Aloys Fleischmann

Homage to Padraic Pearse: The Fool

(Padraic Pearse)

Medium Voice and Piano

Note

In 1979 Aloys Fleischmann was commissioned by RTÉ, the Irish national television and broadcasting service, to compose an orchestral work for the centenary of the birth of Padraic Pearse, the leader of the 1916 Dublin rising.
The work, *Ómós don Phiarsach / Homage to Padraic Pearse*, combines settings for solo voice and orchestra of five of Pearse's lyrical poems with passages from his polemical prose writings set for narrator and orchestra.
'The Fool', a setting of Pearse's poem for medium voice and piano, was composed in the same year.

THE FOOL - by Padraic Pearse

Since the wise men have not spoken, I speak that am only a fool;
A fool that hath loved his folly,
Yea, more than the wise men their books or their counting houses or their quiet homes,
Or their fame in men's mouths;
A fool that in all his days hath done never a prudent thing,
Never hath counted the cost, nor recked if another reaped
The fruit of his mighty sowing, content to scatter the seed;
A fool that is unrepentant, and that soon at the end of all
Shall laugh in his lonely heart as the ripe ears fall to the reaping-hooks
And the poor are filled that were empty,
Tho' he go hungry.

I have squandered the splendid years that the Lord God gave to my youth
In attempting impossible things, deeming them alone worth the toil.

Was it folly or grace? Not men shall judge me, but God.

I have squandered the splendid years:
Lord, if I had the years I would squander them over again,
Aye, fling them from me!
For this I have heard in my heart, that a man shall scatter, not hoard,
Shall do the deed of today, nor take thought of tomorrow's teen,
Shall not bargain or huxter with God; or was it a jest of Christ's
And is this my sin before men, to have taken Him at His word?

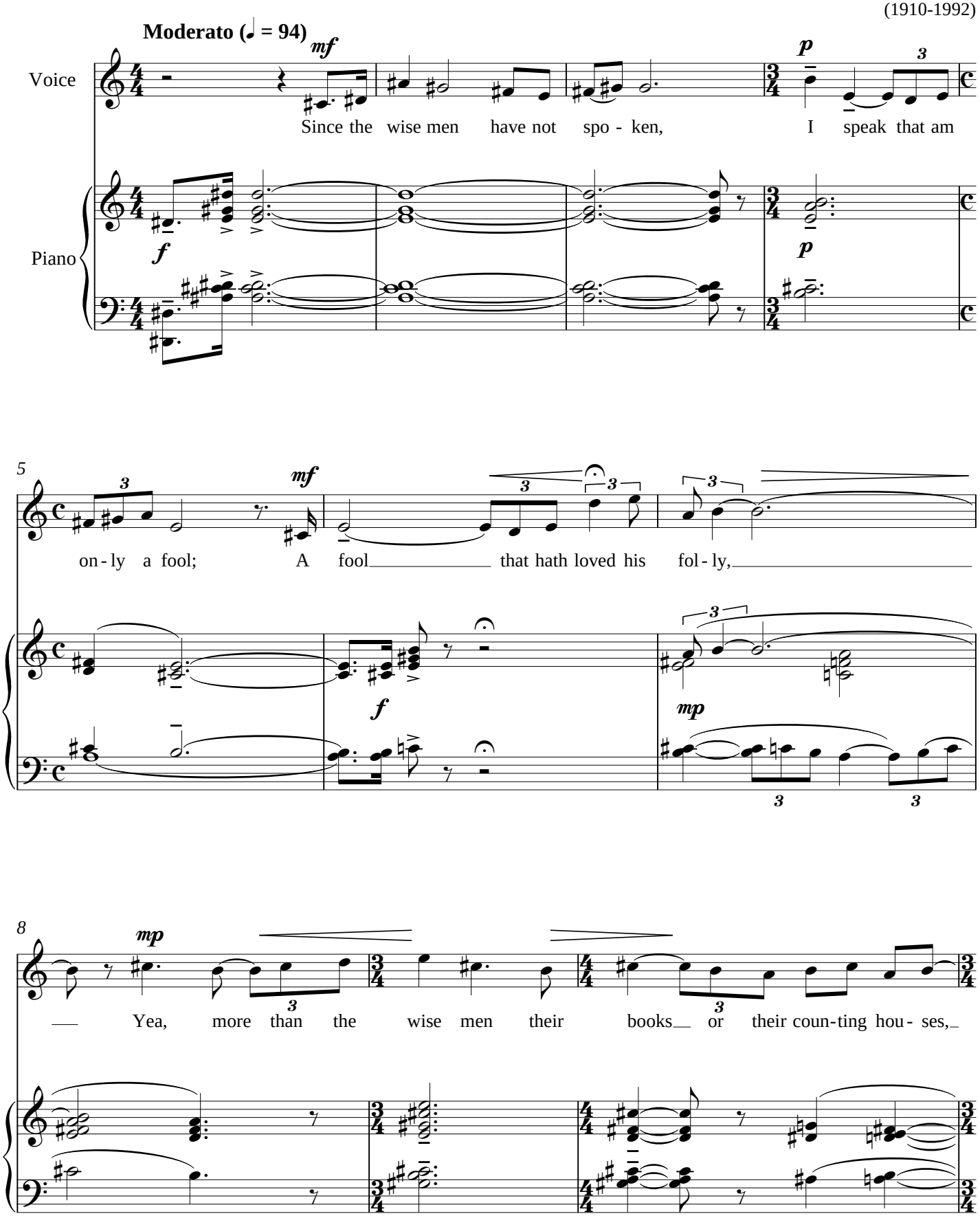
The lawyers have sat in council, the men with the keen, long faces,
And said, "This man is a fool," and others have said, "He blasphemeth;"
And the wise have pitied the fool that hath striven to give a life
In the world of time and space among the bulks of actual things,
To a dream that was dreamed in the heart, and that only the heart could hold.

O wise men, riddle me this: what if the dream come true?
What if the dream come true? And if millions unborn shall dwell
In the house that I shaped in my heart, the noble house of my thought?
Lord, I have staked my soul, I have staked the lives of my kin
On the truth of Thy dreadful word. Do not remember my failures,
But remember this my faith.

And so I speak.
Yea, ere my hot youth pass, I speak to my people and say:
Ye shall be foolish as I; ye shall scatter, not save;
Ye shall venture your all, lest ye lose what is more than all;
Ye shall call for a miracle, taking Christ at His word.
And for this I will answer, O people, answer here and hereafter,
O people that I have loved, shall we not answer together?

The Fool

Aloys Fleischmann
(1910-1992)



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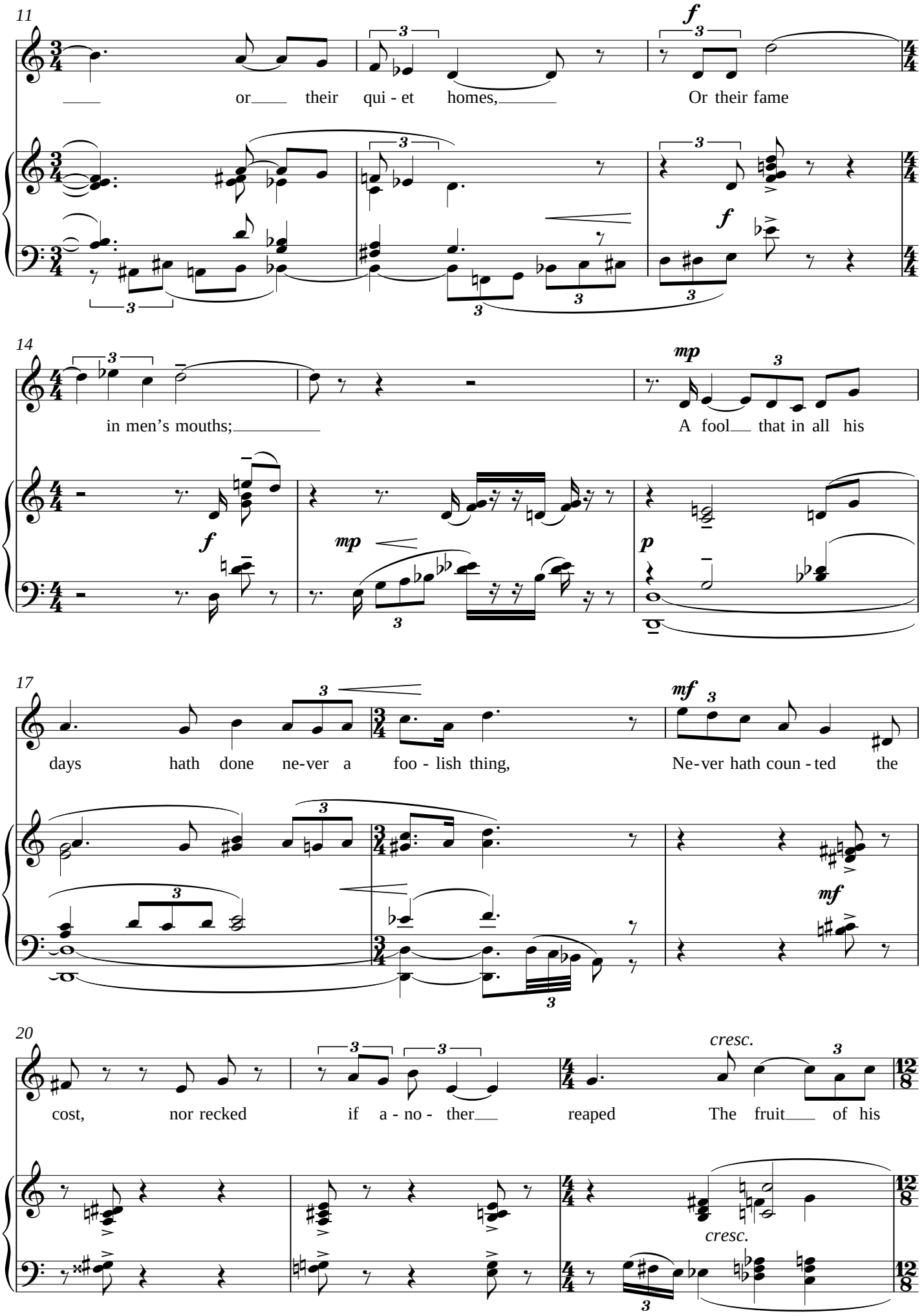
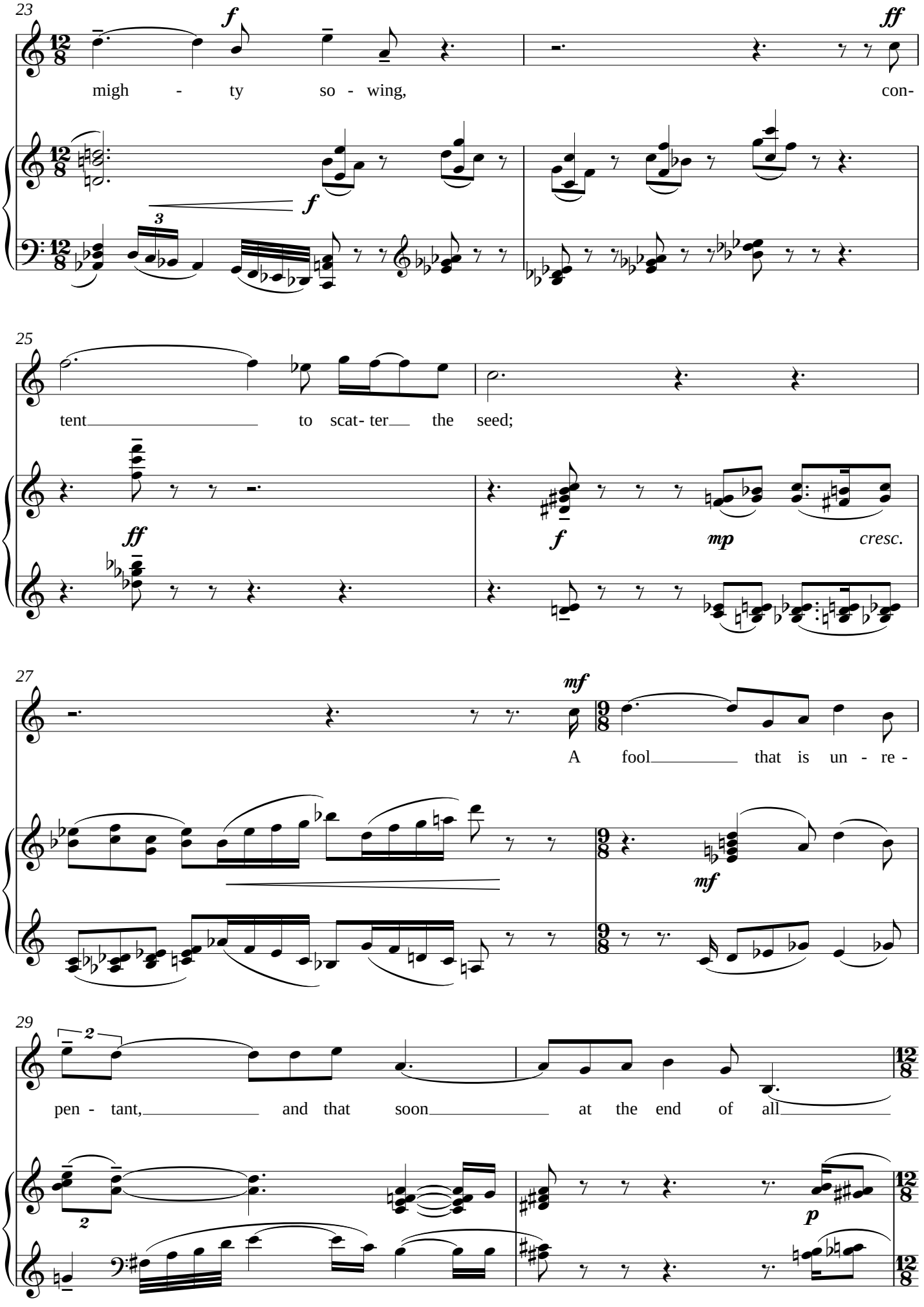
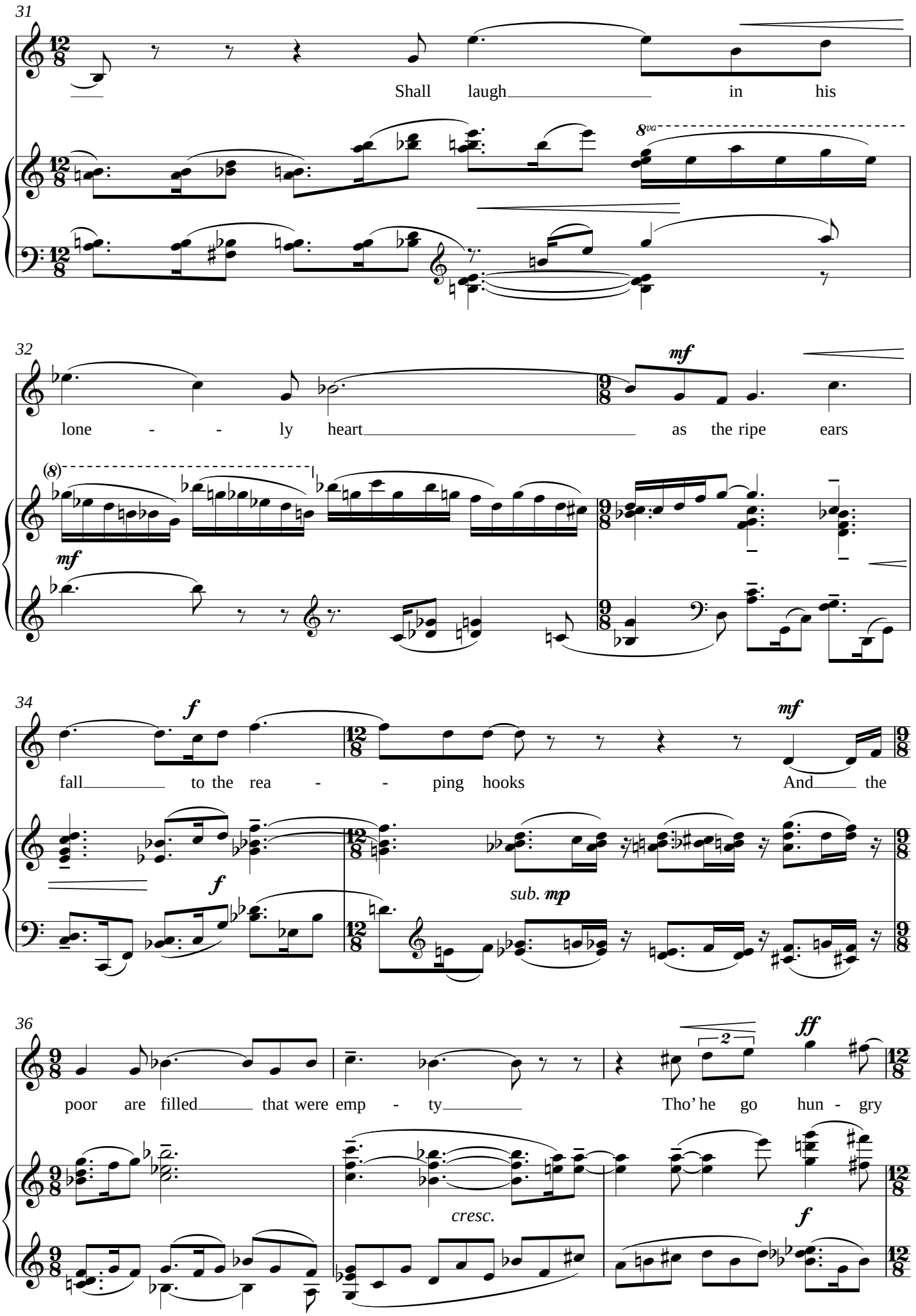
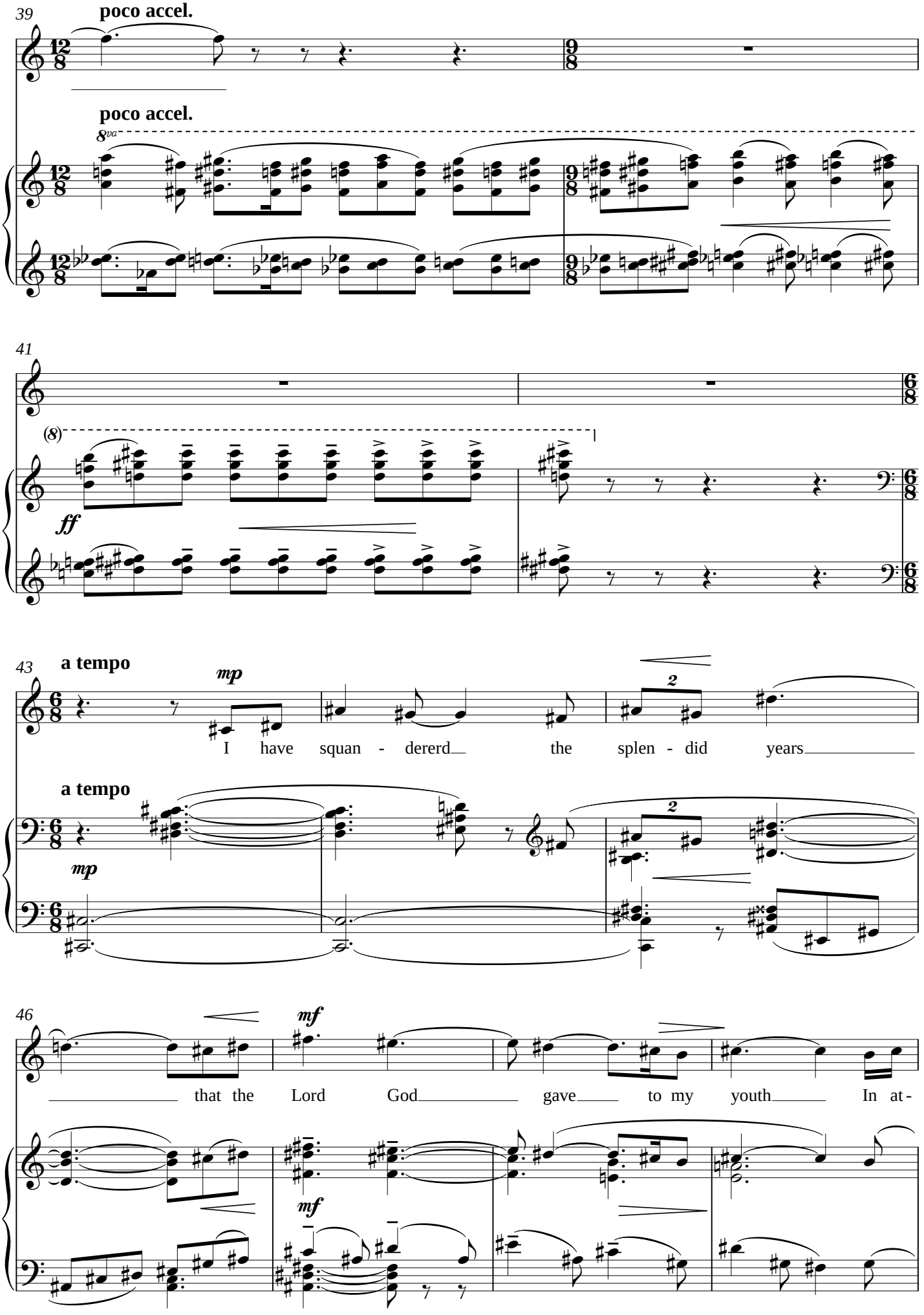
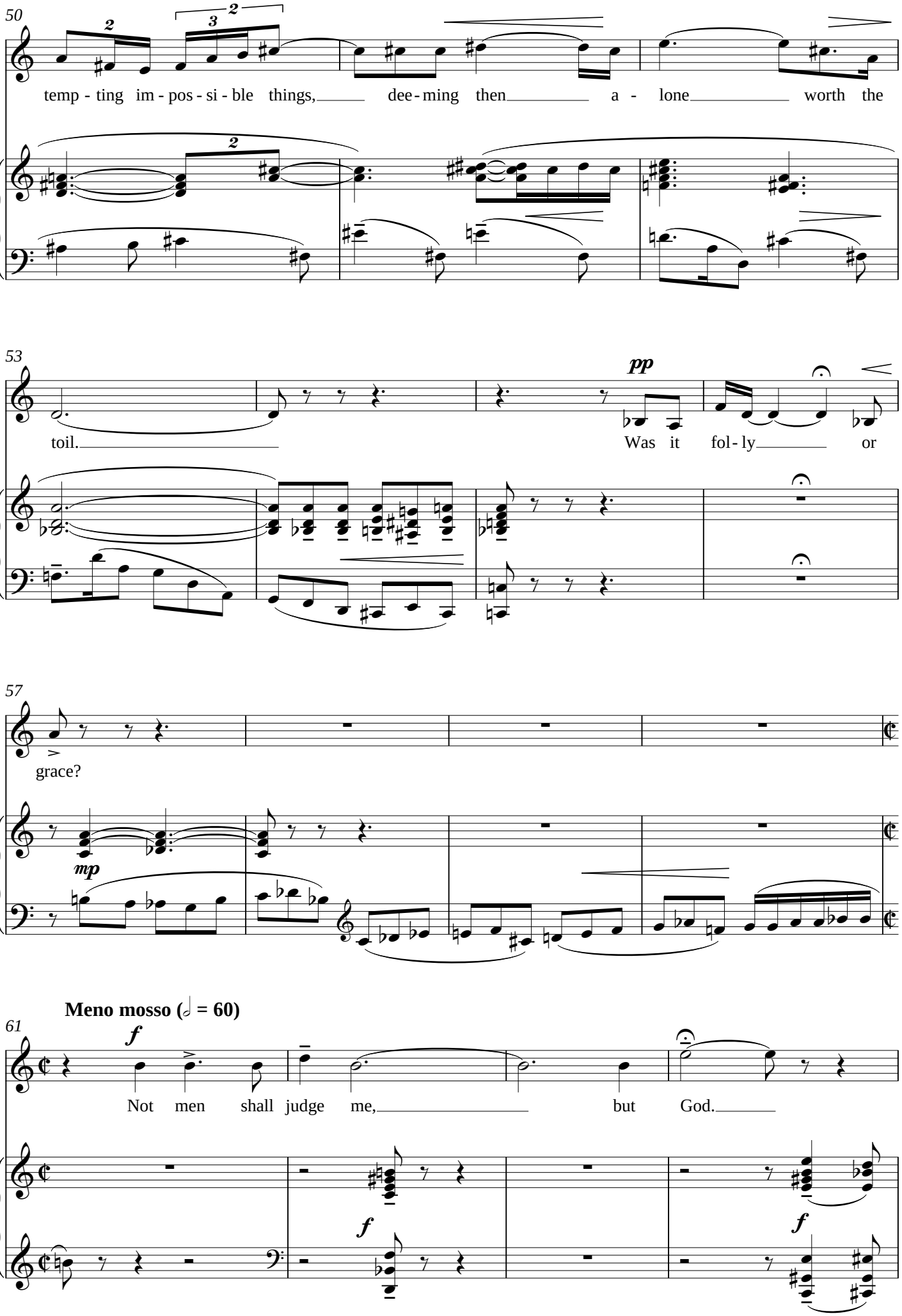
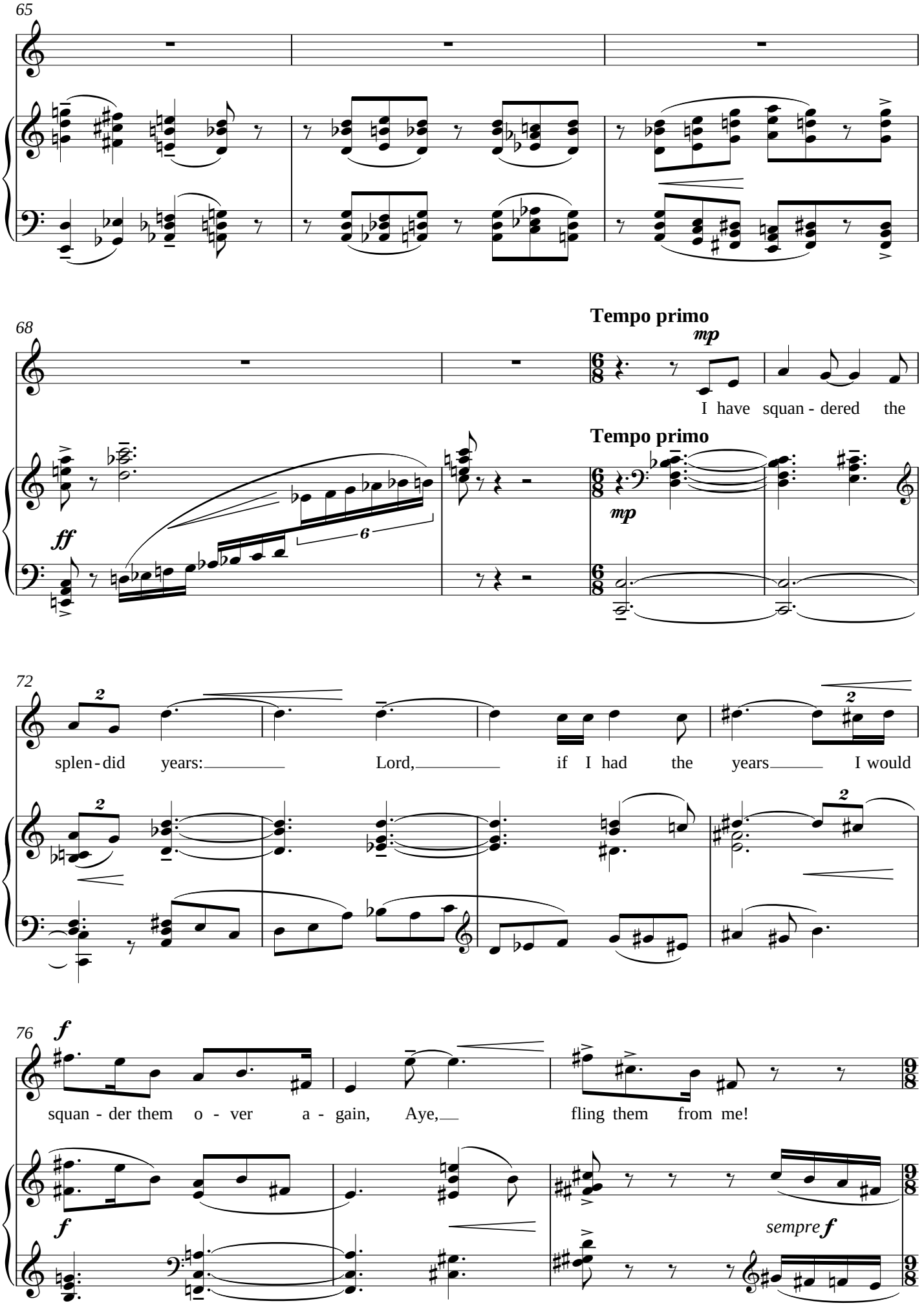

11
or their qui - et homes,
Or their fame
14
in men's mouths;
A fool that in all his
17
days hath done ne-ver a foo - lish thing,
Ne-ver hath coun - ted the
20
cost, nor recked if a - no - ther reaped The fruit of his
cresc.
cresc.

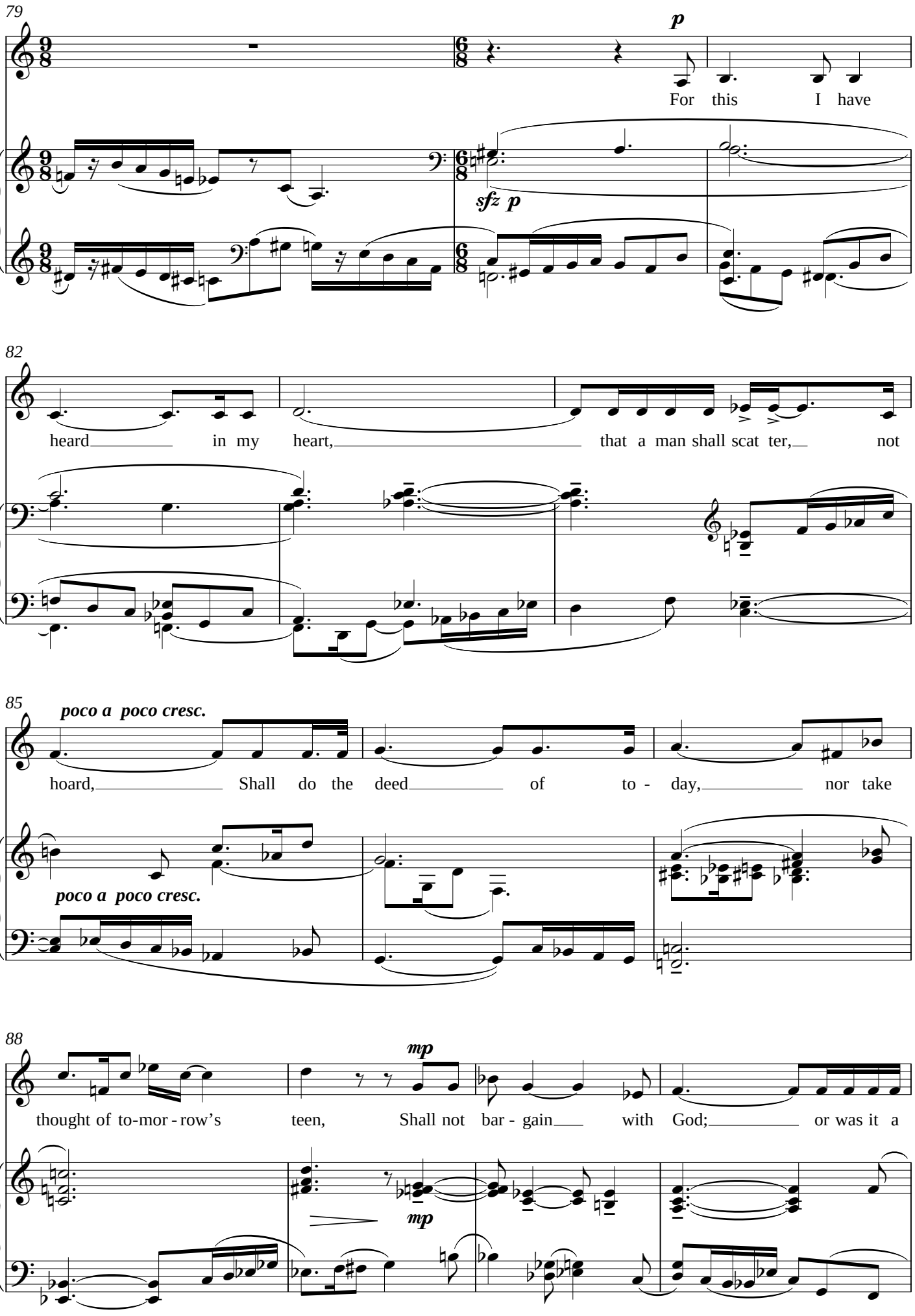

23
f
ff
mighty soaring, con-
f
25
tent to scatter the seed;
ff
f
mp
cresc.
27
mf
A fool that is unre-
mf
29
pentant, and that soon at the end of all
p

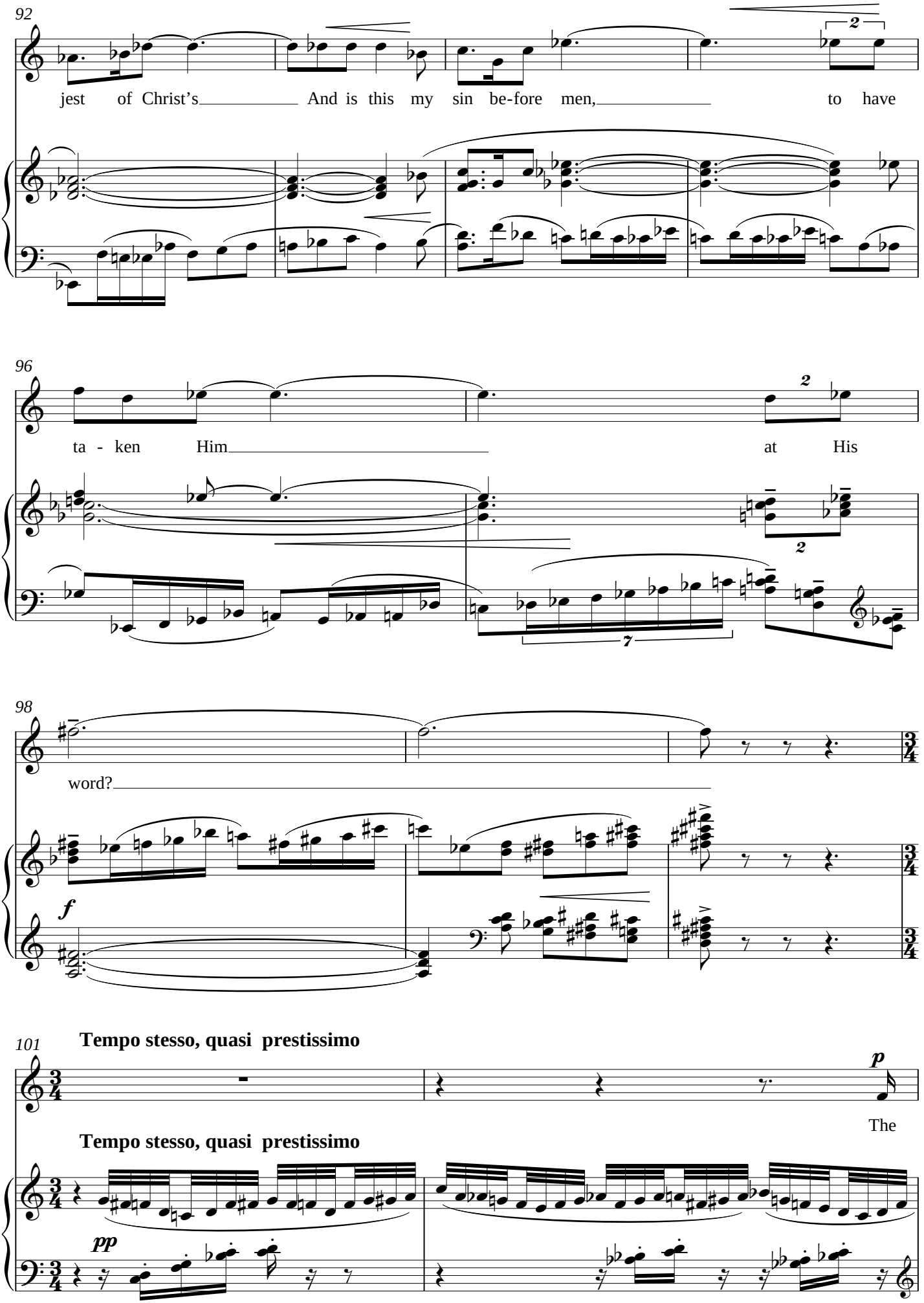

31
Shall laugh in his
8va
32
mf
lone - - ly heart as the ripe ears
(8)
mf
34
f
fall to the rea - - ping hooks
mf
And the
f
sub. mp
36
poor are filled that were emp - ty
ff
Tho' he go hun - gry
cresc.
f

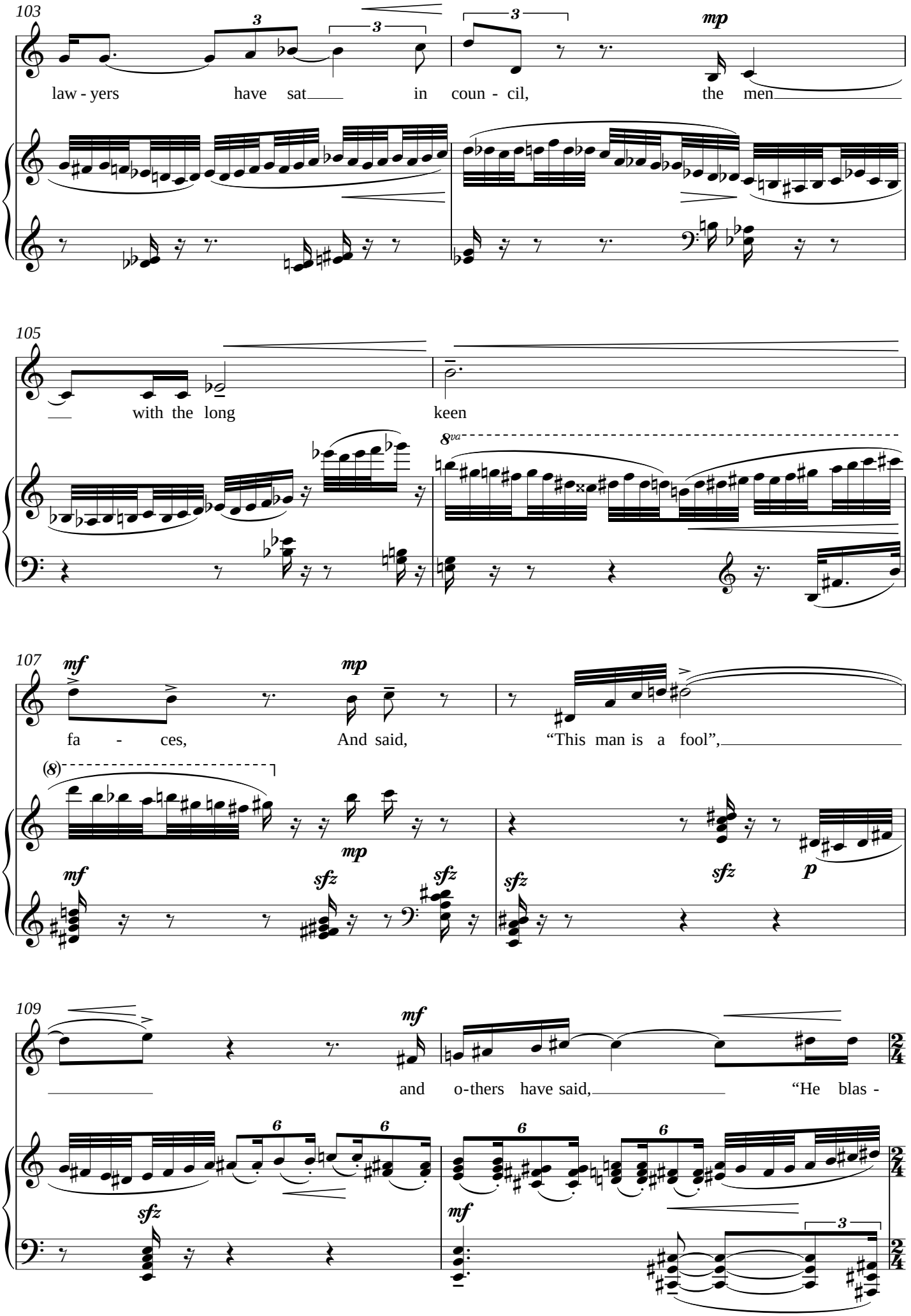

39
poco accel.
poco accel.
8va
41
(8)
ff
43
a tempo
mp
I have squan - dererd the splen - did years
a tempo
mp
46
mf
that the Lord God gave to my youth In at -
mf

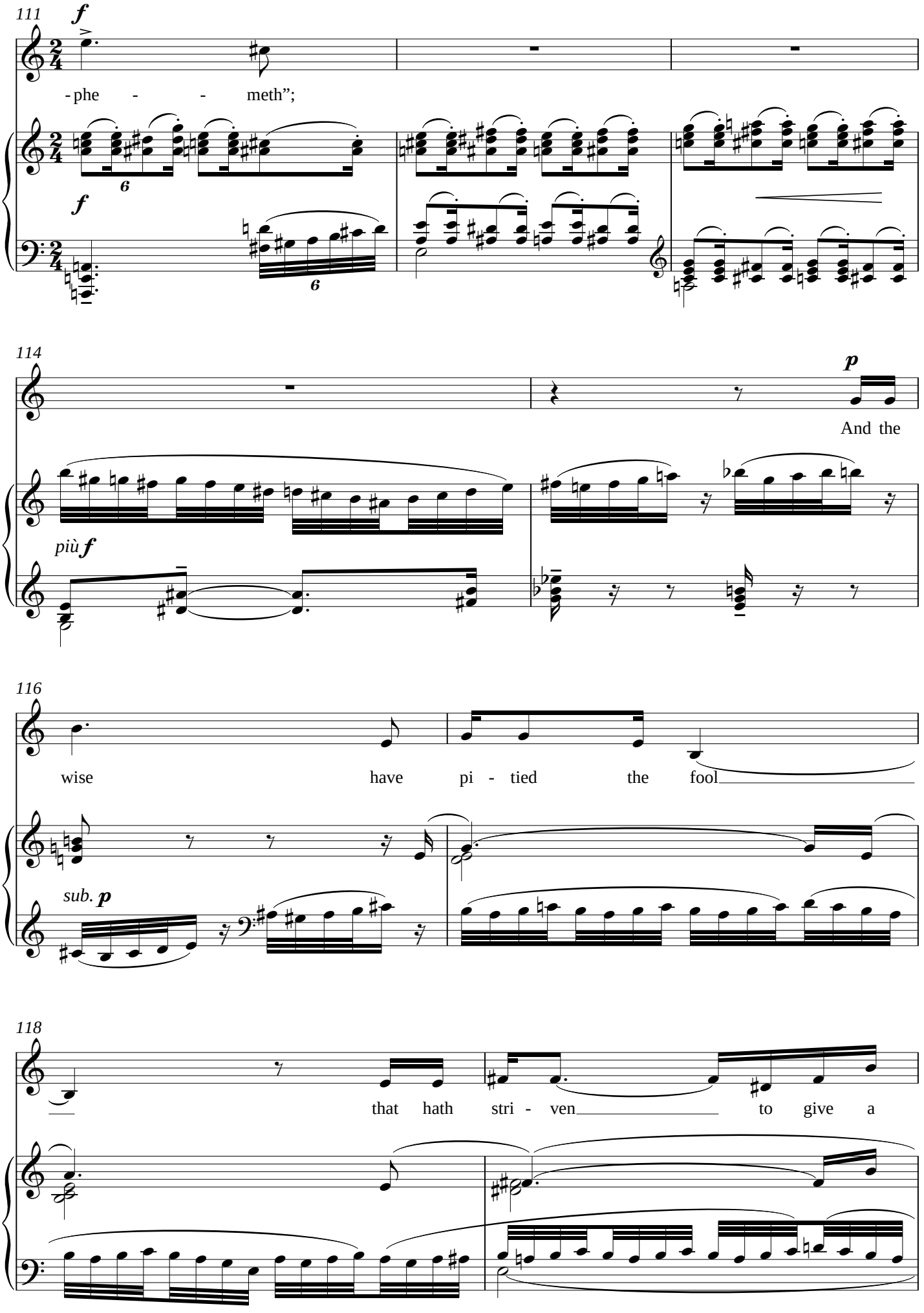

50
temp - ting im - pos - si - ble things, dee - ming then a - lone worth the
53
toil. Was it fol - ly or
pp
57
grace?
mp
Meno mosso (𝅗𝅥 = 60)
61
f
Not men shall judge me, but God.
f
f

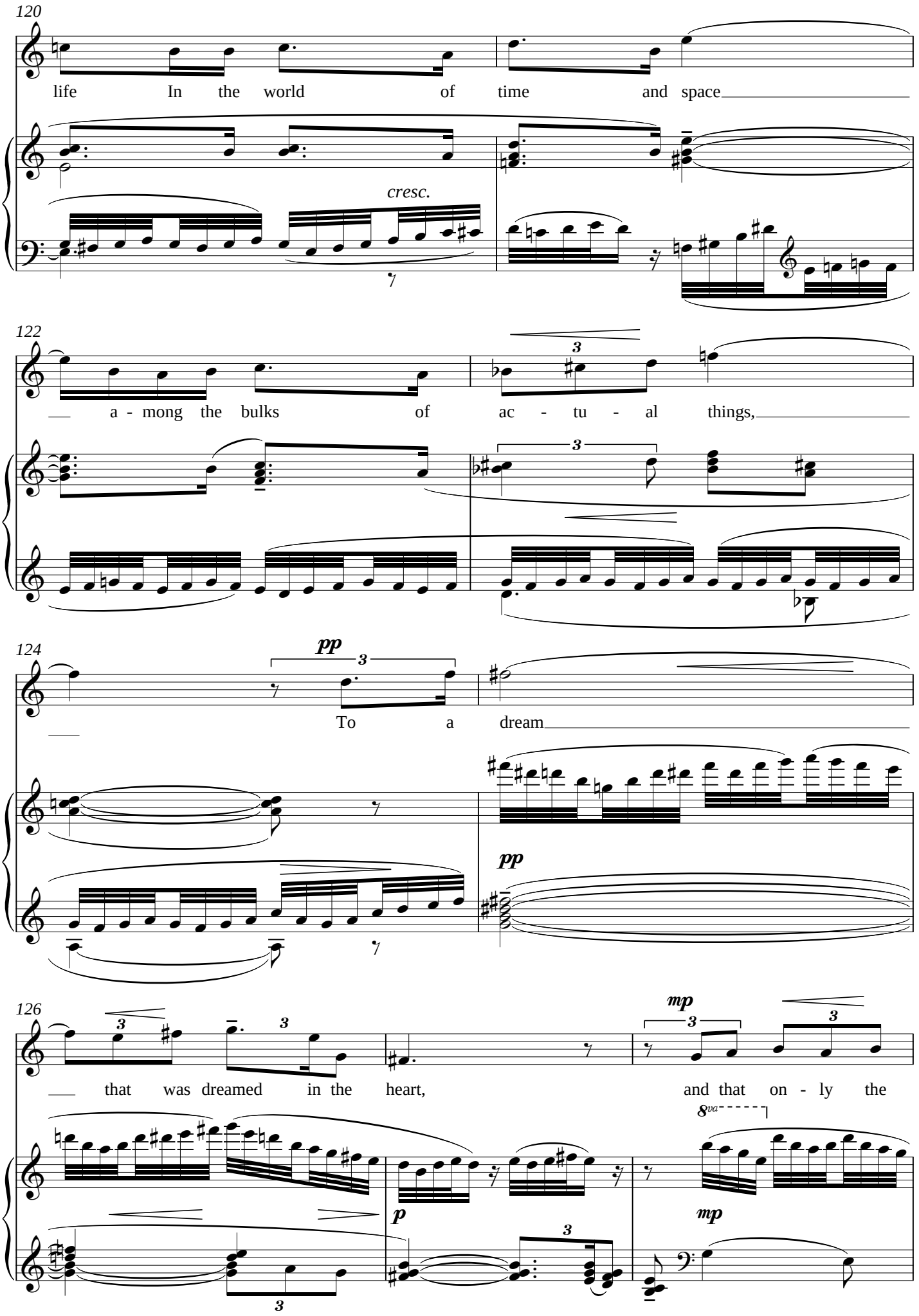

65
68
Tempo primo
mp
I have squan - dered the
Tempo primo
ff
mp
6
72
splen - did years: Lord, if I had the years I would
76
f
squan - der them o - ver a - gain, Aye, fling them from me!
f
sempre f

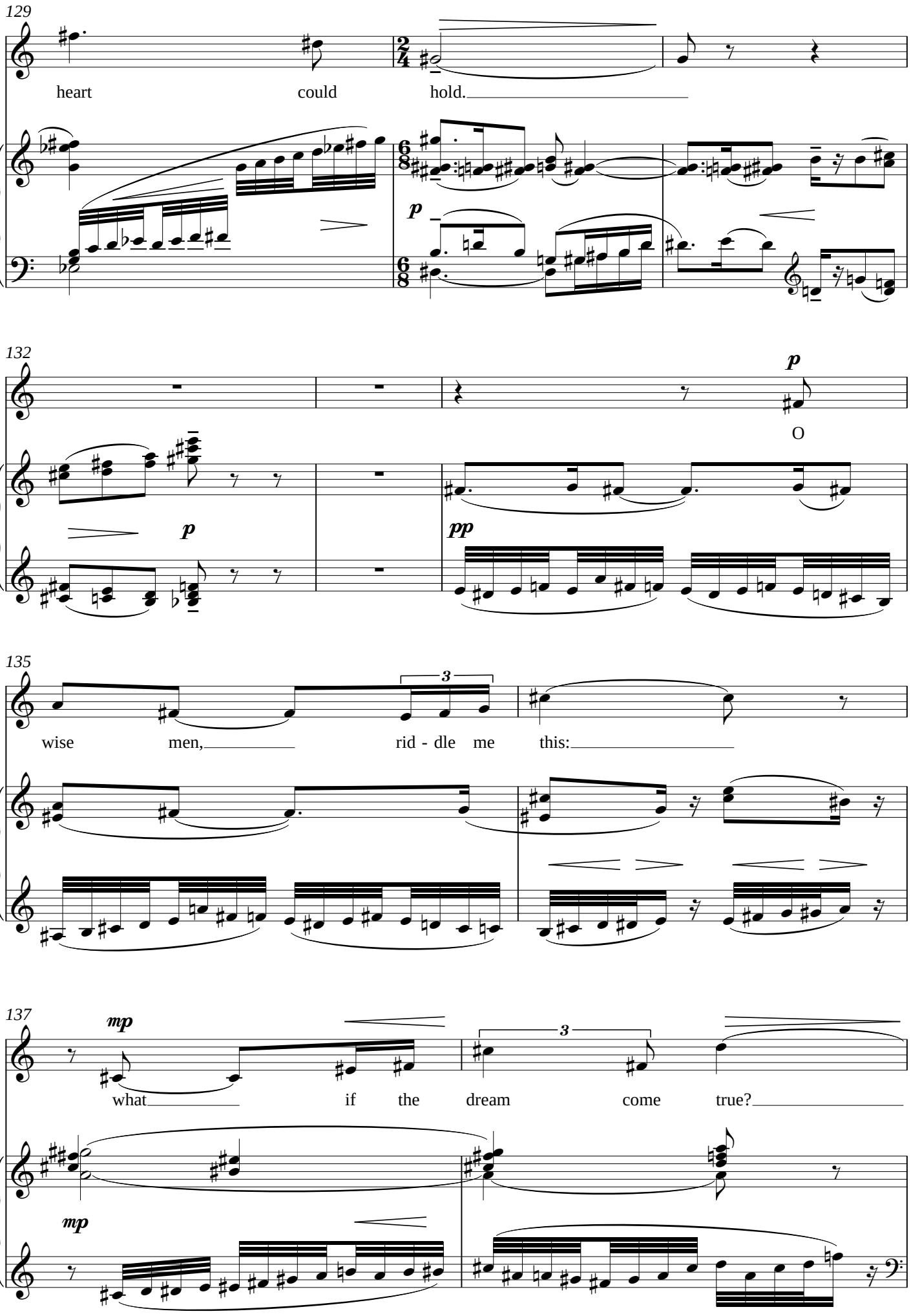

79
p
For this I have
sfz p
82
heard in my heart, that a man shall scat ter, not
85
poco a poco cresc.
hoard, Shall do the deed of to - day, nor take
poco a poco cresc.
88
mp
thought of to-mor - row's teen, Shall not bar - gain with God; or was it a
mp

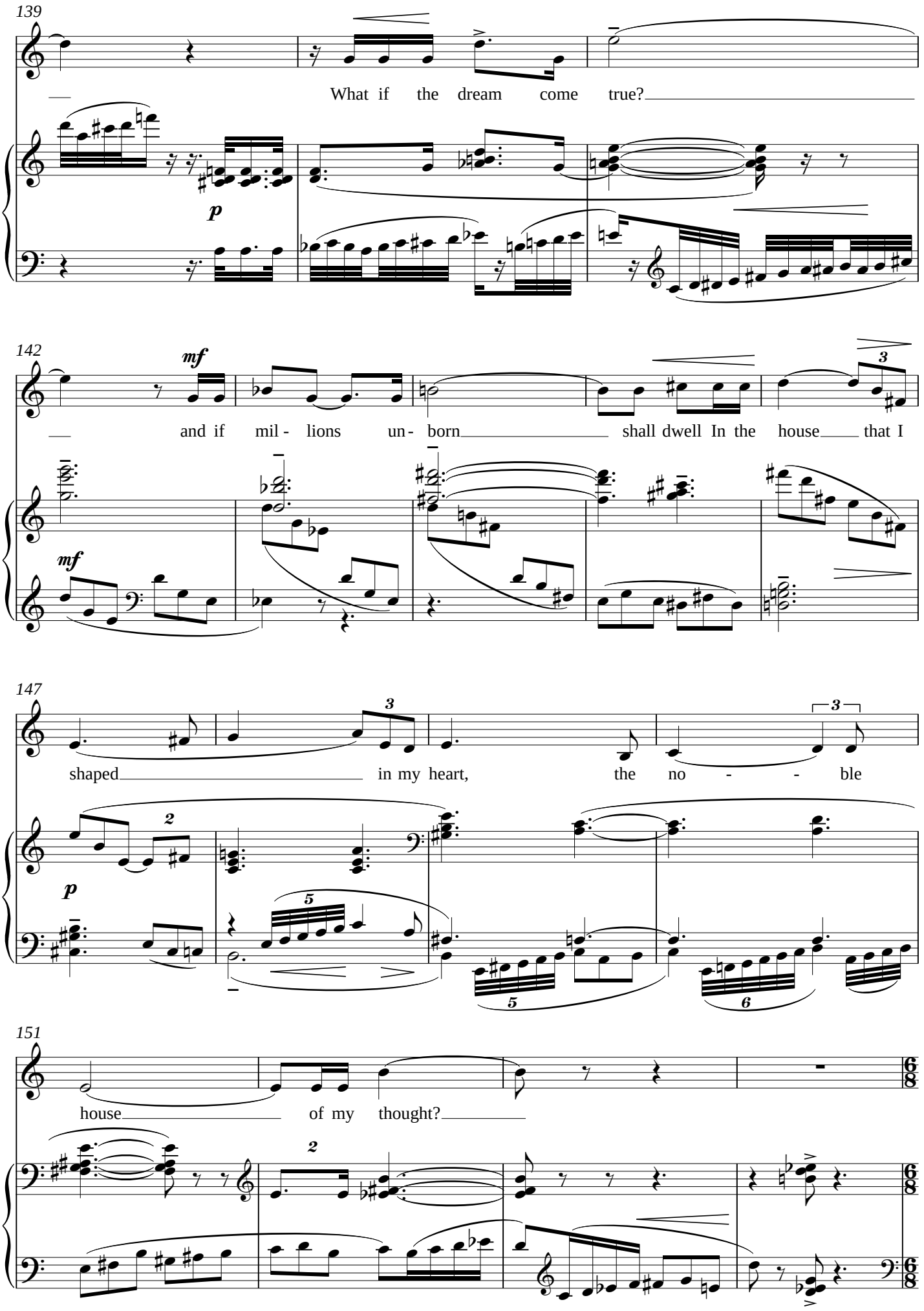

92
jest of Christ's And is this my sin be-fore men, to have
96
ta - ken Him at His
98
word?
f
101
Tempo stesso, quasi prestissimo
p
The
Tempo stesso, quasi prestissimo
pp

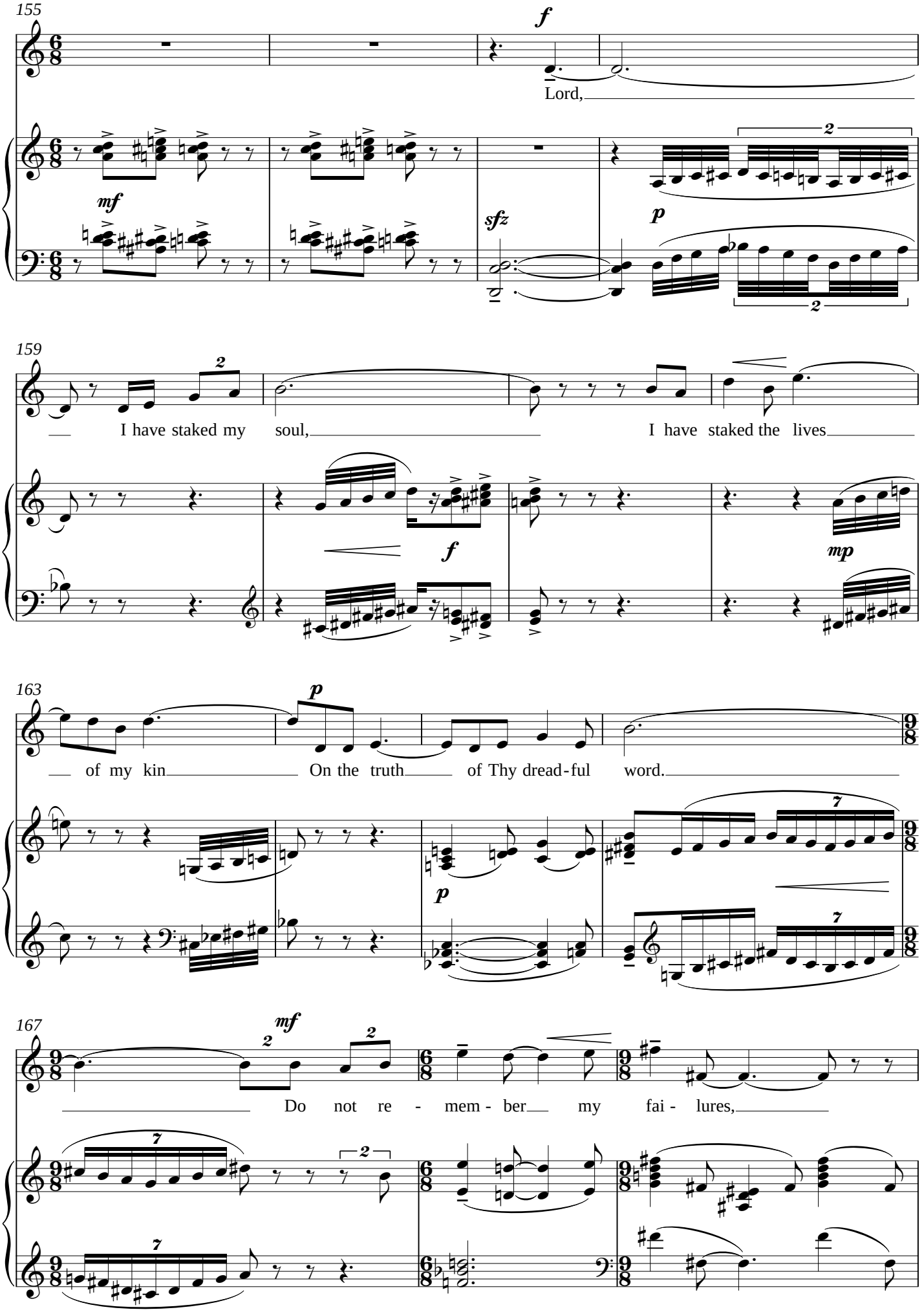

103
law - yers have sat in coun - cil, the men
mp
105
with the long keen
8va
107
mf
fa - ces,
mp
And said,
"This man is a fool",
(8)
mf
sfz
sfz
mp
sfz
sfz
sfz
p
109
mf
and o-thers have said,
"He blas -
6
6
6
6
sfz
mf
3
2/4
2/4

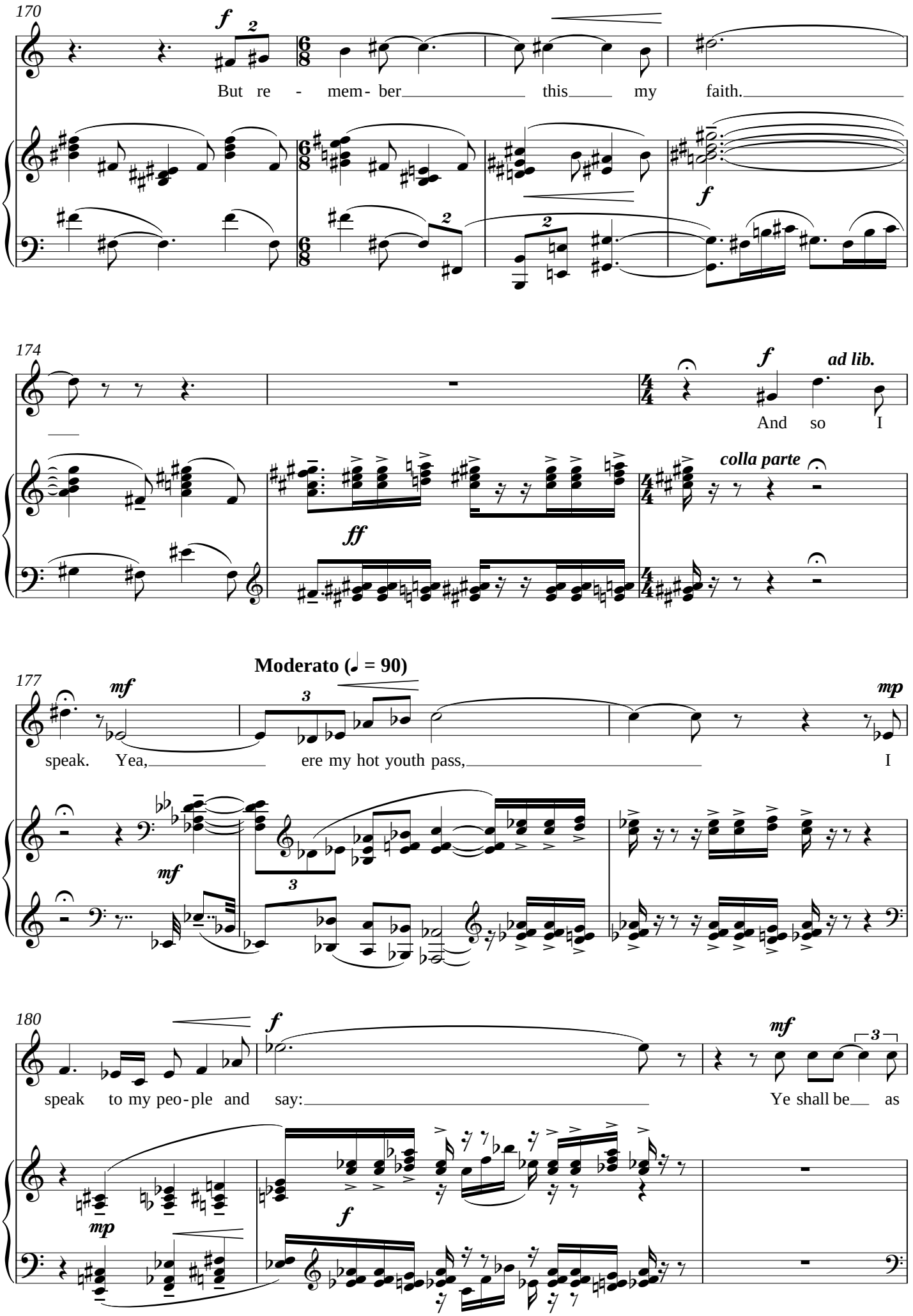

111
f
- phe - - meth";
f
114
p
And the
più f
116
wise have pi - tied the fool
sub. p
118
that hath stri - ven to give a

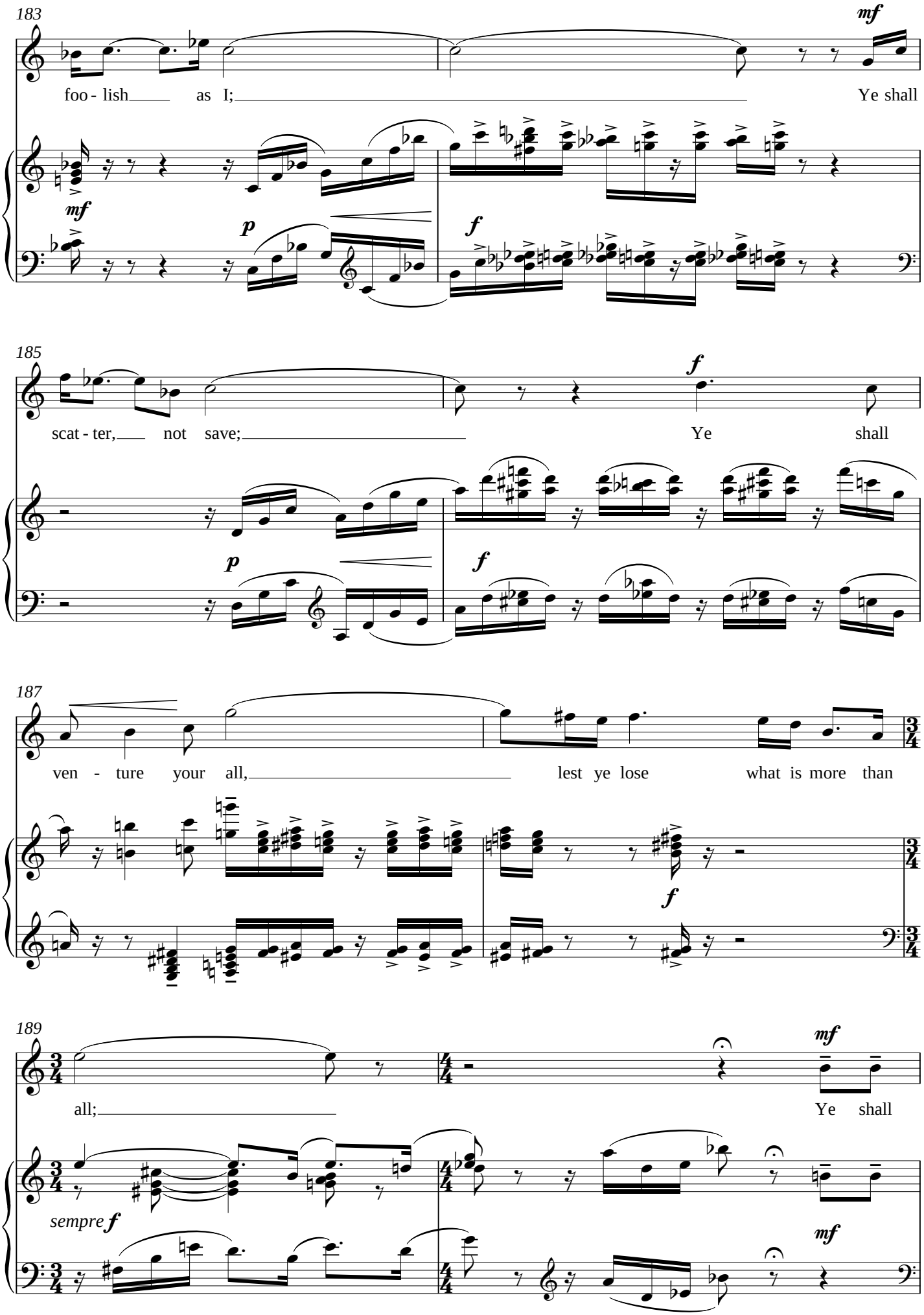

120
life In the world of time and space
cresc.
122
a - mong the bulks of ac - tu - al things,
124
pp
To a dream
pp
126
that was dreamed in the heart,
mp
and that on - ly the
8va
p
mp

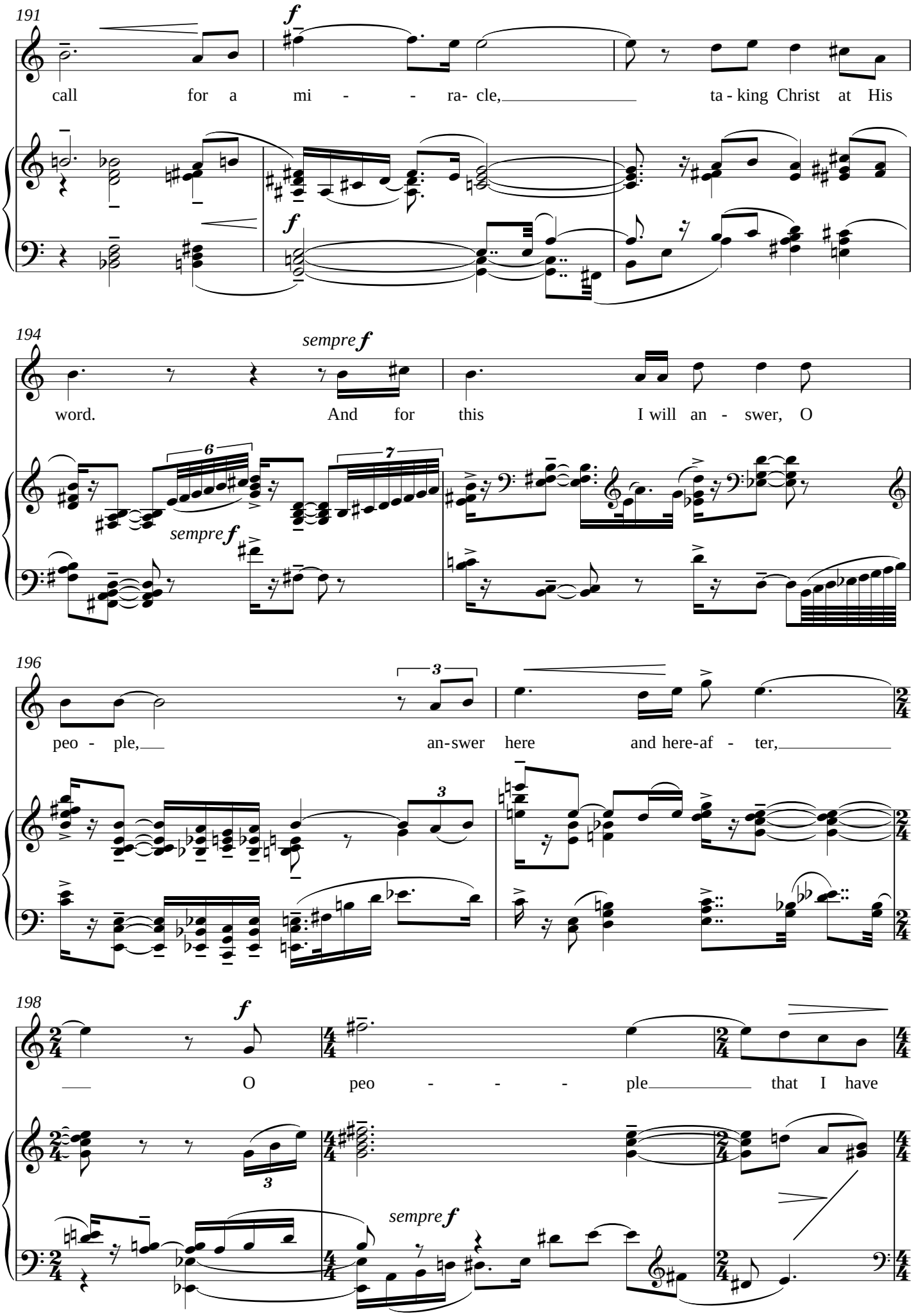

129
heart could hold.
p
132
p
O
p
pp
135
3
wise men, rid - dle me this:
137
mp
3
what if the dream come true?
mp

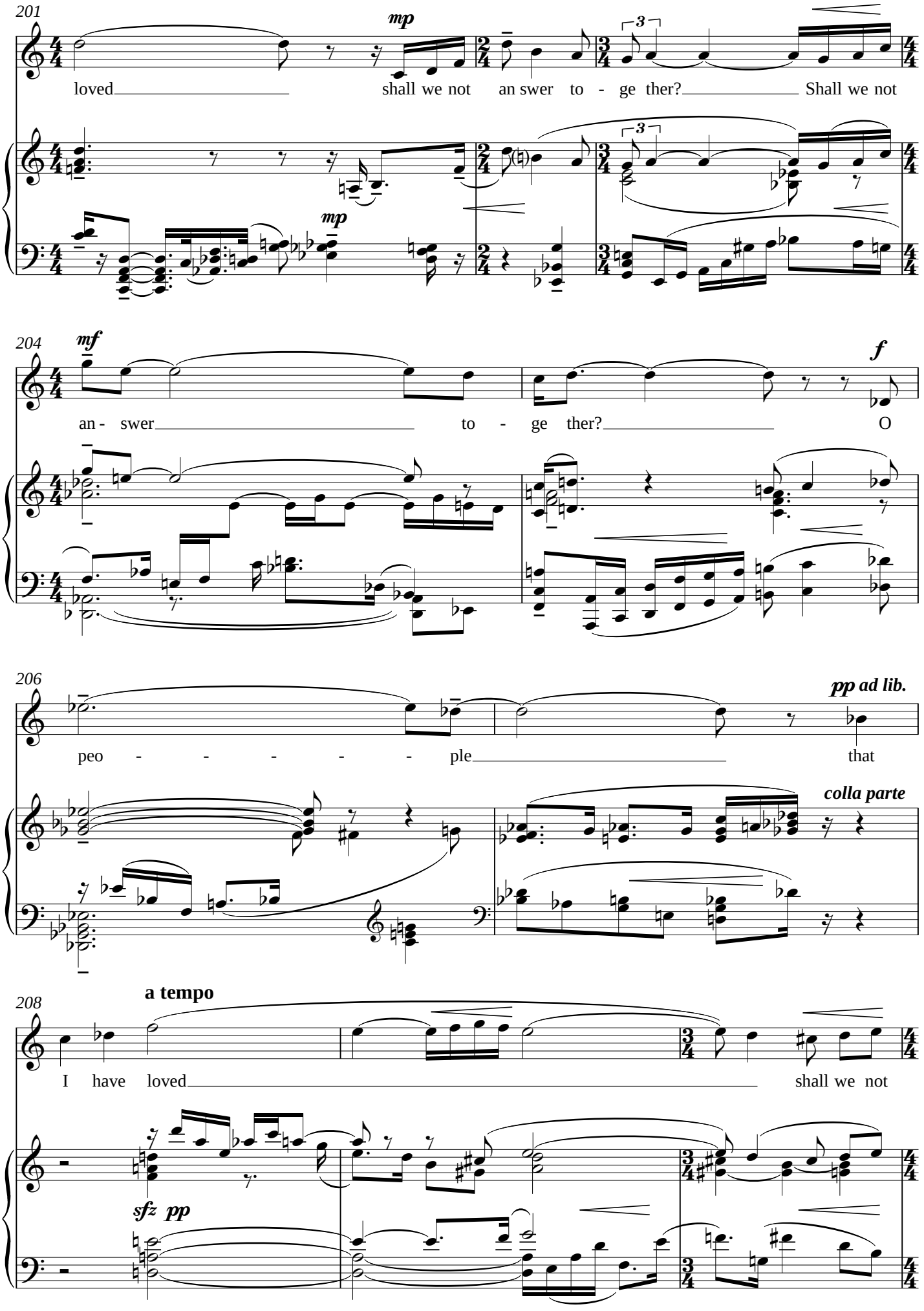

139
What if the dream come true?
p
142
mf
and if mil - lions un - born shall dwell In the house that I
mf
147
shaped in my heart, the no - - ble
p
151
house of my thought?

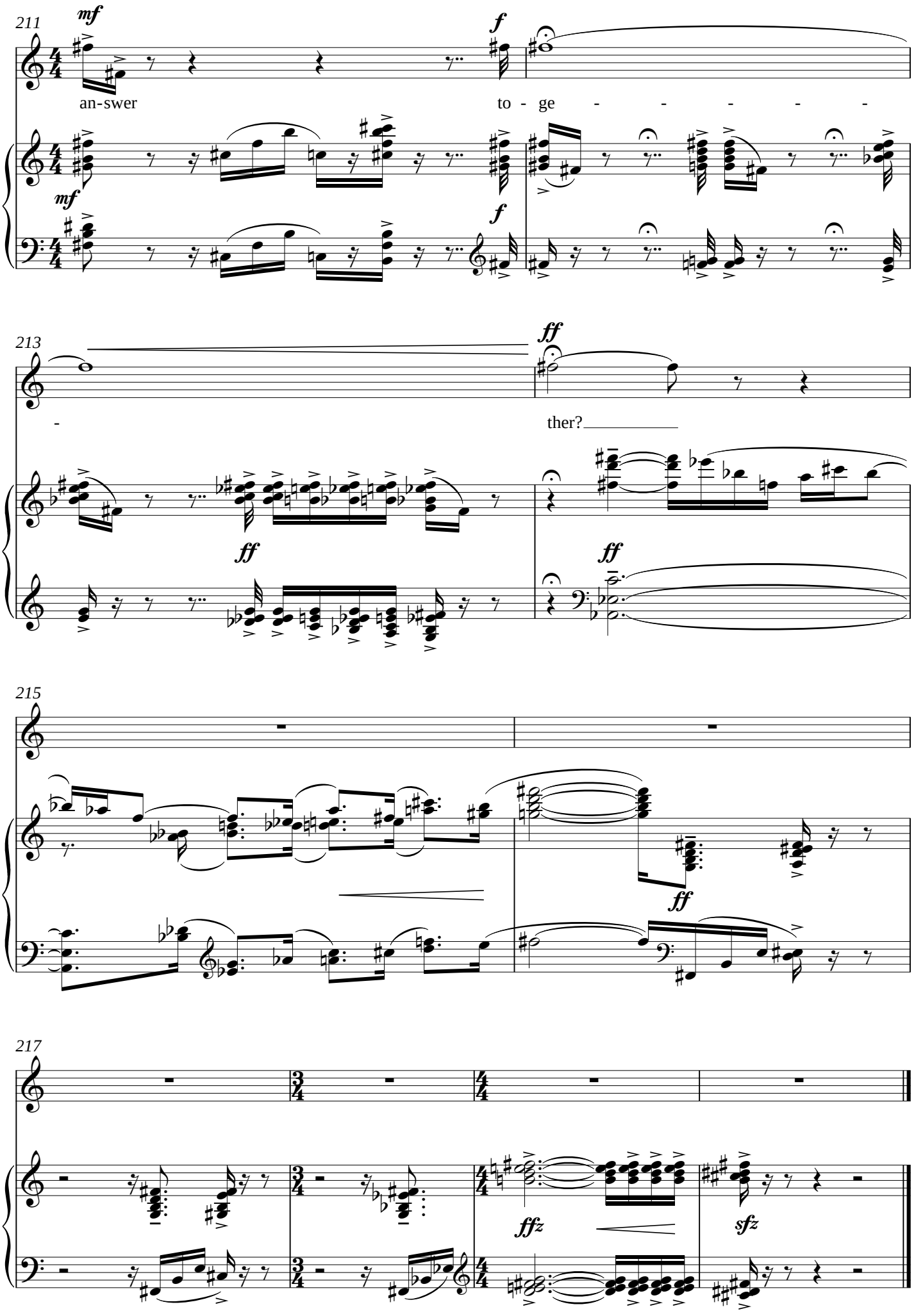

155
f
Lord,
mf
sfz
p
159
I have staked my soul,
I have staked the lives
f
mp
163
of my kin
On the truth
of Thy dread-ful word.
p
p
167
mf
Do not re - mem - ber my fai - lures,


170
f
But re - mem - ber this my faith.
f
174
f
ad lib.
And so I
colla parte
ff
Moderato (♩ = 90)
177
mf
speak. Yea, ere my hot youth pass,
mp
I
mf
180
f
speak to my peo - ple and say:
mf
Ye shall be as
mp
f


183
mf
foo - lish as I; Ye shall
mf
p
f
185
f
scat - ter, not save; Ye shall
p
f
187
ven - ture your all, lest ye lose what is more than
f
189
mf
all; Ye shall
sempre f
mf


191
f
call for a mi - - ra- cle, ta - king Christ at His
f
194
sempre f
word. And for this I will an - swer, O
6
7
sempre f
196
3
peo - ple, an-swer here and here-af - ter,
3
198
f
O peo - - - ple that I have
3
sempre f


201
mp
loved
shall we not
an swer
to - ge ther?
Shall we not
mp
204
mf
an - swer
to - ge ther?
f
O
206
pp ad lib.
peo - - - - - - ple
that
colla parte
208
a tempo
I have loved
shall we not
sfz pp


211
mf
f
an-swer
to - ge - - - - - -
mf
f
213
ff
-
ther?
ff
ff
215
ff
217
ffz
sfz