Vilnai

Sleek Aphrodite

for voice and viola

on the poetry of

Sappho

Duration: approx. 30'

Paralysis

Mother darling, I can't work the loom,

for sleek Aphrodite has almost crushed
and broken me with desire for a boy.

End of a Party

Night

has tossed peace into confusion.
The mind
collapses.
Yet come, my friends,
for soon it will be day.

Weathercocks

I am conscious

how often
those whom I treated
most kindly
especially injure me now.

Then

In gold sandals

dawn like a thief
fell upon me

Brightness in Time of Storm

Brightness. With luck we'll reach
the harbor, solid ground
for our black ships.

We are sailors under great gales,
hoping for dry land
to sail to alive with our cargo.

The sky is transforming,
Awash in the storm we have many
urgent labors ahead. Dry land.

A Ring

Silly woman. Why do you lose your head
crooning about a ring?

The Guard Outside the Bridal Chamber

The doorkeeper's feet are seven fathoms long,
and ten shoemakers used up five coarse ox hides
in cobbling together his giant sandals.

The Virgin

Like a sweet apple reddening on the high

tip of the topmost branch and forgotten
by the apple pickers, not missed but beyond their reach.

Like a hyacinth crushed in the mountains

by men shepherding, lying trampled on the earth
yet blooming purple.

No Oblivion

Someone, I tell you,

will remember us.

Homecoming

You came
when I was longing for you,
and to my heart suffering in passion's fire
you were
delicious ice.

Friend You Are Gone, But Remember Me

from

Go and be happy.
But remember me, for surely you
know how we worshipped you. If not,

then I want to remind you of all

the exquisite days
we two shared; how

you took garlands of violets,

crocuses and roses, and when by my side
you tied them round you in soft bands,

and you took many flowers

and flung them in loops
about your sapling throat,

how the air was rich with a scent

of queenly spices made of myrrh
you rubbed smoothly on your limbs,

and on soft beds, gently, your desire
for delicate young women
was satisfied,

and how there was no dance and no
holy shrine
we two didn't share,

no sound,
no
grove.

translated by Willis Barnstone

Sappho

Sleek Aphrodite

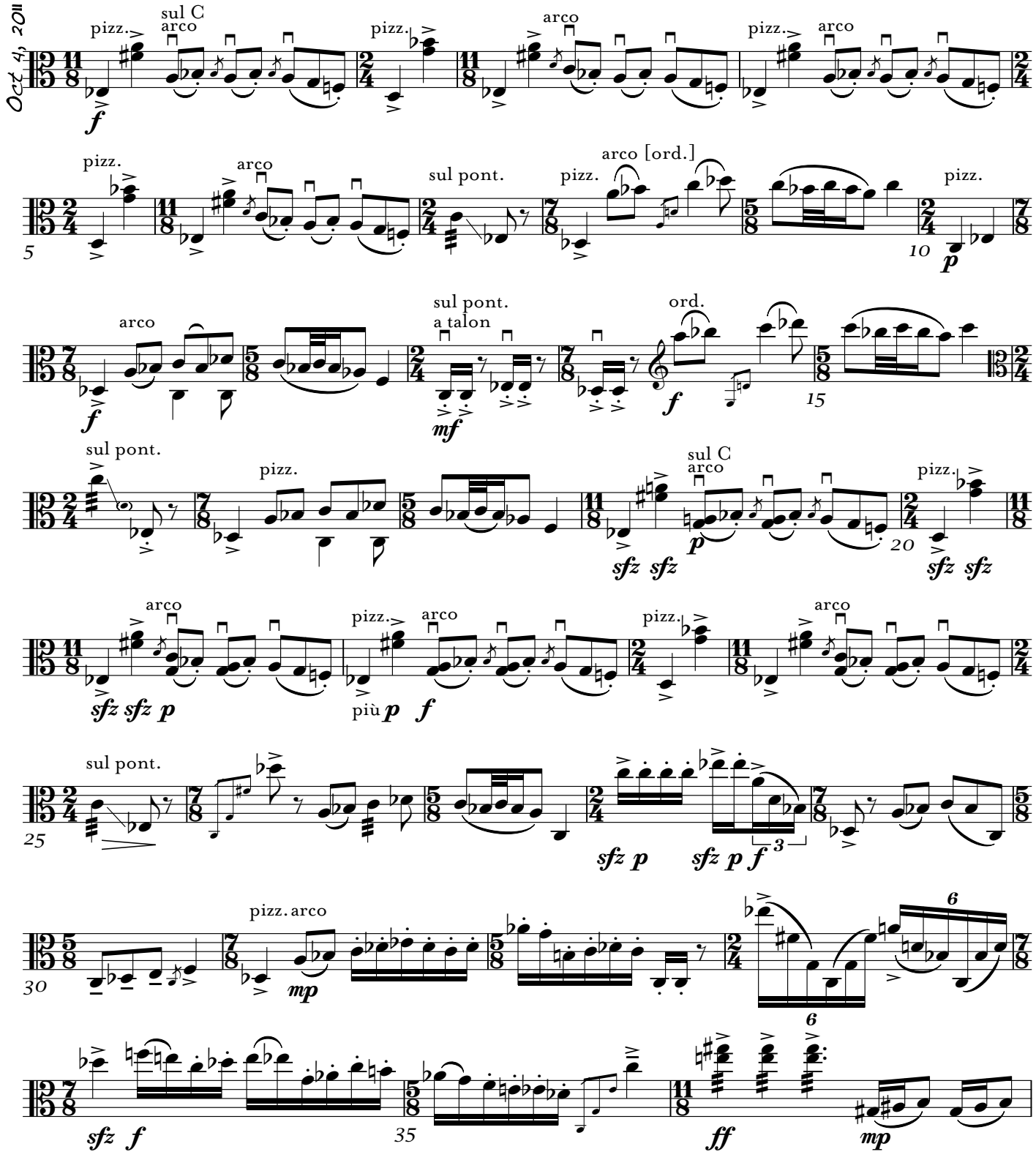
Vilnai

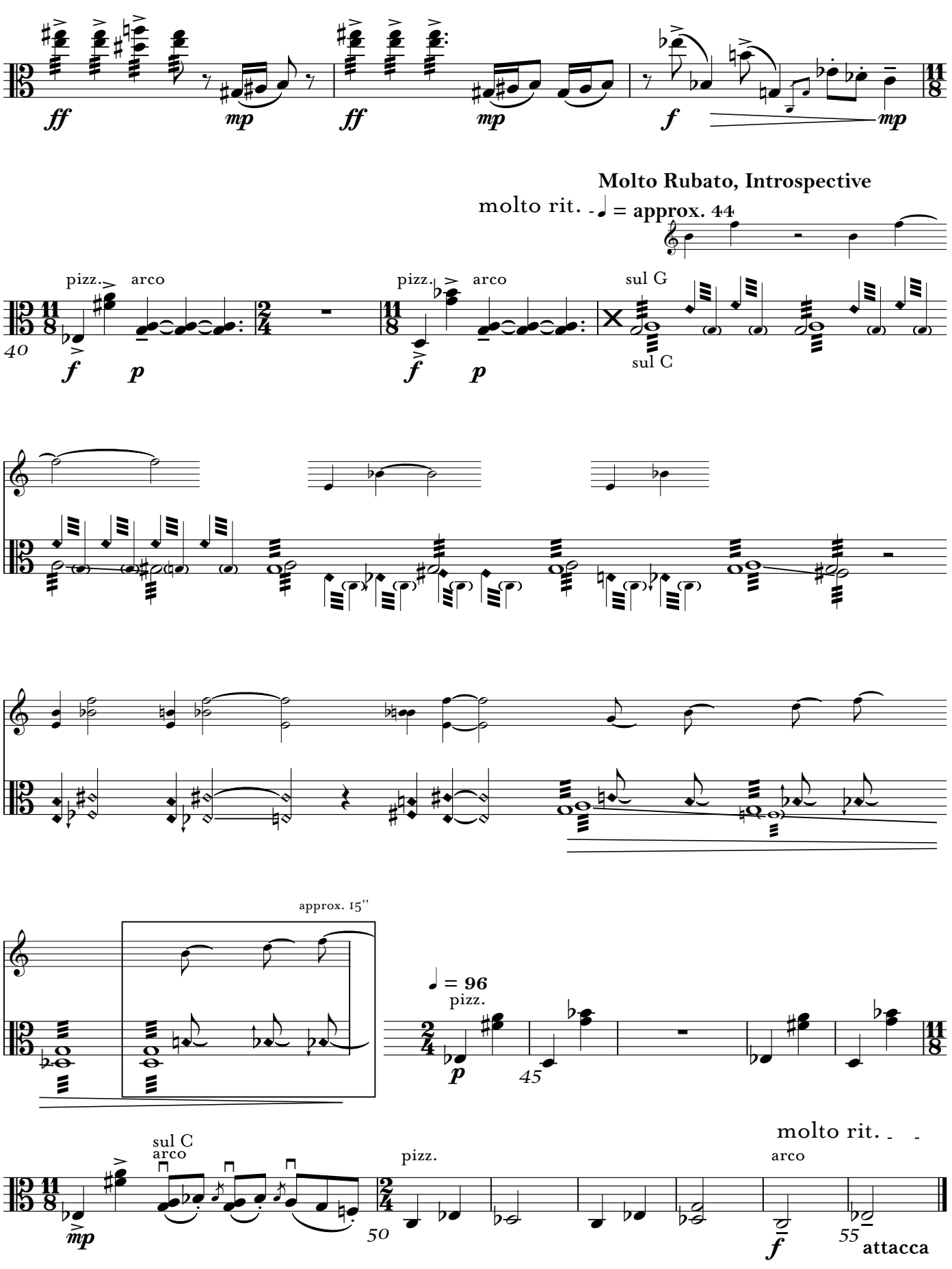
Introduction

Confident

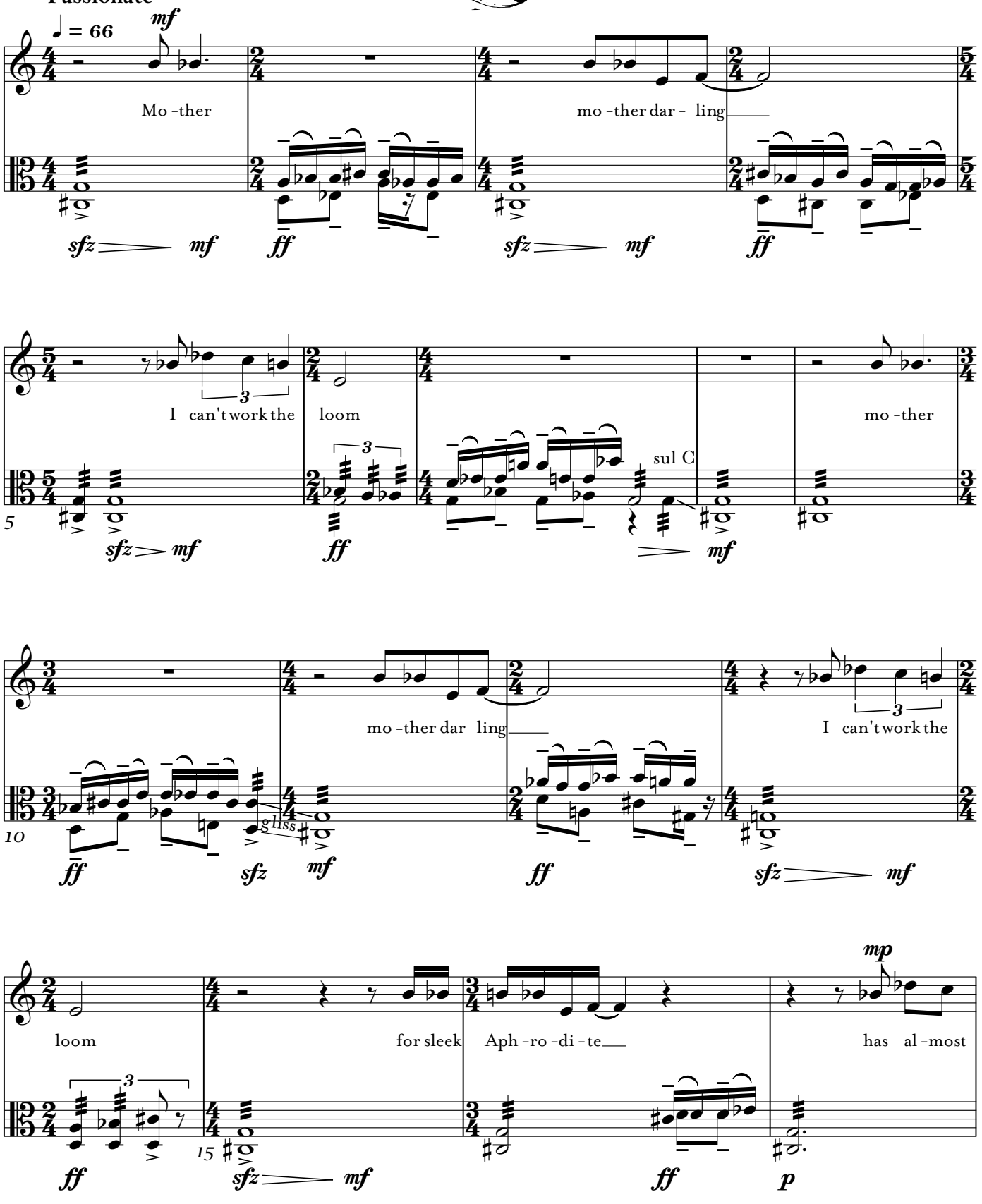
♩ = 120

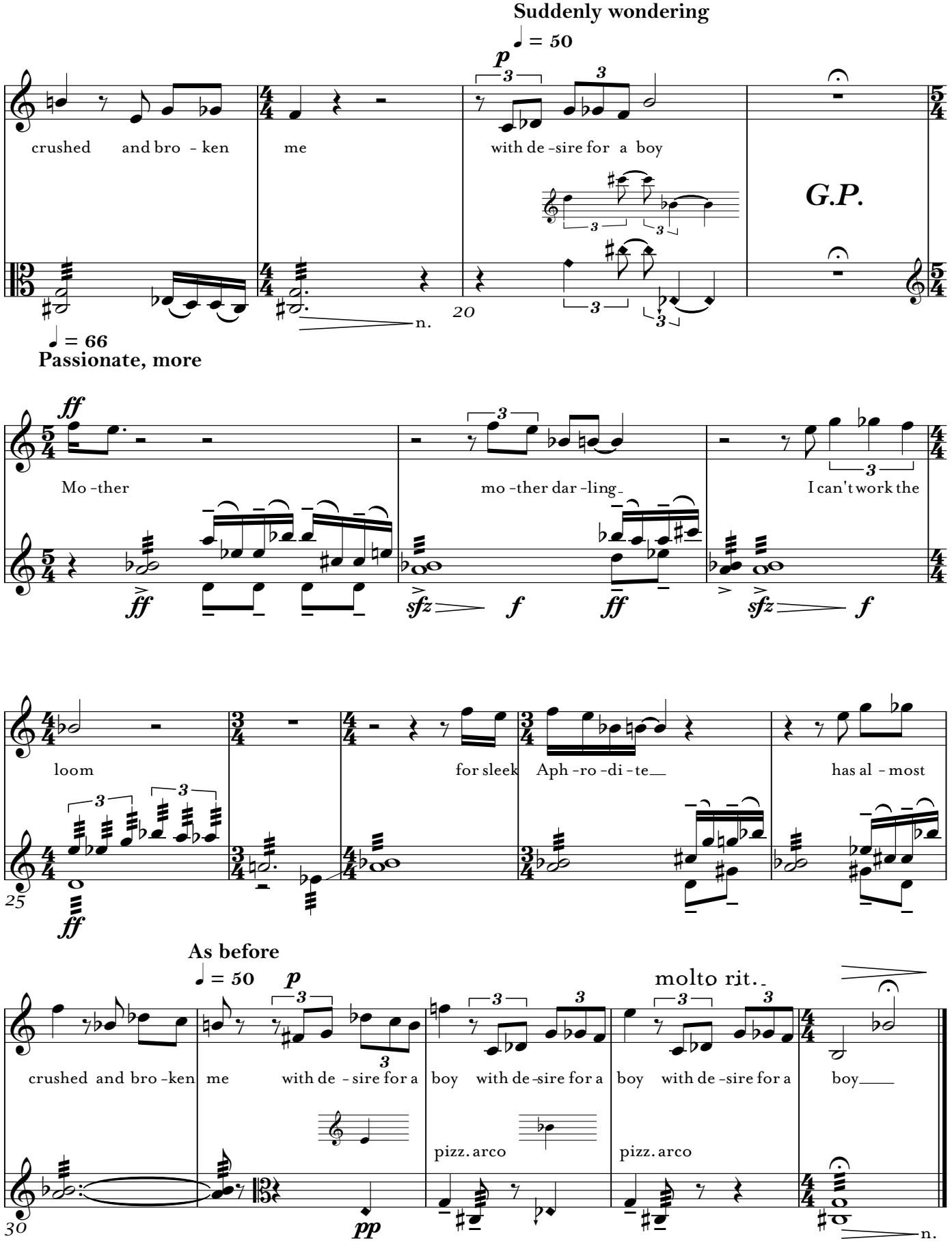
Oct 4, 2011




ff
mp
ff
mp
f
mp
Molto Rubato, Introspective
molto rit.
♩ = approx. 44
pizz.
arco
40
f
p
pizz.
arco
f
p
sul G
sul C
approx. 15"
♩ = 96
pizz.
p
45
molto rit.
sul C
arco
mp
pizz.
50
arco
f
55
attacca

Paralysis


Passionate
♩ = 66
mf
Mo -ther
mo -ther dar - ling
sfz
mf
ff
I can't work the loom
mo -ther
sul C
5
mo -ther dar ling
I can't work the
gliss
10
loom
for sleek
Aph -ro -di -te
has al -most
mp
15
p


Suddenly wondering
♩ = 50
p
crushed and bro - ken me with de -sire for a boy
G.P.
20
n.
♩ = 66
Passionate, more
ff
Mo -ther mo -ther dar -ling I can't work the
sfz f ff sfz f
loom for sleek Aph -ro -di -te has al - most
25
ff
As before
♩ = 50
p
molto rit.
crushed and bro -ken me with de - sire for a boy with de -sire for a boy with de -sire for a boy
pizz. arco
pizz. arco
30
pp
n.

End of a Party

Relaxed, swaying

♩ = 66

sord.

p

5

Finger Cymbals

p

10

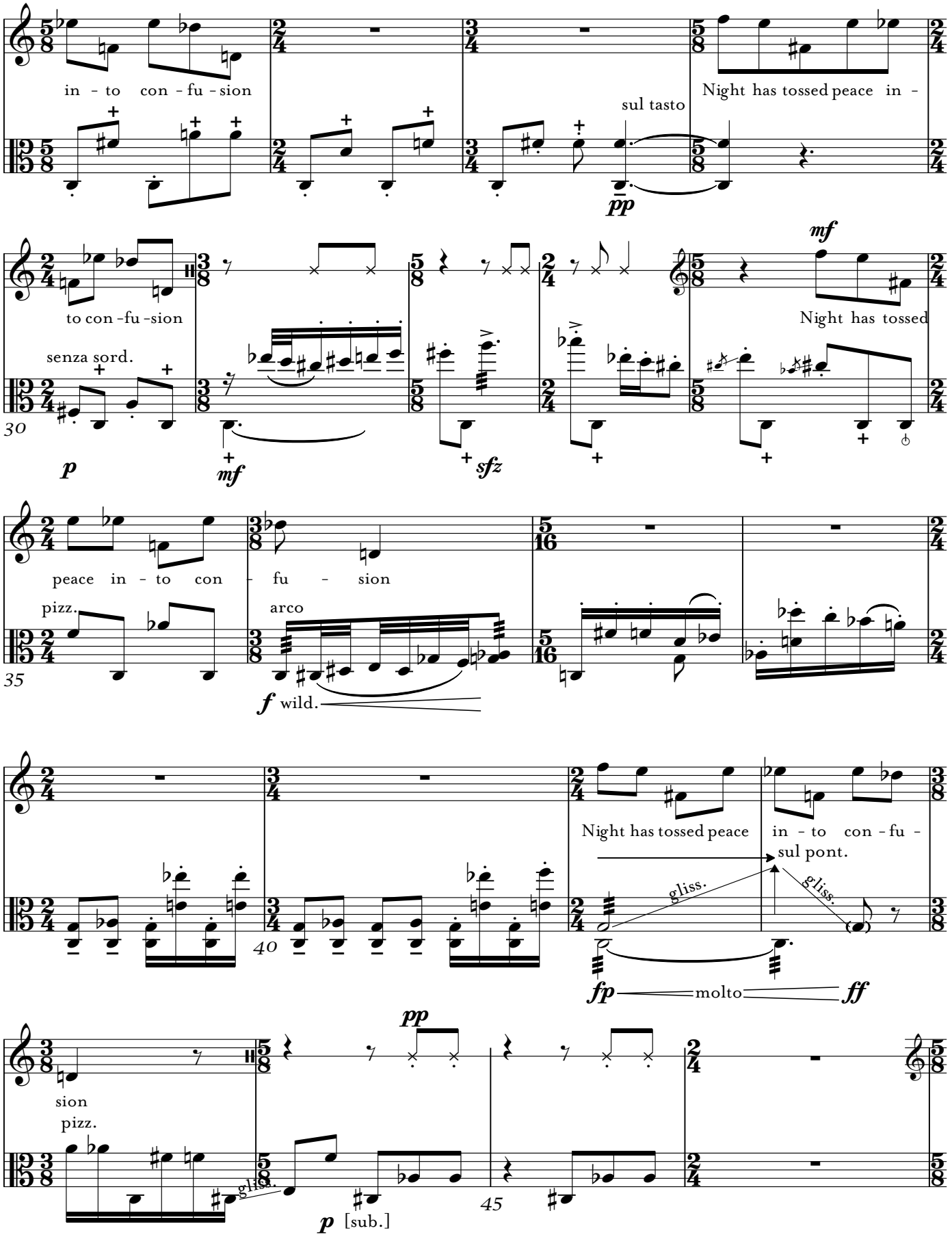
15

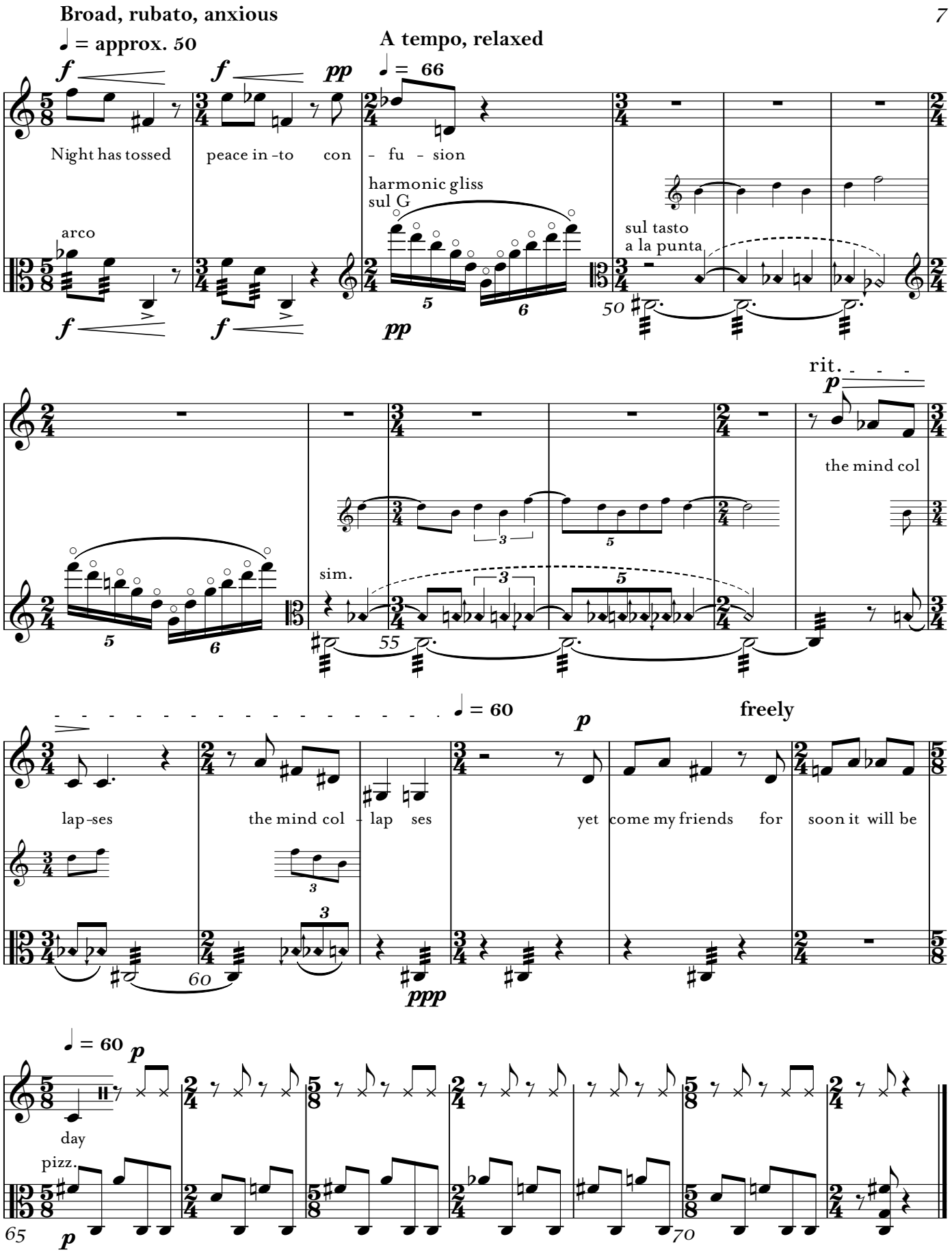
20

mp almost spoken, clean
slightly stacatto

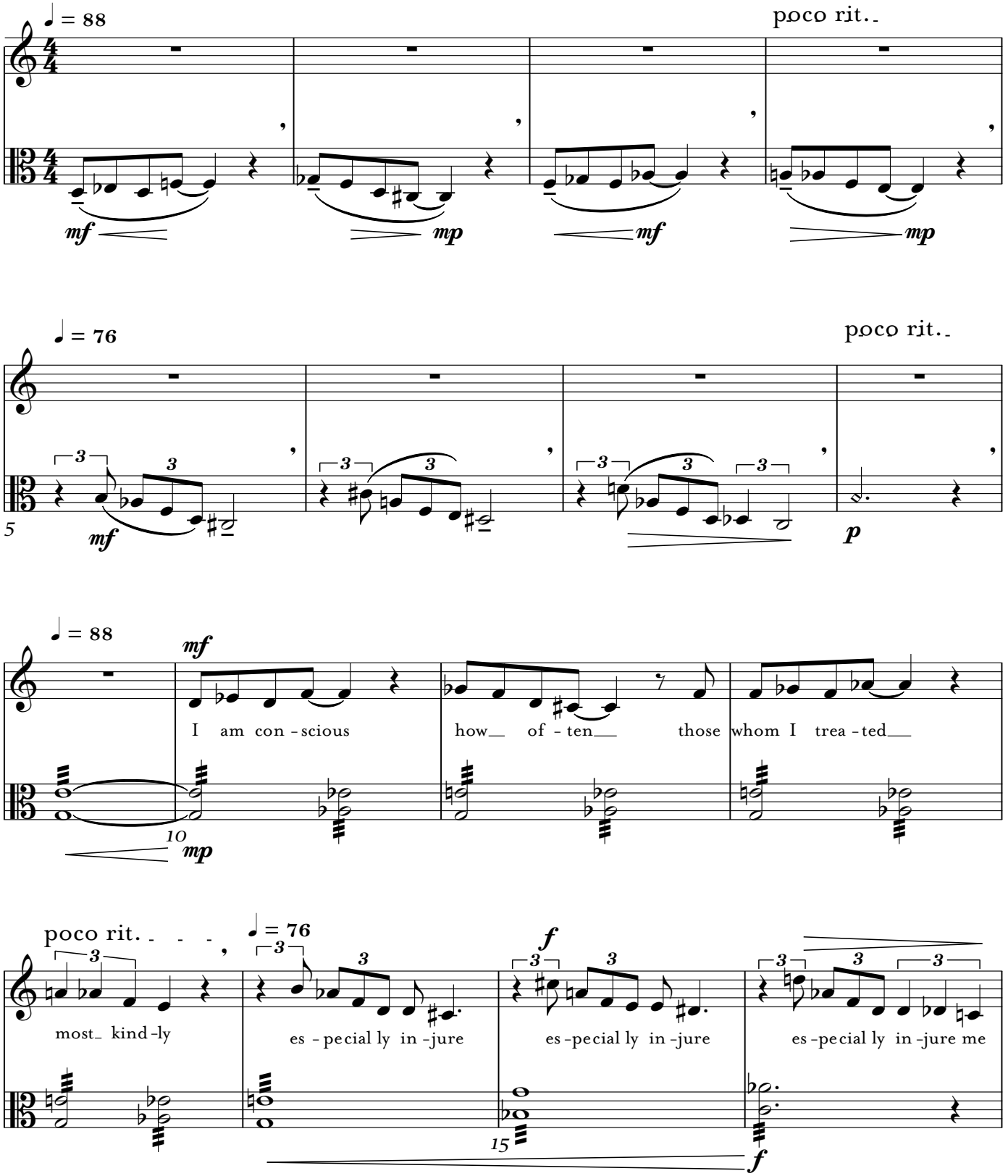
Night has tossed peace in -to con -fu -sion Night has tossed peace

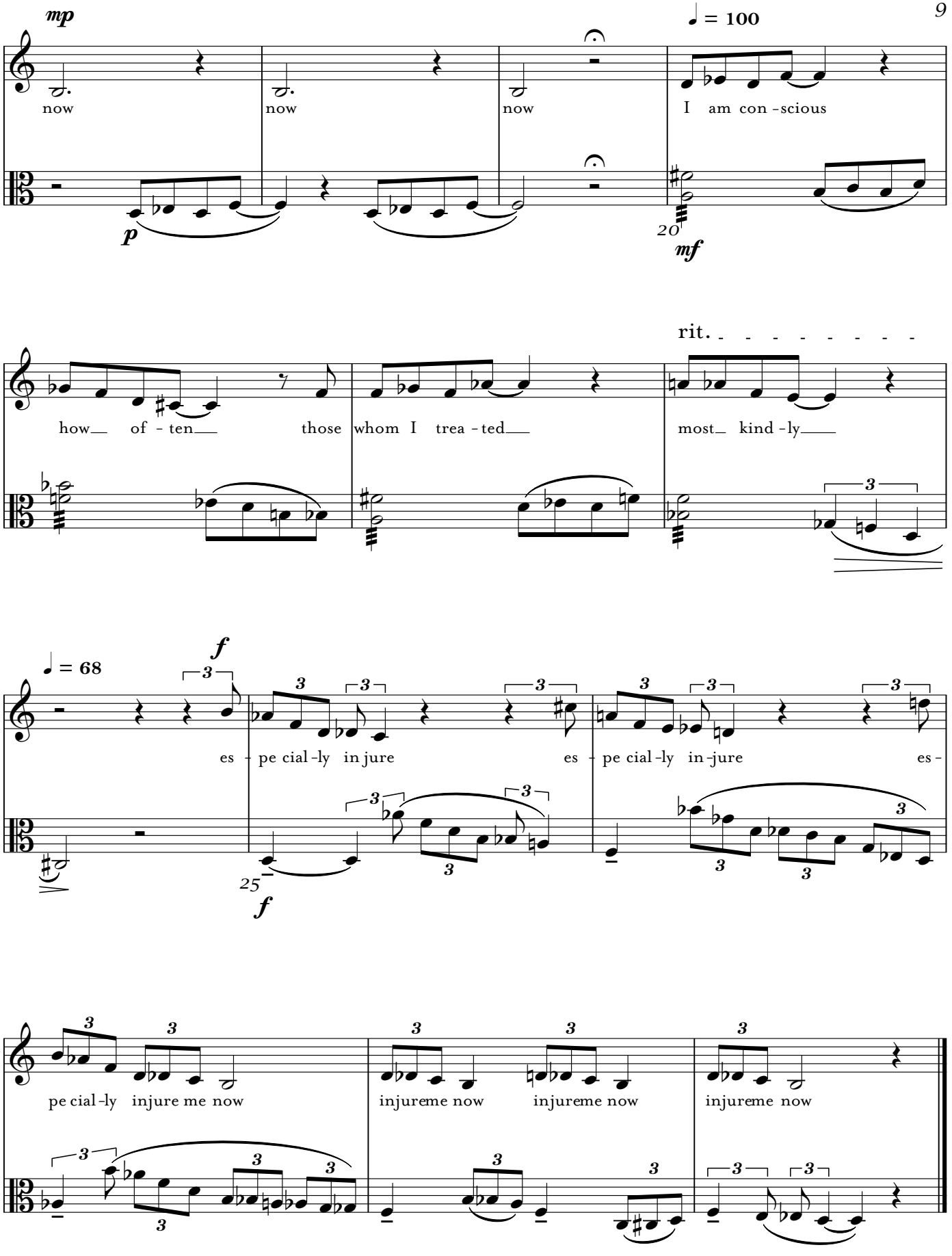
25


in - to con - fu - sion
sul tasto
Night has tossed peace in -
pp
mf
to con -fu -sion
senza sord.
Night has tossed
30
p
mf
sfz
peace in - to con - fu - sion
pizz.
arco
35
f wild.
Night has tossed peace
in - to con - fu -
sul pont.
gliss.
gliss.
40
fp
molto
ff
pp
sion
pizz.
gliss.
45
p [sub.]


Broad, rubato, anxious
♩ = approx. 50
A tempo, relaxed
♩ = 66
Night has tossed
peace in -to
con - fu - sion
arco
harmonic gliss
sul G
sul tasto
a la punta
rit.
the mind col
sim.
lap -ses
the mind col - lap ses
yet come my friends for soon it will be
freely
♩ = 60
day
pizz.

Weathercocks




mp
now
now
now
♩ = 100
I am con - scious
p
20
mf
rit.
how of - ten those whom I trea - ted most kind - ly
♩ = 68
f
es - pe cial - ly in jure
es - pe cial - ly in - jure
es -
25
f
pe cial - ly injure me now
injureme now
injureme now
injureme now

Then

Dreamy

♪ = 92

mp

In gold san - dals

sord.

p

in gold san - dals

5

in gold san - dals

dawn like a thief

cresc.

10

cresc.

dawn like a thief

sempre cresc.

dawn like a

thief

15

p

fell up - on me

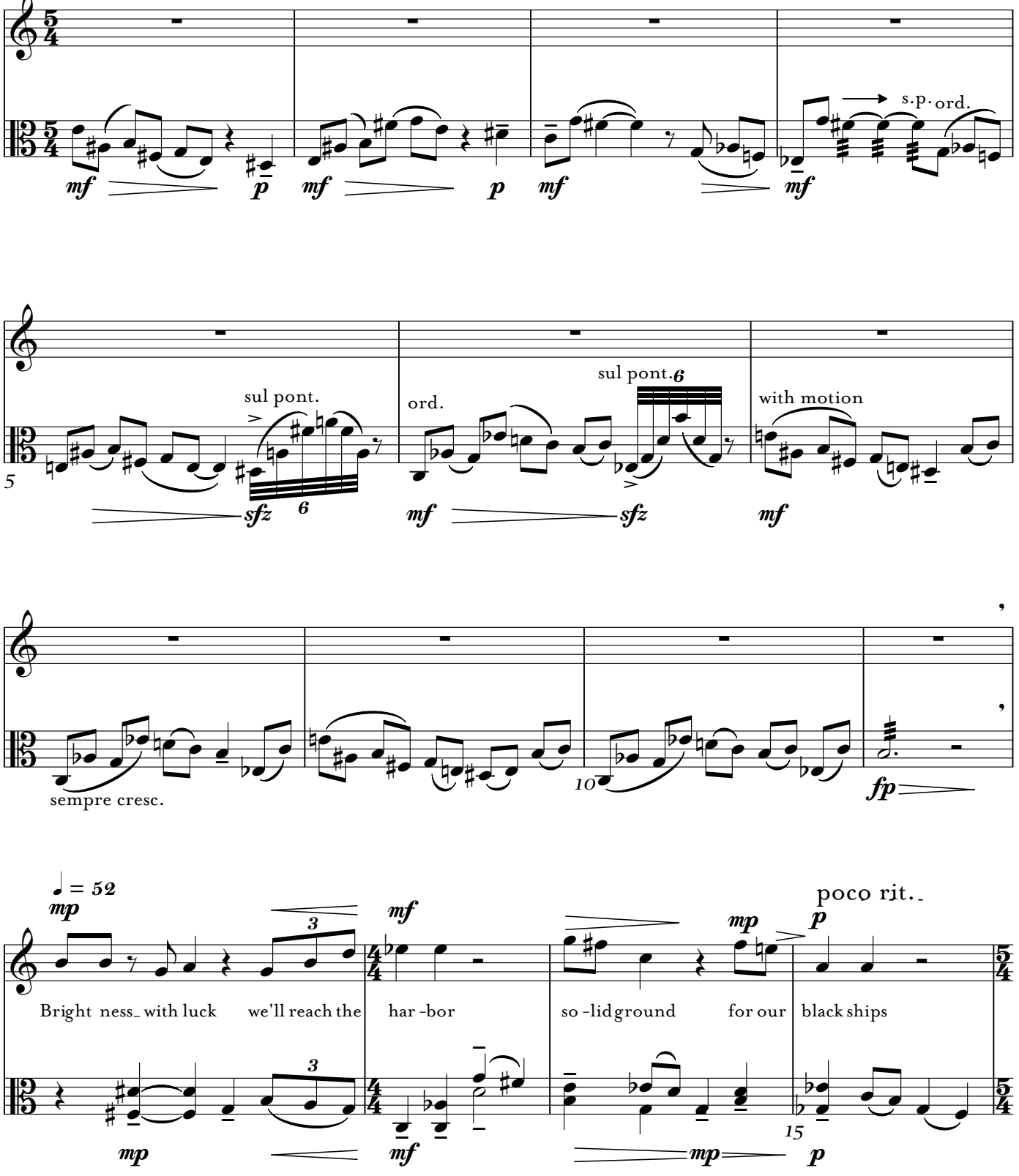
p

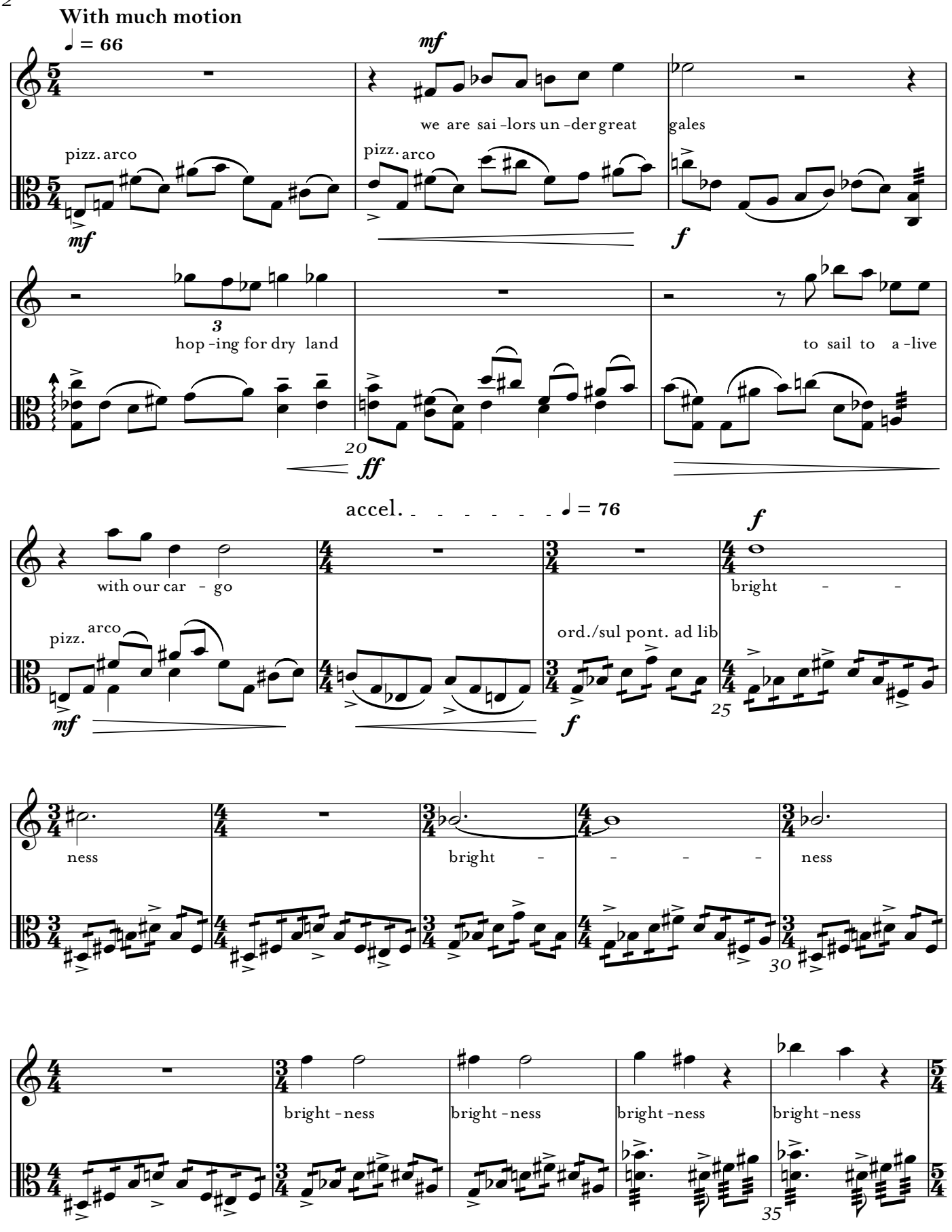
fell up - on

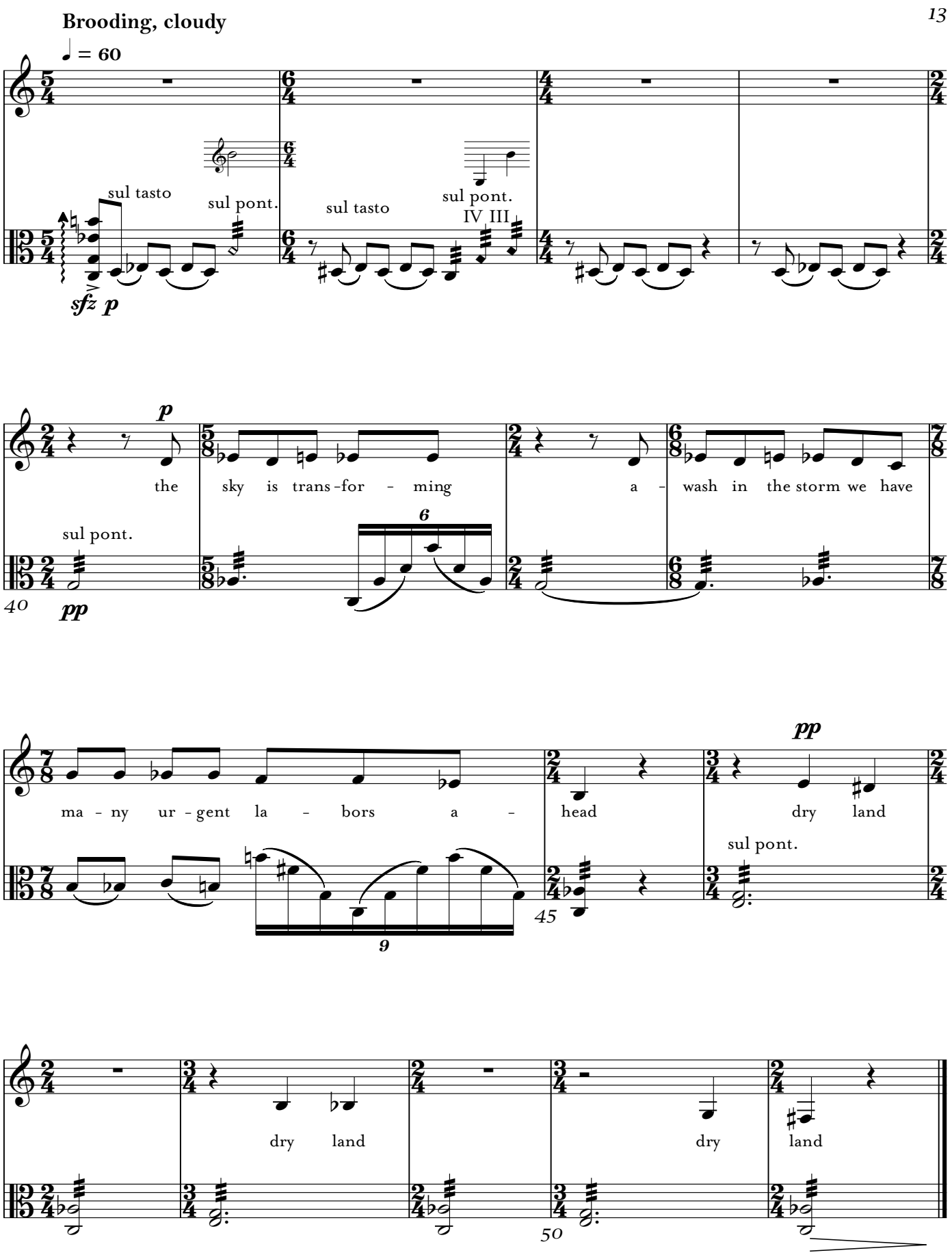
me

20

Brightness in Time of Storm



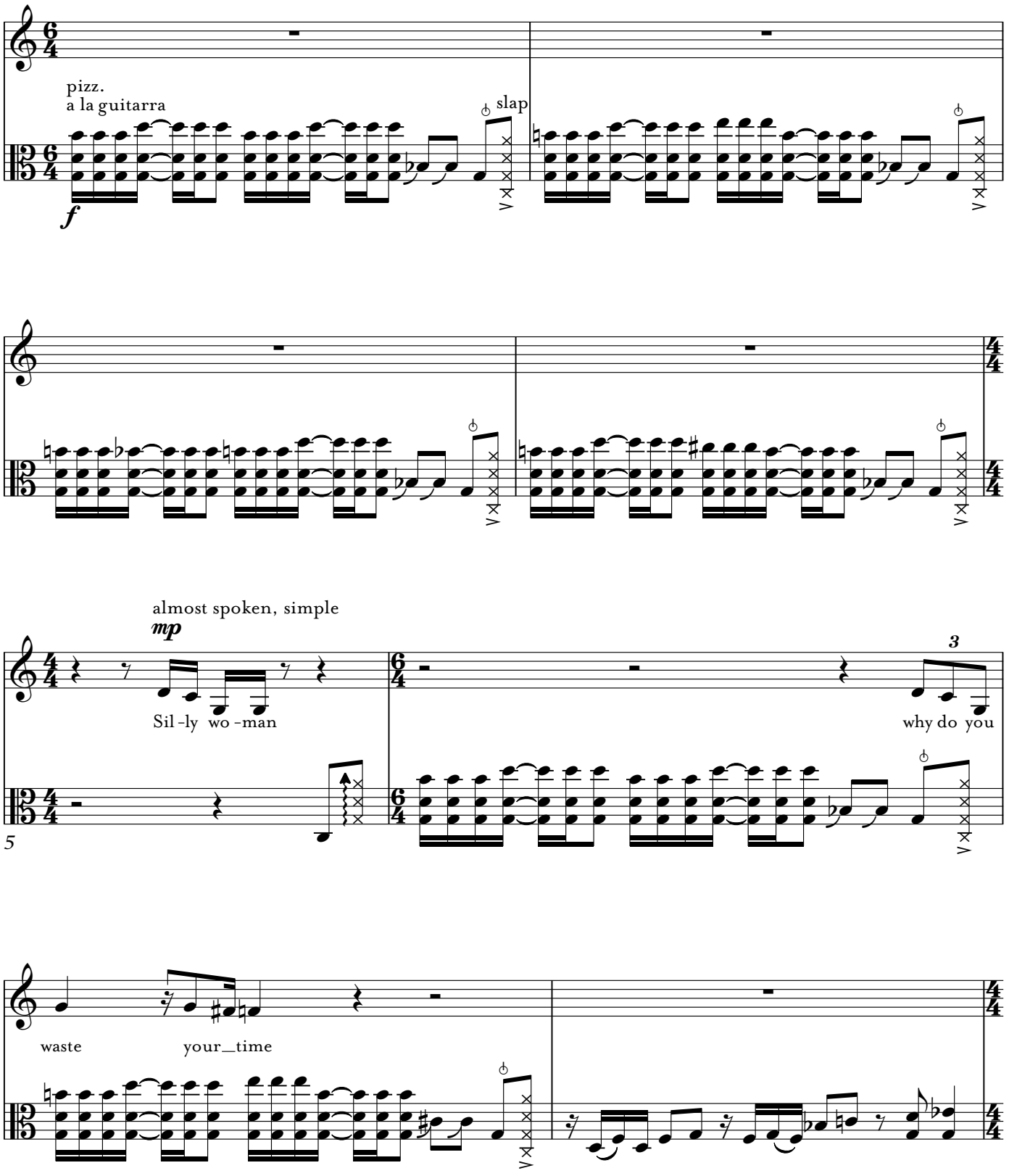

With much motion
♩ = 66
mf
we are sai - lors un - der great
gales
pizz.
arco
mf
f
3
hop - ing for dry land
to sail to a - live
20
ff
accel.
♩ = 76
f
with our car - go
bright -
pizz.
arco
ord./sul pont. ad lib
mf
f
25
ness
bright -
ness
30
bright - ness
bright - ness
bright - ness
bright - ness
35

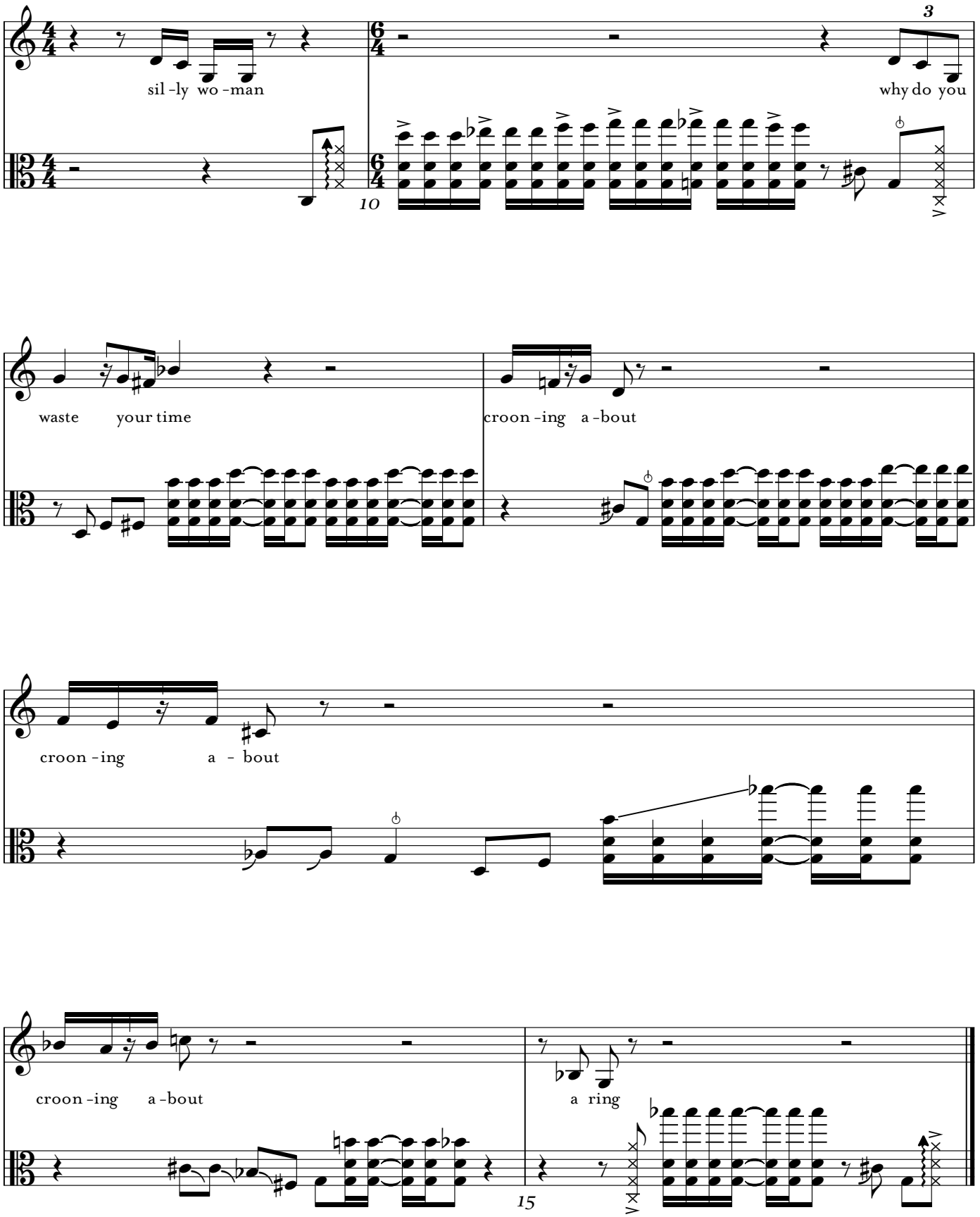

Brooding, cloudy
♩ = 60
sul tasto
sul pont.
sul tasto
sul pont.
IV III
sfz p
p
the sky is trans-for - ming a - wash in the storm we have
sul pont.
6
40
pp
ma - ny ur - gent la - bors a - head dry land
pp
9
45
sul pont.
dry land
dry land
50

A Ring

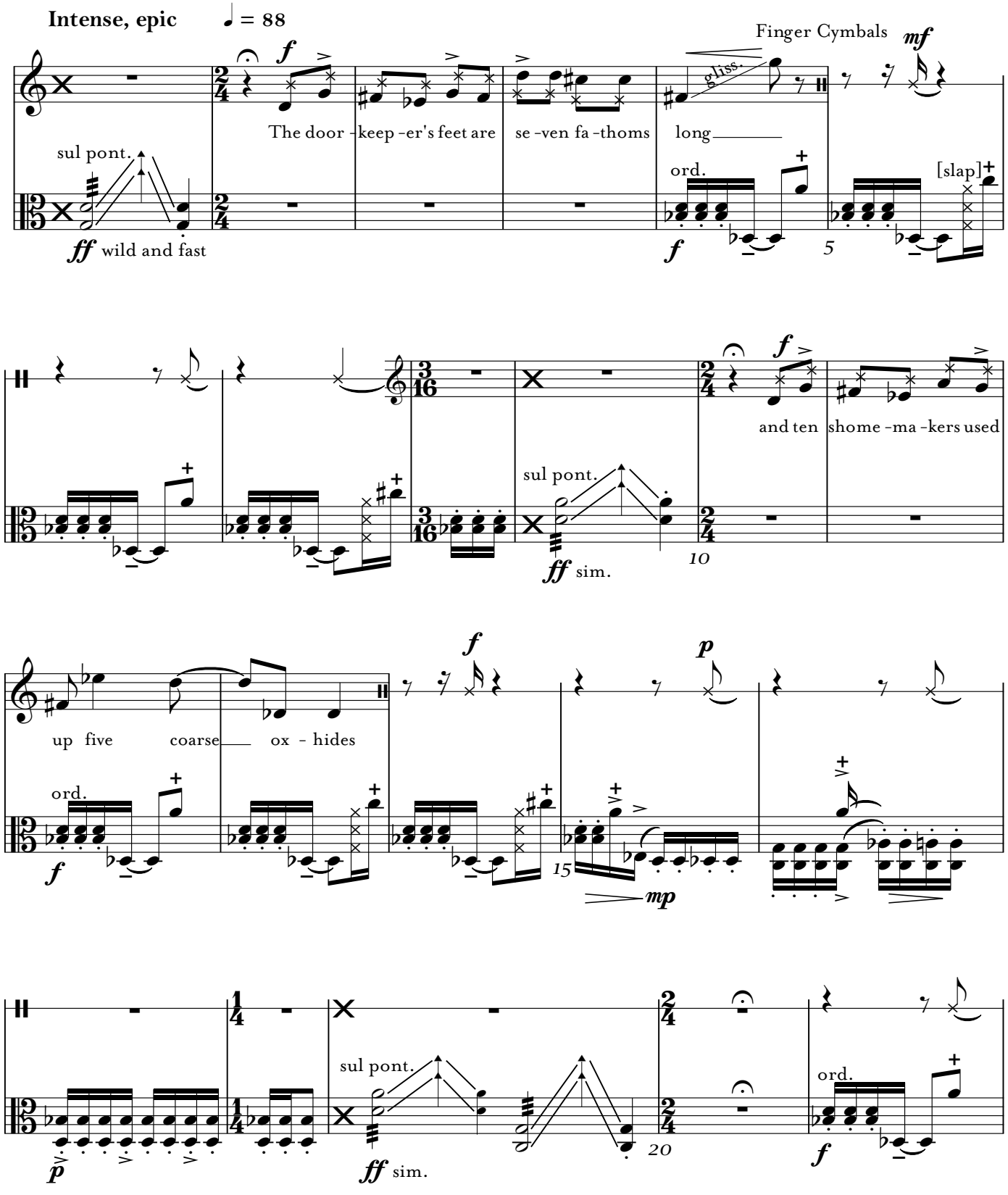
Light, jazzy

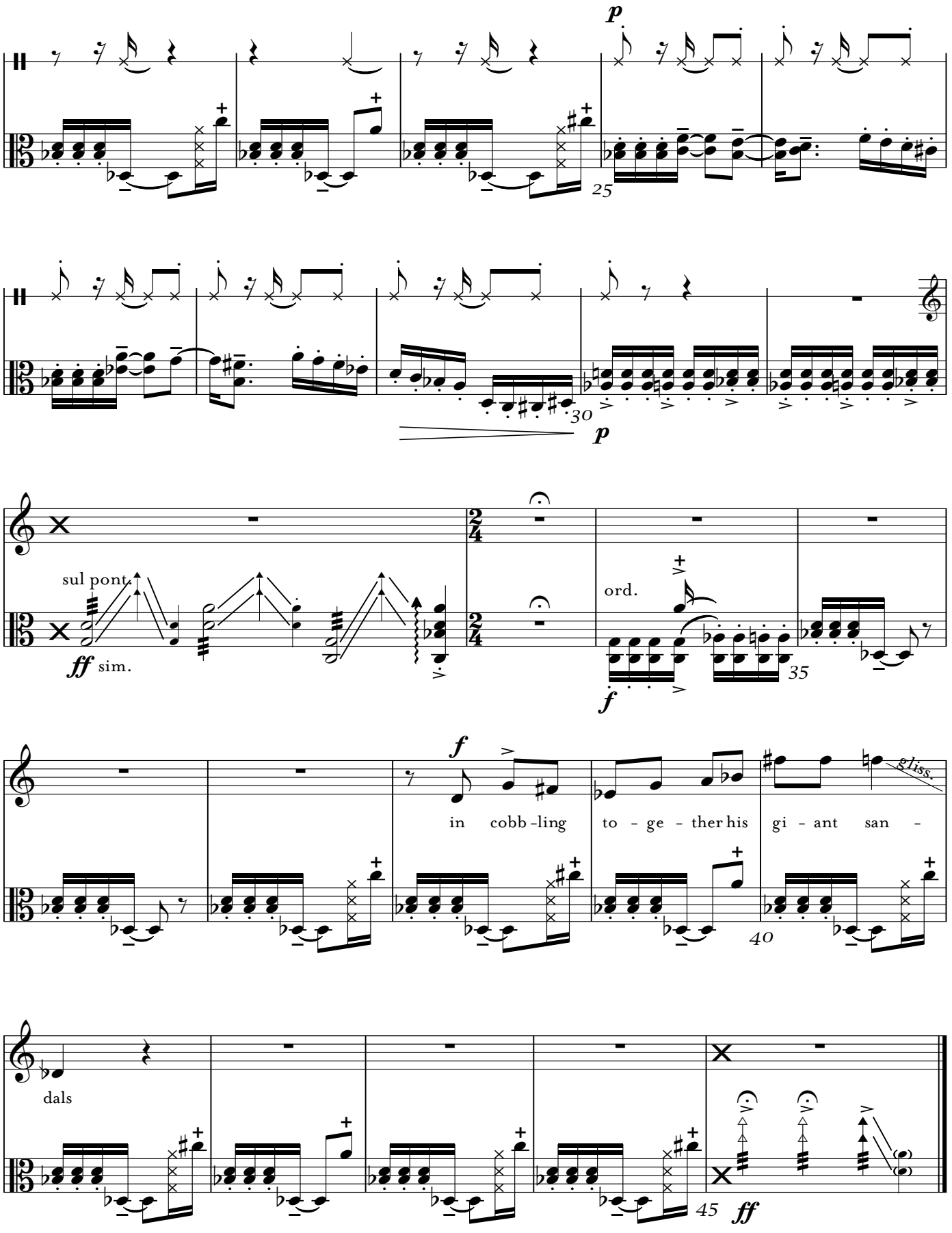
♩ = 80




sil -ly wo -man
3
why do you
10
waste your time
croon -ing a -bout
croon -ing a - bout
croon -ing a -bout
a ring
15

The Guard Outside the Bridal Chamber

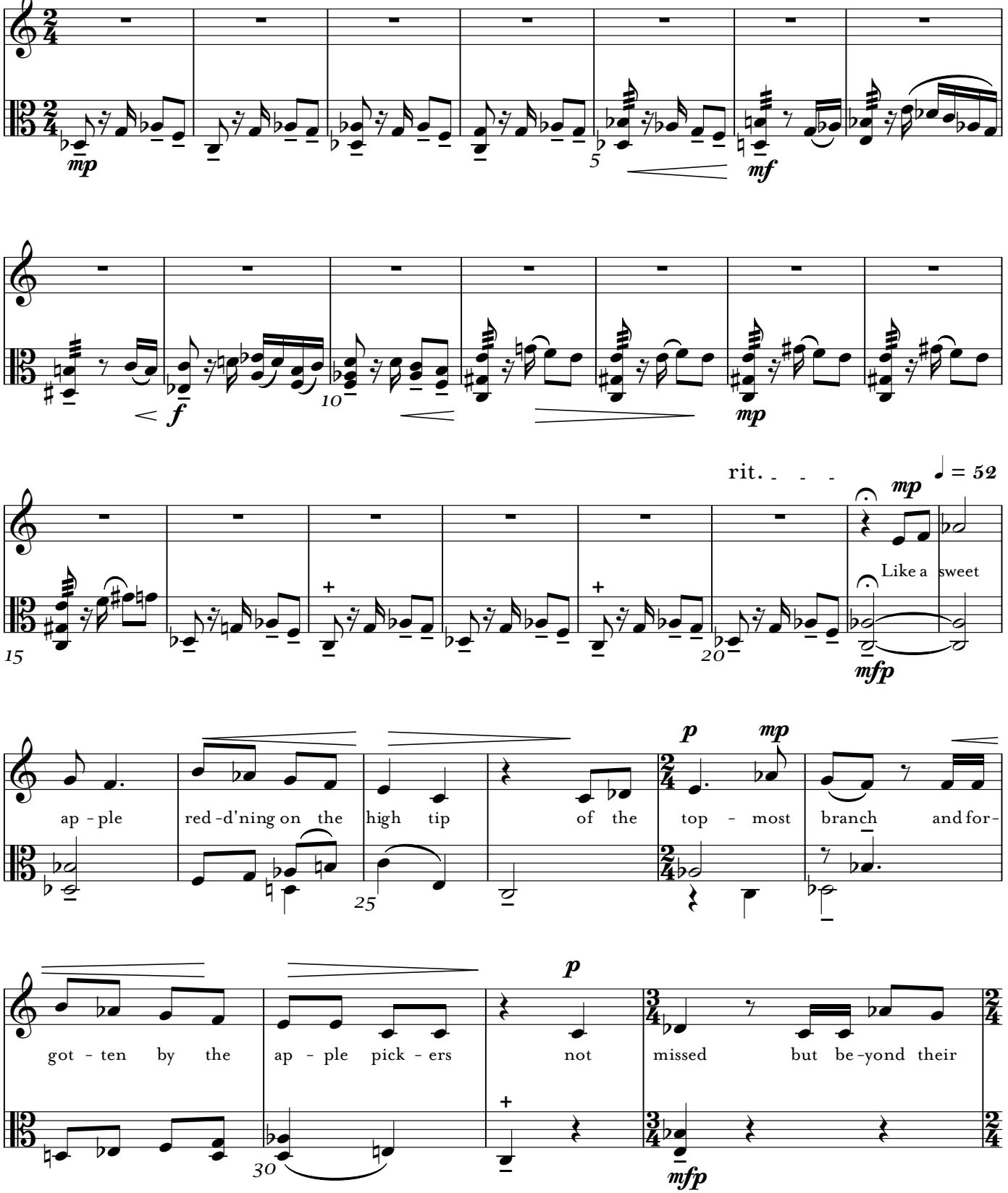


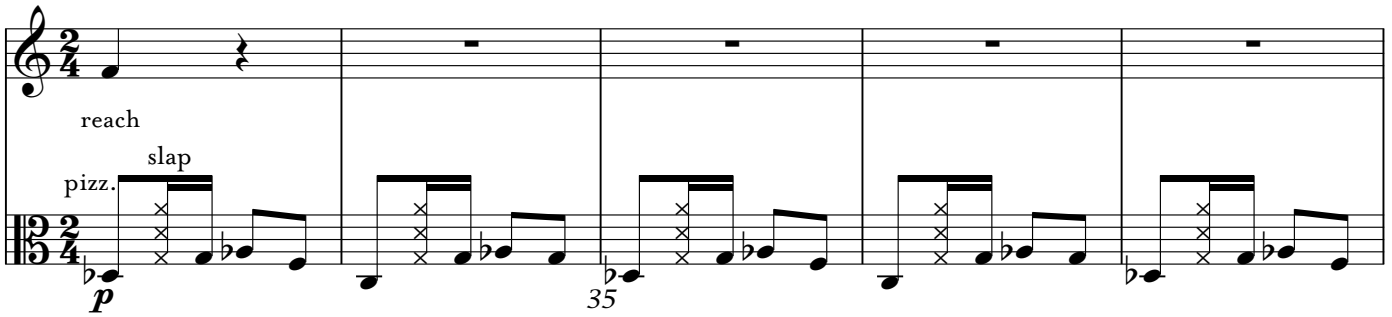

p
25
30
p
sul pont.
ff sim.
2/4
ord.
f
35
f
in cobb-ling to-ge-ther his gi-ant san-
gliss.
40
dals
45
ff

The Virgin

Sweet, sexy

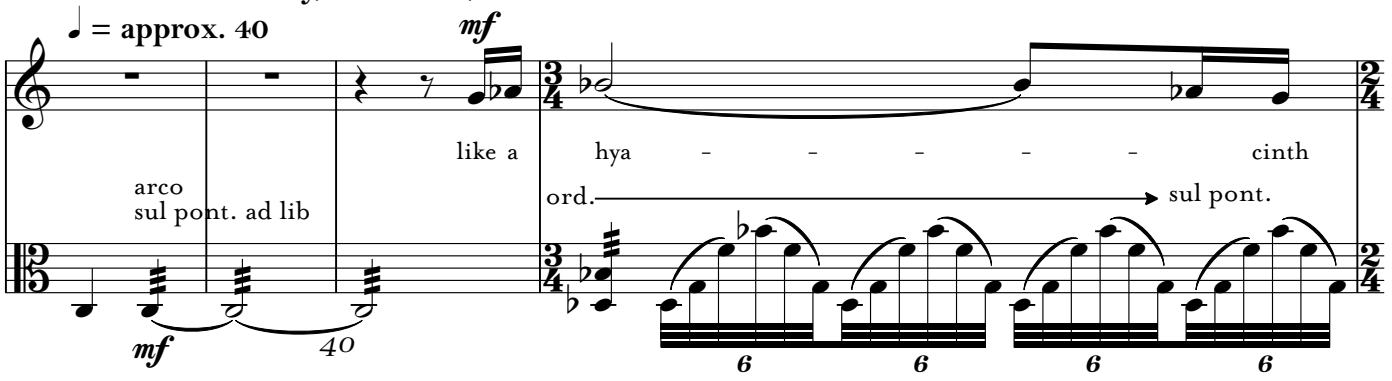
♩ = 48

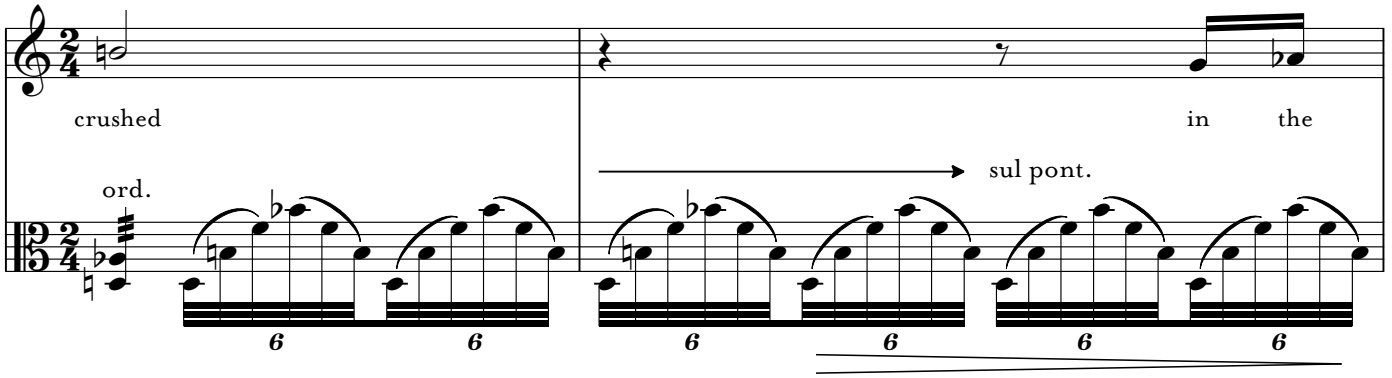


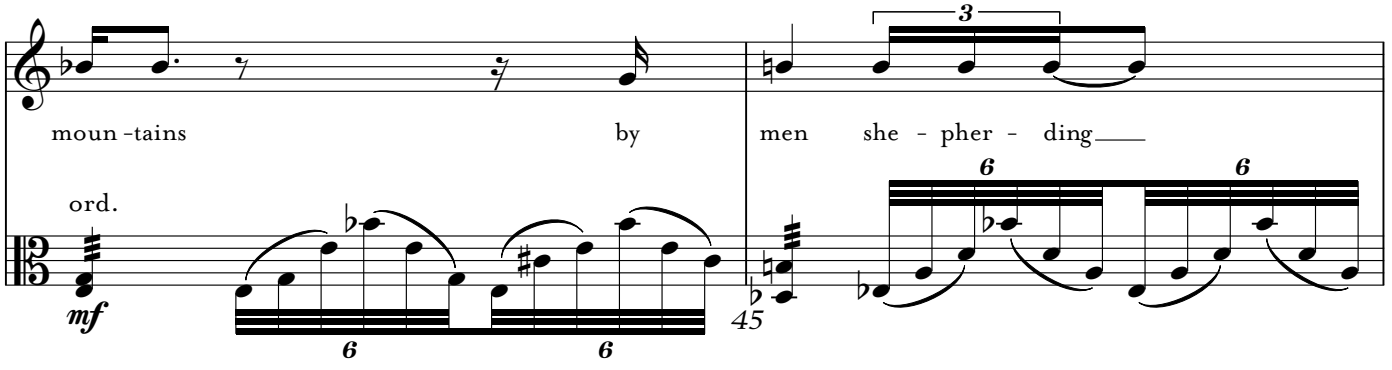


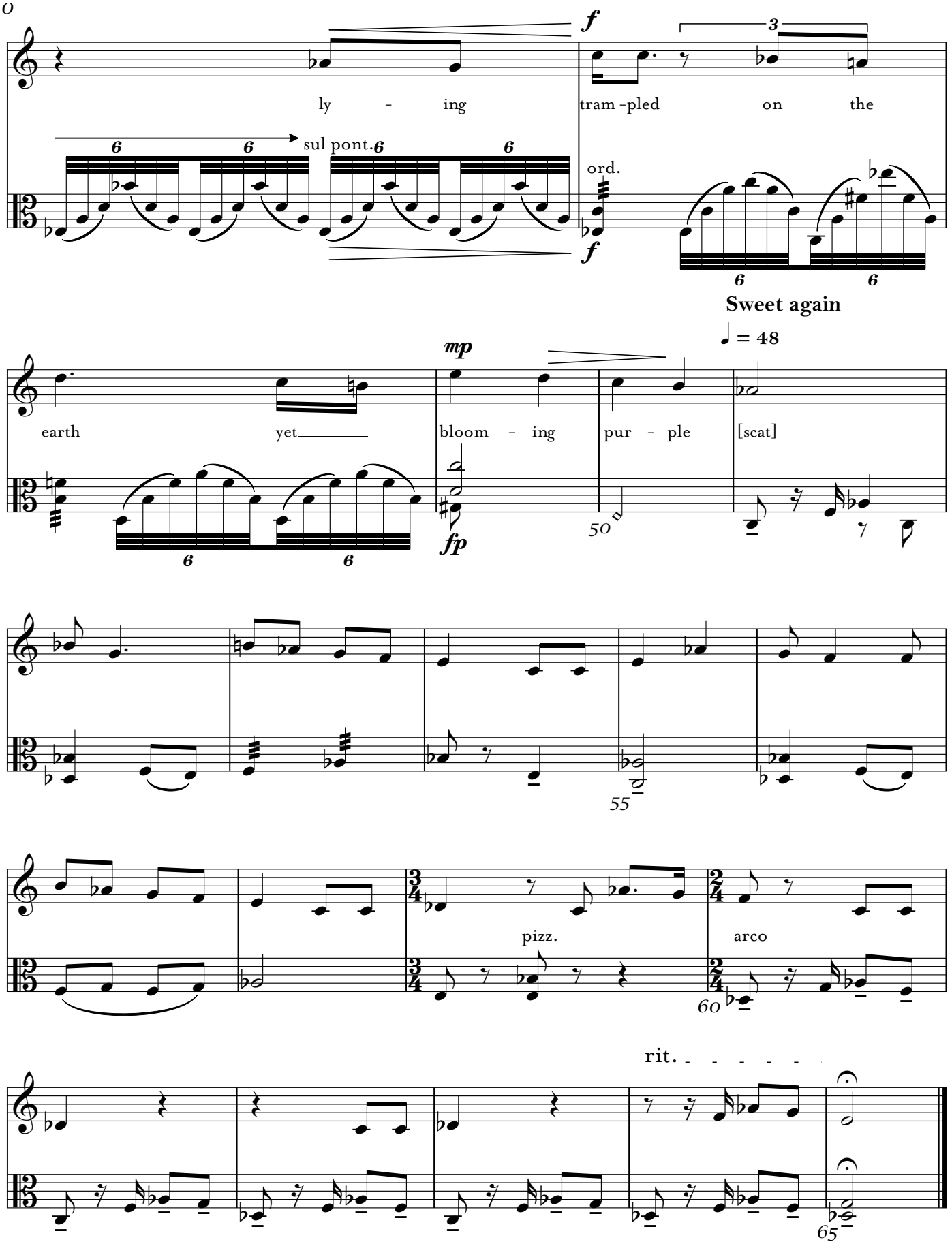
Much more freely, sustenuto, intense

♩ = approx. 40

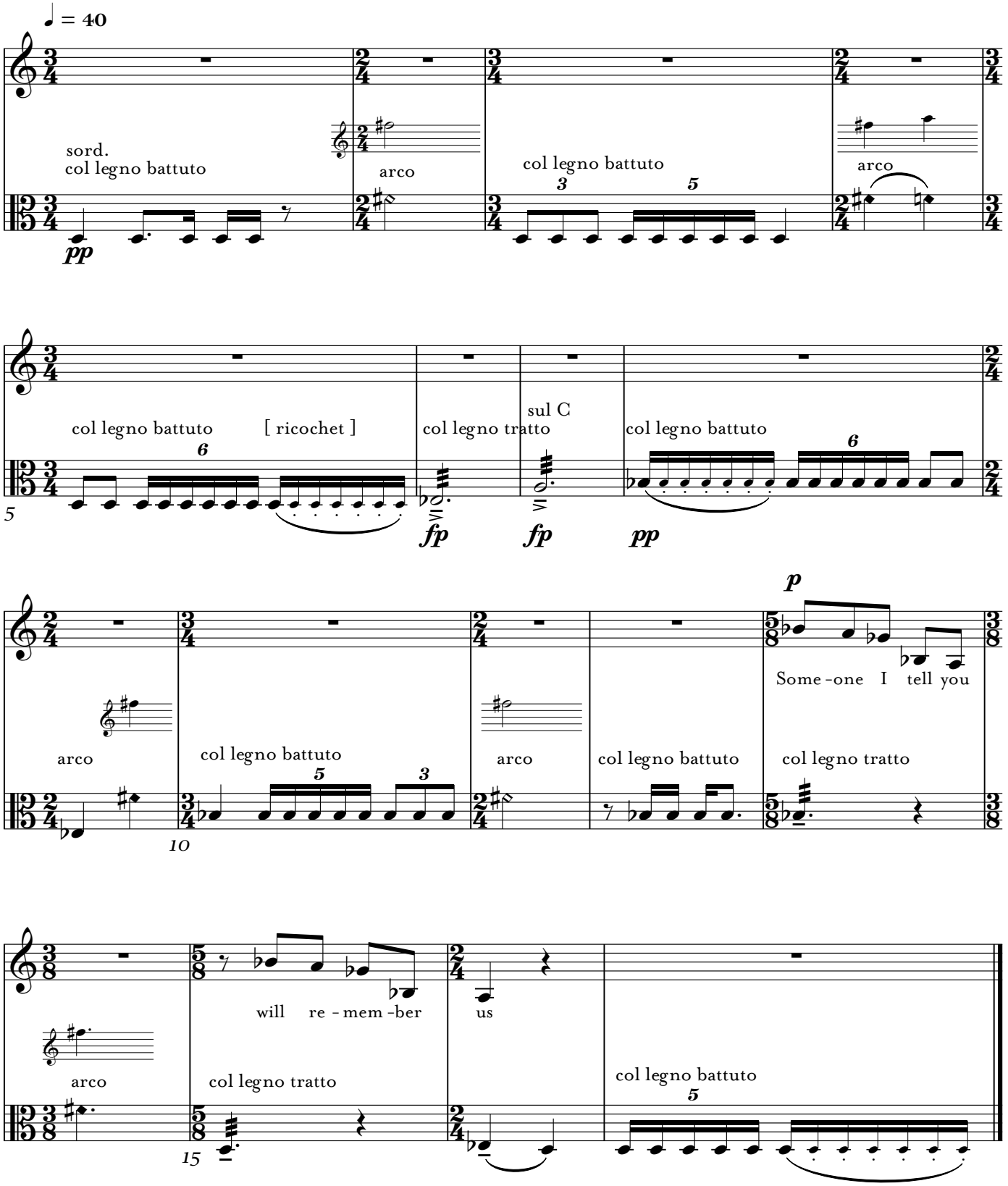







f
3
ly - ing
tram -pled on the
sul pont.
ord.
f
Sweet again
♩ = 48
mp
earth yet
bloom - ing pur - ple [scat]
fp
50
55
pizz.
arco
60
rit.
65

No Oblivion


♩ = 40
sord.
col legno battuto
pp
arco
col legno battuto
arco
col legno battuto
[ricochet]
col legno tratto
sul C
col legno battuto
fp
fp
pp
arco
col legno battuto
arco
col legno battuto
col legno tratto
p
Some - one I tell you
arco
col legno tratto
will re - mem - ber us
col legno battuto

Homecoming

Rubato
approx. ♩ = 40

use lots of bow pressure
to produce harmonics.
gradually increase tremolo
ord. ⟶ sul pont.

legato

sim.

sim.

ff *pp* *ff* *pp*

mp

you came when I was long-ing for you_

[spoken]

and to

sim. sim. sim.

ff *pp* *ff* *pp*

[ossia 8va]

my heart suf - fering in pa-ssion's f - ire you were de - li-cious

sim.

ff *pp* *mf*

rit.

pp whispered *ppp*

ice ice ice ice

sim. sul pont. ord.

pp [*pp*]

Friend, You Are Gone

Very freely
approx. ♪ = 88

mp

Go and be hap -py but re -mem -ber me for sure -ly you know how I wor -shipped you

[spoken, ***p***]: if not, then I want to remind you of all the

5 **♪ = 96**

exquisite days we two shared [pause] how you took garlands of violets, crocuses and roses

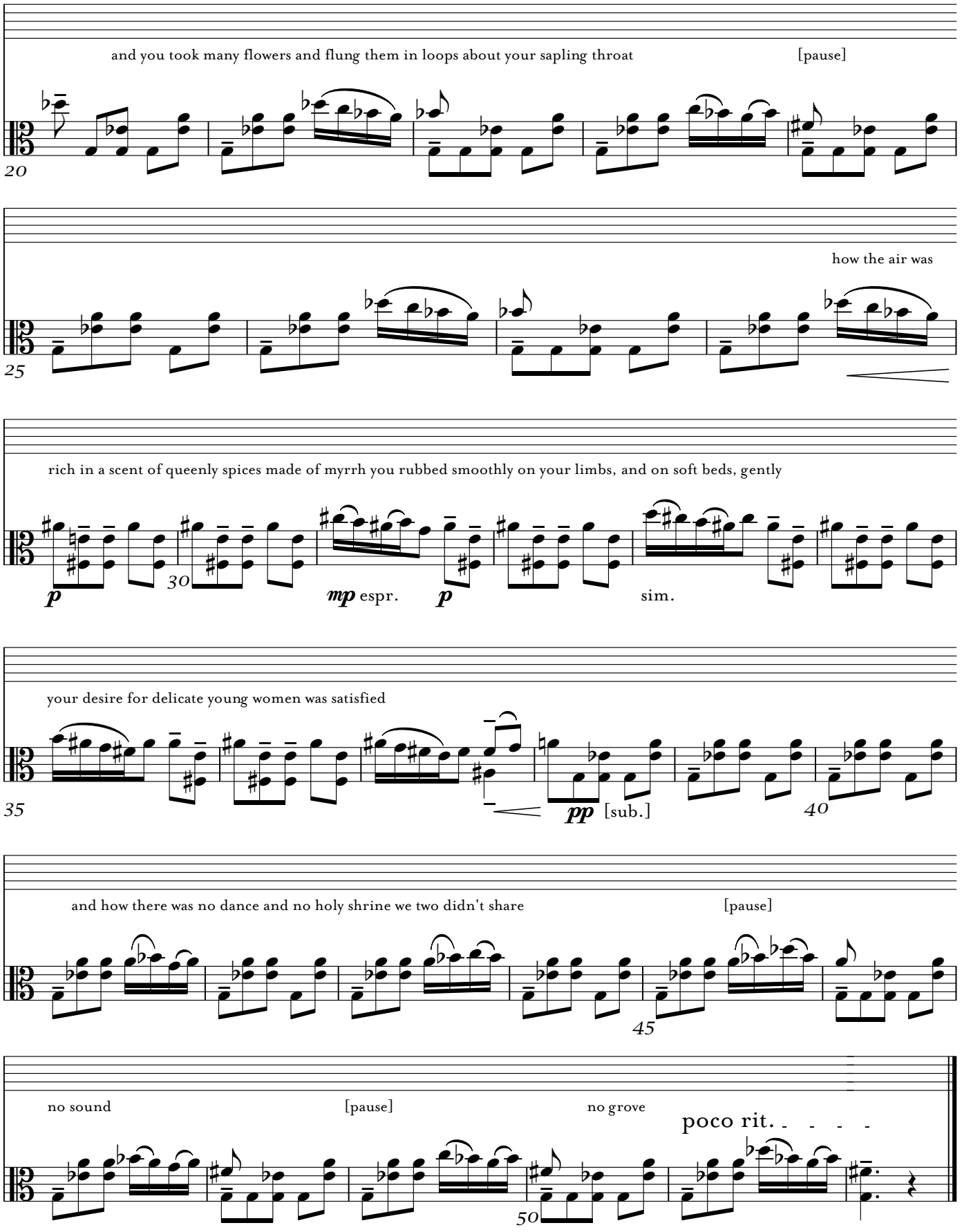
sord.

pp ***p*** espr. ***pp*** sim.

10

and when by my side, you tied them round you in soft bands [pause]

15


and you took many flowers and flung them in loops about your sapling throat
[pause]
20
how the air was
25
rich in a scent of queenly spices made of myrrh you rubbed smoothly on your limbs, and on soft beds, gently
p
30
mp espr.
p
sim.
your desire for delicate young women was satisfied
35
pp [sub.]
40
and how there was no dance and no holy shrine we two didn't share
[pause]
45
no sound
[pause]
no grove
poco rit.
50