THE

GERMAN SONGSTER,

OR

A COLLECTION OF FAVOURITE AIRS,

WITH THEIR ORIGINAL MUSIC,

DONE INTO ENGLISH, BY THE TRANSLATOR

OF

THE GERMAN ERATO, ETC.

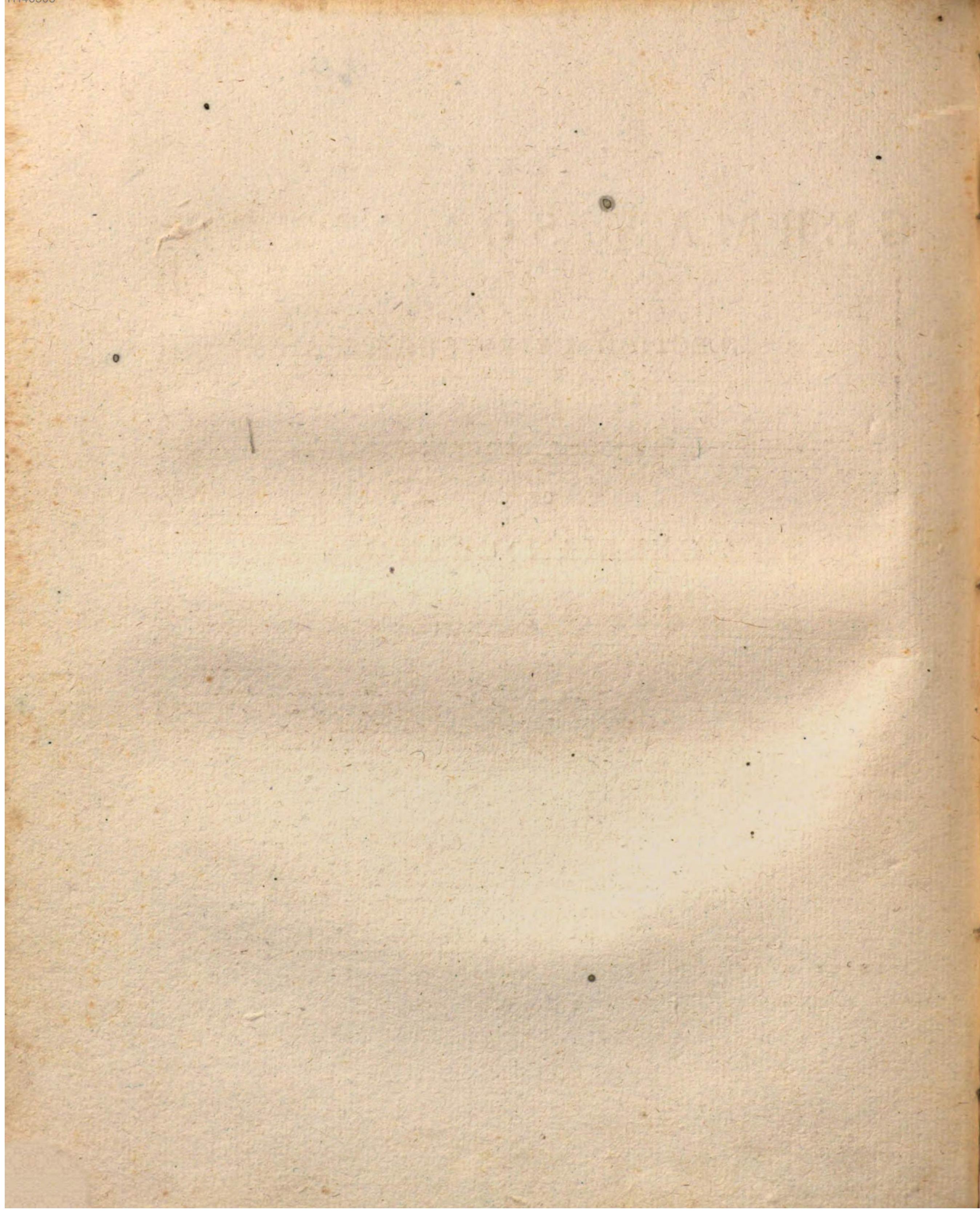
THE SECOND EDITION.



BERLIN,

sold by H. Frölich; AND BY MESSIEURS BAUMGARTNERS, LEIPSIC.

1800.







In quest of thorns we rove the mead,
And slight the vilet's modest charms,
That bloom beneath our tread.

Snatch fleeting pleasures; etc.

II.

What the 'at morn the tempest lour,

And round the forky lightnings play;

Erelong the stormy blast is o'er,

And gladsome smiles the day.

Snatch fleeting pleasures; etc.

III.

The breast that Envy ne'er alarms,

Seeks pure delight in calm retreat;

And all alive to Nature's charms,

Meets bliss that flies the great.

Snatch fleeting pleasures; etc.

IV.

Who courts fair Truth with vow sincere,
Nor checks Compassion's sigh;
His home Contentment's smile shall cheer;
Blest smile, no wealth can buy!
Snatch fleeting pleasures; etc.

V.

Whene'er intruding gloom prevails,

And sorrow prompts the starting tear,

Kind Friendship's smile the cloud dispels,

And softens ev'ry care.

Snatch fleeting pleasures; etc.

VI.

For Friendship stills Affliction's sigh,

And smooths Misfortune's rugged way;

To twilight turns the darksome sky,

And twilight into day.

Snatch fleeting pleasures; etc.

VII.

Hail, sacred Friendship, heav'nly pow'r!

To thee the daily vow shall rise;

So blithe shall glide the fleeting hour,

And lead to brighter skies!

Snatch fleeting pleasures; etc.



TELL me, where's the vi'let fled,

Late so gayly blowing;

Springing 'neath fair Flora's tread,

Choicest sweets bestowing?

Swain, the vernal scene is o'er,

And the vi'let blooms no more!

II.

Say, where hides the blushing rose,
Pride of fragrant morning;
Garland meet for beauty's brows;
Hill and dale adorning?

Gentle maid, the Summer's fled,
And the happless rose is dead!

III.

Bear me then to yonder rill,

Late so freely flowing;

Wat'ring many a daffodil,

On its margin glowing.

Sun and wind exhaust its store;

Yonder riv'let glides no more!

IV.

Lead me to the bow'ry shade,

Late with roses flaunting;

Lov'd resort of youth and maid,

Am'rous ditties chanting.

Hail and storm with fury show'r;

Leafless mourns the rifled bow'r!

V.

Say, where bides the village maid

Late you cot adorning? —

Oft I've met her in the glade,

Fair and fresh as morning.

Swain, how short is beauty's bloom!

Seek her in her grassy tomb!

VI.

Whither roves the tuneful swain,

Who, of rural pleasures,

Rose and vi'let, vill and plain,

Sung in deftest measures?

Maiden, swift life's vision flies,

Death has clos'd the poet's eyes!



I.

SCARCE sixteen summers had I seen,
And rov'd my native bowers,
Nor stray'd my thoughts beyond the green,
Bedeck'd with shrubs and flowers.

When late a stranger youth appear'd,

I neither wish'd nor sought him;

He came, but whence I never heard,

And spoke what love had taught him.

III.

His hair in graceful ringlets play'd,

All eyes are charm'd that view them,

And o'er his comely shoulders stray'd,

As wanton Zephyrs blew them.

IV.

His speaking eye of azure hue

Seem'd ever softly suing; —

And such an eye, so clear and blue,

Ne'er shone for maid's undoing.

V.

His face was fair, his cheek was red,
With blushes ever burning;
And all he spoke was deftly said,
Though far beyond my learning.

VI.

Where'er I stray'd, the youth was nigh,

His looks soft sorrows speaking;

"Sweet maid" he'd say, then gaze and sigh

As if his heart were breaking.

VII.

And once, as low his head he hung,

I fain would ask the meaning;

When round my neck his arms he flung,

Soft tears his griefs explaining,

VIII.

Such freedom ne'er was ta'en till now;

And now t'was unoffending;

Shame spread my cheek with ruddy glow,

My eyes kept downwards bending.

IX.

Nor ought I spoke; — my looks he read,

As if with anger burning;

No, not one word. — Away he sped.

Ah, would he were returning!



LET Truth and spotless Faith be thine,

Till life's vain pageants close;

And still at Virtue's sacred shrine,

Be breath'd thy ardent vows.

II.

Thy pilgrim path with flow'rs shall bloom,

And sun-shine glad the day;

While undismay'd we eye the tomb,

And smile at life's decay.

III

Content serene thy steps shall 'bide;

Fair maid of mien divine!

And sweet shall taste the crystal tide,

As cups of rosy wine.

IV.

The slave to guilt still quakes with fear,

Tho' syren charms invite; —

No joy, his languid day shall cheer,

No soft repose, the night.

V.

In vain shall Spring revive the plain,

And glad the vocal grove;

The breast, where baser passions reign,

No vernal raptures move.

VI-

He shudders at the whisp'ring breeze,

Appall'd with guilt and fear,

In vain the dream of life shall cease; —

Nor end his terrors there!

VII.

O then, let Truth and Faith be thine,

Till life's vain prospects fade;

And still at Virtue's sacred shrine

Thy ardent vows be paid.

VIII.

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So shall the friends we leave below,

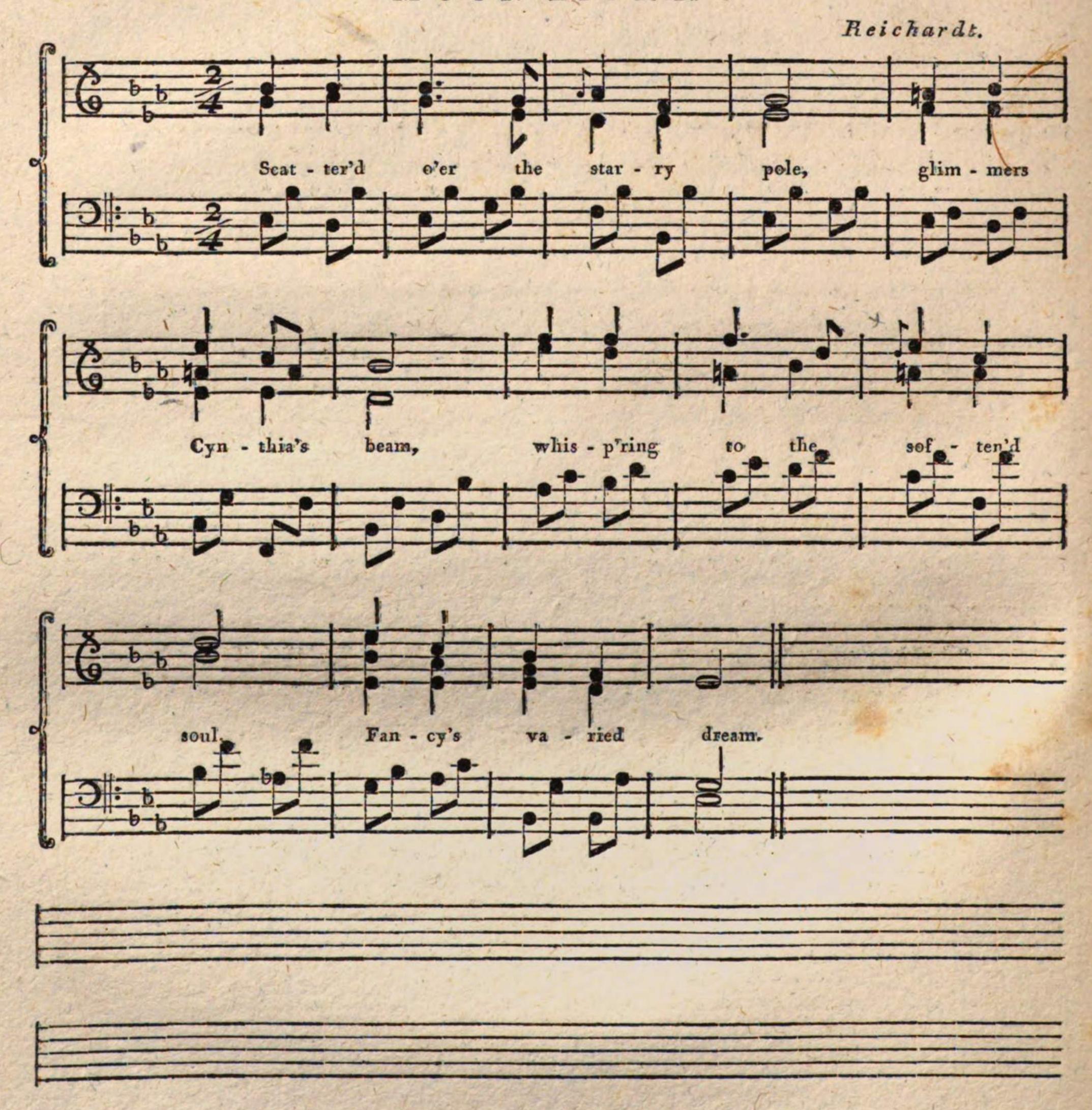
Bedew with tears our tomb;

And round, the freshest sod shall grow,

And choicest flow'rs shall bloom!

The state of the s

MOON-LIGHT.



SCATTER'D o'er the starry pole, Glimmers Cynthia's beam;

Whisp'ring to the soften'd soul Fancy's varied dream.

II.

Oer' the landscape, far and nigh,
Gleams the glowing night,
Soft as friendship's melting eye
Bends its soothing light.

III.

Touch'd, in turn, by joy and pain,
Quick responds my heart; —
Floats, as mem'ry paints the scene,
'Twist delight and smart.

IV.

So my years have flown!

Past delights thy lapse displays;

Joys forever gone!

V.

Dear the transports once I knew;

Dear and lov'd in vain! —

Mem'ry's ling'ring fond review

Turns the past to pain.

VI.

Riv'let, urge thy ceaseless flow,

Gurgling speed thee on;

Whisp'ring strains of plaintive woe:

Mournful unison! —

VII.

- Whether, at the midnight scene,

Swells thy troubled source;

Or, along the flow'ry green,

Glides with gentler course.

VIII.

Blest the man, who timely wise,
Seeks retirement's shade;
Blest, whose lot a friend supplies,
Partner of the glade; —

IX.

Calmer pleasures there invite;

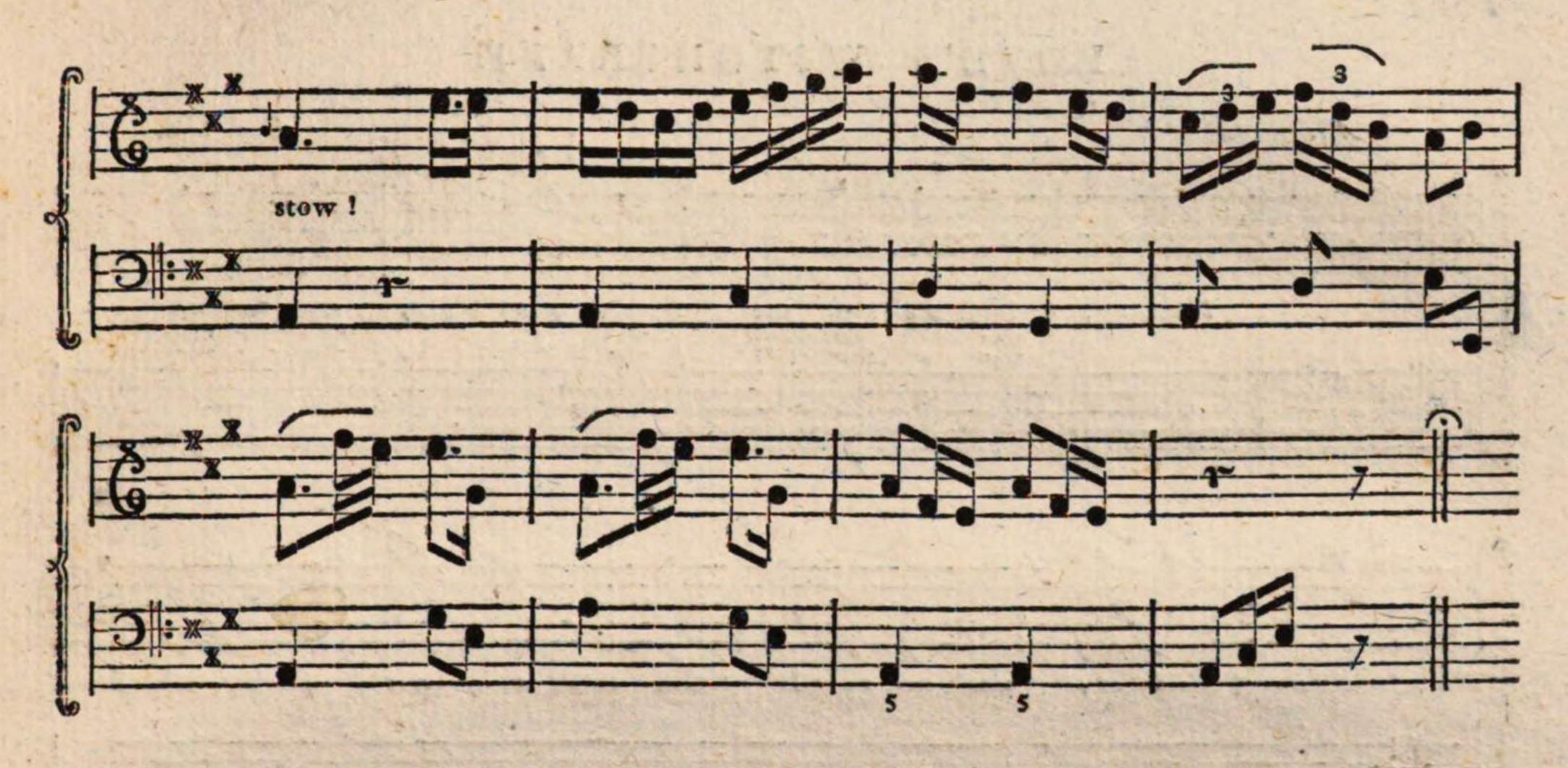
Joys, nor vain, nor loud;

Joys, that erring mortals slight;

Joys, that shun the crowd!

CRADLE-SONG.





I.

O, gentle be thy slumbers,
Serene thy life's career!

And, softer blow, ye Zephyrs,
Nor wake my sleeping care.

And, ev'ry guardian power,
Propitious look below;

And, with a parent's fondness,
Your fost'ring smiles bestow!

11.

May roses, ever blooming,

Thy devious path bestrew;

Nor passion's lawless fury,

Thy tender heart subdue.

May Virtue e'er attend thee,

And lasting joys provide;

Youth's early dawn still gracing,

Still manhood's noblest pride!

III.

O, thou that gav'st the blessing,

Let Virtue's calm delight,

Betimes his heart encircle,

Betimes his steps invite.

But should these hopes so tender,

All fruitless prove and vain;

At once, O snatch him from me;

And death shall end my pain!

LOVE'S WITCHCRAFT.



MAIDEN, look me in the face;
Steadfast, serious, — no grimace!
Maiden, mark me, now I task thee,
Answer quickly, what I ask thee;
Steadfast, look me in the face.
Little vixen, — no grimace!

II.

Frightful art thou not, 'tis true;

Eyes thou hast of lovely blue;

Lips and cheeks, the rose defying,

Bosom, snow in whiteness vying.

Charms thou hast; — ah, sure 'tis true;

Killing eyes of azure hue!

III.

Be thou lovely; — yet, I ween,
Fair thou art, but not a queen.
Not the queen of all that's charming;
Not alone all hearts alarming.
Fair and bright; — but still, I ween,
Bright and fair; but not a queen!

IV. -

When I turn me here and there,
Scores of lovely maids appear;
Scores of maids, in beauty blooming,
Claims, as fair as thine, assuming:
Scores of maidens, here and there,
Smile as sweet, and look as fair!

V.

Yet hast thou imperial sway; —

I, thy willing slave, obey; —

Sway imperial, now to teaze me,

Now to soothe and now to please me.

Life and death attend thy sway;

See thy willing slave obey!

VI.

Scores of maidens? — what a train!

Scores and scores! — yet all were vain,

Should e'en thousands strive to chace thee

From the throne where love doth place thee;

Tens of thousands! — what a train!

All their fondest arts were vain!

VII.

Look me, charmer, in the face;
Little vixen, no grimace!
Tell me, why for thee I'm sighing,
Thee alone, and others flying!
Little charmer, no grimace!
Speak, and look me in the face!

VIII.

Long the cause I've vainly scan'd,
Why to thee alone I bend! —
Tortur'd thus, nor know the reason!
Martyr still to am'rous treason!
Fair enchantress; — 'fore me stand.
Speak; — and shew thy magic wand!



Γ.

COME, Laura, dearest maid,

Let rural joys delight thee;

Stern Winter's storms are laid,

And hill and vale invite thee,

In vernal pomp array'd

II.

You lucid lake serene,

See fragrant hawthorns border;

See lambkins, o'er the green,

Disport in gay disorder,

And deck the smiling scene.

III.

From yonder bow'ry shade,

Sad love-lorn anguish pouring,

The turtle fills the glade;

His absent mate alluring,

That loiters down the mead.

IV.

Nor calls the dove in vain; —

Back flies the soften'd rover.

Dear maid, then, soothe my pain,

Regard thy plaintive lover: —

O come, dear maid, again!

MORNING HYMN.



HOW smiles the opining dawn, Wide o'er the spreading lawn,

As night's dun shadows speed their flight!

Hail, Nature's charms divine!

Before her hallow'd shrine,

How glows my heart with fond delight!

II.

Hail, Nature's sov'reign Lord!

At whose creative word,

The State of the S

The awe-inspiring scene arose!

Thy goodness grants me more,

Than dare my pray'rs implore; —

Than dare my ardent fondest vows!

III.

At midnight's silent hour,

While sleep's reviving pow'r

Gives health, and life, and vig'rous joy;

Thy wakeful care presides,

Nor harm my soul betides;

Nor fears my balmy rest annoy.

IV.

The new-born day, how fair!

How sweet the freshen'd air!

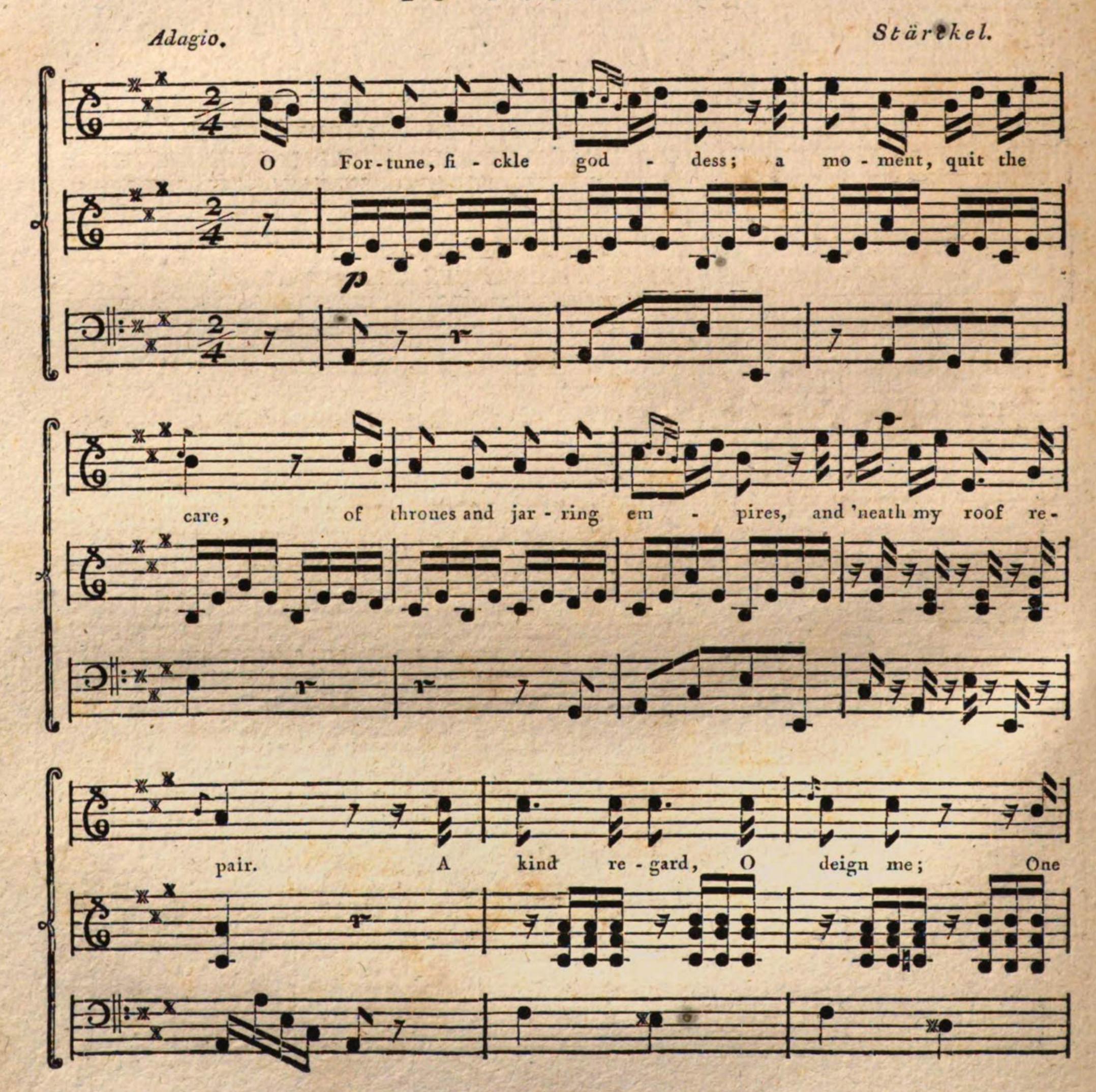
How rings the grove with votive lays!

The tuneful song, I'll join,

And chant thy name divine; —

And swell the grateful note of praise!

TO FORTUNE.







MUTUAL LOVE.



I.

Could I fancy, that for me,

Thou a transient thought could'st spare;

Or, of what I feel for thee,

E'en a thousandth part could'st share; —

II.

One kind look, to bid me live; —
Or, one kiss return again;
Sweet return, for those I give;

III.

All dissolv'd in tender joy,

High my raptur'd heart would beat;

Fondly at thy feet I'd sigh;

Fondly call my bo ndage sweet!

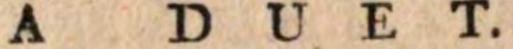
IV.

Dear the change of mutual vows;

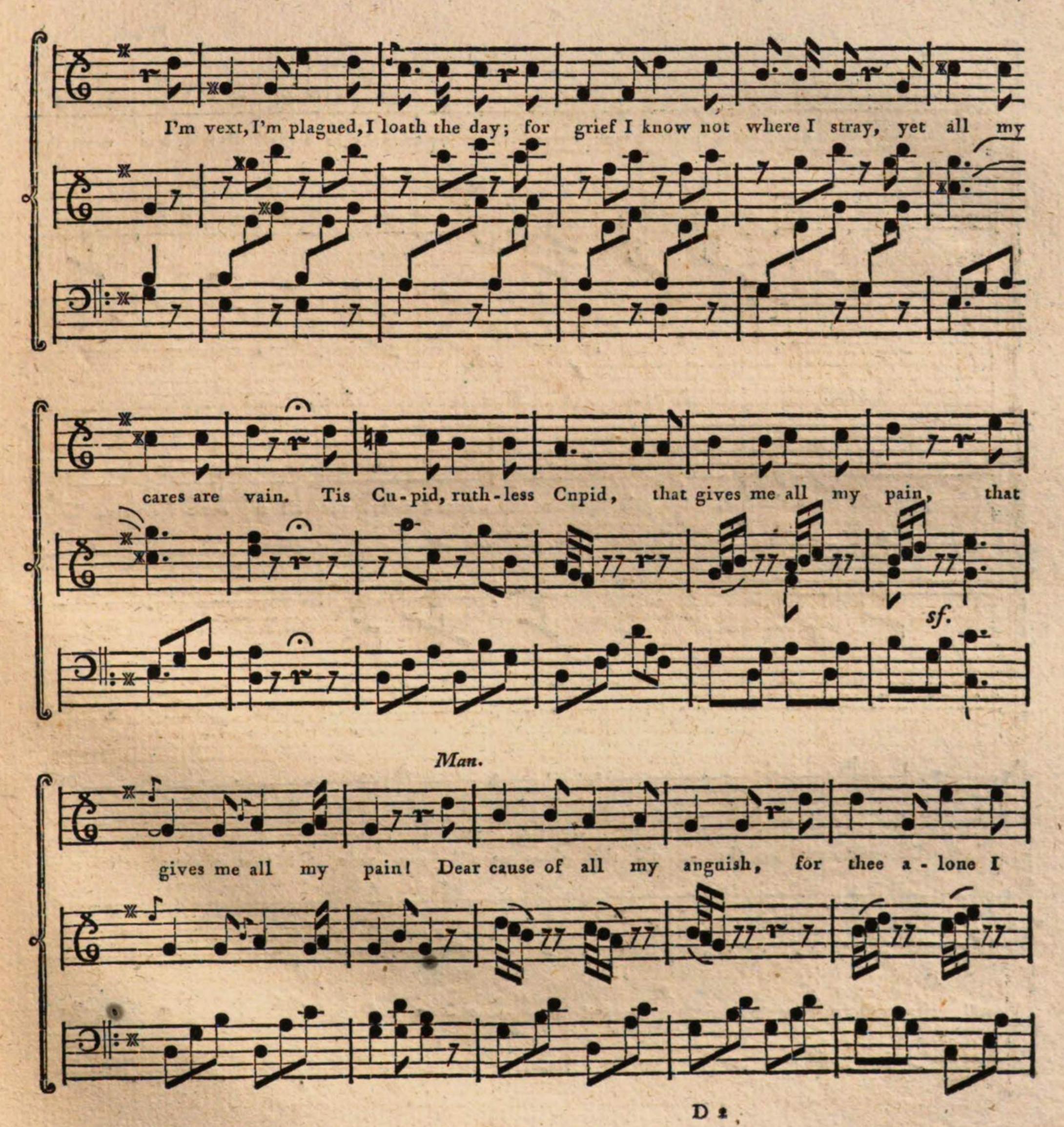
Love return'd new love shall claim:

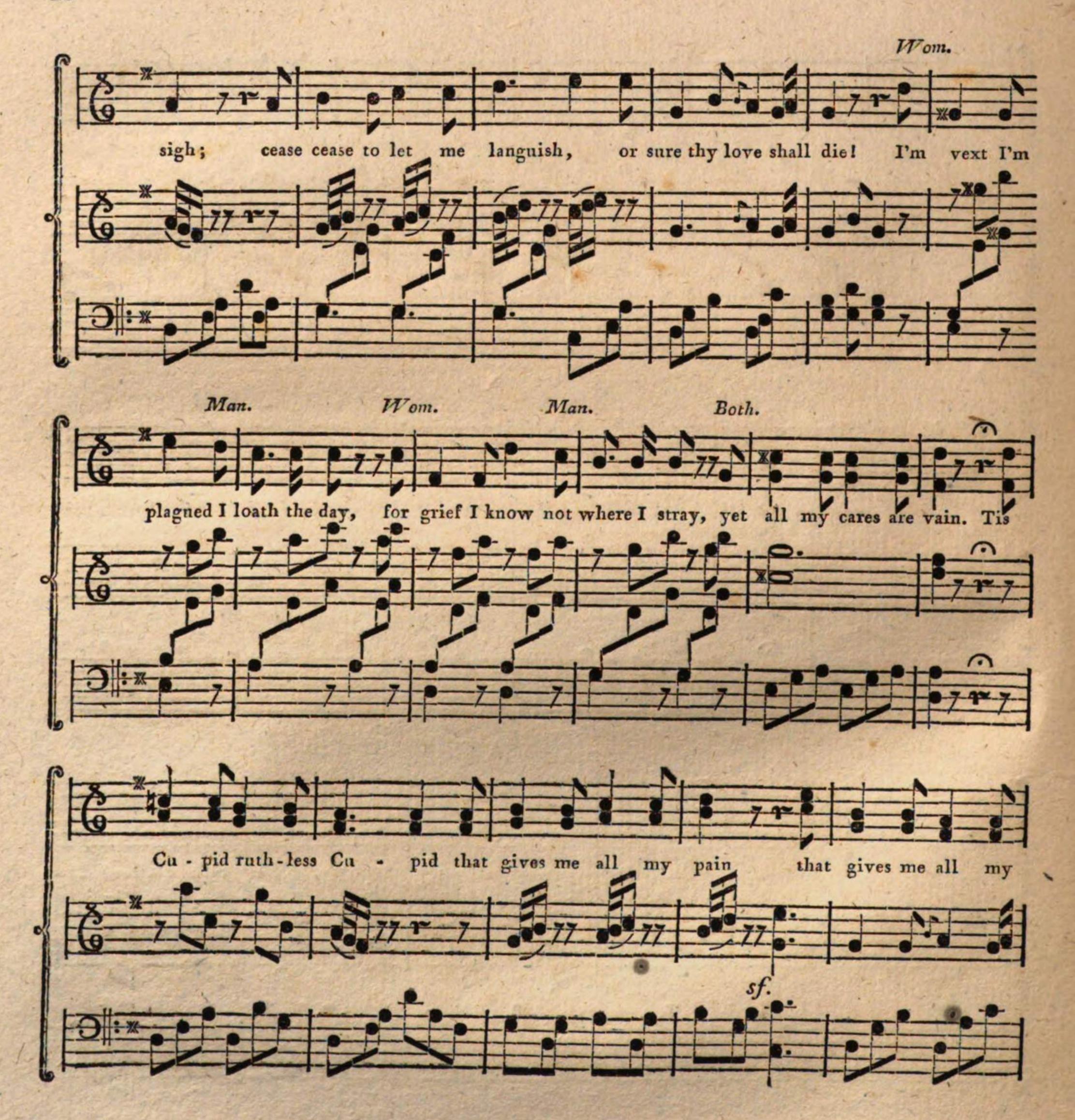
And the spark, that faintly glows,

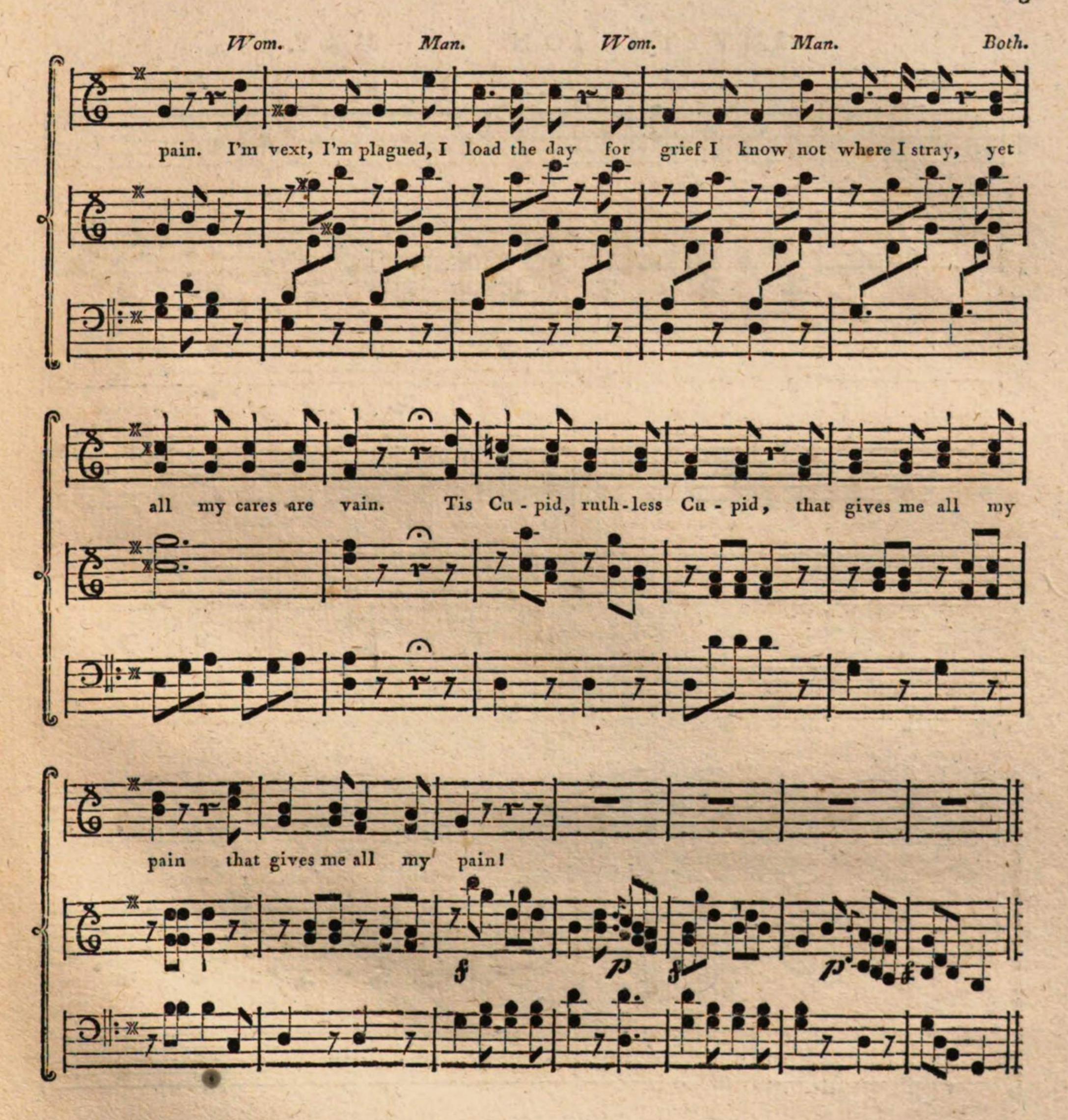
Soon shall blaze an ardent flame!







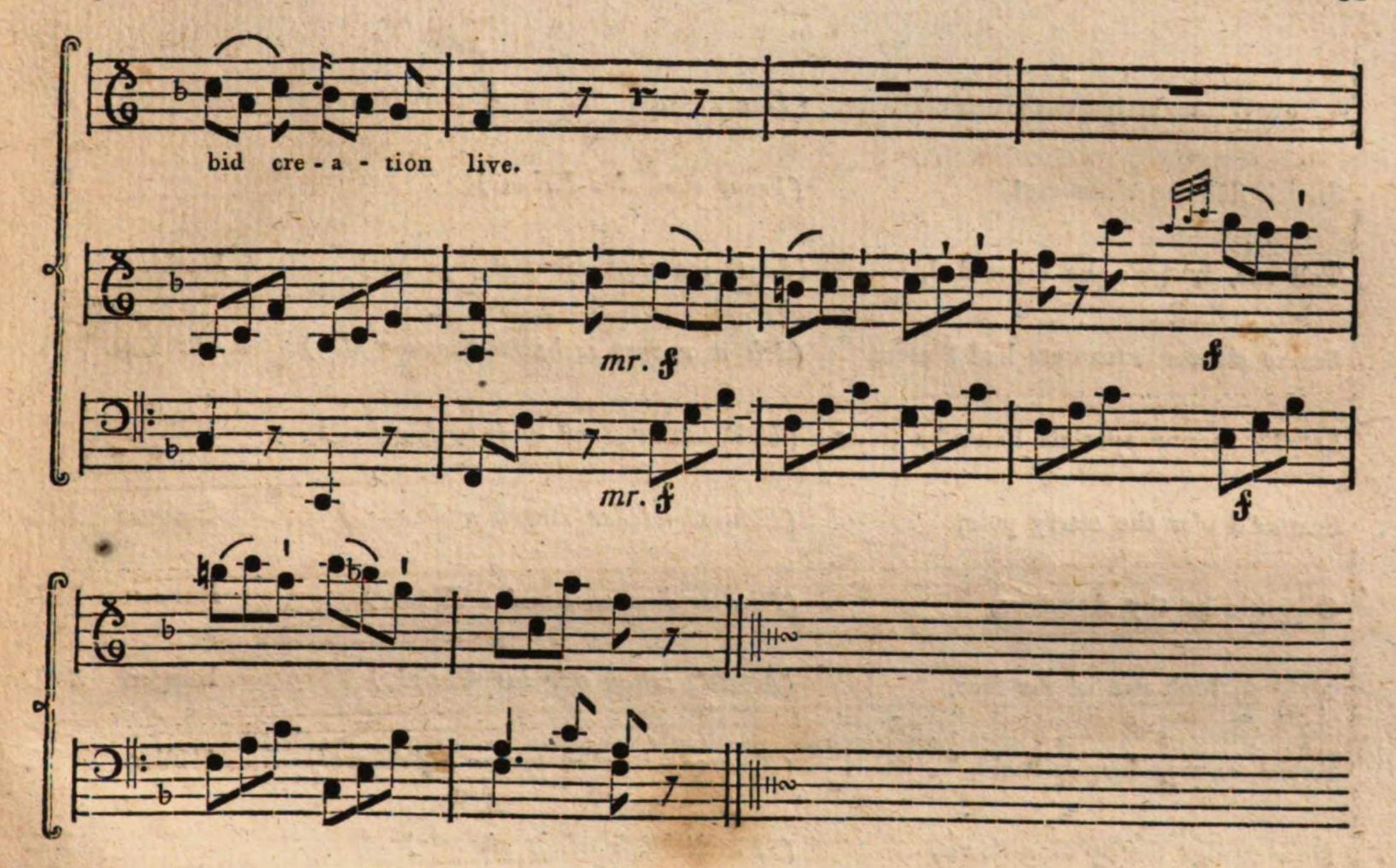




THE TOUCH

INVITATION TO MAY.





I.

RETURN, delightful May,

And robe the trees with green,
Bid music wake the spray

And glad the vernal scene.

The cowslip's bell restore,

The rose's blush revive,

Thy wonted treasures pour,

And bid creation live!

п.

In vain, while Winter's gloom
Invades the drooping plain,
In quest of joy we roam
'Mid fashions's motly train,
Joy shuns the noisy town,
The midnight masquerade:
From courts and cities flown
She haunts the rural shade!

III.

And well the rural shade

Befits a guest so fair.

Then haste, bedeck the mead,

Haste all thy stores prepare.

Sweet month, bring garlands gay,

And bring the nightingale:

O haste, delightful May.

And Winter's gloom dispel!

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