LAST NIGHT I TOUCHED HIM

~ LYRICAL HAIKUS FOR TENOR VOICE ~

TEXT AND MUSIC BY:
JORDAN ALEXANDER KEY
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Lyrical Haiku: *Last Night I Touched Him*

I.	**"Last Night I Touched Him"**	**3**
II.	**"Never Without Fear"**	**7**
III.	**"He Said I Love You"**	**10**
IV.	**"We Don't Love You"**	**12**
V.	**"Will God Forgive Me"**	**17**

Duration ca. 10 minutes

Last Night I Touched Him
Haiku Cycle by: Jordan Key

Last night I touched him.
My hand whispers on his chest.
My Confirmation!

Does sin smell like sweat
Or smell like his knotted hair?
How then does love smell?

Never without fear!
Our clasped hands profess our faith
In the grocery store.

He said, "I love you."
I hear those word in his arms
As we fall asleep,

Today I was told
By my Mother and Father,
"Out! We don't love you."

Whose blood fills their cups?
Do they taste the vanity
In their broken bread?

Will God forgive me?
I forgave God long ago.

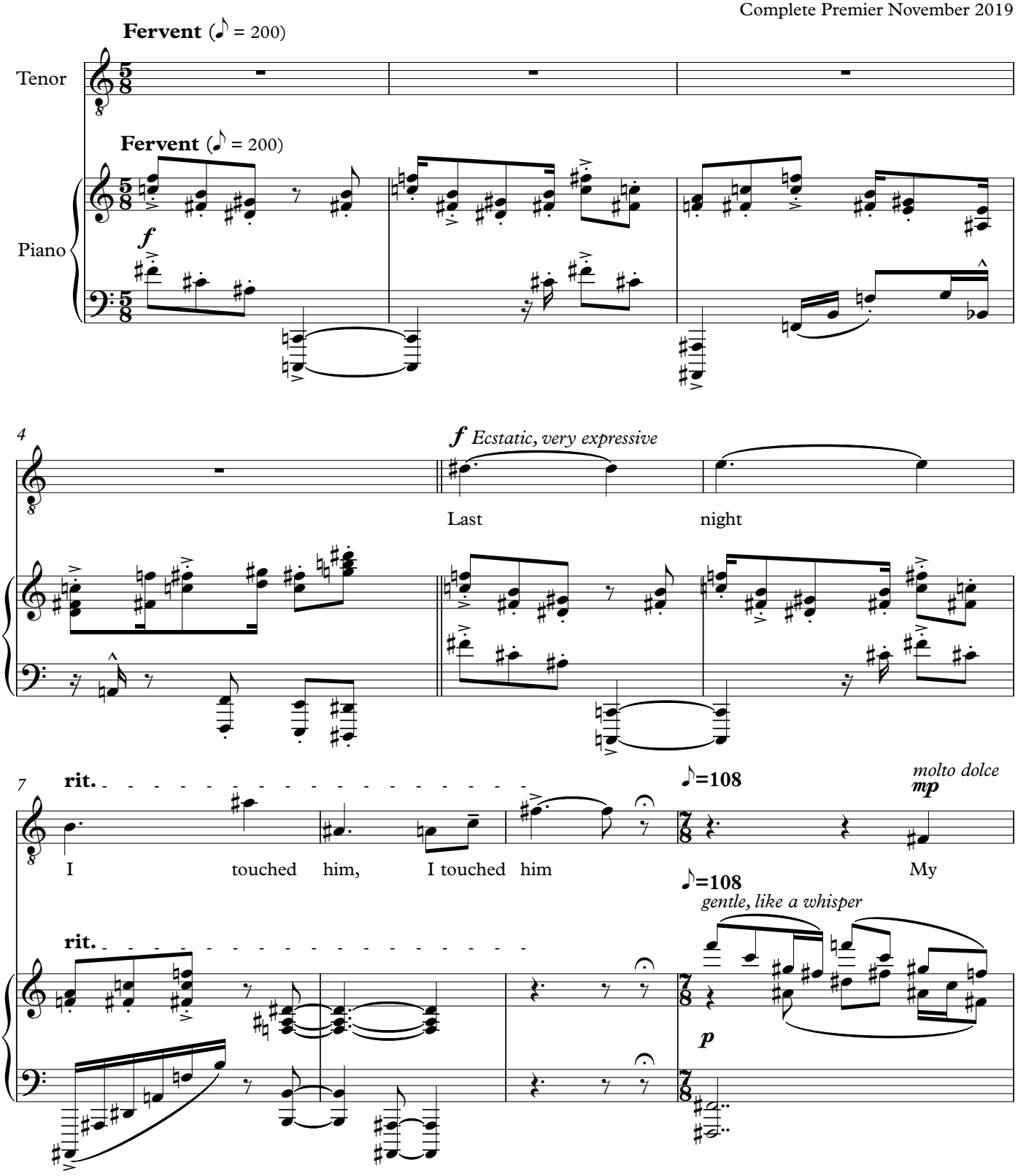
Program Note:

A small song cycle of haikus by the composer, ***Last Night I Touched Him*** reacts to the struggle of coming out as gay in a conservative, religious society. The haikus not only reflect on homosexual love, but also the fear, hate, and anguish that accompany love for many gays who come out and live in intolerant communities. Along with poetic portrayal of homosexual love and its struggle for tolerance is the internal conflict between the self and a god that is reported as loving but is frequently shown to be hatful. This piece explores the structure of haiku in music through short forms that juxtapose musically contradictory styles, textures, emotions, and musical references. "*Last Night I Touched Him"* is miniature drama of contrasts – a play between homosexuality and Christianity, sensuality and spirituality, love and hate.

Last Night I Touched Him

I. "Last Night I Touched Him"

Jordan Alexander Key
Complete Premier November 2019



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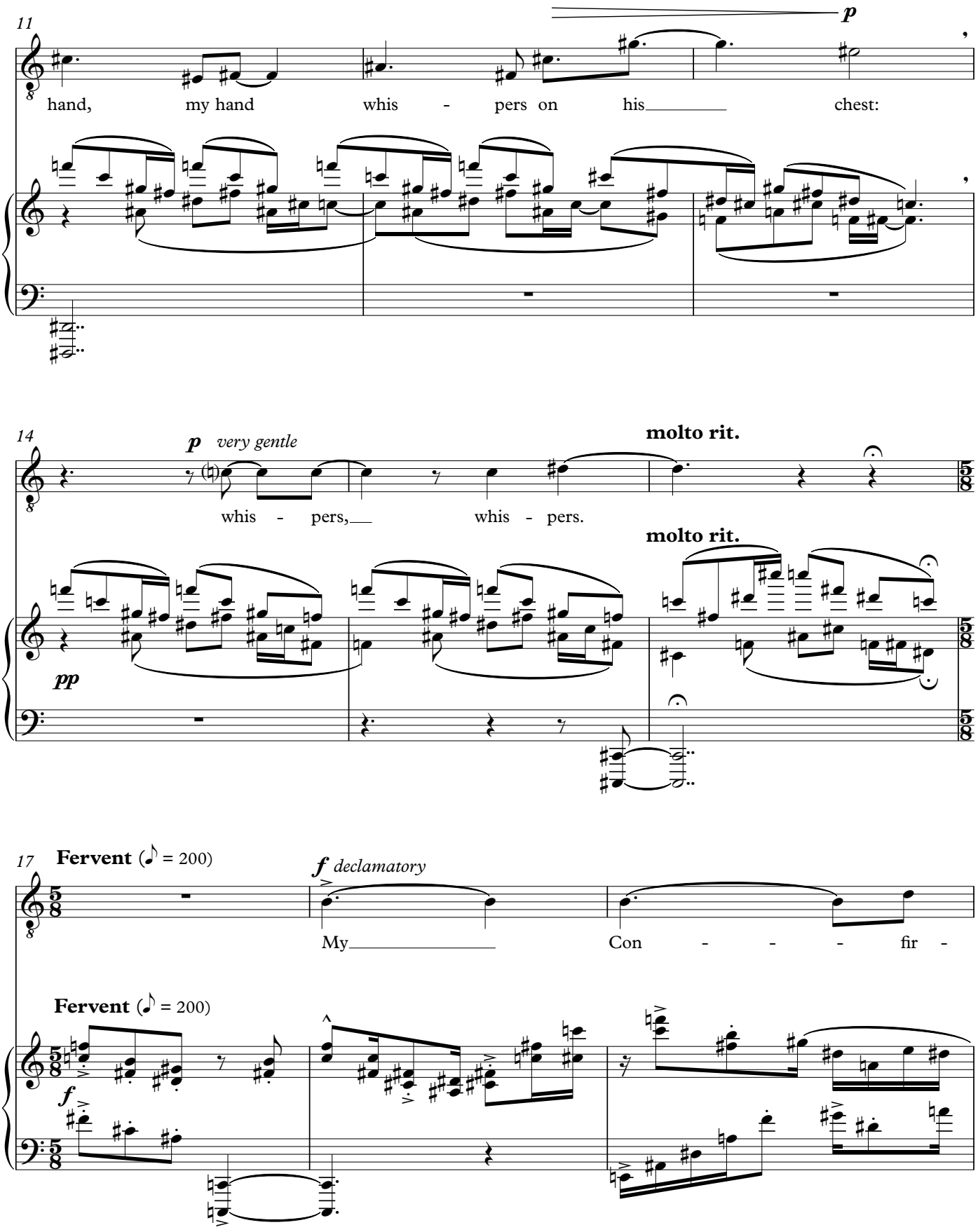
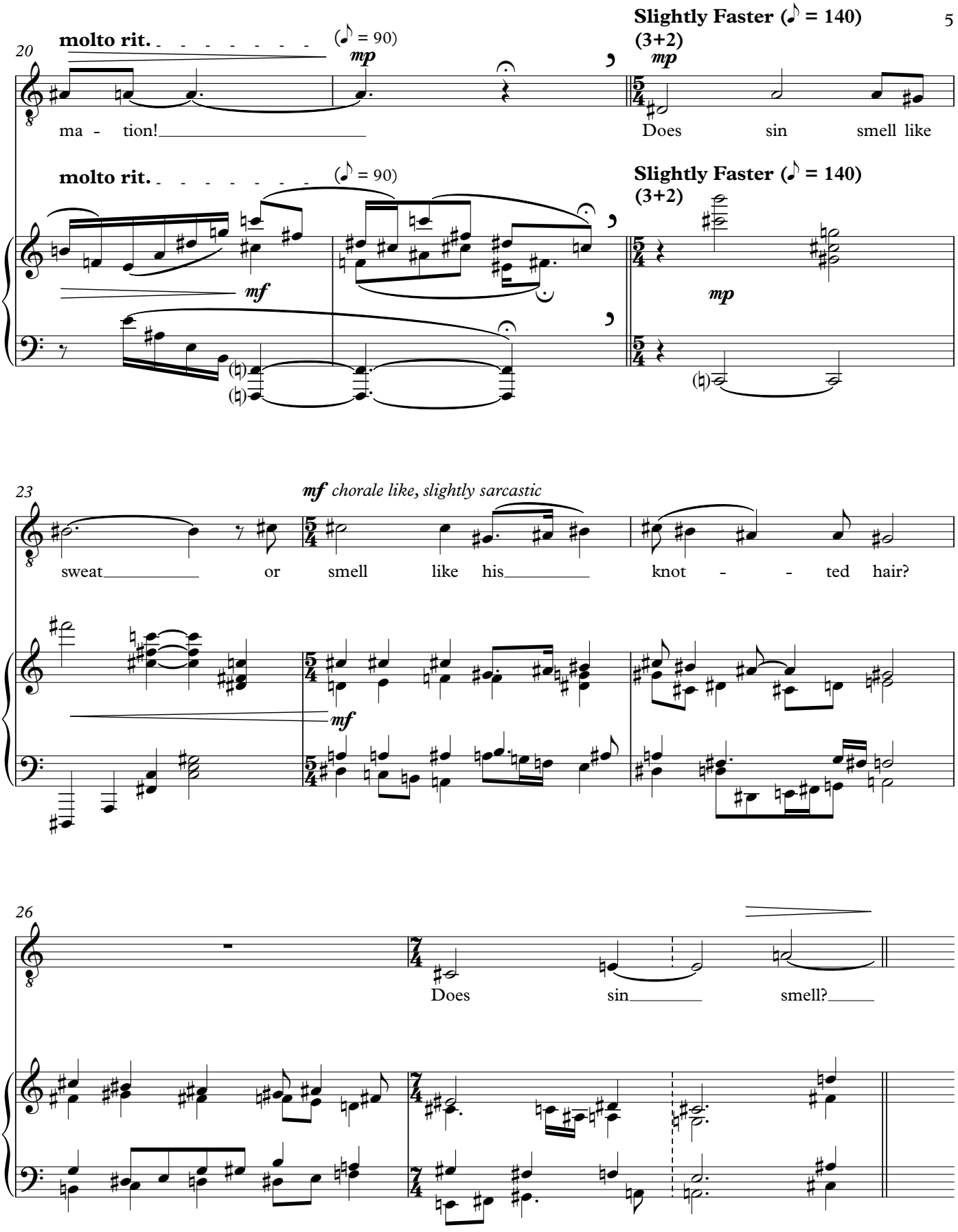
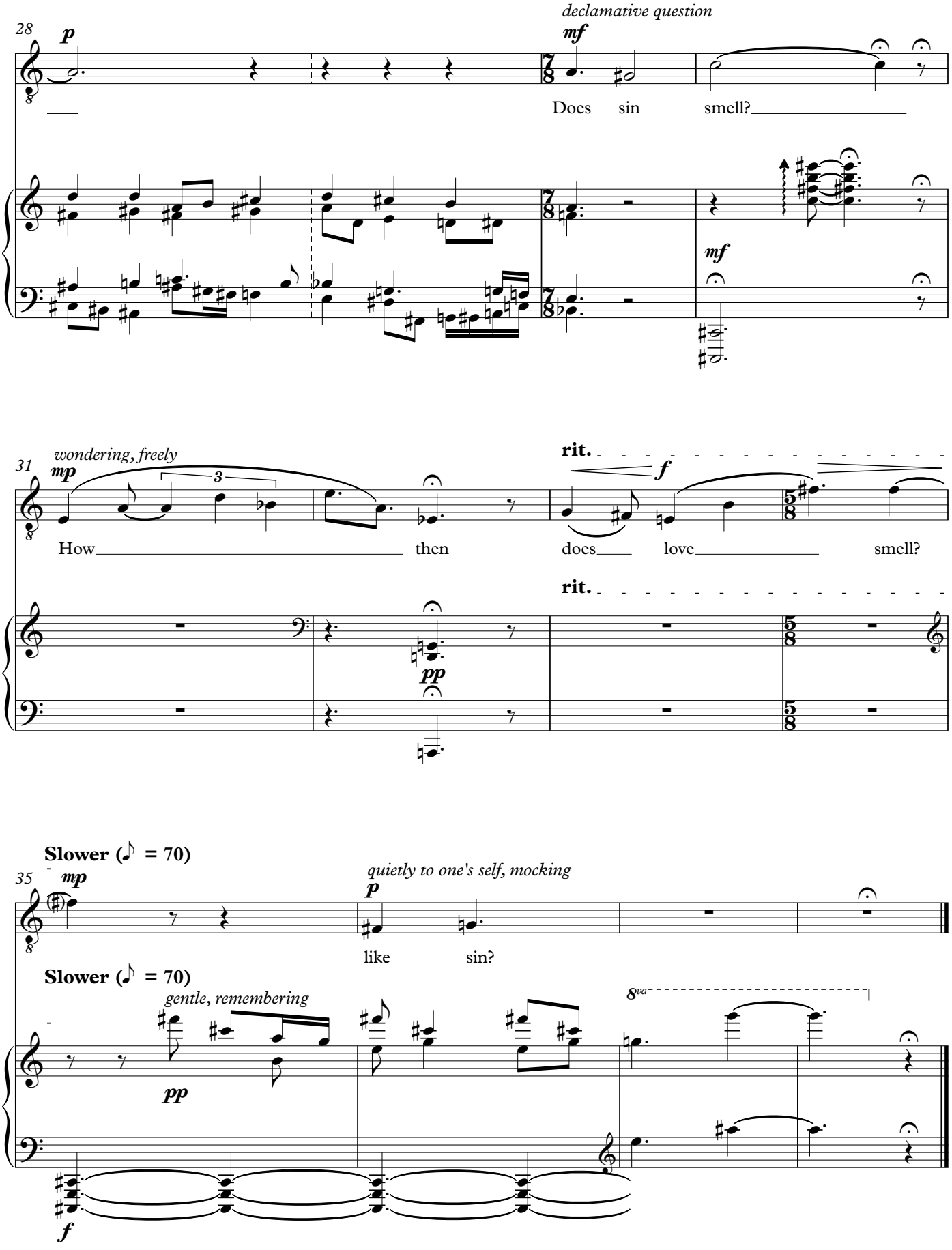
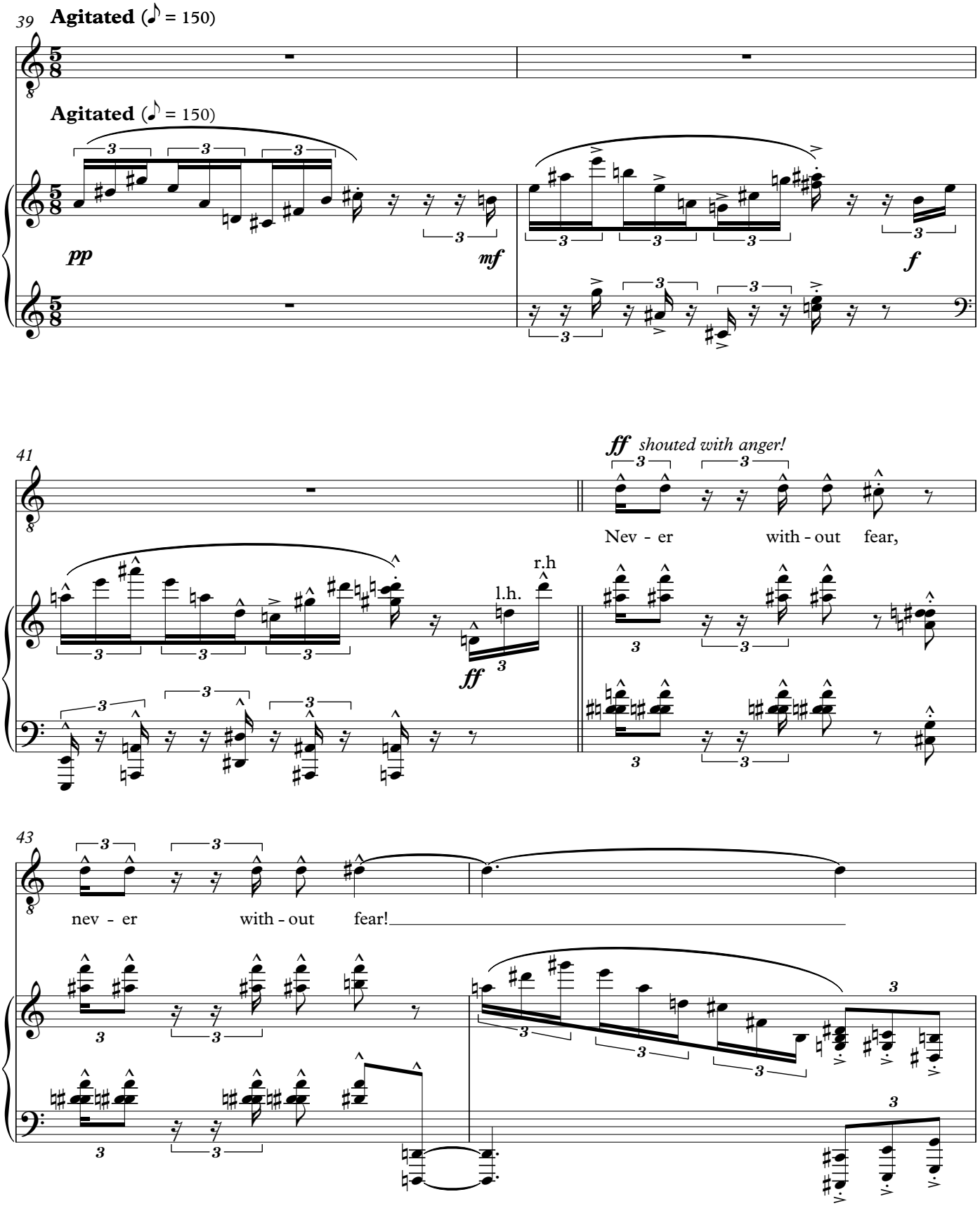
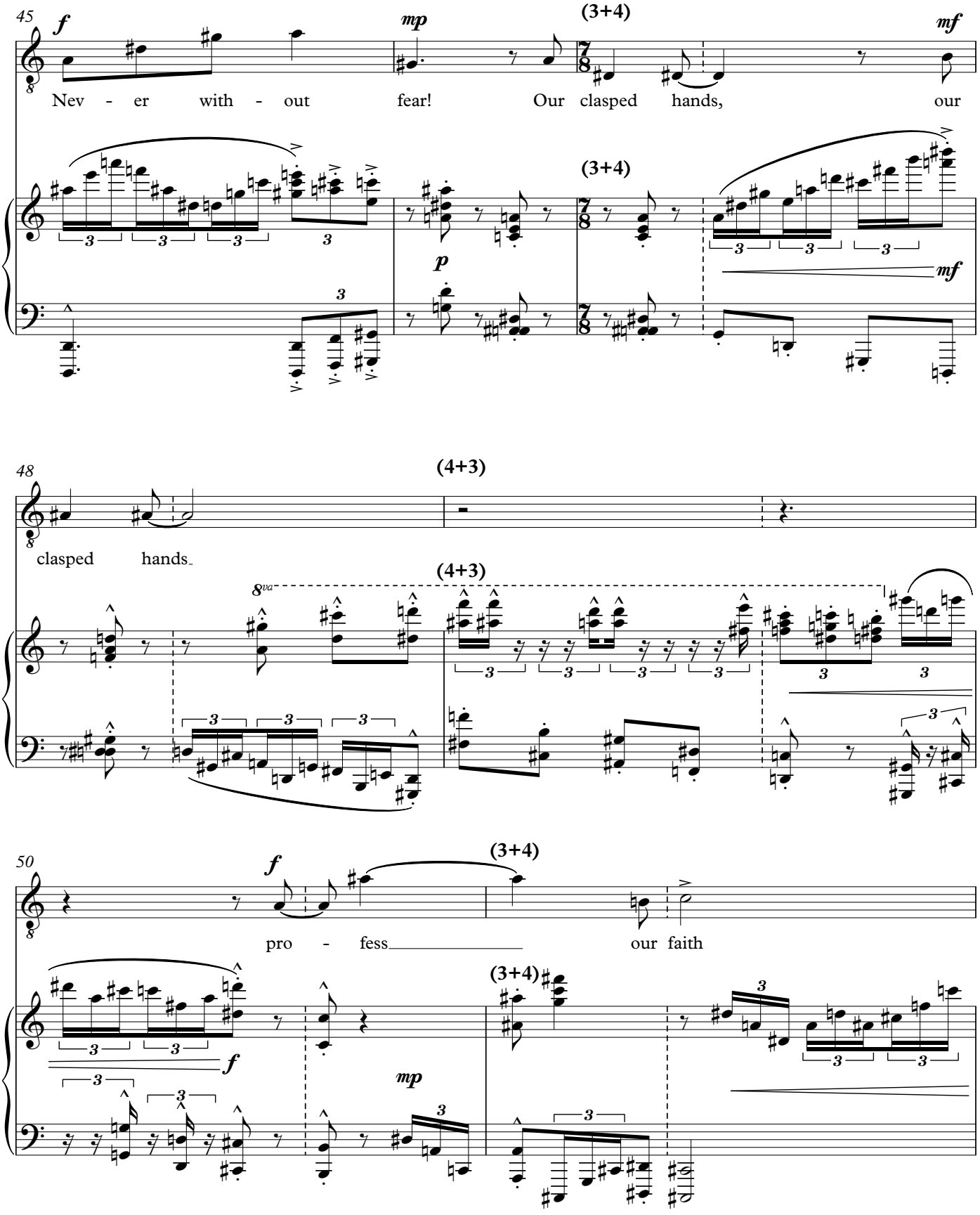

11
p
hand, my hand whis - pers on his chest:
14
p very gentle
molto rit.
whis - pers, whis - pers.
molto rit.
pp
17
Fervent (♪ = 200)
f declamatory
My Con - - - fir -
Fervent (♪ = 200)
f

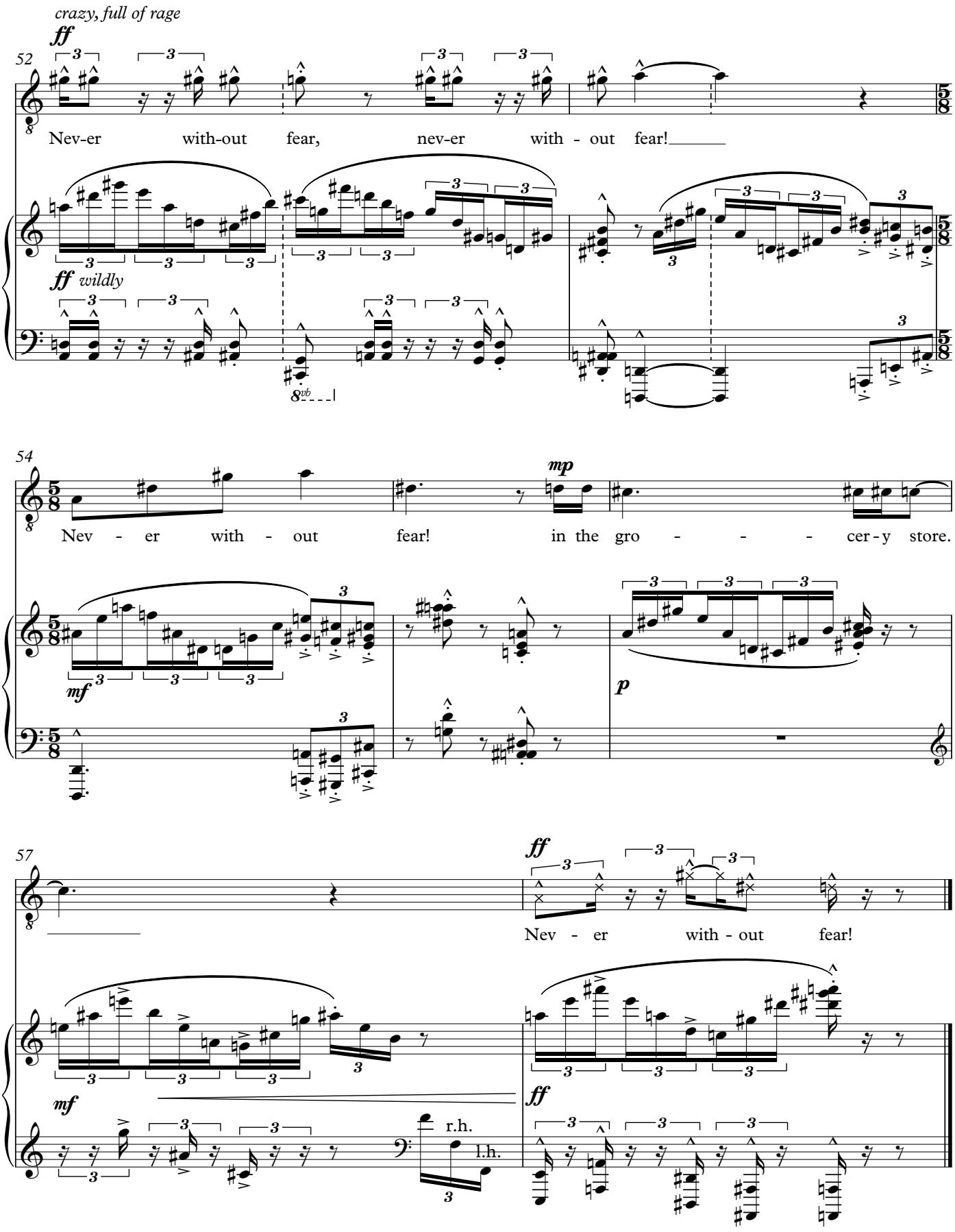

20
molto rit.
(♪ = 90)
mp
Slightly Faster (♪ = 140)
(3+2)
mp
ma - tion!
Does sin smell like
molto rit.
(♪ = 90)
mf
Slightly Faster (♪ = 140)
(3+2)
mp
23
mf chorale like, slightly sarcastic
sweat or smell like his knot - - ted hair?
mf
26
Does sin smell?


28
p
declamative question
mf
Does sin smell?
mf
31
wondering, freely
mp
3
How then
rit.
f
does love smell?
rit.
pp
35
Slower (♪ = 70)
mp
quietly to one's self, mocking
p
like sin?
Slower (♪ = 70)
gentle, remembering
8va
pp
f

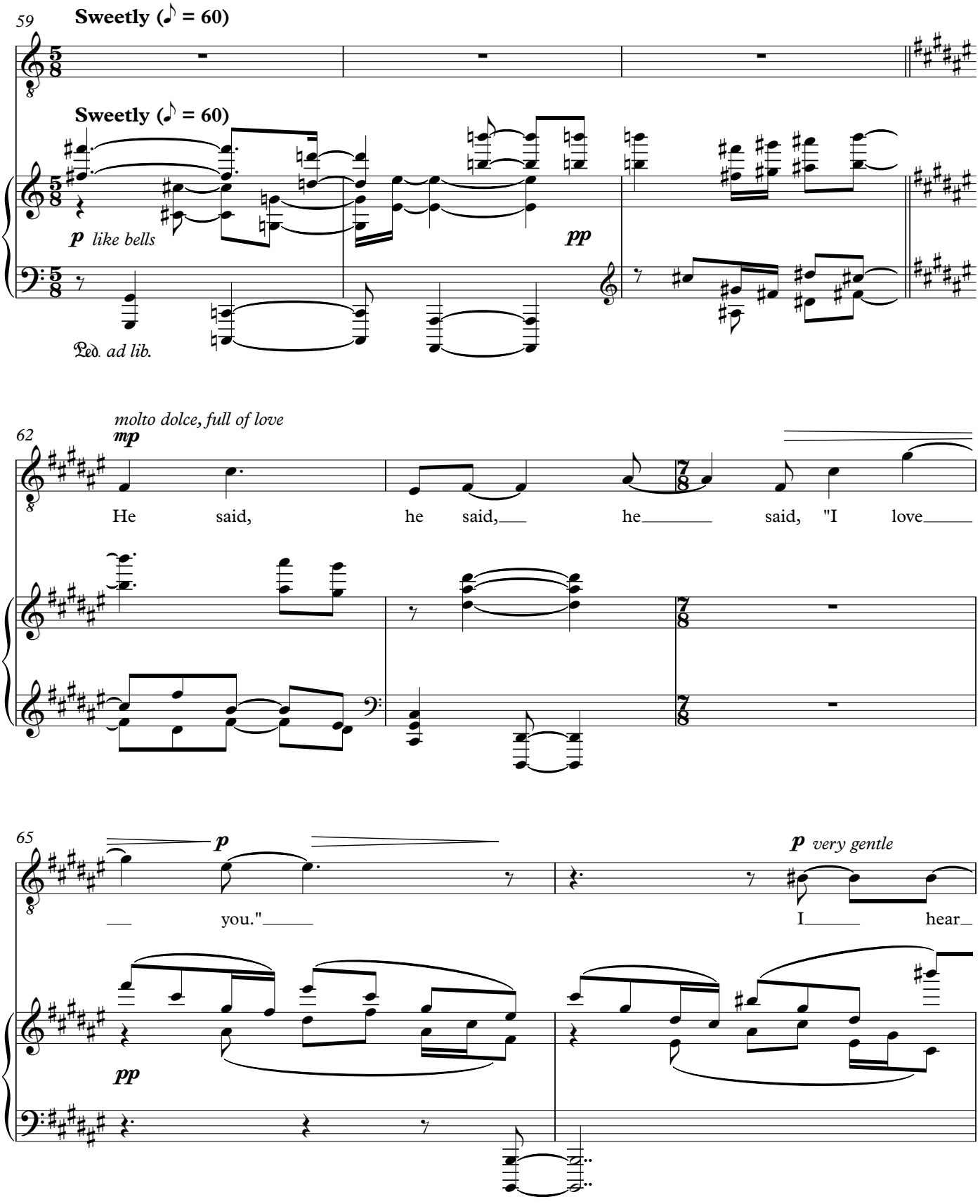
II. "Never Without Fear"

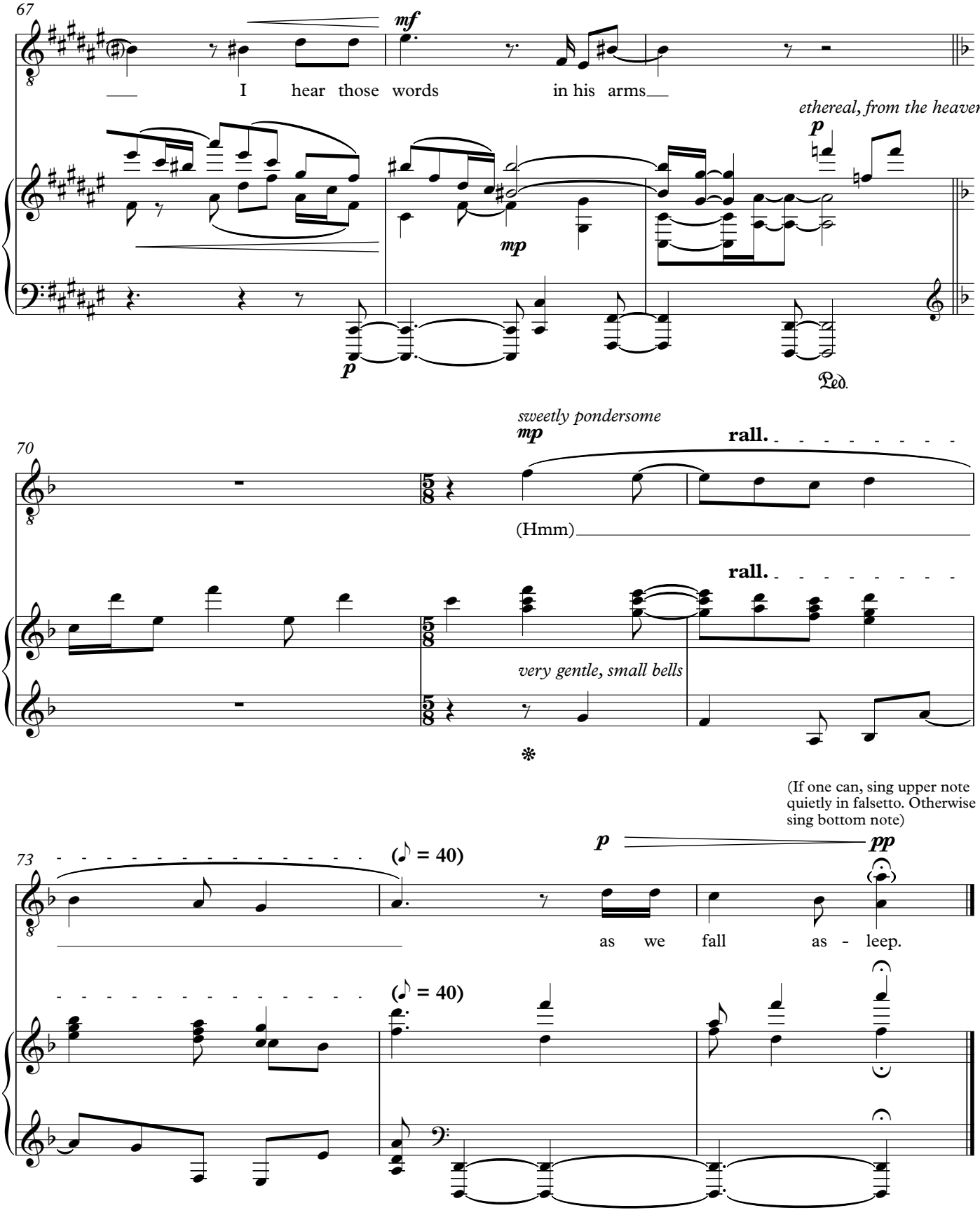



45
f
mp
(3+4)
mf
Nev - er with - out fear! Our clasped hands, our
(3+4)
p
mf
48
(4+3)
clasped hands
(4+3)
8va
50
f
(3+4)
pro - fess our faith
(3+4)
f
mp

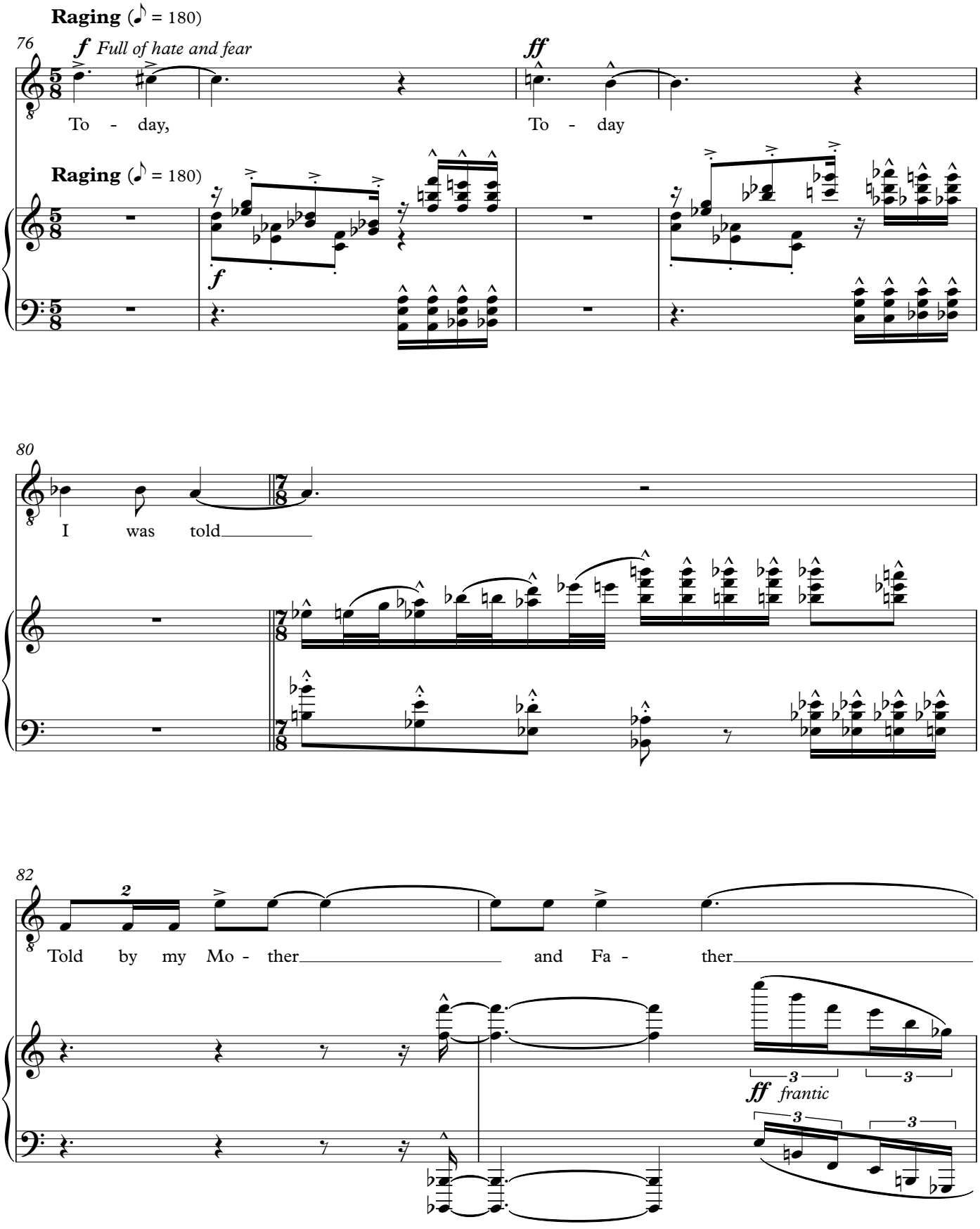

crazy, full of rage
ff
52
Nev-er with-out fear, nev-er with - out fear!
ff wildly
8vb
54
mp
Nev - er with - out fear! in the gro - - - - cer - y store.
mf
p
57
ff
Nev - er with - out fear!
mf
r.h.
l.h.
ff

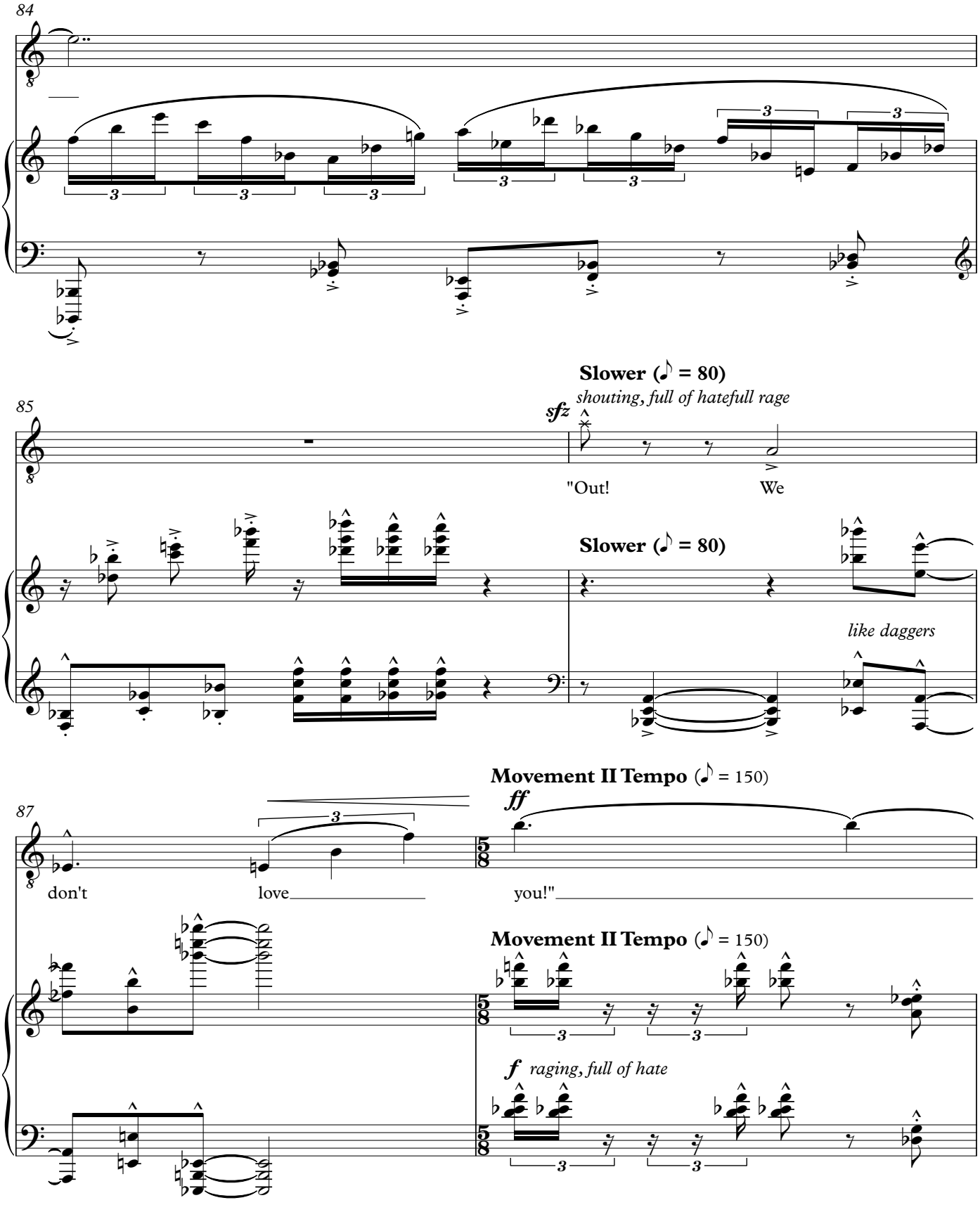
III. "He said I love you"

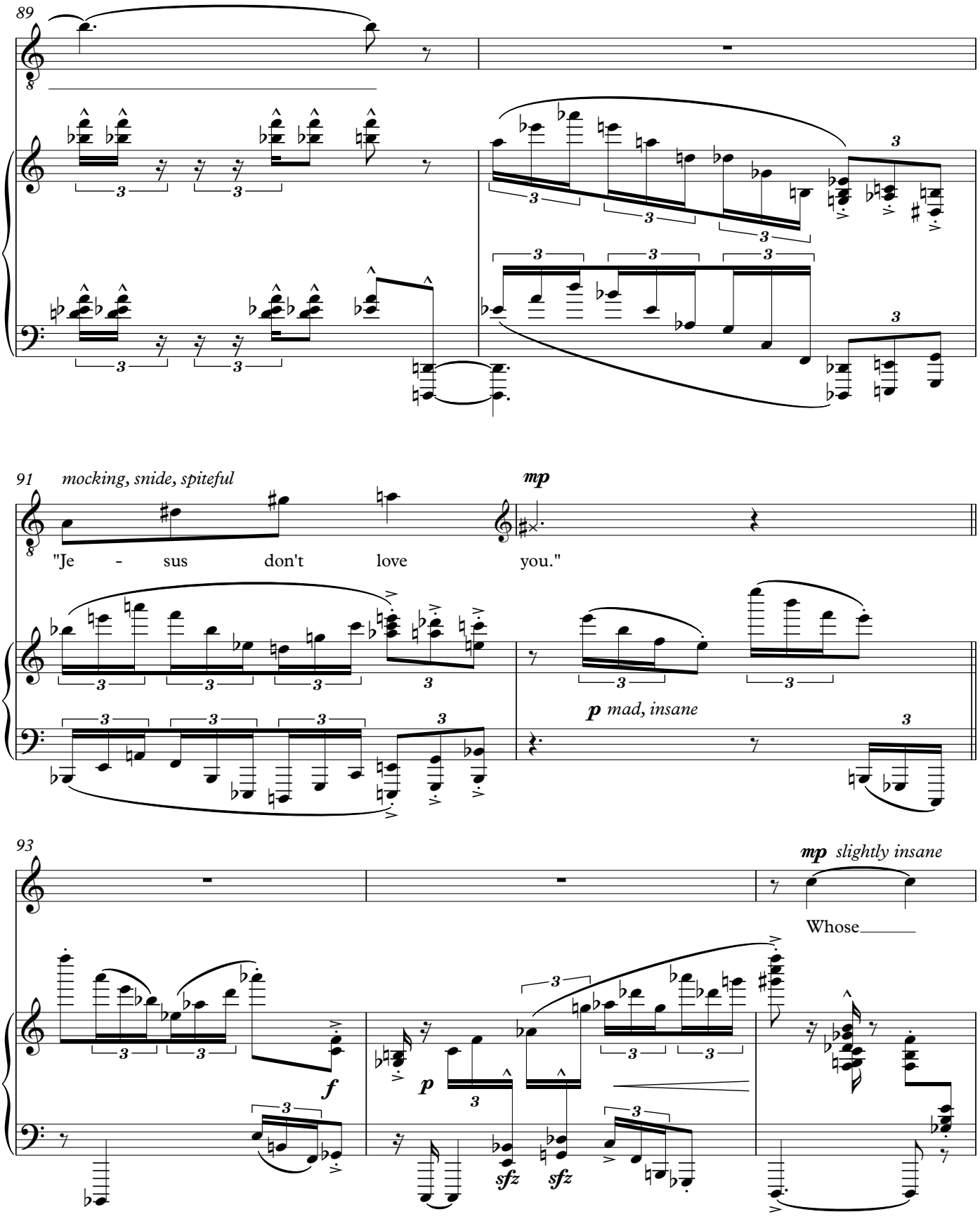


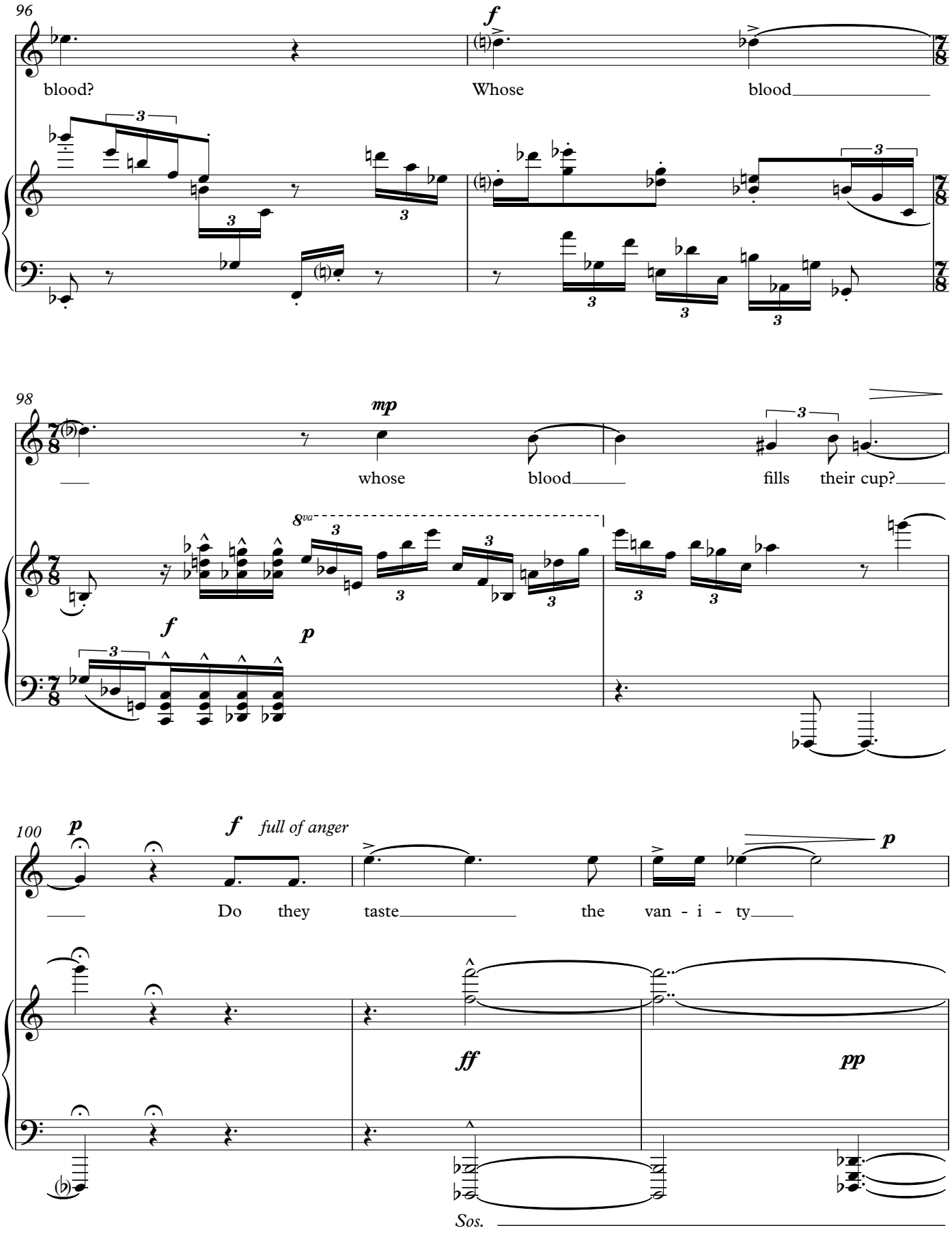

67
mf
I hear those words in his arms
ethereal, from the heavens
p
mp
p
Ped.
70
sweetly pondersome
mp
rall.
(Hmm)
rall.
very gentle, small bells
(If one can, sing upper note quietly in falsetto. Otherwise sing bottom note)
73
(♪ = 40)
p
pp
as we fall as - leep.
(♪ = 40)

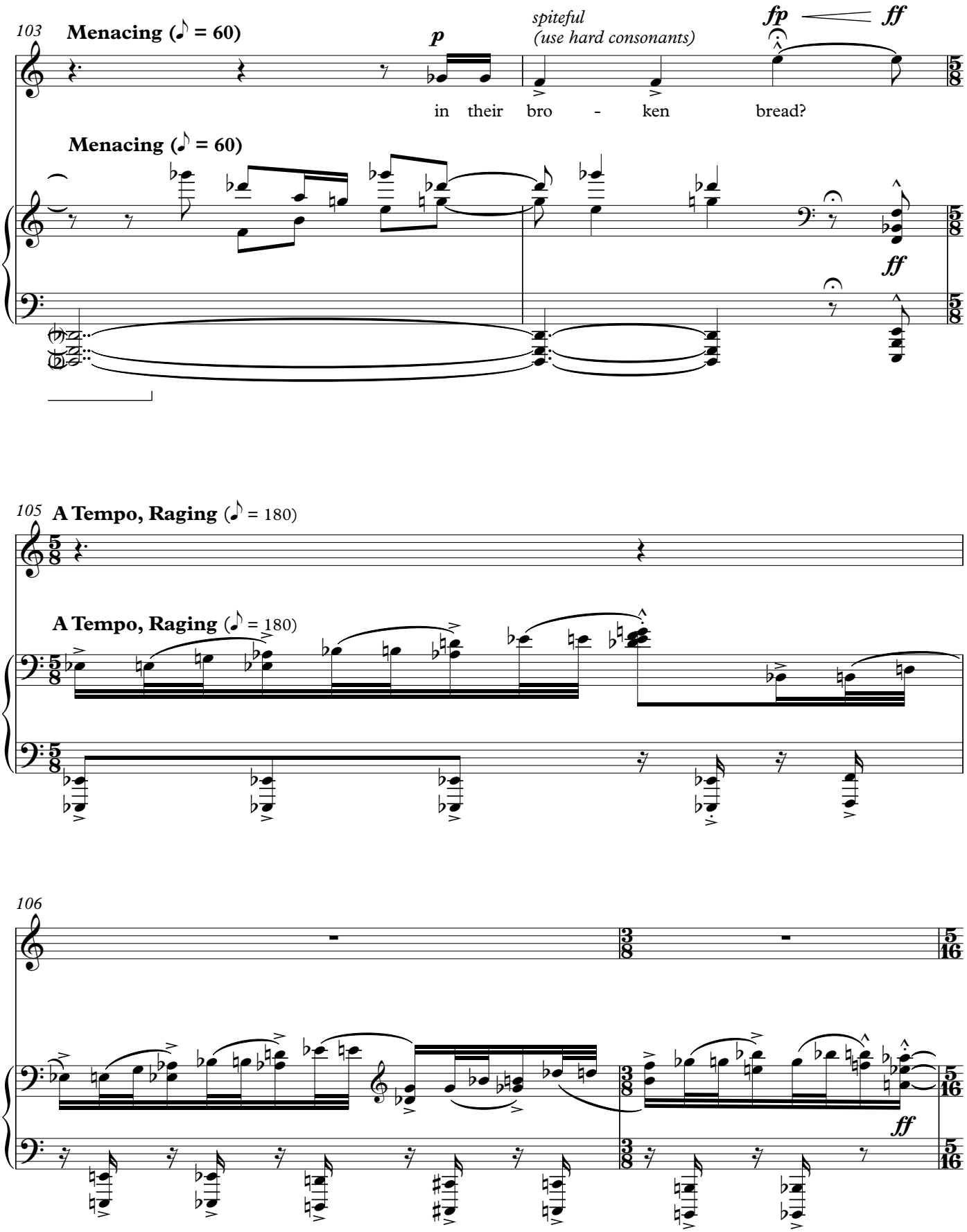
IV. "We don't love you"

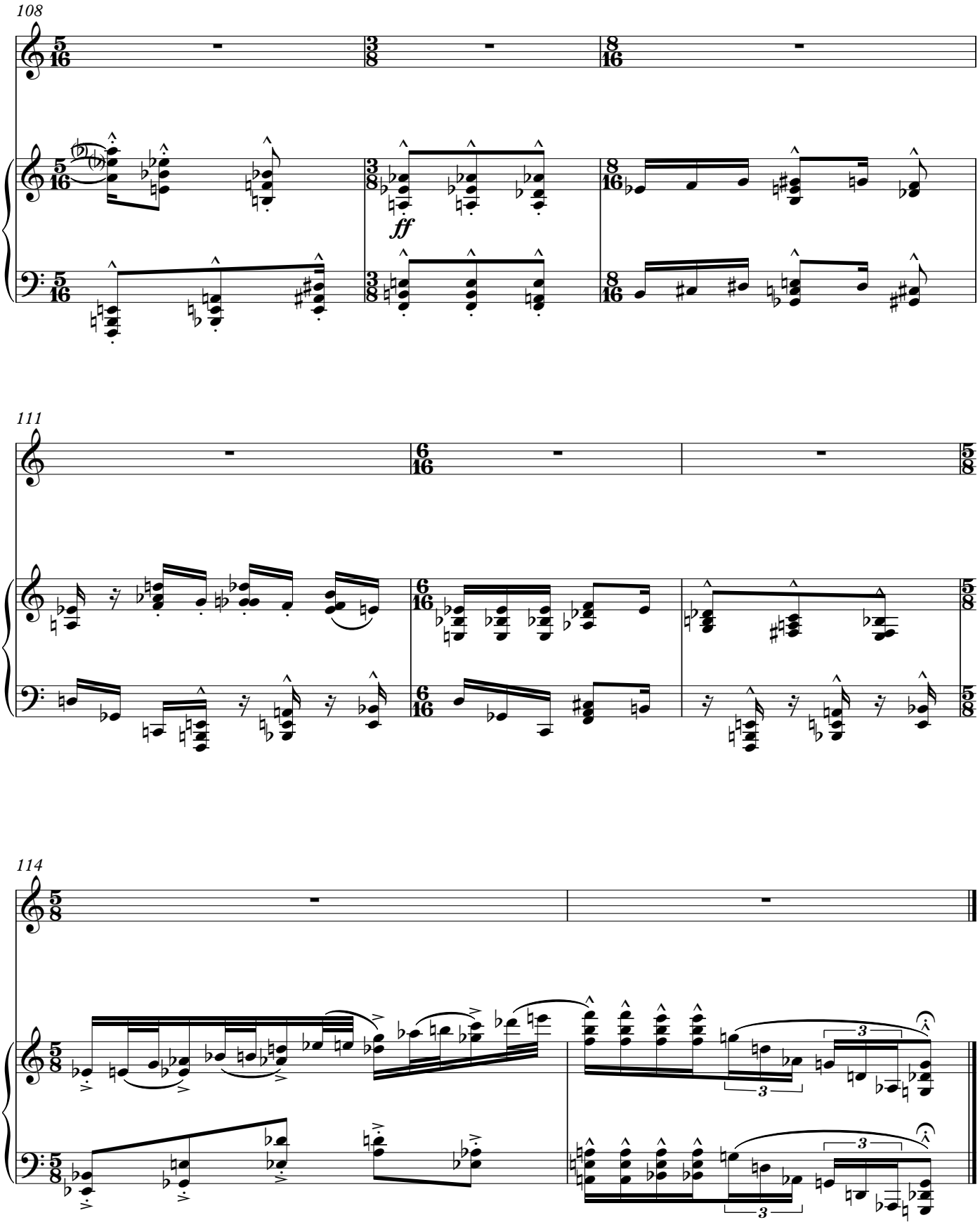
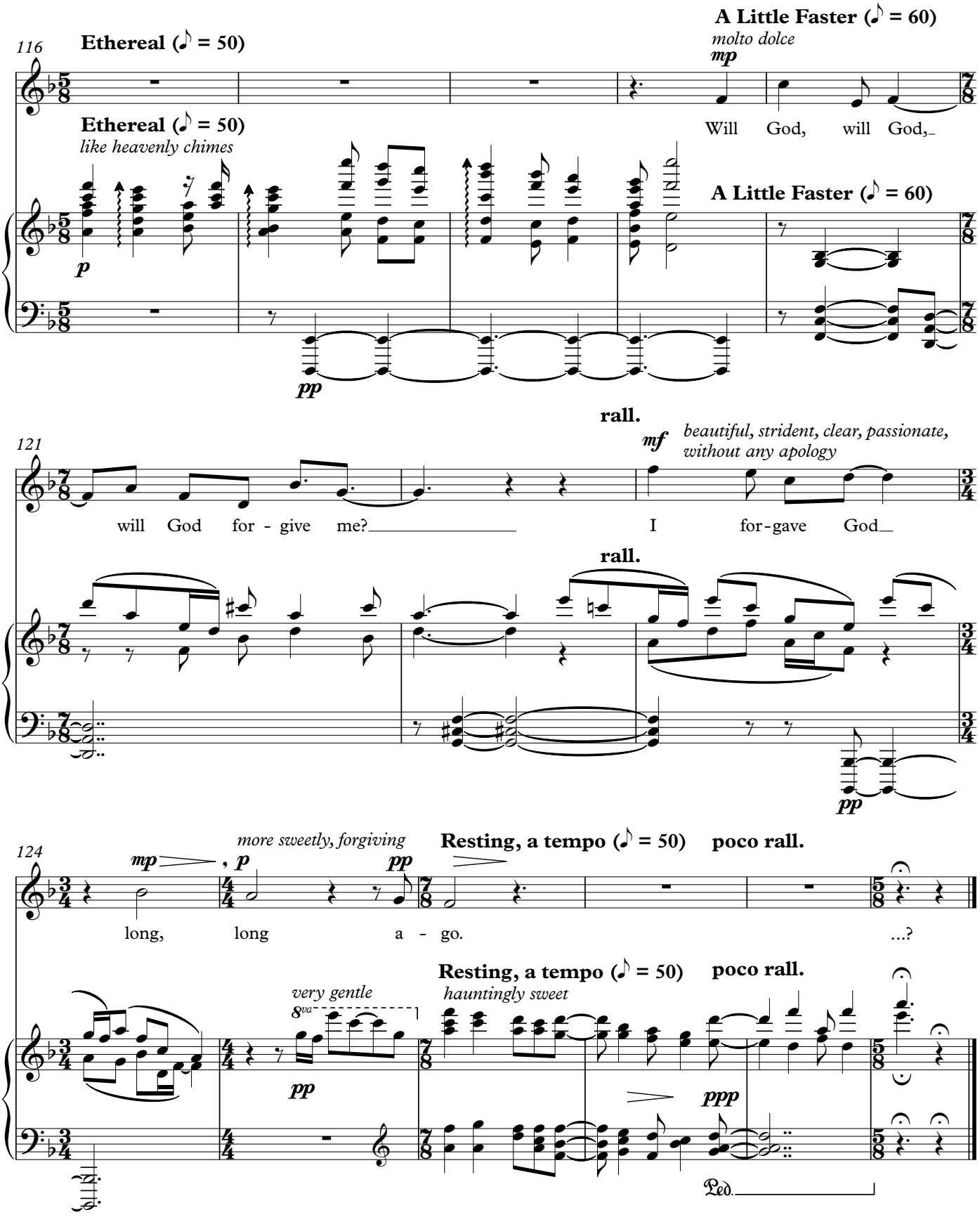



84
85
Slower (♪ = 80)
shouting, full of hatefull rage
sfz
"Out!
We
Slower (♪ = 80)
like daggers
87
Movement II Tempo (♪ = 150)
ff
don't
love
you!"
Movement II Tempo (♪ = 150)
f raging, full of hate


89
91
mocking, snide, spiteful
mp
"Je - sus don't love you."
p mad, insane
93
mp slightly insane
Whose
f
p
sfz
sfz


96
f
blood?
Whose
blood
98
mp
whose
blood
fills
their cup?
8va
f
p
100
p
f
full of anger
Do
they
taste
the
van - i - ty
p
ff
pp
Sos.


103
Menacing (♪ = 60)
p
spiteful
(use hard consonants)
fp
ff
in their bro - ken bread?
Menacing (♪ = 60)
ff
105
A Tempo, Raging (♪ = 180)
A Tempo, Raging (♪ = 180)
106
ff


108
ff
111
114

V. "Will God forgive me"