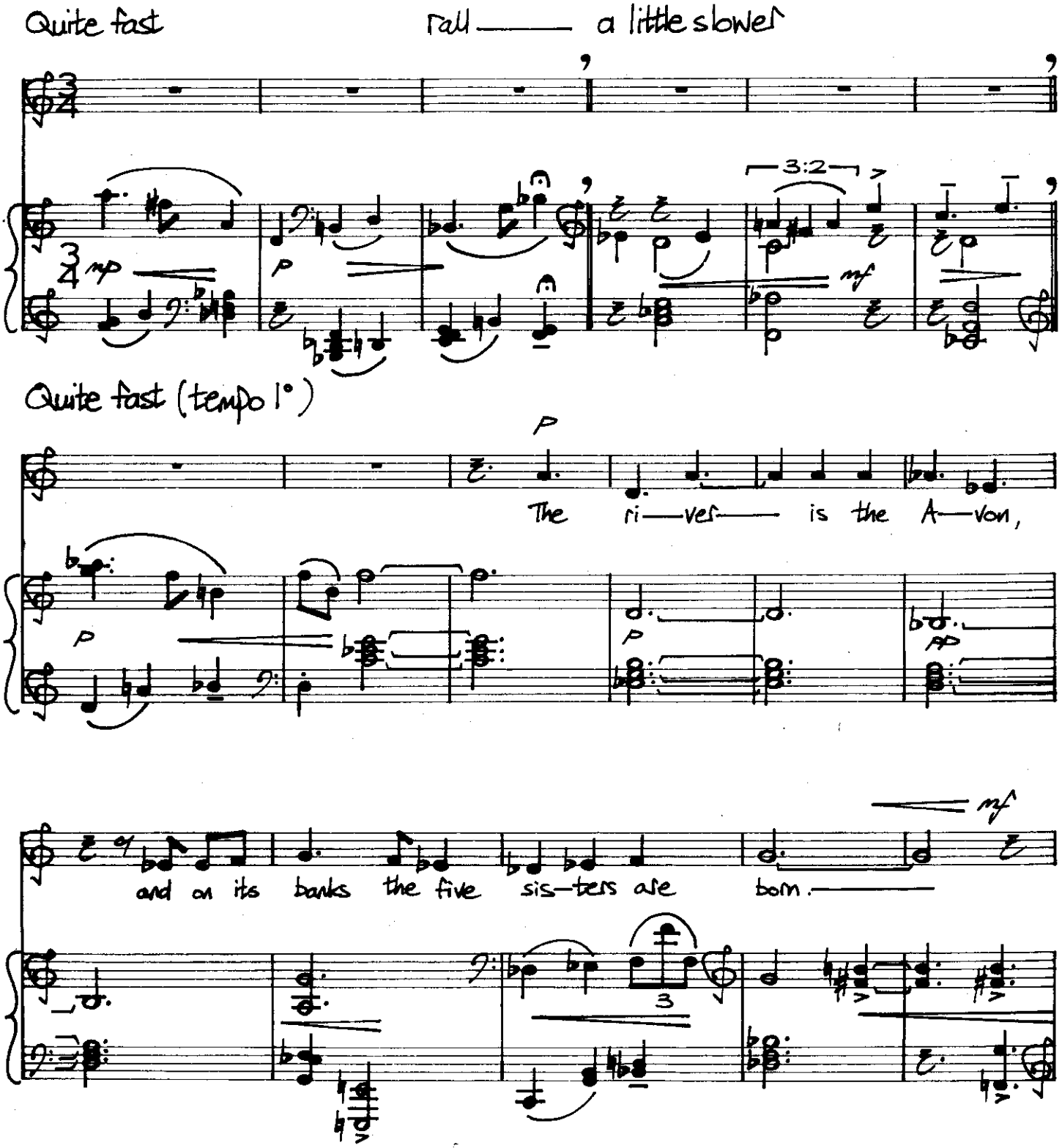
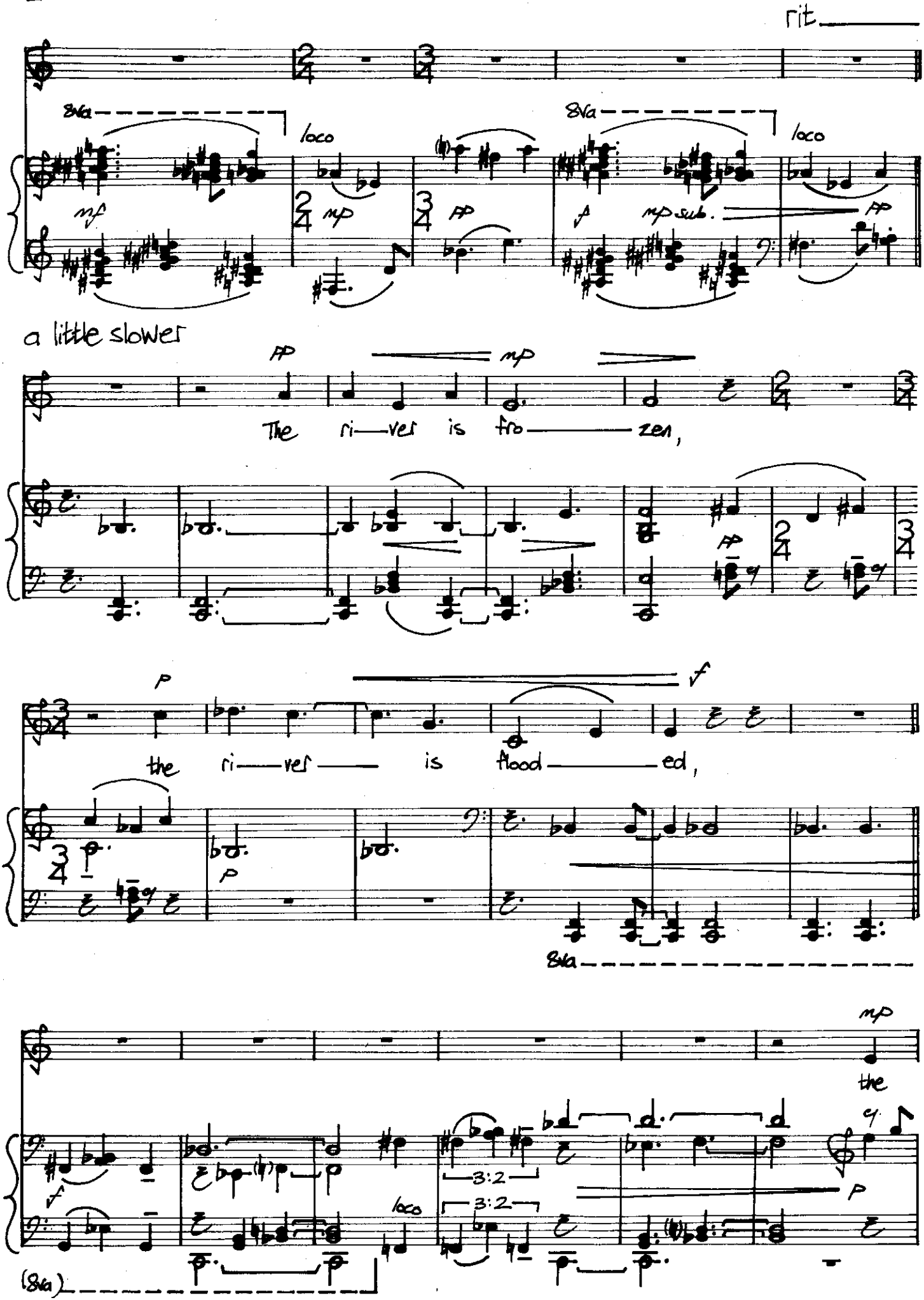
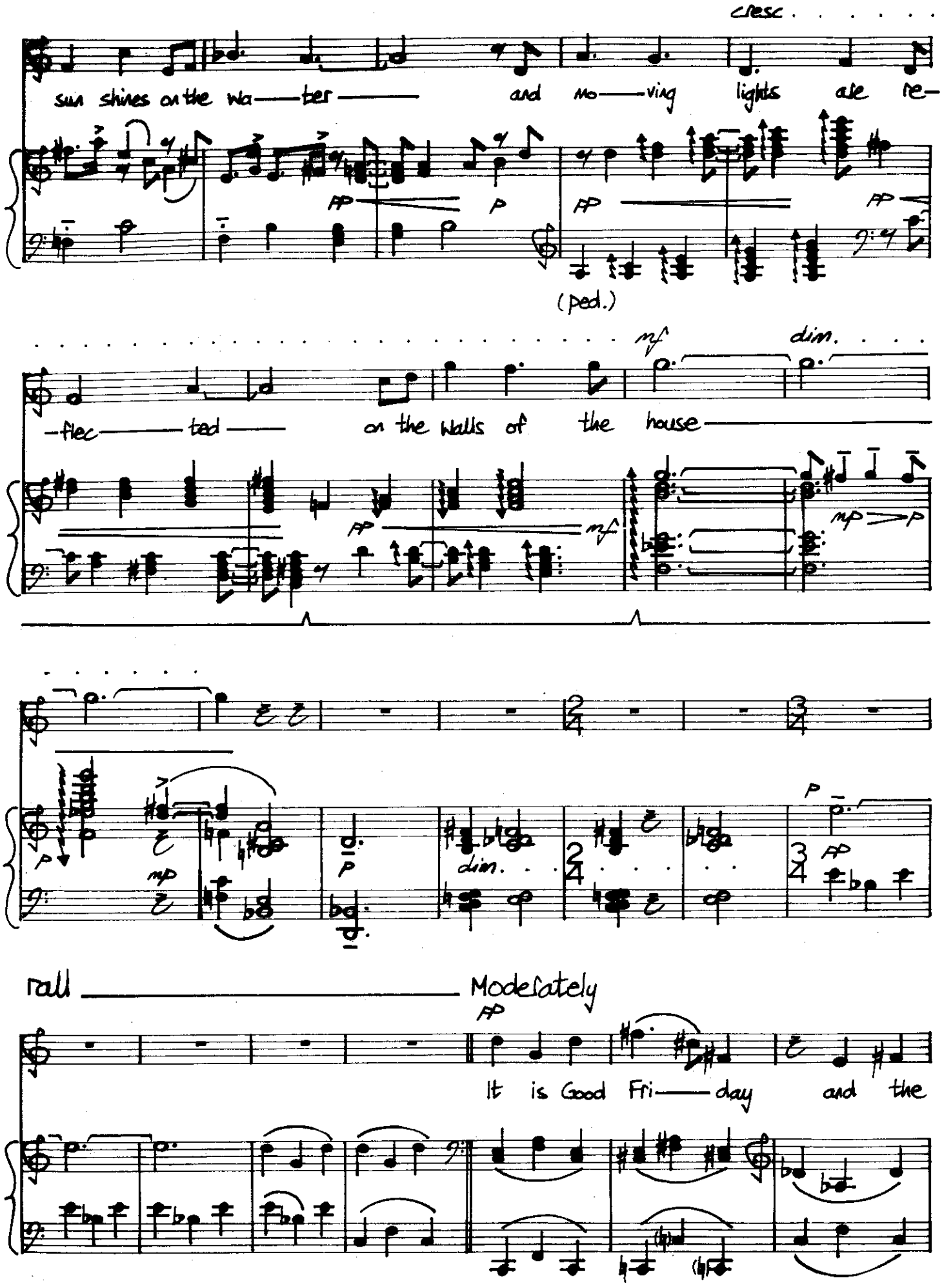
Sisters by a River

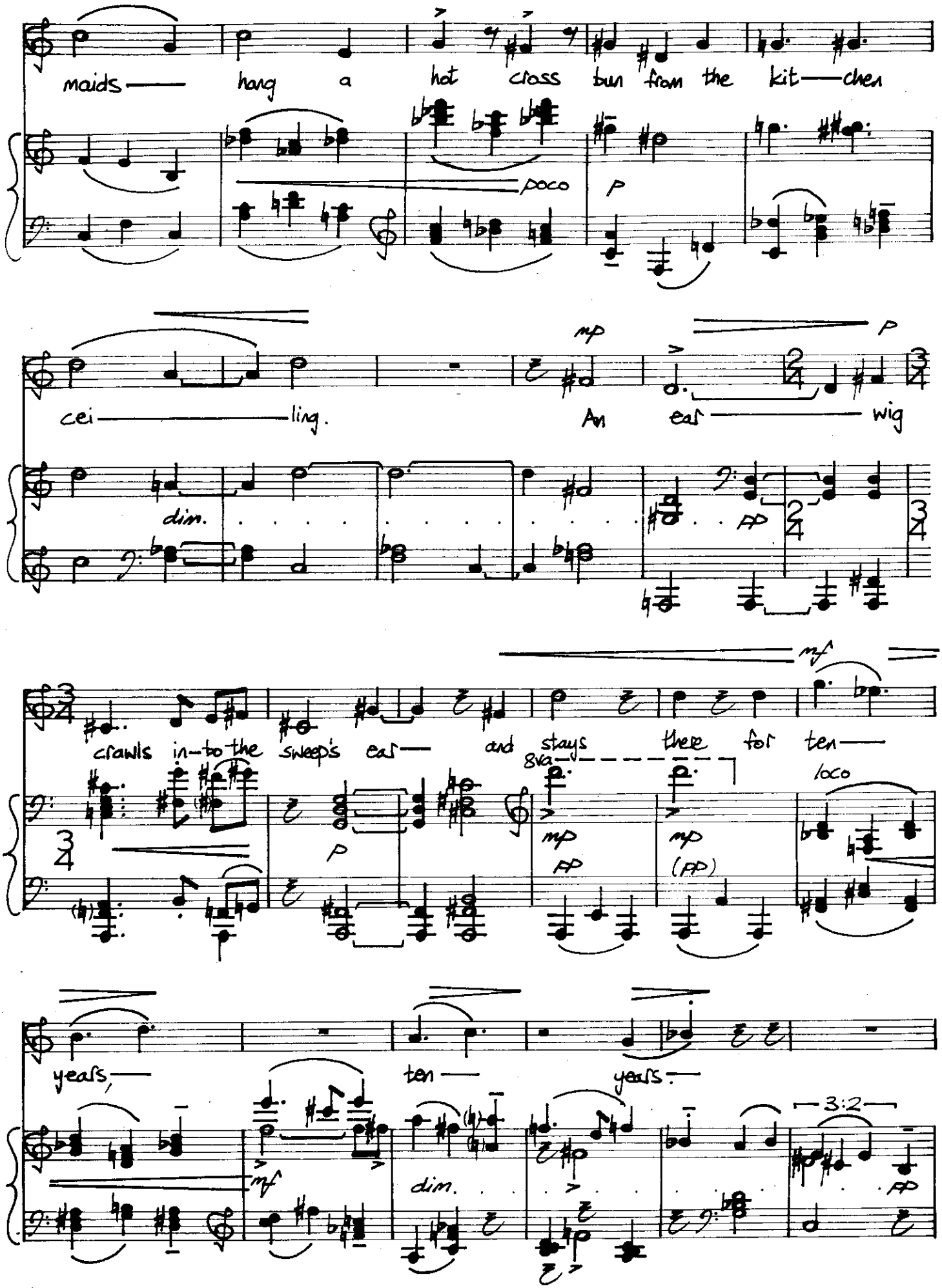
Andrew Yores

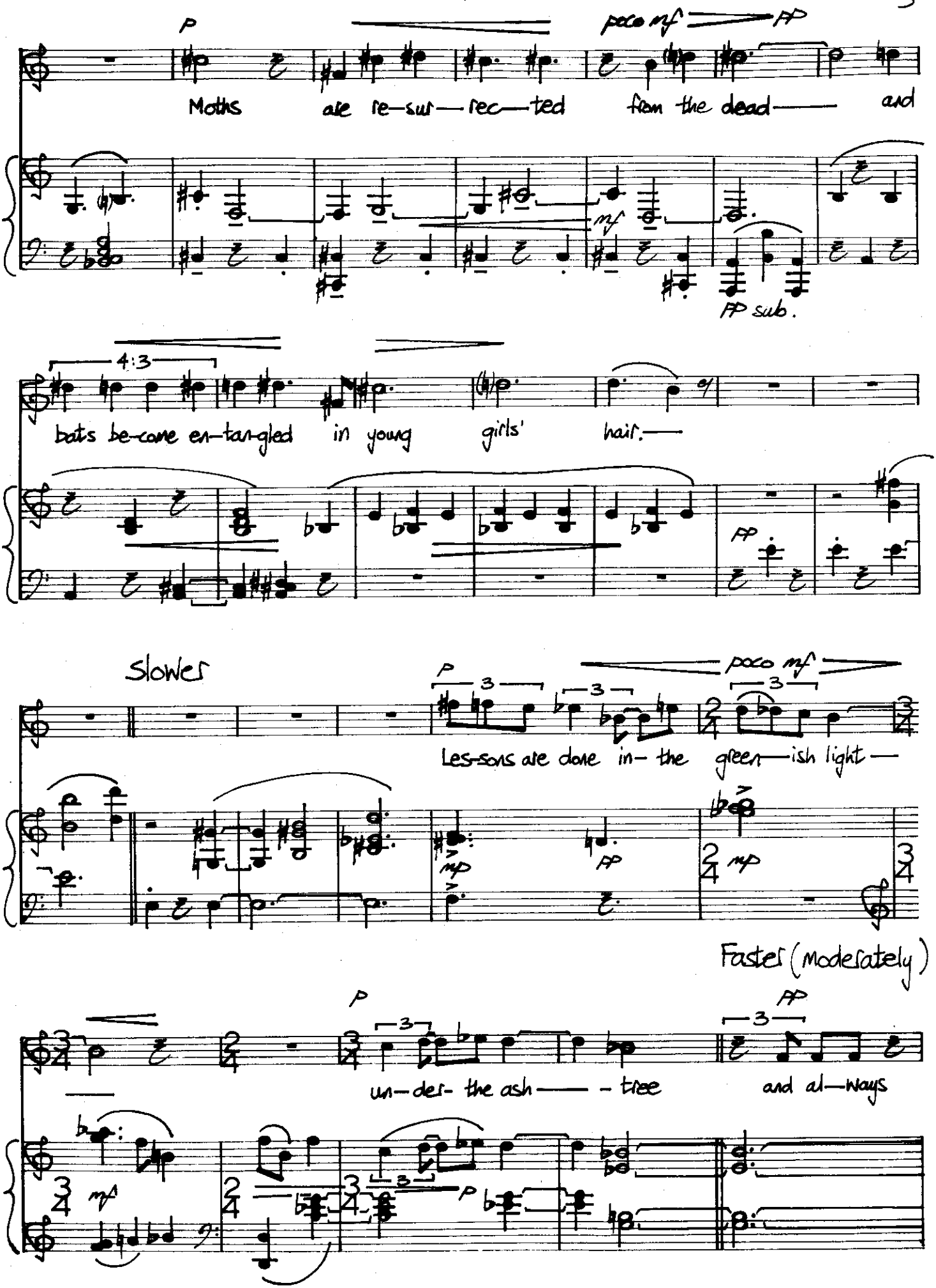
Text: Barbara Comyns,
Edward Gorey,
Anne Sexton

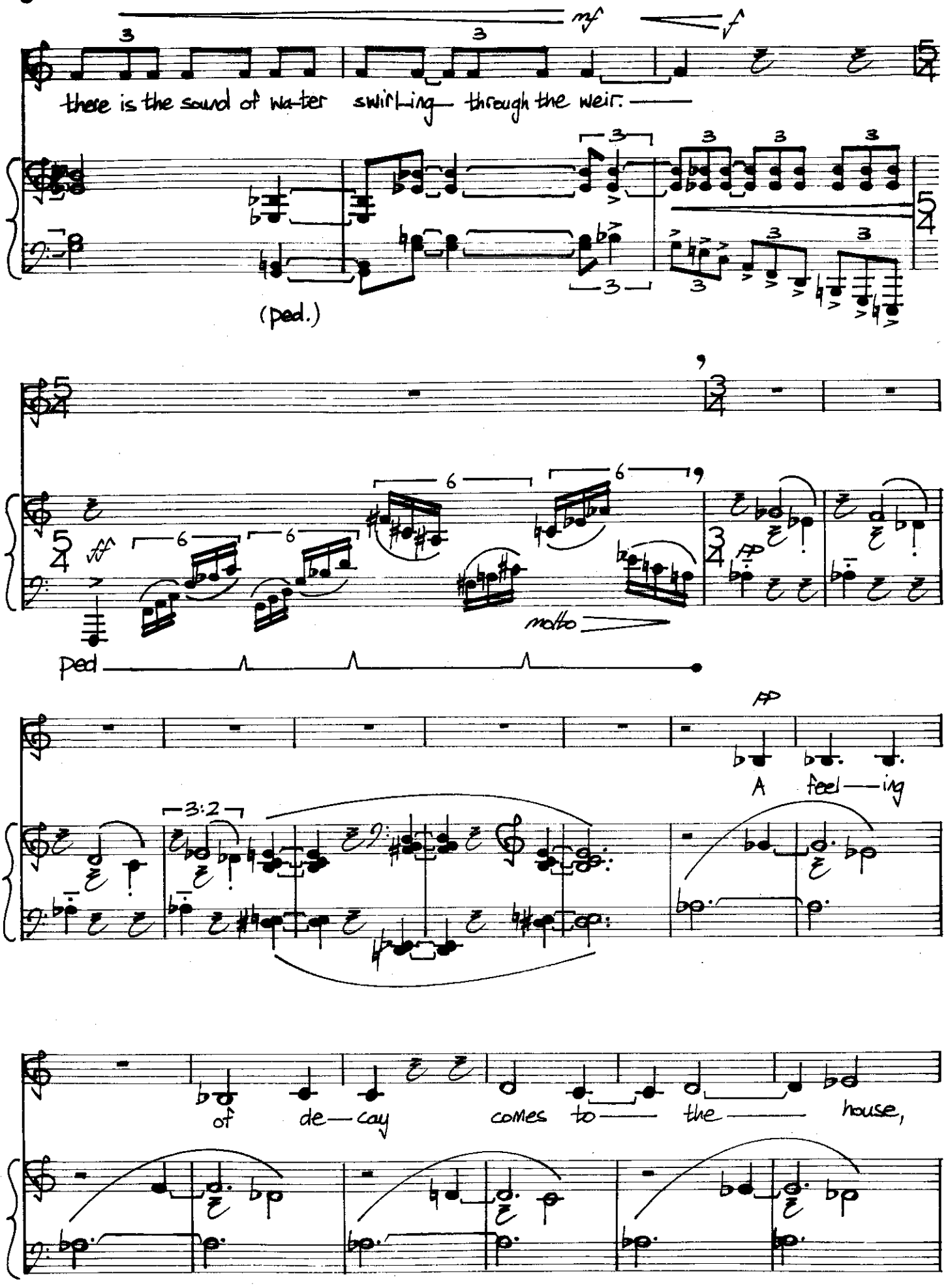



rit.
8va
loco
mf
mp
pp
8va
loco
f
mp sub.
pp
a little slower
pp
mp
The ri—ver is fro—zen,
p
f
the ri—ver is flood—ed,
p
8va
mp
the
f
3:2
3:2
loco
p
(8va)


cresc
sun shines on the wa—ter— and mo—ving lights are re-
(ped.)
-flec— ted— on the walls of the house—
mf
dim.
mp
p
rall
Moderately
It is Good Fri— day and the


maids — hang a hot cross bun from the kit — chen
poco
p
mp
p
cei — ling.
An ear — wig
dim.
pp
mf
crawls in-to the sweep's ear — and stays there for ten —
8va
loco
mp
pp
mp
(pp)
years,
ten —
years.
mf
dim.
3:2
pp


p
poco mf
pp
Moths are re-sur-rec-ted from the dead— and
mf
pp sub.
4:3
bats be-come en-tan-gled in young girls' hair.—
pp
Slower
p
poco mf
3
Les-sons are done in- the green—ish light—
mp
pp
Faster (moderately)
p
pp
un-der- the ash— - tree and al-ways
mf
p


mf
f
there is the sound of wa-ter swirl-ing through the weir.
(ped.)
ff
molto
ped
pp
A feel-ing
of de-cay comes to the house,

at first in a sud——den

mp

poco p mp

puff down a dark pas—sage and the

mf f mp mf p mp dim.

pp

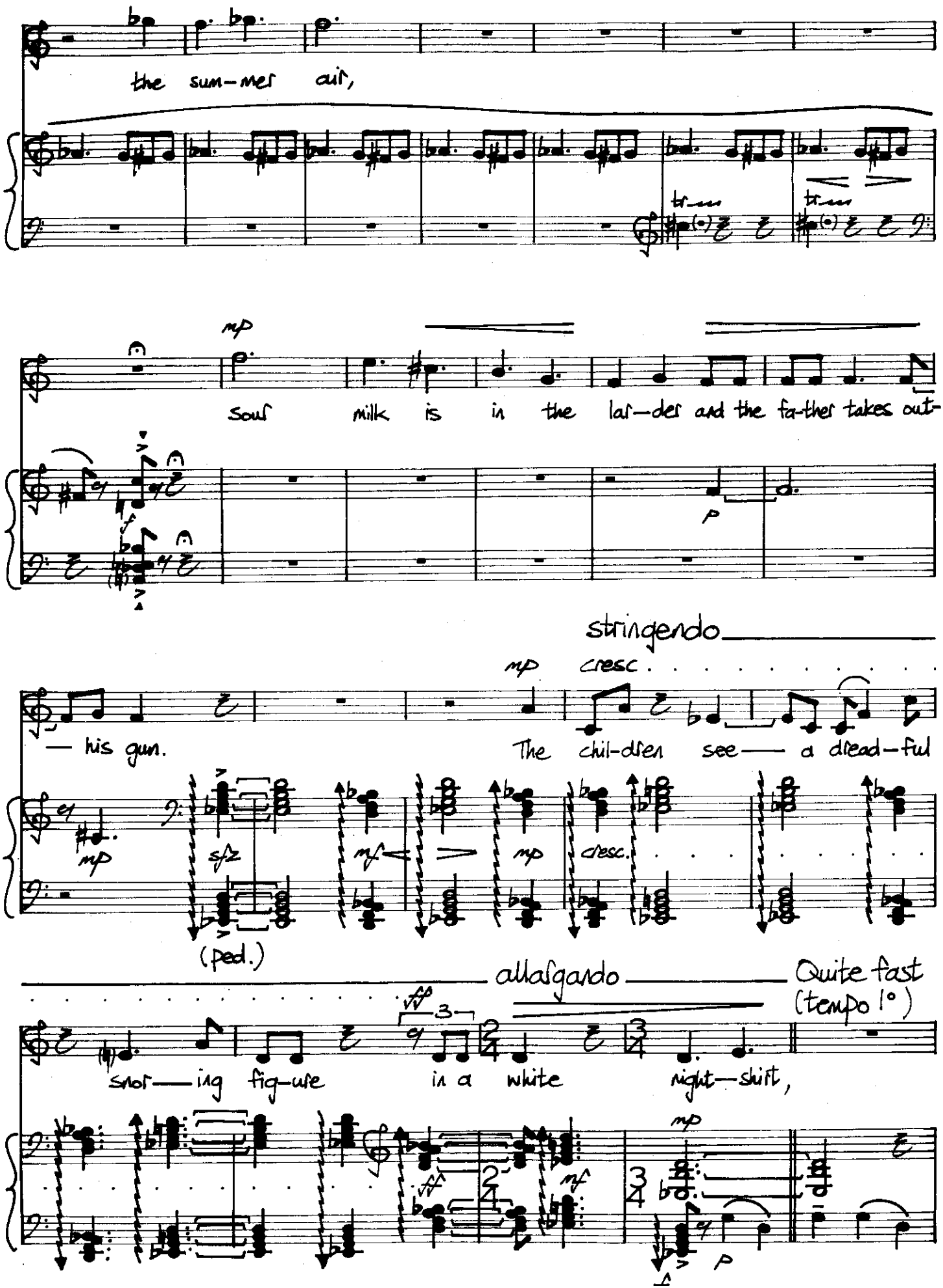
damp smell—— of cel—lars, then— i—vy

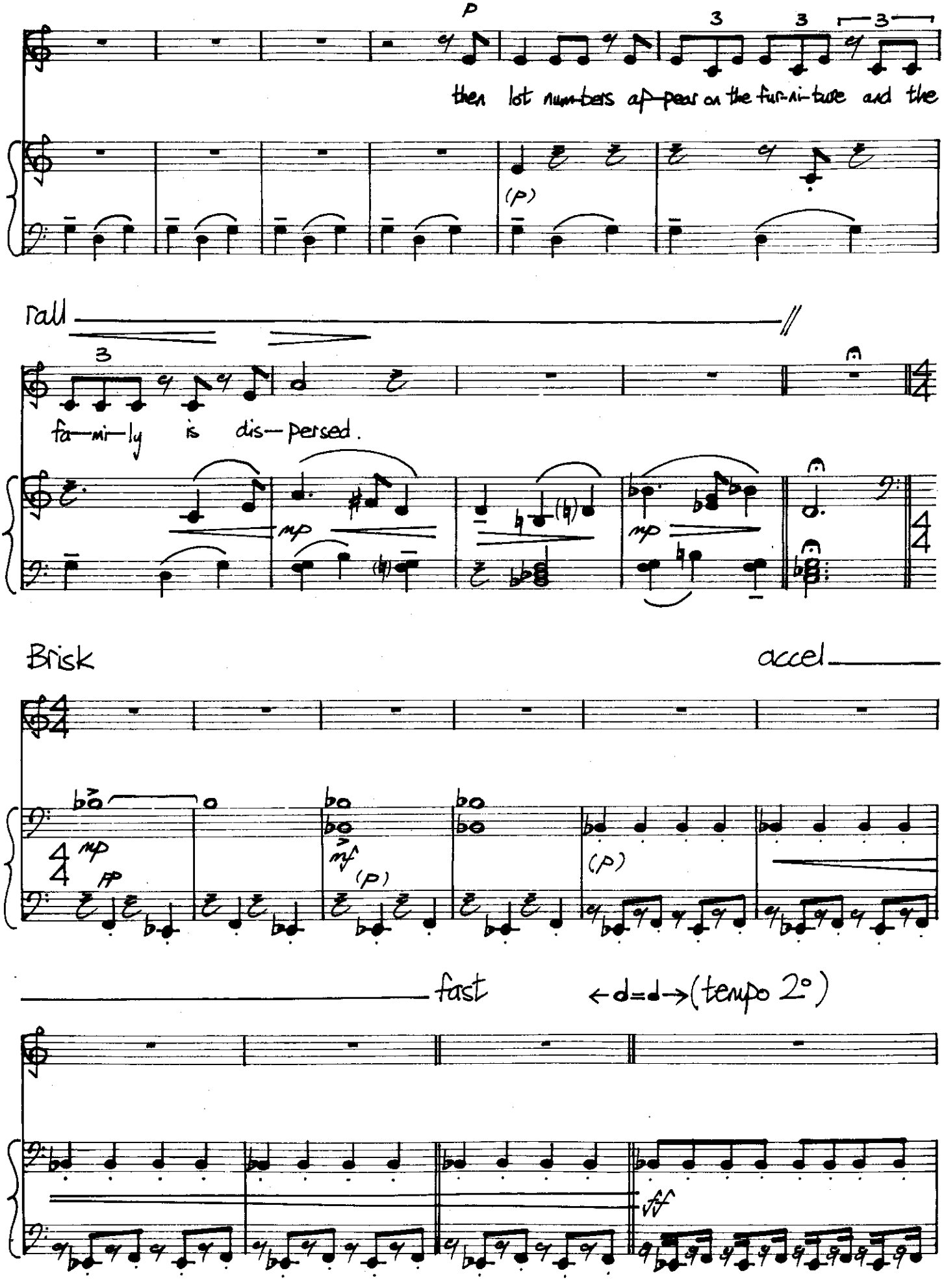
pp

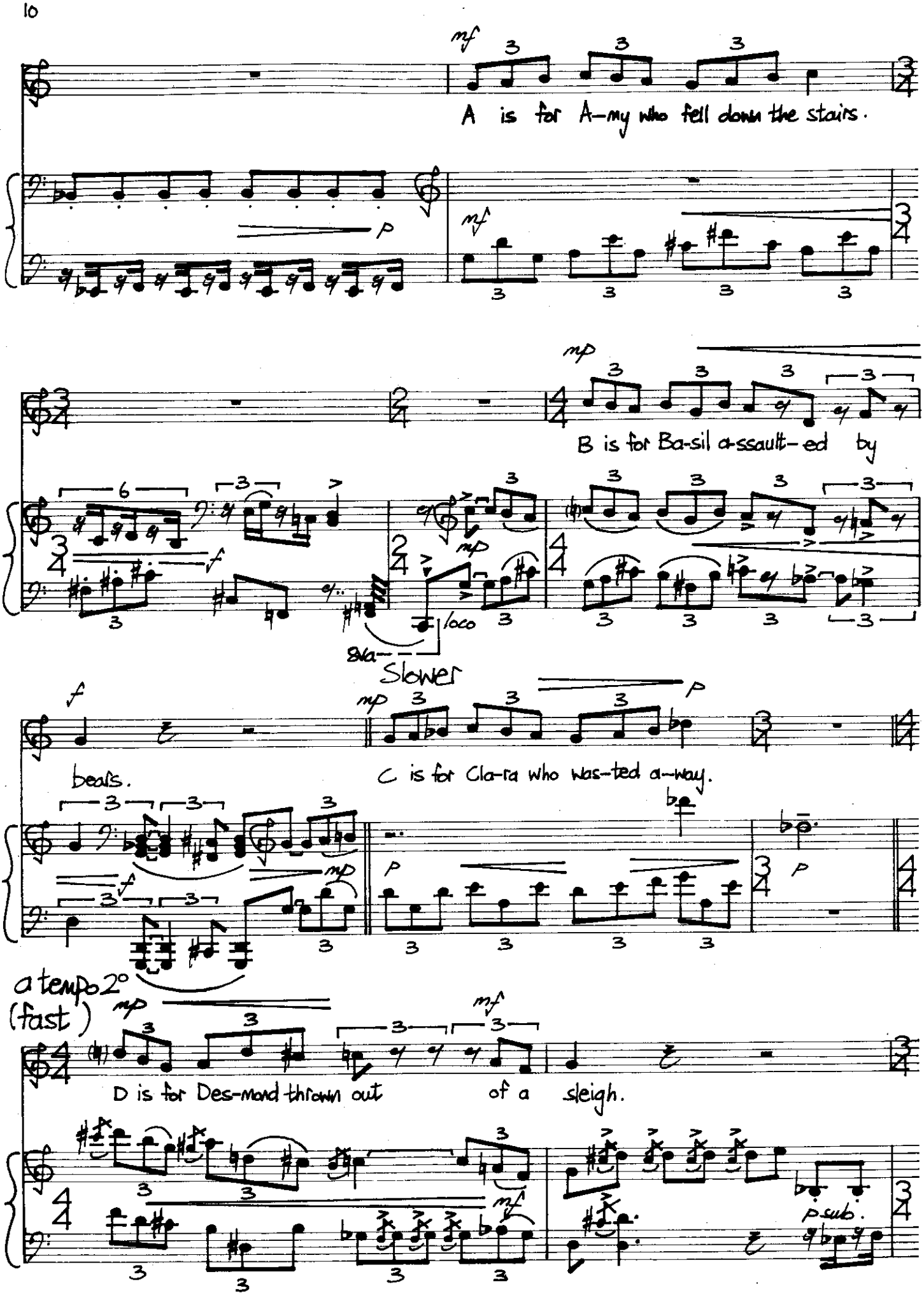
3

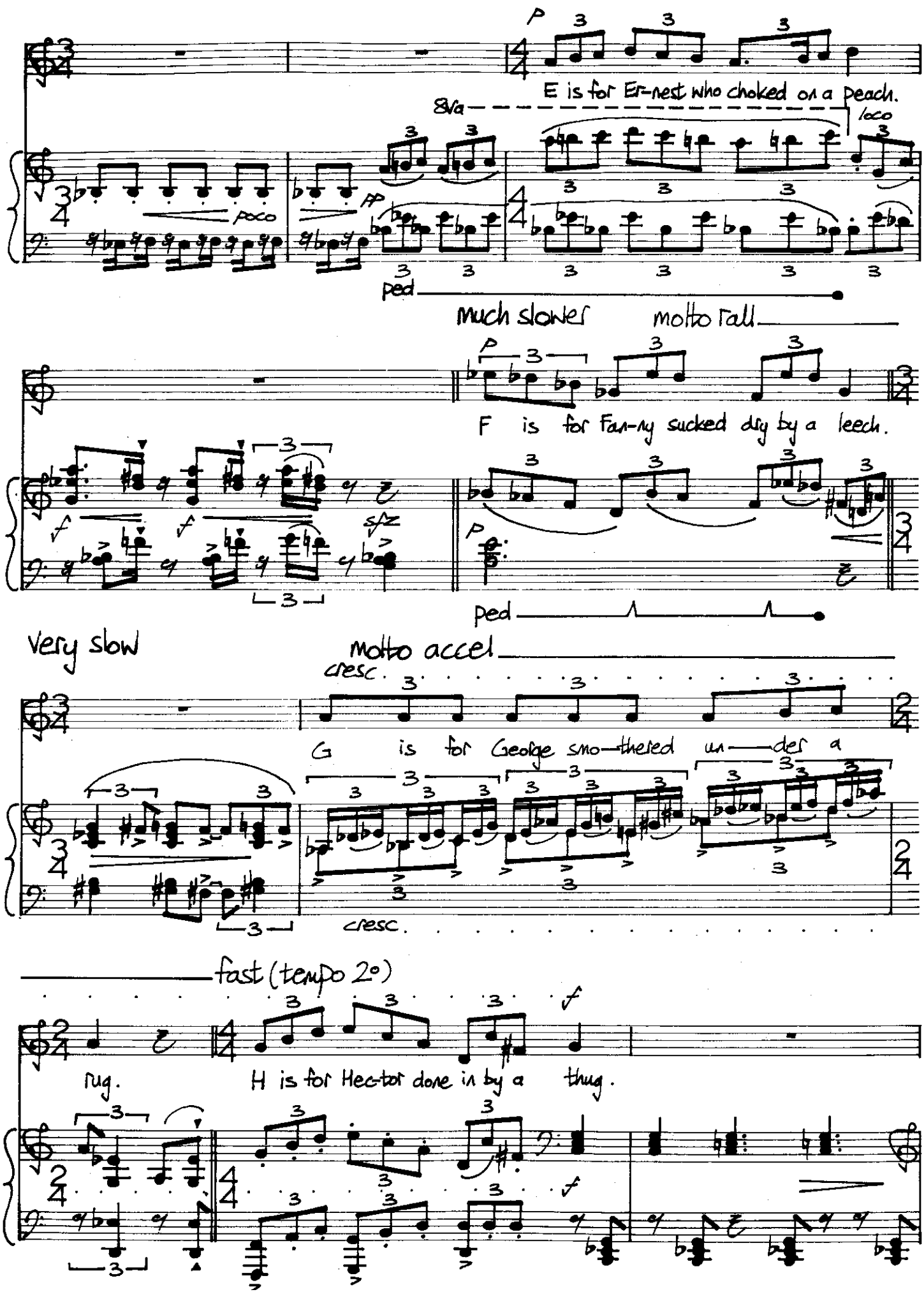
— grows un—checked— o-ver the win—dows and an—gry shoots split

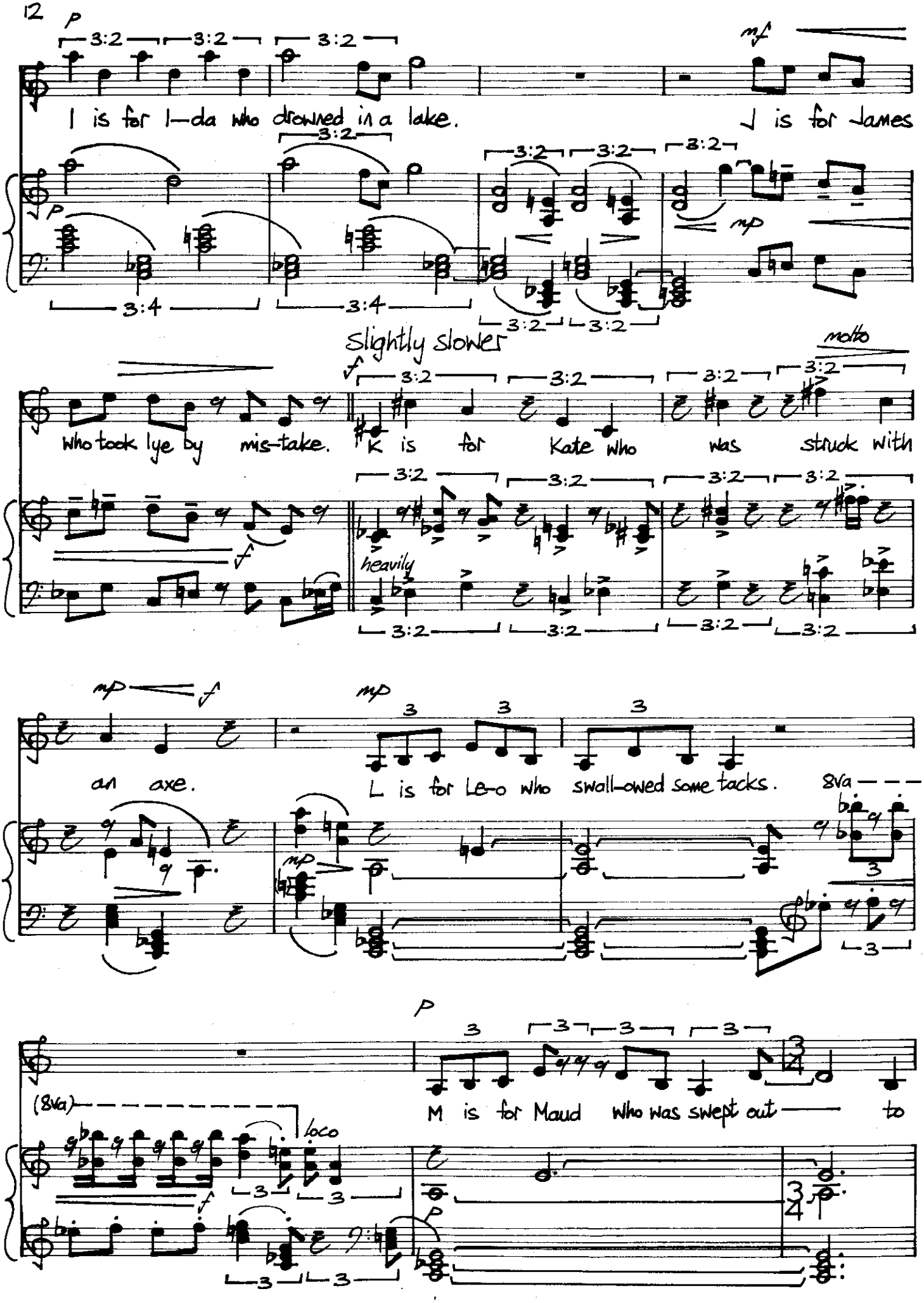
ppp pass.

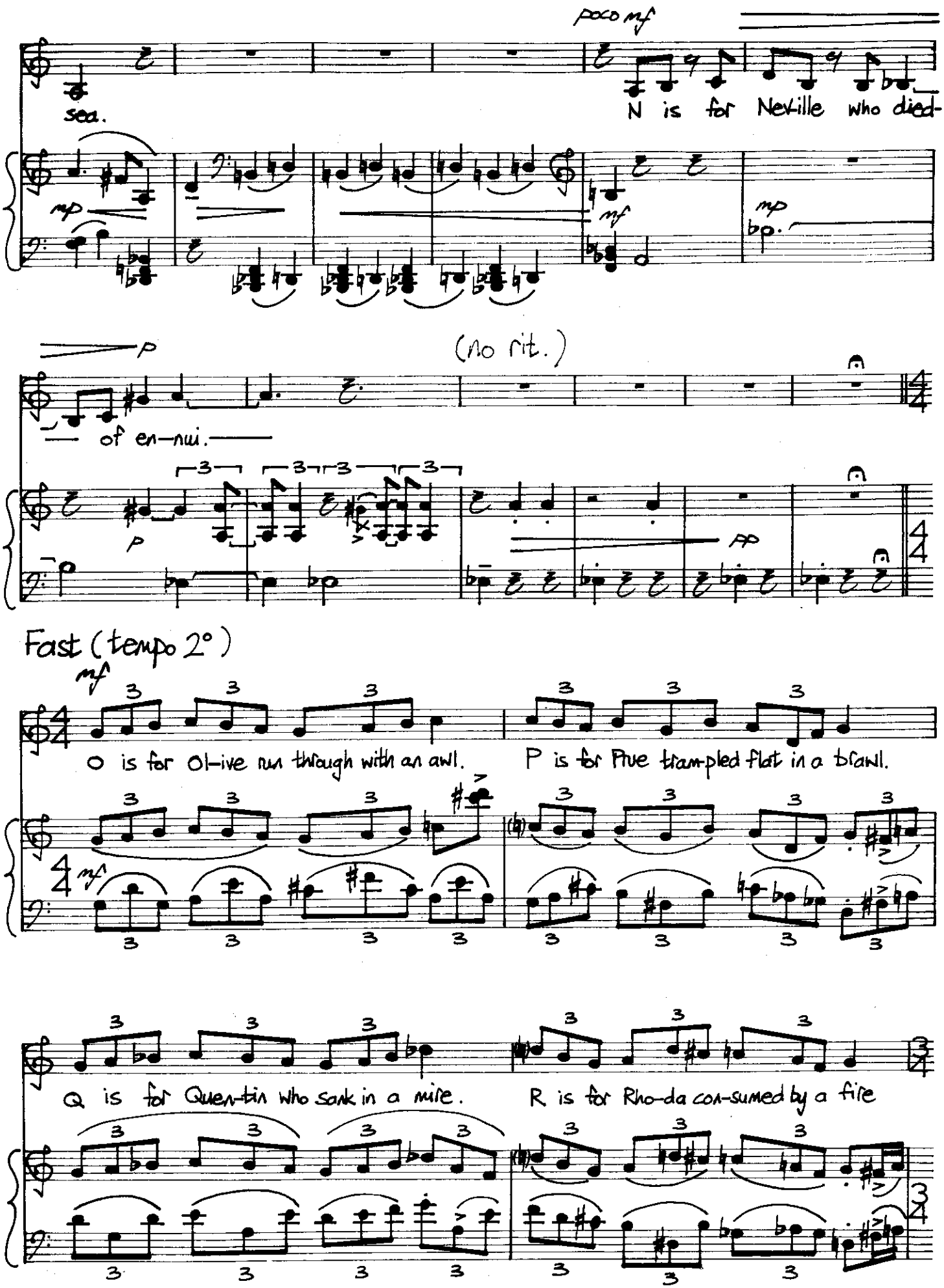

the sum-mer air,
mp
sour milk is in the lar-der and the fa-ther takes out-
stringendo
mp cresc
— his gun.
The chil-dren see — a dread-ful
(ped.)
allargando
Quite fast
(tempo I°)
snor — ing fig-ure in a white night-shirt,

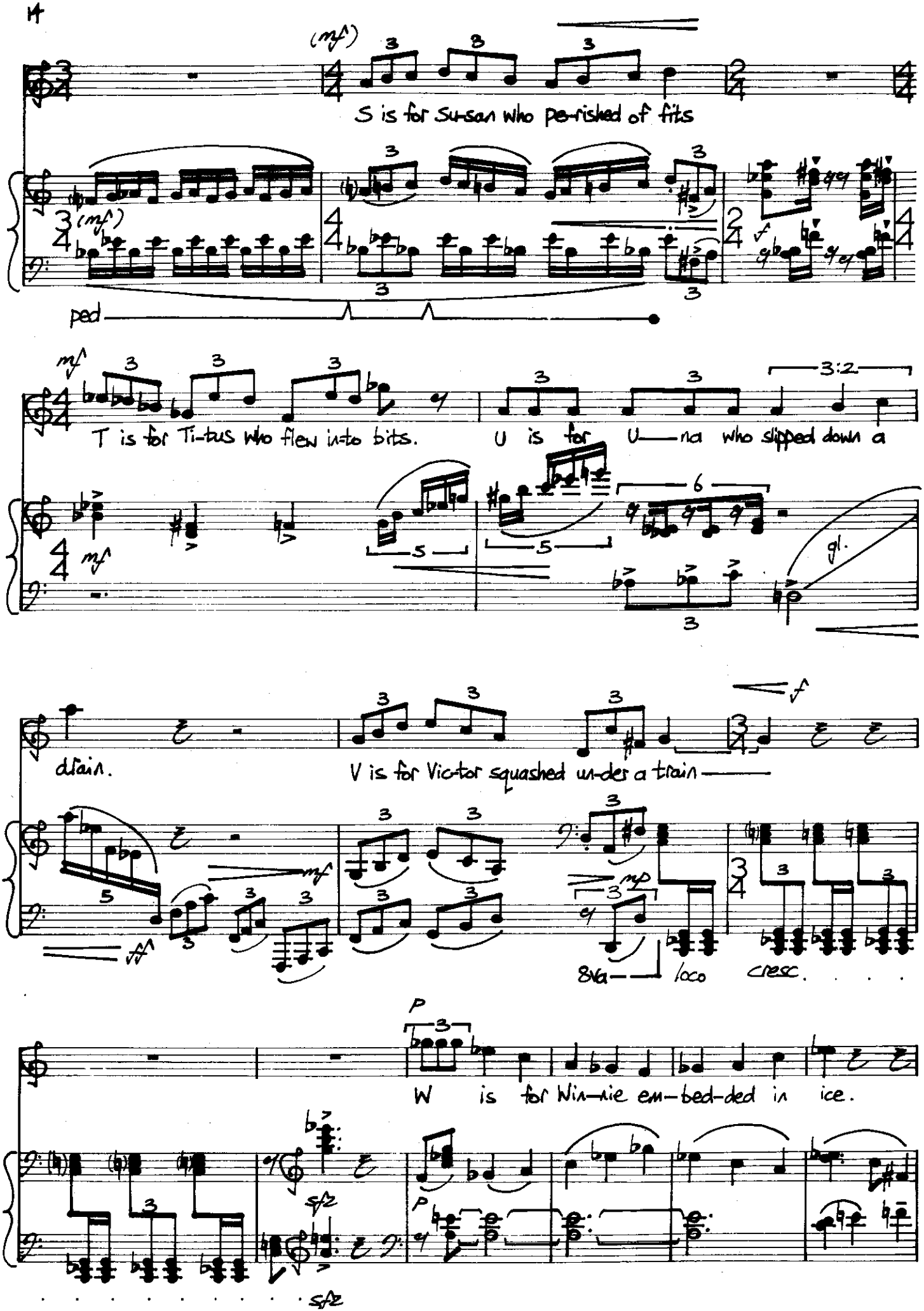

p
then lot num-bers ap-pear on the fur-ni-ture and the
(p)
rall
fa-mi-ly is dis-persed.
mp
mp
Brisk
accel
mp
pp
mf
(p)
(p)
fast
←d=d→(tempo 2°)
fff

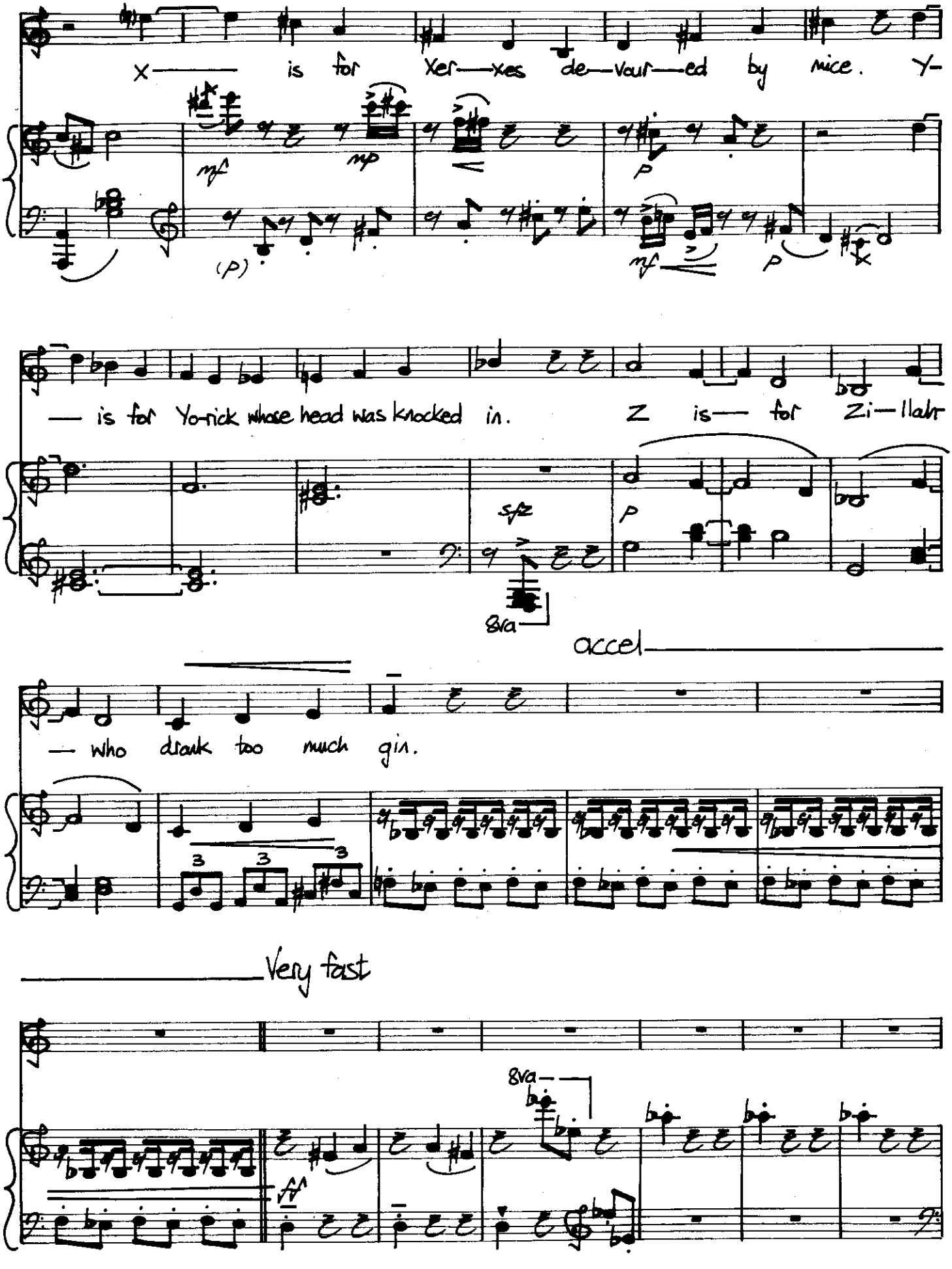

A is for A-my who fell down the stairs.
B is for Ba-sil a-ssault-ed by
bears.
Slower
C is for Cla-ra who was-ted a-way.
a tempo 2°
(fast)
D is for Des-mond thrown out of a sleigh.

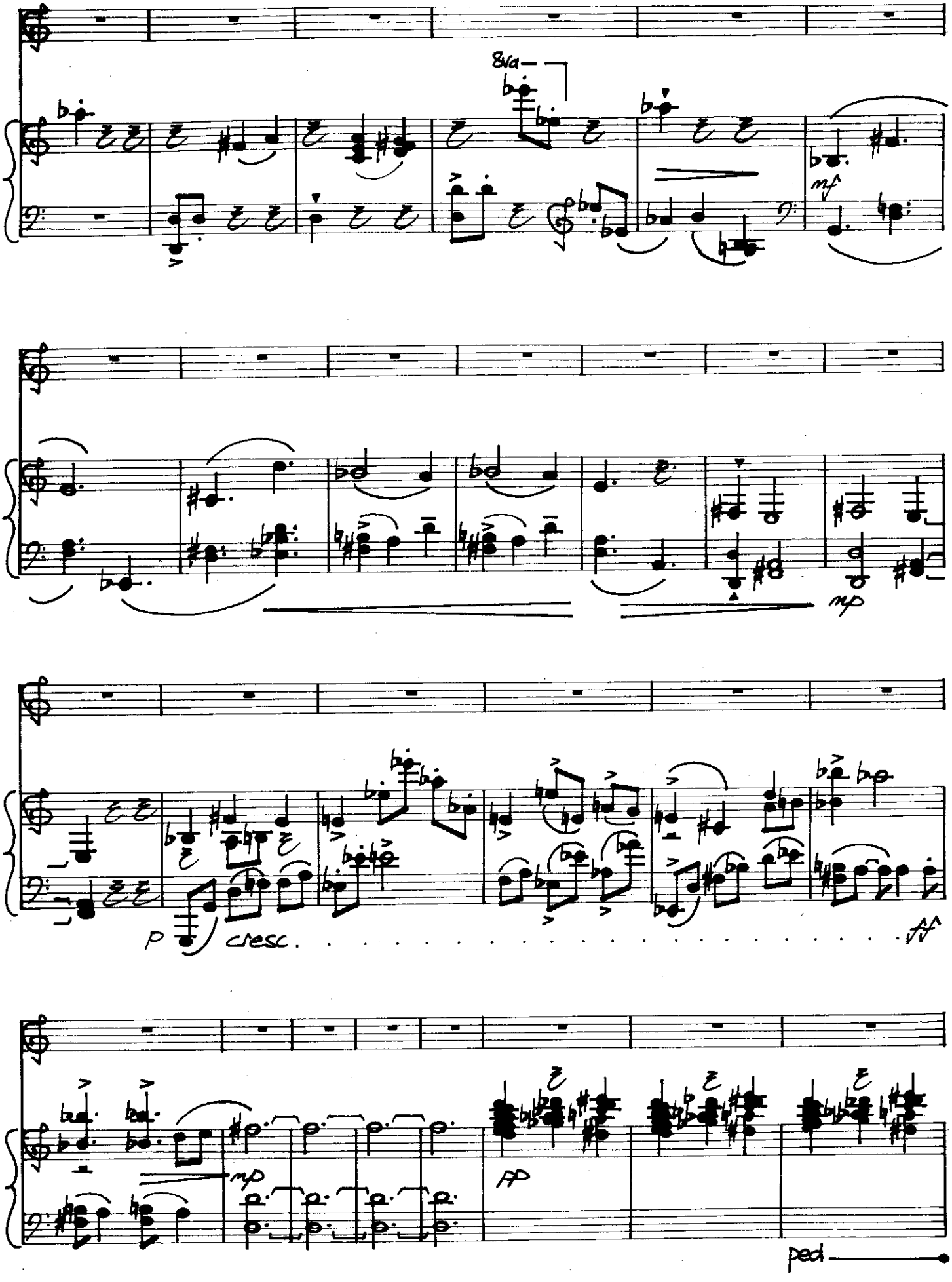

E is for Er-nest who choked on a peach.
8va
loco
poco
pp
ped
much slower
molto rall.
F is for Fan-ny sucked dry by a leech.
ped
Very slow
molto accel.
cresc.
G is for George smo-thered un-der a
cresc.
fast (tempo 2°)
rug.
H is for Hec-tor done in by a thug.

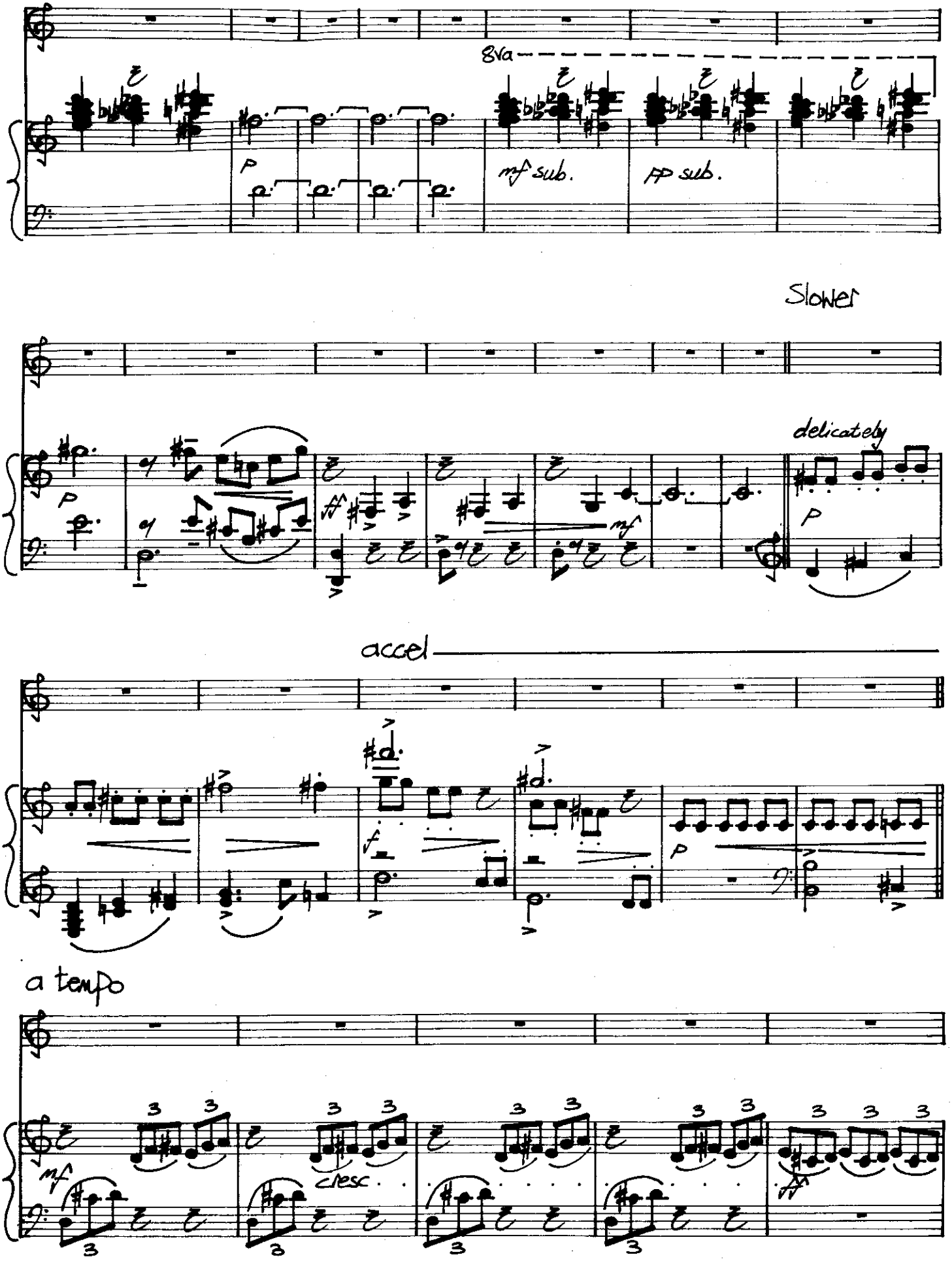

I is for I—da who drowned in a lake.
J is for James
Who took lye by mis-take.
Slightly slower
K is for Kate Who was struck with
an axe.
L is for Le-o who swall-owed some tacks.
M is for Maud Who was swept out to
loco

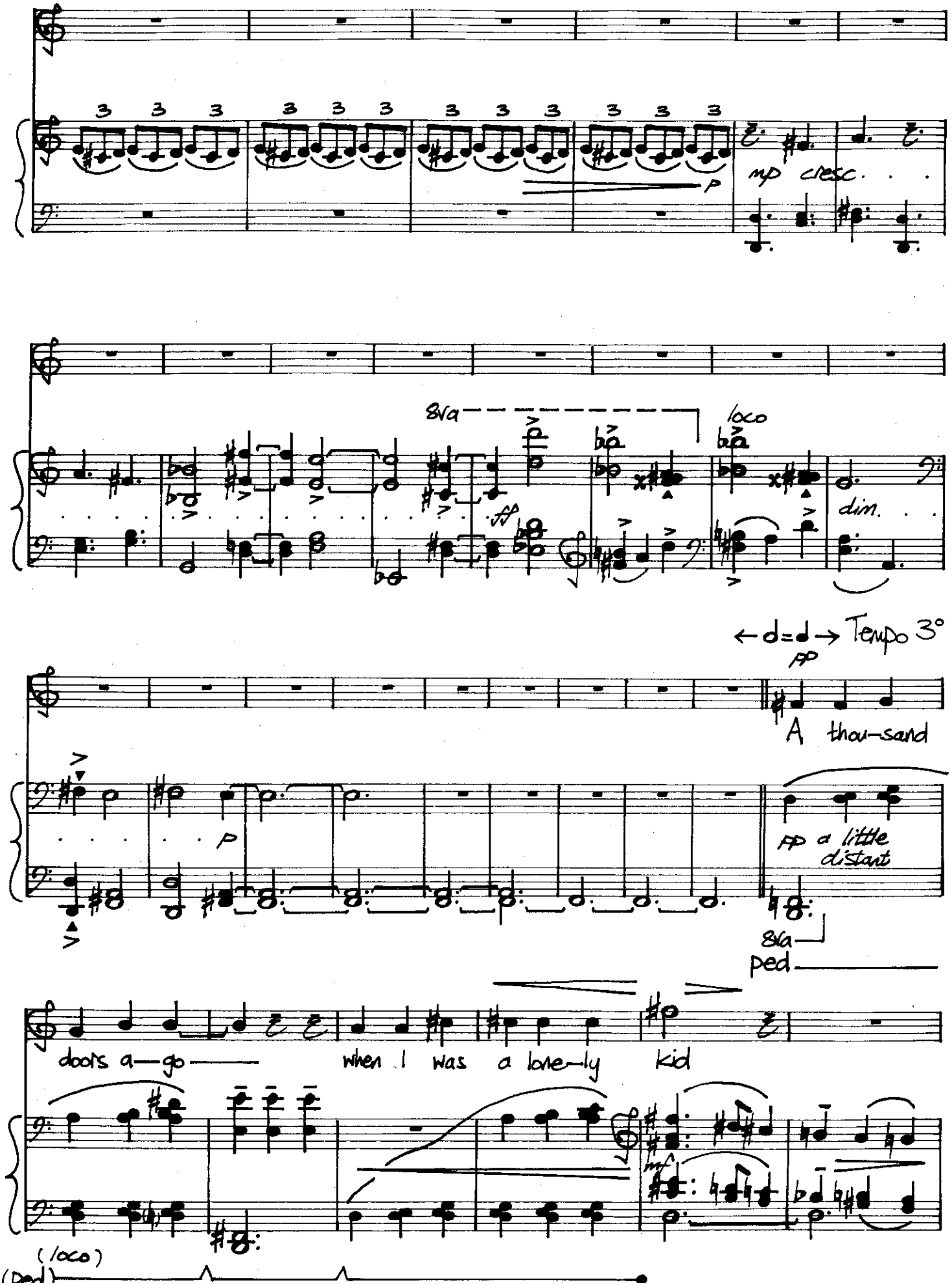

poco mf
sea.
N is for Neville who died-
mp
mf
mp
bp.
p
(no rit.)
— of en-nui.
p
pp
Fast (tempo 2°)
mf
O is for Olive run through with an awl.
P is for Prue trampled flat in a brawl.
mf
Q is for Quentin who sank in a mire.
R is for Rhoda consumed by a fire

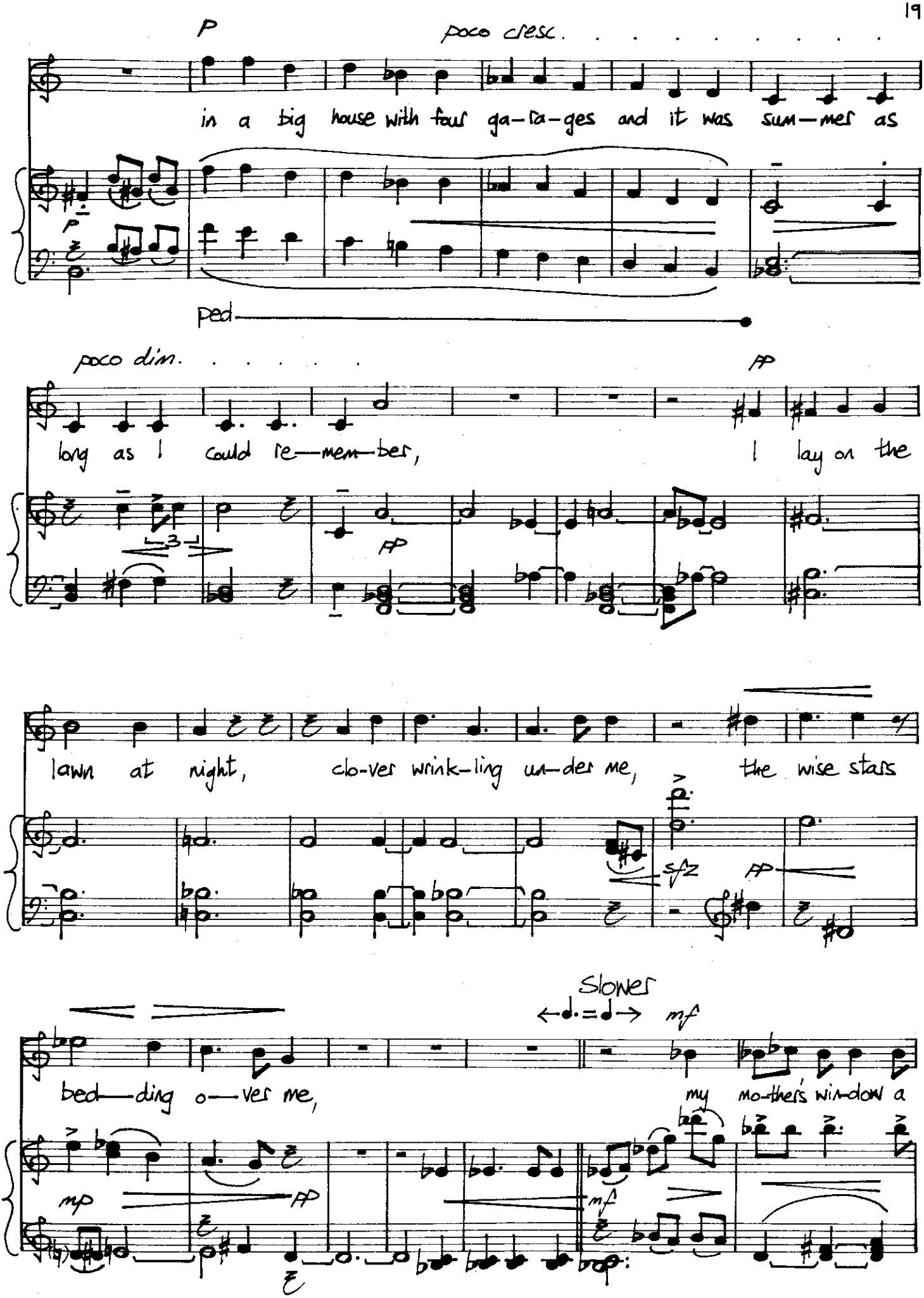

(mf)
S is for Su-san who pe-rished of fits
ped
mf
T is for Ti-tus who flew in-to bits.
U is for U—na who slipped down a
3:2
6
gl.
drain.
V is for Vic-tor squashed un-der a train
f
mf
ff
mp
8va
loco
cresc.
P
W is for Win—nie em-bed-ded in ice.
sfz
sfz

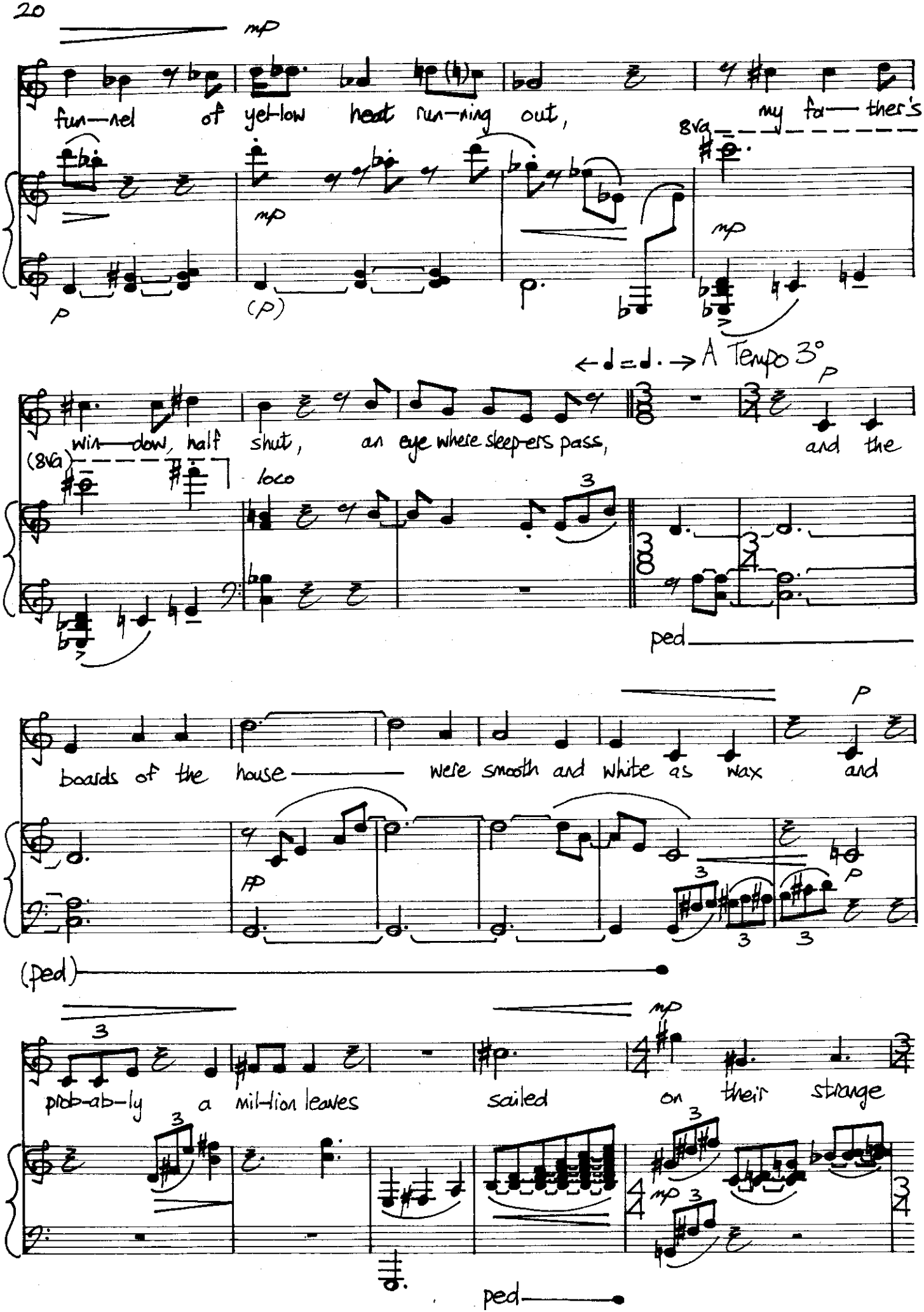

X — is for Xer — xes de — vour — ed by mice. Y —
— is for Yo-rick whose head was knocked in. Z is — for Zi — llah
— who drank too much gin.
accel
Very fast
8va
8va


8va
mf
mp
p
cresc.
ff
mp
pp
ped


8va
mf sub.
pp sub.
Slower
delicately
accel
a tempo
cresc.

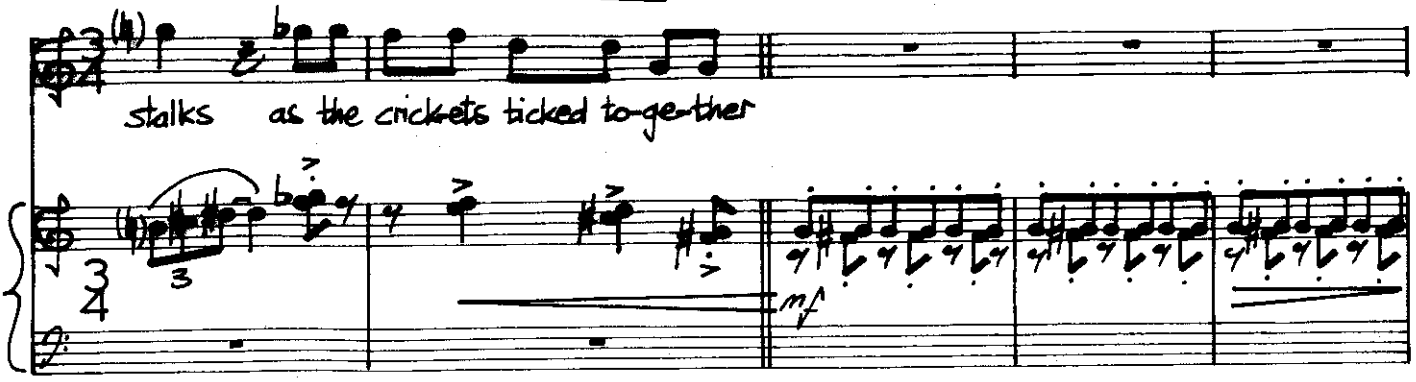

mp cresc.
8va
loco
ff
dim.
←d=d→ Tempo 3°
pp
A thou-sand
p
pp a little distant
8va
ped
doors a-go
when I was a lone-ly kid
mf
(loco)
(Ped.)

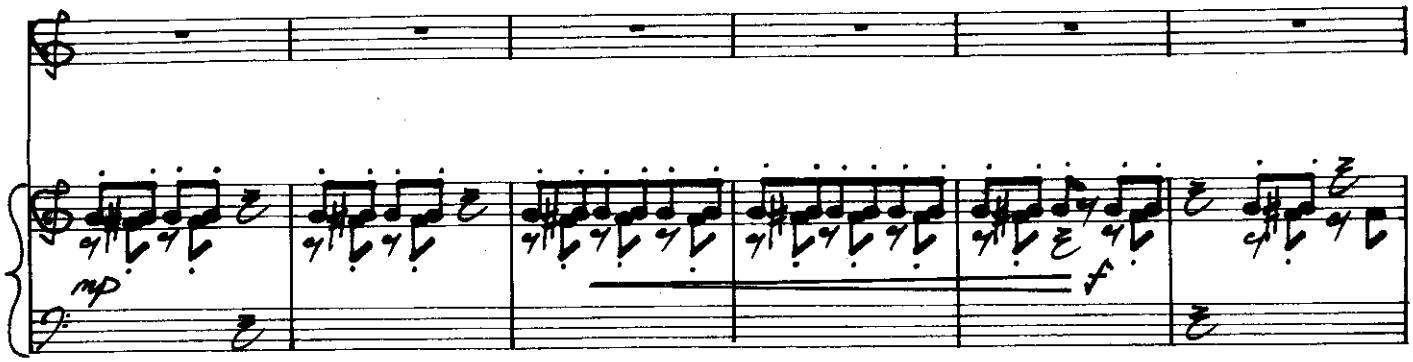

p
poco cresc. . . . . .
in a big house with four ga-ra-ges and it was sum-mer as
ped
poco dim. . . . . .
pp
long as I could re-mem-ber,
I lay on the
lawn at night,
clo-ver wrink-ling un-der me,
the wise stars
sfz
pp
bed-ding o-ver me,
Slower
mf
my mo-thers win-dow a
mp
pp
mf

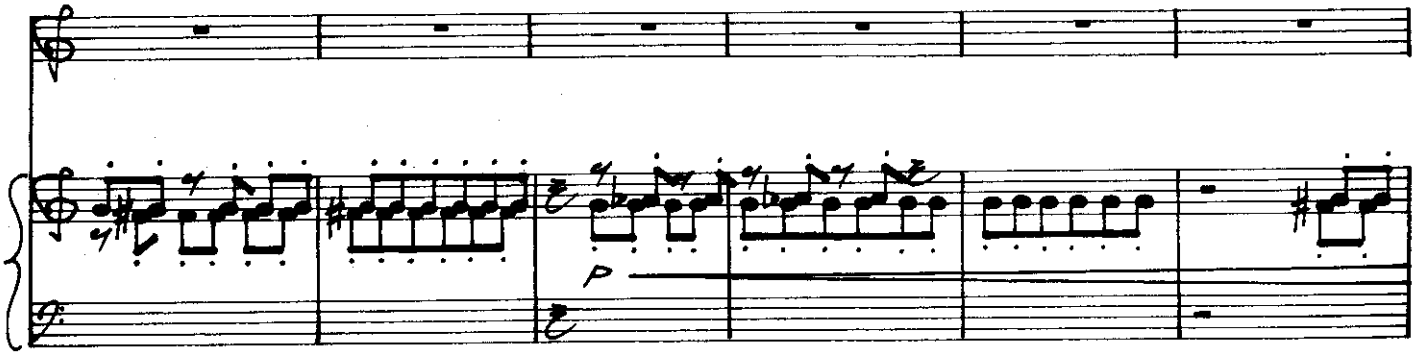

mp
fun—nel of yel-low heat run—ning out, my fa— ther's
8va
mp
p
(p)
win—dow, half shut, an eye where sleep-ers pass, and the
(8va)
loco
←♩=♩.→ A Tempo 3°
p
ped
boards of the house were smooth and white as wax and
pp
p
(ped)
prob-ab-ly a mil-lion leaves sailed on their strange
mp
ped

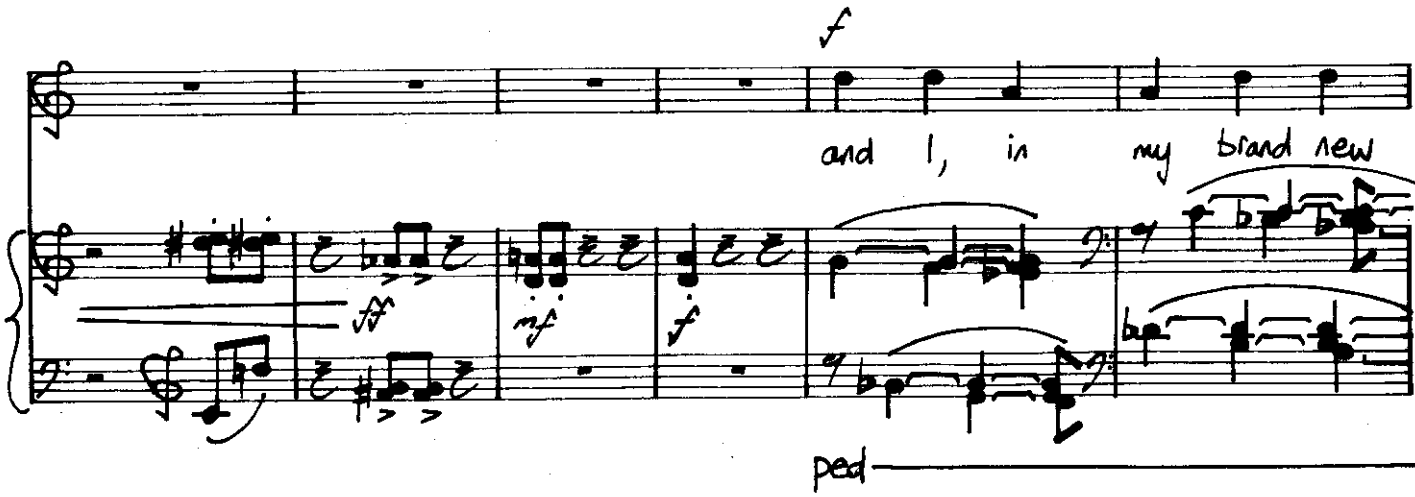
a little faster

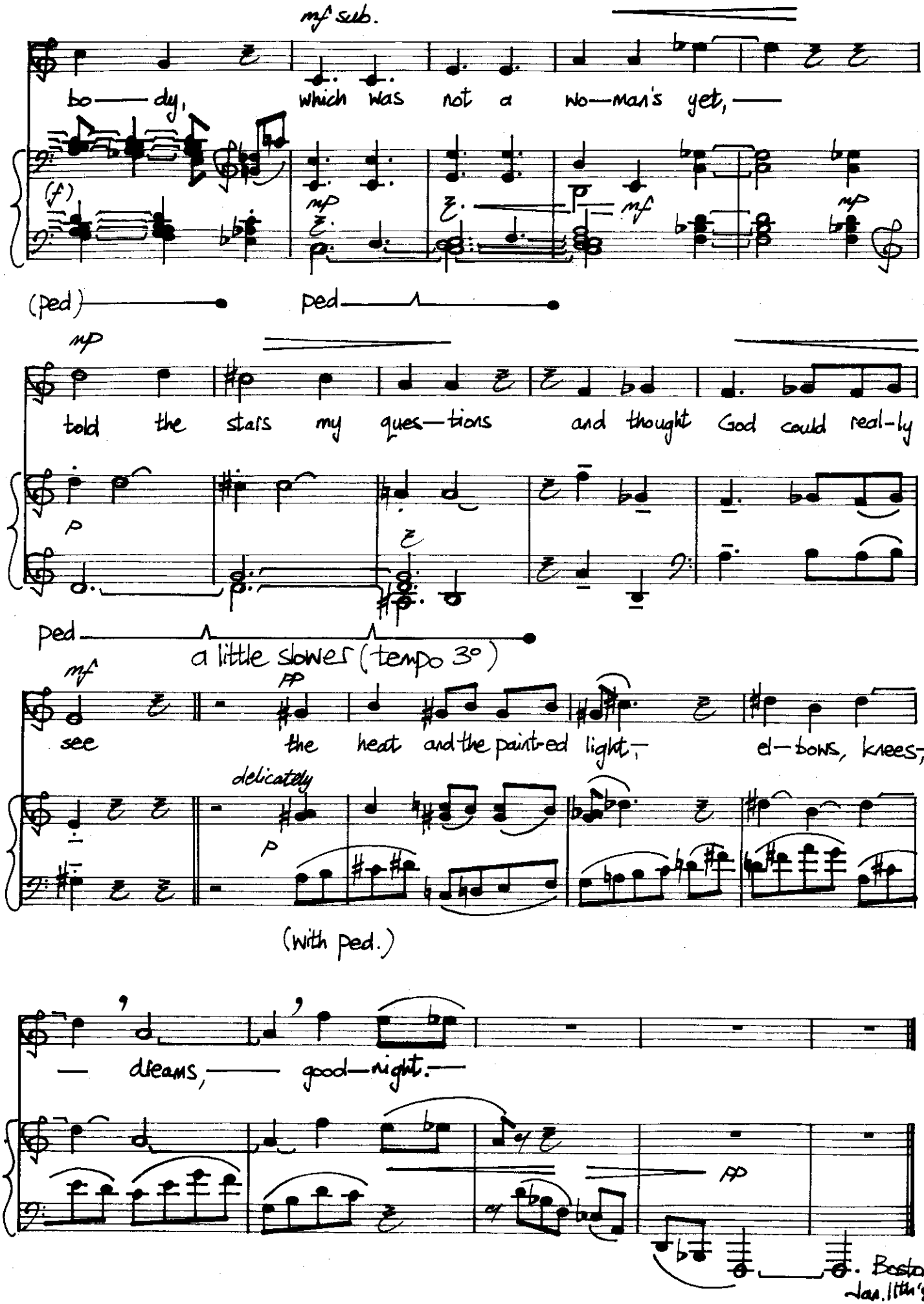
stalks as the crickets ticked to-ge-ther










mf sub.
bo — dy, which was not a wo — man's yet, —
(f)
mp
mf
mp
(ped)
ped
mp
told the stars my ques — tions and thought God could real-ly
p
ped
a little slower (tempo 3°)
mf
pp
see the heat and the paint-ed light; el — bows, knees;
delicately
p
(with ped.)
— dreams, — good — night. —
pp
Boston
Jan. 11th '88.