KENNETH FROELICH

NERD SONGS

FOR HIGH VOICE AND PIANO

REGISTERED WITH BMI
PLEASE NOTIFY THE COMPOSER OF ALL PERFORMANCES
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BIOGRAPHY FOR KENNETH D. FROELICH

Described as "energetic, exciting, and rhythmically dynamic," composer KENNETH D. FROELICH's music has been performed internationally in England, Germany, Italy, France, Slovenia, Finland, Canada, Peru, Argentina, Chile, and China, as well as numerous major cities across theUnited States. Emerging as a vibrant new voice in the world of contemporary chamber and orchestral music, Kenneth has been honored with awards from ASCAP, the National Association of Composers/USA, Meet the Composer, the Percussive Arts Society, the American Composers Forum, and the Society of Composers Inc.

Kenneth's works have been presented by such acclaimed ensembles as the American Composers Orchestra, Duo46, Earplay, the Empyrean Ensemble, the California E.A.R Unit, the Jolles Duo, the Indianapolis Symphonic Orchestra, Conundrum, the Universityof New Mexico Percussion Ensemble, the Universityof Southern California Symphony Orchestra, the Indiana University New Music Ensemble, and the Orpheus Ensemble of Fresno. Some of his more recent works include **Visionary** (2011), premiered by the Fresno State Wind Orchestra; **Unwinding Time** (2008) for oboe and computer, performed by Krista Riggs at the International Double Reed Society 2009 conference in Birmingham, England; and **Neurotica** (2008) for flute and percussion trio, performed by flutist Teresa Beaman at several venues in South America and at the 2010 National Flute Association Convention in Anaheim, CA.

Kenneth continues to serve as composer-in-remote-residence for the Heretic Opera of Portland. His opera **Valentine** (2010) will be recorded and released through Heretic Opera in 2012. Other upcoming premieres include **Nerd Songs** (2012) for soprano Ann Moss, new wind ensemble works for the UNLV, Western Oregon, and University of the Pacific wind ensembles, and a new brass ensemble work for "Brass in Blue," part of the U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band. Kenneth recently participated in a week-long residency at Cornell University from October 12th through 18th, 2010, as part of Meet the Composer's Music Alive: New Partnerships residency program. His orchestral work **Pulse Mutations** (2004) was performed as part of this residency.

Kenneth received both his Doctorate of Music and Masters of Music degrees from Indiana University, and received his Bachelors of Music degree summa cum laude from the University of Southern California in 1999. His principal composition teachers include Claude Baker, Don Freund, Sven-David Sandstrőm, Eugene O'Brien, Donald Crocket, Frederick Lesemann, Morten Lauridsen, and Erica Muhl.

Kenneth currently resides in Fresno,CA with his wife Jennifer and daughter Katerina, where he is Associate Professor in Music Composition at California State University,Fresno and director of the Fresno New Music Festival. He previously taught at Ball State University in Muncie ,IN, and at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival in Sewanee, TN.

Kenneth's percussion ensemble work Accidental Migration is available through C. Alan Publications, and his concert band work Tock is available through Wingert-Jones Publications. Additional scores are available through JOMAR Press and his website at www.kennethfroelich.com.

NOTES FOR NERD SONGS

As a child growing up in the 80s, it was often very difficult to come to terms with my identity. I was a nerd. That meant I was shunned by my peers, pursued obscure and often obtuse hobbies that few others understood, and spent much of my childhood on my own. Being a nerd was simply not accepted during this period of time. So, as a teenager I worked to hide this identity as much as possible - in effect living a double-life between pursuing nerdy hobbies at home and conveying (quite poorly) a "cooler" exterior to my peers. I am thus quite fortunate that, in recent years, being a nerd is not the stigma that it was once. As a result, I have been able to not only accept my identity as a nerd - but fully embrace it. Make no mistake - *Nerd Songs* is a labor of love, representing everything that I enjoyed as a child, now brought forth with pride..

Each song within the cycle directly references subjects that are near-and-dear to my geeky soul. Classic role-playing games, Super Mario Bros., the BASIC computer language, Star Trek, and a small list of 80s television shows each serve as the inspiration of both the text and the music for each piece. These topics also happen to be passionate pursuits of mine - hobbies and interests that I indulged in as a child and teenager, and continue to pursue even today.

TOTAL PLAYING TIME - 11'20"

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TEXTS FOR NERD SONGS

I. GUK'S LAMENT

Tragedy! Ill fate!
How could this happen?
Where did I go wrong?

The plan was perfect!
Immaculate. Unassailable.
My plus five demonic battle-axe of cleaving in my hands,
I was invincible.

But luck was cruel.
I rolled a ONE.
The goblin archer rolled a TWENTY.
I collapsed, my dwarven honor was crushed.

My days as a warrior done,
I will spend the rest of my years drinking mead,
Warning young adventures of the perils of
Goblin Arrows.

II. WRONG CASTLE

Is it true? Am I saved?
My loyal servant tells me so!
My hero has slain my captor -
MARIO comes for me!

Oh wonder, oh rapture!
I knew he would triumph!
No mushrooms, nor turtles, could
Stop his victory charge!

I think I hear him now!
He approaches my door!
It opens! And - what's that now?
He went to the wrong castle???
...Pity.

III. HELLO WORLD

note: the following text paraphrases a working segment of BASIC code - actual code is next to each line

TEN. Goto FORTY.	10 GOTO 40
TWENTY. Print A-String.	20 PRINT A$;
THIRTY. Goto SEVENTY.	30 GOTO 70
FORTY. Let A-String equal "L O Space."	40 LET A$="LO "
FIFTY. Print "H E L."	50 PRINT "HEL";
SIXTY. Goto NINETY.	60 GOTO 90
SEVENTY. Print B-String "L D."	70 PRINT B$;"LD";
EIGHTY. Goto ONE-HUNDRED TEN.	80 GOTO 110
NINETY. Let B-String equal "W O R."	90 LET B$="WOR"
ONE-HUNDRED. Goto TWENTY.	100 GOTO 20
ONE-HUNDRED TEN. End.	110 END
Run.	RUN
HELLO WORLD	Hello World.

IV. RED SHIRT

This was fate.
My destiny is complete.
I die knowing I played my part.
I am thankful that, as my vision fades,
The last thing I will see is
My beloved red shirt,
Torn asunder from my chest,
Ripped to pieces by
A Klingon's pet Targ.

V. RAISED IN THE 80s

In my childhood...
I believed in "turtle power,"
A plan always came together,
Raising a sword gave you the power,
Knowing was half the battle,
and there always was more than meets the eye.

Now with a child of my own...
"Turtle power" sadly does not exist,
A plan is hardly foolproof,
Raising a sword will get you arrested,
Knowing is definitely half the battle, if not more,
And while there may be more than meets the eye,
You may not want to know.
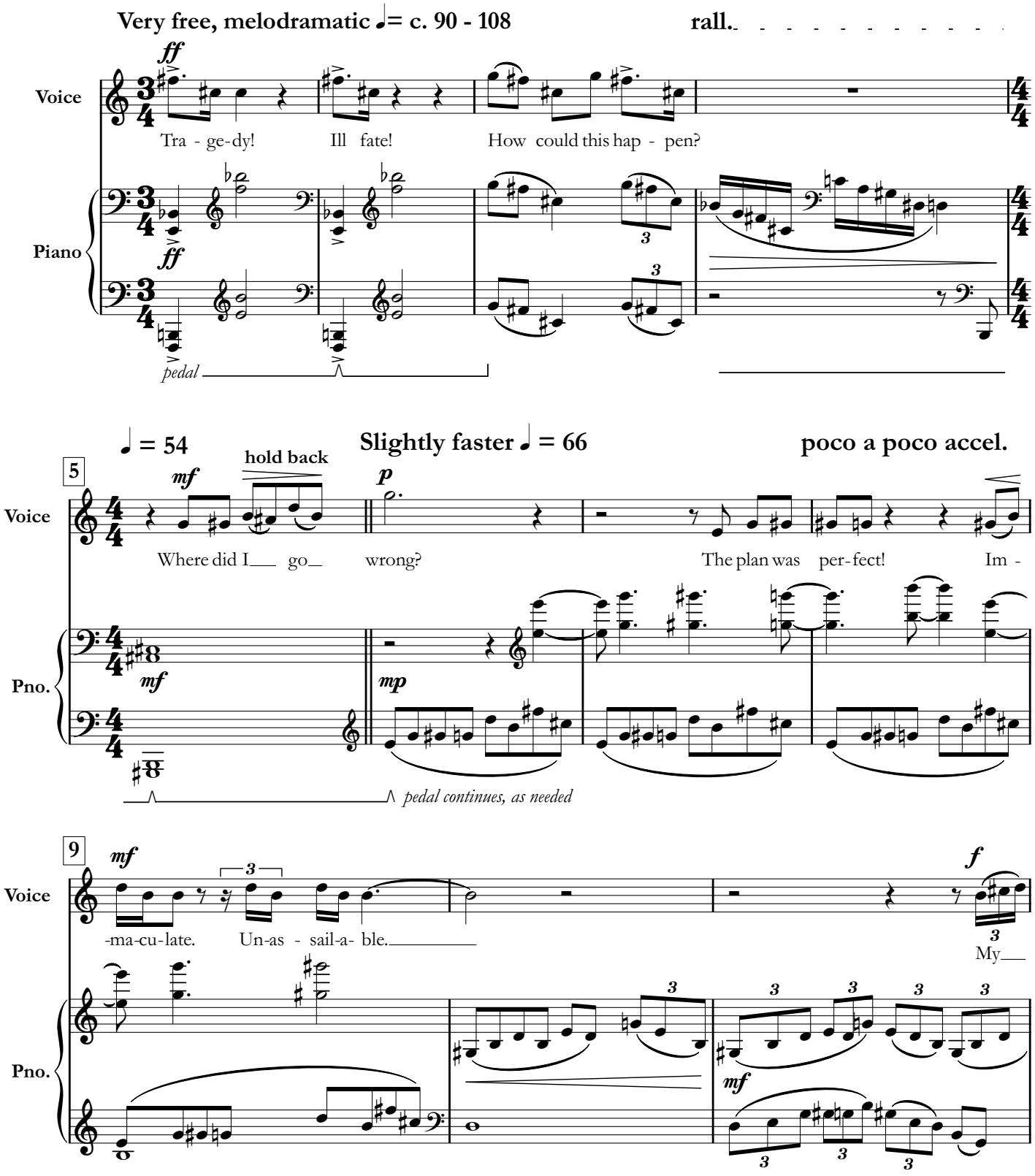
NERD SONGS
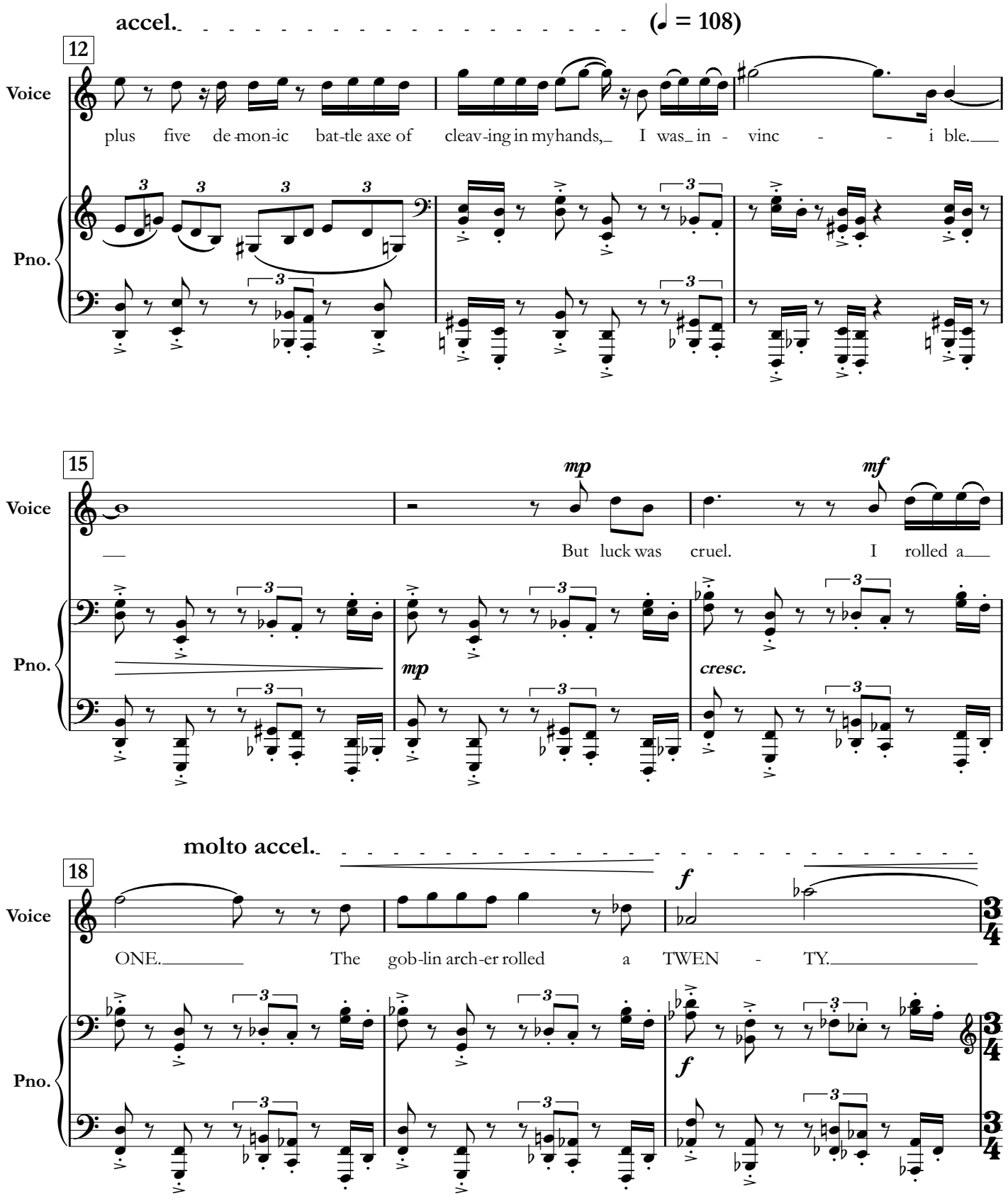
for High Voice and Piano
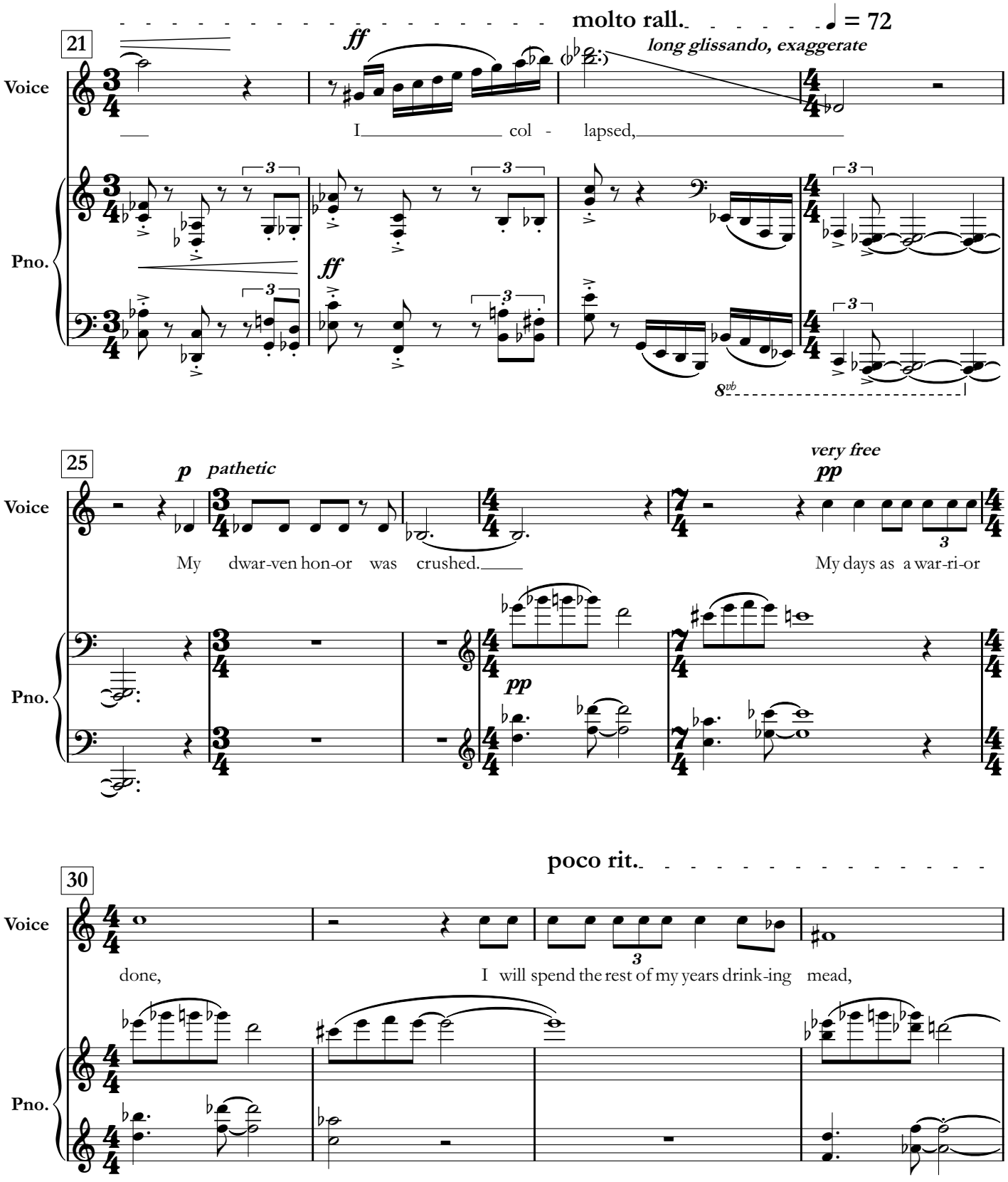
(2012)

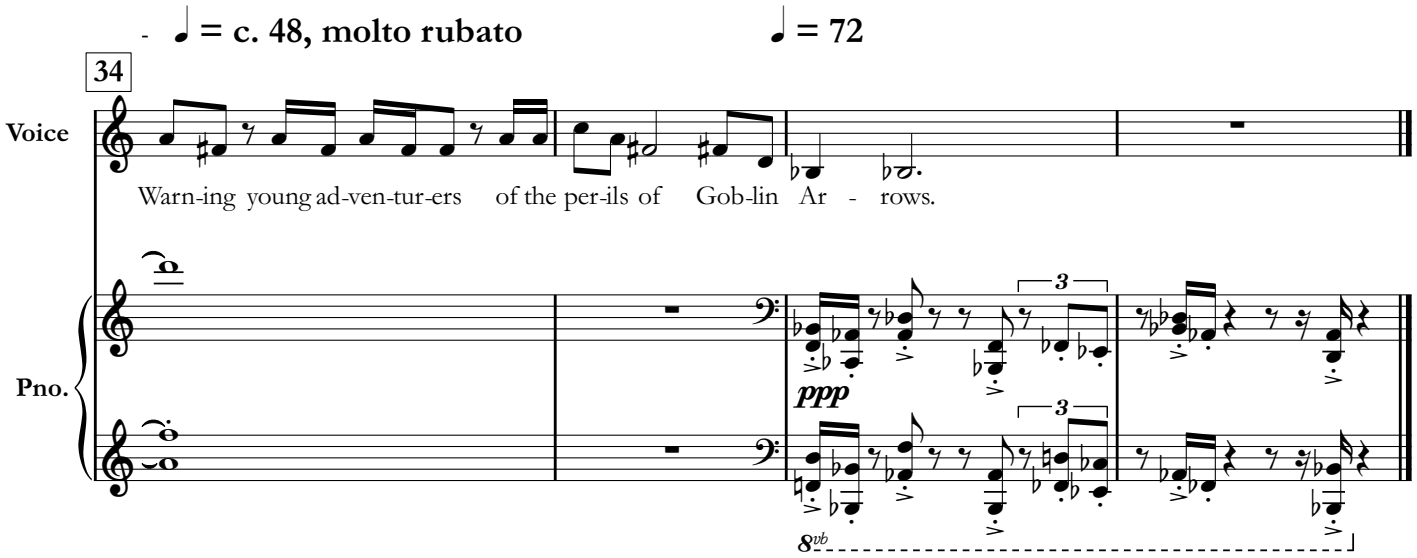
I. GUK'S LAMENT

LYRICS AND MUSIC BY
KENNETH D. FROELICH
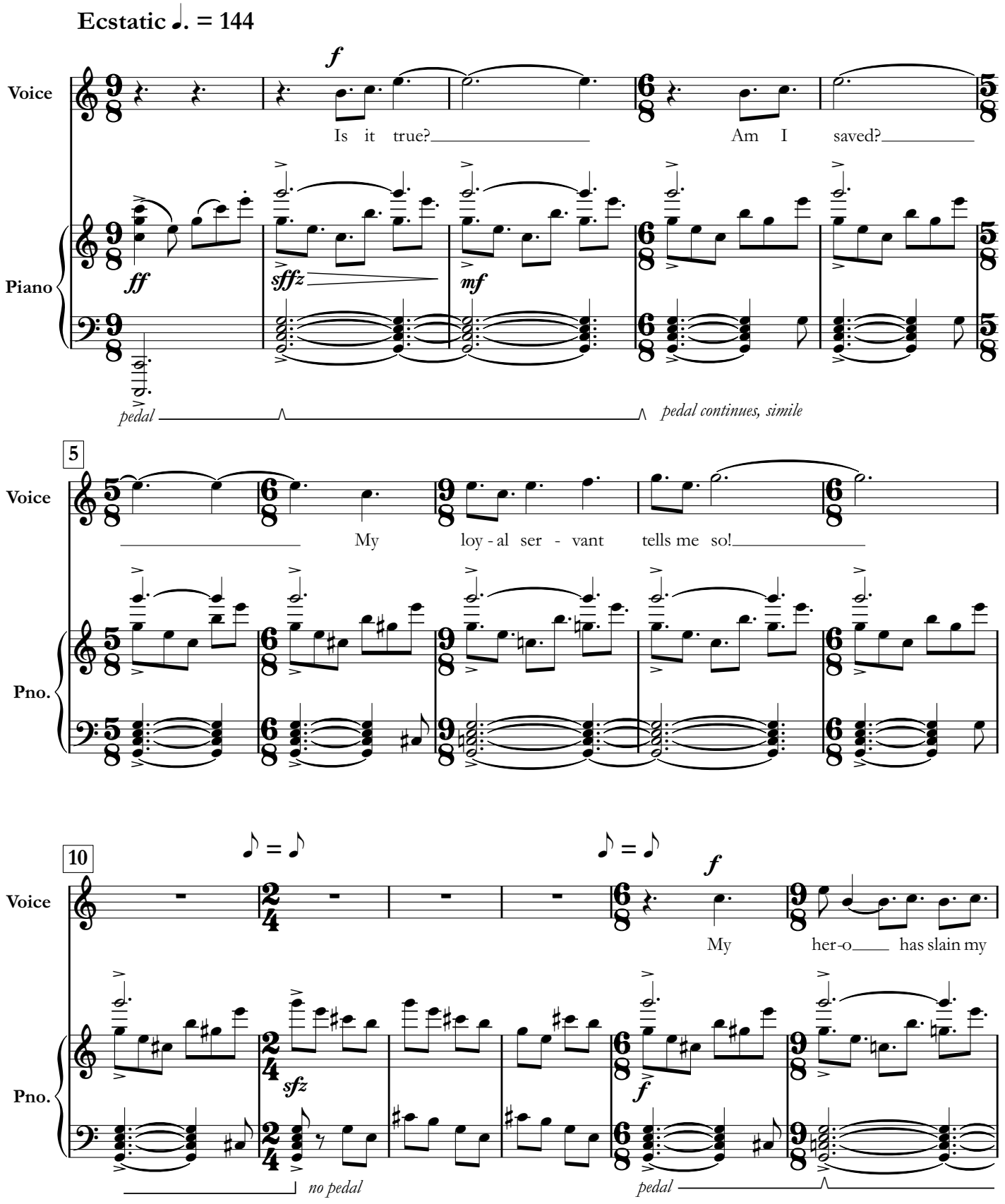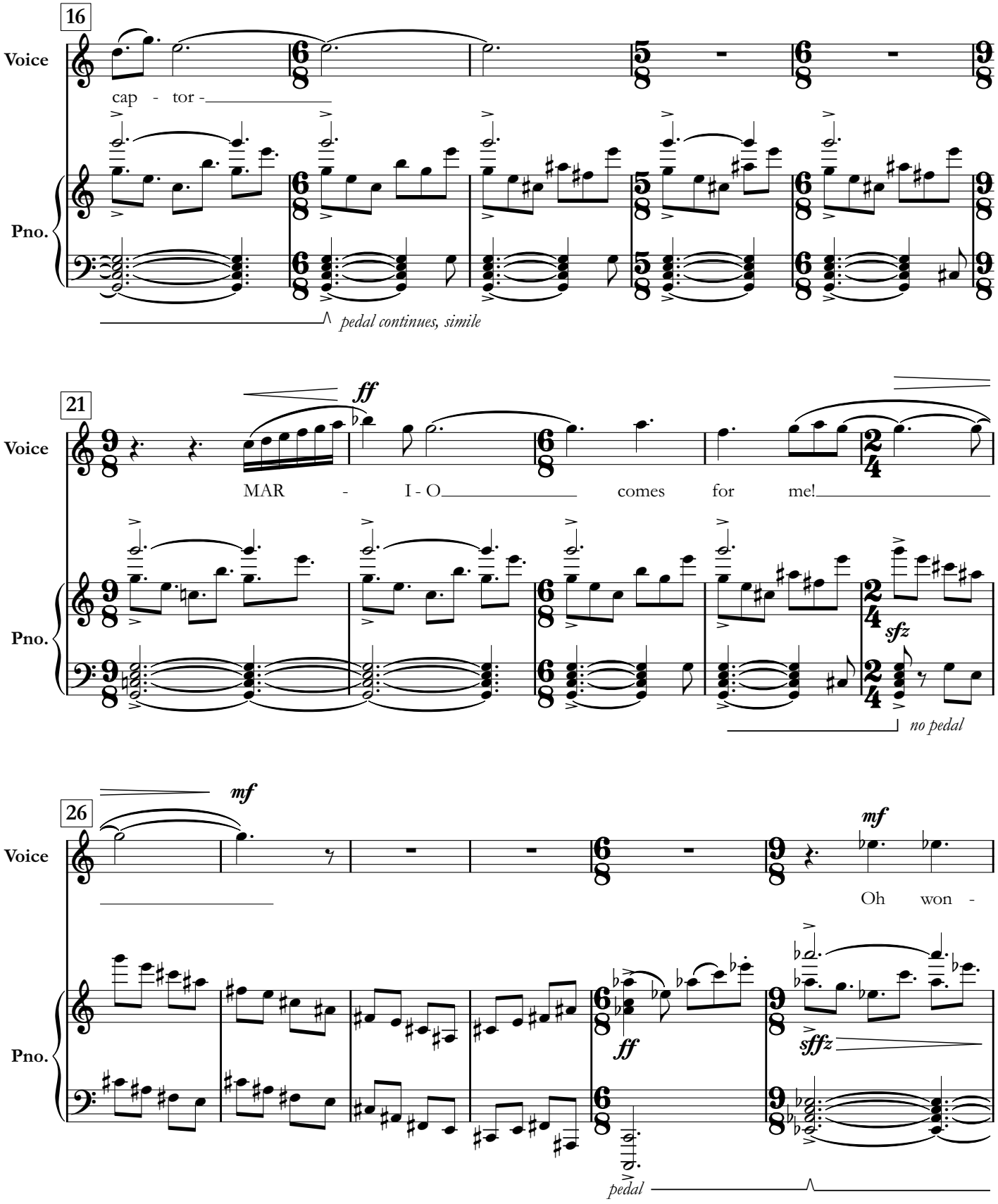



accel.
(♩ = 108)
12
Voice
plus five de-mon-ic bat-tle axe of cleav-ing in my hands, I was in - vinc - - i ble.
Pno.
15
Voice
But luck was cruel. I rolled a
mp
mf
Pno.
mp
cresc.
molto accel.
18
Voice
ONE. The gob-lin arch-er rolled a TWEN - TY.
f
Pno.
f
3/4
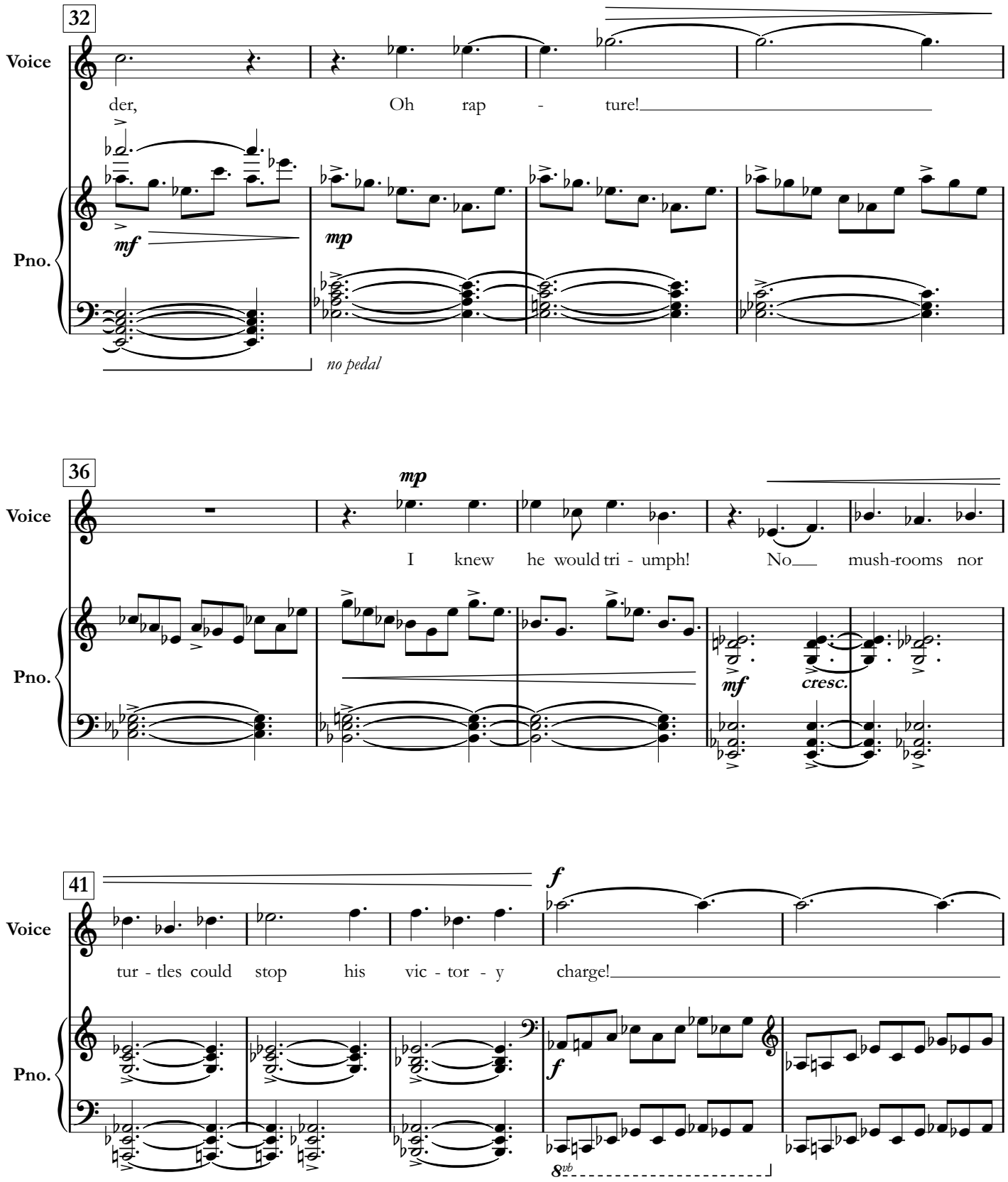

molto rall.
♩ = 72
21
Voice
Pno.
ff
long glissando, exaggerate
I col - lapsed,
8vb
25
p pathetic
very free
pp
My dwar-ven hon-or was crushed.
My days as a war-ri-or
poco rit.
30
done,
I will spend the rest of my years drink-ing mead,
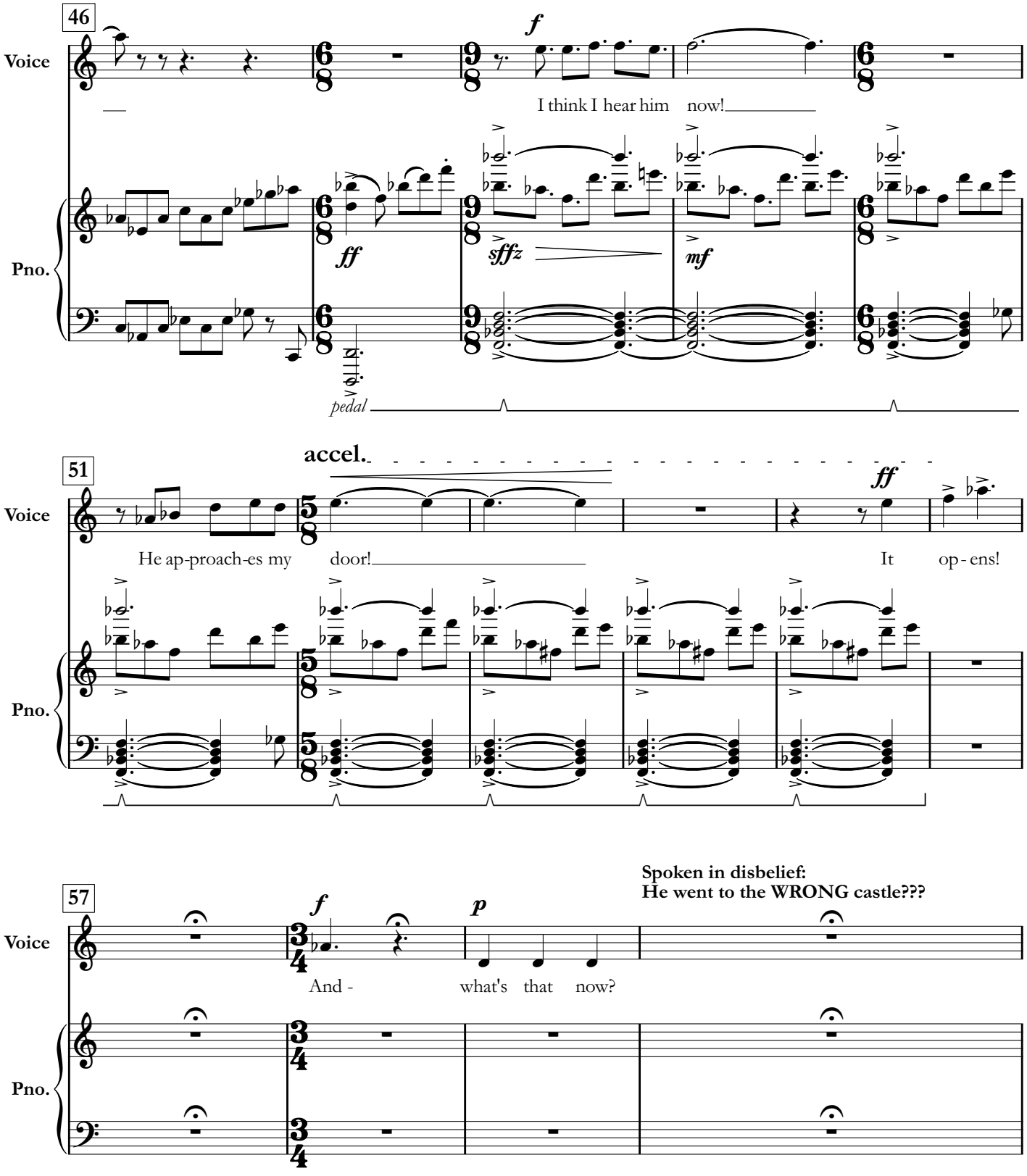

♩ = c. 48, molto rubato
♩ = 72
34
Voice
Warn-ing young ad-ven-tur-ers of the per-ils of Gob-lin Ar - rows.
Pno.
ppp
3
3
8vb

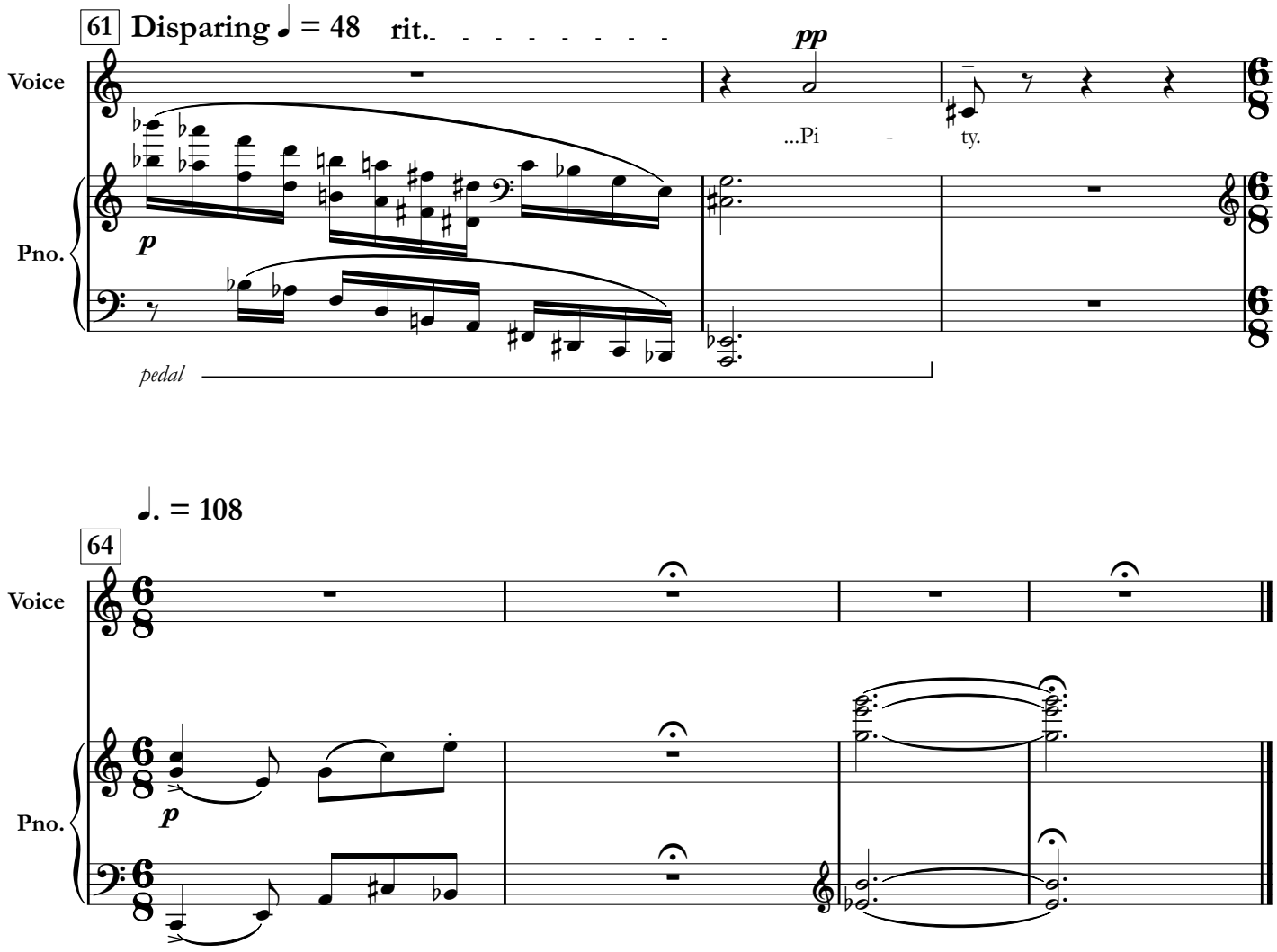
II. WRONG CASTLE




16
Voice
cap - tor -
Pno.
pedal continues, simile
21
Voice
ff
MAR - I - O comes for me!
Pno.
sfz
no pedal
26
Voice
mf
mf
Oh won -
Pno.
ff
sffz
pedal
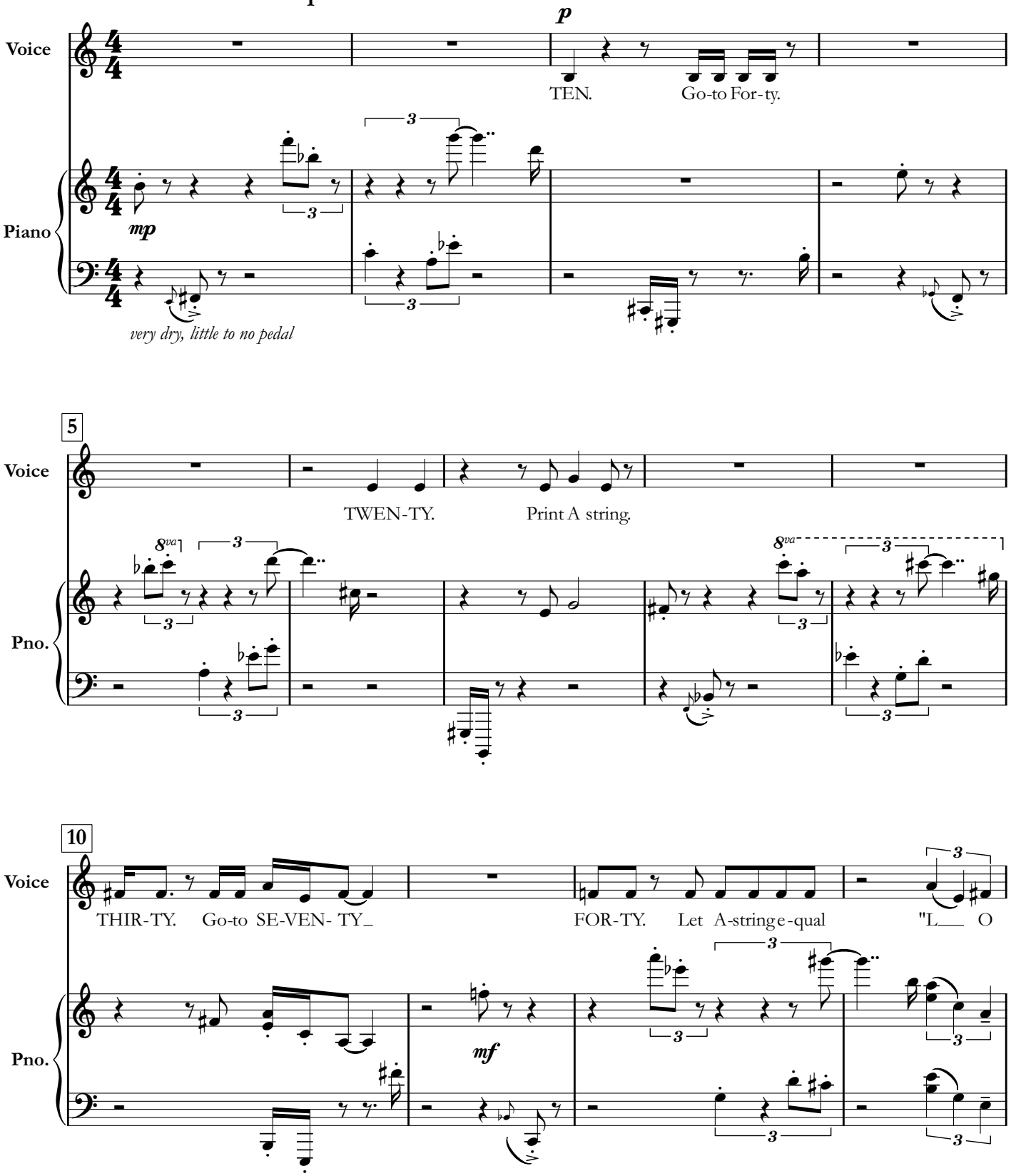

32
Voice
der, Oh rap - ture!
Pno.
mf
mp
no pedal
36
Voice
mp
I knew he would tri - umph! No mush-rooms nor
Pno.
mf
cresc.
41
Voice
f
tur - tles could stop his vic - tor - y charge!
Pno.
f
8vb
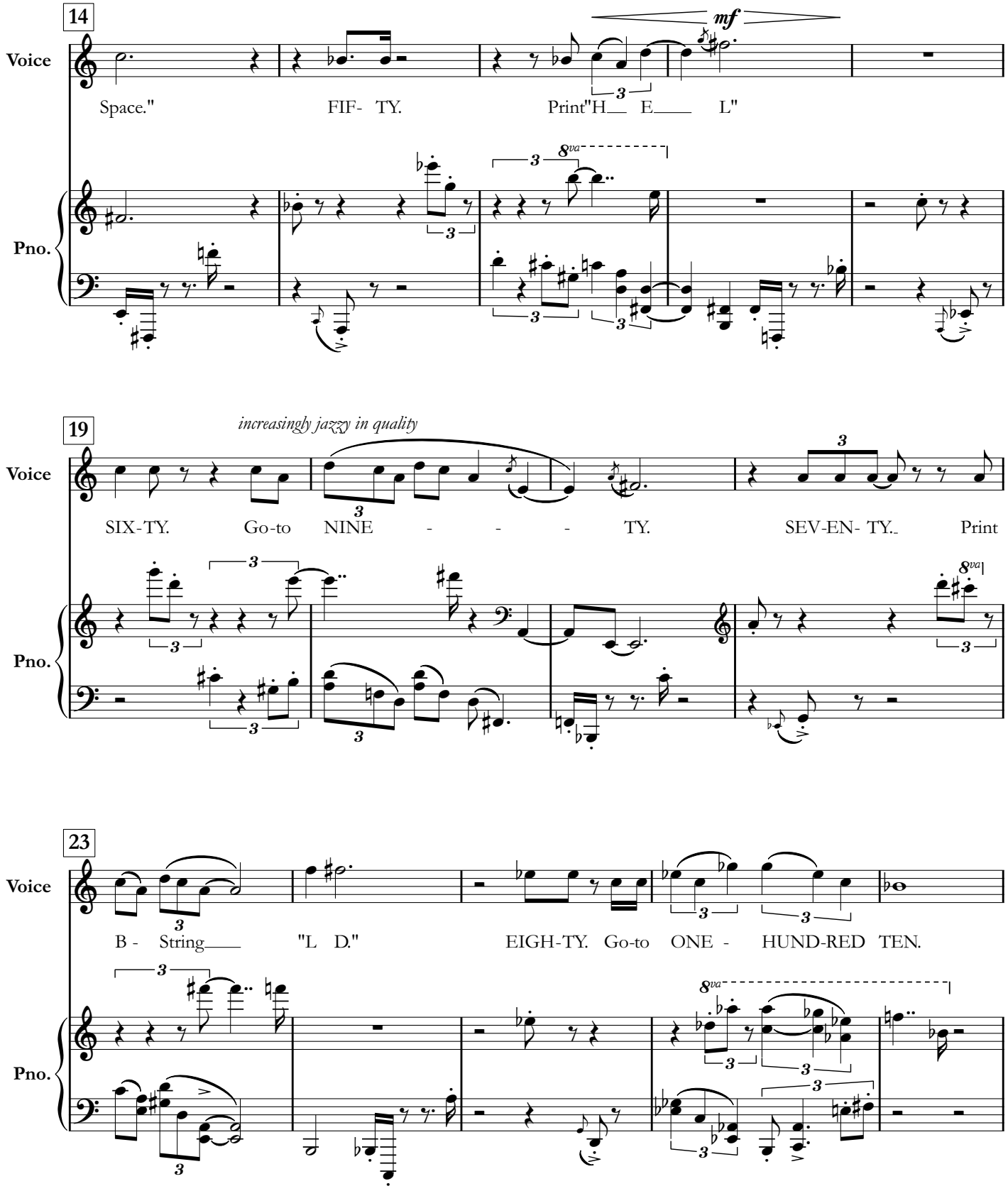

46
Voice
Pno.
f
I think I hear him now!
ff
sffz
mf
pedal
51
accel.
ff
He ap-proach-es my door!
It op - ens!
57
f
p
Spoken in disbelief:
He went to the WRONG castle???
And -
what's that now?
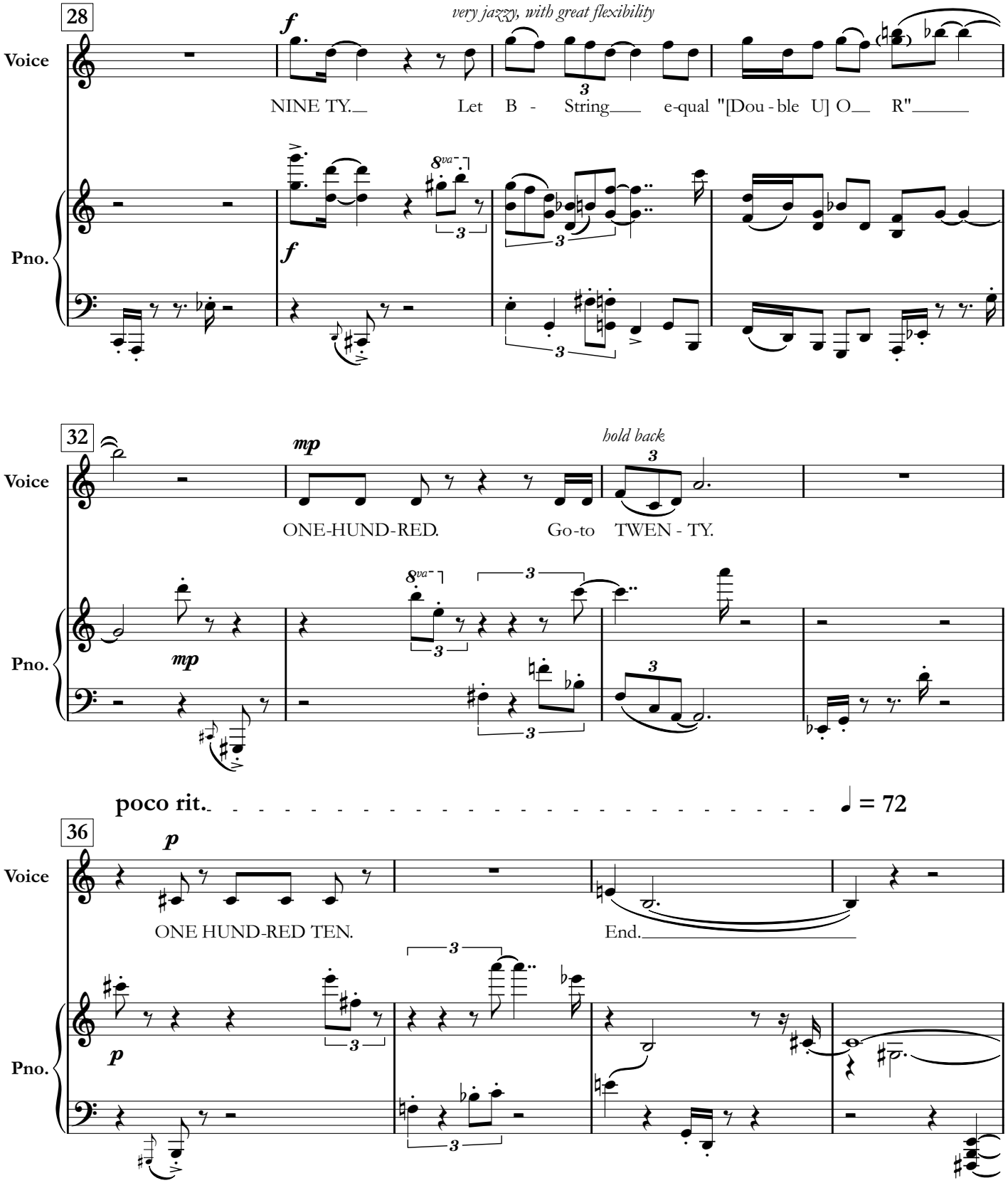

61
Disparing ♩ = 48
rit.
pp
Voice
...Pi
-
ty.
p
Pno.
pedal
♩. = 108
64
Voice
p
Pno.

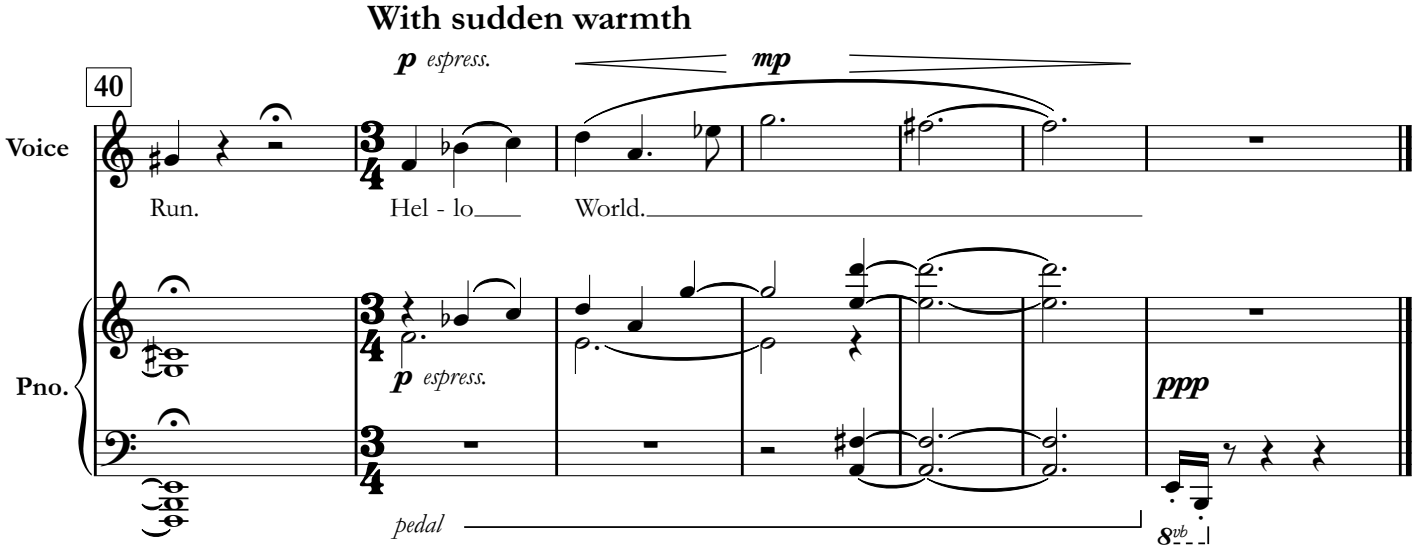
III. HELLO WORLD

As mechanical as possible ♩ = 90
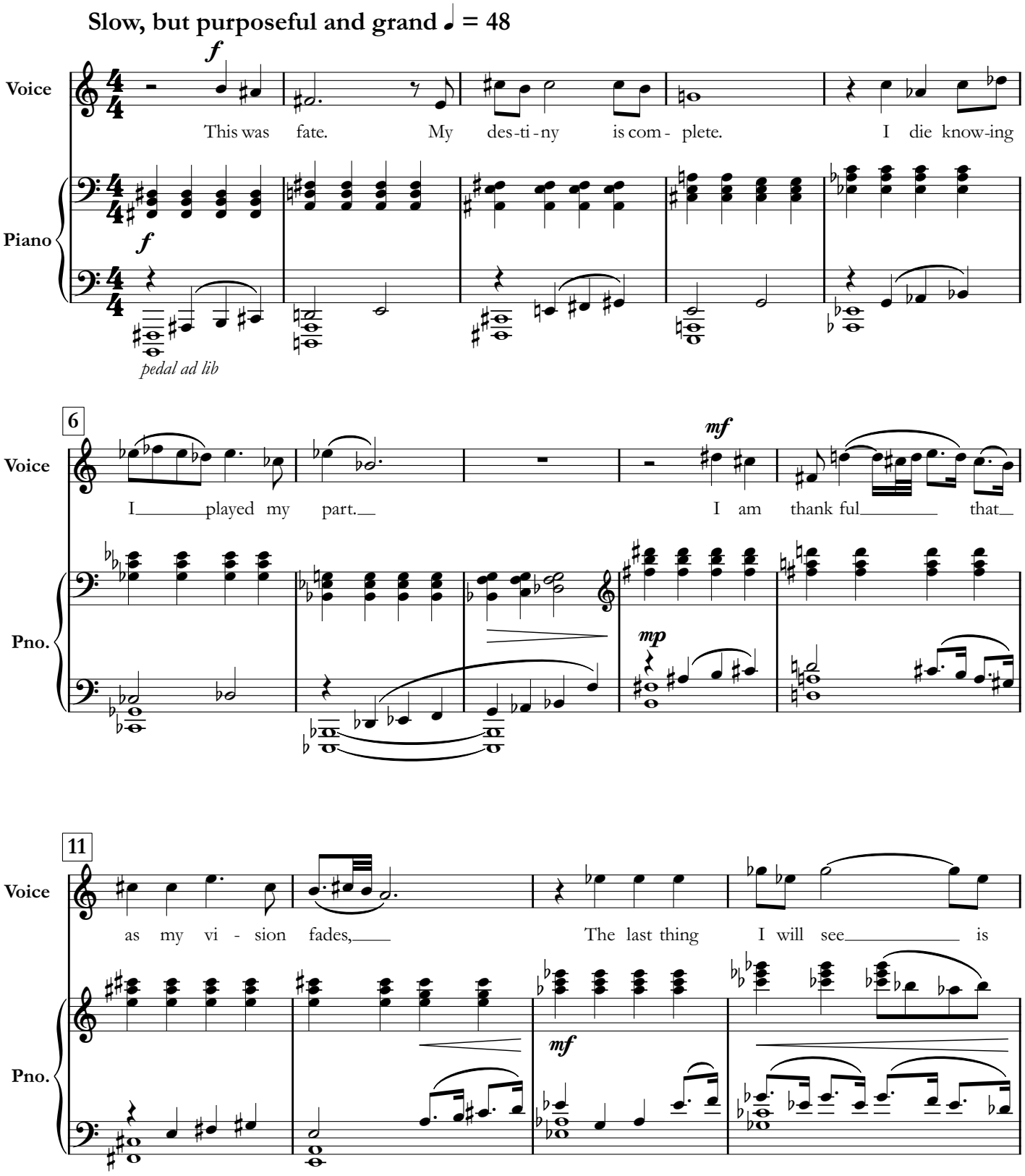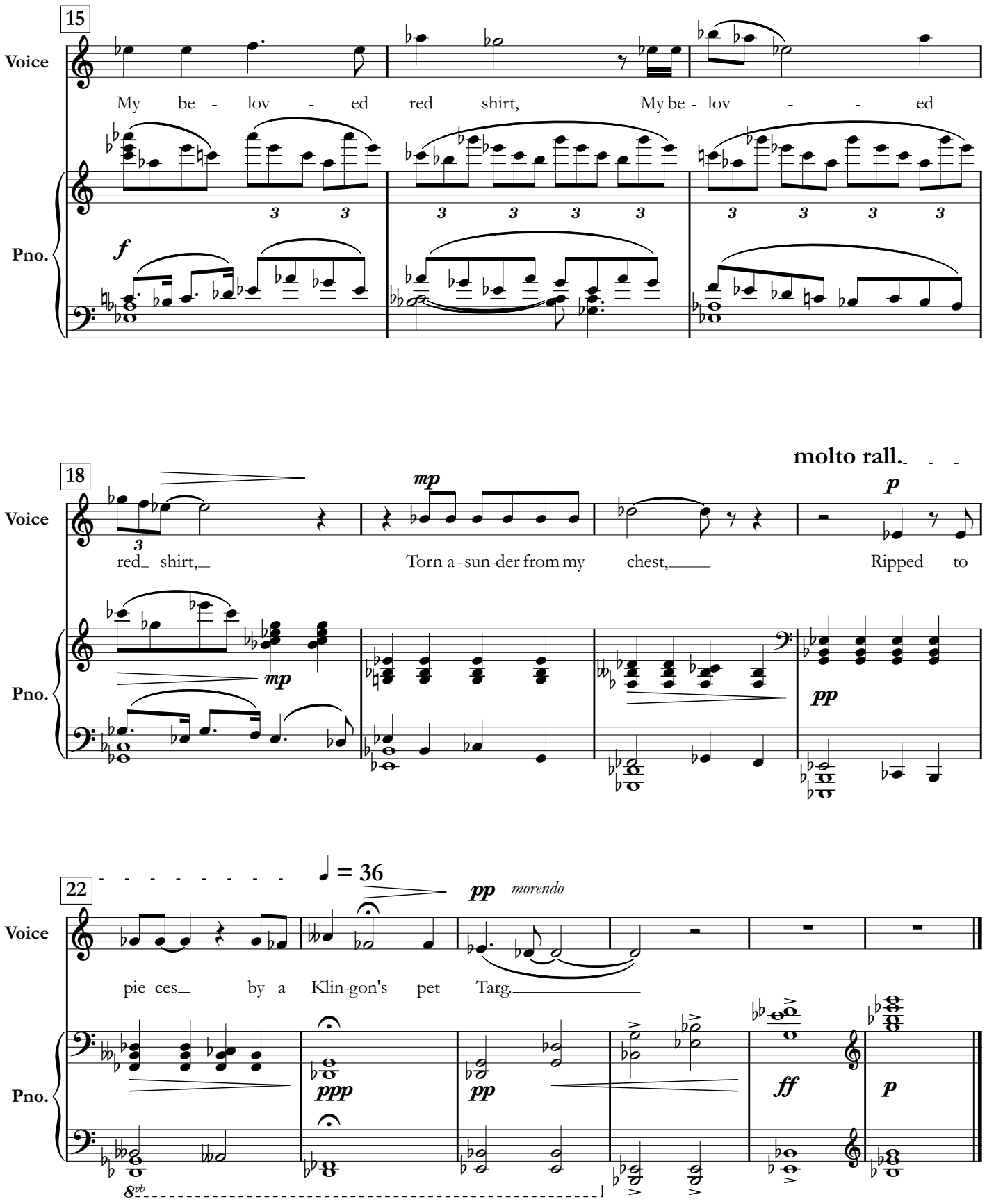



14
mf
Voice
Space."
FIF- TY.
Print"H E L"
8va
Pno.
19
increasingly jazzy in quality
Voice
SIX-TY.
Go-to
NINE - - - TY.
SEV-EN- TY.
Print
8va
Pno.
23
Voice
B - String
"L D."
EIGH-TY.
Go-to
ONE -
HUND-RED
TEN.
8va
Pno.


28
very jazzy, with great flexibility
Voice
NINE TY. Let B - String e-qual "[Dou - ble U] O R"
Pno.
32
hold back
Voice
ONE-HUND-RED. Go-to TWEN - TY.
Pno.
poco rit.
♩ = 72
36
Voice
ONE HUND-RED TEN. End.
Pno.


With sudden warmth
40
Voice
Pno.
p espress.
mp
Run.
Hel - lo
World.
p espress.
ppp
pedal
8vb
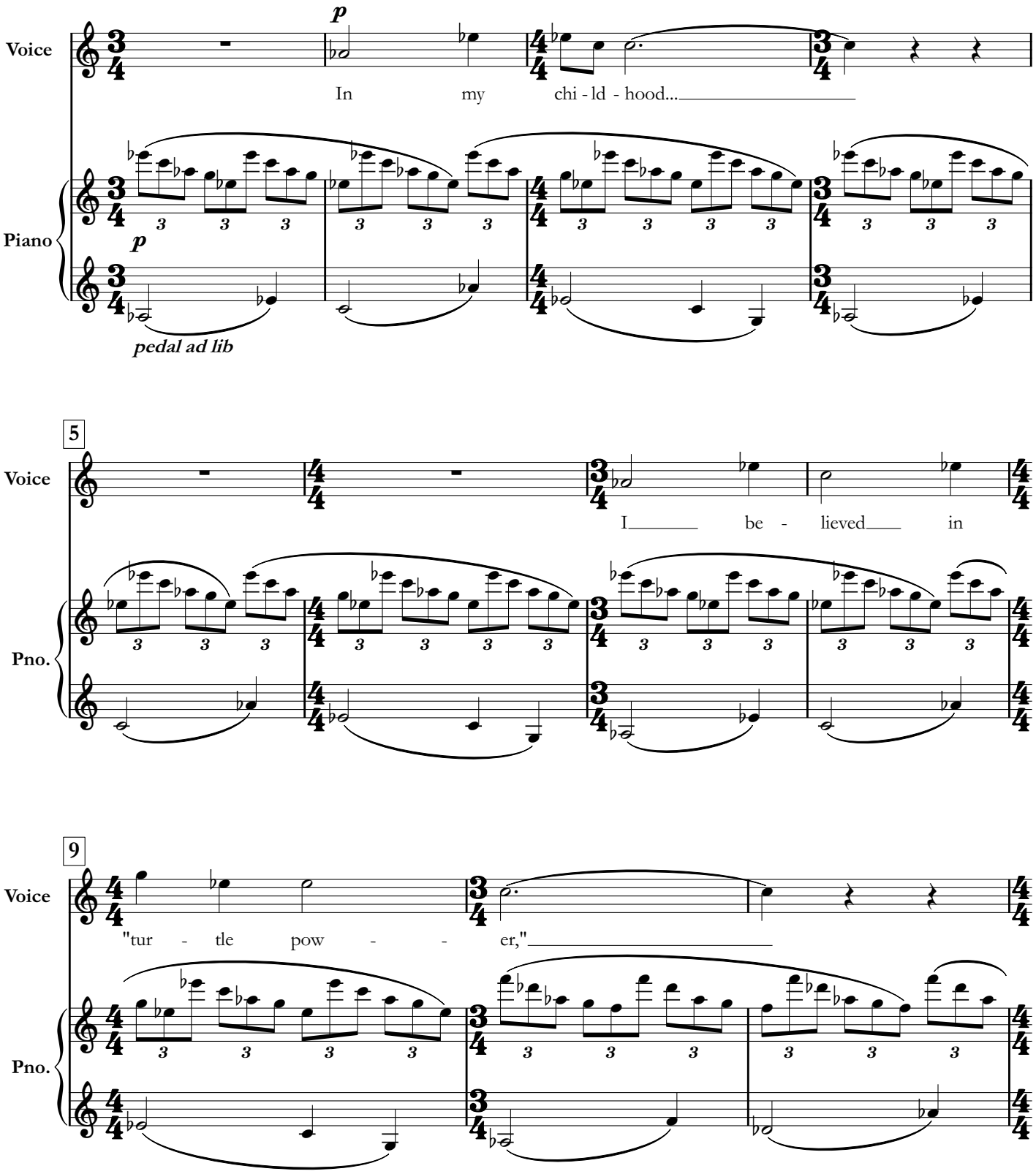
IV. RED SHIRT
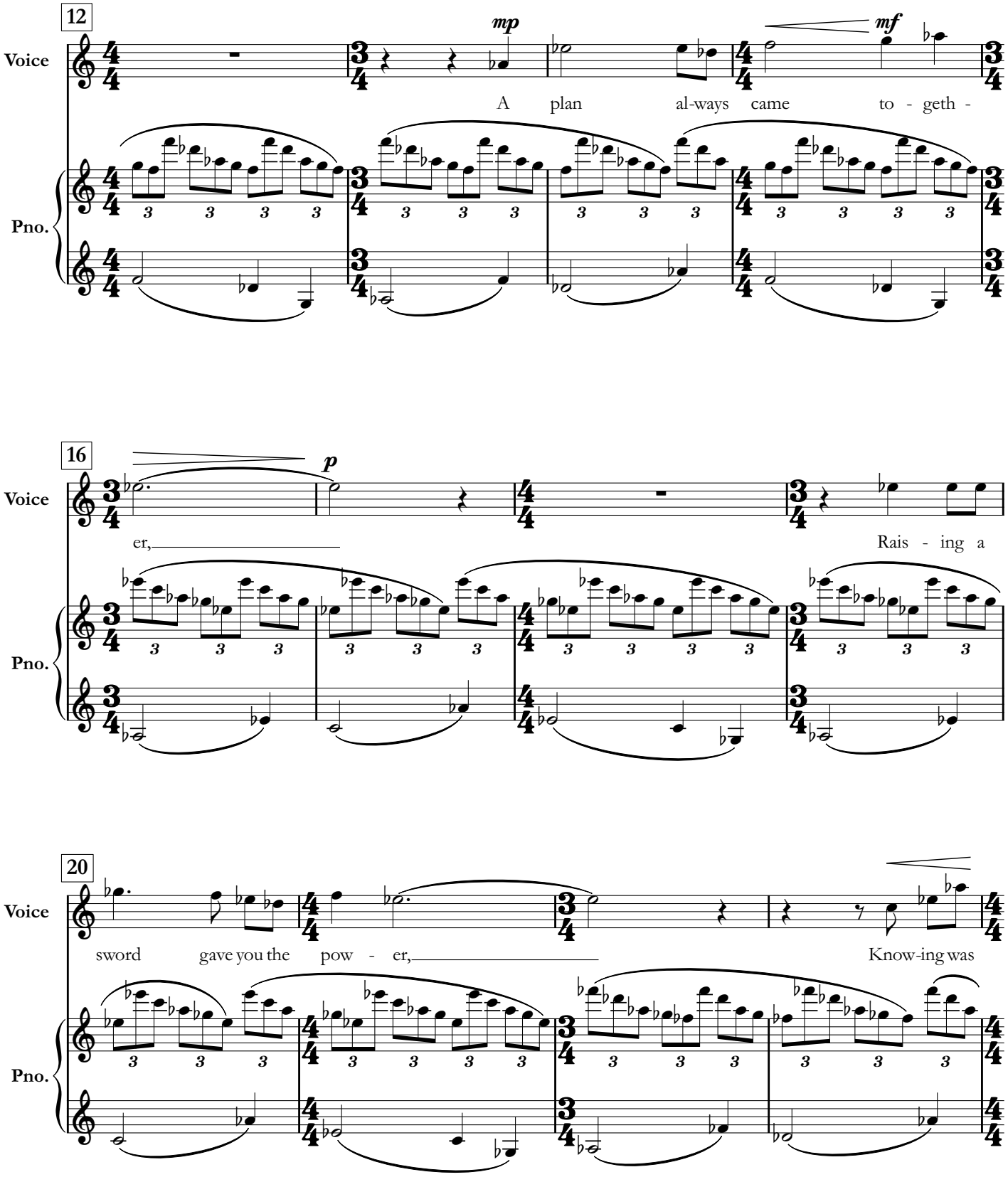

Slow, but purposeful and grand ♩ = 48
Voice
Piano
f
This was fate. My des-ti-ny is com-plete. I die know-ing
pedal ad lib
6
mf
I played my part. I am thank ful that
Pno.
mp
11
as my vi-sion fades, The last thing I will see is
mf
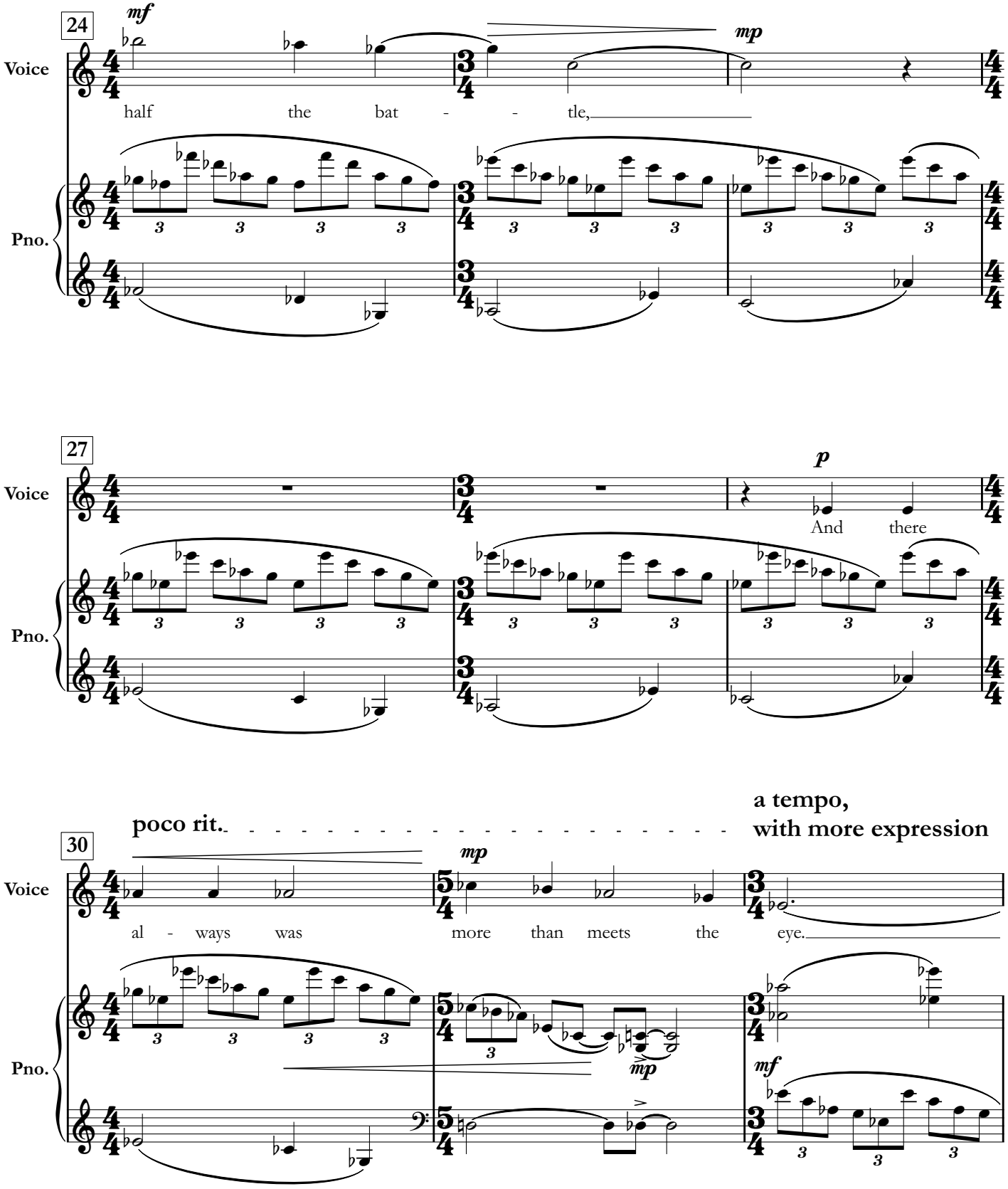

15
Voice
My be - lov - ed red shirt, My be - lov - - ed
Pno.
f
18
molto rall.
mp
p
Voice
red shirt, Torn a - sun-der from my chest, Ripped to
Pno.
mp
pp
22
♩ = 36
pp morendo
Voice
pie ces by a Klin-gon's pet Targ.
Pno.
ppp
pp
ff
p
8vb
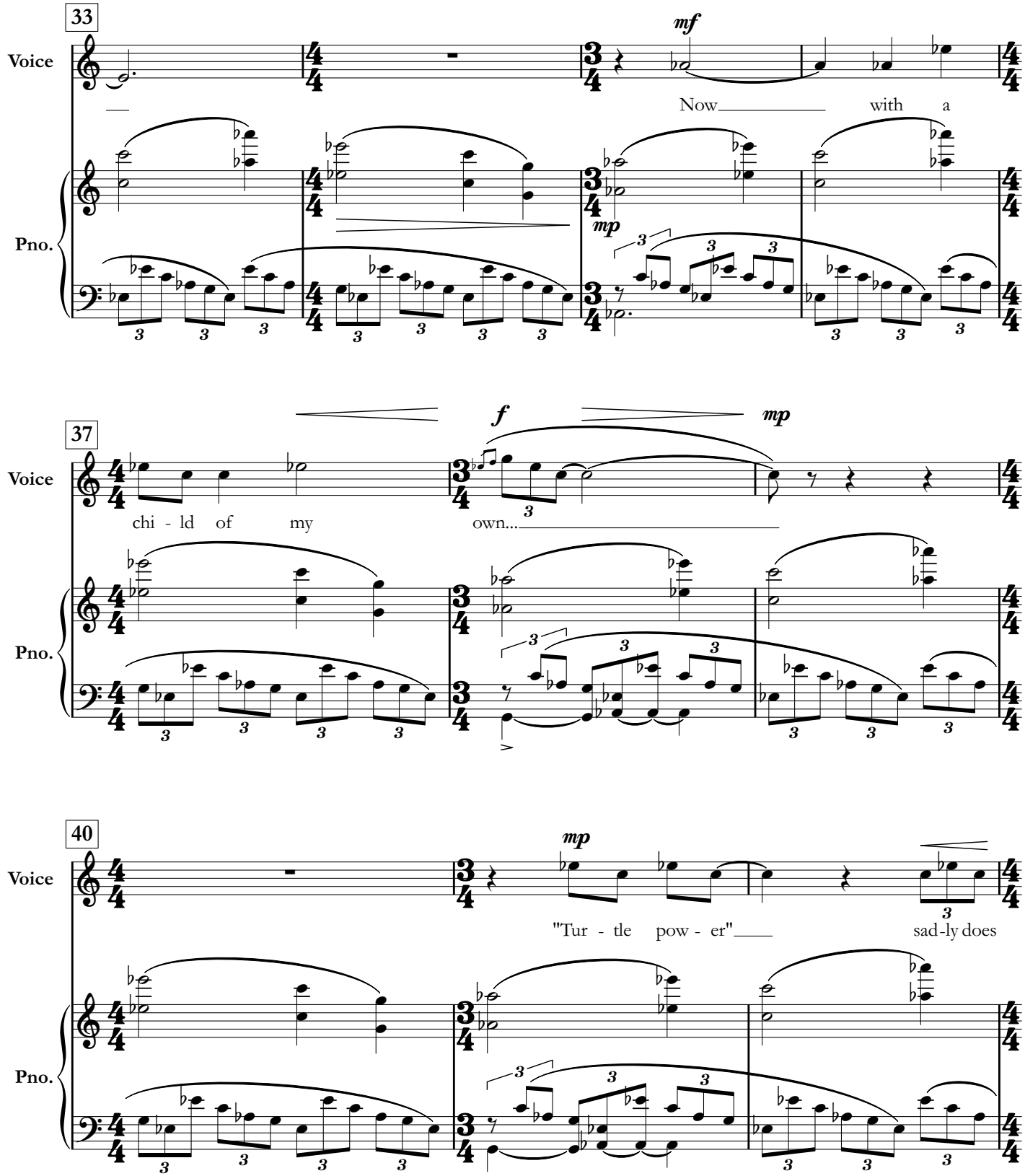
V. CHILD OF THE EIGHTIES
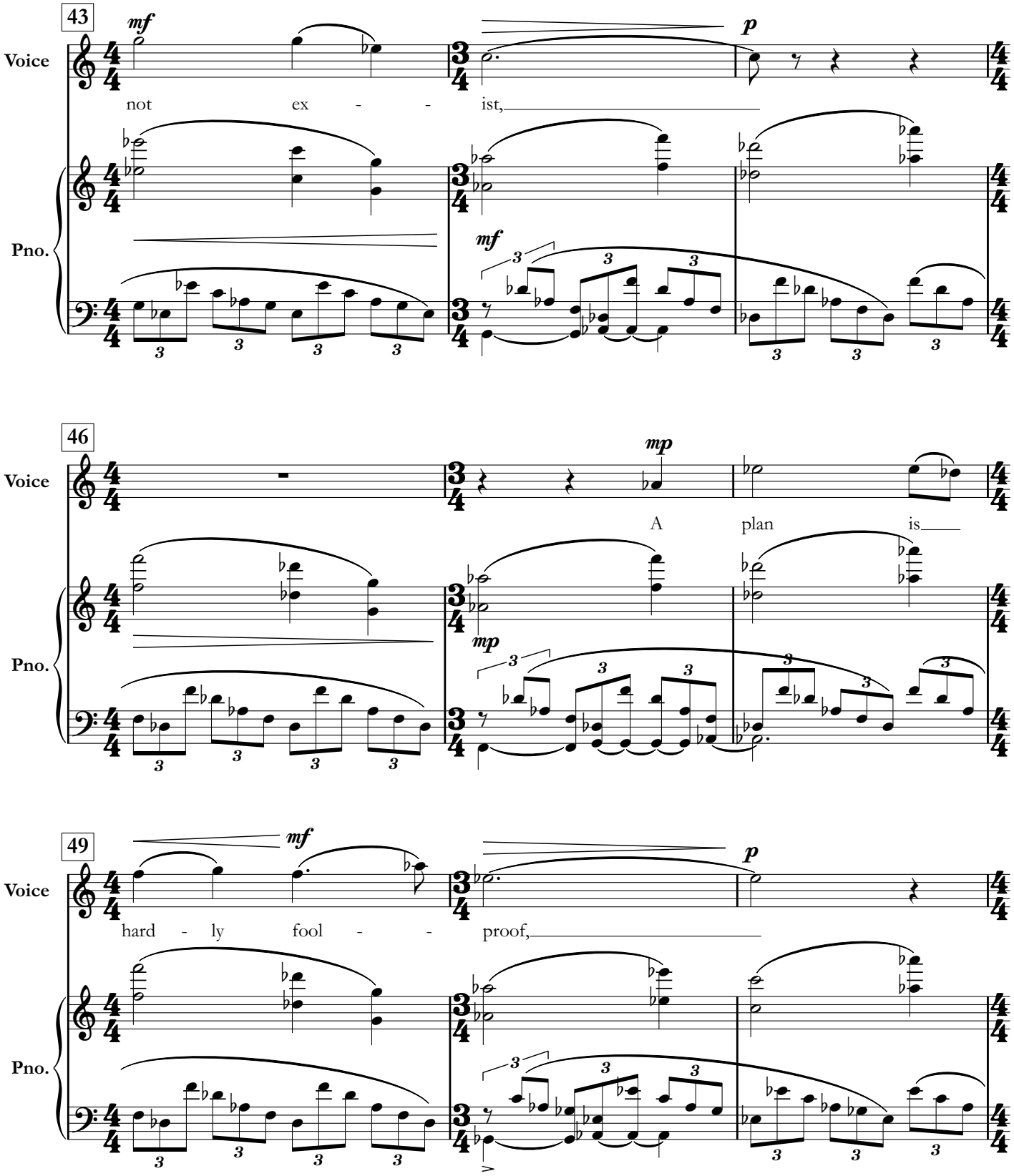
Tenderly, nostalgic ♩ = 76
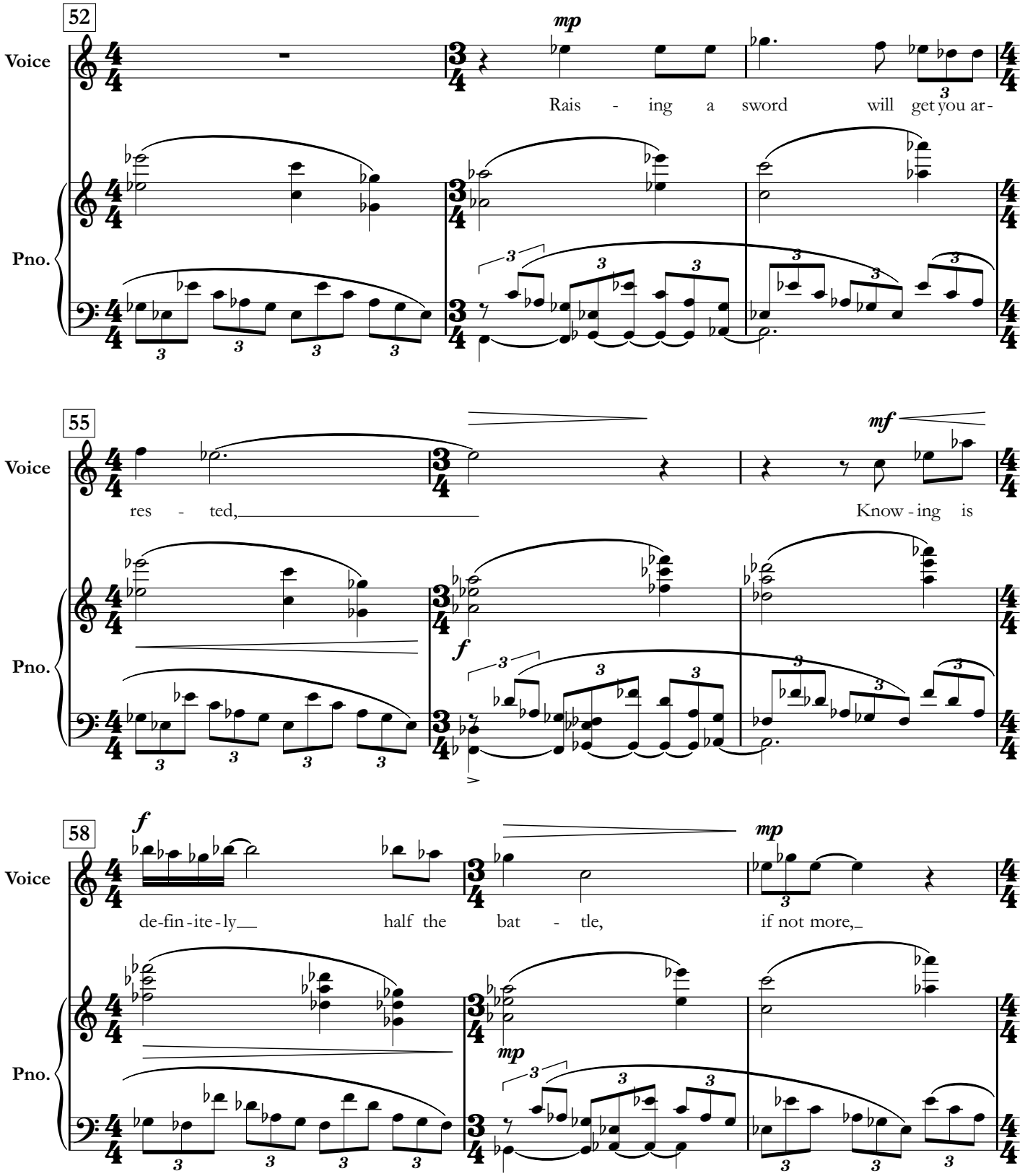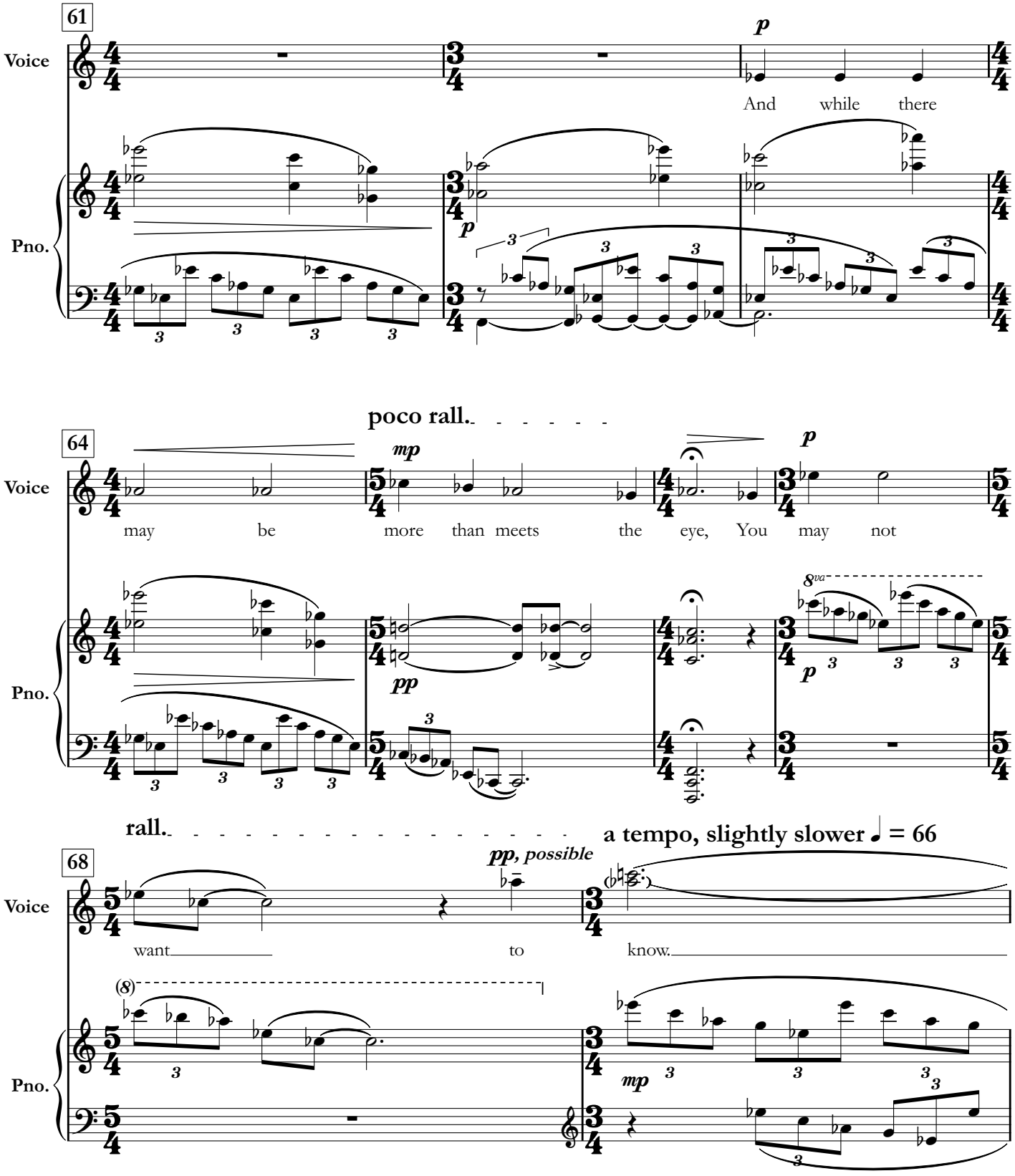



12
Voice
Pno.
mp
mf
A plan al-ways came to - geth -
16
Voice
Pno.
p
er,
Rais - ing a
20
Voice
Pno.
sword gave you the pow - er,
Know-ing was

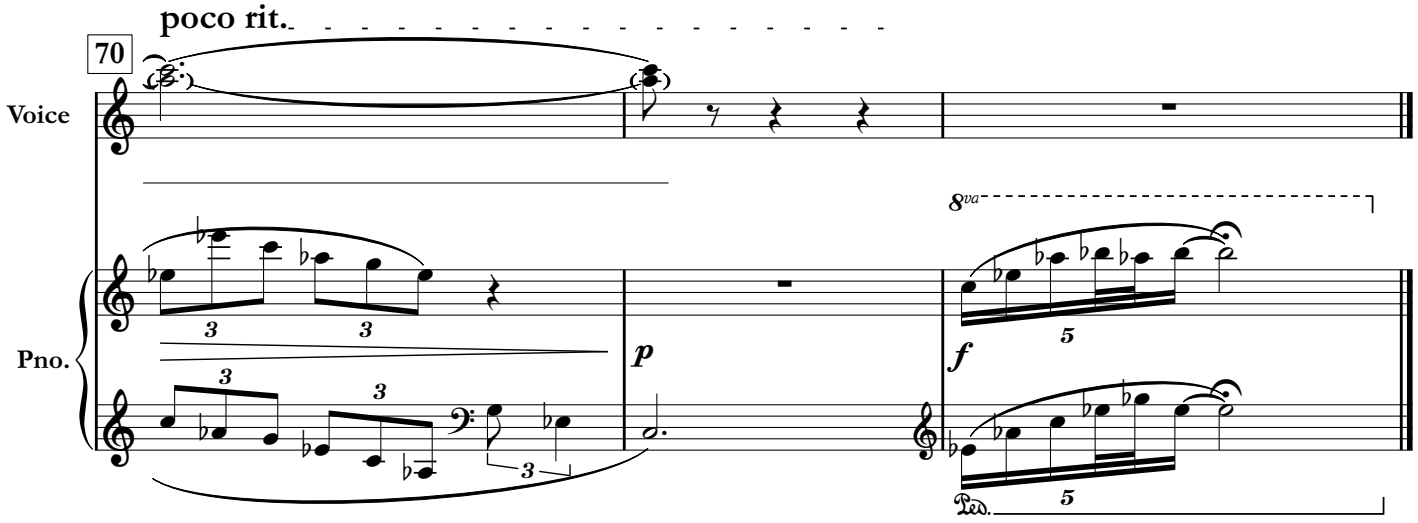

24
mf
mp
Voice
half the bat - - tle,
Pno.
27
p
Voice
And there
Pno.
poco rit.
a tempo,
with more expression
30
mp
Voice
al - ways was more than meets the eye.
Pno.
mp
mf


33
Voice
Pno.
mf
Now with a
mp
37
Voice
Pno.
f
mp
chi - ld of my
own...
40
Voice
Pno.
mp
"Tur - tle pow - er"
sad-ly does


43
Voice
Pno.
mf
p
not ex - - ist,
mf
46
Voice
Pno.
mp
A plan is
mp
49
Voice
Pno.
mf
p
hard - ly fool - - proof,


52
Voice
Pno.
mp
Rais - ing a sword will get you ar -
55
Voice
Pno.
mf
f
res - ted,
Know - ing is
58
Voice
Pno.
f
mp
mp
de-fin - ite - ly
half the bat - tle,
if not more,


61
Voice
Pno.
p
And while there
p
poco rall.
64
Voice
Pno.
mp
may be more than meets the eye, You may not
pp
p
8va
rall.
a tempo, slightly slower ♩ = 66
68
Voice
Pno.
pp, possible
want to know.
(8)
mp



April 9, 2012