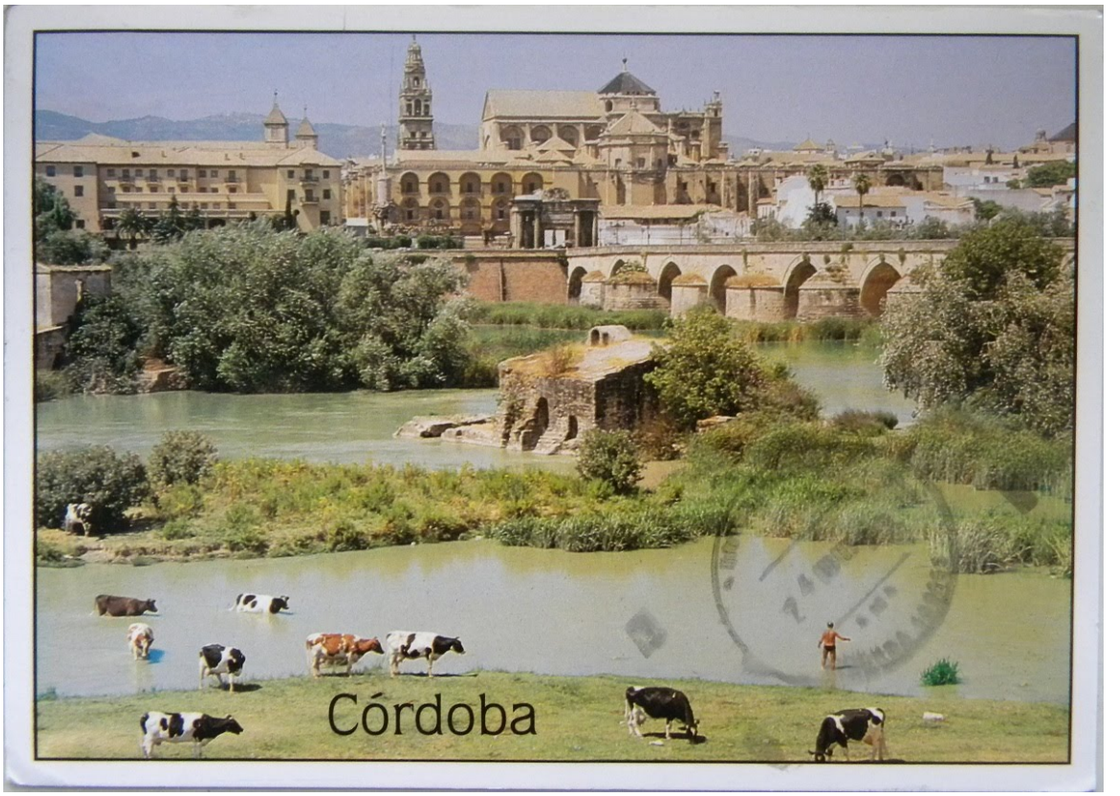
POSTCARDS



ERIC SHANFIELD

POSTCARDS

Eric Shanfield

ENS.2007.7 | 6’

poems by John Yau

Mezzo-soprano

2 Trumpets in Bb (straight and harmon mutes required)

Horn in F

Tenor Trombone (cup mute required)

Tuba

Score in C.

This is the second version of a work originally composed for the outlandish combination of flute, contrabassoon, brass quartet, viola and cello; it seemed like a good idea to make a version that might actually one day be performed. It is a setting of John Yau’s poem “Andalusia”—well, a setting of three parts, anyway (of eight). I have virtually nothing to say about the piece itself except that I hope its lack of seriousness and utter dearth of compositional profundity are taken as virtues as much as vices. In any case, it’s short.

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POSTCARDS

from Andalusia by John Yau

Andalusia (2)

Rooftop roosters announce a new regime
Even at night, guided by the moon,

the sky can never find a cloud that fits
but, for the painter, each cloud is snug

Still, it is the sheet of paper that I want
and the inks that can keep these lovers safe

in the small garden where even the birds
have stopped to look at their reflections

Andalusia (5) (Postcards)

Mother-of-pearl-cloud
clads clump and clod

Quillons and spandrels
Curlicues and spikes

Irregular medallion
Lustrous heron

Emerald tears sparkle
in sky's mortar and pestle

Andalusia (3)

Are not clouds sketches for a sculpture
that will never emerge from stone

The neck of a cat visits you at night
Are the stars still spies loyal to no one

All that is left are these jackals
wandering across a glittering field

Our shadows have floated into the sky
leaving our other shadows behind

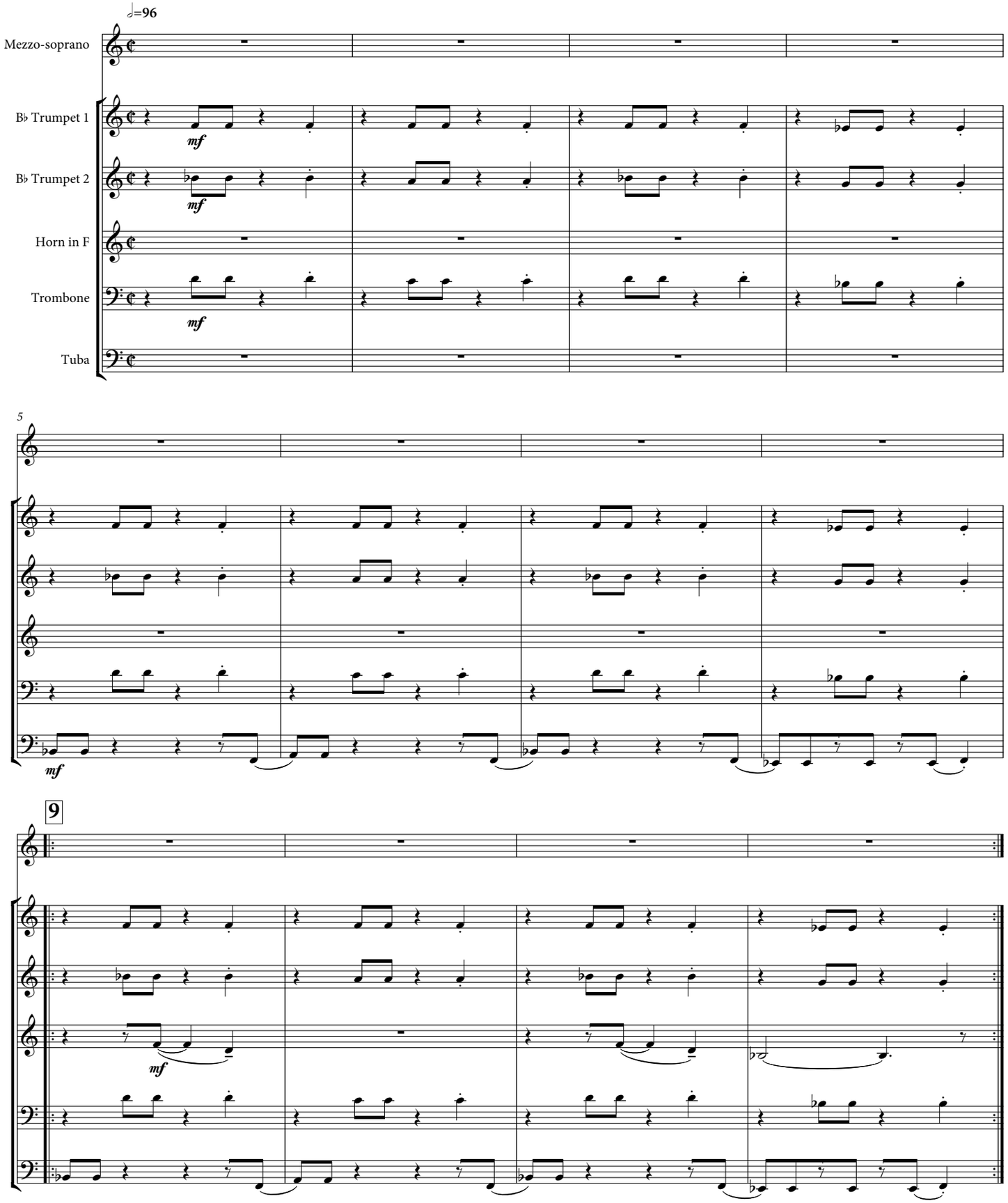
No need to inquire where or how
Someday you too may need this garden.

POSTCARDS

1. ANDALUSIA (2)

John Yau

Eric Shanfield



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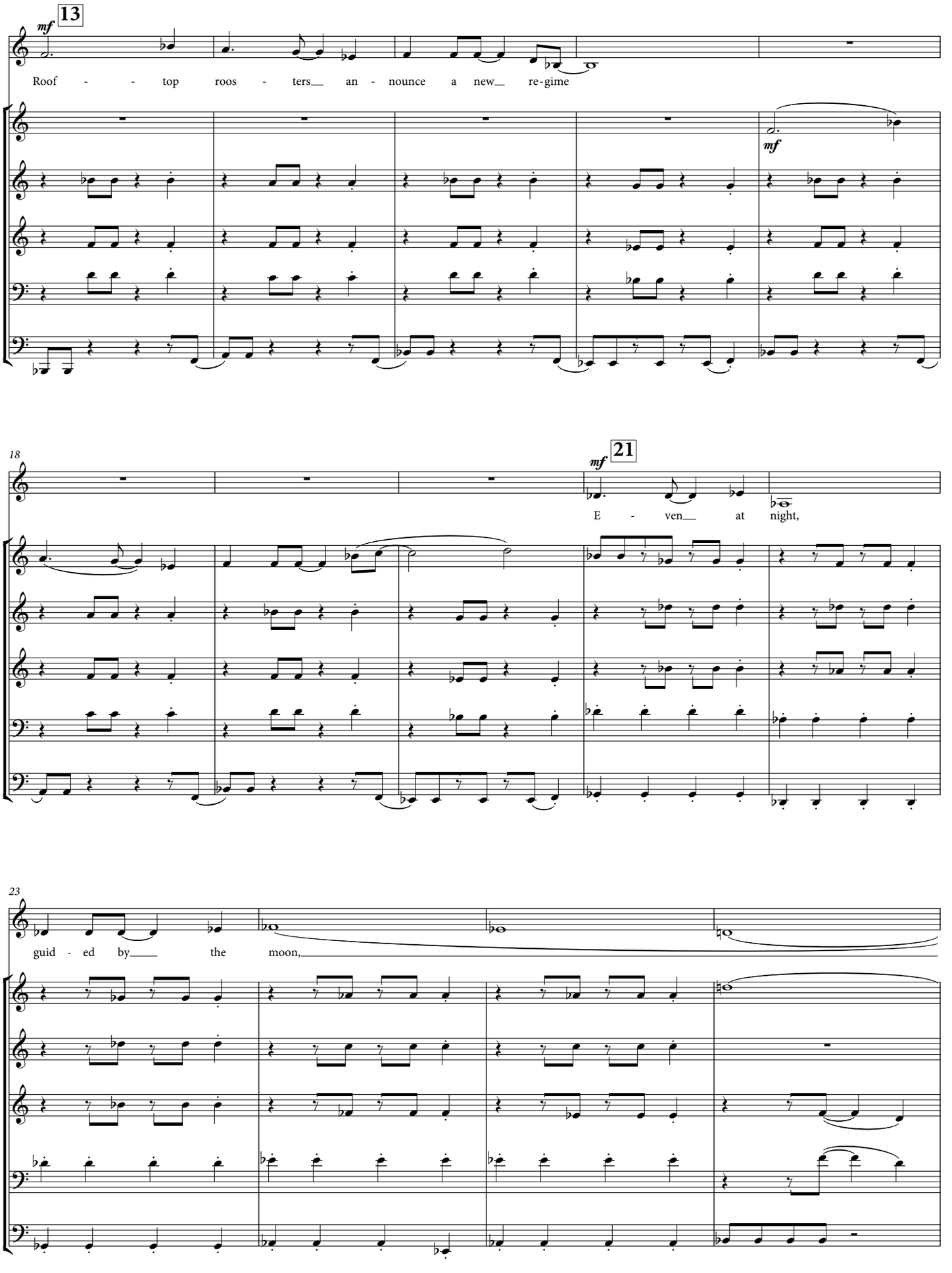
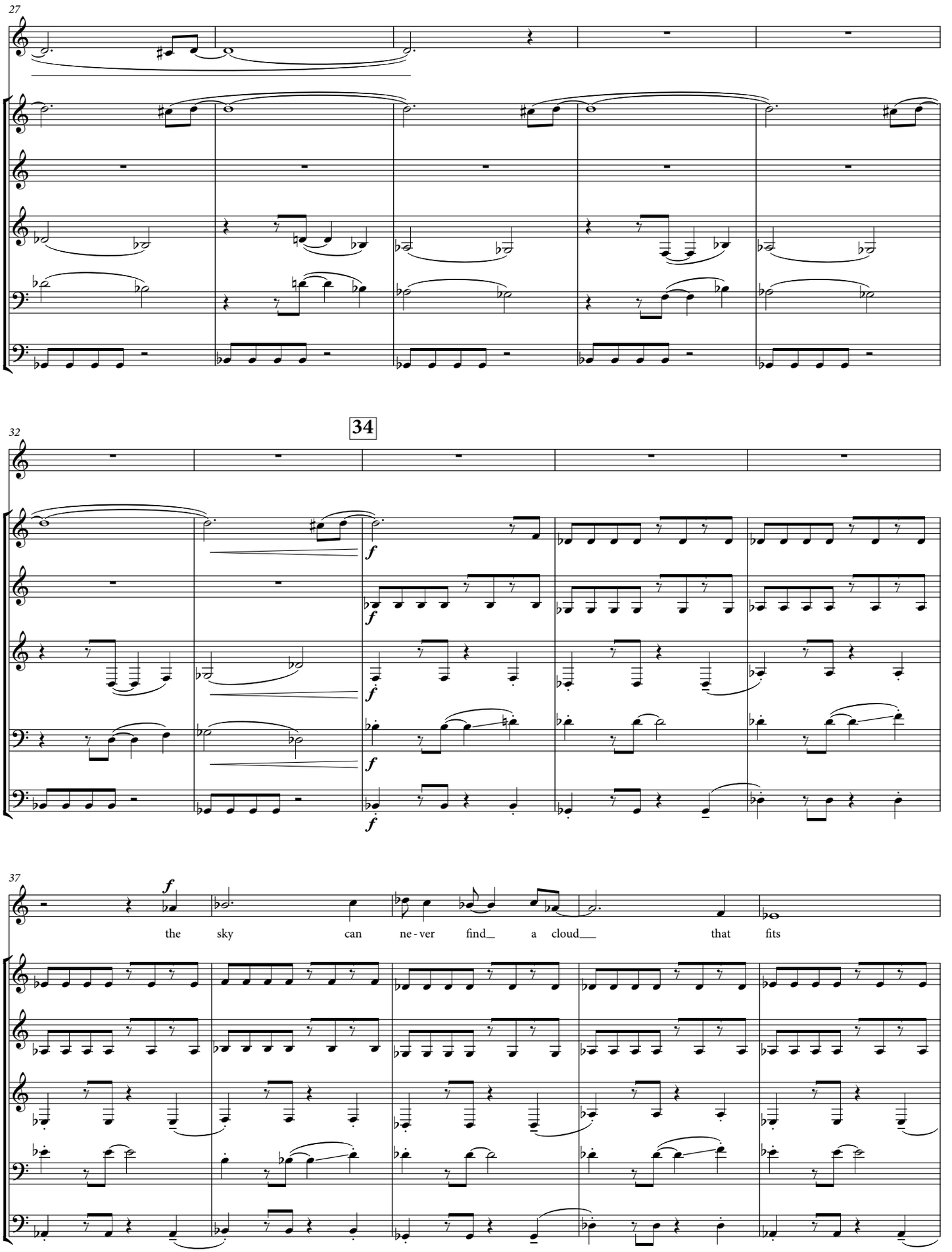

13
mf
Roof - - top roos - ters an - nounce a new re-gime
mf
18
21
mf
E - ven at night,
23
guid - ed by the moon,


27
32
34
37
f
the sky can ne - ver find a cloud that fits

42

but, for the pain - ter, each cloud is snug

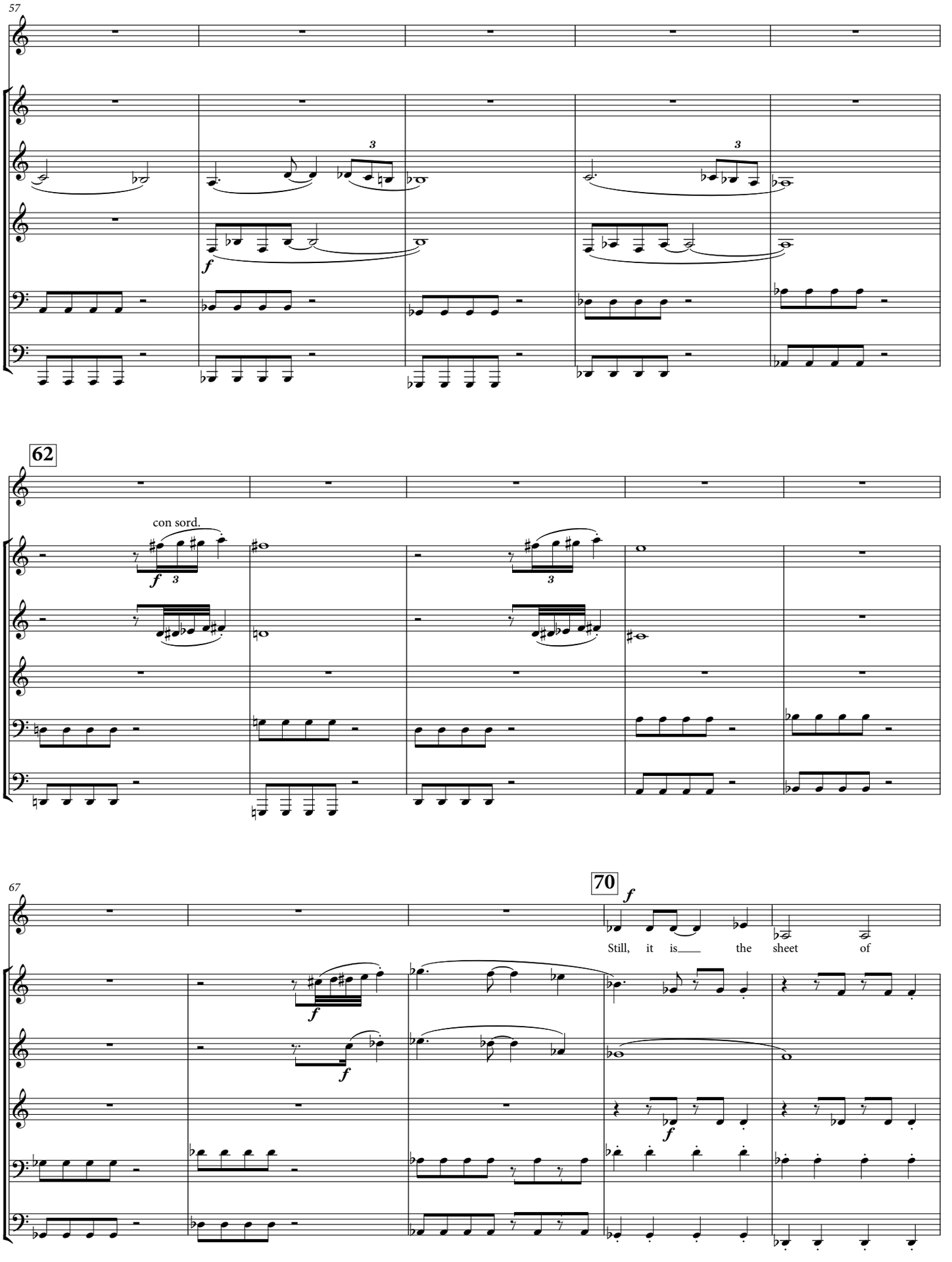
47

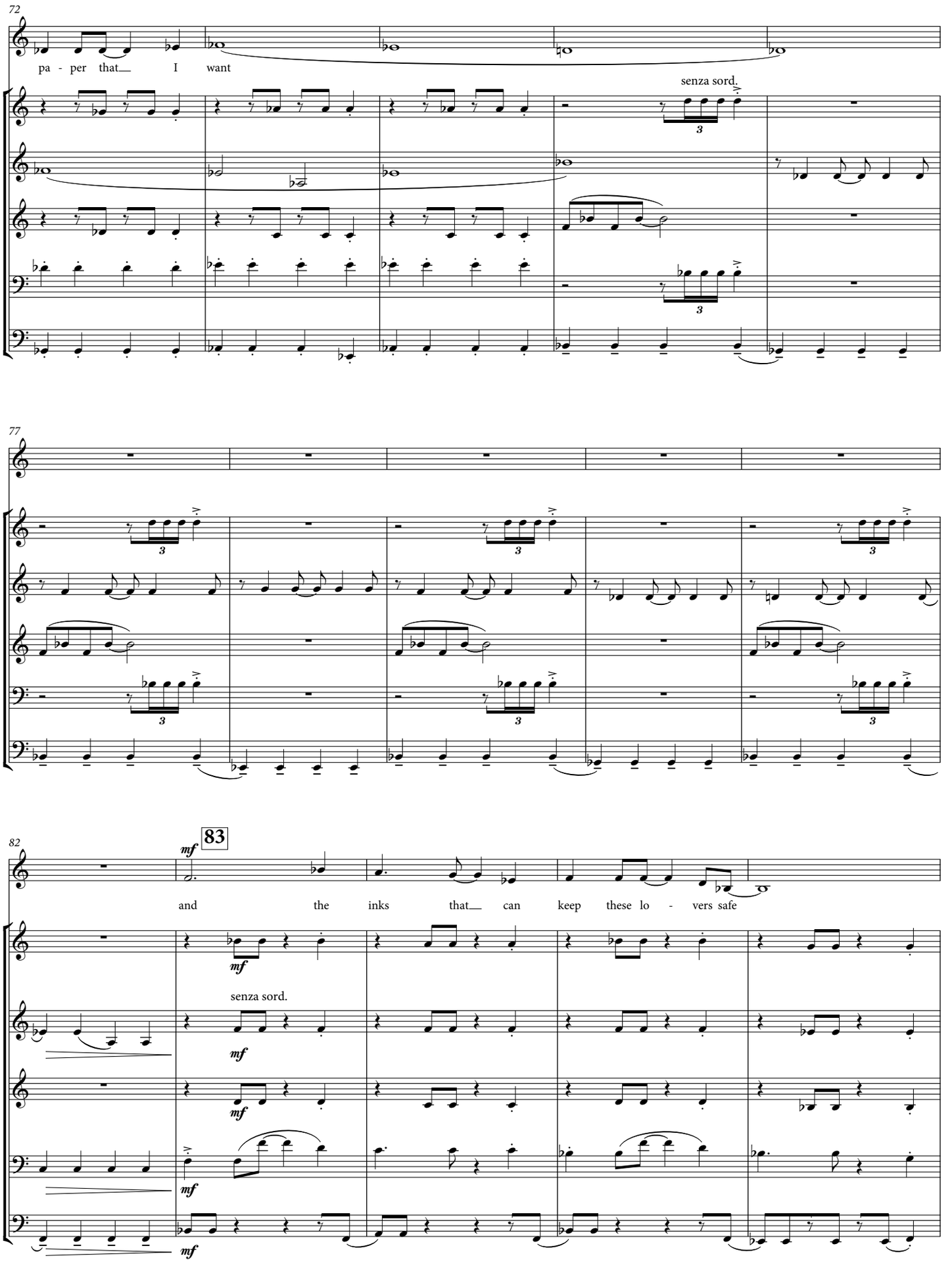
con sord.

f

52

54


57
62
con sord.
67
70
Still, it is the sheet of


72
pa - per that I want
senza sord.
77
82
mf
83
and the inks that can keep these lo - vers safe
senza sord.

87

91

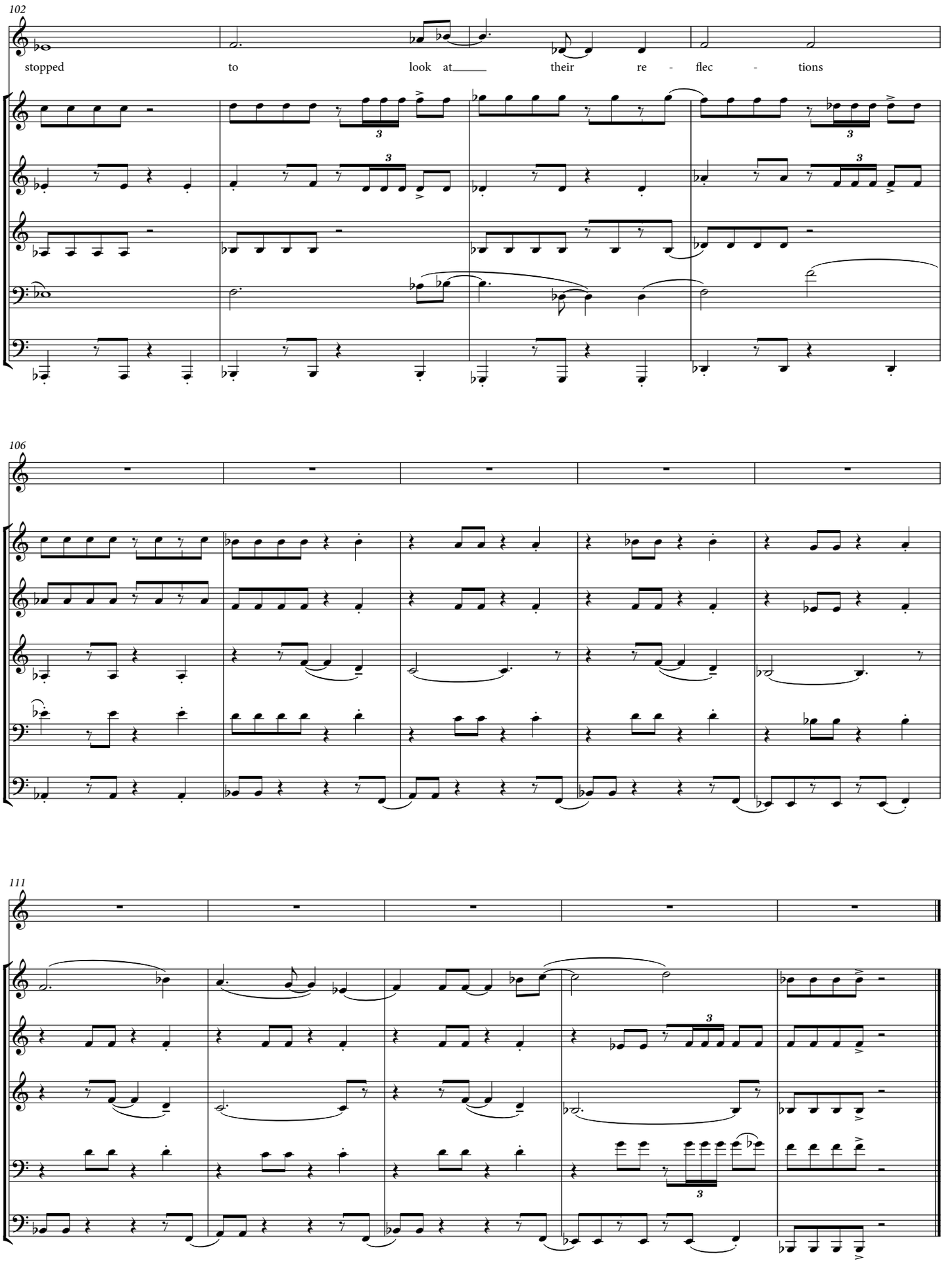
92

97

99

f

in the small gar-den where the birds have

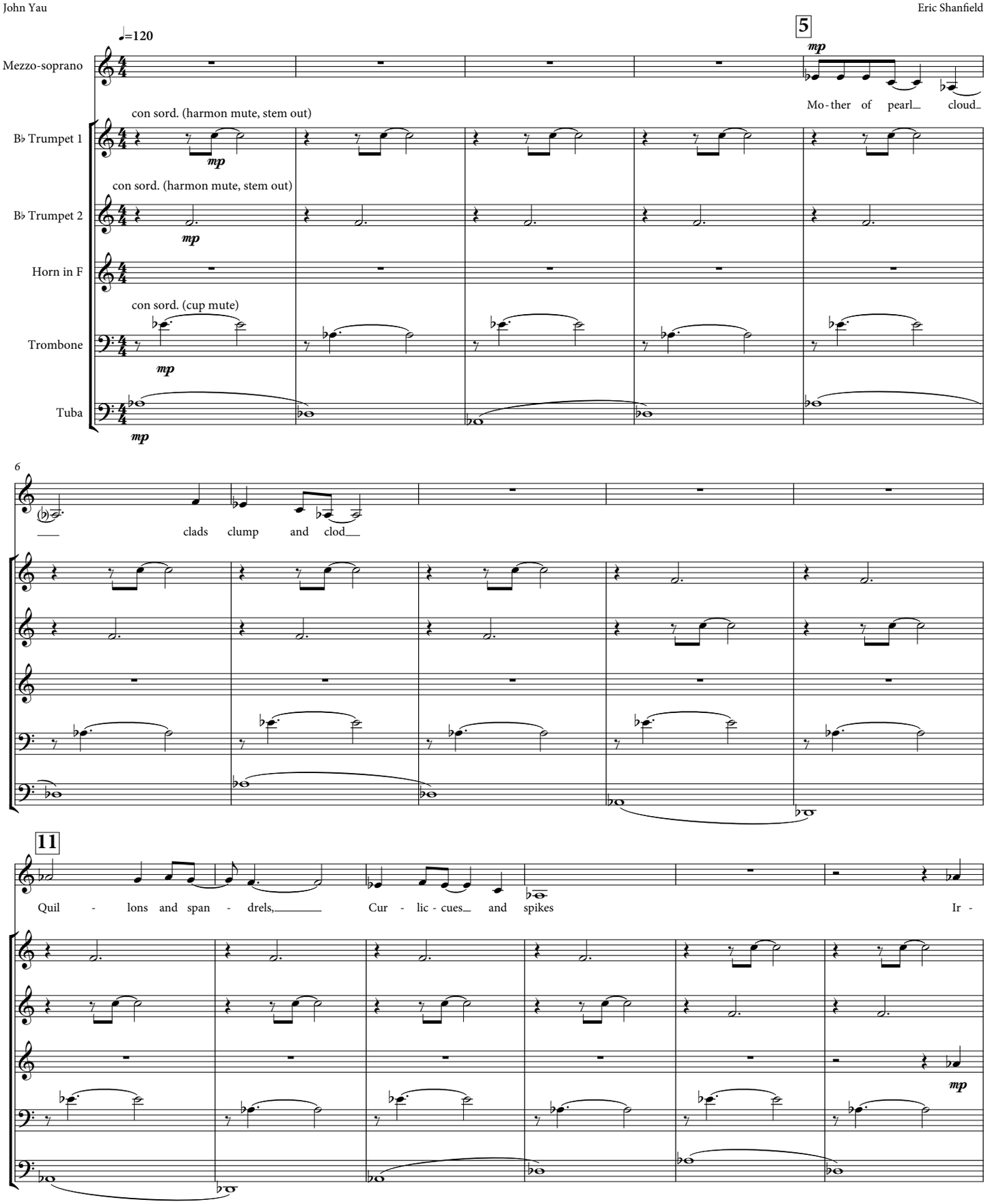

102
stopped to look at their re - flec - tions
106
111

POSTCARDS

2. ANDALUSIA(5)

John Yau

Eric Shanfield



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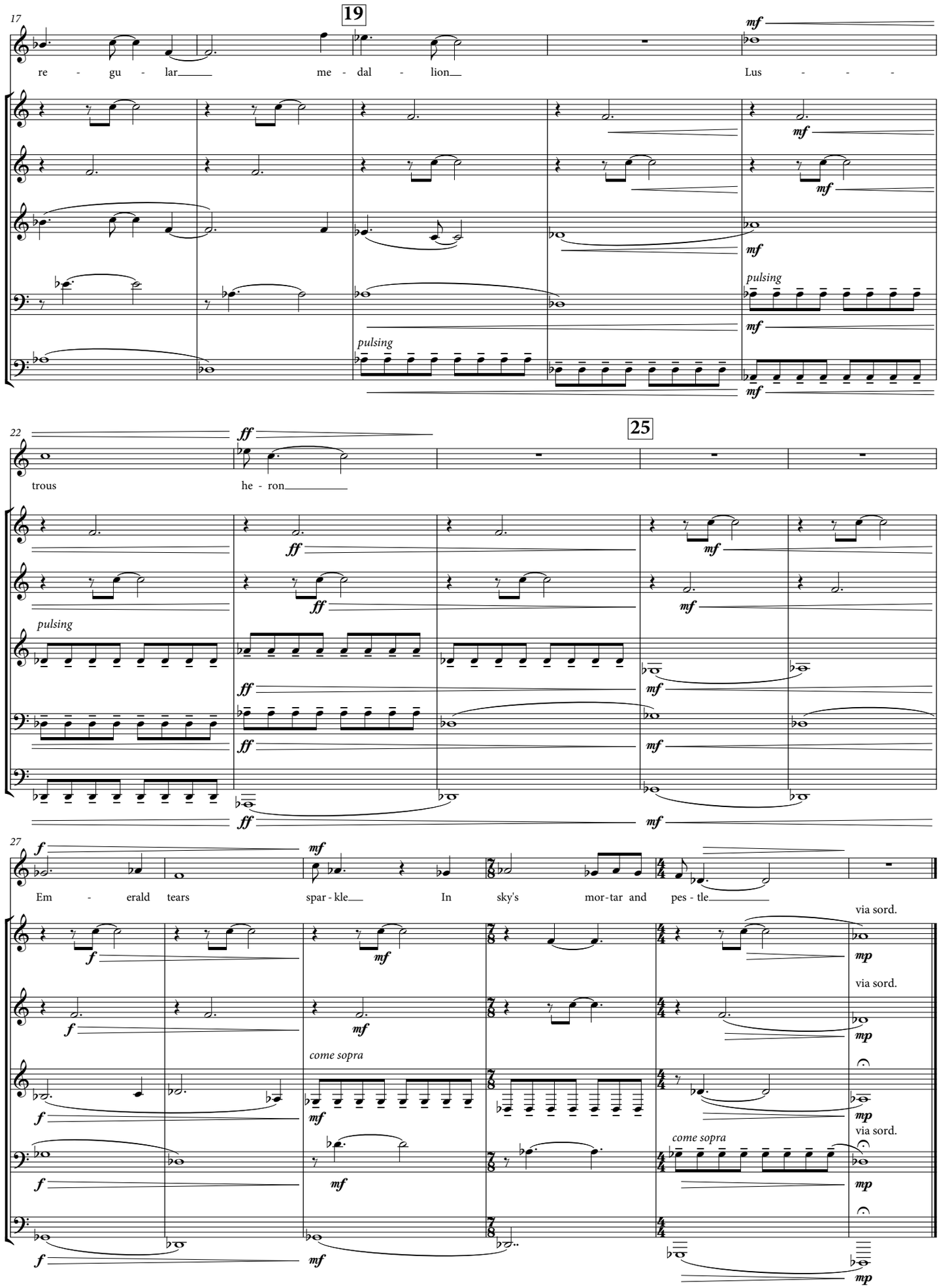
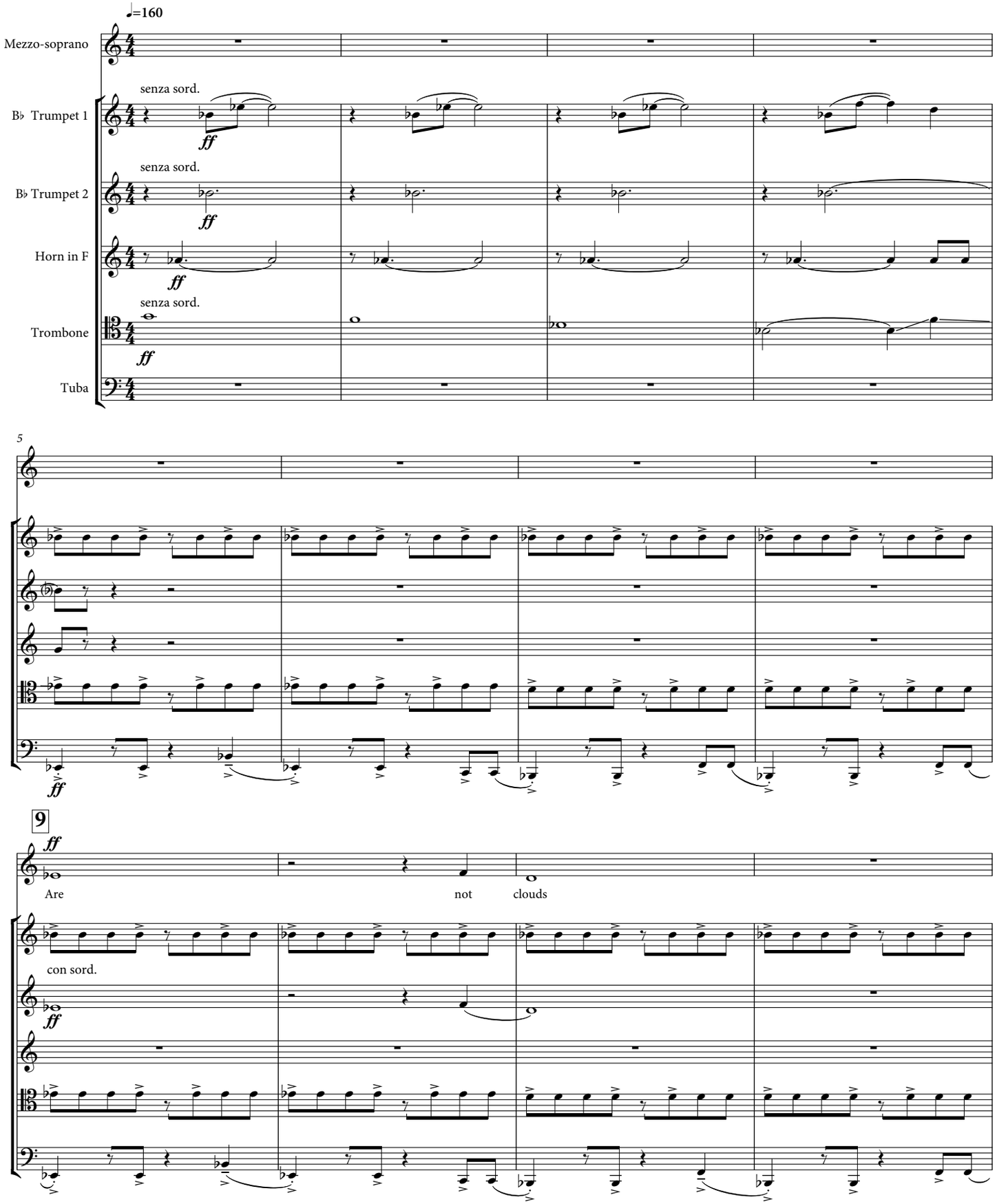

19
17
re - gu - lar me - dal - lion Lus - - -
mf
pulsing
22
25
trous he - ron
ff
27
Em - erald tears spar - kle In sky's mor - tar and pes - tle
f
mf
via sord.
mp
come sopra

POSTCARDS

3. ANDALUSIA (3)

John Yau

Eric Shanfield



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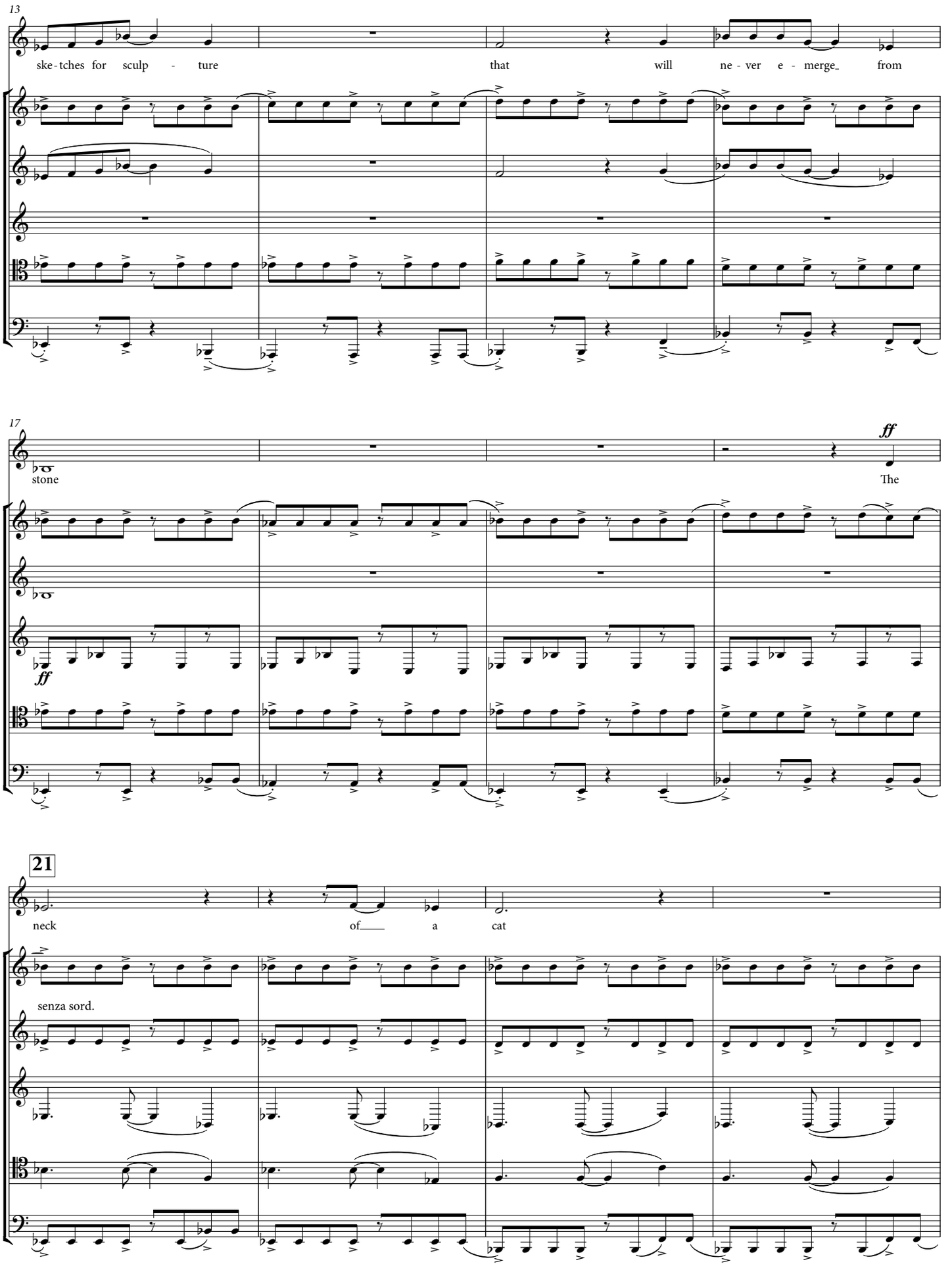
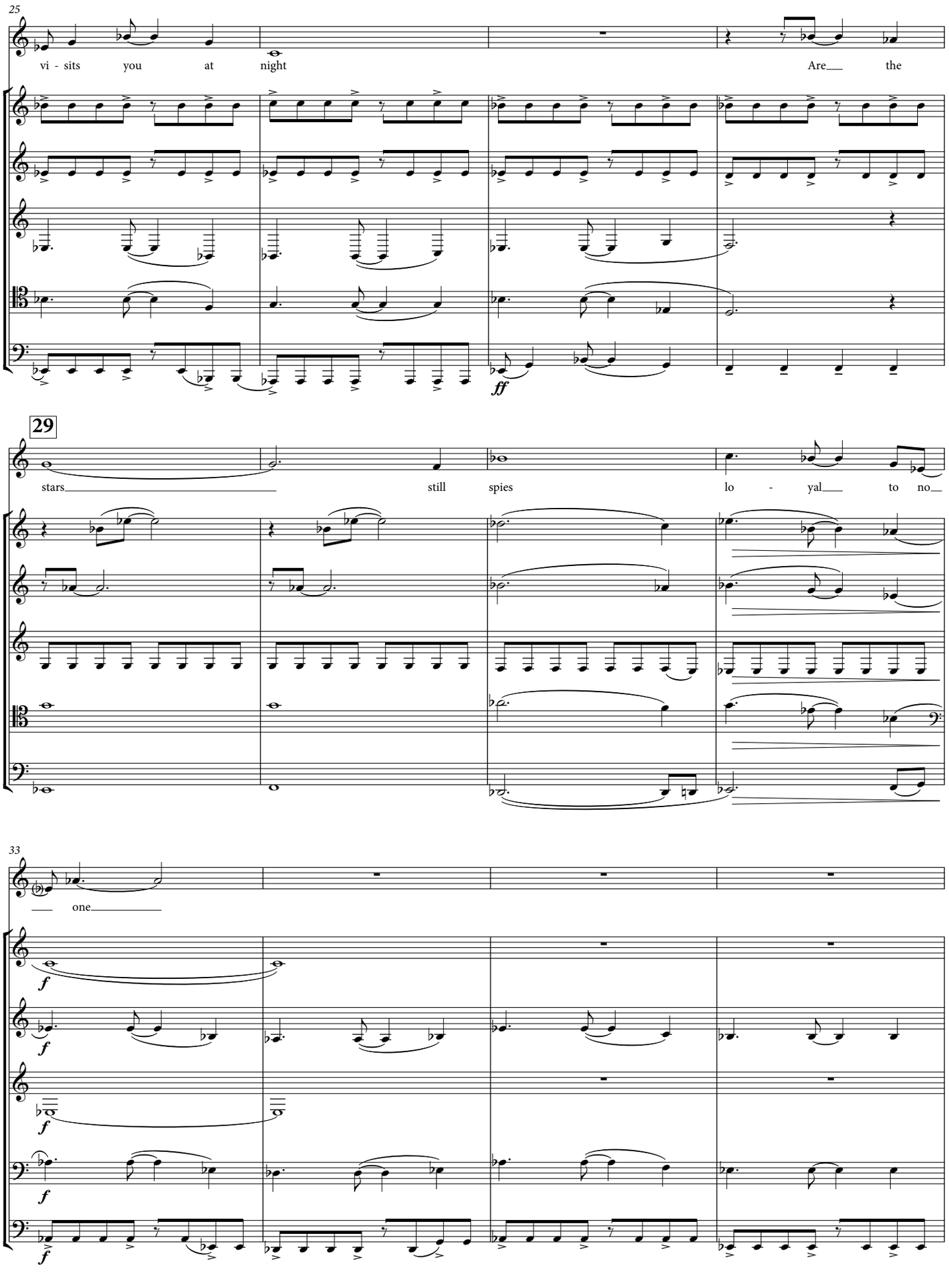
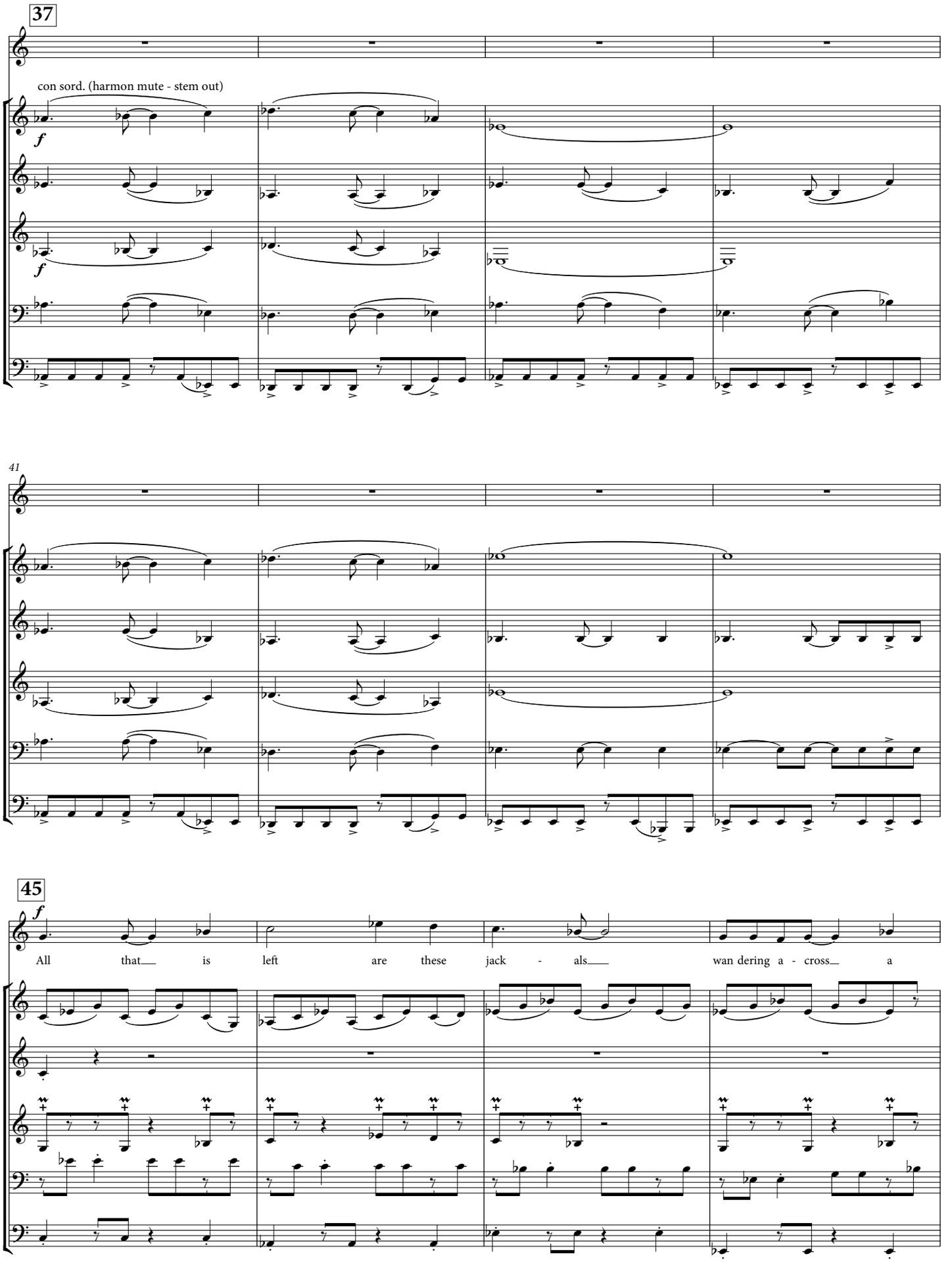
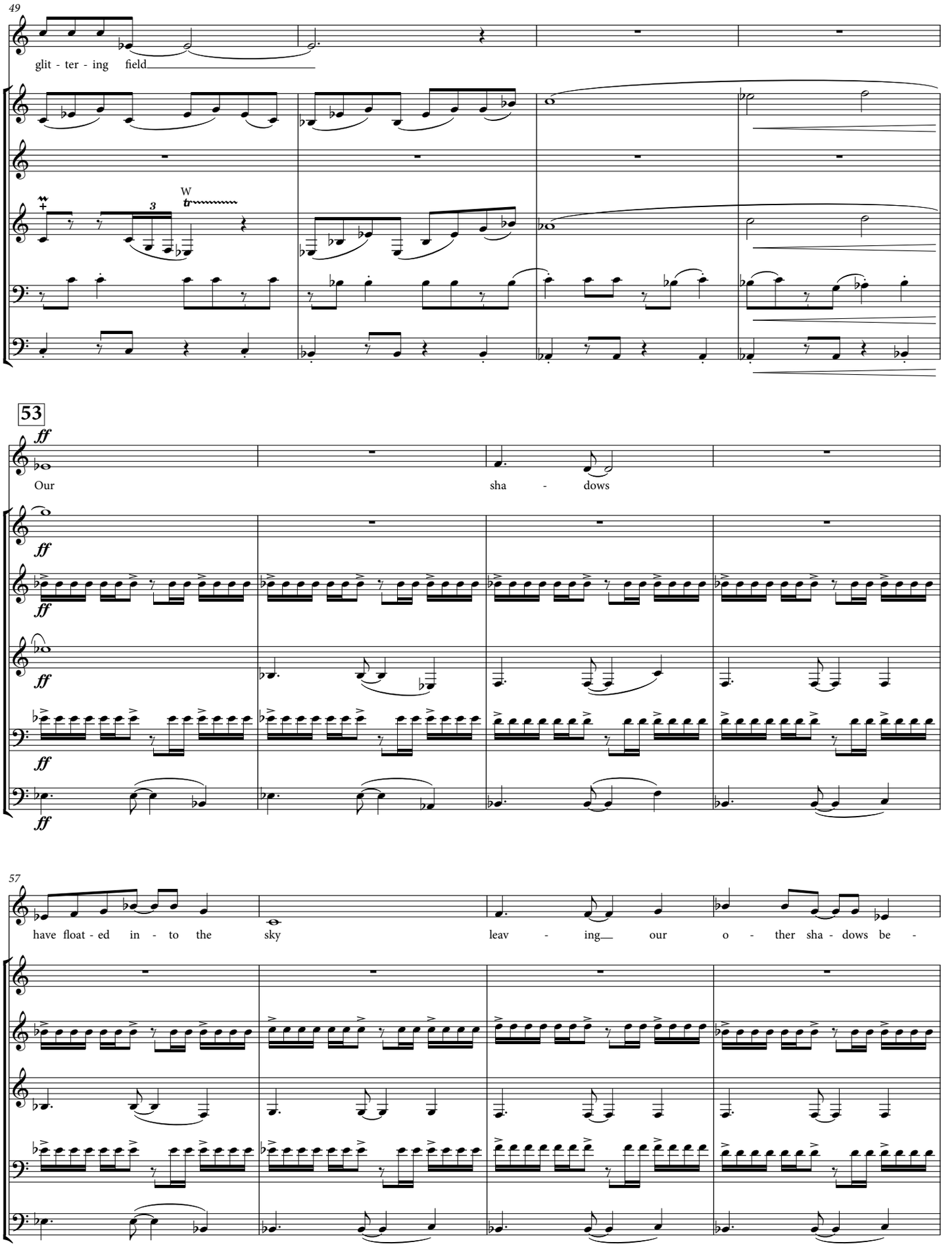
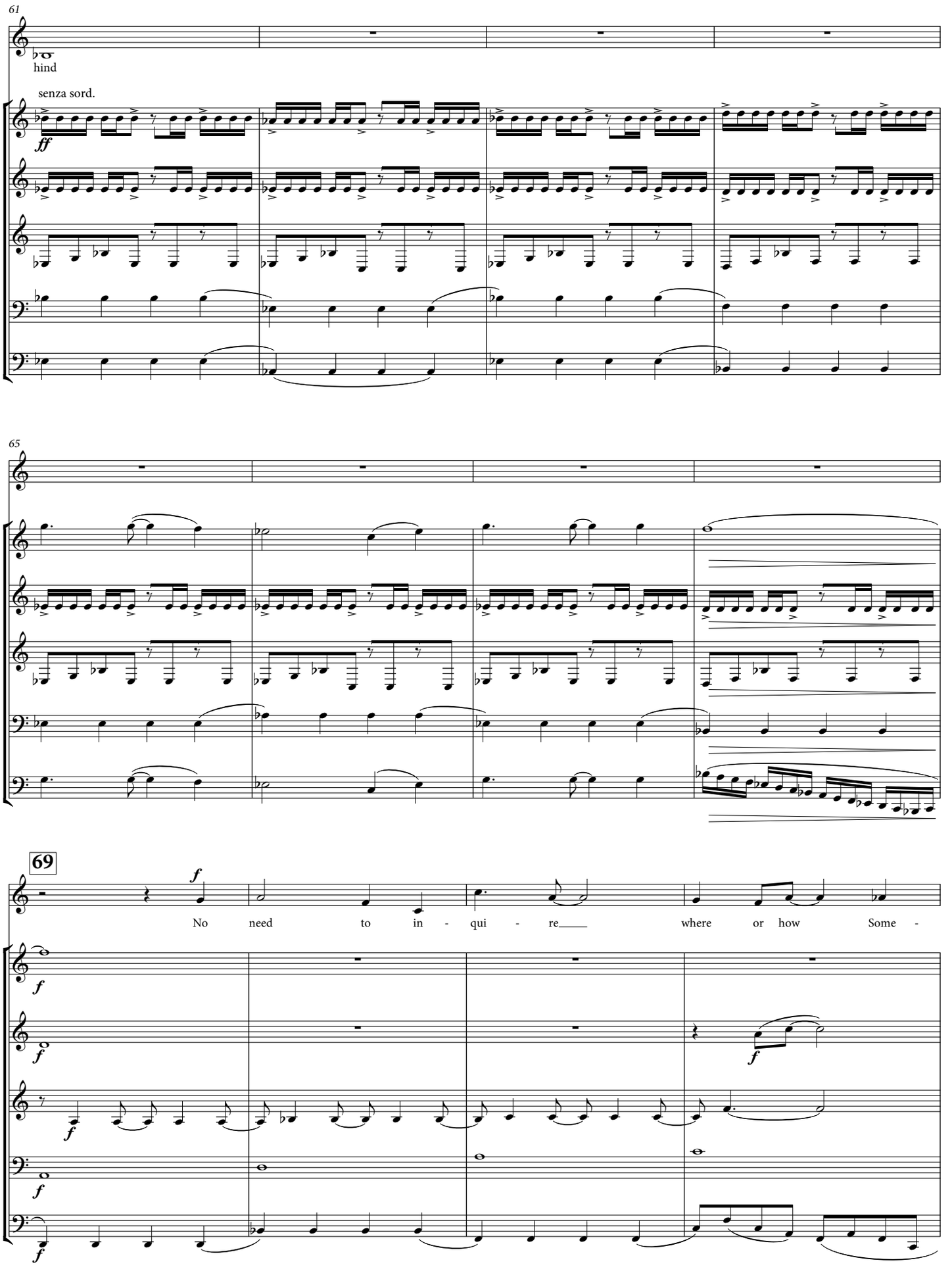
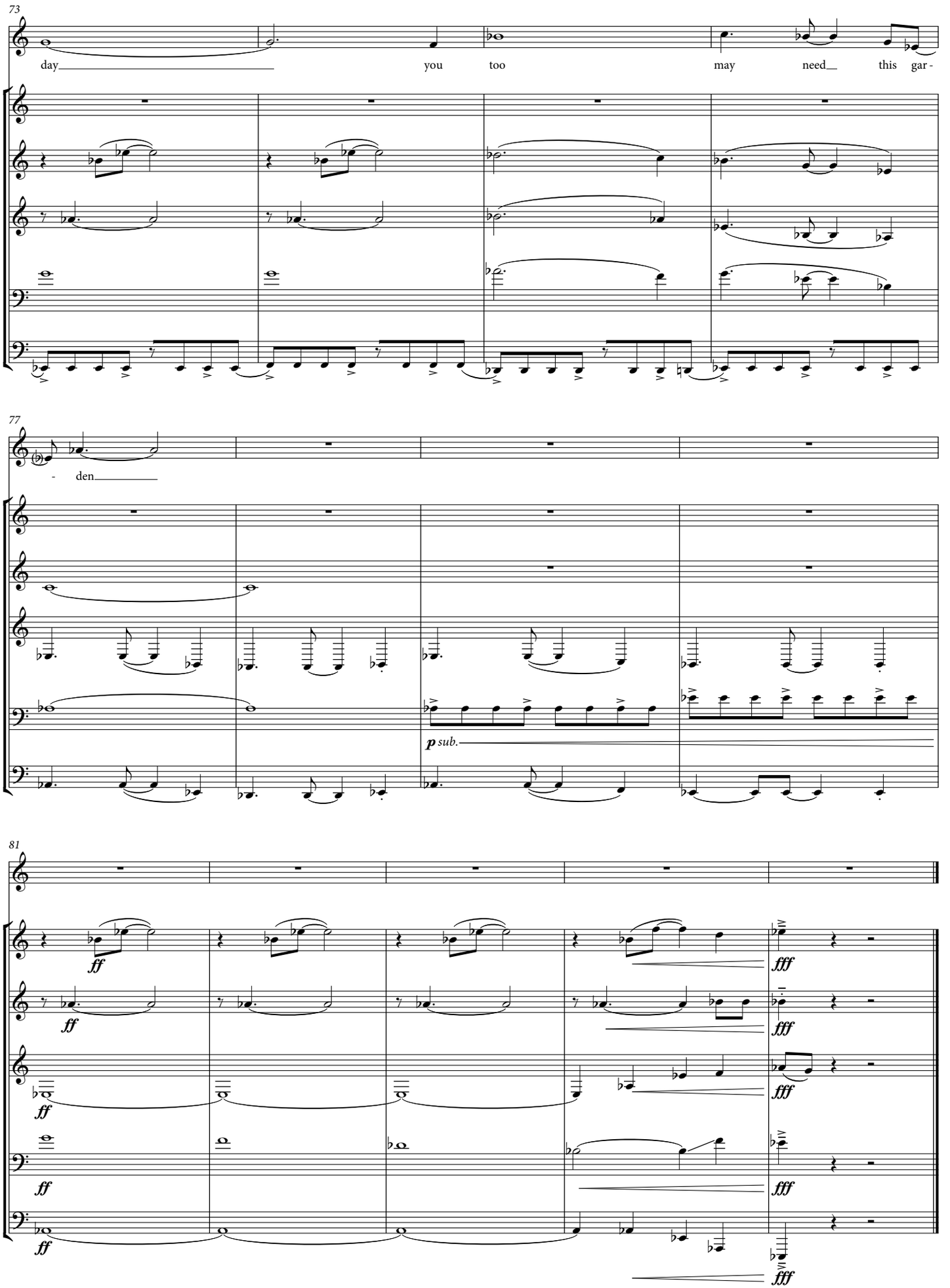

13
ske - tches for sculp - ture
that
will
ne - ver e - merge
from
17
stone
ff
The
ff
21
neck
of
a
cat
senza sord.


25
vi - sits you at night
Are the
ff
29
stars still spies
lo - yal to no
33
one
f
f
f
f


37
con sord. (harmon mute - stem out)
f
f
41
45
f
All that is left are these jack - als wan dering a - cross a


49
glit - ter - ing field
W
53
ff
Our
sha - dows
57
have float - ed in - to the
sky
leav - ing our o - ther sha - dows be -


61
hind
senza sord.
ff
65
69
f
No need to in - qui - re where or how Some -


73
day you too may need this gar -
77
- den
p sub.
81
ff
fff