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Across The Sandhills

Randall Snyder
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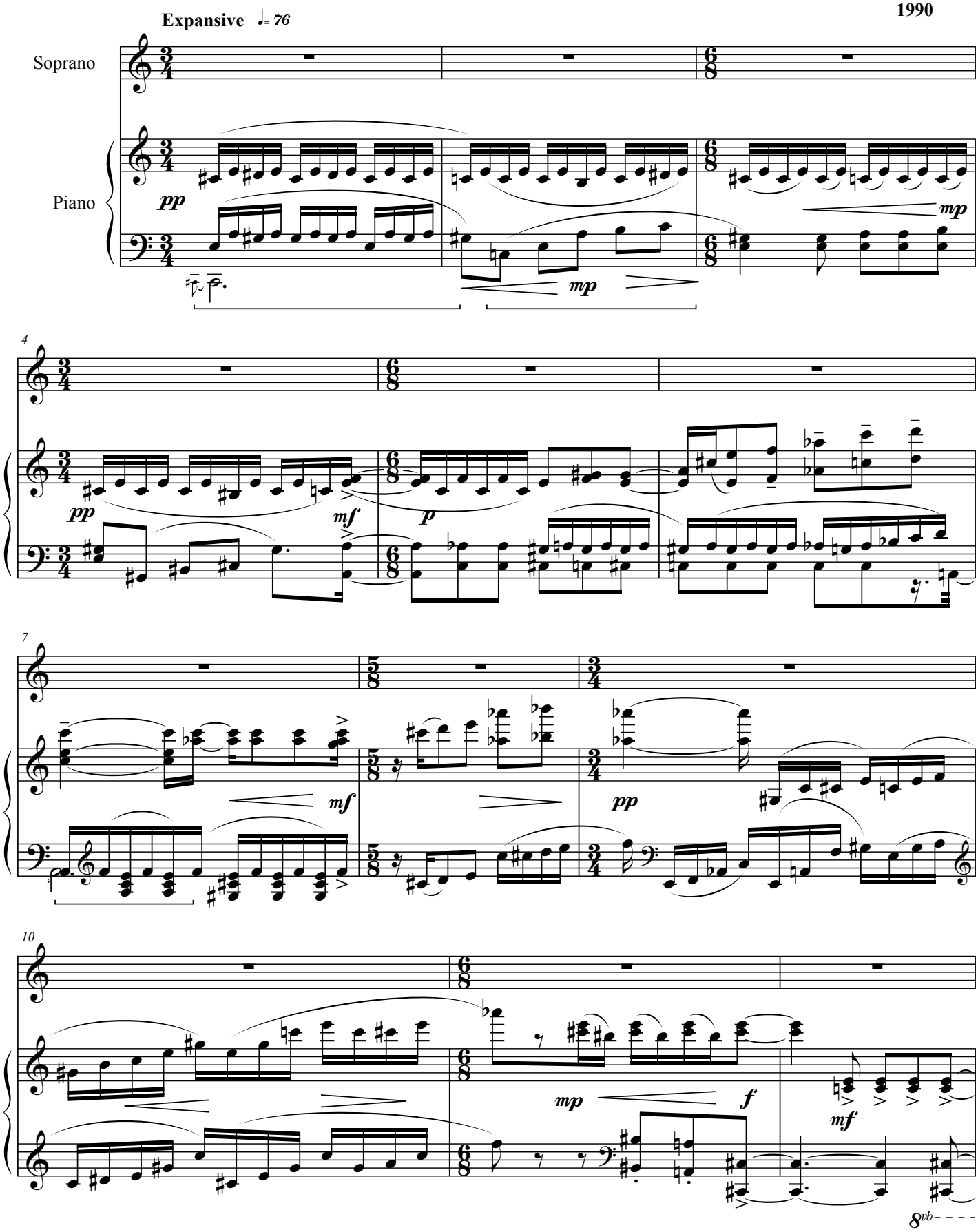
for
Donna Harler-Smith

Across The Sandhills

poems: Roy Scheele

Randall Snyder
1990



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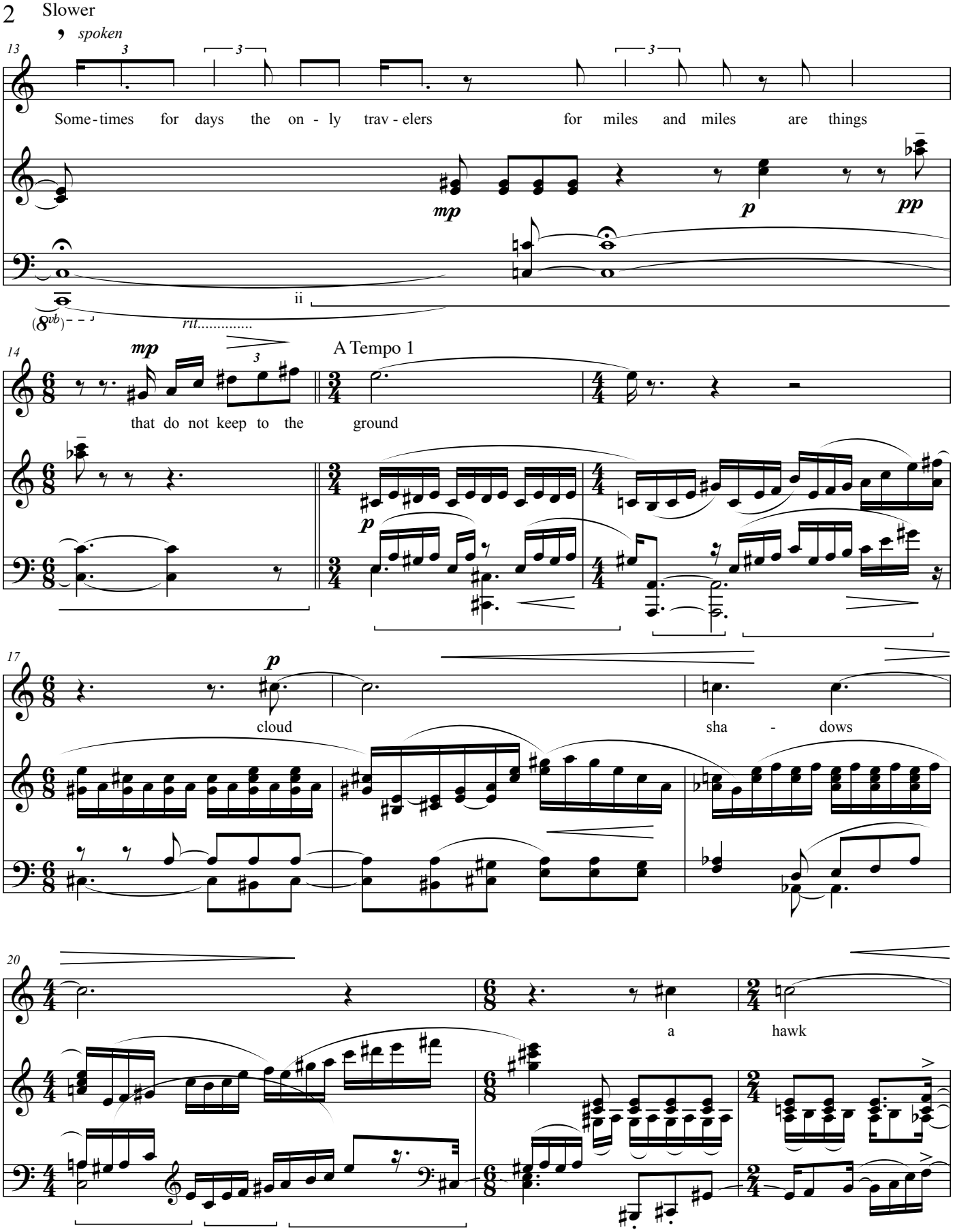
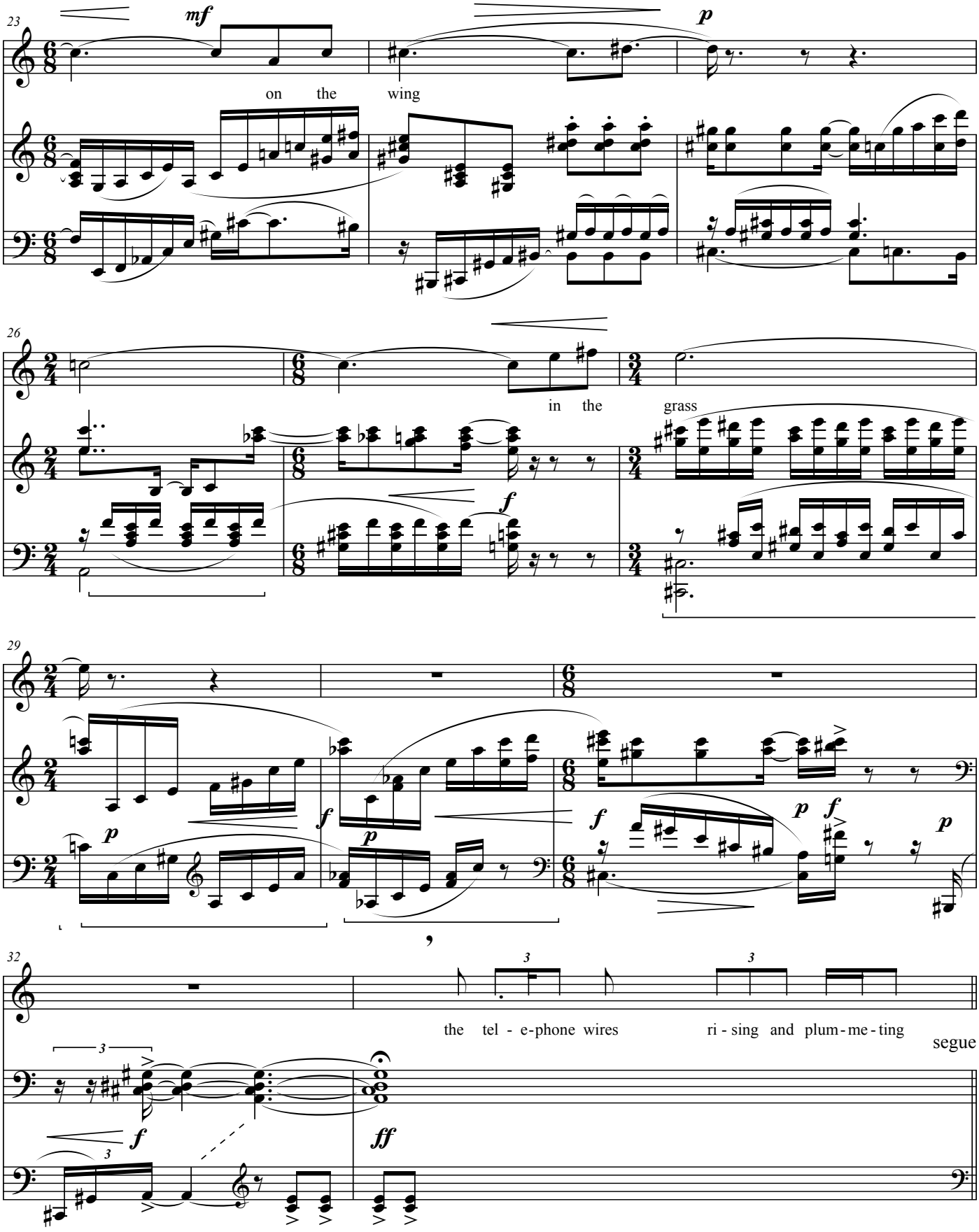

Slower
spoken
Some - times for days the on - ly trav - elers for miles and miles are things
mp
p
pp
ii
(8vb)
rit.....
that do not keep to the ground
A Tempo 1
cloud
sha - dows
a hawk


23
mf
p
on the wing
26
in the grass
f
29
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
32
3
3
the tel - e-phone wires
ri - sing and plum - me - ting
segue
3
f
ff

Sandhill Cranes

A Tempo 1

34

p *mf*

37

in style of Schubert

mp

Why did I feel like

f *mf* *p*

40

weep - ing on see - ing the cranes go

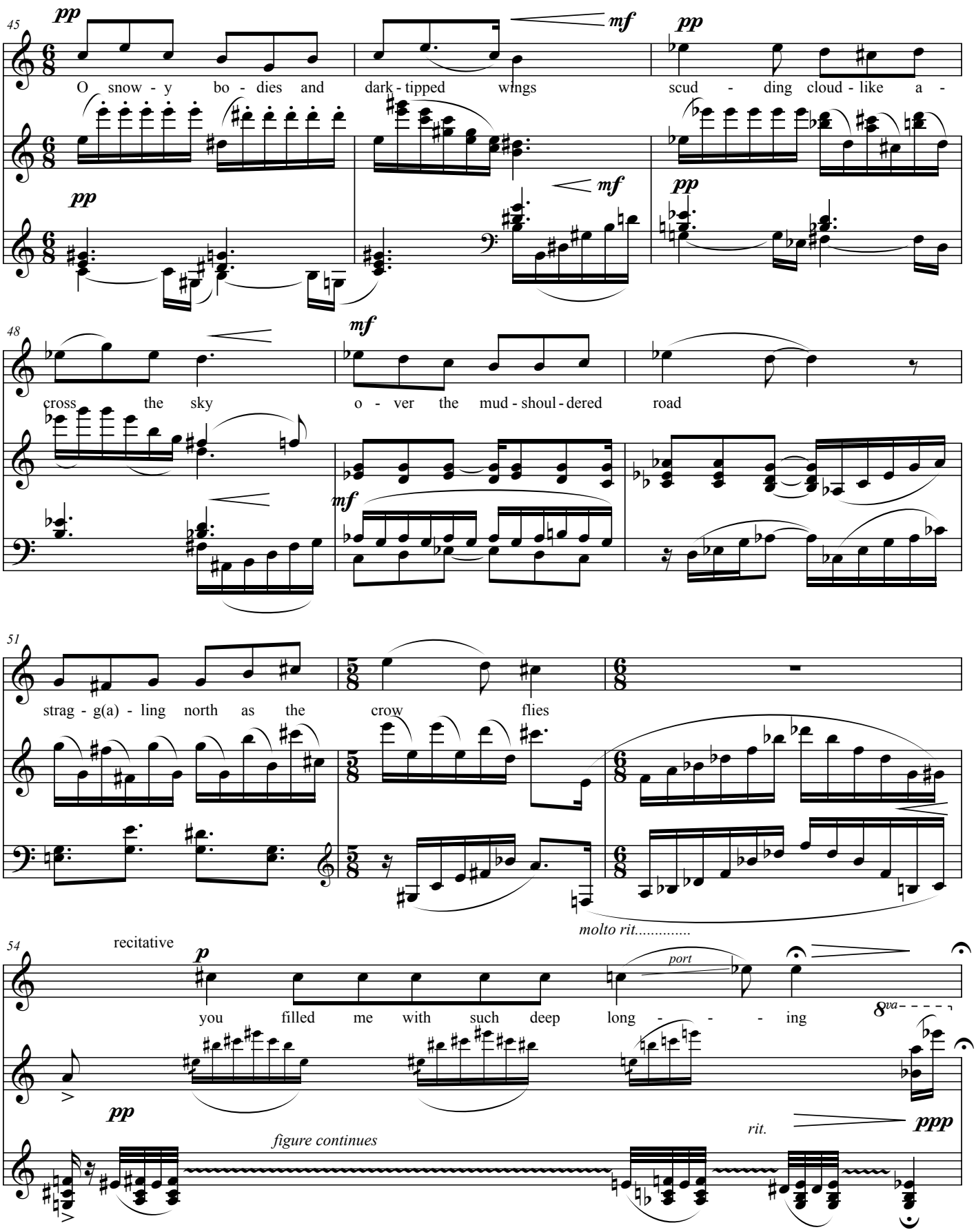
p *mf* *p*

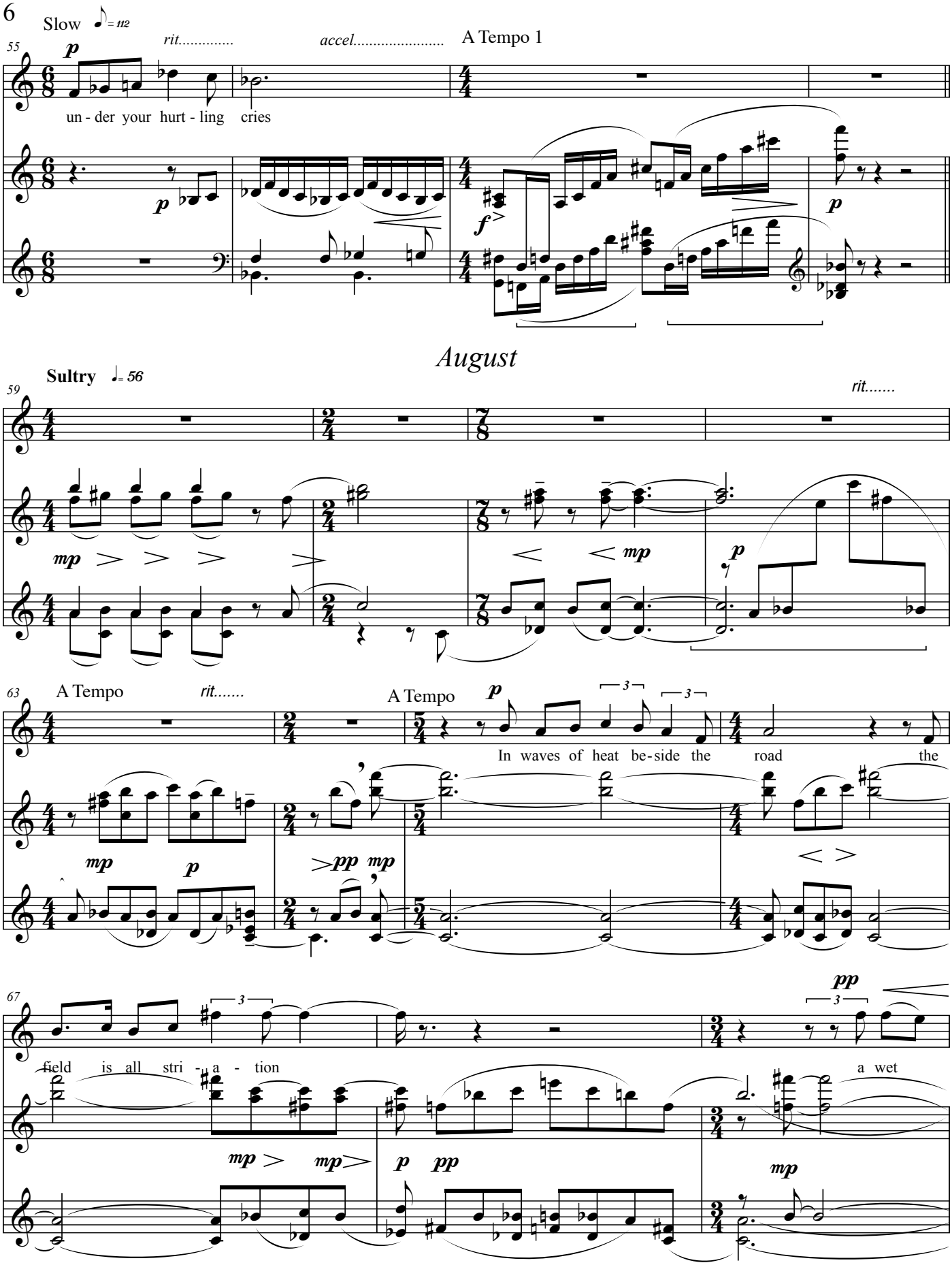
43

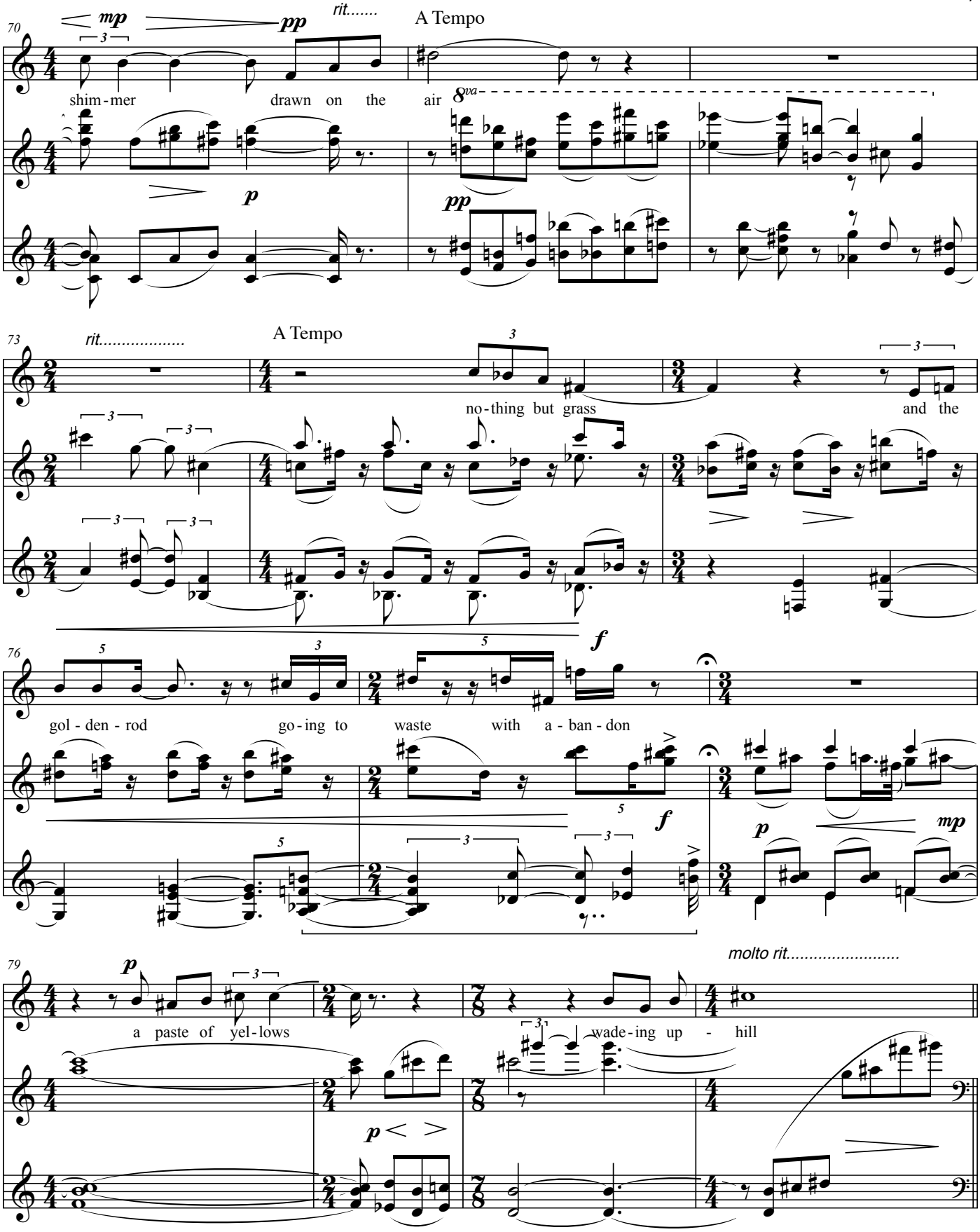
by?

mf

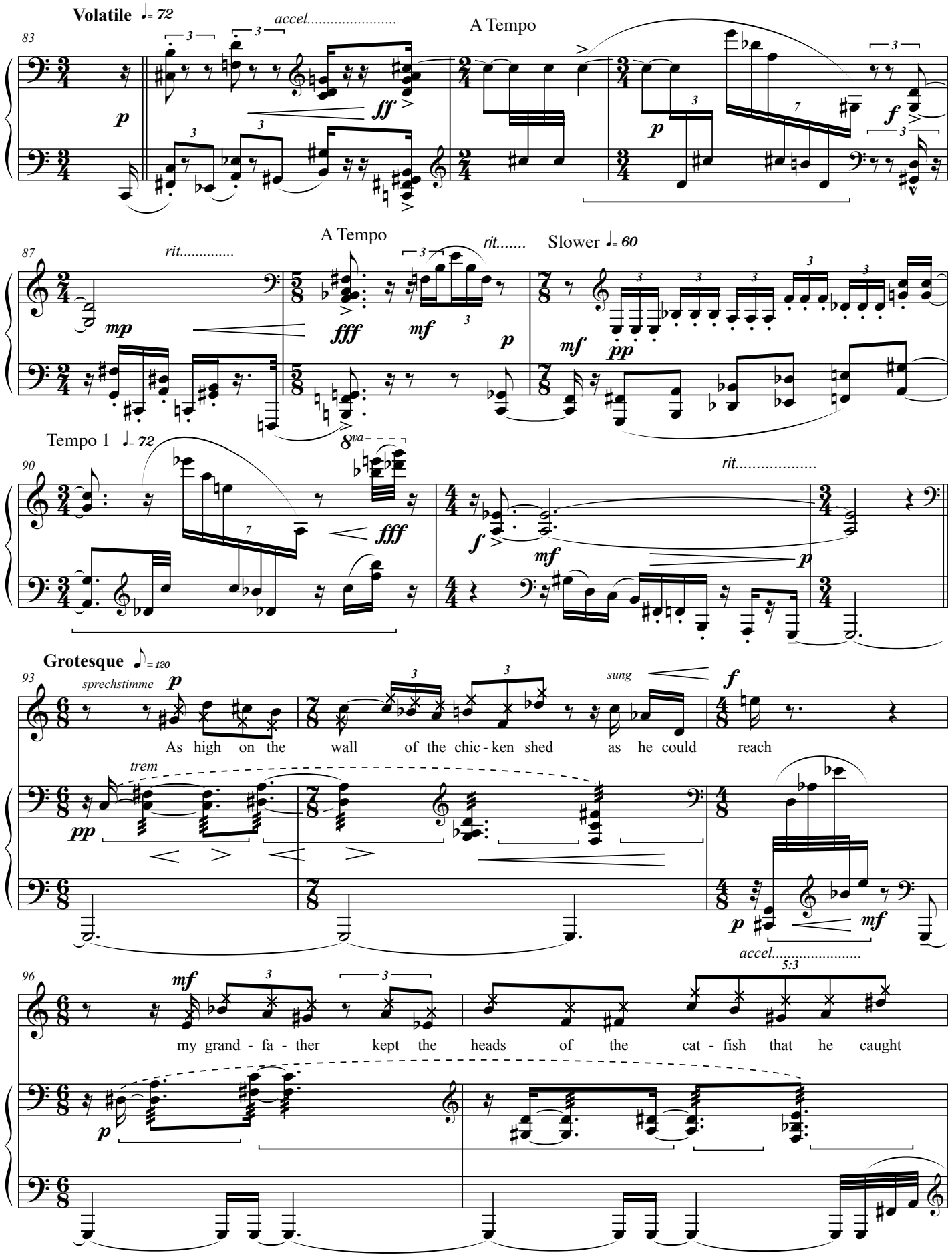
9

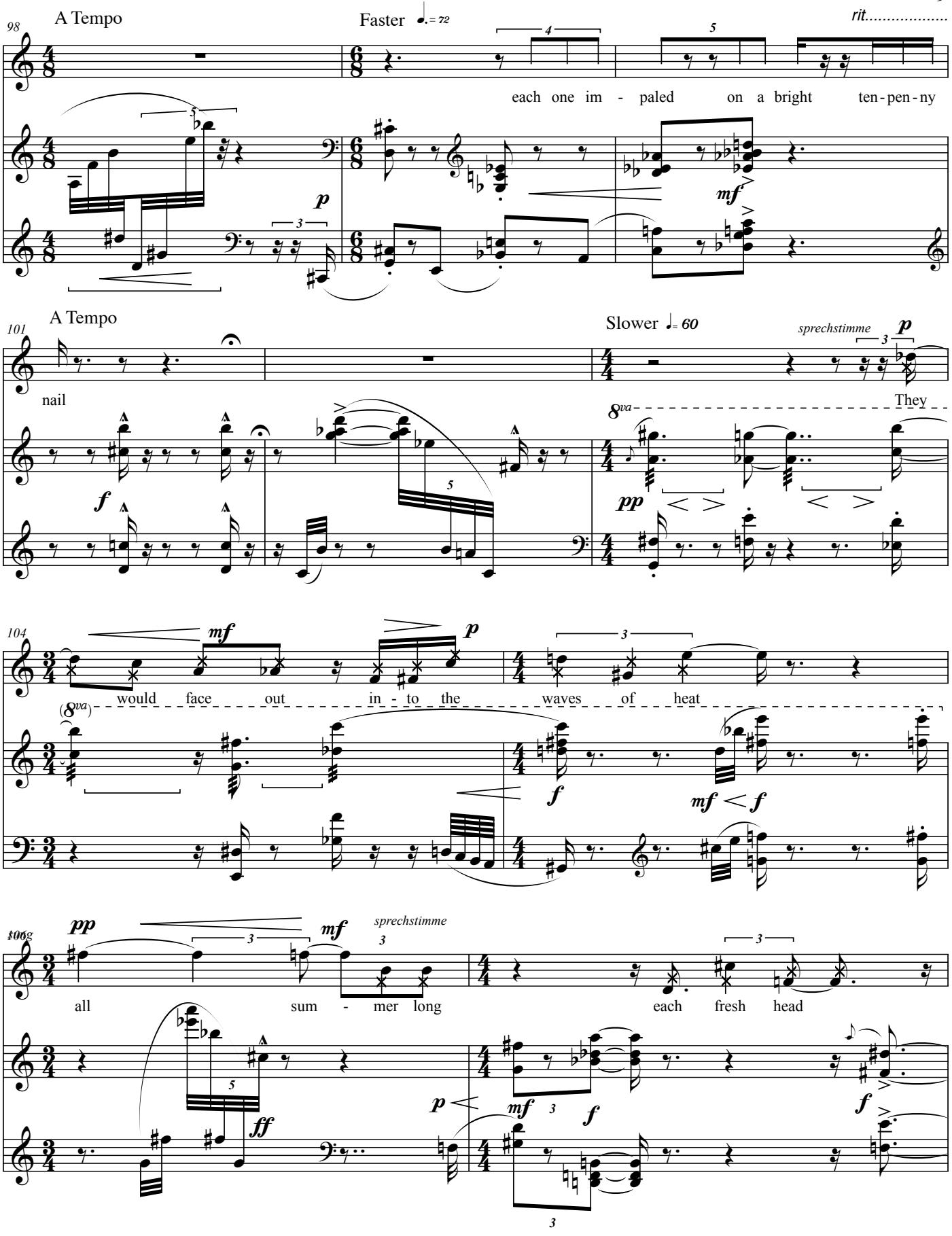

45
pp
mf
pp
O snow - y bo - dies and dark - tipped wings scud - ding cloud - like a -
48
mf
cross the sky o - ver the mud - shoul - dered road
51
strag - g(a) - ling north as the crow flies
molto rit.....
54
recitative
p
port
you filled me with such deep long - - - ing
8va
pp
figure continues
rit.
ppp

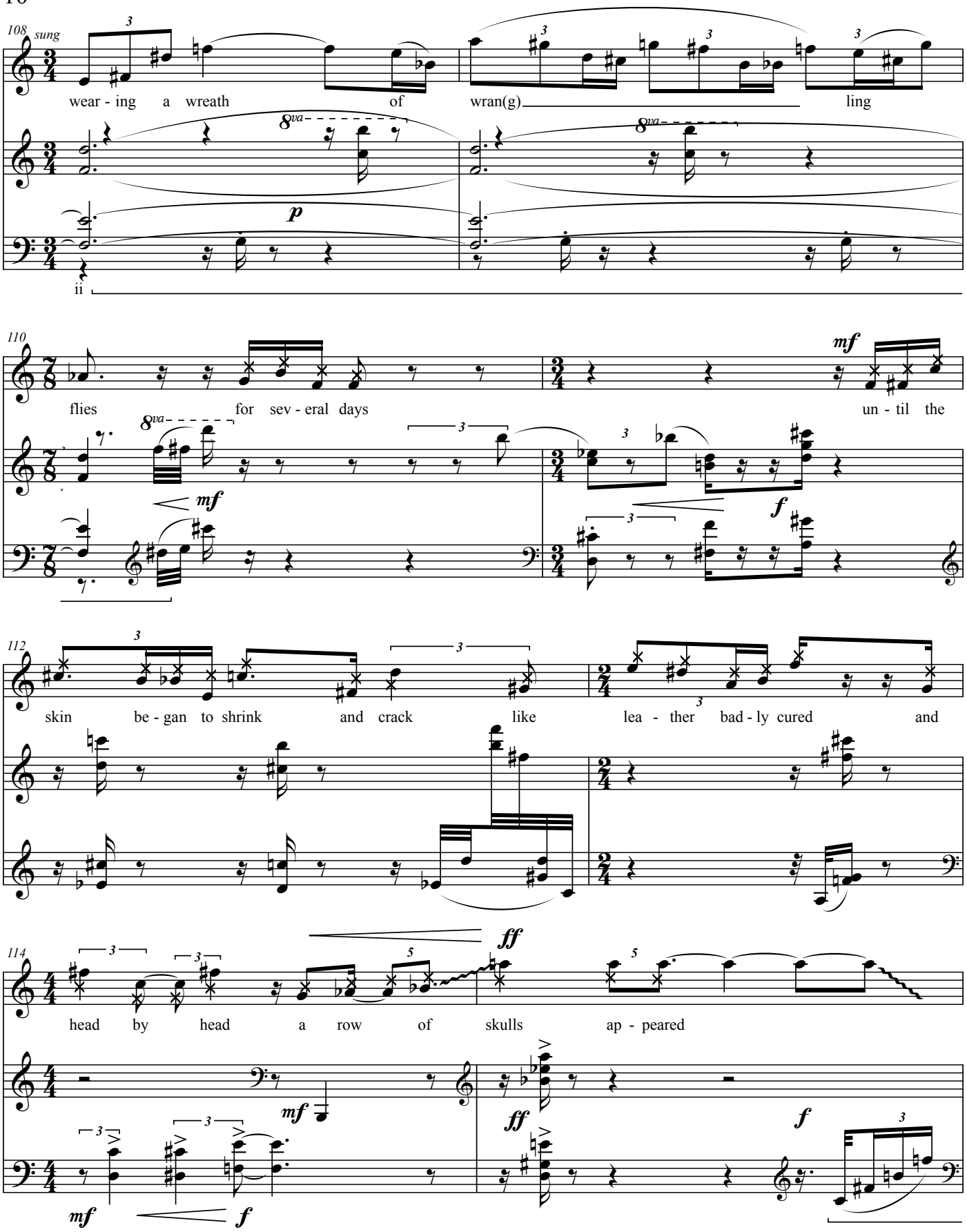

Slow ♪ = 112
55
rit.....
accel.....
A Tempo 1
un - der your hurt - ling cries
August
Sultry ♩ = 56
59
rit.....
63
A Tempo
rit.....
A Tempo
In waves of heat be-side the road the
67
field is all stri - a - tion
a wet

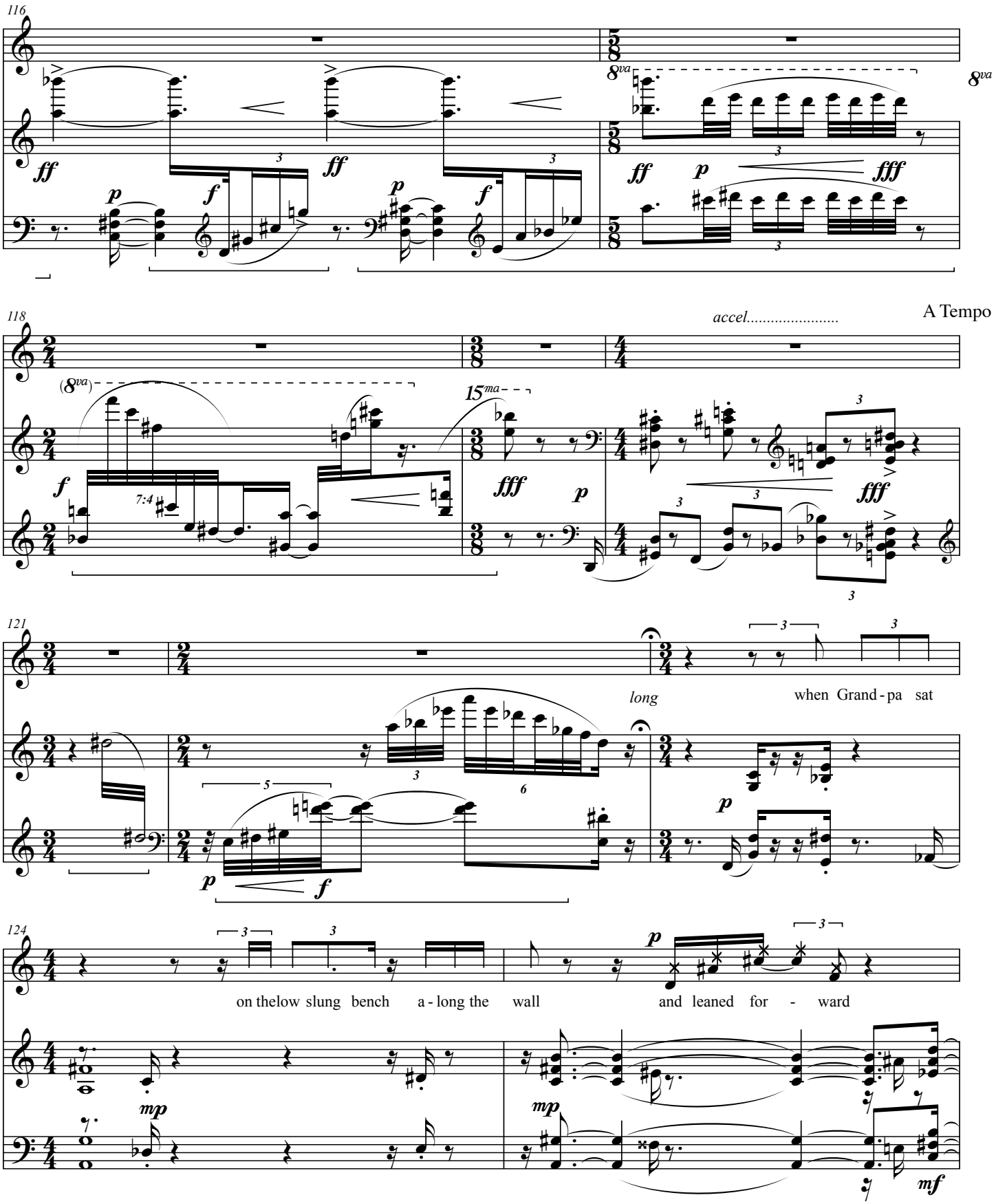

70
mp
pp
rit.....
A Tempo
shim - mer
drawn on the air
8va
p
pp
73
rit.....
A Tempo
no - thing but grass
and the
76
f
gol - den - rod
go - ing to
waste
with a - ban - don
f
p
mp
79
p
a paste of yel - lows
molto rit.....
wade - ing up - hill
p

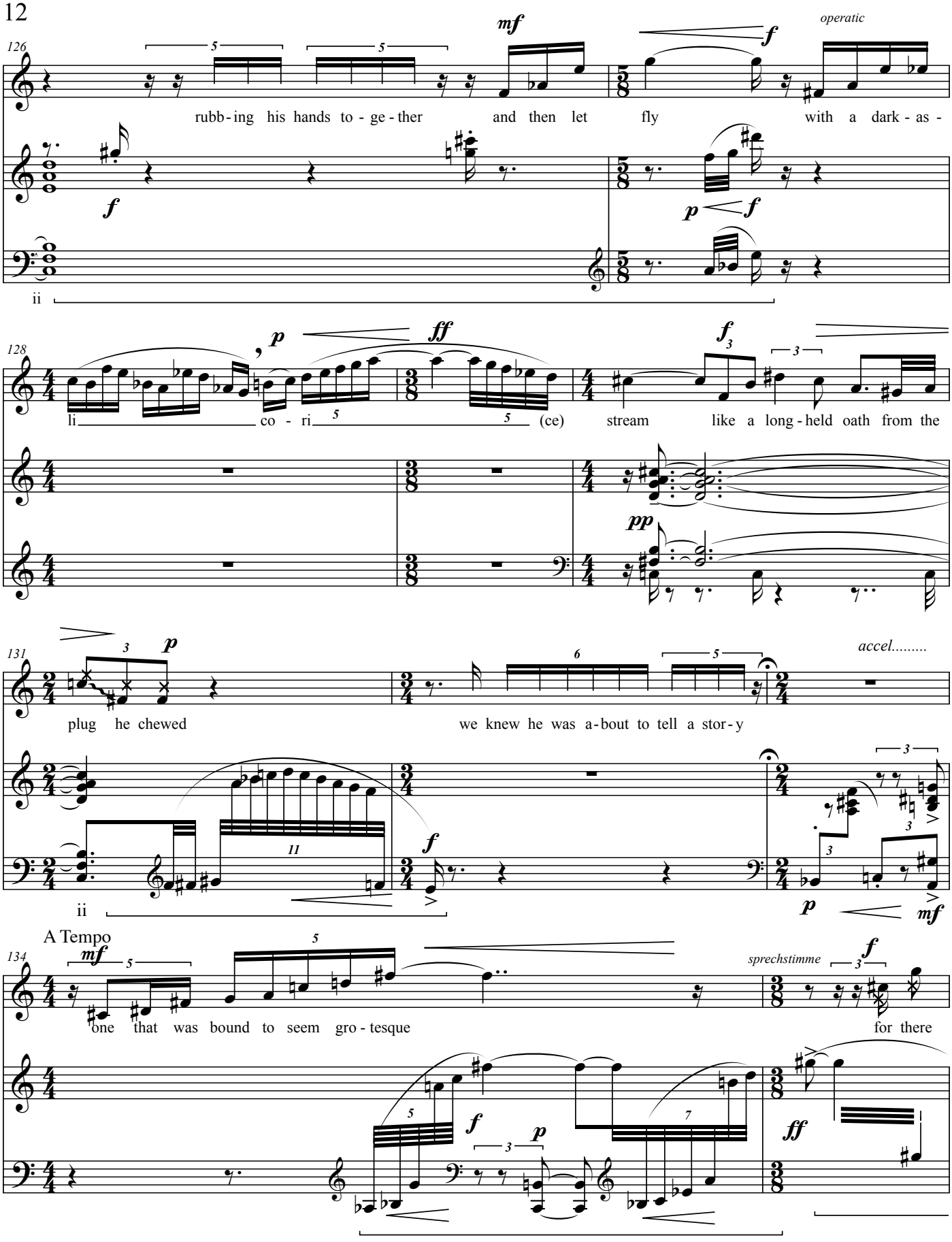
Fishheads


Volatile ♩= 72
accel.....
A Tempo
rit.....
A Tempo
rit.....
Slower ♩= 60
Tempo 1 ♩= 72
8va
rit.....
Grotesque ♪= 120
sprechstimme
sung
As high on the wall of the chic - ken shed as he could reach
trem
accel.....
5:3
my grand - fa - ther kept the heads of the cat - fish that he caught


98
A Tempo
Faster
rit.....
each one im - paled on a bright ten-pen-ny
101
A Tempo
Slower
sprechstimme
nail
They
8va
104
would face out in - to the waves of heat
(8va)
106
sprechstimme
all sum - mer long each fresh head


108 sung
wear - ing a wreath of wran(g) ling
8va
p
ii
110
flies for sev - eral days un - til the
mf
f
112
skin be - gan to shrink and crack like lea - ther bad - ly cured and
114
head by head a row of skulls ap - peared
ff
mf
f


116
8va
8va
ff
p
f
ff
p
f
ff
p
fff
118
accel.....
A Tempo
(8va)
15ma
f
7:4
fff
p
fff
121
long
when Grand - pa sat
p
p
f
124
on thelow slung bench a - long the wall
and leaned for - ward
mp
mp
p
mf


126
mf
f
operatic
rubb - ing his hands to - ge - ther and then let fly with a dark - as -
f
p
f
ii
128
p
ff
f3
li co - ri (ce) stream like a long - held oath from the
pp
131
p
plug he chewed
we knew he was a - bout to tell a stor - y
accel.....
f
ii
p
mf
A Tempo
134
mf
one that was bound to seem gro - tesque
sprechstimme
f
for there
f
p
ff

136

fff

in the glare of white a - bove his head

shouted

a school of wea - thered skulls a -

p

f

139

dorned the shed

ff

A Bright Winter Morning

Simply ♩= 60

140

p *sotto voce*

In the drif - ted gul - ly be - side the road

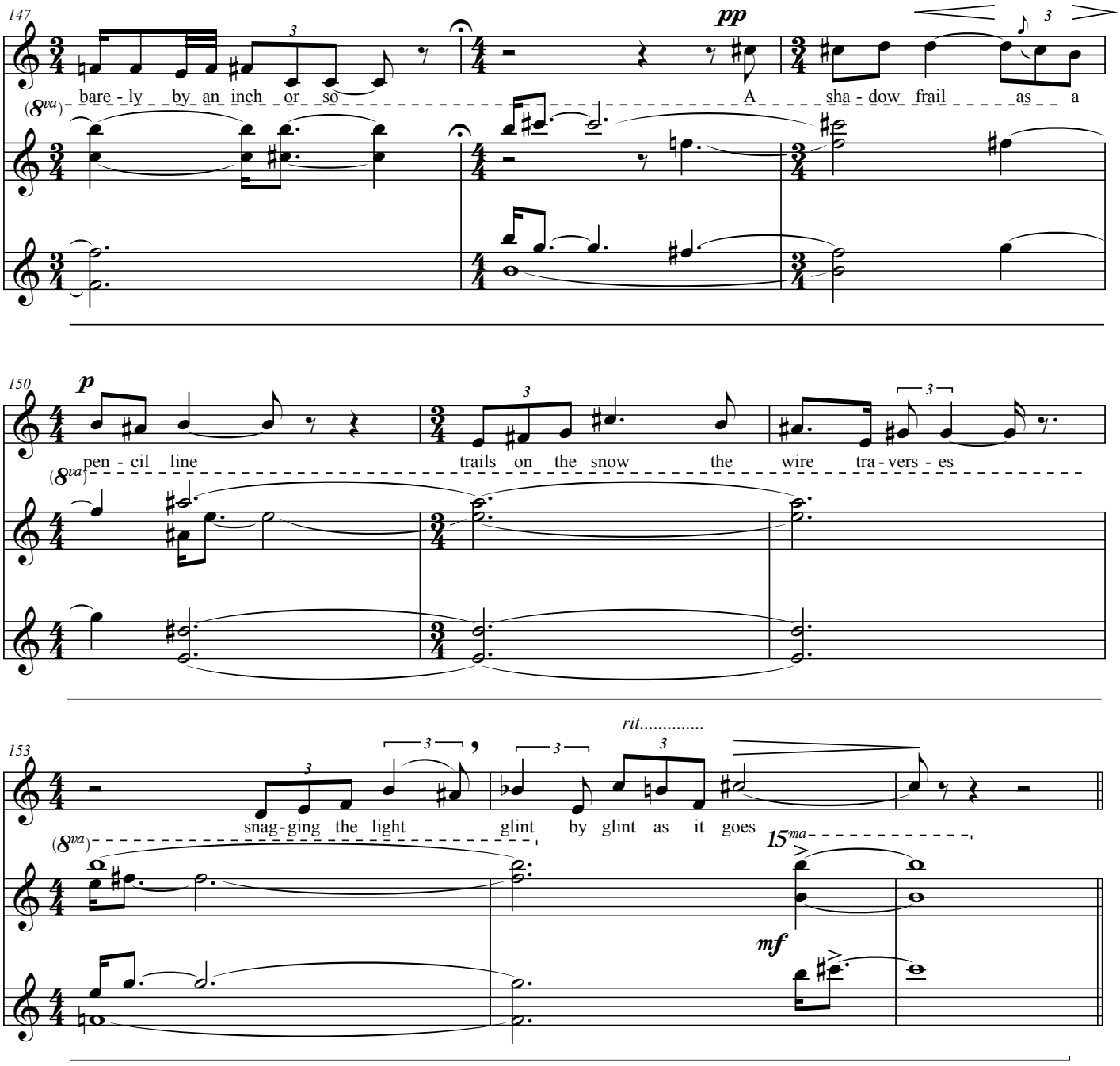
mf

p

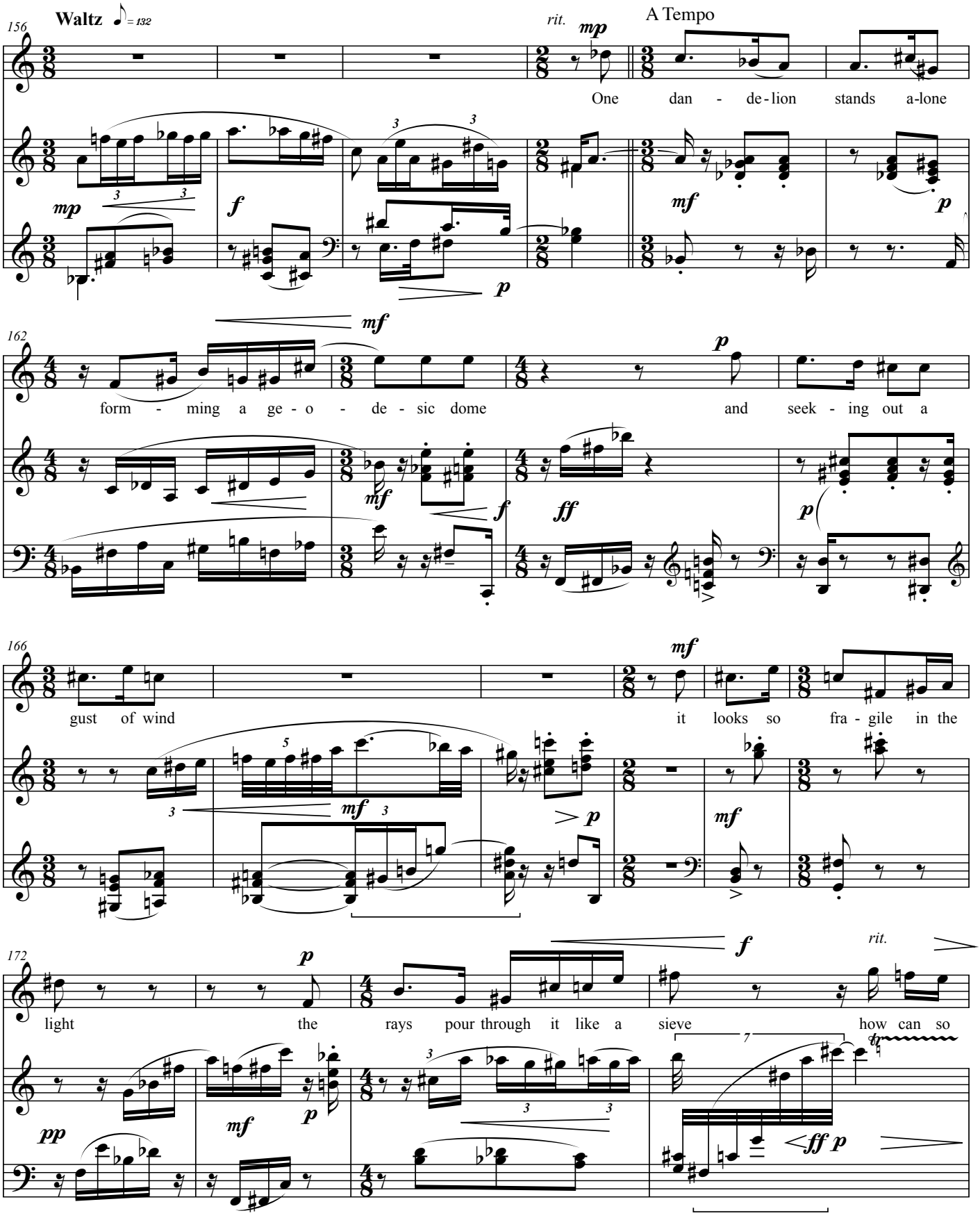
sempre ped

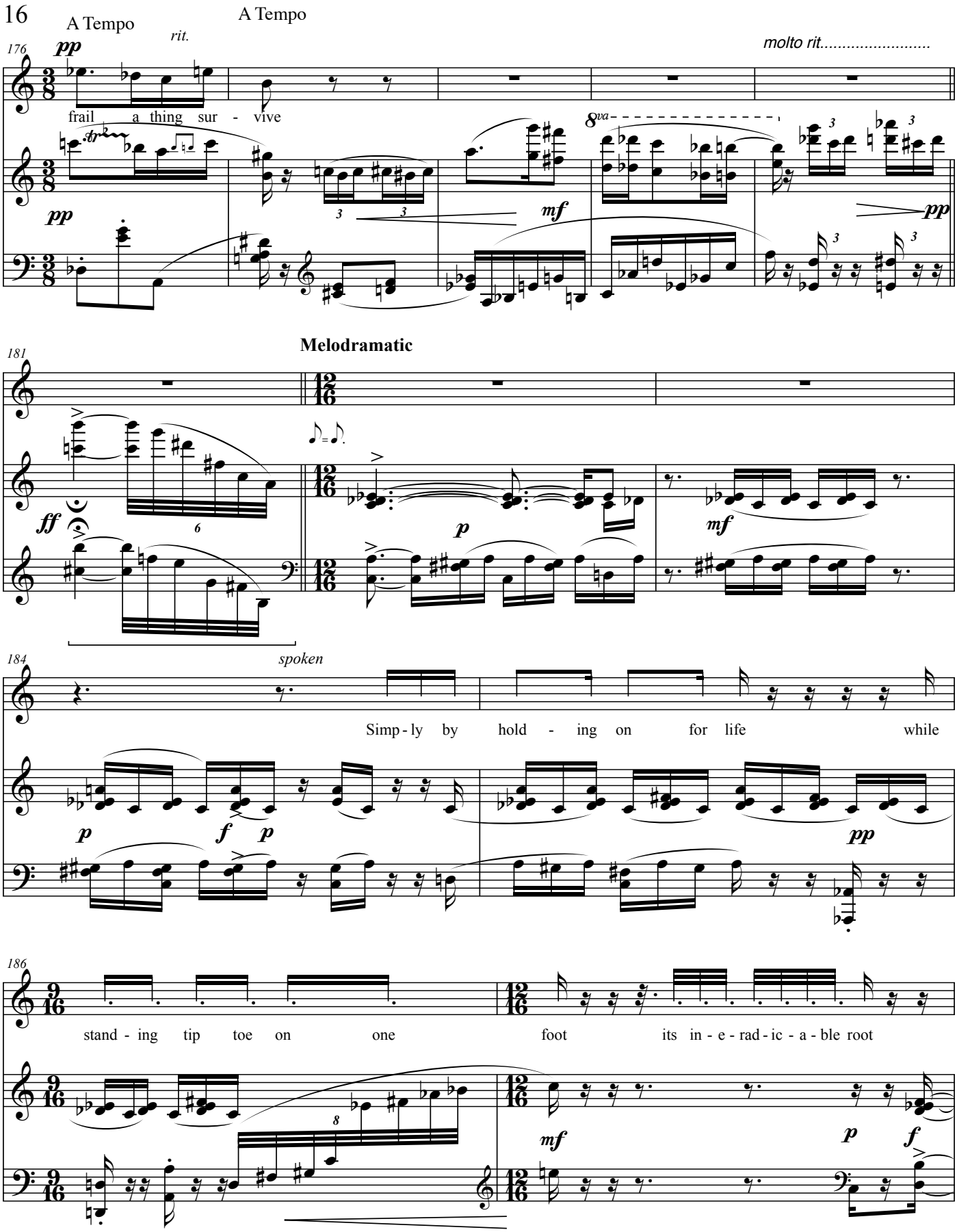
144

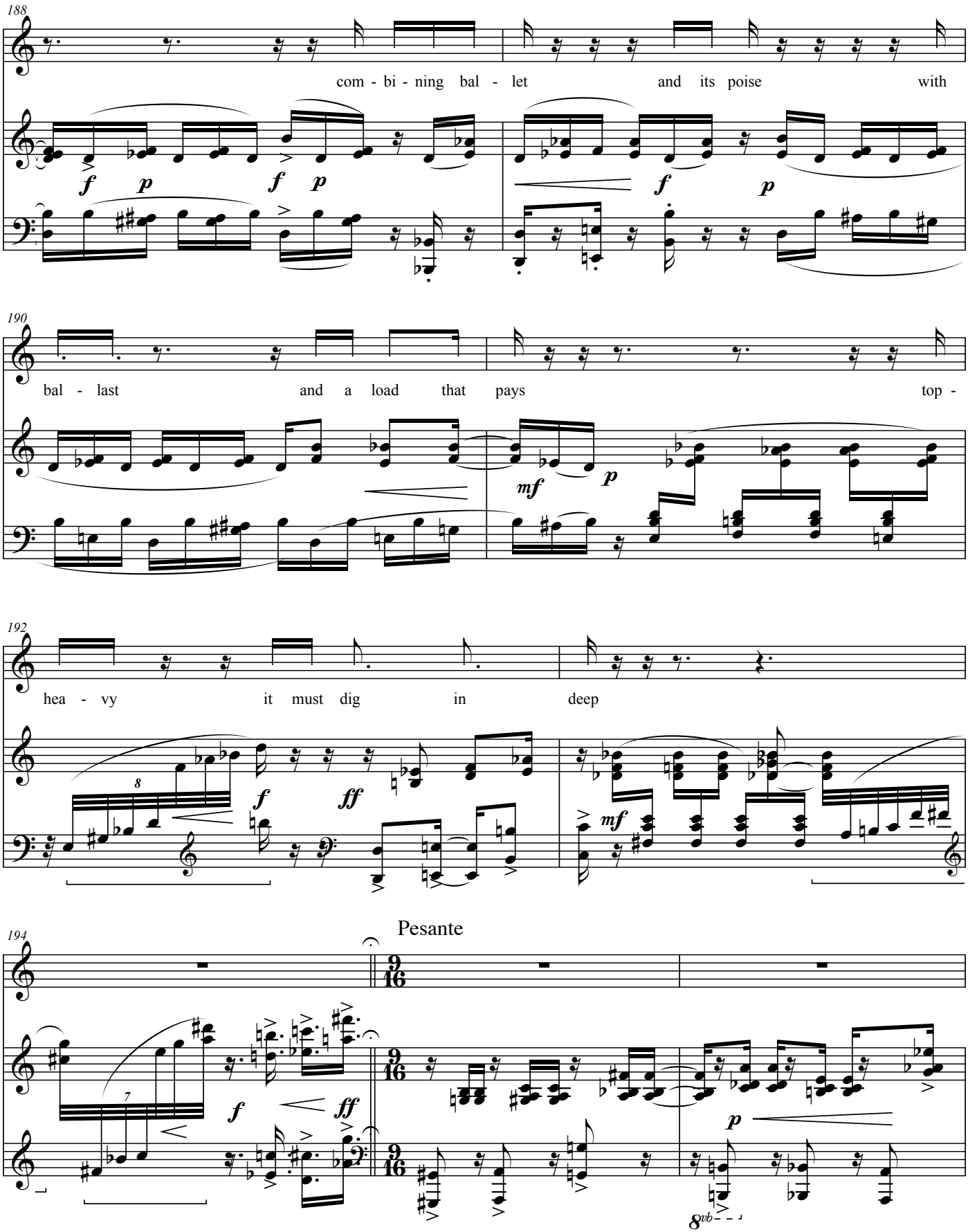
on - ly the top strand of the barbed wire clears the snow and on - ly

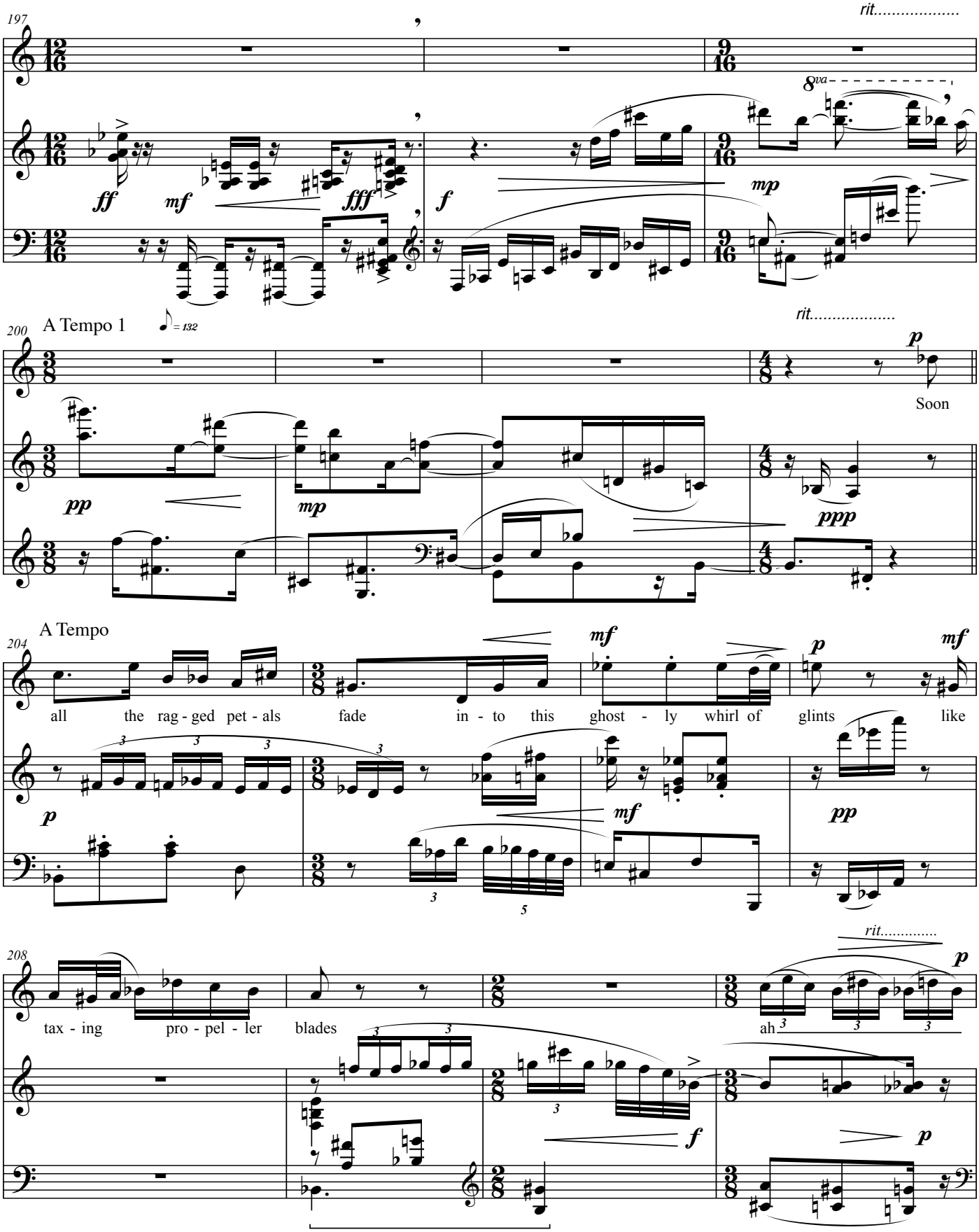

147
pp
(8va)
bare - ly by an inch or so
A sha - dow frail as a
150
p
pen - cil line
trails on the snow the wire tra - vers - es
153
rit.....
snag - ging the light
glint by glint as it goes
15ma
mf

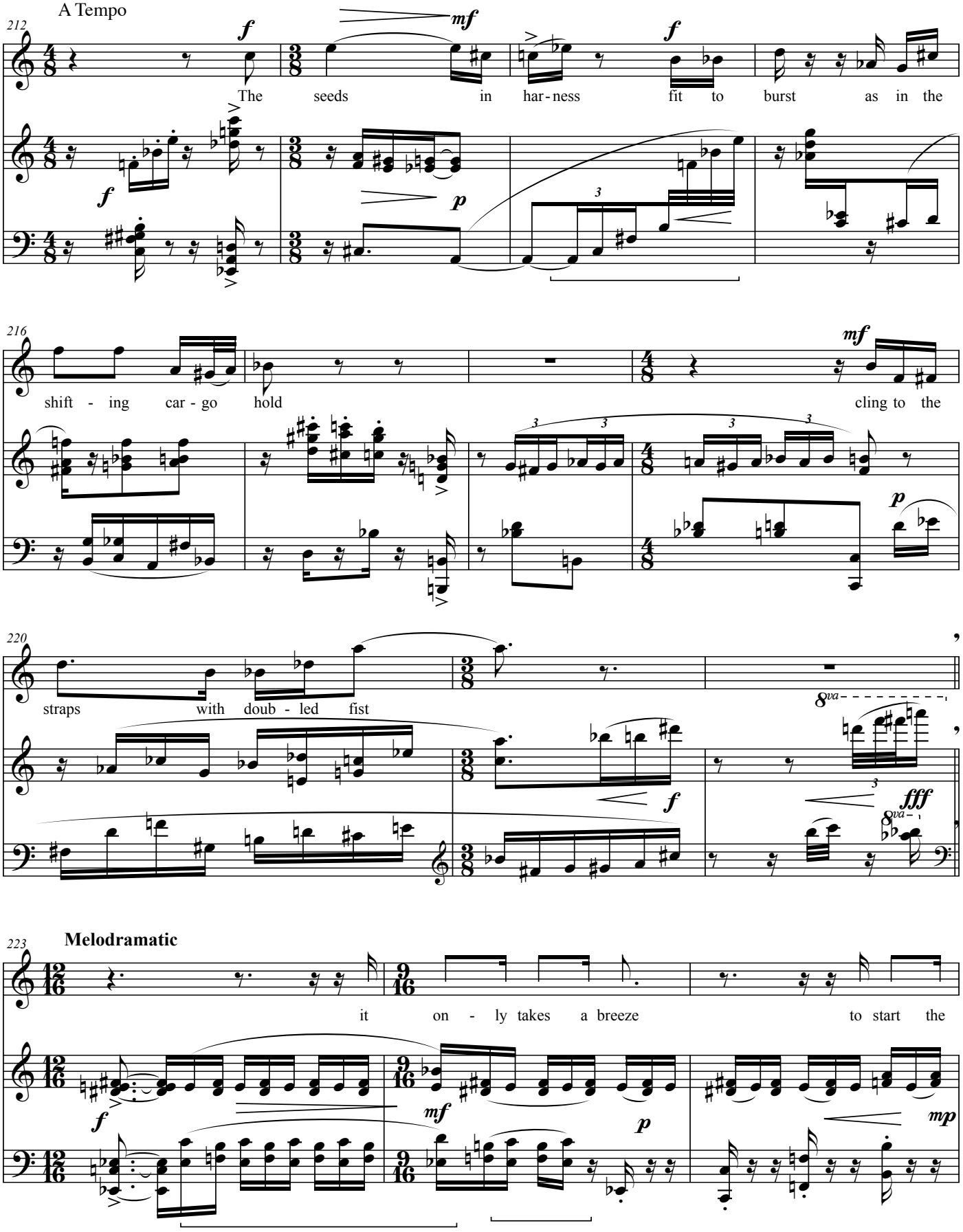
Seed Drop

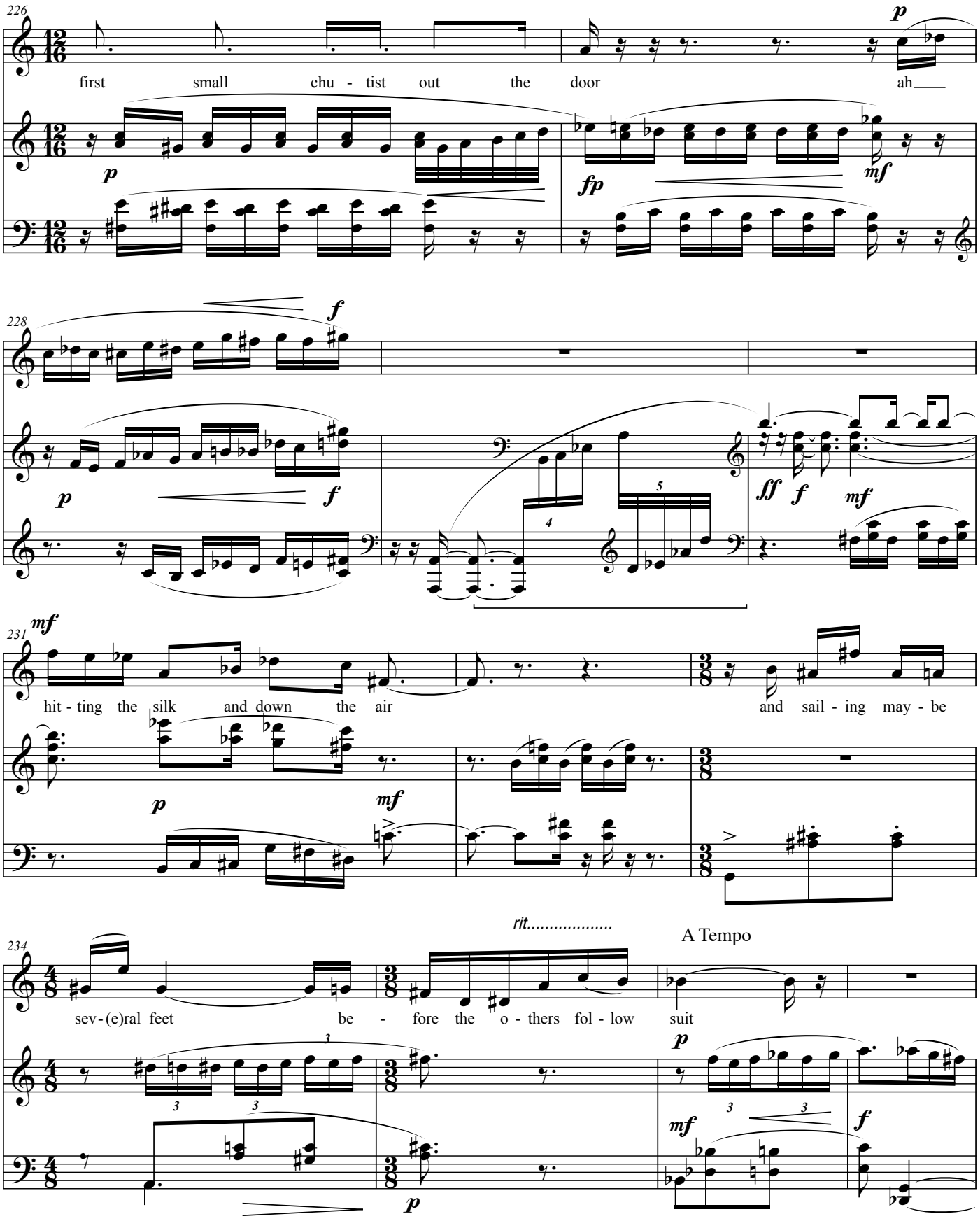

Waltz ♪ = 132
156
rit.
mp
A Tempo
One dan - de-lion stands a-lone
mp
f
p
mf
p
162
mf
p
form - ming a ge - o - de - sic dome and seek - ing out a
mf
f
ff
p
166
mf
gust of wind it looks so fra - gile in the
mf
p
mf
172
p
f
rit.
light the rays pour through it like a sieve how can so
pp
mf
p
ff p

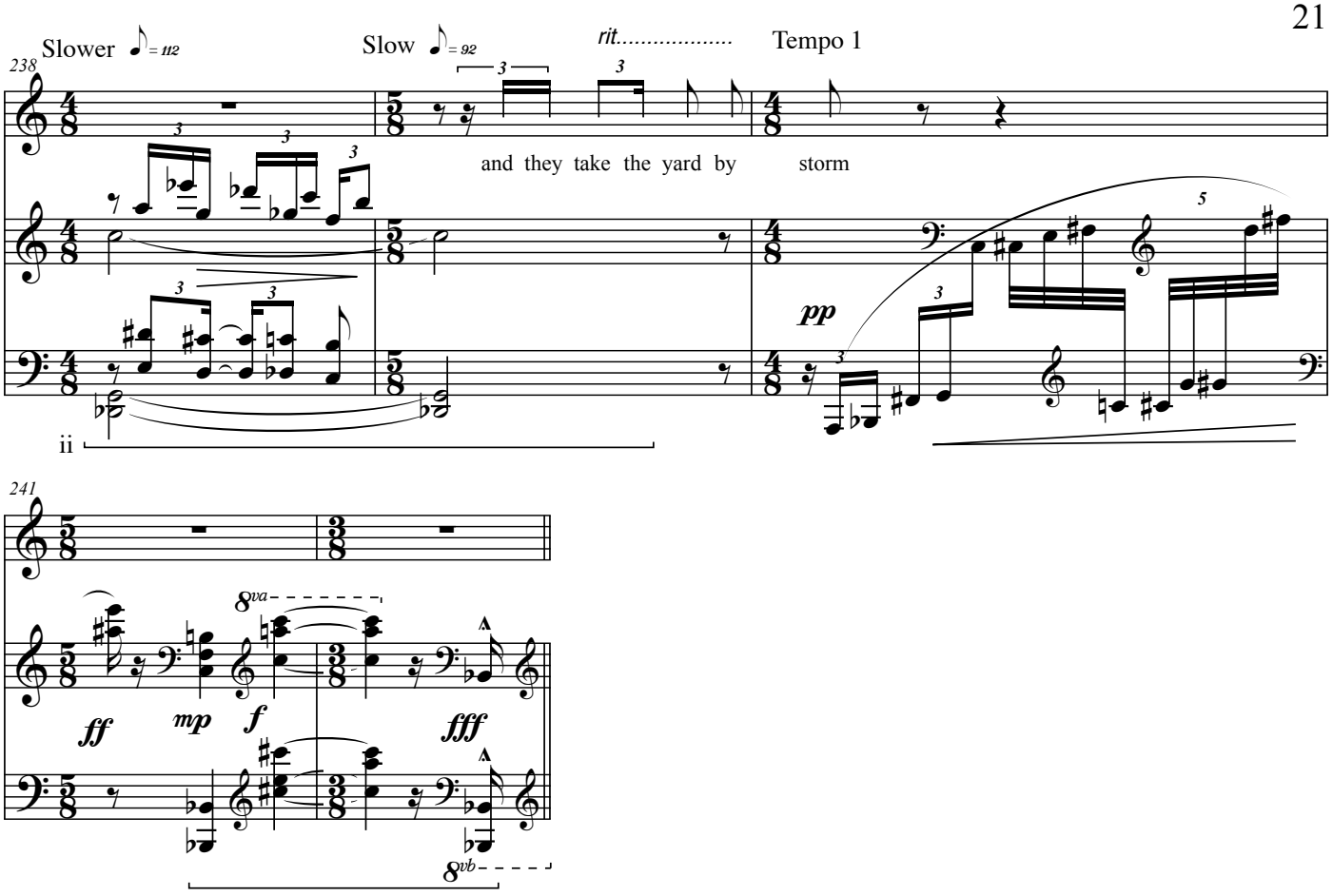

A Tempo
rit.
A Tempo
molto rit.....
176
pp
frail a thing sur - vive
8va
mf
pp
Melodramatic
181
ff
p
mf
184
spoken
Simp - ly by hold - ing on for life while
p
f
p
pp
186
stand - ing tip toe on one foot its in - e - rad - ic - a - ble root
mf
p
f


188
com - bi - ning bal - let and its poise with
190
bal - last and a load that pays top -
192
hea - vy it must dig in deep
194
Pesante

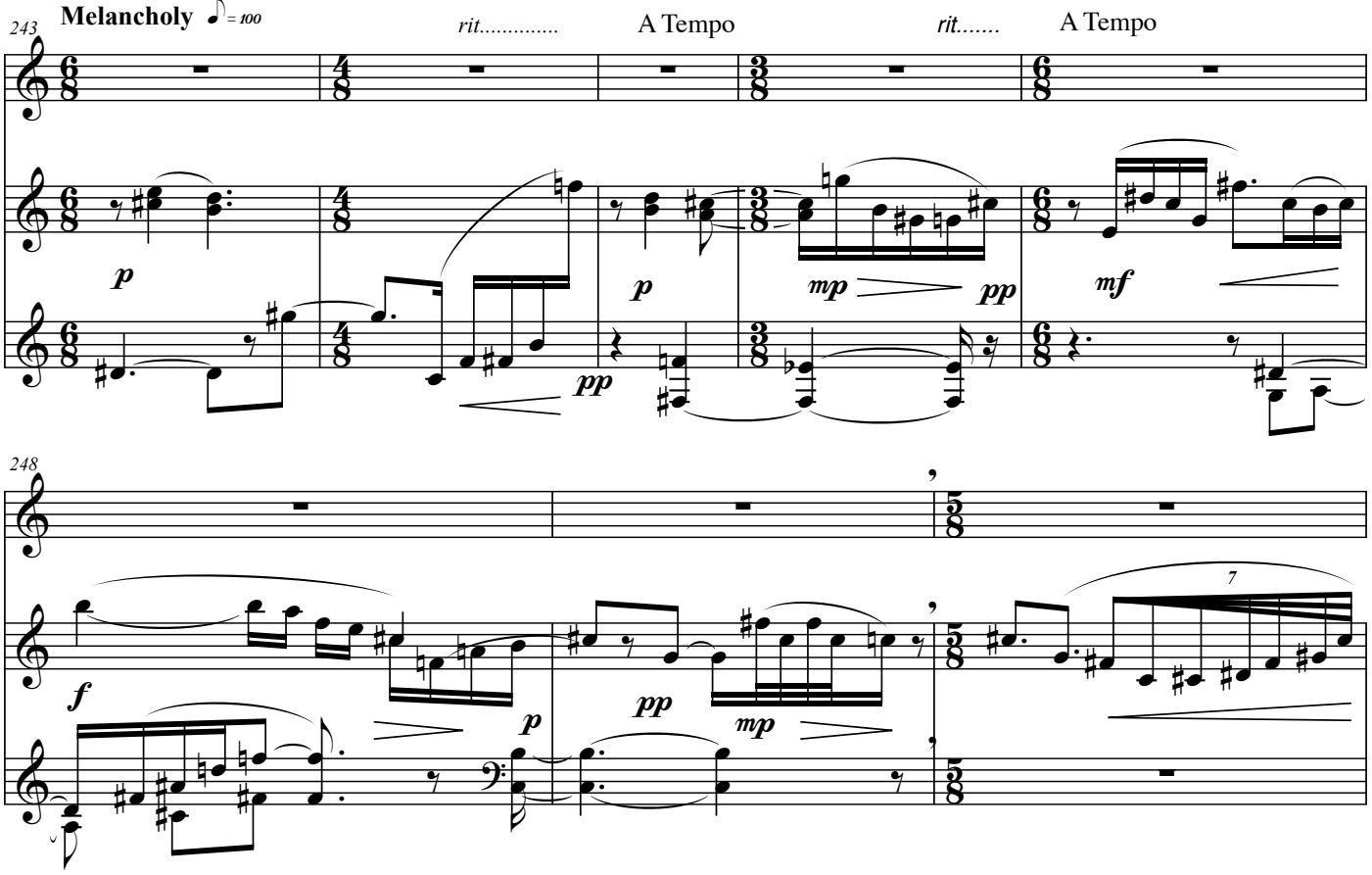

197
rit.....
8va
ff
mf
fff
f
mp
200
A Tempo 1
♩= 132
rit.....
p
Soon
pp
mp
ppp
204
A Tempo
all the rag - ged pet - als fade in - to this ghost - ly whirl of glints like
mf
p
mf
pp
208
tax - ing pro - pel - ler blades
rit.....
ah
f
p

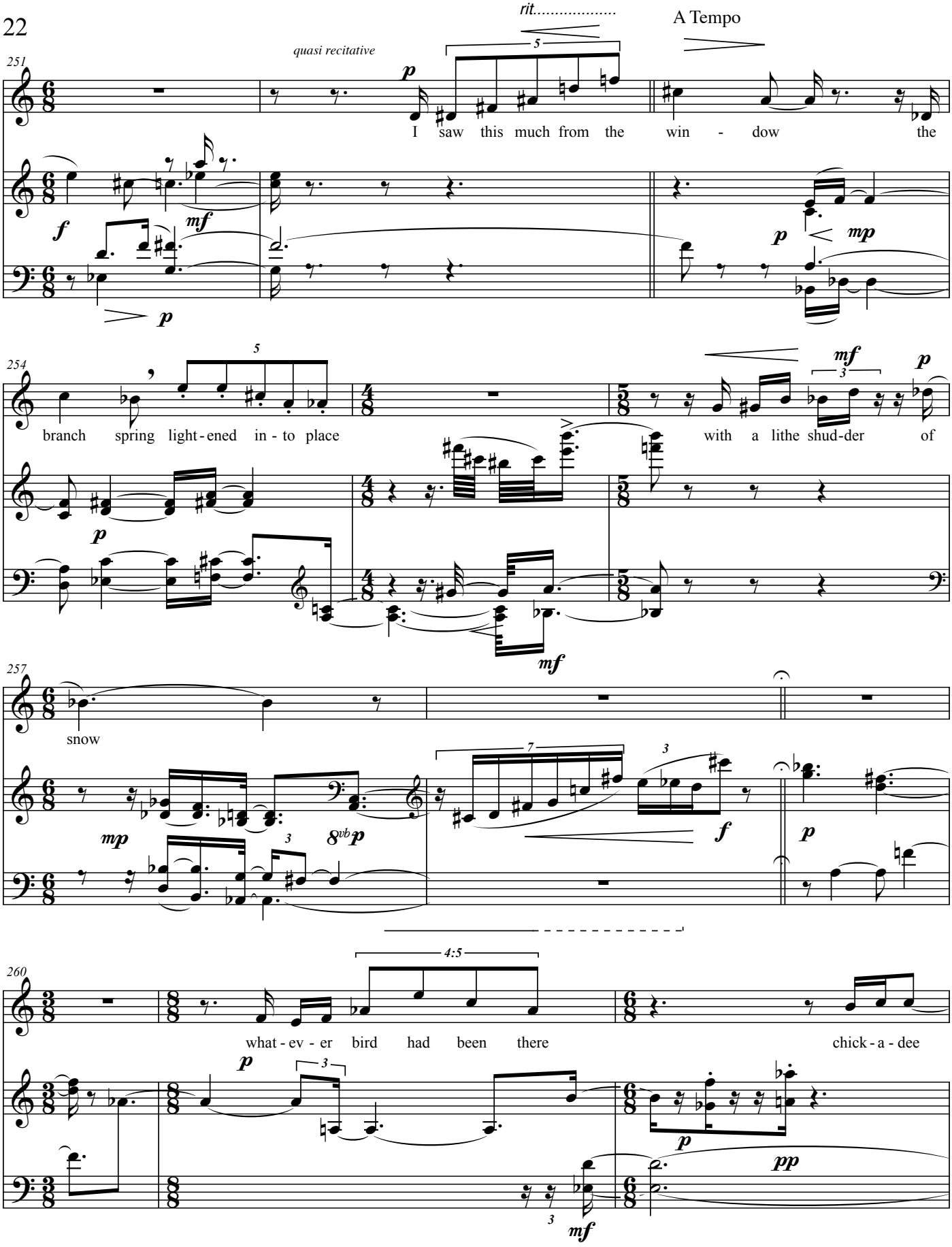

A Tempo
212
The seeds in har-ness fit to burst as in the
216
shift - ing car - go hold cling to the
220
straps with doub - led fist
8va
223
Melodramatic
it on - ly takes a breeze to start the

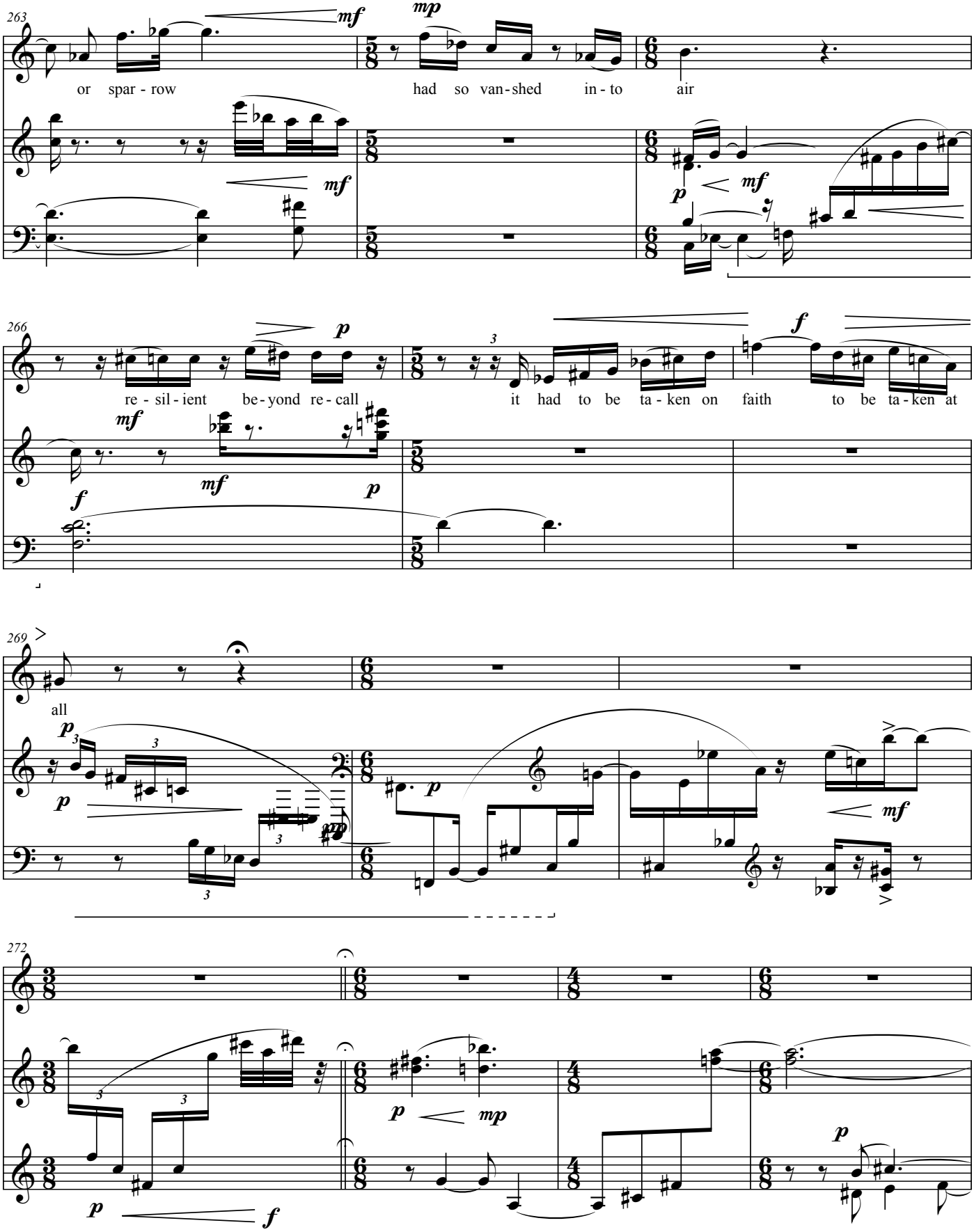

226
first small chu - tist out the door ah
p
fp
mf
228
f
p
f
ff
f
mf
231
mf
hit - ting the silk and down the air and sail - ing may - be
p
mf
rit.....
A Tempo
234
sev - (e)ral feet be - fore the o - thers fol - low suit
p
mf
f
p

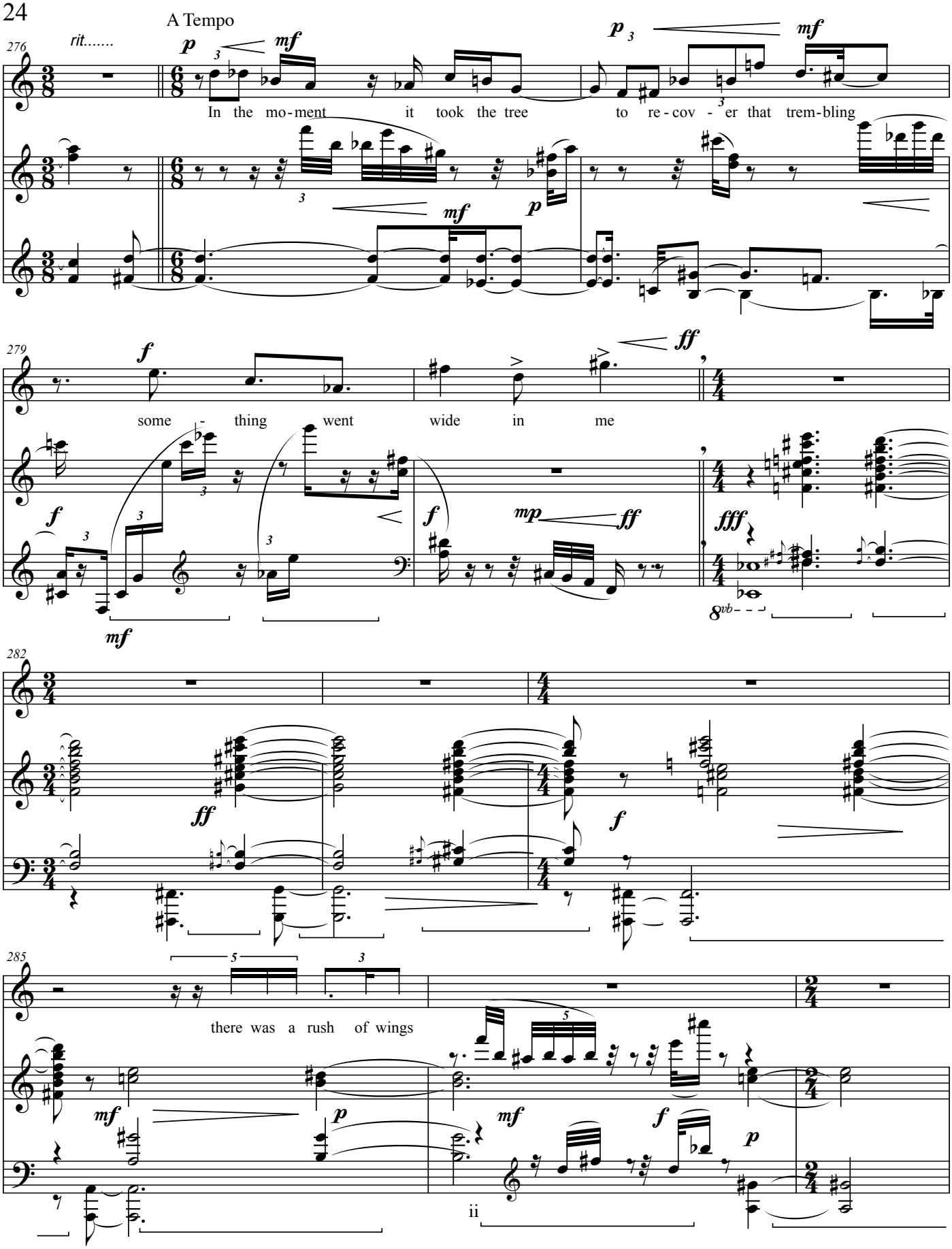


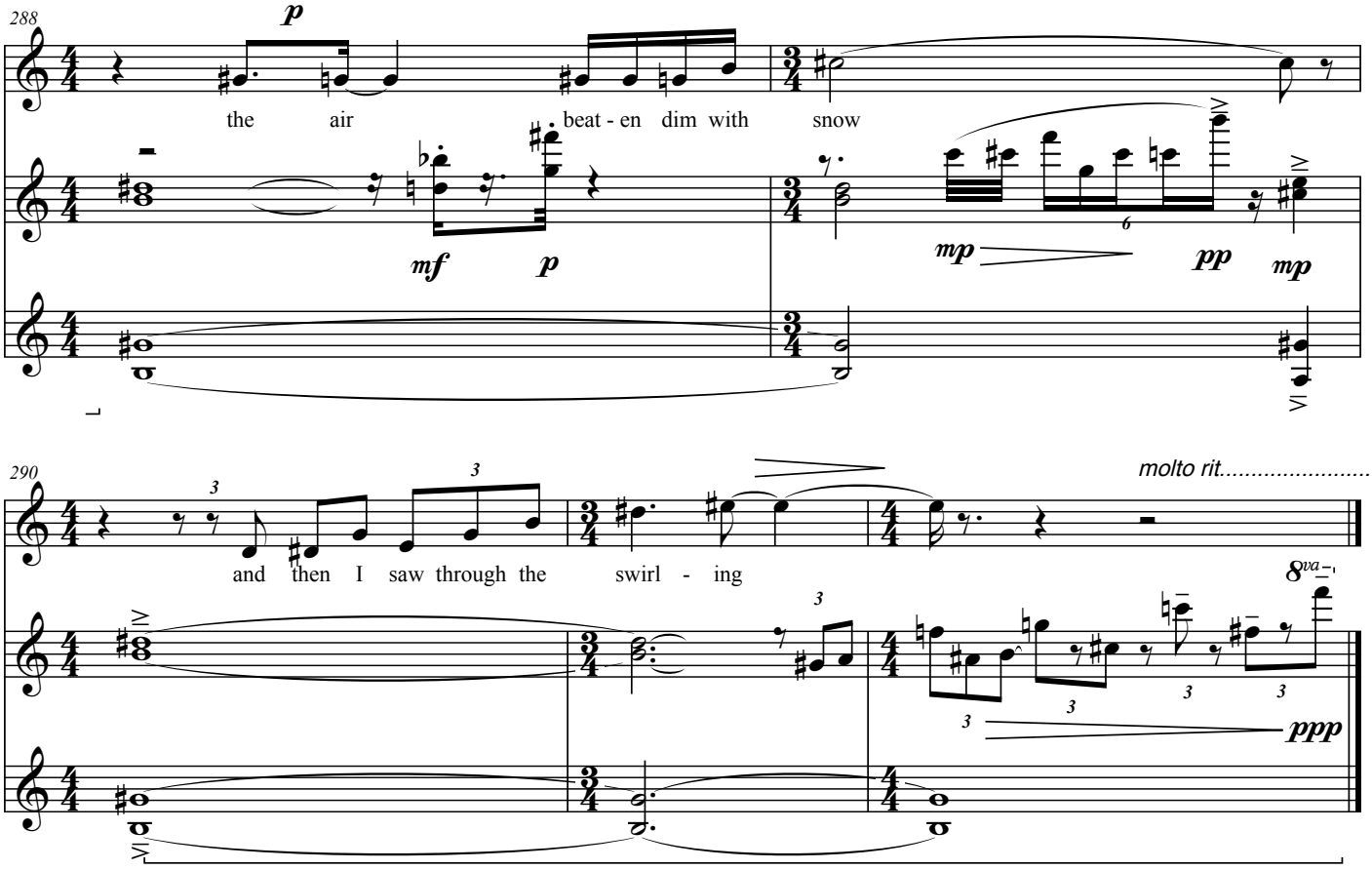
The Gap In The Cedar




rit.....
A Tempo
quasi recitative
251
I saw this much from the win - dow the
254
branch spring light - ened in - to place
with a lithe shud-der of
257
snow
260
what - ev - er bird had been there
chick - a - dee


263
mf
mp
or spar - row
had so van - shed in - to air
mf
p
mf
266
p
re - sil - ient be - yond re - call
it had to be ta - ken on faith to be ta - ken at
f
mf
f
mf
p
269
all
p
p
mf
272
p
f
p
mp
p


A Tempo
rit.....
276
In the mo-ment it took the tree to re-cov-er that trem-bling
279
some - thing went wide in me
8vb
282
285
there was a rush of wings
ii


288
p
the air beat - en dim with snow
mf
p
mp
pp
mp
290
and then I saw through the swirl - ing
molto rit.....
8va
ppp