Of Honey and of Vinegar

for mezzo-soprano
and two pianos

Joelle Wallach

Of Honey and Of Vinegar

Four Poems by Emily Dickinson

I

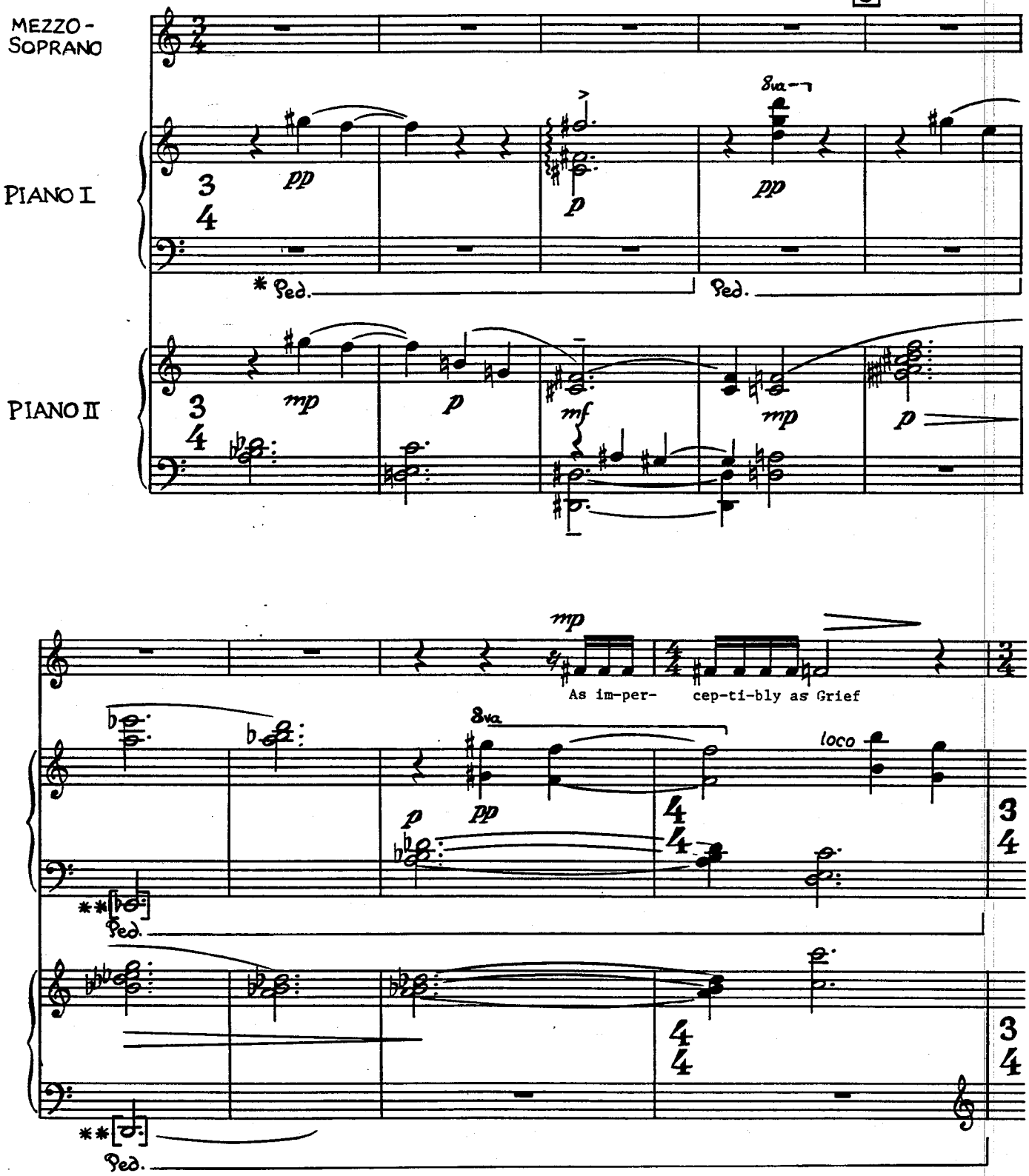
As imperceptibly as Grief
The Summer lapsed away~
~~~ Nature spending with herself
Sequestered afternoon ~~~
A courteous, yet harrowing Grace,
As Guest, that would be gone~~~~
Our Summer made her light escape
Into the Beautiful.

C. 1865

II

The Bible is an antique [Volume/Tome]
Written by faded Men
At the suggestion of Holy Spectres~
Subjects~ Bethlehem~
Eden ~ the ancient Homestead~
Satan ~ the Brigadier~
Judas ~ the Great Defaulter~
David ~ the Troubadour~
Sin ~ a distinguished Precipice
Others must resist~
Boys that "believe" are very lonesome~
Other Boys are "lost"~
Had but the Tale a warbling Teller~
All the Boys would come~
Orpheus' Sermon captivated~
It did not condemn ~

C. 1882

III

How soft this Prison is
How sweet these sullen bars
No despot but the King of Down
Invented this repose

Of Fate if this is all
Has he no added Realm
A dungeon but a Kinsman is
Incarceration ~ Home

C. 1875

IV

Split the Lark ~ [ ] you'll find the Music~
Bulb after Bulb, in Silver rolled~
Scantily dealt to the Summer Morning
Saved for your Ear when Lutes be old.

Loose the Flood~~~
Gush after Gush~~~
Scarlet Experiment! Sceptic Thomas!
Now, do you doubt that your Bird was true?

C. 1864
~~~

As Imperceptibly as Grief

Larghetto, lirico
♩ = 43

Joelle Wallach

5



* This piece is to be pedalled in a conventional manner except where specifically noted otherwise -- i.e., there are many places where harmonies are to be blurred into one another.

** The notes in brackets need not have an audible attack, but must be depressed for the entire duration indicated.

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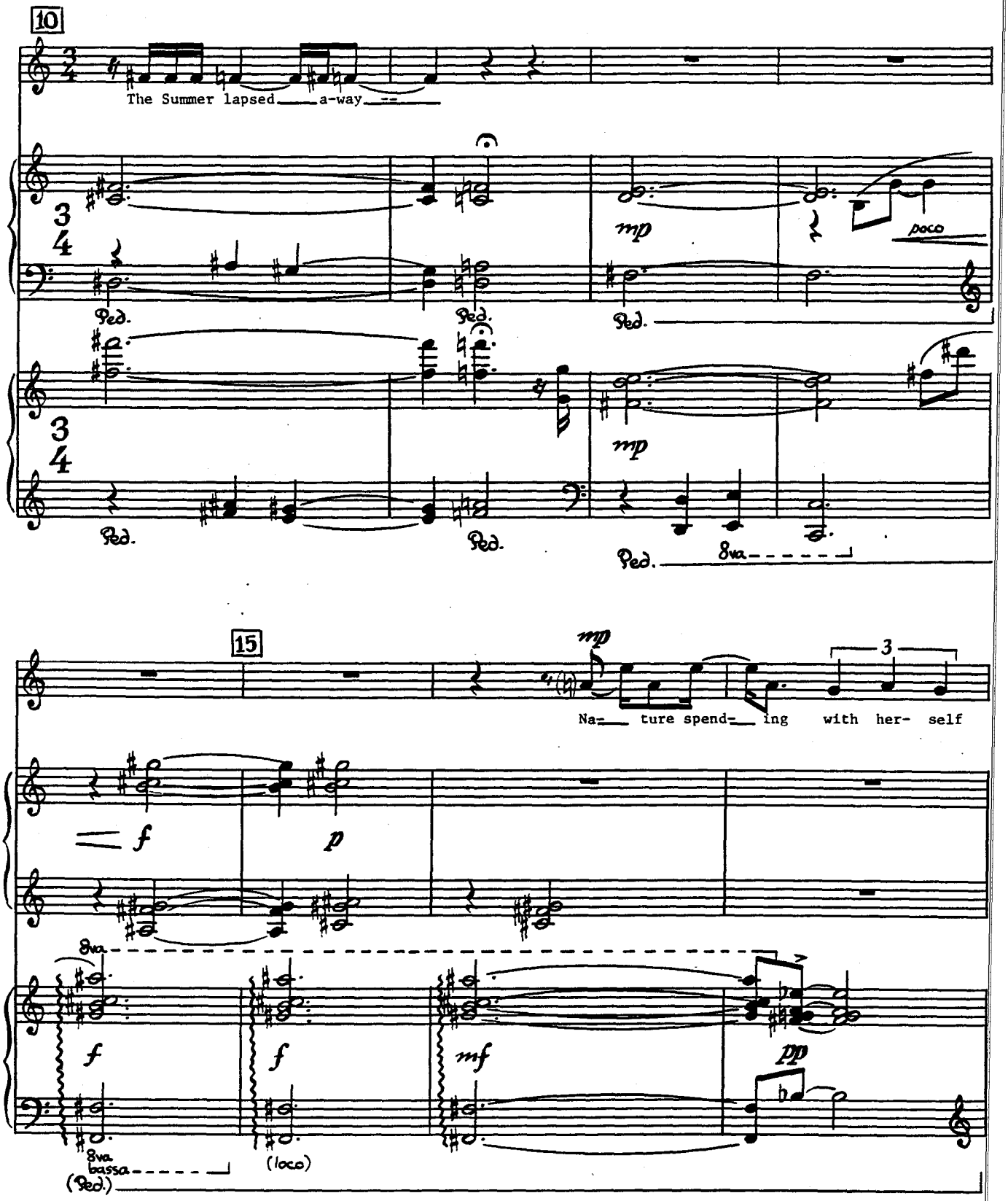
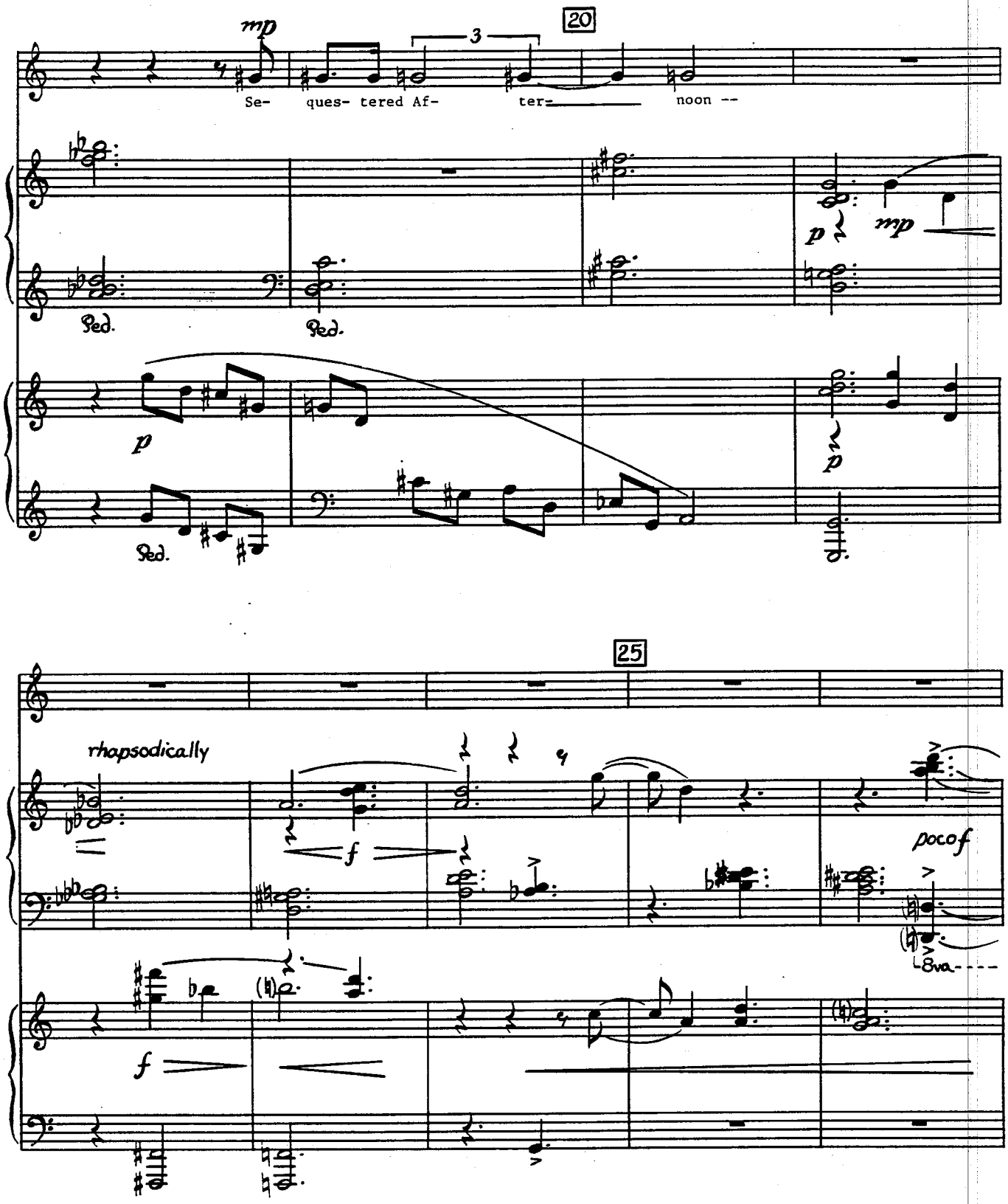
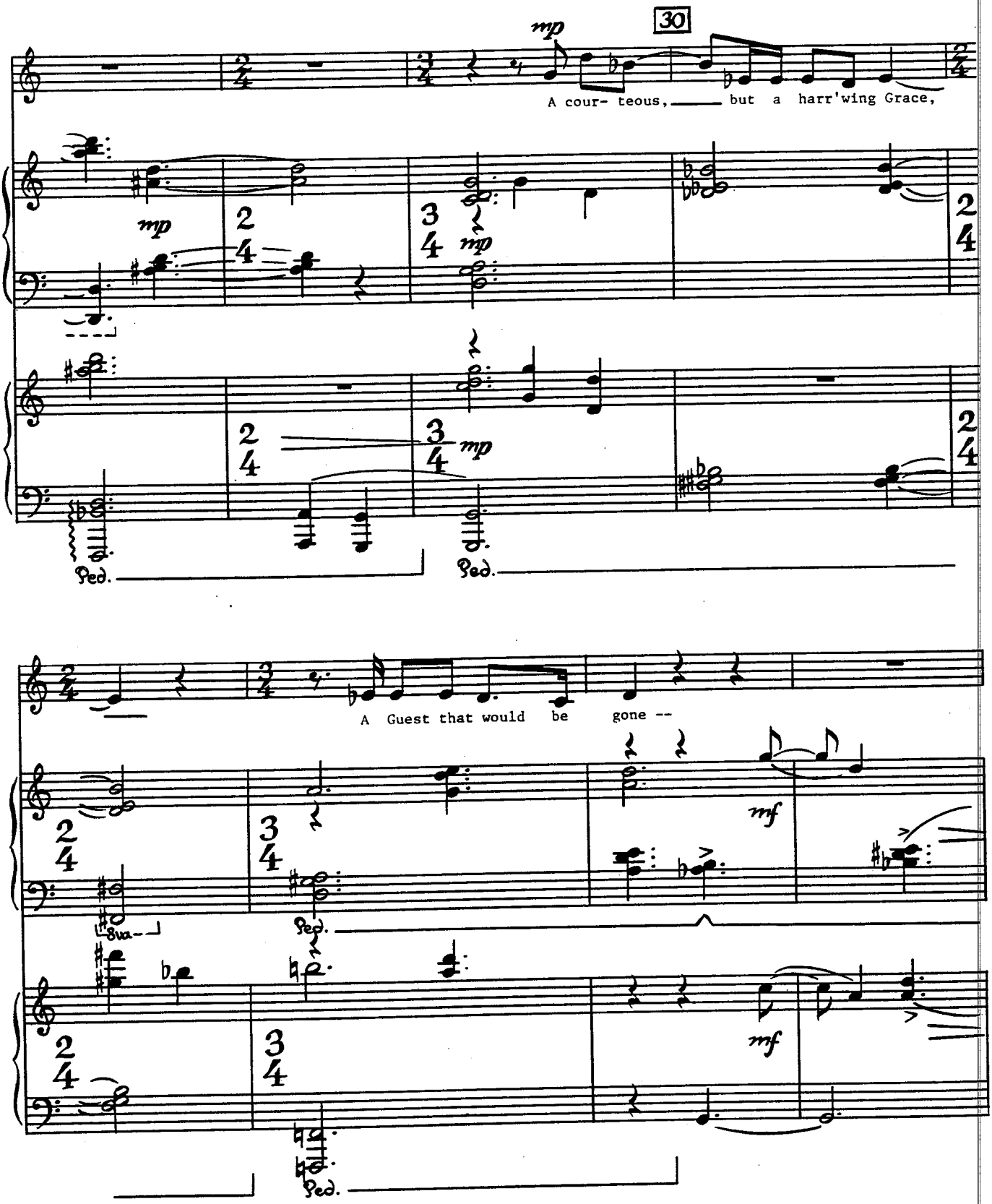
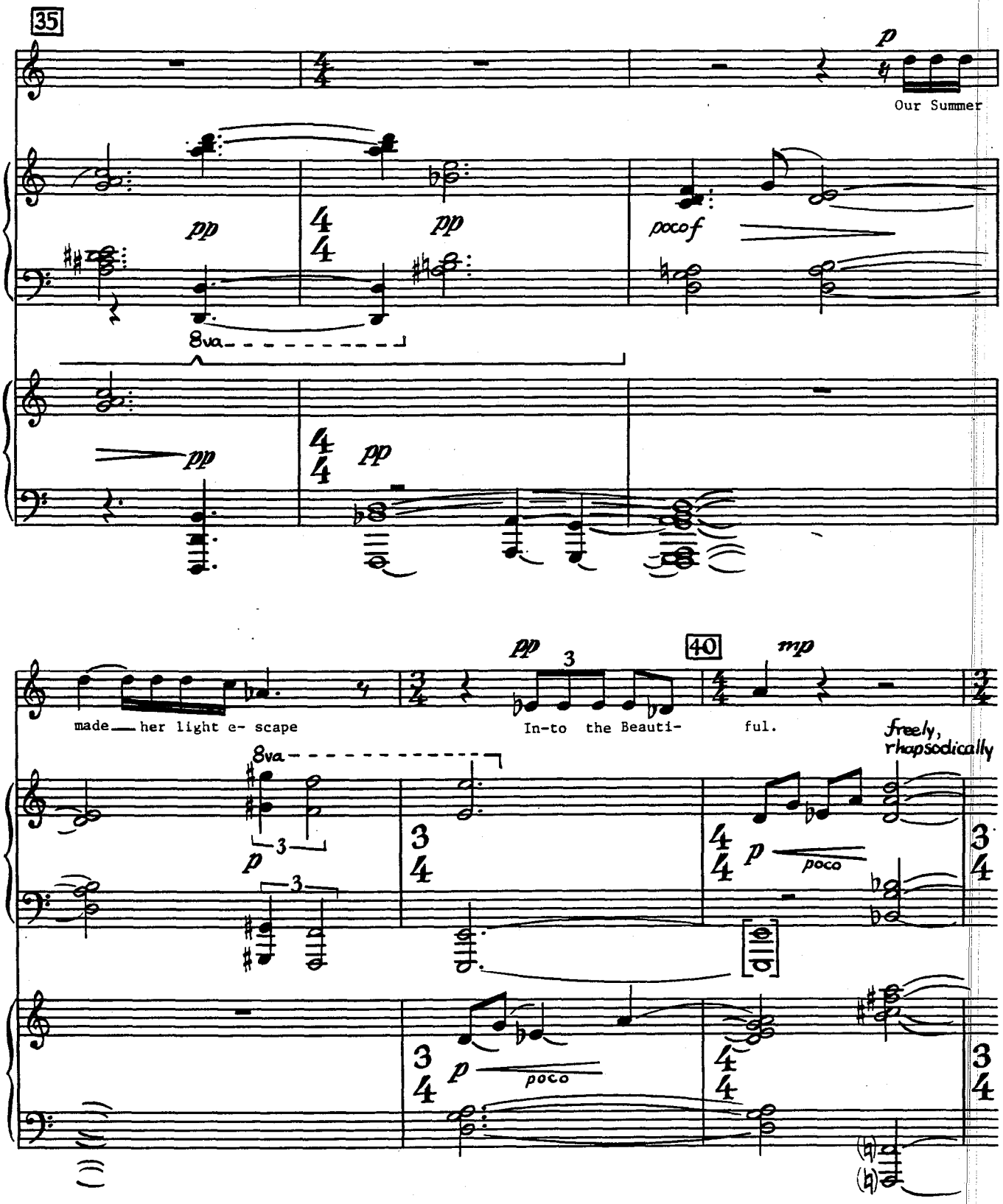
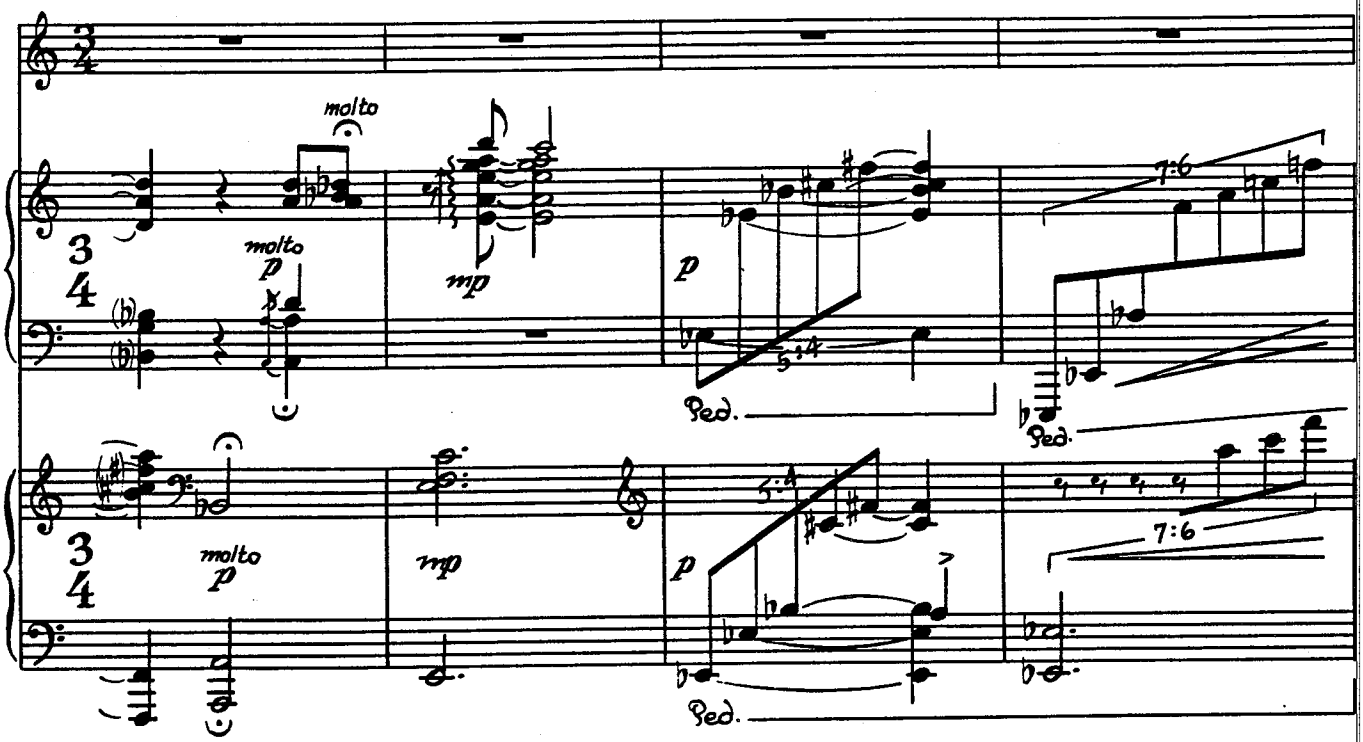

10
The Summer lapsed a-way
mp
poco
Ped.
8va
15
mp
3
Na- ture spend- ing with her- self
f
p
8va
f
f
mf
pp
8va bassa
(loco)
(Ped.)

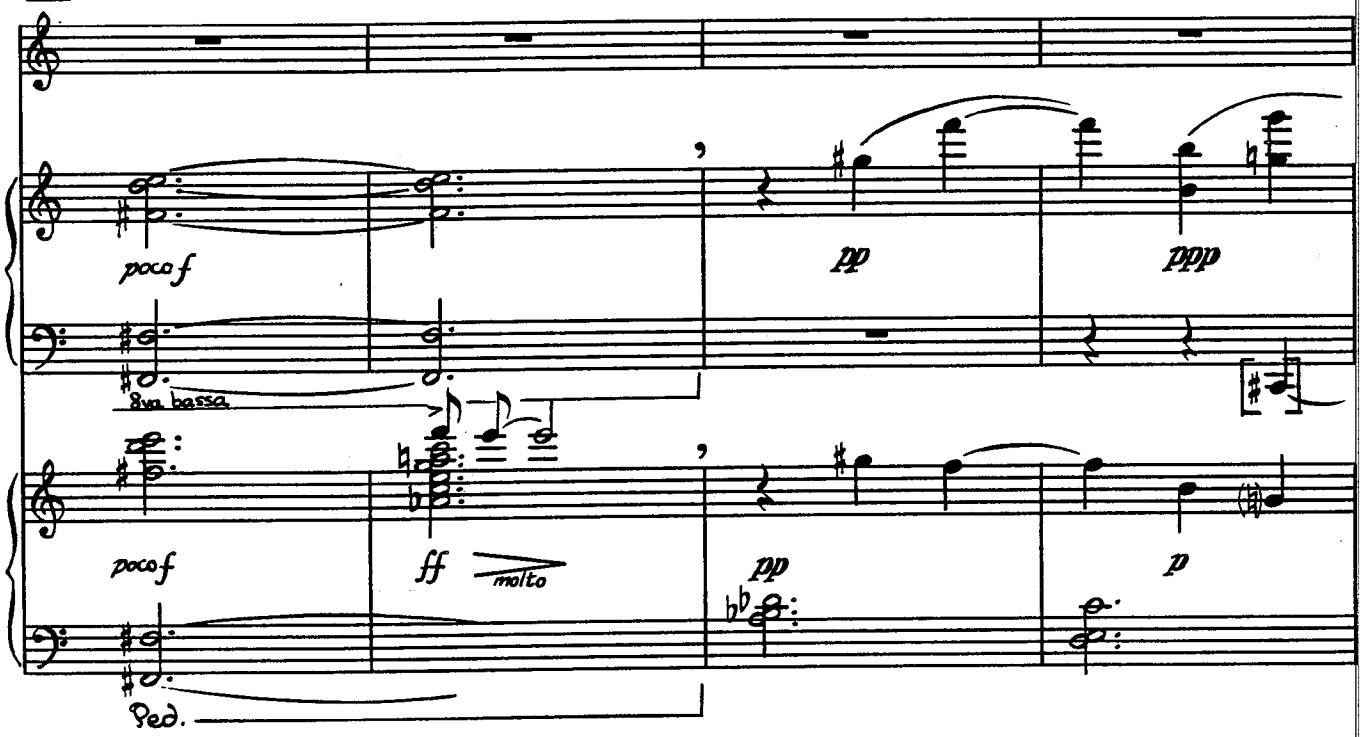

20
mp
3
Se- ques- tered Af- ter noon --
p
mp
Ped.
Ped.
p
Ped.
p
25
rhapsodically
f
poco f
8va
f

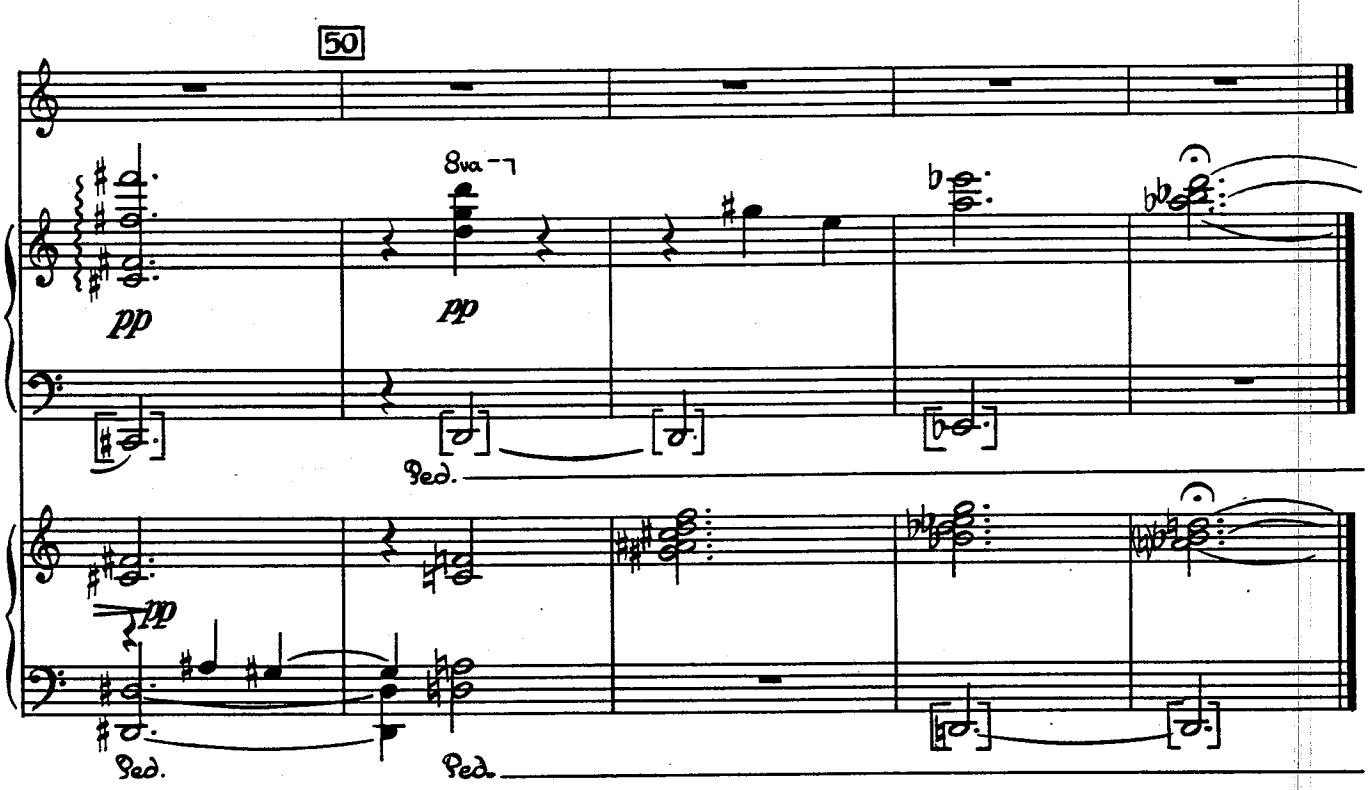

30
mp
A cour- teous, but a harr'wing Grace,
mp
mp
Ped.
Ped.
A Guest that would be gone --
mf
mf
8va
Ped.
Ped.


35
p
Our Summer
pp
pp
poco f
8va
pp
pp
made her light e- scape
pp
3
40
mp
In-to the Beauti- ful.
freely, rhapsodically
8va
3
p
poco
p
poco


molto
molto
p
mp
p
7:6
Ped.
molto
p
mp
p
7:6
Ped.

45


poco f
8va bassa
pp
ppp
poco f
ff
molto
pp
p
Ped.


50
8va
pp
pp
Ped.
pp
Ped.
Ped.

THE BIBLE

MEZZO-SOPRANO

JOELLE WALLACH

♩= c.72

playfully

PIANO I

PIANO II

5

The

like a pronouncement

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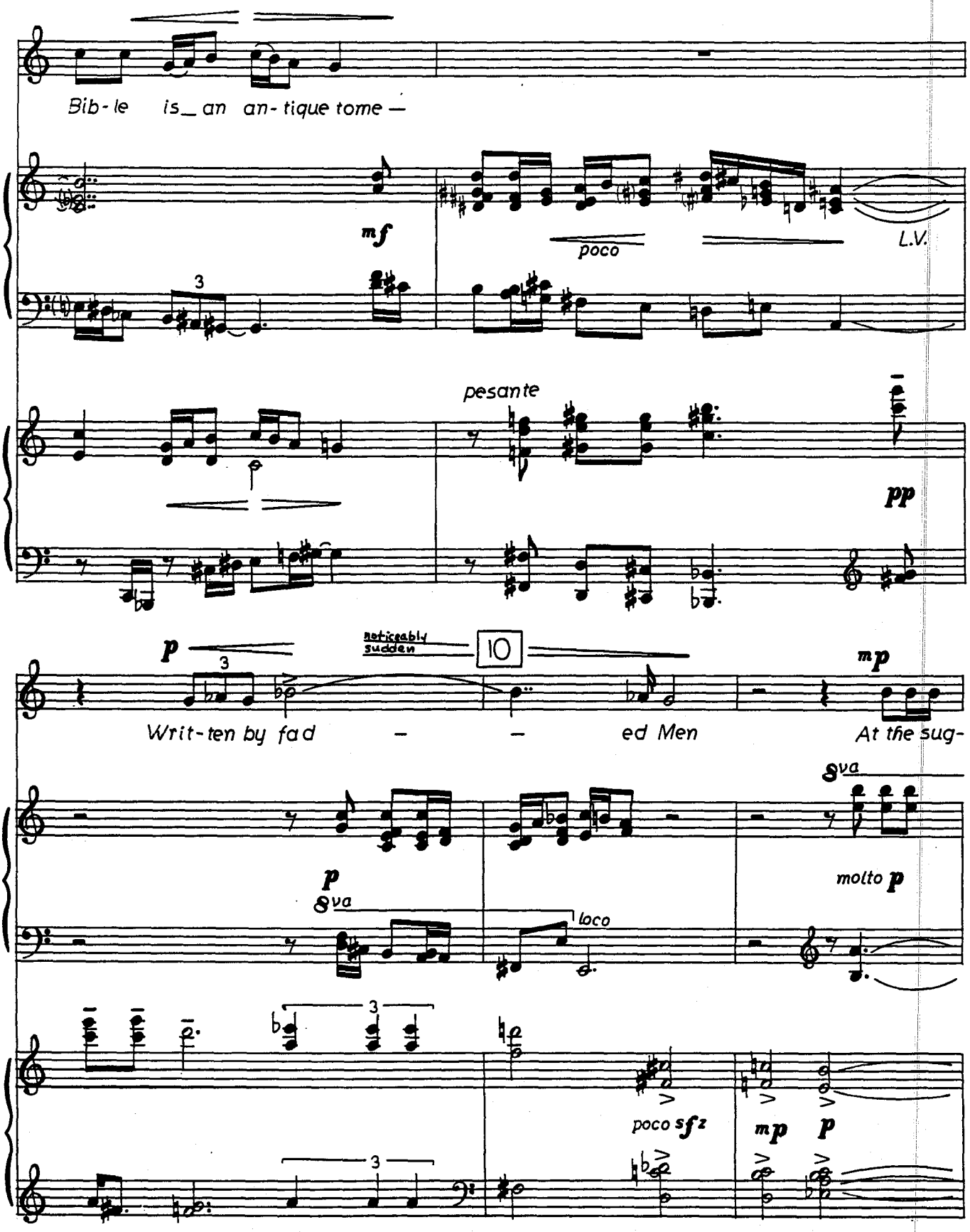
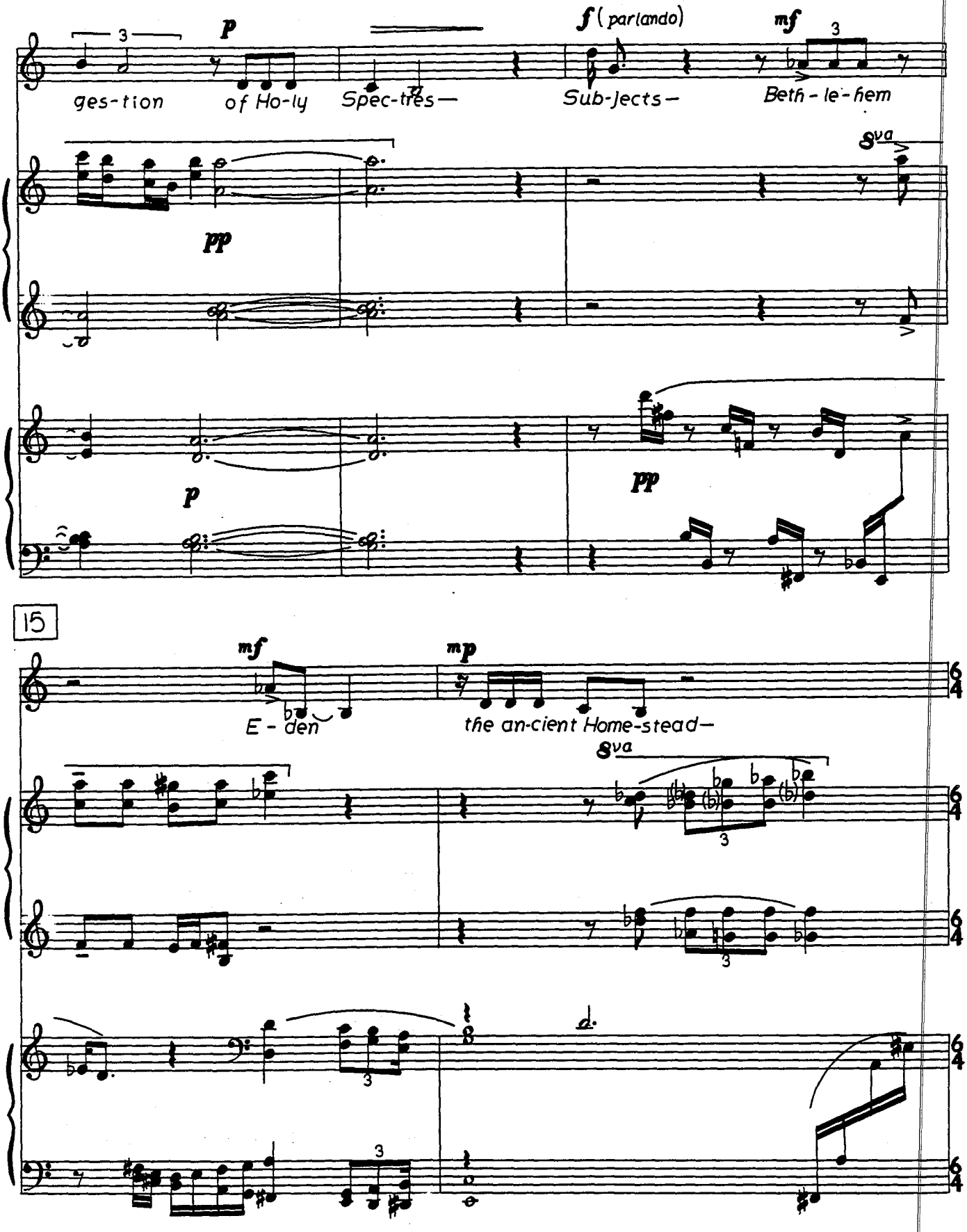
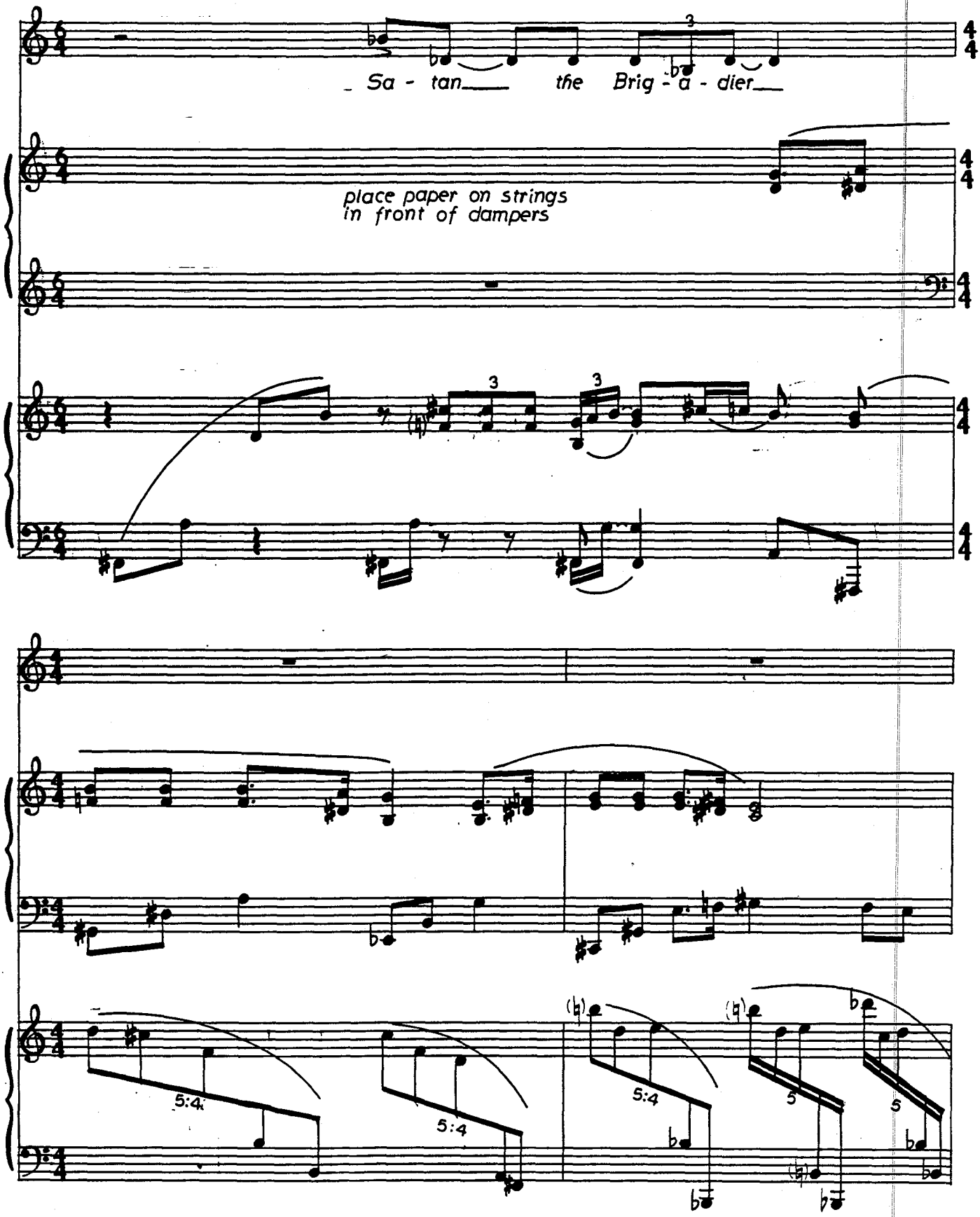
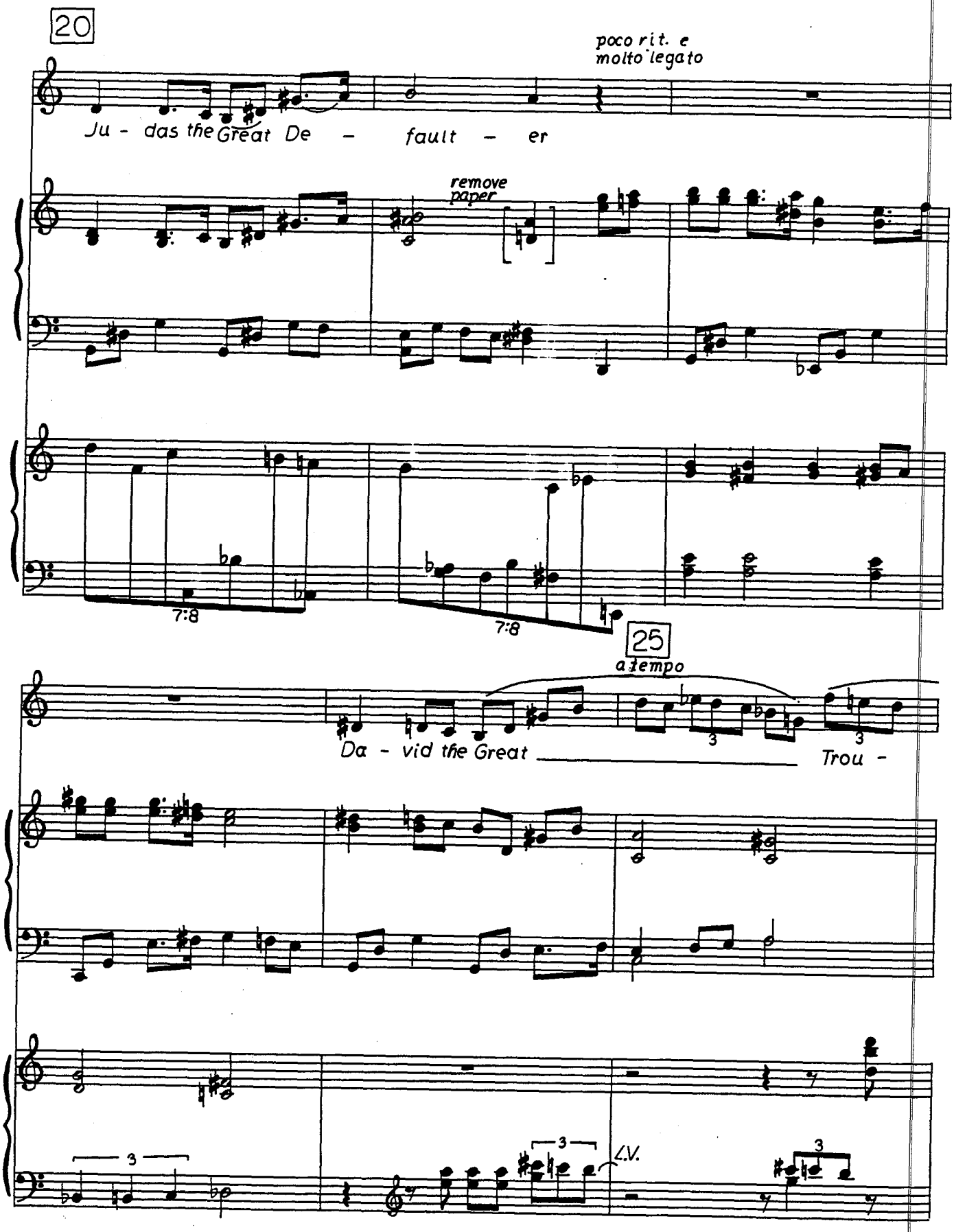
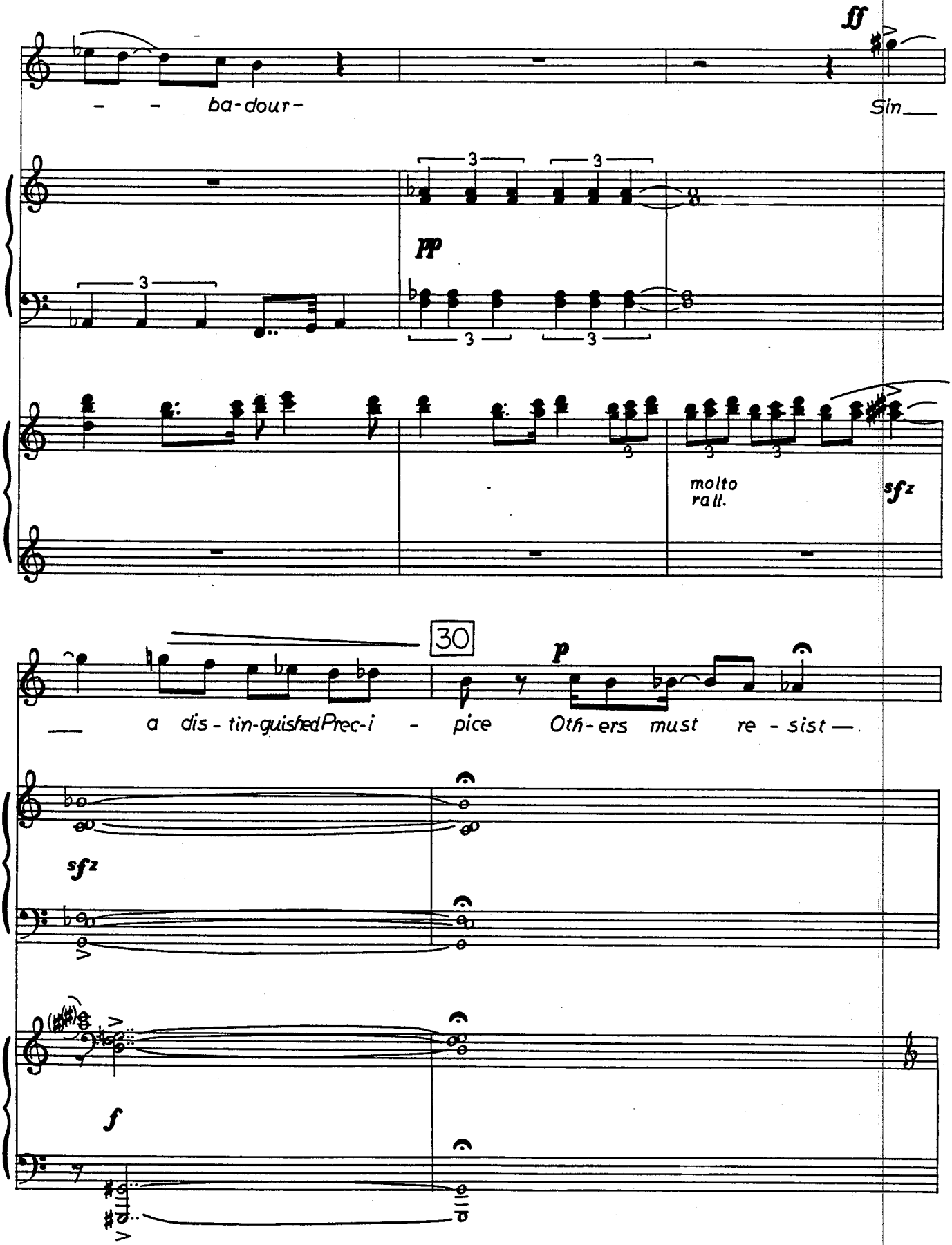
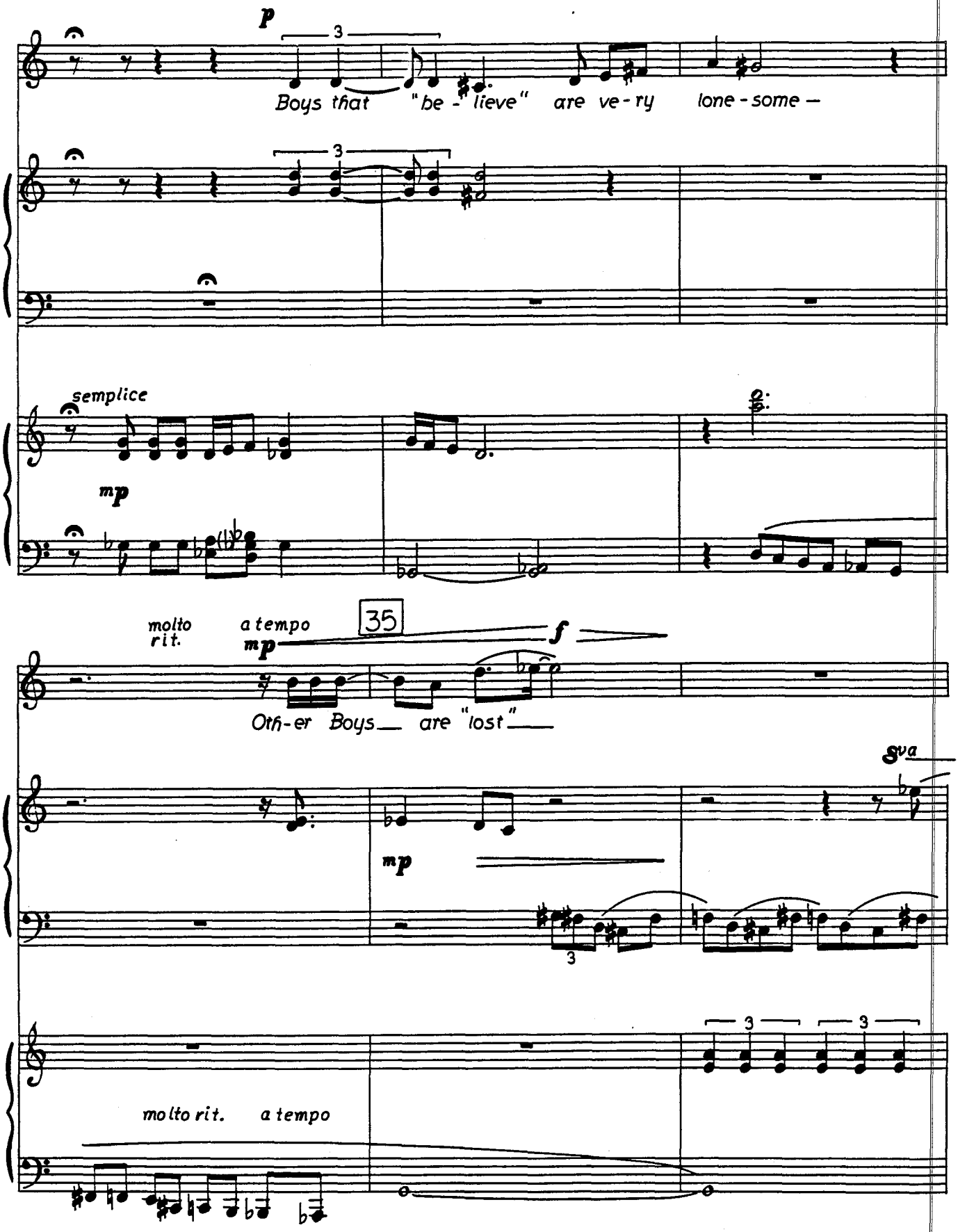

Bib-le is_an an-tique tome —
mf
poco
L.V.
pesante
pp
p
noticeably sudden
10
mp
Writ-ten by fad – – ed Men At the sug-
8va
molto p
loco
poco sfz
mp
p

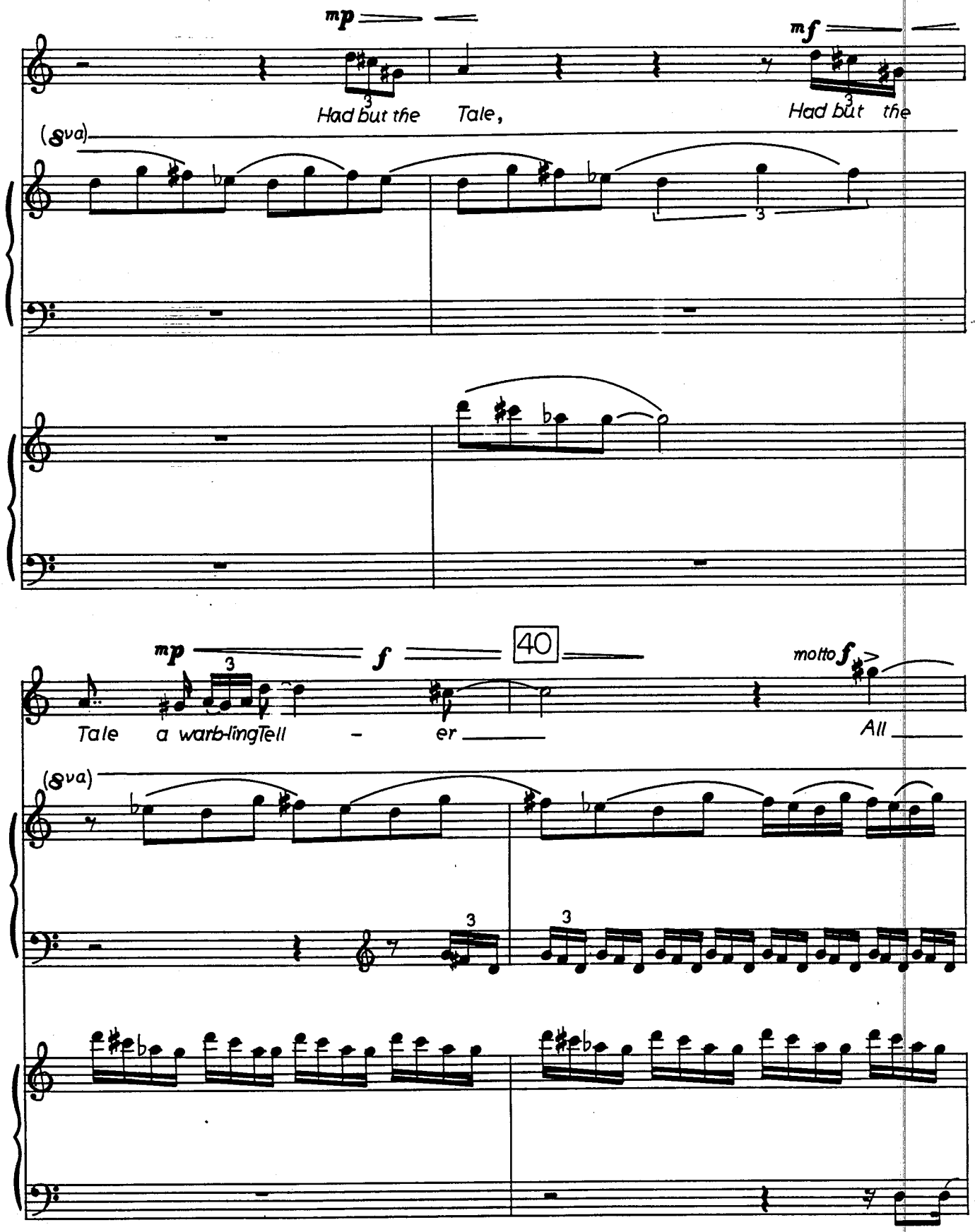

p
ges-tion
of Ho-ly
Spec-tres—
f (parlando)
Sub-jects—
mf
Beth-le-hem
8va
pp
p
pp
15
mf
E-den
mp
the an-cient Home-stead—
8va

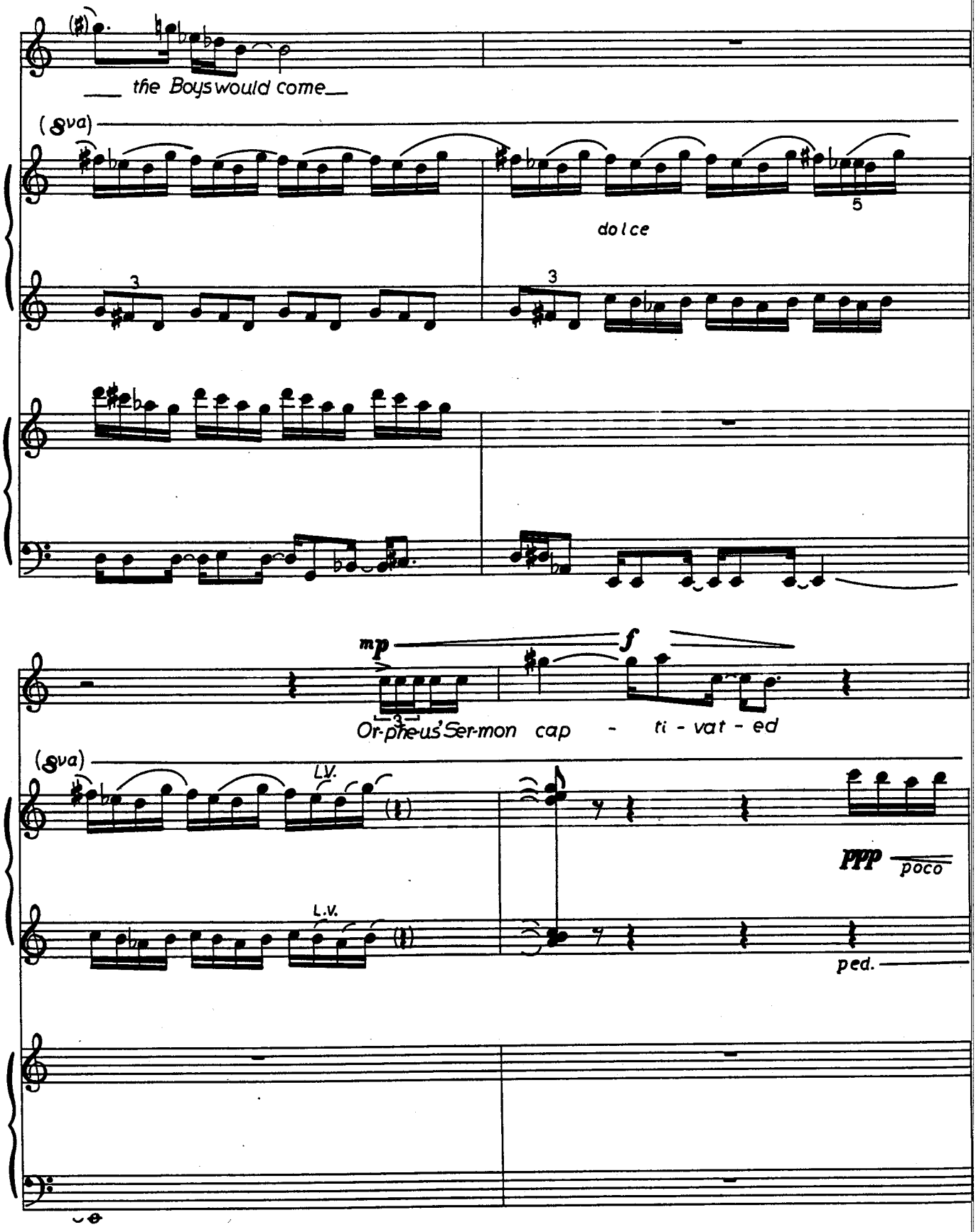

Sa - tan the Brig - a - dier
place paper on strings
in front of dampers
5:4
5:4
5:4
5
5

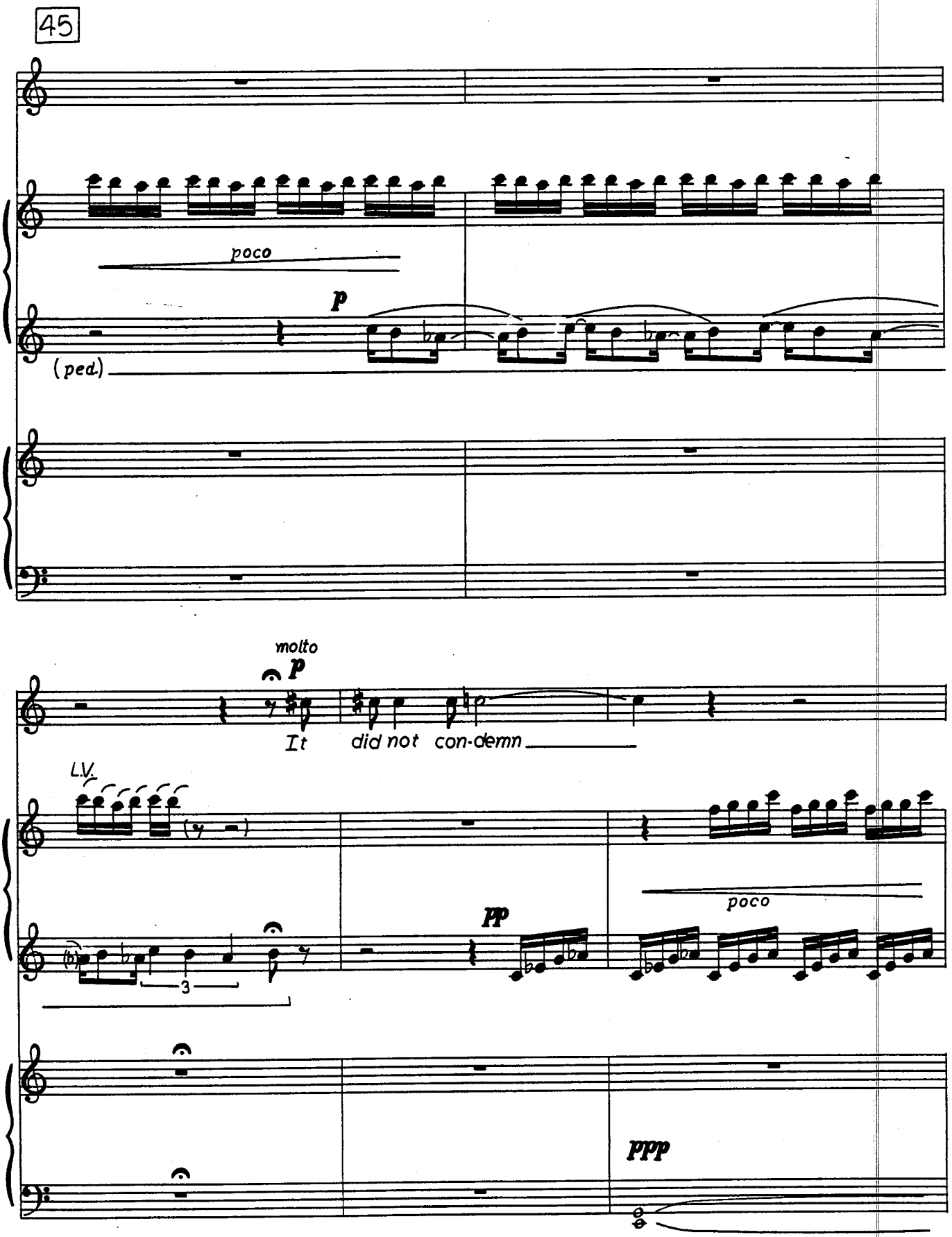

20
poco rit. e
molto legato
Ju - das the Great De - fault - er
remove
paper
7:8
7:8
25
a tempo
Da - vid the Great
Trou -
3
3
3
3
L.V.

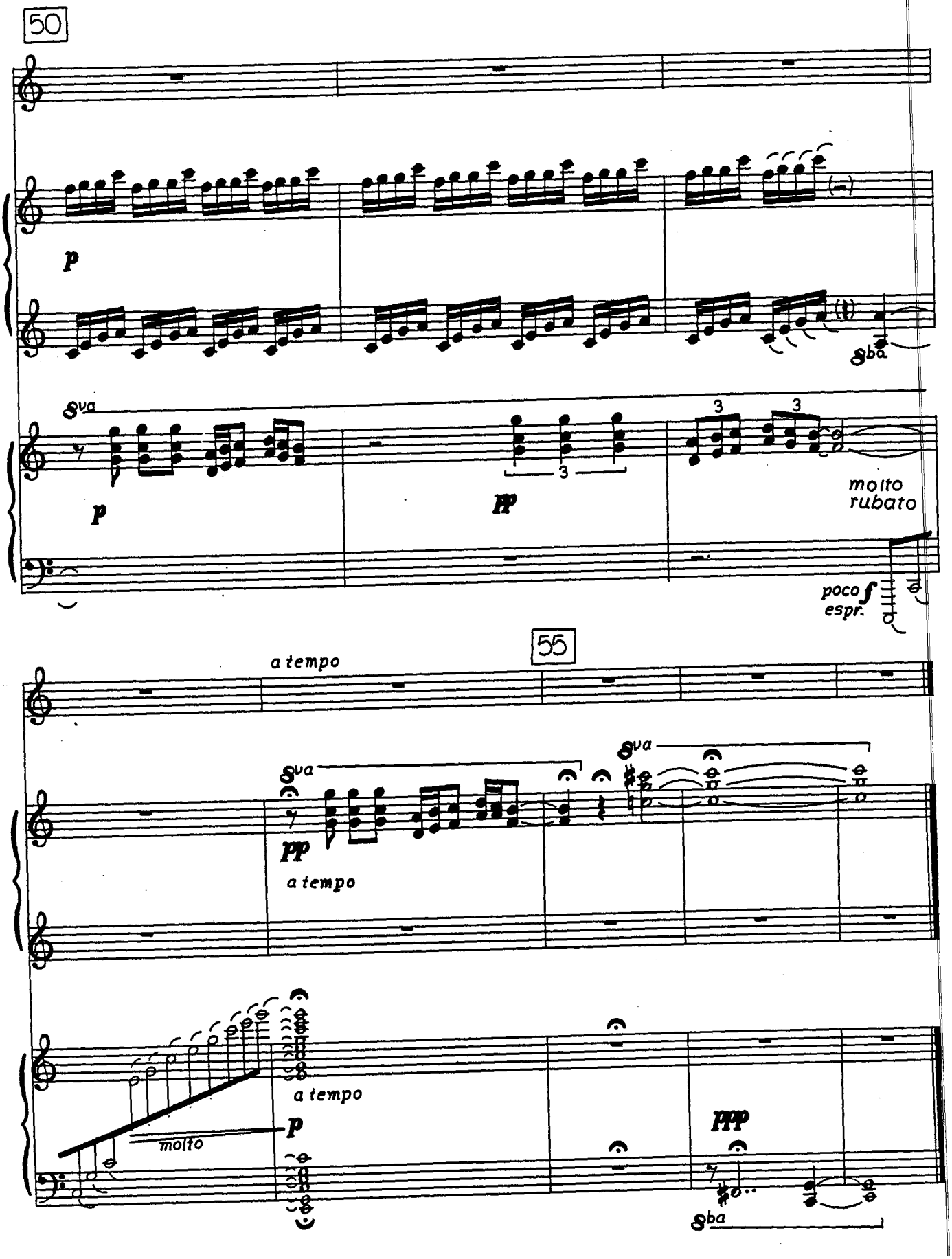

ff
- - ba-dour-
Sin
pp
molto rall.
sfz
30
p
a dis-tin-guished Prec-i - pice Oth-ers must re-sist
sfz
f


p
3
Boys that "be - lieve" are ve - ry lone - some —
3
semplice
mp
molto rit.
a tempo
35
mp
f
Oth - er Boys — are "lost" —
8va
mp
3
3
3
molto rit.
a tempo


mp
mf
Had but the Tale,
Had but the
(8va)
mp
f
40
motto f
Tale a warb-ling Tell - er
All
(8va)

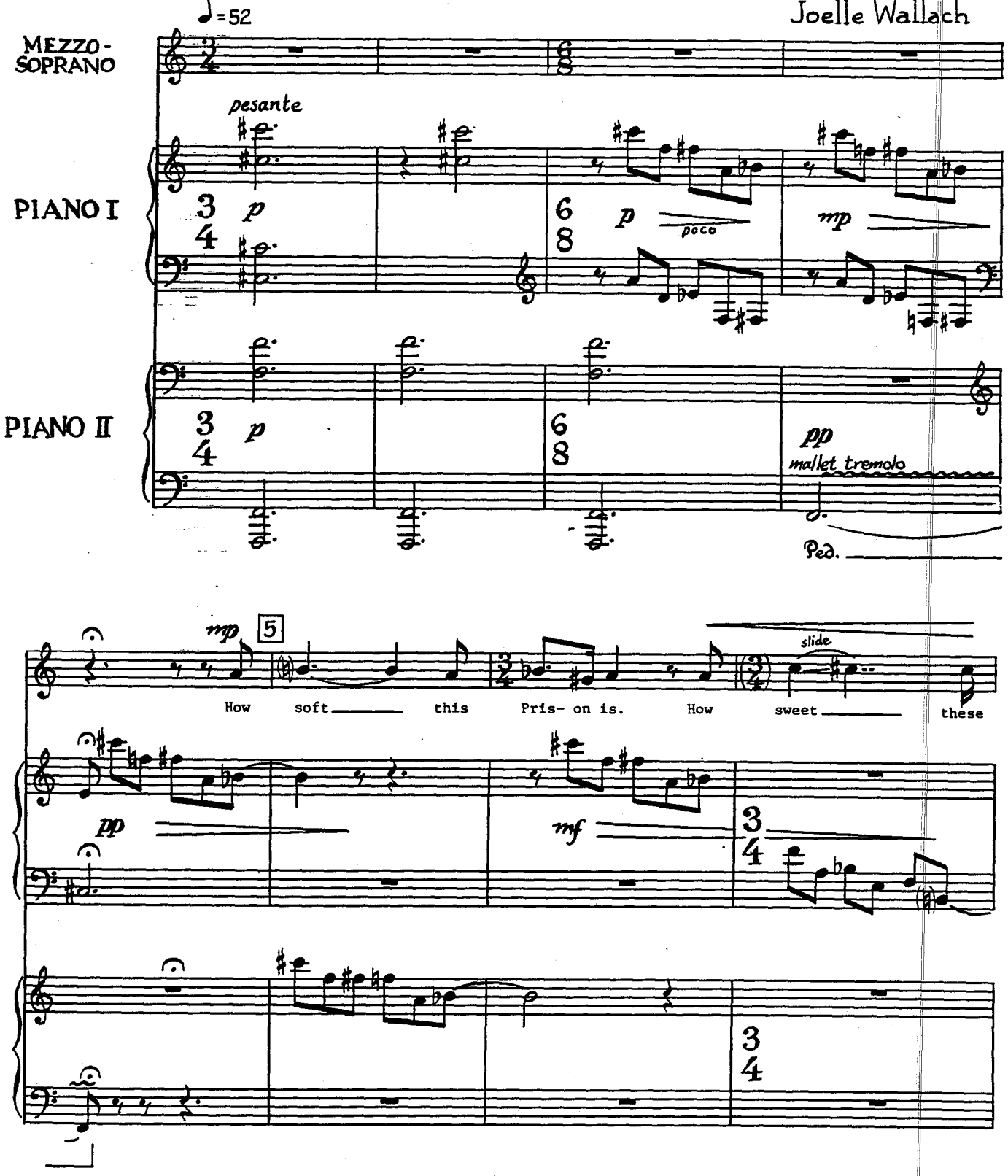

the Boys would come
(8va)
dolce
mp
f
Or-pheus' Ser-mon cap - ti - vat - ed
(8va)
L.V.
L.V.
ppp poco
ped.


45
poco
p
(ped.)
molto
p
It did not con-demn
L.V.
pp
poco
ppp


50
p
8ba
8va
p
pp
3
3
3
molto
rubato
poco
espr.
f
55
a tempo
8va
8va
pp
a tempo
a tempo
molto
p
ppp
8ba

How Soft This Prison Is

Joelle Wallach



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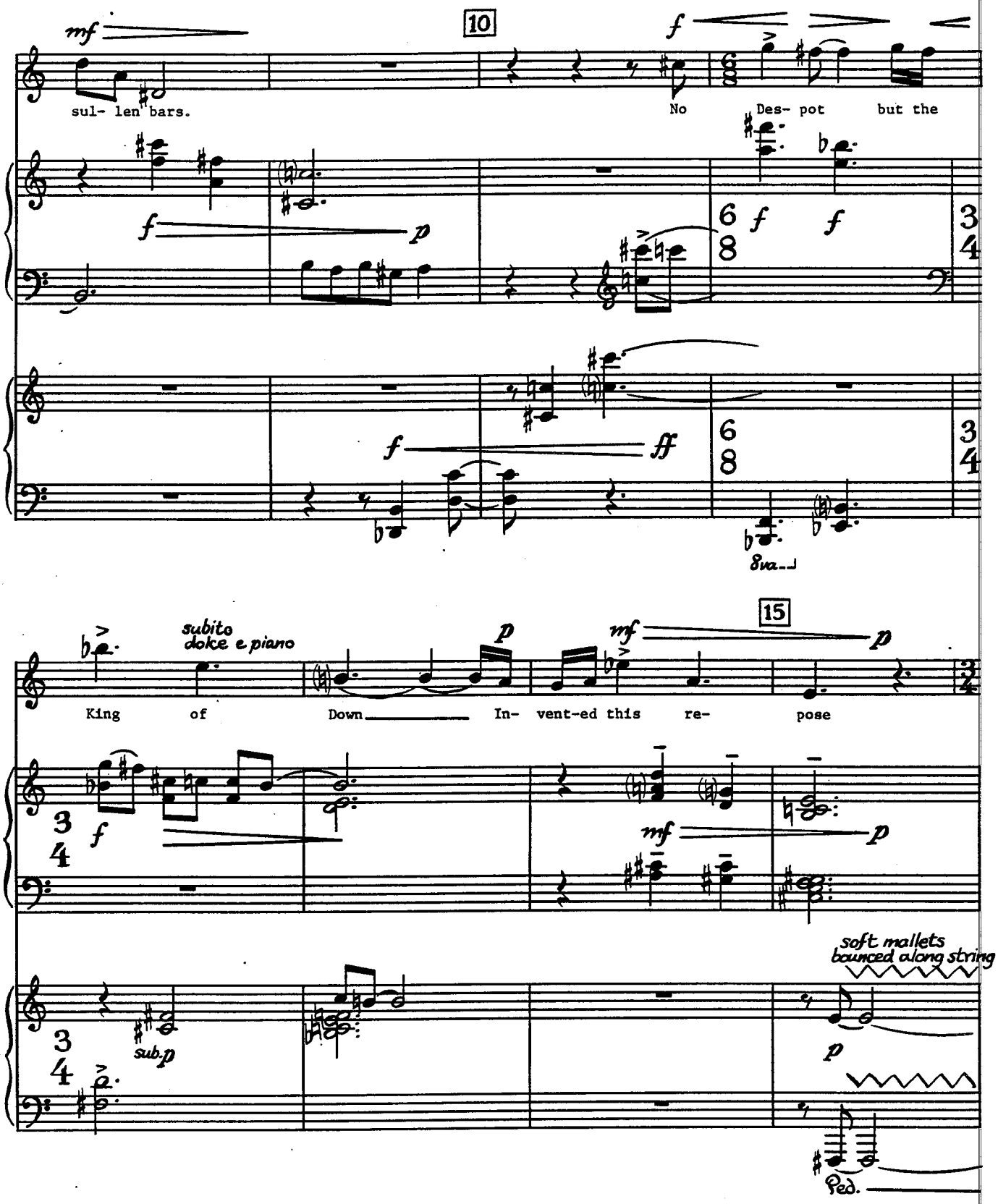
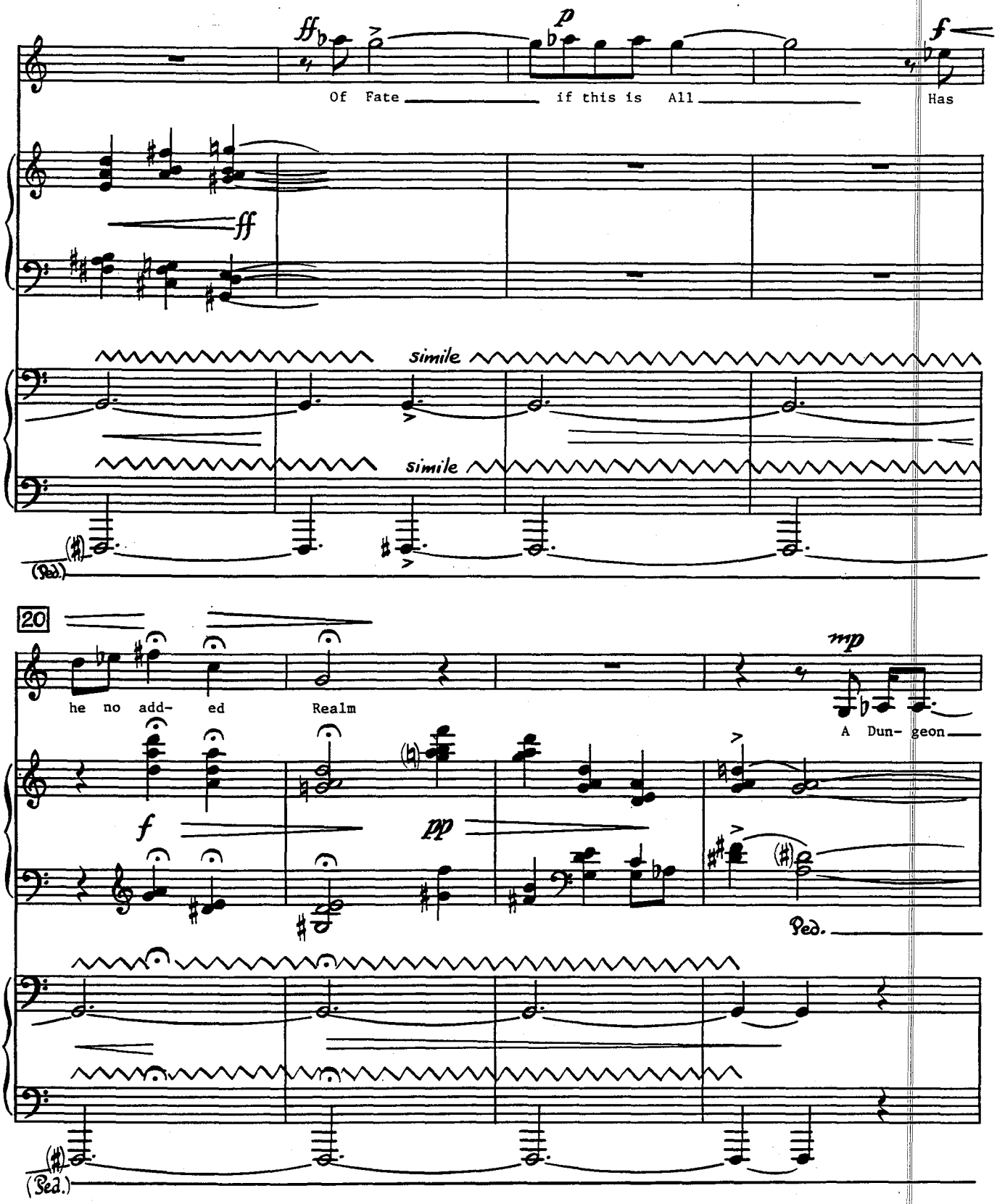
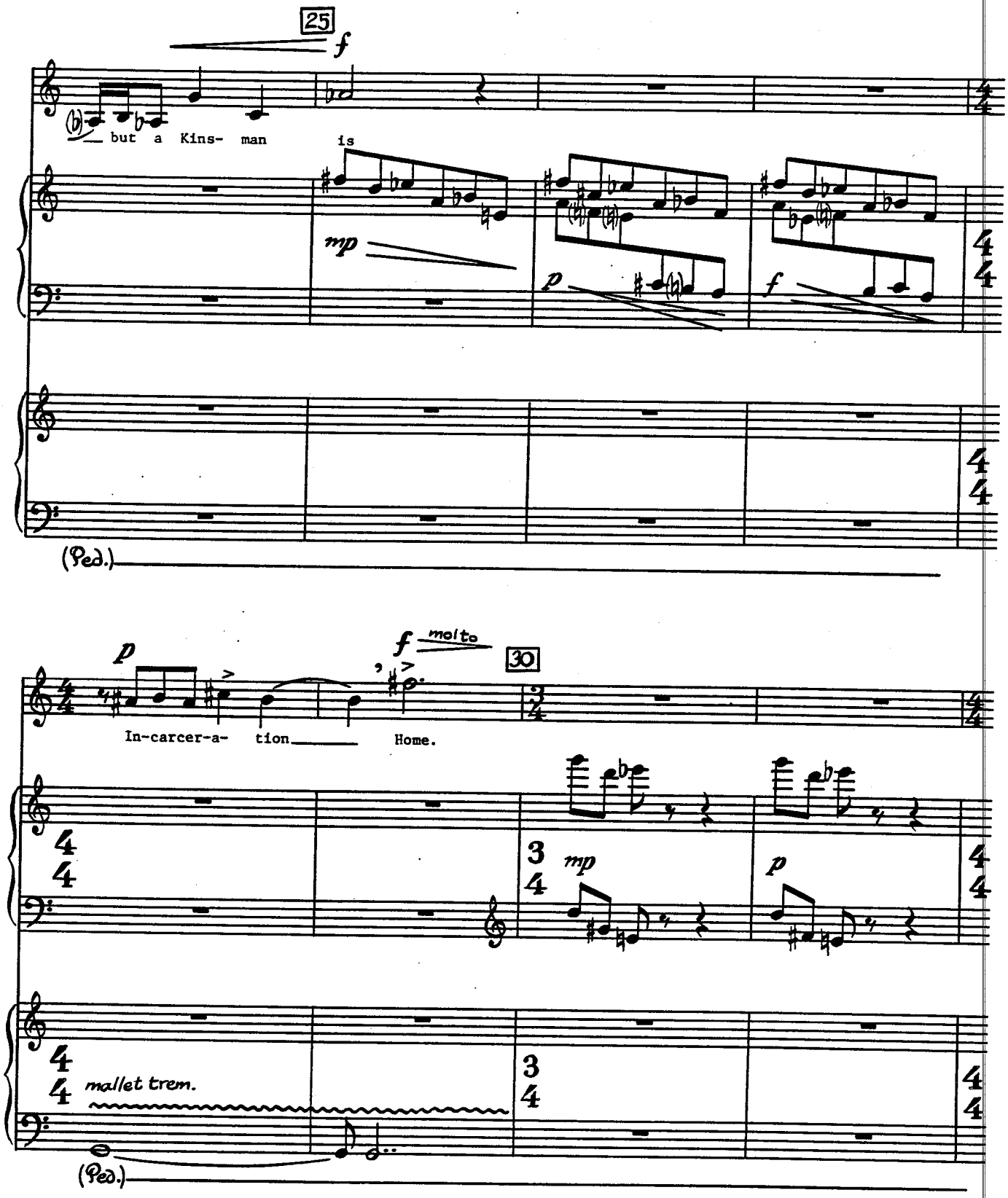
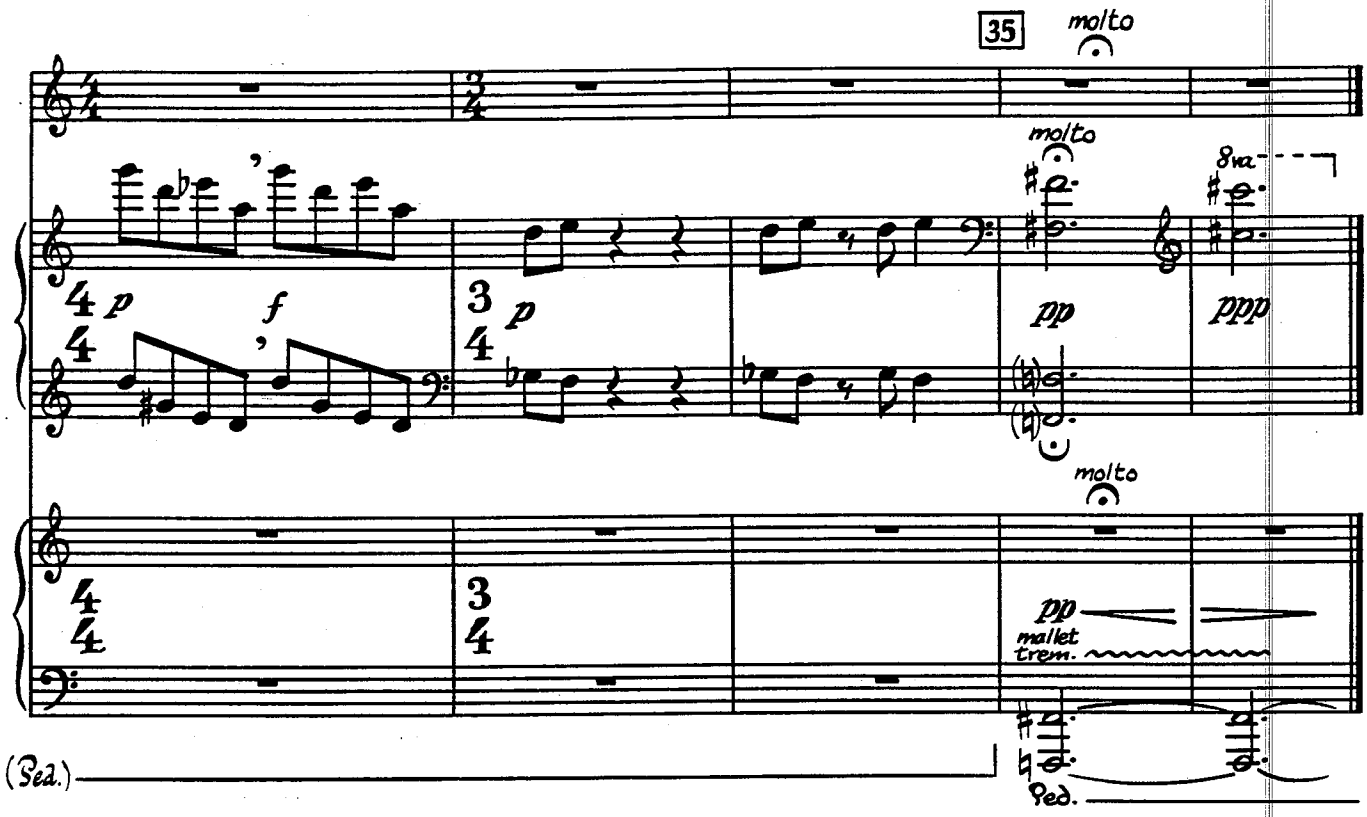

mf
10
f
sul- len bars.
No
Des- pot
but the
f
p
6 f
8
f
3
4
f
ff
6
8
3
4
8va
subito
dolce e piano
p
15
mf
p
King
of
Down
In-
vent-ed this
re-
pose
3
4
f
mf
p
soft mallets
bounced along string
3
4
sub.p
p
Ped.


ffb
p
f
Of Fate
if this is All
Has
ff
simile
simile
(Ped.)
20
mp
he no add- ed
Realm
A Dun- geon
f
pp
Ped.
(Ped.)

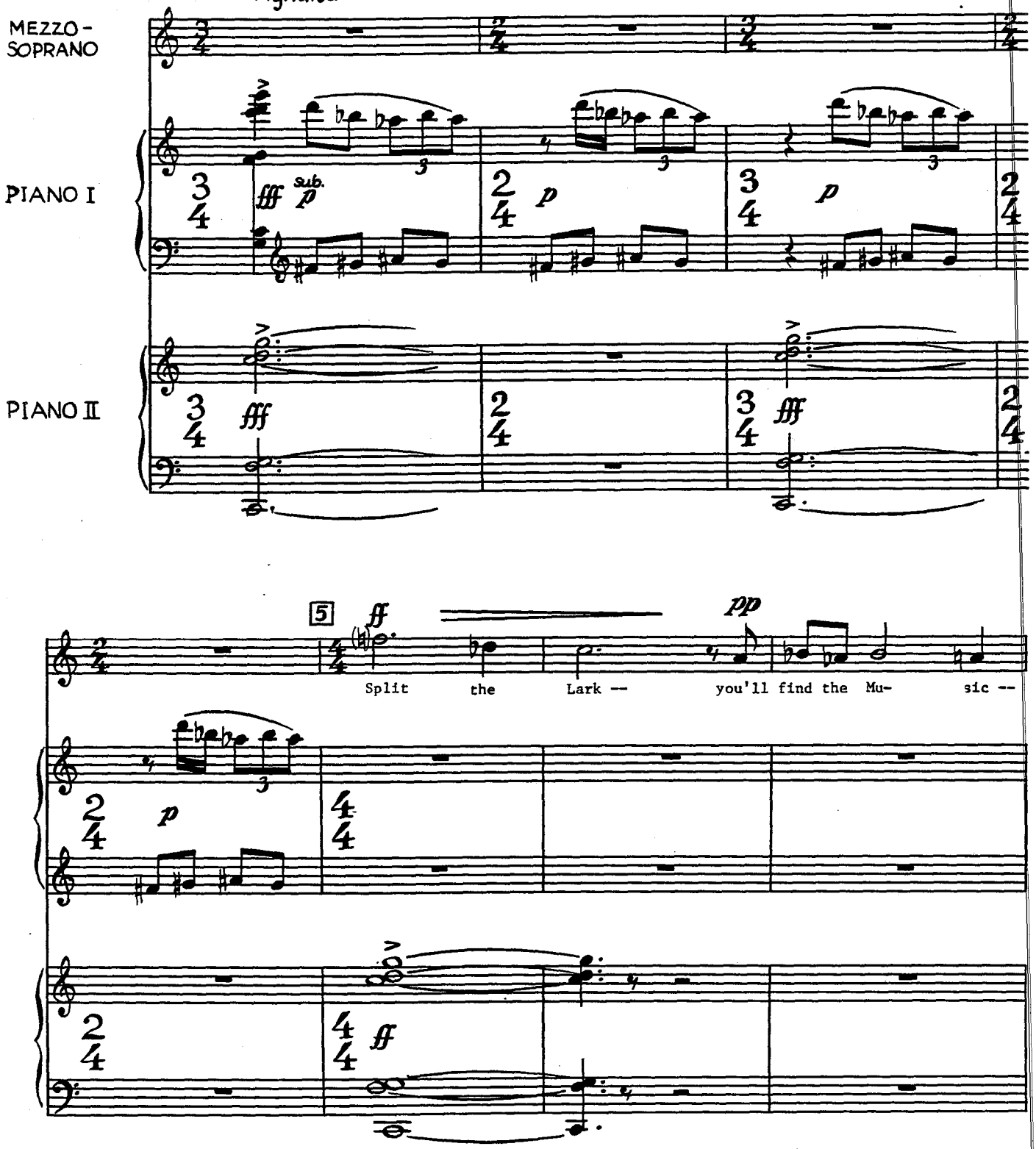

25
f
but a Kins- man
is
mp
p
f
(Ped.)
p
f molto
30
In-carcer-a- tion
Home.
mp
p
mallet trem.
(Ped.)


35
molto
molto
8va
p
f
p
pp
ppp
molto
pp
mallet
trem.
(Ped.)
Ped.

Split the Lark

♩ = 76 Agitated

Joelle Wallach



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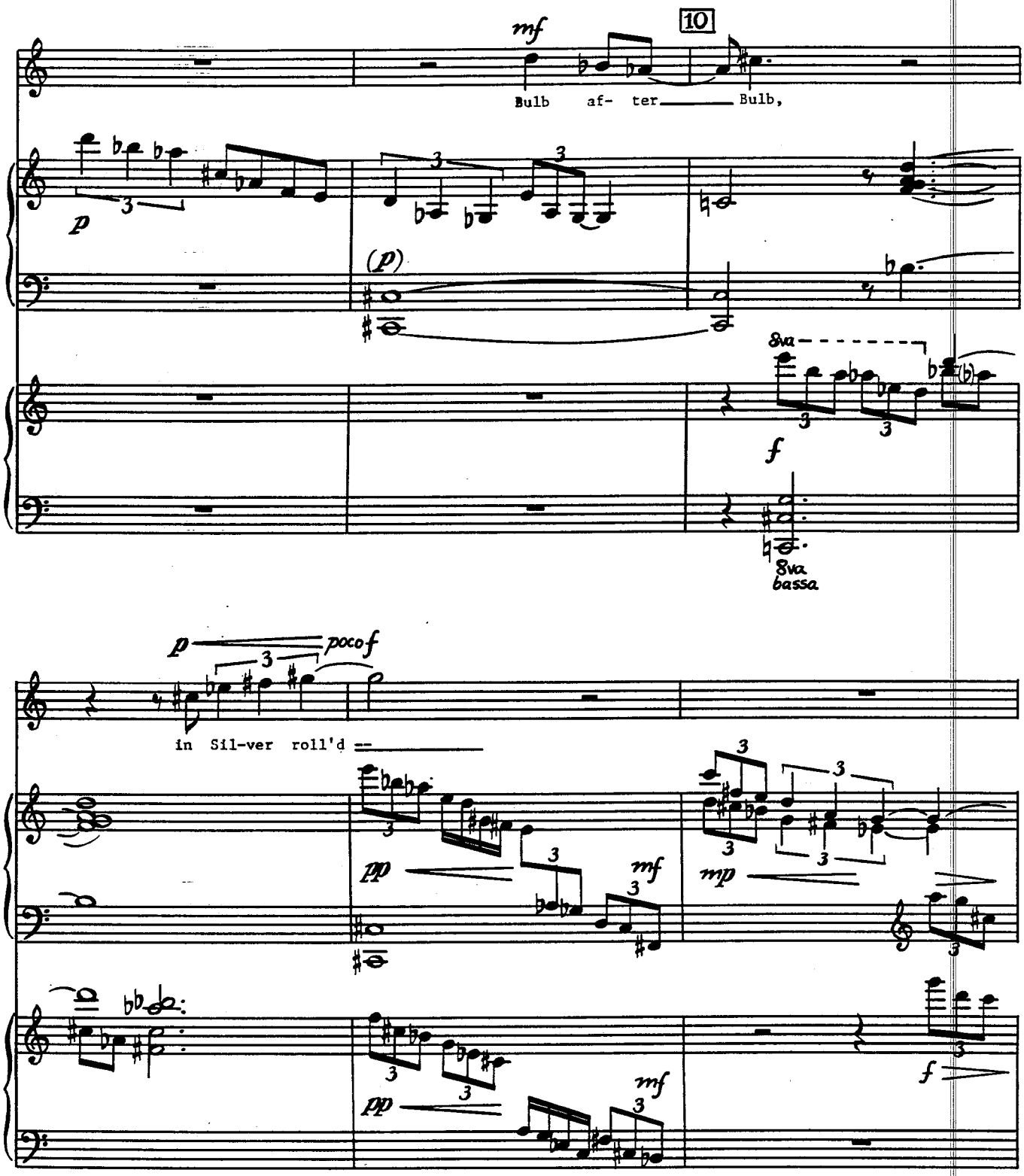
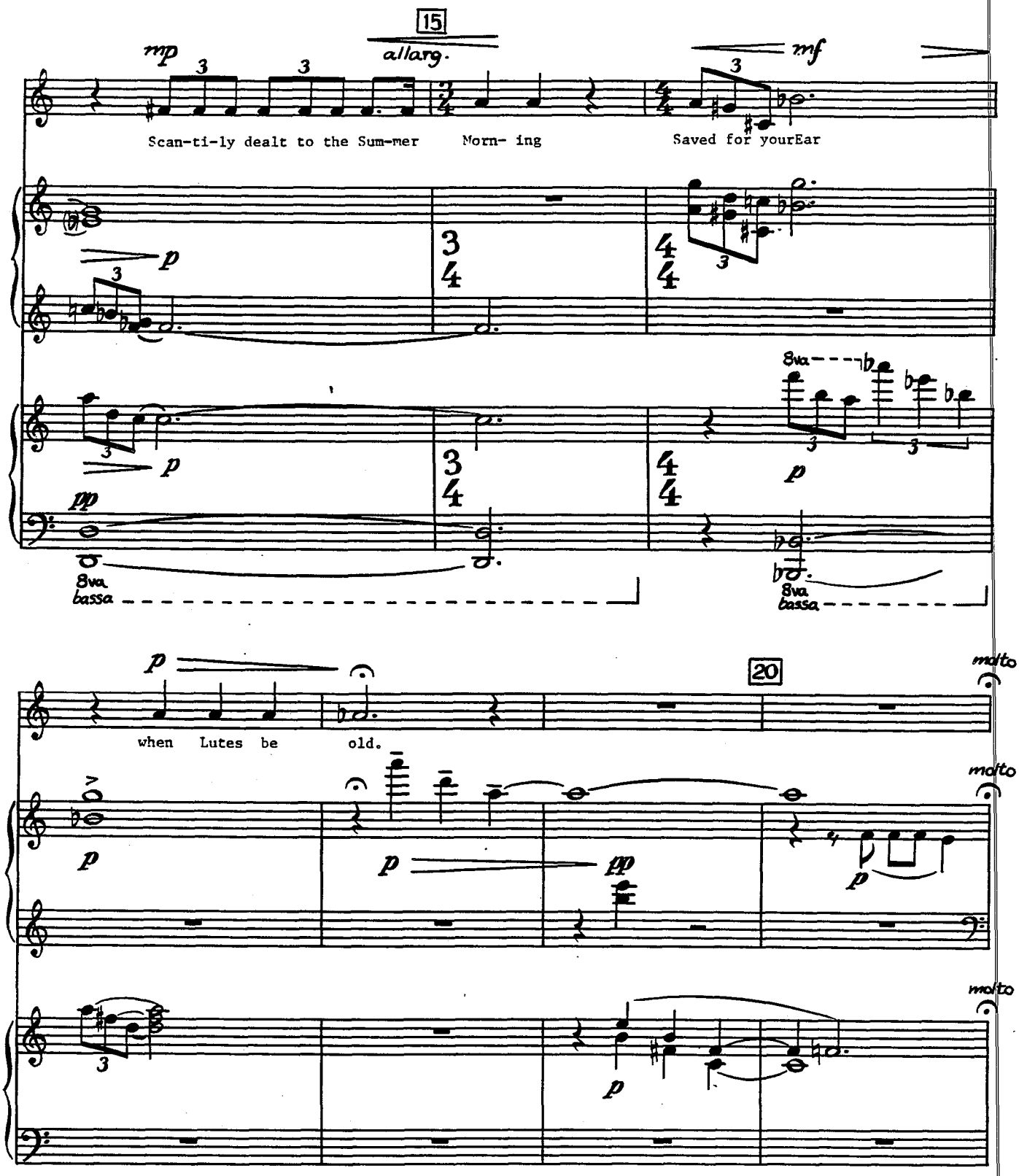
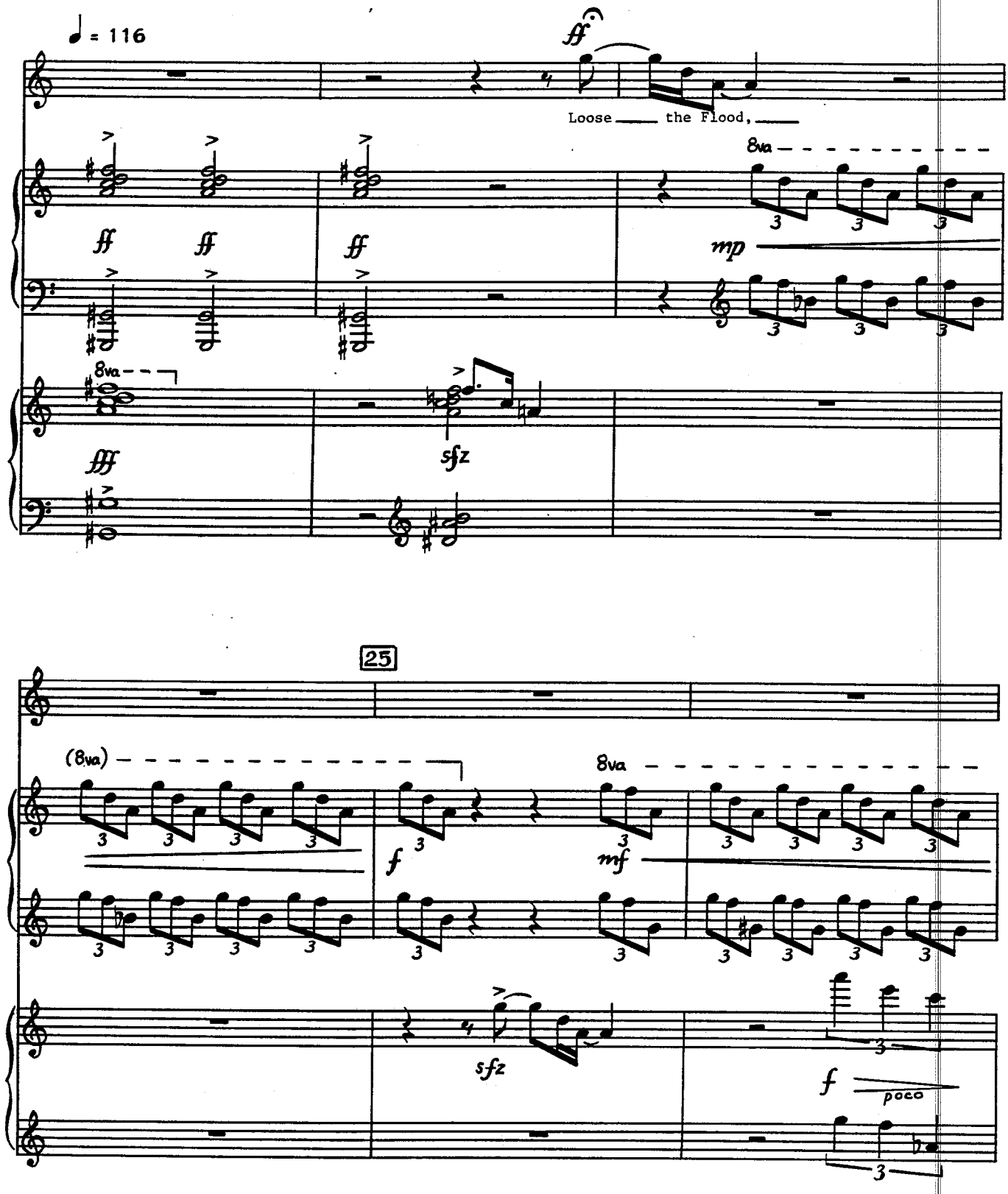
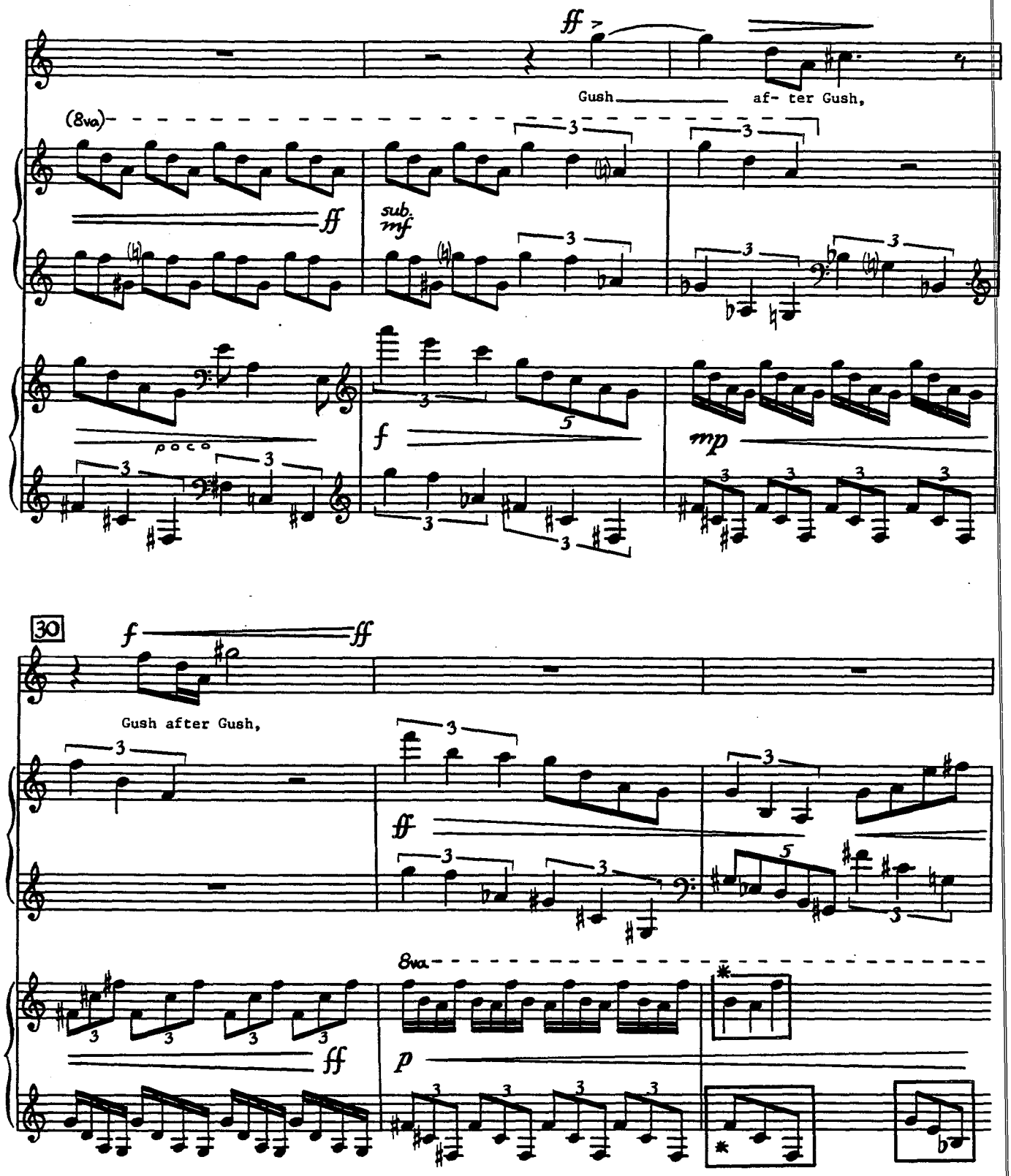
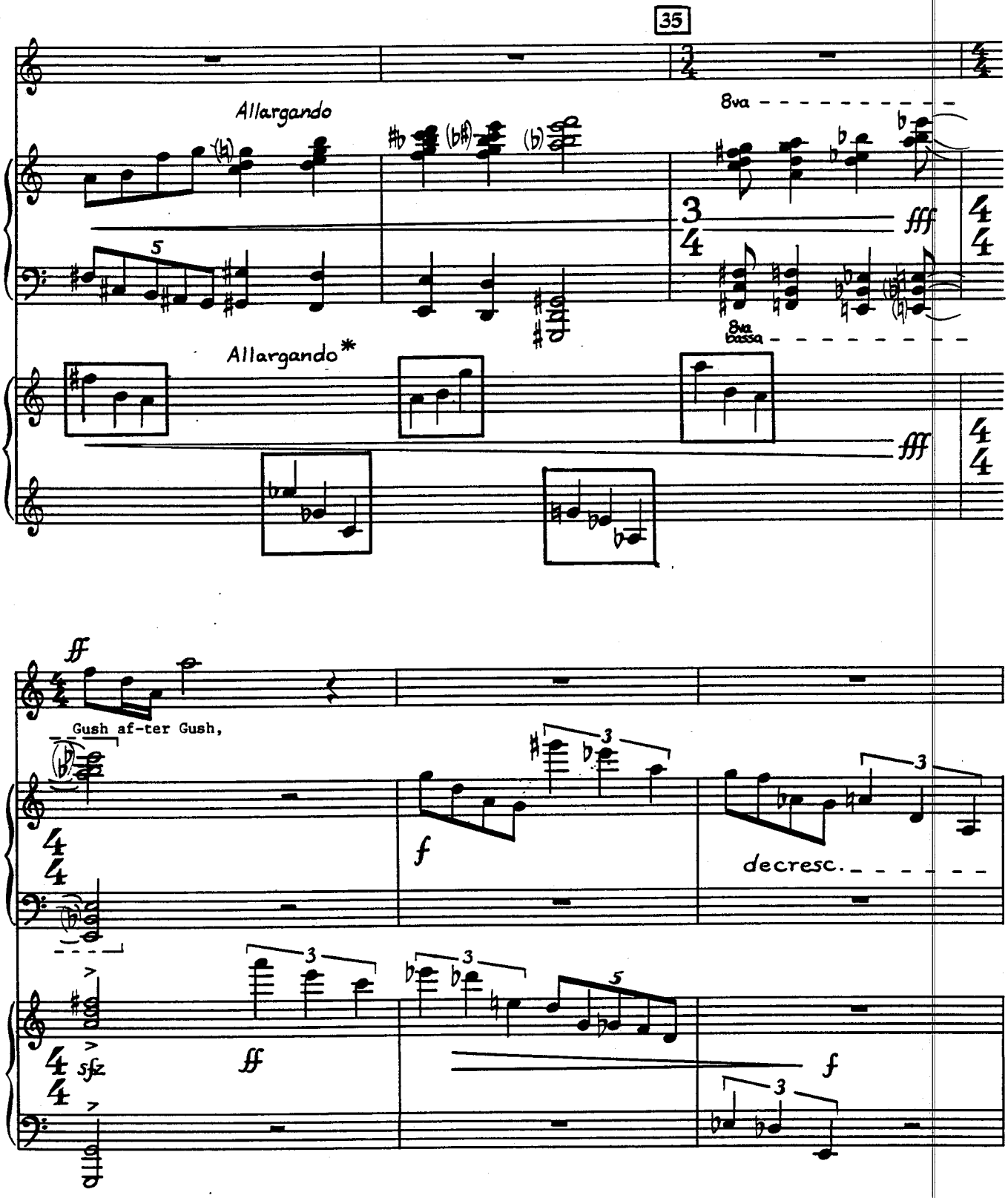

10
mf
Bulb af- ter Bulb,
p
(p)
8va
f
8va bassa
p poco f
in Sil-ver roll'd
pp
mf
mp
f


15
allarg.
mp
mf
Scan-ti-ly dealt to the Sum-mer Morn- ing Saved for yourEar
p
pp
8va
bassa
20
when Lutes be old.
molto

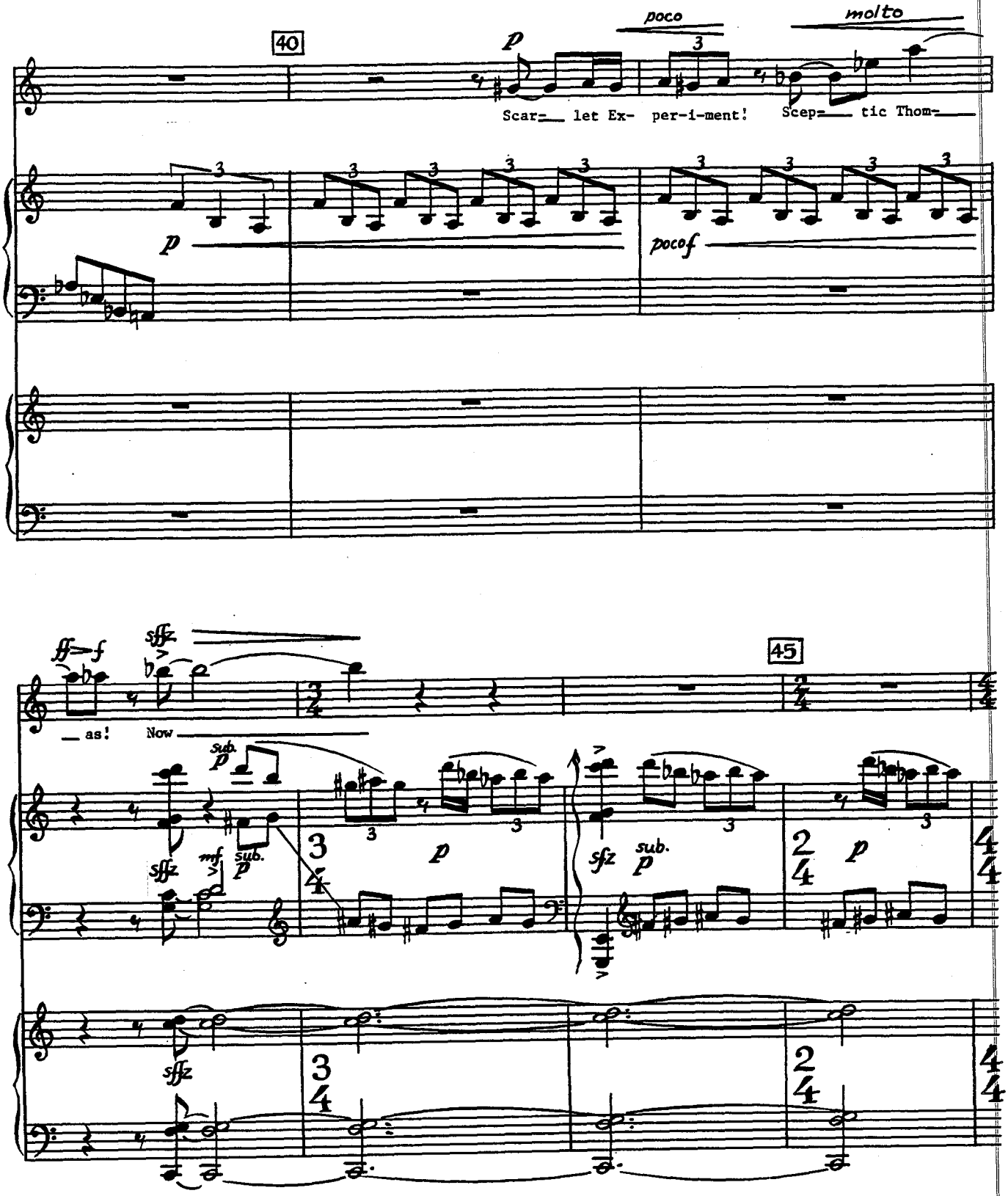

♩ = 116
ff
Loose the Flood,
8va
mp
fff
sfz
25
(8va)
f
mf
sfz
poco

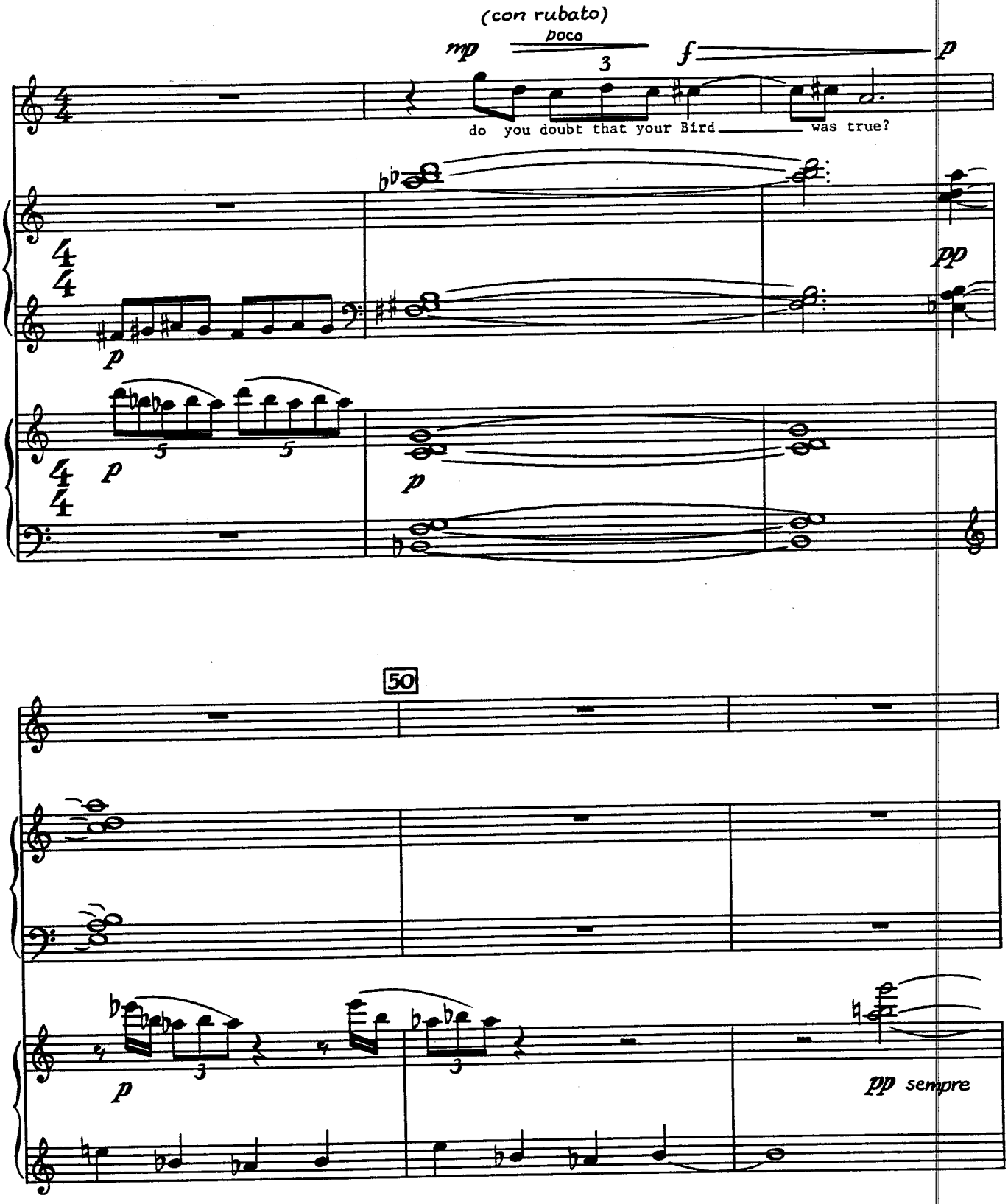


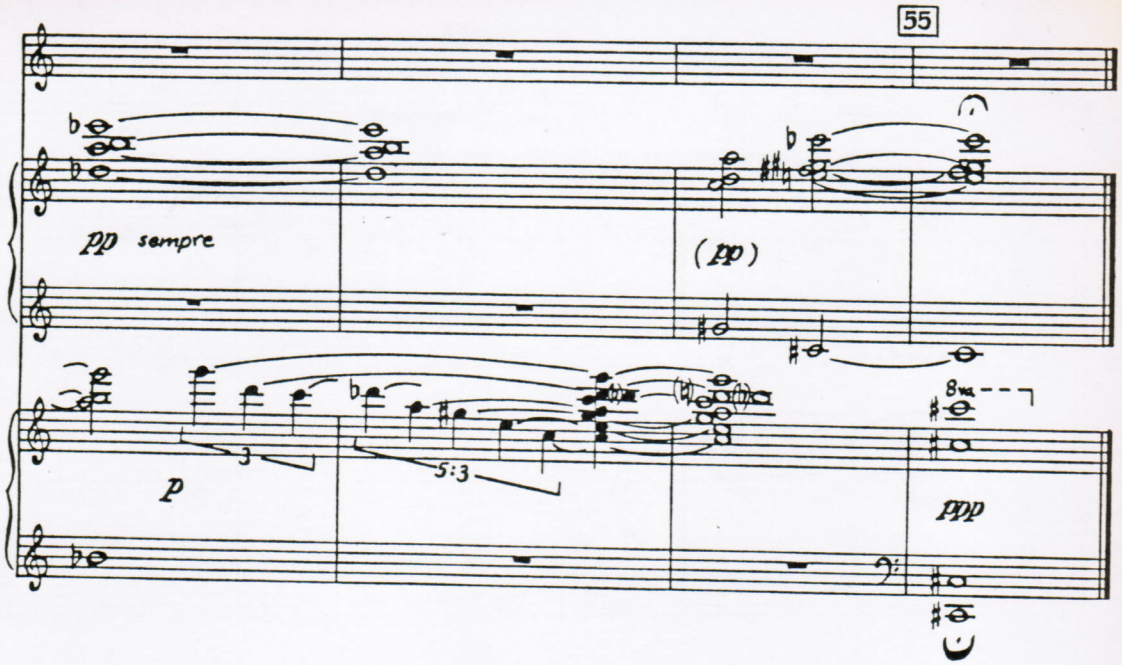
-* The unmeasured tremolos in the right and left hands should not be synchronous with one another. Also, the harmonic changes involved need only approximate the moments at which they appear in relation to Piano I.



* The allargando should result in more notes, not slower ones.


40
poco
molto
p
Scar- let Ex- per-i-ment! Scep- tic Thom-
p
pocof
45
fff—f
sffz
as! Now
sub. p
sffz
mf
sub. p
p
sfz
sub. p
p
sffz


(con rubato)
mp
poco
3
f
p
do you doubt that your Bird was true?
pp
p
5
5
p
p
50
p
3
3
pp sempre


55
pp sempre
(pp)
p
3
5:3
8va
ppp