f

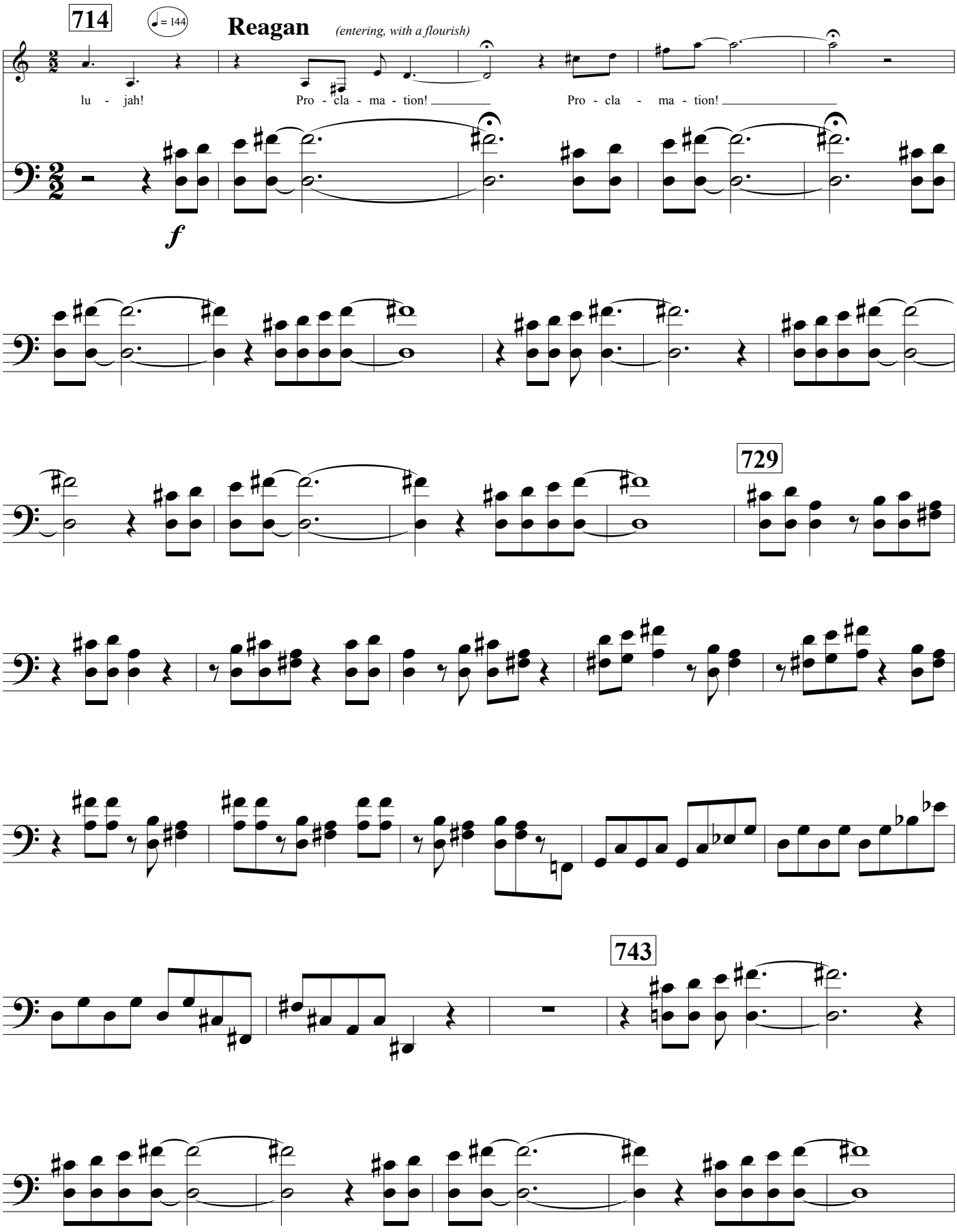

628

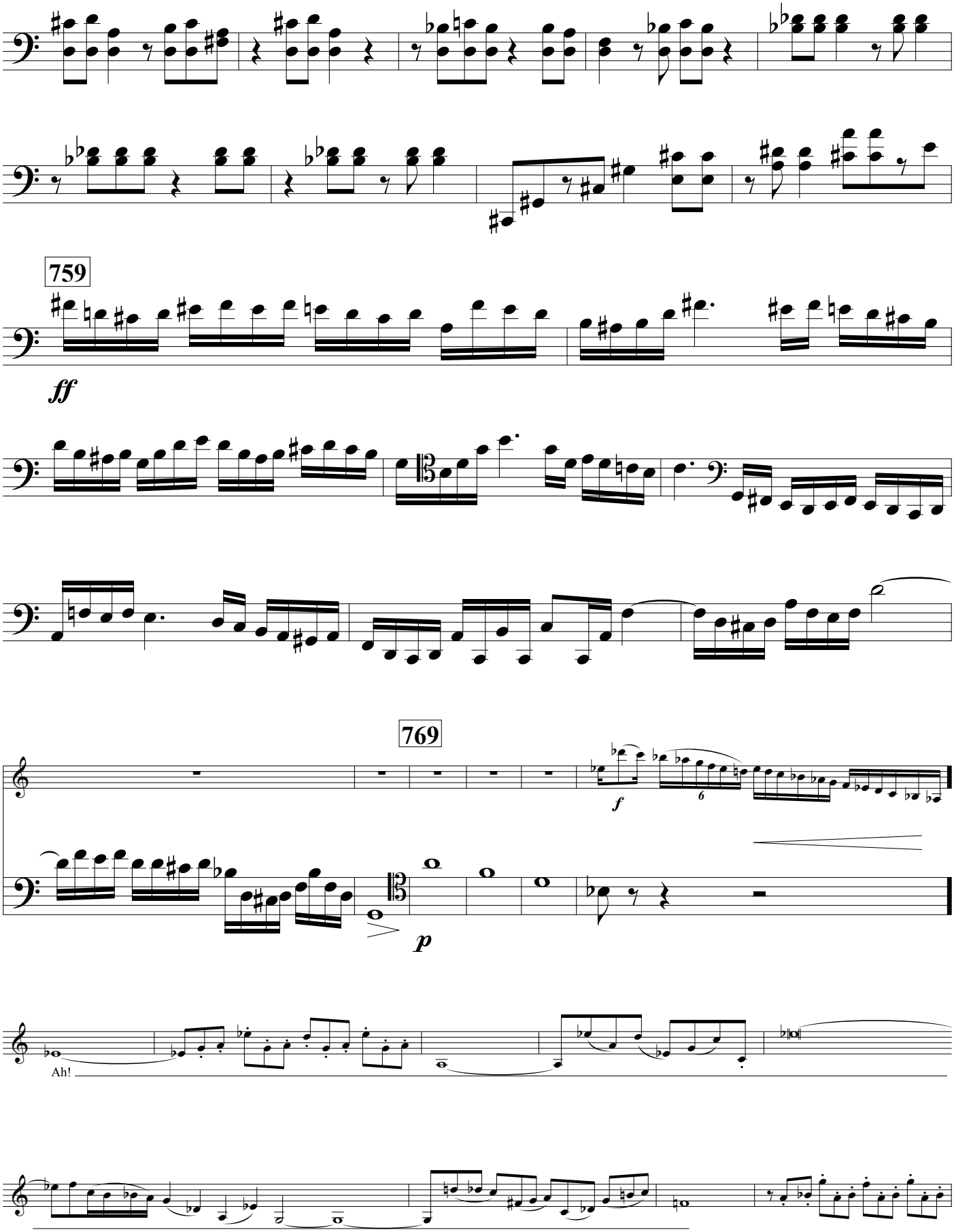

636
♩ = 92
Chorus
A spe - cial mee - ting of the Arts Coun - cil de - ter - mined that to close the ex - hi -
p
643
Harrison
bi - tion would in - ter - fere with ar - tis - tic free - dom, Be - sides,
if the cat - fish are not to be killed, how else are they to be dis - posed of?
648
but at the same time it de - ci - ded not to ac - cept the
kil - ling of the fish in pub - lic as a fea - ture of the work;

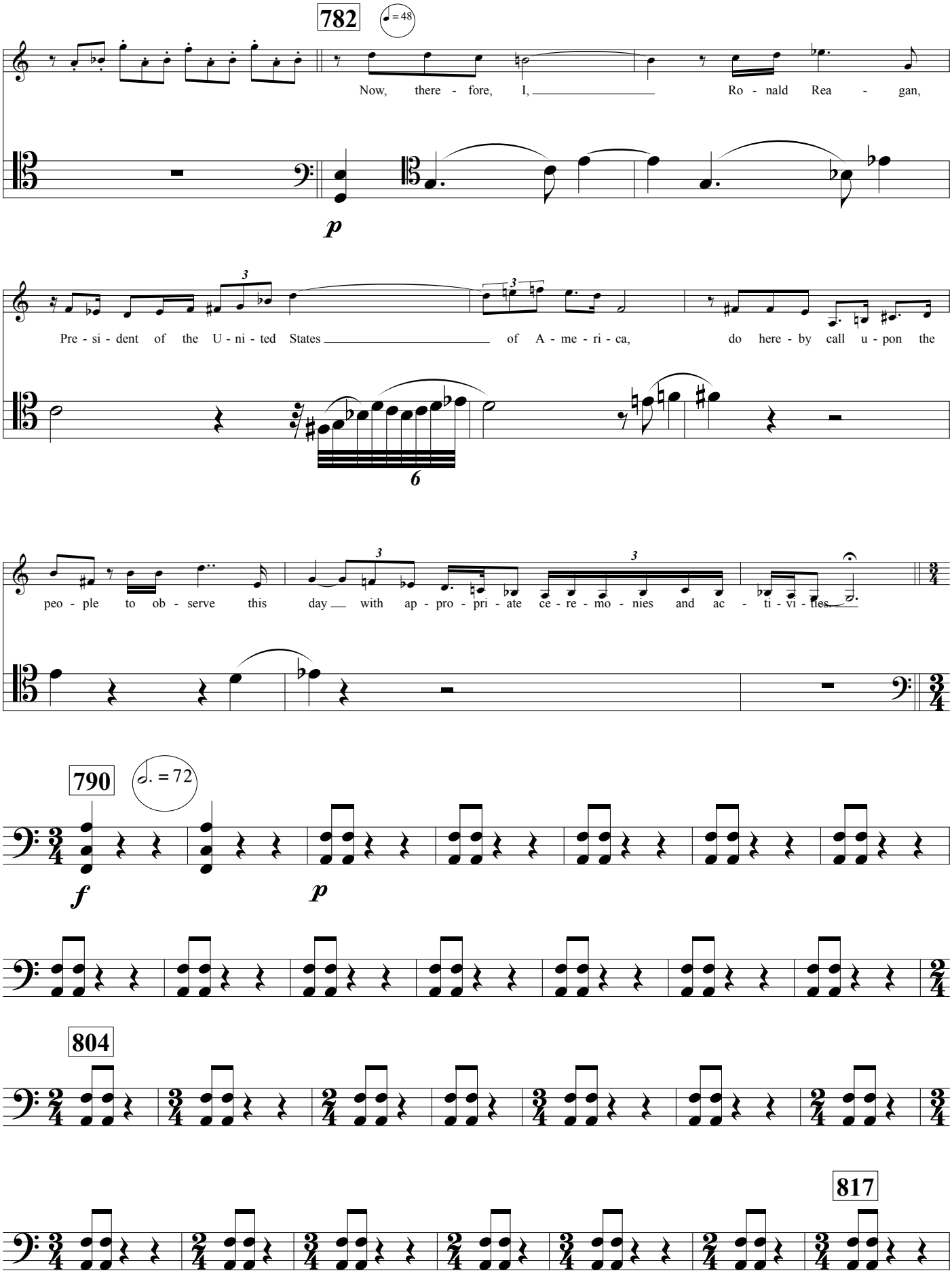

656
♩ = 72
Goodman
the ar - tist has ag - reed to ad - apt it ac - cor - ding - ly,
We a - dop - ted a prac - ti - cal
p
view and ab - ro - ga - ted the mo - ral as - pects...
662
♩ = 60
pp
The apparatus for electrocution is prepared;
as the Catfish goes to her execution, she recites the Lord's prayer.
Catfish
Our Fa - ther, our Fa - ther which art in hea - ven,
turn violin

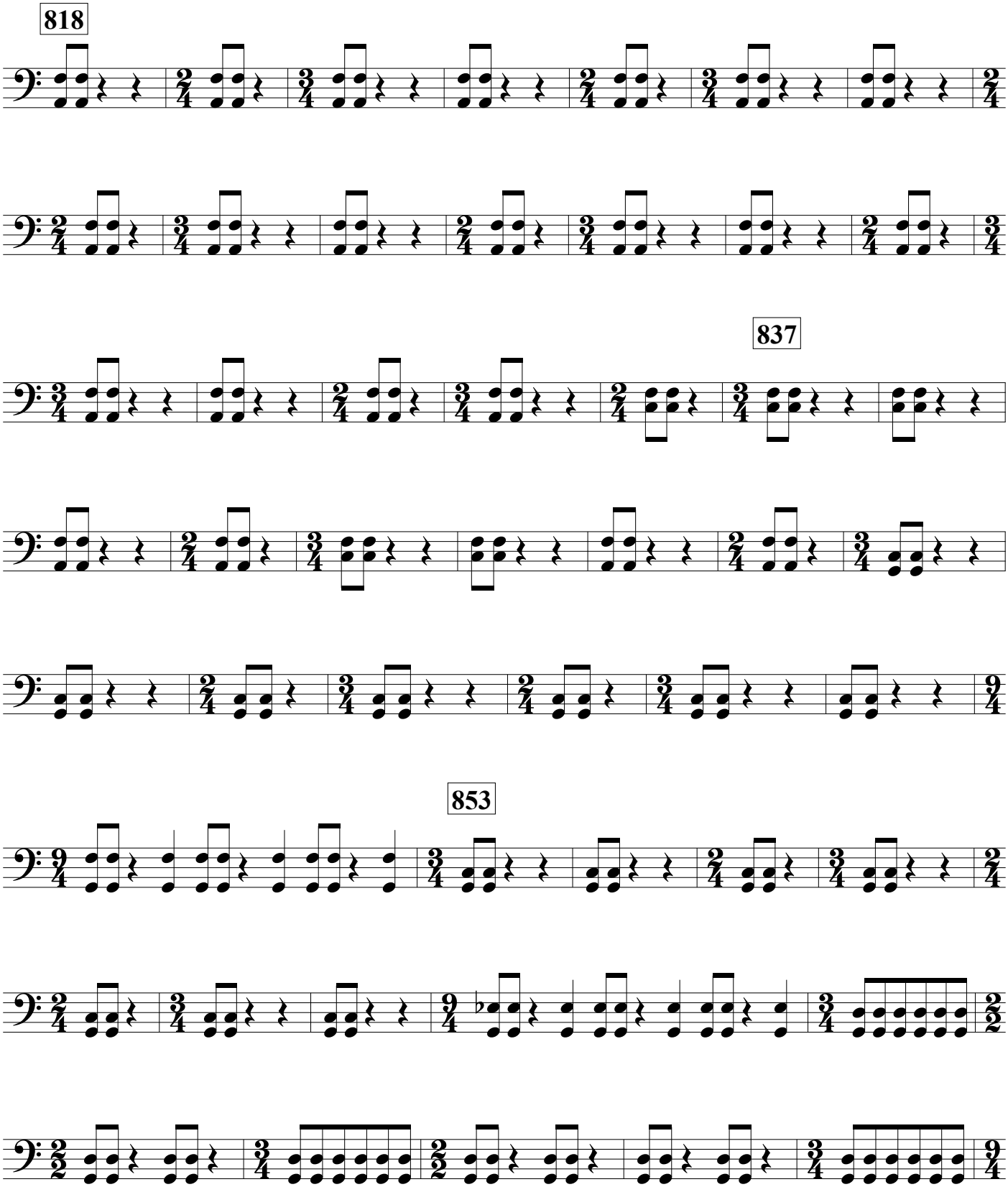

668
p
Strug - gling with cot - ton and rice, far - mers in Mis - sis - sip - pi
long a - go di - ver - si - fied in - to cat - fish far - ming, i - deal - ly
sui - ted to the cli - mate and a - qui - fers of the del - ta. It's now a mul - ti
679
♪ = 108
mil - lion dol - lar in - dus - try which u - ses state of the art
pp
me - thods of a - qua - cul - ture to fur - nish A - me - ri - can con -

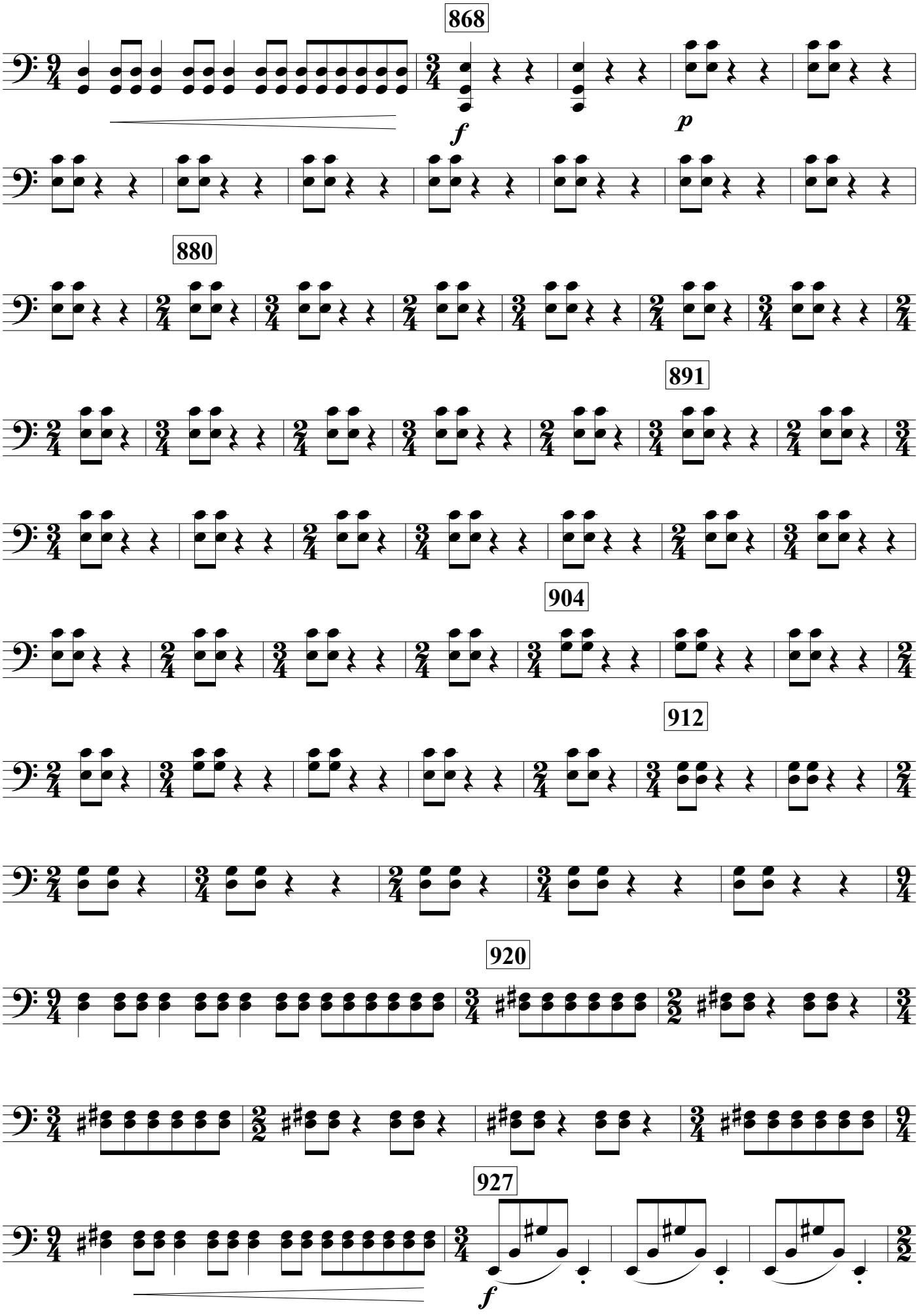

689
su - mers with a nu - tri - cious de - li - ca - cy,
Catfish
a nu - tri - cious de-li-ca-cy. for - - - give us our
704
a piacere
rit.
[dies]
[revives]
tres - pas - ses, as we for - give them that tres -
The Catfish manages a terrible scream as Harrison takes a filleting knife and cuts her throat
- pass a - gainst us...

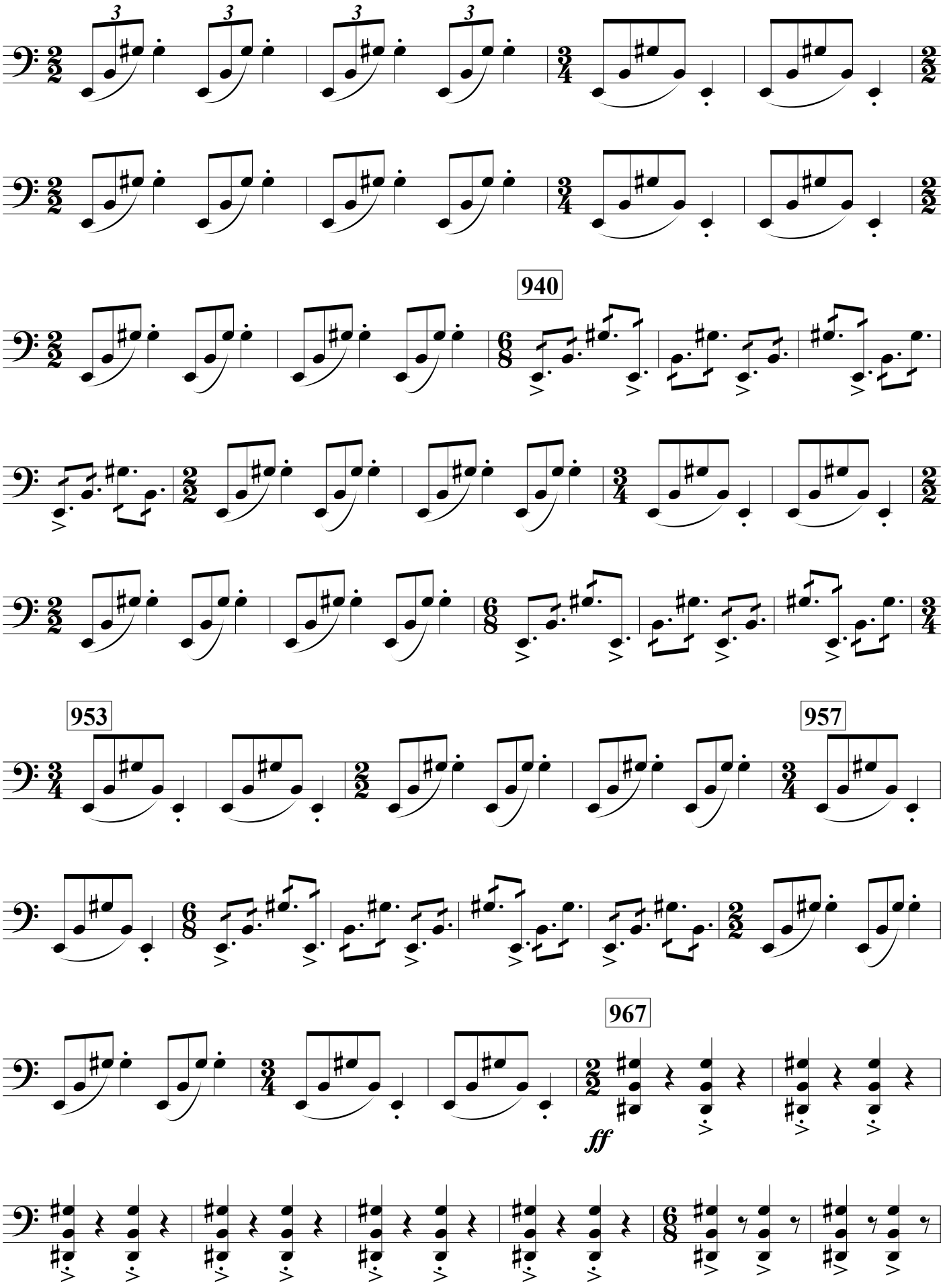

714
♩= 144
Reagan
(entering, with a flourish)
lu - jah!
Pro - cla - ma - tion!
Pro - cla - ma - tion!
f
729
743

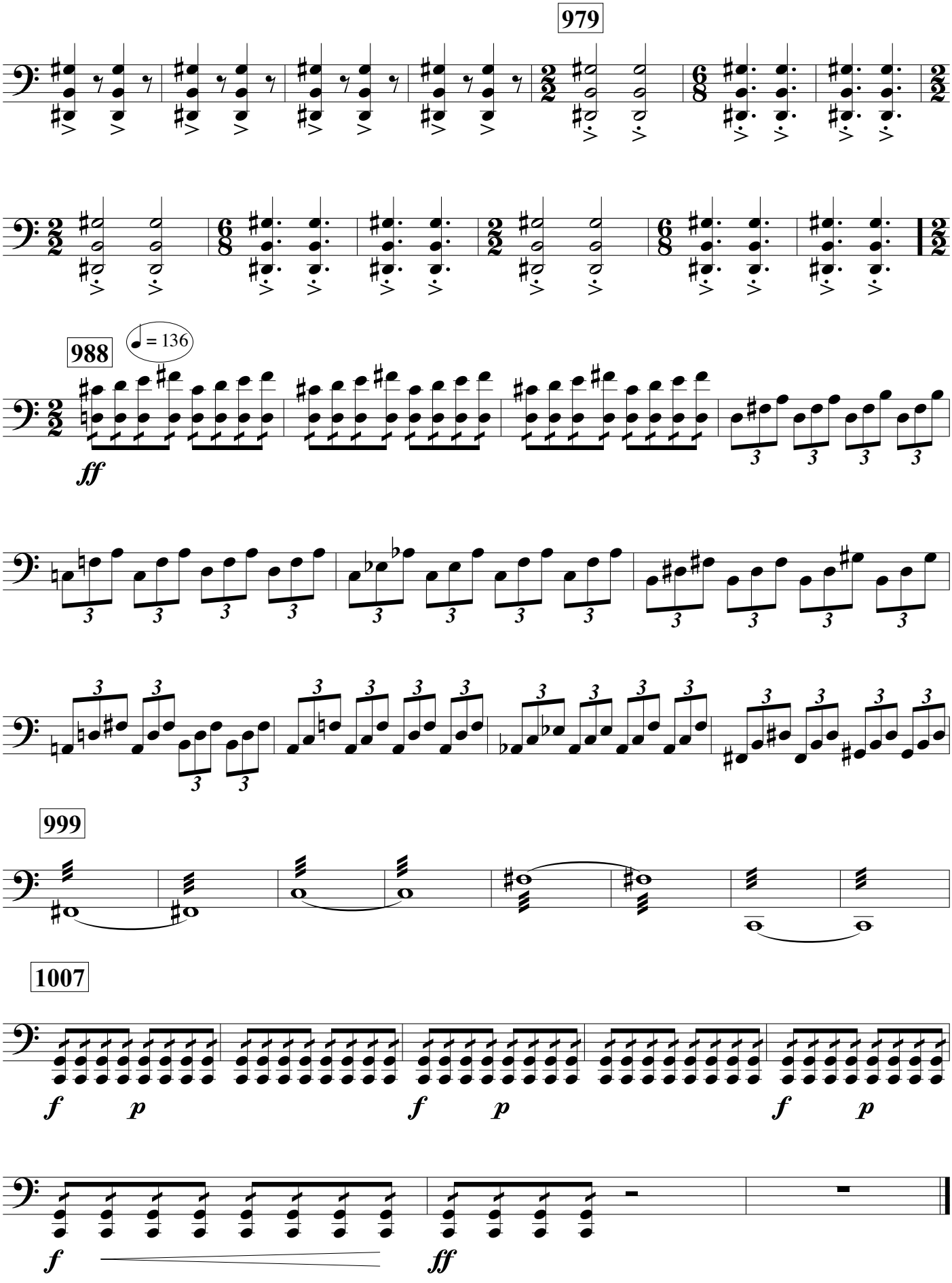

759
ff
769
f
6
p
Ah!


782
♩= 48
Now, there - fore, I, Ro - nald Rea - gan,
p
Pre - si - dent of the U - ni - ted States of A - me - ri - ca, do here - by call u - pon the
6
peo - ple to ob - serve this day with ap - pro - pri - ate ce - re - mo - nies and ac - ti - vi - ties.
790
♩. = 72
f
p
804
817


818
837
853


868
f
p
880
891
904
912
920
927
f


940
953
957
967
ff

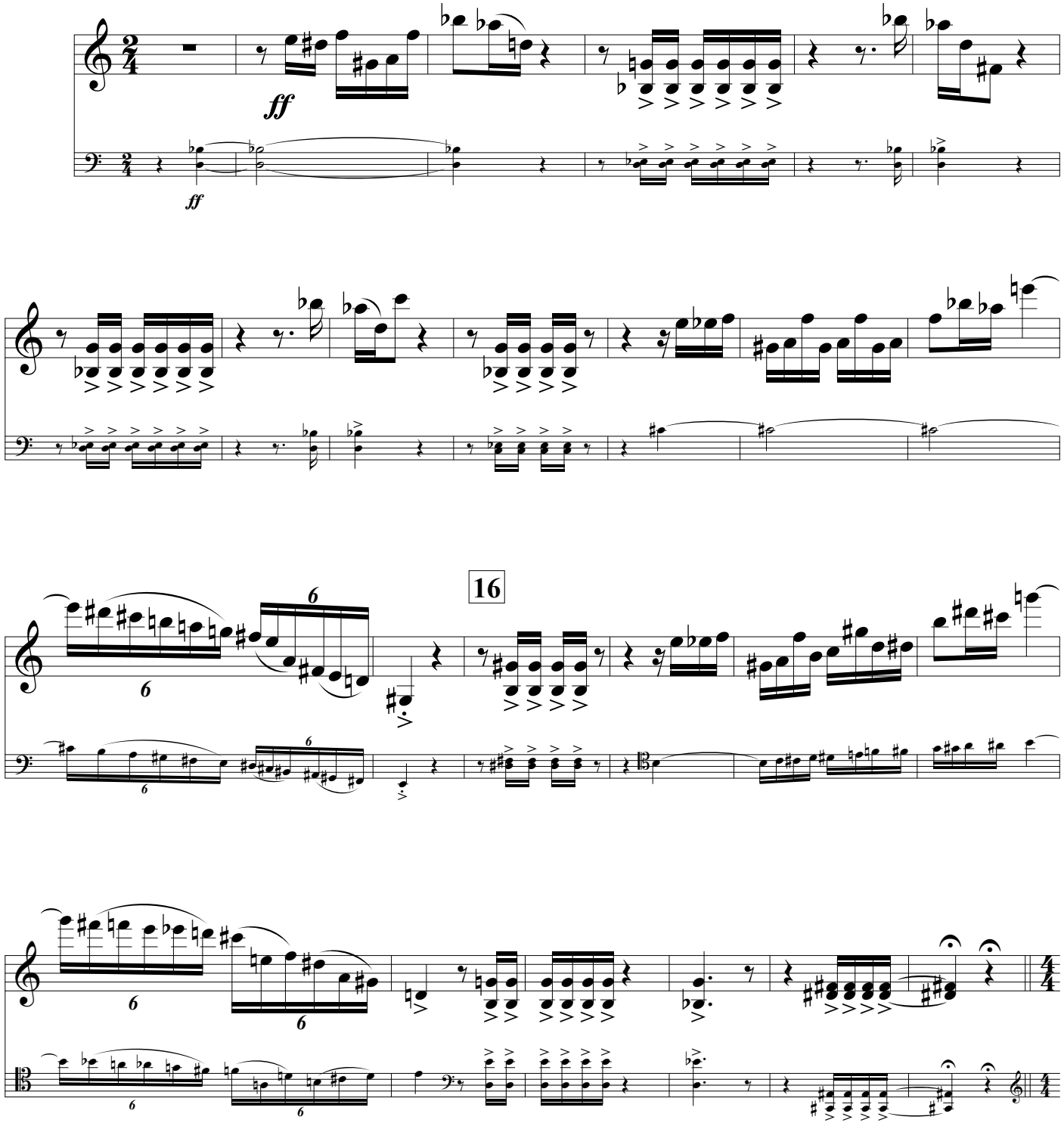

979
988
♩ = 136
ff
999
1007
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
ff

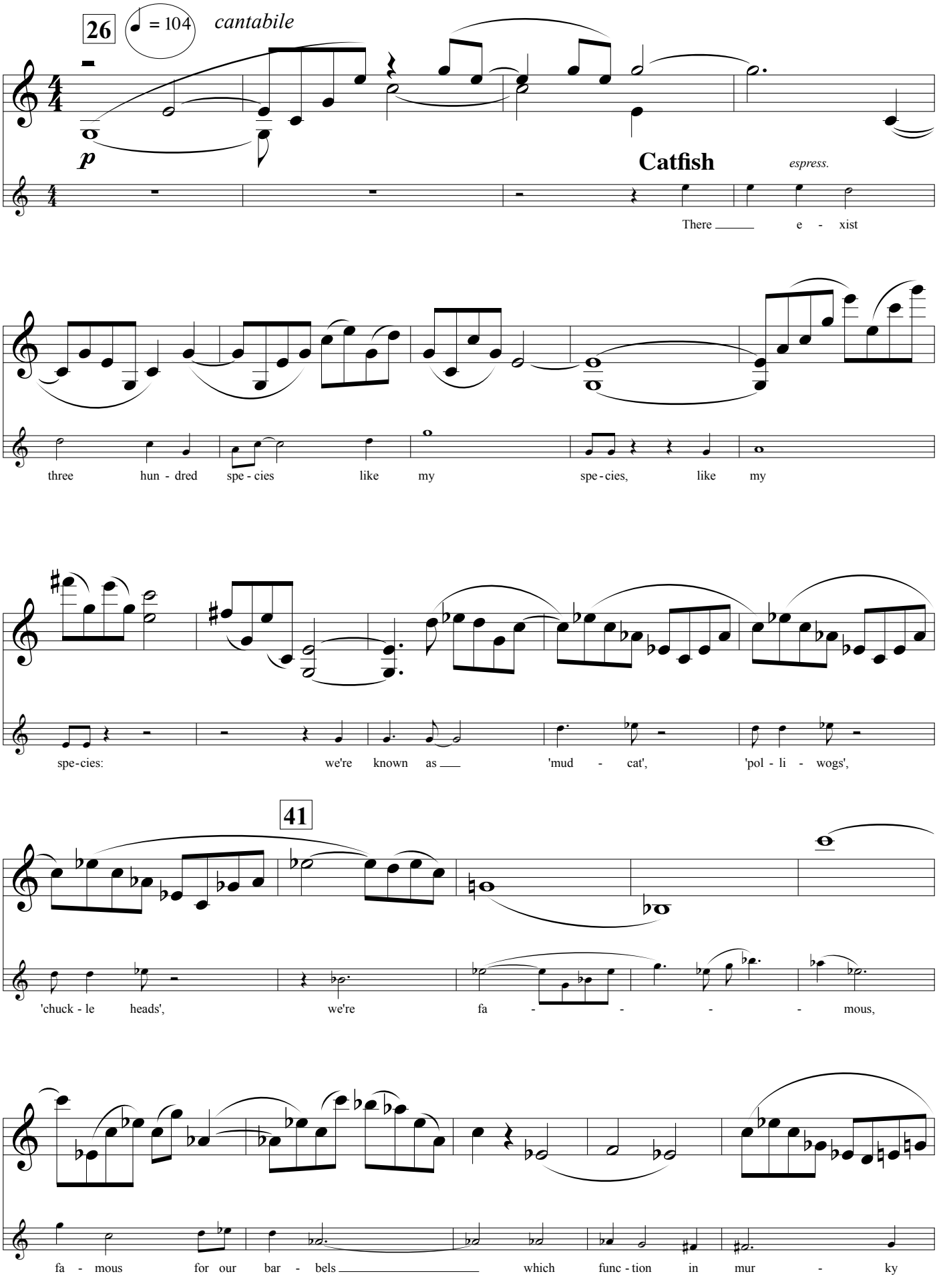
Violin

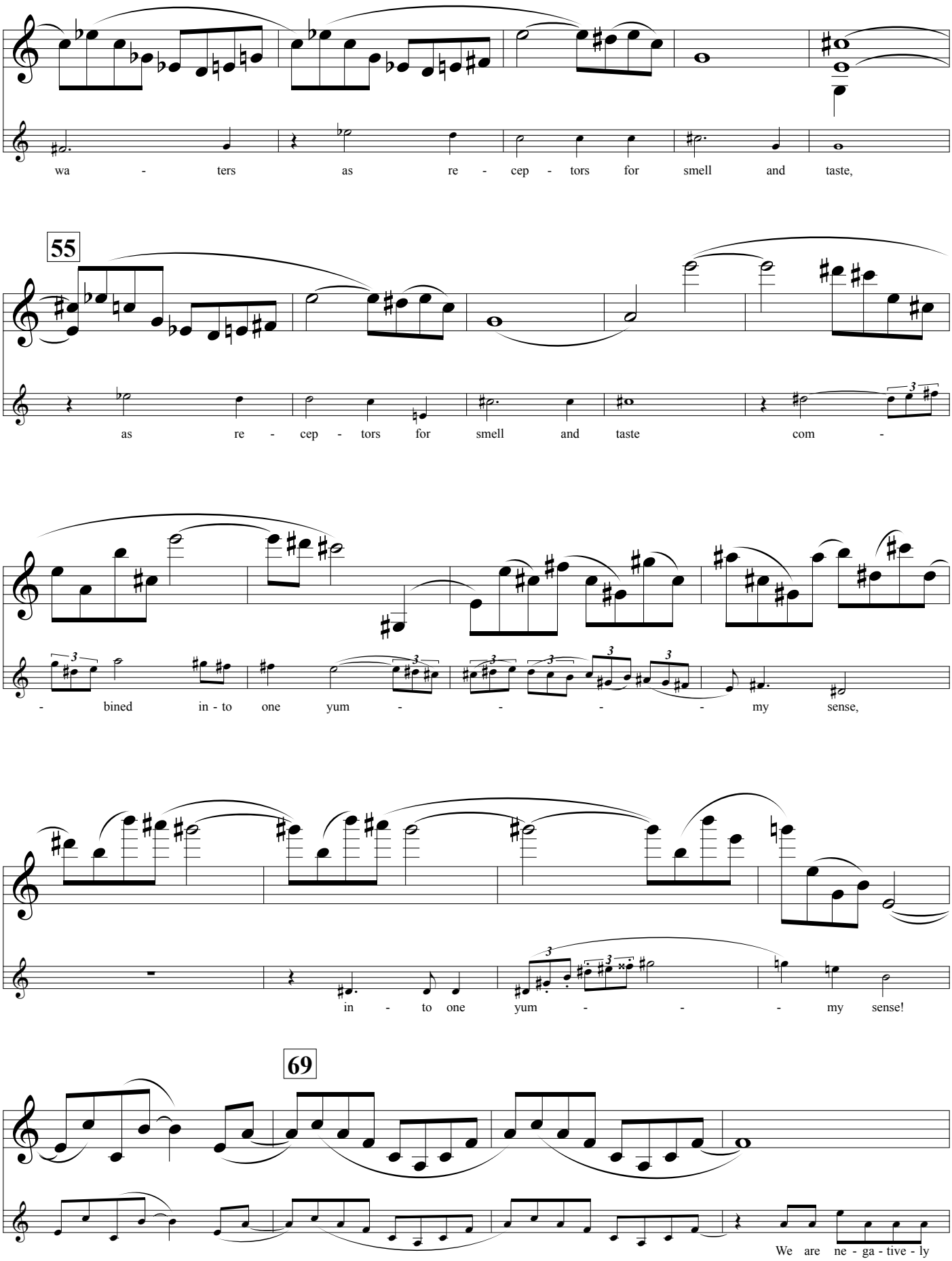
The Catfish Conundrum

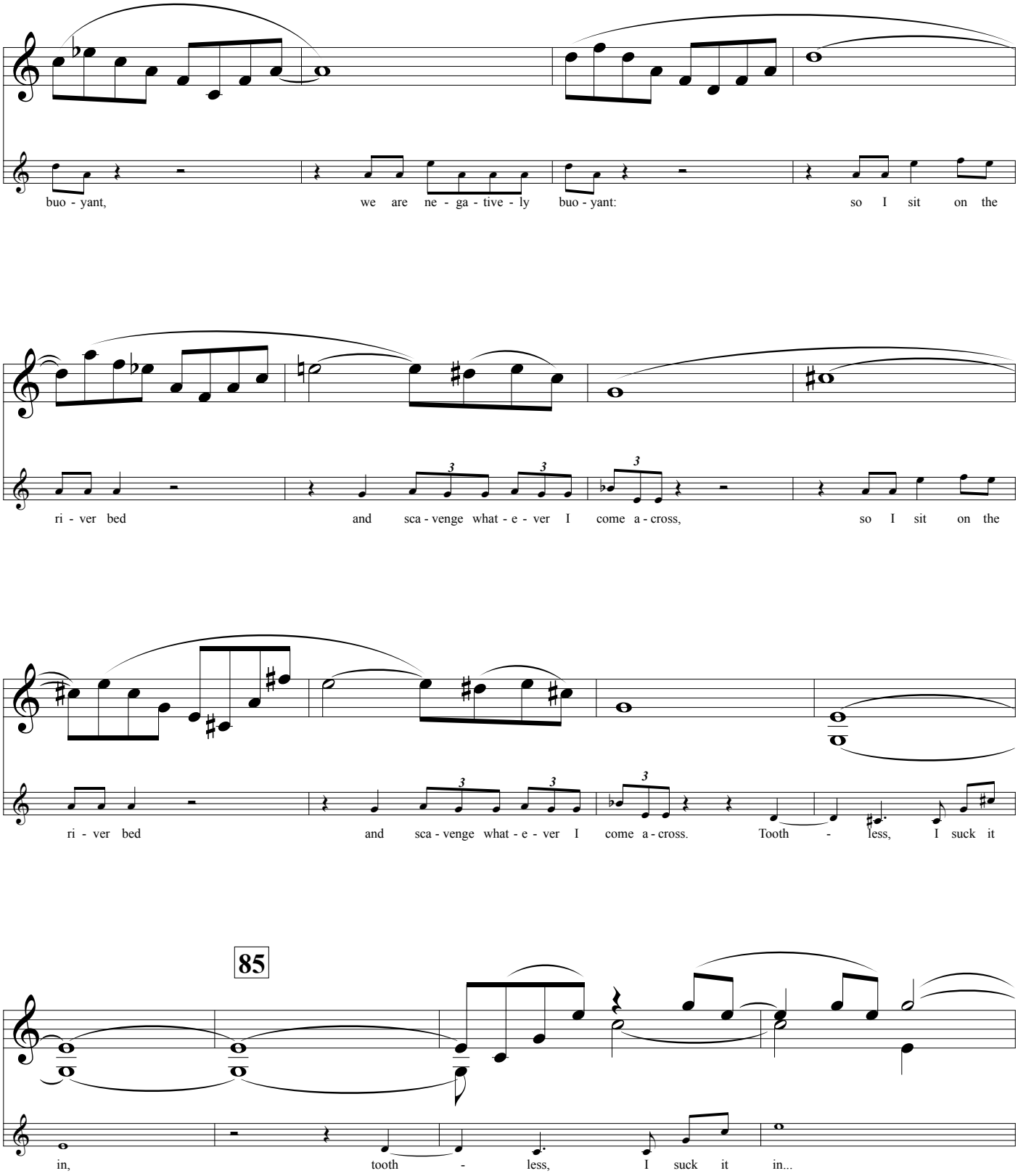
words & music
Edward Lambert

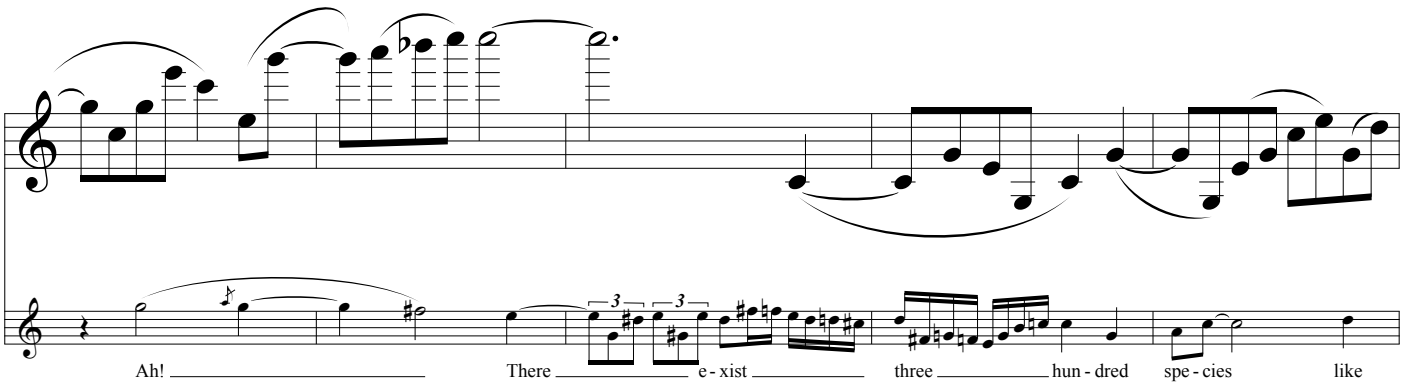
♩ = 136 OVERTURE

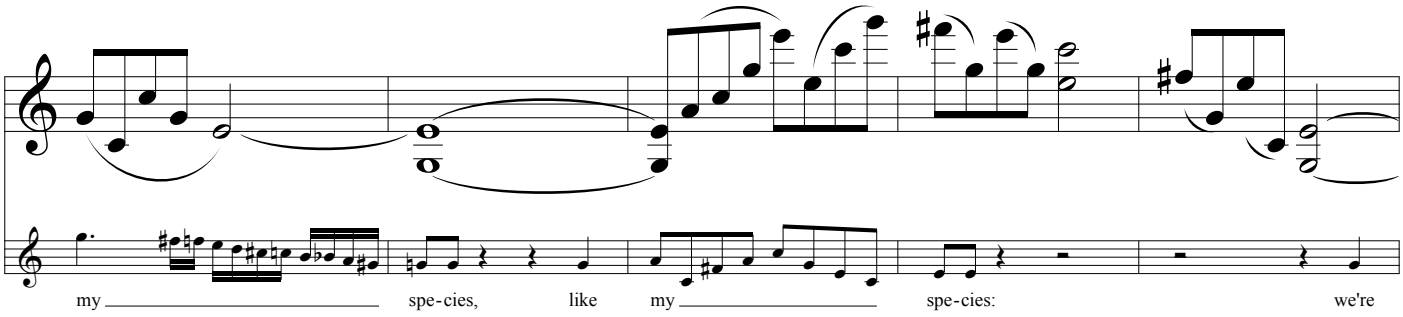


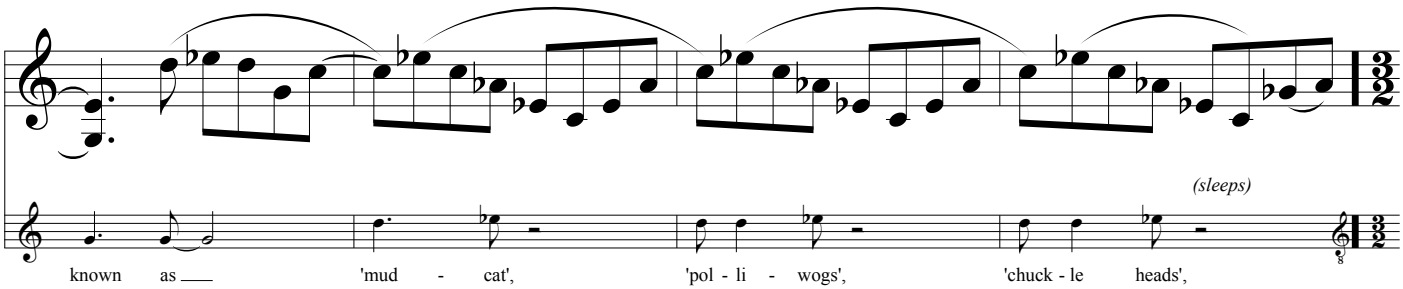

26
♩ = 104
cantabile
p
Catfish
espress.
There e - xist
three hun - dred spe - cies like my spe - cies, like my
spe - cies: we're known as 'mud - cat', 'pol - li - wogs',
41
'chuck - le heads', we're fa - - - - mous,
fa - mous for our bar - bels which func - tion in mur - ky

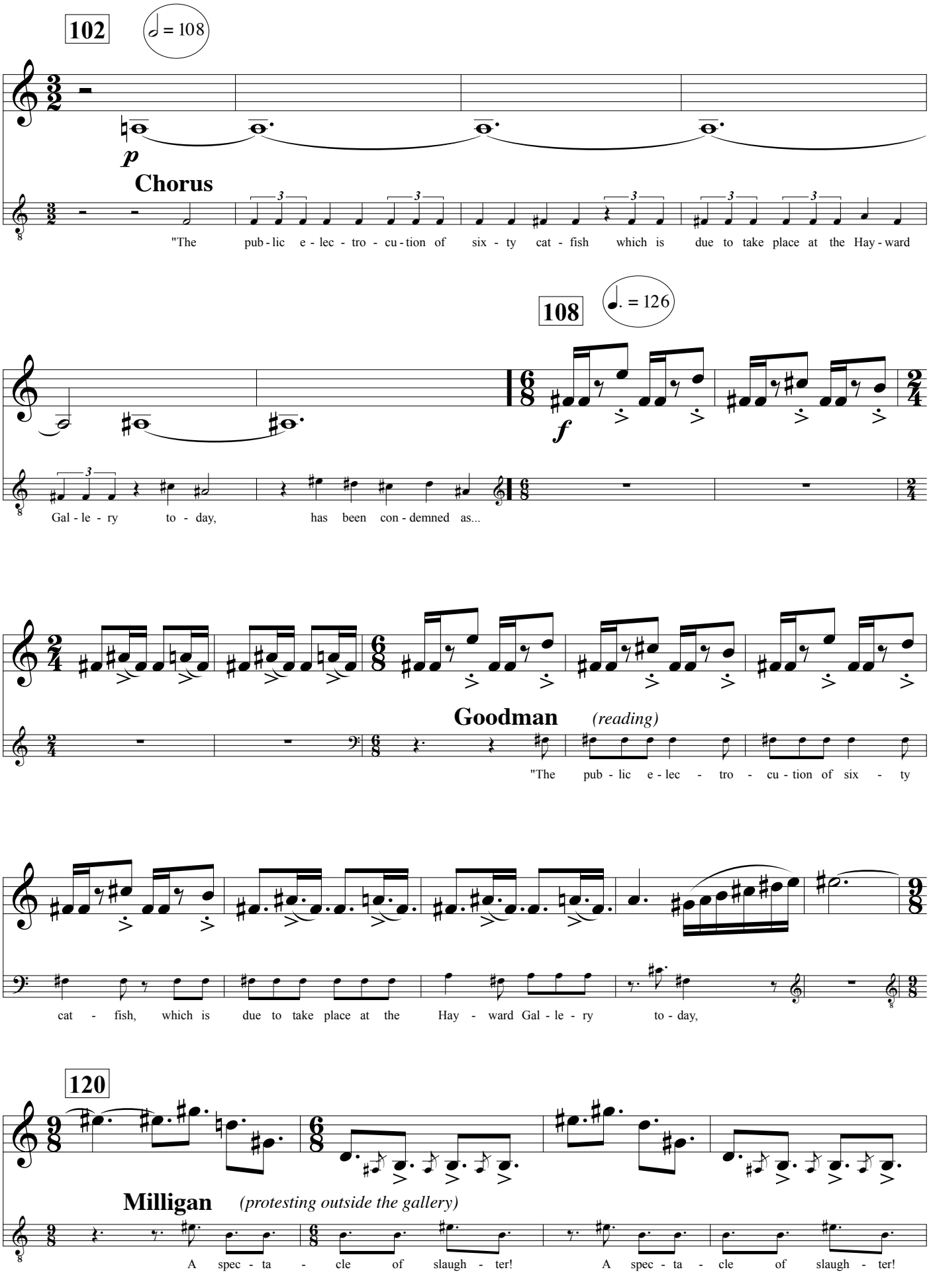

wa - ters as re - cep - tors for smell and taste,
55
as re - cep - tors for smell and taste com -
- bined in - to one yum - - - - my sense,
in - to one yum - - - my sense!
69
We are ne - ga - tive - ly

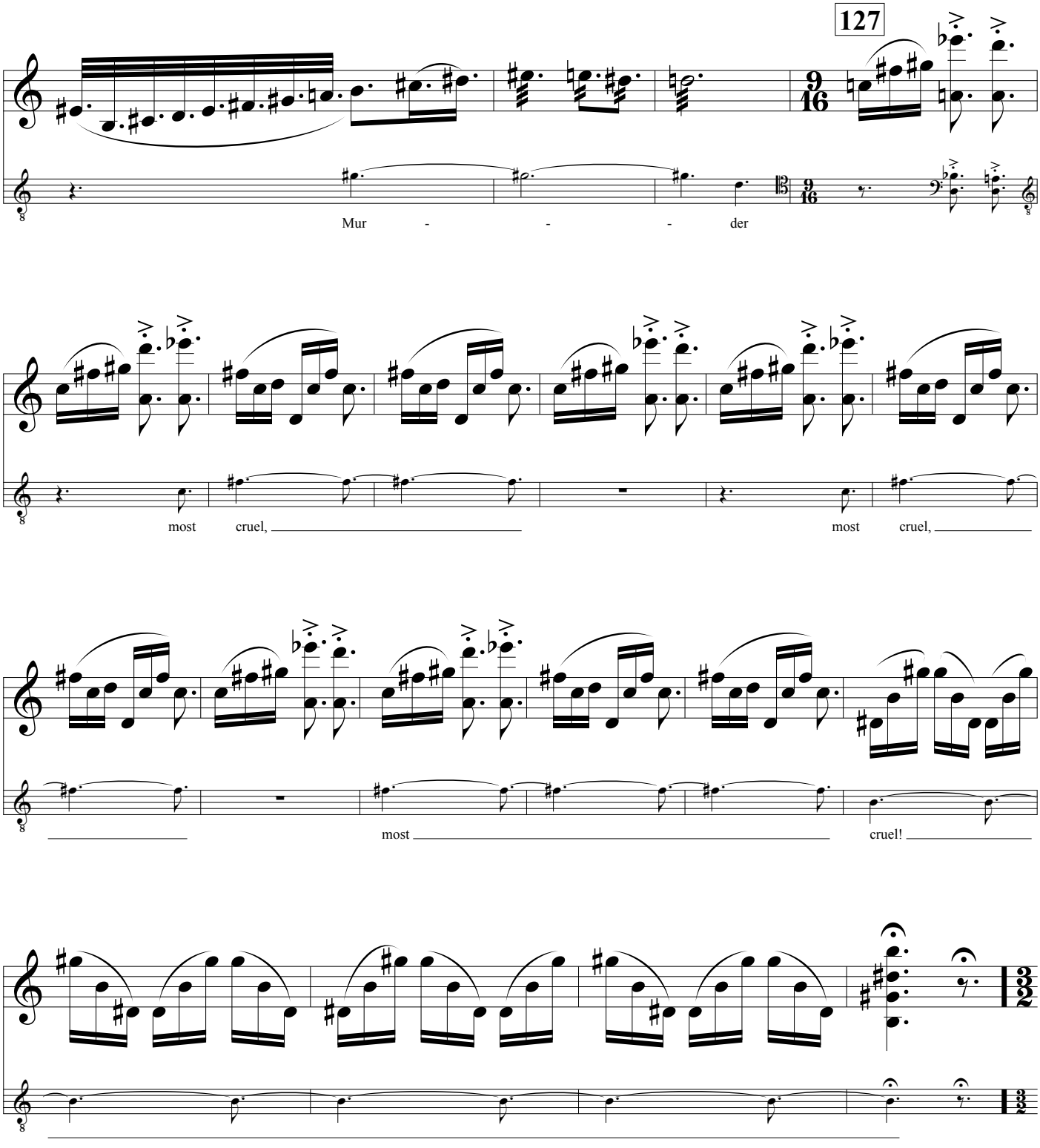

buo - yant, we are ne - ga - tive - ly buo - yant: so I sit on the
ri - ver bed and sca - venge what - e - ver I come a - cross, so I sit on the
ri - ver bed and sca - venge what - e - ver I come a - cross. Tooth - less, I suck it
85
in, tooth - less, I suck it in...

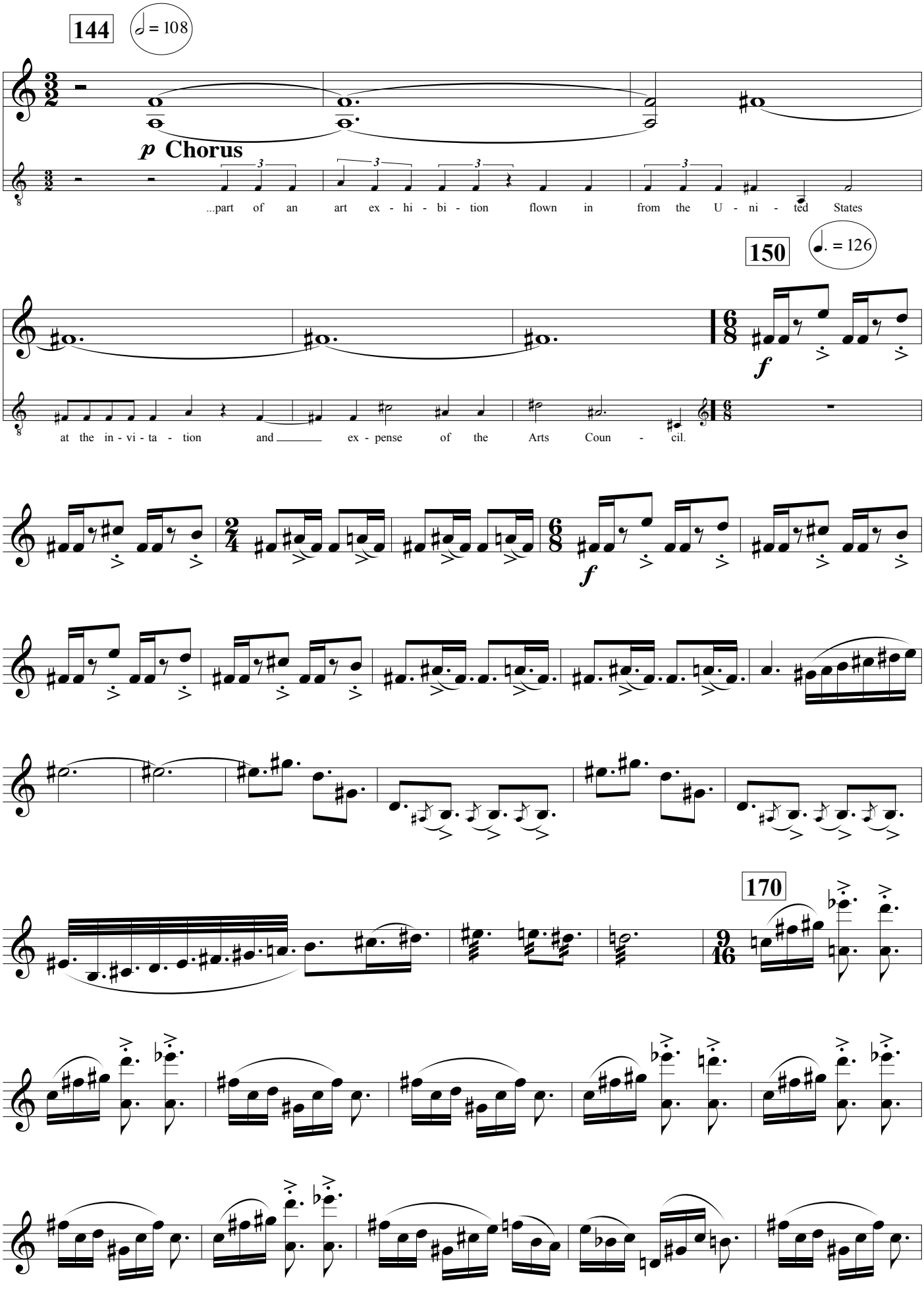

Ah! There e - xist three hun - dred spe - cies like

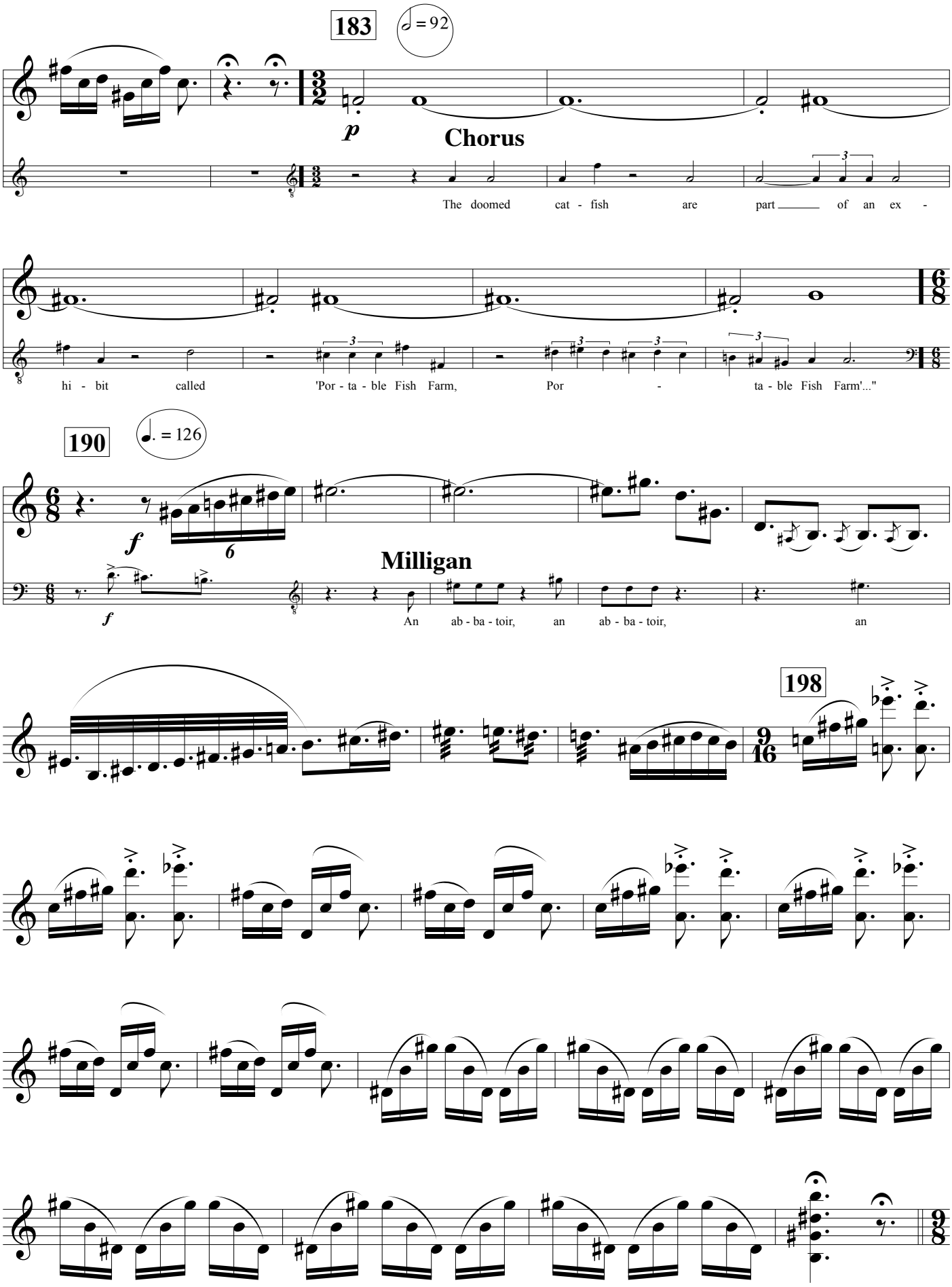

my spe-cies, like my spe-cies: we're

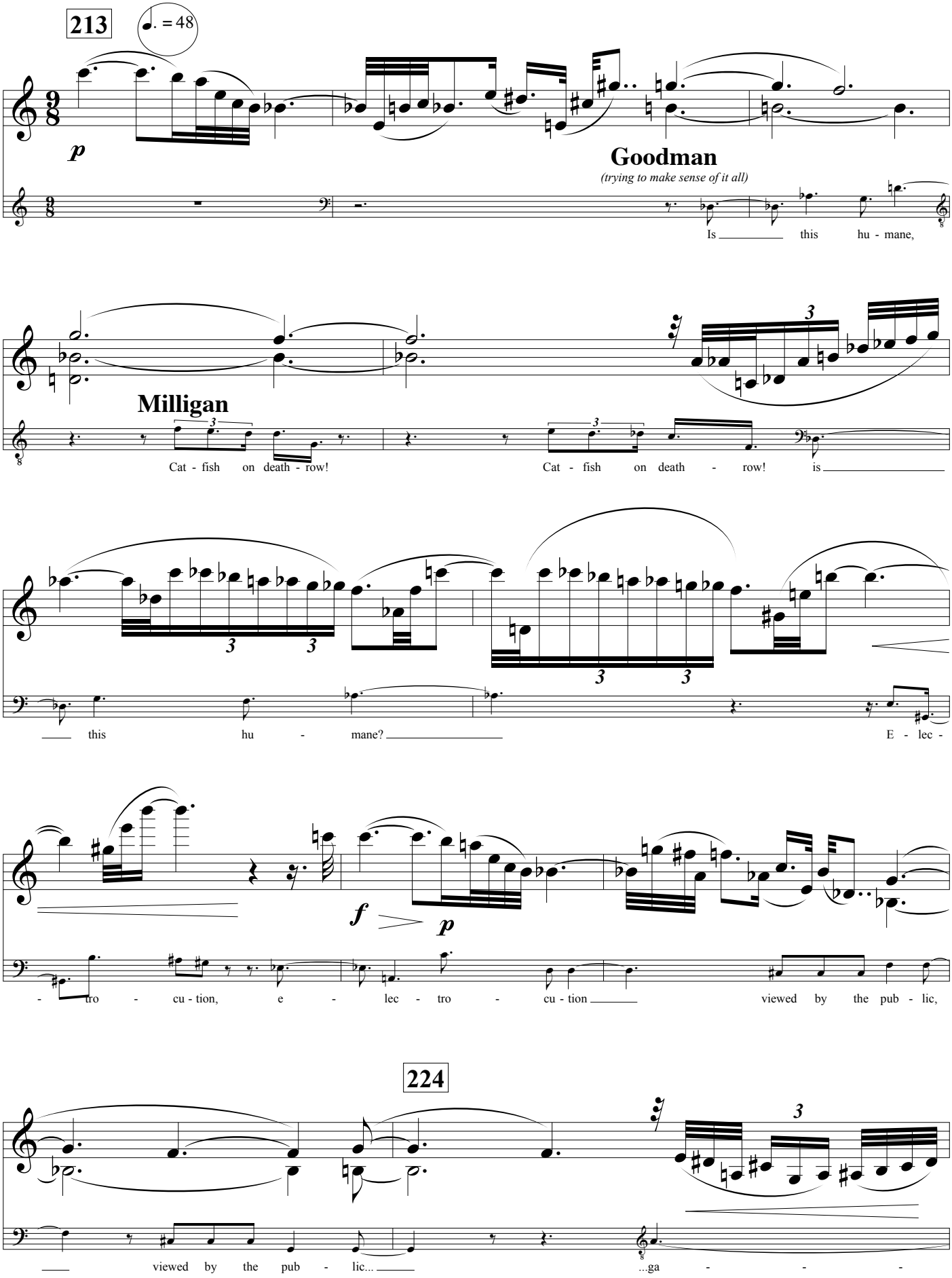

(sleeps)
known as 'mud - cat', 'pol - li - wogs', 'chuck - le heads',

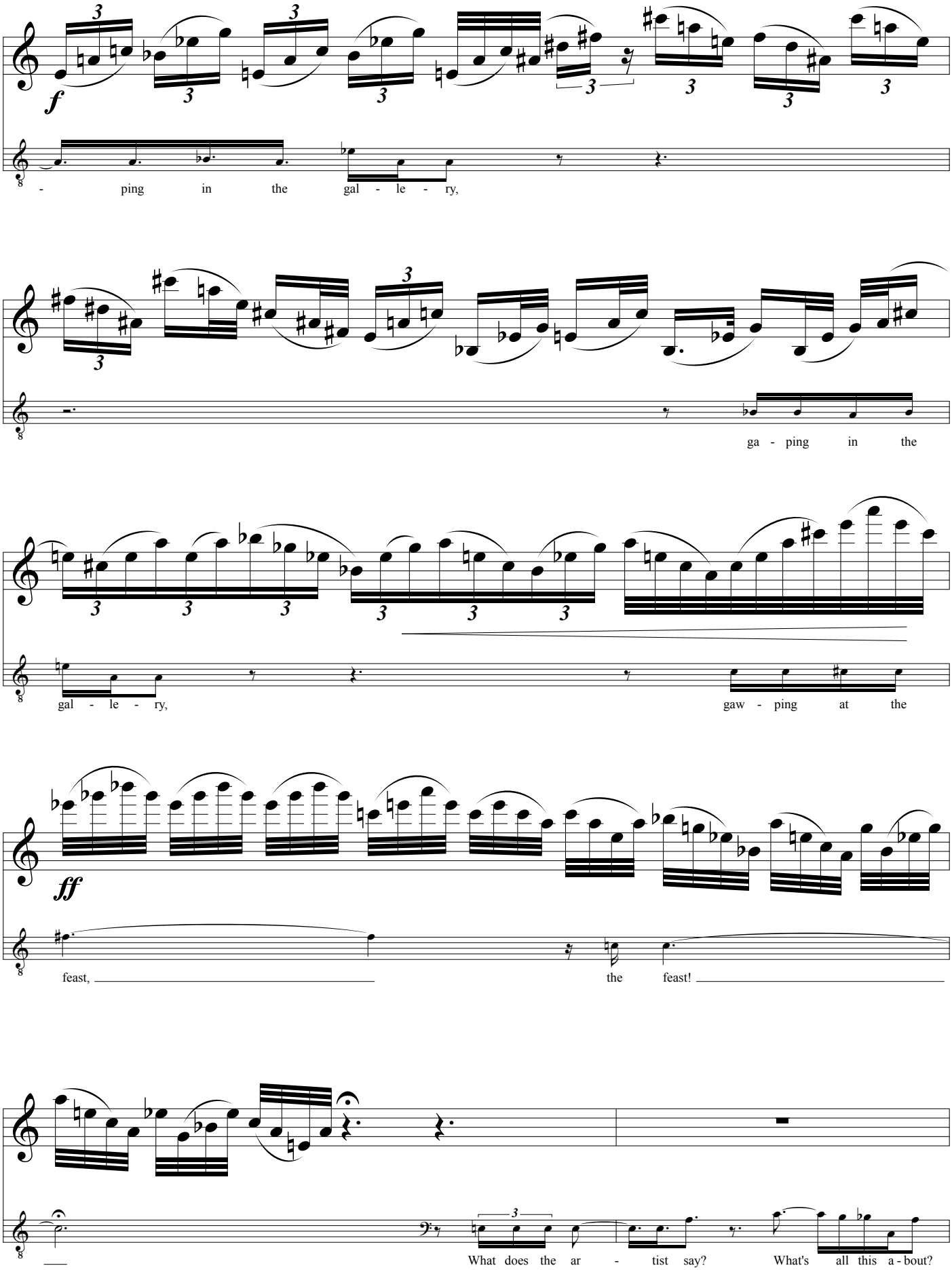

102
♩ = 108
p
Chorus
"The pub - lic e - lec - tro - cu - tion of six - ty cat - fish which is due to take place at the Hay - ward
108
♩. = 126
f
Gal - le - ry to - day, has been con - demned as...
Goodman (reading)
"The pub - lic e - lec - tro - cu - tion of six - ty
cat - fish, which is due to take place at the Hay - ward Gal - le - ry to - day,
120
Milligan (protesting outside the gallery)
A spec - ta - cle of slaugh - ter! A spec - ta - cle of slaugh - ter!

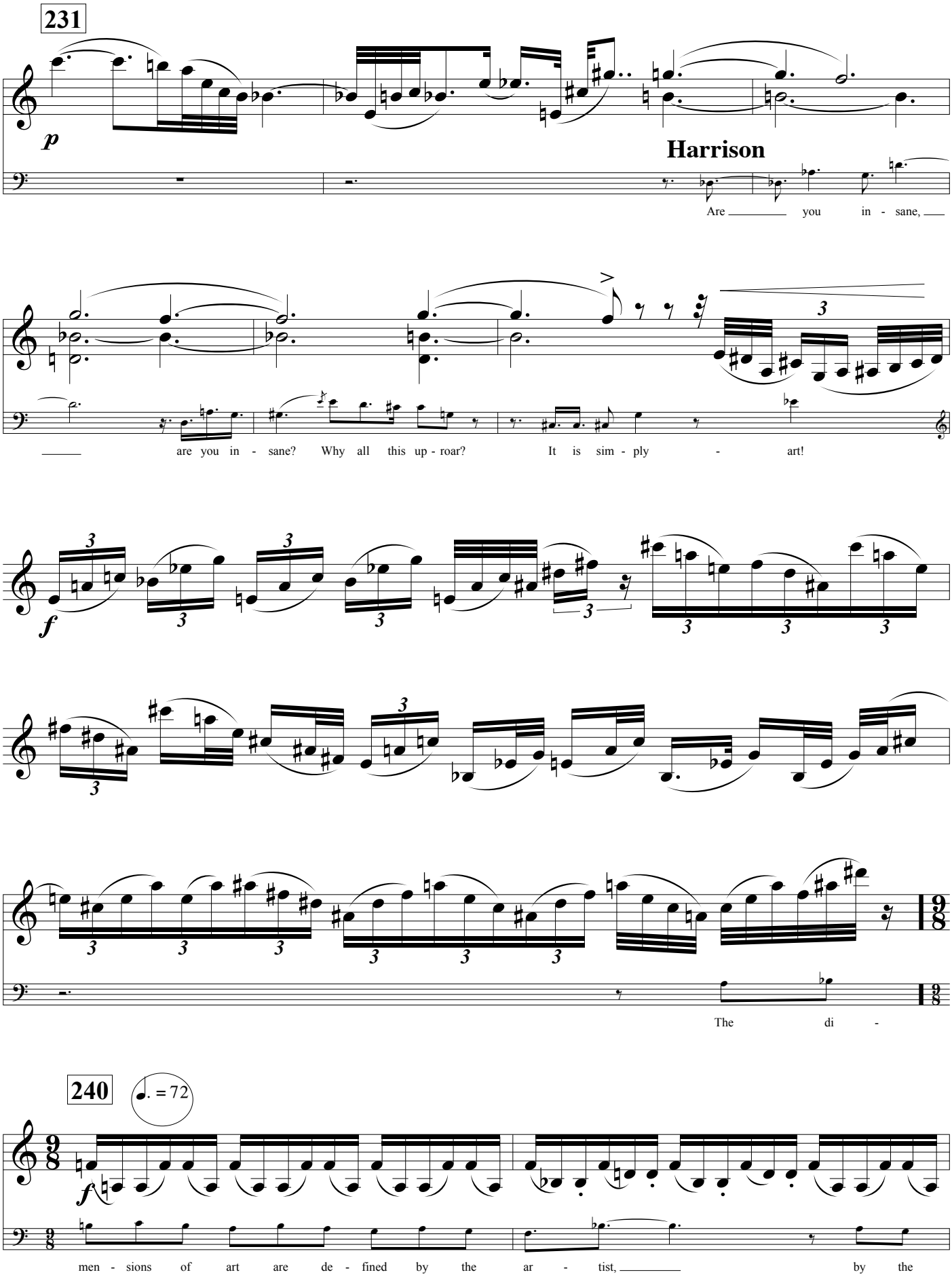

127
9/16
Mur - - - der
most cruel,
most cruel,
most
cruel!
3/2

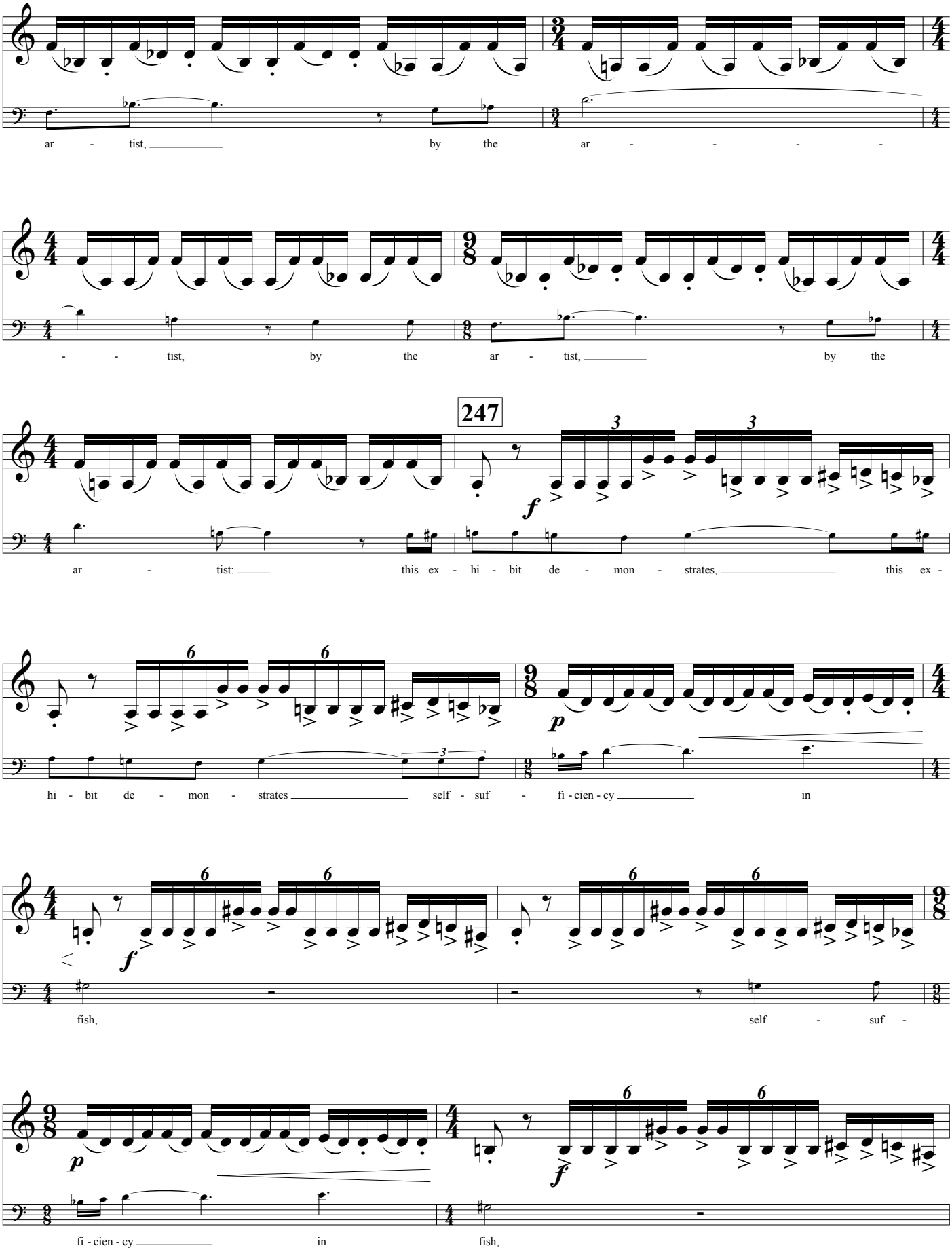

144
𝅗𝅥 = 108
p Chorus
...part of an art ex - hi - bi - tion flown in from the U - ni - ted States
150
♩. = 126
f
at the in - vi - ta - tion and ex - pense of the Arts Coun - cil.
f
170

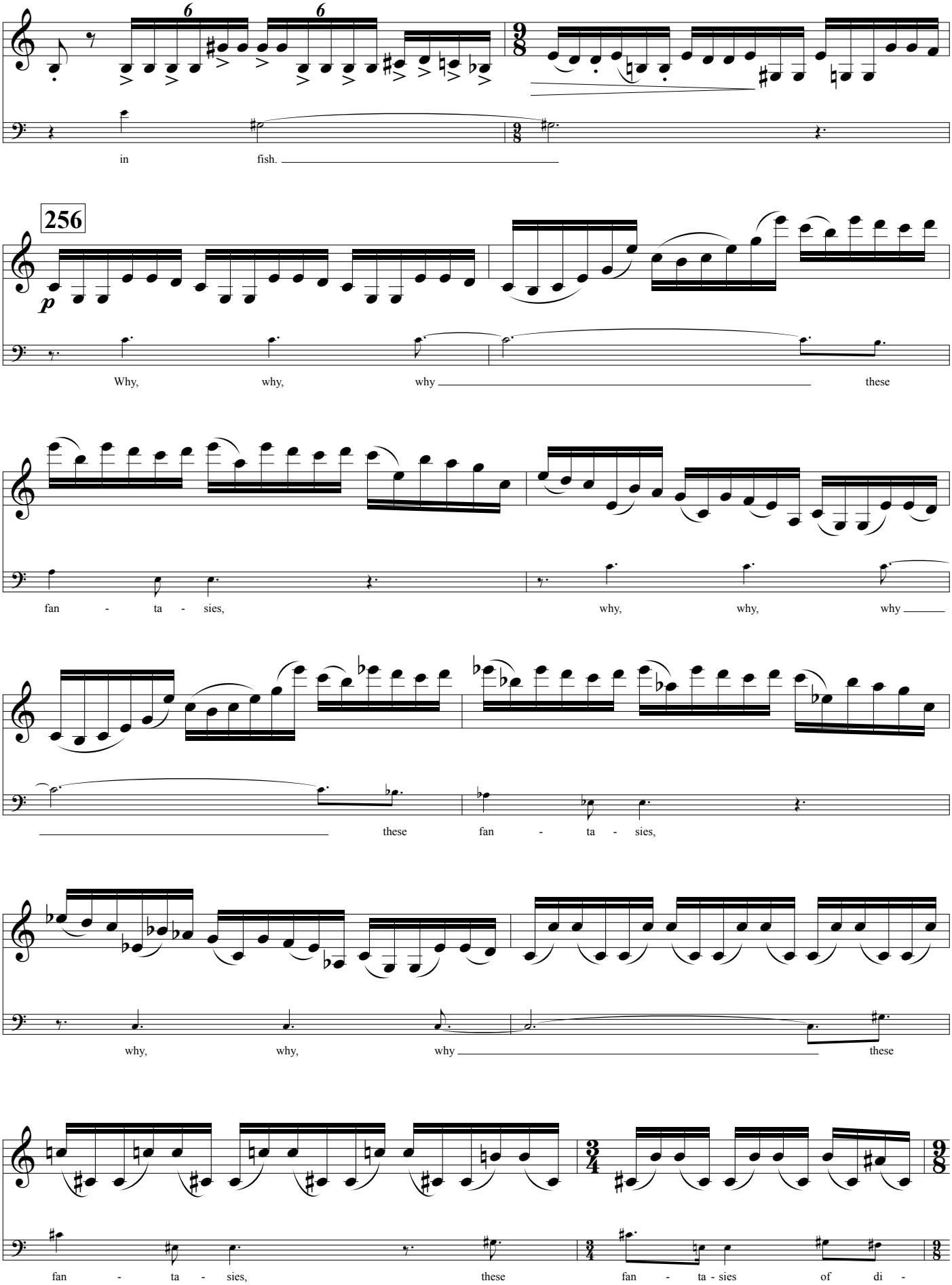

183
♩ = 92
p
Chorus
The doomed cat - fish are part of an ex -
hi - bit called 'Por - ta - ble Fish Farm, Por - ta - ble Fish Farm'..."
190
♩. = 126
f
Milligan
An ab - ba - toir, an ab - ba - toir, an
198

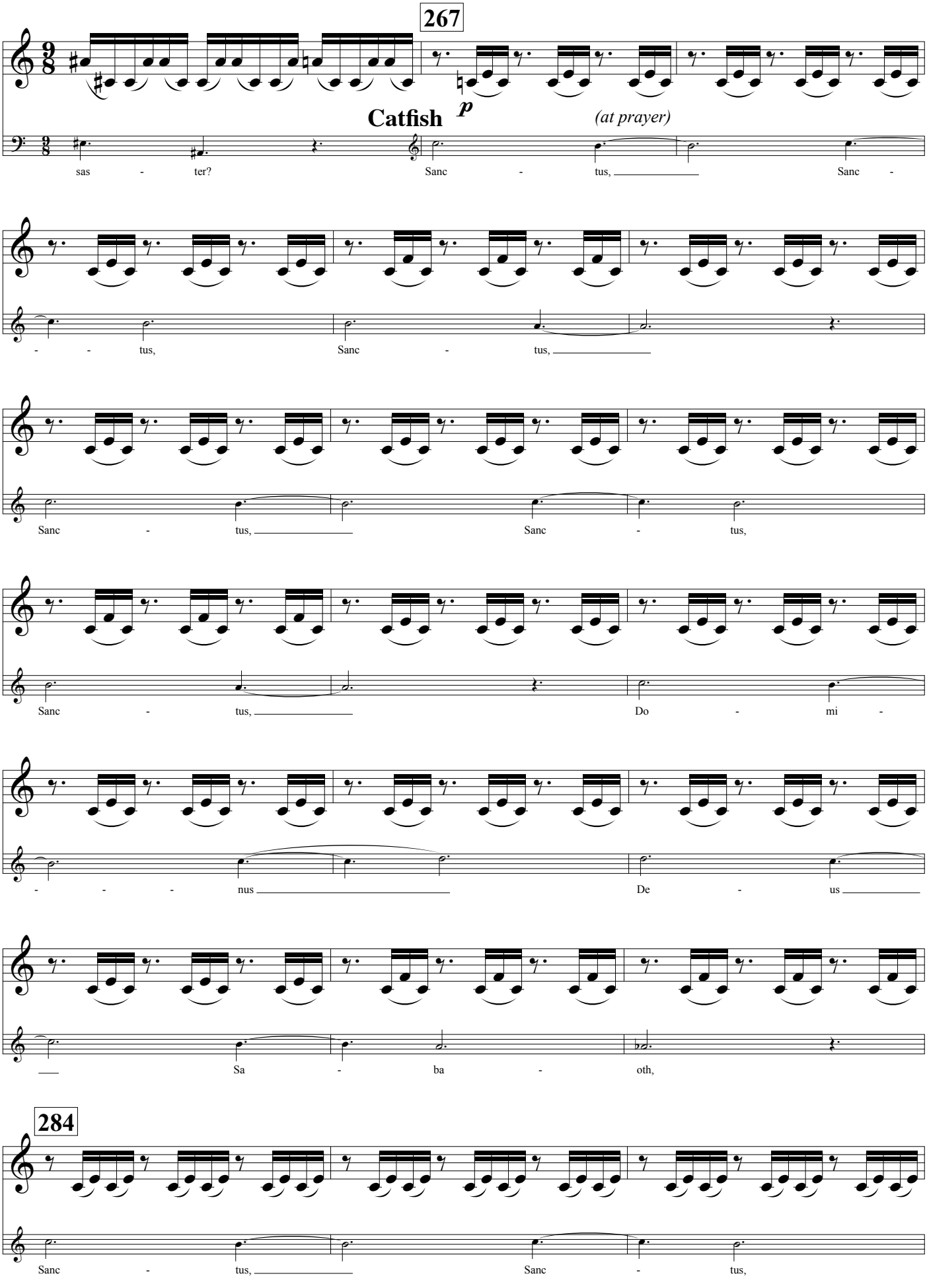

213
♩. = 48
p
Goodman
(trying to make sense of it all)
Is this hu - mane,
Milligan
Cat - fish on death - row!
Cat - fish on death - row! is
this hu - mane?
E - lec -
f
p
- tro - cu - tion, e - lec - tro - cu - tion
viewed by the pub - lic,
224
viewed by the pub - lic...
...ga - - -

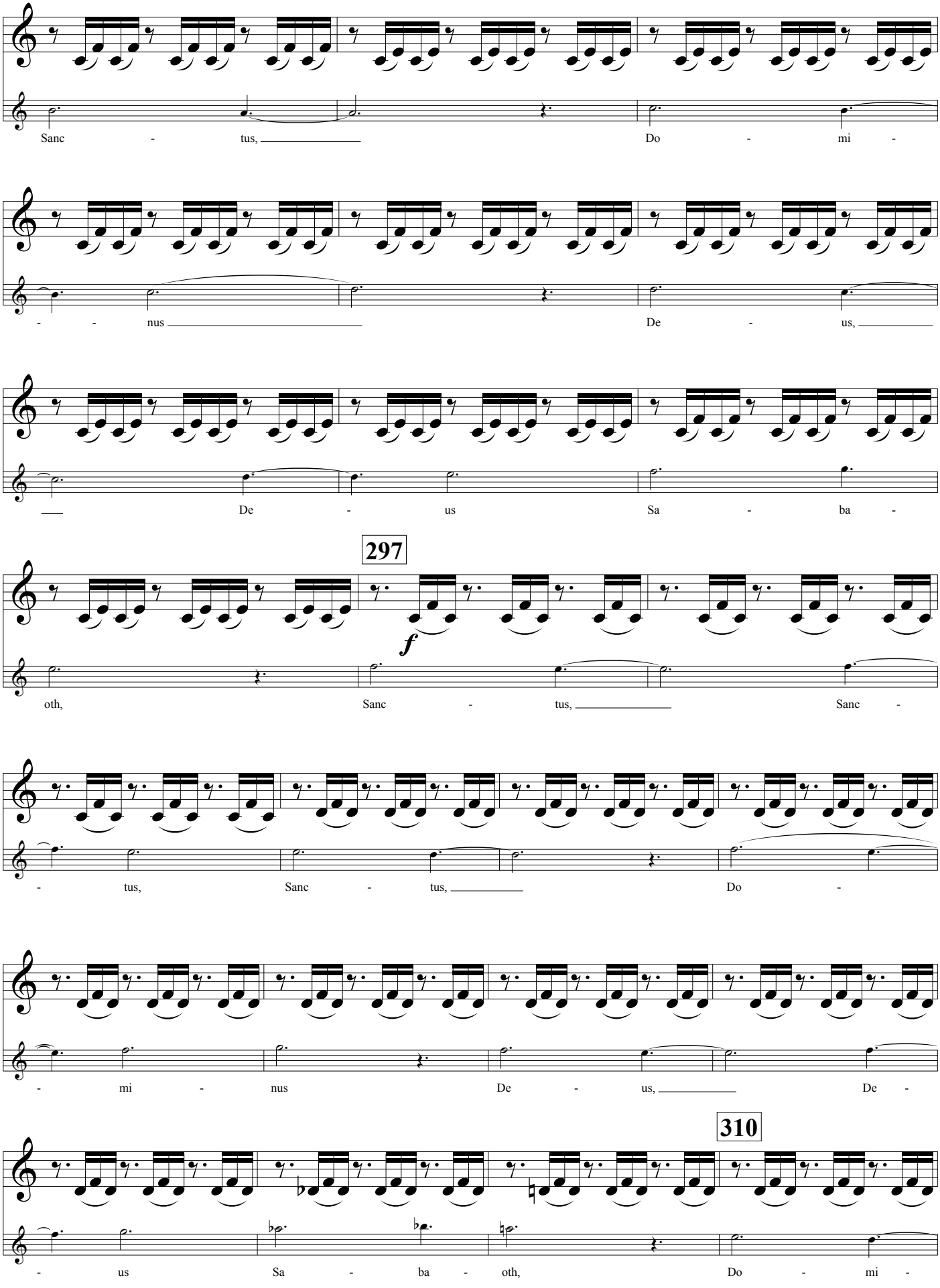

f
- ping in the gal - le - ry,
ga - ping in the
gal - le - ry,
gaw - ping at the
ff
feast,
the feast!
What does the ar - tist say?
What's all this a - bout?

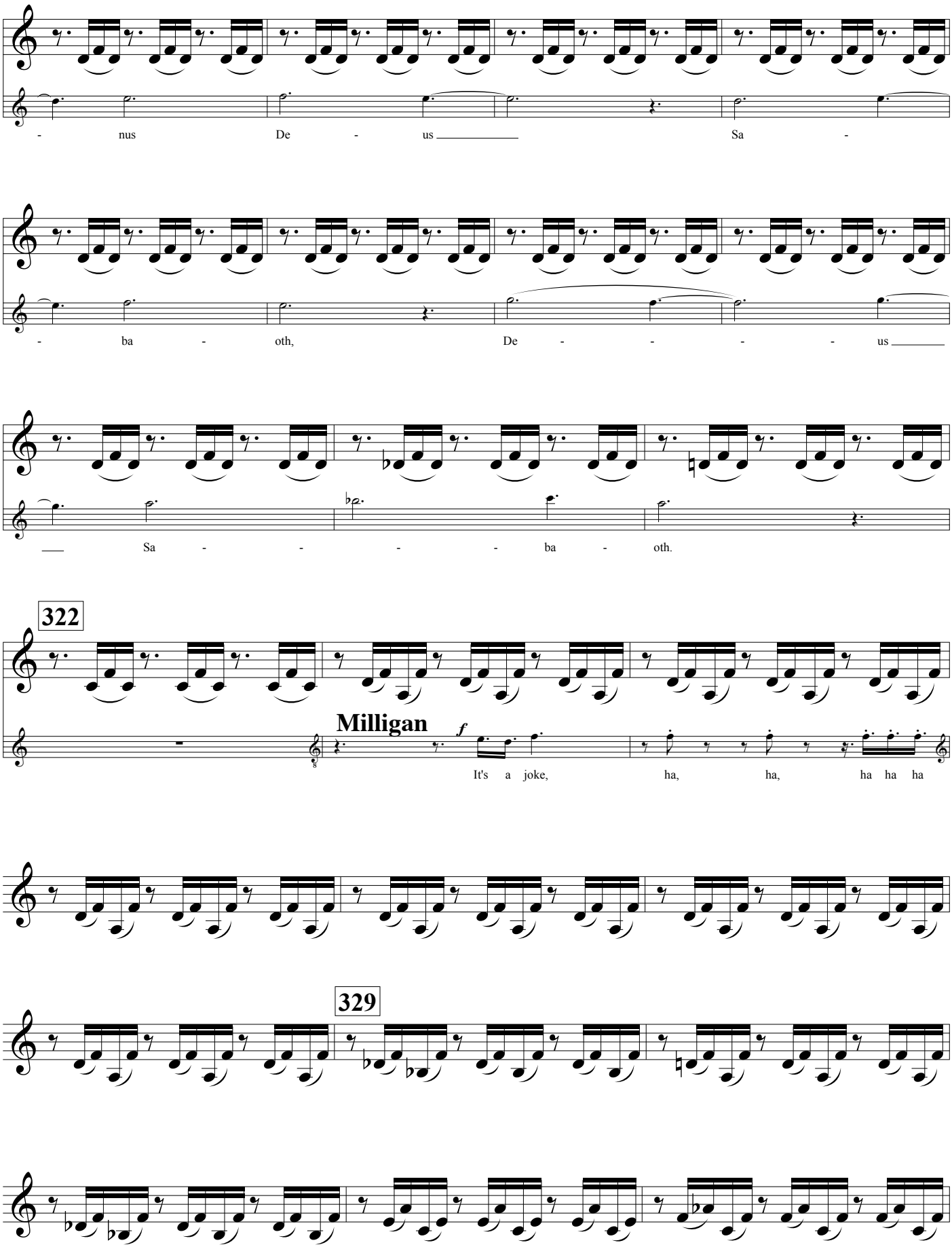

231
p
Harrison
Are you in - sane,
are you in - sane? Why all this up - roar? It is sim - ply - art!
f
The di -
240
♩. = 72
f
men - sions of art are de - fined by the ar - tist, by the

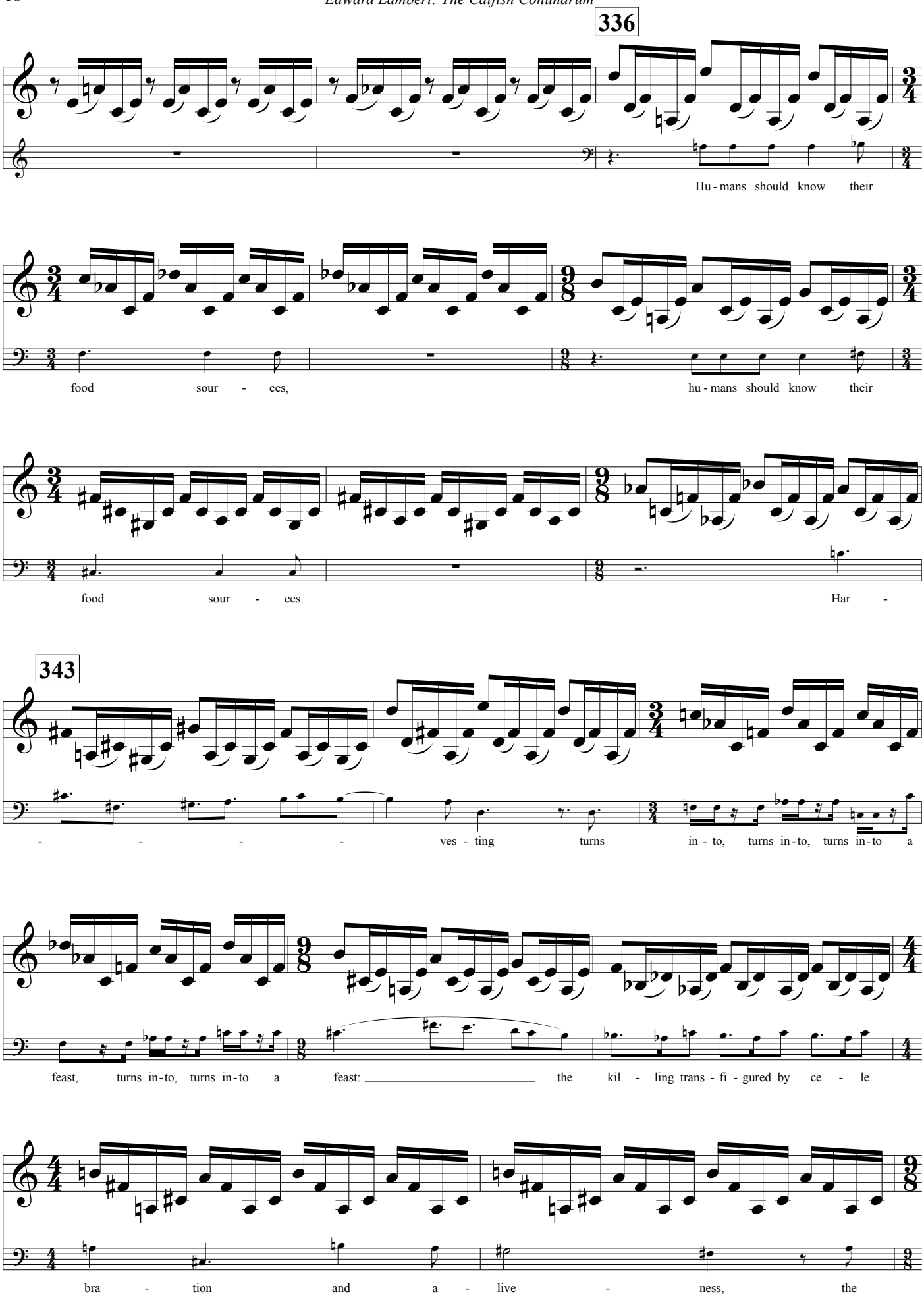

ar - tist, by the ar - - - -
- - tist, by the ar - tist, by the
247
ar - tist: this ex - hi - bit de - mon - strates, this ex -
hi - bit de - mon - strates self - suf - fi - cien - cy in
fish, self - suf -
fi - cien - cy in fish,

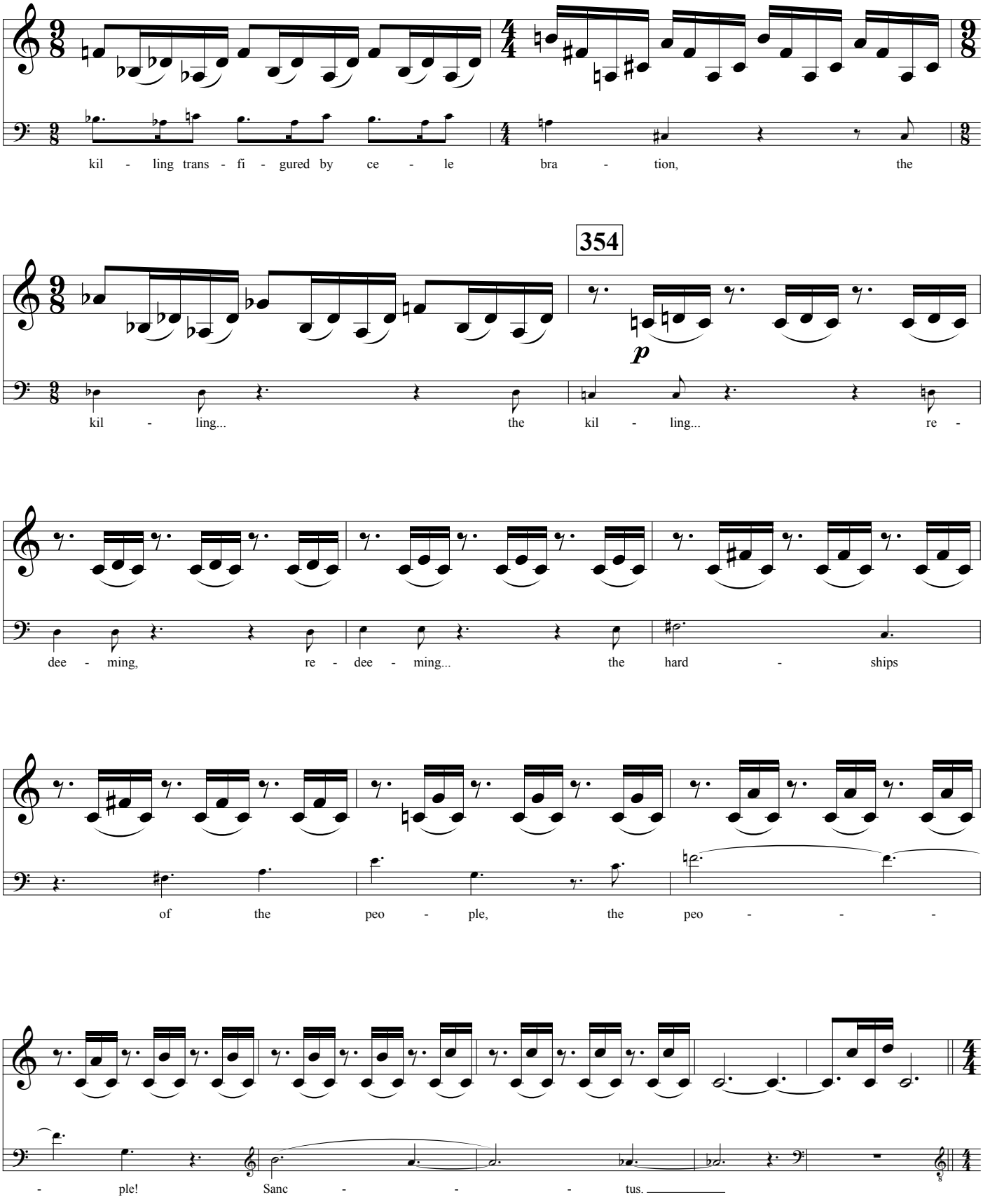

in fish.
256
p
Why, why, why these
fan - ta - sies, why, why, why
these fan - ta - sies,
why, why, why these
fan - ta - sies, these fan - ta - sies of di -

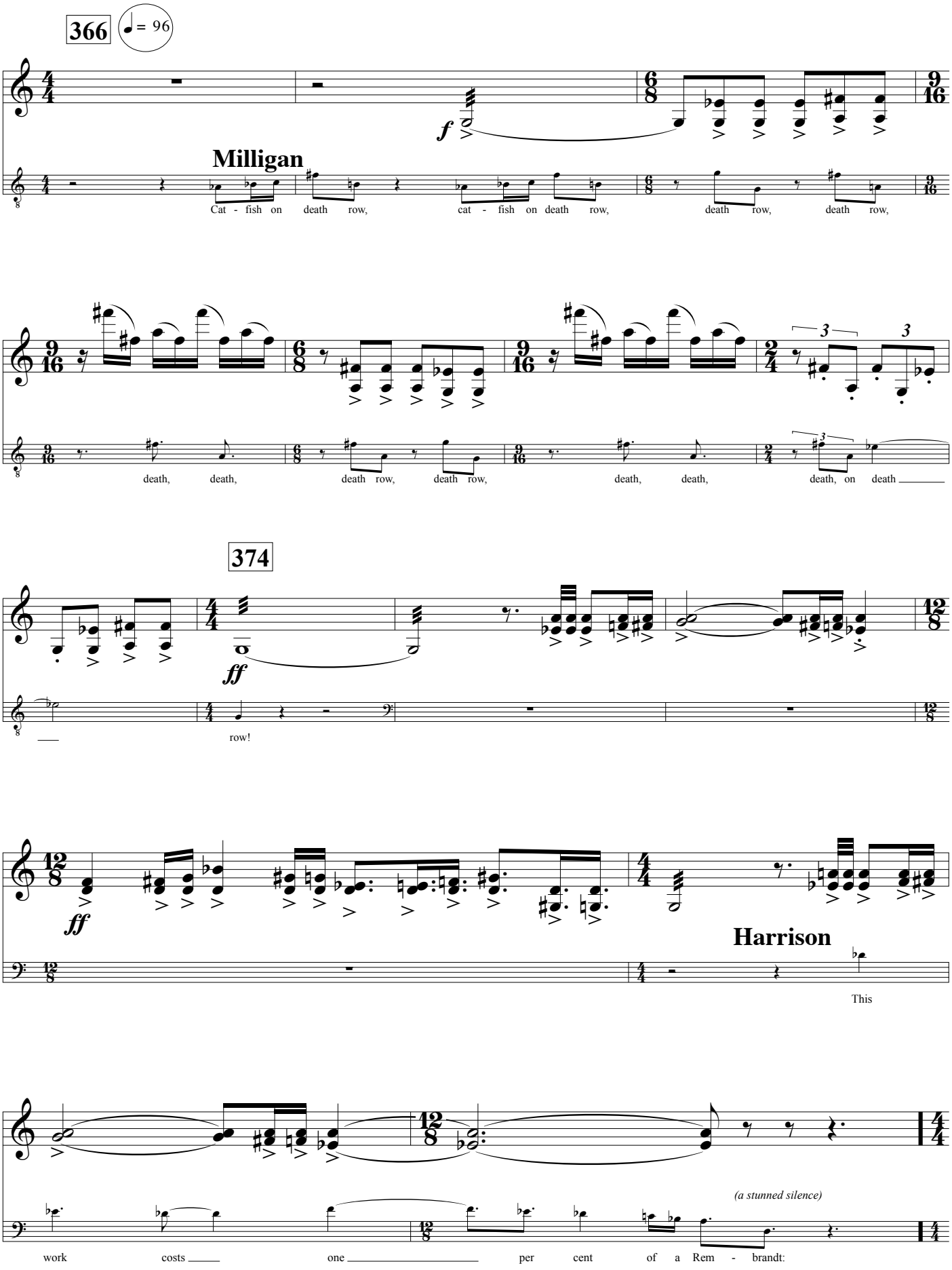

267
Catfish
p
(at prayer)
sas - ter? Sanc - tus, Sanc -
- - tus, Sanc - tus,
Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus,
Sanc - tus, Do - mi -
- - - nus De - us
Sa - ba - oth,
284
Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus,

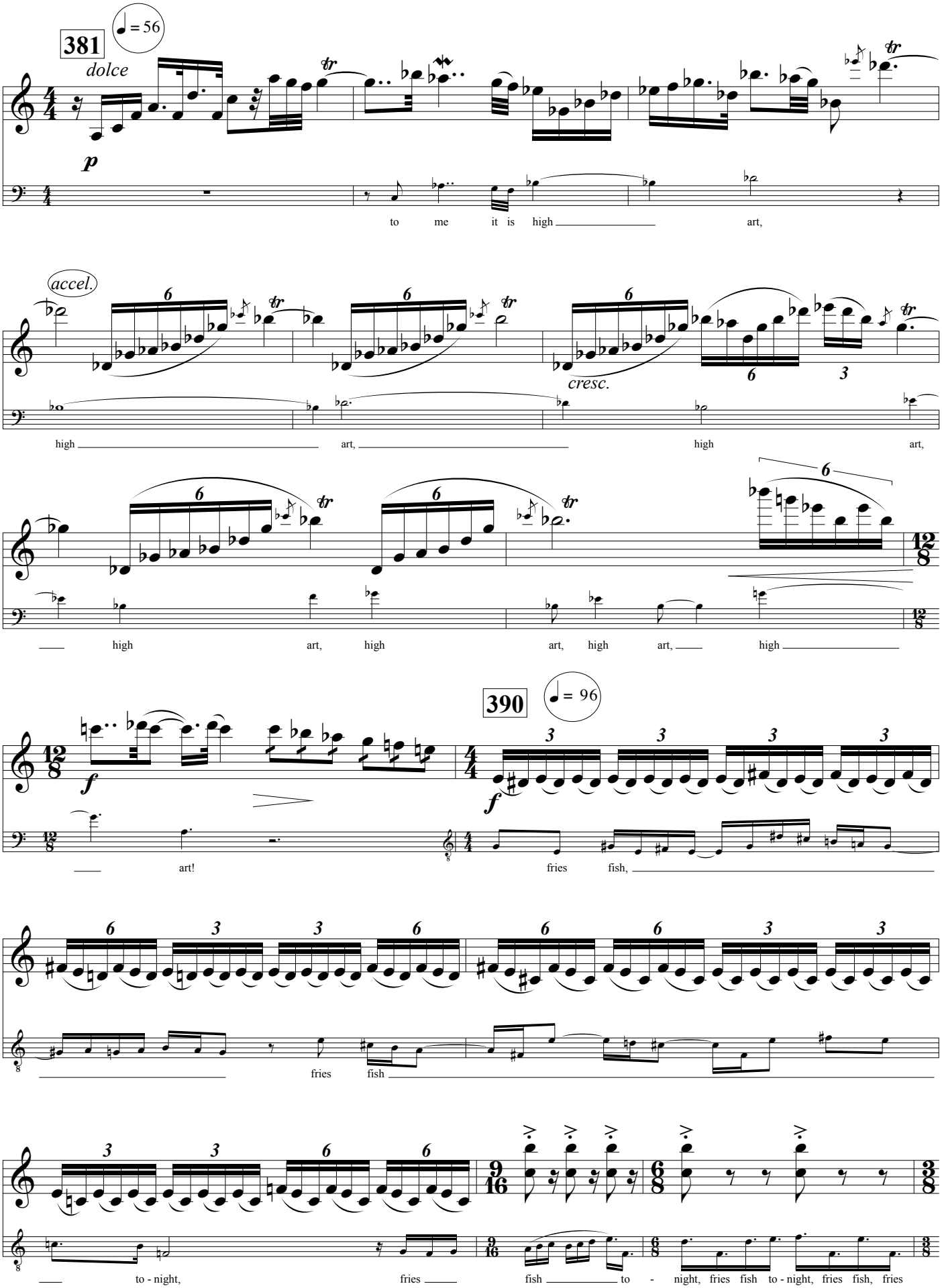

Sanc - tus,
Do - mi -
- - nus
De - us,
De - us
Sa - ba -
297
f
oth,
Sanc - tus,
Sanc -
- tus,
Sanc - tus,
Do -
- mi - nus
De - us,
De -
310
- us
Sa - ba - oth,
Do - mi -

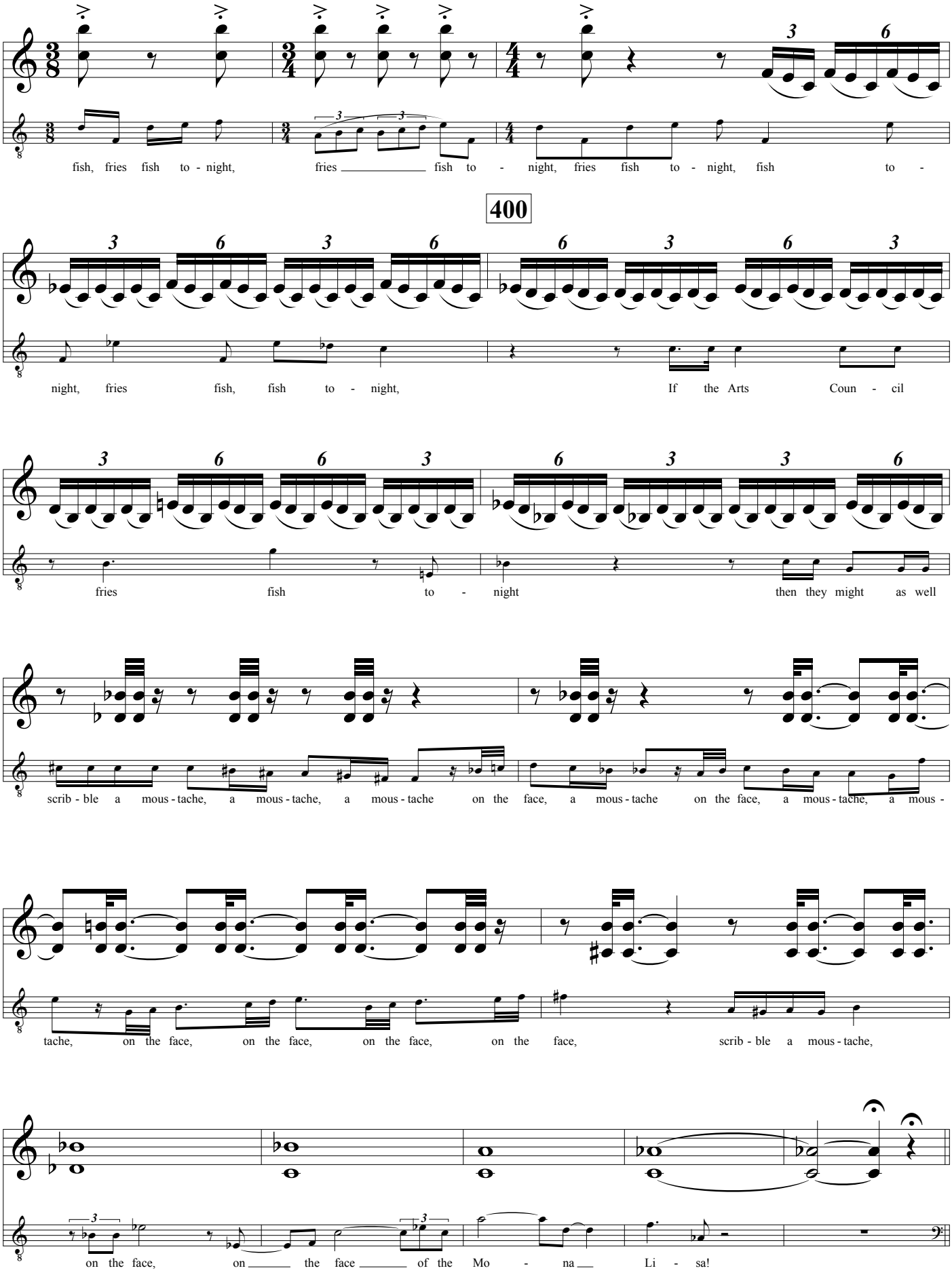

- nus De - us Sa -
- ba - oth, De - - - - us
Sa - - - - ba - oth.
322
Milligan
f
It's a joke, ha, ha, ha ha ha
329

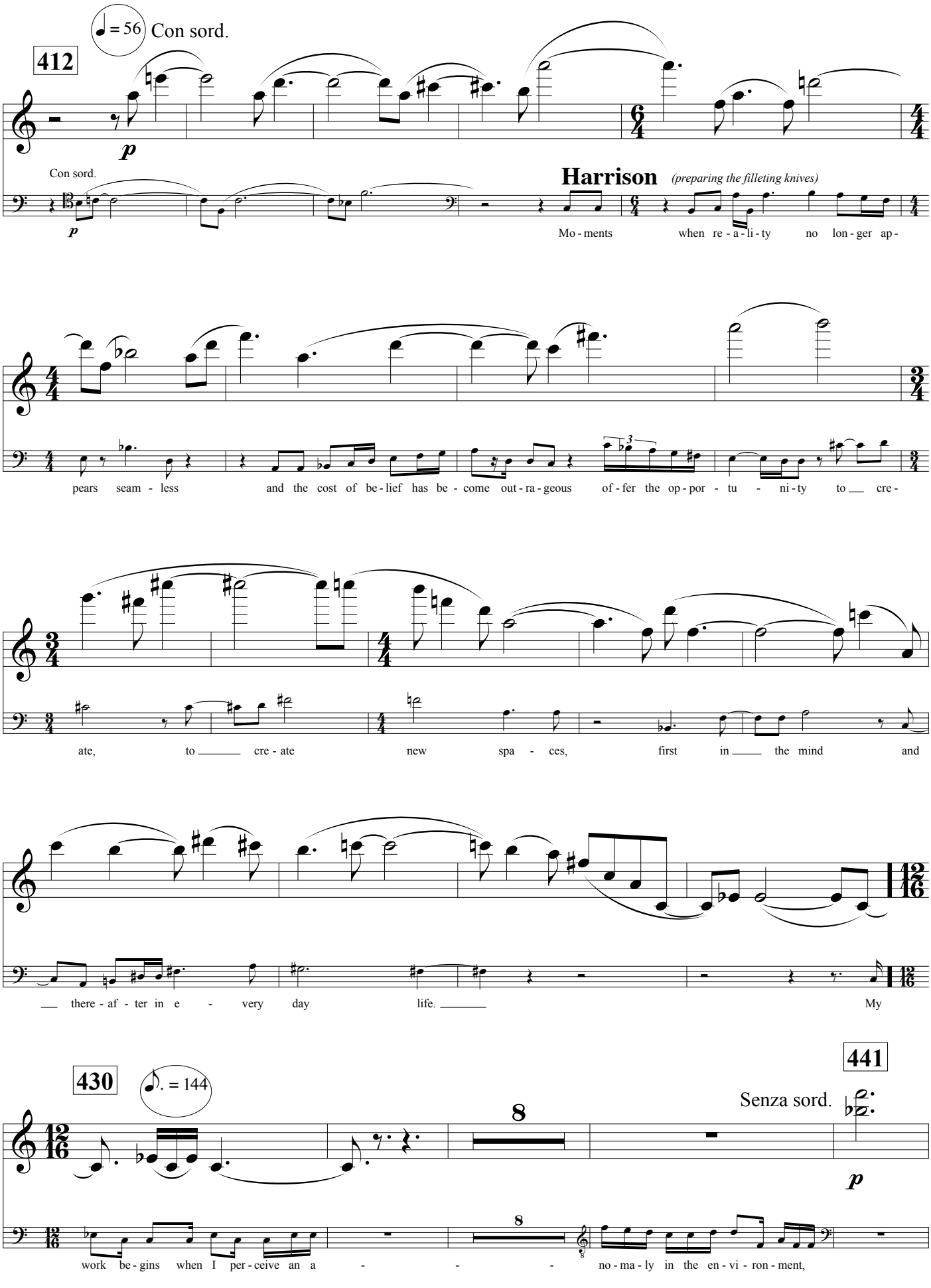

336
Hu - mans should know their
food sour - ces,
hu - mans should know their
food sour - ces.
Har -
343
- - - - ves - ting turns in - to, turns in - to, turns in - to a
feast, turns in - to, turns in - to a feast: the kil - ling trans - fi - gured by ce - le
bra - tion and a - live - ness, the

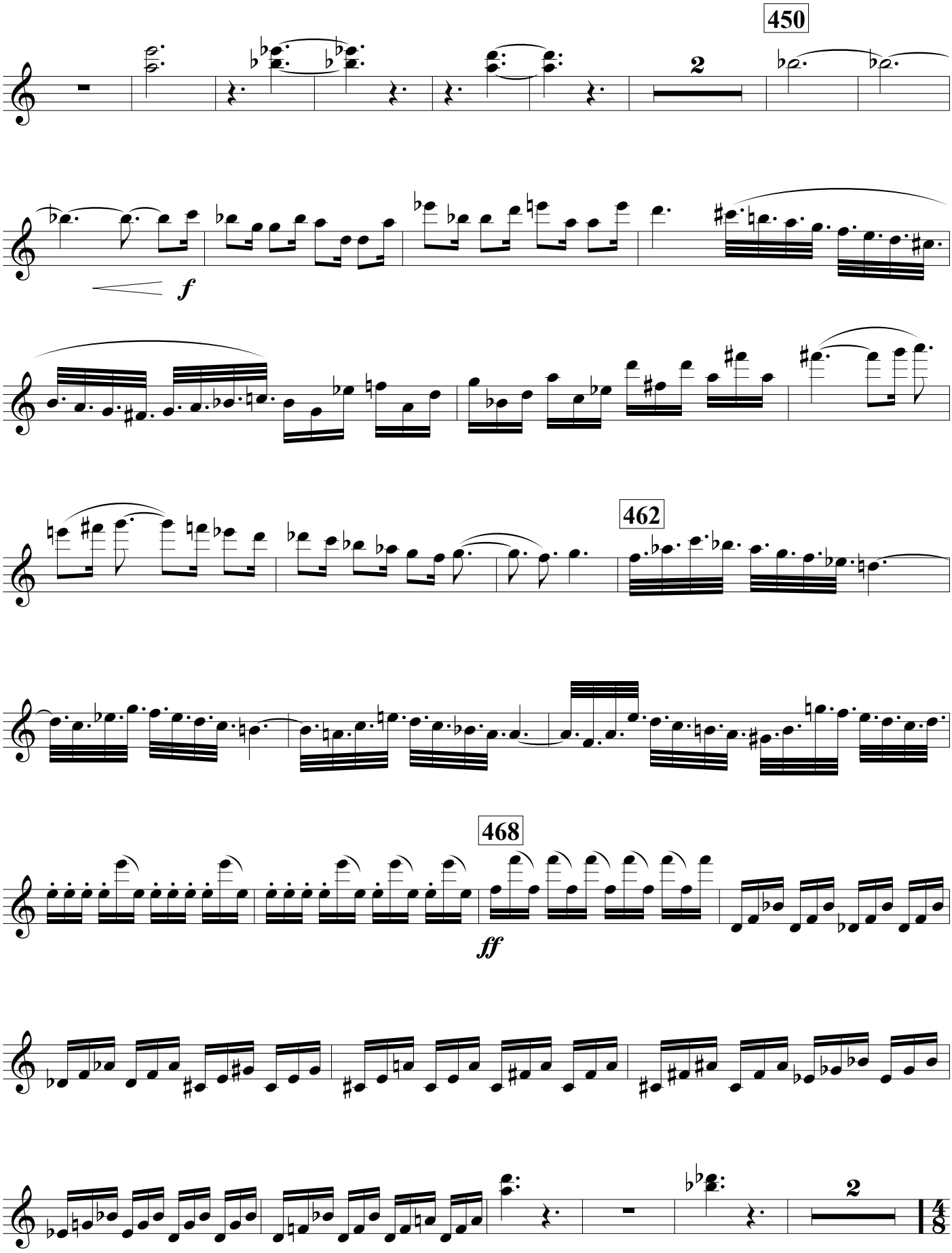

kil - ling trans - fi - gured by ce - le bra - tion, the
354
p
kil - ling... the kil - ling... re -
dee - ming, re - dee - ming... the hard - ships
of the peo - ple, the peo - - -
- ple! Sanc - - - tus.

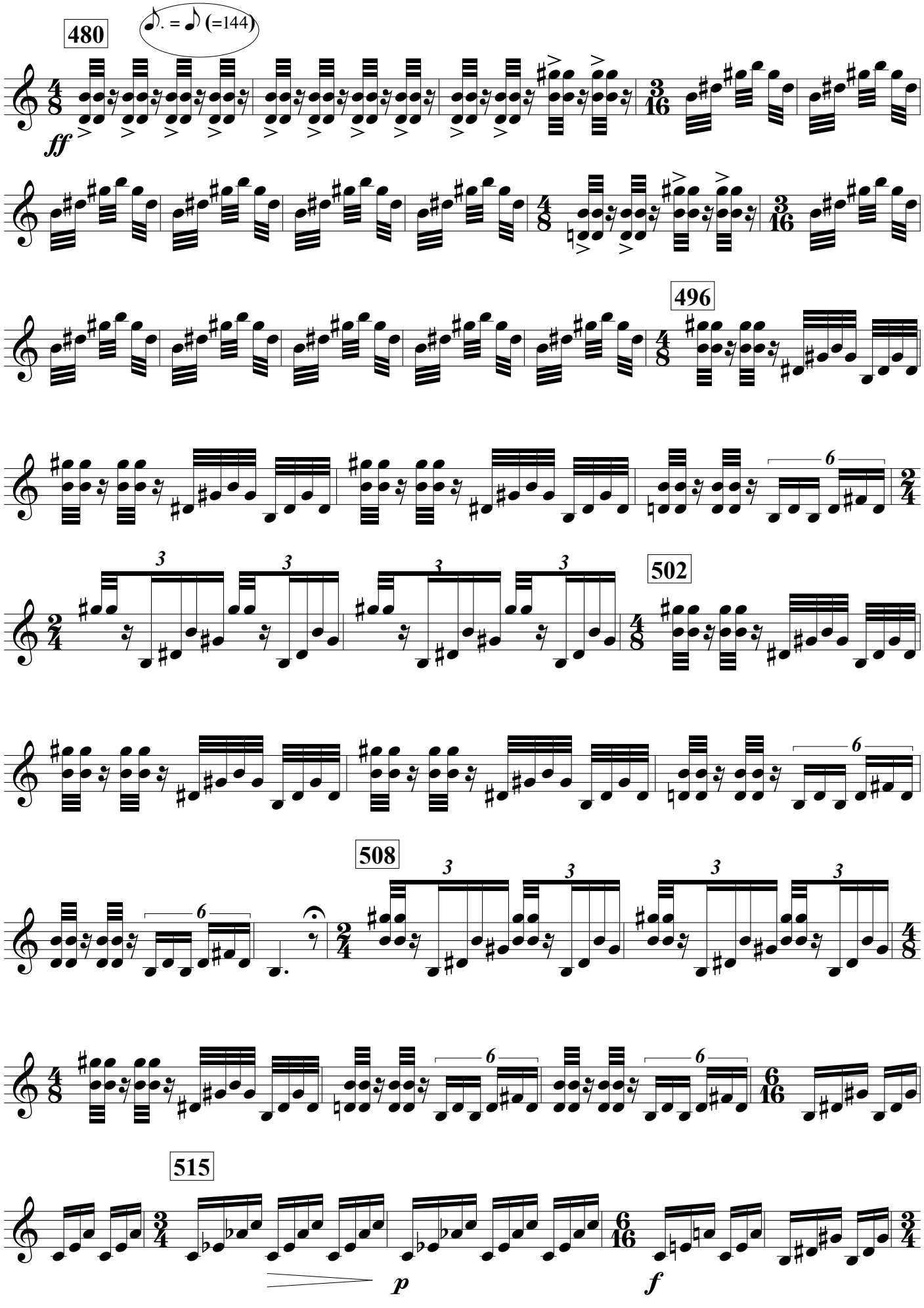

366
♩ = 96
f
Milligan
Cat - fish on death row, cat - fish on death row, death row, death row,
death, death, death row, death row, death, death, death, on death
374
ff
row!
ff
Harrison
This
(a stunned silence)
work costs one per cent of a Rem - brandt:

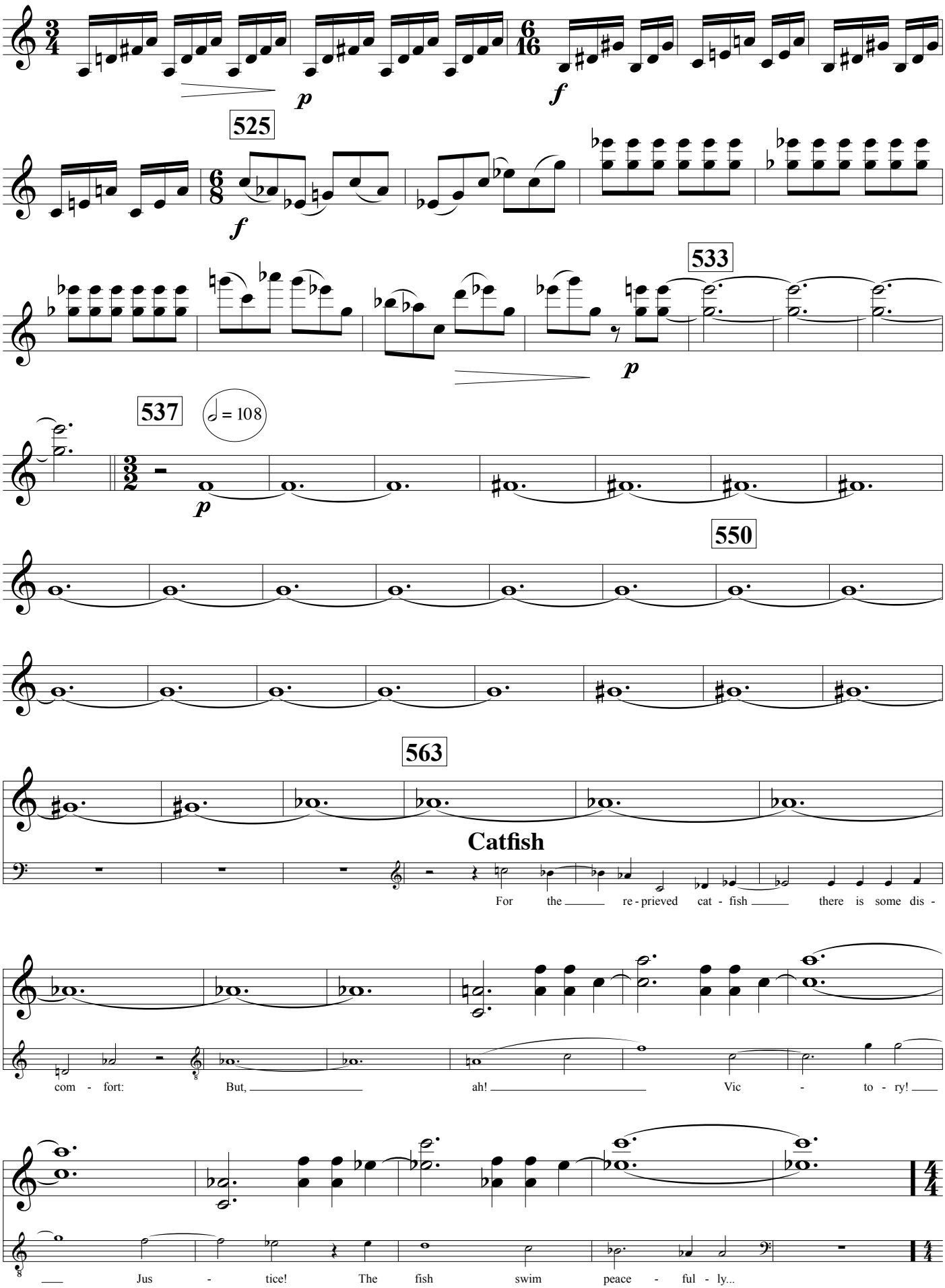

381
♩ = 56
dolce
p
to me it is high art,
accel.
cresc.
high art, high art,
high art, high art, high art, high
390
♩ = 96
f
art!
fries fish,
fries fish
to - night, fries fish to - night, fries fish, fries


fish, fries fish to - night, fries fish to - night, fries fish to - night, fish to -
400
night, fries fish, fish to - night, If the Arts Coun - cil
fries fish to - night then they might as well
scrib - ble a mous - tache, a mous - tache, a mous - tache on the face, a mous - tache on the face, a mous - tache, a mous -
tache, on the face, on the face, on the face, on the face, scrib - ble a mous - tache,
on the face, on the face of the Mo - na Li - sa!

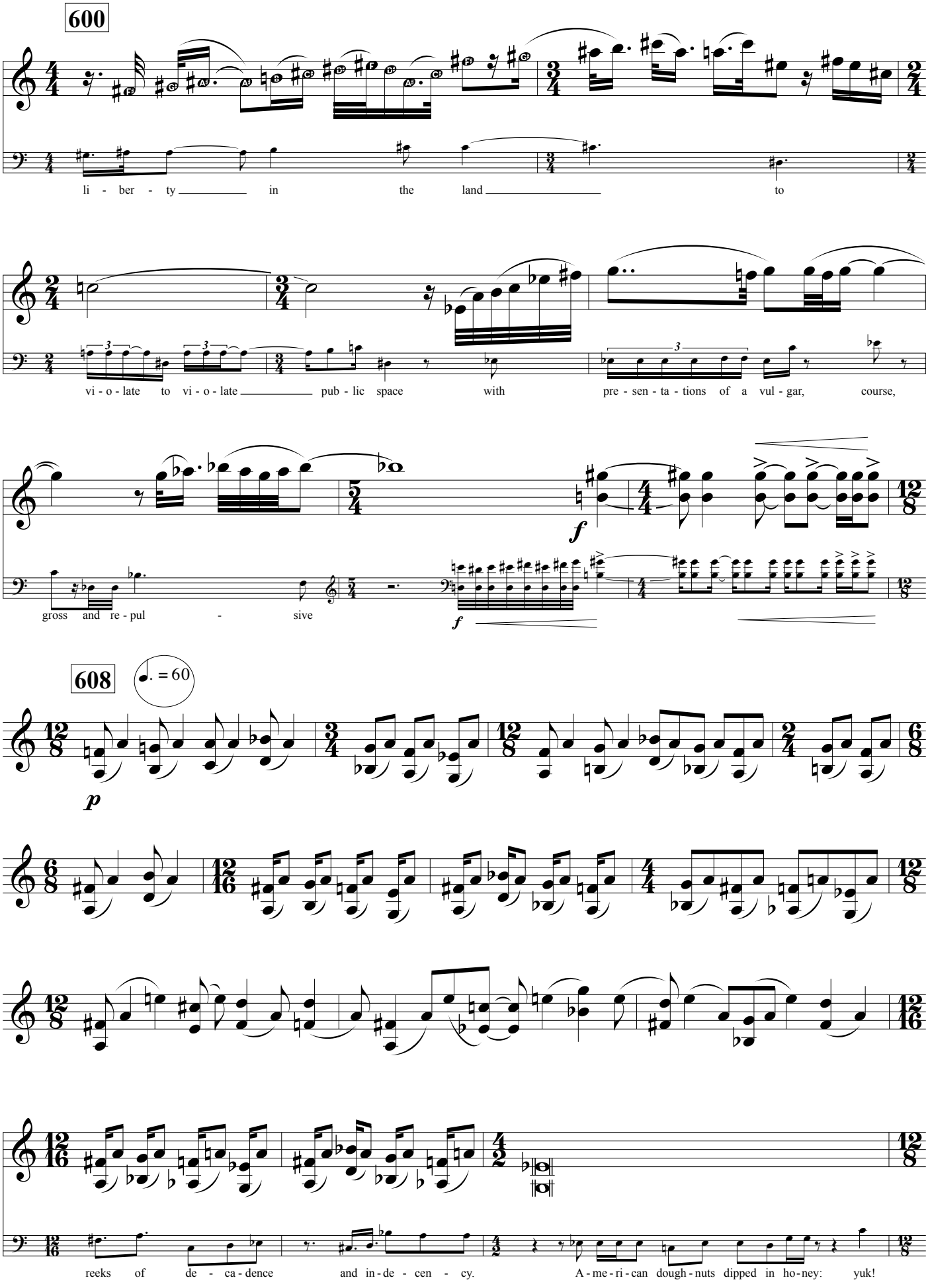

412
♩ = 56
Con sord.
p
Con sord.
p
Harrison
(preparing the filleting knives)
Mo - ments when re - a - li - ty no lon - ger ap -
pears seam - less and the cost of be - lief has be - come out - ra - geous of - fer the op - por - tu - ni - ty to cre -
ate, to cre - ate new spa - ces, first in the mind and
there - af - ter in e - very day life. My
430
♩. = 144
8
441
Senza sord.
p
work be - gins when I per - ceive an a - no - ma - ly in the en - vi - ron - ment,

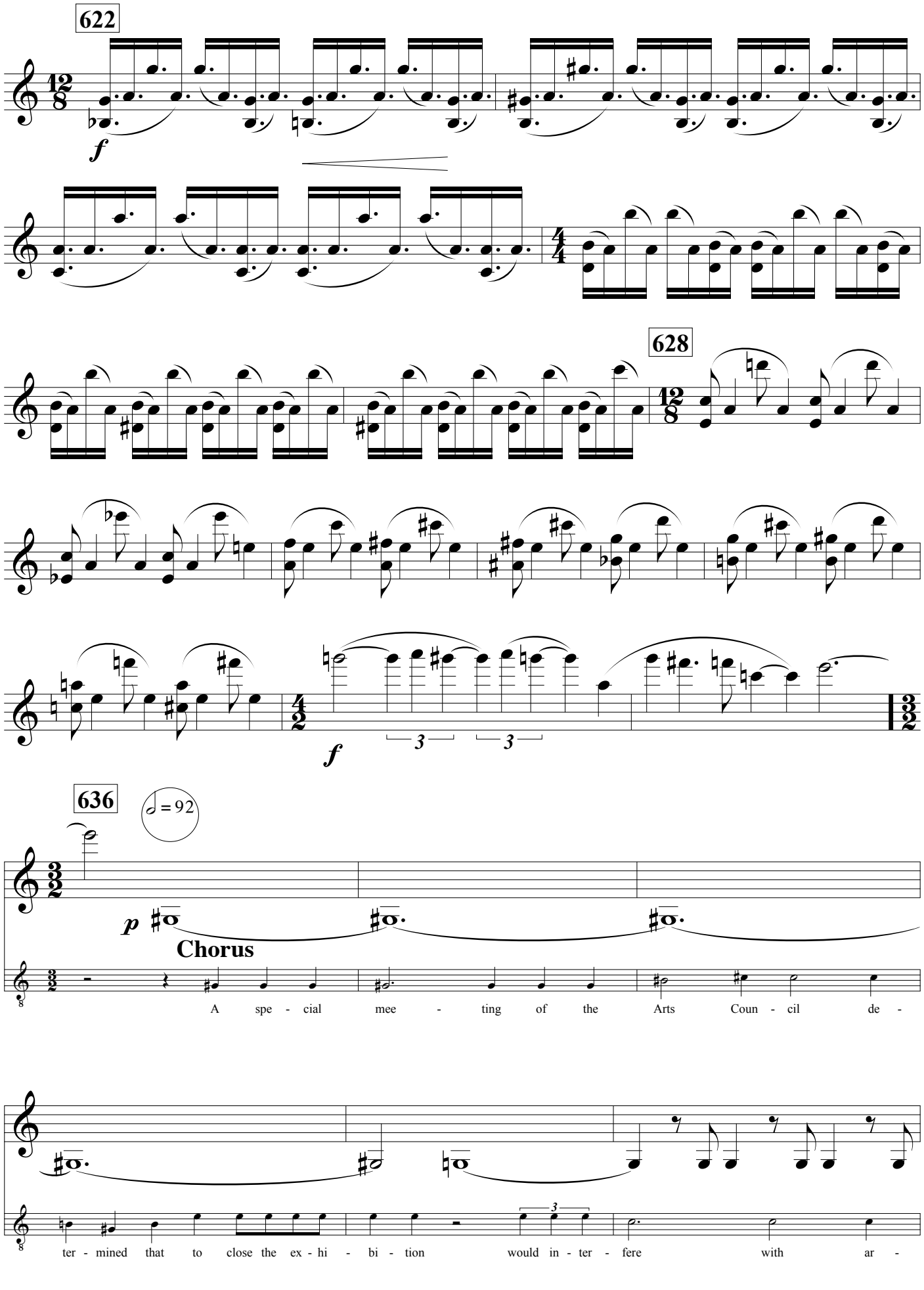

450
2
f
462
468
ff
2
4
8

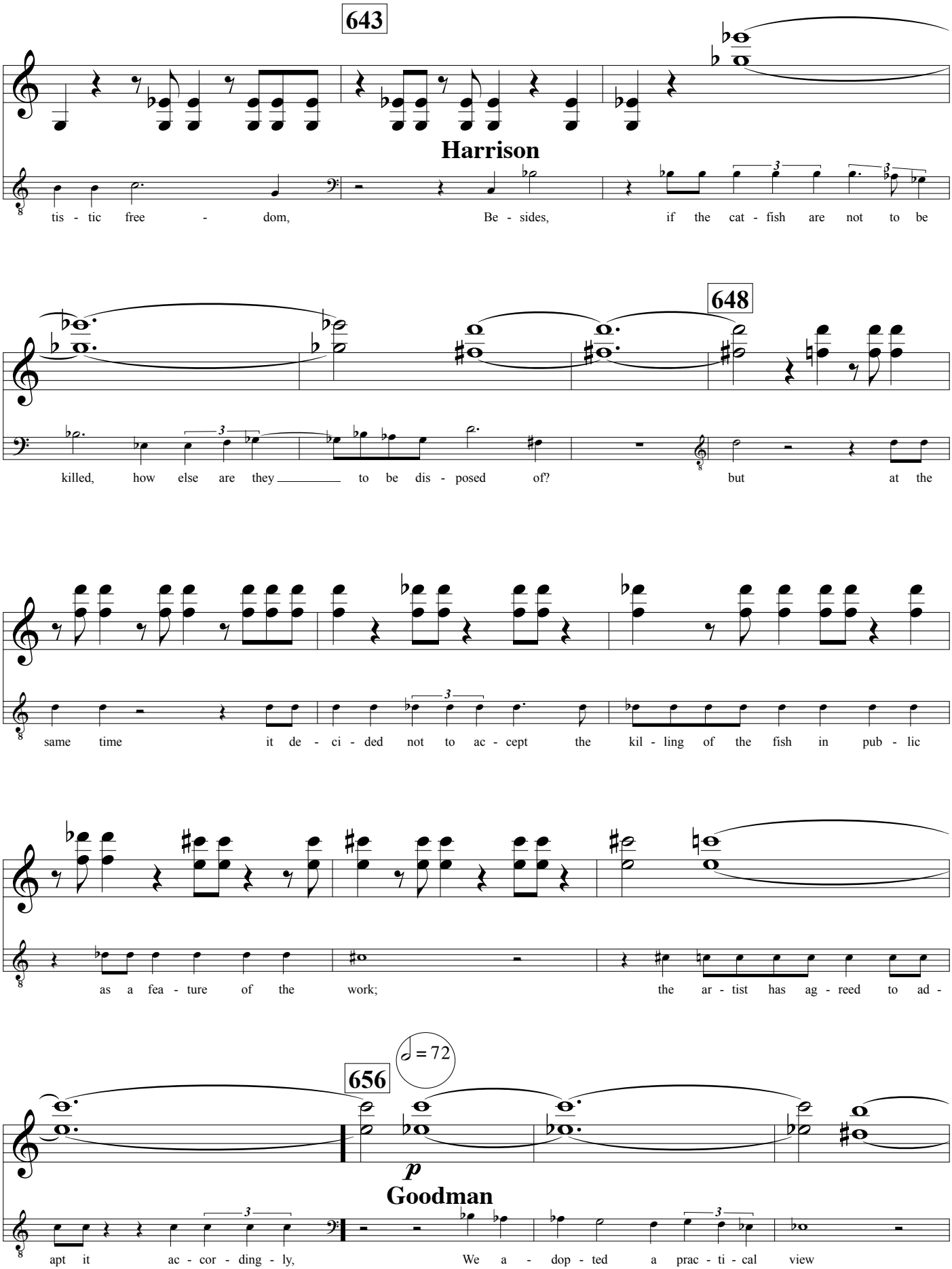

480
(=144)
ff
496
502
508
515
p
f

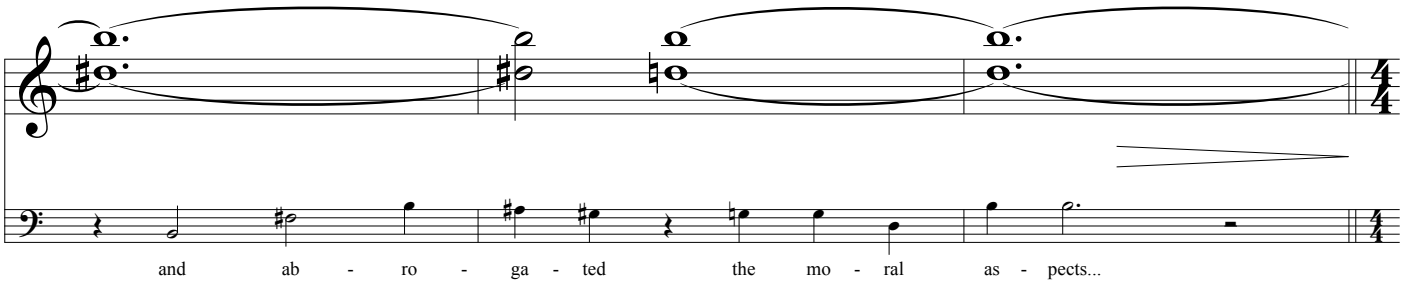

p
f
525
f
533
p
537
♩ = 108
p
550
563
Catfish
For the re - prieved cat - fish there is some dis -
com - fort: But, ah! Vic - to - ry!
Jus - tice! The fish swim peace - ful - ly...

577
♩ = 60
7
7
588
Goodman
p
p
Sub - si - dy should not im - pose
cen - sor - ship:
ar - tists can and must be con - to - ver - sial,
But is free - dom of thought and ex - pres - sion at stake un - less we al - low this per - for - mance to
take place?
There should be no

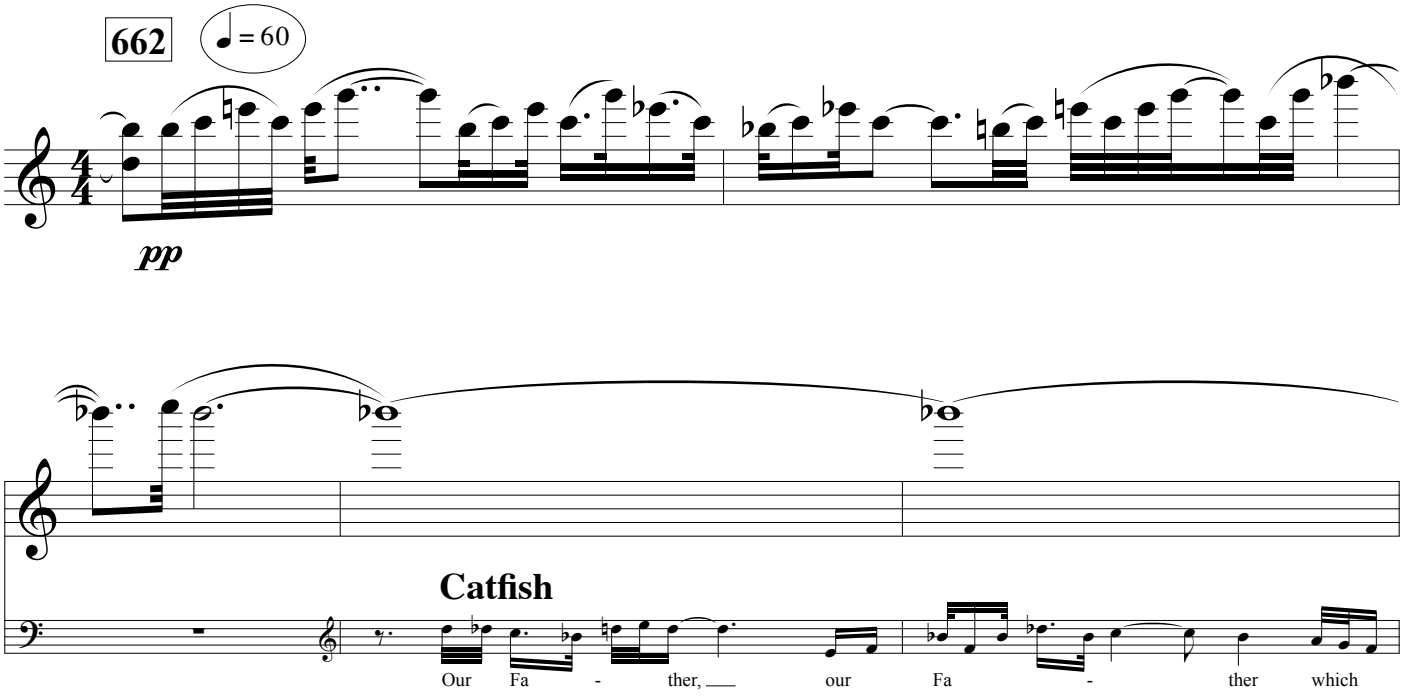

600
li - ber - ty in the land to
vi - o - late to vi - o - late pub - lic space with pre - sen - ta - tions of a vul - gar, course,
gross and re - pul - sive
608
♩. = 60
reeks of de - ca - dence and in - de - cen - cy. A - me - ri - can dough - nuts dipped in ho - ney: yuk!

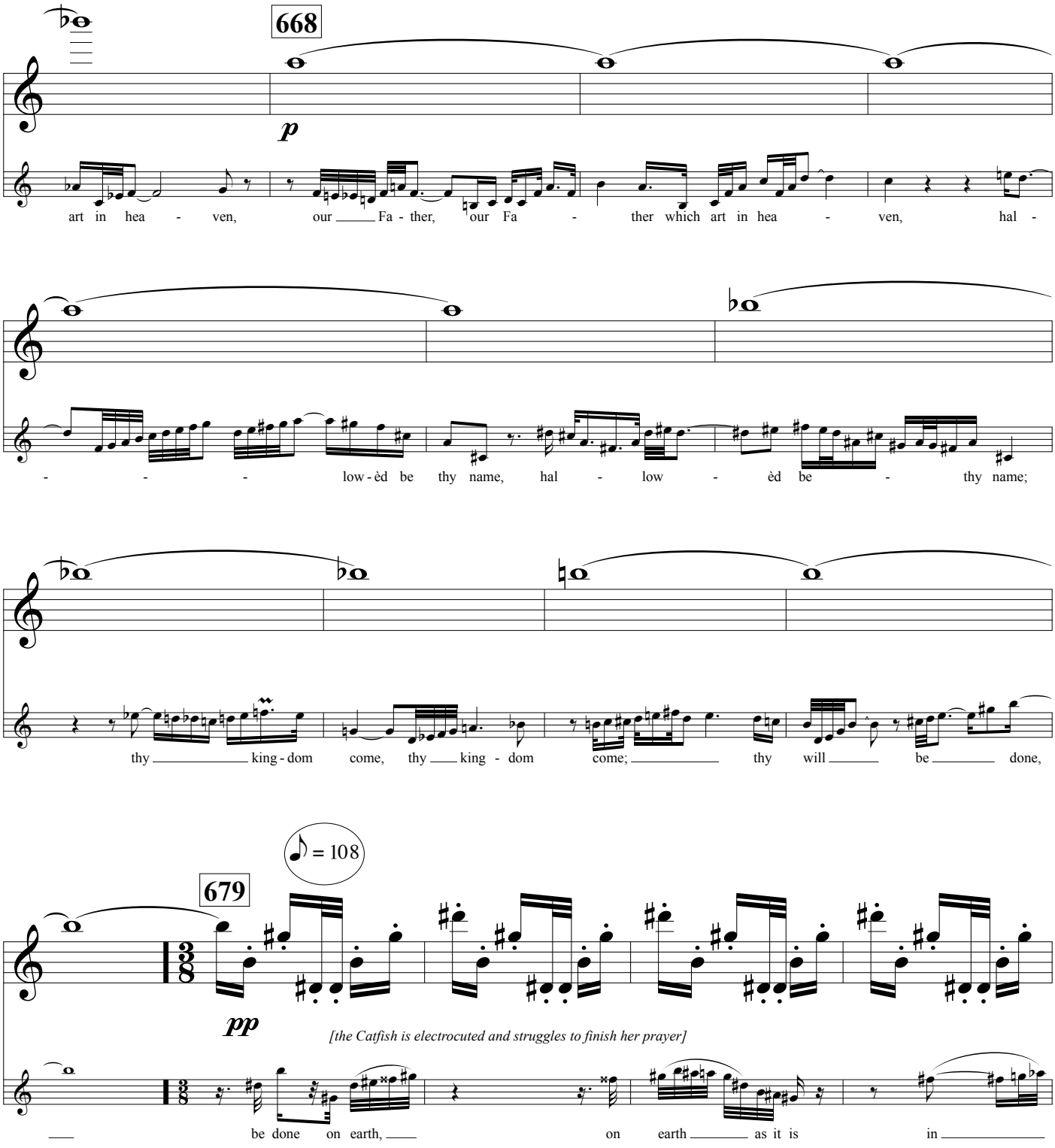

622
f
628
f
3
3
636
♩ = 92
p
Chorus
A spe - cial mee - ting of the Arts Coun - cil de -
3
ter - mined that to close the ex - hi - bi - tion would in - ter - fere with ar -

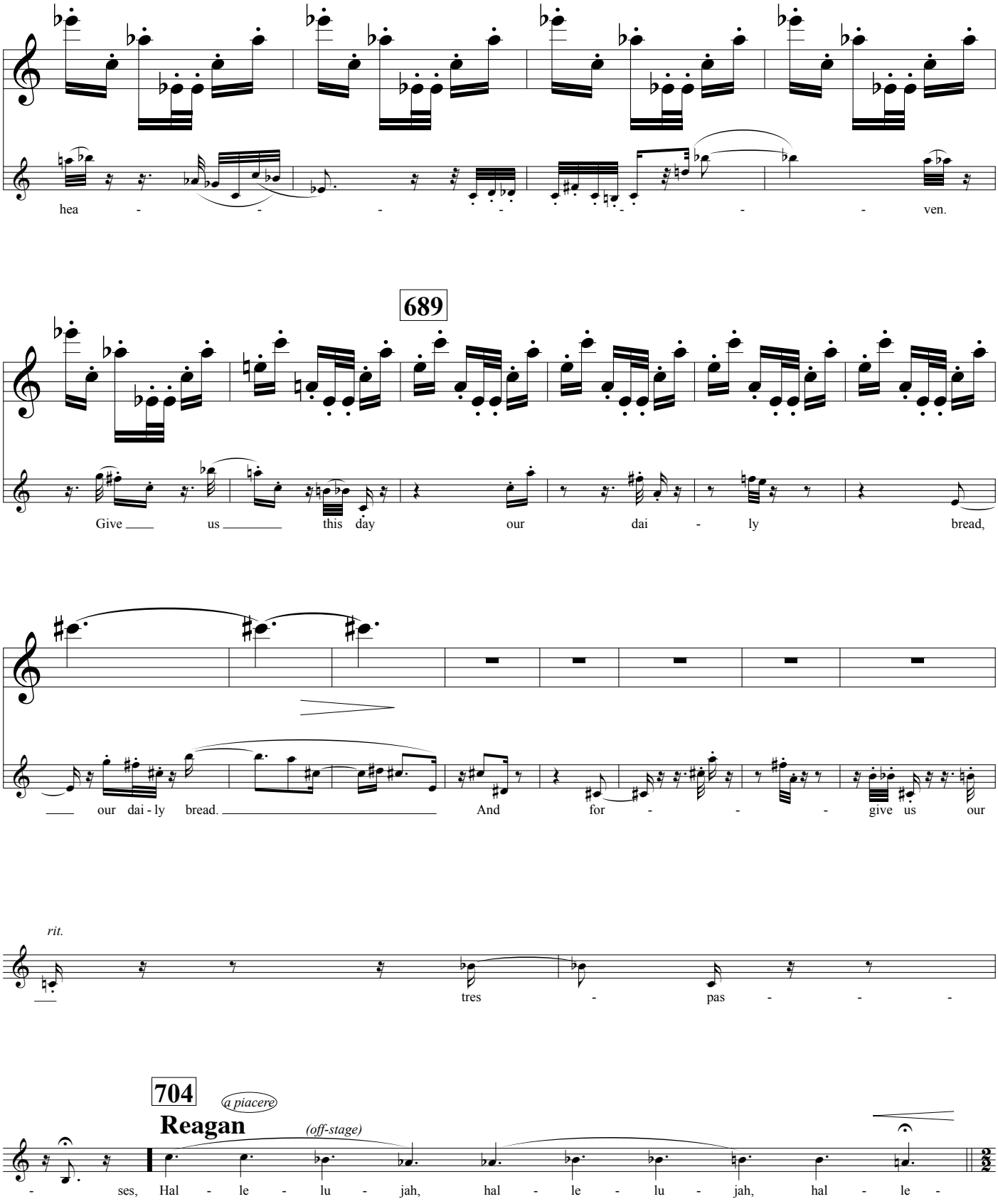

643
Harrison
tis - tic free - dom, Be - sides, if the cat - fish are not to be
648
killed, how else are they to be dis - posed of? but at the
same time it de - ci - ded not to ac - cept the kil - ling of the fish in pub - lic
as a fea - ture of the work; the ar - tist has ag - reed to ad -
656
♩ = 72
p
Goodman
apt it ac - cor - ding - ly, We a - dop - ted a prac - ti - cal view

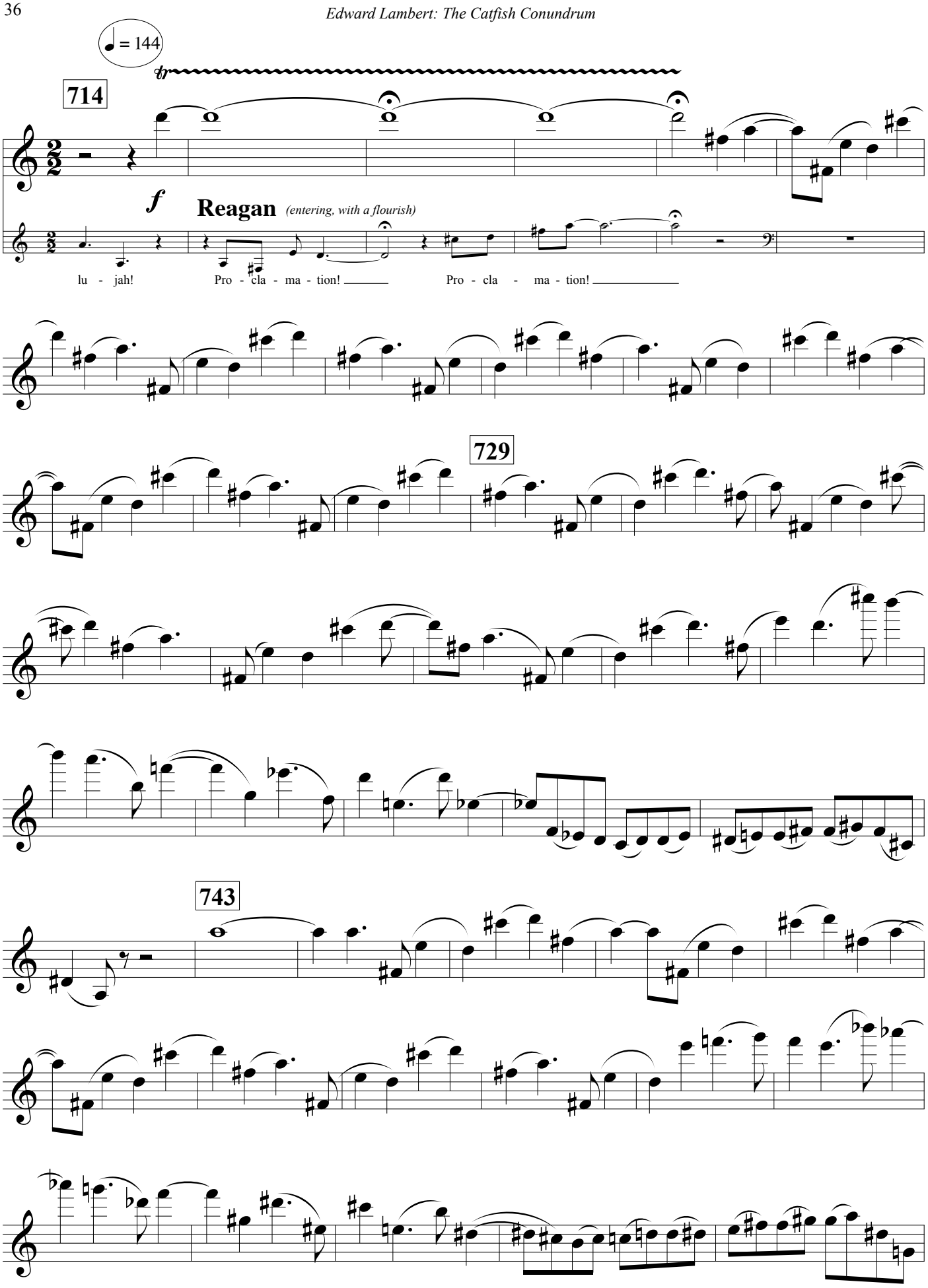


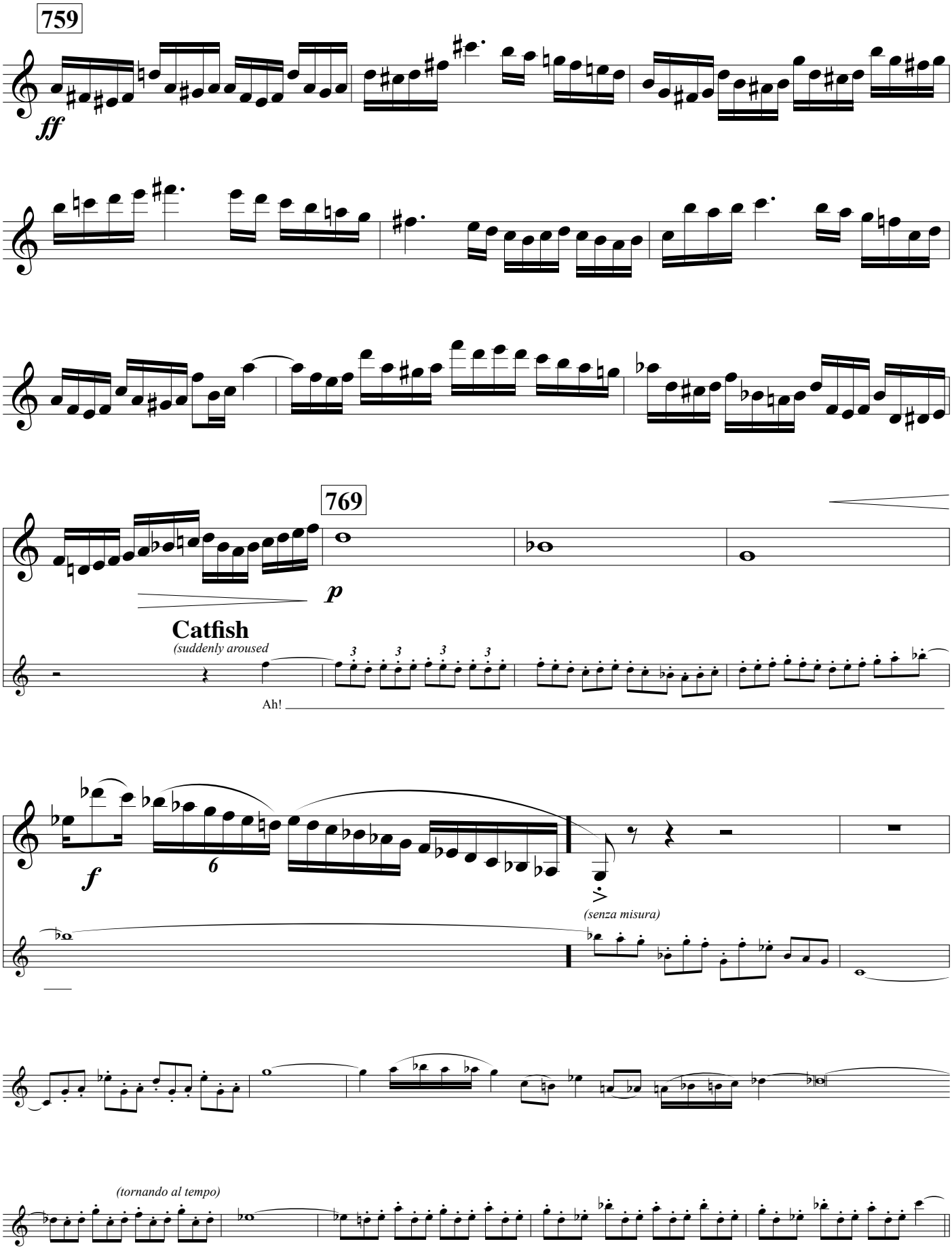
The apparatus for electrocution is prepared;
as the Catfish goes to her execution, she recites the Lord's prayer.

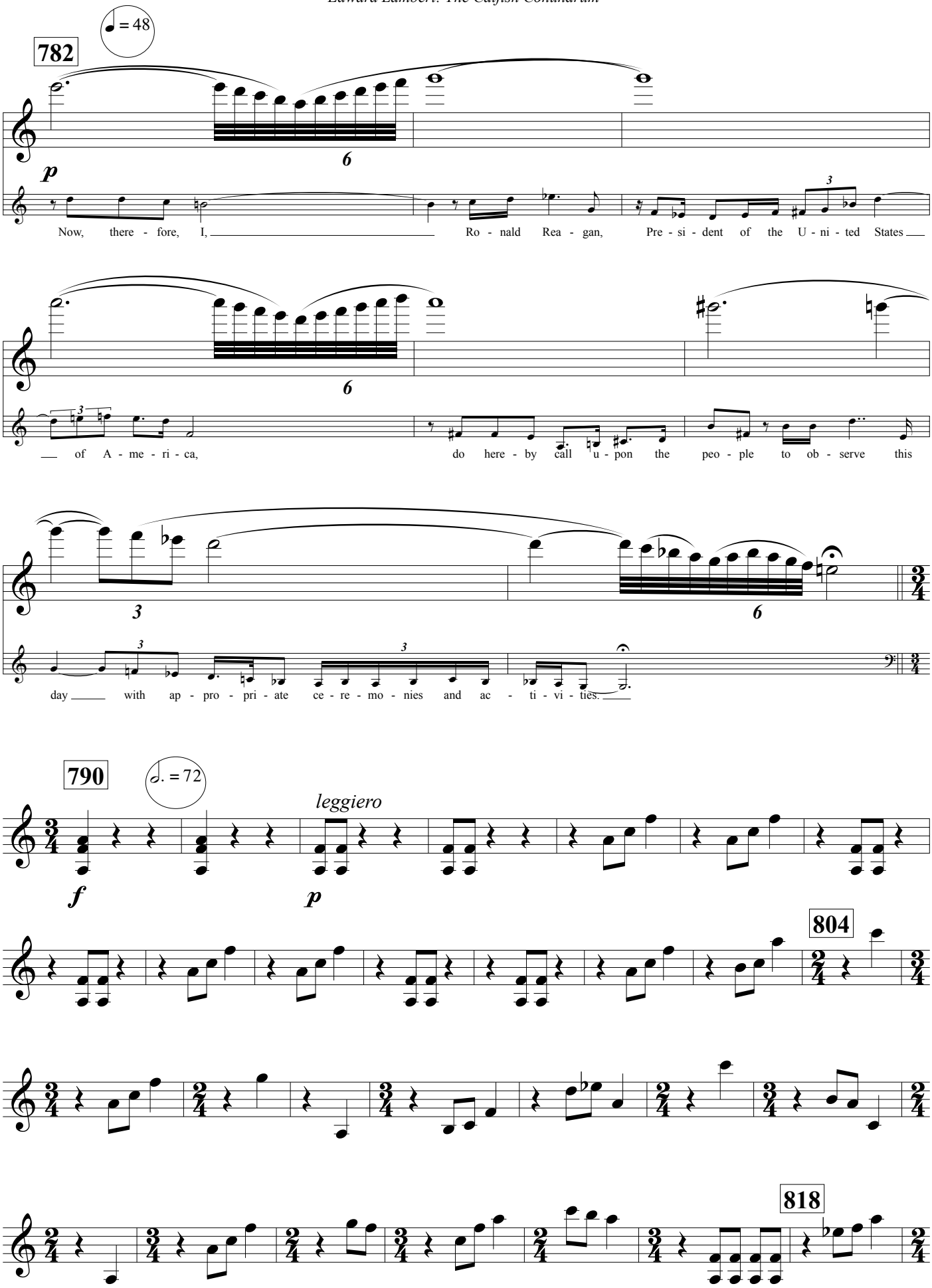


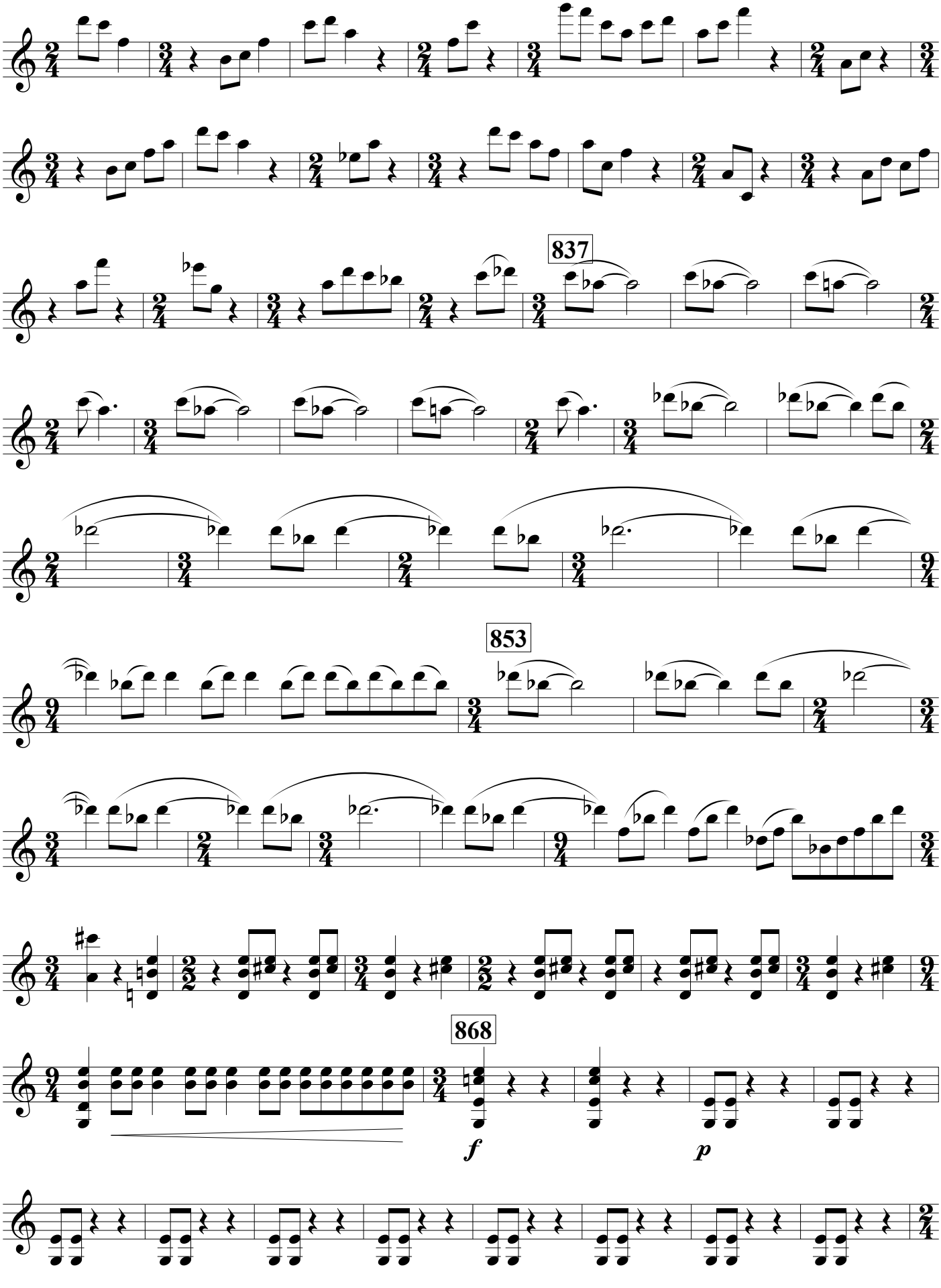

668
p
art in hea - ven, our Fa - ther, our Fa - ther which art in hea - ven, hal -
- - - low - èd be thy name, hal - low - èd be - thy name;
thy king - dom come, thy king - dom come; thy will be done,
679
♪ = 108
pp
[the Catfish is electrocuted and struggles to finish her prayer]
be done on earth, on earth as it is in

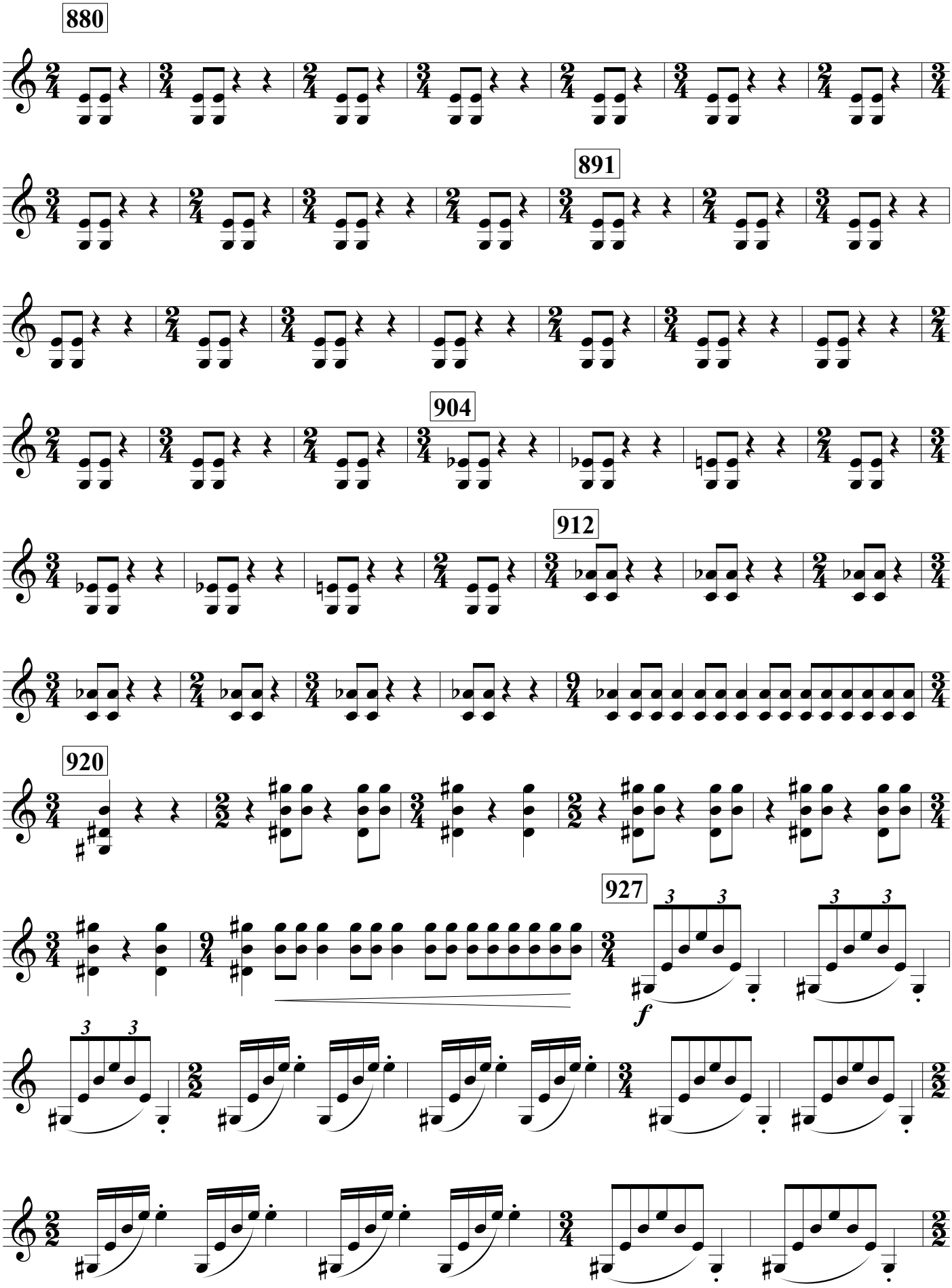

hea - - - - - - - - ven.
689
Give us this day our dai - ly bread,
our dai - ly bread. And for - - - give us our
rit.
tres - pas - - -
704
a piacere
Reagan
(off-stage)
- ses, Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le -

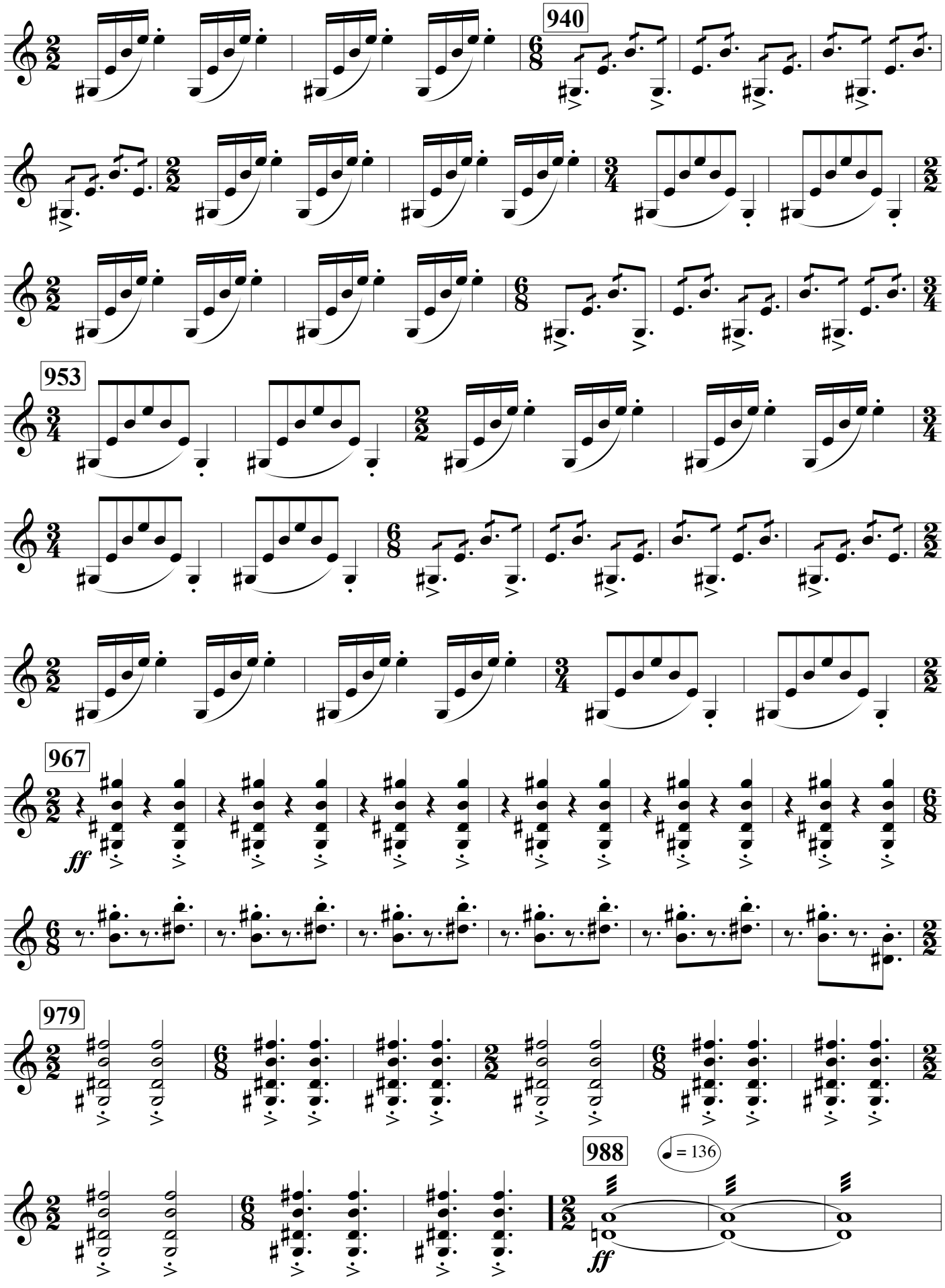

♩ = 144
tr
714
f
Reagan (entering, with a flourish)
lu - jah!
Pro - cla - ma - tion!
Pro - cla - ma - tion!
729
743

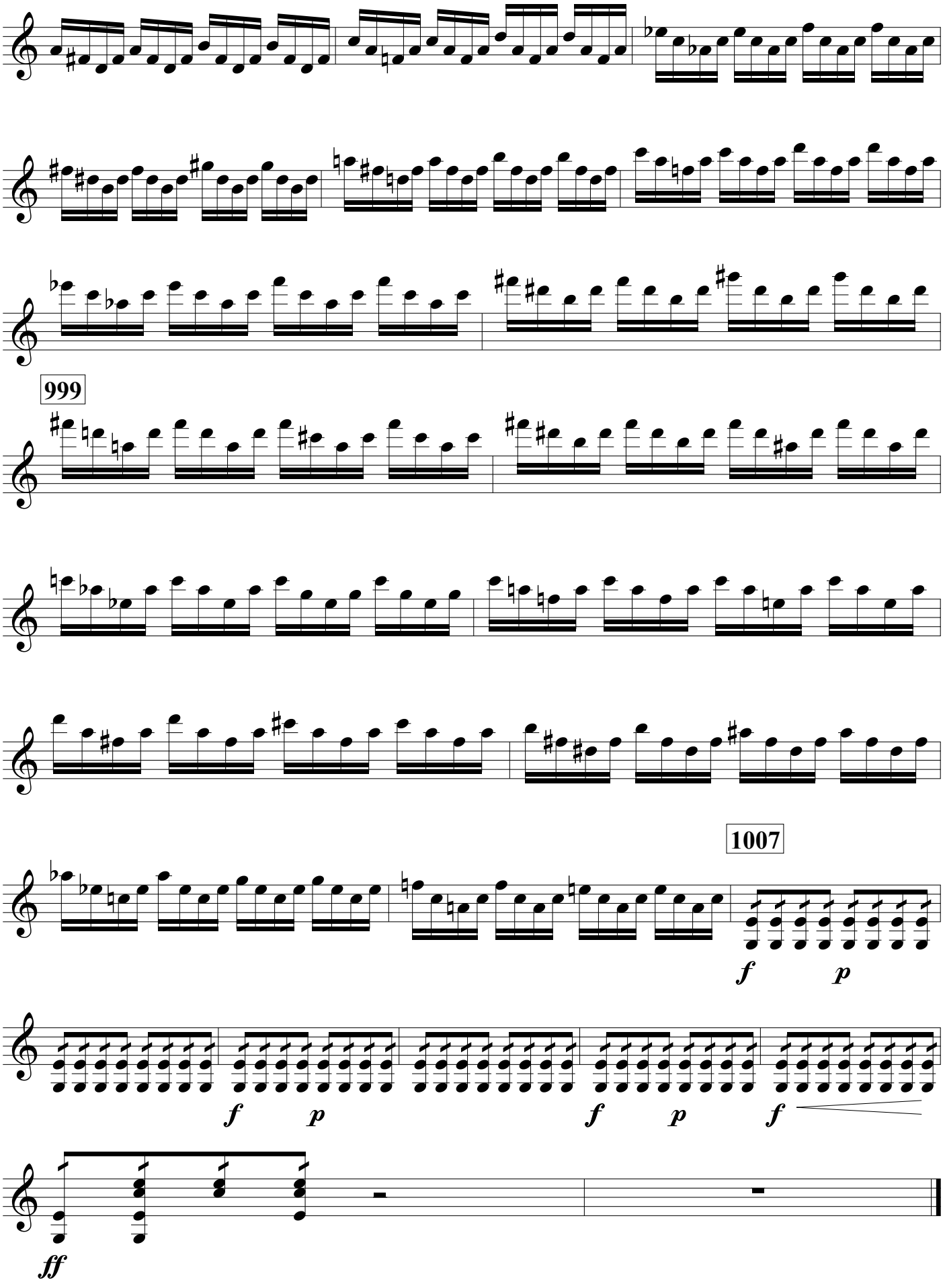

759
ff
769
p
Catfish
(suddenly aroused
Ah!
f
6
(senza misura)
(tornando al tempo)


782
♩ = 48
p
Now, there - fore, I, Ro - nald Rea - gan, Pre - si - dent of the U - ni - ted States
of A - me - ri - ca, do here - by call u - pon the peo - ple to ob - serve this
day with ap - pro - pri - ate ce - re - mo - nies and ac - ti - vi - ties.
790
𝅗𝅥. = 72
leggiero
f
p
804
818


837
853
868
f
p


880
891
904
912
920
927
f


940
953
967
ff
979
988
♩ = 136
ff


999
1007
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
ff