Elena Ruehr

The Second Coming

for Mezzo Soprano and String Quartet

score

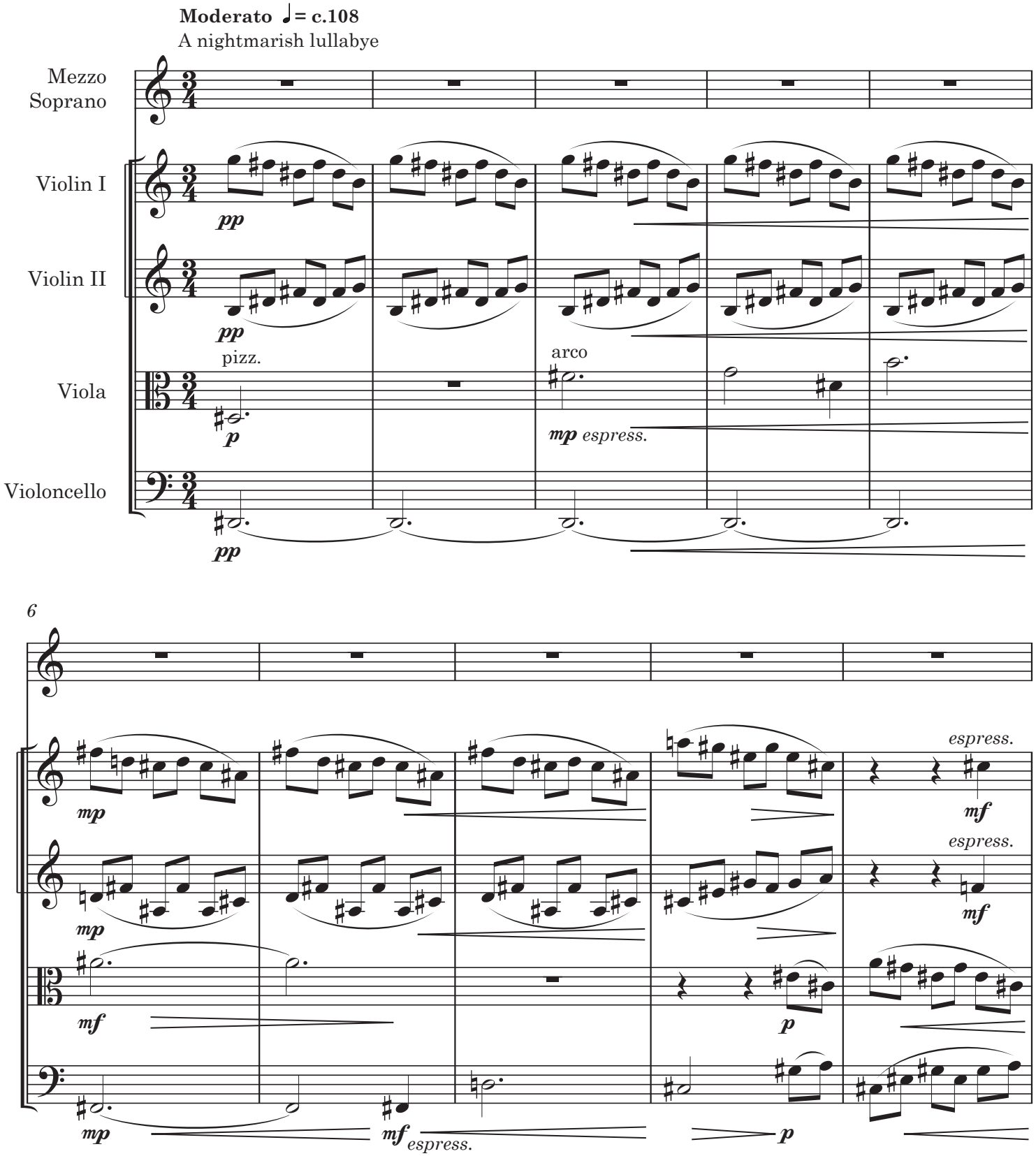
Richwine Press Brookline, Massachusetts

Commissioned by WordSong for Christina English and the Sheffield Chamber Players

The Second Coming

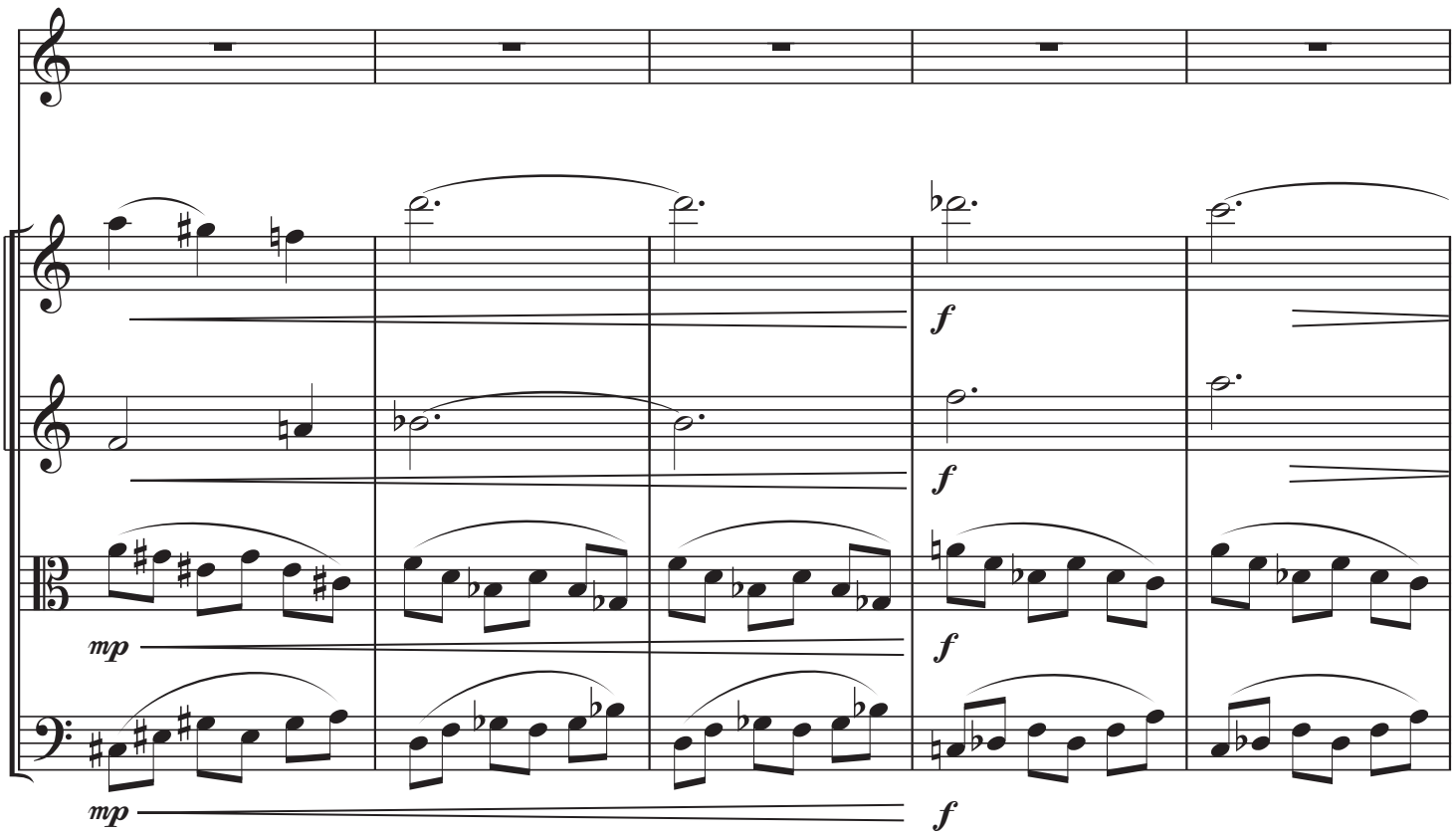
Poetry by
William Butler Yeats

Music by
Elena Ruehr

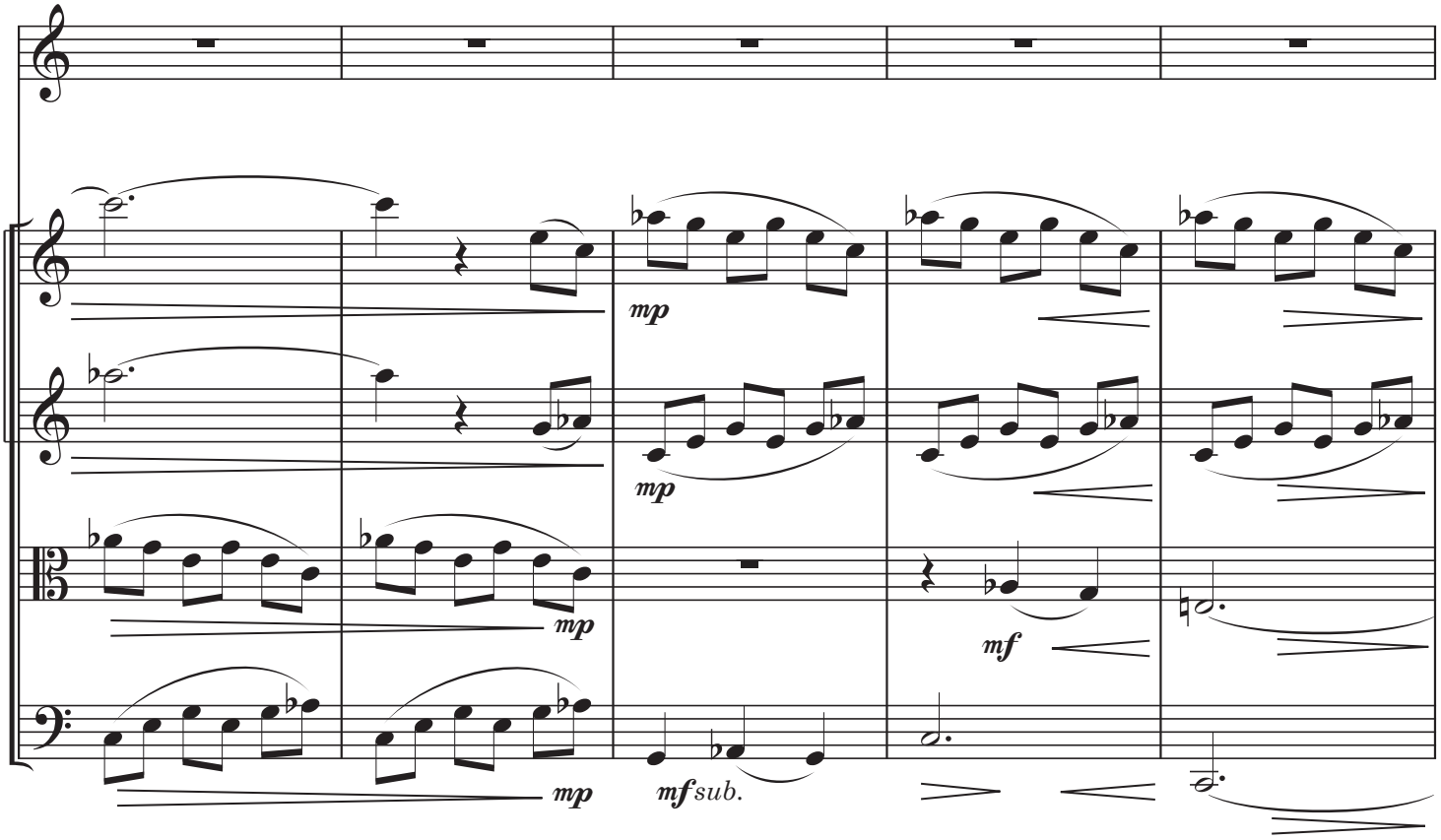


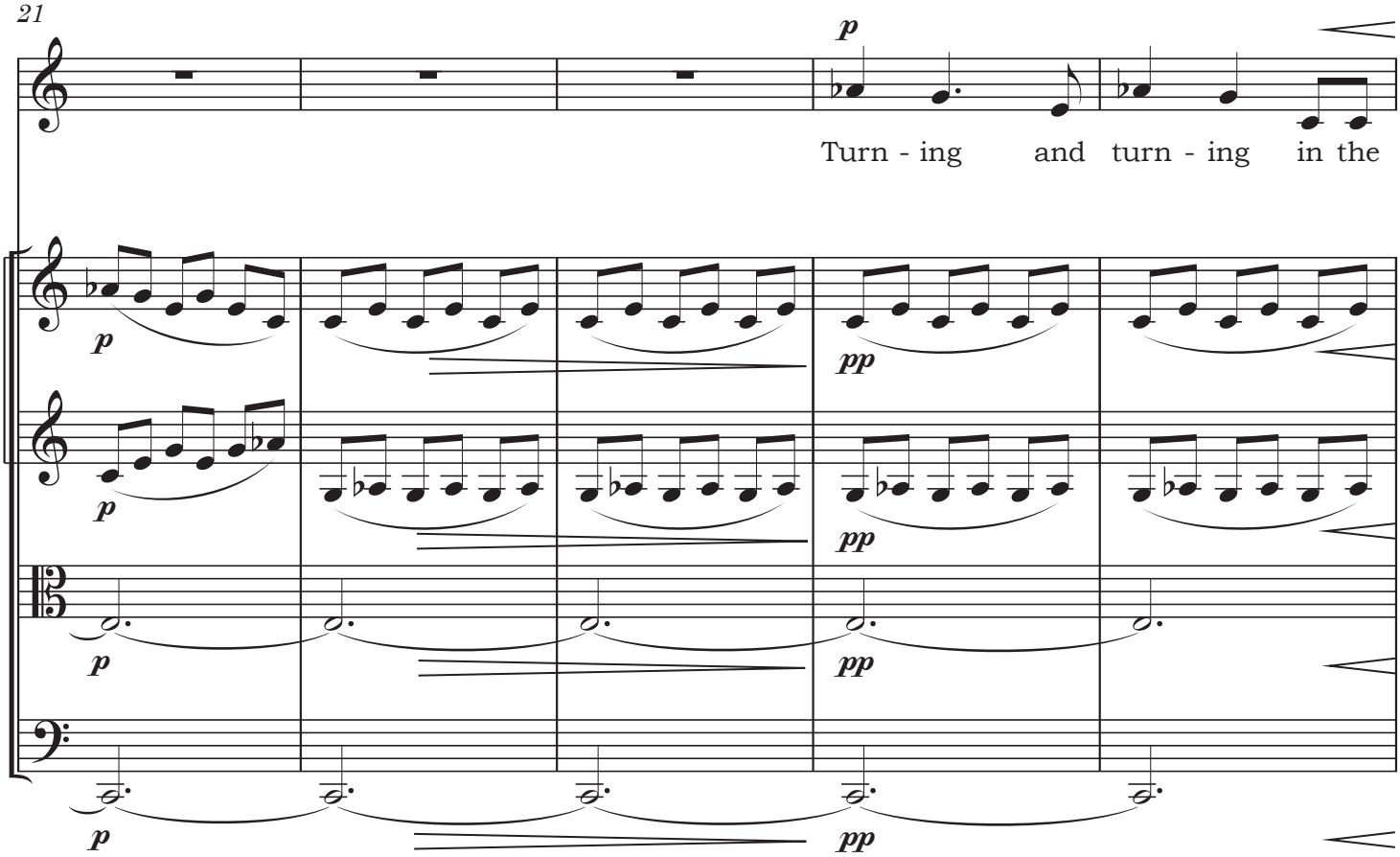
Copyright © 2022 by Elena Ruehr. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured.

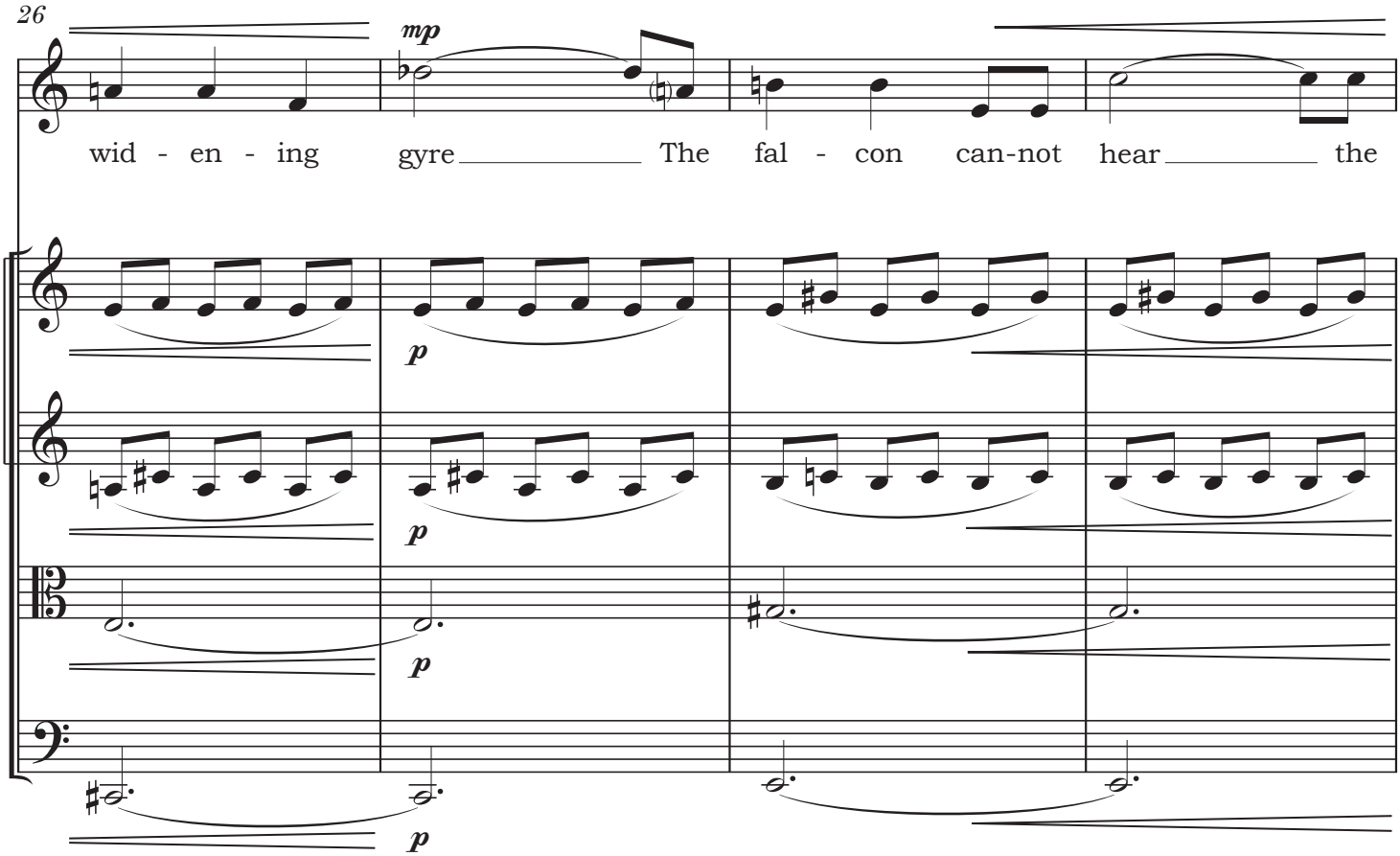
11

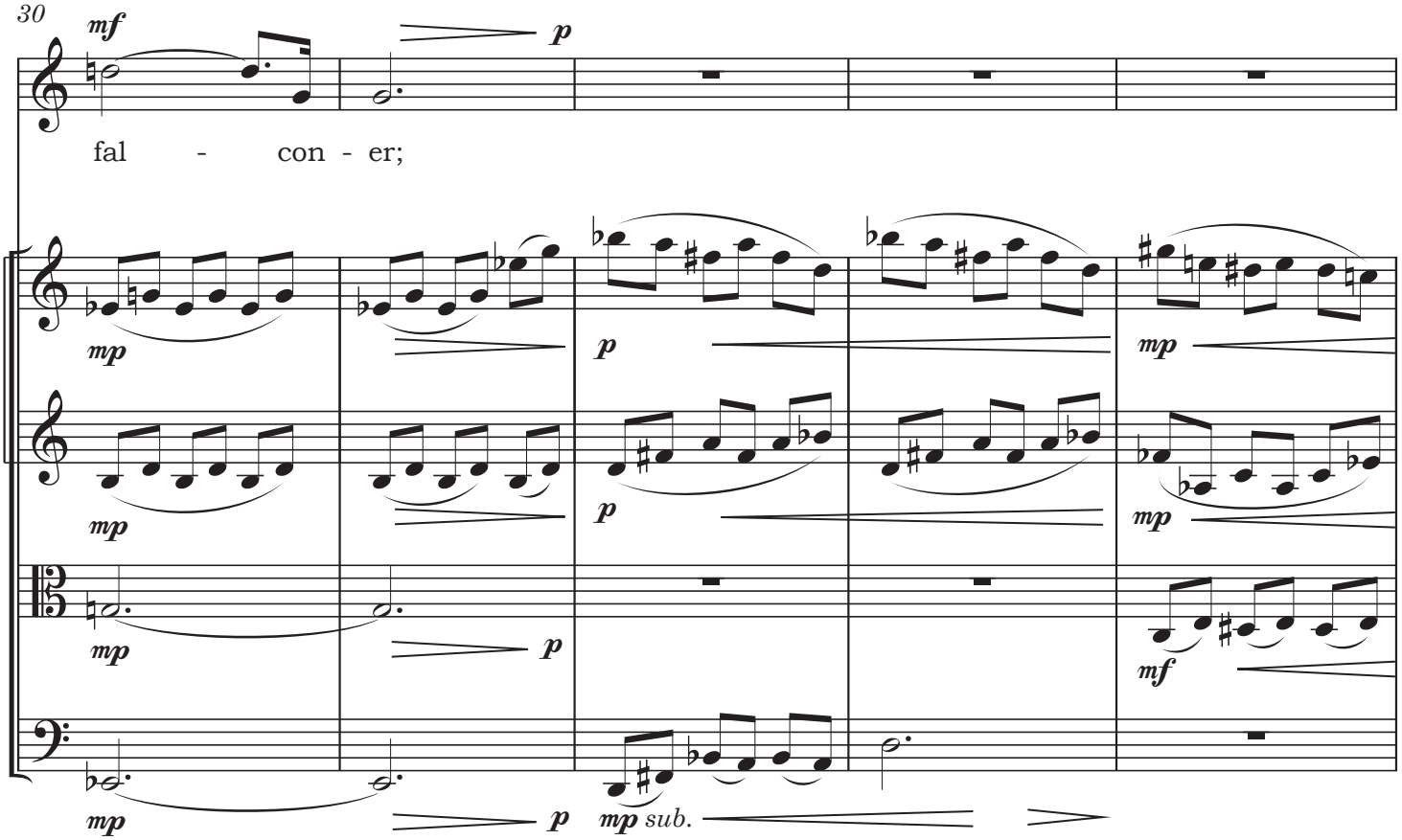


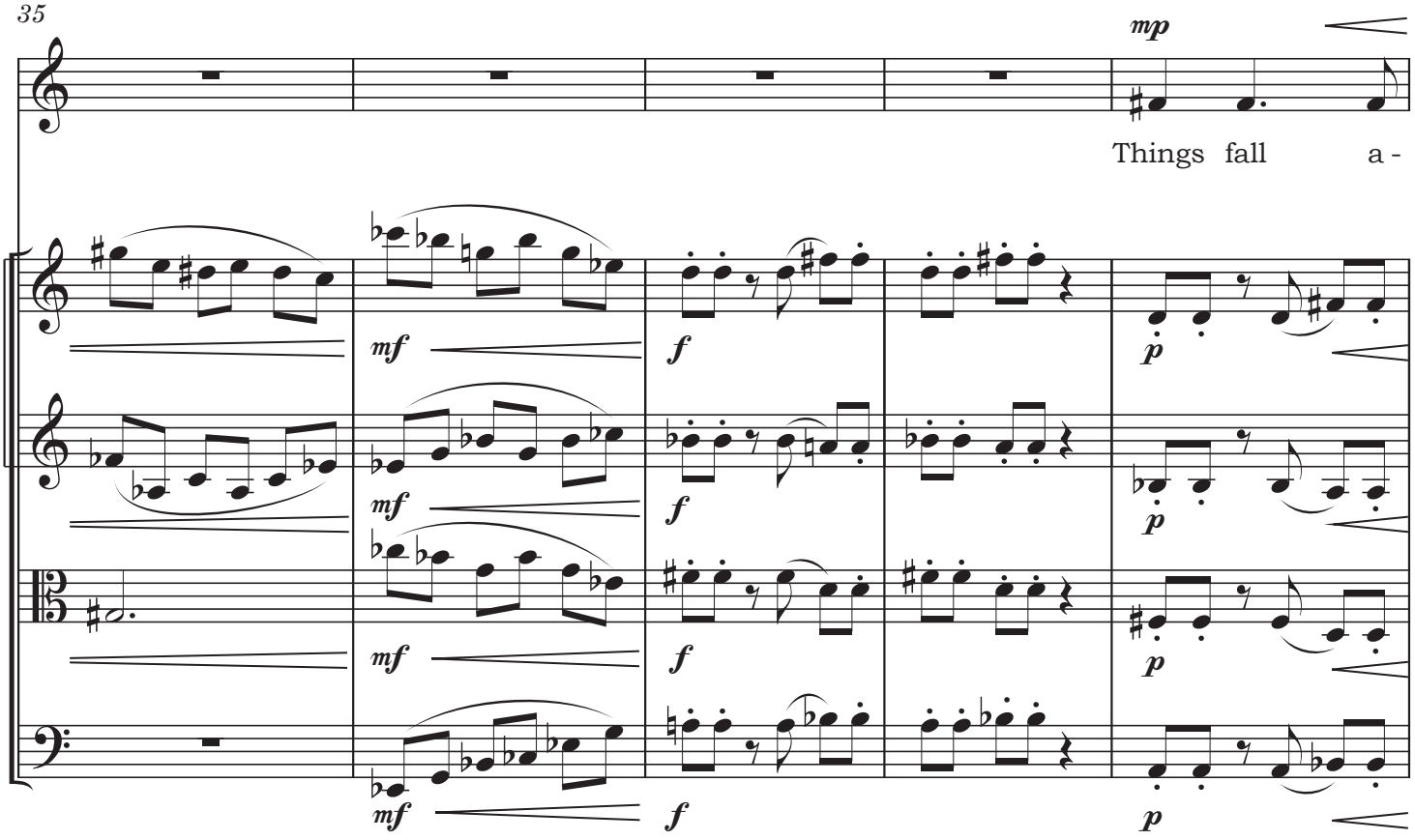
16

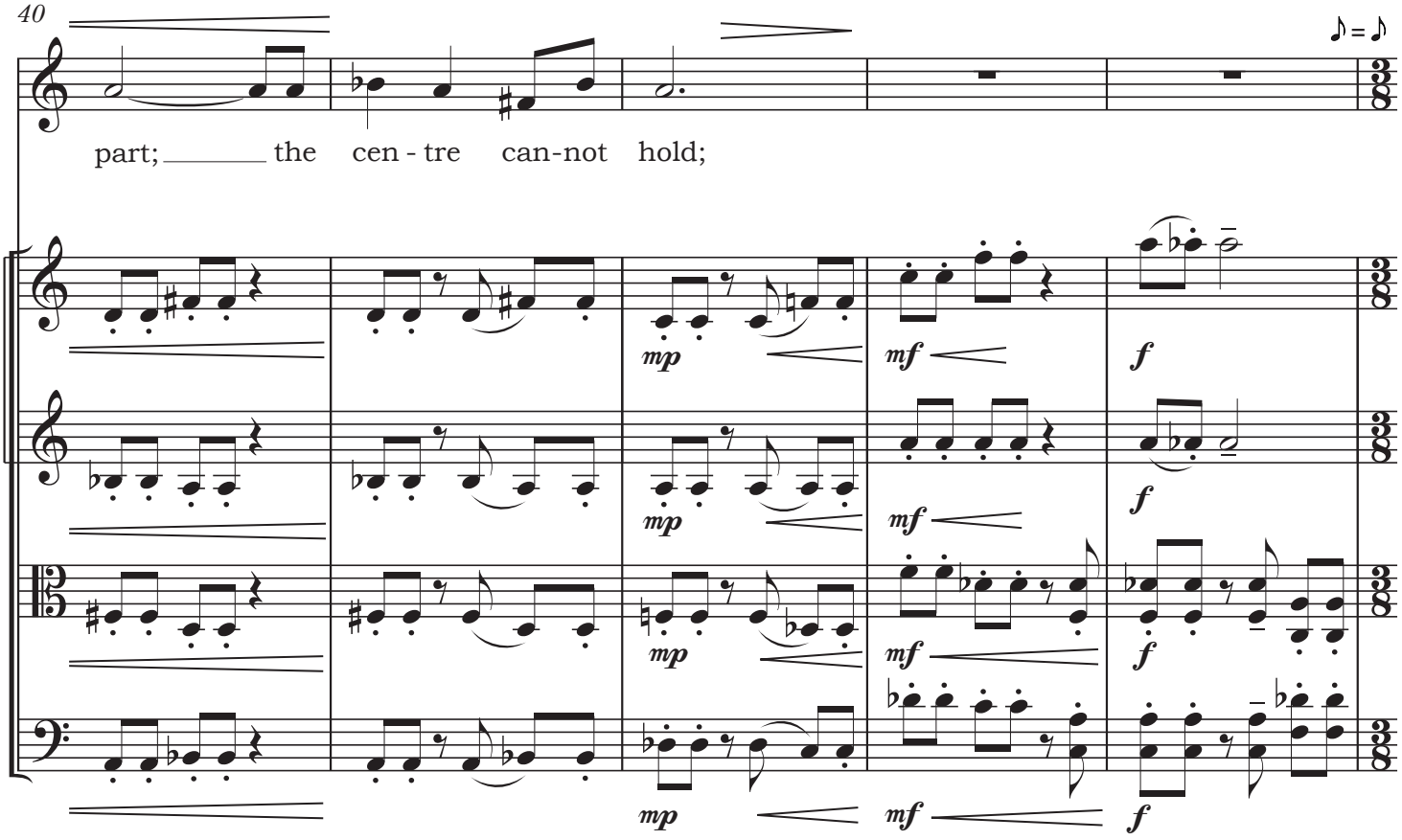


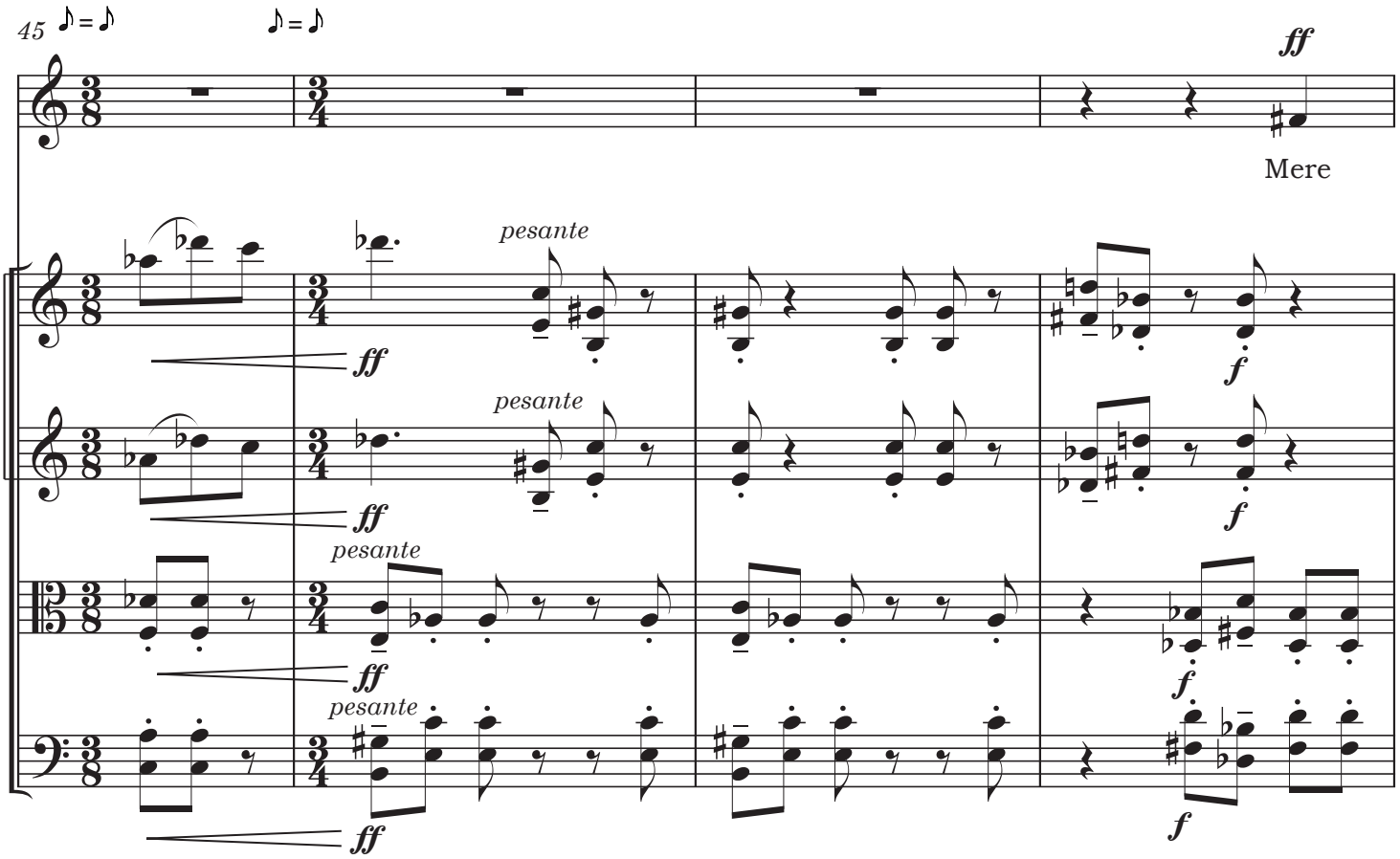

21
p
Turn - ing and turn - ing in the
p
pp
p
pp
p
pp
p
pp

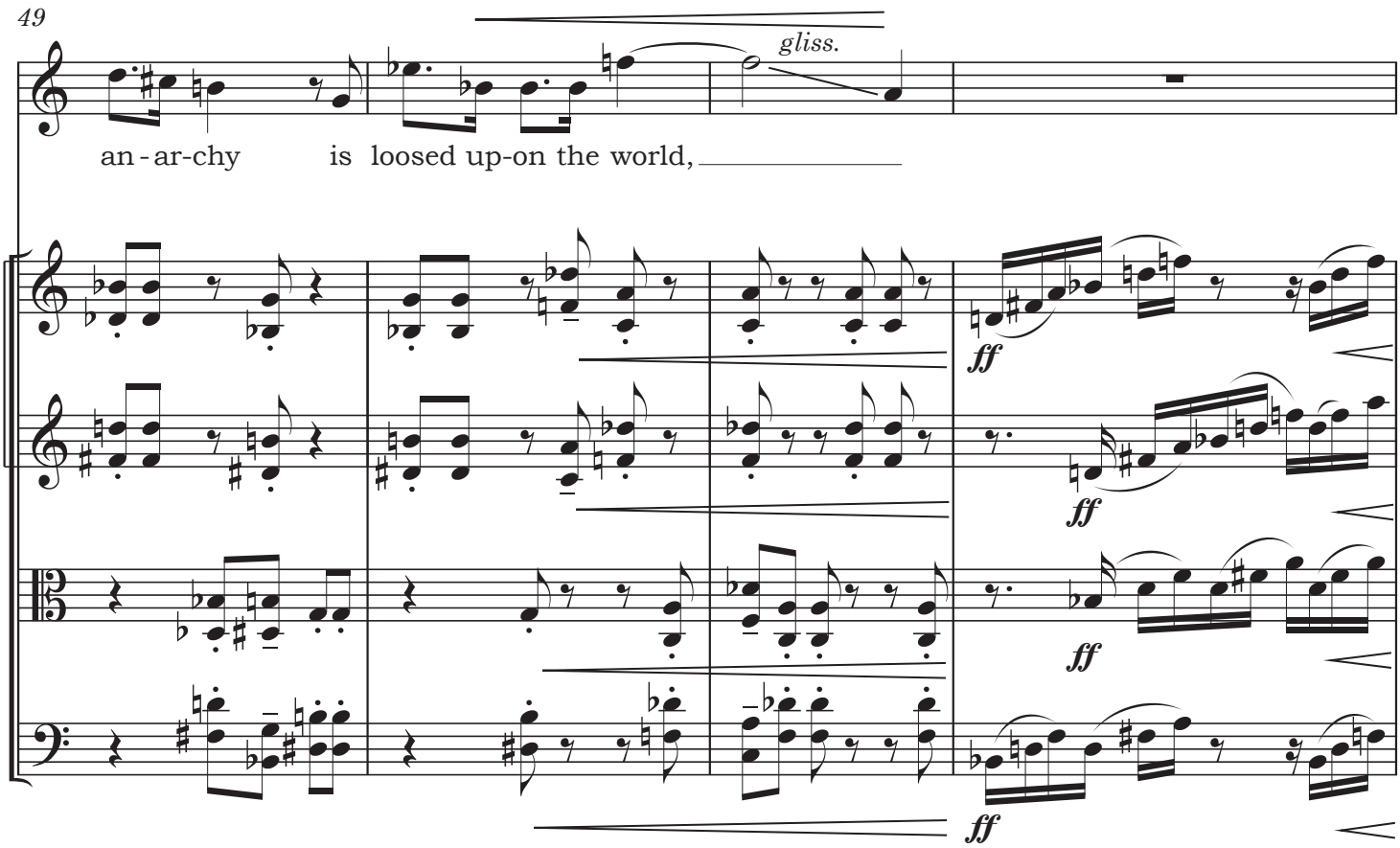

26
mp
wid - en - ing gyre The fal - con can-not hear the
p
p
p
p

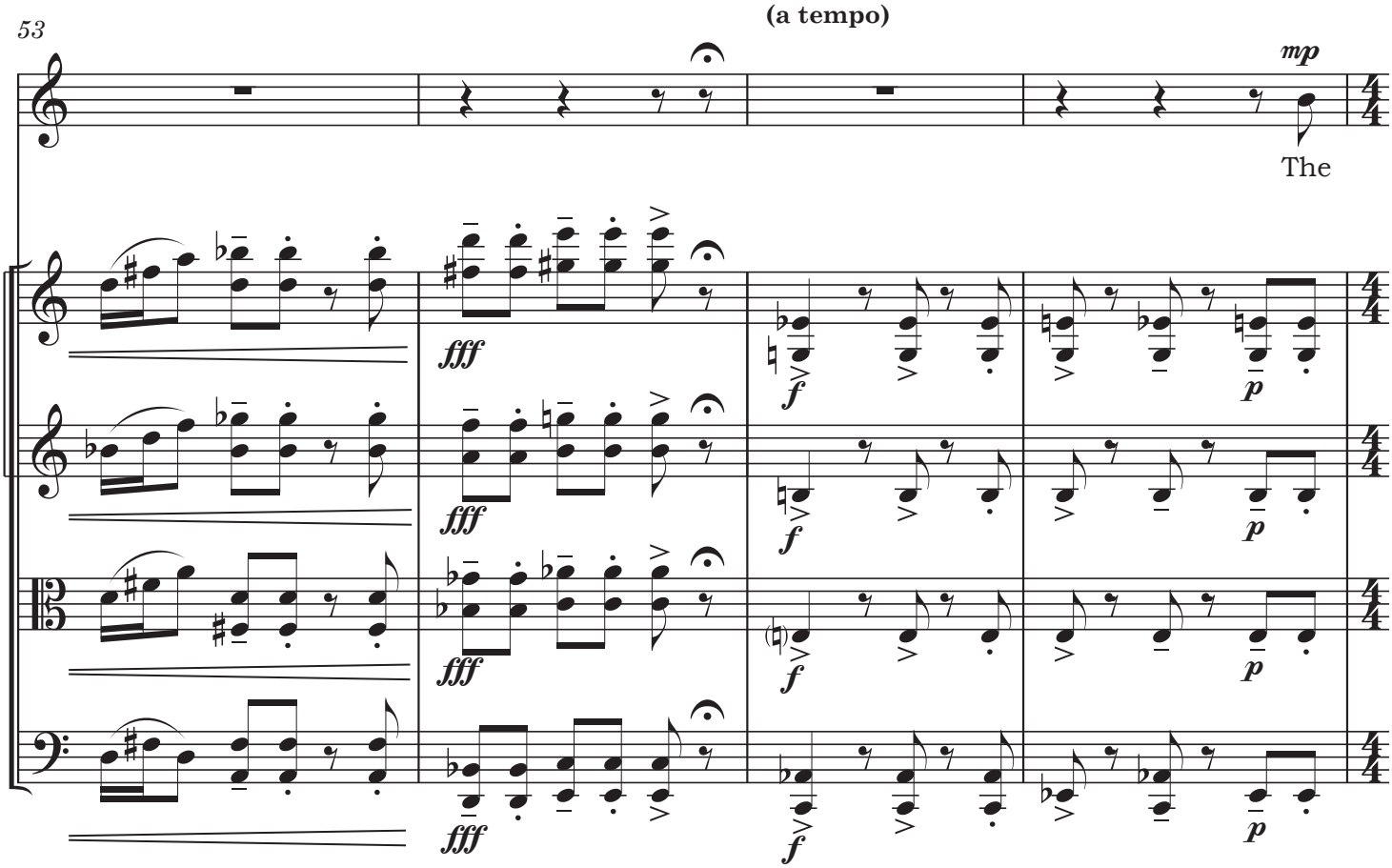

30
mf
p
fal - con - er;
mp
p
mp sub.

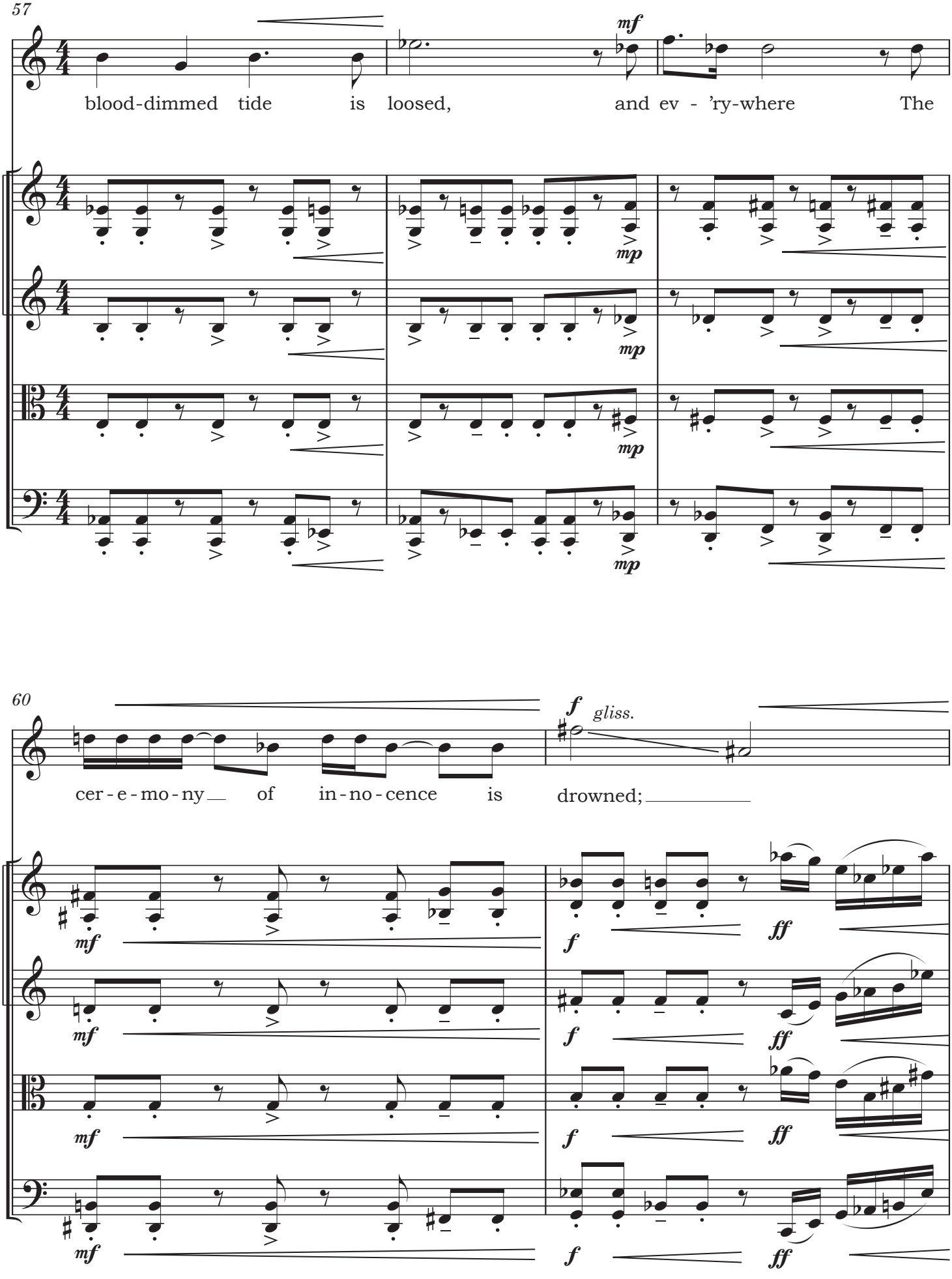

35
mp
Things fall a -
mf
f
p

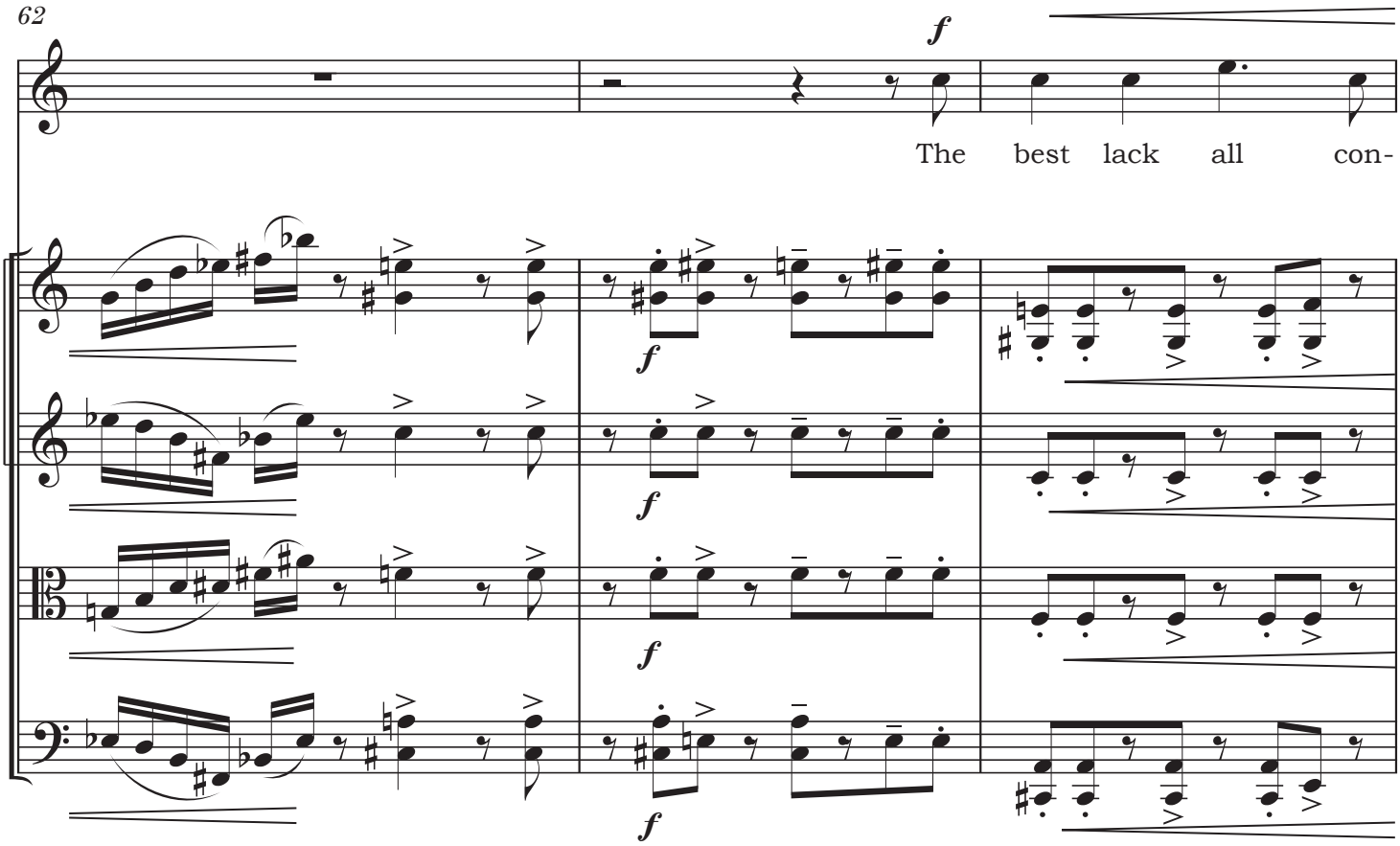

40
part; the cen - tre can-not hold;
mp
mf
f

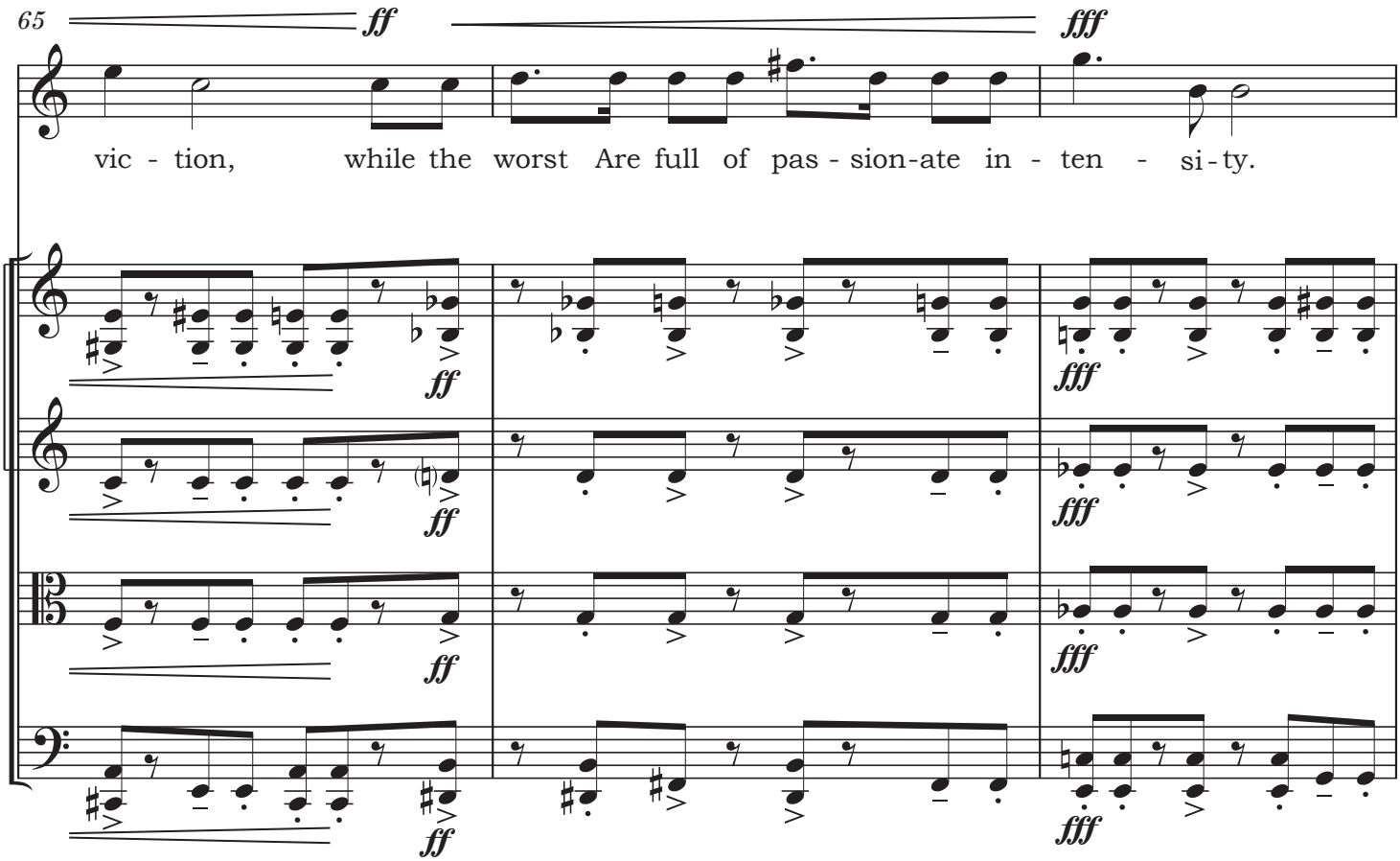

45
ff
Mere
pesante
f


49
gliss.
an - ar-chy is loosed up-on the world,
ff
ff
ff
ff


53
(a tempo)
mp
The
fff
fff
fff
fff
f
f
f
f
p
p
p
p


57
mf
blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and ev - 'ry-where The
mp
mp
mp
mp
60
f
gliss.
cer - e - mo - ny of in - no - cence is drowned;
mf
mf
mf
mf
f
f
f
f
ff
ff
ff
ff


62
f
The best lack all con-


65
ff
fff
vic - tion, while the worst Are full of pas - sion-ate in - ten - si-ty.

68

♪ = ♪

71

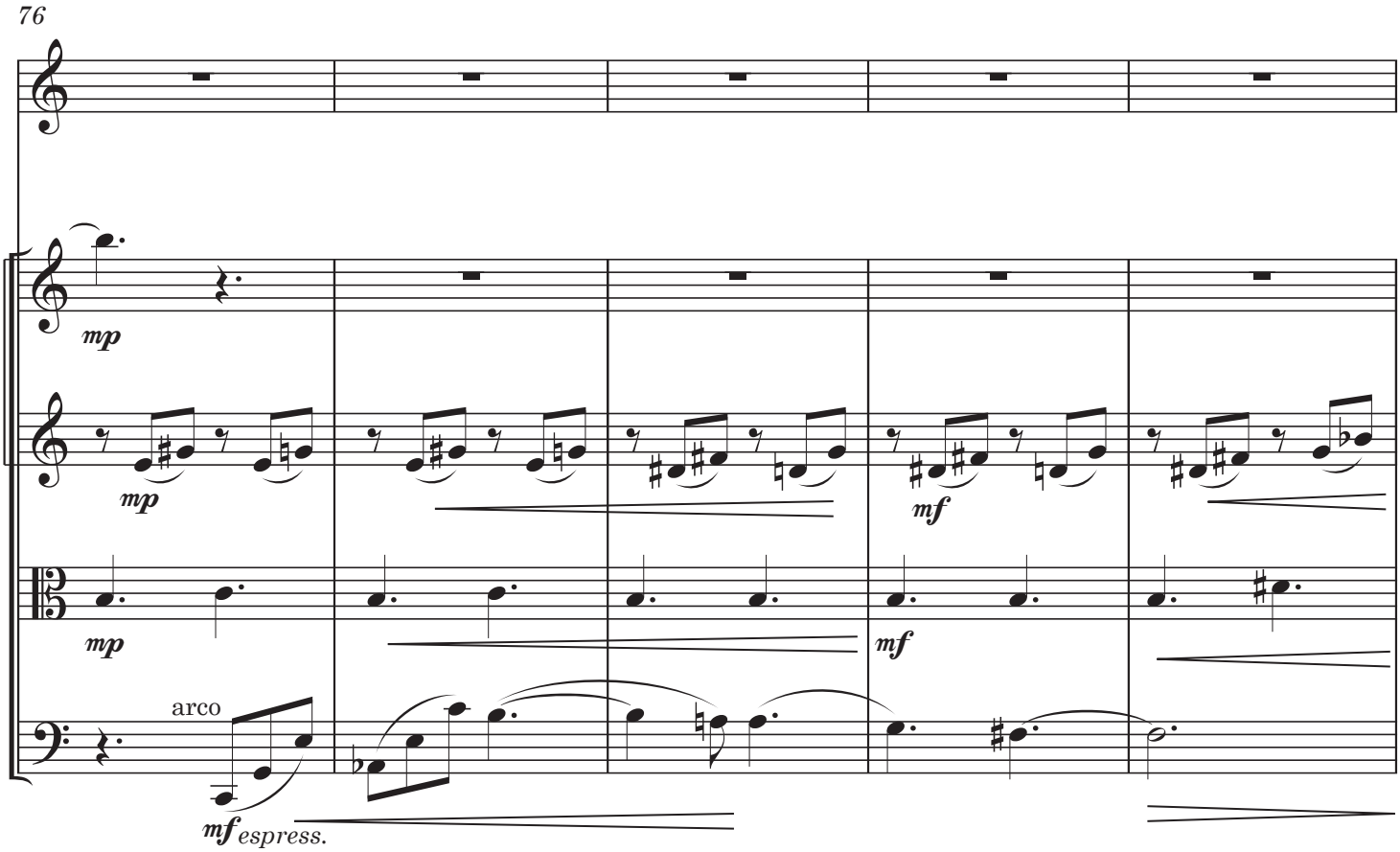
♪ = ♪

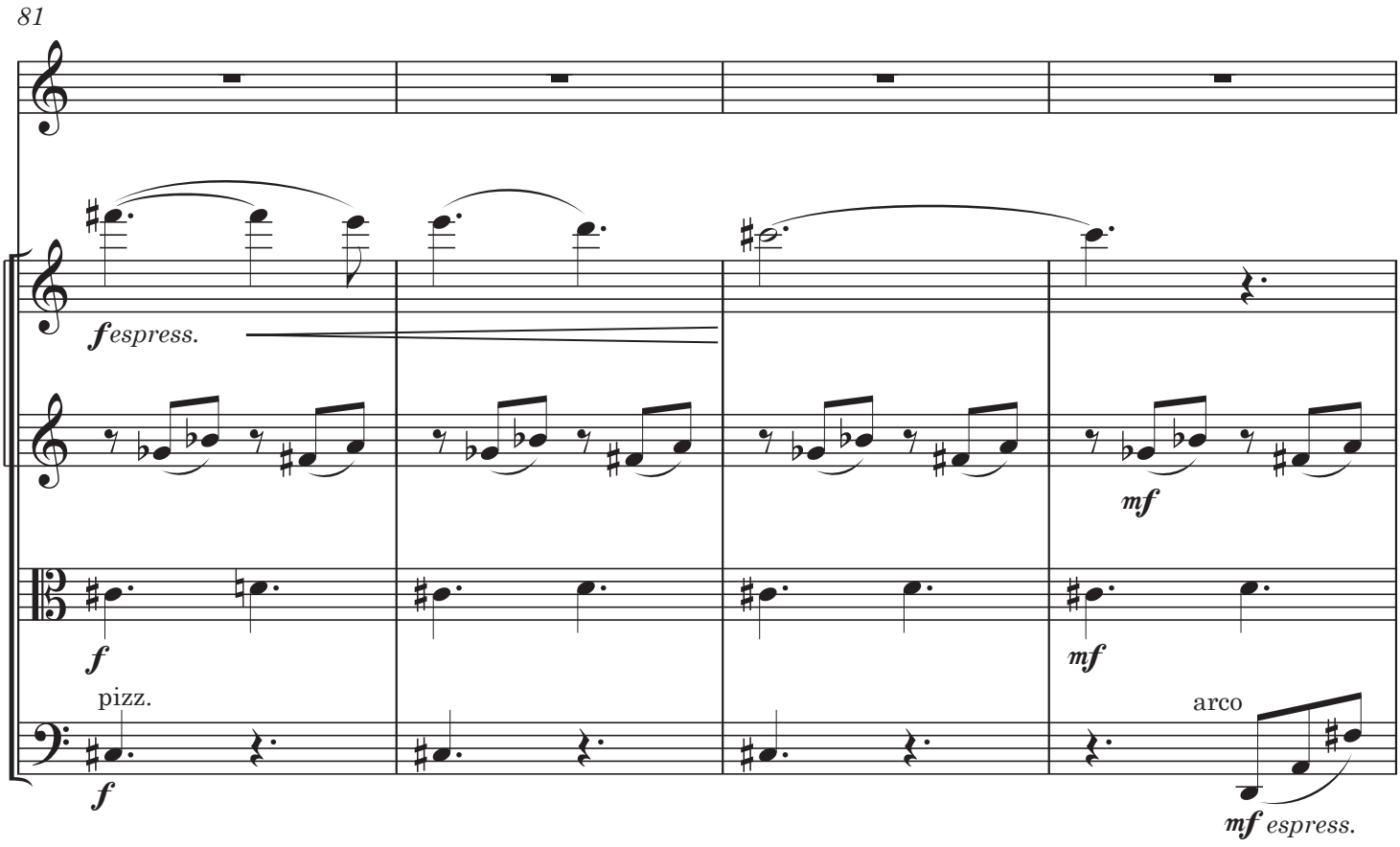
mp espress.

p

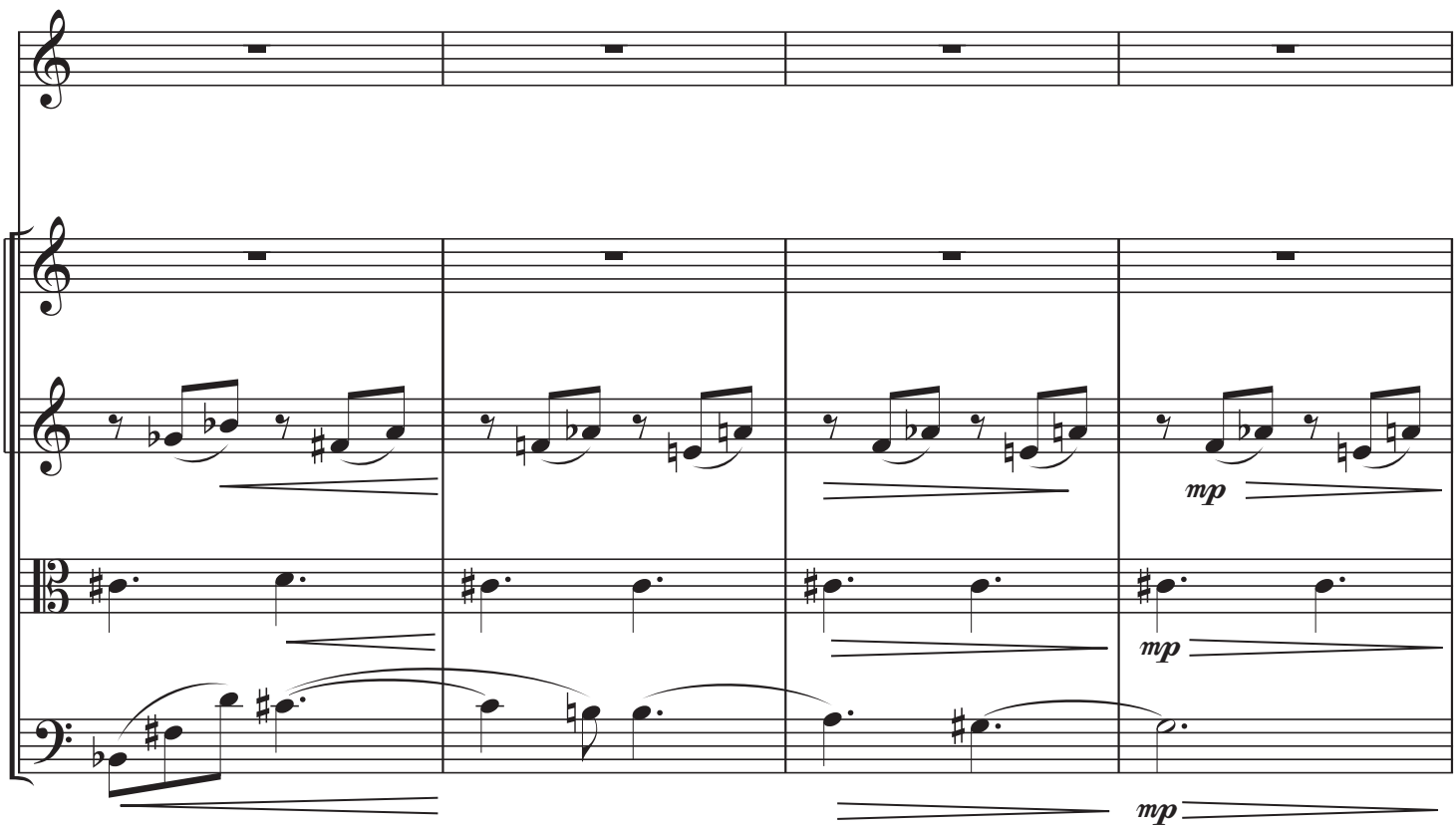
mp

pizz.

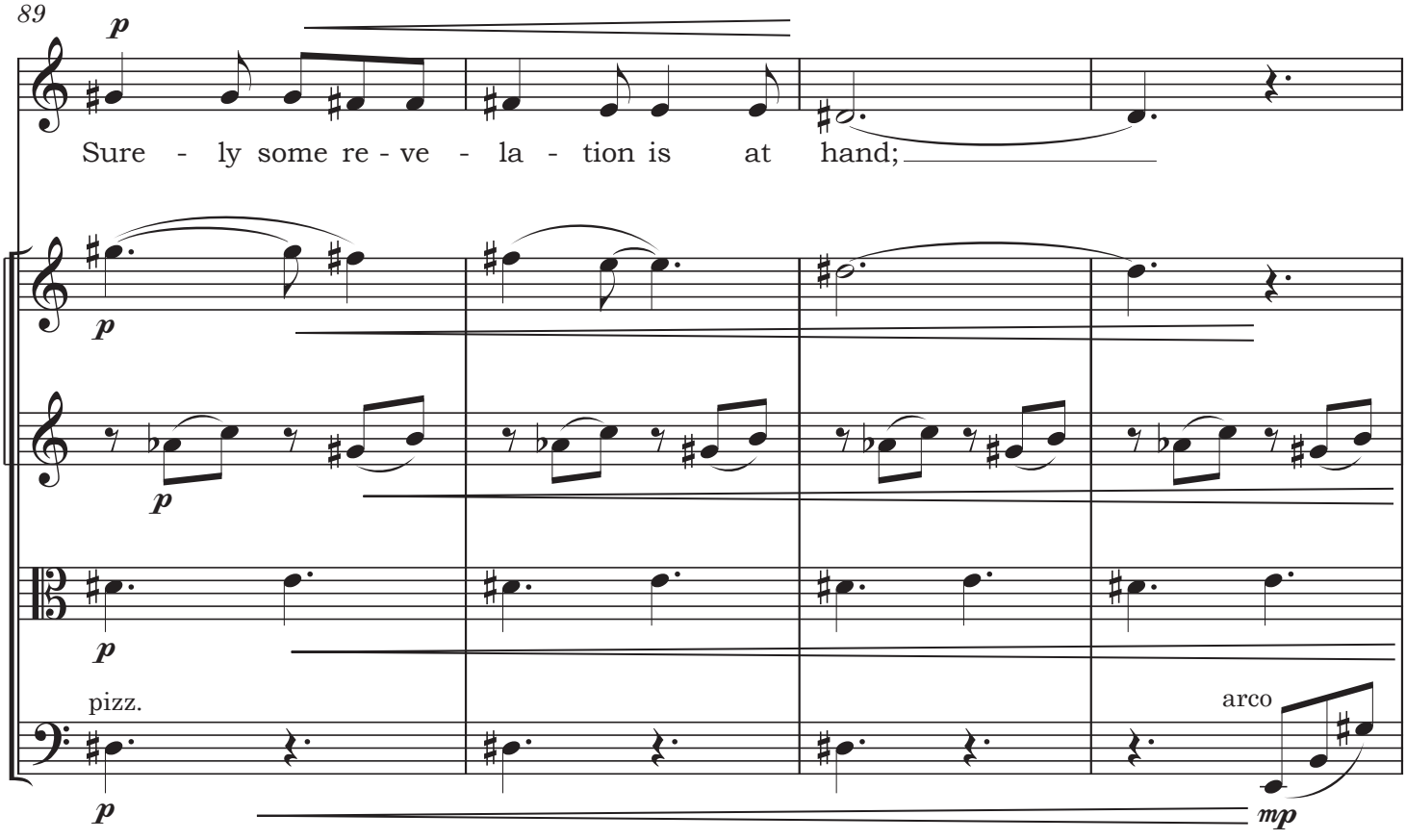

76
mp
mp
mp
mf
mf
arco
mf espress.

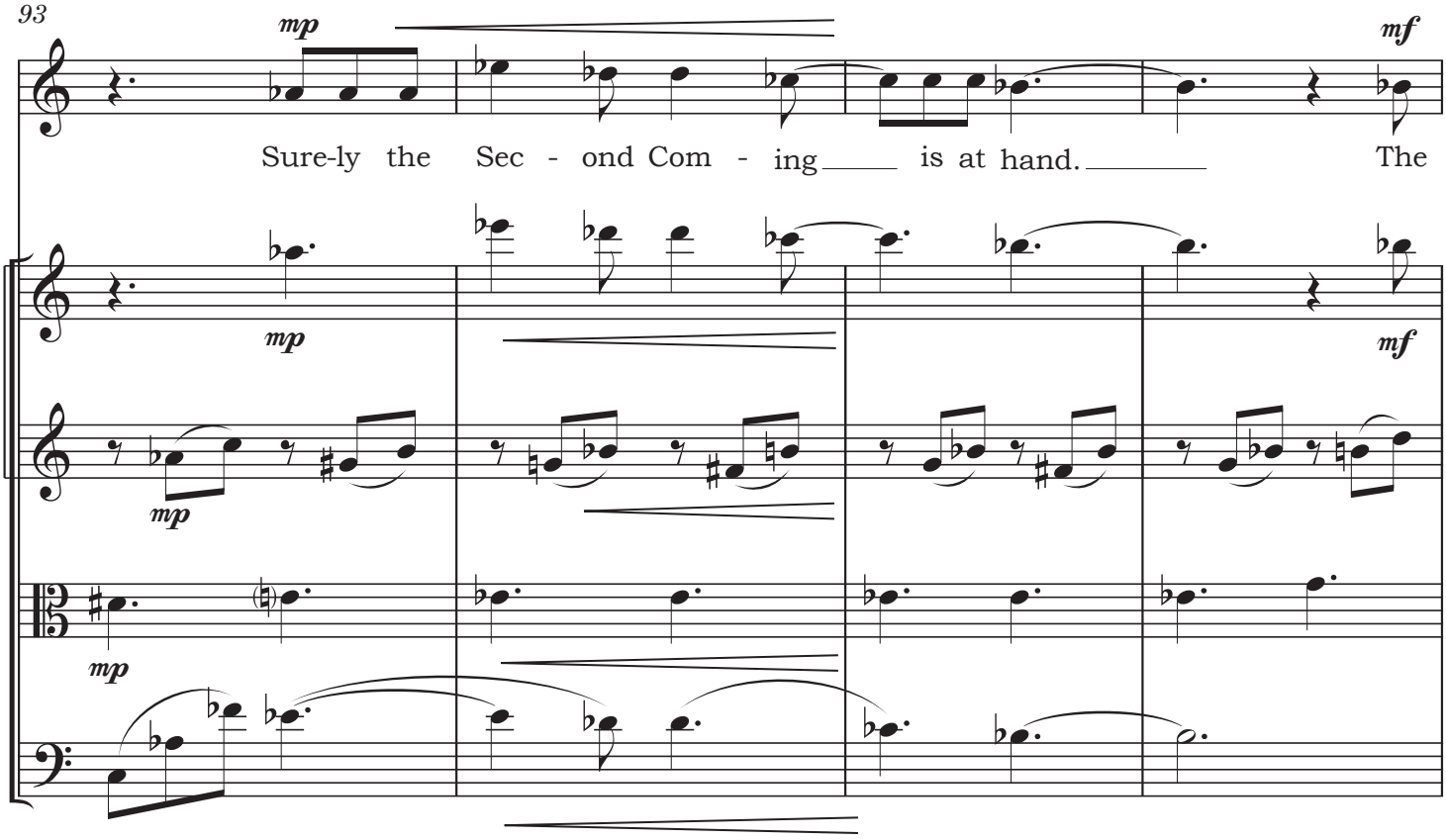

81
f espress.
mf
f
mf
pizz.
f
arco
mf espress.

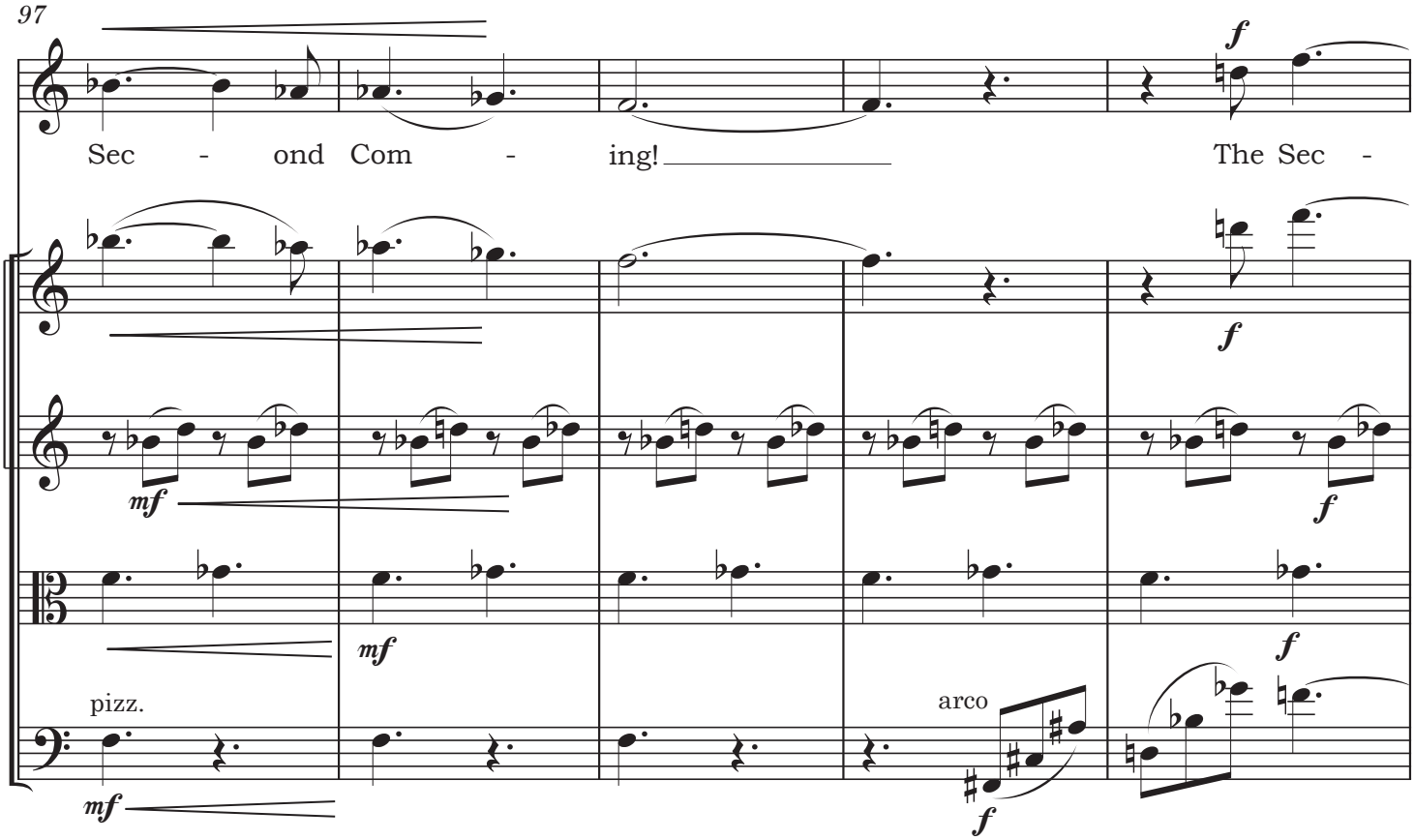
85

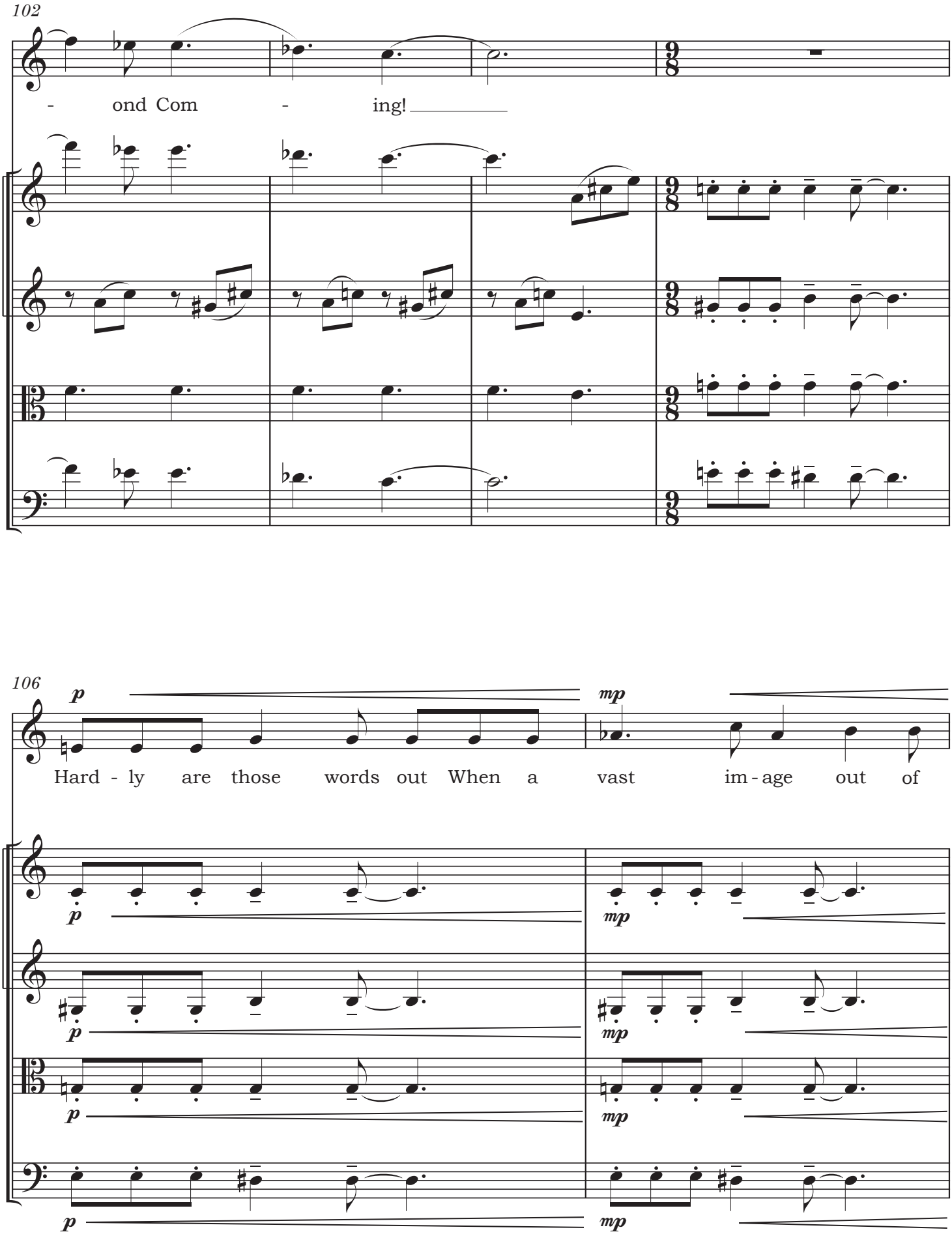


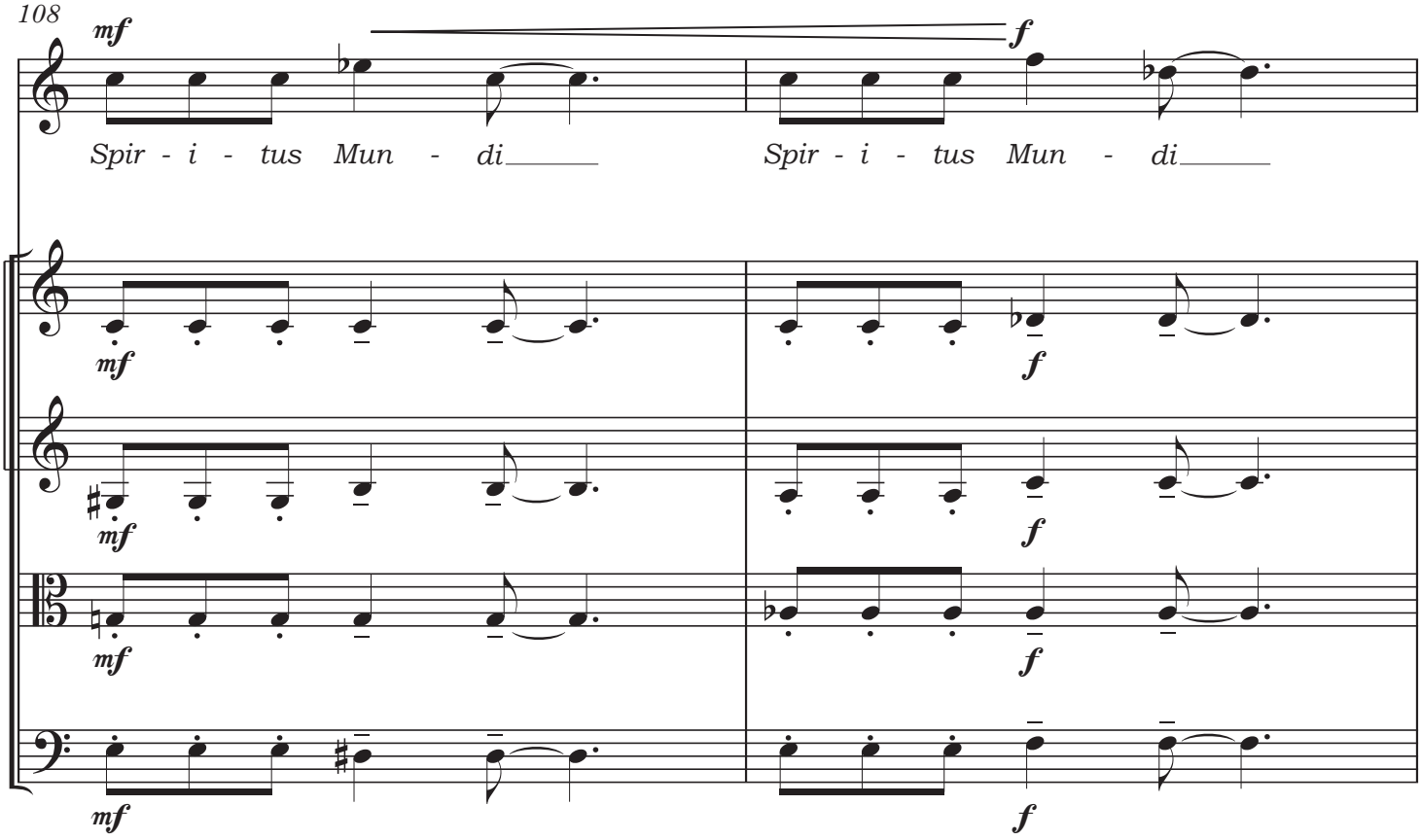
89

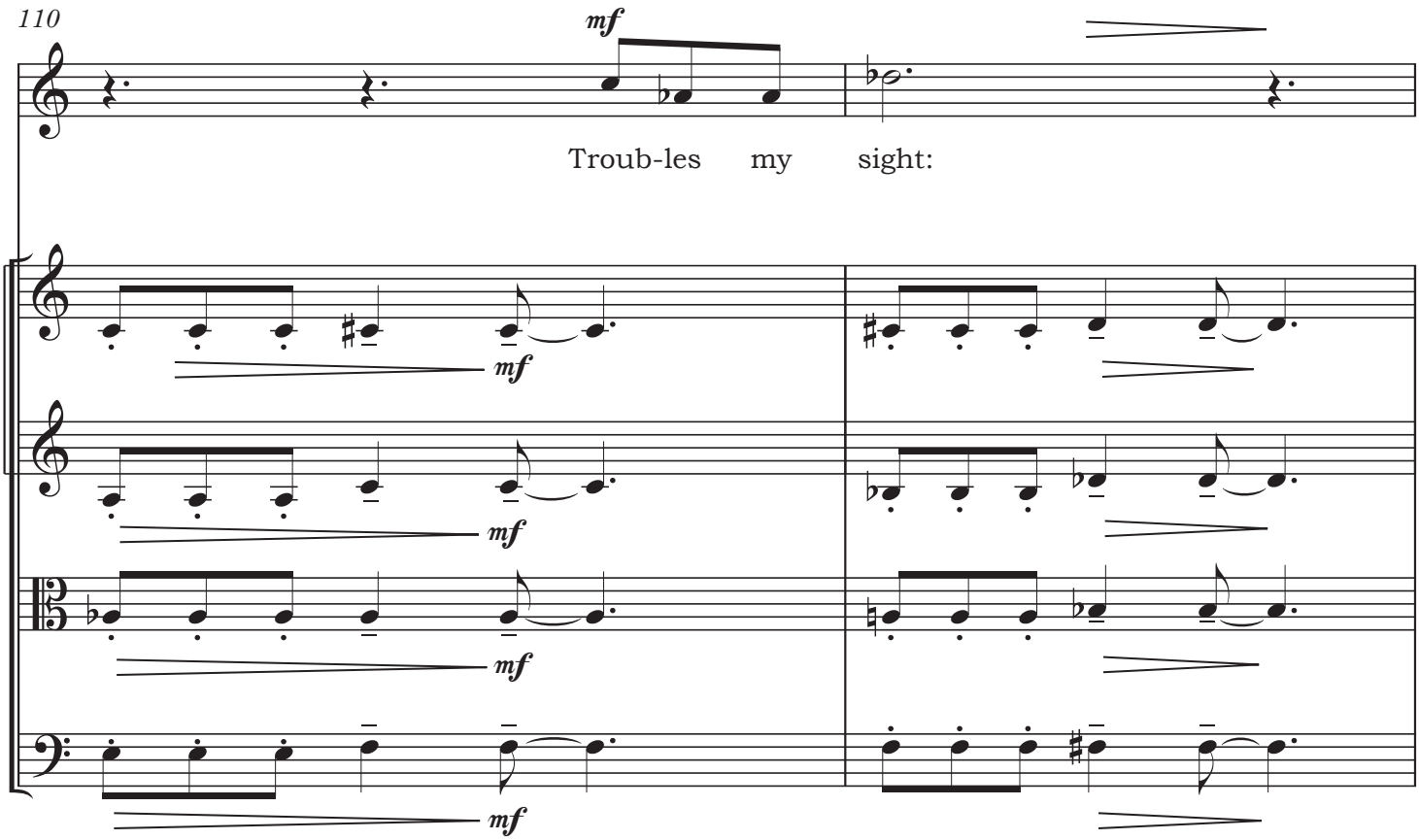


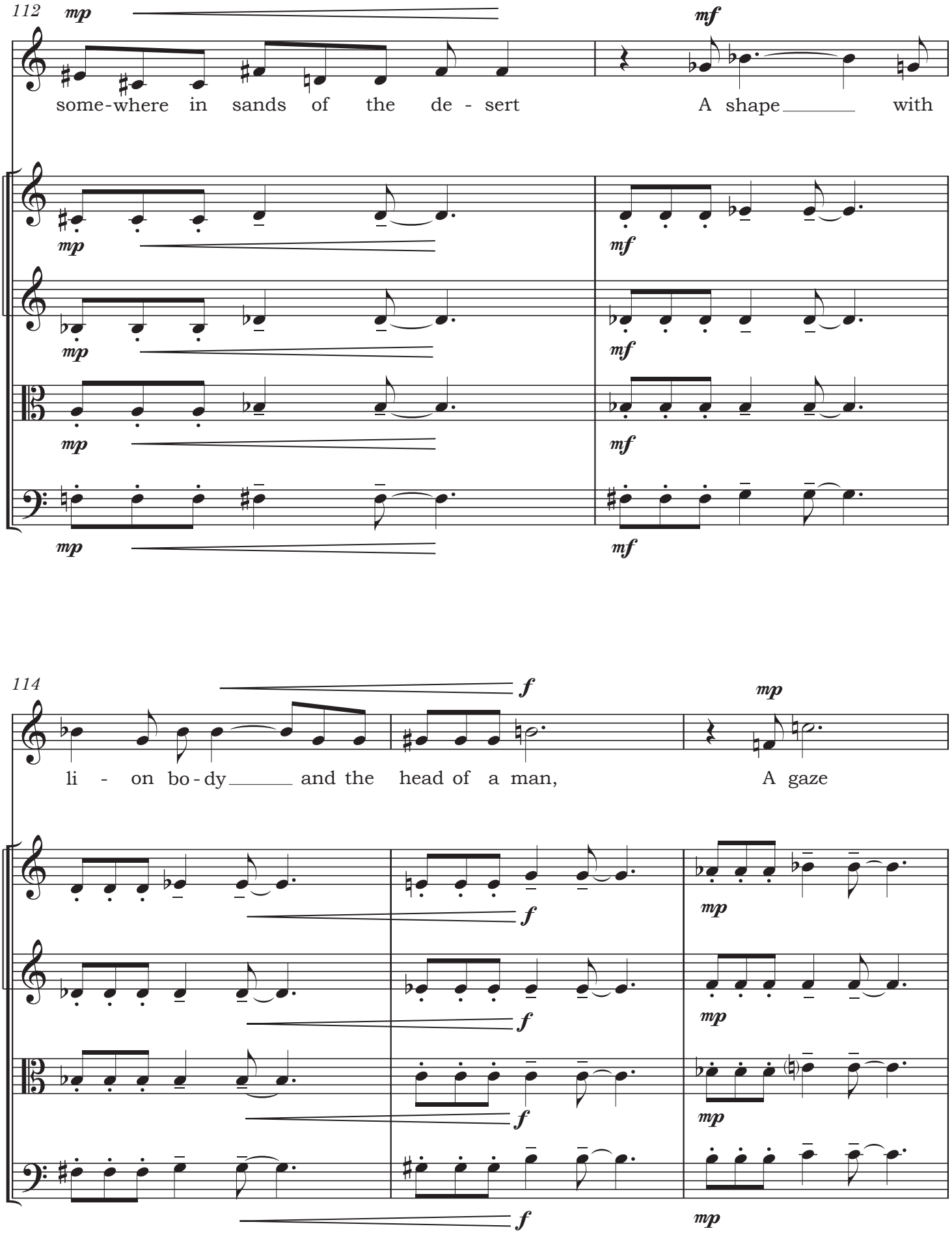

93
mp
mf
Sure-ly the Sec - ond Com - ing is at hand. The
mp
mf
mp
mp

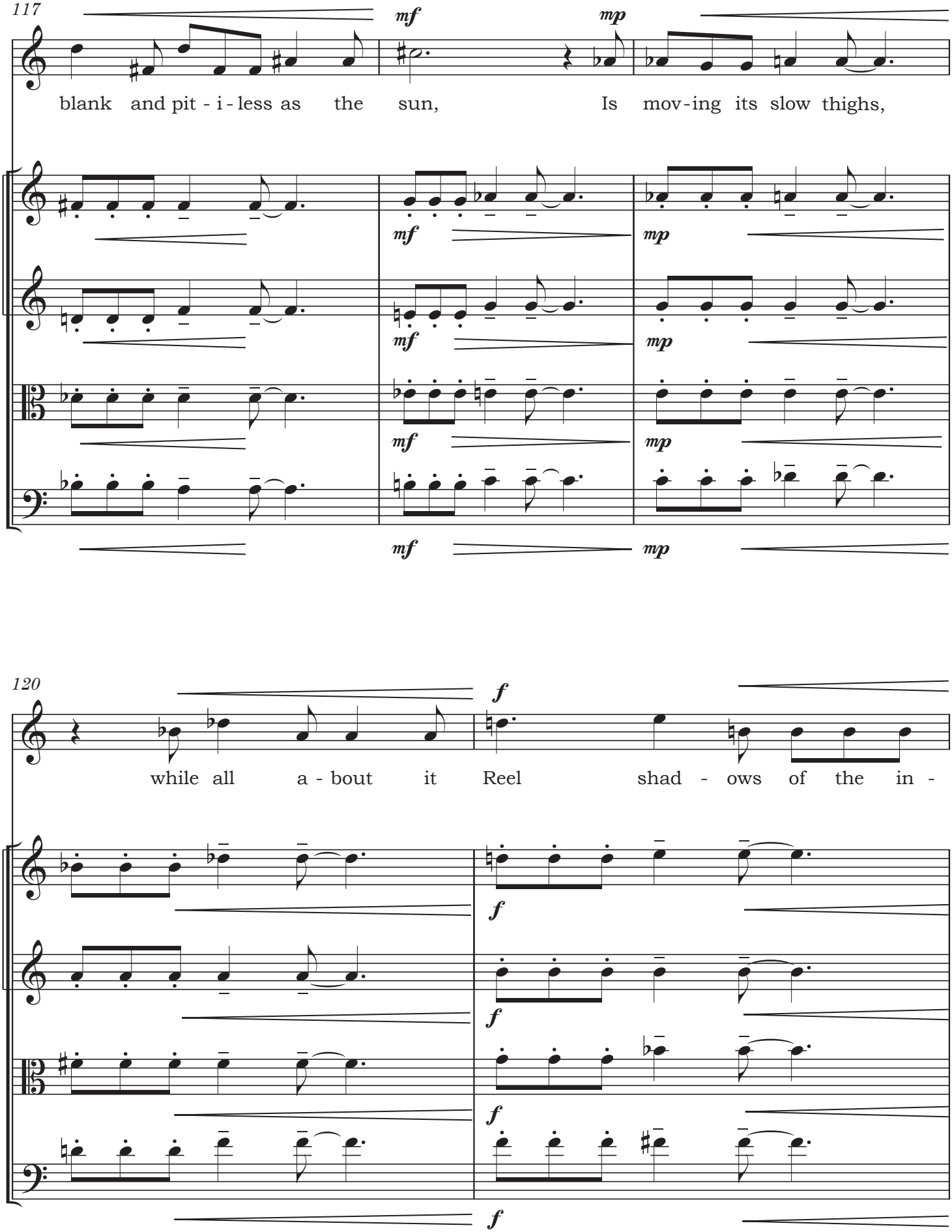

97
f
Sec - ond Com - ing! The Sec -
f
mf
f
mf
f
pizz.
arco
mf
f

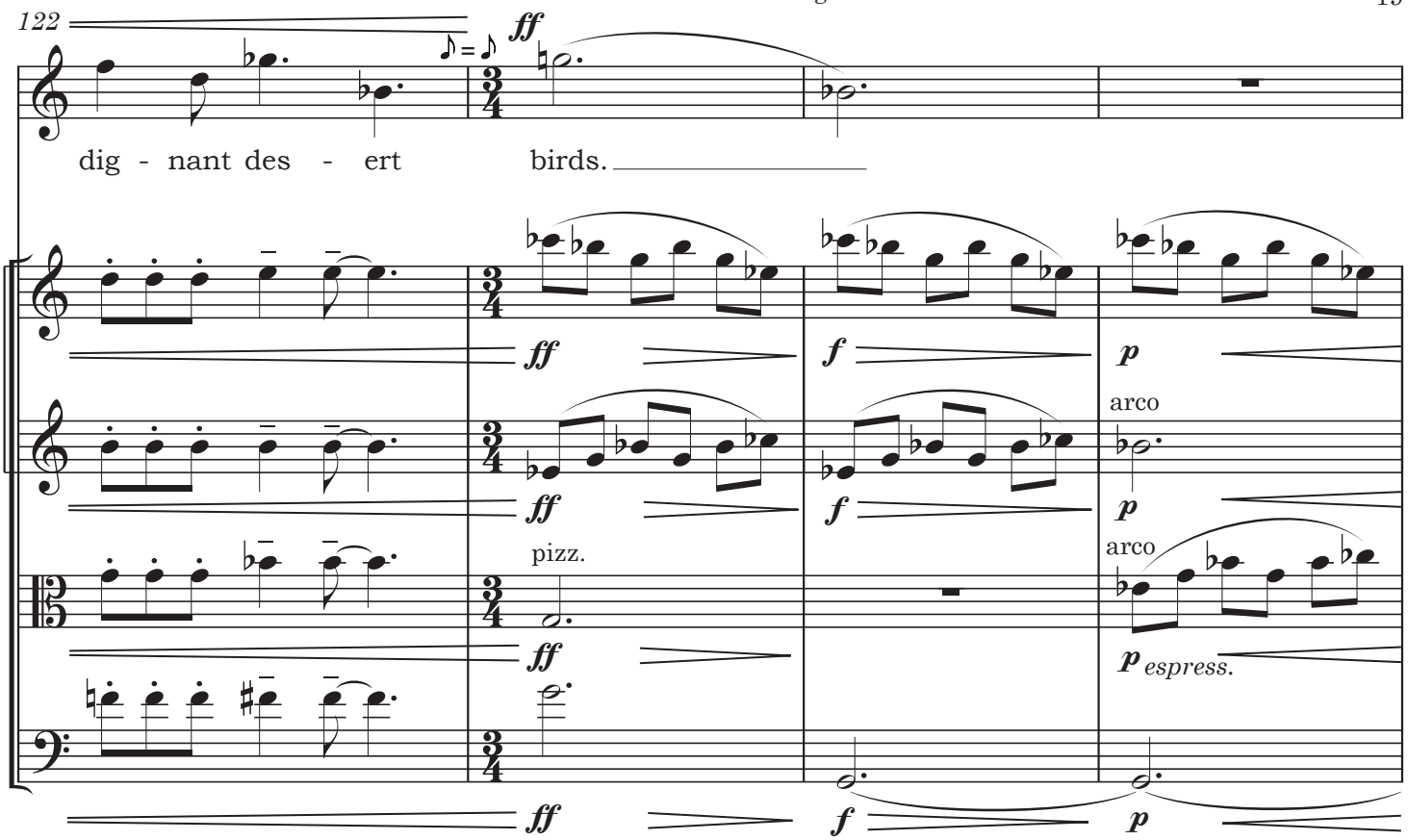

102
- ond Com - ing!
106
p
mp
Hard - ly are those words out When a vast im - age out of

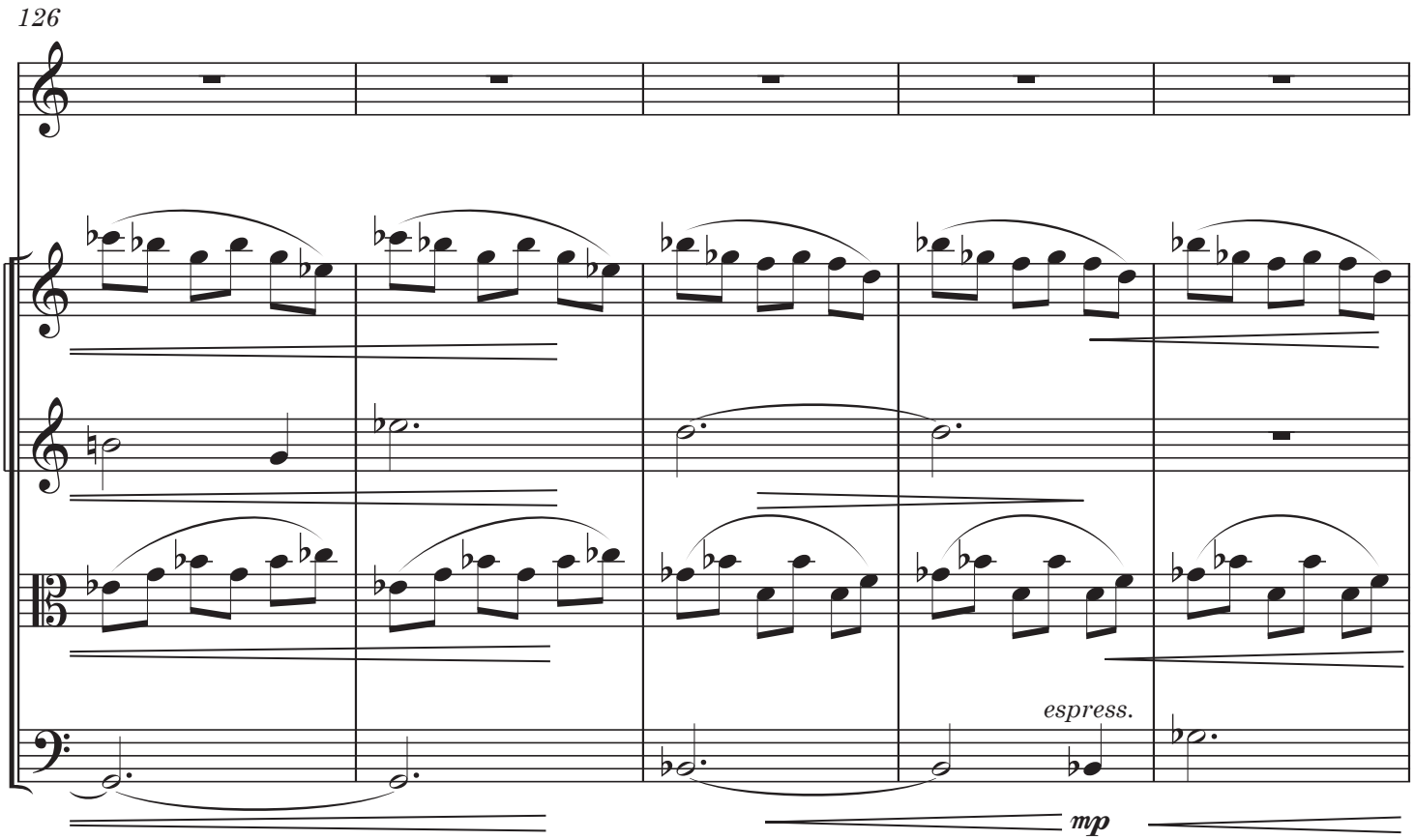

108
mf
f
Spir - i - tus Mun - di
Spir - i - tus Mun - di


110
mf
Troub-les my sight:

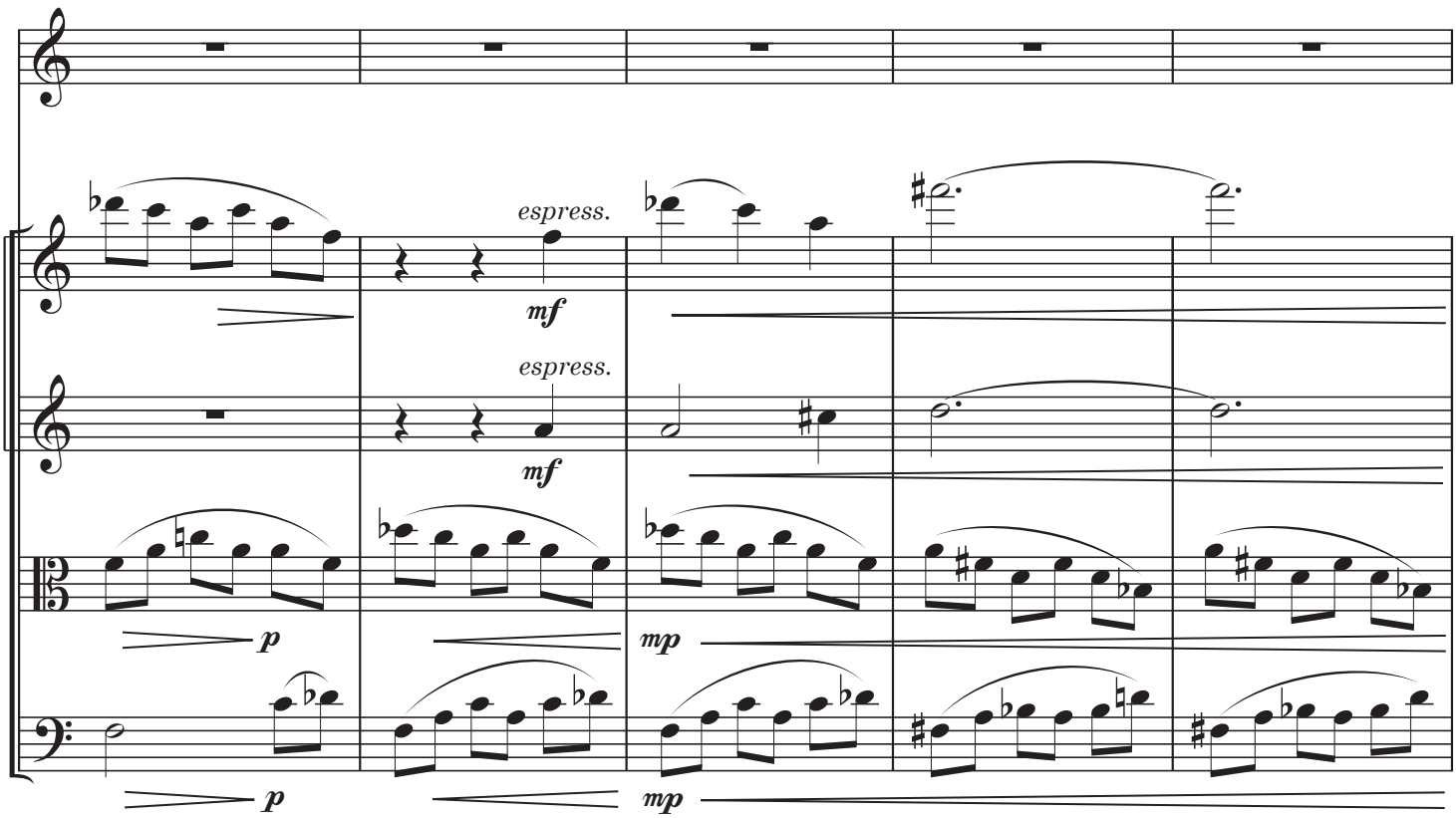

112
mp
mf
some-where in sands of the de - sert
A shape
with
114
f
mp
li - on bo-dy
and the head of a man,
A gaze


117
mf
mp
blank and pit - i - less as the sun, Is mov - ing its slow thighs,
120
f
while all a - bout it Reel shad - ows of the in -

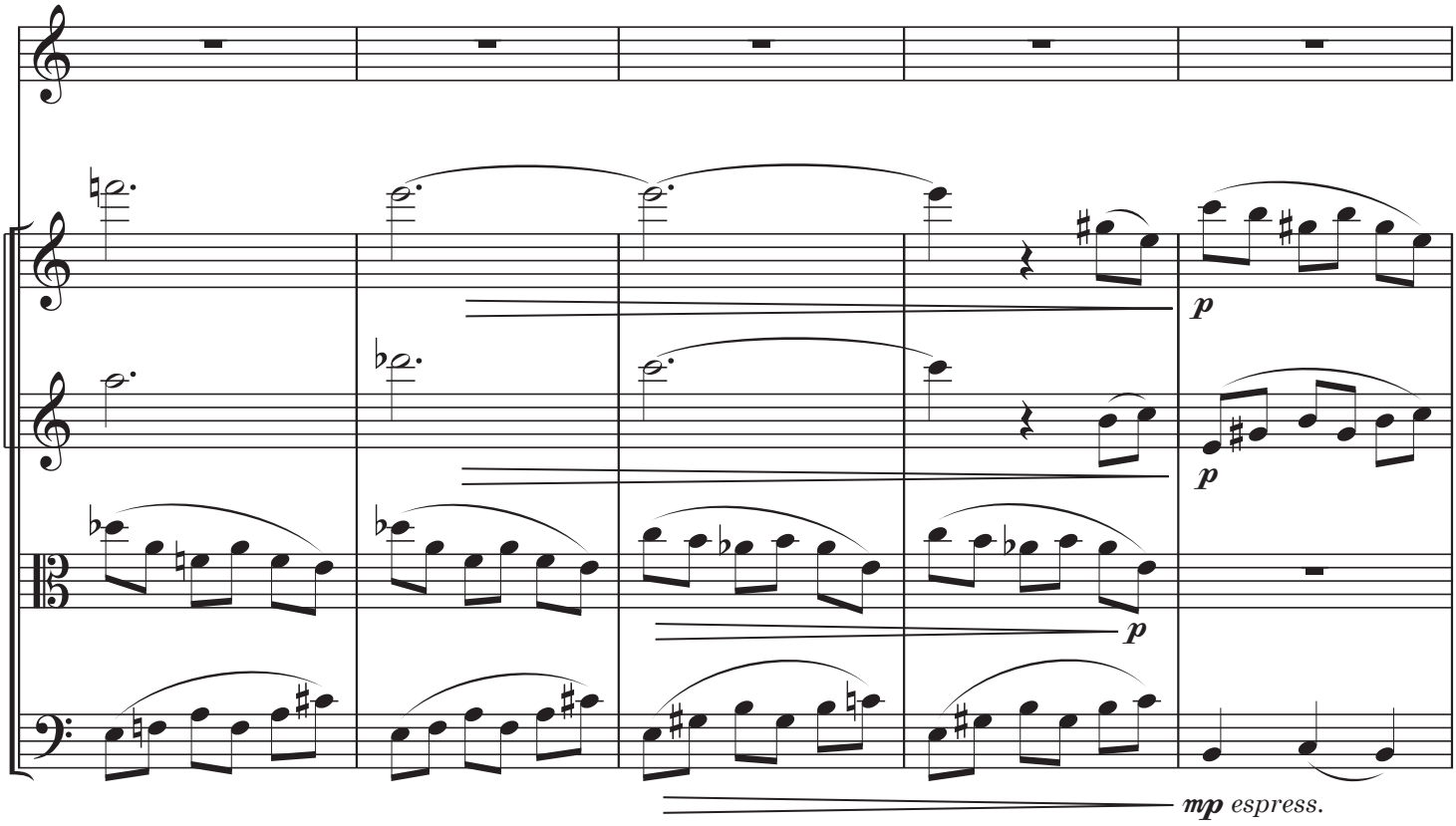

122
ff
dig - nant des - ert birds.
pizz.
arco
arco
espress.

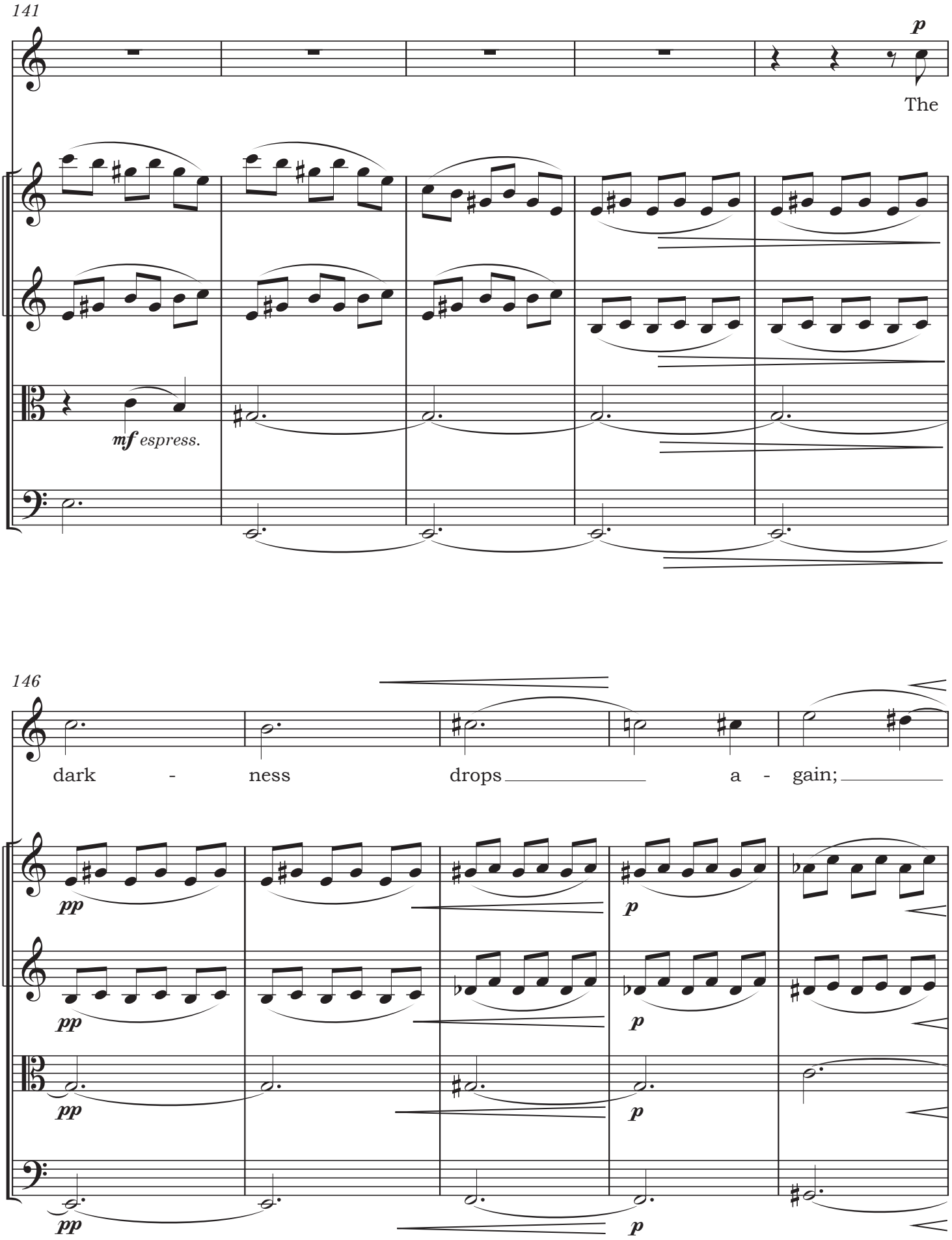

126
espress.
mp

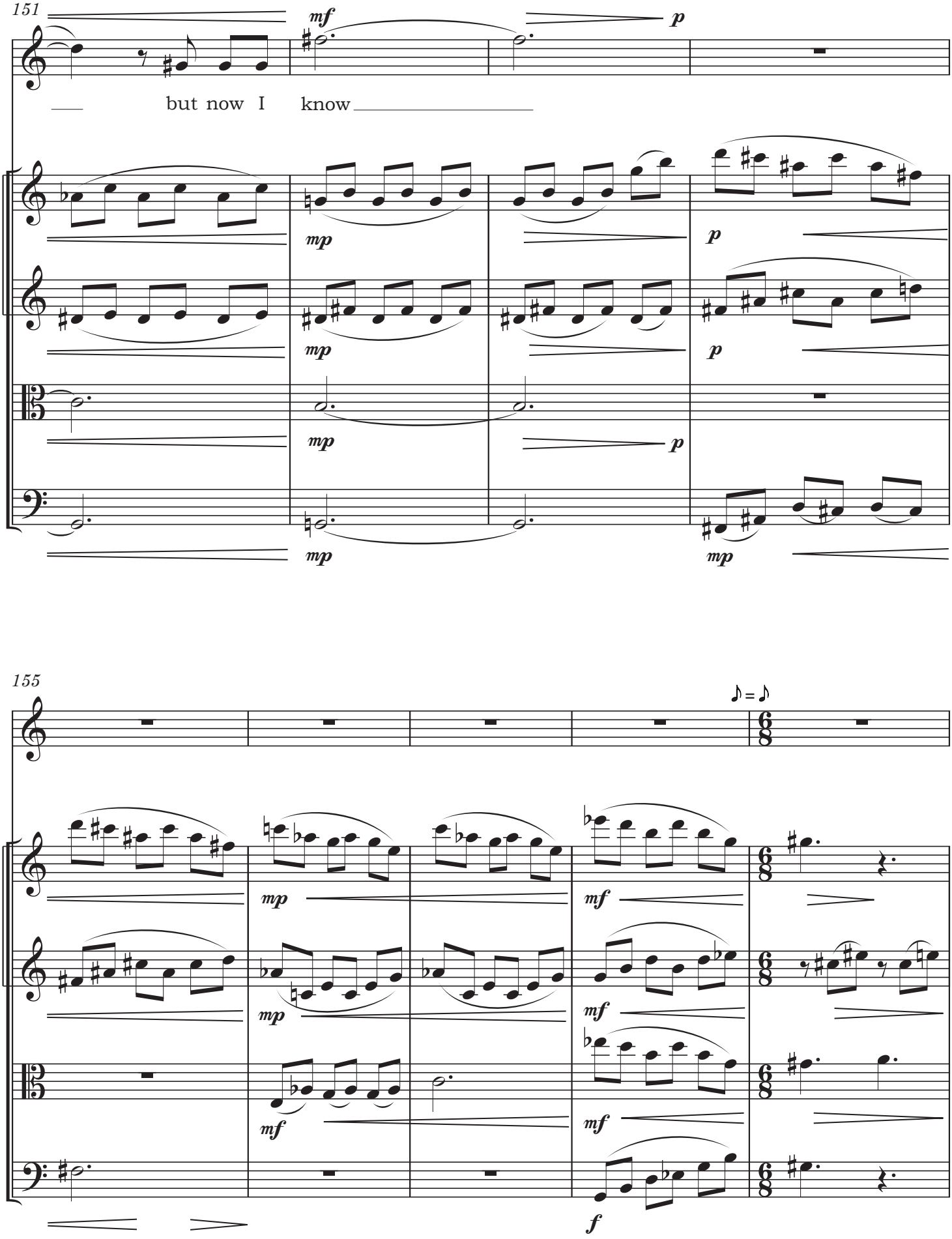
131

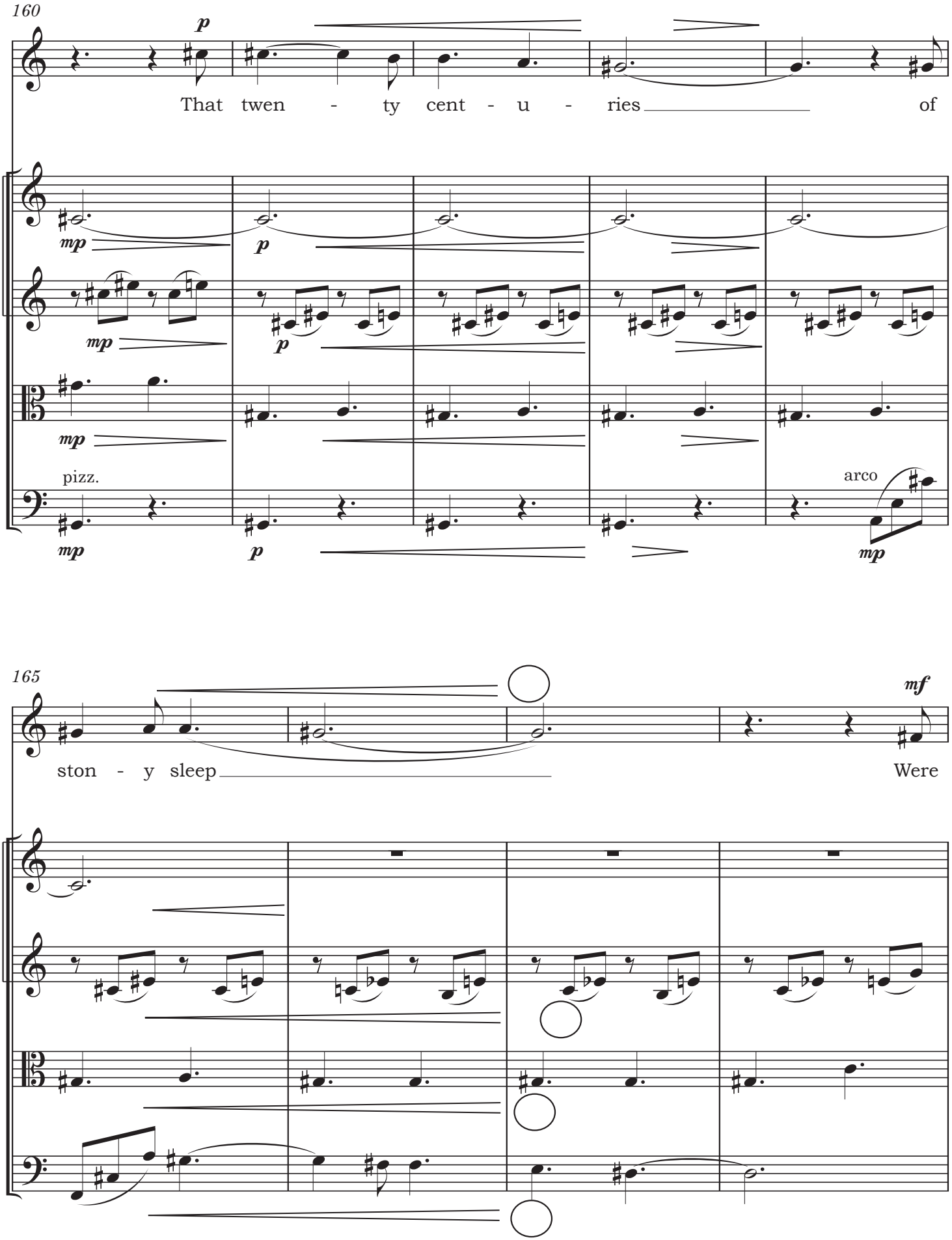


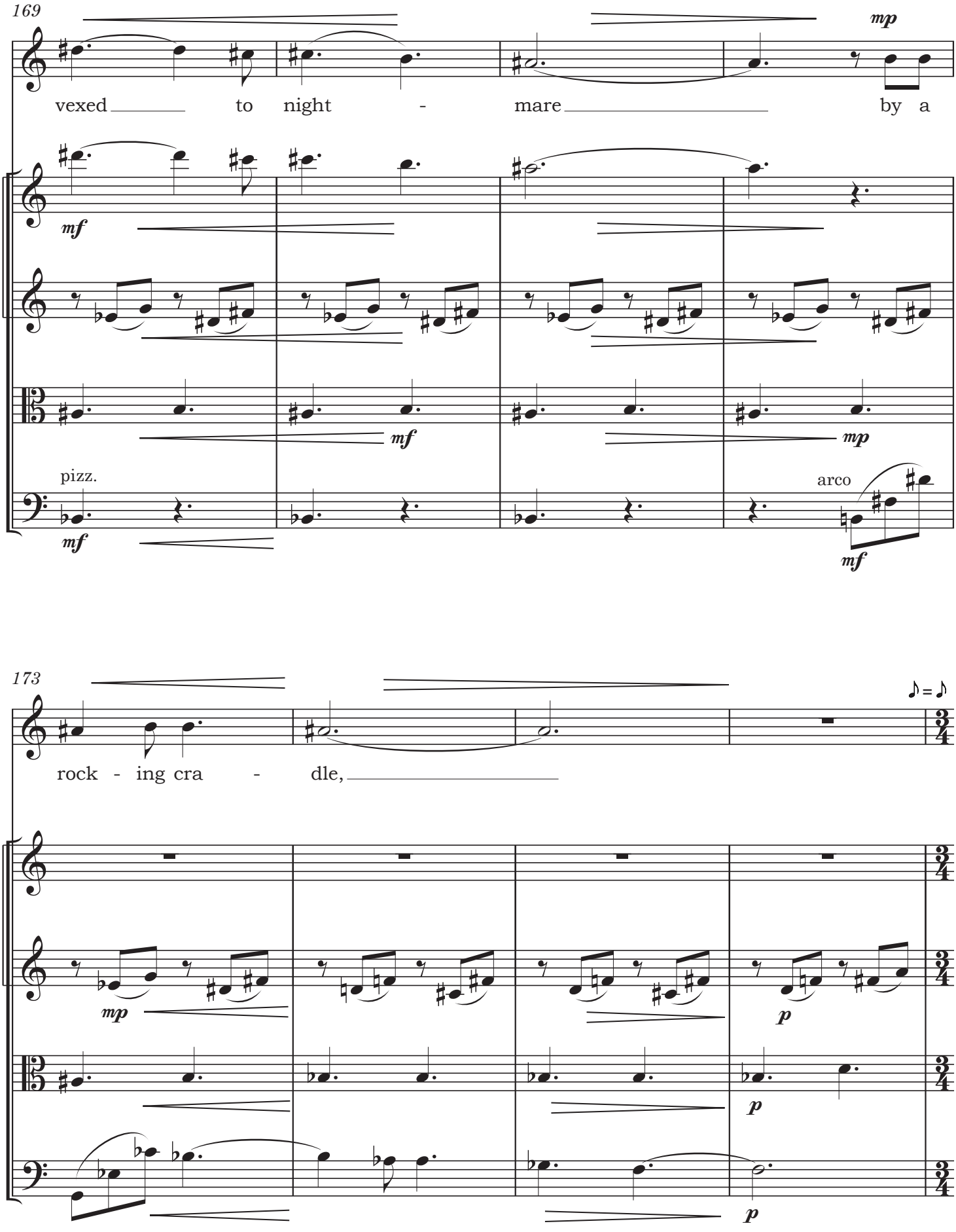
136

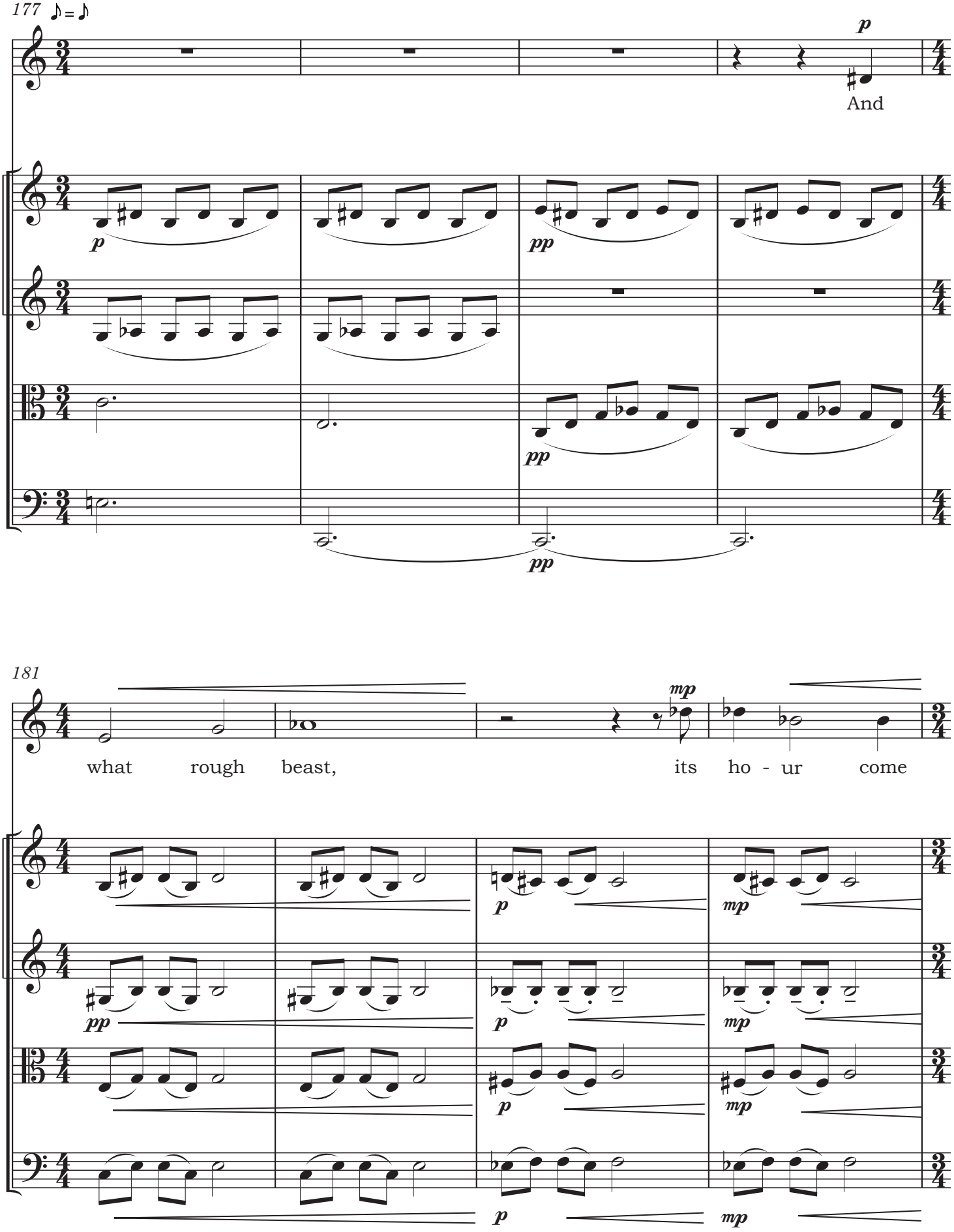



141
p
The
mf espress.
146
dark - ness drops a - gain;
pp
p

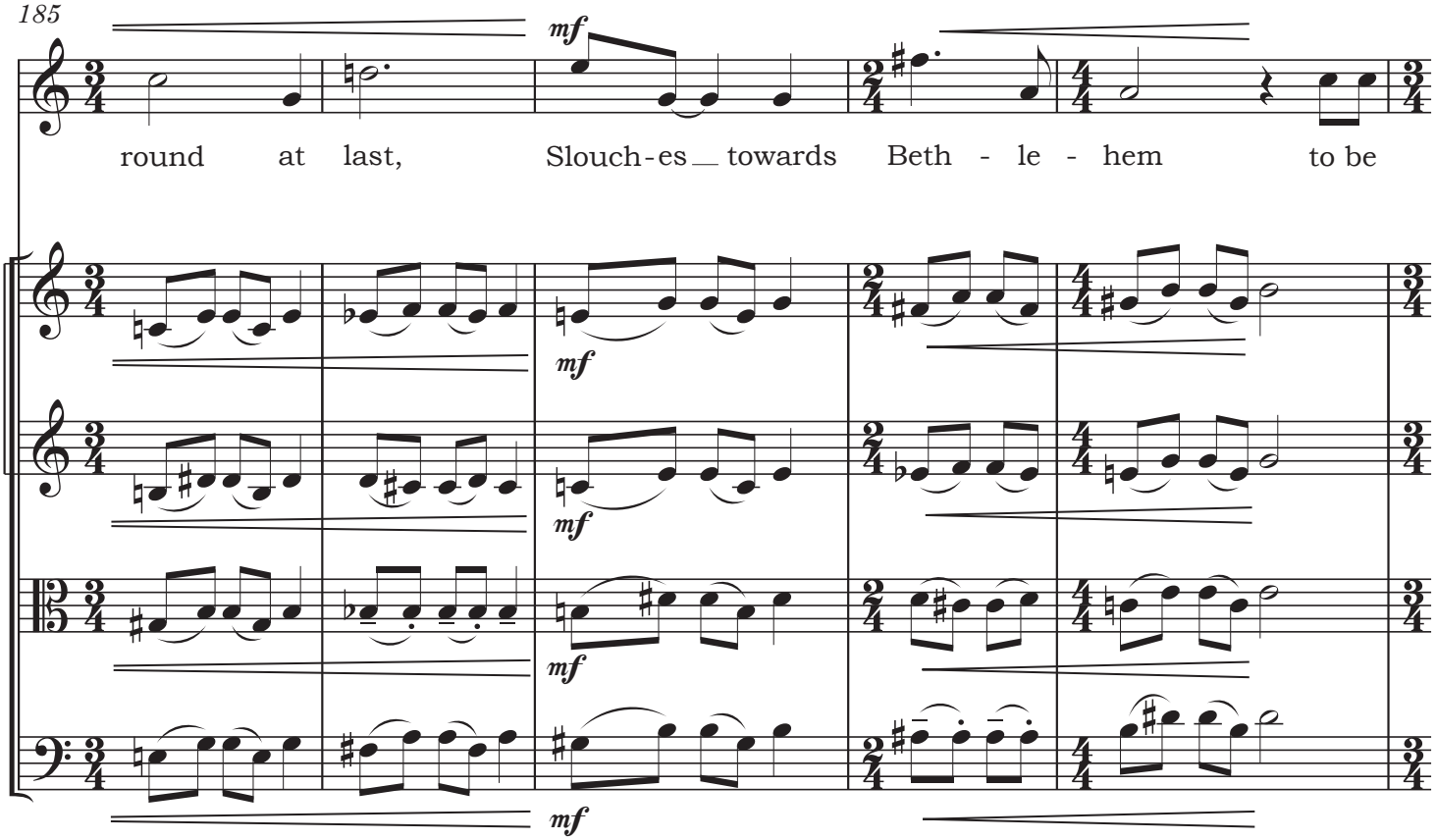

151
mf
p
but now I know
mp
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp
155
♪ = ♪
mp
mf
mp
mf
mf
mf
f


160
That twen - ty cent - u - ries of
pizz.
arco
165
ston - y sleep
Were

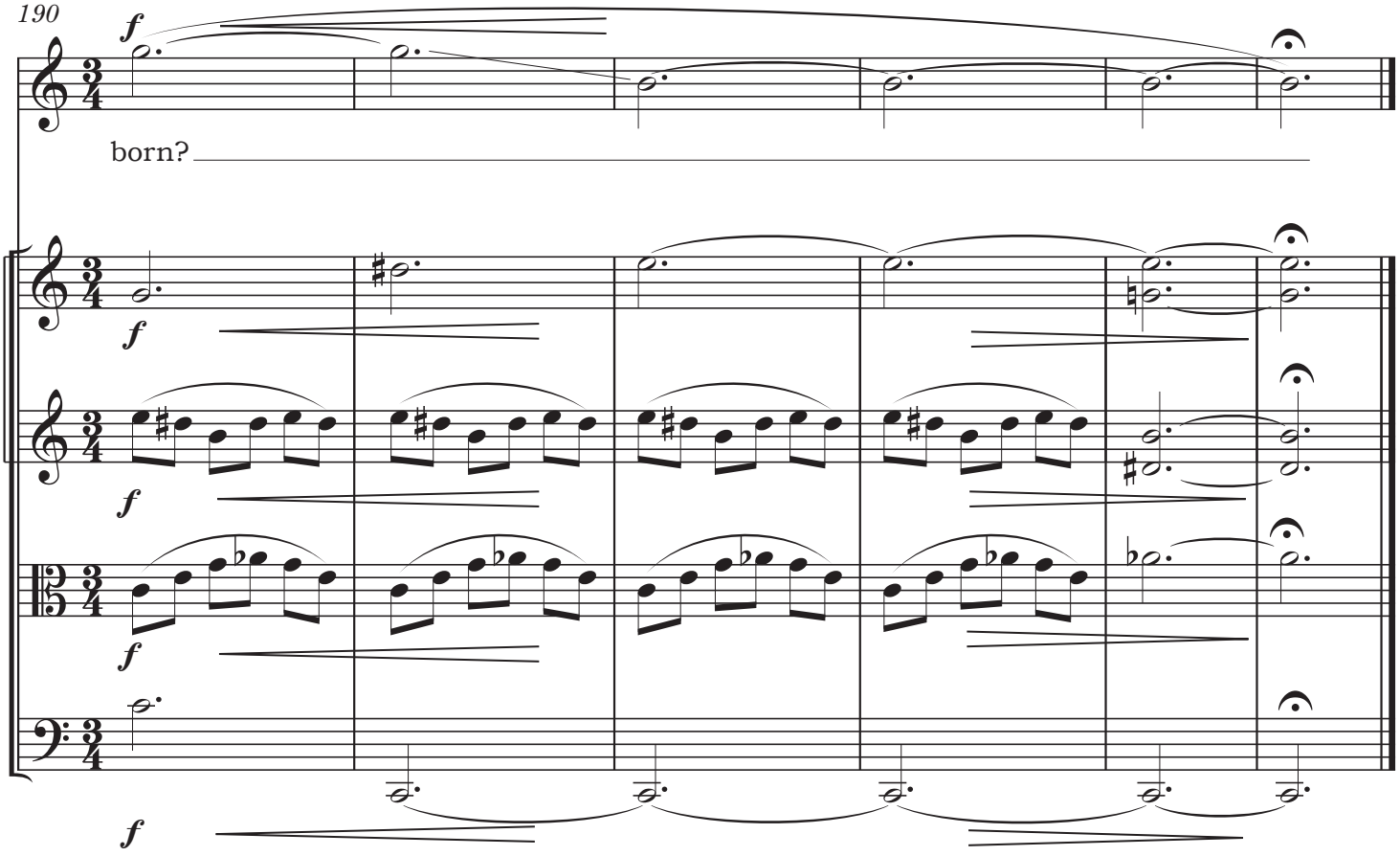

169
mp
vexed to night - mare by a
mf
mf
mp
pizz.
mf
arco
mf
173
♪ = ♪
rock - ing cra - dle,
mp
p
p
p


177 ♪ = ♪
p
And
p
pp
pp
pp
181
mp
what rough beast, its ho - ur come
pp
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp

185


mf
round at last, Slouch-es towards Beth - le - hem to be
mf
mf
mf
mf

190


f
born?
f
f
f
f