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Birdsong

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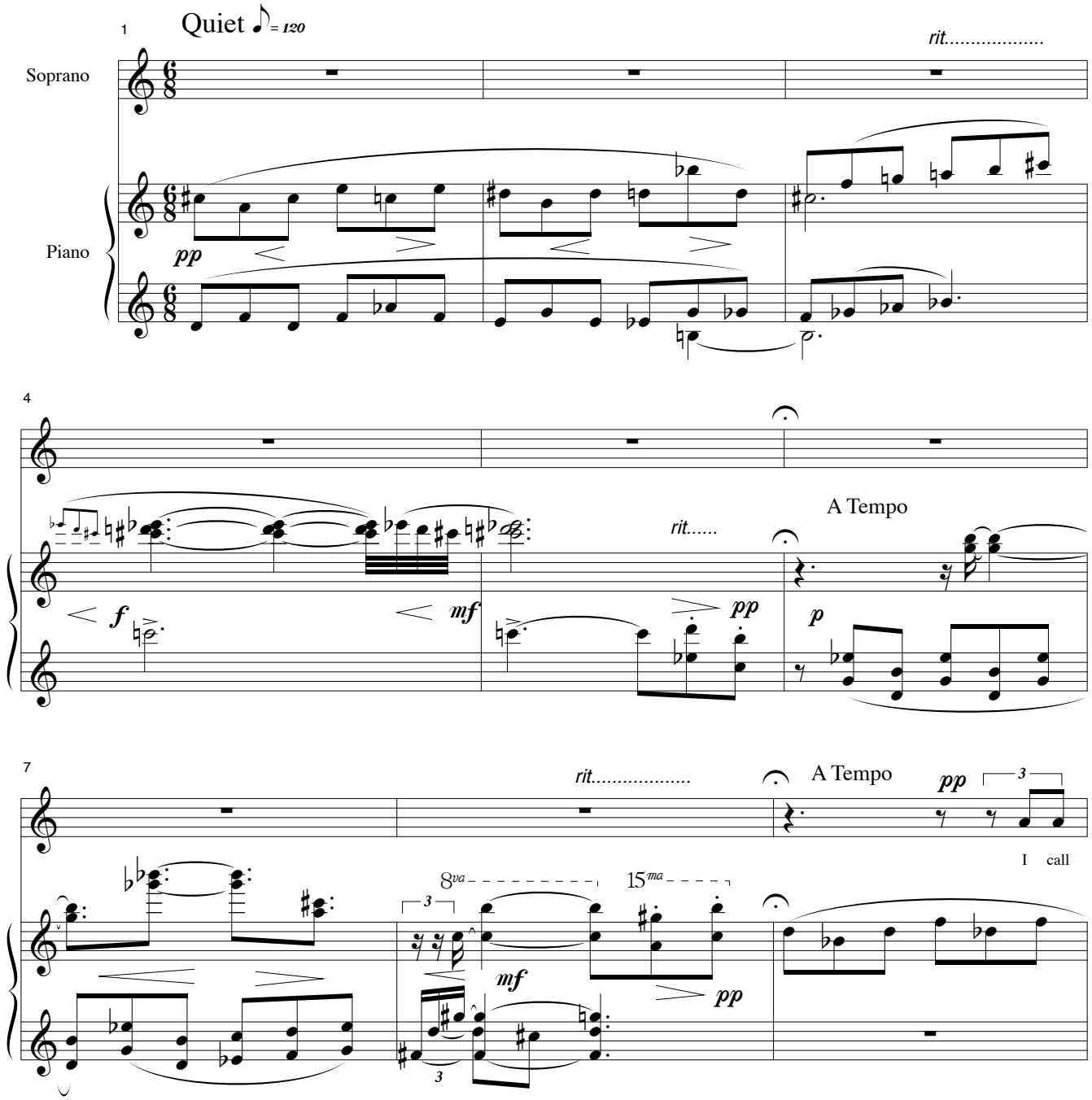
for
Peggy Holloway

Birdsong

poems: Marjorie Saiser

Cardinal

Randall Snyder
1993



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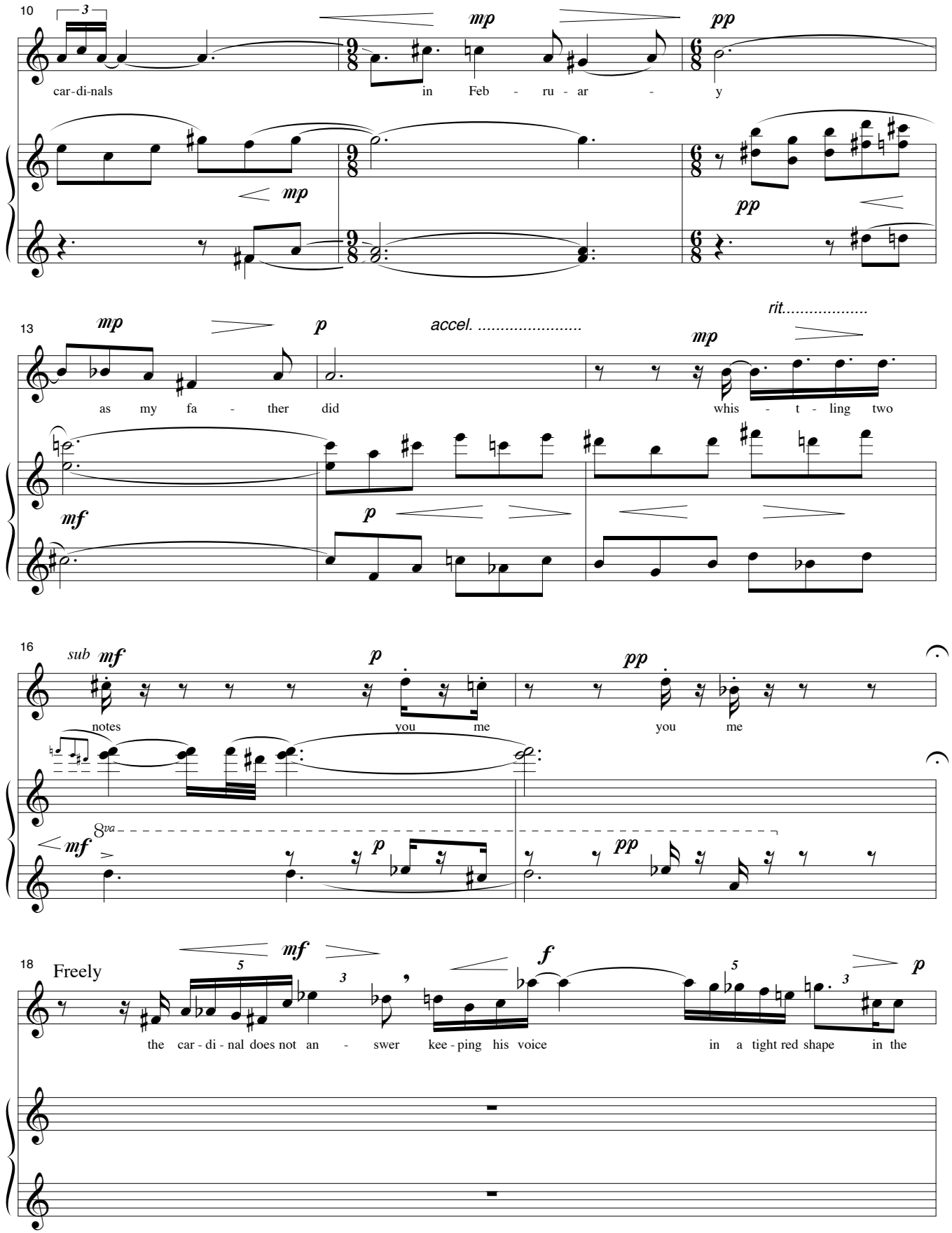
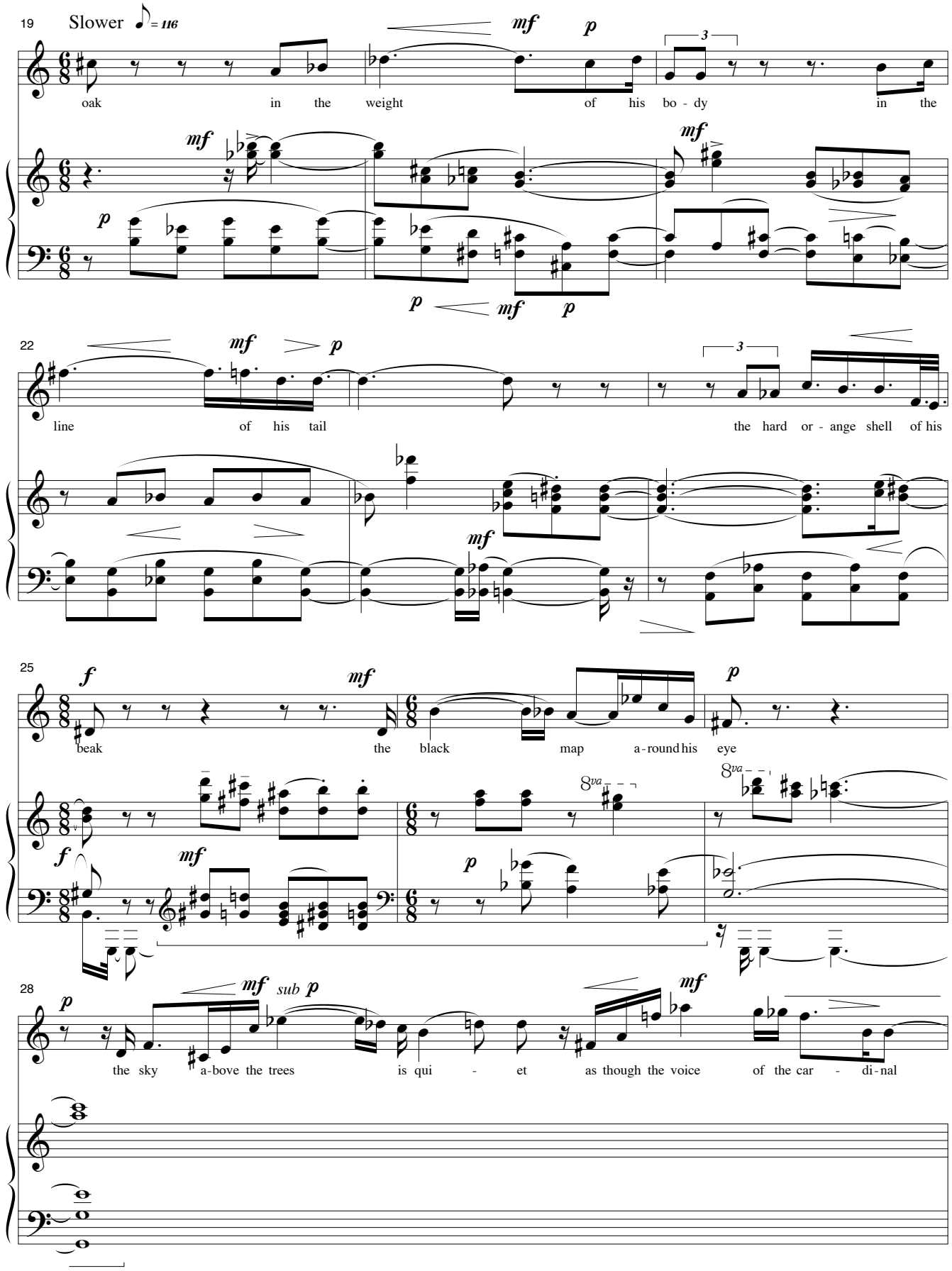
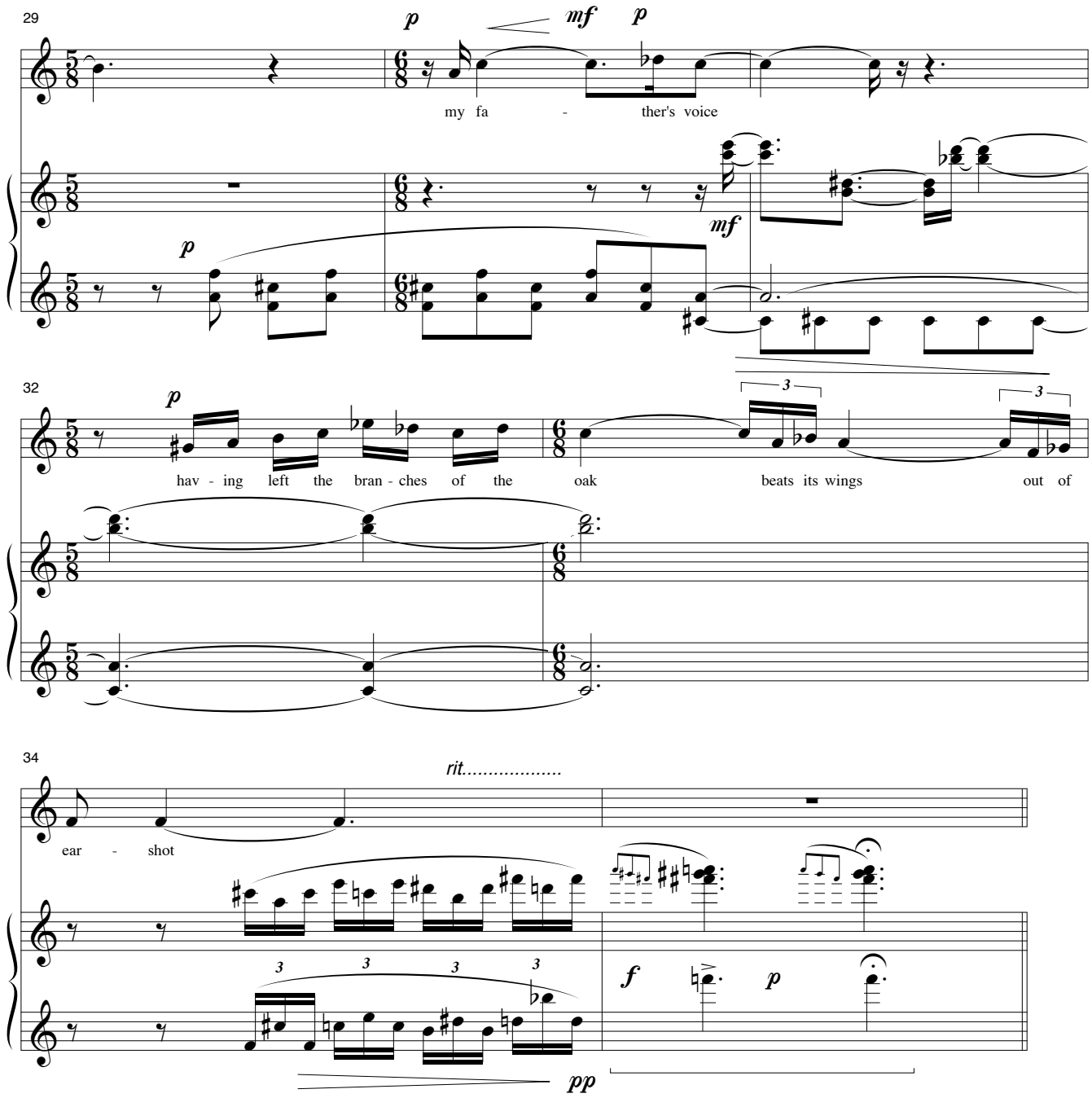
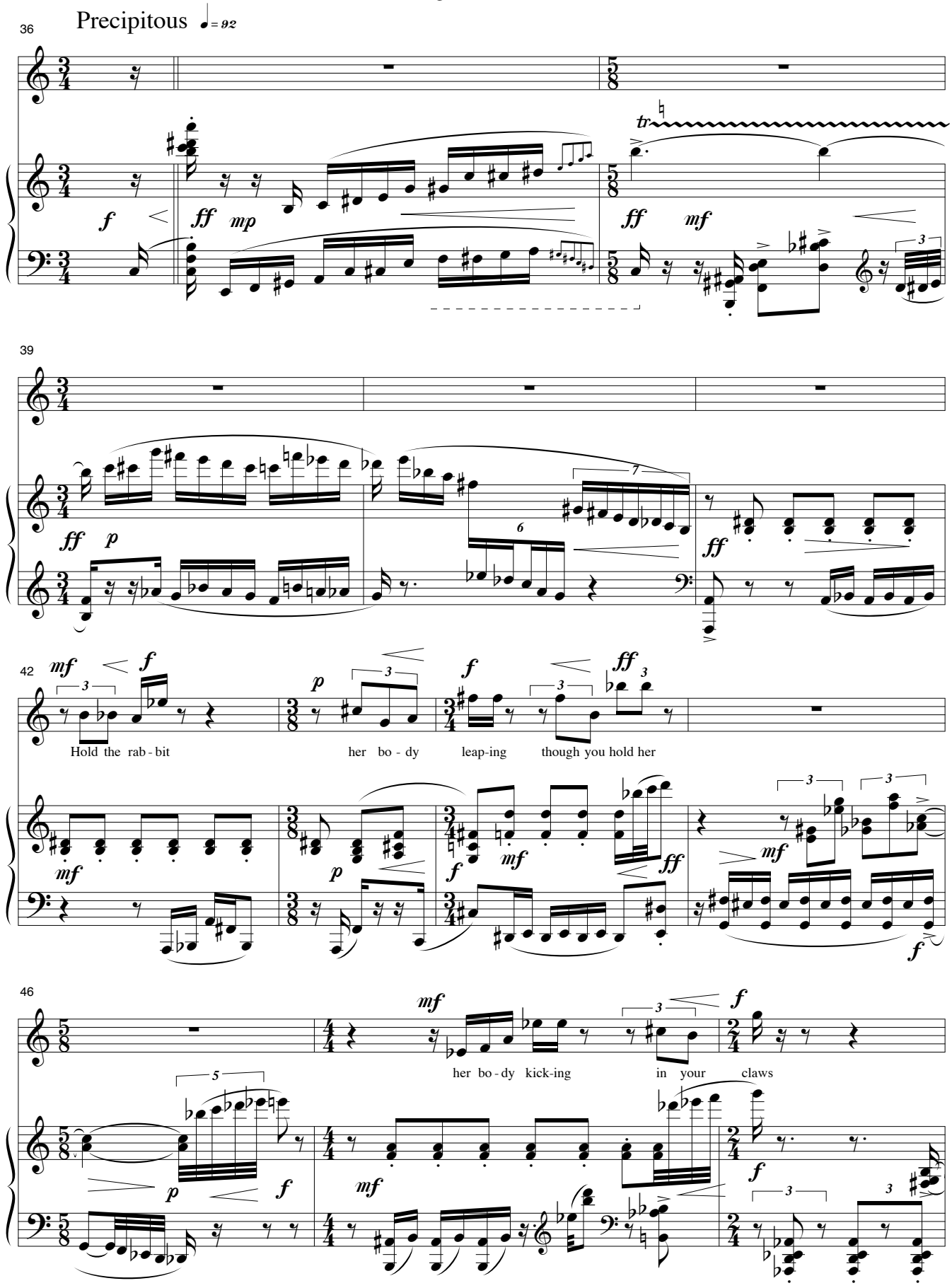
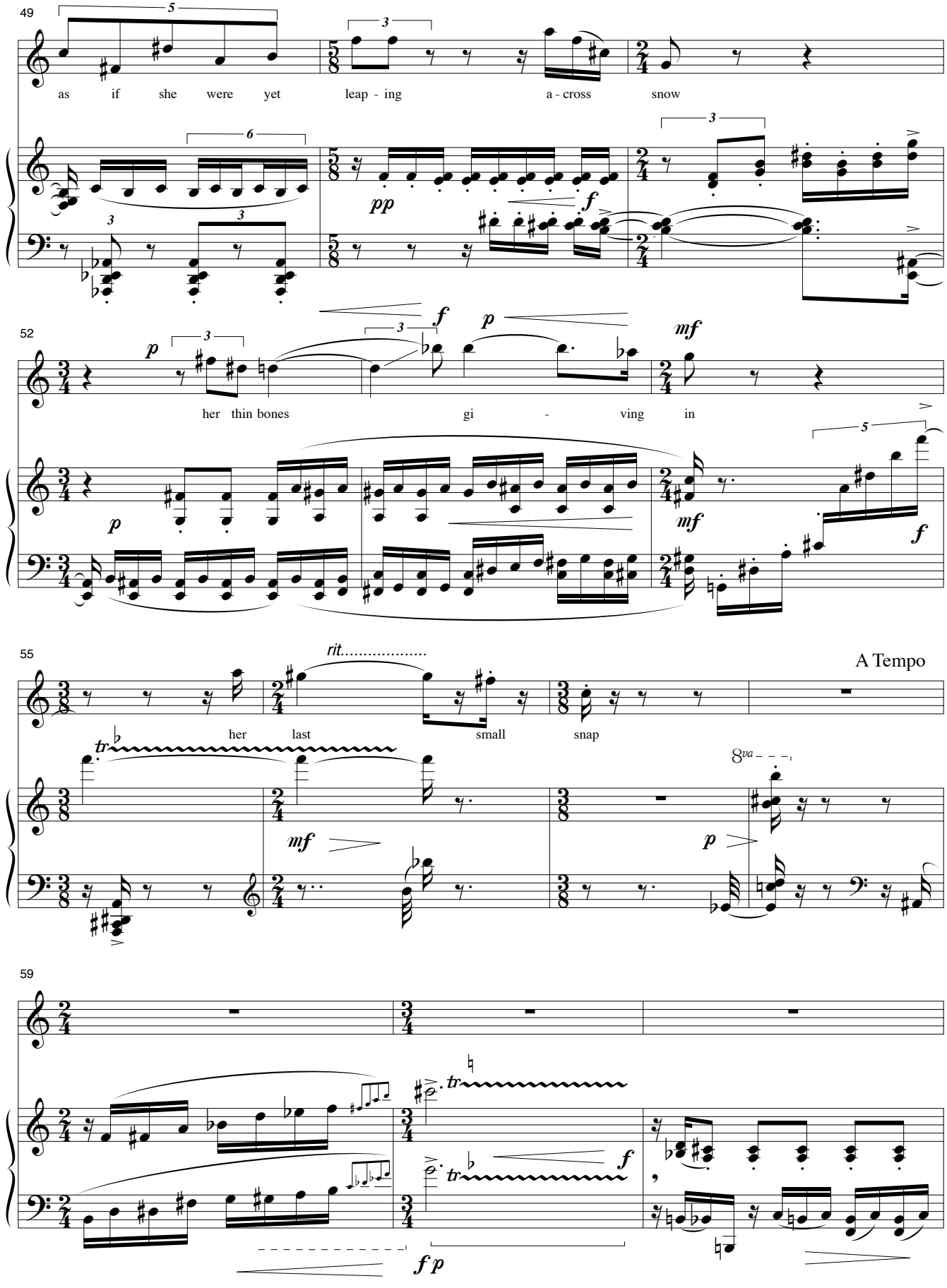

10
car-di-nals
in Feb - ru - ar - y
13
as my fa - ther did
accel. .....
rit.....
whis - t - ling two
16
sub
notes
you me
you me
8va
18
Freely
the car - di - nal does not an - swer kee - ping his voice
in a tight red shape in the

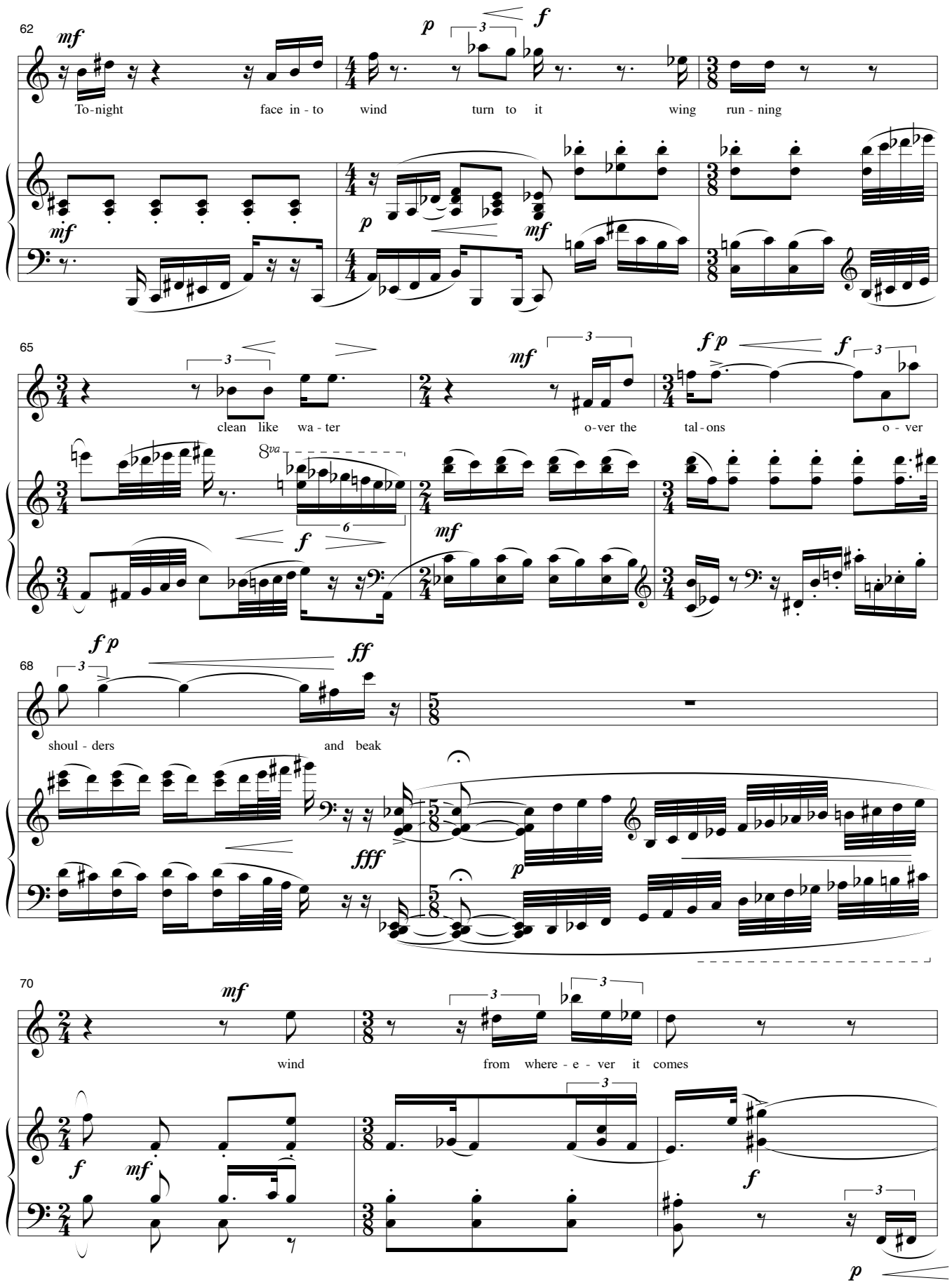

19
Slower
= 116
mf
p
3
oak in the weight of his bo - dy in the
mf
p
mf
p
22
mf
p
3
line of his tail the hard or - ange shell of his
mf
25
f
mf
p
beak the black map a-round his eye
8va
f
mf
p
8va
28
p
mf sub p
mf
the sky a-bove the trees is qui - et as though the voice of the car - di-nal

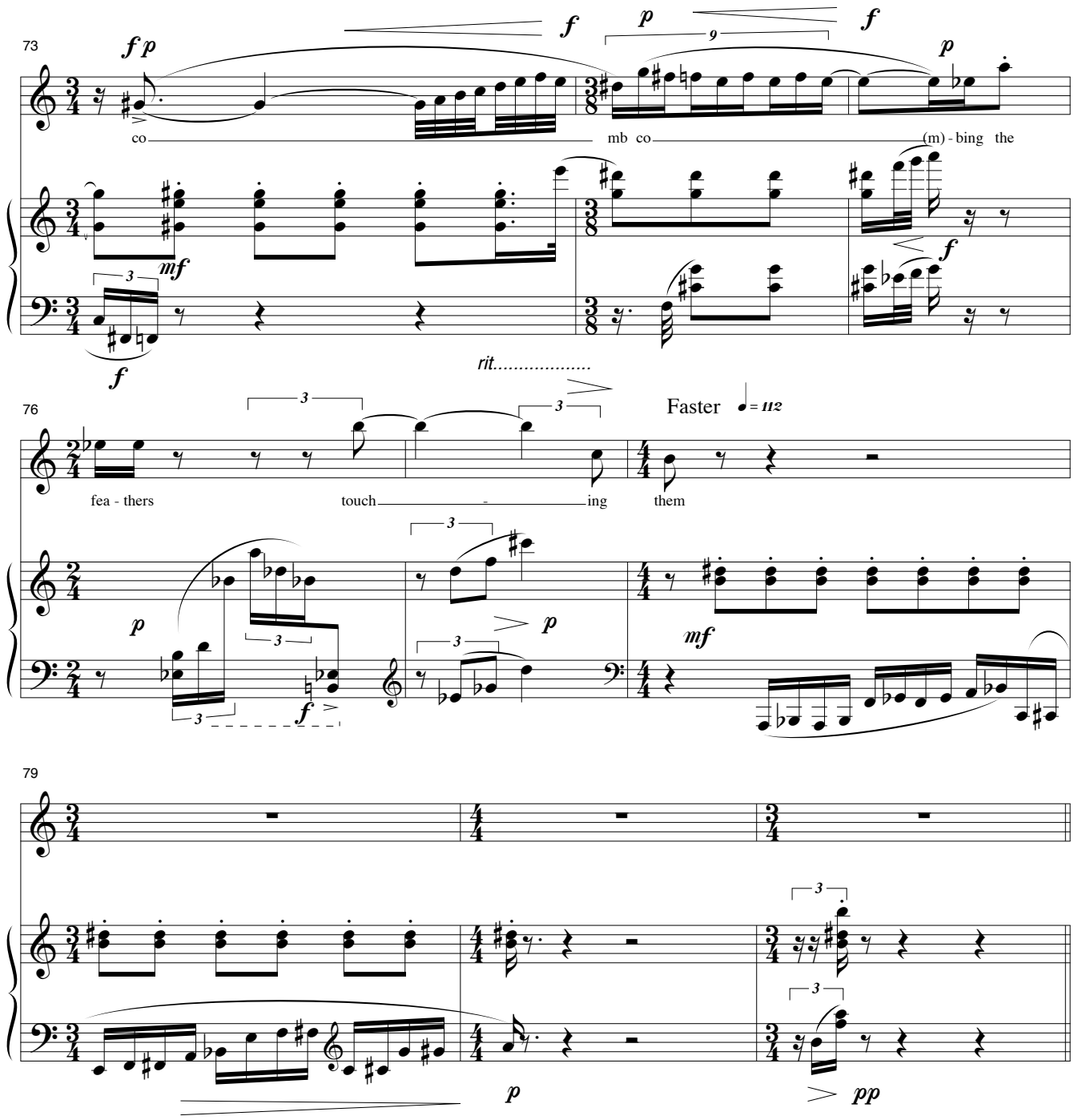

29
p
mf
p
my fa - ther's voice
mf
p
32
p
hav - ing left the bran - ches of the oak beats its wings out of
3
3
34
rit.....
ear - shot
f
p
3
3
3
3
pp

Hawk

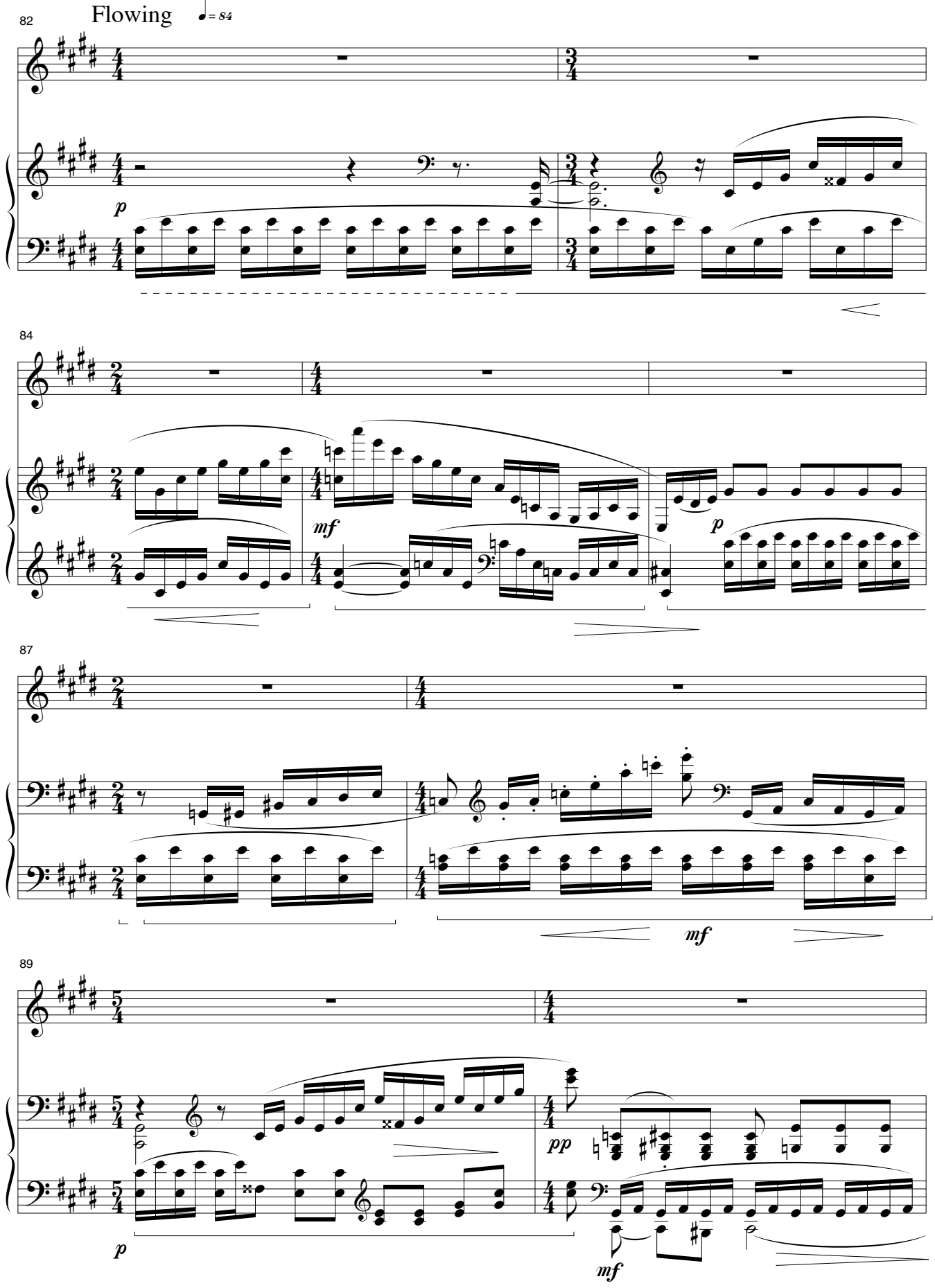

Precipitous ♩= 92
36
39
42
Hold the rab - bit
her bo - dy
leap-ing
though you hold her
46
her bo - dy kick-ing
in your
claws

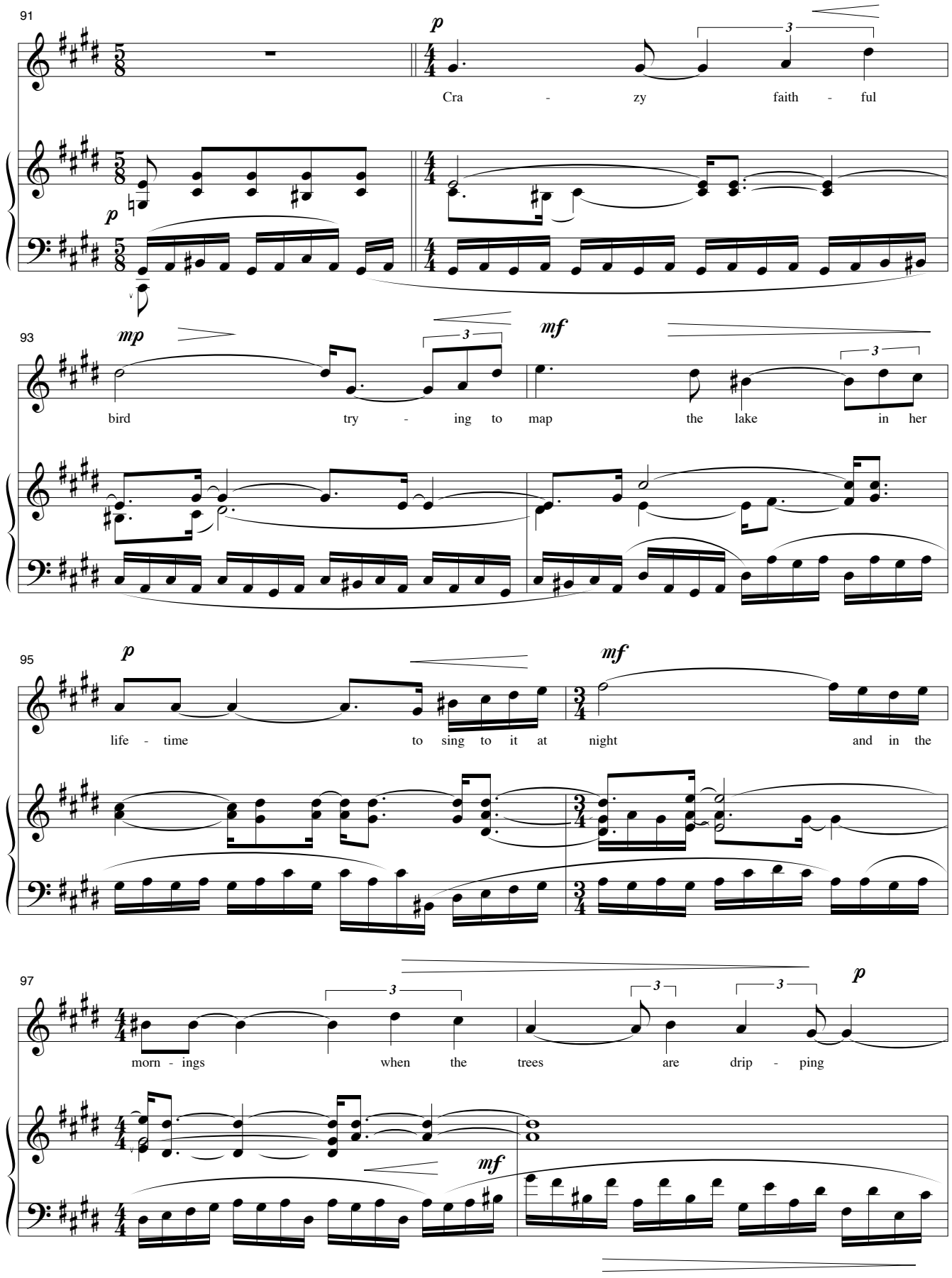

49
as if she were yet leap - ing a - cross snow
52
her thin bones gi - ving in
55
rit.....
A Tempo
her last small snap
8va
59

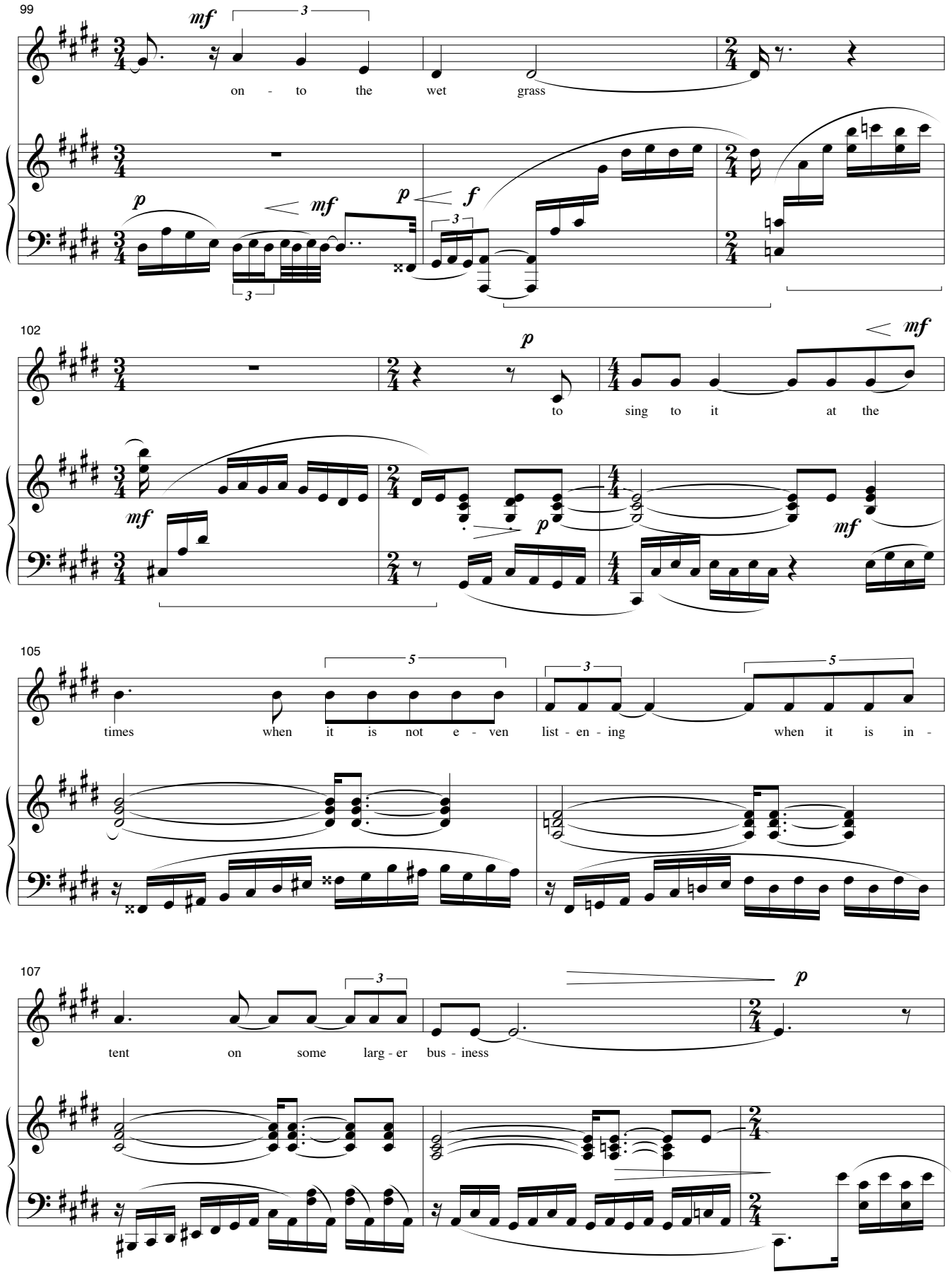

62
mf
p
f
To-night face in-to wind turn to it wing run-ning
mf
p
mf
65
clean like wa-ter
mf
o-ver the tal-ons
f p
f
o-ver
8va
f
6
mf
68
f p
ff
shoul-ders and beak
fff
p
70
mf
wind
from where-e-ver it comes
f
mf
f
p

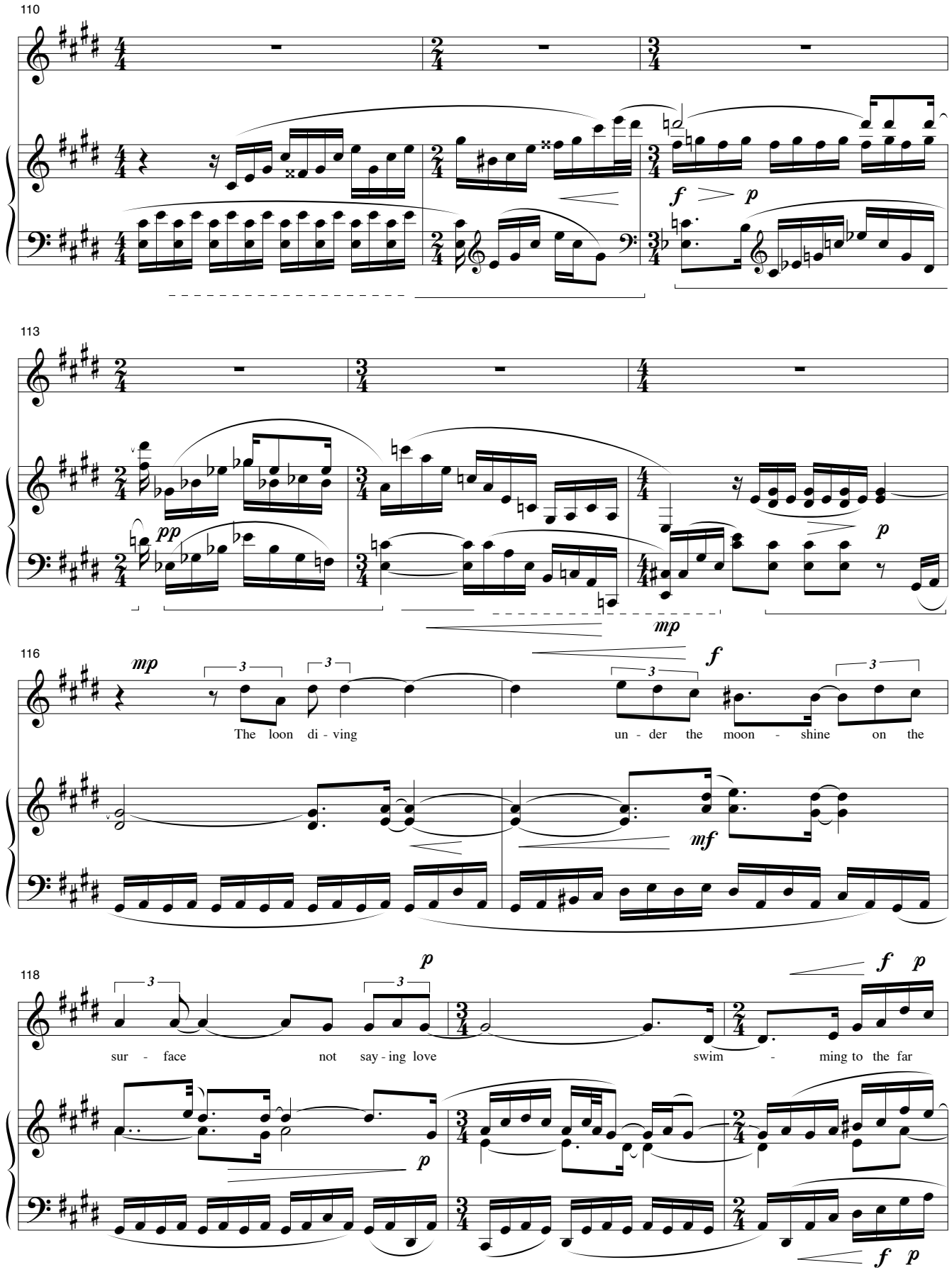

73
fp
f
p
f
p
co
mb co
(m) - bing the
mf
f
f
rit.....
76
Faster ♩= 112
fea - thers
touch - ing
them
p
p
mf
f
79
p
pp

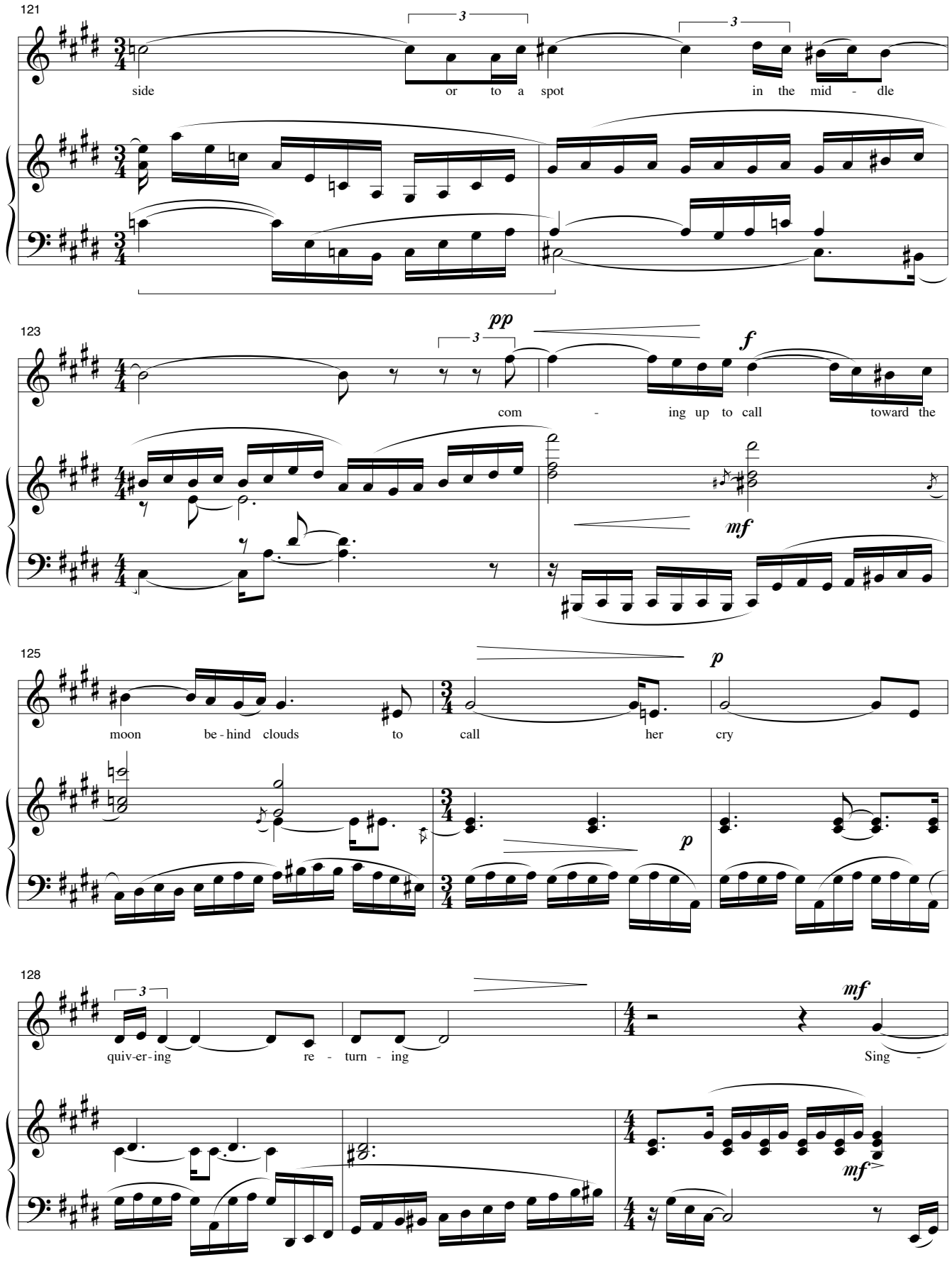
Loon

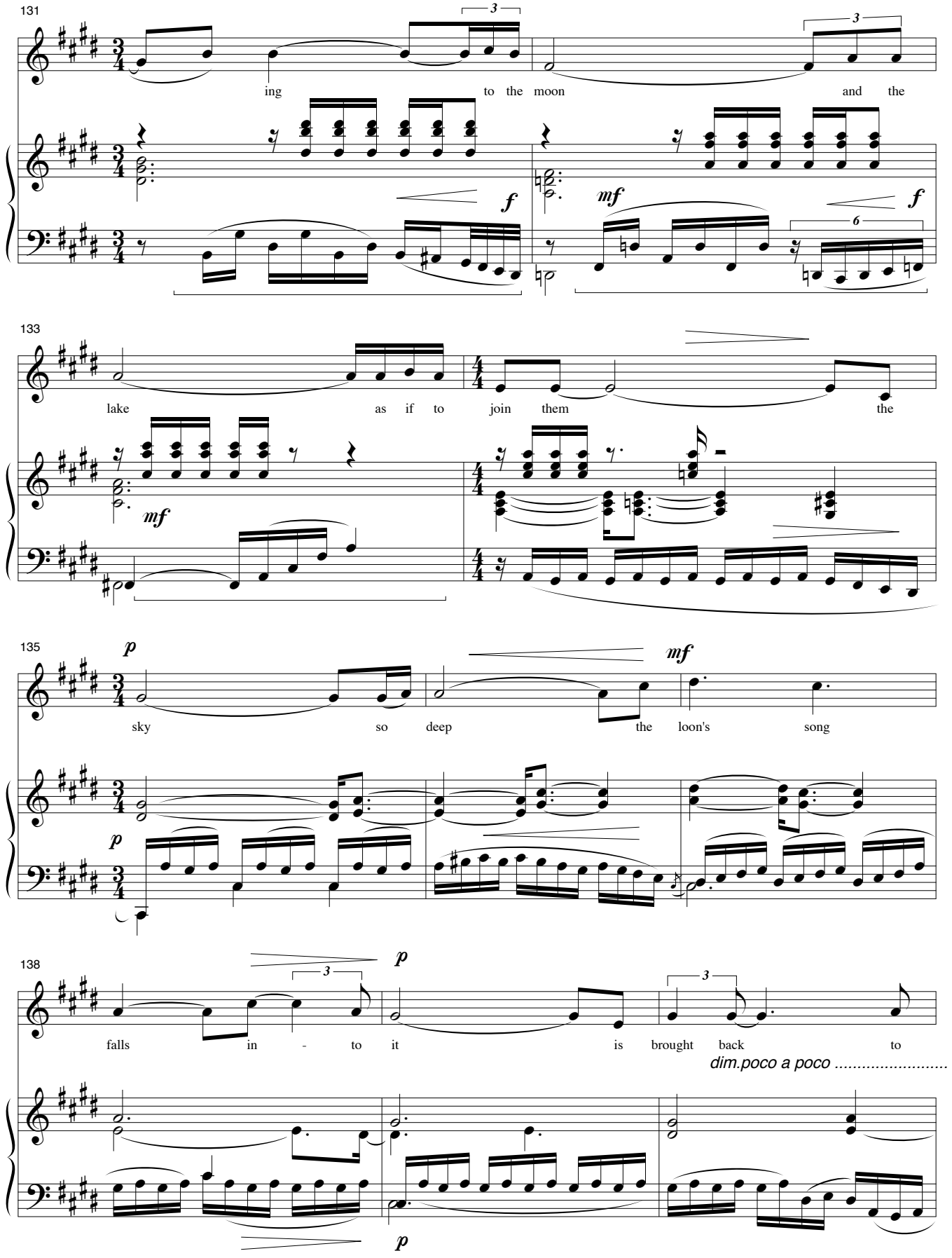


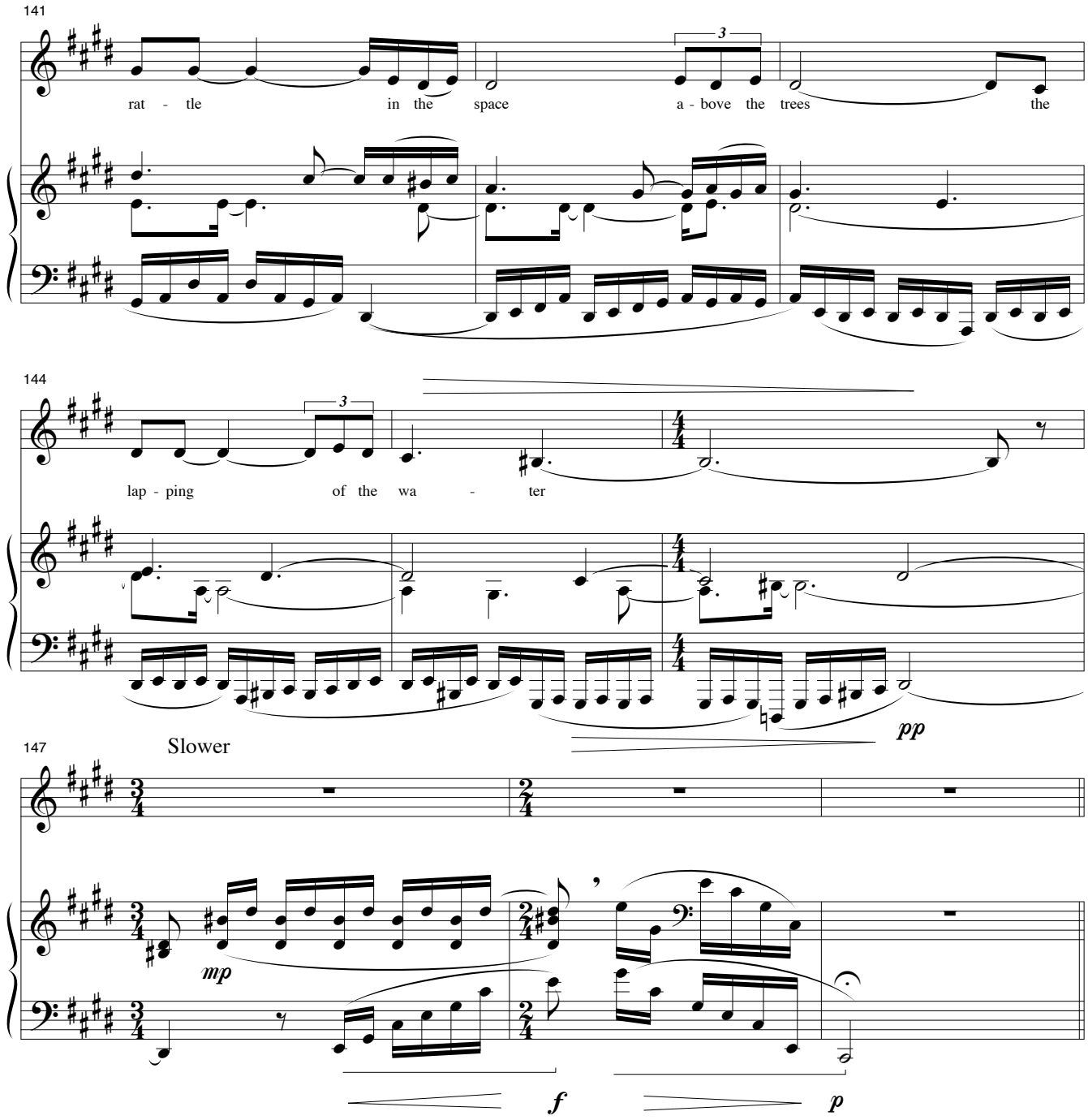

91
p
Cra - zy faith - ful
p
93
mp
mf
bird try - ing to map the lake in her
95
p
mf
life - time to sing to it at night and in the
97
p
morn - ings when the trees are drip - ping
mf


99
mf
on - to the wet grass
p
mf
p
f
102
p
to sing to it at the
mf
mf
p
mf
105
times when it is not e - ven list - en - ing when it is in -
107
tent on some larg - er bus - iness
p

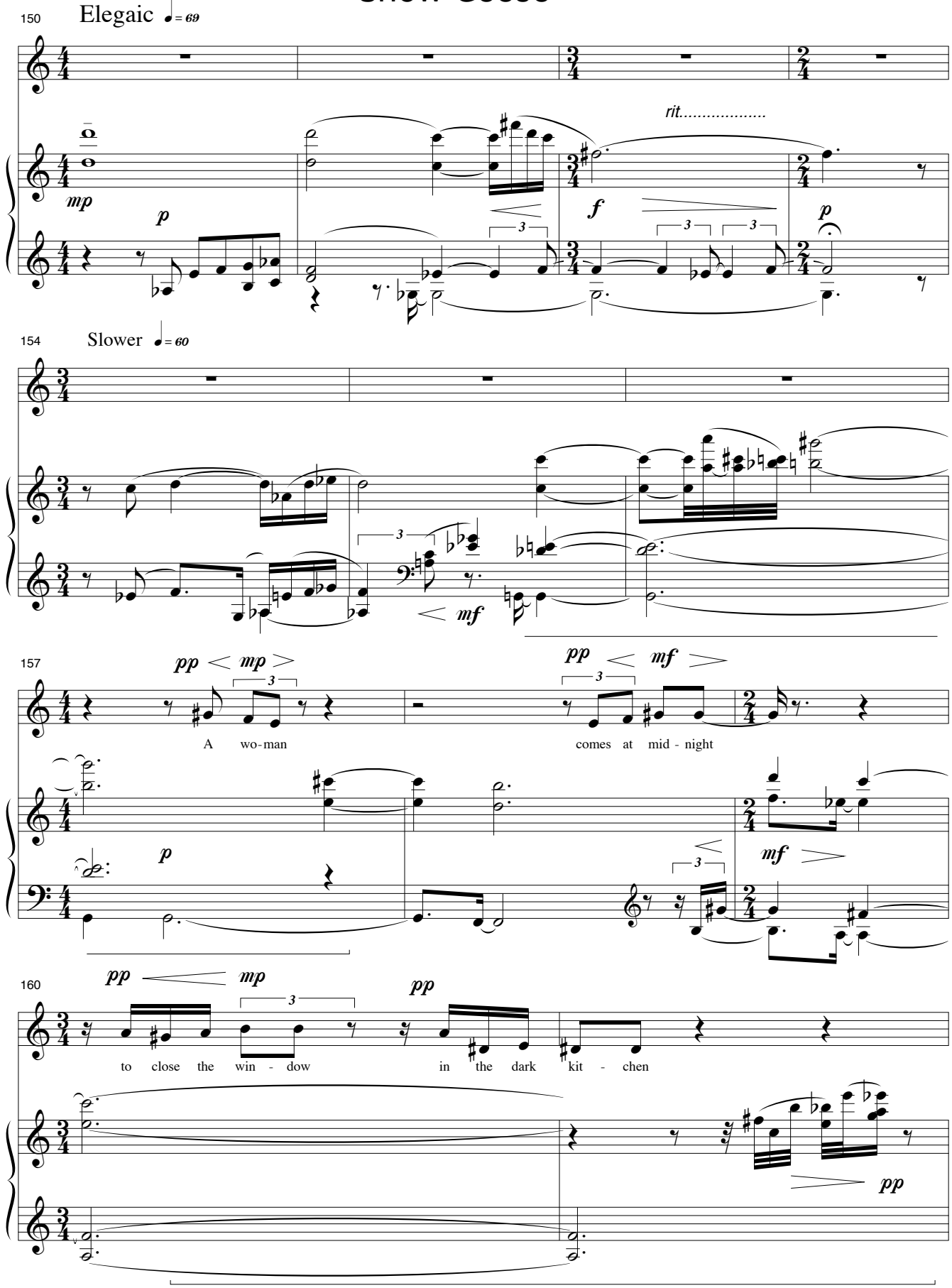

110
f
p
113
pp
mp
p
116
mp
f
The loon di - ving
un - der the moon - shine on the
mf
118
p
f p
sur - face not say - ing love
swim - ming to the far
p
f p

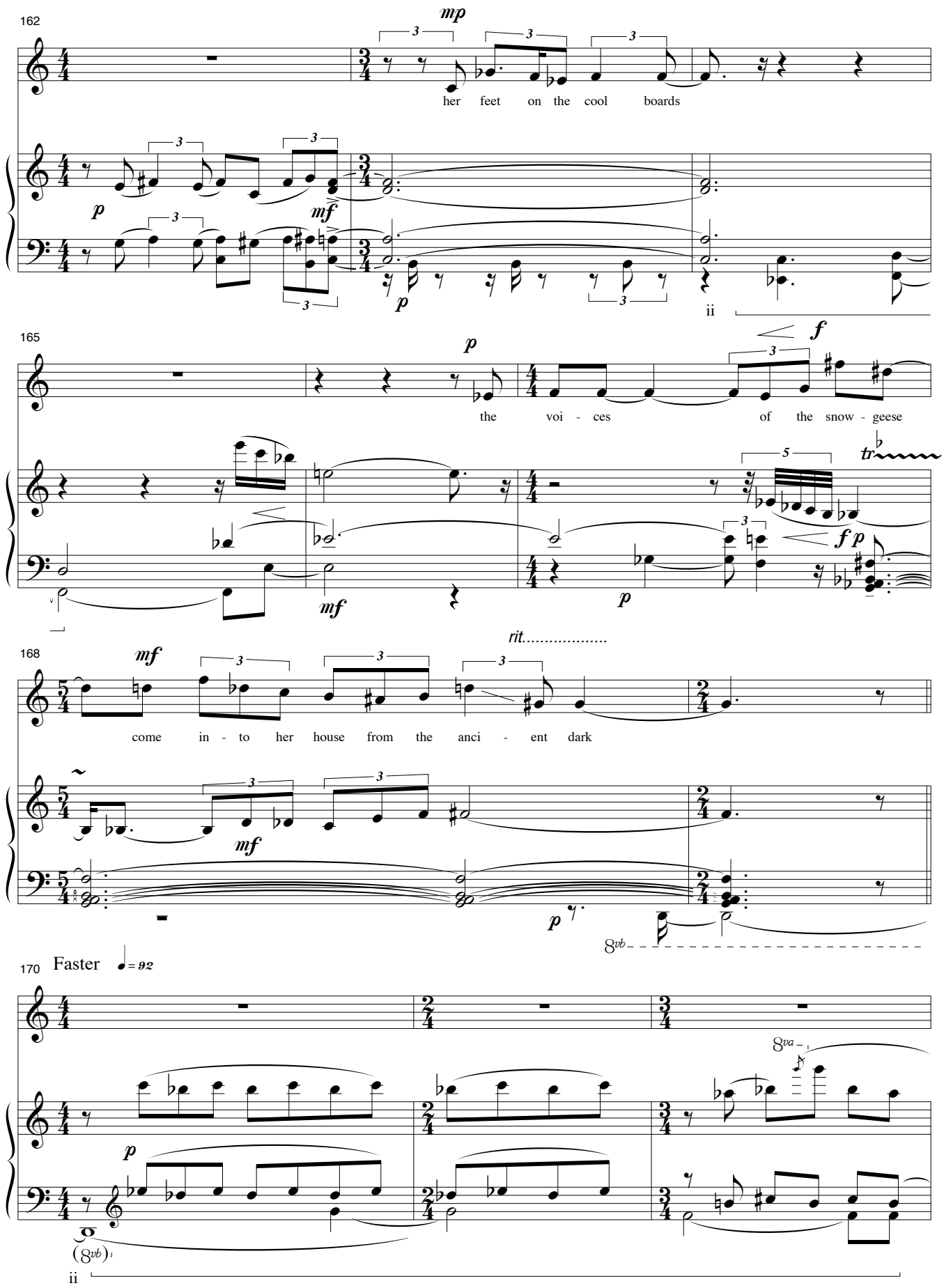

121
side
or to a spot
in the mid - dle
123
pp
f
com - ing up to call
toward the
mf
125
moon be - hind clouds
to call
her cry
p
p
128
quiv - er - ing
re - turn - ing
mf
Sing -
mf

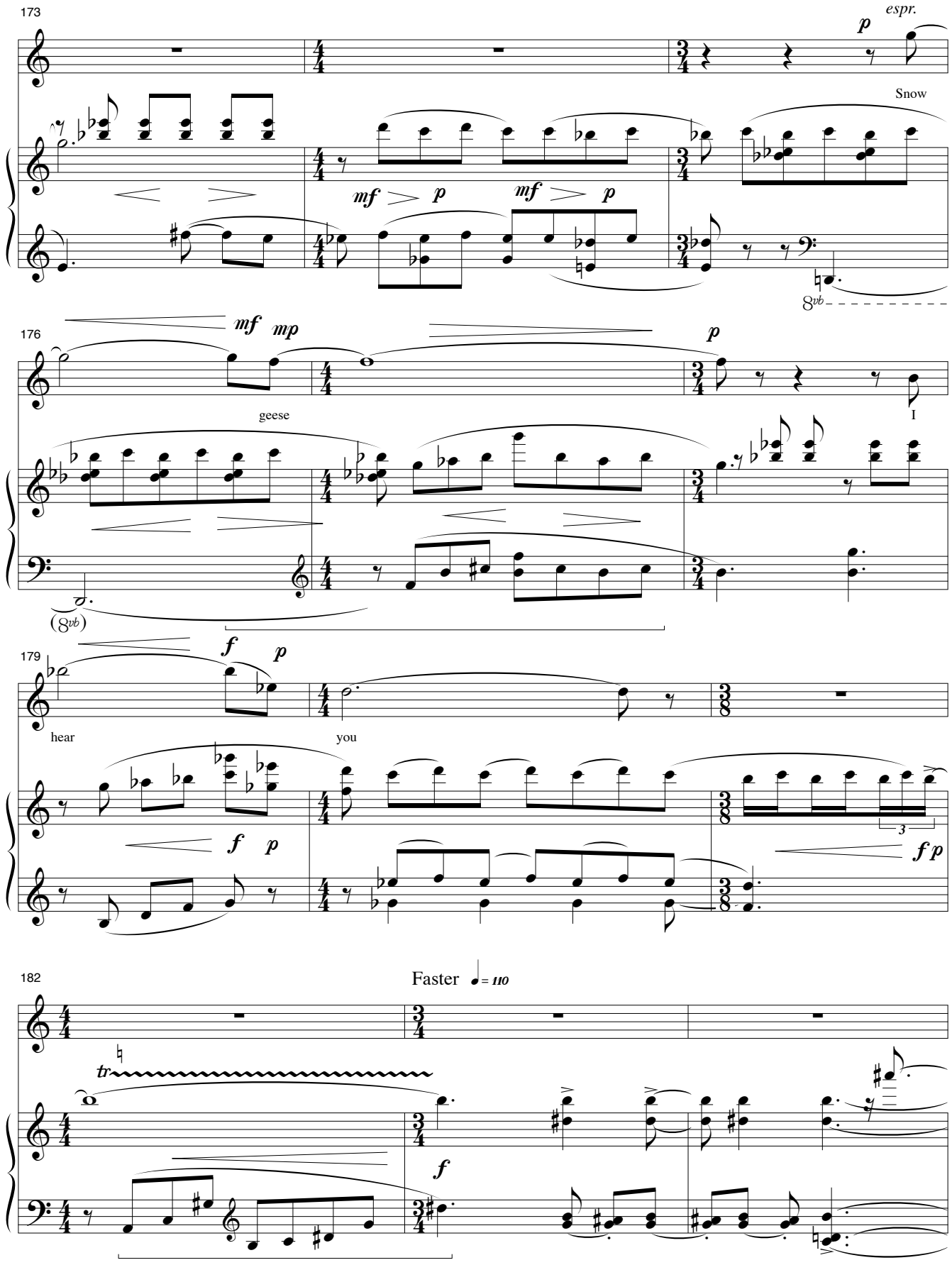

131
ing to the moon and the
f
mf
f
133
lake as if to join them the
mf
135
p
sky so deep the loon's song
mf
p
138
falls in - to it is brought back to
dim.poco a poco .....
p
p

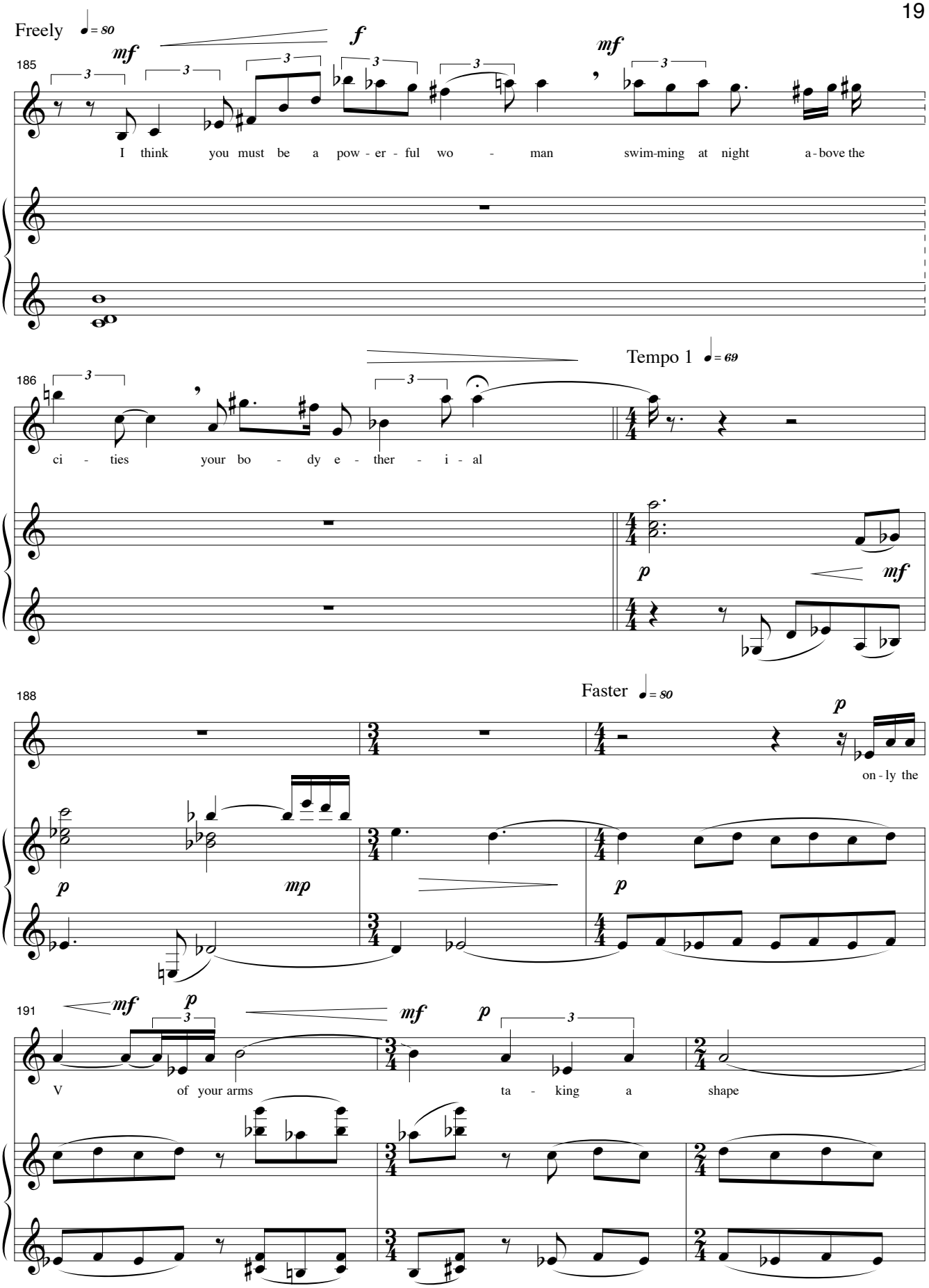

141
rat - tle in the space a - bove the trees the
144
lap - ping of the wa - ter
pp
147
Slower
mp
f
p

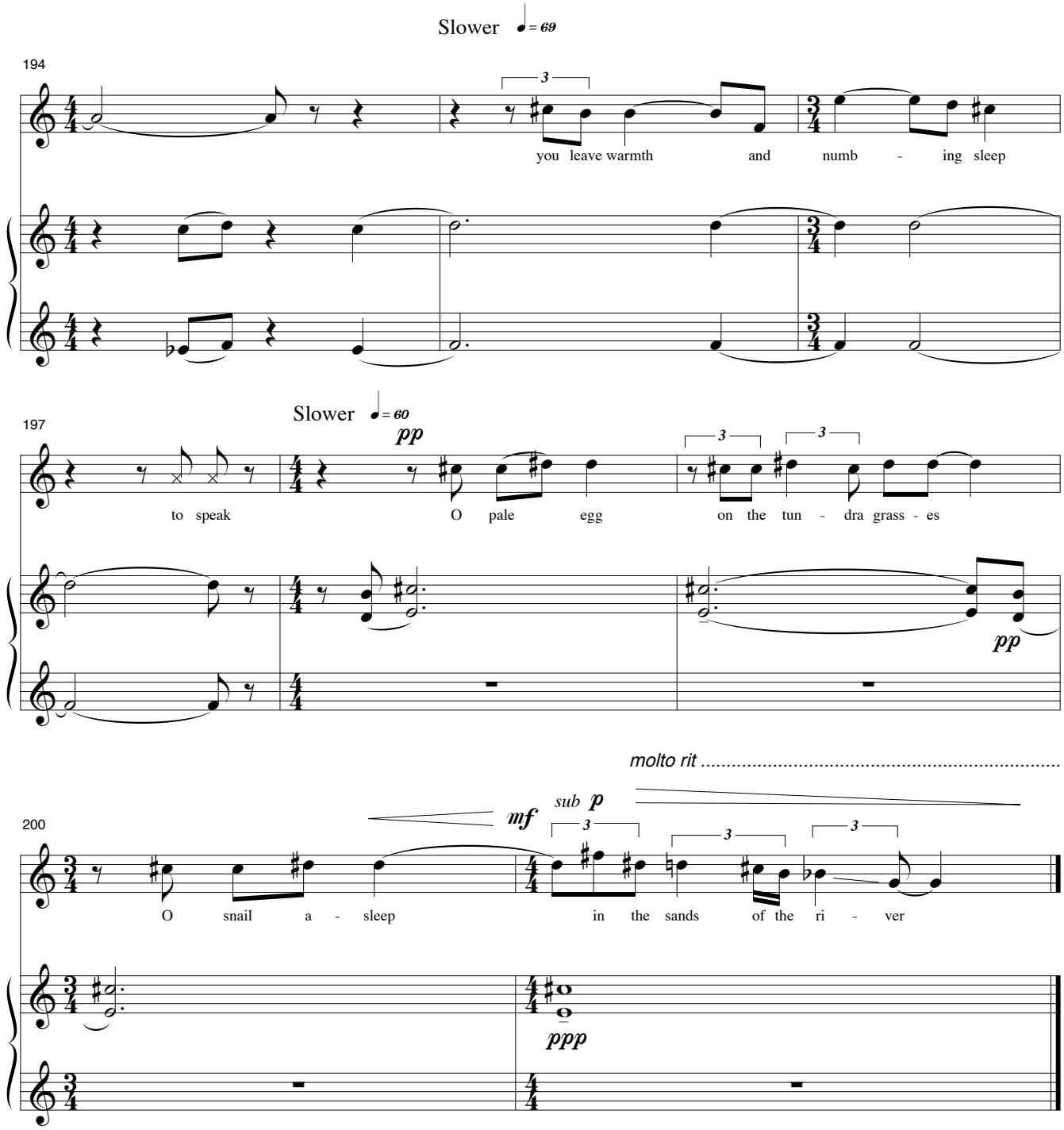
Snow Geese


150
Elegaic ♩= 69
rit.....
154
Slower ♩= 60
157
A wo-man
comes at mid - night
160
to close the win - dow
in the dark kit - chen


162
mp
her feet on the cool boards
p
mf
p
ii
165
p
the voi - ces of the snow - geese
f
tr
mf
p
f p
168
rit.....
mf
come in - to her house from the anci - ent dark
mf
p
8vb
170
Faster
♩= 92
p
8va
(8vb)
ii


173
espr.
Snow
mf
p
mf
p
8vb
176
mf
mp
p
geese
I
(8vb)
179
f
p
hear
you
f
p
3
f p
182
Faster ♩= 110
tr
f


Freely
185
I think you must be a pow - er - ful wo - man swim-ming at night a - bove the
186
ci - ties your bo - dy e - ther - i - al
Tempo 1
188
Faster
on - ly the
191
V of your arms ta - king a shape


Slower ♩= 69
194
you leave warmth and numb - ing sleep
Slower ♩= 60
197
pp
to speak O pale egg on the tun - dra grass - es
pp
molto rit .....
200
mf
sub p
O snail a - sleep in the sands of the ri - ver
ppp