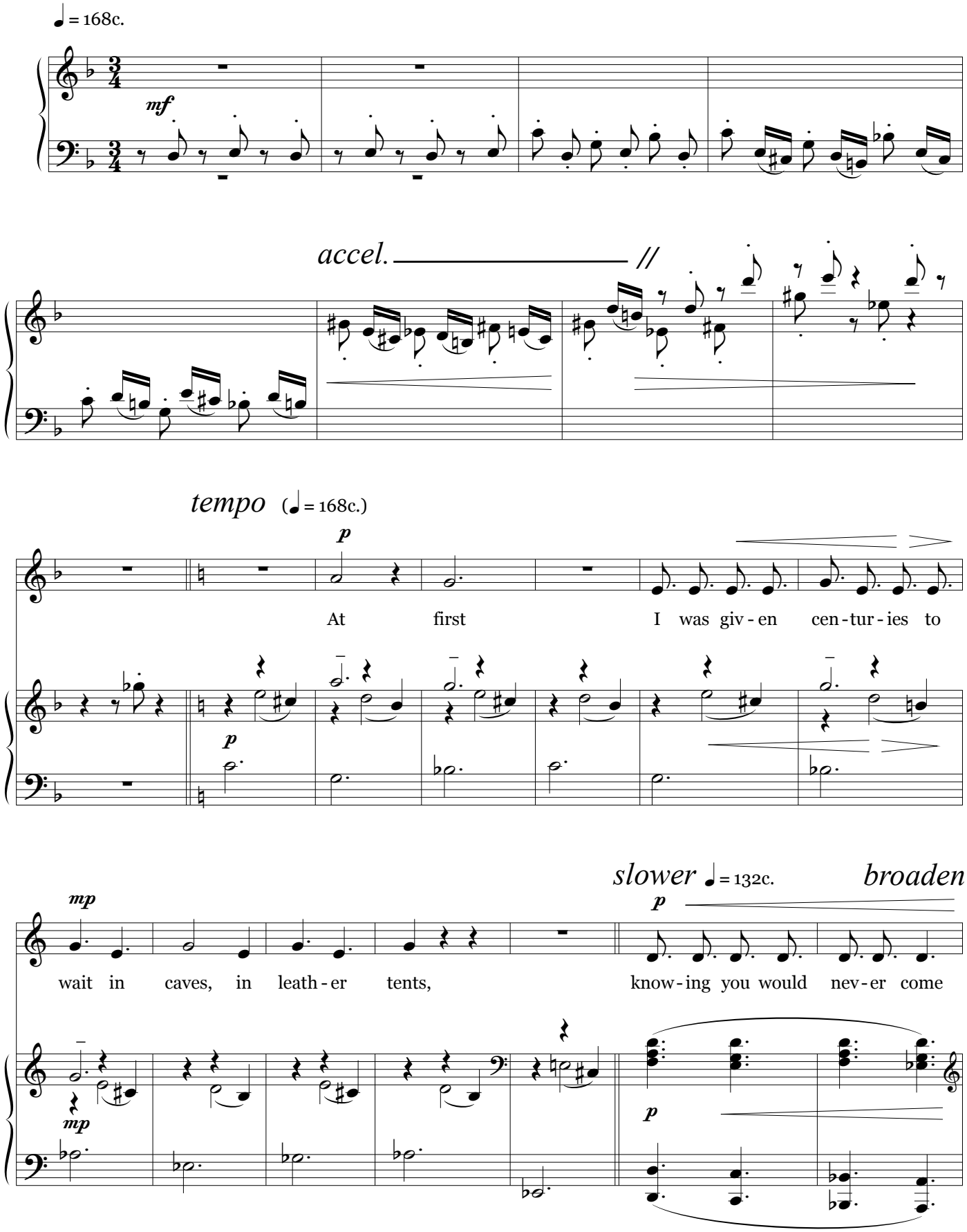
At First


♩ = 168c.
mf
accel.
//
tempo (♩ = 168c.)
p
At first I was giv - en cen - tur - ies to
p
slower ♩ = 132c.
broaden
mp
p
wait in caves, in leath - er tents, know - ing you would nev - er come
mp
p

tempo (♩ = 168c.)

mf

back.

mf *p*

accel.

ff

tempo (♩ = 168c.)

mf

Then it speed - ed up; on - ly sev - - eral years be -

mf *sub.*

- tween the day you jang - led off in - to the moun - tains, and the

slower ♩ = 132c.

p

day (it was spring a-gain) I rose from the em-

loco

rall. //

mf *f* *p*

-broi-dery frame at the mes-sen-ger's en - - - trance.

loco *loco*

mf *f* *p*

tempo (♩ = 168c.)

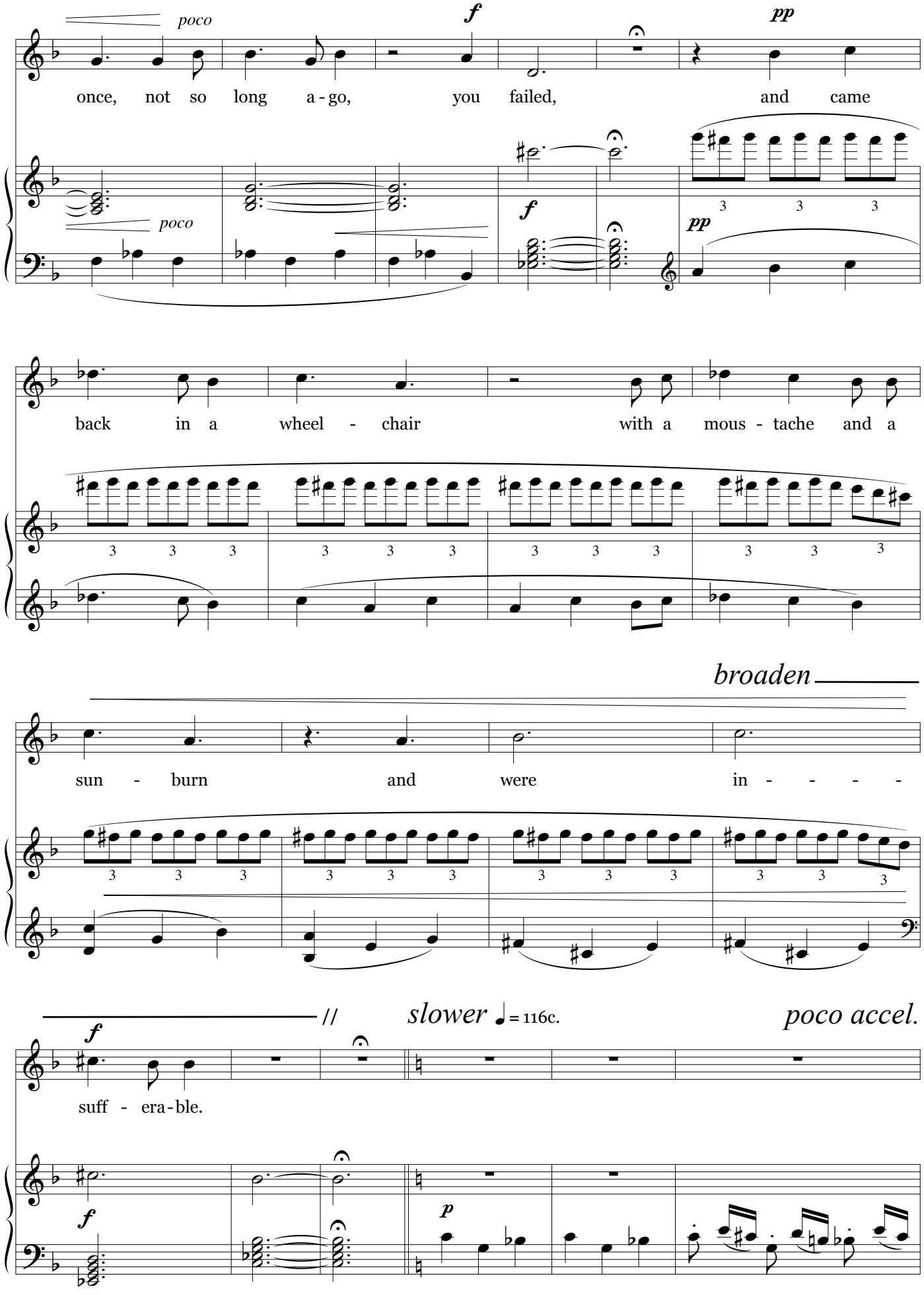
p

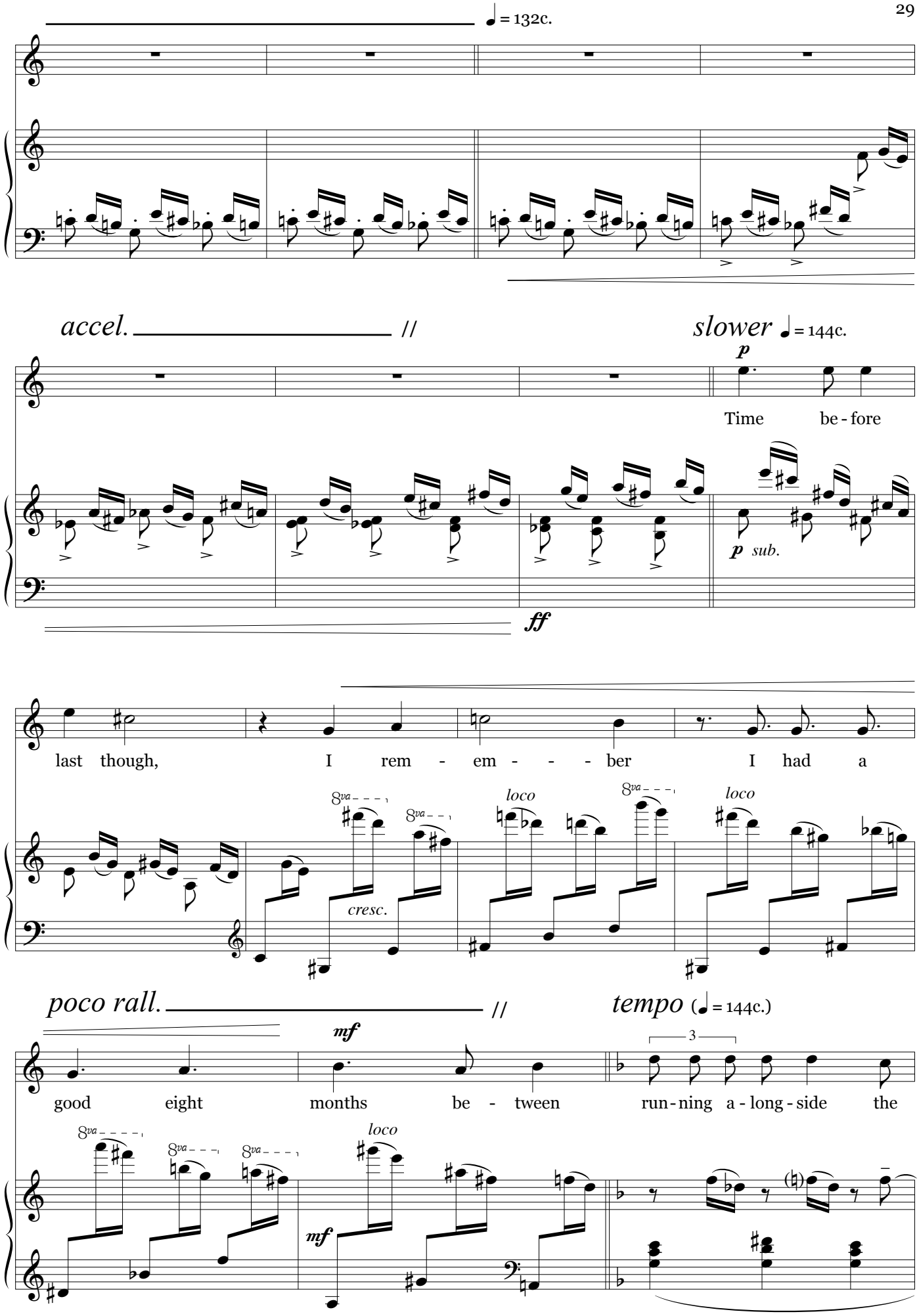
That hap-pened twice,

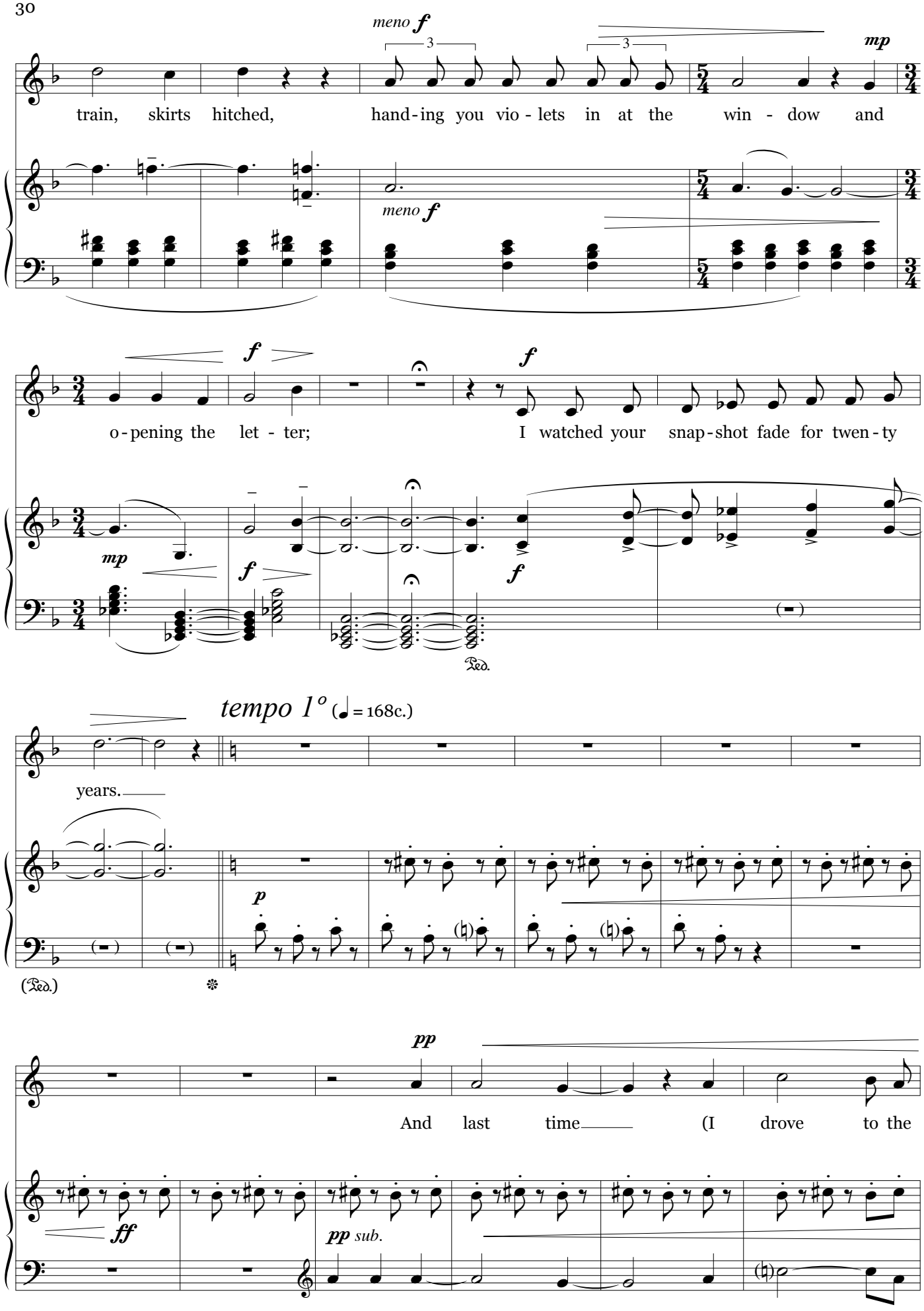
mp

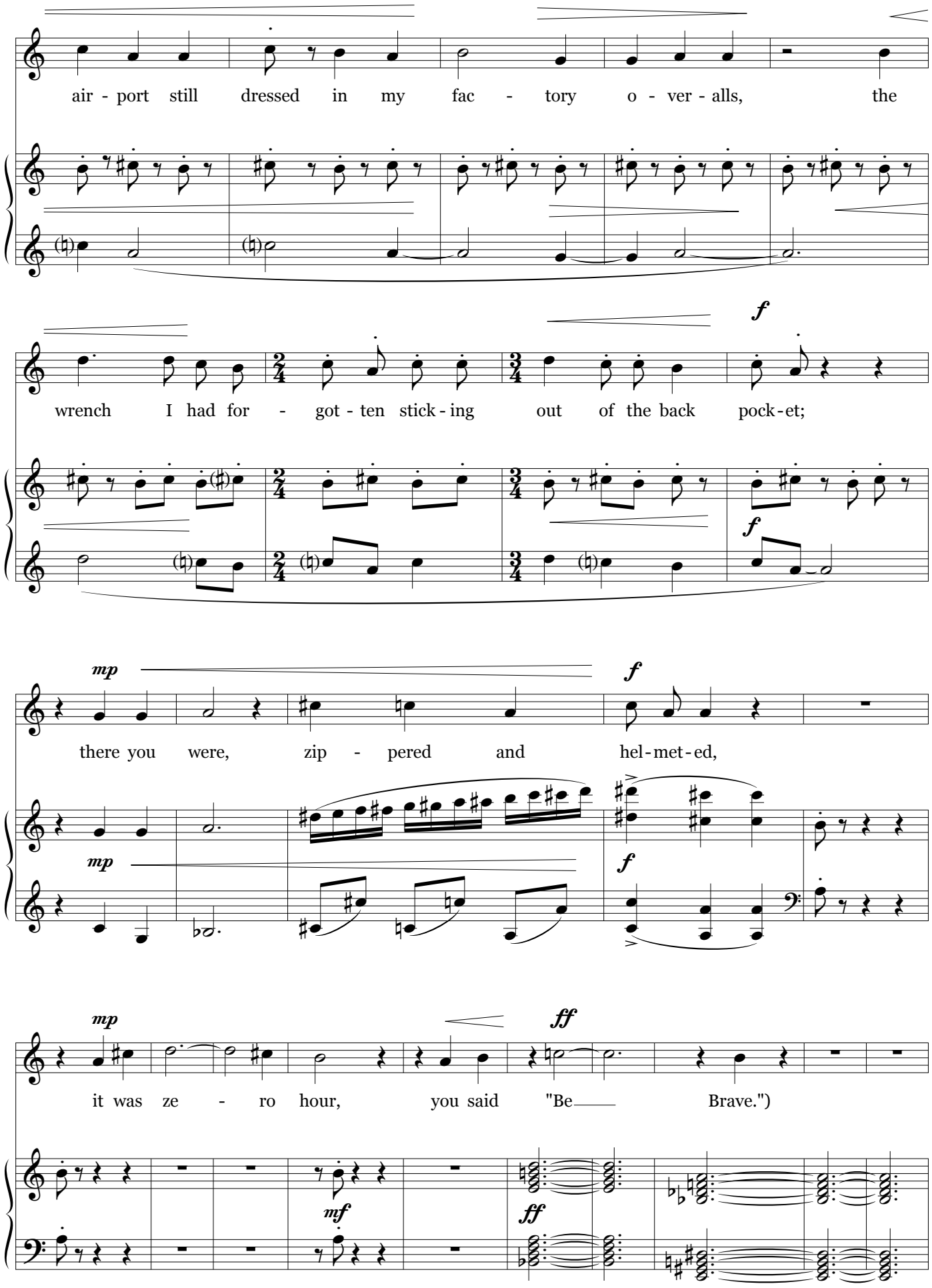
or was it more; and there was

mp


poco
f
pp
once, not so long a - go, you failed, and came
poco
f
pp
back in a wheel - chair with a mous - tache and a
broaden
sun - burn and were in - - - -
//
slower ♩ = 116c.
poco accel.
f
suff - era - ble.
f
p


♩ = 132c.
accel.
//
slower ♩ = 144c.
p
Time be - fore
p sub.
ff
last though, I rem - em - - - ber I had a
8va
loco
cresc.
poco rall.
//
tempo (♩ = 144c.)
mf
3
good eight months be - tween run - ning a - long - side the


meno f
mp
train, skirts hitched, hand-ing you vio-lets in at the win-dow and
meno f
f
f
o-pening the let-ter; I watched your snap-shot fade for twen-ty
mp
f
f
Ped.
tempo 1° (♩ = 168c.)
years.
p
(Ped.)
pp
And last time (I drove to the
ff
pp sub.


air - port still dressed in my fac - tory o - ver - alls, the
wrench I had for - got - ten stick - ing out of the back pock - et;
there you were, zip - pered and hel - met - ed,
it was ze - ro hour, you said "Be Brave.")
f
mp
ff
mf

(freer, but still with a sense of pulse)

(tempo ♩ = 168c.)

p

It was at least three weeks be-fore I got the tel-e-gram

mf **p** **mf**

mf

and could start re-

p **mf** **p** *sub.* **mf**

Ped.

gret-ting.

f **ff** **pp** **mp** **mp** **mf**

pp *(again freely, but keep the pulse active)*

3 3

But re-cent-ly, the bad eve-nings there are on-ly se-conds be-tween the

pp

broaden ♩ = 132c.

warn - ing on the ra - di - o and the ex - plo - - sion; my

f

8vb

Ped.

hands don't reach you. And on quiet - er nights you jump up from the

(Ped.)

mf *p sub.*

chair with - out e - ven touch ing your din - ner

mf

pp

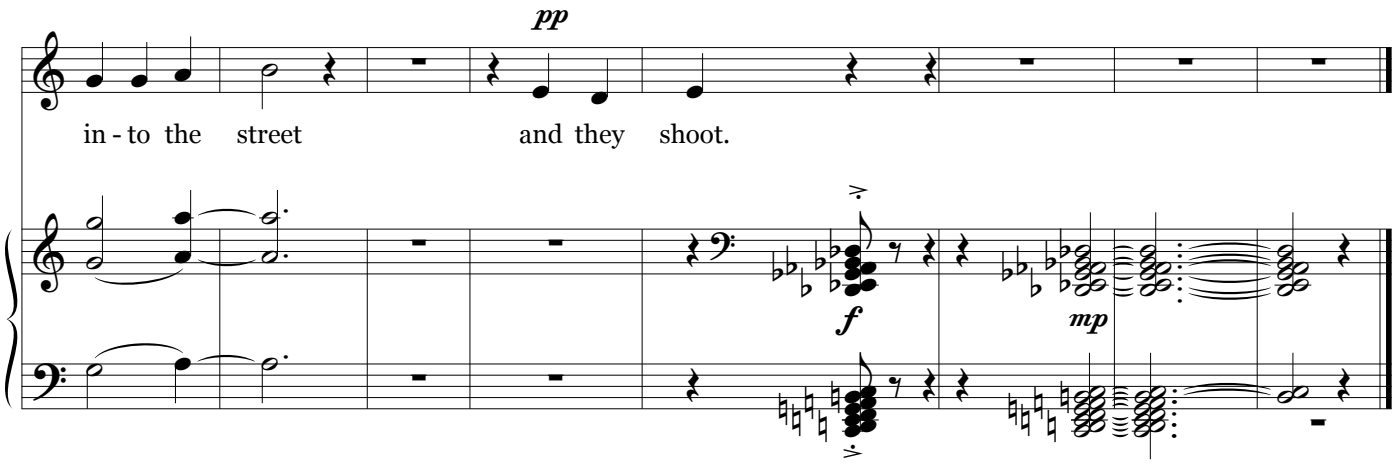
mf

p

and I can scarce - ly kiss you good - bye be - fore you run out

mp

mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*


pp
in - to the street
and they shoot.
f
mp