LATE SUN

ERIC SHANFIELD

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Eric Shanfield

ENS.2003.1b | 8’

Baritone

String Quartet

1. Distances *(Phillipe Jaccottet)*

2. Crown *(Kay Ryan)*

3. My Old Body *(Jean Valentine)*

4. The Companions *(Josephine Jacobsen)*

5. The Scattered Congregation *(Tomas Tranströmer)*

6. Hour *(Mark Strand)*

Originally, *Late Sun* was a song-cycle for voice and piano composed in 2003 and 2006 comprising 24 songs in 3 books. Over time it was whittled down to just a few of the best (?) songs, and I made this version for voice and string quartet.

This composition should be performed in its entirety; unlike the piano version, it is not excerptable.

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1. Distances *(Philippe Jaccottet)*

Swifts turn in the heights of the air;
higher still turn the invisible stars.
When day withdraws to the ends of the earth
their fires shine on a dark expanse of sand.

We live in a world of motion and distance.
The heart flies from tree to bird,
from bird to distant star,
from star to love; and love grows
in the quiet house, turning and working,
servant of thought, a lamp held in one hand.

2. Crown *(Kay Ryan)*

Too much rain
loosens trees.
In the hills giant oaks
fall upon their knees.
You can touch parts
you have no right to—
places only birds
should fly to.

3. My Old Body *(Jean Valentine)*

My old body:
a ladder of sunlight,
mercury dust floating through—

My forgivenesses,
how you have learned to love me in my sleep.

4. The Companions *(Josephine Jacobsen)*

Living close to death
is not just a case of breath after breath.
It is to realize that to fraternize
with the dark prince is possible and wise,
so that in the final weather
when together you quit the room
though tentative and weary
you will have the enormous answer
to the enormous query.

5. *from* **The Scattered Congregation** *(Tomas Tranströmer)*

I.
We got ready and showed our home.
The visitor thought: you live well.
The slum must be inside you.

6. Hour *(Mark Strand)*

The extra hour given back to eternity
The hour gained by traveling west
The hour of the imagined empire
The deepest hour of the darkest sea
The guilty hour that precedes catastrophe
The hour that it takes to go from here to there
The haunted hour of the knowledge of death
The hour in which the moon darkens
The hour that moves through the mind like cloud shadow
The blue hour that rests on the roof of the house
The hour that is the mother of minutes and grandmother of seconds
The swollen hour of pain, enough, enough
The hour when mice run in the walls
The bronze hour of electrical weather
The cloistered hour of the nun's great moment
The necklace of hours the widow wears
The numbing hours of a night in Nome
The sound of hours in the breathing of plants
The central hour that exists without you
The hour in which the universe begins to die
The hallucinatory hour that hangs forever
The hour of excess that equals two of self-examination
The hour that flashed on the skin
The hour of final music
The hour of painless solitude
The hour of moonlight upon her body

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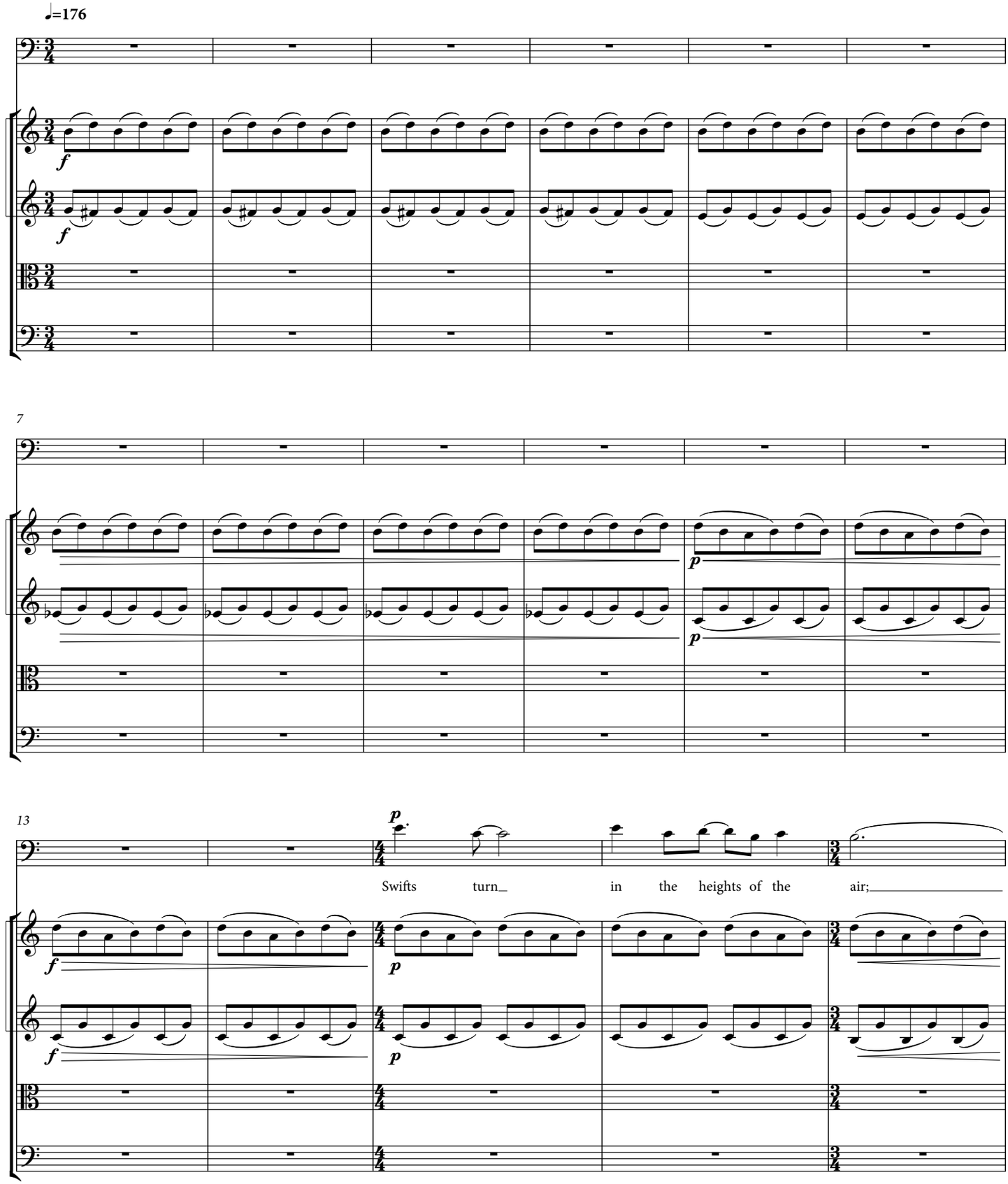
1. DISTANCES

Phillipe Jaccottet

Eric Shanfield



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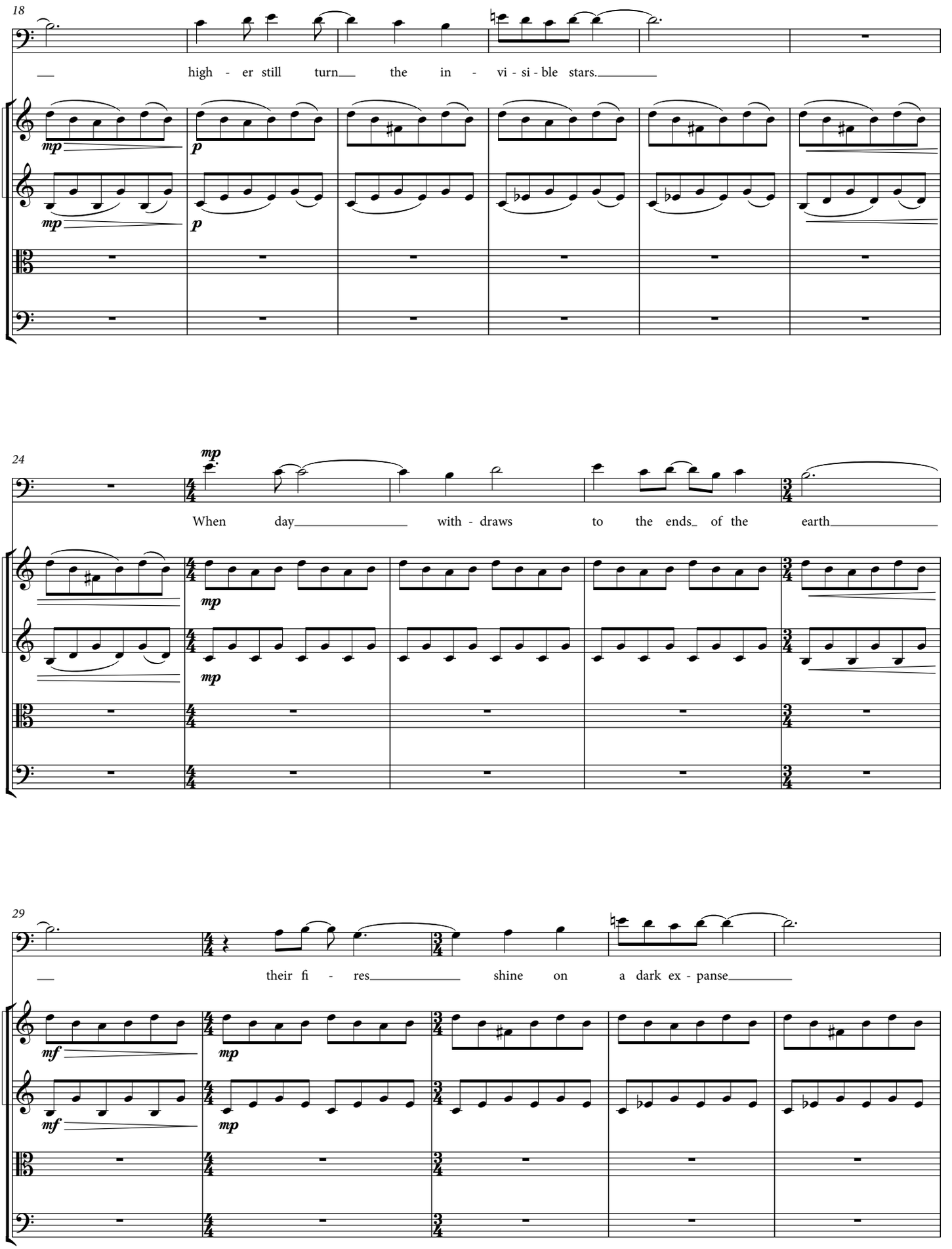
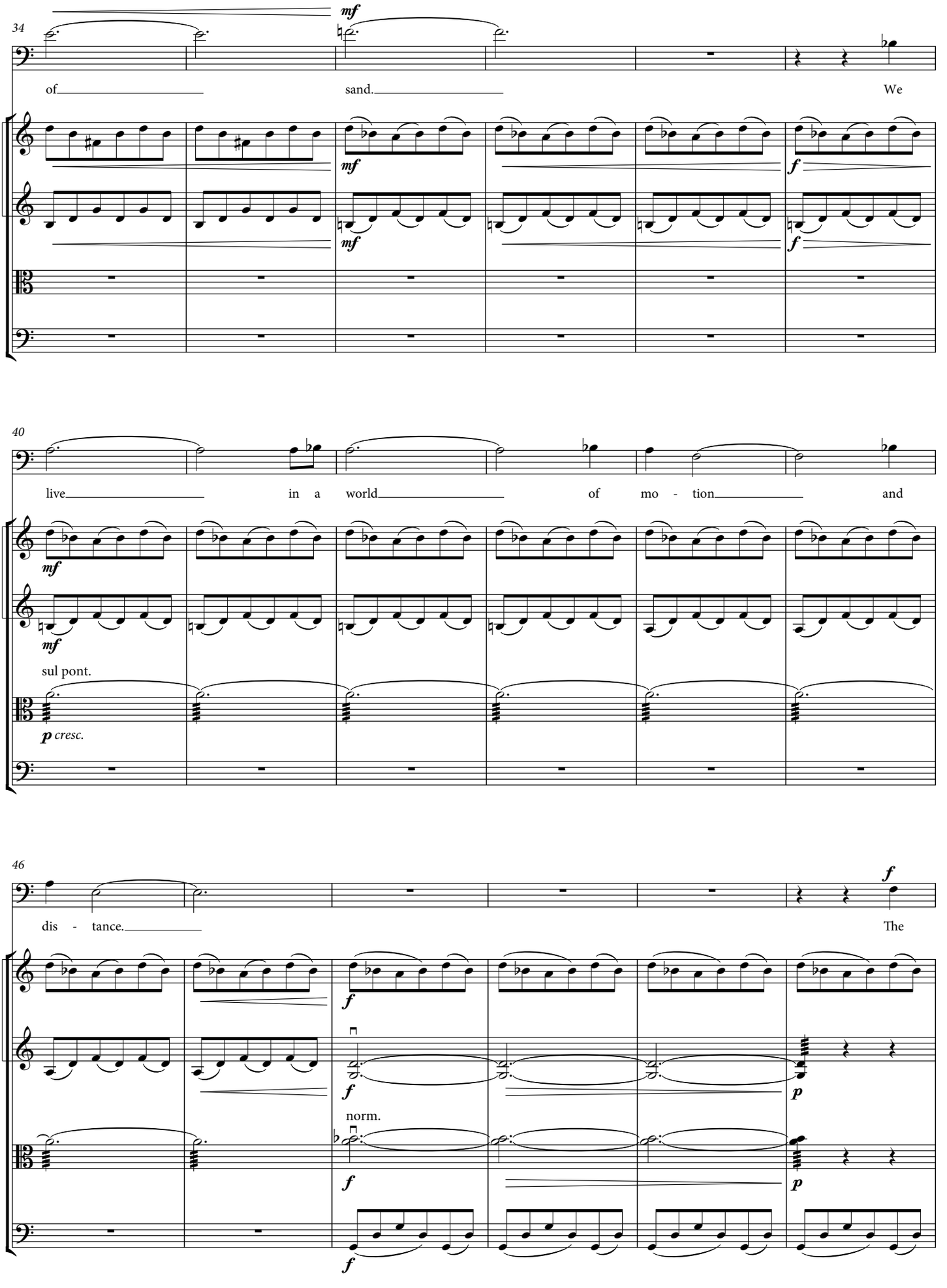
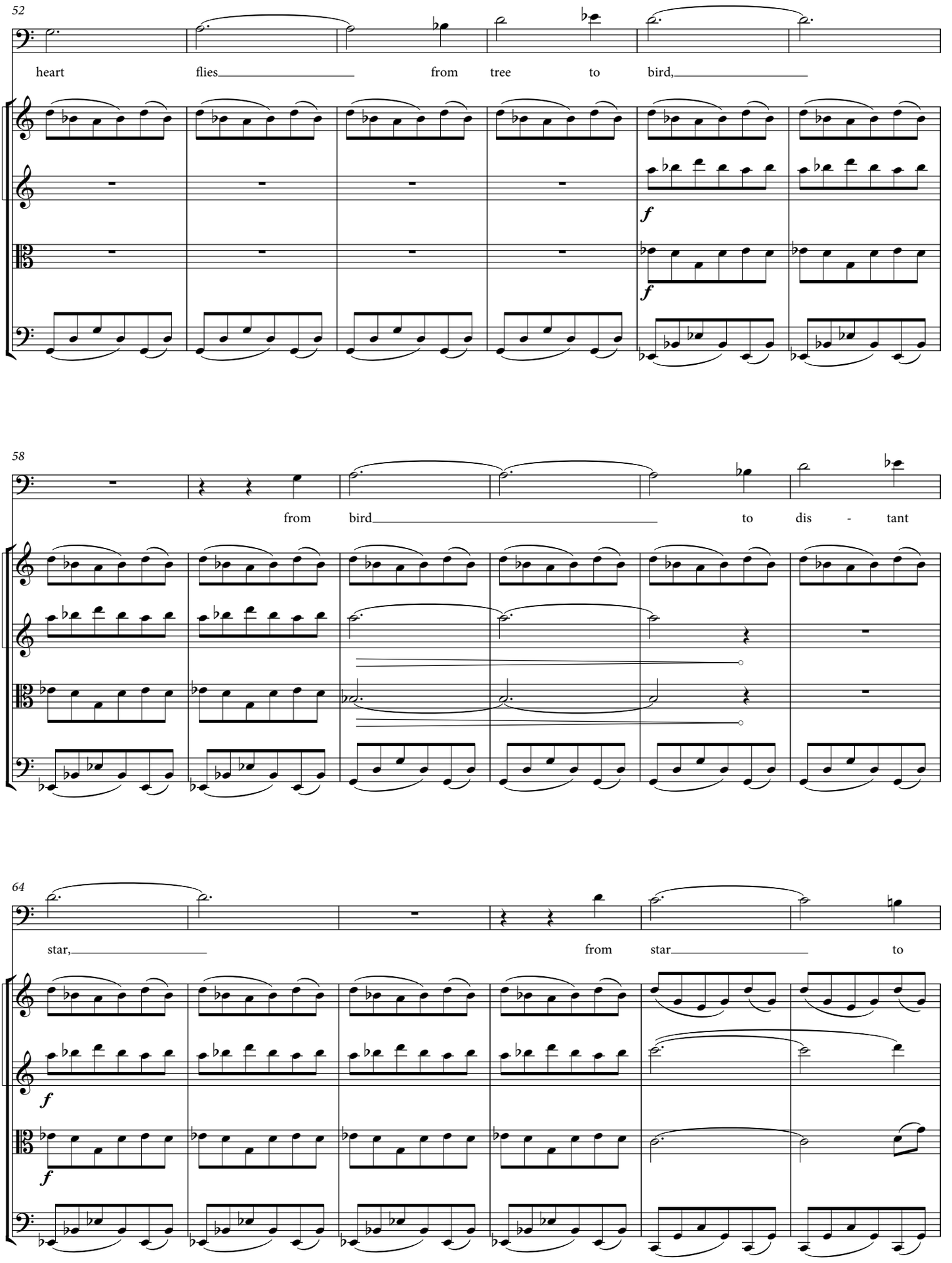
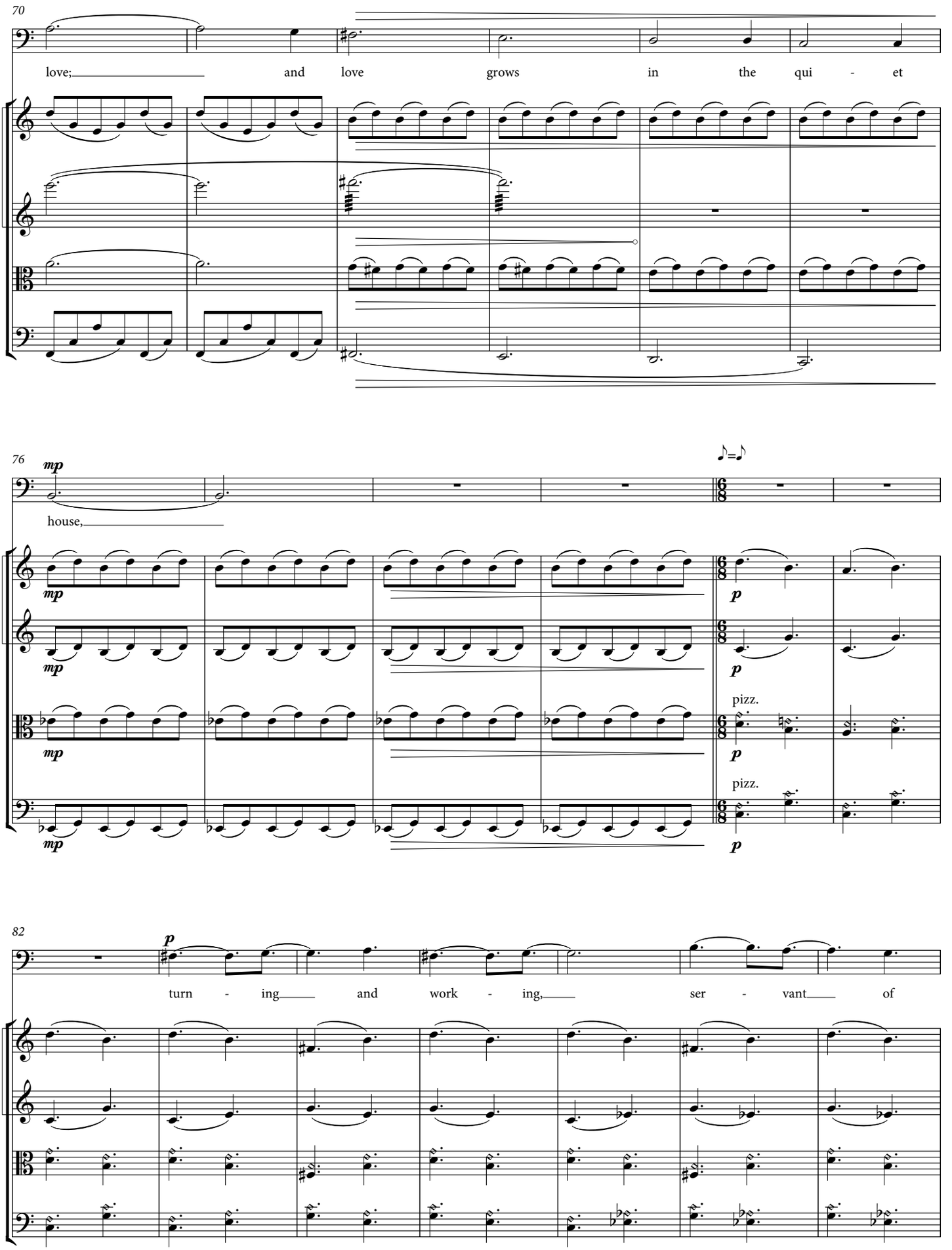

18
high - er still turn the in - vi - si - ble stars.
mp
p
24
When day with - draws to the ends of the earth
mp
29
their fi - res shine on a dark ex - panse
mf
mp


34
mf
of
sand.
We
mf
mf
f
f
40
live
in a world
of mo - tion
and
mf
mf
sul pont.
p cresc.
46
f
dis - tance.
The
f
f
p
norm.
f
p
f


52
heart
flies
from
tree
to
bird,
f
f
58
from
bird
to
dis - tant
64
star,
from
star
to
f
f


70
love; and love grows in the qui - et
76
mp
house,
♪=♪
p
pizz.
82
p
turn - ing and work - ing, ser - vant of

89

♪=♪

p

thought, a

arco

arco

97

lamp held in one hand.

p

p

105

f

f

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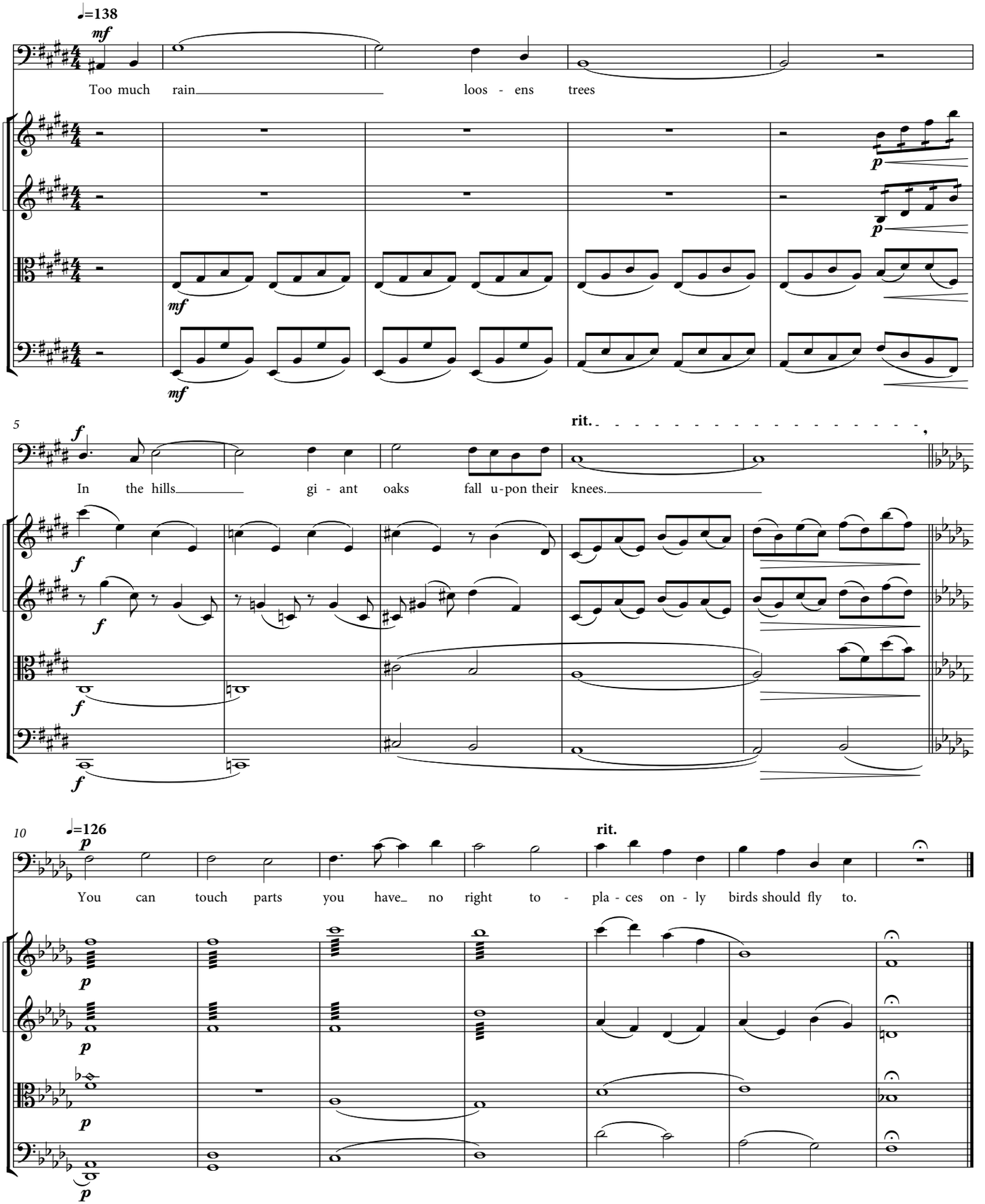
2. CROWN

Kay Ryan

Eric Shanfield



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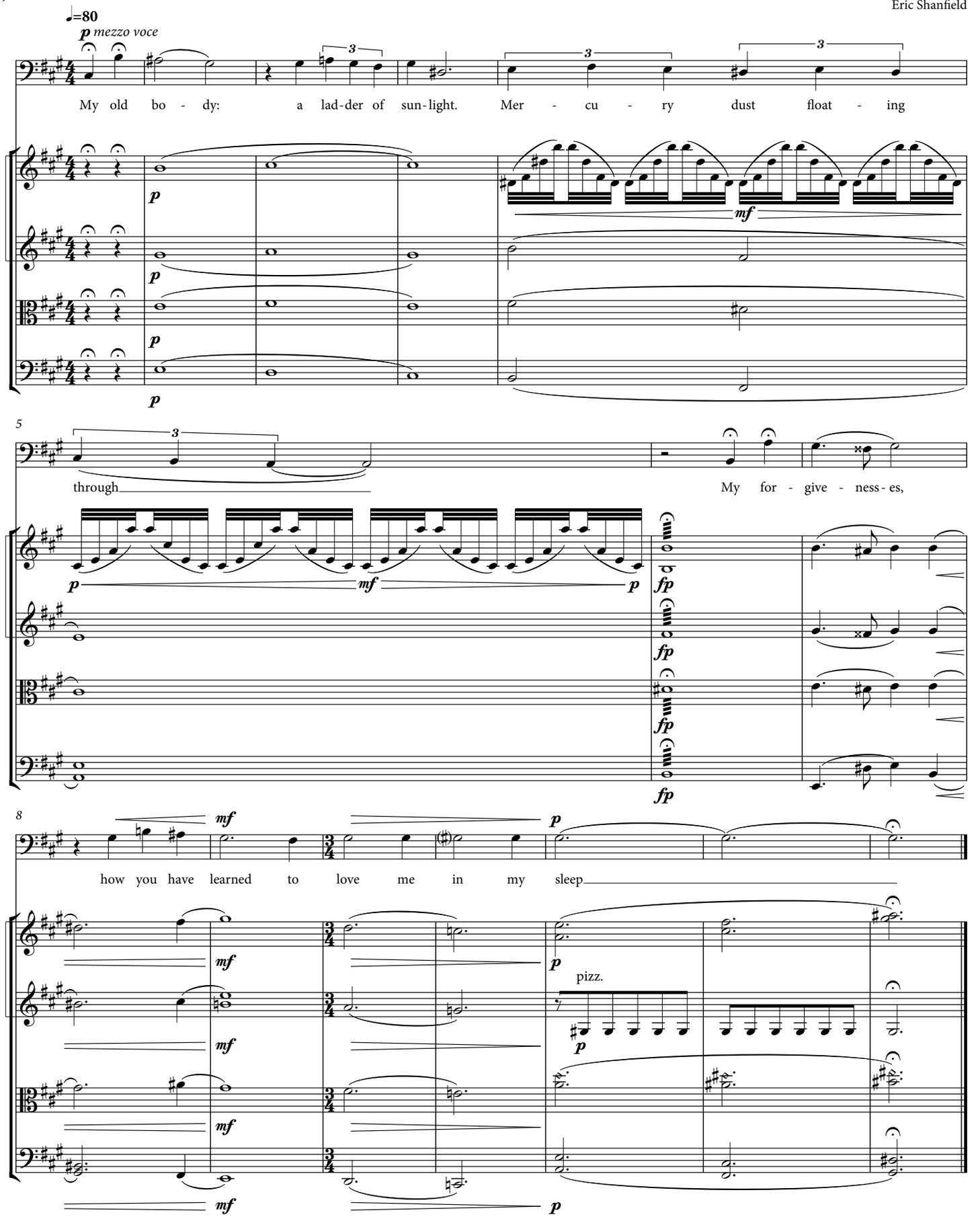
3. MY OLD BODY

Jean Valentine

Eric Shanfield



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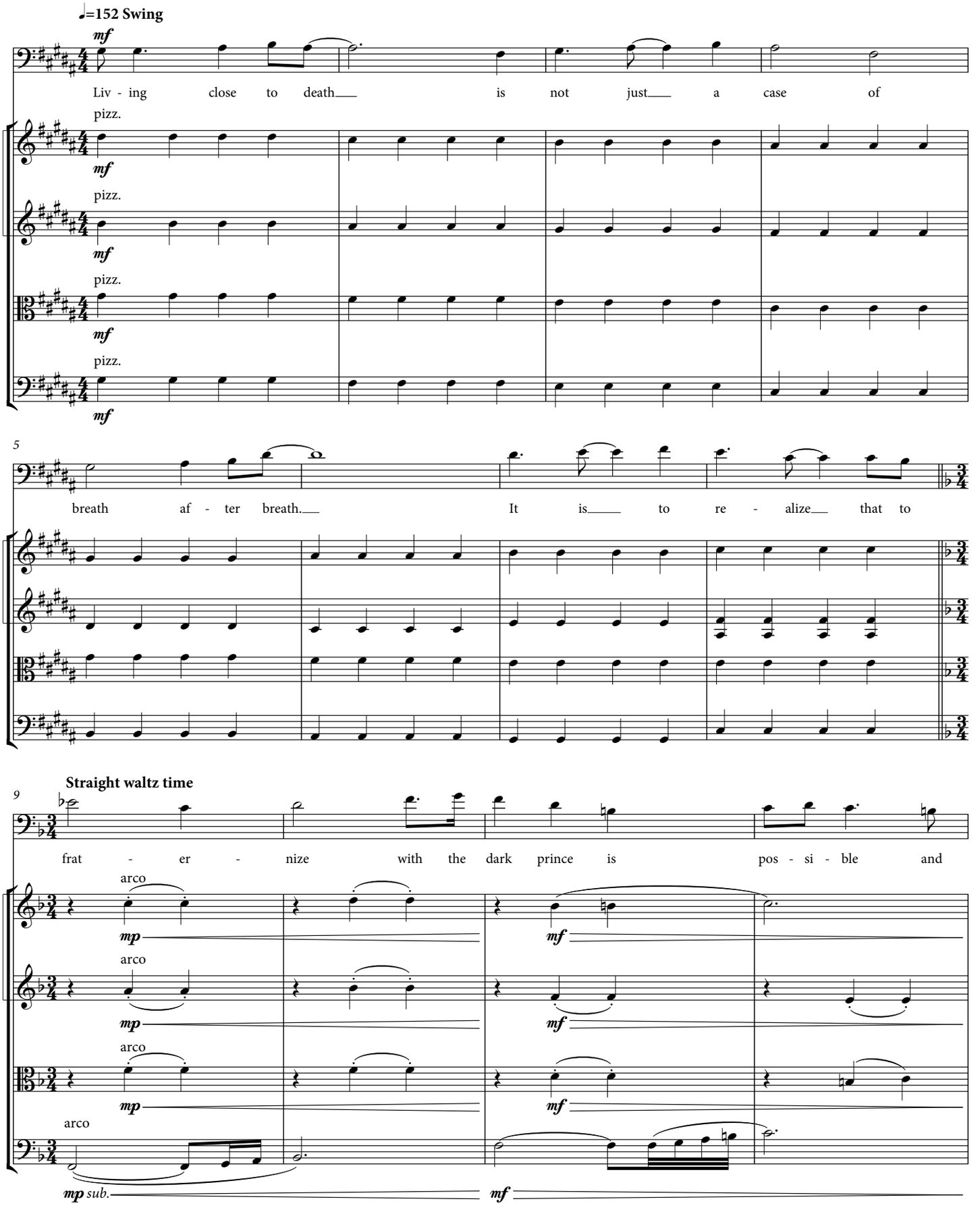
4. THE COMPANIONS

Josephine Jacobsen

Eric Shanfield



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13

Swing

wise. So that in the fin - al wea -ther when to -

18

Straight waltz time

ge -ther you quit the room though ten - ta - tive and wea - ry you will have the e - nour-mous

23

an - swer to the e - nor - mous que - ry.

pizz.

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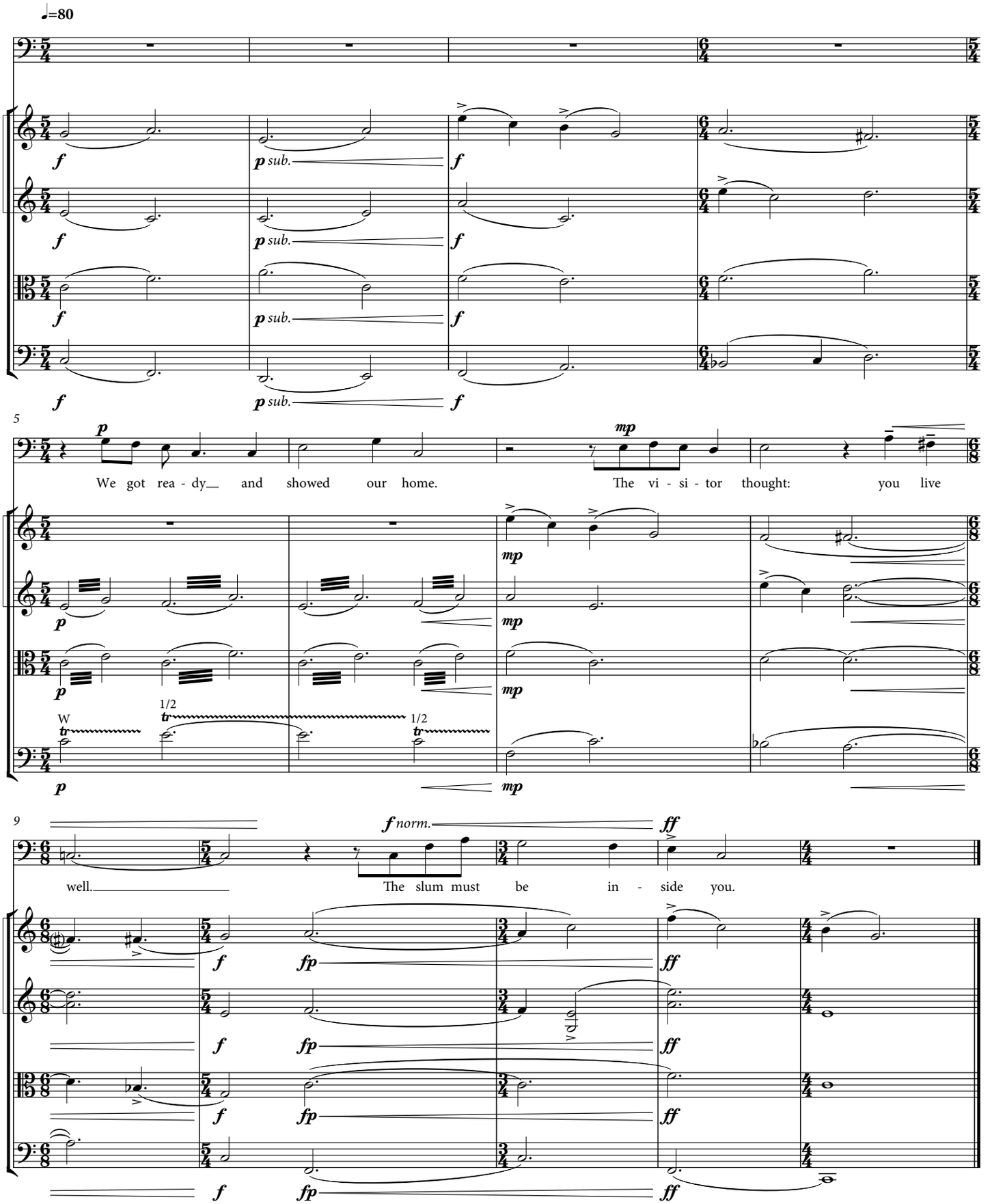
5. THE SCATTERED CONGREGATION

Tomas Tranströmer

Eric Shanfield



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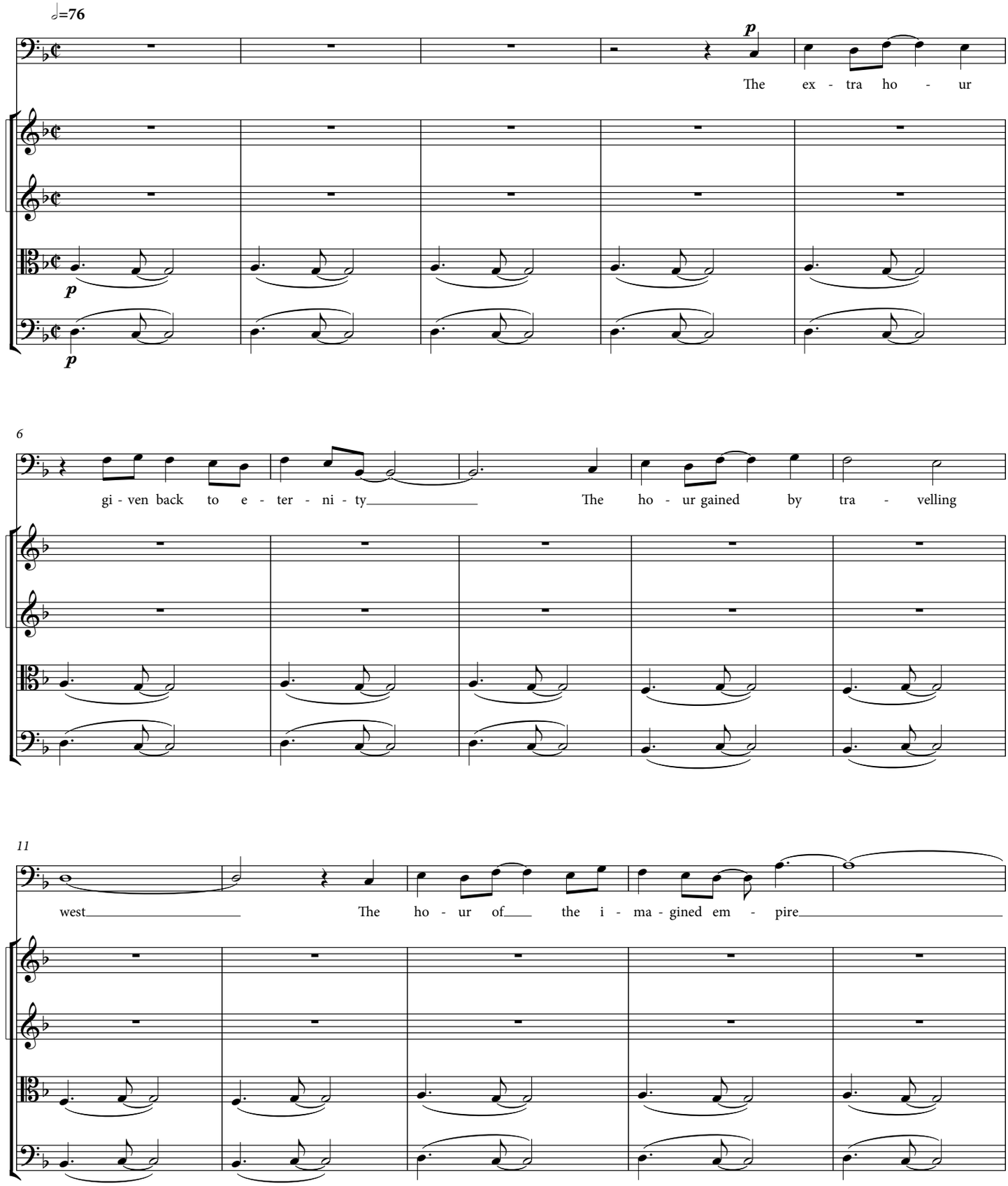
6. HOUR

Mark Strand

Eric Shanfield



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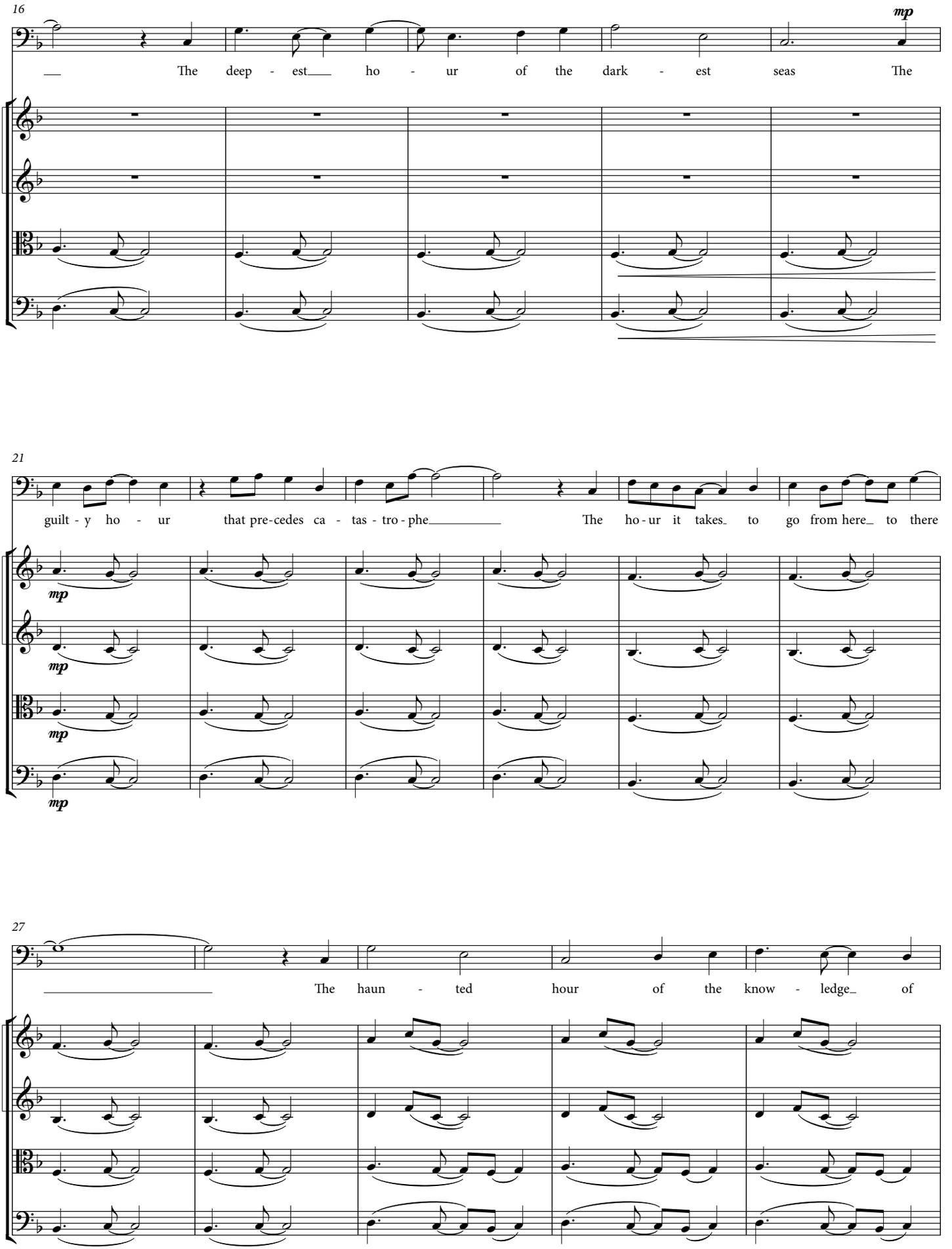
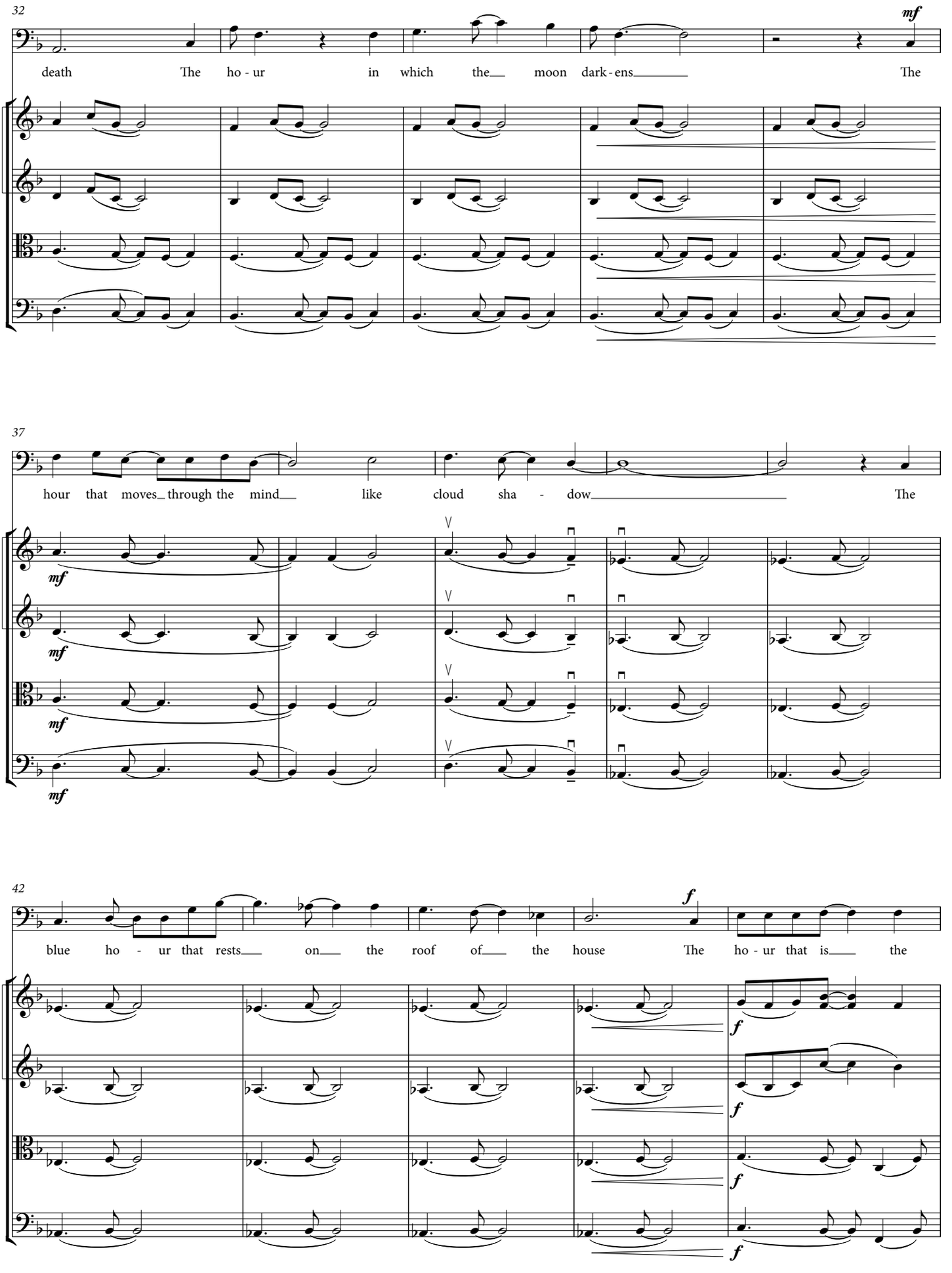
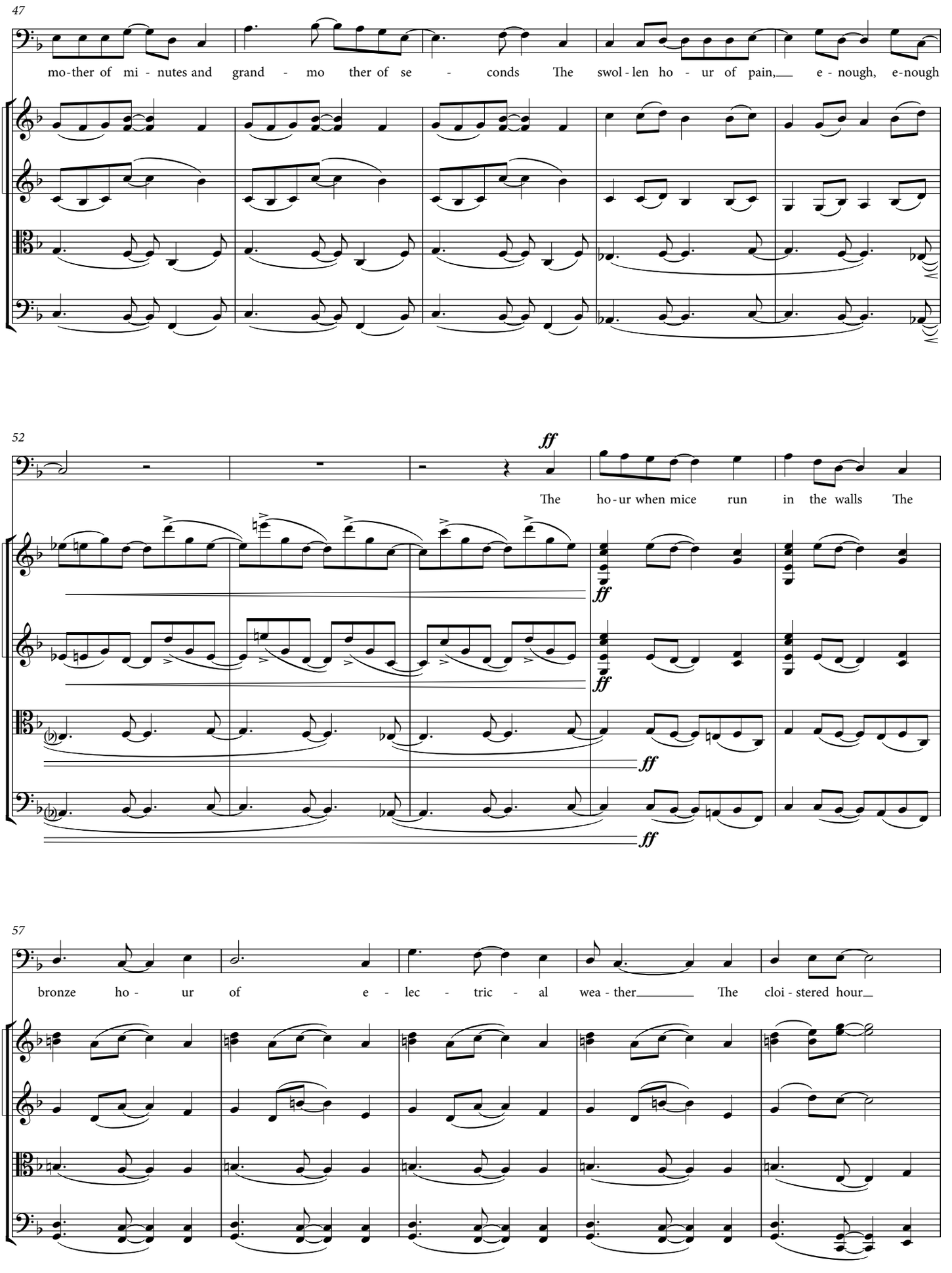
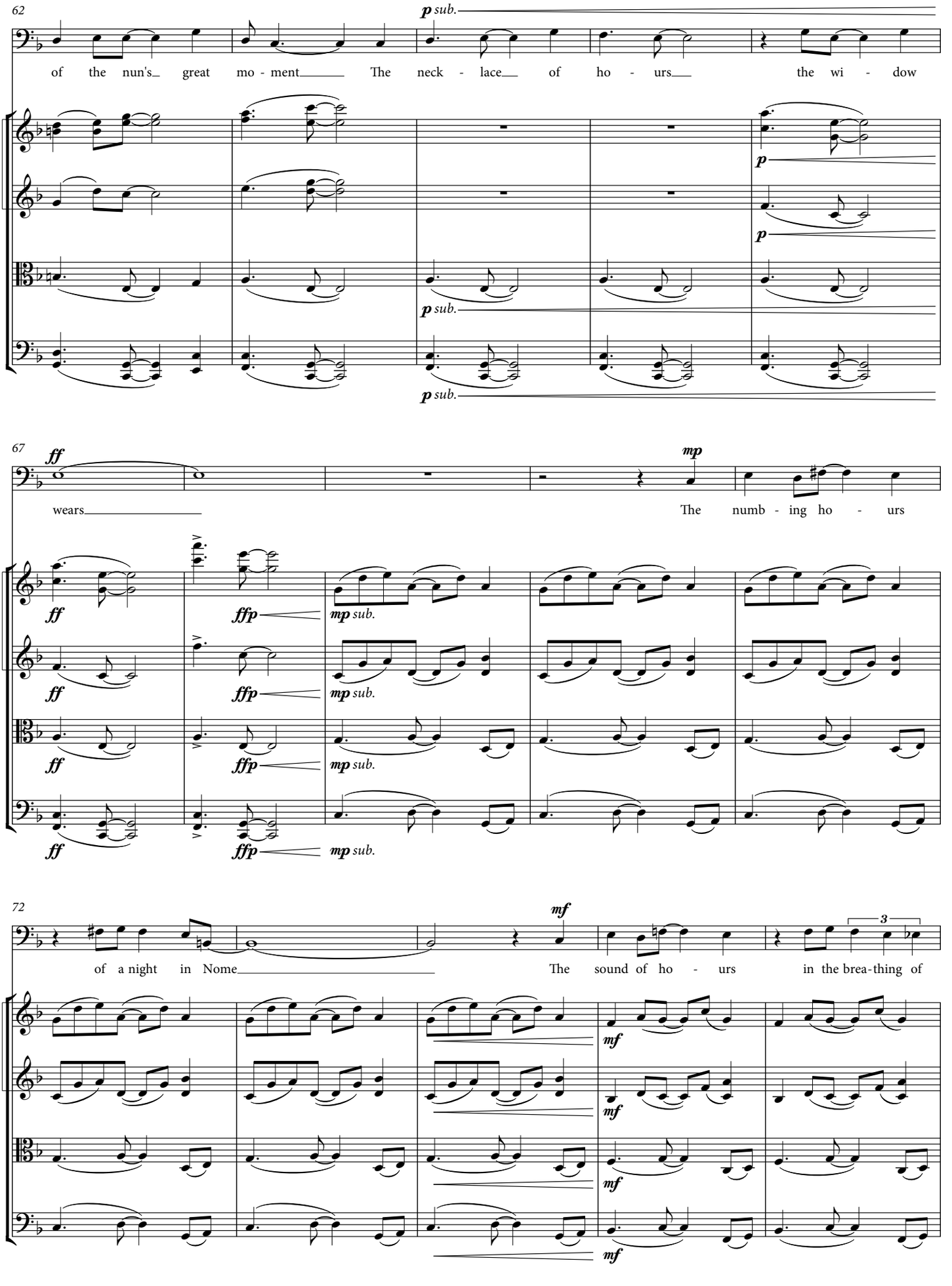
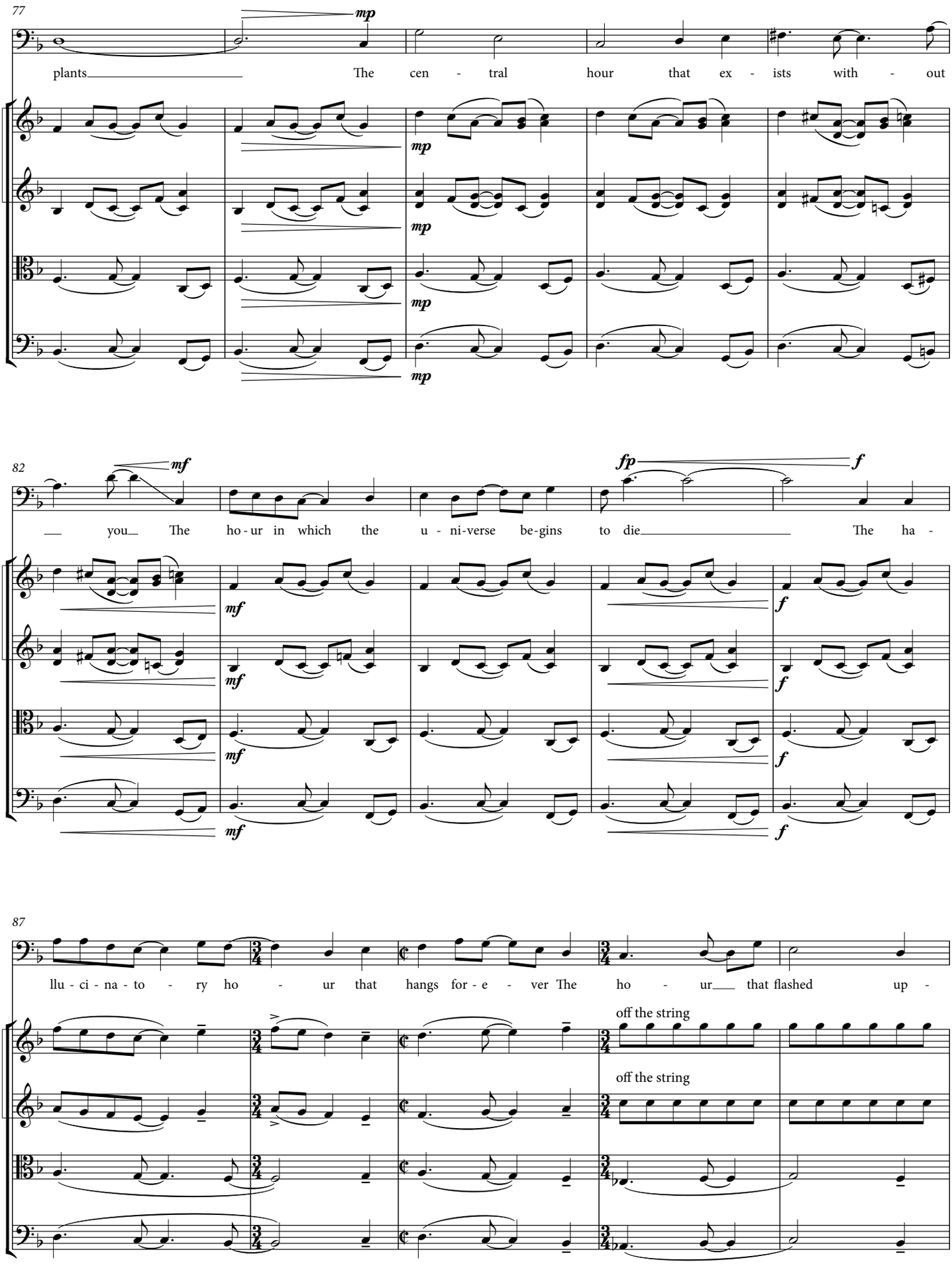
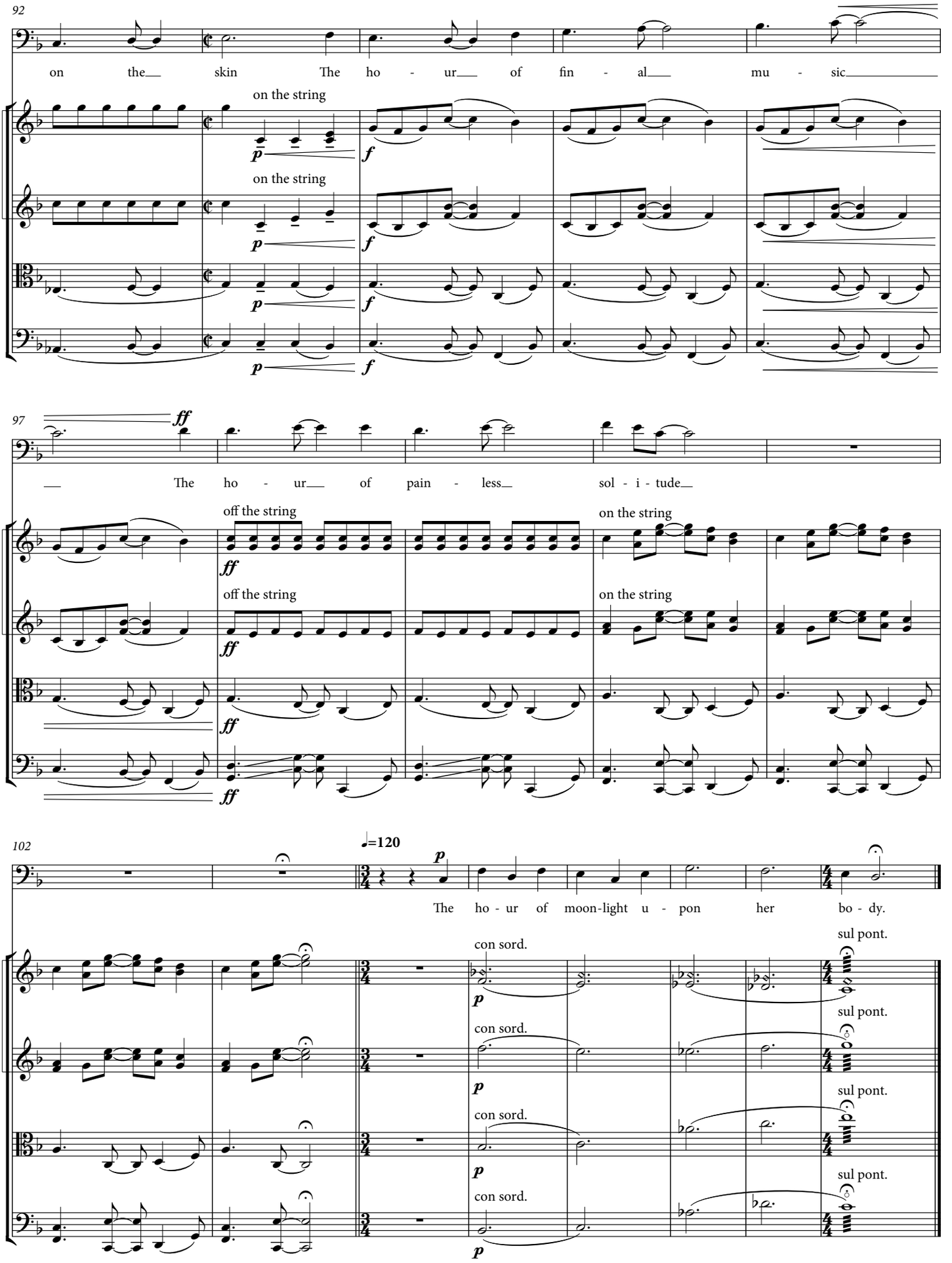

16
mp
The deep - est ho - ur of the dark - est seas The
21
guilt - y ho - ur that pre-cedes ca - tas - tro - phe The ho-ur it takes to go from here to there
mp
mp
mp
27
The haun - ted hour of the know - ledge of


32
mf
death The ho - ur in which the moon dark - ens The
37
mf
hour that moves through the mind like cloud sha - dow The
42
f
blue ho - ur that rests on the roof of the house The ho - ur that is the


47
mo-ther of mi - nutes and grand - mo ther of se - conds The swol-len ho - ur of pain, e - nough, e-nough
52
ff
The ho-ur when mice run in the walls The
57
bronze ho - ur of e - lec - tric - al wea-ther The cloi-stered hour


62
p sub.
of the nun's great mo - ment The neck - lace of ho - urs the wi - dow
p
p
p sub.
p sub.
67
ff
mp
wears
The numb - ing ho - urs
ff
ffp
mp sub.
72
mf
of a night in Nome
The sound of ho - urs
3
in the brea-thing of
mf


77
mp
plants The cen - tral hour that ex - ists with - out
82
mf
you The ho - ur in which the u - ni-verse be-gins to die
fp
f
The ha -
87
llu - ci - na - to - ry ho - ur that hangs for - e - ver The ho - ur that flashed up -
off the string
off the string


92
on the skin The ho - ur of fin - al mu - sic
on the string
on the string
97
The ho - ur of pain - less sol - i - tude
off the string
on the string
off the string
on the string
102
=120
The ho - ur of moon-light u - pon her bo - dy.
con sord.
sul pont.
con sord.
sul pont.
con sord.
sul pont.
con sord.
sul pont.