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You, the Bible, & Me

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You, the Bible, & Me

by

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Thesis

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You, the Bible, & Me

by

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SUPERVISOR: Bruce Pennycook

This work is a collaboration between myself and my good friend Diana Silver who is the librettist of the work; the text is used with full permission from the author. It is conceptually a blend between a musical and a chamber opera: sung in a musical theater style, but without scenes of dialogue and containing very few spoken words. It features three actors: Girl 1 (high voice), Girl 2 (medium/low voice), and Boy 1 (medium voice) who rotate roles throughout the work. The work begins and ends with a telling of the Biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah, with the in-between material consisting of three large scenes with a main character, a supporting character, and a character who only quotes directly from the Bible (various translations). In these scenes, the main character presents and works out a very personal conflict while interacting with the other two characters in various ways. The conflict is also invariably discussed through the lens of sometimes unexpected lessons learned from the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. The accompaniment is scored as a piano reduction (not a piano part) and is intended to be flexibly scored for the combination of piano and any other combination of instruments. It is also notable that this is not the complete work, but a sufficient portion of it as per request by the thesis supervisor.

The portion submitted includes: the Prologue and Epilogue, which serve as framing for the entire piece and tell/retell the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, later to be drawn upon in the body of the work; the first large vignette, which involves a conflicted woman (Katie) coming to terms with newfound sexual expression;

Katie's “aria,” in which she has grown confident in her newfound freedom and expresses it openly; and James's “aria” (to follow the second vignette), in which he laments the loss of his mother's relationship but also welcomes his new life and love.

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You, the Bible, & Me

Libretto by Diana Silver

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
I'll tell you a story you already know

GIRL 1:
Enter
Two angels

BOY:
Upon
The tall gates of

GIRL 2:
Place
A fallen city called Sodom

BOY:
Come share my home
Old Lot, perhaps, said, upon sighting
Come meet my family
Come, sup with my wife
Come, laugh with my children
My young, precious girls
Come, have a warm place to stay for the night

GIRL 1:
So come night, come the men
Surrounding Lot's home
In a circle of squalid souls they gather and cry
Bring out the angels

Bring them out to us
Bring them so that we may know them

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
Bring them so that we may know them

GIRL 2:
In Hebrew is a word for this
So that we may know them: yada
To bring forth; to understand;
To be chosen, to consider, declare
To know them
Yada

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
I'm telling you a story you already know

GIRL 1:
I'm bringing it forth

GIRL 2 & BOY:
Yada

GIRL 2:
So you'll understand

GIRL 1 & BOY:
Yada

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
Yada

BOY:
Remember this word
Sodom's is a story of sin; of rape
We know
Or we think

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
We believe

GIRL 1:
The men in their circle of squalid souls
Sodom's is a story of un-kindness

GIRL 2:
In Lot's home
In this land frozen
In Old Testament times
Say the angels to Lot
Take your children,
Your precious girls
Take your wife
Take your life
And run
From the city of Sodom

GIRL 1:
Flee for your lives

BOY:
Don't look back

GIRL 2:

Do not stop

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
And God destroyed the city of Sodom

GIRL 2:
Lot's wife, the pillar of salt

GIRL 1:
Is famous for looking back

BOY:
That's me.
I flee and flee
From those who scorn

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
But I can't help but turn around

GIRL 1:
I look back at them

GIRL 2:
I show them my pain

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
I am paralyzed by the sight of them

BOY:
I am salten by the sound

GIRL 1:

The sound of
Pleasure
Bodies rolling

LOVER:
Do you like it?

KATIE:
Fuck, I love it.
But then, should I?
On the one hand
I'm a good girl
On the other hand
I think I'm gay

LOVER:
I'll say

KATIE:
I know it
Since I feel it
Pulling, licking
Since I-

LOVER:
Say it

KATIE:
Press there
Touch me

LOVER:

No denying
Now we're in it

KATIE:
And she's in me
I'm out to sea
On pleasure, guilt
Confusion
Wondering
Who am I
If not the girl
That girl-

LOVER:
Quiet, timid Katie
Gentle, bible-loving Katie

KATIE:
Either this or I'm a sinner
Broken
Sick, immoral Katie
Yet
I'm borne upon these waves
Rolling under, over me
I'm retreating
Calling, asking
Am I who I used to be?

Swelling, coming
Rubbing, touching
Weightlessness
And breath and stars

Now I've done it
Now it's over
On the other side
Of something

Where I found myself
That first time
After
The two of us are
Sapped and worn
Together on
An old twin bed
Soft bodies, cool sheets
Hot panic

LOVER:
You were
Fantastic

KATIE:
Yes
But fuck, shit, god
At what? Was I?
Welcome to the day
I come to terms
With who I am
And it's

LOVER:
Your first lover

BOY [BIBLE]:

The bible

KATIE:
And me
I say
What did we just do?

LOVER:
Did you like it?

KATIE:
Yes. No.
I'm not sure.

LOVER:
It felt good.

KATIE:
No, no, no, no

LOVER:
Katie-

KATIE:
This is bad.
We were bad.
I was good but
This was bad
What we did
When we-
When you-
Oh god

LOVER:
It's ok

KATIE:
The bible says-

LOVER:
Enough about the bible

KATIE:
The bible says-

KATIE:
All other sins a man commits
Are outside his body
But he who sins sexually
Sins against his own body

BIBLE:
All other sins a man commits
Are outside his body
But he who sins sexually
Sins against his own body

This is a really big sin

LOVER:
Quiet, easy

KATIE:
My virginity
I've lost it
Gone

LOVER:
Poor soul

KATIE:
And in the worst
Possible way

LOVER:
That's a terrible thing to say

KATIE:
Sin on top of sin

LOVER:
There's no sin here
Katie, listen
This was gentle
This was fun

KATIE:
There are rules about this
I rejected this instruction
Therefore I rejected God

BIBLE:
Therefore, he who rejects this instruction
Does not reject man but God

I thought only of this body
Of my greedy, yearning flesh
My want for you
For closeness
I don't know what I should do
I learned I should
Put to death
All that's of
My earthly, sinning nature

BIBLE:
Put to death therefore
Whatever belongs to
Your earthly nature

LOVER:

Let's not tame
This wild part
Isn't it better
To meet your nature
Look it in the eyes
Kiss it on the lips

KATIE:
Oh, I see you
And I want you
I'm not in control
I'm just pulsing,
Rolling, racing

They say
If you can't control yourself
You're supposed to marry
It's better to marry
Than to burn with passion
But you, you're not

BIBLE:
If you cannot control yourself
You should marry
For it is better to marry
Than to burn with passion

LOVER:
A man?

KATIE:
We can't

LOVER:
We did

KATIE:
But we can't

LOVER:
We can

KATIE:
In Iowa
I mean
We can't
We're so far outside
Any line
Any rule
Of decency

LOVER:
Do you want to go back
Inside those lines?

KATIE:
Yes
I don't -
No

LOVER:
Then there you are

KATIE:
I've been moving away from it
For so long

LOVER:
Coming toward me

KATIE:
And though that voice
It calls me backward

LOVER:
Keep moving forward

KATIE:
To your arms

LOVER:
It feels better

KATIE:
Yes

LOVER:
Let go, release
Let me serve this body

KATIE:
You know
The body is a temple

LOVER:
How I worship; love,
Our bodies both are temples
Home to our wild desire
In me, in you
You are now your own
Listen
I am yours

BIBLE:
That your body is a temple
Of the holy spirit
Who is in you

And you are your own

KATIE:
I'm finally my own
It's my will
To serve this body
Its forbidden meal
Food for the body
The body for food
I feel

BIBLE:
The body is not meant
For sexual immorality
But for the Lord
And the Lord for the body

KATIE
Everything is permissible for me

BIBLE:
Everything is permissible for me

BIBLE:
Not everything is beneficial

KATIE:
Everything is permissible for me

BIBLE:
Everything is permissible for me

KATIE:
I'm free; I won't be mastered
By anything

BIBLE:
But I will not be mastered
By anything

KATIE:
I know - *yada*
To bring forth
To understand
To be chosen
To consider, declare

This word

It's in the bible
Nine-hundred-forty-three times
But in only a dozen
Is *yada*
What Adam did
When he *knew* Eve

How the Sodomites
Wanted to
Know the angels

What I do
When I *knew* that girl

The old testament
Tested me; telling me
A dozen is a dozen
Now eagerly I own it
I say: check me out
This sinner made it a baker's

Looking back, I laugh and say
Thank God I'm better, now
Instead of purity or proving faith
I'm being, showing how
I am
Good

It's not
Bible study
Clasping hands or
Reading every word

I'm not
Trying to be a
Soft, meek lamb
A member of the herd

I am

A woman teeming full with faith
I'm brimming with desire
Give me touch and tug and roll
Let's grind, lick, pull, perspire
I am
Good

Looking back I think – dear God
How tiresome I was
Instead of standing on the pedestal
I'm being, showing how
I am
Good

It's not
Virginity or
Nightly prayer
Or looking without touch
I'm not
Waiting for the wedding ring
I'm in it for the rush

I am

A woman who still has her faith

I cultivate it here
I say give me touch and tickle
Welcome to the temple
I am
Good

Looking back I see it's clear
I know I had it wrong
Neglected what this body needs
In trying to belong
To be
Good

I can't prove
To me – to God – to you
I'm worthy or I'm pure
I can be kind
And passionate
And in these ways
Assure myself
I'm good

I am

A woman of faith and desire
I'm cunning, luscious, gentle
All I have is faith in God
And deep love for this temple
I am
Good

KATIE:

Food for the stomach
The stomach for food
The body for pleasure
Pleasure for my body

KATIE:
She is an apple tree among
The trees of the forest
I delight to sit in her shade
And her fruit is sweet to my taste
She leads me to the banquet hall
Her banner over me is love

BOY [JAMES]:
He is an apple tree among
The trees of the forest
I delight to sit in his shade
And his fruit is sweet to my taste
He leads me to the banquet hall
His banner over me is love

JAMES:
Strengthen me with raisins
Refresh me with apples
For I am faint with love
His left arm is under my head
And his right arm embraces me
I untwine myself and rise
He sleeps as I take from our bed

The habit is mine
So he stays; he refuses
My mother, our church
What was home to me
Was hurt for him
So he stayed
I untwined myself to rise
To walk to my own execution

I approach that church, as always

See her waiting, as ever
See her face, feel a chill
Maybe then I knew it would be

GIRL 1 [MOTHER]:
Your mother

GIRL 2 [BIBLE]:
The bible

JAMES:
And me
She says

MOTHER:
It's a beautiful day
God's given us

JAMES:
It's nice to see you, Mom

MOTHER:
You're late

JAMES:
Not much
I overslept

MOTHER:
Oh, James
Your hair
Your coat

JAMES:
I was in a rush

MOTHER:
You have to make time
For God, for me

JAMES:
This is important to you

MOTHER:
And you? *[no response]*
It should be

JAMES:
You see
She knows
About the sin
In me and that city
Destroyed in brimstone and hellfire

But holds out hope for me
Her sinner son
Companion of the idolaters
Adulterers and thieves
None of these
Will inherit the kingdom of God
Unless

MOTHER:
You can be washed

BIBLE:
Do you not know that the wicked will not

You can be sanctified
Justified
In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
And by the Spirit of God
Amen

JAMES:
Her favorite bit
Is the part where I am saved
But not today
The sermon
A sweet tale for the depraved

BIBLE:
For
Since the creation
Of the world
God's invisible qualities
His eternal powers
His divine nature
Have been clearly seen
Understood
From what has been made
So that men
Are without excuse

JAMES:
I have no excuse
It always was so clear
And now I hear
It spoken to me

Inherit the kingdom of God?
Do not be deceived

MOTHER: *[aside, to JAMES]*
You know how I've always felt

BIBLE:
But men
Although they knew God
They neither glorified him as God
Nor gave thanks to him
Their foolish hearts were darkened

And God gave them over
In the sinful desires of their hearts
To the degrading of their bodies
With one another
They exchanged the truth of God
For a lie

The men committed indecent acts
With other men
And received in themselves

JAMES:
My foolish heart

My sinful desires

At home, in my bed
A lie

Us two with our indecent acts
Love, compassion
We receive within ourselves

JAMES:
Affirmation

MOTHER & BIBLE:
The due penalty
For their perversion

JAMES:
She does not look at me
When through pursed lips
She says

MOTHER:
The pastor's going to call on me

BIBLE:
Will James' mother rise?

JAMES:
And stoic, staring straight ahead
She stiffly leaves my side
I realize

BIBLE: *[Spoken]*
You have a testimony

MOTHER & BIBLE: *[This focus is on MOTHER but as she is quoting the bible, BIBLE sings under]*
Some among us have been filled
With every kind of wickedness
They invent ways of doing evil

BIBLE:
They disobey their parents

BIBLE & JAMES:
They are senseless
Faithless, heartless
Ruthless

MOTHER & BIBLE:
Although they know
God's righteous decree
That those who
Do these things
Deserve death

They not only continue
To do those very things
They approve
Of those
Who practice them

JAMES:
My foolish heart
My sinful desires
At home
In my bed
Where every day
I breathe thanks over his body
Where for long
I have stopped repenting

When I told her about me
She nodded
And told me of my sin

BIBLE:
If your brother or sister sins
Go
Point out their fault

BIBLE:
If they listen to you
You have won them over

JAMES:
The suggestion of repentance
Fell on dead, stubborn,
Love-soaked ears

BIBLE:
But if they will not listen

JAMES:
Old family friends
Bore testimony
To my coming out
And they prayed

BIBLE:
Take one or two others along
So that every matter may
Be established

BIBLE & MOTHER:
Let the veil that
Satan has placed
On his eyes
Be lifted

Let him see
The error
Of his ways

Let him repent

Help him apologize
To his parents
For the hurt
He has caused them

JAMES:
The hurt
They have caused me
Hardens my aching heart
Their suggestion of repentance
Knocks
Is turned away
With newborn confidence
I tell them

Not today

BIBLE:
If they still refuse to listen

JAMES:
So they tell it to the church
And I'll never, never listen
Which means now I am as a pagan
Cast out
Wounded and free

BIBLE:
Tell it to the church
And if they refuse to listen even to the church
Treat them as you would a pagan

For my mother's last act
She tells me

MOTHER:
It is a mercy
The church will not judge
Those outside

JAMES:
I am outside

MOTHER:
God will judge you now

JAMES:
A mercy

MOTHER:
Now you are outside

JAMES:
Alone
Yada – I know
Where I must go
I flee my execution
Home to my bed

He's asleep when I crawl into the sheets
I twine myself about my beloved
His left arm is under my head
And his right arm embraces me
My tears are on his skin

Tell it to me; say it plain
I'll hear you as I turn and flee
You say that for me you know best
I'm telling you I can't agree

I hear you and the line is blurring
Words like *broken*; words like *wrong*
Whispered to me – you say God's voice
I say your voice – all along

I am new – I am not broken
But I hear the words you've spoken
And I'm stricken, I am stung by them
I'm salten by the sound

I beg - please forgive me
You pray - make him whole
Let me show you nothing's missing
I'm getting stronger, growing bold

I'm letting myself leave us be
You're imperfect; I'm impure
You've cast me out; I'm setting off
It's funny how we're both so sure

I am new – I am not broken
I'll always hear the words you've spoken
I am stricken, frozen, frightened by them
Salten by the sound

We cannot speak for all that's spoken
It's hard to love for all that's lost
At what expense am I your son?
God's the price and I'm the cost

I am new – I am not broken
All the tired words you've spoken
I am weary from them; hear me
I am salten by the sound

My sin is the sin of Sodom
Your sin, our sin, my lover calls it
Our love, our life; it's different than
The angels and the sordid men

In my home new words are spoken
He tells his love, soft, to me
I hear the timbre of compassion
I am salten by the sound

What I know is what he's taught me

Compassion, trust, and twining
Our bodies about one another
And in the morning we awaken
Knowing

We wake up in the morning
Knowing

GIRL 2 [MEL]:
I wake up in the morning
Knowing

MEL:
That
The sun is accosting my eyes
The weekend's ahead
And somewhere there
Ought to be coffee
But first I
The coward
Have to tell him
Muster some courage
And say
We have to break up
Say it
I say nothing

Cruel of me, I know
To go to his home
Feign a sort of life
A cozy night in bed
Only to wake
To turn to him, to say
Say it
Say
We have to break up

EX-BOYFRIEND:
What?

MEL:
Yes
We
We need to break up

EX-BOYFRIEND:
Why?

MEL:
I don't love you
The quiet
Do you hear me?
I'm sorry
Do you want me to leave?
Do you need me to stay?
Have anything to say?

I broke his heart
But he'll get me good
Watch
See the worst of us
This awful day
With

EX-BOYFRIEND:
Your ex-boyfriend

GIRL 1 [BIBLE]:

The bible

MEL:
And me
I say
I don't love you
I'm sorry
I'll go

EX-BOYFRIEND:
Do you know why
I never would have
Married you?

MEL:
Why?

EX-BOYFRIEND:
Because you're not a Christian

MEL:
I mean, fuck
No, I was not – am not - a Christian
And grace?
God?
I felt none of that
But – *yada*
Even then, I knew

EX-BOYFRIEND:
Mel, I want to know
Why not God?

I worry for you
On your own, so
Before I let you go
I want to know
What wakes you up?
What brings you peace?

MEL:
It's knowing
It's something
I can't touch

EX-BOYFRIEND:
What do you call it?

MEL:
You call it God

EX-BOYFRIEND:
Yes

MEL:
Well, I don't call it that
I know God
I know my verses
But I untangle them
And I question what I see
Take Lot's story

When they talk about Lot
And the city of Sodom
In the bible it says **BIBLE:**

That the people in Sodom were arrogant
Fat and ignorant
No regard for the poor
God says
They did detestable things before me

And in Matthew
Jesus tells his disciples
To go into the town
To tell of his coming

He says
Should they find
That they
Or their words
Are unwelcome
Then that unwelcoming town
Would be even more fucked
of judgment
Than the city of Sodom

What I mean to say
Is butt sex really the problem here?
Or is actually *being* an asshole?

We were together
What, six months?
Who said anything
About marriage?

EX-BOYFRIEND:
That's not the point

She and her daughters were arrogant
Overfed and unconcerned
They did not help the poor and needy
They were haughty and
They did detestable things before me

As you go
Proclaim this message
The kingdom of heaven
Has come near

If anyone
Will not welcome you
Or listen to your words
Leave that home or town
And shake the dust off your feet
It will be more bearable
For Sodom and Gomorrah on the day

Than for that town

MEL & EX-BOYFRIEND:
The point is
I didn't have it
I'm not a Christian

MEL:
This
It's too reductive
Accuse me of distance
Emotional instability
Say I don't like Star Wars
I don't get your
Dungeons and Dragons
I'm not mainstream
I'm not a nerd
I'm me, just me
Of little faith
Don't accuse me
Say
I'm not a Christain
That isn't my defect

EX-BOYFRIEND:
I needed more
I wanted your faith

MEL:
I may be broken
But this is not the reason why
I am missing nothing

EX-BOYFRIEND:
The point is
You don't have it
You're not a Christian

EX-BOYFRIEND:
Except the basis
Of marriage
A union
Built upon the bible

MEL:
What is it
This fixation
With marriage
Look at me, look at me,
Look at me
See me
See my fullness
Look into this space
This gaping chasm
You imagine
My faith has voided
See how I have filled it
See how this absence,
This non-belief
Gives me meaning

Even so
It hurts
I feel you're saying
I'm not good

EX-BOYFRIEND:
I'm only saying
You're not with God
With man alone you'd never know

The peace, the grace of God
You would always be looking
You would never be whole

MEL:
Call me unwhole
But call it right
I am broken and
I will mend myself
Just not by faith
I am strong on my own
I really believe that

I hope I forgive you
I hope you'll forgive me

I know
I used to like
The part
Where the bible says

MEL & BIBLE:
Be strong and courageous
Do not be afraid or terrified
For the lord your God
Goes with you
He will never leave you
Nor forsake you

EX-BOYFRIEND:
What does that even
Mean to you?

MEL:
God will never leave me?
He was never at my side
I've always felt apart
And if courageous
Then by my own doing
And once in a blue moon
Your words-

EX-BOYFRIEND:
Do you know why
I never would have
Married you?

MEL:
Why?

EX-BOYFRIEND:
Because you're not a Christian

MEL:
I wonder
Would you have told me this
If I hadn't stung you first
If you had known
The months, the years
It would take me
To undo your words
To forgive you
For not forgiving me
For who I am

To feel whole again
In and of myself

EX-BOYFRIEND:
So there's no God

MEL:
None for me

EX-BOYFRIEND:
There's nothing bigger?

MEL:
Yada – I know
There's something simpler
Do I seem a broken thing?
Let me show you more
I'm religion's escapee
What frightens you enlivens me
My godlessness, it makes me whole
I promise - I am more

Every morning we must wake
But let me show you more
I wake to press myself against
The man whose head is on my chest
It's simple and it fills me and
I'm always seeking more

Every day the same dull motions
I can show you more
In rhythm I become serene

I test this beautiful machine
Warming to the movement
Running, stretching, grasping more

To touch, to run, I rise
These simple things I seek
For these things I rise
I am rising

The daily becomes the mundane
But I can show you more
I sleuth out grey from black and white
In small detail I take delight
Why not try to see it all
When there is so much more

The drive to work, the coffee break
In routine there is more
Each morning I take from my bed
Hypotheses form in my head
I set out to explore
I am always finding more

To look close, to find, I rise
To hold, to feel, to see
For these things I rise
I am rising

It's all the same
Is all I'm saying
Though I, still, have pushed
When I should have pulled

Someone to me, said, see?
I think we want the same:
Hope, love, compassion
I should have taken them to my circle
Joined with them
Close, tight, so no one slips away
Say: We're different; pay it no mind

Still.

I'm ruffled to be written off
I want to say - there's more
There's more to me, the atheist
More than carefree recklessness
More than barren absence
I believe in so much more

You call it hope, or grace, or God
I simply call it more
I call it wonder, call it thrill
I refuse to stop until
You concede that there is more
I have it - I have plenty - I have more

Just like you I rise
The selfsame things we seek
For meaning, truth, we rise
We are rising

Sometimes I break
Sometimes I am nervous
It doesn't mean I need

A higher purpose
I'm alone but courageous
With mended heart
I'll face each day
Eagerly rising

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
I'll tell you a story
You already know

GIRL 1:
Enter
Two angels

BOY:
Upon
The tall gates of

GIRL 2:
Place
A fallen city called Sodom

ANY COMBINATION OF SINGERS:
The city of Sodom
With Lot, the old man
Lot and the angels
His girls, his wife

Lot offering his home
And the circle of men
Asking bring them out to us
Their cries in the night

The city of Sodom
Condemned to destruction
Old Lot with his children
His wife, as she flees

She turns, she looks back
She's stricken, turned salten
As I am, by you
And the bible, and me

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
I'll tell you a story
You already know
Yada

GIRL 1:
I'm grown and I've changed
I laugh and I say
I am good

BOY:
I'm coming to terms
Saying it plainly
I am new

GIRL 2:
I am who I am
Asking you, see me
I am more

BOY:

And though I am still
Entranced by the sound

GIRL 1:
Though I am looking back
Asking my worth

GIRL 2:
Though my heart's still set on
Showing you more

GIRL 1, GIRL 2 & BOY:
We know

We are strong
We are stronger
We're holding on longer
We're bolder
Grown older
Revising
We're good
We are better
We're wise
We are clever
And every new day
We are rising

The stories we're told
We grow with them in us
Some free us, some catch us
In their snare

The stories we live
Change our minds, mark our hearts
Force us to face ourselves
Lay us bare

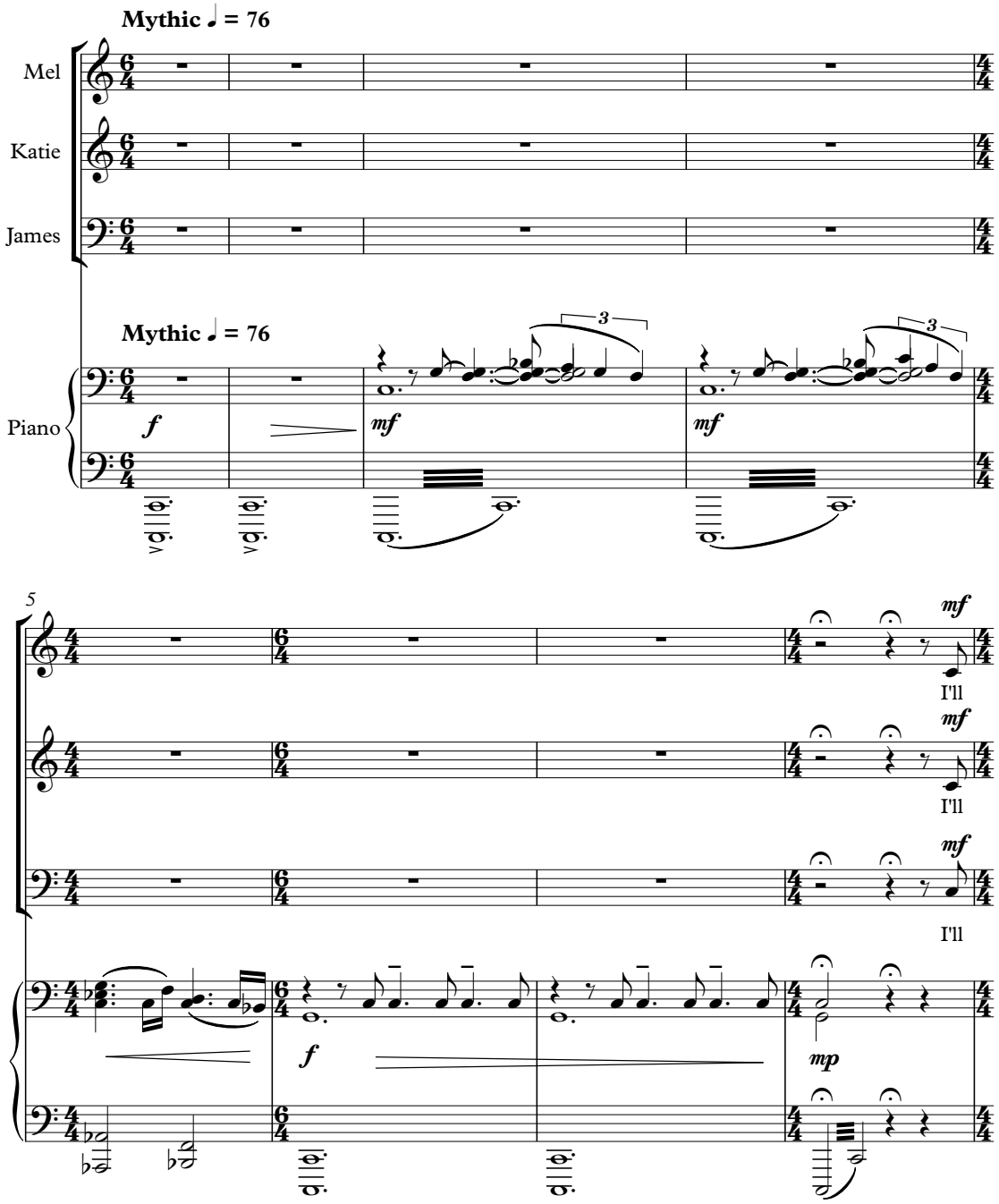
The stories we choose
To keep and to share and
To help us continue
Surviving

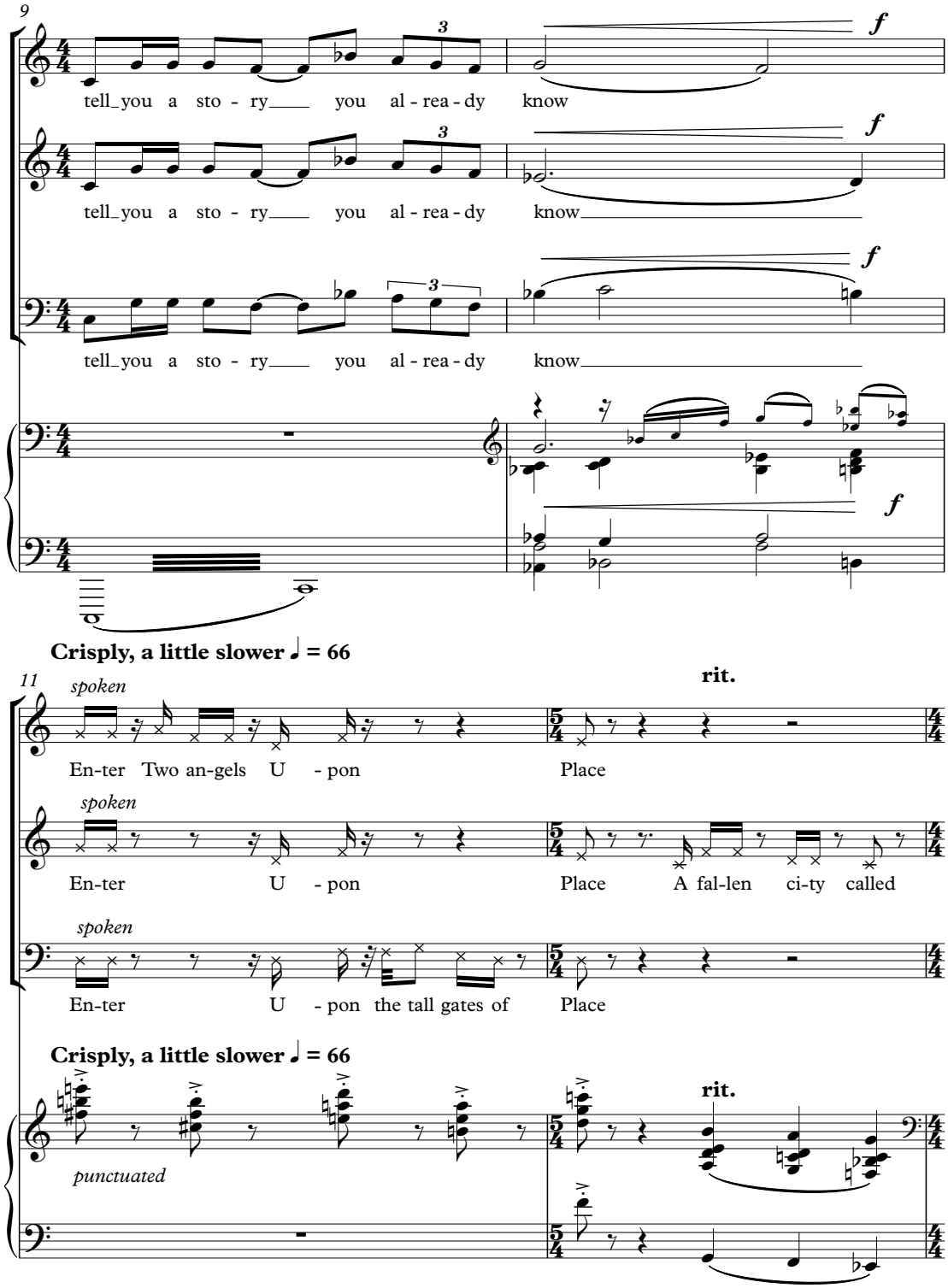
Because they are ours
We gather our stories
We carry them with us
We are rising

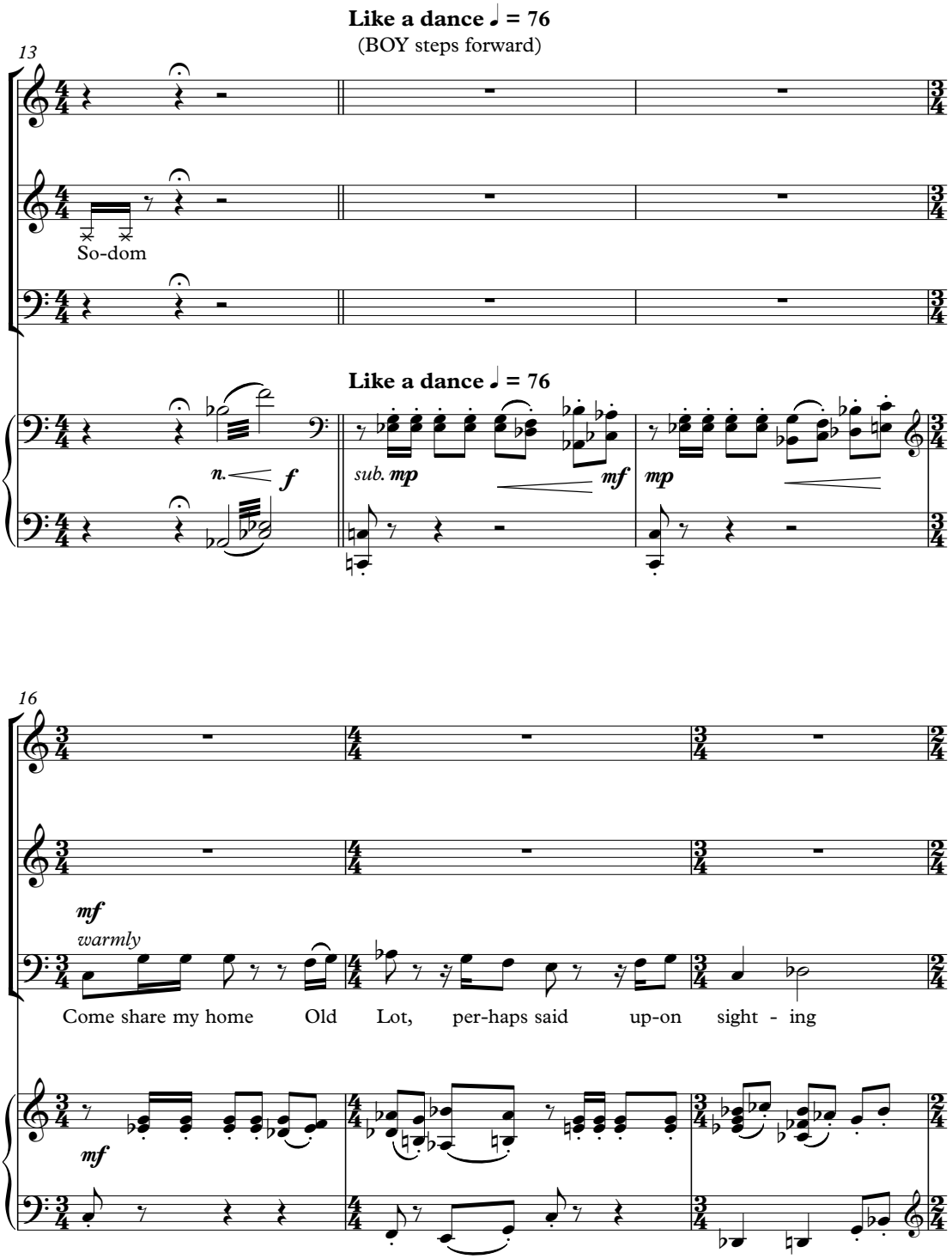
Prologue

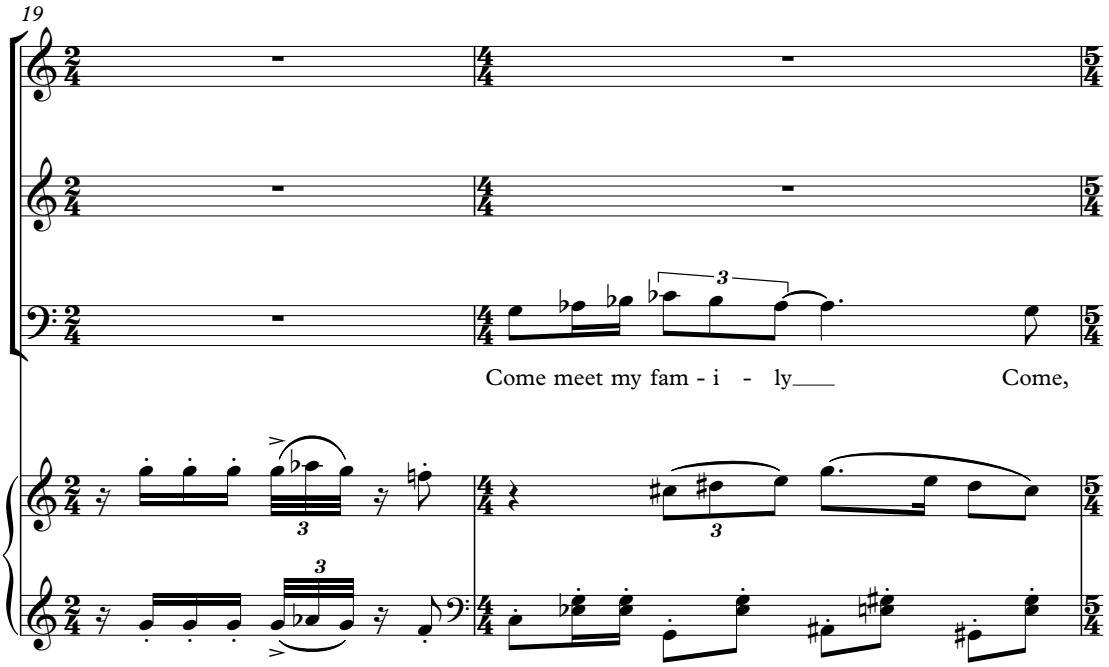
Diana Silver

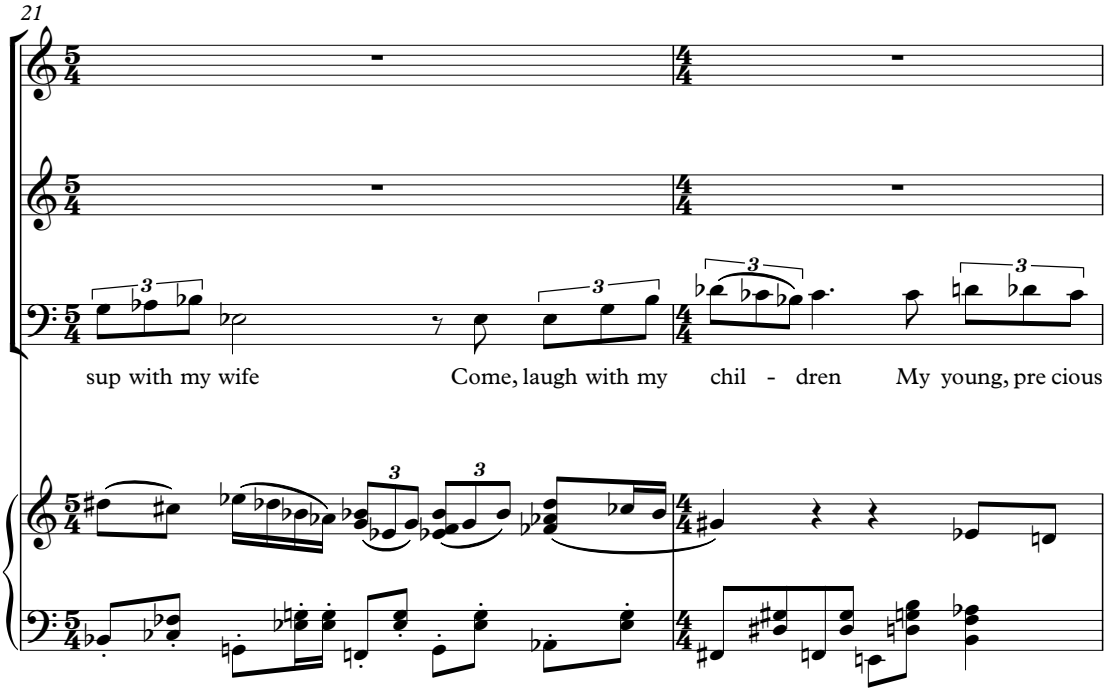
John Michael Hunt

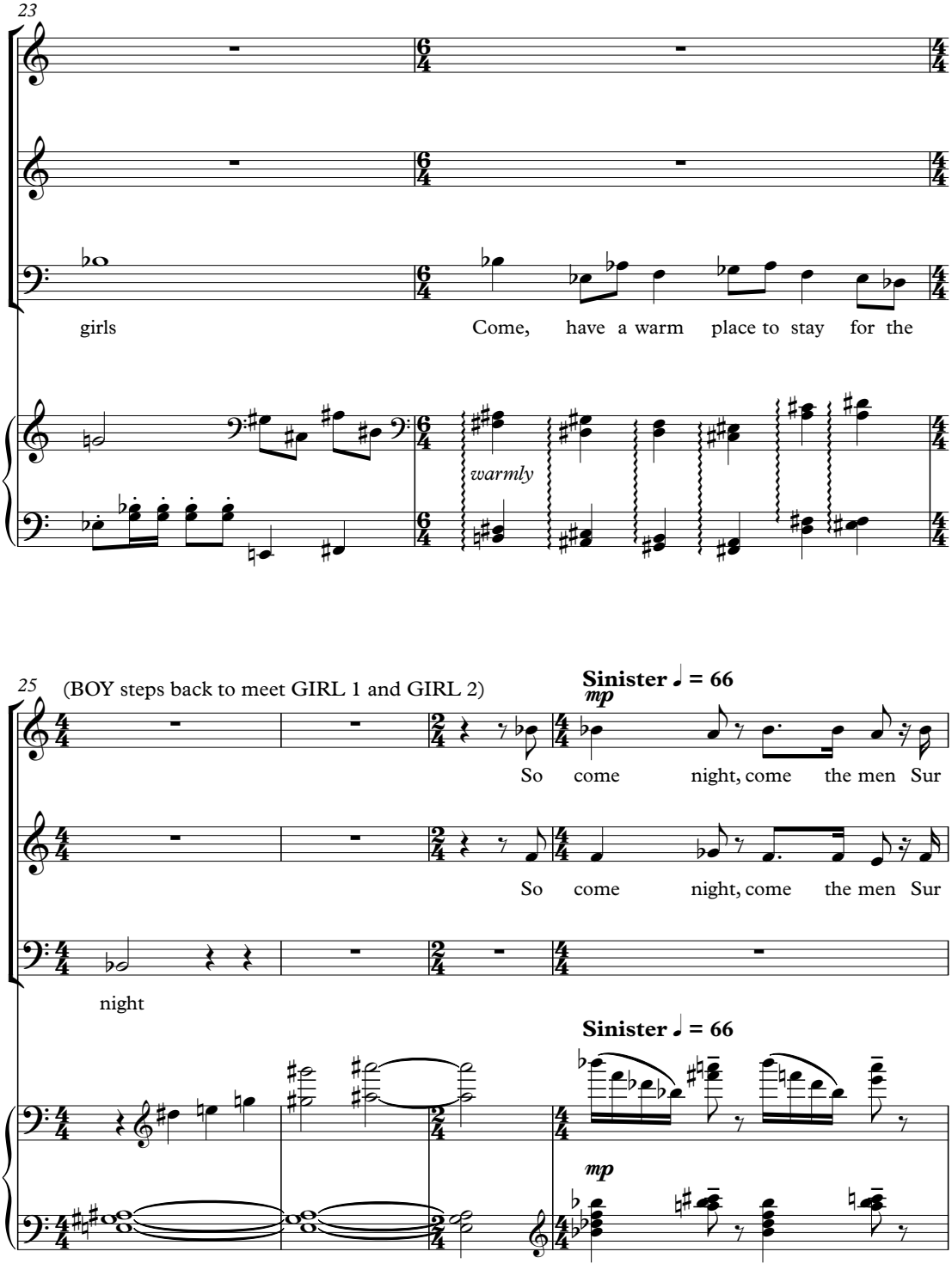


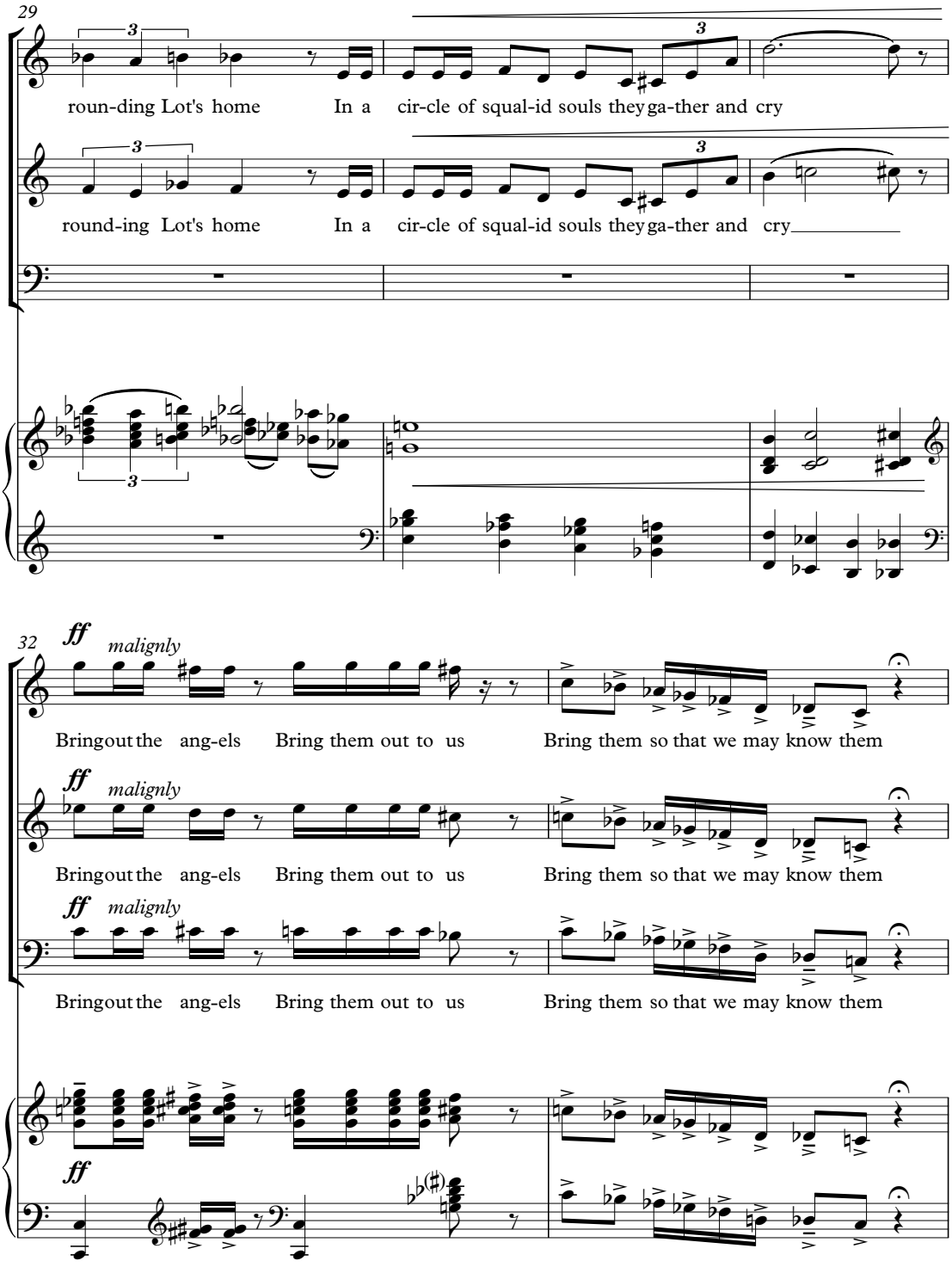

9
tell_you a sto - ry___ you al - rea - dy know
tell_you a sto - ry___ you al - rea - dy know
tell_you a sto - ry___ you al - rea - dy know
f
Crisply, a little slower ♩ = 66
11
spoken
En-ter Two an-gels U - pon Place
rit.
spoken
En-ter U - pon Place A fal-len ci-ty called
spoken
En-ter U - pon the tall gates of Place
Crisply, a little slower ♩ = 66
rit.
punctuated

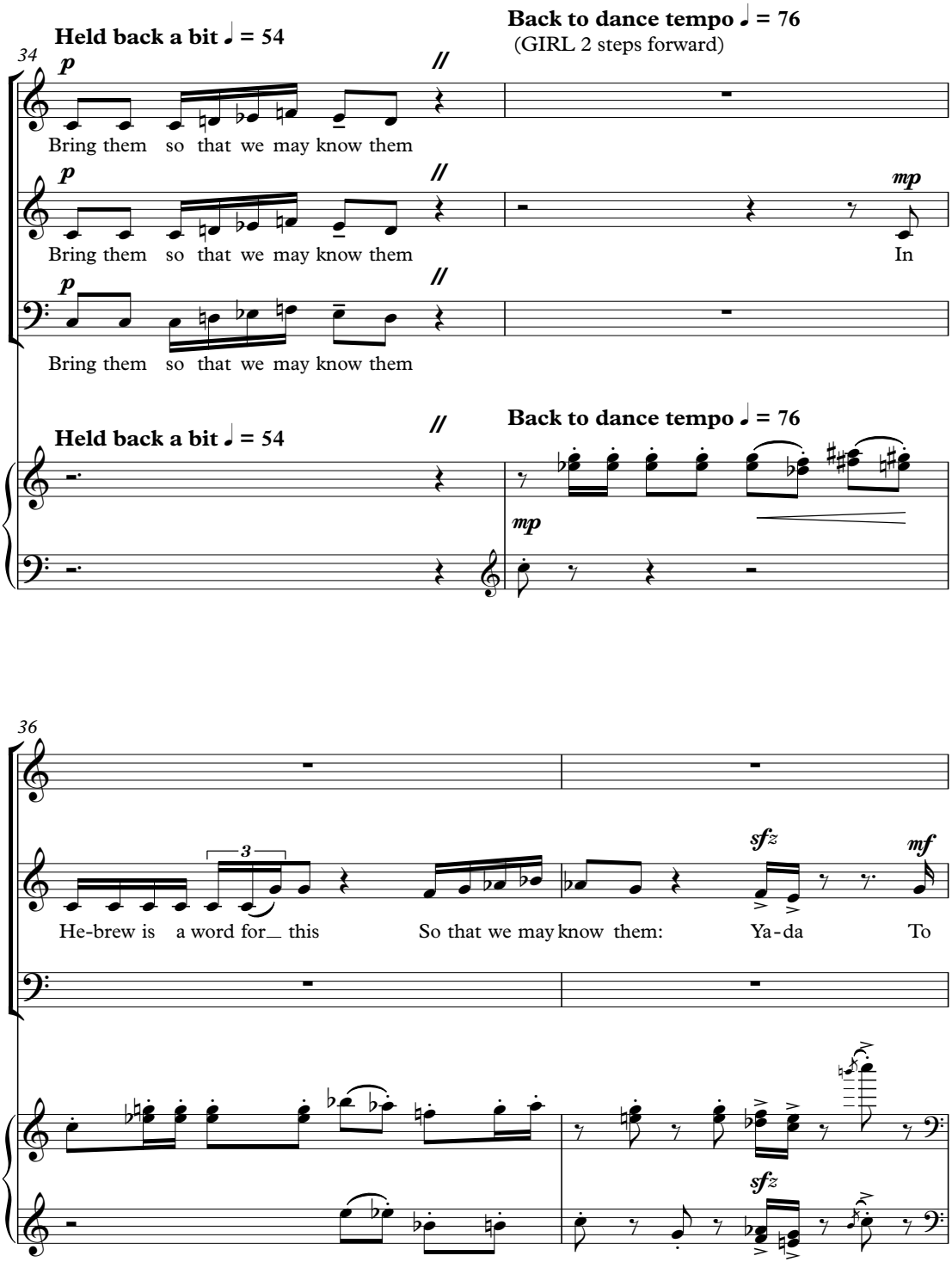

Like a dance ♩ = 76
(BOY steps forward)
13
So-dom
Like a dance ♩ = 76
n.
f
sub. mp
mf
mp
16
mf
warmly
Come share my home Old Lot, per-haps said up-on sight - ing
mf

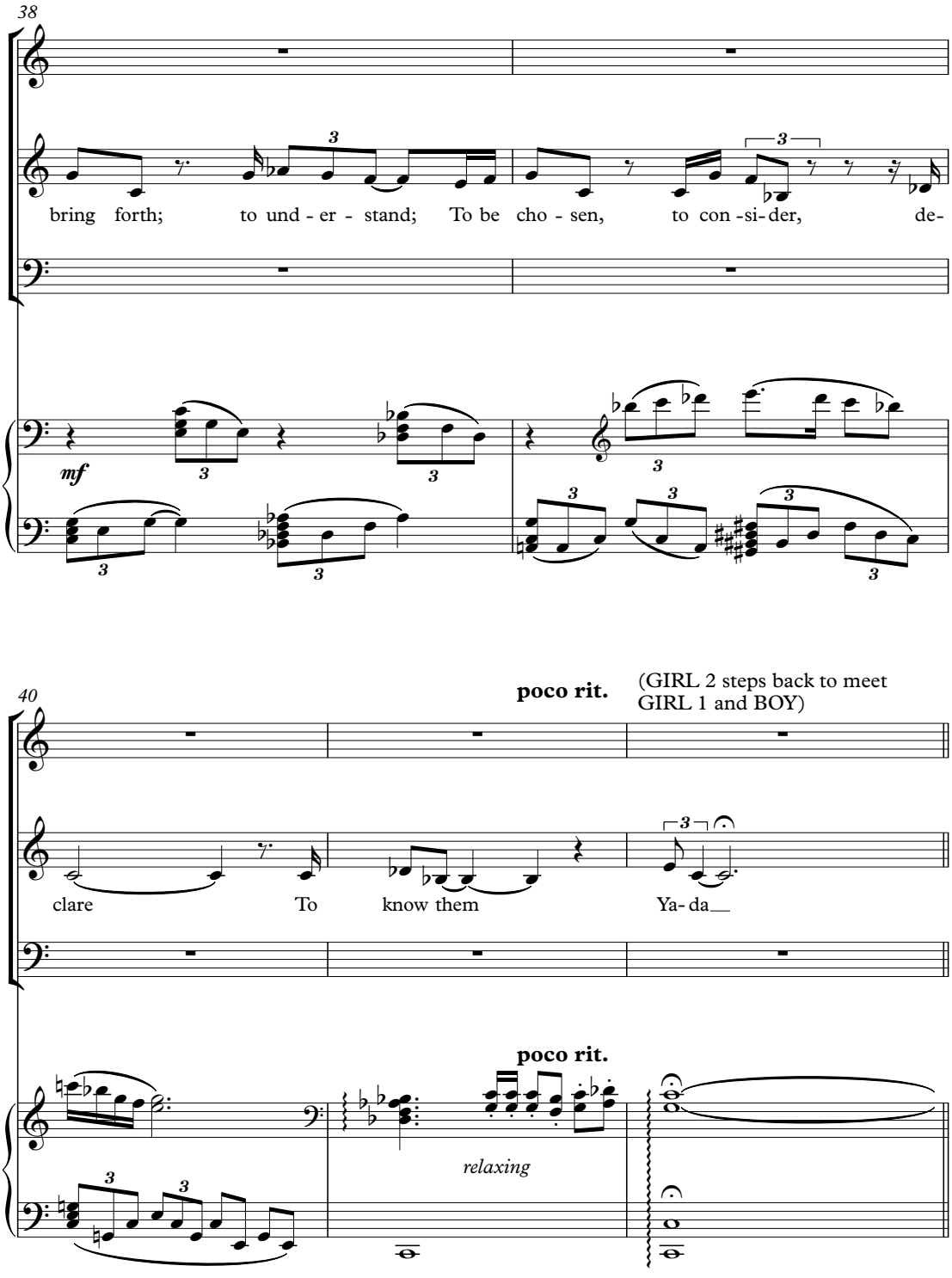

19
Come meet my fam - i - ly___ Come,

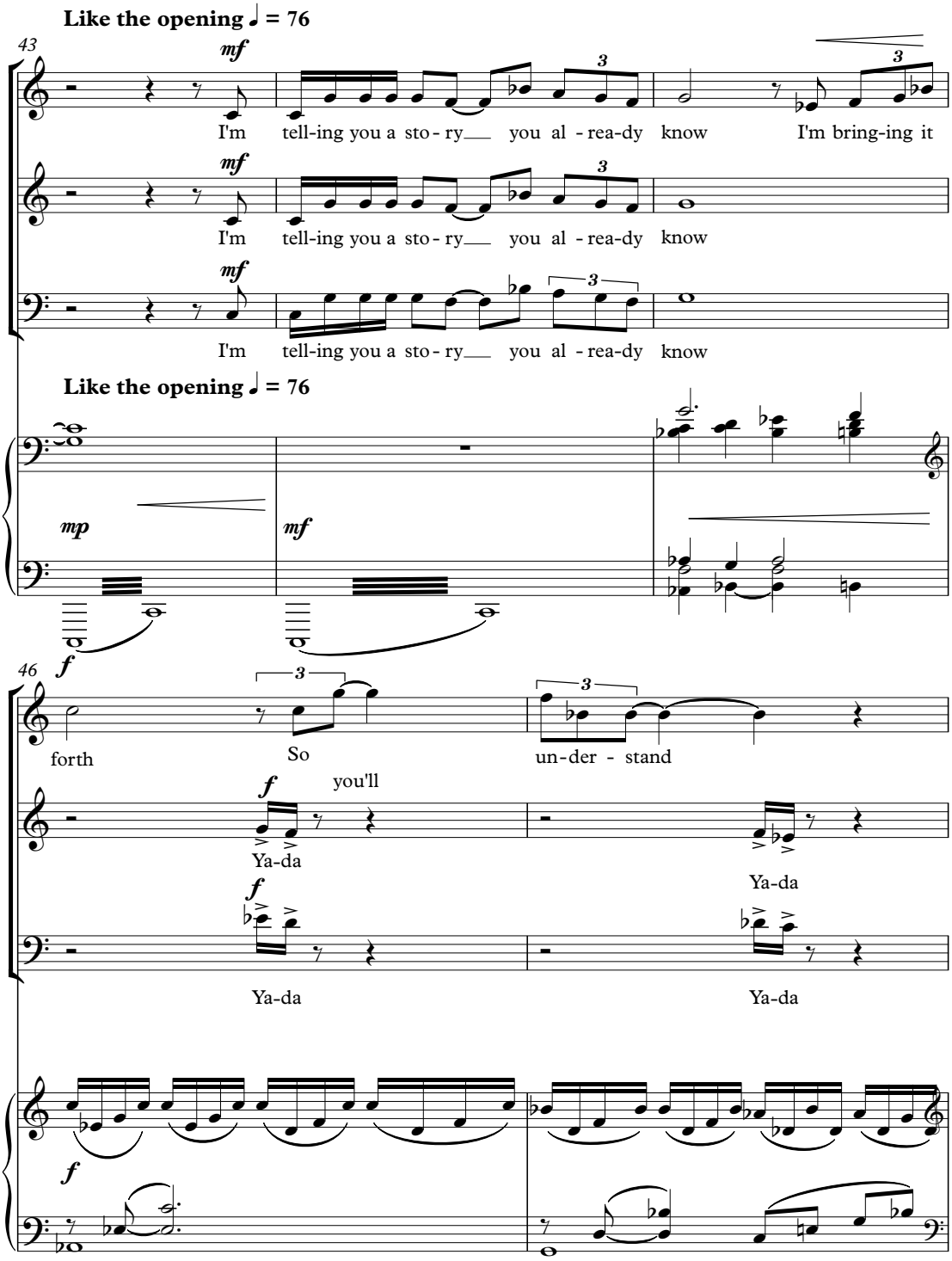

21
sup with my wife Come, laugh with my chil - dren My young, pre cious

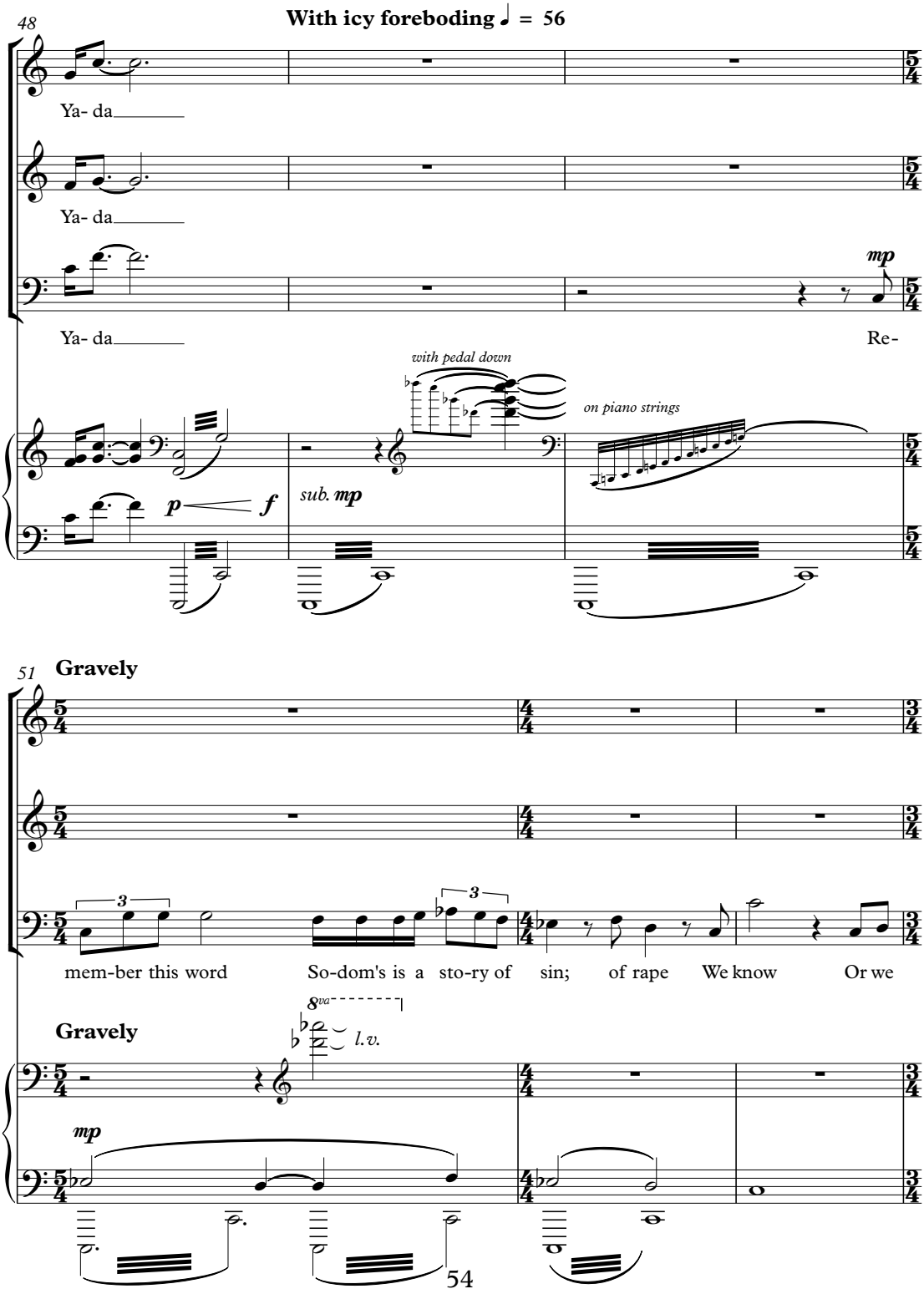

23
girls
Come, have a warm place to stay for the
warmly
25
(BOY steps back to meet GIRL 1 and GIRL 2)
Sinister ♩ = 66
mp
So come night, come the men Sur
So come night, come the men Sur
night
Sinister ♩ = 66
mp

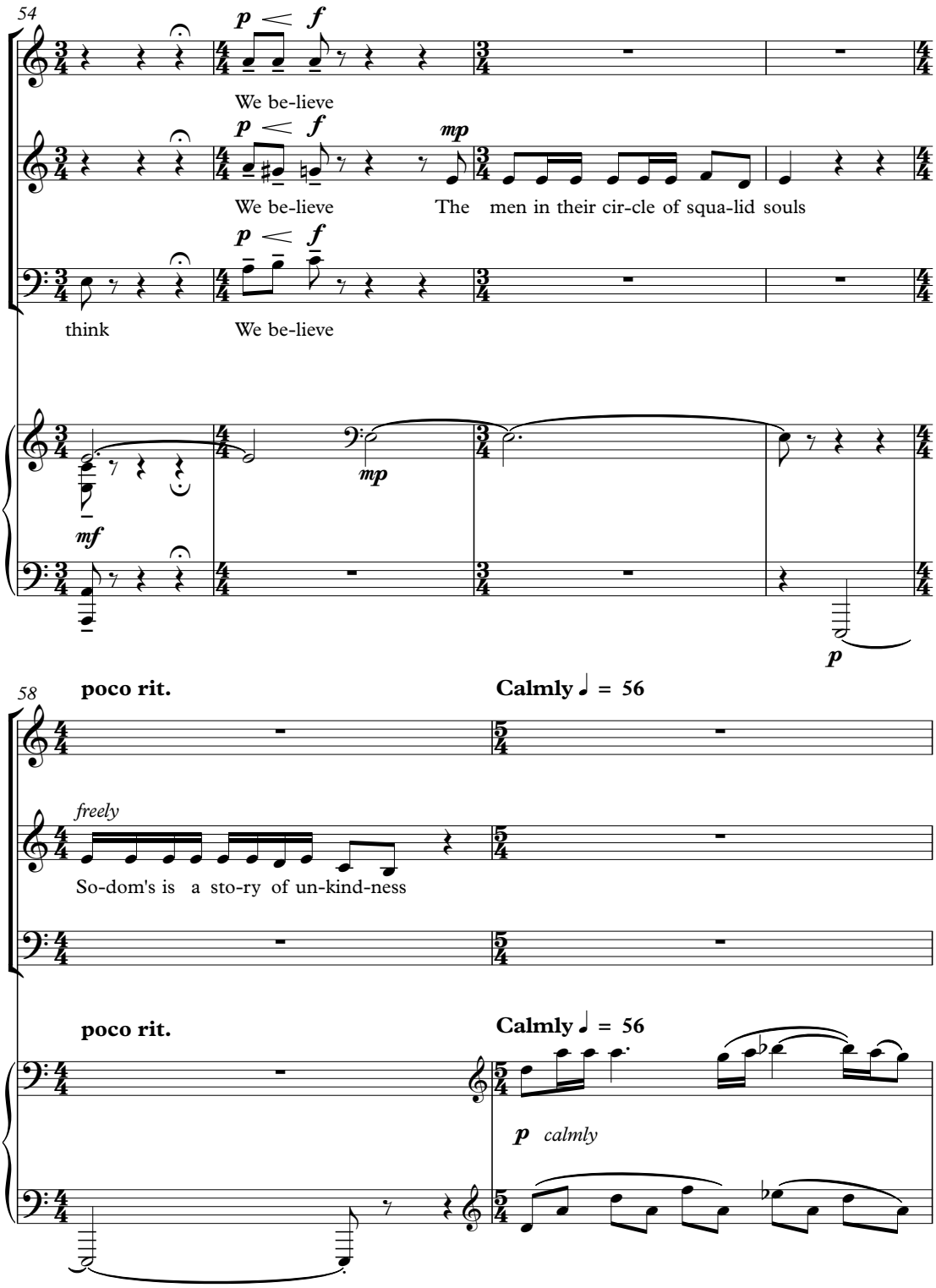

29
roun-ding Lot's home In a cir-cle of squal-id souls they ga-ther and cry
round-ing Lot's home In a cir-cle of squal-id souls they ga-ther and cry
32
ff malignly
Bringout the ang-els Bring them out to us Bring them so that we may know them
ff malignly
Bringout the ang-els Bring them out to us Bring them so that we may know them
ff malignly
Bringout the ang-els Bring them out to us Bring them so that we may know them
ff

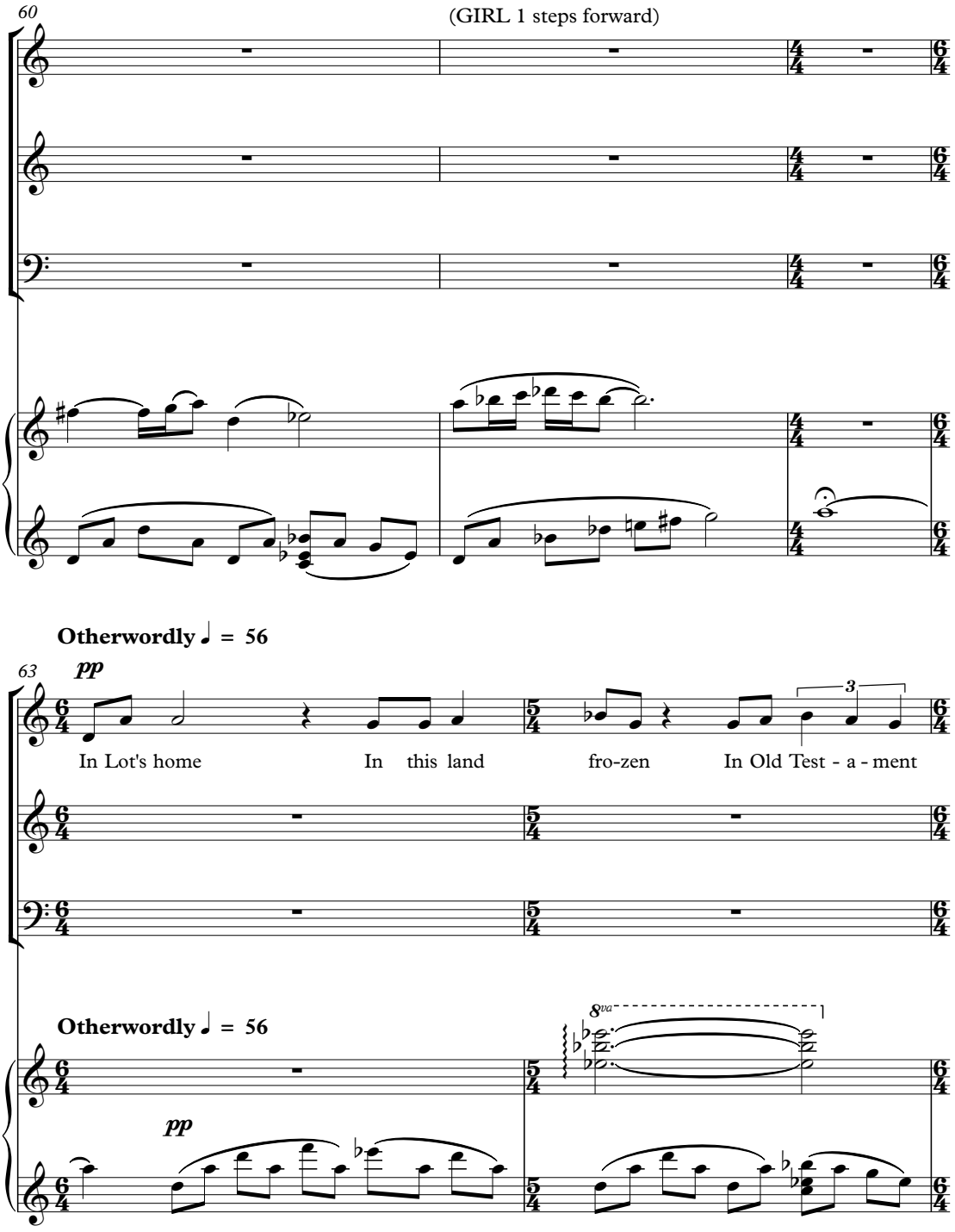

Held back a bit ♩ = 54
Back to dance tempo ♩ = 76
(GIRL 2 steps forward)
34
p
Bring them so that we may know them
mp
In
36
3
sfz
mf
He-brew is a word for this
So that we may know them:
Ya-da
To

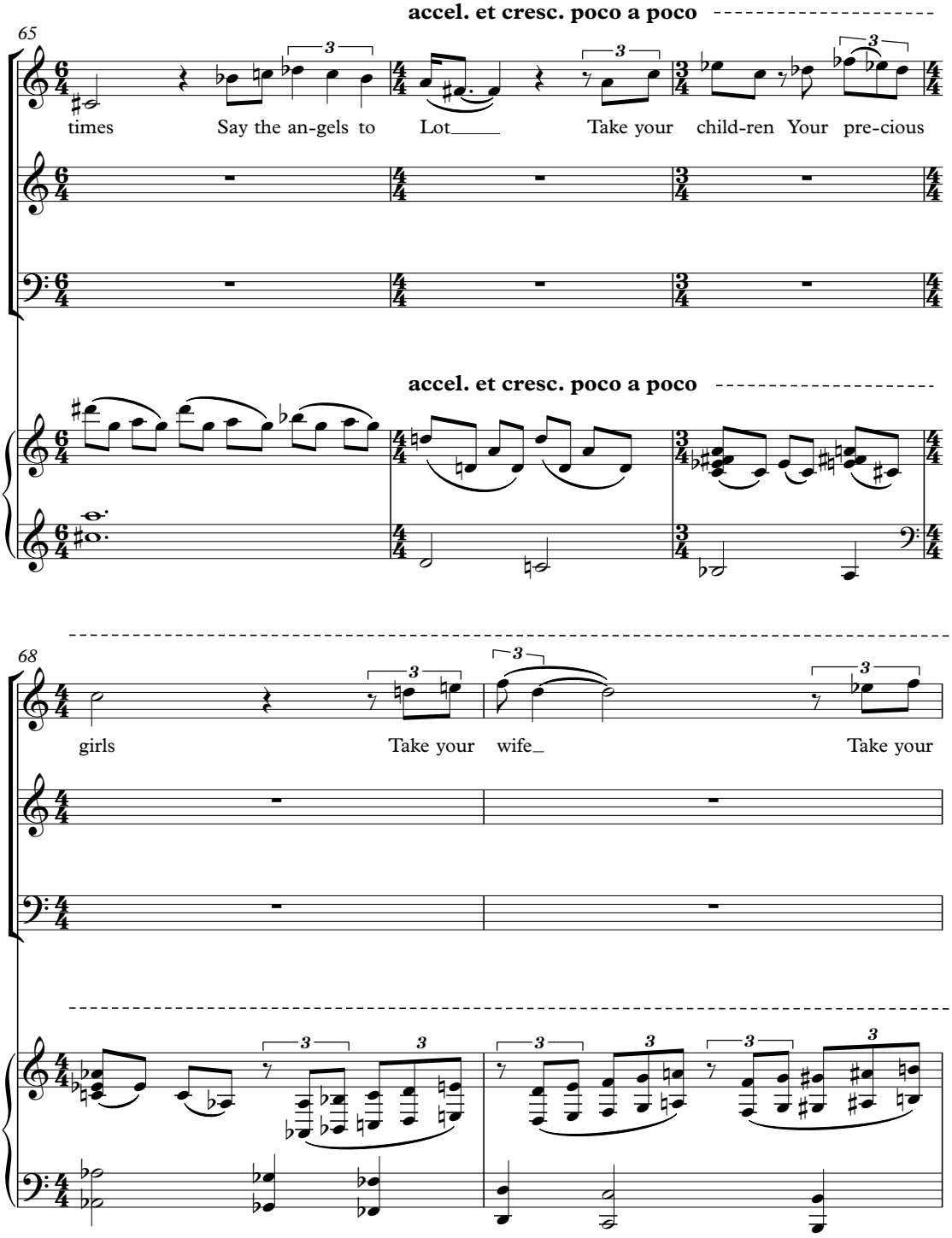

38
bring forth; to und - er - stand; To be cho - sen, to con -si- der, de-
mf
40
poco rit.
(GIRL 2 steps back to meet GIRL 1 and BOY)
clare To know them Ya- da__
poco rit.
relaxing

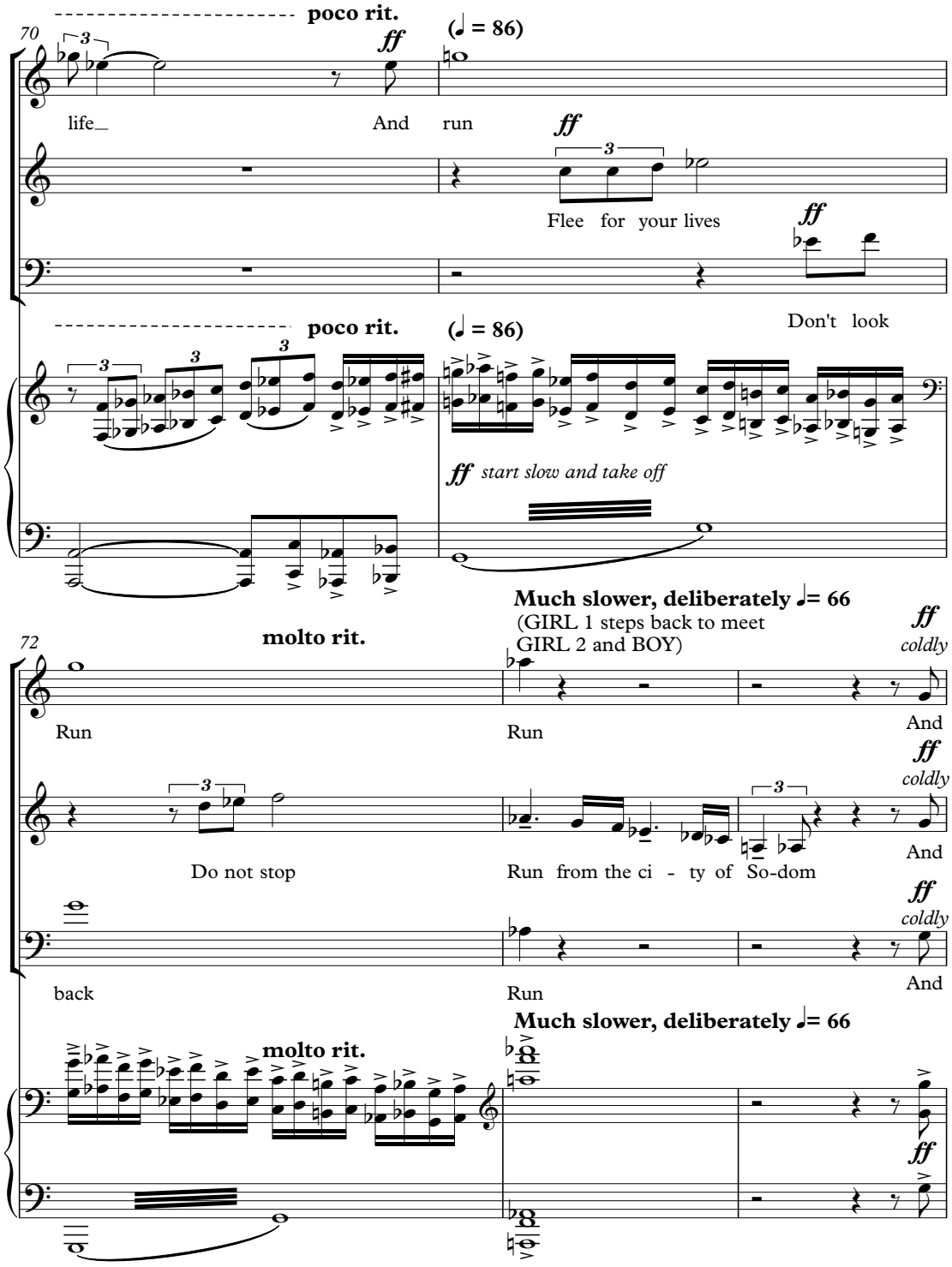

Like the opening ♩ = 76
43
mf
I'm tell-ing you a sto - ry you al - rea-dy know I'm bring-ing it
I'm tell-ing you a sto - ry you al - rea-dy know
I'm tell-ing you a sto - ry you al - rea-dy know
Like the opening ♩ = 76
mp
mf
46
f
forth So un-der - stand
you'll
Ya-da
Ya-da
Ya-da
Ya-da
f

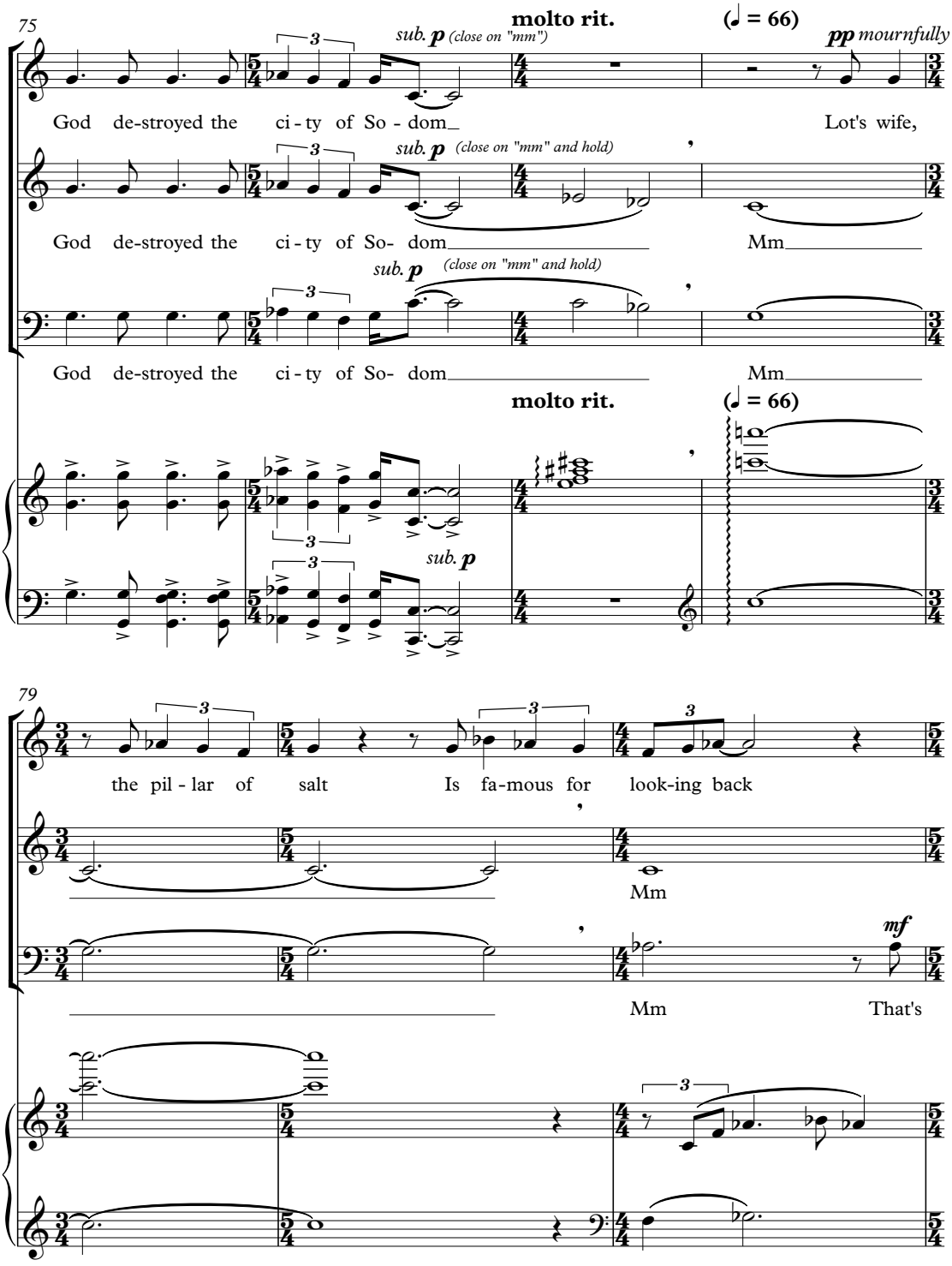

48
With icy foreboding ♩ = 56
Ya- da
Ya- da
Ya- da
mp
Re-
with pedal down
on piano strings
p
f
sub. mp
51
Gravely
mem-ber this word
So-dom's is a sto-ry of
sin;
of rape
We know
Or we
Gravely
8va
l.v.
mp
54

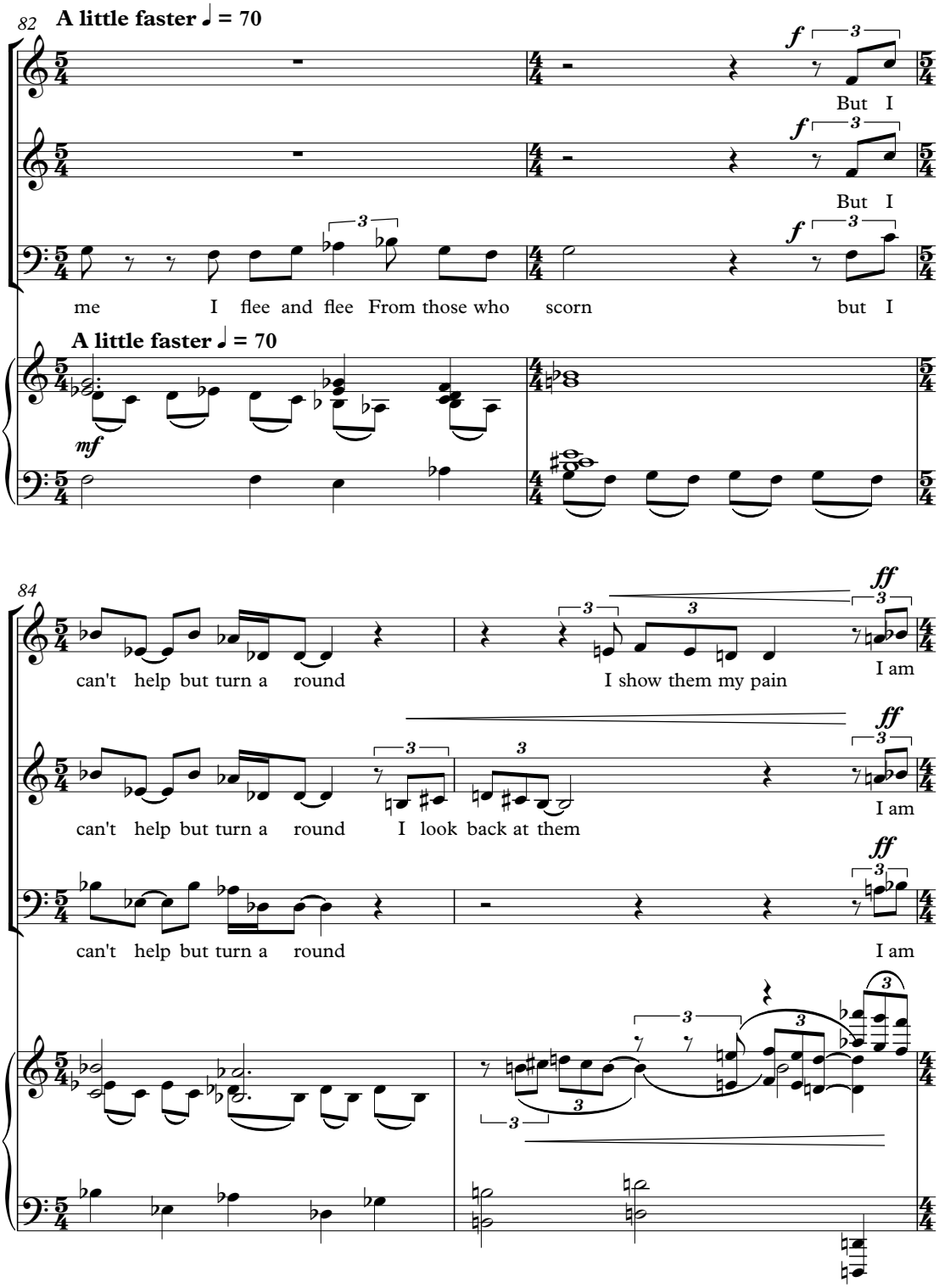

54
p < f
We be-lieve
p < f
mp
We be-lieve
The men in their cir-cle of squa-lid souls
p < f
think
We be-lieve
mp
mf
p
58
poco rit.
Calmly ♩ = 56
freely
So-dom's is a sto-ry of un-kind-ness
poco rit.
Calmly ♩ = 56
p calmly

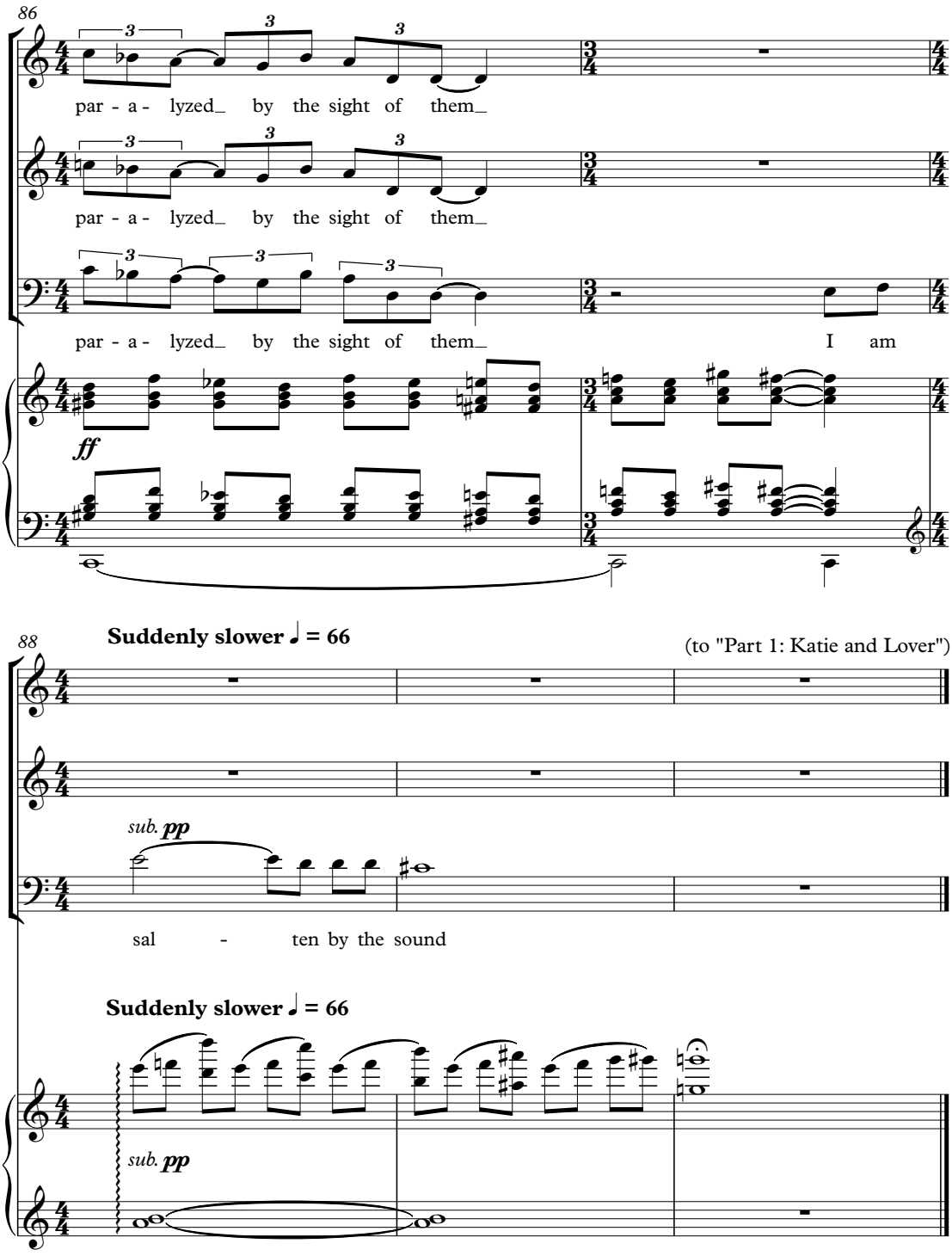

60
(GIRL 1 steps forward)
Otherwordly ♩ = 56
63
pp
In Lot's home
In this land
fro-zen
In Old Test - a - ment
3
Otherwordly ♩ = 56
8va
pp


accel. et cresc. poco a poco
65
times
Say the an-gels to
Lot
Take your
child-ren
Your
pre-cious
accel. et cresc. poco a poco
68
girls
Take your
wife
Take your

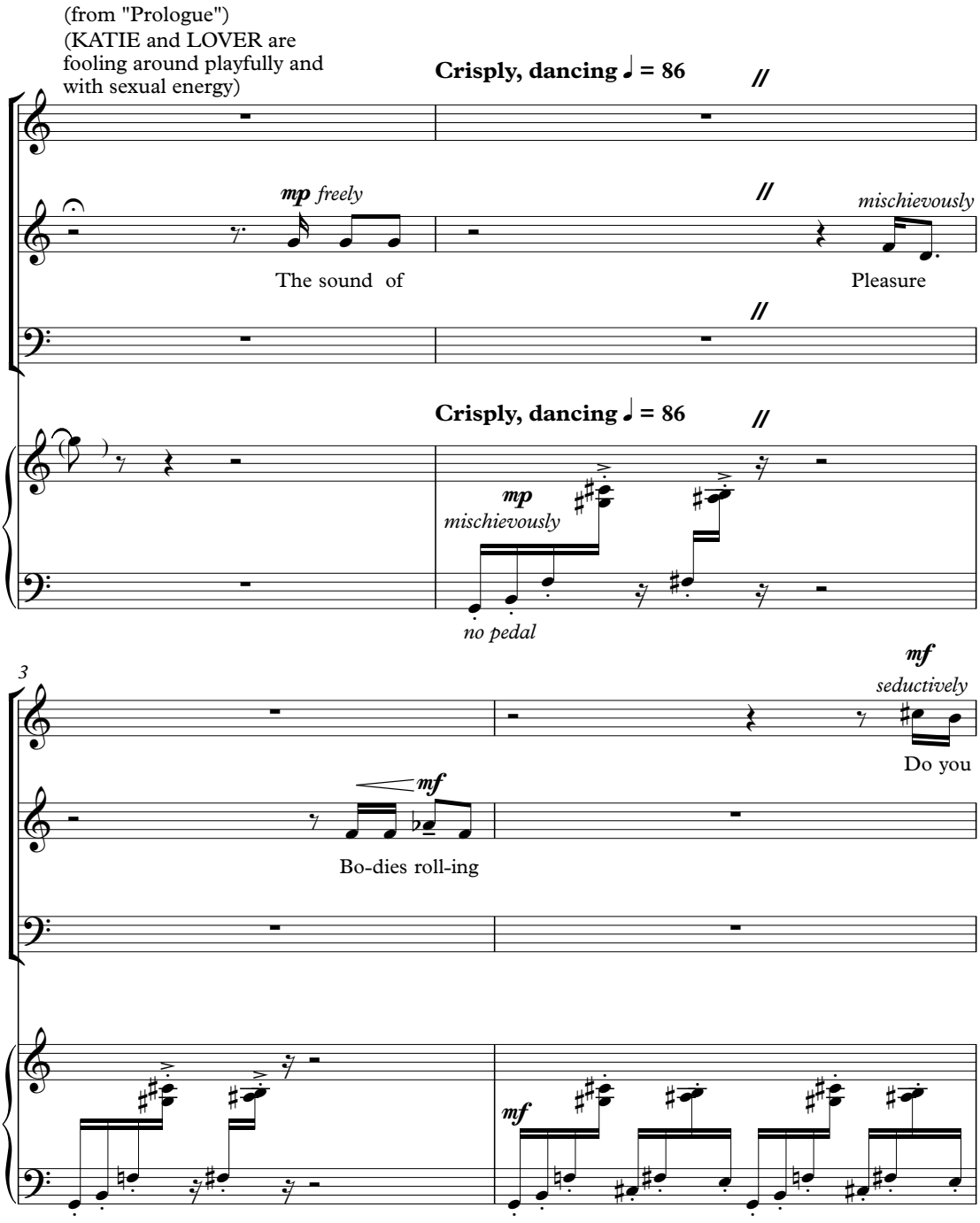

poco rit.
70
ff
(♩ = 86)
life_
And run
ff
Flee for your lives
ff
Don't look
poco rit.
(♩ = 86)
ff start slow and take off
Much slower, deliberately ♩= 66
(GIRL 1 steps back to meet
GIRL 2 and BOY)
ff
coldly
molto rit.
72
Run
Run
And
Do not stop
Run from the ci - ty of So-dom
back
Run
molto rit.
Much slower, deliberately ♩= 66

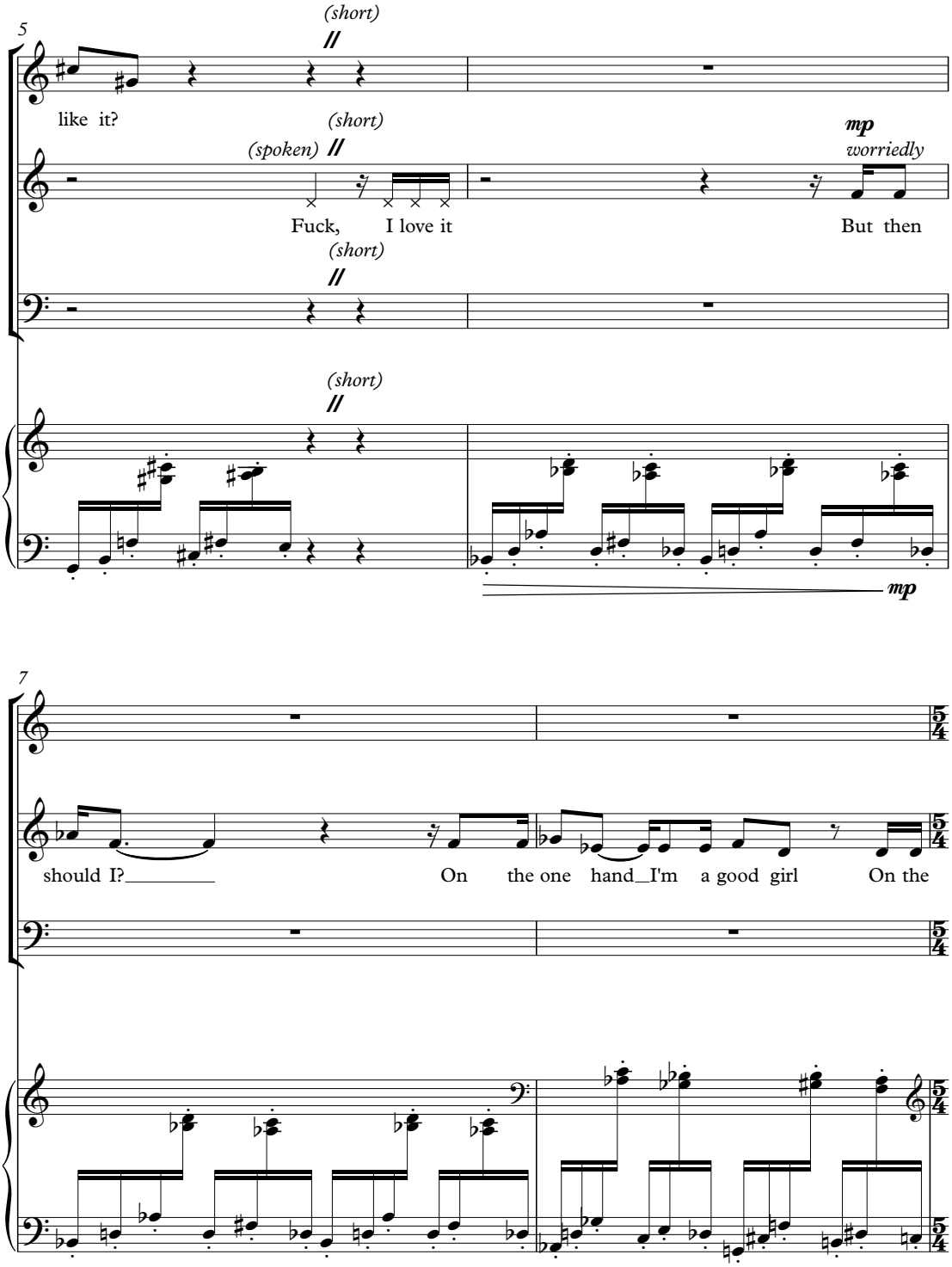

75
molto rit.
(♩ = 66)
sub. p (close on "mm")
pp mournfully
God de-stroyed the ci - ty of So - dom
Lot's wife,
sub. p (close on "mm" and hold)
God de-stroyed the ci - ty of So- dom
Mm
sub. p (close on "mm" and hold)
God de-stroyed the ci - ty of So- dom
Mm
molto rit.
(♩ = 66)
sub. p
79
the pil - lar of salt
Is fa-mous for look-ing back
Mm
mf
Mm
That's

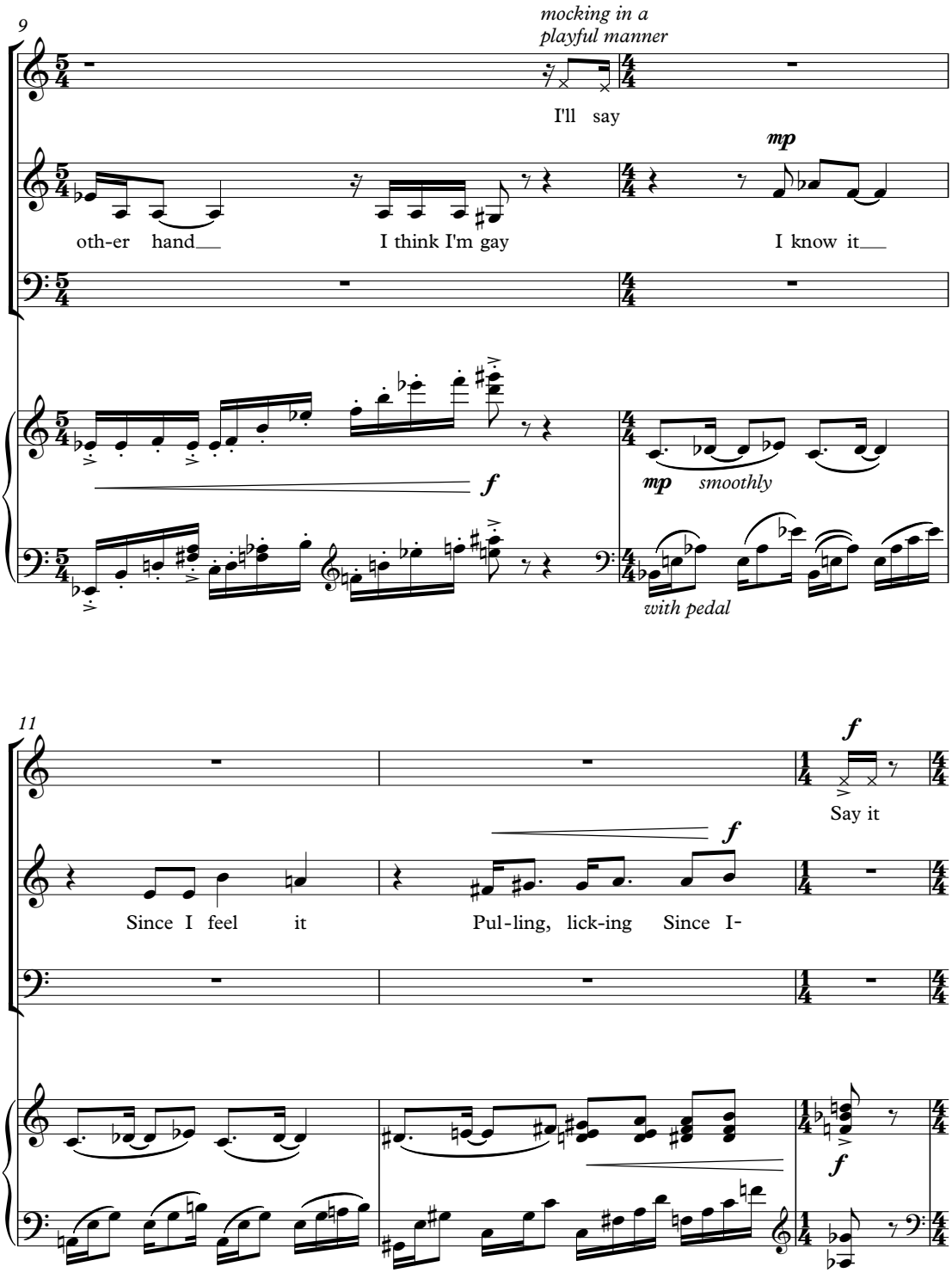

82
A little faster ♩ = 70
But I
But I
me I flee and flee From those who scorn but I
A little faster ♩ = 70
84
can't help but turn a round I show them my pain I am
can't help but turn a round I look back at them I am
can't help but turn a round I am

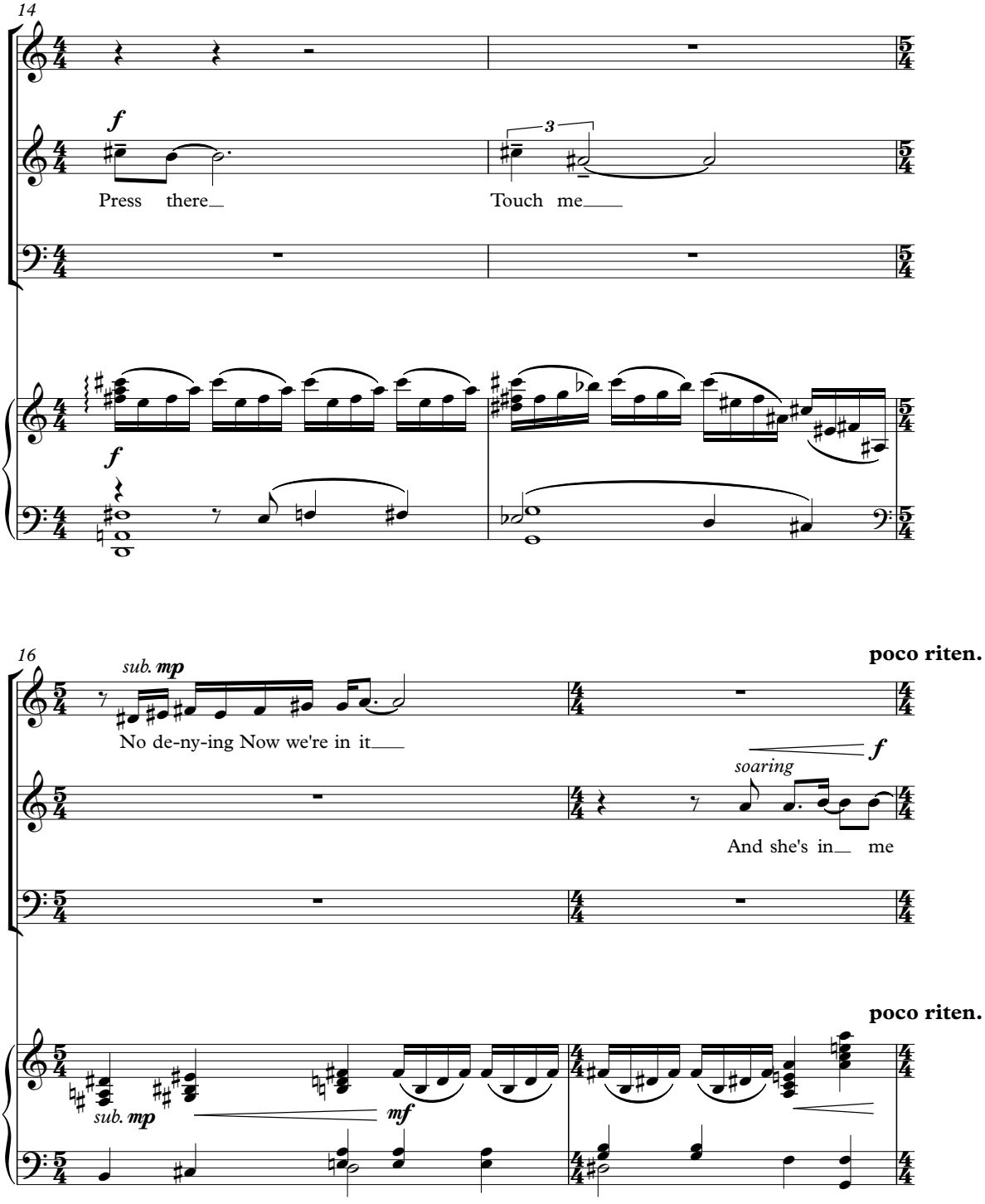

86
par - a - lyzed_ by the sight of them_
par - a - lyzed_ by the sight of them_
par - a - lyzed_ by the sight of them_ I am
ff
88
Suddenly slower ♩ = 66
(to "Part 1: Katie and Lover")
sub. pp
sal - ten by the sound
Suddenly slower ♩ = 66
sub. pp

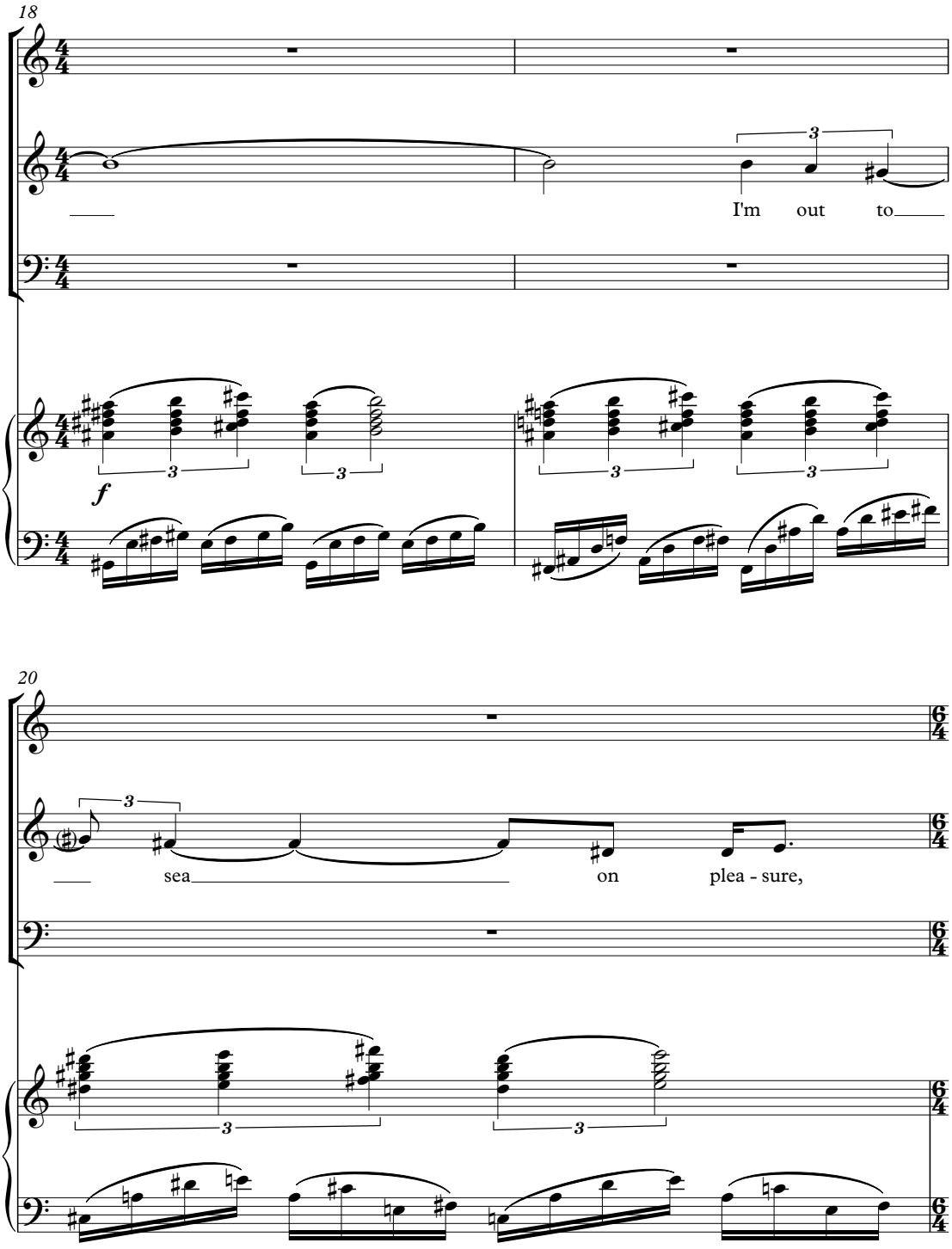
Part 1: Katie and Lover

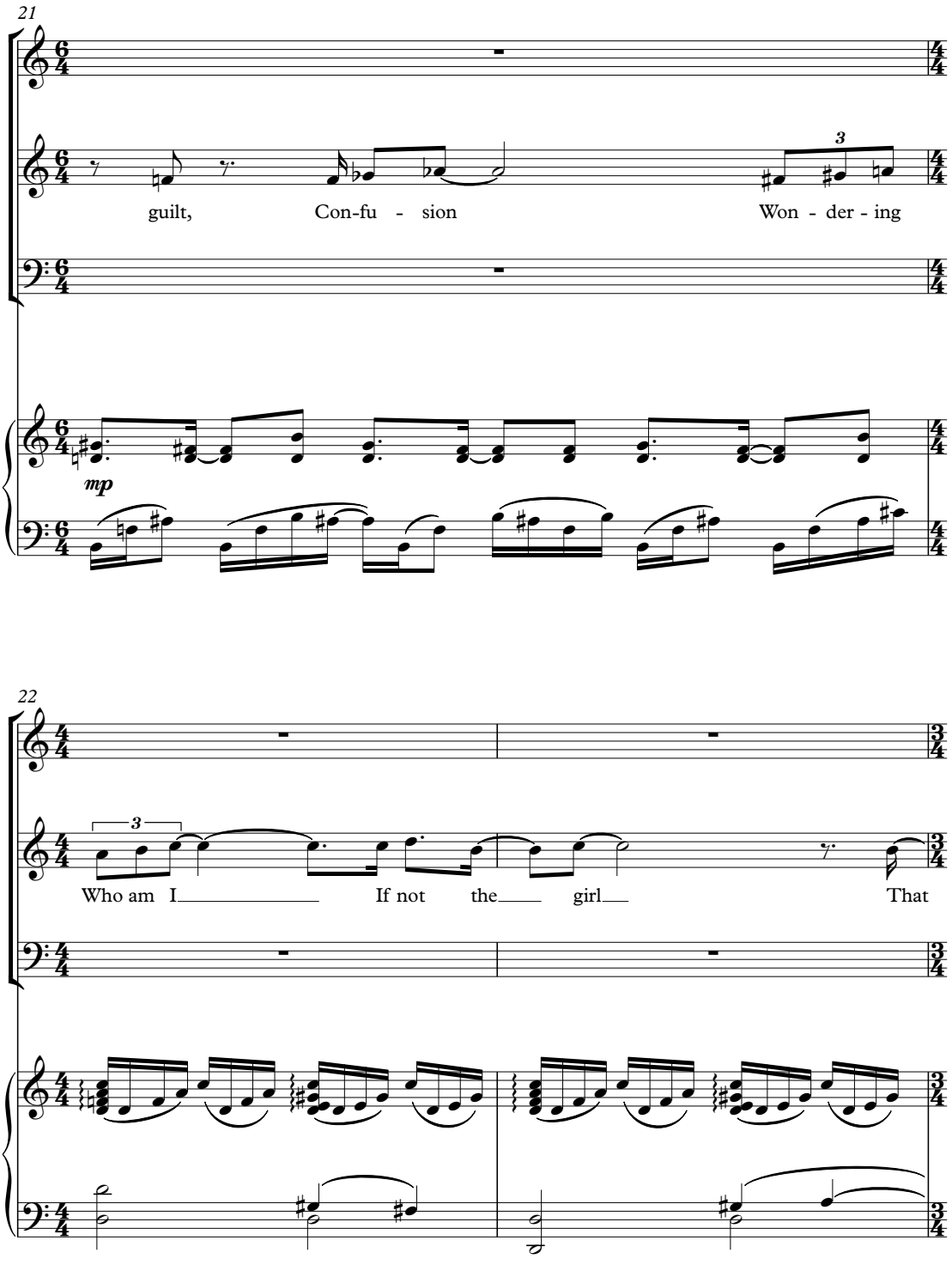


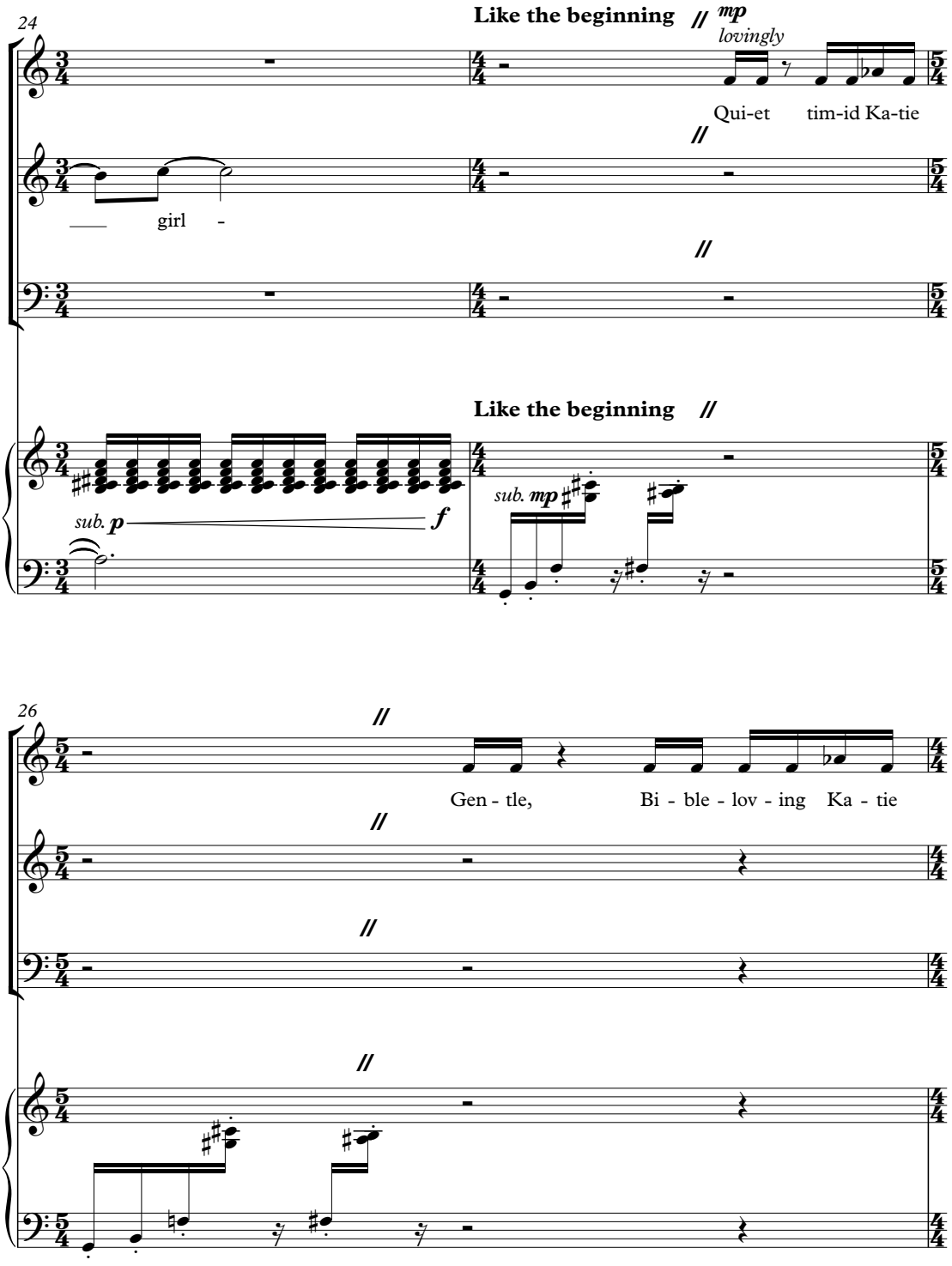

5
(short)
like it?
(short)
(spoken)
Fuck, I love it
mp
worriedly
But then
(short)
(short)
mp
7
should I?
On the one hand
I'm a good girl
On the

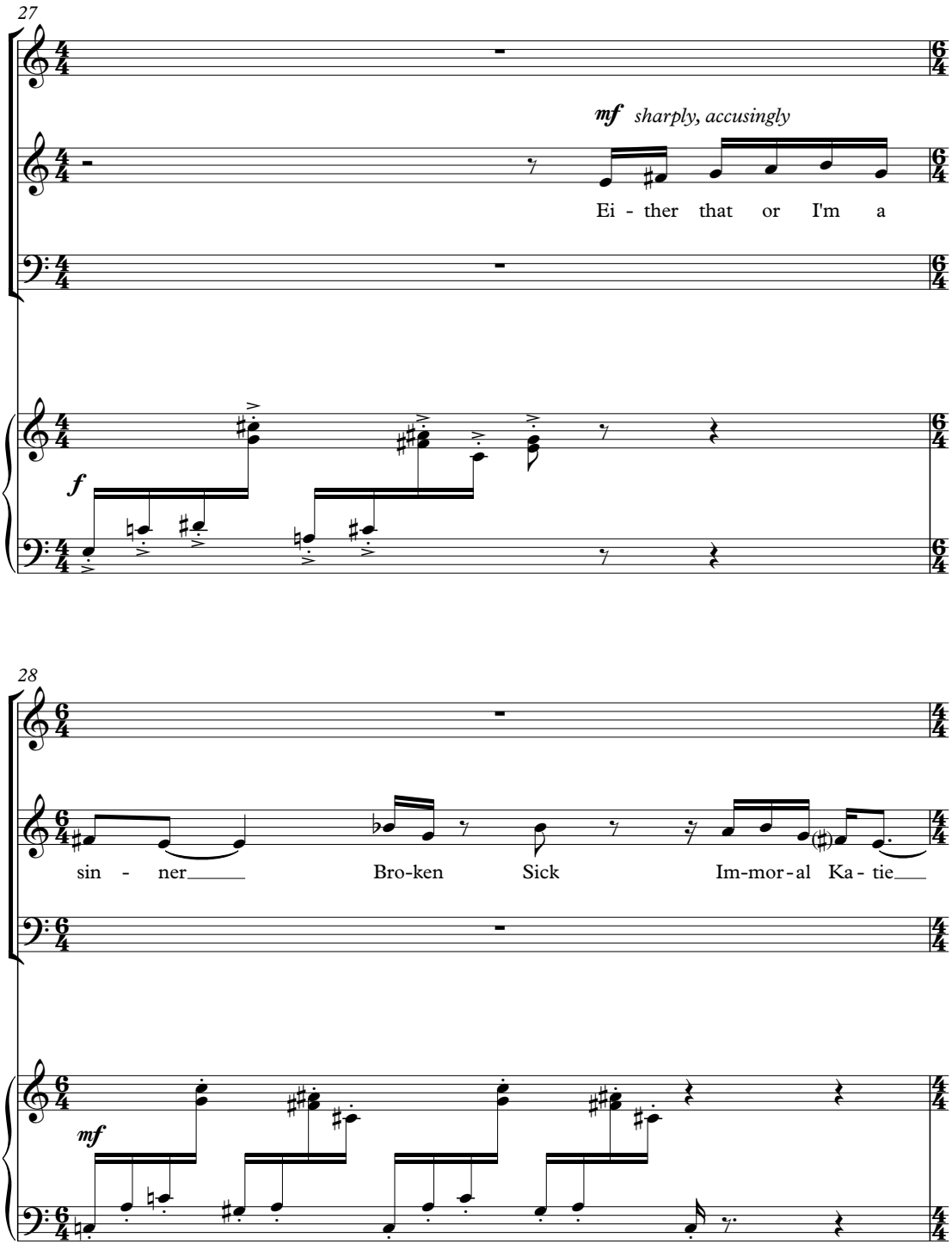

9
mocking in a
playful manner
I'll say
mp
oth-er hand
I think I'm gay
I know it
f
mp
smoothly
with pedal
11
f
Say it
f
Since I feel it
Pul-ling, lick-ing Since I-
f

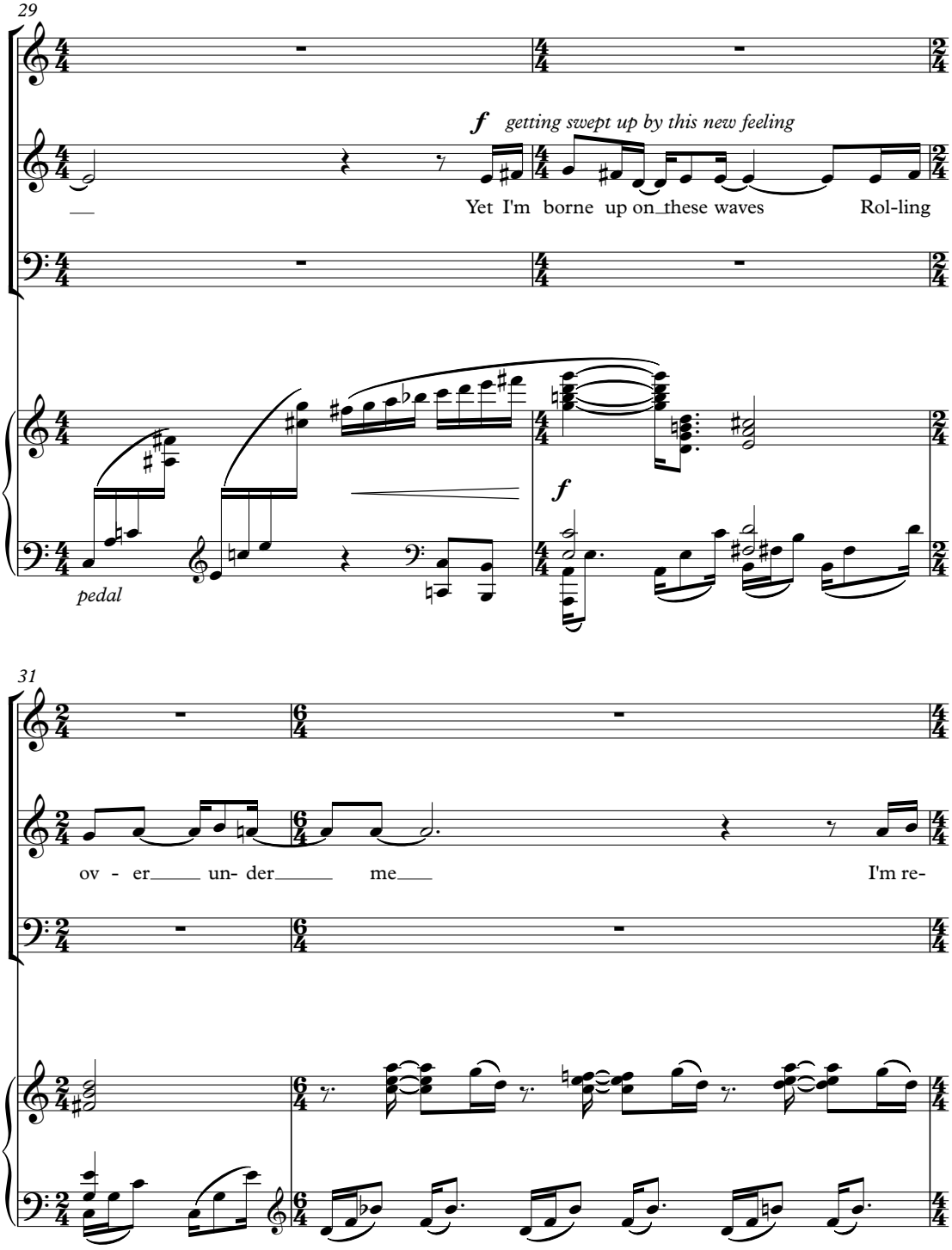

14
f
Press there
3
Touch me
f
16
sub. mp
No de-ny-ing Now we're in it
poco riten.
f
soaring
And she's in me
poco riten.
sub. mp
mf

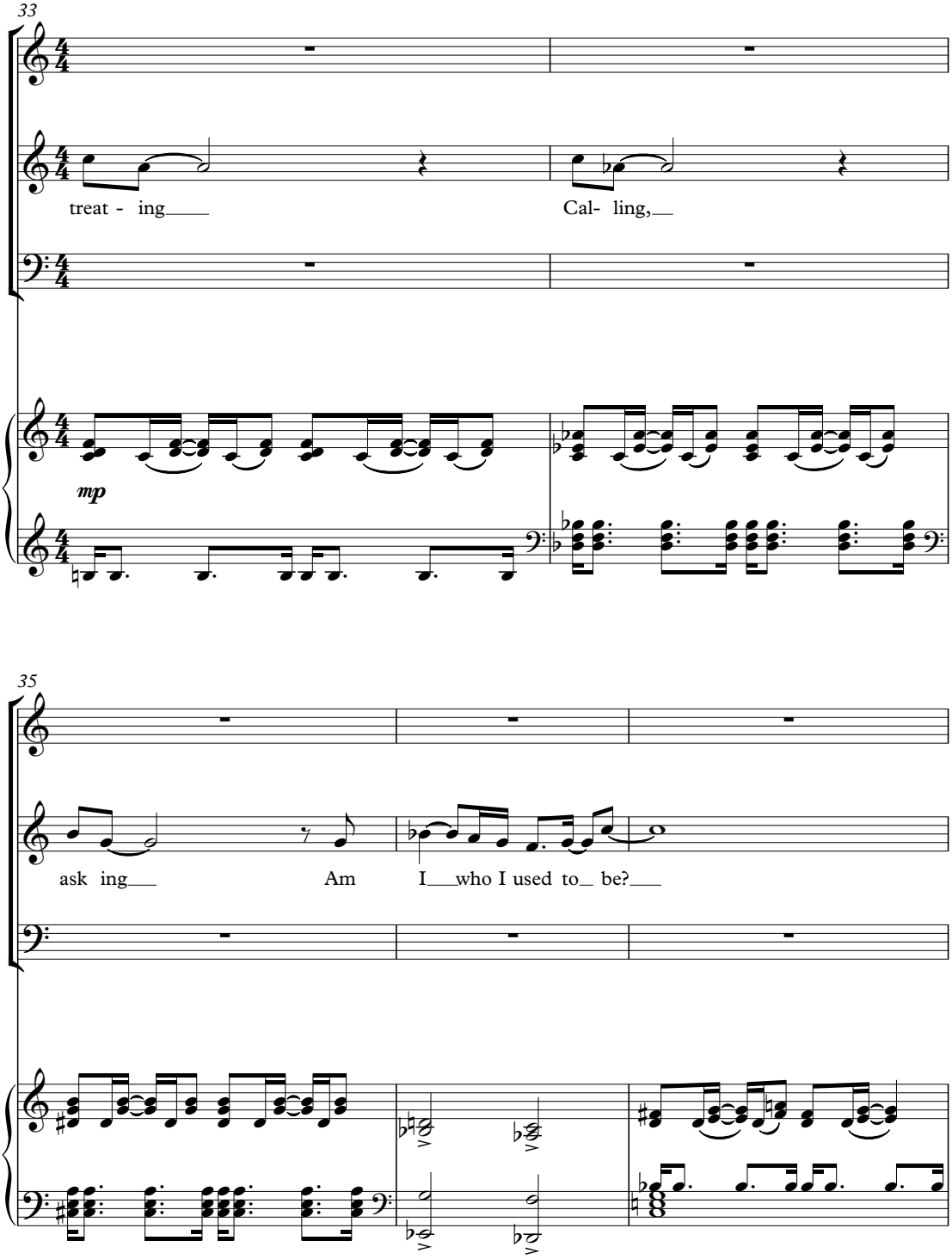

18
I'm out to
f
20
sea on plea - sure,

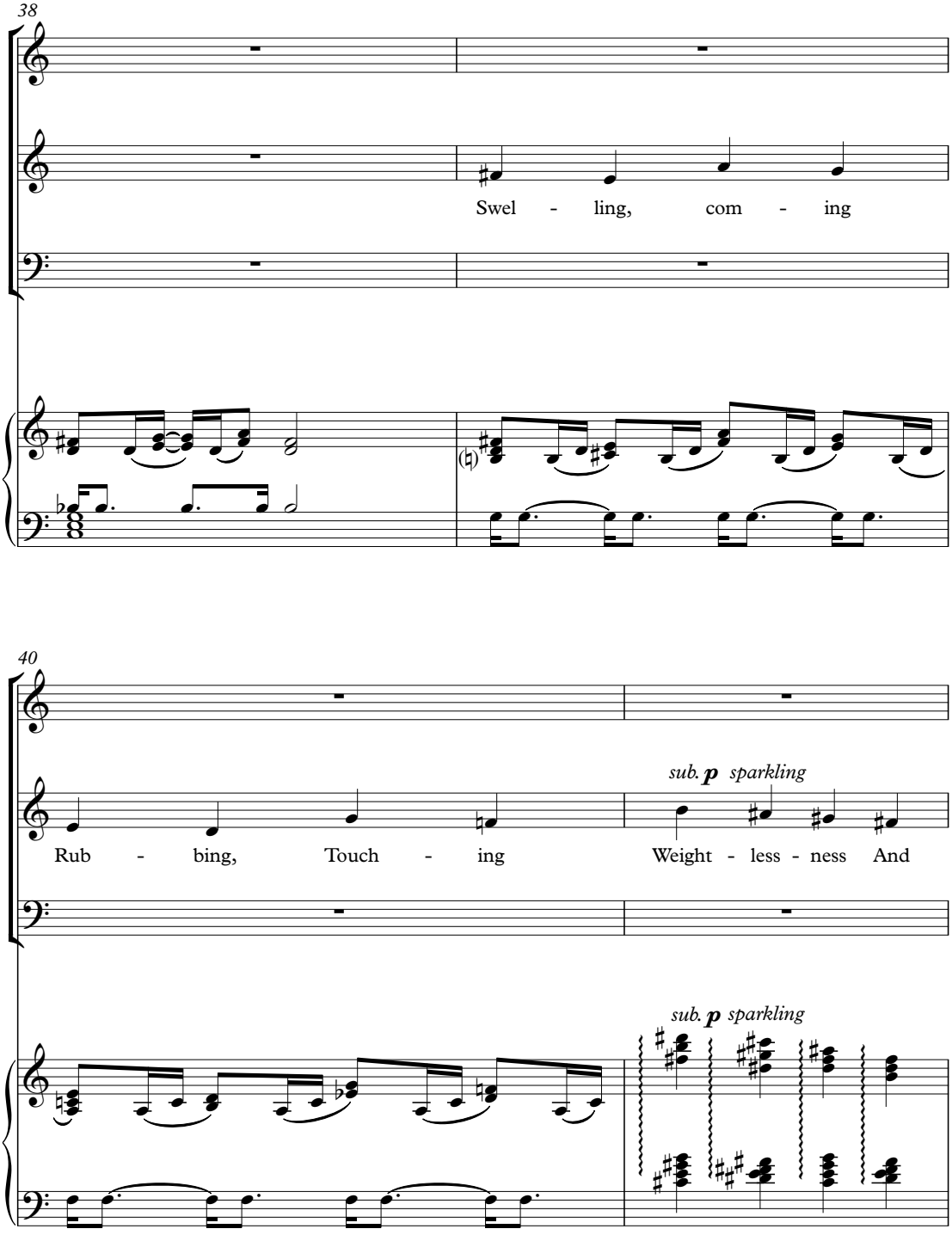

21
guilt,
Con-fu - sion
Won - der - ing
mp
22
Who am I
If not the girl
That

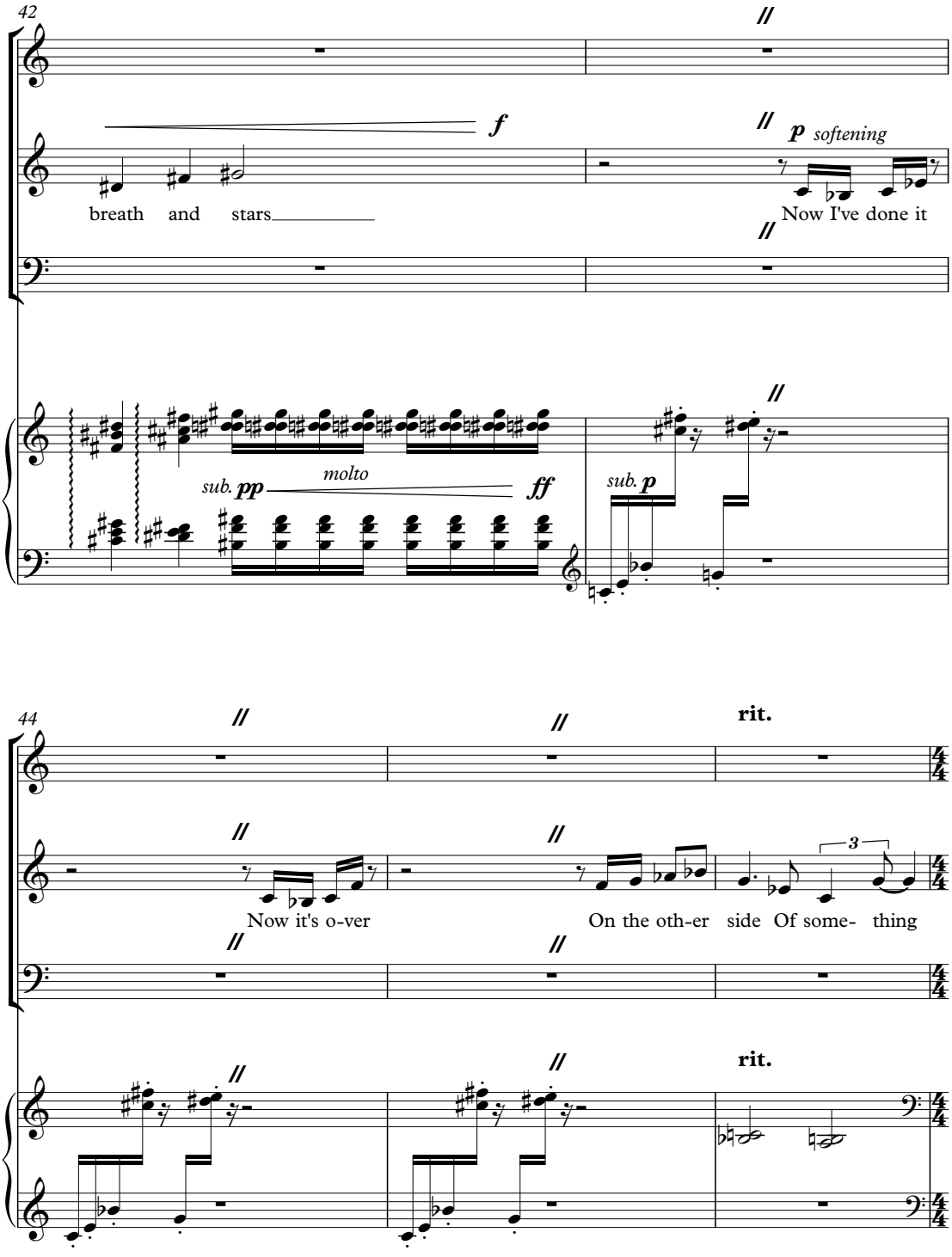

24
Like the beginning
mp
lovingly
Qui-et tim-id Ka-tie
girl -
Like the beginning
sub. p
f
sub. mp
26
Gen - tle, Bi - ble - lov - ing Ka - tie

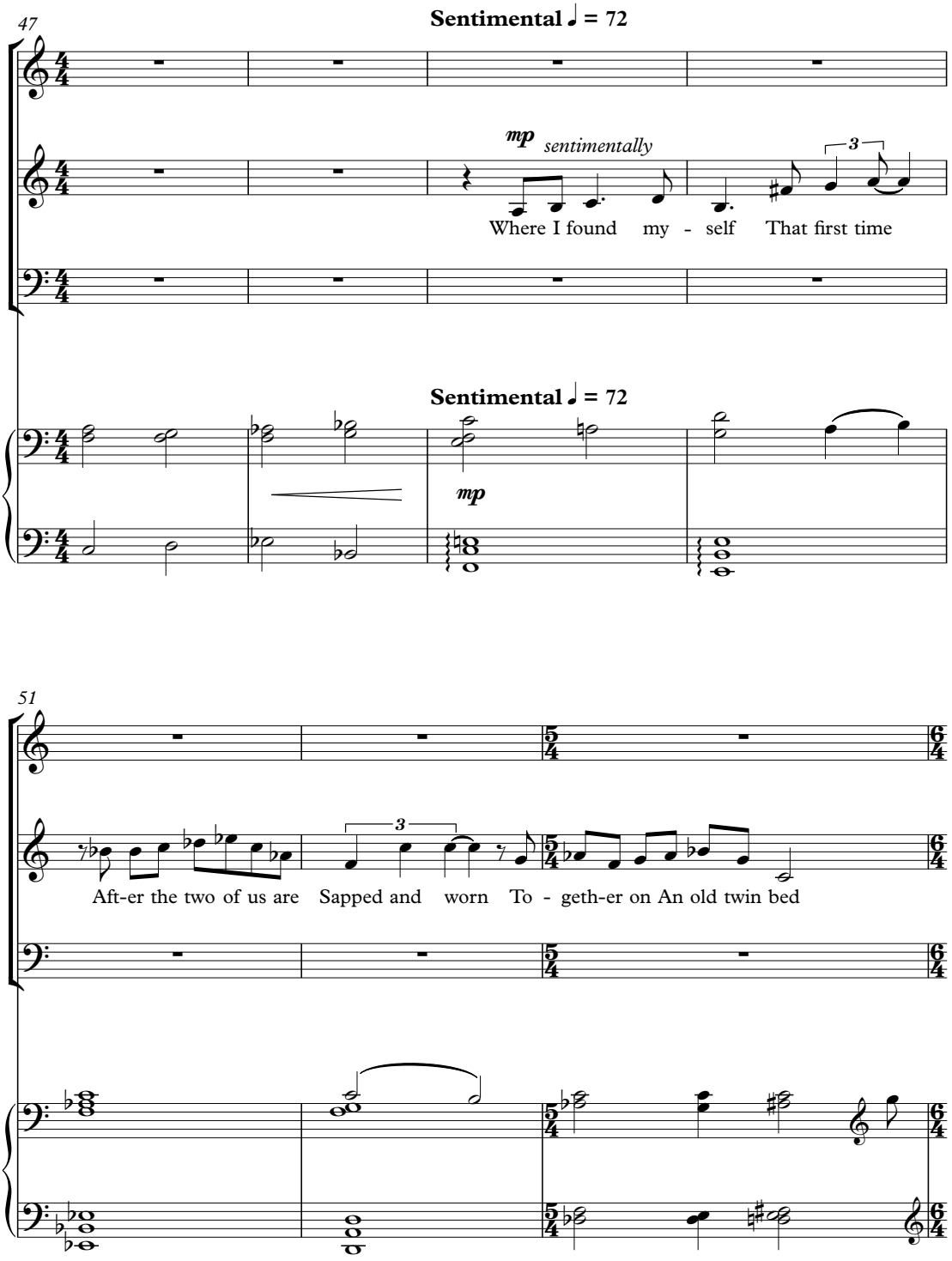

27
mf sharply, accusingly
Ei - ther that or I'm a
f
28
sin - ner
Bro-ken
Sick
Im-mor-al Ka - tie
mf

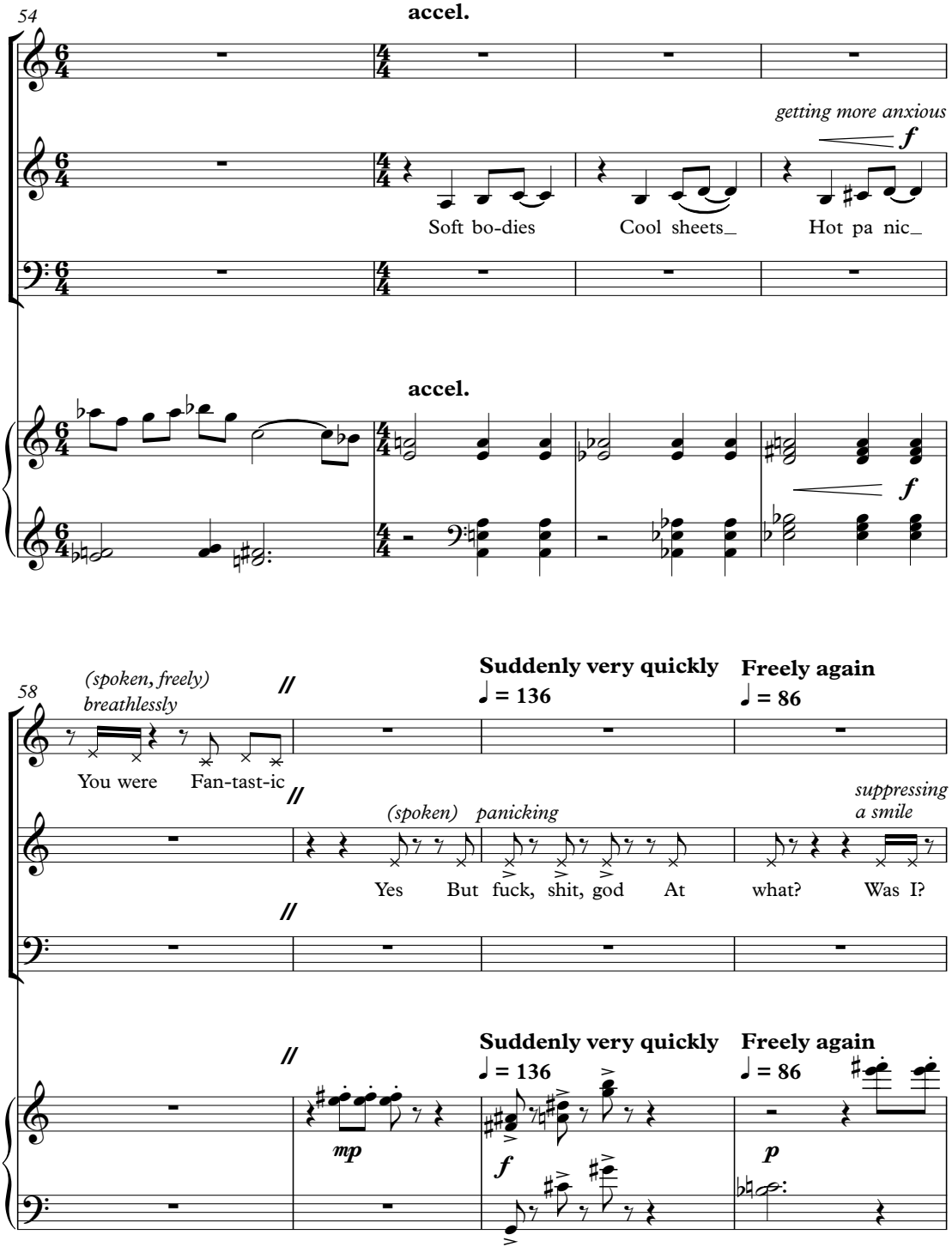

29
f
getting swept up by this new feeling
Yet I'm borne up on these waves Rol-ling
f
pedal
31
ov - er un- der me
I'm re-

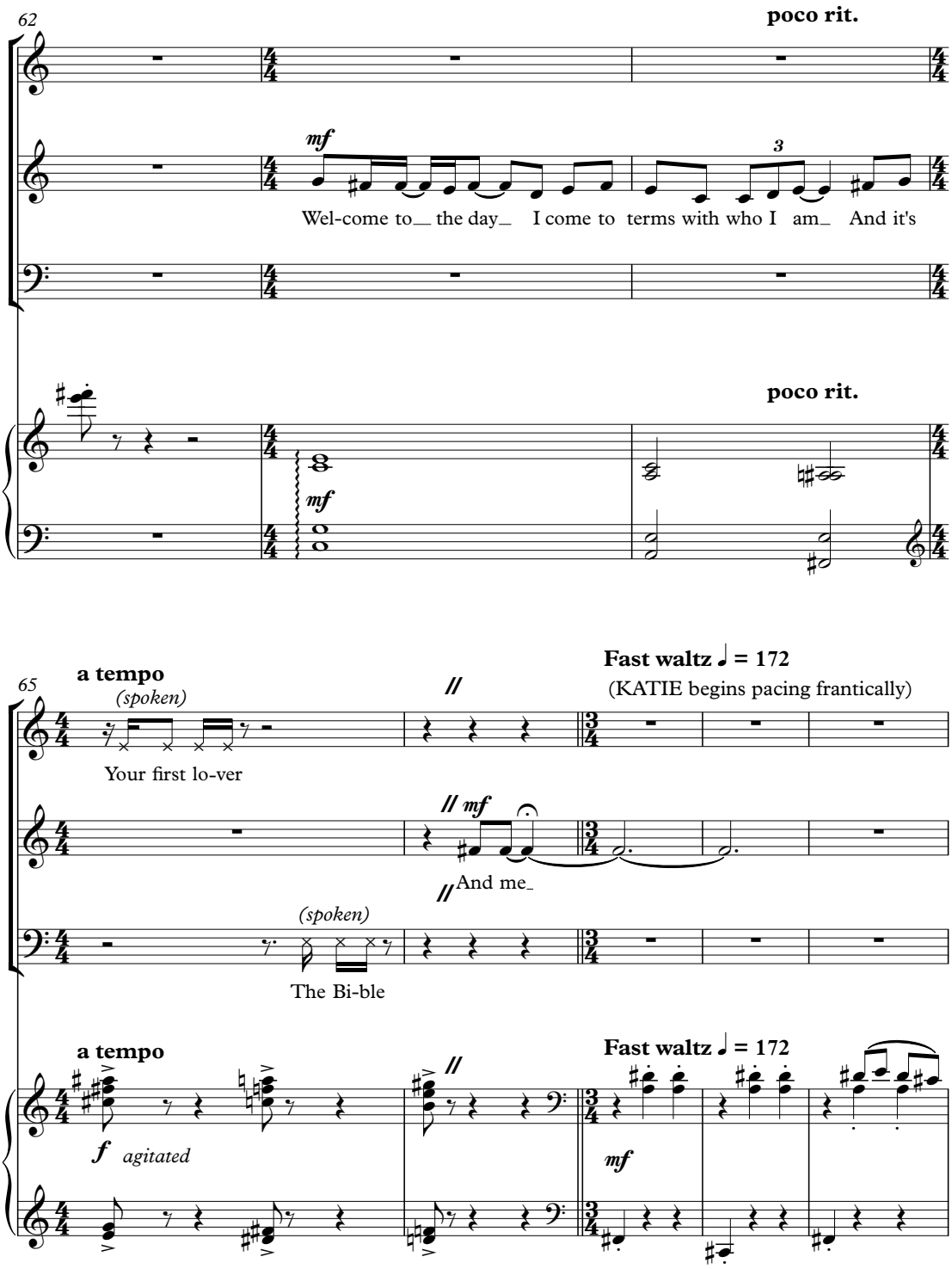

33
treat - ing
Cal- ling,
mp
35
ask ing
Am
I who I used to be?

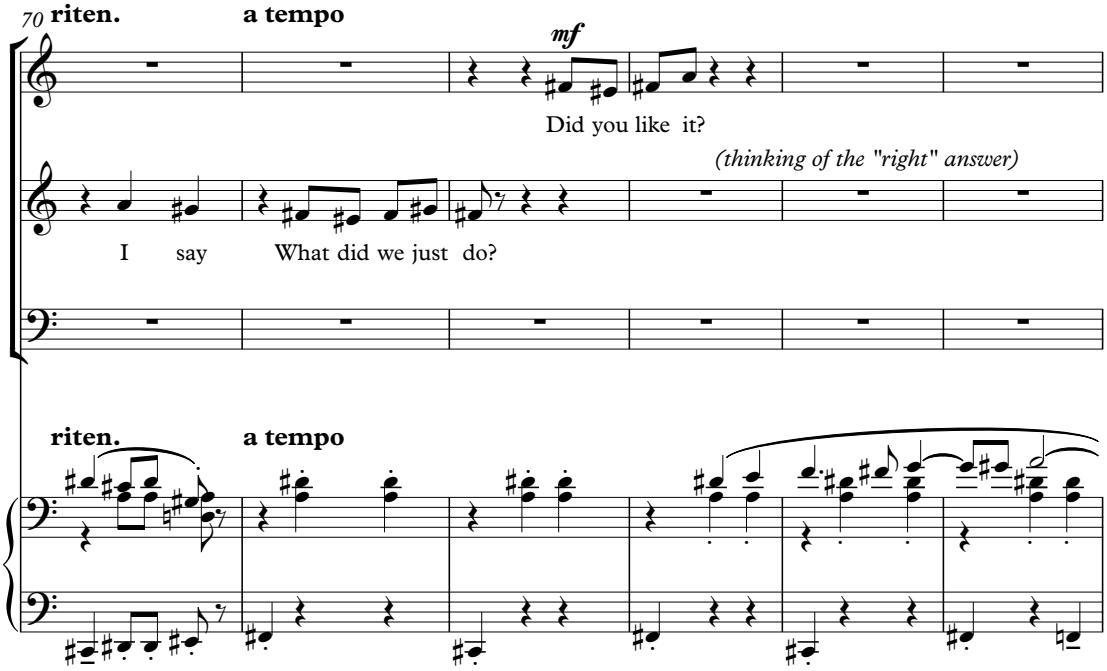

38
Swel - ling, com - ing
40
sub. p sparkling
Rub - bing, Touch - ing
Weight - less - ness And
sub. p sparkling

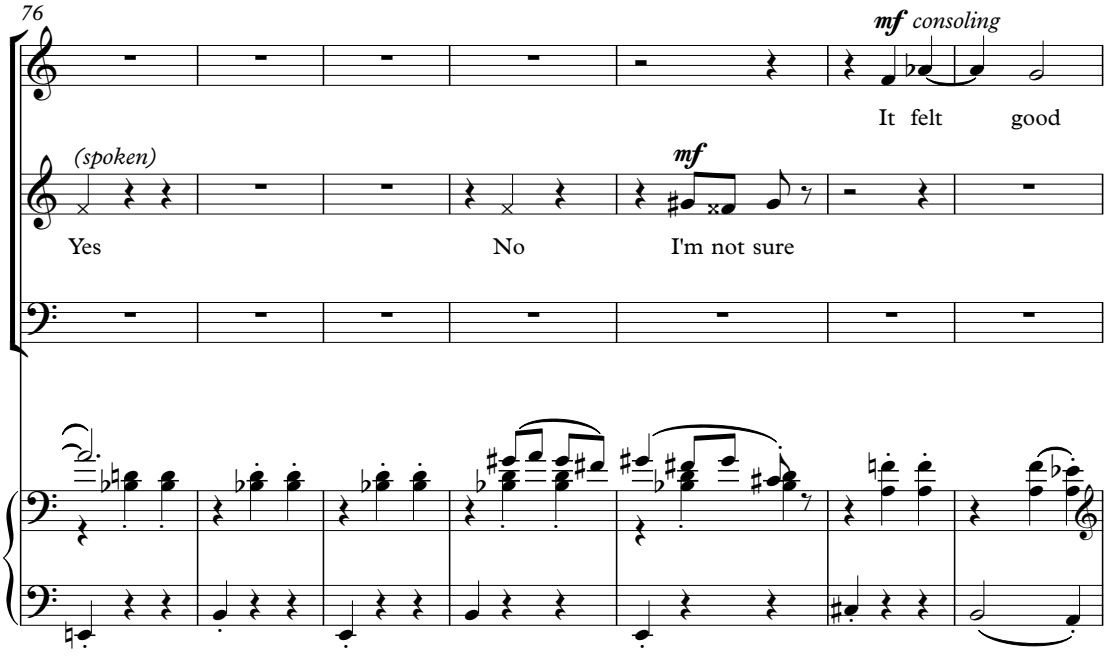

42
f
breath and stars
p softening
Now I've done it
sub. pp
molto
ff
sub. p
44
rit.
Now it's o-ver
On the oth-er side Of some- thing
3
rit.

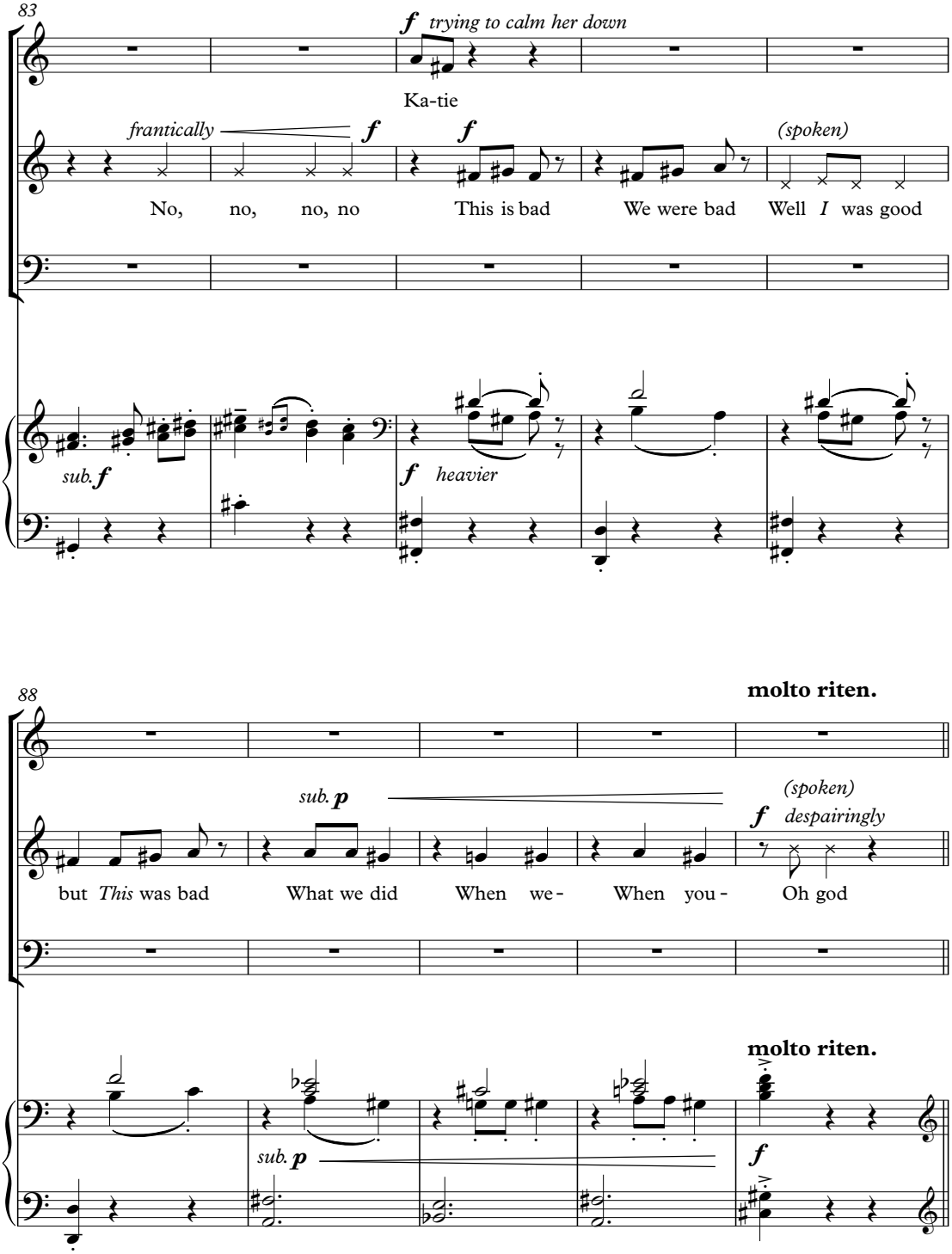

47
Sentimental ♩ = 72
mp sentimentally
3
Where I found my - self That first time
Sentimental ♩ = 72
mp
51
3
Aft-er the two of us are Sapped and worn To - geth-er on An old twin bed

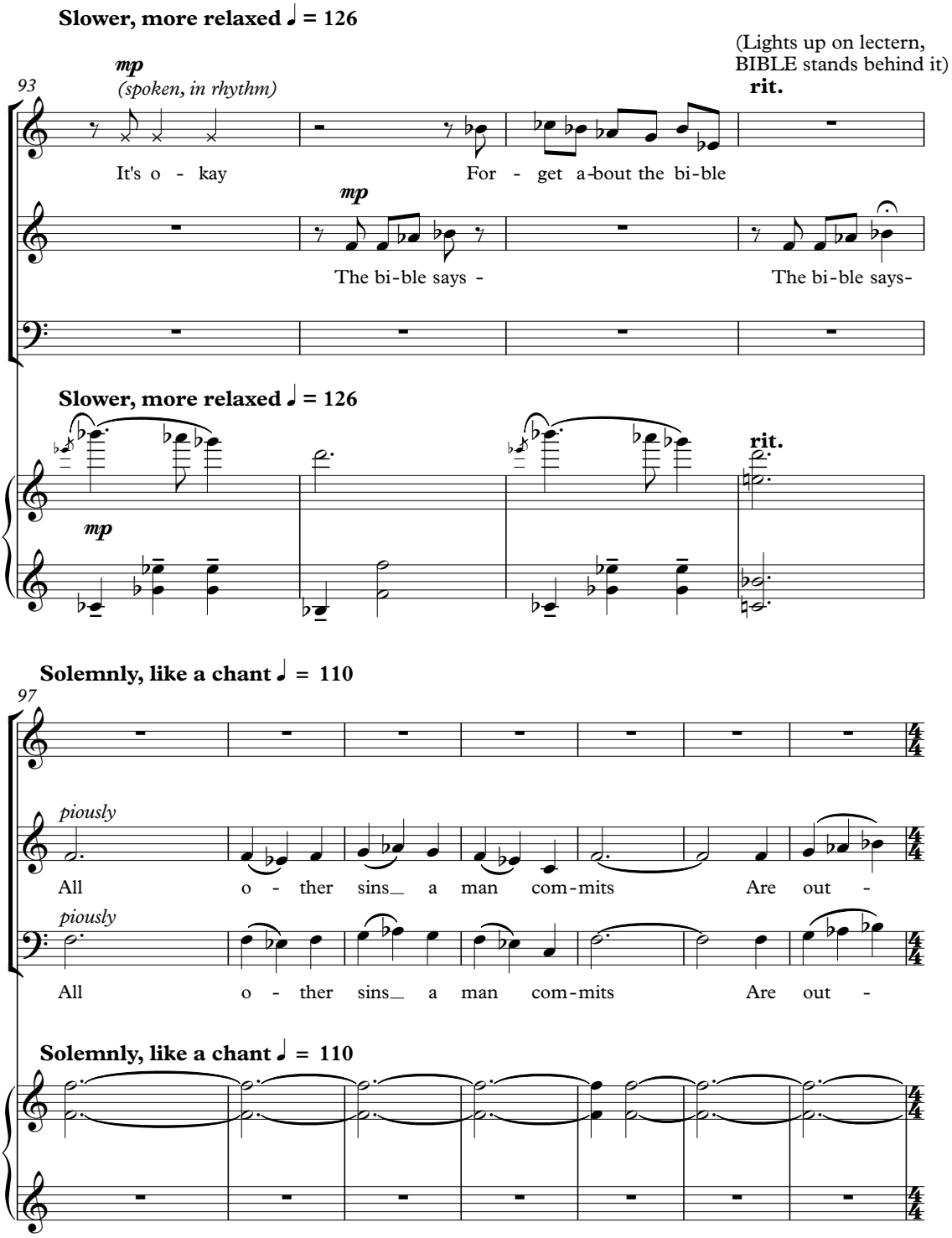

54
accel.
getting more anxious
f
Soft bo-dies
Cool sheets_
Hot pa nic_
accel.
f
58
(spoken, freely)
breathlessly
Suddenly very quickly
♩ = 136
Freely again
♩ = 86
You were
Fan-tast-ic
(spoken)
panicking
suppressing
a smile
Yes
But
fuck, shit, god
At
what?
Was I?
Suddenly very quickly
♩ = 136
Freely again
♩ = 86
mp
f
p

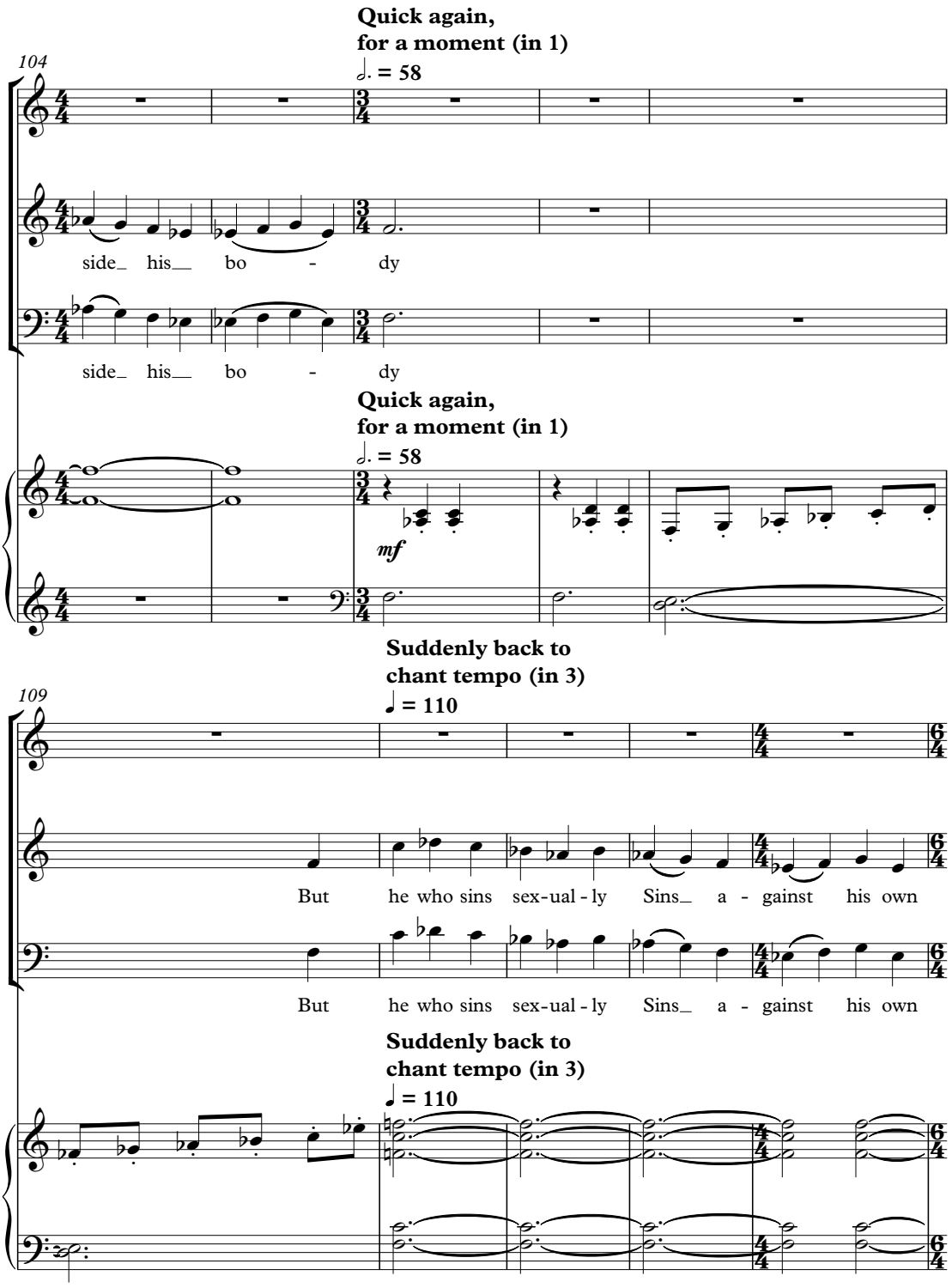

62
poco rit.
mf
3
Wel-come to__ the day_ I come to terms with who I am_ And it's
poco rit.
mf
65
a tempo
(spoken)
Your first lo-ver
//
Fast waltz ♩ = 172
(KATIE begins pacing frantically)
// mf
And me_
//
(spoken)
The Bi-ble
a tempo
f agitated
//
Fast waltz ♩ = 172
mf

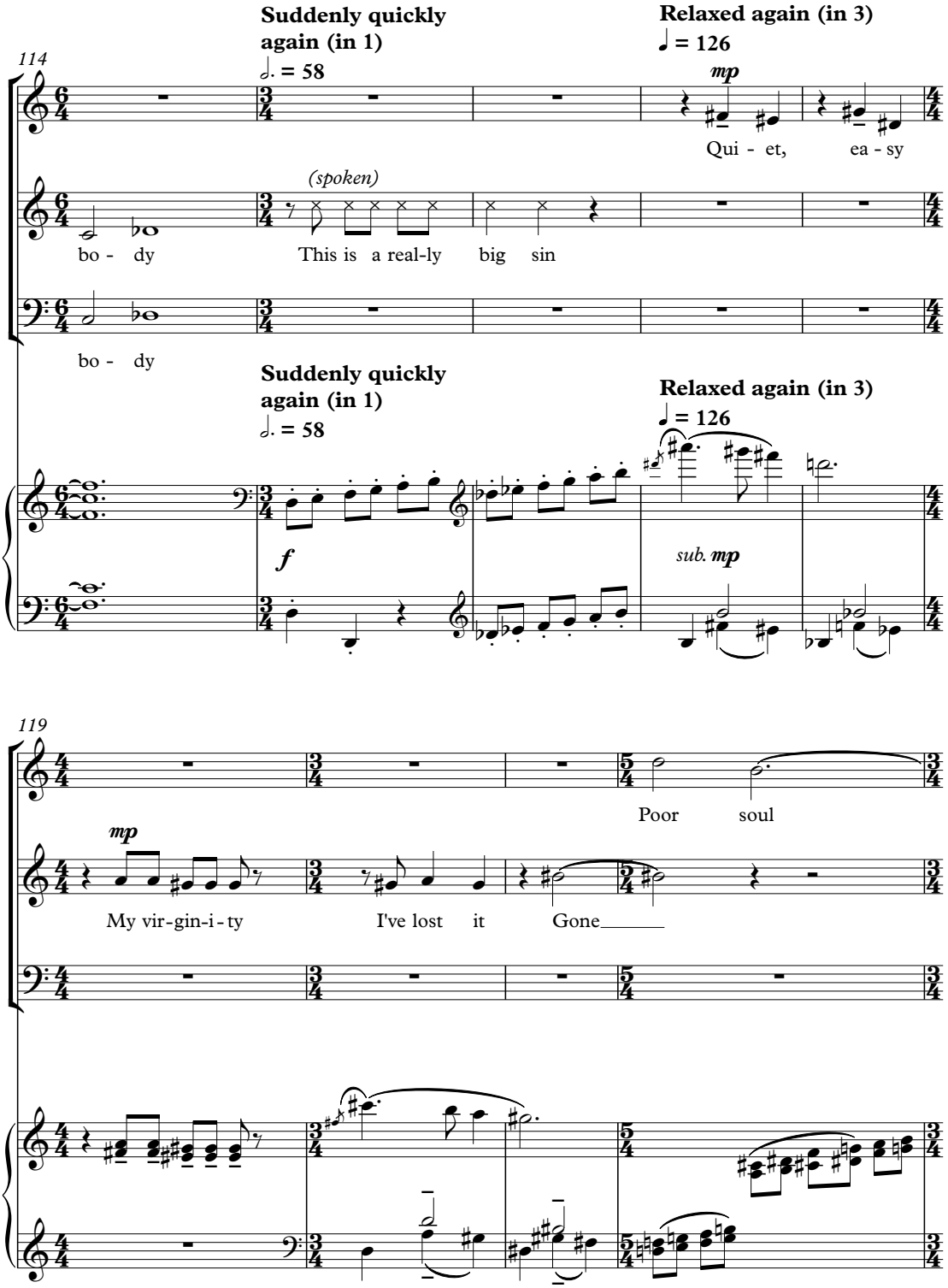

70
riten.
a tempo
mf
Did you like it?
(thinking of the "right" answer)
I say
What did we just do?
riten.
a tempo

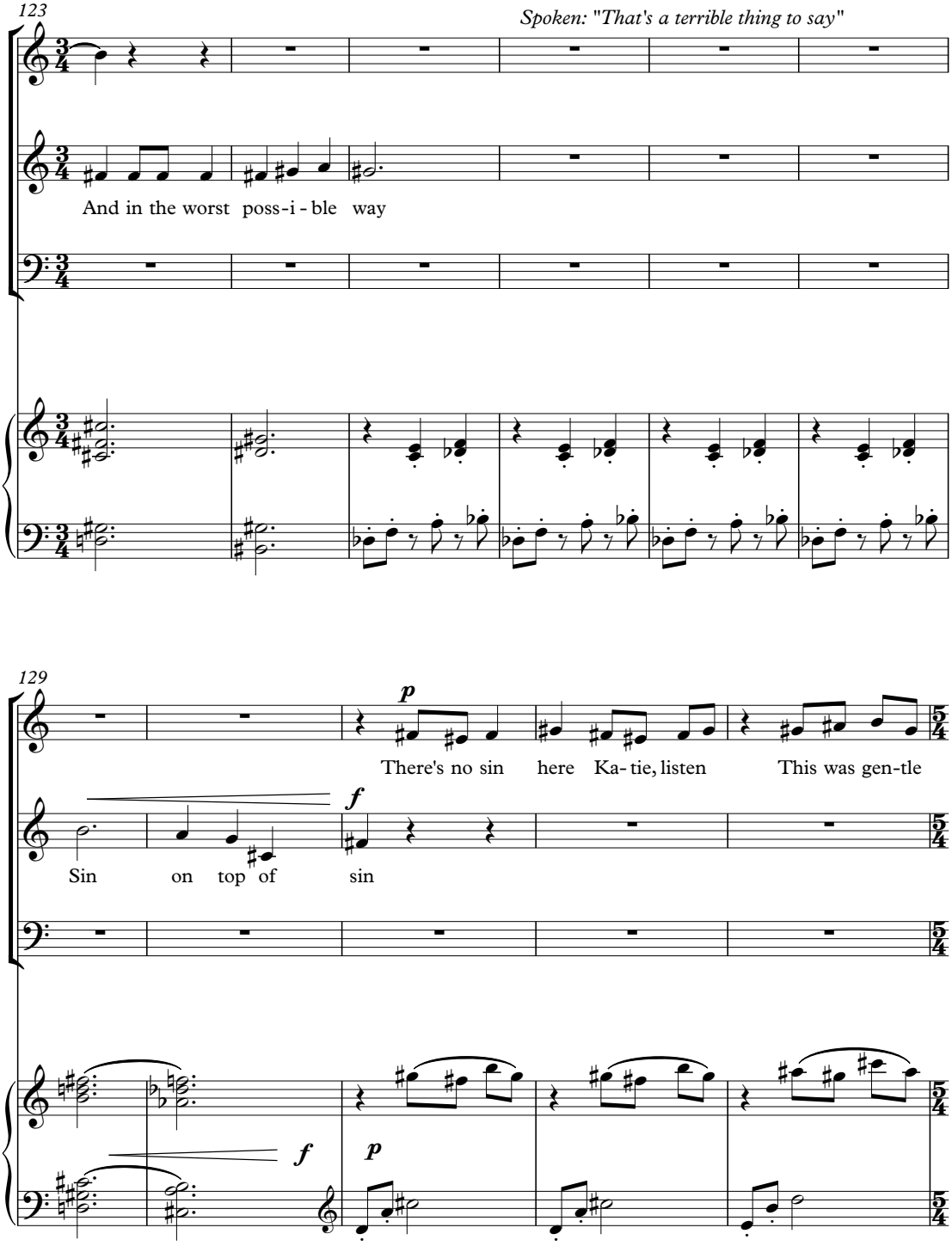

76
mf consoling
It felt good
(spoken)
mf
Yes
No
I'm not sure

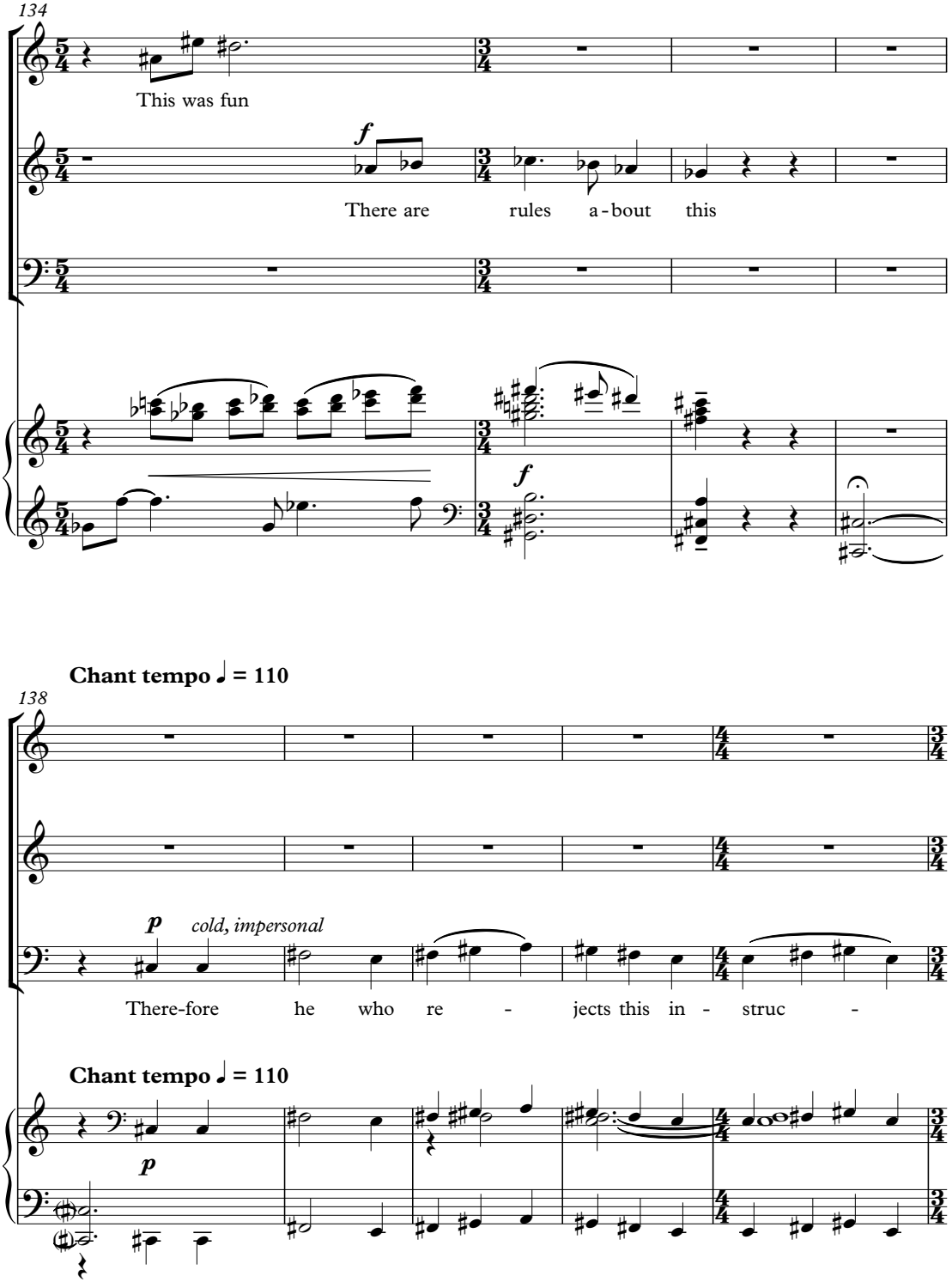

83
f trying to calm her down
Ka-tie
frantically
f
f
(spoken)
No, no, no, no
This is bad
We were bad
Well I was good
sub. f
f heavier
88
molto riten.
sub. p
(spoken)
f despairingly
but This was bad
What we did
When we -
When you -
Oh god
molto riten.
sub. p
f

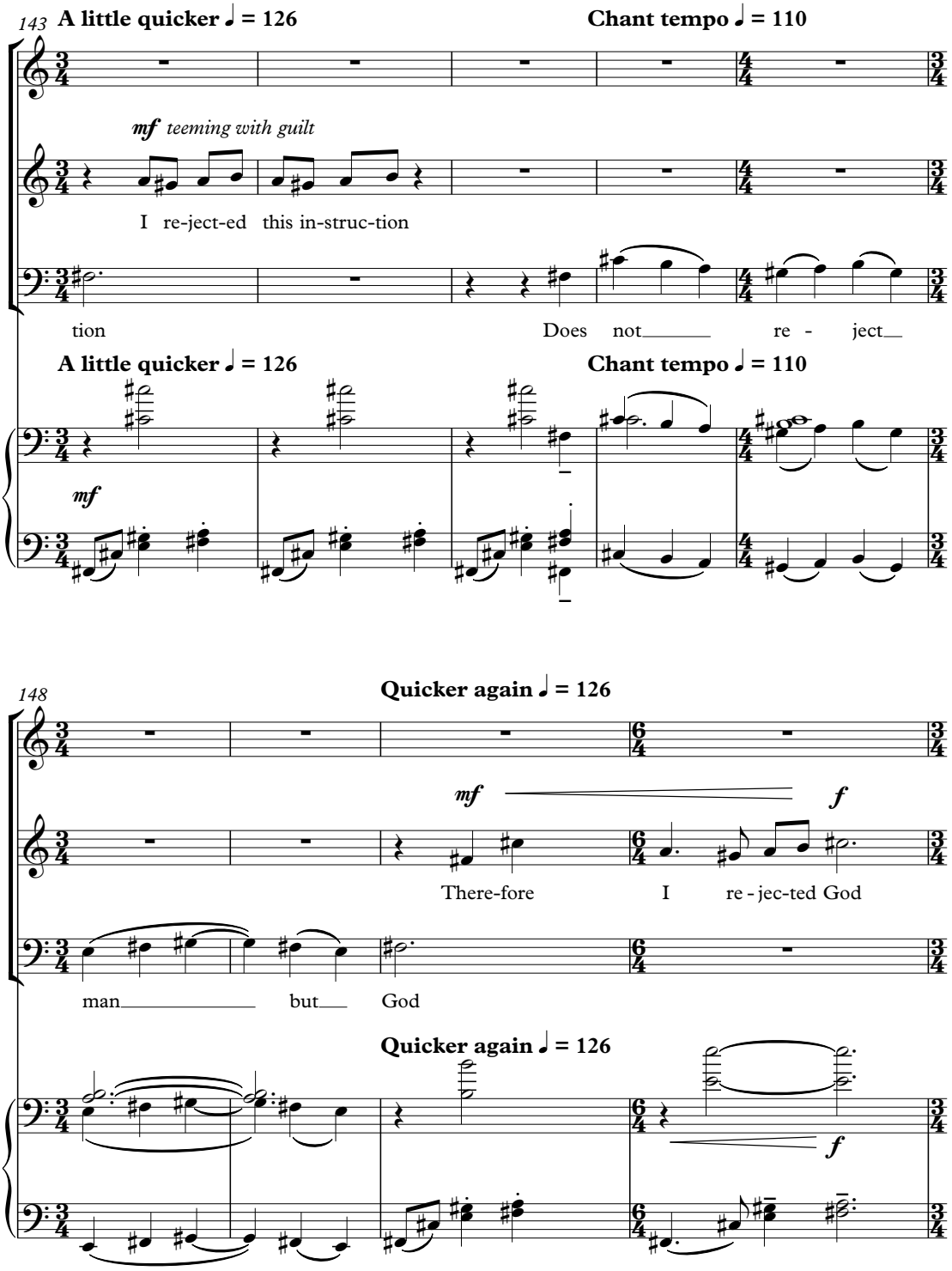

Slower, more relaxed ♩ = 126
(Lights up on lectern,
BIBLE stands behind it)
93
mp
(spoken, in rhythm)
rit.
It's o - kay
For - get a-bout the bi-ble
mp
The bi-ble says -
The bi-ble says-
Slower, more relaxed ♩ = 126
rit.
mp
Solemnly, like a chant ♩ = 110
97
piously
All o - ther sins_ a man com-mits Are out -
piously
All o - ther sins_ a man com-mits Are out -
Solemnly, like a chant ♩ = 110

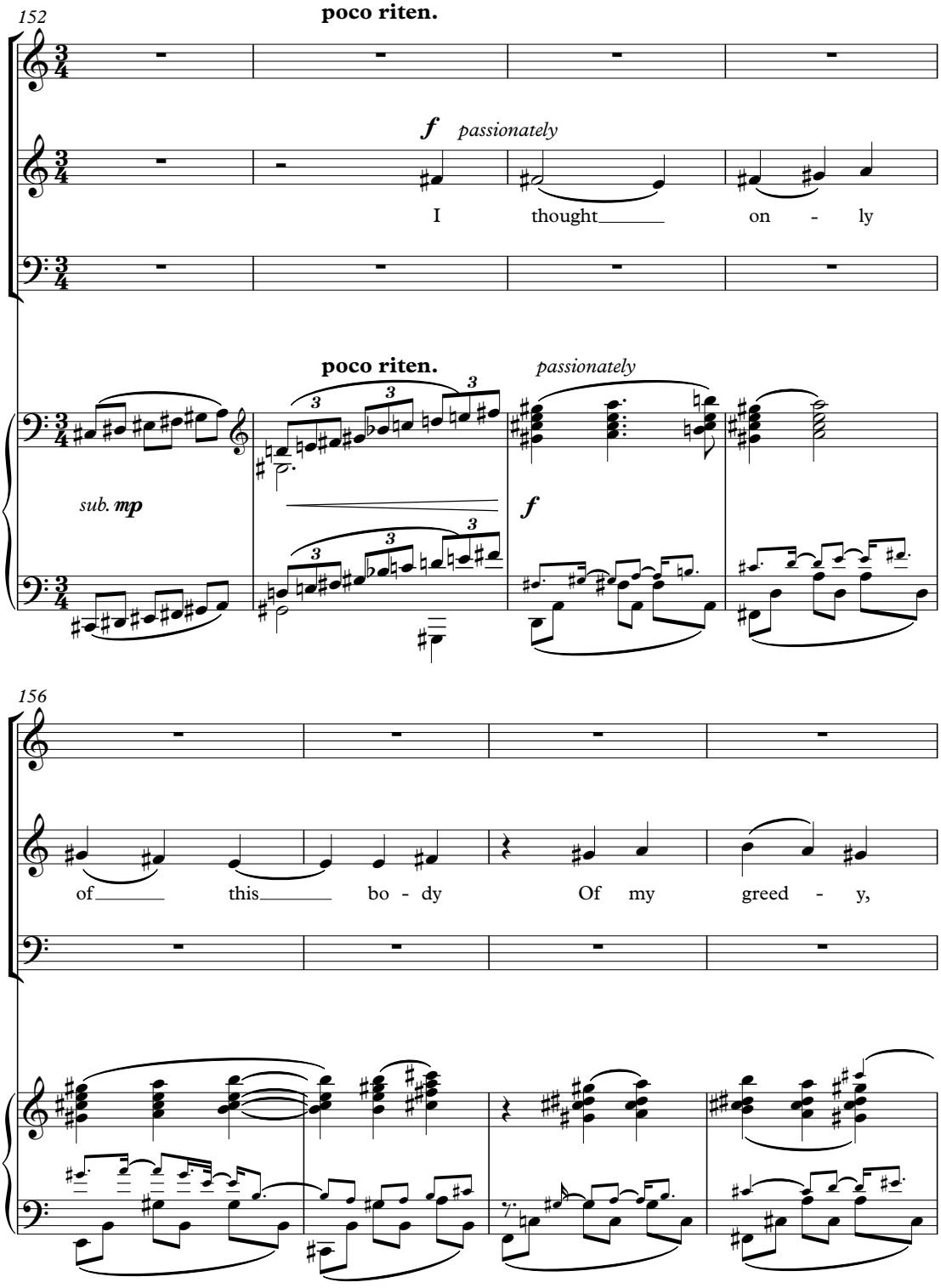

Quick again,
for a moment (in 1)
104
side_ his__ bo - dy
side_ his__ bo - dy
Quick again,
for a moment (in 1)
mf
Suddenly back to
chant tempo (in 3)
109
But he who sins sex-ual-ly Sins_ a - gainst his own
But he who sins sex-ual-ly Sins_ a - gainst his own
Suddenly back to
chant tempo (in 3)

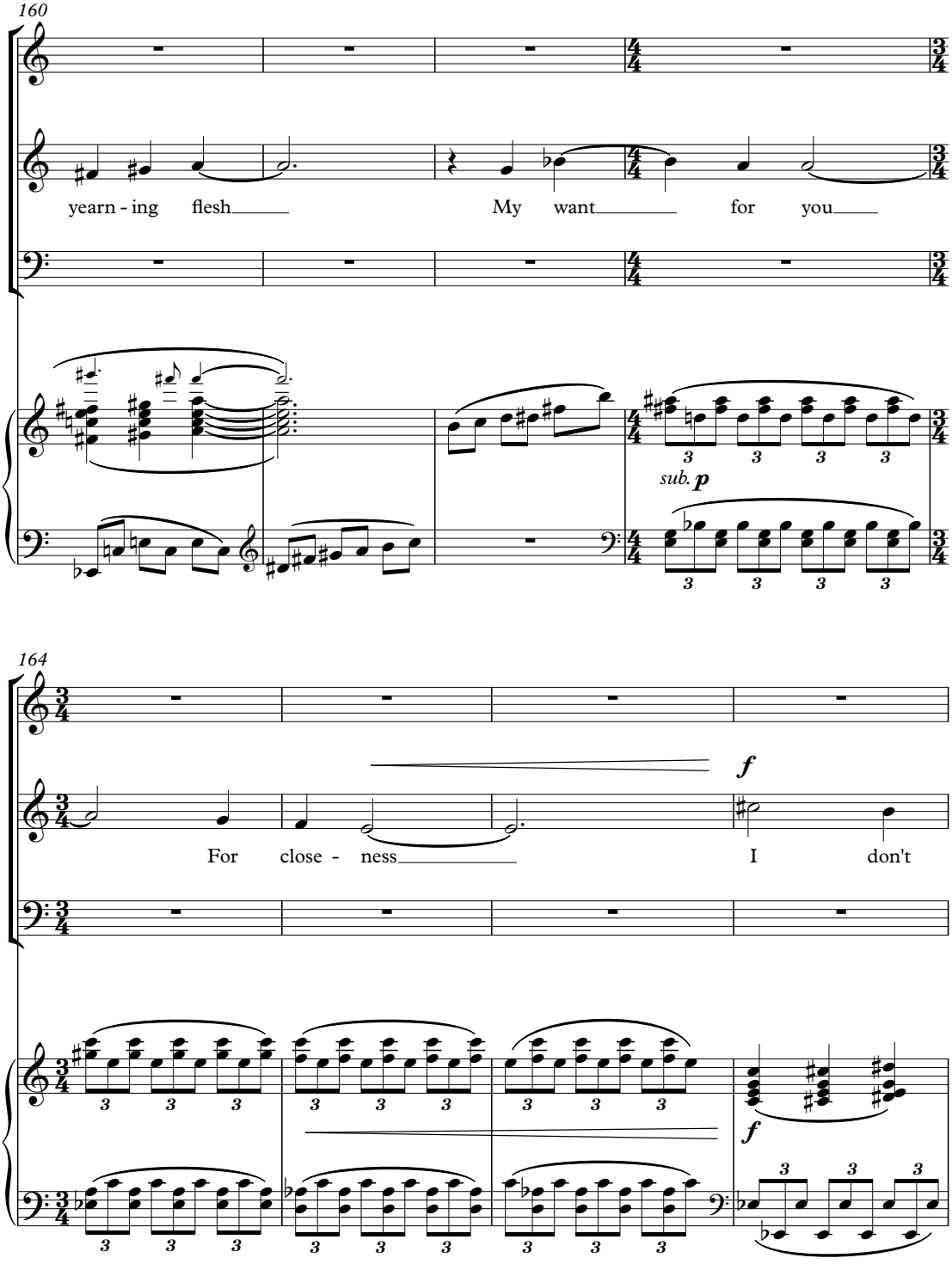

114
Suddenly quickly
again (in 1)
𝅗𝅥. = 58
Relaxed again (in 3)
♩ = 126
mp
Qui - et, ea - sy
(spoken)
bo - dy
This is a real-ly big sin
bo - dy
Suddenly quickly
again (in 1)
𝅗𝅥. = 58
Relaxed again (in 3)
♩ = 126
f
sub. mp
119
Poor soul
mp
My vir-gin-i-ty
I've lost it
Gone

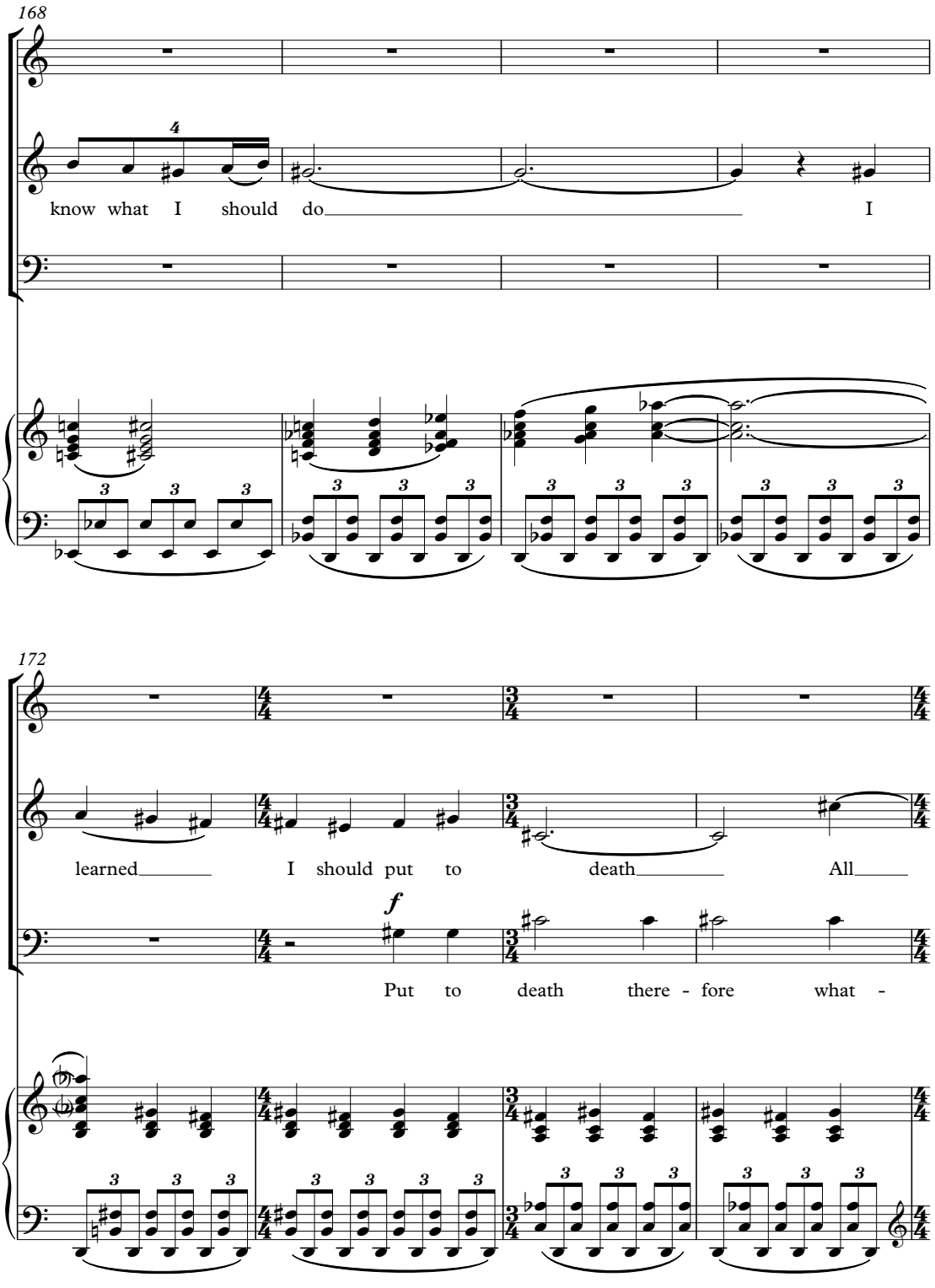

123
Spoken: "That's a terrible thing to say"
And in the worst poss-i-ble way
129
p
There's no sin here Ka-tie, listen This was gen-tle
f
Sin on top of sin
f
p

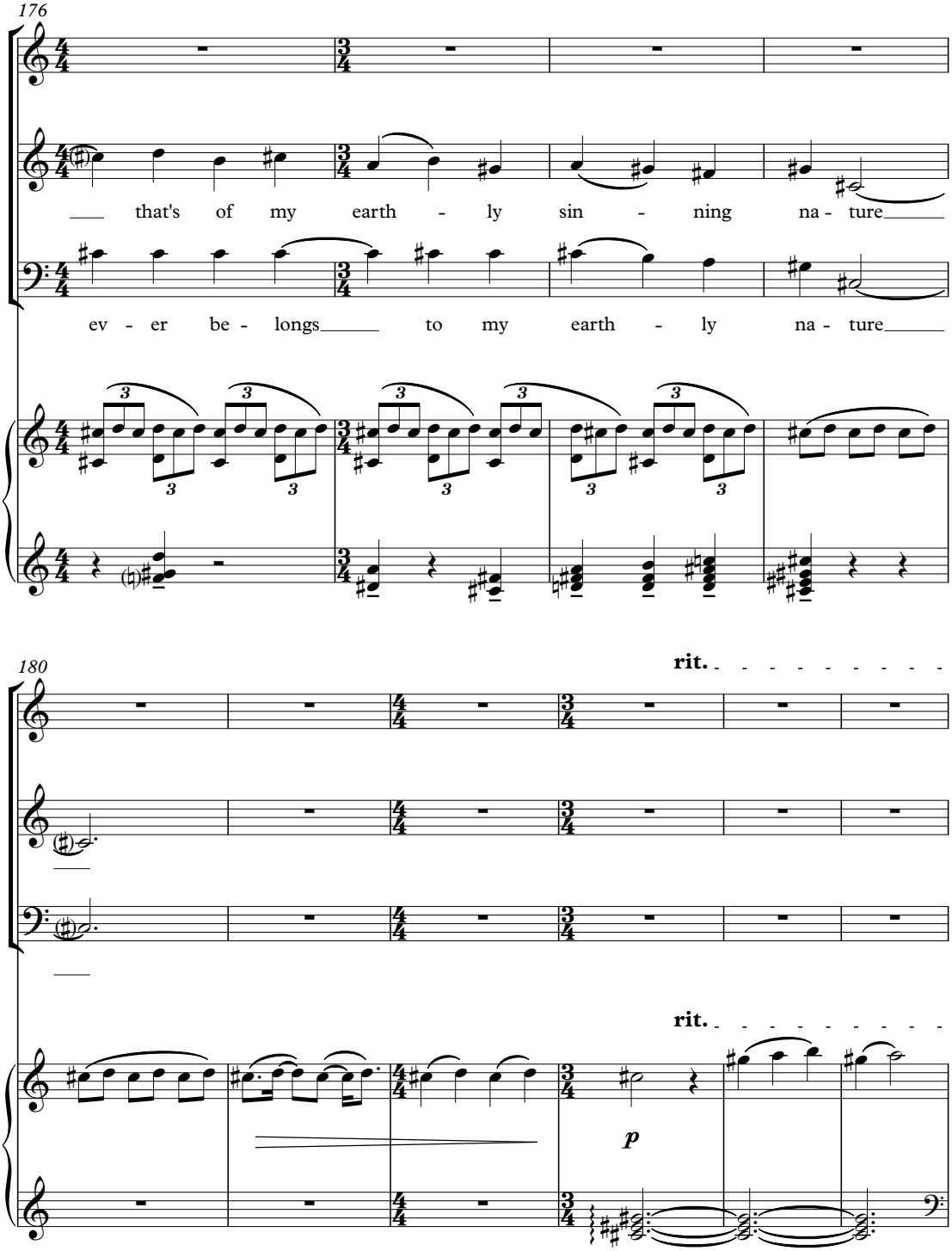

134
This was fun
f
There are rules a - bout this
f
Chant tempo ♩ = 110
138
p
cold, impersonal
There-fore he who re - jects this in - struc -
Chant tempo ♩ = 110
p

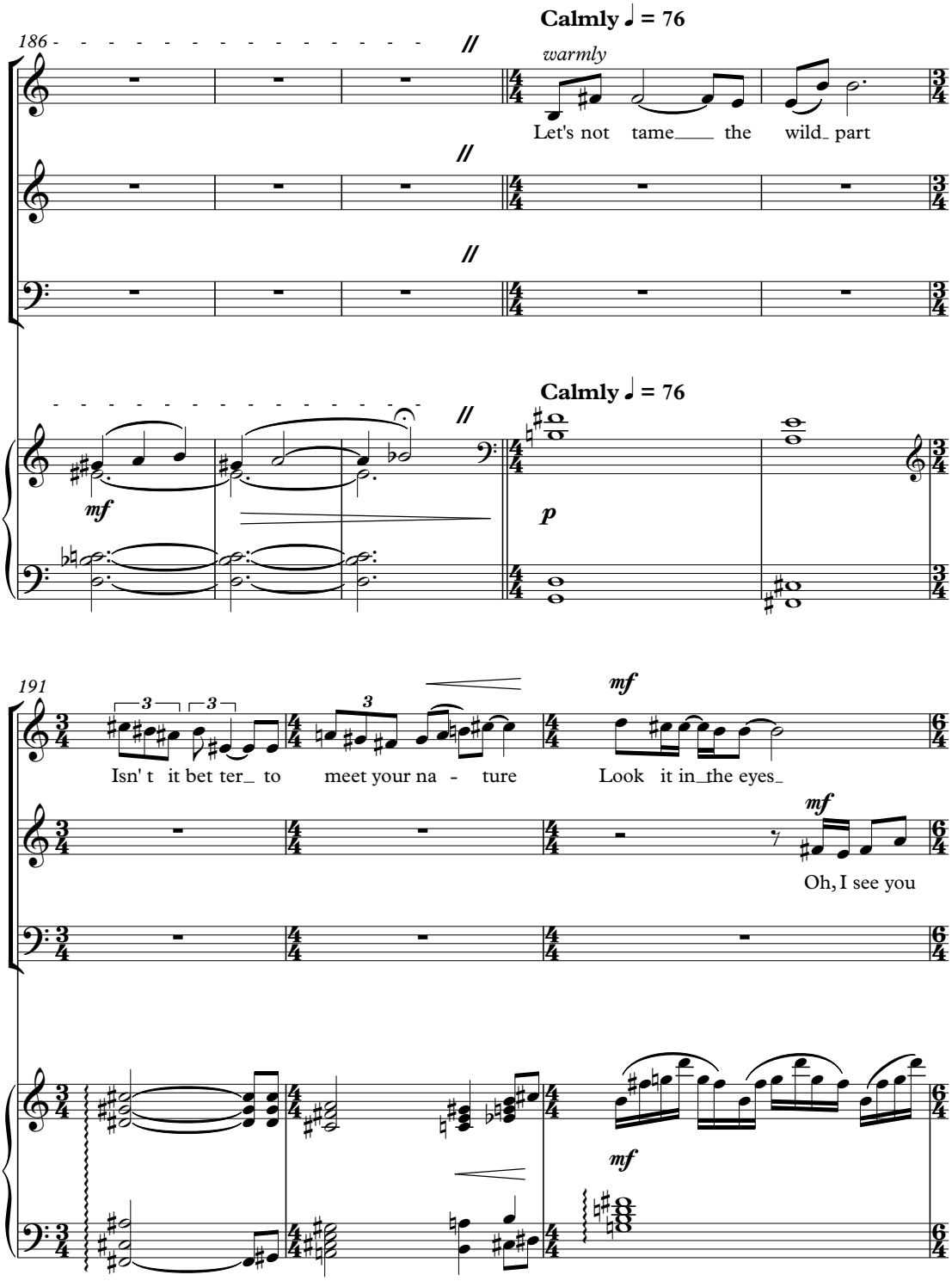

143
A little quicker ♩ = 126
Chant tempo ♩ = 110
mf teeming with guilt
I re-ject-ed this in-struc-tion
tion
Does not re - ject
A little quicker ♩ = 126
Chant tempo ♩ = 110
mf
148
Quicker again ♩ = 126
mf
f
There-fore I re - jec-ted God
man but God
Quicker again ♩ = 126
f

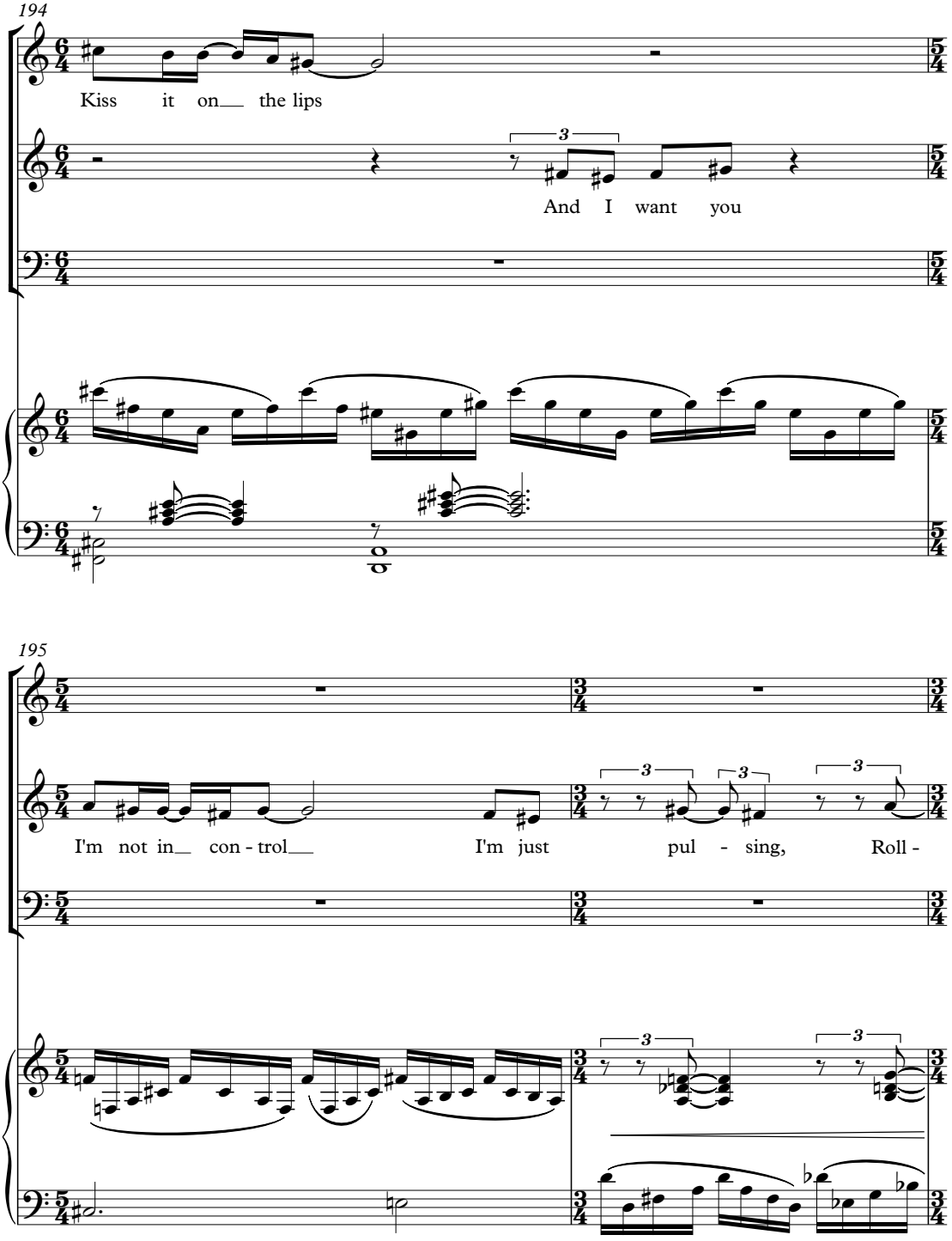

152
poco riten.
f passionately
I thought on - ly
poco riten.
passionately
sub. mp
f
156
of this bo - dy Of my greed - y,

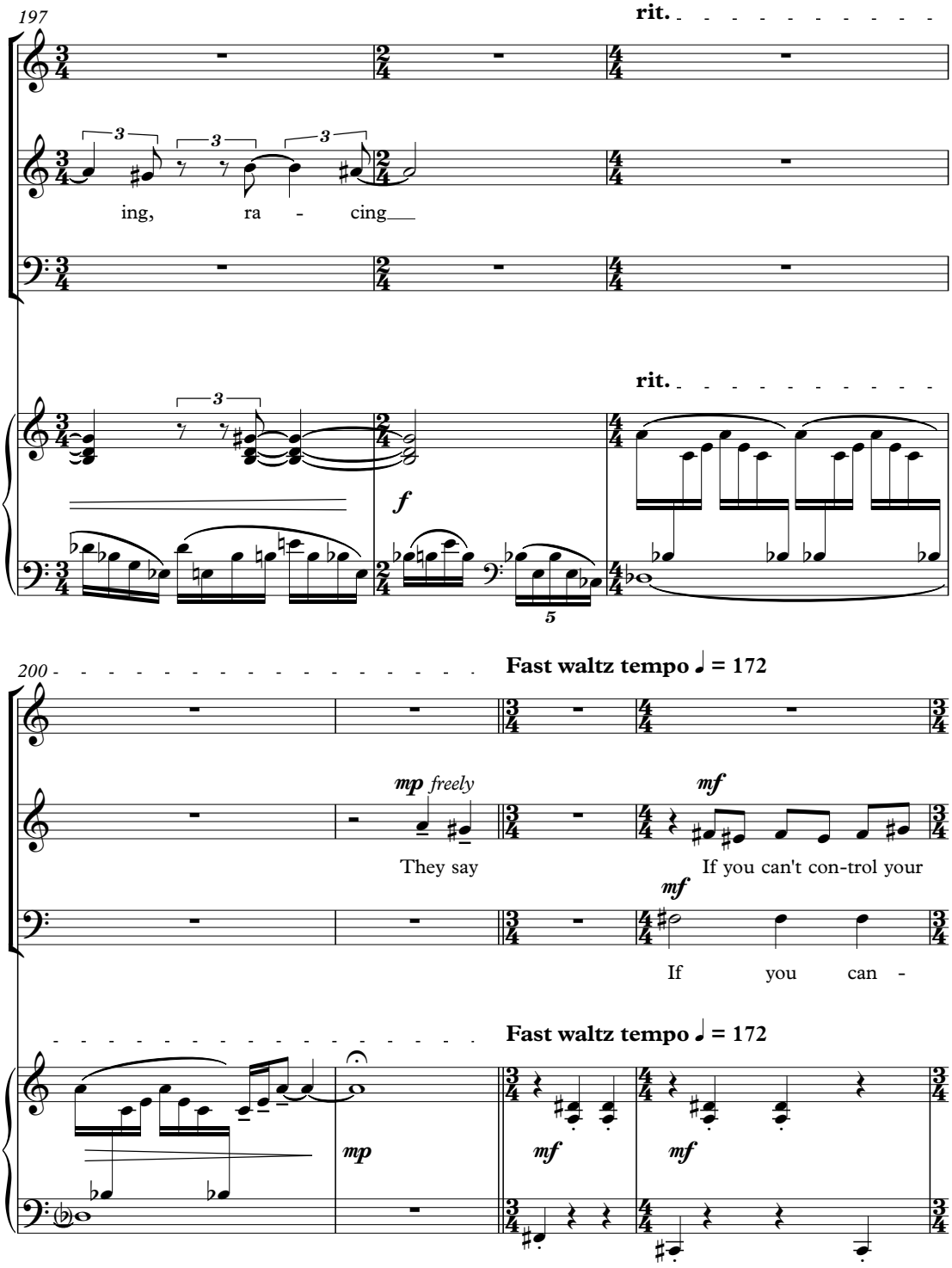

160
yearn - ing flesh
My want for you
sub. p
164
For close - ness
I don't
f
f

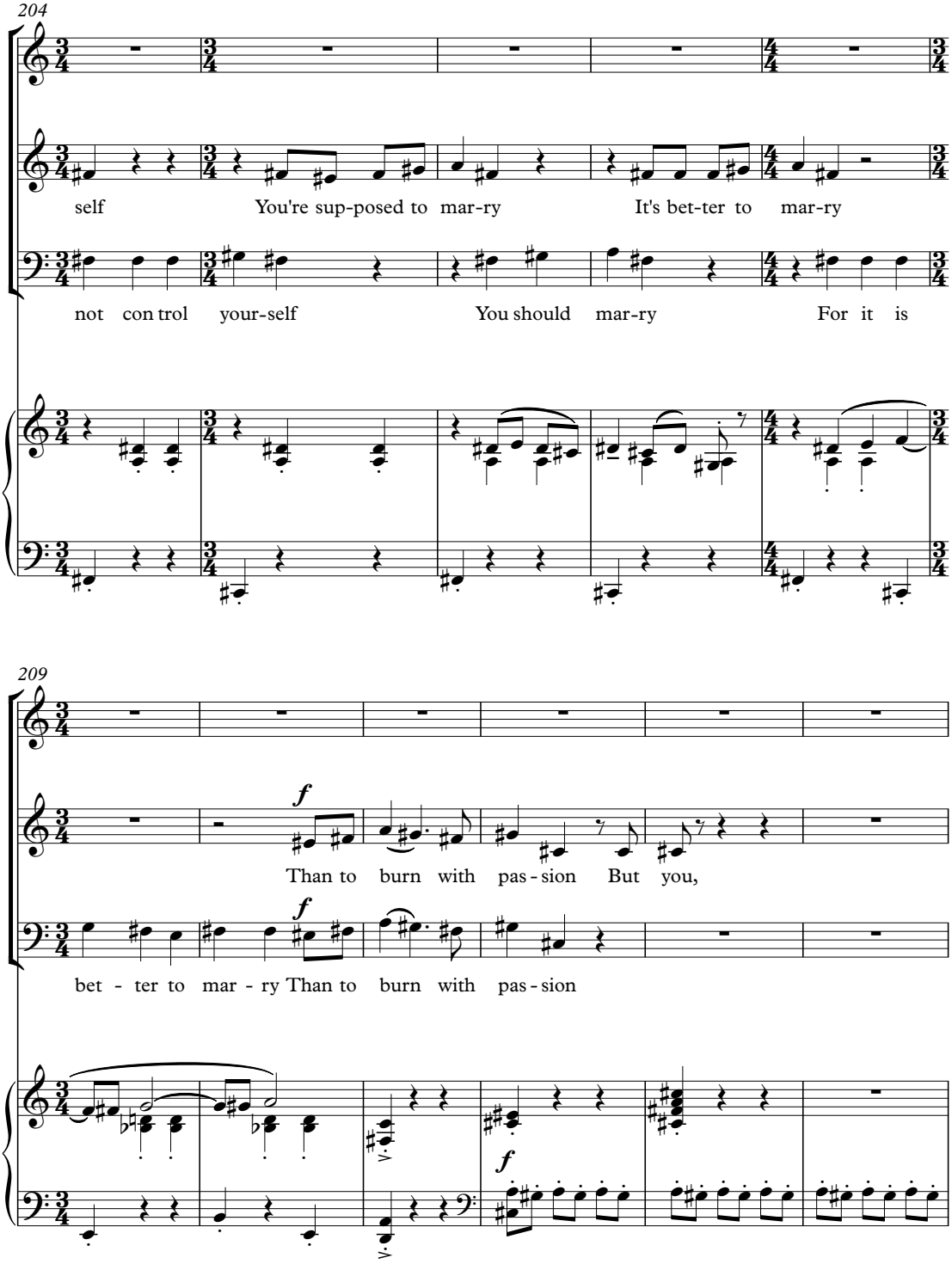

168
know what I should do I
172
learned I should put to death All
f
Put to death there - fore what -

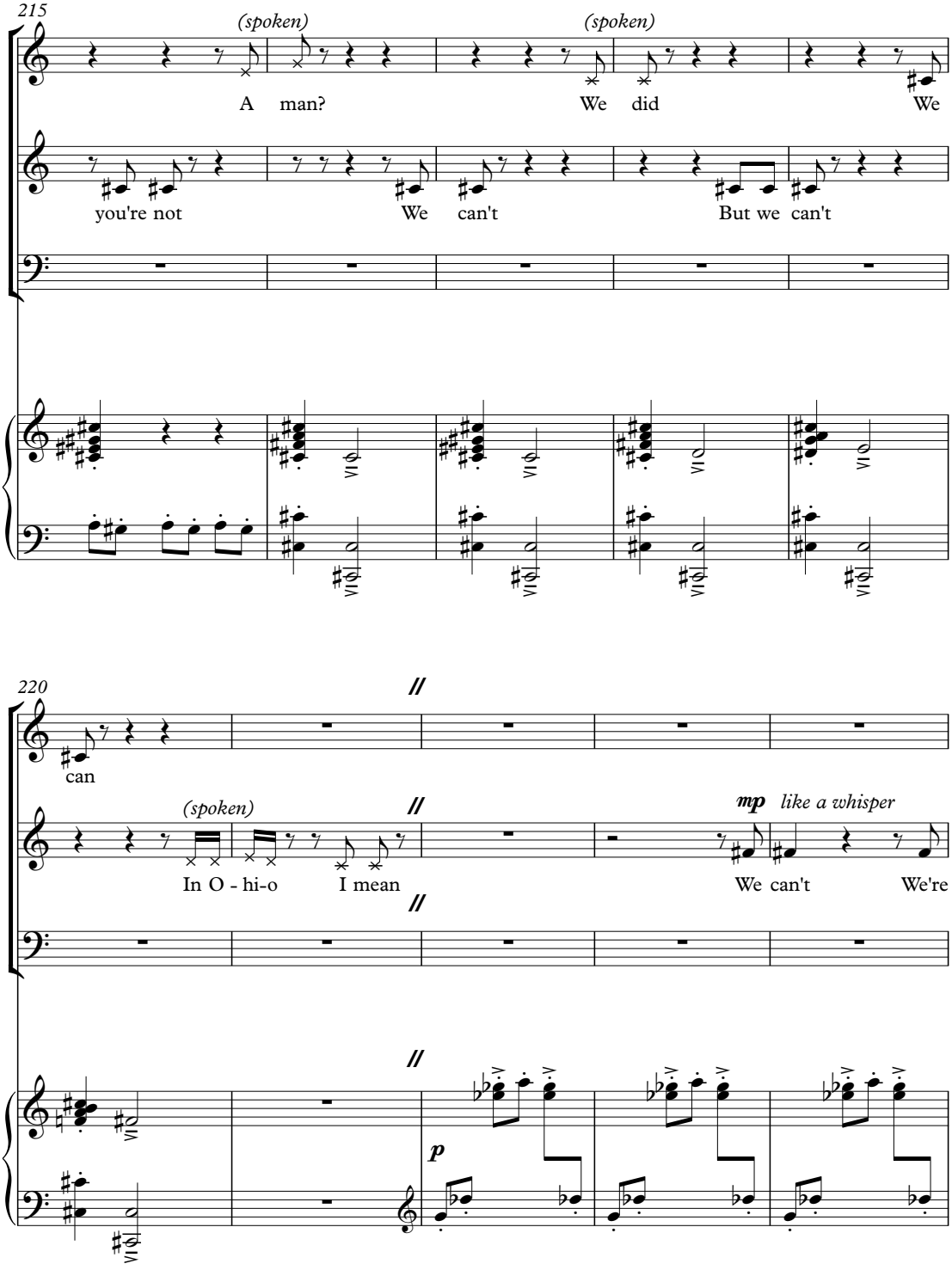

176
that's of my earth - ly sin - ning na - ture
ev - er be - longs to my earth - ly na - ture
180
rit.
rit.
p

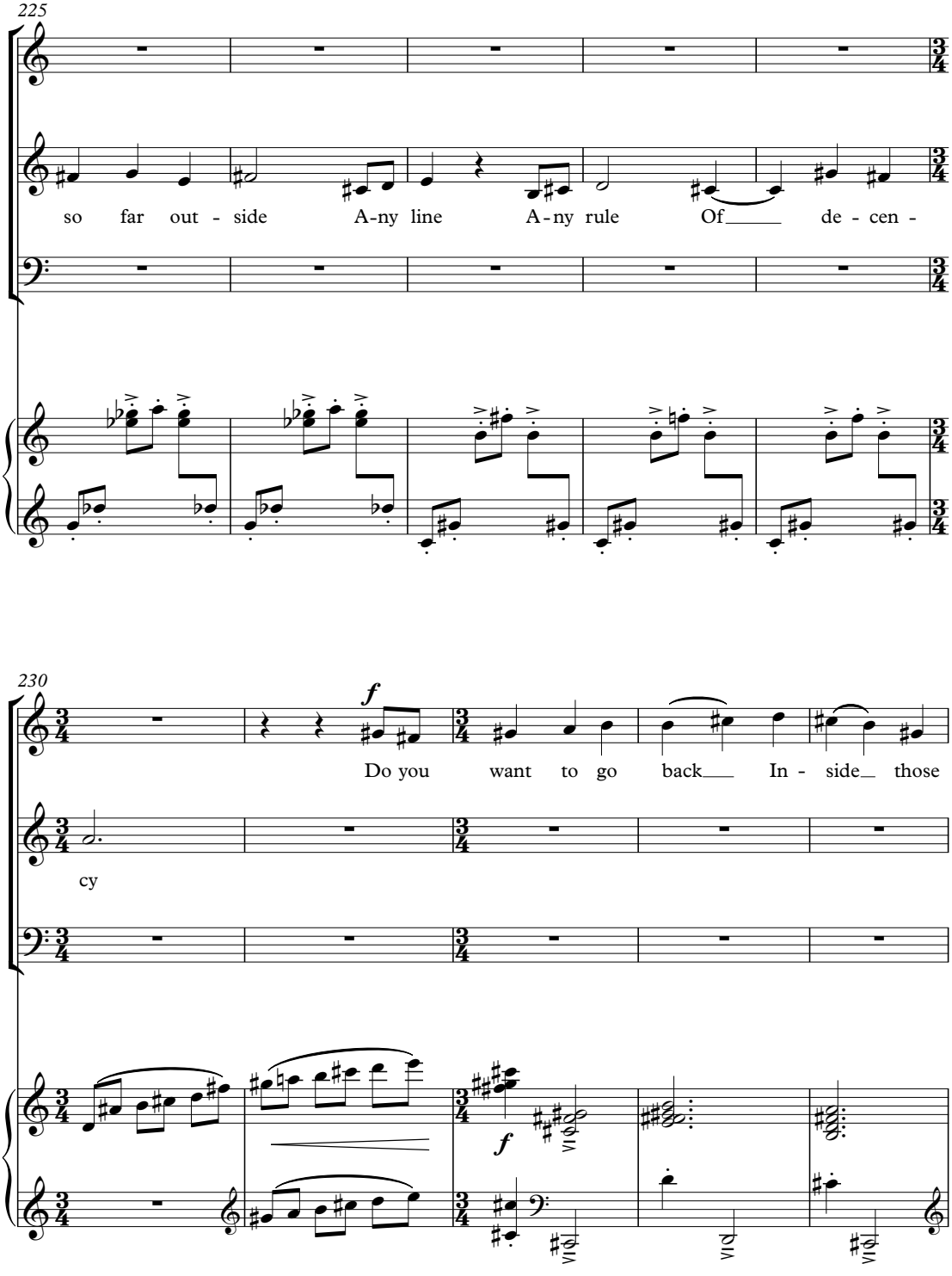

186
Calmly ♩ = 76
warmly
Let's not tame the wild part
Calmly ♩ = 76
mf
p
191
Isn' t it bet ter to meet your na - ture
Look it in the eyes
mf
Oh, I see you
mf

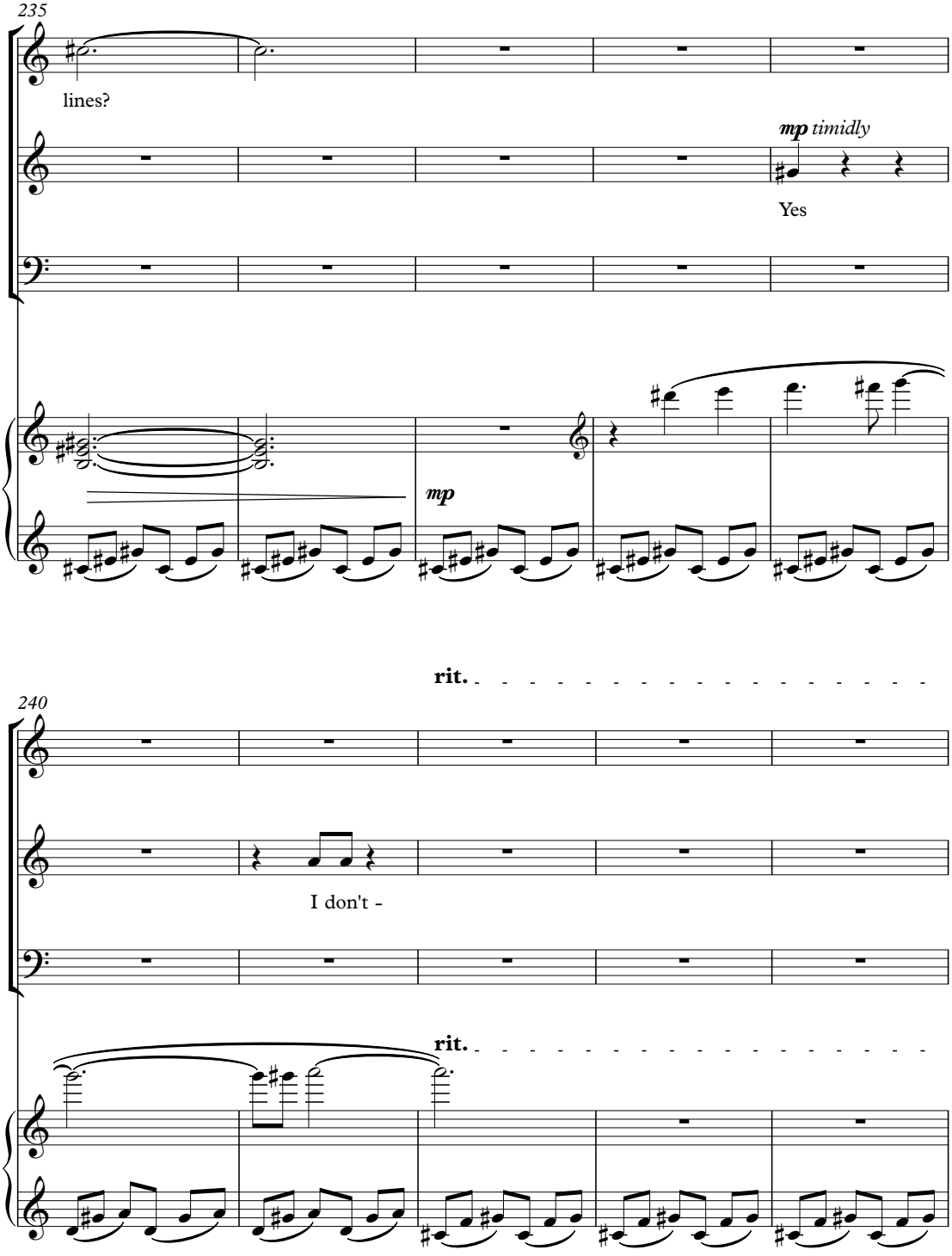

194
Kiss it on the lips
And I want you
195
I'm not in con - trol
I'm just pul - sing,
Roll -

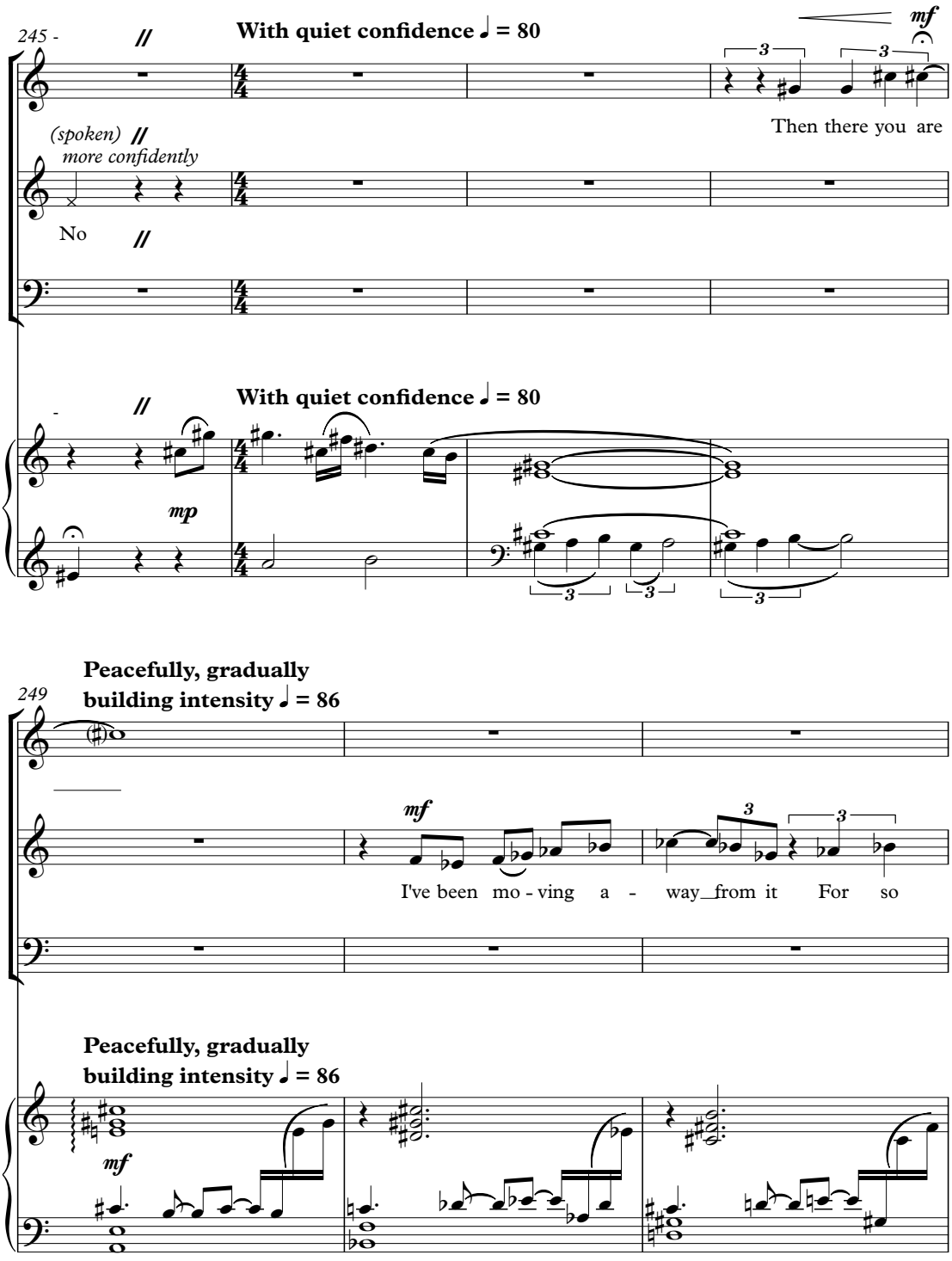

197
rit.
ing, ra - cing
rit.
f
5
200
Fast waltz tempo ♩ = 172
mp freely
They say
mf
If you can't con-trol your
mf
If you can -
Fast waltz tempo ♩ = 172
mp
mf
mf

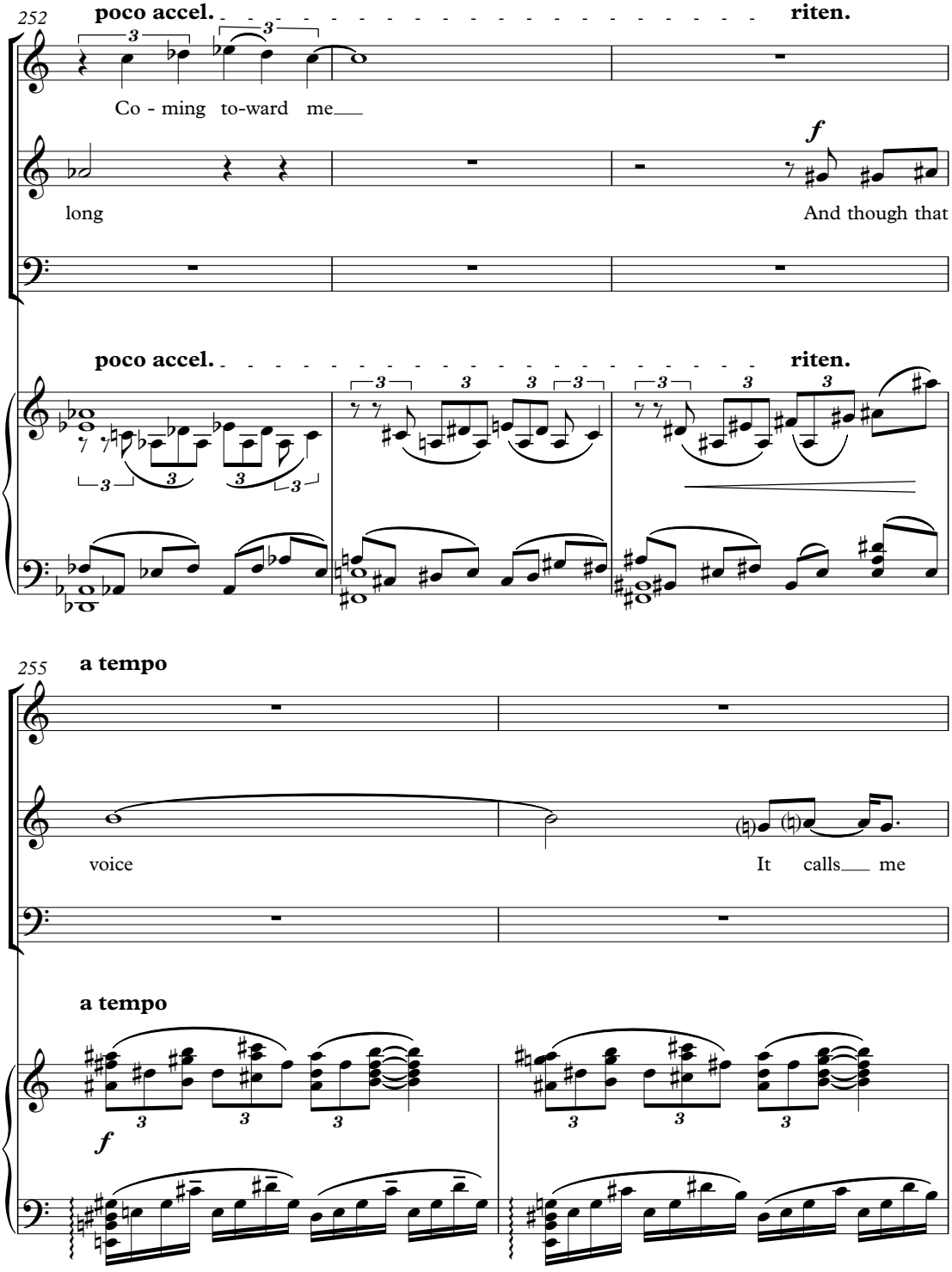

204
self
You're sup-posed to mar-ry
It's bet-ter to mar-ry
not con trol your-self
You should mar-ry
For it is
209
Than to burn with pas - sion But you,
bet - ter to mar - ry Than to burn with pas - sion

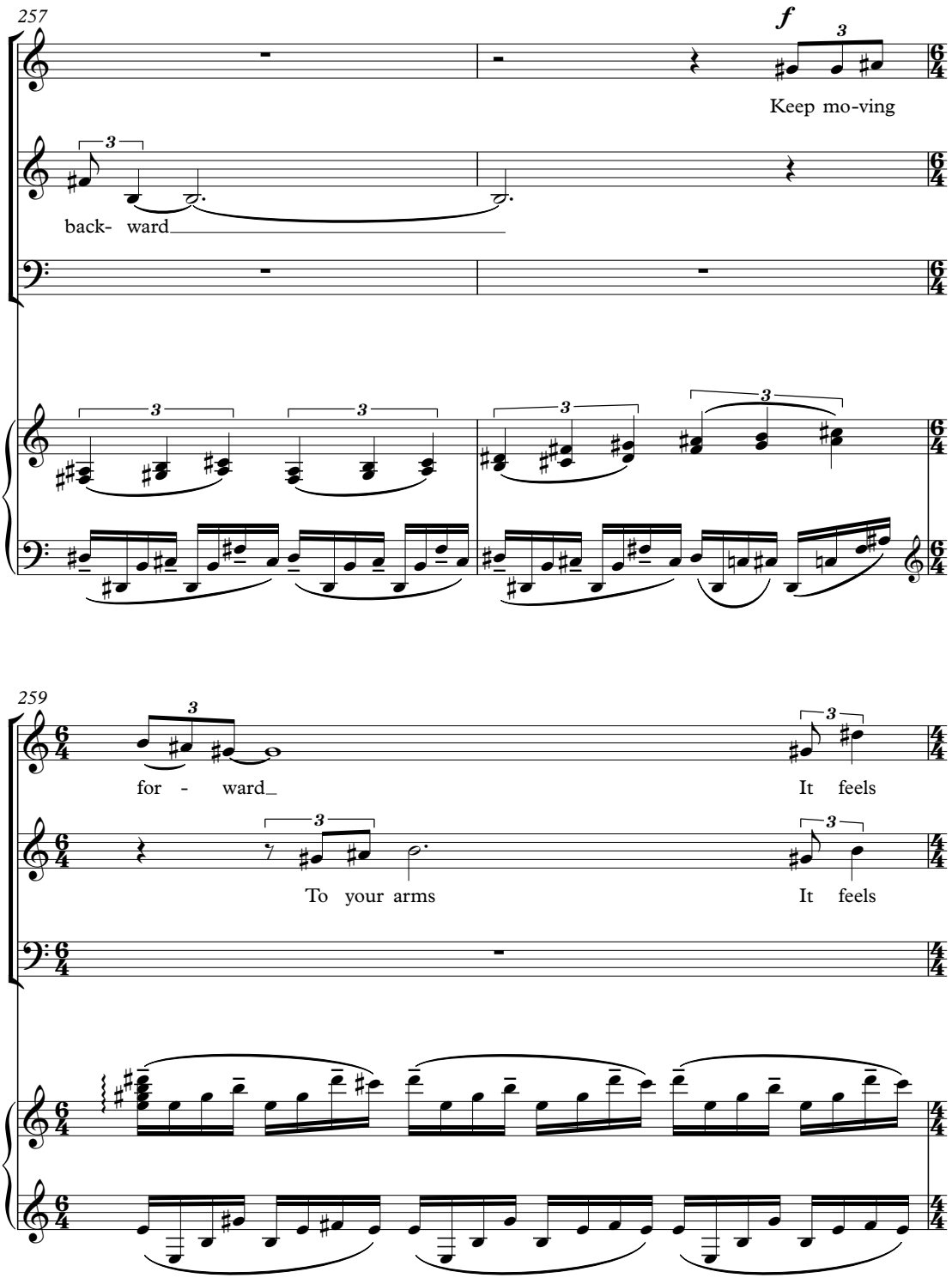

215
(spoken)
A man?
(spoken)
We did
We
you're not
We can't
But we can't
220
can
(spoken)
In O - hi-o
I mean
mp
like a whisper
We can't
We're
p

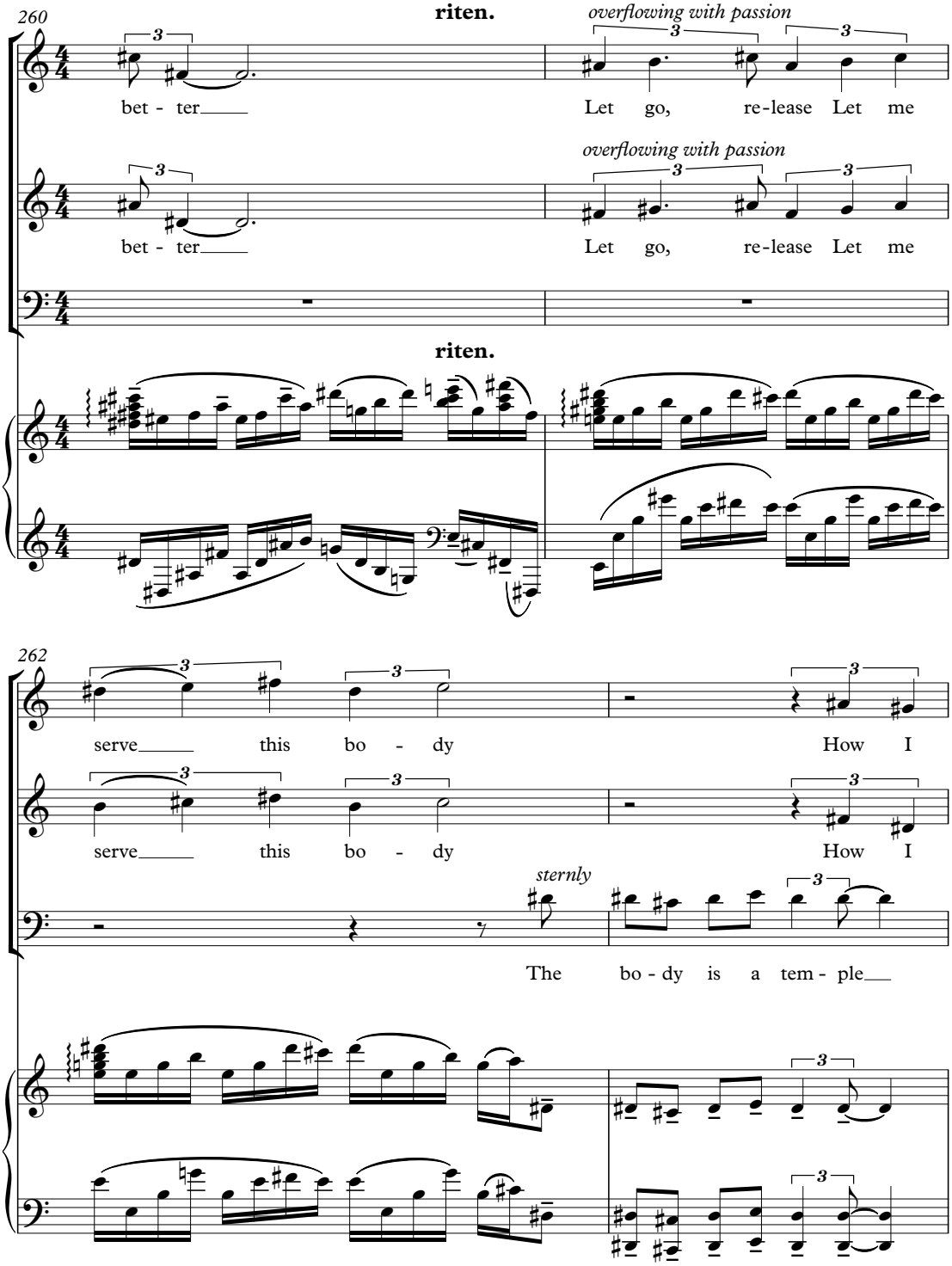

225
so far out - side A-ny line A-ny rule Of de - cen -
230
f
Do you want to go back In - side those
cy
f

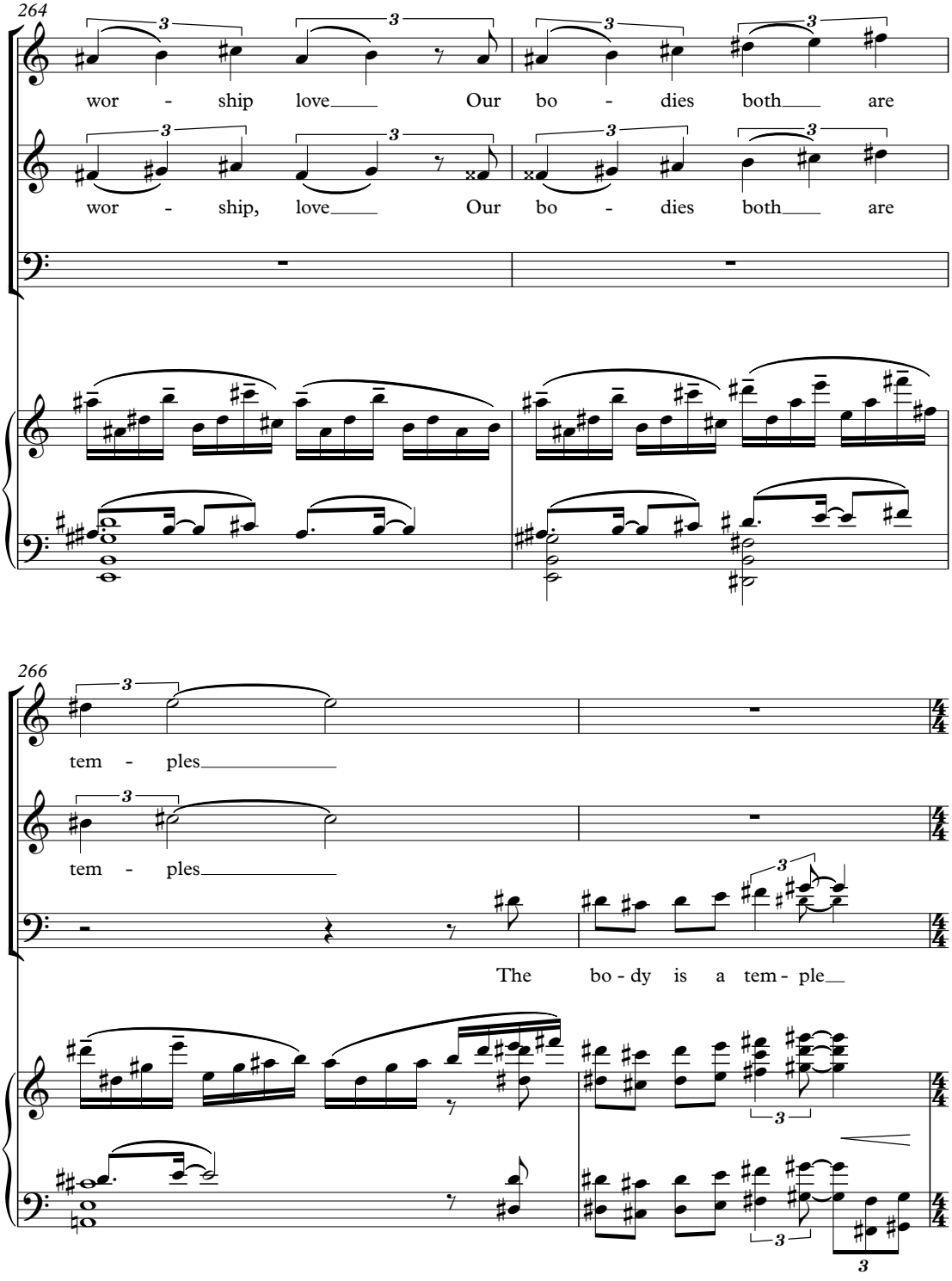

235
lines?
mp timidly
Yes
mp
rit.
240
I don't -
rit.

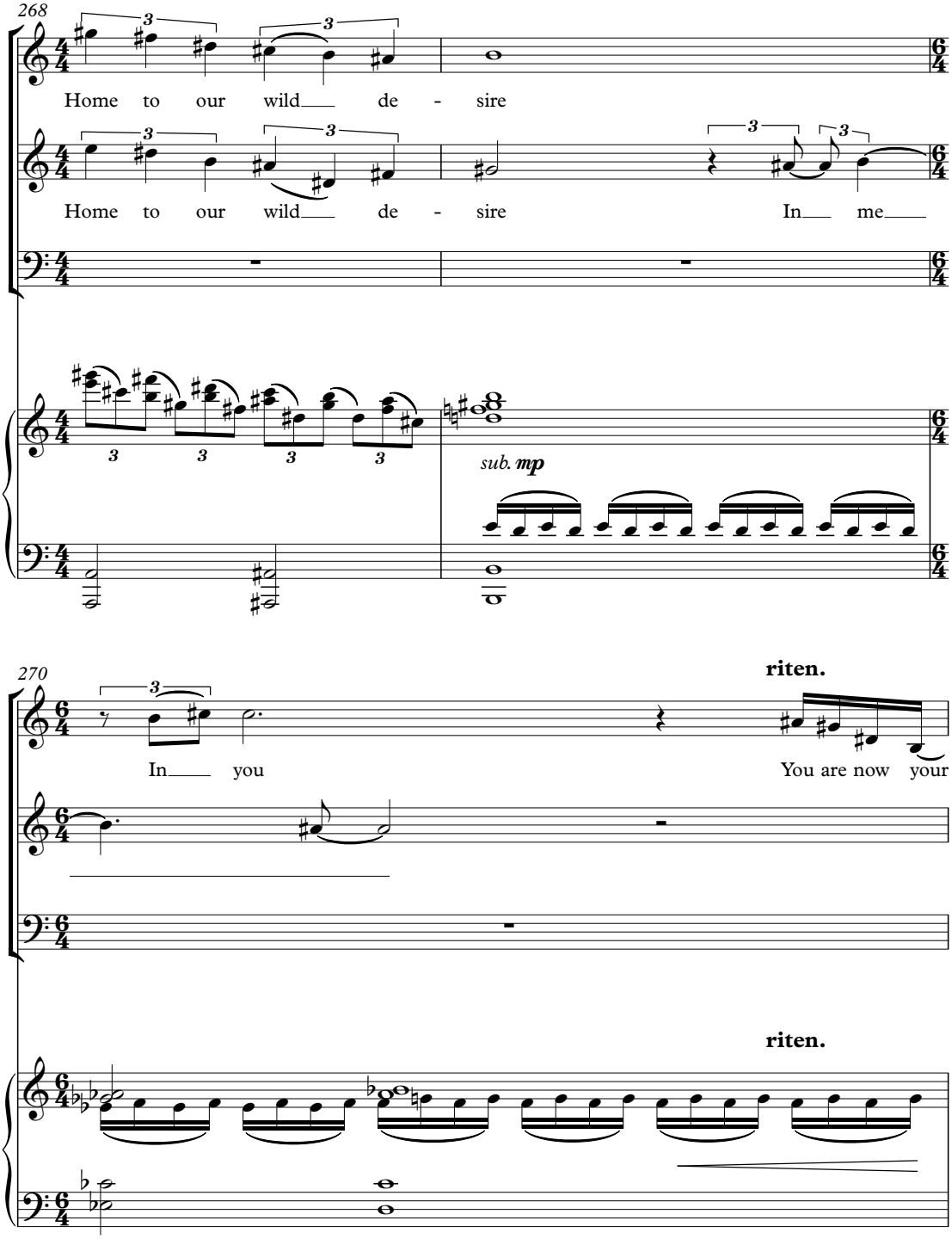

245 -
With quiet confidence ♩ = 80
mf
Then there you are
(spoken)
more confidently
No
With quiet confidence ♩ = 80
mp
249
Peacefully, gradually
building intensity ♩ = 86
mf
I've been mo - ving a - way from it For so
Peacefully, gradually
building intensity ♩ = 86
mf

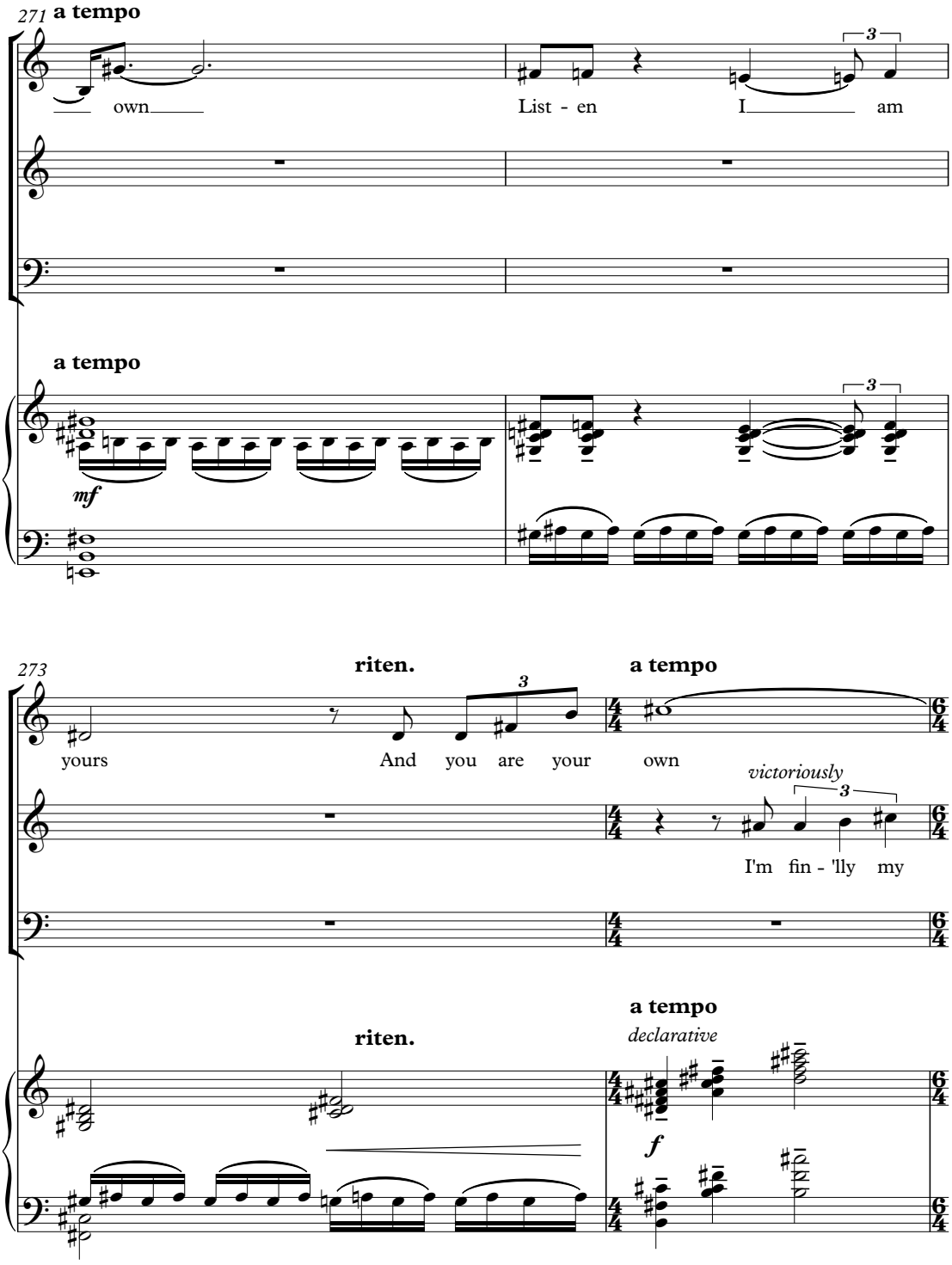

252
poco accel.
riten.
Co - ming to-ward me
long
And though that
poco accel.
riten.
255
a tempo
voice
It calls me
a tempo

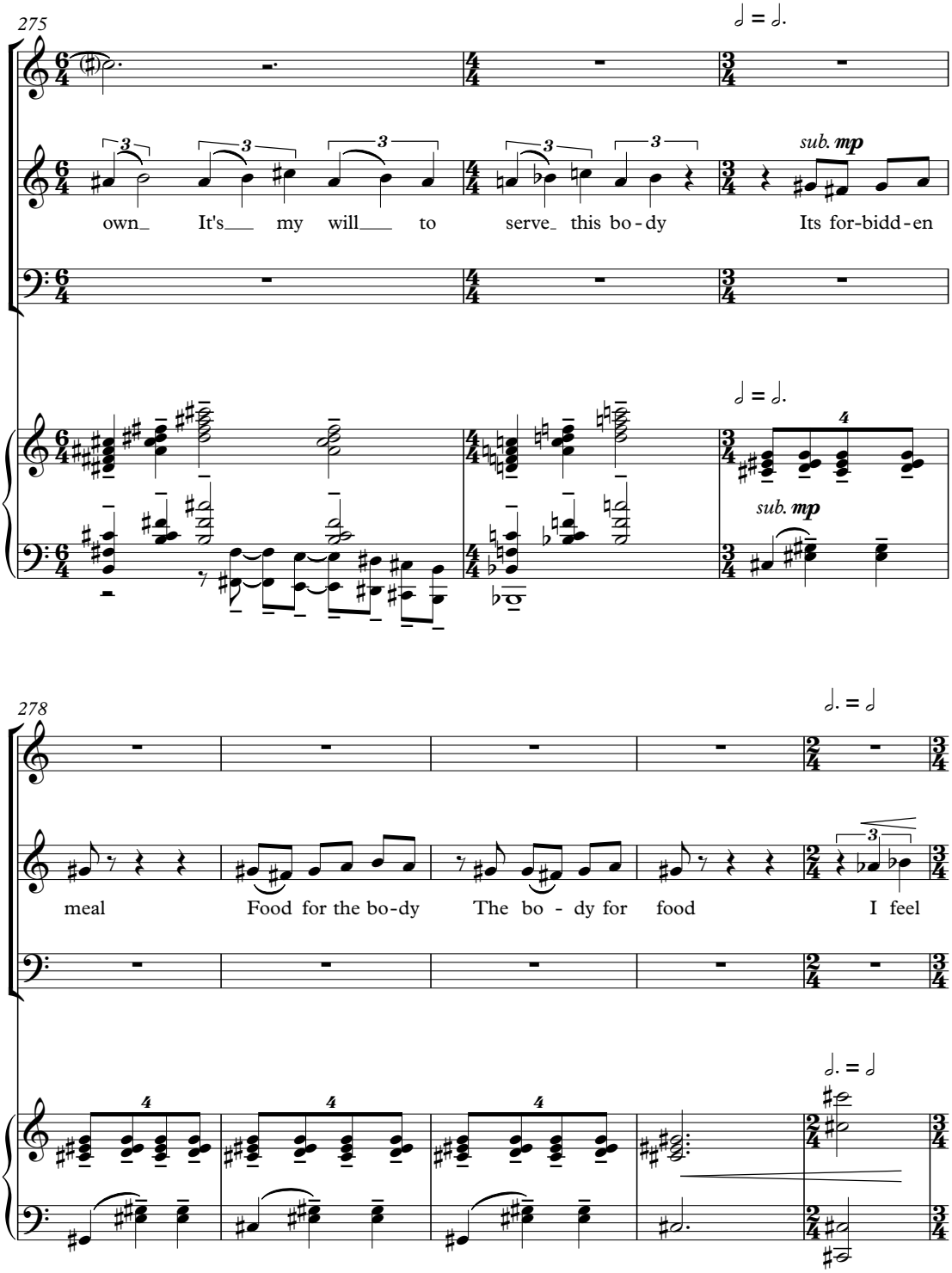

257
f
Keep mo-ving
back- ward
259
for - ward
It feels
To your arms
It feels

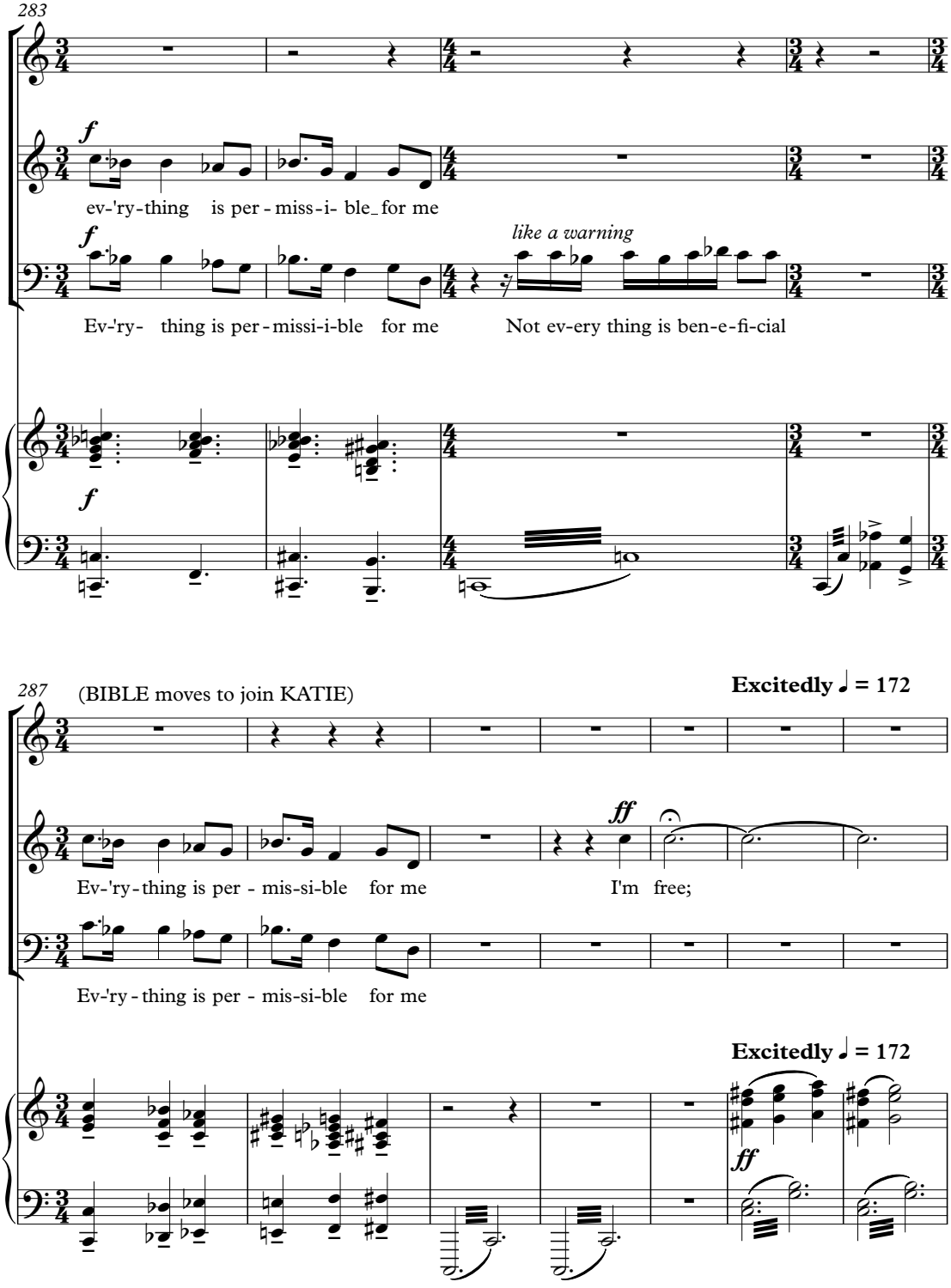

260
riten.
overflowing with passion
bet - ter
Let go, re-lease Let me
overflowing with passion
bet - ter
Let go, re-lease Let me
riten.
262
serve this bo - dy
How I
serve this bo - dy
How I
sternly
The bo - dy is a tem - ple

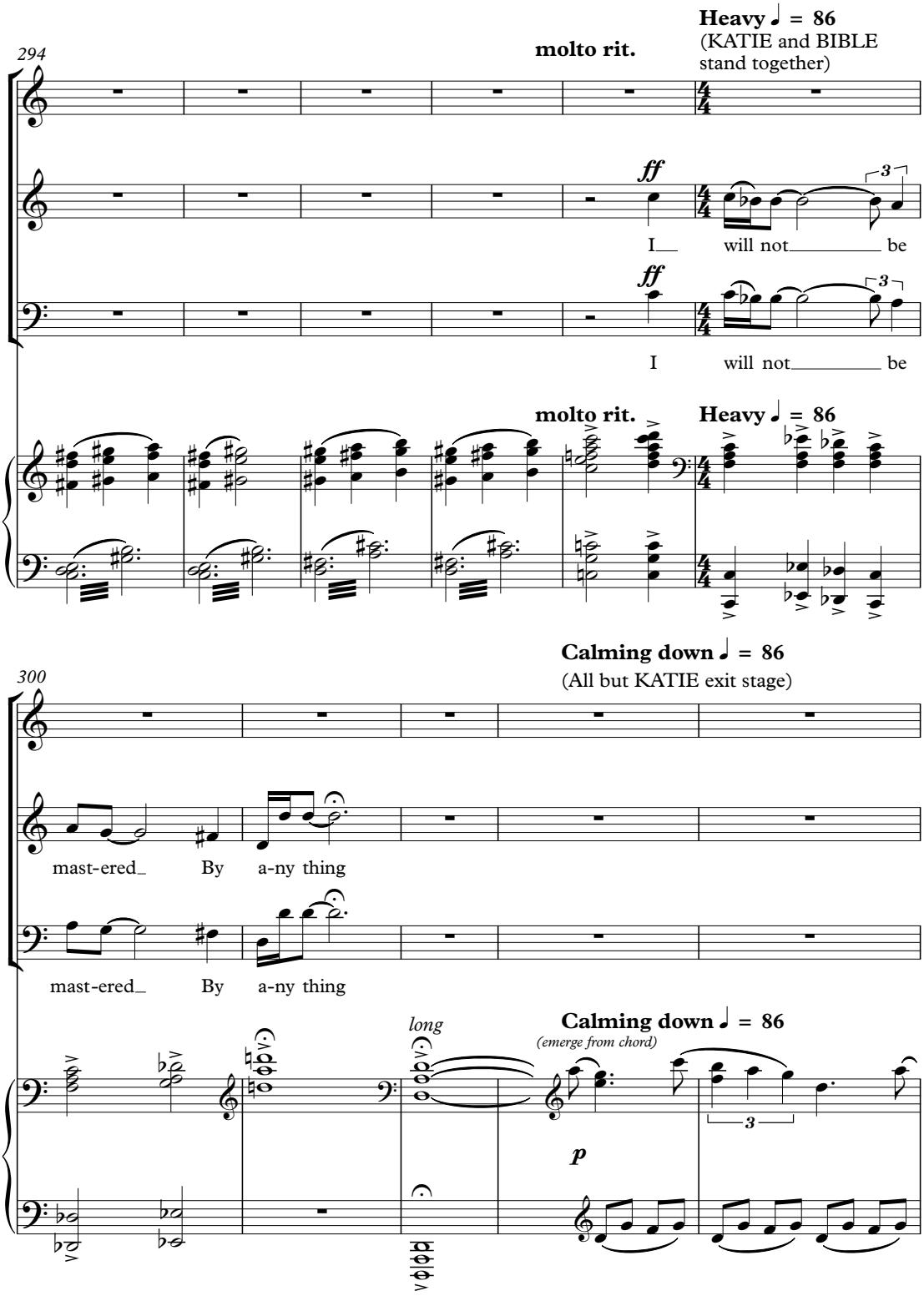

264
wor - ship love Our bo - dies both are
wor - ship, love Our bo - dies both are
266
tem - ples
tem - ples
The bo - dy is a tem - ple

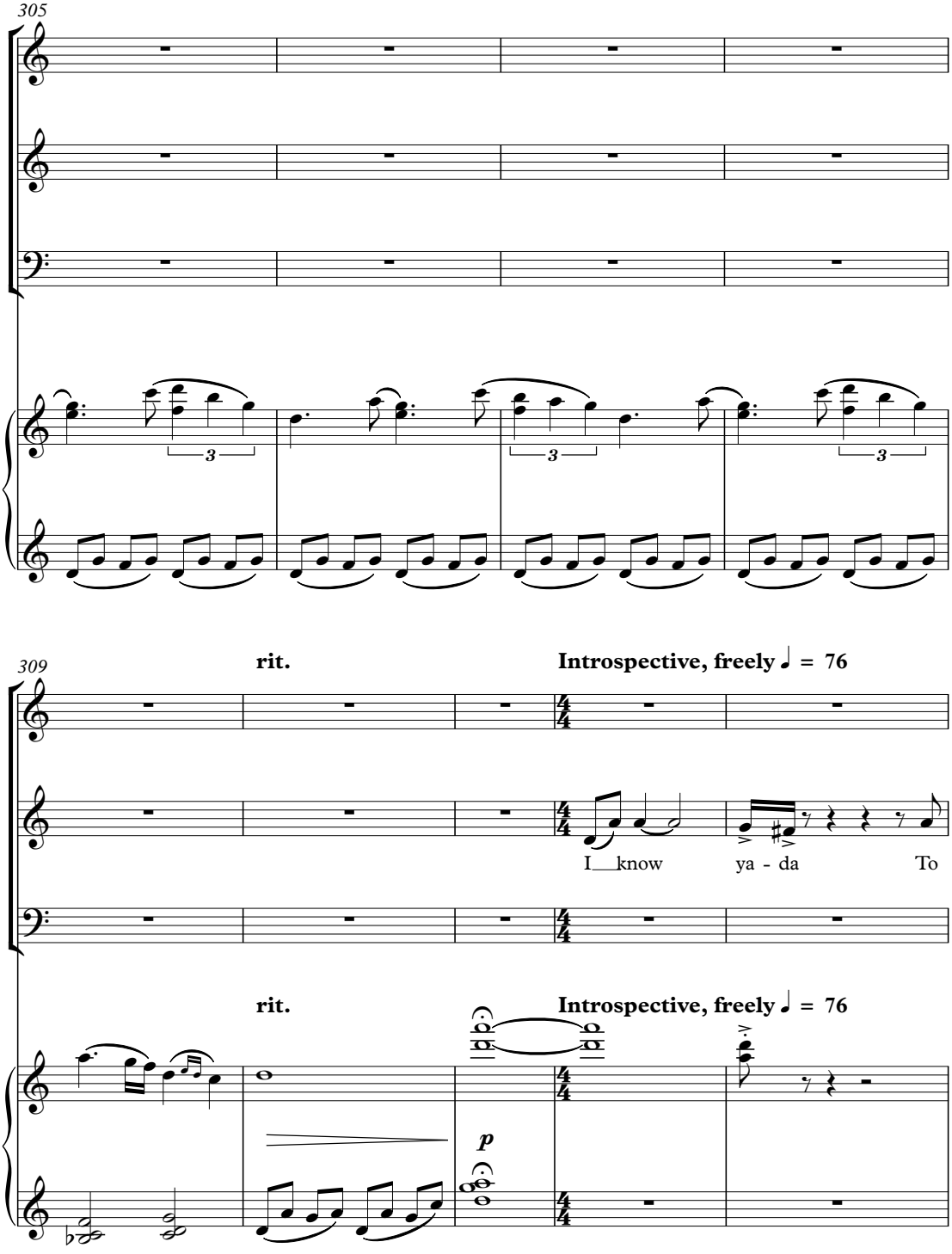

268
Home to our wild de - sire
Home to our wild de - sire In me
sub. mp
270
riten.
In you
You are now your
riten.

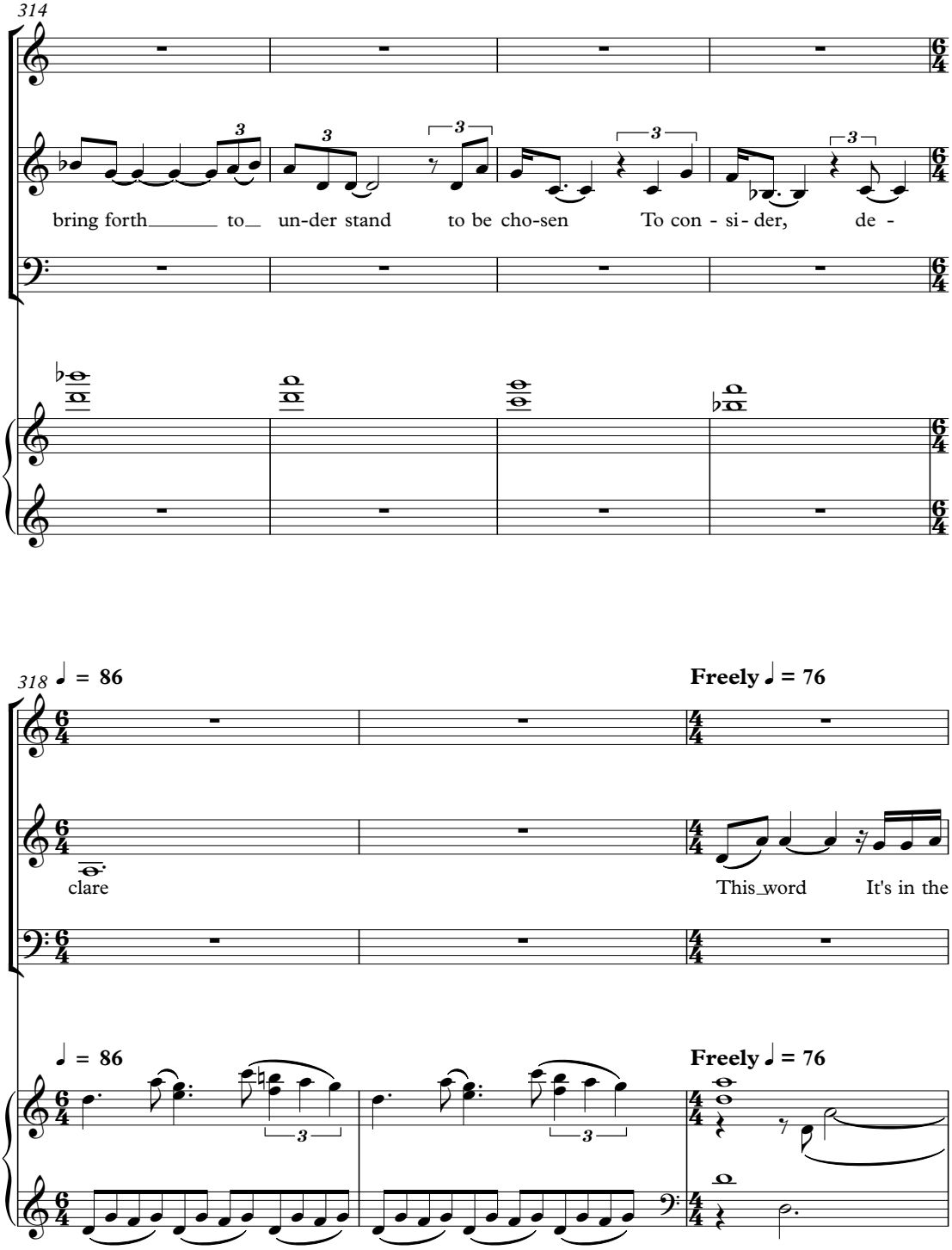

271
a tempo
own
List - en
I
am
a tempo
mf
273
riten.
a tempo
yours
And you are your own
victoriously
I'm fin - 'lly my
riten.
a tempo
declarative
f

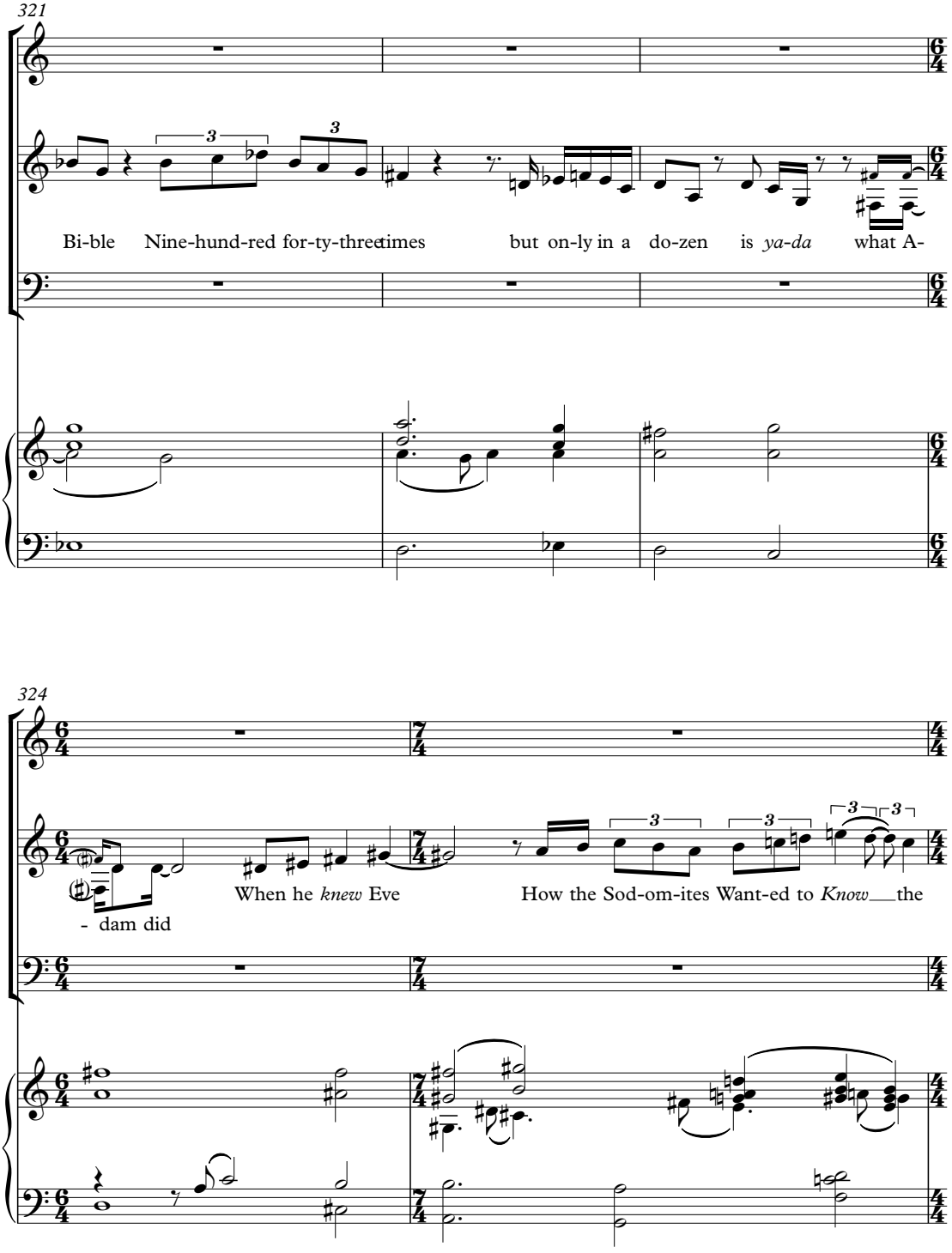

275
own_ It's___ my will___ to serve_ this bo - dy Its for-bidd - en
sub. mp
sub. mp
278
meal Food for the bo-dy The bo - dy for food I feel

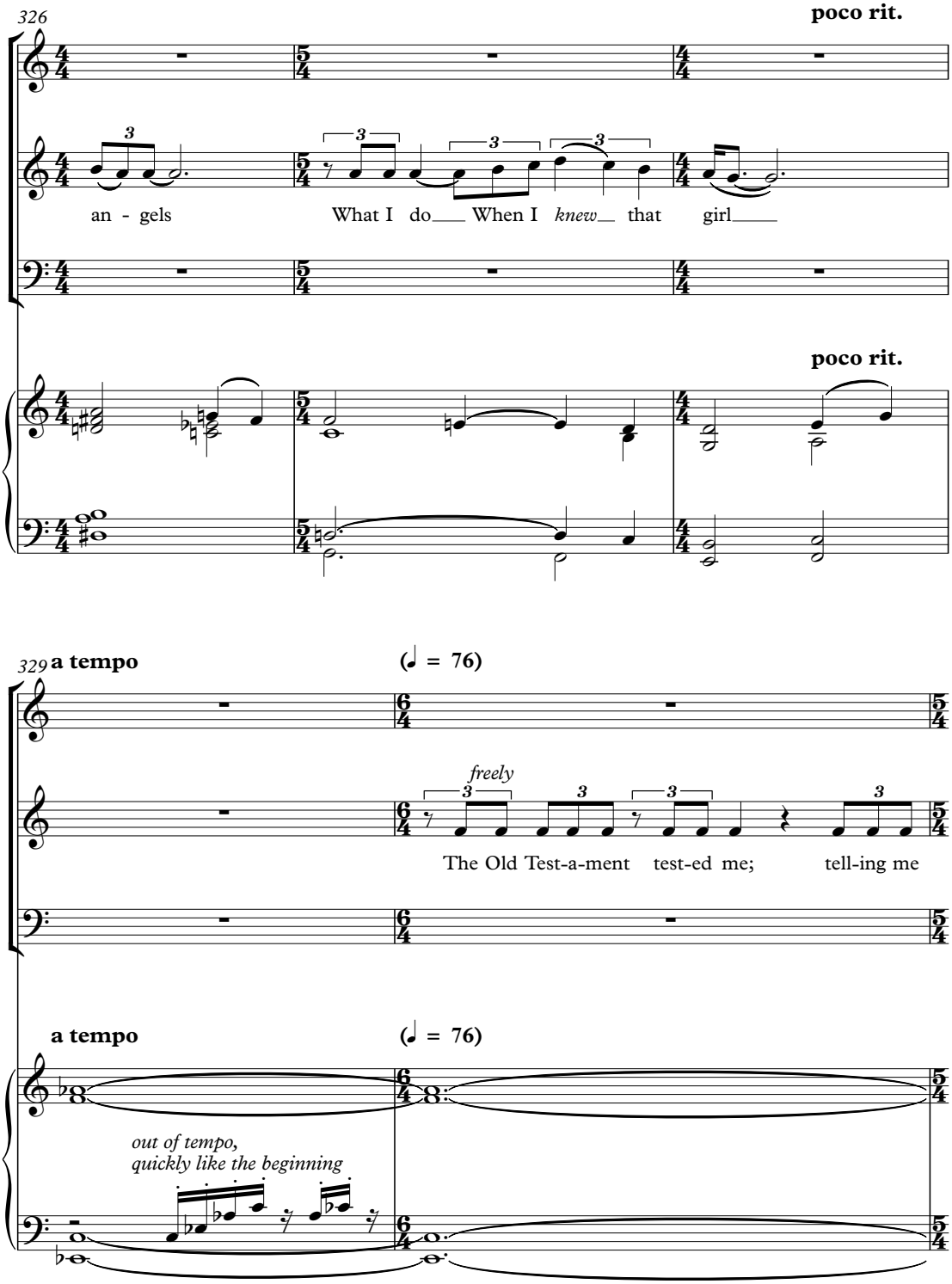

283
f
ev-'ry-thing is per-miss-i-ble_for me
f
like a warning
Ev-'ry- thing is per-missi-i-ble for me
Not ev-ery thing is ben-e-fi-cial
f
287
(BIBLE moves to join KATIE)
Excitedly ♩ = 172
ff
Ev-'ry-thing is per-mis-si-ble for me
I'm free;
Ev-'ry-thing is per-mis-si-ble for me
Excitedly ♩ = 172
ff

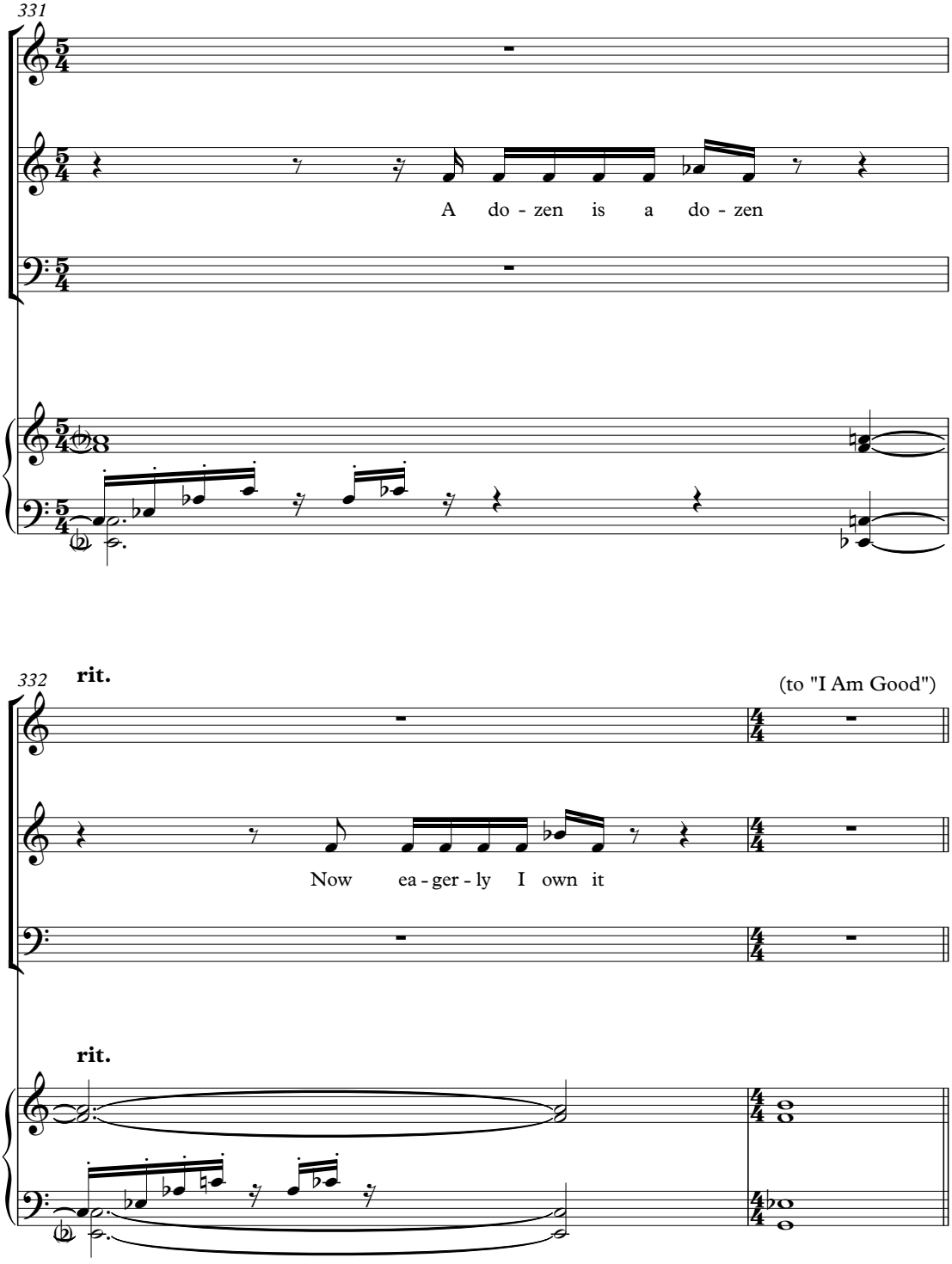

294
molto rit.
Heavy ♩ = 86
(KATIE and BIBLE stand together)
ff
I will not be
ff
I will not be
molto rit.
Heavy ♩ = 86
300
Calming down ♩ = 86
(All but KATIE exit stage)
mast-ered By a-ny thing
mast-ered By a-ny thing
long
Calming down ♩ = 86
(emerge from chord)
p


305
309
rit.
Introspective, freely ♩ = 76
I know ya - da To
rit.
Introspective, freely ♩ = 76
p

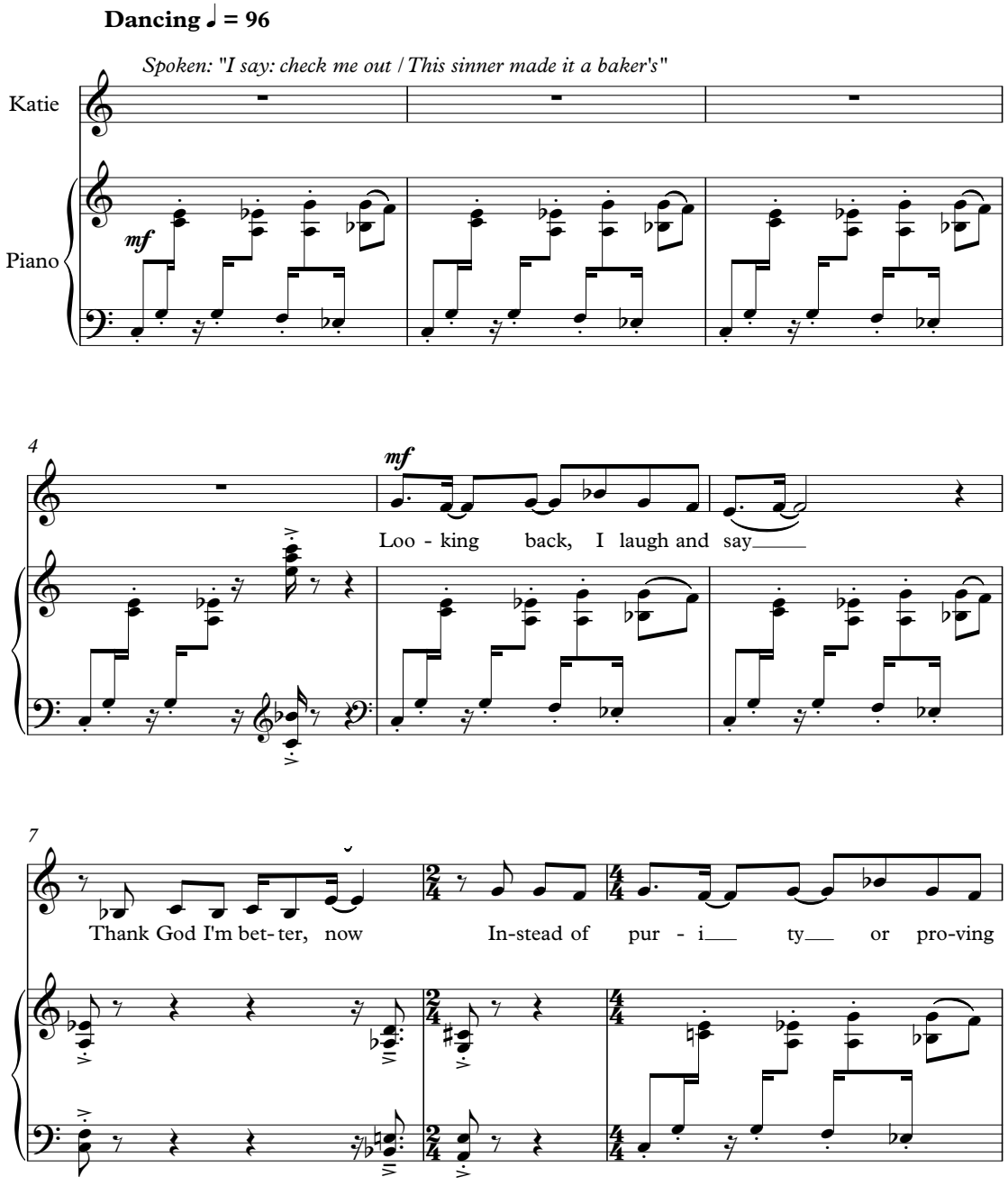

314
bring forth to un-der stand to be cho-sen To con - si - der, de -
318
♩ = 86
Freely ♩ = 76
clare
This word It's in the
♩ = 86
Freely ♩ = 76

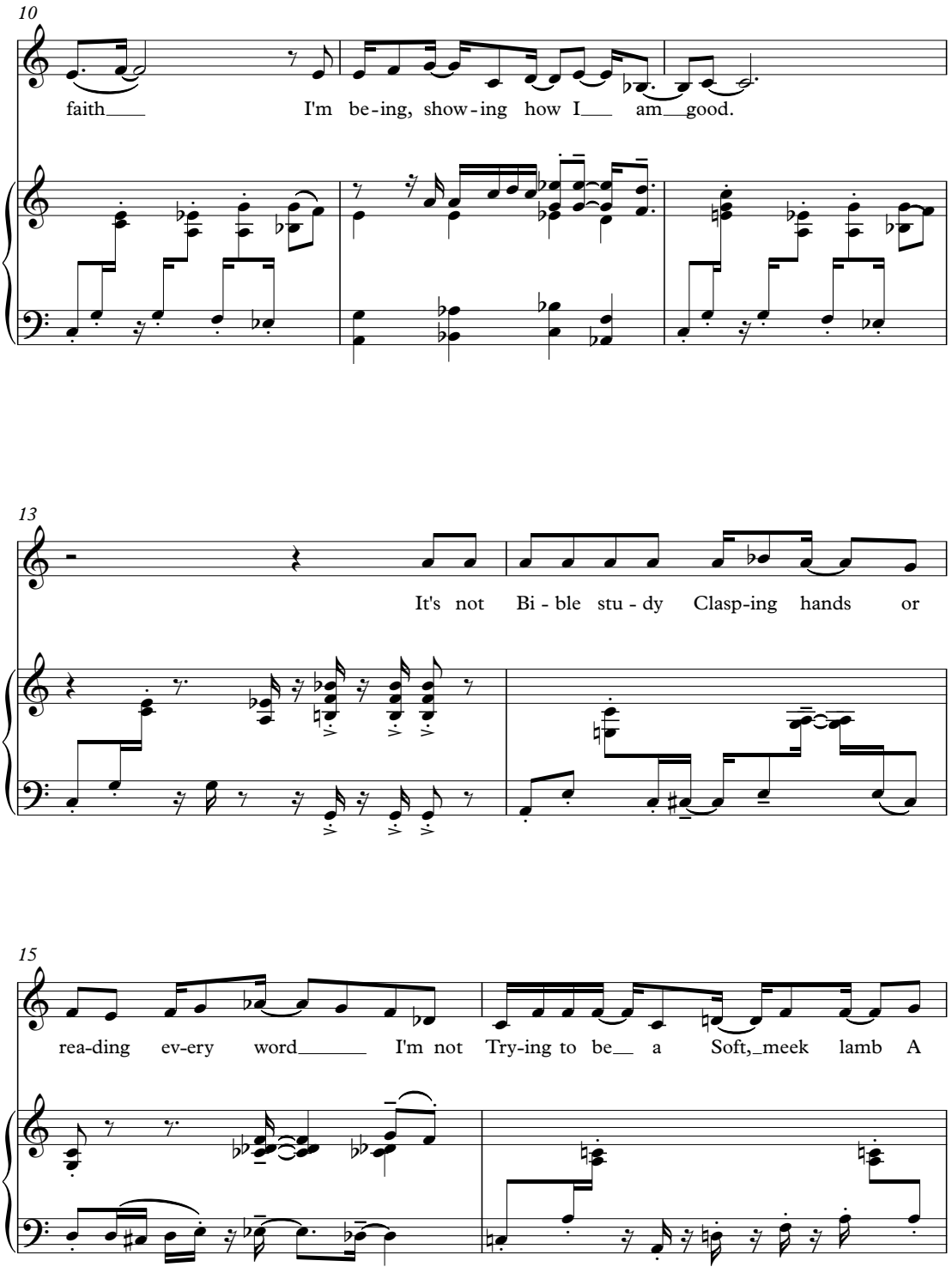

321
Bi-ble Nine-hund-red for-ty-threetimes but on-ly in a do-zen is *ya-da* what A-
324
- dam did
When he *knew* Eve
How the Sod-om-ites Want-ed to *Know*__the

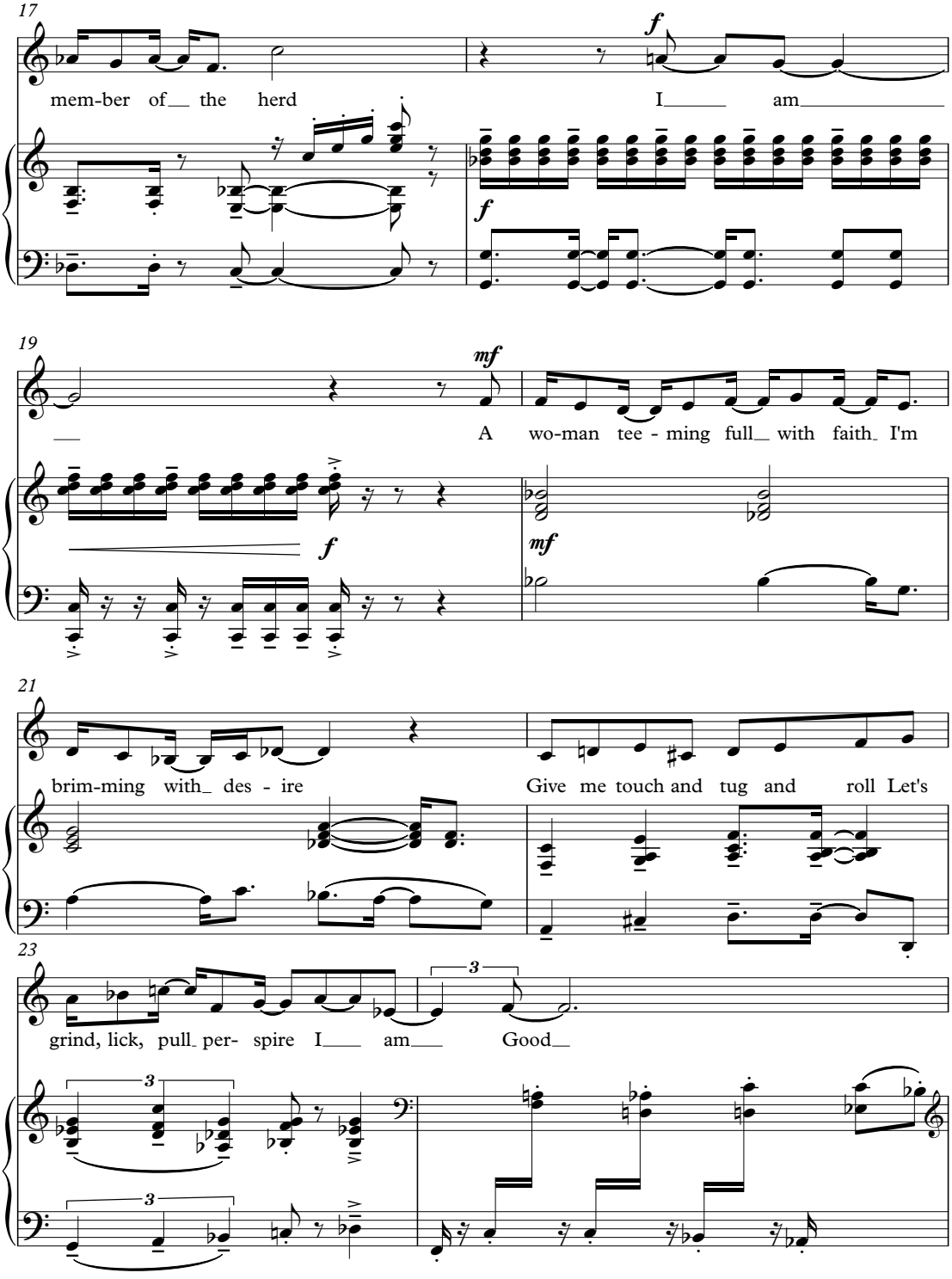

326
poco rit.
an - gels
What I do When I knew that girl
poco rit.
329 a tempo
(♩ = 76)
freely
The Old Test-a-ment test-ed me; tell-ing me
a tempo
(♩ = 76)
out of tempo,
quickly like the beginning

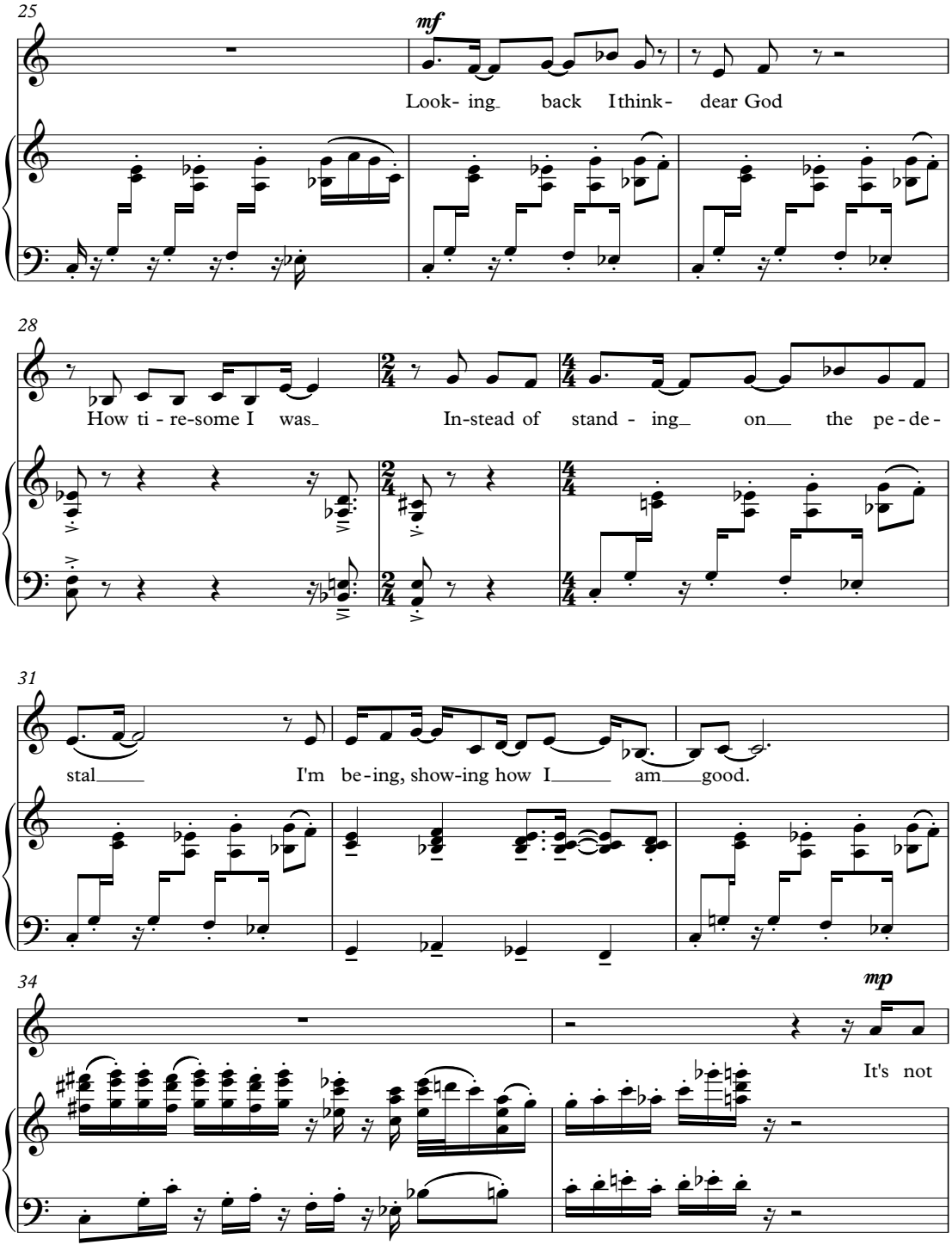

331
A do - zen is a do - zen
332
rit.
(to "I Am Good")
Now ea - ger - ly I own it
rit.

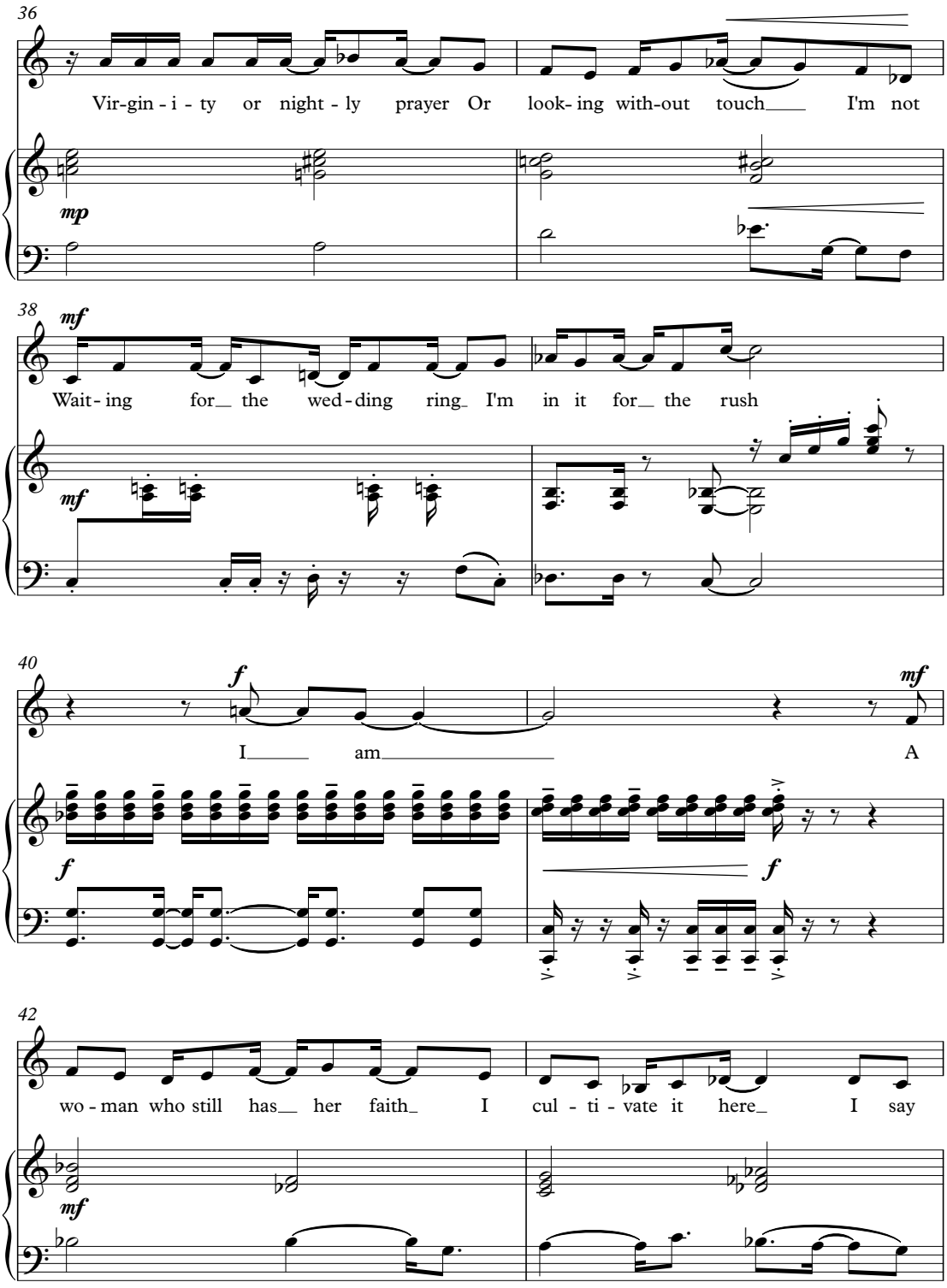
I Am Good

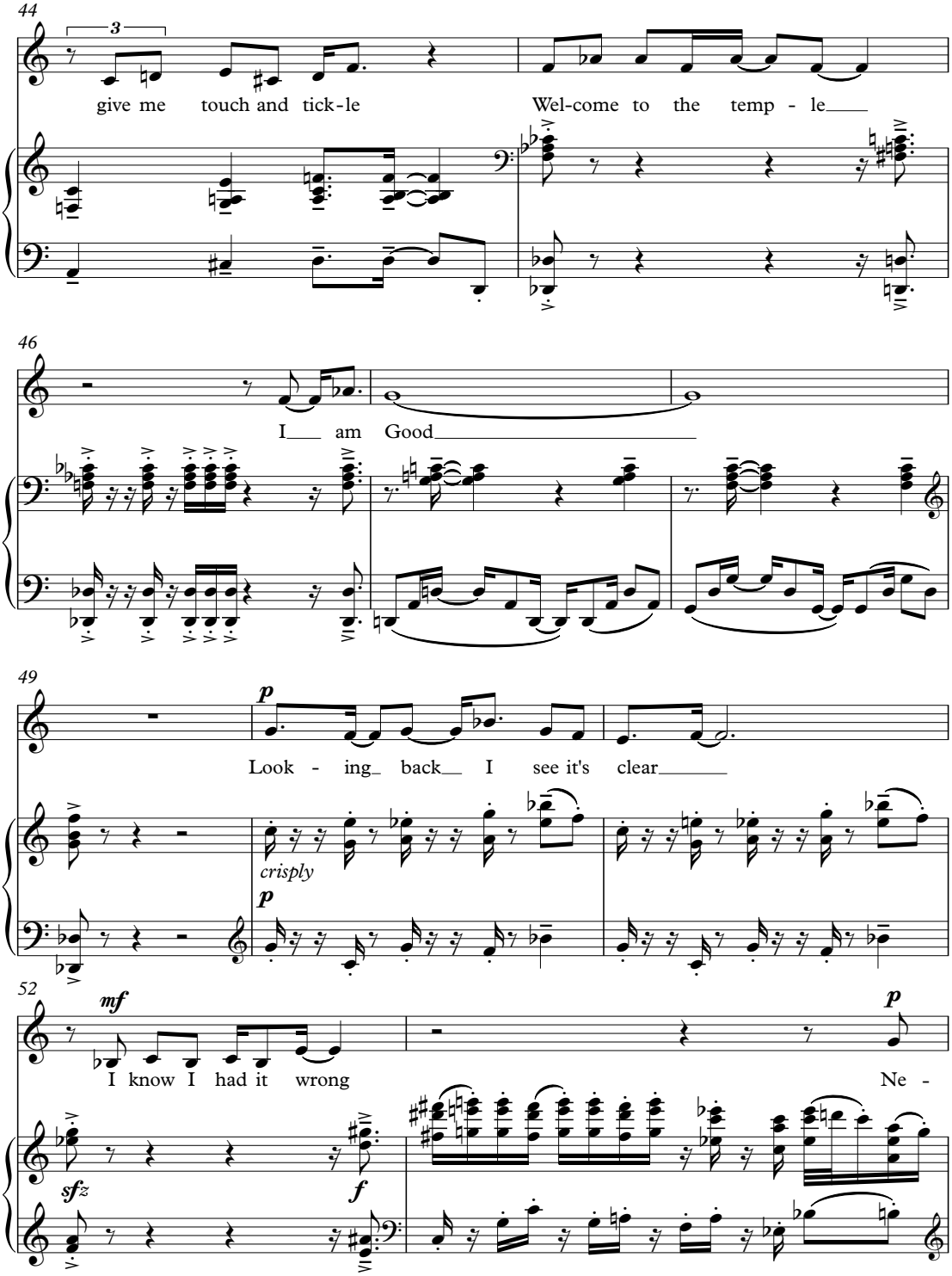

Dancing ♩ = 96
Spoken: "I say: check me out / This sinner made it a baker's"
Katie
Piano
mf
4
mf
Loo - king back, I laugh and say
7
Thank God I'm bet- ter, now
In-stead of pur - i ty or pro-ving

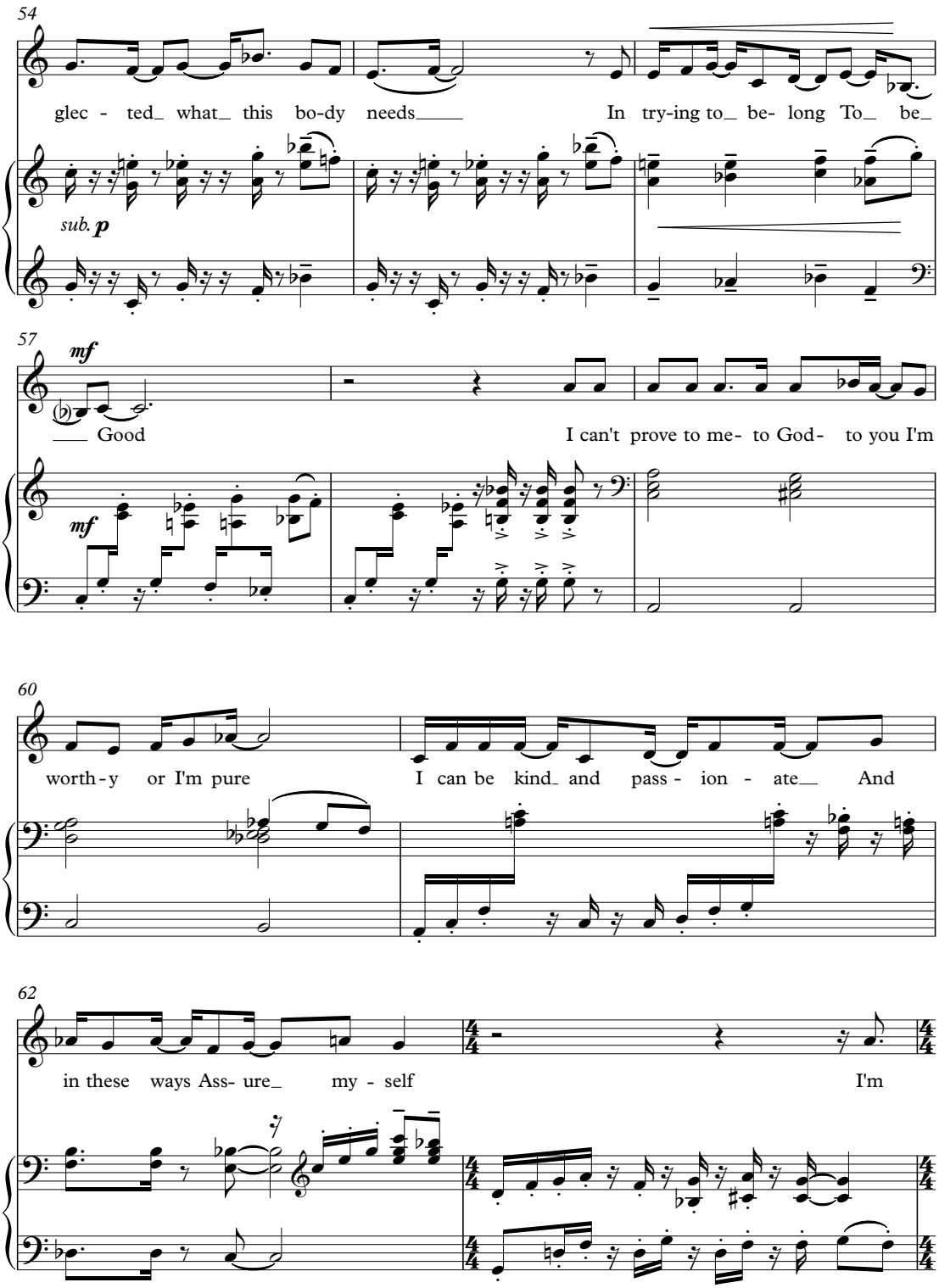

10
faith
I'm be-ing, show-ing how I am good.
13
It's not Bi - ble stu - dy Clasp-ing hands or
15
rea-ding ev-ery word
I'm not Try-ing to be a Soft, meek lamb A

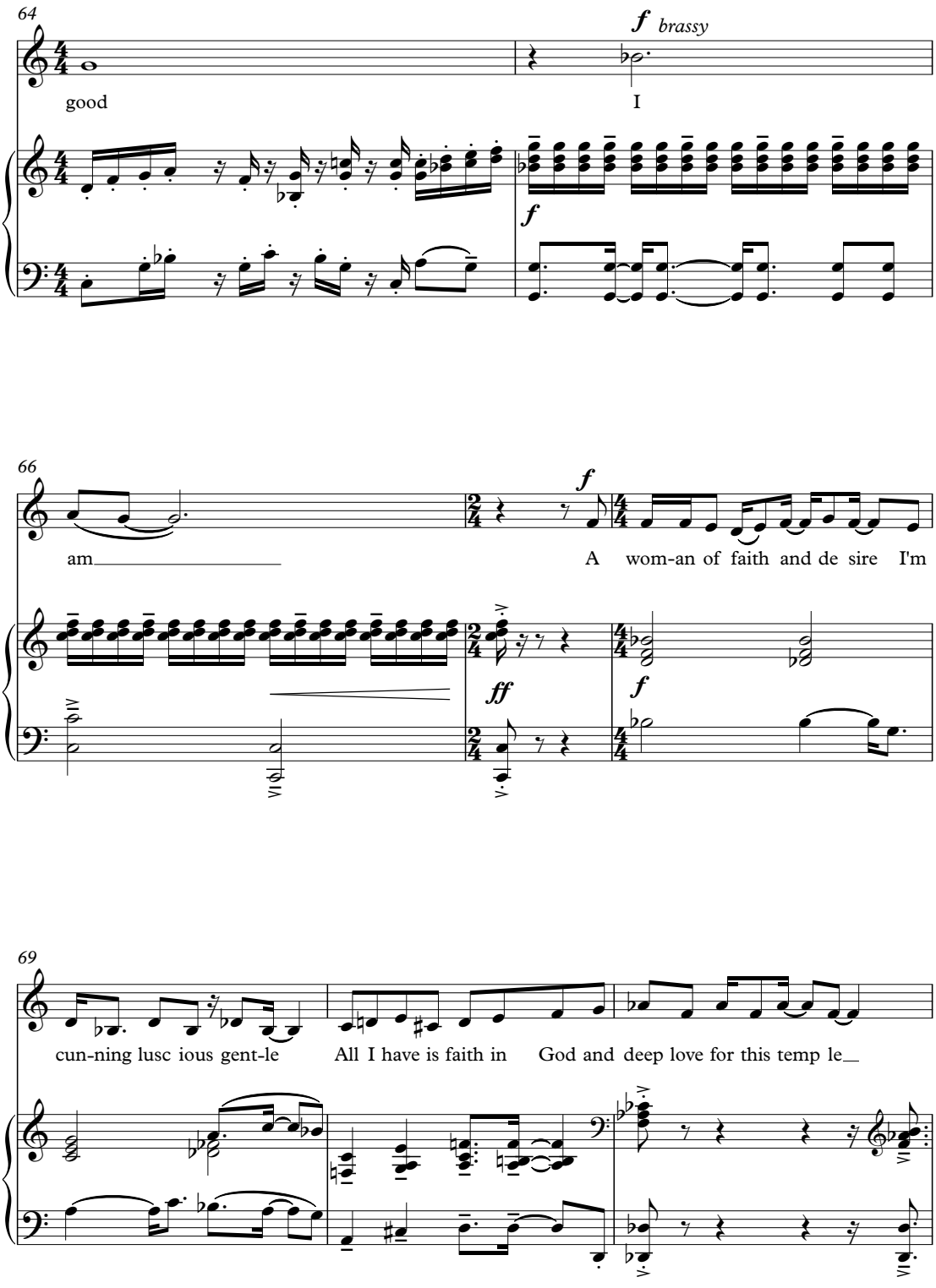

17
mem-ber of the herd
I am
f
f
19
mf
A wo-man tee - ming full with faith I'm
f
mf
21
brim-ming with des - ire
Give me touch and tug and roll Let's
23
grind, lick, pull per- spire I am Good
3
3
3

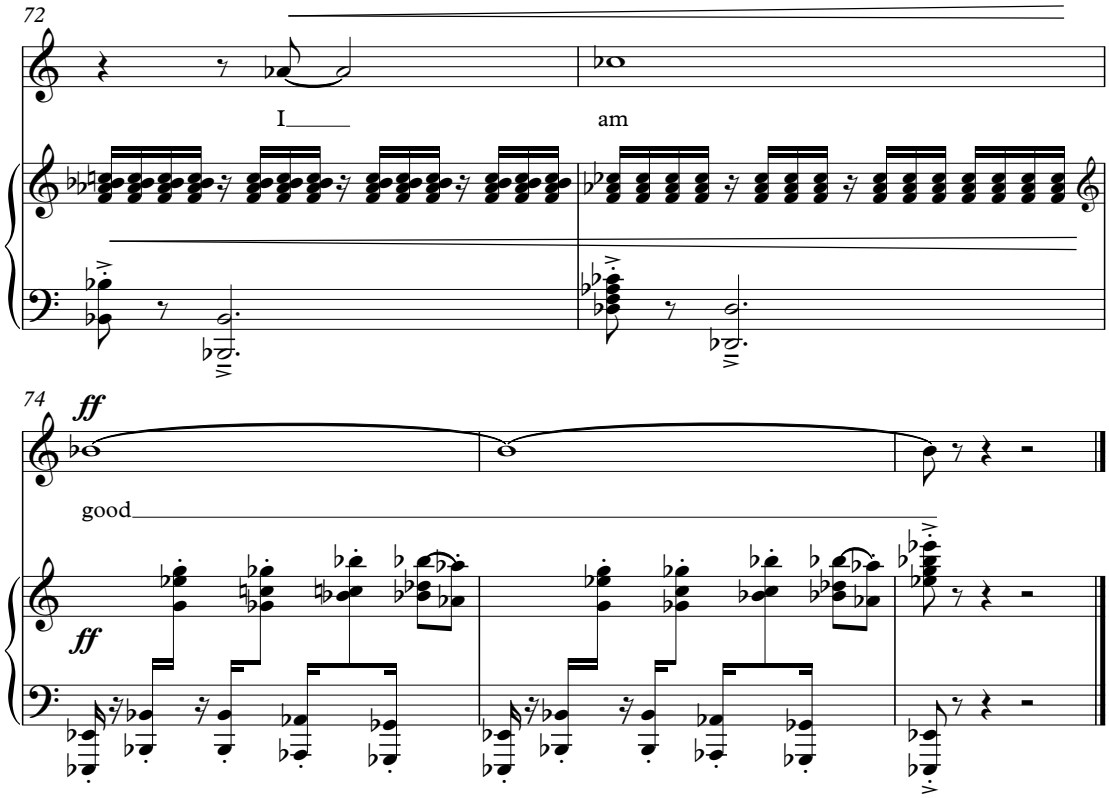

25
mf
Look- ing back I think- dear God
28
How ti - re-some I was
In-stead of stand - ing on the pe - de -
31
stal
I'm be-ing, show-ing how I am good.
34
mp
It's not


36
Vir-gin - i - ty or night - ly prayer Or look- ing with-out touch I'm not
mp
38
mf
Wait - ing for the wed - ding ring I'm in it for the rush
mf
40
f
I am
mf
A
f
f
42
wo - man who still has her faith I cul - ti - vate it here I say
mf

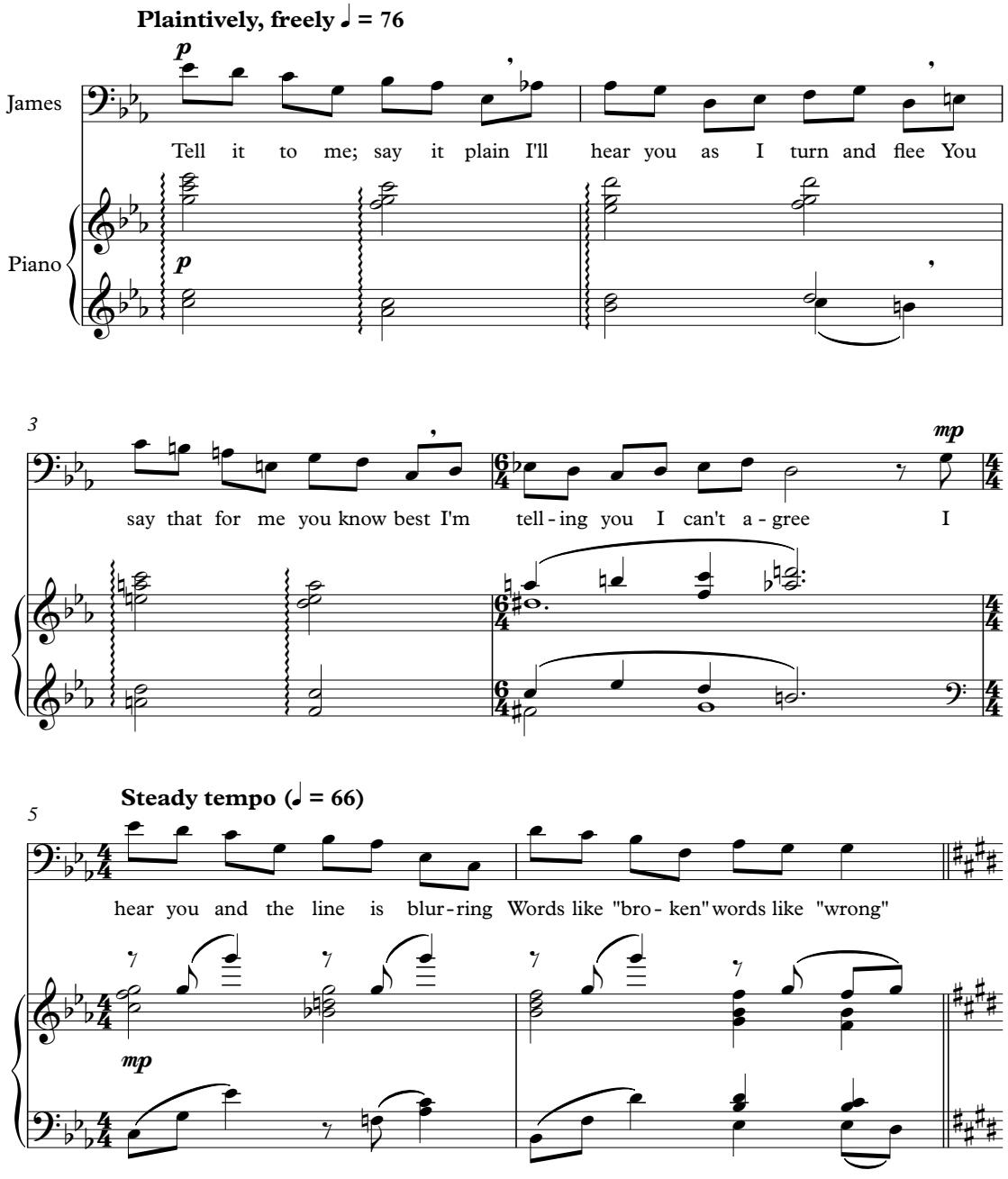

44
3
give me touch and tick-le
Wel-come to the temp - le
46
I am Good
49
p
Look - ing back I see it's clear
crisply
p
52
mf
I know I had it wrong
p
Ne -
sfz
f

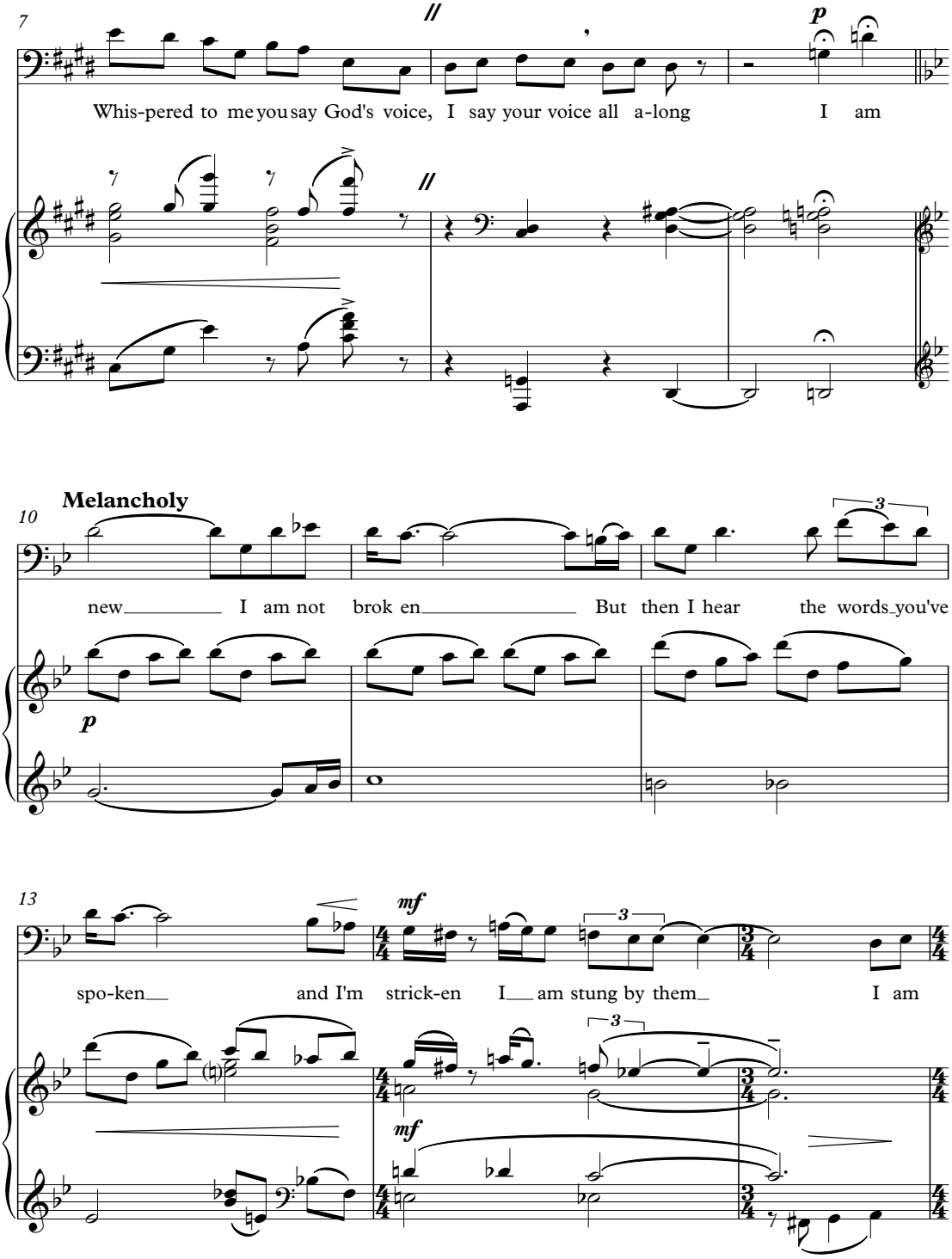

54
glec - ted_ what_ this bo-dy needs____ In try-ing to_ be- long To_ be_
sub. p
57
mf
___ Good I can't prove to me- to God- to you I'm
mf
60
worth-y or I'm pure I can be kind_ and pass - ion - ate__ And
62
in these ways Ass- ure_ my - self I'm

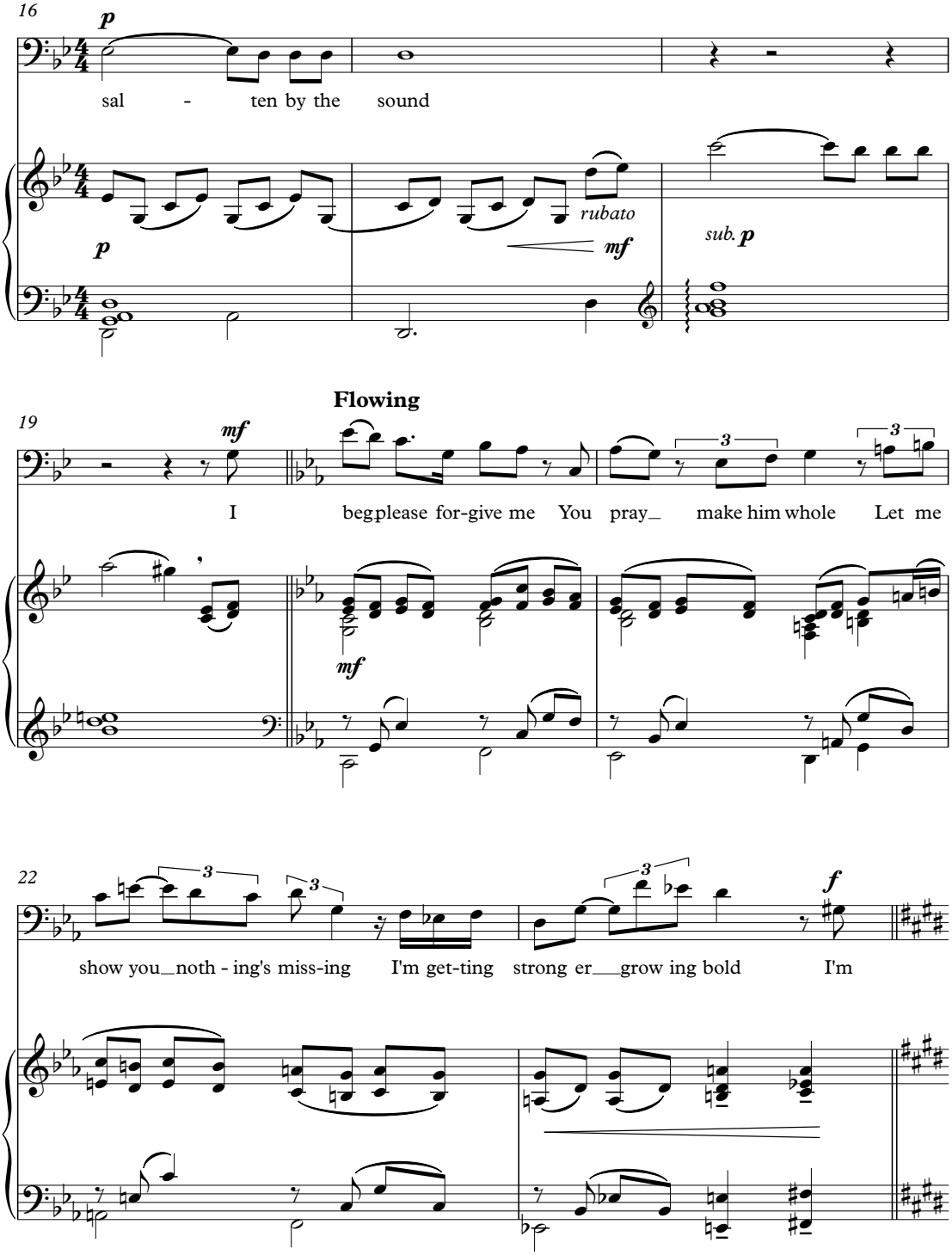

64
f brassy
good
I
f
66
f
am
A wom-an of faith and de sire I'm
ff
f
69
cun-ning lusc ious gent-le
All I have is faith in God and deep love for this temp le

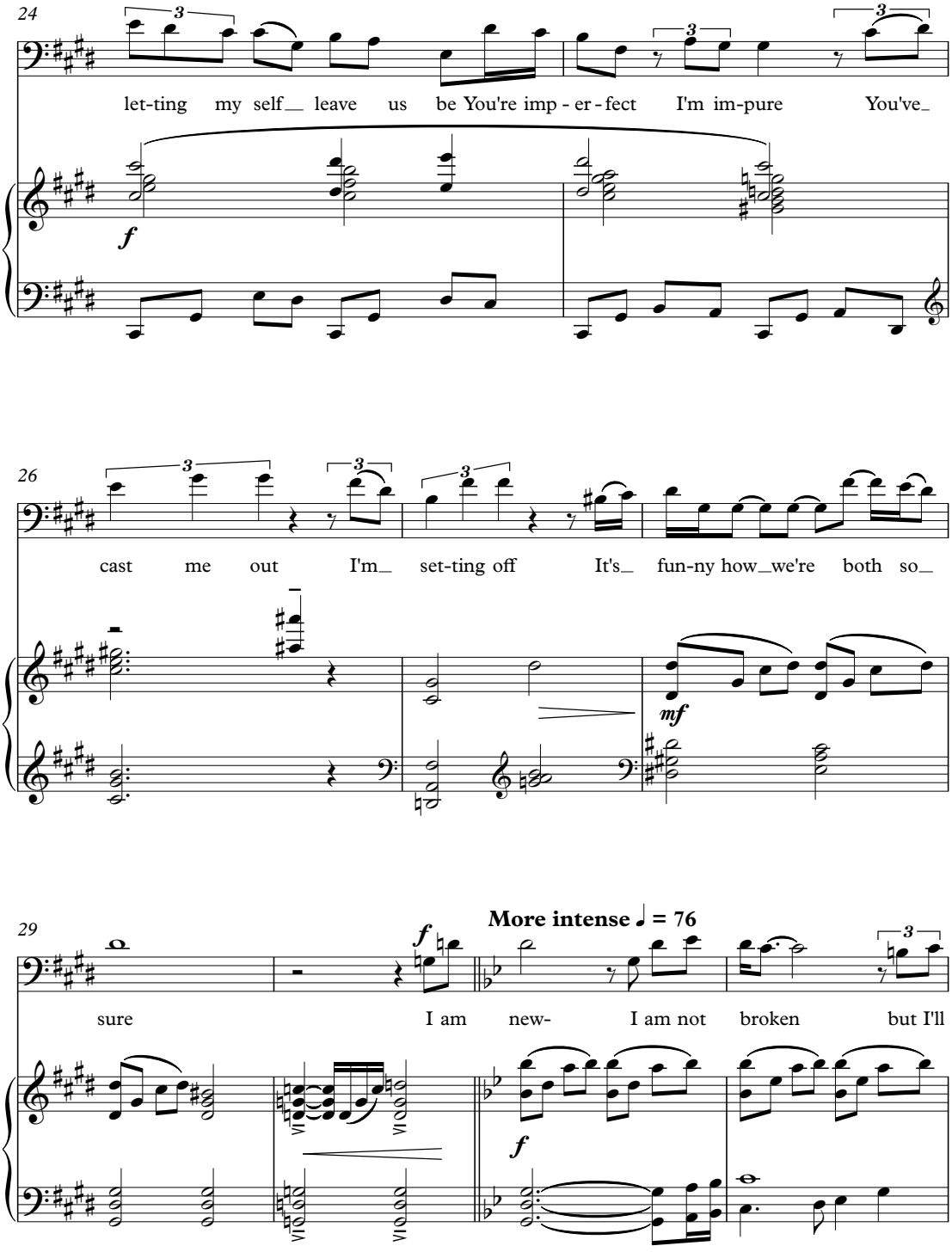

72
I
am
74
ff
good
ff

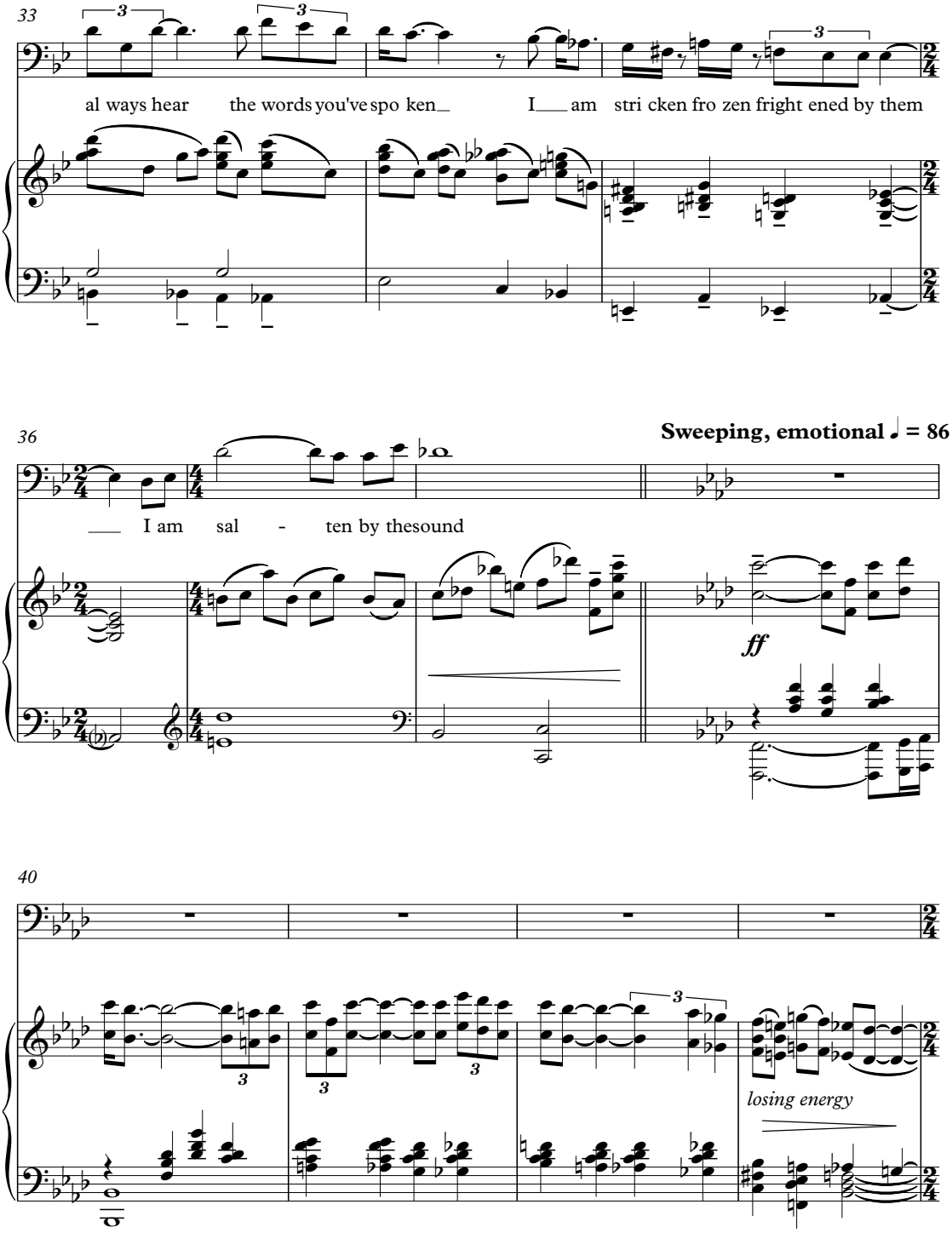
I Am New

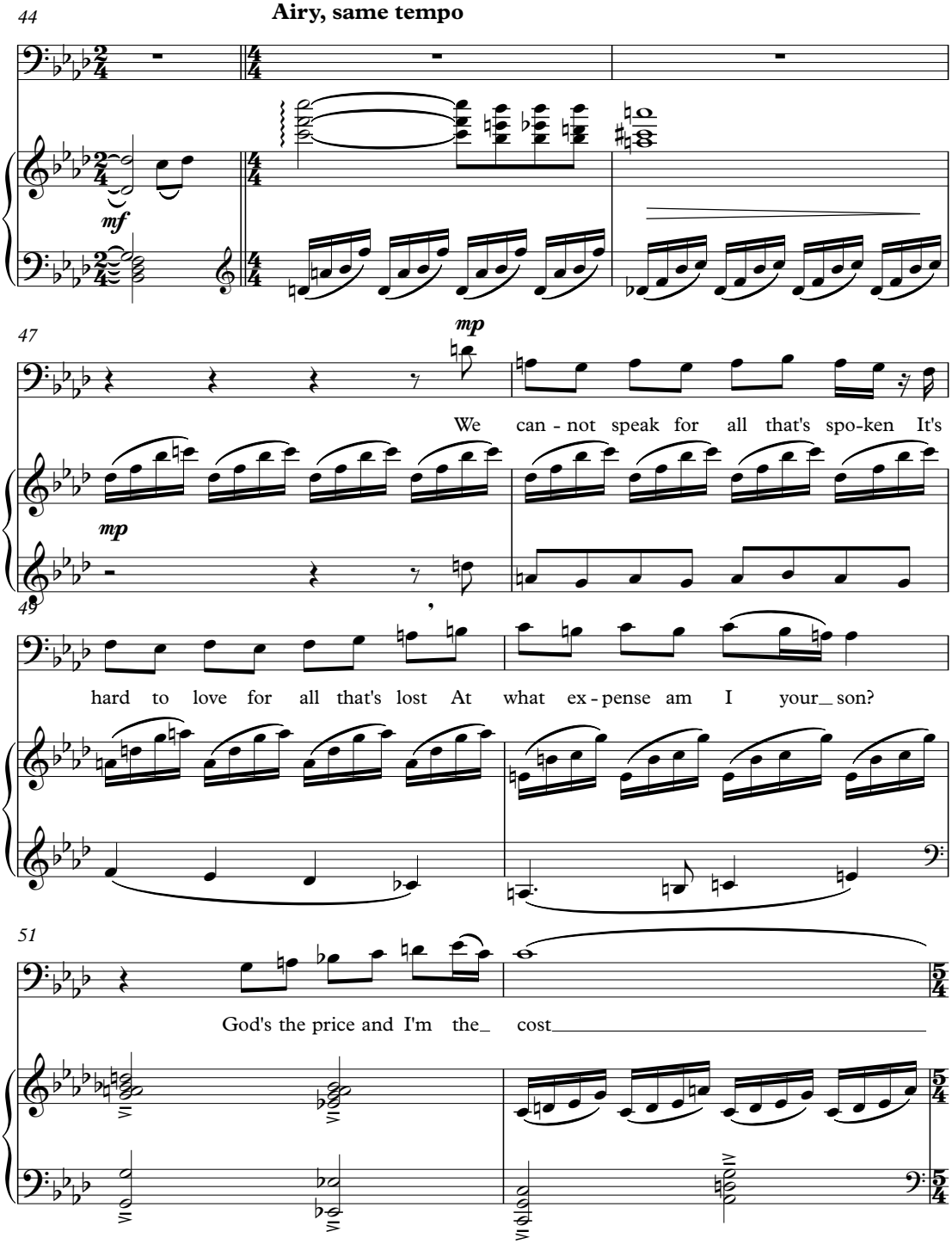

Plaintively, freely ♩ = 76
James
Piano
Tell it to me; say it plain I'll hear you as I turn and flee You
say that for me you know best I'm tell - ing you I can't a - gree I
Steady tempo (♩ = 66)
hear you and the line is blur - ring Words like "bro - ken" words like "wrong"

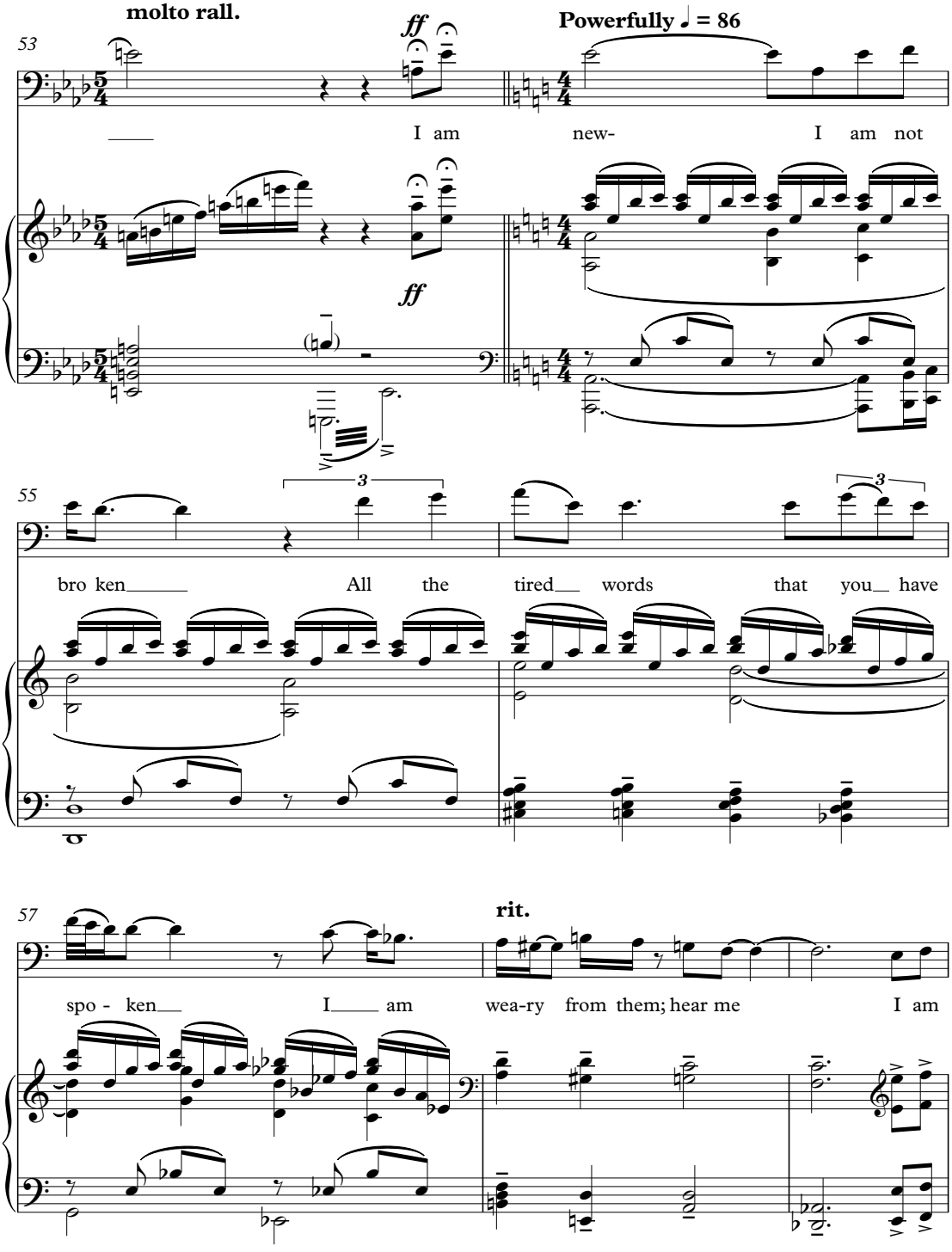

7
Whis-pered to me you say God's voice, I say your voice all a-long I am
p
10
Melancholy
new I am not brok en But then I hear the words you've
p
3
13
spo-ken and I'm strick-en I am stung by them I am
mf
mf
3
3

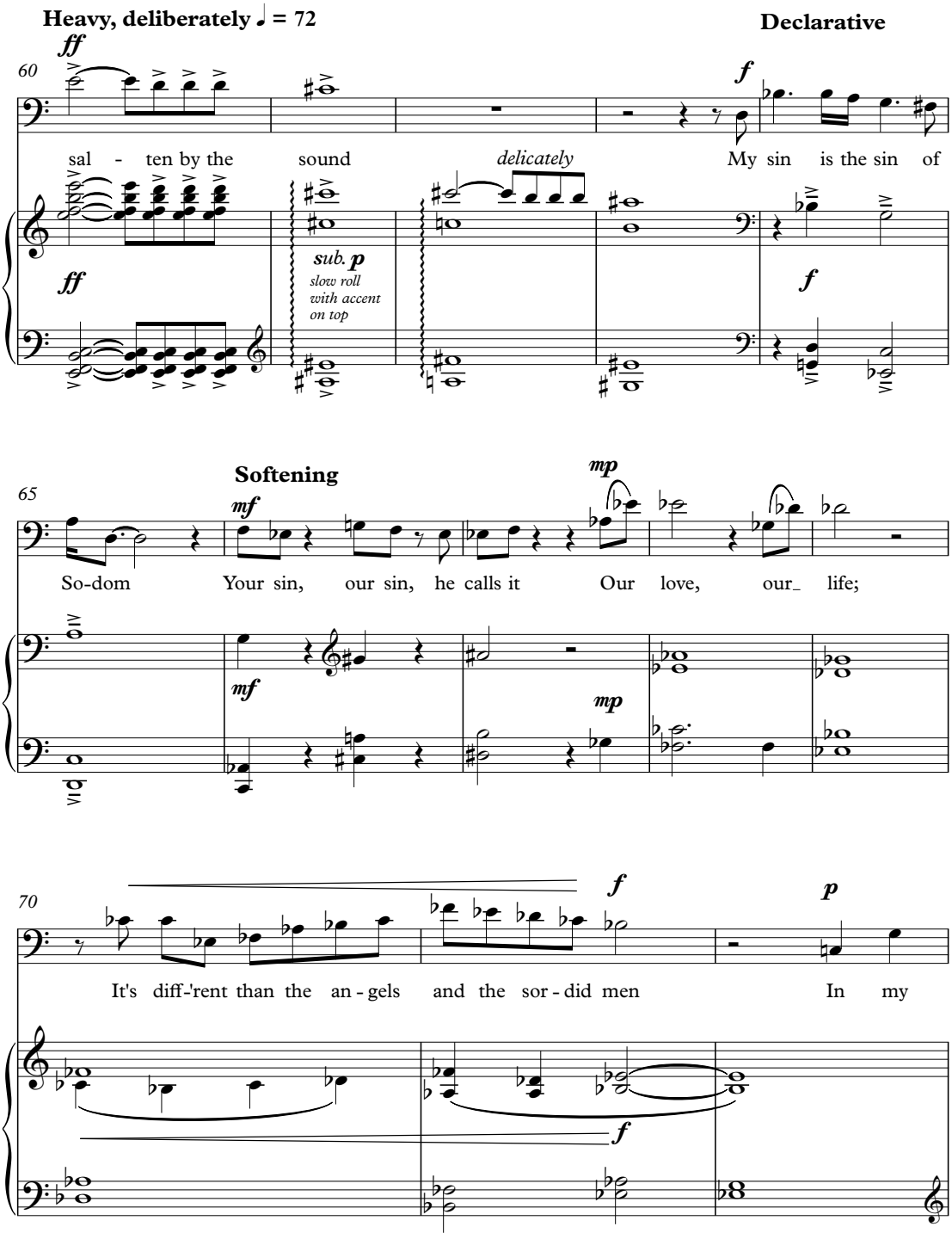

16
p
sal - ten by the sound
p
rubato
mf
sub. p
Flowing
19
mf
I beg please for-give me You pray_ make him whole Let me
mf
22
show you_noth - ing's miss-ing I'm get-ting strong er__grow ing bold I'm
f

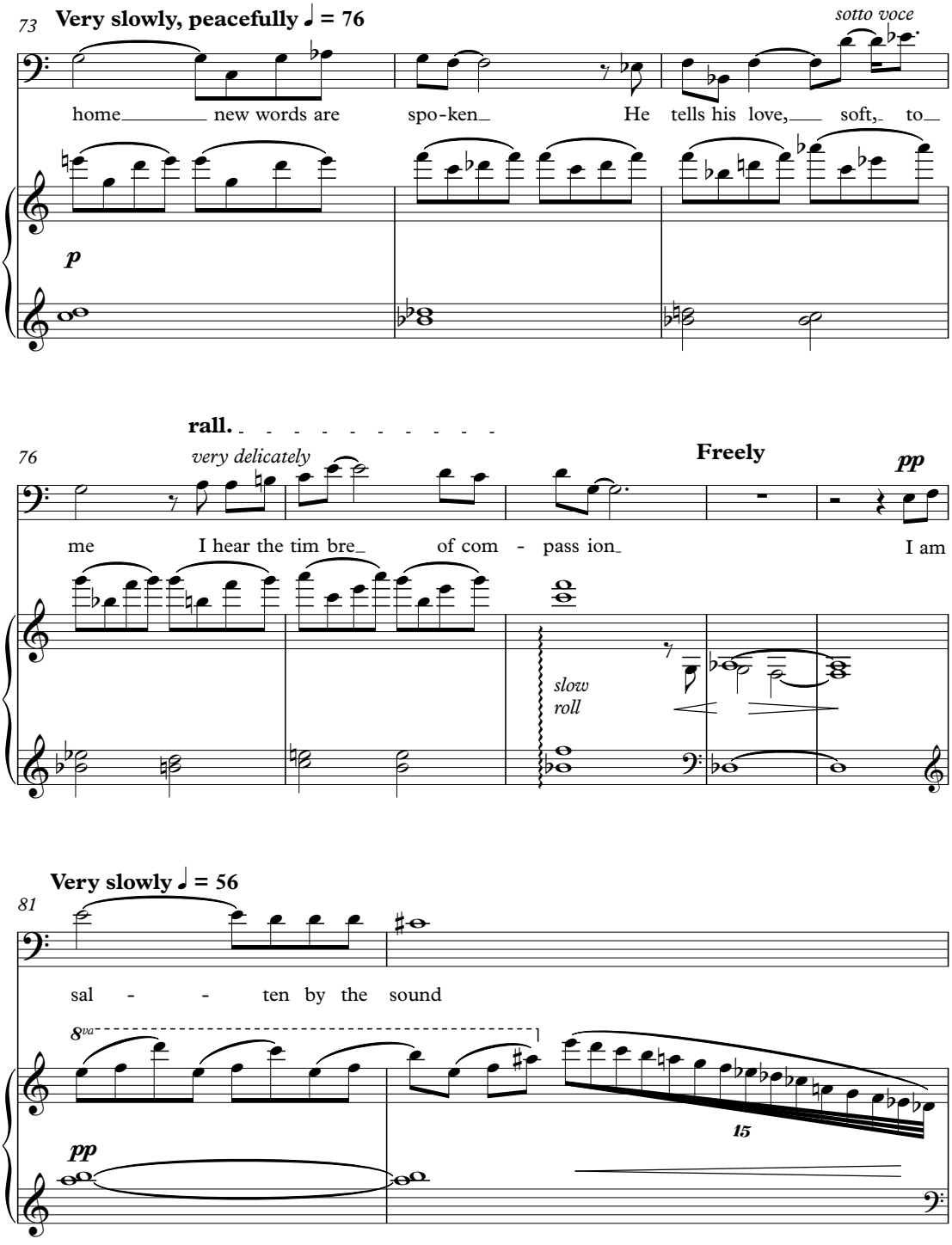

24
let-ting my self leave us be You're imp - er - fect I'm im-pure You've
f
26
cast me out I'm set-ting off It's fun-ny how we're both so
mf
29
More intense ♩ = 76
f
sure I am new- I am not broken but I'll
f


33
al ways hear the words you've spo ken I am stri cken fro zen fright ened by them
36
Sweeping, emotional ♩ = 86
I am sal - ten by thesound
ff
40
losing energy

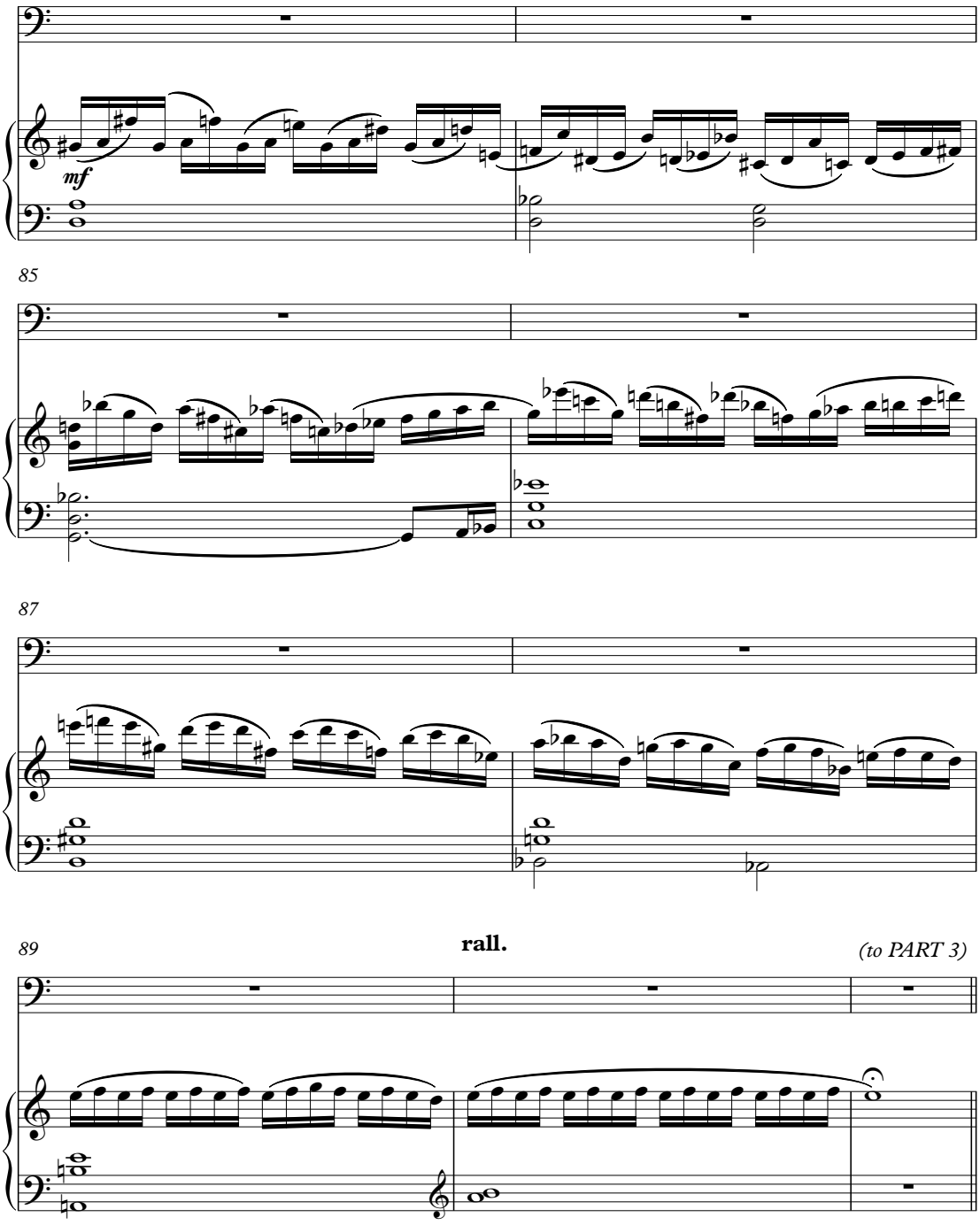

44
Airy, same tempo
mf
47
mp
We can - not speak for all that's spo-ken It's
mp
49
hard to love for all that's lost At what ex - pense am I your_ son?
51
God's the price and I'm the_ cost


molto rall.
ff
Powerfully ♩ = 86
53
I am
new-
I am not
ff
55
bro ken
All the
tired
words
that you
have
57
rit.
spo - ken
I
am
wea-ry from them; hear me
I am

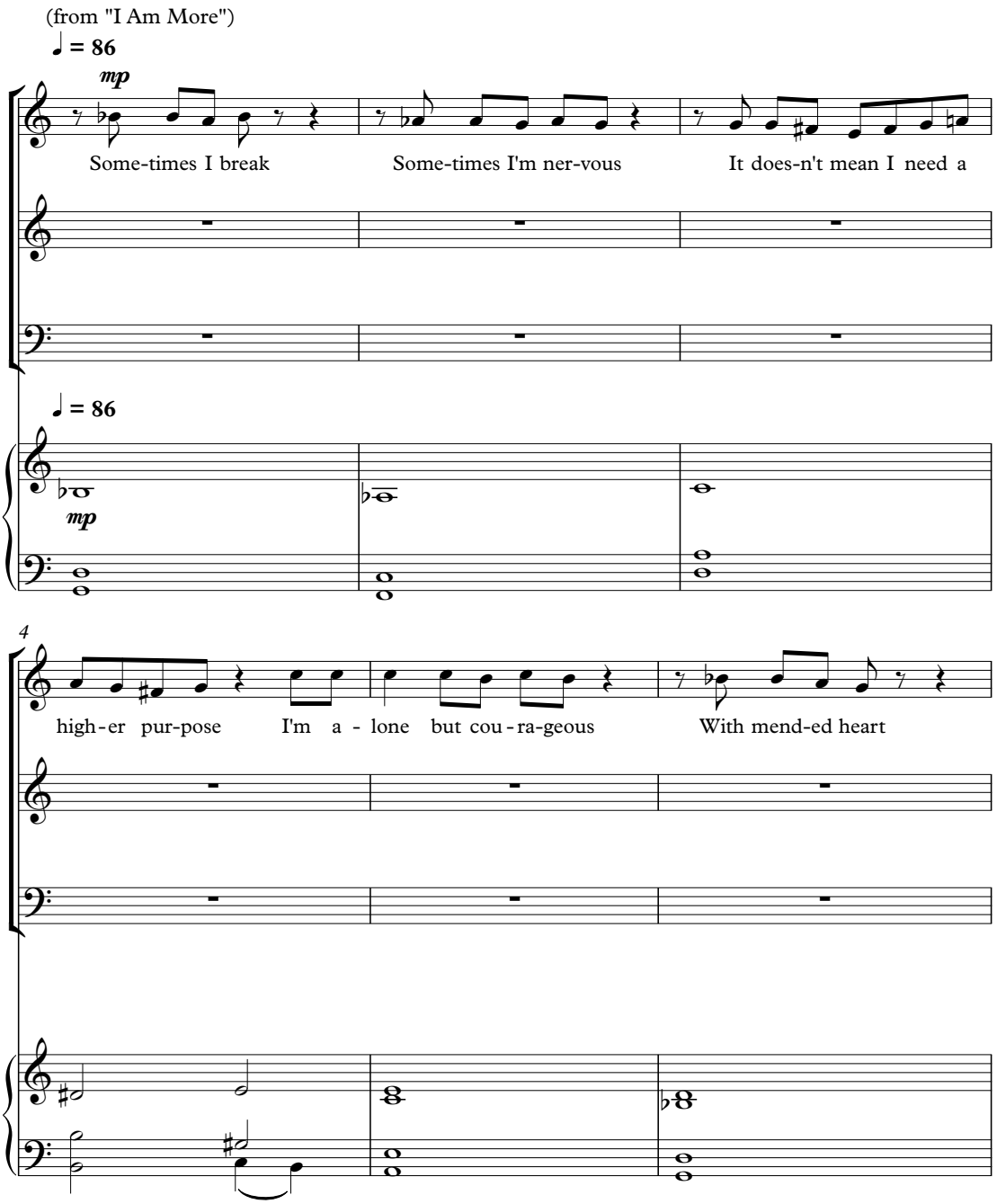

Heavy, deliberately ♩ = 72
Declarative
60
ff
f
sal - ten by the sound
delicately
My sin is the sin of
ff
sub. p
slow roll
with accent
on top
f
Softening
65
mf
mp
So-dom Your sin, our sin, he calls it Our love, our_ life;
mf
mp
70
f
p
It's diff-'rent than the an - gels and the sor - did men In my
f

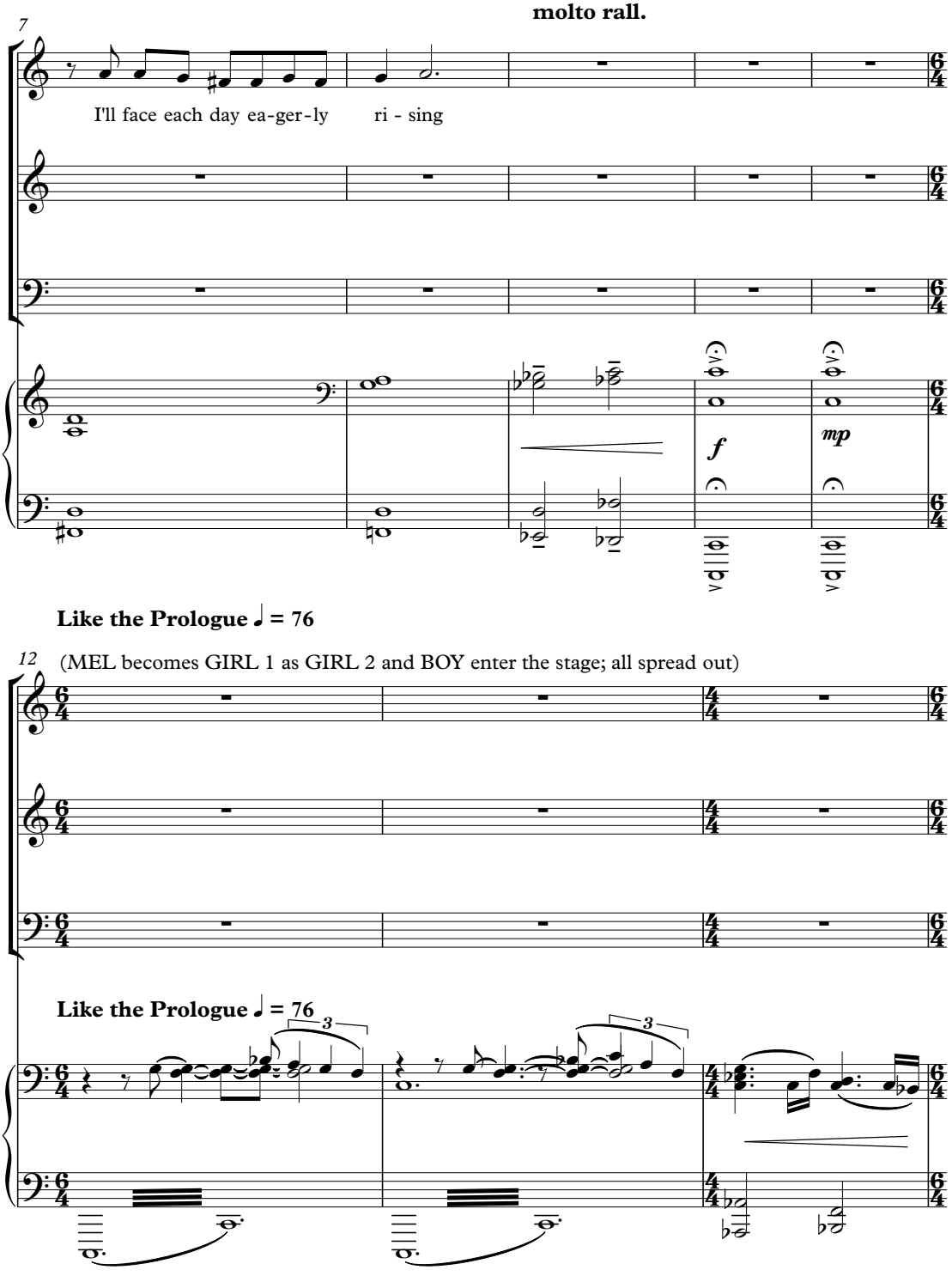

73
Very slowly, peacefully ♩ = 76
sotto voce
home new words are spo-ken He tells his love, soft, to
p
rall.
76
very delicately
Freely
pp
me I hear the tim bre of com - pass ion I am
slow
roll
Very slowly ♩ = 56
81
sal - - ten by the sound
8va
15
pp

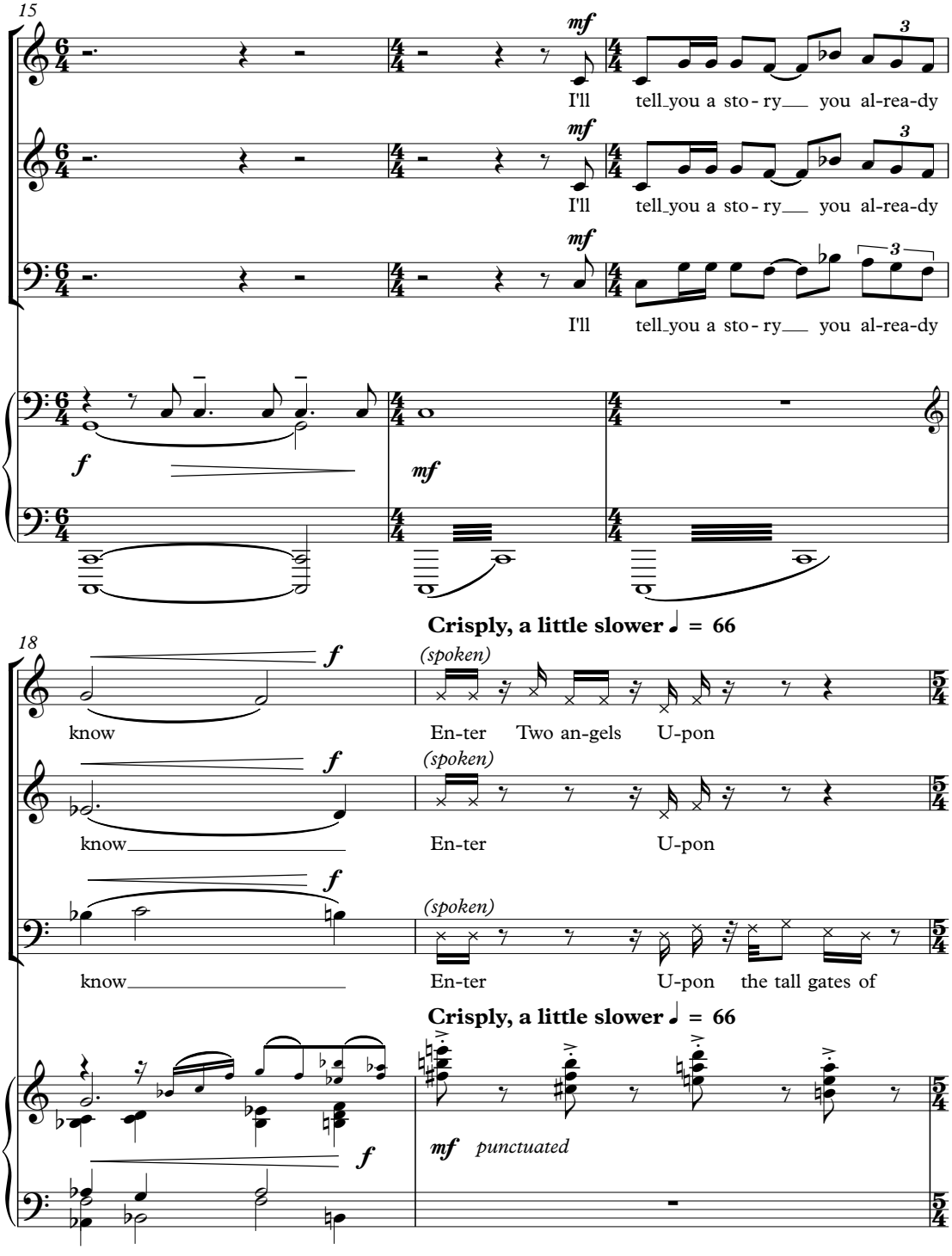
83 **Haunting** ♩ = 72 (Scene and character change)

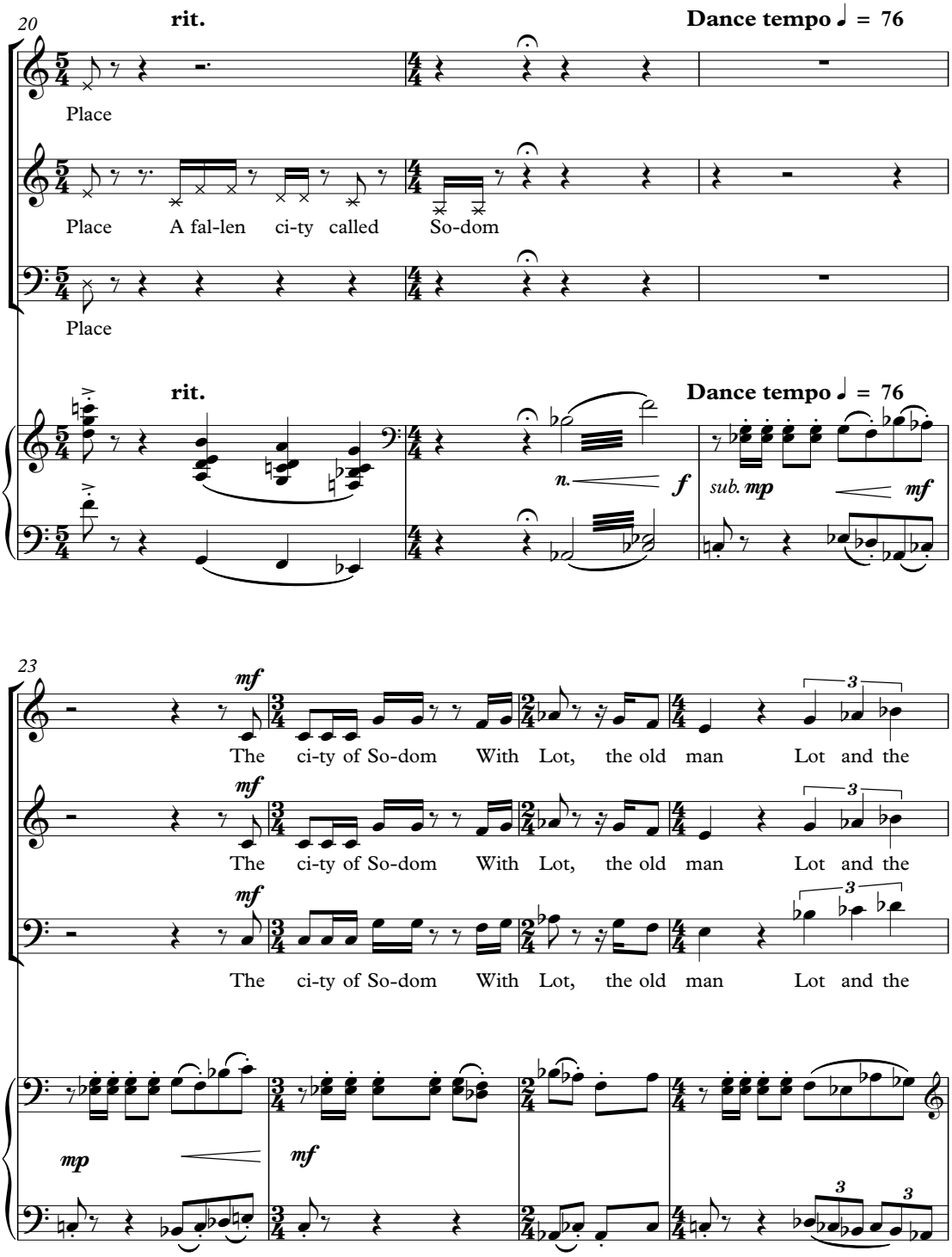


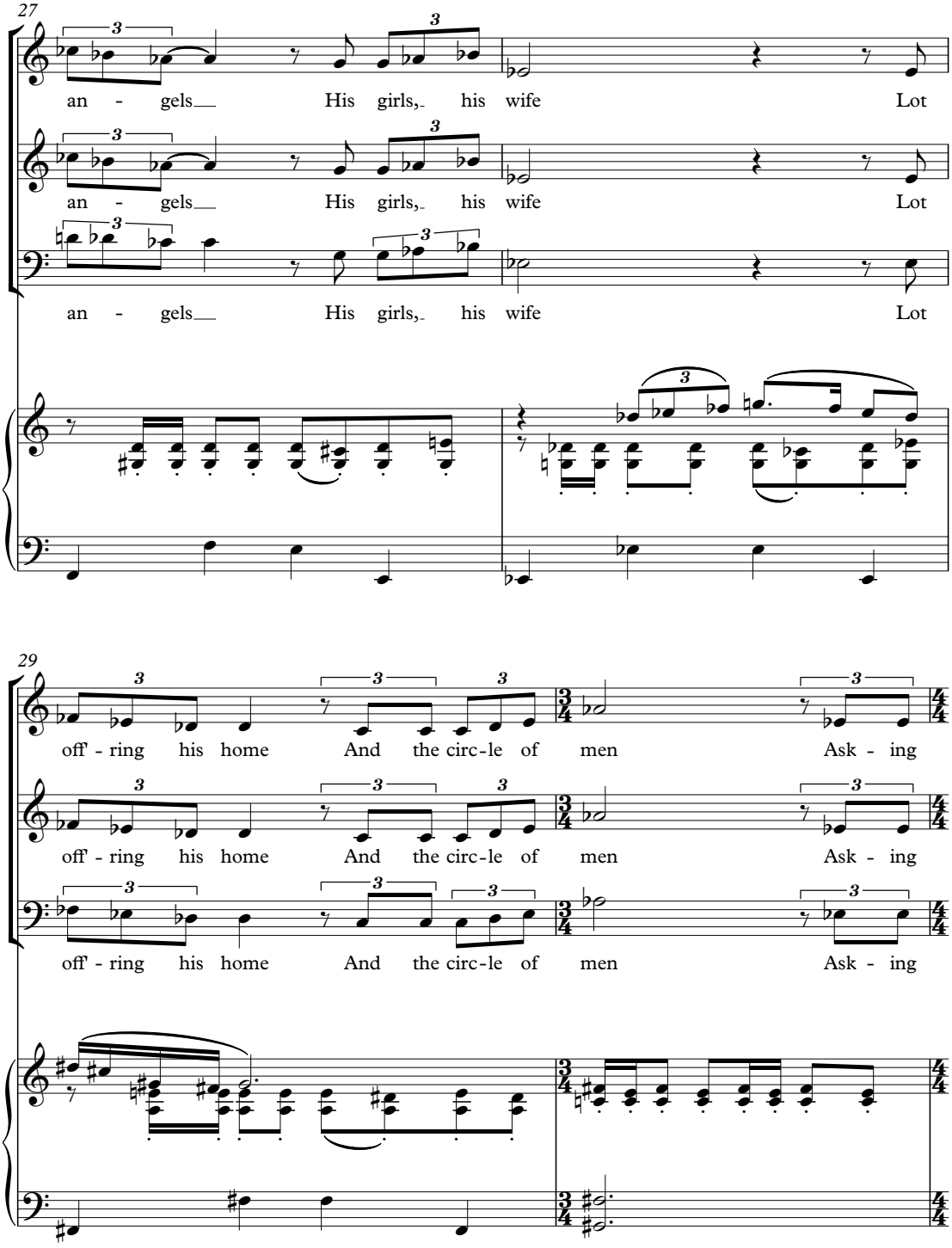
End of Part 3 / Epilogue

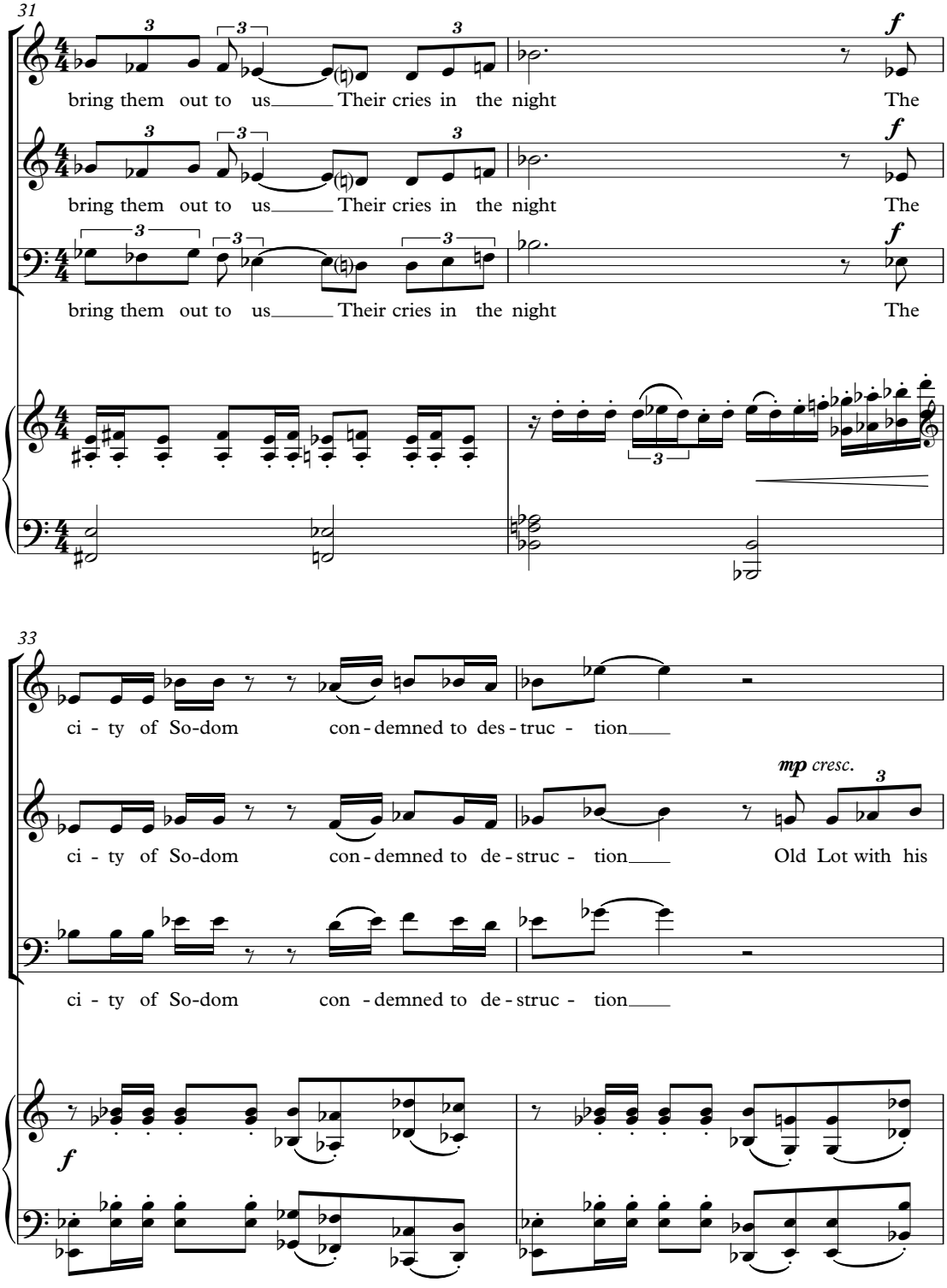


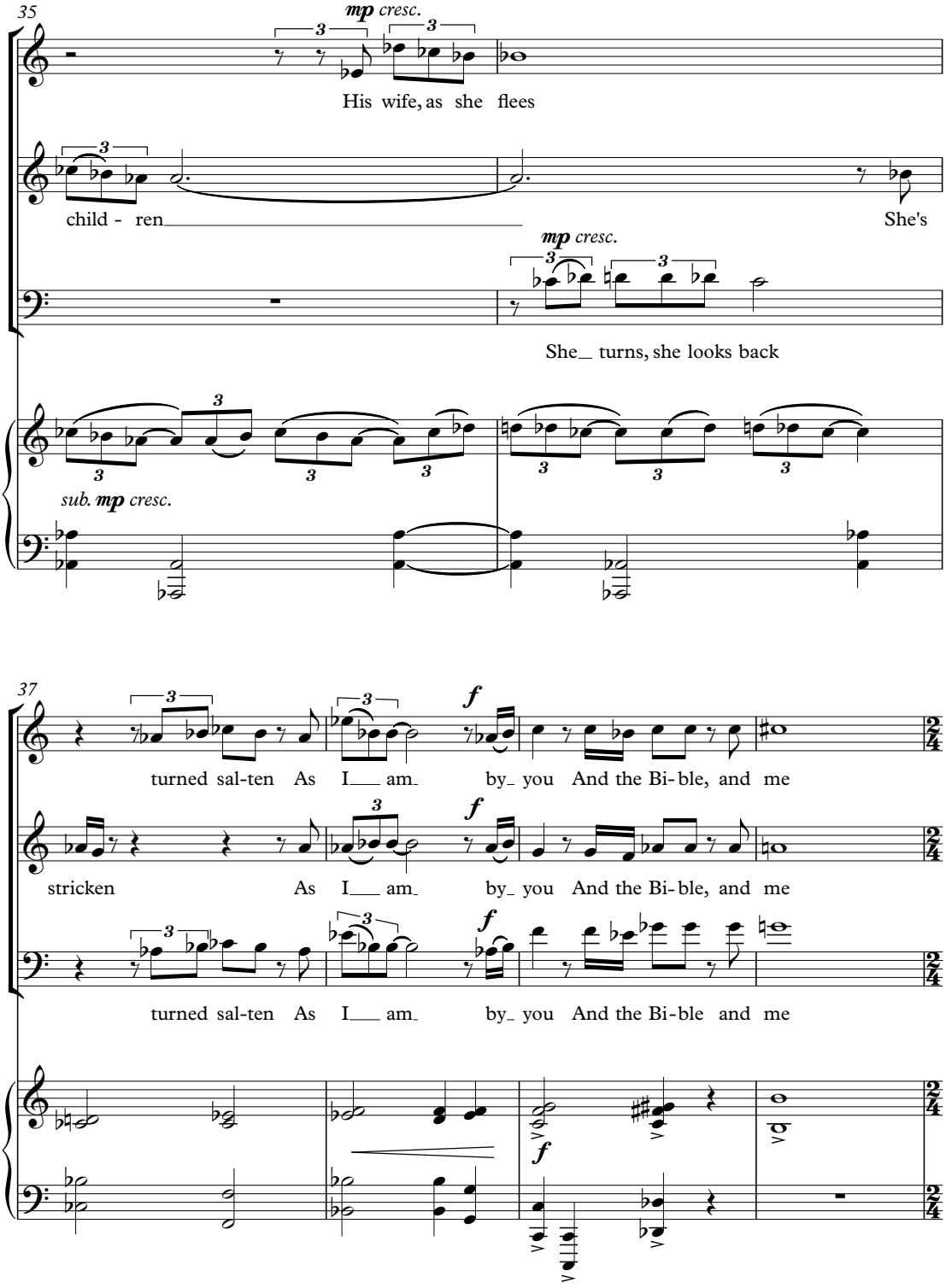

molto rall.
7
I'll face each day ea-ger-ly ri - sing
f
mp
Like the Prologue ♩ = 76
12
(MEL becomes GIRL 1 as GIRL 2 and BOY enter the stage; all spread out)
Like the Prologue ♩ = 76
3
3

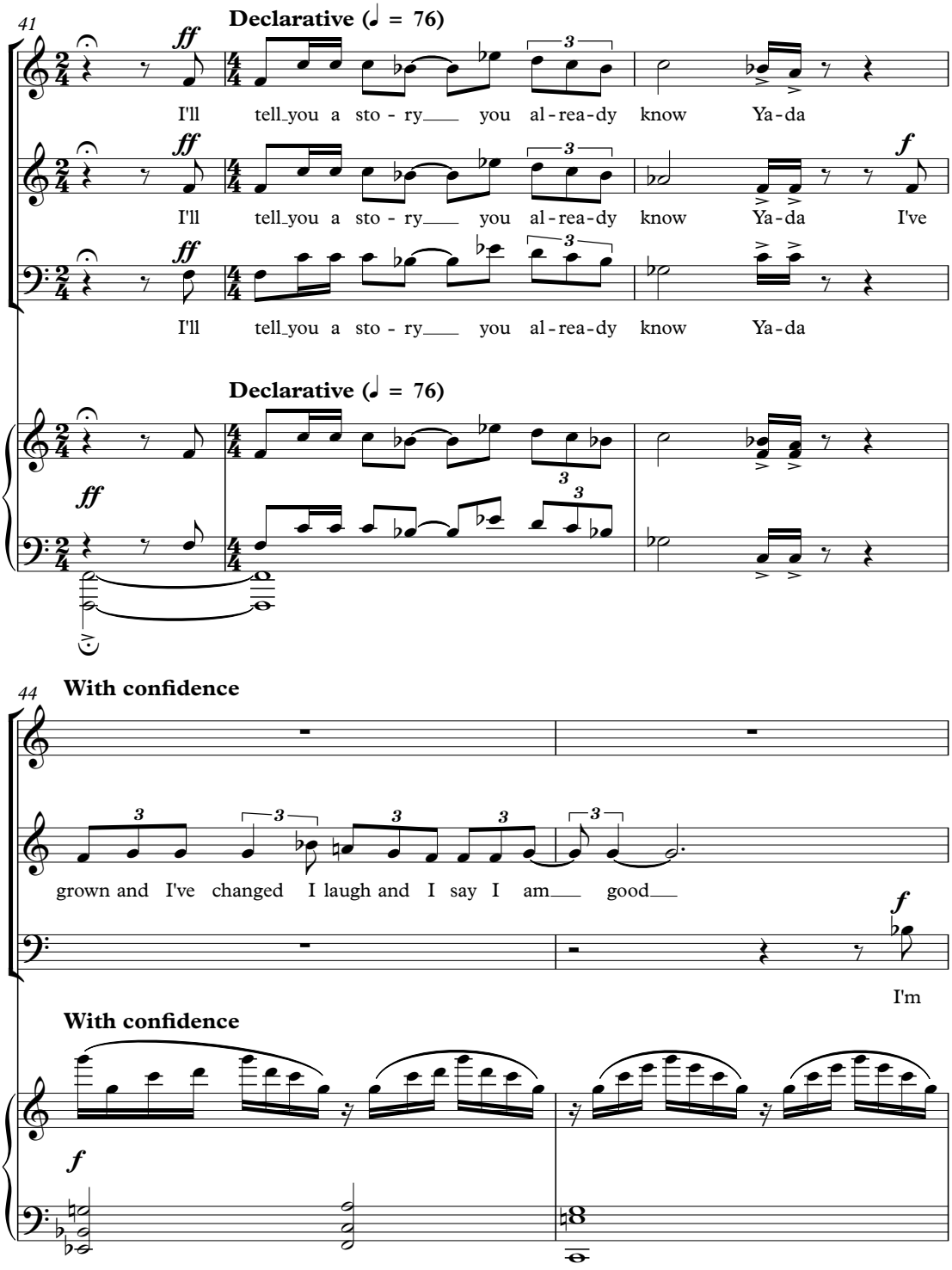

15
mf
I'll tell_you a sto - ry___ you al-rea-dy
mf
I'll tell_you a sto - ry___ you al-rea-dy
mf
I'll tell_you a sto - ry___ you al-rea-dy
f
mf
Crisply, a little slower ♩ = 66
18
f
(spoken)
know
En-ter Two an-gels U-pon
f
(spoken)
know
En-ter U-pon
f
(spoken)
know
En-ter U-pon the tall gates of
Crisply, a little slower ♩ = 66
f
mf punctuated

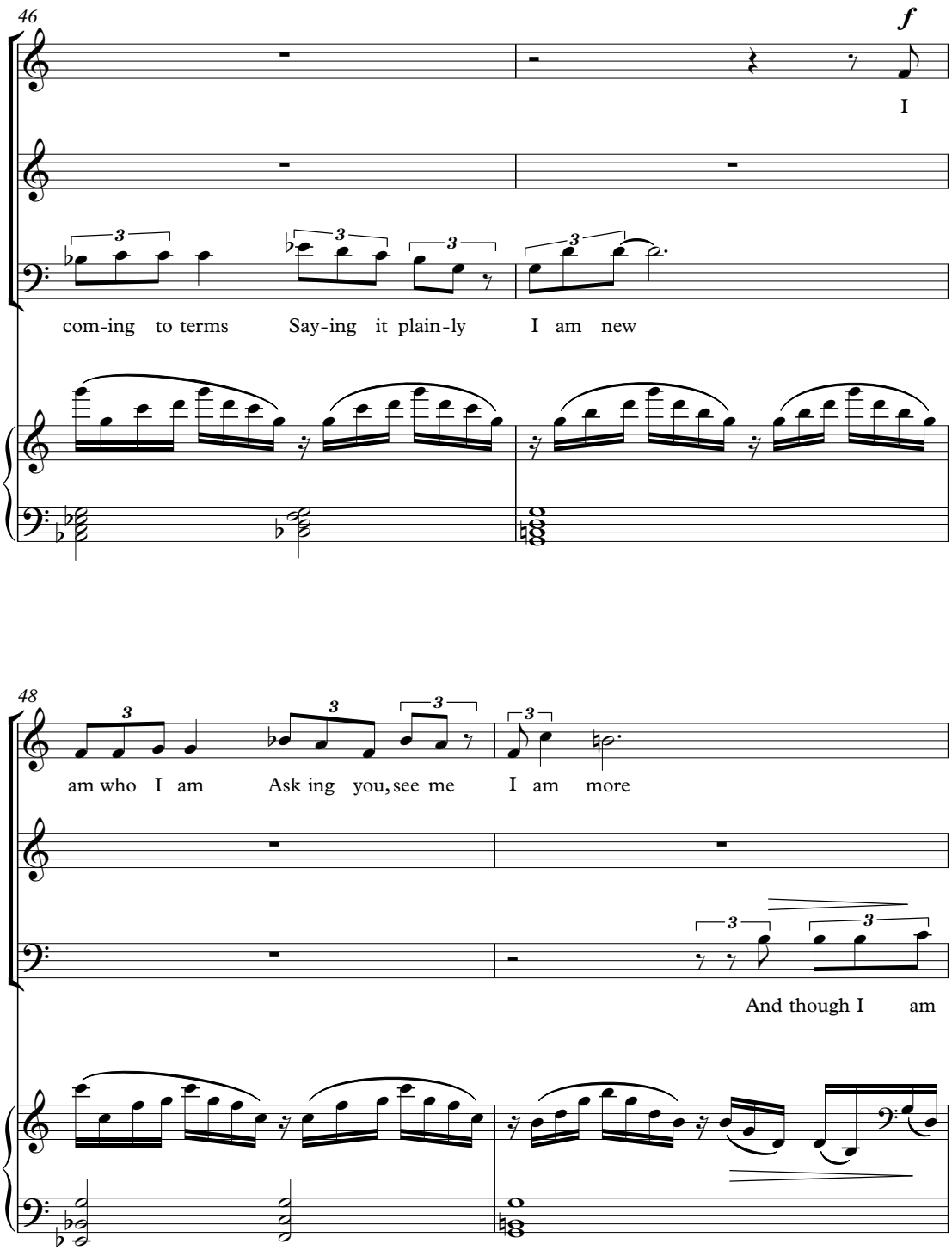

20
rit.
Dance tempo ♩ = 76
Place
Place A fal-len ci-ty called So-dom
Place
rit.
Dance tempo ♩ = 76
n.
f
sub. mp
mf
23
mf
The ci-ty of So-dom With Lot, the old man Lot and the
mf
The ci-ty of So-dom With Lot, the old man Lot and the
mf
The ci-ty of So-dom With Lot, the old man Lot and the
mp
mf

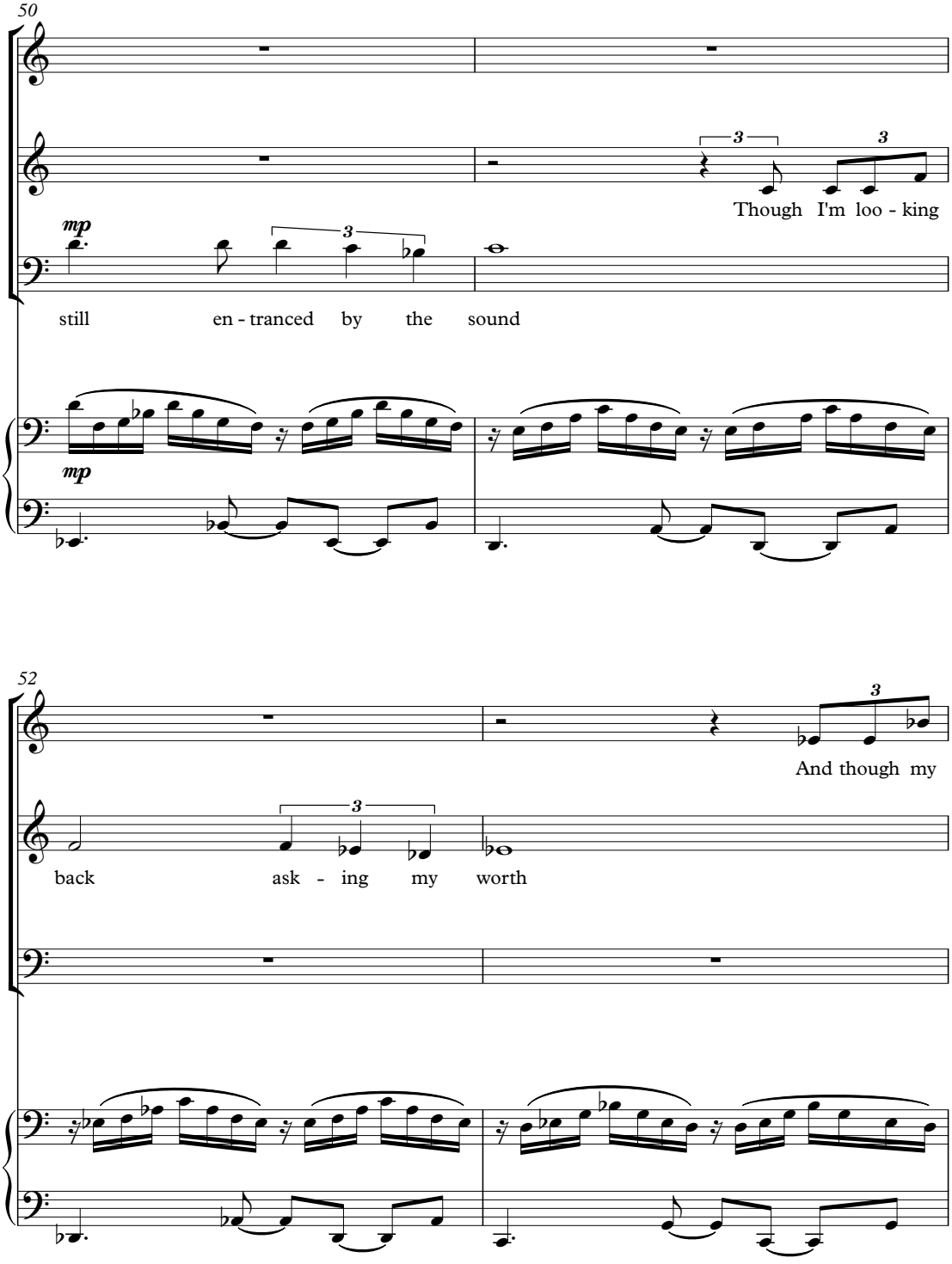

27
an - gels His girls, his wife Lot
an - gels His girls, his wife Lot
an - gels His girls, his wife Lot
29
off' - ring his home And the circ-le of men Ask - ing
off' - ring his home And the circ-le of men Ask - ing
off' - ring his home And the circ-le of men Ask - ing

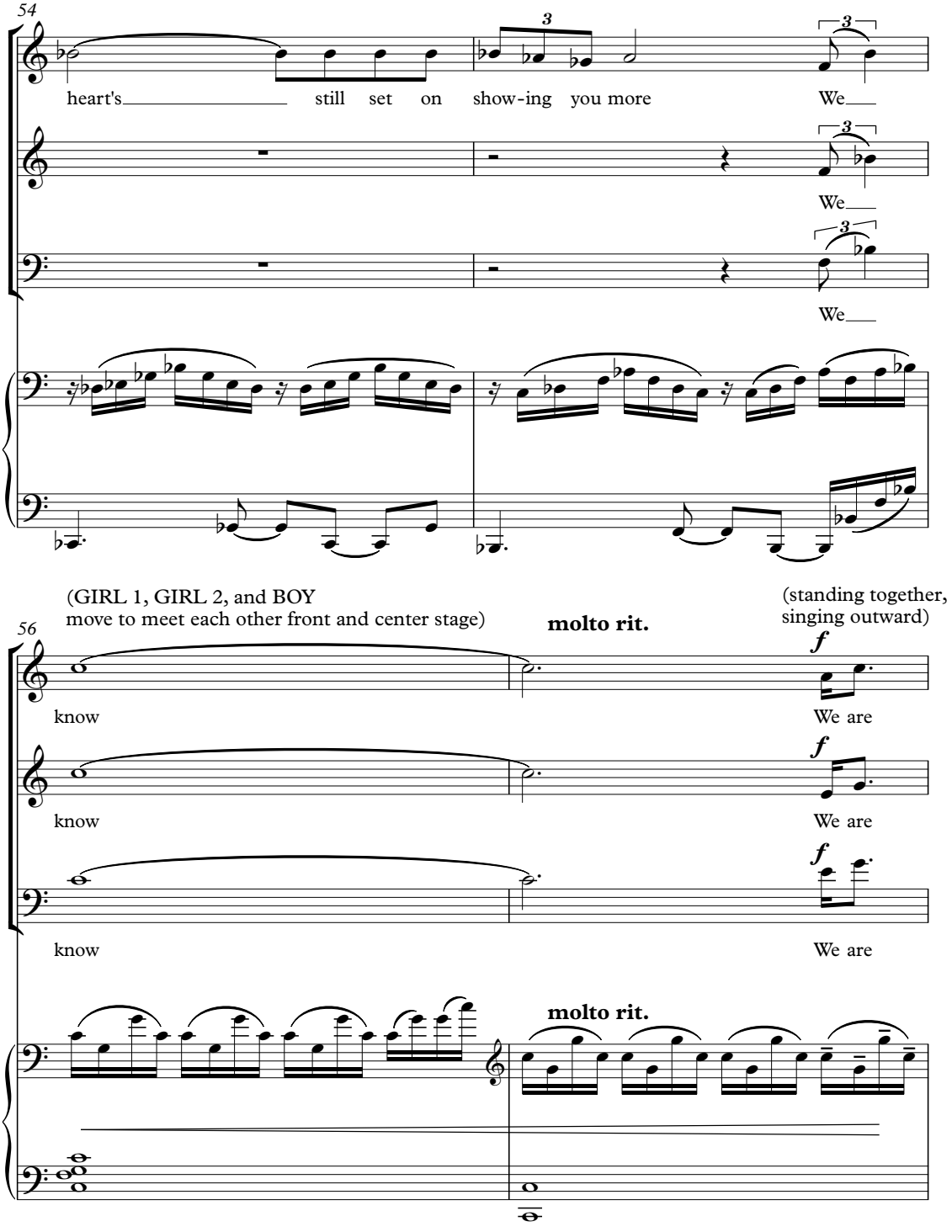

31
bring them out to us Their cries in the night The
bring them out to us Their cries in the night The
bring them out to us Their cries in the night The
f
33
ci - ty of So-dom con - demned to des - truc - tion
ci - ty of So-dom con - demned to de - struc - tion Old Lot with his
ci - ty of So-dom con - demned to de - struc - tion
mp cresc.
f

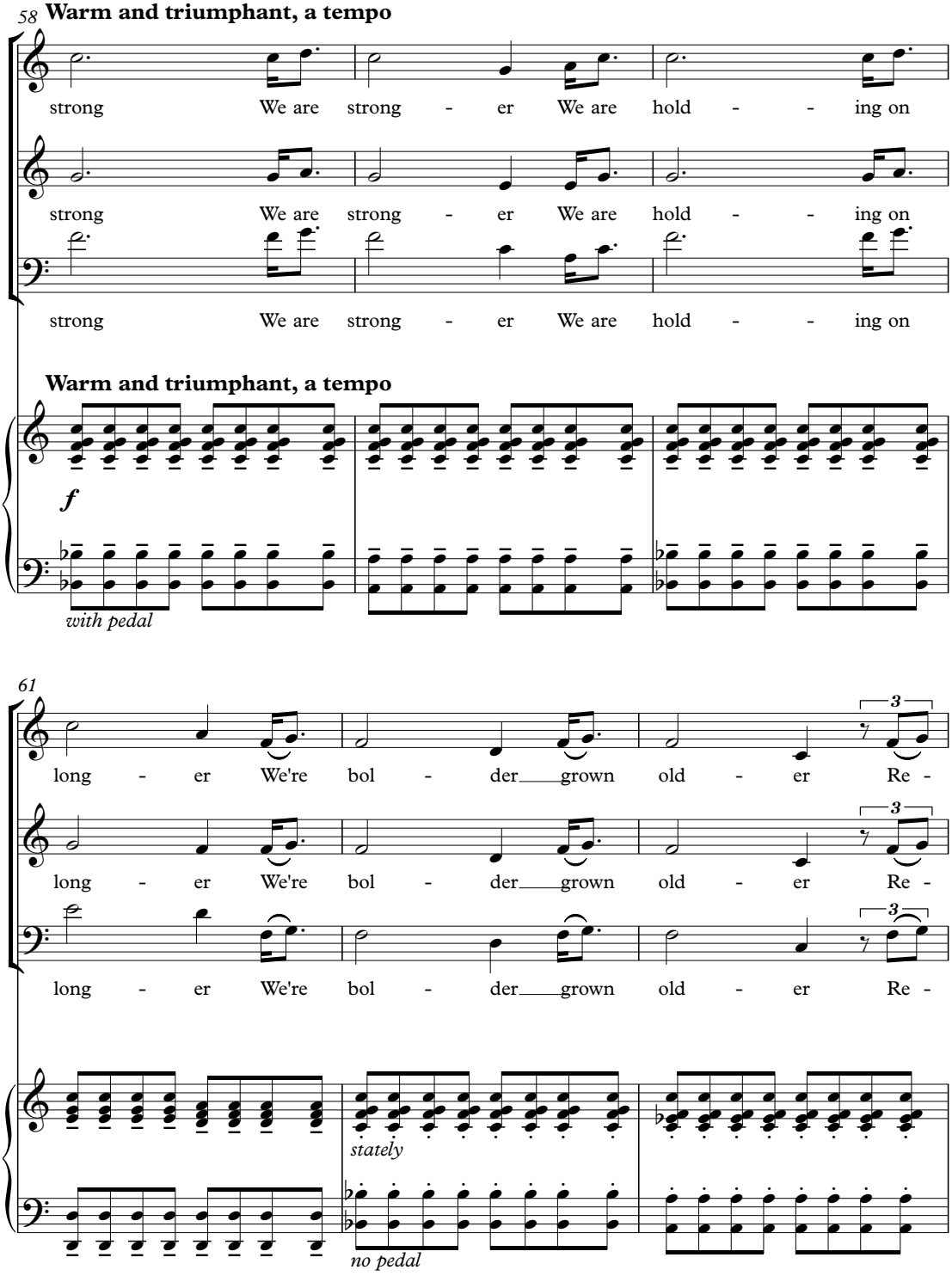

35
mp cresc.
His wife, as she flees
child - ren
She's
mp cresc.
She_ turns, she looks back
sub. mp cresc.
37
f
turned sal-ten As I___ am_ by_ you And the Bi-ble, and me
stricken As I___ am_ by_ you And the Bi-ble, and me
turned sal-ten As I___ am_ by_ you And the Bi-ble and me

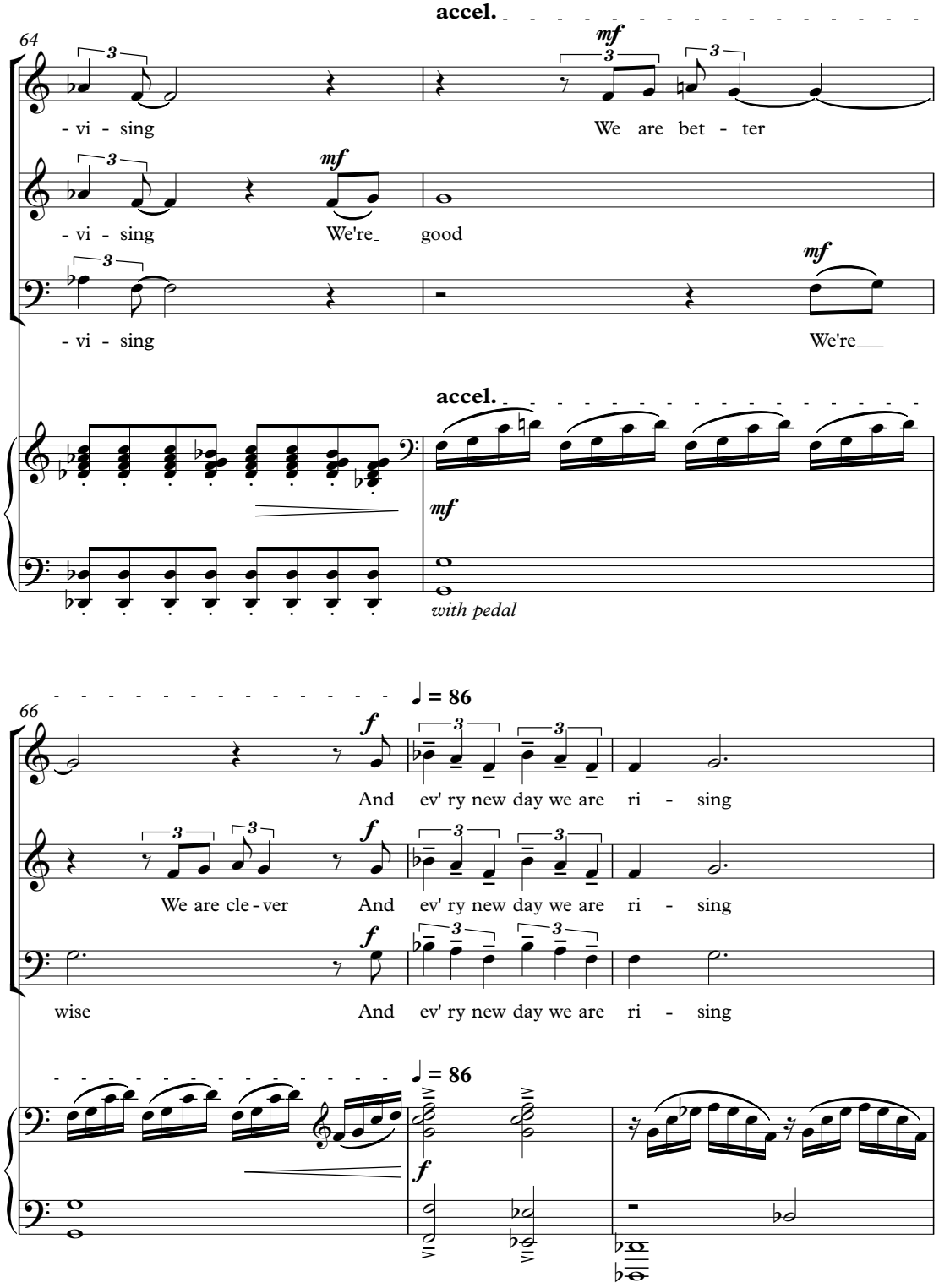

41
Declarative (♩ = 76)
ff
I'll tell_you a sto - ry___ you al - rea - dy know Ya - da
f
I've
Declarative (♩ = 76)
44
With confidence
grown and I've changed I laugh and I say I am___ good___
I'm
With confidence

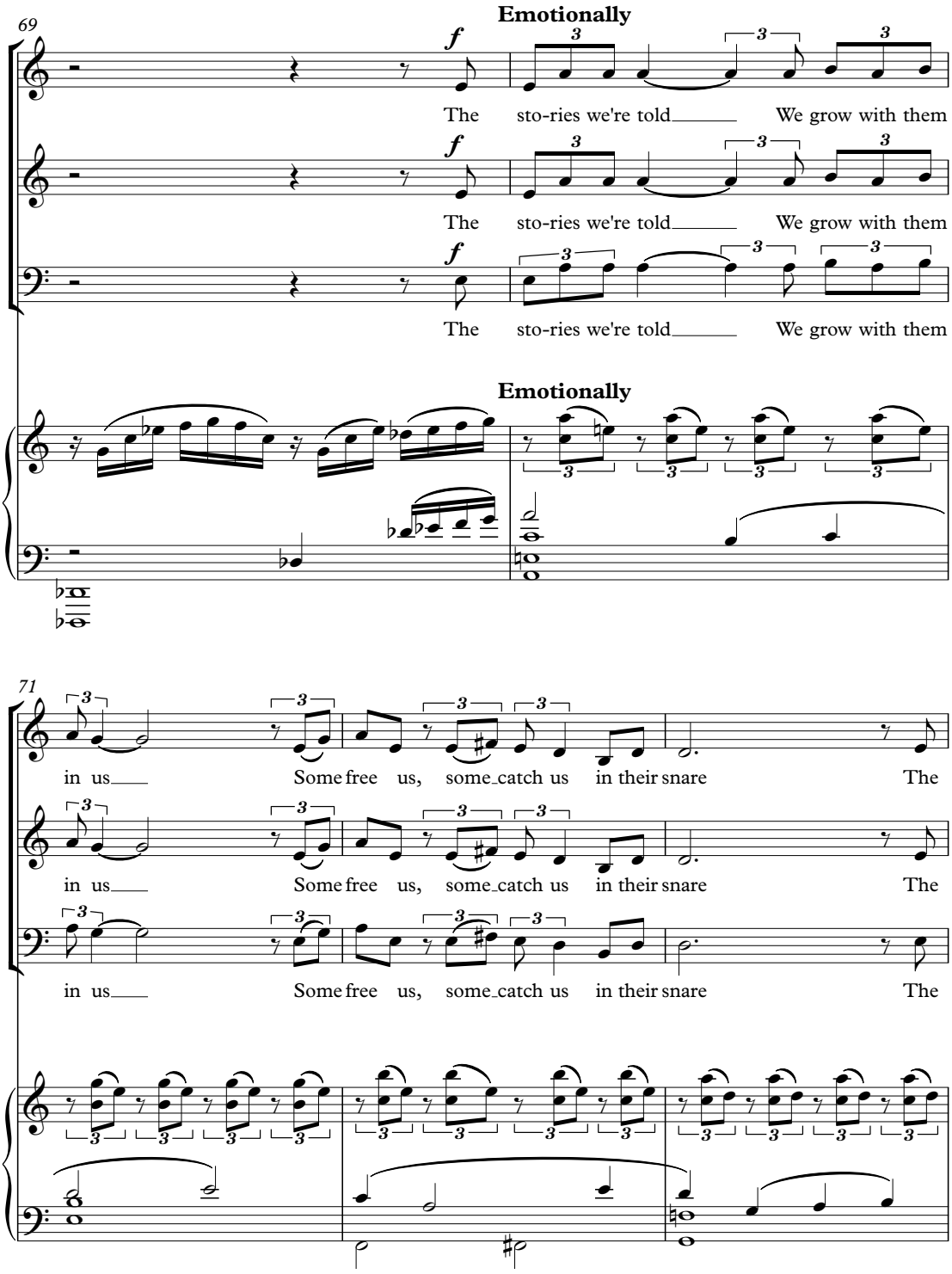

46
f
I
com-ing to terms Say-ing it plain-ly I am new
48
am who I am Ask ing you, see me I am more
And though I am

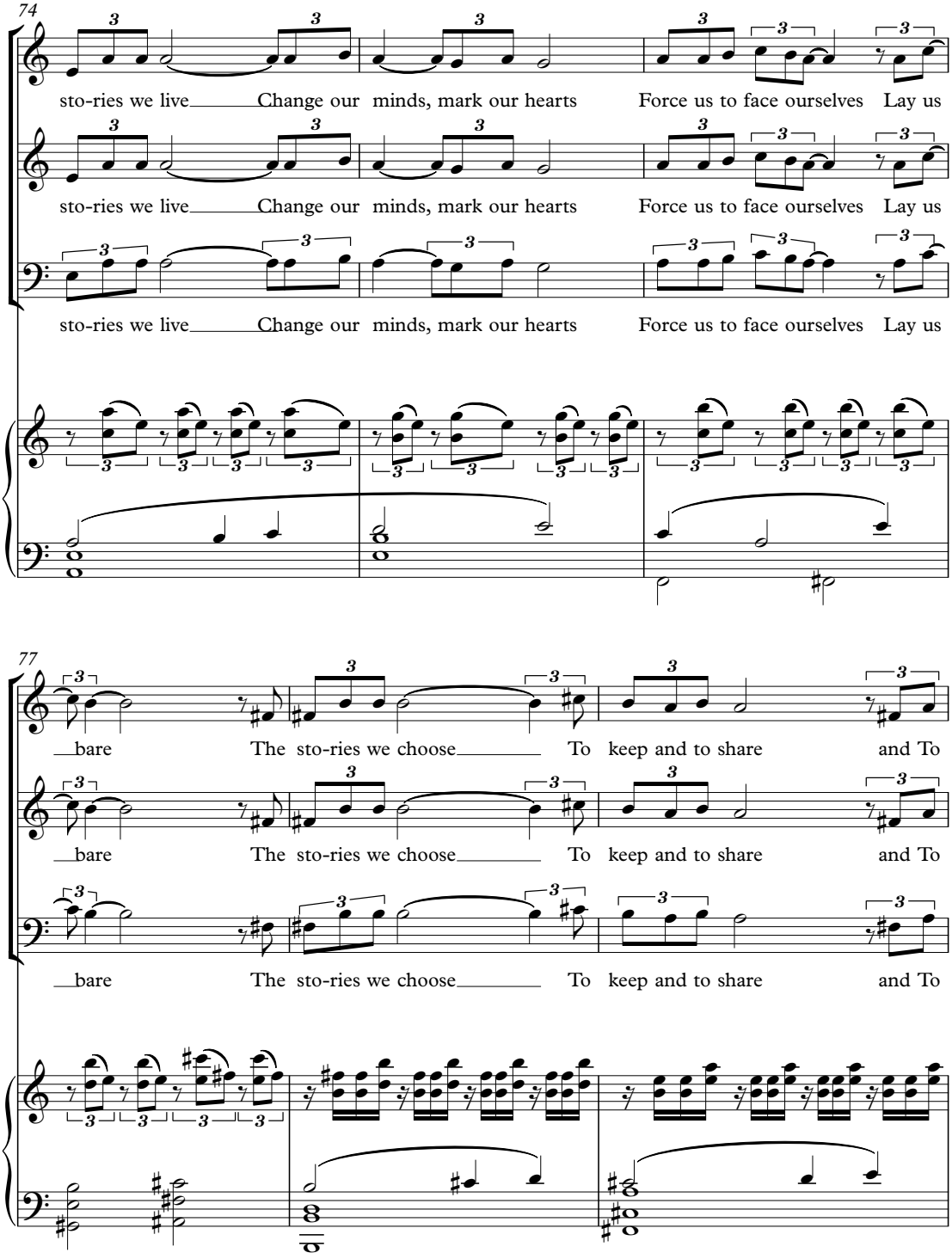

50
Though I'm loo - king
mp
still en - tranced by the sound
mp
52
And though my
back ask - ing my worth

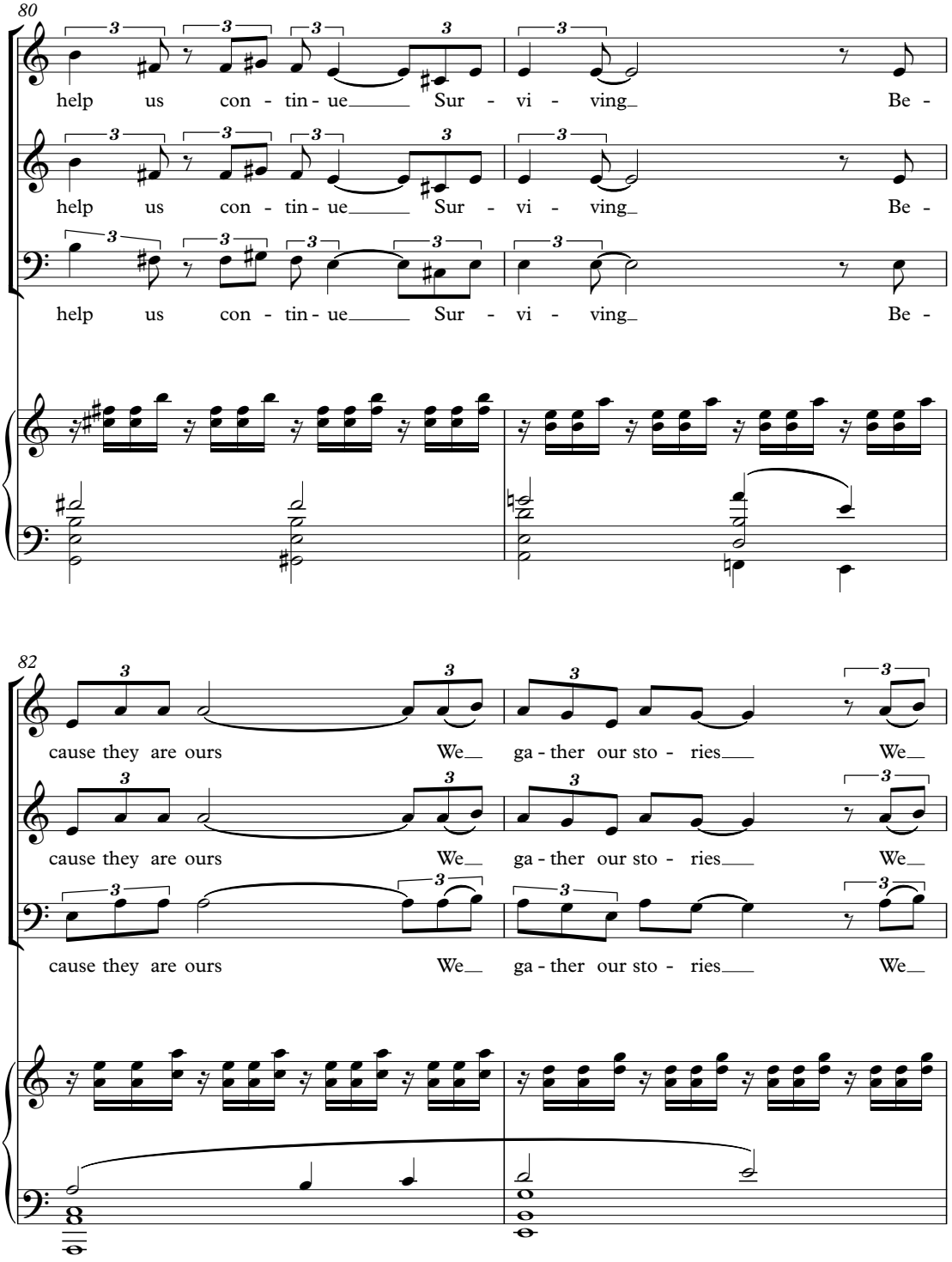

54
heart's still set on show-ing you more We
We
We
(GIRL 1, GIRL 2, and BOY
move to meet each other front and center stage)
molto rit.
(standing together,
singing outward)
56
know
We are
know
We are
know
We are
molto rit.

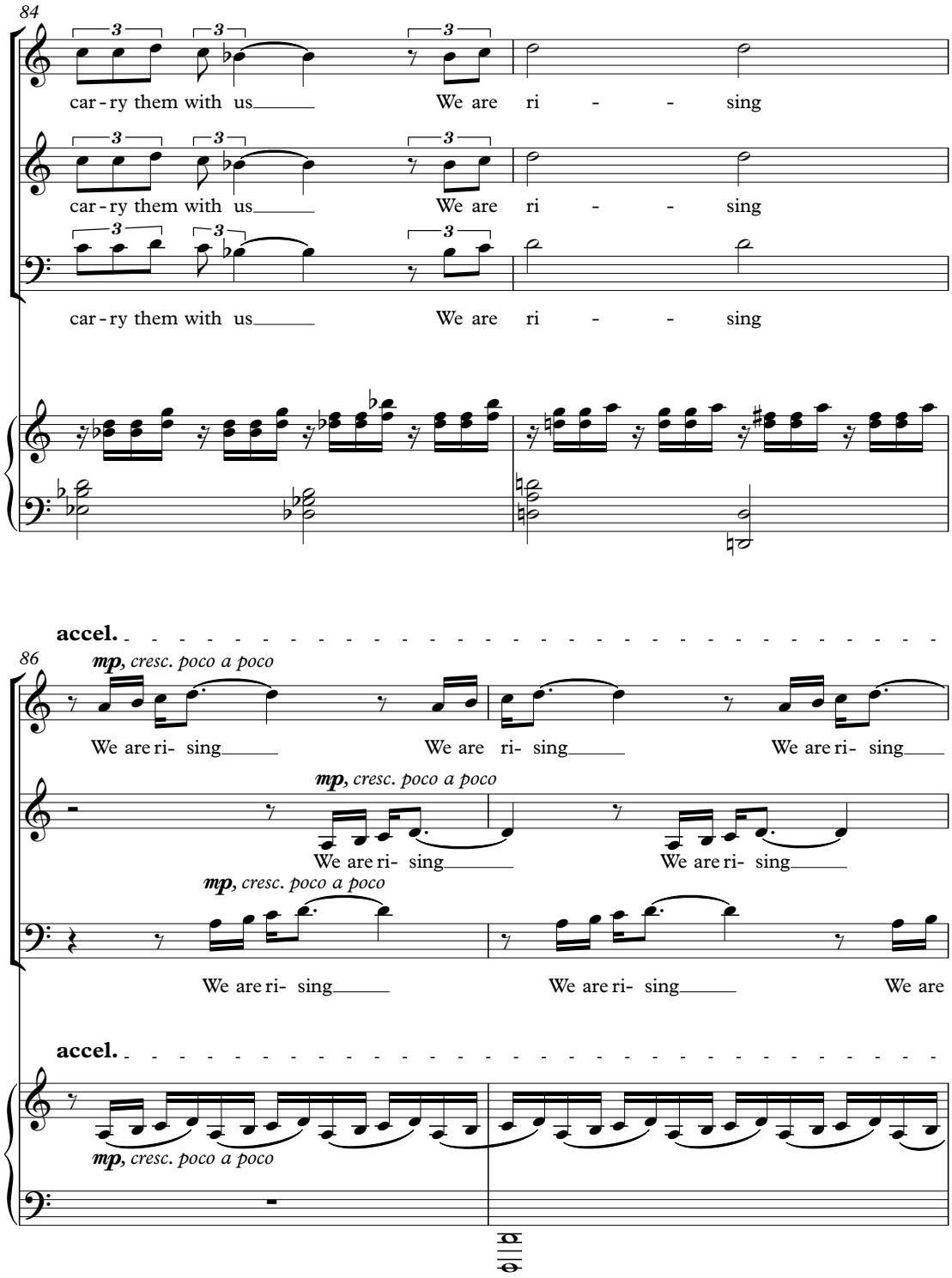

58
Warm and triumphant, a tempo
strong We are strong - er We are hold - - ing on
strong We are strong - er We are hold - - ing on
strong We are strong - er We are hold - - ing on
Warm and triumphant, a tempo
f
with pedal
61
long - er We're bol - der grown old - er Re -
long - er We're bol - der grown old - er Re -
long - er We're bol - der grown old - er Re -
3
3
3
stately
no pedal

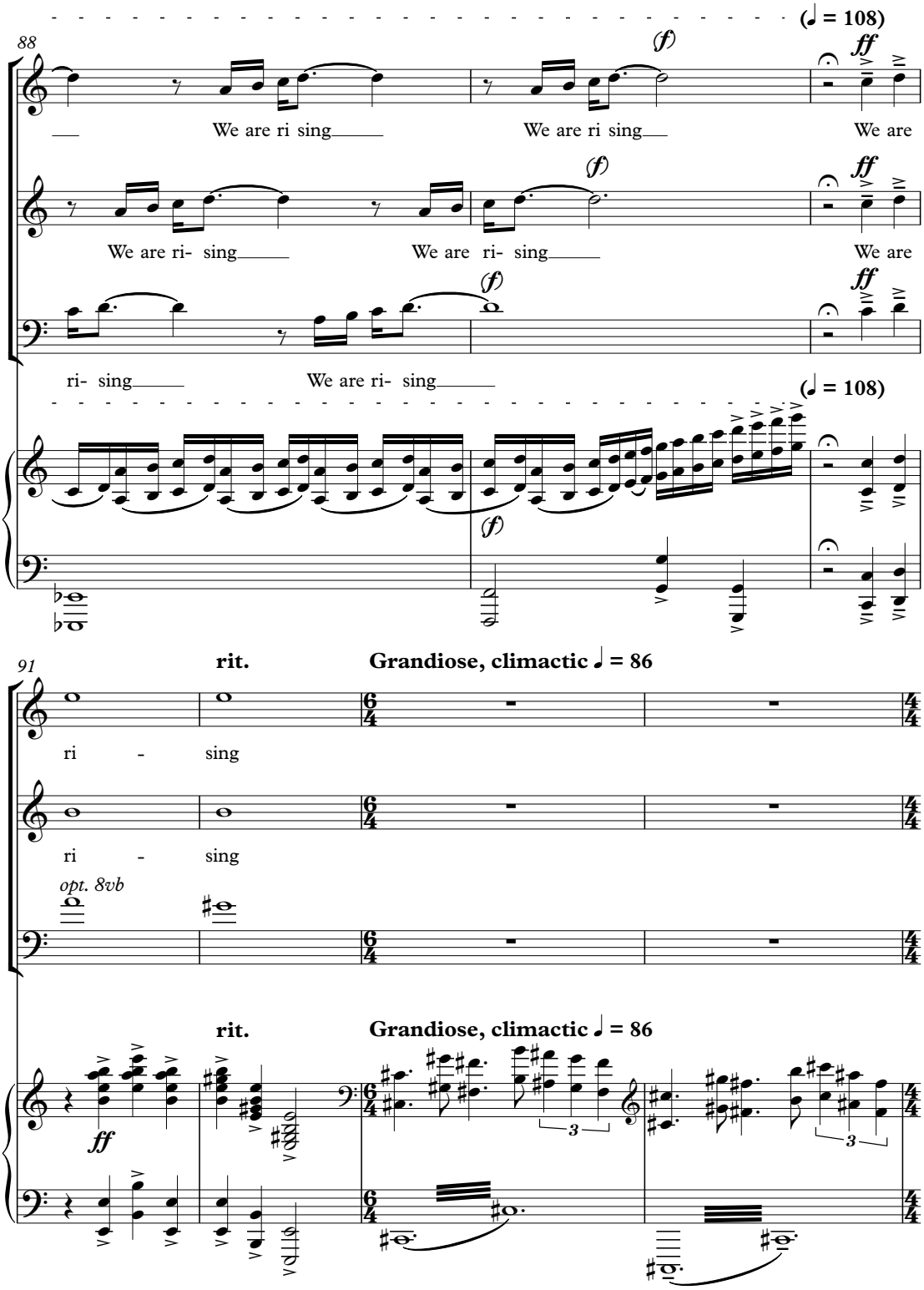

accel.
64
mf
- vi - sing
We are bet - ter
- vi - sing
We're good
- vi - sing
We're
accel.
mf
with pedal
66
♩ = 86
f
And ev' ry new day we are ri - sing
We are cle - ver
And ev' ry new day we are ri - sing
wise
And ev' ry new day we are ri - sing
♩ = 86
f

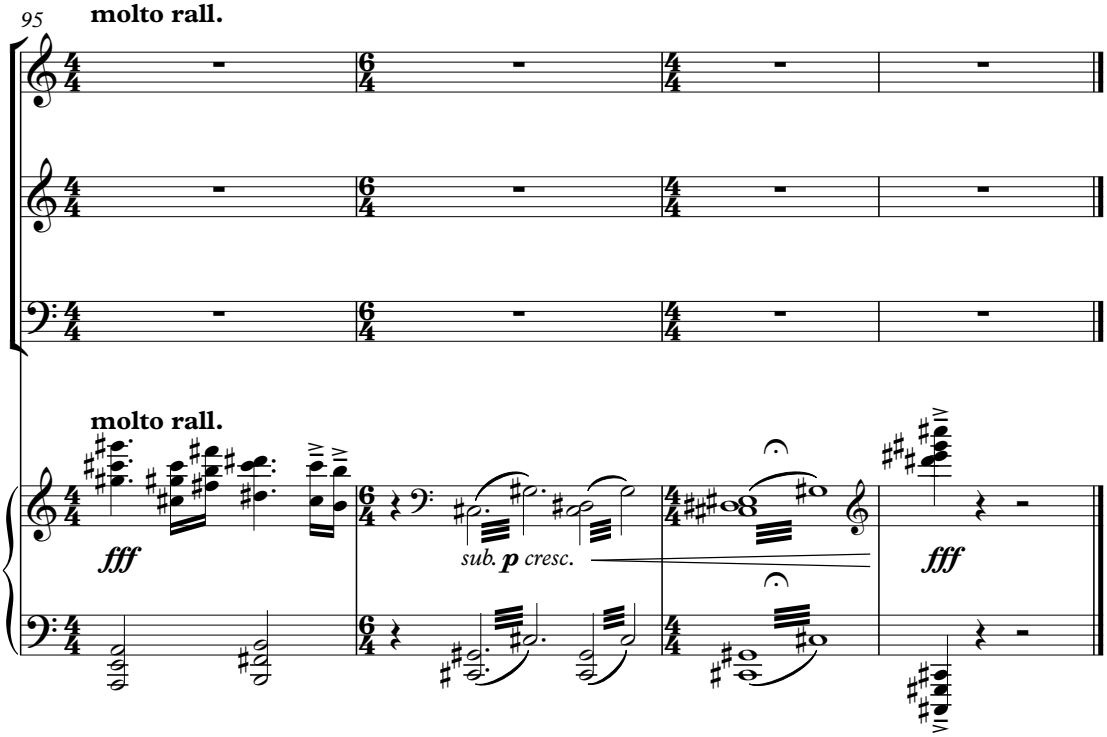

69
Emotionally
f
The sto-ries we're told We grow with them
f
The sto-ries we're told We grow with them
f
The sto-ries we're told We grow with them
Emotionally
71
in us Some free us, some_catch us in their snare The
in us Some free us, some_catch us in their snare The
in us Some free us, some_catch us in their snare The


74
sto-ries we live Change our minds, mark our hearts Force us to face ourselves Lay us
sto-ries we live Change our minds, mark our hearts Force us to face ourselves Lay us
sto-ries we live Change our minds, mark our hearts Force us to face ourselves Lay us
77
bare The sto-ries we choose To keep and to share and To
bare The sto-ries we choose To keep and to share and To
bare The sto-ries we choose To keep and to share and To


80
help us con - tin - ue Sur - vi - ving Be -
help us con - tin - ue Sur - vi - ving Be -
help us con - tin - ue Sur - vi - ving Be -
82
cause they are ours We ga - ther our sto - ries We
cause they are ours We ga - ther our sto - ries We
cause they are ours We ga - ther our sto - ries We


84
car - ry them with us
We are ri - - sing
car - ry them with us
We are ri - - sing
car - ry them with us
We are ri - - sing
accel.
86
mp, cresc. poco a poco
We are ri- sing
We are ri- sing
We are ri- sing
mp, cresc. poco a poco
We are ri- sing
We are ri- sing
mp, cresc. poco a poco
We are ri- sing
We are ri- sing
We are
accel.
mp, cresc. poco a poco


88
(♩ = 108)
We are ri sing
We are ri sing
We are
We are ri- sing
We are ri- sing
We are
ri- sing
We are ri- sing
(♩ = 108)
91
rit.
Grandiose, climactic ♩ = 86
ri - sing
ri - sing
opt. 8vb
rit.
Grandiose, climactic ♩ = 86


95
molto rall.
molto rall.
fff
sub. p cresc.
fff