Three Sonnets

after the Portuguese

for

Alto, Violin & Bassoon

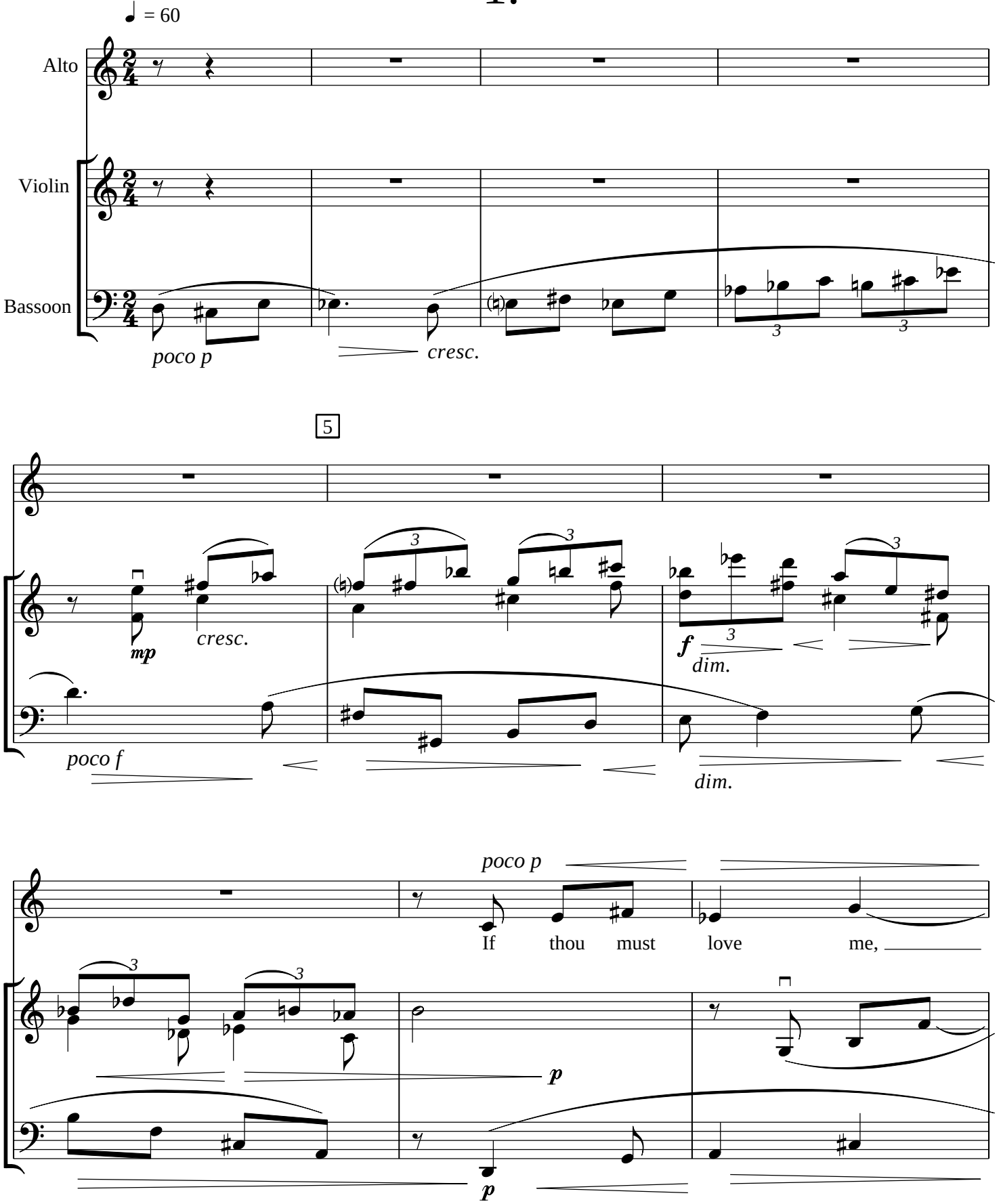
Elizabeth Barrett Browning — Allen Brings

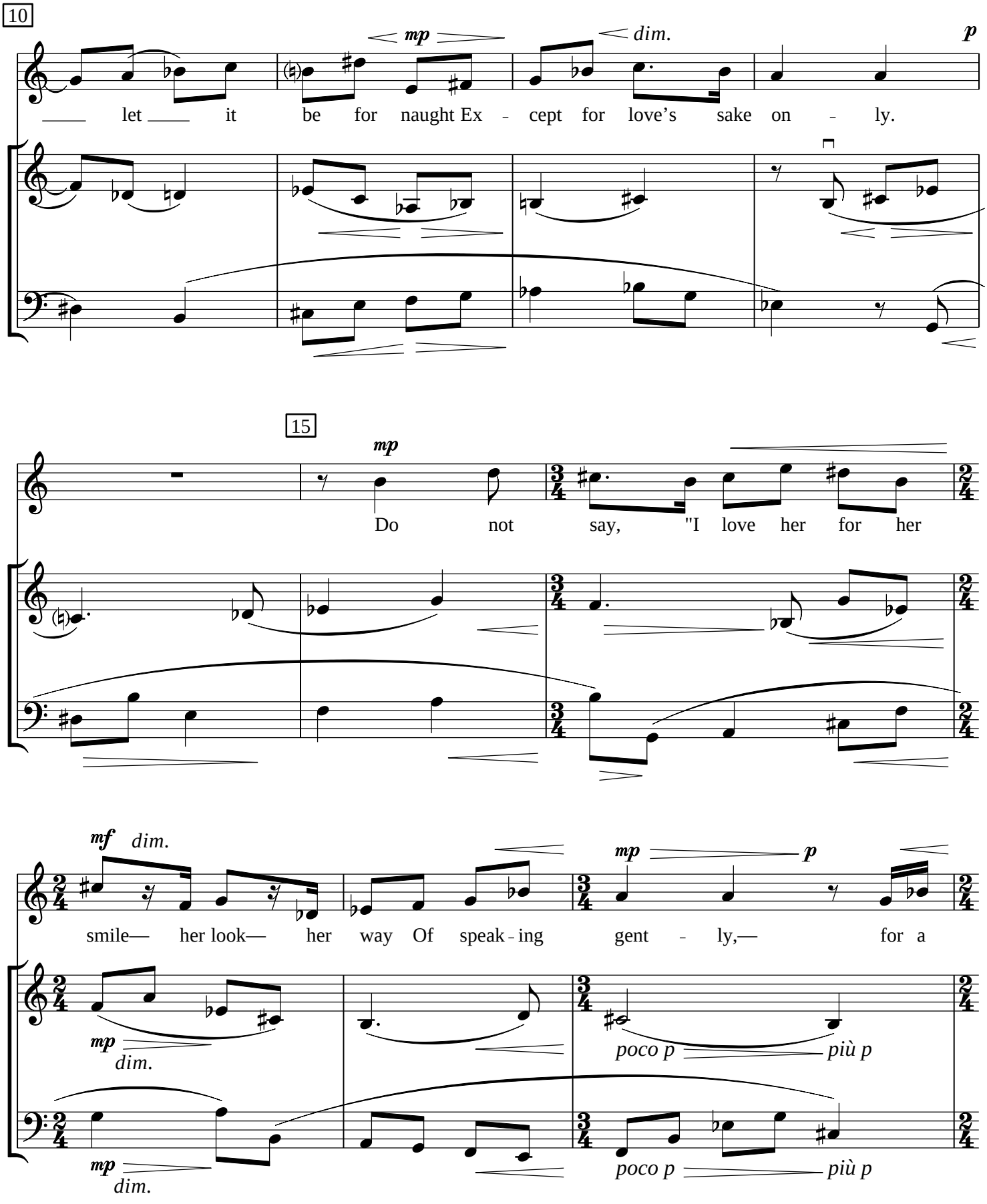
The following scale of dynamic levels should be observed in the performance of these songs: *pp, più p, p, poco p, mp, mf, poco f, f, più f, ff.*

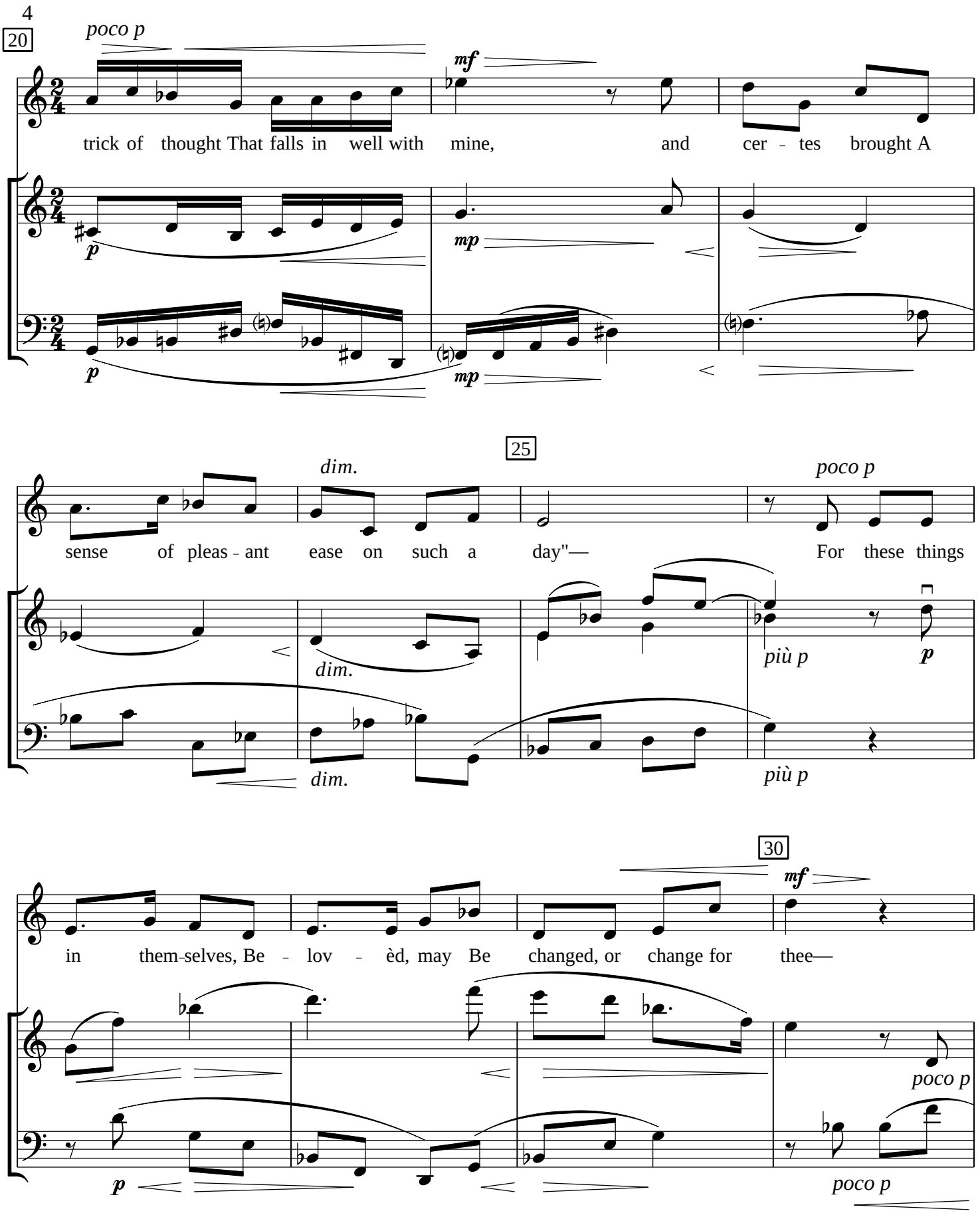
© 2006 Allen Brings

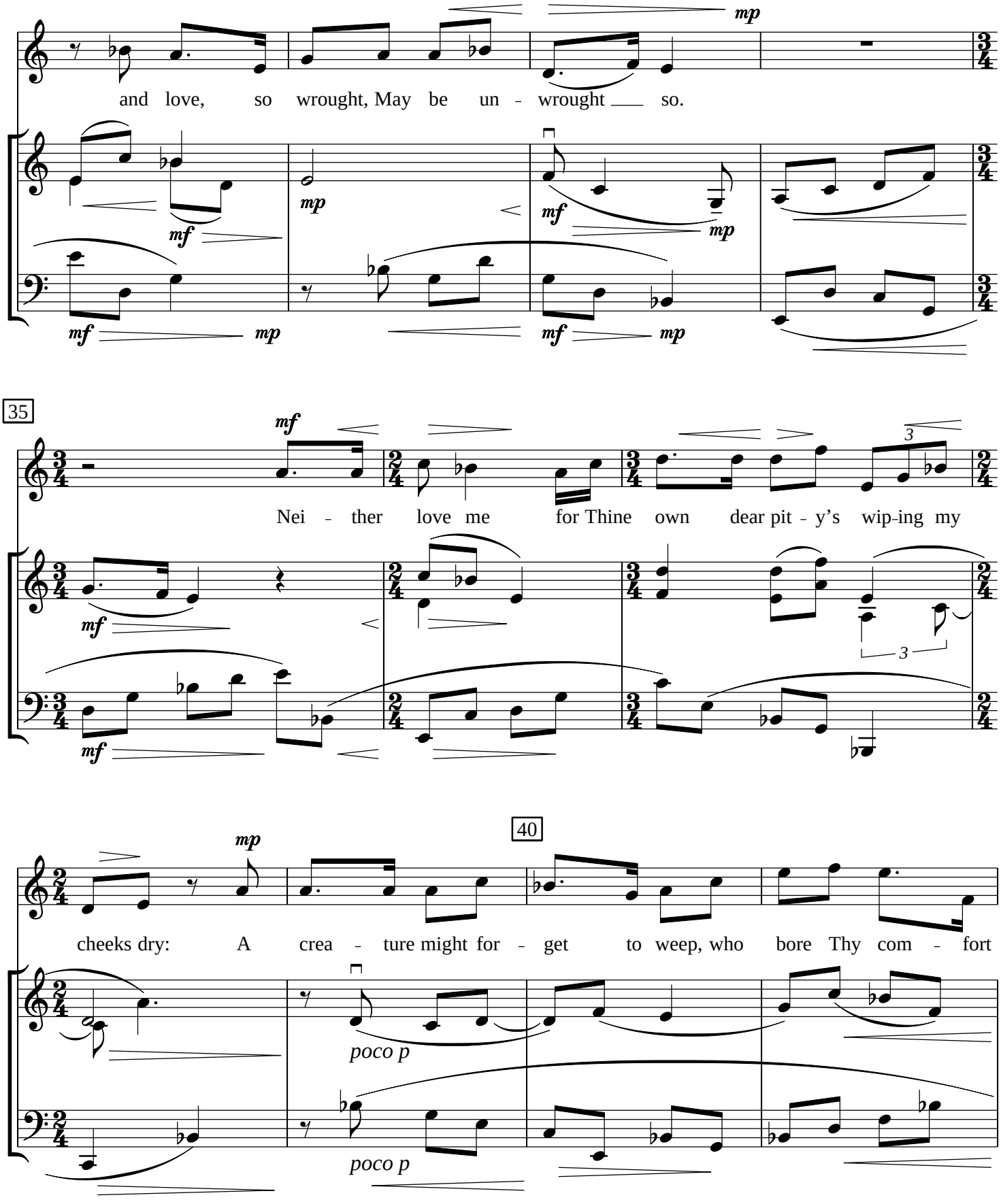
Mira Music Associates
199 Mountain Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897-1526

1.


♩ = 60
Alto
Violin
Bassoon
poco p
cresc.
5
mp
cresc.
f
dim.
poco f
dim.
poco p
If thou must love me,
p
p


10
mp
dim.
p
let it be for naught Ex - cept for love's sake on - ly.
15
mp
Do not say, "I love her for her
mf
dim.
mp
p
smile— her look— her way Of speak - ing gent - ly,— for a
mp
dim.
poco p
più p
mp
dim.
poco p
più p


20
poco p
mf
trick of thought That falls in well with mine, and cer - tes brought A
p
mp
p
mp
25
dim.
poco p
sense of pleas - ant ease on such a day"— For these things
dim.
più p
p
dim.
più p
30
mf
in them-selves, Be - lov - èd, may Be changed, or change for thee—
poco p
p
poco p


and love, so wrought, May be un - wrought so.
35
Nei - ther love me for Thine own dear pit - y's wip-ing my
40
cheeks dry: A crea - ture might for - get to weep, who bore Thy com - fort
poco p
poco p

45

poco p

long, and lose thy love there - by! But

p

love me for love's sake, that ev - er-more Thou mayst love on, through love's e -

mp

p *mp* *p*

p *mp* *p*

50

più p

poco rit.

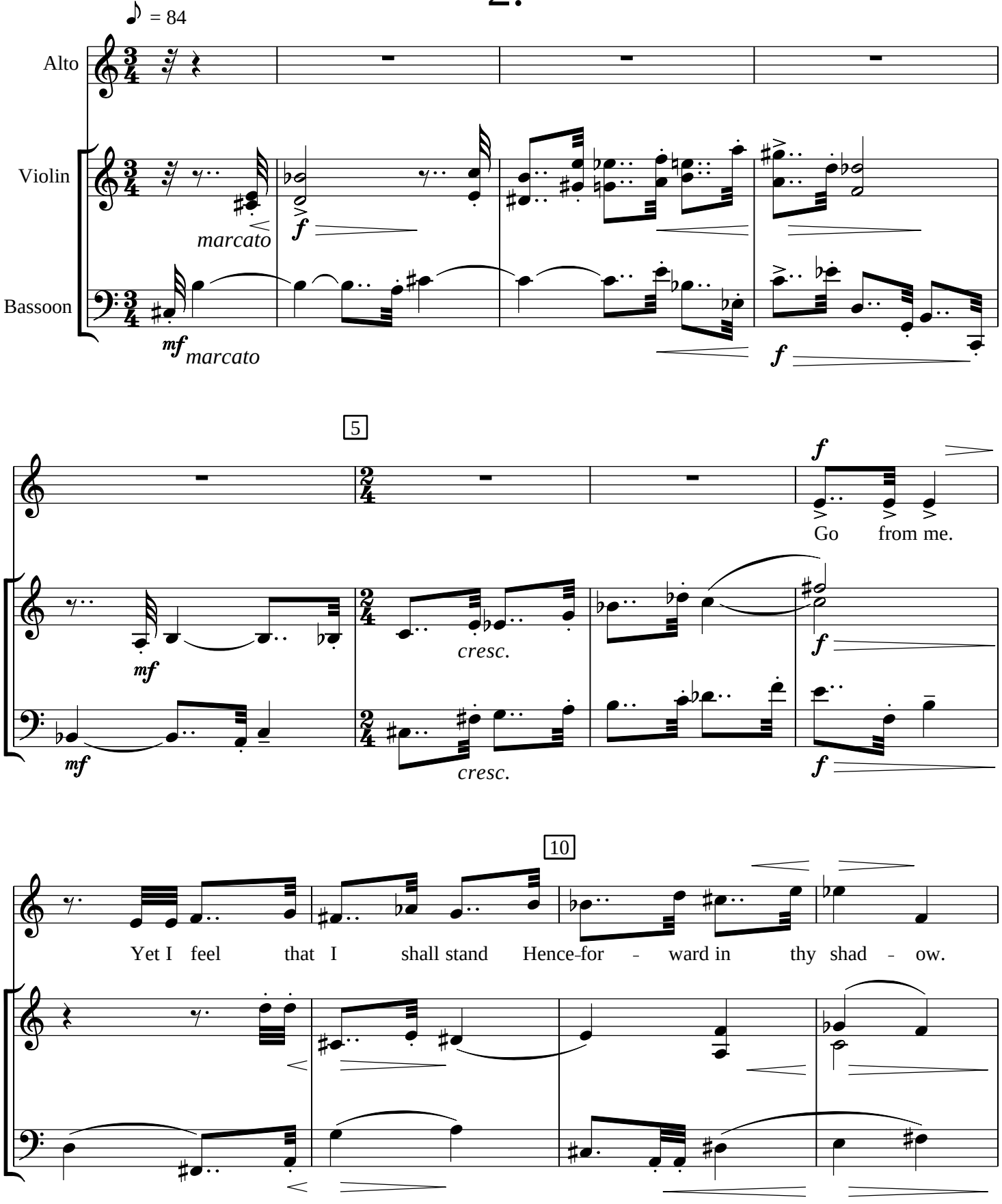
ter - ni - ty.

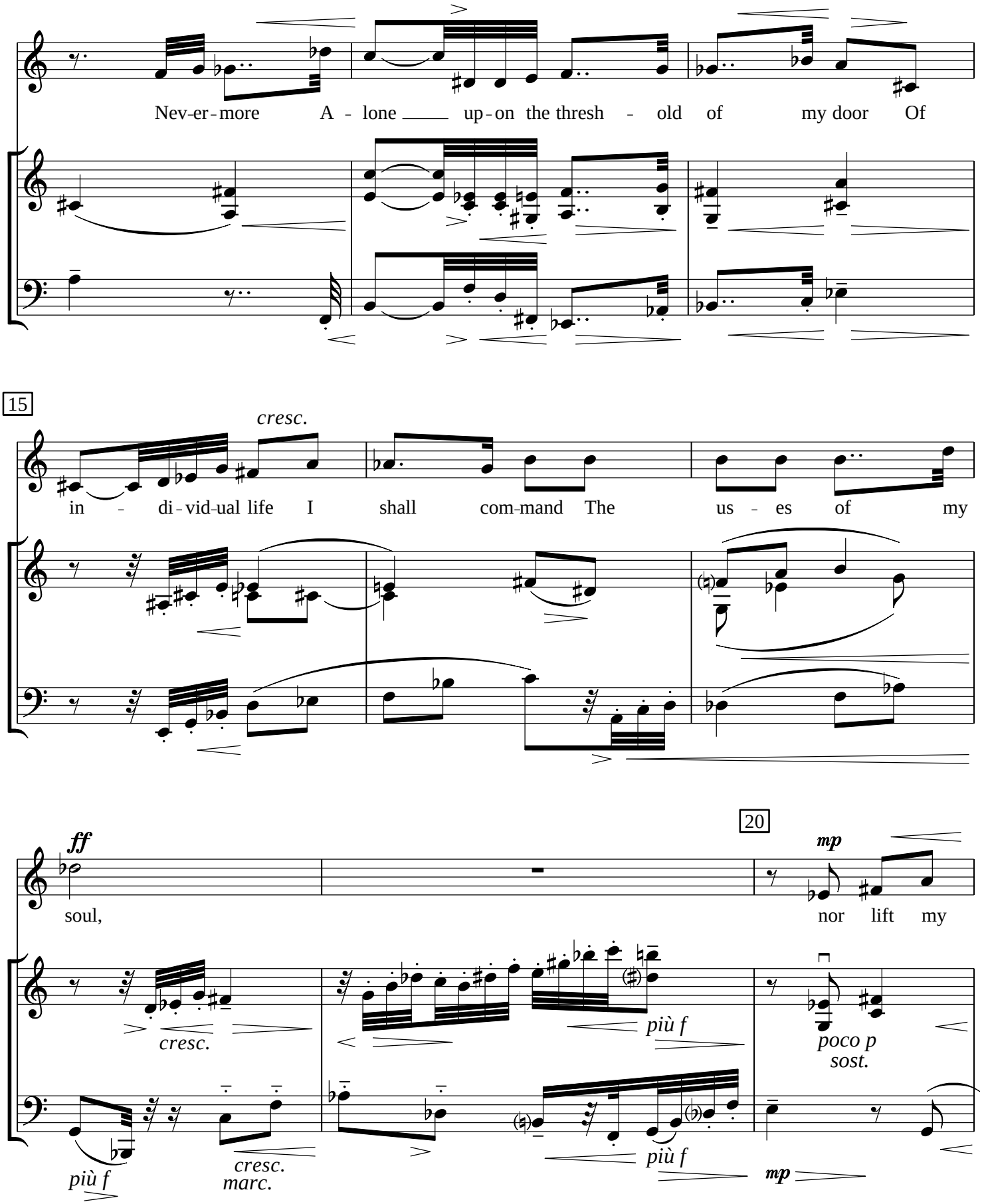
più p

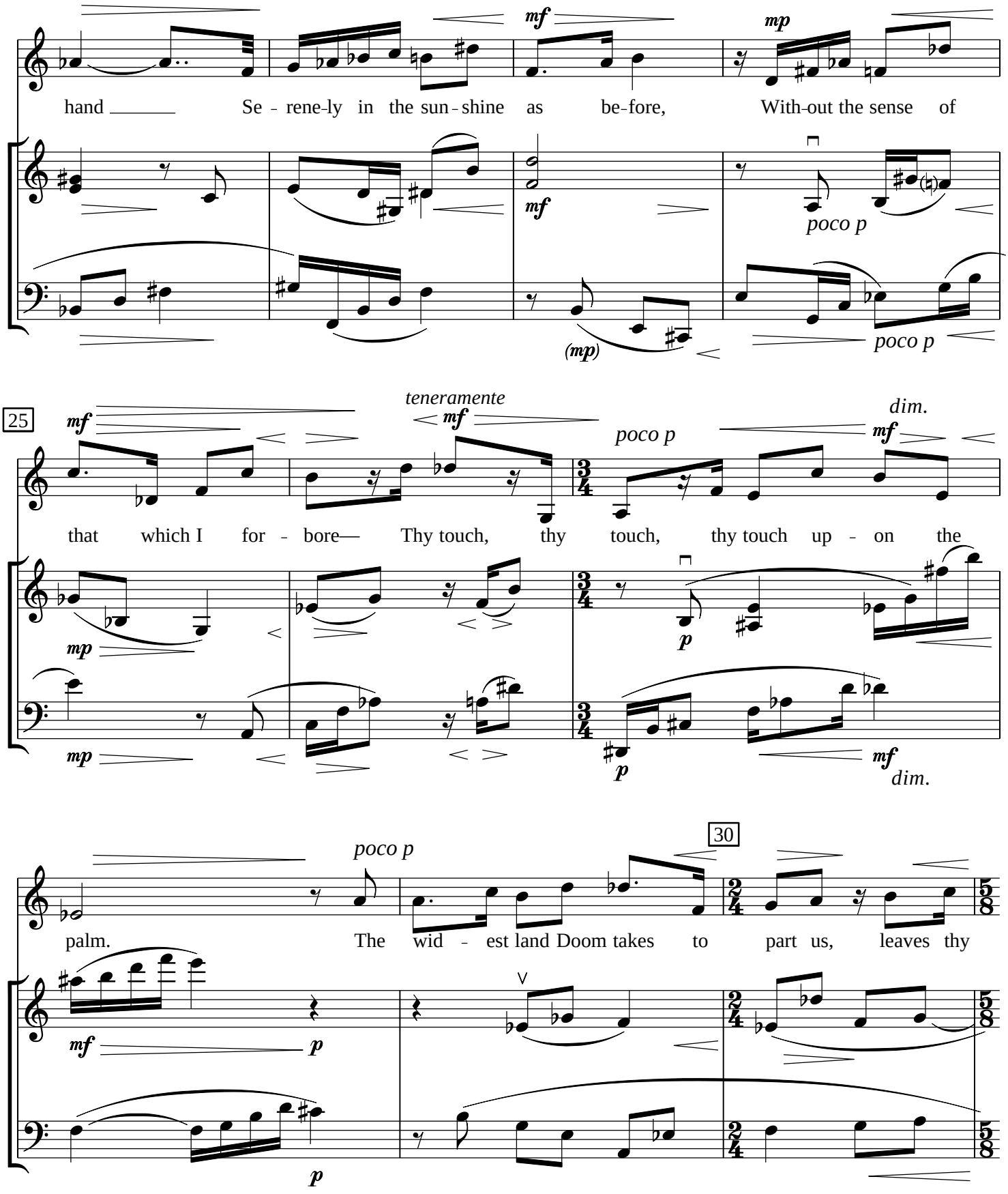
più p

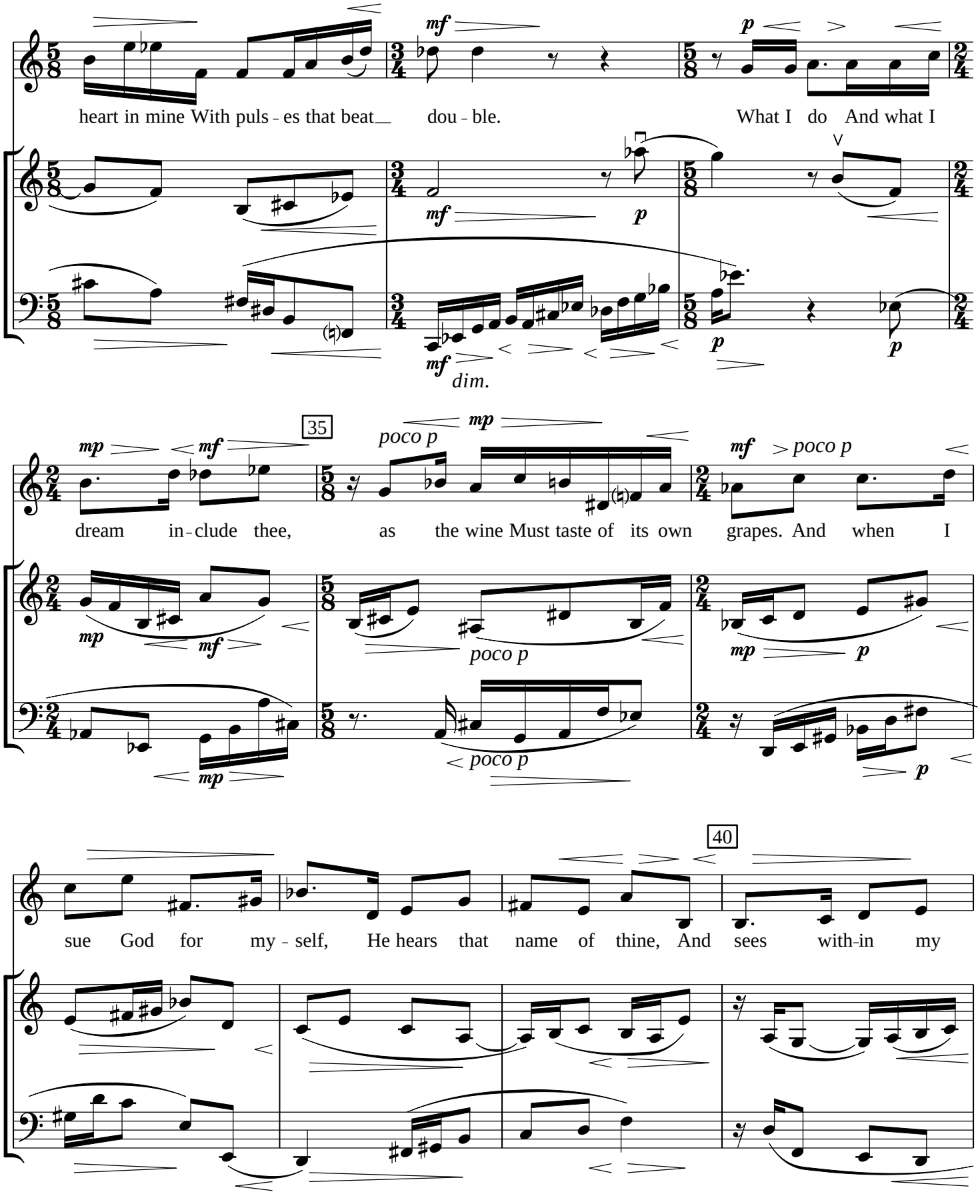
1'44"

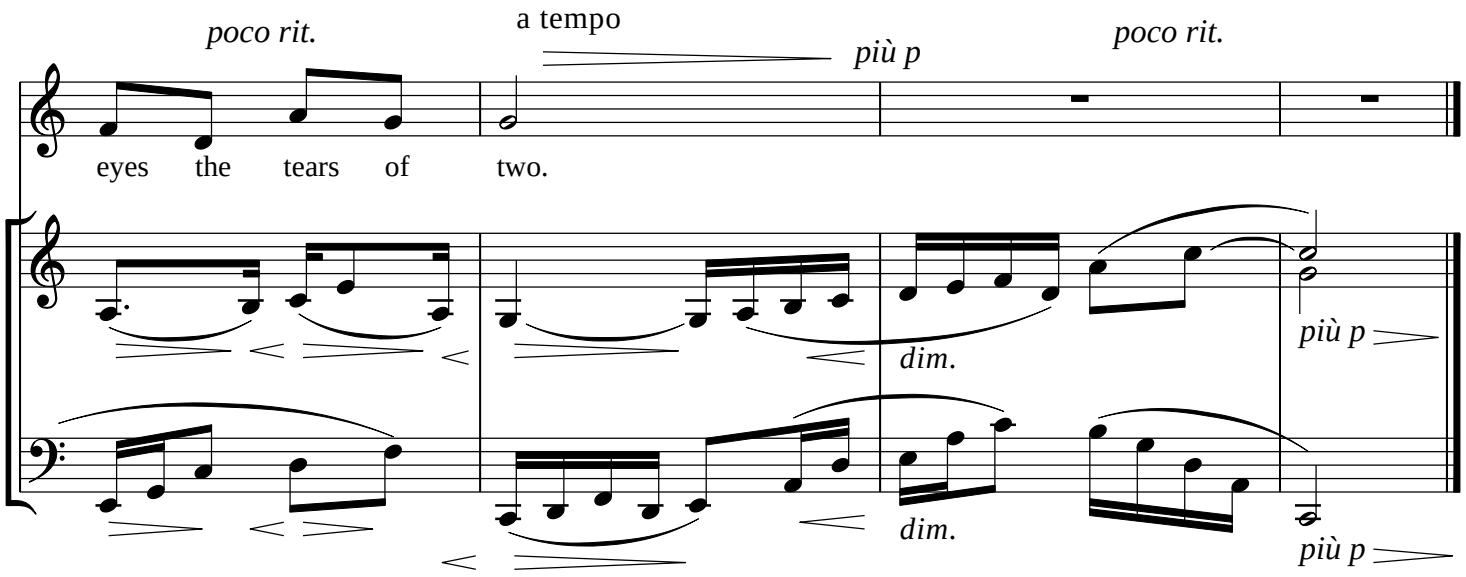
2.


♪ = 84
Alto
Violin
Bassoon
marcato
mf marcato
f
5
f
Go from me.
mf
cresc.
mf
cresc.
f
f
10
Yet I feel that I shall stand Hence-for - ward in thy shad - ow.

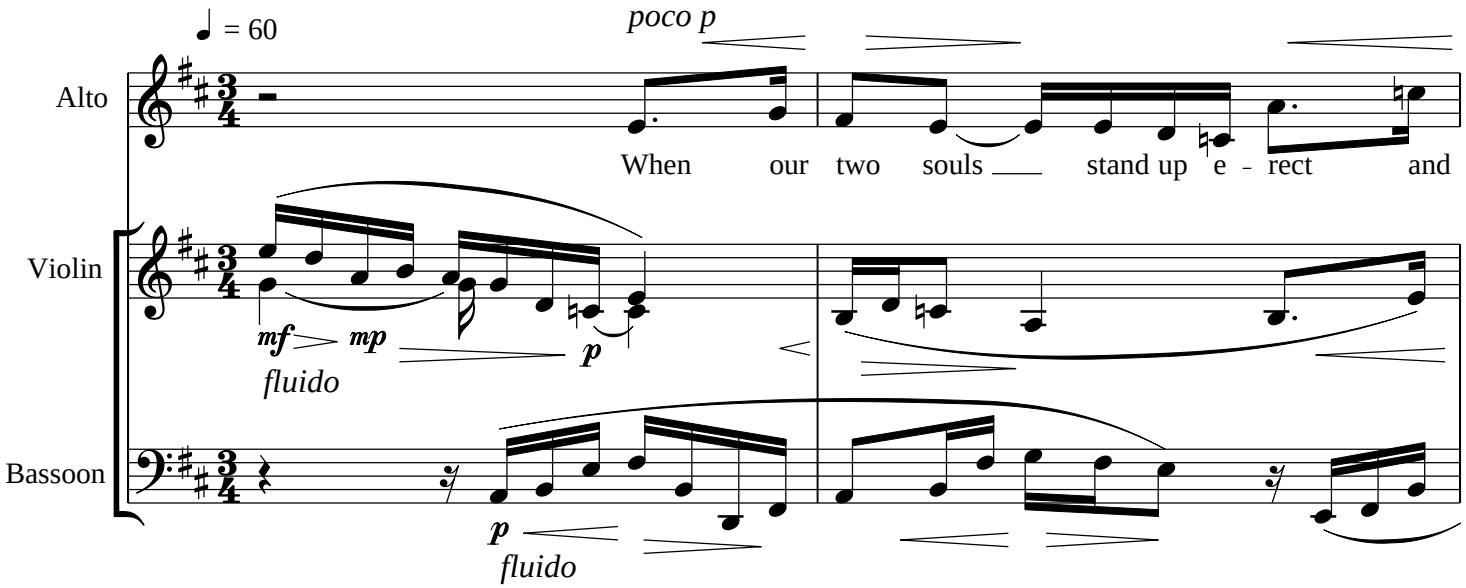

Nev-er-more A - lone up-on the thresh - old of my door Of
15
cresc.
in - di-vid-ual life I shall com-mand The us - es of my
20
ff
soul,
mp
nor lift my
cresc.
più f
poco p
sost.
più f
cresc.
marc.
più f
mp

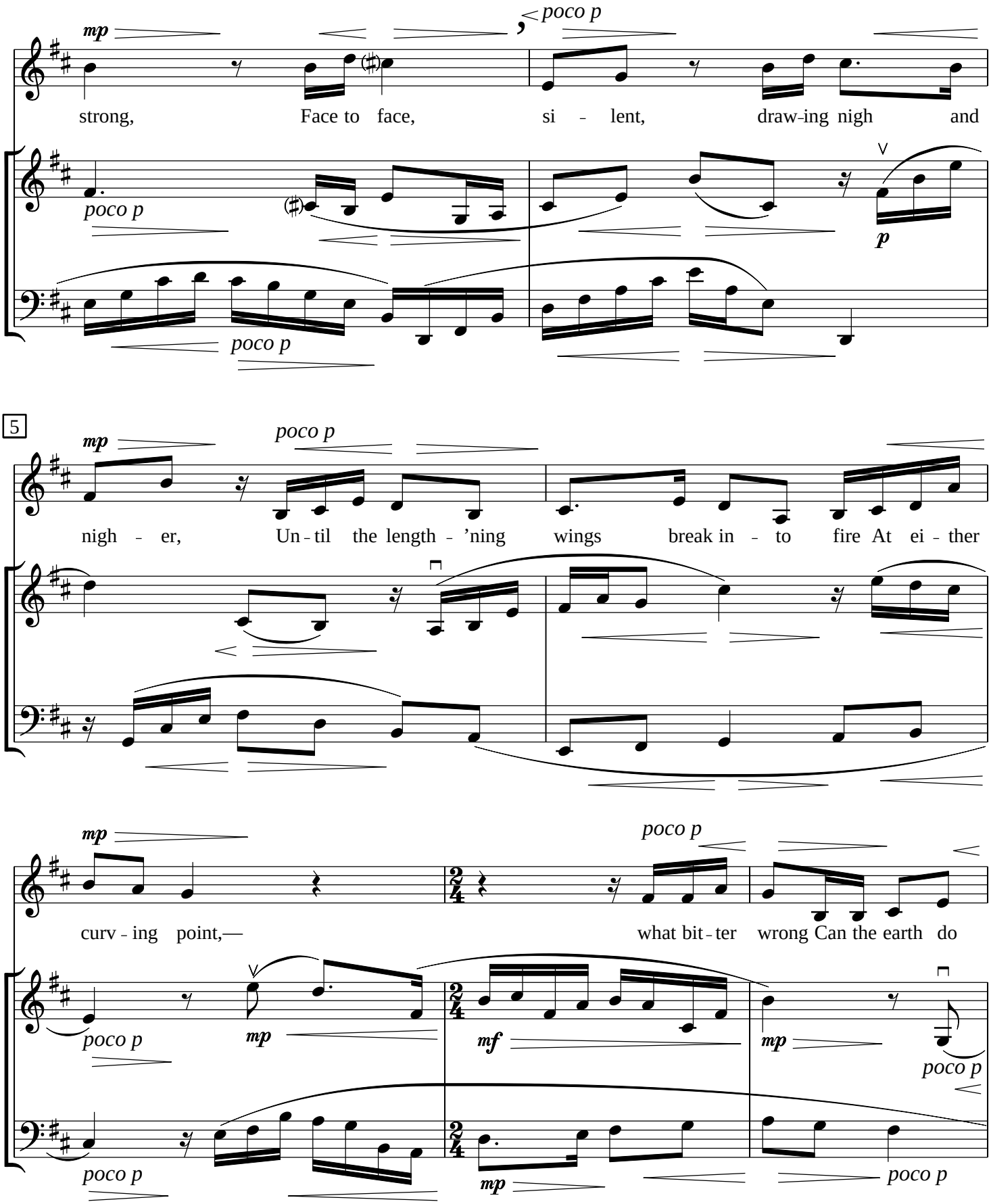

mf
mp
hand Se - rene-ly in the sun - shine as be-fore, With-out the sense of
mf
poco p
(mp)
poco p
25
teneramente
mf
mf
dim.
poco p
that which I for - bore— Thy touch, thy touch, thy touch up - on the
mp
mp
p
p
mf
dim.
30
poco p
palm. The wid - est land Doom takes to part us, leaves thy
mf
p
p

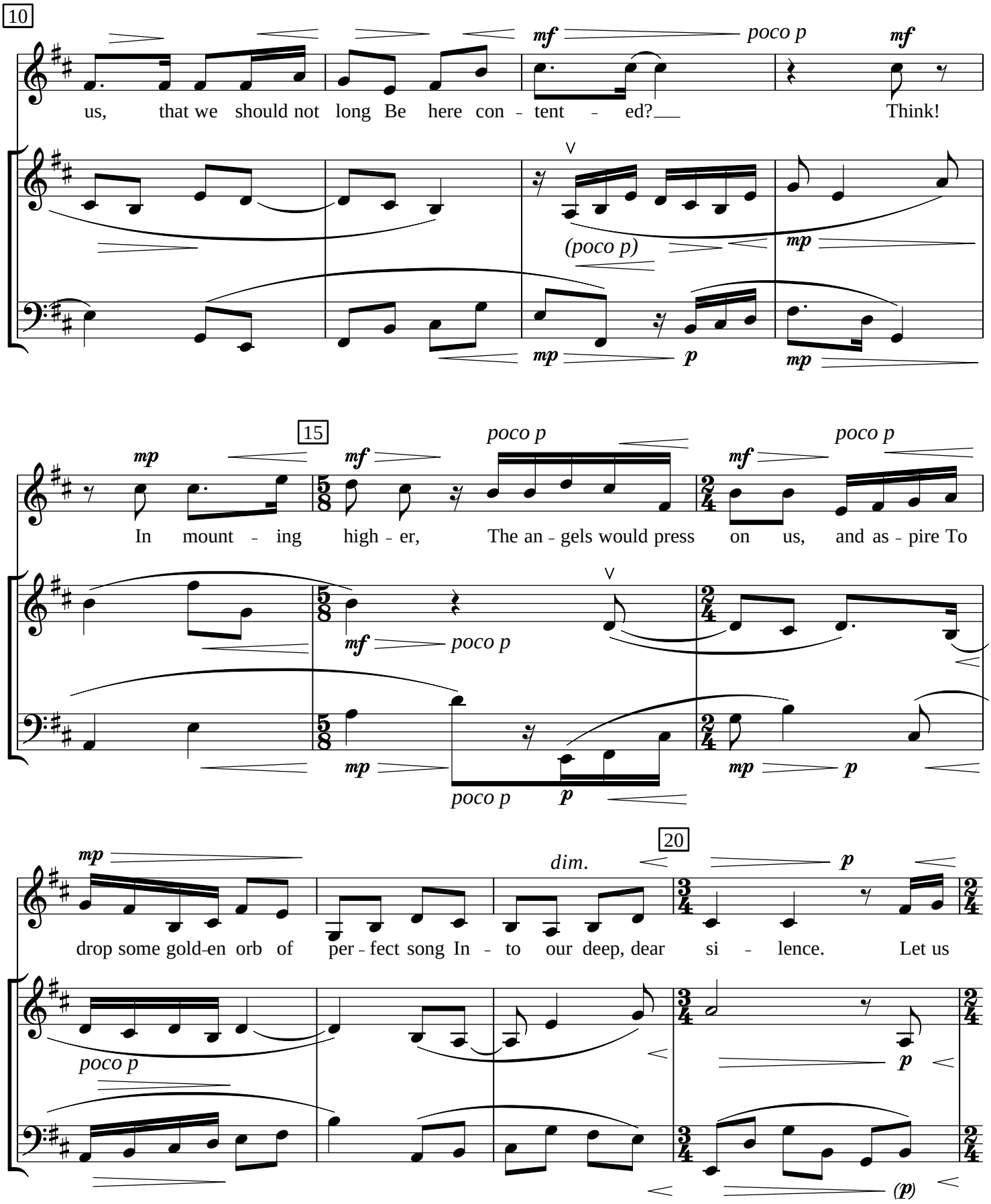

heart in mine With puls - es that beat dou - ble. What I do And what I
dim.
35
poco p
dream in - clude thee, as the wine Must taste of its own grapes. And when I
poco p
poco p
40
sue God for my - self, He hears that name of thine, And sees with-in my

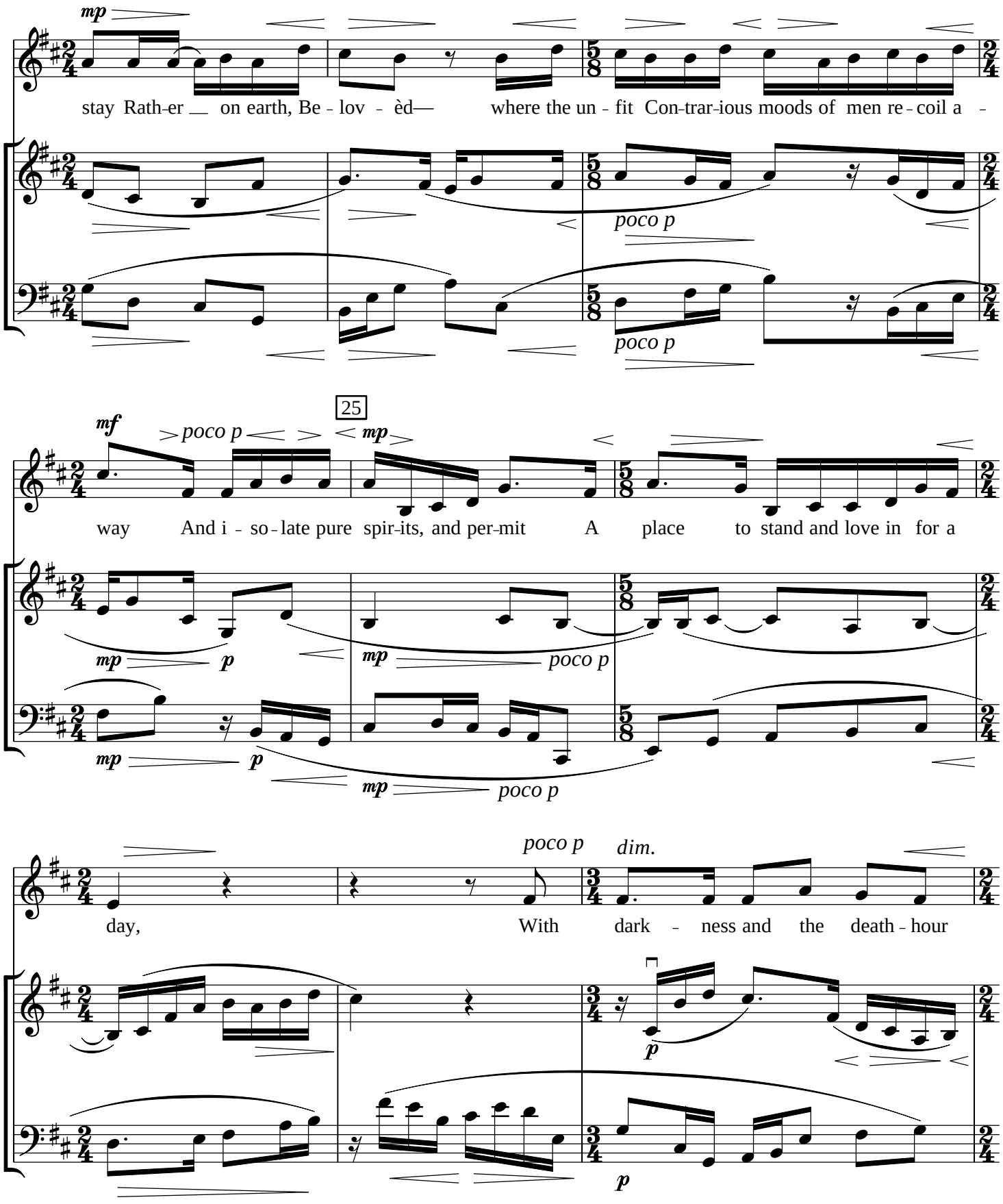

poco rit.
a tempo
più p
poco rit.
eyes the tears of two.
dim.
più p
dim.
più p

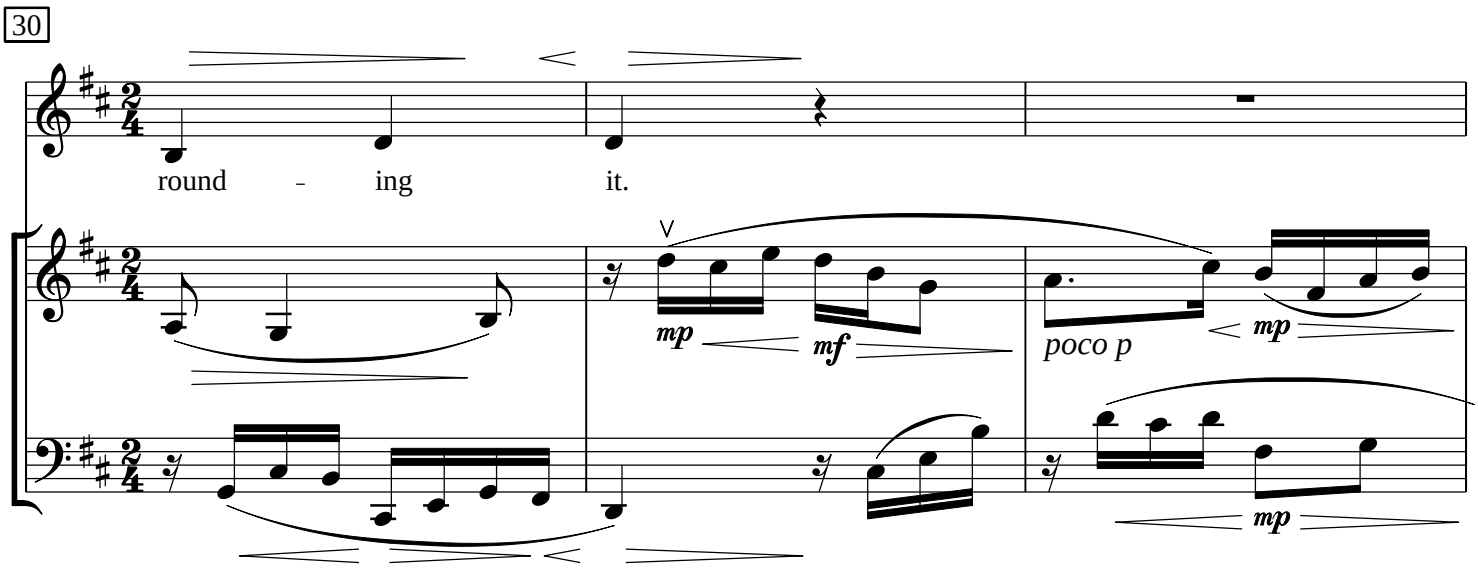
3.

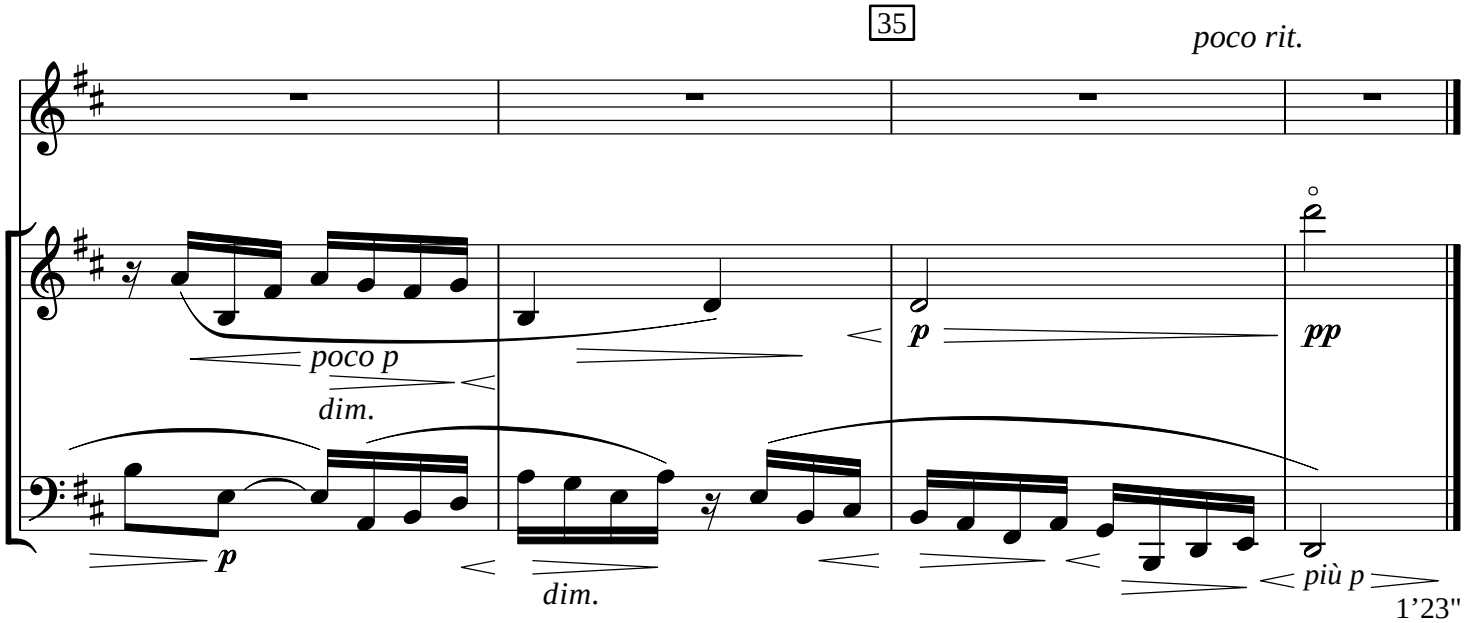

♩ = 60
poco p
Alto
When our two souls stand up e - rect and
Violin
mf
mp
p
fluido
Bassoon
p
fluido


mp
poco p
strong, Face to face, si - lent, draw-ing nigh and
poco p
poco p
p
5
mp
poco p
nigh - er, Un - til the length - 'ning wings break in - to fire At ei - ther
mp
poco p
curv - ing point,— what bit - ter wrong Can the earth do
poco p
mp
mf
mp
poco p
poco p
mp
poco p


10
mf
poco p
mf
us, that we should not long Be here con - tent - ed?
Think!
(poco p)
mp
mp
p
mp
15
mp
mf
poco p
mf
poco p
In mount - ing high - er, The an - gels would press on us, and as - pire To
mf
poco p
mp
poco p
p
mp
p
20
mp
dim.
p
drop some gold-en orb of per - fect song In - to our deep, dear si - lence. Let us
poco p
p
(p)


mp
stay Rath-er on earth, Be - lov - èd— where the un - fit Con-trar-ious moods of men re - coil a -
poco p
poco p
25
mf
poco p
mp
way And i - so - late pure spir-its, and per-mit A place to stand and love in for a
mp
p
mp
poco p
mp
p
mp
poco p
poco p
dim.
day, With dark - ness and the death - hour
p
p





1’23"

Wilton, December 6, 2006

Ad maiorem gloriam Dei