A Packet for Susan

Five Love Songs

for Mezzo-Soprano and piano

Martin Boyden

1. It Often Comes Into My Head

It often comes into my head
That we may dream when we are dead,
  But I am far from sure we do.
O that it were so! then my rest
Would be indeed among the blest;
  I should for ever dream of you.

- Walter Savage Landor

2. The Good-Morrow

I WONDER by my troth, what thou, and I
Did, till we lov'd? were we not wean'd till then?
But suck'd on countrey pleasures, childishly?
Or snorted we in the seaven sleepers den?
T'was so; But this, all pleasures fancies bee.
If ever any beauty I did see,
Which I desir'd, and got, t'was but a dreame of thee.

And now good morrow to our waking soules,
Which watch not one another out of feare;
For love, all love of other sights controules,
And makes one little roome, an every where.
Let sea-discoverers to new worlds have gone,
Let Maps to other, worlds on worlds have showne,
Let us possesse one world, each hath one, and is one.

My face in thine eye, thine in mine appeares,
And true plaine hearts doe in the faces rest,
Where can we finde two better hemispheares
Without sharpe North, without declining West?
What ever dyes, was not mixt equally;
If our two loves be one, or, thou and I
Love so alike, that none doe slacken, none can die.

- John Donne

3. Bright Star

Bright Star, would I were steadfast as thou art—
  Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night,
And watching, with eternal lids apart,
  Like nature's patient sleepless Eremite,

The moving waters at their priestlike task
  Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,
Or gazing on the new soft-fallen mask
  Of snow upon the mountains and the moors—

No—yet still steadfast, still unchangeable,
  Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,
To feel for ever its soft fall and swell,
  Awake for ever in a sweet unrest;

Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,
And so live ever,—or else swoon to death.

- John Keats

4. The Owl and The Pussy-Cat

I

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,
They took some honey, and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
'O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!'

II

Pussy said to the Owl, 'You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?'
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-tree grows
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.

III

'Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?' Said the Piggy, 'I will.'
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.

- Edward Lear

5. Well I Remember

Well I remember how you smiled
To see me write our names upon
The soft sea-sand,--"O! what a child!
You think you're writing upon stone!
We have since fashioned what no tide
Shall ever wash away, what those
Unborn shall find o'er ocean wide
Entwining our two names again.

-after Walter Savage Landor

These songs are intended as a cycle and may not be sung separately.

I

Adagio ♩ = ca. 63

Walter Savage Landor

pp

It often comes in-to my head

pp

That we may dream when we are dead,

4.

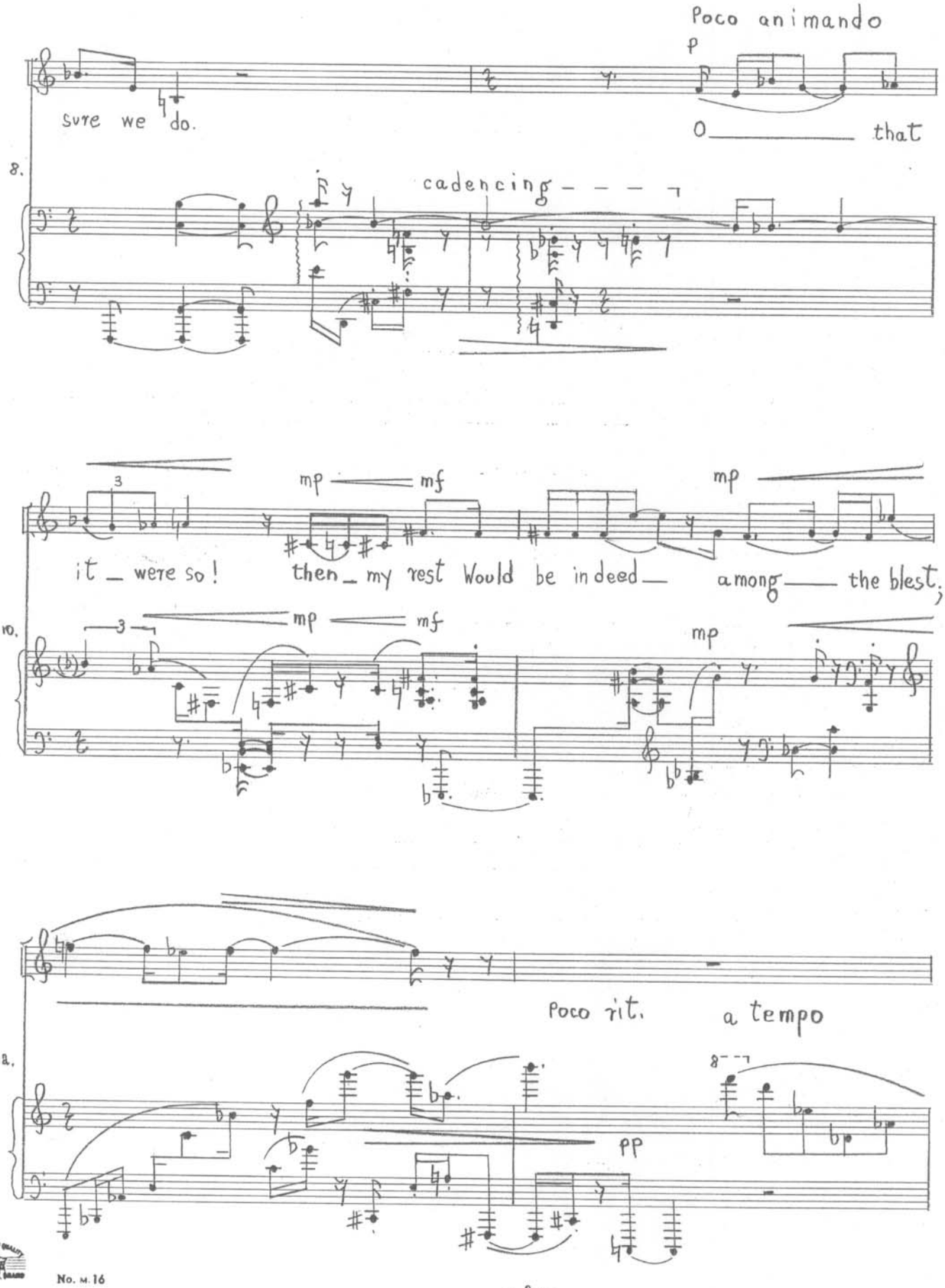
pp

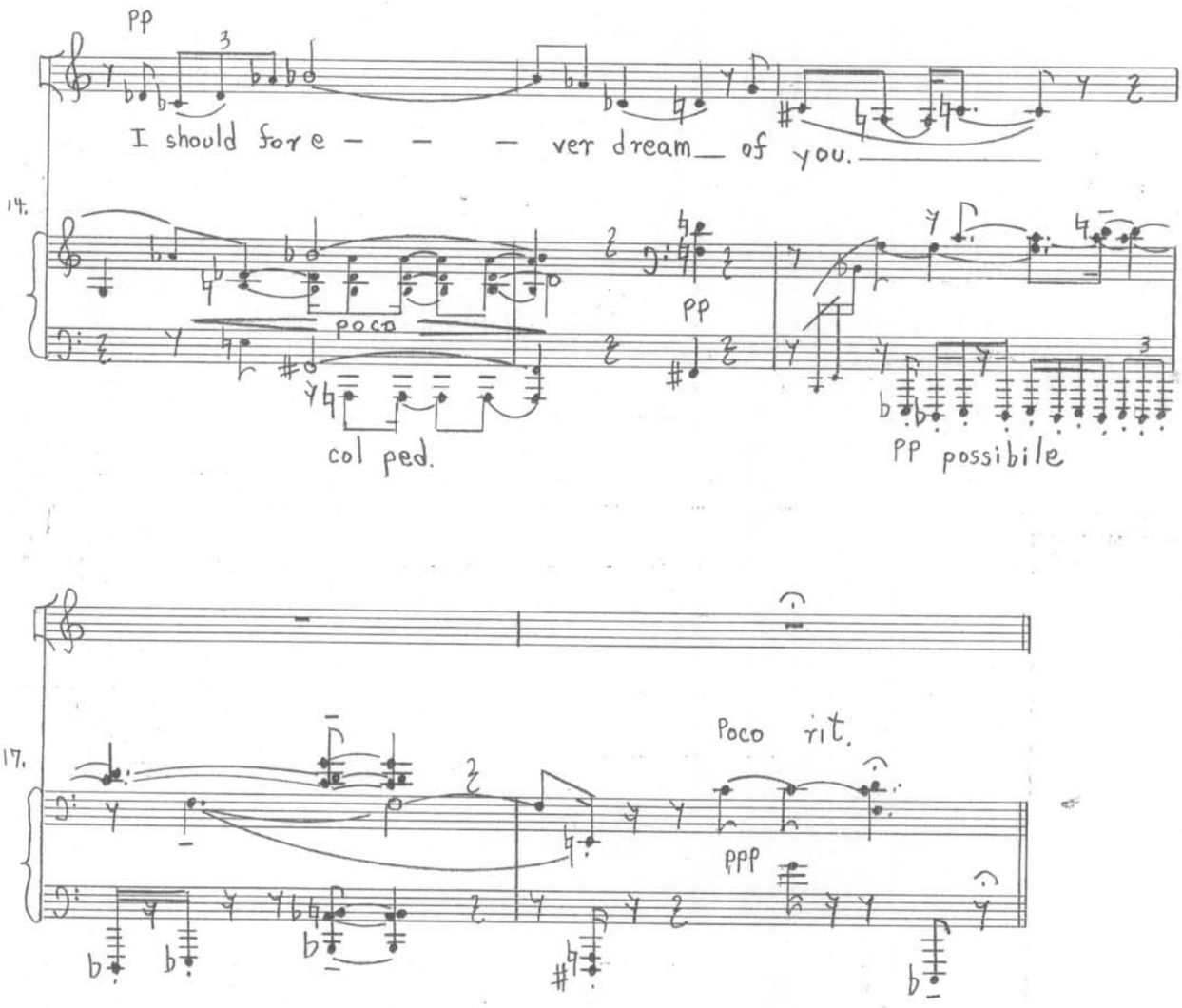
But I am far from

6.

pp

Tru


Poco animando
p
sure we do.
O that
8.
cadencing
3
mp mf
mp
it were so! then my rest Would be indeed among the blest;
10.
3
mp mf
mp
Poco rit.
a tempo
12.
8
pp

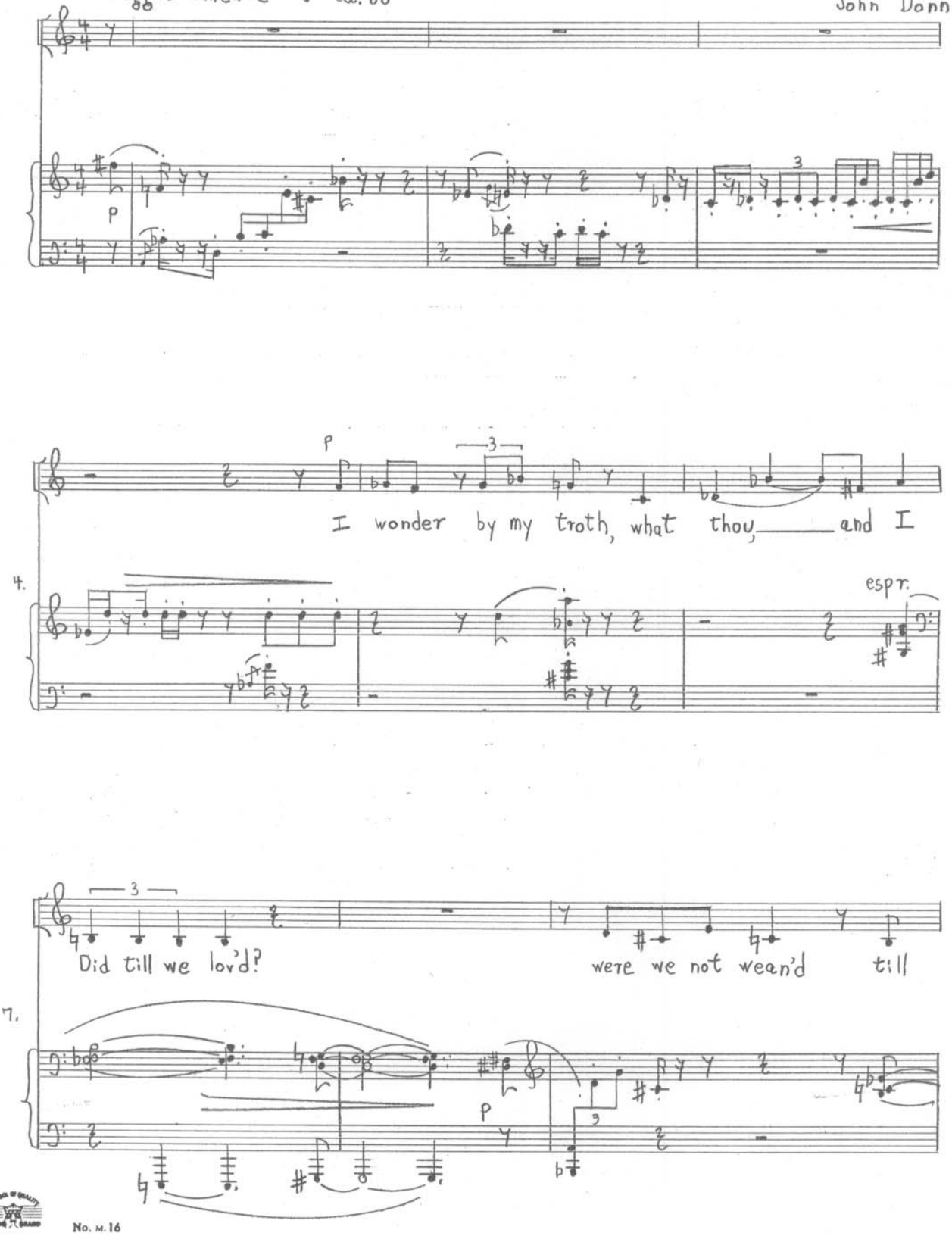

pp
I should fore - - - ver dream of you.
14.
poco
pp
col ped.
pp possibile

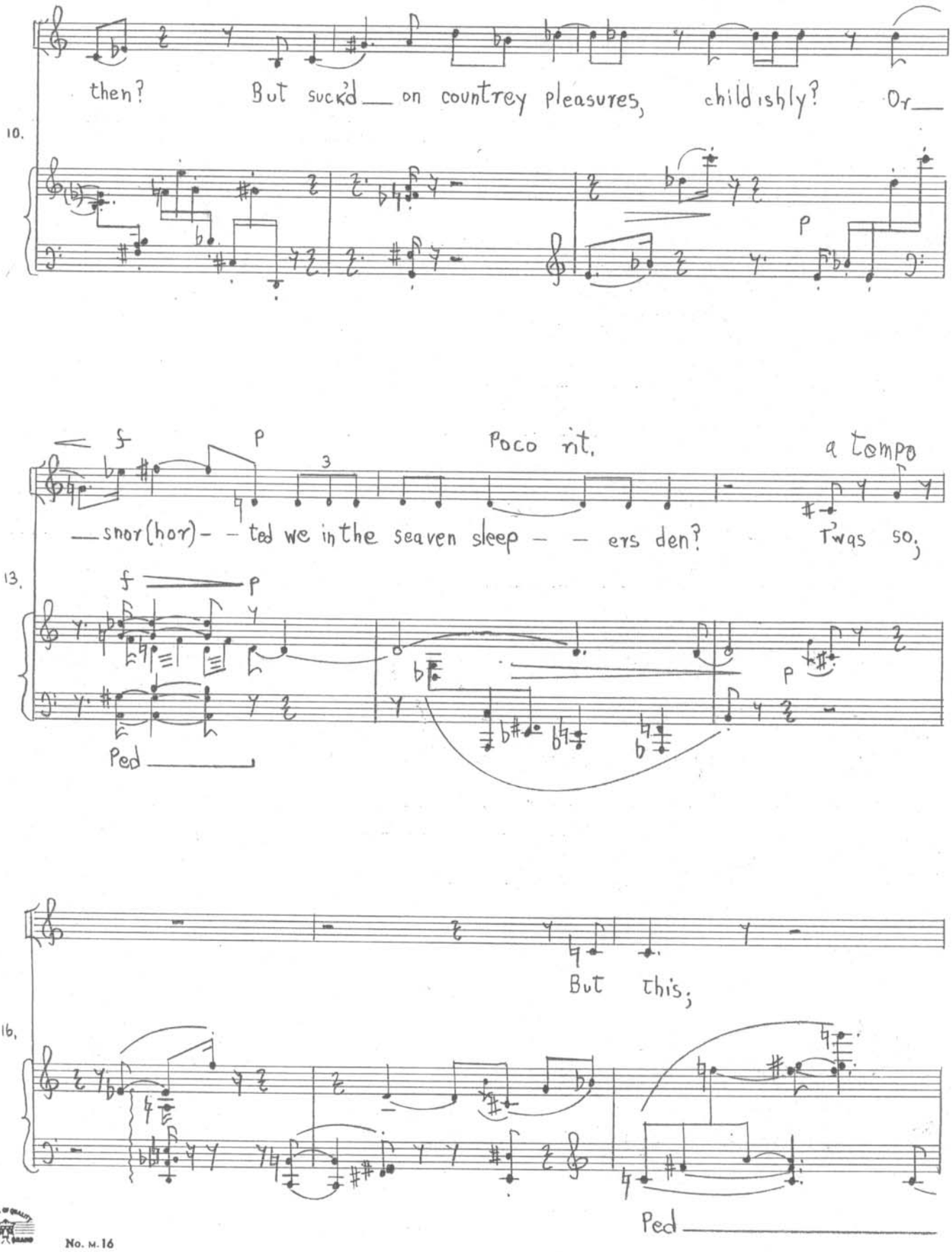
17.
Poco rit.
ppp

II

Leggieramente ♩ = ca. 88

John Donne

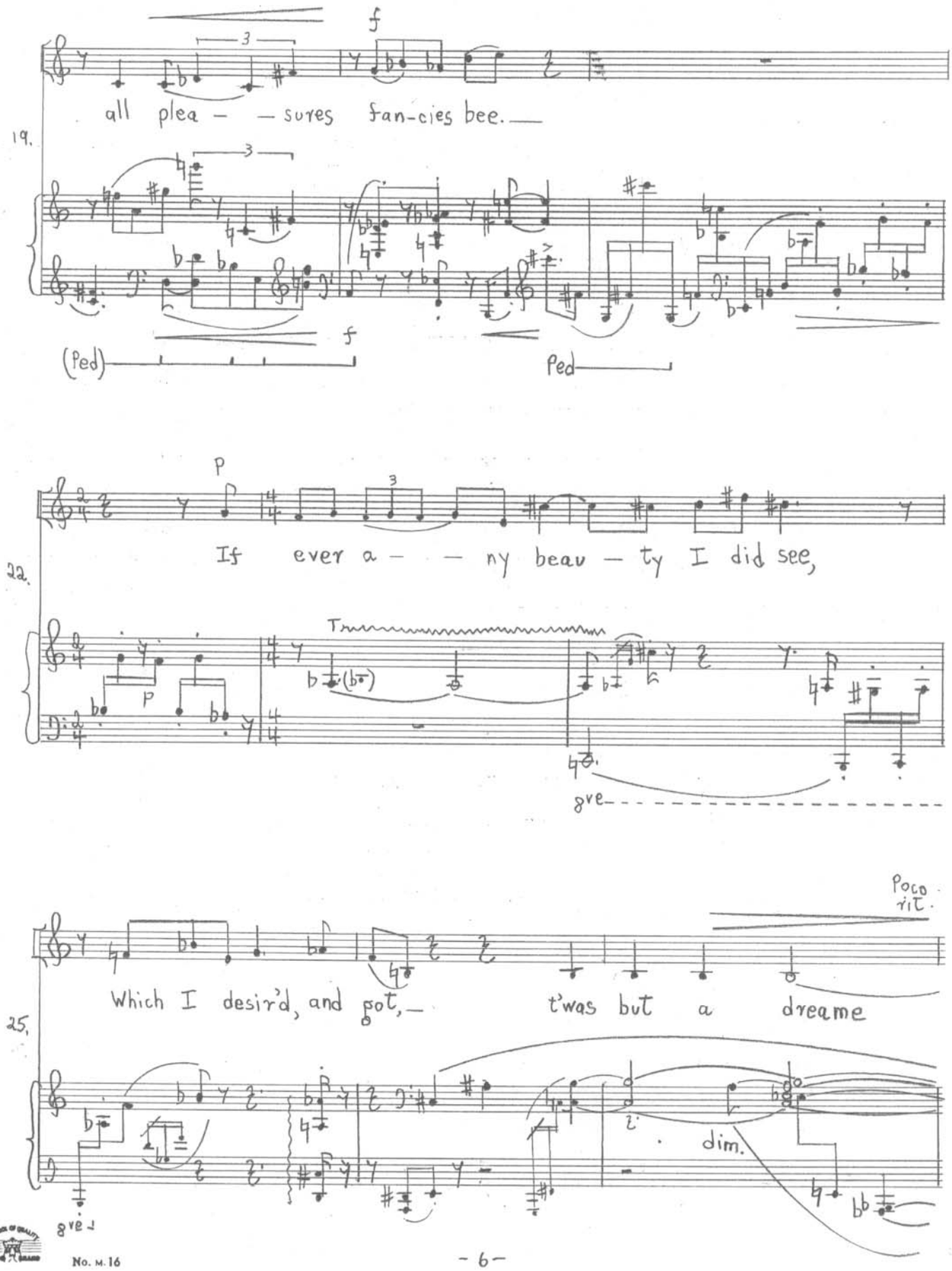


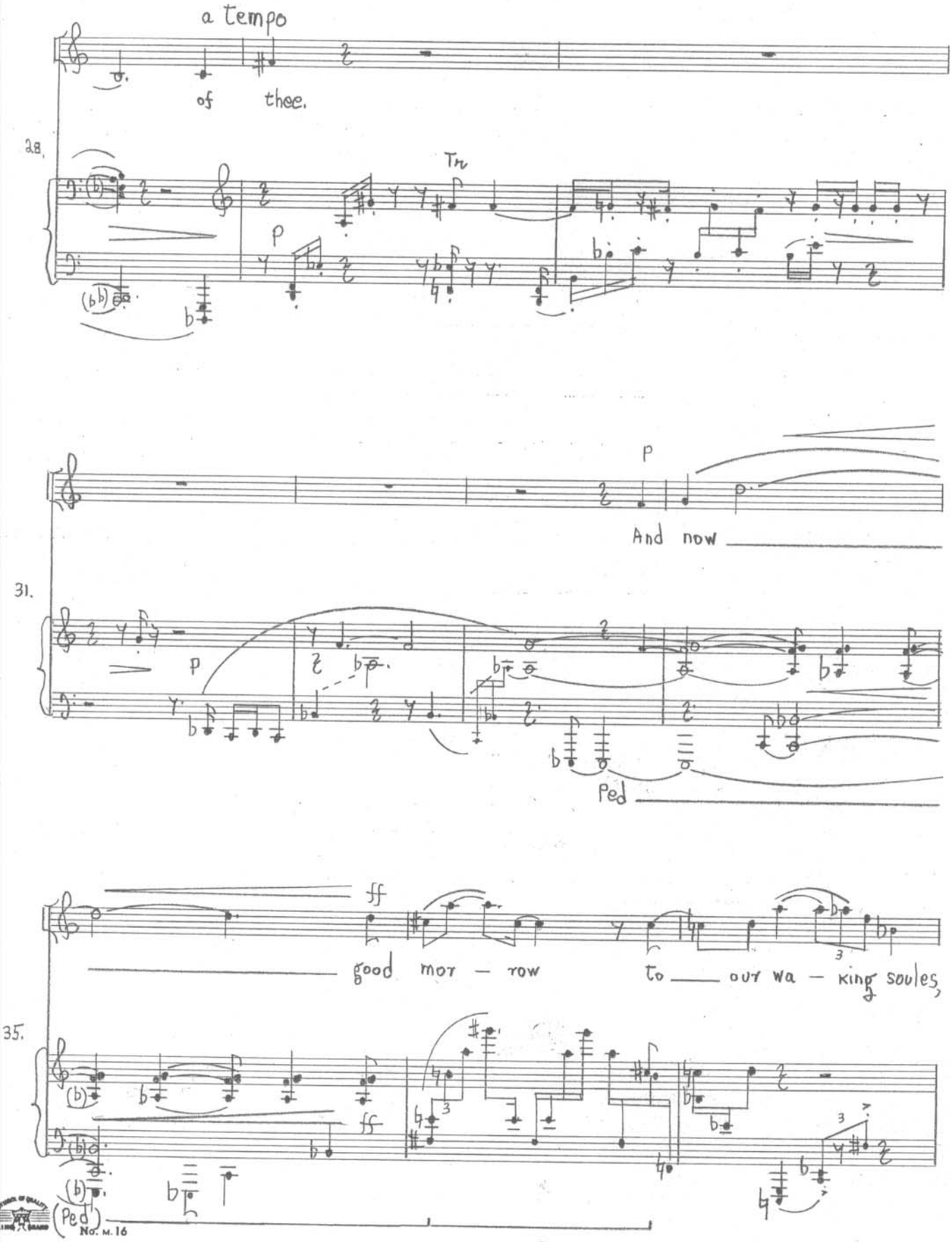

10.
then? But suck'd — on countrey pleasures, childishly? Or —

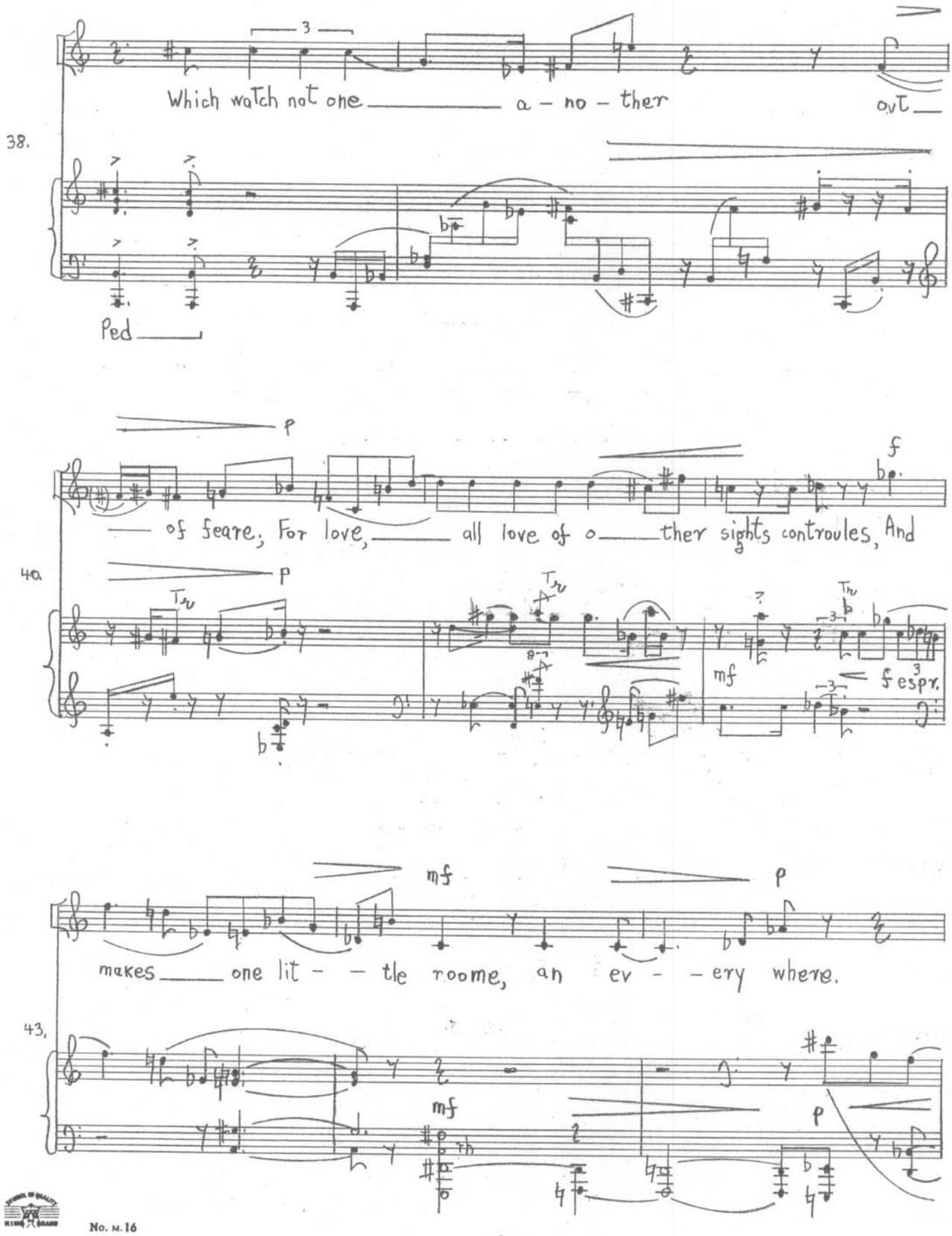
13.

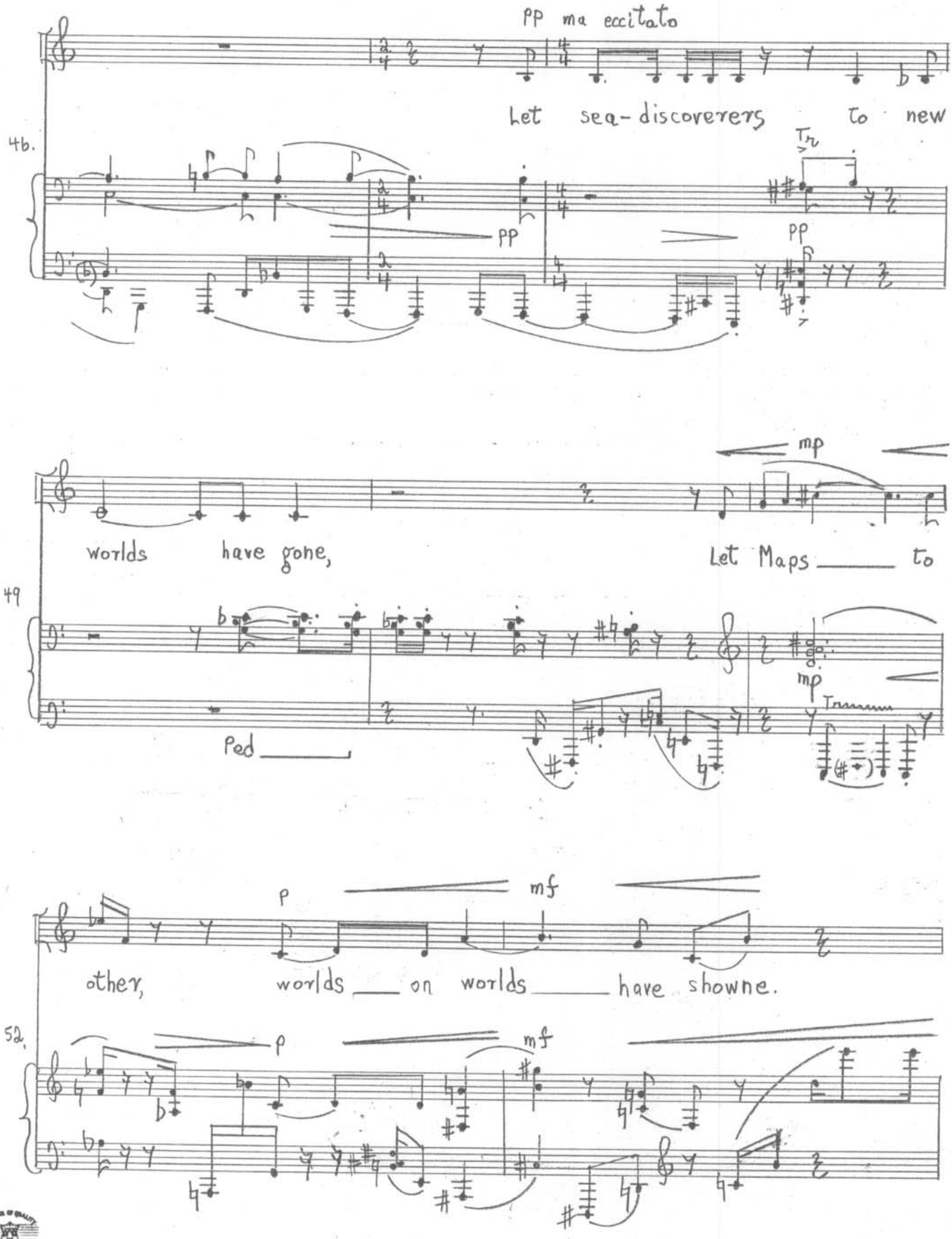
— snor(hor) - - ted we in the seaven sleep - - ers den? T'was so;

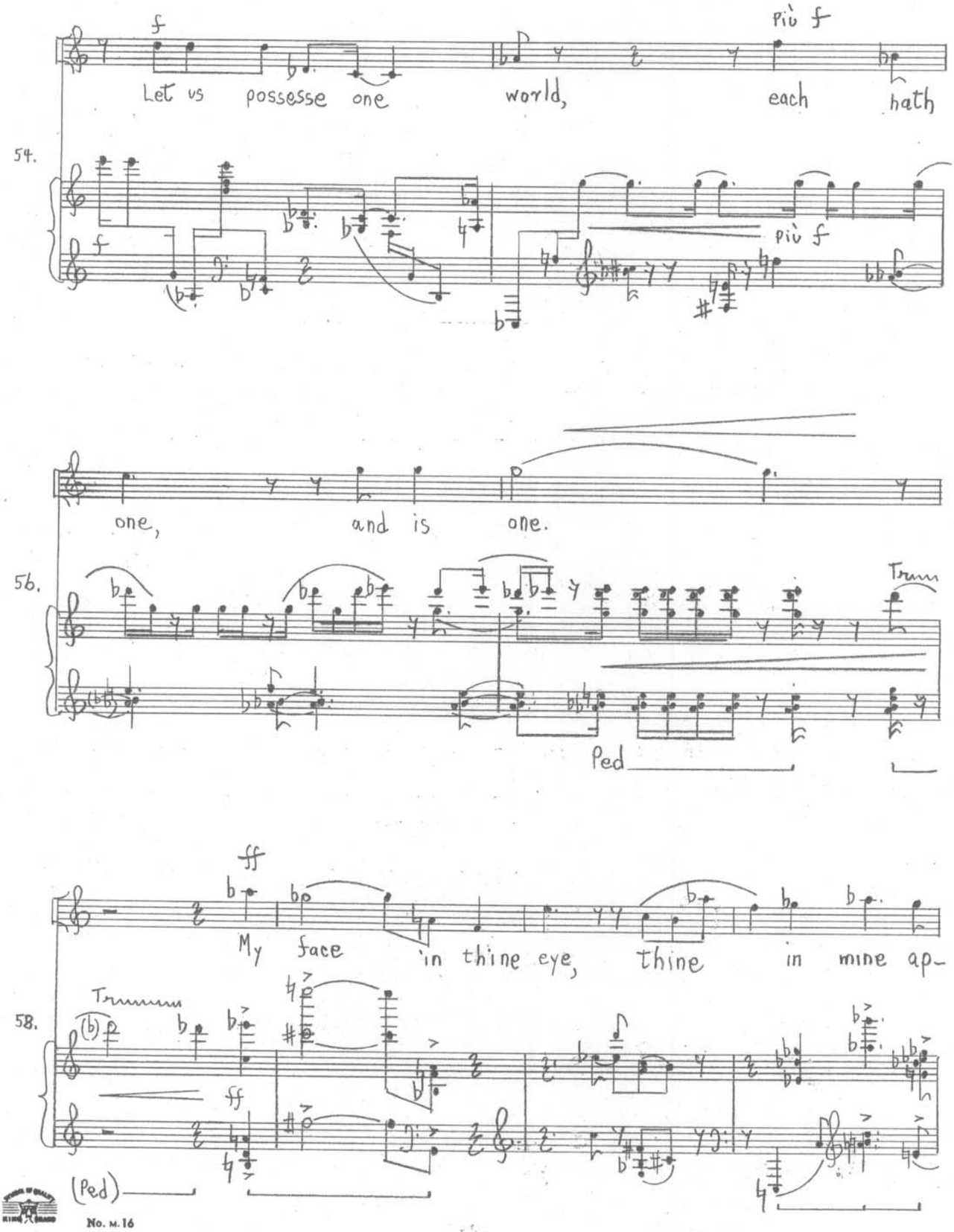
16.
But this;
Ped

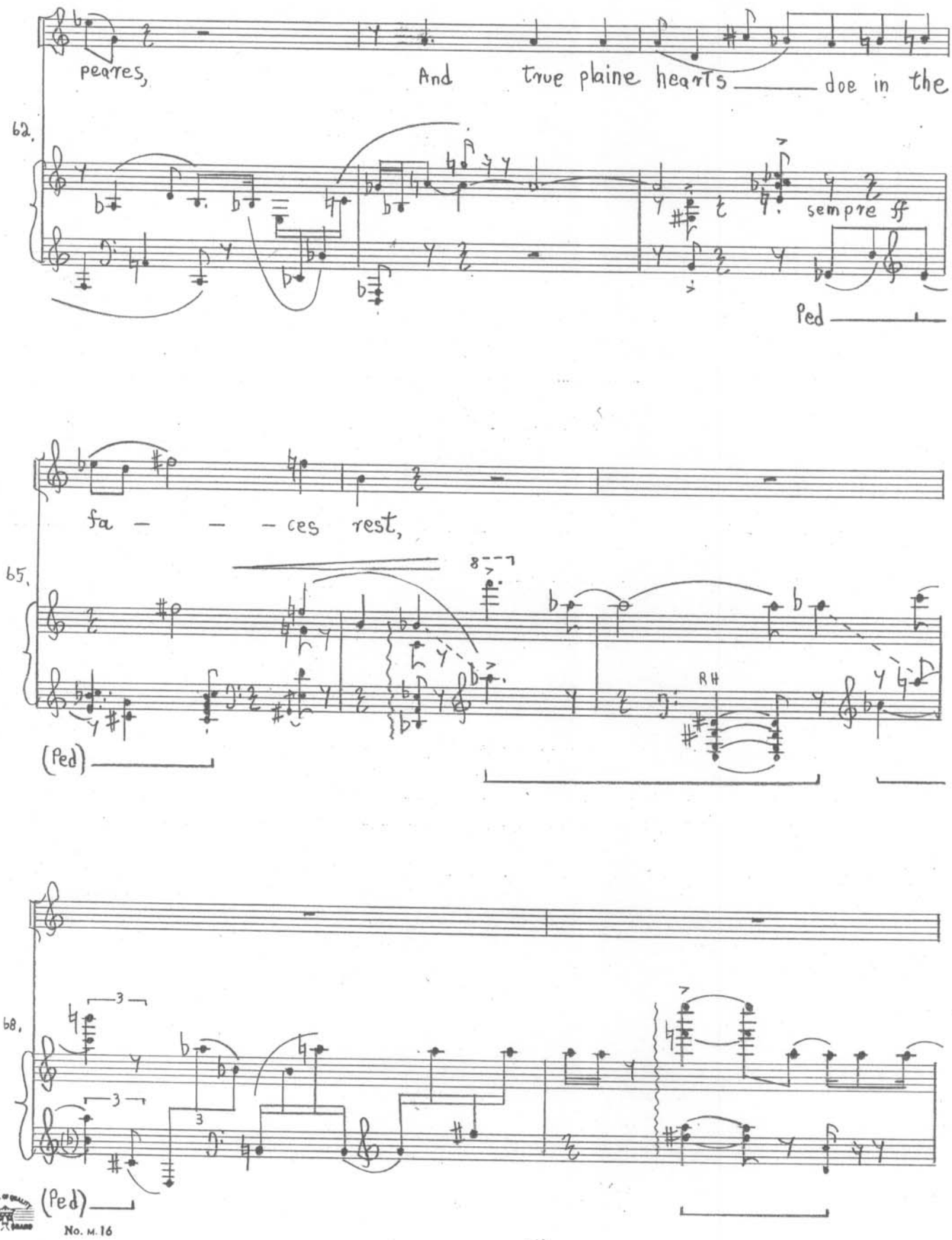

19.
f
all plea — — sures fan-cies bee.
(Ped)
f
Ped
22.
P
If ever a — — ny beau — ty I did see,
T
P
8va
25.
Poco rit.
Which I desir'd, and got, — t'was but a dreame
dim.
8va

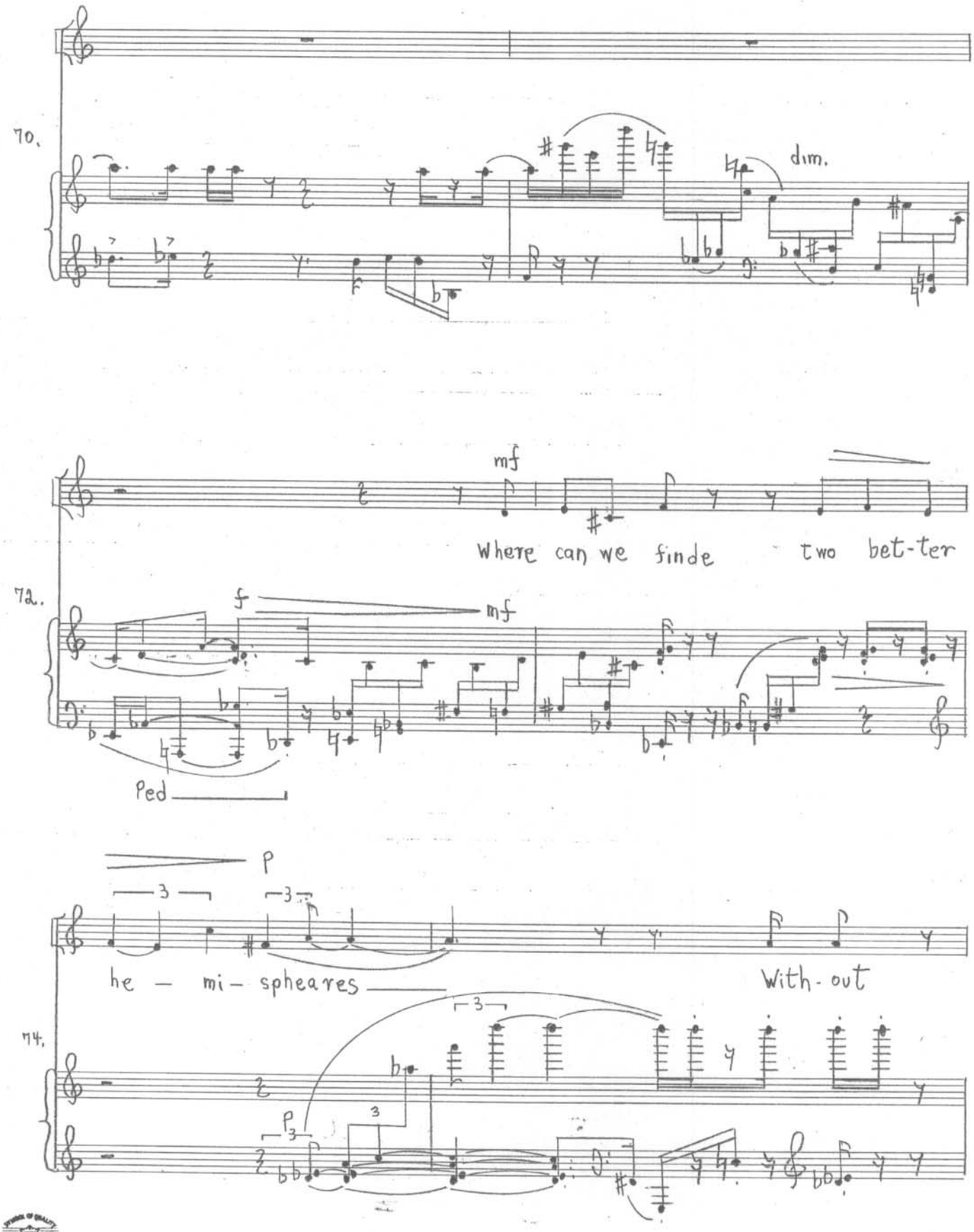

a tempo
of thee.
28.
Tr
p
p
And now
31.
p
Ped
ff
good mor - row
to our wa - king soules,
35.
ff
Ped

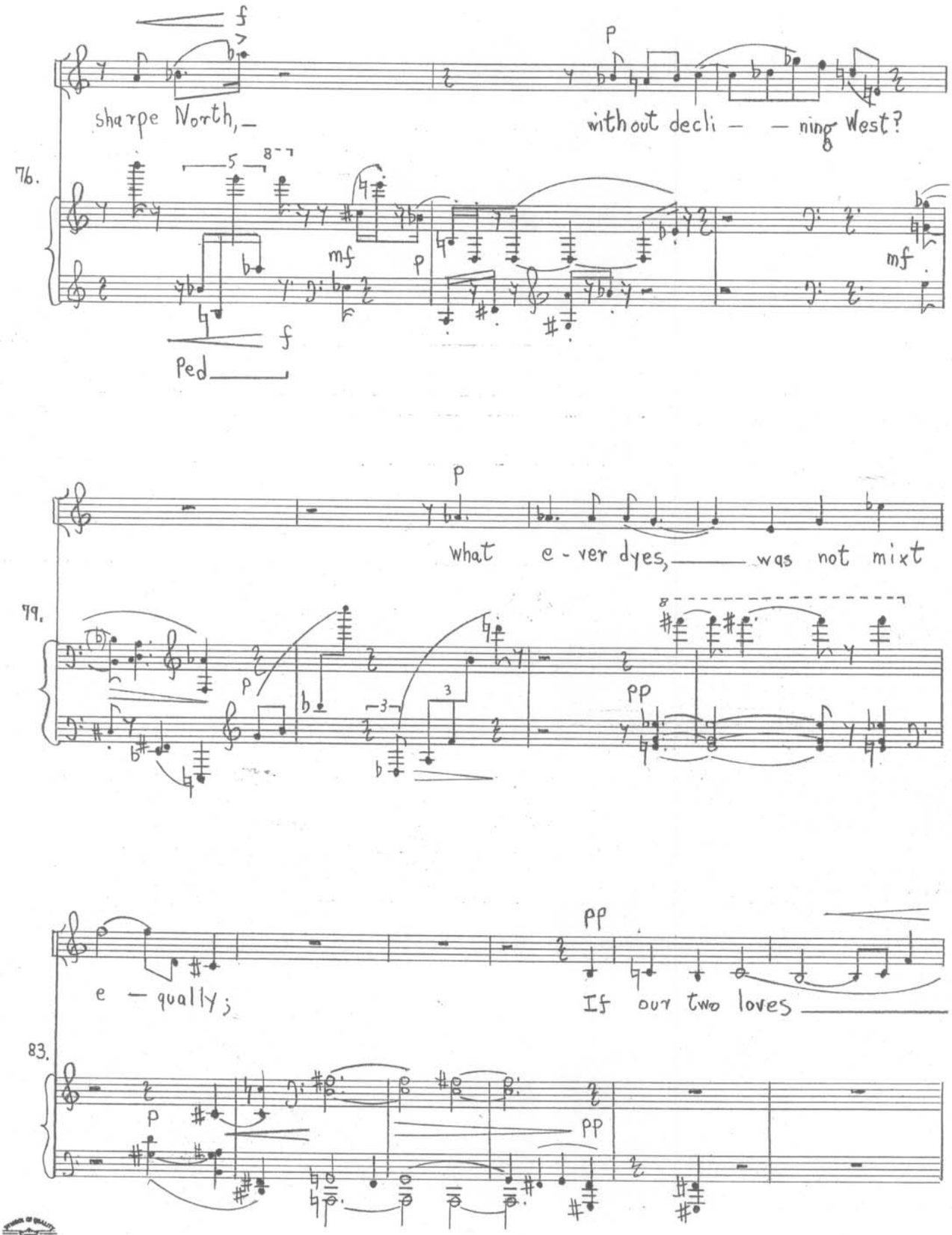

38.
Which watch not one a - no - ther out
Ped
40.
of feare; For love, all love of o ther sights controules, And
p
f
mf
f espr.
43.
makes one lit - - tle roome, an ev - - ery where.
mf
p

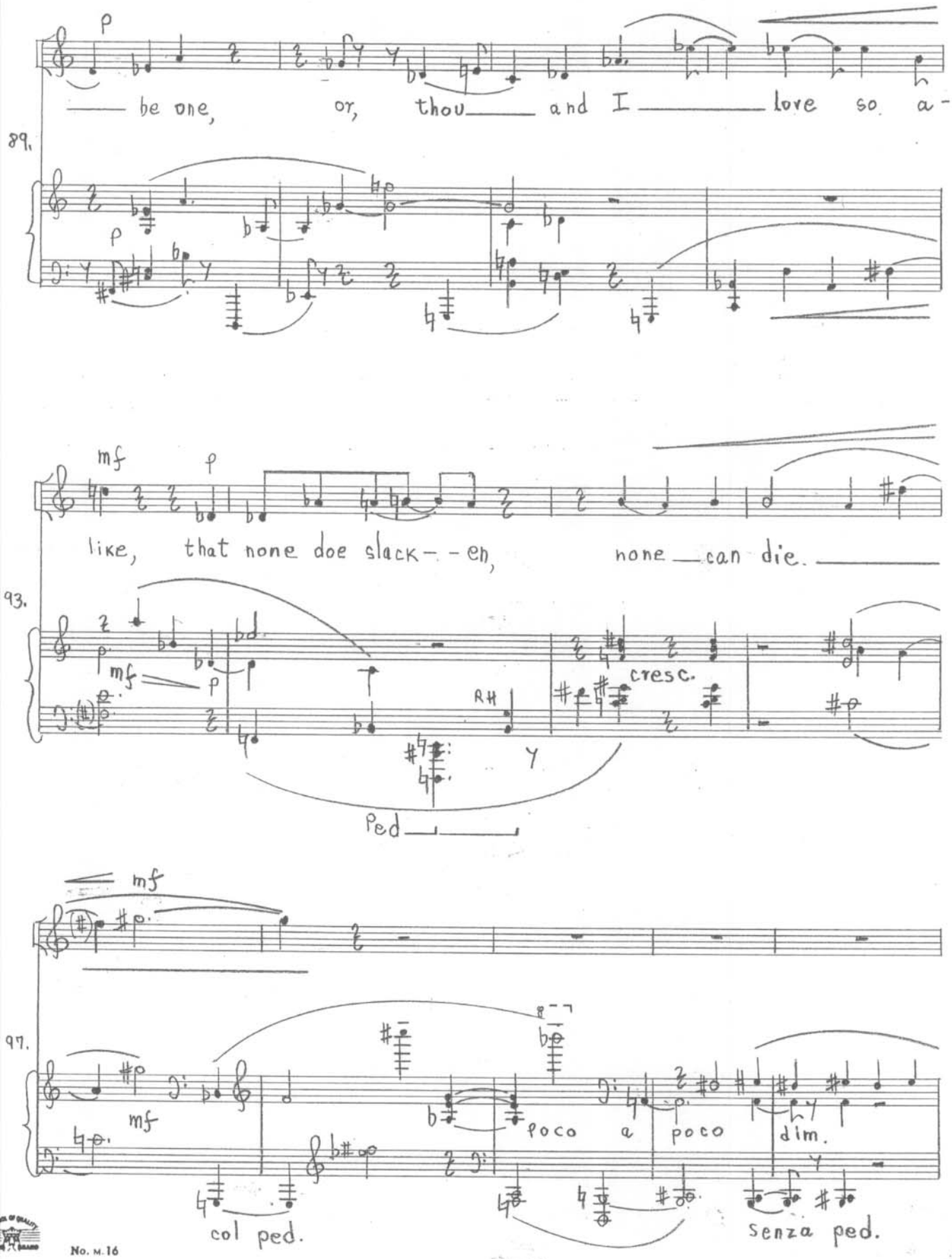

pp ma eccitato
Let sea-discoverers to new
46.
pp
pp
worlds have gone,
mp
Let Maps ___ to
49
Ped ___
mp
other,
p
mf
worlds ___ on worlds ___ have showne.
52.
p
mf

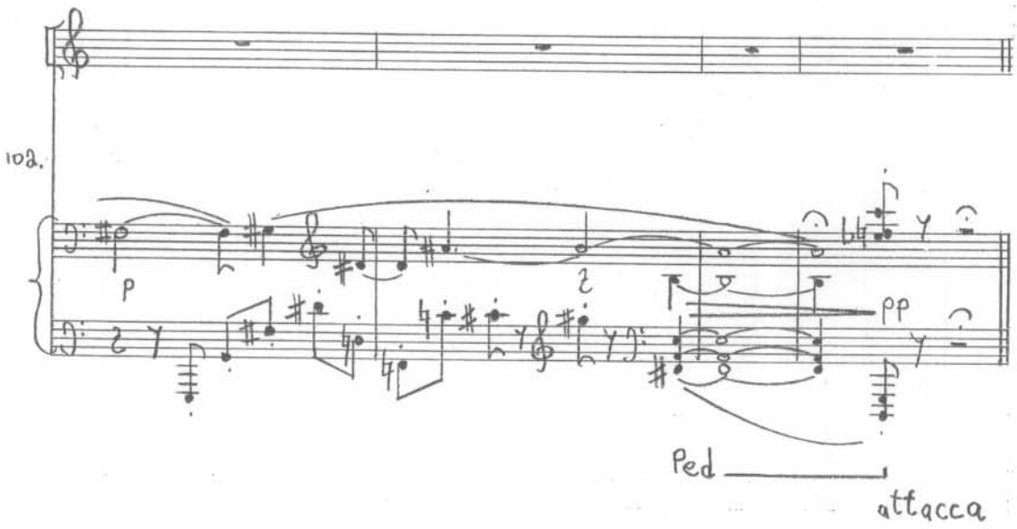

f
Più f
Let us possesse one world, each hath
54.
f
Più f
one, and is one.
56.
Trum
Ped
ff
My face in thine eye, thine in mine ap-
58.
Trumm
(b)
ff
(Ped)


peares, And true plaine hearts doe in the
62.
sempre ff
Ped
fa - - - ces rest,
65.
8
RH
(Ped)
68.
3
3
3
(Ped)

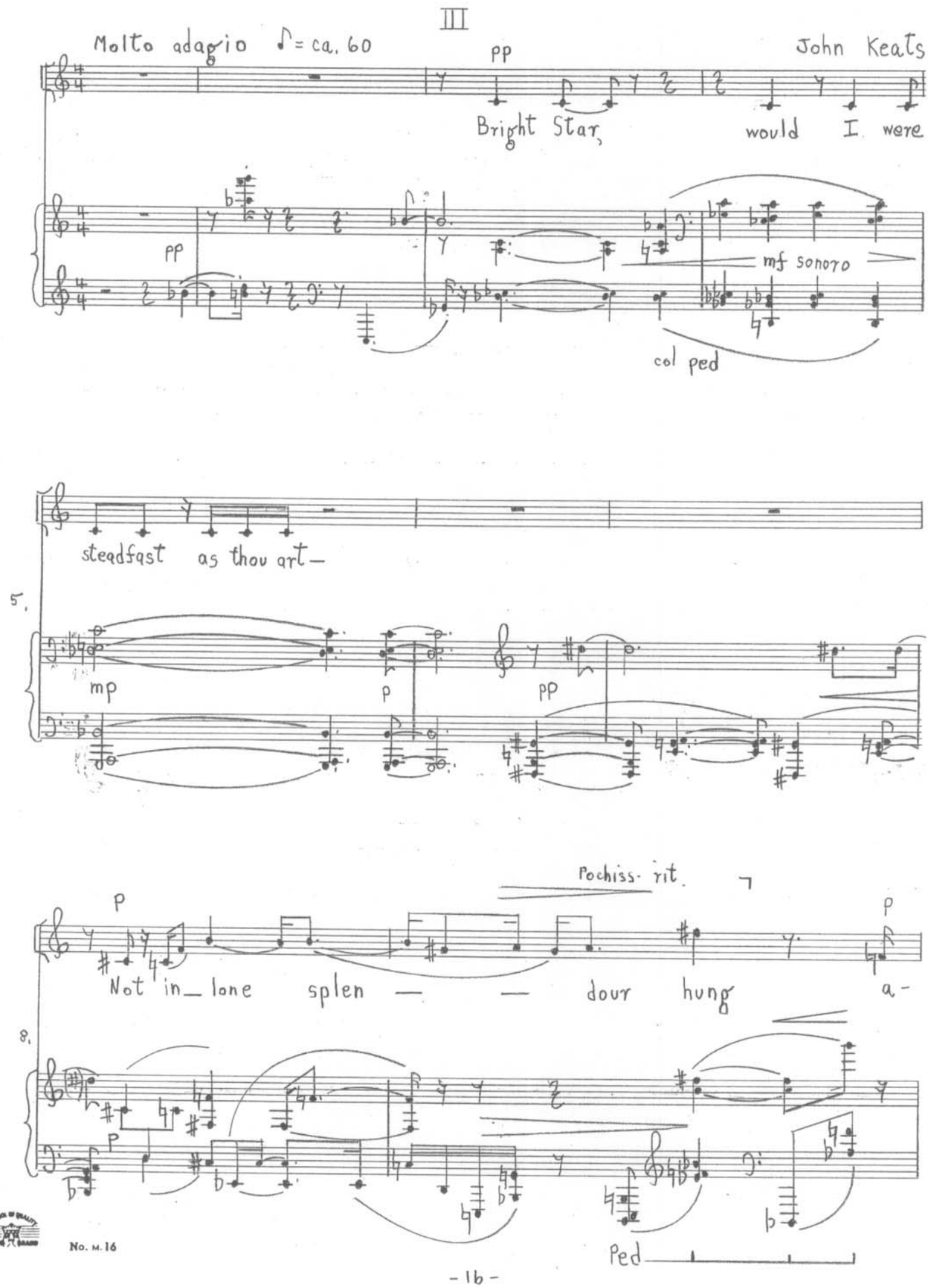

70.
dim.
mf
Where can we finde two bet-ter
72.
f
mf
Ped
p
he - mi - spheares
With-out
74.
p

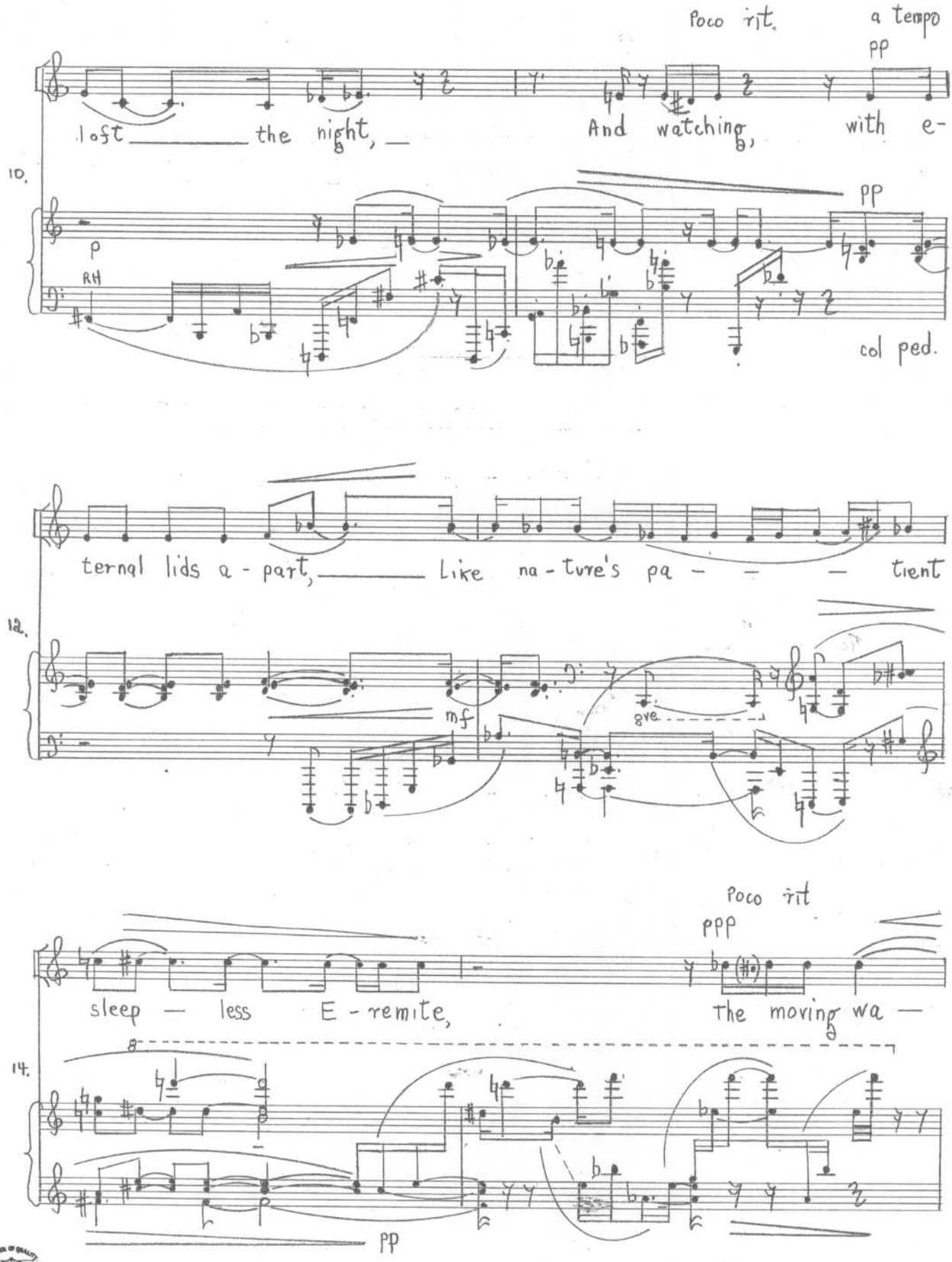

f
sharpe North,—
P
without decli — — ning West?
76.
mf
P
mf
f
Ped
P
what e - ver dyes, ___ was not mixt
79.
P
PP
PP
e — qually;
If our two loves ___
83.
P
PP

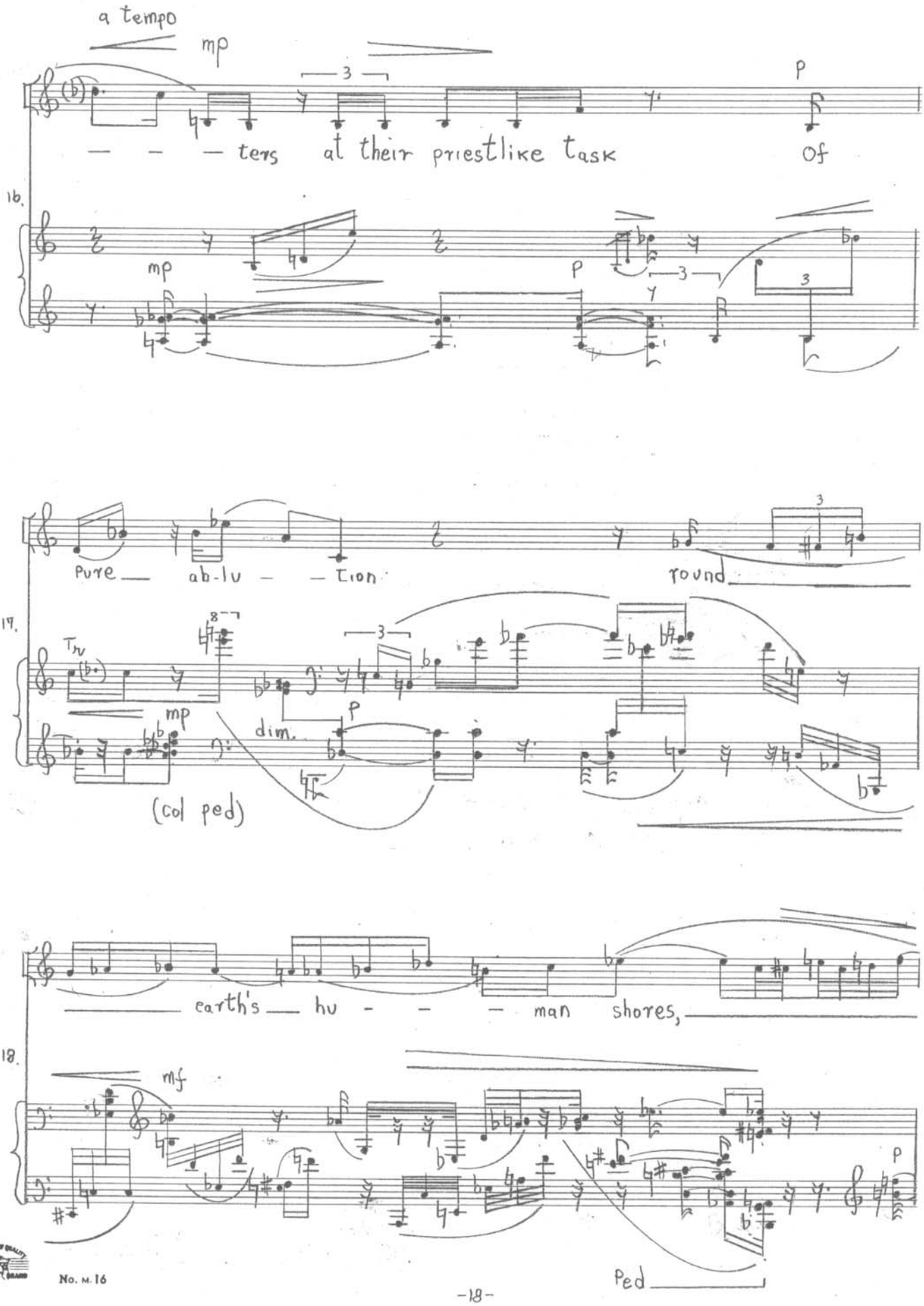

p
be one, or, thou and I love so a-
89.
p
mf
p
like, that none doe slack- - en, none can die.
93.
mf
p
RH
cresc.
Ped
mf
97.
mf
poco a poco
dim.
col ped.
senza ped.

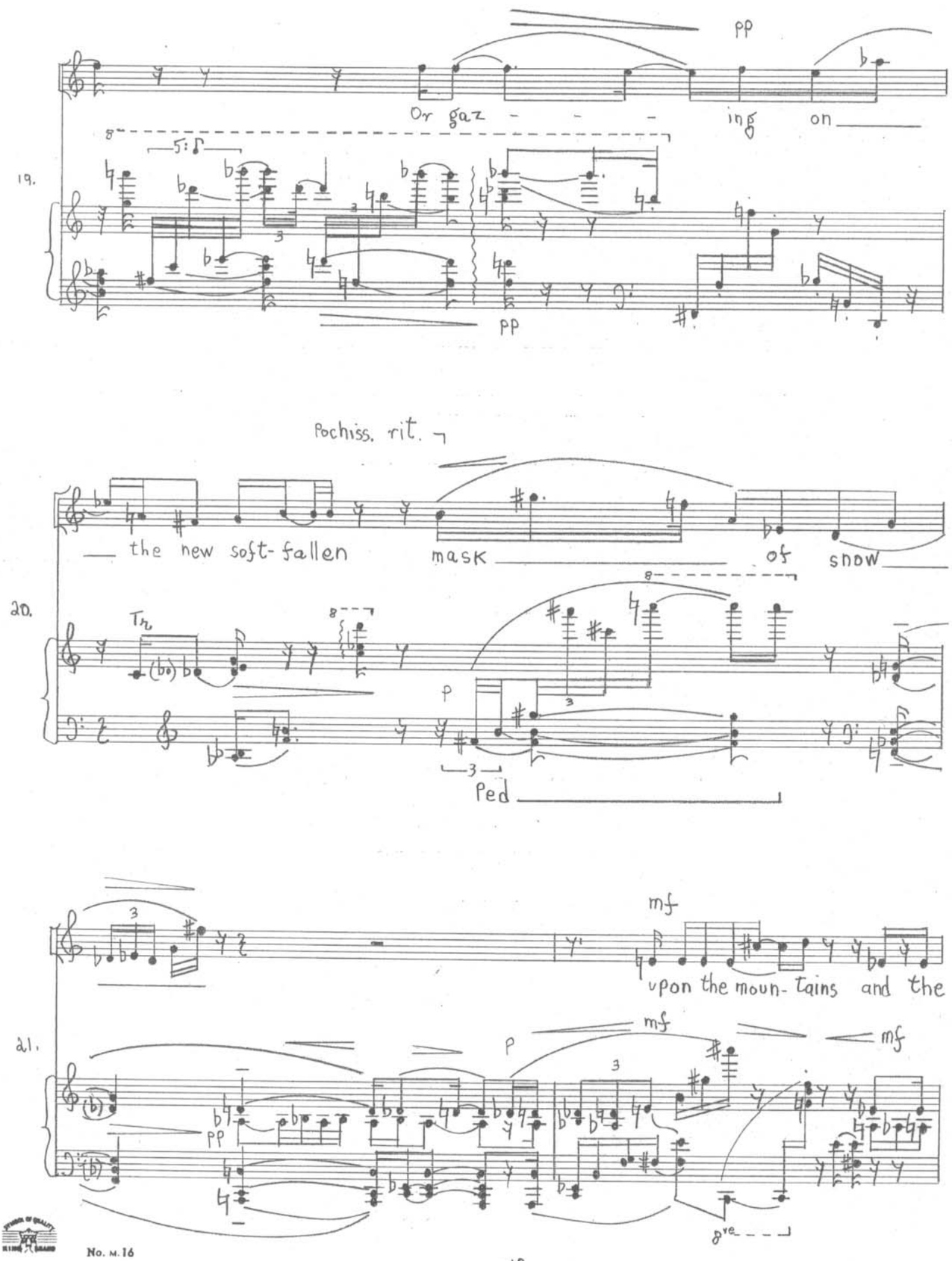


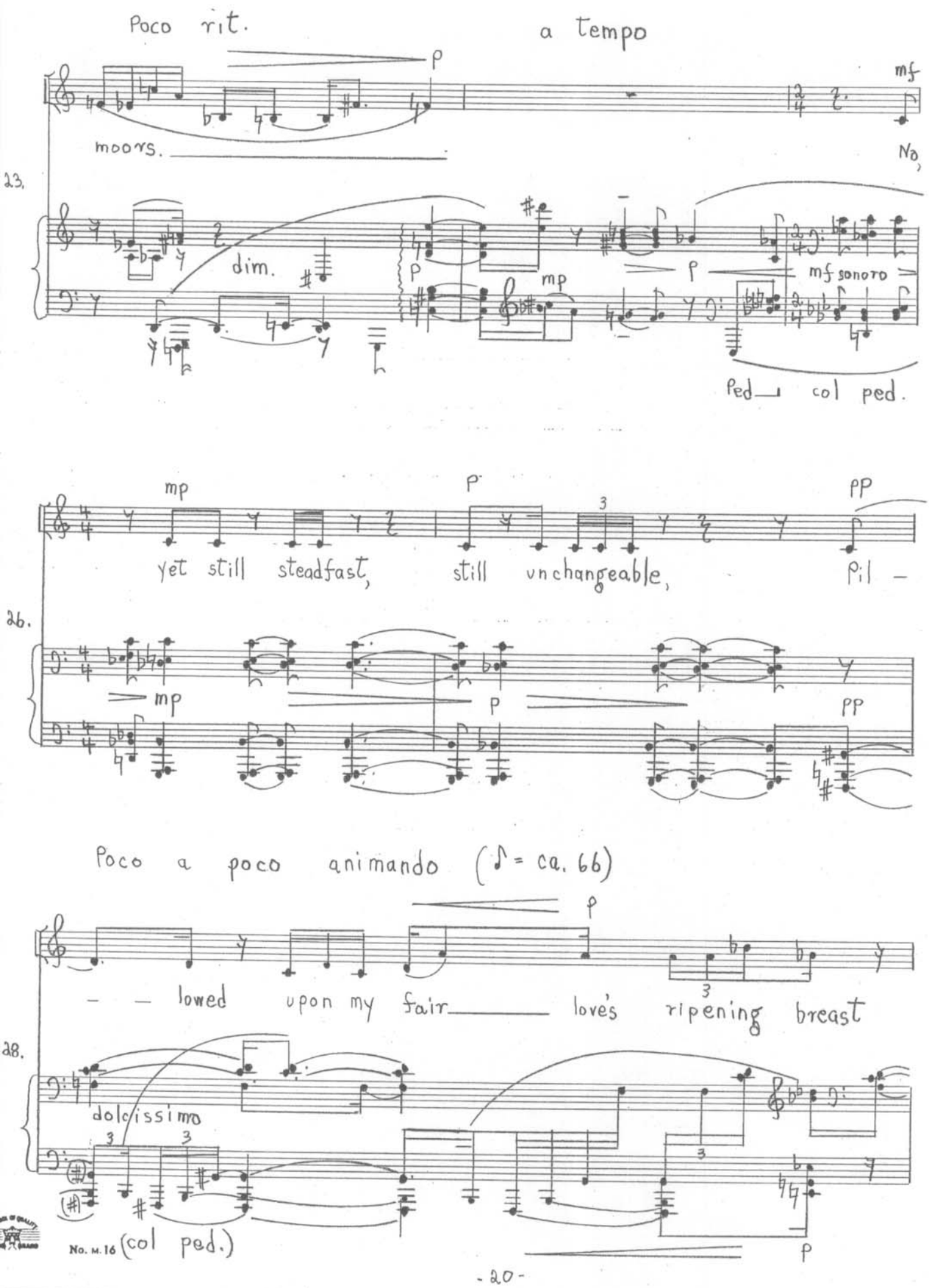
No. M. 16

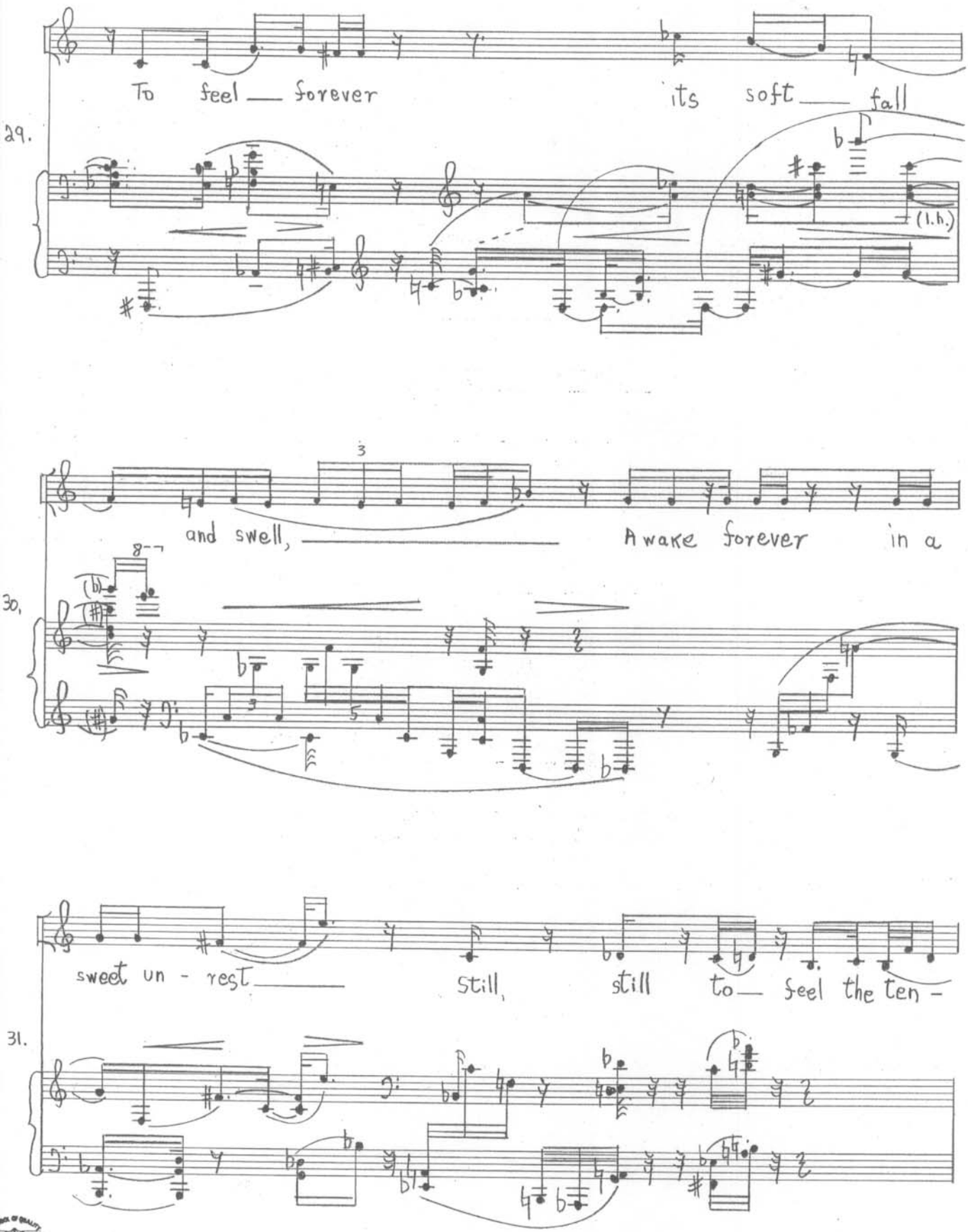

III
Molto adagio ♪ = ca. 60
pp
John Keats
Bright Star,
would I were
pp
mf sonoro
col ped
steadfast as thou art—
5.
mp
p
pp
Pochiss. rit.
p
p
Not in_ lone splen — — dour hung a-
8.
p
Ped

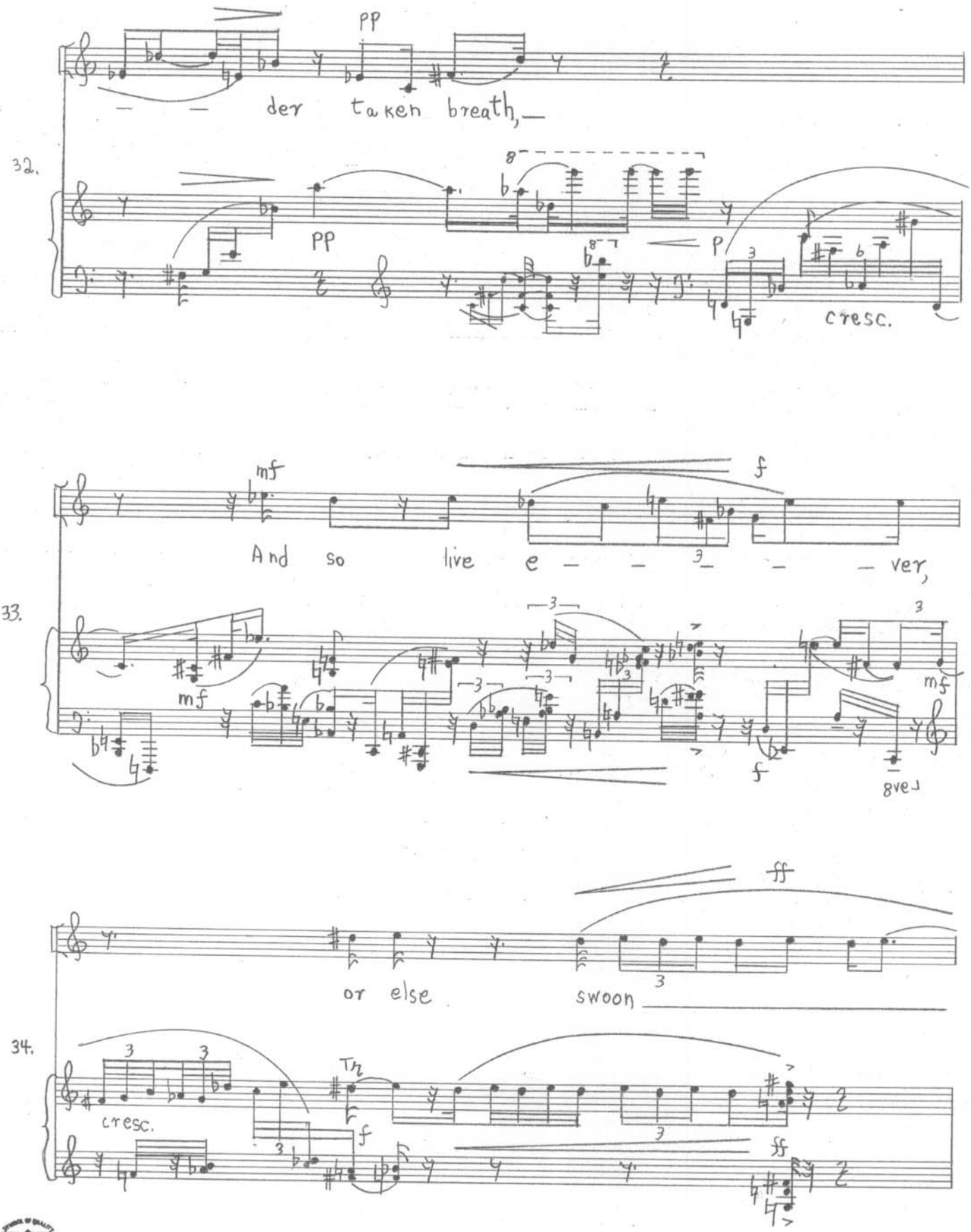

Poco rit.
a tempo
pp
loft the night,
And watching,
with e-
10.
p
RH
pp
col ped.
ternal lids a - part,
Like na - ture's pa - - - tient
12.
mf
8ve
Poco rit
ppp
sleep - less E - remite,
The moving wa -
14.
pp

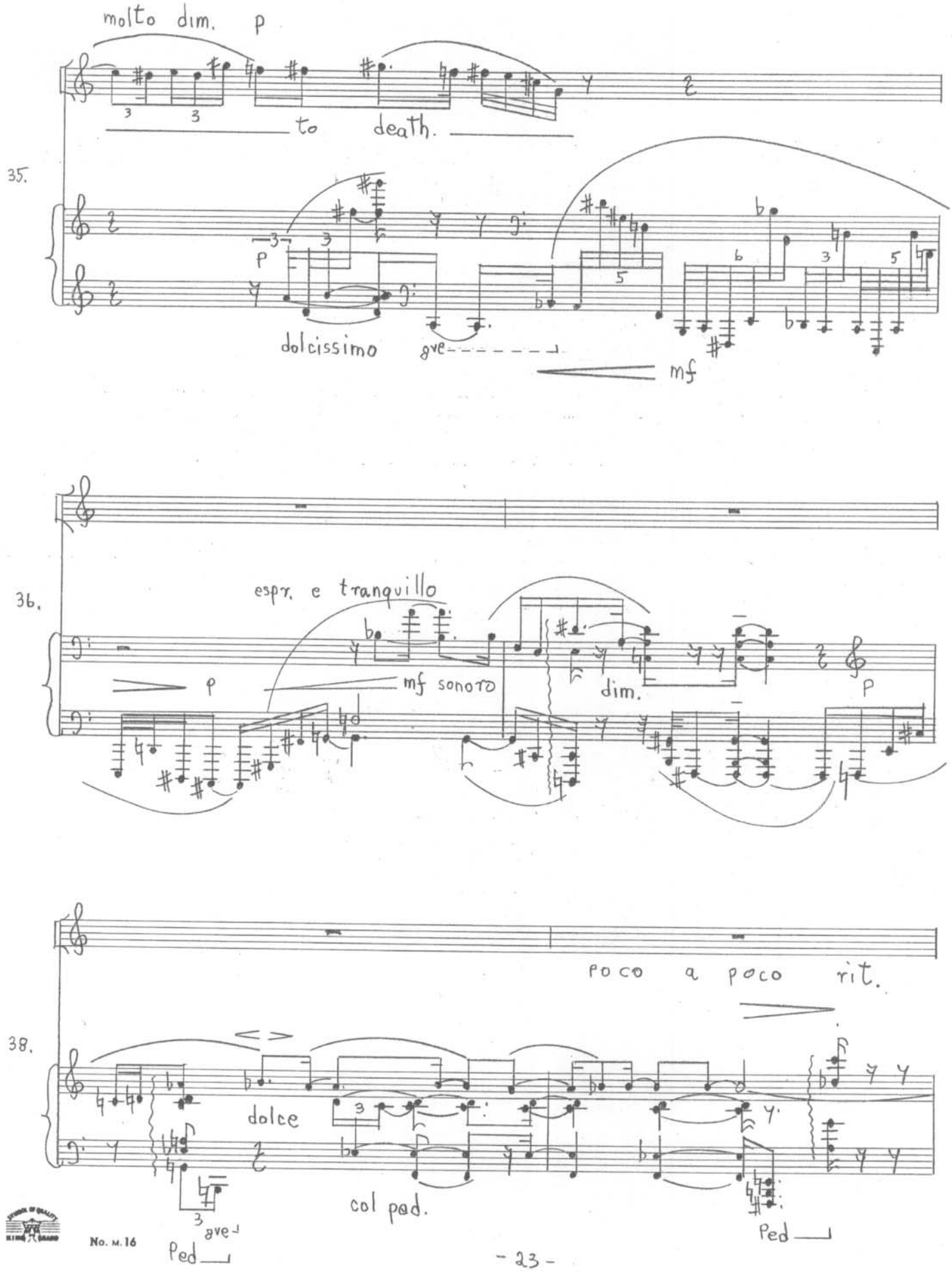

a tempo
mp
p
— — — ters at their priestlike task
Of
16.
mp
p
Pure — ab-lu — — tion
round
17.
Tr
mp
dim.
p
(col ped)
— earth's — hu — — — man shores,
18.
mf
p
Ped

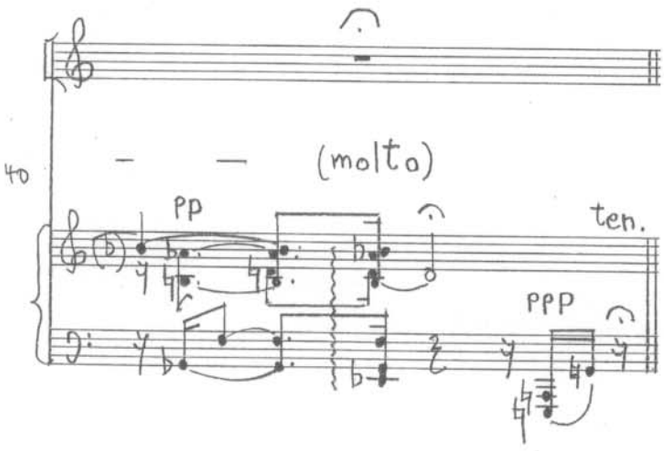

pp
Or gaz - - - ing on
19.
pp
Pochiss. rit.
the new soft-fallen mask of snow
20.
Tr
p
Ped
mf
upon the moun-tains and the
21.
mf
p
mf
pp
8va

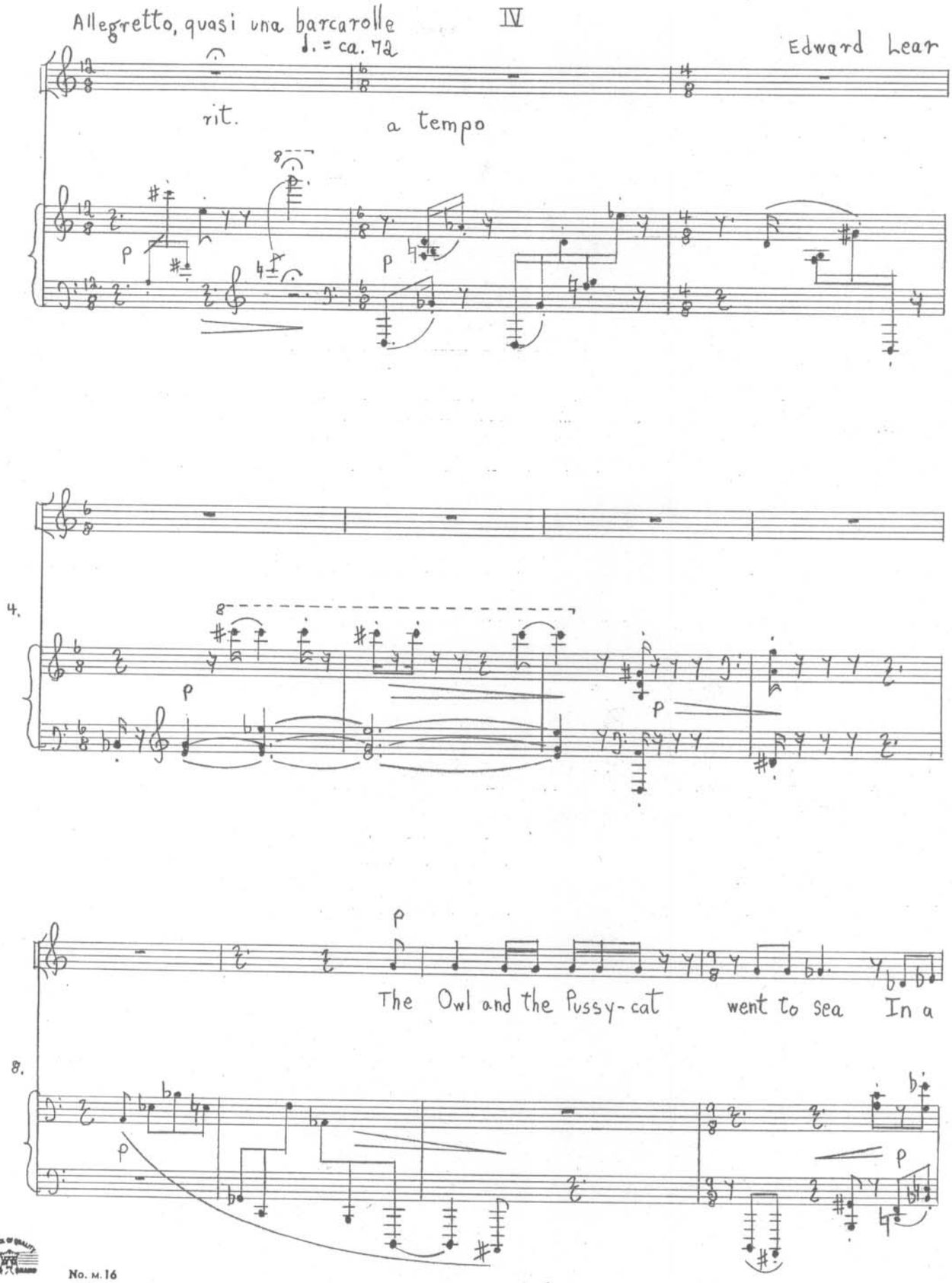

Poco rit.
a tempo
p
mf
moors.
No,
23.
dim.
p
mp
p
mf sonoro
Ped
col ped.
mp
p
pp
yet still steadfast, still unchangeable, Pil -
26.
mp
p
pp
Poco a poco animando (♪ = ca. 66)
p
- - lowed upon my fair love's ripening breast
28.
dolcissimo
No. M.16 (col ped.)
p

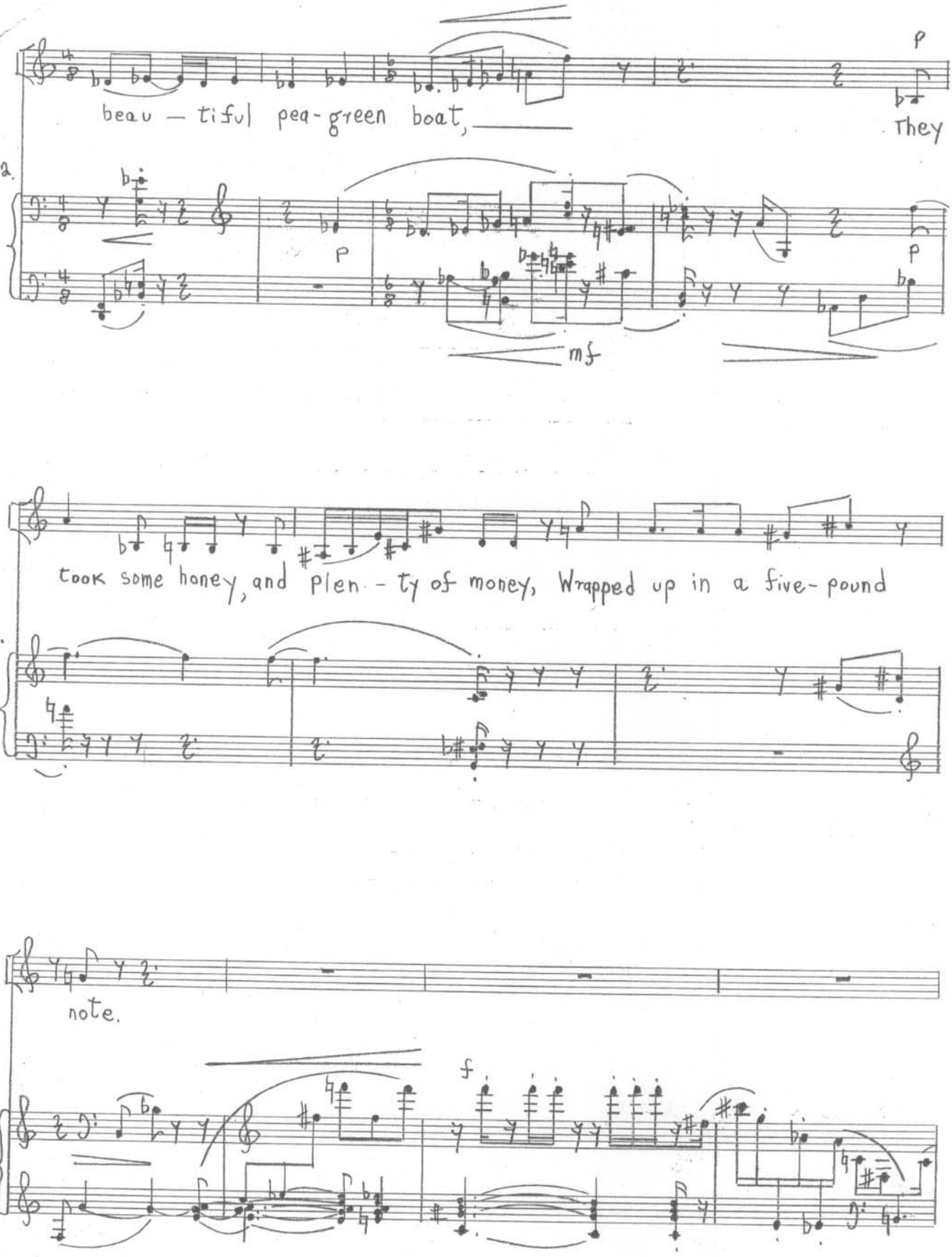

To feel — forever its soft — fall
29.
(l.h.)
and swell, — Awake forever in a
30.
sweet un - rest — still, still to — feel the ten -
31.

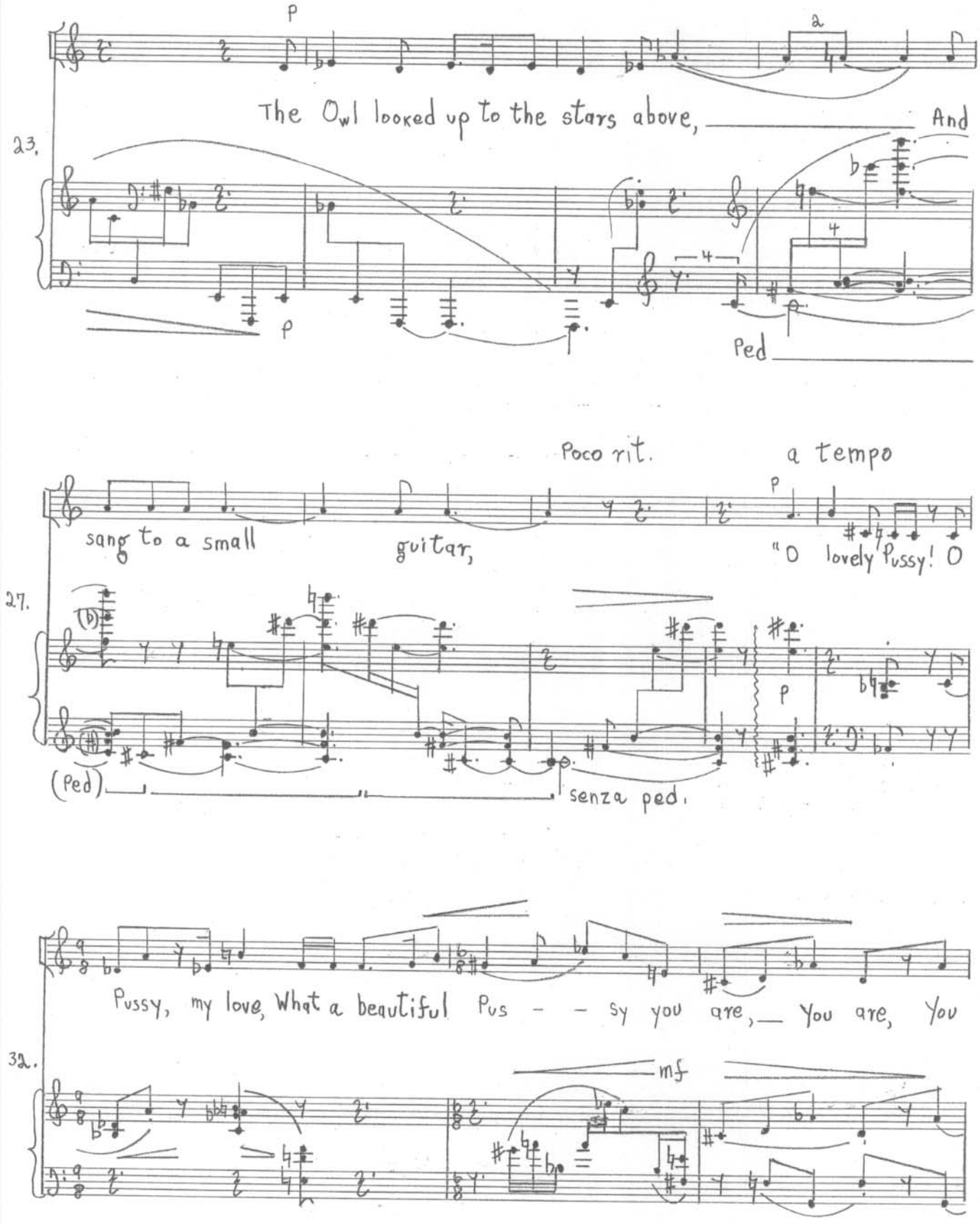

32.
PP
der taken breath,
PP
P
cresc.
33.
mf
f
And so live e — — — ver,
mf
mf
f
8va
34.
ff
or else swoon
cresc.
f
ff

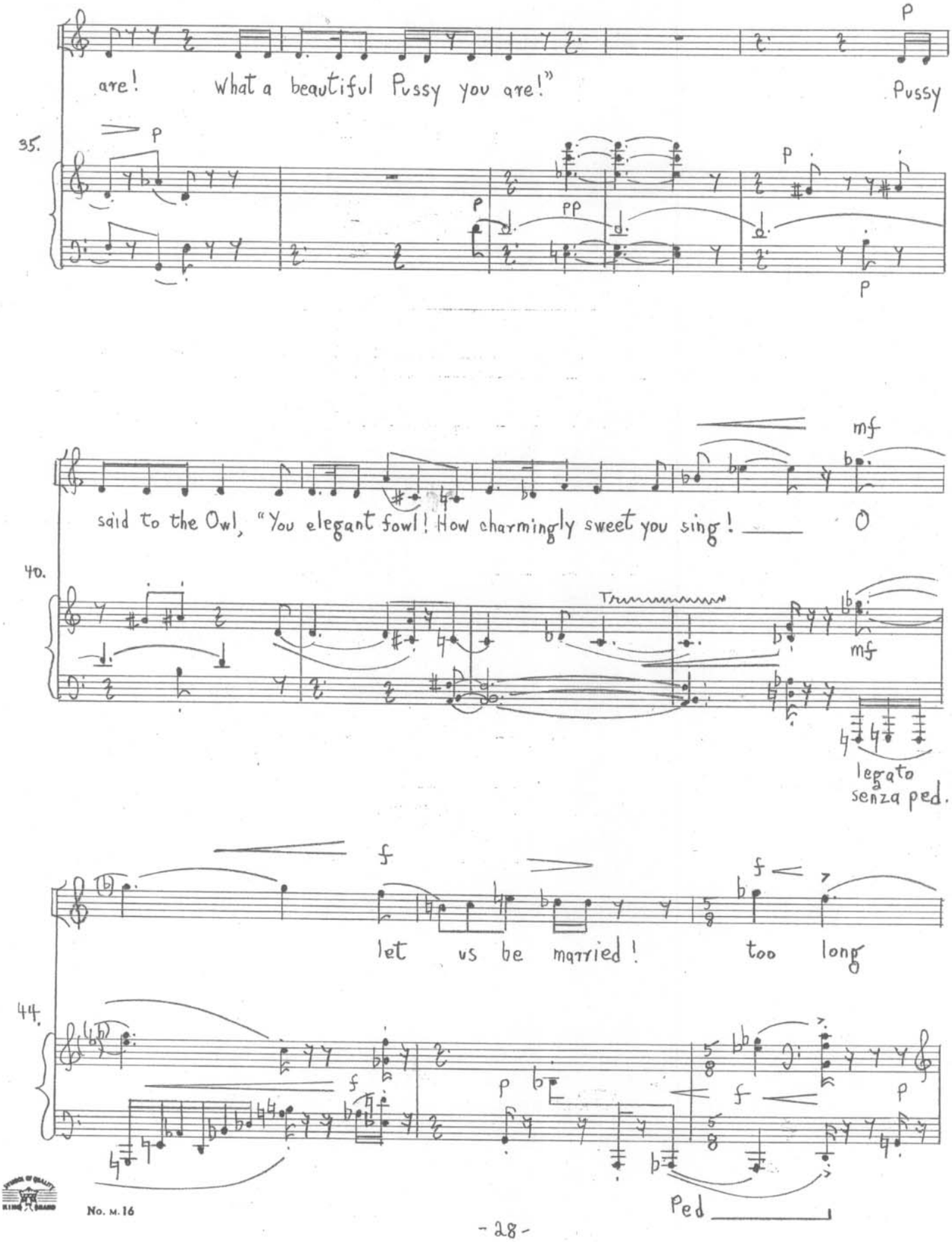

molto dim. p
to death.
35.
p
dolcissimo
8ve
mf
36.
espr. e tranquillo
p
mf sonoro
dim.
p
poco a poco rit.
38.
dolce
col ped.
8ve
Ped
Ped

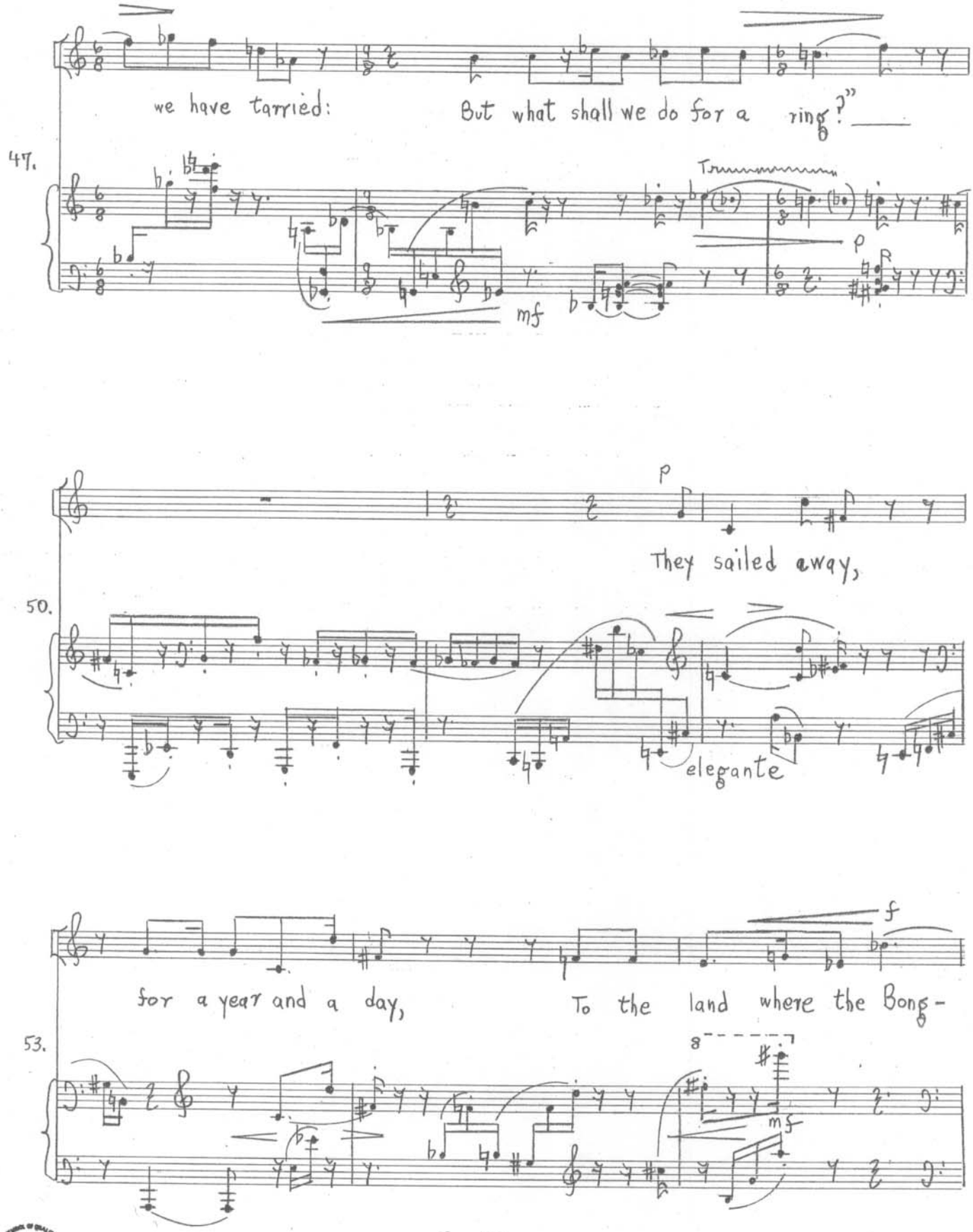

40
– – (molto)
pp
ten.
ppp


Allegretto, quasi una barcarolle
IV
♩. = ca. 72
Edward Lear
rit.
a tempo
p
4.
p
p
The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea In a
8.
p
p

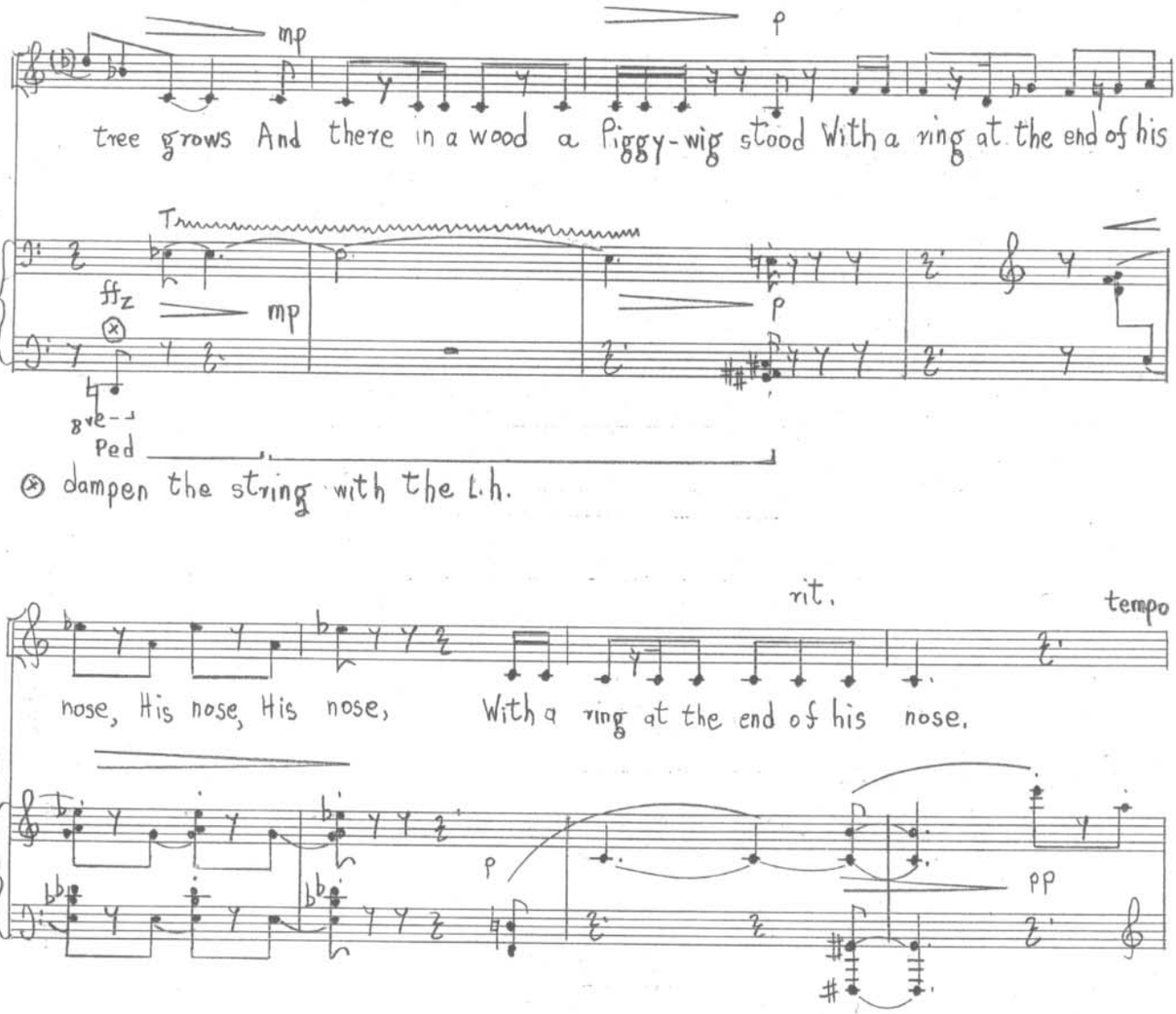

beau — ti ful pea-green boat,
They
took some honey, and plen - ty of money, Wrapped up in a five-pound
note.


p
a
The Owl looked up to the stars above, And
23.
p
Ped
Poco rit.
a tempo
p
sang to a small guitar, "O lovely Pussy! O
27.
(Ped)
senza ped.
Pussy, my love, What a beautiful Pus - - sy you are, You are, You
32.
mf

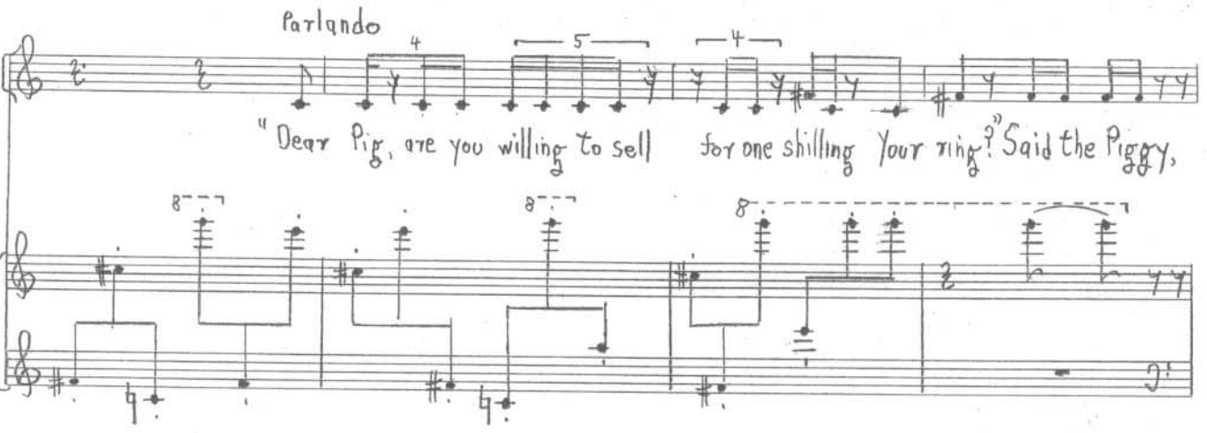

are! What a beautiful Pussy you are!"
Pussy
35.
said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl! How charmingly sweet you sing!
O
40.
Trrrrrrrrrrrr
legato
senza ped.
let us be married! too long
44.
Ped

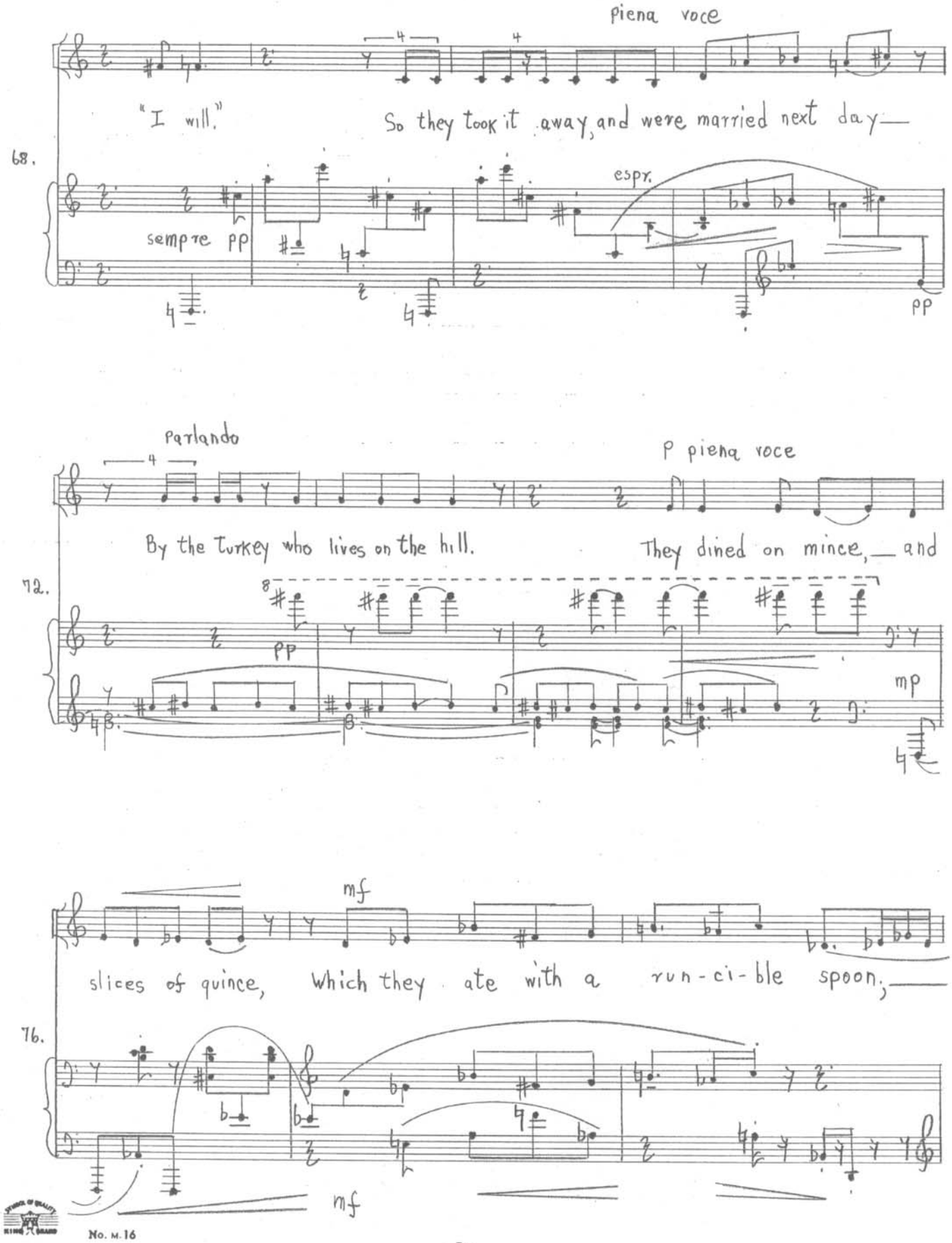

we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?"
47.
Trumm
mf
p
They sailed away,
50.
elegante
for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-
53.
f
mf

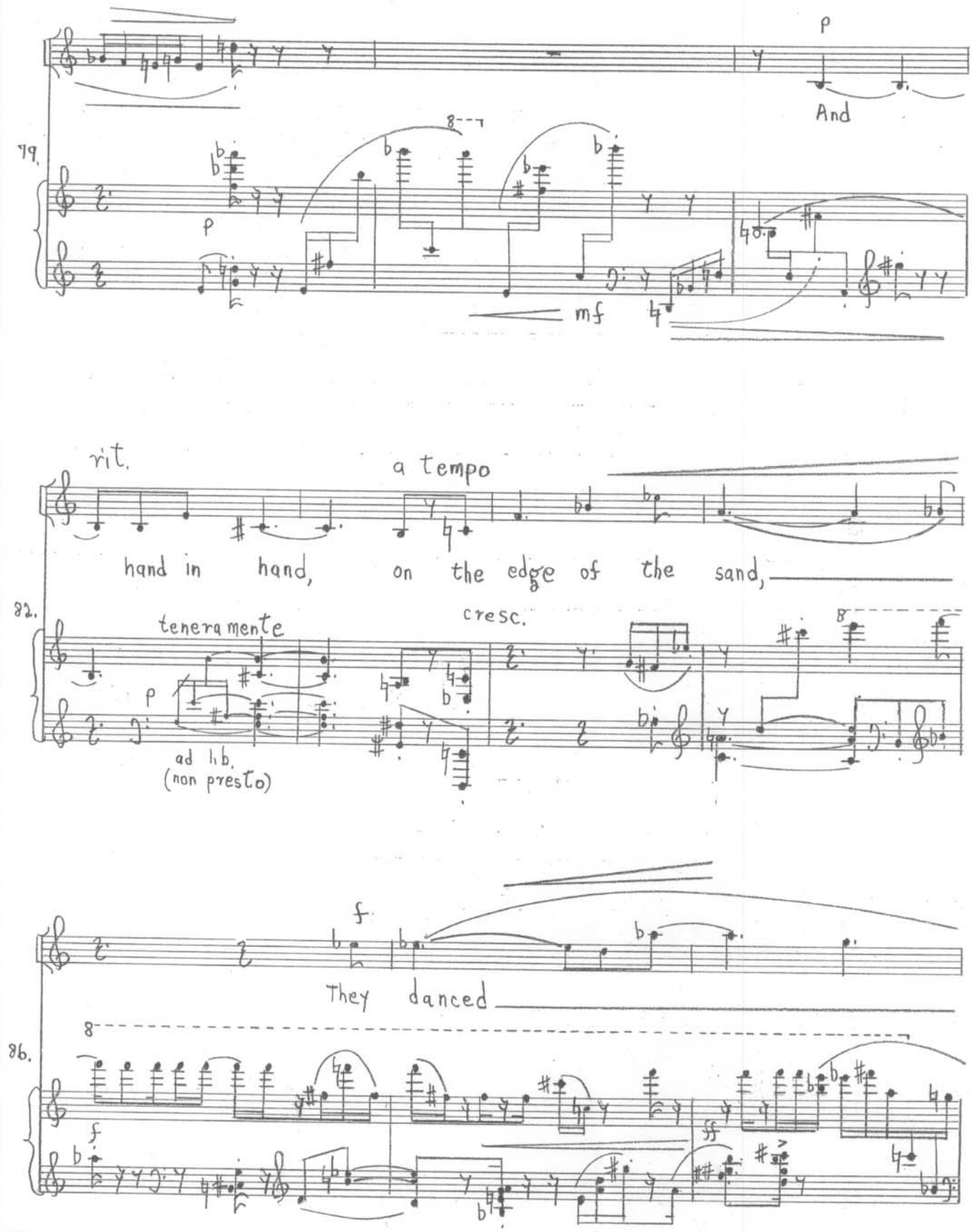
No. M. 16

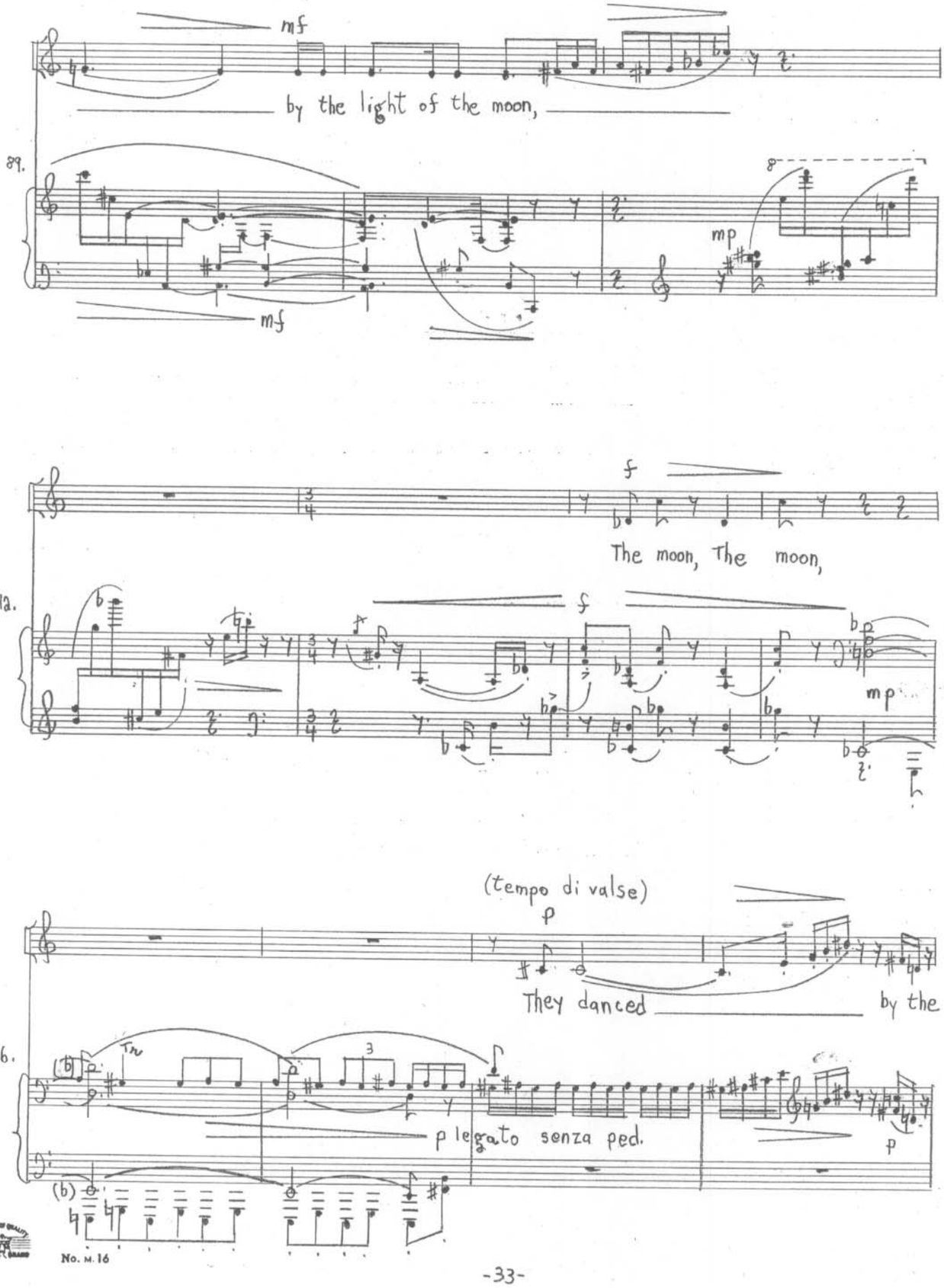

mp
p
tree grows And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood With a ring at the end of his
56.
T
ffz
mp
p
8va
Ped
⊗ dampen the string with the L.h.

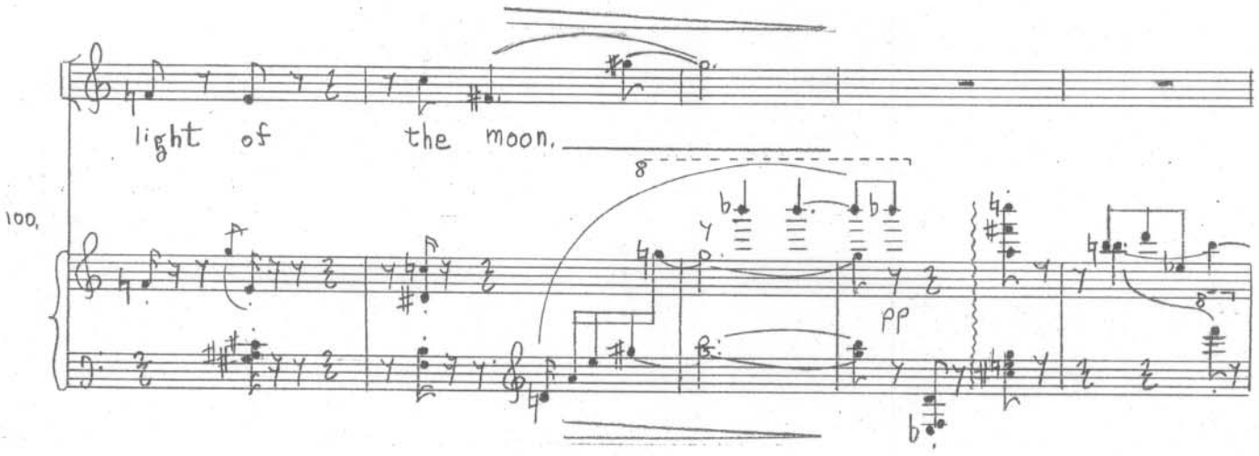
rit.
tempo
nose, His nose, His nose, With a ring at the end of his nose.
60.
p
pp

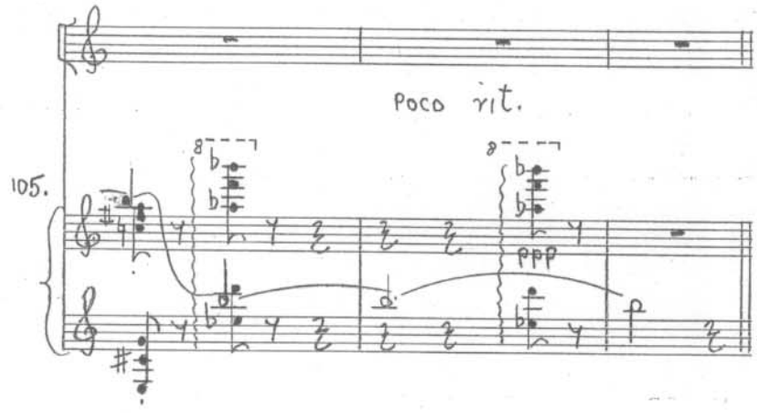

Parlando
4
5
4
"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling Your ring?" Said the Piggy,
64.
8
8
8


piena voce
"I will."
So they took it away, and were married next day—
68.
sempre pp
espr.
pp
Parlando
p piena voce
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince,— and
72.
pp
mp
mf
slices of quince, Which they ate with a run-ci-ble spoon,—
76.
mf


79.
p
And
8
p
mf
rit.
a tempo
hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
82.
tenera mente
cresc.
p
ad lib.
(non presto)
8
f
They danced
8
86.
f
ff

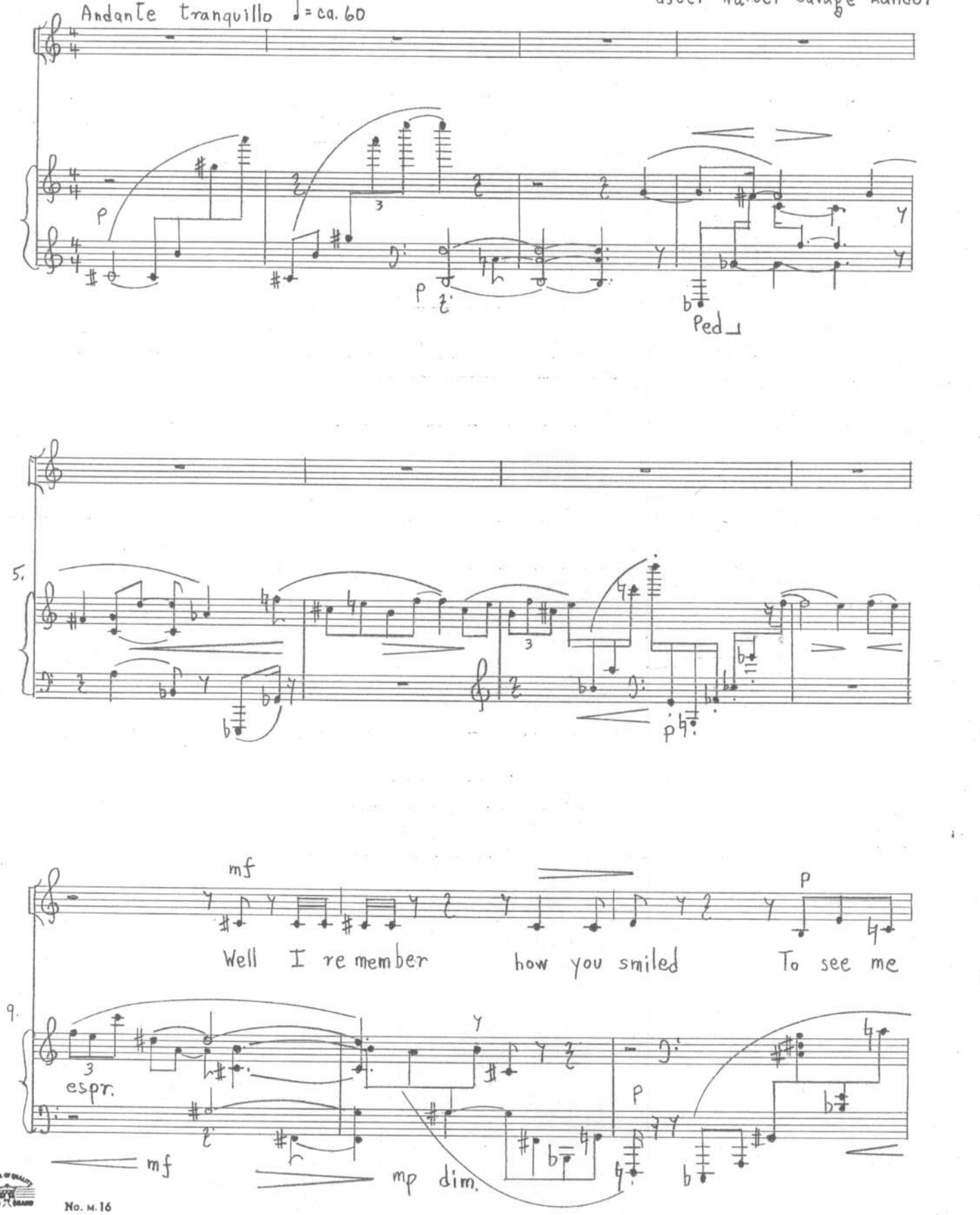

mf
by the light of the moon,
89.
mp
mf
f
The moon, The moon,
92.
f
mp
(tempo di valse)
p
They danced
by the
96.
Tr
3
p legato senza ped.
p
(b)

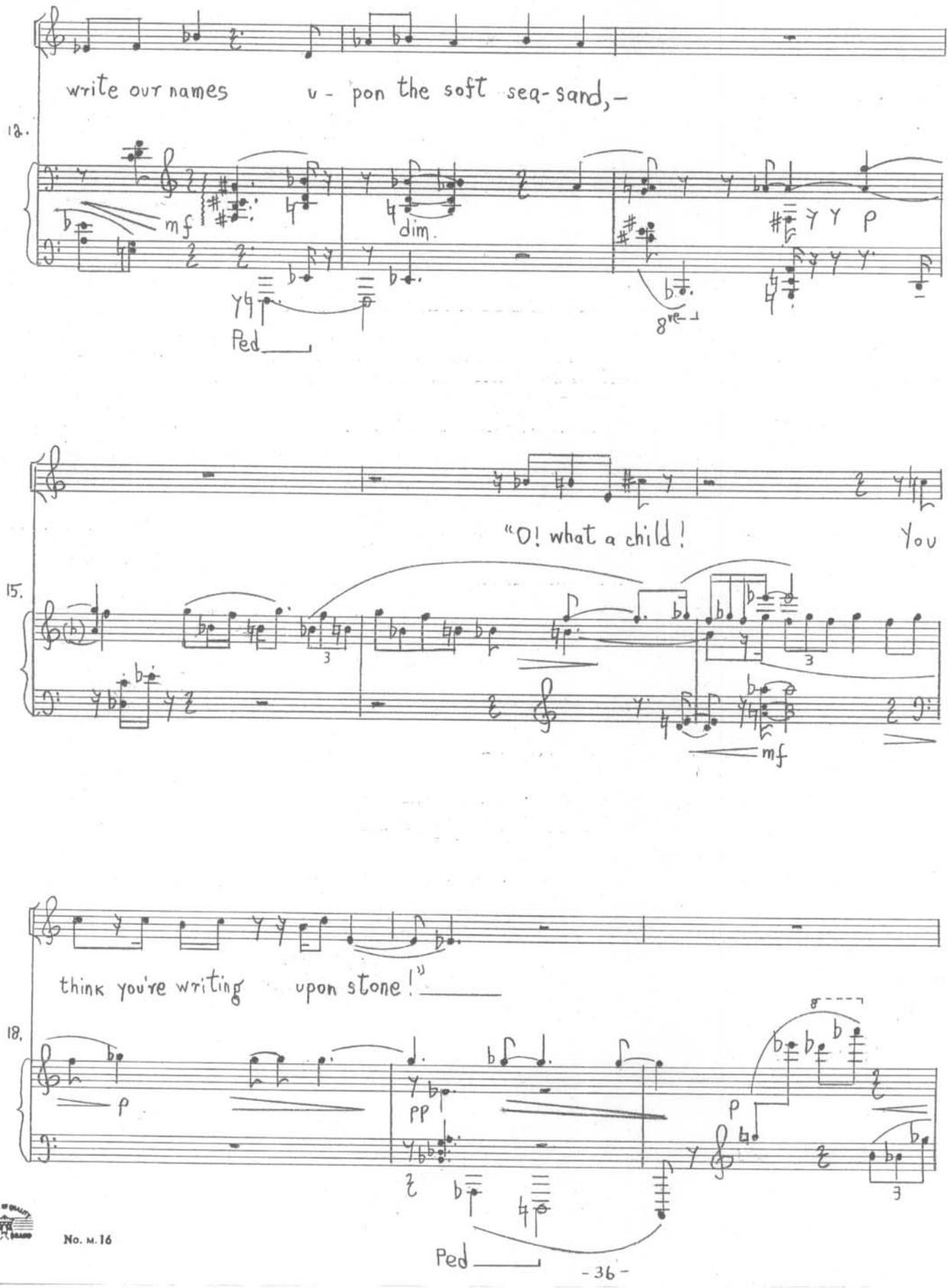

light of the moon.
100.
8
pp

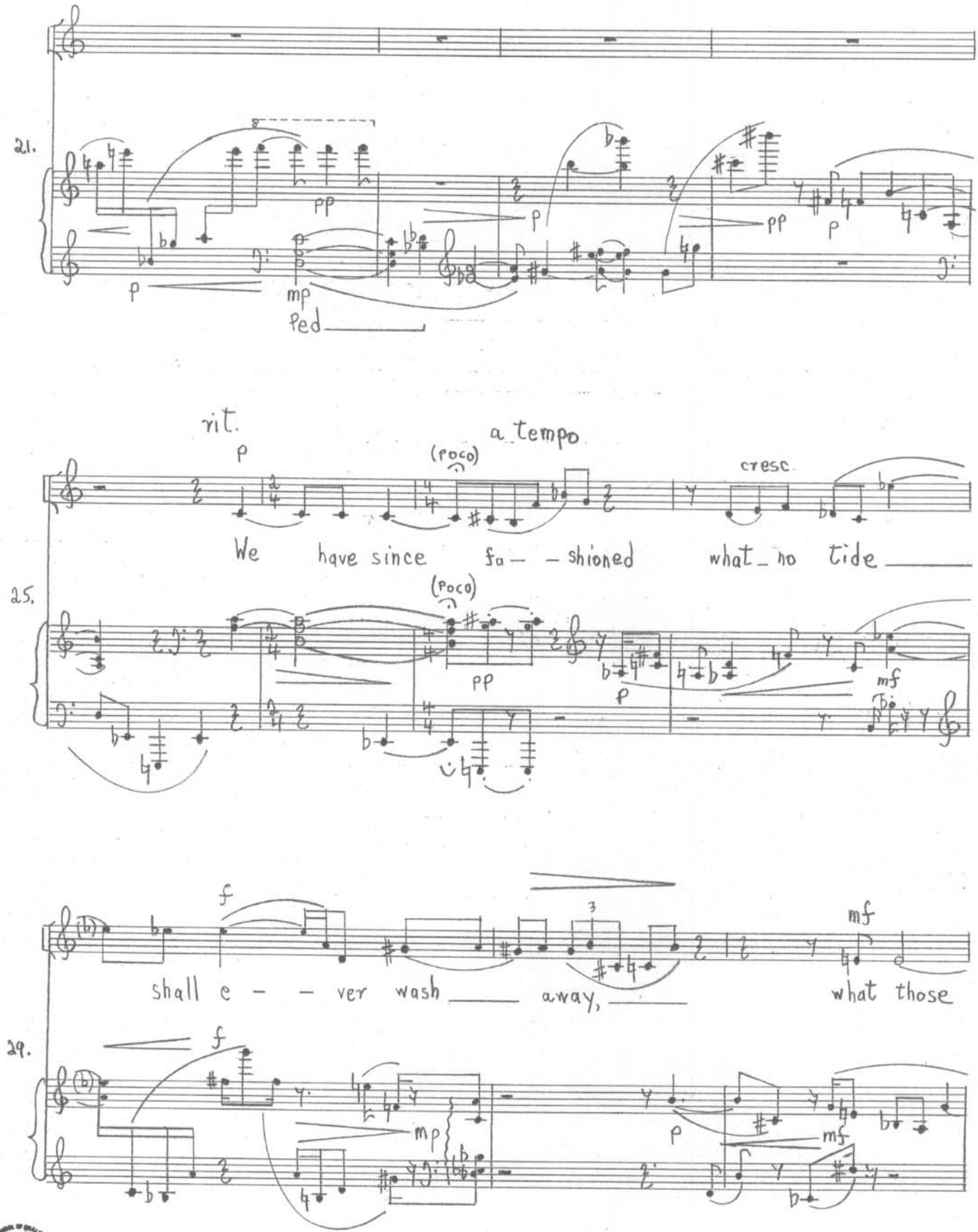

Poco rit.
105.
8
8
ppp

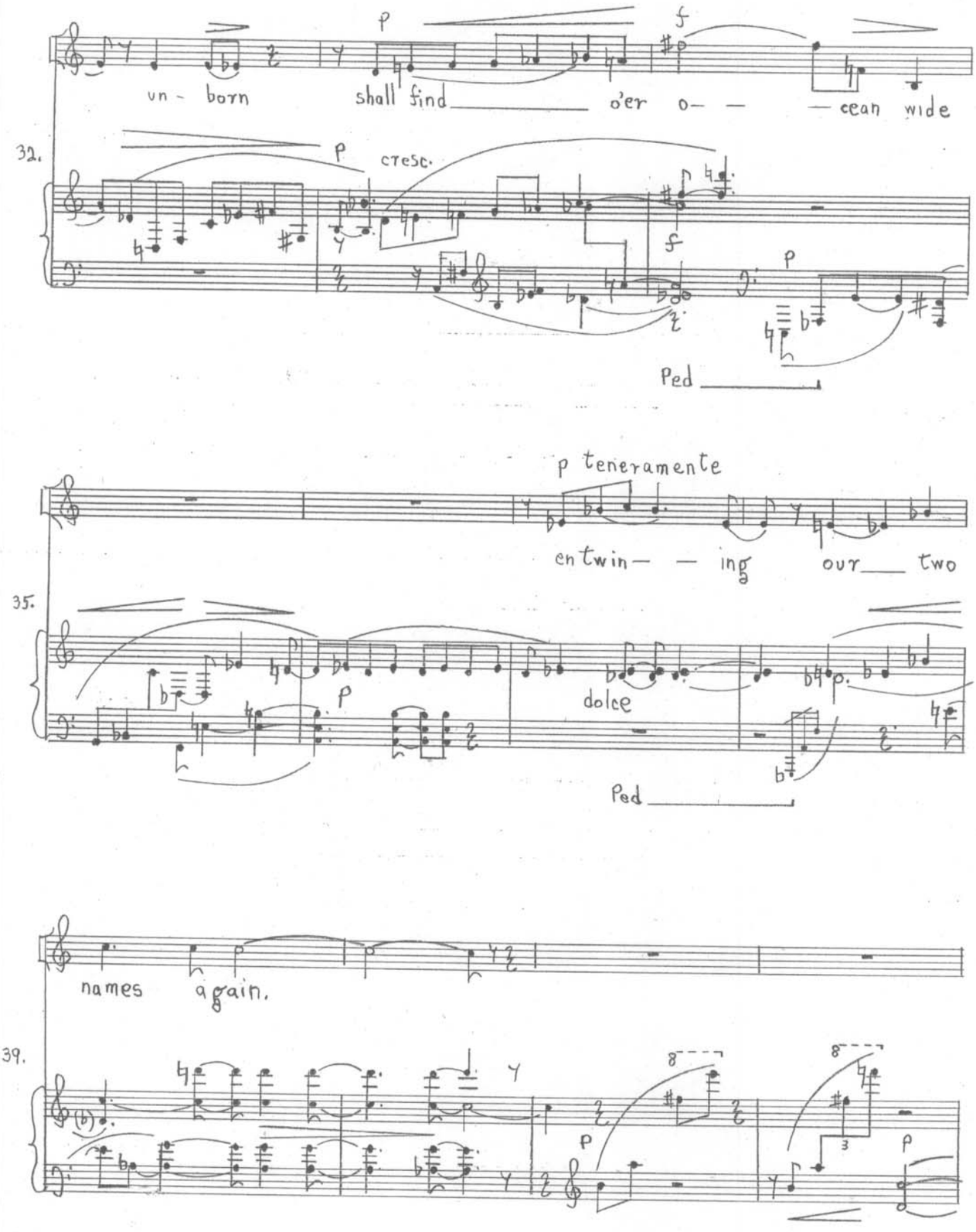
V

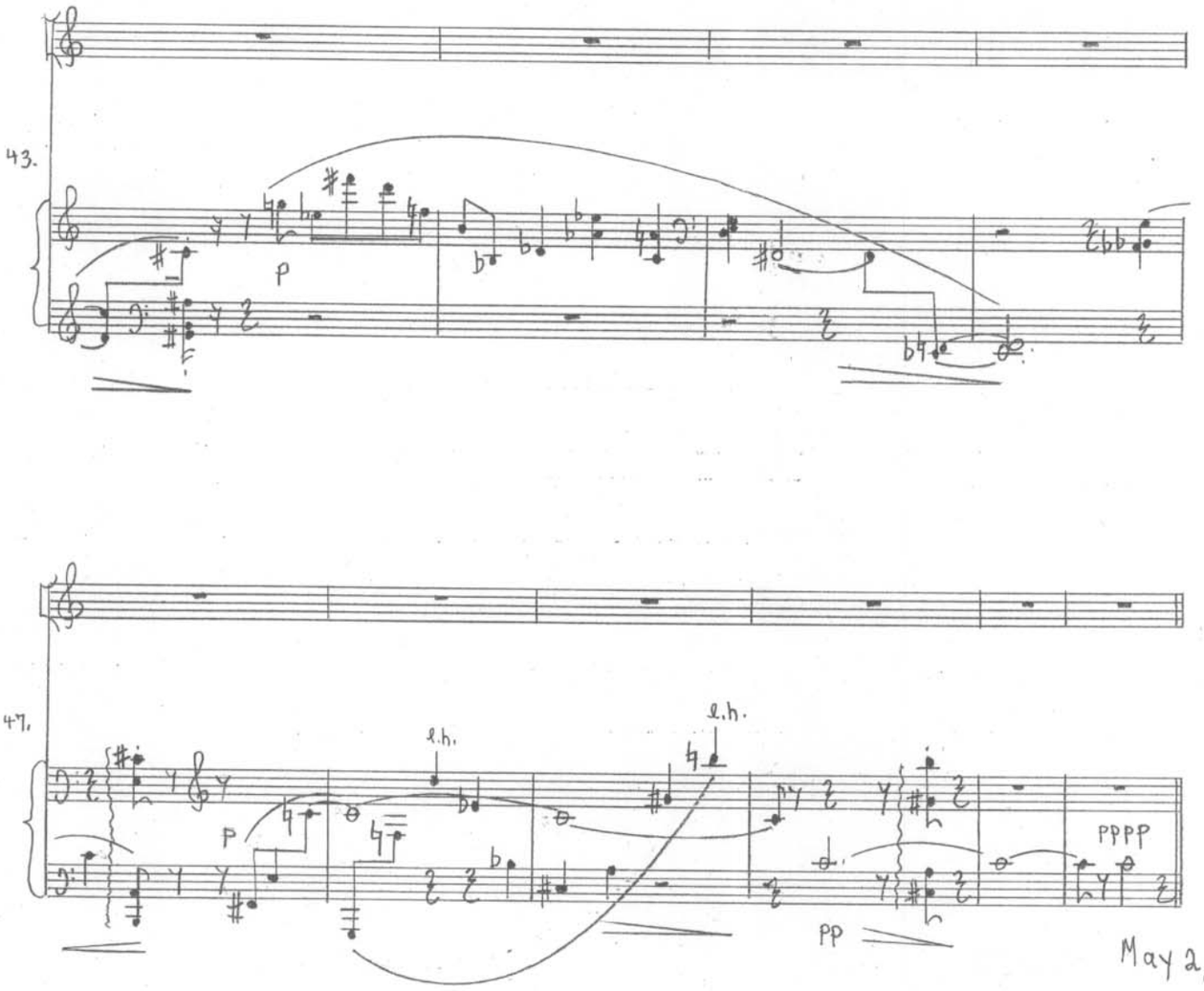
after Walter Savage Landor




write our names u - pon the soft sea-sand, -
12.
mf
dim.
p
Ped
8va
"O! what a child! You
15.
3
3
mf
think you're writing upon stone!"
18.
p
pp
p
3
Ped


21.
pp
p
mp
Ped
pp
p
rit.
a tempo
p
(poco)
cresc.
We have since fa- - shioned what no tide
25.
(poco)
pp
p
mf
f
mf
shall e - - ver wash away, what those
29.
f
mp
p
mf


un - born
shall find
o'er o- -
- cean wide
32.
p
cresc.
f
p
Ped
p teneramente
en twin- - ing
our two
35.
p
dolce
Ped
names again.
39.
8
8
3
p



May 2, 2000