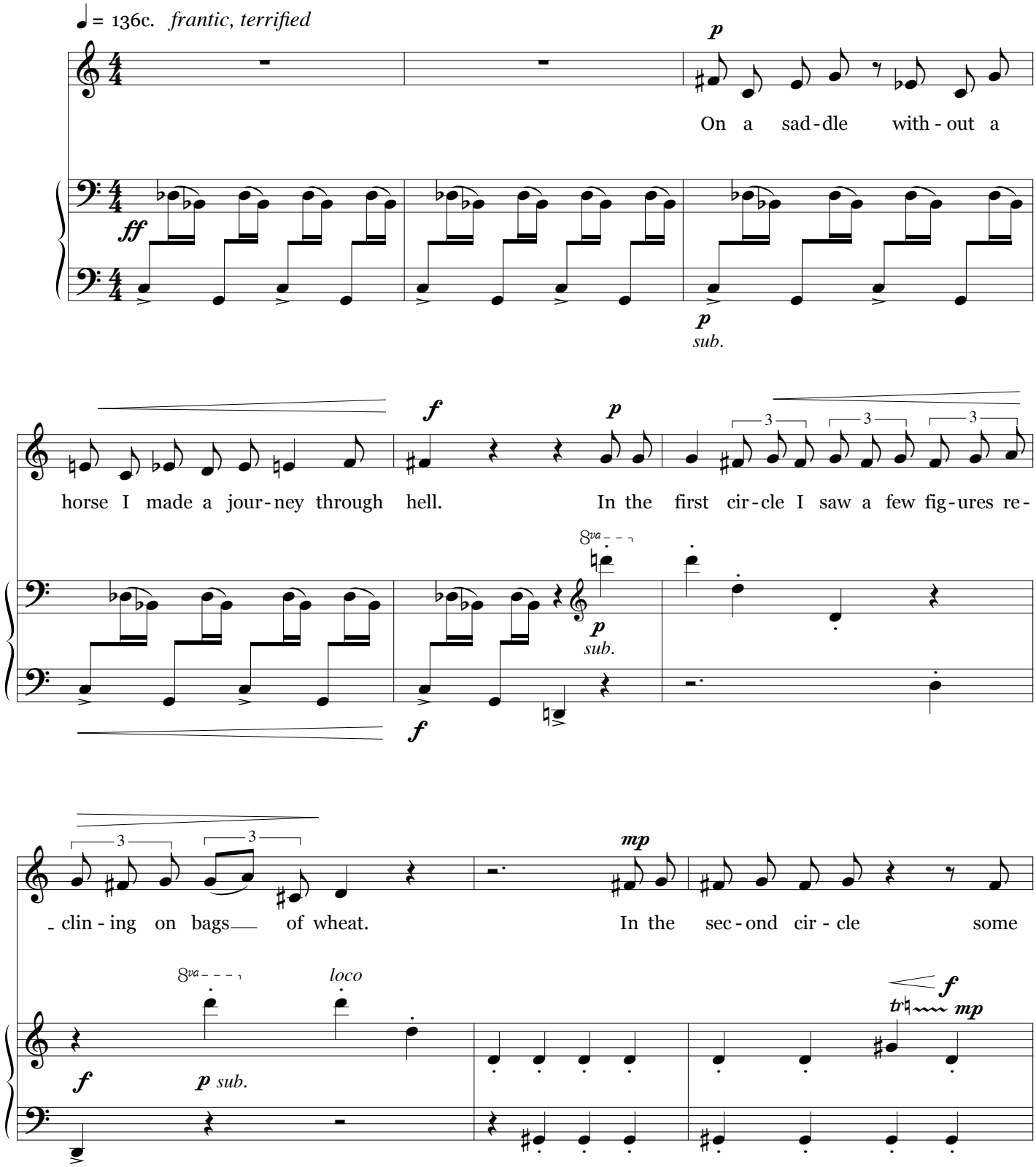
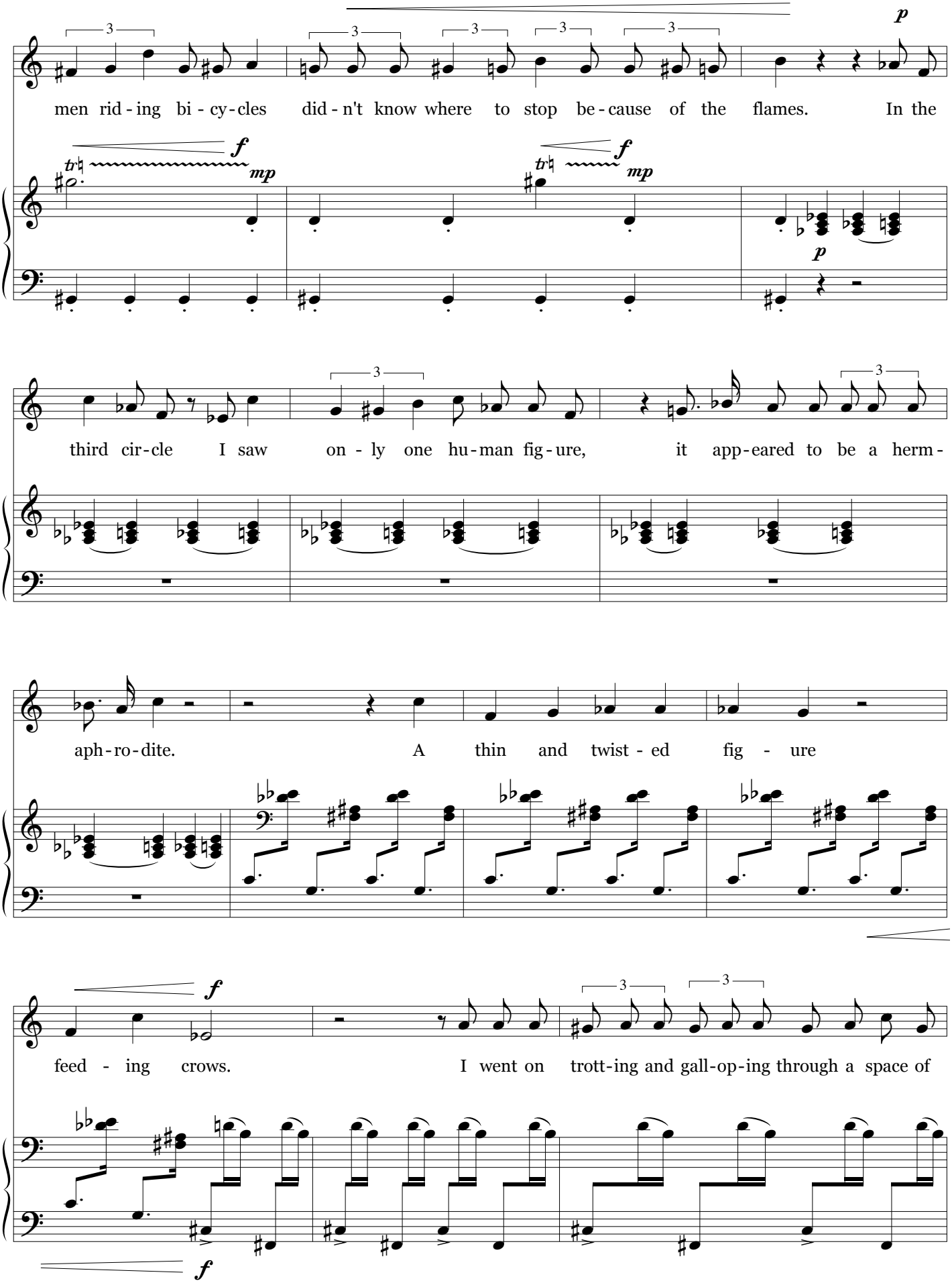
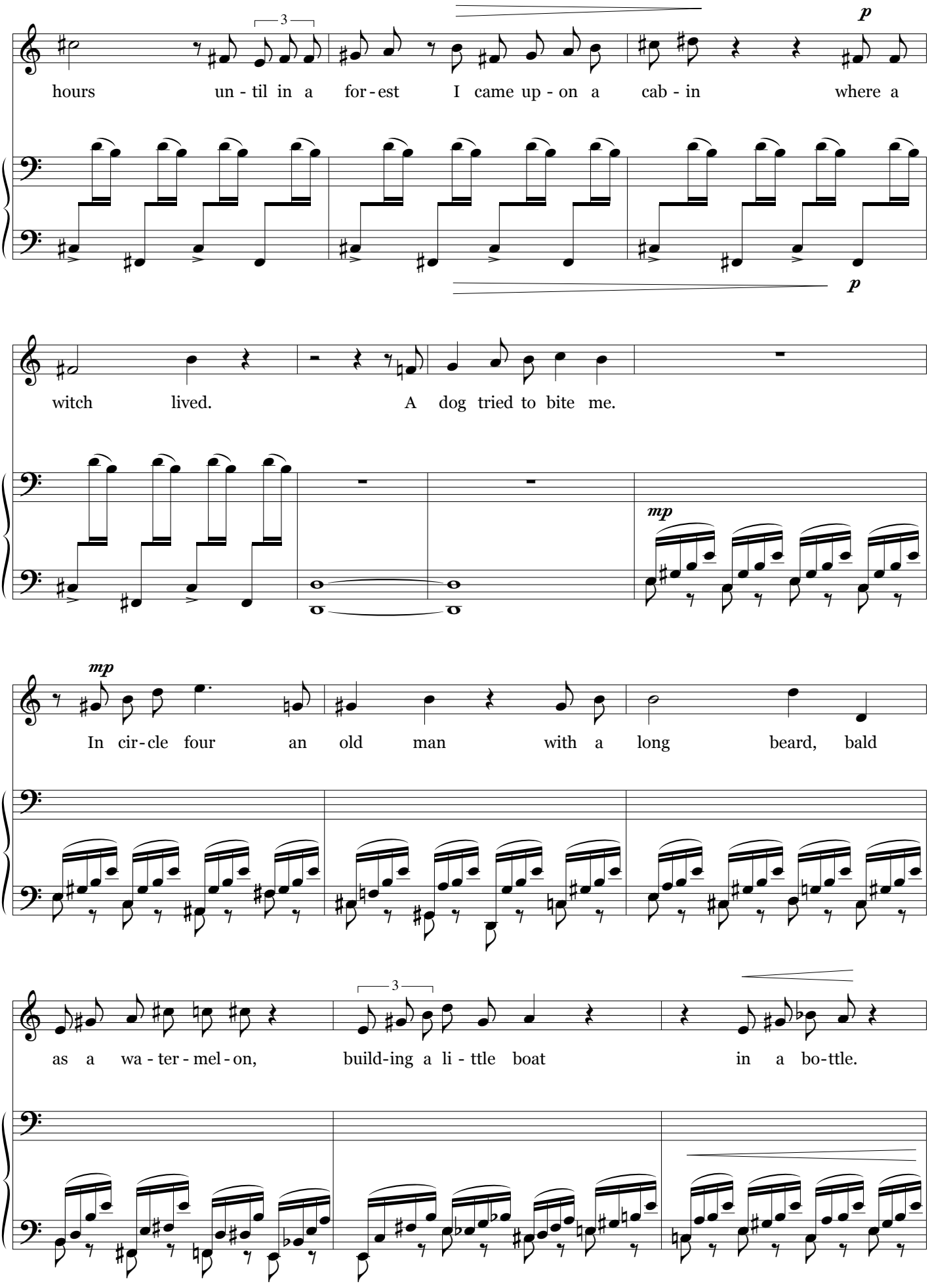
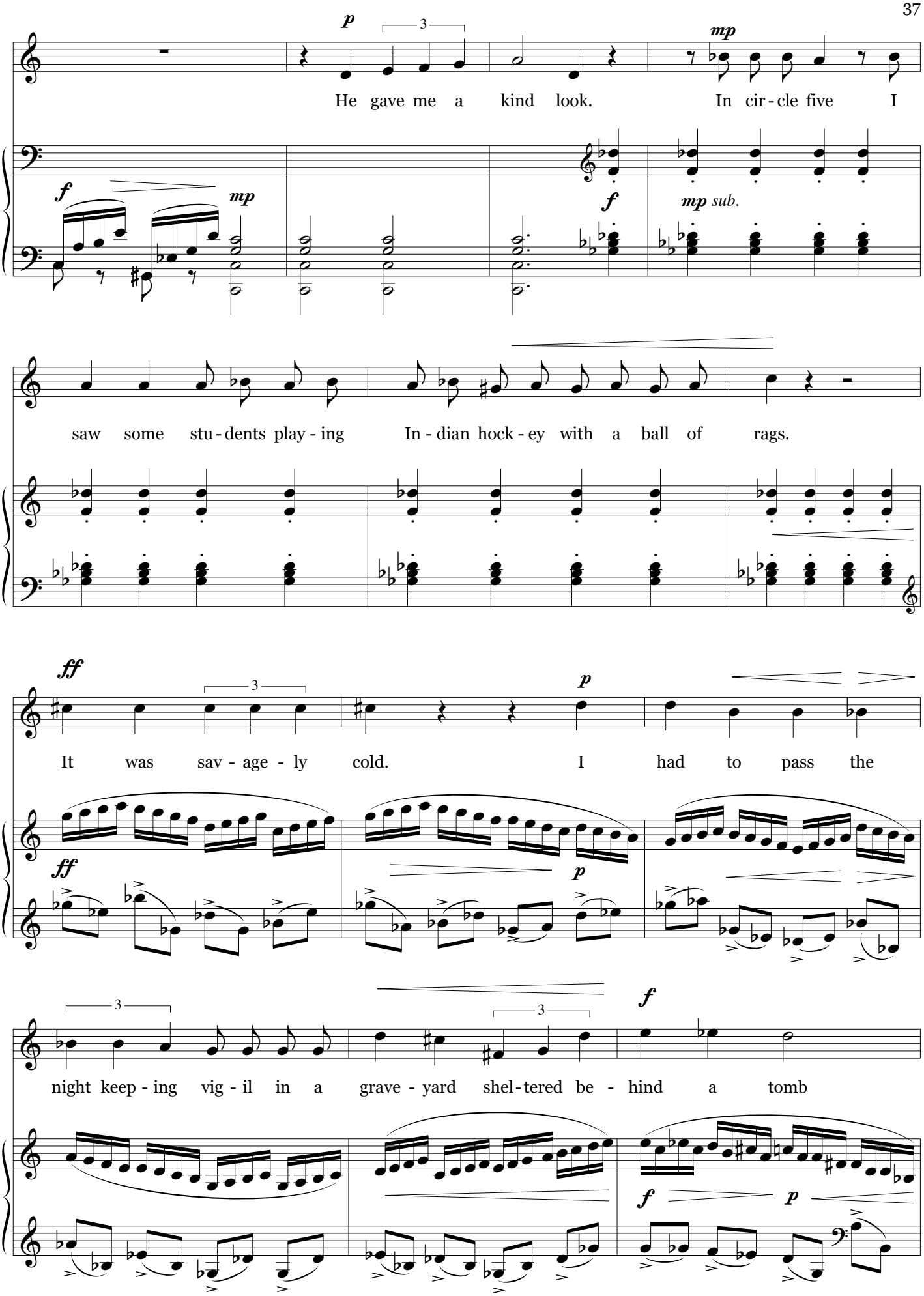
Journey Through Hell

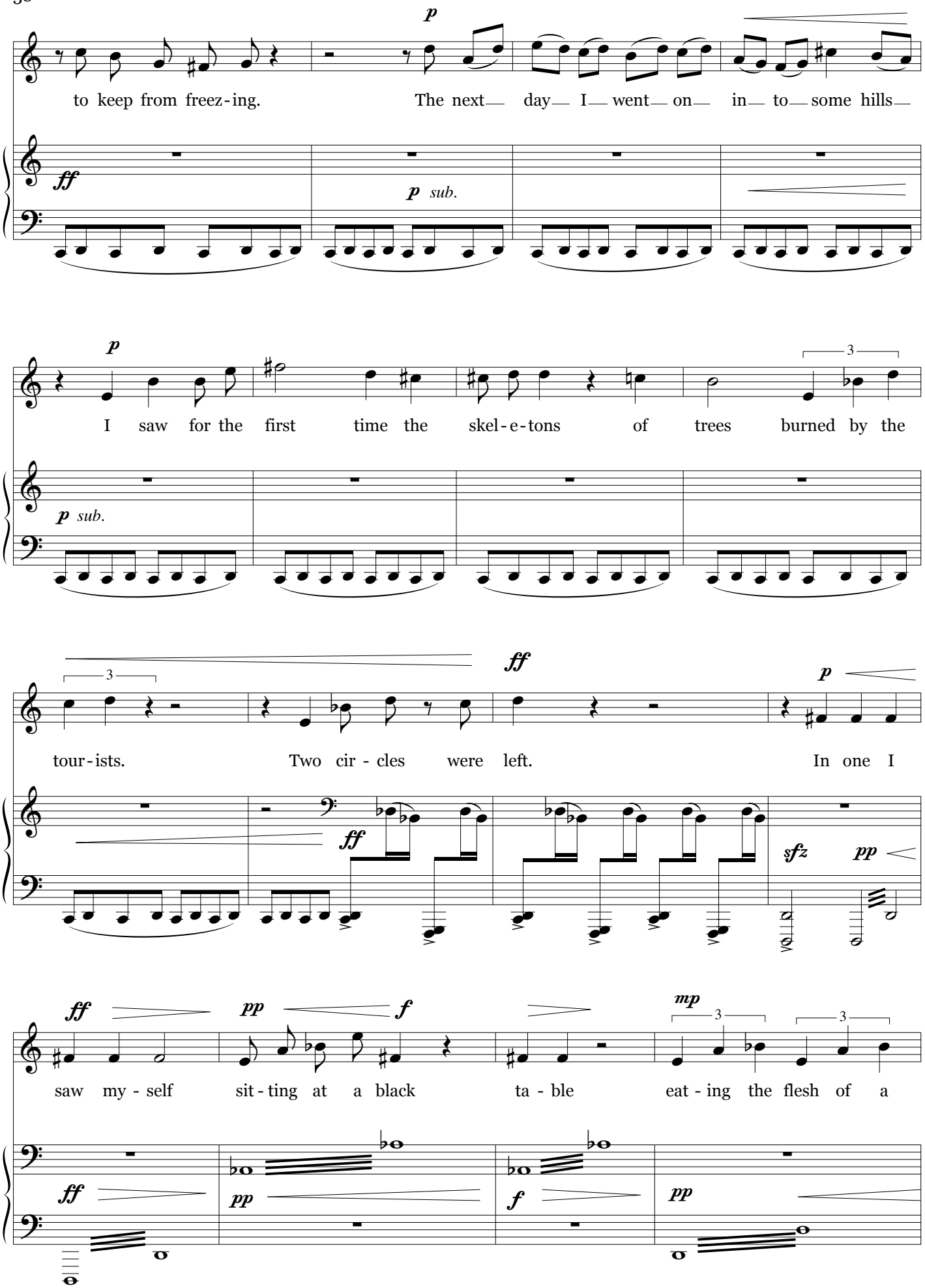
NICANOR PARRA

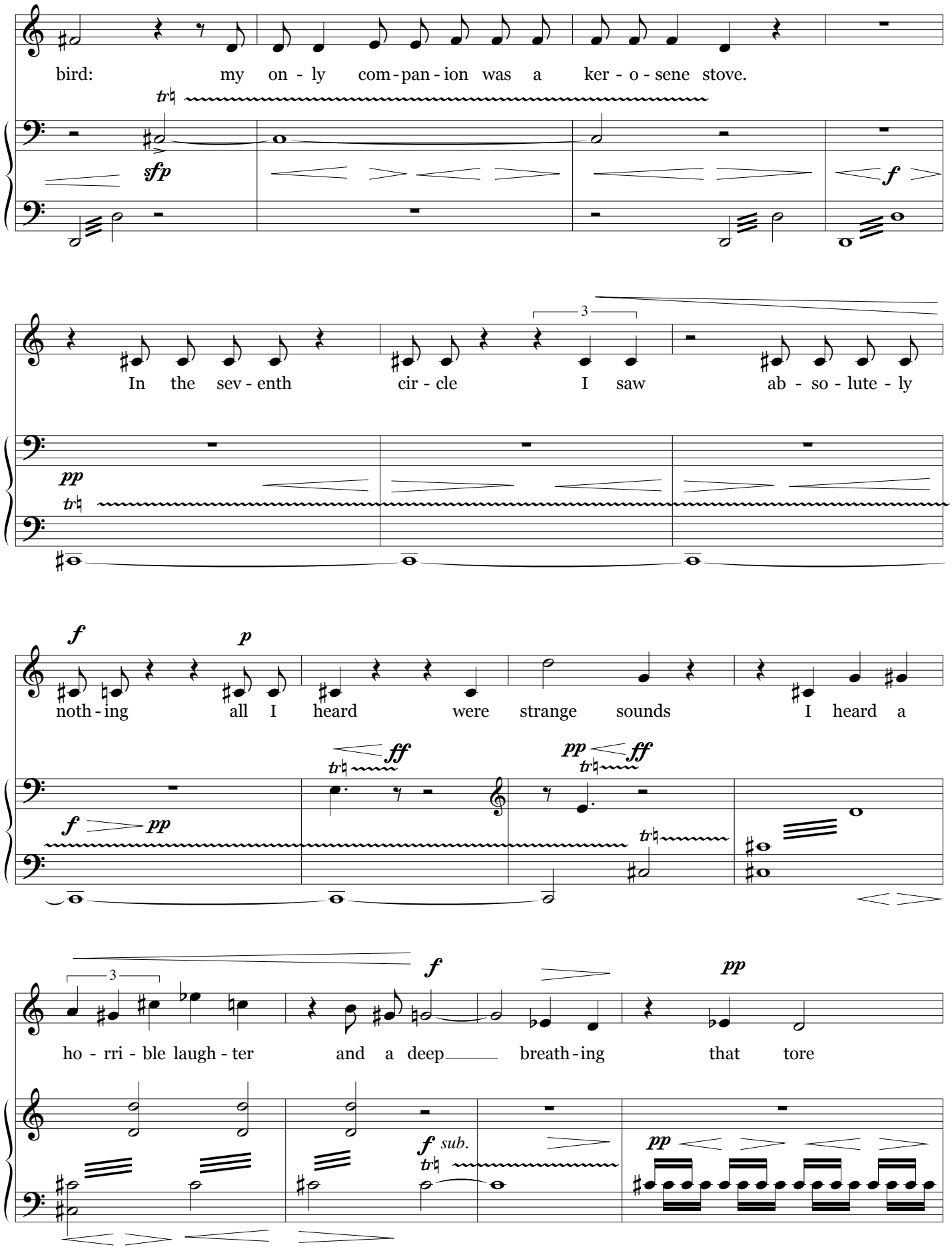


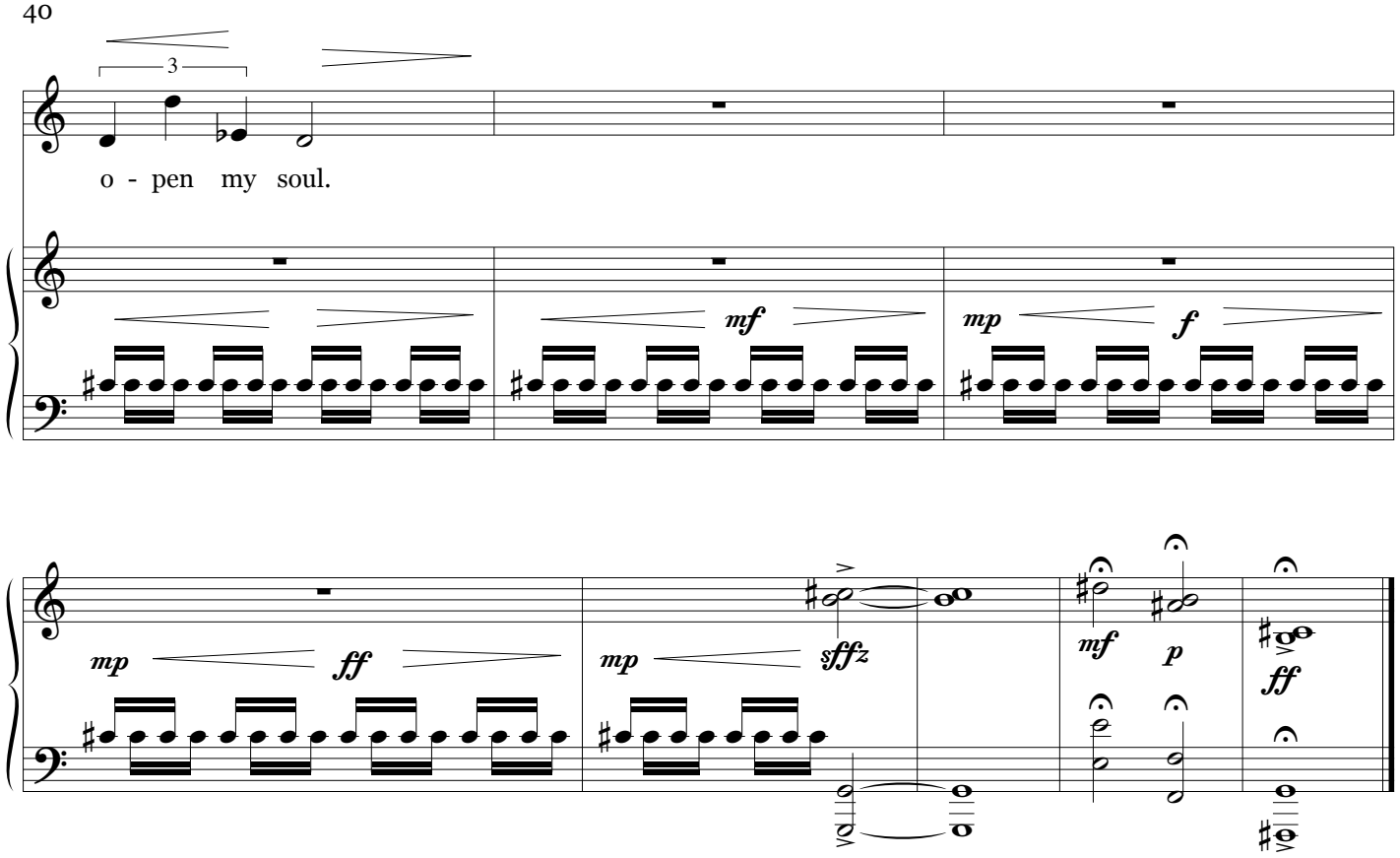

men rid - ing bi - cy - cles did - n't know where to stop be - cause of the flames. In the
third cir - cle I saw on - ly one hu - man fig - ure, it app - eared to be a herm -
aph - ro - dite. A thin and twist - ed fig - ure
feed - ing crows. I went on trott - ing and gall - op - ing through a space of


3
p
hours un - til in a for - est I came up - on a cab - in where a
p
witch lived. A dog tried to bite me.
mp
mp
In cir - cle four an old man with a long beard, bald
3
as a wa - ter - mel - on, build-ing a li - ttle boat in a bo-ttle.


p
mp
He gave me a kind look. In cir - cle five I
f
mp
f
mp sub.
saw some stu - dents play - ing In - dian hock - ey with a ball of rags.
ff
p
It was sav - age - ly cold. I had to pass the
ff
p
night keep - ing vig - il in a grave - yard shel - tered be - hind a tomb
f
f
p


p
to keep from freez-ing. The next— day— I— went— on— in— to— some hills—
ff
p sub.
p
I saw for the first time the skel-e-tons of trees burned by the
p sub.
3
ff
p
tour-ists. Two cir - cles were left. In one I
ff
sfz
pp
ff
pp
f
mp
3
3
saw my - self sit - ting at a black ta - ble eat - ing the flesh of a
ff
pp
f
pp


bird: my on - ly com - pan - ion was a ker - o - sene stove.
sfp
f
In the sev - enth cir - cle I saw ab - so - lute - ly
3
pp
f
p
noth - ing all I heard were strange sounds I heard a
ff
pp
ff
f
pp
ho - rri - ble laugh - ter and a deep breath - ing that tore
3
f sub.
pp



attacca

December 18, 1988