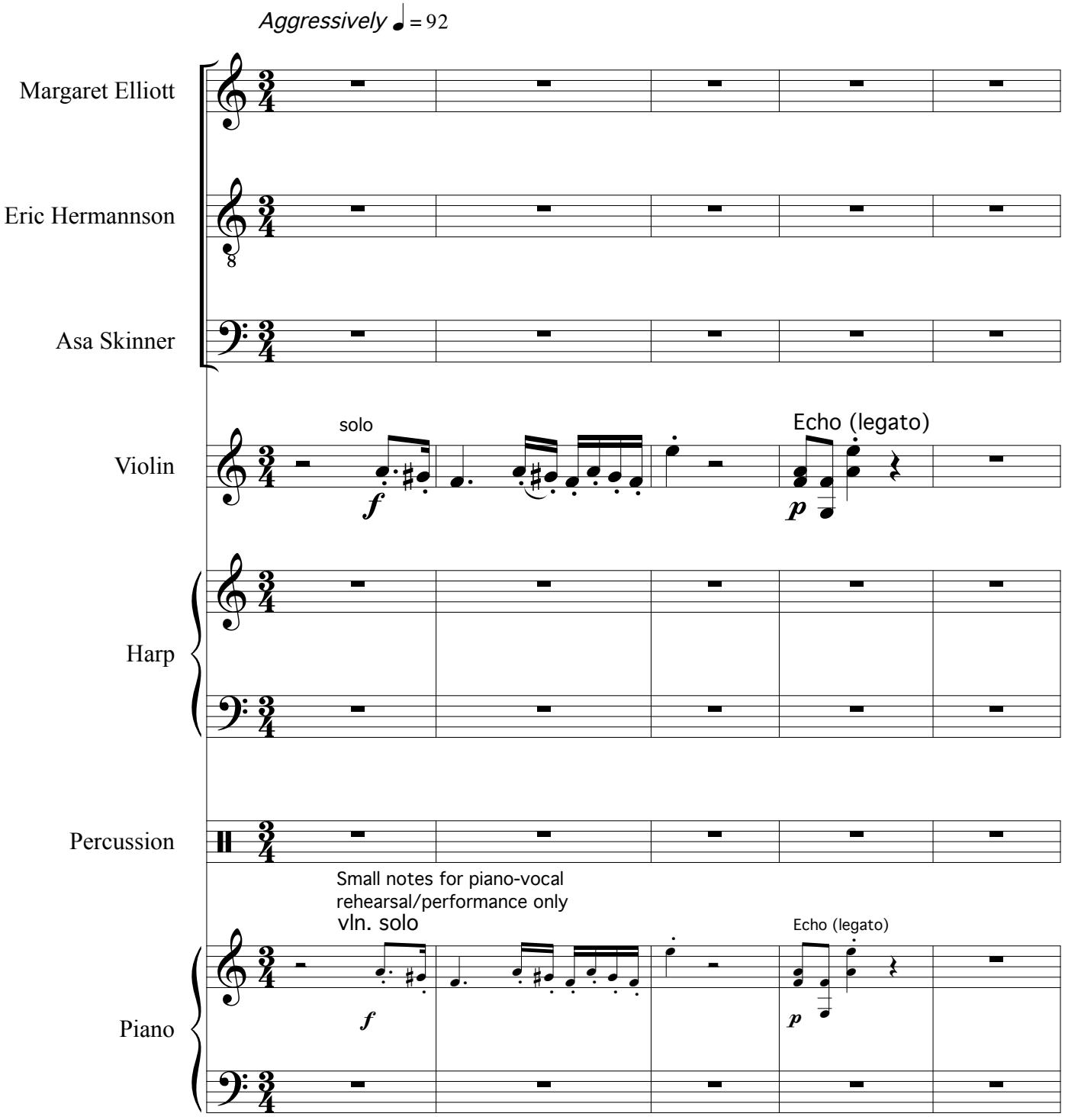
Eric Hermannson's Soul

Excerpts arranged for small ensemble

Libretto by the composer
based on a story by Willa Cather

Jonathan Chenette

1. Eric's Salvation



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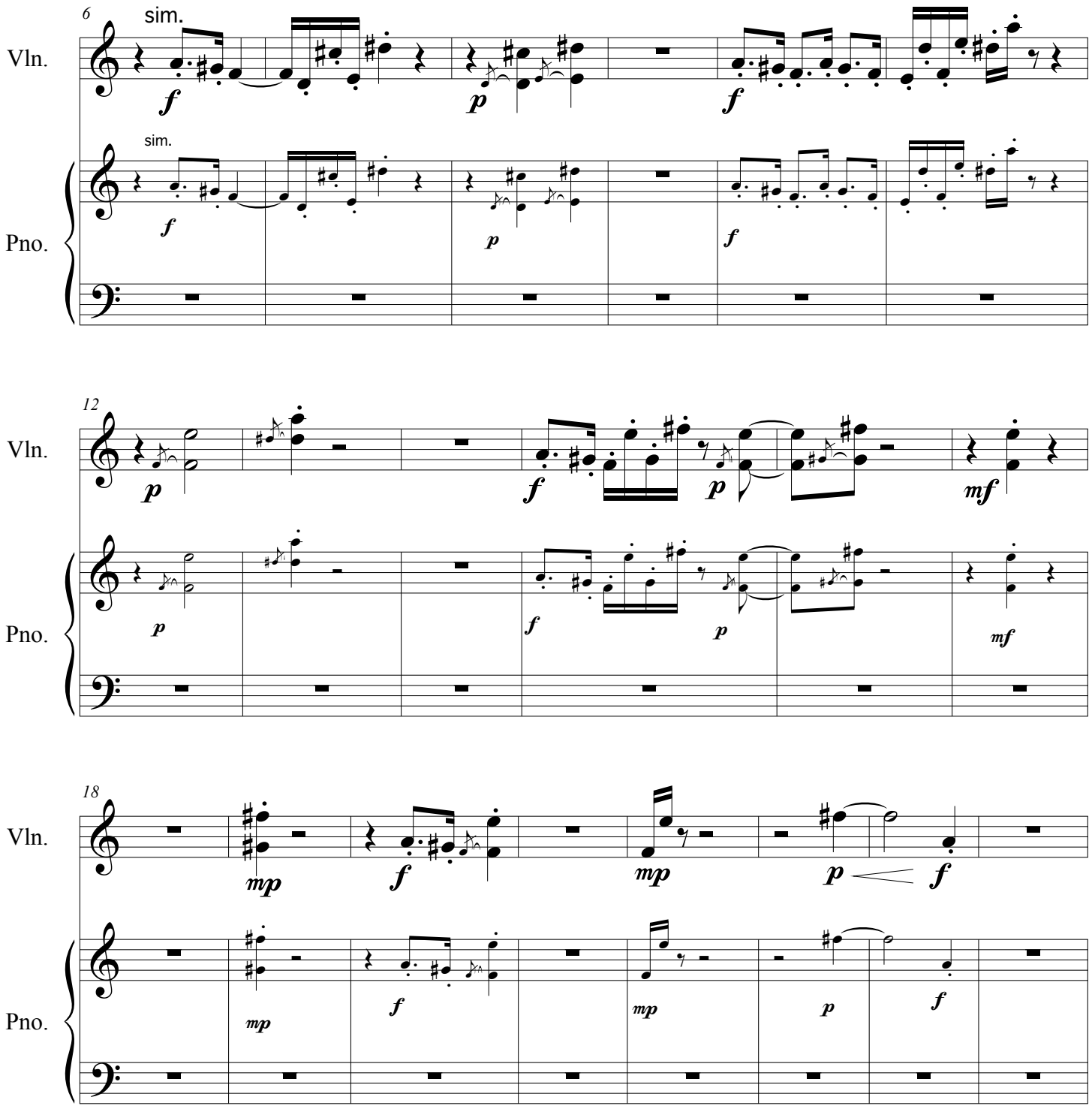
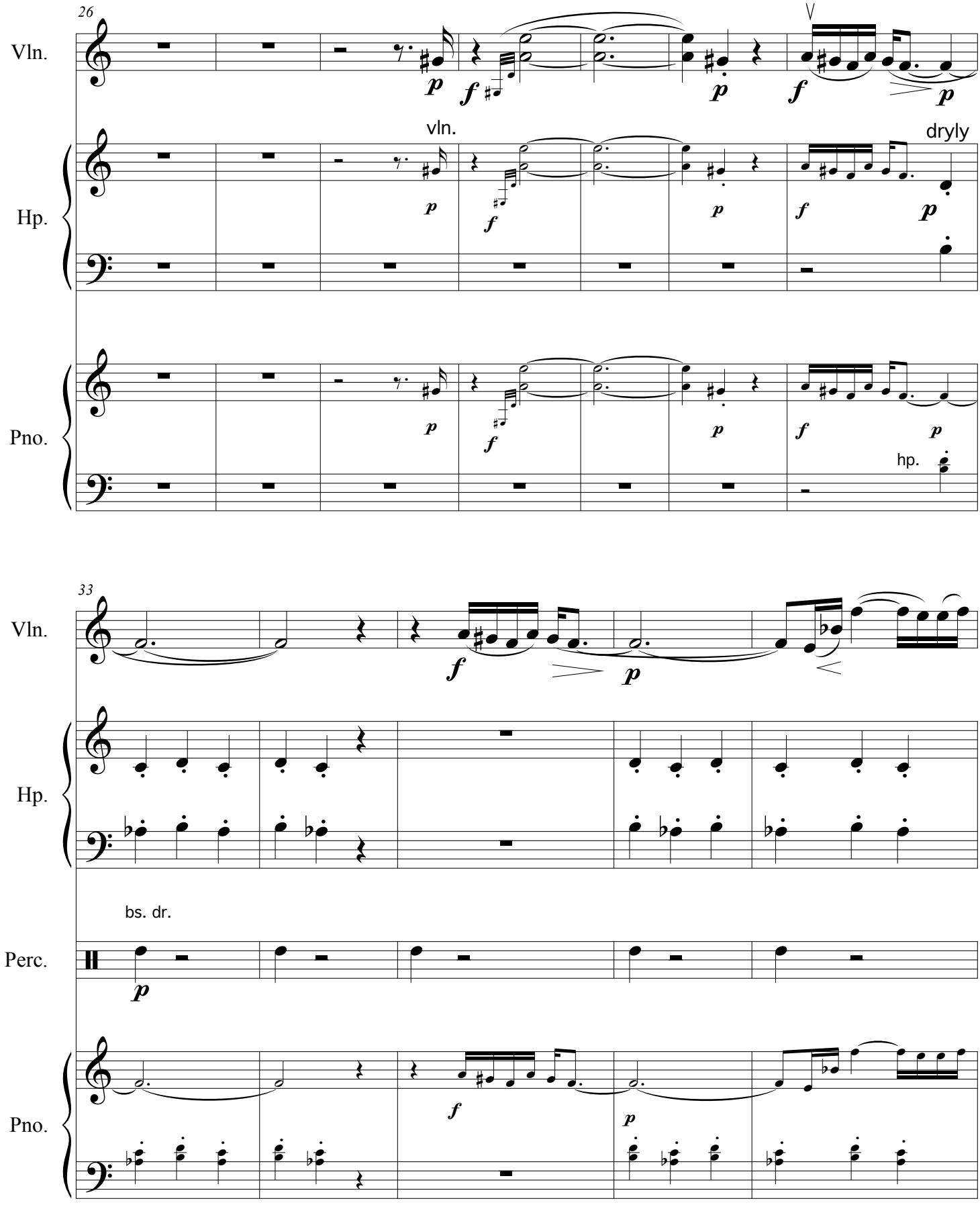
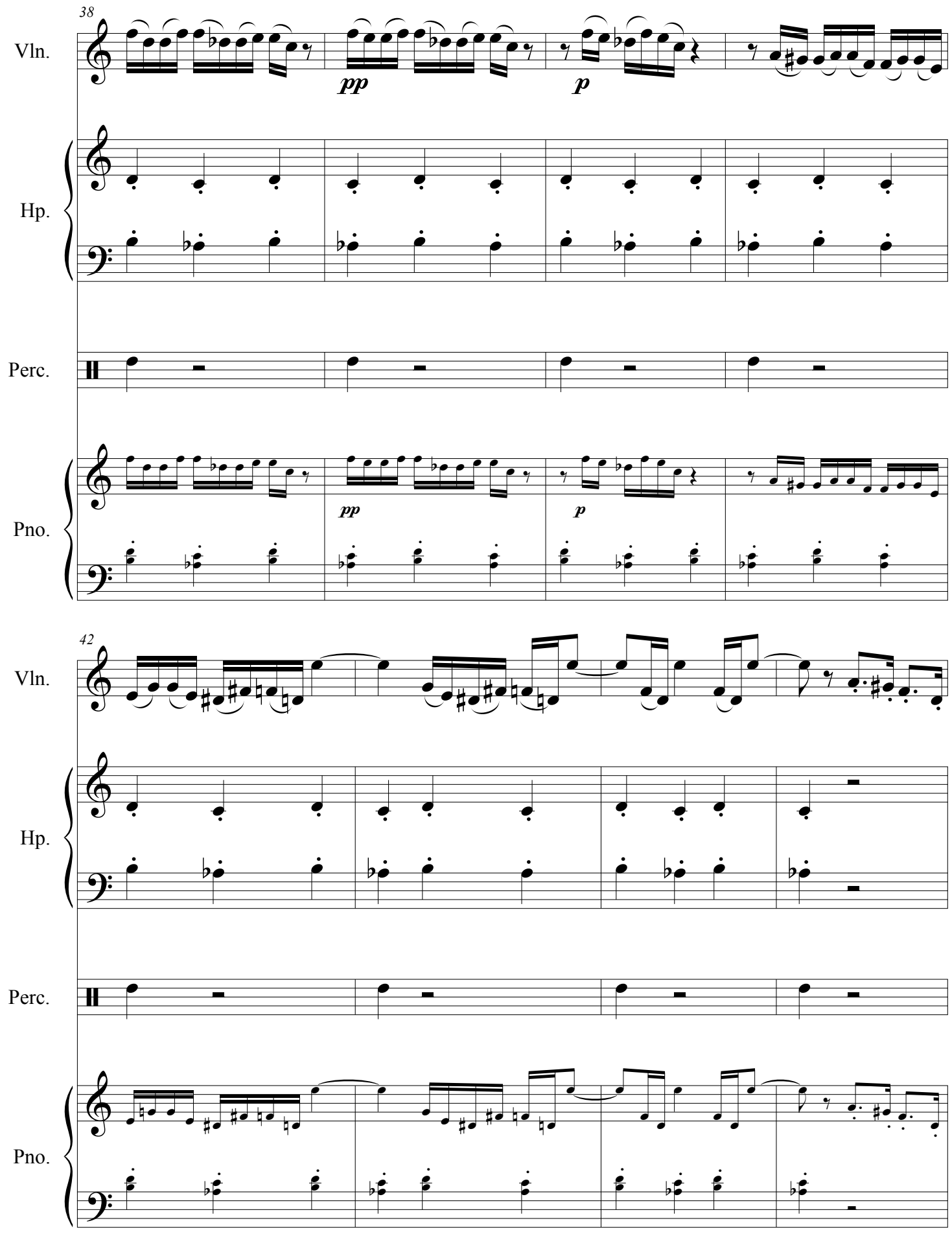
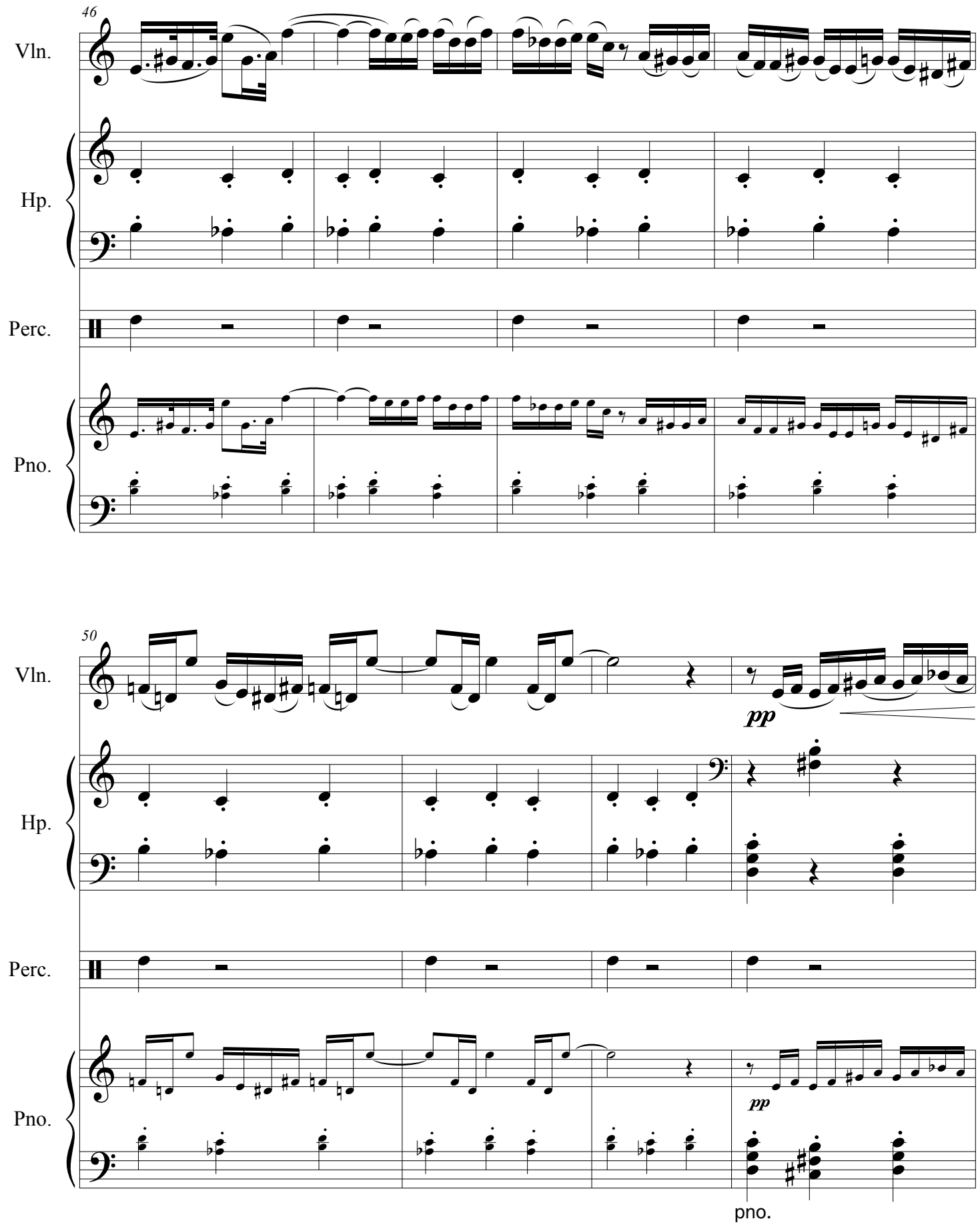
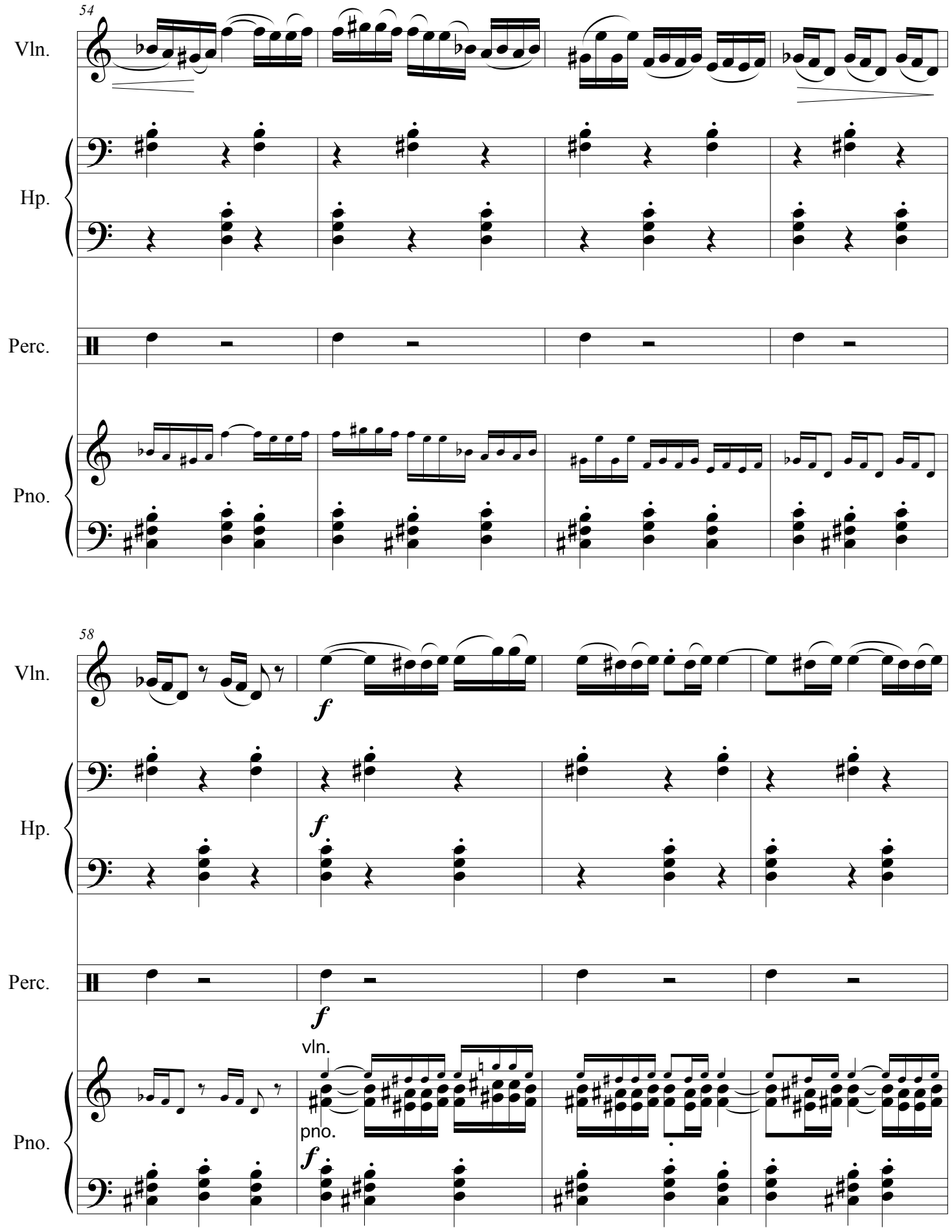
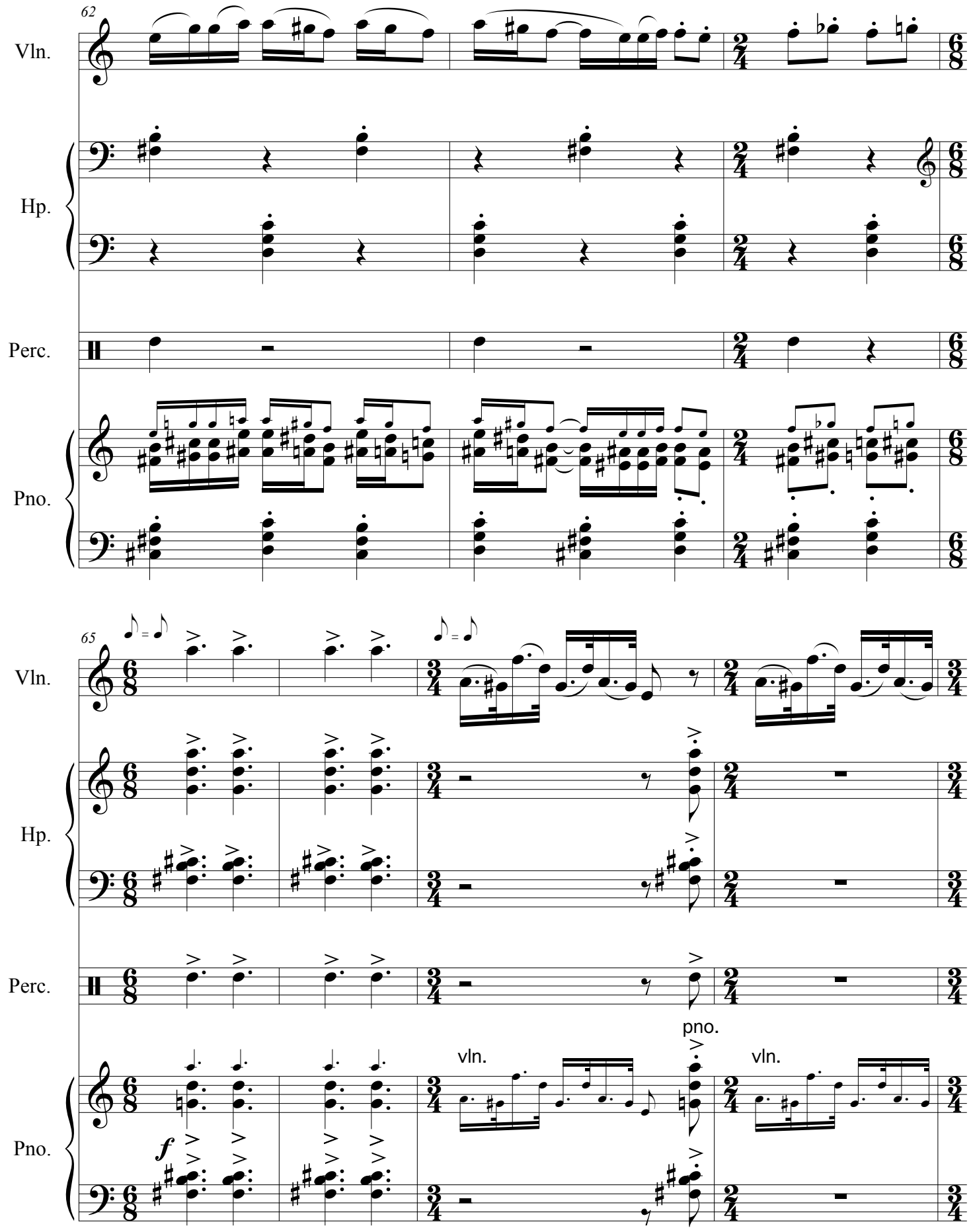

6
sim.
Vln.
Pno.
sim.
12
18

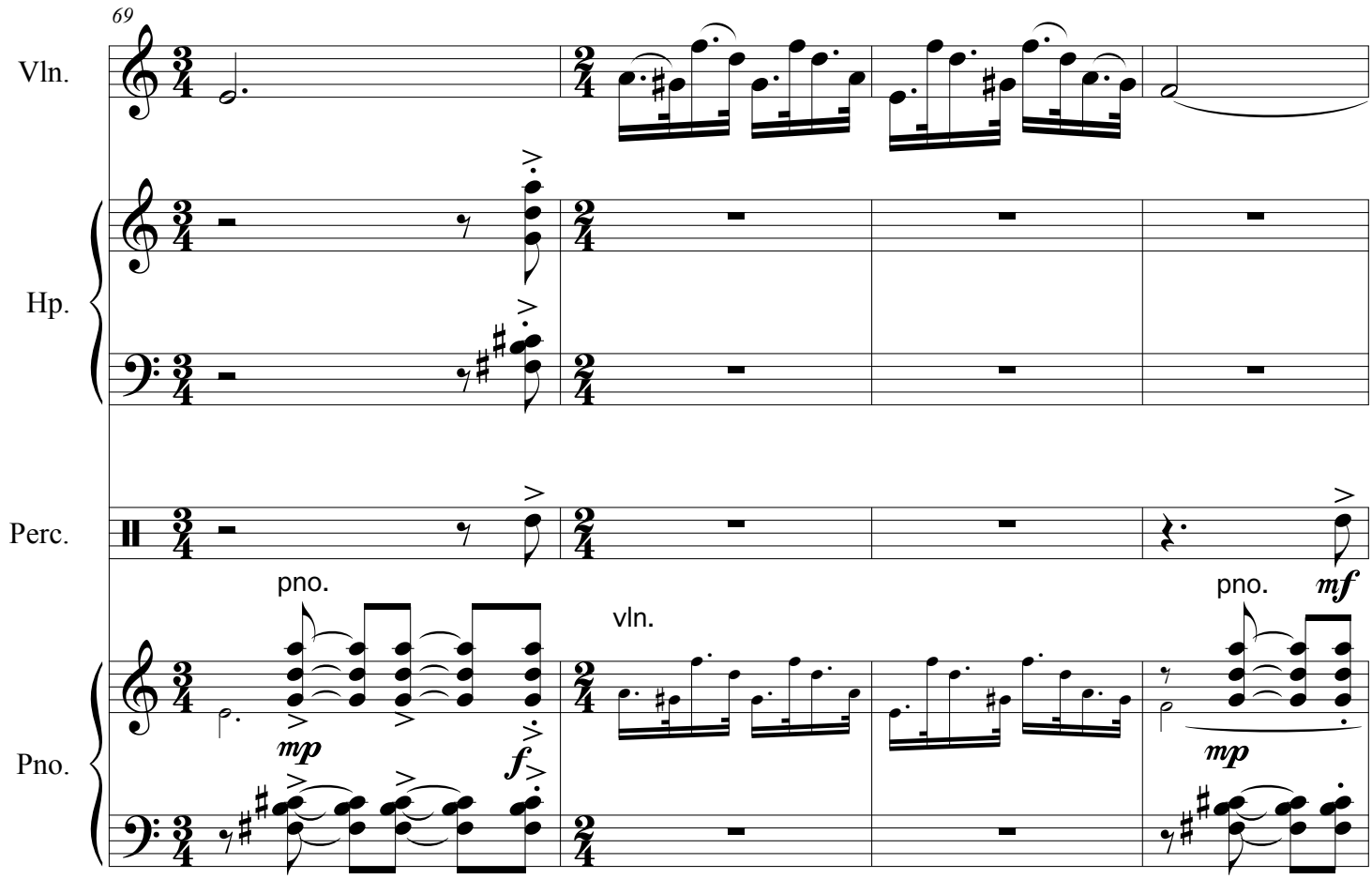

26
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
vln.
dryly
hp.
33
Vln.
Hp.
bs. dr.
Perc.
Pno.

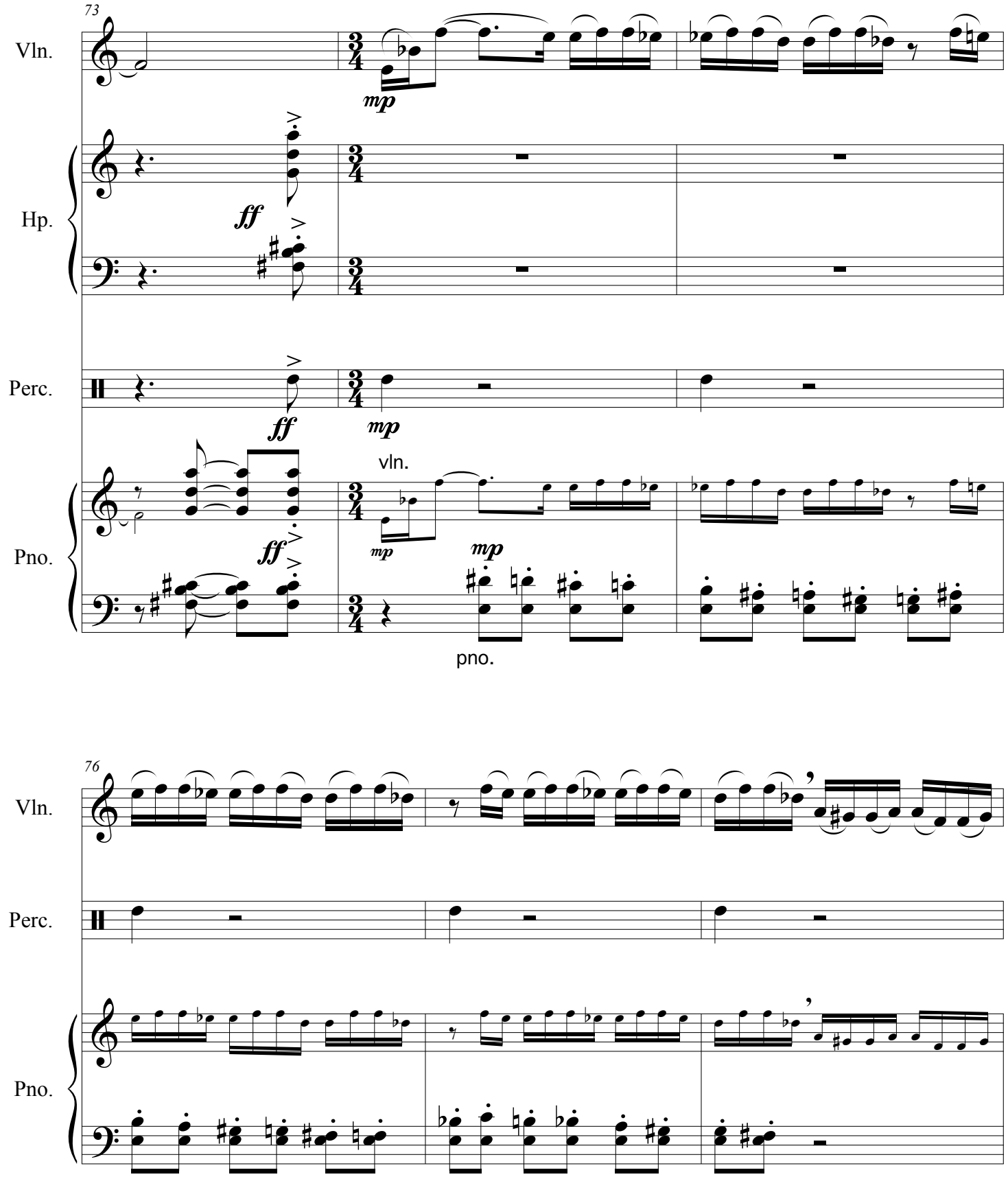

38
Vln.
pp
p
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
pp
p
42
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.

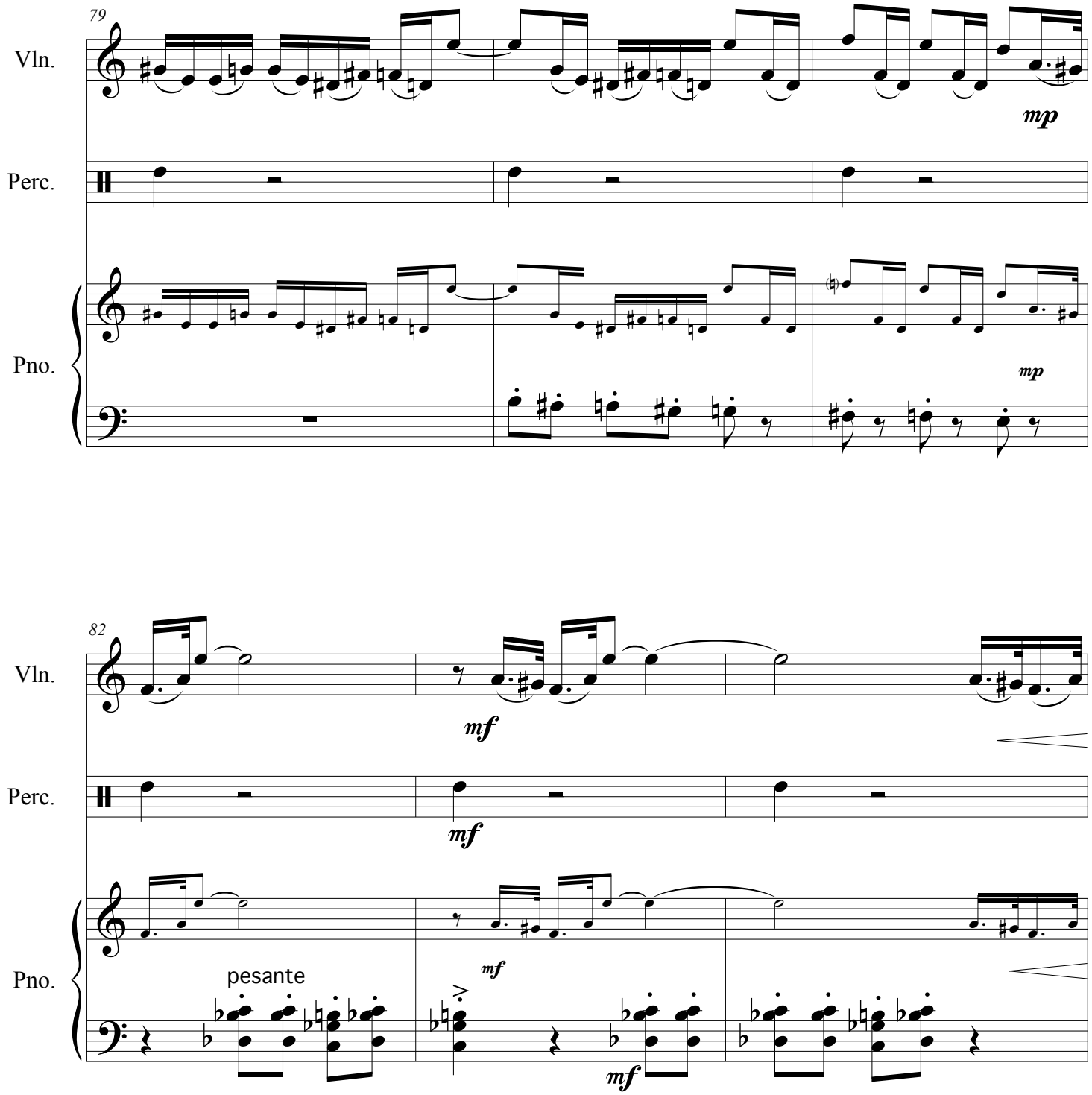

46
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
50
Vln.
pp
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
pp
pno.


54
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
58
Vln.
f
Hp.
f
Perc.
f
vln.
pno.
Pno.
f

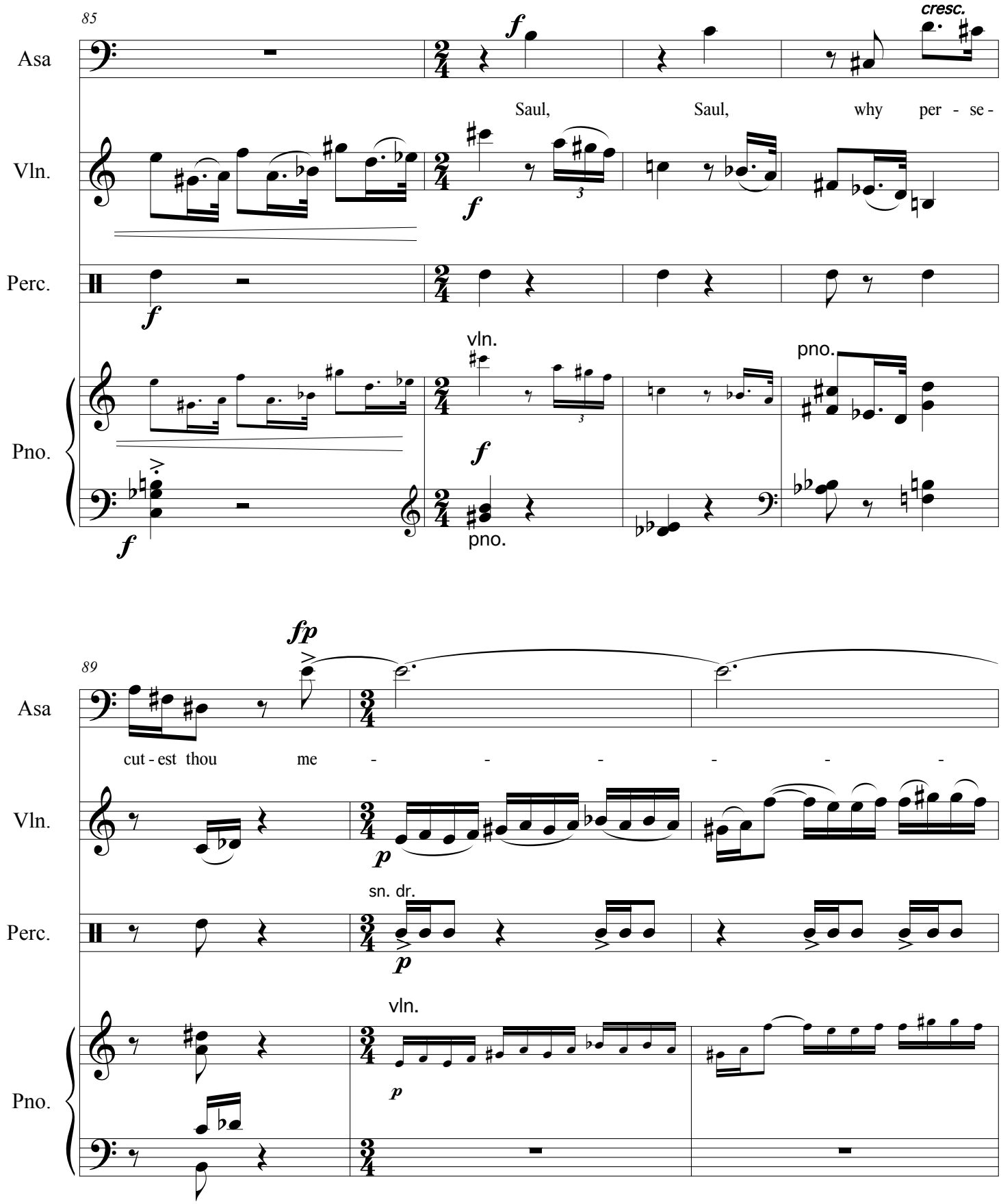

62
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
65
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
f
vln.
pno.
vln.

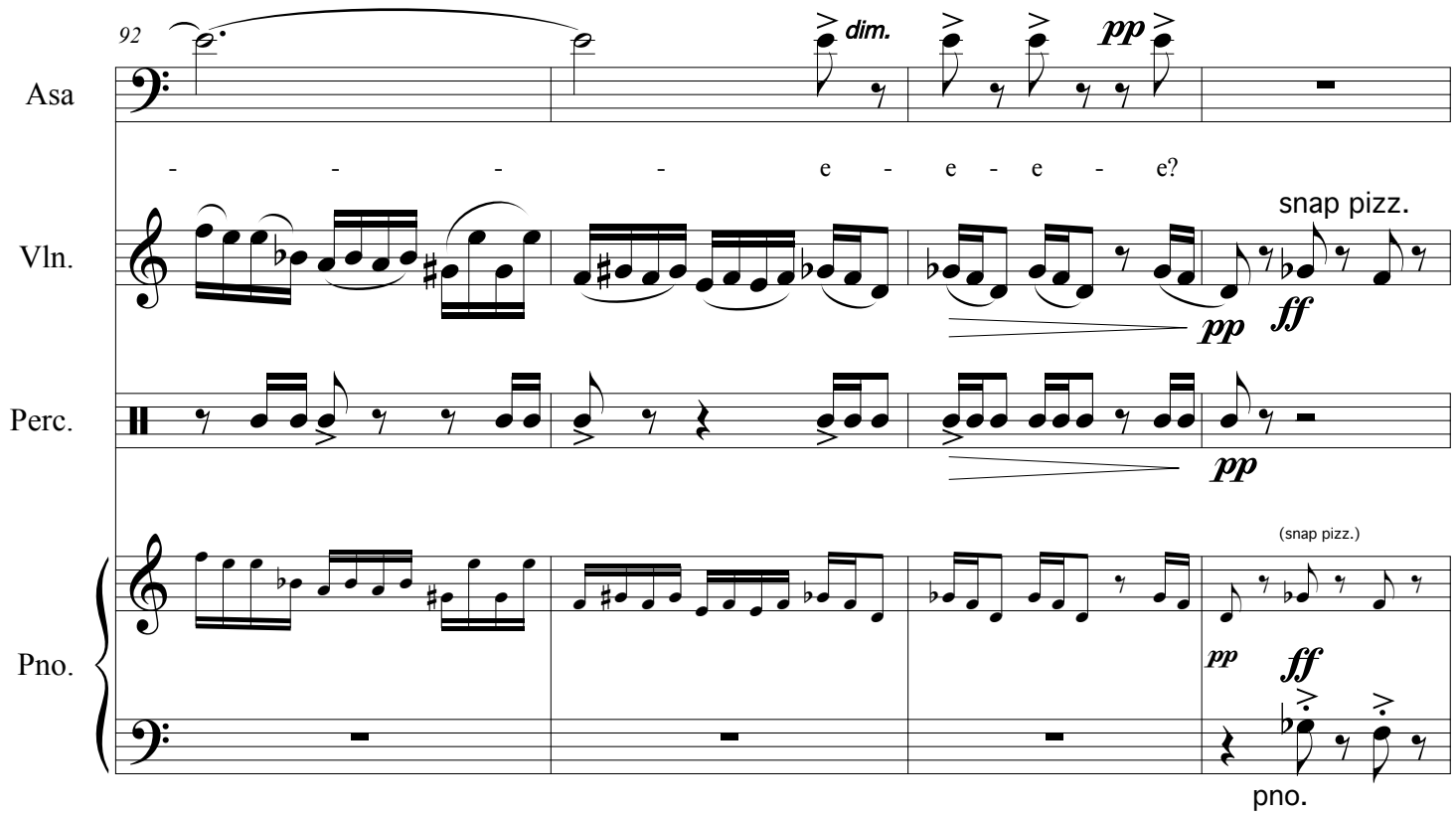

69
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
pno.
mp
f
vln.
pno.
mf
mp

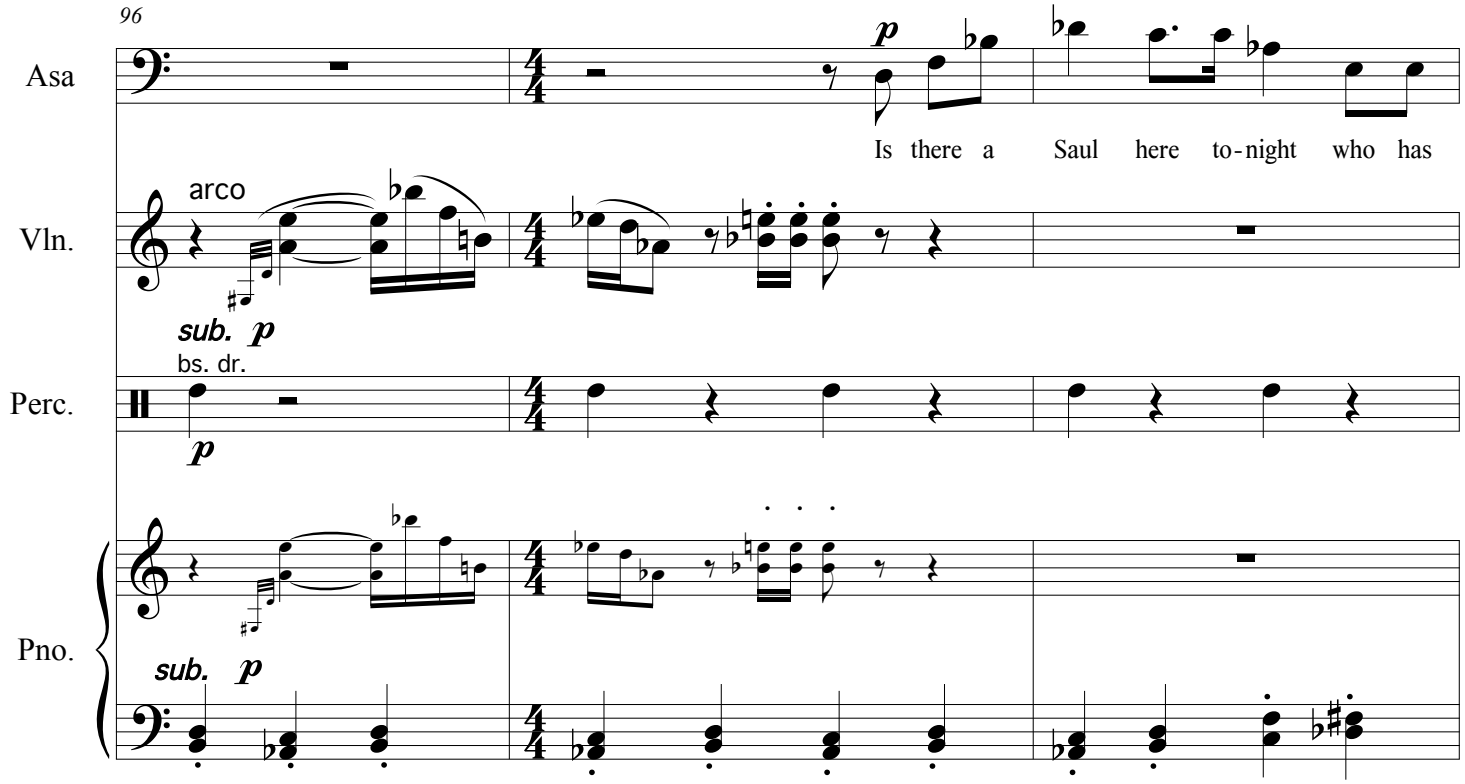

73
Vln.
mp
Hp.
ff
Perc.
ff
mp
Pno.
ff
vln.
mp
mp
pno.
76
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.

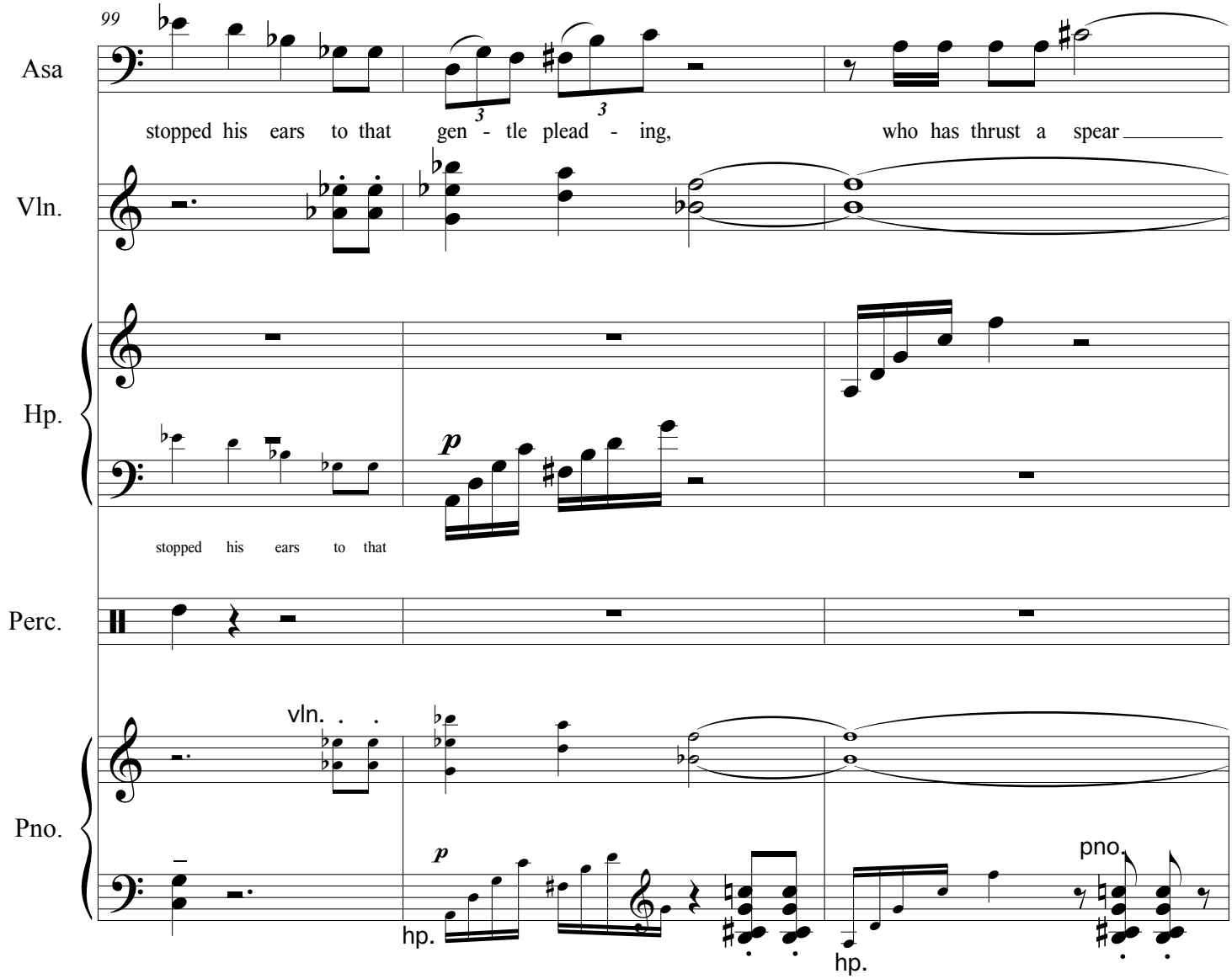

79
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
mp
mp

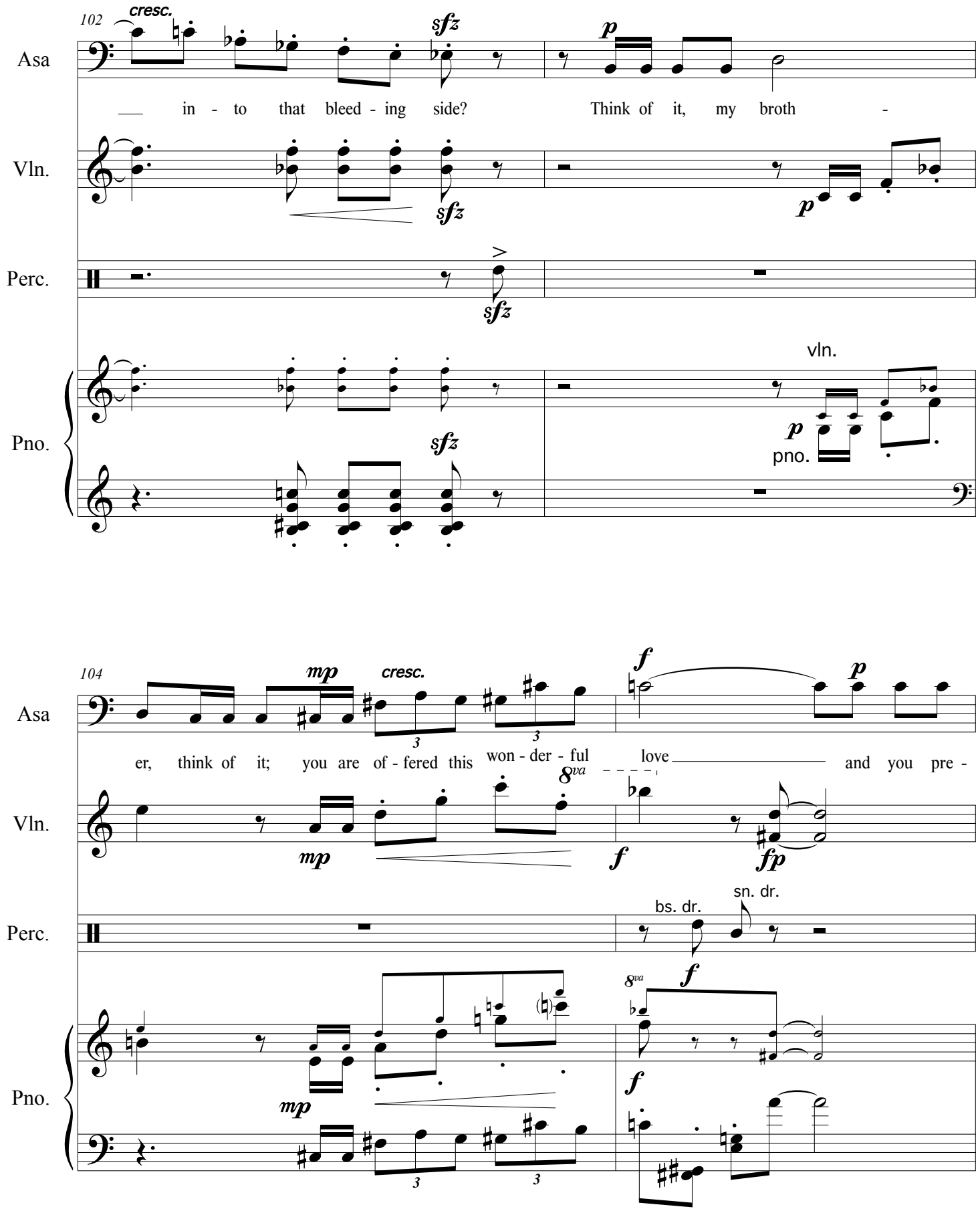
82
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
mf
mf
pesante
mf
mf

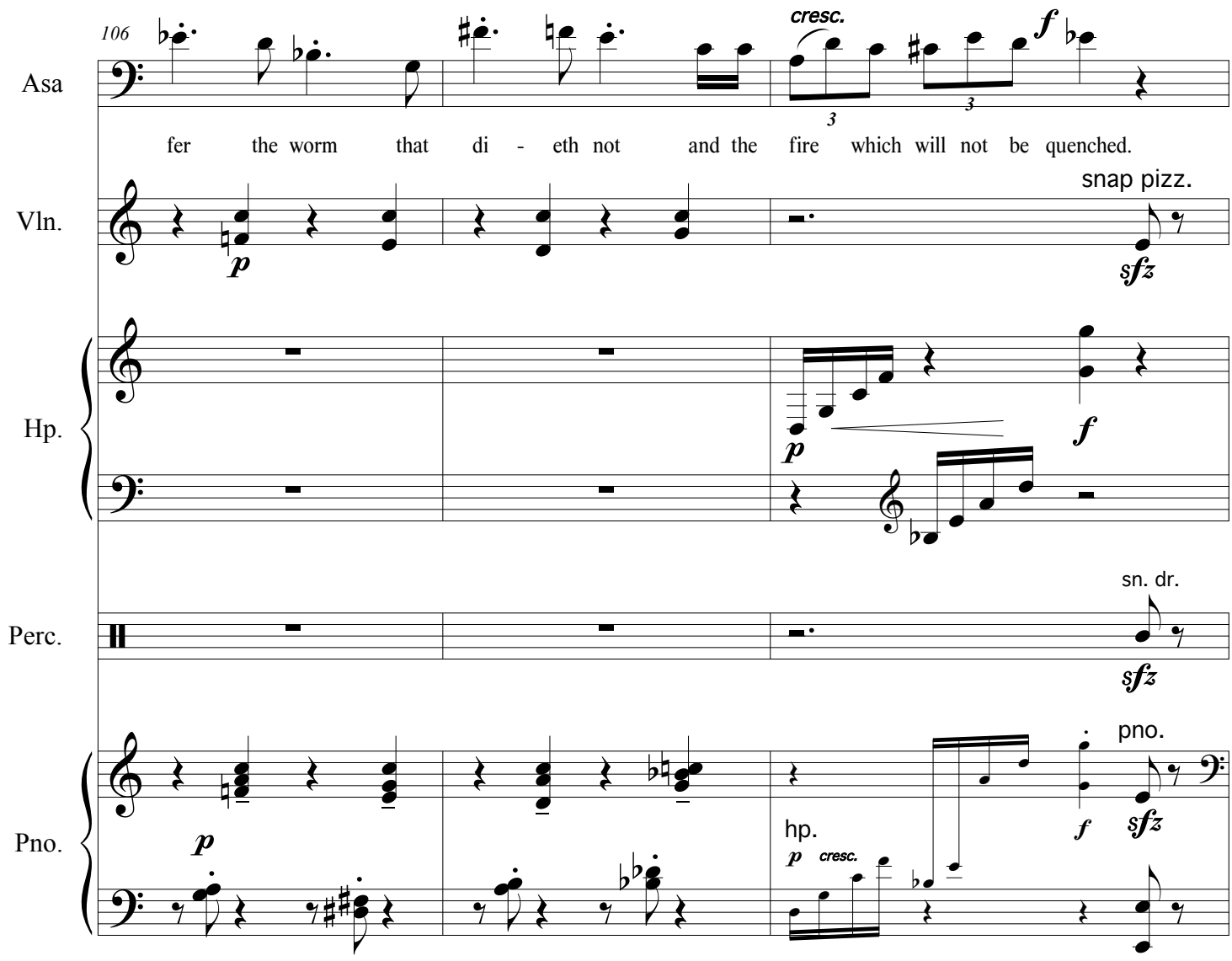

85
Asa
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
f
cresc.
Saul, Saul, why per - se -
vln.
pno.
89
fp
cut - est thou me - - - - - -
p
sn. dr.
vln.

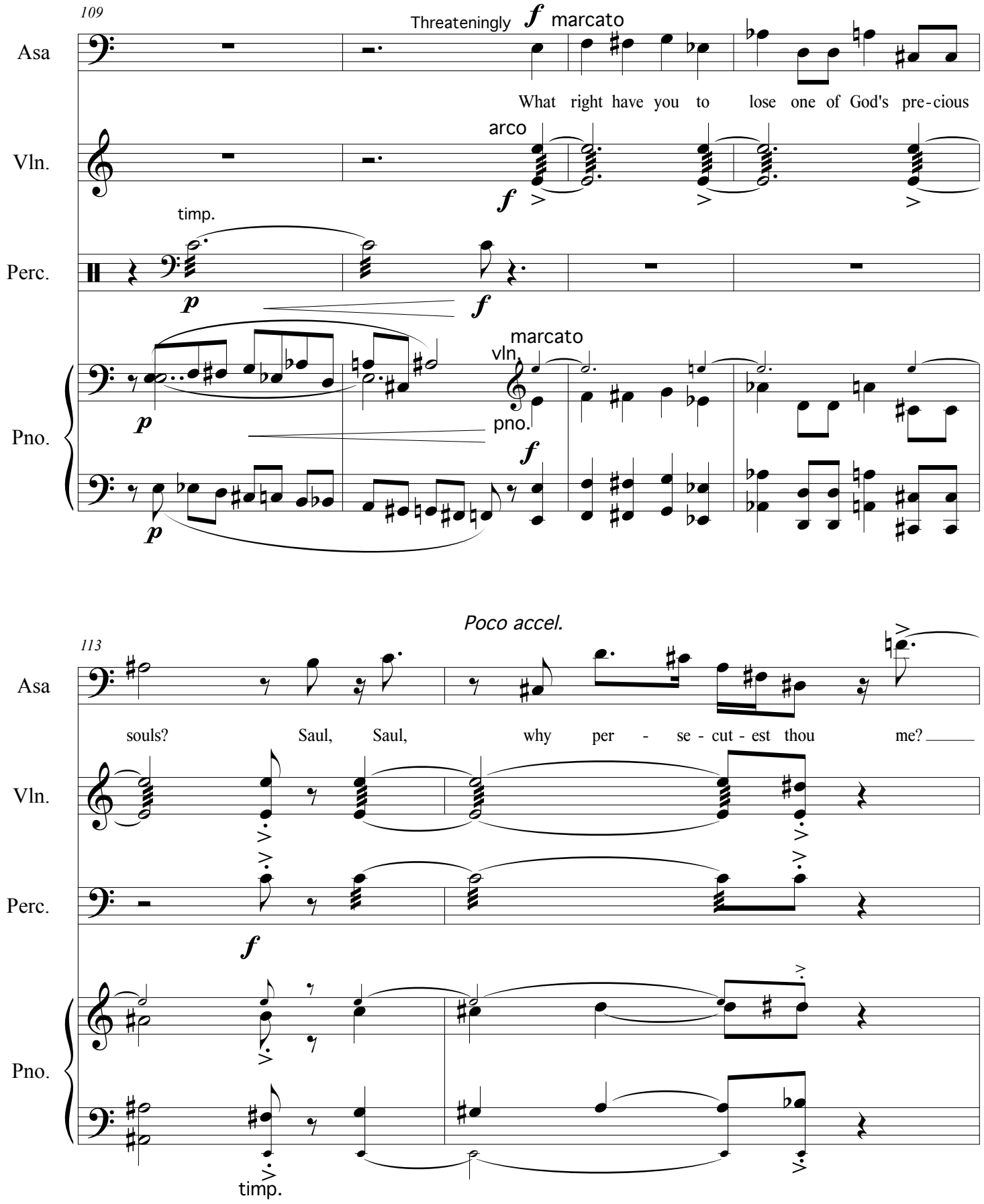

92
Asa
dim.
pp
- - - - e - e - e - e?
Vln.
snap pizz.
pp
ff
Perc.
pp
Pno.
(snap pizz.)
pp
ff
pno.

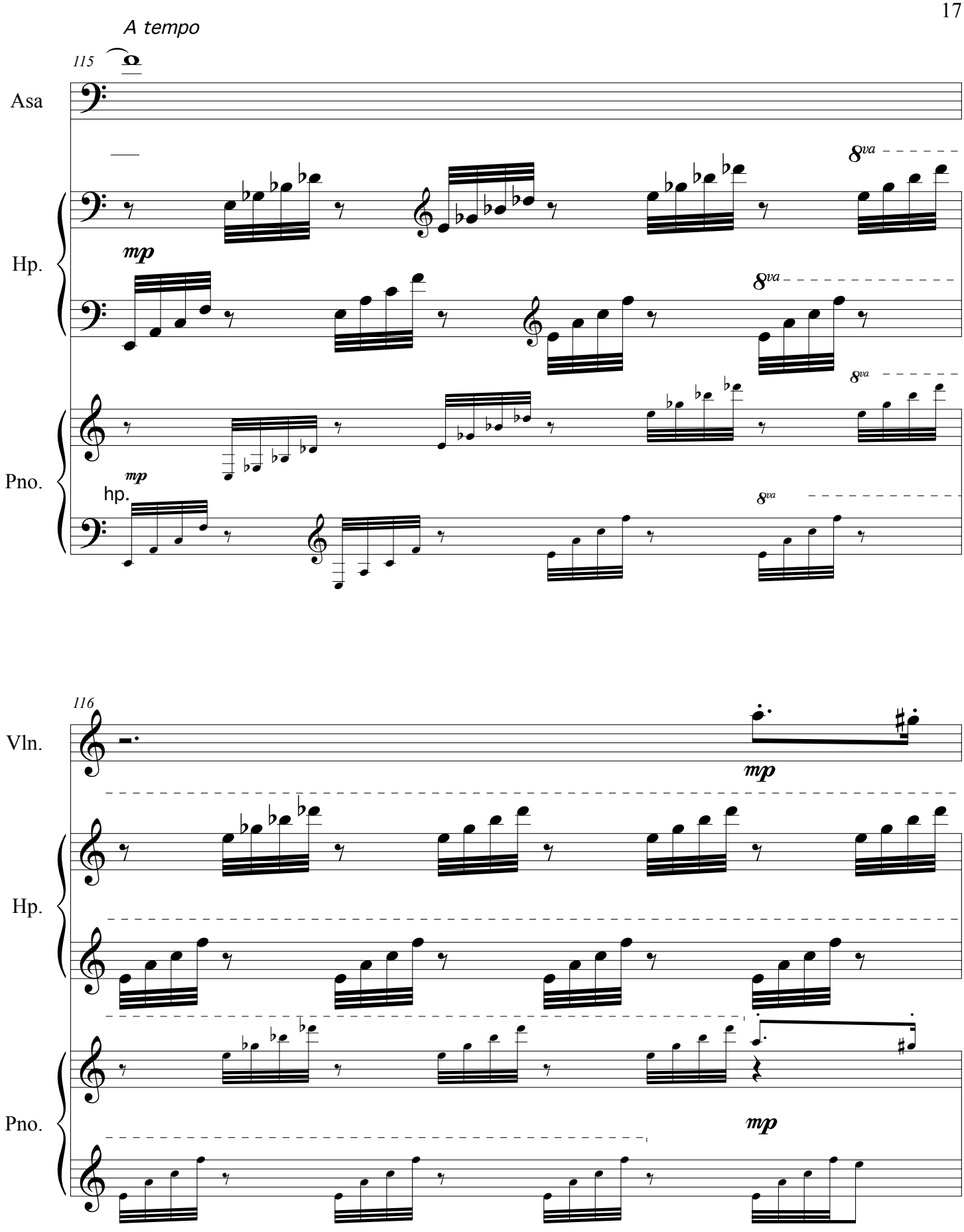

96
Asa
p
Is there a Saul here to-night who has
Vln.
arco
sub. p
Perc.
bs. dr.
p
Pno.
sub. p

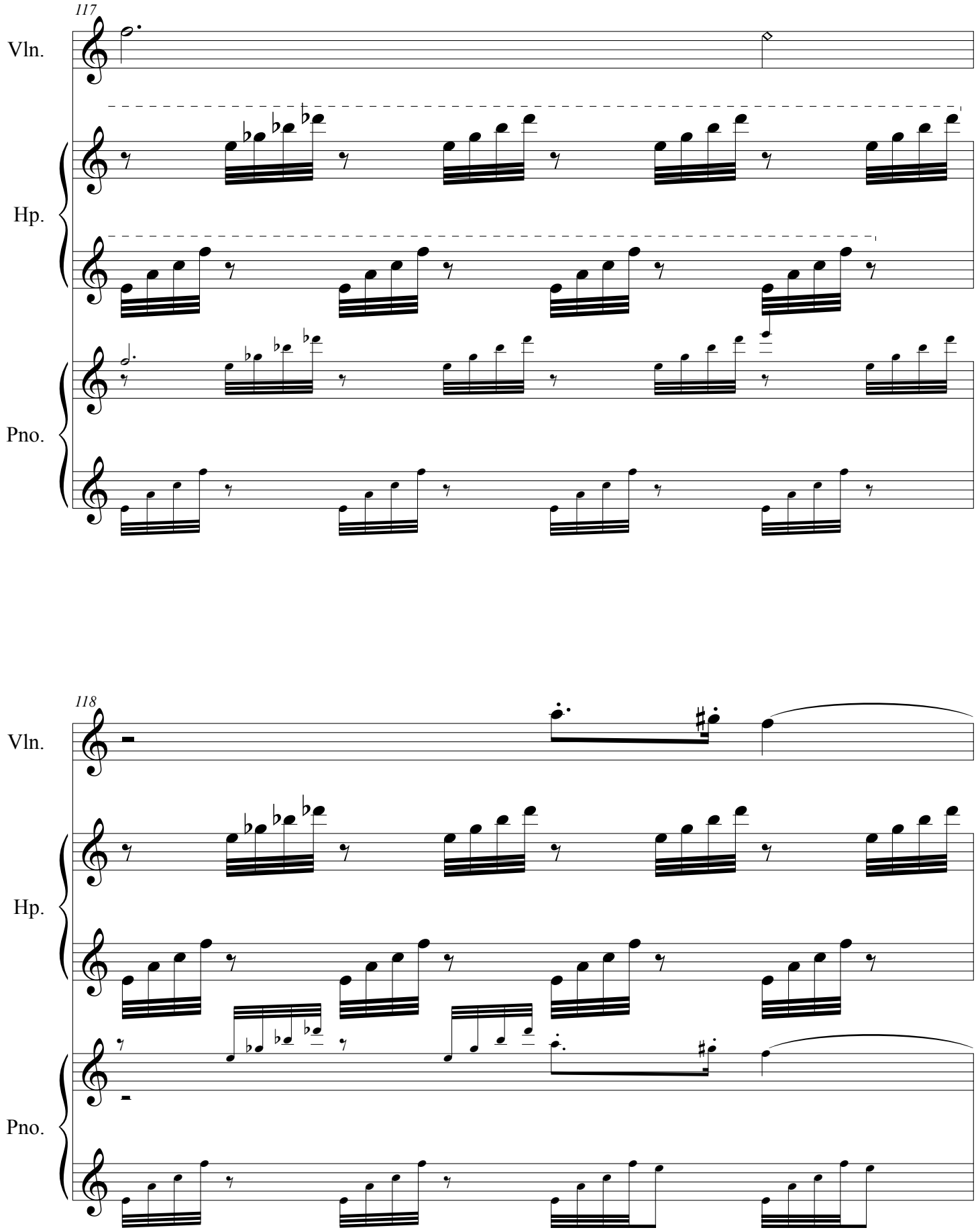

99
Asa
stopped his ears to that gen - tle plead - ing, who has thrust a spear
Vln.
Hp.
p
stopped his ears to that
Perc.
vln.
Pno.
p
hp.
hp.
pno.

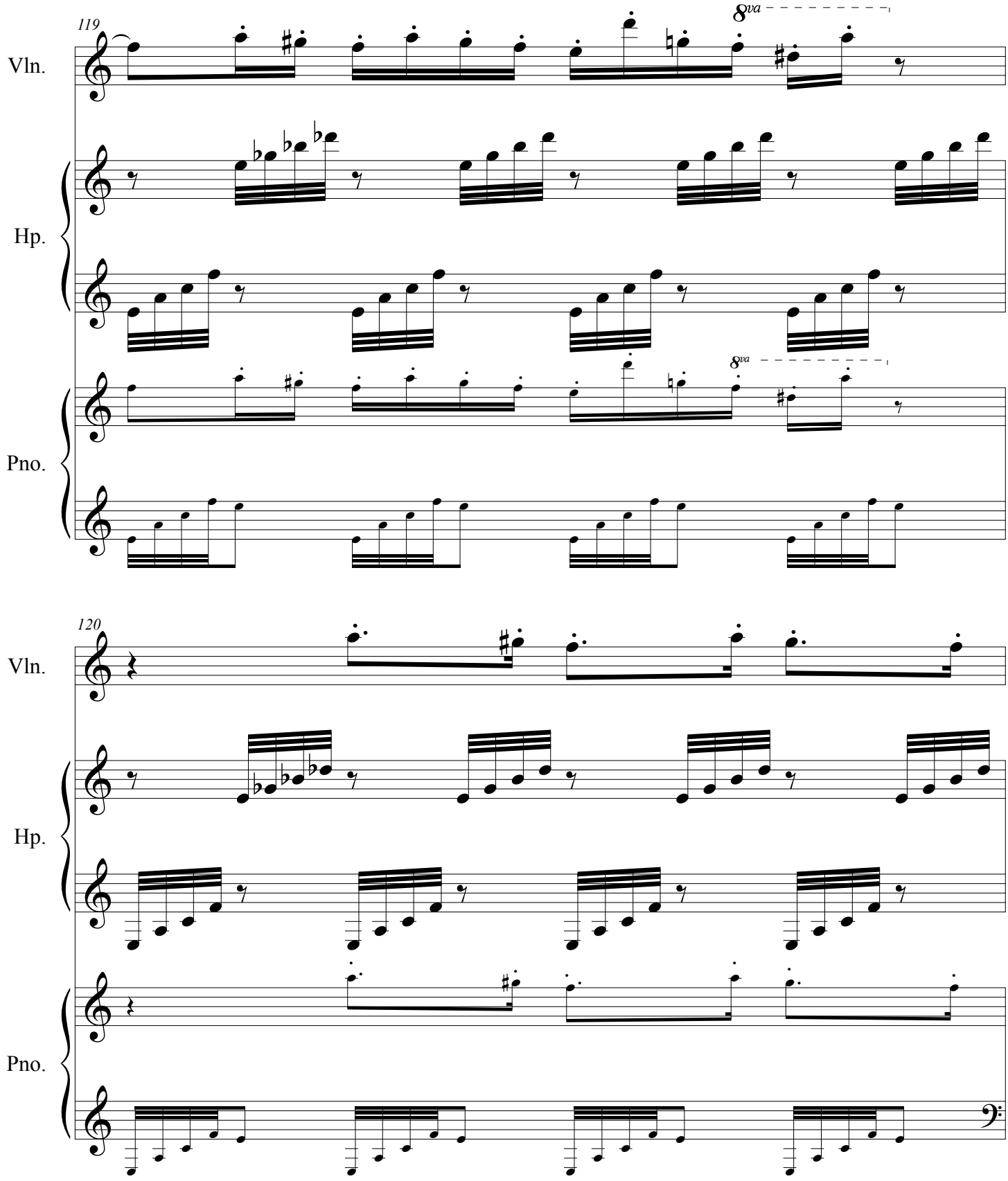

102
cresc.
sfz
p
Asa
in - to that bleed - ing side?
Think of it, my broth -
Vln.
sfz
p
Perc.
sfz
vln.
Pno.
sfz
p
pno.
104
mp
cresc.
f
p
Asa
er, think of it; you are of - fered this won - der - ful love
and you pre -
8va
Vln.
mp
f
fp
bs. dr.
sn. dr.
Perc.
8va
f
Pno.
mp
f

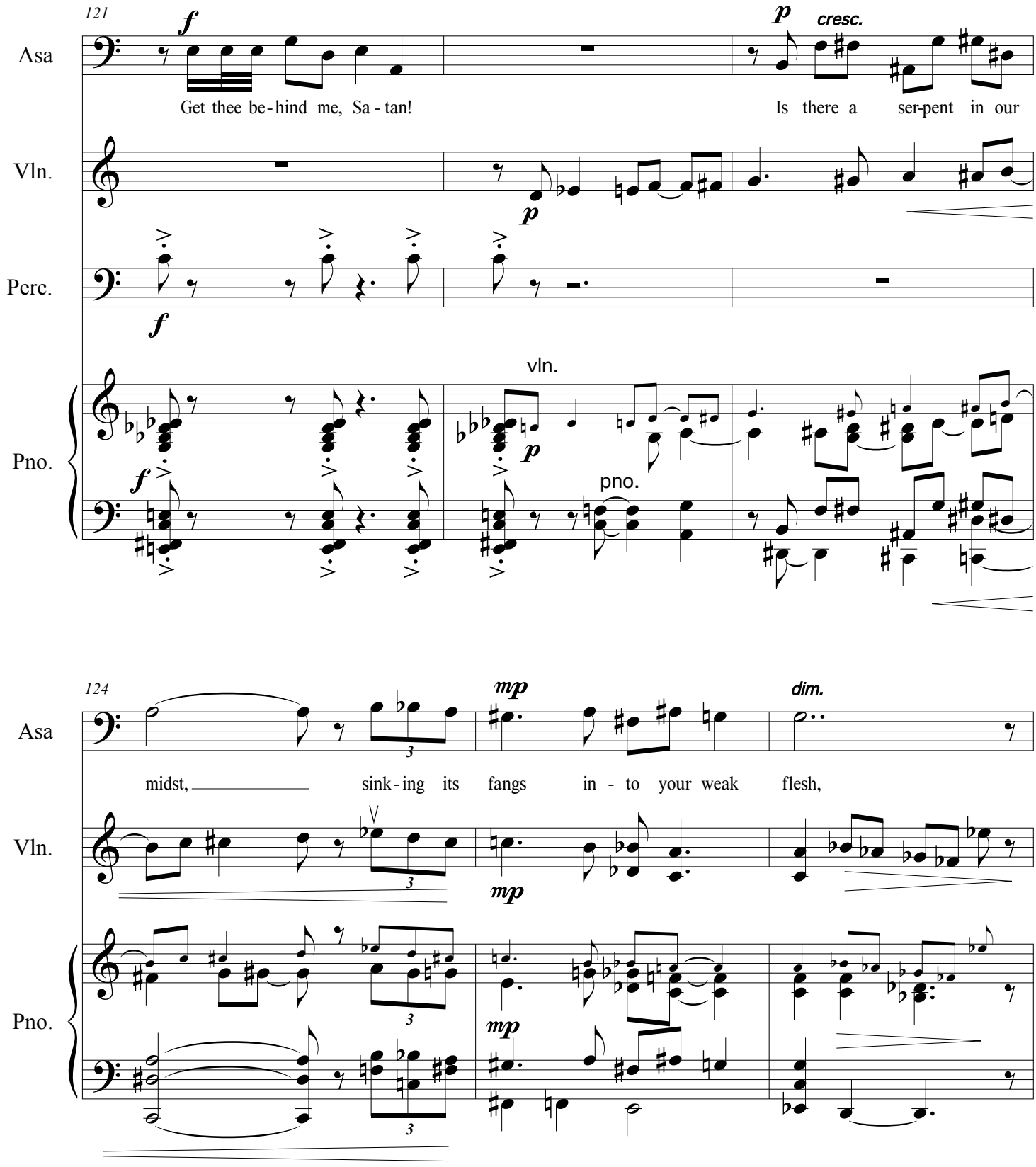

106
Asa
cresc.
f
fer the worm that di - eth not and the fire which will not be quenched.
Vln.
snap pizz.
p
sfz
Hp.
p
f
Perc.
sn. dr.
sfz
Pno.
pno.
p
hp.
p cresc.
f
sfz

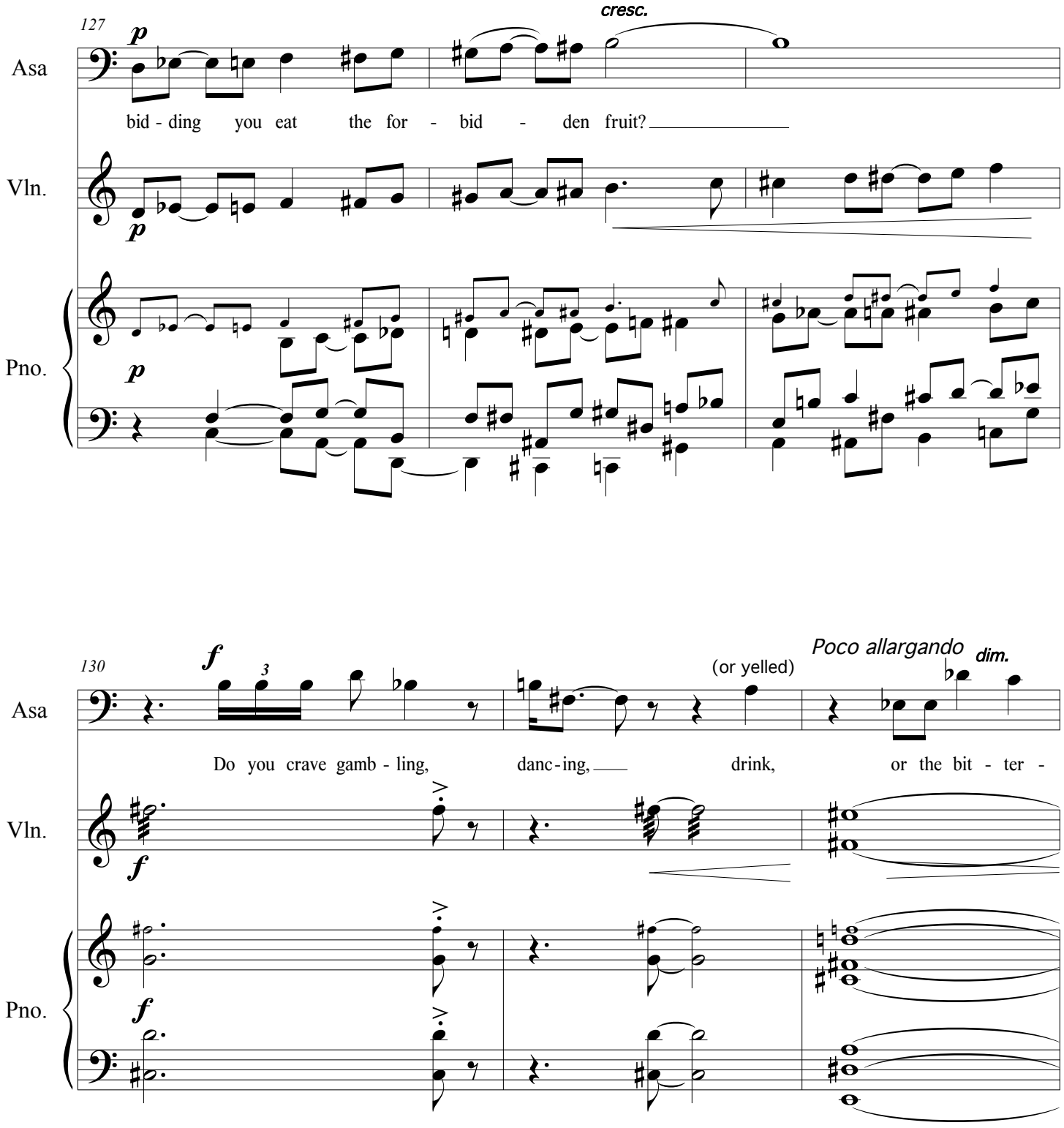

109
Asa
Threateningly
f marcato
What right have you to lose one of God's pre-cious
Vln.
arco
f
timp.
Perc.
p
f
marcato
vln.
Pno.
pno.
p
f
p
Poco accel.
113
Asa
souls? Saul, Saul, why per - se - cut - est thou me?
Vln.
Perc.
f
Pno.
timp.

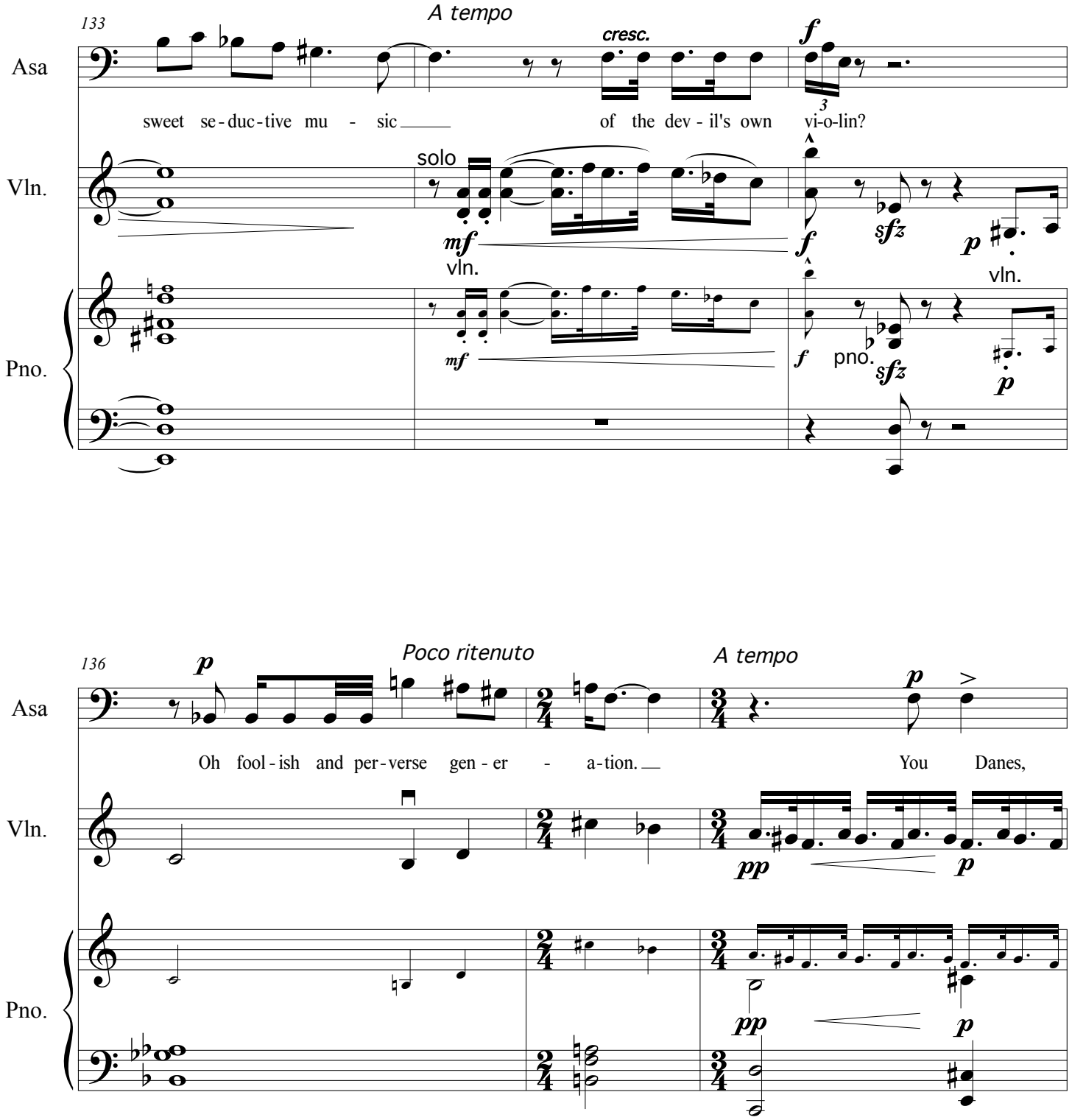

A tempo
115
Asa
Hp.
Pno.
mp
hp.
8va
116
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
mp

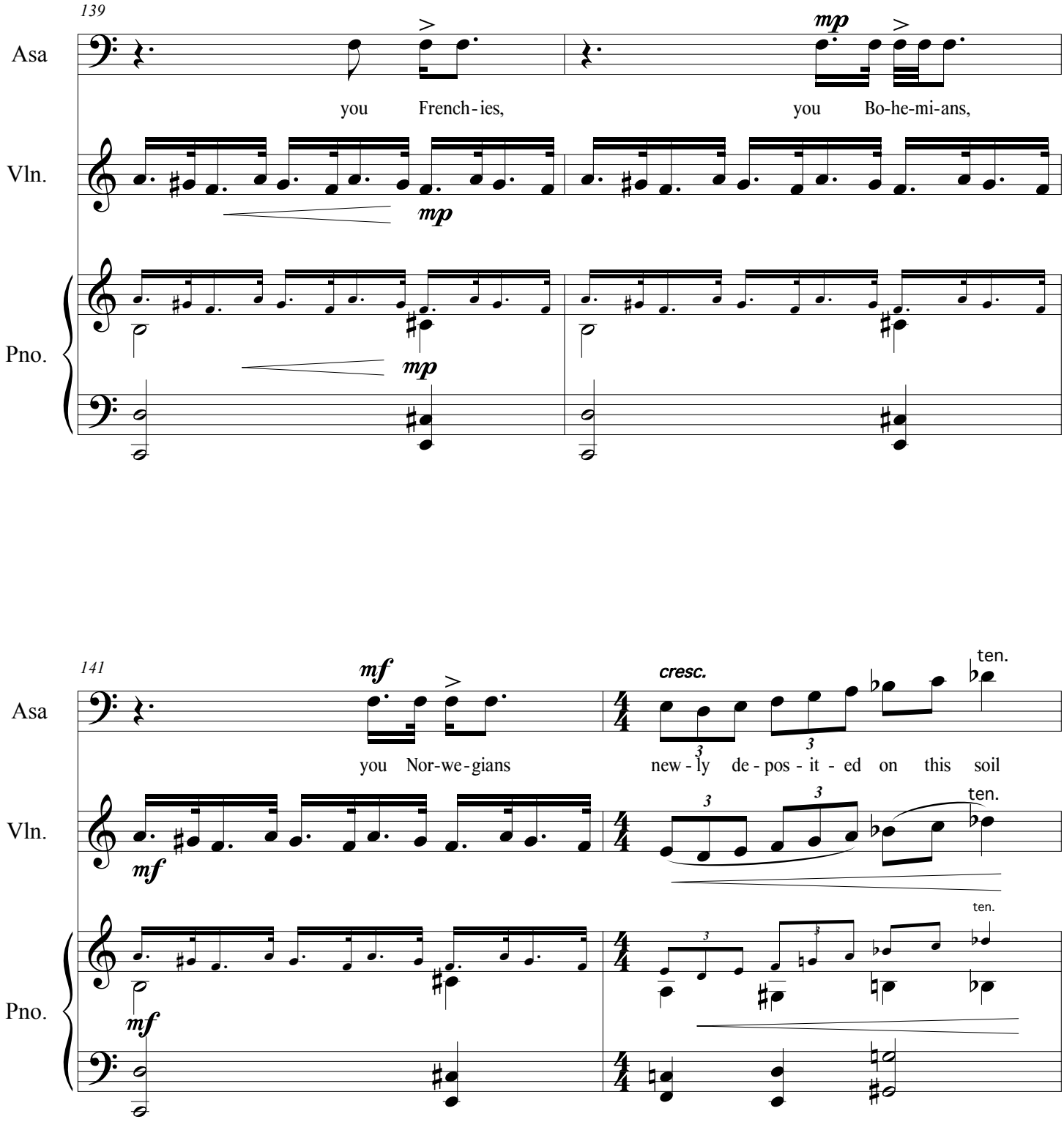

117
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
118
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.

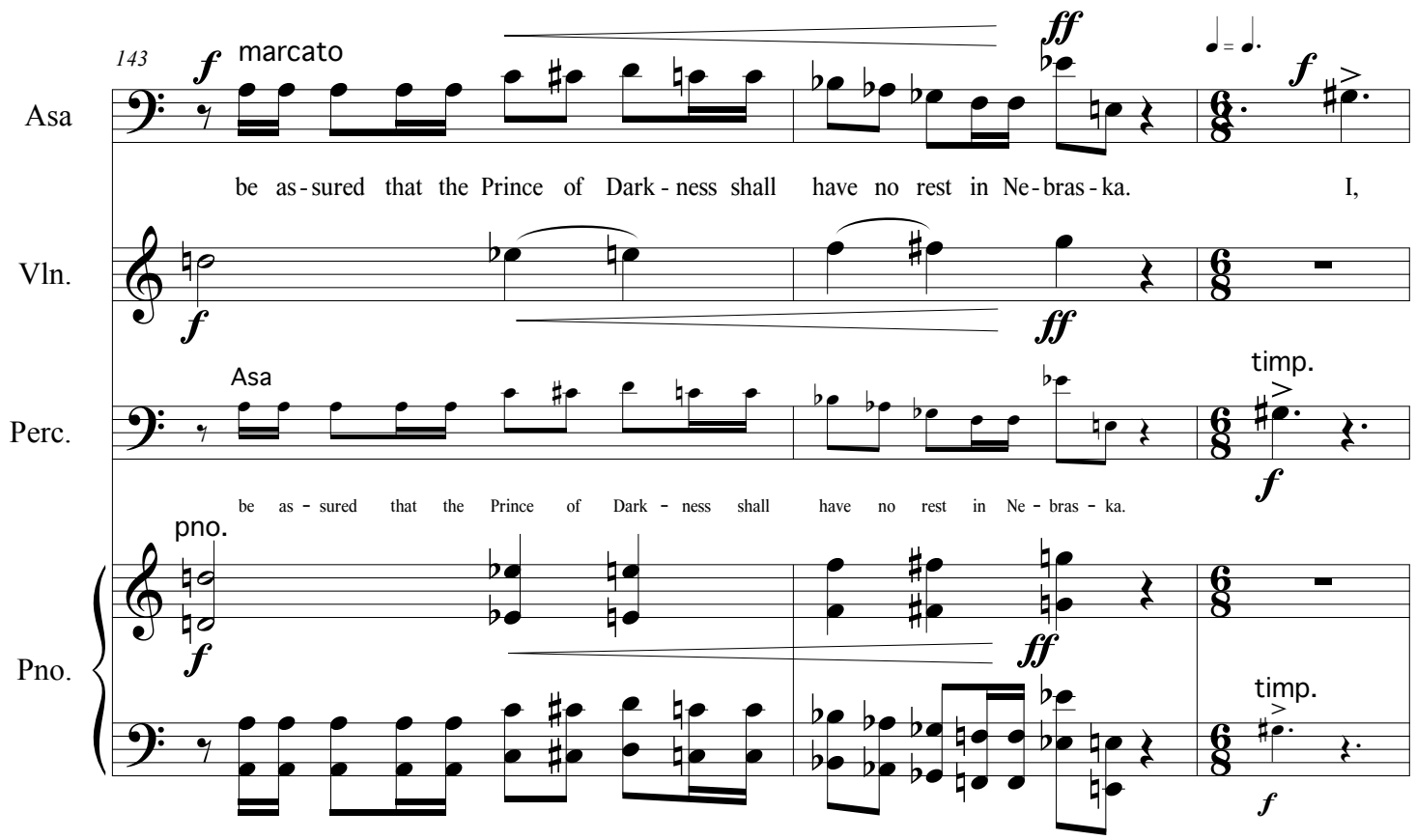

119
8va
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
8va
120
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.

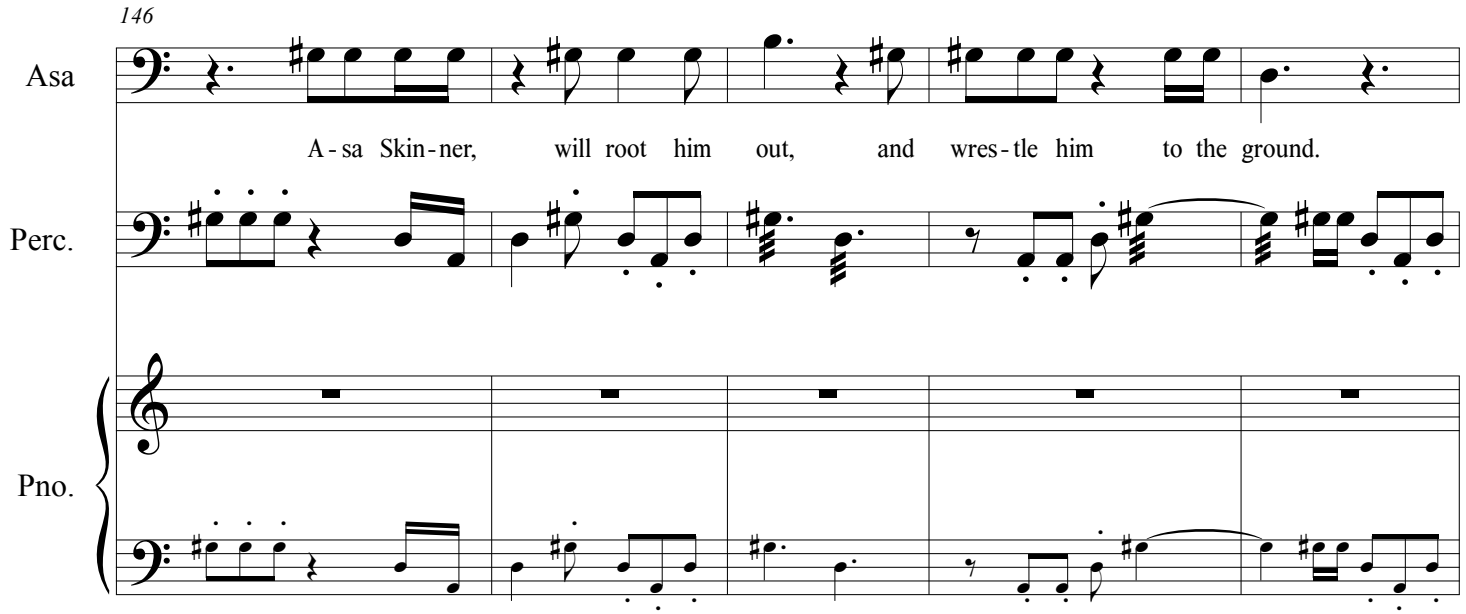

121
Asa
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
Get thee be-hind me, Sa-tan!
Is there a ser-pent in our
cresc.
vln.
pno.
124
midst,
sink-ing its fangs in-to your weak flesh,
dim.

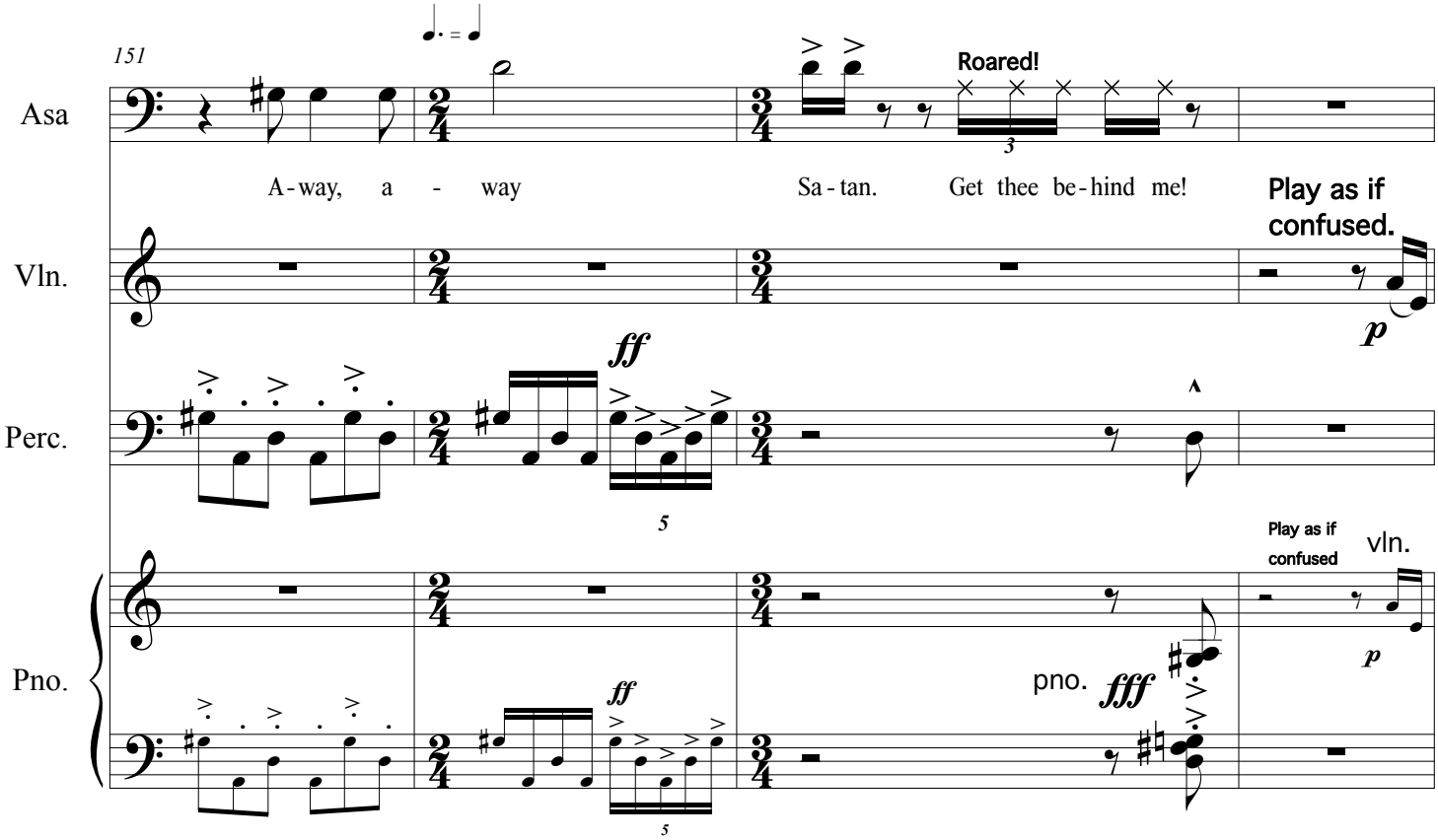

127
cresc.
Asa
bid - ding you eat the for - bid - den fruit?
Vln.
Pno.
130
Poco allargando
dim.
(or yelled)
Asa
Do you crave gamb - ling, danc - ing, drink, or the bit - ter -
Vln.
Pno.

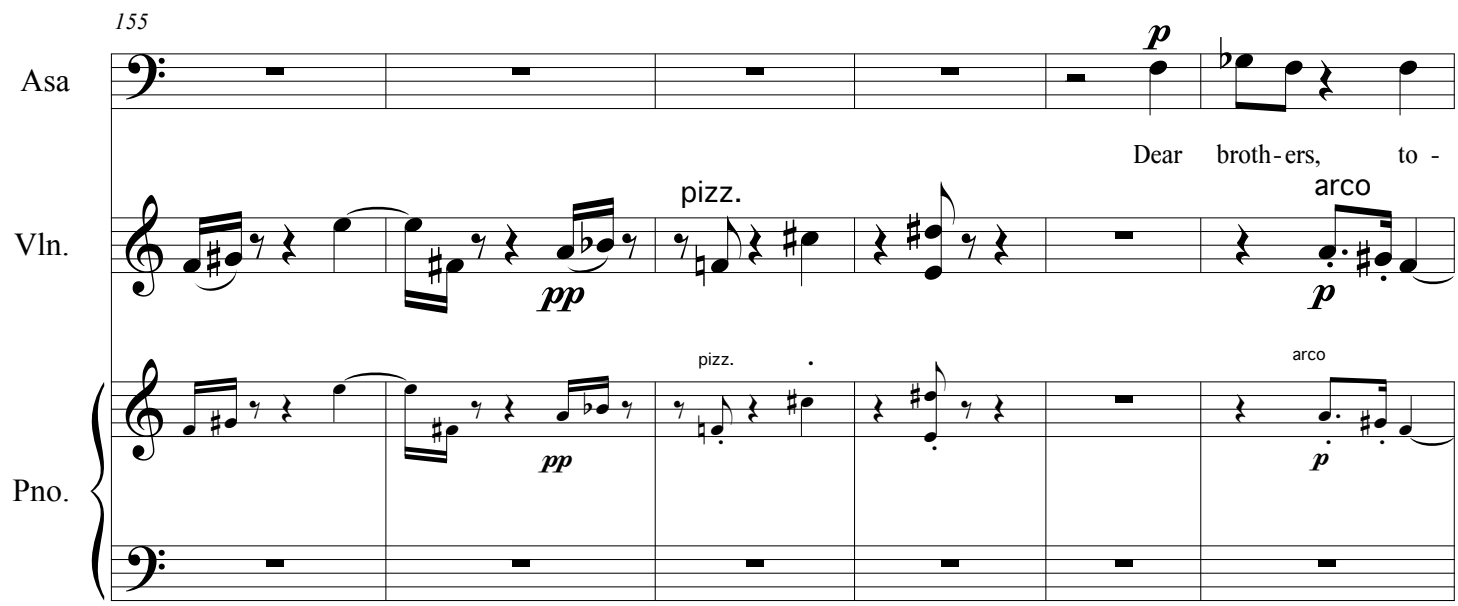

133
A tempo
Asa
sweet se-duc-tive mu - sic
cresc.
f
of the dev-il's own vi-o-lin?
Vln.
solo
mf
vln.
f
sfz
p
vln.
Pno.
mf
f
pno.
sfz
p
136
Poco ritenuto
A tempo
Asa
p
Oh fool-ish and per-verse gen-er - a-tion.
p
You Danes,
Vln.
pp
p
Pno.
pp
p

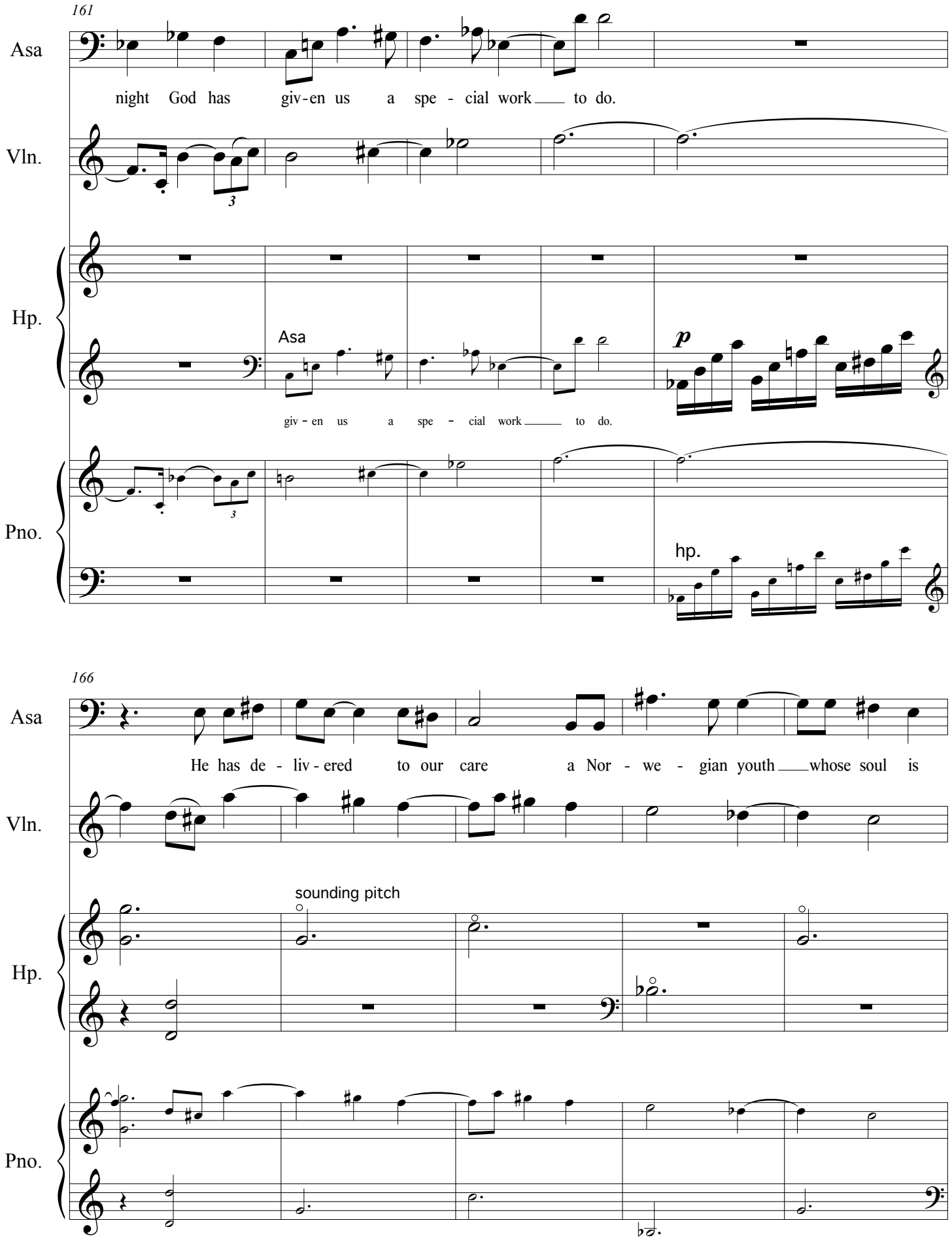

139
Asa
Vln.
Pno.
you French-ies,
you Bo-he-mi-ans,
mp
mp
mp
141
mf
cresc.
ten.
you Nor-we-gians
new-ly de-pos-it-ed on this soil
mf
mf
mf
ten.
ten.
ten.

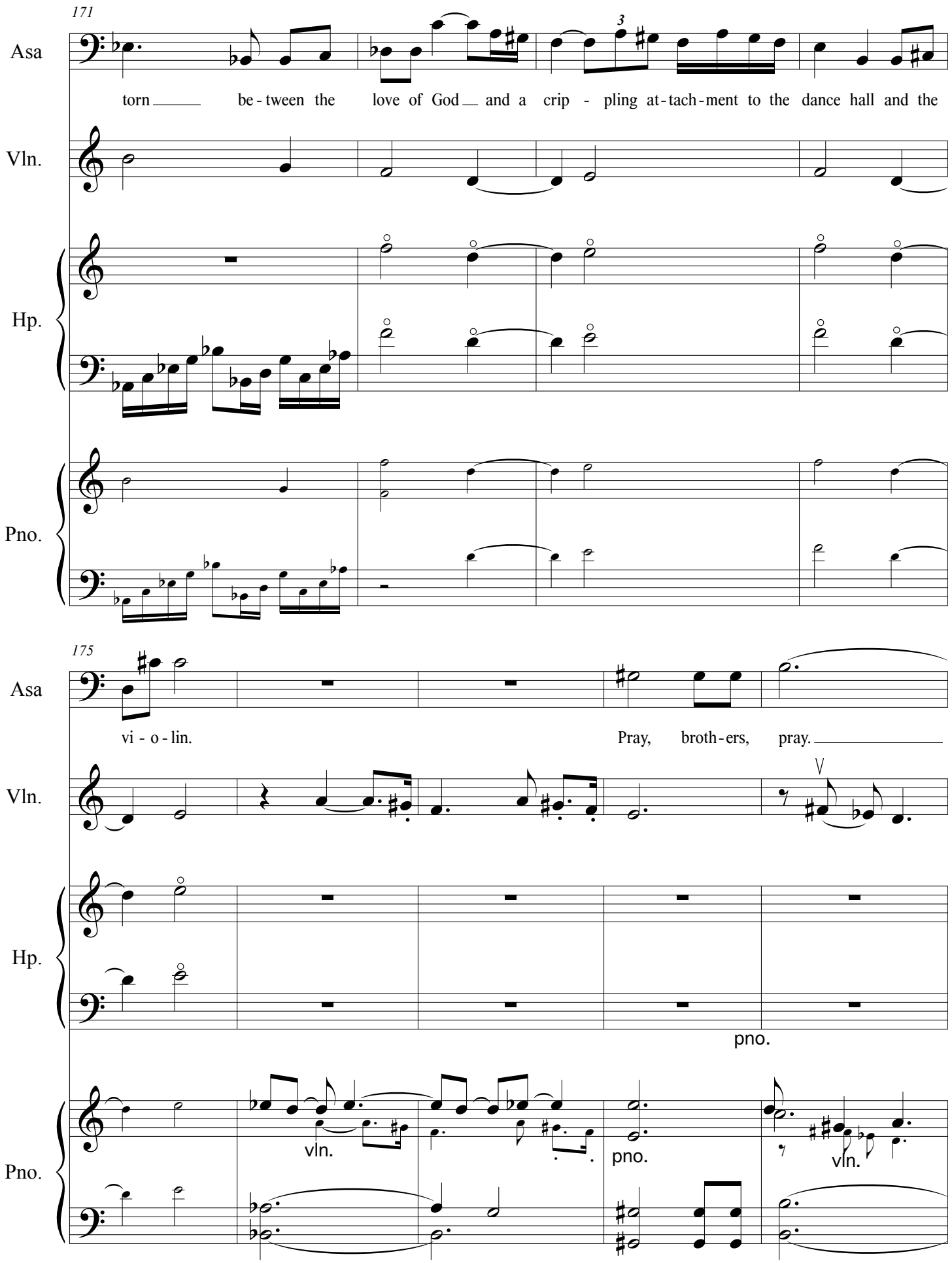

143
Asa
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
marcato
be as-sured that the Prince of Dark-ness shall have no rest in Ne-bras-ka. I,
Asa
timp.
be as-sured that the Prince of Dark-ness shall have no rest in Ne-bras-ka.
pno.
timp.

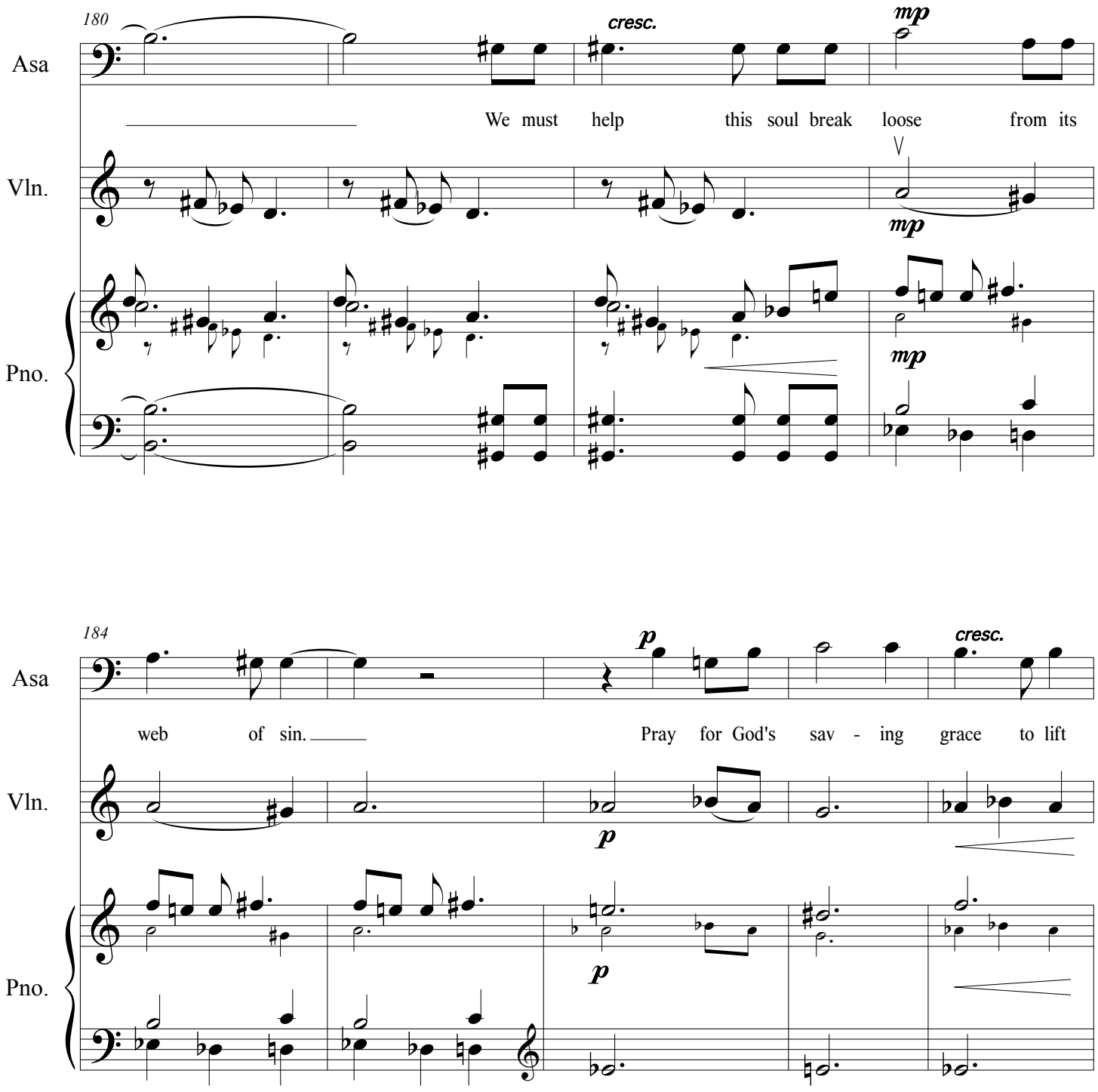

146
Asa
Perc.
Pno.
A-sa Skin-ner, will root him out, and wres-tle him to the ground.

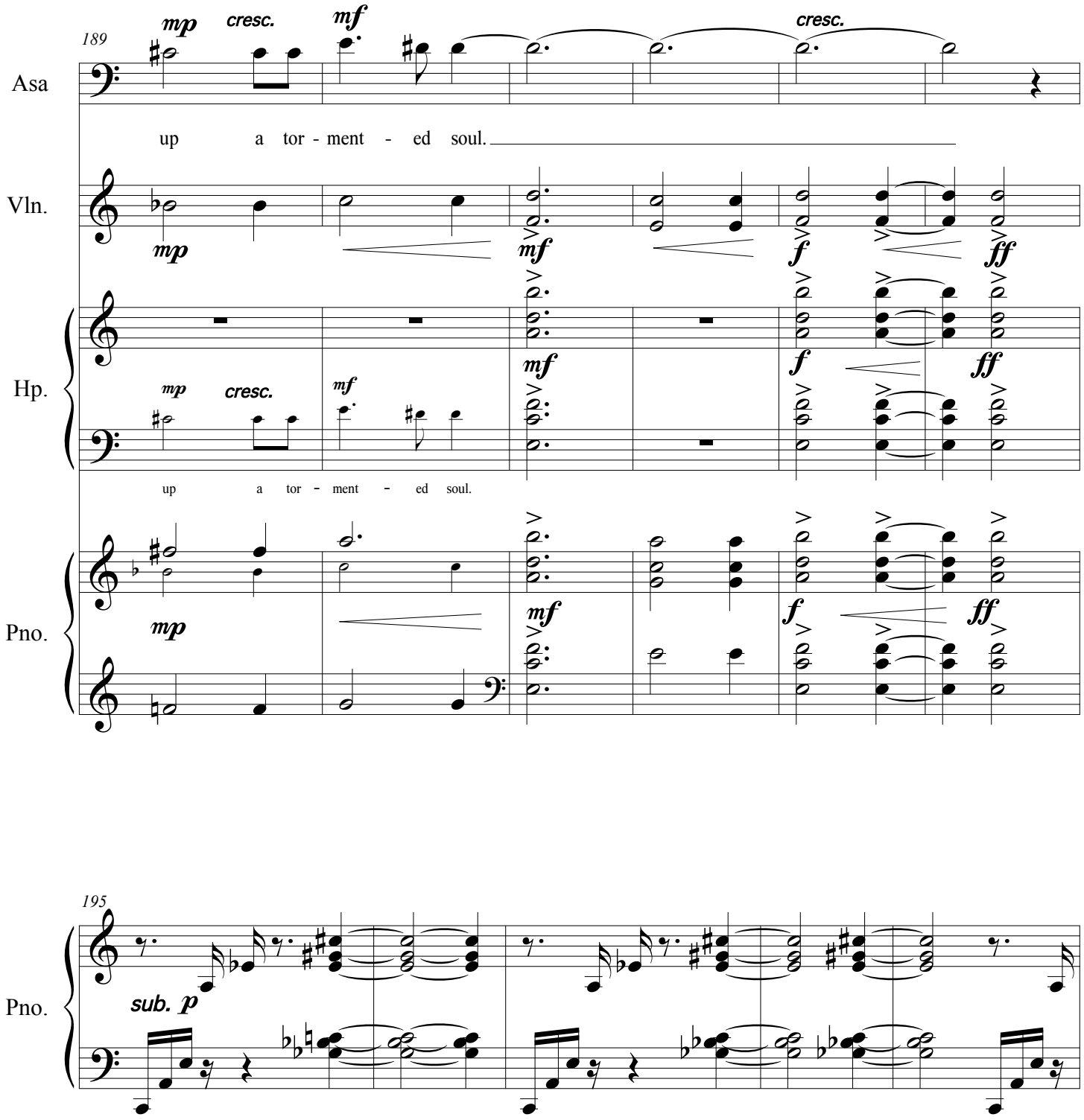

151
Asa
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
Roared!
A-way, a - way
Sa-tan. Get thee be-hind me!
Play as if confused.
ff
p
Play as if confused
vln.
pno.
fff


155
Asa
Vln.
Pno.
p
Dear broth-ers, to -
pizz.
arco
pp

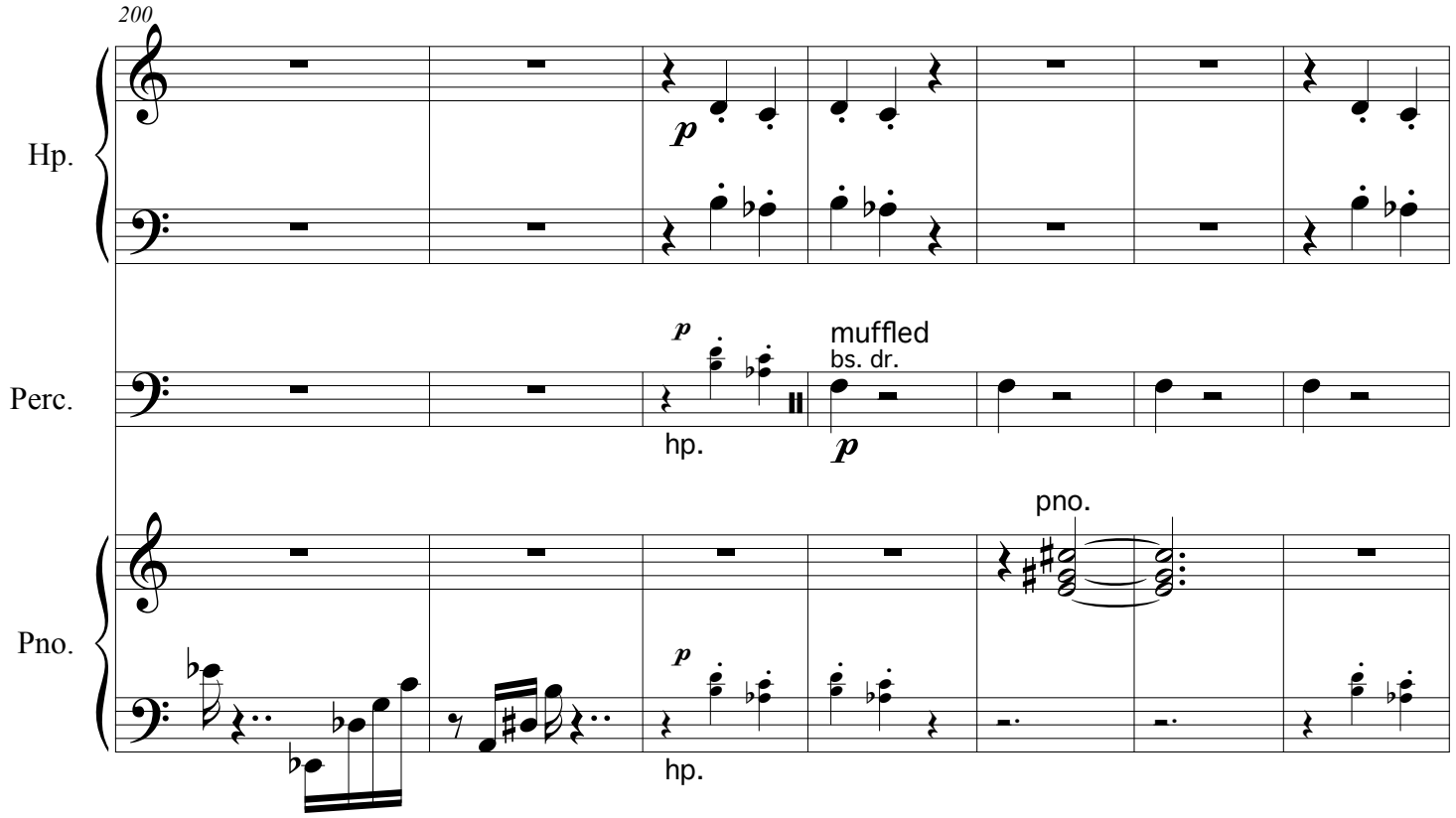

161
Asa
night God has giv-en us a spe - cial work to do.
Vln.
3
Hp.
Asa
p
giv - en us a spe - cial work to do.
Pno.
3
hp.
166
Asa
He has de - liv - ered to our care a Nor - we - gian youth whose soul is
Vln.
sounding pitch
Hp.
Pno.

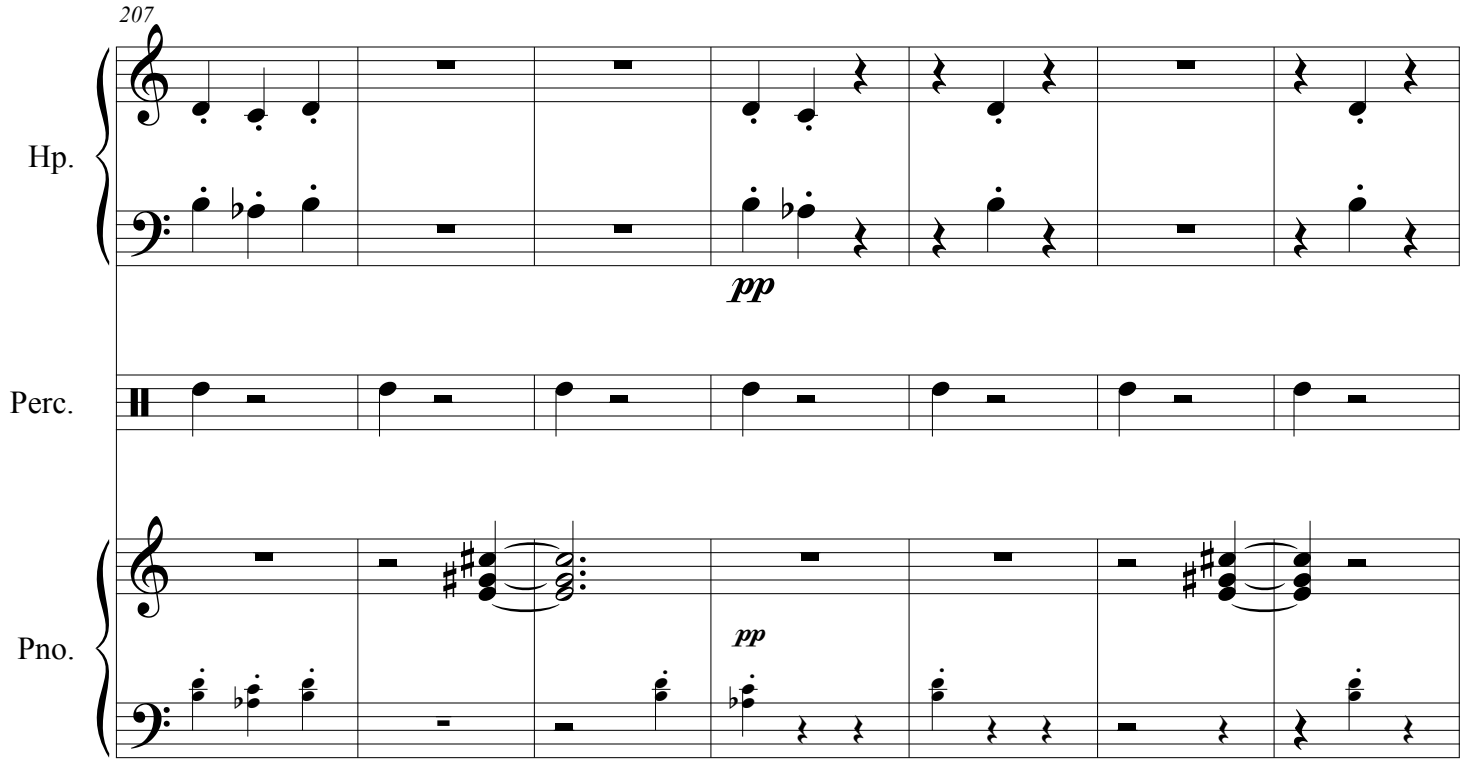

171
Asa
torn be - tween the love of God and a crip - pling at - tach - ment to the dance hall and the
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
175
Asa
vi - o - lin.
Pray, broth - ers, pray.
Vln.
Hp.
pno.
Pno.
vln.
pno.
vln.

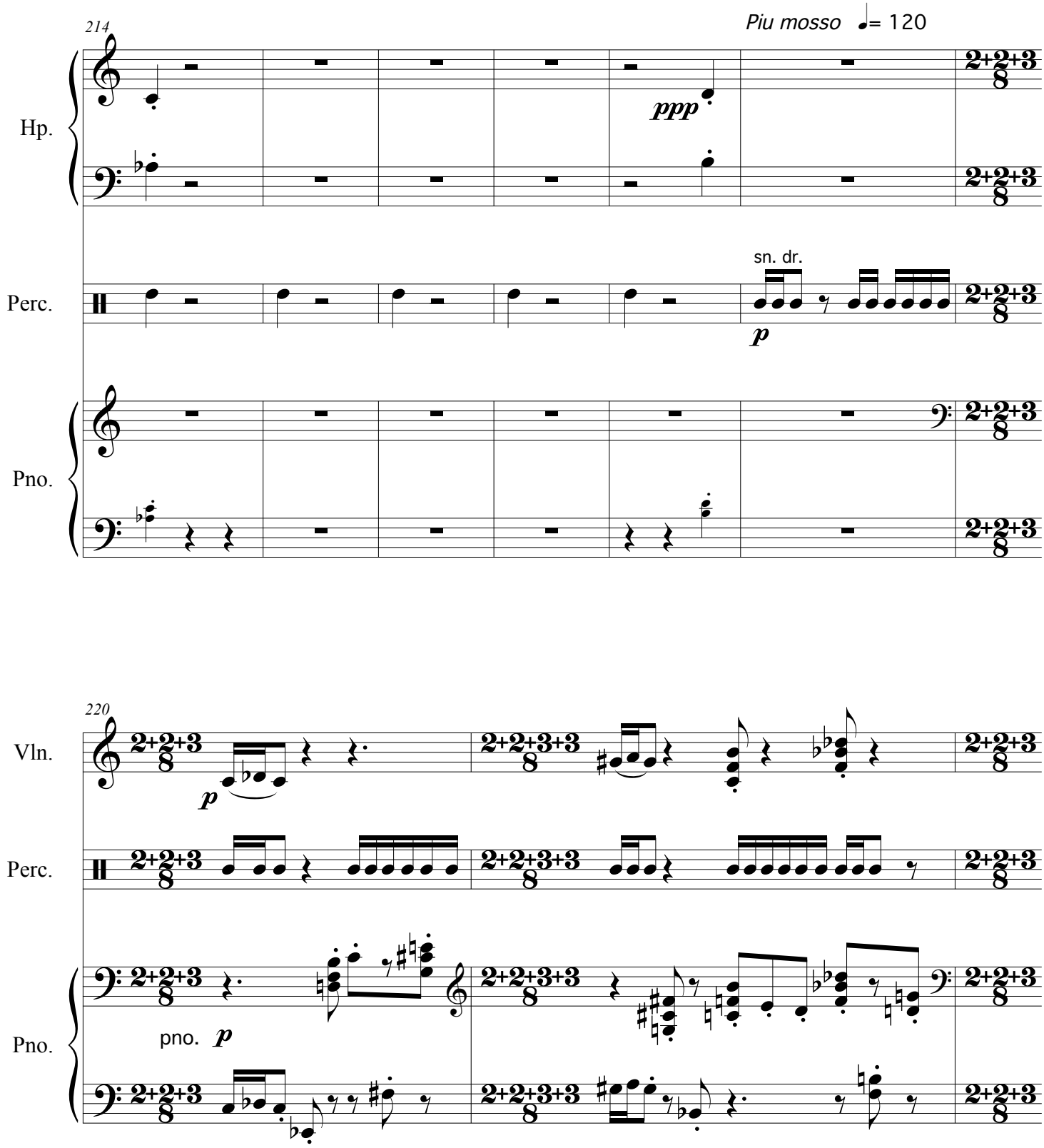

180
Asa
Vln.
Pno.
cresc.
mp
We must help this soul break loose from its
mp
mp
184
Asa
Vln.
Pno.
p
cresc.
web of sin.
Pray for God's sav - ing grace to lift
p
p

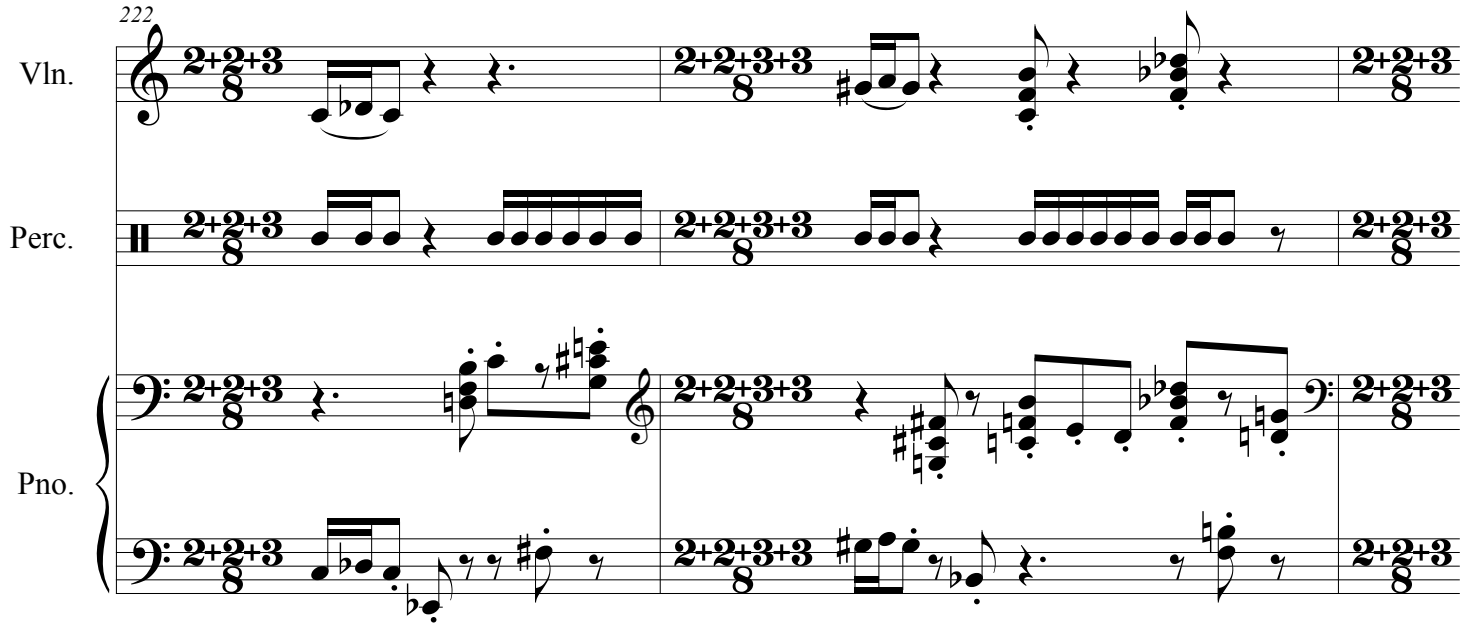

189
Asa
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
mp
cresc.
mf
f
ff
up a tor - ment - ed soul.
up a tor - ment - ed soul.

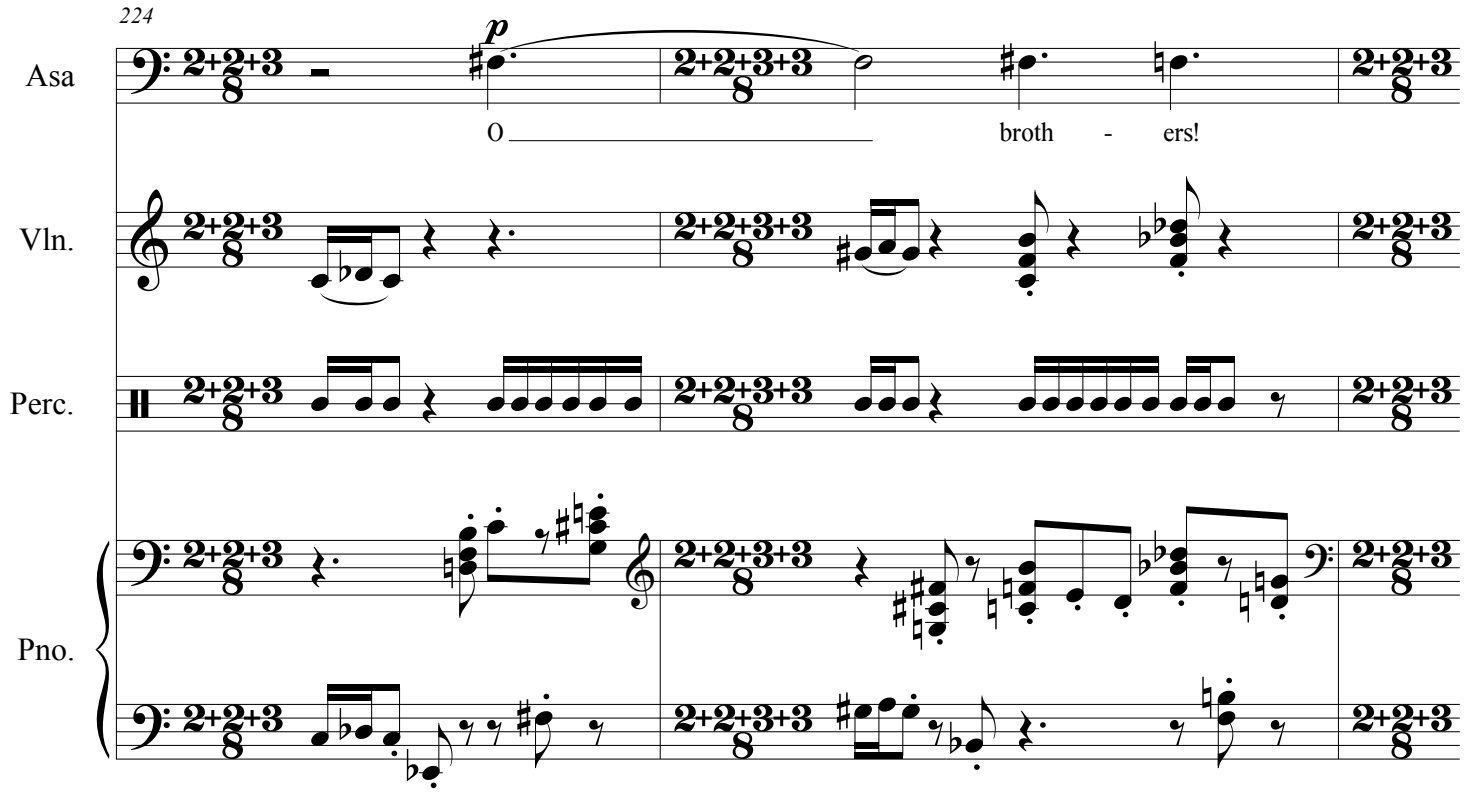
195
Pno.
sub. p

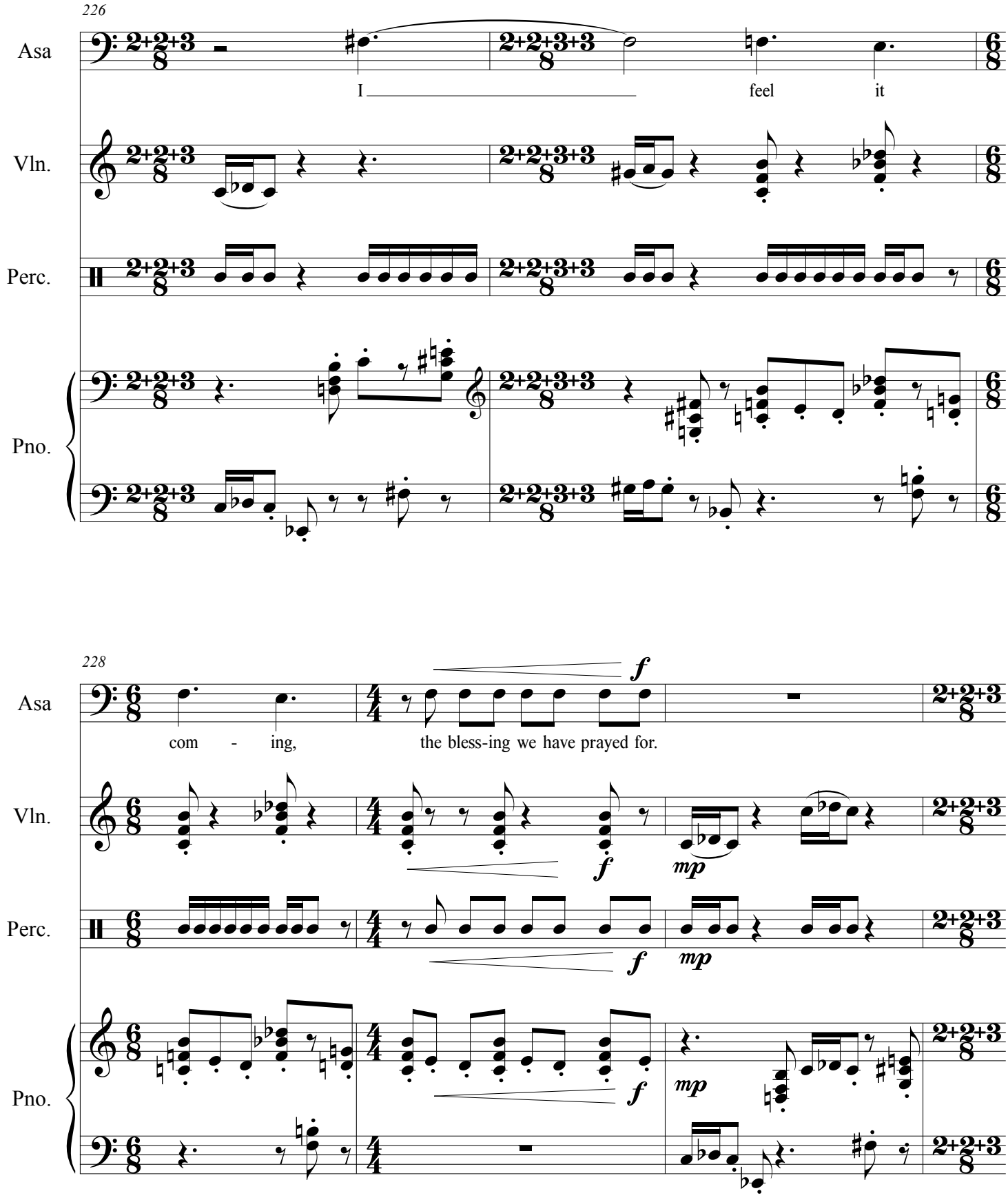

200
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
p
muffled
bs. dr.
hp.
pno.

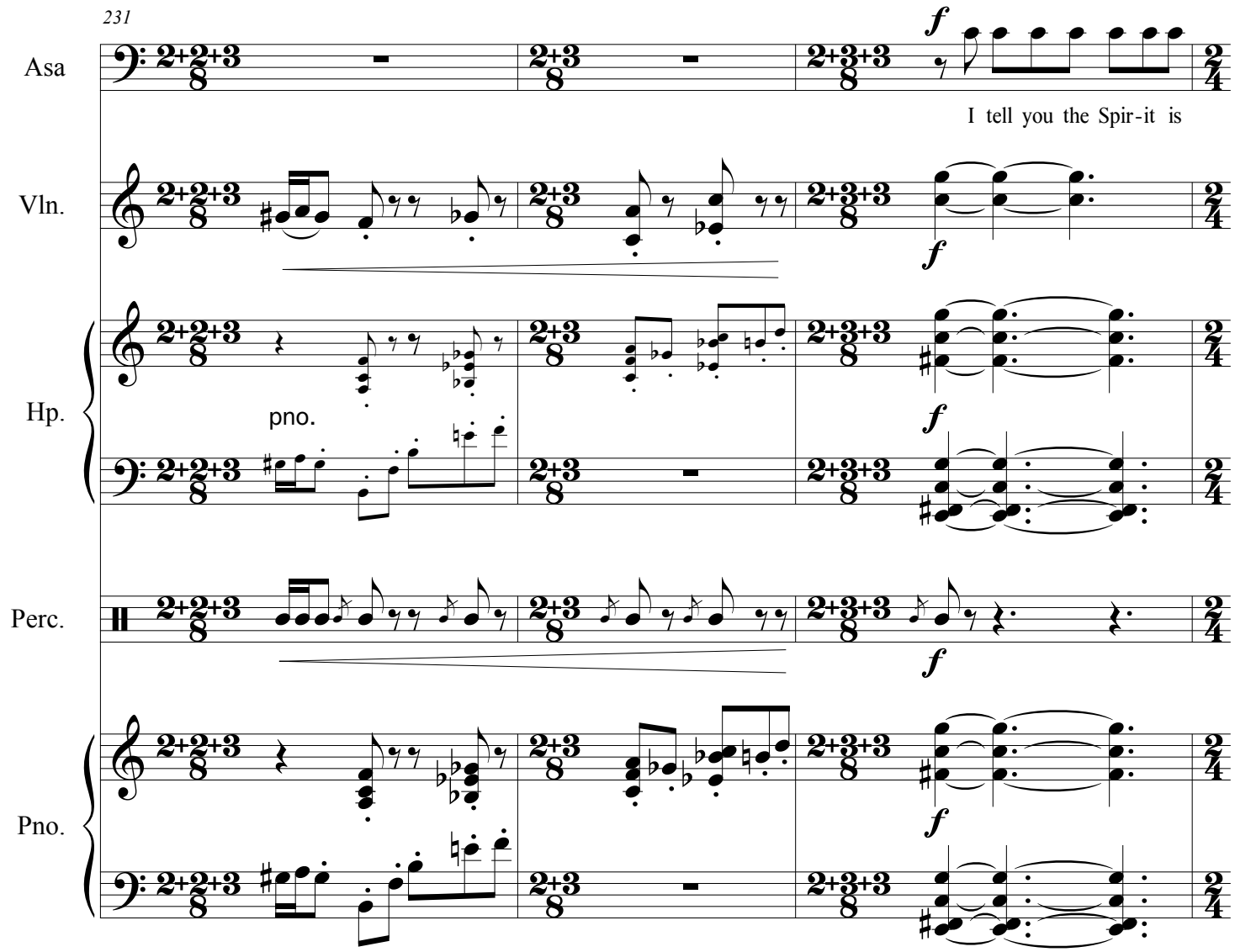

207
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
pp

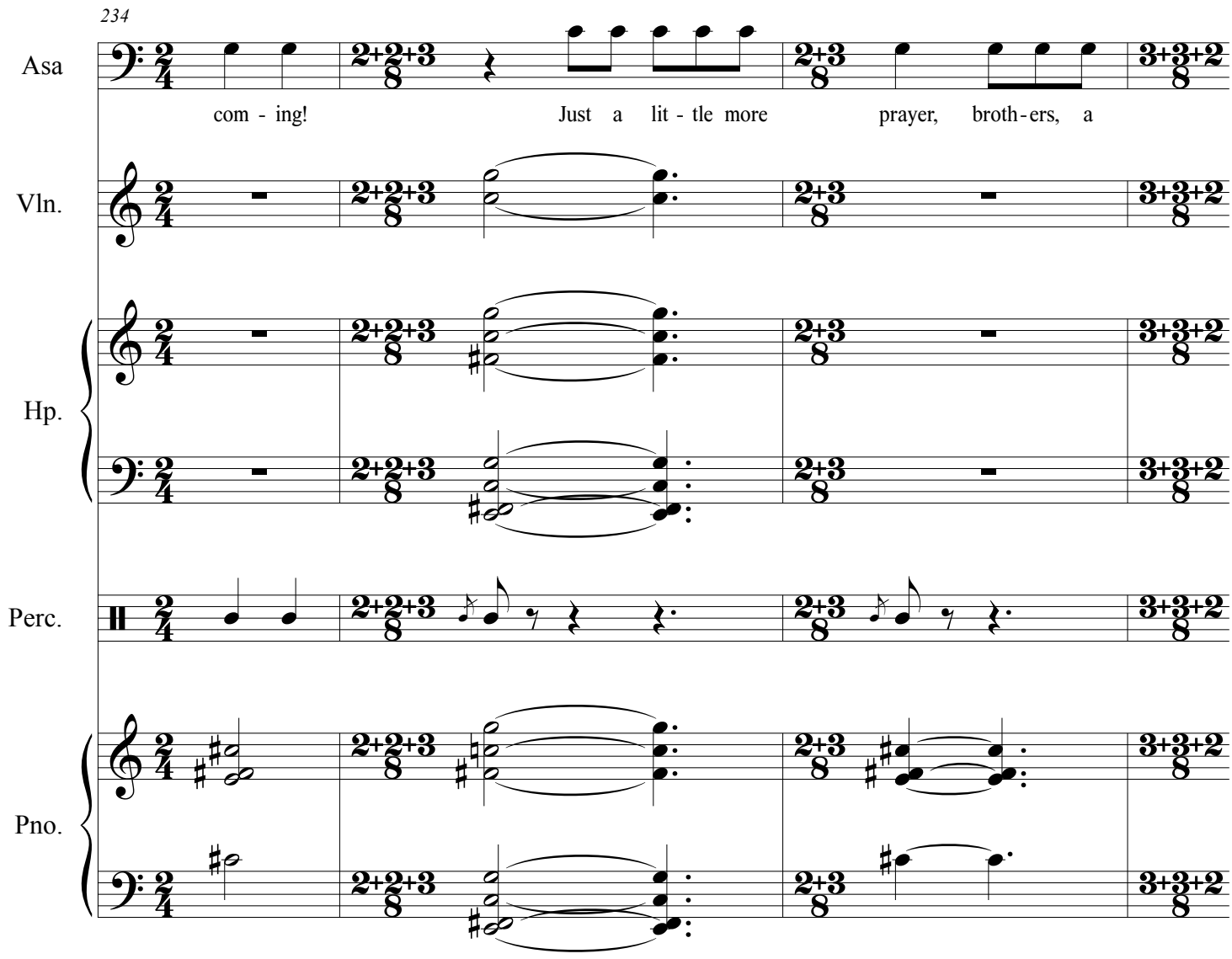

214
Piu mosso ♩= 120
Hp.
ppp
Perc.
sn. dr.
p
Pno.
220
Vln.
p
Perc.
Pno.
pno. p

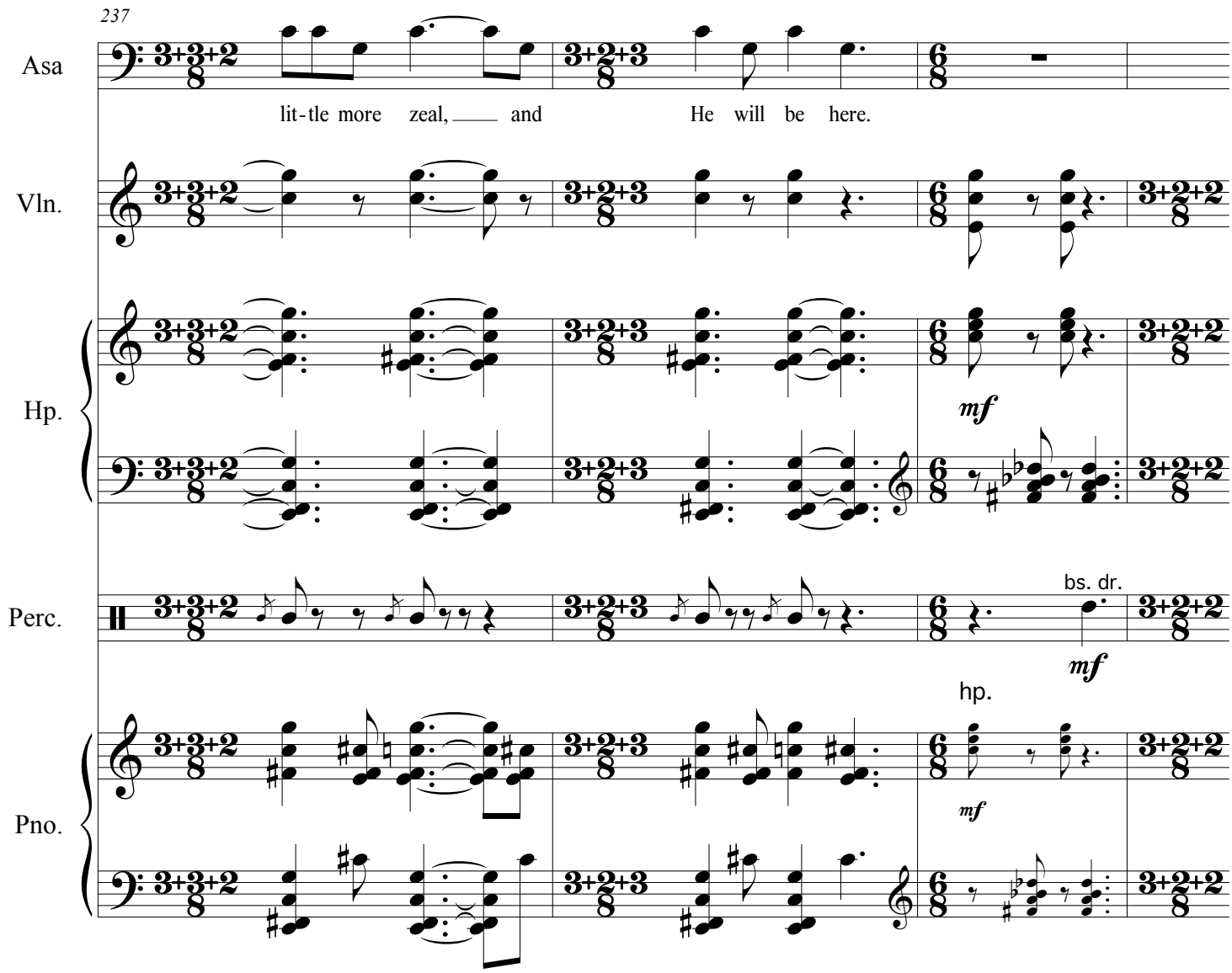

222
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.

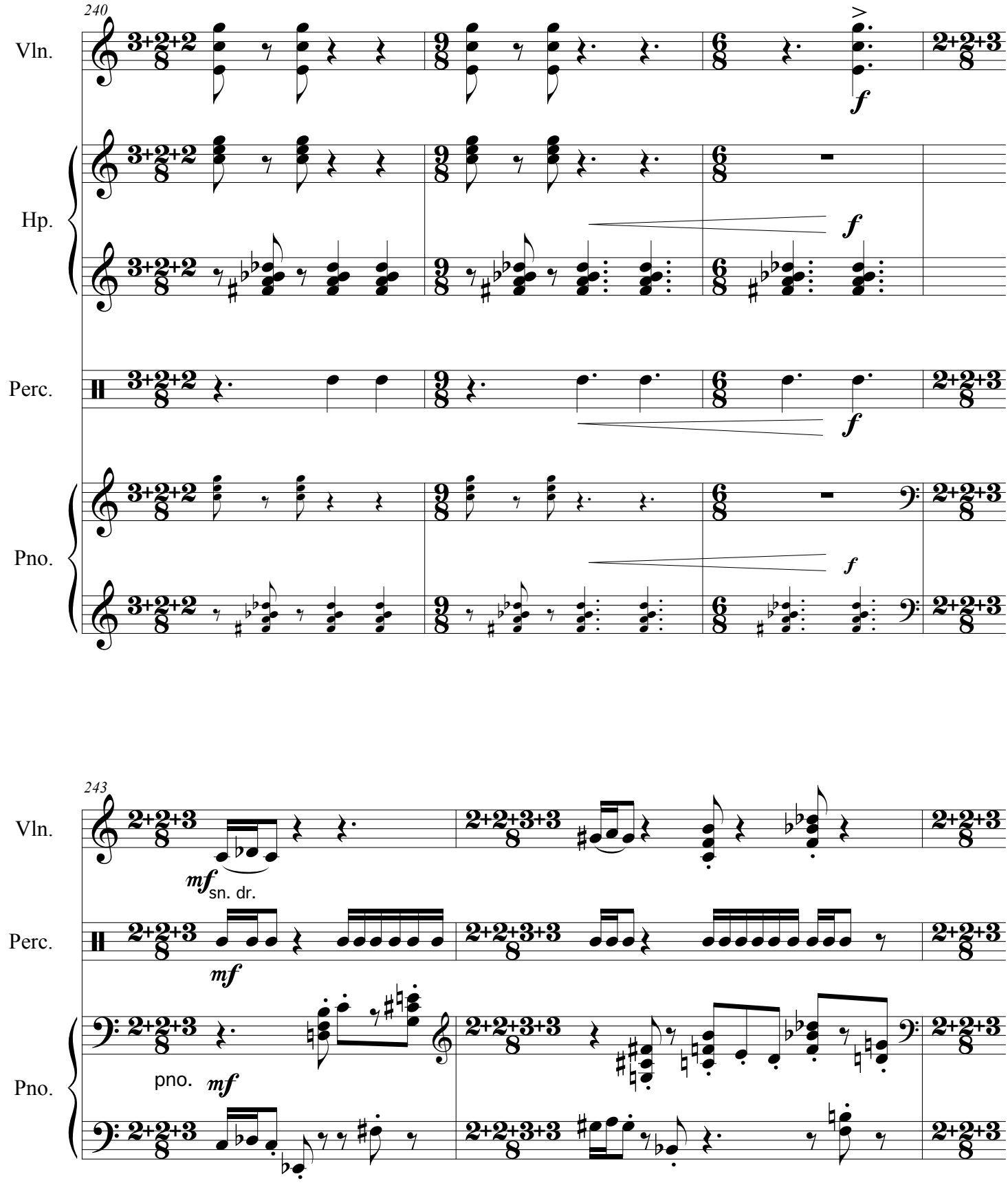

224
Asa
p
O
broth - ers!
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.

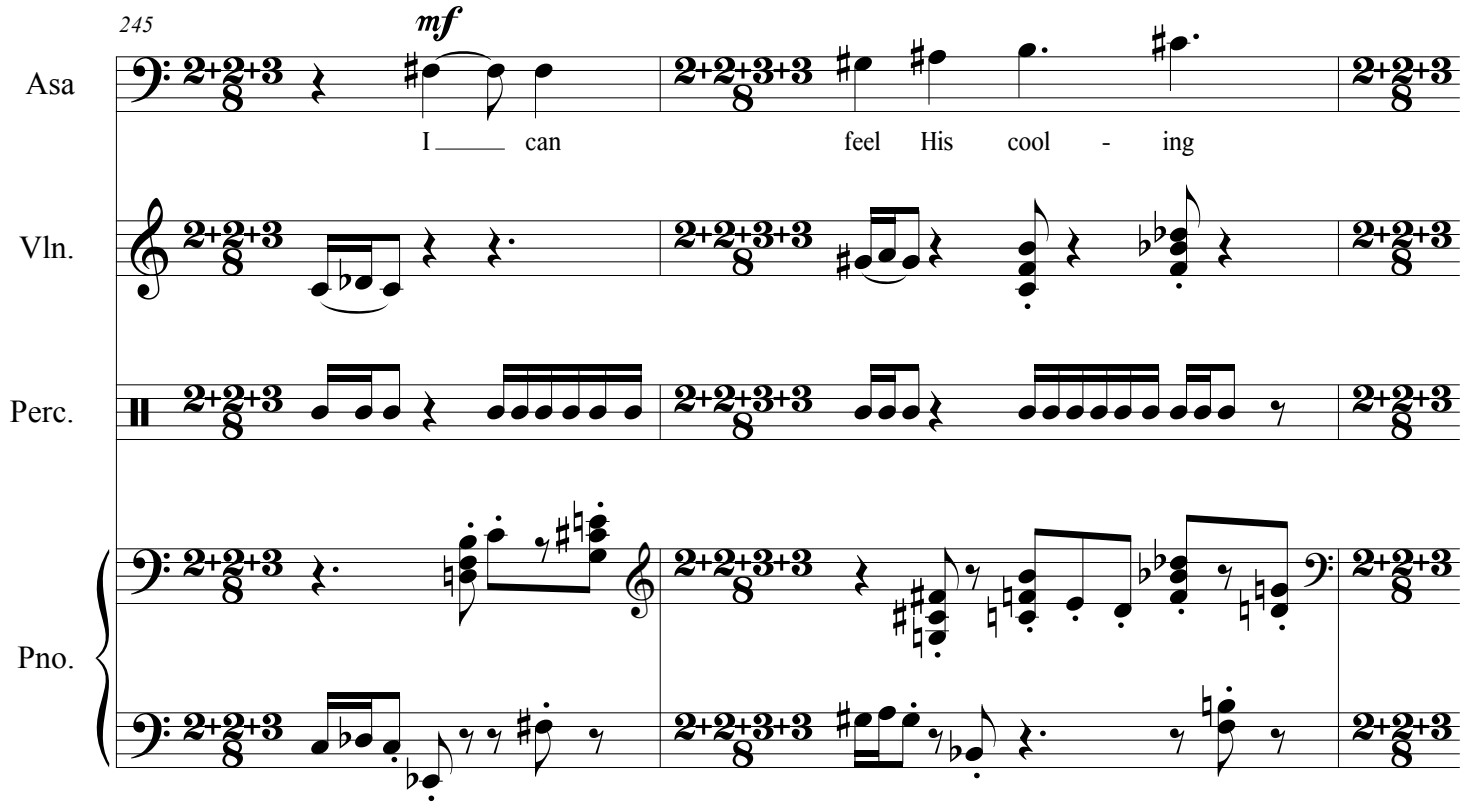

226
Asa
I
feel
it
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
228
Asa
com - ing,
the bless-ing we have prayed for.
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.

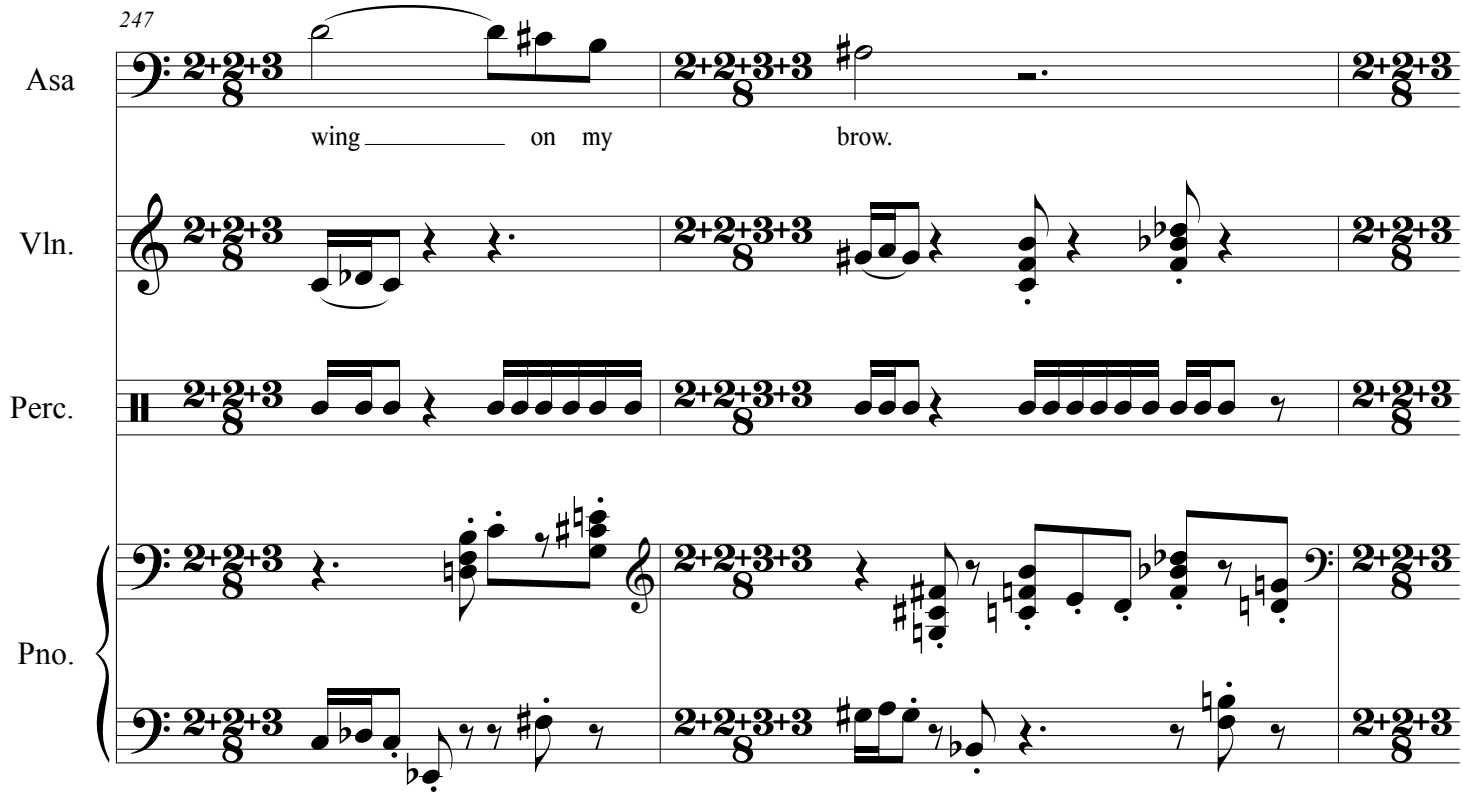

231
Asa
I tell you the Spir-it is
Vln.
Hp.
pno.
Perc.
Pno.

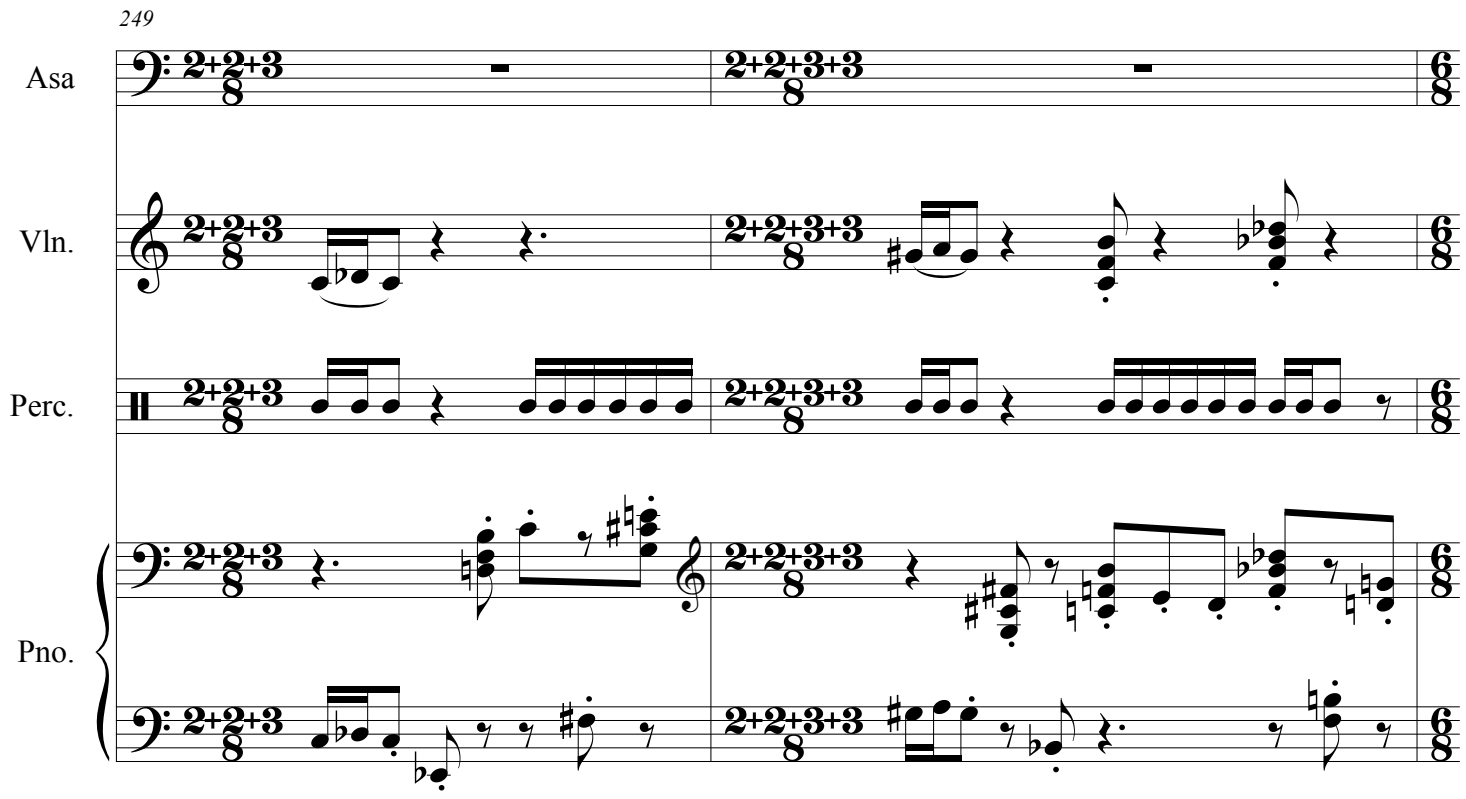

234
Asa
com - ing!
Just a lit - tle more prayer, broth - ers, a
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.

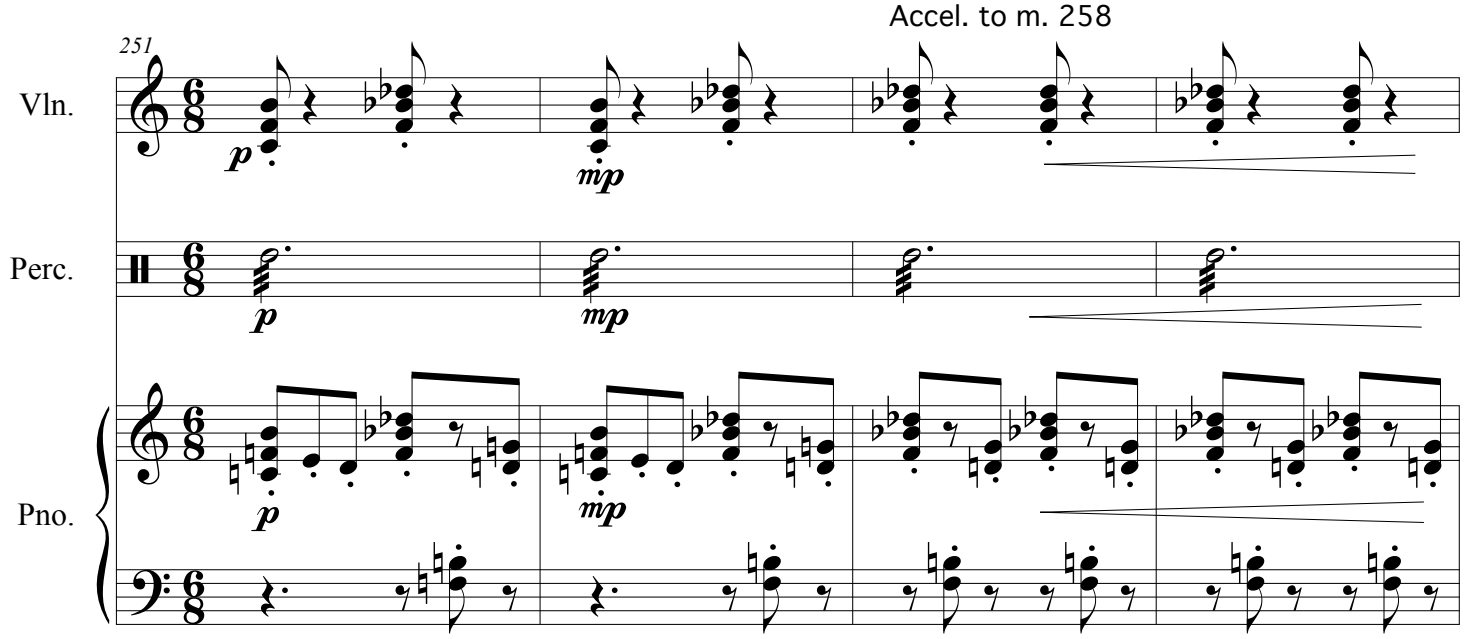

237
Asa
lit-tle more zeal, and He will be here.
Vln.
Hp.
mf
Perc.
bs. dr.
mf
hp.
Pno.
mf


240
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
f
243
mf
sn. dr.
pno.


245
mf
Asa
I can feel His cool - ing
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.


247
Asa
wing on my brow.
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.


249
Asa
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
2+2+3
8
2+2+3+3
8
6
8


Accel. to m. 258
251
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
p
mp
6
8

255

Vln.

snap pizz.

f

sfz

Hp.

f

Perc.

f

Pno.

f

vln.

sfz

Bombastically ♩ = 69

259

ff

Asa

Glo - ry be to God for - ev - er and ev - er, a - men!

arco

Vln.

ff

Hp.

ff l.v.

mp

chimes (let ring)

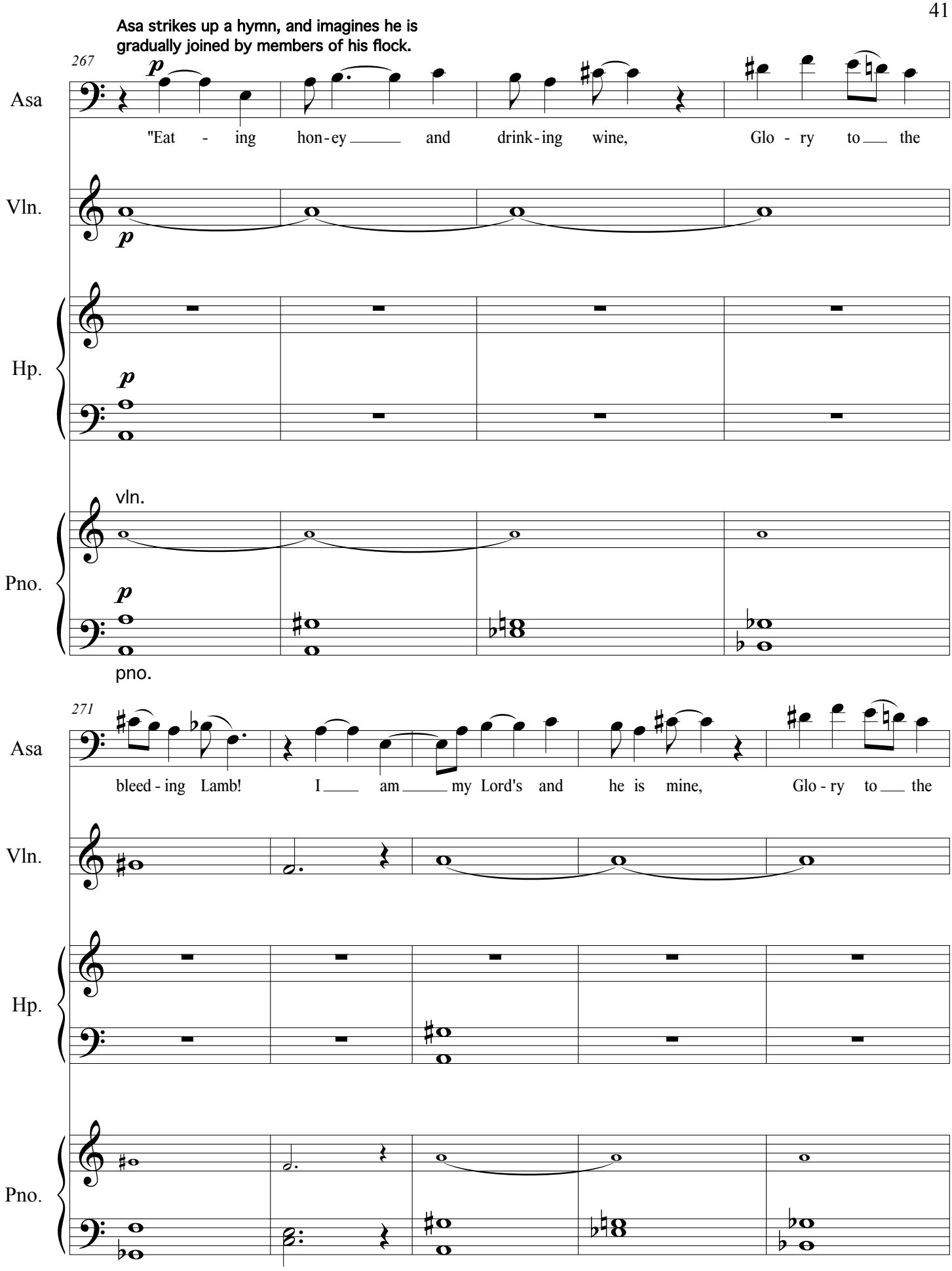
Perc.

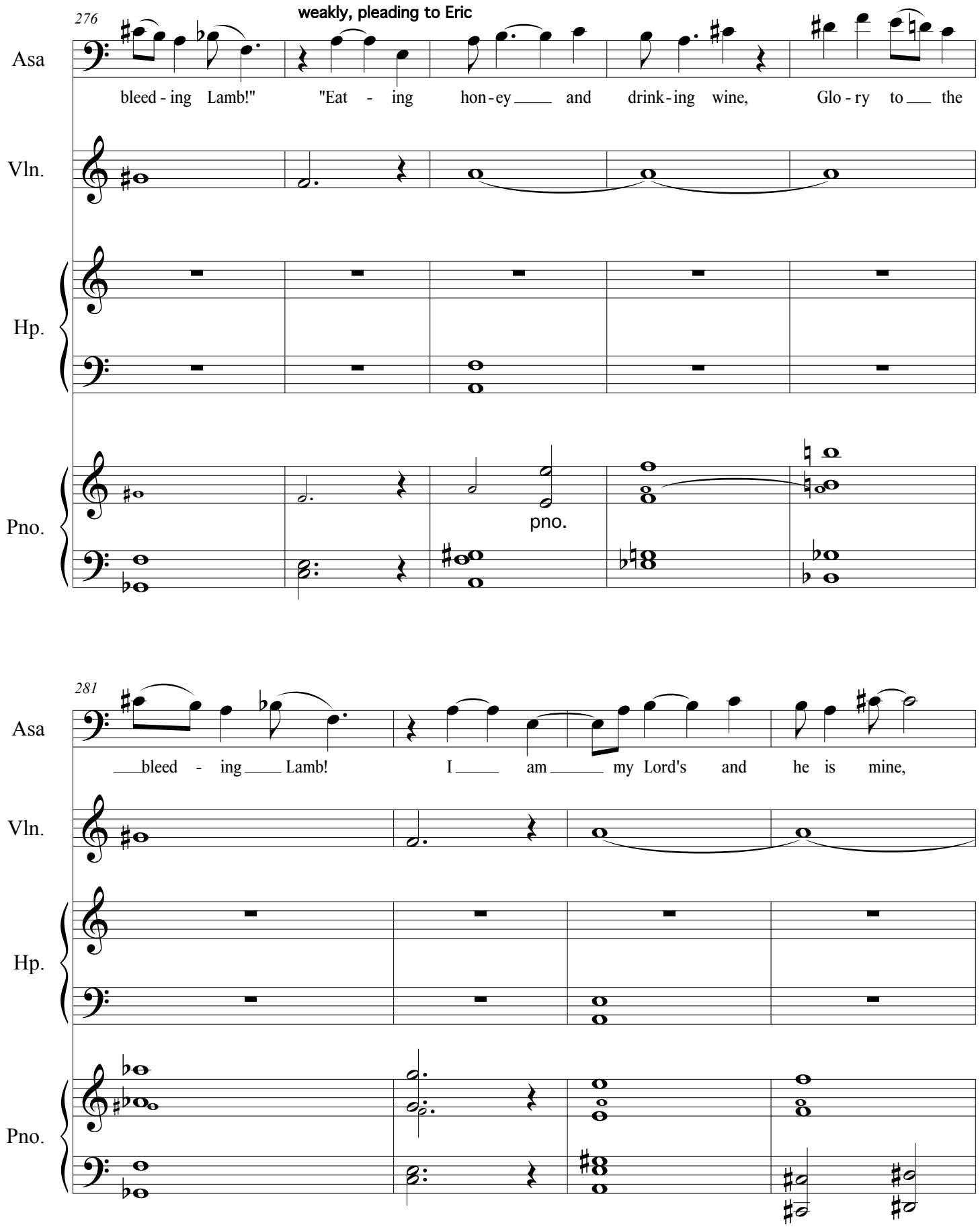
f

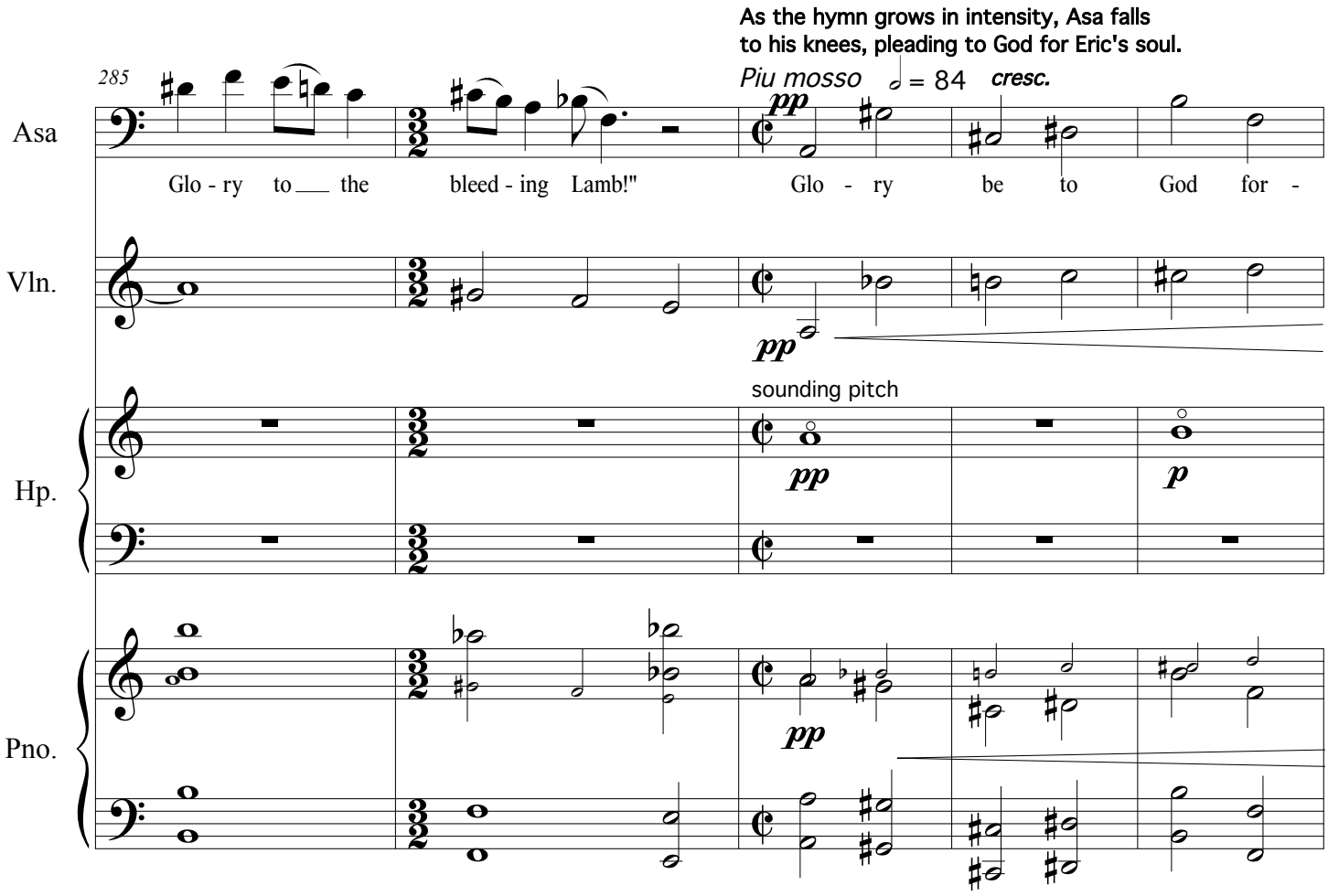
Pno.

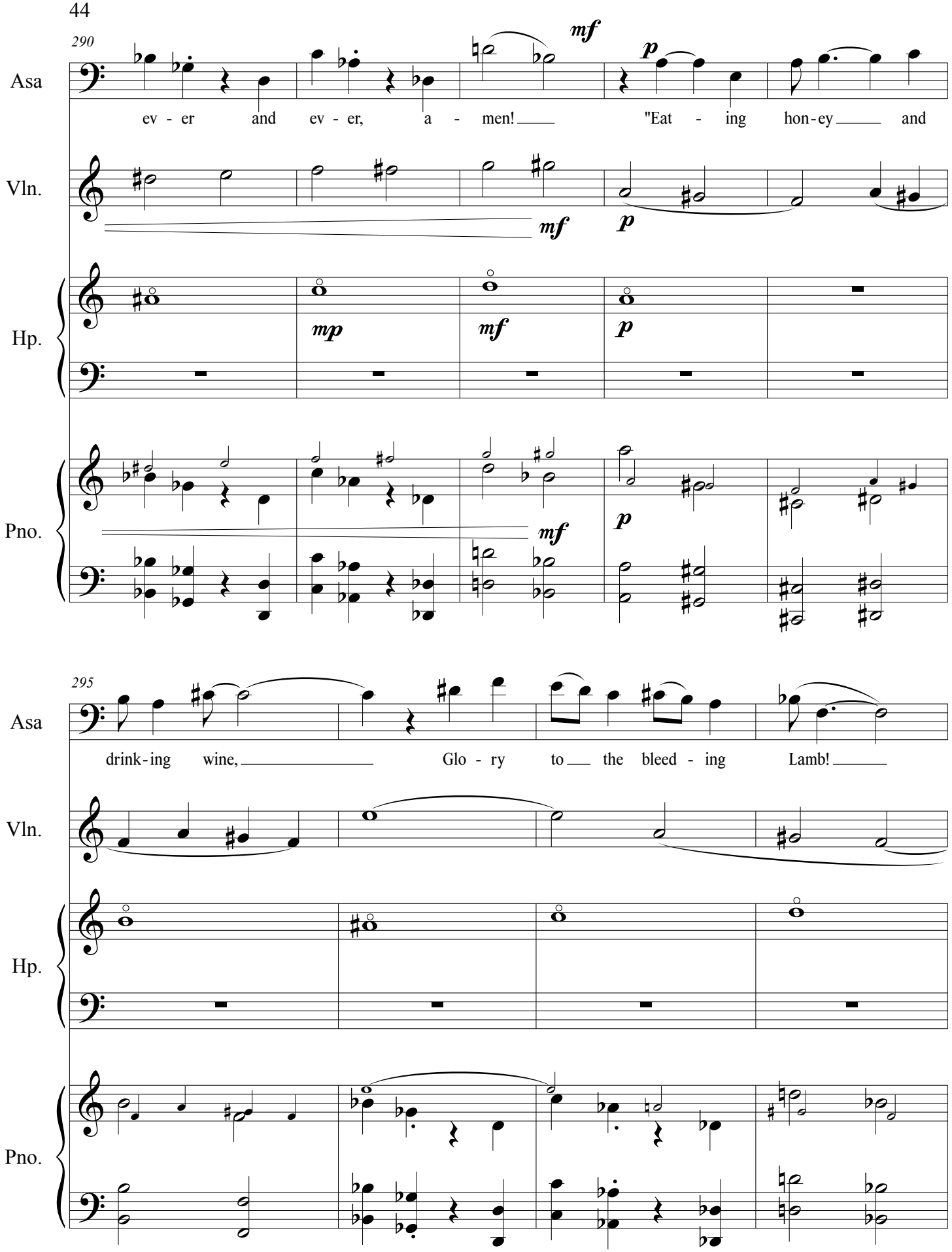
ff

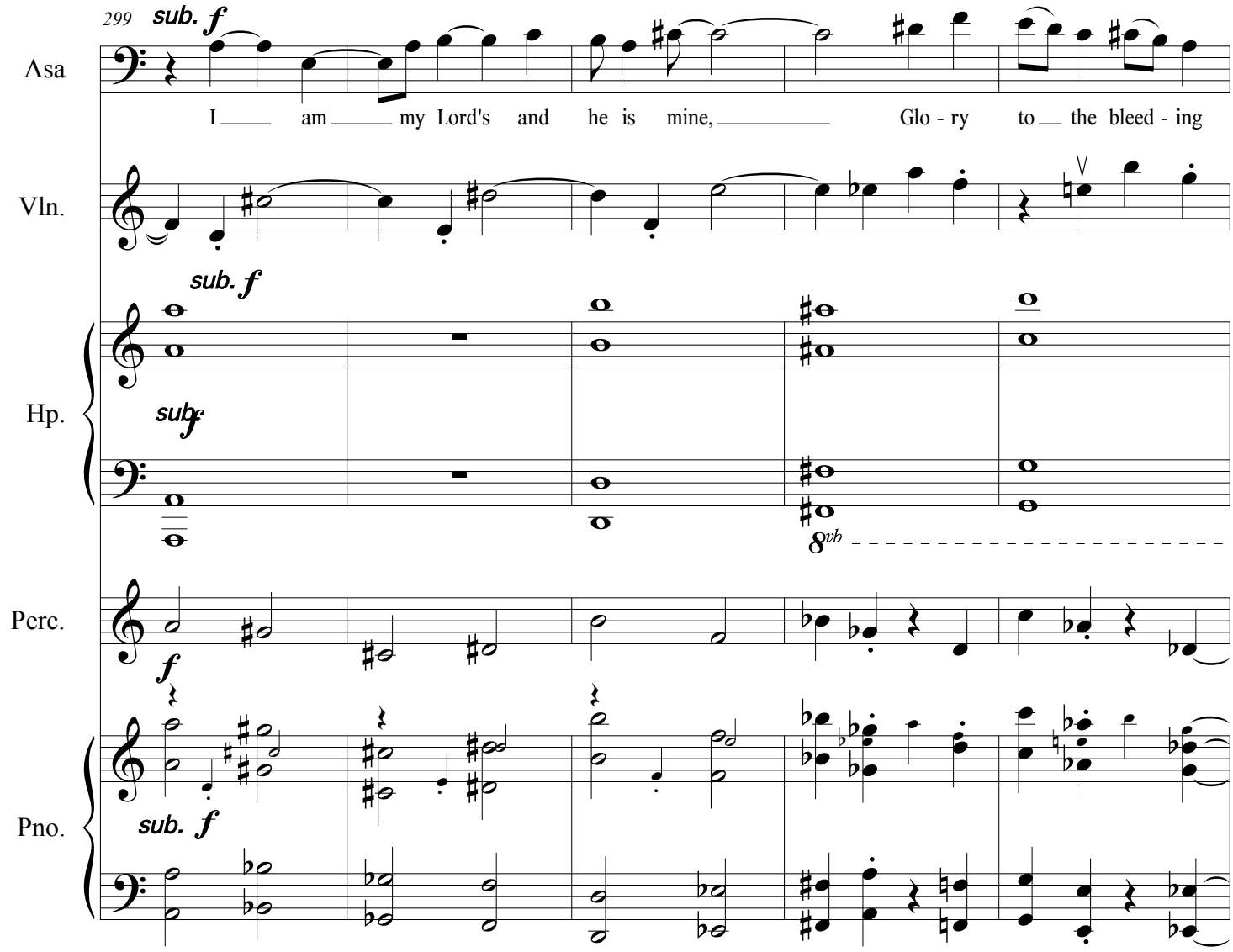
Ped.

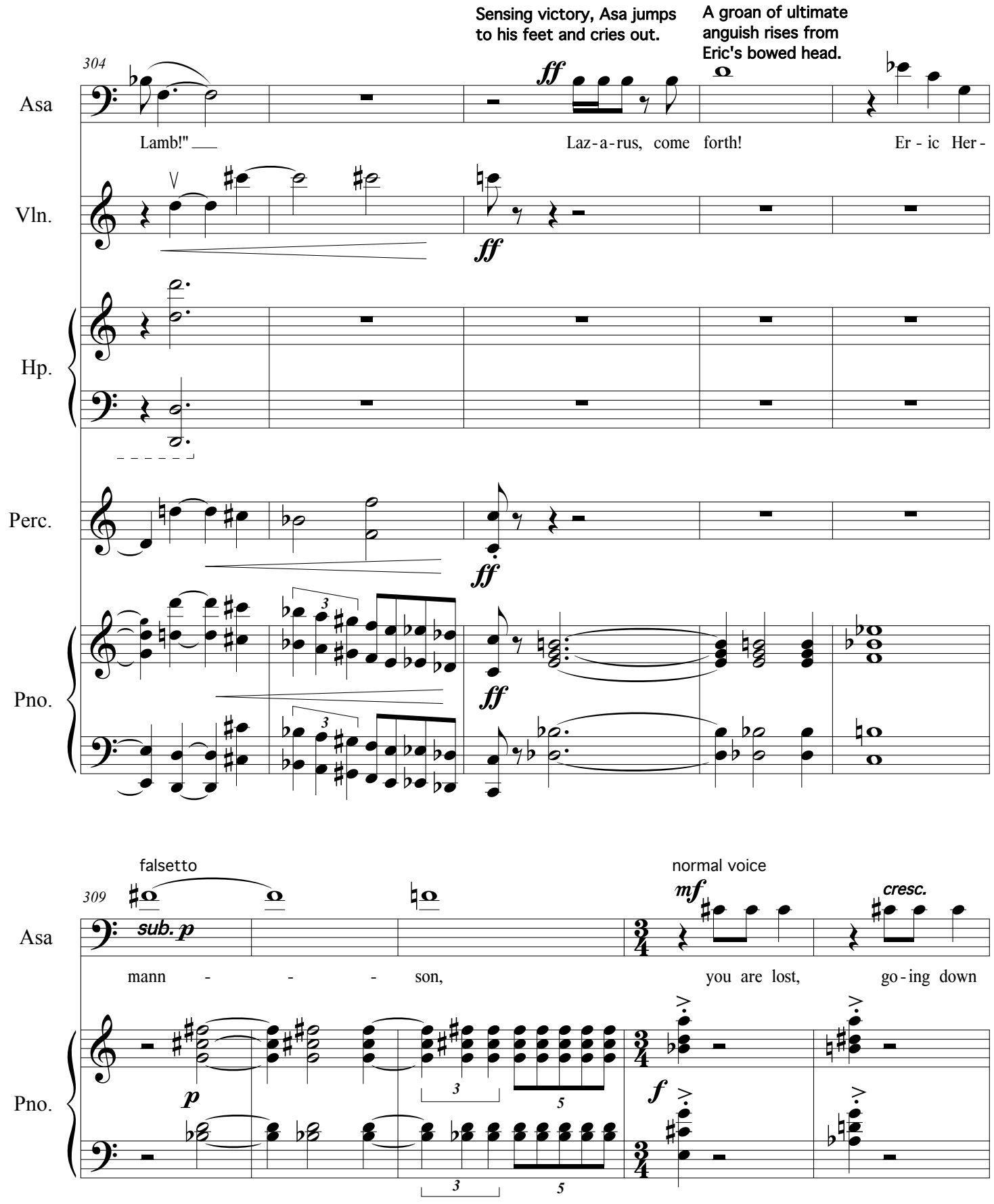

Asa strikes up a hymn, and imagines he is gradually joined by members of his flock.
267
Asa
"Eat - ing hon-ey and drink-ing wine, Glo - ry to the
Vln.
Hp.
vln.
Pno.
pno.
271
Asa
bleed - ing Lamb! I am my Lord's and he is mine, Glo - ry to the
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.

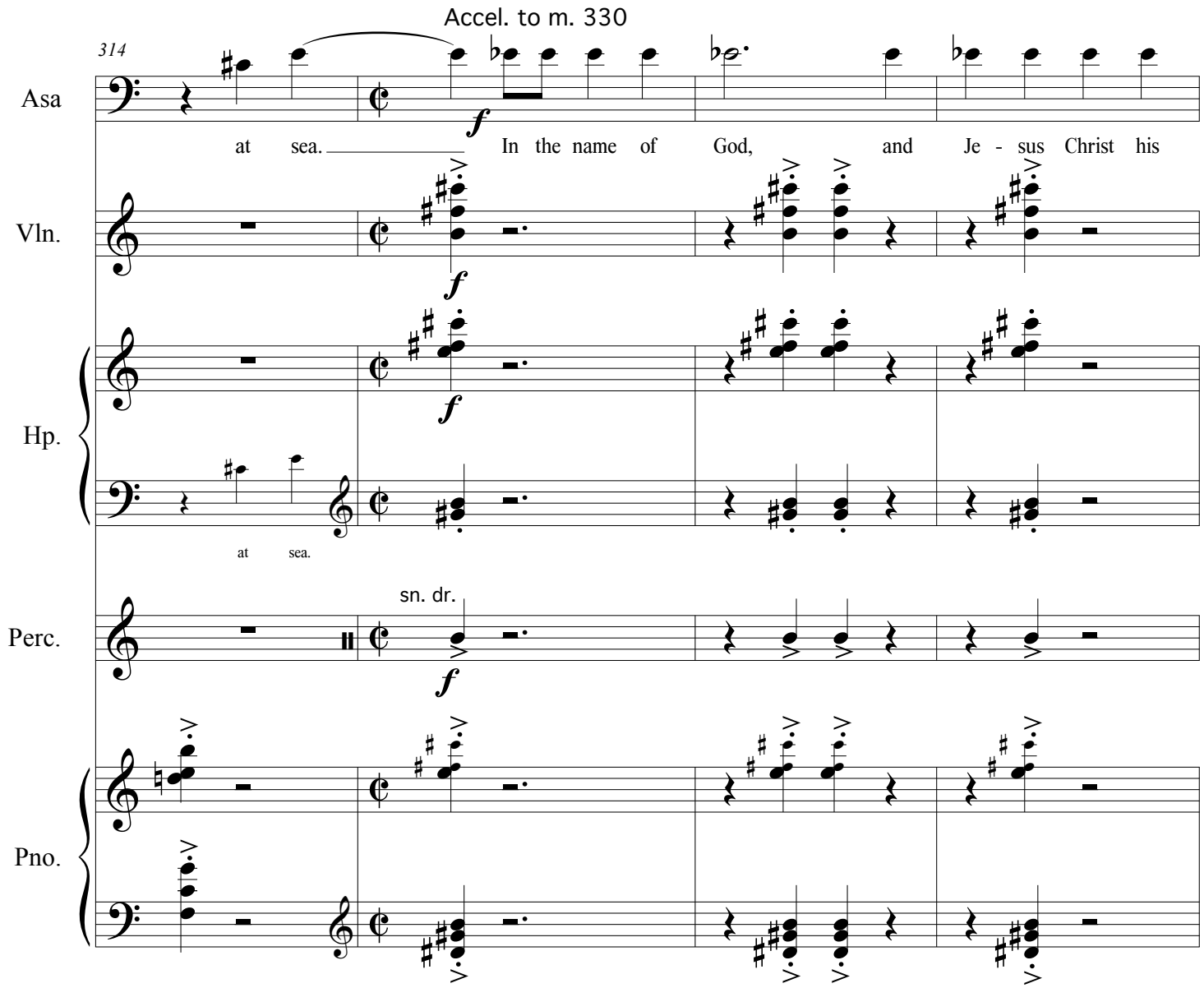

276
weakly, pleading to Eric
Asa
bleed - ing Lamb!"
"Eat - ing hon - ey and drink - ing wine,
Glo - ry to the
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
pno.
281
Asa
bleed - ing Lamb!
I am my Lord's and he is mine,
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.

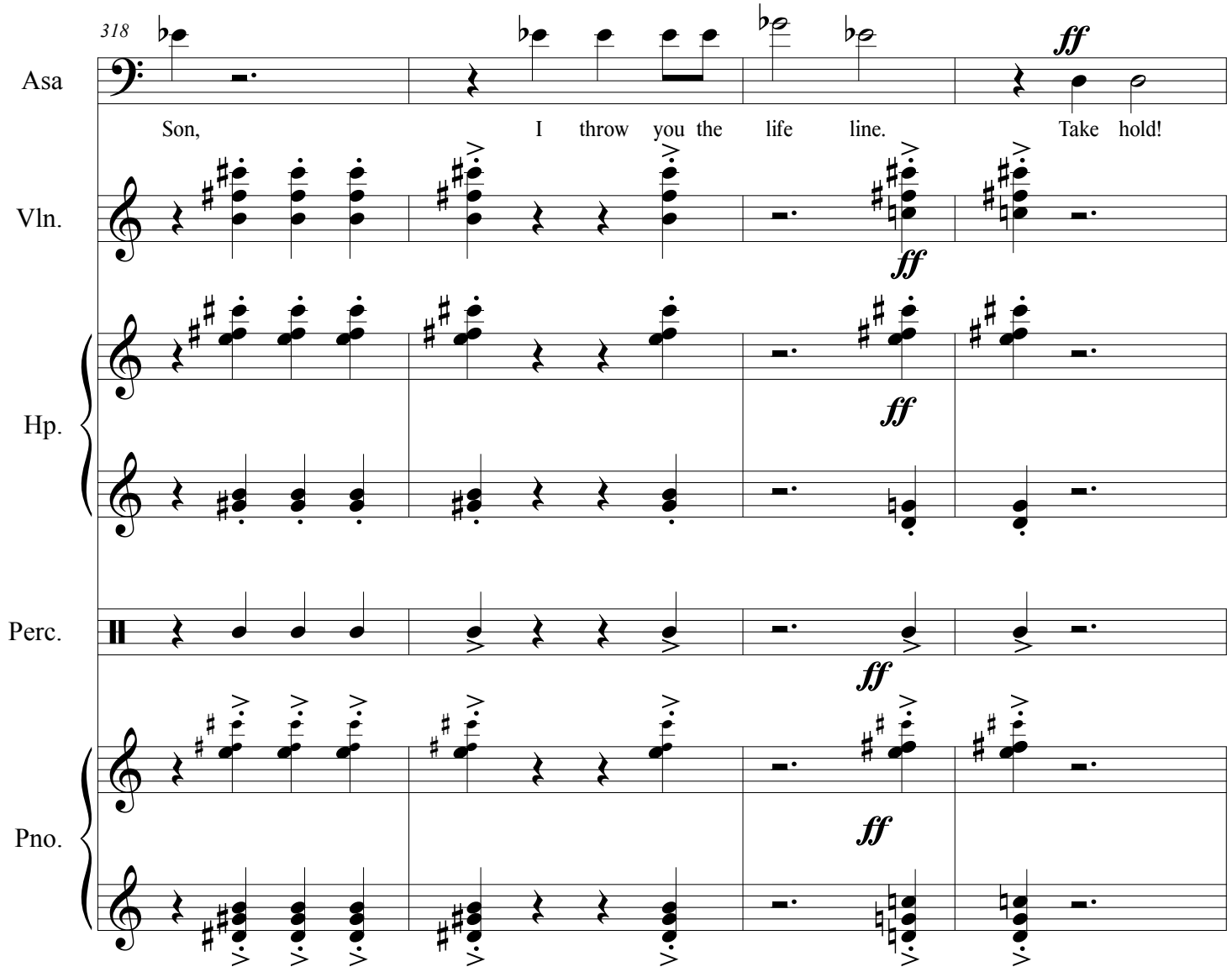

As the hymn grows in intensity, Asa falls to his knees, pleading to God for Eric's soul.
285
Piu mosso
= 84
cresc.
Asa
Glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!"
Glo - ry be to God for -
Vln.
pp
sounding pitch
Hp.
pp
p
Pno.
pp

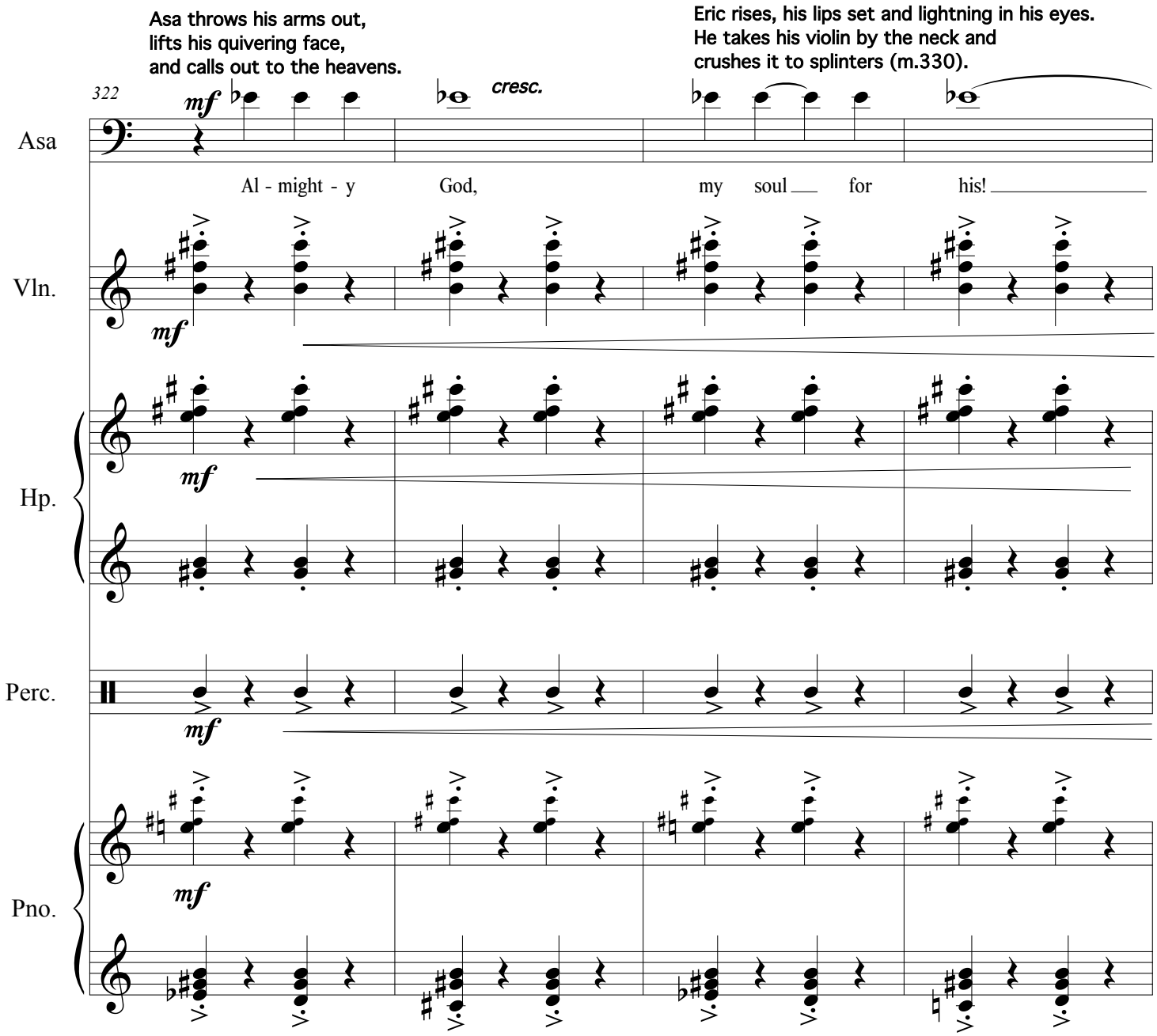

290
Asa
ev - er and ev - er, a - men! "Eat - ing hon-ey and
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
295
Asa
drink-ing wine, Glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.

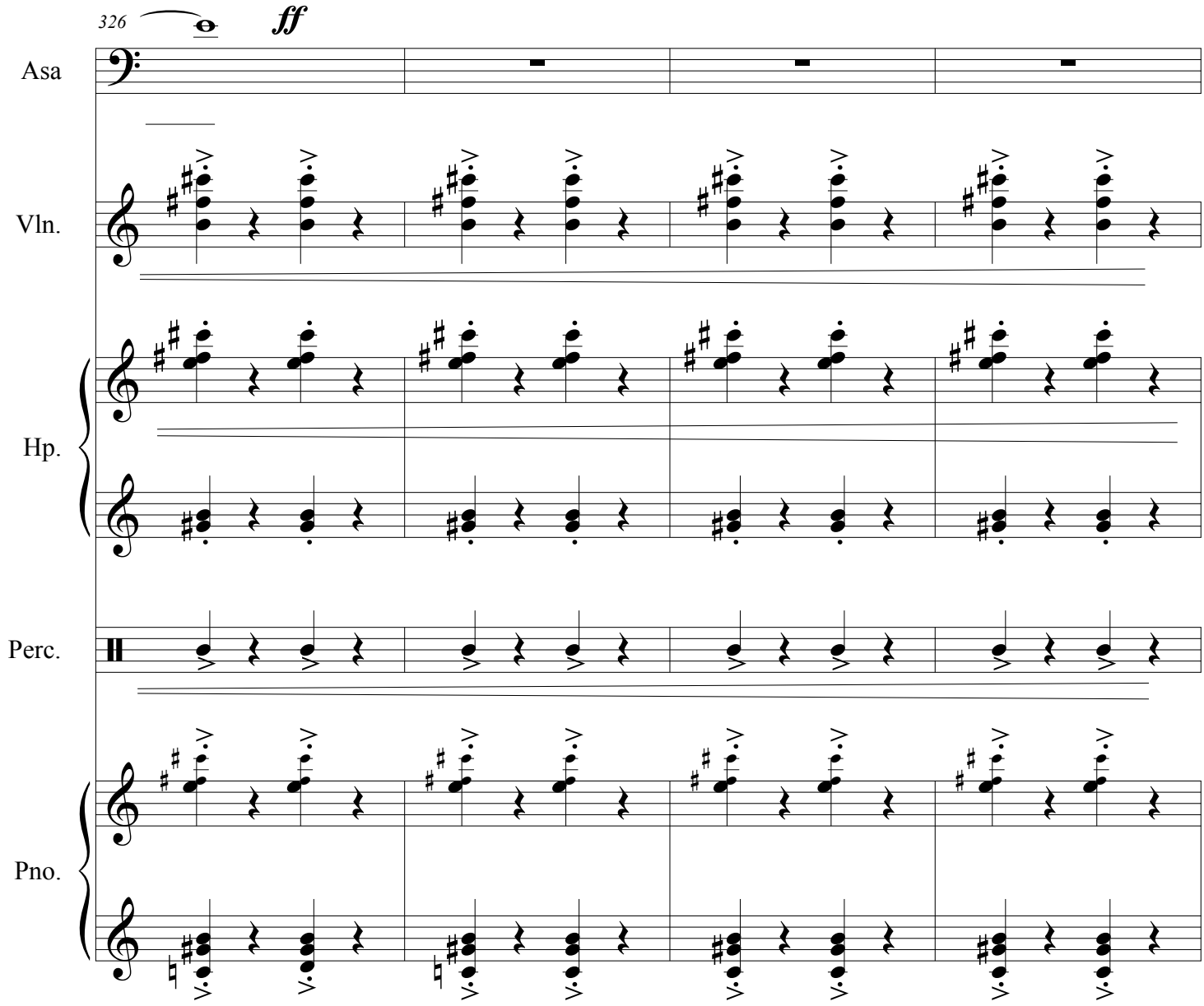

299
sub. f
Asa
I am my Lord's and he is mine, Glo - ry to the bleed - ing
Vln.
sub. f
Hp.
subf
8vb
Perc.
f
Pno.
sub. f

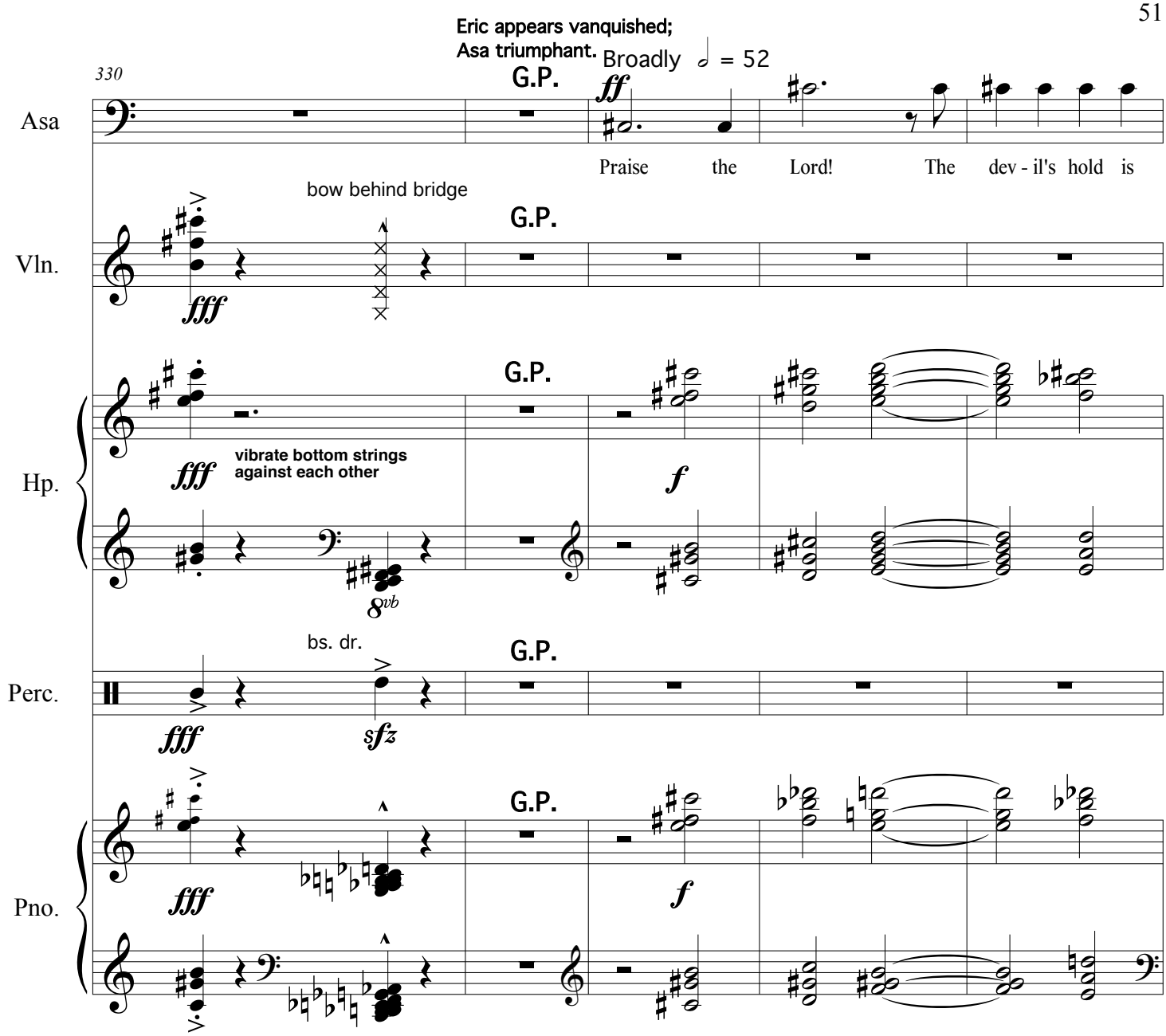

Sensing victory, Asa jumps to his feet and cries out.
A groan of ultimate anguish rises from Eric's bowed head.
304
Asa
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
Lamb!"
Laz-a-rus, come forth!
Er-ic Her-
ff
falsetto
normal voice
309
sub. p
mf
cresc.
mann - - - son,
you are lost,
go-ing down
p
f

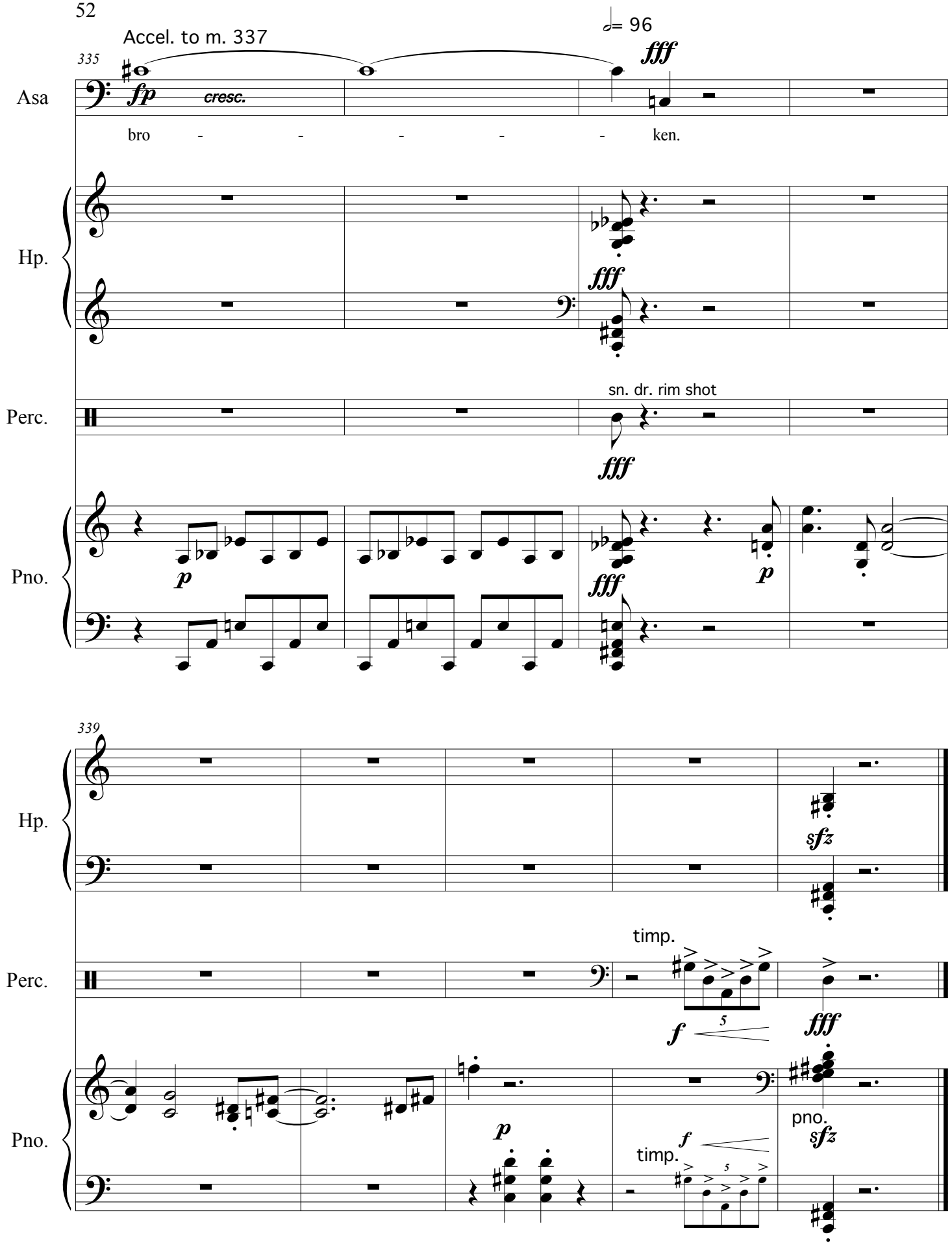

Accel. to m. 330
314
Asa
at sea. In the name of God, and Je - sus Christ his
Vln.
Hp.
at sea.
sn. dr.
Perc.
Pno.


318
Asa
Son, I throw you the life line. Take hold!
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
ff

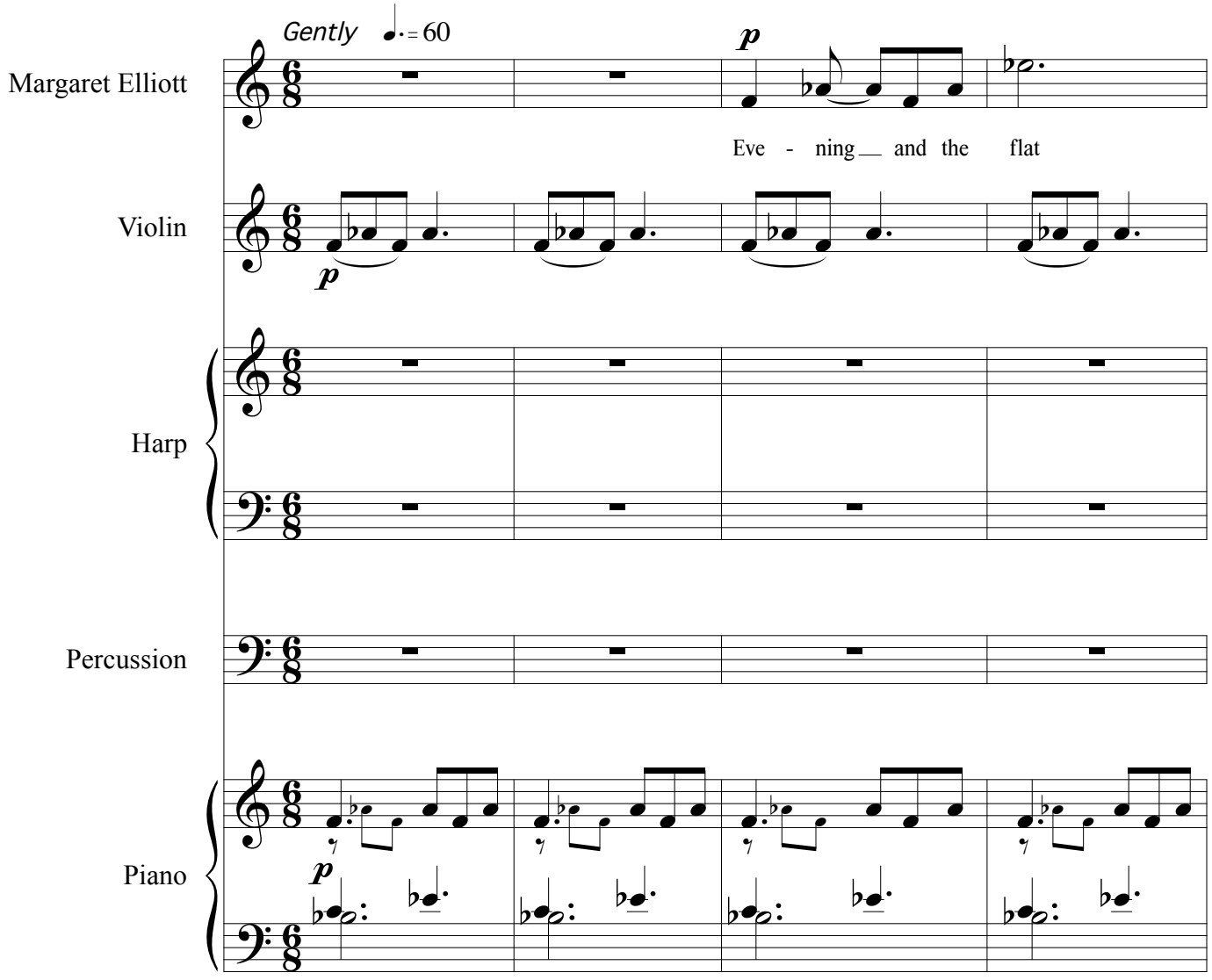

Asa throws his arms out,
lifts his quivering face,
and calls out to the heavens.
Eric rises, his lips set and lightning in his eyes.
He takes his violin by the neck and
crushes it to splinters (m.330).
322
mf
cresc.
Asa
Al - might - y God, my soul for his!
Vln.
mf
Hp.
mf
Perc.
mf
Pno.
mf

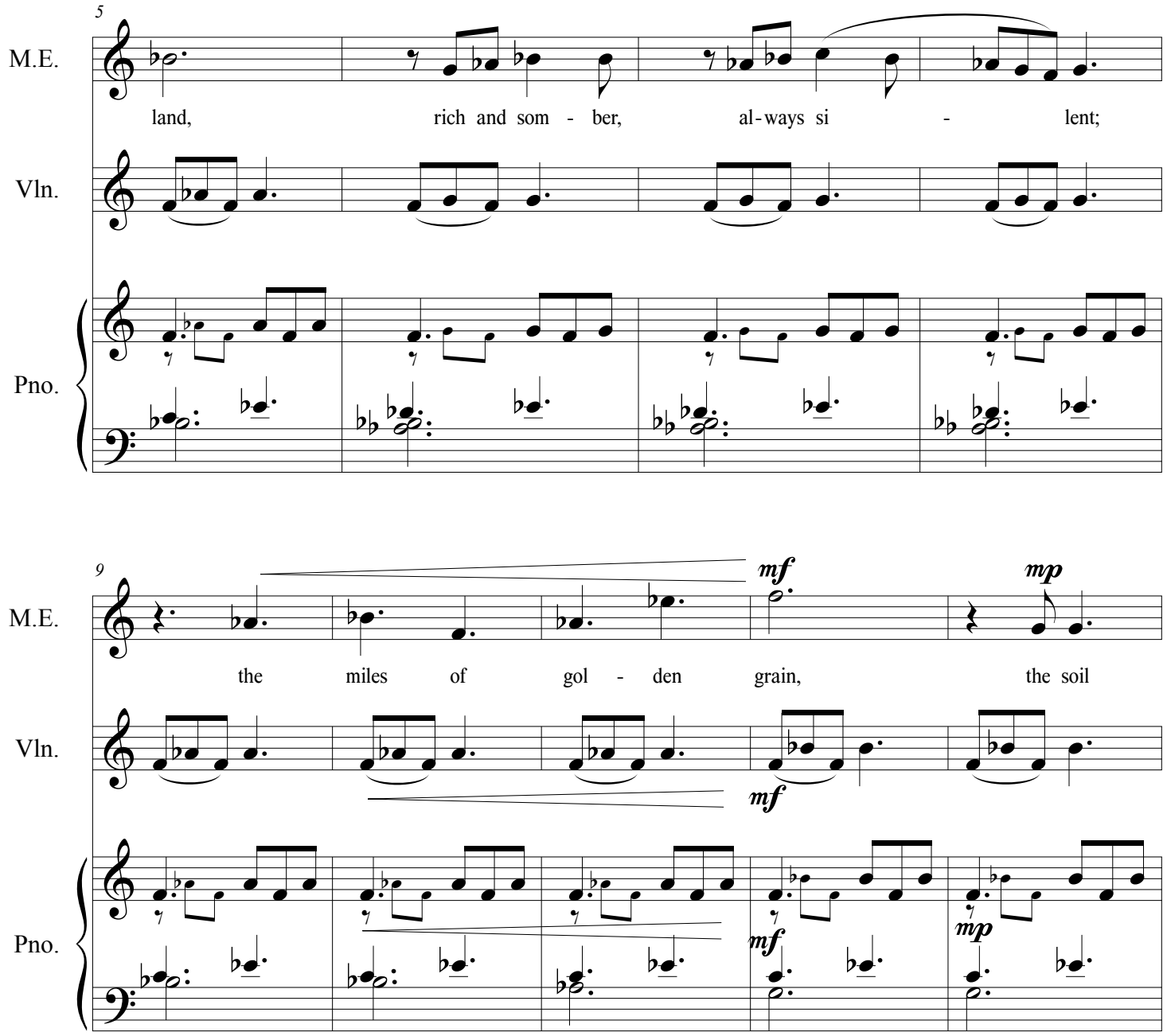

326
ff
Asa
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.

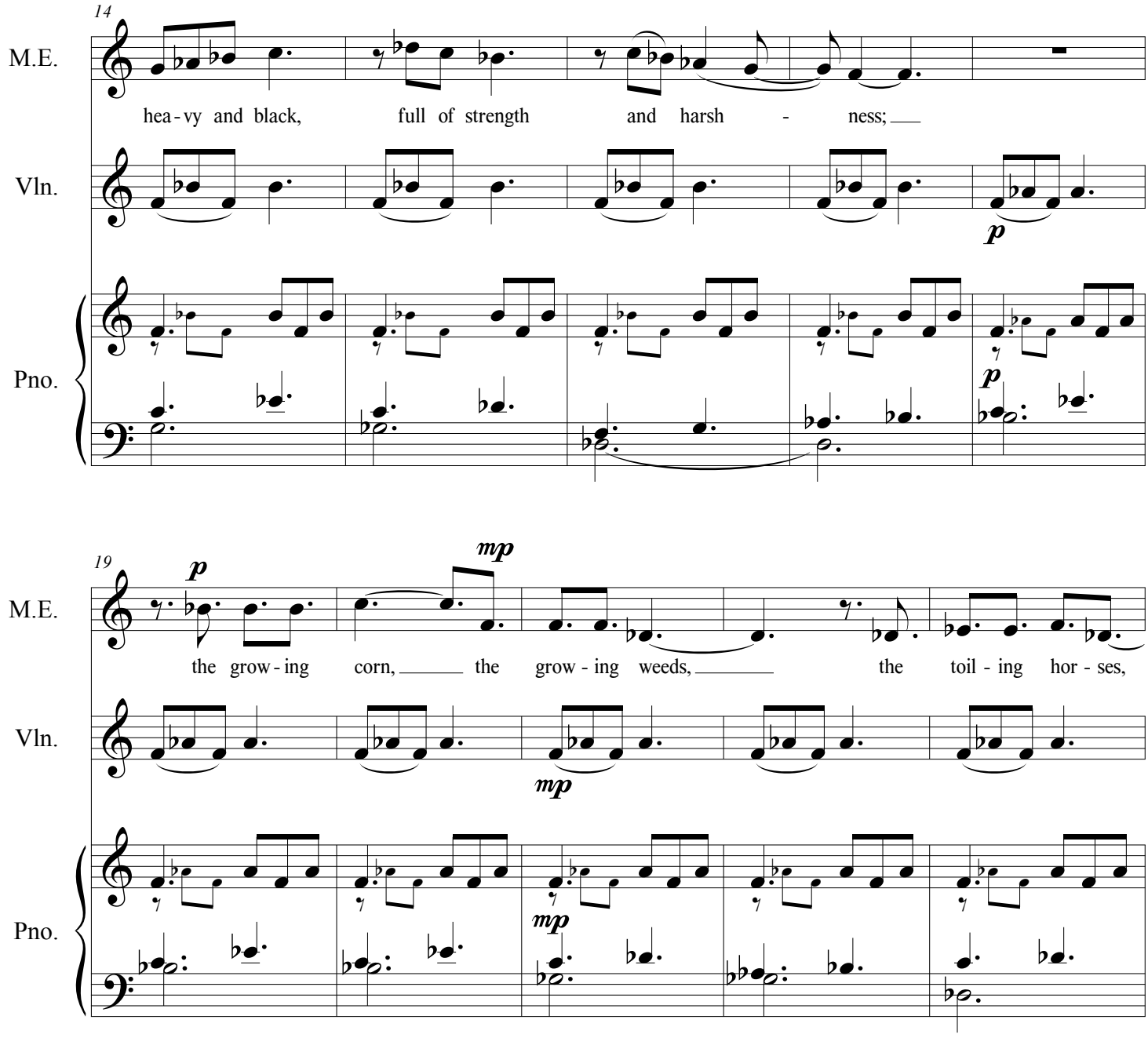

Eric appears vanquished;
Asa triumphant.
Broadly ♩ = 52
330
Asa
G.P.
ff
Praise the Lord! The dev - il's hold is
Vln.
bow behind bridge
G.P.
fff
Hp.
G.P.
fff
vibrate bottom strings
against each other
f
8vb
Perc.
bs. dr.
G.P.
fff
sfz
Pno.
G.P.
fff
f

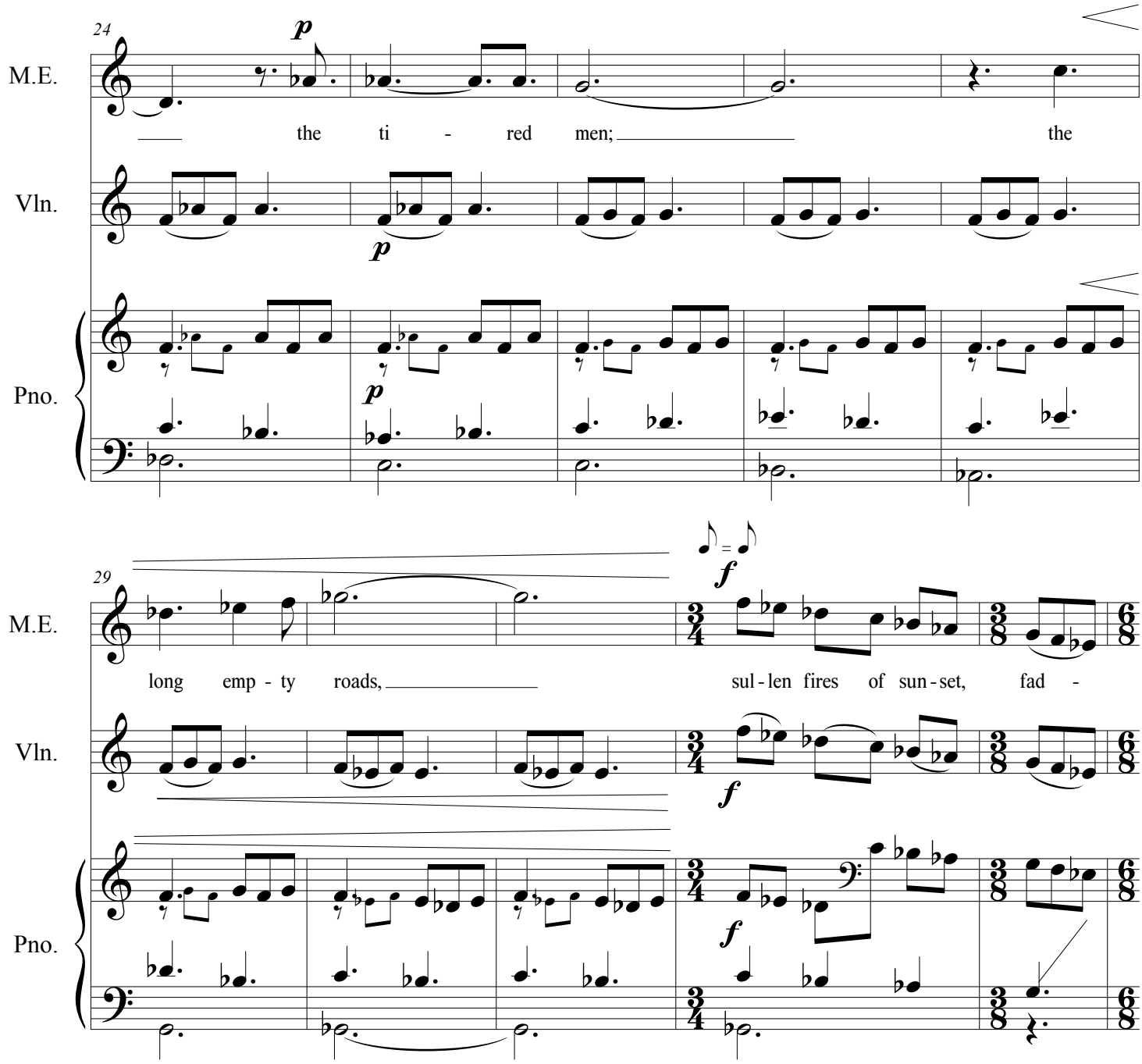

Accel. to m. 337
♩= 96
335
Asa
fp
cresc.
fff
bro - - - - - ken.
Hp.
fff
Perc.
sn. dr. rim shot
fff
Pno.
p
fff
p
339
Hp.
sfz
Perc.
timp.
f
5
fff
Pno.
p
f
timp.
5
pno.
sfz

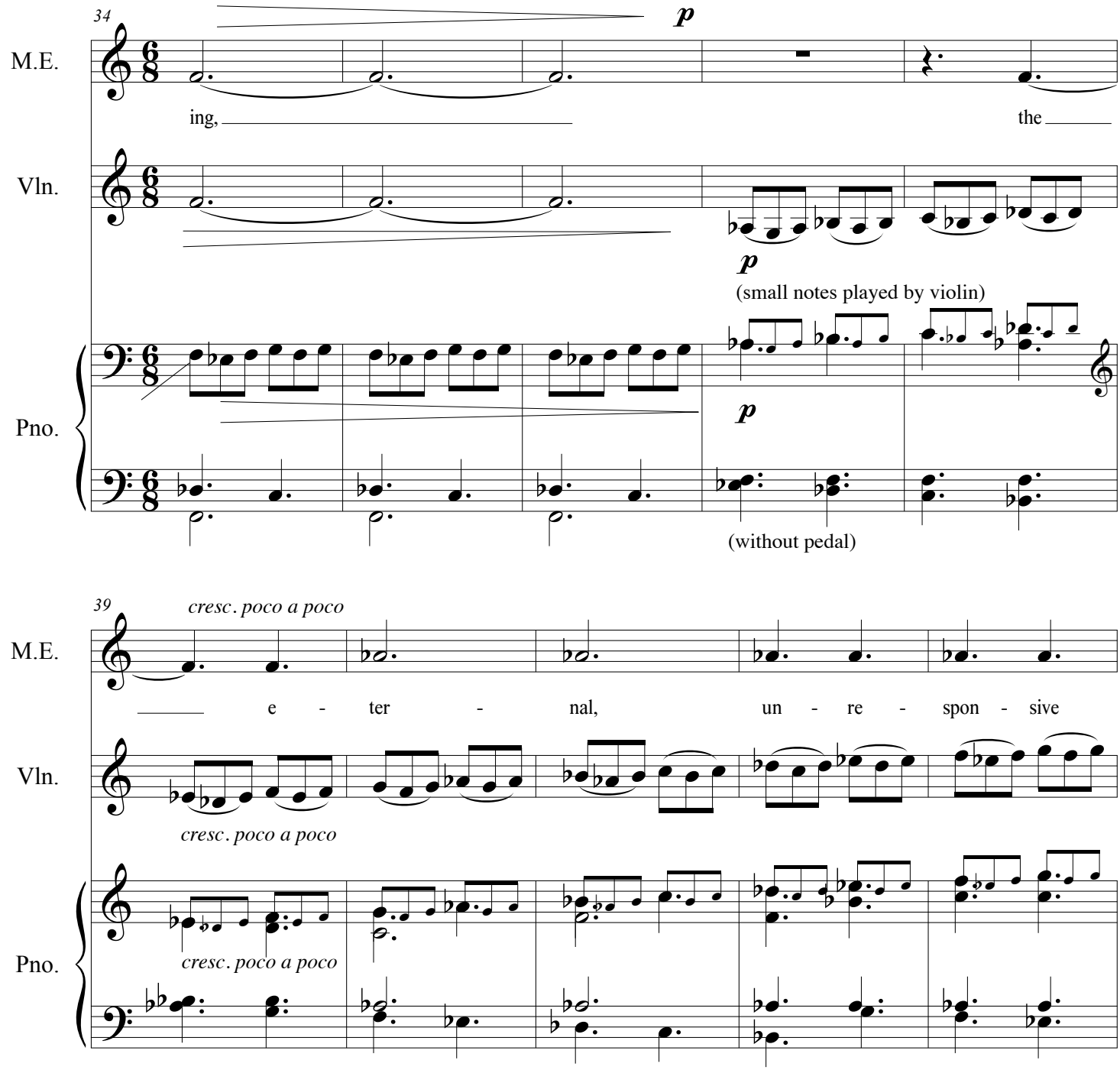
2. Prairie Autumn

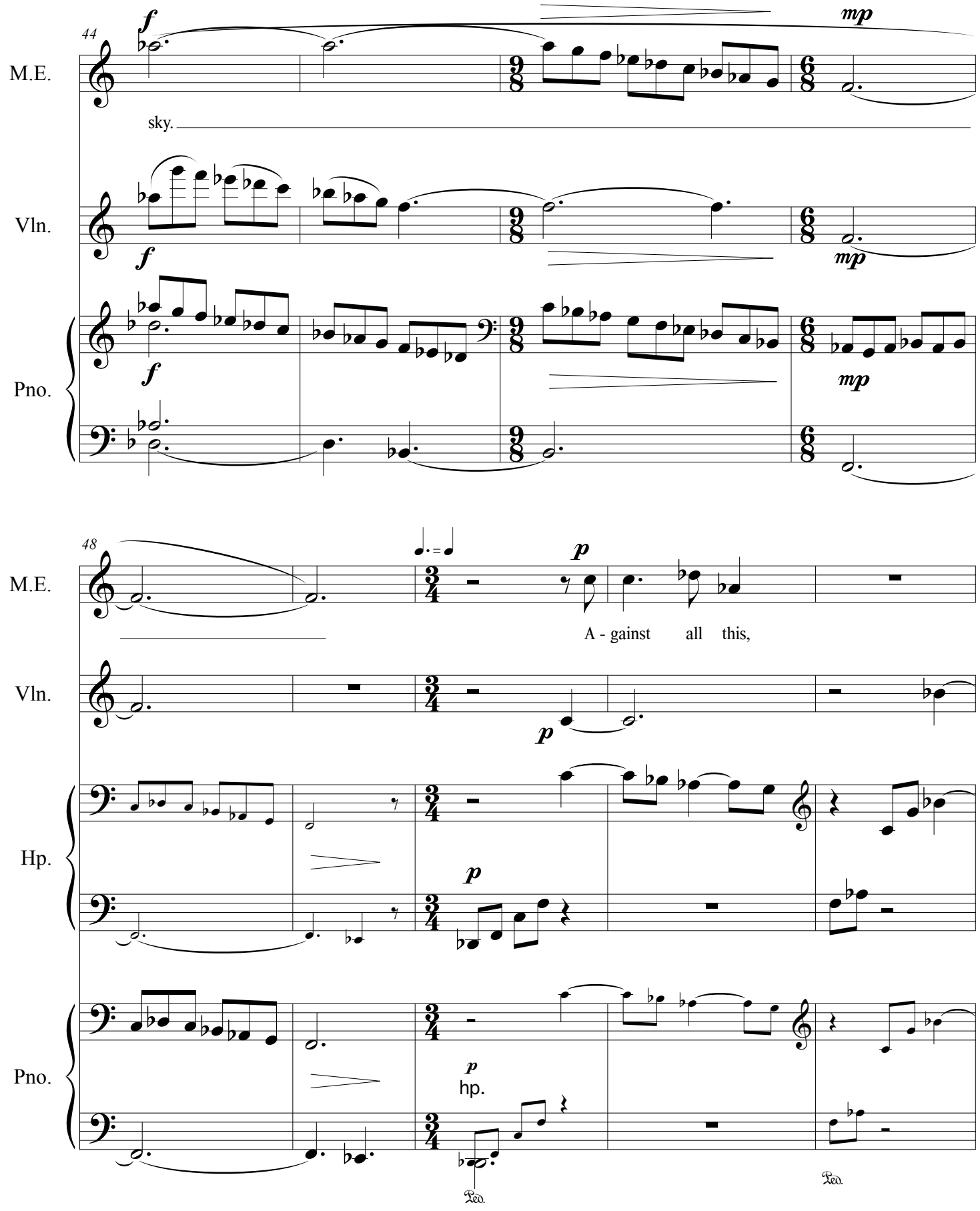


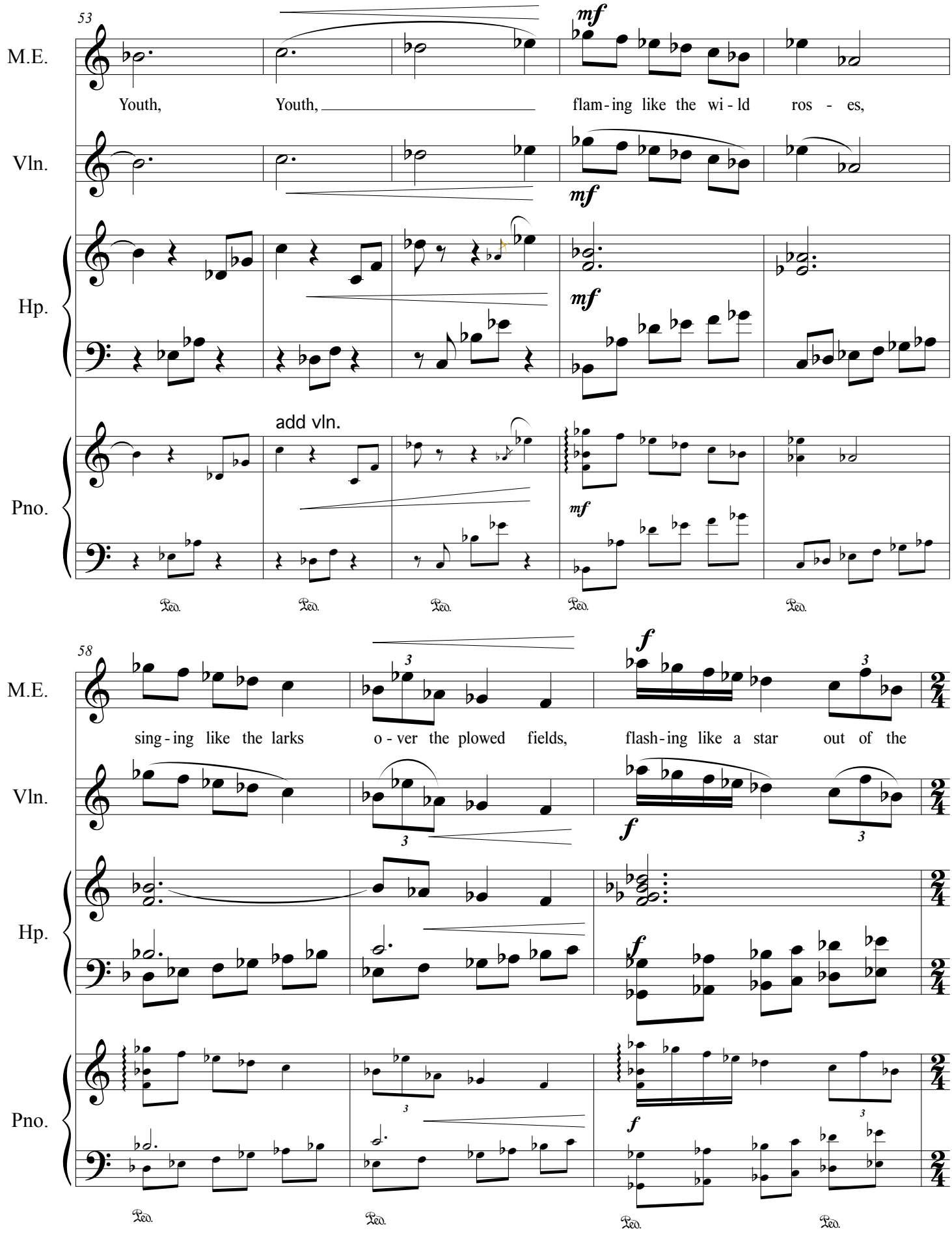

5
M.E.
land, rich and som - ber, al-ways si - lent;
Vln.
Pno.
9
M.E.
mf
mp
the miles of gol - den grain, the soil
Vln.
mf
Pno.
mf
mp

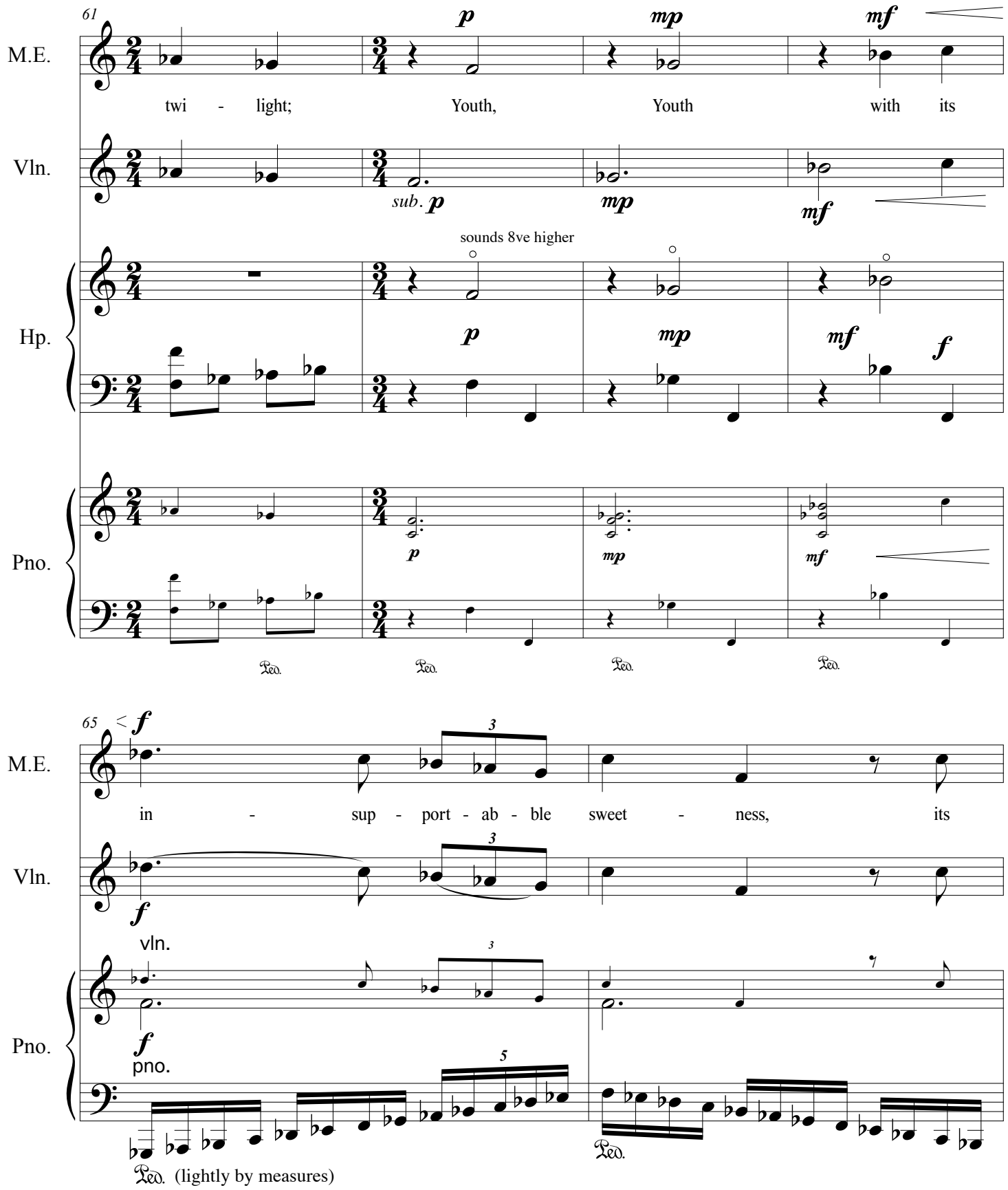

14
M.E.
hea - vy and black, full of strength and harsh - ness;
Vln.
p
Pno.
p
19
M.E.
p
mp
the grow - ing corn, the grow - ing weeds, the toil - ing hor - ses,
Vln.
mp
Pno.
mp

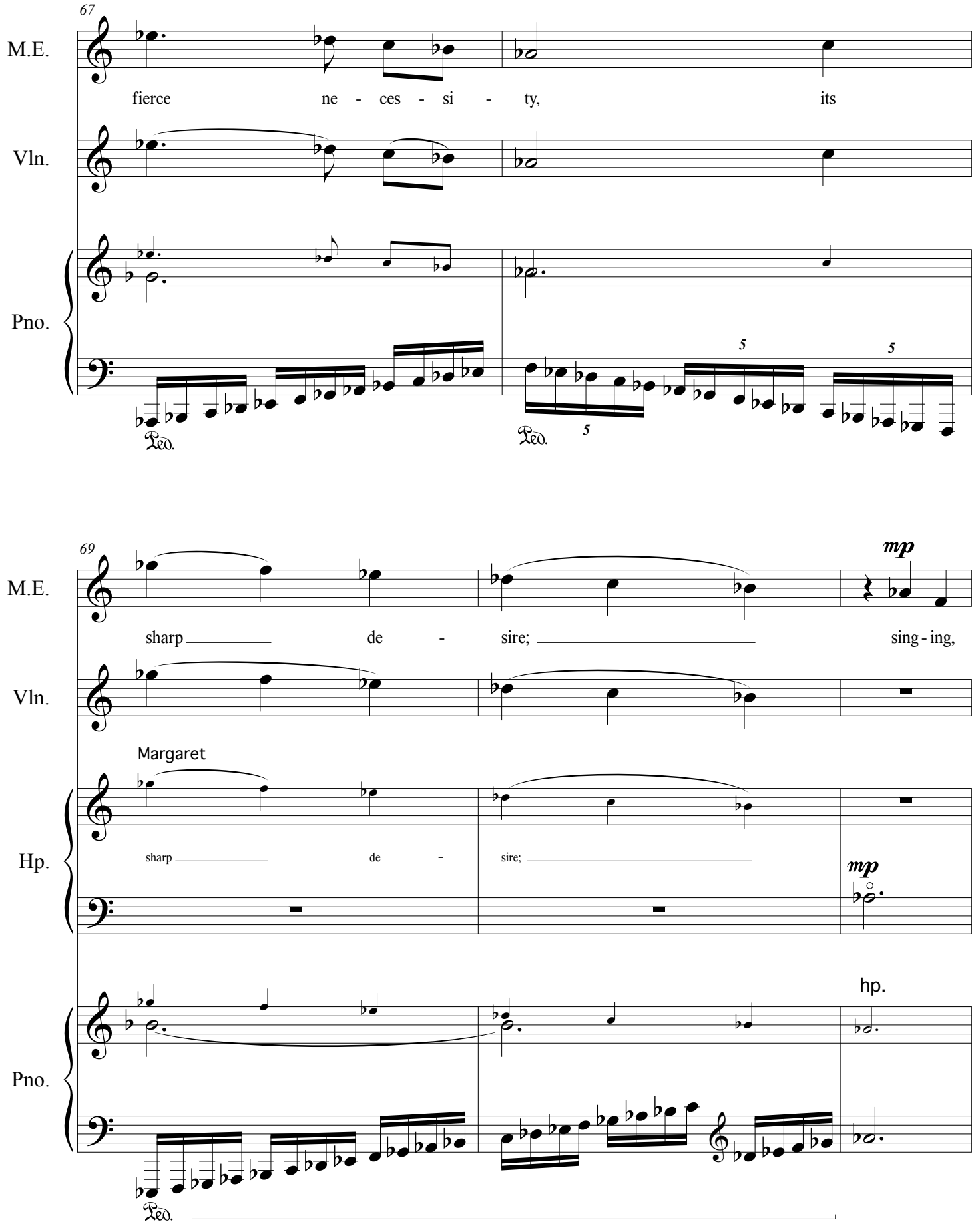

24
M.E.
Vln.
Pno.
p
the ti - red men;
the
29
long emp - ty roads,
sul - len fires of sun - set,
fad -
f

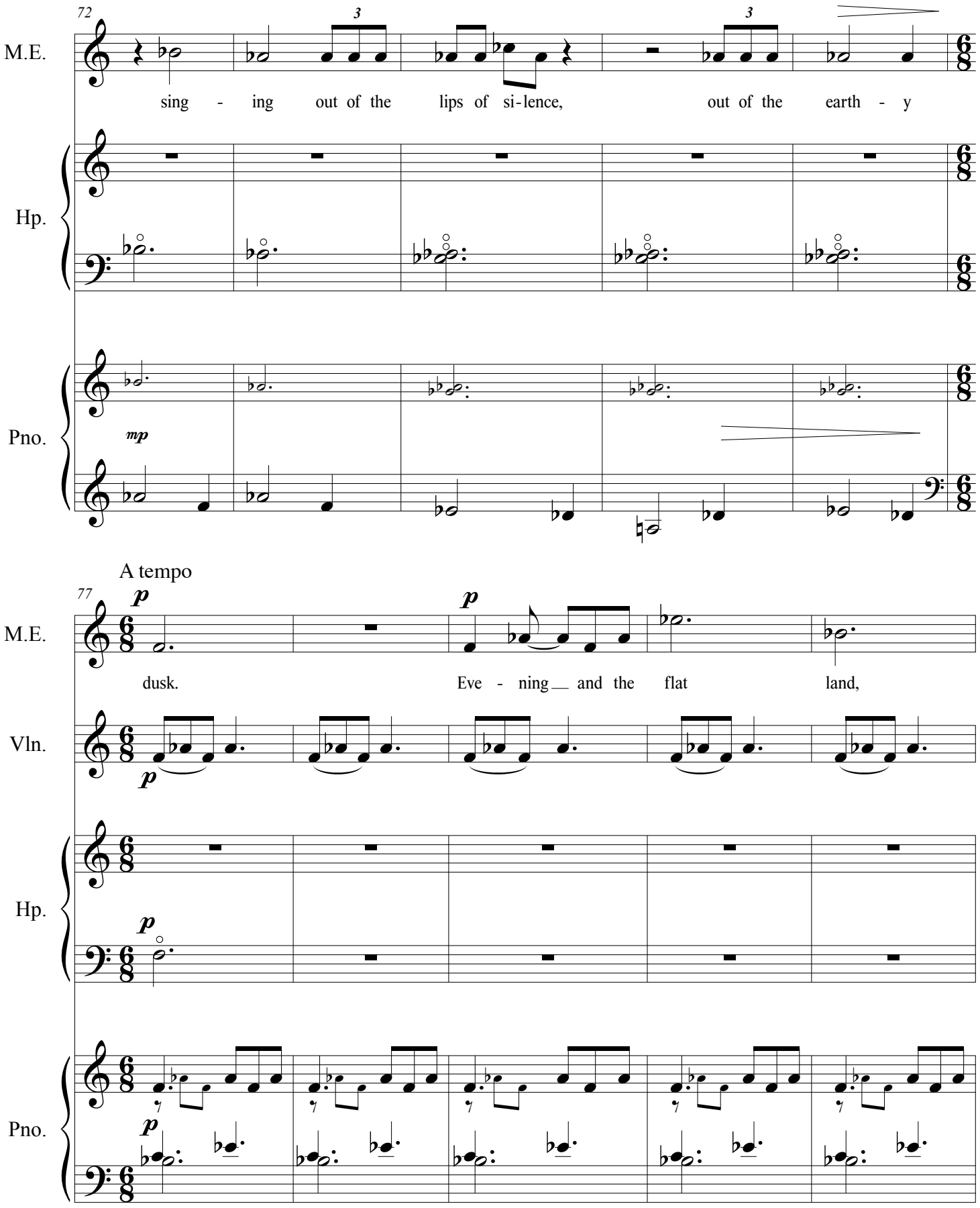

34
M.E.
Vln.
Pno.
p
ing,
the
p
(small notes played by violin)
p
(without pedal)
39
cresc. poco a poco
M.E.
e - ter - nal, un - re - spon - sive
Vln.
cresc. poco a poco
Pno.
cresc. poco a poco

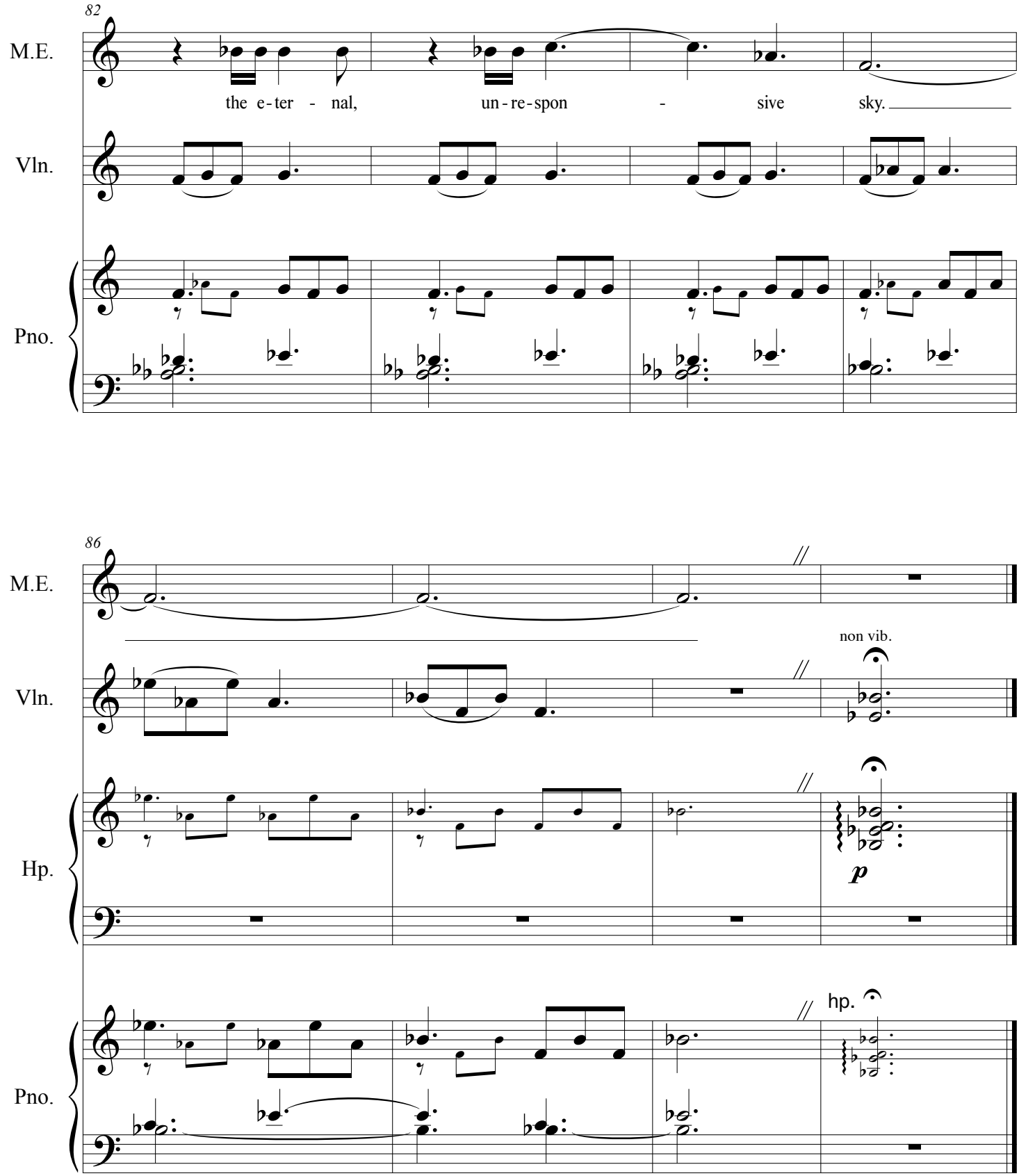

44
M.E.
f
mp
sky.
Vln.
f
mp
Pno.
f
mp
48
M.E.
p
A - gainst all this,
Vln.
p
Hp.
p
Pno.
p
hp.
Ped.
Ped.


53
M.E.
Youth, Youth, flam - ing like the wi - ld ros - es,
Vln.
mf
Hp.
mf
add vln.
Pno.
mf
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.
58
M.E.
sing - ing like the larks o - ver the plowed fields, flash - ing like a star out of the
Vln.
f
Hp.
f
Pno.
f
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

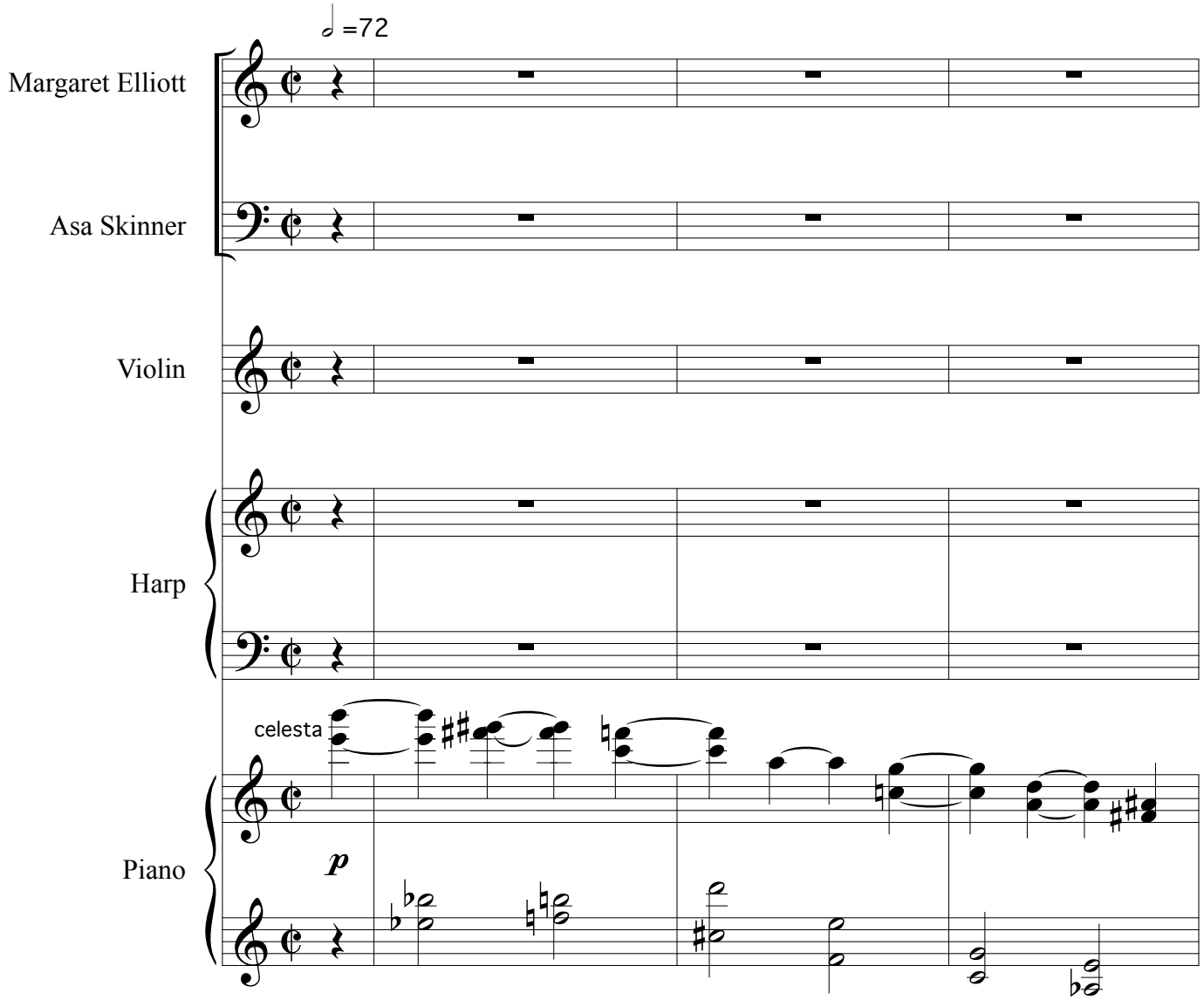

61
M.E.
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
p
mp
mf
twi - light; Youth, Youth with its
sub. p
mp
mf
sounds 8ve higher
p
mp
mf
f
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
65
f
3
in - sup - port - ab - ble sweet - ness, its
f
vln.
3
f
pno.
5
Ped.
Ped. (lightly by measures)

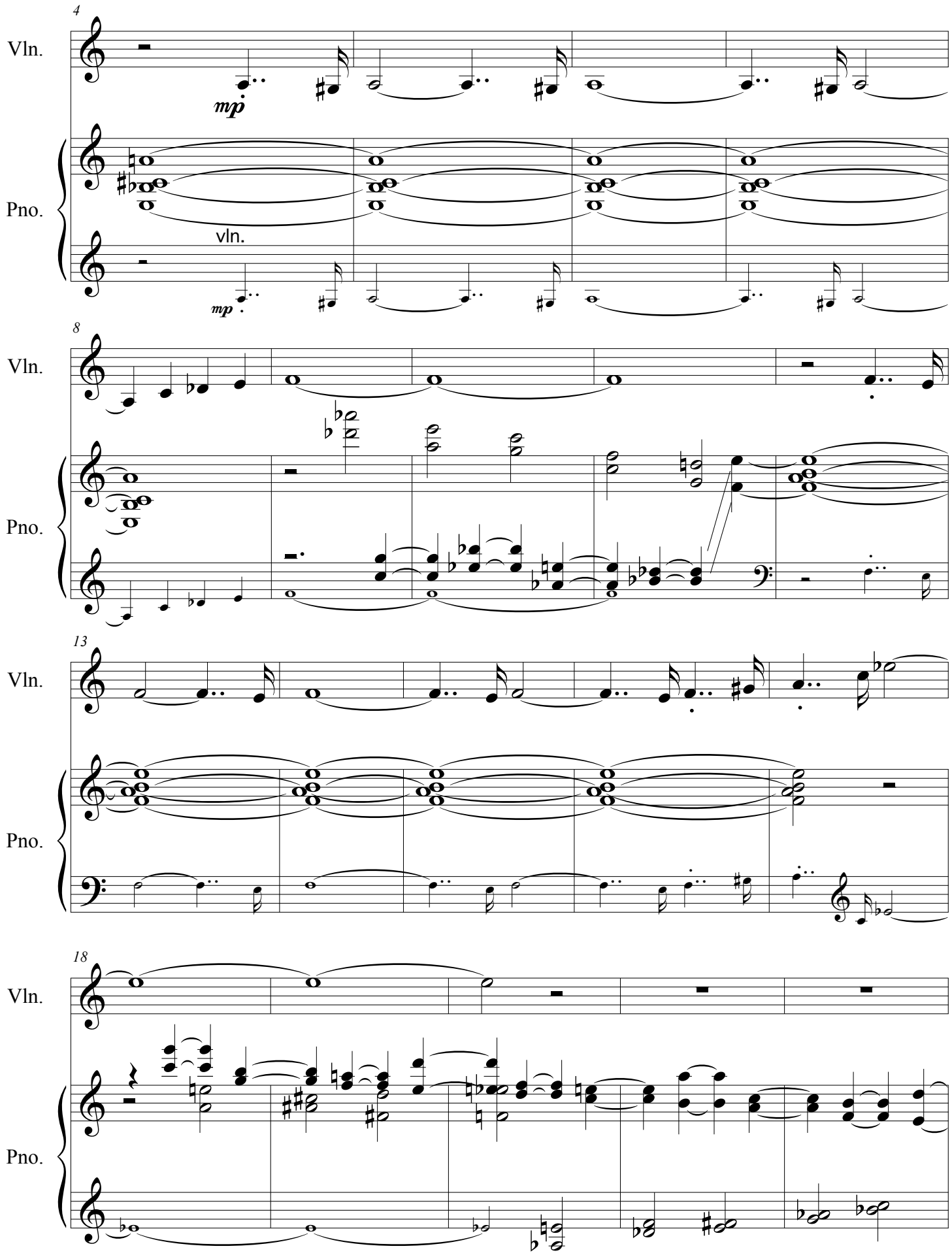

67
M.E.
fierce ne - ces - si - ty, its
Vln.
Pno.
Ped.
5
5
Ped.
5
69
M.E.
mp
sharp de - sire; sing - ing,
Vln.
Margaret
Hp.
sharp de - sire;
mp
hp.
Pno.
Ped.

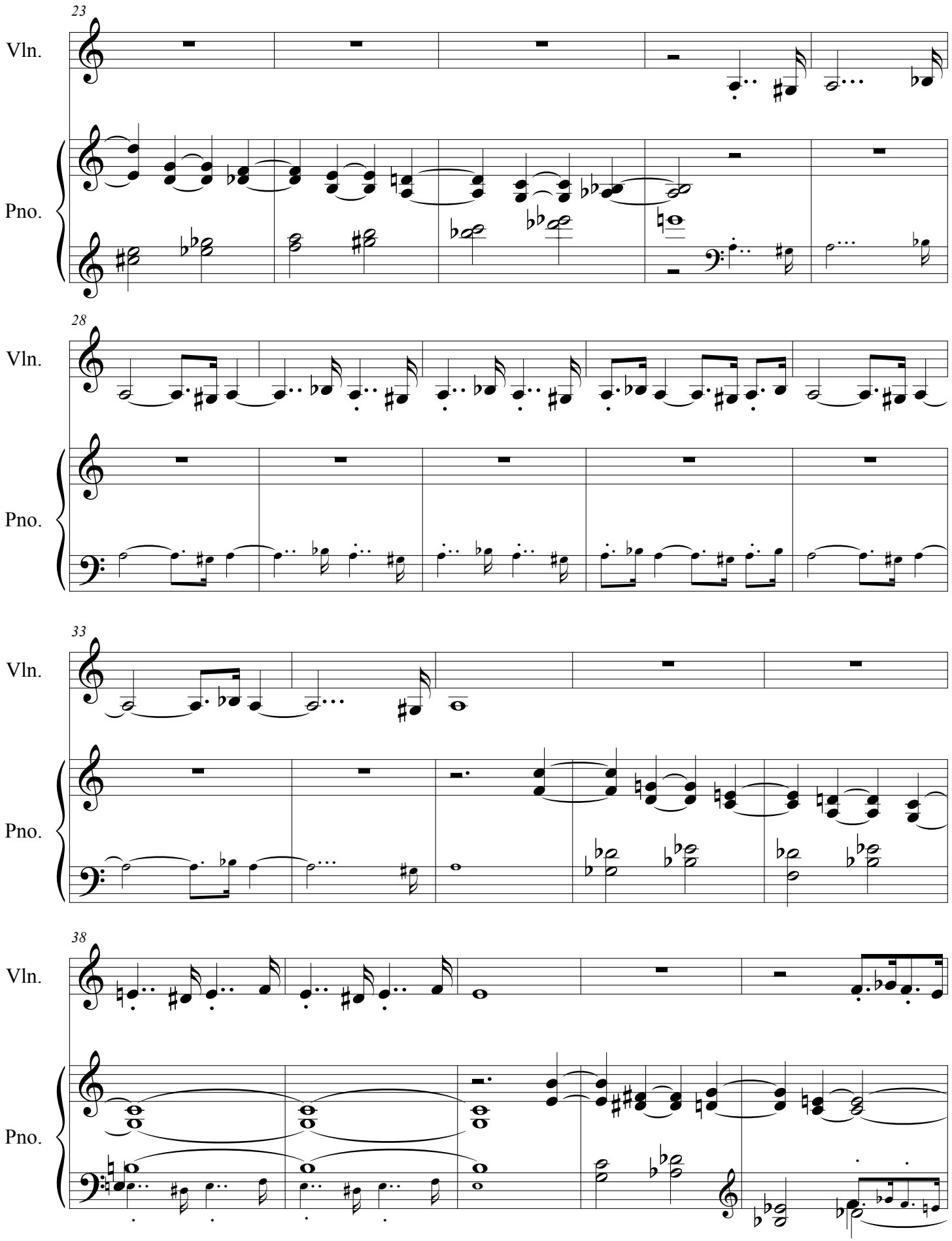

72
M.E.
sing - ing out of the lips of si-lence, out of the earth - y
Hp.
Pno.
mp
A tempo
77
p
M.E.
dusk. Eve - ning and the flat land,
Vln.
p
Hp.
p
Pno.
p

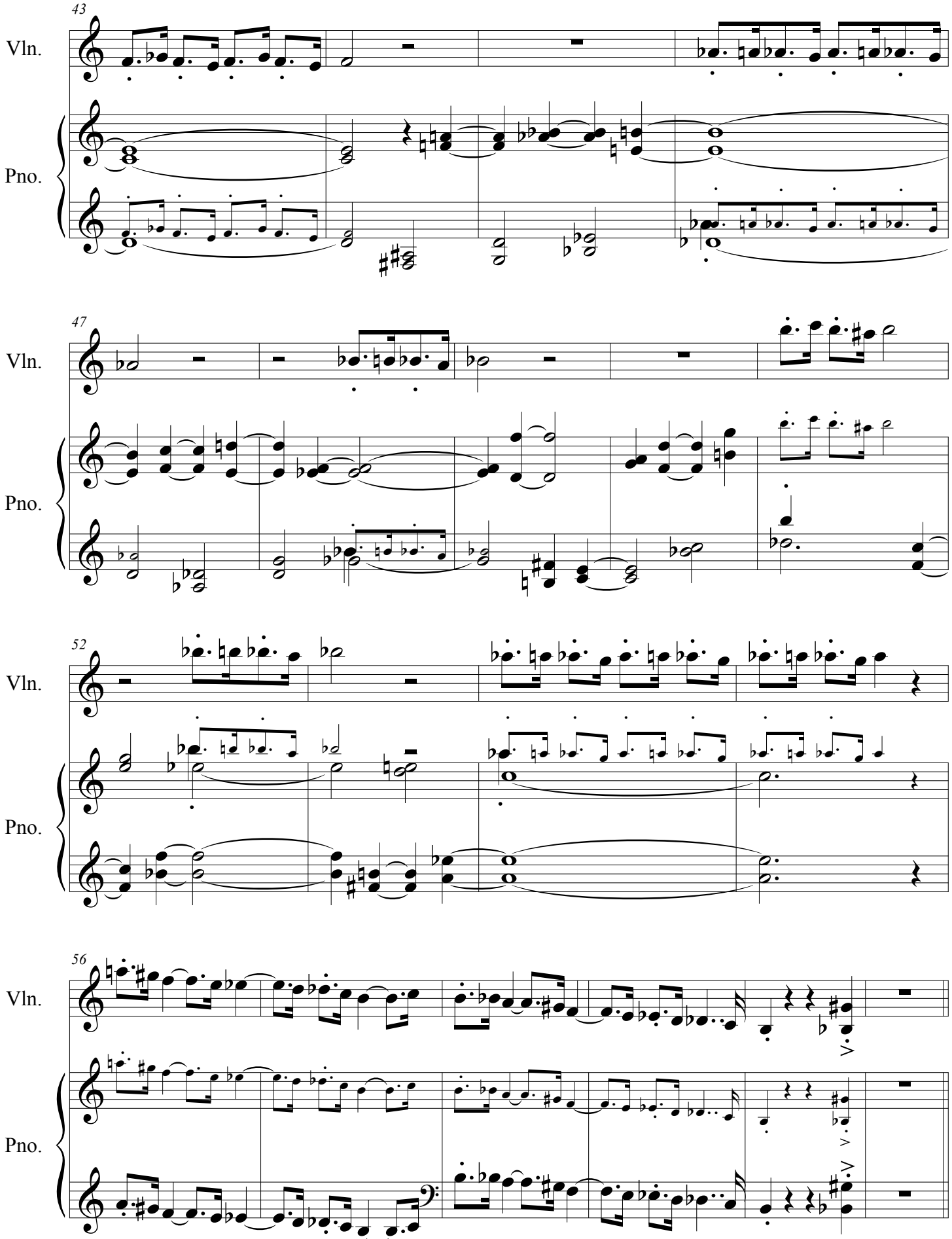

82
M.E.
the e-ter - nal, un-re-spon - sive sky.
Vln.
Pno.
86
M.E.
non vib.
Vln.
Hp.
p
Pno.
hp.

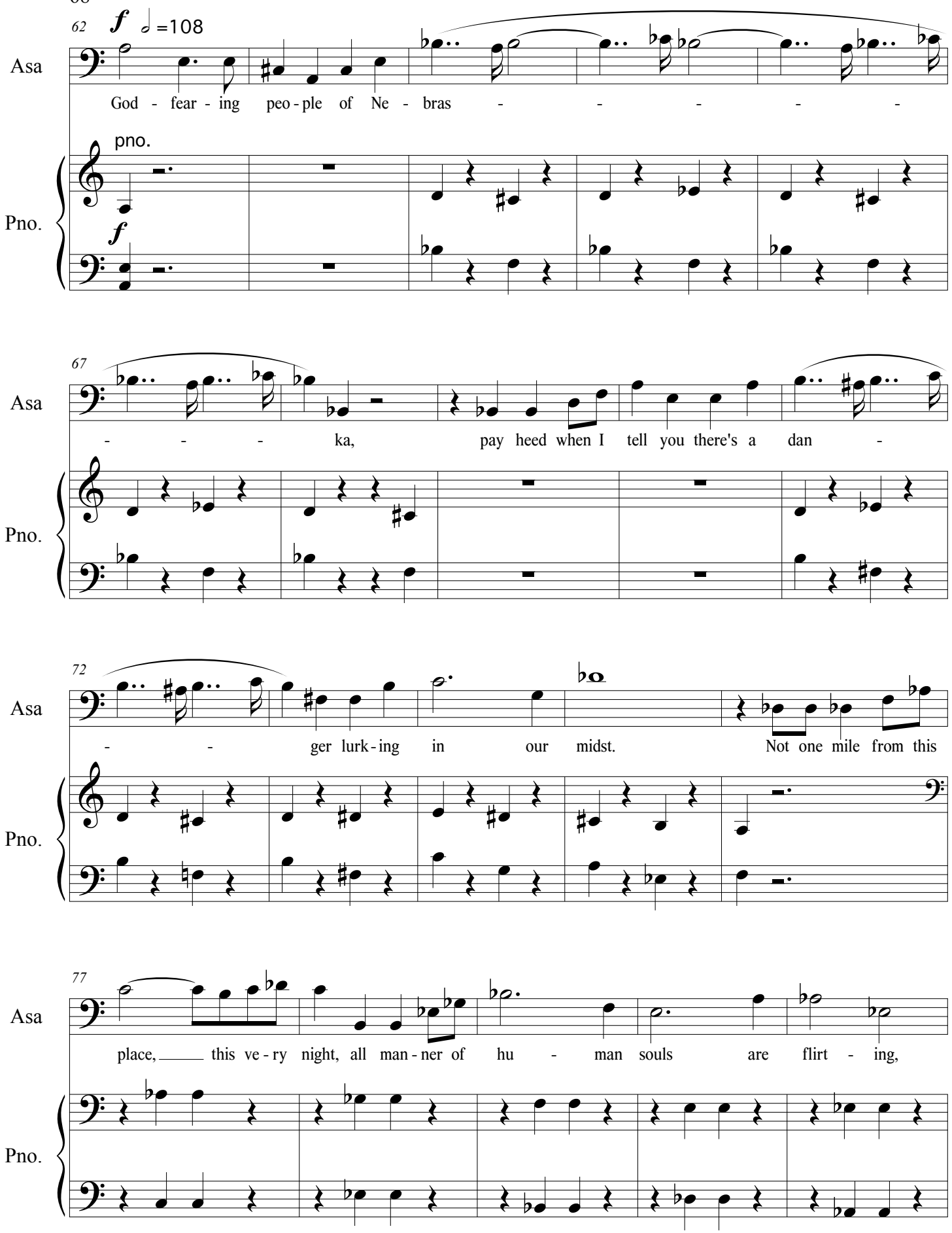
3. Asa's Vigilance

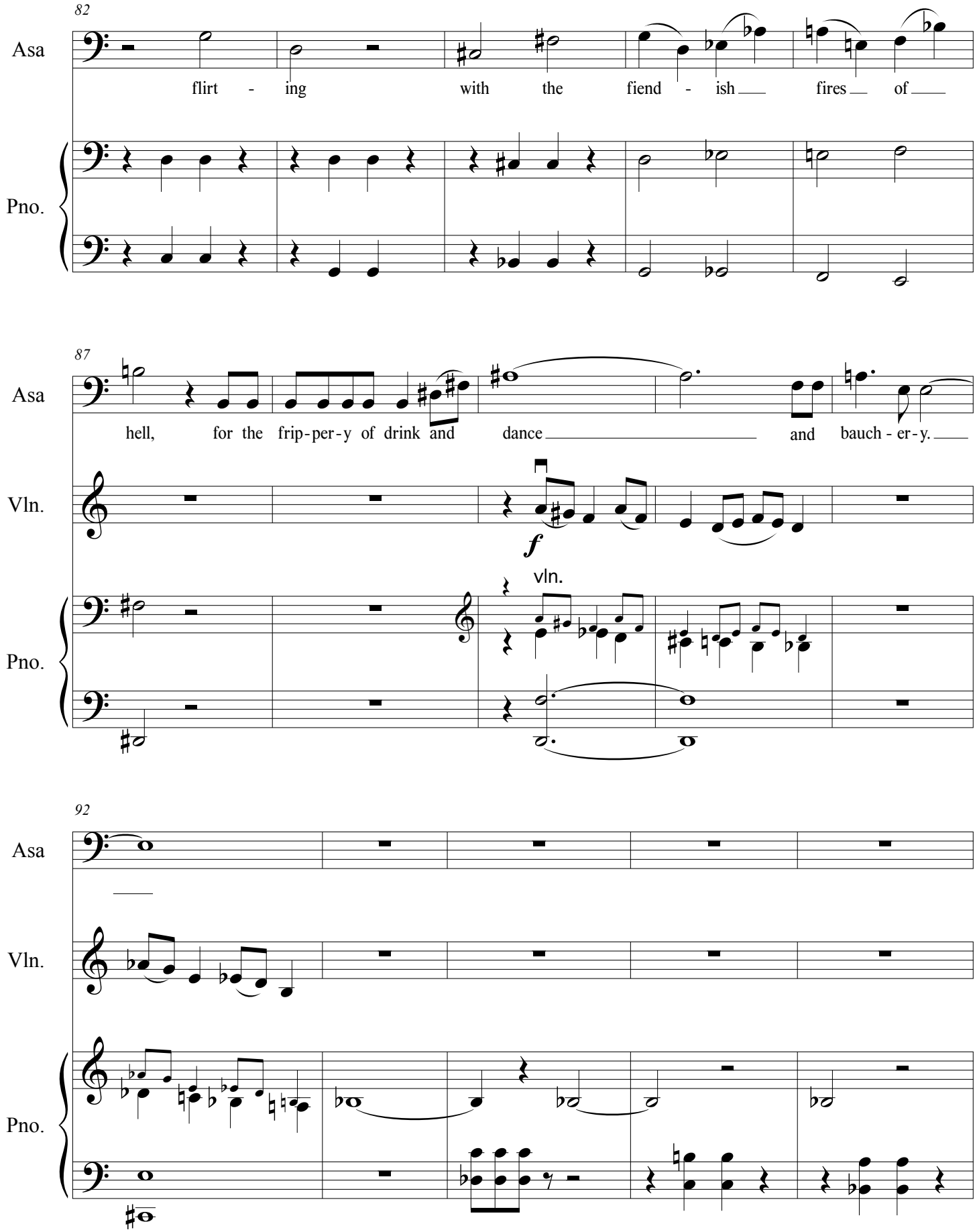


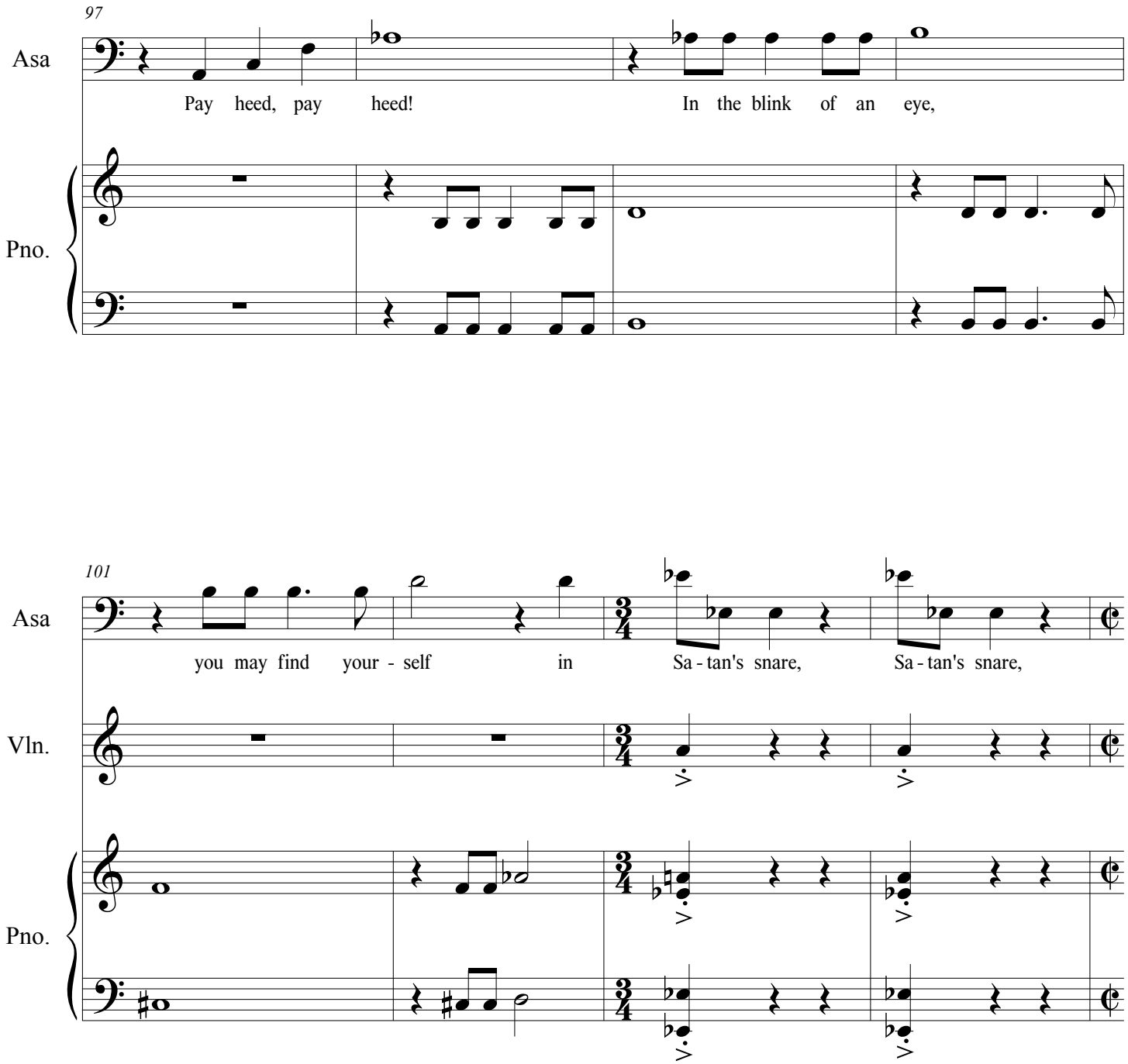

4
Vln.
mp
Pno.
vln.
mp
8
Vln.
Pno.
13
Vln.
Pno.
18
Vln.
Pno.

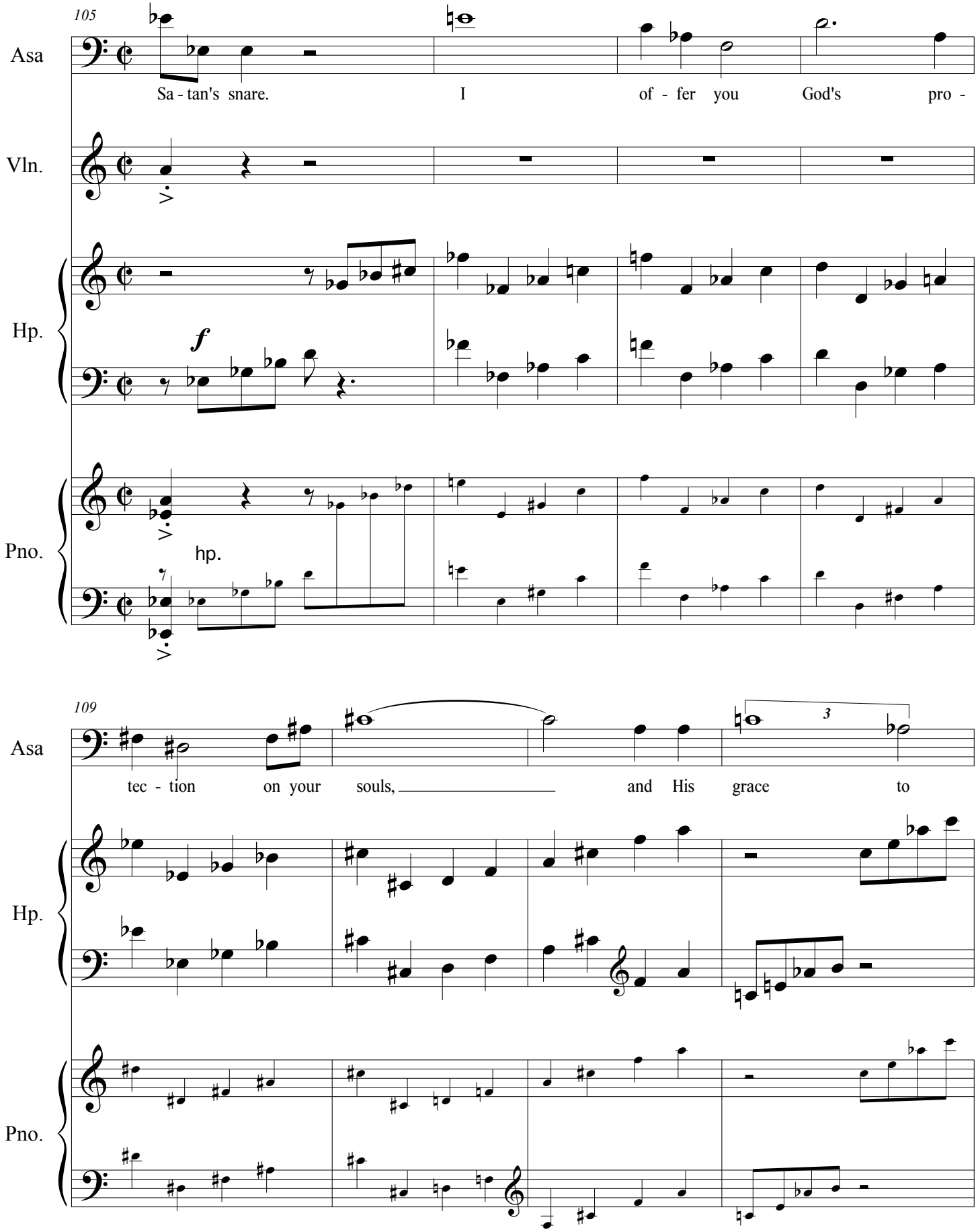

23
Vln.
Pno.
28
Vln.
Pno.
33
Vln.
Pno.
38
Vln.
Pno.

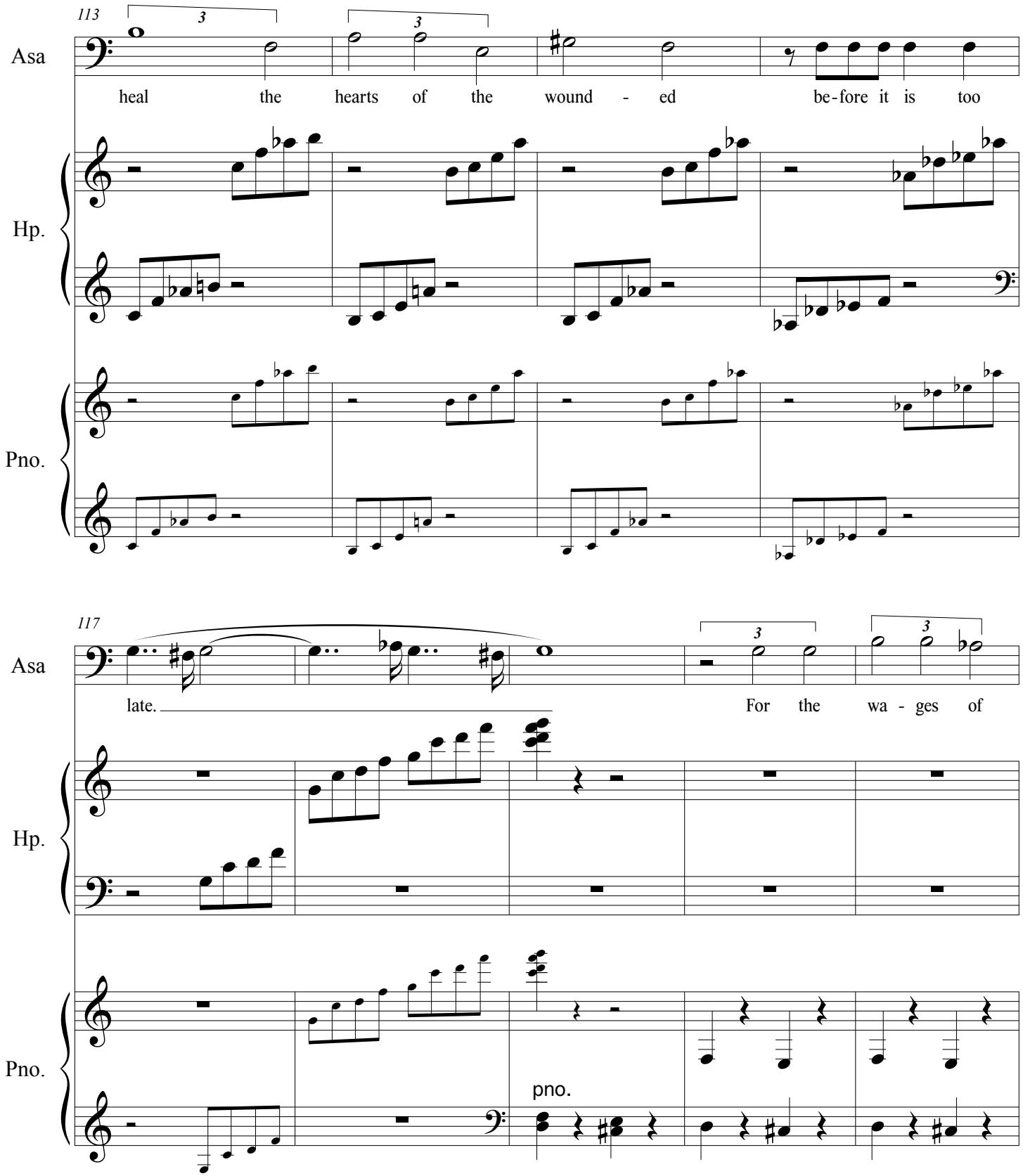

43
Vln.
Pno.
47
Vln.
Pno.
52
Vln.
Pno.
56
Vln.
Pno.

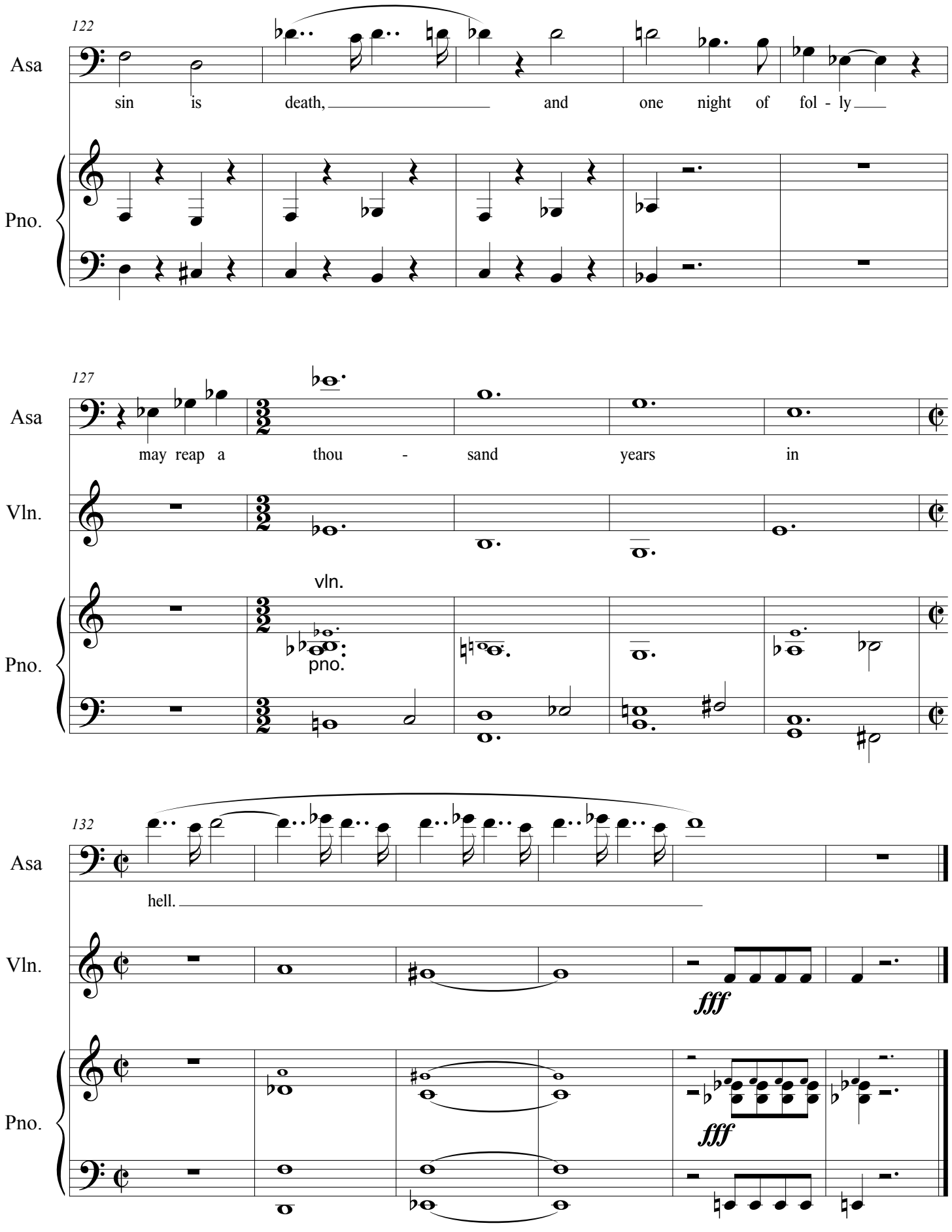

62
f
=108
Asa
God - fear - ing peo - ple of Ne - bras - - - - -
pno.
Pno.
f
67
Asa
- - - ka, pay heed when I tell you there's a dan -
Pno.
72
Asa
- - ger lurk - ing in our midst. Not one mile from this
Pno.
77
Asa
place, this ve - ry night, all man - ner of hu - man souls are flirt - ing,
Pno.


82
Asa
flirt - ing with the fiend - ish fires of
Pno.
87
Asa
hell, for the frip-per-y of drink and dance and bauch - er-y.
Vln.
f
Pno.
vln.
92
Asa
Vln.
Pno.

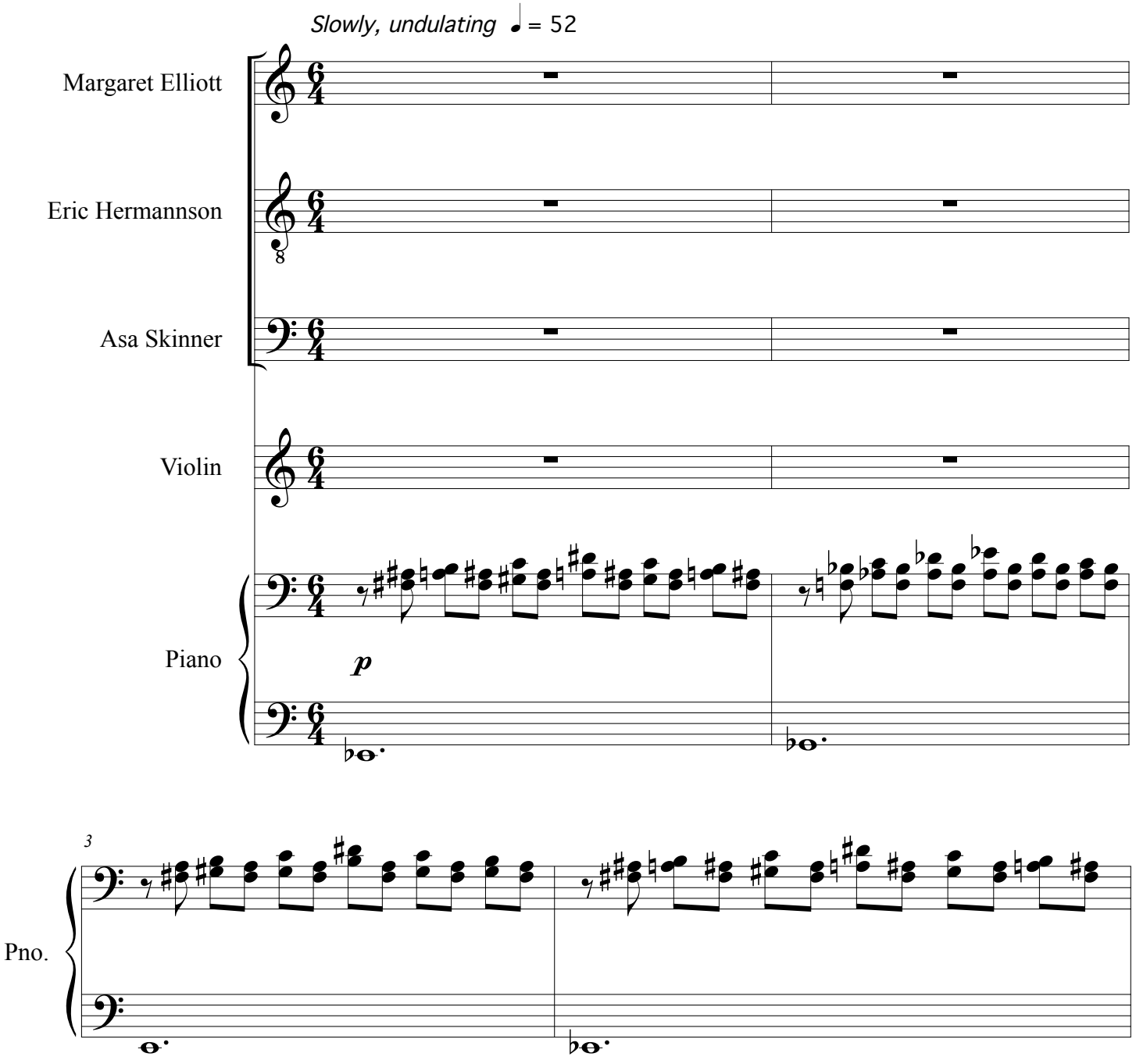

97
Asa
Pay heed, pay heed!
In the blink of an eye,
Pno.
101
Asa
you may find your - self in
Sa - tan's snare,
Sa - tan's snare,
Vln.
Pno.

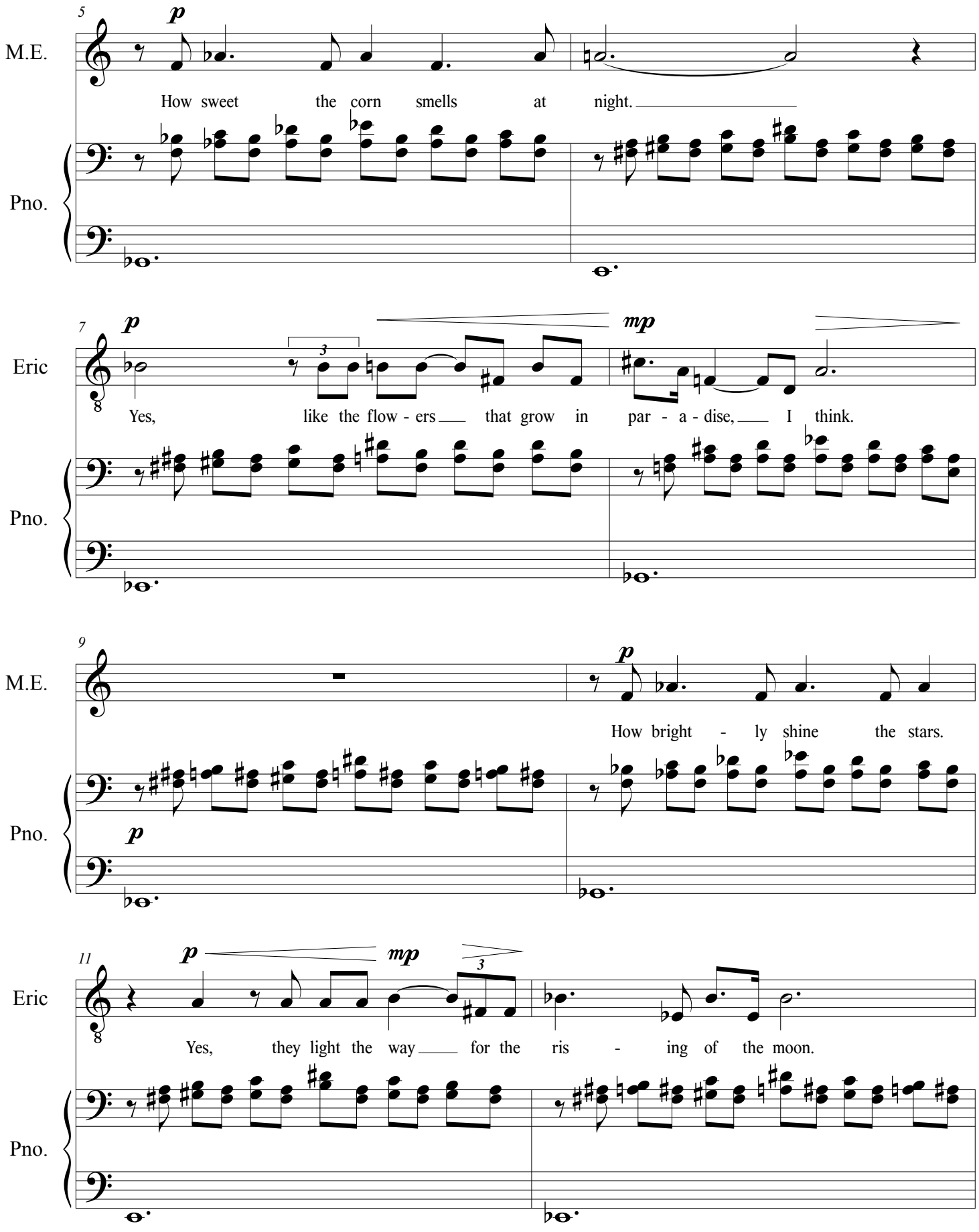

105
Asa
Sa - tan's snare.
I
of - fer you
God's
pro -
Vln.
Hp.
f
Pno.
hp.
109
Asa
tec - tion
on your
souls,
and His
grace
to
3
Hp.
Pno.

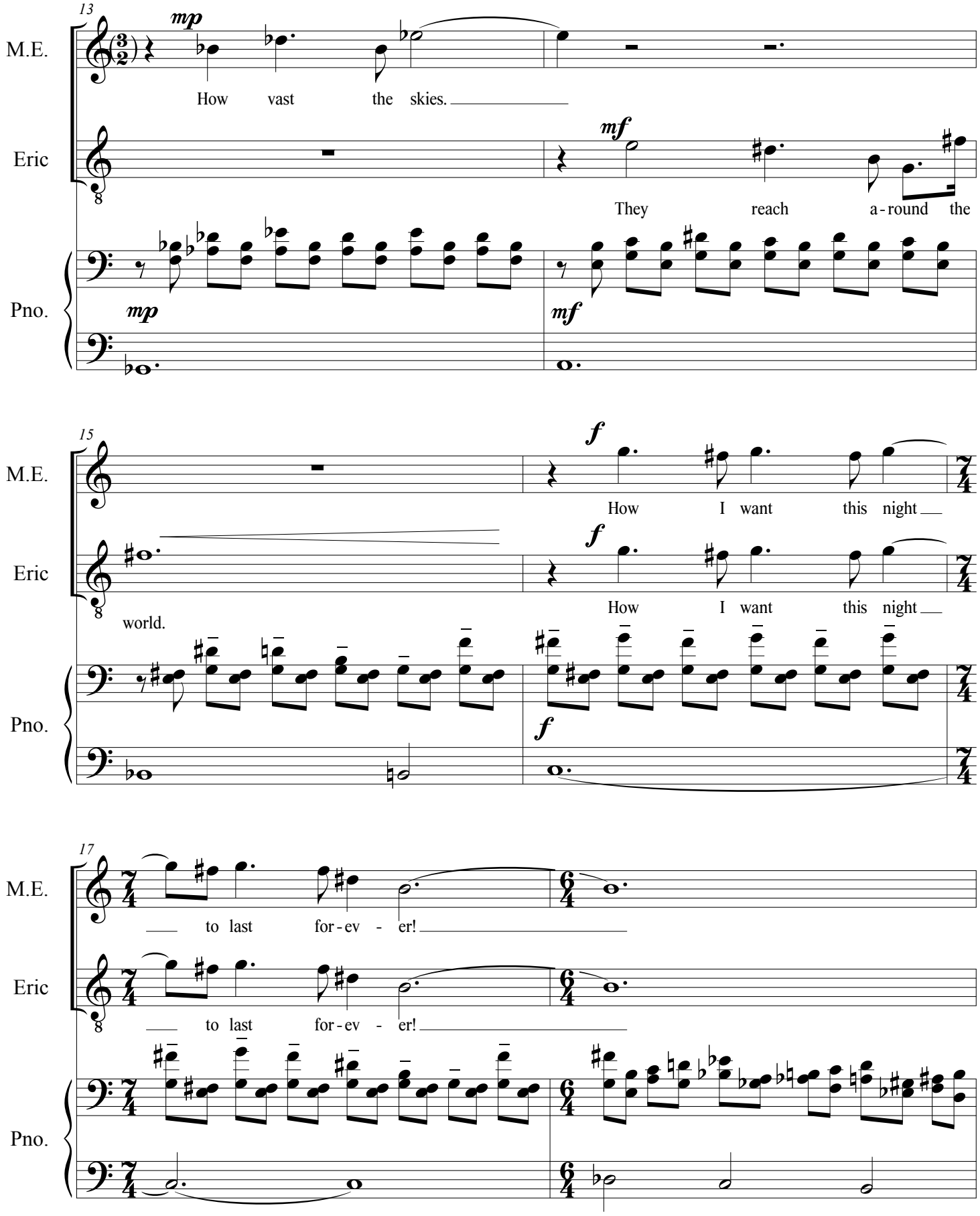

113
Asa
heal the hearts of the wound - ed be-fore it is too
Hp.
Pno.
117
Asa
late.
For the wa - ges of
Hp.
Pno.
pno.

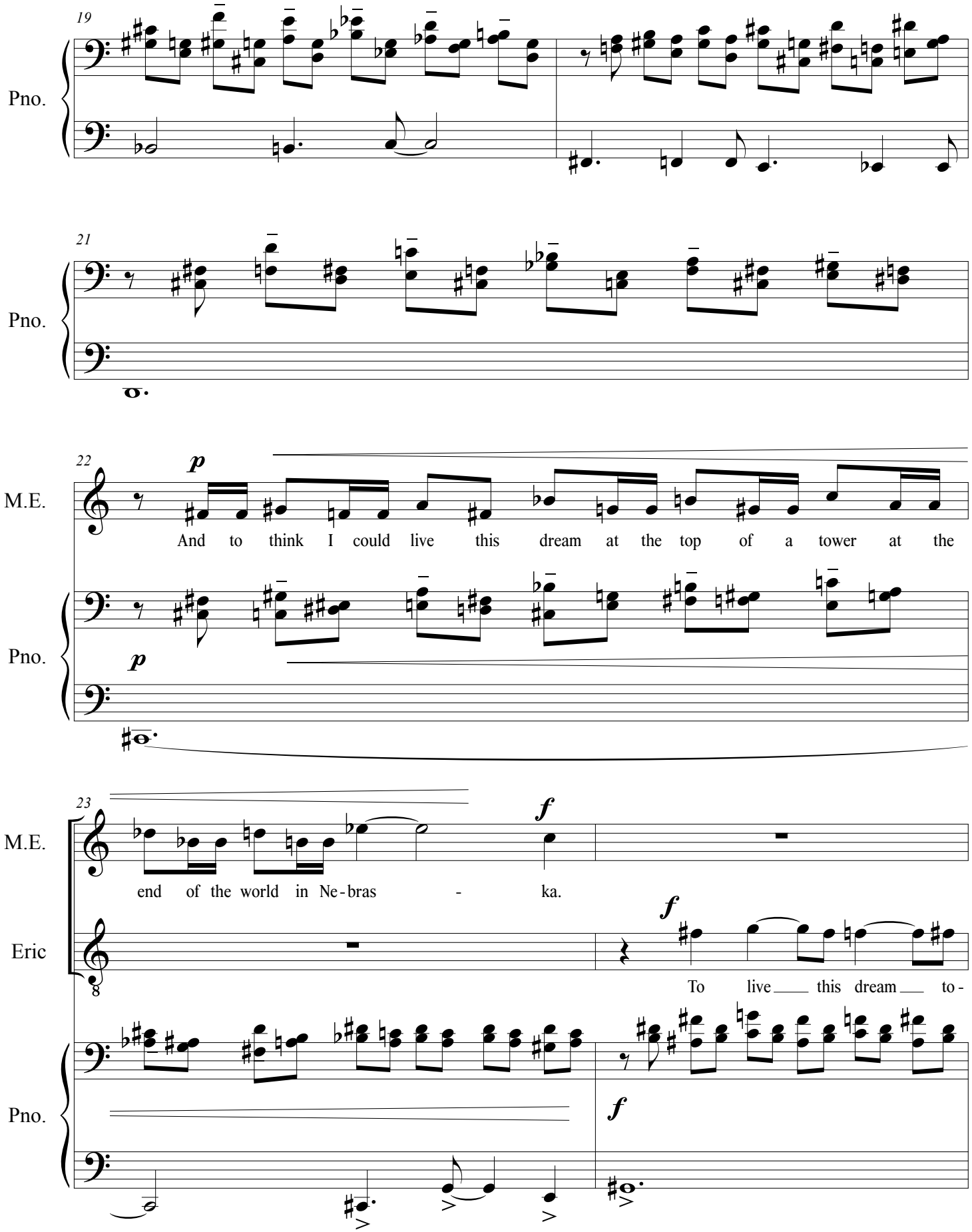

122
Asa
sin is death, and one night of fol - ly
Pno.
127
Asa
may reap a thou - sand years in
Vln.
vln.
Pno.
pno.
132
Asa
hell.
Vln.
fff
Pno.
fff

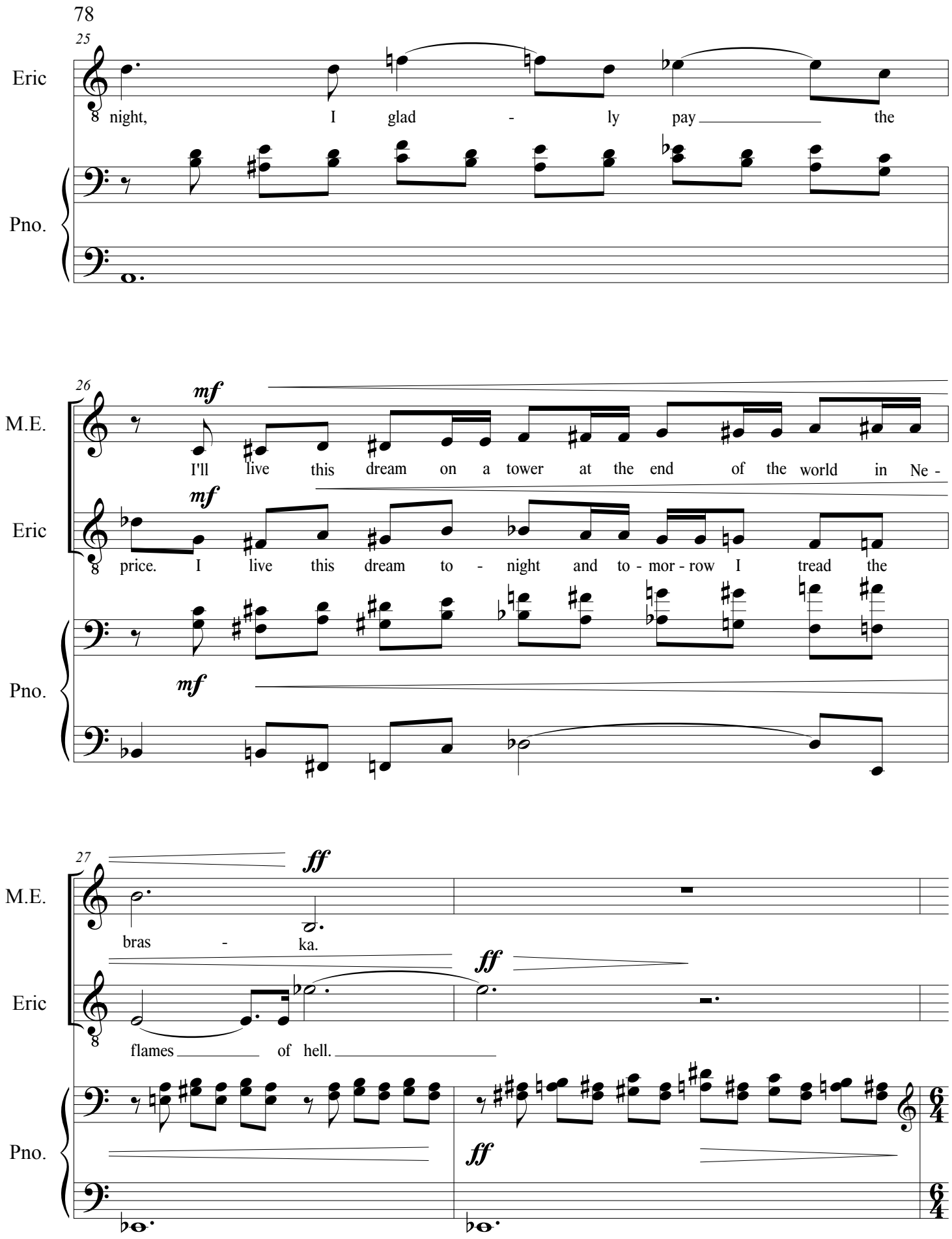
4. Romance

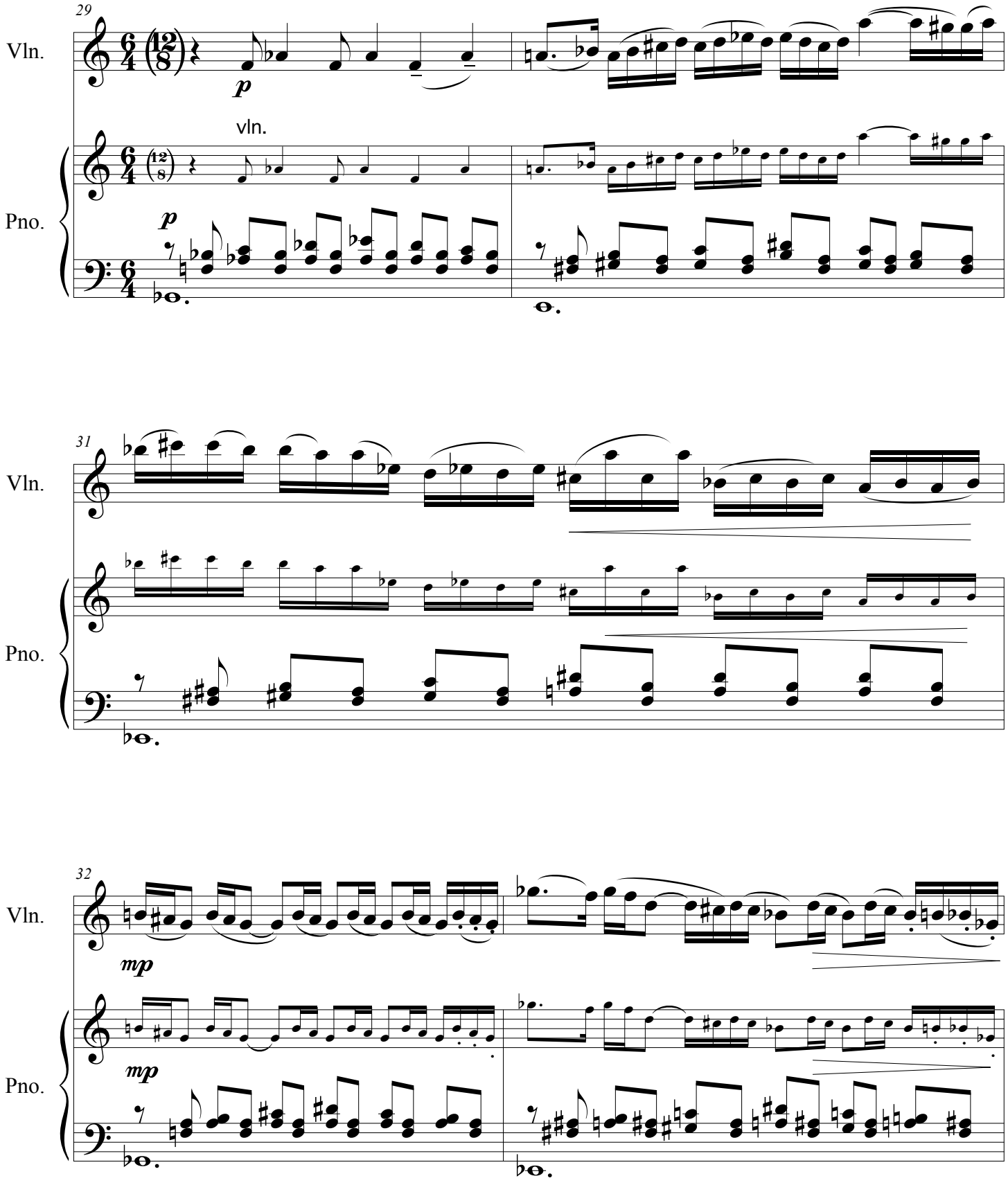

Slowly, undulating ♩ = 52
Margaret Elliott
Eric Hermannson
Asa Skinner
Violin
Piano
p
3
Pno.

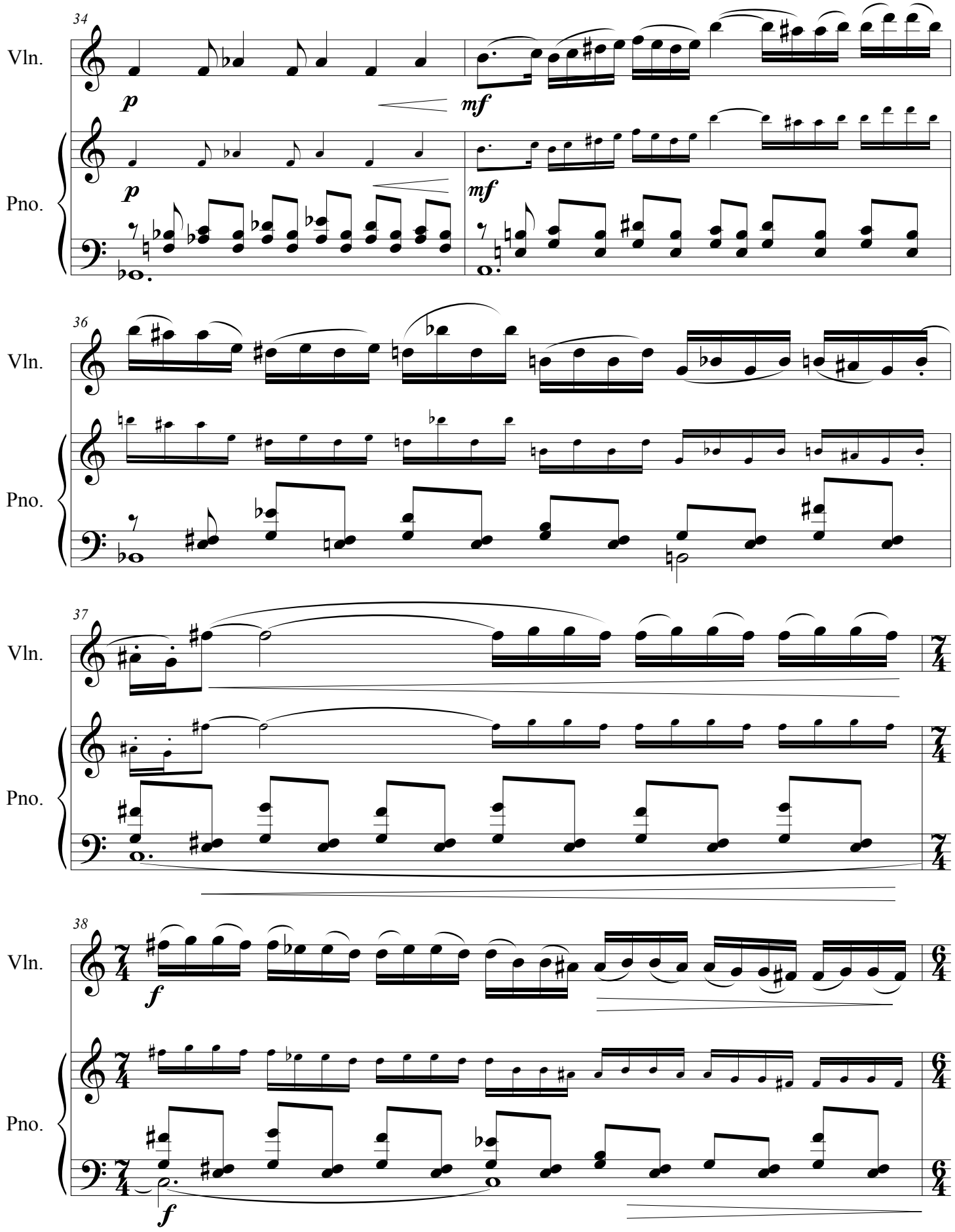

5
M.E.
How sweet the corn smells at night.
Pno.
7
Eric
Yes, like the flow - ers that grow in par - a - dise, I think.
Pno.
9
M.E.
How bright - ly shine the stars.
Pno.
11
Eric
Yes, they light the way for the ris - ing of the moon.
Pno.

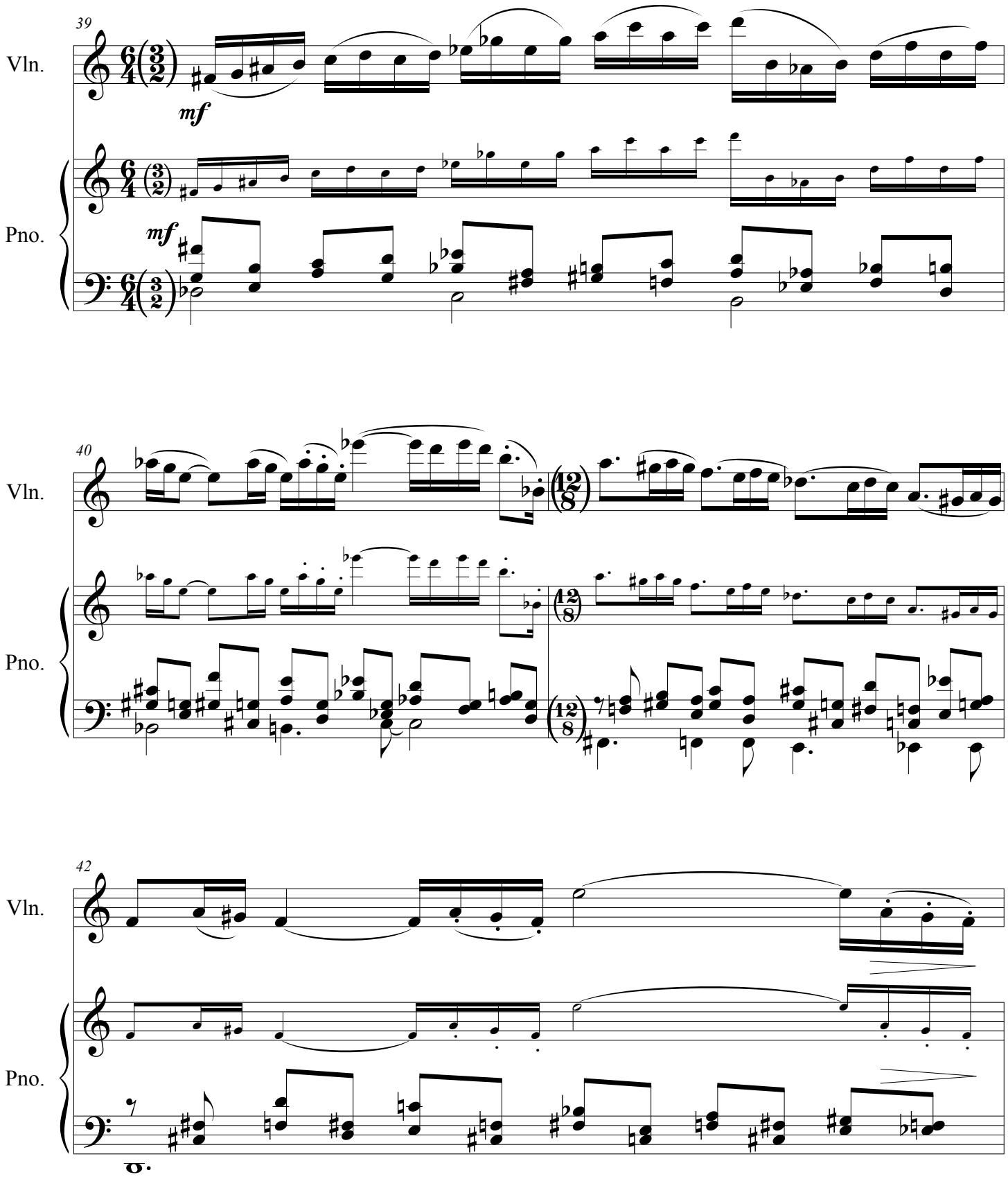

13
M.E.
Eric
Pno.
mp
How vast the skies.
mf
They reach a-round the
15
f
How I want this night
world.
17
to last for-ev - er!

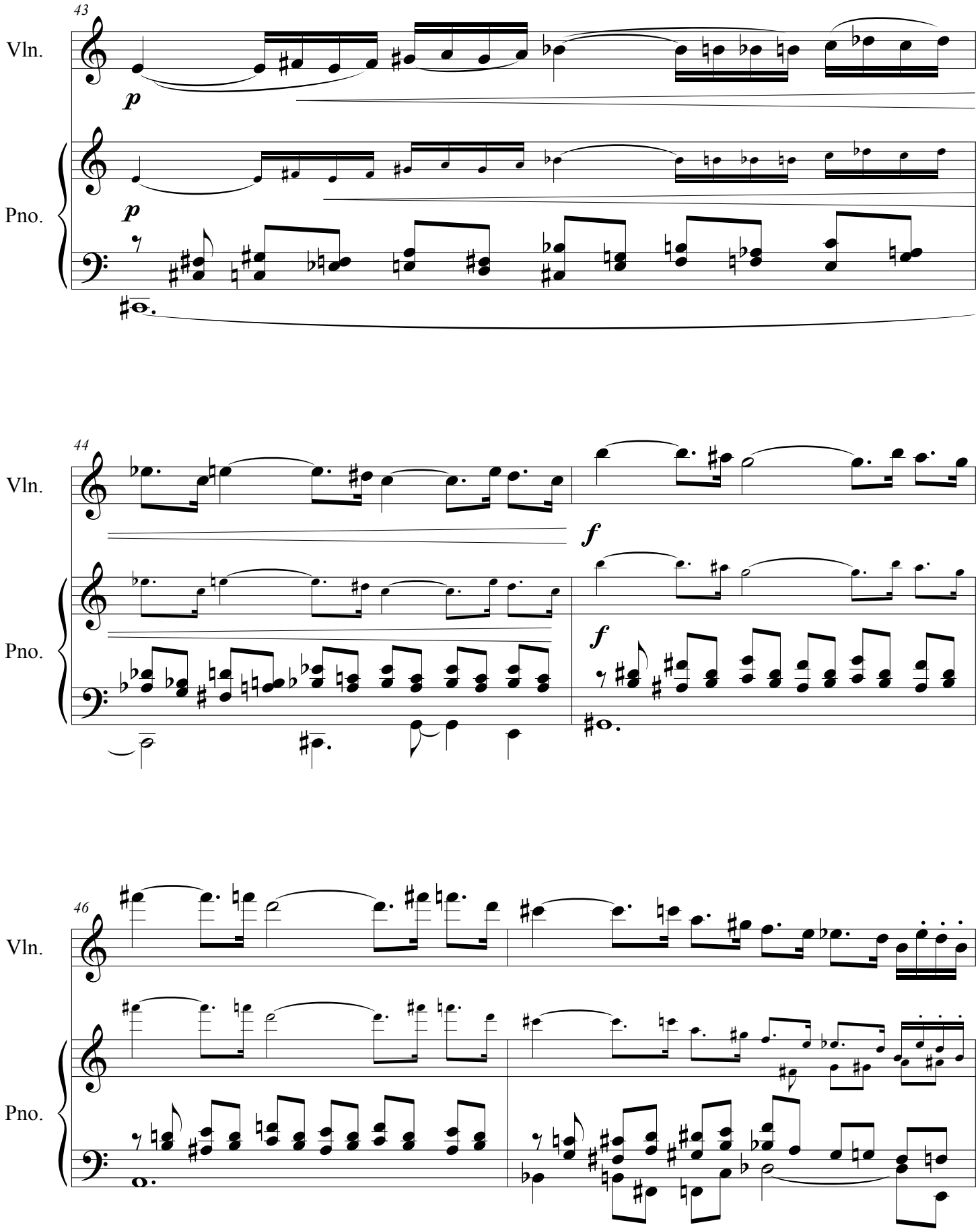

19
Pno.
21
Pno.
22
p
M.E.
And to think I could live this dream at the top of a tower at the
Pno.
p
23
f
M.E.
end of the world in Ne-bras - ka.
Eric
f
To live this dream to-
Pno.
f

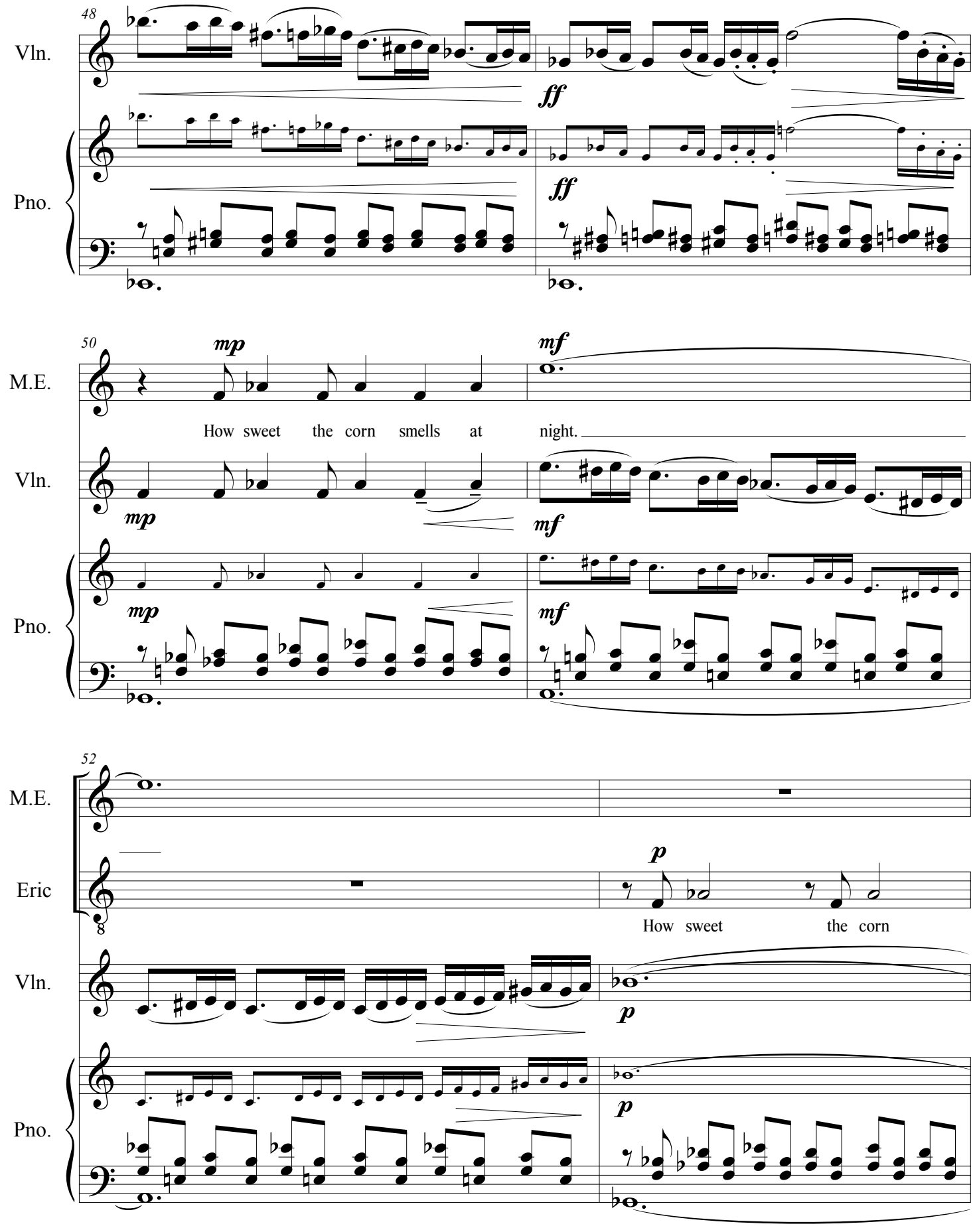

25
Eric
night, I glad - ly pay the
Pno.
26
M.E.
mf
I'll live this dream on a tower at the end of the world in Ne -
Eric
mf
price. I live this dream to - night and to - mor - row I tread the
Pno.
mf
27
M.E.
ff
bras - ka.
Eric
ff
flames of hell.
Pno.
ff
6/4
6/4

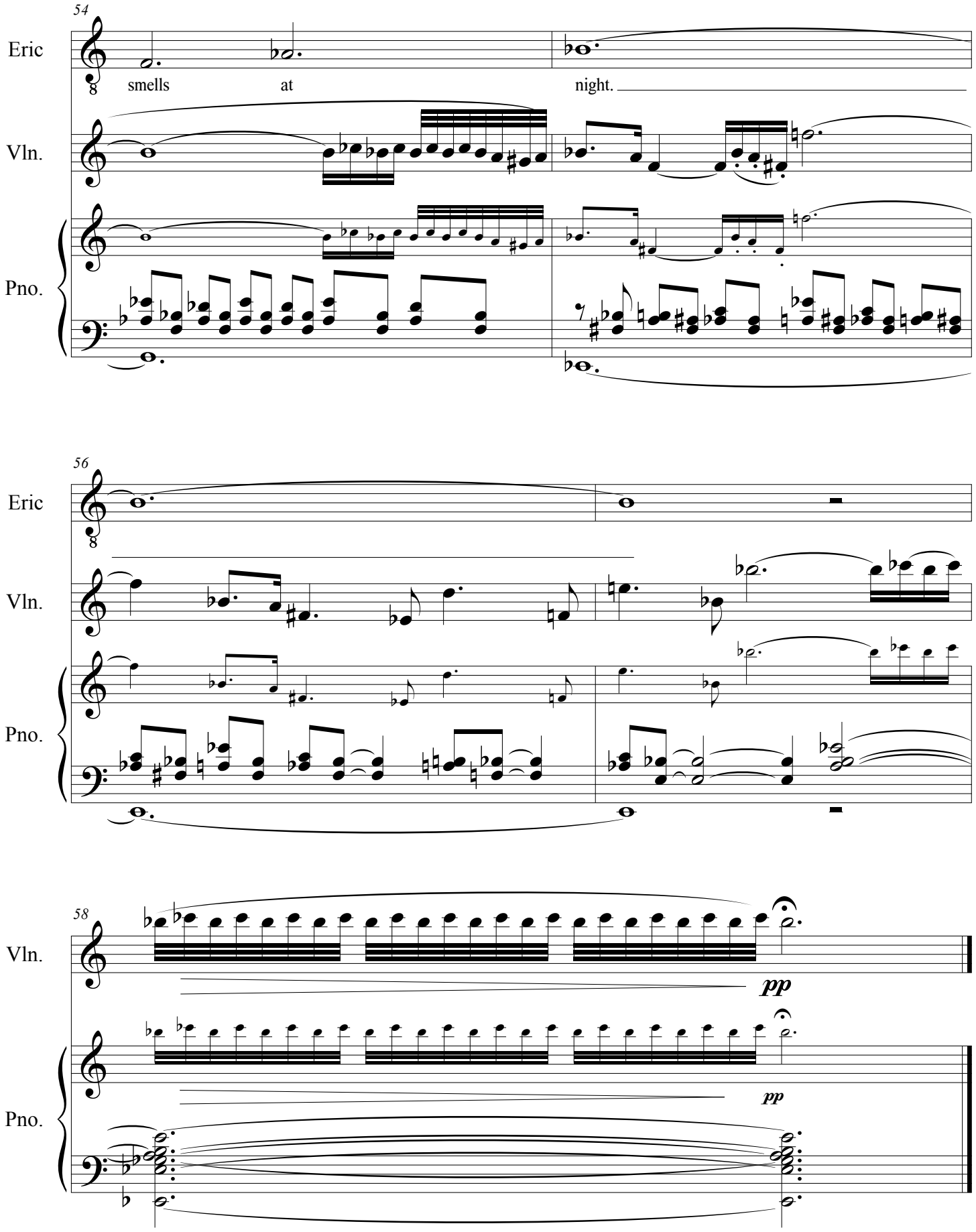

29
Vln.
p
vln.
Pno.
p
31
Vln.
Pno.
32
Vln.
mp
Pno.
mp


34
Vln.
p
mf
Pno.
p
mf
36
Vln.
Pno.
37
Vln.
Pno.
38
Vln.
f
Pno.
f

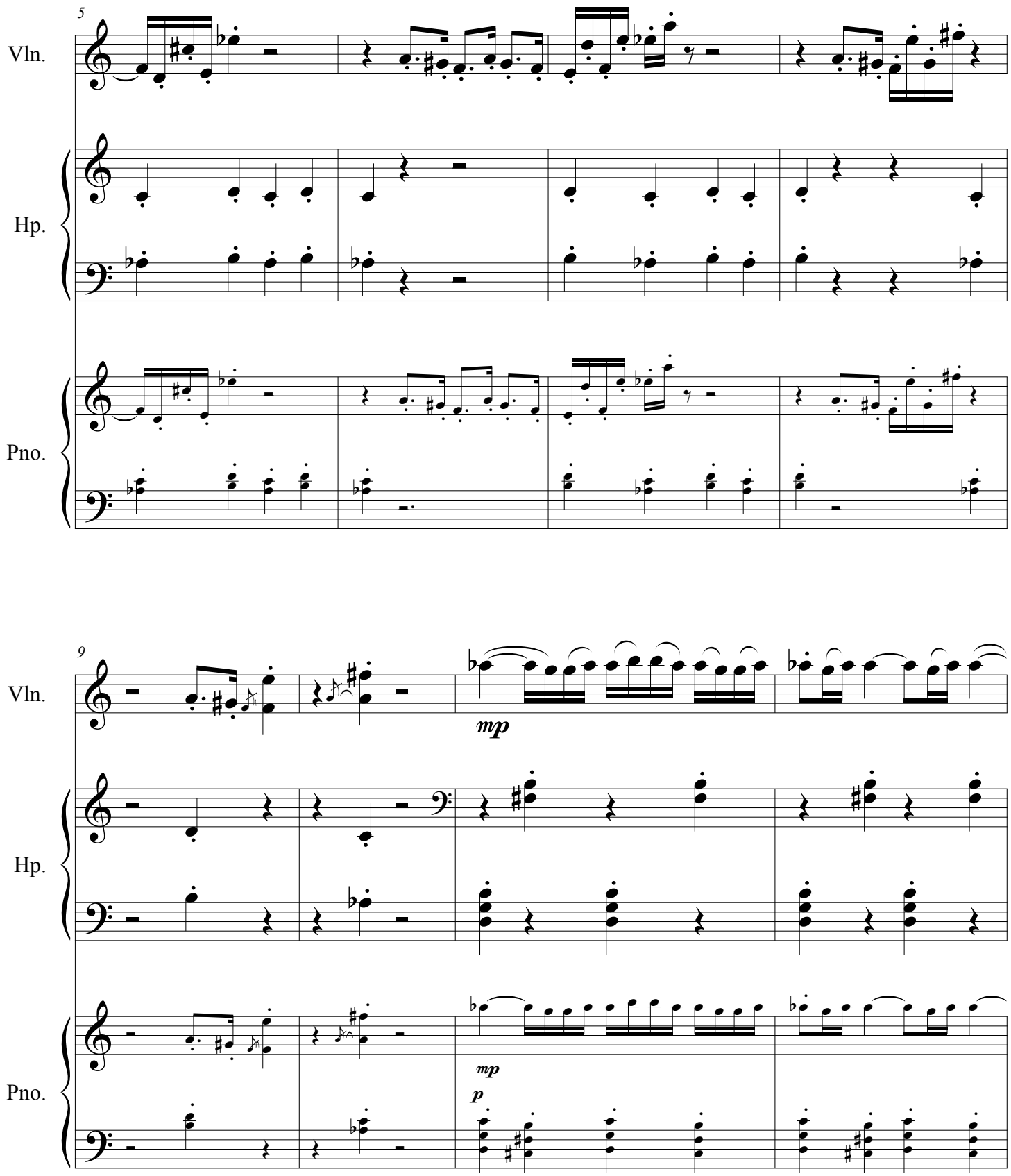

39
Vln.
mf
Pno.
mf
40
Vln.
Pno.
42
Vln.
Pno.

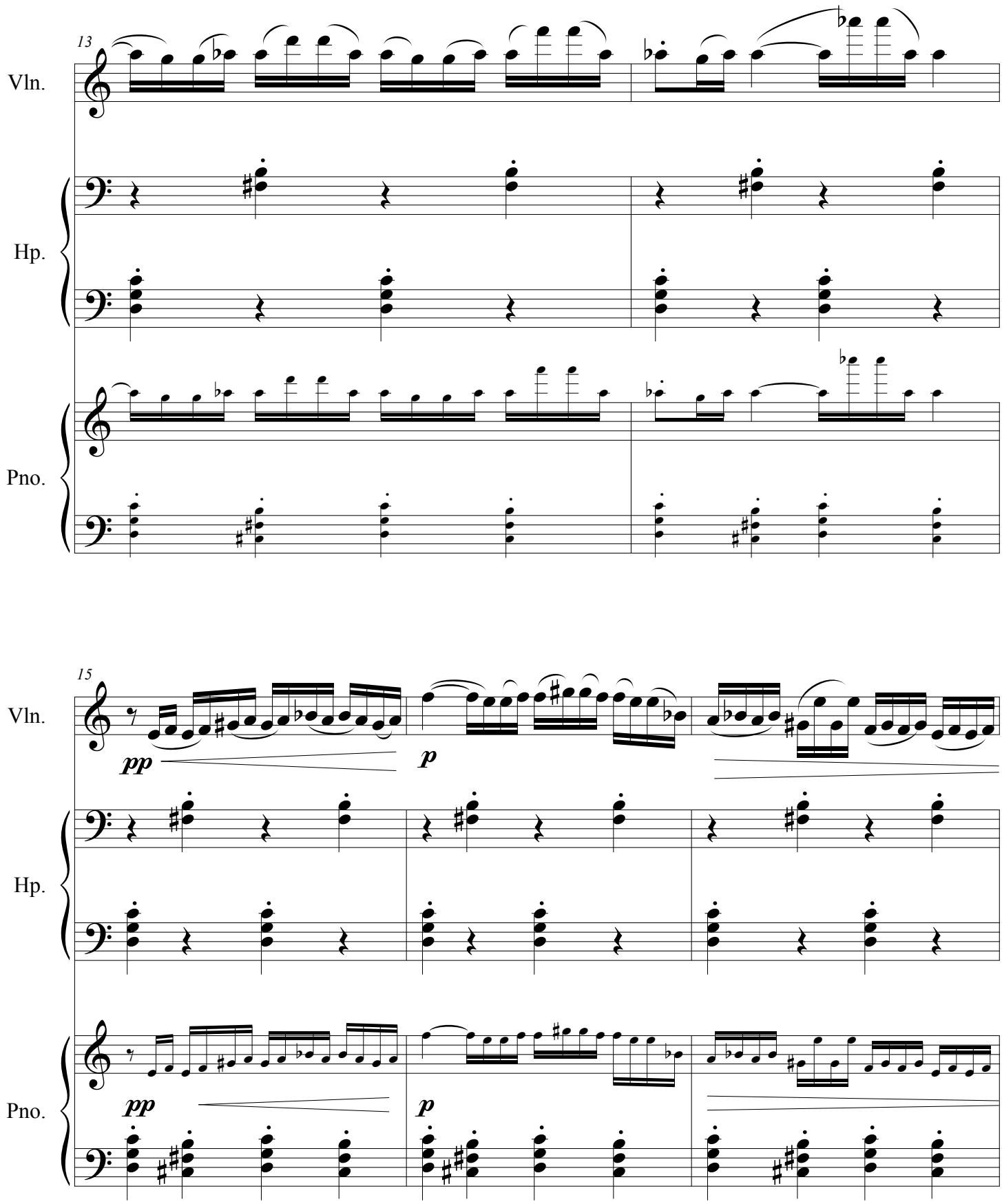

43
Vln.
p
Pno.
p
44
Vln.
f
Pno.
f
46
Vln.
Pno.

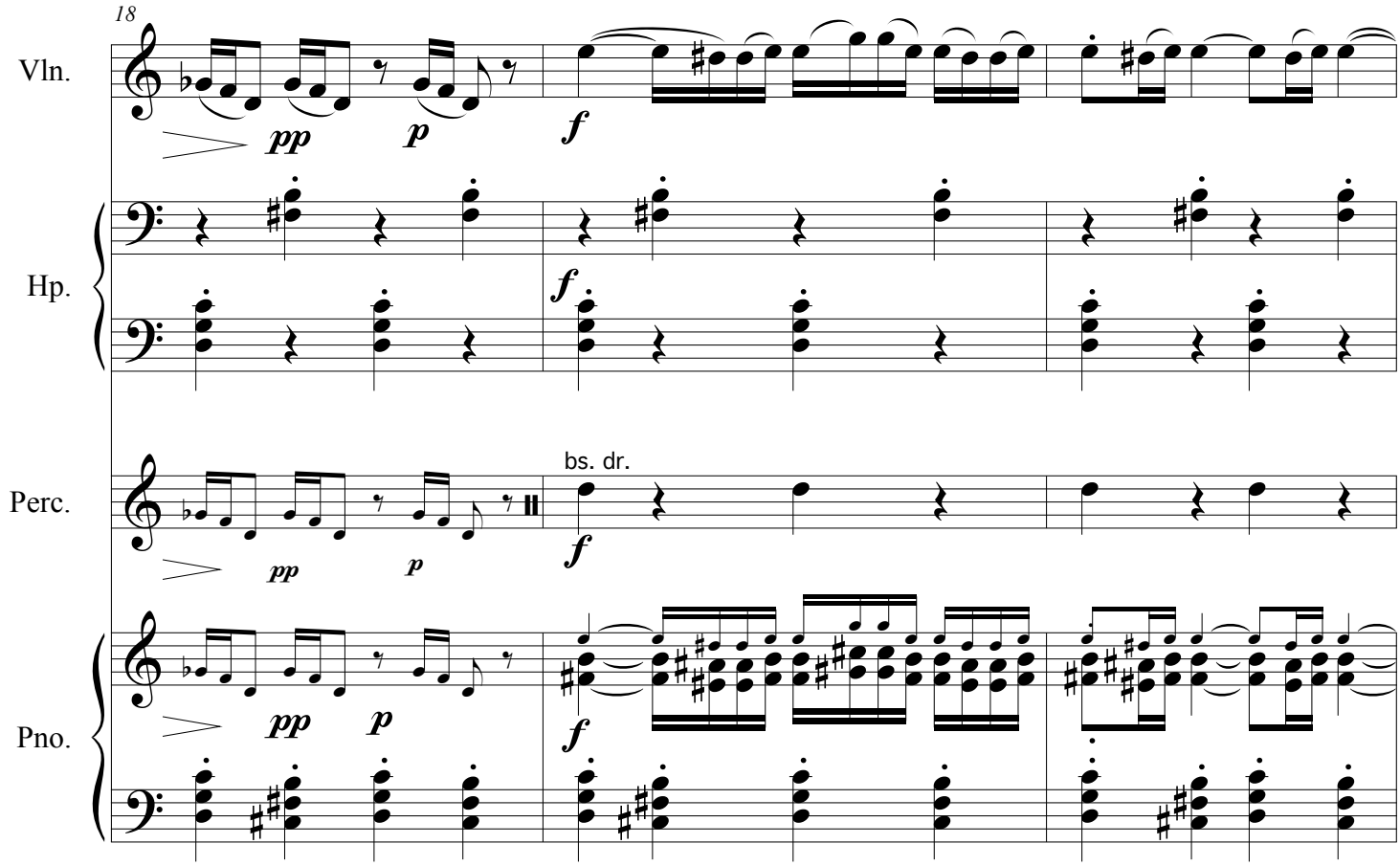

48
Vln.
Pno.
ff
ff
50
M.E.
mp
mf
How sweet the corn smells at night.
Vln.
mp
mf
Pno.
mp
mf
52
M.E.
Eric
p
How sweet the corn
Vln.
p
Pno.
p

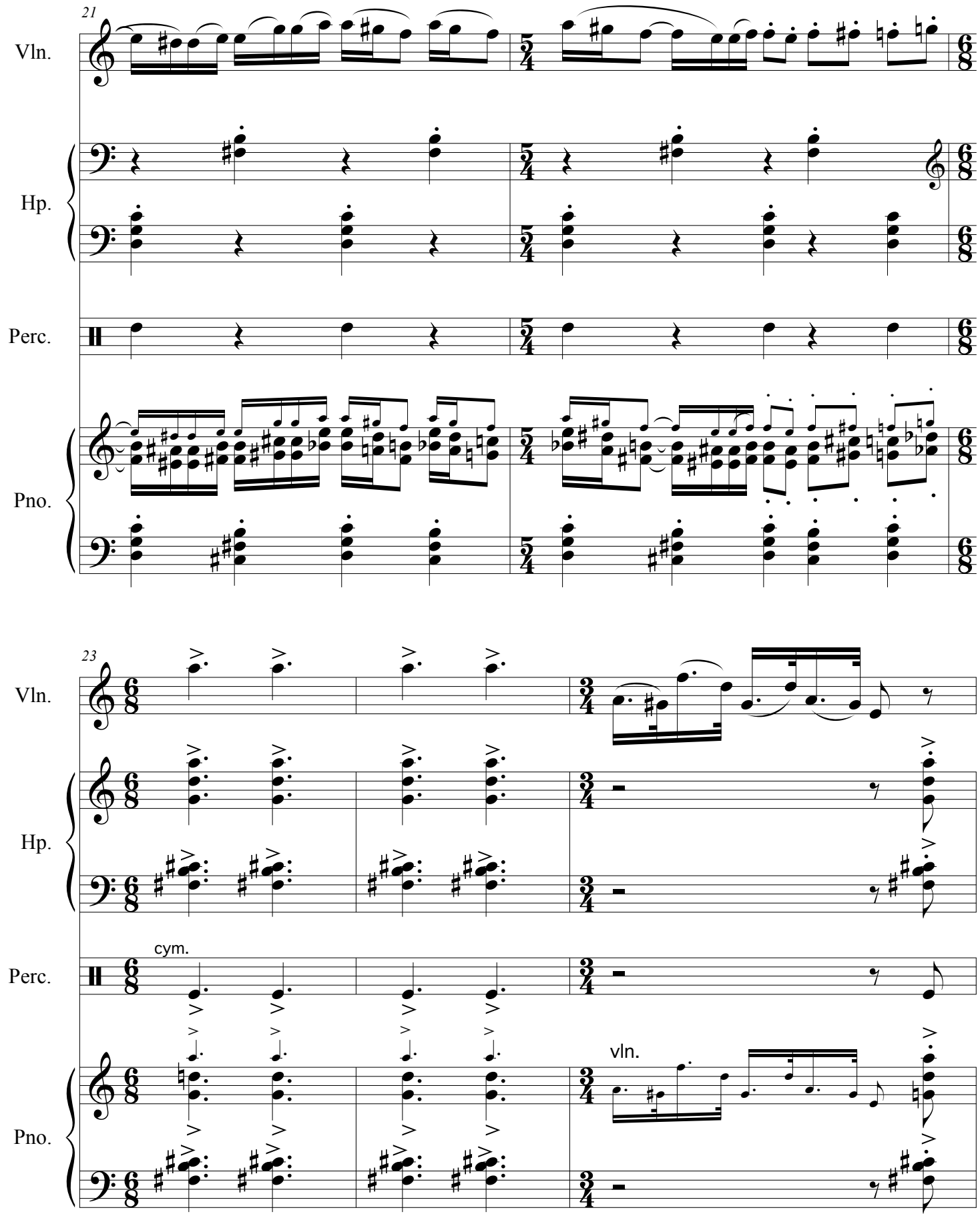

54
Eric
smells
at
night.
Vln.
Pno.
56
Eric
Vln.
Pno.
58
Vln.
pp
Pno.
pp

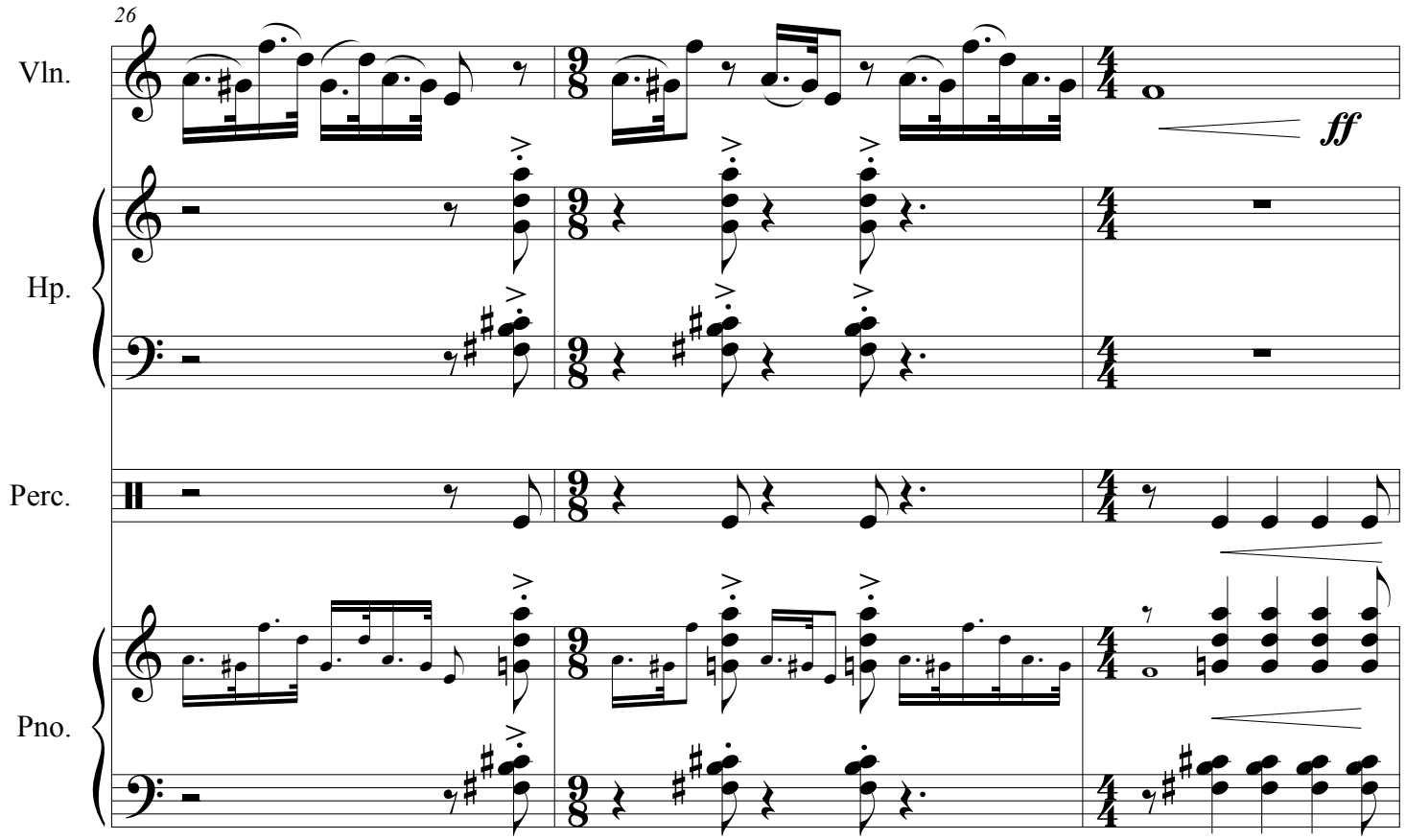
5. The Day of Reckoning

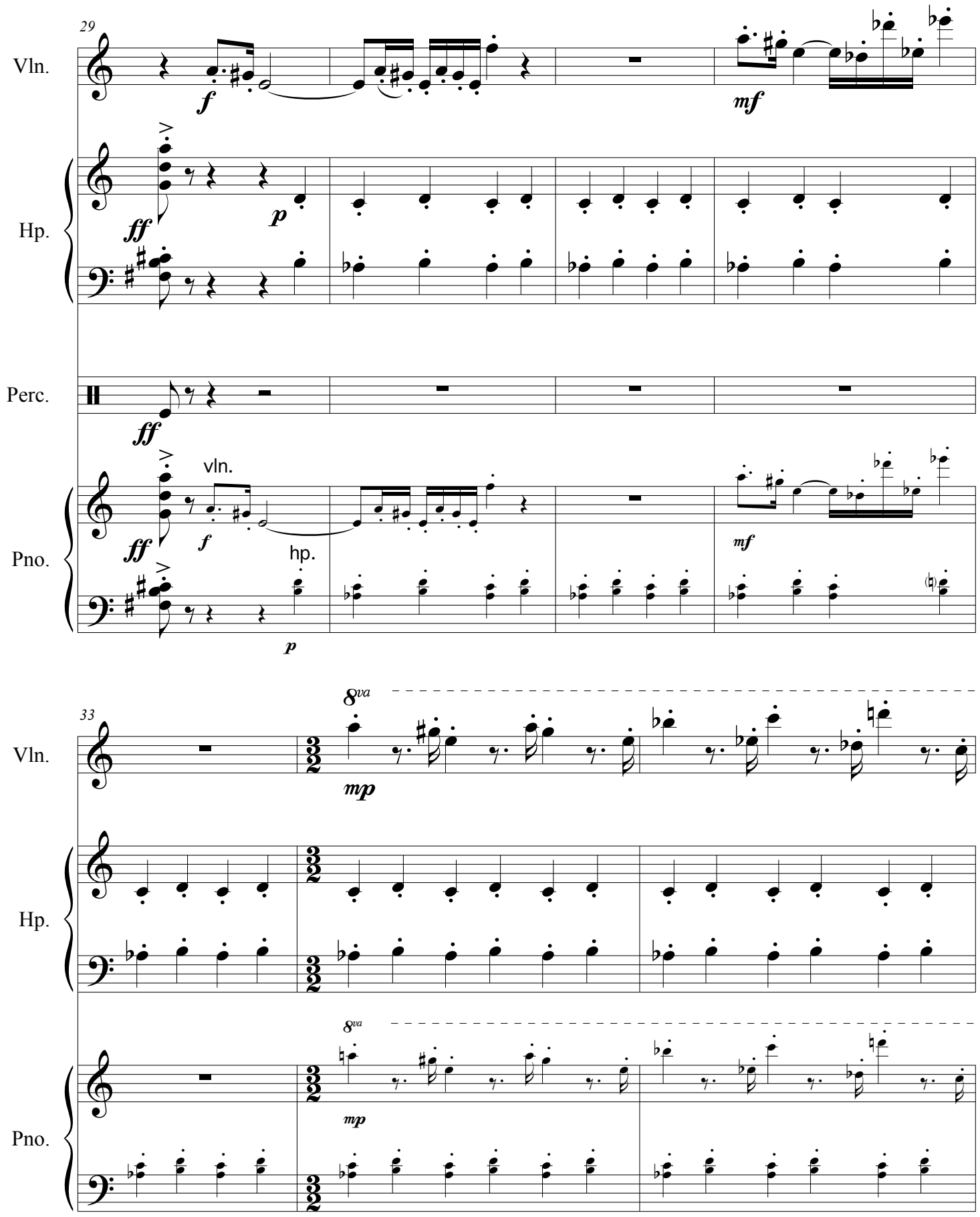

5
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
9
Vln.
mp
Hp.
Pno.
mp
p

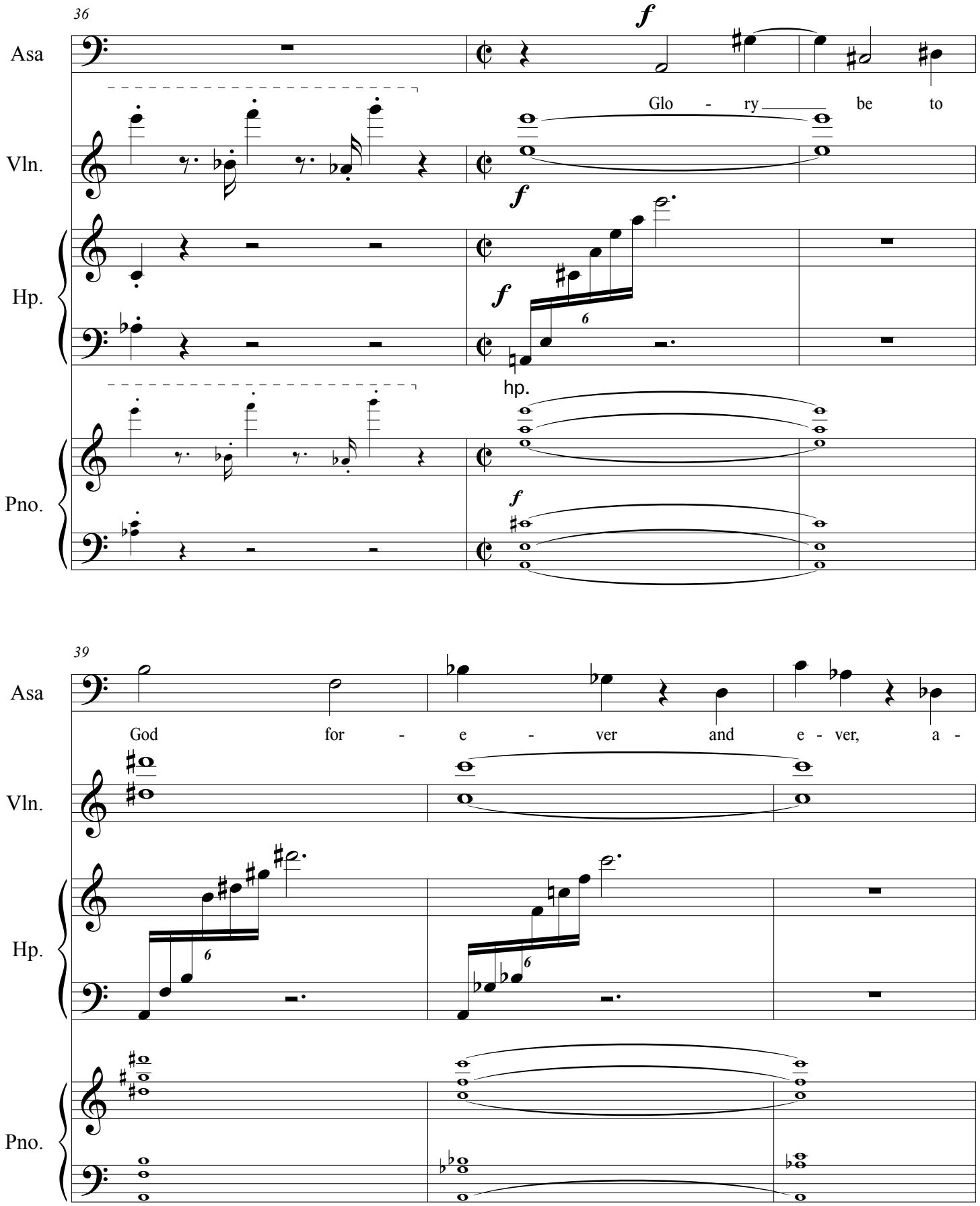

13
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
15
Vln.
pp
p
Hp.
Pno.
pp
p

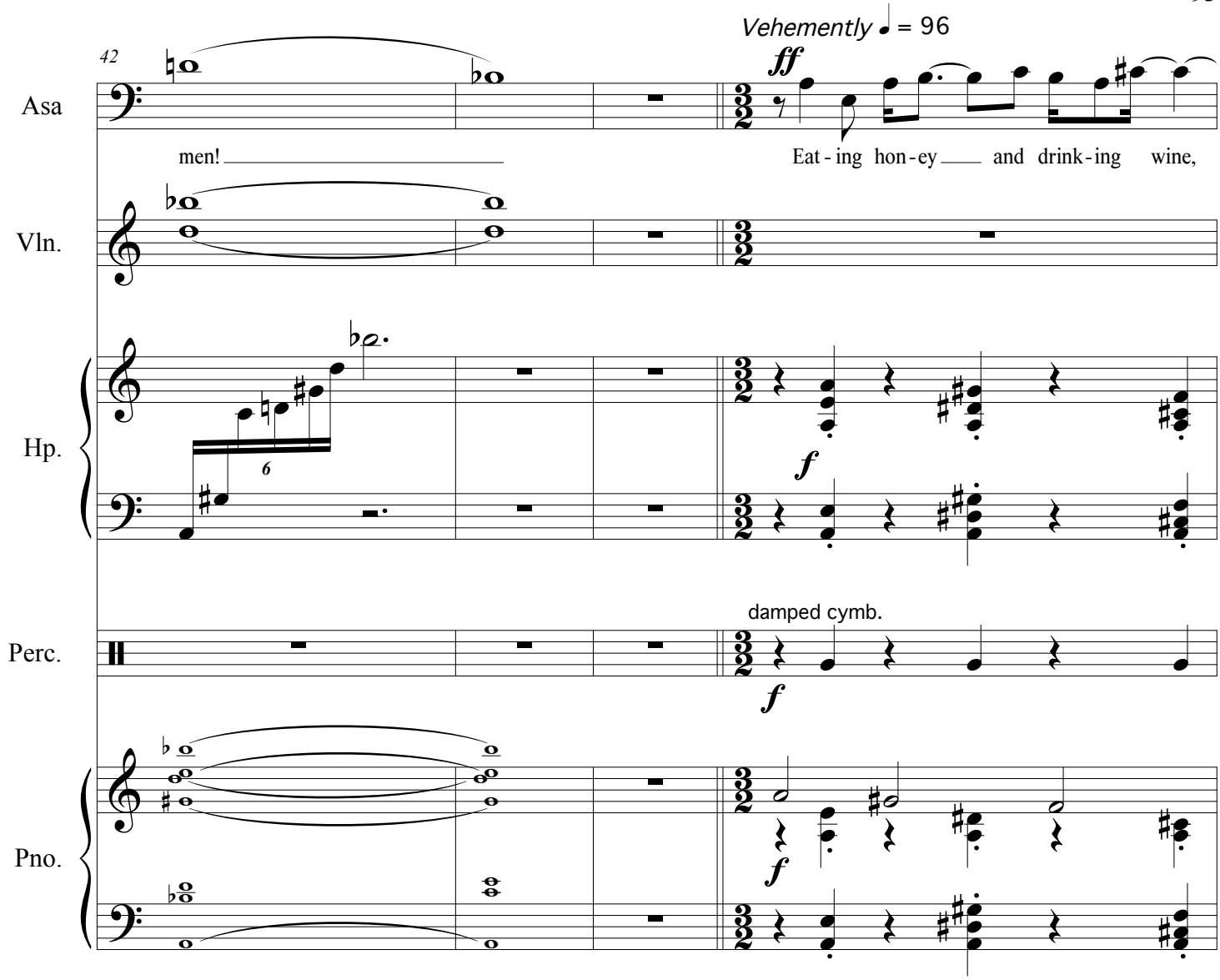

18
Vln.
pp
p
f
Hp.
f
Perc.
bs. dr.
pp
p
f
Pno.
pp
p
f

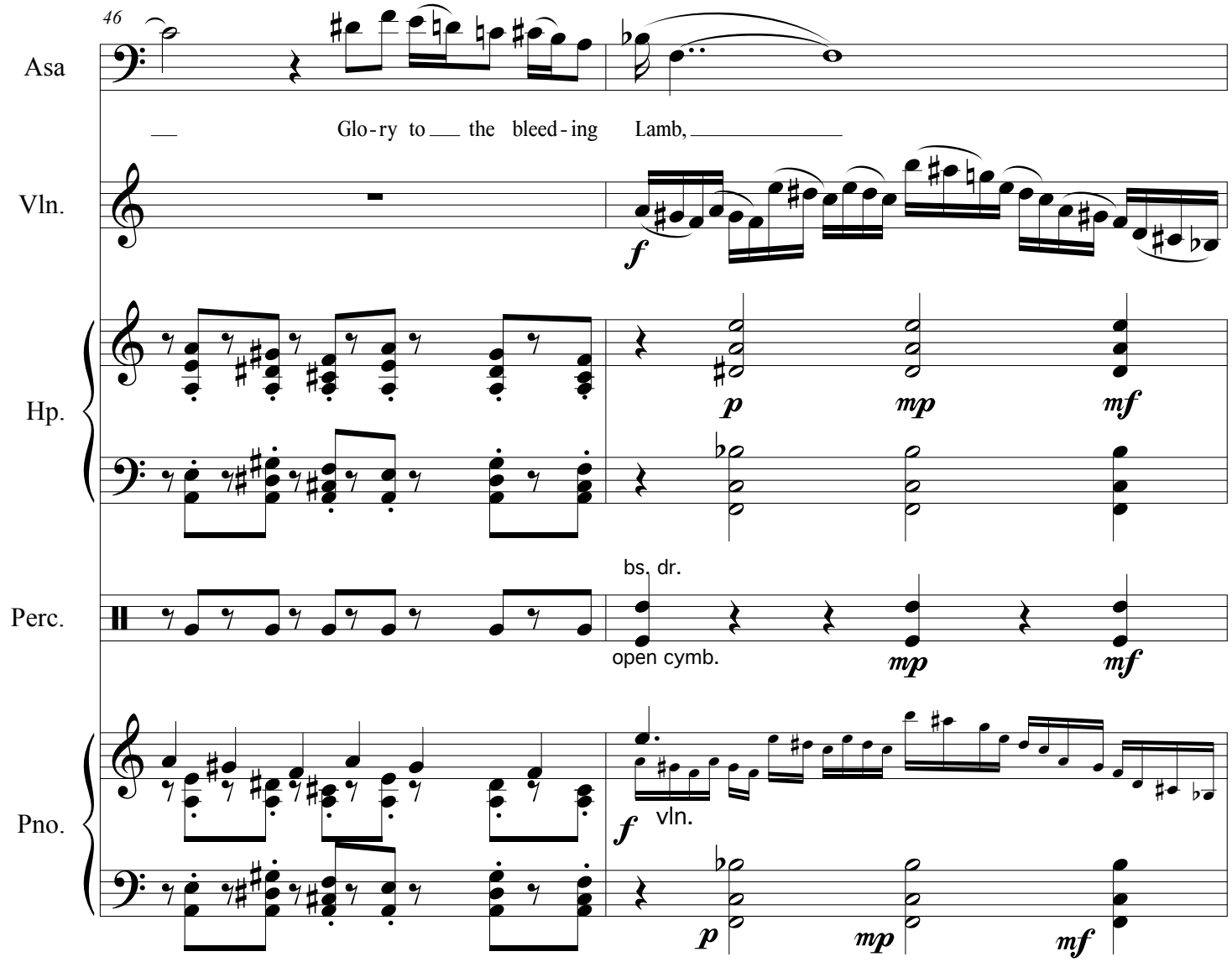

21
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
23
Vln.
Hp.
cym.
Perc.
vln.
Pno.

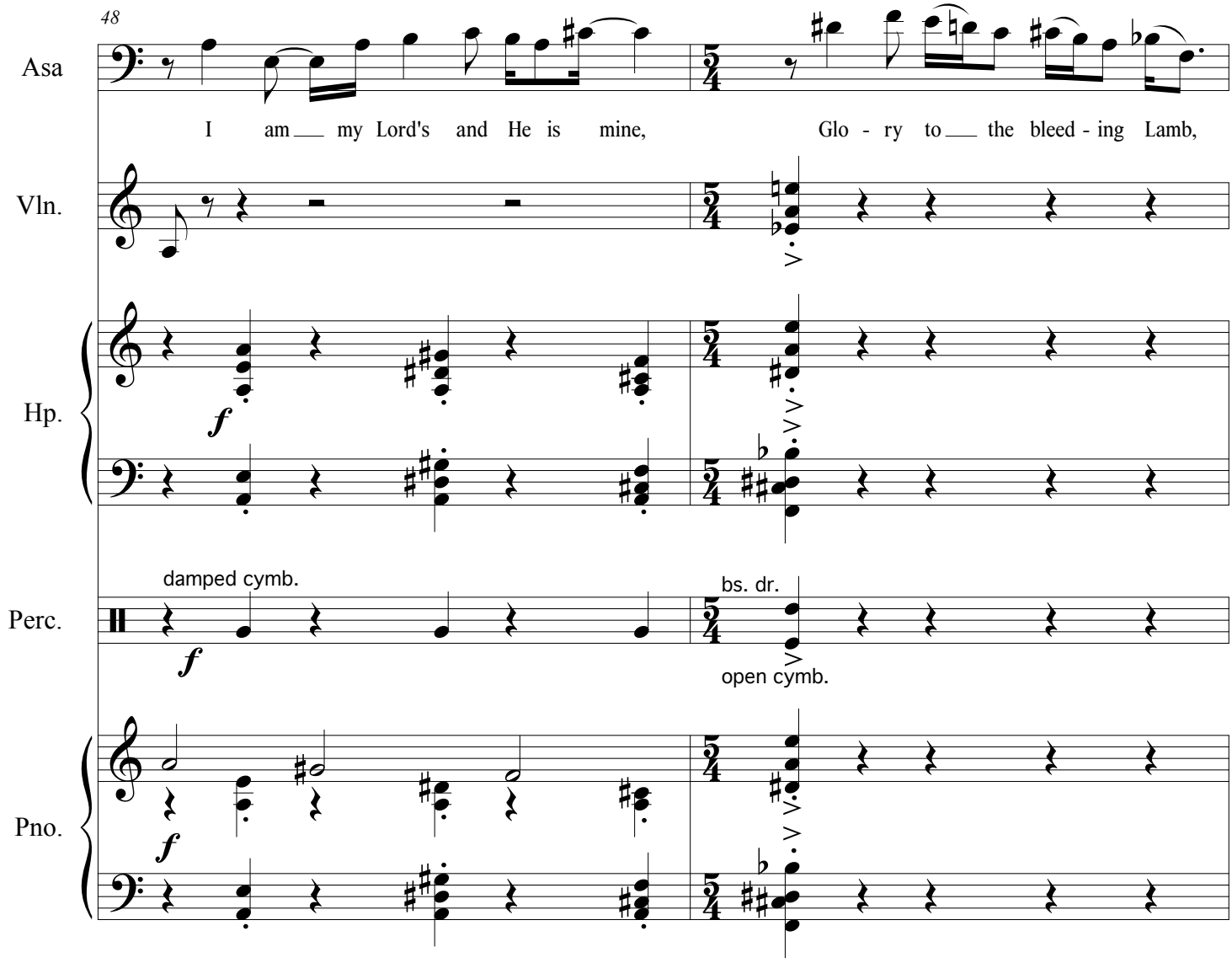

26
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.
ff

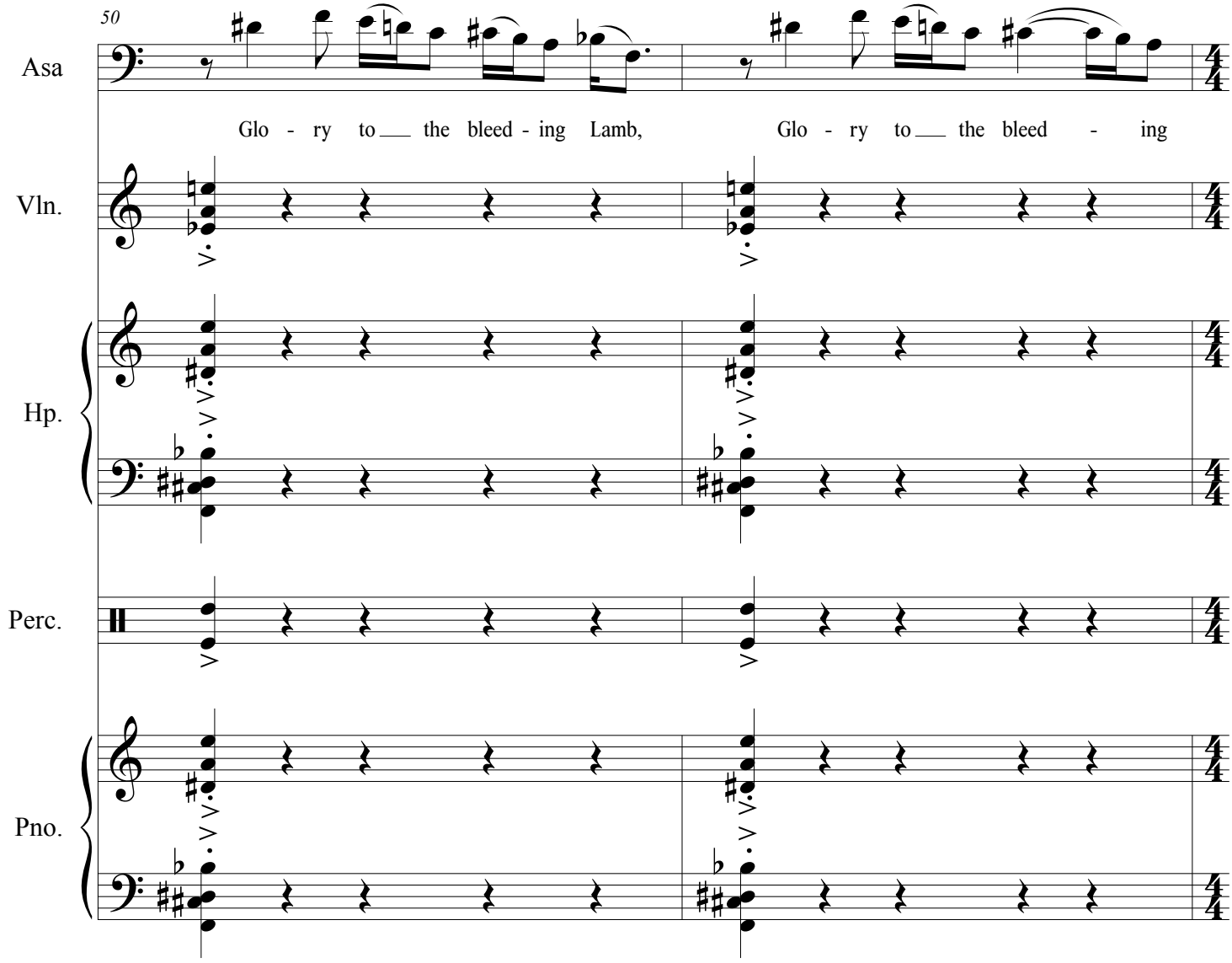

29
Vln.
f
mf
Hp.
ff
p
Perc.
ff
Pno.
ff
vln.
f
hp.
p
mf
33
Vln.
8va
mp
Hp.
Pno.
8va
mp

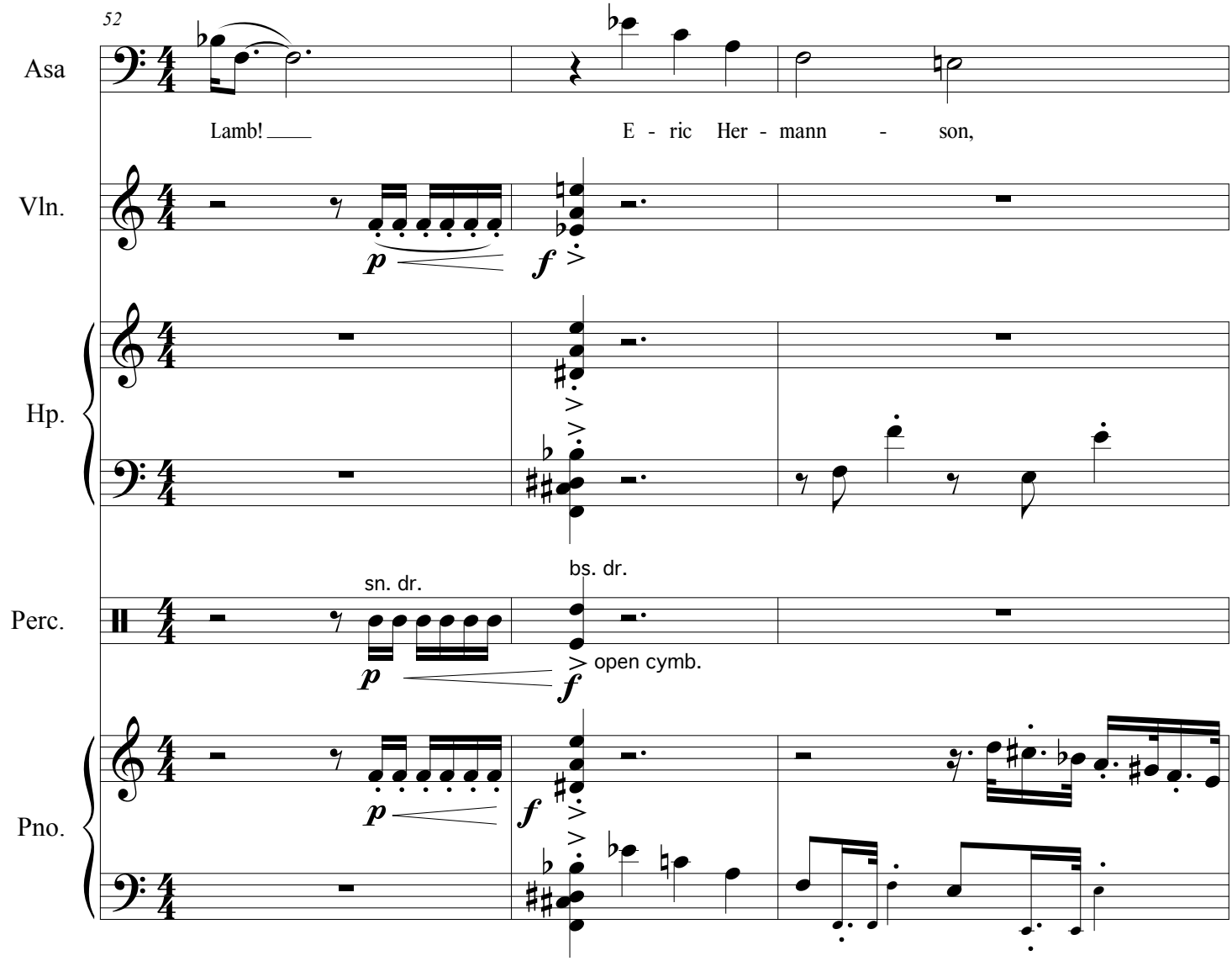

36
Asa
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
f
Glo - ry be to
hp.
39
God for - e - ver and e - ver, a -

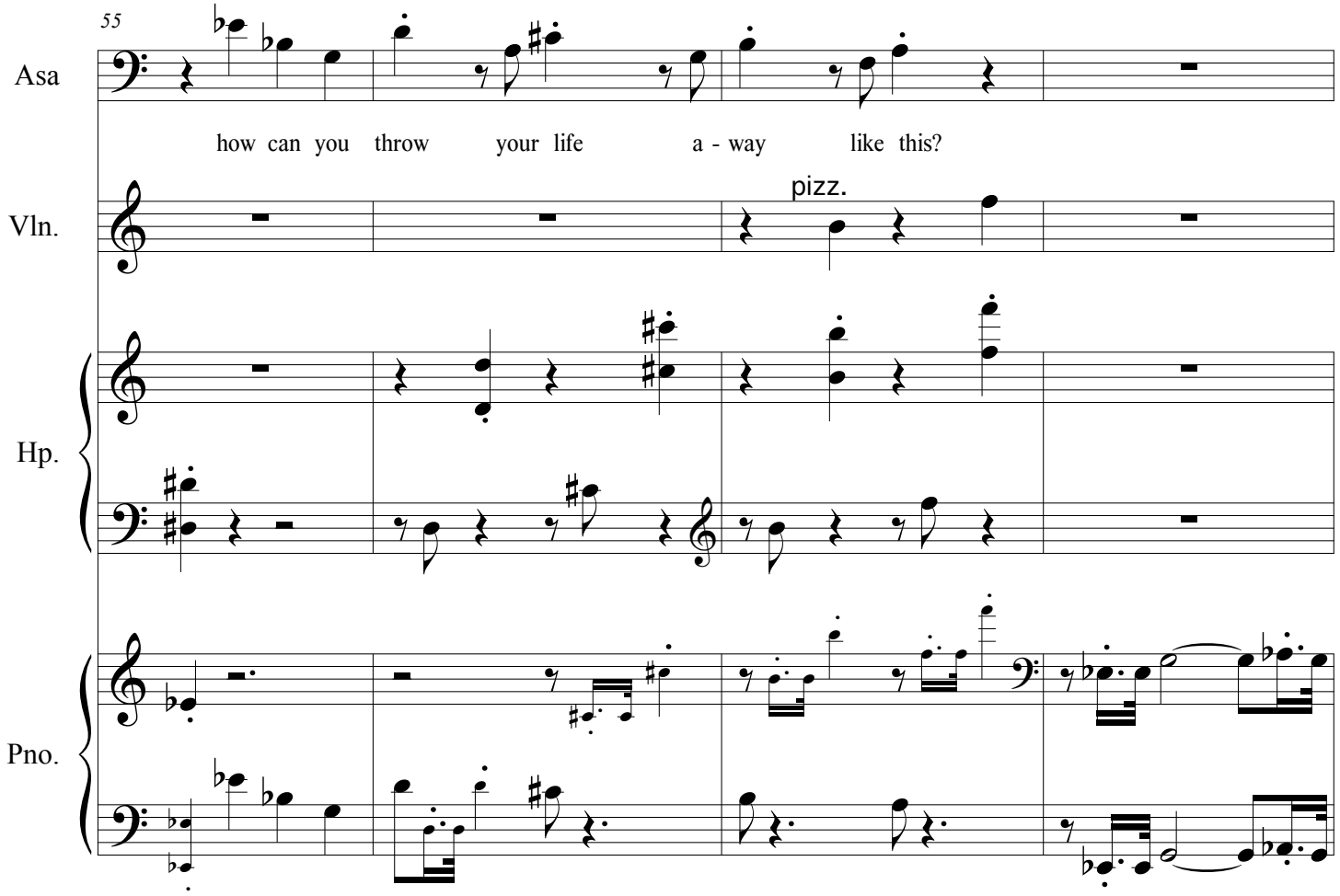

Vehemently ♩ = 96
42
Asa
men!
Eat - ing hon - ey and drink - ing wine,
Vln.
Hp.
6
damped cymb.
Perc.
Pno.

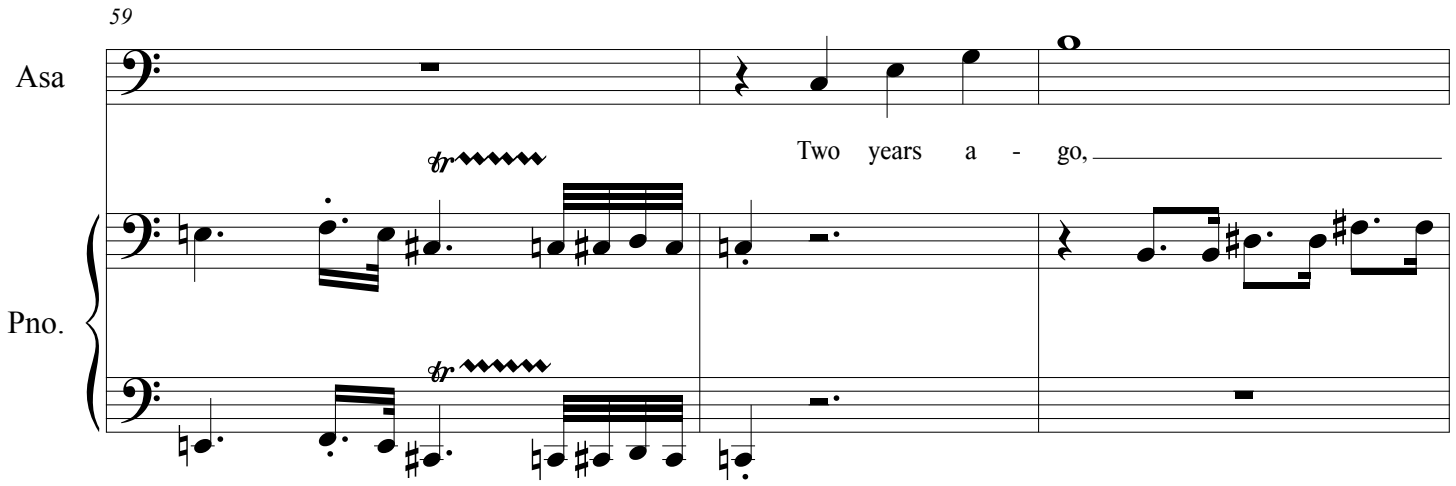

46
Asa
Glo-ry to the bleed-ing Lamb,
Vln.
f
Hp.
p
mp
mf
bs. dr.
Perc.
open cymb.
mp
mf
Pno.
f
vln.
p
mp
mf

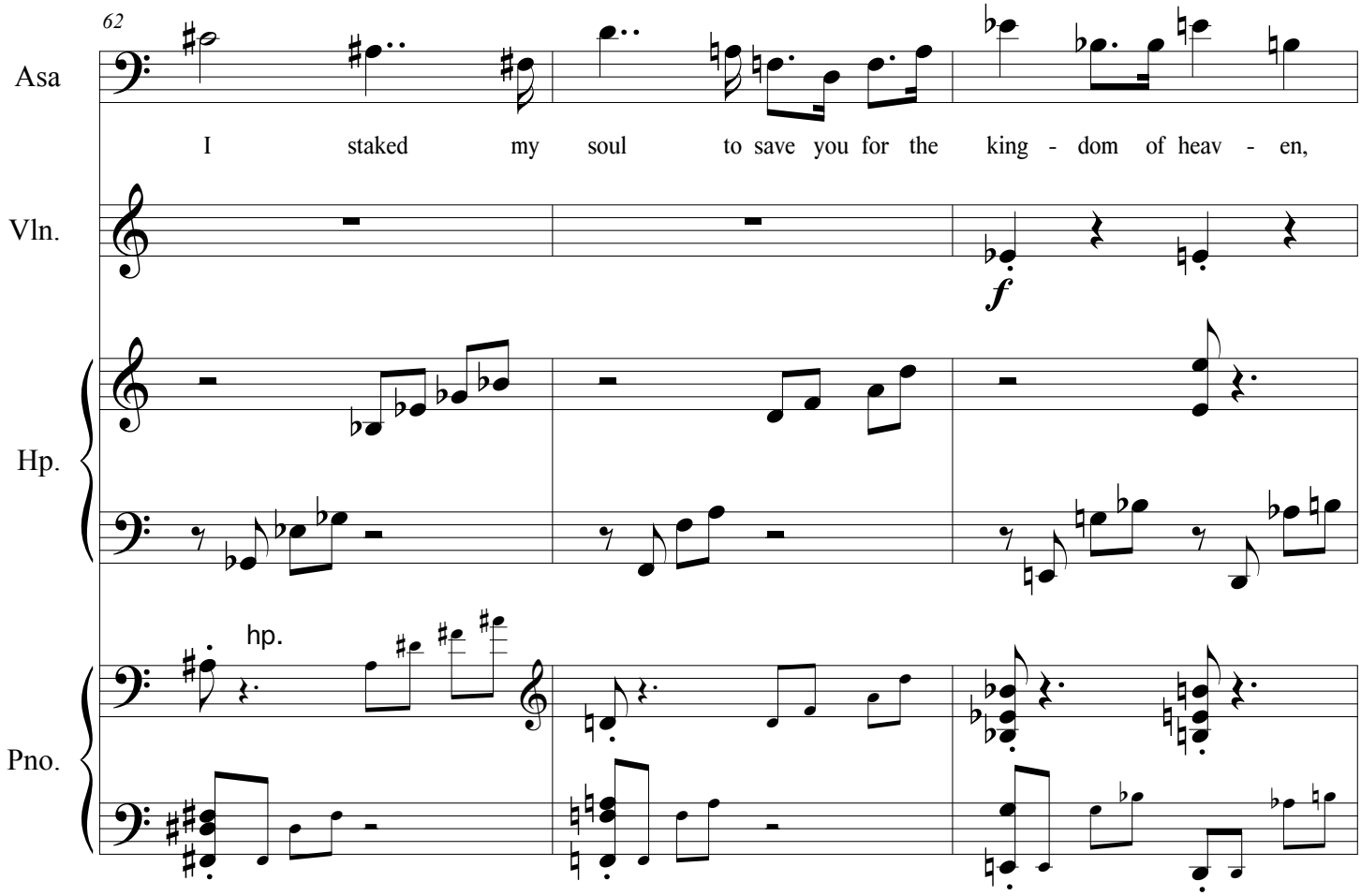

48
Asa
I am my Lord's and He is mine,
Glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb,
Vln.
Hp.
f
Perc.
damped cymb.
f
bs. dr.
open cymb.
Pno.
f

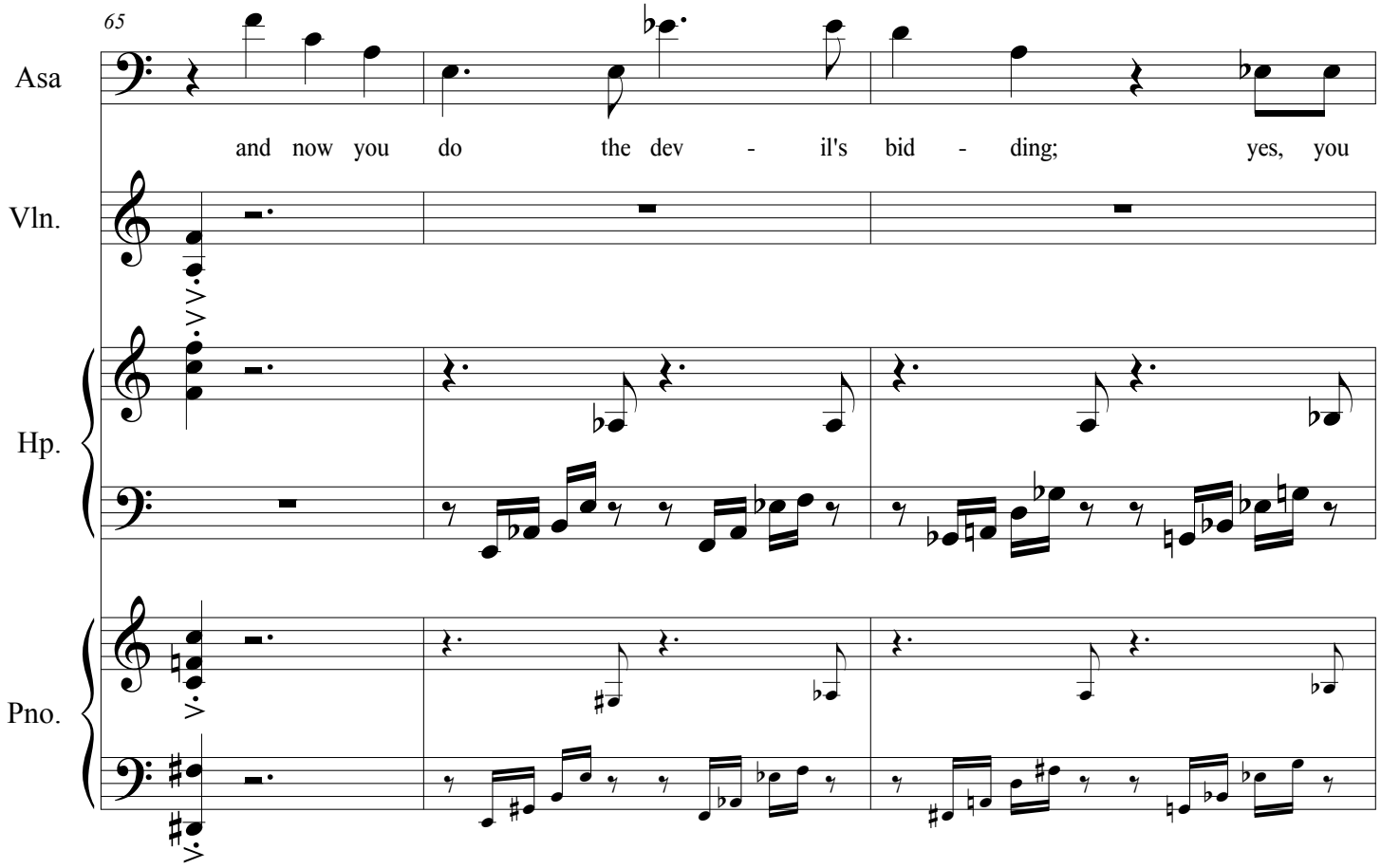

50
Asa
Glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb,
Glo - ry to the bleed - ing
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.

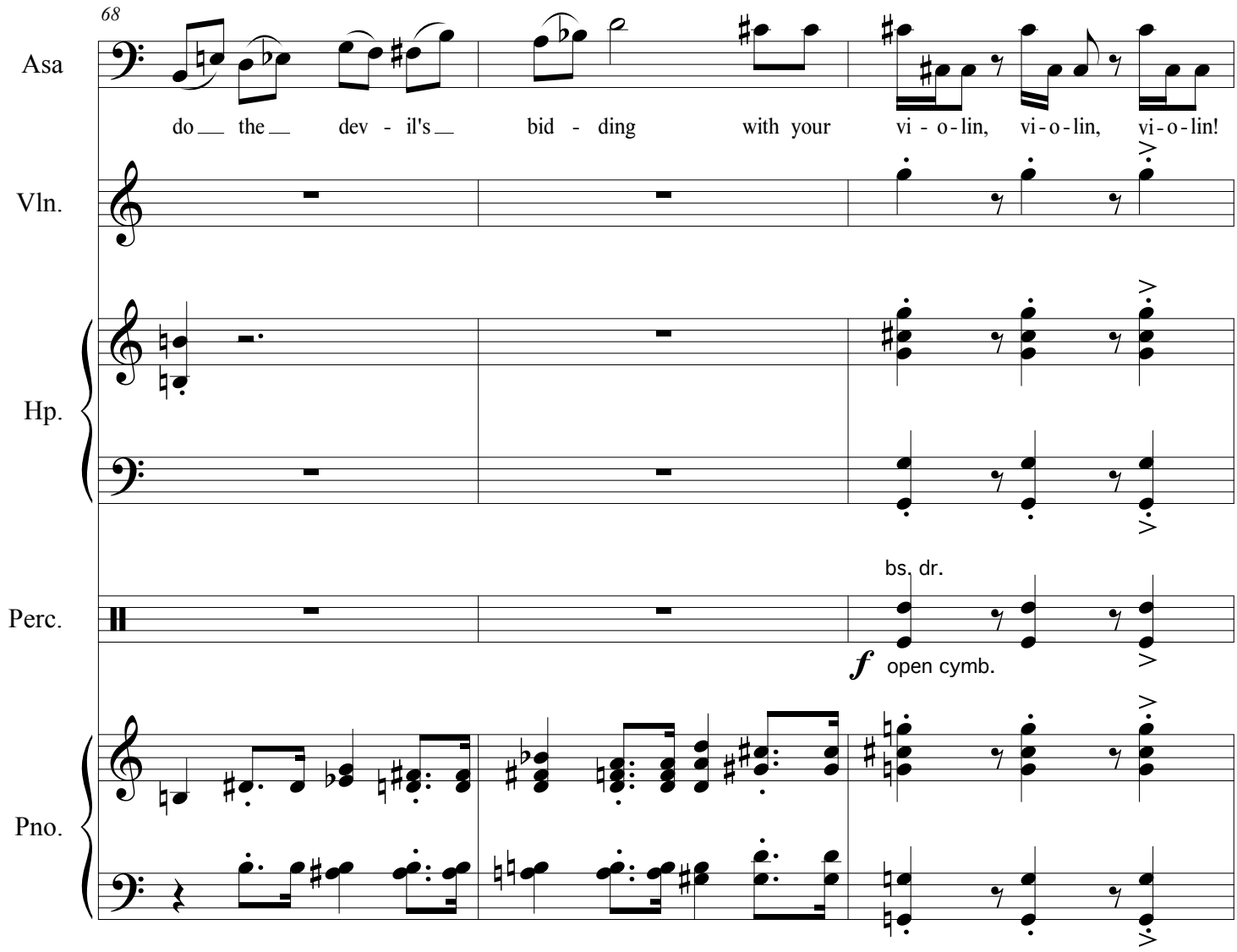

52
Asa
Lamb!
E - ric Her - mann - son,
Vln.
p
f
Hp.
Perc.
sn. dr.
bs. dr.
p
f
open cymb.
Pno.
p
f

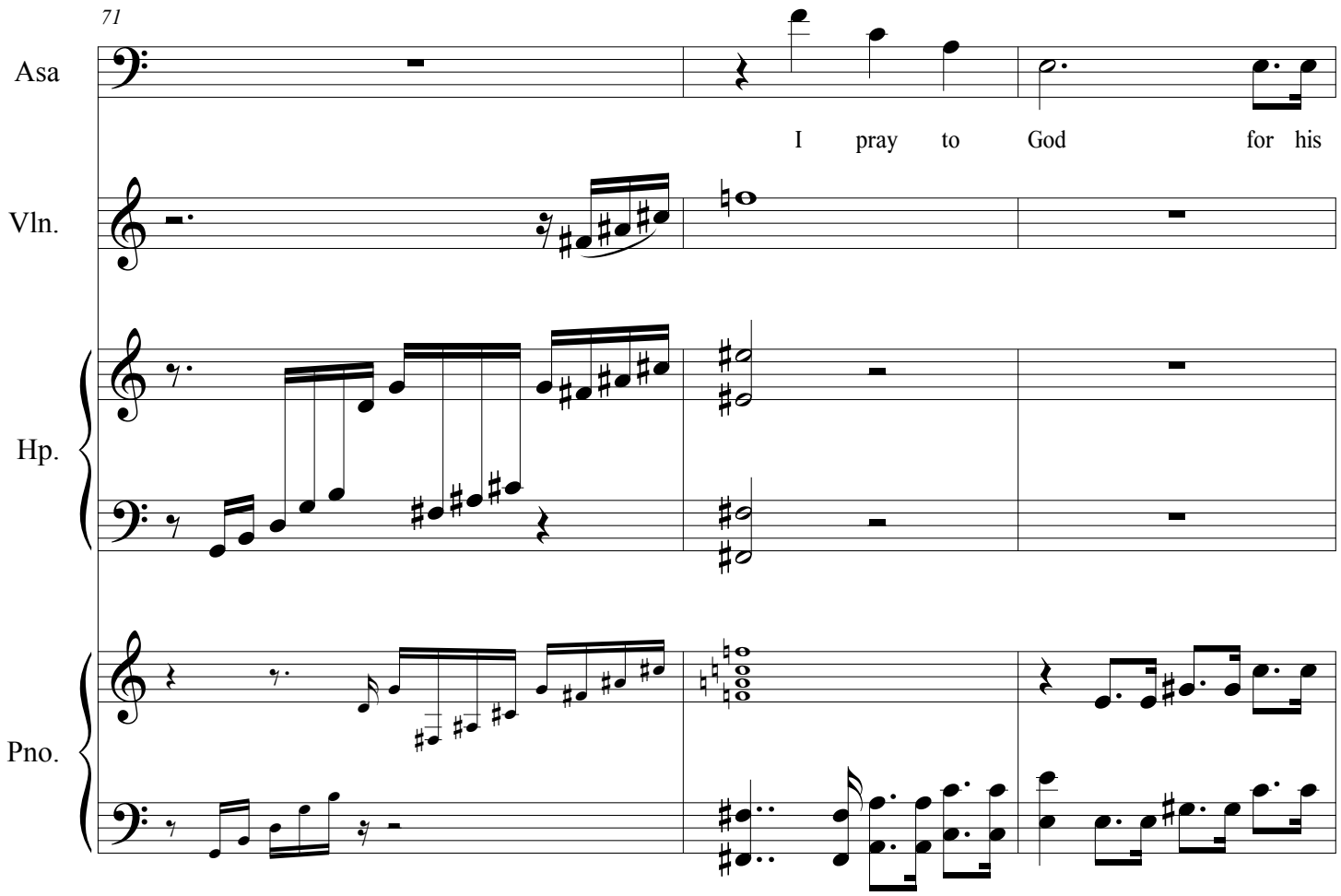

55
Asa
how can you throw your life a - way like this?
Vln.
pizz.
Hp.
Pno.

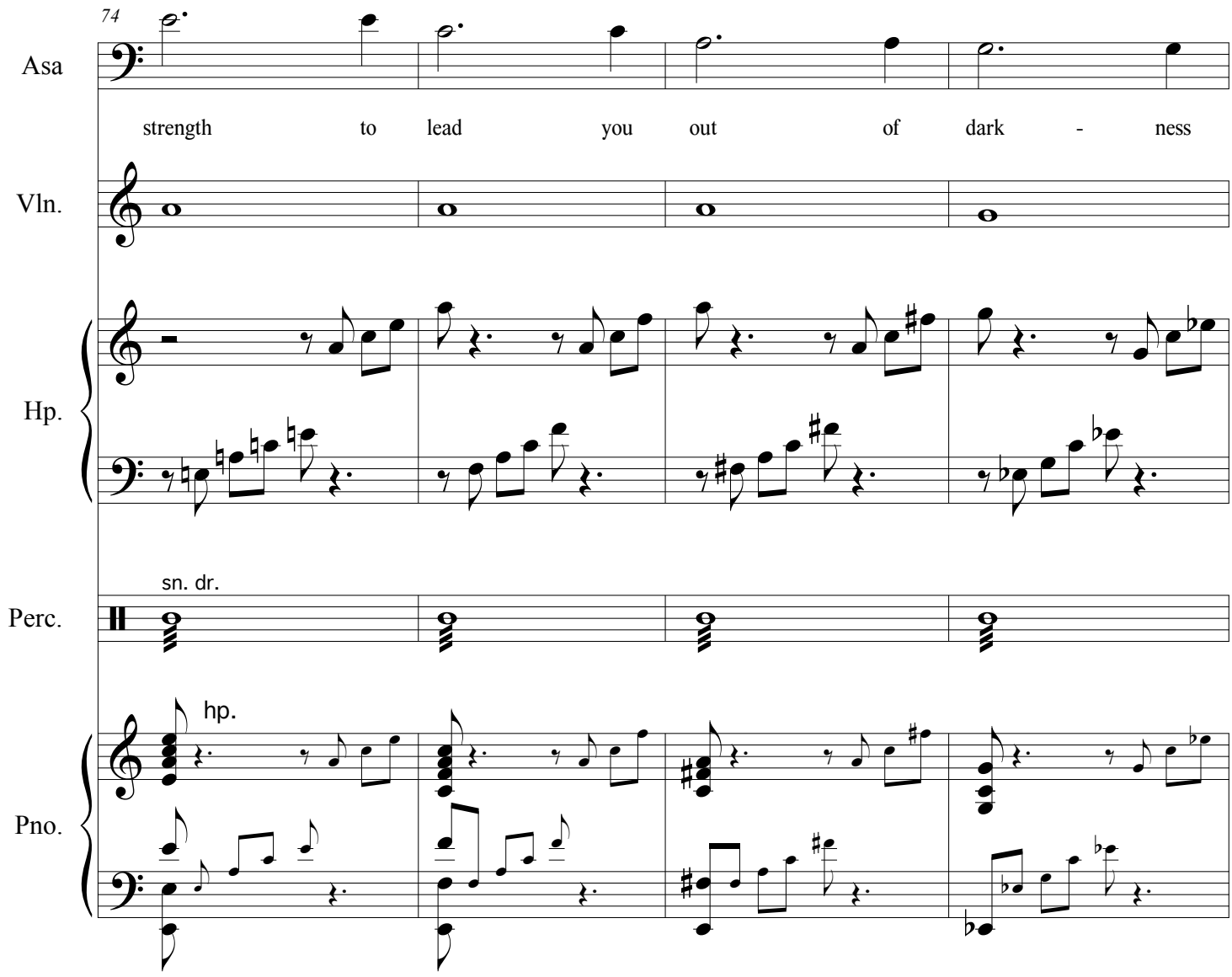

59
Asa
Two years a - go,
tr
Pno.

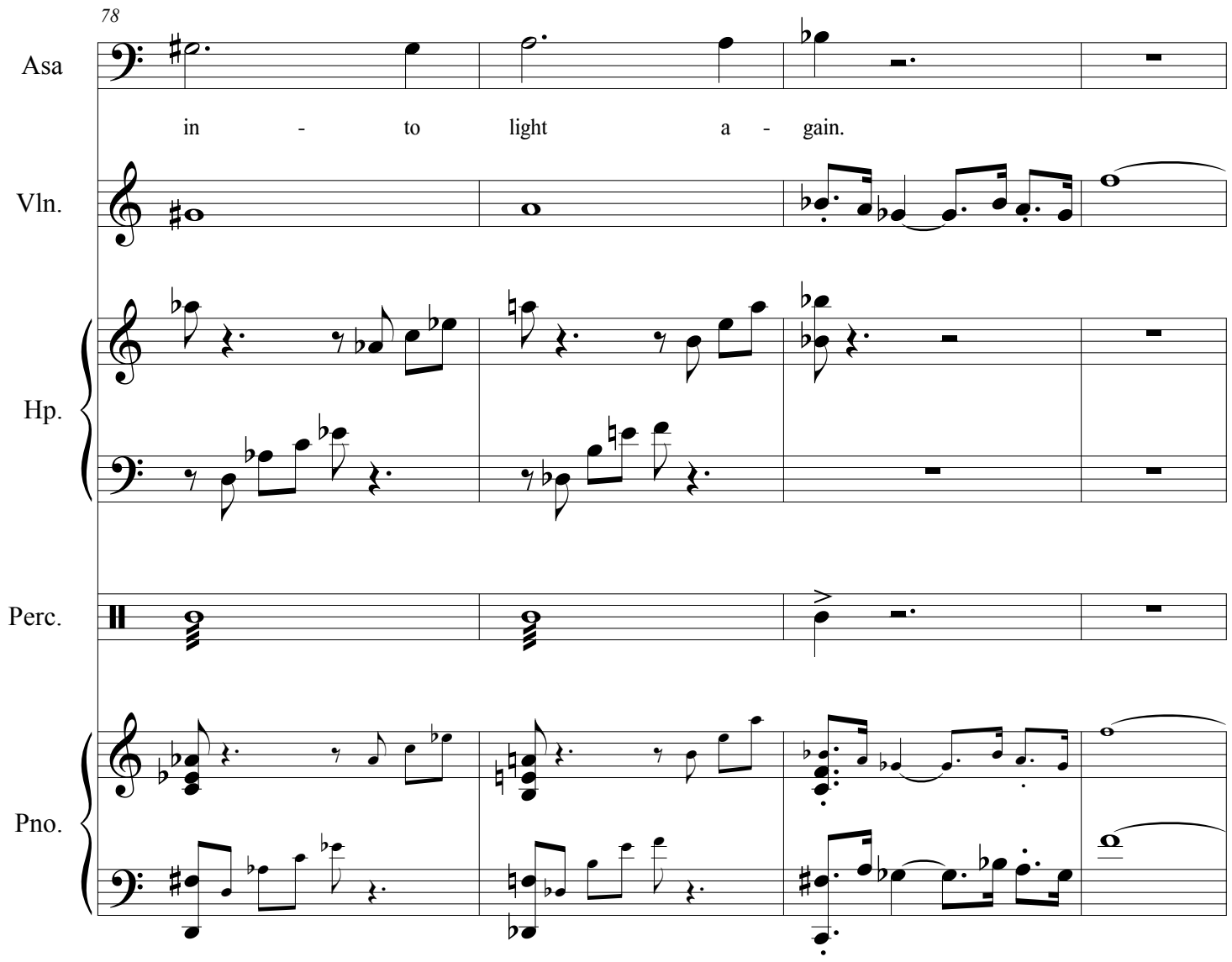

62
Asa
I staked my soul to save you for the king - dom of heav - en,
Vln.
f
Hp.
hp.
Pno.

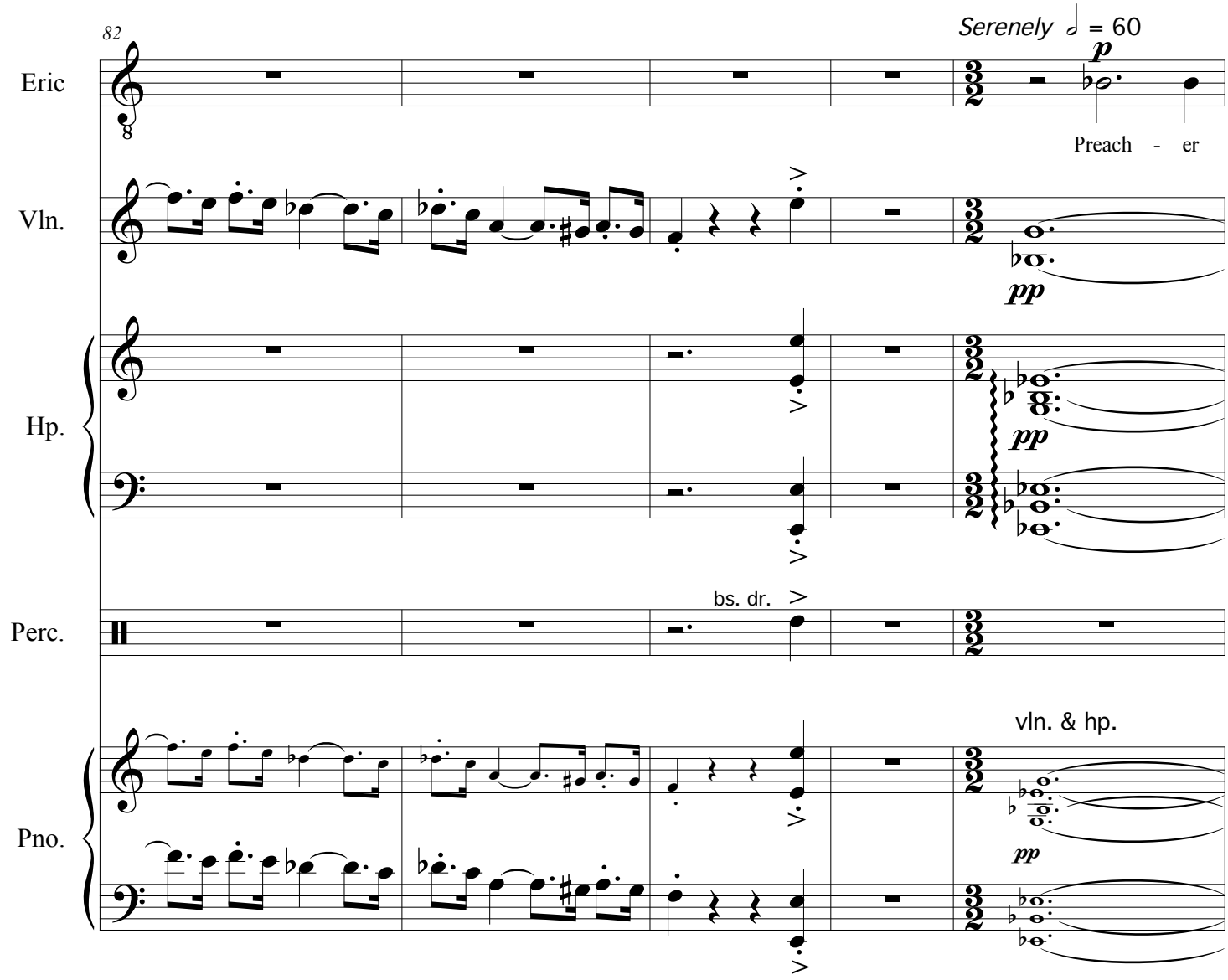

65
Asa
and now you do the dev - il's bid - ding; yes, you
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.

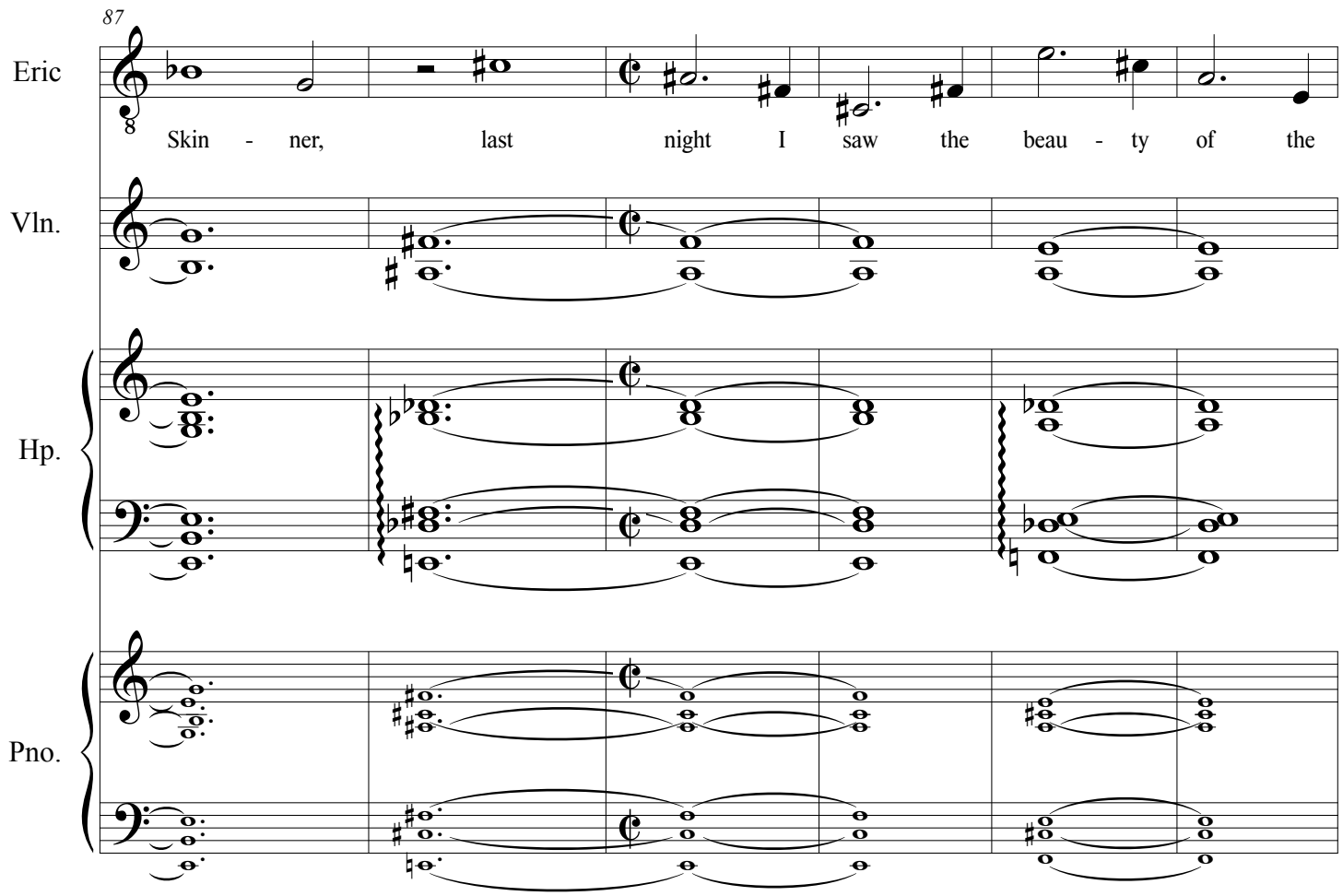

68
Asa
do the dev - il's bid - ding with your vi - o - lin, vi - o - lin, vi - o - lin!
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
bs. dr.
f open cymb.
Pno.

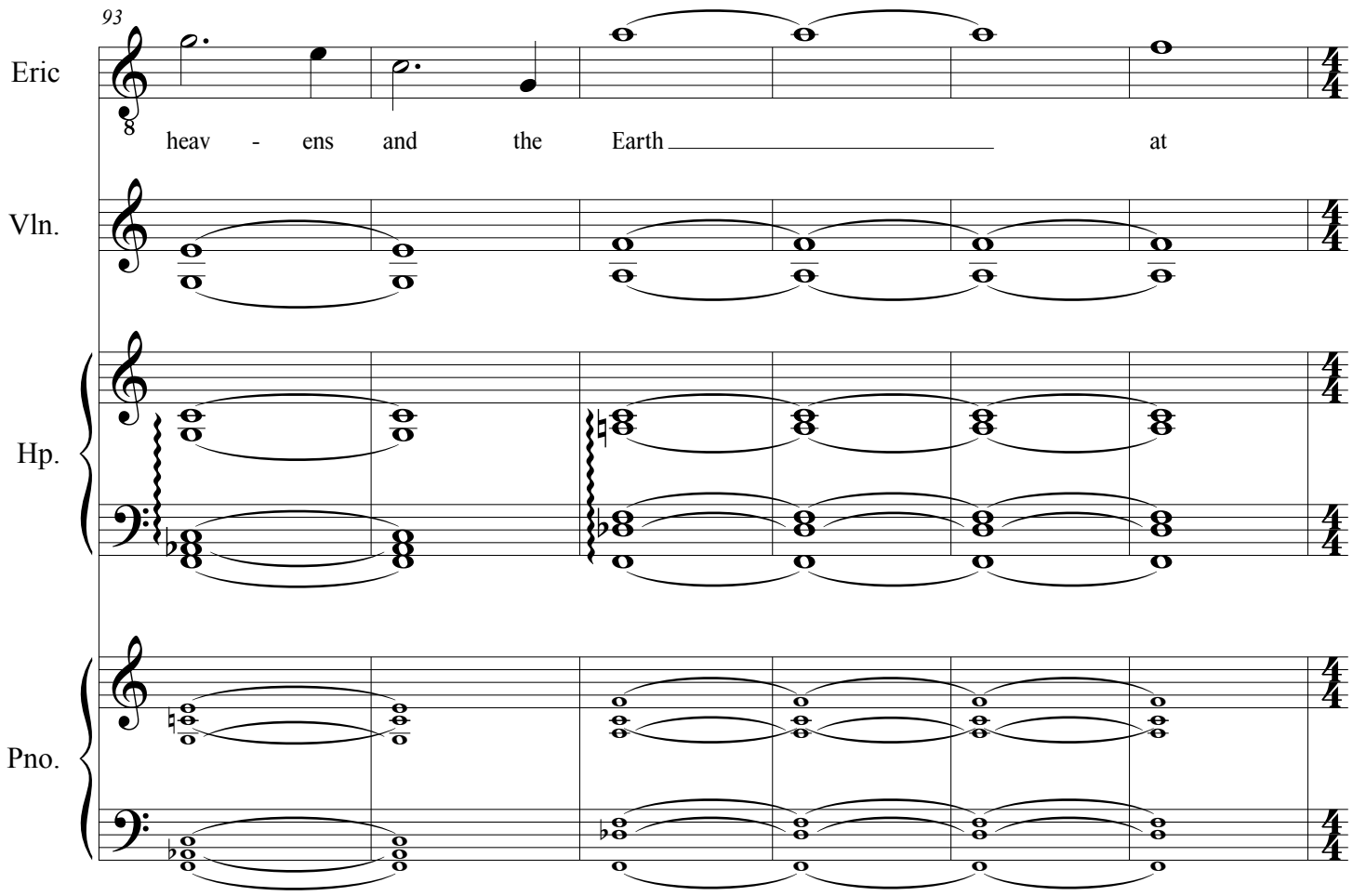

71
Asa
I pray to God for his
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.

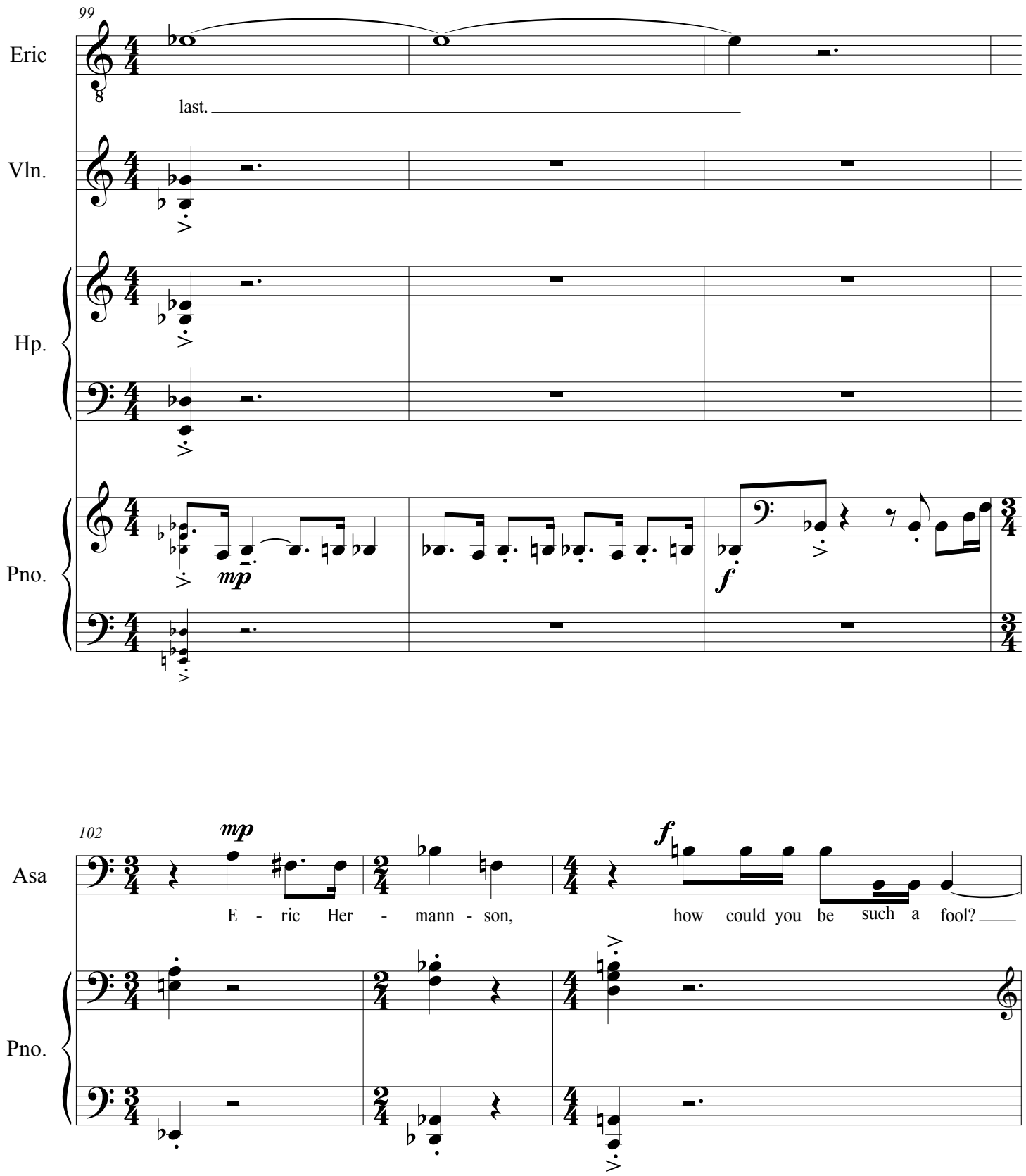

74
Asa
strength to lead you out of dark - ness
Vln.
Hp.
sn. dr.
Perc.
hp.
Pno.

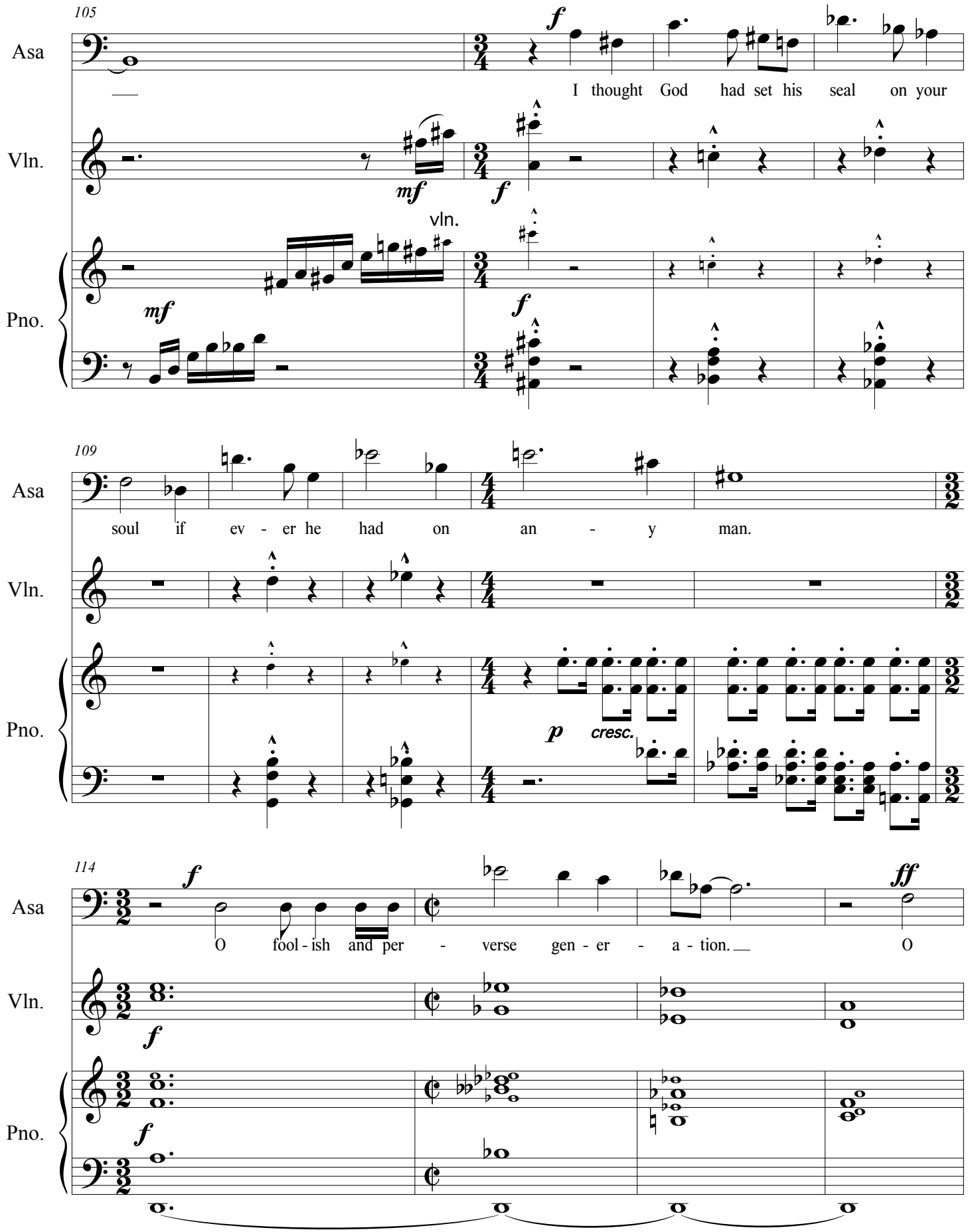

78
Asa
in - to light a - gain.
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
Pno.

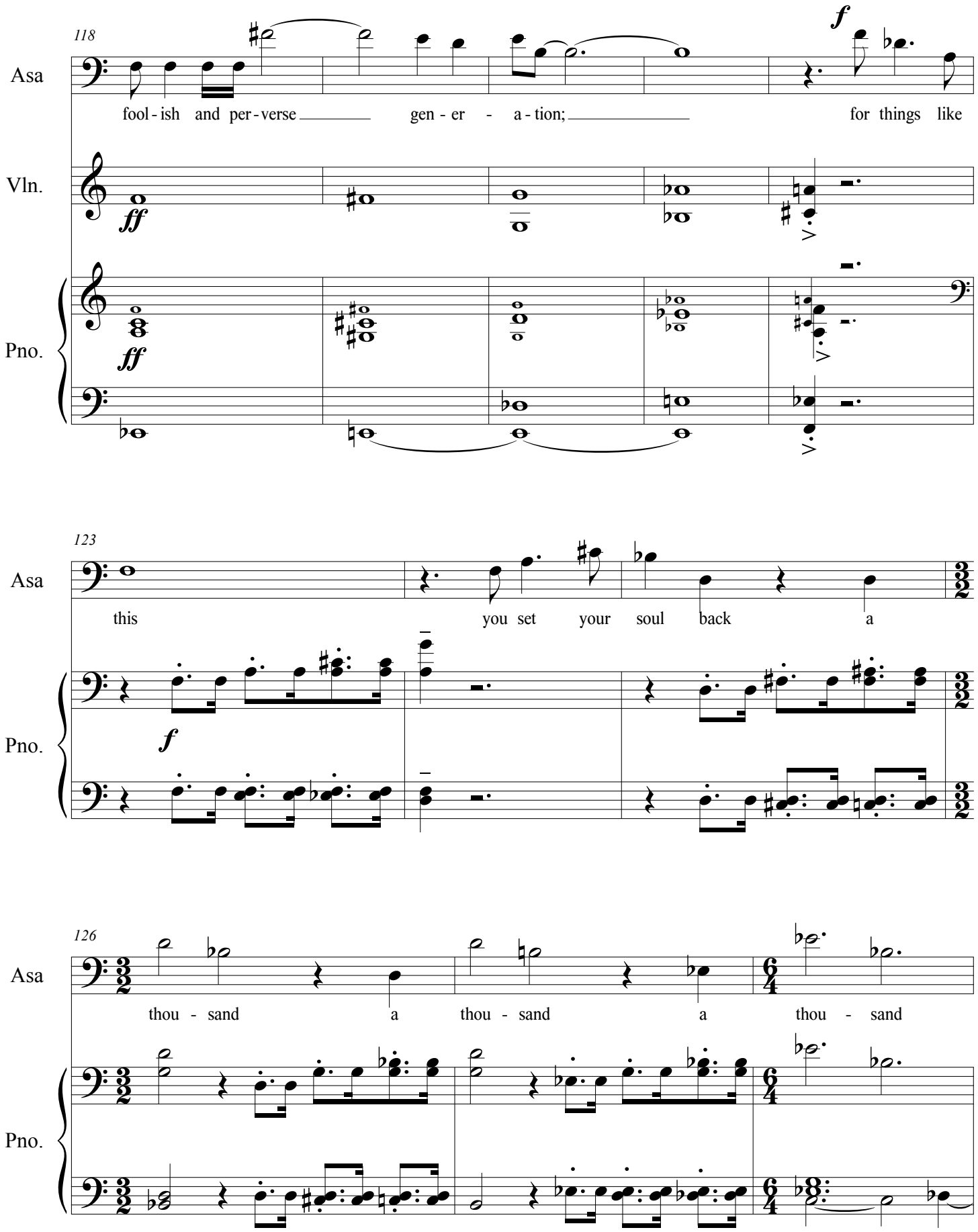

82
Serenely ♩ = 60
Eric
Preach - er
Vln.
Hp.
Perc.
bs. dr.
Pno.
vln. & hp.

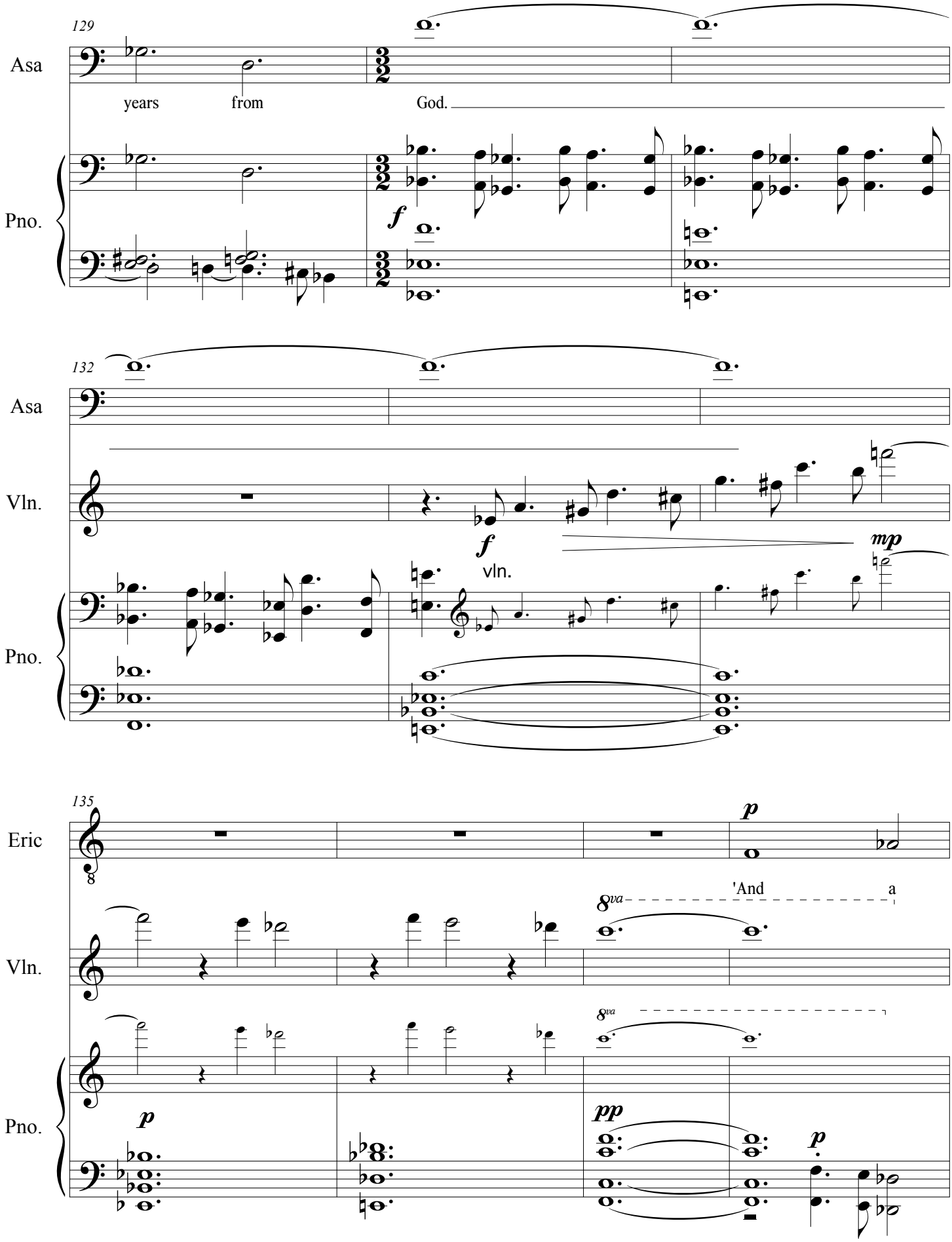

87
Eric
Skin - ner, last night I saw the beau - ty of the
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.

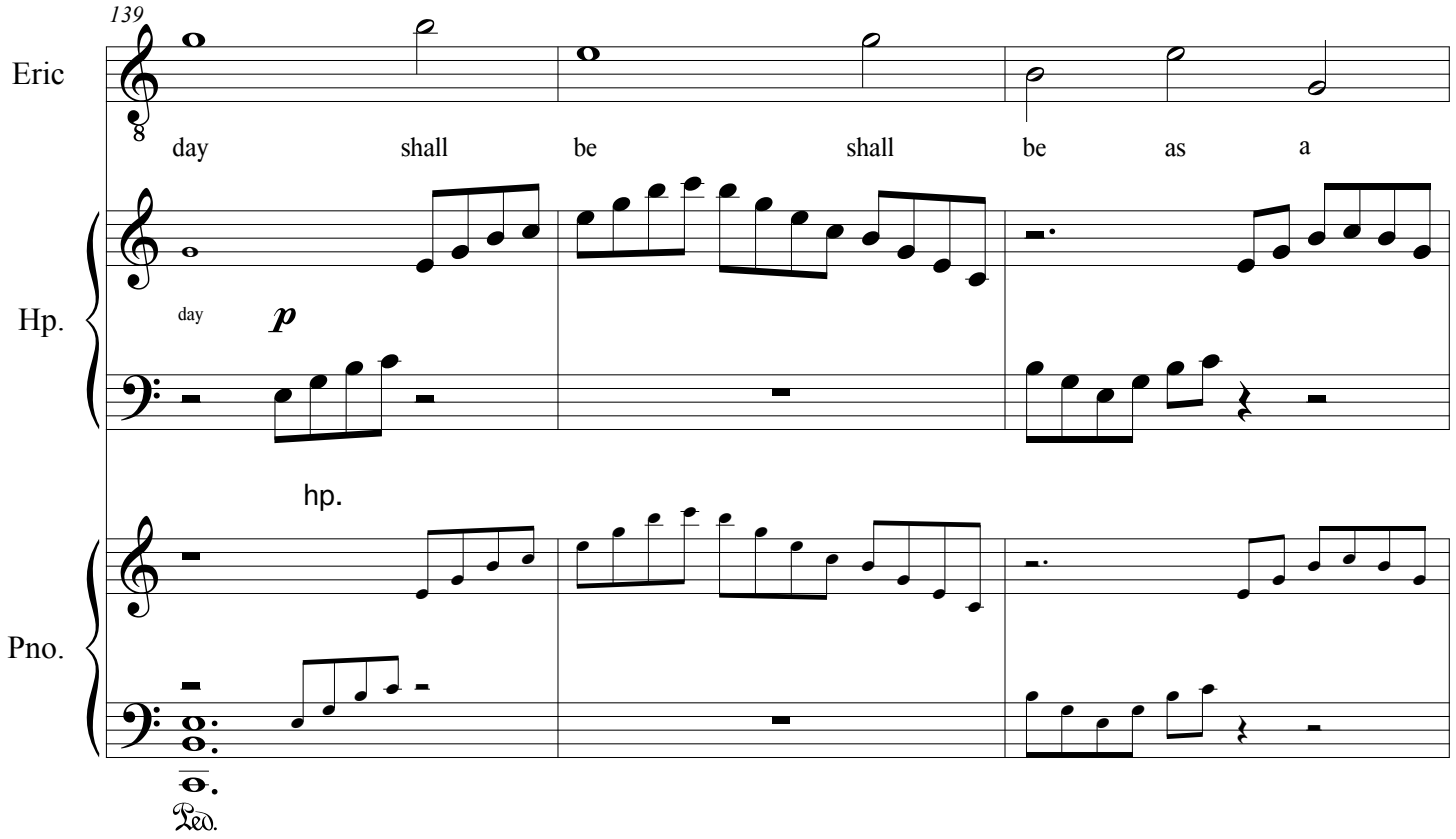

93
Eric
heav - ens and the Earth at
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.

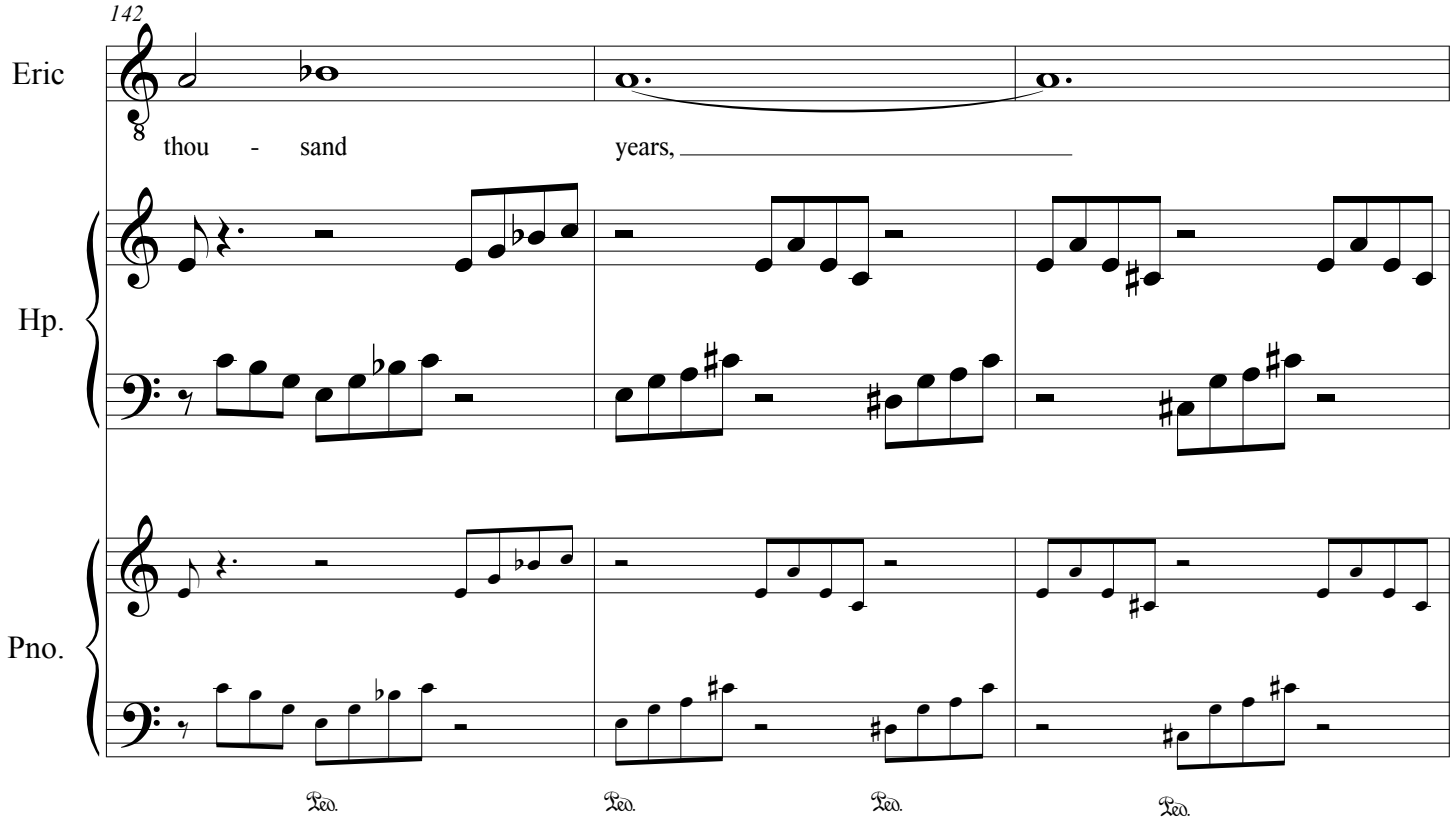

99
Eric
last.
Vln.
Hp.
Pno.
mp
f
102
Asa
mp
f
E - ric Her - mann - son, how could you be such a fool?
Pno.

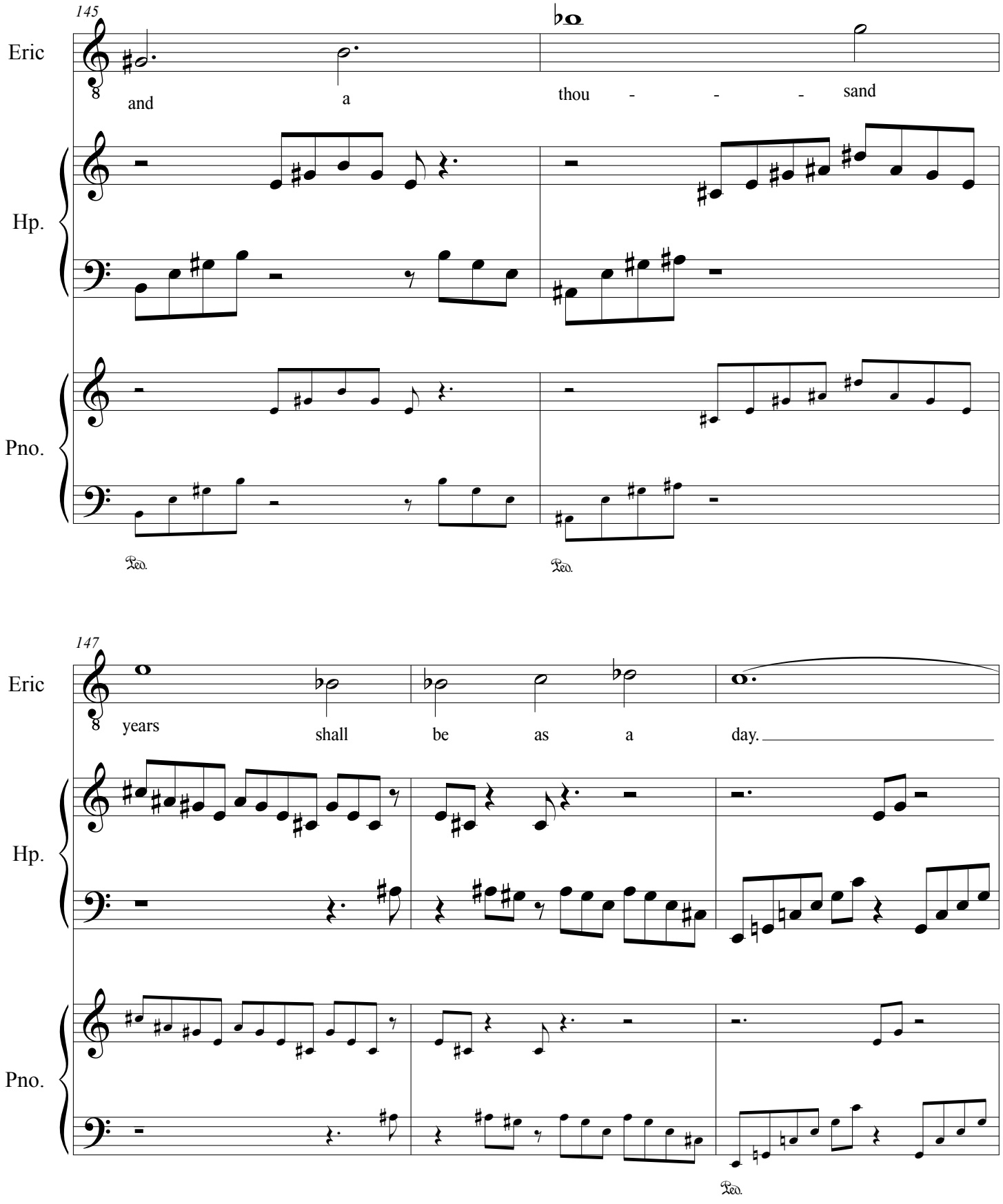

105
Asa
Vln.
Pno.
I thought God had set his seal on your
vln.
109
soul if ev - er he had on an - y man.
cresc.
114
O fool - ish and per - verse gen - er - a - tion. O

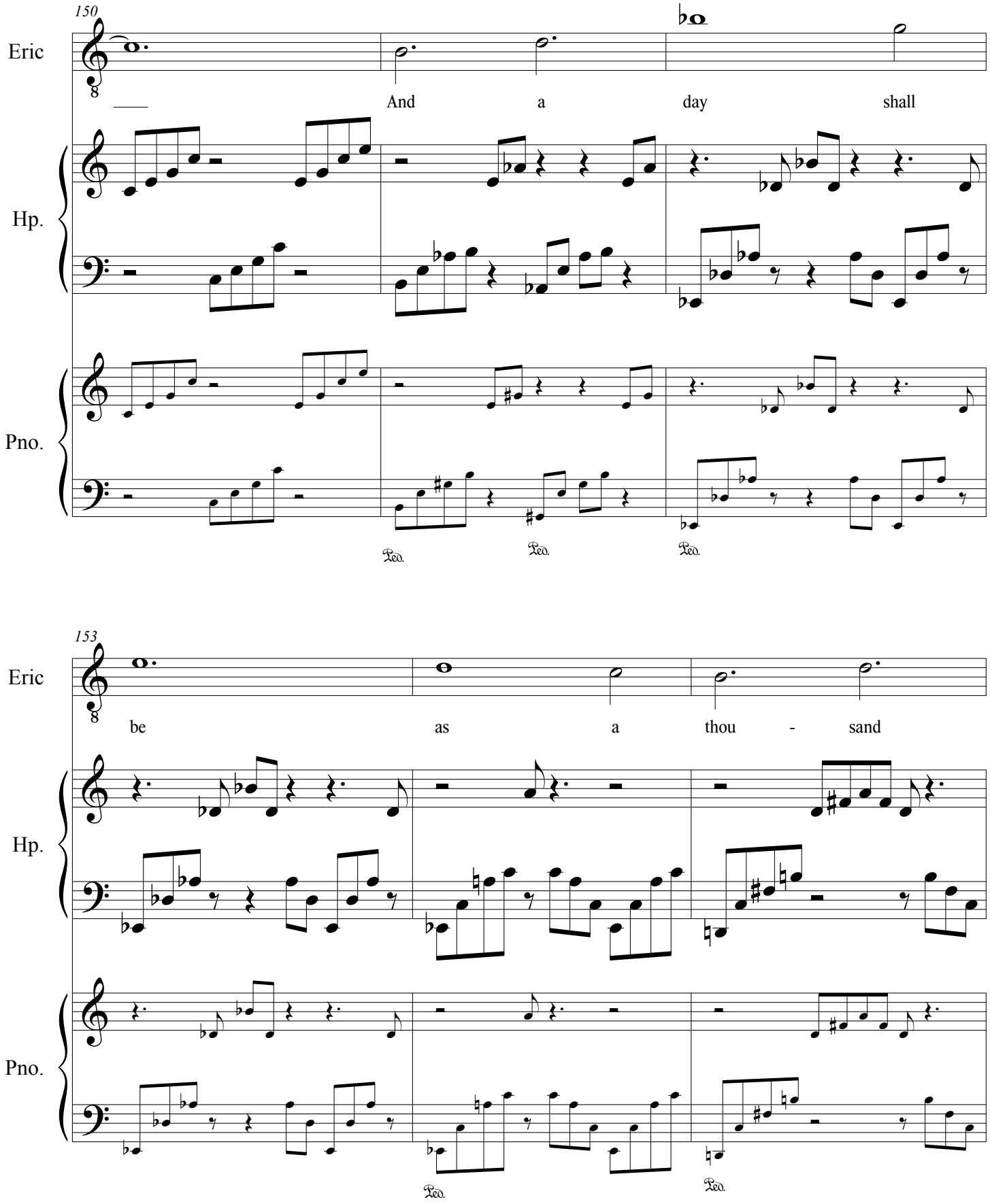

118
Asa
fool - ish and per - verse gen - er - a - tion; for things like
Vln.
ff
Pno.
ff
f
123
Asa
this you set your soul back a
Pno.
f
126
Asa
thou - sand a thou - sand a thou - sand
Pno.

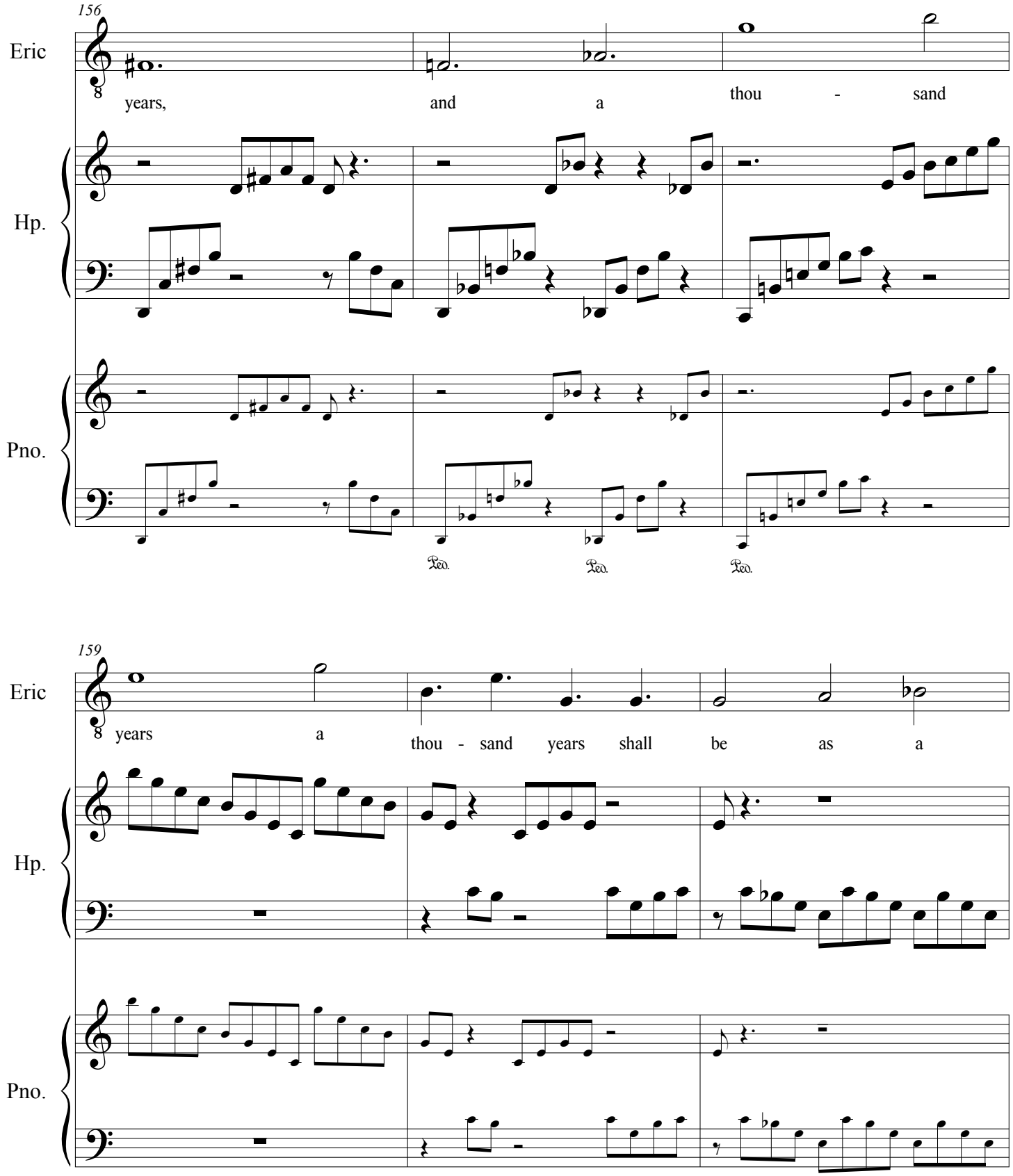

129
Asa
years
from
God.
Pno.
f
132
Asa
Vln.
f
vln.
mp
Pno.
135
Eric
p
'And
a
Vln.
8va
Pno.
p
pp
p

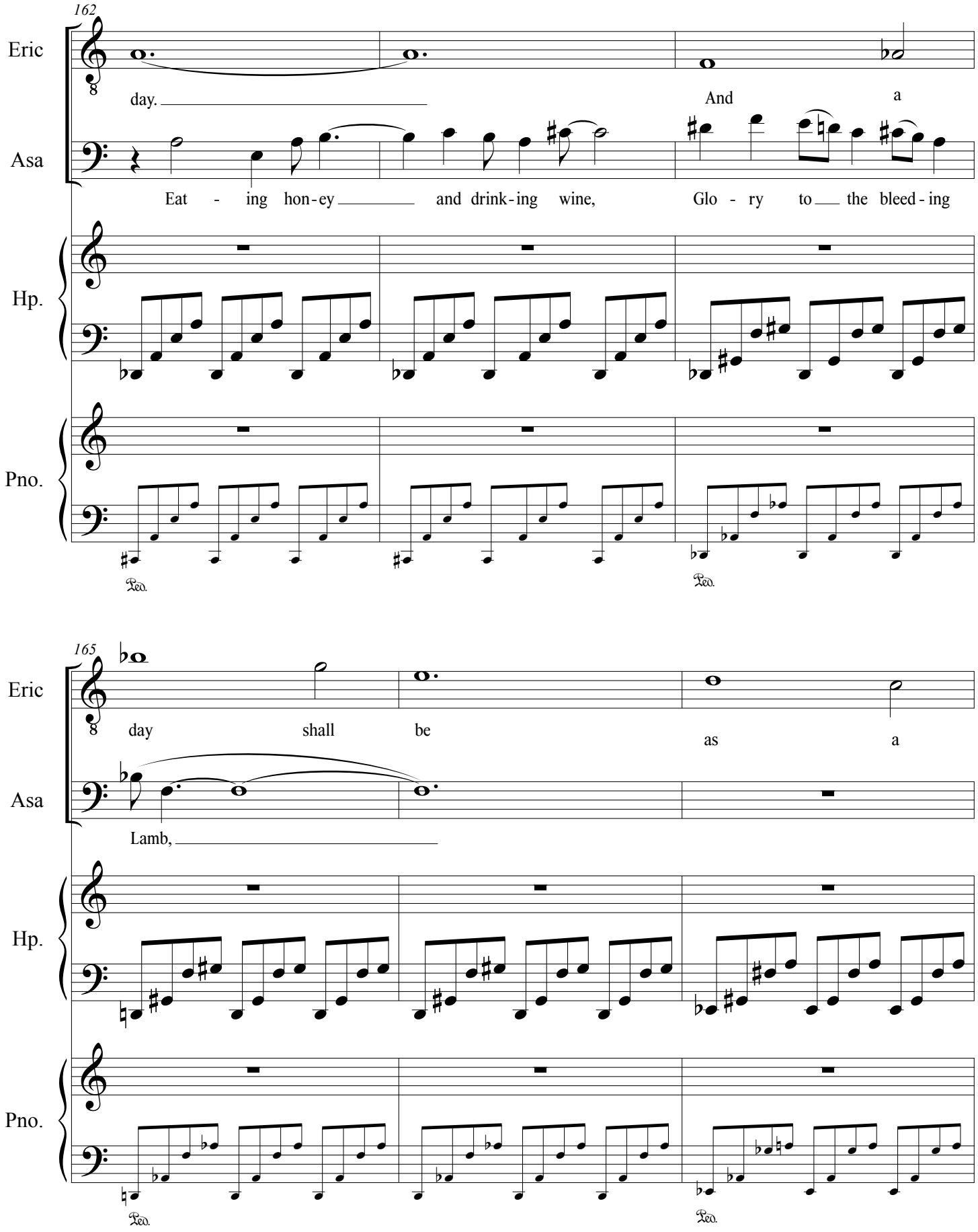

139
Eric
day shall be shall be as a
Hp.
day
p
hp.
Pno.
Ped.

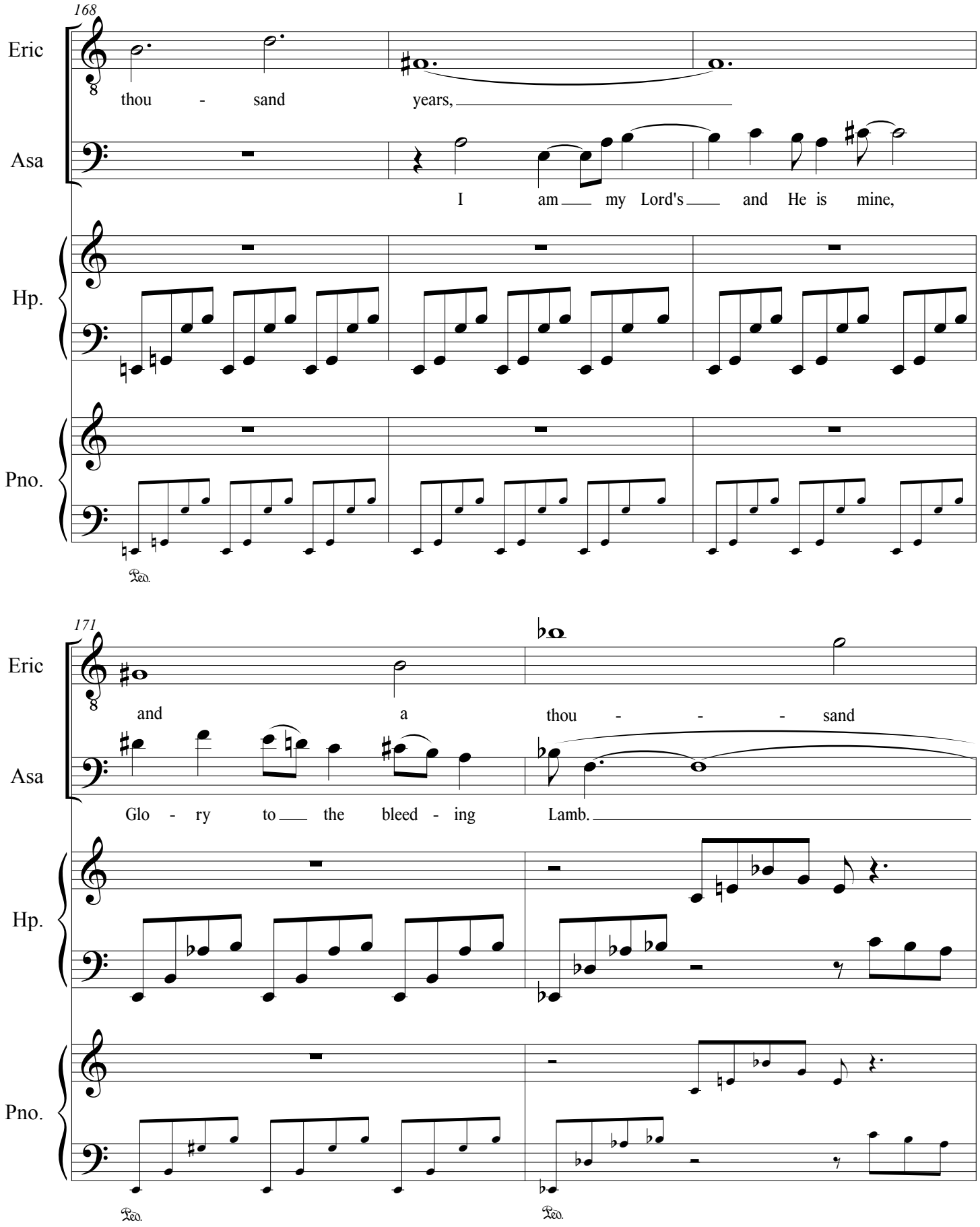

142
Eric
thou - sand years,
Hp.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

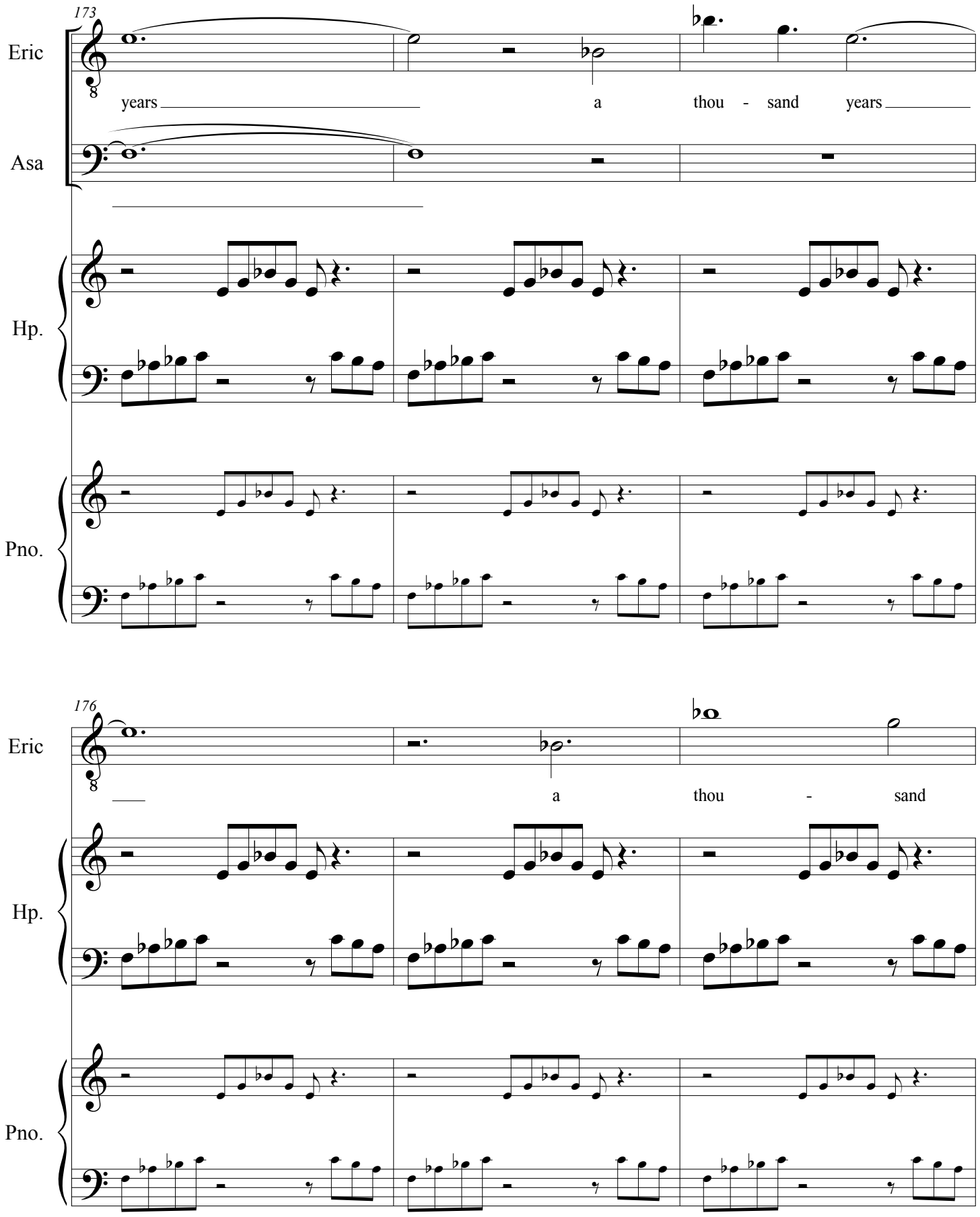

145
Eric
and
a
thou - - - sand
Hp.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
147
Eric
years
shall
be
as
a
day.
Hp.
Pno.
Ped.

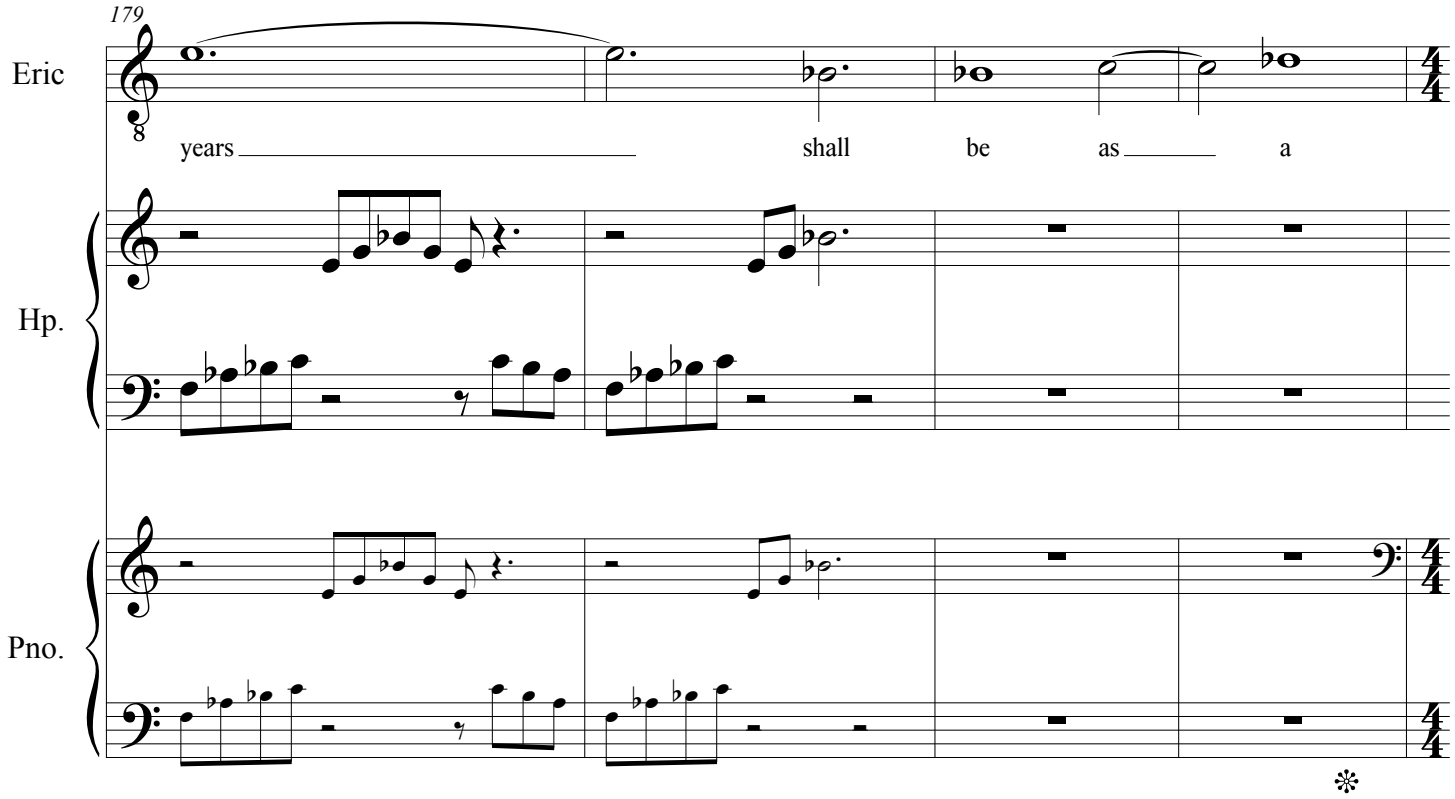

150
Eric
And a day shall
Hp.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
153
Eric
be as a thou - sand
Hp.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.

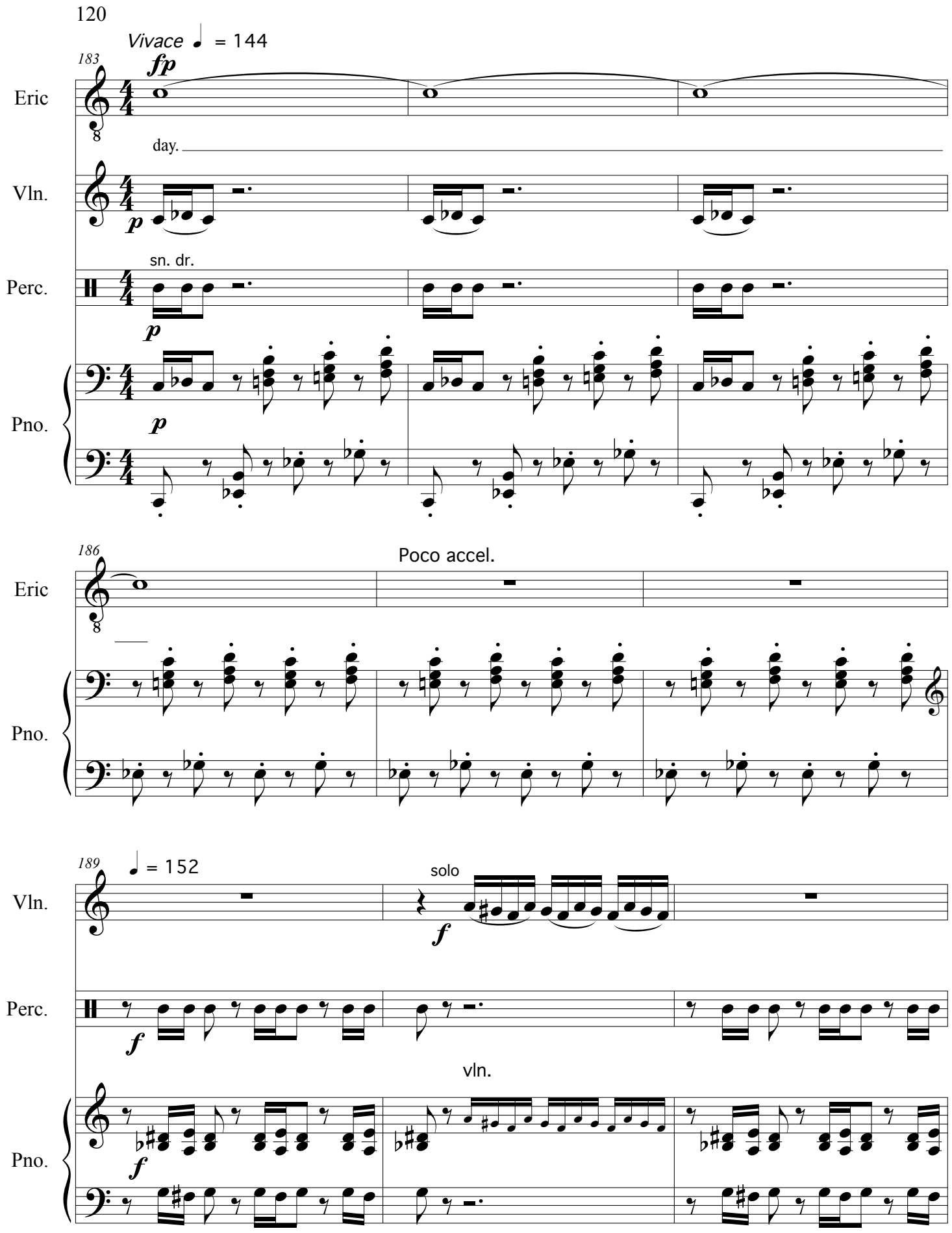

156
Eric
years,
and
a
thou - sand
Hp.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
159
Eric
years
a
thou - sand years shall be as a
Hp.
Pno.

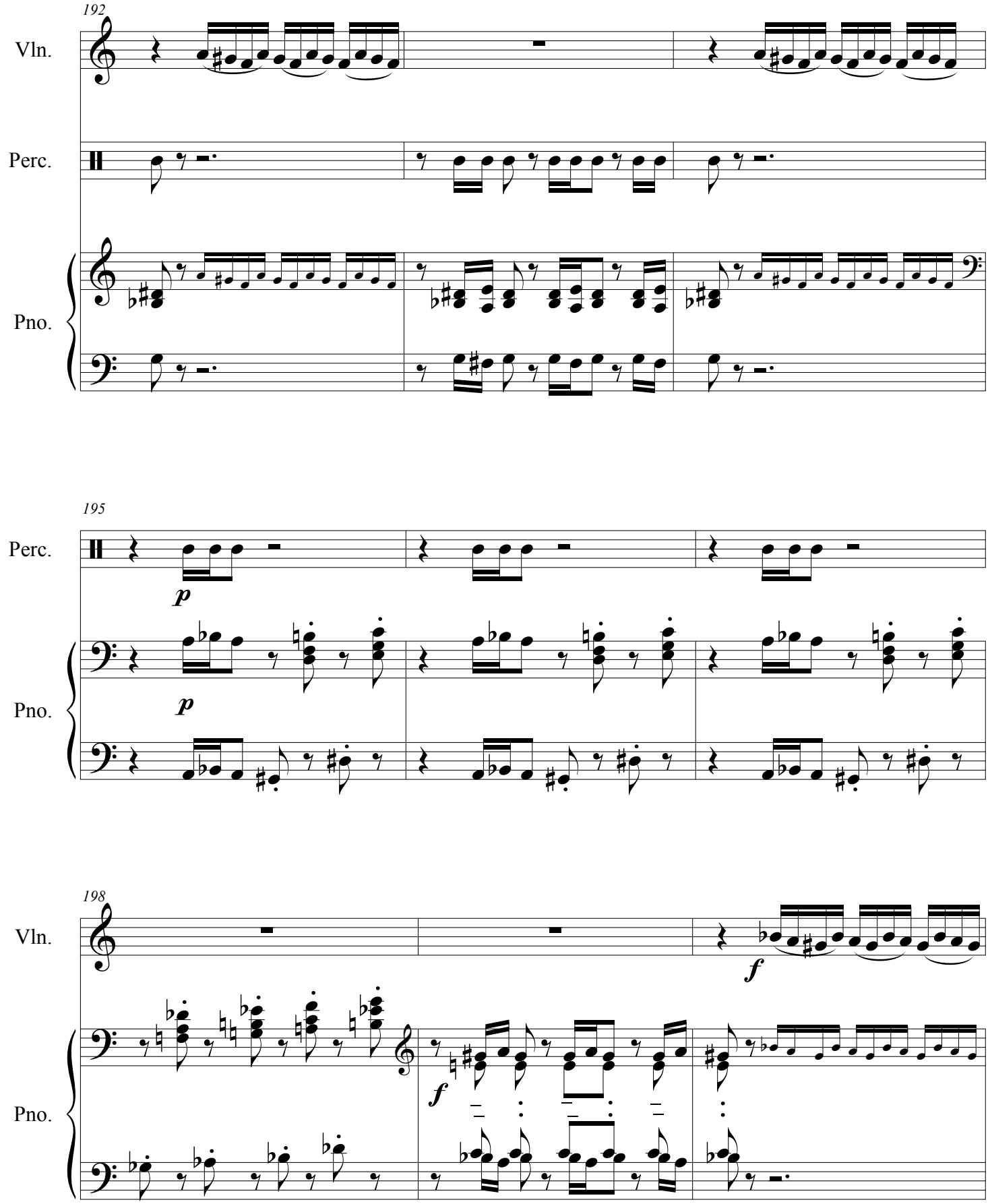

162
Eric
Asa
Hp.
Pno.
day.
And a
Eat - ing hon-ey and drink-ing wine,
Glo - ry to the bleed-ing
Ped.
Ped.
165
Eric
Asa
Hp.
Pno.
day shall be
as a
Lamb,
Ped.
Ped.

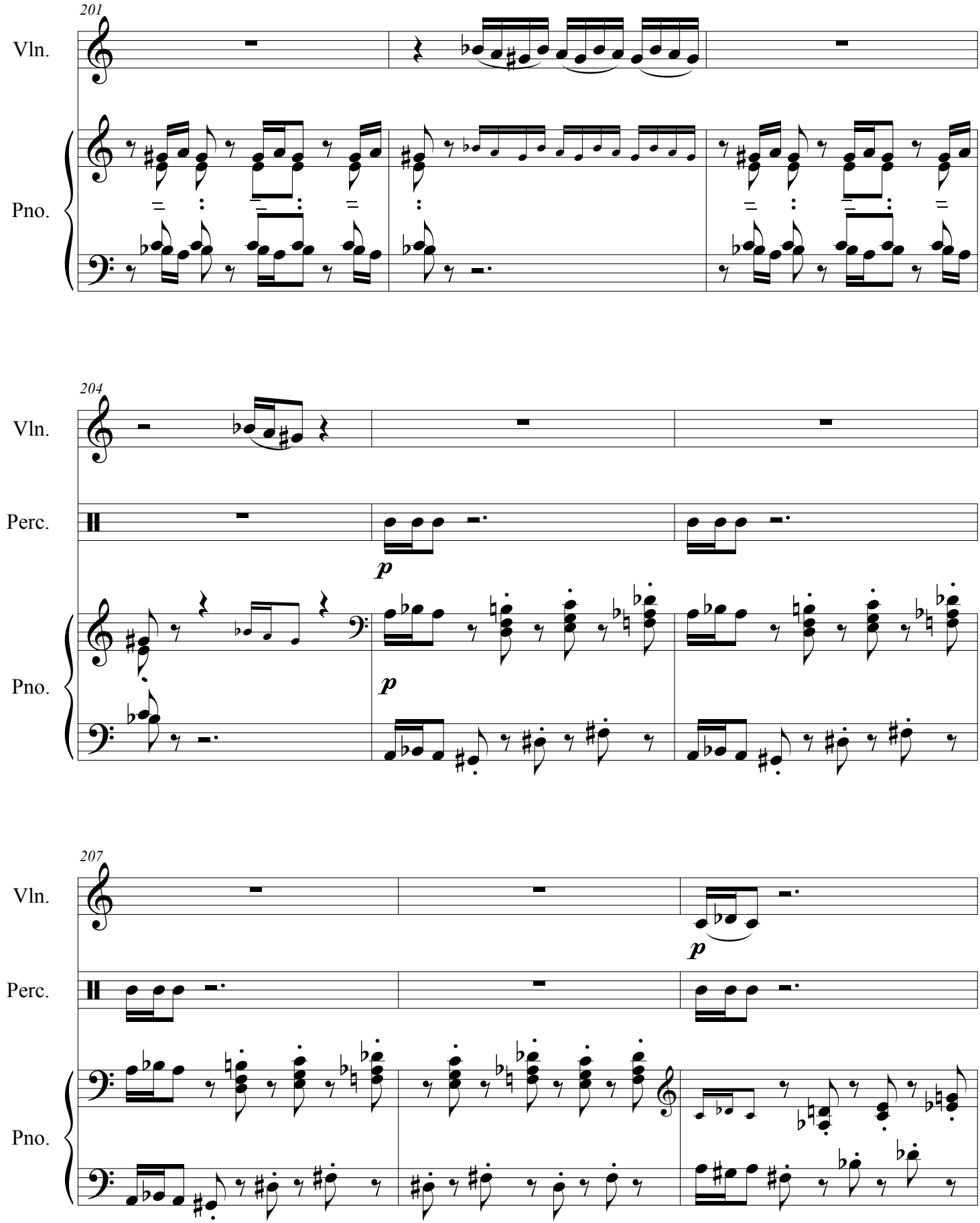

168
Eric
thou - sand years,
Asa
I am my Lord's and He is mine,
Hp.
Pno.
Ped.
171
Eric
and a thou - - - sand
Asa
Glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb.
Hp.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.

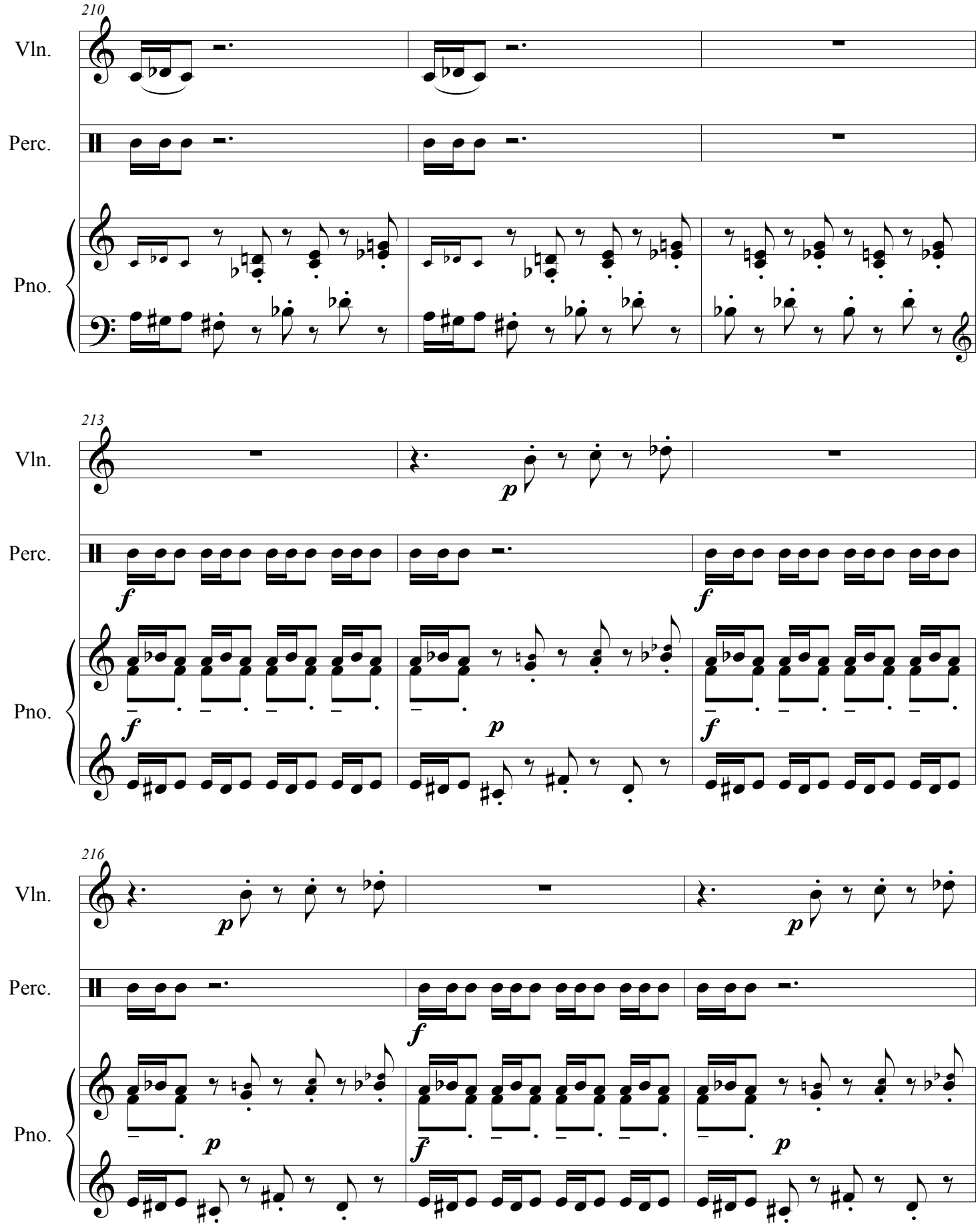

173
Eric
years
a
thou - sand
years
Asa
Hp.
Pno.
176
Eric
a
thou - sand
Hp.
Pno.

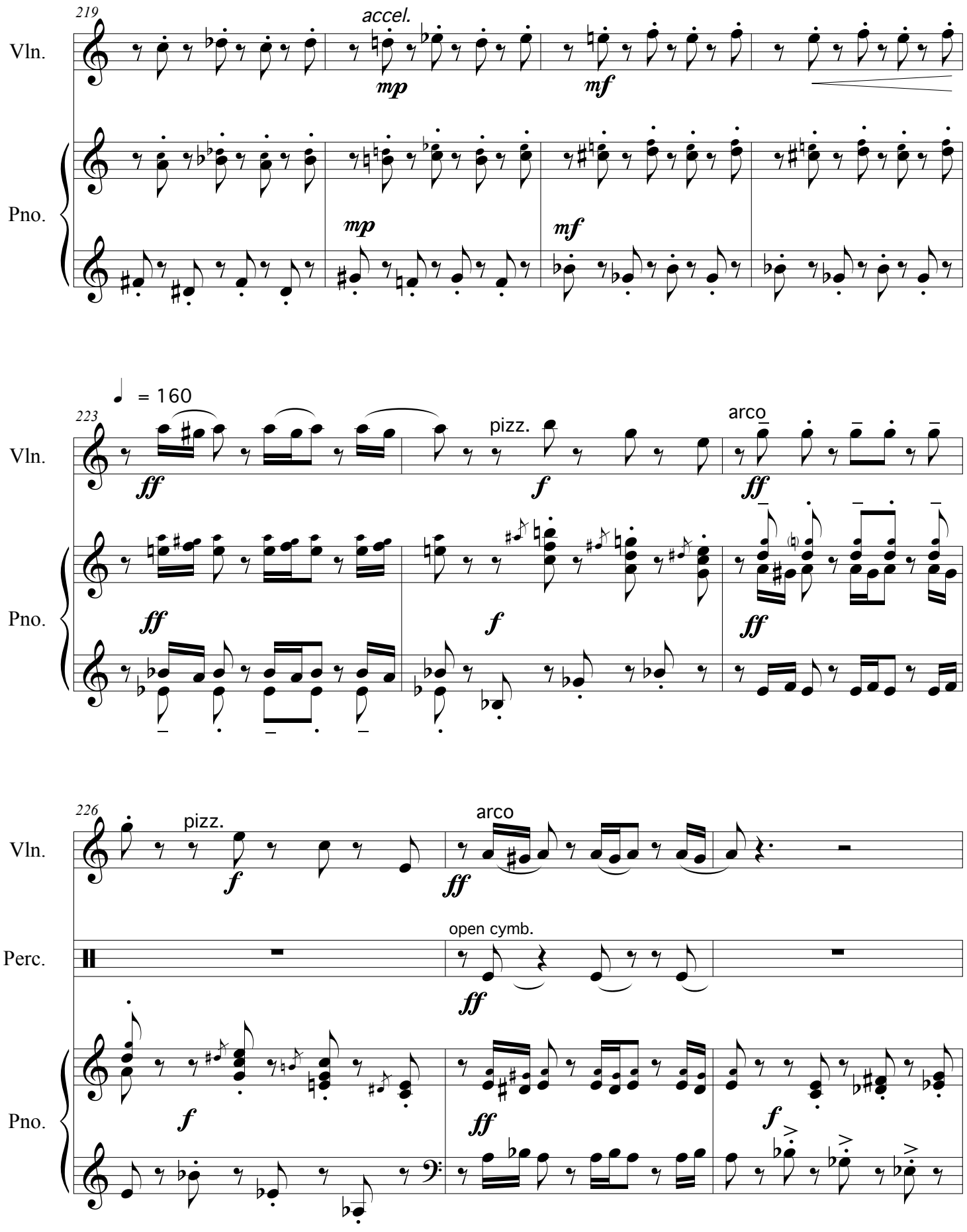

179
Eric
years
shall
be
as
a
Hp.
Pno.

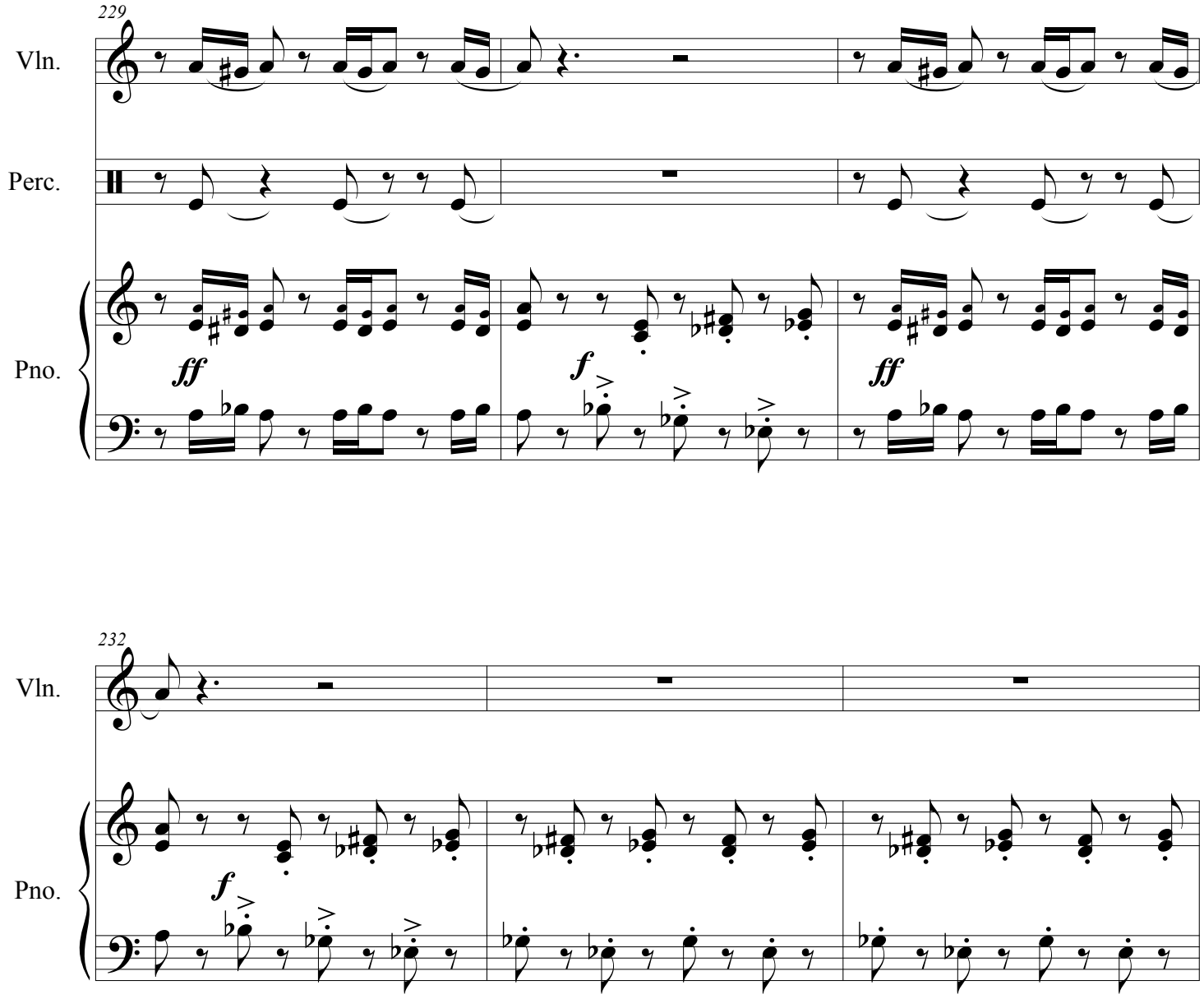

Vivace ♩ = 144
183
fp
Eric
day.
Vln.
p
sn. dr.
Perc.
p
Pno.
p
186
Poco accel.
Eric
Pno.
189
♩ = 152
Vln.
solo
f
Perc.
f
vln.
Pno.
f


192
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
195
Perc.
p
Pno.
p
198
Vln.
f
Pno.
f

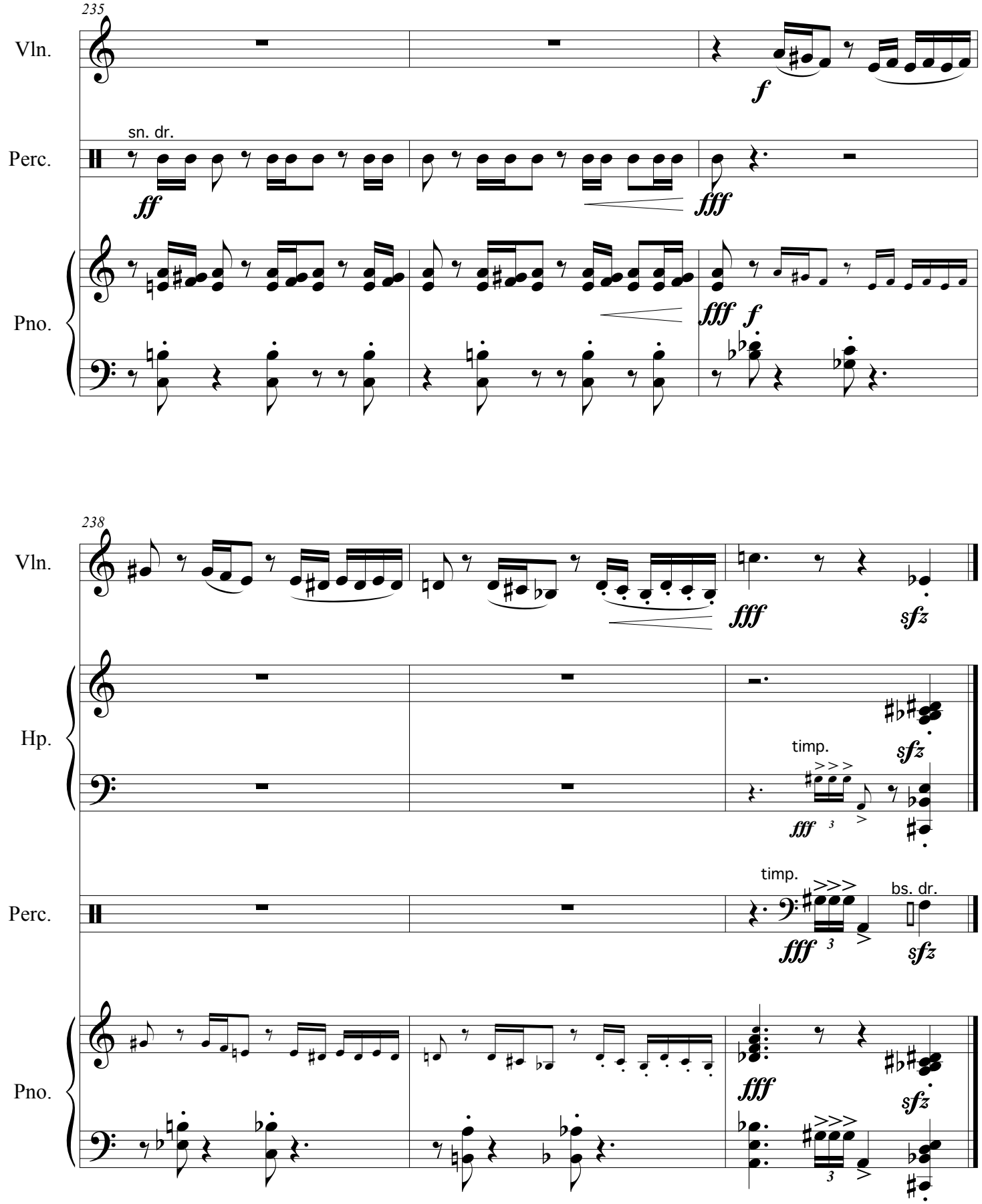

201
Vln.
Pno.
204
Vln.
Perc.
p
Pno.
p
207
Vln.
Perc.
p
Pno.


210
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
213
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
216
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.


219
accel.
Vln.
mp
mf
Pno.
mp
mf
♩ = 160
223
pizz.
arco
Vln.
ff
f
ff
Pno.
ff
f
ff
226
pizz.
arco
Vln.
f
ff
open cymb.
Perc.
ff
Pno.
f
ff
f


229
Vln.
Perc.
Pno.
ff
f
ff

232
Vln.
Pno.
f


235
Vln.
sn. dr.
Perc.
Pno.
238
Vln.
Hp.
timp.
Perc.
timp.
bs. dr.
Pno.