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Voyages Through The Inland Sea

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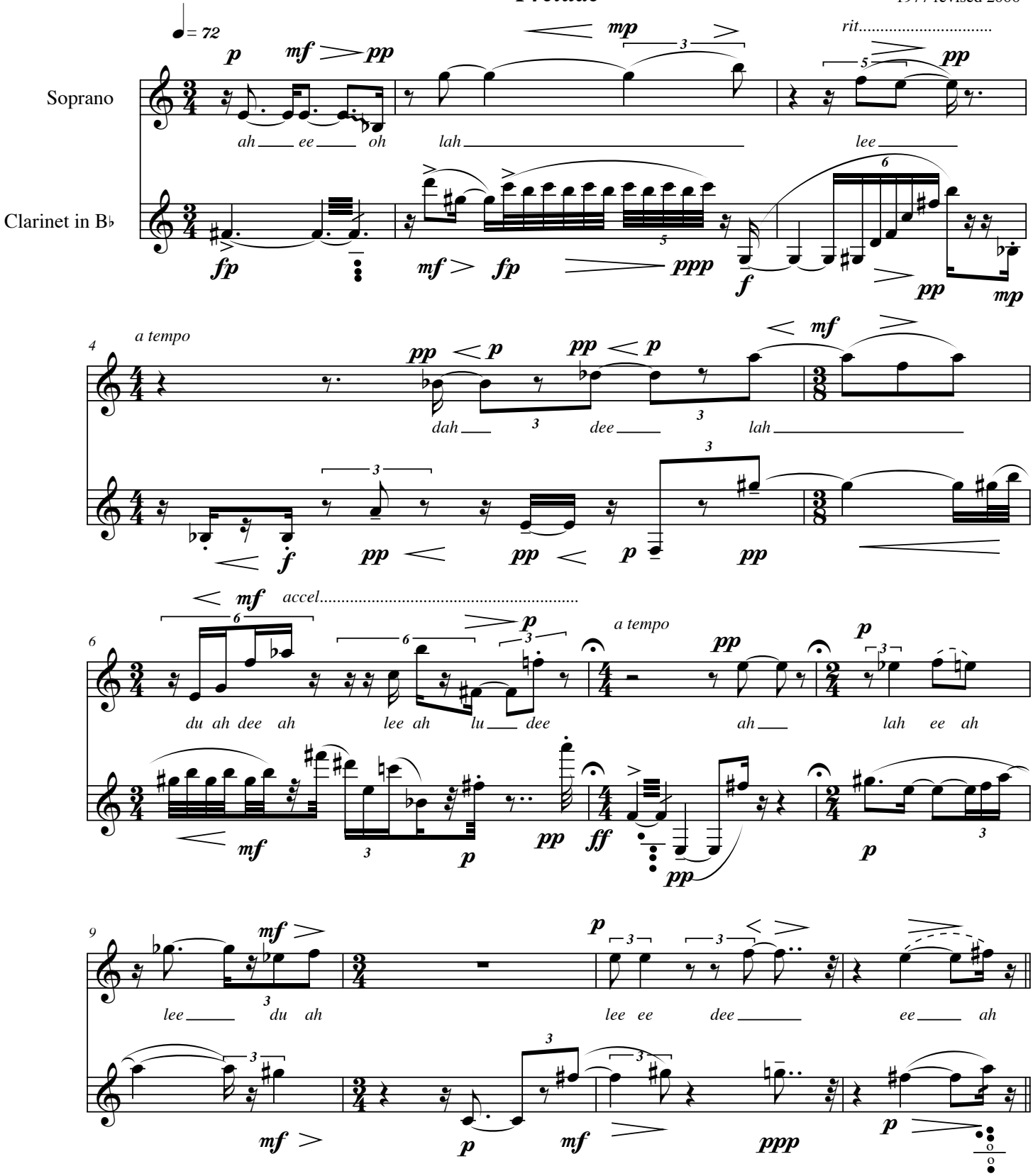
for
Donna Harler-Smith
and
Wes Reist

Voyages Through The Inland Sea

poems: **Ted Kooser**

Randall Snyder
1977 revised 2006

Prelude



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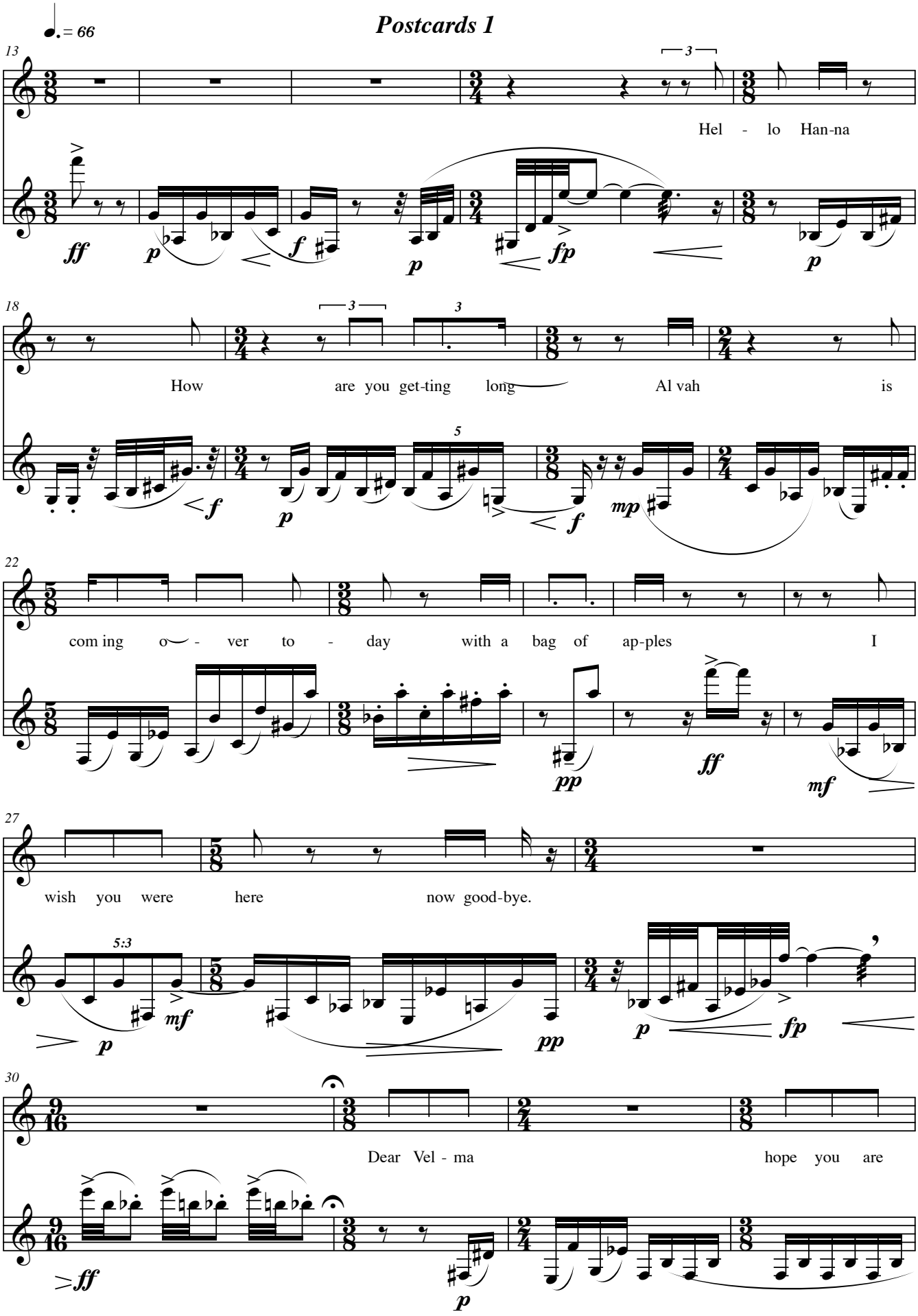
Postcards 1


♩. = 66
13
Hel - lo Han-na
18
How are you get-ting long Al vah is
22
com ing o - ver to - day with a bag of ap-ples I
27
wish you were here now good-bye.
30
Dear Vel - ma hope you are

34

hav - ing a fine time en - joy life

38

while you can for when you get old you can't

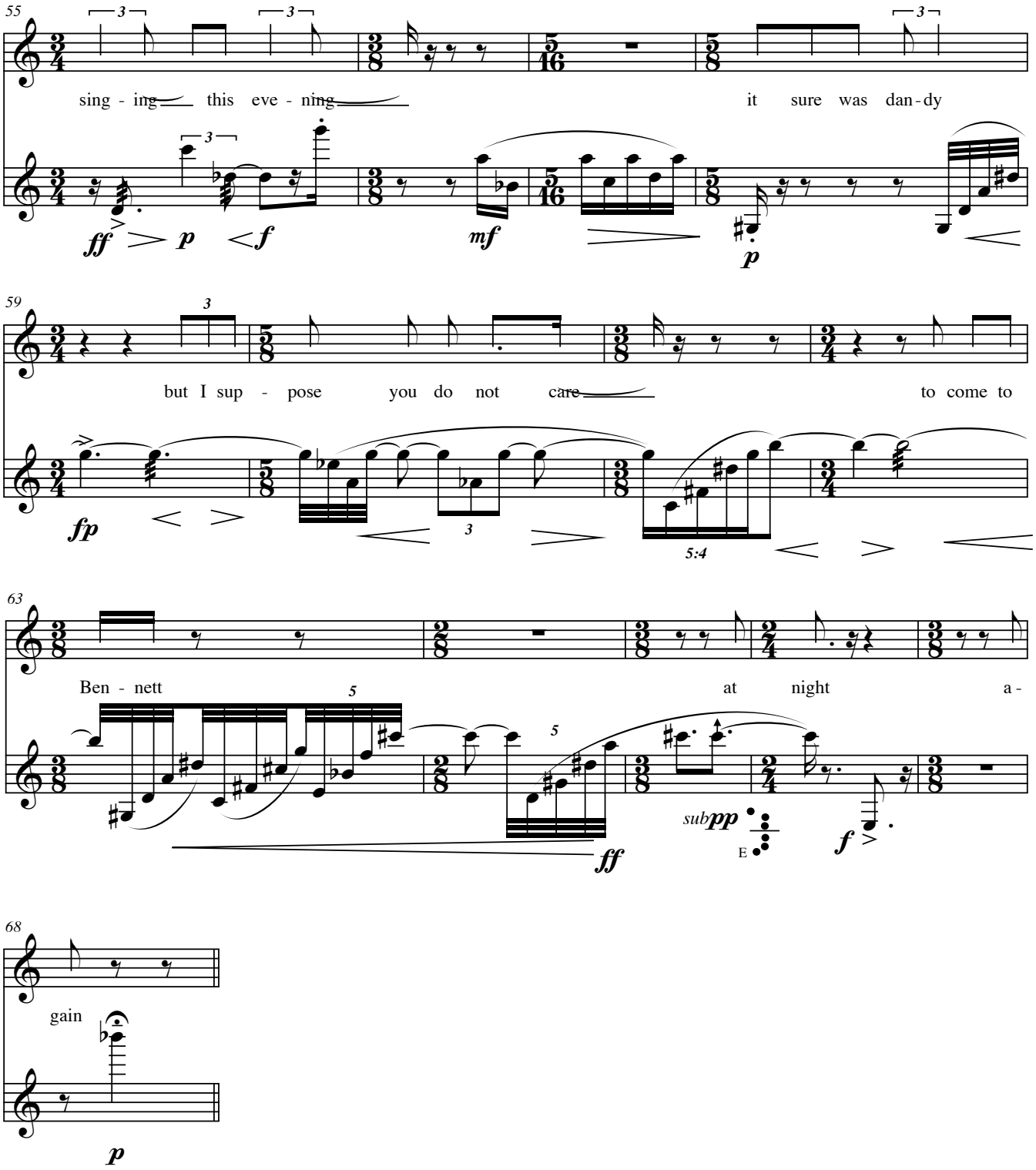
43

hap - py new year to you from - grand pa

48

52

I wish you girls had been o - ver to hear the


55
sing - ing this eve - ning it sure was dan - dy
ff p f mf p
59
but I sup - pose you do not care to come to
fp
5:4
63
Ben - nett at night a -
ff
sub pp
E
f
68
gain
p

In The Laundromat

♩ = 112

69

Our lives are brief as dimes

74

dit *bit* *dit* a wash

77

of o - dors *oh* and a

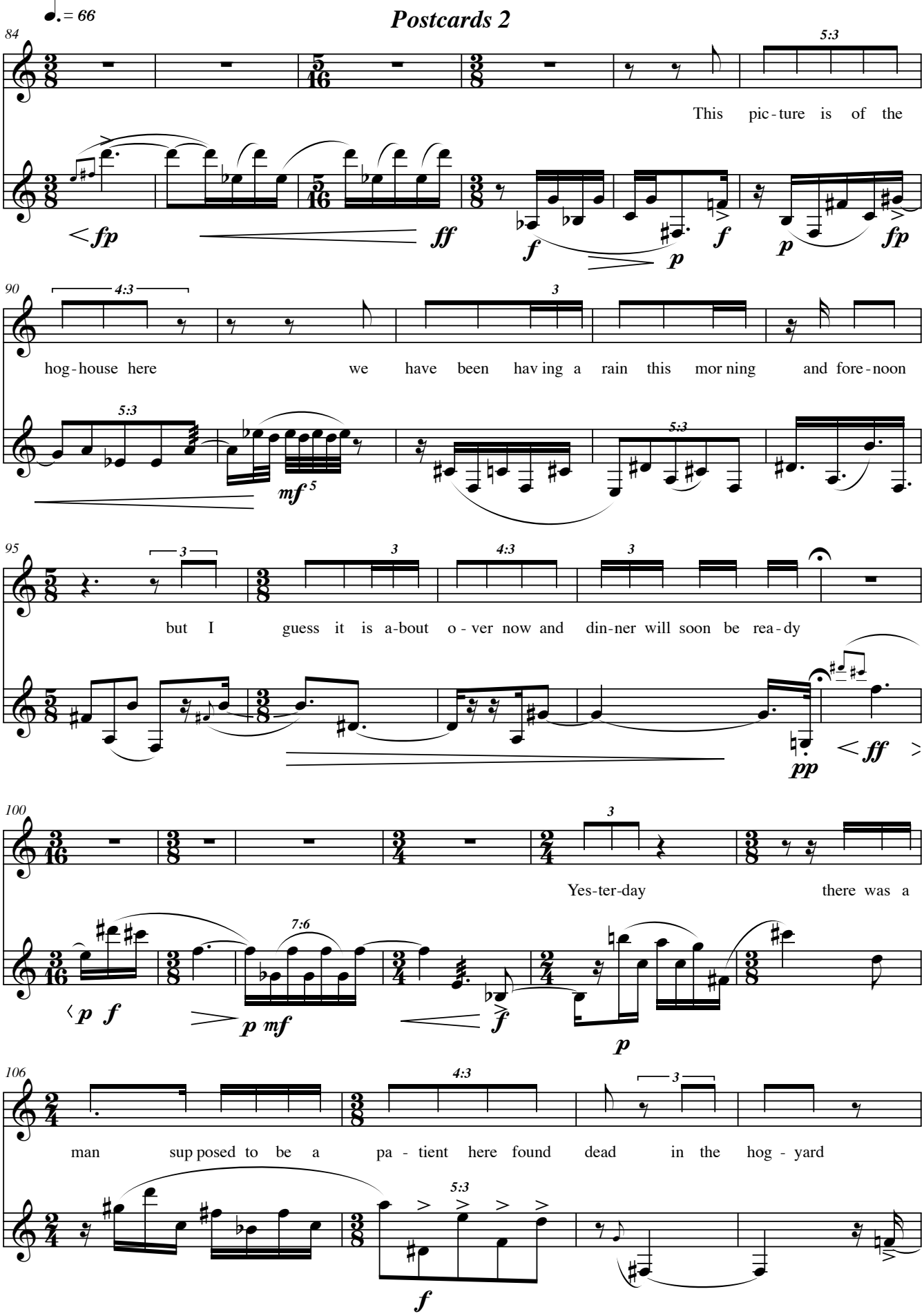
rit.....

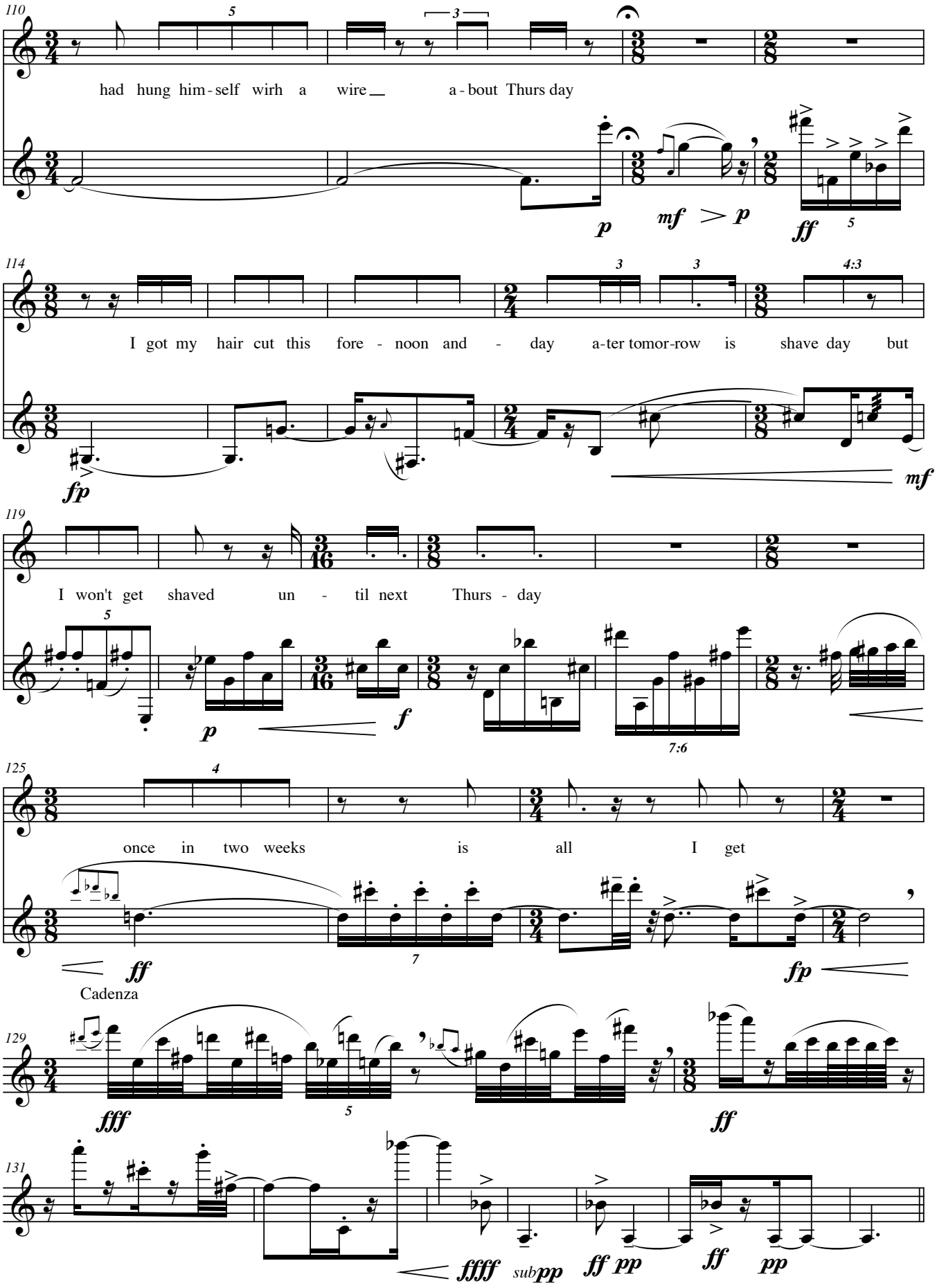
a tempo

80

rinse *ss ss* of fal - ling lea - - - ves

Postcards 2


♩. = 66
84
This pic-ture is of the
90
hog-house here we have been hav ing a rain this mor ning and fore-noon
95
but I guess it is a-bout o-ver now and din-ner will soon be rea-dy
100
Yes-ter-day there was a
106
man sup posed to be a pa-tient here found dead in the hog-yard


110
had hung him-self wirh a wire a-bout Thurs day
p
mf
p
ff
114
I got my hair cut this fore - noon and - day a-ter tomor-row is shave day but
fp
mf
119
I won't get shaved un - til next Thurs - day
p
f
7:6
125
once in two weeks is all I get
ff
fp
Cadenza
129
fff
ff
131
ffff
sub pp
ff pp
ff
pp

Cherry County, Nebraska

138 ♩ = 60

pp

slide

E

E

144 Macabre

p

Eight crows by the road

pp

stage whisper

eat-ing a dog

p

Their wings wash

E-Key clack

f

non vib

fp

147 mf

up in the wind

mf

like sur - geon's

mp

pp

fp

5:3

f

p

151 p

hands ha

f

their beaks

ff

vib

f

ff

153 mf

bee 3 - - - LOOK DIR-TY!

fff

shout

p

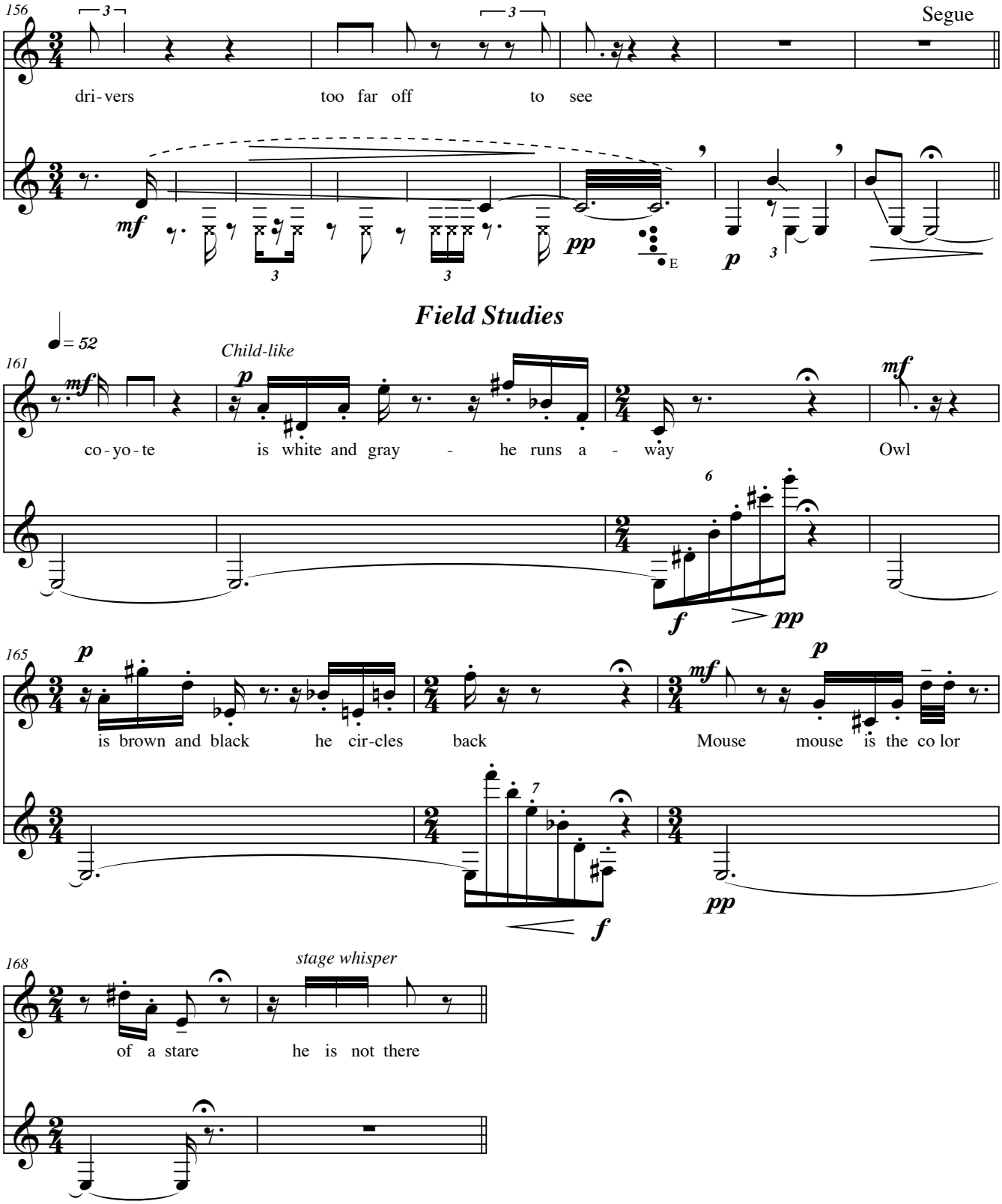
to the

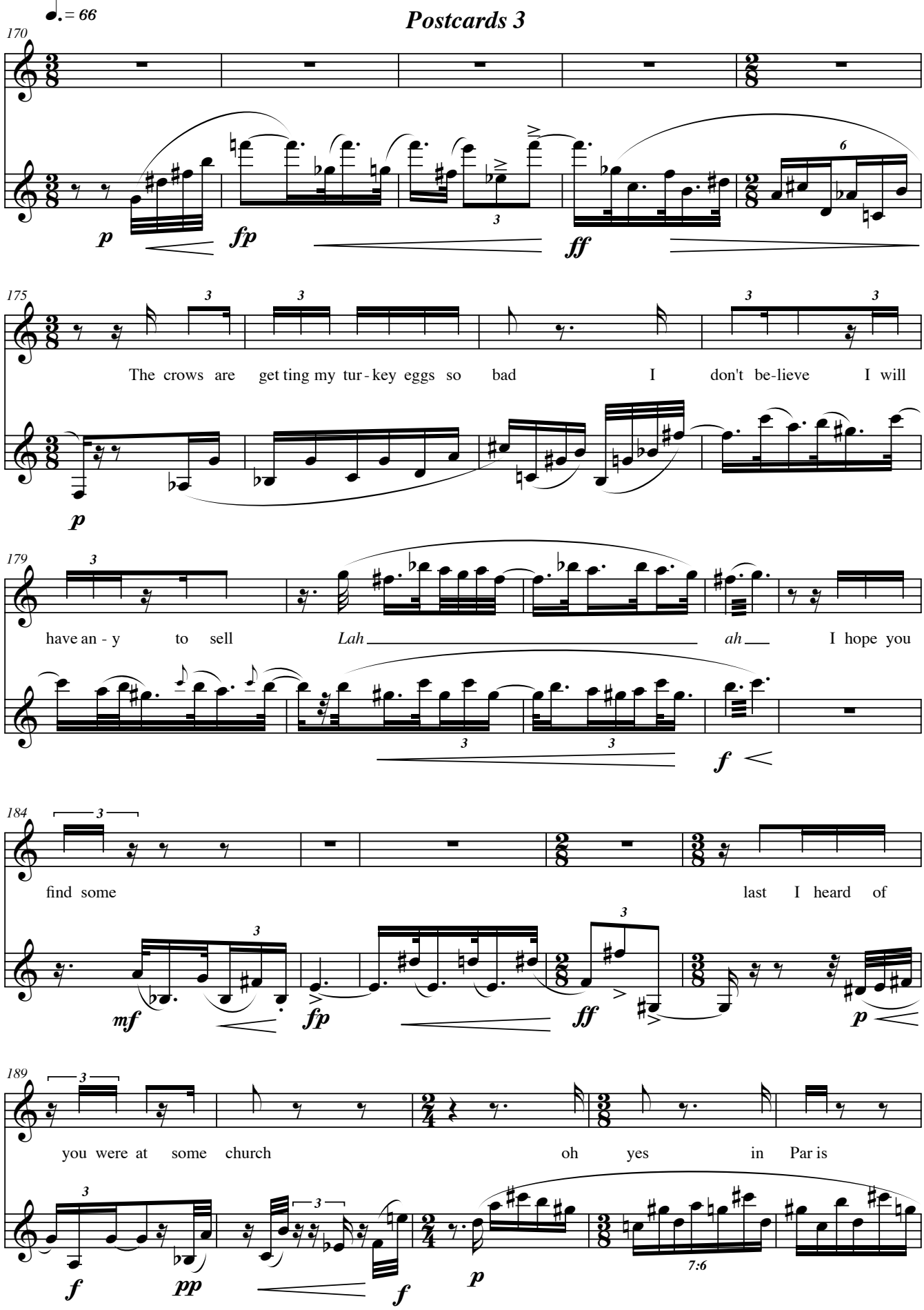
mf

fff

f

p


156
Segue
dri-vers too far off to see
mf
pp
p
Field Studies
♩= 52
161
Child-like
mf
p
co-yo-te is white and gray - he runs a - way Owl
f
pp
165
p
is brown and black he cir-cles back Mouse mouse is the co lor
mf
p
f
pp
168
stage whisper
of a stare he is not there


Postcards 3
♩. = 66
170
p
fp
ff
175
The crows are get ting my tur - key eggs so bad I don't be-lieve I will
p
179
have an - y to sell Lah ah I hope you
f
184
find some last I heard of
mf
fp
ff
p
189
you were at some church oh yes in Par is
f
pp
f
p

194

f *pp*

ah

7:6 *f* *pp*

Slower *accel.....* *a tempo*

200

won der where you are now

f 9 *pp* *mp* *f*

205

5:3 5 7:6

Hav - en't time for a let - ter but will write a few lines an - y - way Say would you

p *mf* *pp*

209

cop - y off that Ar - kan - sas song that Cloud used to sing up at the

fp *f* *mf* *pp*

213

hos - pi - tal and played on that gui - - - tar

f *p* *ff*

216

we have a lit-tle South ern nurse here from Ar-kan-saw and I want to

220

tease her with it *la* *da* *yah* Segue

Arkansas Song (interpolation)

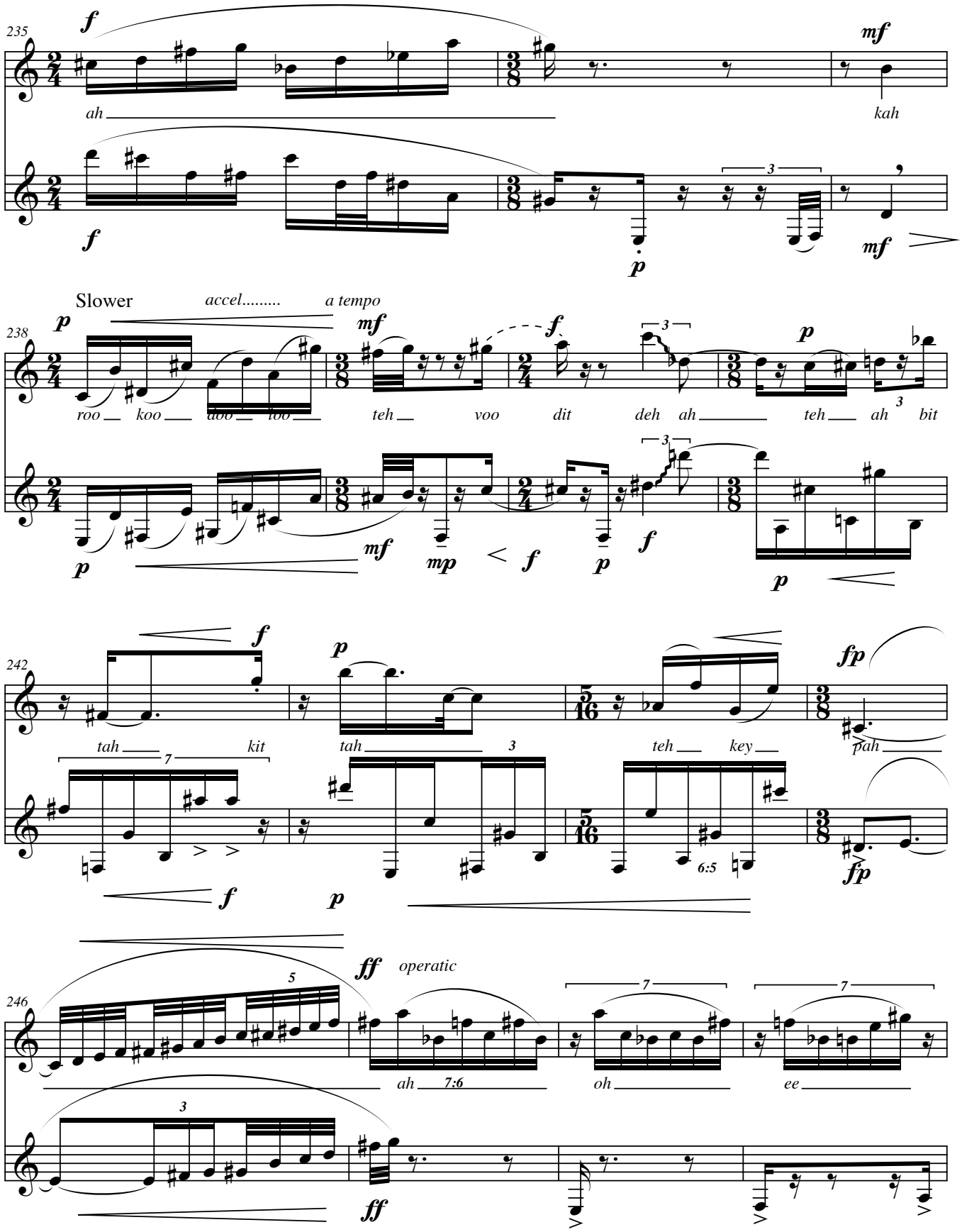
224

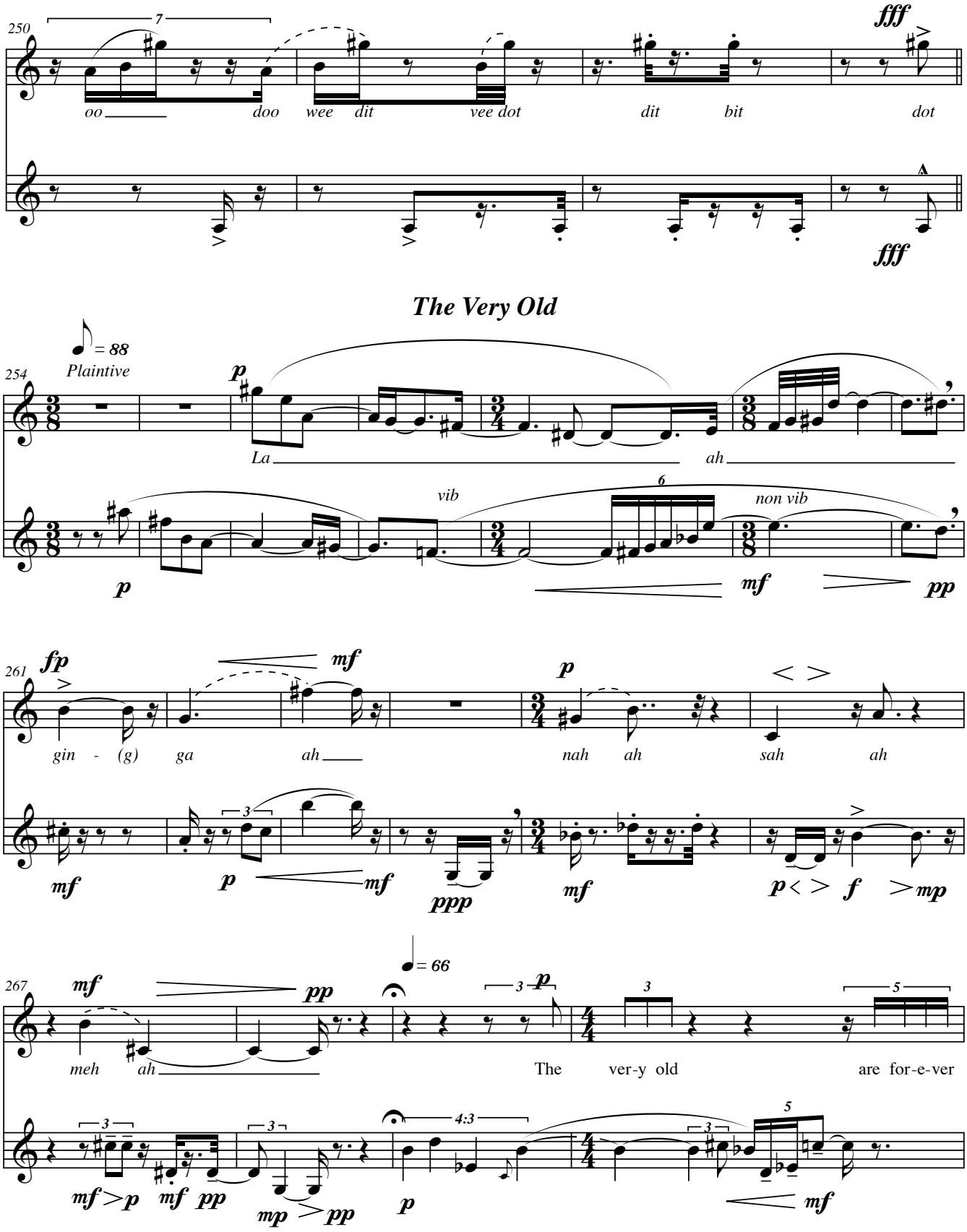
Jazz scat-singing

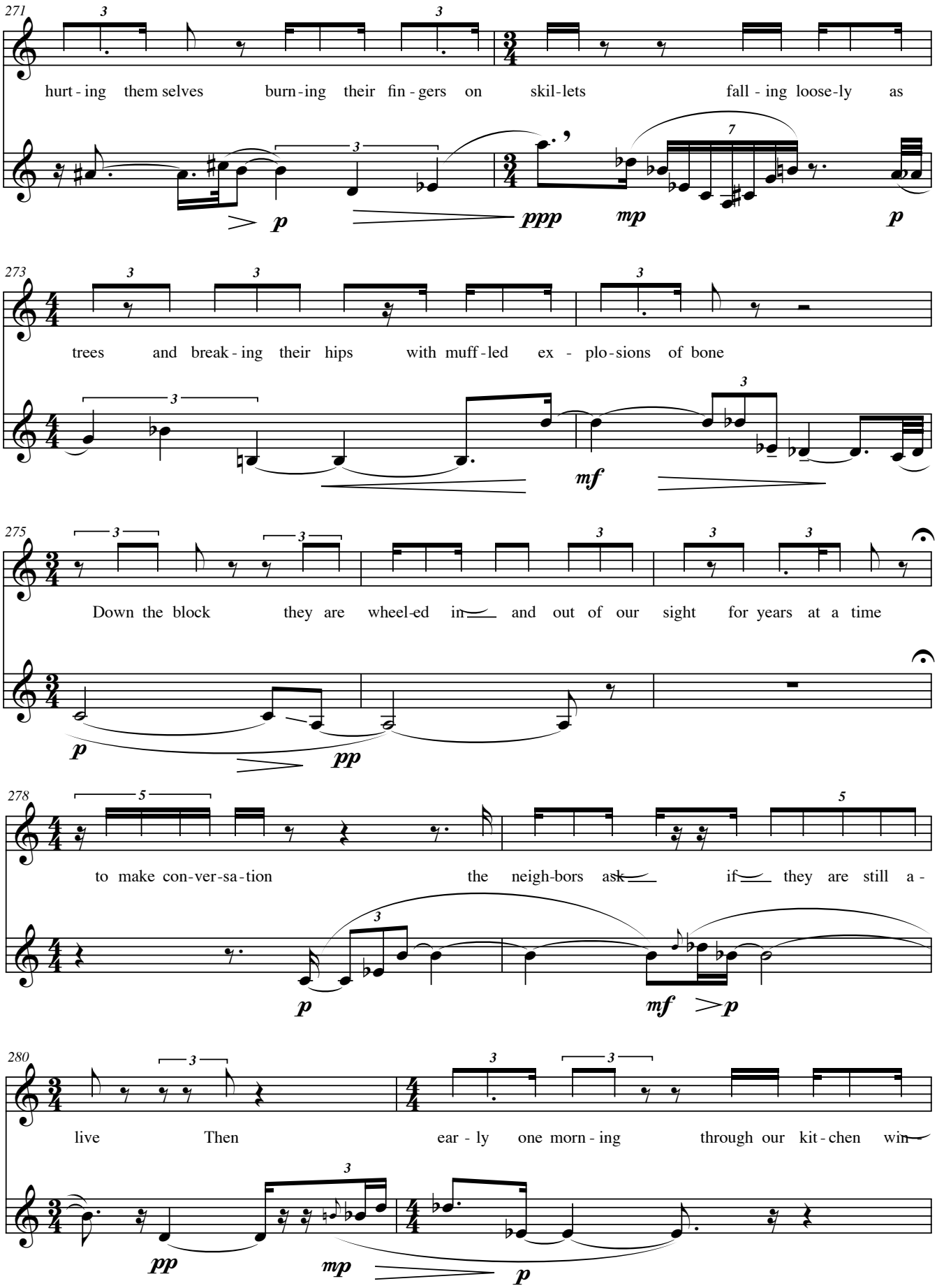
dit *dah* *la* *bit* *doo* *vot* *deh*

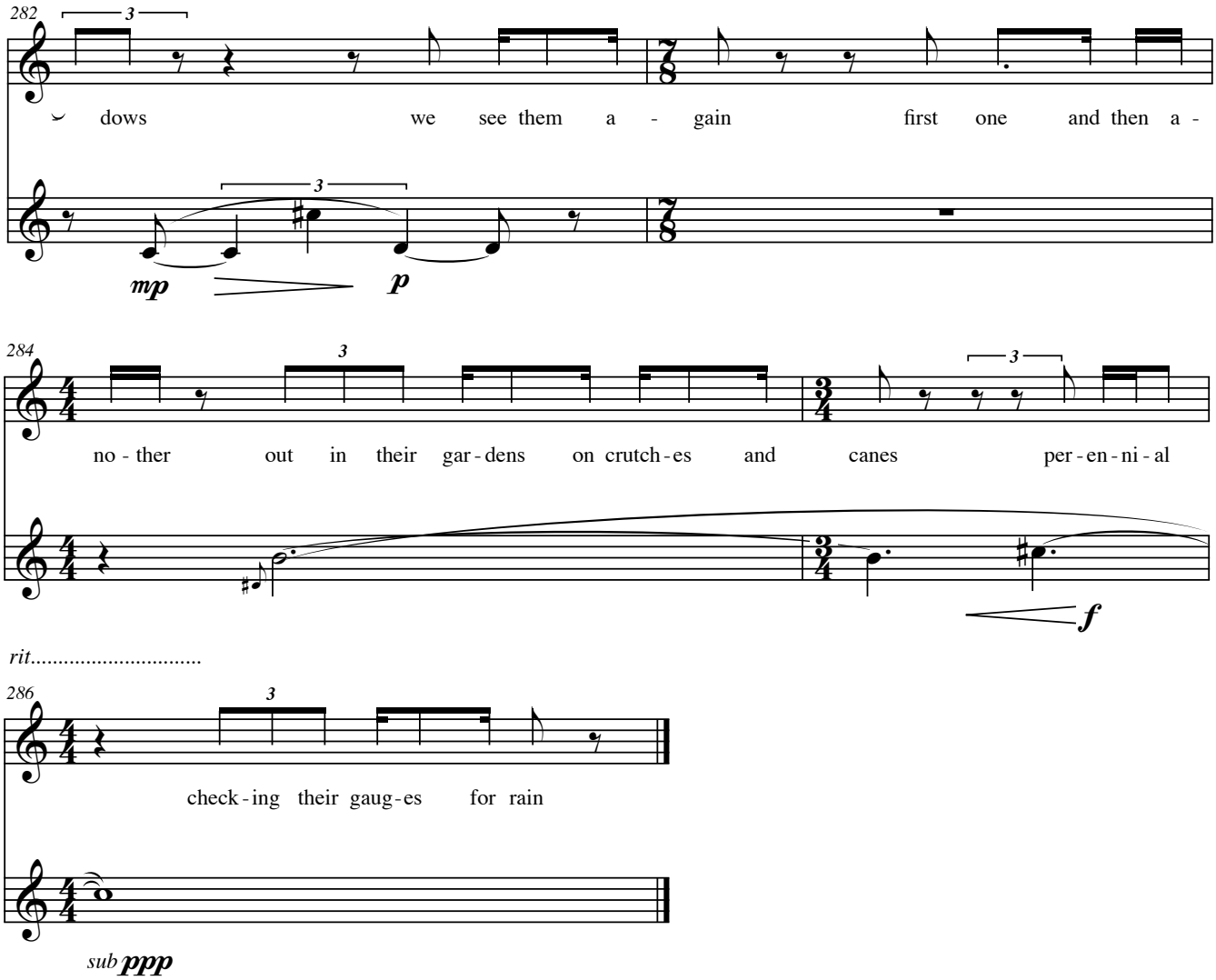
230

dit *dit* *dit* *dit* *dit* *dit* *dit* *la*


235
f
ah
mf
kah
f
p
3
mf
238
Slower
accel.....
a tempo
p
mf
f
3
p
roo
koo
doo
too
teh
voo
dit
deh
ah
teh
ah
3
bit
p
mf
mp
f
p
f
3
p
242
f
p
fp
tah
kit
7
tah
3
teh
key
pah
f
p
6:5
fp
246
5
ff
operatic
7
7
ah
7:6
oh
ee
3
ff


250
fff
oo doo wee dit vee dot dit bit dot
fff
The Very Old
= 88
Plaintive
254
p
La ah
vib
non vib
p
mf
pp
261
fp
mf
p
gin - (g) ga ah nah ah sah ah
mf
p
mf
ppp
mf
p
f
mp
= 66
267
mf
pp
p
meh ah The ver-y old are for-e-ver
mf
p
mf
pp
mp
pp
p
mf


271
hurt - ing them selves burn - ing their fin - gers on skil - lets fall - ing loose - ly as
p
ppp
mp
p
273
trees and break - ing their hips with muff - led ex - plo - sions of bone
mf
275
Down the block they are wheel - ed in and out of our sight for years at a time
p
pp
278
to make con - ver - sa - tion the neigh - bors ask if they are still a -
p
mf
p
280
live Then ear - ly one morn - ing through our kit - chen win -
pp
mp
p


282
dows we see them a - gain first one and then a -
mp
p
284
no - ther out in their gar - dens on crutch - es and canes per - en - ni - al
f
rit.....
286
check - ing their gaug - es for rain
sub ppp