JONAH

An Oratorio

Composed by

Richard Dirksen

Libretto by

Day Thorpe

Created from the Old Testament Book and
Father Mapple's Sermon to the Whalers
from Melville's 'Moby Dick'

NOTES

Work on *Jonah* began in November of 1957 and the orchestration was completed in early February, 1958. The work was composed for the annual concert of the glee clubs of the Washington National Cathedral secondary schools,(The National Cathedral School for Girls and the St. Albans School for Boys) under my direction from 1950 until 1969. It was first performed by those able young high school musicians, accompanied by twenty-four members of the National Symphony Orchestra, on February 23, 1958, in the Proctor Gymnasium of the girls' school.

My long enthusiasm for "Moby Dick" was matched by that of my late friend, Day Thorpe, a principal founder of the Opera Society of Washington, and at that time music editor of the Washington Evening Star newspaper. It was his perceptive eye and ear for dramatic material that spurred him to think of the book's ninth chapter in terms of an oratorio libretto.

Although each has its distinctive patina, the styles of the *Book of Jonah* in the King James Version, and of Father Mapple's sermon in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* are beautifully matched. As divided as they are in time and detail, they dovetail and unite in a nobility and grandeur that makes virtue rather than incongruity of their differences. The librettist has combined the Melville text with the King James in such manner that the narrative of Melville fills out the sketchy account of the Bible, and provides the interpretations of Father Mapple at various stages of the events. The score is laid out in a way unusual to baroque oratorio. The Bible narration and Father Mapple's commentary are given to the whole or part of the chorus, and once to an alto speaking voice. The chorus also serves as the Word of God, and for the suspicious and grumbling mariners on shipboard. Solosts sing the roles of Jonah and the Captain of the ship bound for Tarshish.

The orchestration is for a chamber ensemble of 2 flutes (second doubles piccolo), oboe, trumpet in B flat, horn in F, bassoon, 1 percussionist, (snare, bass, and tenor drums, cymbals, tambourine, castanets,triangle, glockenspiel, xylophone), 1 timpanist (4 drums), and strings, (5,4,3,2,1 for for fifty or fewer voices, but 8,6,5,4,2 or more for larger groups). At times the timpanist must assist with percussion instruments. Bass or Snare drums, and castanets.

On January 19, 1961, the Sunday night before Kennedy's inauguration and in the midst of a raging blizzard, the second performance of *Jonah* was given by the musicians of the Church of the Incarnation in New York City, under the direction of Thomas Dunn. The original version ended with a very quiet and somber orchestral coda. It was agreed by all that it was too quiet and did not satisfy because of the exuberant power developed in the final chorus — *Leave ye eternity to the Lord; for what is man that he should live out the lifetime of his God?* Day Thorpe found the perfect solution by adding a hymn included by Melville in the sermon chapter: *The ribs and terrors of the whale arched over me in dismal gloom.* . Its final stanza concludes with, *"I give the glory to my God, His all the mercy and the power."*

NOTES, cont.

In the ensuing thirty years *Jonah* has been performed only four more times, due in part to the fact that a piano reduction of the full score was never made, and only vocal scores, with occasional instrumental cues were available for the singers. Hence, preparation of the work could be undertaken only by those skilled and bold enough to teach and accompany from a full score in manuscript. Now, in my retirement, with the time to correct, edit, reorchestrate, improve, and reassemble the score for computer engraving, I have "finished" this work, and commend it to you. Its performance.time is 50 minutes — they pass swiftly.

Richard Wayne Dirksen
Washington, D.C.
May 24, 1993

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JONAH

Libretto by Day Thorpe

Music by Richard Dirksen

I - Command

Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah, saying: Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

II - Disobedience

But Jonah, was exceeding angry with the Lord, and said, "And are not these Ninevites, these Gentiles, are not they traducers of God and of God's people? And shall I now, therefore, pull the scales from their eyes that they be not destroyed but saved? And thus the Lord whom I have served set me a purifier of the scum? Rather than that I will flee this unfeeling God to the farthest port on the ocean. Now let him sulk here in Joppa or pursue me to Tarshish if he will."

III - Flight

So Jonah rose up to flee the command of the Lord. He found the ship to Tarshish receiving the last items of her cargo, and stepped aboard to see its captain. All the sailors for the moment desisted from hoisting in the goods to mark the stranger's evil eye. Strong intuitions of the man assure the mariners he can be no innocent.

[Mariners] "Jack, he's robbed a widow! Joe, do you mark him? He's a bigamist. Harry, lad, I guess he's the adulterer that broke jail in old Gomorrah. Or belike, one of the missing murderers from Sodom."

* * *

From the presence of the Lord, he is fleeing. See ye not, therefore, that Jonah tried to flee world-wide from God?

IV-Embarkation

[Captain] "Who's there? Who's there?"

[Jonah] "How soon sail ye, sir? I seek a passage in this ship to Tarshish. How soon sail ye, sir?"

[Captain] "We sail with the next coming tide."

[Jonah] "No sooner, sir?"

[Captain] "Soon enough for any honest man that goes a passenger."

[Jonah] "I'll sail with thee. How much? The passage money, how much is that?"

* * *

Thrice the fare he'll ask him now. He'll test the length of this man's purse. A slouched hat, no baggage, a guilty mien! But always sin that pays its way can travel freely and without a passport.

* * *

So Jonah paid, and at once sought out his cabin. All dressed and dusty as he was he threw himself into his berth. He found the little stateroom ceiling almost resting on his forehead. The air was close, and Jonah gasped. Then, in that contracted hole, sunk, too, beneath the ship's waterline, Jonah feels the heralding presentiment of that stifling hour when the whale shall hold him in the smallest of its bowel's wards.

* * *

[Lector] Pinned at its axis against the side, a swinging lamp slightly oscillates in Jonah's room; and the ship, heeling over towards the wharf with the weight of the last bales received, the lamp, flame and all, though in silent motion, still maintains a permanent obliquity with reference to the room; though, in truth, infallibly straight itself, it but made obvious the false, lying levels among which it hung. The lamp alarms and frightens Jonah, as lying in his berth this tormented eyes roll round the place, and this thus-far successful fugitive finds no refuge for his restless glance.

But that contradiction in the lamp more and more appalls him. The floor, the ceiling, and the side, are all awry. "Oh! so my conscience hangs in me!" he groans, "Straight upward, so it burns; but the chambers of my soul are all in crookedness!"

Conscience is the wound, and there is nought to staunch it — so, after sore wrestlings in his berth, Jonah's prodigy of ponderous misery drags him drowning down to sleep.

* * *

The ship casts off her cables and uncheered for Tarshish, all careening, glides to sea.

V - Storm

But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea. Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his God. And they came unto Jonah and woke him.

[Mariners] "What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not!"

* * *

Jonah staggers to his feet, and stumbling to the deck grasps a shroud, to look out upon the sea. But at that moment he is sprung upon by a panther billow leaping over the bulwarks. And ever, as the white moon shows her affrighted face from the steep gullies in the blackness overhead, aghast Jonah sees the rearing bowsprit pointing high upward, but soon beat downward again towards the tormented deep.

Terrors upon terrors run shouting through his soul. In all his cringing attitudes, the God-fugitive is now too plainly known. The sailors marked him. More and more certain grew their suspicions of him, till, to test the truth by very Heaven, they fell to casting lots, to see for whose cause the great tempest was upon them. The lot was Jonah's.

Then said they unto him: "What is thine occupation? Whence comest thou? Thy country? Thy people?"

And he said unto them, "I am an Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of Heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land."

* * *

Then straightway made he confession of his sin; whereupon the mariners became more and more appalled, but still were pitiful.

[Mariners] "Cast not the guilty one into the sea like a chainless anchor. Let us keep the man as one of us."

But the sea wrought tempestuous against them. Then they feared the Lord exceedingly, and cried, "Have done, then, Lord, as thou wilt."

And with one hand raised invokingly to God, with the other they not unreluctantly lay hold on Jonah and cast him into the sea.

And there was no more sea.

VI - Prayer and Deliverance

Then did the Lord prepare a great fish to swallow up Jonah. From the belly of the whale Jonah prayed unto his God: "I cry by reason of my affliction unto the Lord. For he has cast me into the deep in the midst of the seas: and the floods compass me about: the depths close me round, the weeds are wrapped about my head. I go to the bottoms of the mountains: I observed my lying vanity and forsook my own mercy. But save me now, O Lord, and I will pay thee what I have vowed. Save me now, O Lord, that fled thee."

And the Lord heard, and the Lord spake unto the fish, and it came breaching upward to the warm and pleasant sun, and to all the delights of the air and the earth; and vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

VII - Epilogue and Hymn

Now having heard the story of Jonah, leave ye eternity to the Lord; for what is man that he should live out the lifetime of his God?

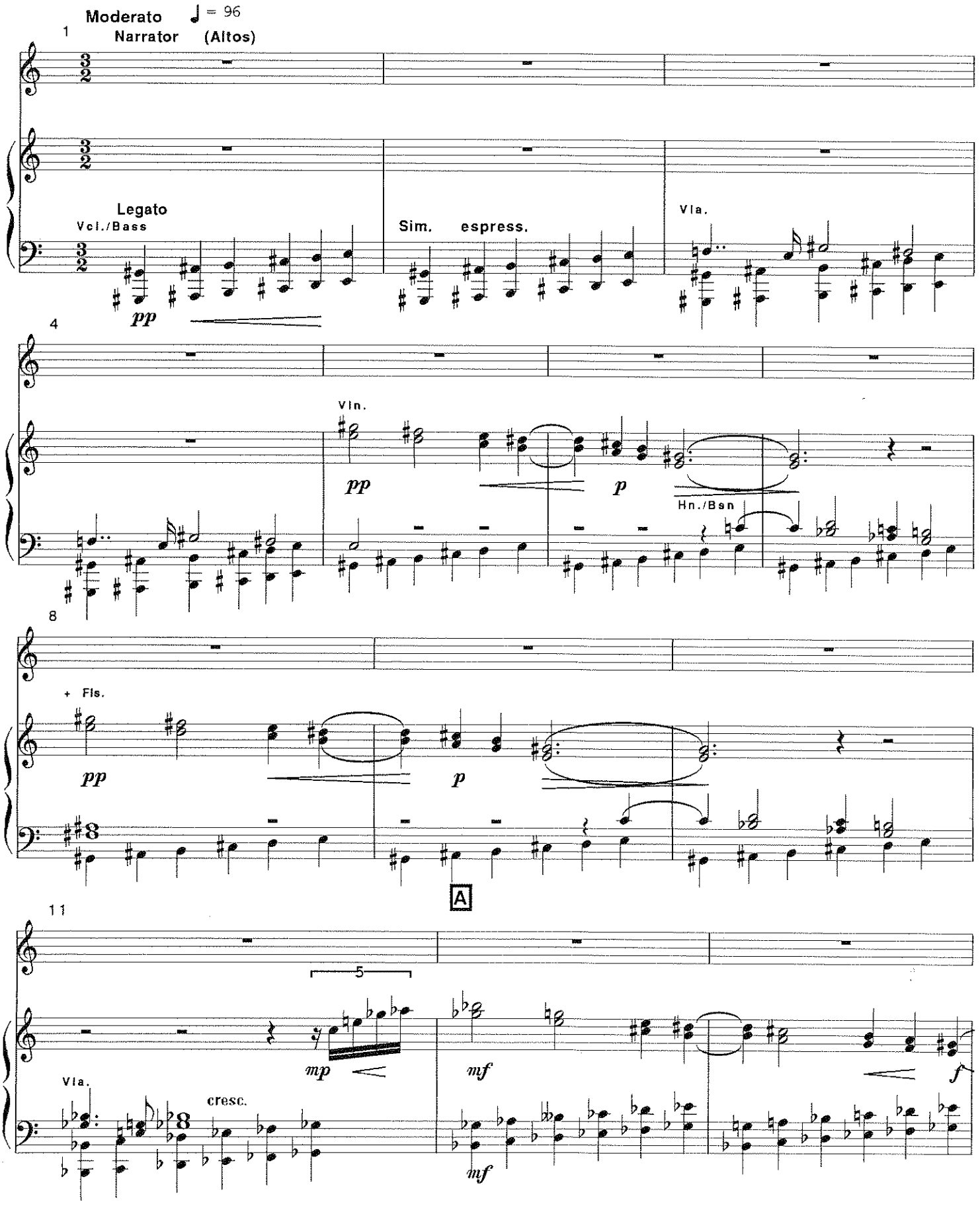
The ribs and terrors of the whale,
  Arched over me in dismal gloom,
While all God's sunlit waves rolled by,
  And lift me deepening down to doom.

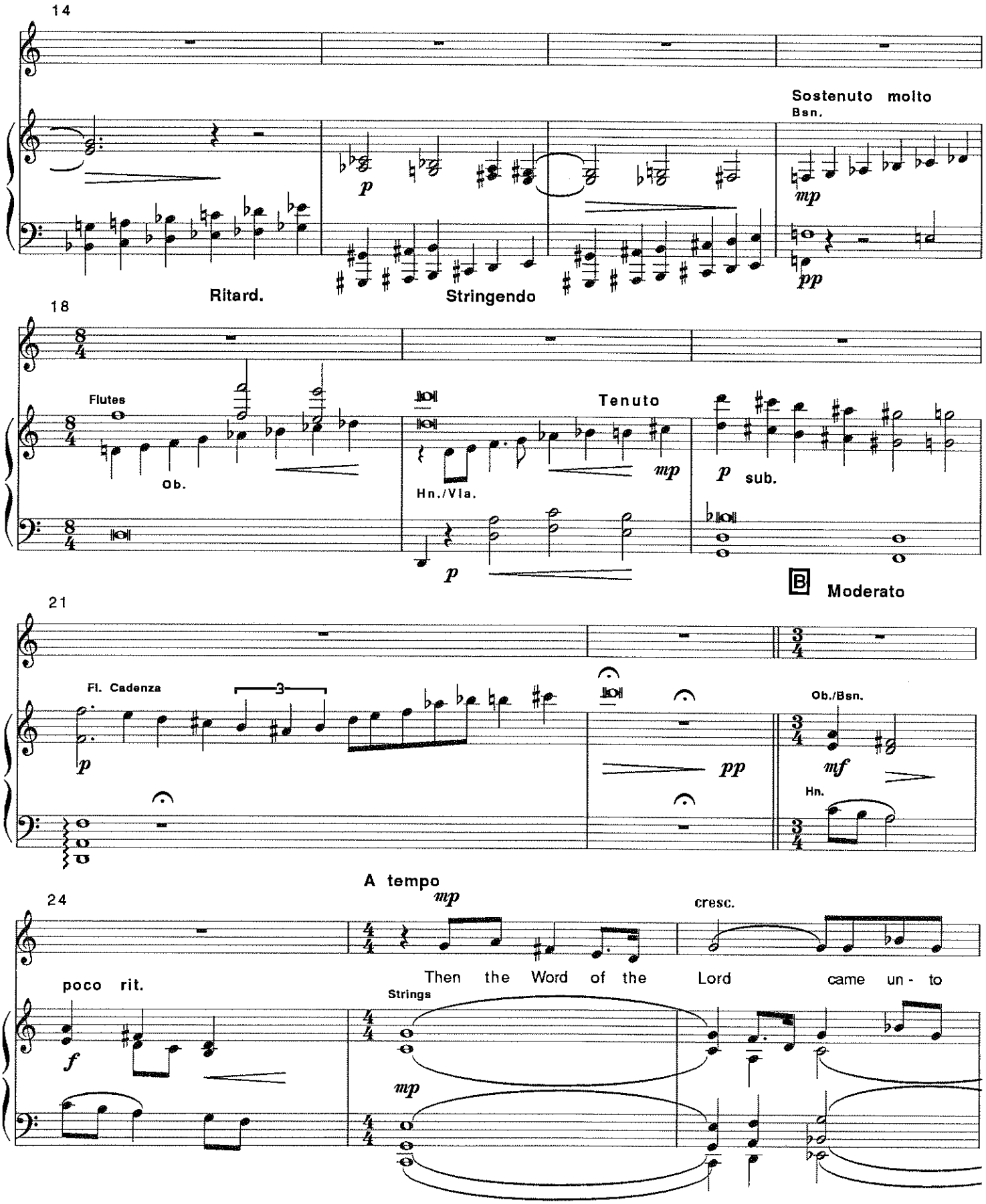
I saw the opening maw of hell;
  With endless pains and sorrows there;
Which none but they that feel can tell--
  Oh, I was plunging to despair.

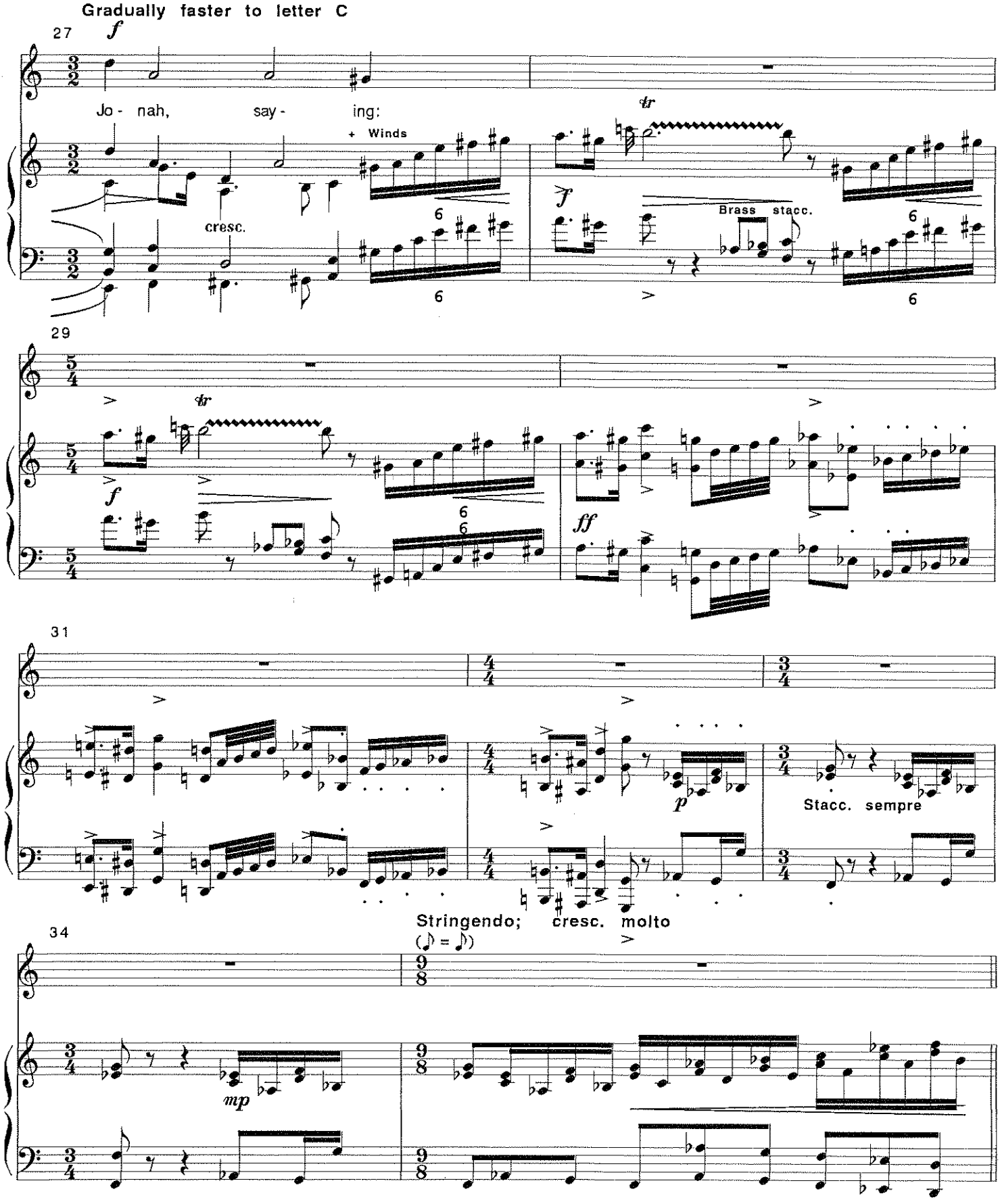
In black distress, I called my God,
  When I could scarce believe him mine,
He bowed his ear to my complaints--
    No more the whale did me confine.

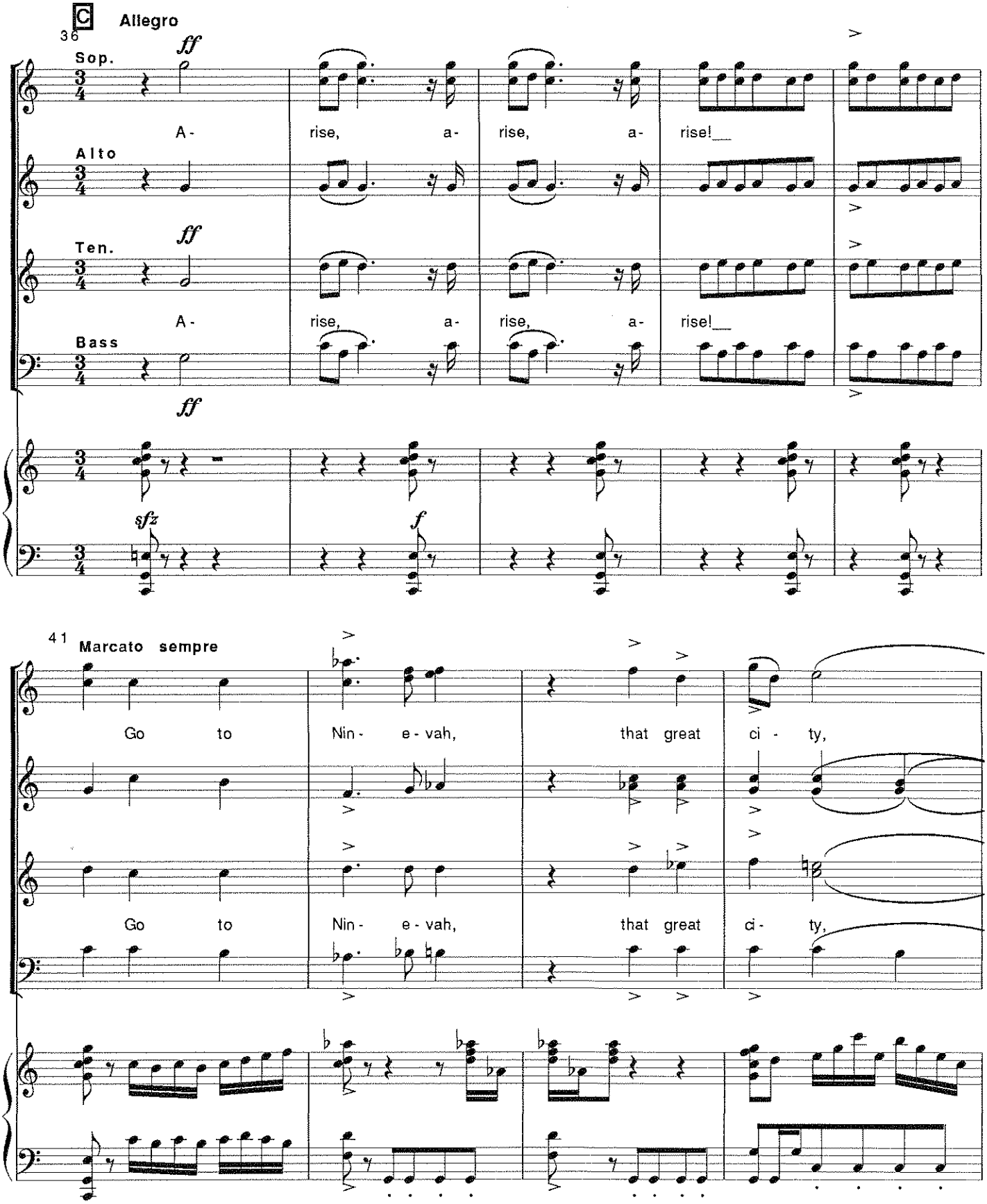
With speed he flew to my relief,
  As on a radiant dolphin borne;
Awful, yet bright, as lightning shone
  The face of my Deliverer God.

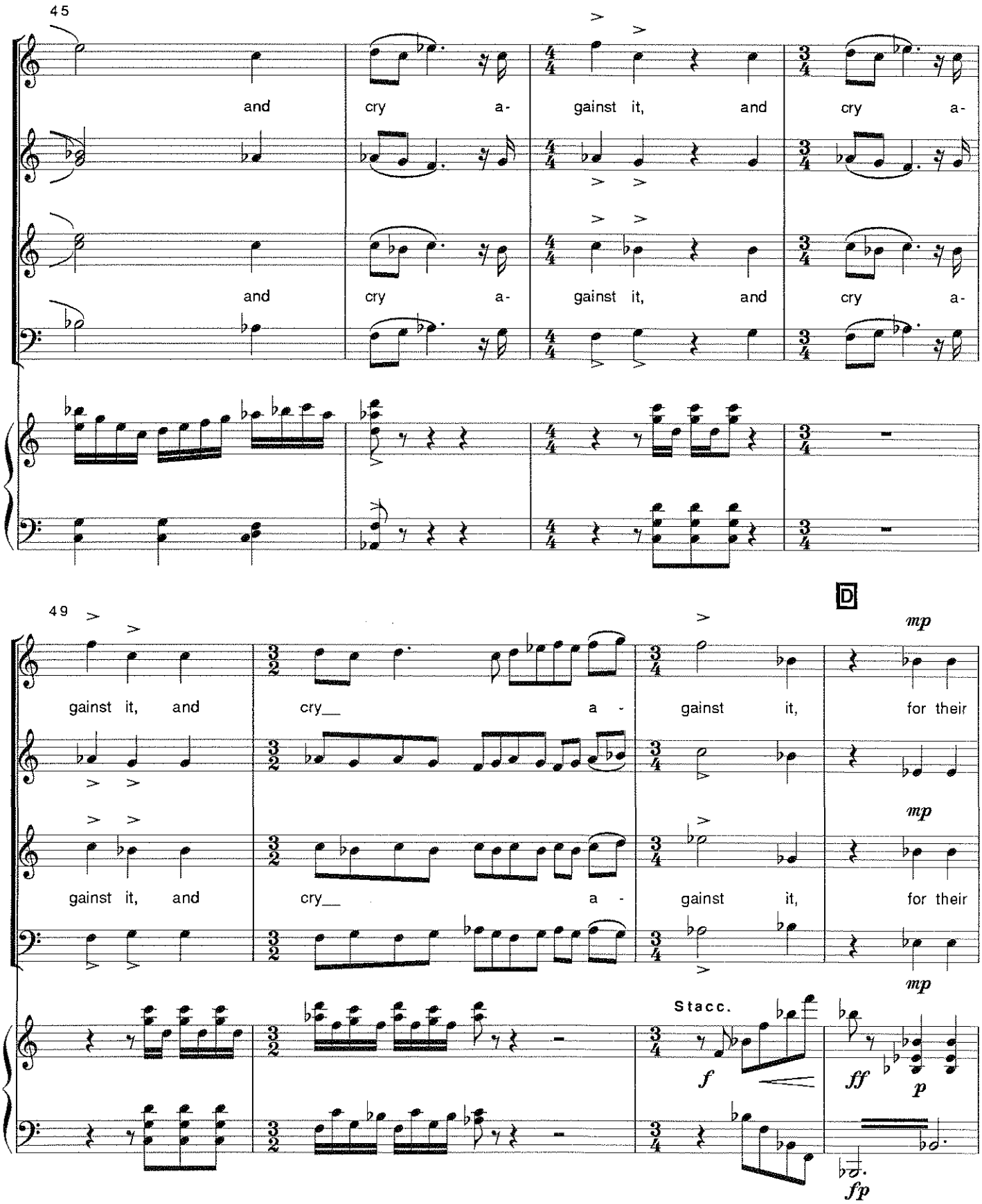
My song for ever shall record
  That terrible, that joyful hour!
I give the glory to my God,
  His all the mercy and the power.

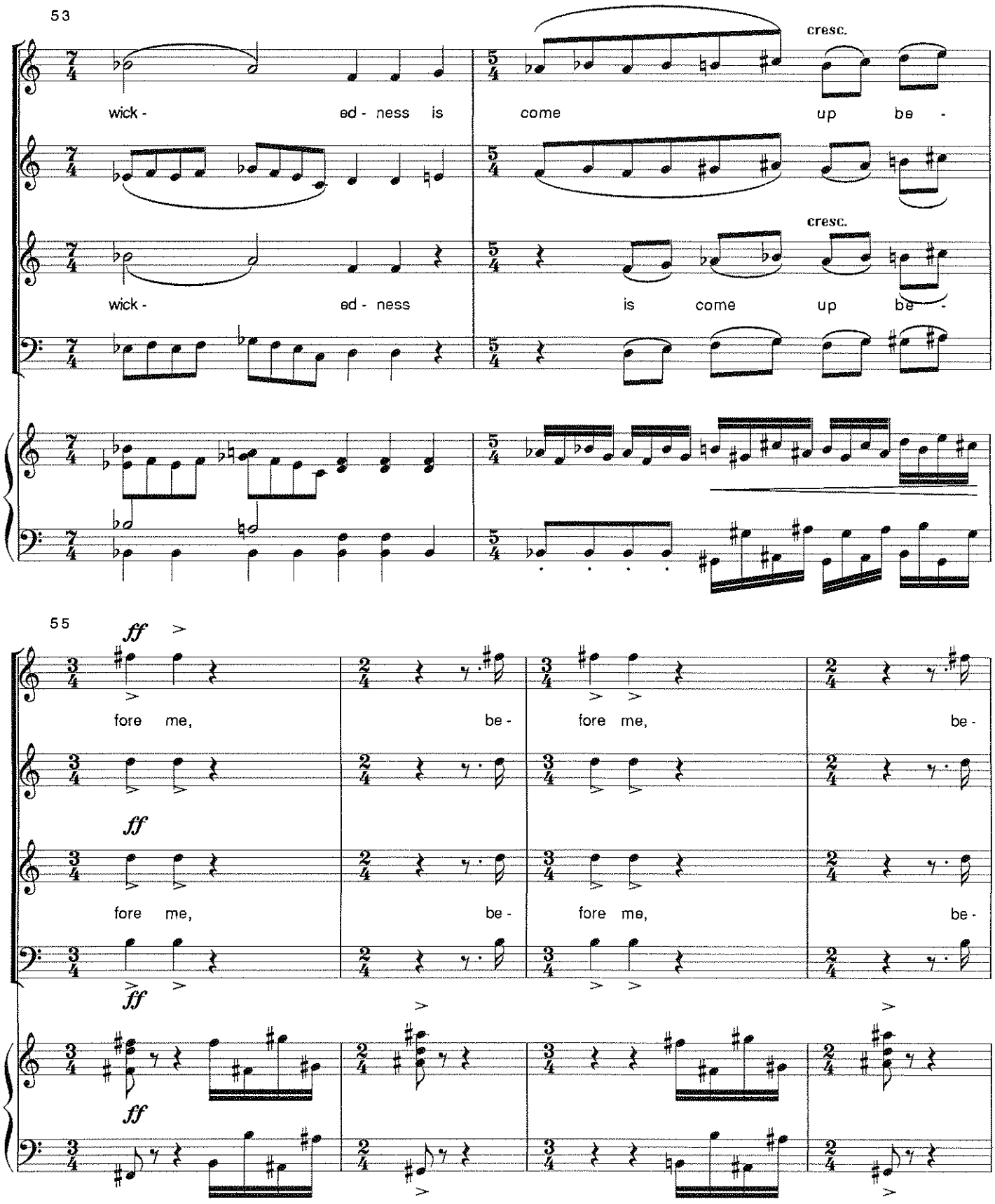

Moderato ♩ = 96
1
Narrator (Altos)
Legato
Vcl./Bass
pp
Sim. espress.
Vla.
4
Vln.
pp
p
Hn./Bsn
8
+ Fls.
pp
p
A
11
5
mp
mf
Vla.
cresc.
mf
f

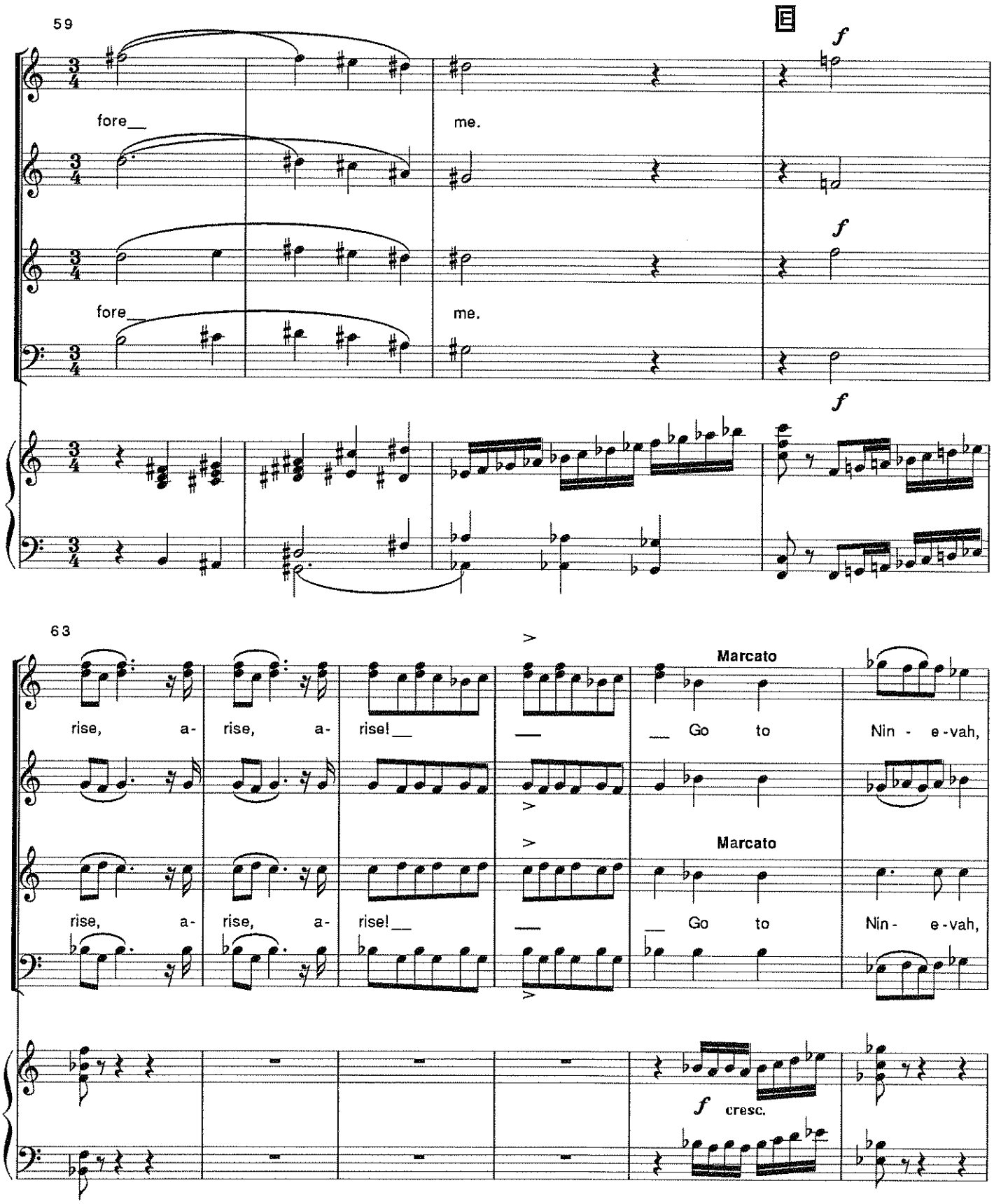

14
Sostenuto molto
Bsn.
p
mp
pp
Ritard.
Stringendo
18
Flutes
Ob.
Tenuto
mp
Hn./Vla.
p sub.
p
B Moderato
21
Fl. Cadenza
3
p
pp
Ob./Bsn.
mf
Hn.
A tempo
mp
24
cresc.
poco rit.
Then the Word of the Lord came un - to
Strings
f
mp

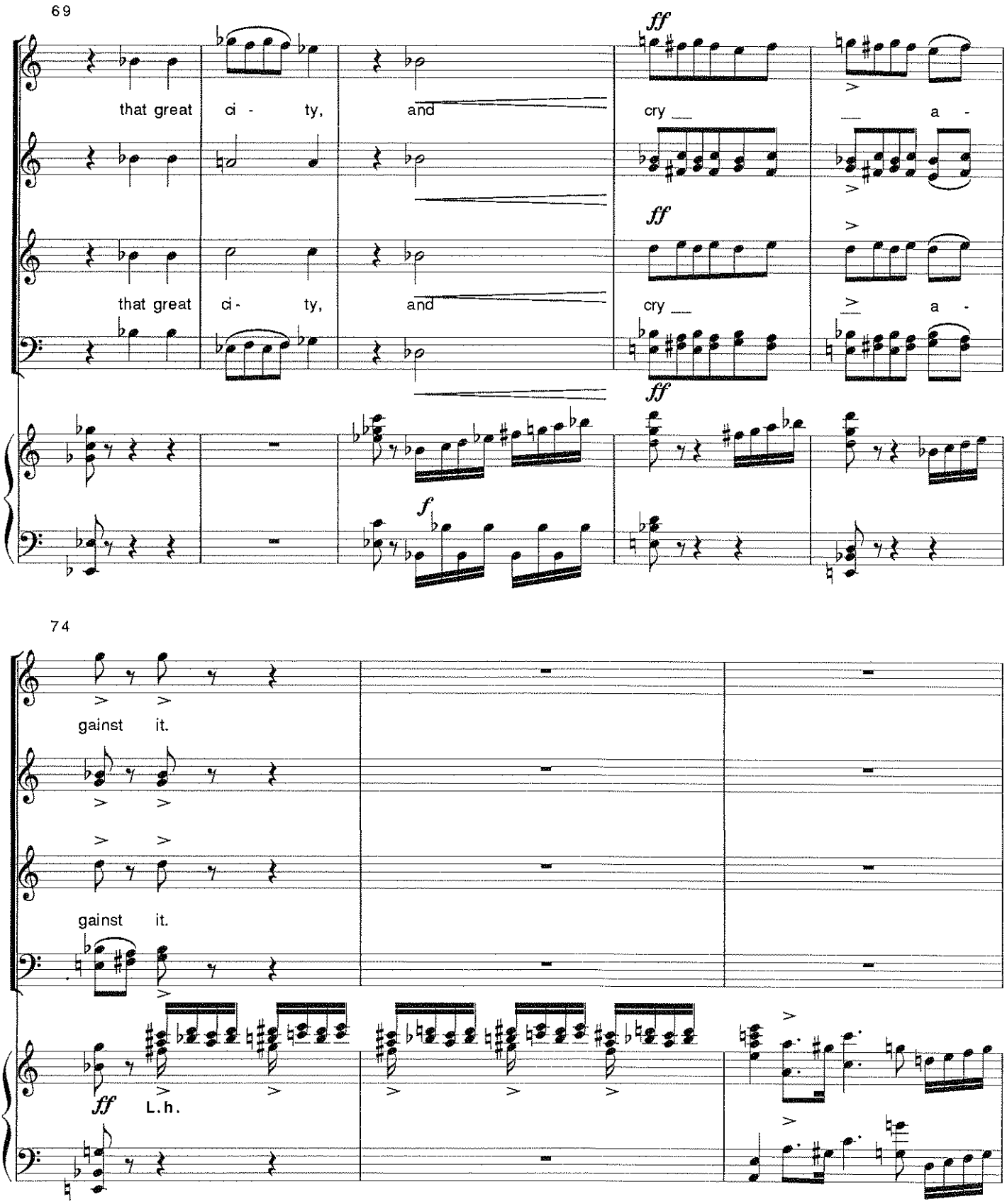

Gradually faster to letter C
27
f
Jo - nah, say - ing:
+ Winds
cresc.
tr
f
Brass stacc.
29
tr
f
ff
31
p
Stacc. sempre
34
Stringendo; cresc. molto
(♪ = ♪)
mp

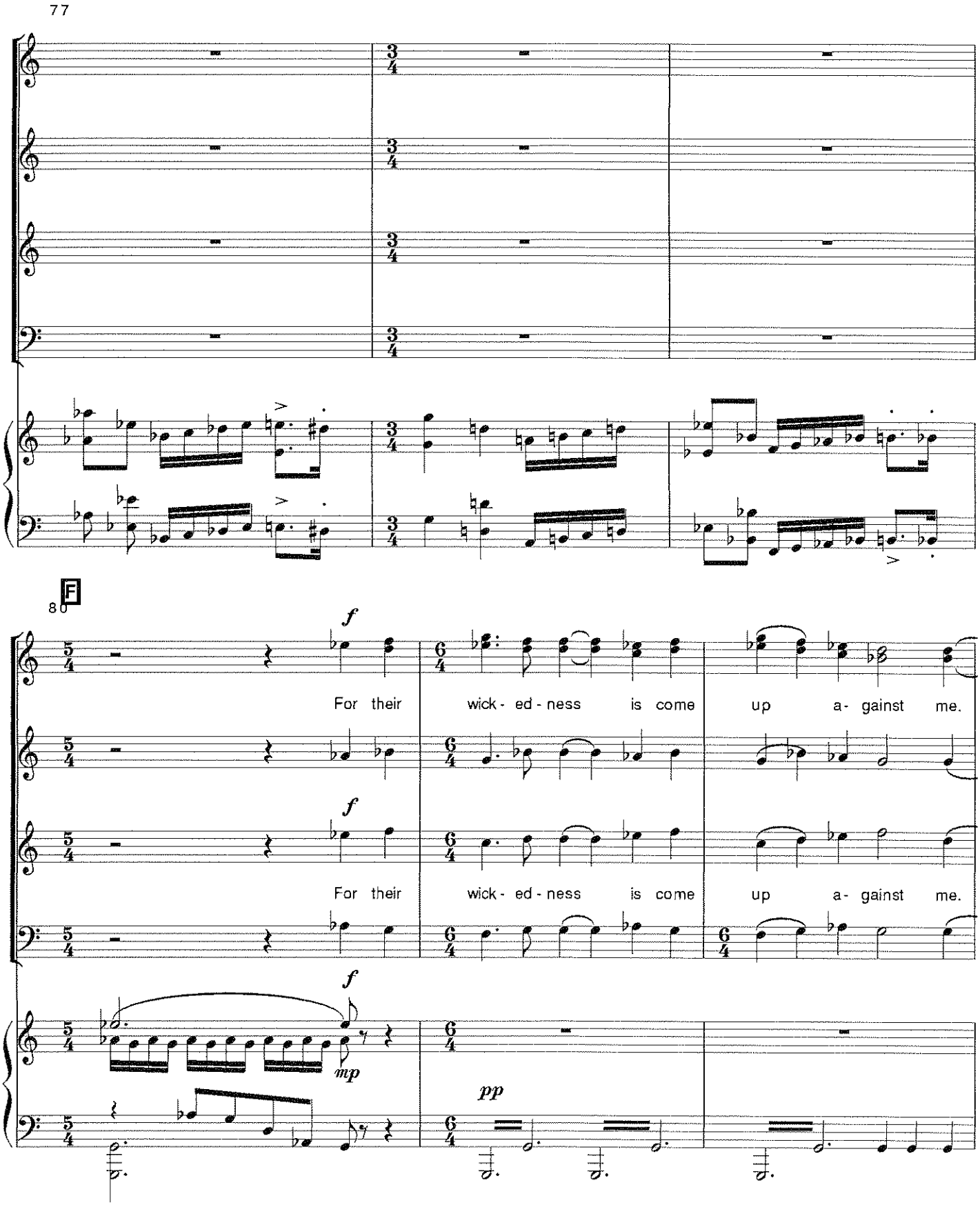

C
Allegro
36
Sop.
Alto
Ten.
Bass
ff
A - rise, a - rise, a - rise!
sfz
f
41
Marcato sempre
Go to Nin - e - vah, that great ci - ty,

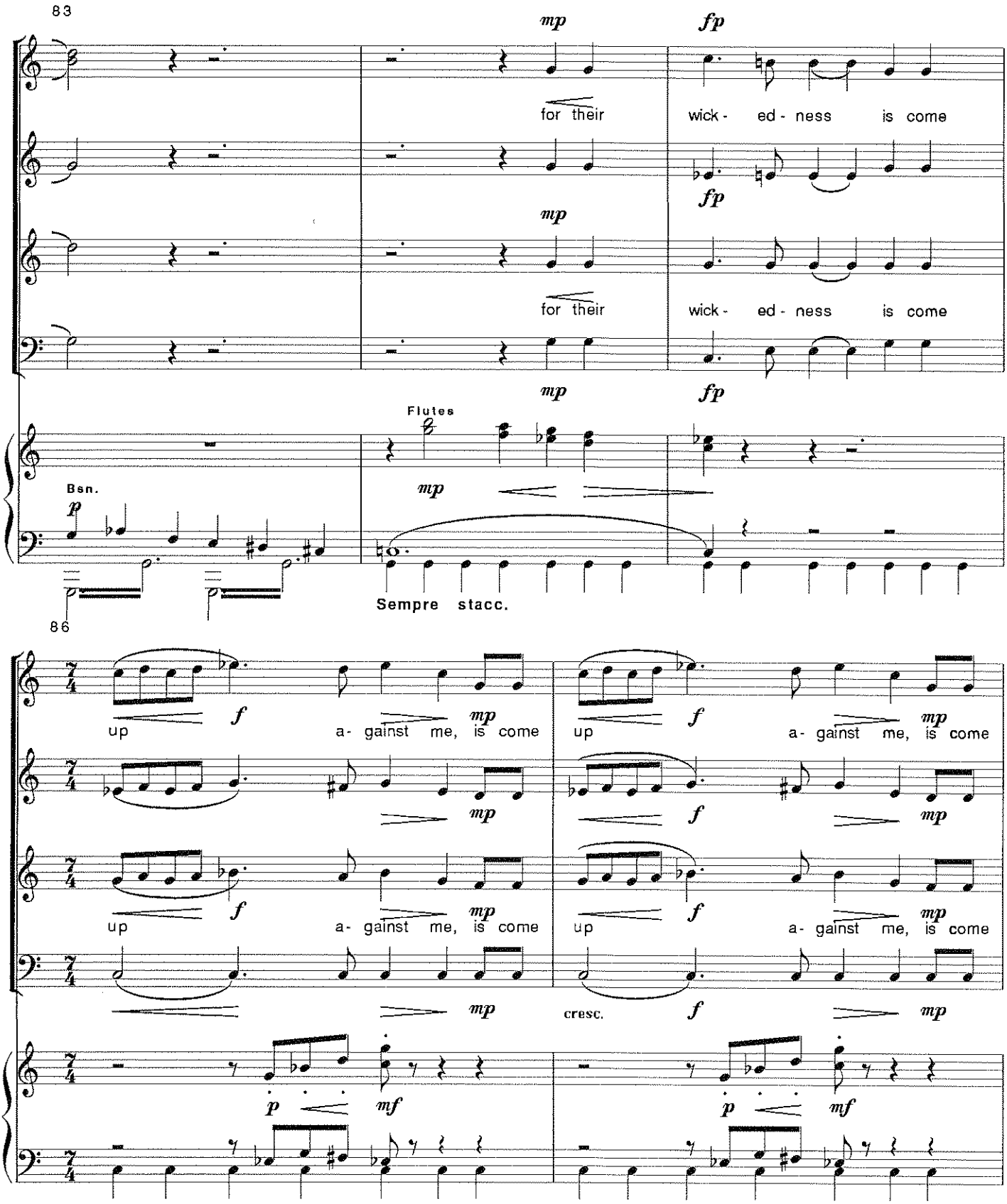

45
and cry a- gainst it, and cry a-
and cry a- gainst it, and cry a-
49
D
mp
gainst it, and cry a - gainst it, for their
gainst it, and cry a - gainst it, for their
mp
mp
Stacc.
f
ff
p
fp

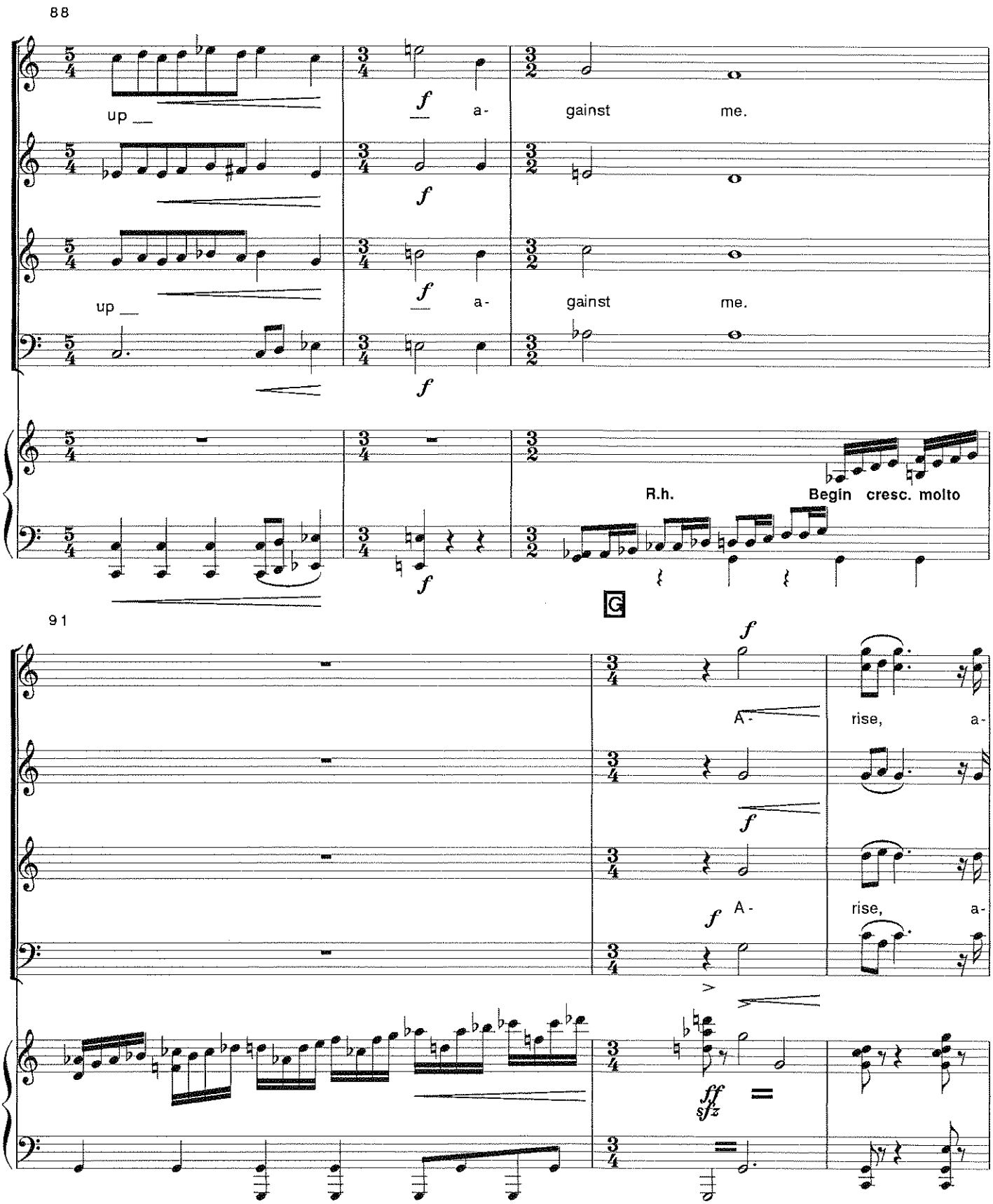

53
wick - ed - ness is come up be -
cresc.
wick - ed - ness is come up be -
cresc.
55
ff
fore me, be - fore me, be -
ff
fore me, be - fore me, be -
ff
ff

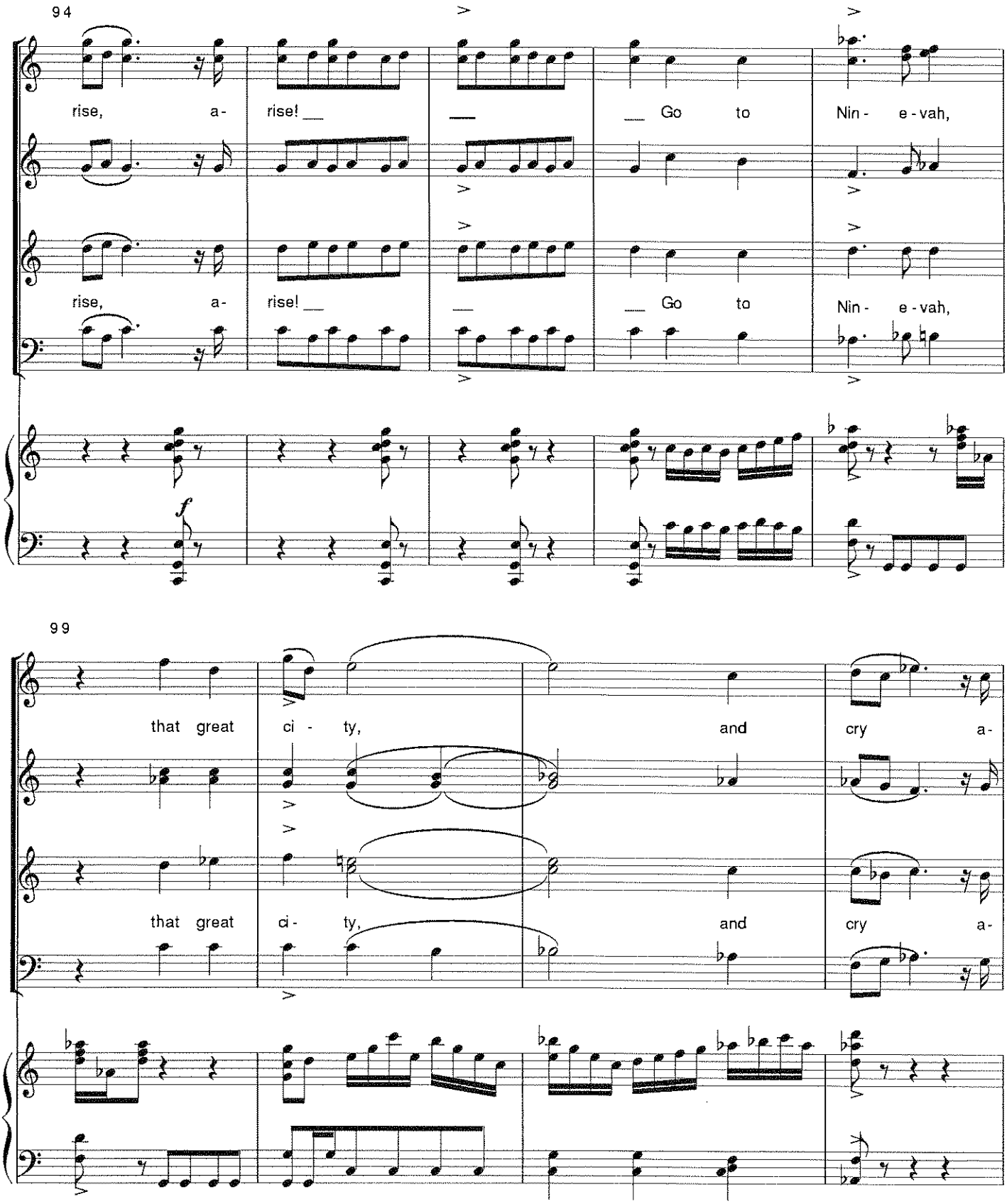

59
E
f
fore__
me.
fore__
me.
63
rise, a- rise, a- rise!__
__
__ Go to Nin - e-vah,
Marcato
rise, a- rise, a- rise!__
__
__ Go to Nin - e-vah,
Marcato
f cresc.

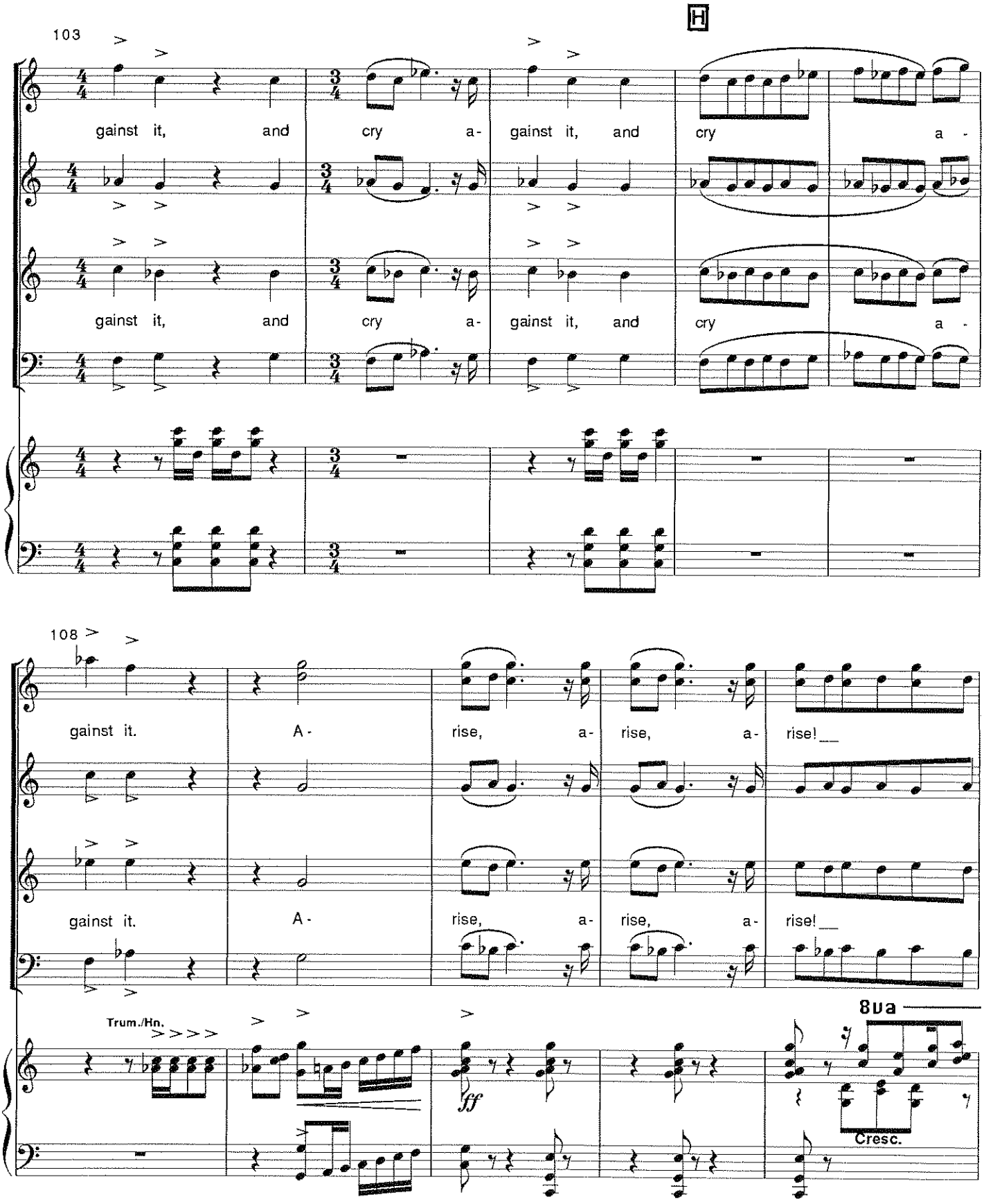

69
that great ci - ty, and cry a -
that great ci - ty, and cry a -
ff
f
74
gainst it.
gainst it.
ff L.h.

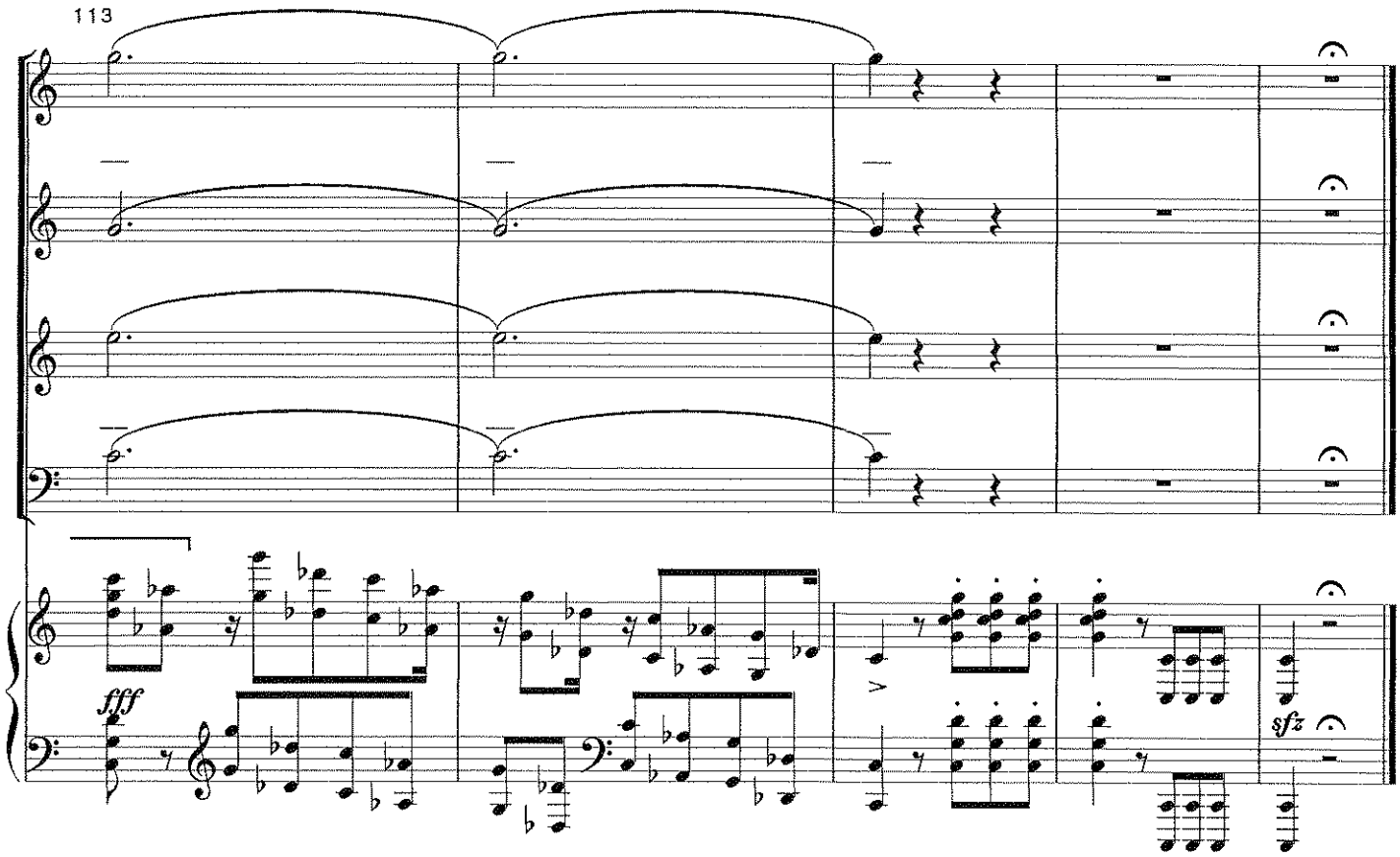

77
80
F
f
For their wick - ed - ness is come up a- gainst me.
f
For their wick - ed - ness is come up a- gainst me.
f
mp
pp

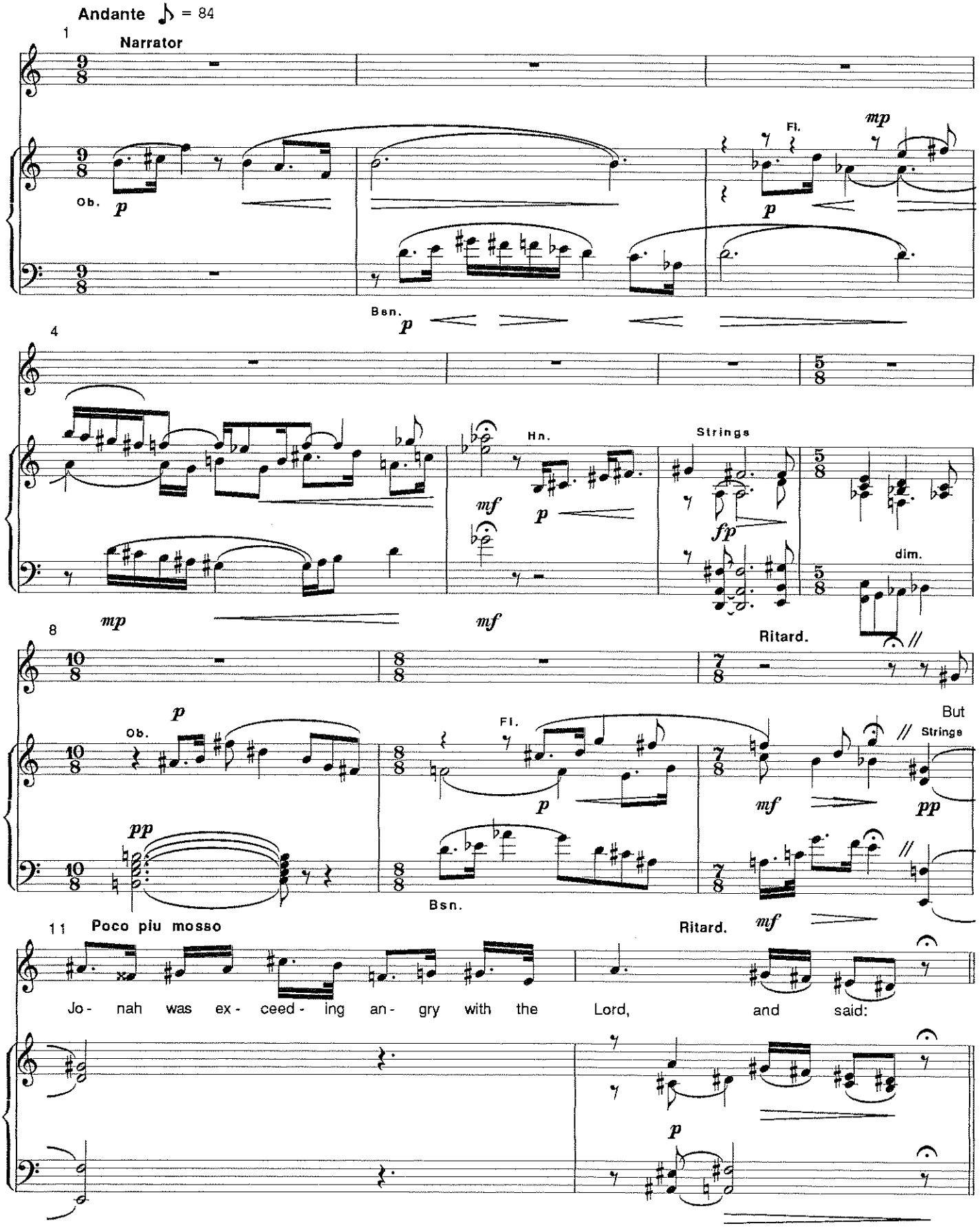

83
mp
fp
for their
wick- ed- ness is come
fp
mp
for their
wick- ed- ness is come
mp
fp
Flutes
Bsn.
p
mp
Sempre stacc.
86
f
mp
up a- gainst me, is come
up a- gainst me, is come
f
mp
f
mp
up a- gainst me, is come
up a- gainst me, is come
f
mp
cresc.
f
mp
p
mf
p
mf

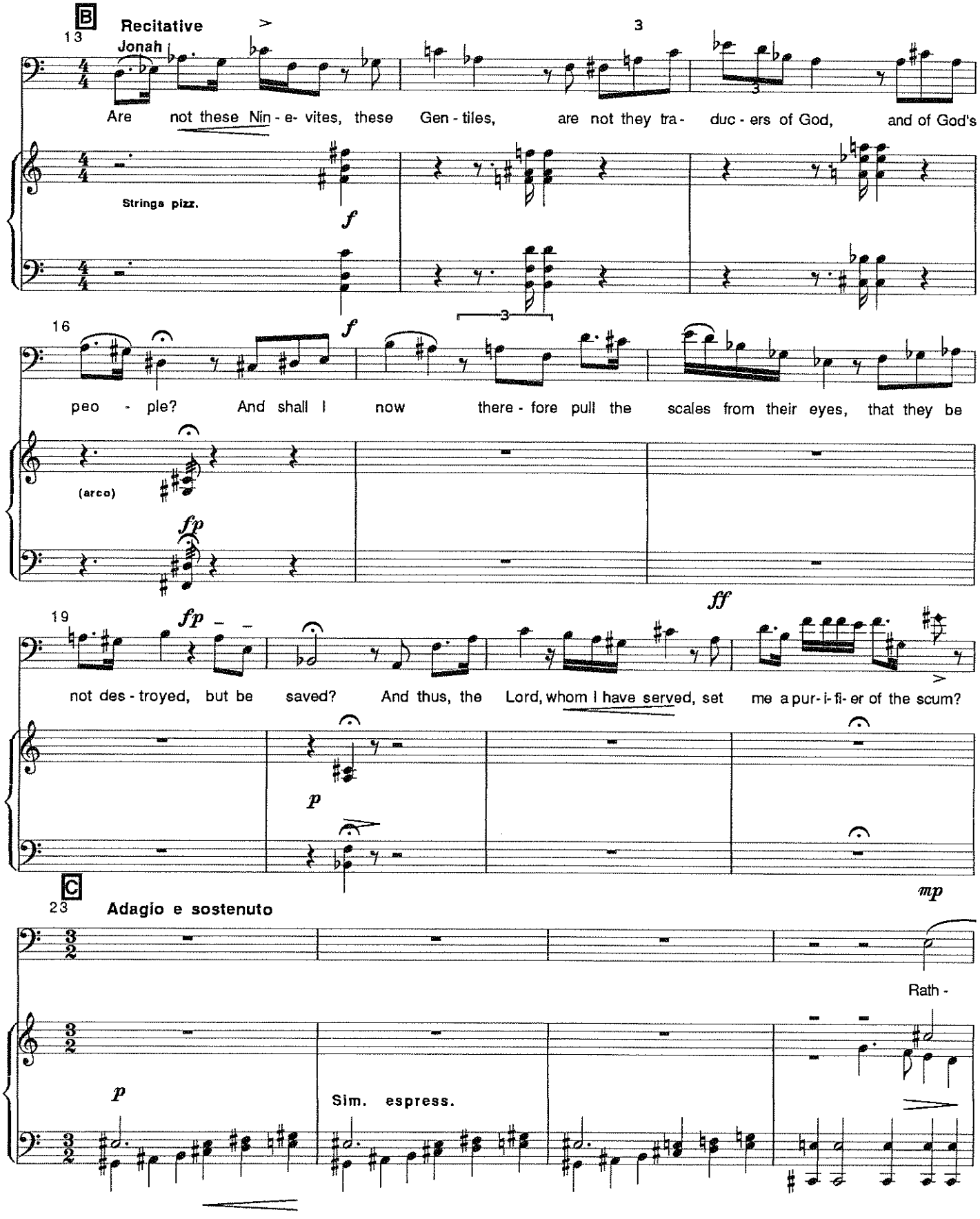

88
up
a-
gainst
me.
up
a-
gainst
me.
R.h.
Begin cresc. molto
C
91
A-
rise,
a-
A-
rise,
a-

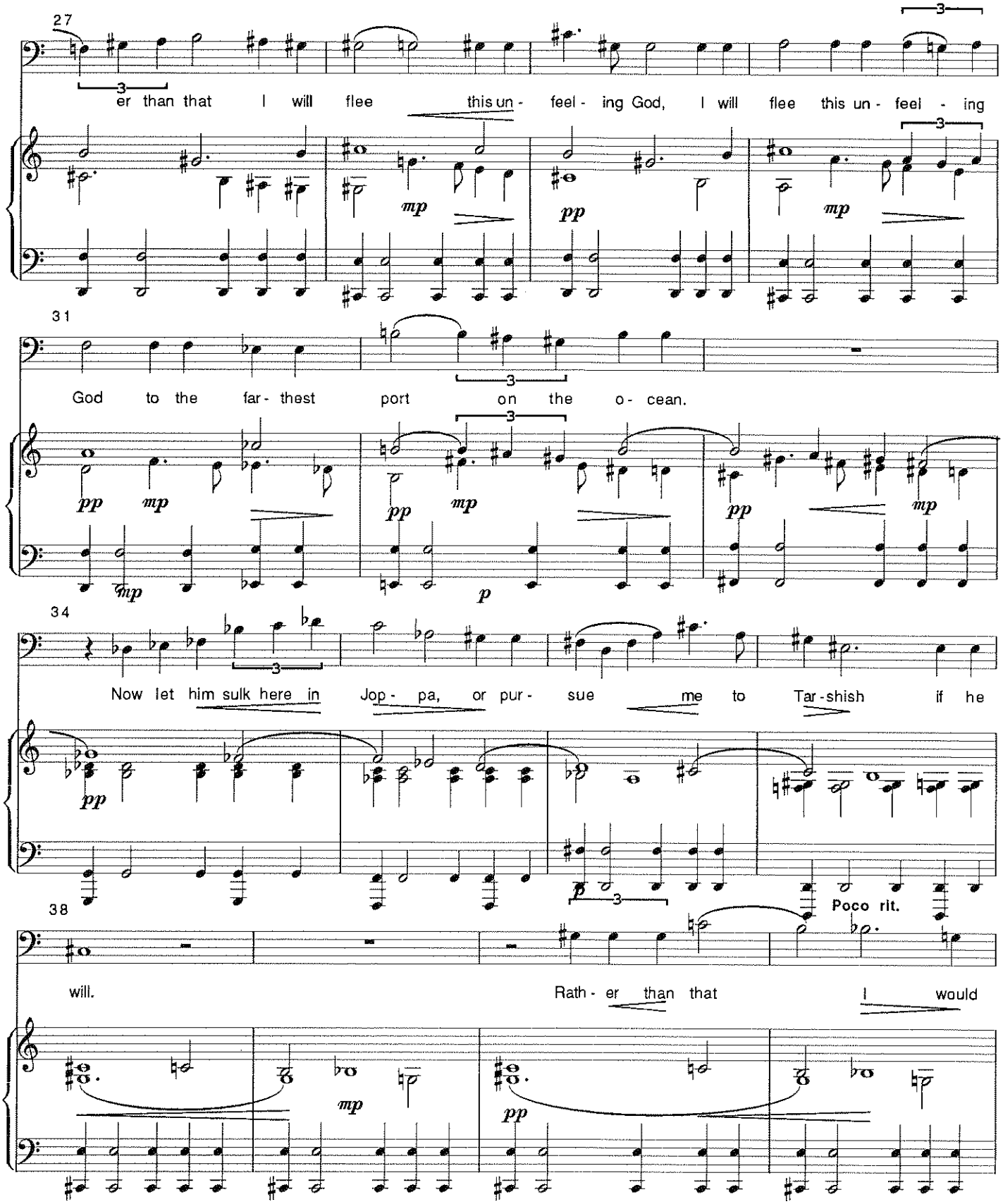

94
rise, a- rise! __ __ __ Go to Nin - e - vah,
rise, a- rise! __ __ __ Go to Nin - e - vah,
f
99
that great ci - ty, and cry a-
that great ci - ty, and cry a-

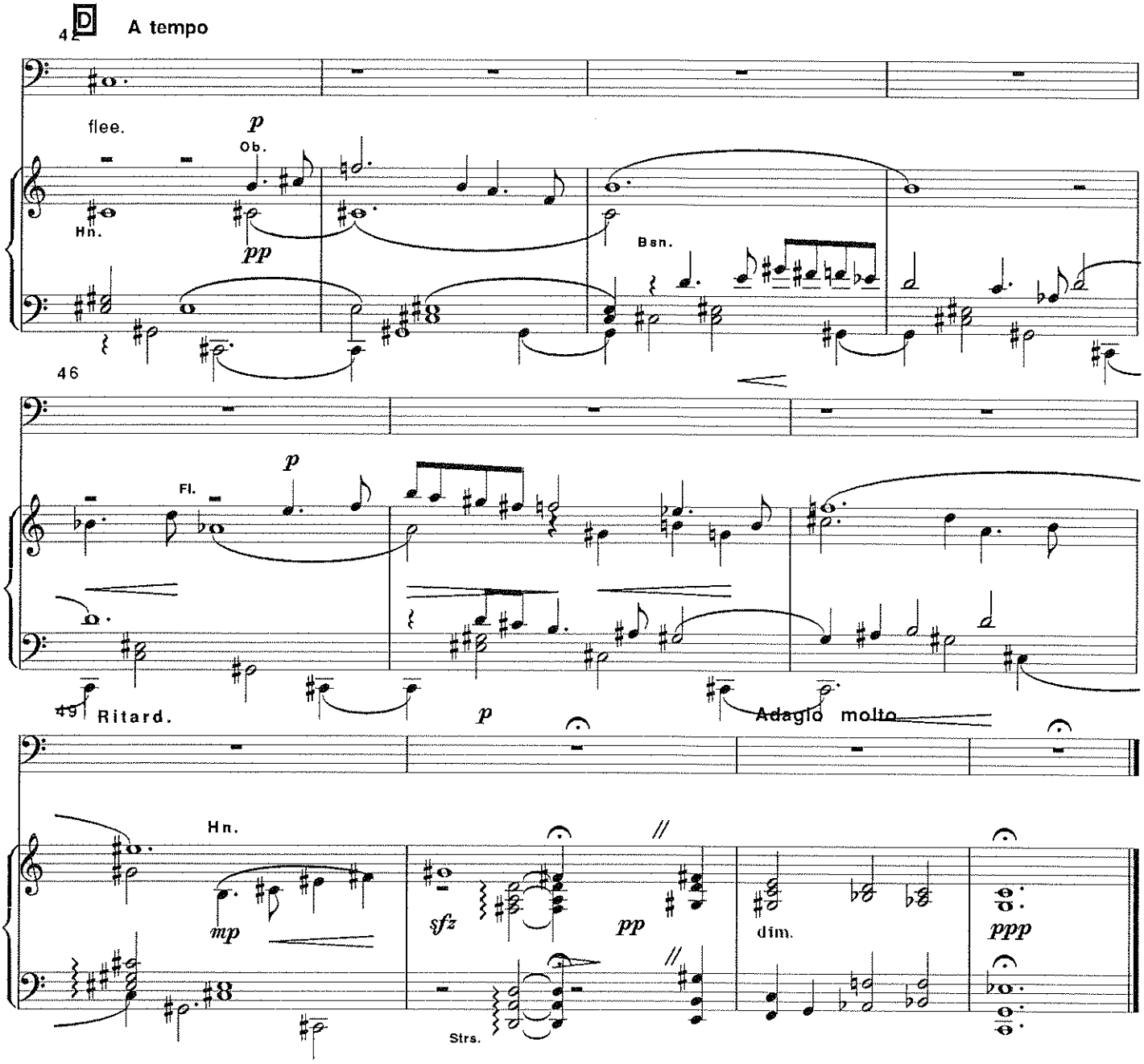

H
103
gainst it, and cry a- gainst it, and cry a -
gainst it, and cry a- gainst it, and cry a -
108
gainst it. A- rise, a- rise, a- rise!
gainst it. A- rise, a- rise, a- rise!
Trum./Hn.
ff
8va
Cresc.

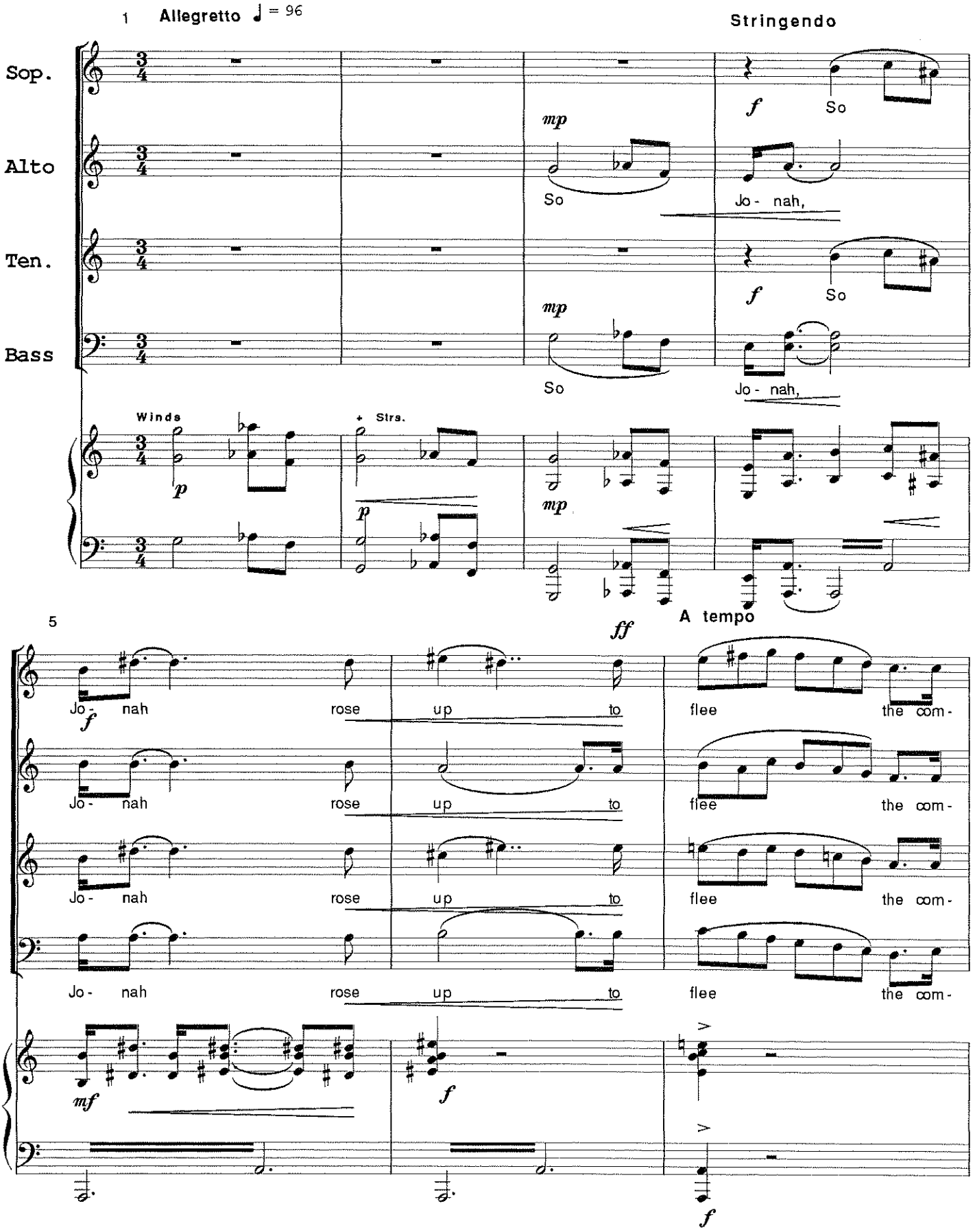

113
fff
sfz

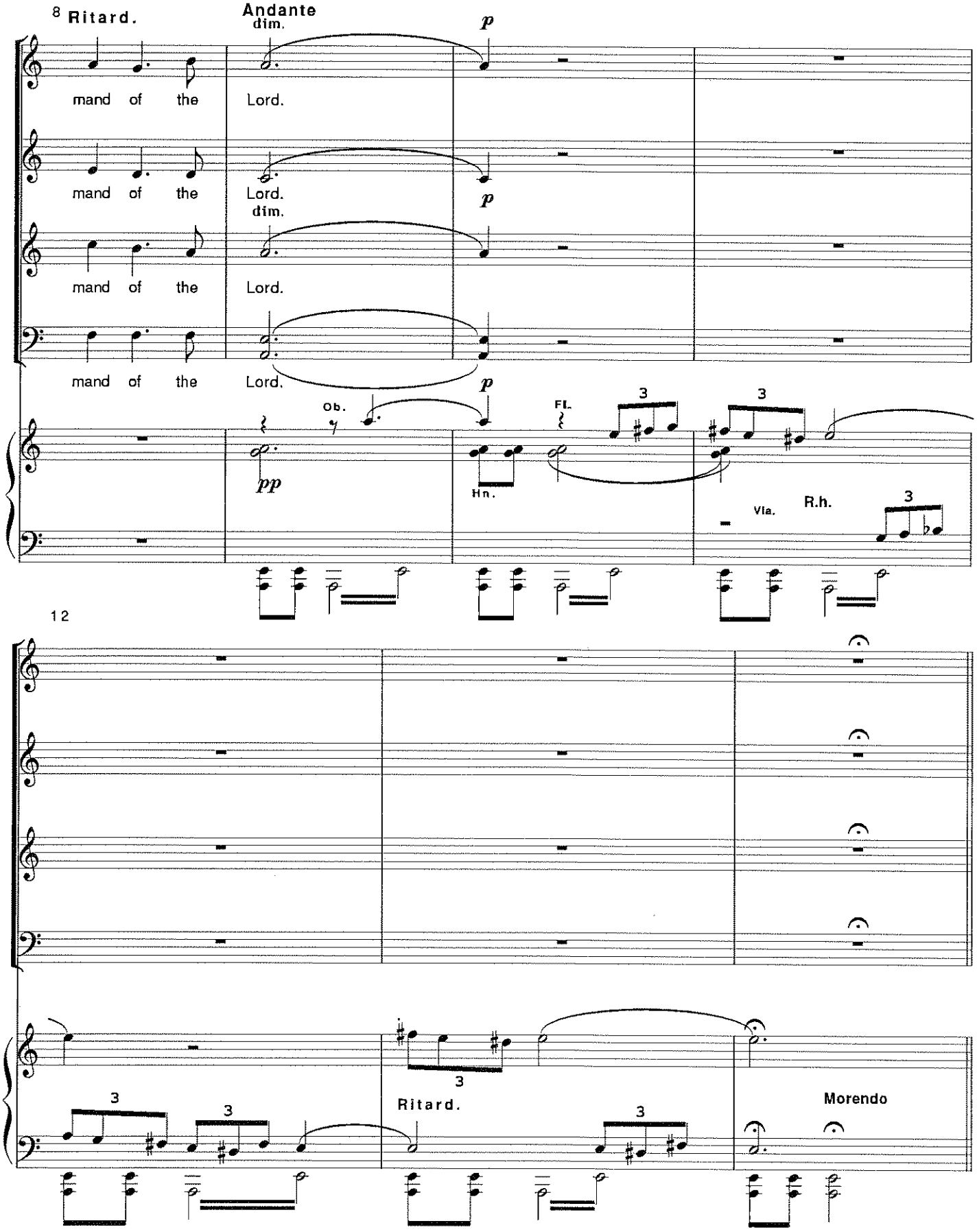

Andante ♪ = 84
1
Narrator
Ob.
p
Fl.
mp
p
Bsn.
p
4
Hn.
mf
p
Strings
fp
dim.
5/8
8
mp
mf
Ritard.
10/8
8/8
7/8
Ob.
p
Fl.
p
mf
But
Stringe
pp
pp
Bsn.
11
Poco piu mosso
Ritard.
mf
Jo- nah was ex- ceed- ing an- gry with the Lord, and said:
p

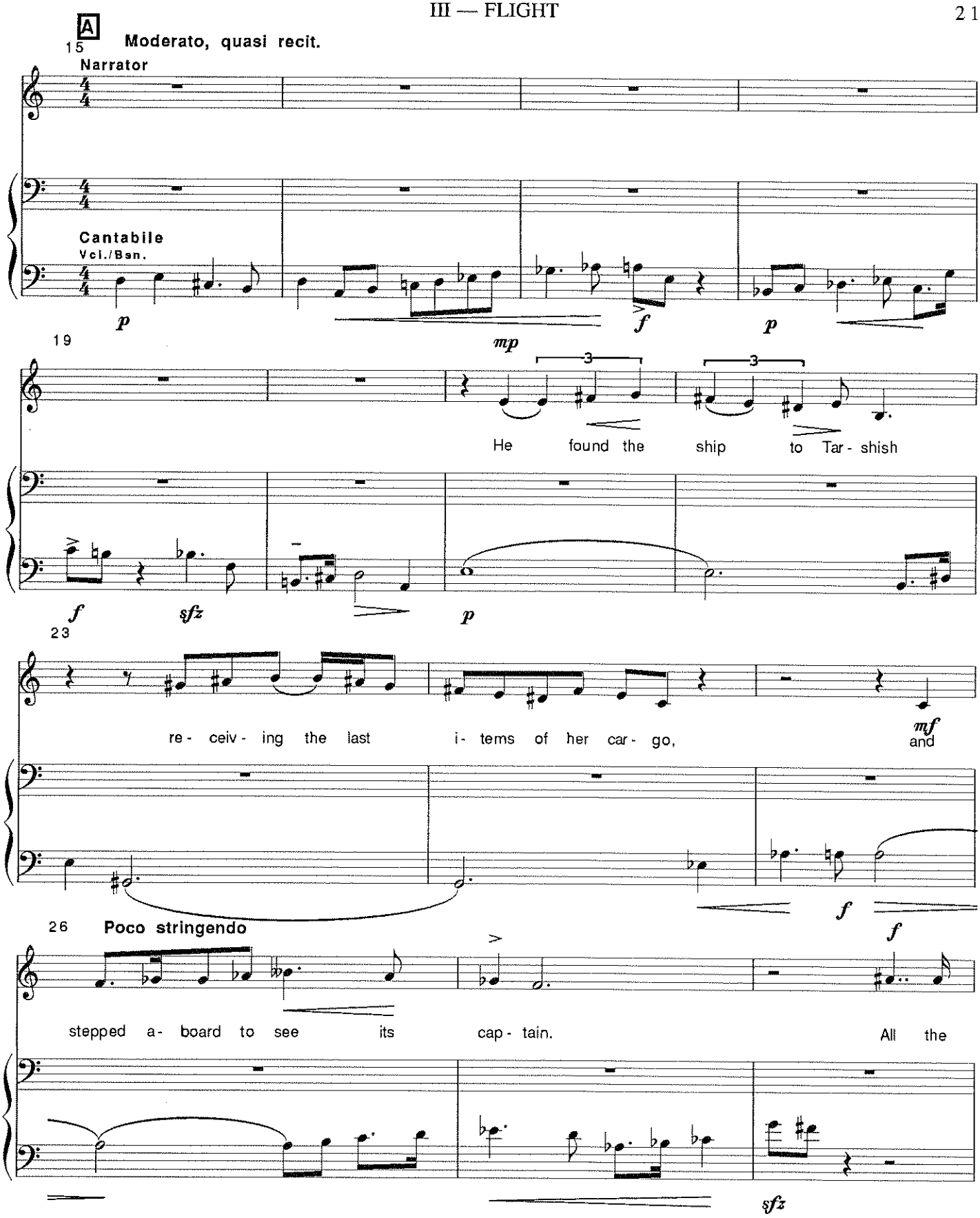

B
Recitative
13
Jonah
Are not these Nin - e- vites, these Gen - tiles, are not they tra - duc - ers of God, and of God's
Strings pizz.
f
16
peo - ple? And shall I now there - fore pull the scales from their eyes, that they be
(arco)
fp
19
ff
fp
not des - troyed, but be saved? And thus, the Lord, whom I have served, set me a pur - i - fi - er of the scum?
p
C
23
Adagio e sostenuto
mp
Rath -
p
Sim. espress.

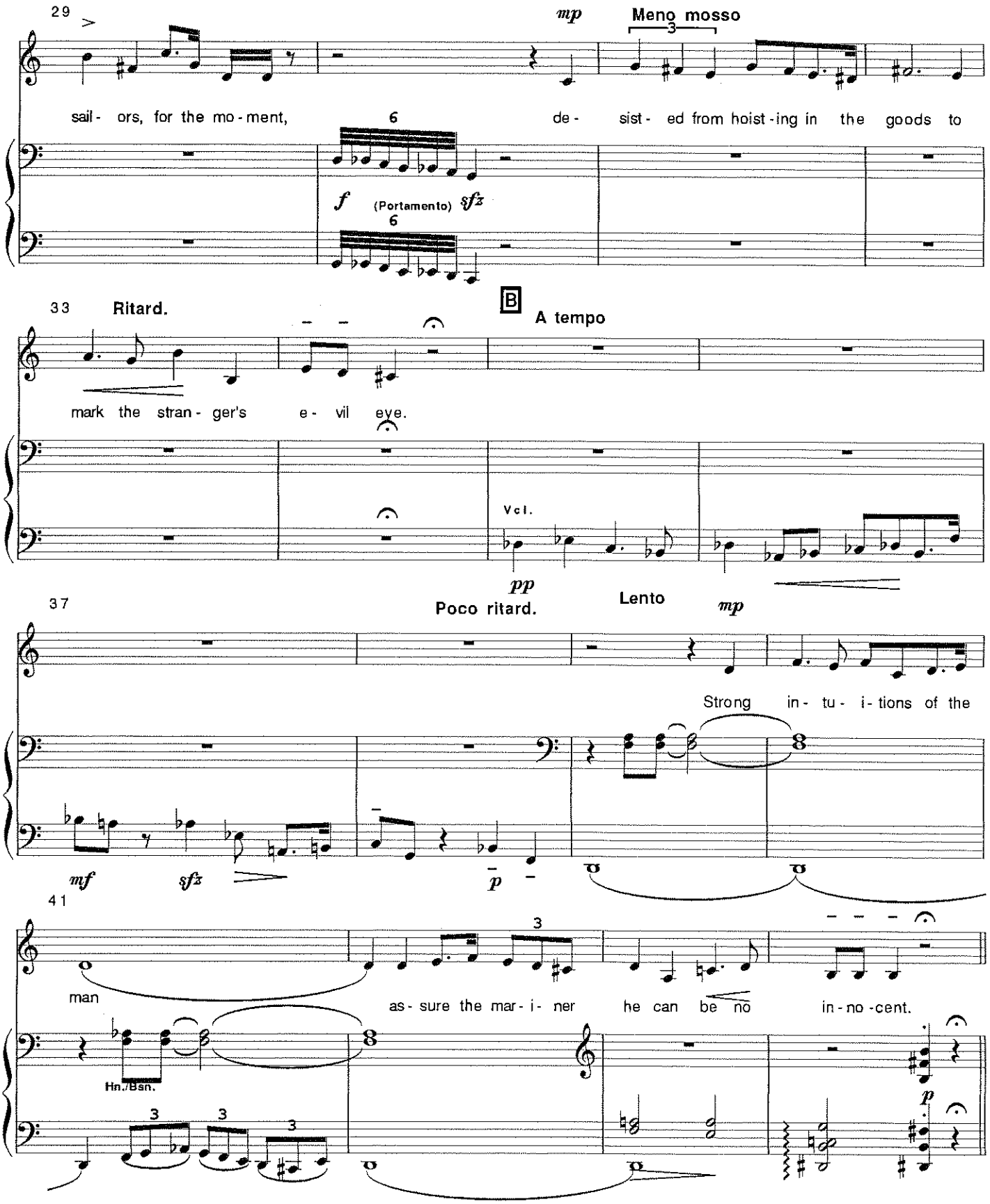

27
er than that I will flee this un - feel - ing God, I will flee this un - feel - ing
31
God to the far - thest port on the o - cean.
34
Now let him sulk here in Jop - pa, or pur - sue me to Tar - shish if he
38
Poco rit.
will. Rath - er than that I would

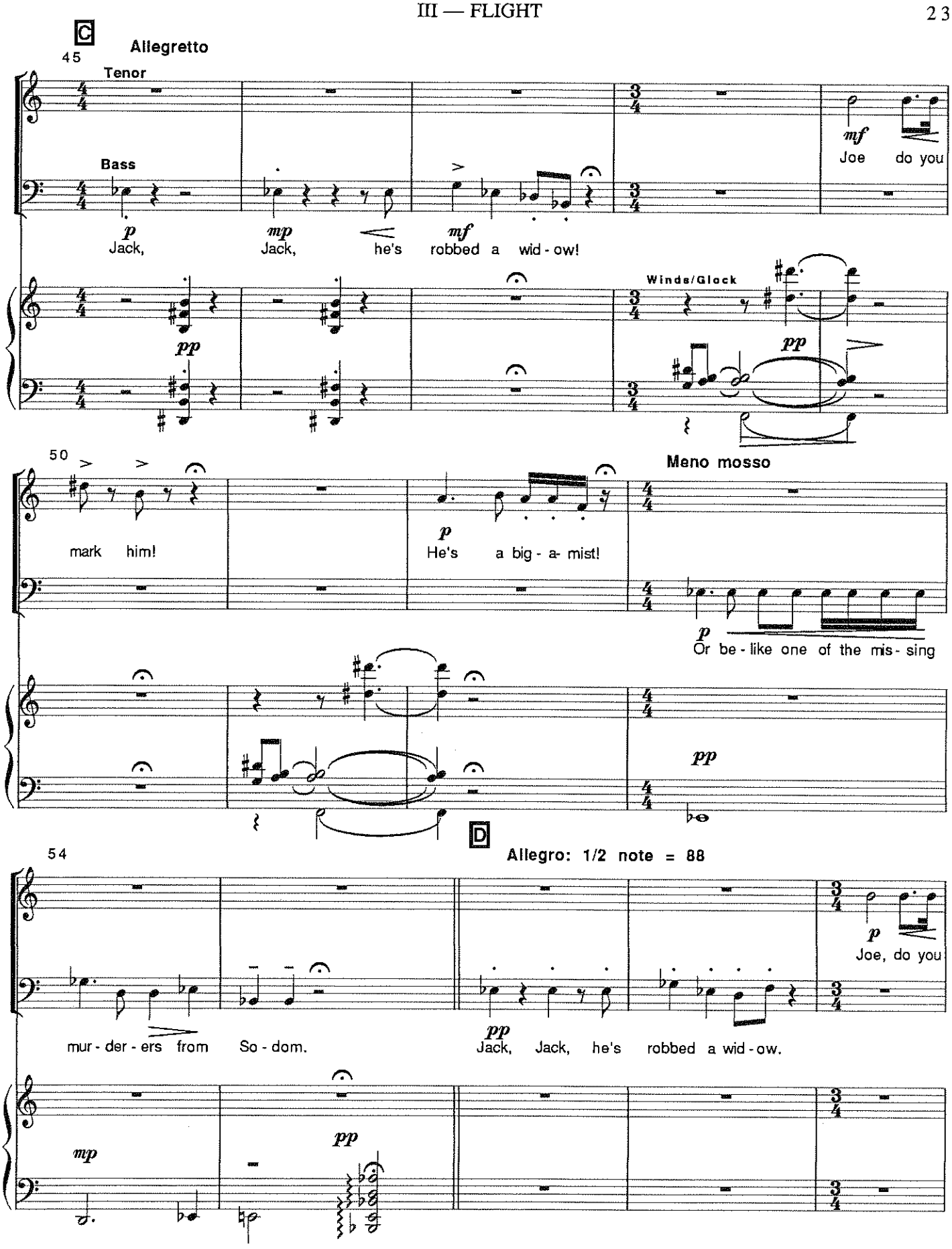

4 D
A tempo
flee.
p
Ob.
Hn.
pp
Bsn.
46
p
Fl.
49
Ritard.
p
Adagio molto
Hn.
mp
sfz
pp
dim.
ppp
Strs.

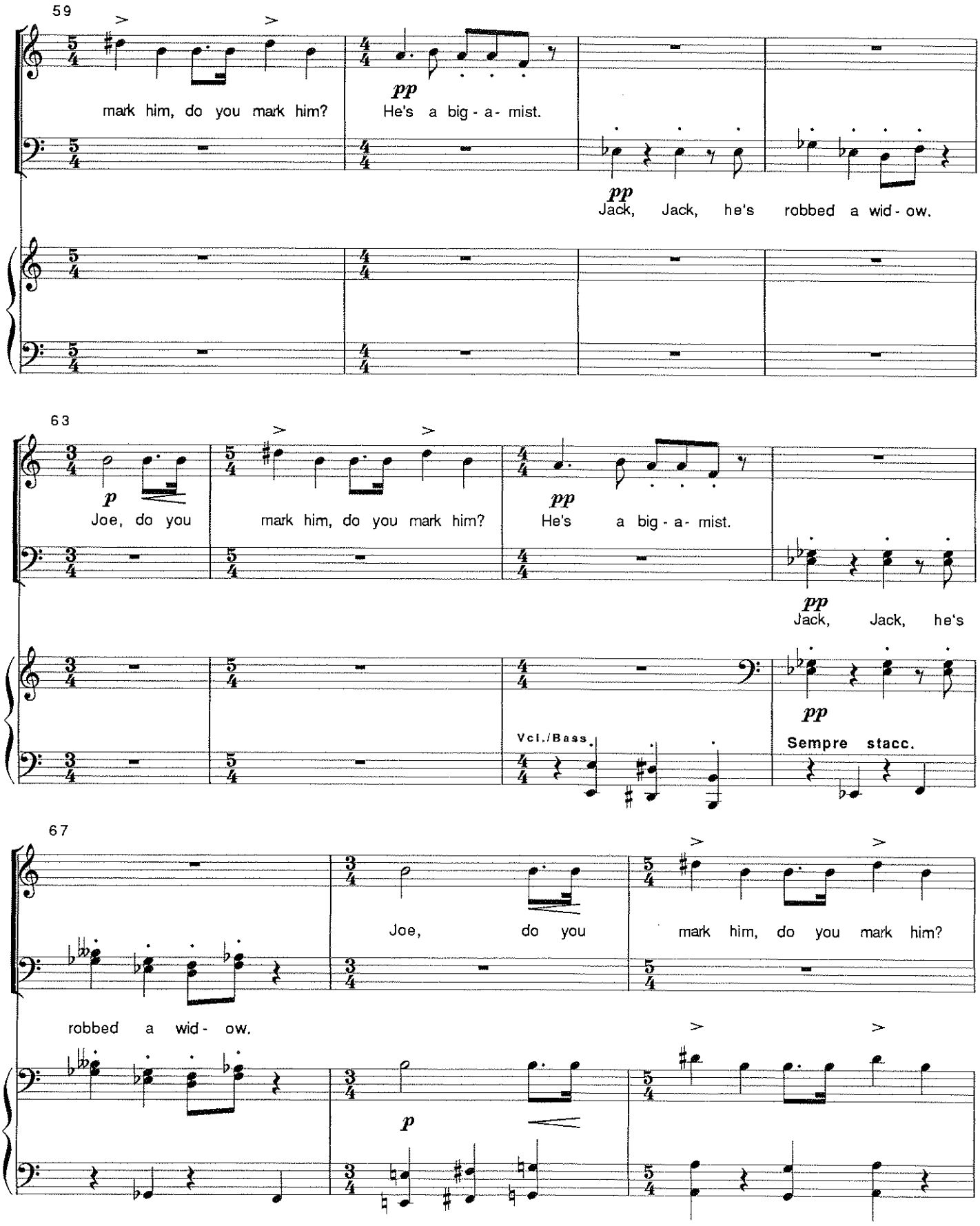

1
Allegretto ♩ = 96
Stringendo
Sop.
Alto
Ten.
Bass
mp
So
f
So
Jo - nah,
Winds
+ Strs.
p
5
ff
A tempo
Jo - nah rose up to flee the com -
mf

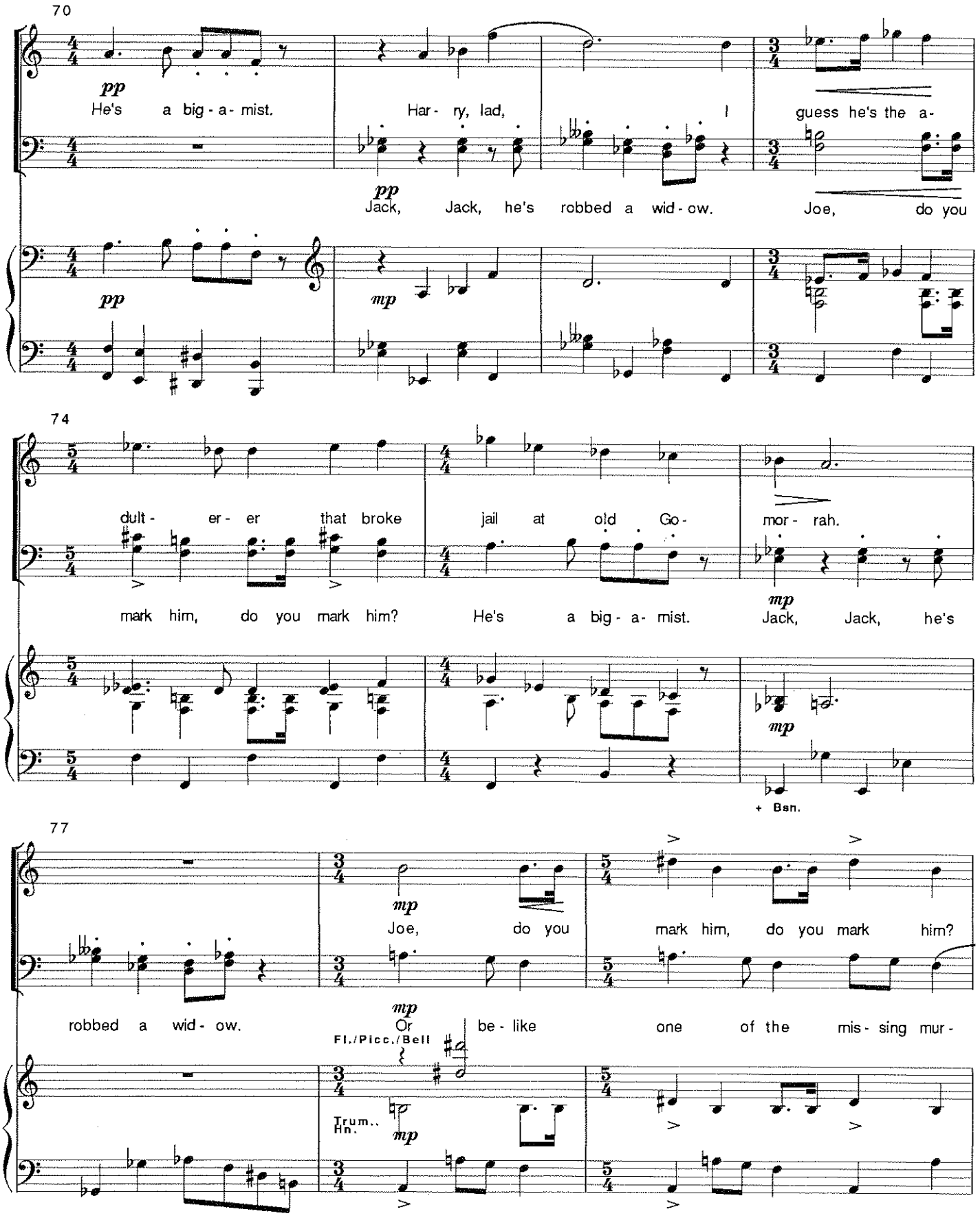

8 Ritard.
Andante
dim.
p
mand of the Lord.
mand of the Lord.
dim.
p
mand of the Lord.
mand of the Lord.
p
Ob.
FL.
3
3
pp
Hn.
Vla.
R.h.
3
12
3
3
Ritard.
3
Morendo

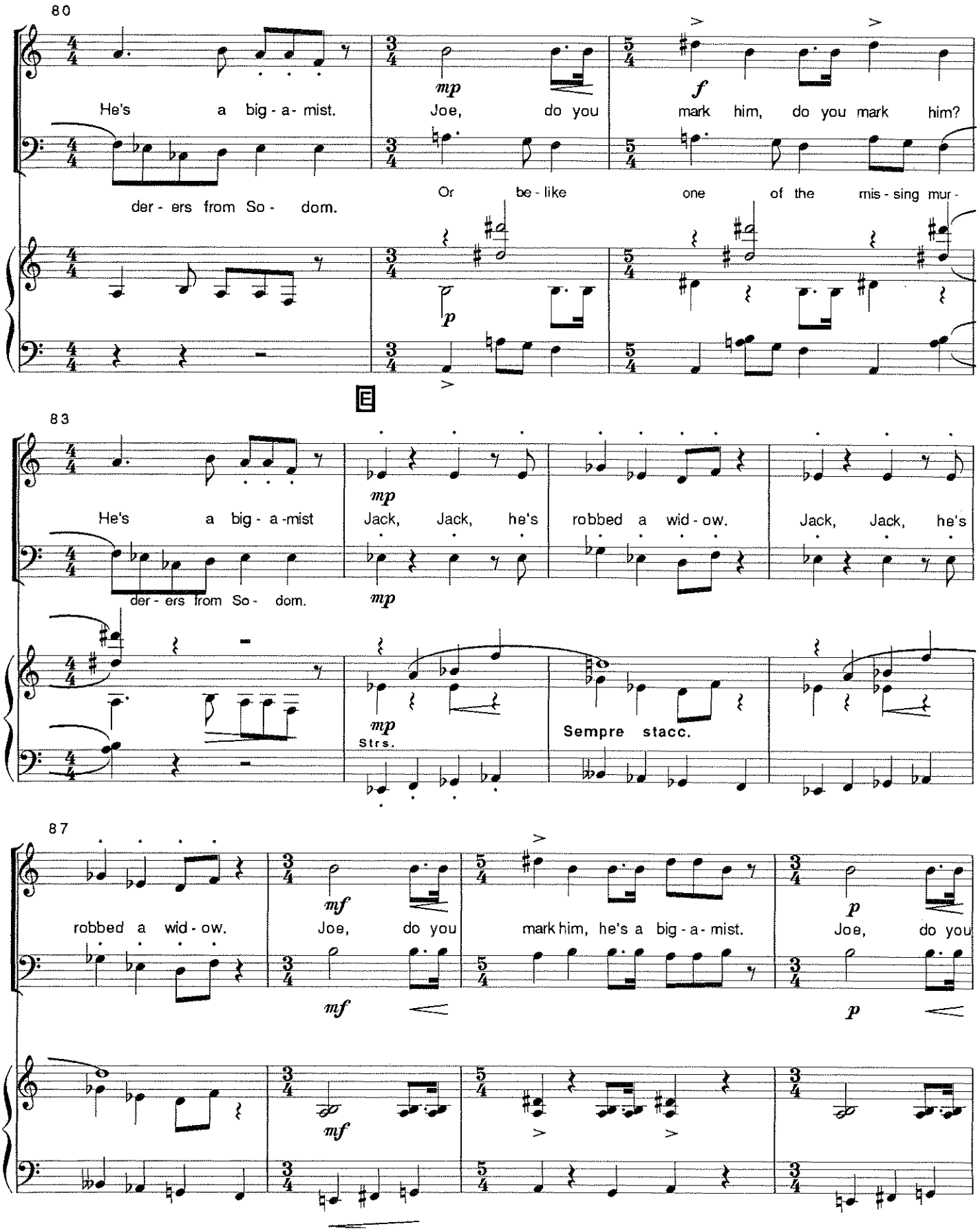

A
15
Moderato, quasi recit.
Narrator
Cantabile
Vcl./Bsn.
p
mp
f
p
19
3
3
He found the ship to Tar - shish
f
sfz
p
23
re - ceiv - ing the last i - tems of her car - go,
mf
and
f
f
26
Poco stringendo
stepped a - board to see its cap - tain.
All the
sfz

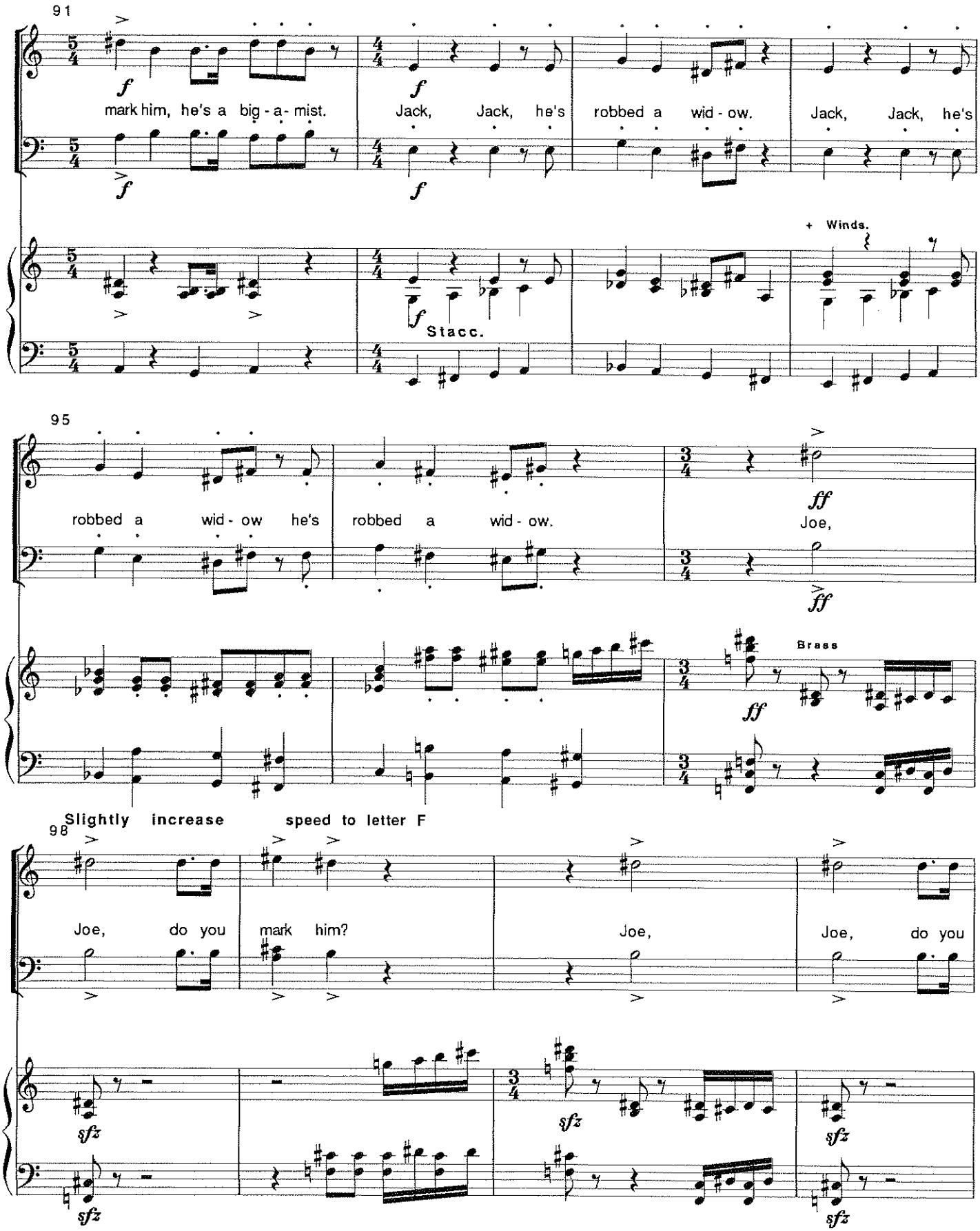

29
mp
Meno mosso
sail- ors, for the mo-ment, de- sist- ed from hoist-ing in the goods to
f (Portamento) sfz
33
Ritard.
B
A tempo
mark the stran- ger's e- vil eye.
Vcl.
pp
37
Poco ritard.
Lento
mp
Strong in- tu- i- tions of the
mf sfz
p
41
man
as- sure the mar- i- ner he can be no in-no-cent.
Hn./Bsn.
p

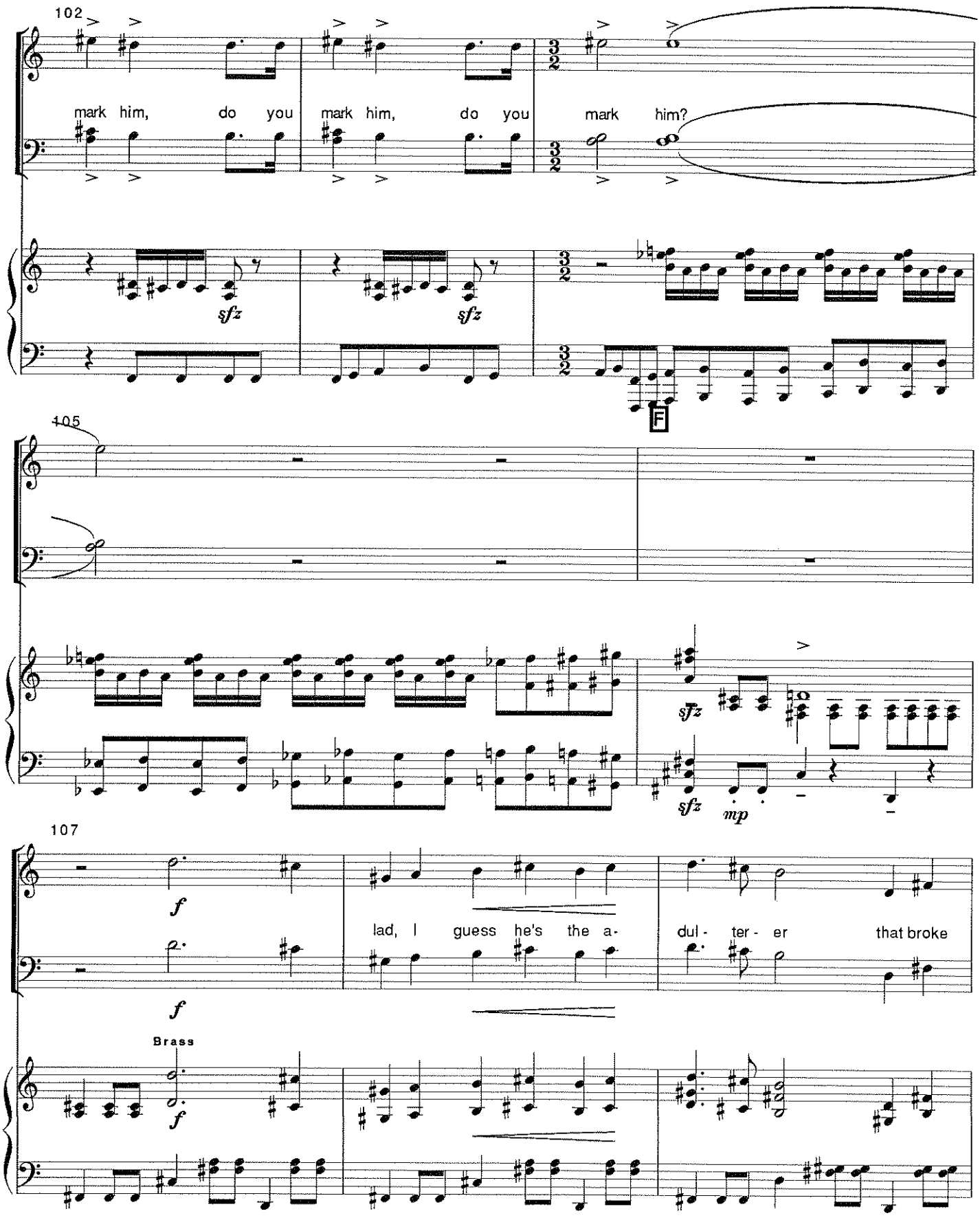

C
Allegretto
45
Tenor
Bass
p
Jack,
mp
Jack,
he's
mf
robbed a wid - ow!
mf
Joe do you
Winds/Glock
pp
pp
50
mark him!
p
He's a big - a- mist!
Meno mosso
p
Or be - like one of the mis - sing
pp
D
54
Allegro: 1/2 note = 88
mur - der - ers from So - dom.
pp
Jack, Jack, he's robbed a wid - ow.
p
Joe, do you
mp
pp

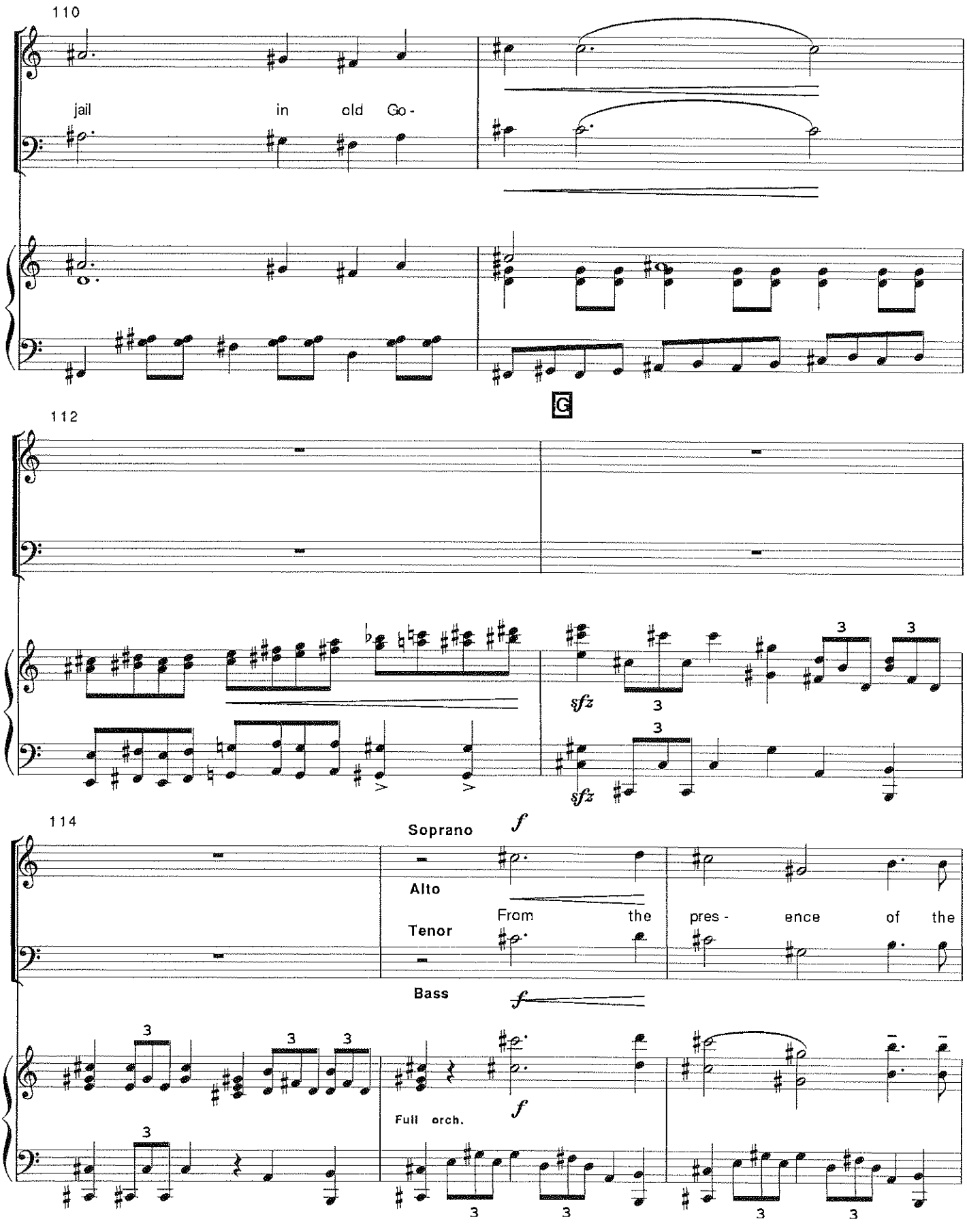

59
mark him, do you mark him?
pp
He's a big - a- mist.
pp
Jack, Jack, he's robbed a wid - ow.
63
p
Joe, do you
mark him, do you mark him?
pp
He's a big - a- mist.
pp
Jack, Jack, he's
Vcl./Bass.
pp
Sempre stacc.
67
Joe, do you
mark him, do you mark him?
robbed a wid - ow.
p

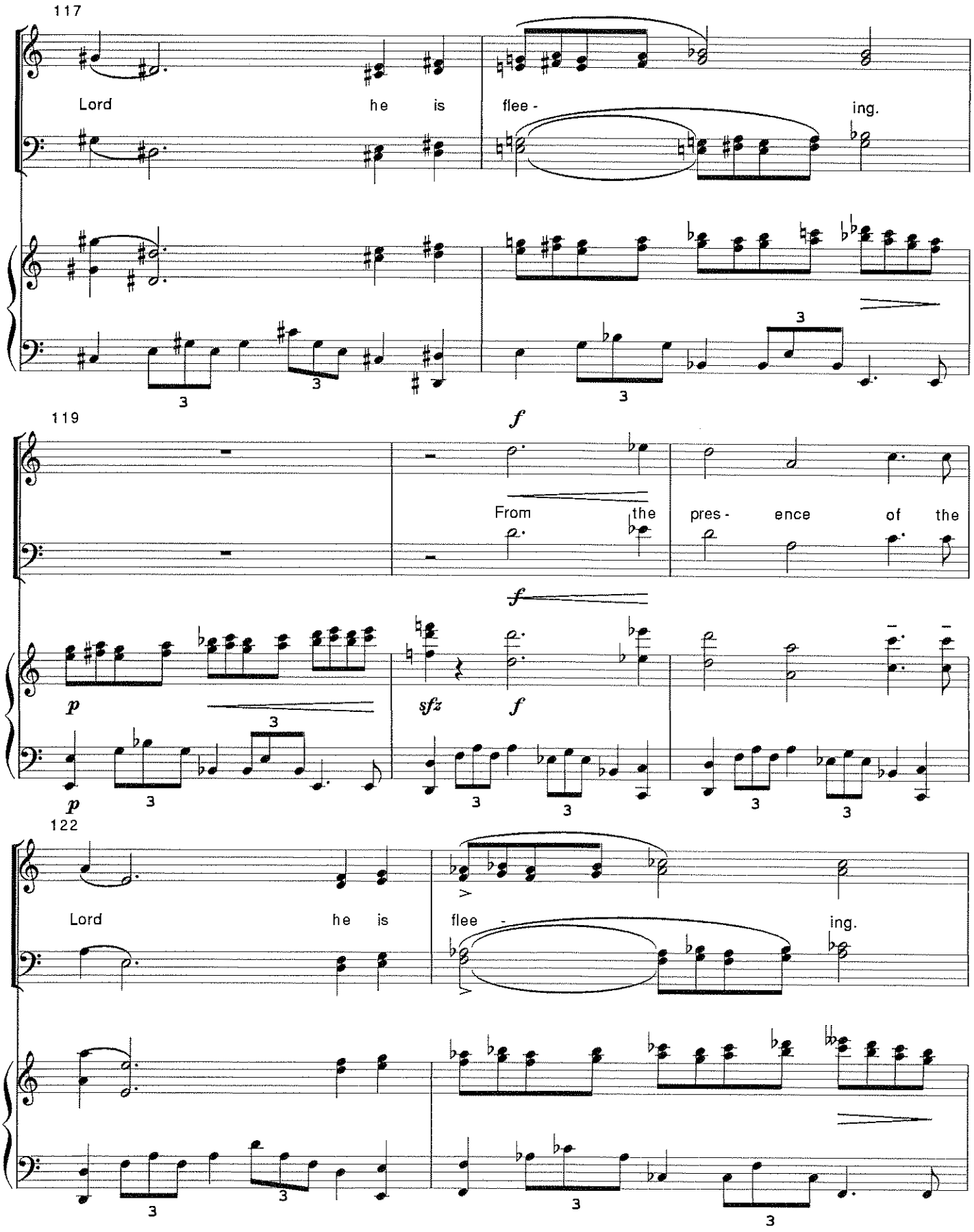

70
pp
He's a big - a - mist.
Har - ry, lad, I guess he's the a-
pp
Jack, Jack, he's robbed a wid - ow. Joe, do you
pp
mp
74
dult - er - er that broke jail at old Go - mor - rah.
mark him, do you mark him? He's a big - a - mist. Jack, Jack, he's
mp
mp
+ Bsn.
77
mp
Joe, do you mark him, do you mark him?
robbed a wid - ow.
mp
Or be - like one of the mis - sing mur -
Fl./Picc./Bell
Trum.. Hn.
mp

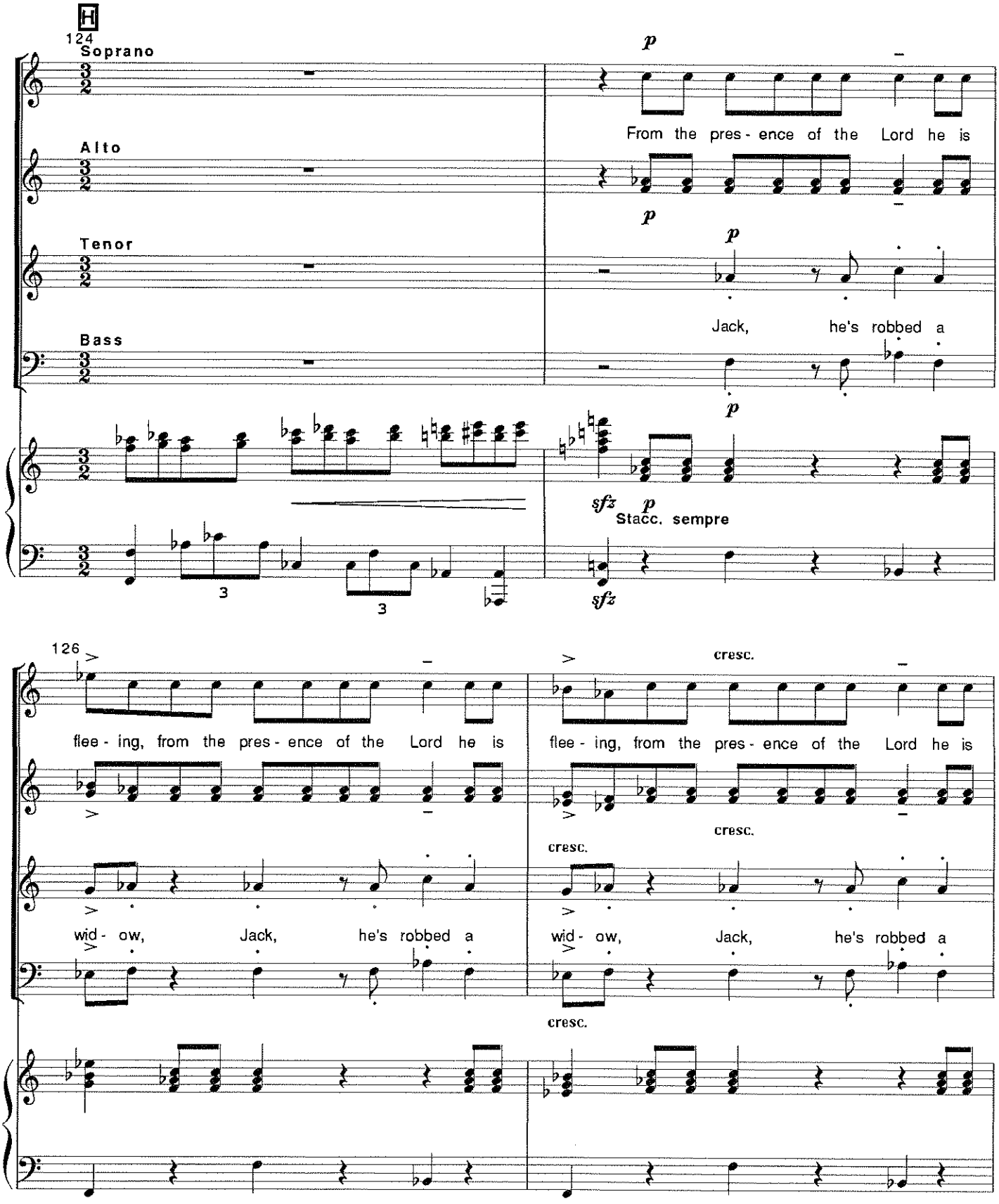

80
He's a big - a - mist.
der - ers from So - dom.
Joe, do you
Or be - like
mark him, do you mark him?
one of the mis - sing mur -
E
83
He's a big - a - mist
der - ers from So - dom.
Jack, Jack, he's
robbed a wid - ow.
Jack, Jack, he's
Strs.
Sempre stacc.
87
robbed a wid - ow.
Joe, do you
mark him, he's a big - a - mist.
Joe, do you

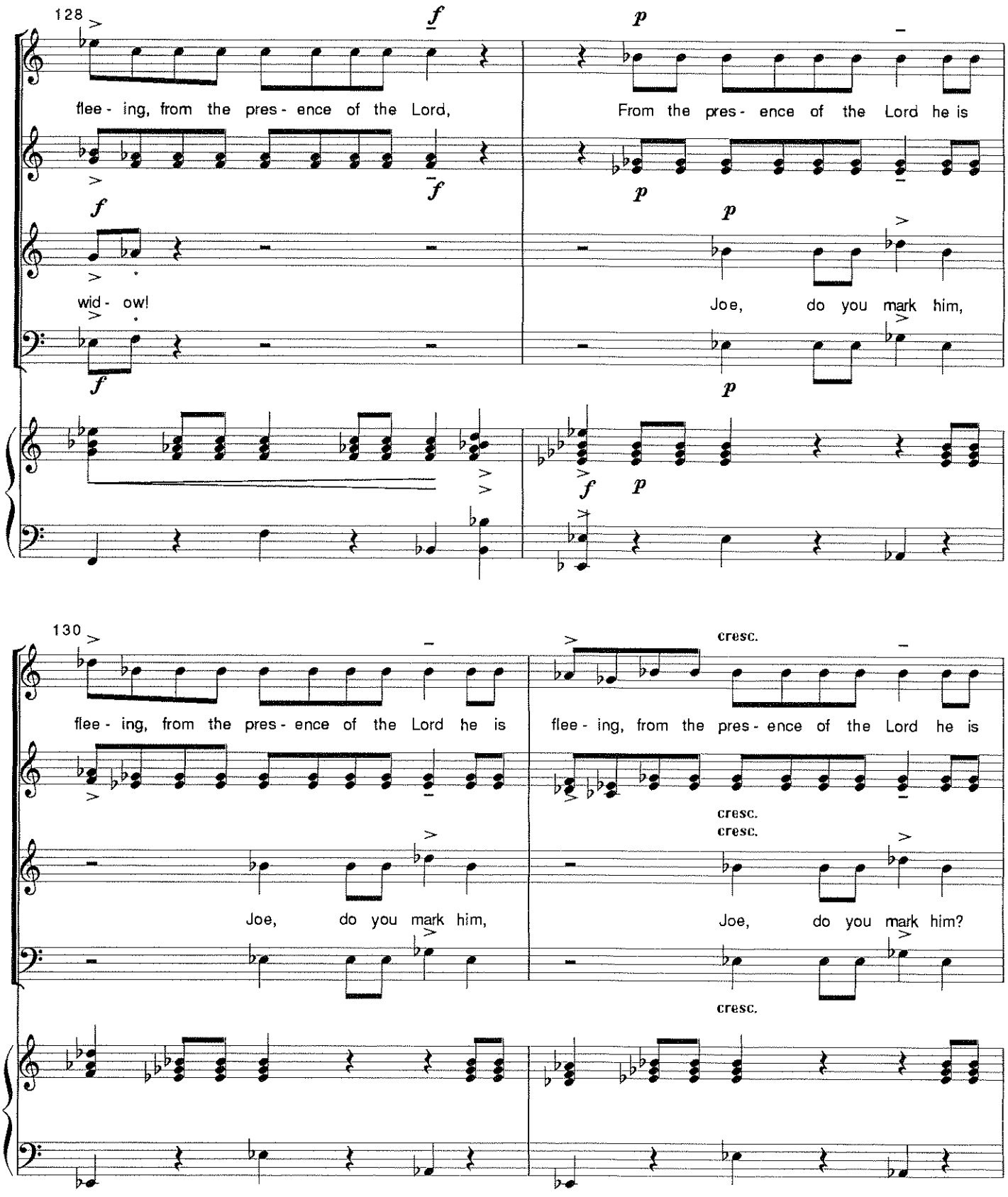

91
mark him, he's a big - a - mist.
Jack, Jack, he's
robbed a wid - ow.
Jack, Jack, he's
+ Winds.
Stacc.
95
robbed a wid - ow he's
robbed a wid - ow.
Joe,
Brass
Slightly increase speed to letter F
98
Joe, do you
mark him?
Joe,
Joe, do you

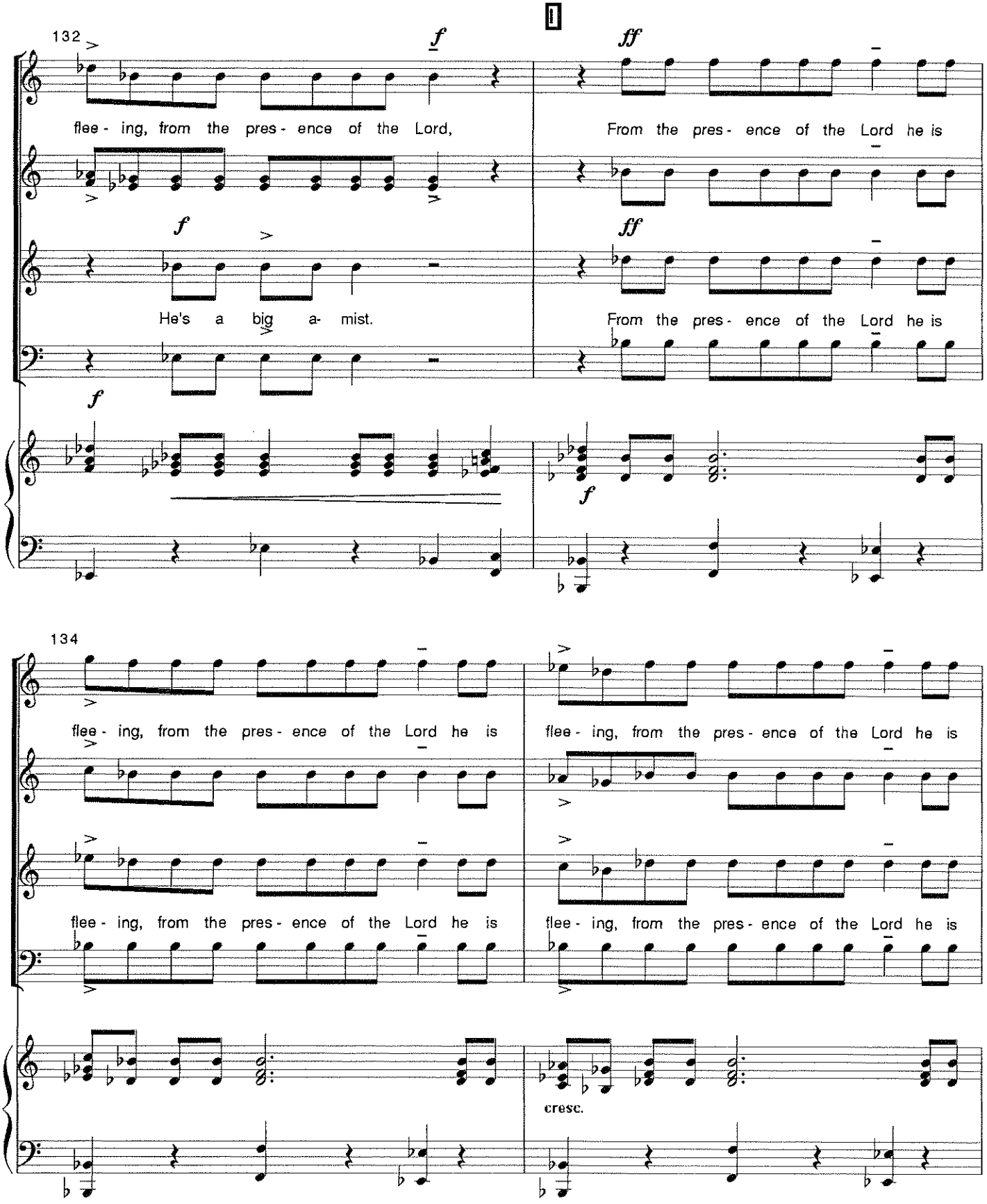

102
mark him, do you mark him, do you mark him?
sfz
sfz
F
105
sfz
sfz
mp
107
f
f
lad, I guess he's the a- dul- ter- er that broke
Brass
f

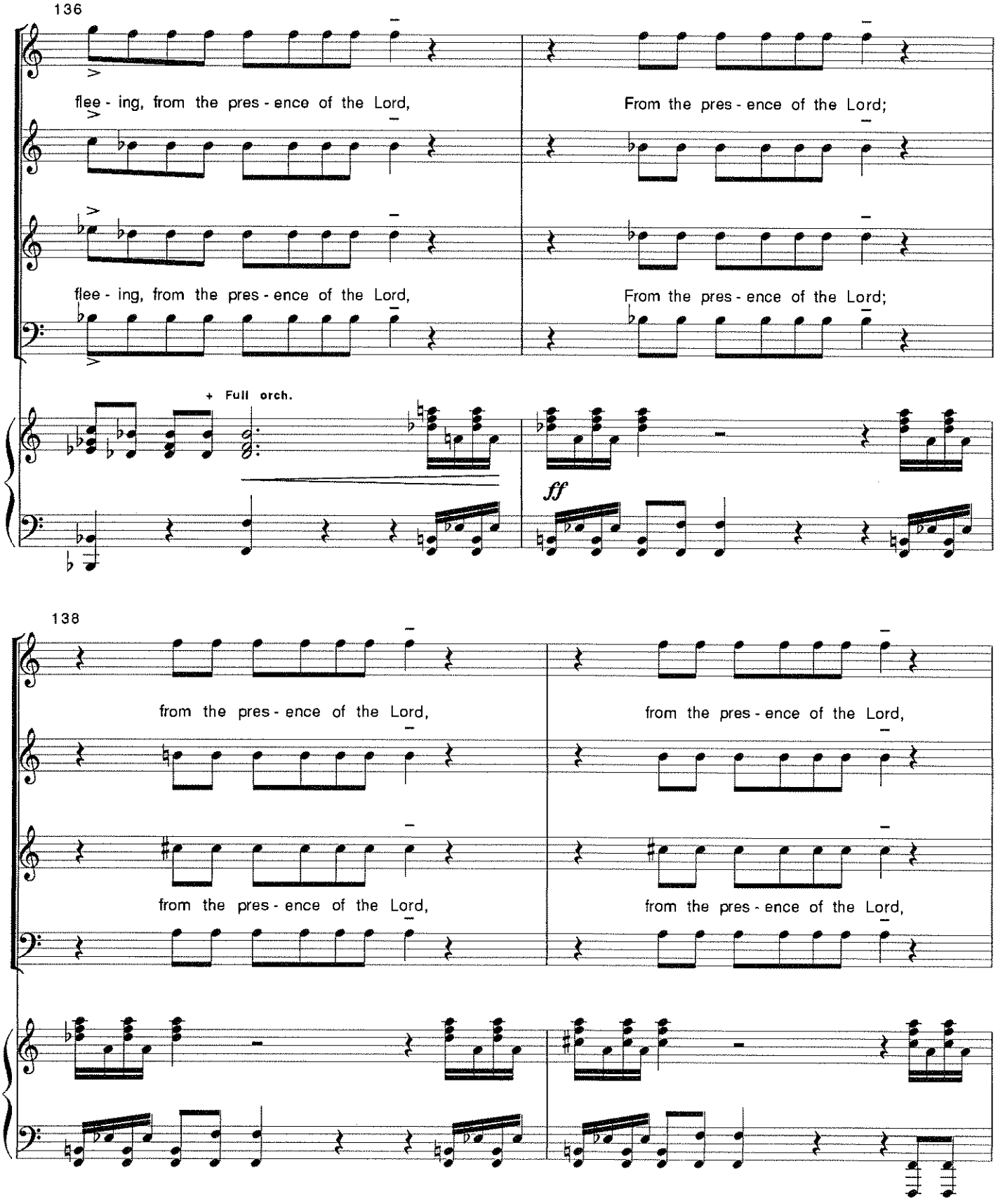

110
jail in old Go -
112
sfz
sfz
114
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
From the pres - ence of the
Full orch.

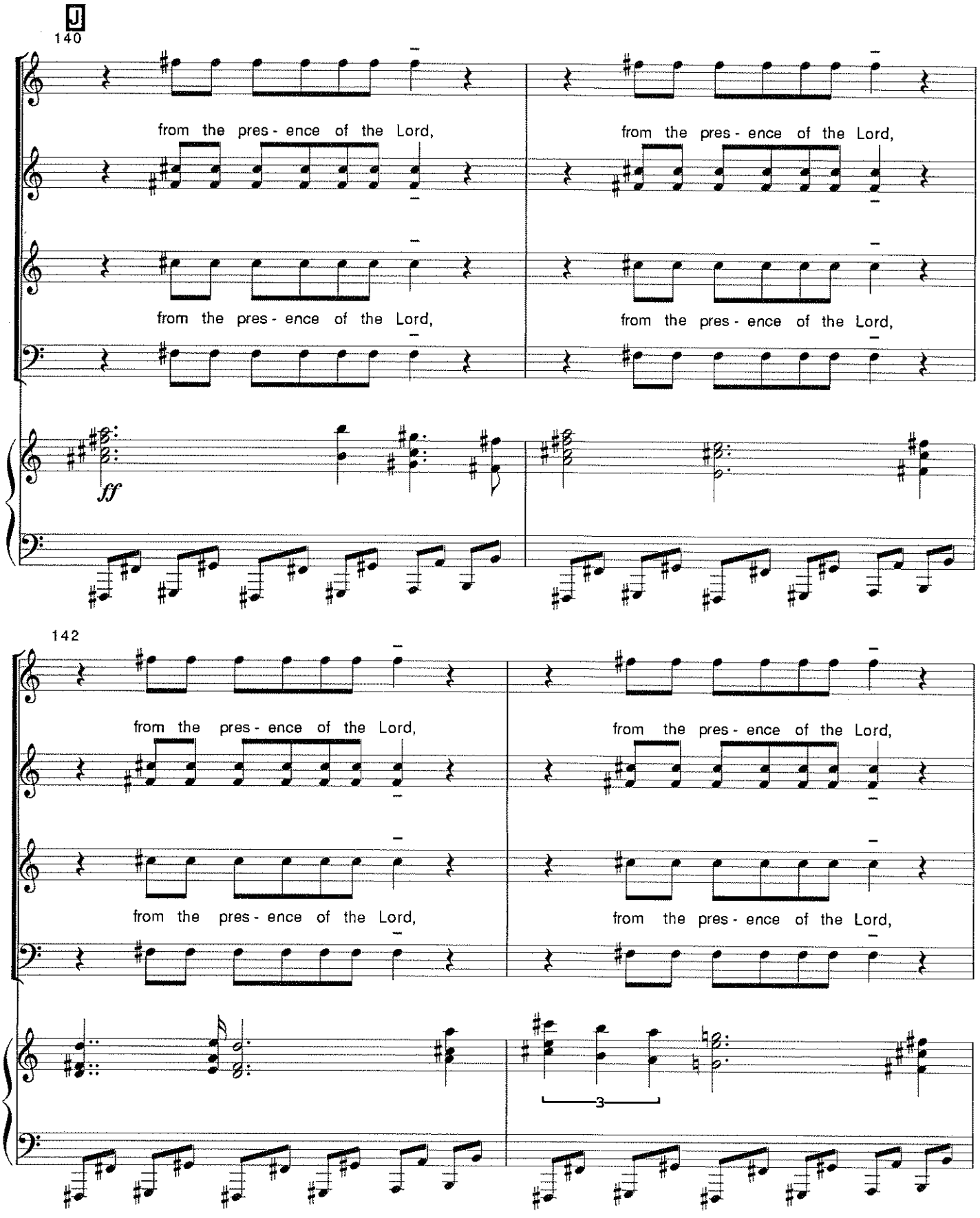

117
Lord he is flee - ing.
119
f
From the pres - ence of the
p
sfz
f
122
Lord he is flee - ing.

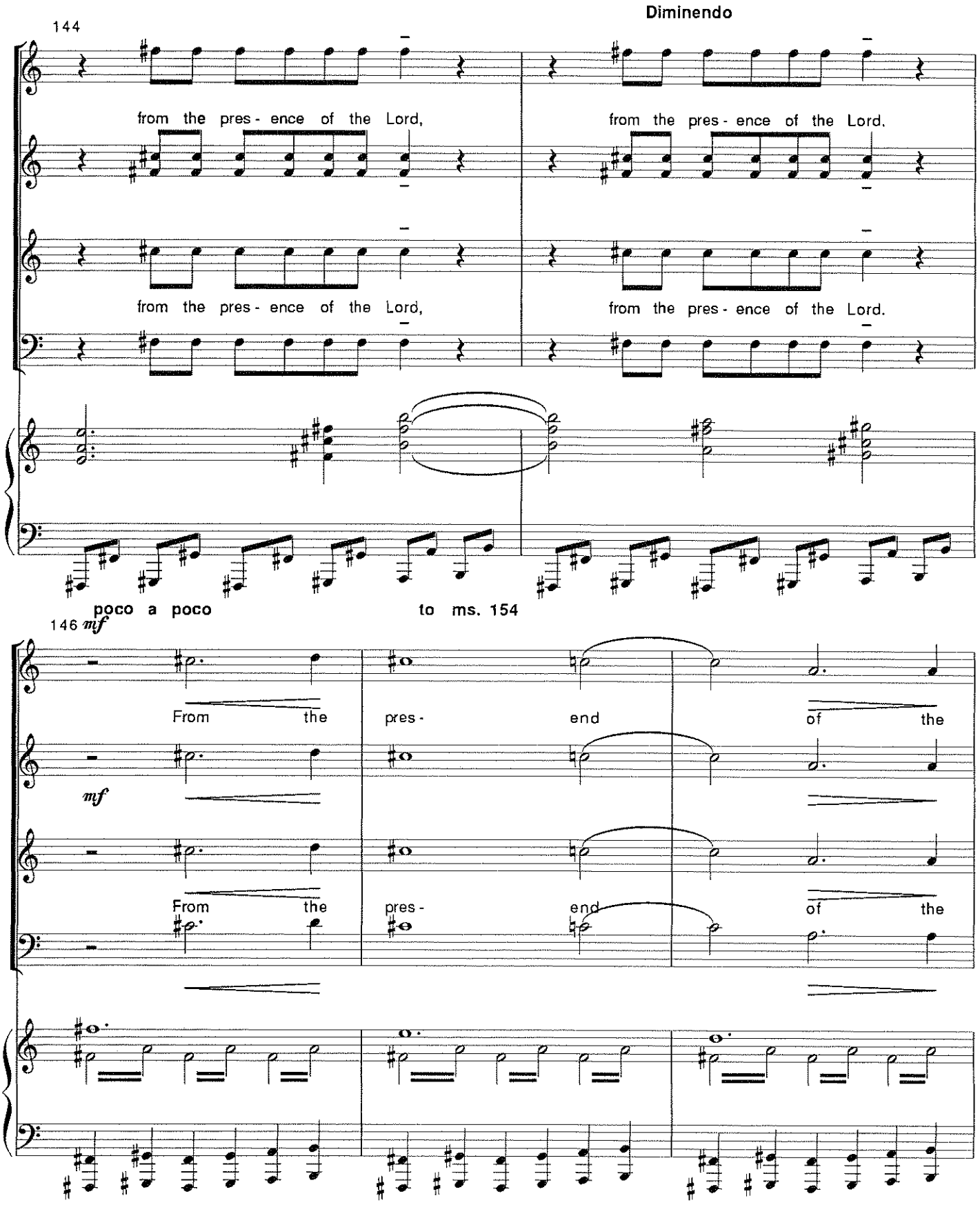

H
124
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
p
From the pres - ence of the Lord he is
Jack, he's robbed a
sfz p
Stacc. sempre
sfz
126
flee - ing, from the pres - ence of the Lord he is
wid - ow, Jack, he's robbed a
cresc.

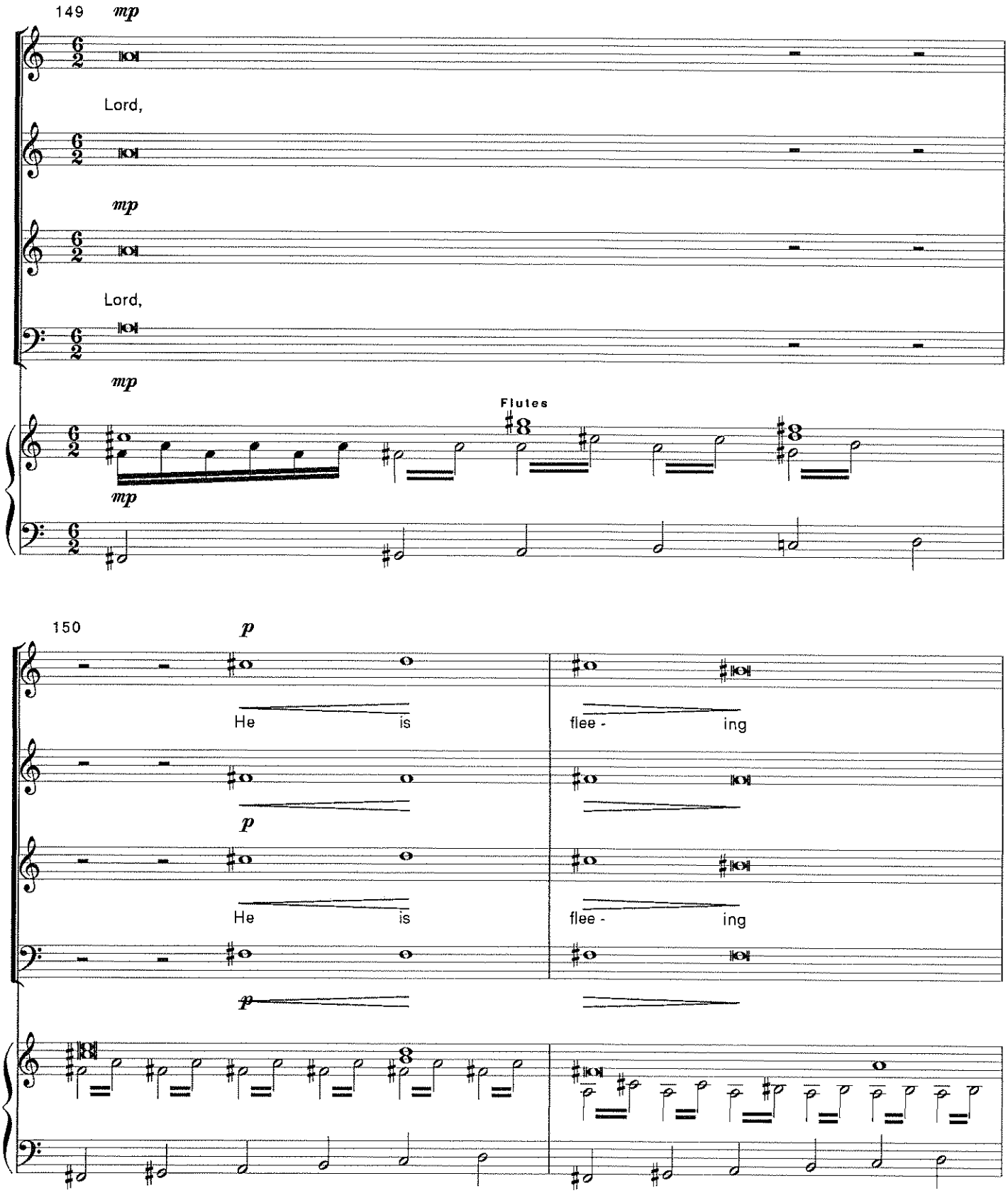

128
flee - ing, from the pres - ence of the Lord,
From the pres - ence of the Lord he is
wid - ow!
Joe, do you mark him,
130
flee - ing, from the pres - ence of the Lord he is
flee - ing, from the pres - ence of the Lord he is
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
Joe, do you mark him,
Joe, do you mark him?
cresc.

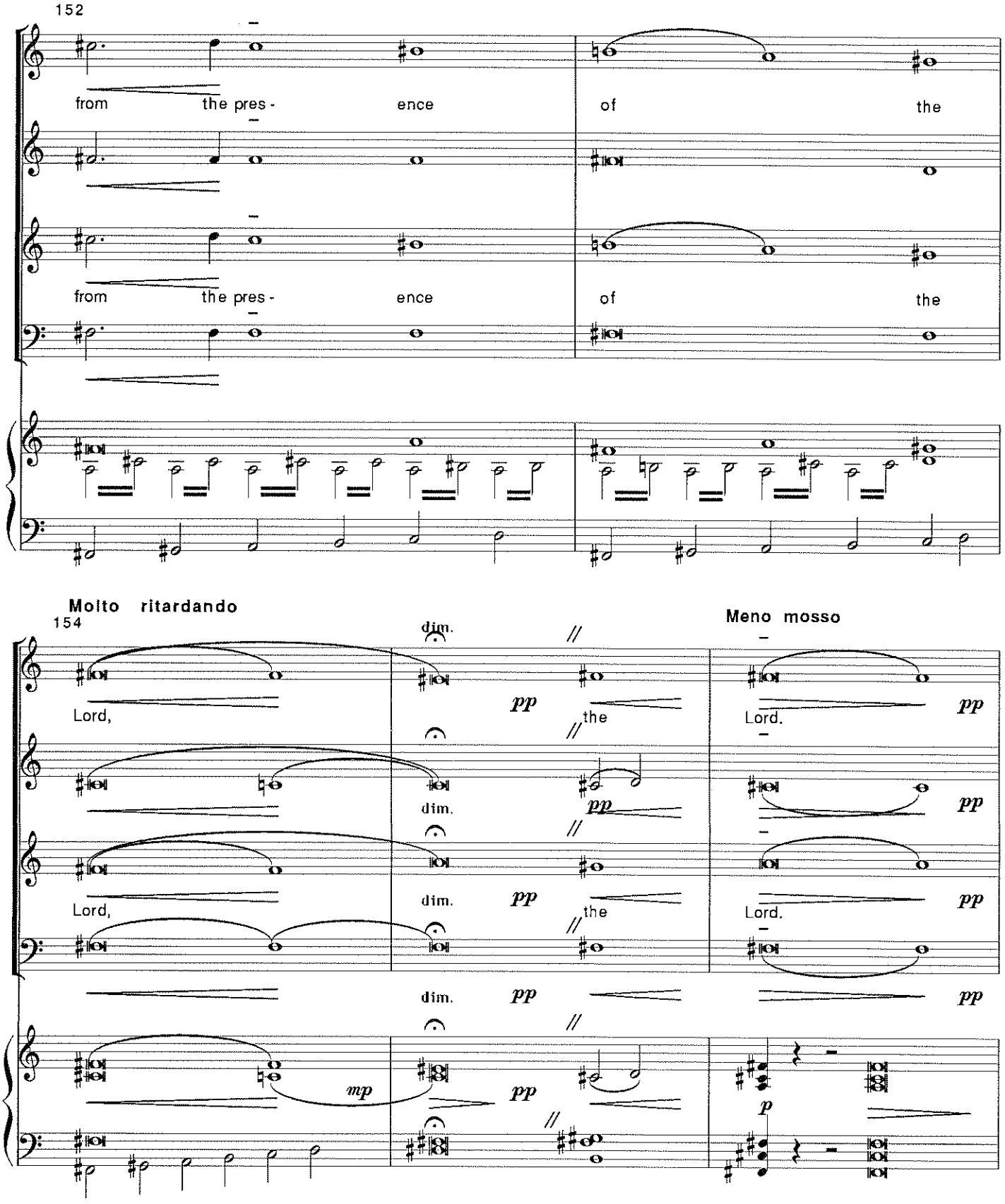

132
f
ff
flee - ing, from the pres - ence of the Lord,
From the pres - ence of the Lord he is
He's a big a- mist.
From the pres - ence of the Lord he is
134
flee - ing, from the pres - ence of the Lord he is
flee - ing, from the pres - ence of the Lord he is
cresc.

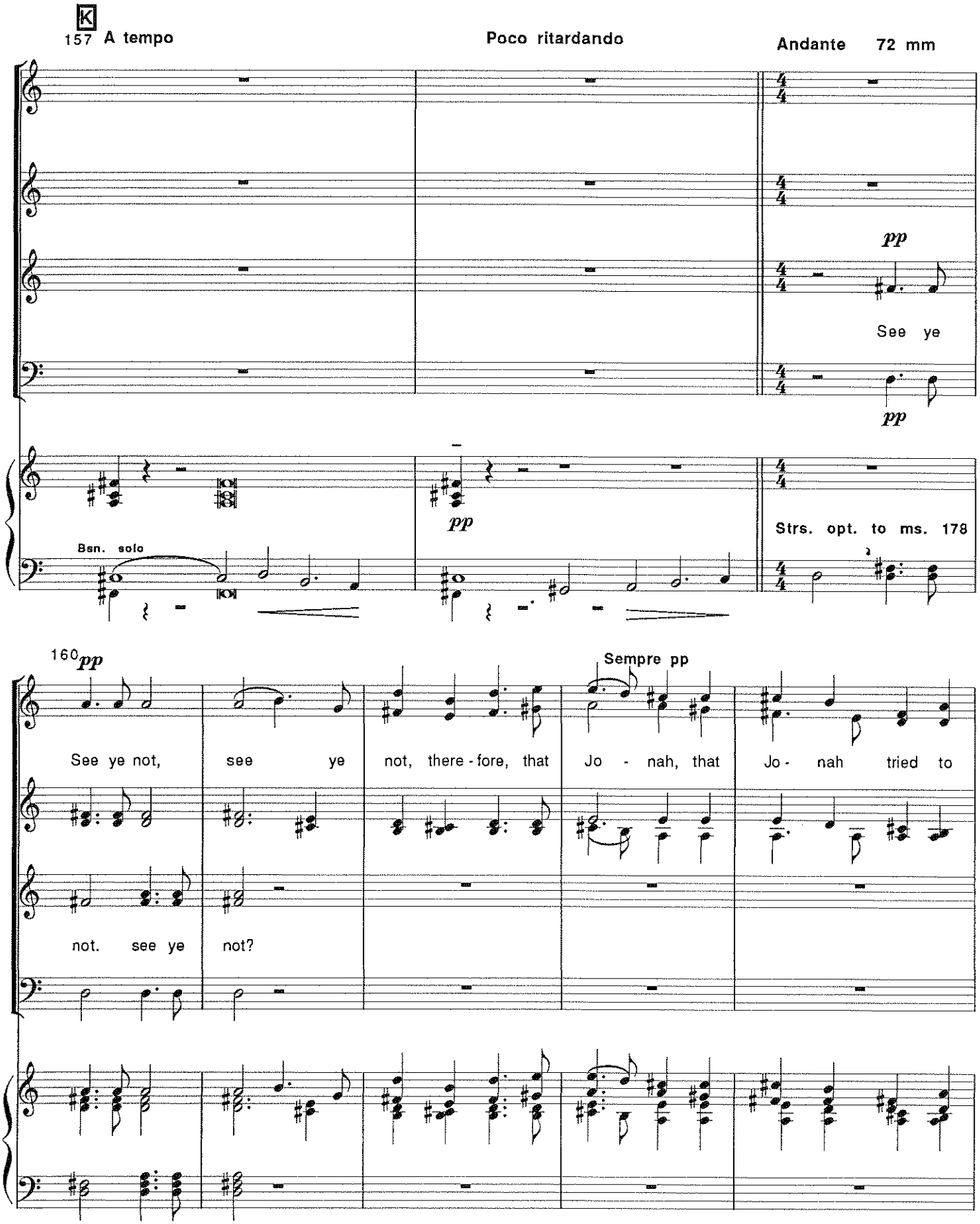

136
flee - ing, from the pres - ence of the Lord,
From the pres - ence of the Lord;
flee - ing, from the pres - ence of the Lord,
From the pres - ence of the Lord;
+ Full orch.
ff
138
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord,

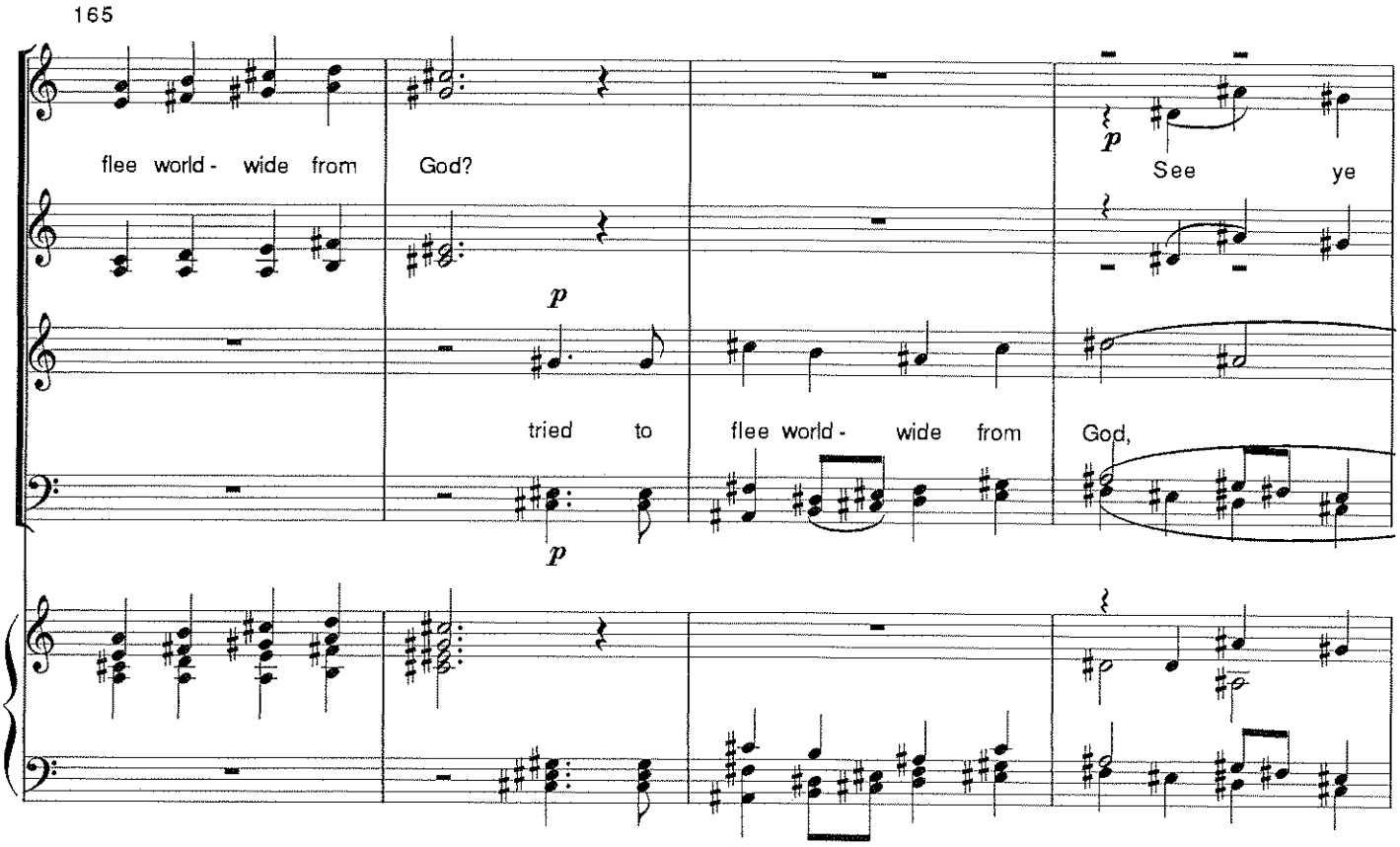

140
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
ff
142
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
3

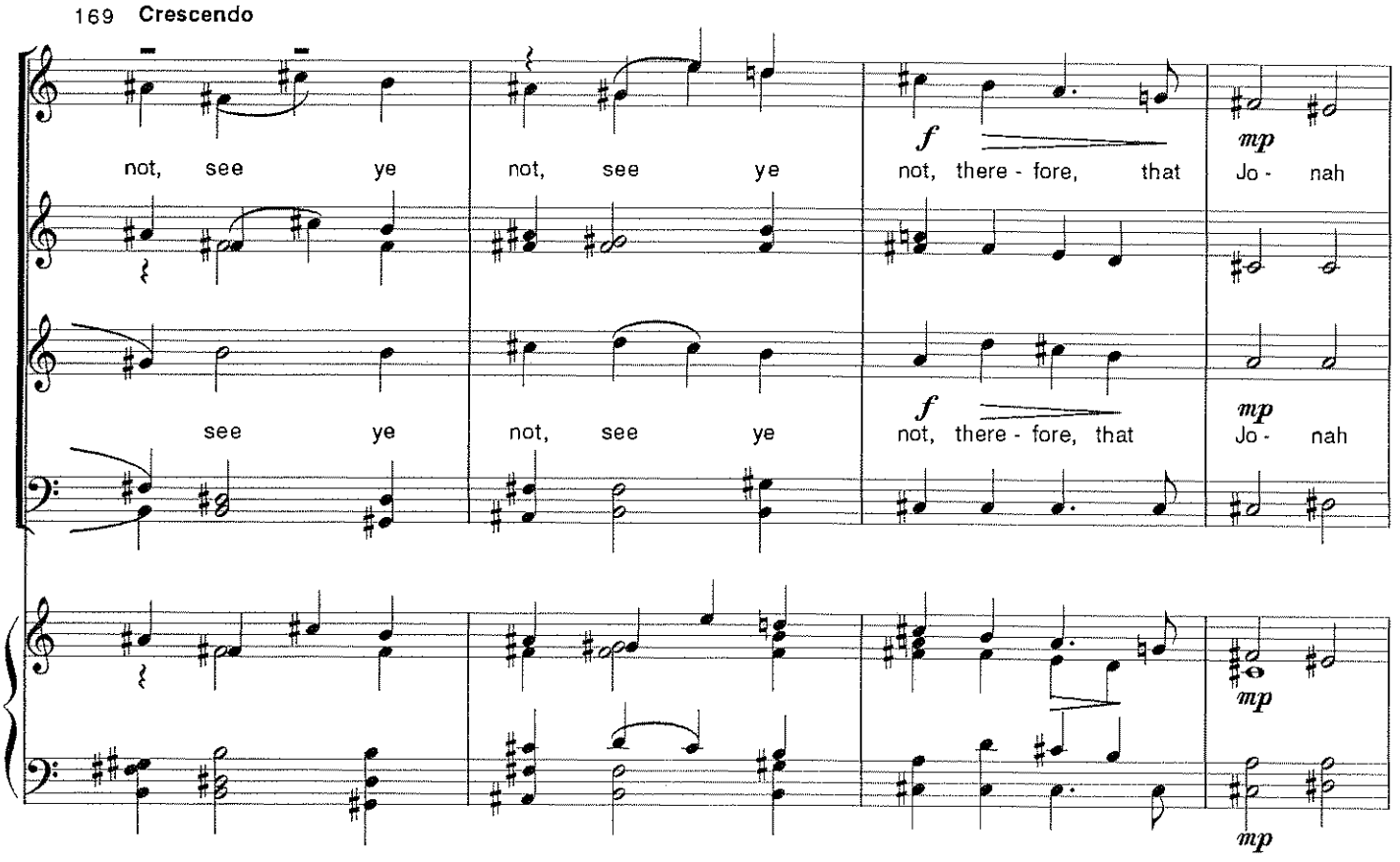

144
Diminendo
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord.
from the pres - ence of the Lord,
from the pres - ence of the Lord.
poco a poco
to ms. 154
146 mf
From the
pres -
end
of the
mf
From the
pres -
end
of the

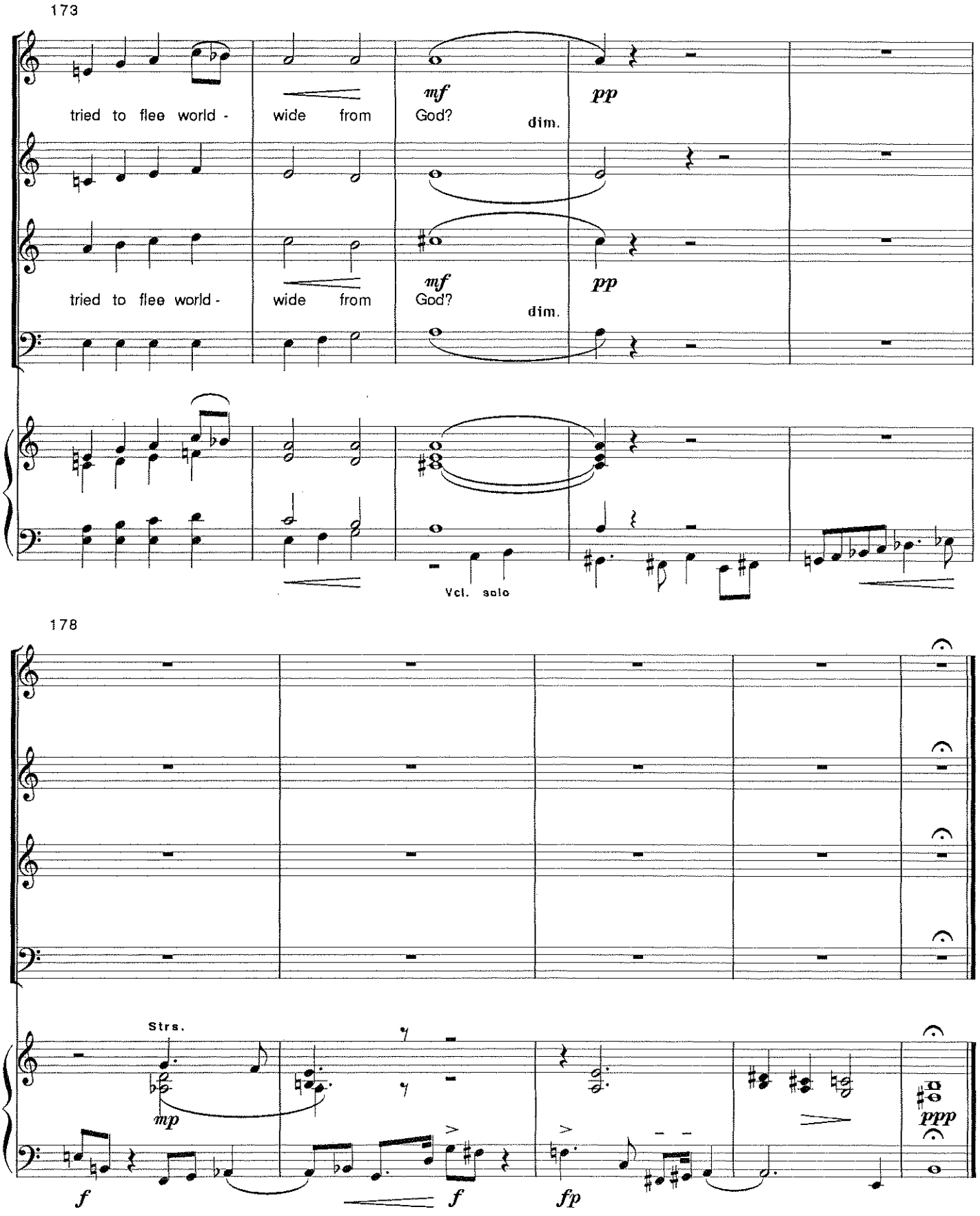

149
mp
Lord,
mp
Lord,
mp
Flutes
mp
150
p
He is
flee - ing
p
He is
flee - ing
p

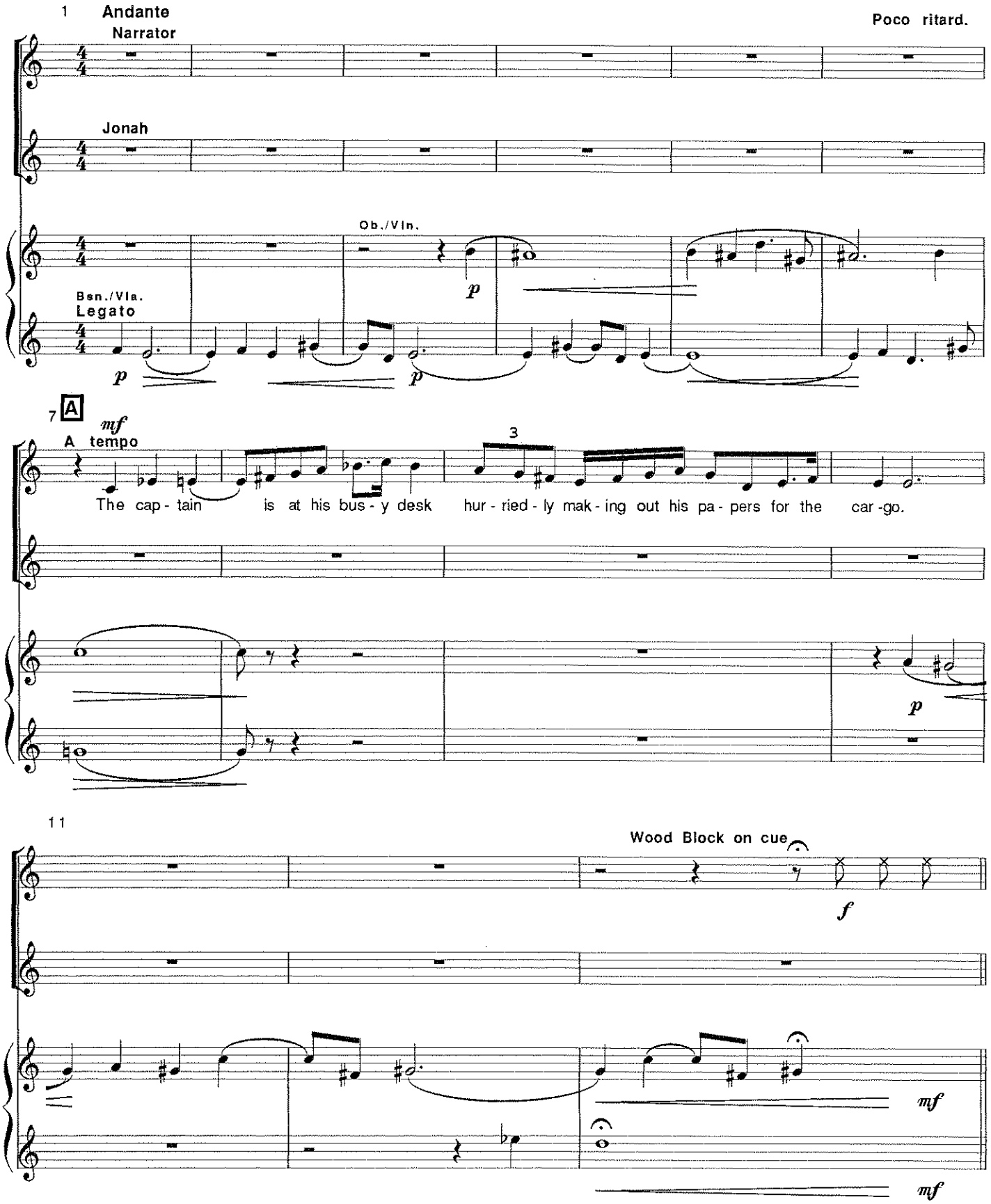

152
from the pres - ence of the
from the pres - ence of the
Molto ritardando
154
Lord,
dim.
pp
the
Meno mosso
Lord.
Lord,
dim.
pp
the
Lord.
dim.
pp
mp
p

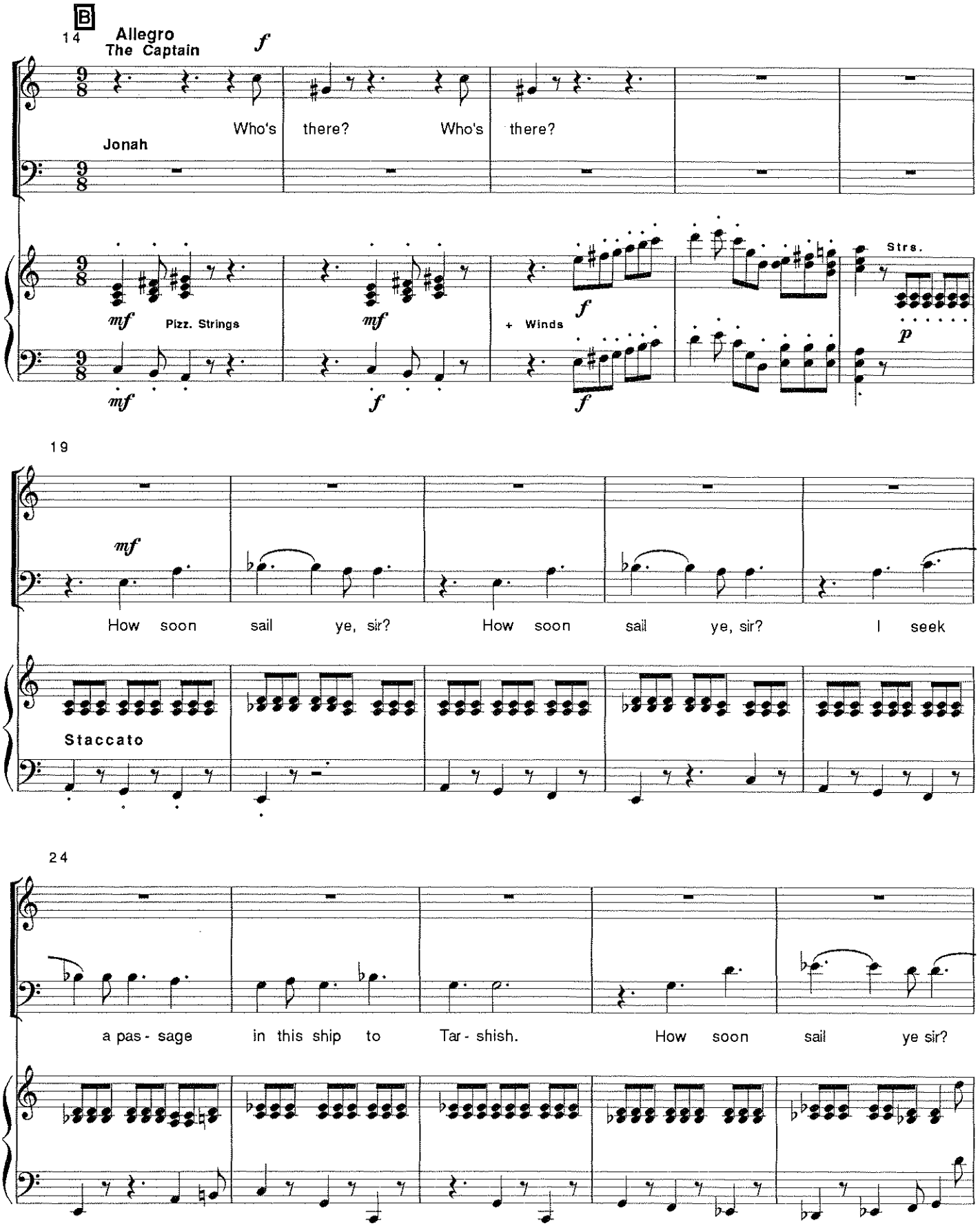

K
157 A tempo
Poco ritardando
Andante 72 mm
pp
See ye
pp
Bsn. solo
pp
Strs. opt. to ms. 178
160 pp
Sempre pp
See ye not, see ye not, there - fore, that Jo - nah, that Jo - nah tried to
not. see ye not?

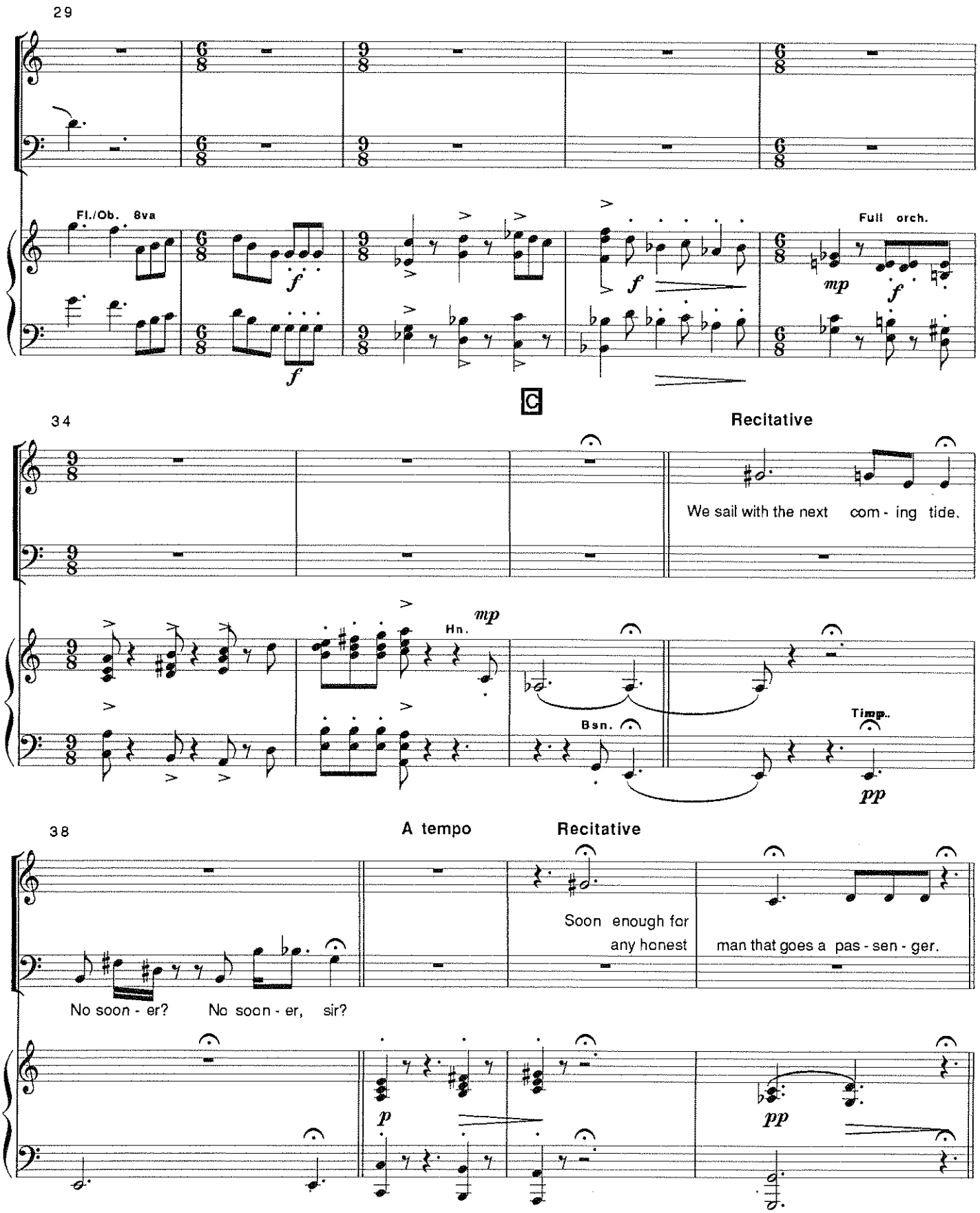

165
flee world - wide from God?
See ye
tried to flee world - wide from God,

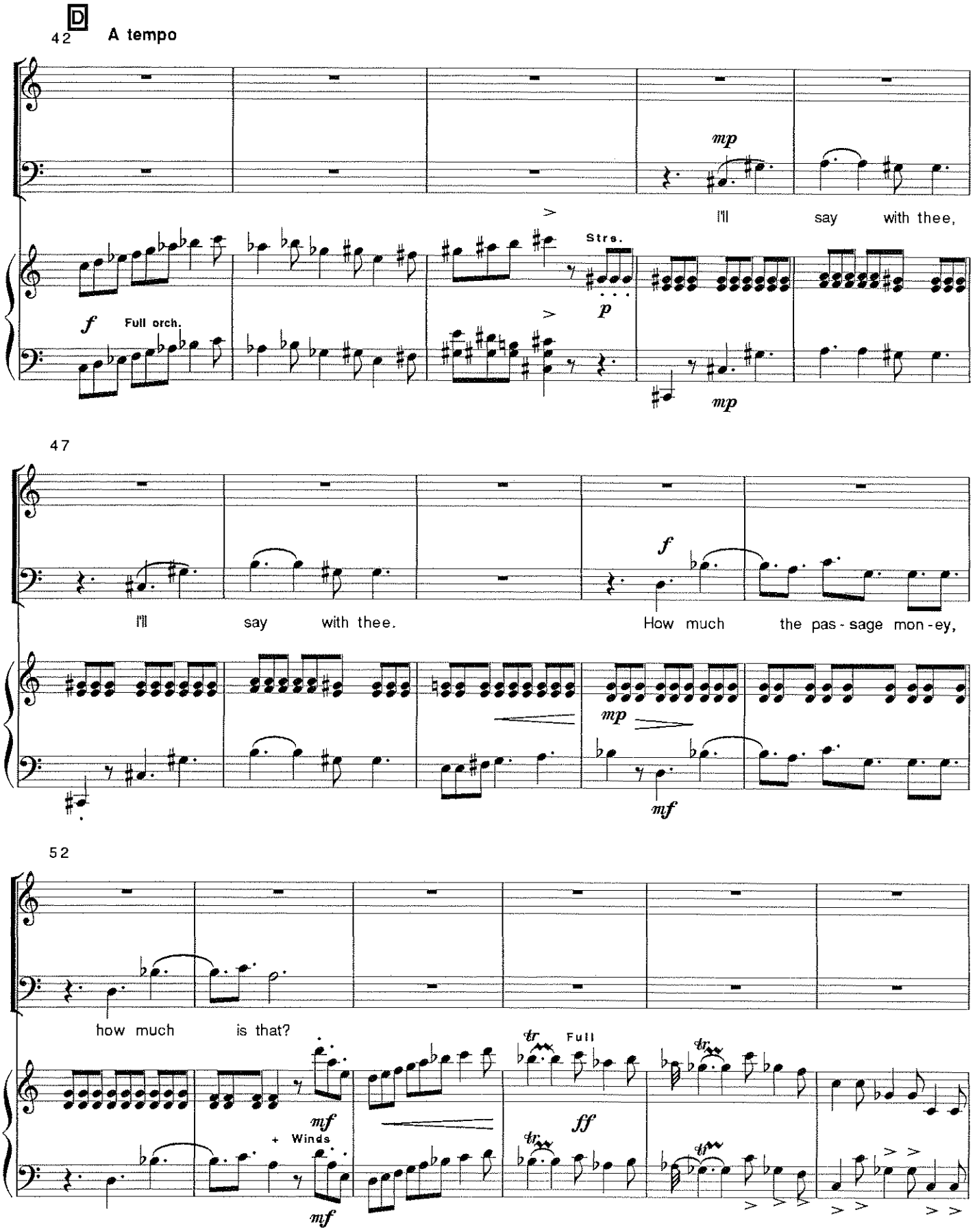

169 Crescendo
not, see ye not, see ye not, there - fore, that Jo - nah
see ye not, see ye not, there - fore, that Jo - nah

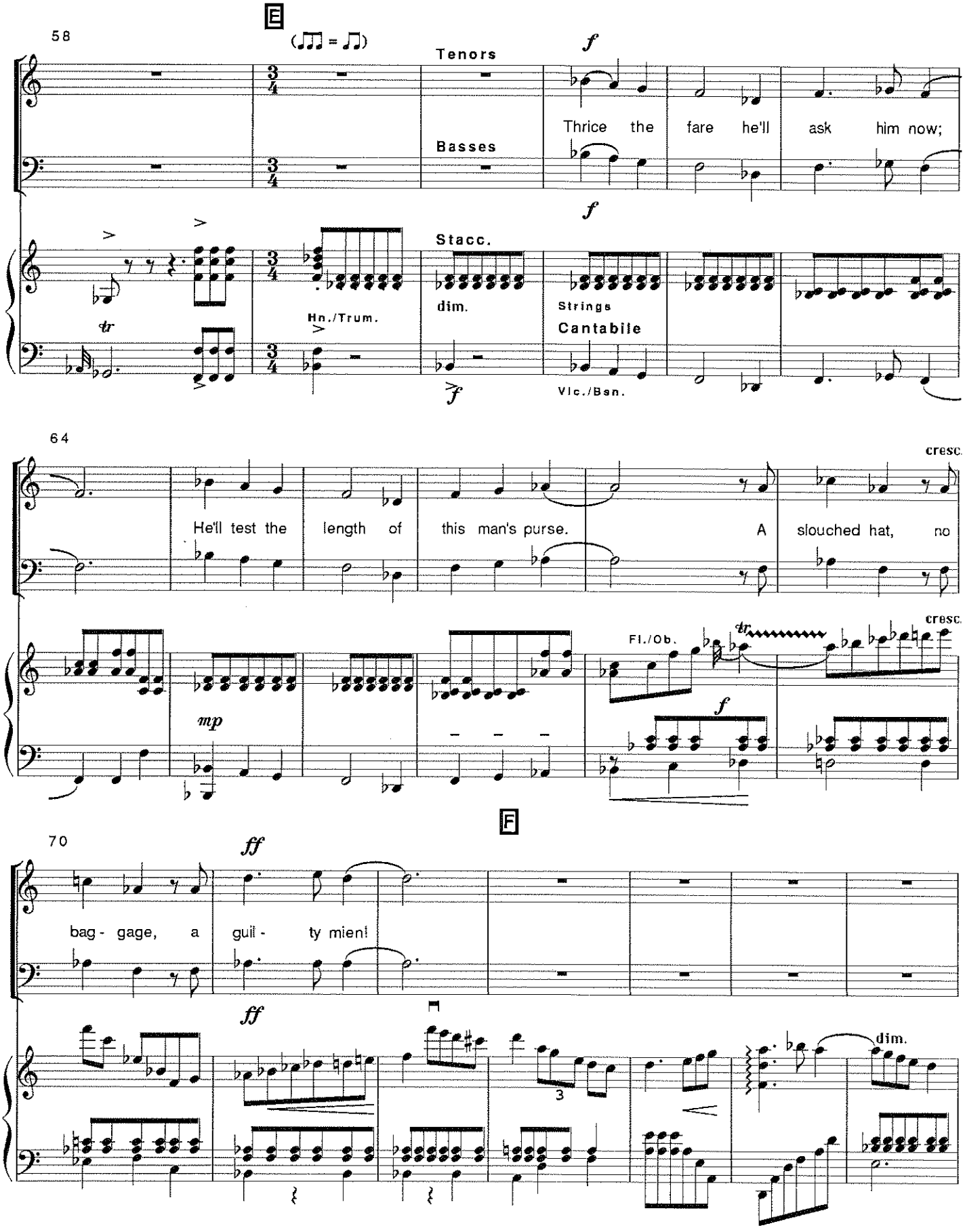

173
tried to flee world -
wide from
mf
God?
dim.
pp
tried to flee world -
wide from
mf
God?
dim.
pp
Vcl. solo
178
Strs.
mp
f
f
fp
ppp

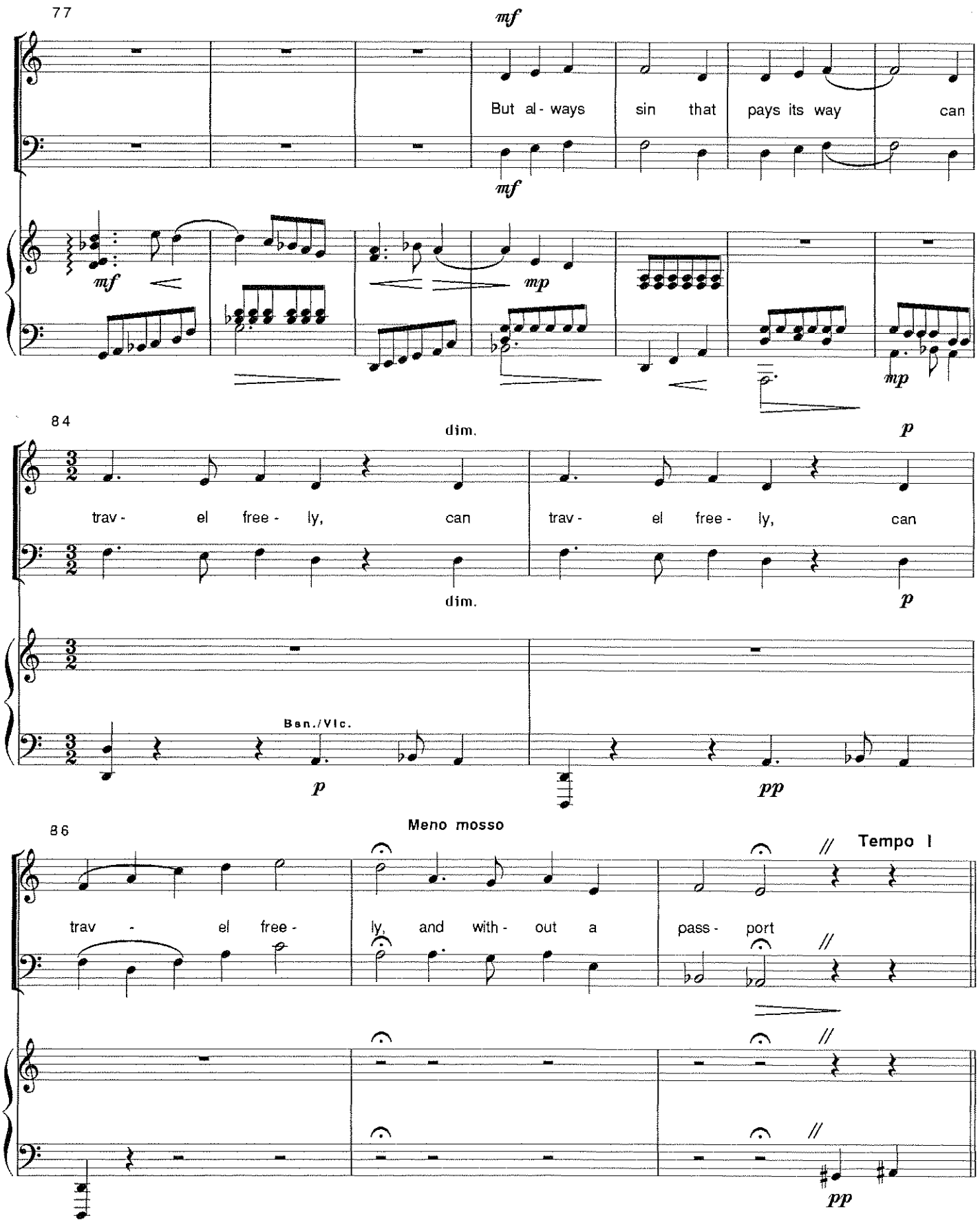

1
Andante
Narrator
Poco ritard.
Jonah
Ob./Vln.
Bsn./Vla.
Legato
p
7
A
mf
A tempo
3
The cap - tain is at his bus - y desk hur - ried - ly mak - ing out his pa - pers for the car - go.
11
Wood Block on cue
f
mf
mf

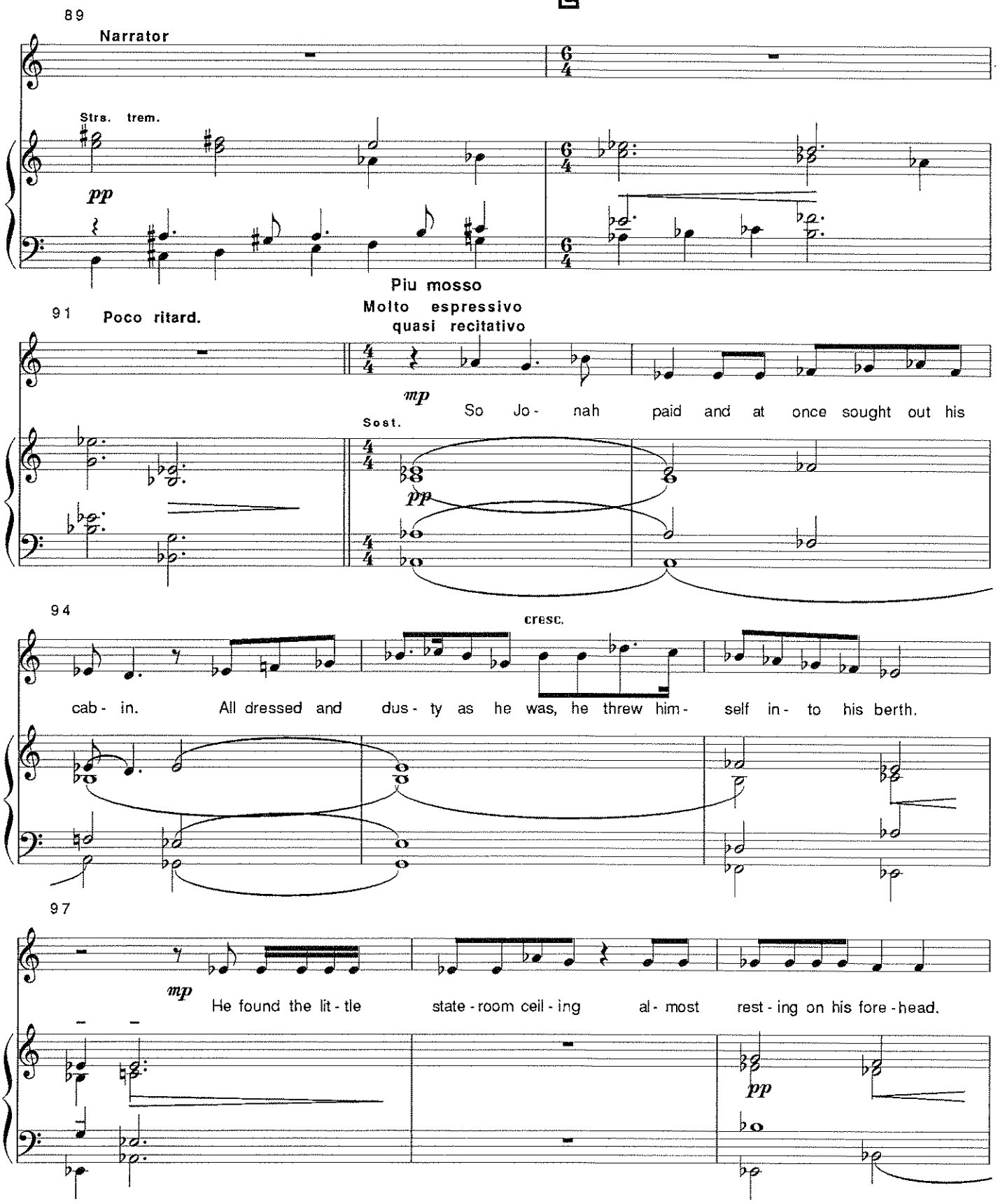

B
14
Allegro
The Captain
f
Who's there? Who's there?
Jonah
mf
Pizz. Strings
mf
f
+ Winds
f
Strs.
p
19
mf
How soon sail ye, sir? How soon sail ye, sir? I seek
Staccato
24
a pas - sage in this ship to Tar - shish. How soon sail ye sir?

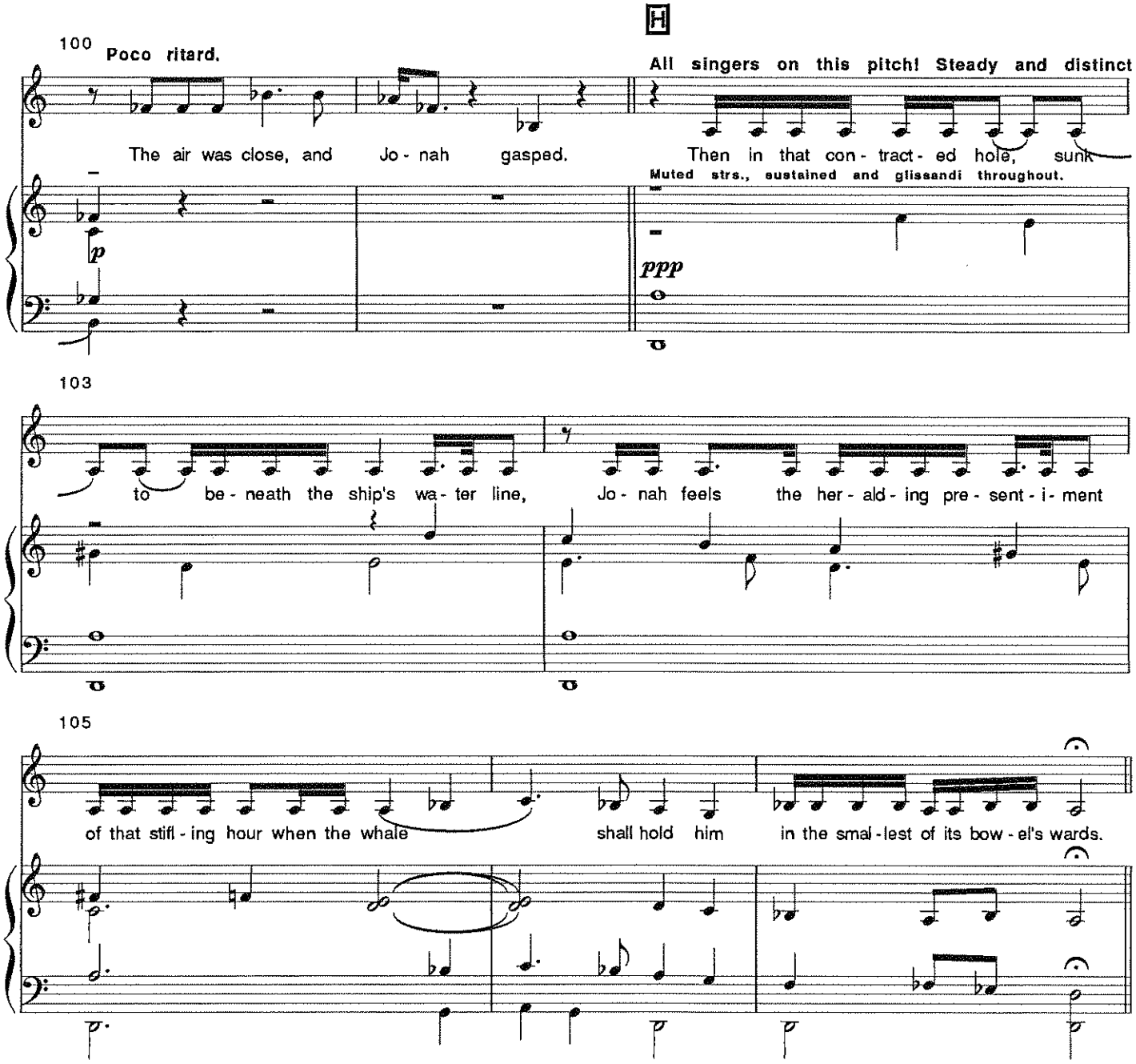

29
Fl./Ob. 8va
f
f
f
mp
Full orch.
f
C
34
Recitative
We sail with the next com - ing tide.
mp
Hn.
Bsn.
Timp.
pp
38
A tempo
Recitative
Soon enough for any honest man that goes a pas - sen - ger.
No soon - er? No soon - er, sir?
p
pp

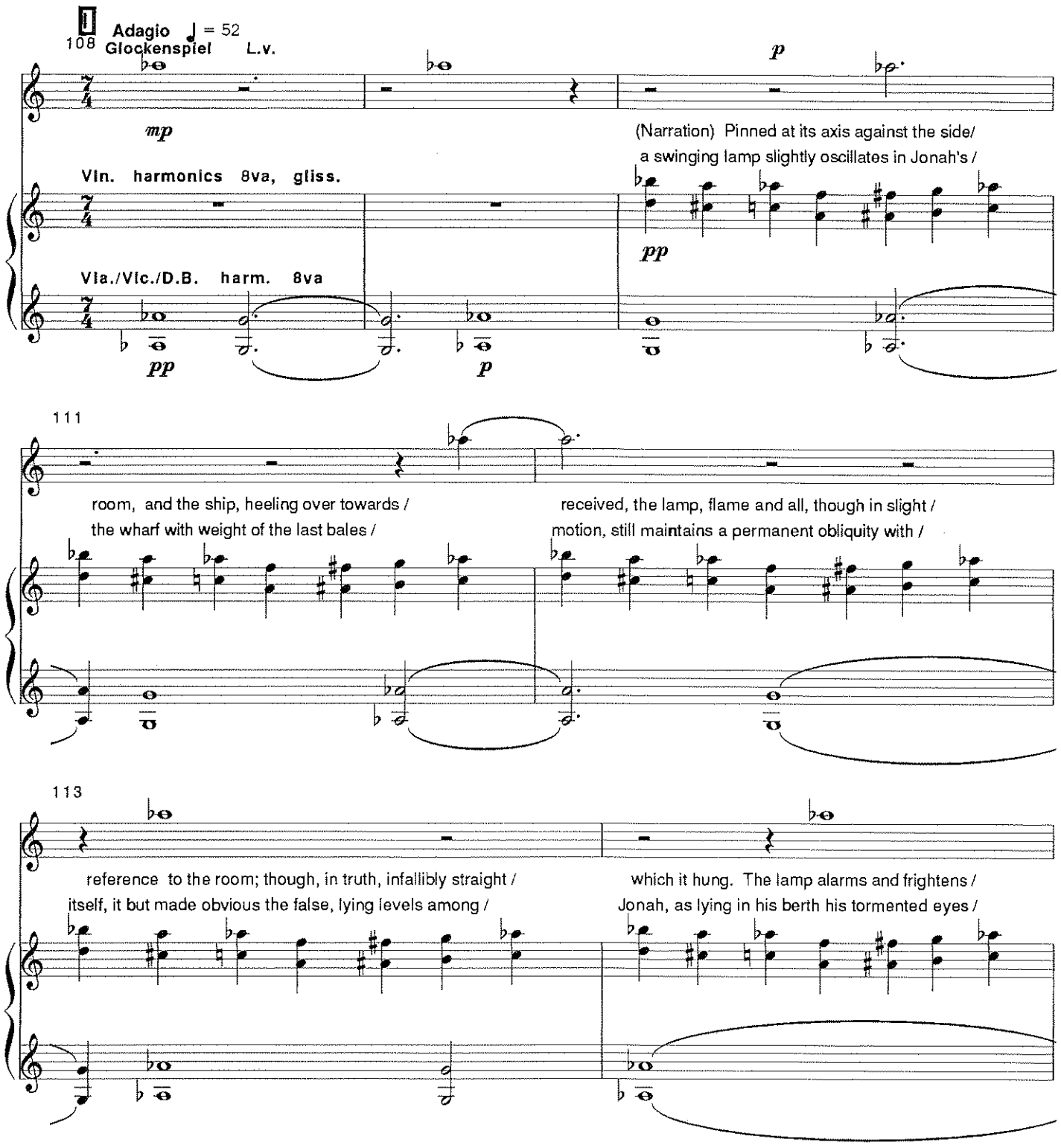

D
42
A tempo
mp
I'll say with thee,
Strs.
p
f
Full orch.
mp
47
f
I'll say with thee. How much the pas - sage mon - ey,
mp
mf
52
how much is that?
Full
tr
mf
+ Winds
ff
mf

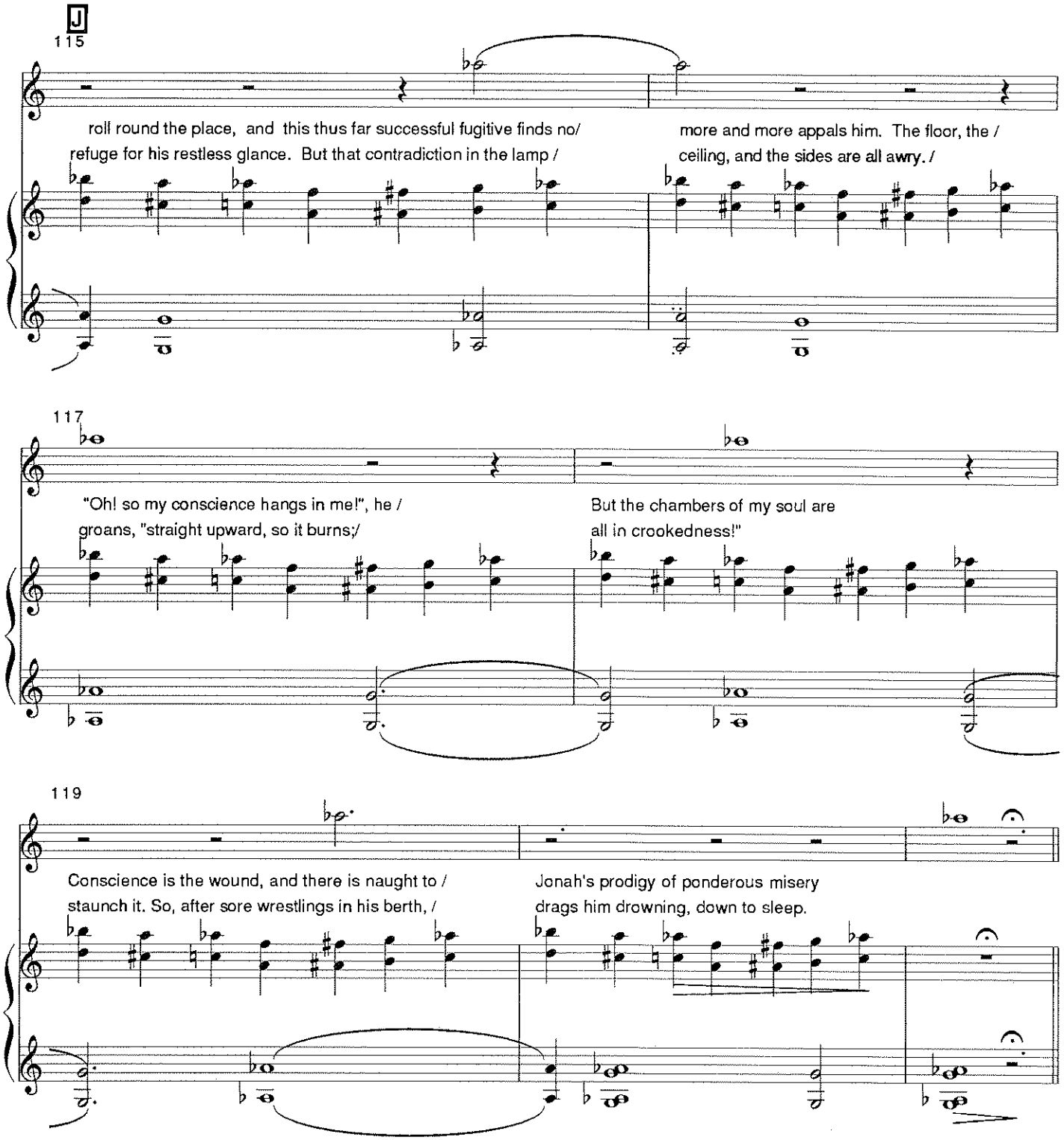

E
58
(♫♫ = ♫)
Tenors
Basses
f
Thrice the fare he'll ask him now;
Stacc.
dim.
Hn./Trum.
Strings
Cantabile
Vlc./Bsn.
64
cresc.
He'll test the length of this man's purse. A slouched hat, no
mp
Fl./Ob.
F
70
ff
bag - gage, a guil - ty mien!
dim.

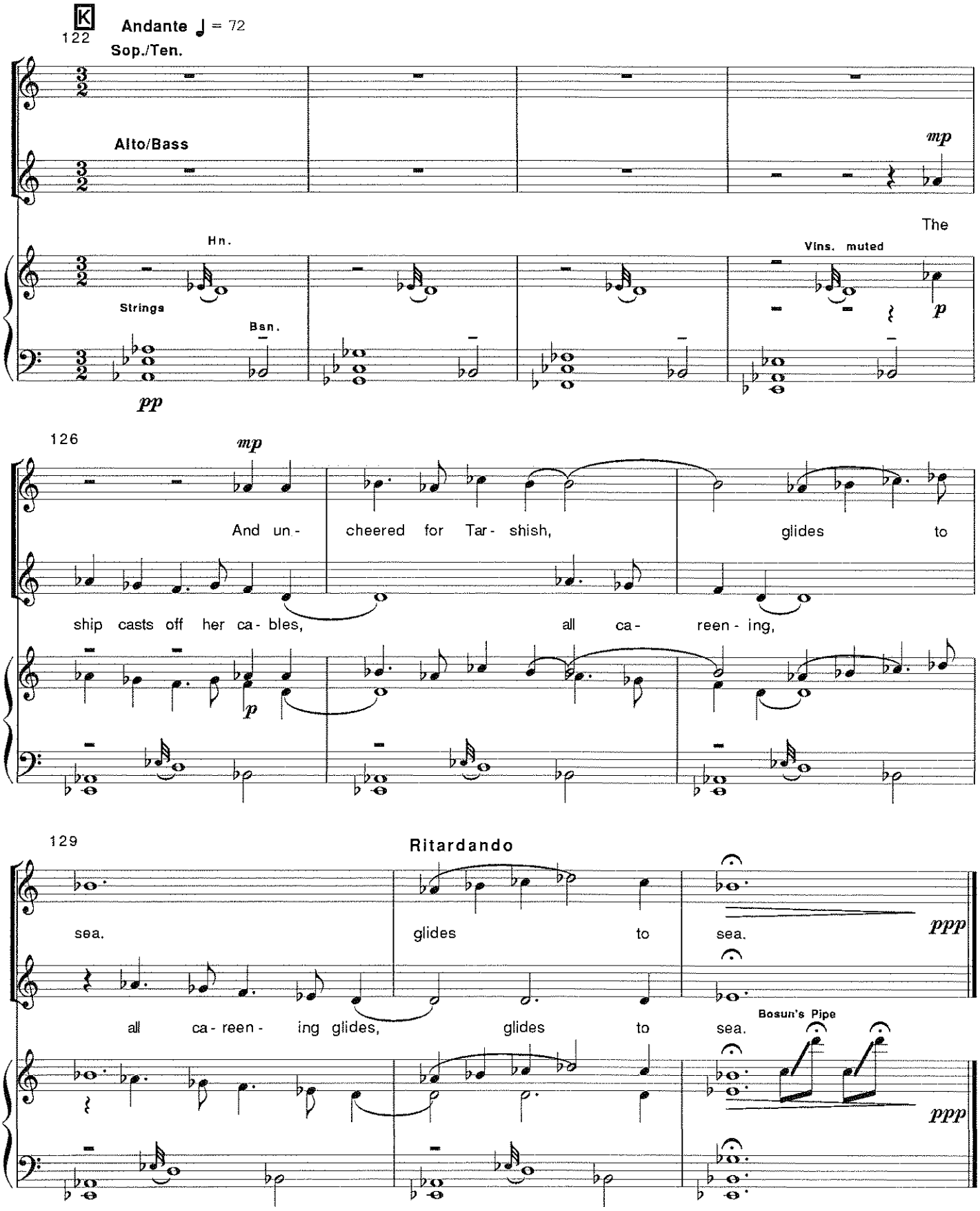

77
mf
But al - ways sin that pays its way can
mf
mf
mp
mp
84
dim.
p
trav - el free - ly, can trav - el free - ly, can
dim.
p
Bsn./Vlc.
p
pp
86
Meno mosso
Tempo I
trav - el free - ly, and with - out a pass - port
pp

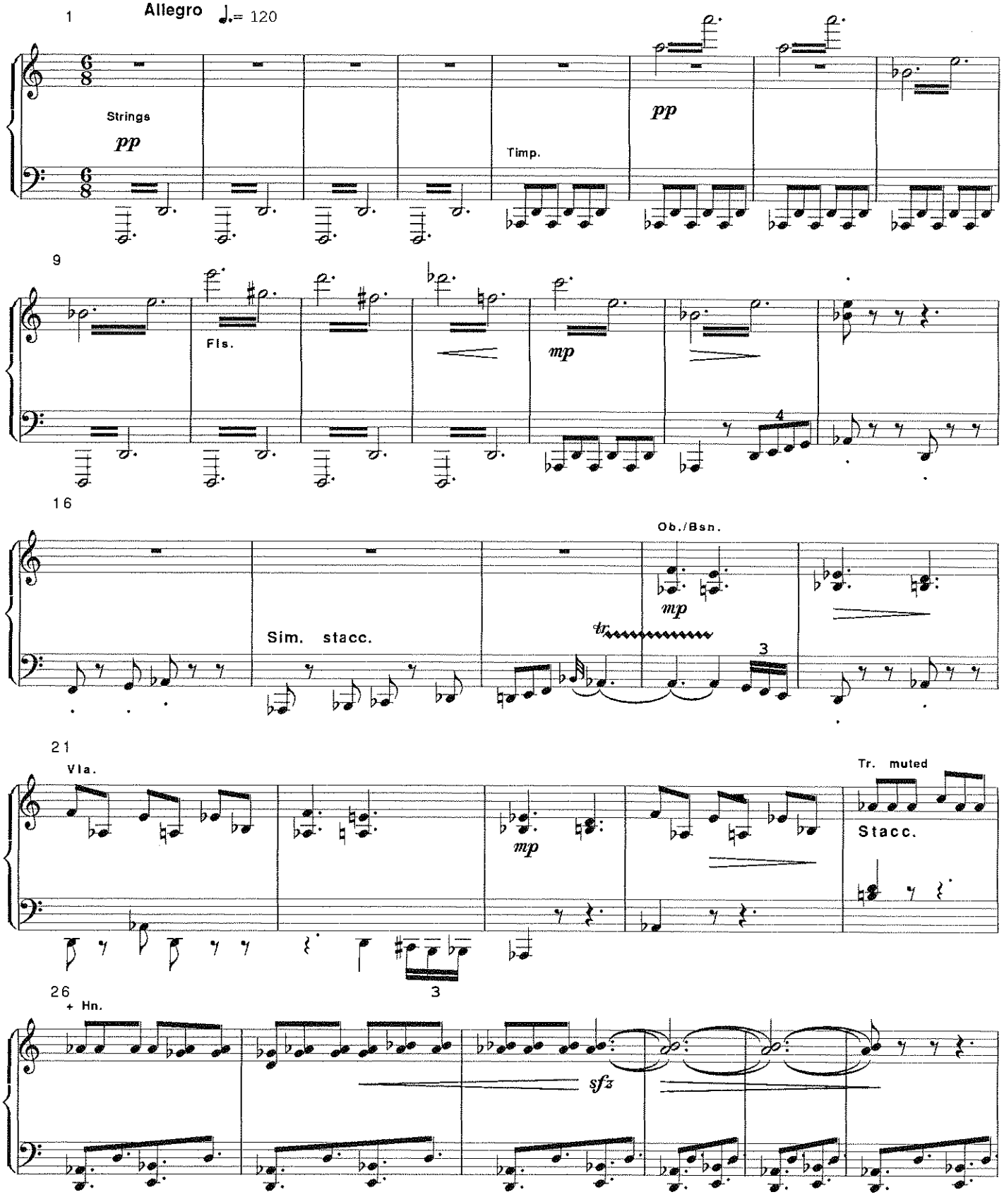

C
89
Narrator
Strs. trem.
pp
Piu mosso
Molto espressivo
quasi recitativo
91
Poco ritard.
mp
So Jo - nah paid and at once sought out his
Sost.
pp
94
cresc.
cab - in. All dressed and dus - ty as he was, he threw him - self in - to his berth.
97
mp
He found the lit - tle state - room ceil - ing al - most rest - ing on his fore - head.
pp


H
100
Poco ritard.
All singers on this pitch! Steady and distinct
The air was close, and Jo - nah gasped.
Then in that con - tract - ed hole, sunk
Muted strs., sustained and glissandi throughout.
p
ppp
103
to be - neath the ship's wa - ter line,
Jo - nah feels the her - ald - ing pre - sent - i - ment
105
of that stifl - ing hour when the whale
shall hold him
in the smal - lest of its bow - el's wards.

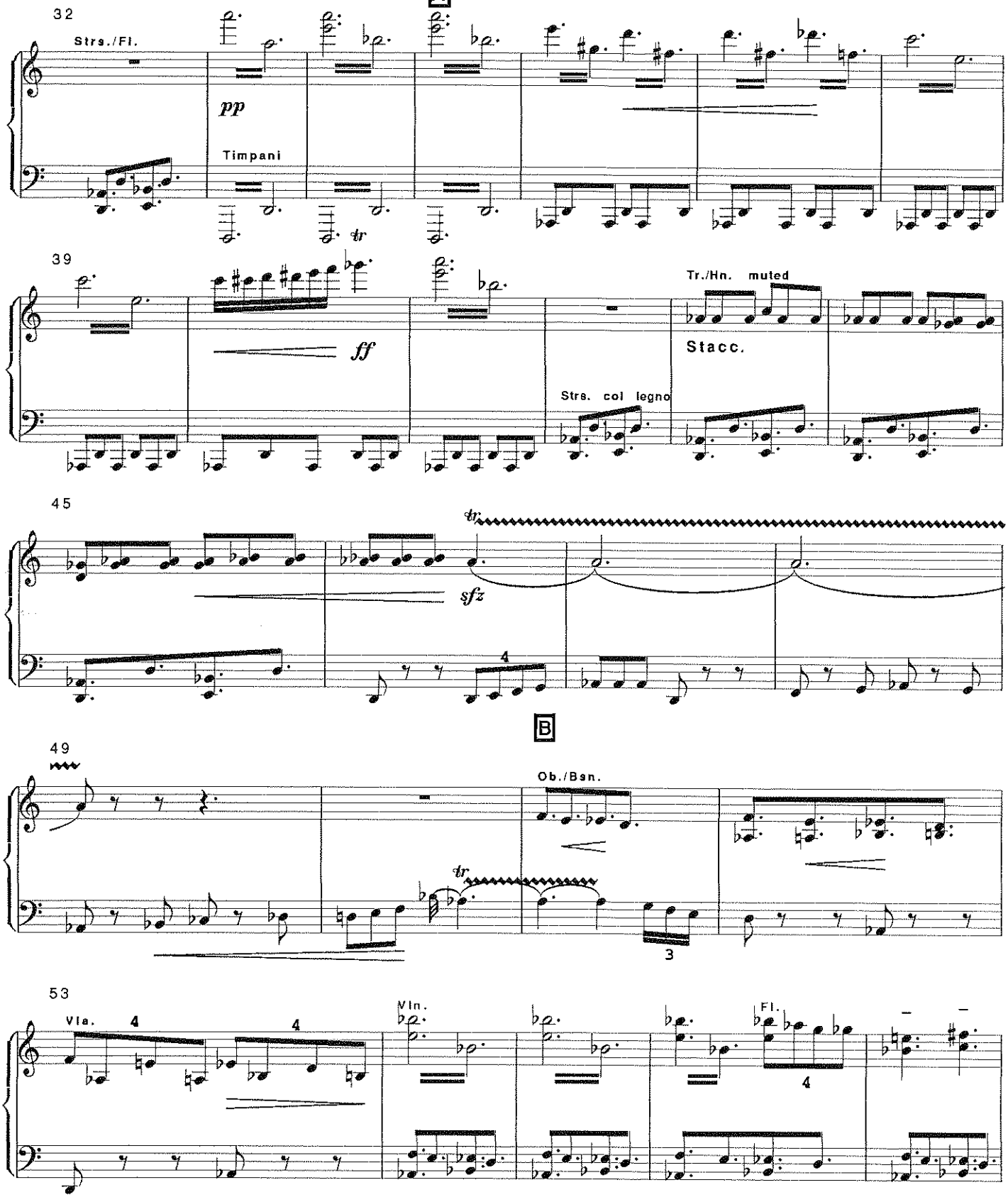

108
Adagio ♩ = 52
Glockenspiel L.v.
mp
p
(Narration) Pinned at its axis against the side/
a swinging lamp slightly oscillates in Jonah's /
Vln. harmonics 8va, gliss.
pp
Vla./Vlc./D.B. harm. 8va
pp
p
111
room, and the ship, heeling over towards /
the wharf with weight of the last bales /
received, the lamp, flame and all, though in slight /
motion, still maintains a permanent obliquity with /
113
reference to the room; though, in truth, infallibly straight /
itself, it but made obvious the false, lying levels among /
which it hung. The lamp alarms and frightens /
Jonah, as lying in his berth his tormented eyes /

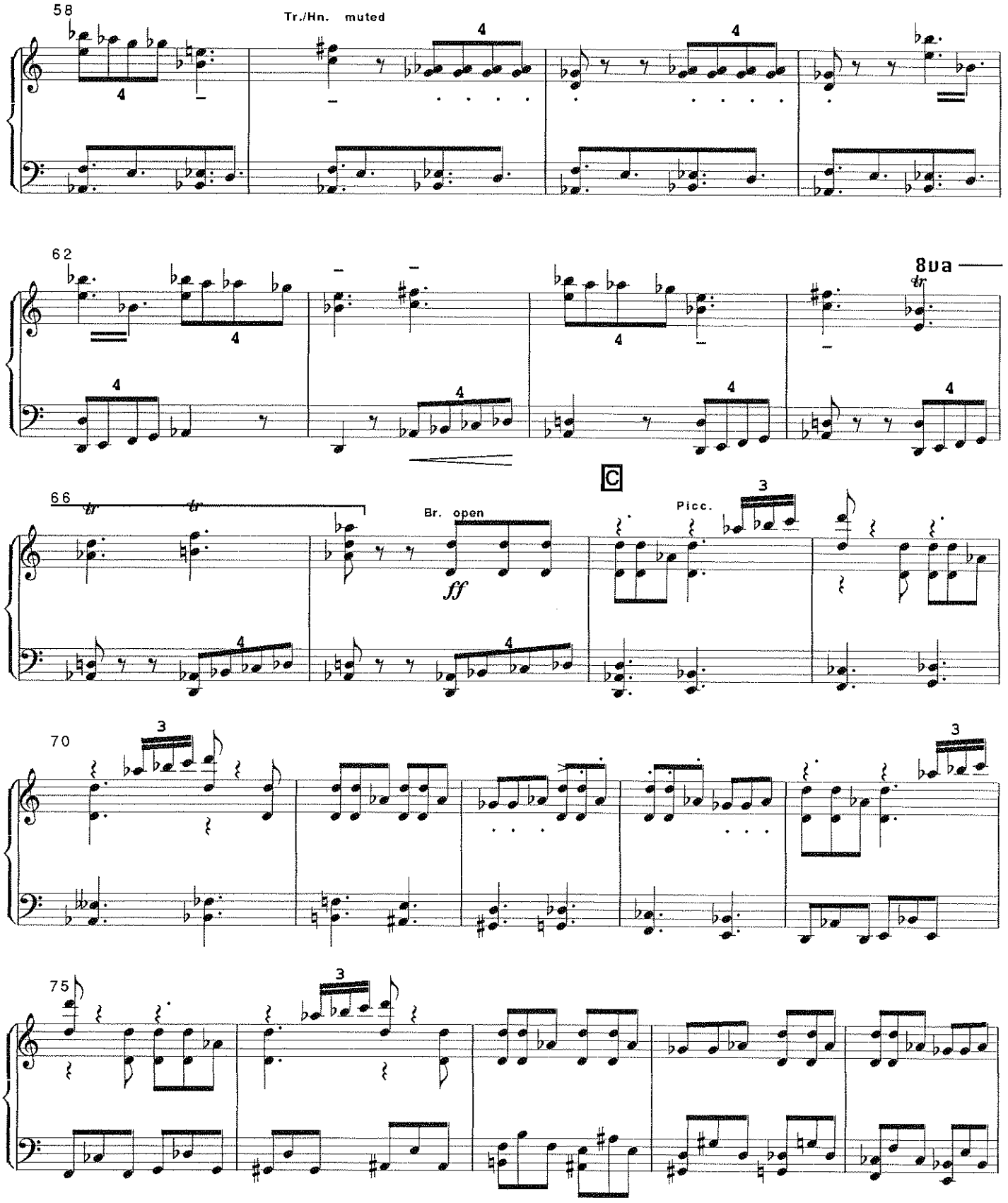

J
115
roll round the place, and this thus far successful fugitive finds no/
refuge for his restless glance. But that contradiction in the lamp /
more and more appals him. The floor, the /
ceiling, and the sides are all awry. /
117
"Oh! so my conscience hangs in me!", he /
groans, "straight upward, so it burns;/
But the chambers of my soul are
all in crookedness!"
119
Conscience is the wound, and there is naught to /
staunch it. So, after sore wrestlings in his berth, /
Jonah's prodigy of ponderous misery
drags him drowning, down to sleep.

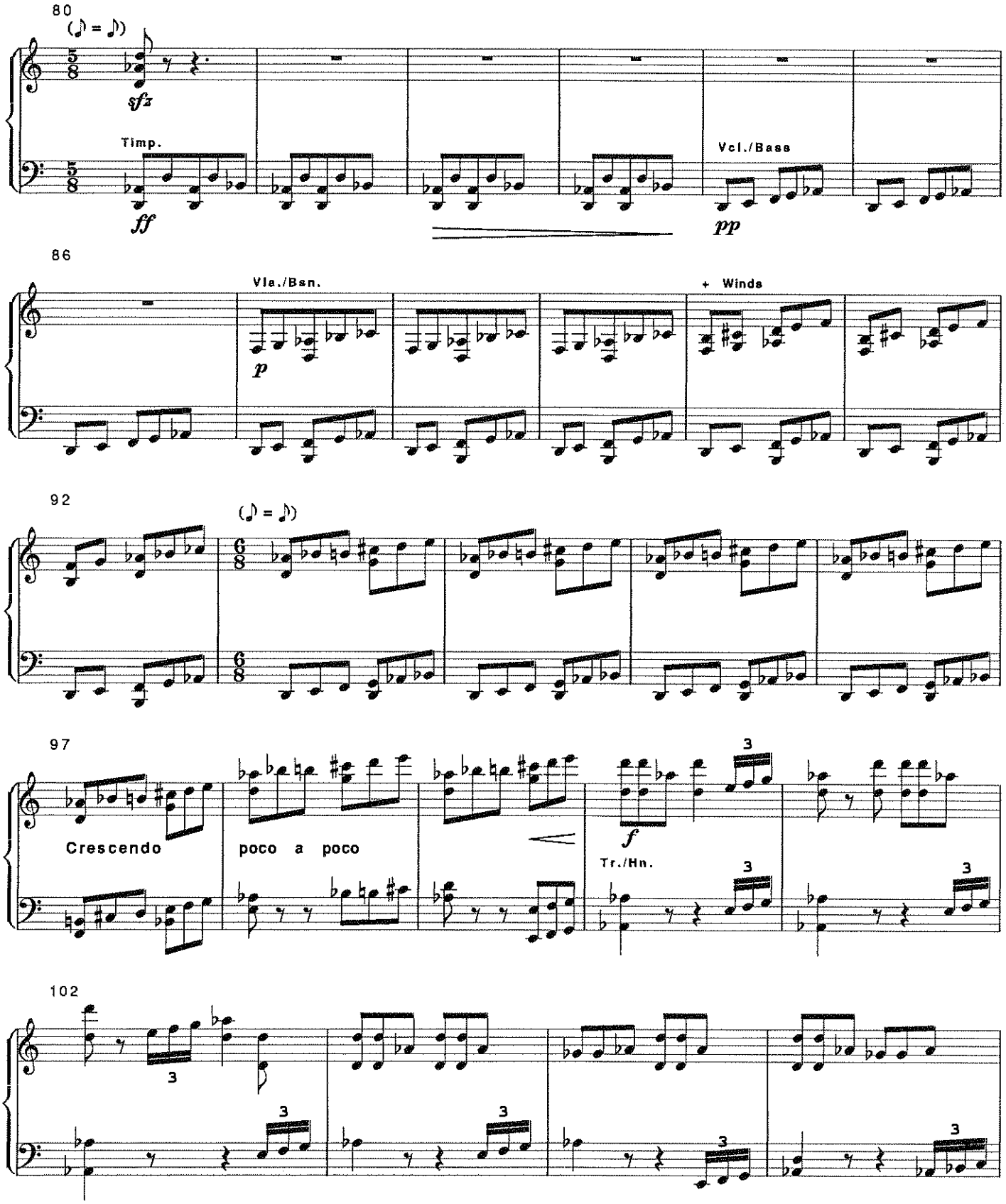

K
122
Andante ♩ = 72
Sop./Ten.
Alto/Bass
mp
The
Hn.
Vlns. muted
Strings
Bsn.
pp
p
126
mp
And un- cheered for Tar- shish, glides to
ship casts off her ca- bles, all ca- reen- ing,
p
129
Ritardando
sea. glides to sea.
ppp
all ca- reen- ing glides, glides to sea.
Bosun's Pipe
ppp

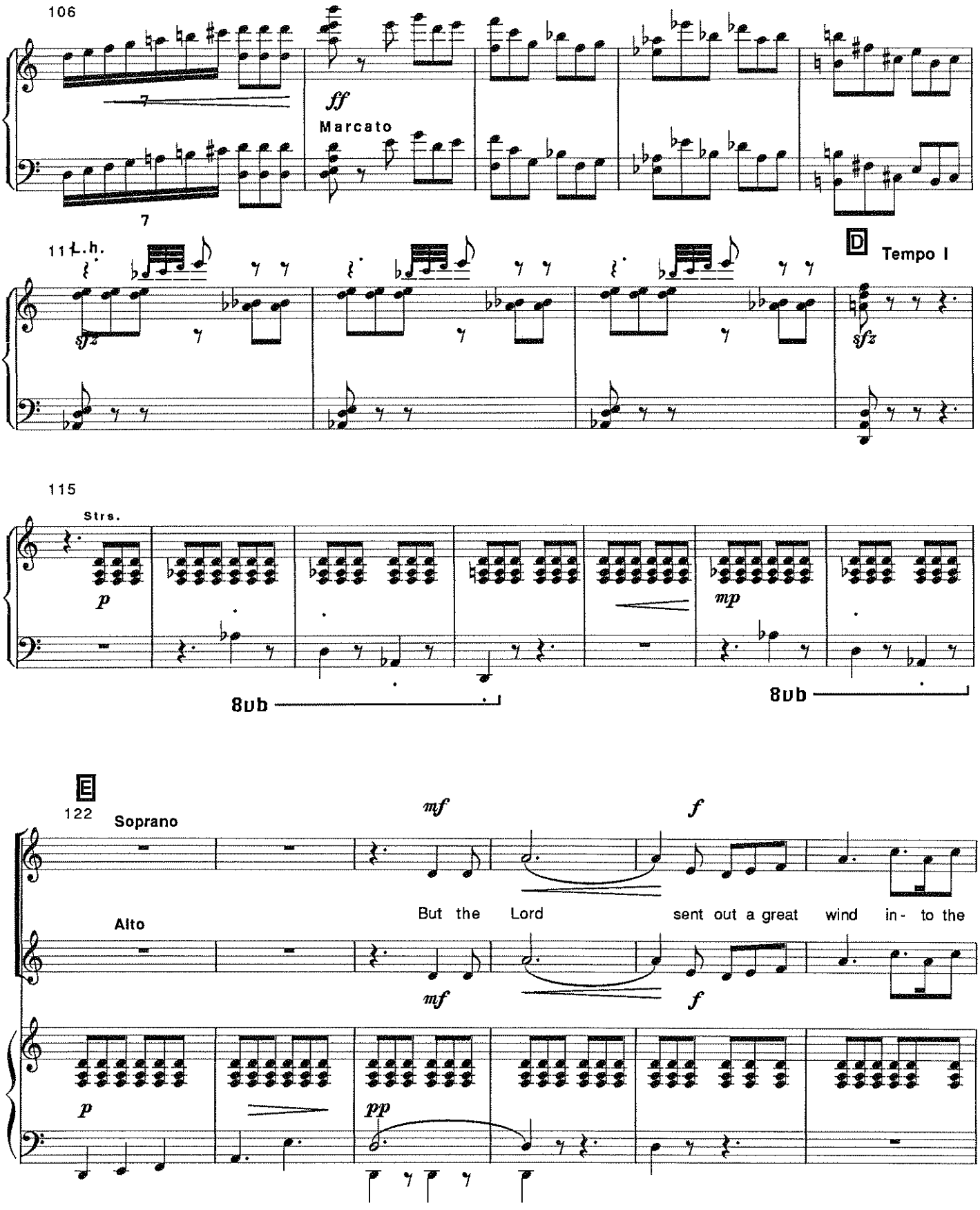

1
Allegro ♩.= 120
Strings
pp
Timp.
pp
9
Fls.
mp
4
16
Ob./Bsn.
mp
Sim. stacc.
tr
3
21
Vla.
Tr. muted
mp
Stacc.
26
+ Hn.
3
sfz

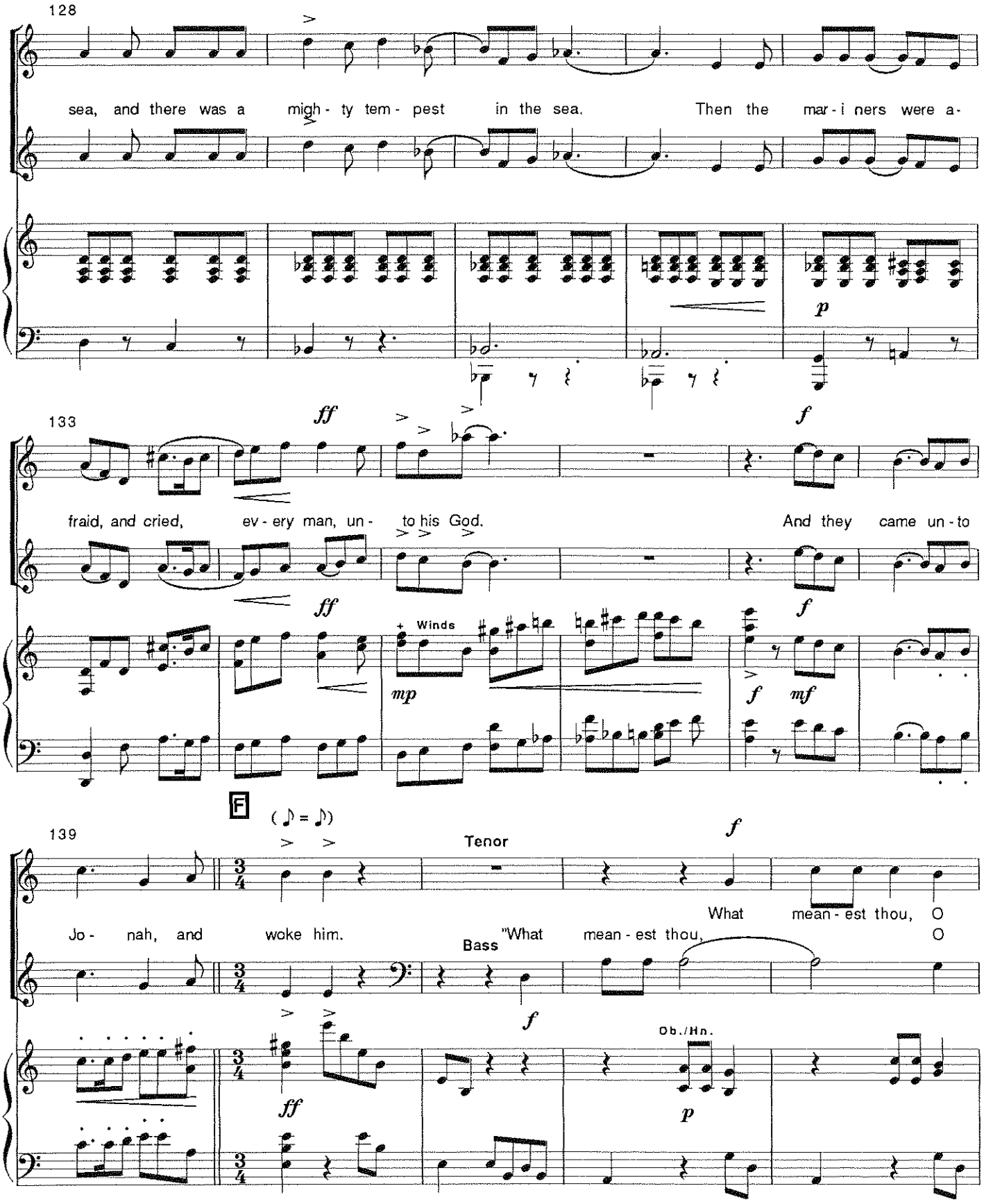
V — STORM

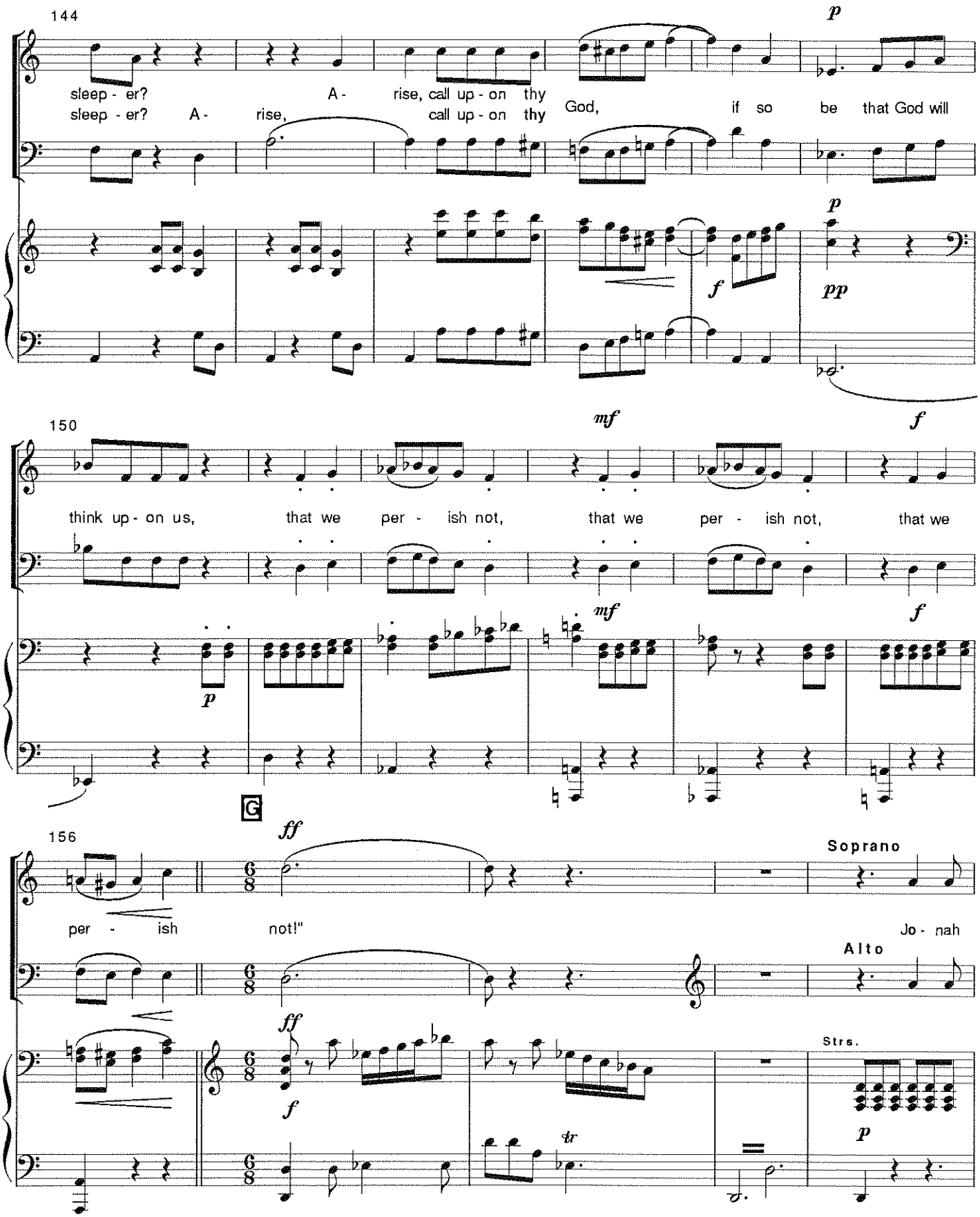

A
32
Strs./Fl.
pp
Timpani
tr
39
ff
Tr./Hn. muted
Stacc.
Strs. col legno
45
tr
sfz
4
B
49
Ob./Bsn.
tr
3
53
Vla.
4
4
Vln.
Fl.
4

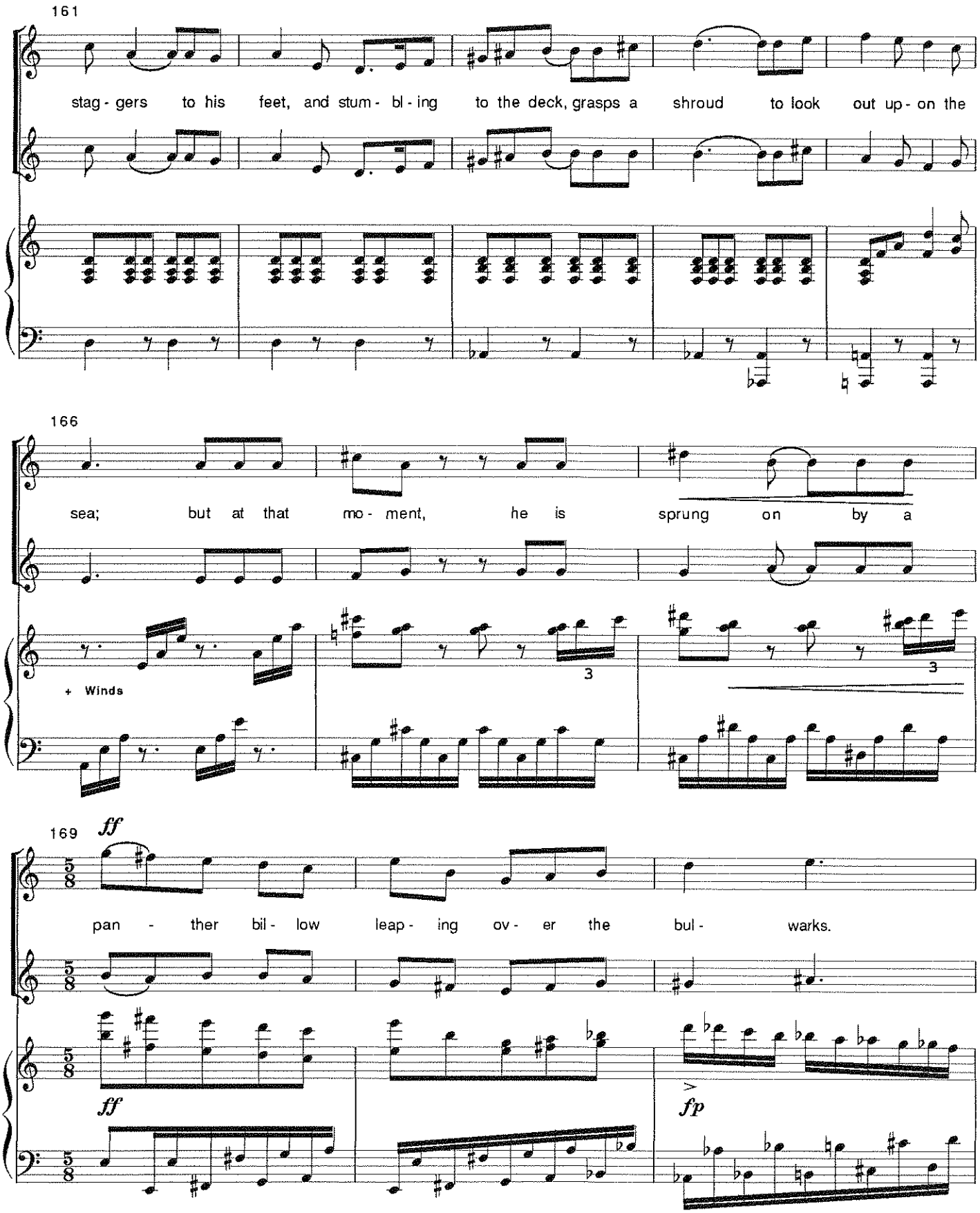

58
Tr./Hn. muted
62
8va
C
66
Br. open
ff
Picc.
70
75

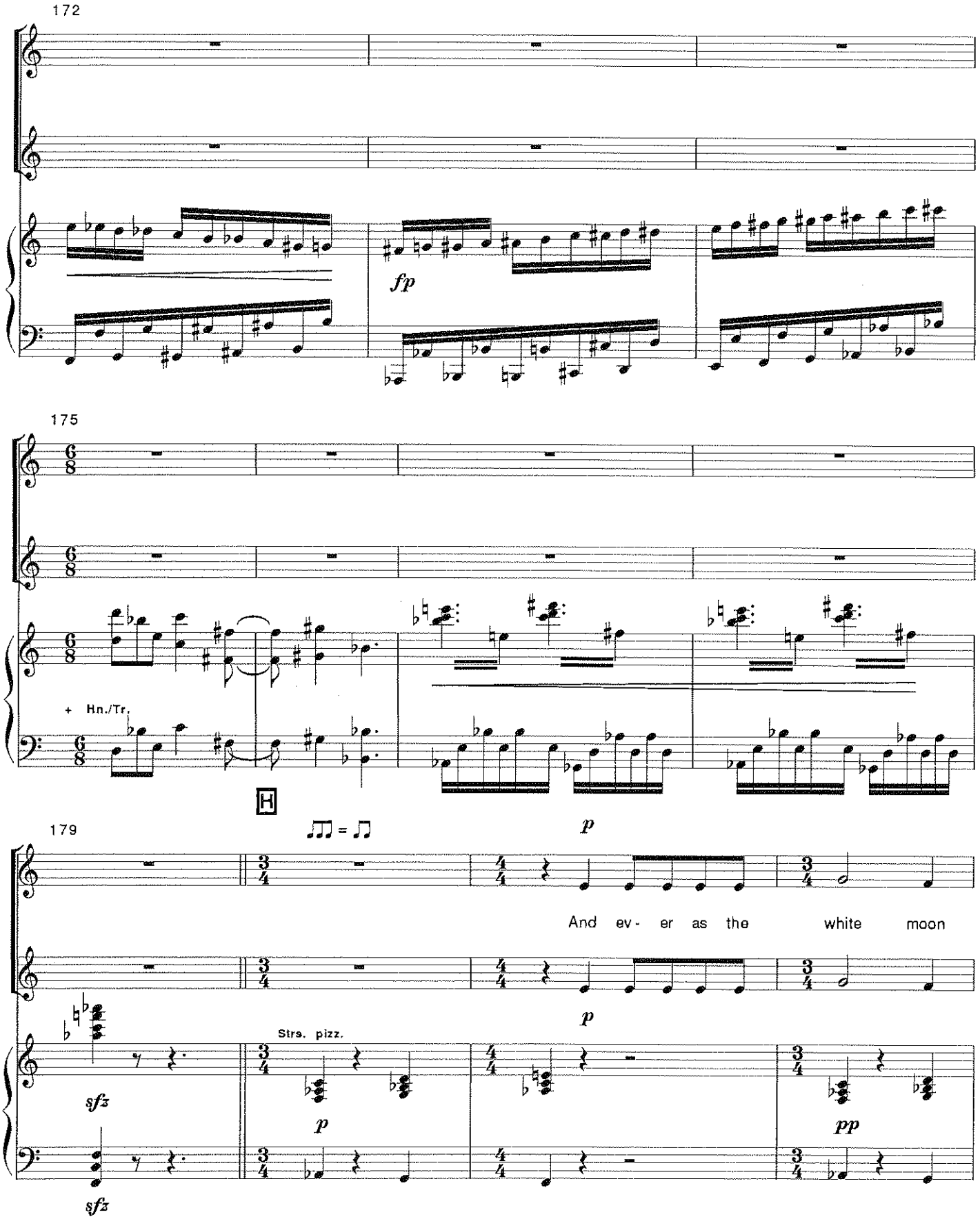

80
(♪) = ♪)
sfz
Timp.
ff
Vcl./Bass
pp
86
Vla./Bsn.
p
+ Winds
92
(♪) = ♪)
97
Crescendo
poco a poco
f
Tr./Hn.
3
102
3

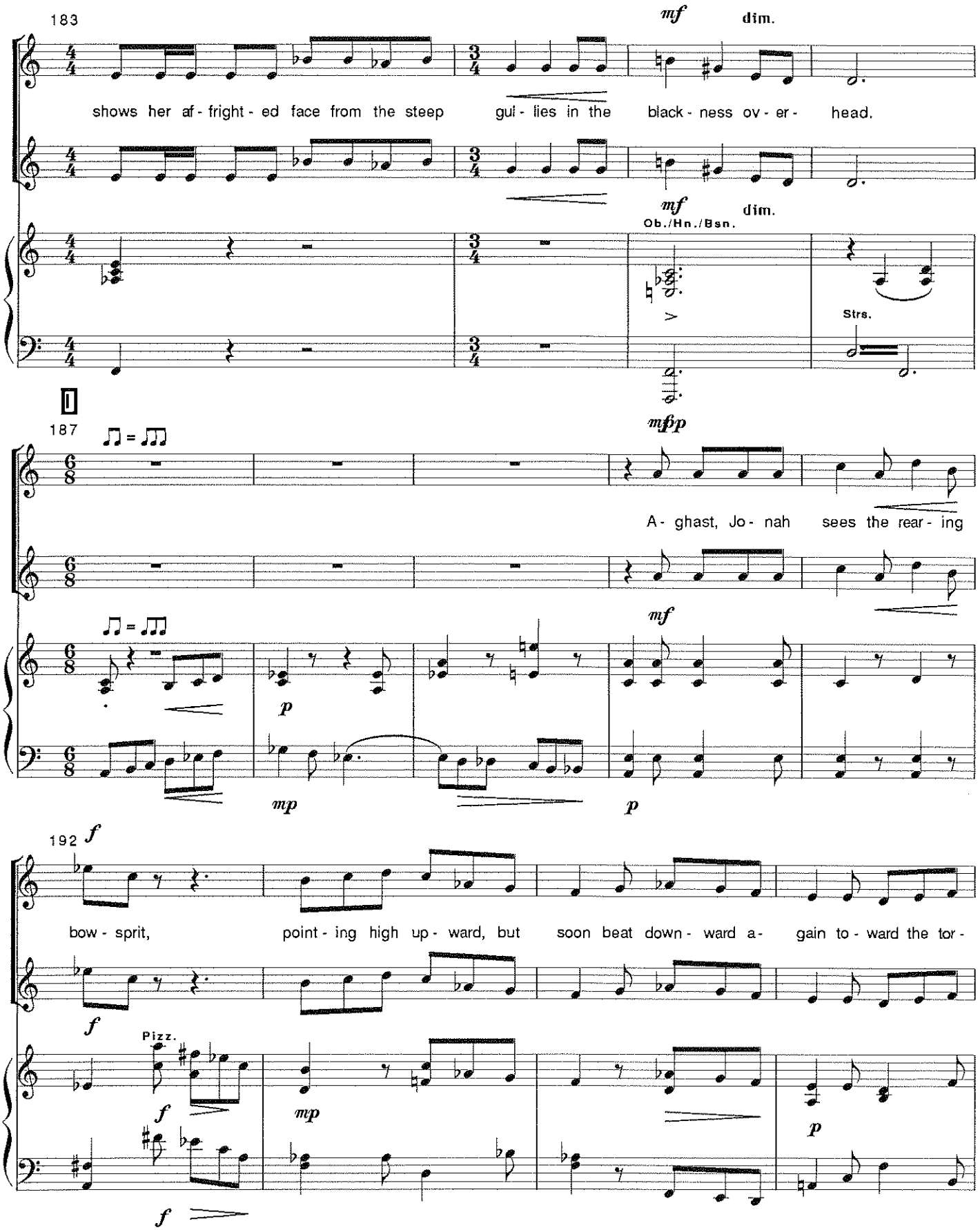

106
ff
Marcato
7
7
111
l.h.
sfz
D
Tempo I
sfz
115
Strs.
p
mp
8vb
8vb
E
122
Soprano
mf
f
But the Lord sent out a great wind in- to the
Alto
mf
f
p
pp

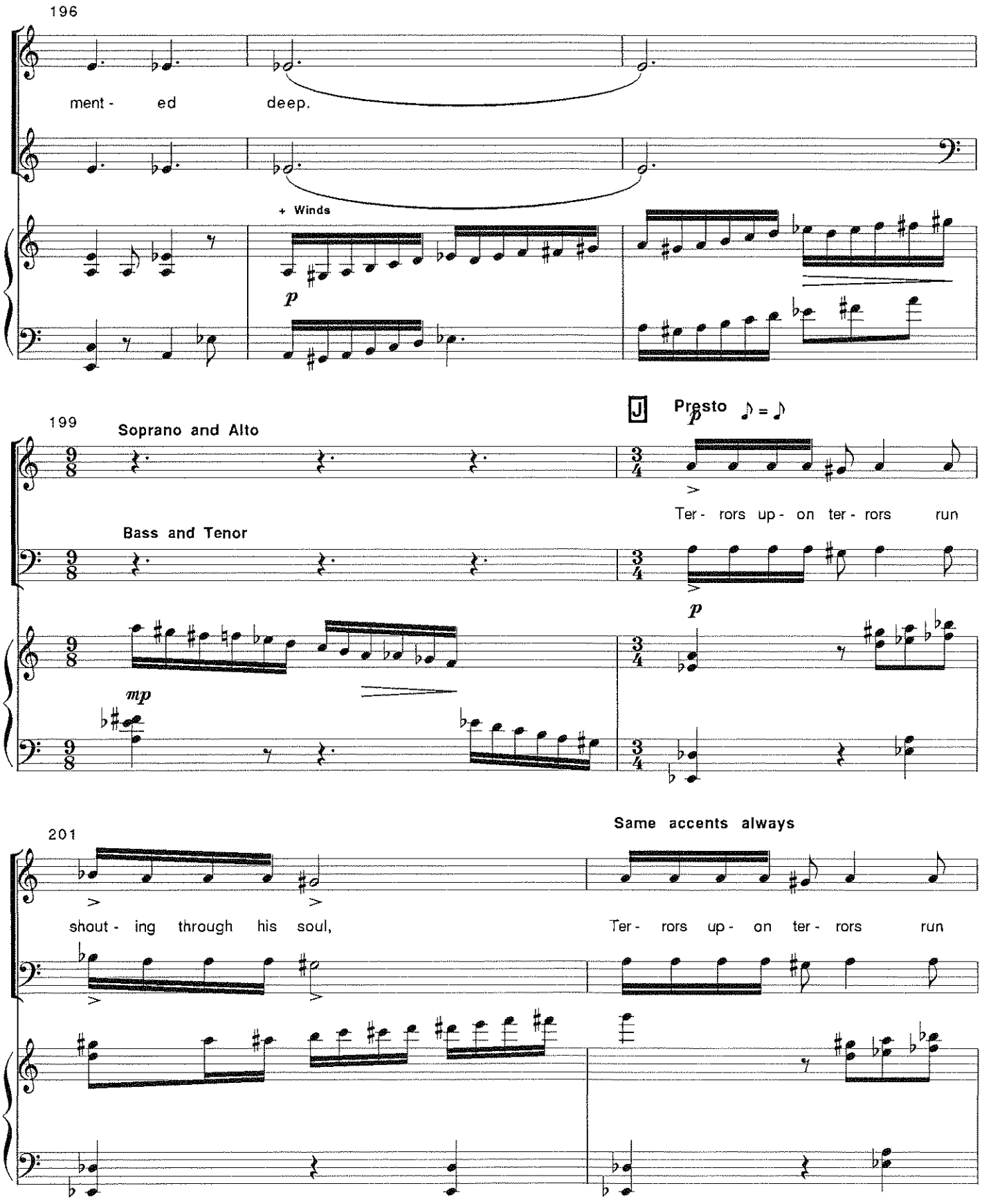

128
sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea. Then the mariners were a-
p
133
ff
f
fraid, and cried, every man, unto his God. And they came unto
ff
+ Winds
mp
f
mf
F
(♪ = ♪)
139
Tenor
f
What meanest thou, O
Jonah, and woke him. Bass "What meanest thou, O
f
Ob./Hn.
ff
p

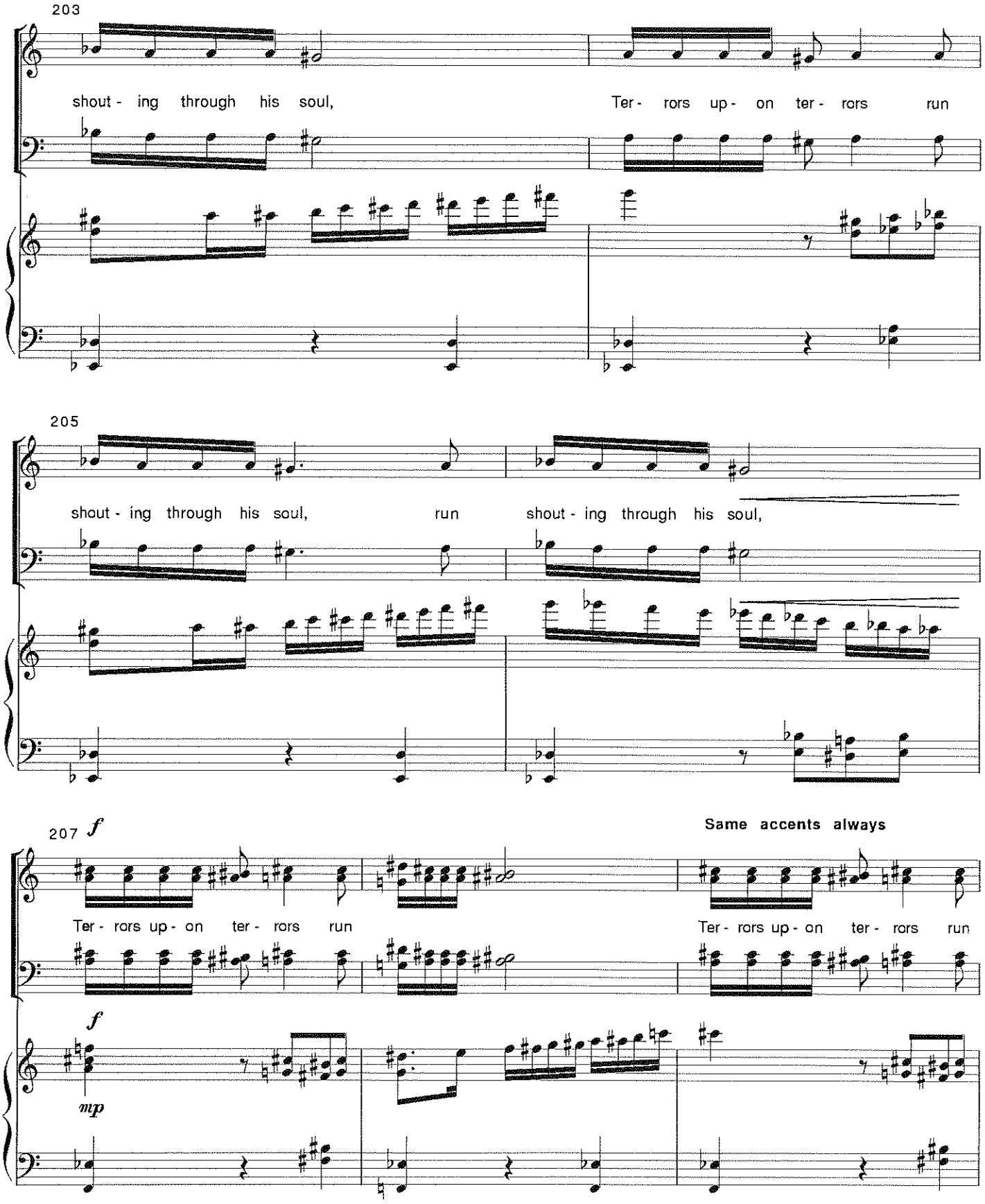

144
sleep - er? A - rise, call up - on thy
sleep - er? A - rise, call up - on thy
God, if so be that God will
p
f
pp
150
think up - on us, that we per - ish not, that we per - ish not, that we
mf
f
p
G
156
per - ish not!"
ff
Soprano
Jo - nah
Alto
Strs.
tr

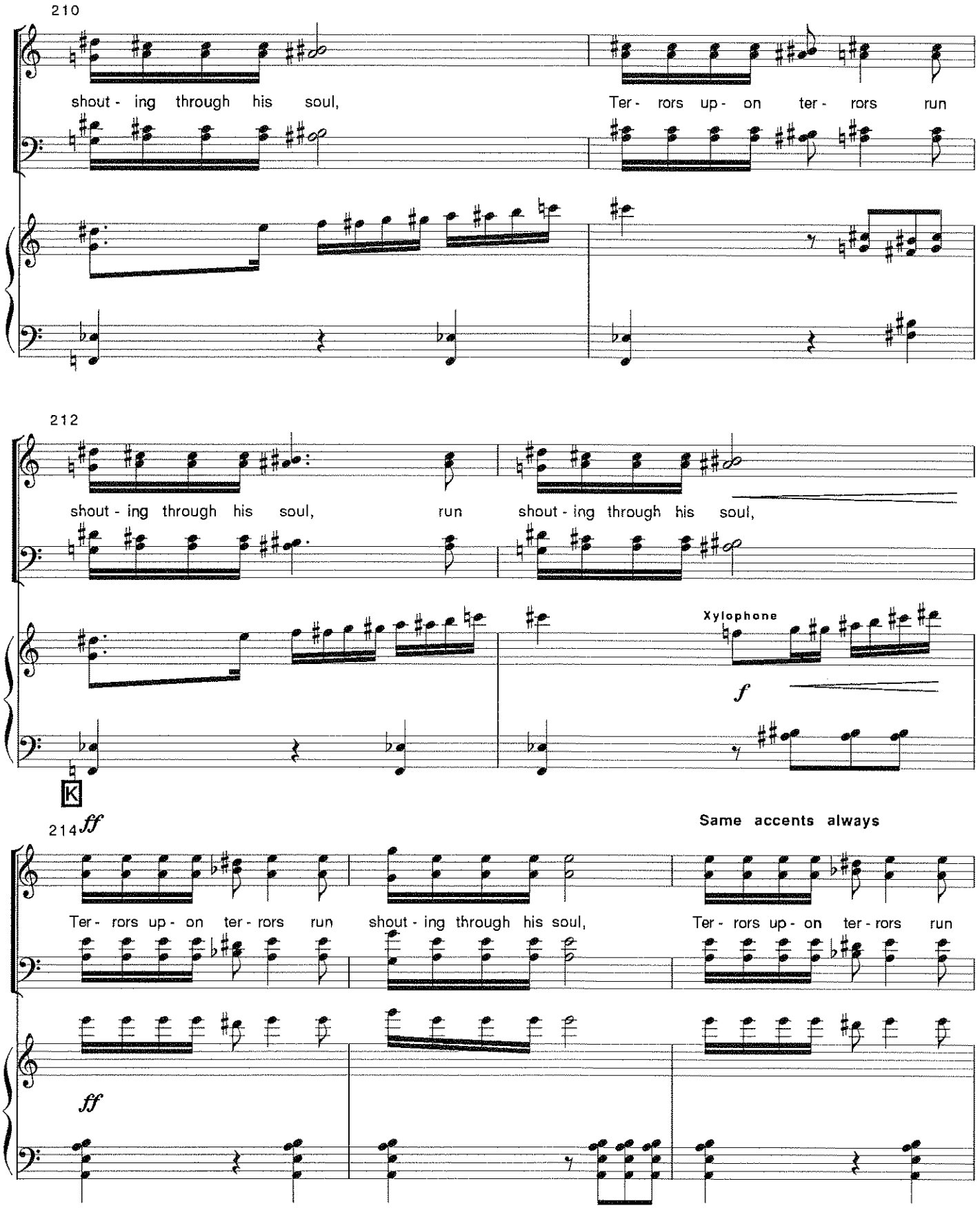

161
stag - gers to his feet, and stum - bl - ing to the deck, grasps a shroud to look out up - on the
166
sea; but at that mo - ment, he is sprung on by a
+ Winds
3
3
169
ff
pan - ther bil - low leap - ing ov - er the bul - warks.
ff
fp

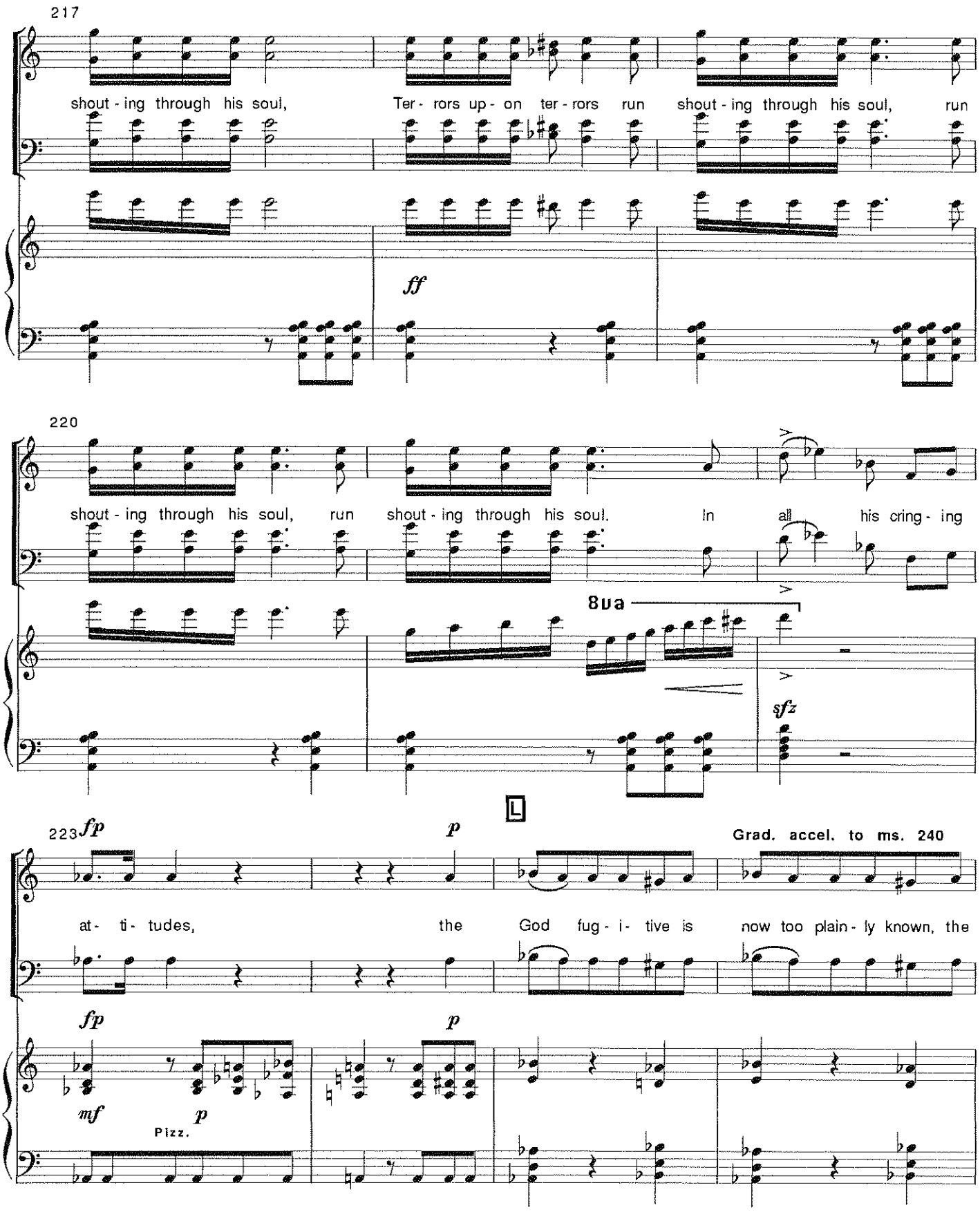

172
fp
175
+ Hn./Tr.
H
179
p
And ev - er as the white moon
p
Strs. pizz.
sfz
p
pp
sfz

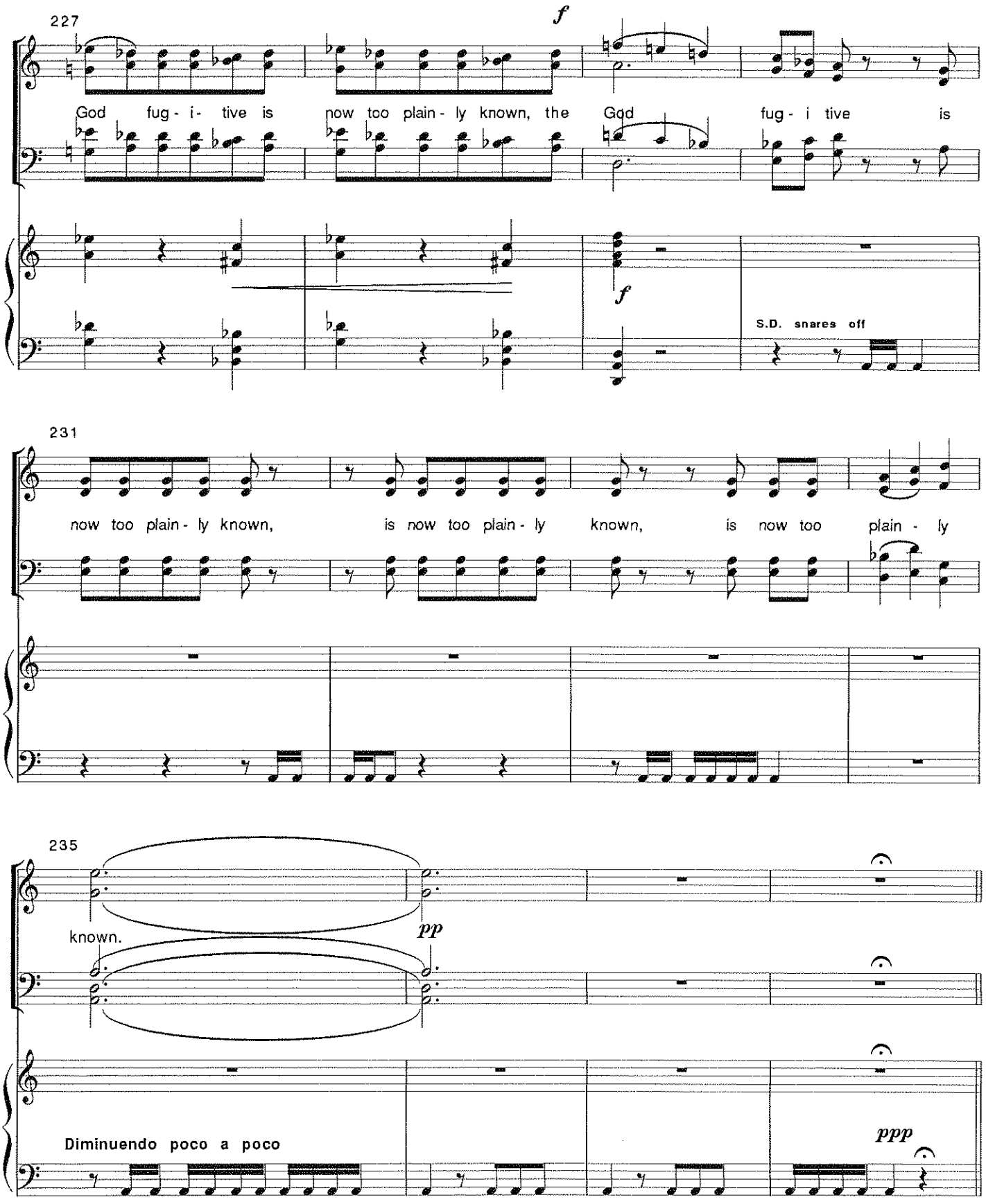

183
mf
dim.
shows her af - fright - ed face from the steep gul - lies in the black - ness ov - er - head.
mf
dim.
Ob./Hn./Bsn.
Strs.
187
mfpp
A - ghast, Jo - nah sees the rear - ing
mf
p
mp
p
192
f
bow - sprit, point - ing high up - ward, but soon beat down - ward a - gain to - ward the tor -
f
Pizz.
f
mp
p
f

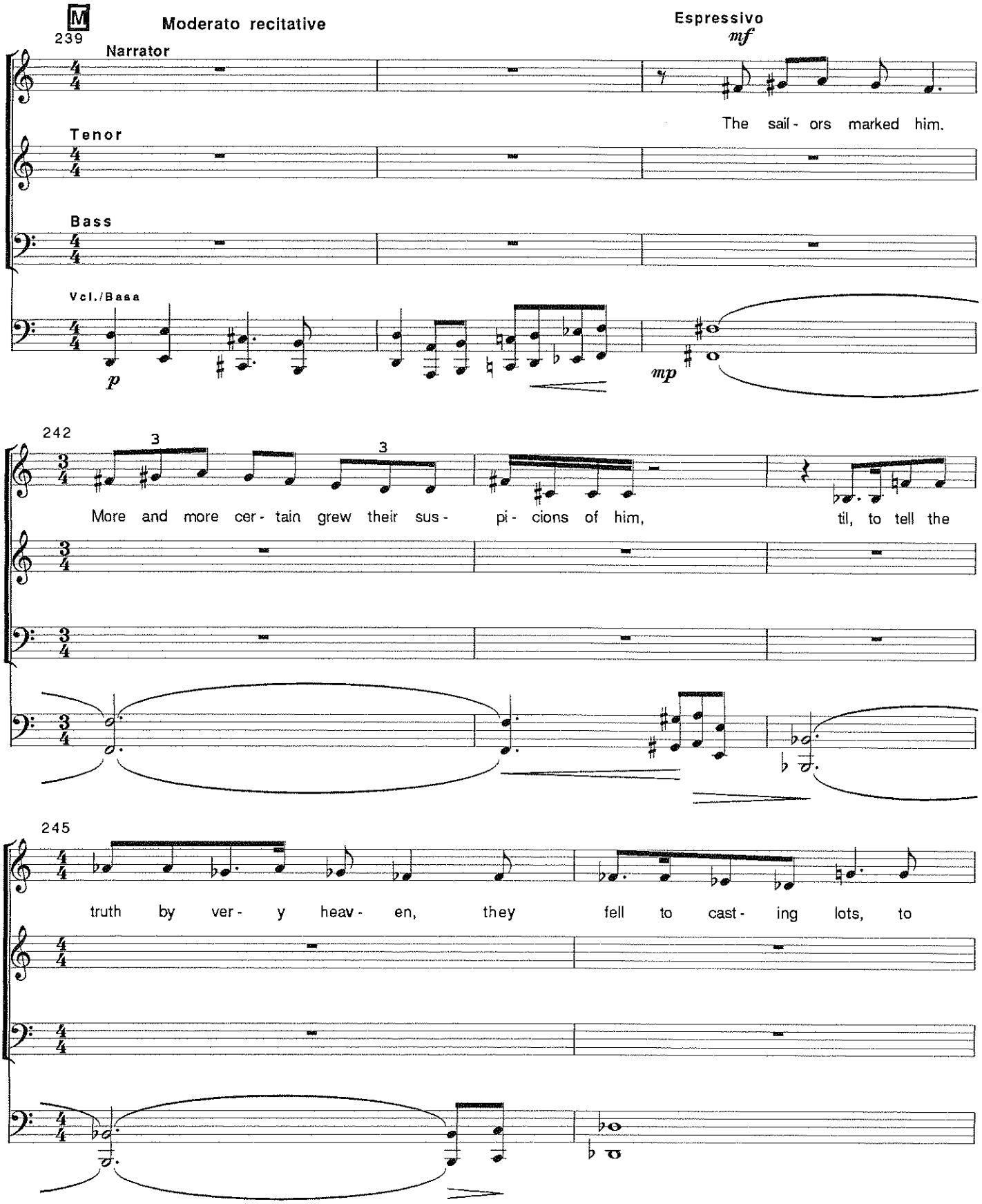

196
ment - ed deep.
+ Winds
p
199
Soprano and Alto
Bass and Tenor
J Presto ♪ = ♪
p
Ter - rors up - on ter - rors run
mp
201
Same accents always
shout - ing through his soul,
Ter - rors up - on ter - rors run

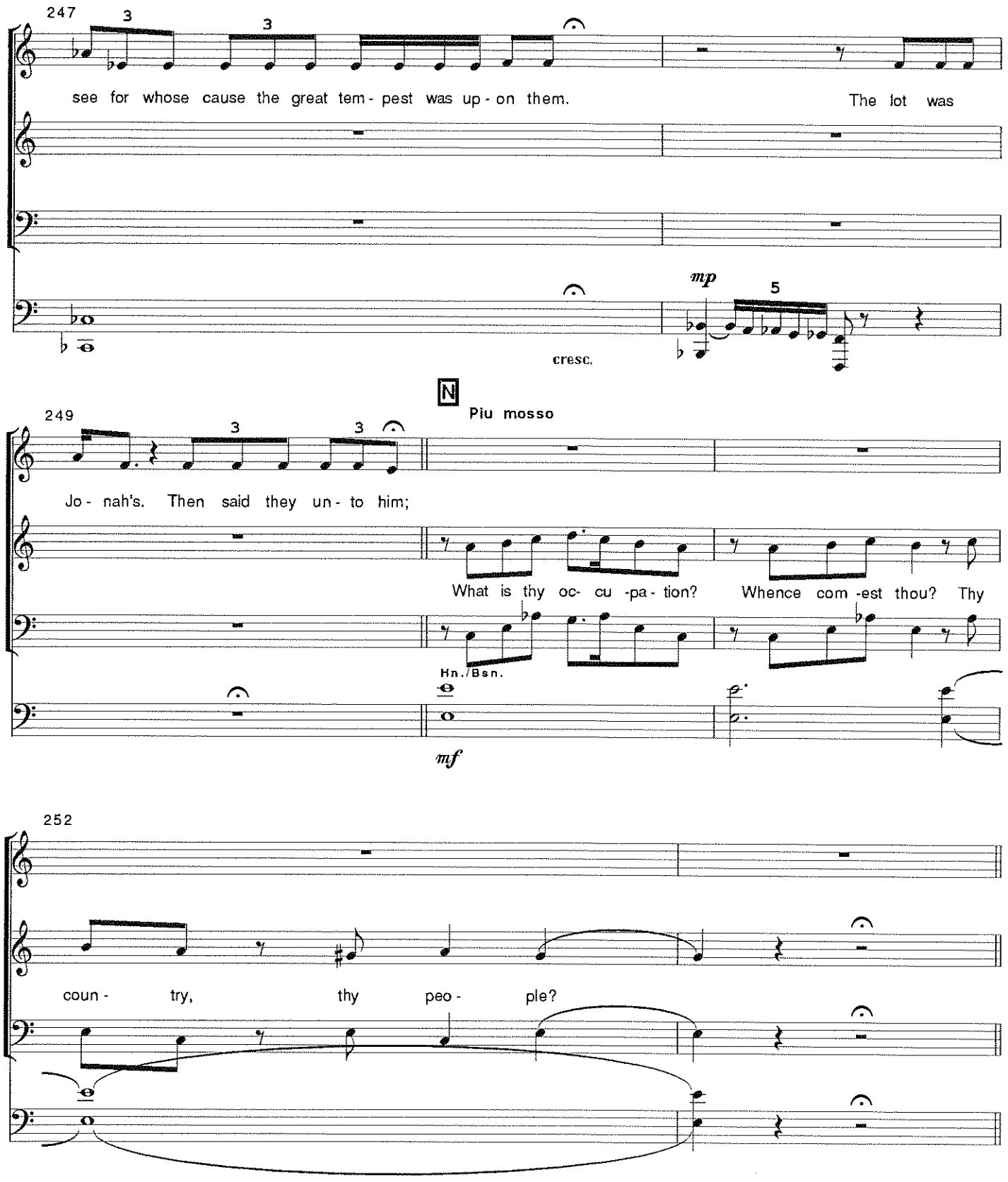

203
shout - ing through his soul,
Ter - rors up - on ter - rors run
205
shout - ing through his soul, run
shout - ing through his soul,
207
f
Same accents always
Ter - rors up - on ter - rors run
Ter - rors up - on ter - rors run
f
mp

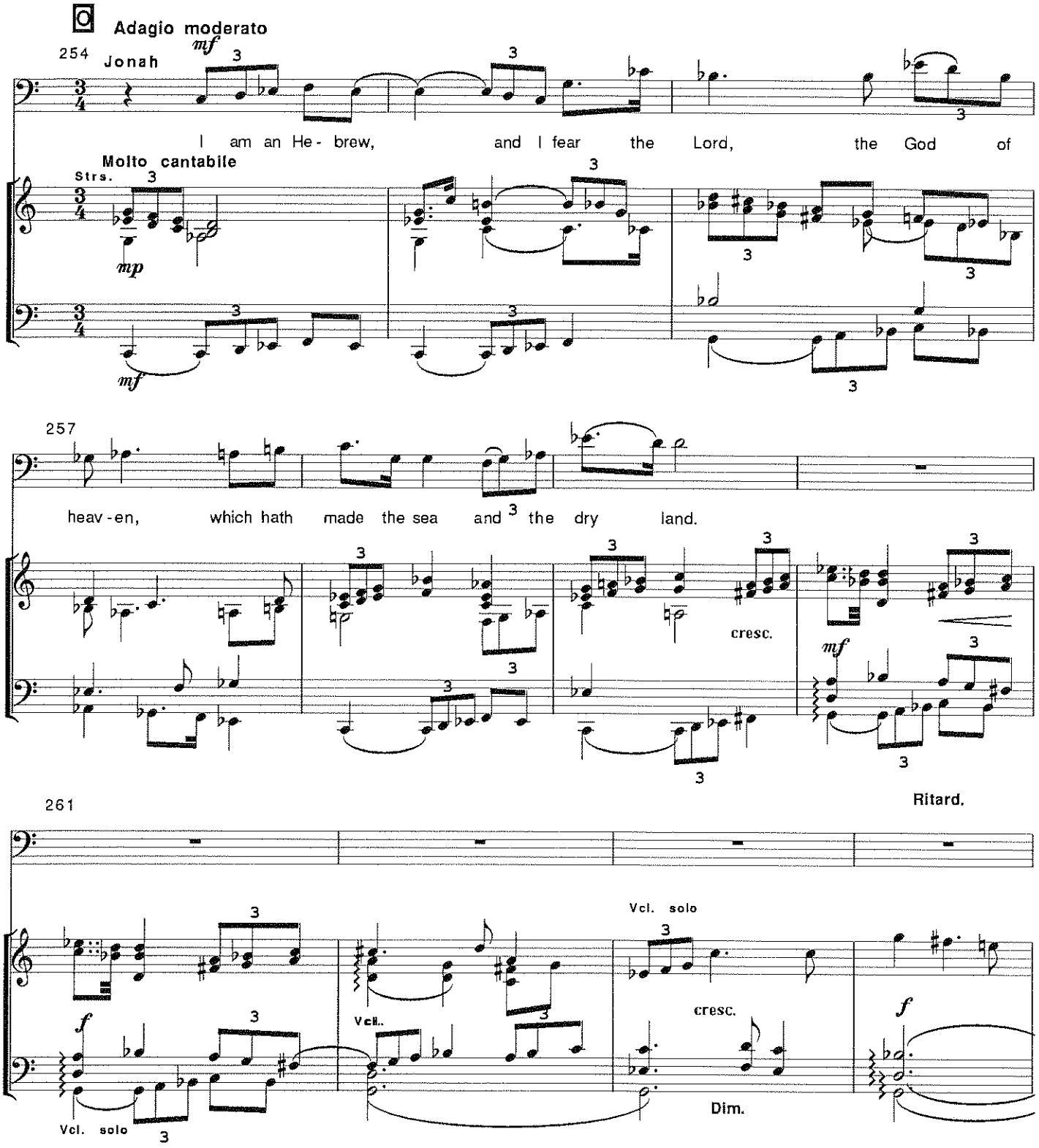

210
shout - ing through his soul,
Ter - rors up - on ter - rors run
212
shout - ing through his soul, run
shout - ing through his soul,
Xylophone
f
K
214 ff
Same accents always
Ter - rors up - on ter - rors run
shout - ing through his soul,
Ter - rors up - on ter - rors run
ff

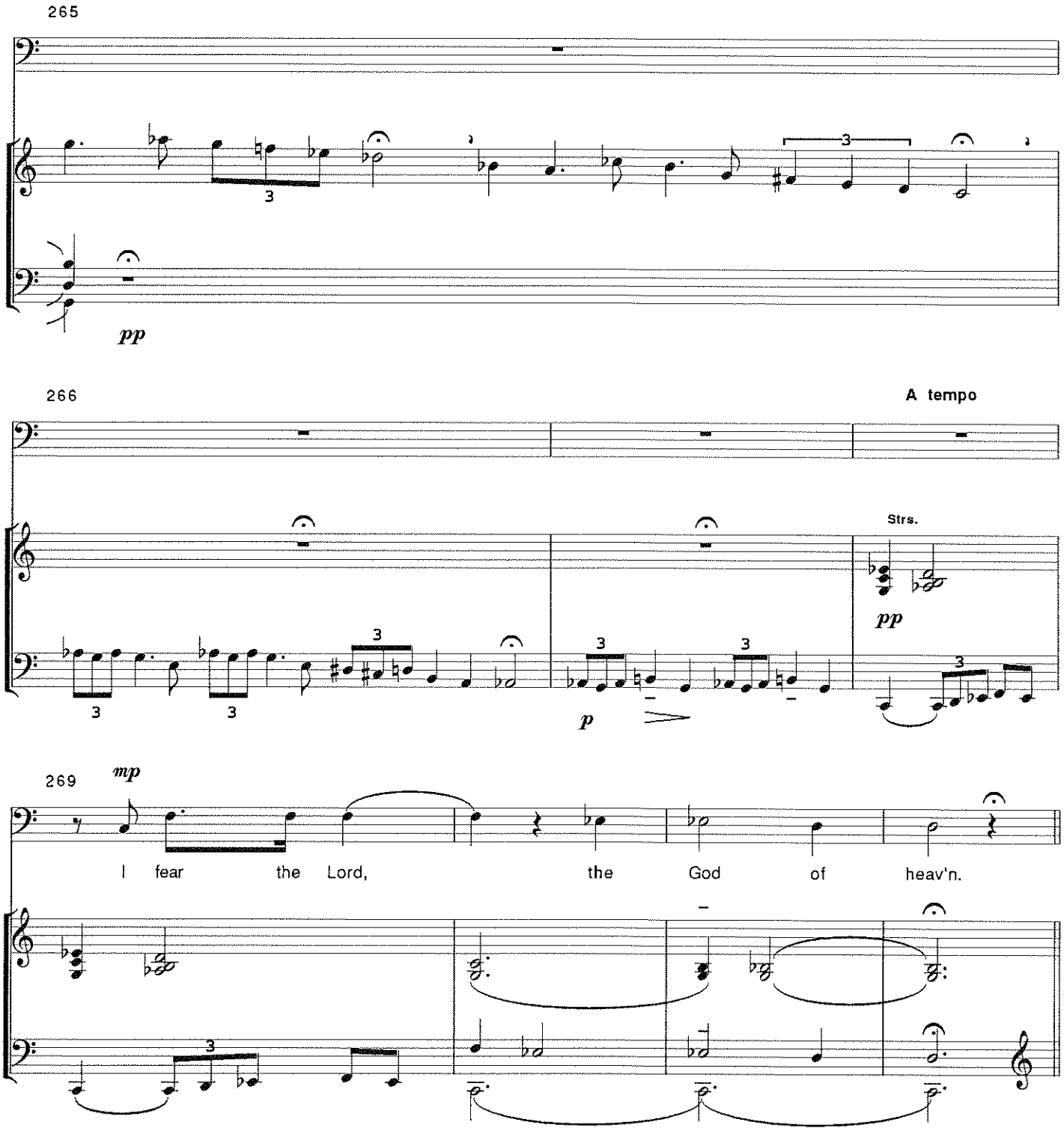

217
shout - ing through his soul, Ter - rors up - on ter - rors run shout - ing through his soul, run
ff
220
shout - ing through his soul, run shout - ing through his soul. In all his cring - ing
8va
sfz
223
fp
p
Grad. accel. to ms. 240
at - ti - tudes, the God fug - i - tive is now too plain - ly known, the
fp
p
mf
p
Pizz.

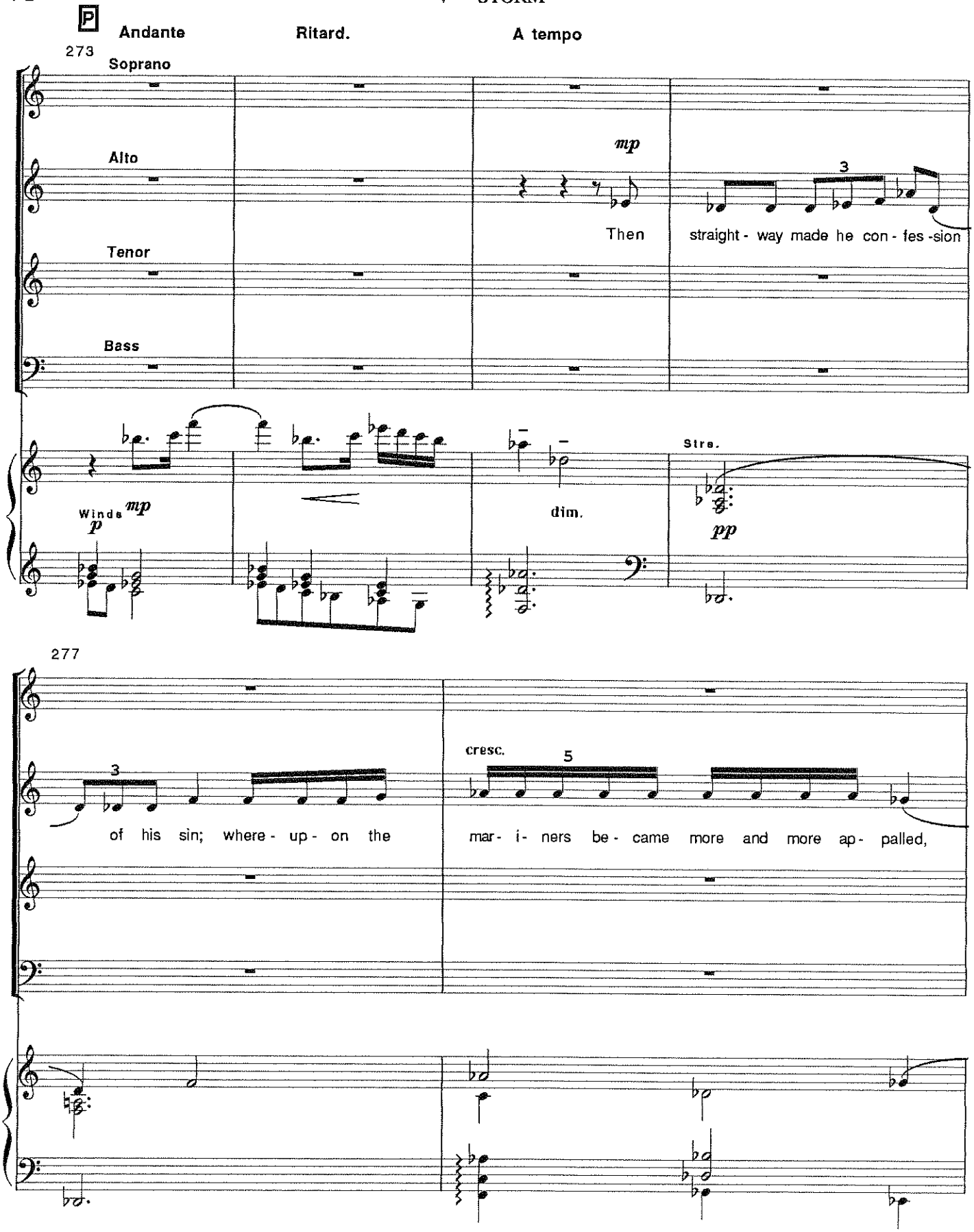

227
f
God fug - i - tive is now too plain - ly known, the God fug - i tive is
f
S.D. snares off
231
now too plain - ly known, is now too plain - ly known, is now too plain - ly
235
known.
pp
Diminuendo poco a poco
ppp

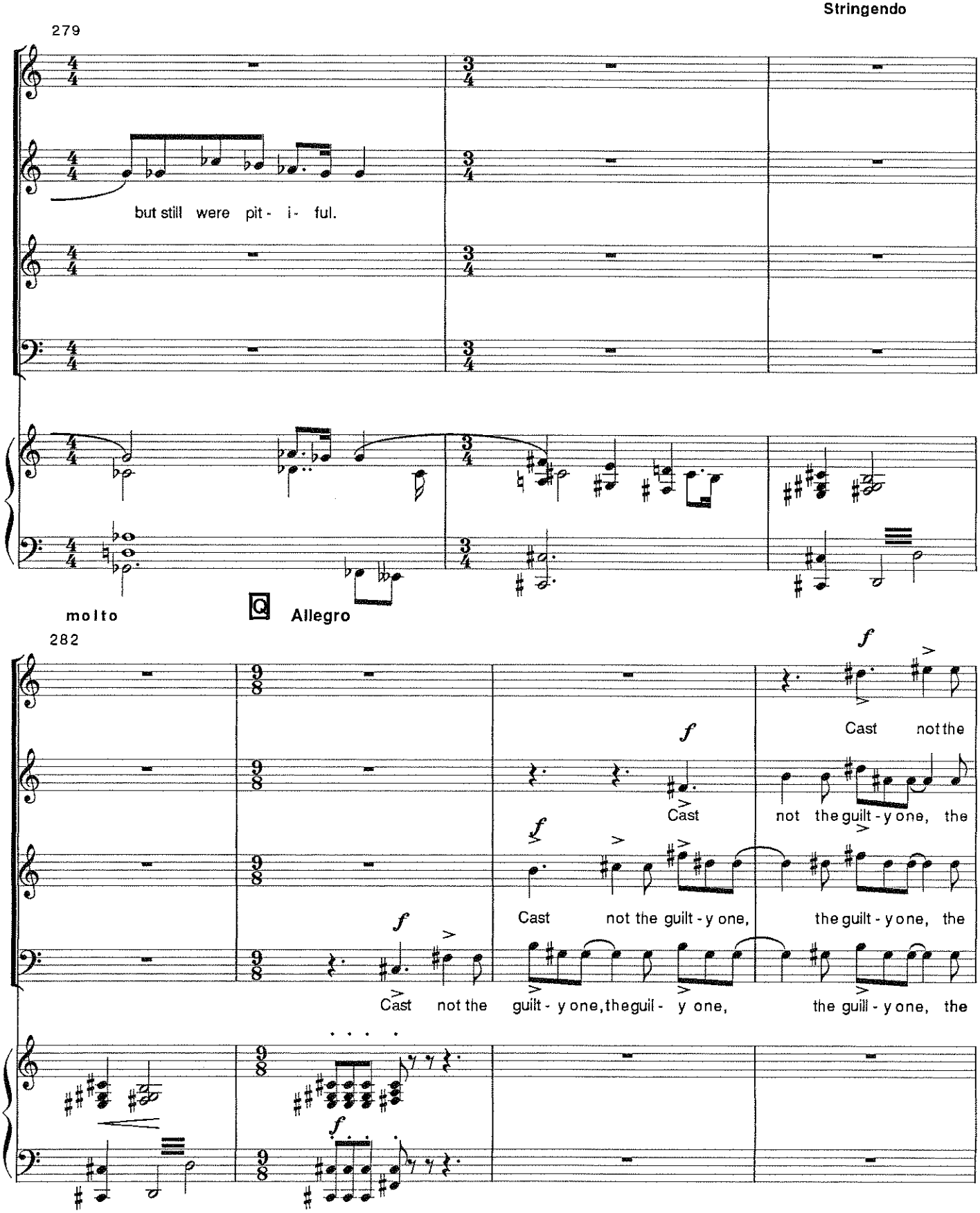

M
239
Moderato recitative
Espressivo
mf
Narrator
The sail - ors marked him.
Tenor
Bass
Vcl./Basa
p
mp
242
3
3
More and more cer - tain grew their sus - pi - cions of him, til, to tell the
245
truth by ver - y heav - en, they fell to cast - ing lots, to

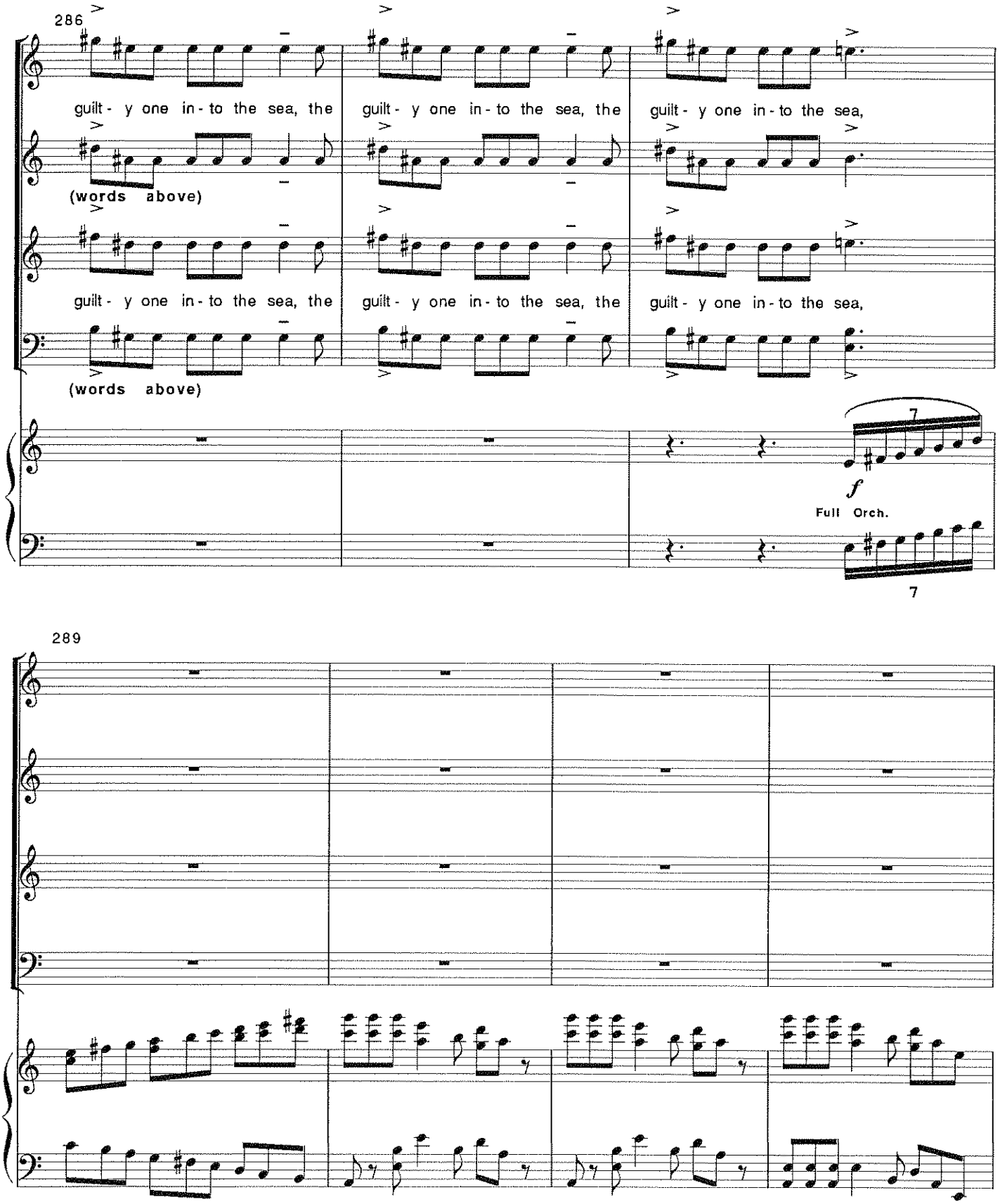

247
3
3
see for whose cause the great tem - pest was up - on them.
The lot was
mp
5
cresc.
N
Piu mosso
249
3
3
Jo - nah's. Then said they un - to him;
What is thy oc- cu -pa - tion?
Whence com -est thou? Thy
Hn./Bsn.
mf
252
coun - try, thy peo - ple?

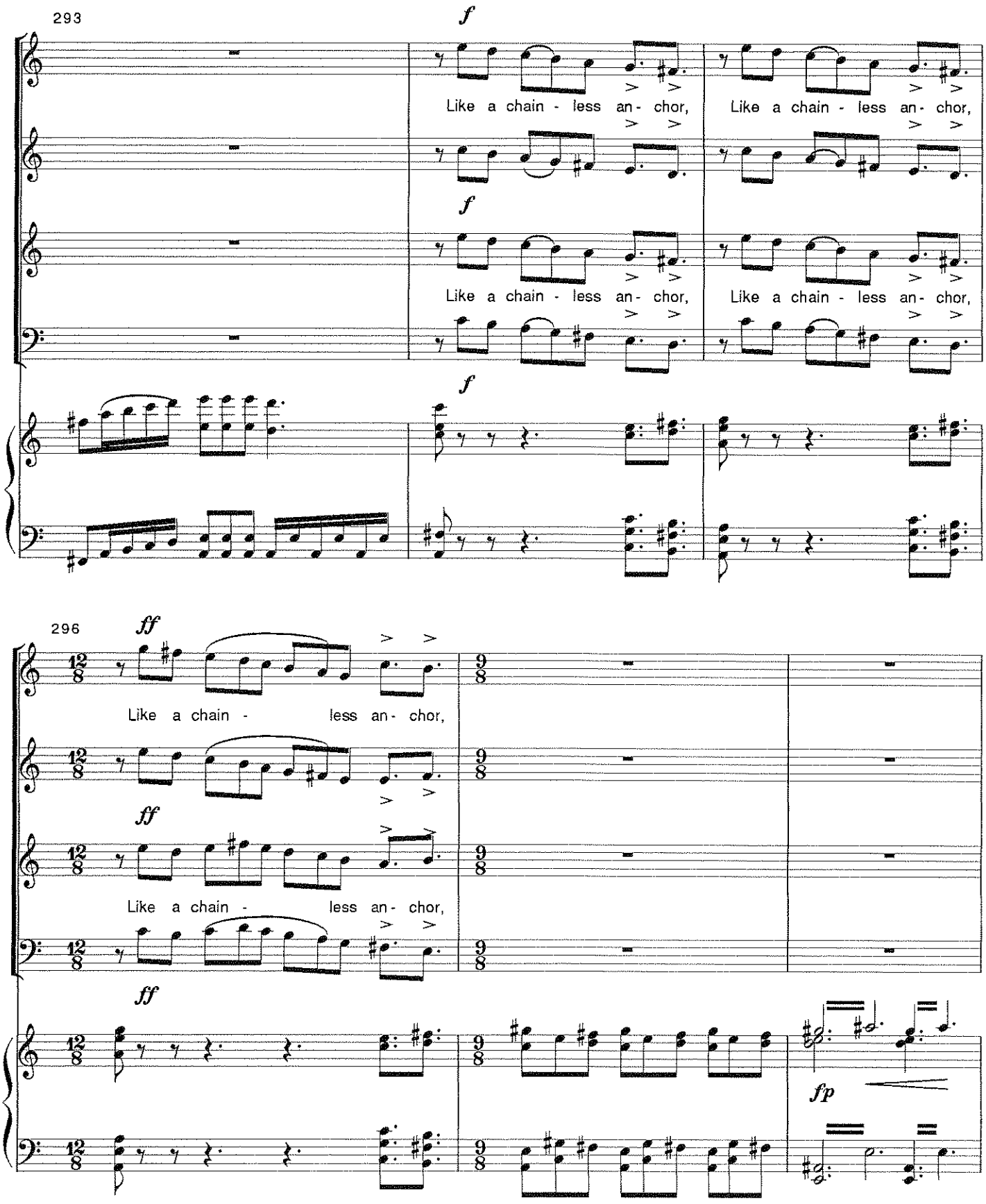

Adagio moderato
254
Jonah
mf
I am an He- brew, and I fear the Lord, the God of
Molto cantabile
Strs.
mp
mf
257
heav-en, which hath made the sea and the dry land.
cresc.
mf
261
Ritard.
Vcl. solo
cresc.
Vcl.
Vcl. solo
Dim.
f

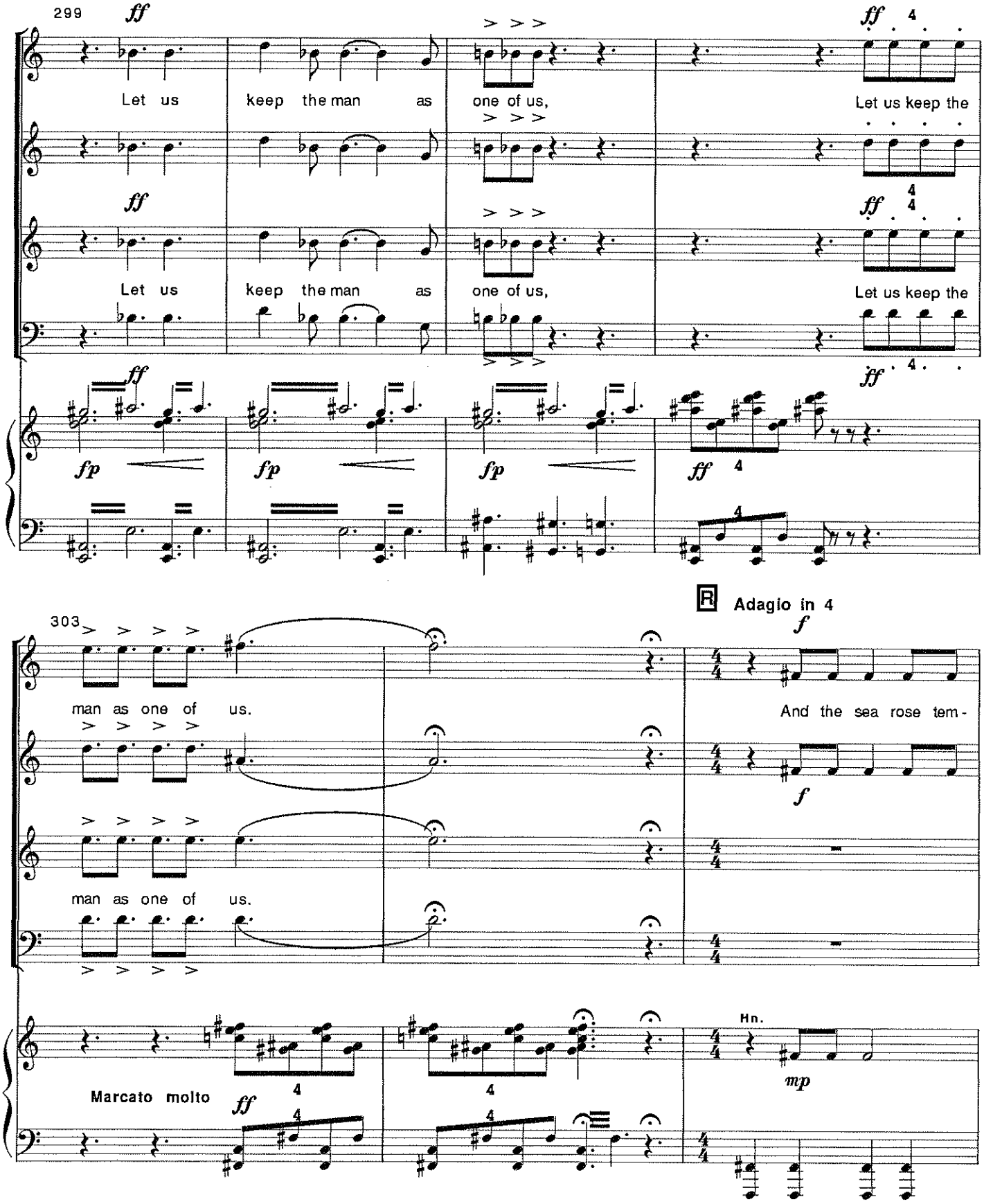

265
pp
266
A tempo
Strs.
pp
p
269
mp
I fear the Lord, the God of heav'n.

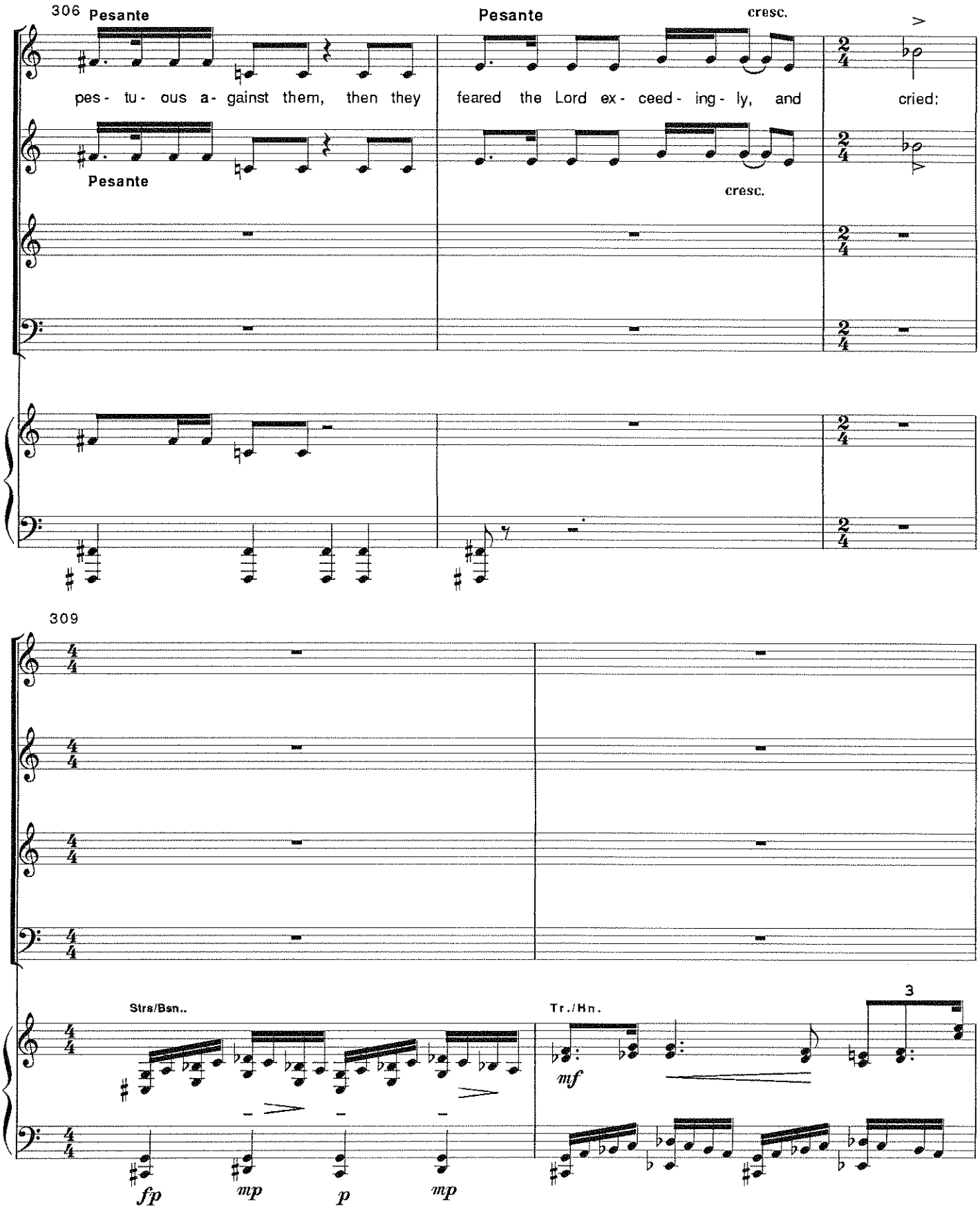

P
Andante
Ritard.
A tempo
273
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
mp
3
Then
straight - way made he con - fes - sion
Winds
p
mp
dim.
Strs.
pp
277
3
of his sin; where - up - on the
cresc.
5
mar - i - ners be - came more and more ap - palled,


Stringendo
279
but still were pit - i - ful.
molto
Q
Allegro
282
f
Cast not the
Cast
not the guilt - y one, the
Cast not the guilt - y one,
the guilt - y one, the
Cast not the guilt - y one, the guil - y one,
the guil - y one, the

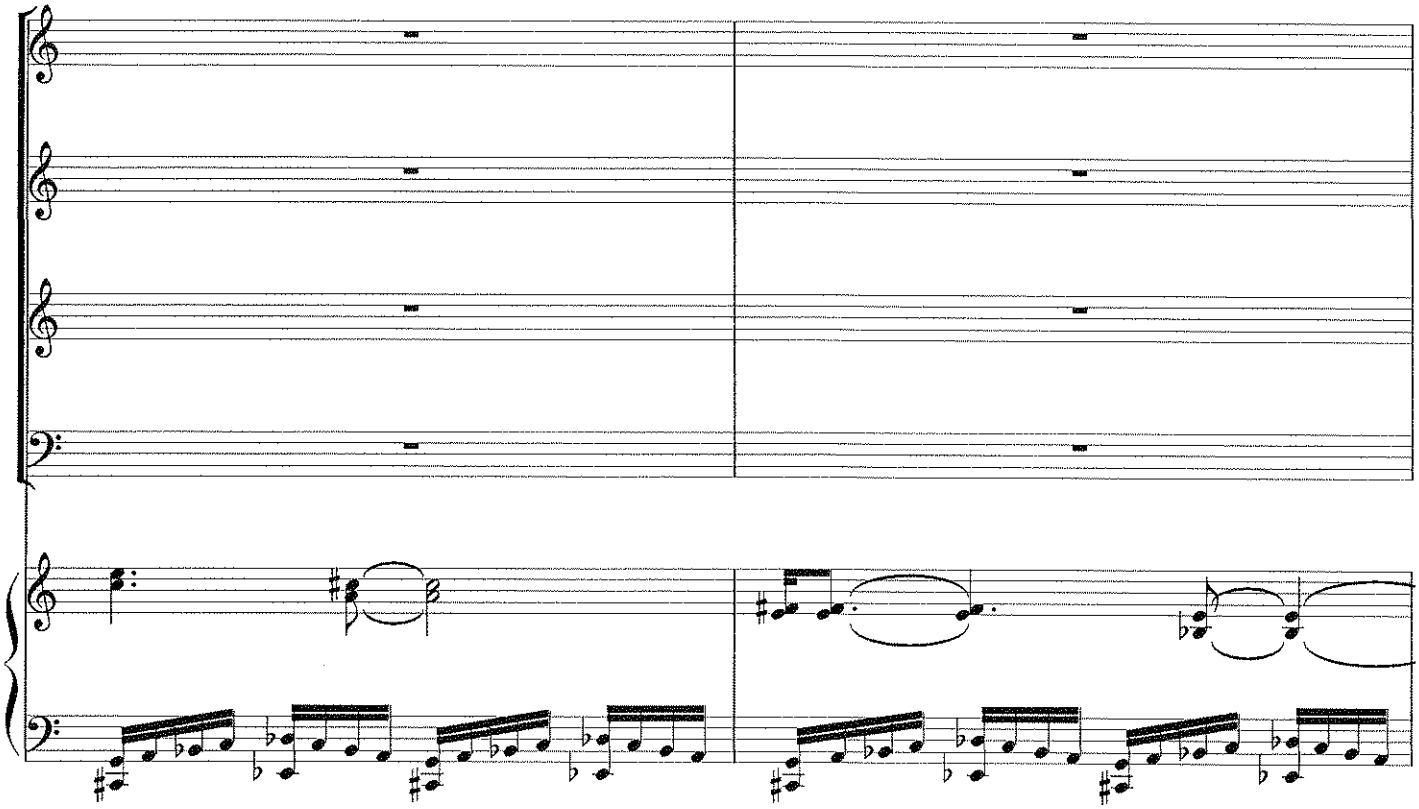

286
guilt - y one in - to the sea, the
guilt - y one in - to the sea, the
guilt - y one in - to the sea,
(words above)
guilt - y one in - to the sea, the
guilt - y one in - to the sea, the
guilt - y one in - to the sea,
(words above)
7
f
Full Orch.
7
289


293
f
Like a chain - less an- chor,
Like a chain - less an- chor,
f
Like a chain - less an- chor,
Like a chain - less an- chor,
f
296
ff
Like a chain - less an- chor,
ff
Like a chain - less an- chor,
ff
fp

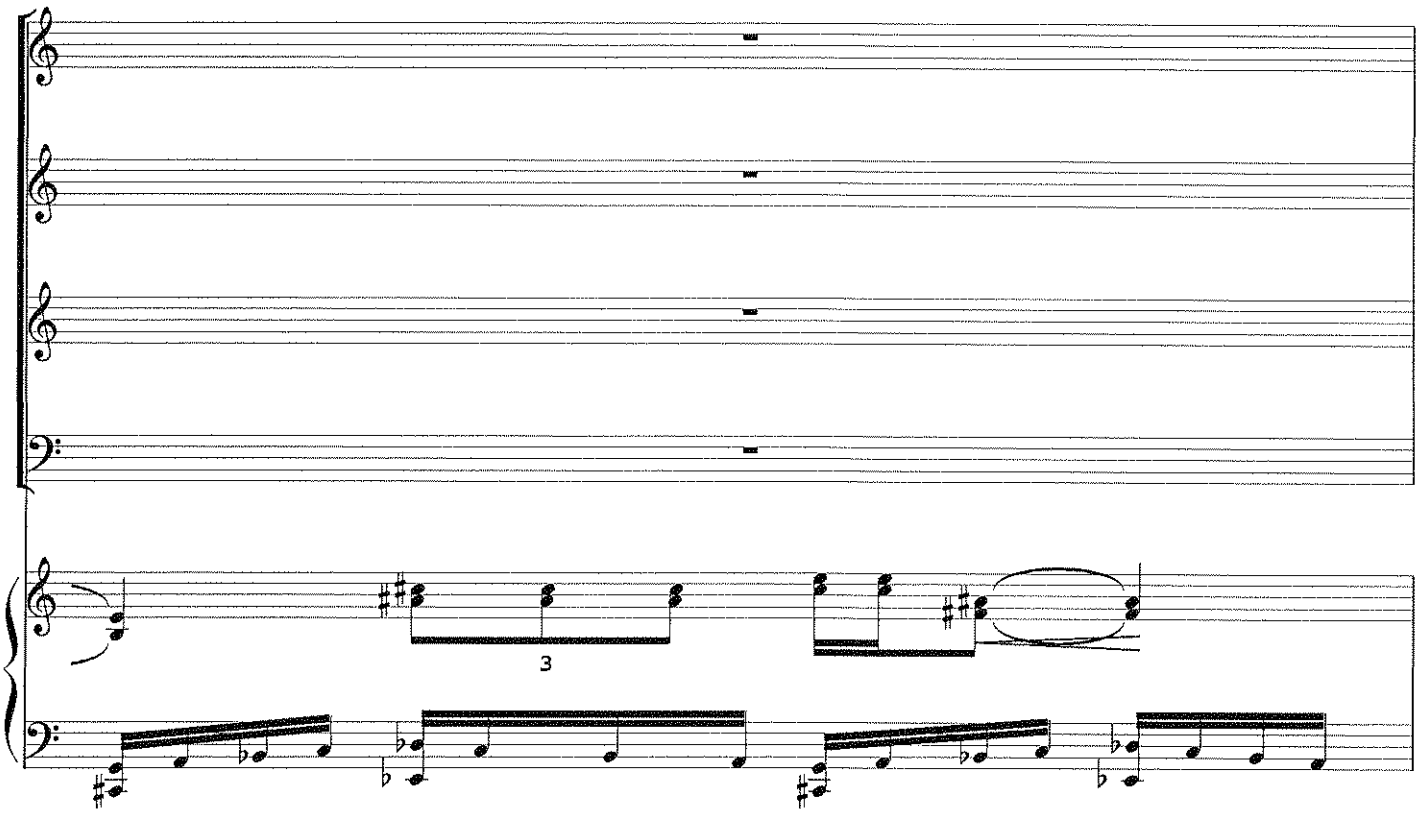

299
ff
Let us keep the man as one of us,
Let us keep the
fp
303
man as one of us.
R Adagio in 4
f
And the sea rose tem-
Marcato molto
Hn.
mp

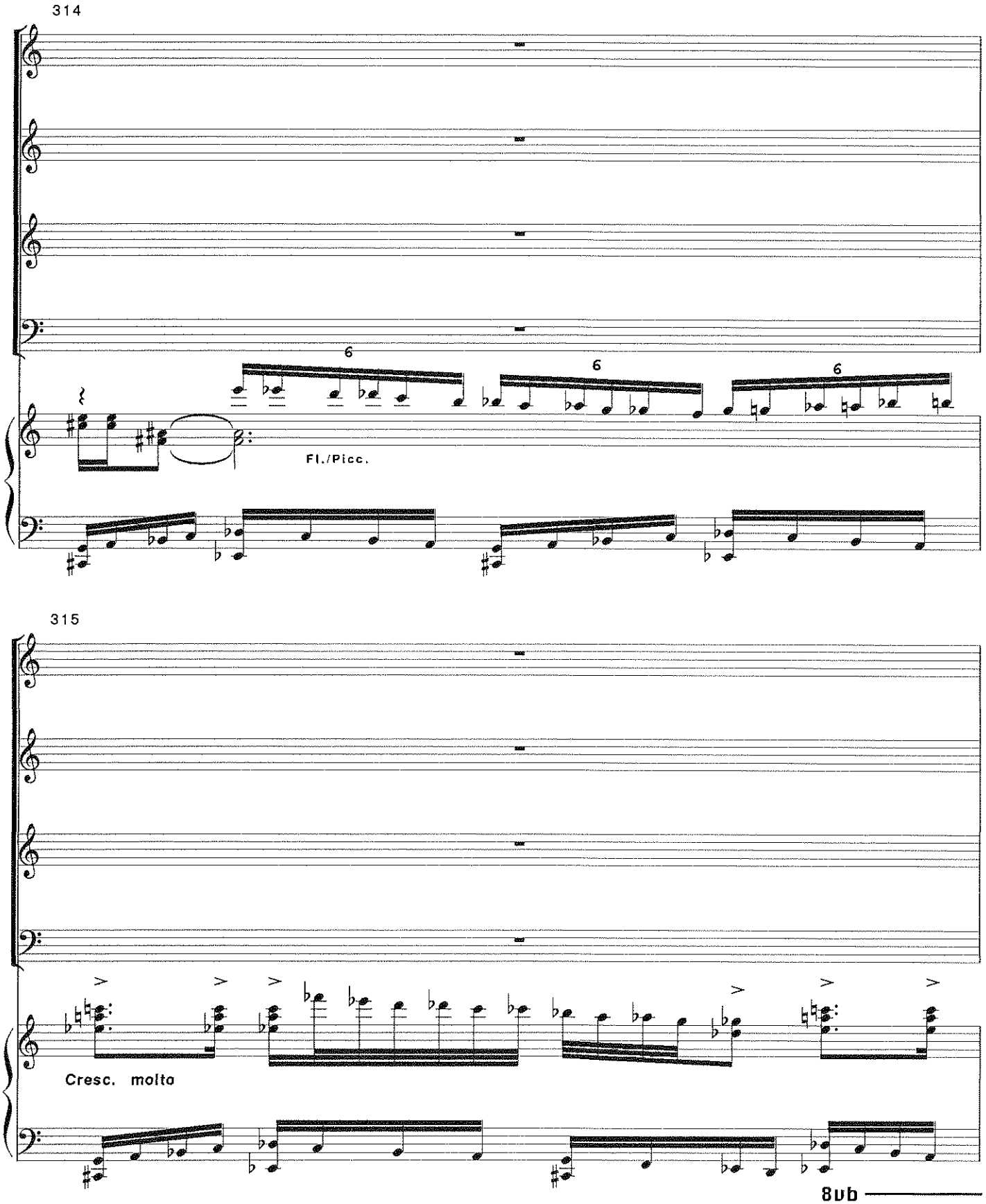

306
Pesante
pes- tu- ous a- gainst them, then they
Pesante
Pesante
feared the Lord ex- ceed- ing- ly, and
cresc.
cried:
cresc.
309
Strs/Bsn..
Tr./Hn.
3
fp
mp
p
mp
mf

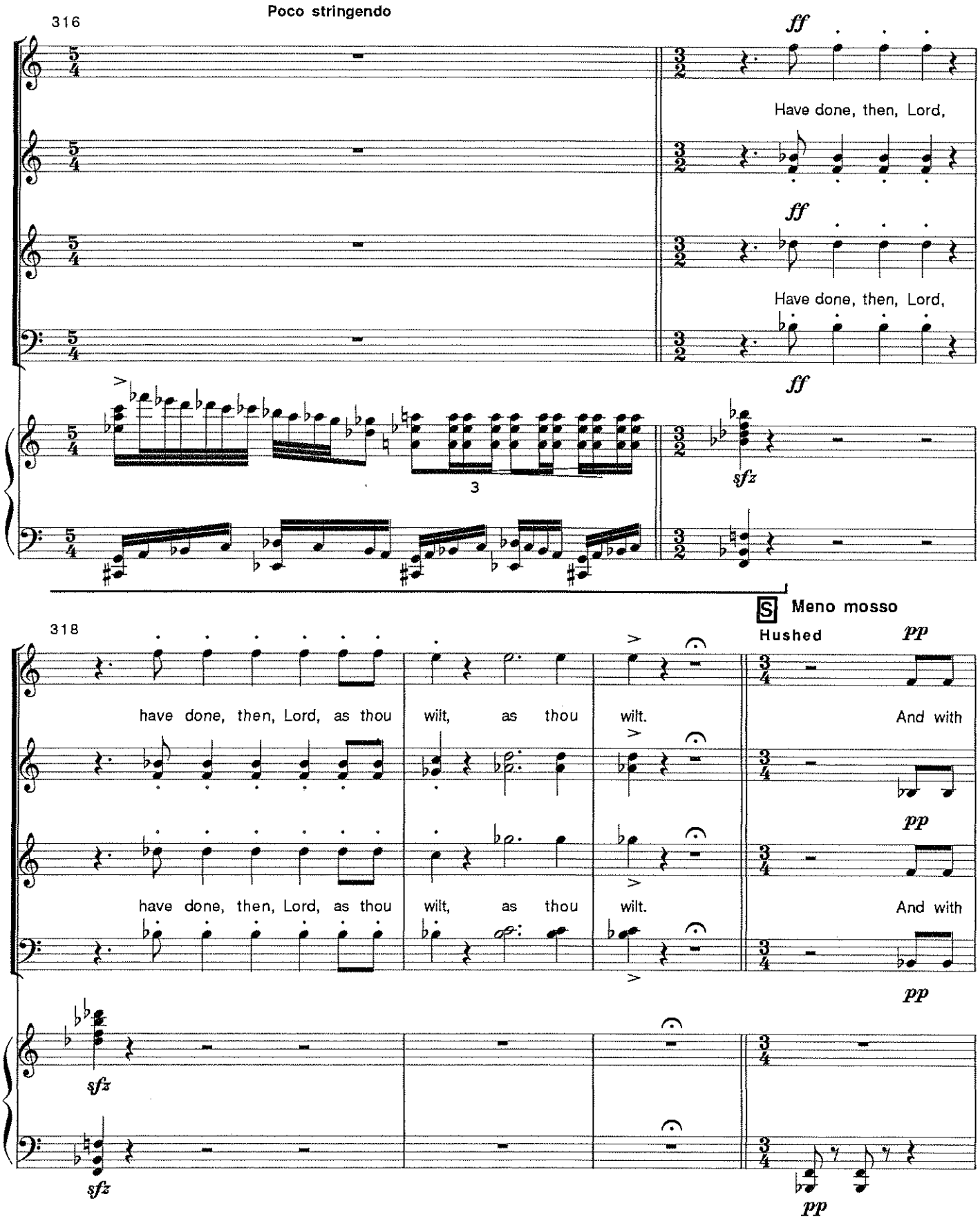
311

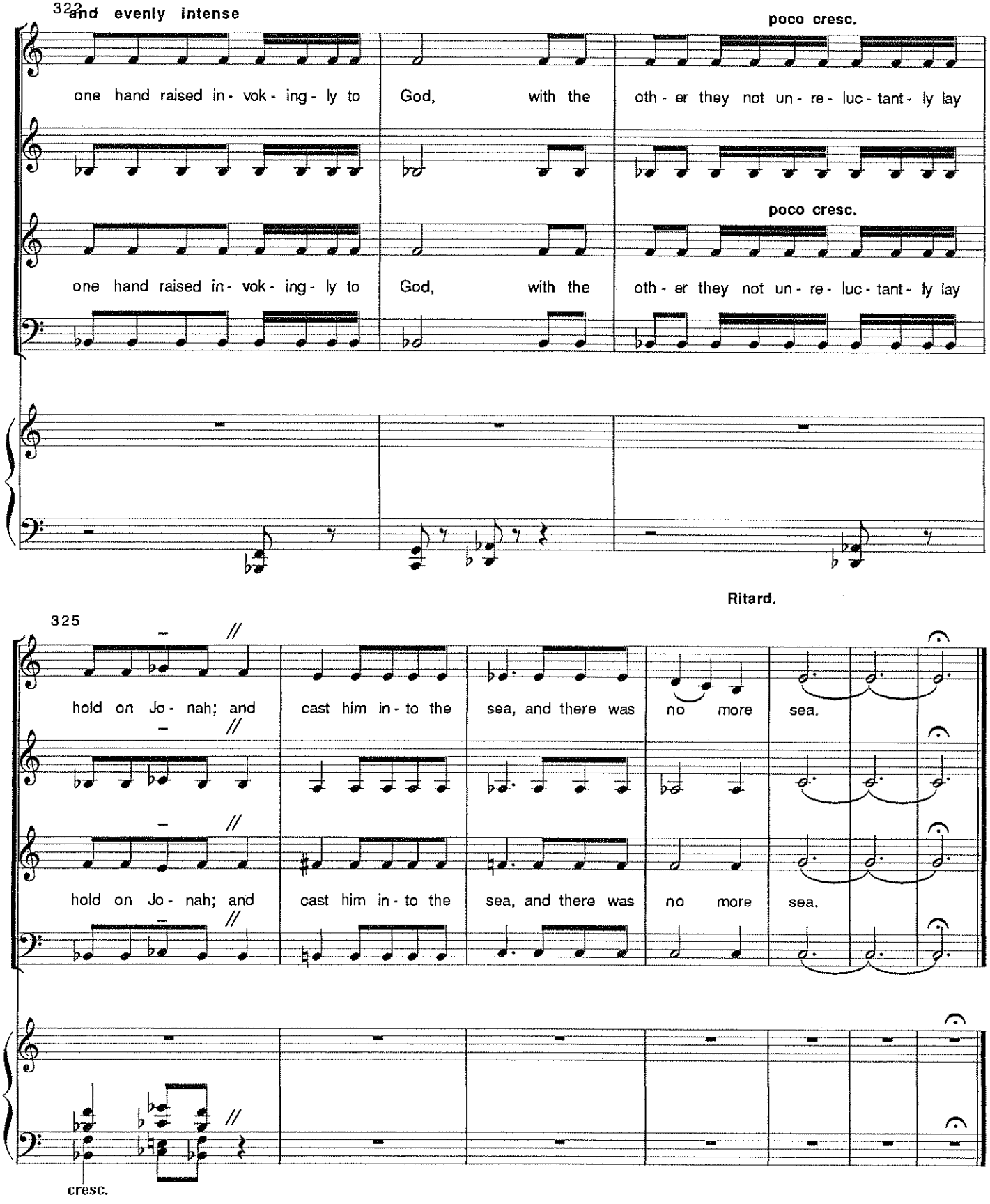


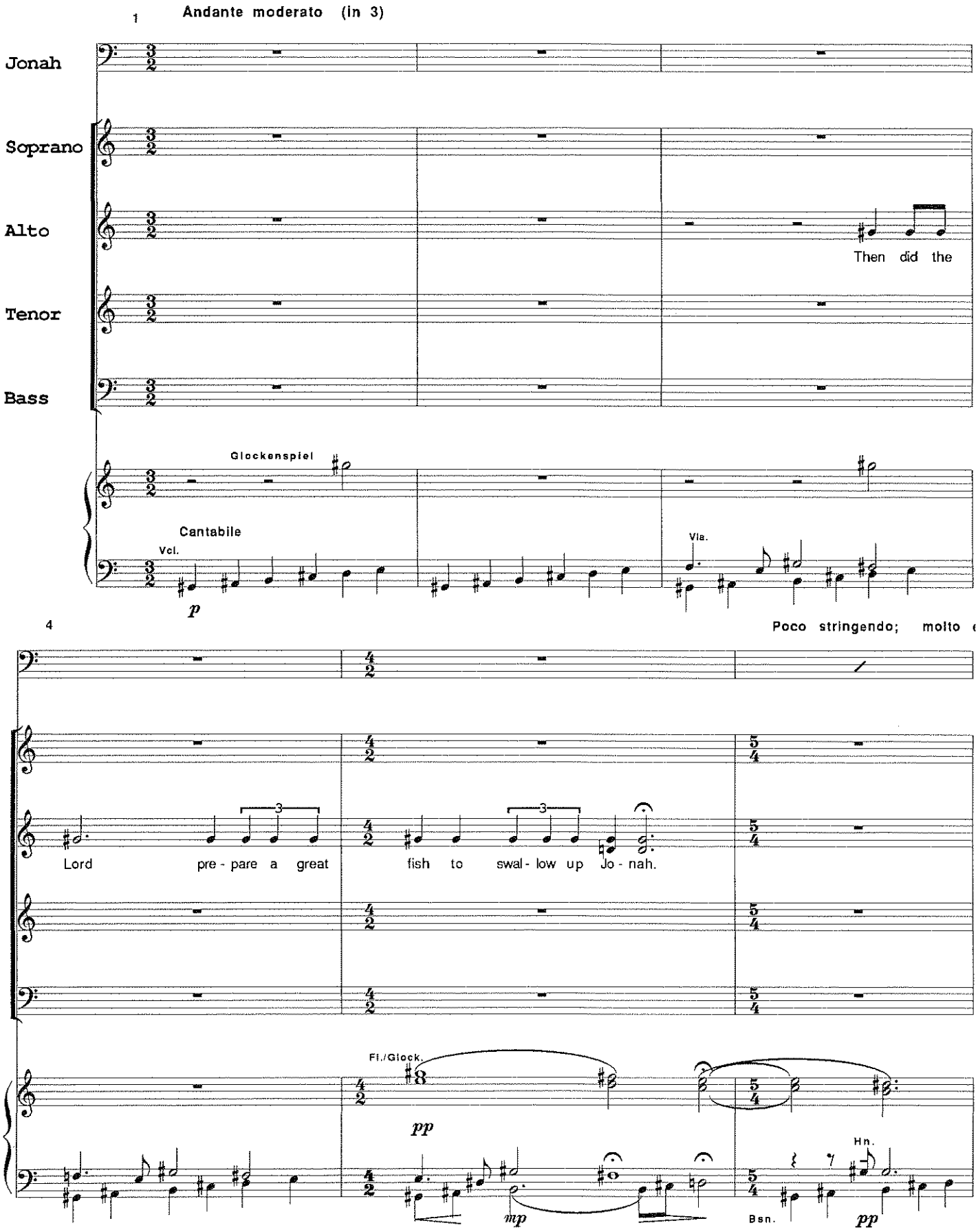
313

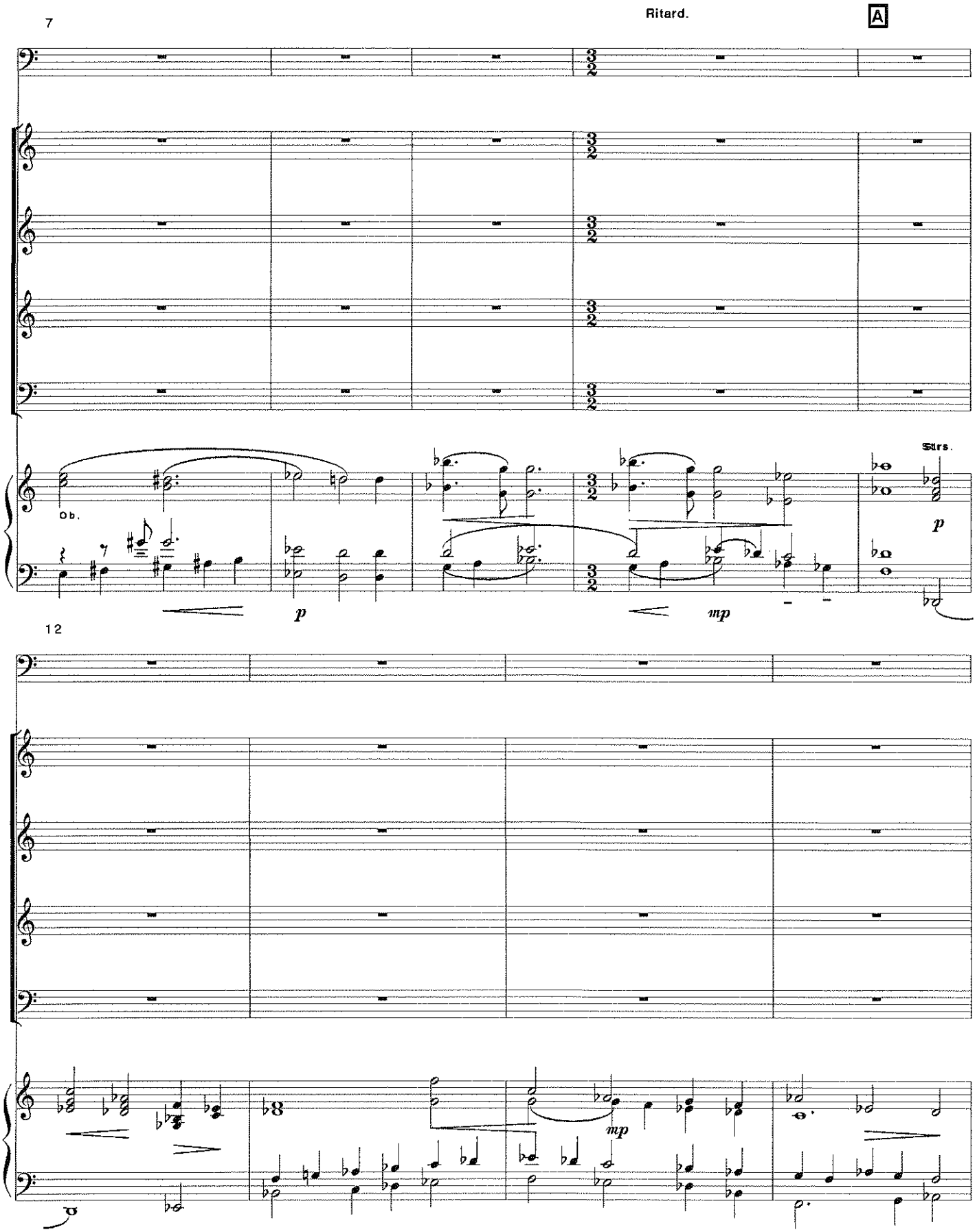


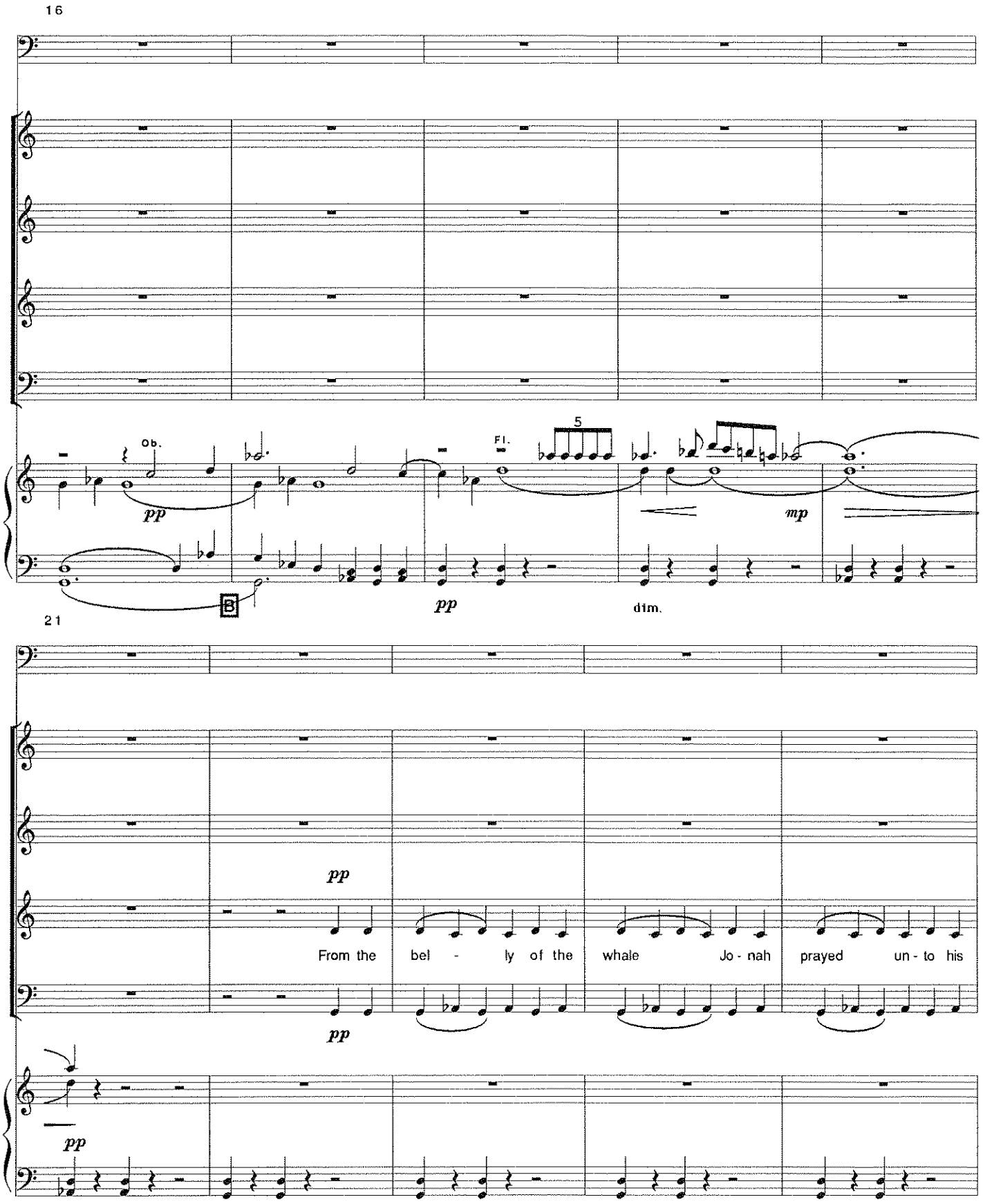

314
6
6
6
Fl./Picc.
315
Cresc. molto
8vb

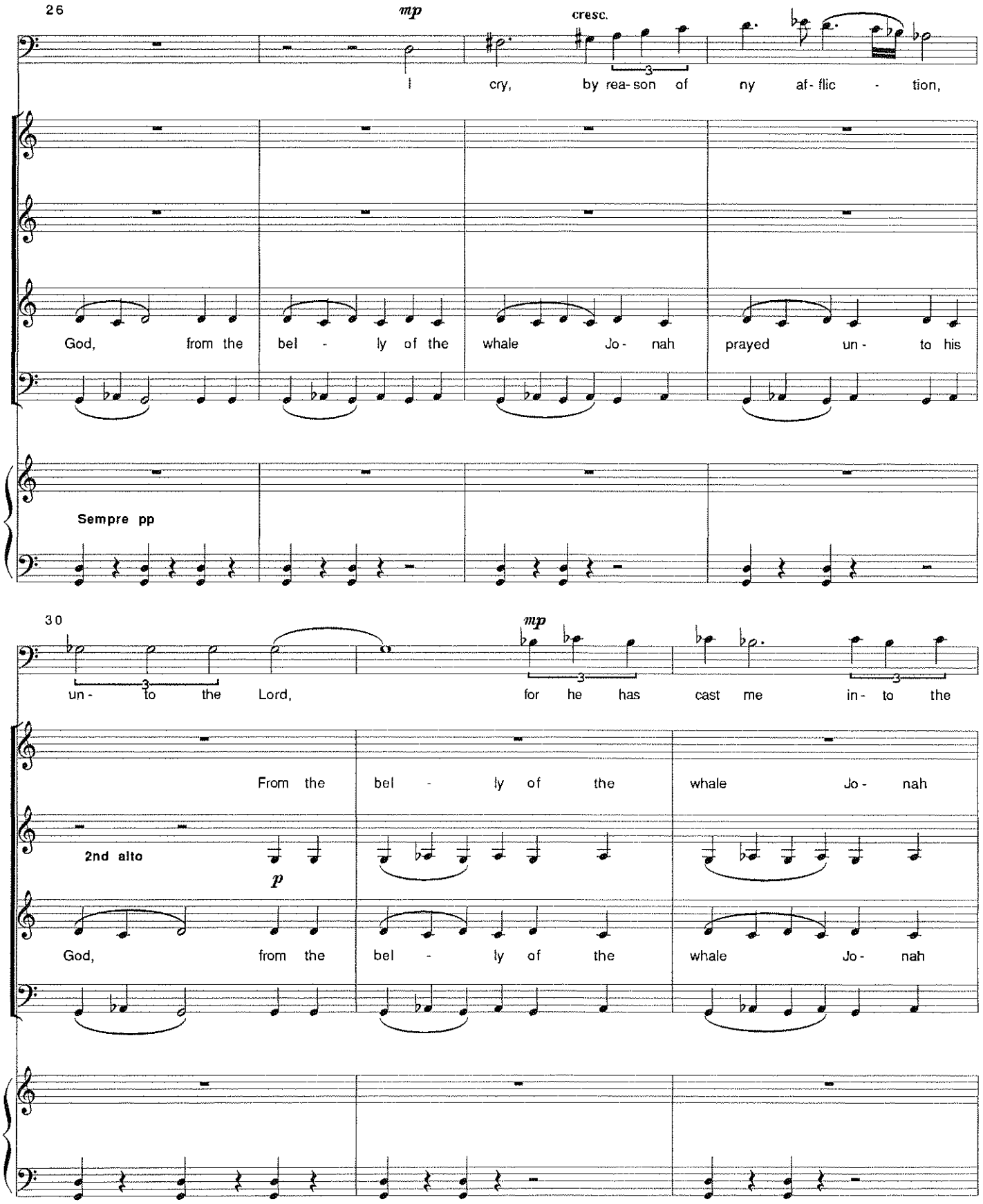

316
Poco stringendo
ff
Have done, then, Lord,
ff
Have done, then, Lord,
ff
3
sfz
S
Meno mosso
Hushed
pp
318
have done, then, Lord, as thou wilt, as thou wilt.
And with
pp
have done, then, Lord, as thou wilt, as thou wilt.
And with
pp
sfz
sfz
pp

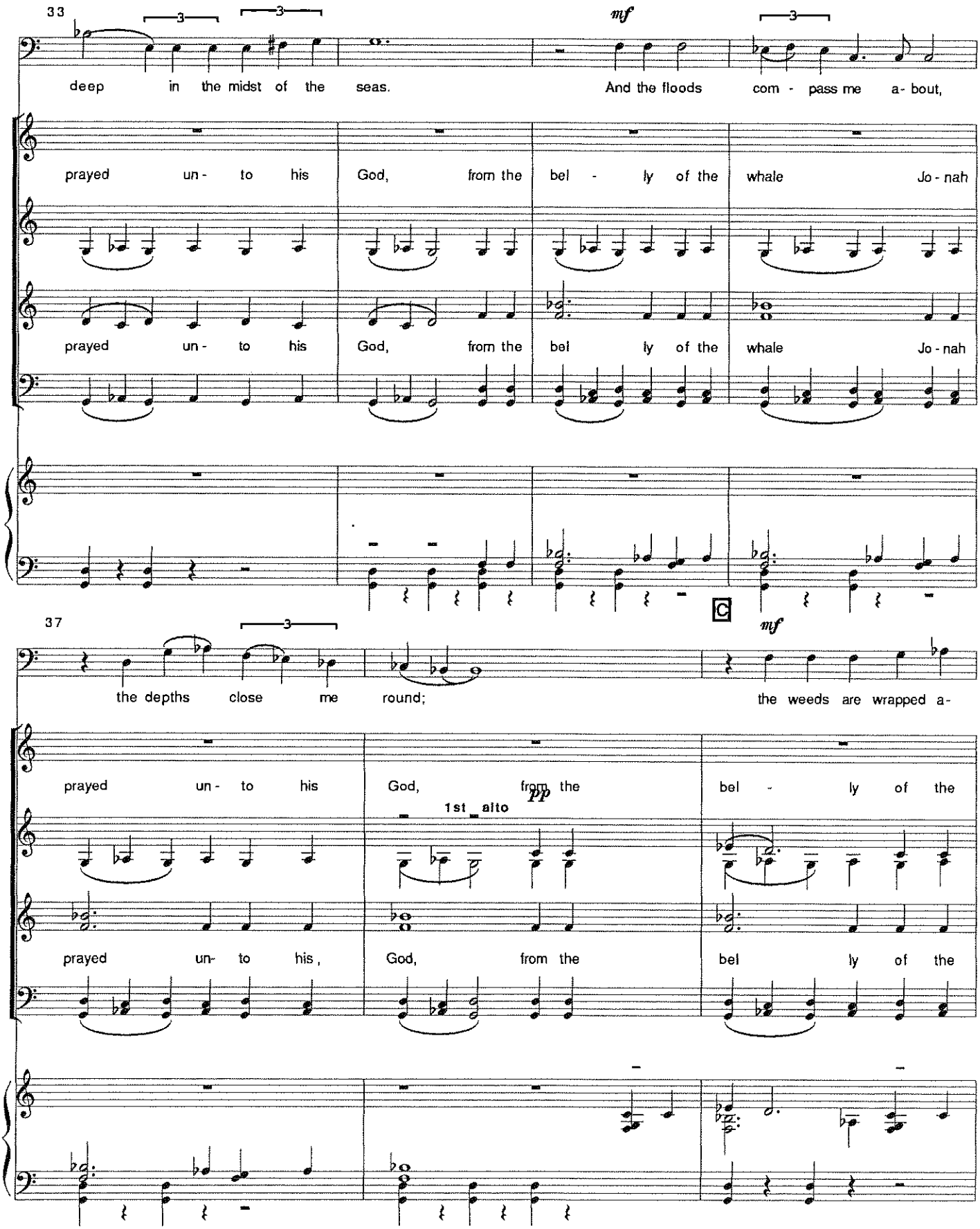

322
and evenly intense
poco cresc.
one hand raised in- vok- ing- ly to God, with the oth- er they not un- re- luc- tant- ly lay
poco cresc.
one hand raised in- vok- ing- ly to God, with the oth- er they not un- re- luc- tant- ly lay
Ritard.
325
hold on Jo- nah; and cast him in- to the sea, and there was no more sea.
hold on Jo- nah; and cast him in- to the sea, and there was no more sea.
cresc.

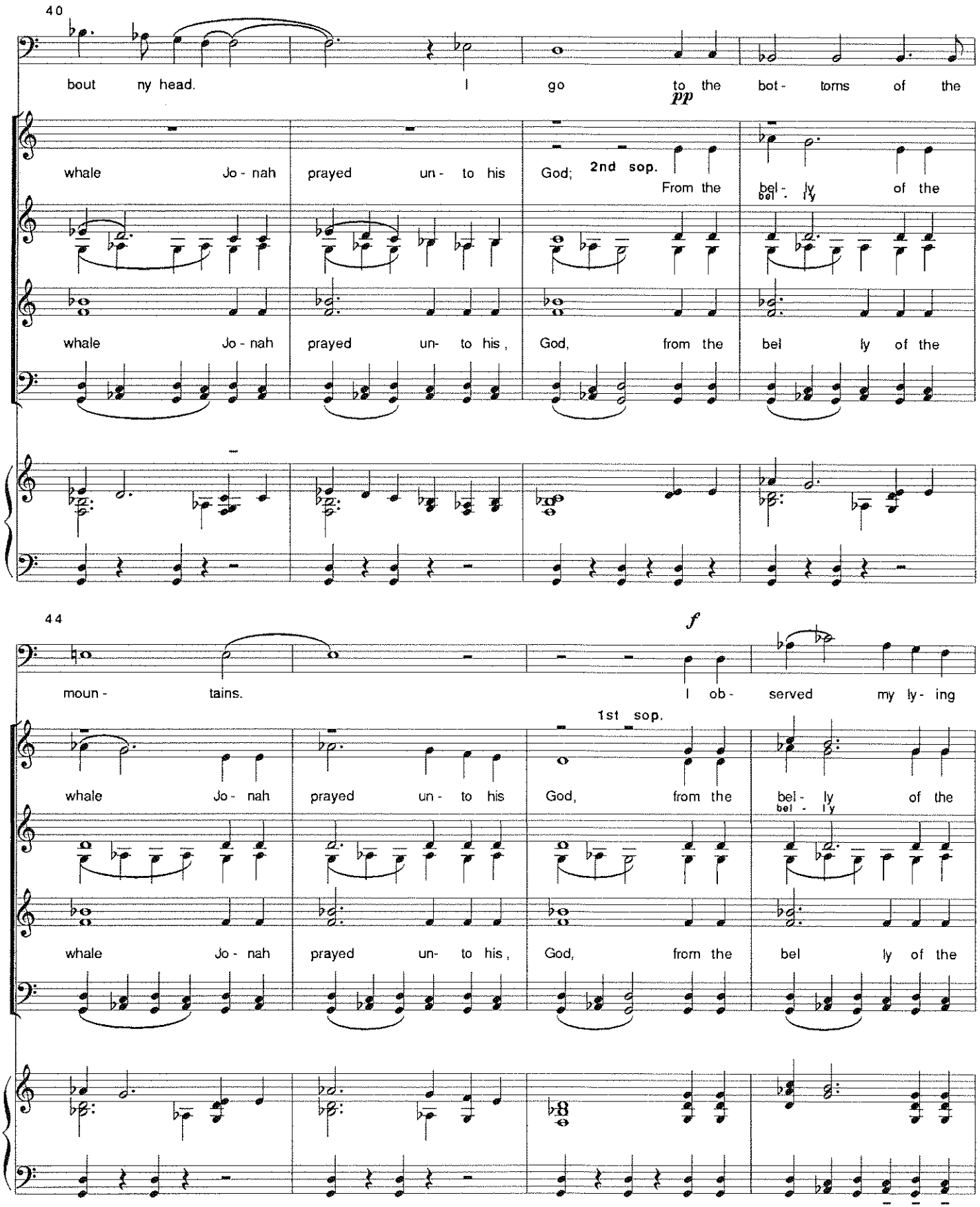

1
Andante moderato (in 3)
Jonah
Soprano
Alto
Then did the
Tenor
Bass
Glockenspiel
Cantabile
Vcl.
p
Vla.
4
Poco stringendo; molto
Lord pre - pare a great fish to swal - low up Jo - nah.
Fl./Glock.
pp
mp
Hn.
Bsn.
pp

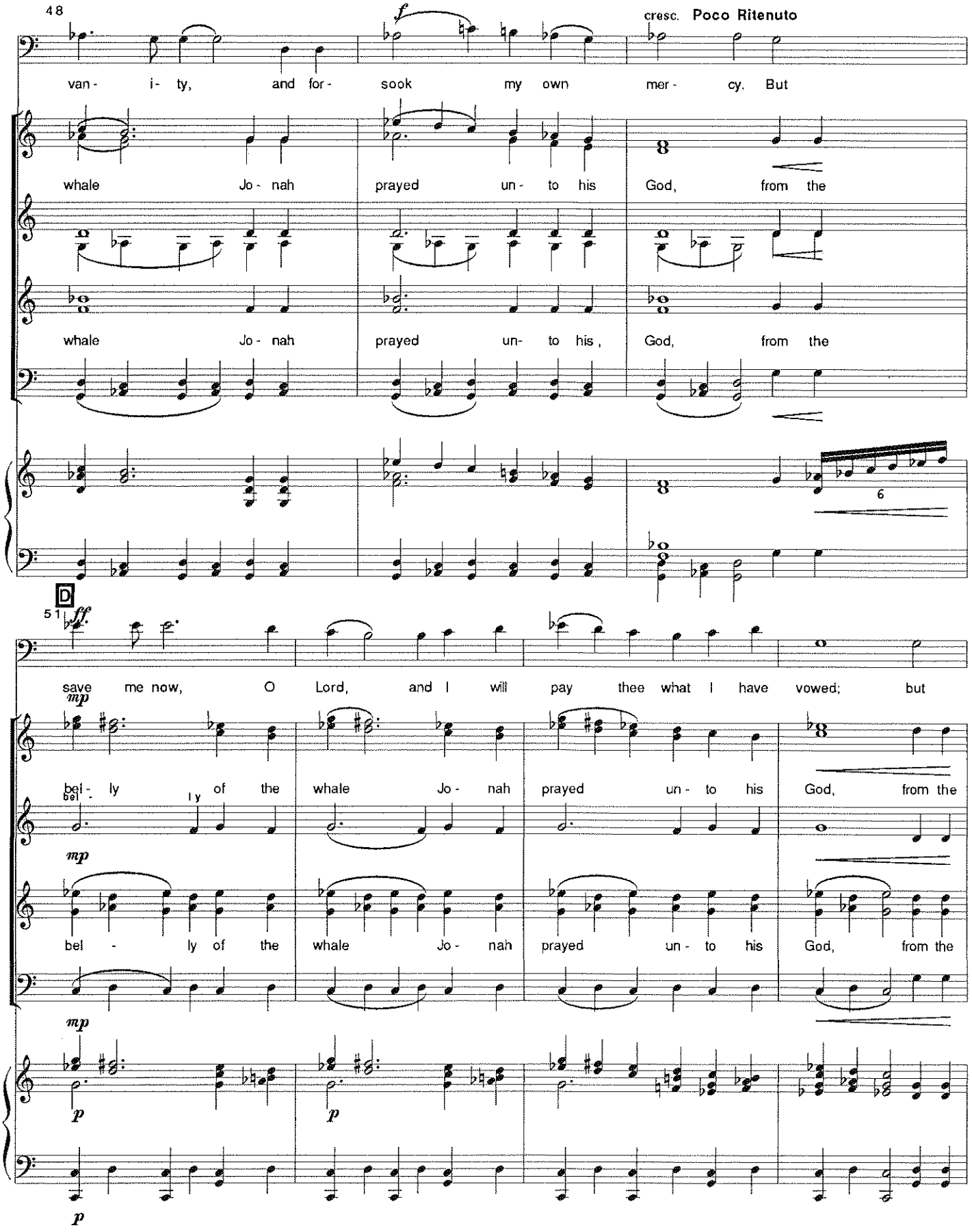

7
Ritard.
A
Ob.
p
mp
Strs.
p
12
mp

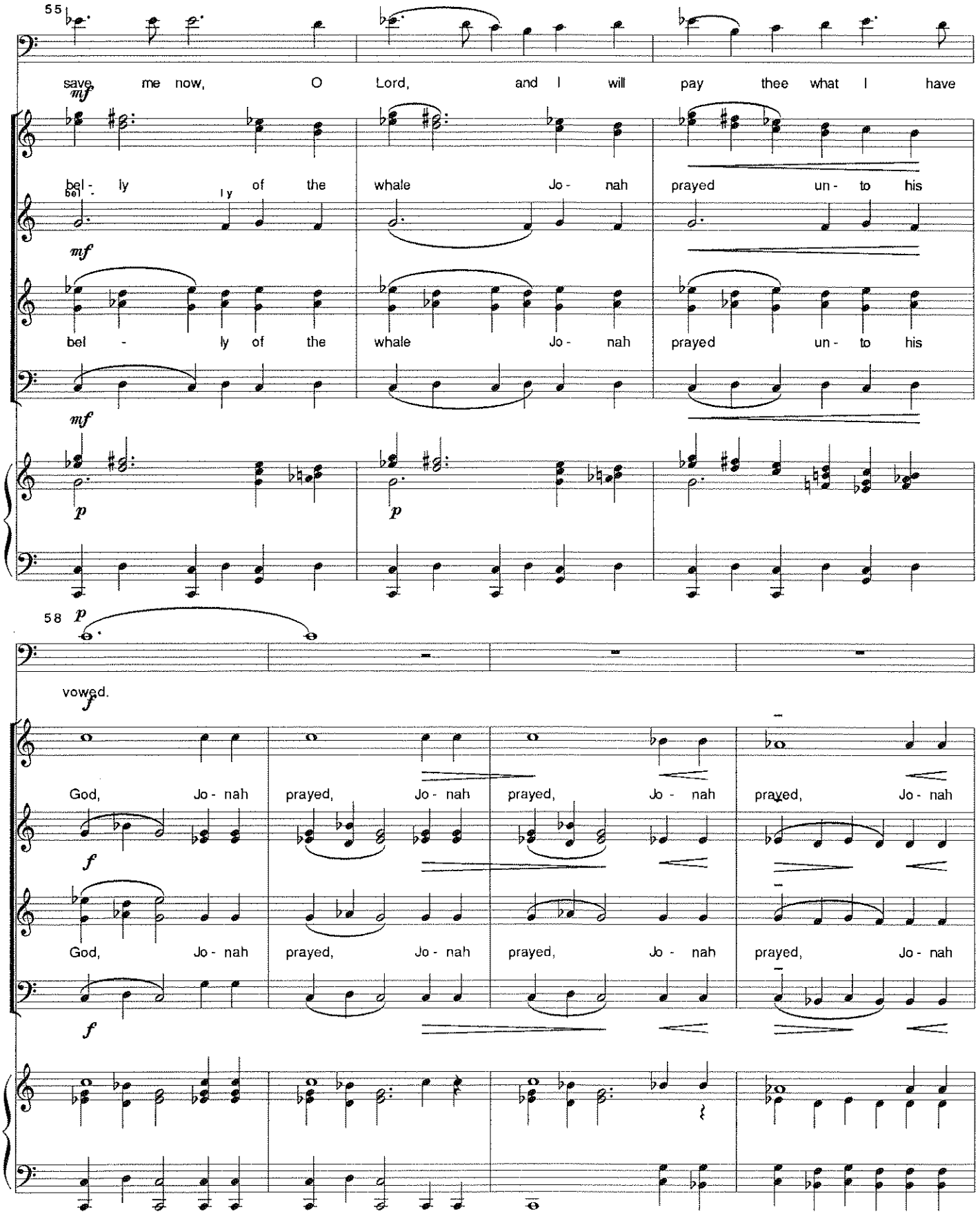

16
Ob.
pp
Fl.
5
mp
B
21
pp
dim.
pp
From the bel - ly of the whale Jo - nah prayed un - to his
pp
pp

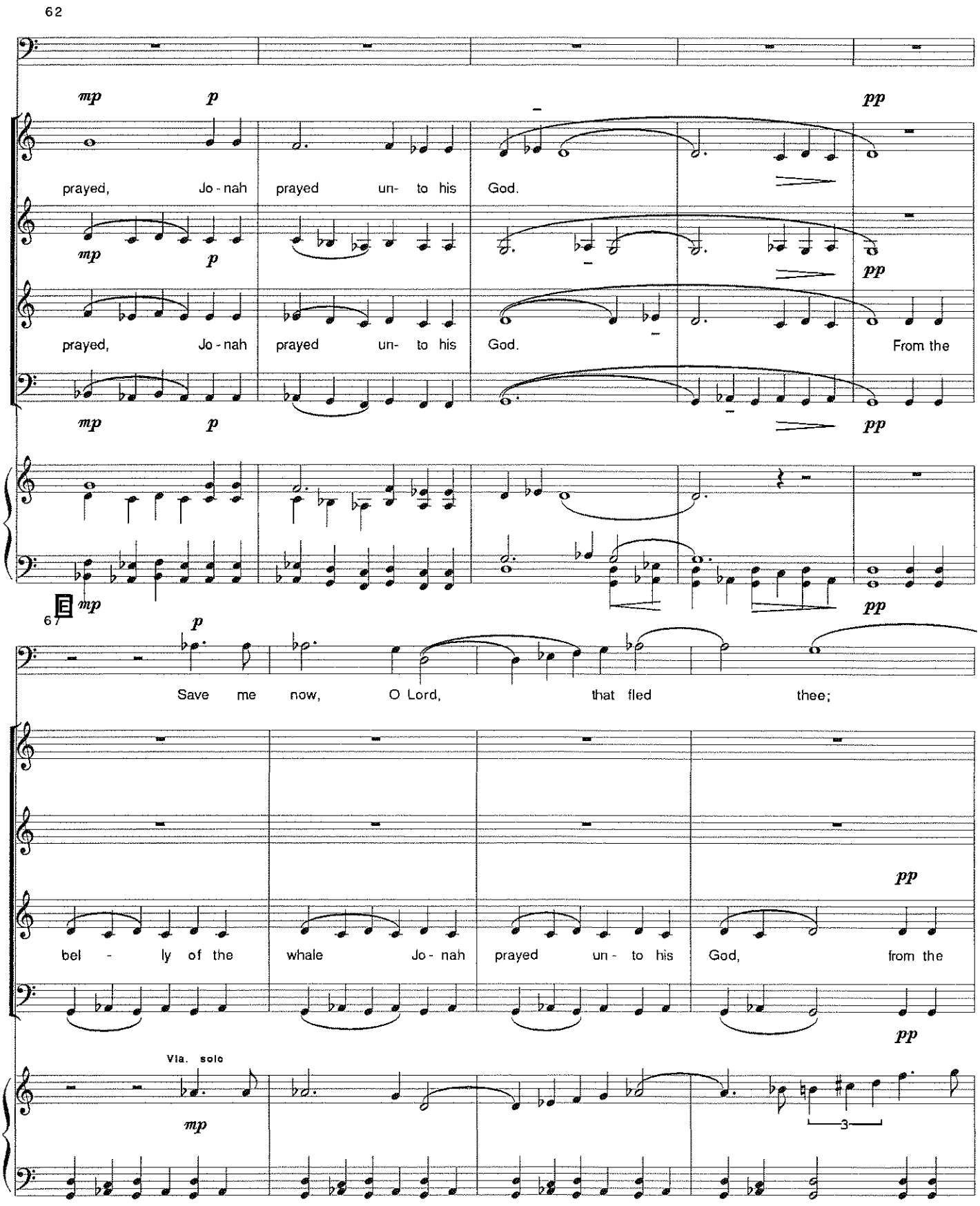

26
mp
cresc.
I cry, by rea- son of ny af- flic - tion,
God, from the bel - ly of the whale Jo- nah prayed un- to his
Sempre pp
30
mp
un- to the Lord, for he has cast me in- to the
From the bel - ly of the whale Jo- nah
2nd alto
p
God, from the bel - ly of the whale Jo- nah

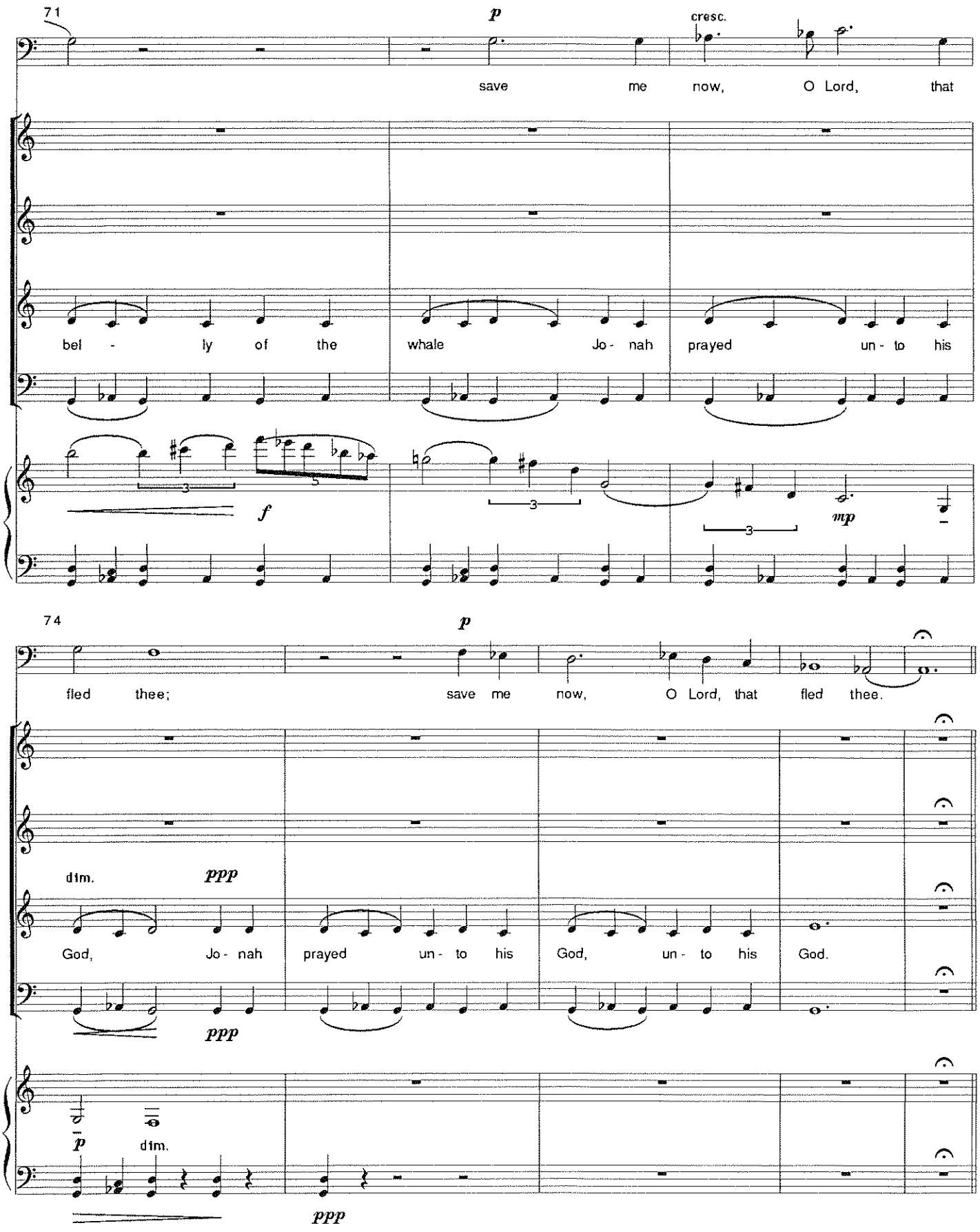

33
mf
deep in the midst of the seas. And the floods com - pass me a- bout,
prayed un - to his God, from the bel - ly of the whale Jo - nah
prayed un - to his God, from the bel ly of the whale Jo - nah
C
37
mf
the depths close me round; the weeds are wrapped a-
prayed un - to his God, from the bel - ly of the
pp
1st alto
prayed un- to his, God, from the bel ly of the

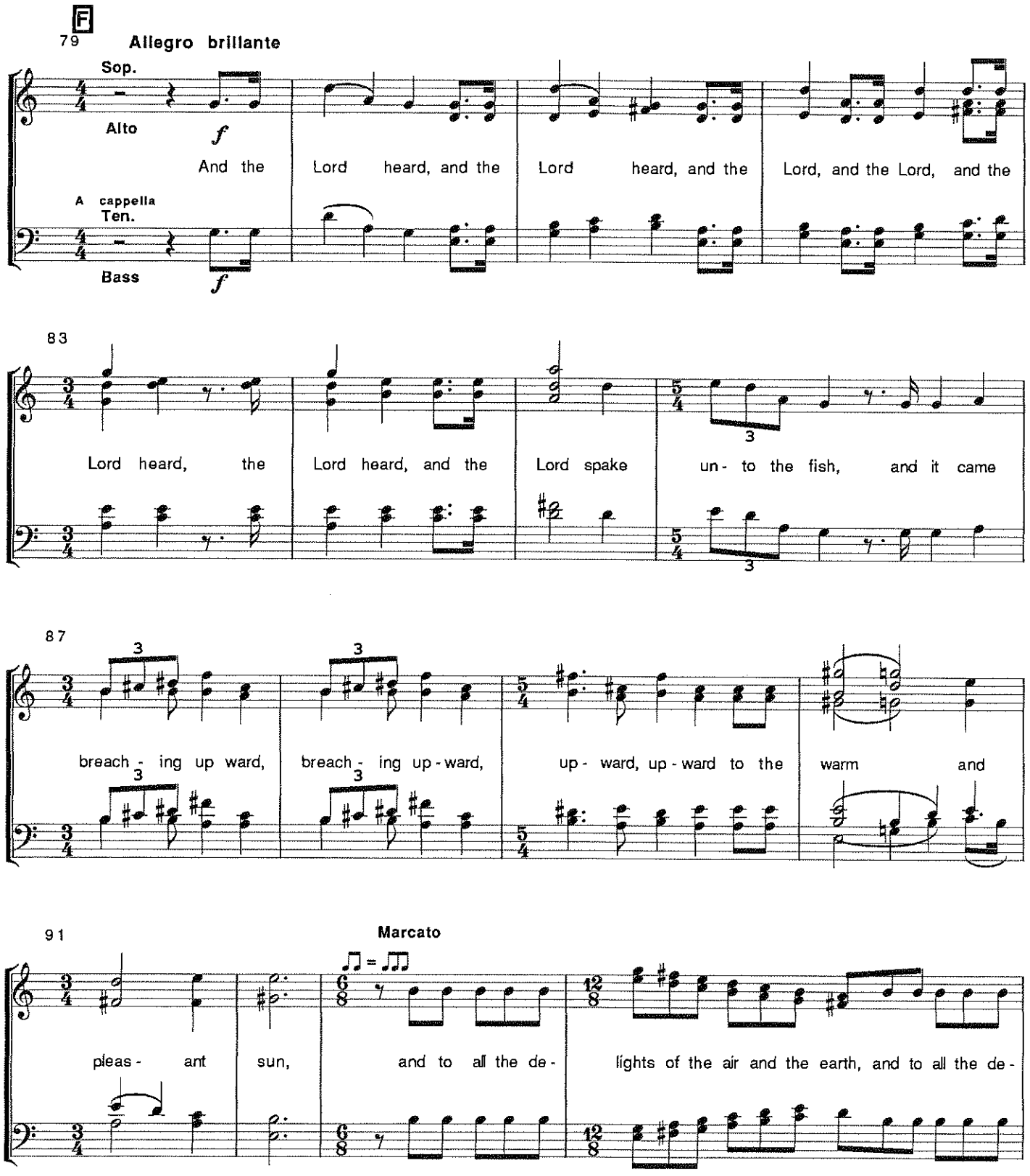

40
bout ny head. I go to the bot - toms of the
pp
whale Jo - nah prayed un - to his God; 2nd sop. From the bel - ly of the
bel - ly
whale Jo - nah prayed un- to his , God, from the bel ly of the
44
f
moun - tains. I ob - served my ly - ing
1st sop.
whale Jo - nah prayed un - to his God, from the bel - ly of the
bel - ly
whale Jo - nah prayed un- to his , God, from the bel ly of the

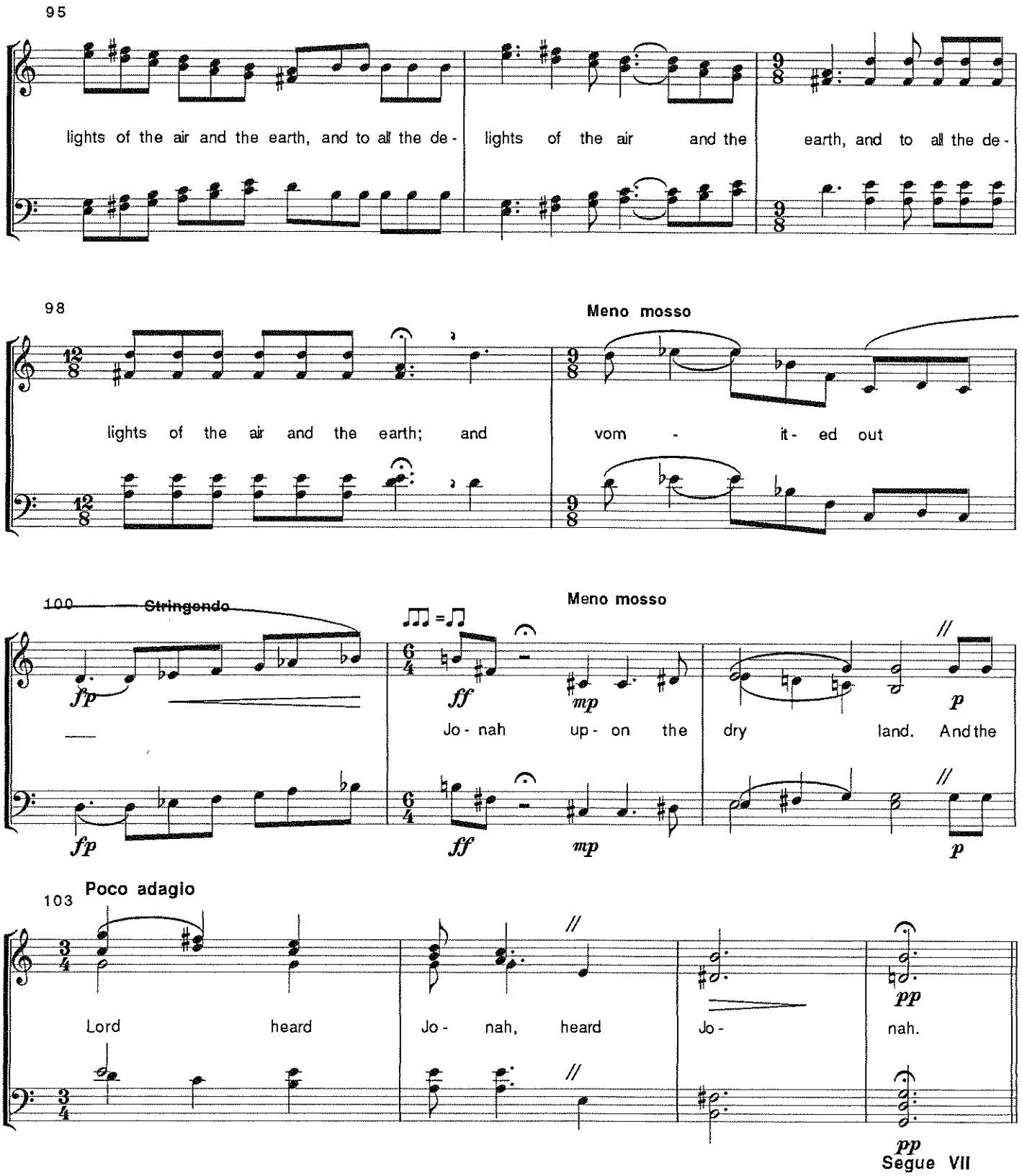

48
f
cresc. Poco Ritenuto
van - i - ty, and for - sook my own mer - cy. But
whale Jo - nah prayed un - to his God, from the
whale Jo - nah prayed un- to his , God, from the
6
D
51
ff
save me now, O Lord, and I will pay thee what I have vowed; but
mp
bel - ly of the whale Jo - nah prayed un - to his God, from the
bel - ly
mp
bel - ly of the whale Jo - nah prayed un - to his God, from the
mp
p
p
p

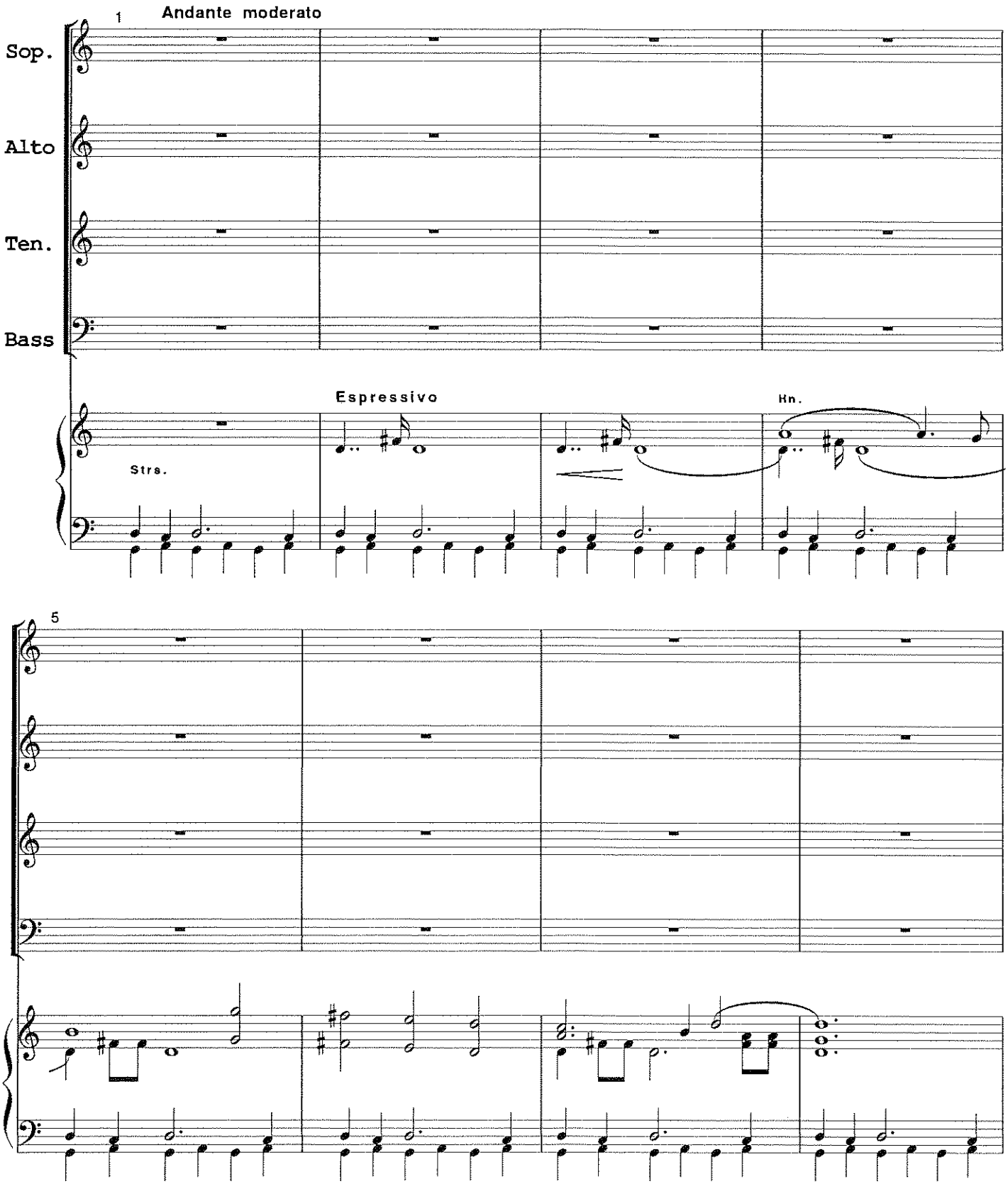

55
save me now, O Lord, and I will pay thee what I have
mf
bel - ly of the whale Jo - nah prayed un - to his
mf
bel - ly of the whale Jo - nah prayed un - to his
mf
p
p
58
p
vowed.
f
God, Jo - nah prayed, Jo - nah prayed, Jo - nah prayed, Jo - nah
f
God, Jo - nah prayed, Jo - nah prayed, Jo - nah prayed, Jo - nah
f

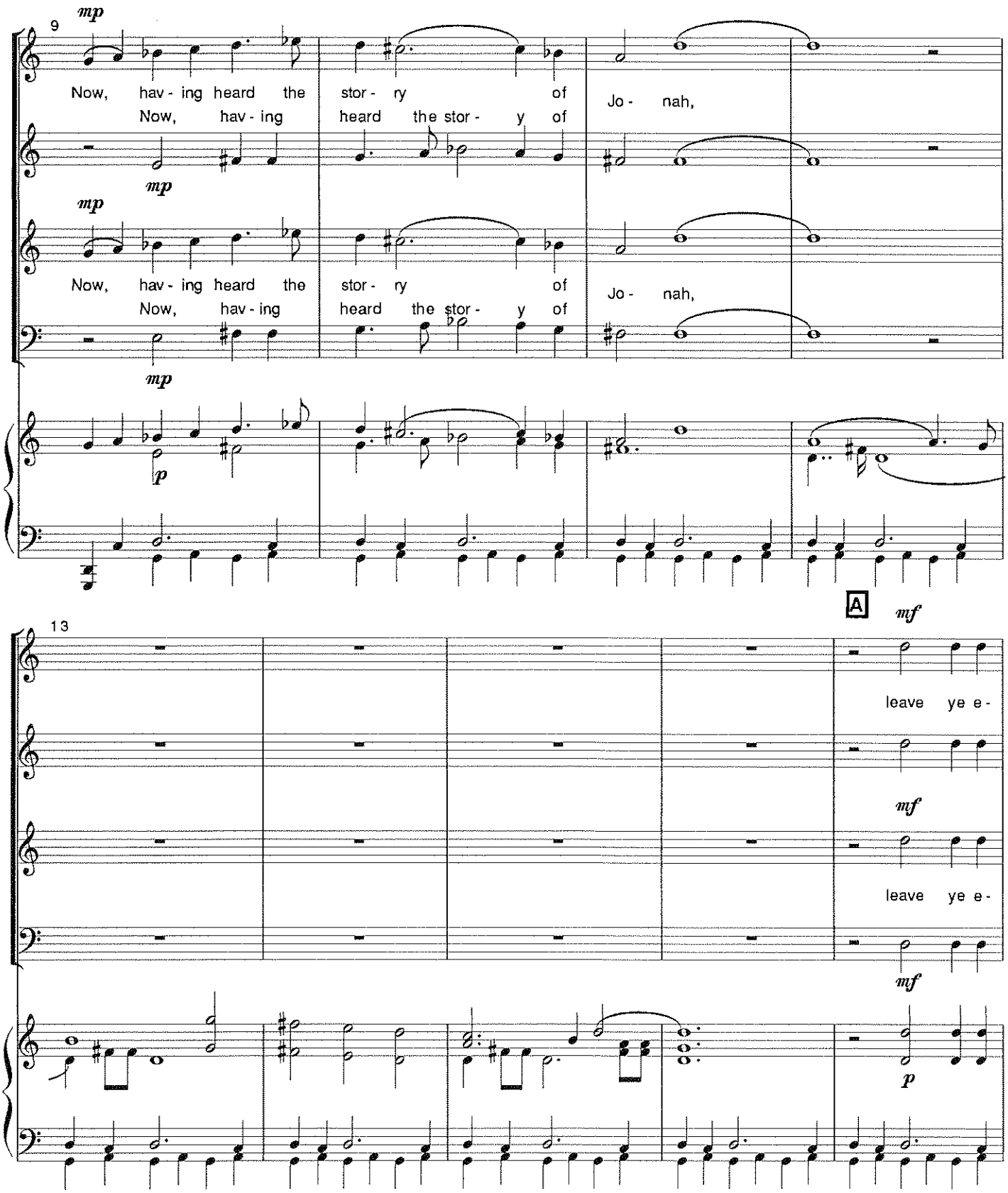

62
mp
p
pp
prayed, Jo - nah prayed un- to his God.
mp
p
pp
prayed, Jo - nah prayed un- to his God. From the
mp
p
pp
mp
pp
67
p
Save me now, O Lord, that fled thee;
pp
bel - ly of the whale Jo - nah prayed un - to his God, from the
pp
Vla. solo
mp
3

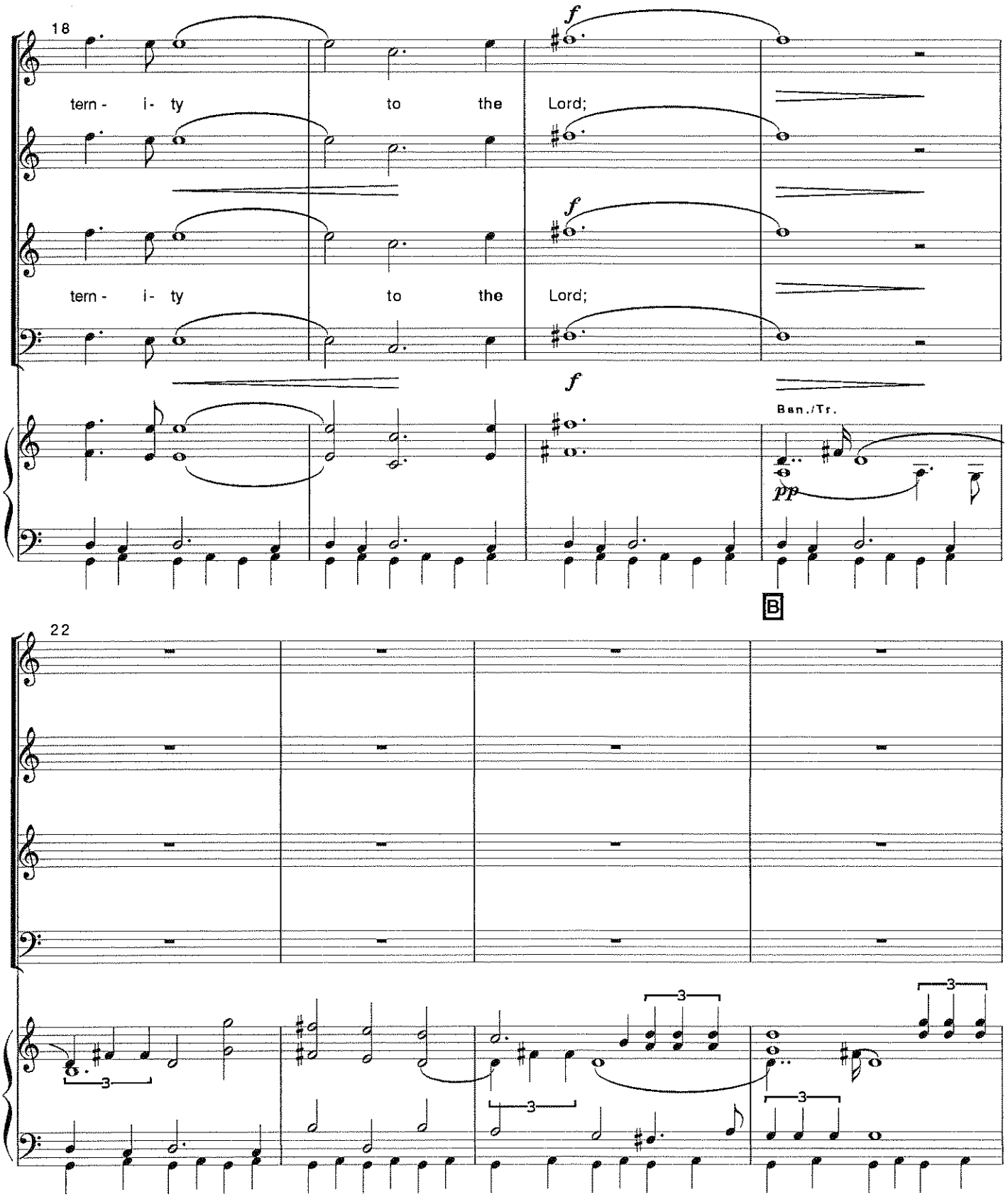

71
p
cresc.
save me now, O Lord, that
bel - ly of the whale Jo - nah prayed un - to his
f
mp
74
p
fled thee; save me now, O Lord, that fled thee.
dim.
ppp
God, Jo - nah prayed un - to his God, un - to his God.
ppp
p
dim.
ppp

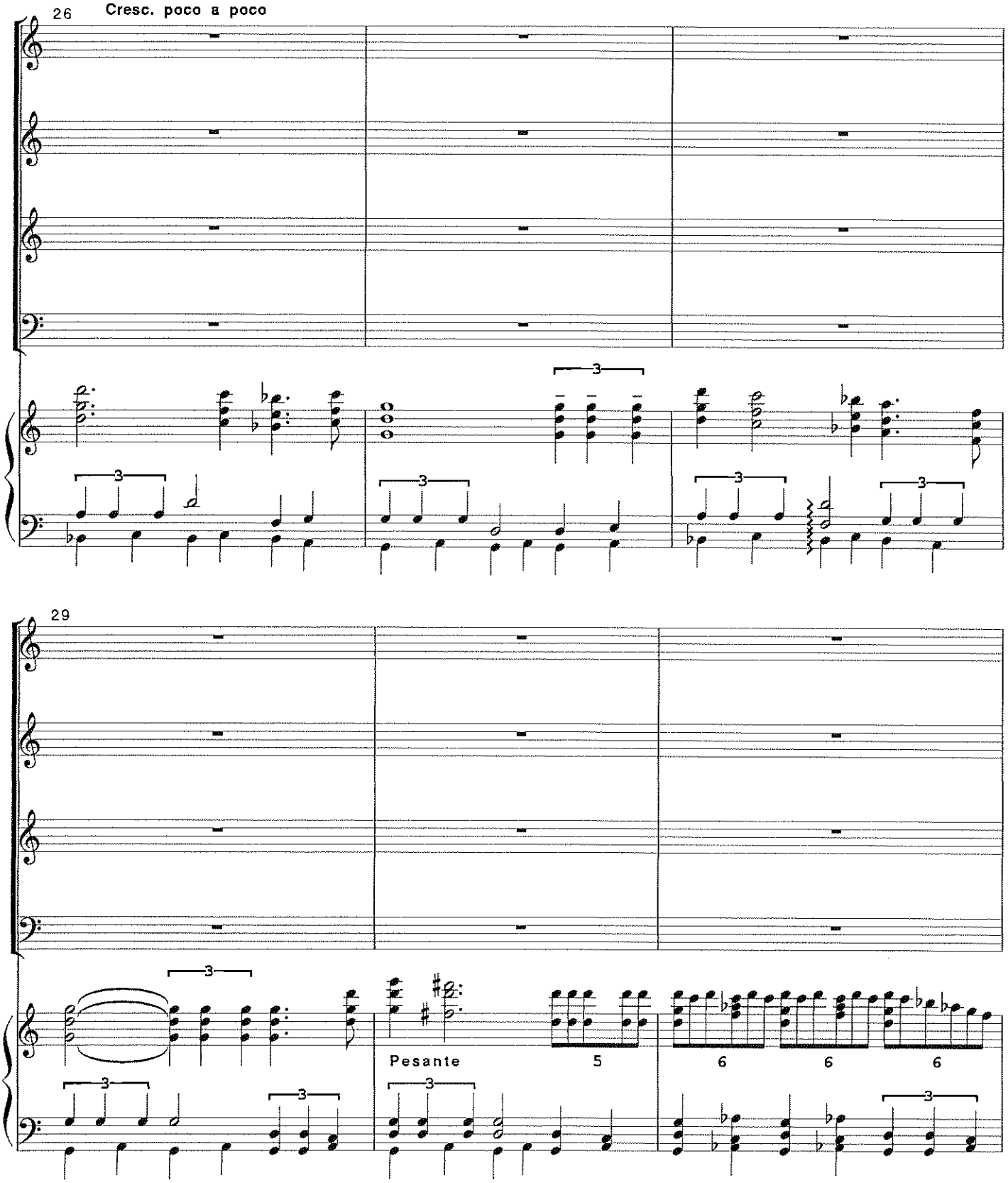

F
79
Allegro brillante
Sop.
Alto
f
And the Lord heard, and the Lord heard, and the Lord, and the Lord, and the
A cappella
Ten.
Bass
f
83
Lord heard, the Lord heard, and the Lord spake un- to the fish, and it came
87
breach- ing up ward, breach- ing up- ward, up- ward, up- ward to the warm and
91
Marcato
pleas- ant sun, and to all the de- lights of the air and the earth, and to all the de-

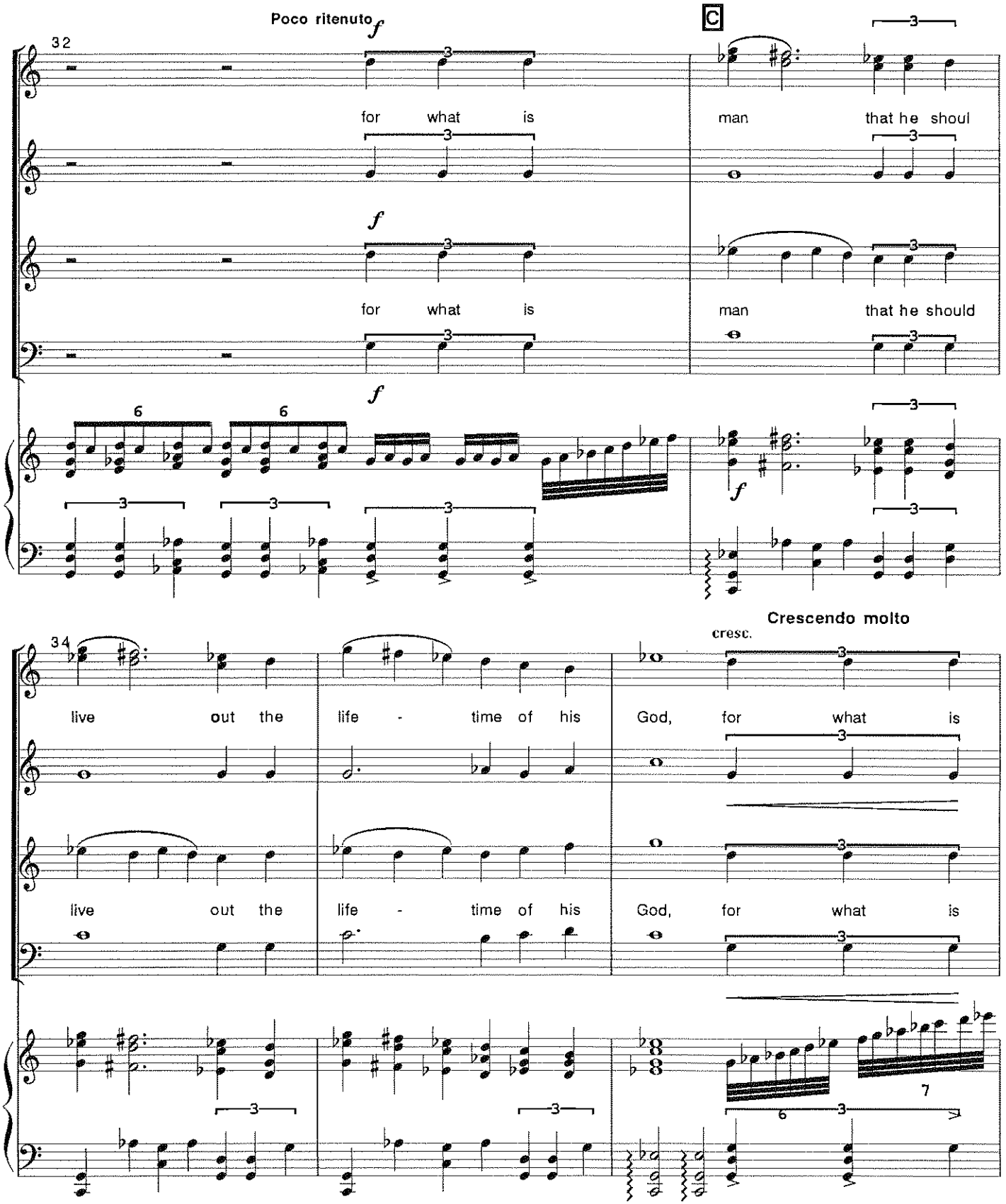

95
lights of the air and the earth, and to all the de-
lights of the air and the
earth, and to all the de-
98
Meno mosso
lights of the air and the earth; and
vom - it - ed out
100 Stringendo
Meno mosso
fp
ff
mp
p
Jo - nah up - on the dry land. And the
103 Poco adagio
Lord heard
Jo - nah, heard
Jo -
nah.
pp
Segue VII

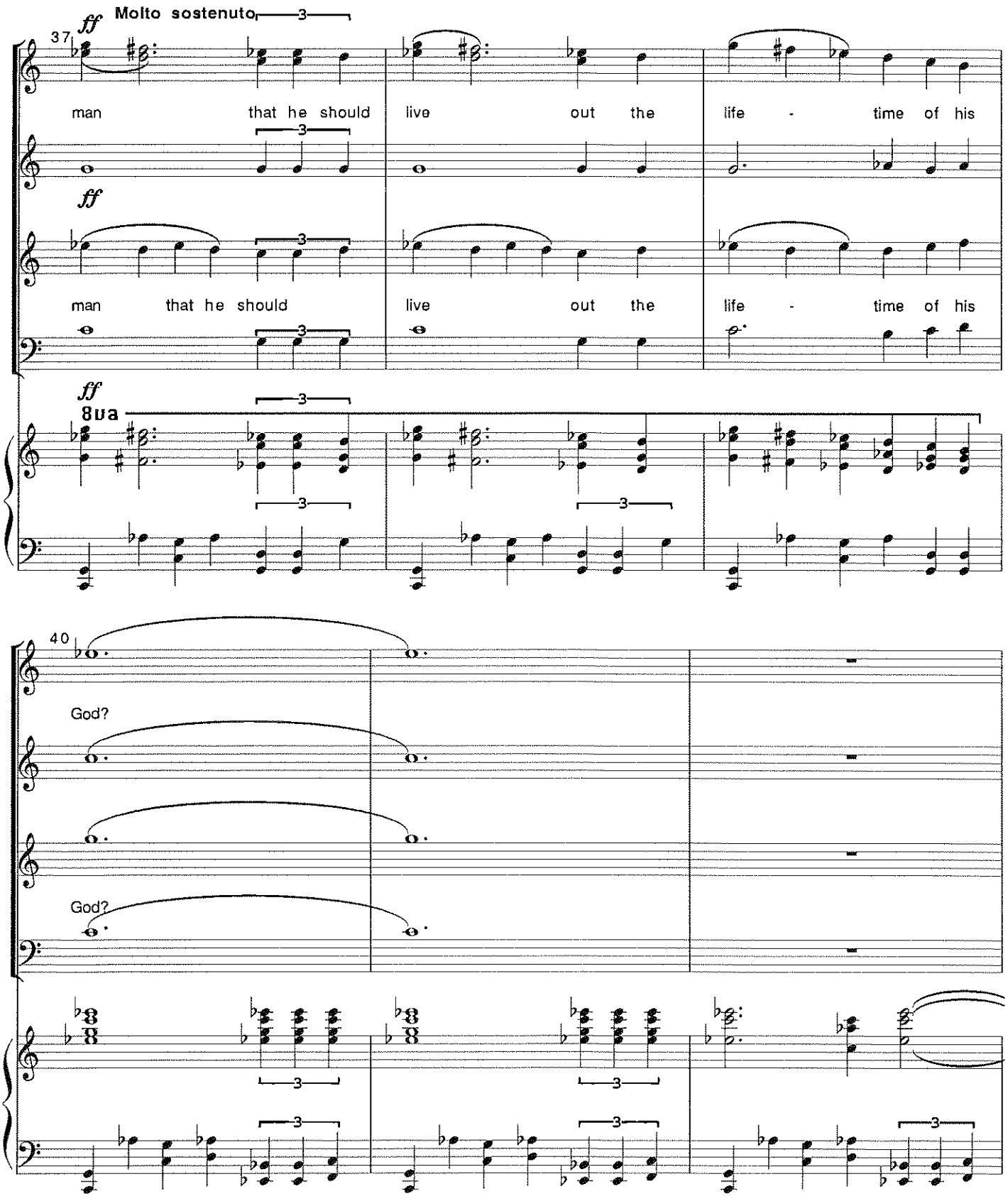

1
Andante moderato
Sop.
Alto
Ten.
Bass
Espressivo
Hn.
Strs.
5

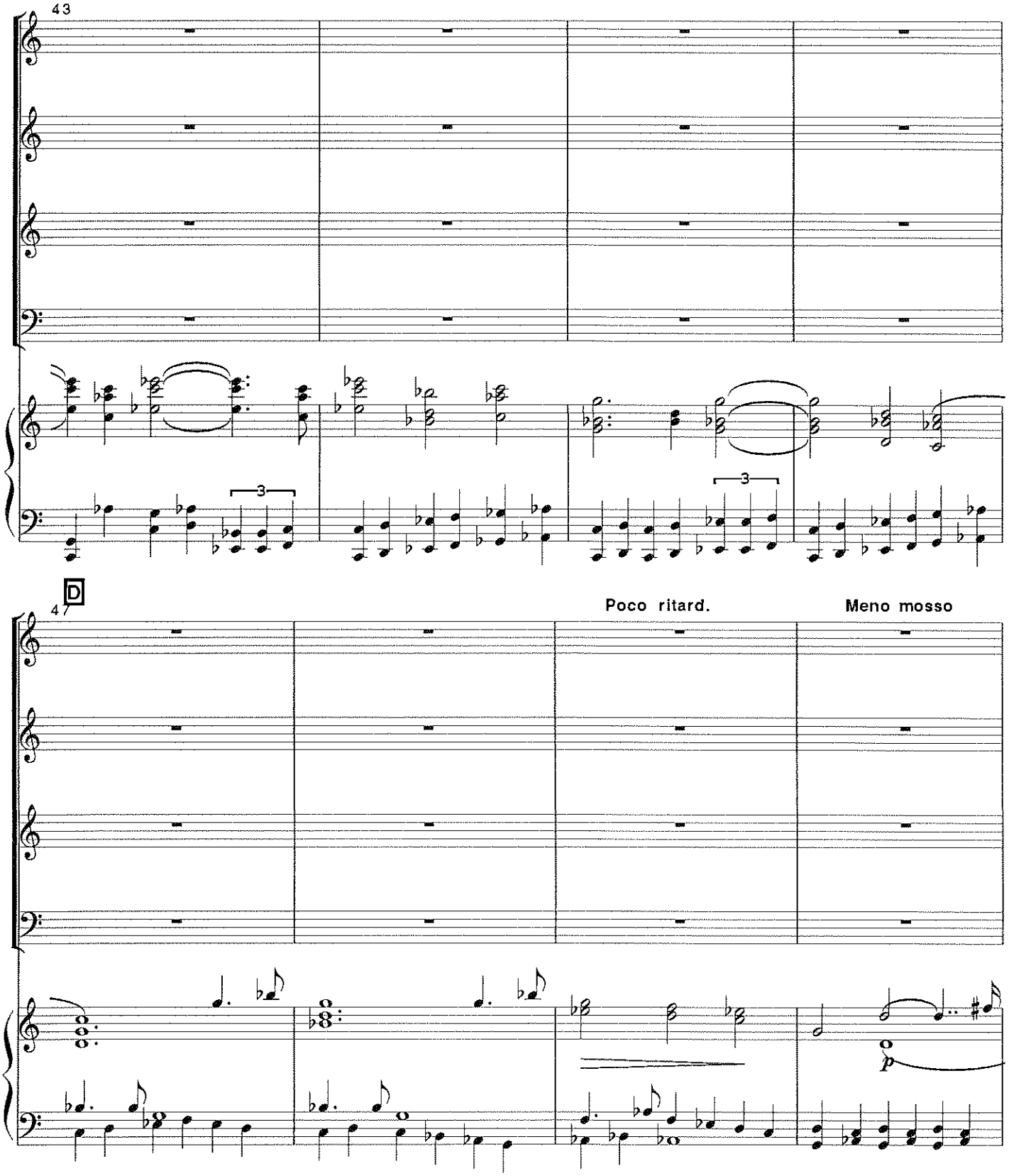

9
mp
Now, hav - ing heard the stor - ry of Jo - nah,
Now, hav - ing heard the stor - y of
mp
mp
Now, hav - ing heard the stor - ry of Jo - nah,
Now, hav - ing heard the stor - y of
mp
p
A
mf
13
leave ye e -
mf
leave ye e -
mf
p

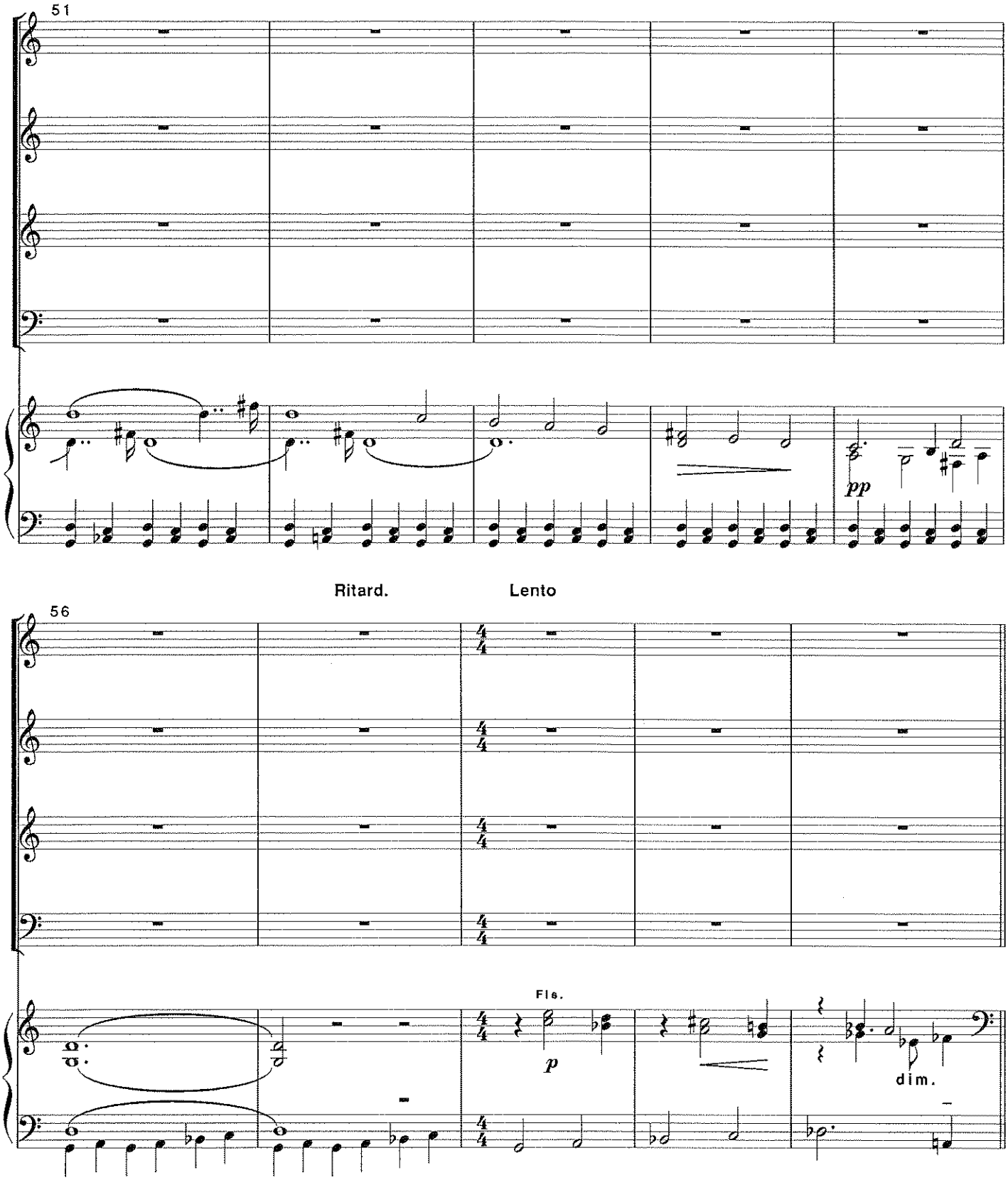

18
tern - i - ty to the Lord;
tern - i - ty to the Lord;
f
Ban./Tr.
pp
B
22
3

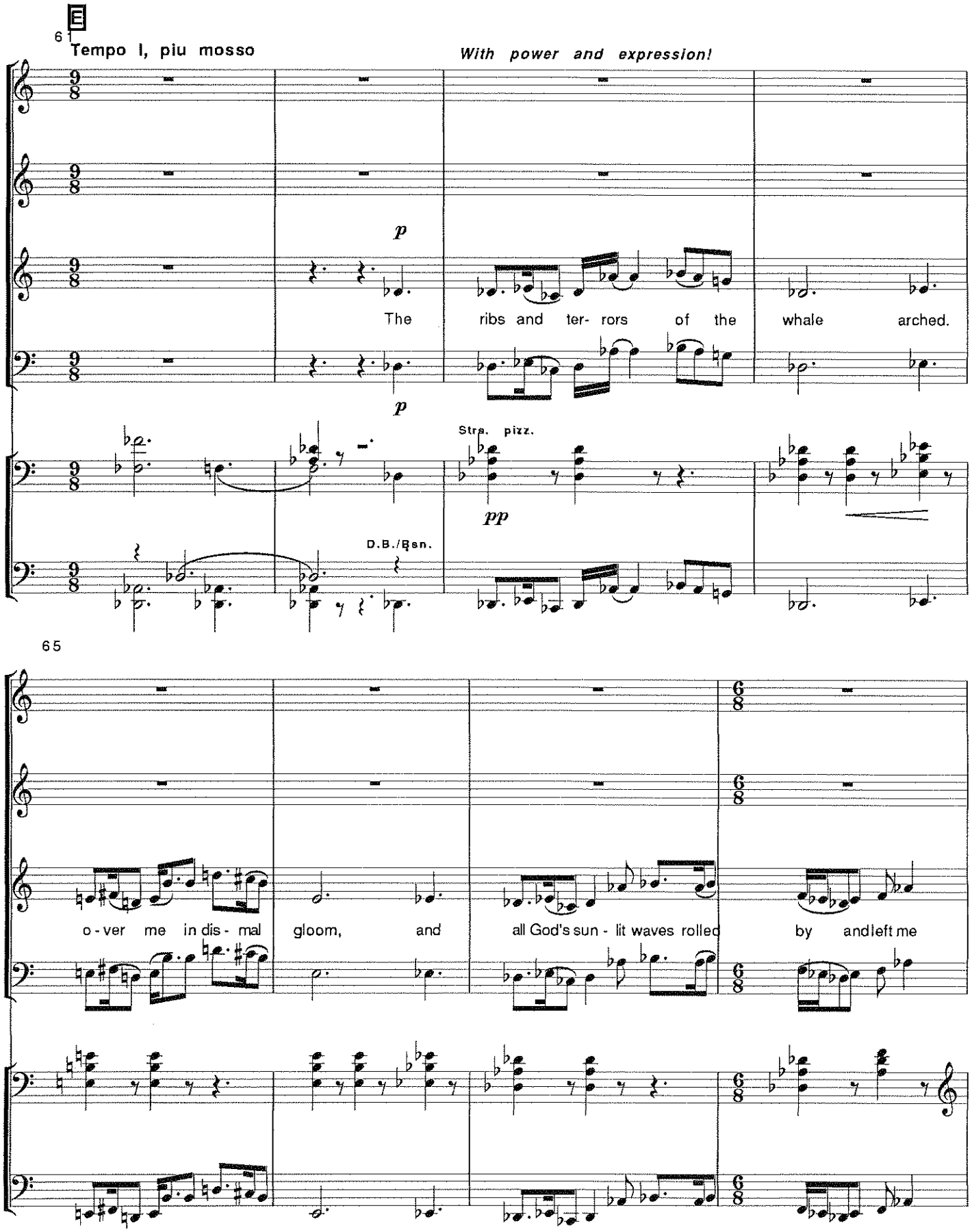

26
Cresc. poco a poco
3
3
3
3
29
3
Pesante
5
6
6
6
3
3
3

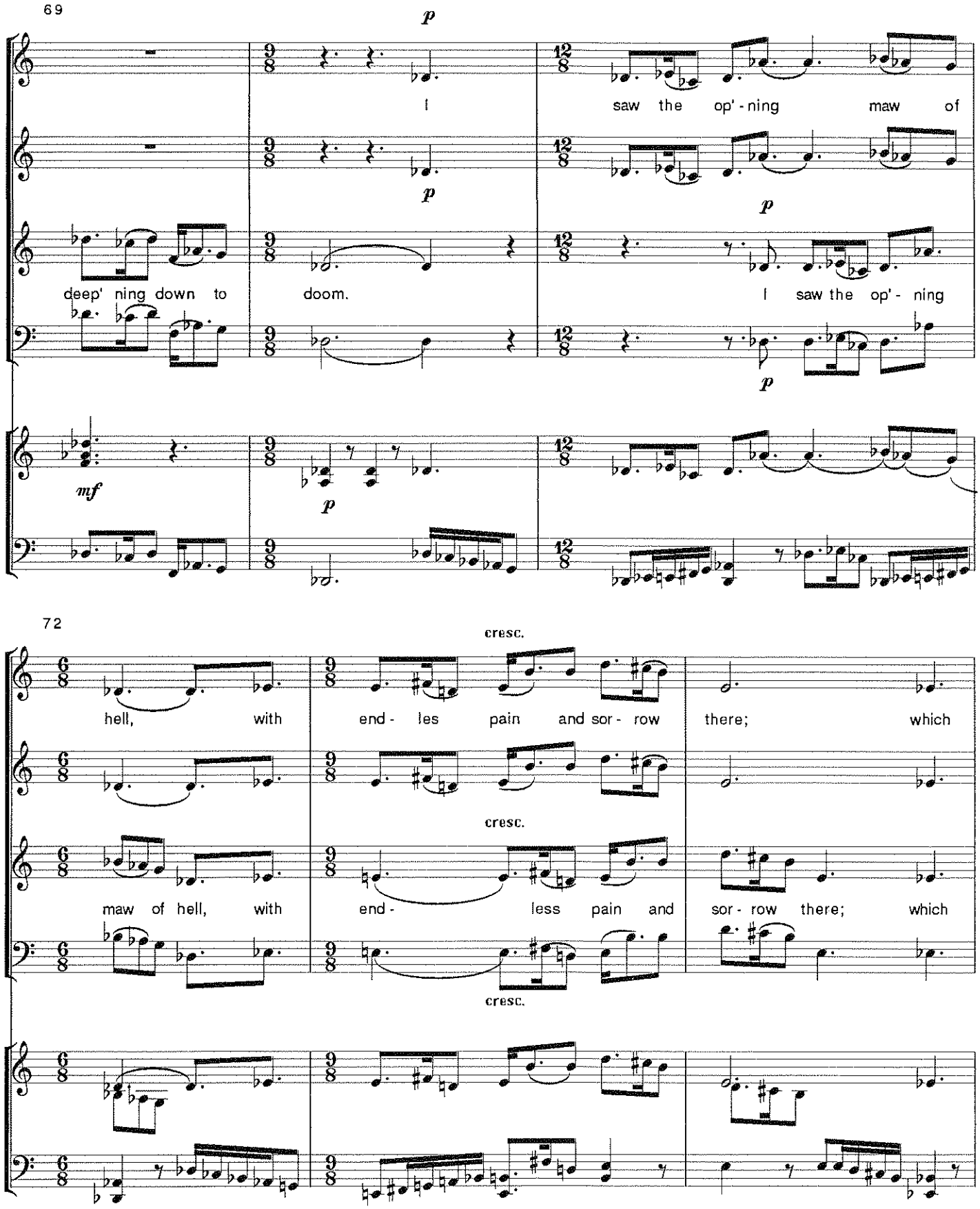

Poco ritenuto
f
C
32
for what is
man that he shoul
for what is
man that he should
Crescendo molto
cresc.
34
live out the life - time of his God, for what is
live out the life - time of his God, for what is

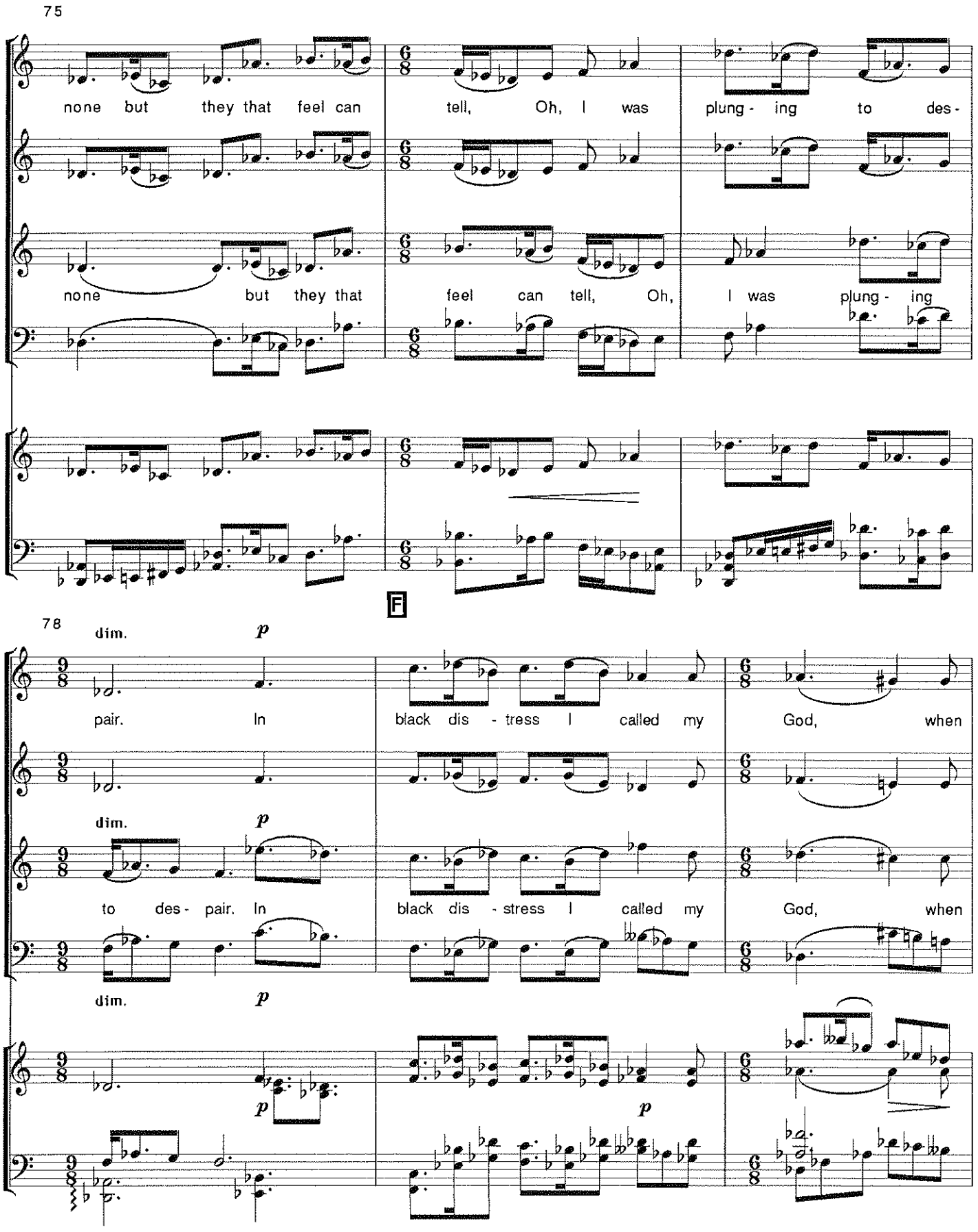

ff
Molto sostenuto
37
man that he should live out the life - time of his
ff
man that he should live out the life - time of his
ff
8va
40
God?
God?

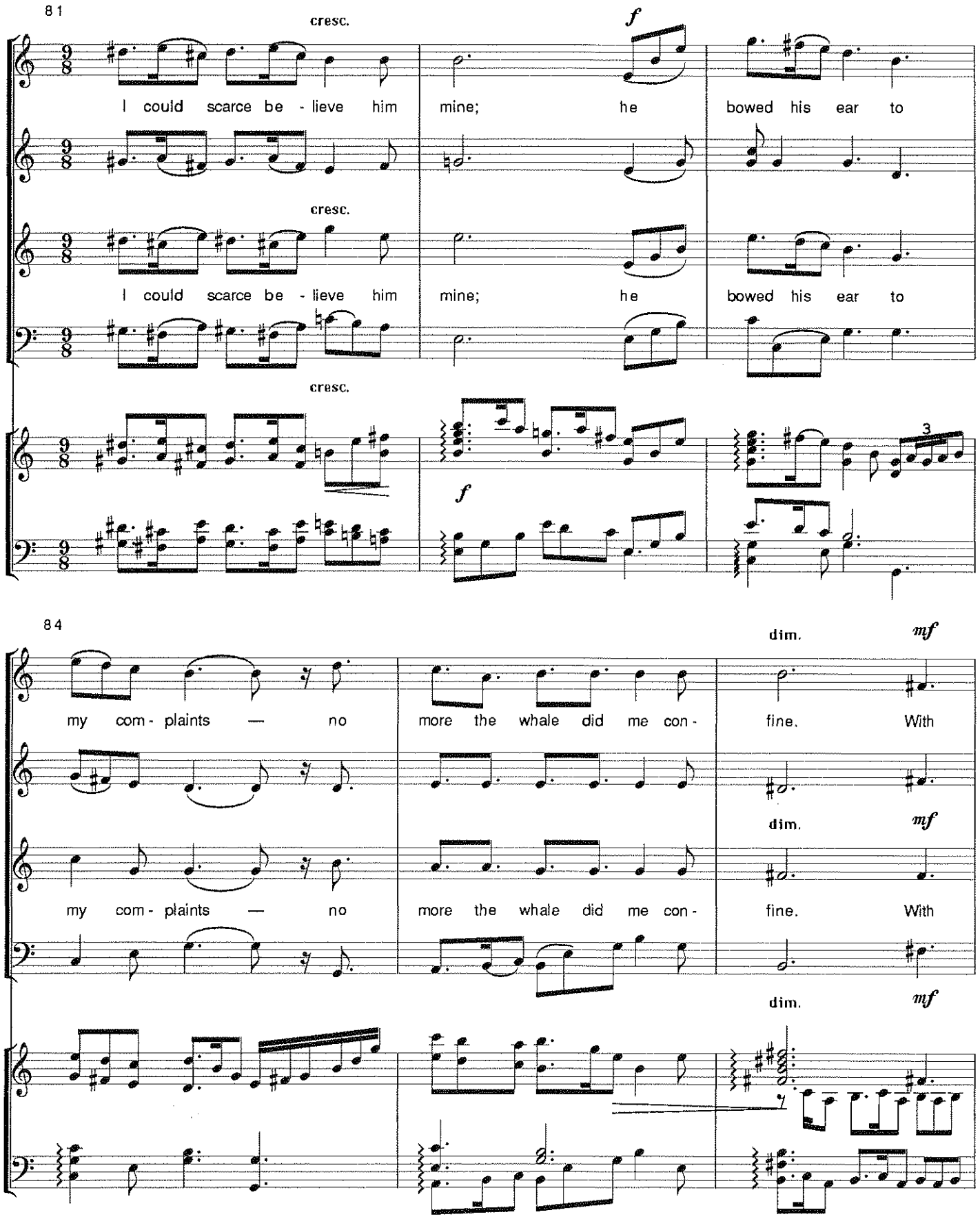

43
3
3
D
47
Poco ritard.
Meno mosso
p

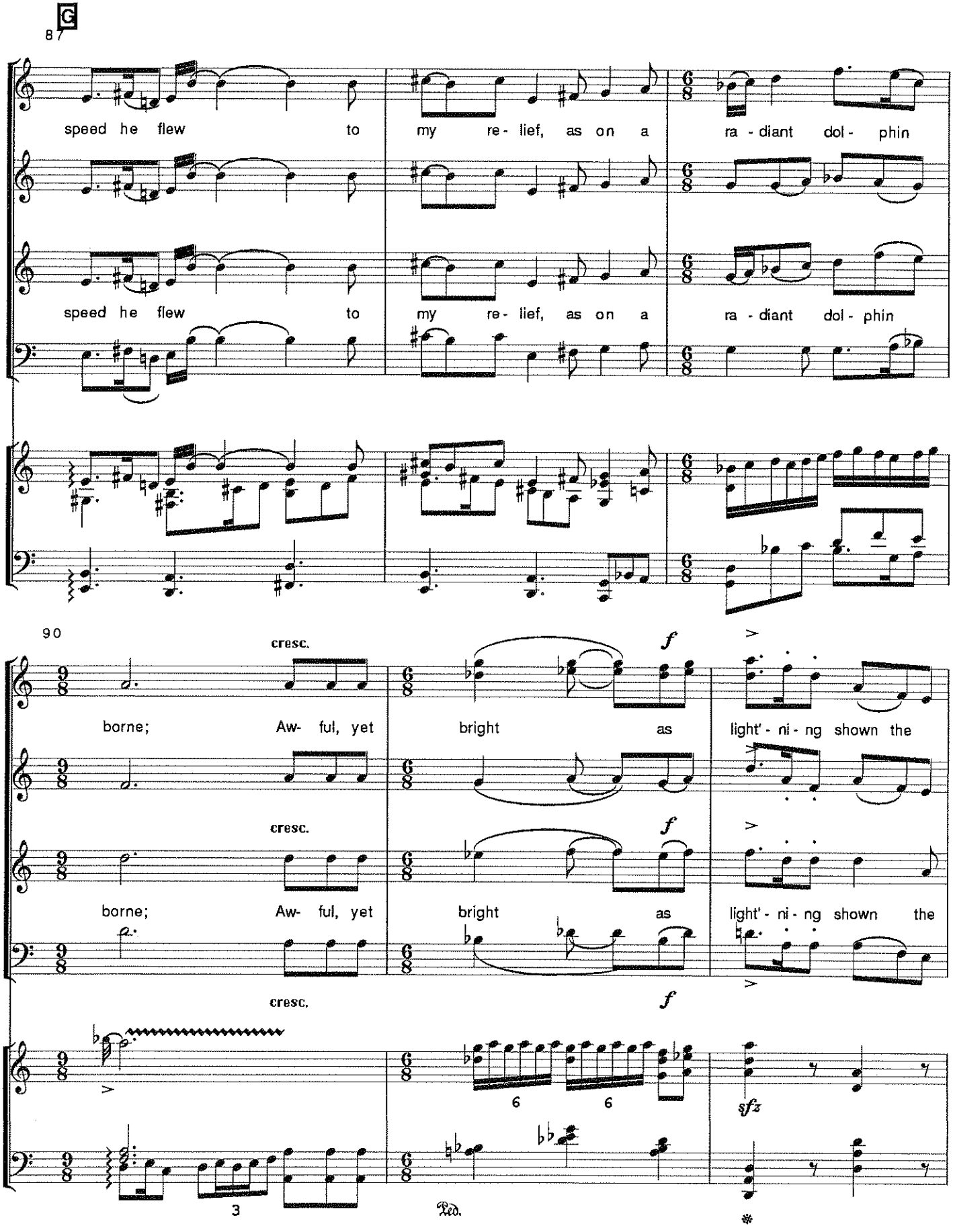

51
pp
Ritard.
Lento
56
Fls.
p
dim.

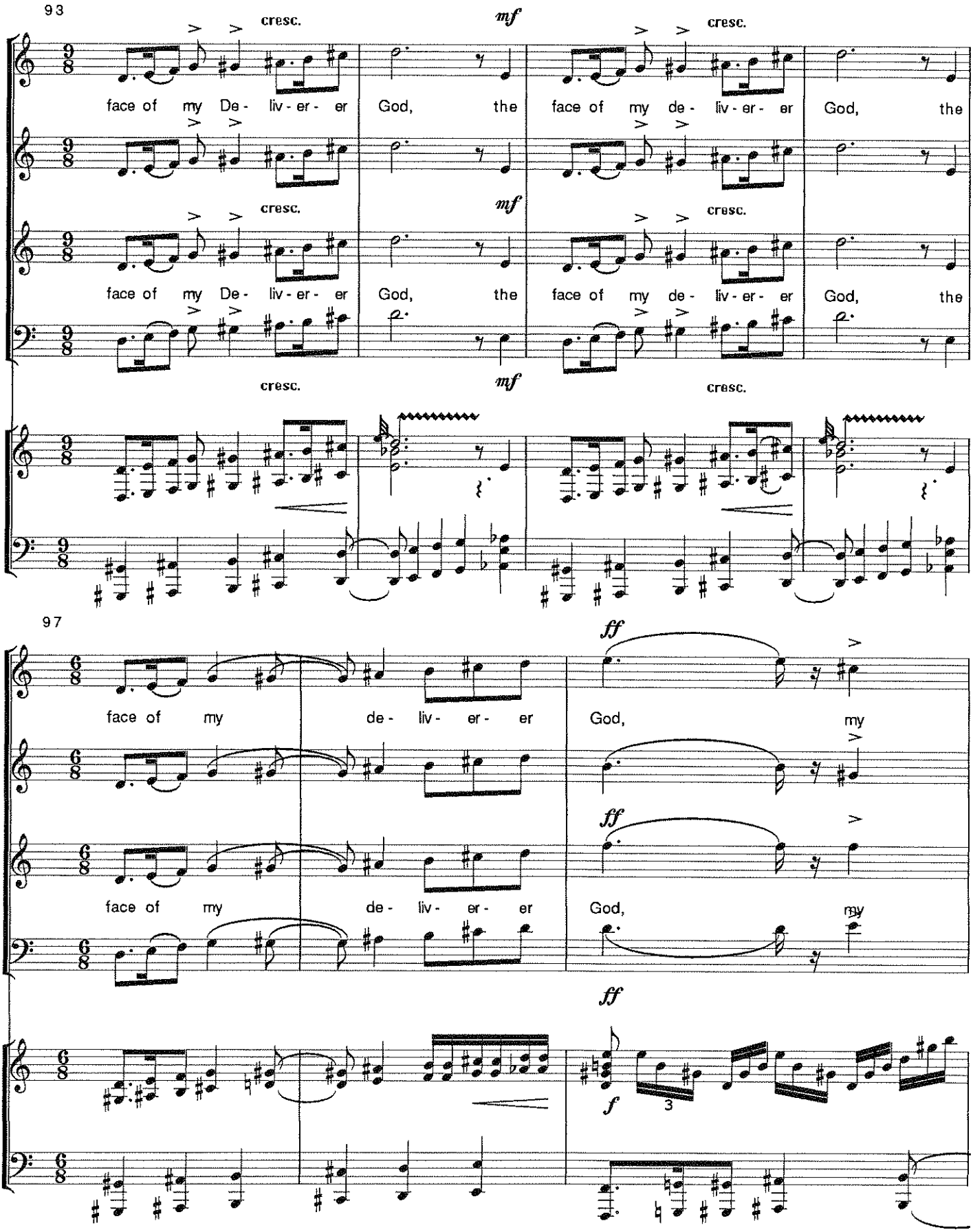

E
61
Tempo I, piu mosso
With power and expression!
p
The ribs and ter- rors of the whale arched.
p
Strs. pizz.
pp
D.B./Bsn.
65
o - ver me in dis - mal gloom, and all God's sun - lit waves rolled by and left me

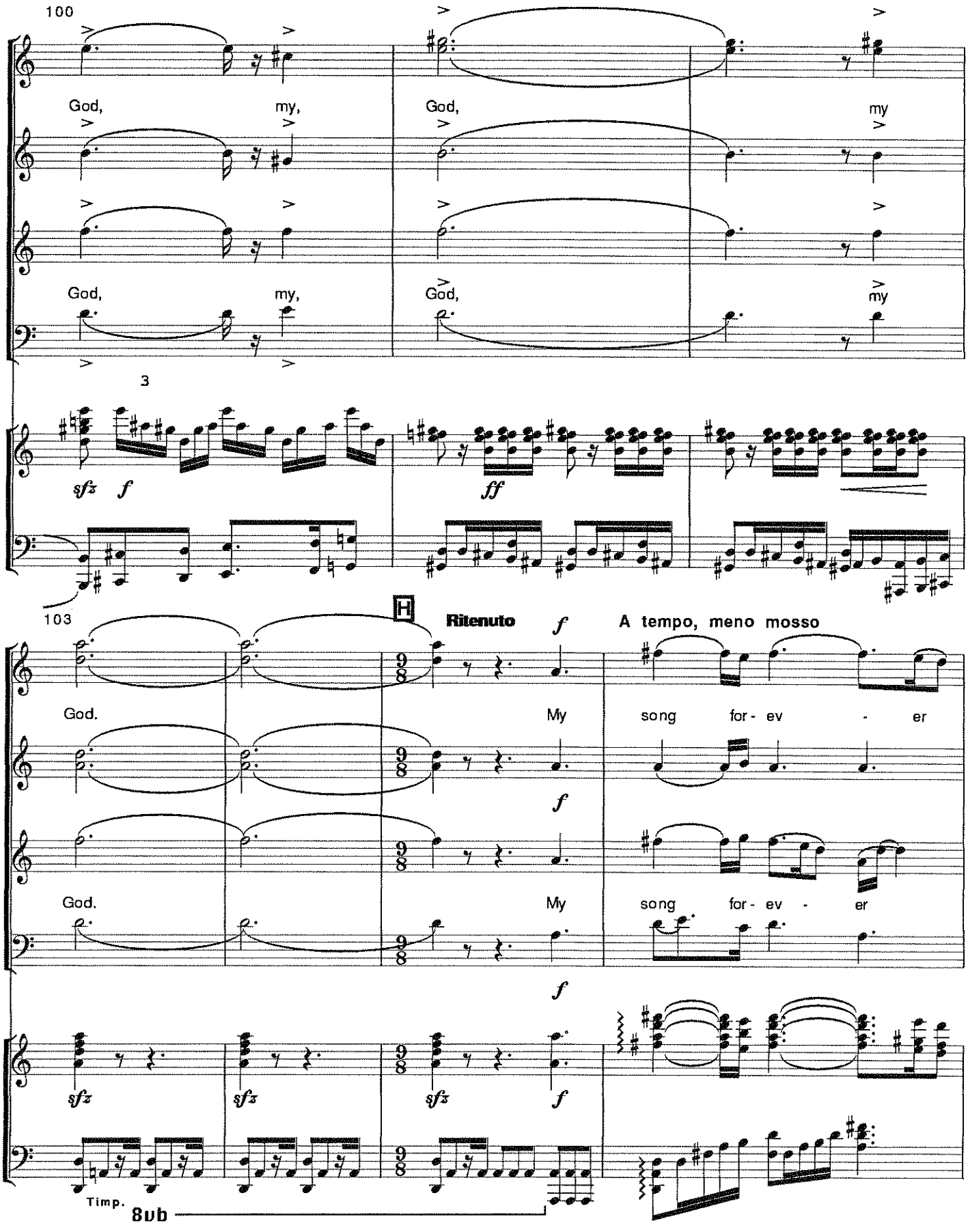

69
p
I saw the op' - ning maw of
deep' ning down to doom.
I saw the op' - ning
mf
72
cresc.
hell, with end - les pain and sor - row there; which
maw of hell, with end - less pain and sor - row there; which

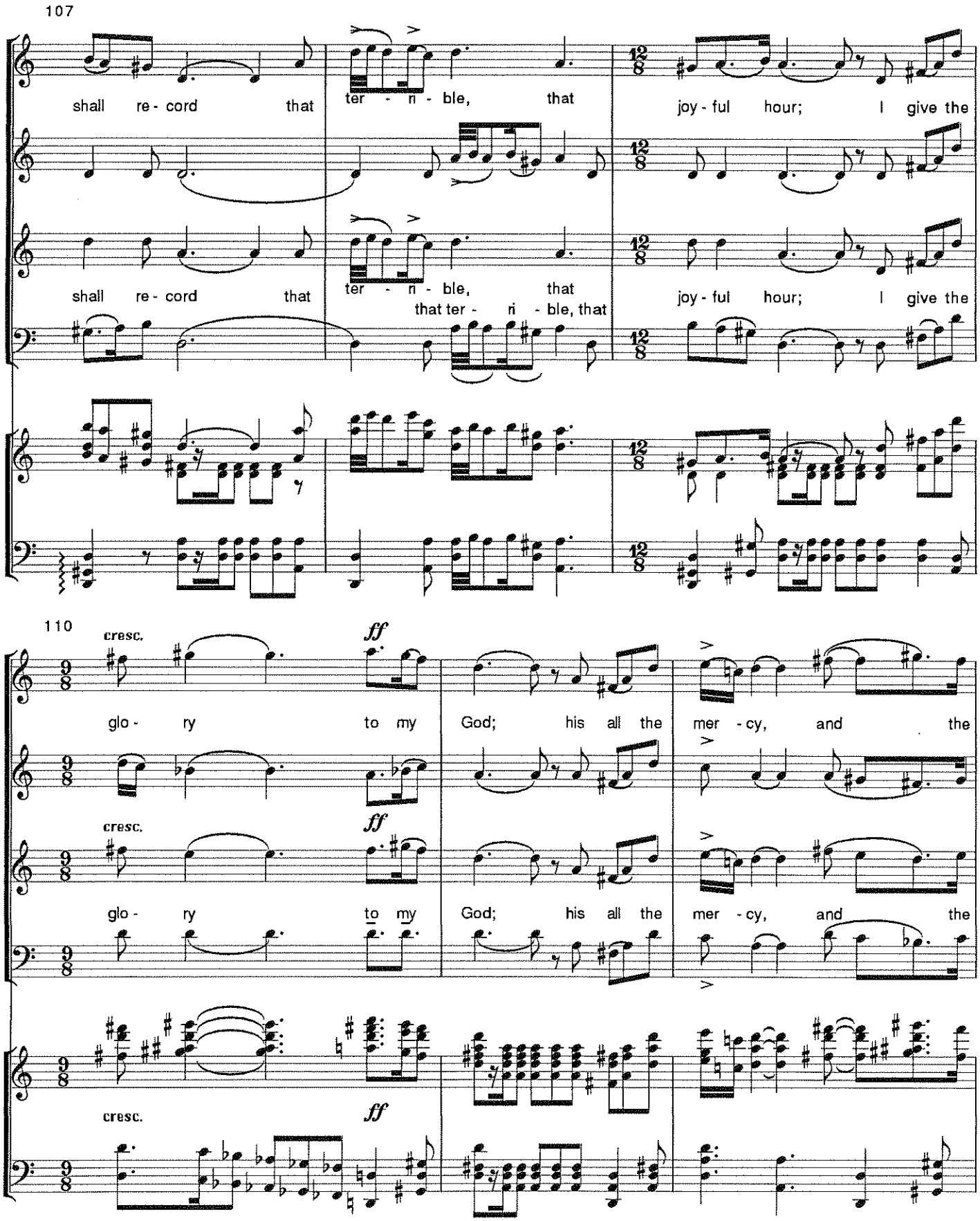

75
none but they that feel can tell, Oh, I was plung - ing to des -
none but they that feel can tell, Oh, I was plung - ing
F
78
dim.
p
pair. In black dis - tress I called my God, when
dim.
p
to des - pair. In black dis - stress I called my God, when
dim.
p
p
p

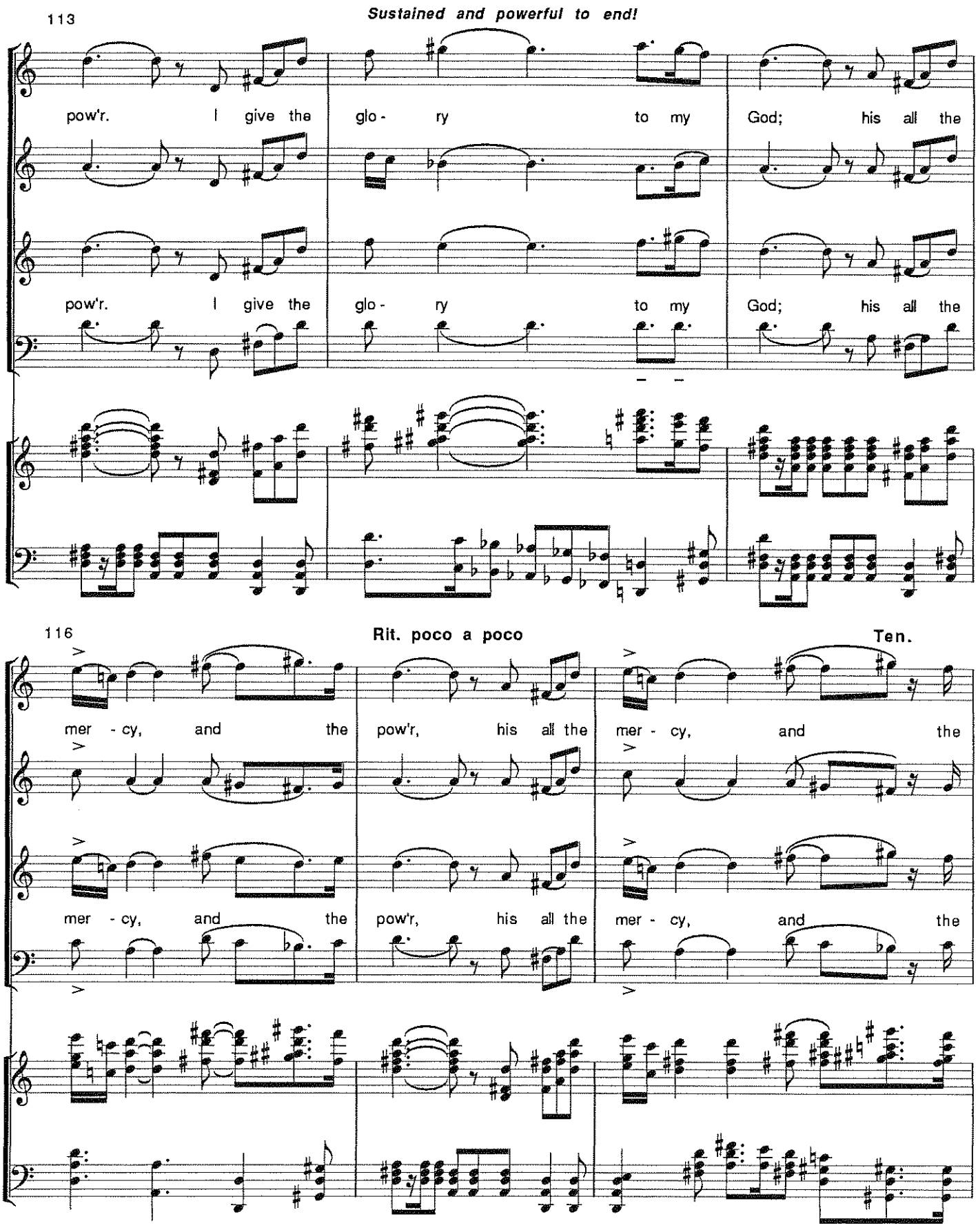

81
cresc.
f
I could scarce be - lieve him mine; he bowed his ear to
cresc.
I could scarce be - lieve him mine; he bowed his ear to
cresc.
f
3
84
dim.
mf
my com - plaints — no more the whale did me con - fine. With
dim.
mf
my com - plaints — no more the whale did me con - fine. With
dim.
mf

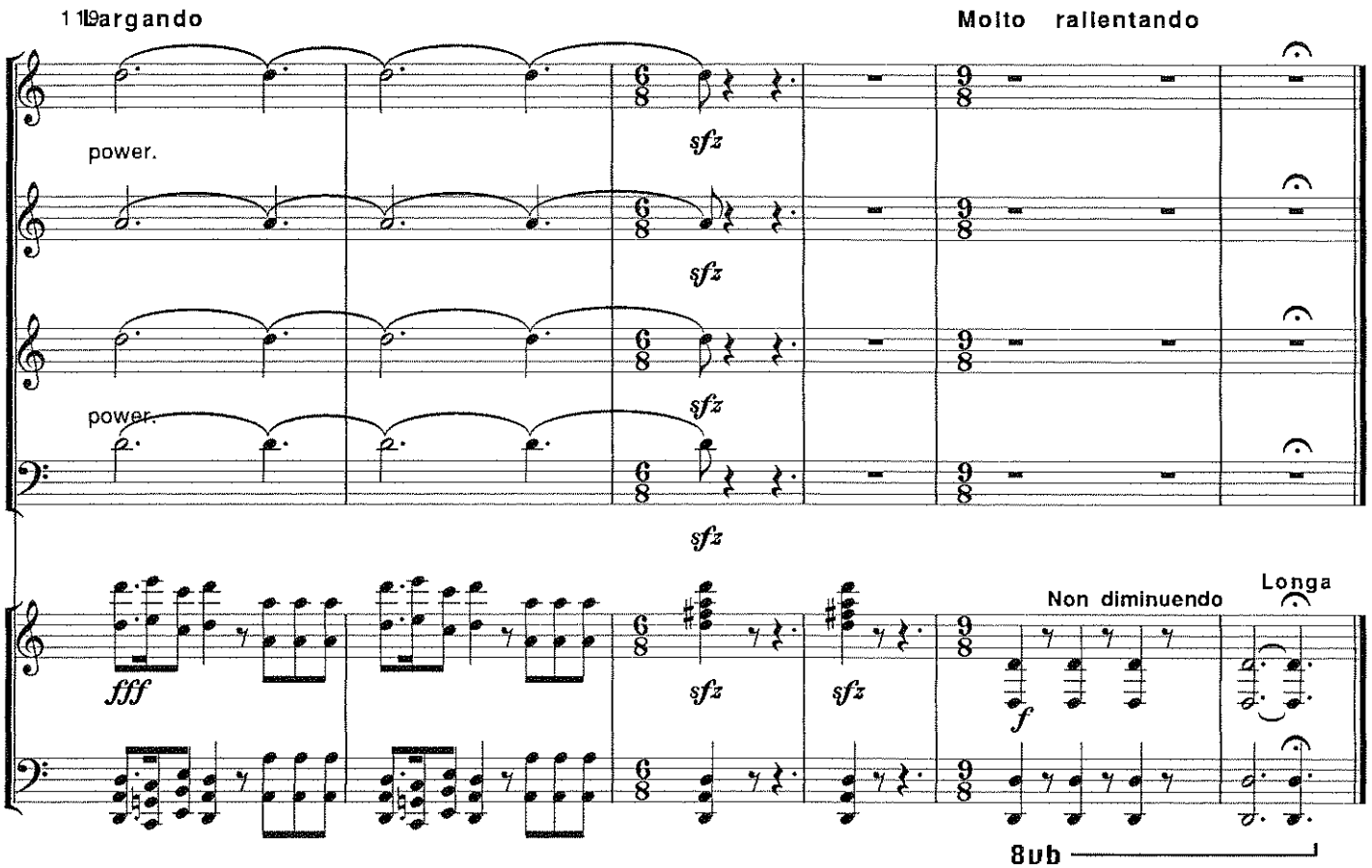

G
87
speed he flew to my re- lief, as on a ra - diant dol - phin
speed he flew to my re- lief, as on a ra - diant dol - phin
90
cresc.
f
borne; Aw- ful, yet bright as light' - ni - ng shown the
cresc.
f
borne; Aw- ful, yet bright as light' - ni - ng shown the
cresc.
f
6 6
sfz
3
Ped.
*


93
cresc.
mf
face of my De - liv - er - er God, the face of my de - liv - er - er God, the
97
ff
face of my de - liv - er - er God, my
f


100
God, my,
God, my
God, my,
God, my
3
sfz f
ff
103
H
Ritenuto
f
A tempo, meno mosso
God.
My song for - ev - er
God.
My song for - ev - er
sfz
sfz
sfz
f
Timp.
8vb


107
shall re - cord that
ter - ri - ble, that
joy - ful hour; I give the
shall re - cord that
ter - ri - ble, that
that ter - ri - ble, that
joy - ful hour; I give the
110
cresc.
ff
glo - ry to my God; his all the mer - cy, and the
cresc.
ff
glo - ry to my God; his all the mer - cy, and the
cresc.
ff


113
Sustained and powerful to end!
pow'r. I give the glo - ry to my God; his all the
pow'r. I give the glo - ry to my God; his all the
116
Rit. poco a poco
Ten.
mer - cy, and the pow'r, his all the mer - cy, and the
mer - cy, and the pow'r, his all the mer - cy, and the


Largando
Molto rallentando
power.
power.
sfz
fff
Non diminuendo
Longa
f
8vb

JONAH

An Oratorio

Composed by

Richard Dirksen

Libretto by

Day Thorpe

Created from the Old Testament Book and
Father Mapple's Sermon to the Whalers
from Melville's 'Moby Dick'

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