stanley grill

vignettes ~ trees

musical settings of poems
by William Carlos Williams

for 2 voices and 2 cellos

Love Song
The Botticellian Trees
The Soughing Wind
Epitaph
Winter Trees
The Bare Tree
Love Song

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MUSIC BY STAN GRILL

VOCAL MUSIC

The Snow Begins (W.C. Williams)	1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Earth and Sea (Eskimo texts)	1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Preludes (T.S. Eliot)	1978	soprano, violin, cello	10 min
6 Songs (W.B. Yeats)	1983	soprano, piano	15 min
To a Child (W.B. Yeats)	1987	soprano, string quartet	20 min
Crazy Jane Sings (W.B. Yeats)	1999	soprano, fl, vn, va, vc, pn	25 min
Vignettes/Flowers (W.C. Williams)	2002	SATB, cello	18 min
Love Poems (W.C. Williams)	2003	SSAA	10 min
Vignettes/Trees (W.C. Williams)	2004	2 voices, 2 cellos	15 min
Thinking of You (John MacKenzie)	2005	soprano, vc, harp	7 min
Arietta s without words	2005	soprano, vc, harp	9 min
Scetate (Ferdinando Russo)	2005	SSATTBB	6 min
In Their Flight (Mark Doty)	2006	soprano, mezzo soprano, vn, vc	6 min
Rilke Songs	2009	soprano, va d'amore, vc	15 min
4 Songs to Poems by Hart Crane	2010	tenor, piano	12 min
Sonnets to Orpheus (Rilke)	2012	tenor, piano	35 min

MUSIC FOR STRINGS ALONE

6 Contrapuntal Pieces	1986	string quartet	20 min
For Laura	1987	string quartet	25 min
As Easy as 1,2,3	1987	string trio	10 min
The Beckoning Stars	2001	string quartet	13 min
Imaginary Dances	2001	violin solo	18 min
Short Stories	2003	vn, va, vc, db	18 min
Passion (a love duet)	2003	va, vc	9 min
Pavanne (for a world without war)	2005	string orchestra	8 min
Meditations for String Orchestra	2006	string orchestra	8 min
American Landscapes	2007	string quartet	24 min
Motet for String Orchestra	2008	string orchestra	7 min
Ecstasy	2009	viola solo	9 min
Transformations	2009	viola da gamba solo	12 min
Sonatine	2010	3 violins	9 min

CHAMBER MUSIC

Three for Three	1992	vn, vc, pn	16 min
Civil War Songs	1992	va, pn	18 min
Take Five	1993	2 vns, va, vc, pn	25 min
Serenade	1999	fl, vn, va, vc	11 min
Distant Music	2000	cl, vn/va, vc, pn	20 min
Driven by the Wind	2001	fl, vc, pn	25 min
Nonet (for New York)	2002	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn, 2vns, va, vc	35 min
A Little Sweet	2003	fl, vc	10 min
On the edge of sleep & dreaming	2003	hn, vc, harp	31 min
5 Pastoral Scenes	2004	ob, bn, vn, va, vc	30 min
I was dreaming of the sea…	2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	7 min
Little Tales of Mirth & Woe	2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	6 min
An Ode to the Possibility of Peace	2005	cl, vn, vc	15 min
Elements	2006	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn	11 min
Motet for Brass Instruments	2006	2 trp, hn, trb, tu	7 min

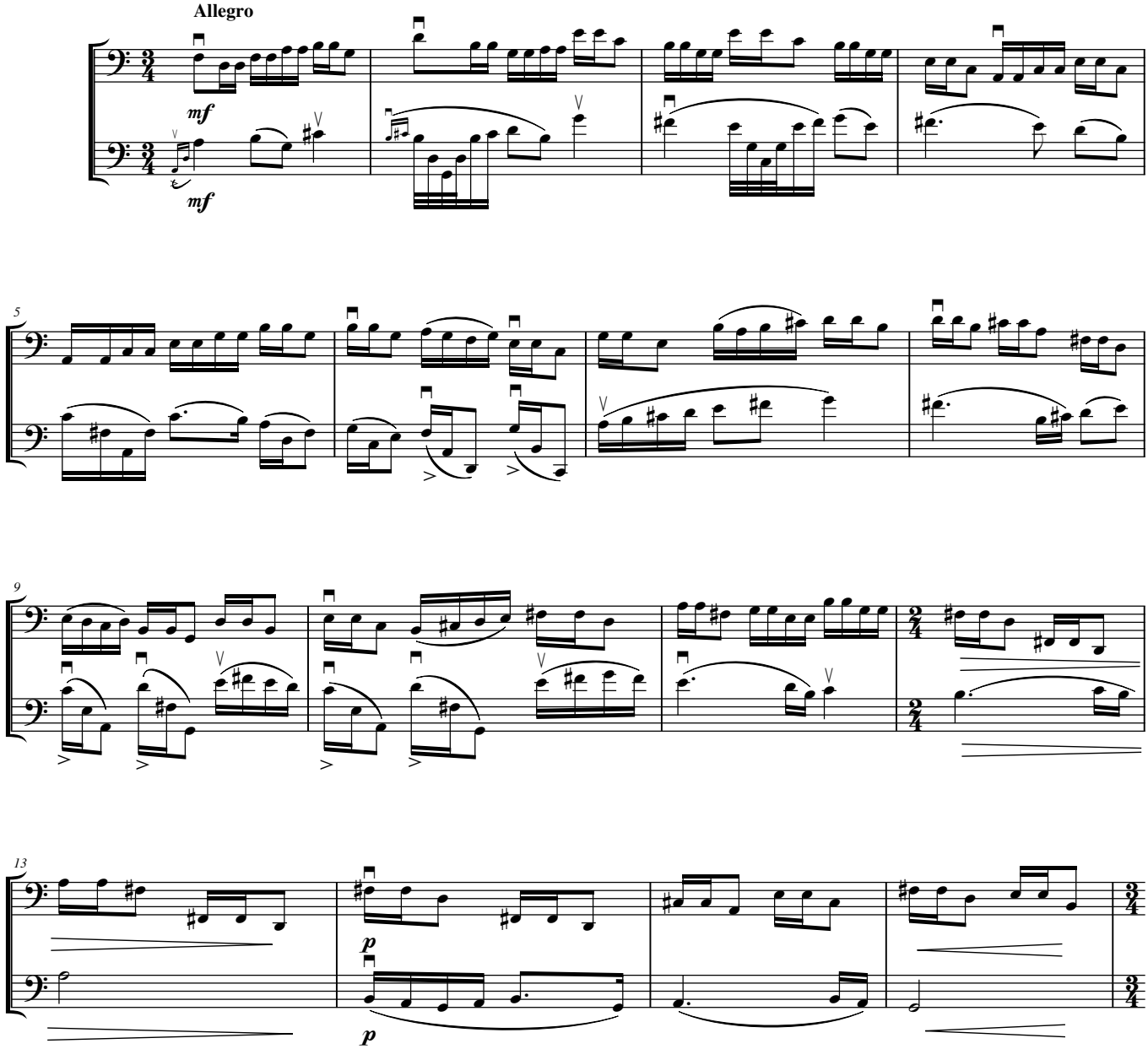
ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

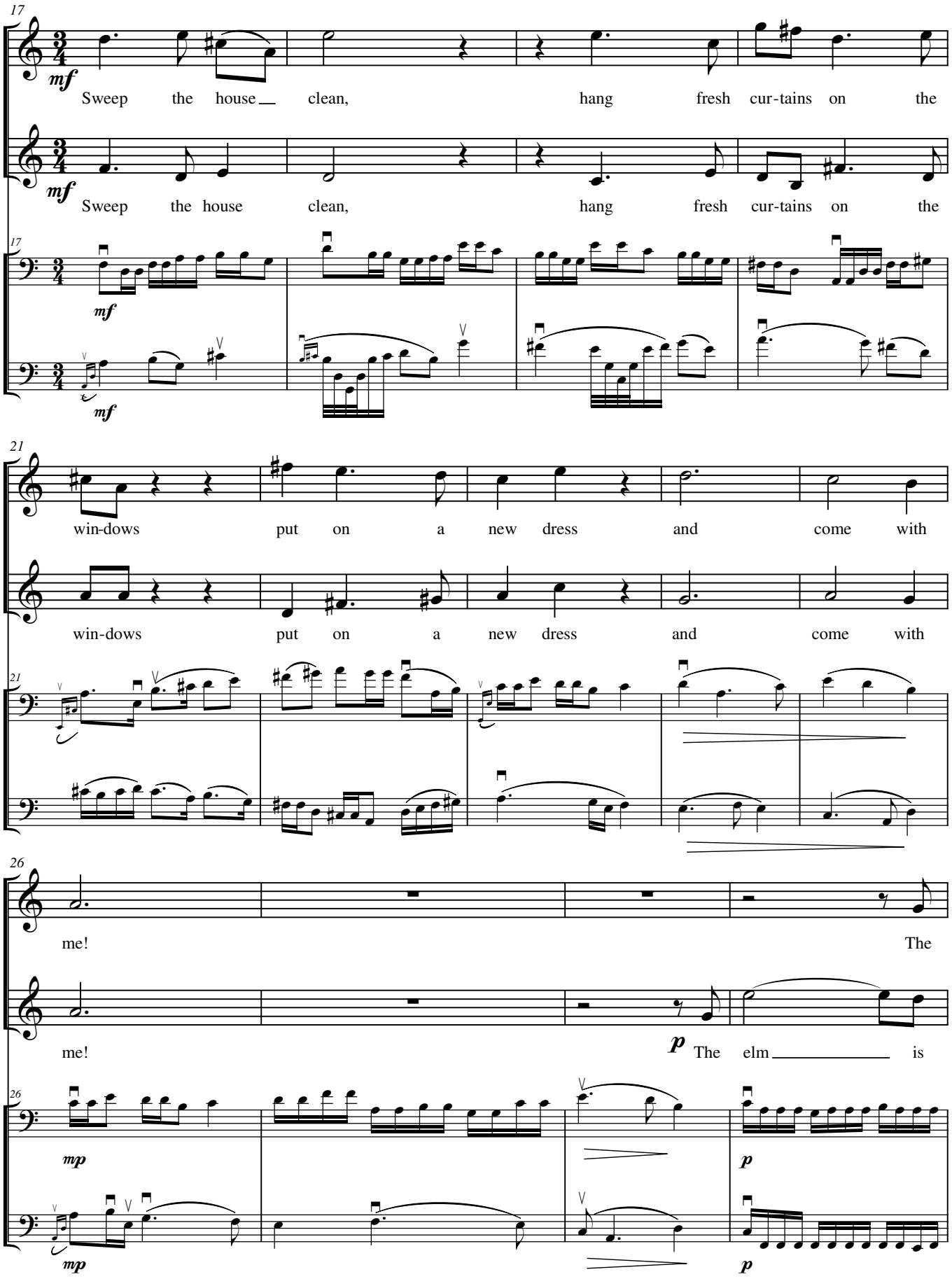
Appalachian Songs	1988	chamber orchestra	25 min
Morning Music	2001	cl, string orchestra	22 min
Two Sad Songs (W.B. Yeats)	2002	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
Invisible Ballet	2003	strings & diverse instruments	33 min
Pluto	2005	orchestra	15 min
Ophelia Songs (Shakespeare)	2005	soprano, harp, string orchestra	12 min
Love's Little Pleasures	2008	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
The Four Elements	2009	va, string orchestra	22 min
Mystical Songs	2009	soprano, va, string orchestra	18 min

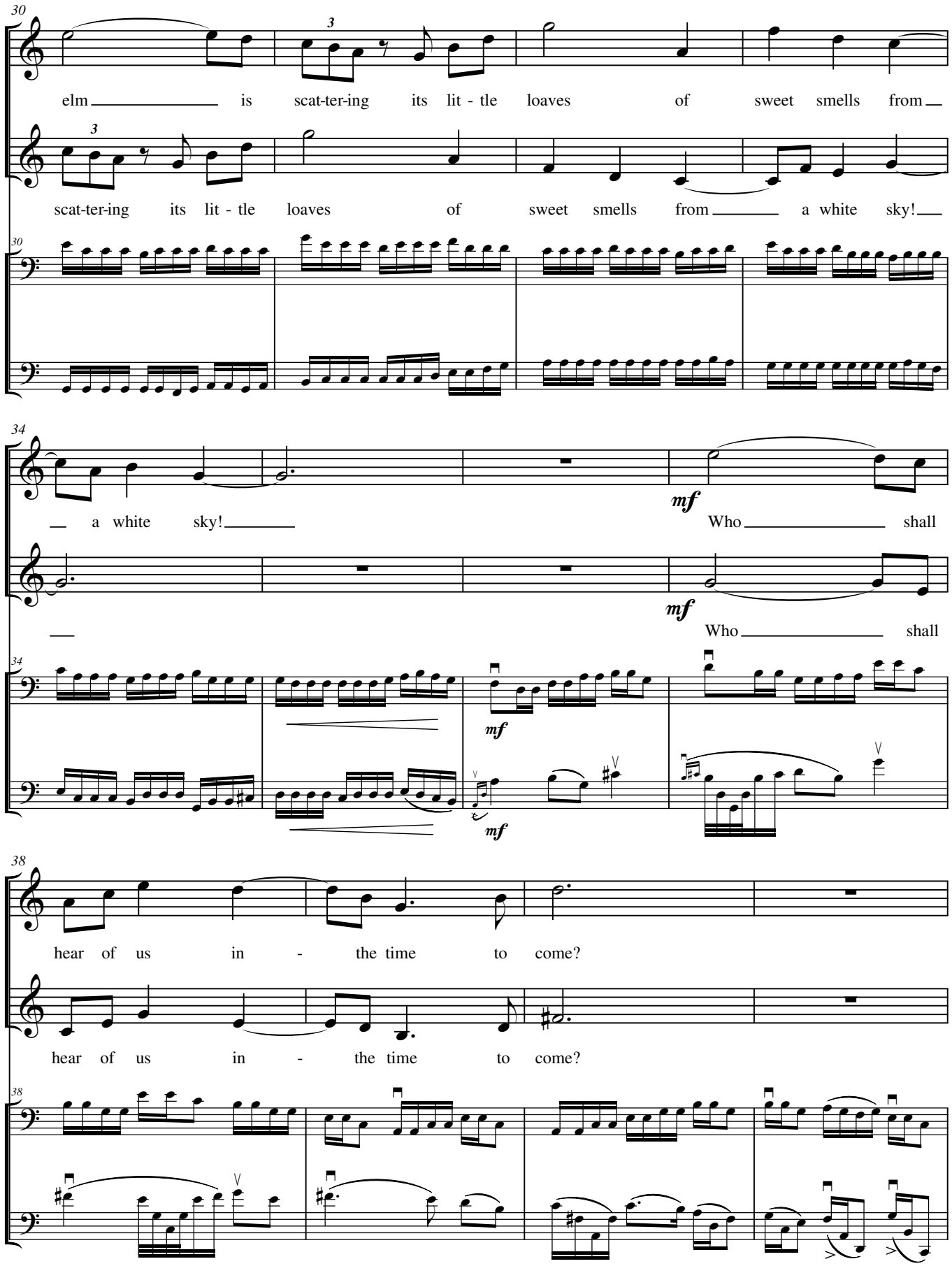
Vignettes-Trees is a companion piece to my cycle ***Vignettes-Flowers*** – the latter setting poems about flowers for SATB with solo cello accompaniment, and the former setting poems which have trees as a central image for 2 cellos and 2 voices. The poems in both works are all by the wonderfully unique New Jersey poet, William Carlos Williams. Of course, these poems are not really about trees at all – but use the image of trees to say something important about the usual subjects of poetry – love, for instance.

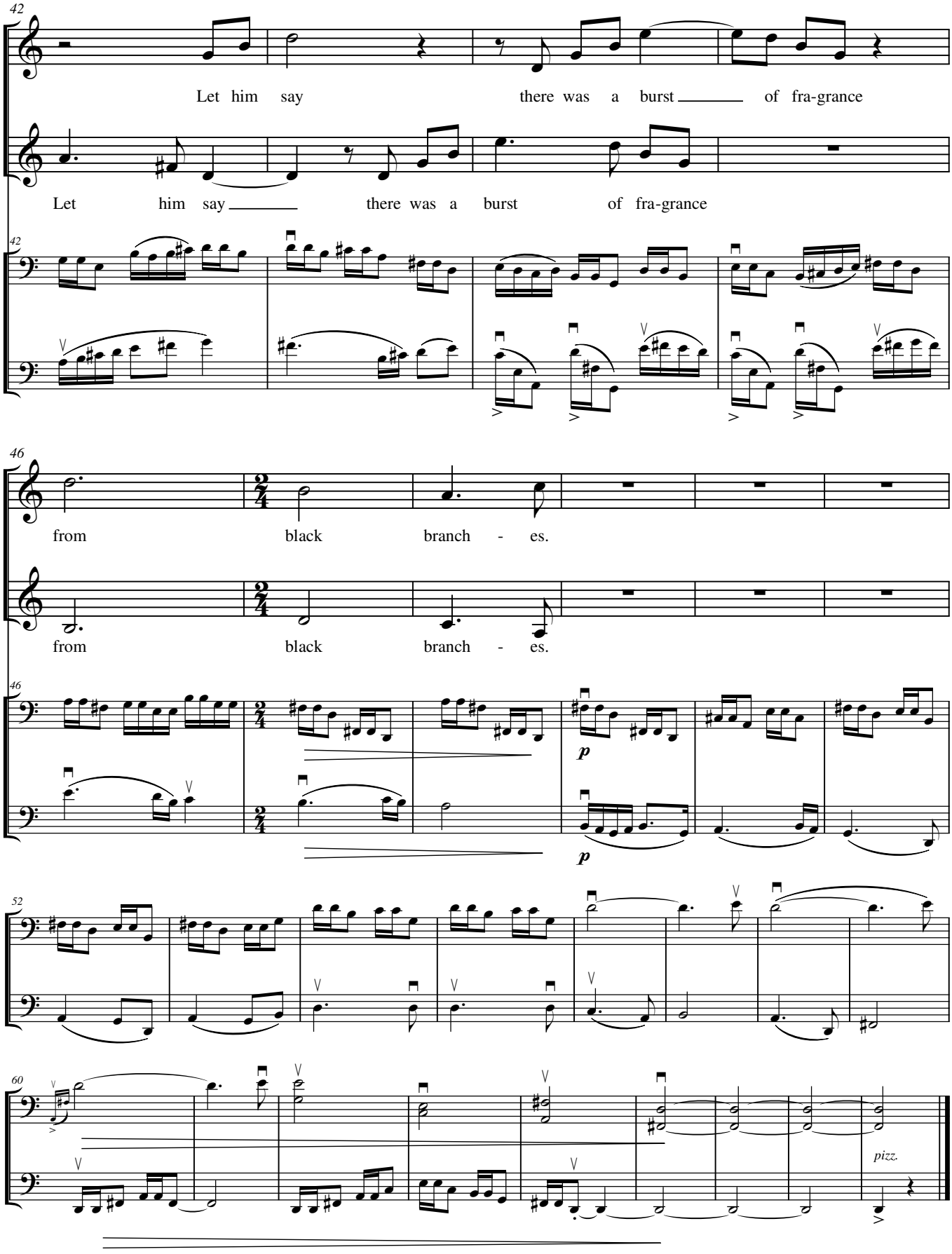
Stan Grill

1 - Love Song

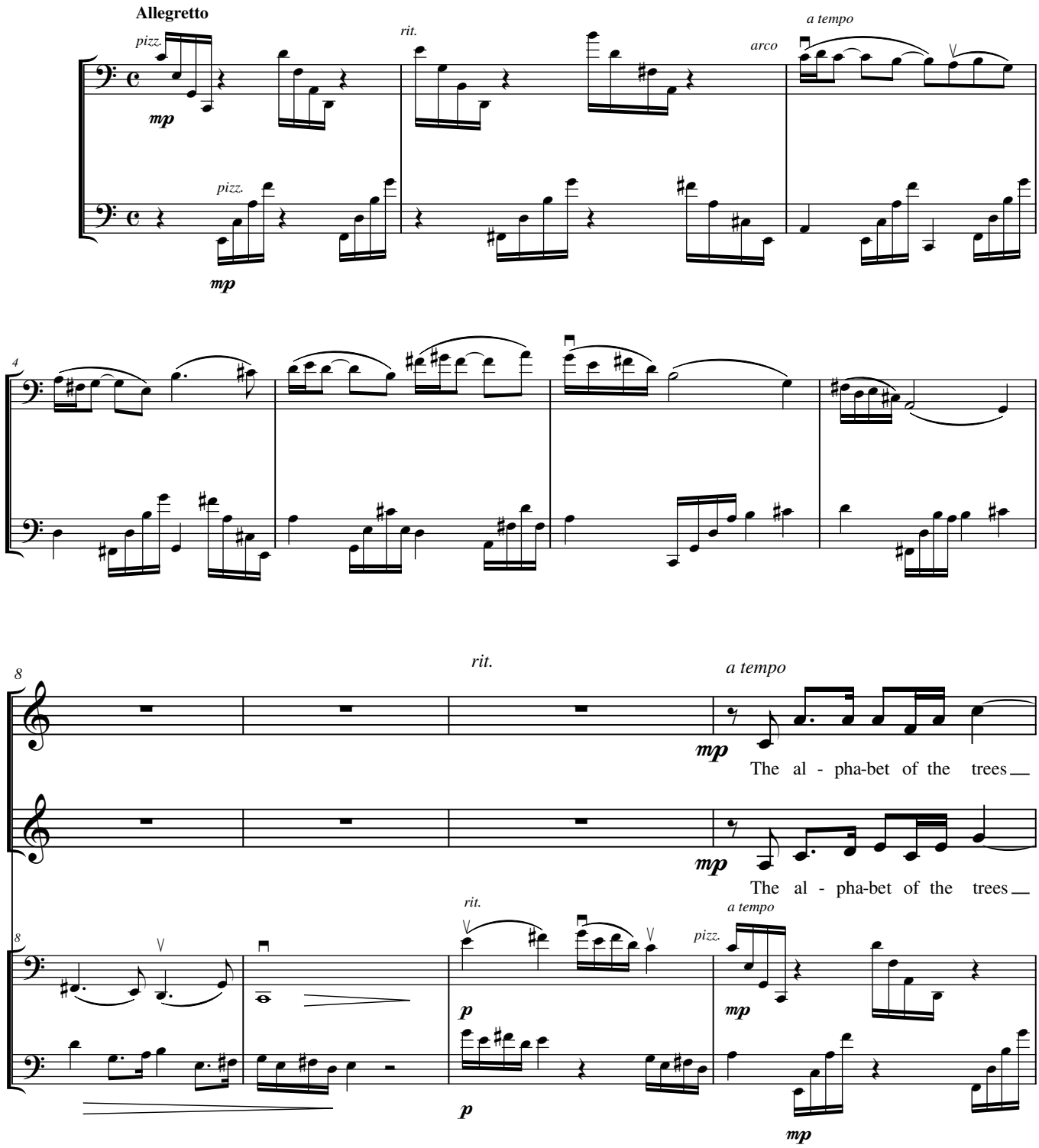


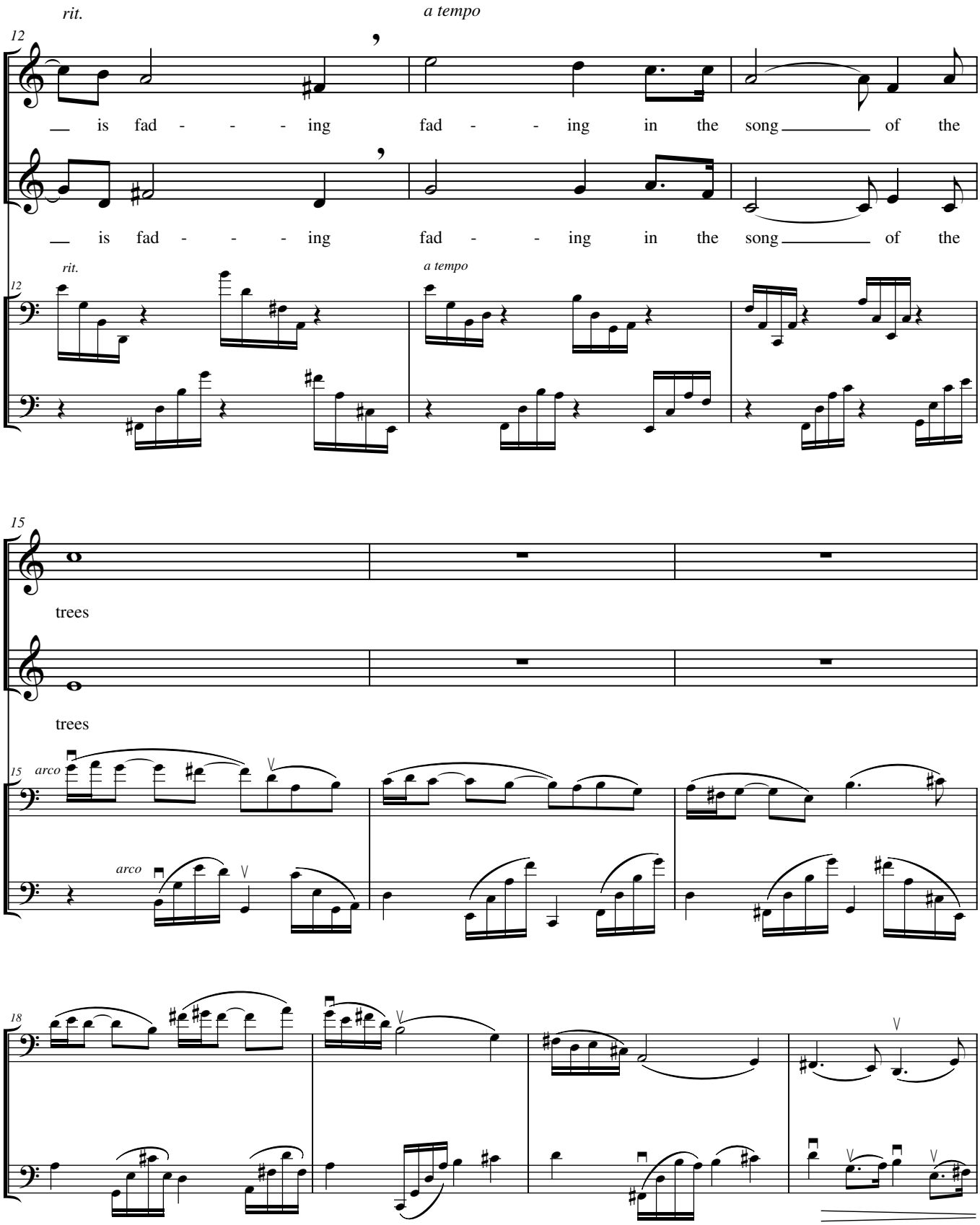

17
mf
Sweep the house clean, hang fresh cur-tains on the
mf
Sweep the house clean, hang fresh cur-tains on the
17
mf
mf
21
win-dows put on a new dress and come with
win-dows put on a new dress and come with
21
26
me!
The
me!
p
The elm is
26
mp
p
mp
p

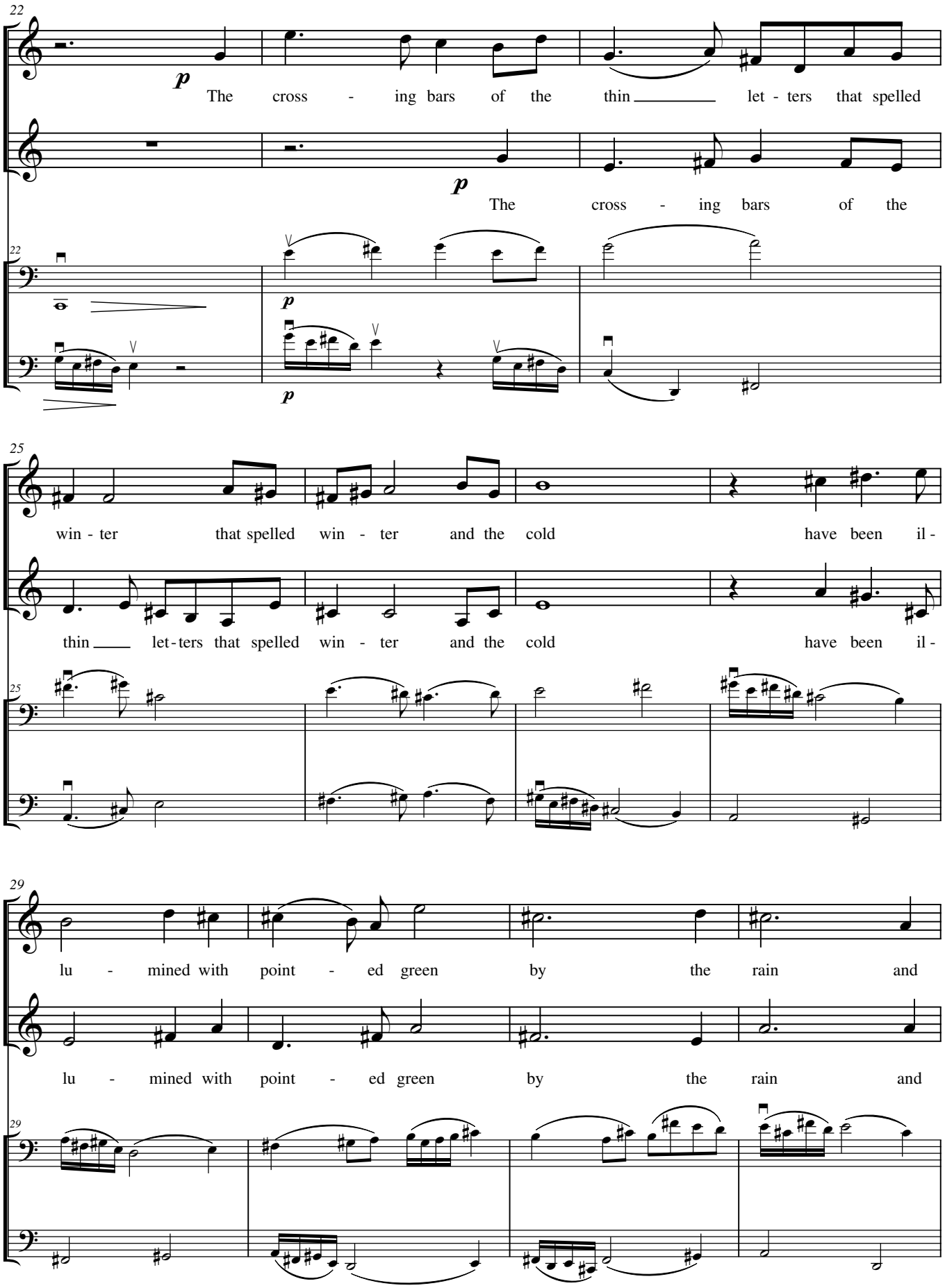

30
elm is scat-ter-ing its lit - tle loaves of sweet smells from
scat-ter-ing its lit - tle loaves of sweet smells from a white sky!
34
a white sky!
mf
Who shall
mf
Who shall
38
hear of us in - the time to come?
hear of us in - the time to come?

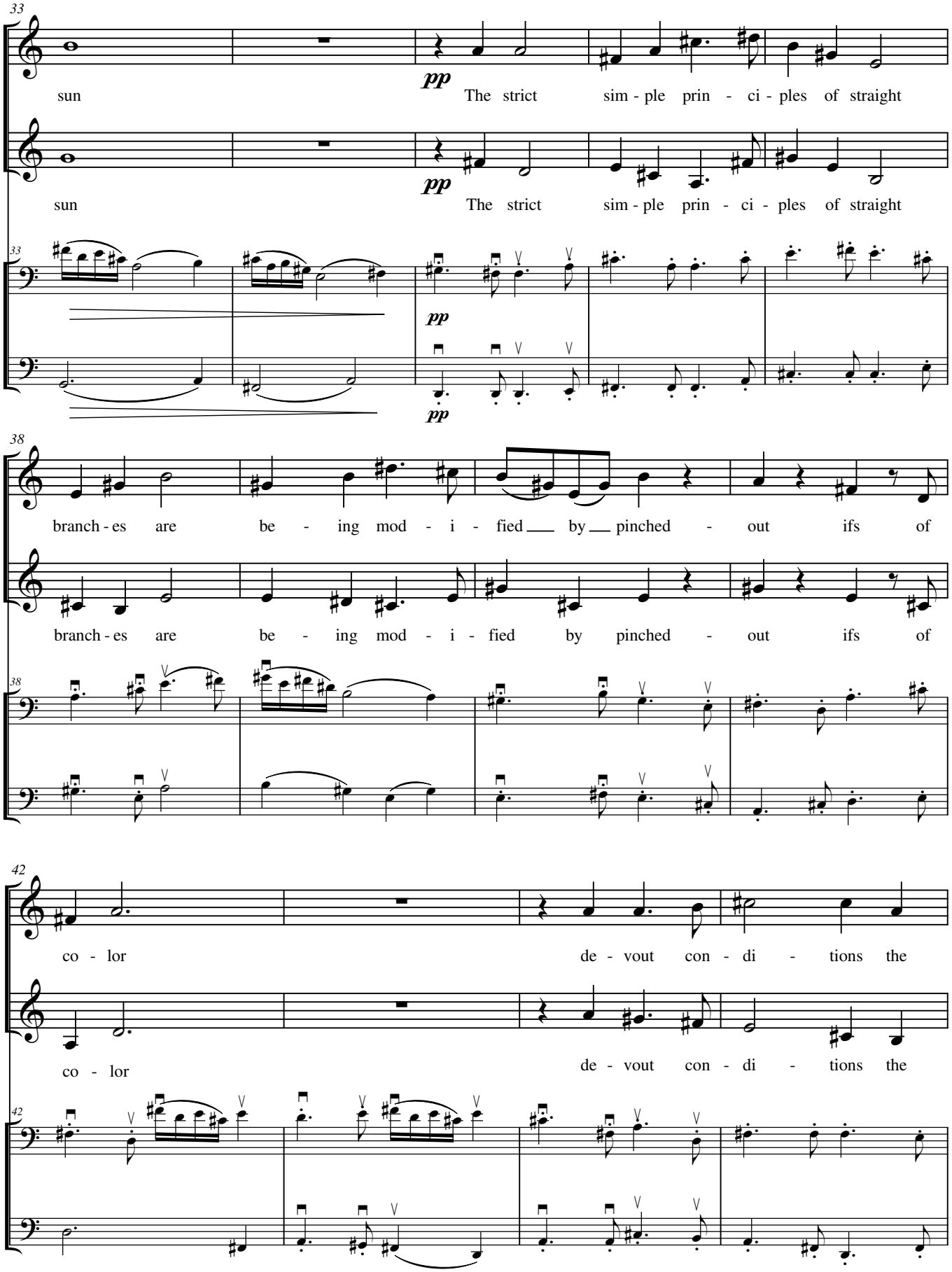

42
Let him say there was a burst of fra-grance
Let him say there was a burst of fra-grance
42
46
from black branch - es.
from black branch - es.
46
p
p
52
60
pizz.

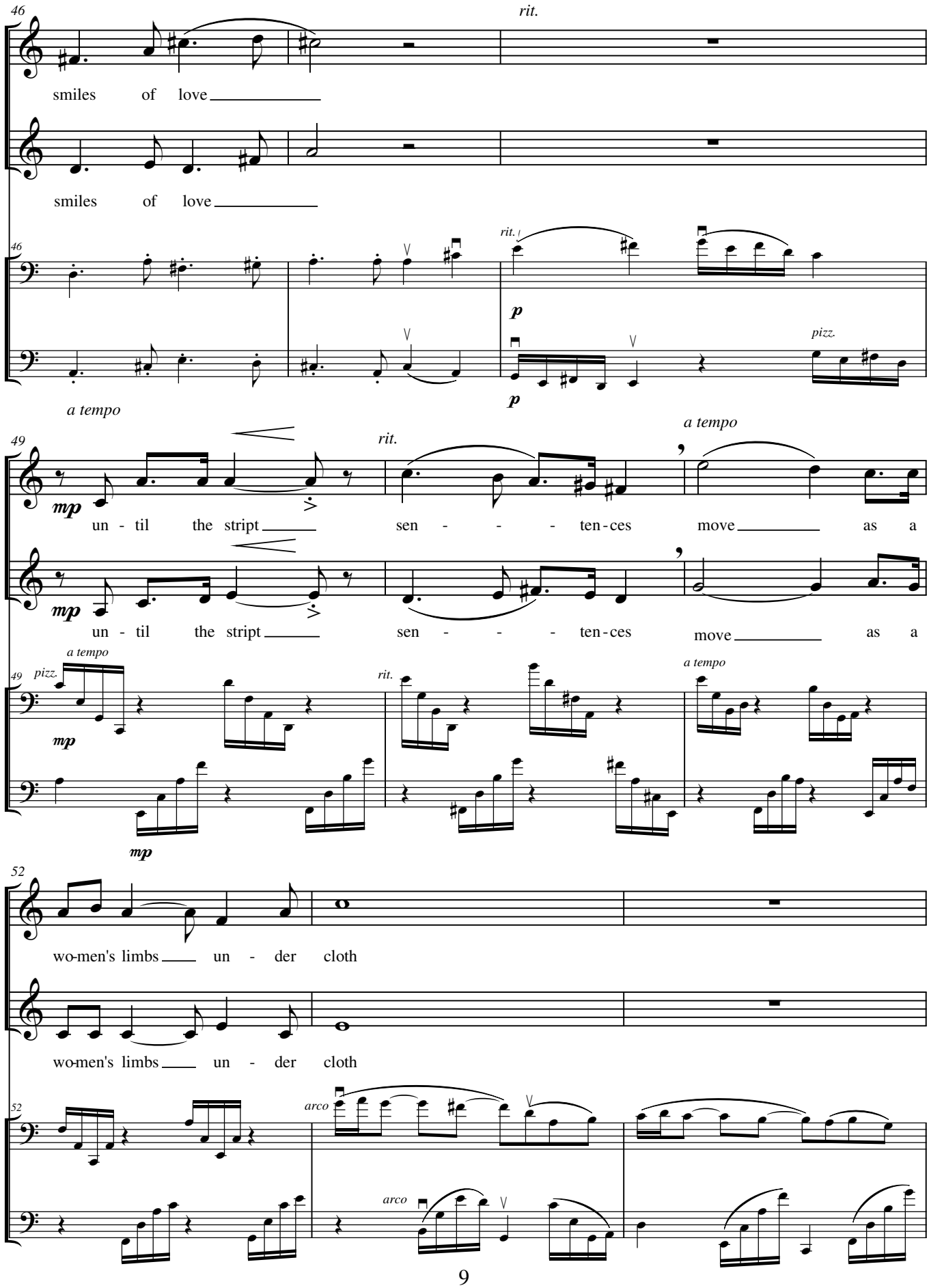
2 - The Botticellian Trees

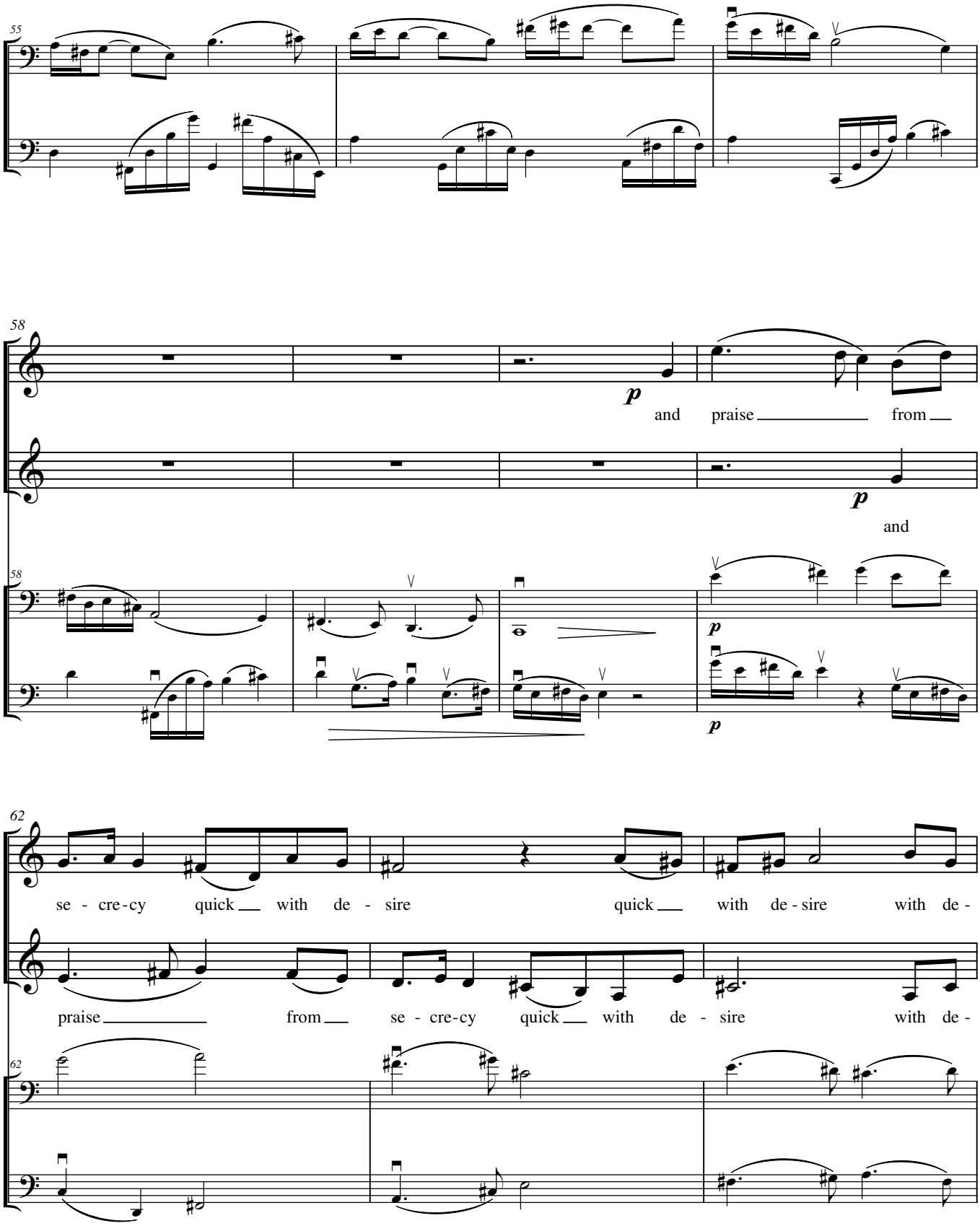


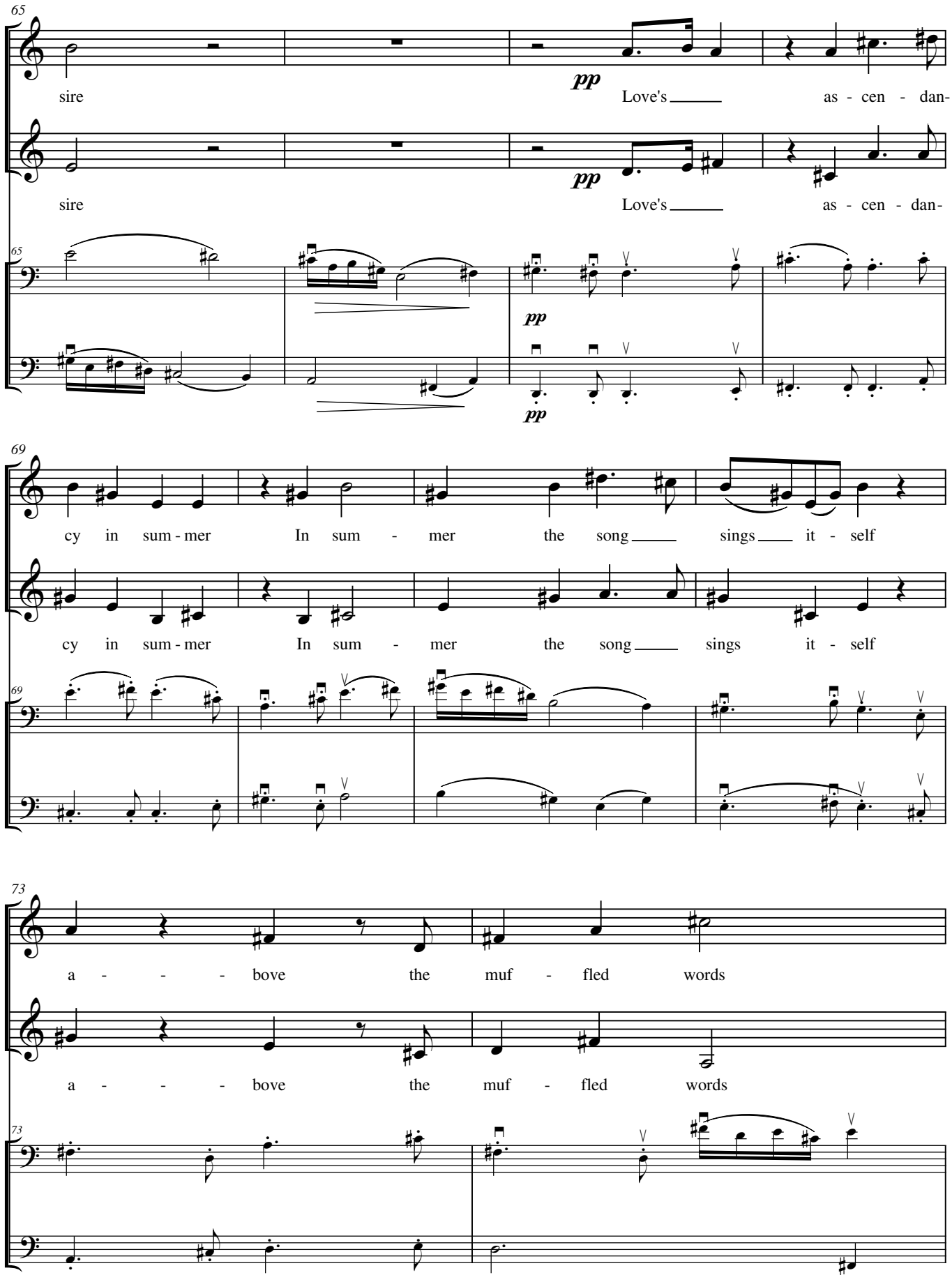

rit.
a tempo
12
is fad - - - ing fad - - ing in the song of the
is fad - - - ing fad - - ing in the song of the
rit.
a tempo
12
15
trees
trees
15
arco
arco
18

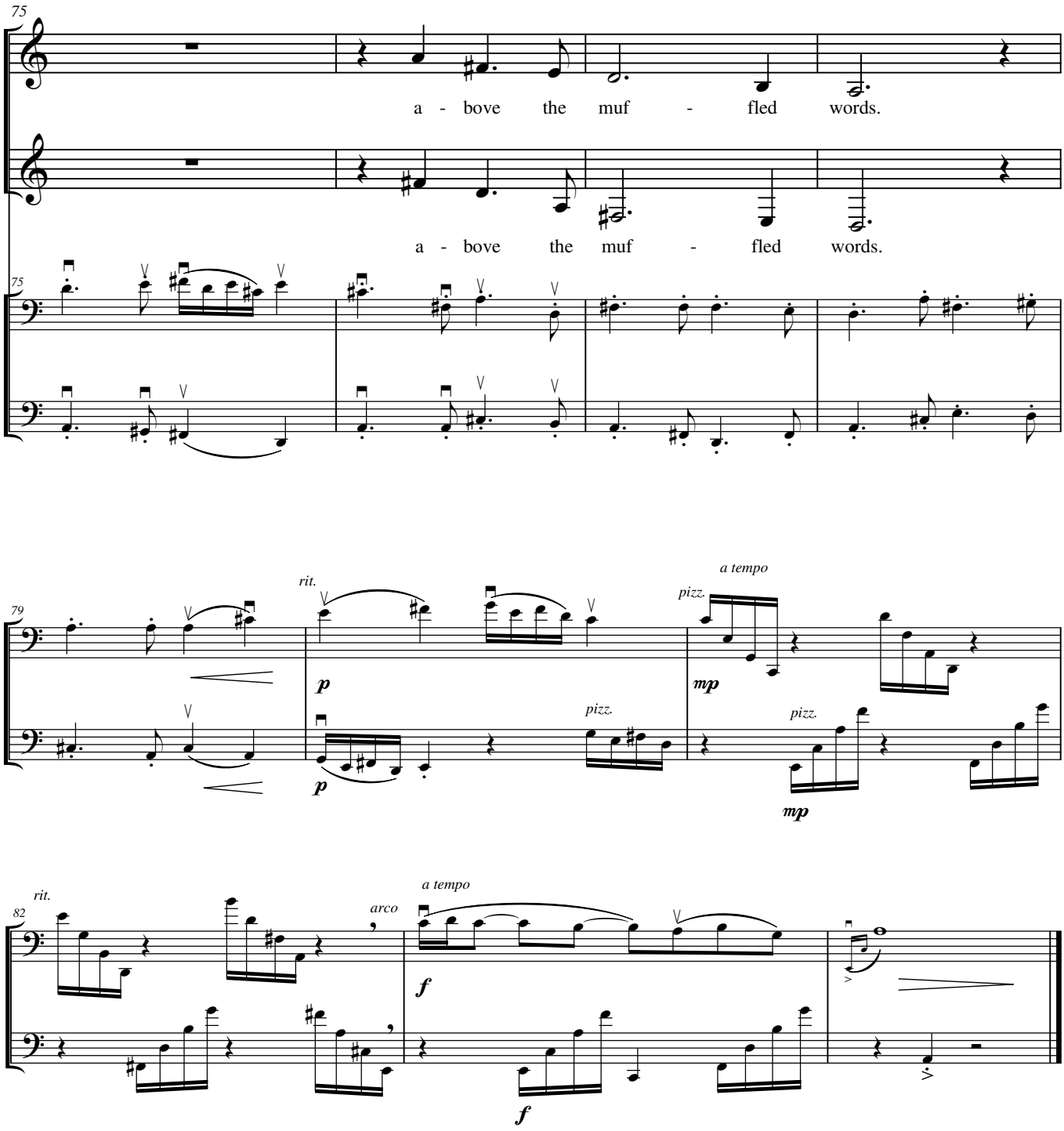

22
p
The cross - ing bars of the thin let - ters that spelled
p
The cross - ing bars of the
22
p
p
25
win - ter that spelled win - ter and the cold have been il -
thin let - ters that spelled win - ter and the cold have been il -
25
29
lu - mined with point - ed green by the rain and
lu - mined with point - ed green by the rain and
29


33
sun
pp
The strict sim - ple prin - ci - ples of straight
sun
pp
The strict sim - ple prin - ci - ples of straight
33
pp
pp
38
branch - es are be - ing mod - i - fied by pinched - out ifs of
branch - es are be - ing mod - i - fied by pinched - out ifs of
38
42
co - lor
de - vout con - di - tions the
co - lor
de - vout con - di - tions the
42

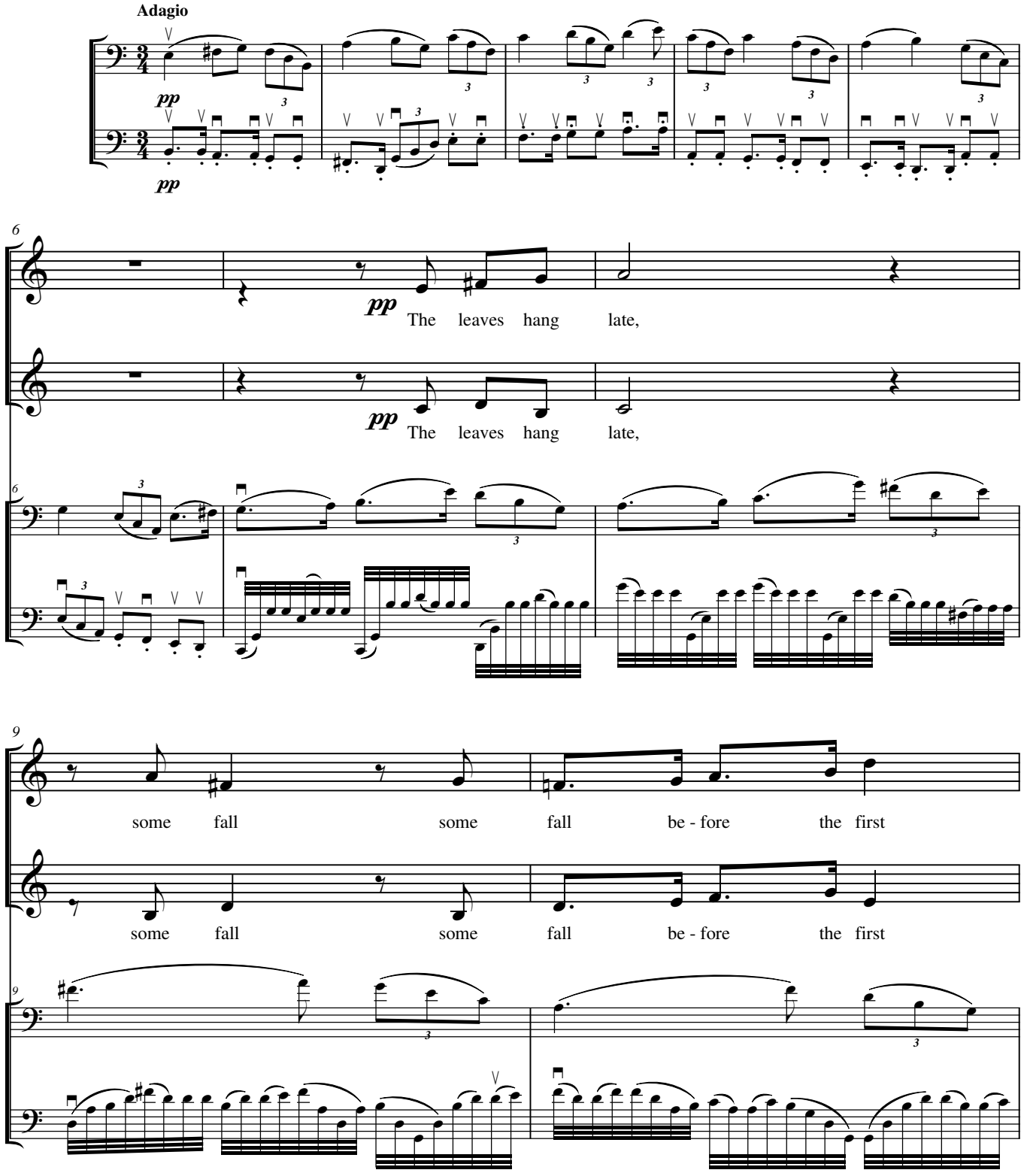

46
rit.
smiles of love
smiles of love
46
rit.
p
p
pizz.
a tempo
49
rit.
a tempo
mp
un - til the stript sen - - - ten-ces move as a
mp
un - til the stript sen - - - ten-ces move as a
a tempo
49
pizz.
rit.
a tempo
mp
mp
52
wo-men's limbs un - der cloth
wo-men's limbs un - der cloth
52
arco
arco

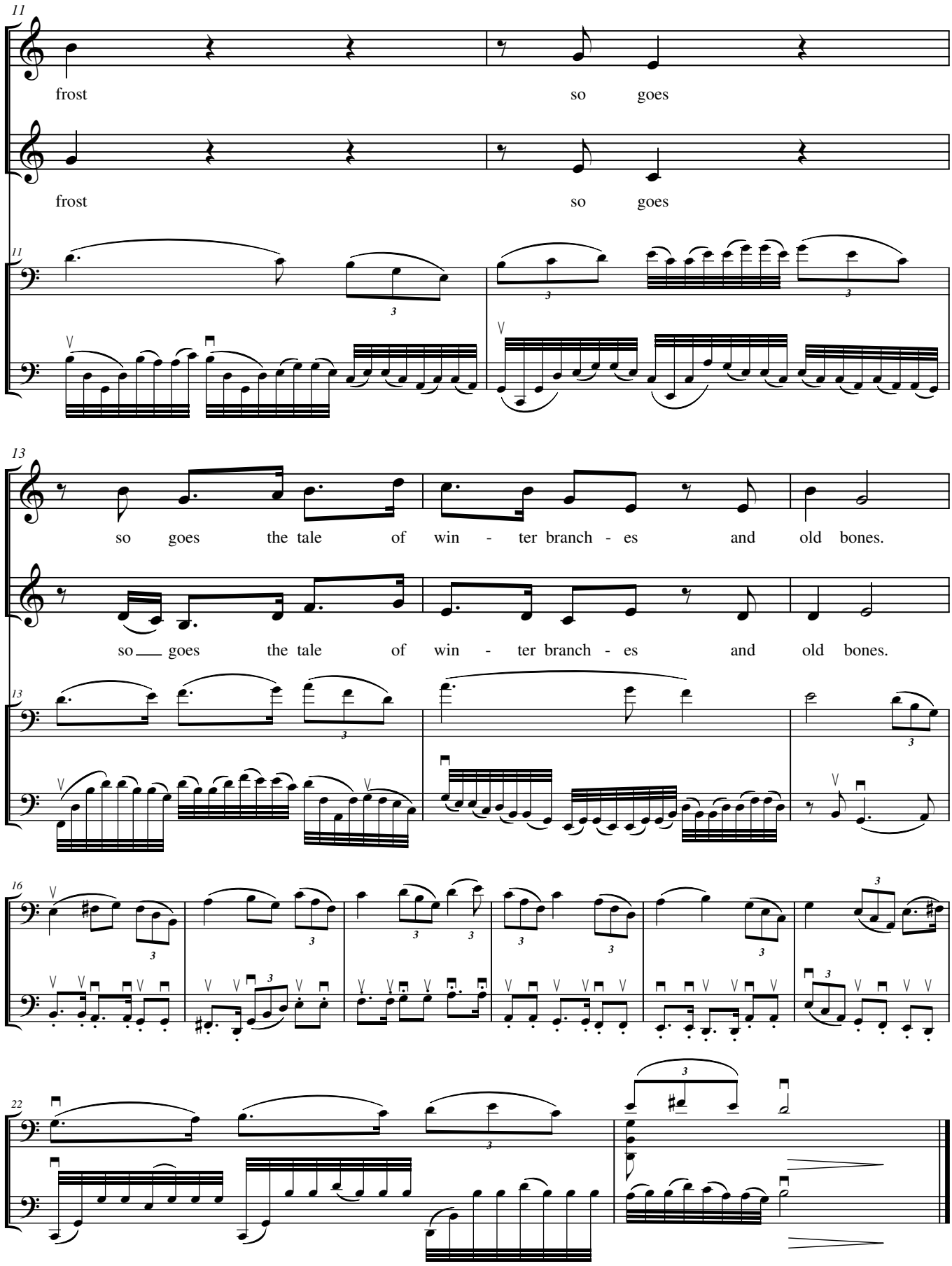

55
58
p
and praise from
p
and
58
p
p
62
se - cre-cy quick with de - sire quick with de-sire with de-
praise from se - cre-cy quick with de - sire with de-
62


65
sire
Love's
as - cen - dan-
pp
sire
Love's
as - cen - dan-
pp
pp
69
cy in sum - mer
In sum - mer
the song
sings
it - self
cy in sum - mer
In sum - mer
the song
sings
it - self
73
a - - - bove
the
muf - fled
words
a - - - bove
the
muf - fled
words

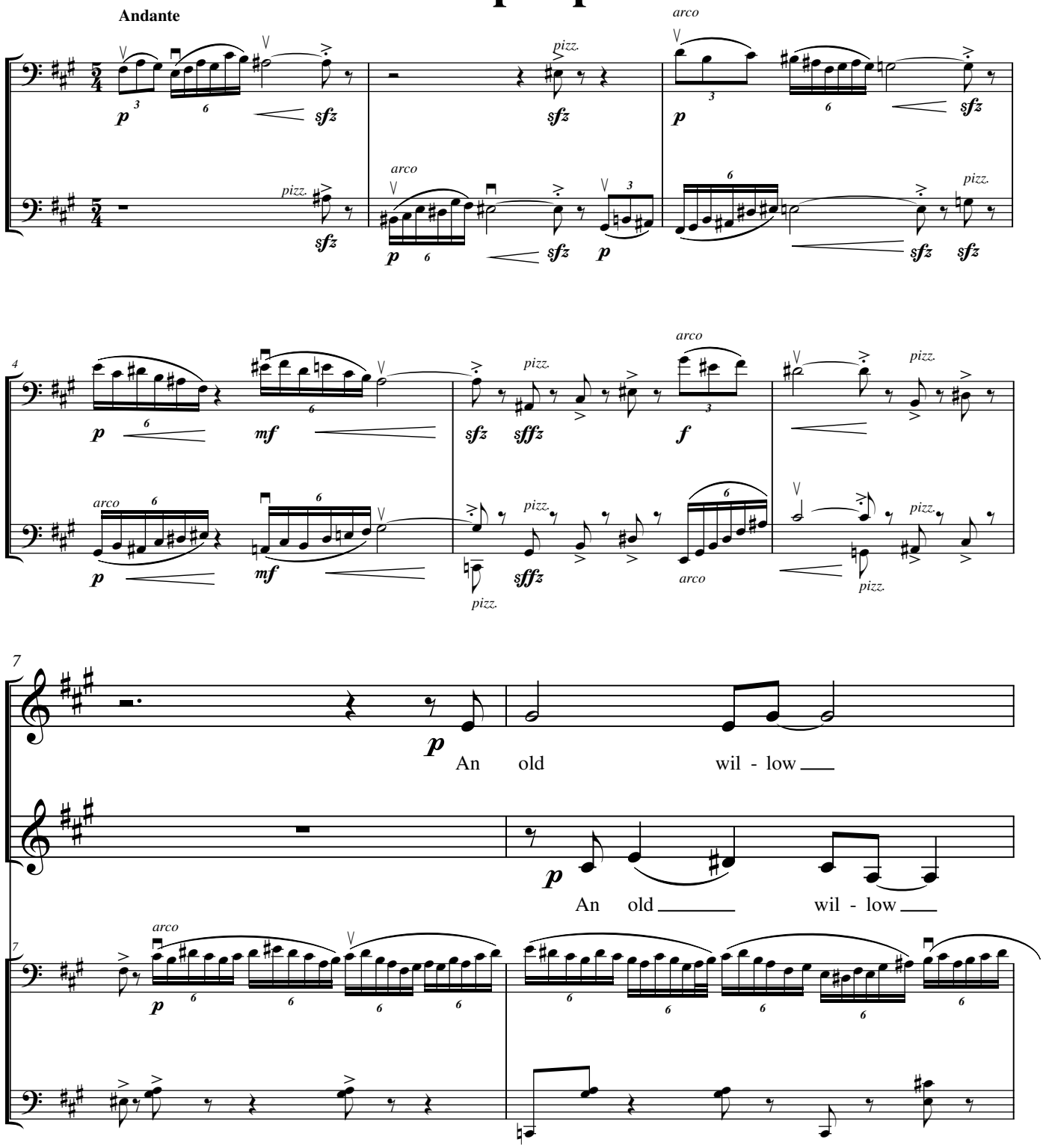

75
a - bove the muf - fled words.
a - bove the muf - fled words.
75
79
rit.
p
p
pizz.
a tempo
pizz.
mp
pizz.
mp
rit.
82
arco
a tempo
f
f

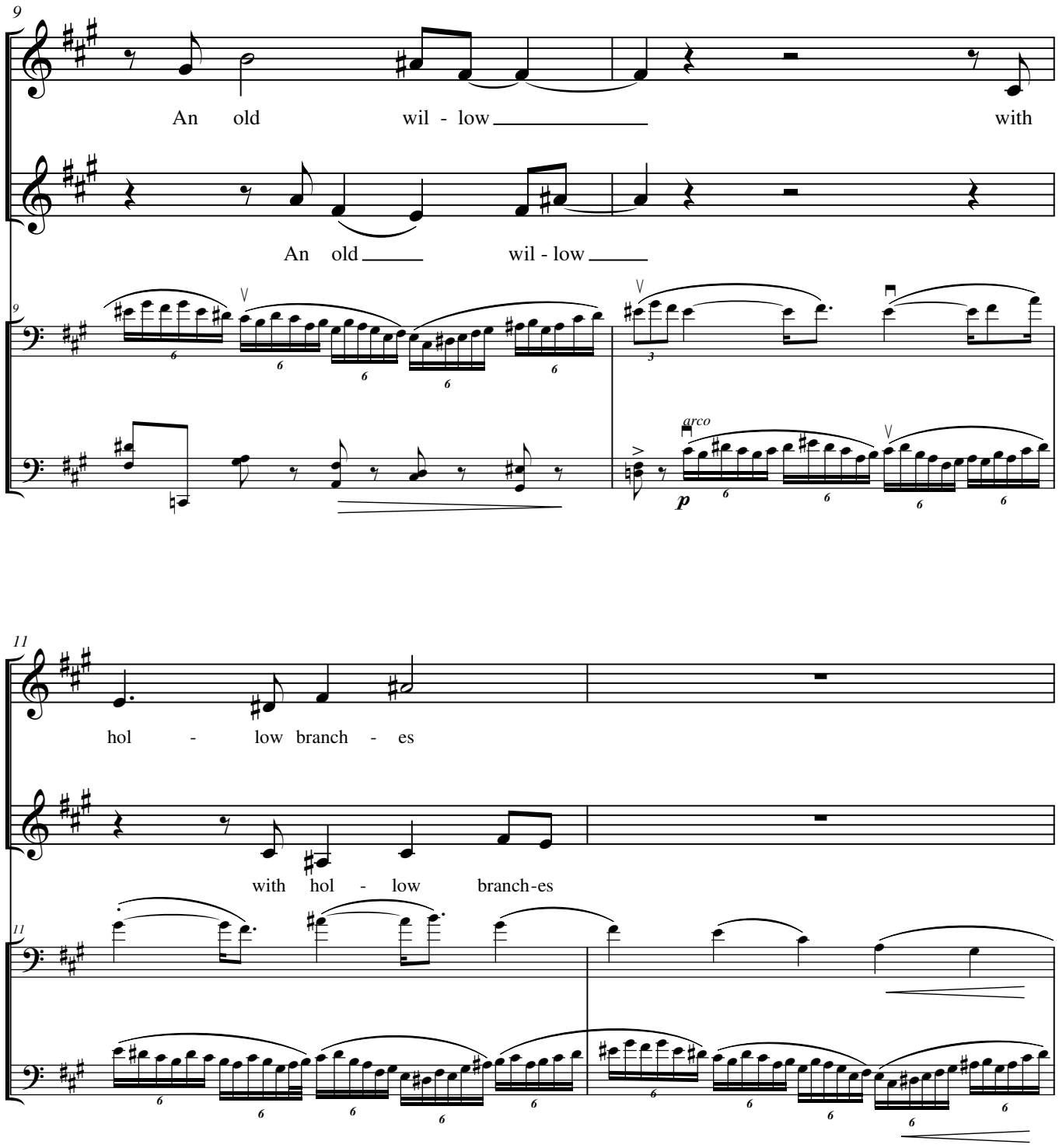
3 - The Soughing Wind

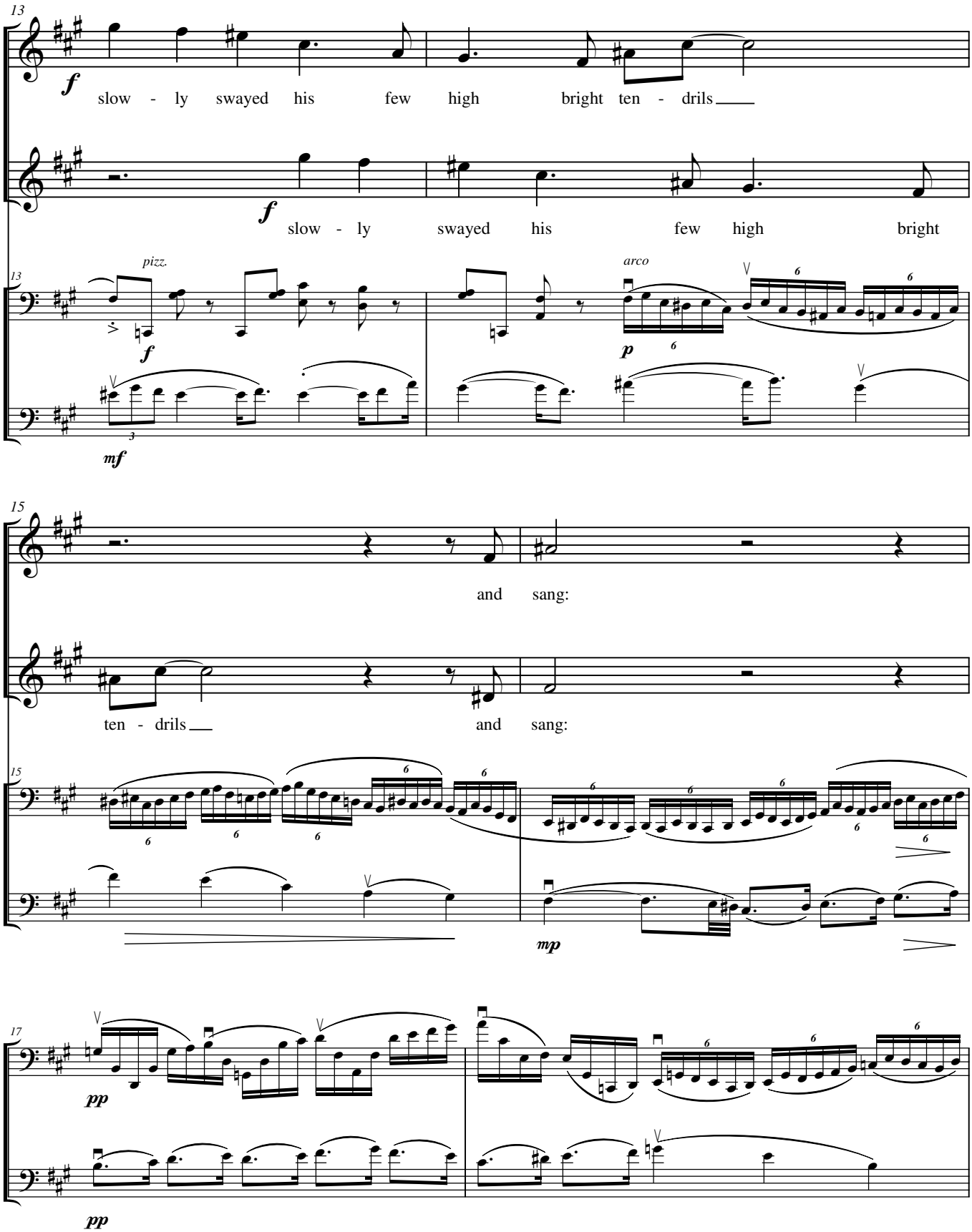


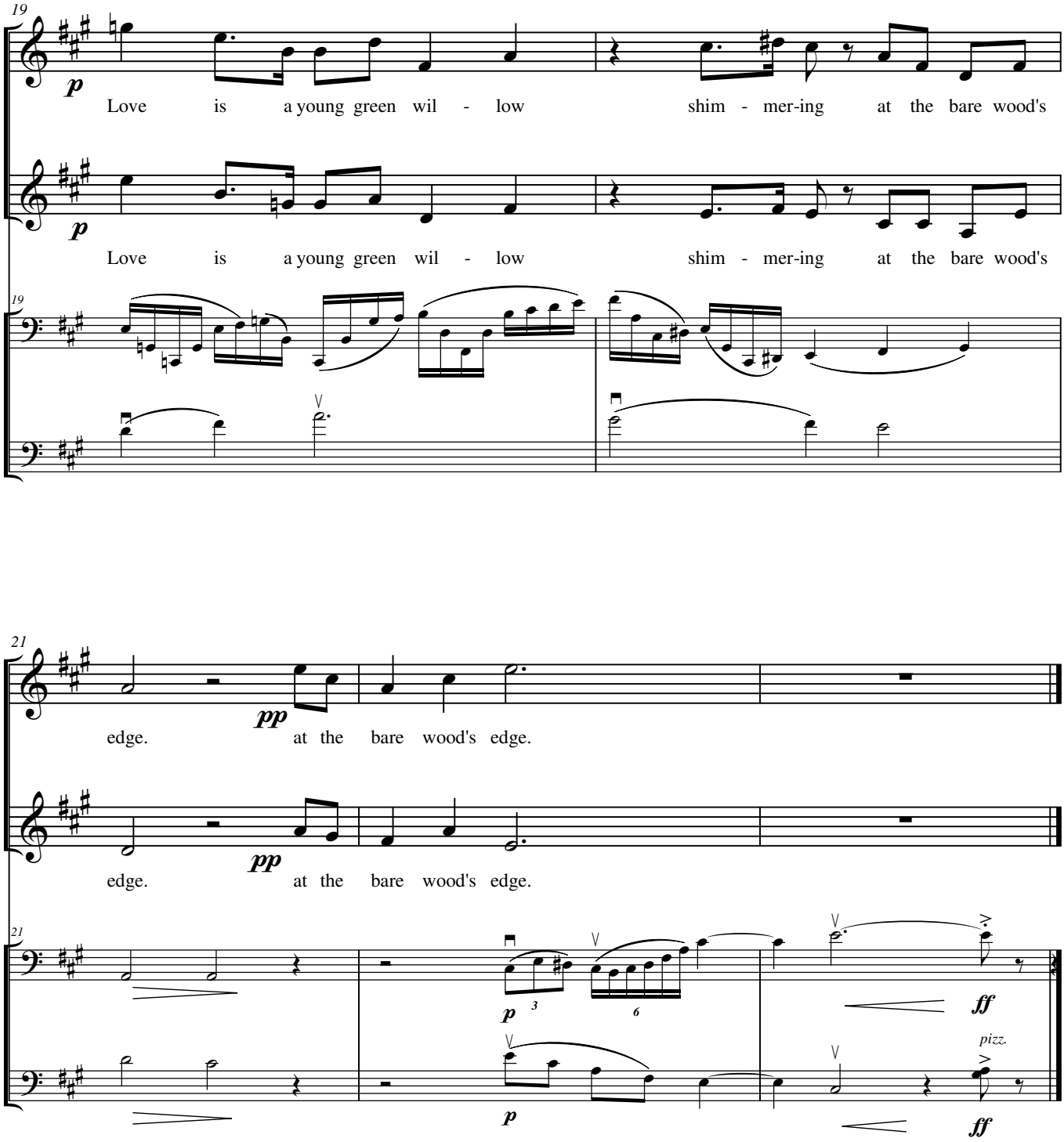

11
frost
so goes
frost
so goes
11
13
so goes the tale of win - ter branch - es and old bones.
so goes the tale of win - ter branch - es and old bones.
13
16
22

4 - Epitaph

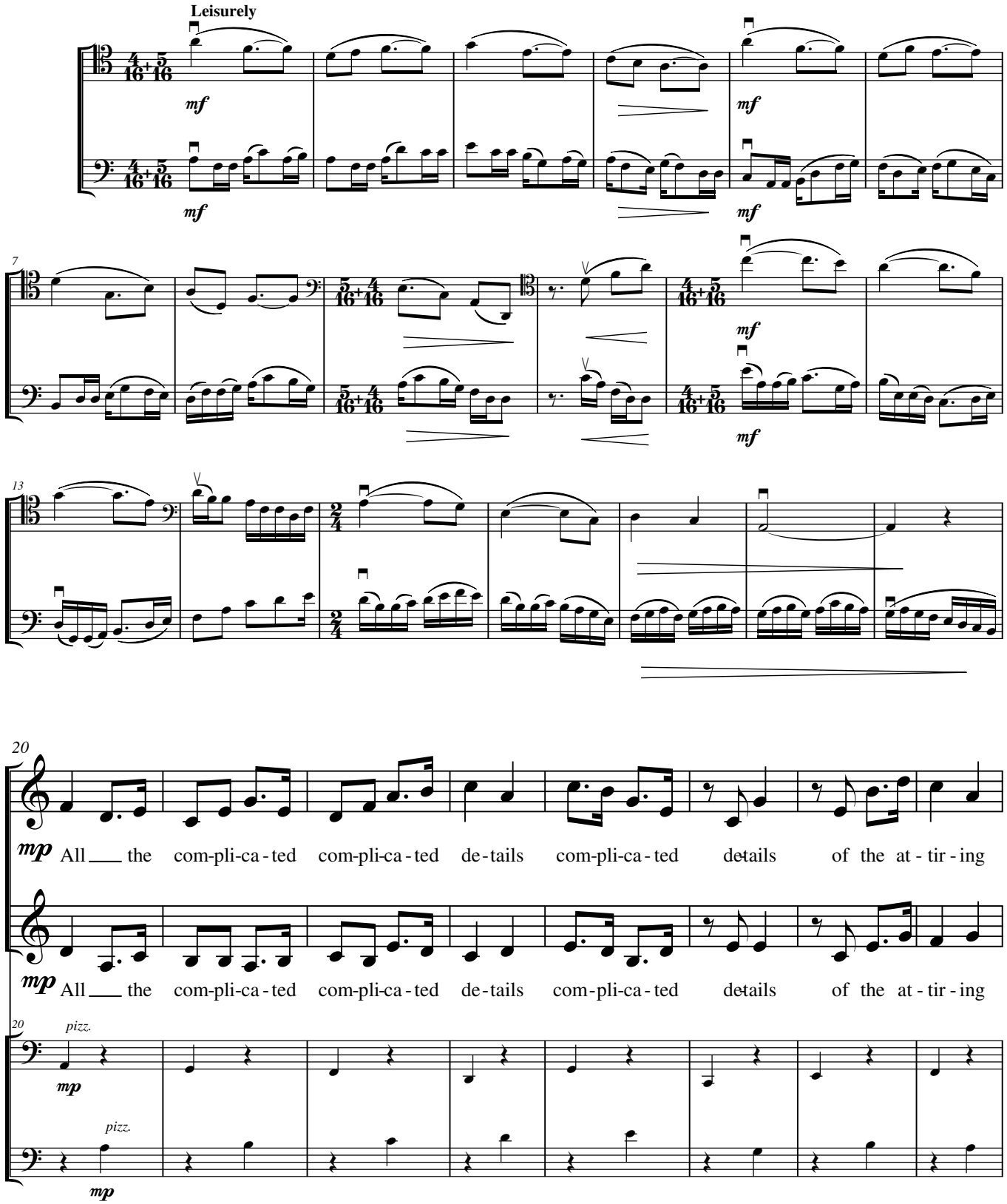


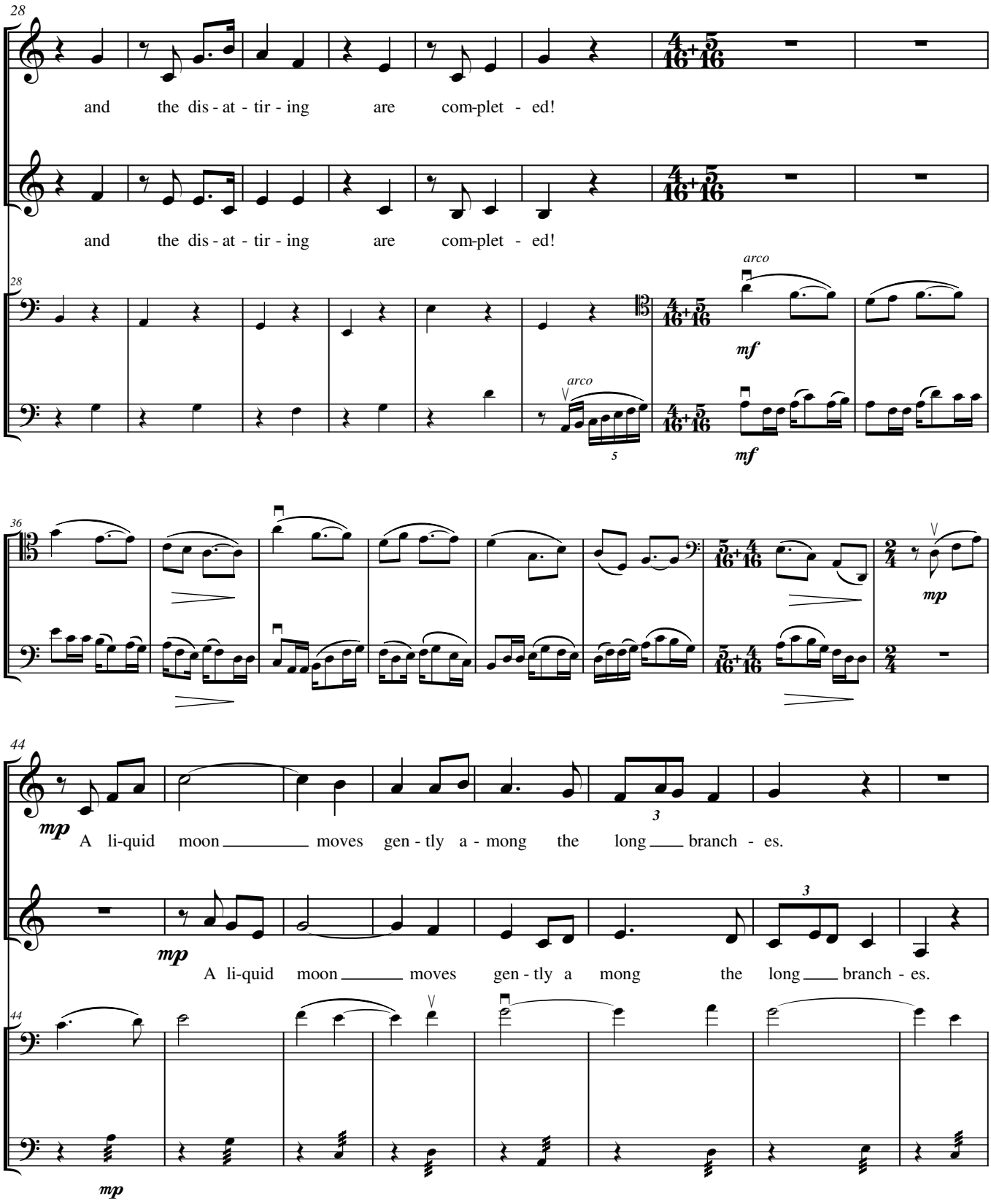

9
An old wil - low with
An old wil - low
arco
p
11
hol - low branch - es
with hol - low branch-es

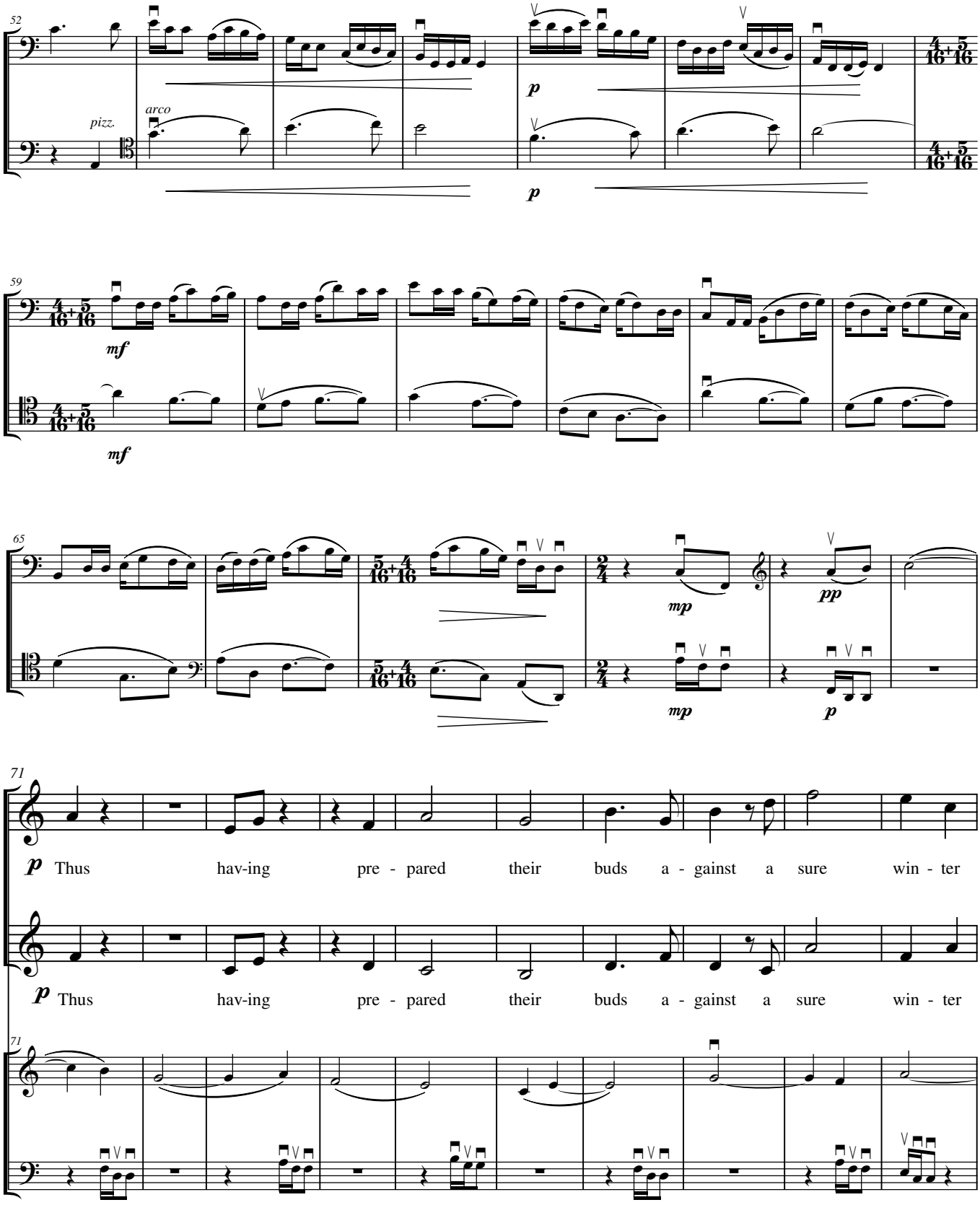

13
f
slow - ly swayed his few high bright ten - drils
f
slow - ly swayed his few high bright
13
pizz.
f
arco
p
mf
15
and sang:
ten - drils
and sang:
15
mp
17
pp
pp

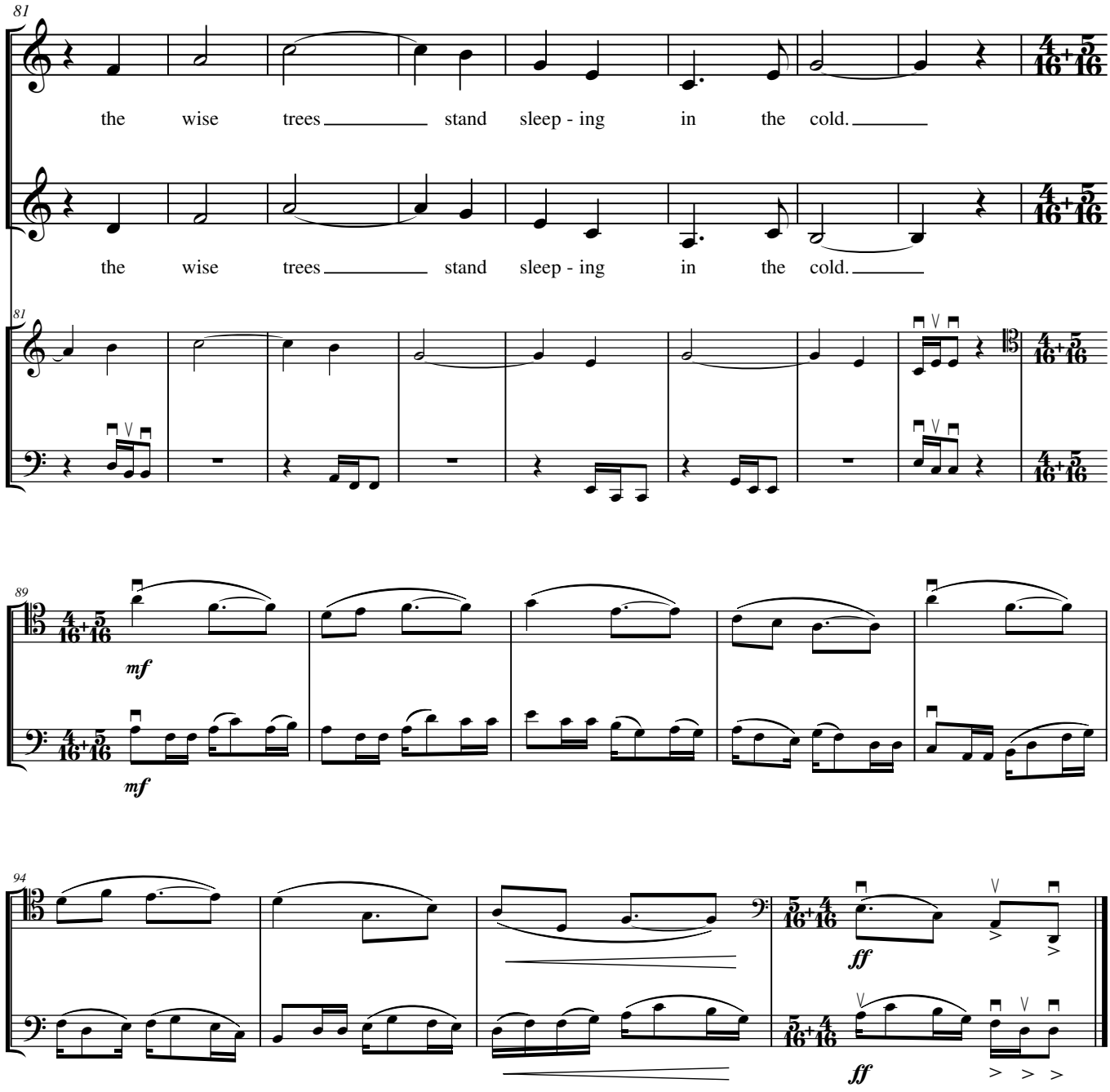

19
p
Love is a young green wil - low shim - mer-ing at the bare wood's
p
Love is a young green wil - low shim - mer-ing at the bare wood's
19
21
pp
edge. at the bare wood's edge.
pp
edge. at the bare wood's edge.
21
p
3
6
ff
pizz.
p
ff

5 - Winter Trees

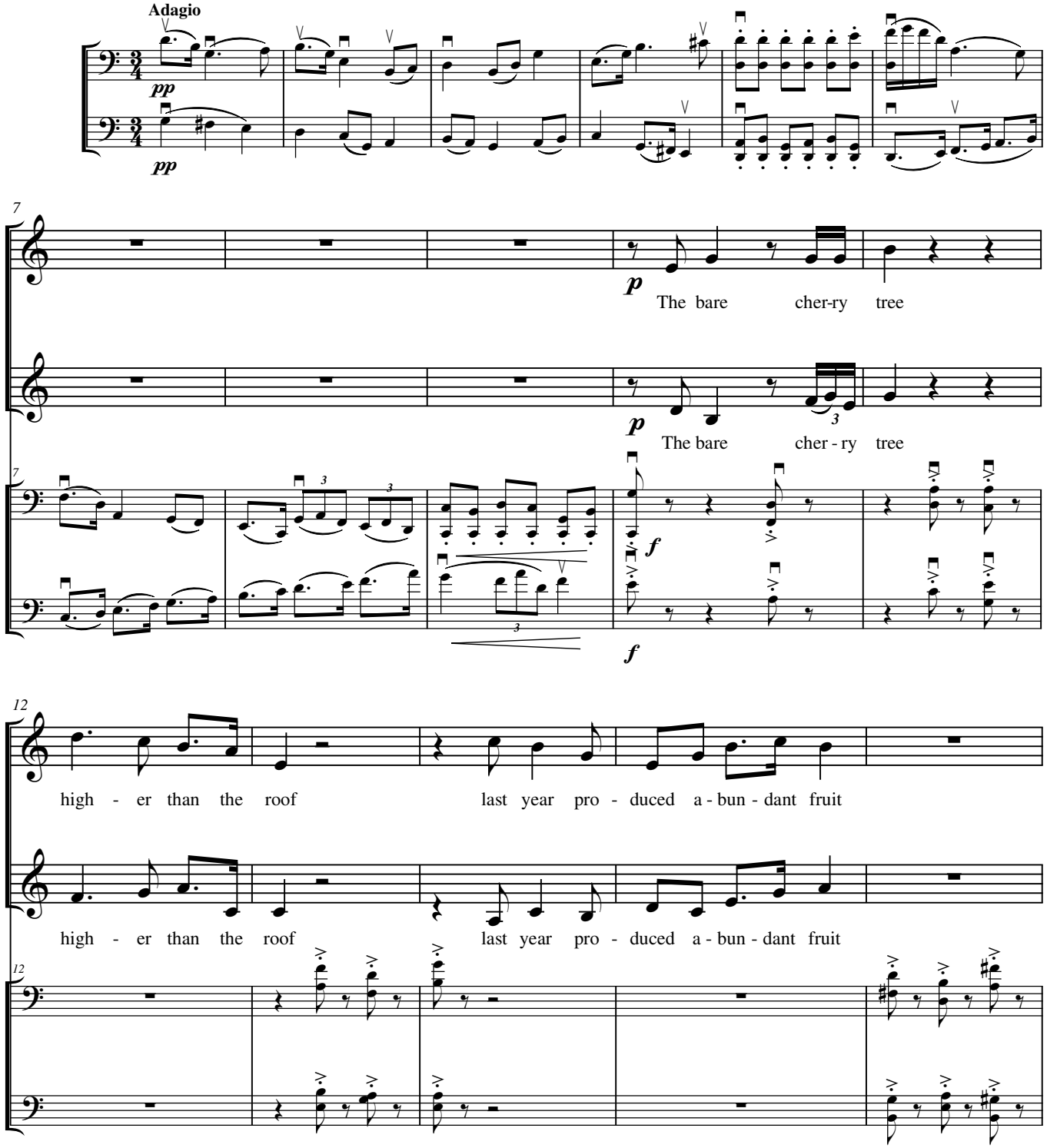


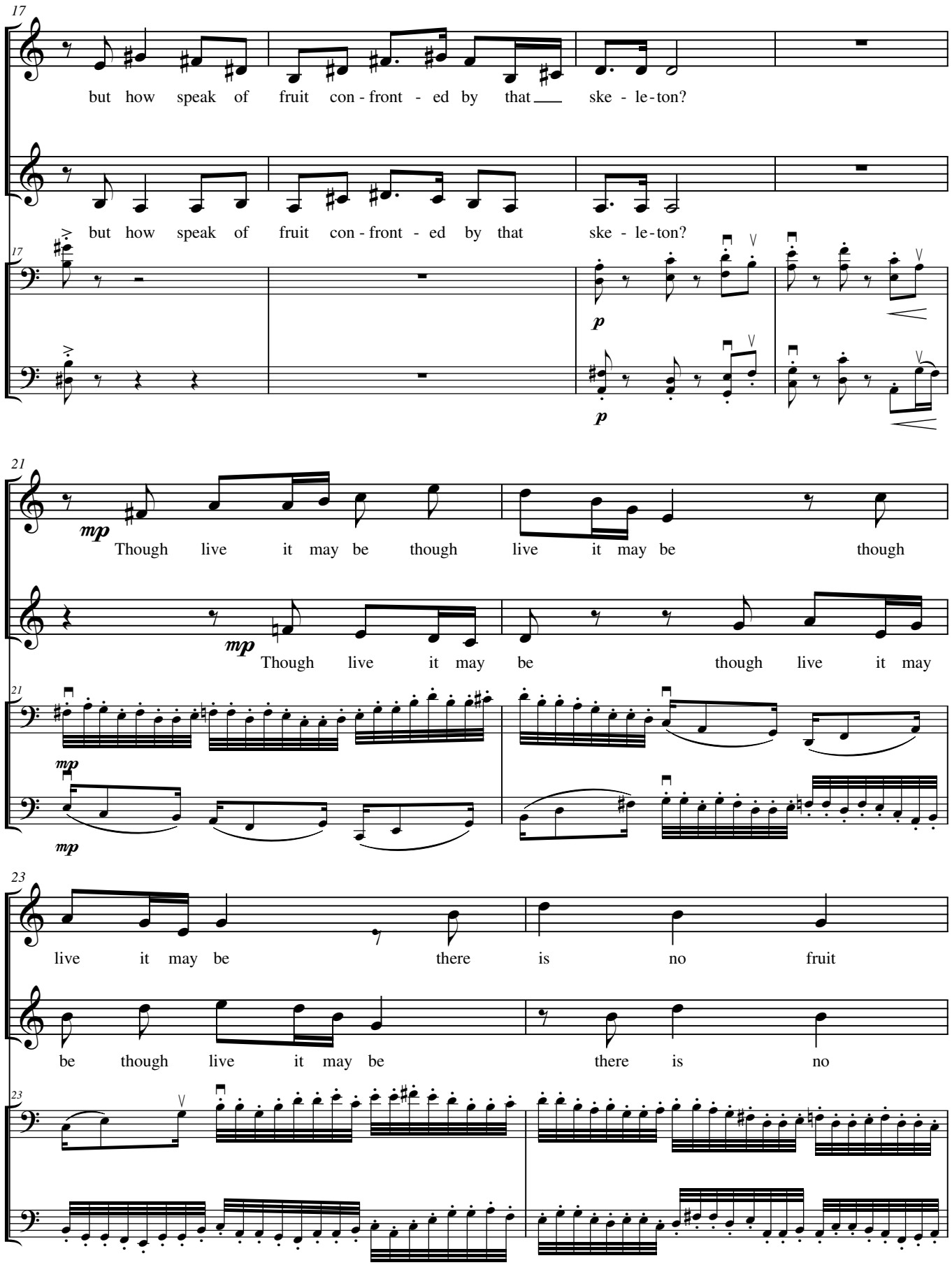

28
and the dis - at - tir - ing are com-plet - ed!
and the dis - at - tir - ing are com-plet - ed!
28
arco
mf
arco
5
mf
36
mp
44
mp
A li-quid moon moves gen - tly a - mong the long branch - es.
3
mp
A li-quid moon moves gen - tly a mong the long branch - es.
3
44
mp

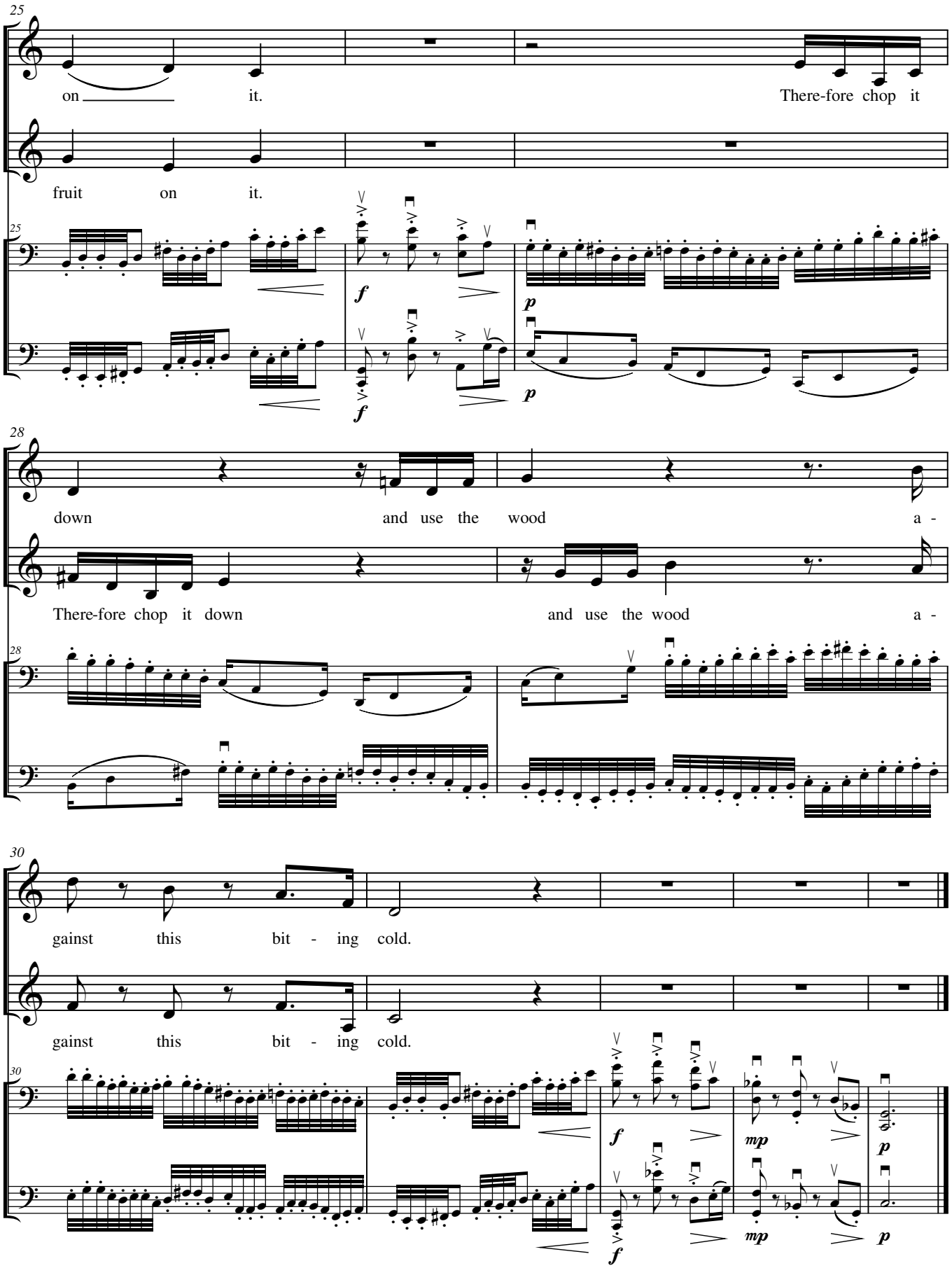

52
pizz.
arco
p
p
59
mf
mf
65
mp
pp
mp
p
71
p Thus hav-ing pre - pared their buds a - gainst a sure win - ter
p Thus hav-ing pre - pared their buds a - gainst a sure win - ter
71


81
the wise trees stand sleep - ing in the cold.
the wise trees stand sleep - ing in the cold.
81
89
mf
mf
94
ff
ff

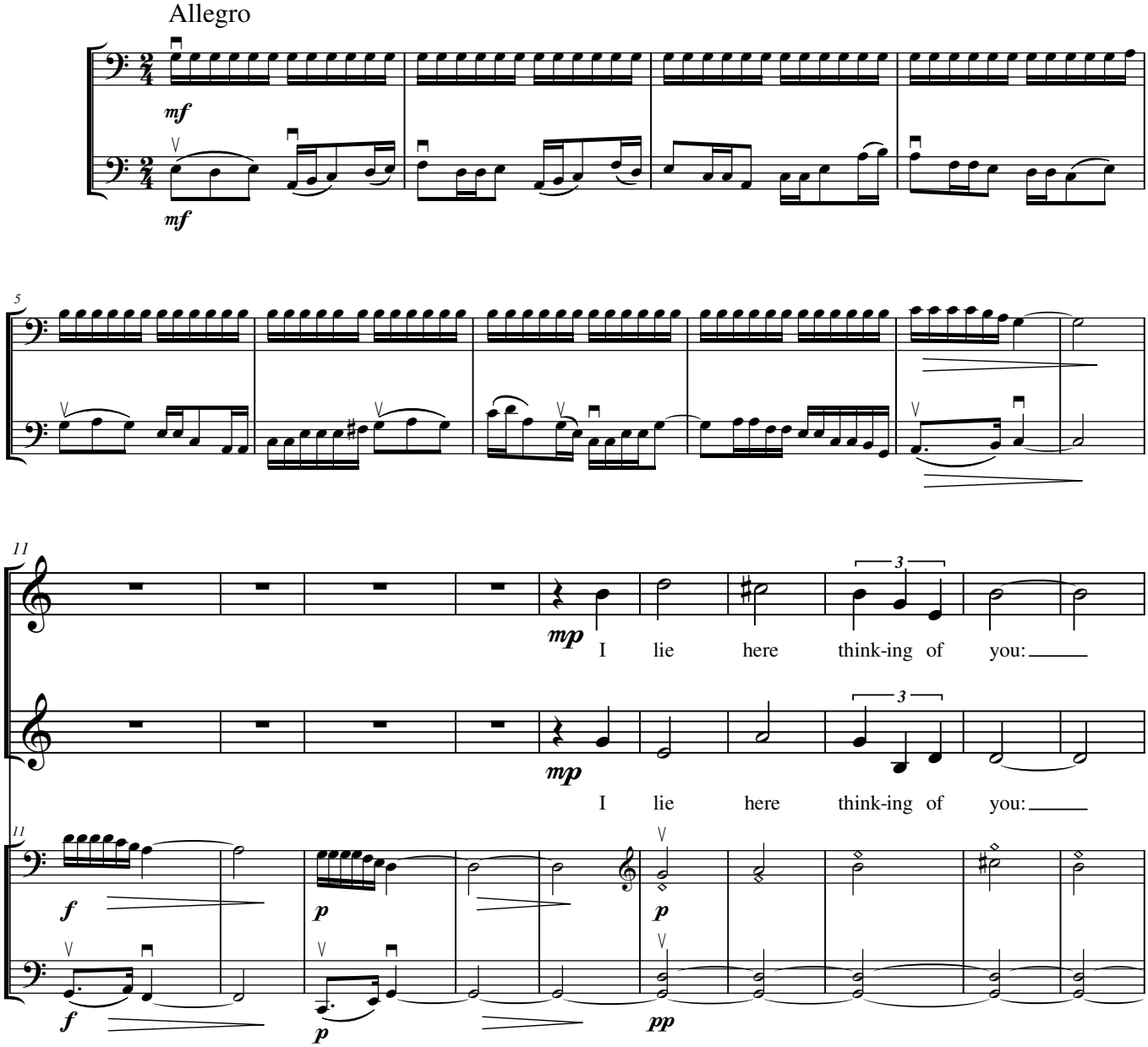
6 - The Bare Tree

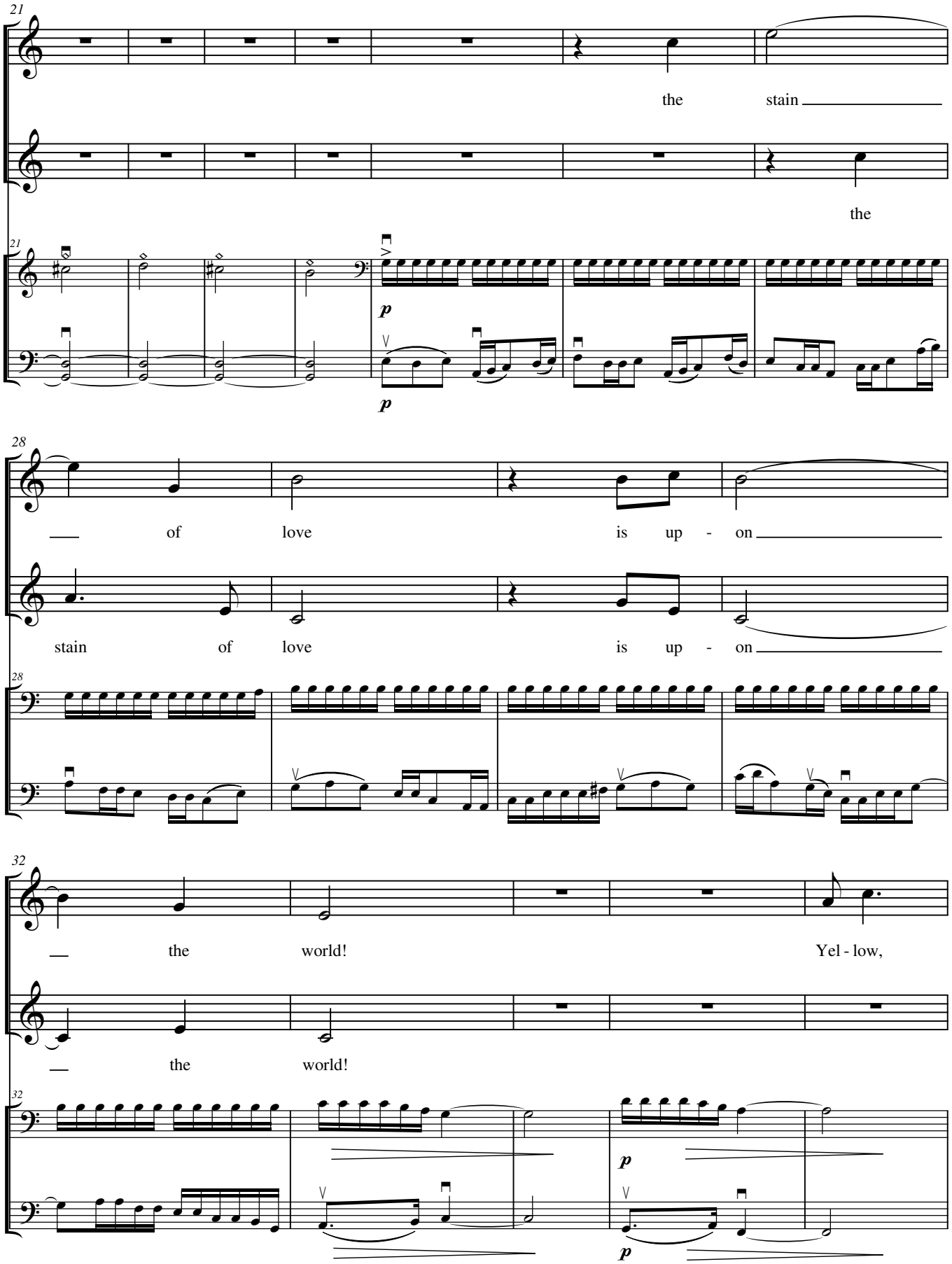


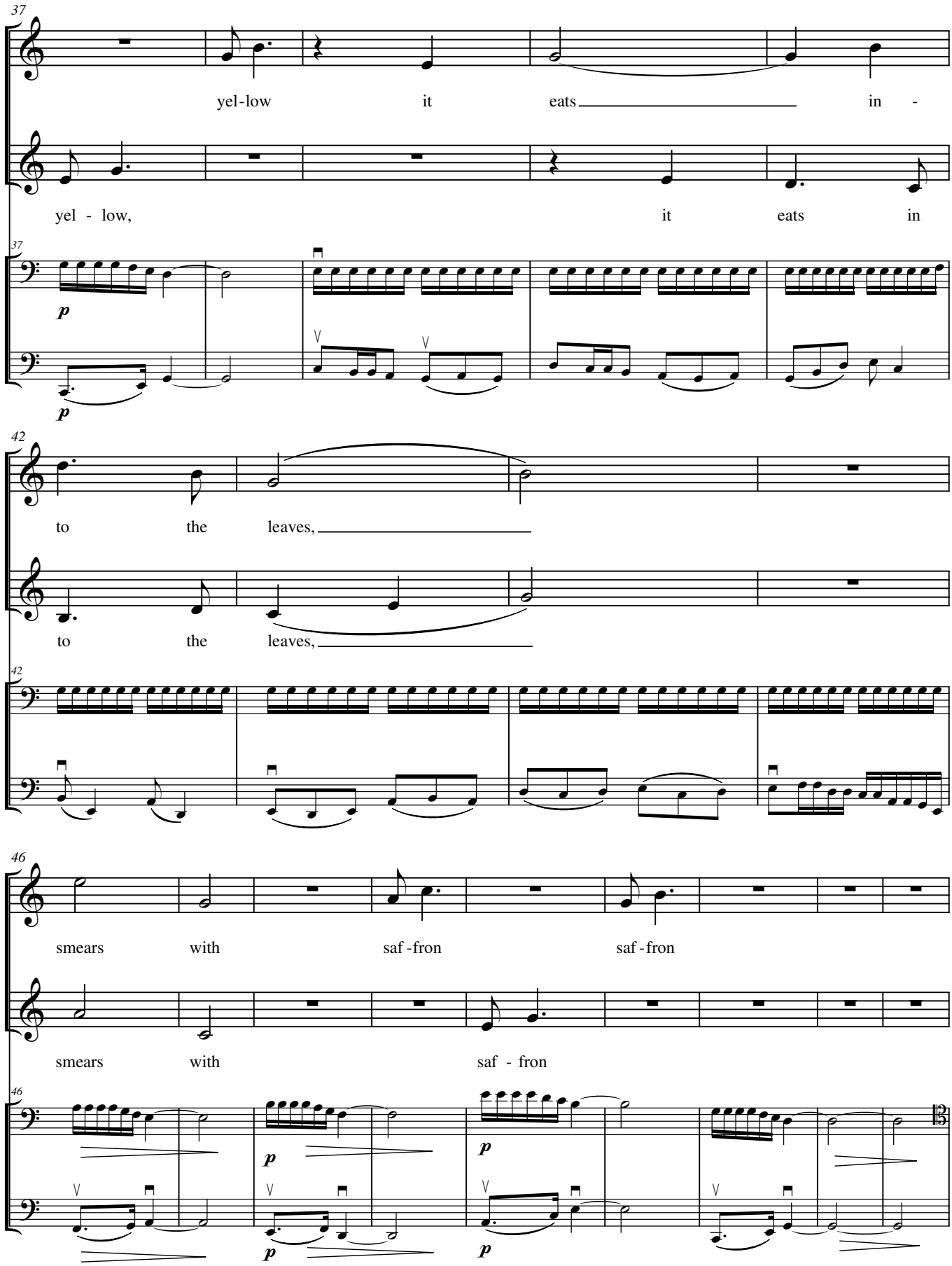

17
but how speak of fruit con - front - ed by that ske - le - ton?
but how speak of fruit con - front - ed by that ske - le - ton?
p
p
21
mp
Though live it may be though live it may be though
mp
Though live it may be though live it may
mp
mp
23
live it may be there is no fruit
be though live it may be there is no

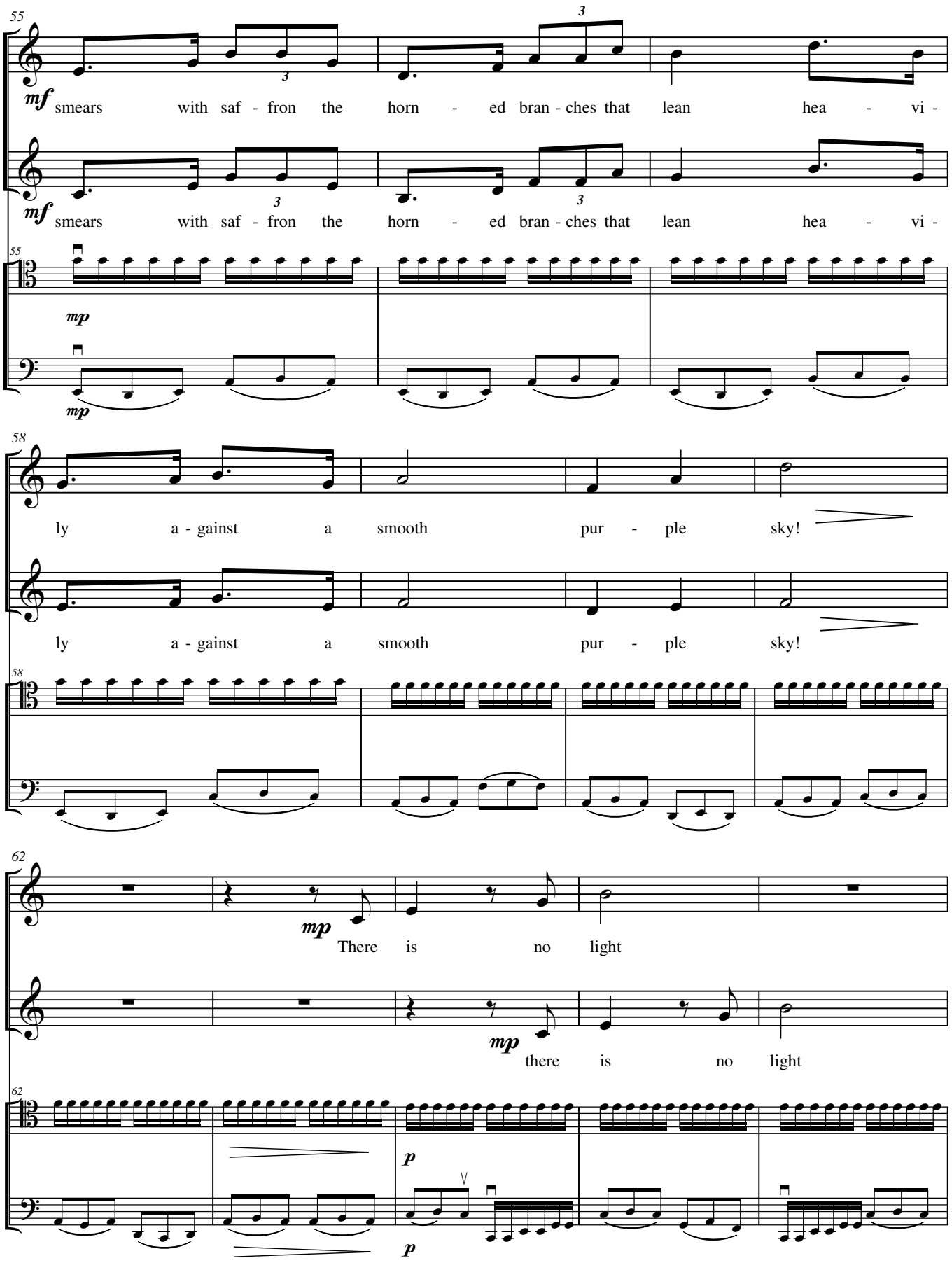

25
on it.
There-fore chop it
fruit on it.
f
p
28
down and use the wood a -
There-fore chop it down and use the wood a -
30
gainst this bit - ing cold.
gainst this bit - ing cold.
mp

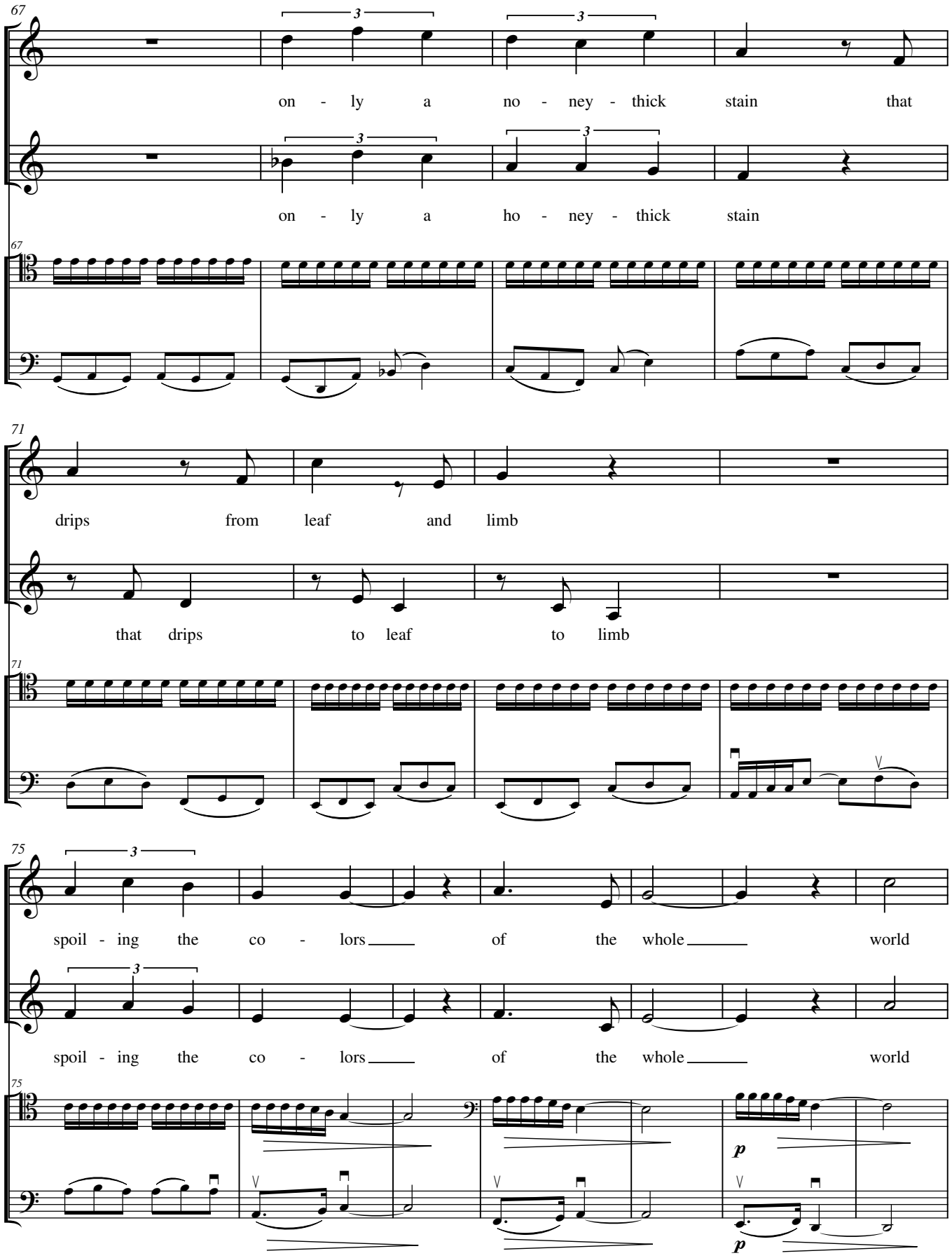
7 - Love Song

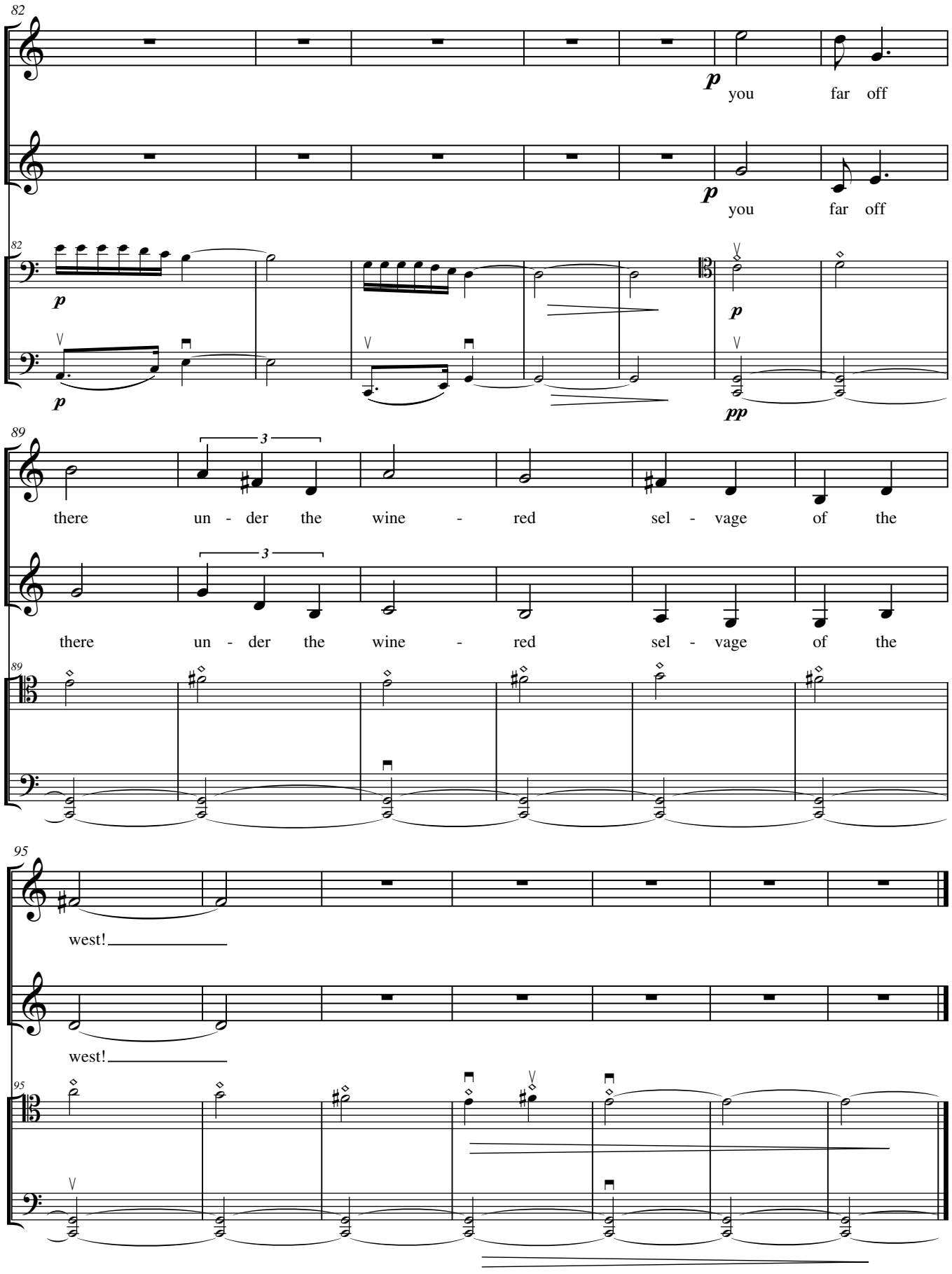

Allegro
mf
mf
5
11
mp
I lie here think-ing of you:
mp
I lie here think-ing of you:
11
f
p
p
f
p
pp


21
the stain
the
21
p
p
28
of love is up - on
stain of love is up - on
28
32
the world! Yel - low,
the world!
32
p
p


37
yel-low it eats in -
yel - low, it eats in
37
p
p
42
to the leaves,
to the leaves,
42
46
smears with saf-fron saf-fron
smears with saf - fron
46
p
p
p
p


55
mf
smears with saf - fron the horn - ed bran - ches that lean hea - vi -
mf
smears with saf - fron the horn - ed bran - ches that lean hea - vi -
55
mp
mp
58
ly a - gainst a smooth pur - ple sky!
ly a - gainst a smooth pur - ple sky!
58
62
mp
There is no light
mp
there is no light
62
p
p


67
on - ly a no - ney - thick stain that
on - ly a ho - ney - thick stain
71
drips from leaf and limb
that drips to leaf to limb
75
spoil - ing the co - lors of the whole world
spoil - ing the co - lors of the whole world
p
p


82
p
you far off
p
you far off
82
p
p
p
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A few words about (and by) the composer

Stan Grill was raised in the Bronx, studied at the Bronx House School of Music, and later graduated from the Manhattan School of Music with undergrad and graduate degrees in music theory. He studied piano with Robert Helps and Leon Kushner and composition with Ursula Mamlok and Joseph Prostakoff. Major works include music for string orchestra and voice, string orchestra and clarinet, a nonet for winds and strings, and several song cycles for mixed voices and chamber ensemble. Performances have been produced by the composer, as well as presented by the Composers Guild of New Jersey, the St. Paul's Church Festival of the Arts, the Leonia Chamber Players, the New York Composers Circle, the Northern New Jersey Camerata, the Bronx Arts Ensemble and the Duo + Ensemble. During the 2004-06 seasons, he was composer in residence of One World Symphony, a New York City based orchestra. One World Symphony has premiered several major works, including "Invisible Ballet" for orchestra, "Two Sad Songs" setting poems by W.B. Yeats for soprano & string orchestra, and a cycle of songs for two cellos and two mezzo sopranos setting poems by the New Jersey poet William Carlos Williams. In 2006, One World commissioned three works – a setting of the Ophelia songs from Shakespeare's "Hamlet" for soprano, harp and string orchestra, an orchestral work, "Pluto," for a program featuring Holst's "The Planets," and a setting of poetry for a concert honoring those who lost their lives on 9/11. Recent works include "The Four Elements" for viola and string orchestra commissioned by violist Brett Deubner and "Mystical Songs" for soprano, viola and string orchestra commissioned by the Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja. In 2009, an entire program of music by Stan Grill was performed in Tokyo by the Duo + Ensemble. He currently works in Philadelpia, and lives happily in New Jersey with his wife, cats and piano.

"As I see it, as much as we strive to find reason and purpose in our having been born into this amazing, mysterious and awe-inspiring universe, that attempt is largely futile. It is however, the best part of our nature that obliges us to make the attempt, though the most we can hope for is to gain some small degree of understanding of the world around us, and, more importantly, of ourselves. To achieve this, we each approach the problem in our own way, uniquely shaped by our cultural background, innate talents and abilities, education and so on. For some, science may be the window through which they best perceive and interpret the world, for others, religion. For those to whom the world seems to express itself most clearly and beautifully through sound, music is the voice that speaks to us and through which we, in turn, best express ourselves. Now, I can write notes that will make pretty music because I've been trained to do so – but the best of my music has arrived, rather inexplicably, as part of a personal effort to understand the world and myself. It is, in a way, an act of translation. The world says something, I try to understand it, and then translate it into musical language. The particular musical language which I speak, is, of course, a product of my conservatory training and personal musical tastes, but hopefully, the outcome, imperfect a translation as it may be, will convey to others something of its original intent."

Stan's music is melodic, modal, contrapuntal, characterized by extended, interweaving lines. His musical influences span the centuries, and include Machaut, Josquin, Palestrina, Monteverdi, Lassus, Britten, Ives, Vaughn Williams and Shostakovich. Two main themes permeate many of the pieces - music intended to influence the minds and hearts of those who hear it in such a way as to encourage thoughts about the possibility of world peace - and music composed in an attempt to translate something about the nature of the physical world.

Complete scores are available in the American Music Center's on-line library. Please go to Stan's web page at **American Music Center**.

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