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Two Spender Songs

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for
Steve Bobst

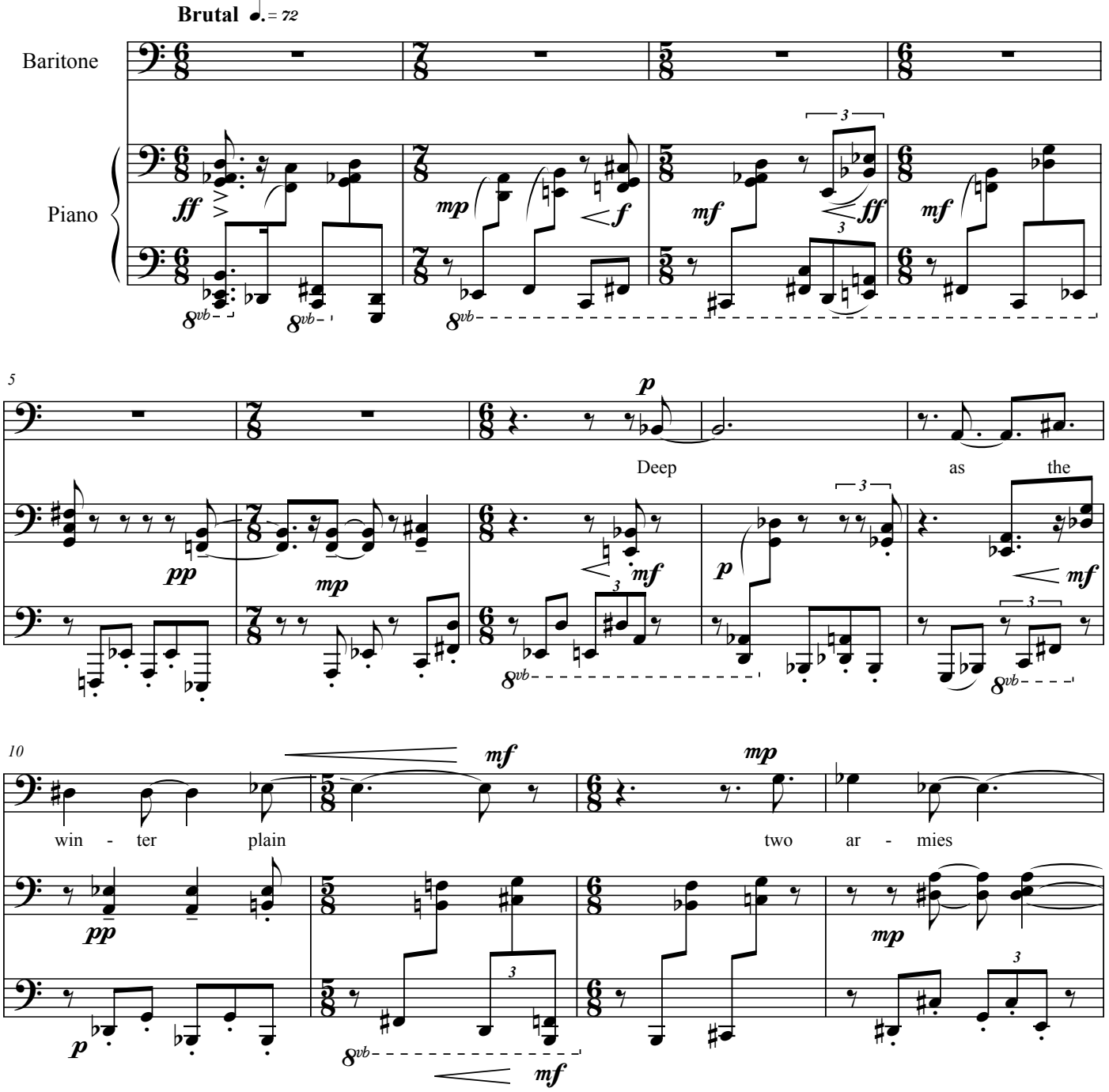
Two Spender Songs

poems: Stephen Spender

Two Armies

Randall Snyder
1990

-Part One-



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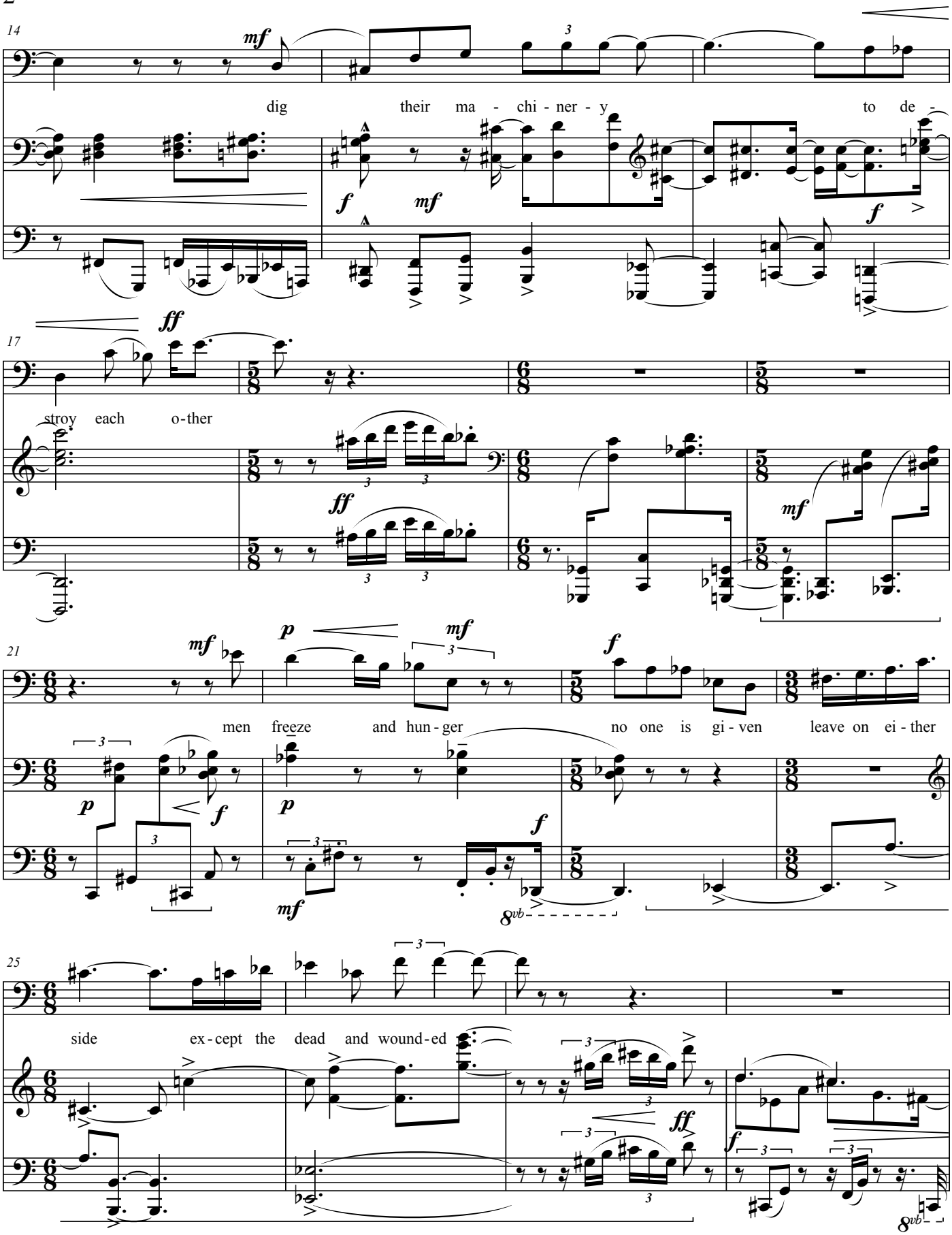
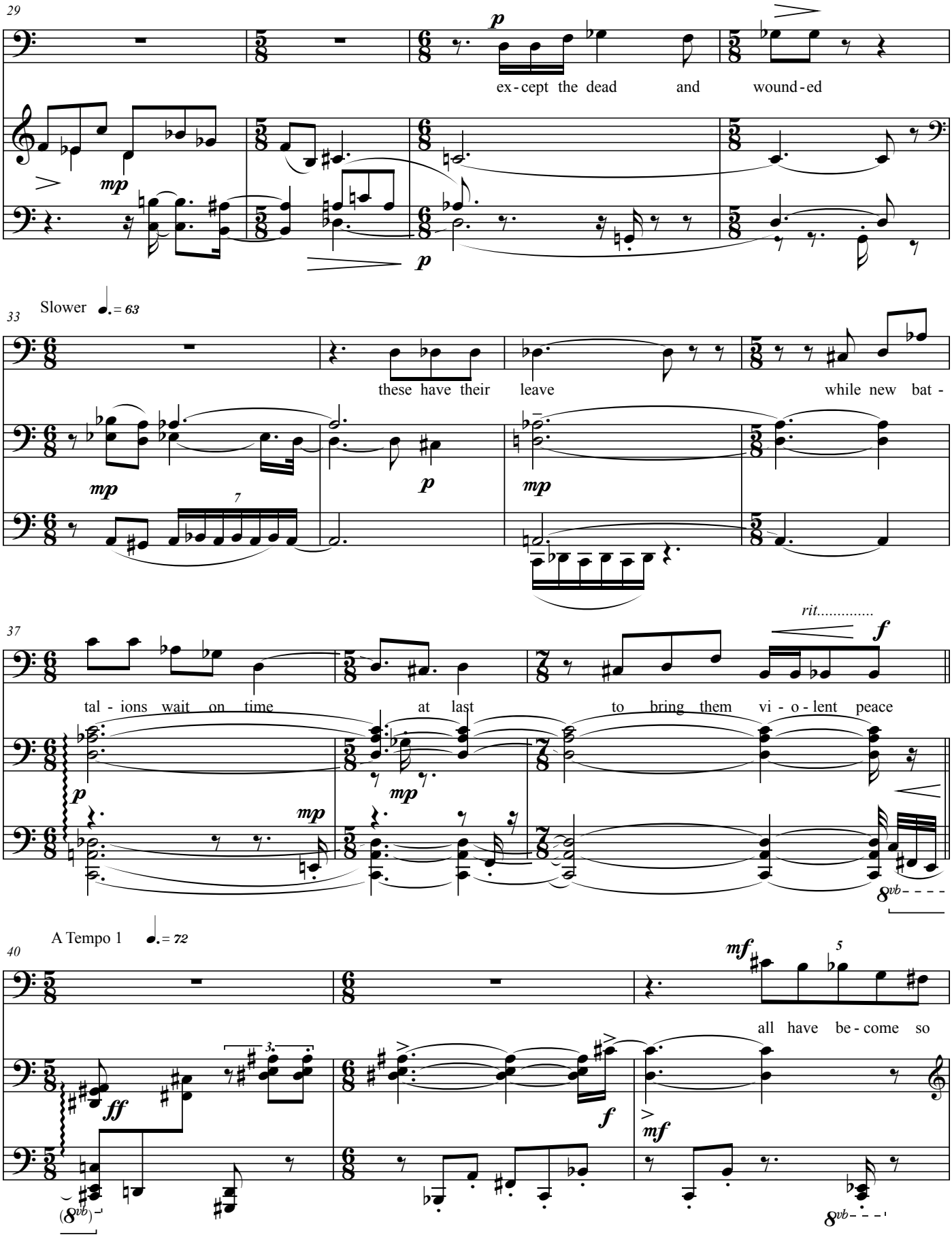
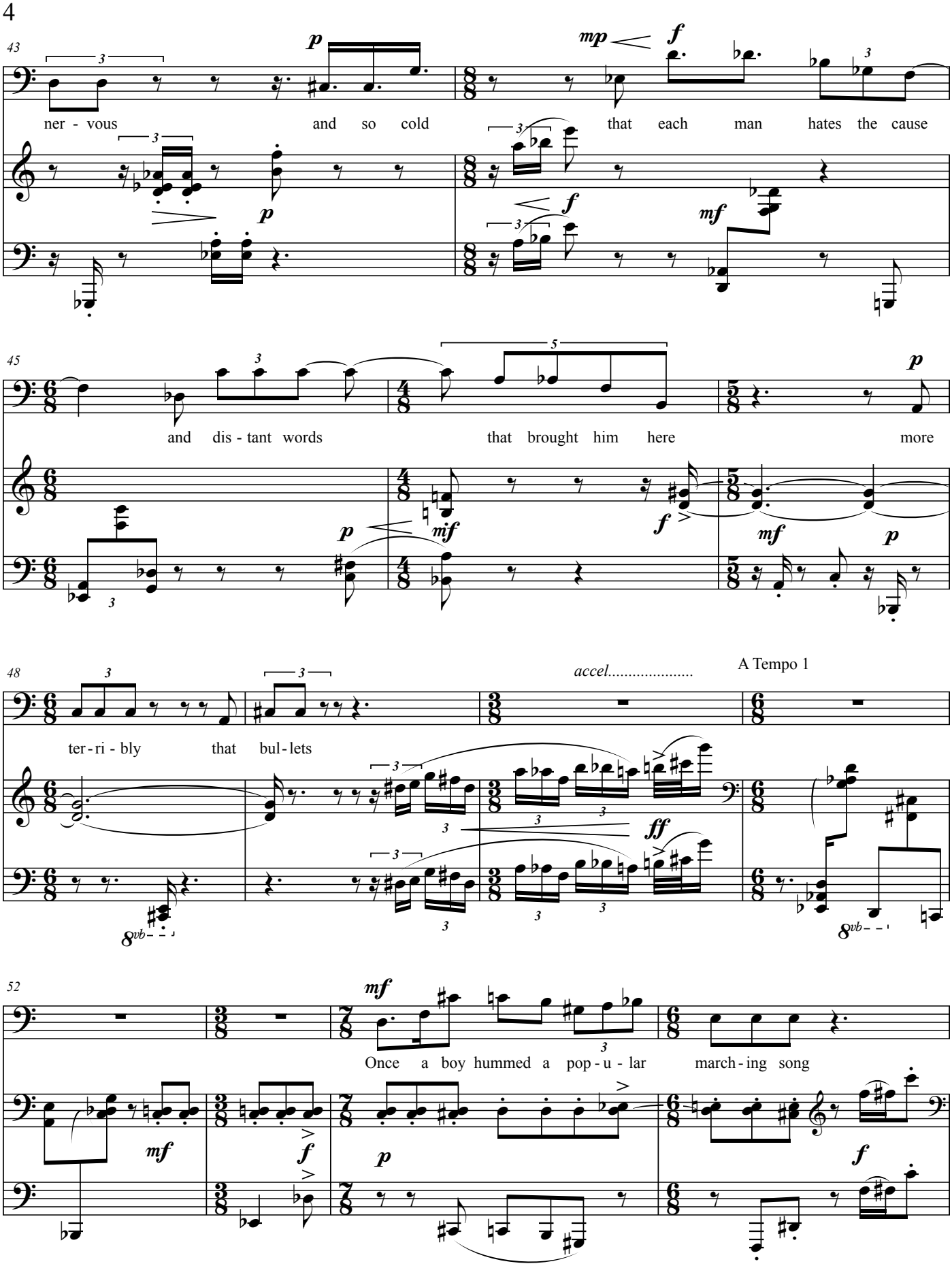
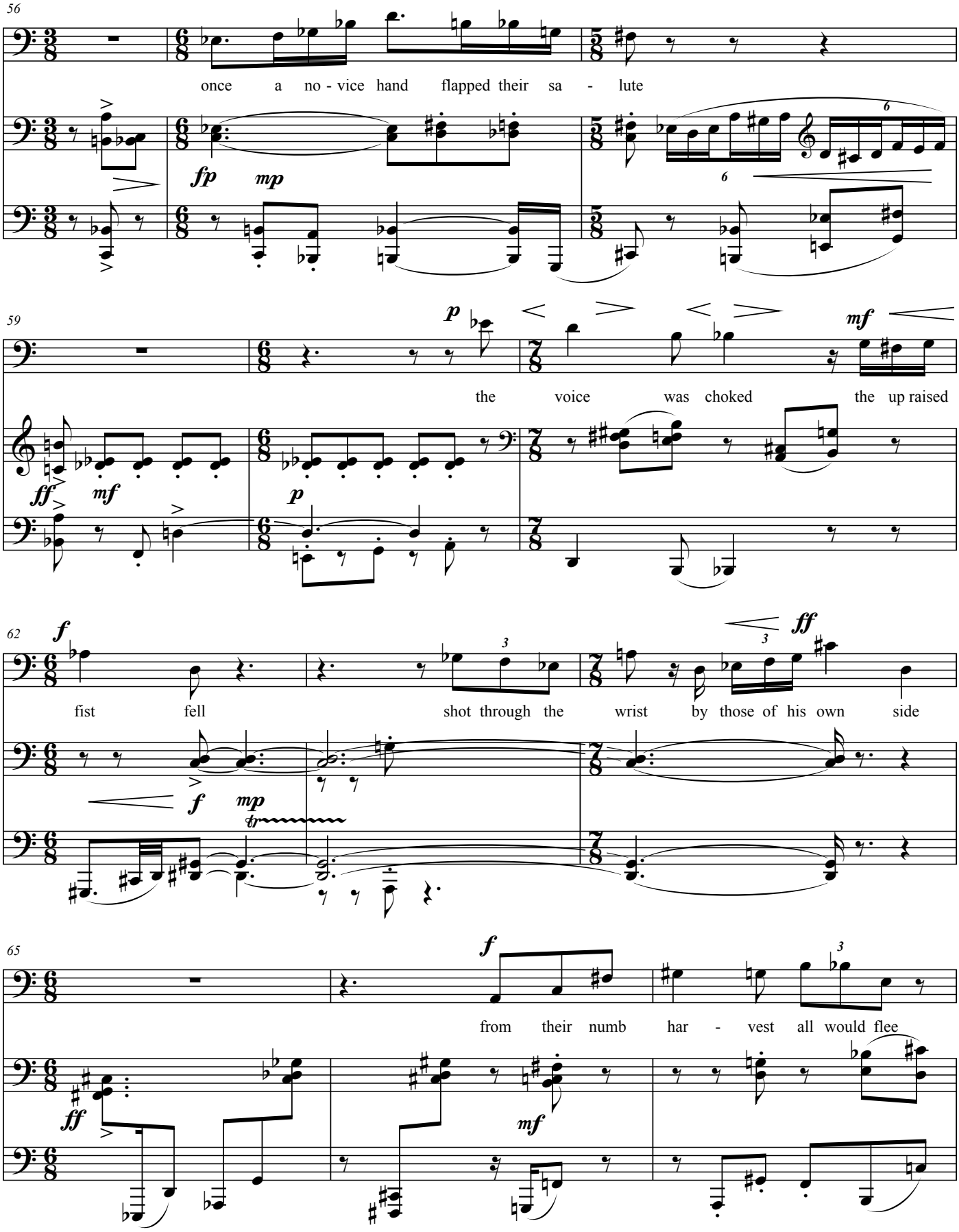
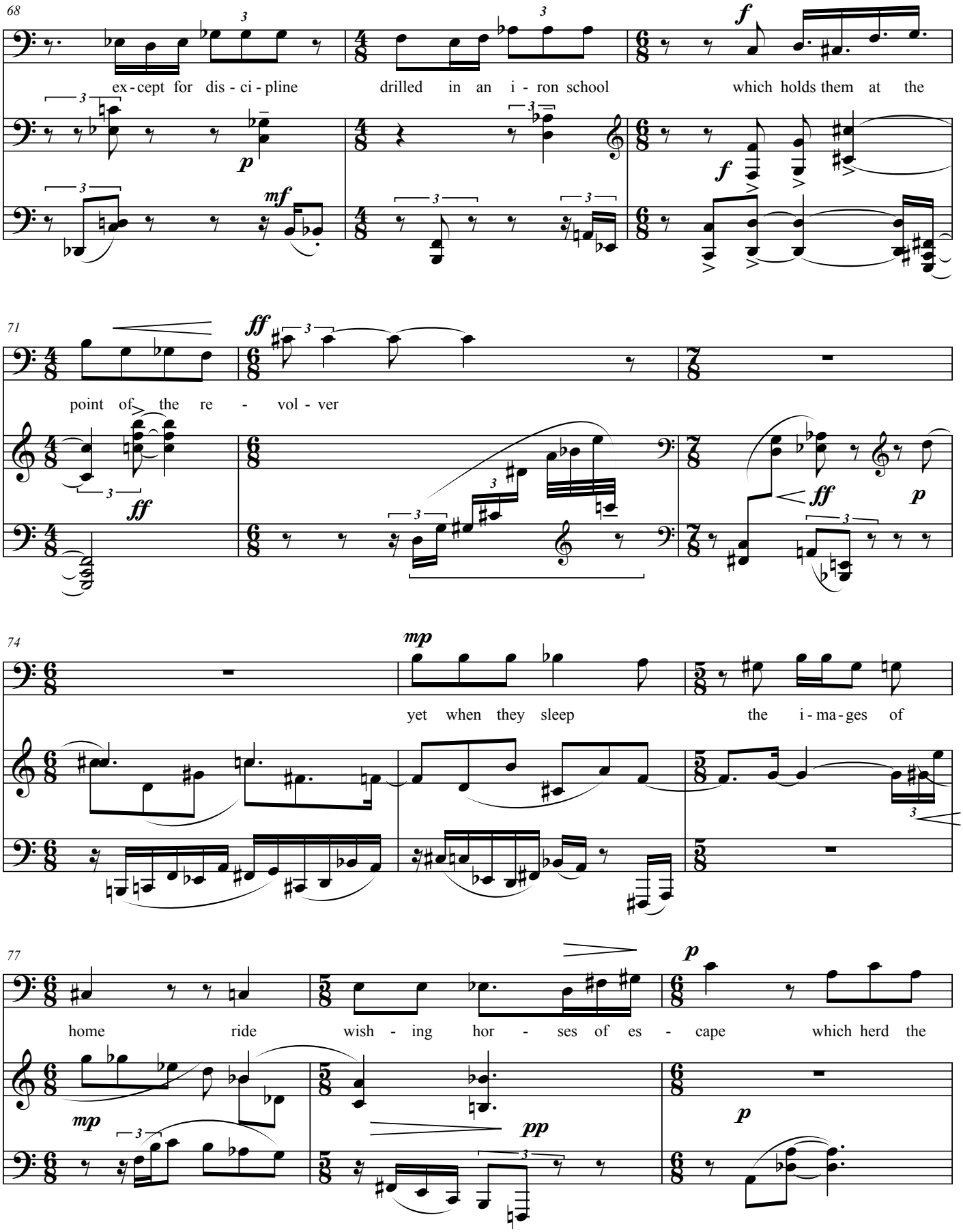
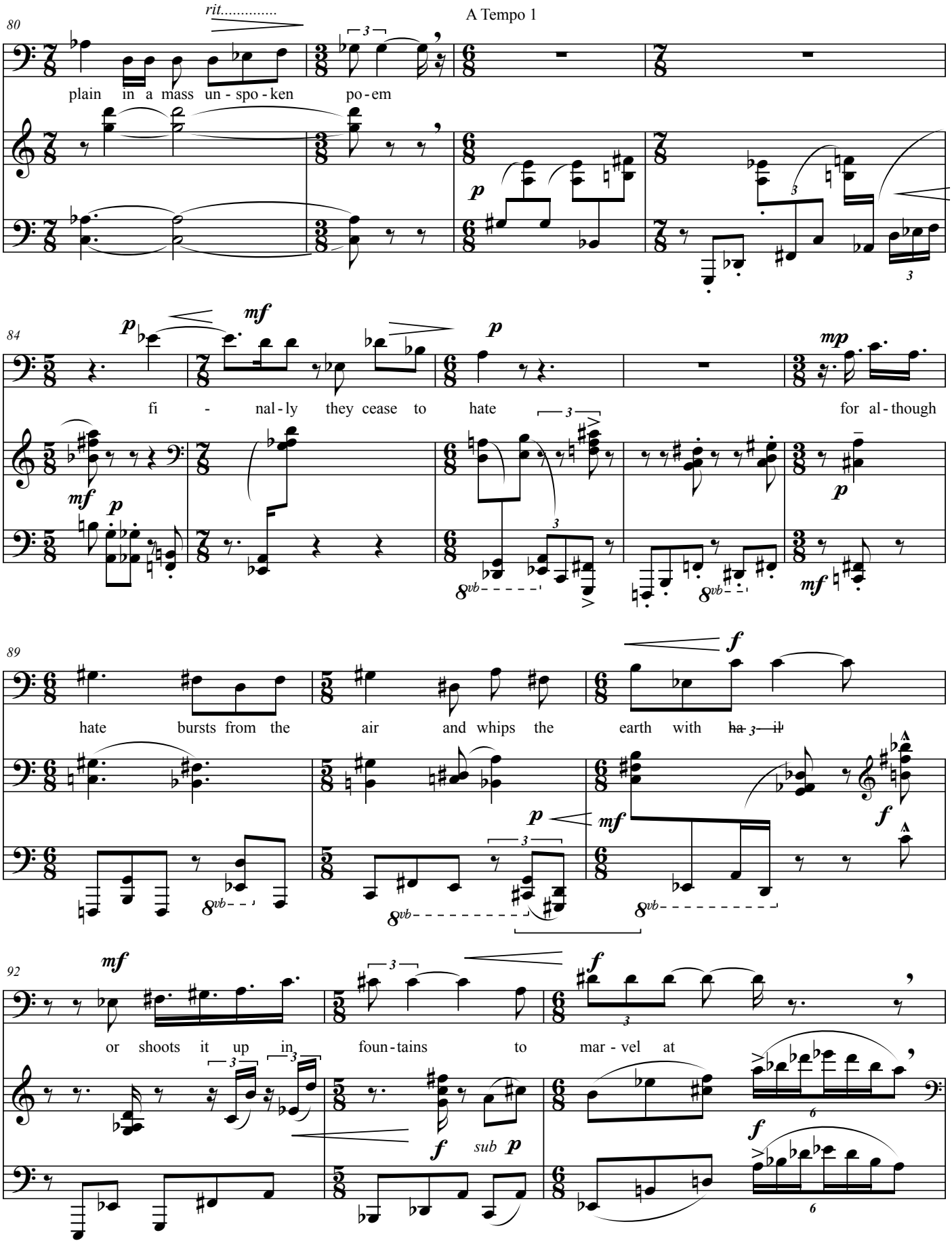

14
mf
dig their ma - chi - ner - y to de -
f
mf
f
17
ff
stroy each o-ther
ff
mf
21
mf
p
mf
men freeze and hun - ger
f
no one is gi - ven leave on ei - ther
p
f
p
mf
f
8vb
25
side ex - cept the dead and wound - ed
ff
f
8vb

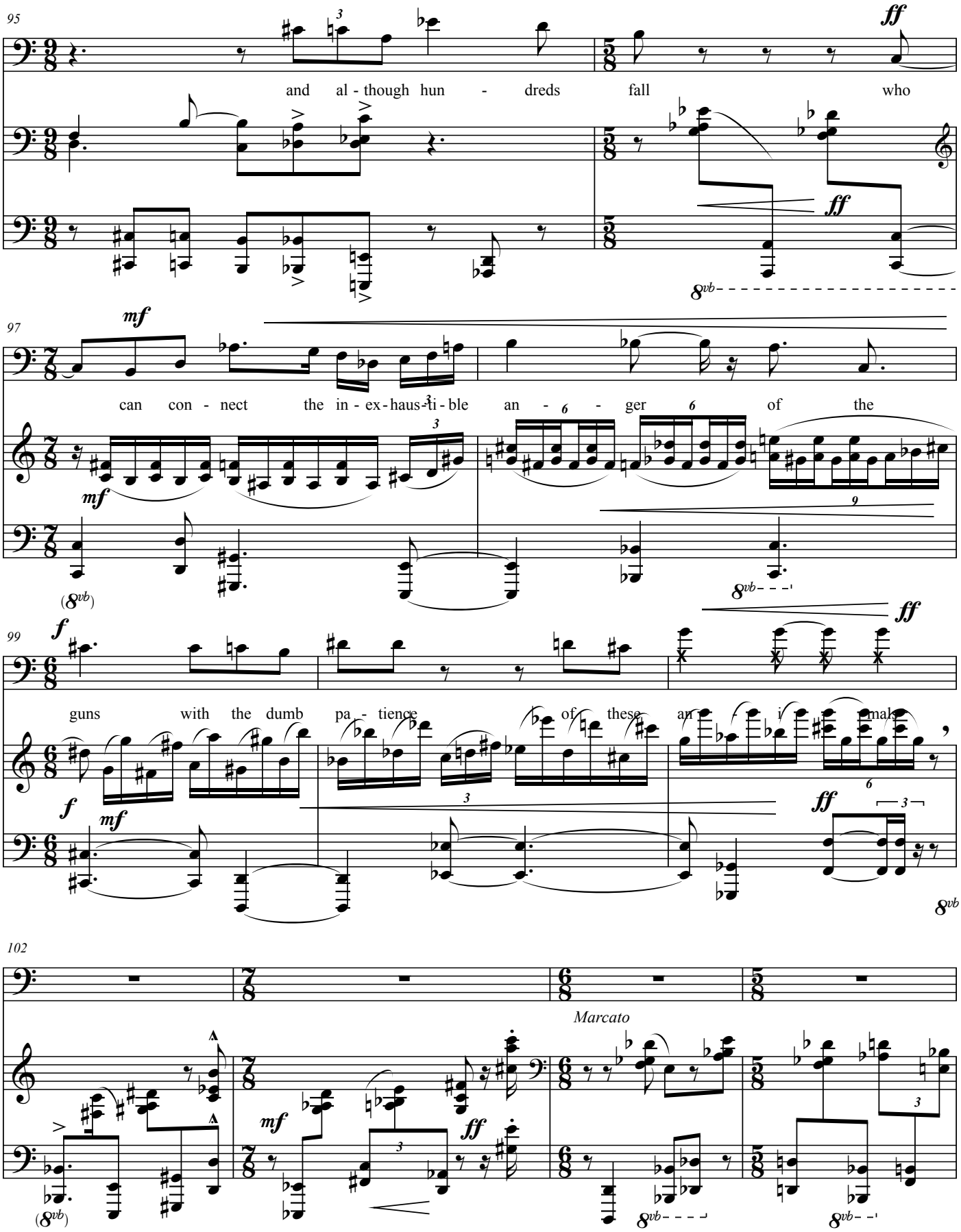

29
p
ex - cept the dead and wound - ed
mp
p
33
Slower ♩. = 63
these have their leave while new bat -
mp
p
mp
7
37
rit.....
f
tal - ions wait on time at last to bring them vi - o - lent peace
p
mp
mp
8vb
40
A Tempo 1 ♩. = 72
mf
5
all have be - come so
3.
ff
f
mf
(8vb)
8vb

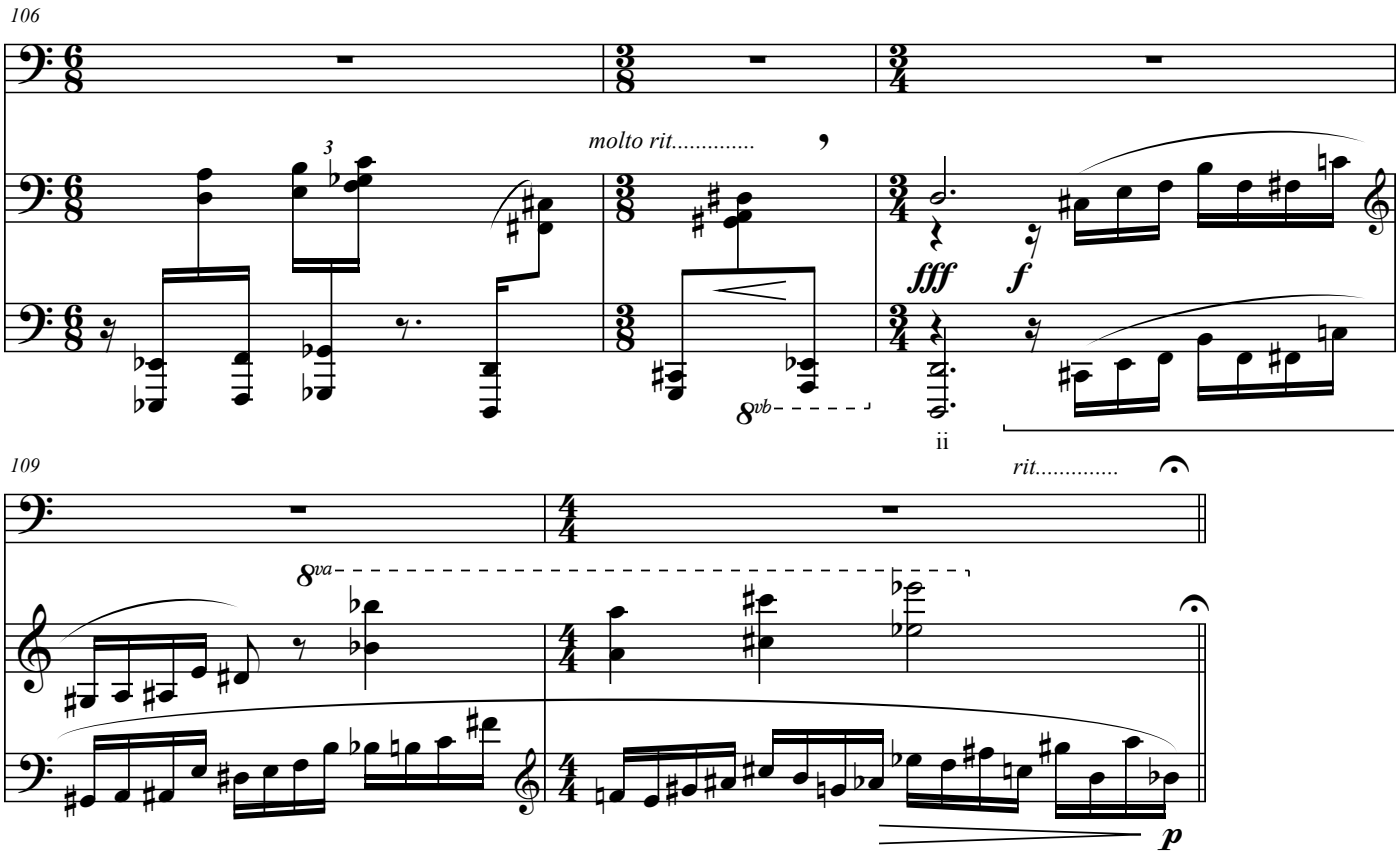

43
ner - vous and so cold that each man hates the cause
45
and dis - tant words that brought him here more
48
ter - ri - bly that bul - lets
accel.....
A Tempo 1
52
Once a boy hummed a pop - u - lar march - ing song


56
once a no - vice hand flapped their sa - lute
fp mp
59
the voice was choked the up raised
p mf
ff mf p
62
fist fell shot through the wrist by those of his own side
f ff
f mp
65
from their numb har - vest all would flee
f
ff mf

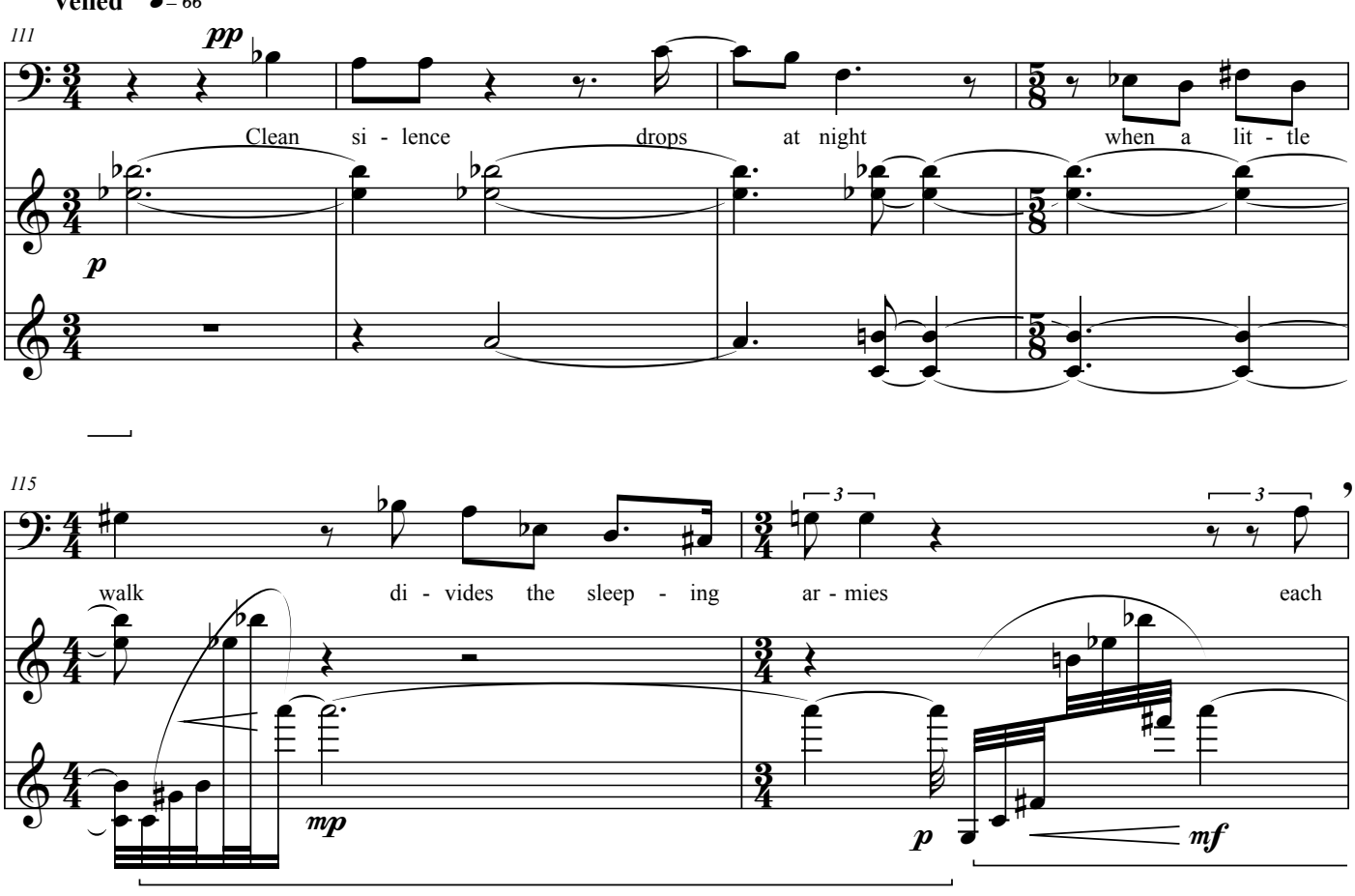

68
ex - cept for dis - ci - pline
drilled in an i - ron school
which holds them at the
71
point of the re - vol - ver
74
yet when they sleep
the i - ma - ges of
77
home
ride
wish - ing hor - ses of es - cape
which herd the

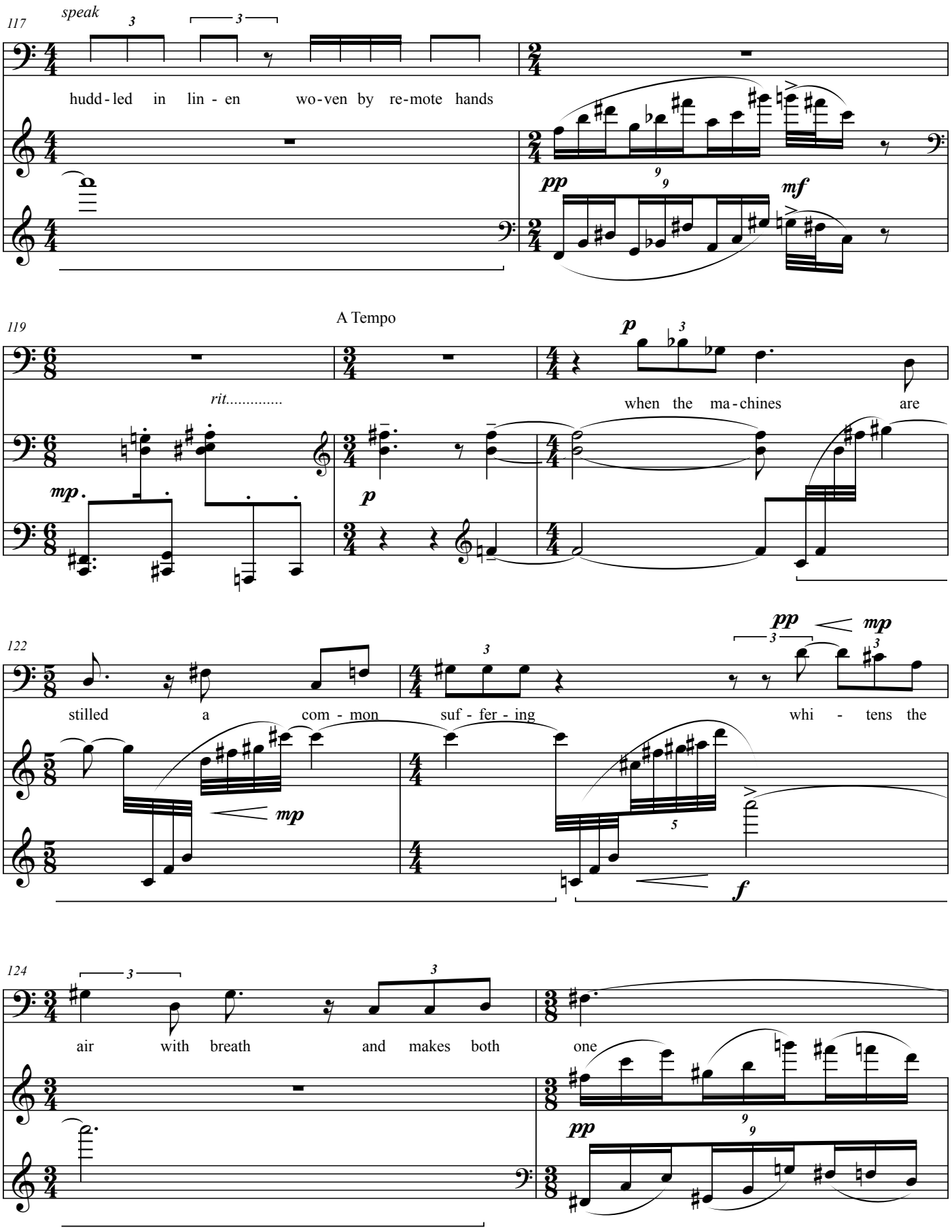

rit.....
A Tempo 1
80
plain in a mass un - spo - ken po - em
84
fi - nal - ly they cease to hate for al - though
89
hate bursts from the air and whips the earth with ha il
92
or shoots it up in foun - tains to mar - vel at
sub p

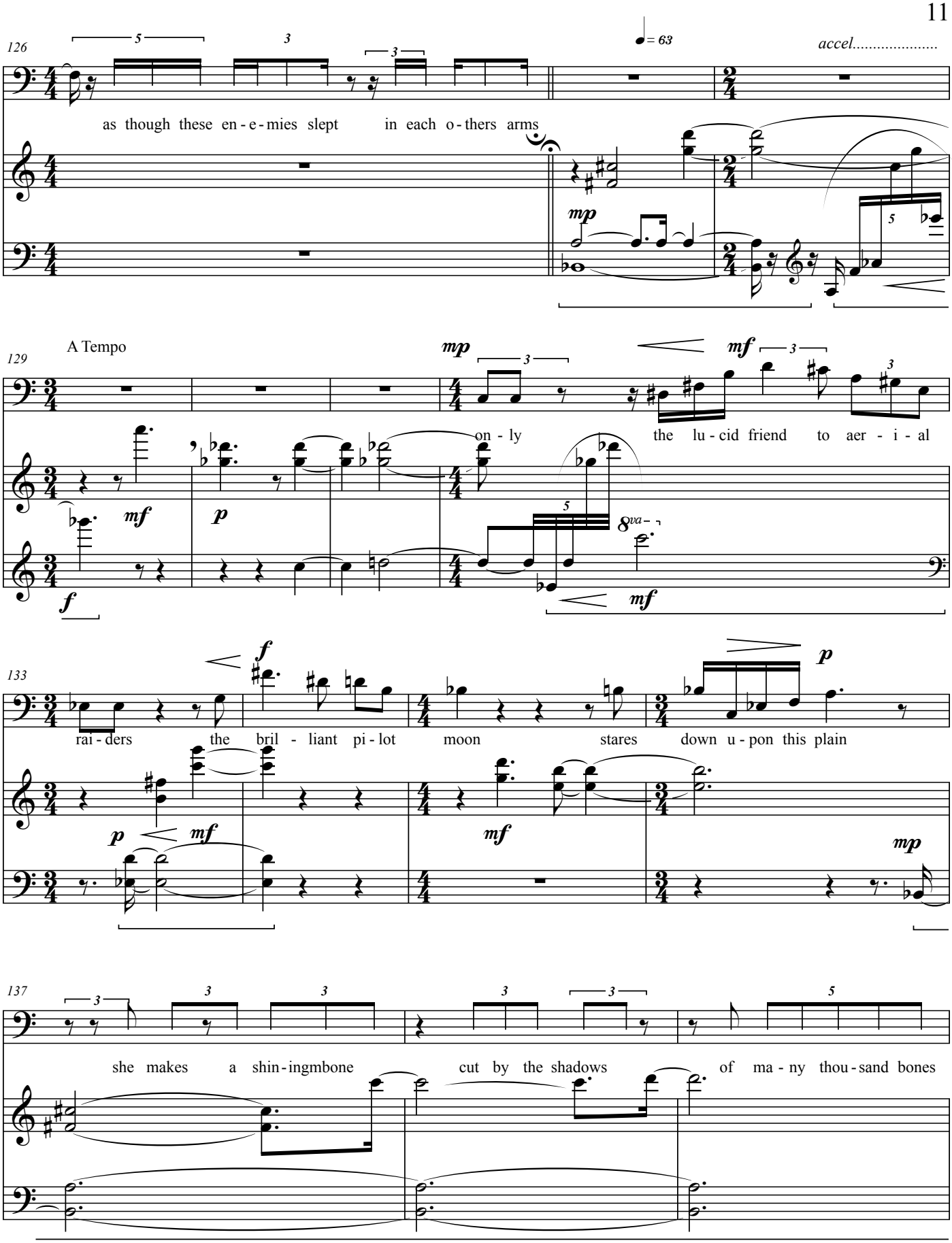

95
and al - though hun - dreds fall who
97
can con - nect the in - ex - haus - ti - ble an - ger of the
99
guns with the dumb pa - tience of these an - i - mals
102
Marcato

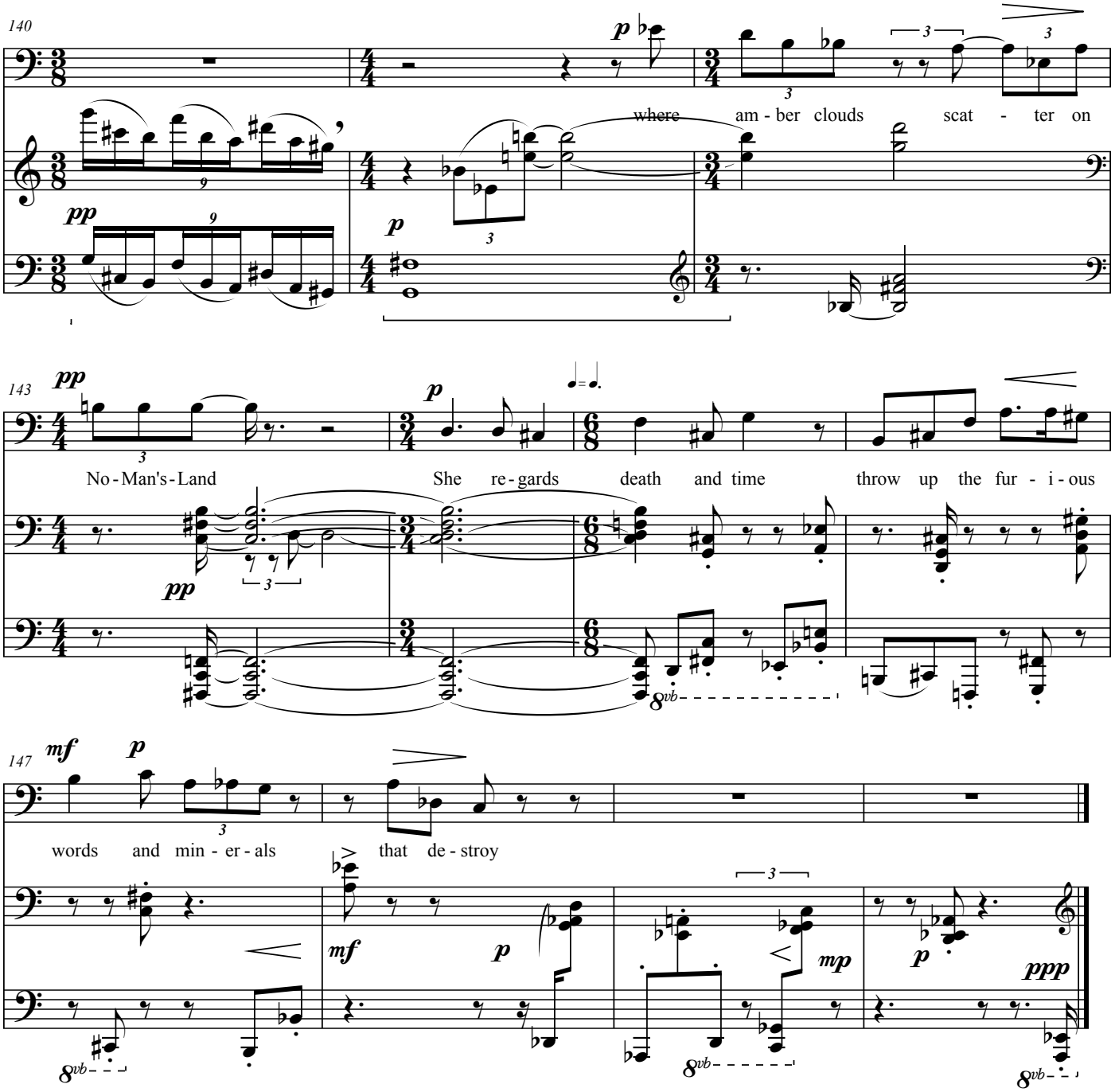

106
molto rit.....
fff
f
ii
109
rit.....
8va
8vb
p

-Part Two-


Veiled
♩= 66
111
pp
Clean si - lence drops at night when a lit - tle
p
115
walk di - vides the sleep - ing ar - mies each
mp
p
mf


117
speak
hudd - led in lin - en wo - ven by re - mote hands
pp
mf
119
A Tempo
rit.....
when the ma - chines are
mp
p
122
stilled a com - mon suf - fer - ing whi - tens the
pp
mp
mp
f
124
air with breath and makes both one
pp

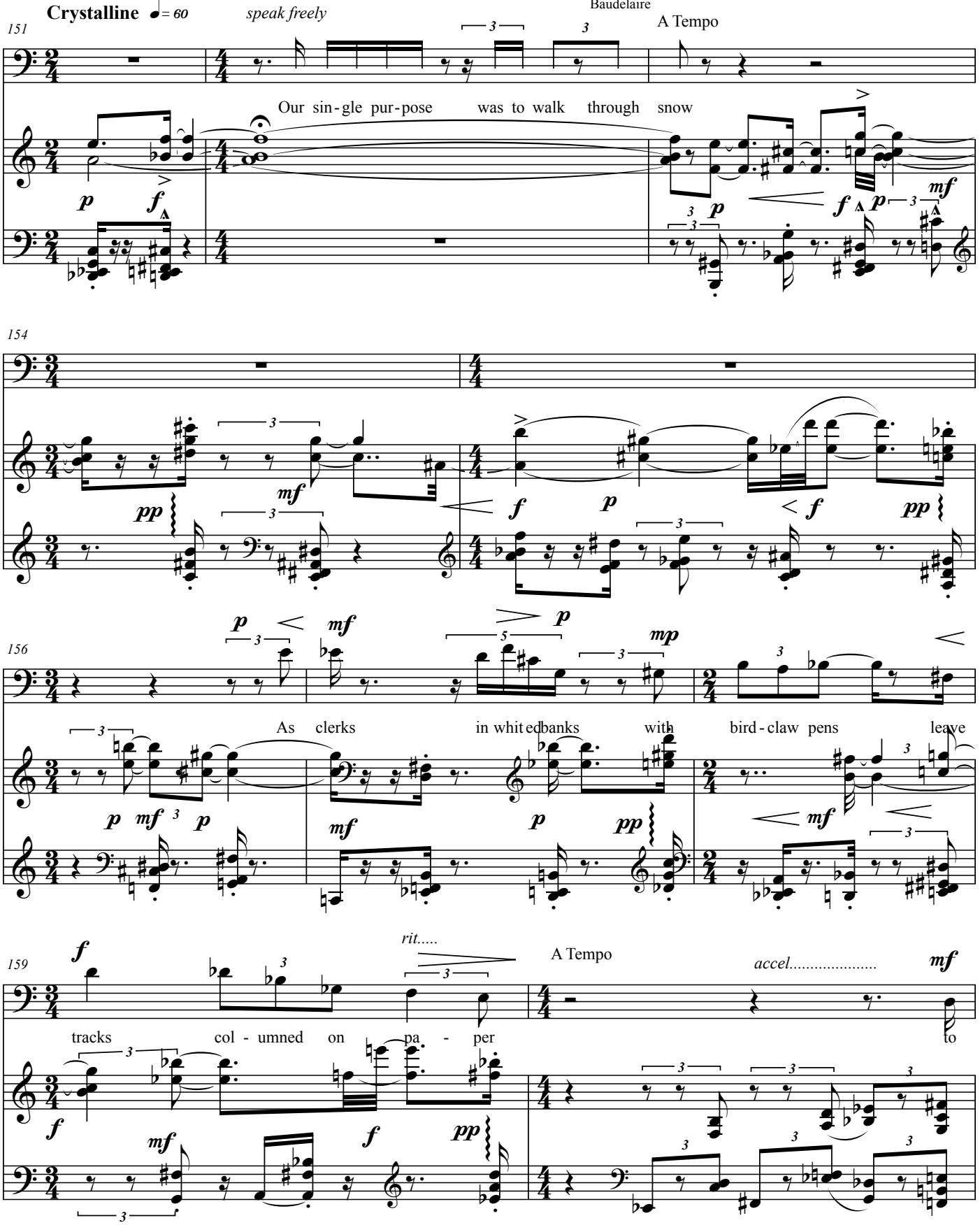

126
= 63
accel.....
as though these en - e - mies slept in each o - thers arms
mp
129
A Tempo
mp
mf
on - ly
the lu - cid friend to aer - i - al
mf
p
f
8va
133
f
p
rai - ders the bril - liant pi - lot moon stares down u - pon this plain
p
mf
mf
mp
137
she makes a shin - ingmbone cut by the shadows of ma - ny thou - sand bones


140
where am - ber clouds scat - ter on
143
No - Man's - Land She re - gards death and time throw up the fur - i - ous
147
words and min - er - als that de - stroy

Polar Exploration

Pour n'être pas changés en bêtes, ils s'enivrent
D'espace et de lumière et de cieux embrasés;
La glace qui les mord, les soleils qui les cuivrent,
Effacent lentment la marque des baisers.

Baudelaire



A Tempo

161

snow we add - ed foot - prints

A Tempo

164

accel.....

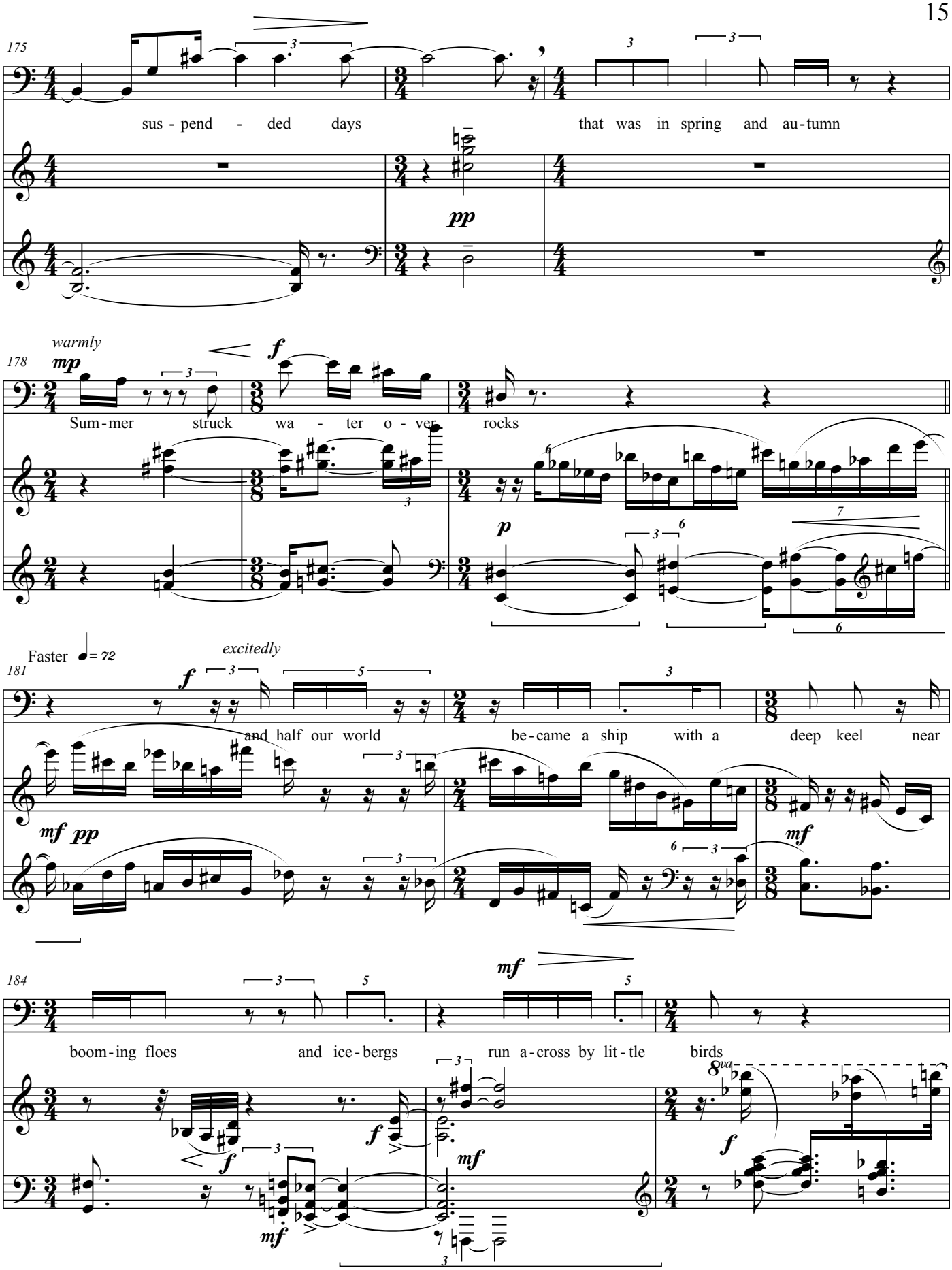
soon to - tal white - ness drowned all sense of space

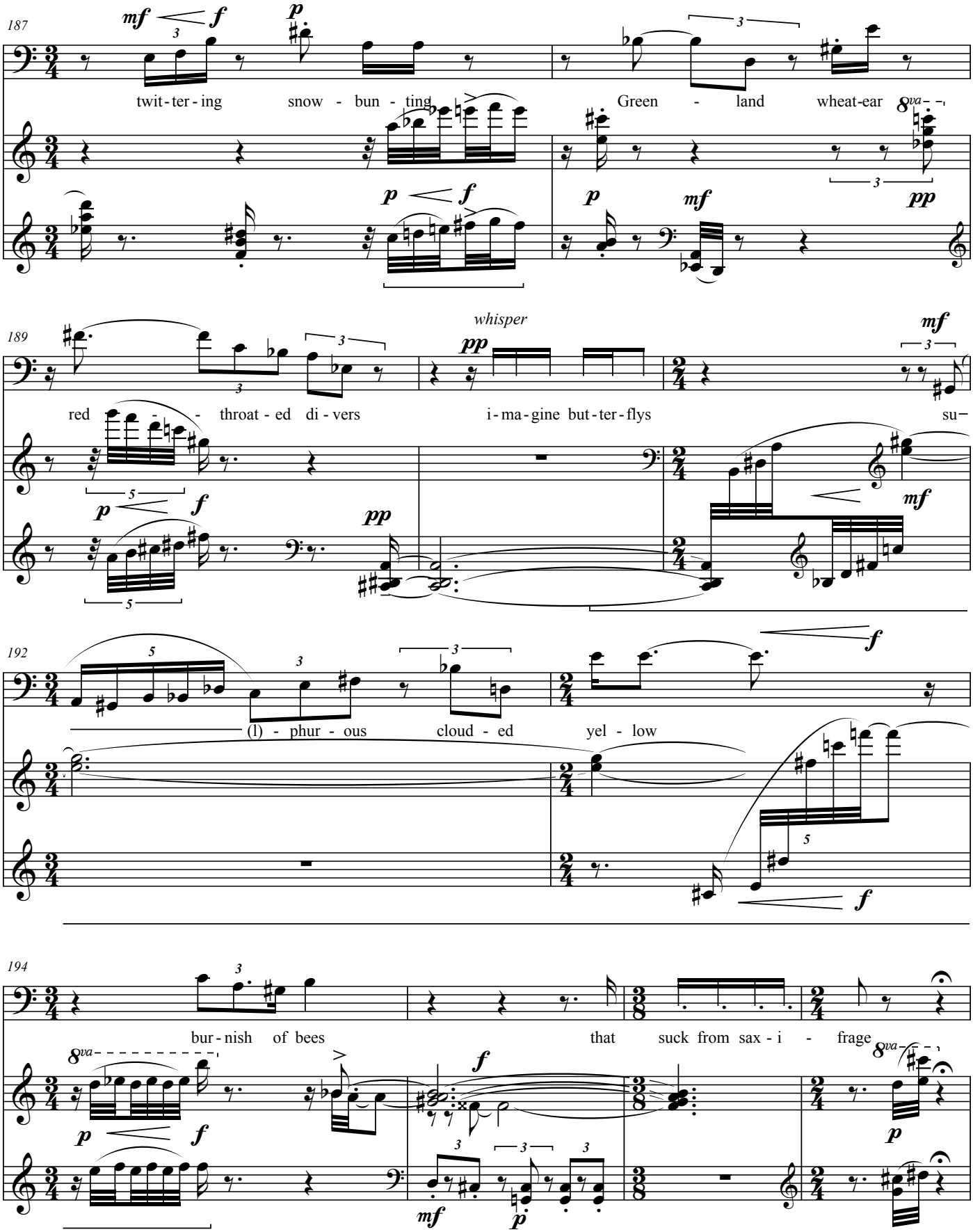
ii

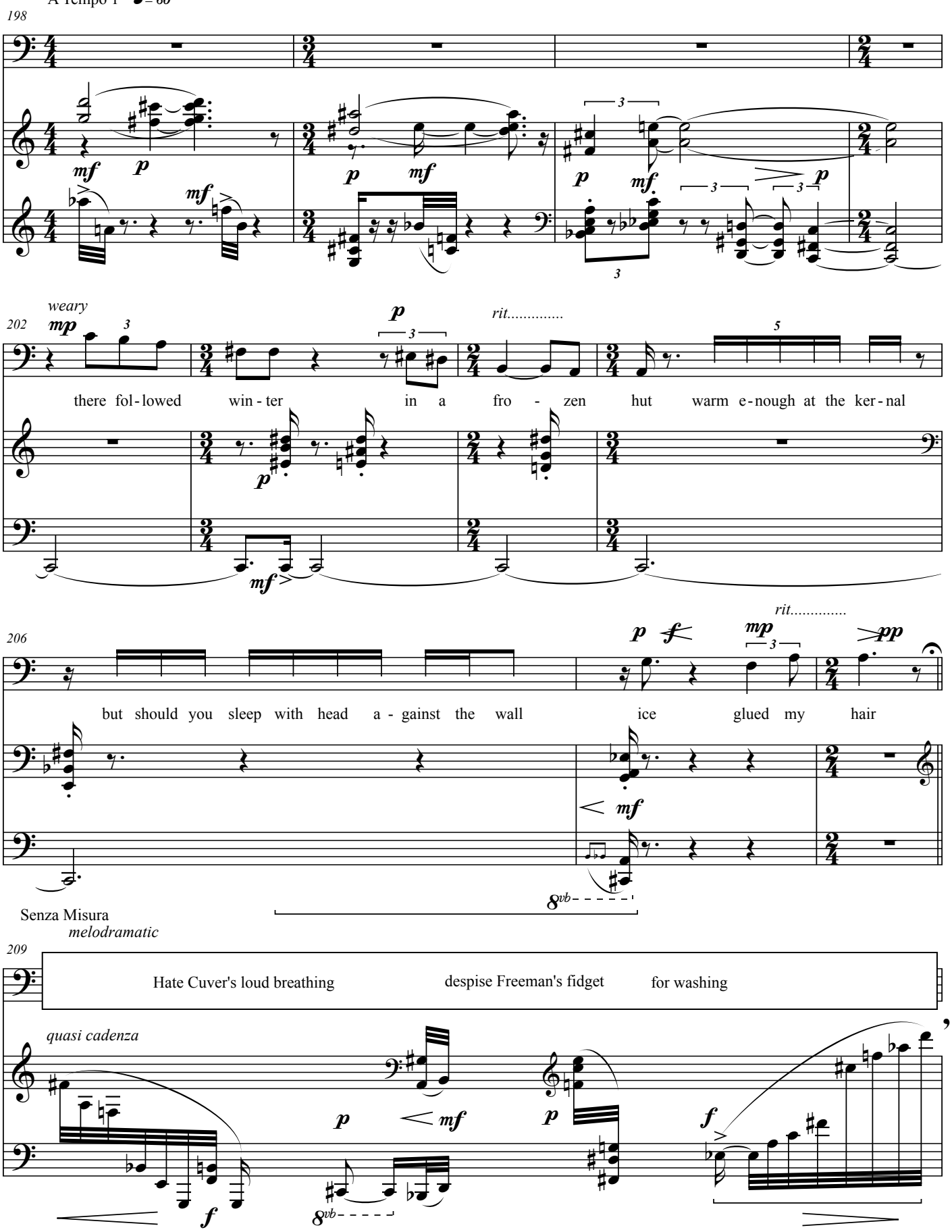
167

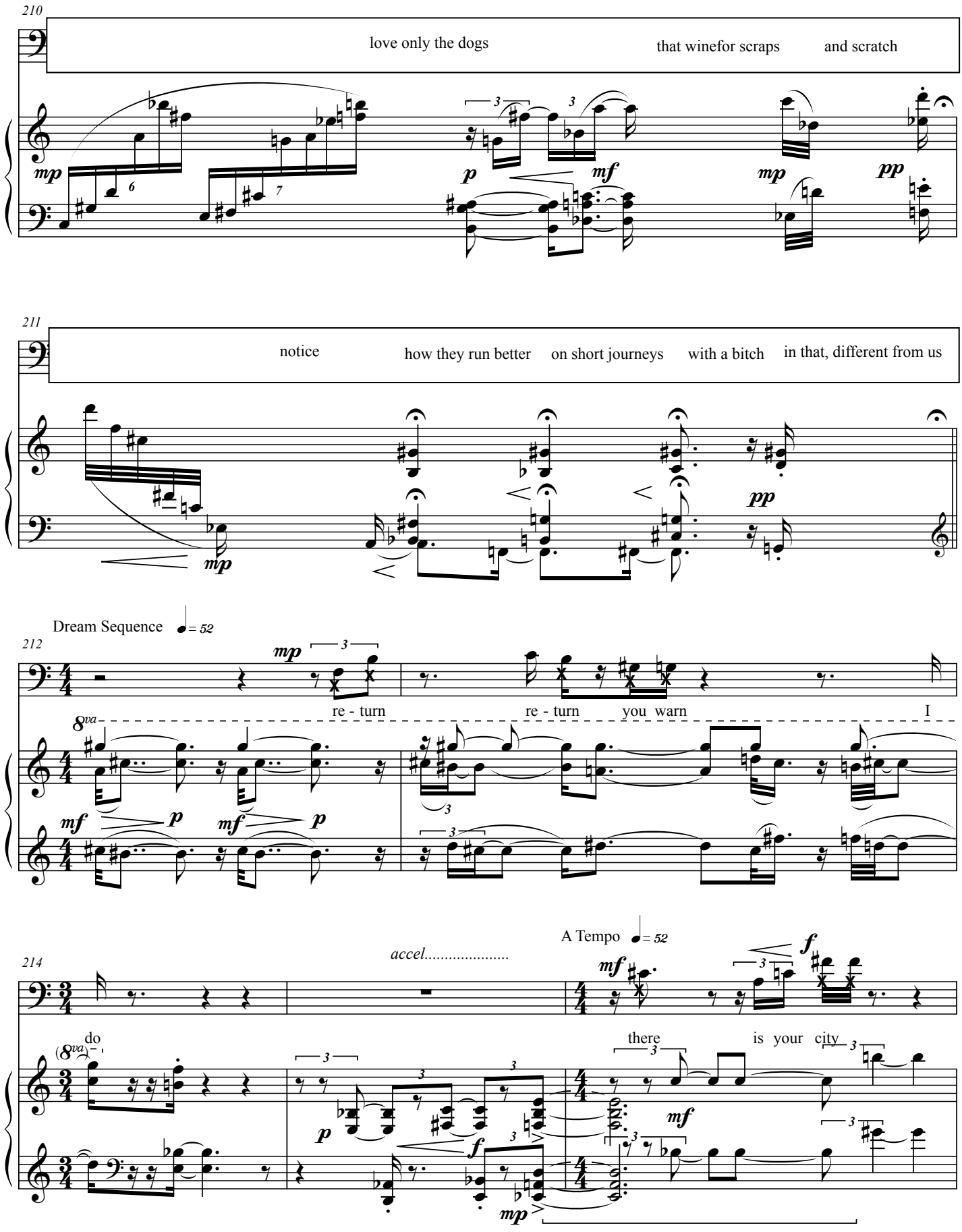
172

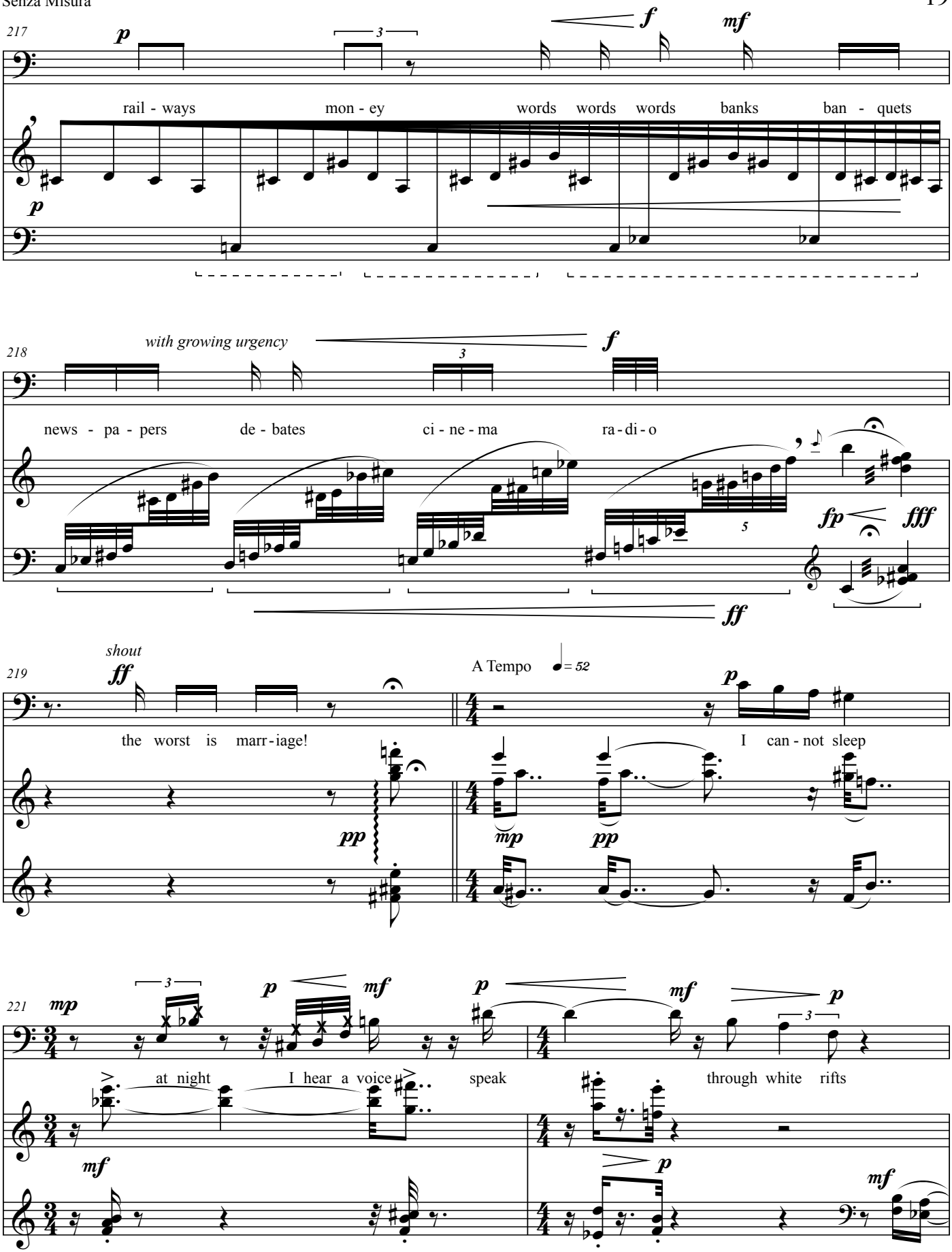
We trudged through stat - ic glar - ing days times

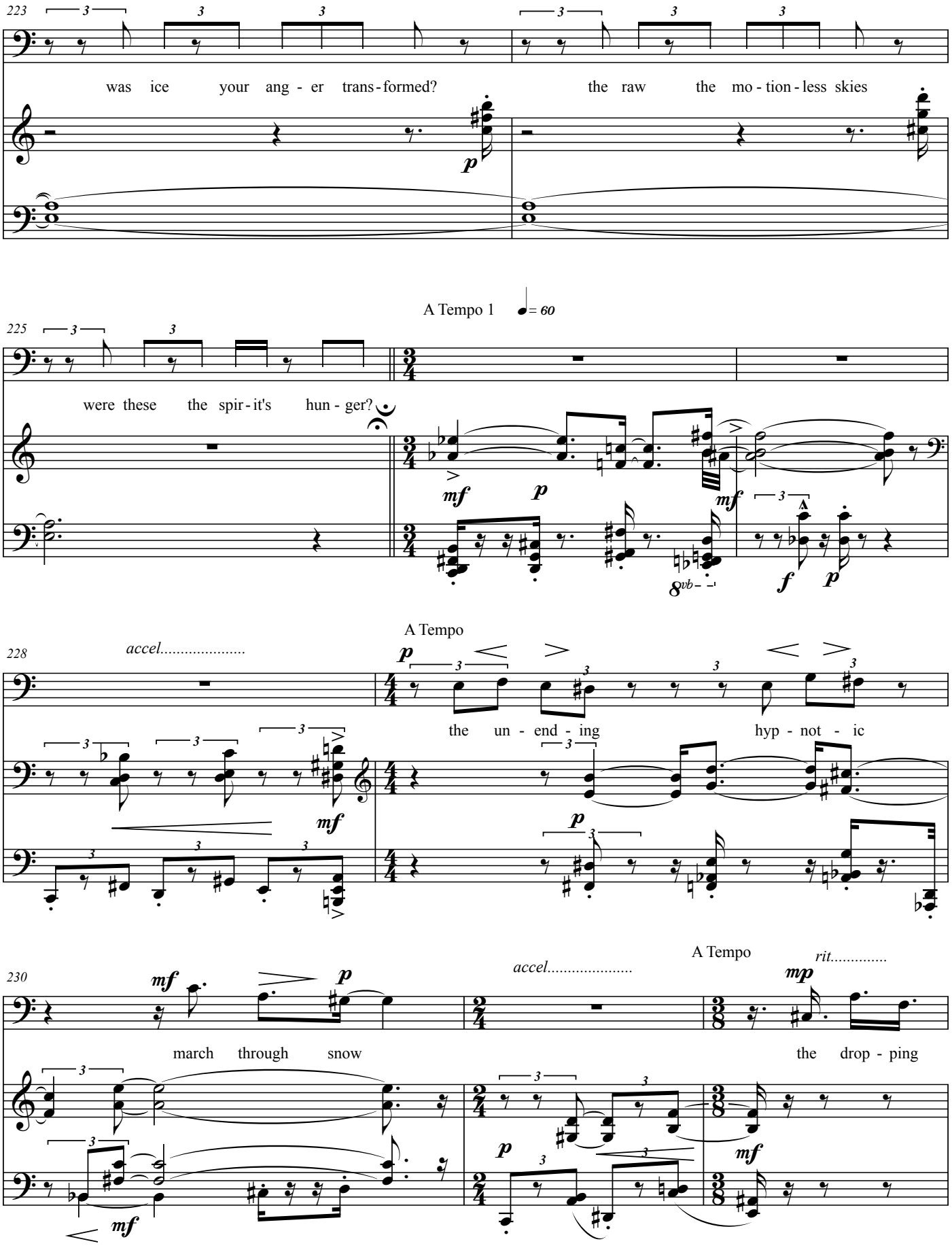

175
sus - pend - ded days
that was in spring and au-tumn
pp
warmly
178
mp
f
Sum-mer struck wa - ter o - ver rocks
p
Faster ♩= 72
181
excitedly
f
and half our world be-came a ship with a deep keel near
mf pp
mf
184
mf
boom-ing floes and ice-bergs run a-cross by lit-tle birds
f
mf
8va

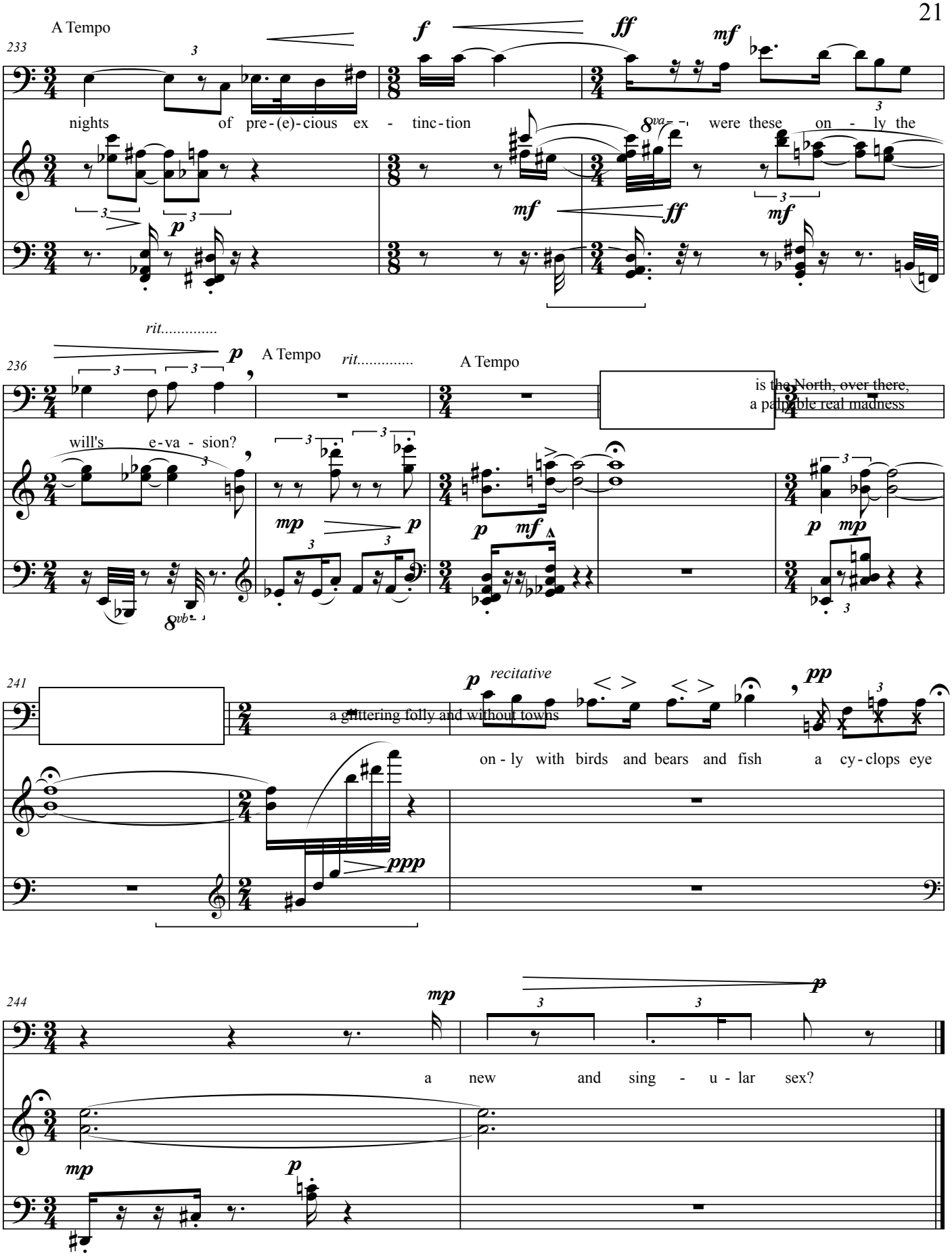

187
twit-ter-ing snow - bun - ting
Green - land wheat-ear
8va
189
whisper
red - - - throat - ed di - vers
i-ma-gine but-ter-flys
su-
192
(l) - phur - ous cloud - ed yel - low
194
bur-nish of bees
that suck from sax - i - frage
8va


A Tempo 1 ♩= 60
198
202
weary
there fol-lowed win-ter in a fro-zen hut warm e-nough at the ker-nal
rit.....
206
but should you sleep with head a-gainst the wall ice glued my hair
rit.....
Senza Misura
melodramatic
209
Hate Cuver's loud breathing despise Freeman's fidget for washing
quasi cadenza


210
love only the dogs
that winefor scraps
and scratch
211
notice
how they run better
on short journeys
with a bitch
in that, different from us
Dream Sequence
= 52
212
re - turn
re - turn
you warn
I
214
accel.....
A Tempo
= 52
do
there
is your city


217
rail - ways
mon - ey
words words words
banks
ban - quets
218
with growing urgency
news - pa - pers
de - bates
ci - ne - ma
ra - di - o
219
shout
the worst is marr - iage!
A Tempo
I can - not sleep
221
at night
I hear a voice
speak
through white rifts


223
was ice your ang - er trans - formed?
the raw the mo - tion - less skies
A Tempo 1
= 60
225
were these the spir - it's hun - ger?
mf
p
mf
f
p
A Tempo
228
accel.....
the un - end - ing
hyp - not - ic
mf
p
230
mf
p
accel.....
A Tempo
rit.....
mp
march through snow
the drop - ping
mf
p
mf


A Tempo
233
nights of pre-(e)-cious ex - tinc-tion
were these on - ly the
rit.....
A Tempo
236
will's e-va - sion?
is the North, over there,
a palpable real madness
241
recitative
a glittering folly and without towns
on - ly with birds and bears and fish a cy-clops eye
244
a new and sing - u - lar sex?