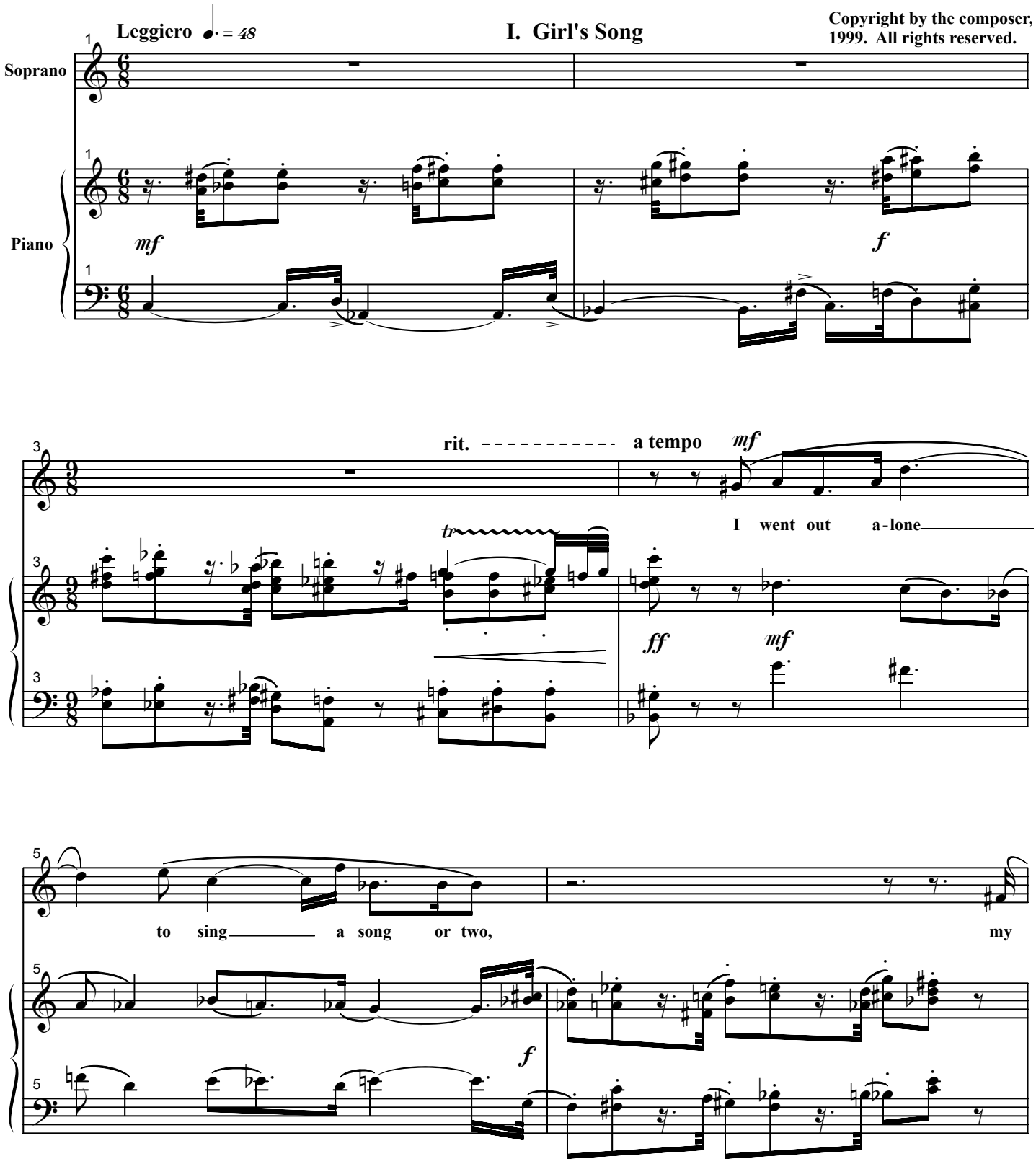
Martin Halpern

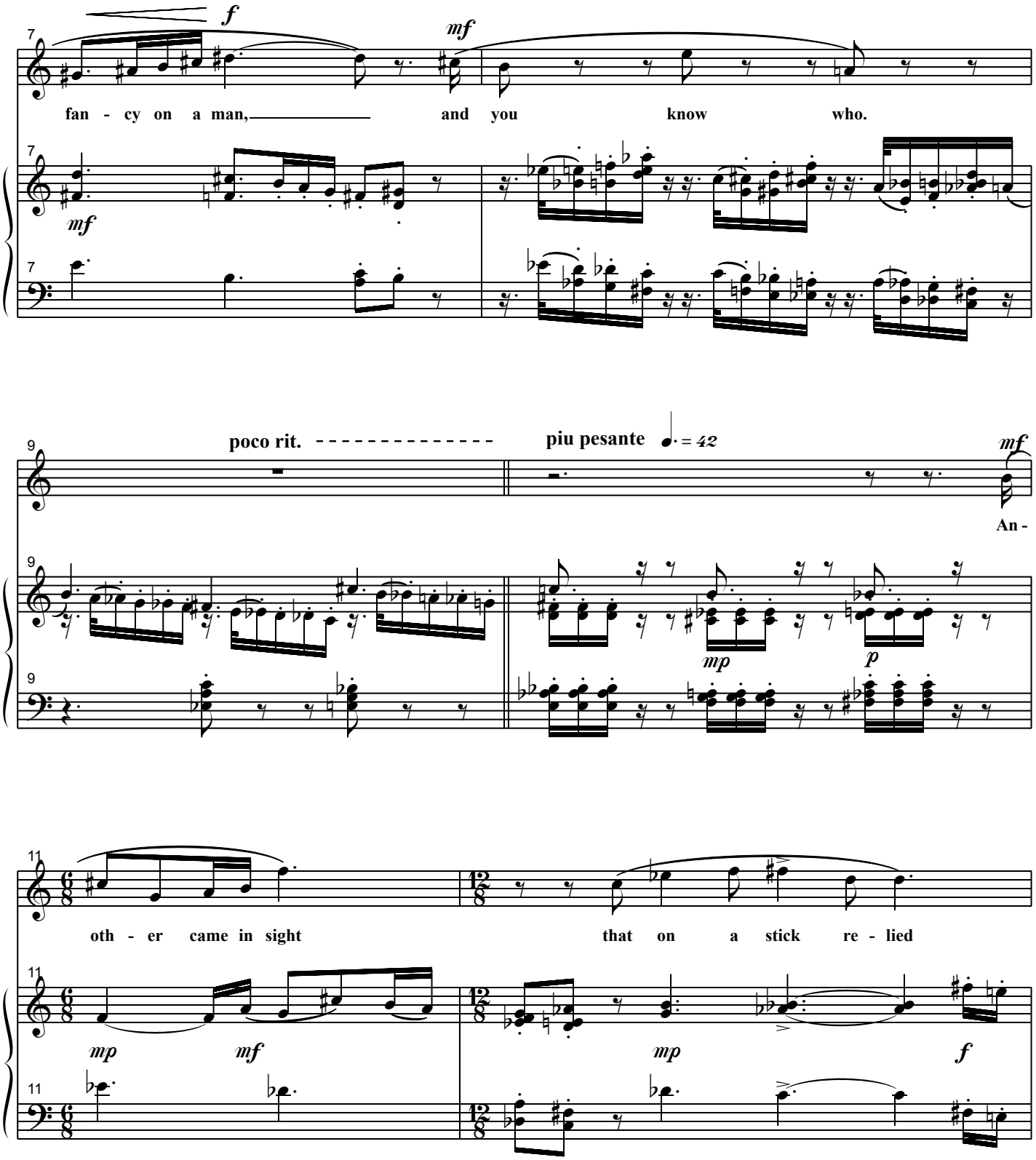
"A WOMAN YOUNG AND OLD"

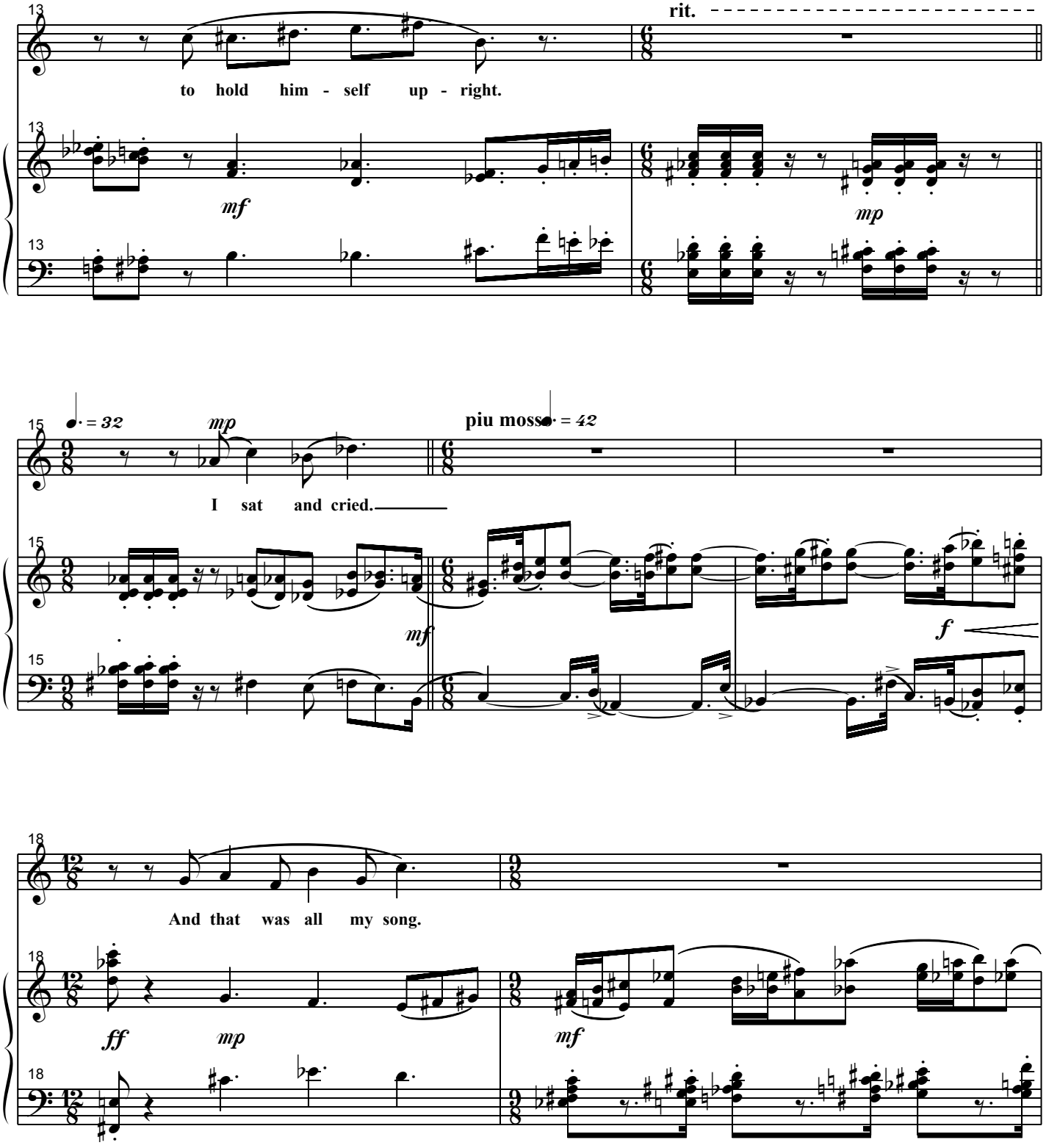
Settings of Three Late Poems of William Butler Yeats

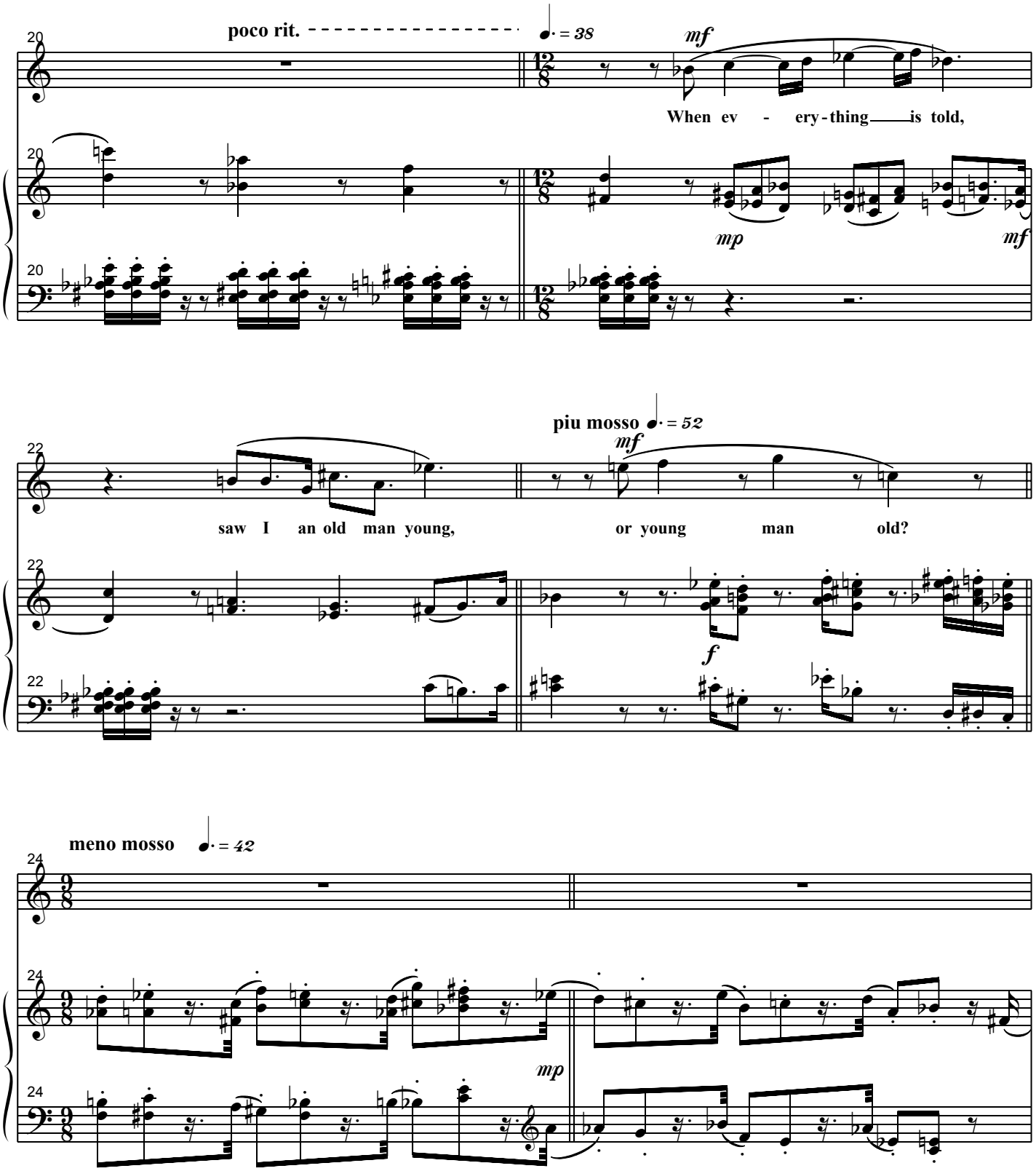
I. Girl's Song

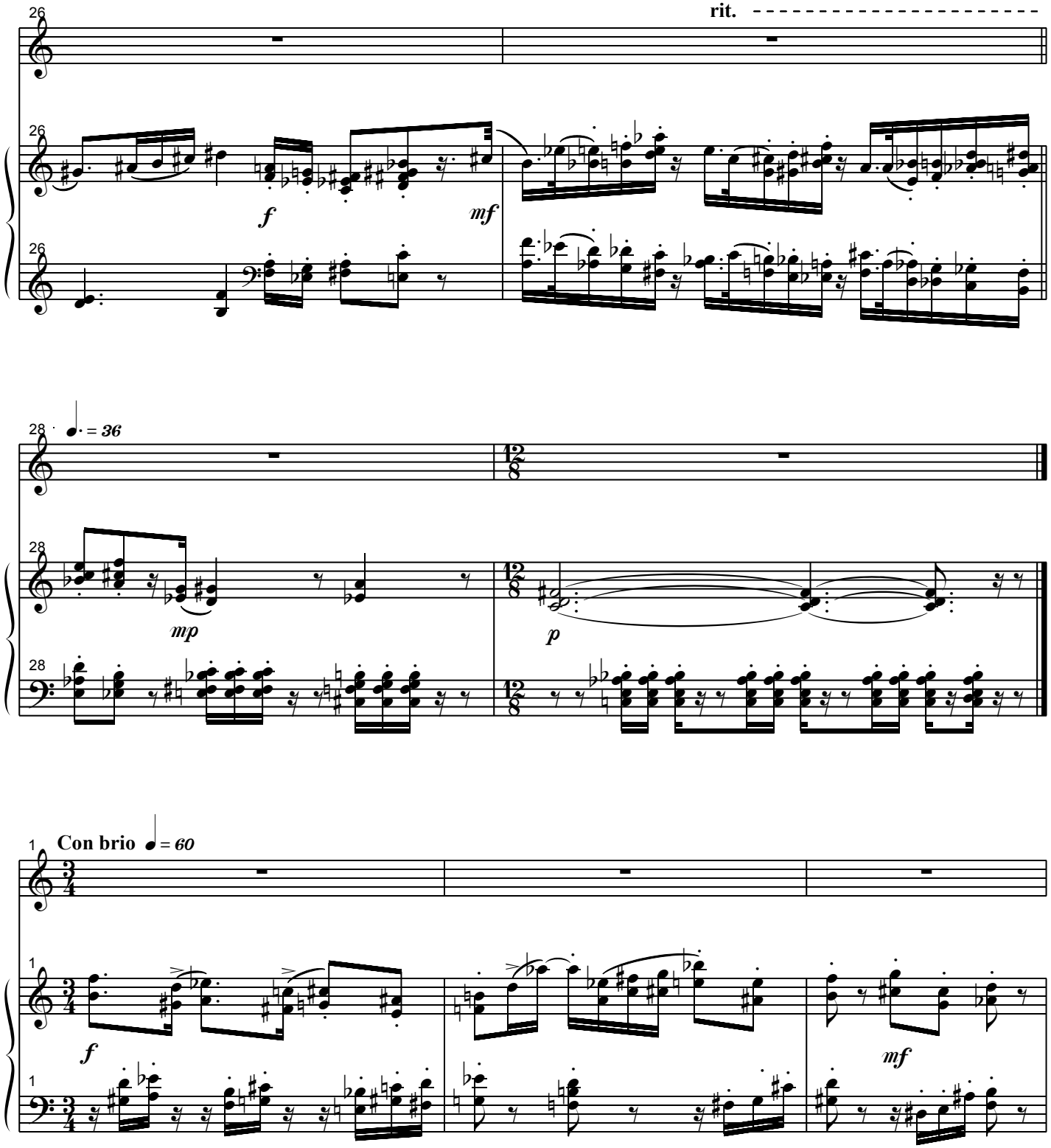
Copyright by the composer,
1999. All rights reserved.



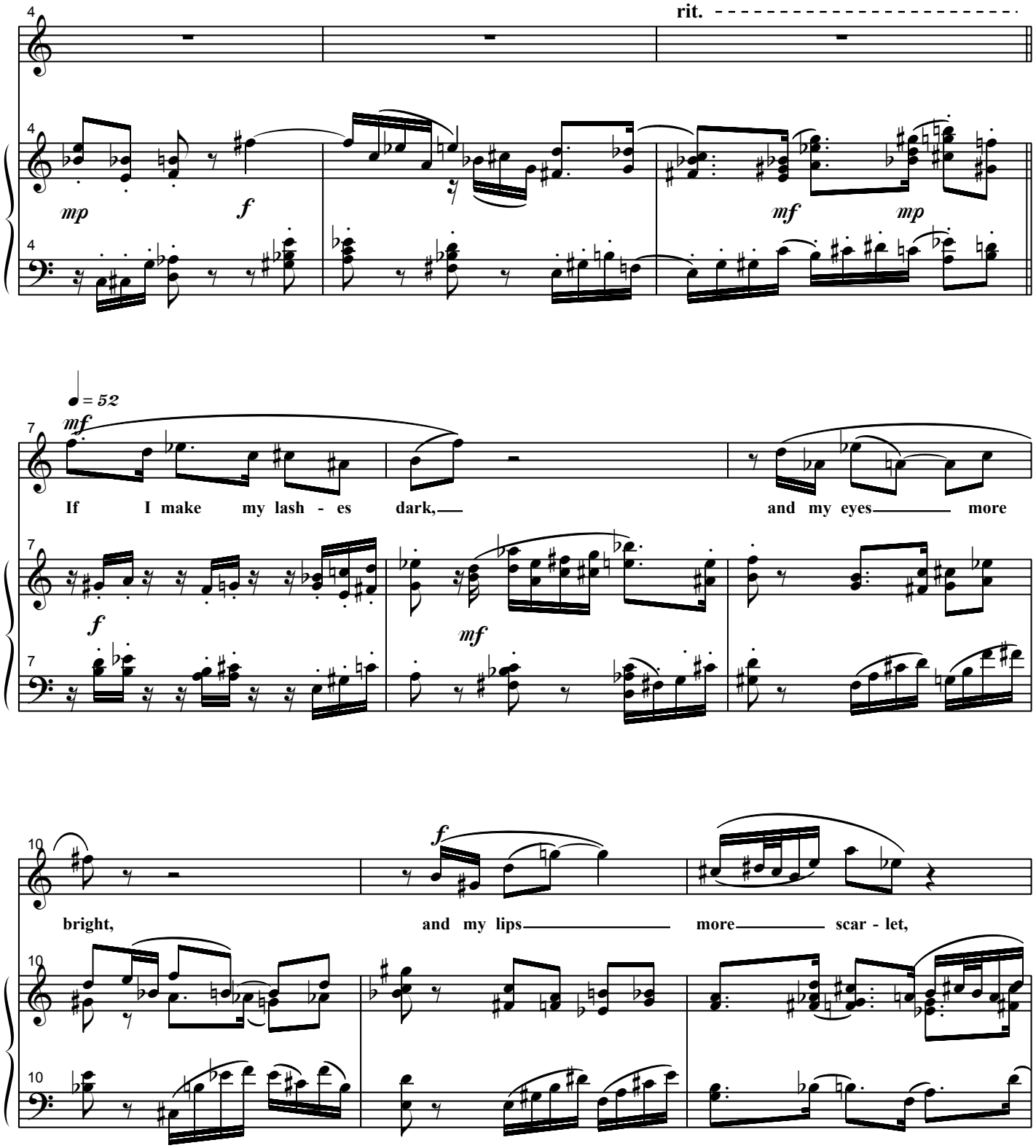

f
mf
fan - cy on a man, and you know who.
mf
poco rit.
piu pesante
mf
An -
mp
p
oth - er came in sight
that on a stick re - lied
mp
mf
mp
f


13
rit.
to hold him - self up - right.
mf
mp
15
♩. = 32
mp
piu moss♩. = 42
I sat and cried.
mf
f
18
And that was all my song.
ff
mp
mf

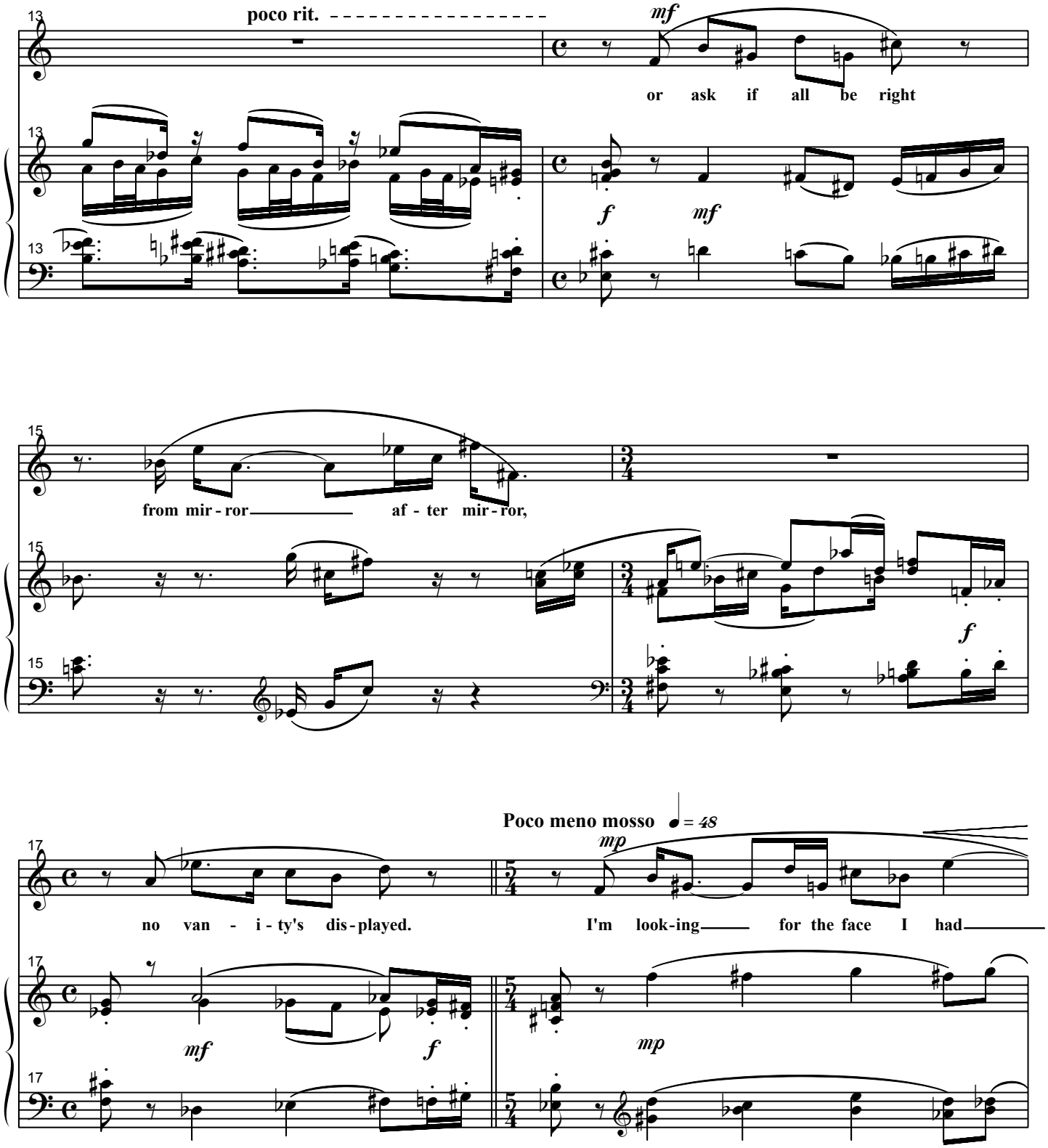

poco rit.
♩. = 38
mf
When ev - ery - thing is told,
mp
mf
piu mosso
♩. = 52
mf
saw I an old man young,
or young man old?
f
meno mosso
♩. = 42
mp

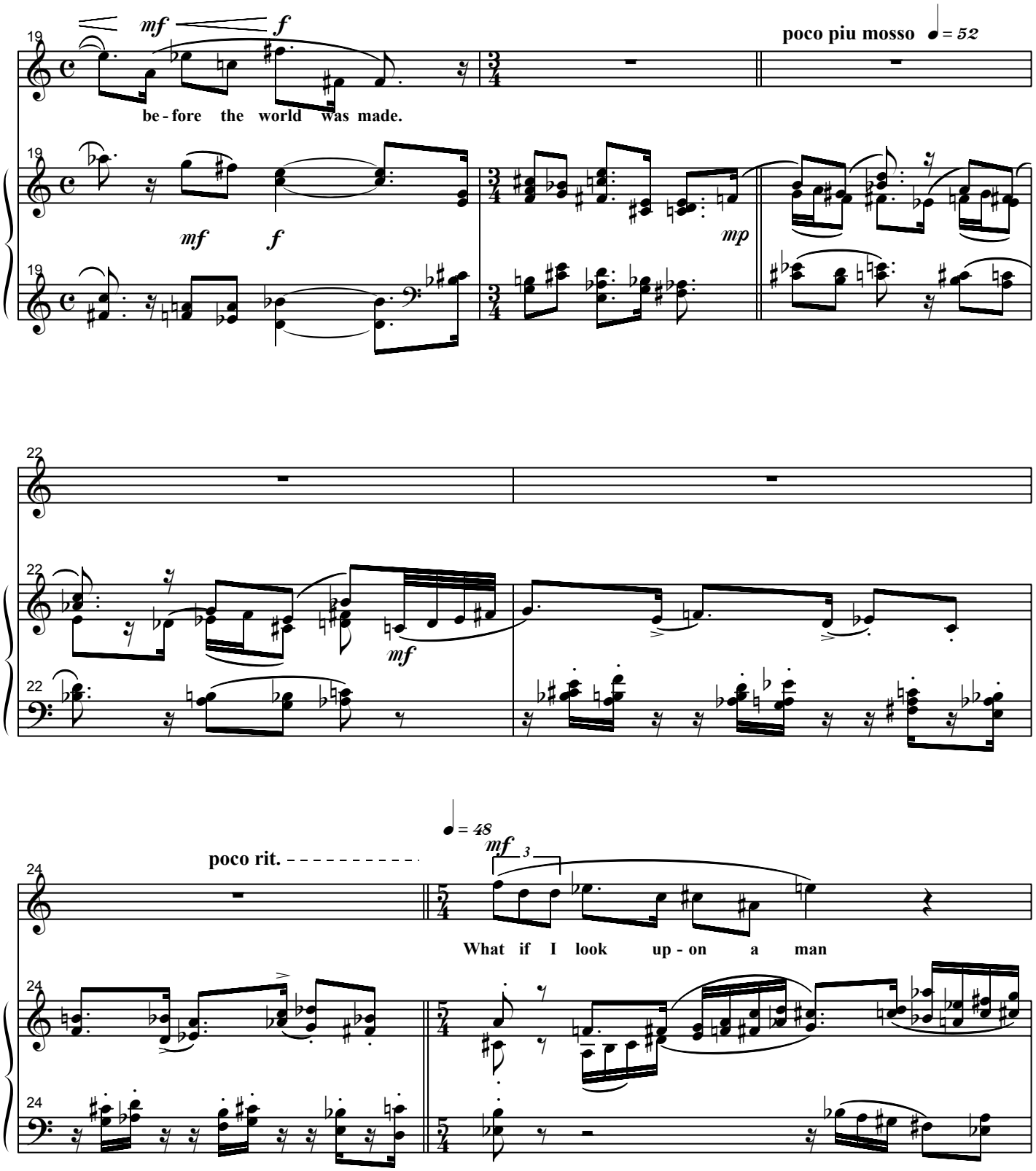

26
rit.
f
mf
28
mp
p
1
Con brio
f
mf

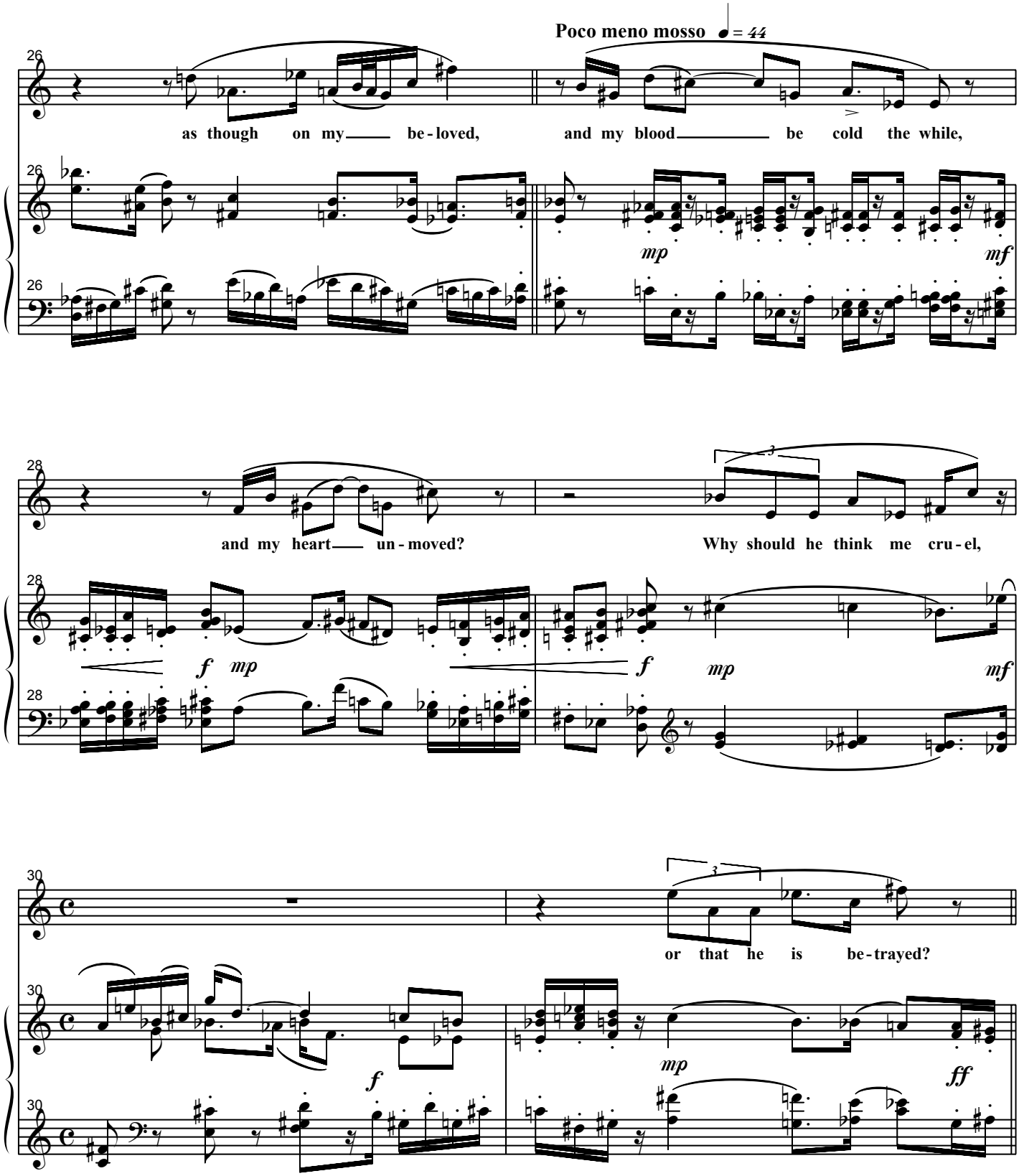
II. Before the World Was Made

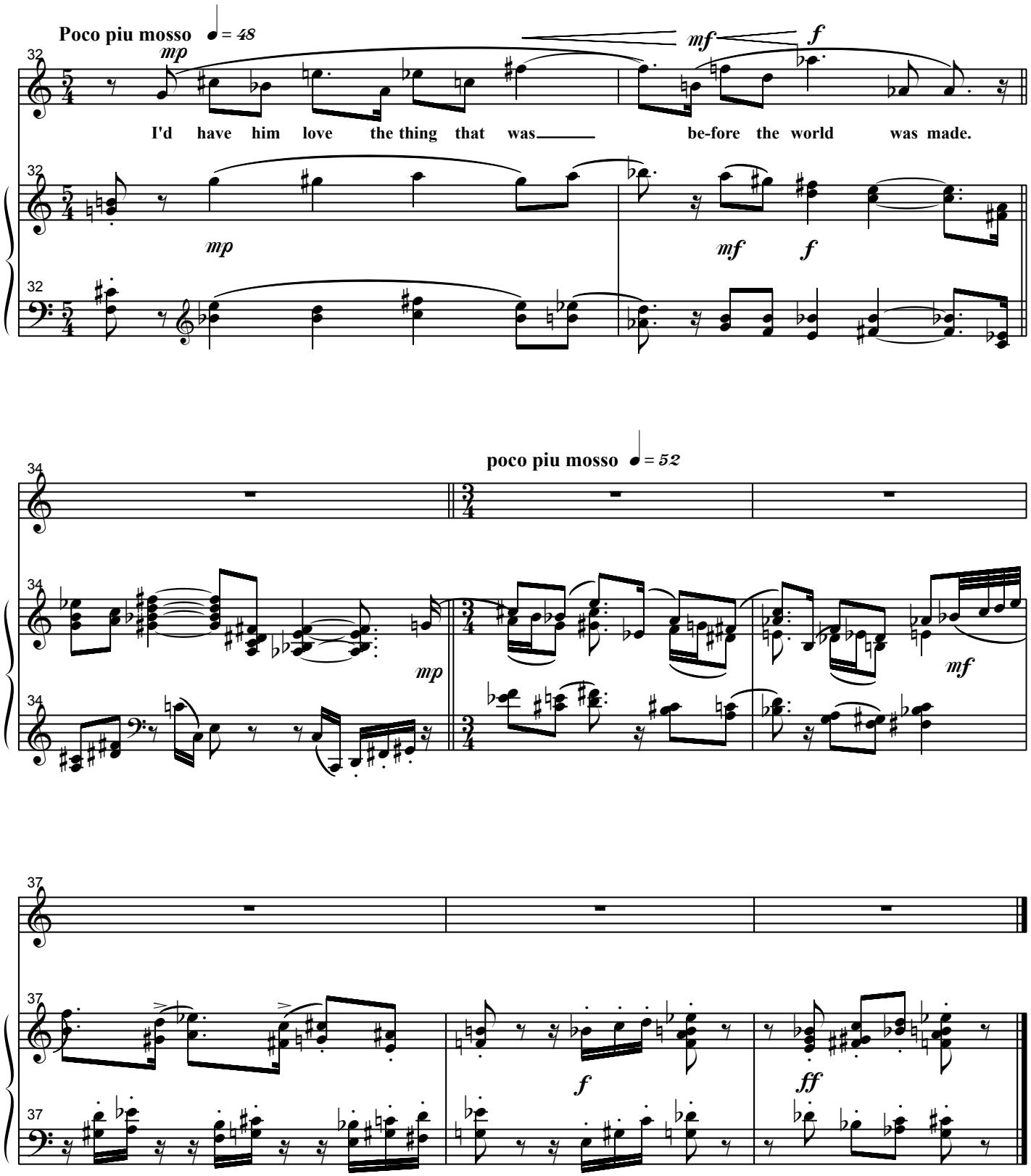


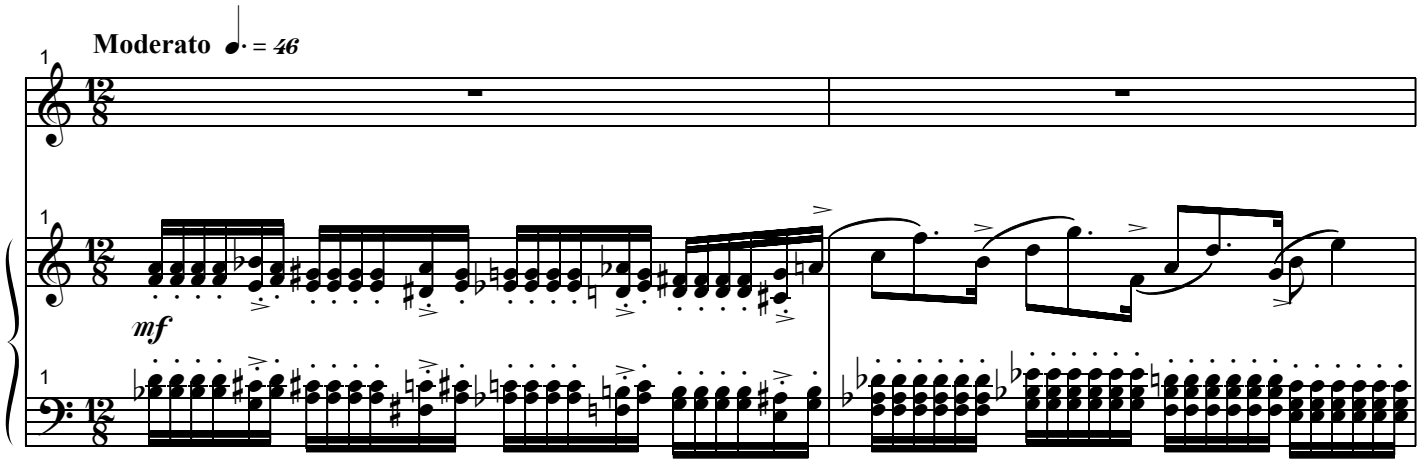
a tempo


13
poco rit.
mf
or ask if all be right
13
f
mf
13
15
from mir - ror af - ter mir - ror,
15
f
15
Poco meno mosso ♩= 48
17
mp
no van - i - ty's dis - played.
I'm look - ing for the face I had
17
mf
f
mp
17

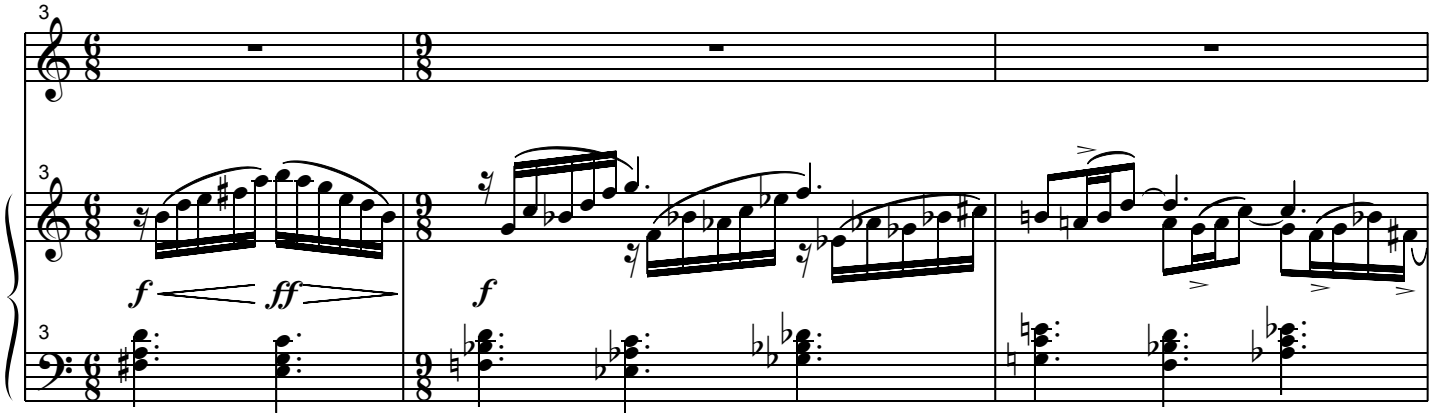

19
mf
f
poco piu mosso
♩ = 52
be - fore the world was made.
mf
f
mp
22
mf
24
poco rit.
♩ = 48
mf
3
What if I look up - on a man

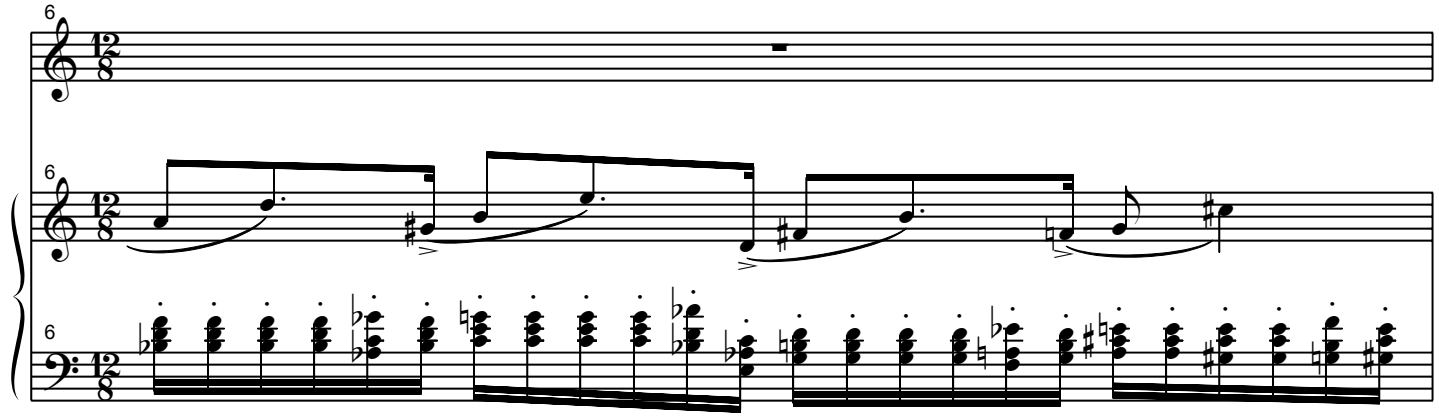

Poco meno mosso ♩= 44
as though on my be-loved, and my blood be cold the while,
and my heart un-moved? Why should he think me cru-el,
or that he is be-trayed?

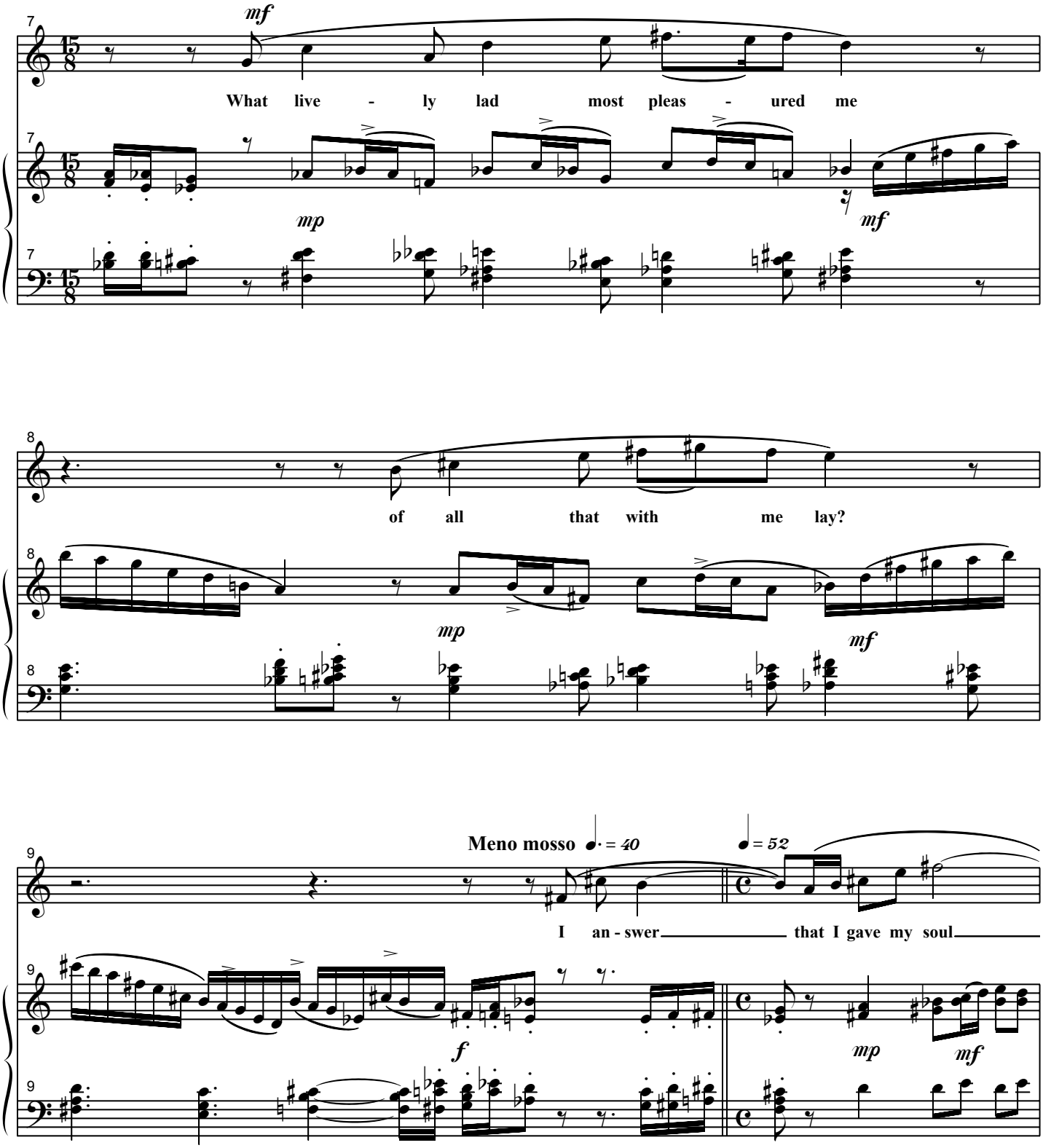

Poco piu mosso ♩ = 48
mp
mf
f
I'd have him love the thing that was be-fore the world was made.
poco piu mosso ♩ = 52
mp
mf
f
ff

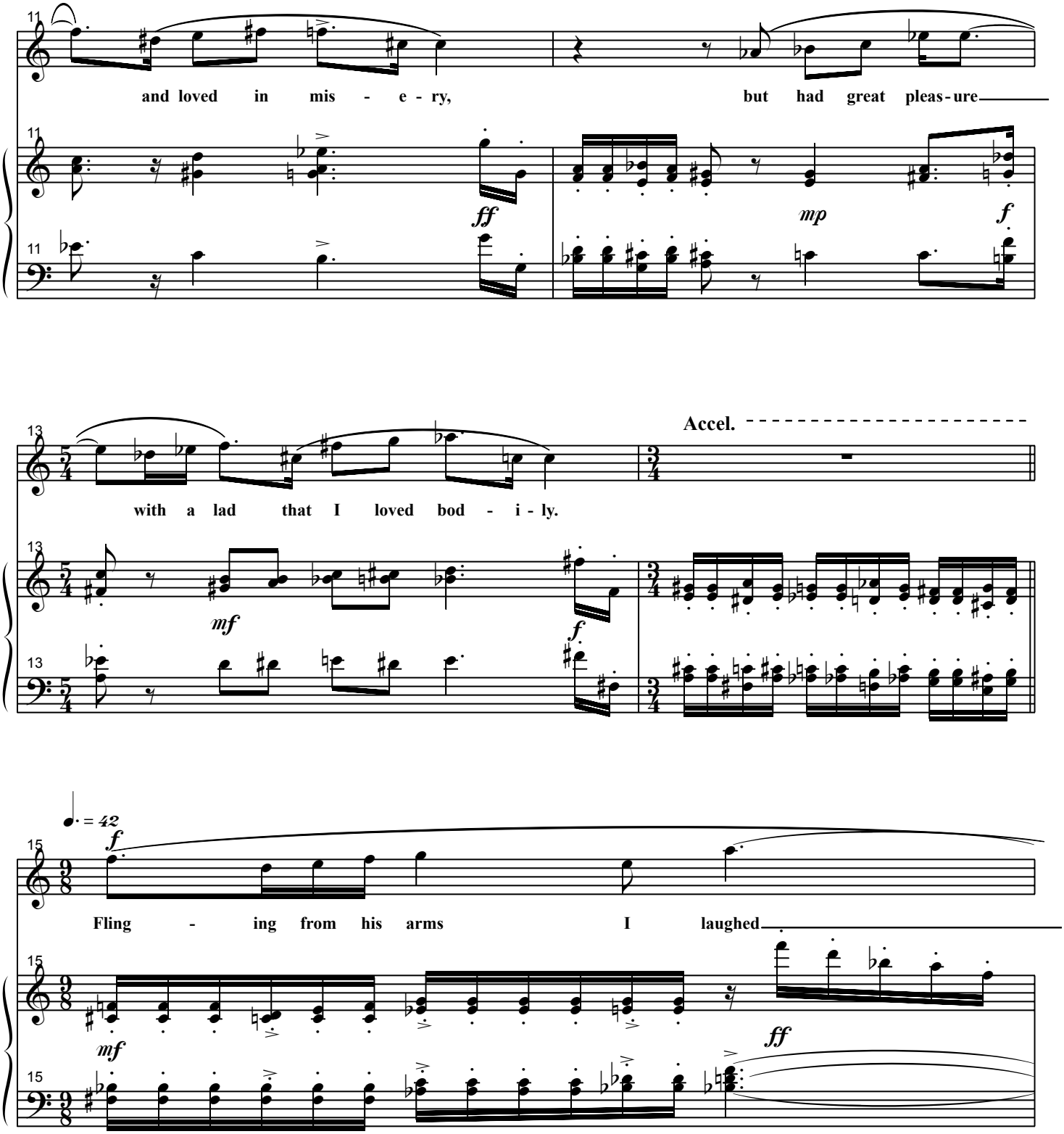


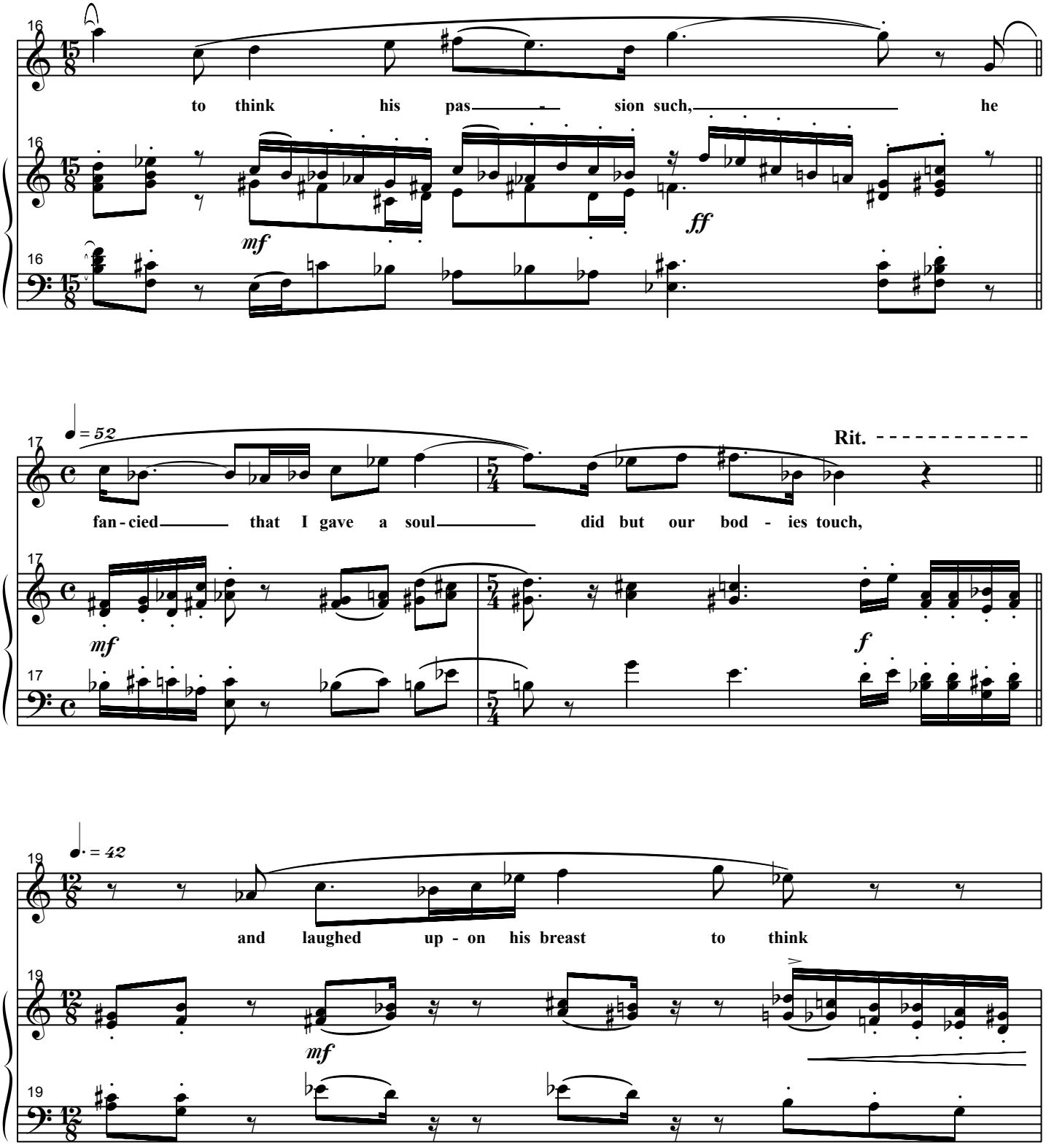
III. A Last Confession

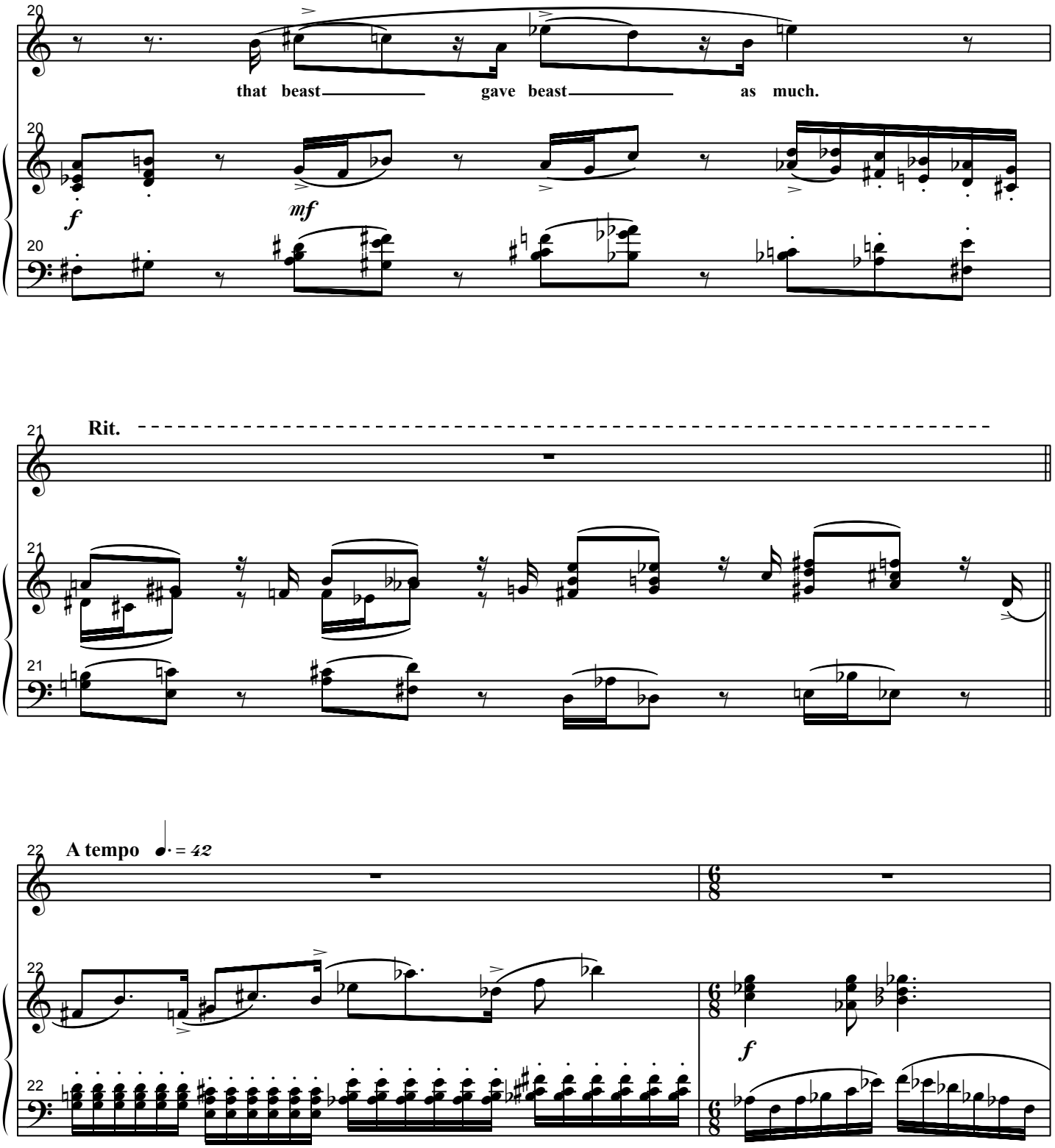


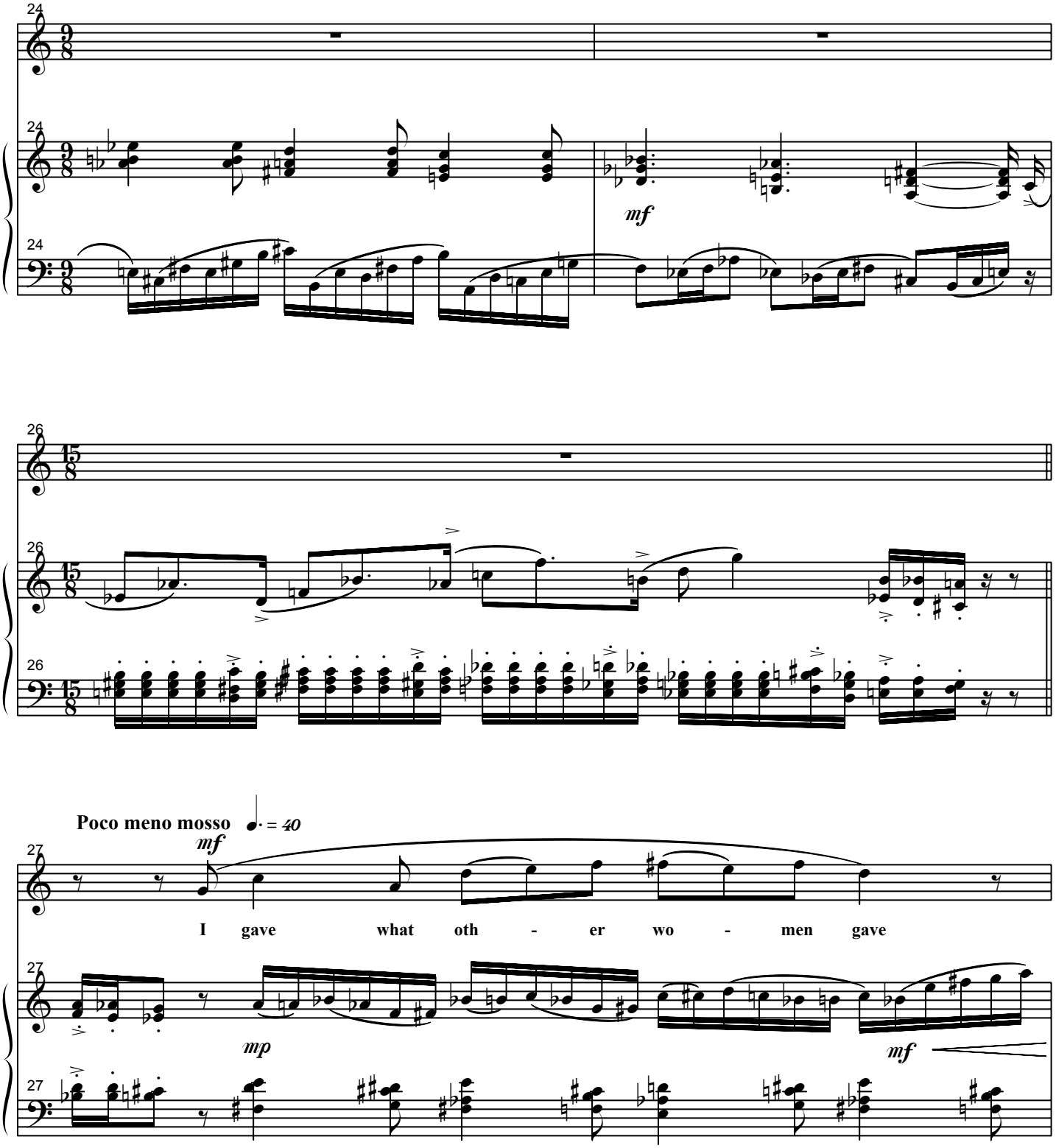


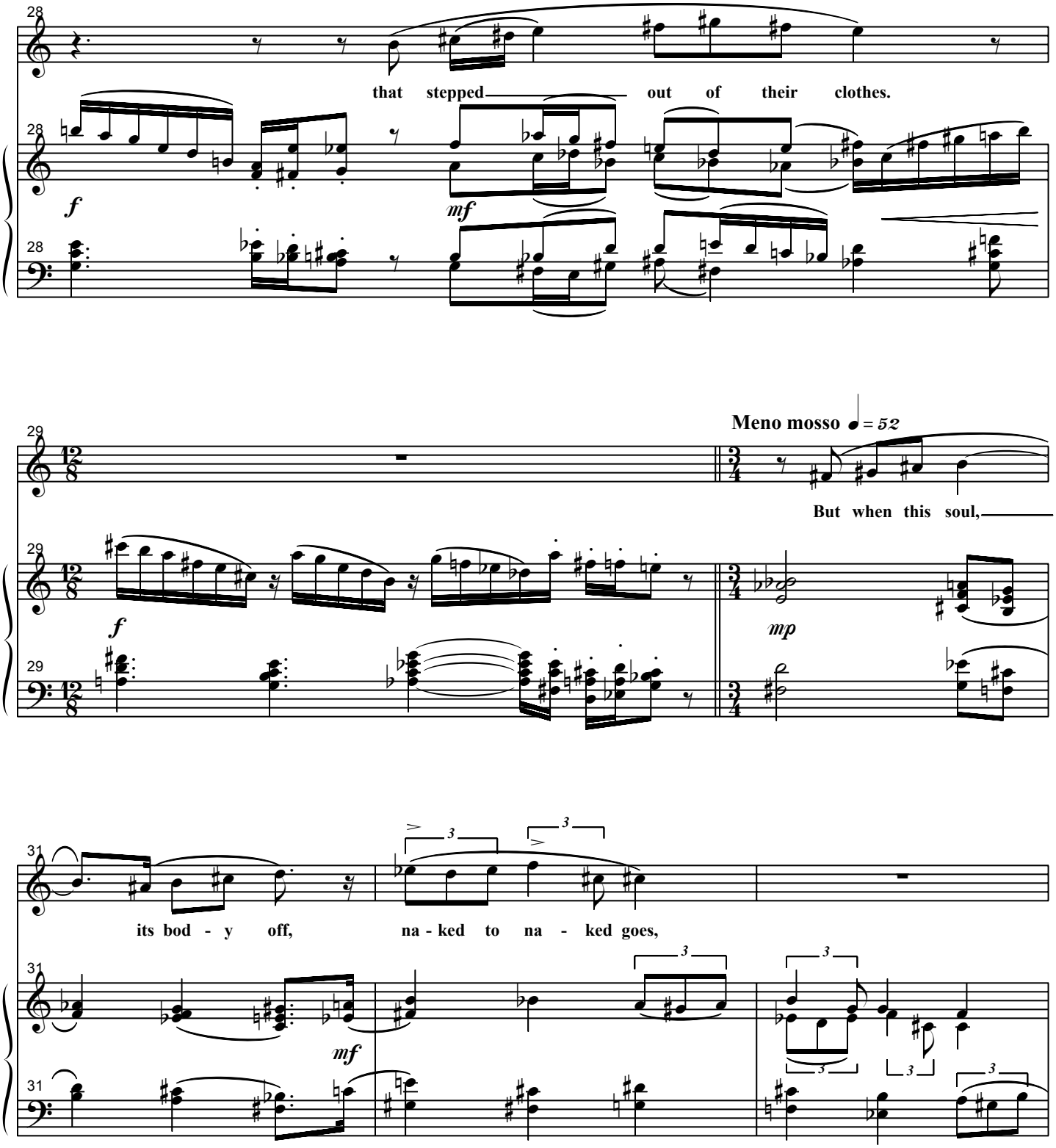

mf
What live - ly lad most pleas - ured me
mp
mf
of all that with me lay?
mp
mf
Meno mosso
= 40
= 52
I an - swer that I gave my soul
f
mp
mf

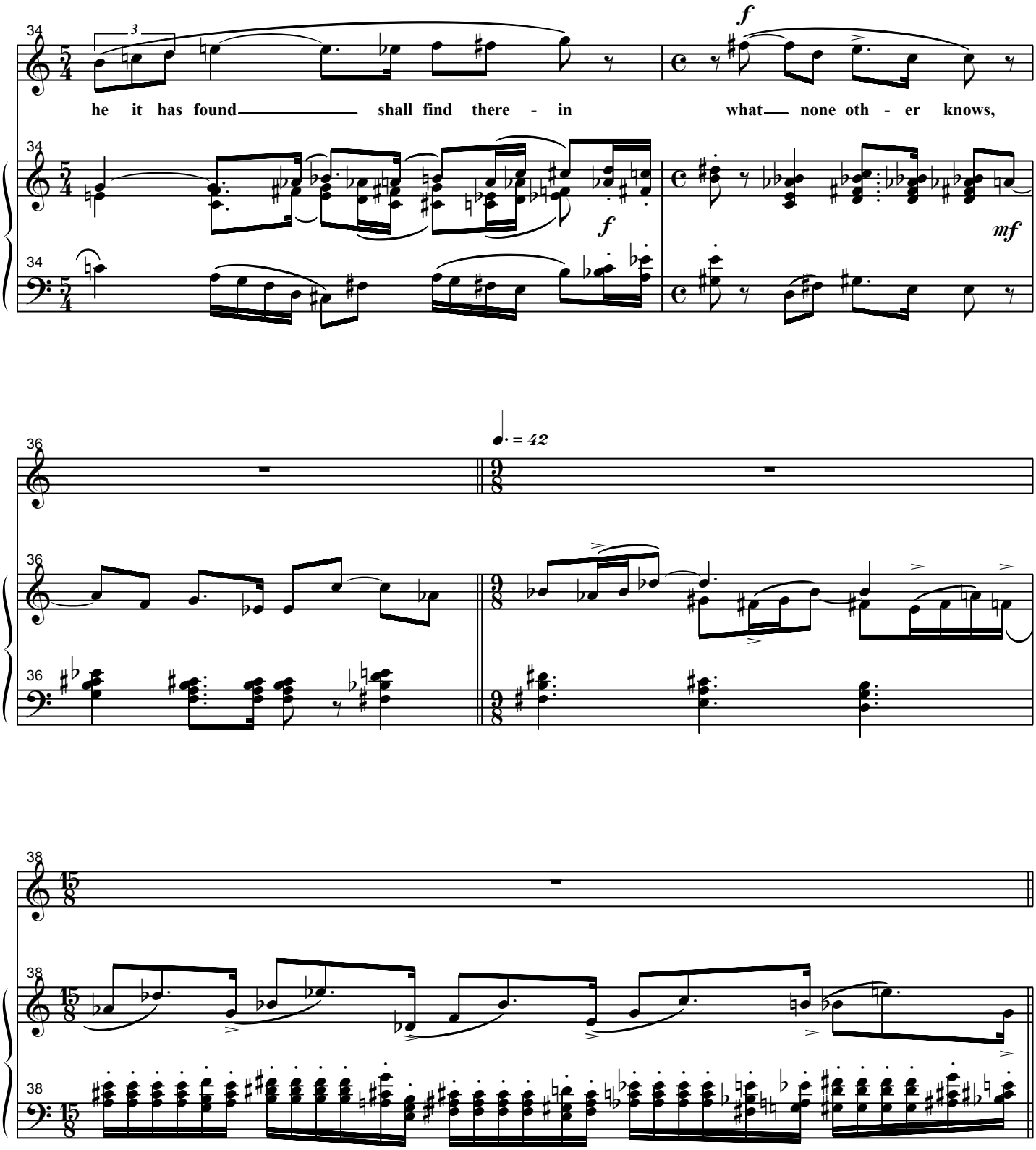

11
and loved in mis - e - ry,
but had great pleas - ure
ff
mp
f
13
Accel.
with a lad that I loved bod - i - ly.
mf
f
15
♩. = 42
f
Fling - ing from his arms
I laughed
mf
ff

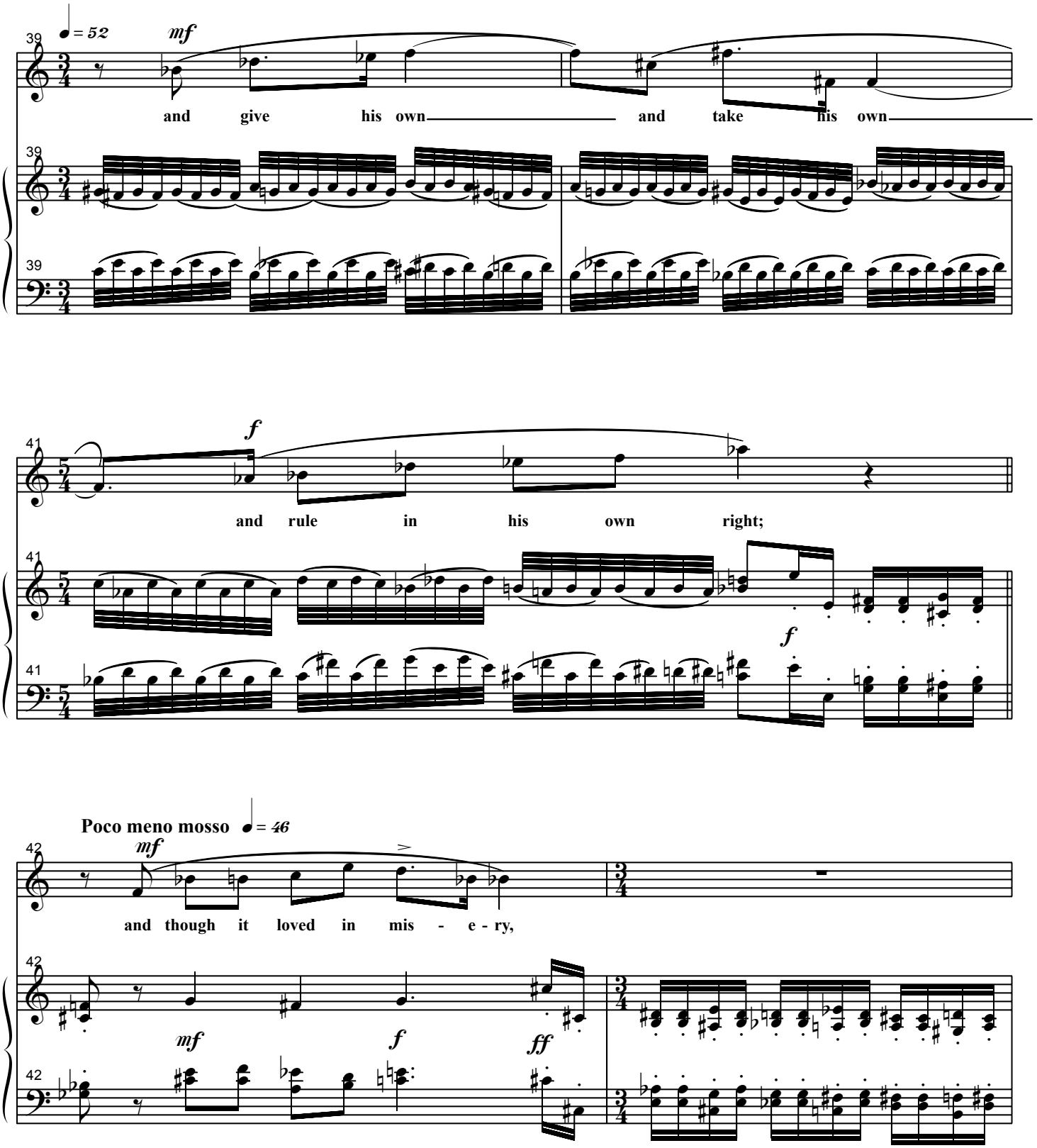

16
to think his pas - sion such, he
mf
ff
17
♩ = 52
Rit.
fan - cied that I gave a soul did but our bod - ies touch,
mf
f
19
♩. = 42
and laughed up - on his breast to think
mf

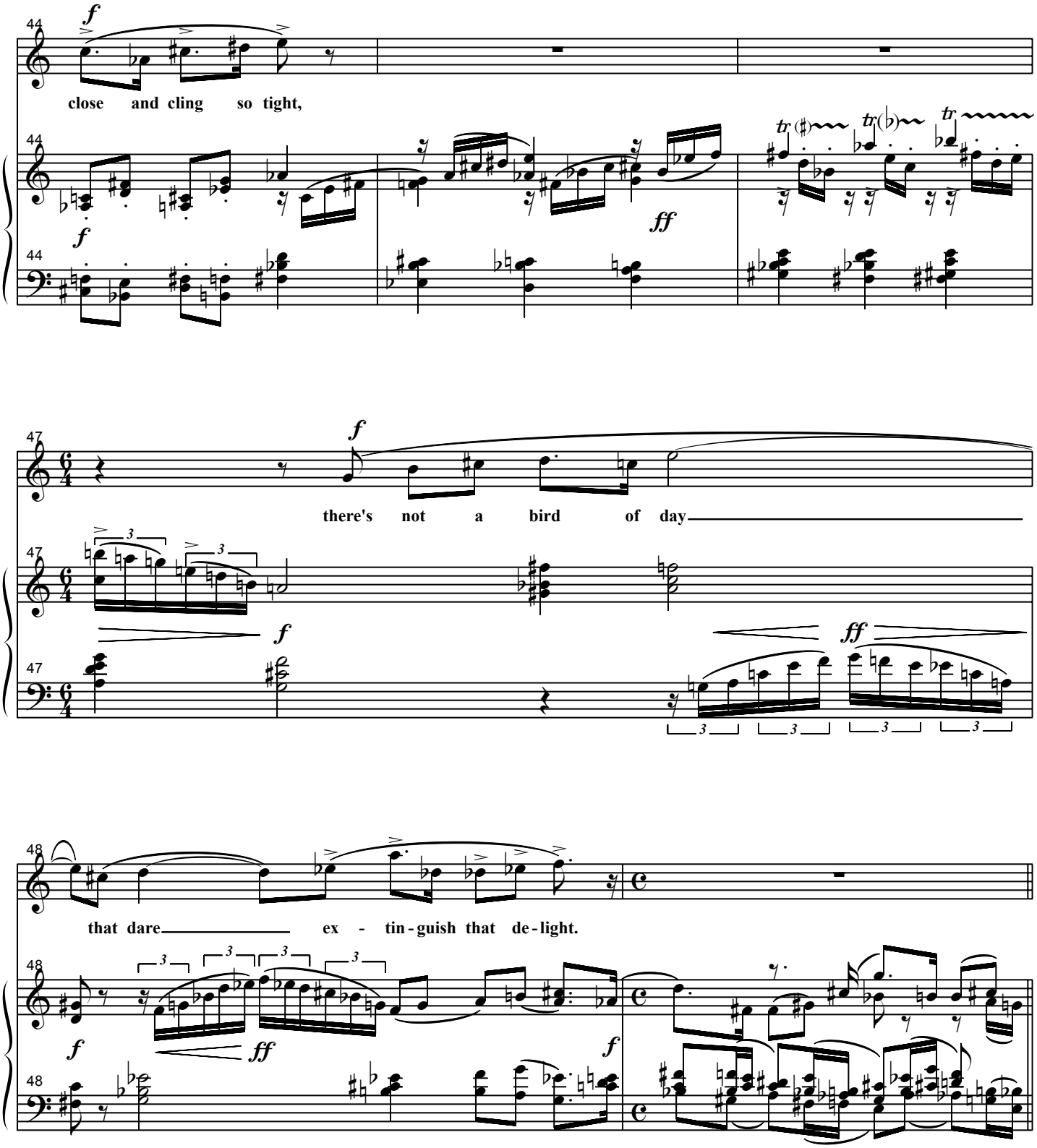

20
that beast gave beast as much.
f
mf
21
Rit.
22
A tempo ♩. = 42
f

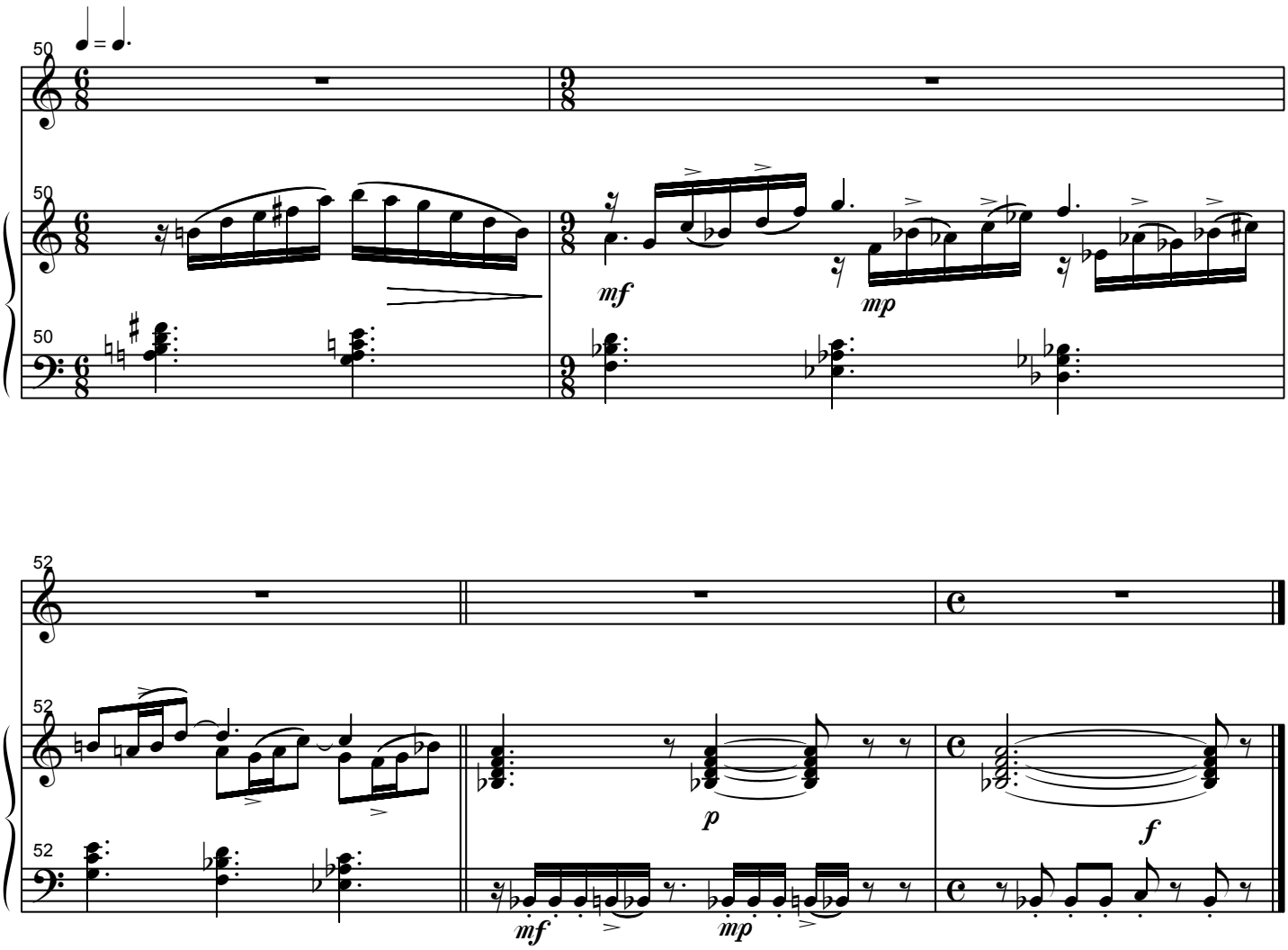

24
mf
26
Poco meno mosso
= 40
mf
I gave what oth - er wo - men gave
mp
mf


28
that stepped out of their clothes.
28
f
mf
28
29
Meno mosso ♩ = 52
But when this soul,
29
f
mp
29
31
its bod - y off,
na - ked to na - ked goes,
31
mf
31


34
3
f
he it has found shall find there - in what none oth - er knows,
f
mf
36
♩. = 42
38


39
♩ = 52
mf
and give his own and take his own
39
39
41
f
and rule in his own right;
41
f
41
Poco meno mosso
♩ = 46
42
mf
and though it loved in mis - e - ry,
42
mf
f
ff
42


44
f
close and cling so tight,
ff
47
there's not a bird of day
48
that dare ex - tin - guish that de - light.


50
mf
mp
52
p
f
mf
mp