TIMOTHY MELBINGER

Davis Settings

for bass voice and piano

ca. 24'

Davis Settings was first performed by James White and Asa Carns on April 13th 2014 at Penn State Altoona.

Timothy Melbinger is affiliated with BMI.

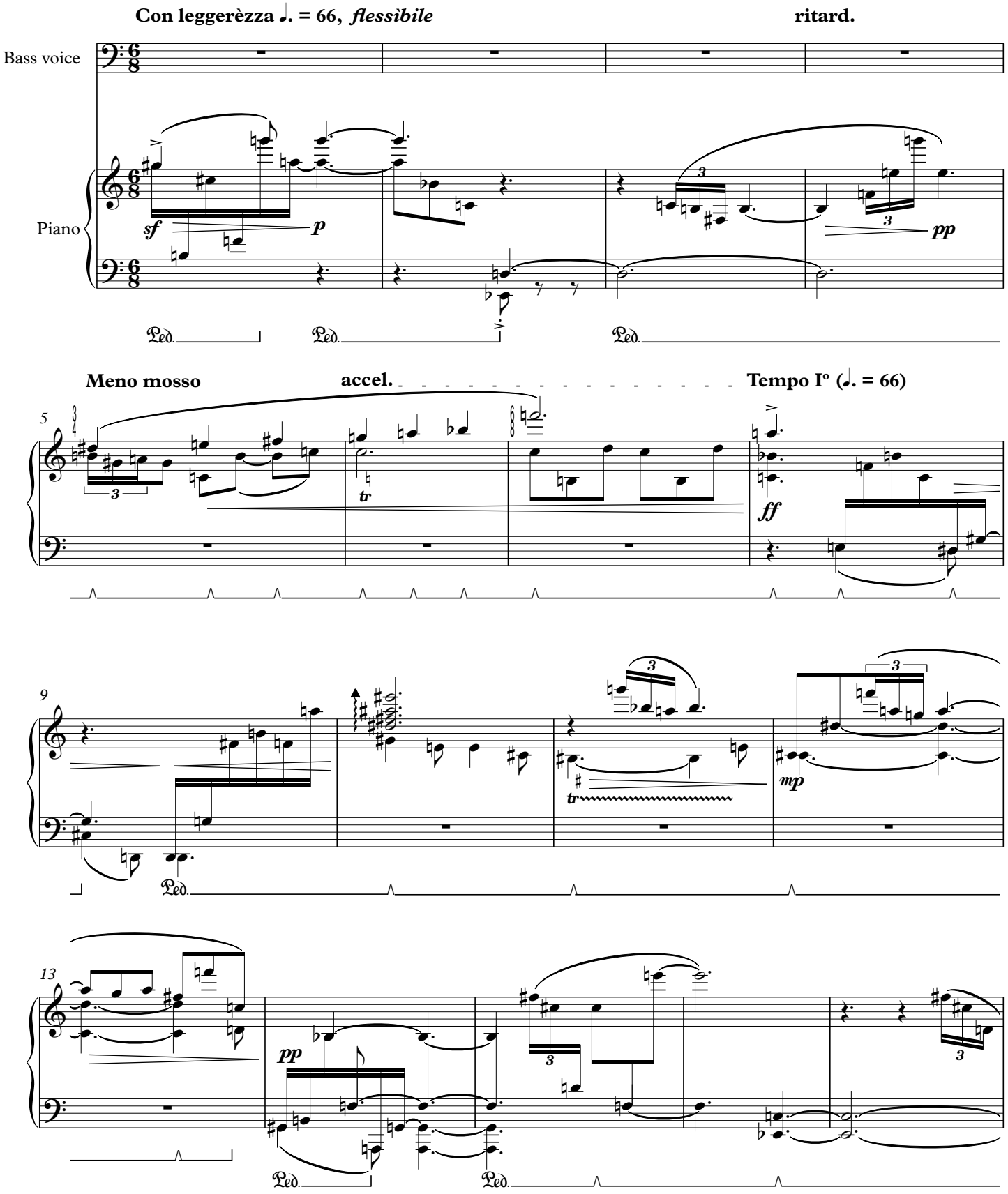
PERFORMANCE NOTES

Tempo indications in italics signify transient changes, whereas bold type indicates changes to new tempi altogether.
Accentals hold, in register, unless cancelled in the usual manner.
Trills and tremelos are unmeasured and to be interpreted in context.
Grace notes are to be executed directly before the primarly rhythm to which they apply.
The pianist may add pedalling to facilitate connections or depth of tone.

1. Fishing for Large Mouth in a Strip-Mining Reclamation Pond near Lloydsville, Pennsylvania

poetry by Todd Davis

Timothy Melbinger



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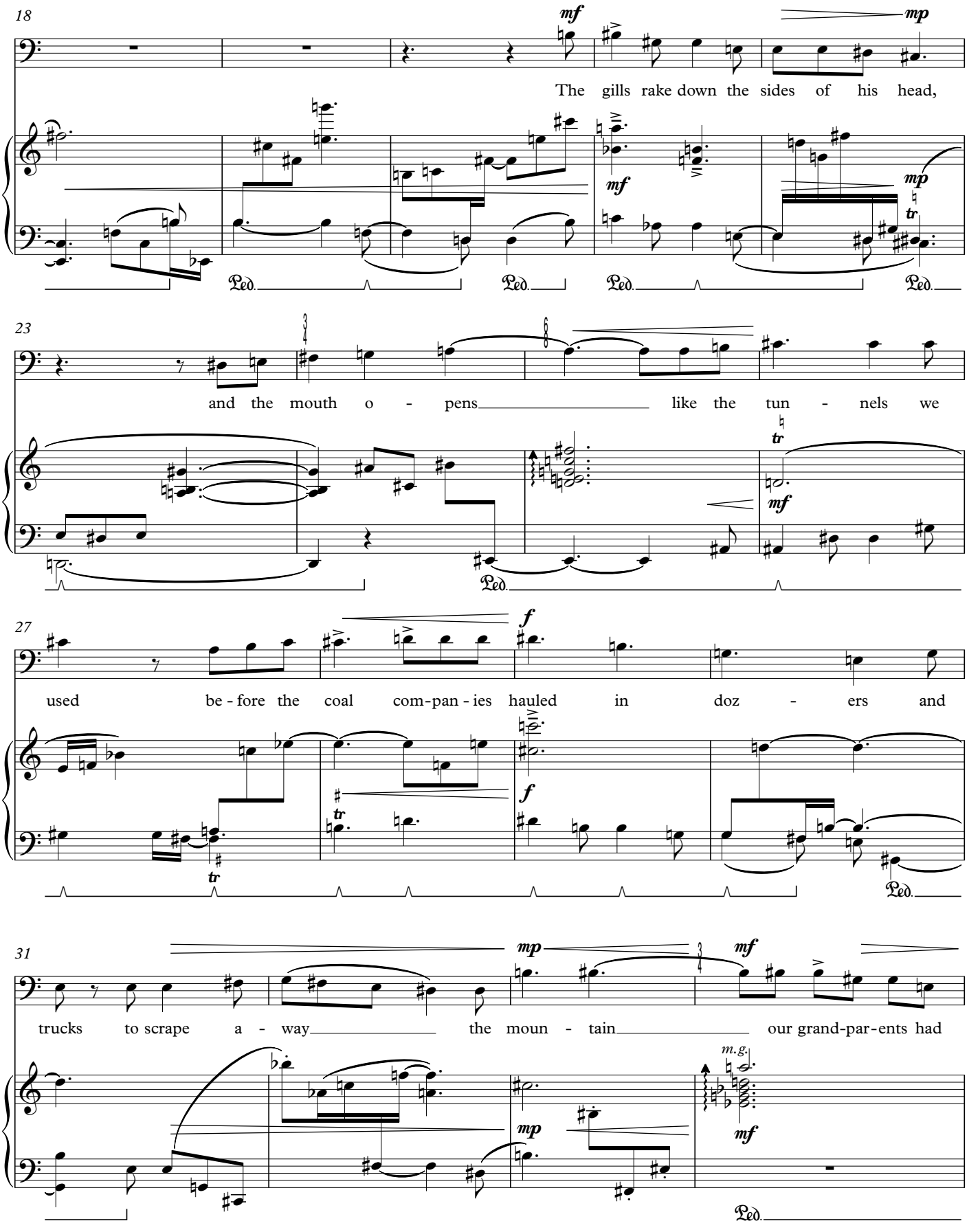
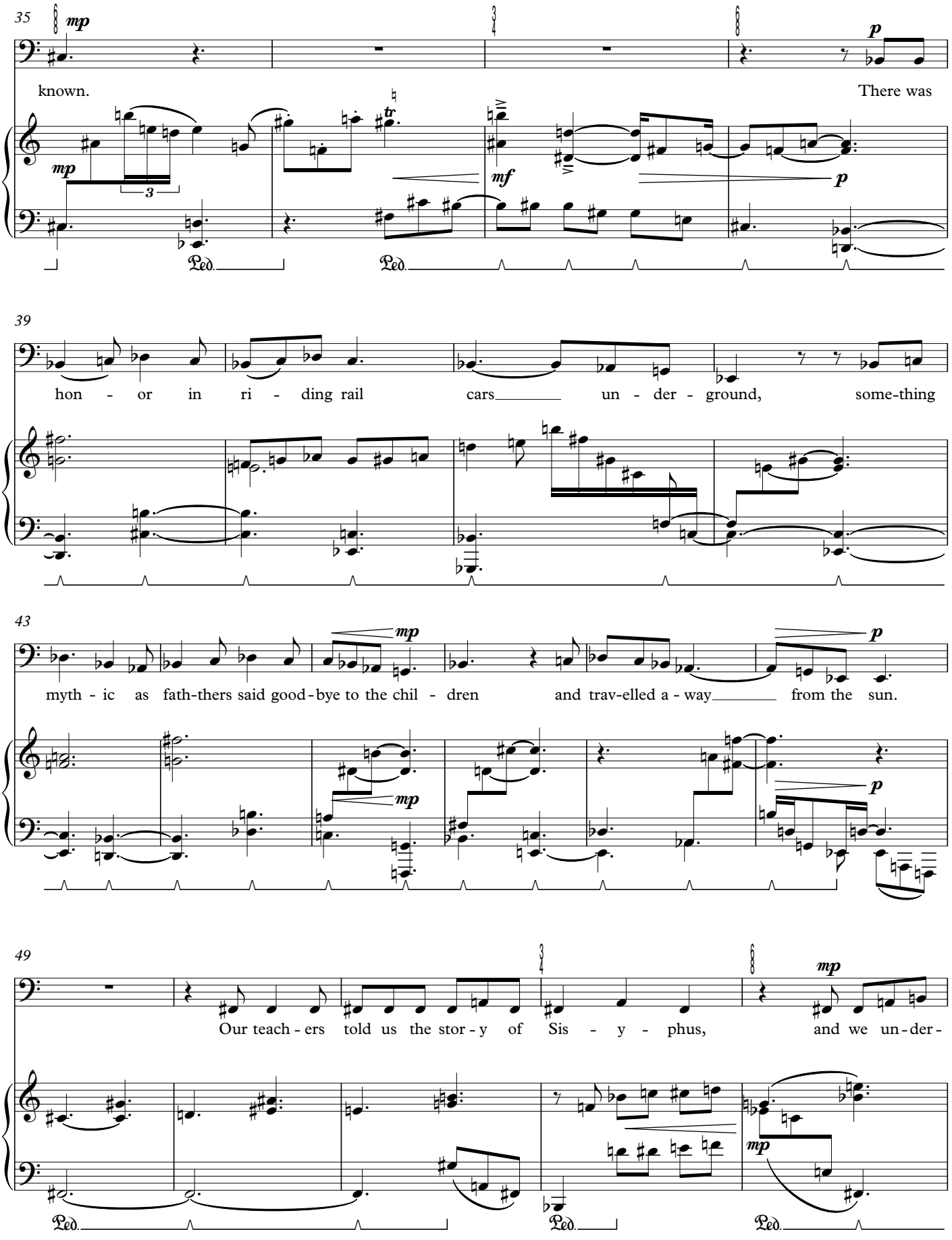
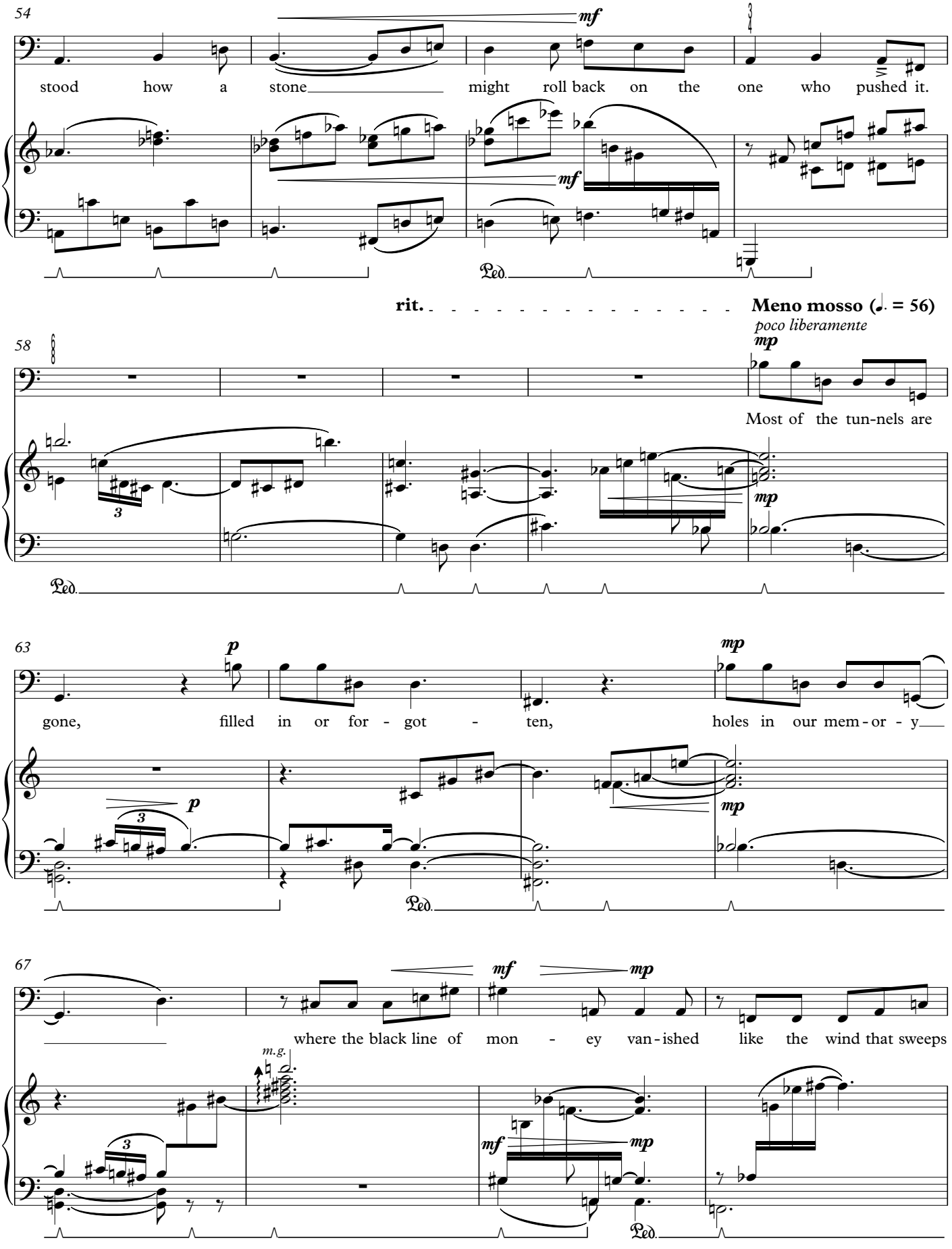
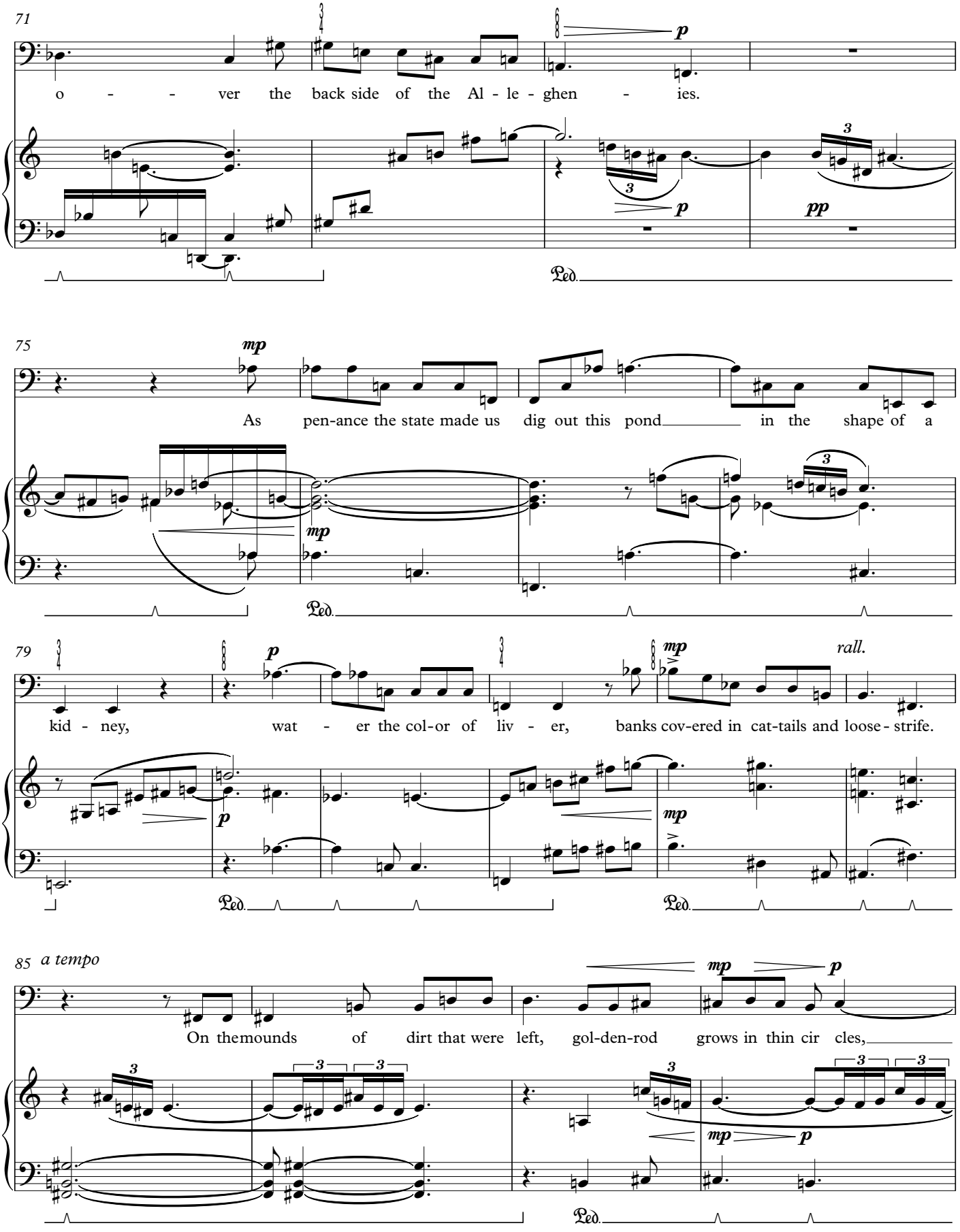
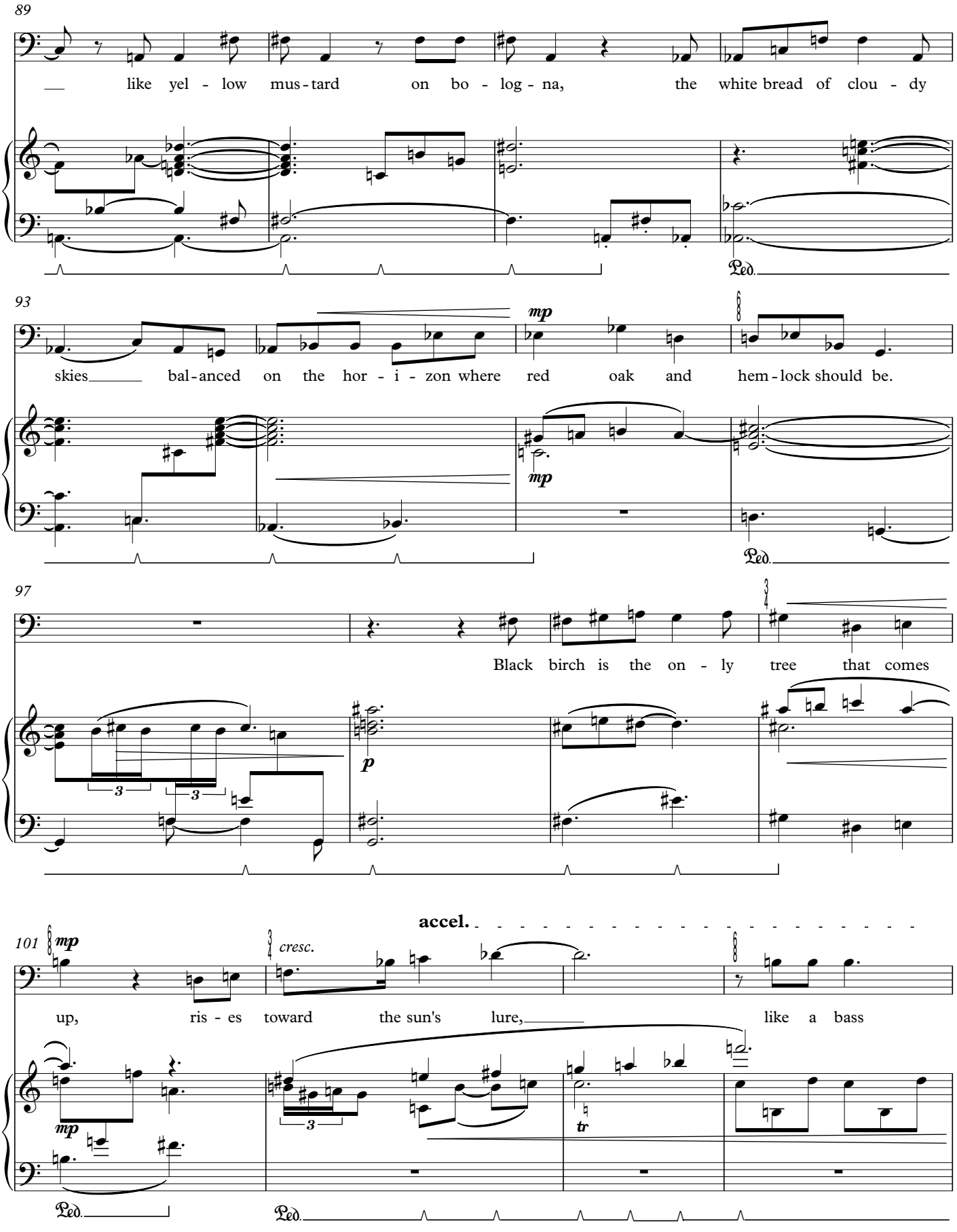
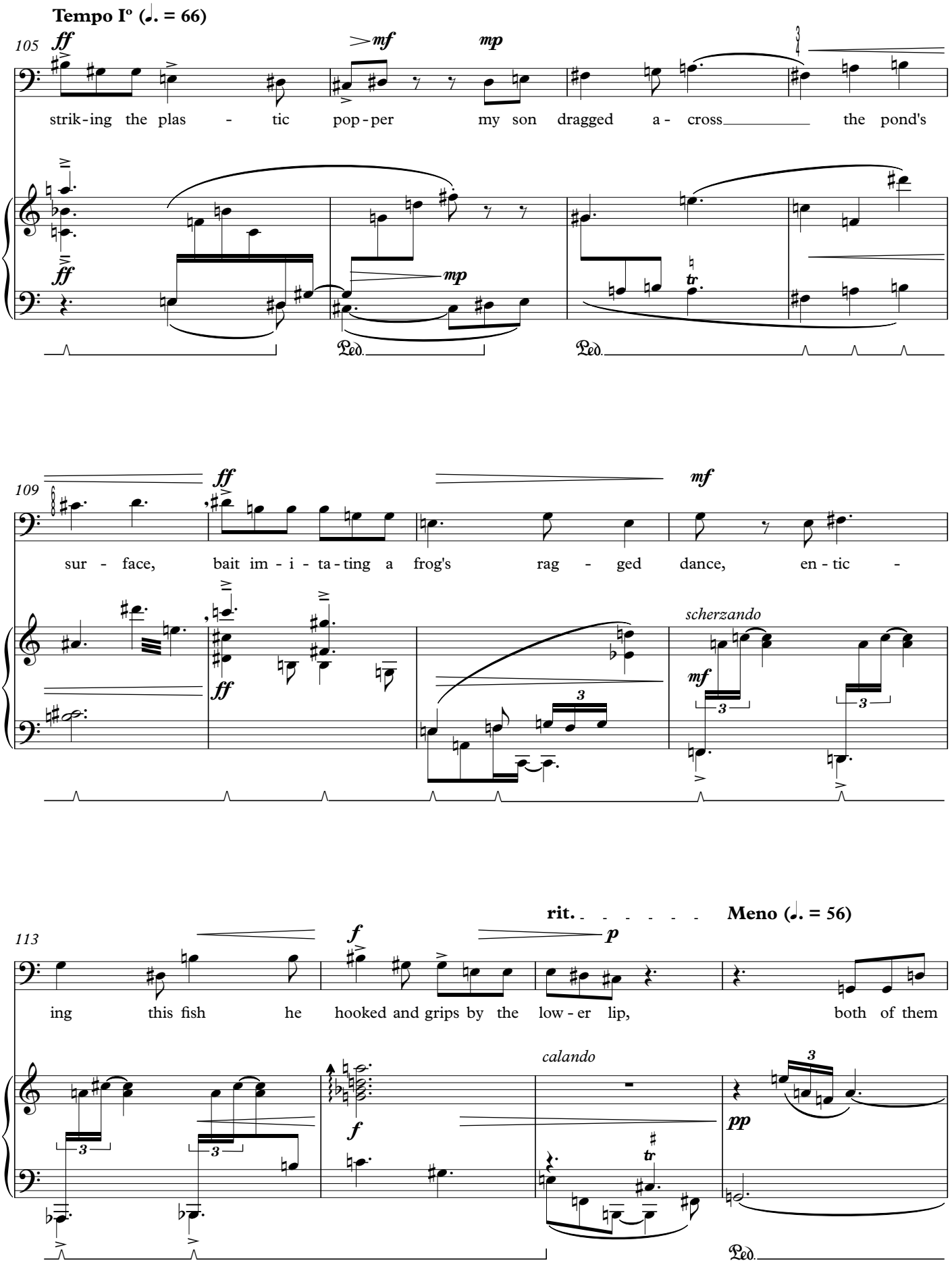

18
mf
mp
The gills rake down the sides of his head,
mf
mp
tr
Ped.
23
and the mouth o - pens like the tun - nels we
tr
mf
Ped.
27
used be - fore the coal com-pan - ies hauled in doz - ers and
f
tr
f
Ped.
31
mp
mf
trucks to scrape a - way the moun - tain our grand-par-ents had
m.g.
mp
mf
Ped.

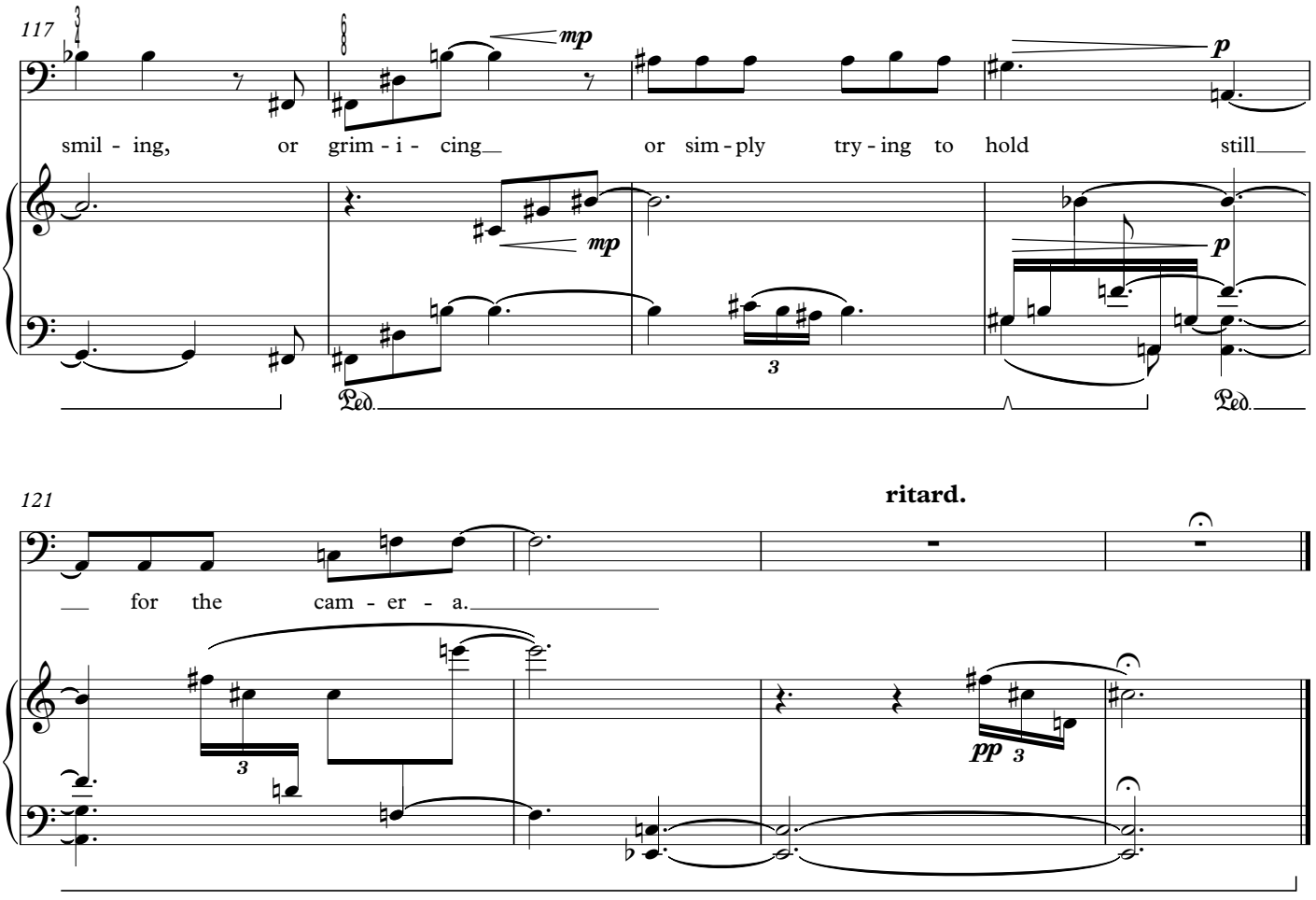

35
mp
known.
There was
p
mp
3
tr
mf
p
Ped.
Ped.
39
hon - or in ri - ding rail cars un - der - ground, some-thing
43
myth - ic as fath-thers said good-bye to the chil - dren and trav-elled a - way from the sun.
mp
mp
p
p
49
Our teach - ers told us the stor - y of Sis - y - phus, and we un - der -
mp
mp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


54
mf
stood how a stone might roll back on the one who pushed it.
Ped.
rit.
Meno mosso (♩. = 56)
poco liberamente
58
mp
Most of the tun-nels are
mp
Ped.
63
p
mp
gone, filled in or for - got - ten, holes in our mem - or - y
p
mp
Ped.
67
mf
mp
where the black line of mon - ey van - ished like the wind that sweeps
m.g.
mf
mp
Ped.


71
o - - - ver the back side of the Al - le - ghen - ies.
p
p
pp
Ped.
75
mp
As pen-ance the state made us dig out this pond in the shape of a
mp
Ped.
79
p
mp
rall.
kid - ney, wat - er the col-or of liv - er, banks cov-ered in cat-tails and loose - strife.
p
mp
Ped.
Ped.
85 a tempo
mp
p
On themounds of dirt that were left, gol-den-rod grows in thin cir cles,
mp
p
Ped.


89
like yel - low mus - tard on bo - log - na, the white bread of clou - dy
Ped.
93
mp
skies bal - anced on the hor - i - zon where red oak and hem - lock should be.
mp
Ped.
97
Black birch is the on - ly tree that comes
3
3
p
accel.
101
mp
cresc.
up, ris - es toward the sun's lure, like a bass
mp
3
tr
Ped.
Ped.


Tempo Iº (♩. = 66)
105
ff
mf
mp
strik - ing the plas - tic pop - per my son dragged a - cross the pond's
Ped.
Ped.
109
ff
mf
sur - face, bait im - i - ta - ting a frog's rag - ged dance, en - tic -
scherzando
113
rit.
Meno (♩. = 56)
f
p
ing this fish he hooked and grips by the low - er lip, both of them
calando
pp
Ped.


117
mp
p
smil - ing, or grim - i - cing or sim - ply try - ing to hold still
mp
p
3
Ped.
Ped.
121
ritard.
for the cam - er - a.
3
pp 3

2. A Father's Notes

Pietòso ♩ = 76

delicatiss.

p *pp* *p* *pp*

Sost. Ped. Ped.

130

p

I must re-mem-ber, now you are near-ly eight,

p

Ped. Ped.

134

mp

and your broth-er five, that my an-ger pas-ses to you so eas-i-ly,

8va *mp*

Ped. Ped.

137

poco agitato

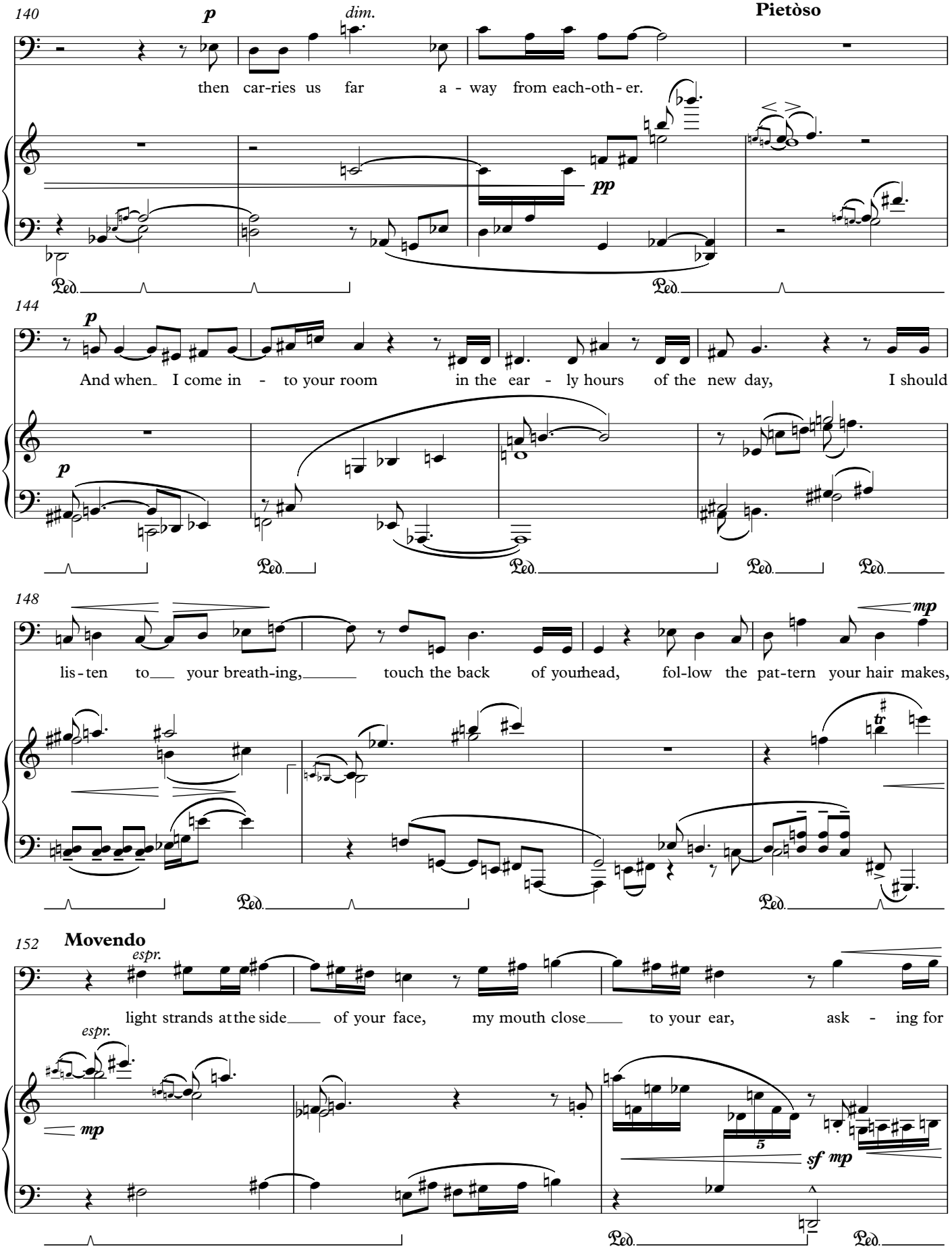
mf

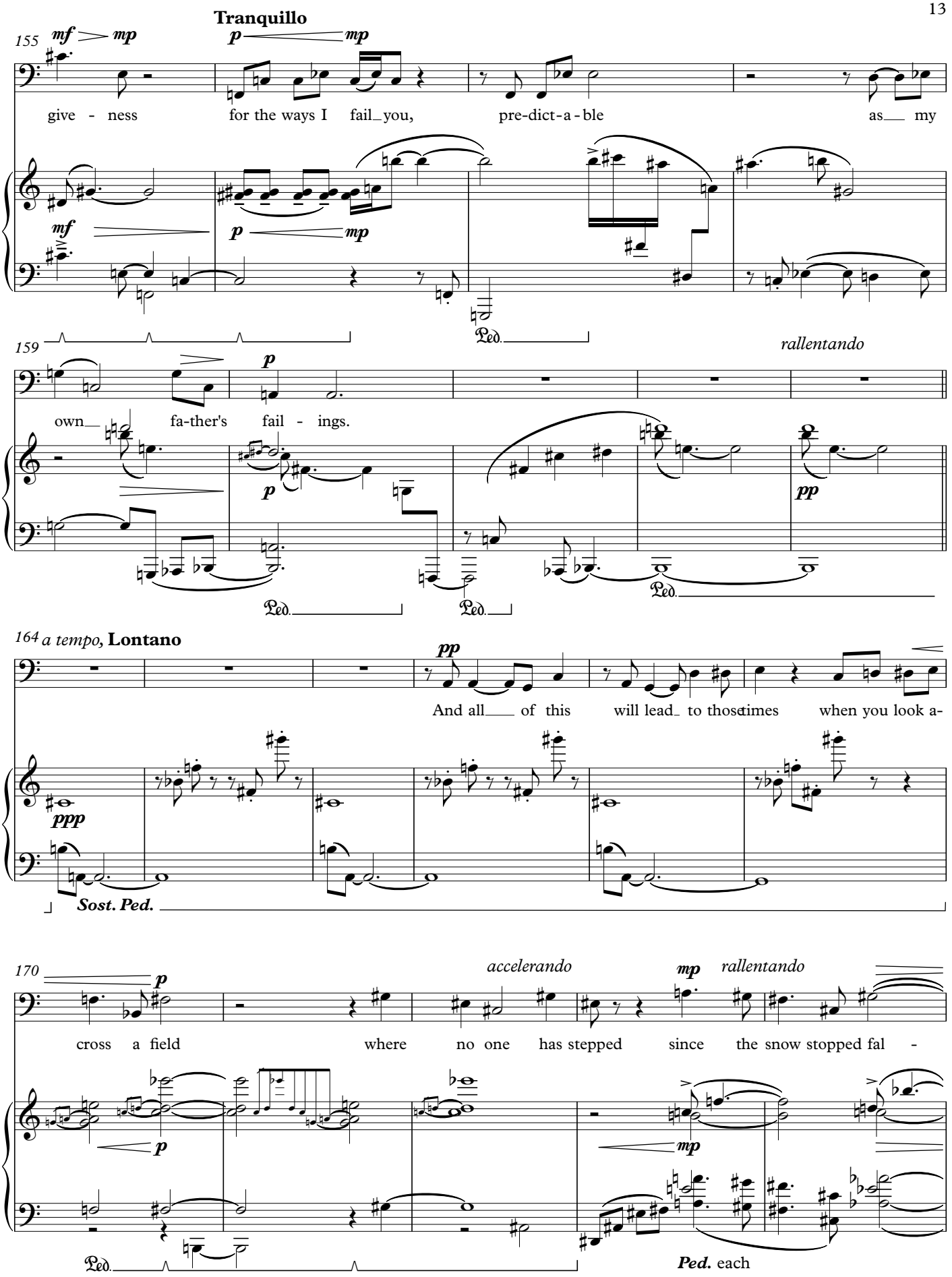
climbs the riv-er's bank and floods the field, drags part of the earth back with it,

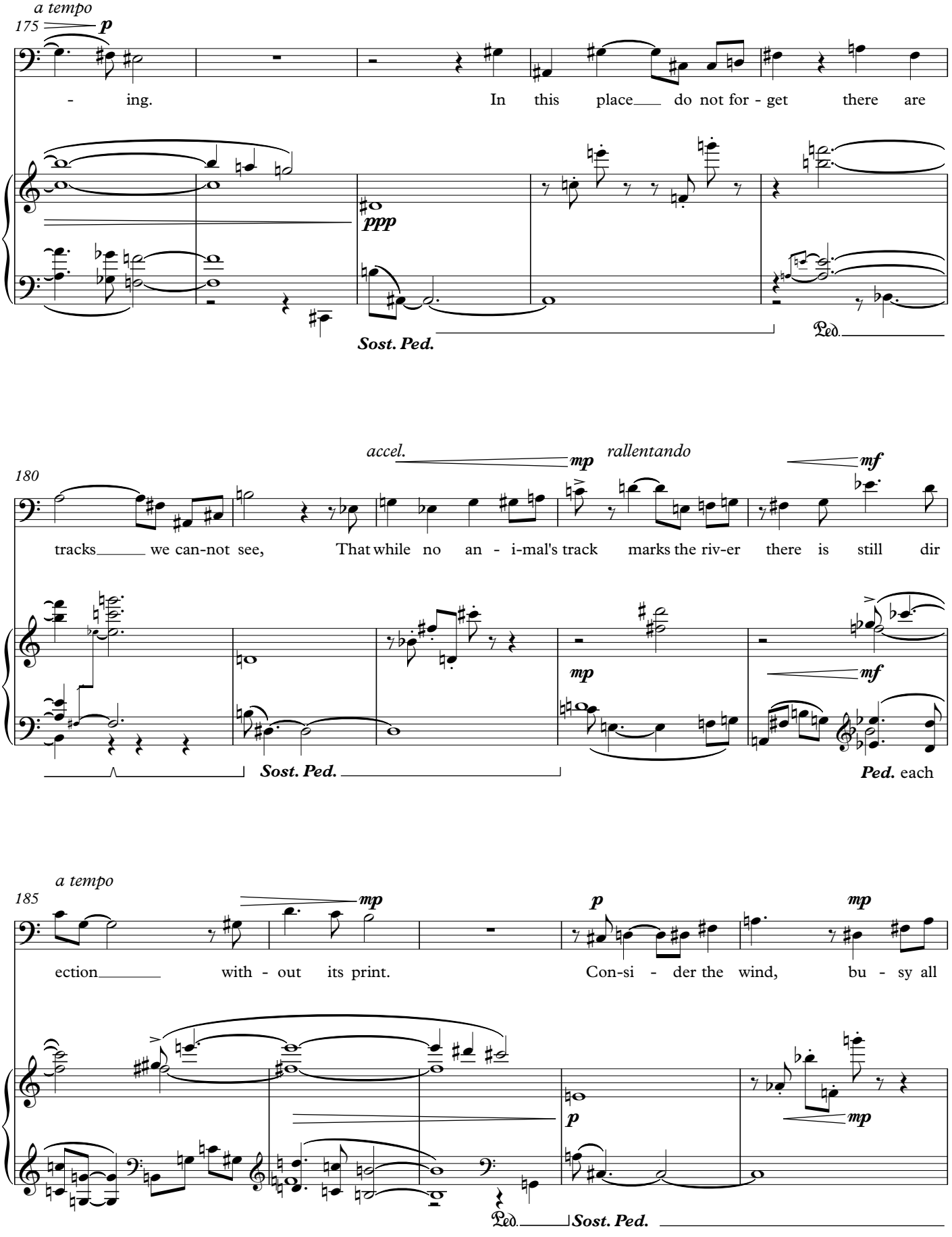
8va tr *mf* 8va

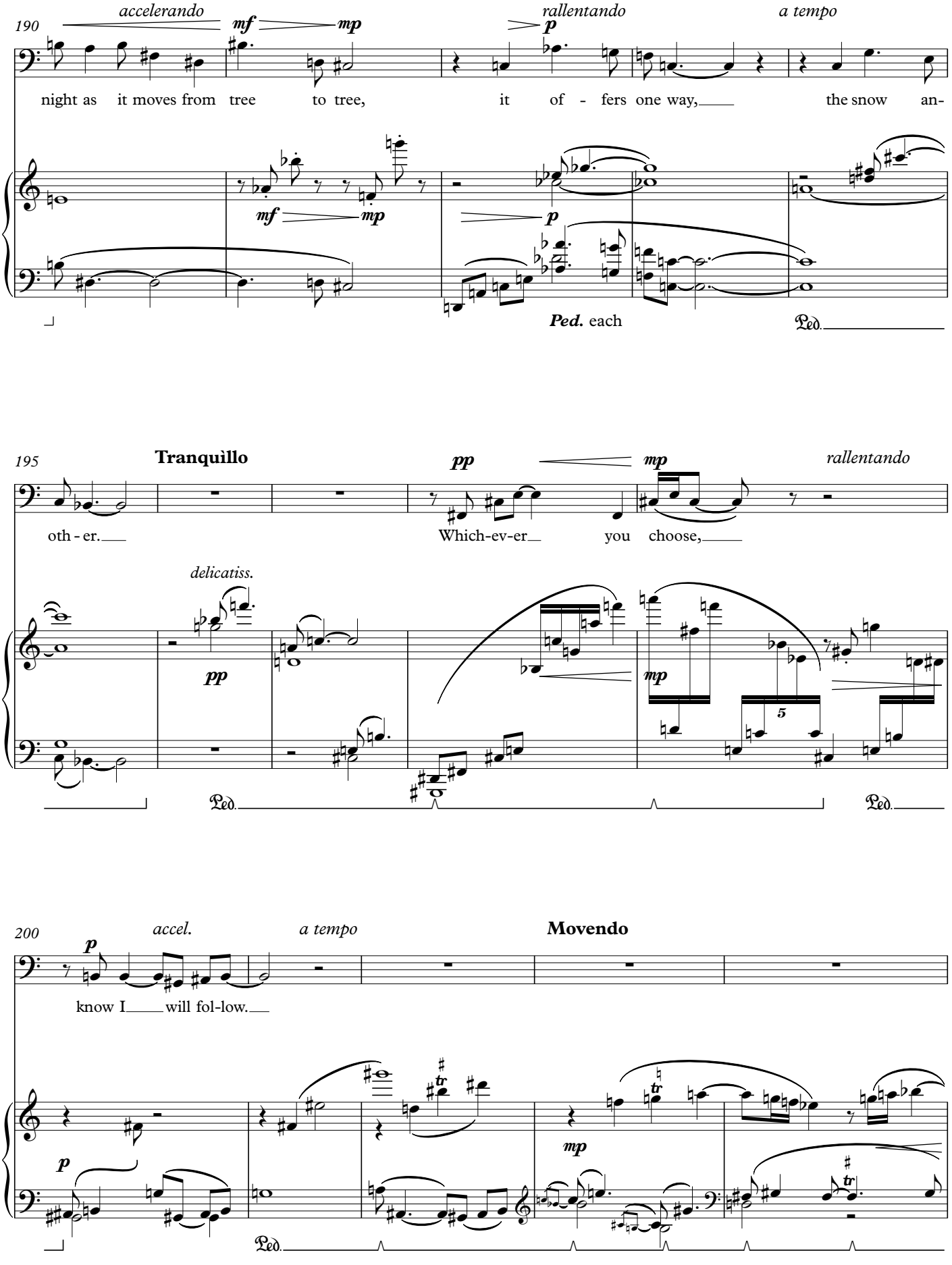
poco agitato

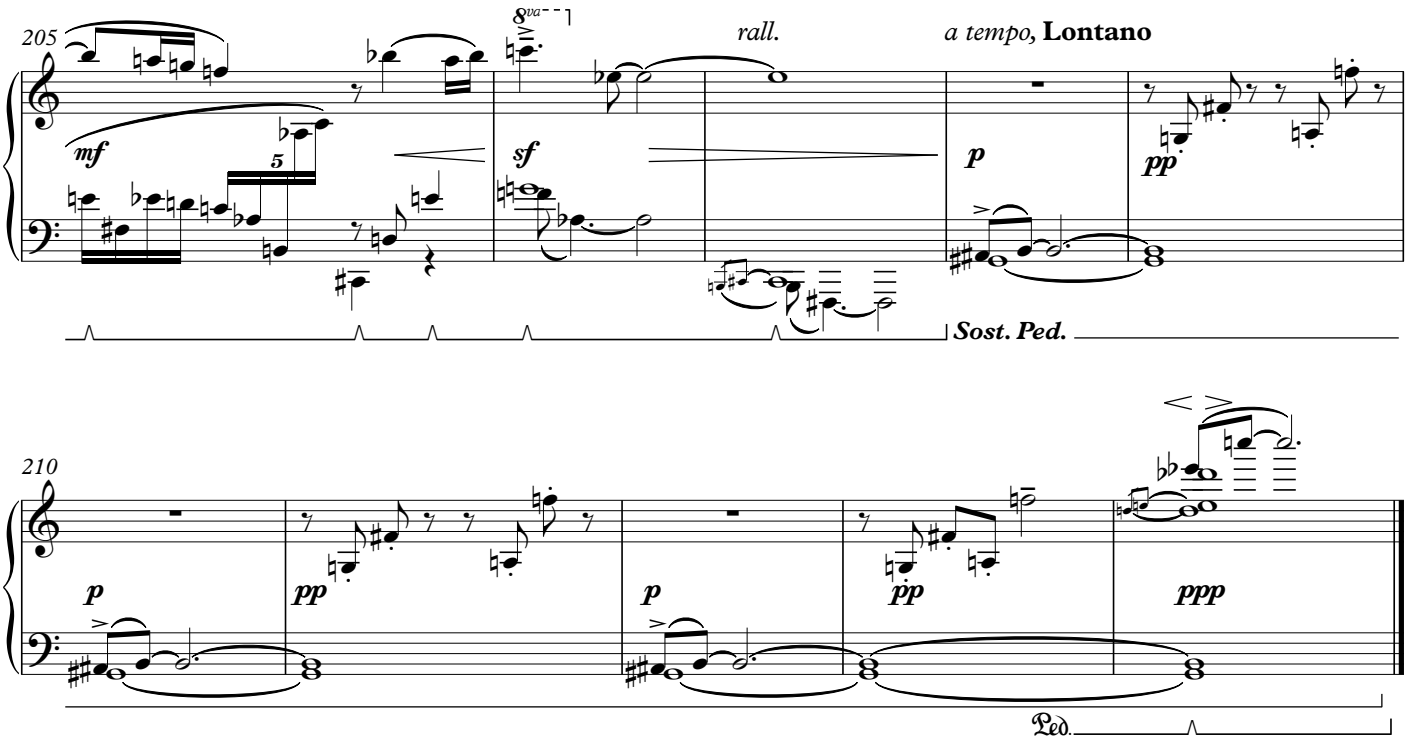
Ped. Ped.


140
p
dim.
Pietòso
then car-ries us far a - way from each-oth- er.
pp
Ped.
144
p
And when I come in - to your room in the ear - ly hours of the new day, I should
148
mp
lis - ten to your breath-ing, touch the back of yourhead, fol-low the pat-tern your hair makes,
152
Movendo
espr.
light strands atthe side of your face, my mouth close to your ear, ask - ing for
mp
sf mp


Tranquillo
155
mf mp
p mp
give - ness
for the ways I fail_you,
pre-dict-a-ble
as__ my
mf
p mp
Ped.
159
rallentando
p
own__ fa-ther's fail - ings.
p
pp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
164 a tempo, Lontano
pp
And all__ of this
will lead_ to those times
when you look a-
ppp
Sost. Ped.
170
accelerando
mp
rallentando
p
cross a field
where no one has stepped
since the snow stopped fal -
p
mp
Ped.
Ped. each

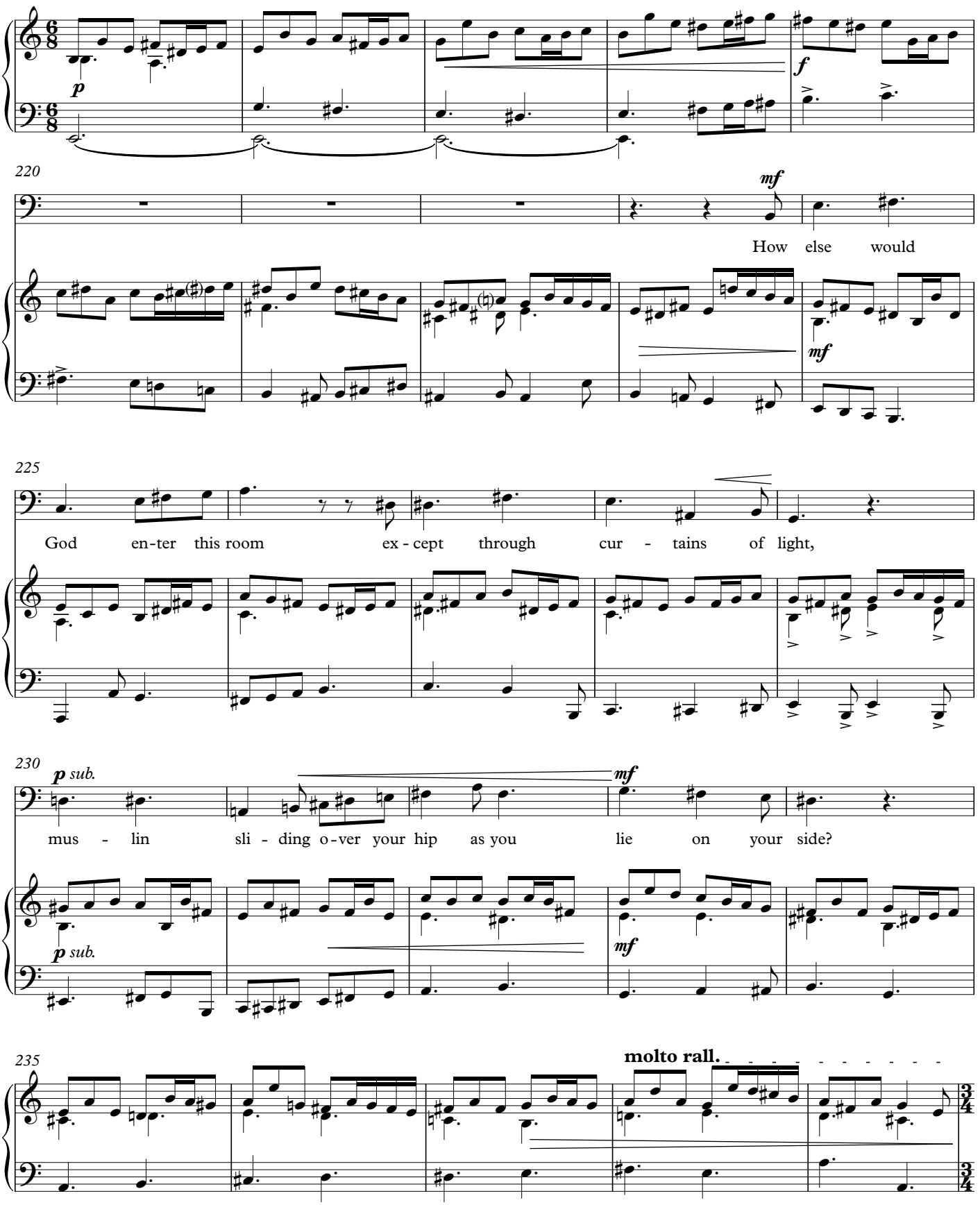

a tempo
175
p
- ing. In this place do not for - get there are
ppp
Sost. Ped.
Ped.
accel.
mp
rallentando
mf
180
tracks we can-not see, That while no an - i-mal's track marks the riv-er there is still dir
mp
mf
Sost. Ped.
Ped. each
a tempo
185
mp
p
mp
ection with - out its print. Con-si - der the wind, bu - sy all
p
mp
Ped.
Sost. Ped.

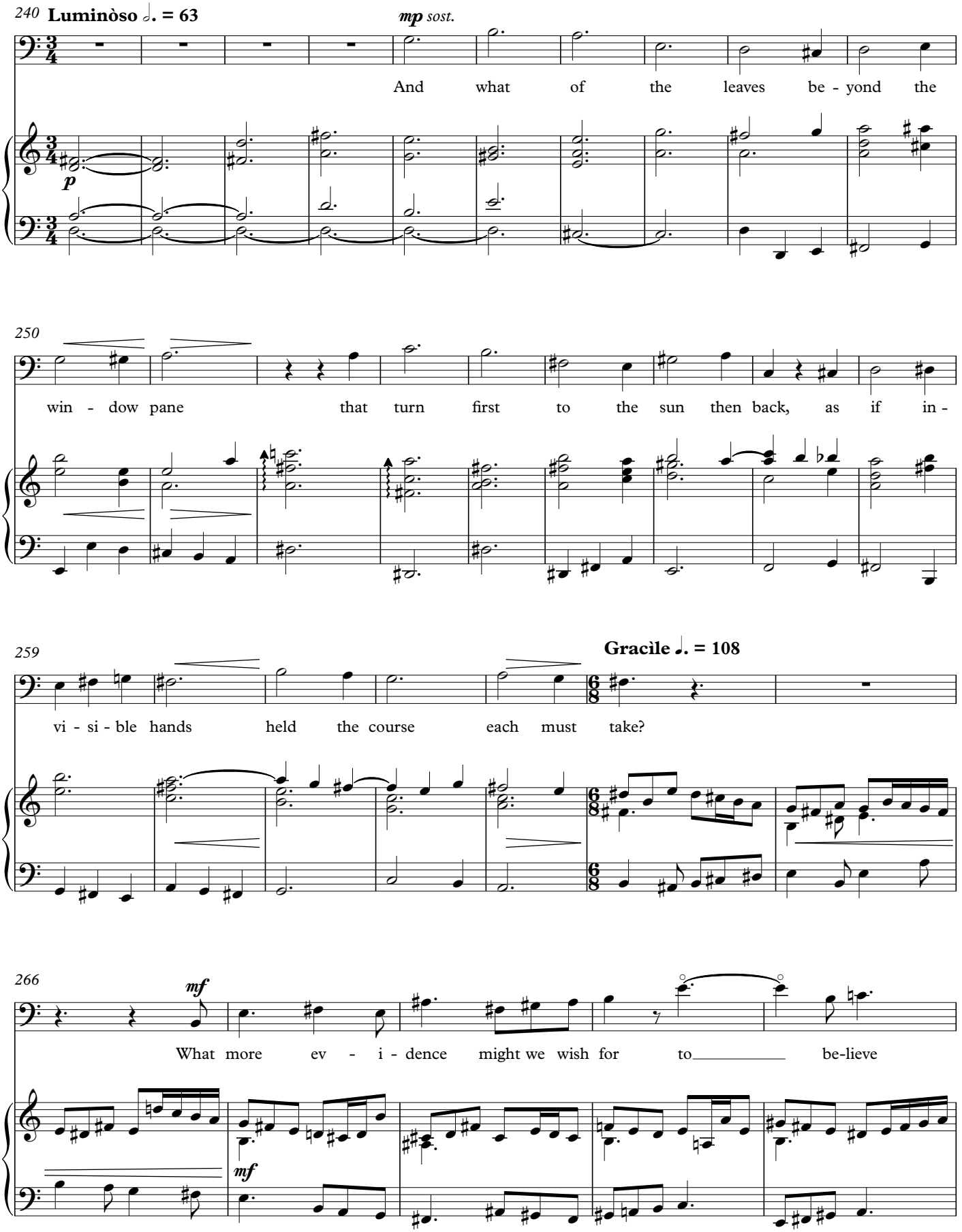

190
accelerando
mf
mp
rallentando
p
a tempo
night as it moves from tree to tree, it of - fers one way, the snow an-
mf
mp
p
Ped. each
Ped.
195
Tranquìllo
pp
mp
rallentando
oth - er.
Which-ev-er you choose,
delicatiss.
pp
mp
5
Ped.
Ped.
200
accel.
a tempo
Movendo
p
know I will fol-low.
p
mp
Ped.

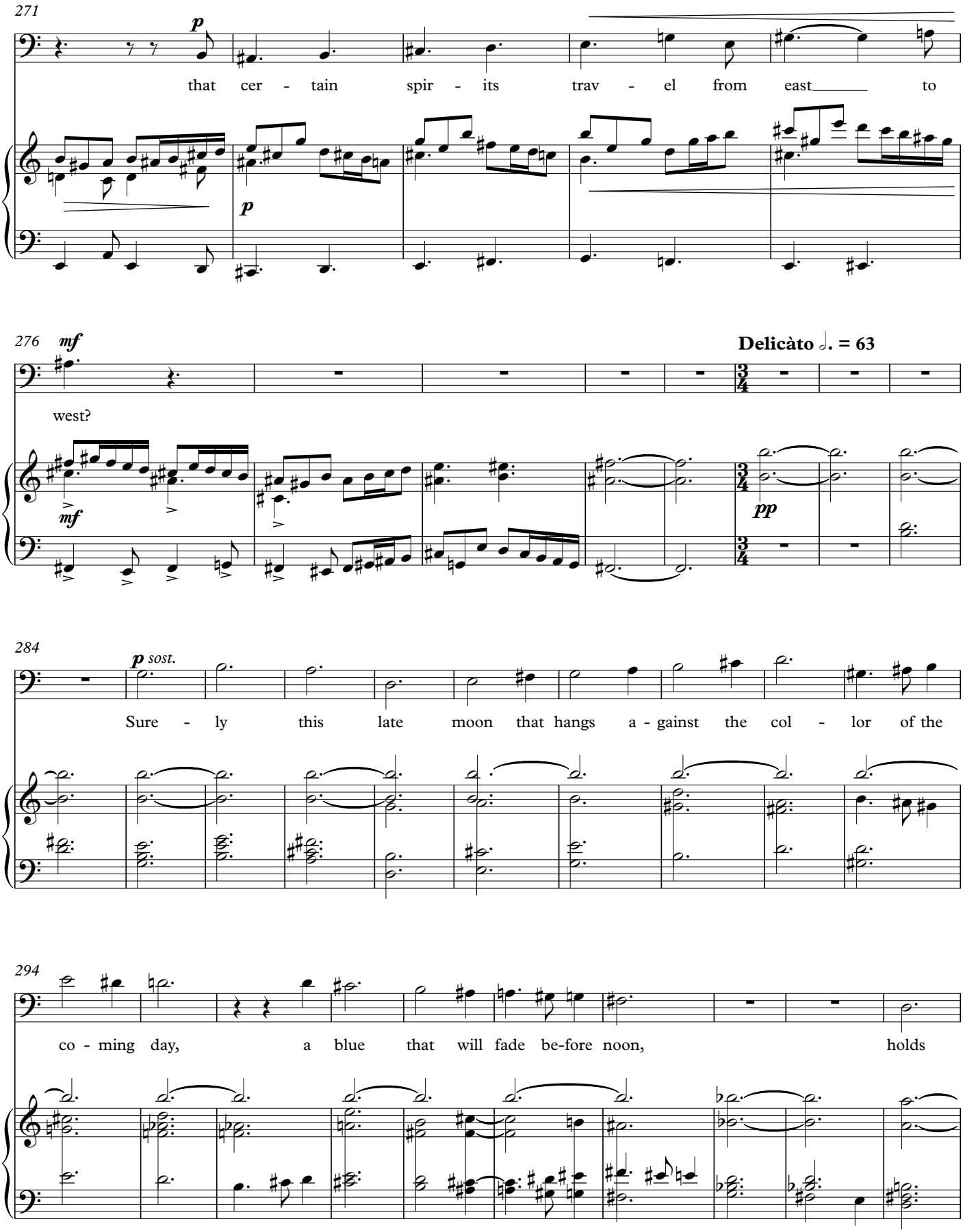

205
8va
rall.
a tempo, Lontano
mf
5
sf
p
pp
Sost. Ped.
210
p
pp
p
pp
ppp
Ped.

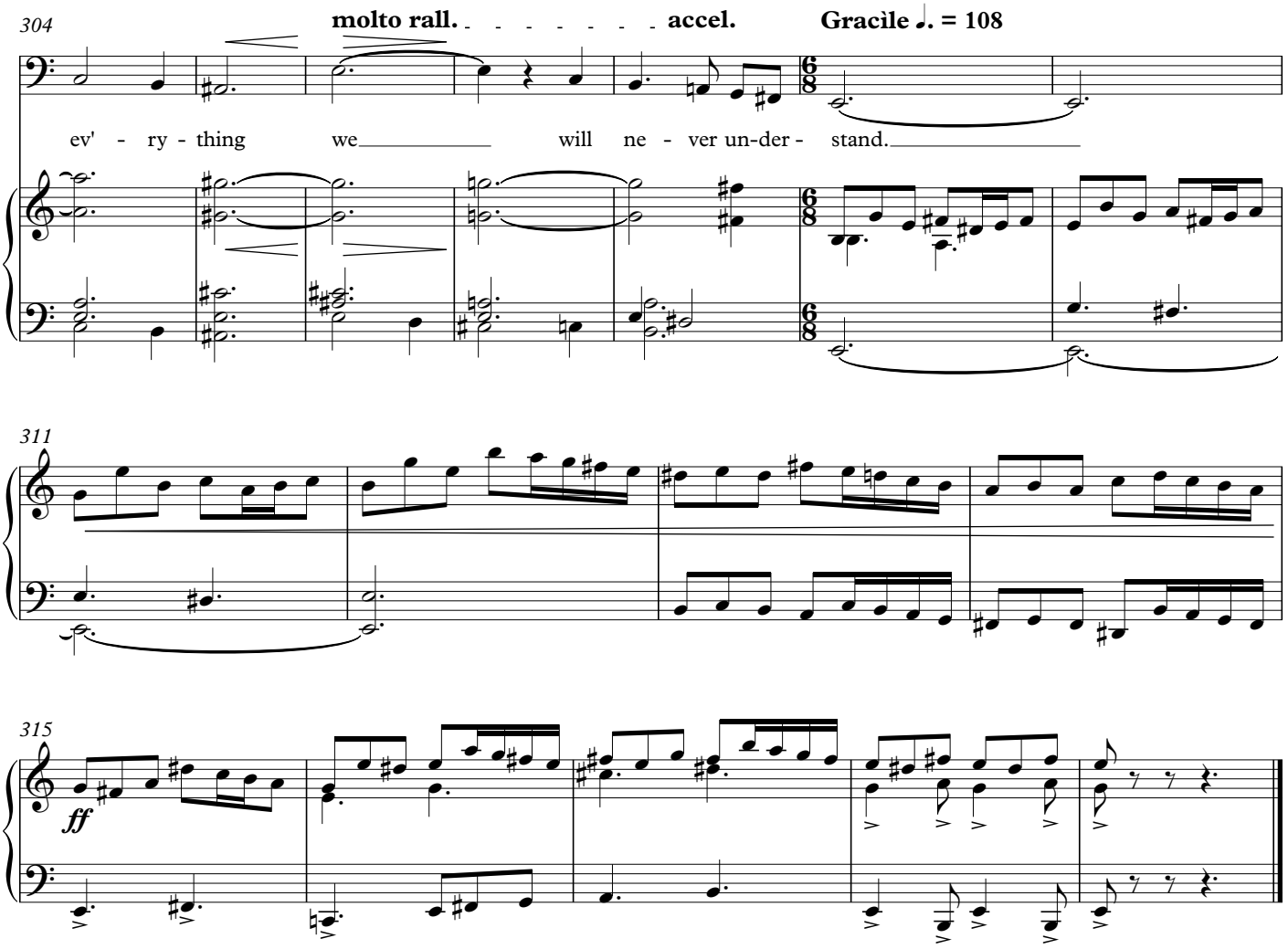
3. How else

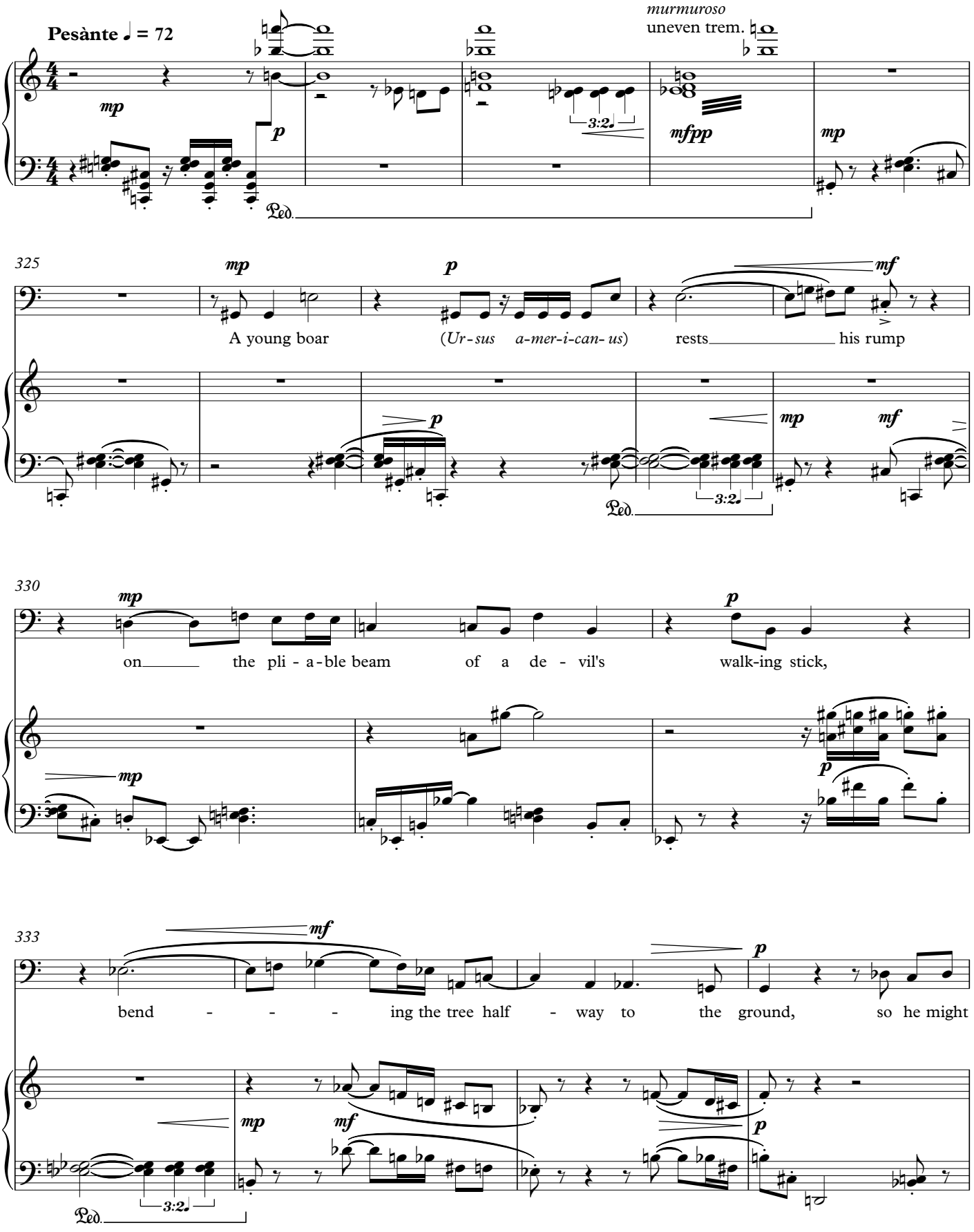
Gracìle ♩. = 104

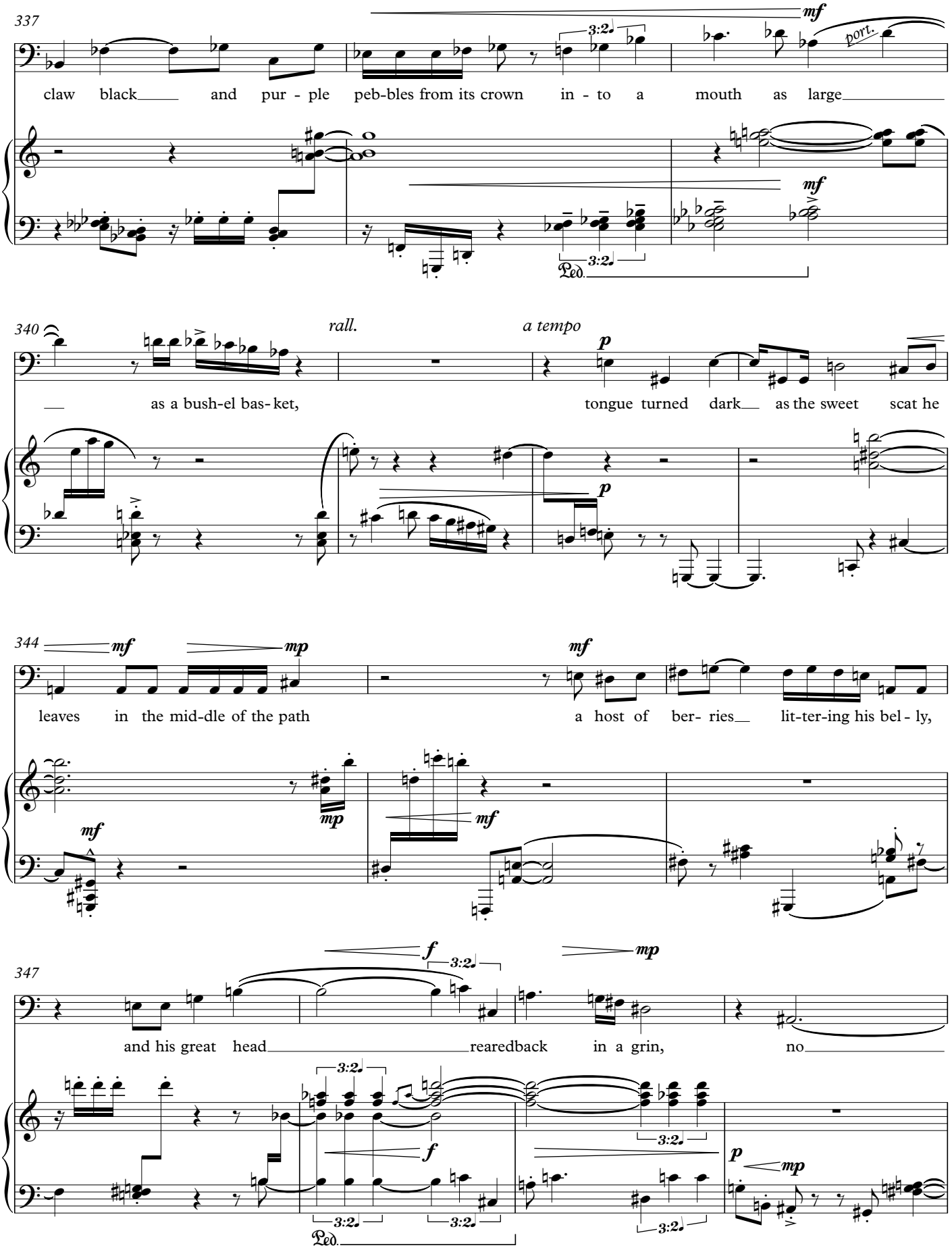


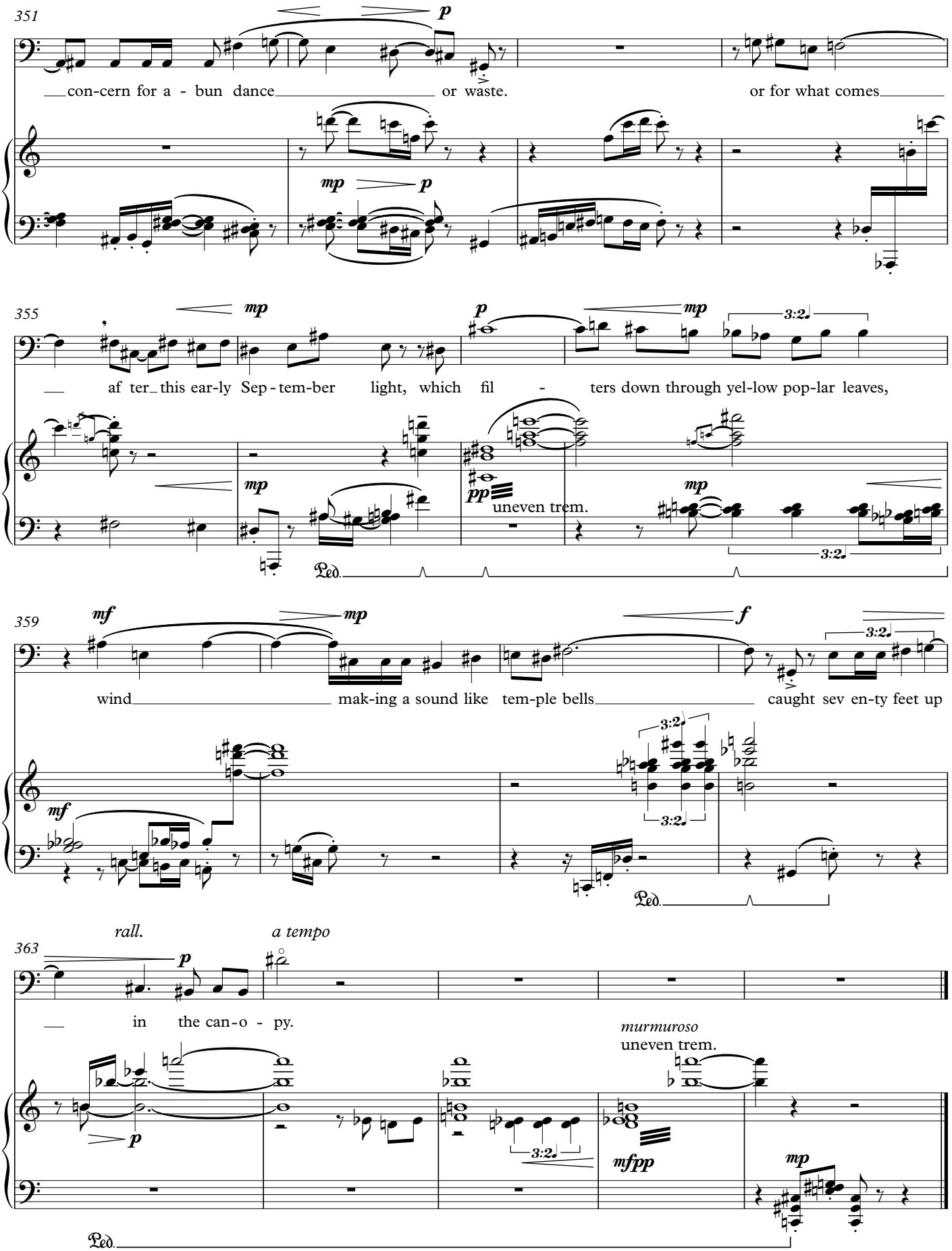

240
Luminòso ♩. = 63
mp sost.
And what of the leaves be - yond the
p
250
win - dow pane that turn first to the sun then back, as if in -
259
Gracìle ♩. = 108
vi - si - ble hands held the course each must take?
266
mf
What more ev - i - dence might we wish for to be-lieve
mf


271
p
that cer - tain spir - its trav - el from east to
p
276
mf
Delicàto ♩. = 63
west?
mf
pp
284
p sost.
Sure - ly this late moon that hangs a - gainst the col - lor of the
294
co - ming day, a blue that will fade be-fore noon, holds


304
molto rall. accel.
Gracìle ♩. = 108
ev' - ry - thing we will ne - ver un-der - stand.
311
315
ff


Pesànte ♩ = 72
murmuroso
uneven trem.
mp
p
mfpp
mp
Ped.
325
mp
p
mf
A young boar
(Ur-sus a-mer-i-can-us)
rests
his rump
p
mp
mf
3:2
Ped.
330
mp
p
on
the pli - a - ble beam
of a de - vil's
walk-ing stick,
mp
p
333
mf
p
bend - - - ing the tree half - way to the ground,
so he might
mp
mf
p
3:2
Ped.


337
mf
claw black and pur - ple peb-bles from its crown in - to a mouth as large
port.
3:2
mf
Ped.
340
rall.
a tempo
as a bush-el bas- ket,
tongue turned dark as the sweet scat he
p
344
mf
mp
leaves in the mid-dle of the path
a host of ber- ries lit-ter-ing his bel - ly,
347
f
mp
and his great head reared back in a grin, no
p


351
p
con-cern for a - bun dance or waste. or for what comes
mp p
355
mp p mp 3:2.
af ter this ear-ly Sep-tem-ber light, which fil - ters down through yel-low pop-lar leaves,
mp pp mp
uneven trem.
3:2.
Ped.
359
mf mp f
wind mak-ing a sound like tem-ple bells caught sev en-ty feet up
3:2.
mf
3:2.
Ped.
rall. a tempo
363
p
in the can-o - py.
murmuroso
uneven trem.
p mfpp mp
3:2.
Ped.

5. The Name for Things

Accarezzevòle ♩ = 69

p

Be -

mp *pp* *mp* *pp*

Ped. *as necessary*

372

cause we call this pur-ple flow-er wild_ ger a-ni-um and that scar - let and yel-low one

p

375

crown___ col-um-bine; be - cause I have been

mp *pp* *p*

379

mp

taught this hair - y blos-som be-longs to Vir-gin - ia wat-er-leaf and that green um - brel - la

mp

382

to the May ap-ple whose fruit when ful-ly ripe is sweet, al - though the seed at its

387

cen - ter still holds the con-se-quence of sin;

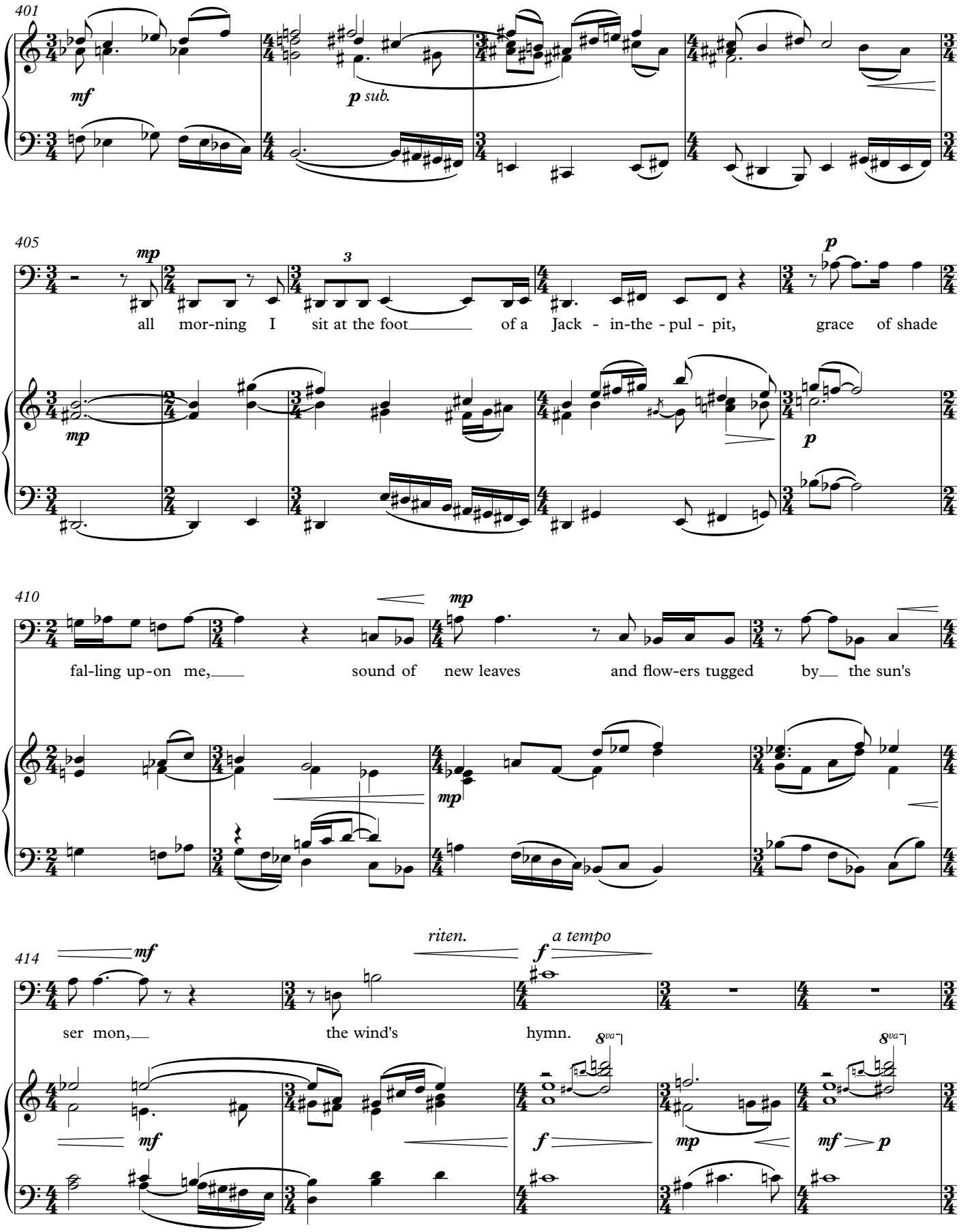
392

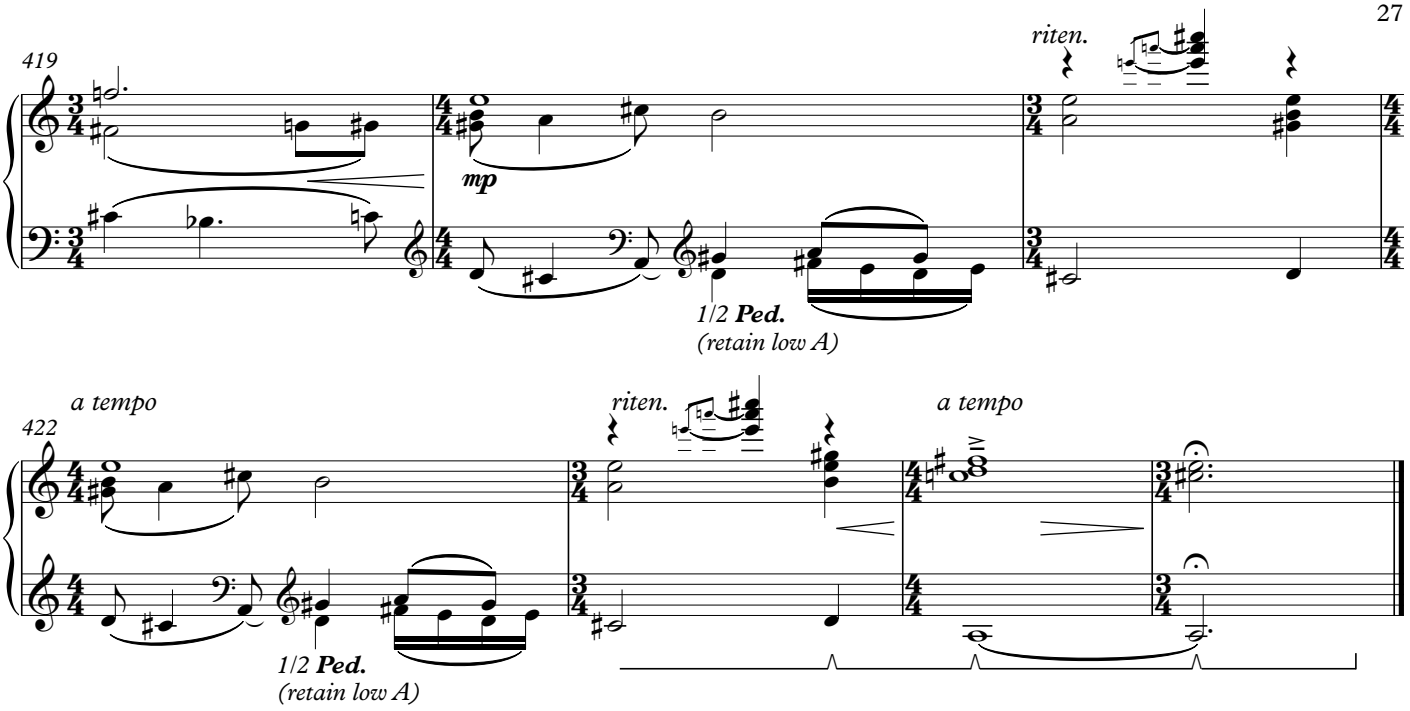
8va

397

be - cause the names are a cat - e-chi-sm this field a hol - y book,

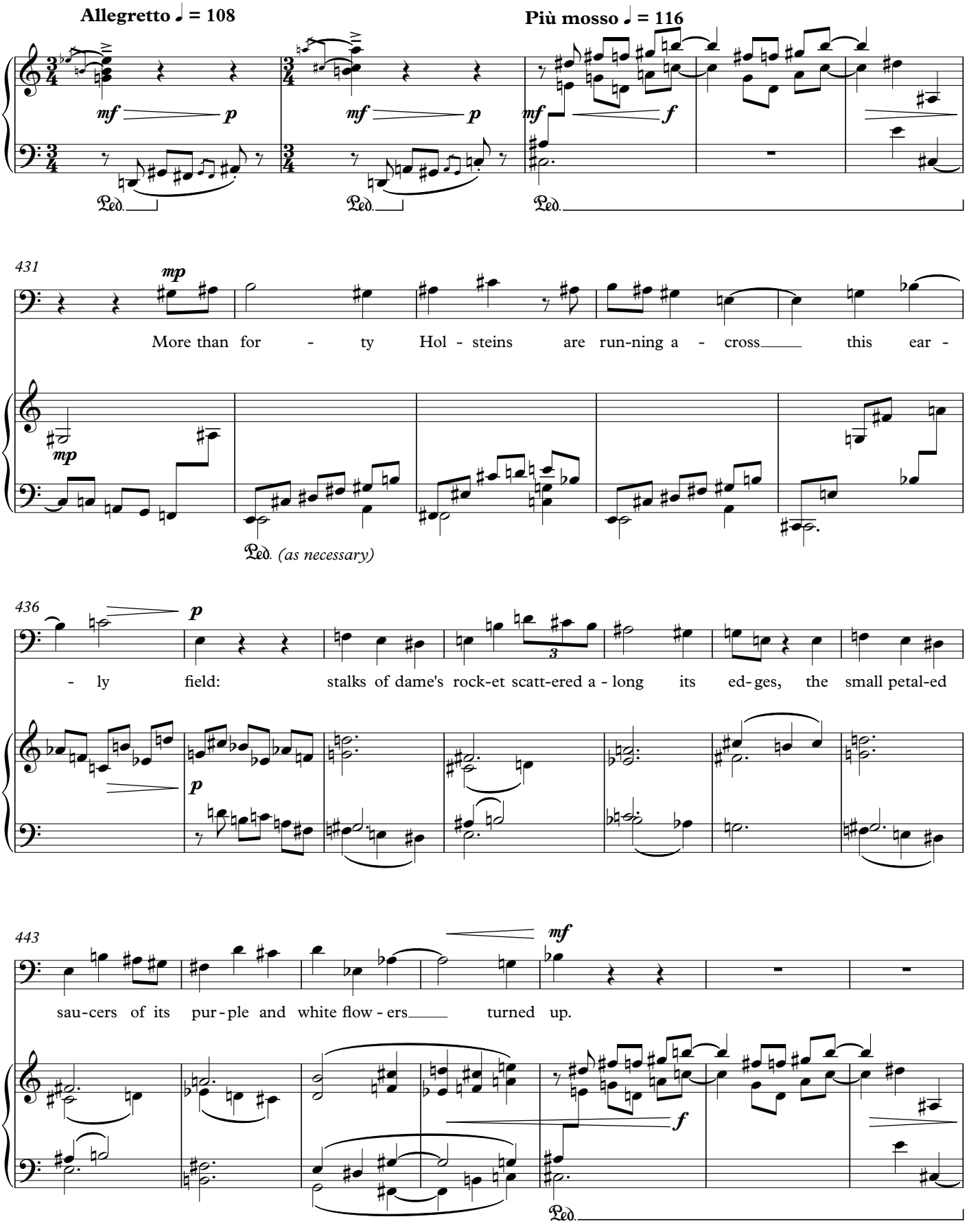
8va

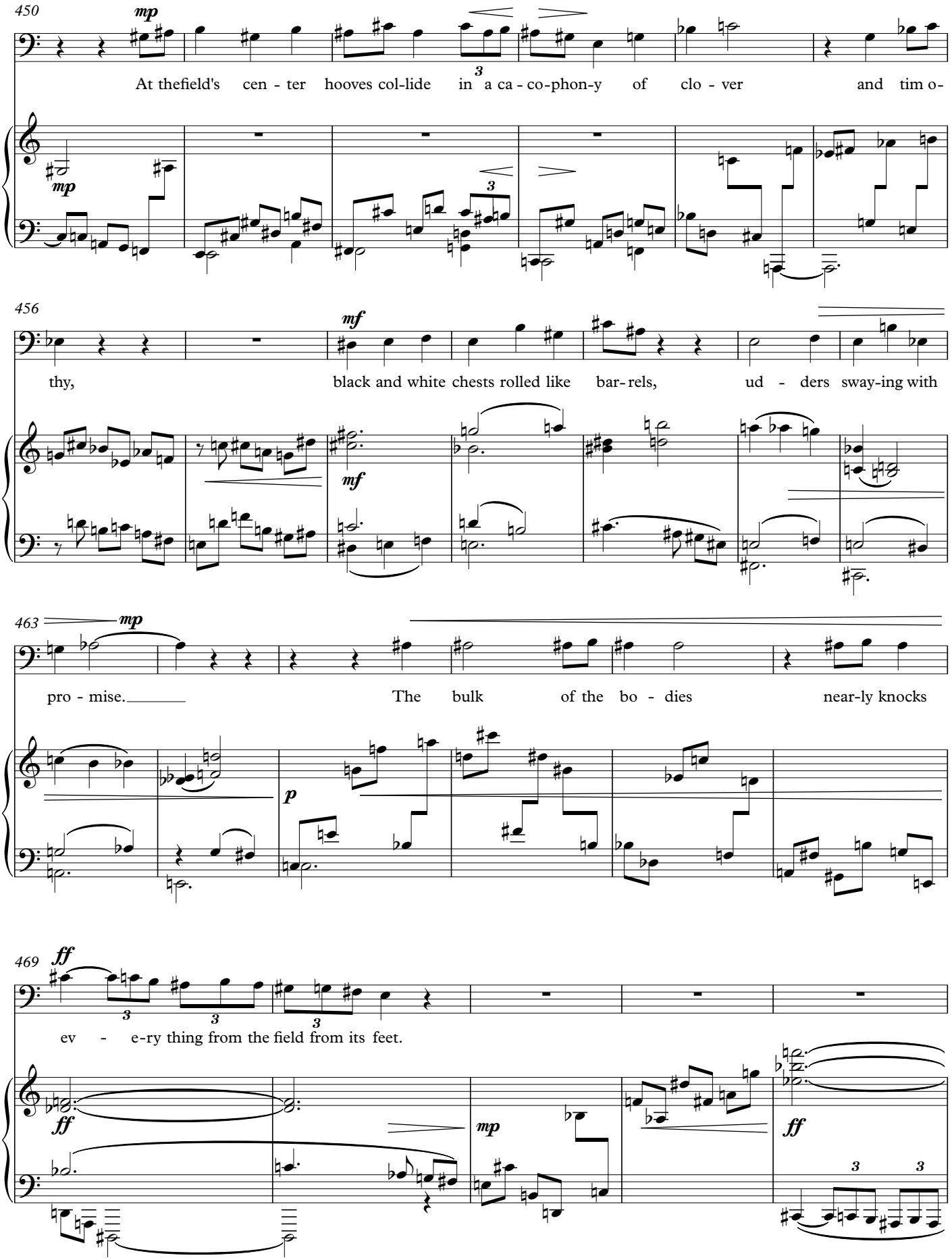

401
mf
p sub.
405
mp
3
all mor-ning I sit at the foot of a Jack - in-the - pul - pit, grace of shade
p
410
mp
fal-ling up-on me, sound of new leaves and flow-ers tugged by the sun's
414
mf
riten.
a tempo
f
ser mon, the wind's hymn.
8va
mf
f
mp
mf
p

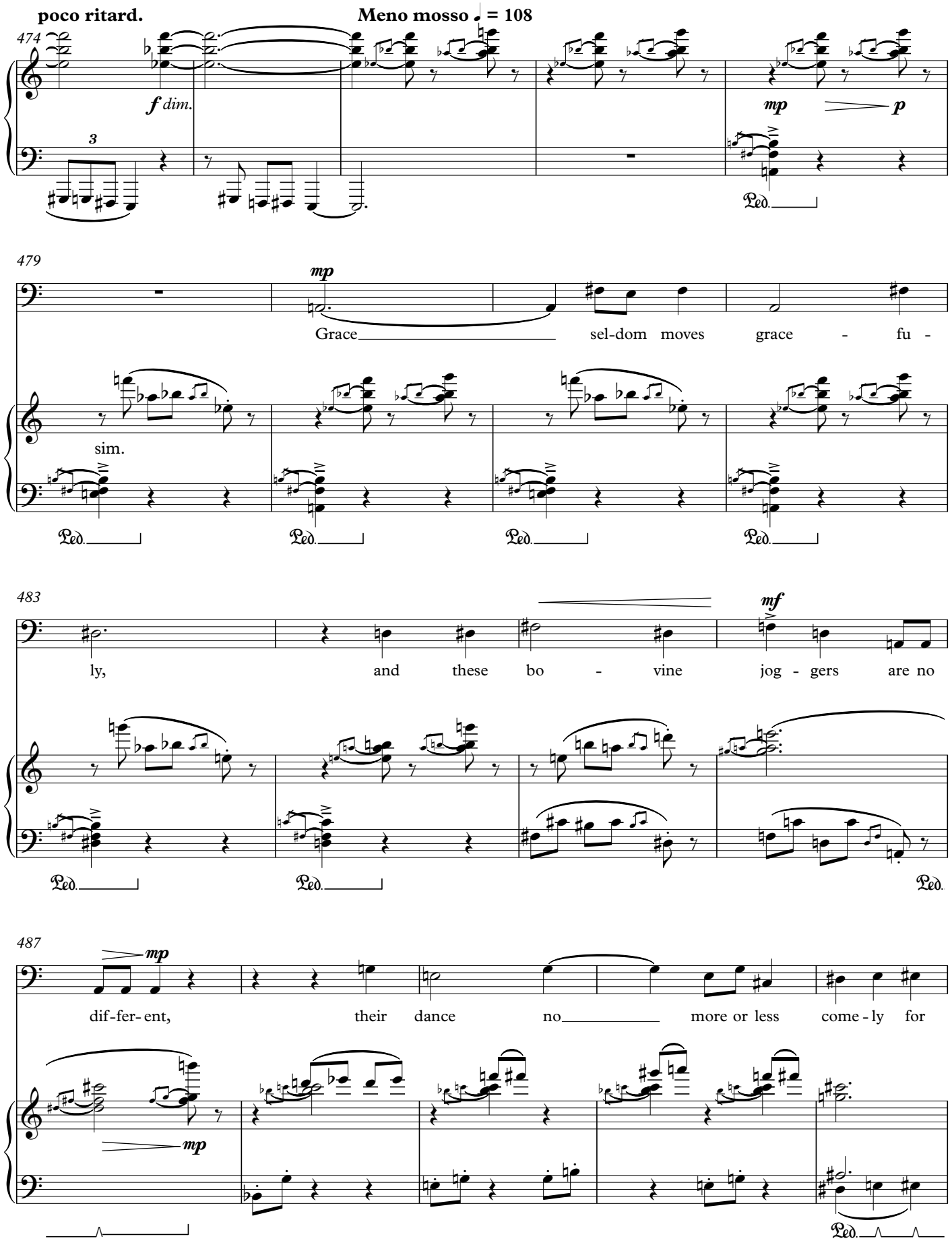

419
riten.
mp
1/2 Ped.
(retain low A)

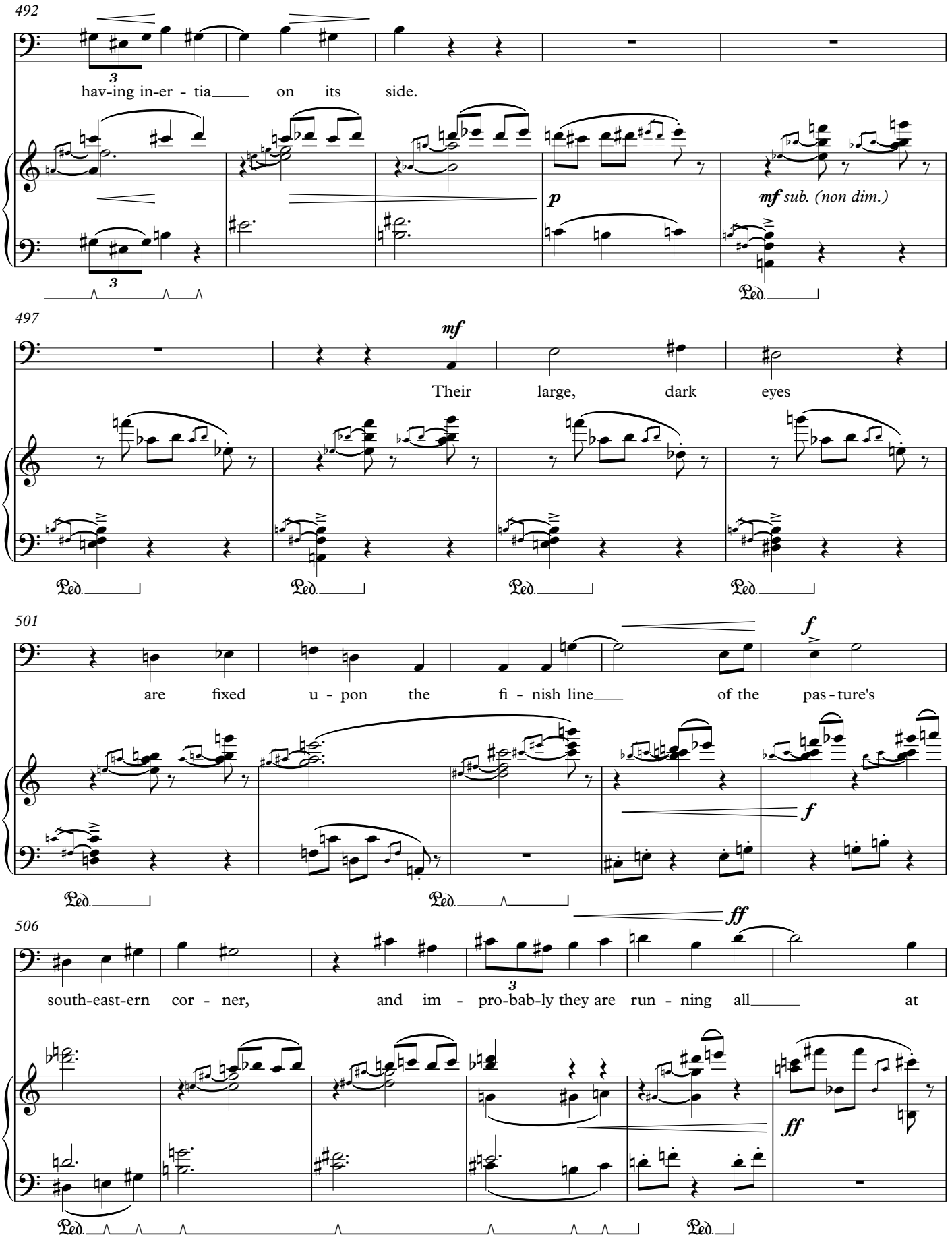
a tempo
422
riten.
a tempo
1/2 Ped.
(retain low A)

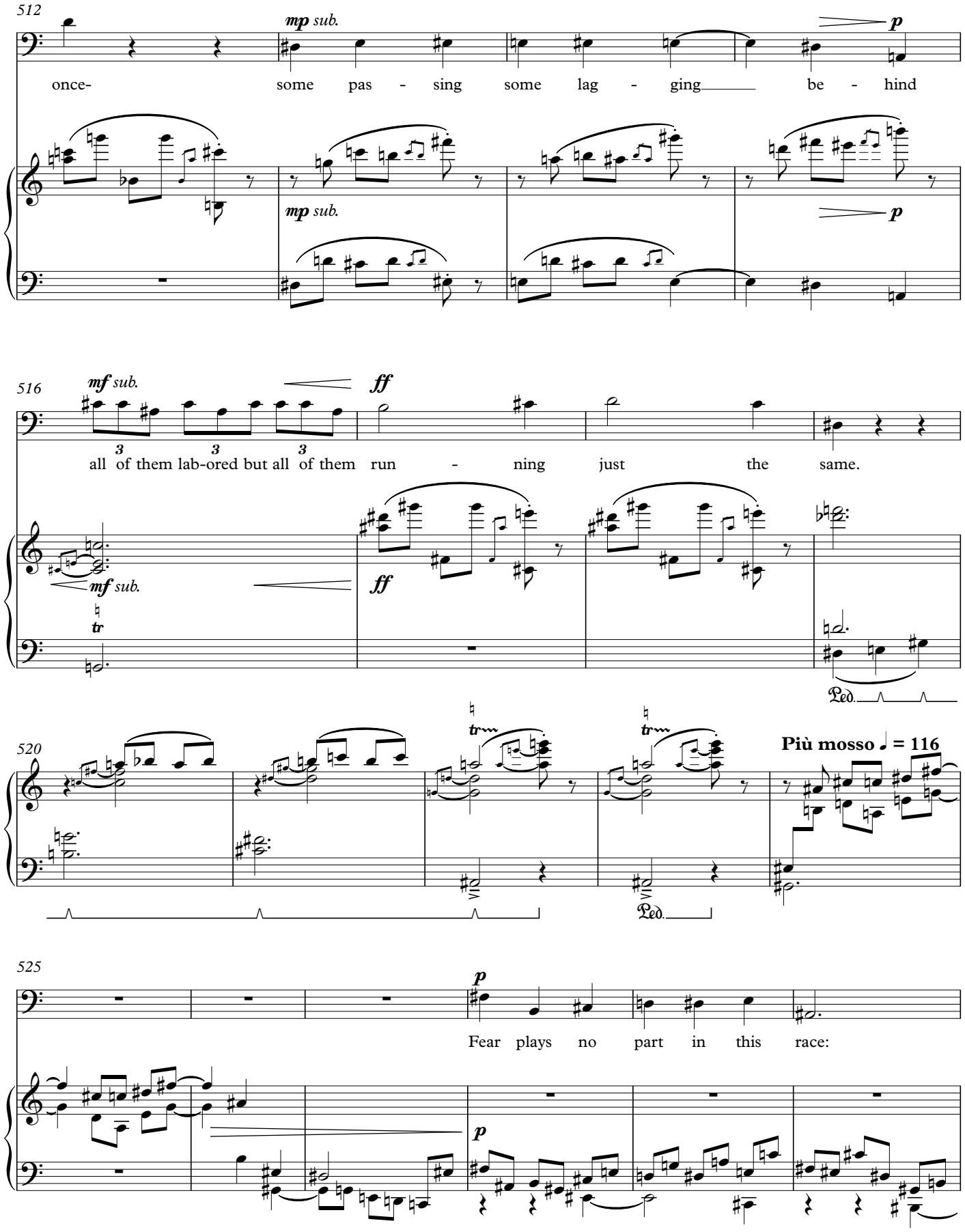
6. Cows Running

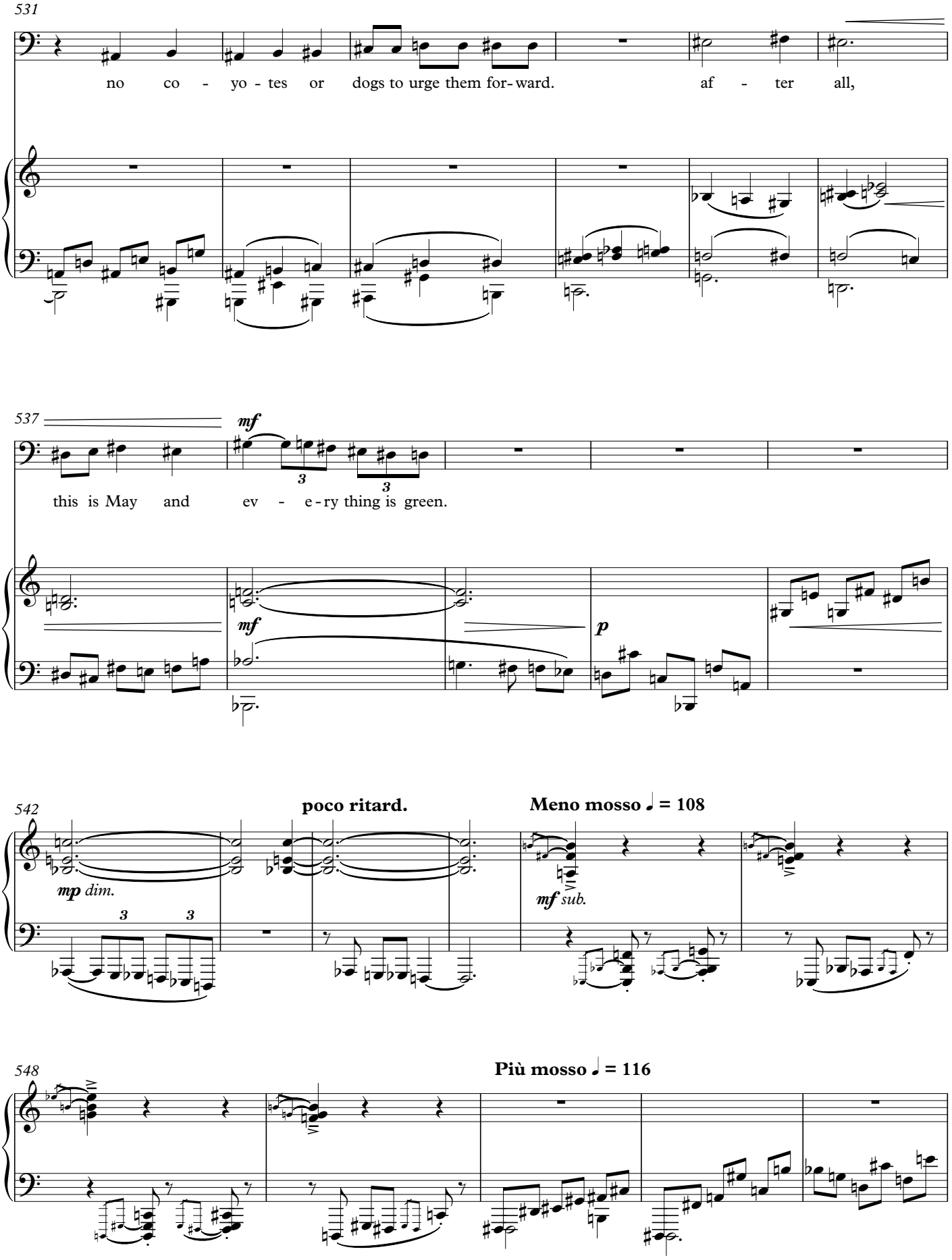


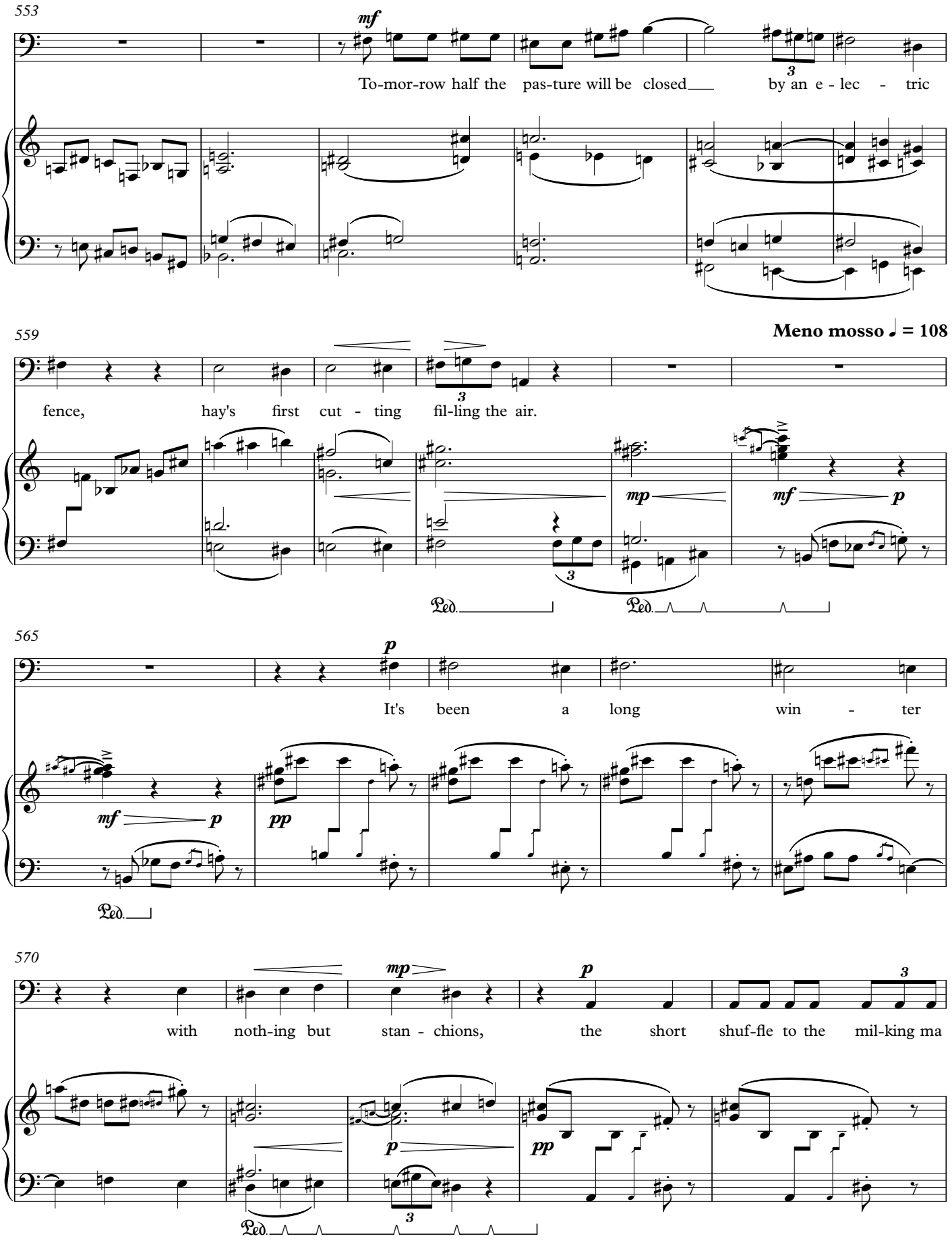

450
mp
At thefield's cen - ter hooves col-lide in a ca - co-phon-y of clo - ver and tim o-
456
mf
thy, black and white chests rolled like bar-rels, ud - ders sway-ing with
463
mp
pro - mise. The bulk of the bo - dies near-ly knocks
p
469
ff
ev - e-ry thing from the field from its feet.
ff
mp
ff

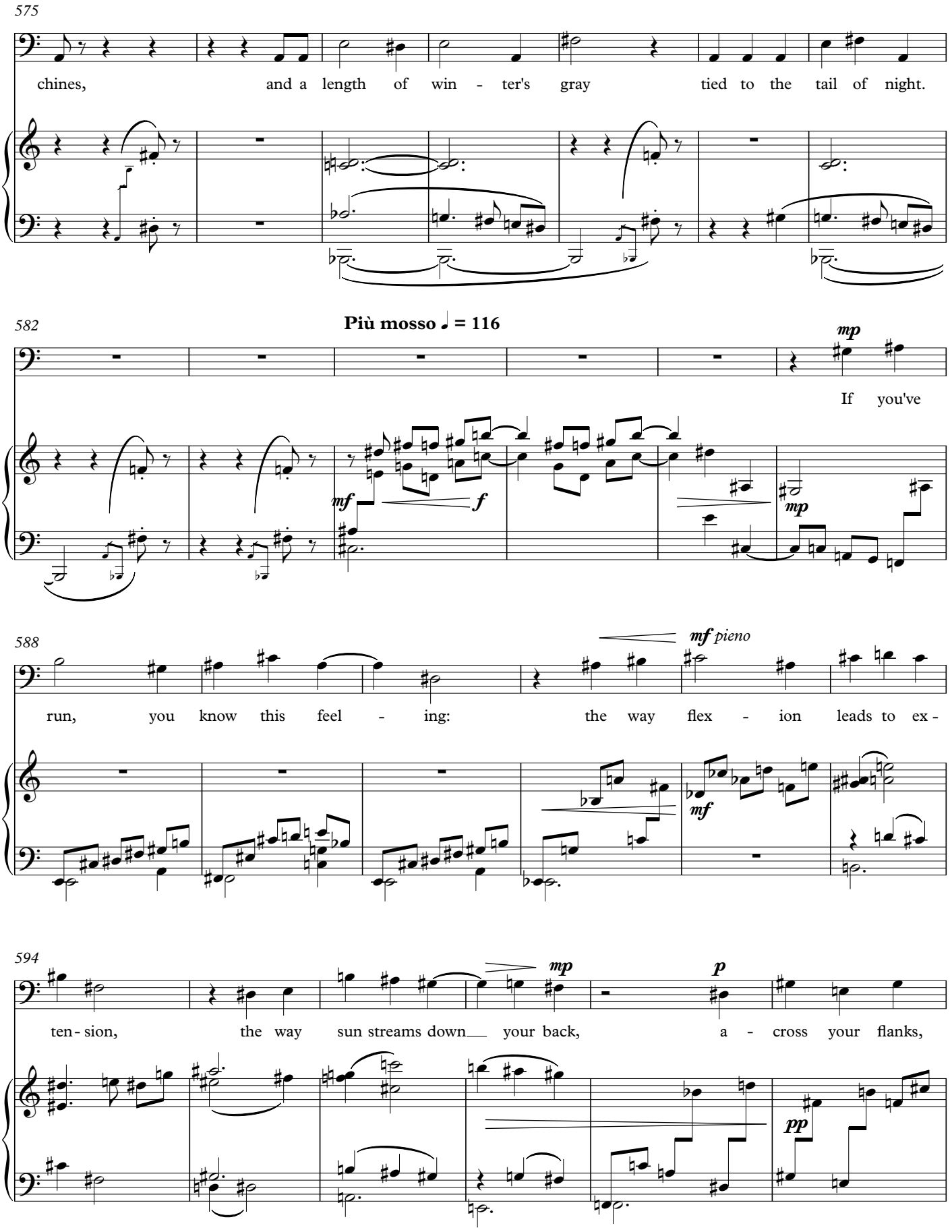

poco ritard.
Meno mosso ♩ = 108
474
f dim.
mp
p
Ped.
479
mp
Grace sel-dom moves grace - fu -
sim.
Ped.
483
mf
ly, and these bo - vine jog - gers are no
Ped.
487
mp
dif-fer-ent, their dance no more or less come-ly for
mp
Ped.

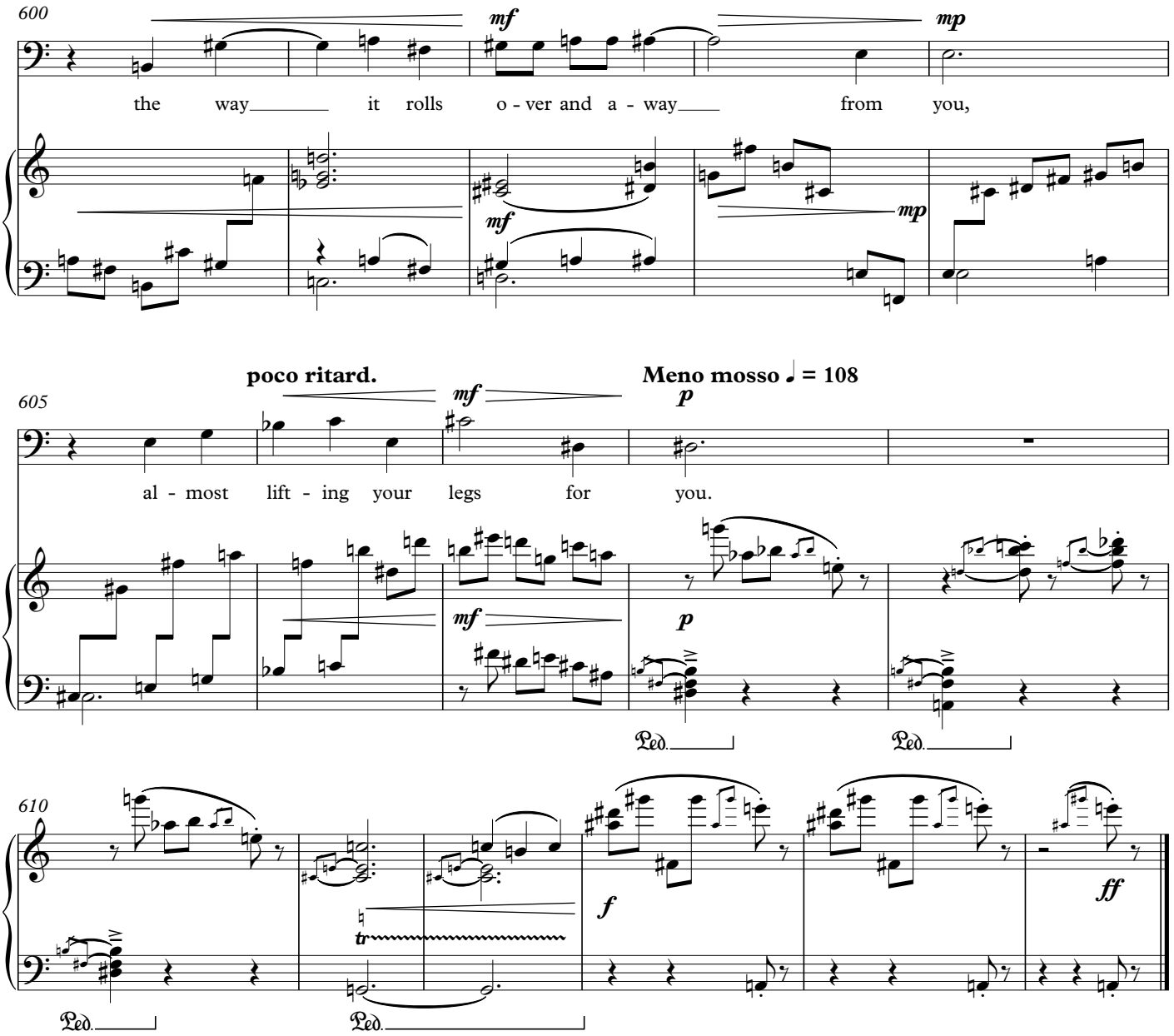

492
hav-ing in-er - tia on its side.
p
mf sub. (non dim.)
Ped.
497
mf
Their large, dark eyes
Ped.
501
are fixed u - pon the fi - nish line of the pas - ture's
f
Ped.
506
ff
south-east-ern cor - ner, and im - pro-bab-ly they are run - ning all at
ff
Ped.


512
mp sub.
p
once- some pas - sing some lag - ging be - hind
mp sub.
p
516
mf sub.
ff
all of them lab-ored but all of them run - ning just the same.
mf sub.
ff
tr
Ped.
520
tr
tr
Più mosso ♩ = 116
Ped.
525
p
Fear plays no part in this race:
p


531
no co - yo - tes or dogs to urge them for-ward. af - ter all,
537
mf
this is May and ev - e-ry thing is green.
mf
p
542
poco ritard.
Meno mosso ♩ = 108
mp dim.
mf sub.
548
Più mosso ♩ = 116


553
mf
To-mor-row half the pas-ture will be closed by an e - lec - tric
559
Meno mosso ♩ = 108
fence, hay's first cut - ting fil-ling the air.
mp
mf
p
Ped.
Ped.
565
p
It's been a long win - ter
mf
p
pp
Ped.
570
mp
p
with noth-ing but stan - chions, the short shuf-fle to the mil-king ma
p
pp
Ped.


575
chines, and a length of win - ter's gray tied to the tail of night.
582
Più mosso ♩ = 116
mp
If you've
mf
f
mp
588
mf pieno
run, you know this feel - ing: the way flex - ion leads to ex -
mf
594
mp
p
ten - sion, the way sun streams down your back, a - cross your flanks,
pp


600
mf
mp
the way it rolls o - ver and a - way from you,
mf
mp
poco ritard.
mf
Meno mosso ♩ = 108
605
p
al - most lift - ing your legs for you.
mf
p
Ped.
Ped.
610
f
ff
tr
Ped.
Ped.