Master Vocal Series

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

(1872-1958)

ON WENLOCK EDGE

A Cycle of Six Songs

(Original Version)

FOR TENOR VOICE, PIANO AND STRING QUARTET (ad lib.)

Words by
A. E. HOUSMAN
(from "A Shropshire Lad")

1. *On Wenlock Edge*
2. *From Far, From Eve and Morning*
3. *Is My Team Ploughing*
4. *Oh, When I Was in Love with You*
5. *Bredon Hill*
6. *Clun*

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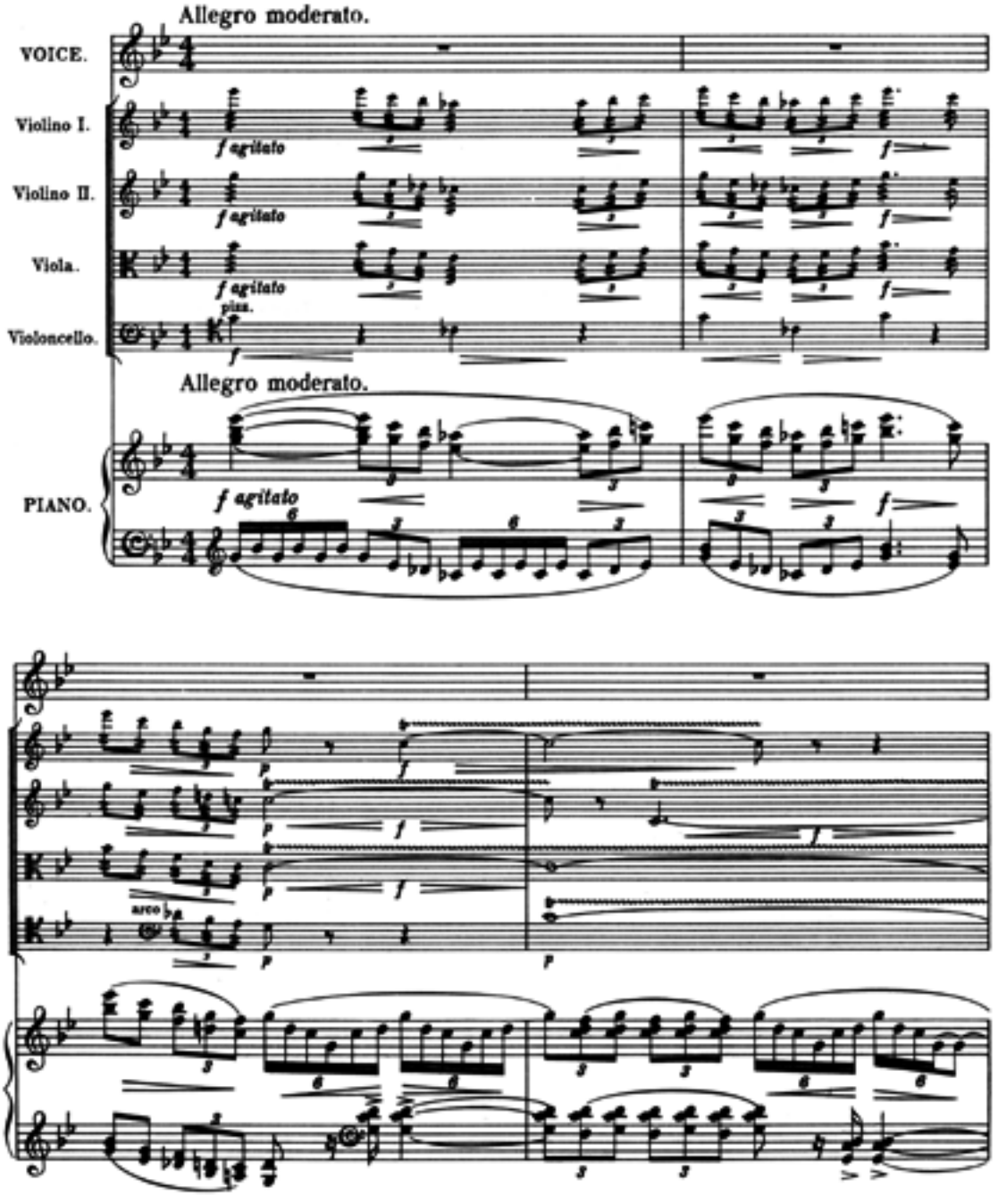
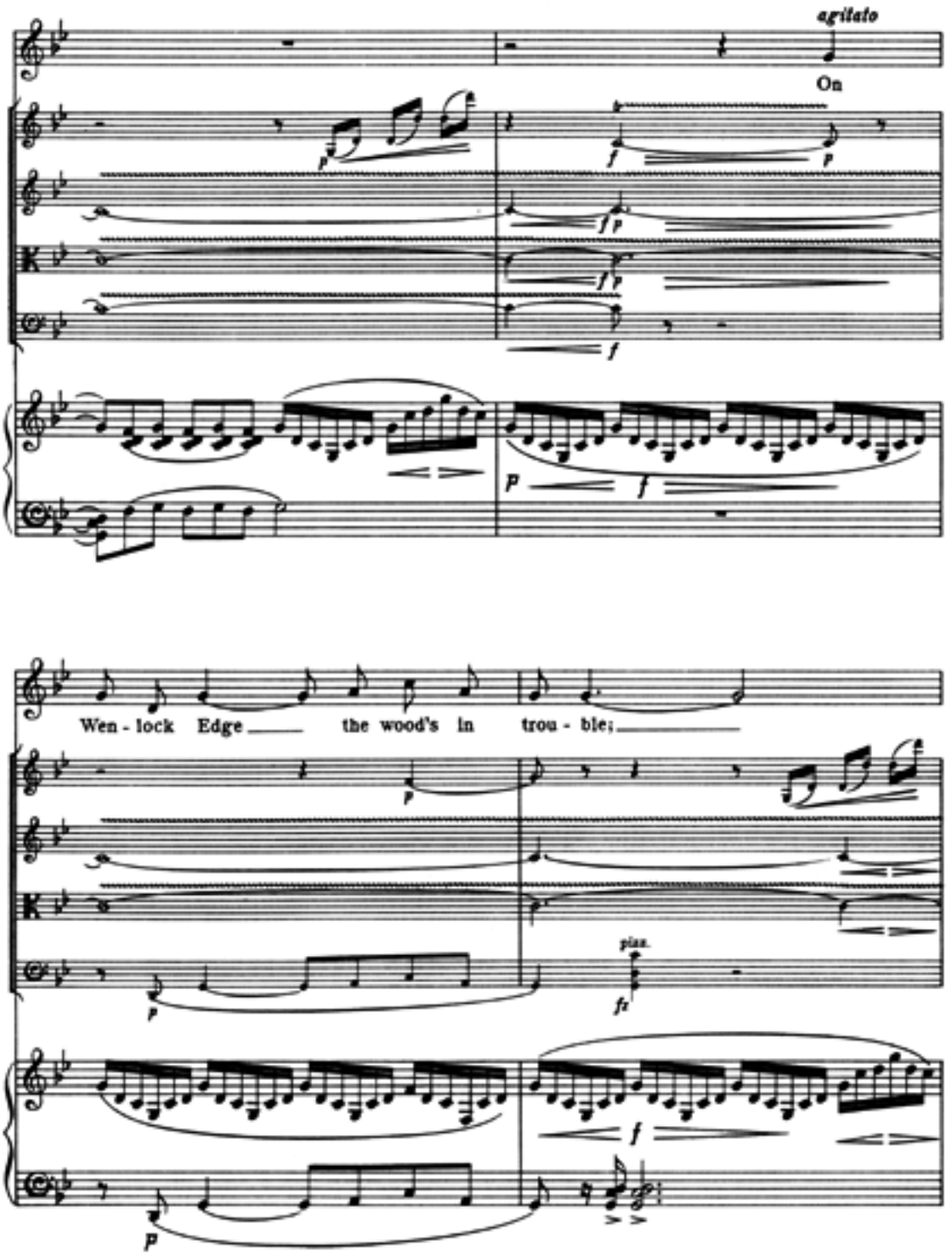
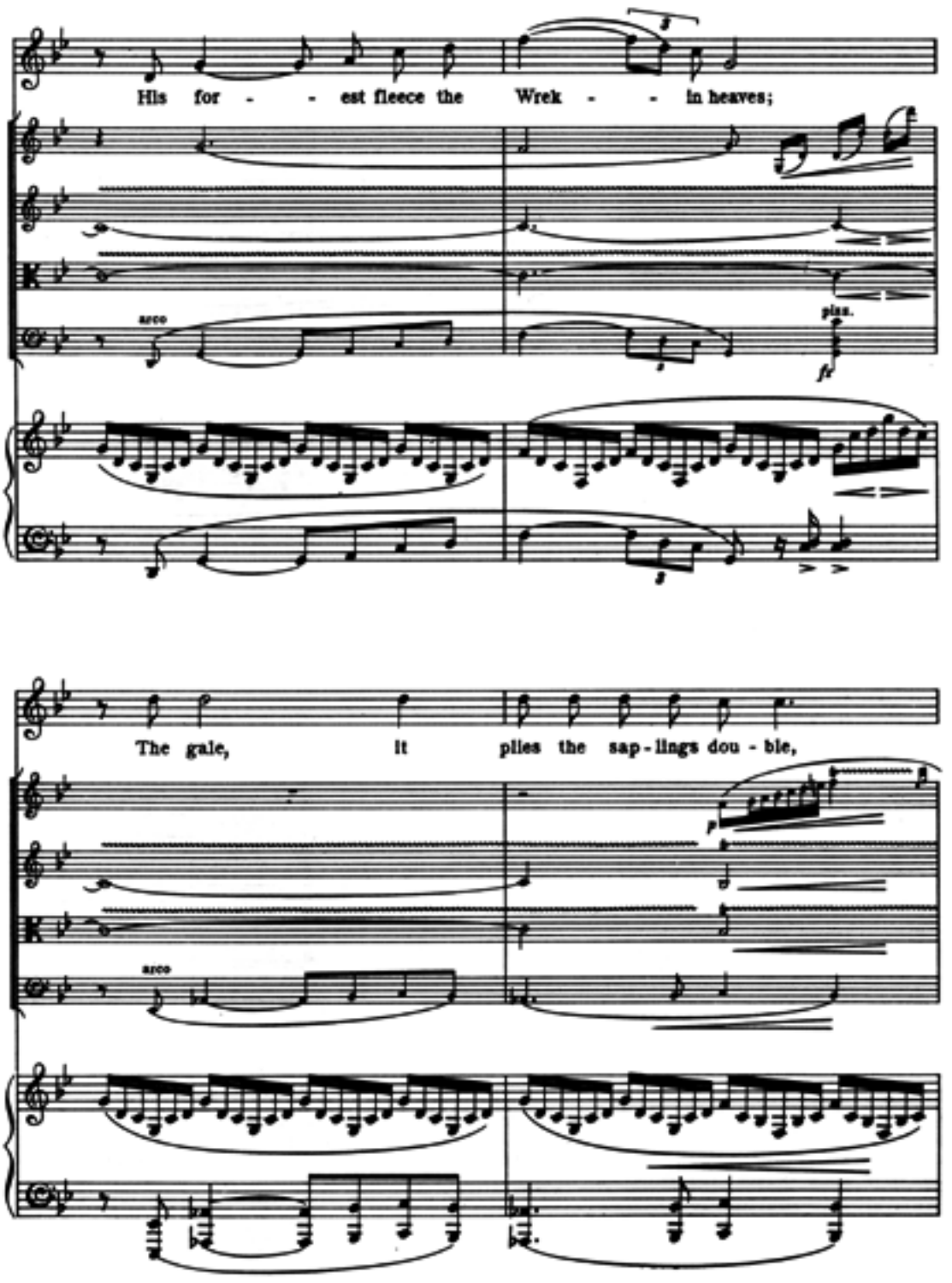
ON WENLOCK EDGE.

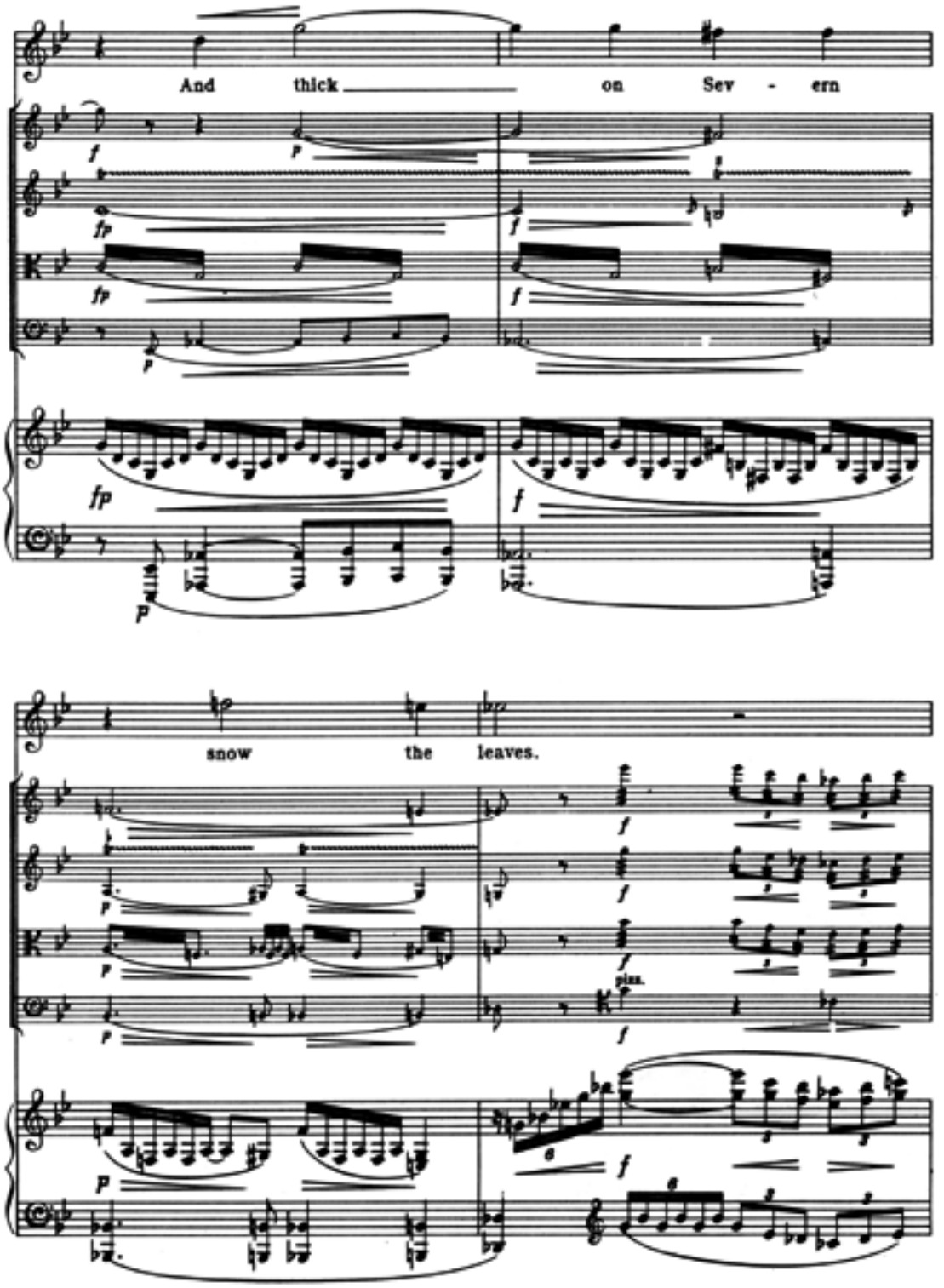
I. ON WENLOCK EDGE.

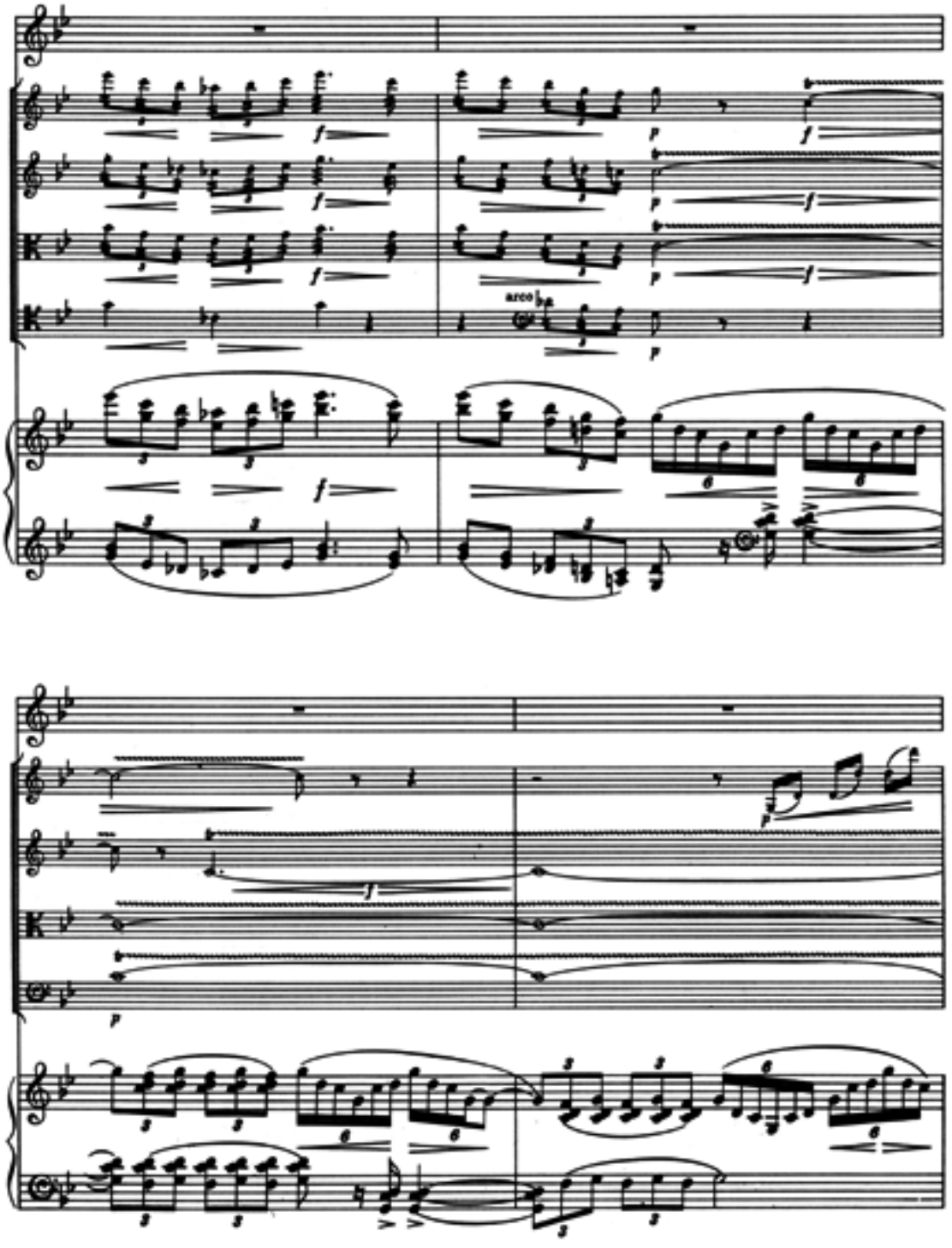
A. E. Housman. R. Vaughan Williams.

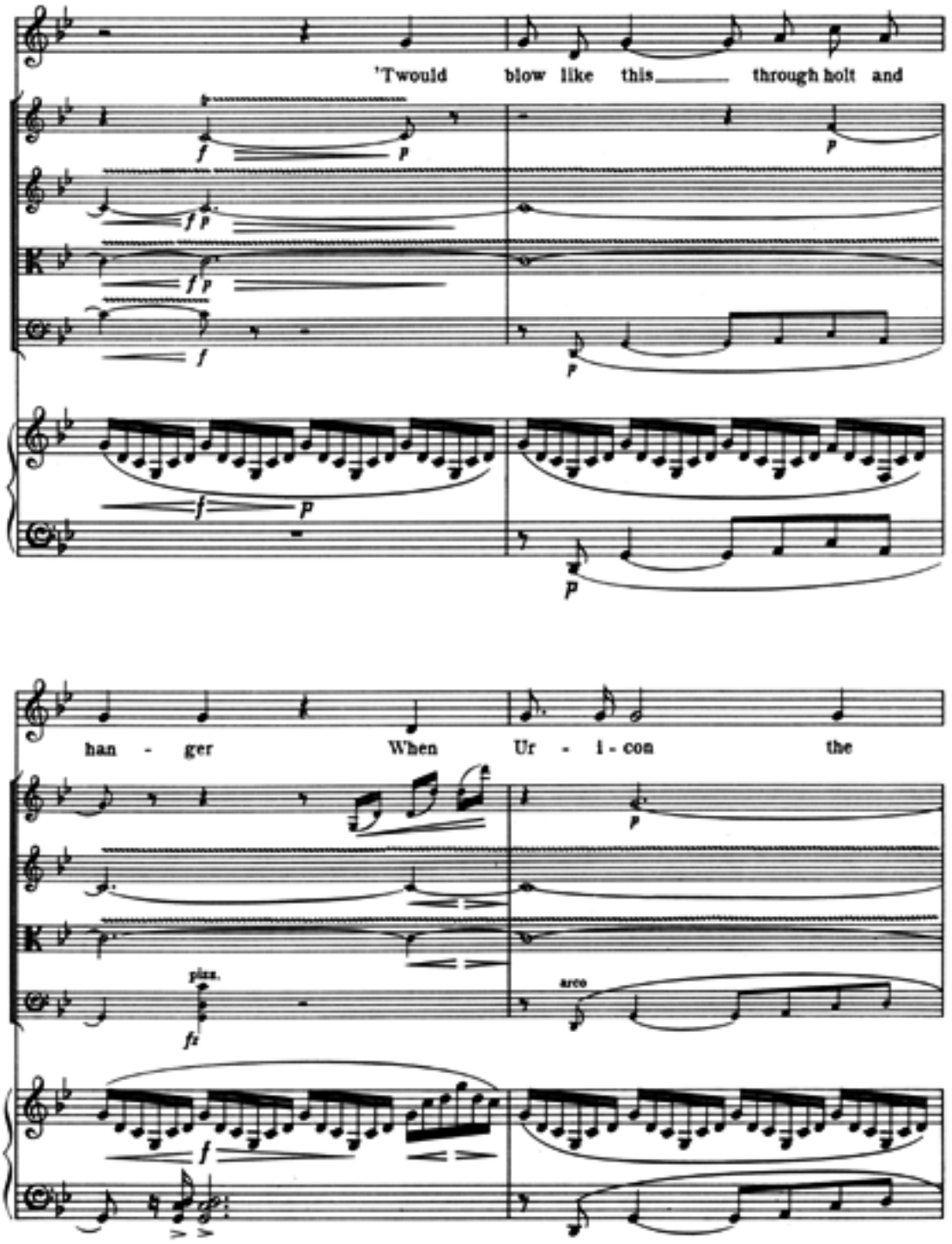


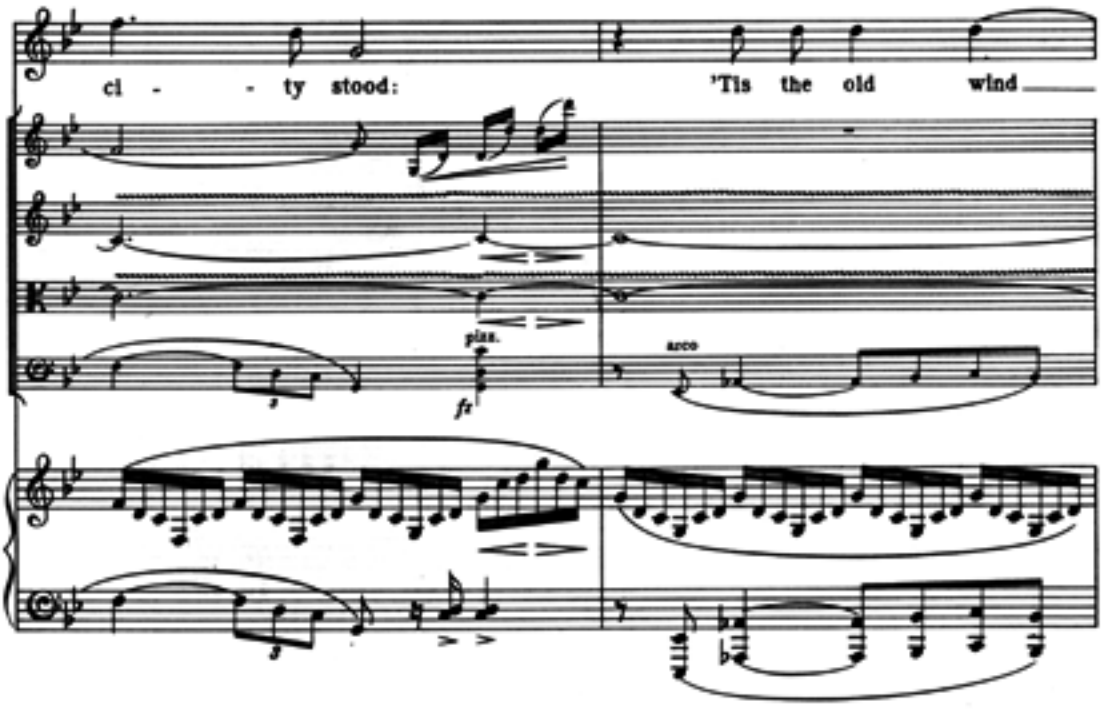

agitato
On
Wen - lock Edge the wood's in trou - ble;
piss.

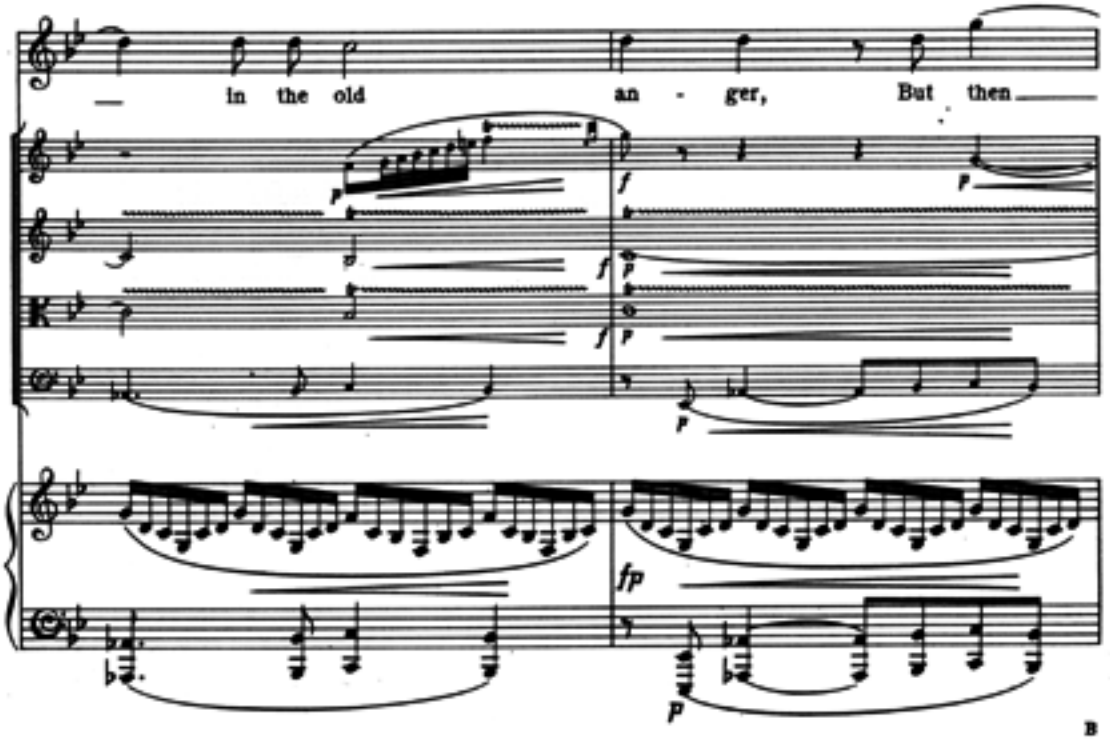

His for - - est fleece the Wrek - - in heaves;
arco
pizz.
The gale, it plies the sap - lings dou - ble,
arco

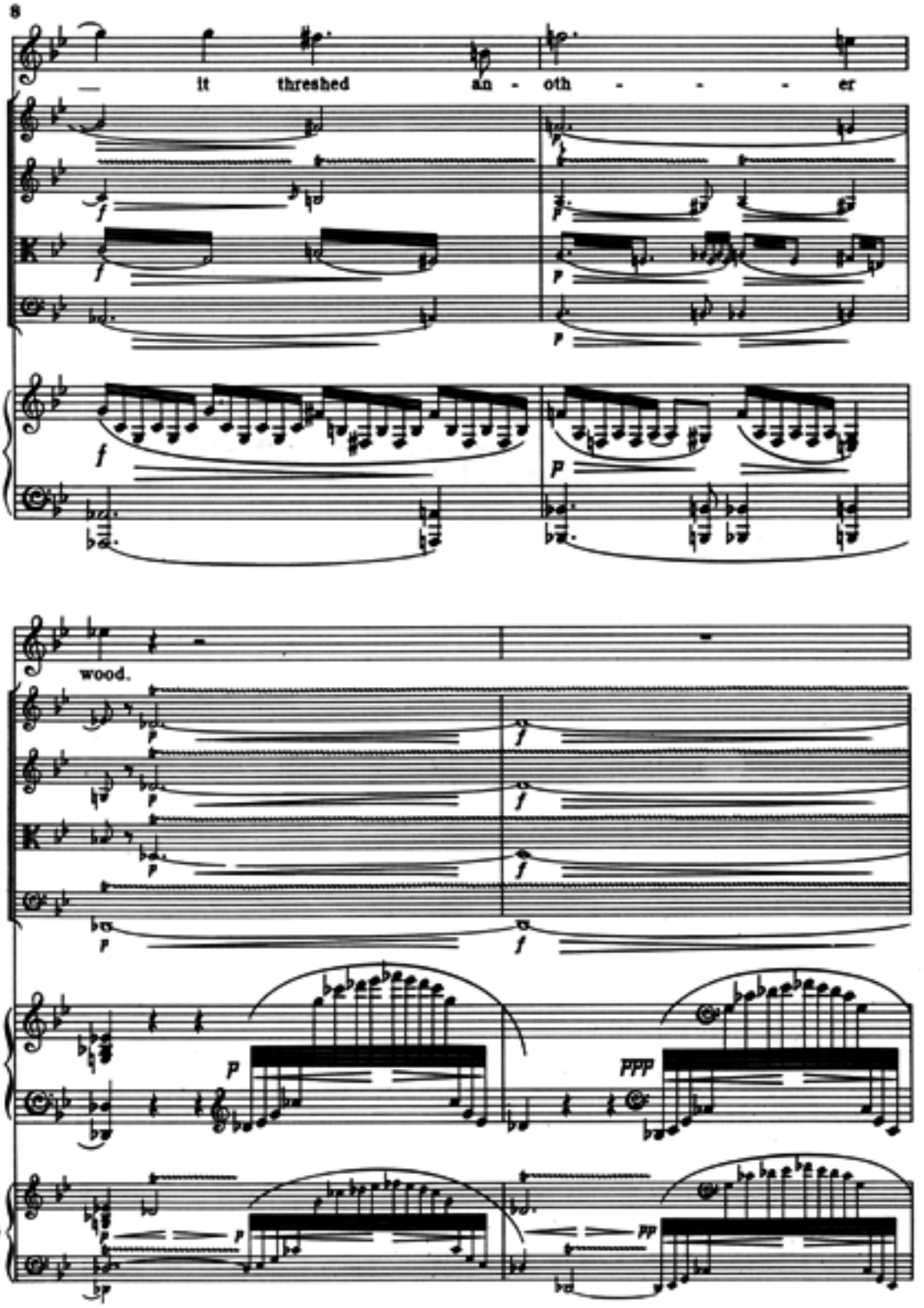

And thick on Sev - ern
snow the leaves.


arco

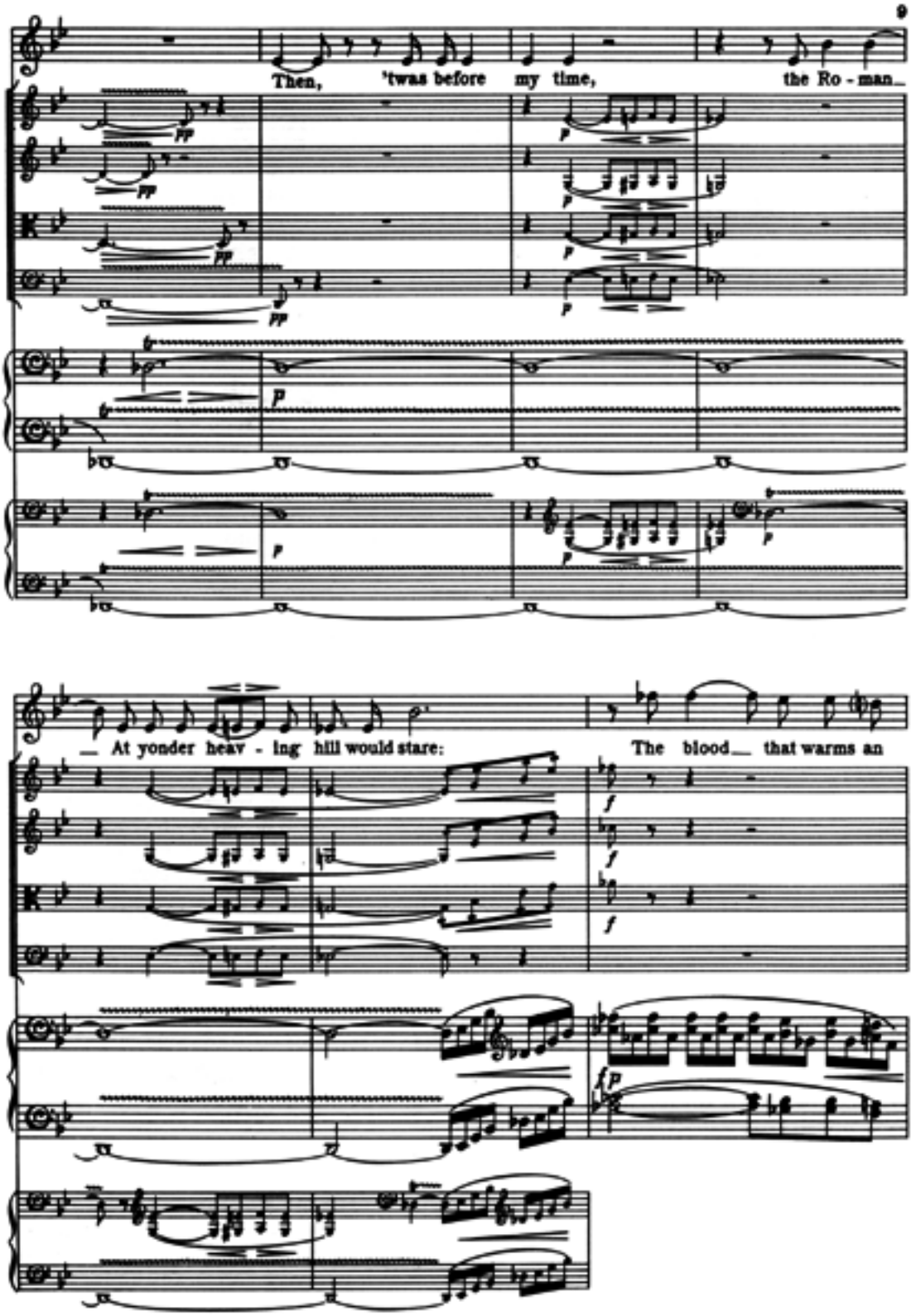

'Twould blow like this through holt and
han - ger When Ur - i - con the
pizz.
arco

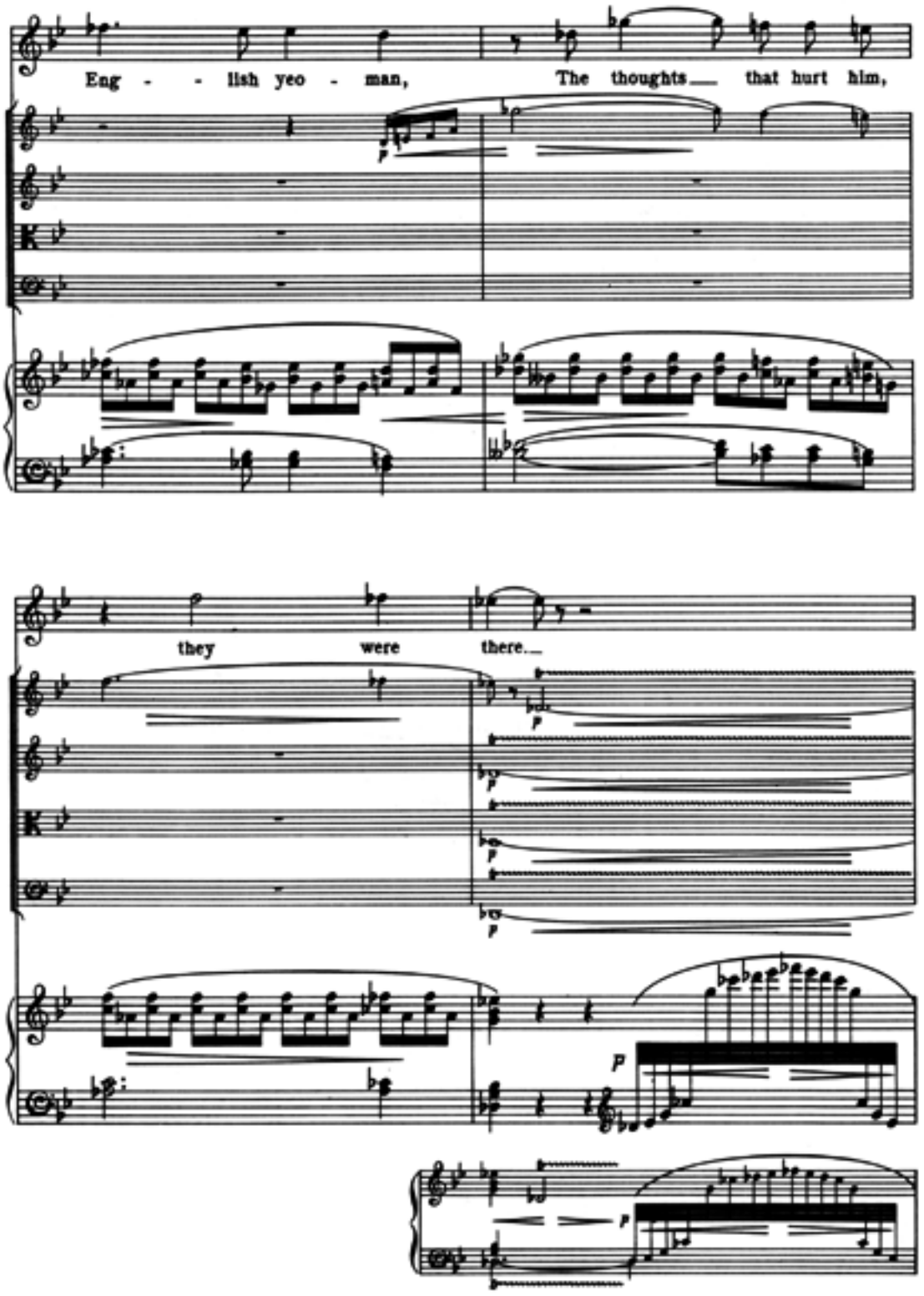

ci - - ty stood:
'Tis the old wind
pizz.
fz
arco

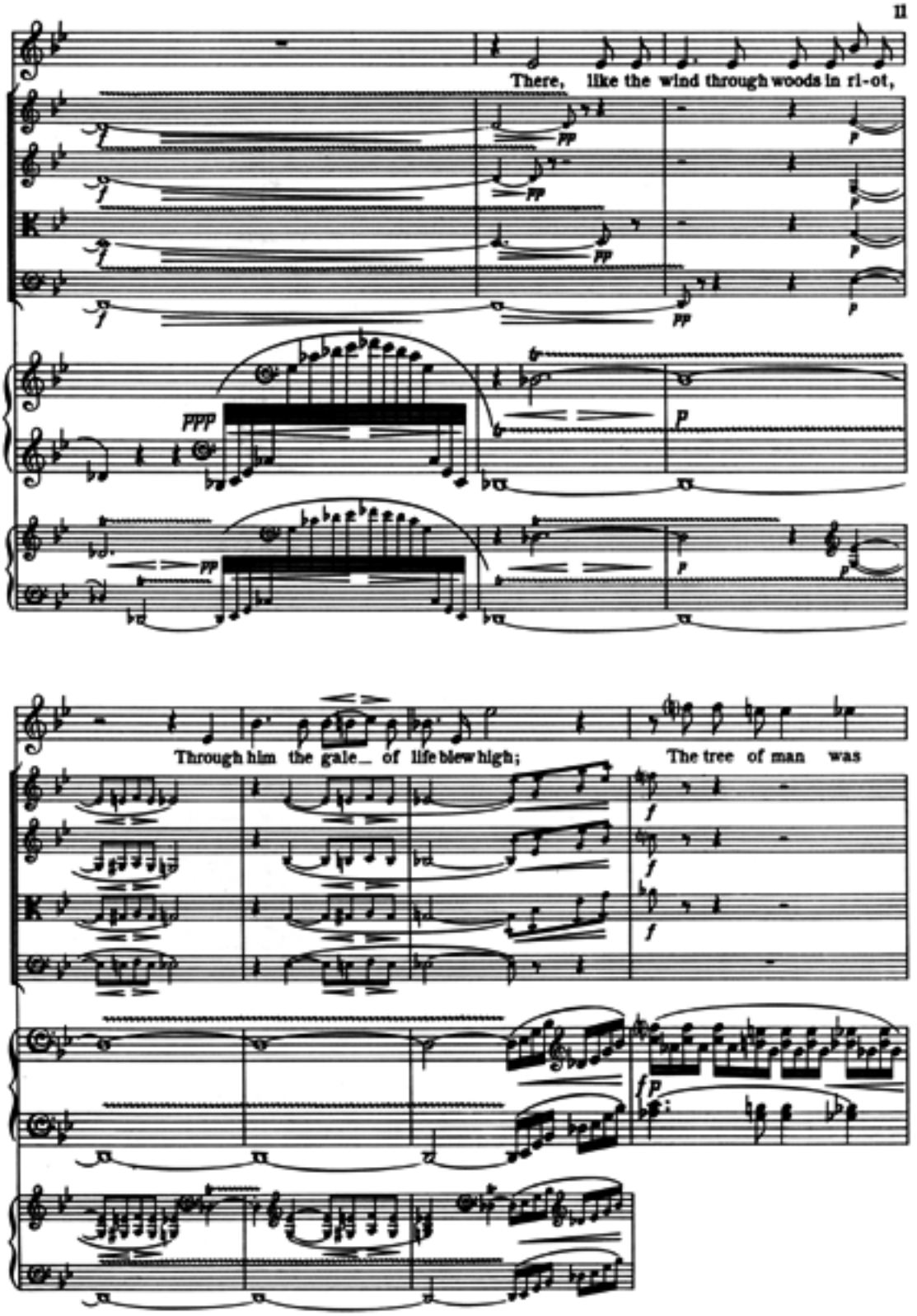

in the old
an - ger,
But then
p
f
fp

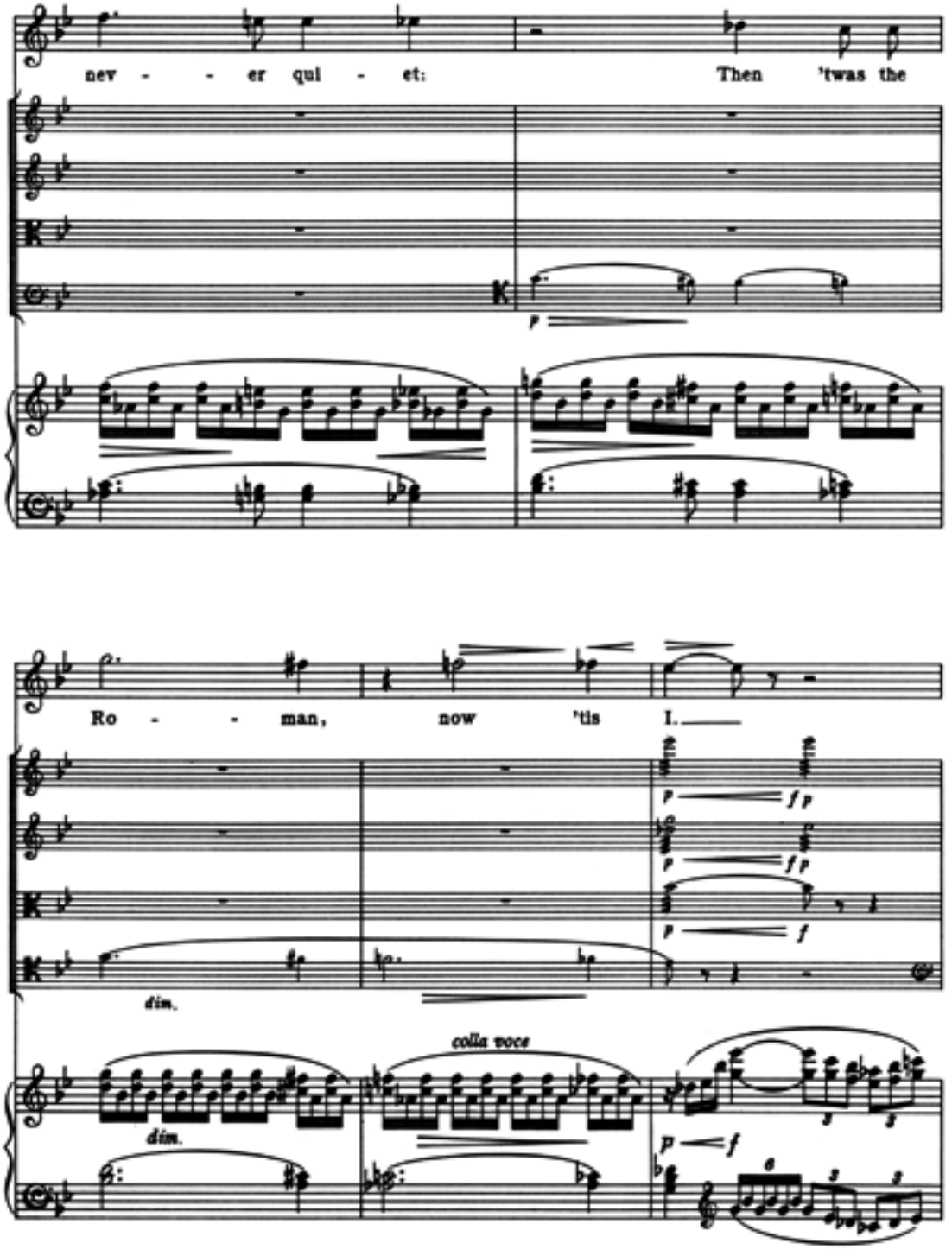


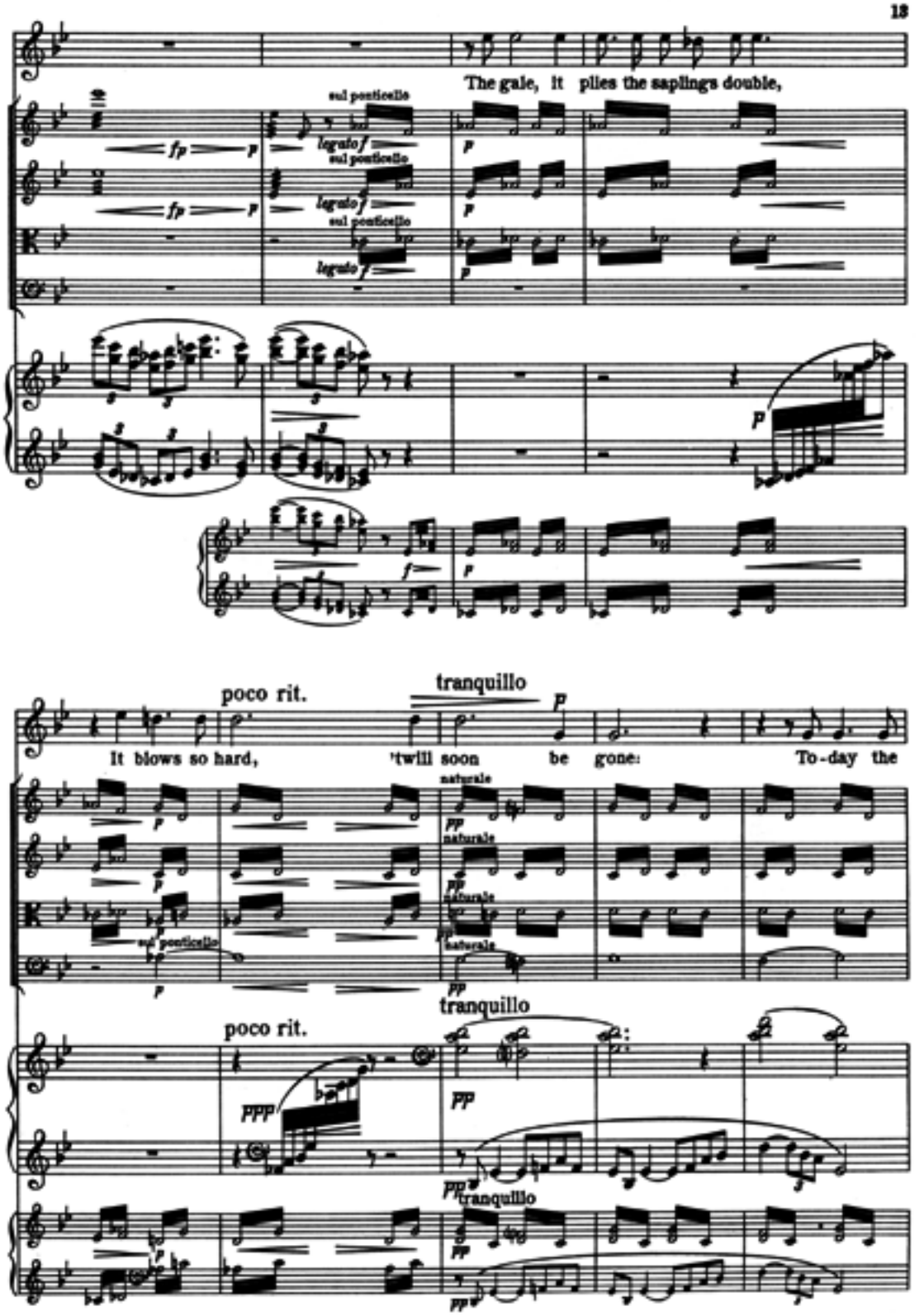
* If there is no String Quartet the alternative Pianoforte part (small type) must be played here and elsewhere.

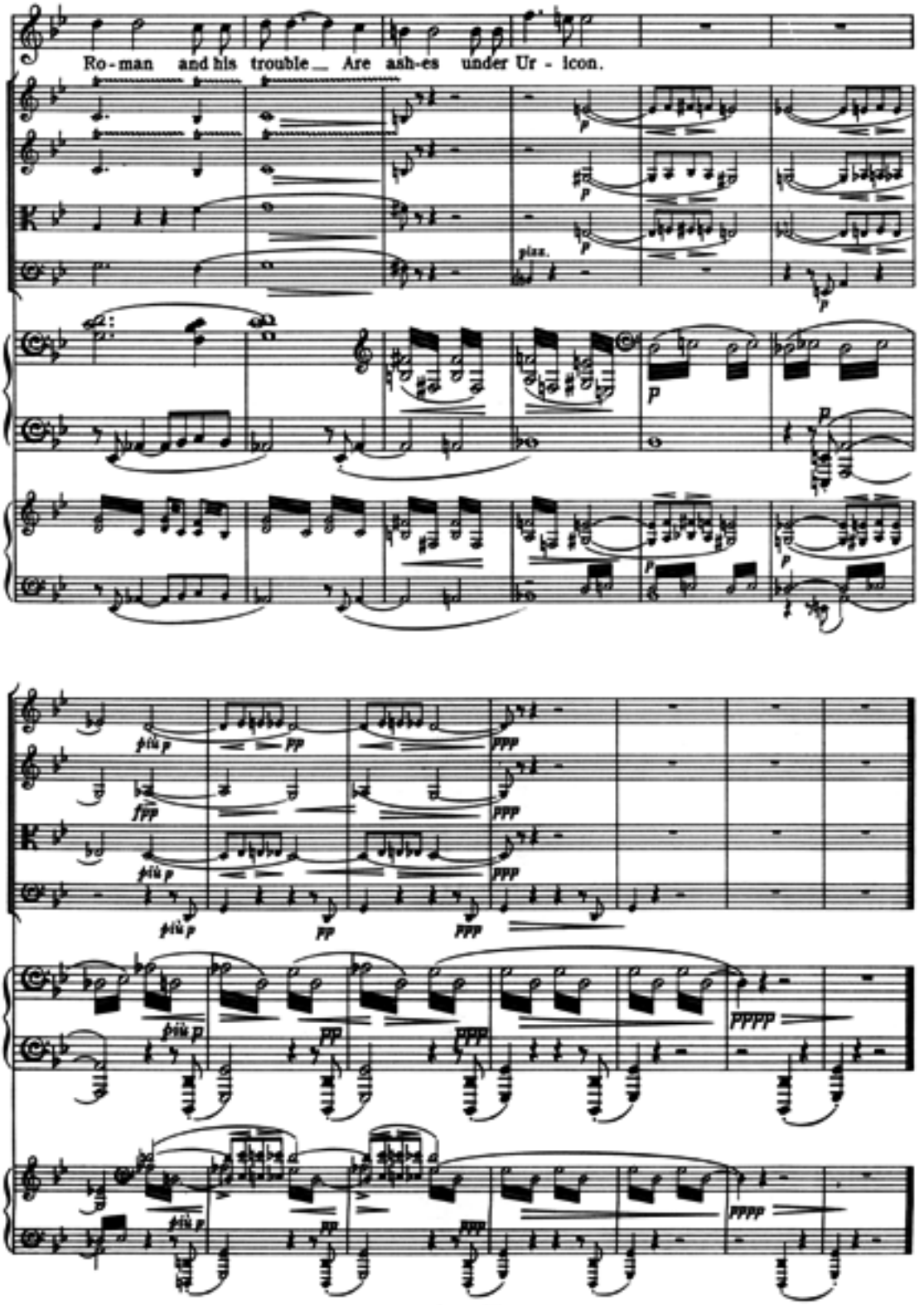

Then, 'twas before my time, the Ro - man_
— At yonder heav - ing hill would stare:
The blood__ that warms an


Eng - - lish yeo - man,
The thoughts that hurt him,
they were there.

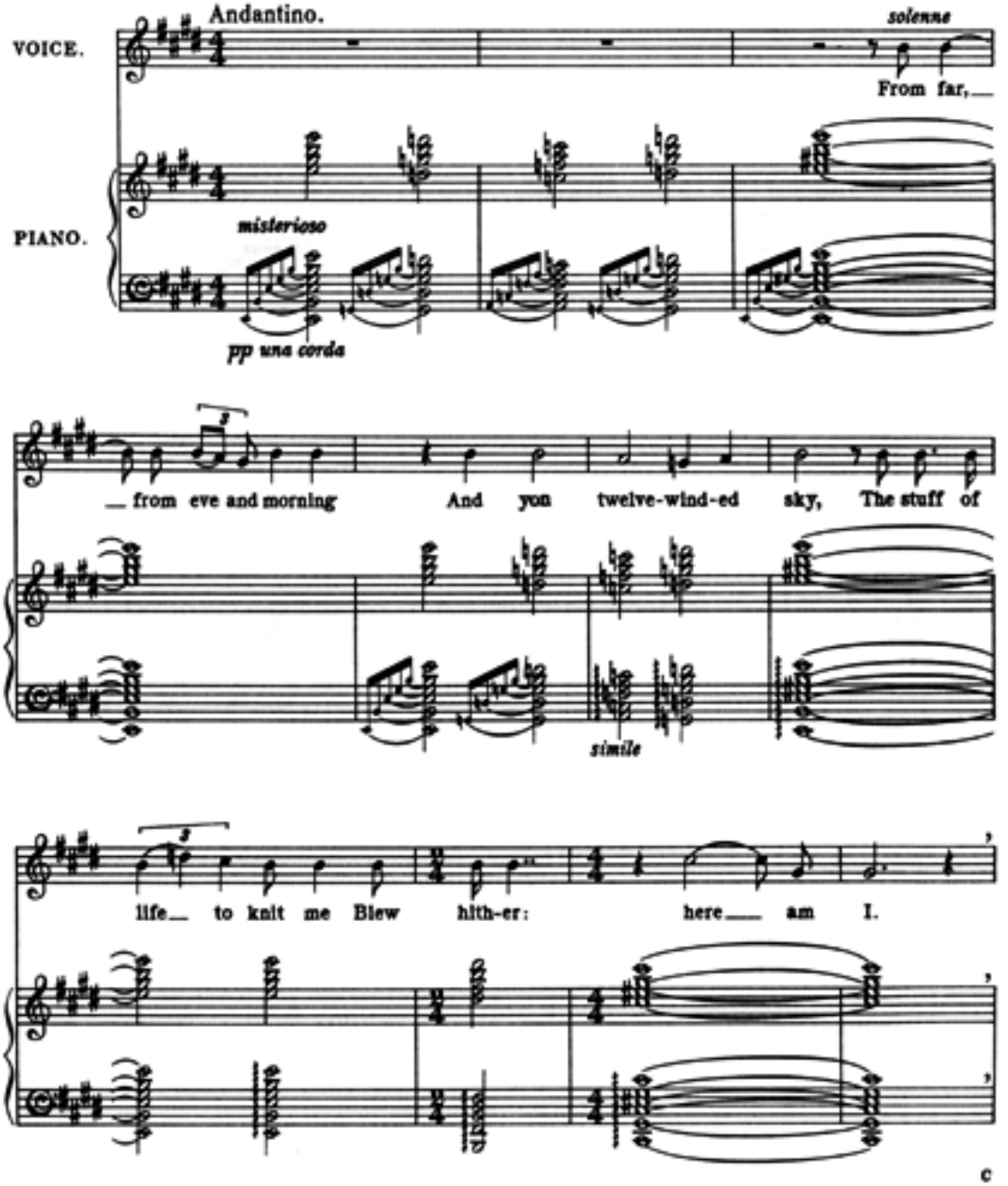

There, like the wind through woods in ri-ot,
Through him the gale_ of life blew high;
The tree of man was

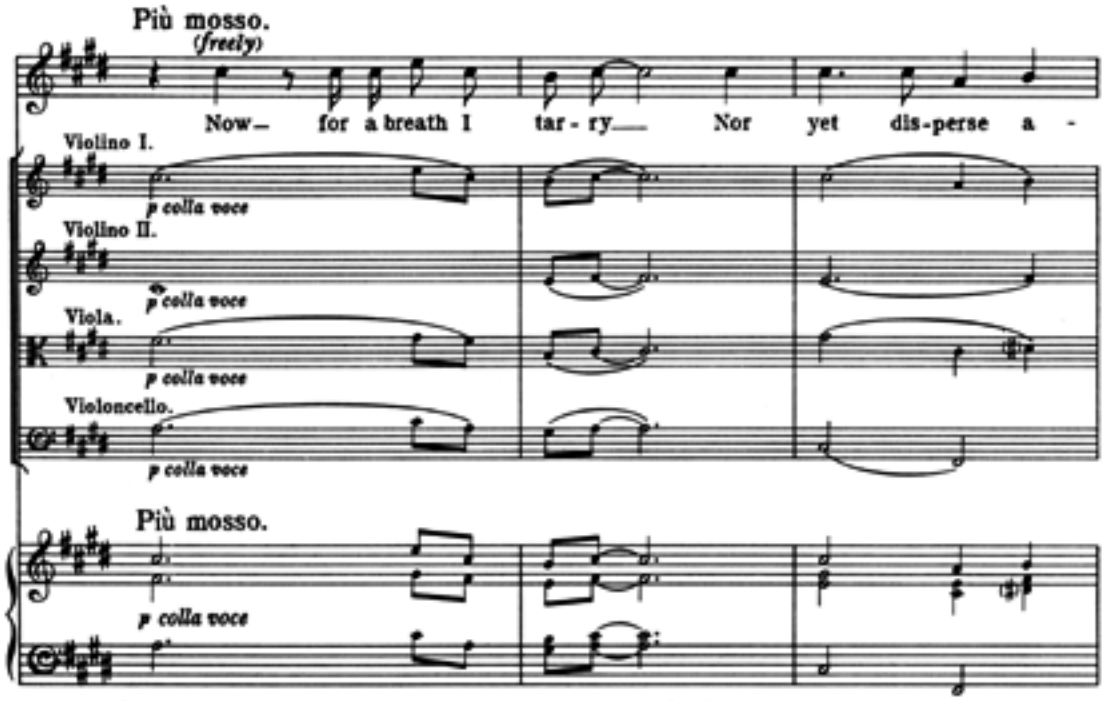

nev - - er qui - et:
Then 'twas the
Ro - - man,
now 'tis I.
dim.
dim.
colla voce


The gale, it plies the saplings double,
sul ponticello
legato
poco rit.
tranquillo
It blows so hard, 'twill soon be gone: To-day the
naturale
sul ponticello
poco rit.
tranquillo

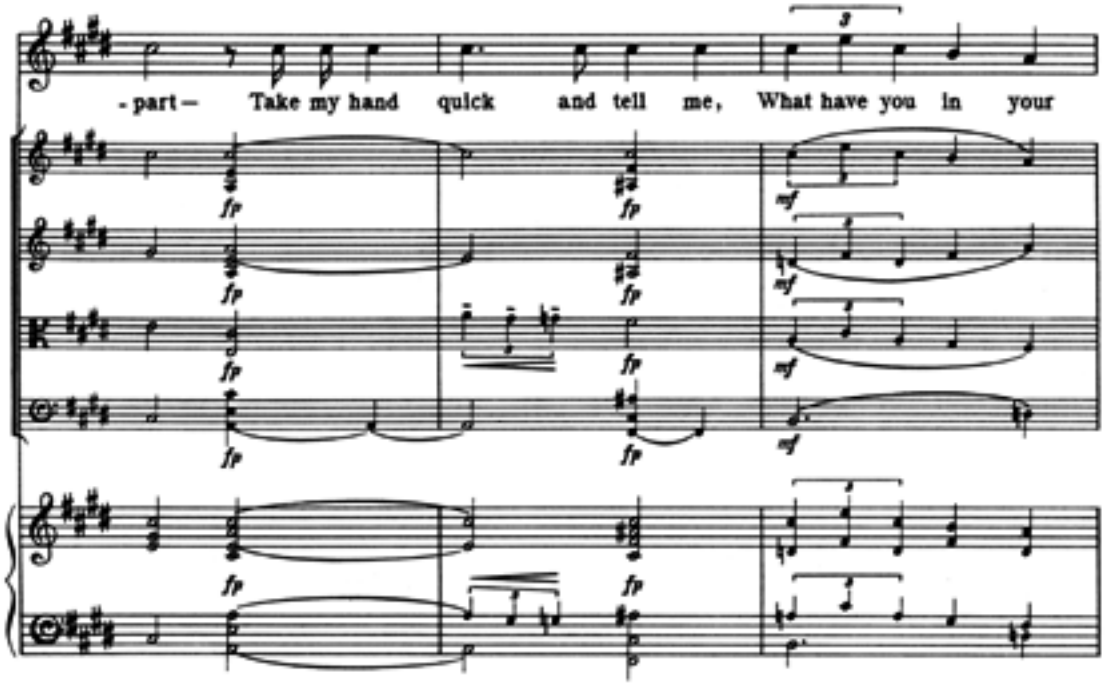

Ro-man and his trouble Are ash-es under Ur - icon.

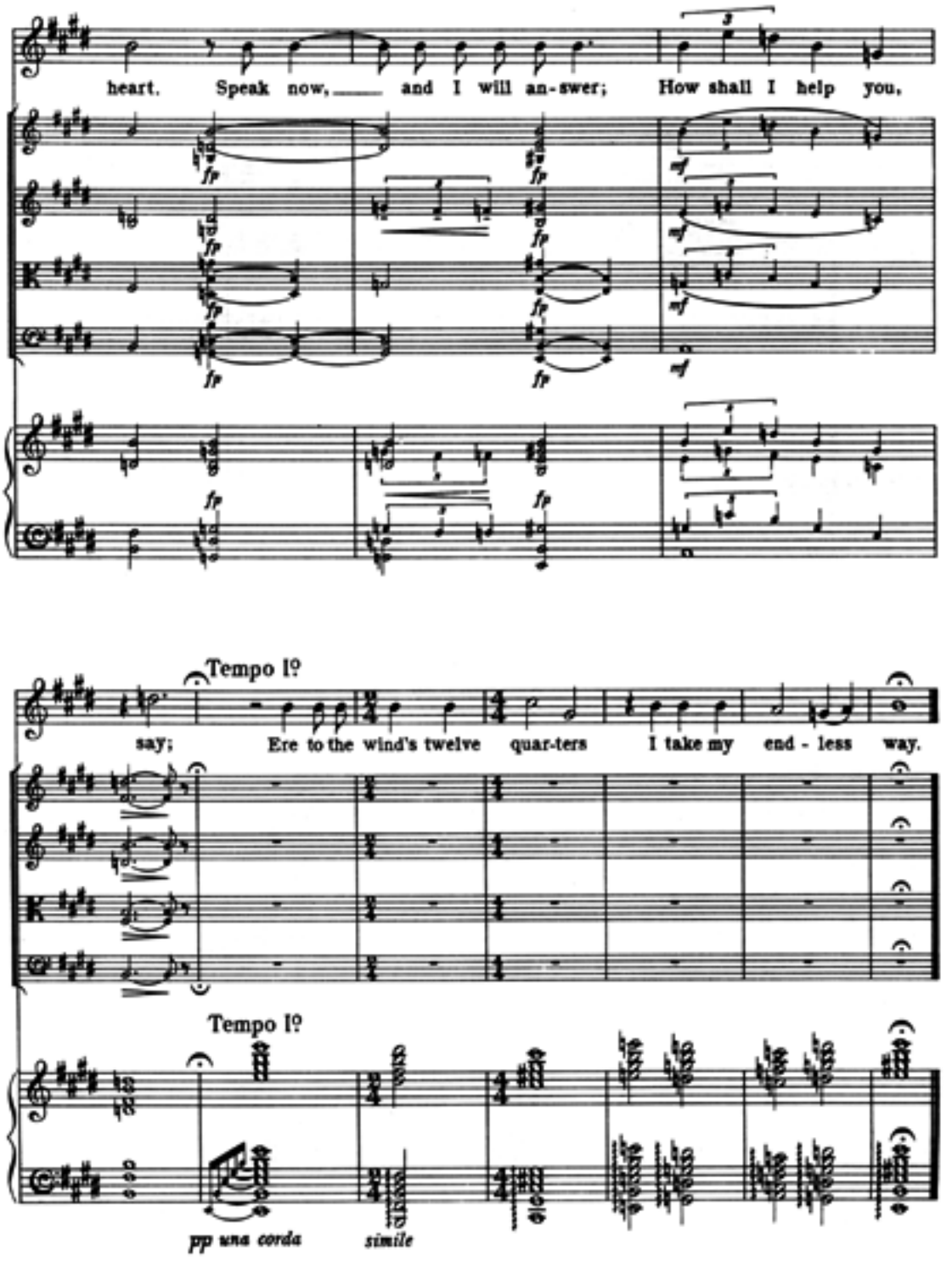
II. FROM FAR, FROM EVE AND MORNING.



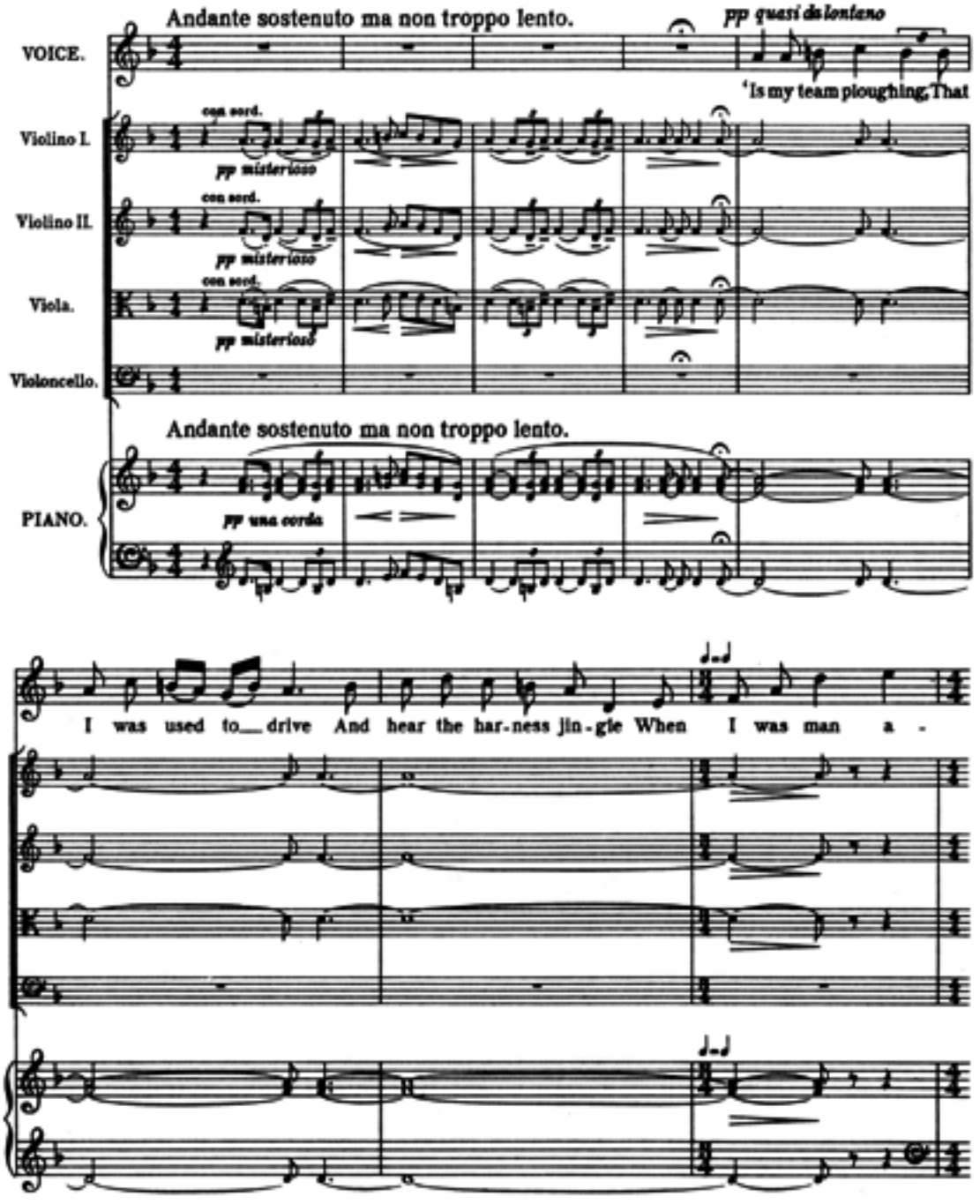


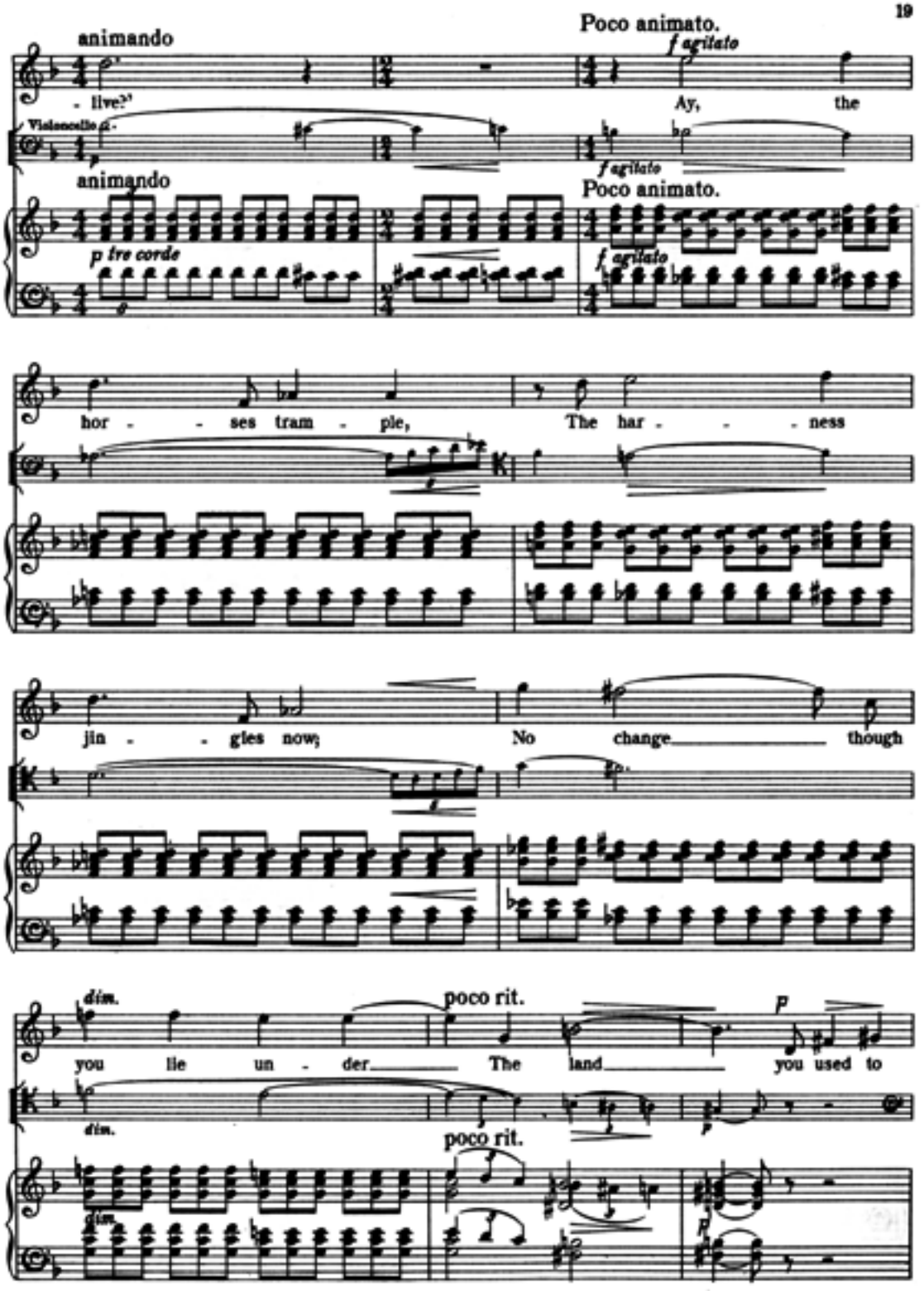
Small type to be played only when the Strings are absent, here and elsewhere.

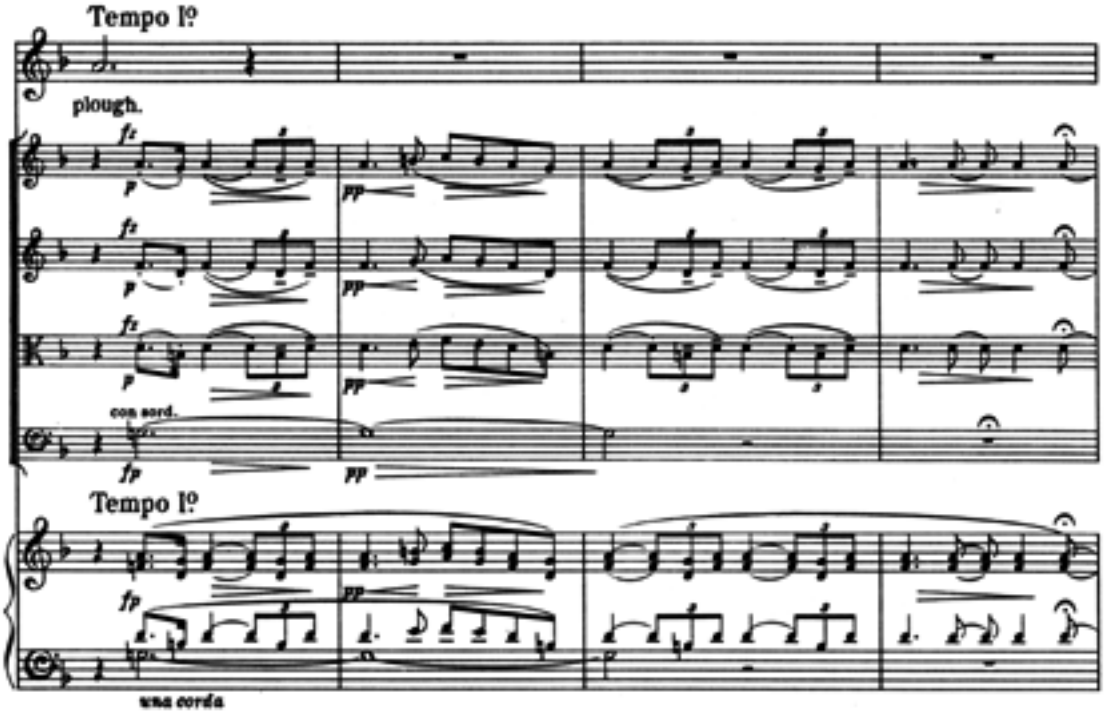


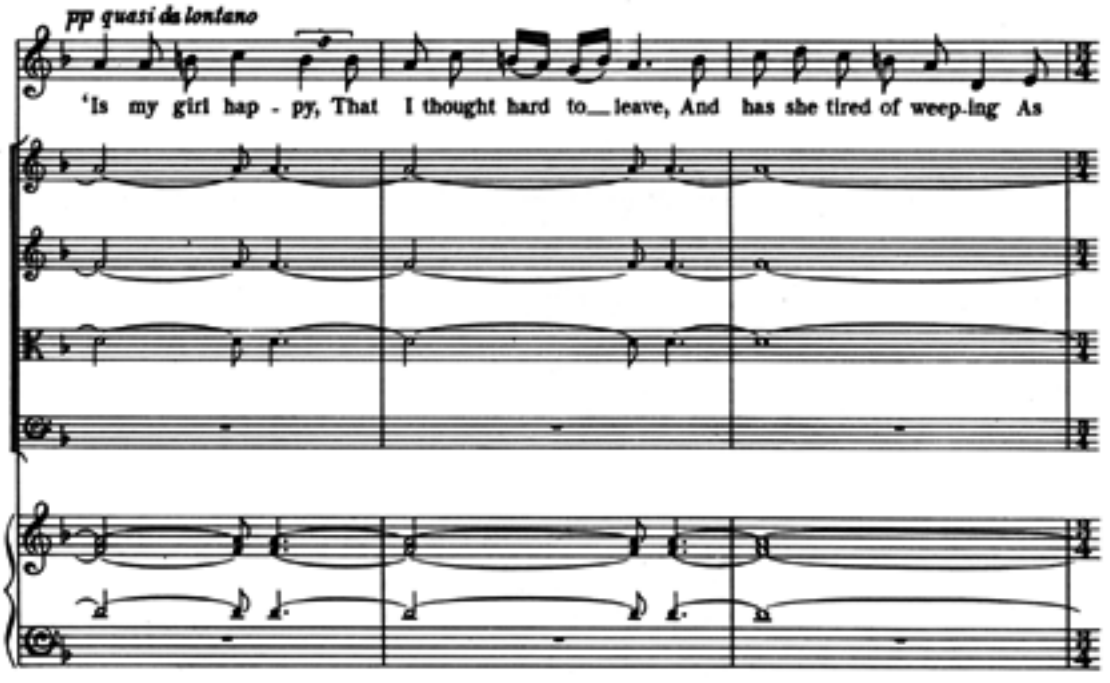

heart. Speak now, and I will an-swer; How shall I help you,
Tempo I?
say; Ere to the wind's twelve quar-ters I take my end - less way.
Tempo I?
pp una corda
simile

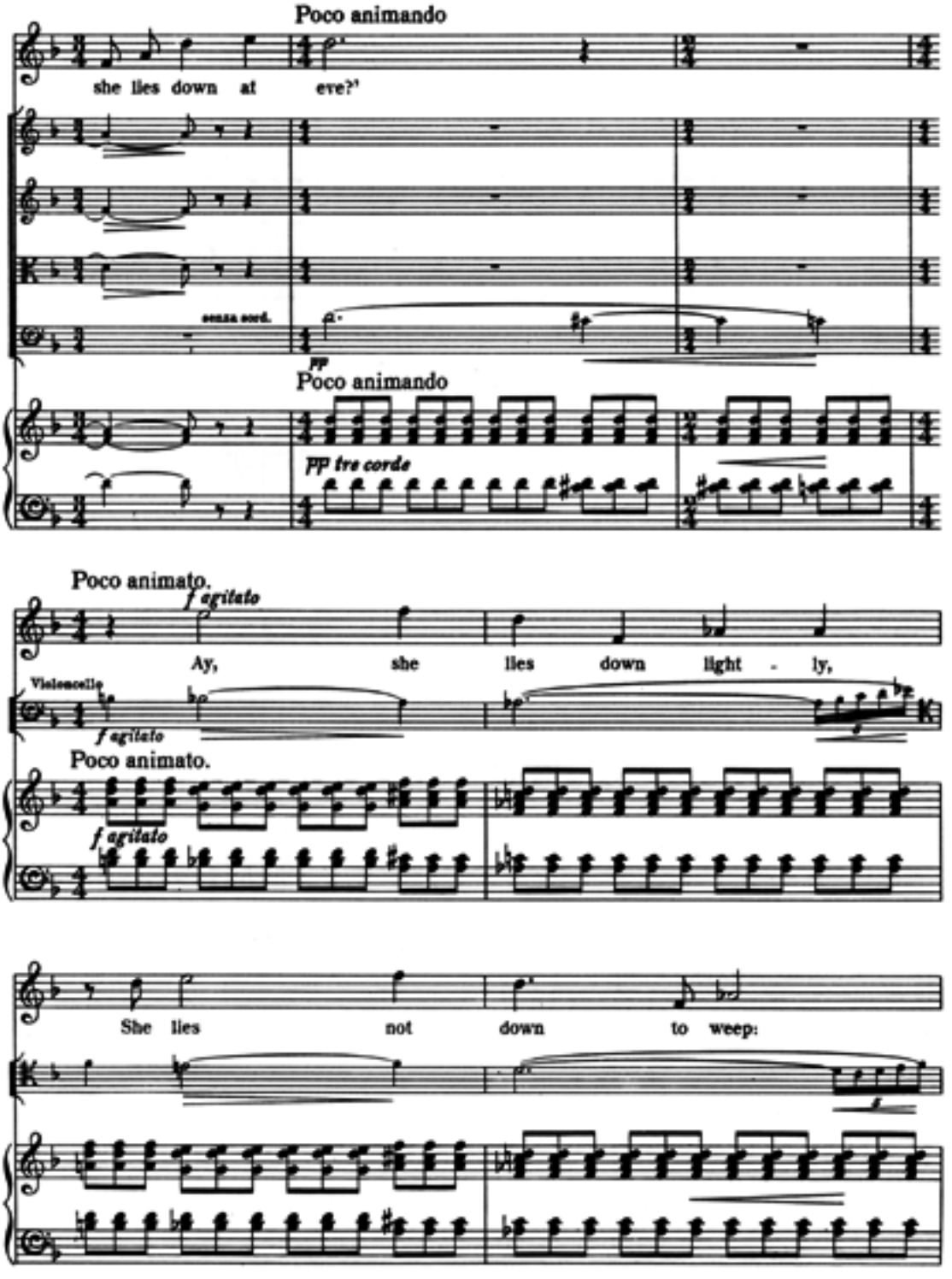
III. IS MY TEAM PLOUGHING.

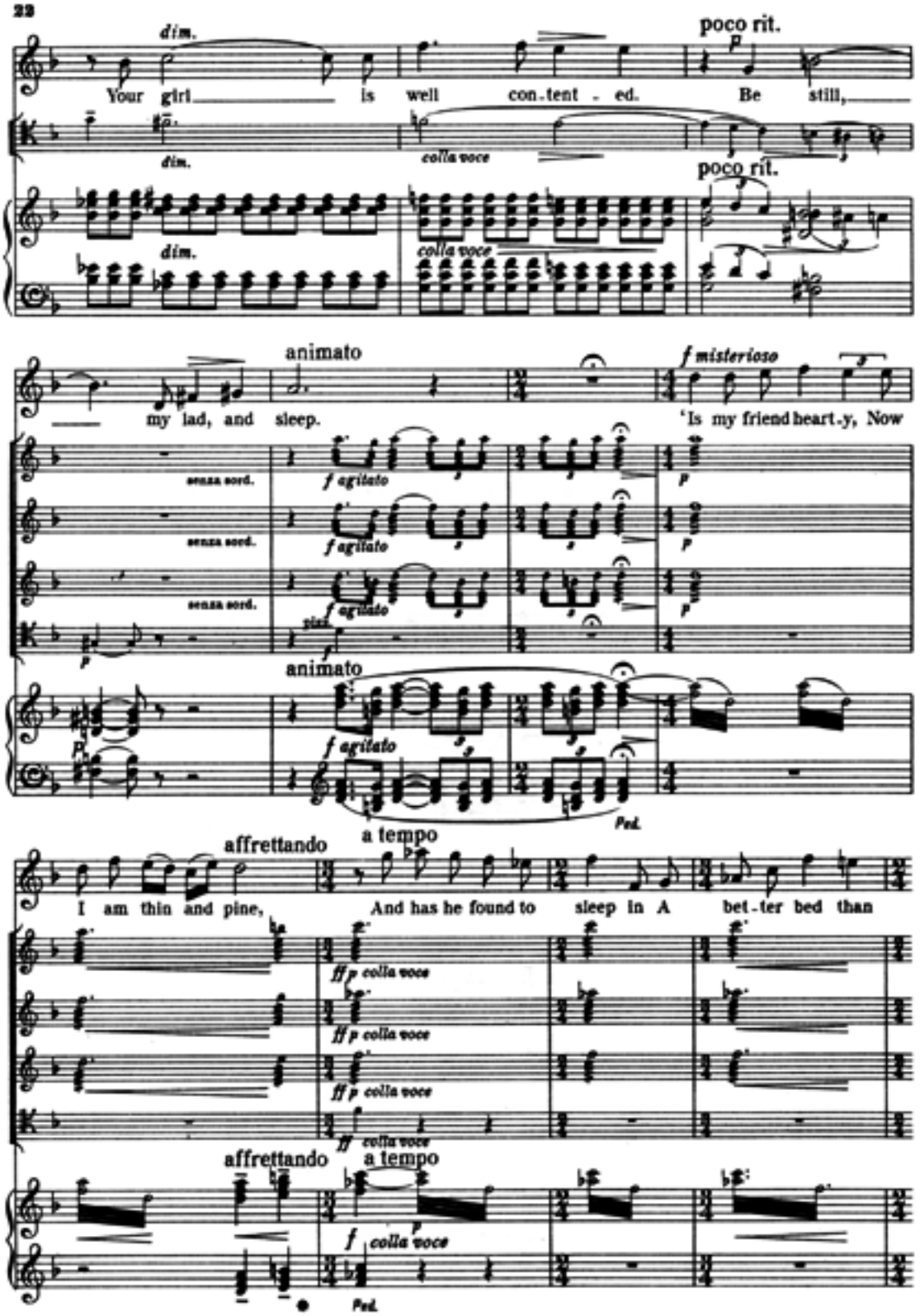


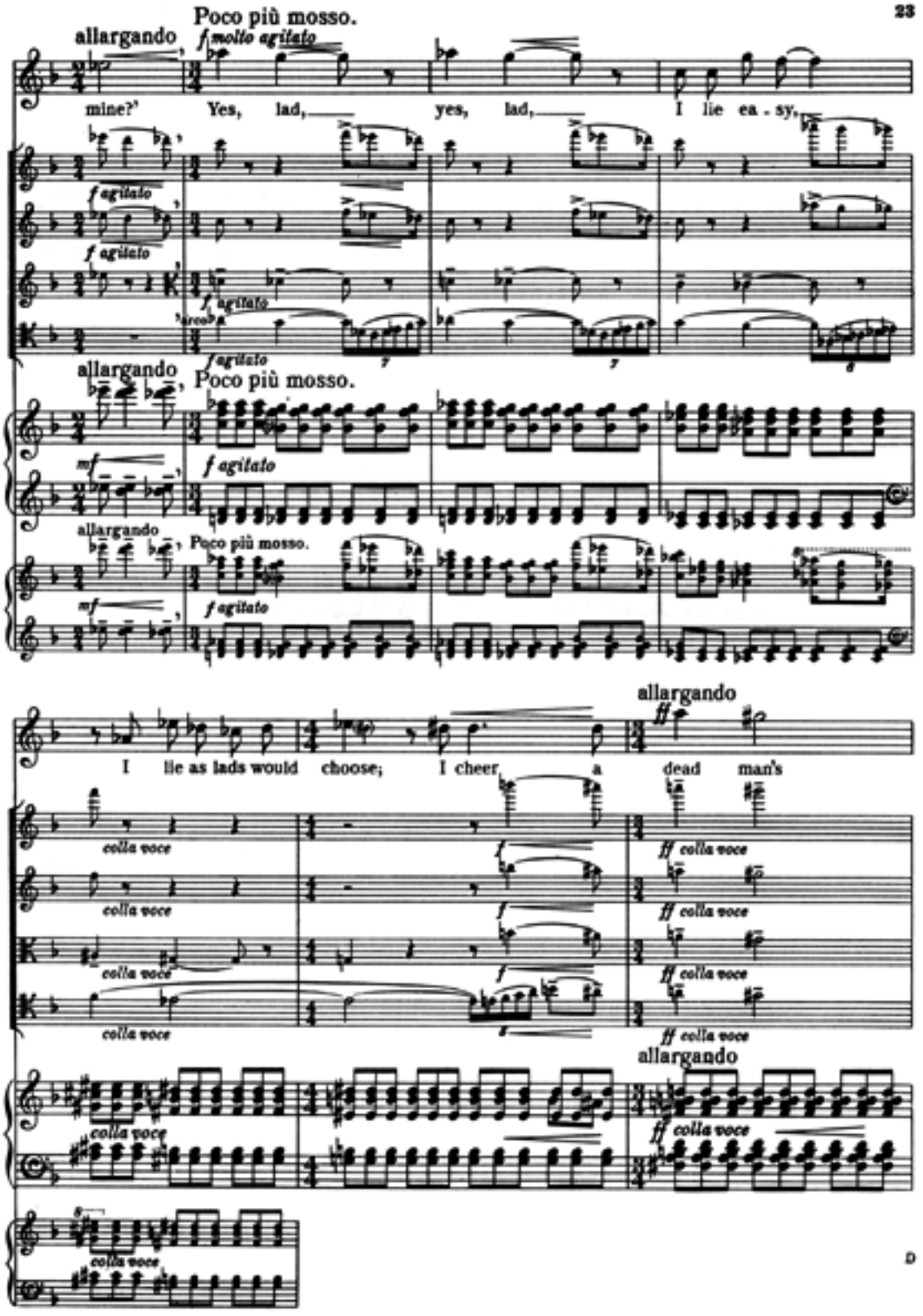

animando
Poco animato.
f agitato
- live?'
Ay, the
Violoncello
animando
Poco animato.
p tre corde
f agitato
hor - - ses tram - ple,
The har - - - ness
jin - - gles now;
No change
though
dim.
poco rit.
P
you lie un - der
The land
you used to
dim.
poco rit.
dim.
P

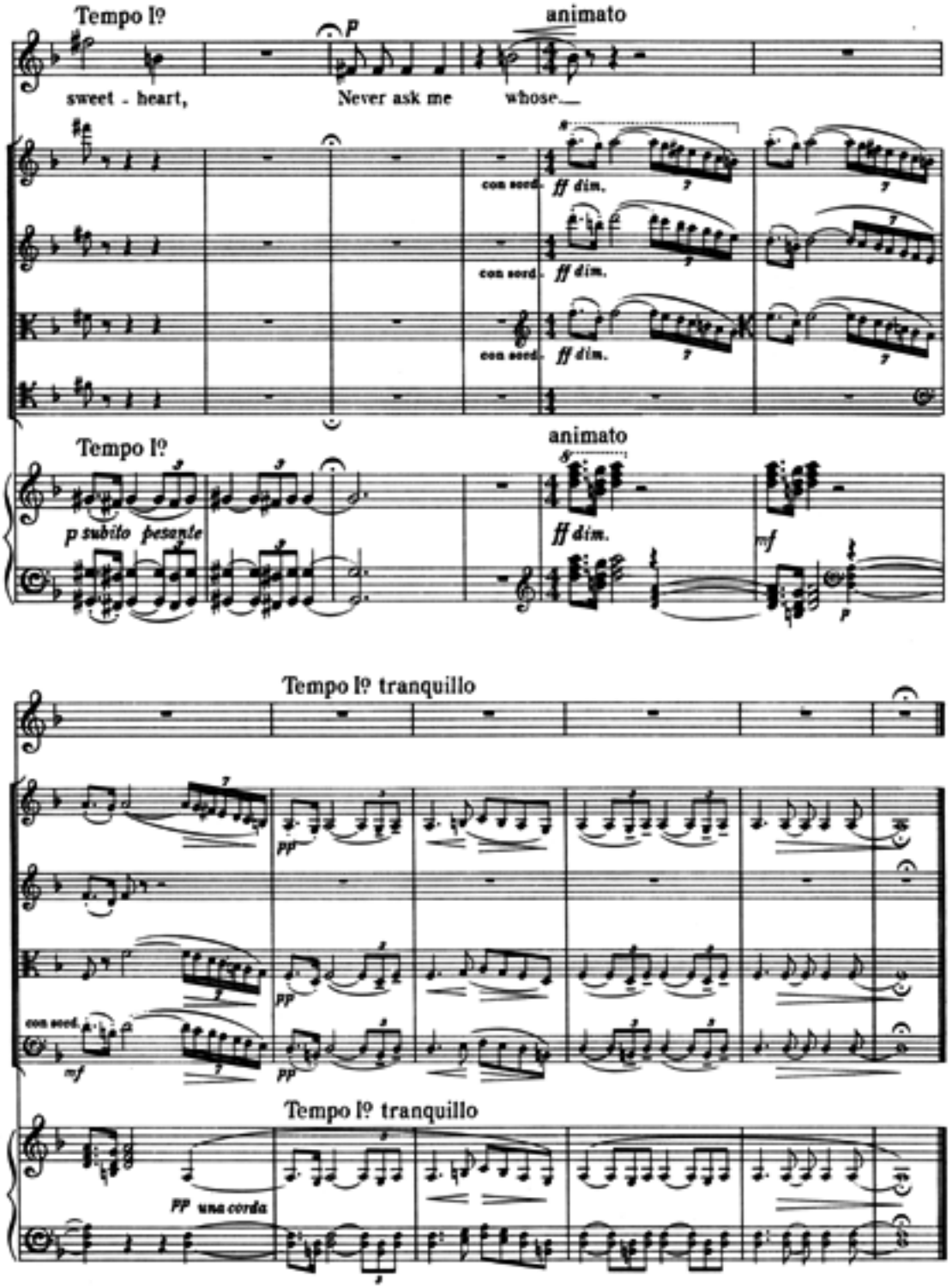

Tempo I°
plough.
con sord.
Tempo I°
una corda


pp quasi da lontano
'Is my girl hap - py, That I thought hard to leave, And has she tired of weep-ing As

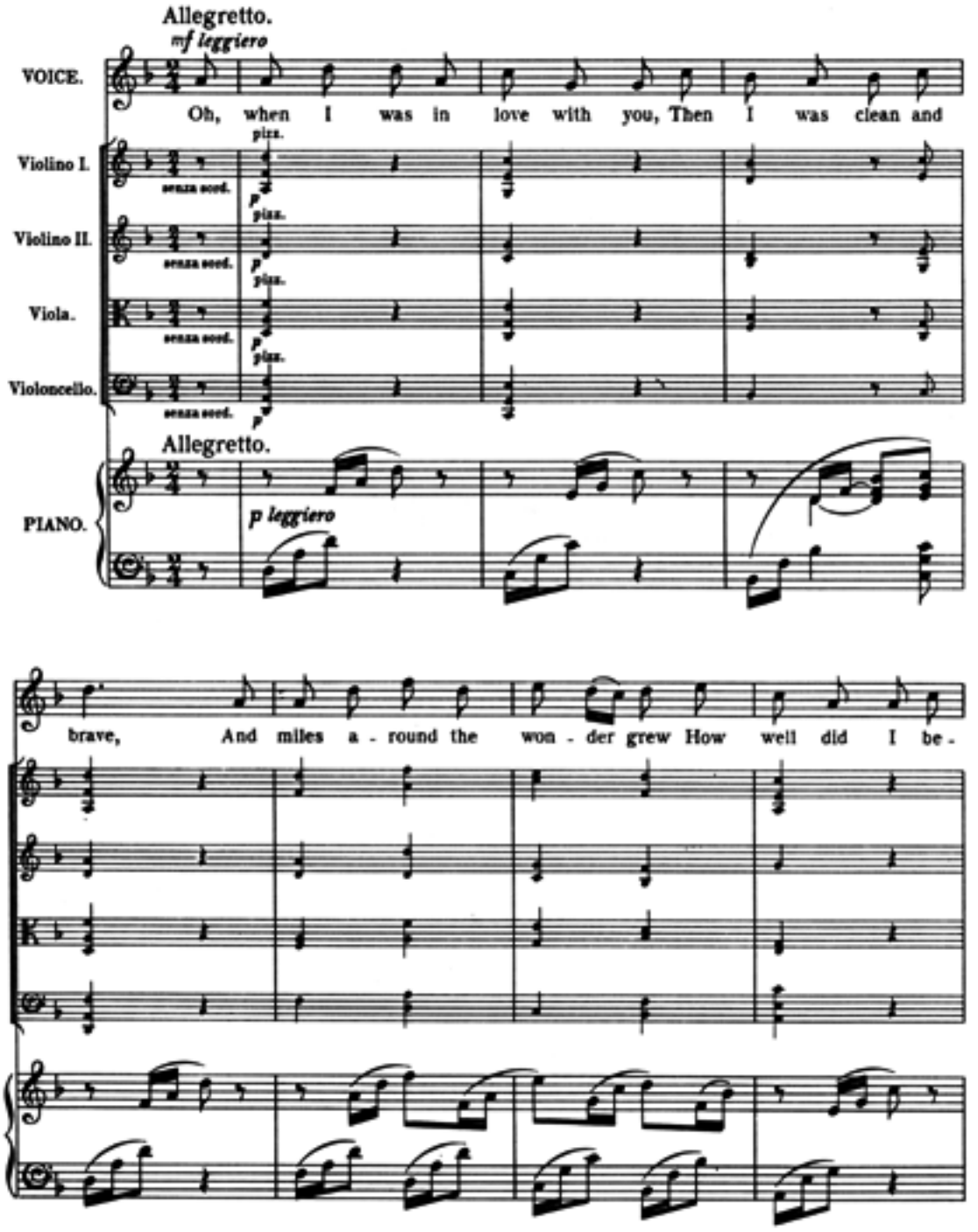

Poco animando
she lies down at eve?'
senza sord.
pp
Poco animando
pp tre corde
Poco animato.
f agitato
Ay, she lies down light - ly,
Violoncello
f agitato
Poco animato.
f agitato
She lies not down to weep:

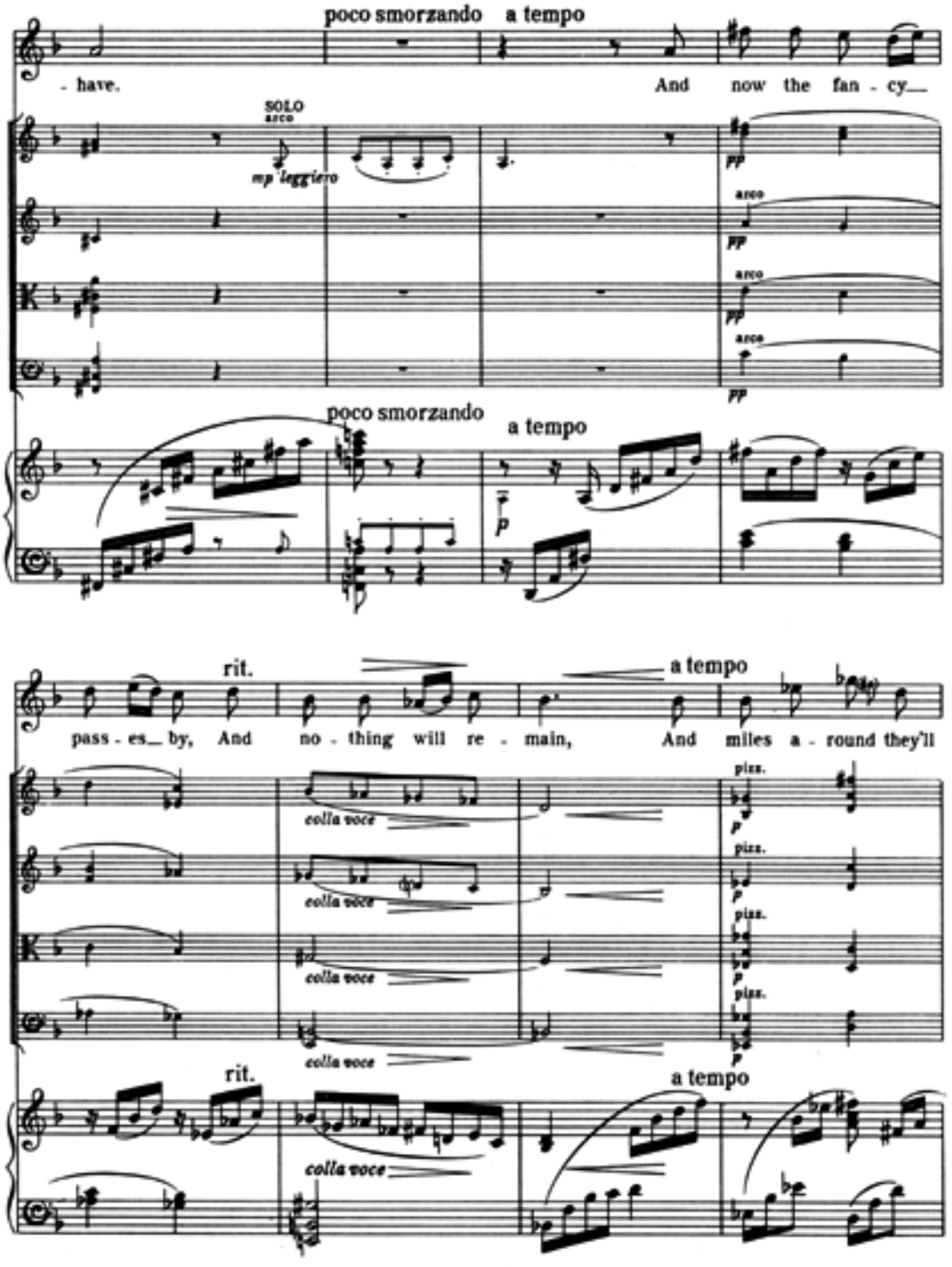

dim.
Your girl is well con-tent - ed.
poco rit.
Be still,
colla voce
my lad, and sleep.
animato
f misterioso
'Is my friend heart-y, Now
senza sord.
f agitato
p
a tempo
affrettando
I am thin and pine,
And has he found to sleep in A bet-ter bed than
ff p colla voce
ff colla voce
f colla voce
Ped.

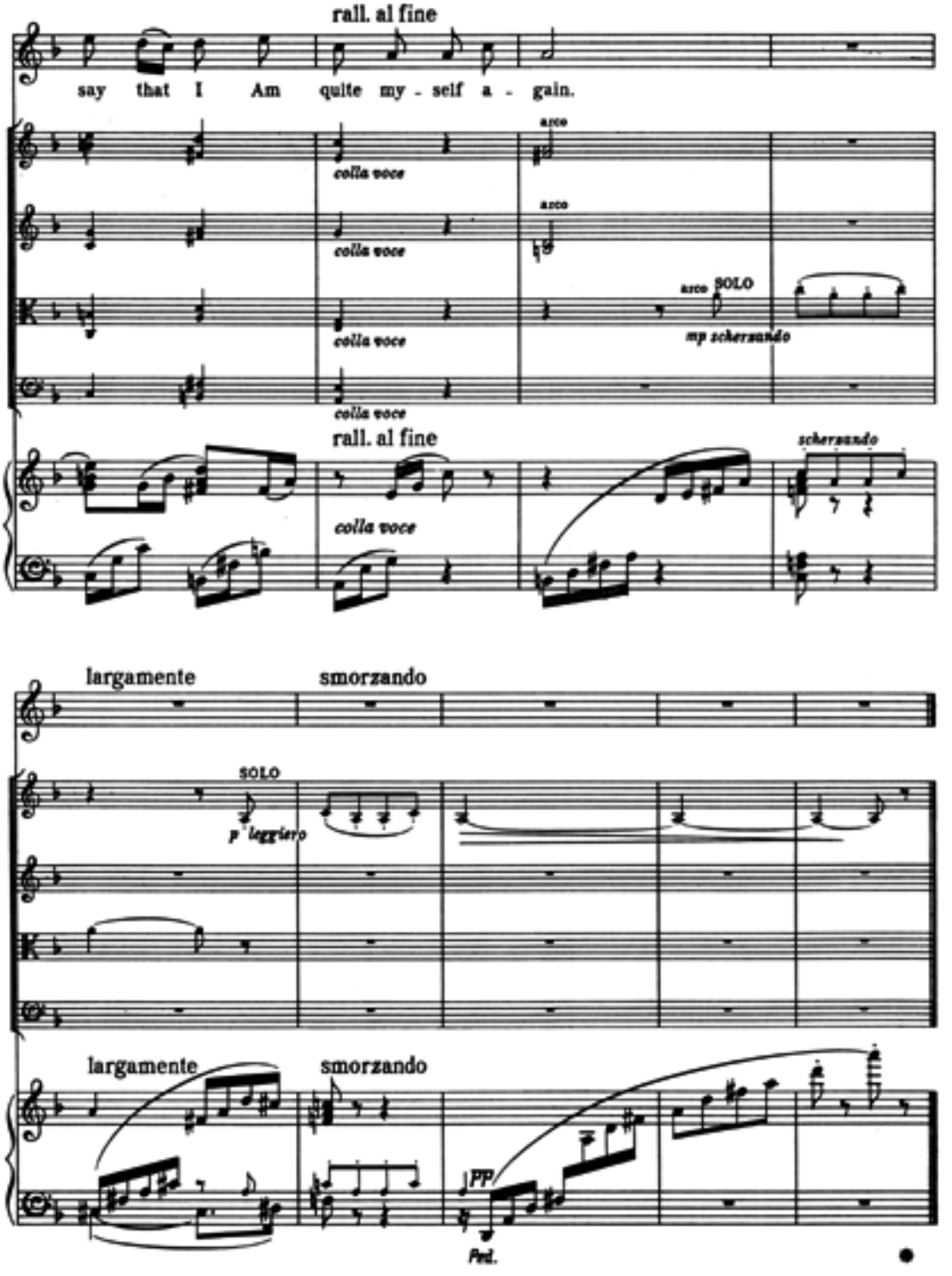

Poco più mosso.
allargando
f molto agitato
mine?' Yes, lad, yes, lad, I lie ea - sy,
f agitato
f agitato
f agitato
arco
f agitato
allargando
Poco più mosso.
mf
f agitato
allargando
Poco più mosso.
mf
f agitato
allargando
ff
I lie as lads would choose; I cheer a dead man's
colla voce
f
ff colla voce
colla voce
f
ff colla voce
colla voce
f
ff colla voce
colla voce
ff colla voce
allargando
colla voce
ff colla voce
colla voce


Tempo I?
animato
sweet - heart,
Never ask me
whose.
con sord.
ff dim.
Tempo I?
animato
p subito pesante
ff dim.
mf
Tempo I? tranquillo
con sord.
mf
pp
Tempo I? tranquillo
pp una corda

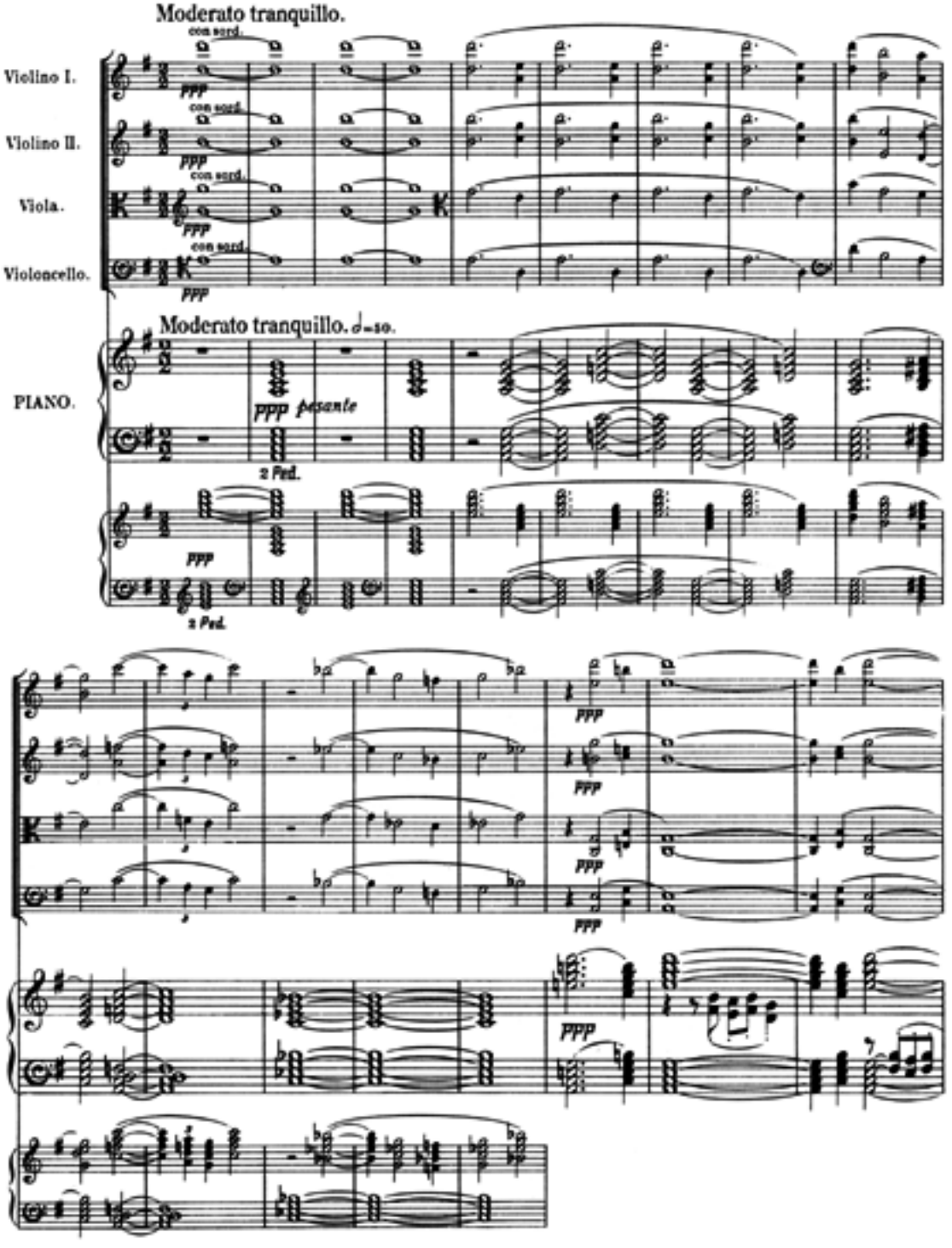
IV. OH, WHEN I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU.

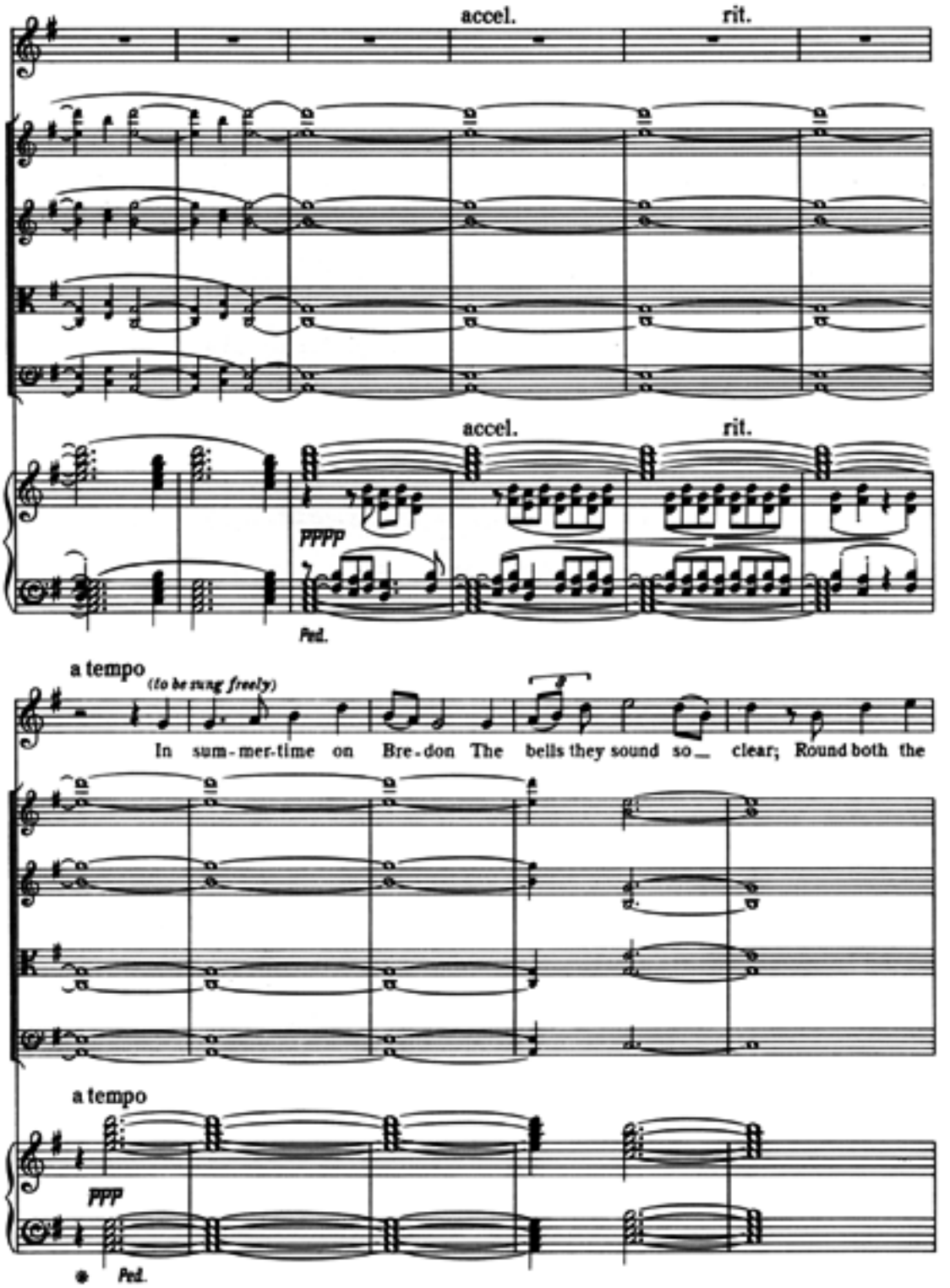


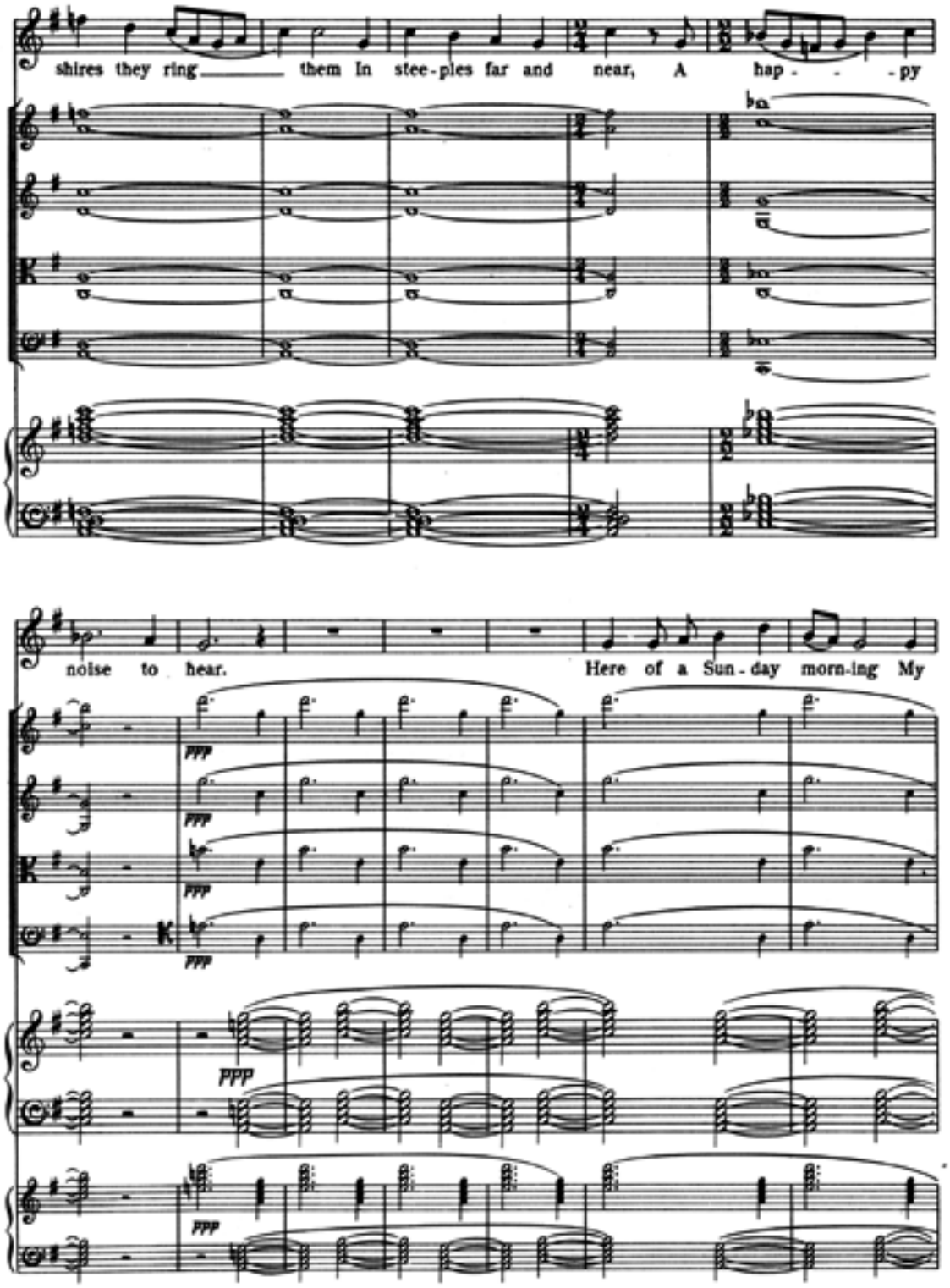

poco smorzando
a tempo
- have.
And now the fan - cy__
SOLO
arco
mp leggiero
pp
arco
pp
arco
pp
arco
pp
poco smorzando
a tempo
p
rit.
a tempo
pass - es__ by, And no - thing will re - main, And miles a - round they'll
colla voce
colla voce
colla voce
colla voce
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
rit.
a tempo
colla voce

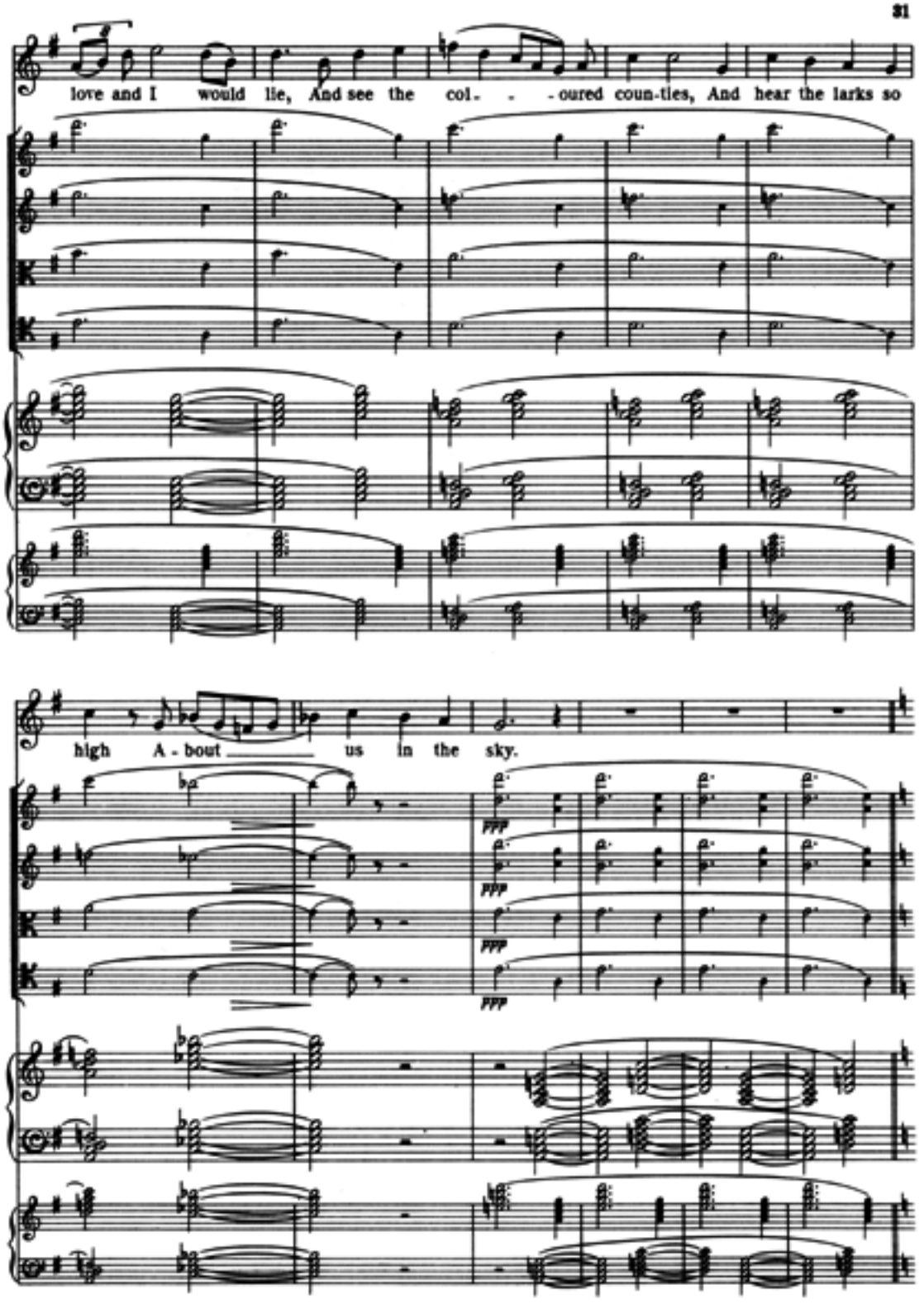

rall. al fine
say that I Am quite my - self a - gain.
arco
colla voce
arco
colla voce
arco SOLO
mp scherzando
colla voce
colla voce
rall. al fine
scherzando
largamente
smorzando
SOLO
p leggiero
largamente
smorzando
PP
Ped.

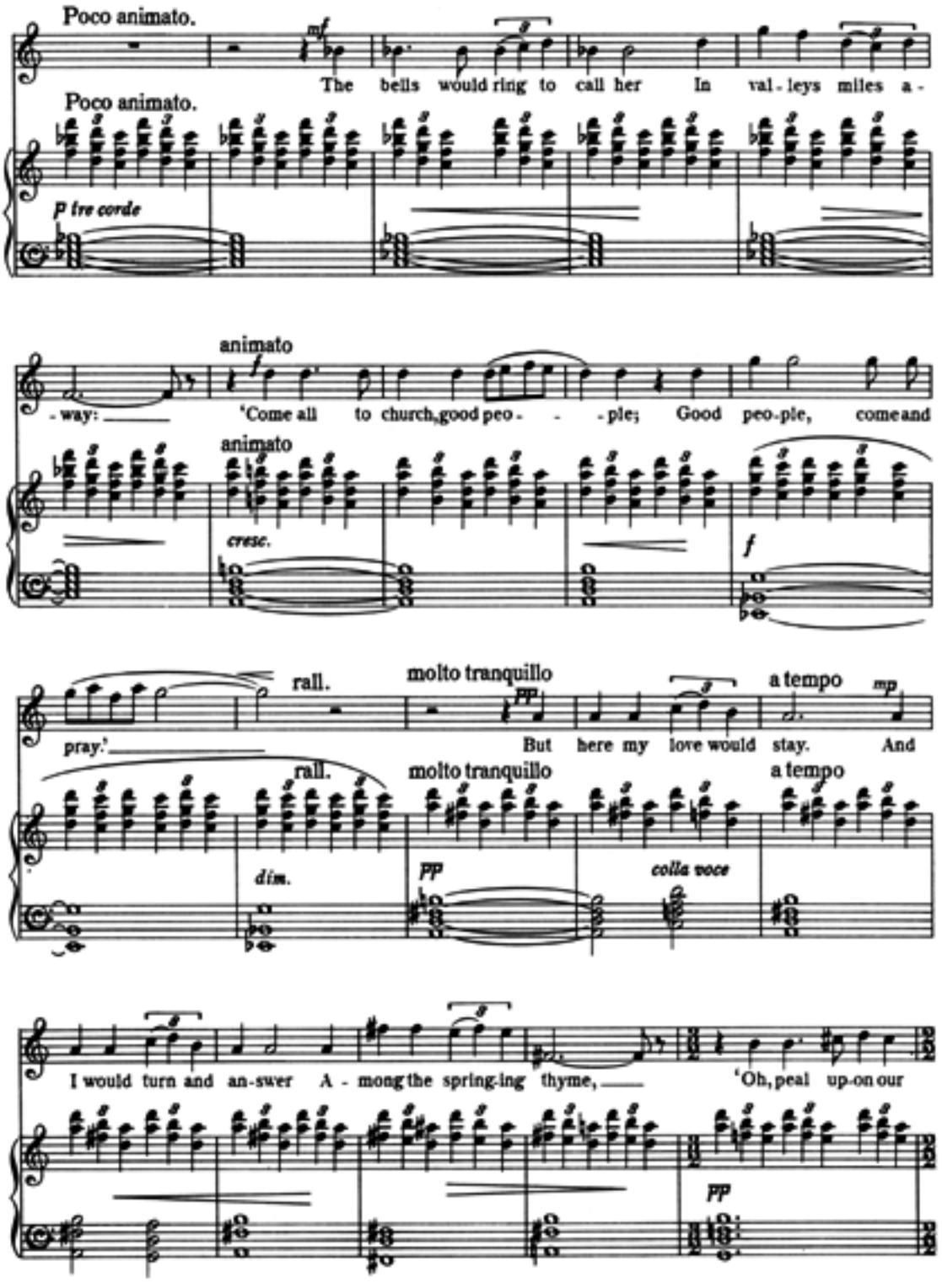
V. BREDON HILL.

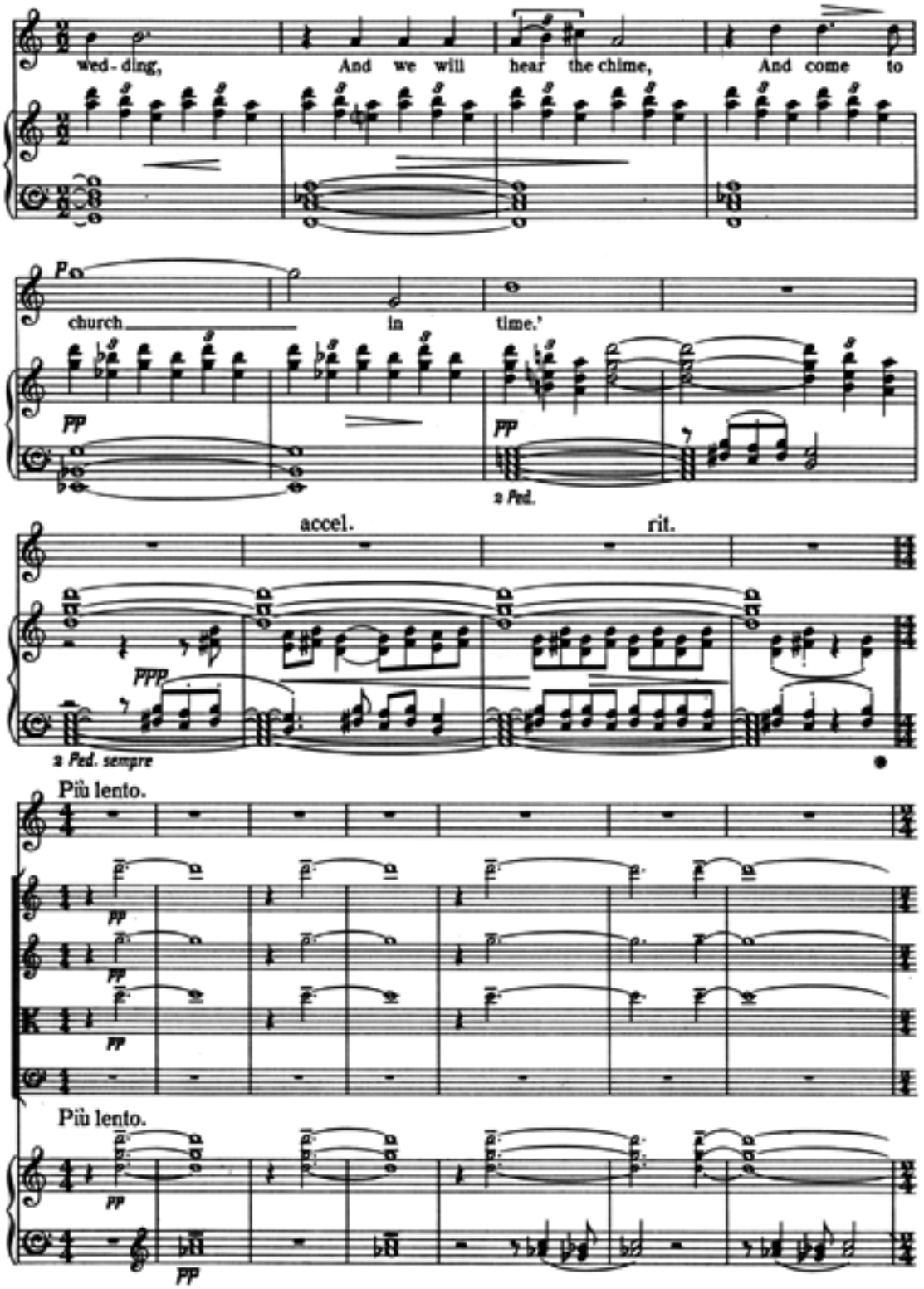


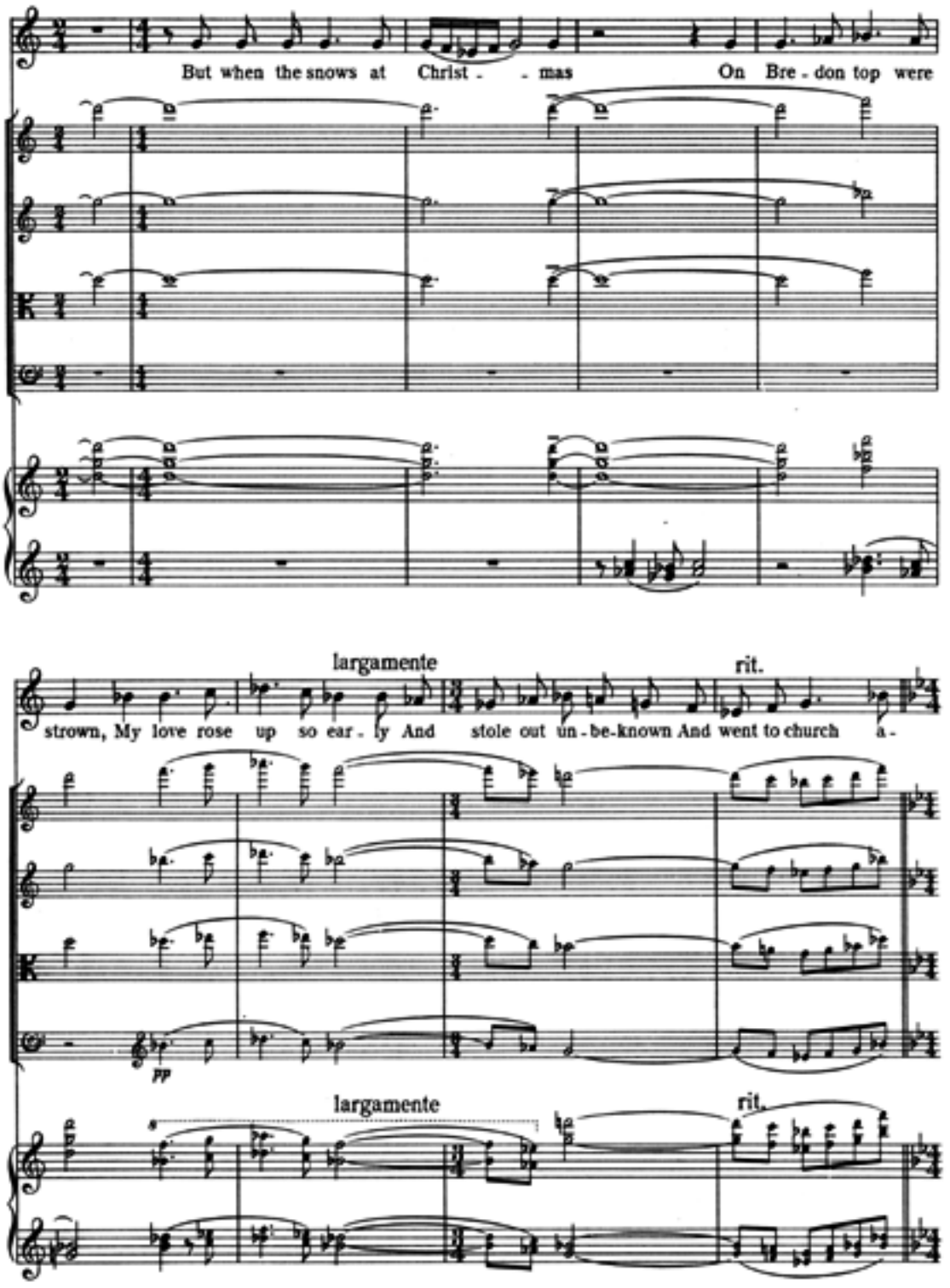

accel.
rit.
accel.
rit.
PPPP
Ped.
a tempo
(to be sung freely)
In sum-mer-time on Bre-don The bells they sound so_ clear; Round both the
a tempo
PPP
Ped.

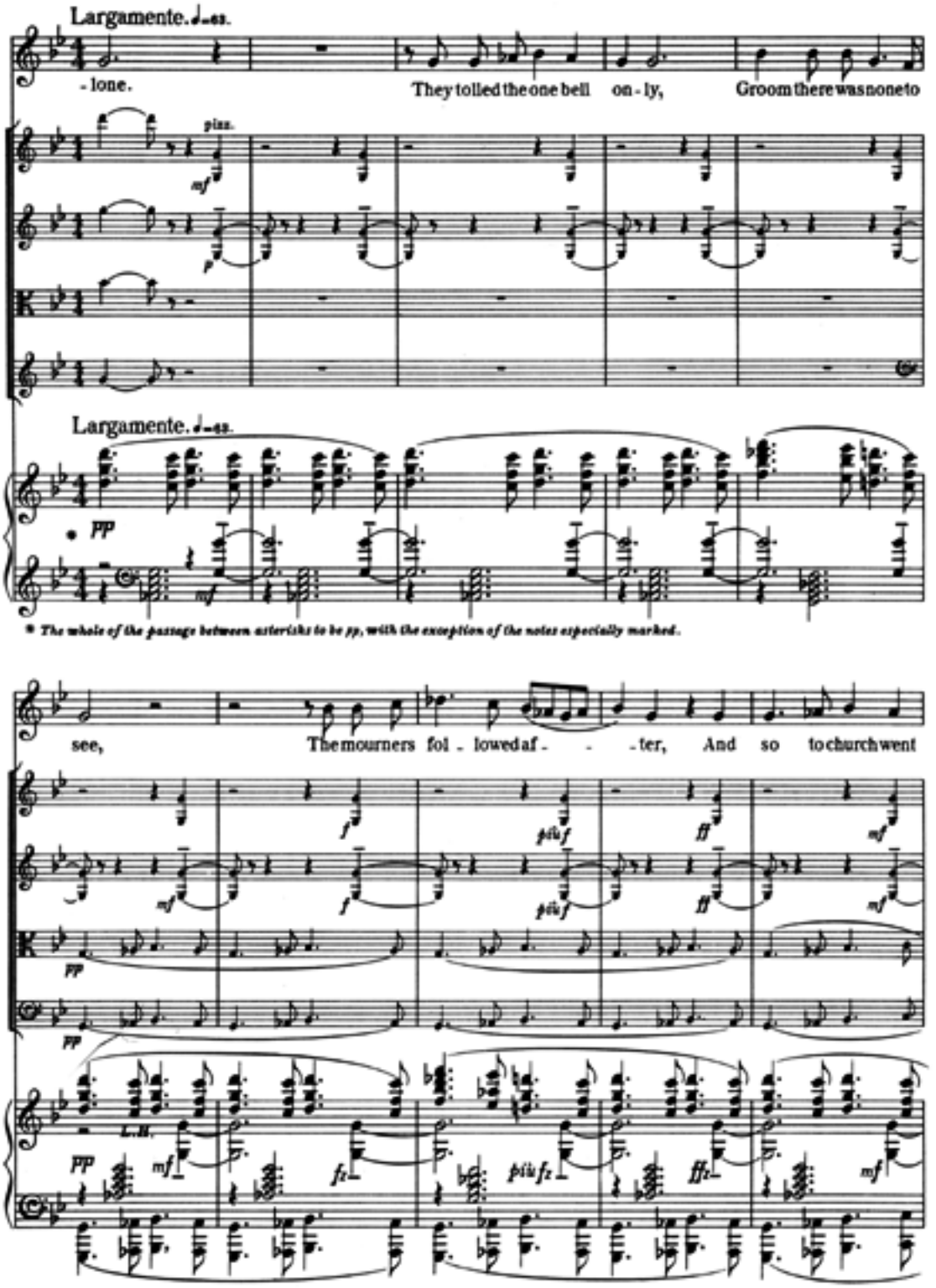

shires they ring them In stee-ples far and near, A hap- - -py
noise to hear. Here of a Sun-day morn-ing My
PPP
PPP
PPP
PPP
PPP
PPP

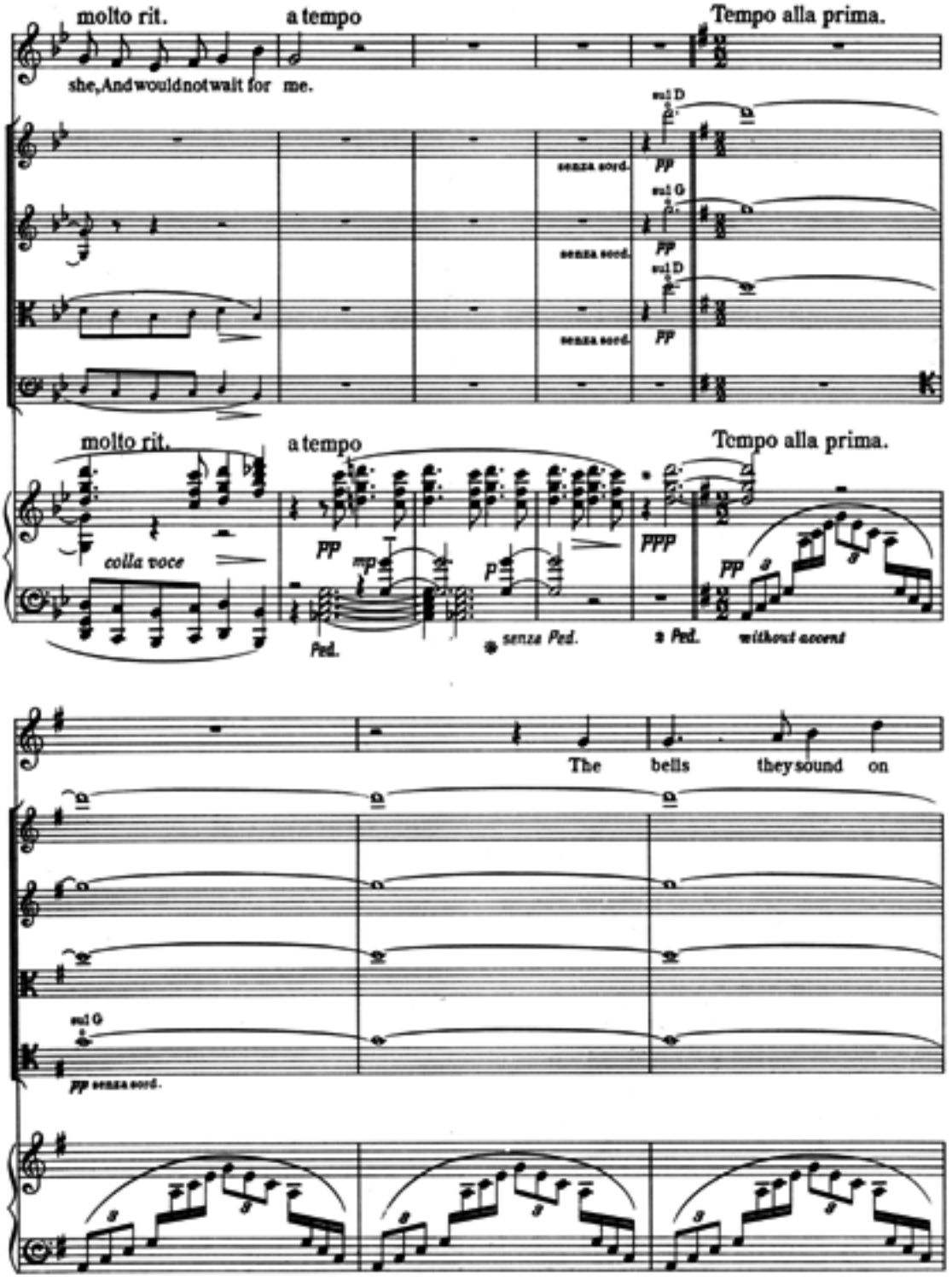

love and I would lie, And see the col- - - oured coun-ties, And hear the larks so
high A - bout us in the sky.
ppp
ppp
ppp

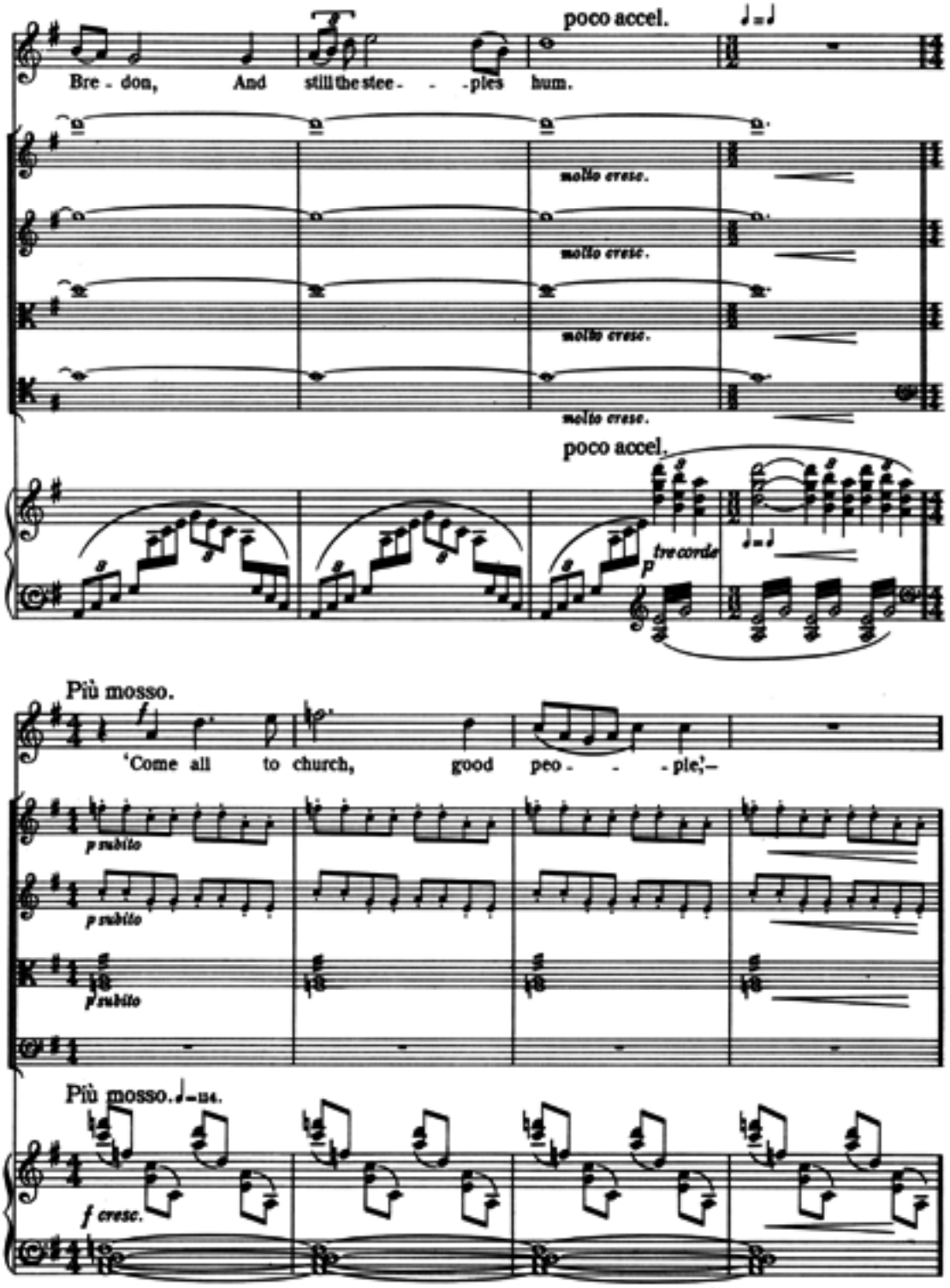

Poco animato.
mf
The bells would ring to call her In val - leys miles a -
Poco animato.
P tre corde
animato
- way: 'Come all to church, good peo - - - ple; Good peo - ple, come and
animato
cresc.
f
rall.
molto tranquillo
PP
a tempo
mp
pray.' But here my love would stay. And
rall.
molto tranquillo
a tempo
dim.
PP
colla voce
I would turn and an - swer A - mong the spring - ing thyme, 'Oh, peal up - on our
PP


wed - ding,
And we will hear the chime,
And come to
church
in
time.'
accel.
rit.
Più lento.
Più lento.


But when the snows at Christ - - mas On Bre - don top were
largamente
rit.
strown, My love rose up so ear - ly And stole out un - be-known And went to church a -
pp
largamente
rit.


Largamente. ♩=63.
- lone.
They tolled the one bell on - ly,
Groom there was none to
pizz.
mf
p
Largamente. ♩=63.
pp
mf
* The whole of the passage between asterisks to be pp, with the exception of the notes especially marked.
see,
The mourners fol - lowed af - - - ter,
And so to church went
f
più f
ff
mf
pp
L.H.
fz
più fz
ffz


molto rit.
a tempo
Tempo alla prima.
she, And would not wait for me.
sul D
senza sord.
pp
sul G
senza sord.
pp
sul D
senza sord.
pp
molto rit.
a tempo
Tempo alla prima.
colla voce
pp
mp
p
ppp
pp
Ped.
senza Ped.
2 Ped.
without accent
The bells they sound on
sul G
pp senza sord.


poco accel.
Bre - don, And still the stee - - - ples hum.
molto cresc.
molto cresc.
molto cresc.
molto cresc.
poco accel.
p tre corde
Più mosso.
'Come all to church, good peo - - - ple,'–
p subito
p subito
p subito
Più mosso. ♩=124.
f cresc.

The voice part to be sung quite freely – irrespective of the accompaniment – provided that the end of the phrase in the voice part comes before the Tempo alla 19

Più lento. ♩=92.

Oh, nol - - sy bells, be dumb;

Più lento. ♩=92, *semiquaver rather quicker than quaver of previous bar; in strict time regardless of the voice part.*

simile

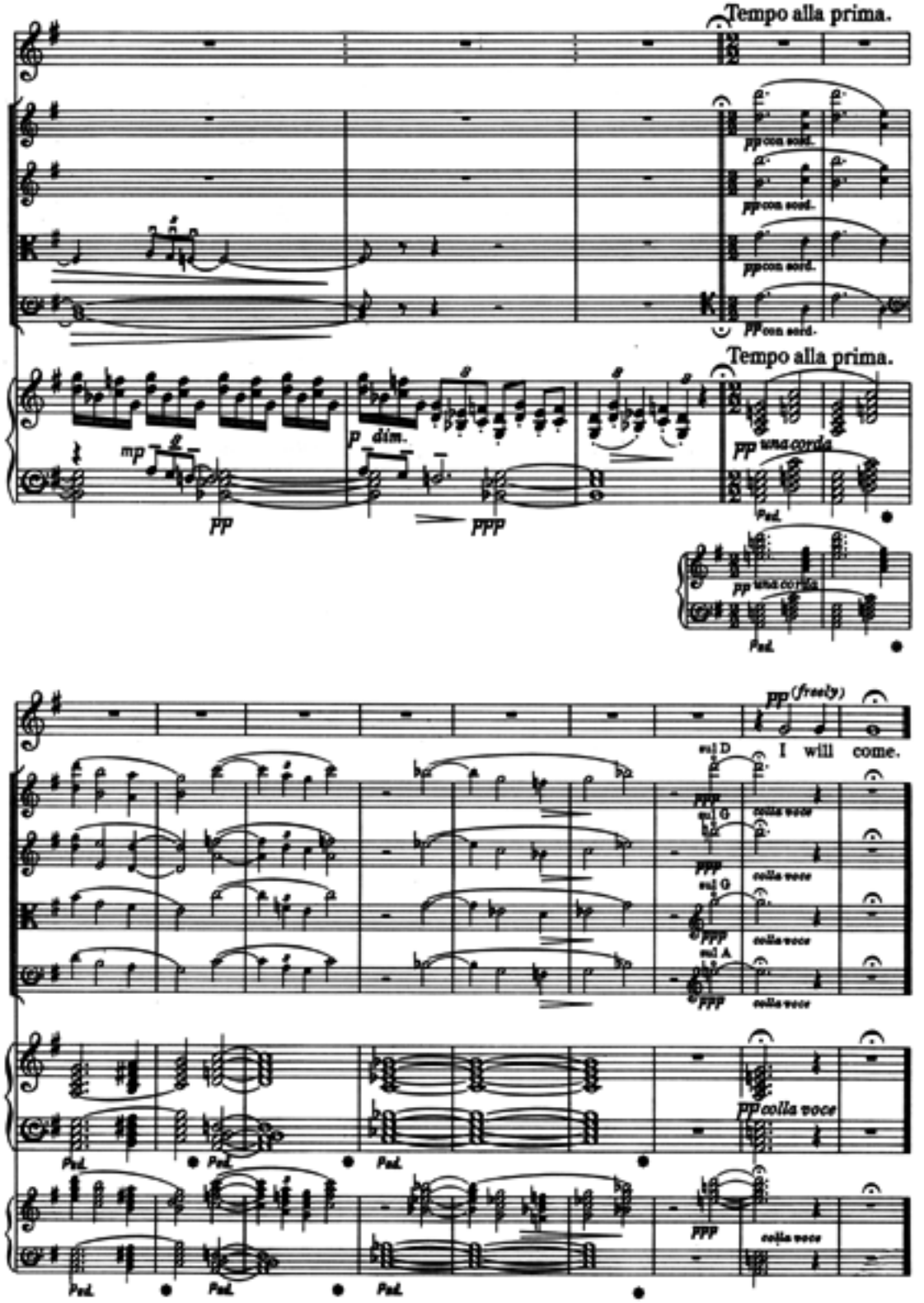
sempre ff

Ped.

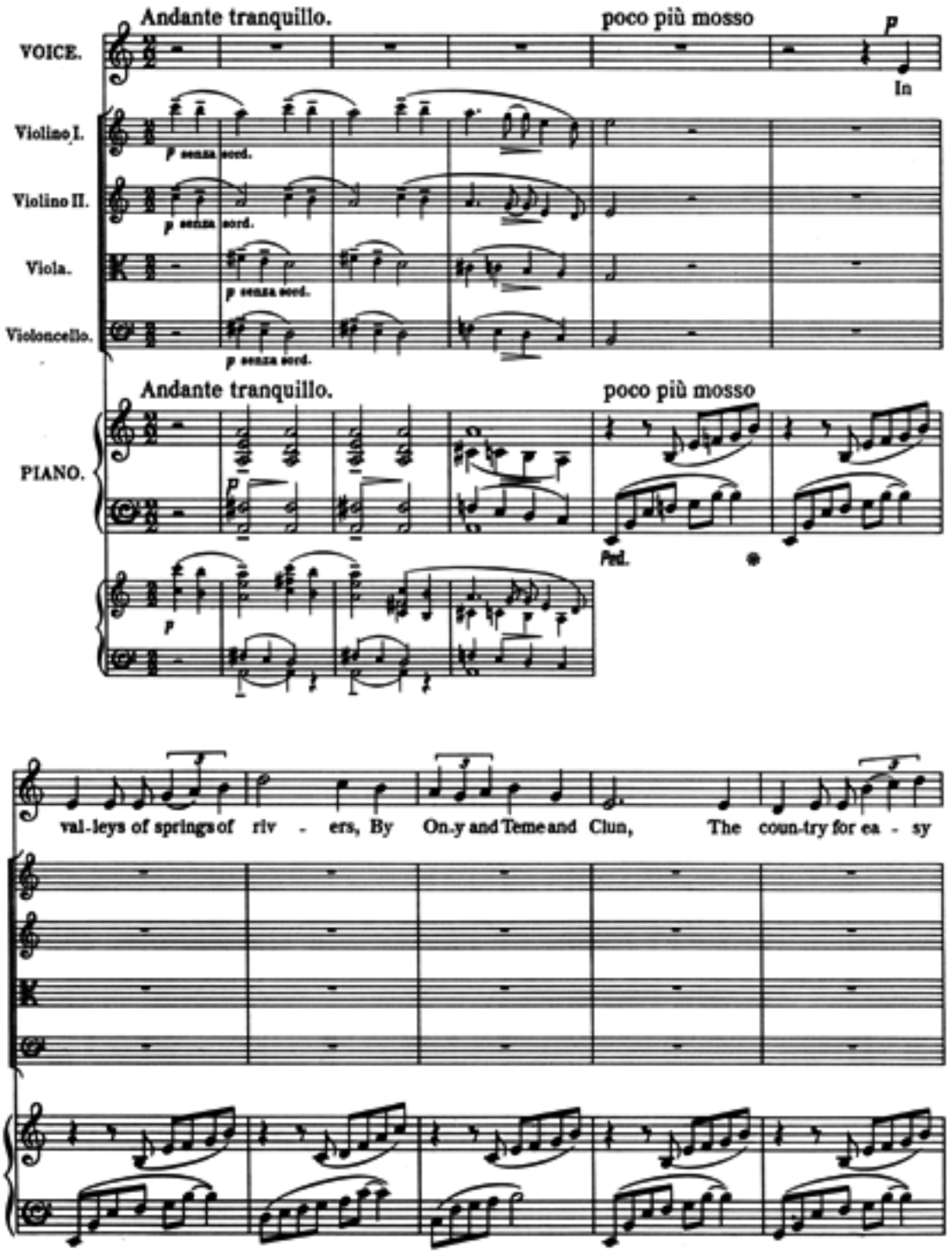
I hear you, I will come.

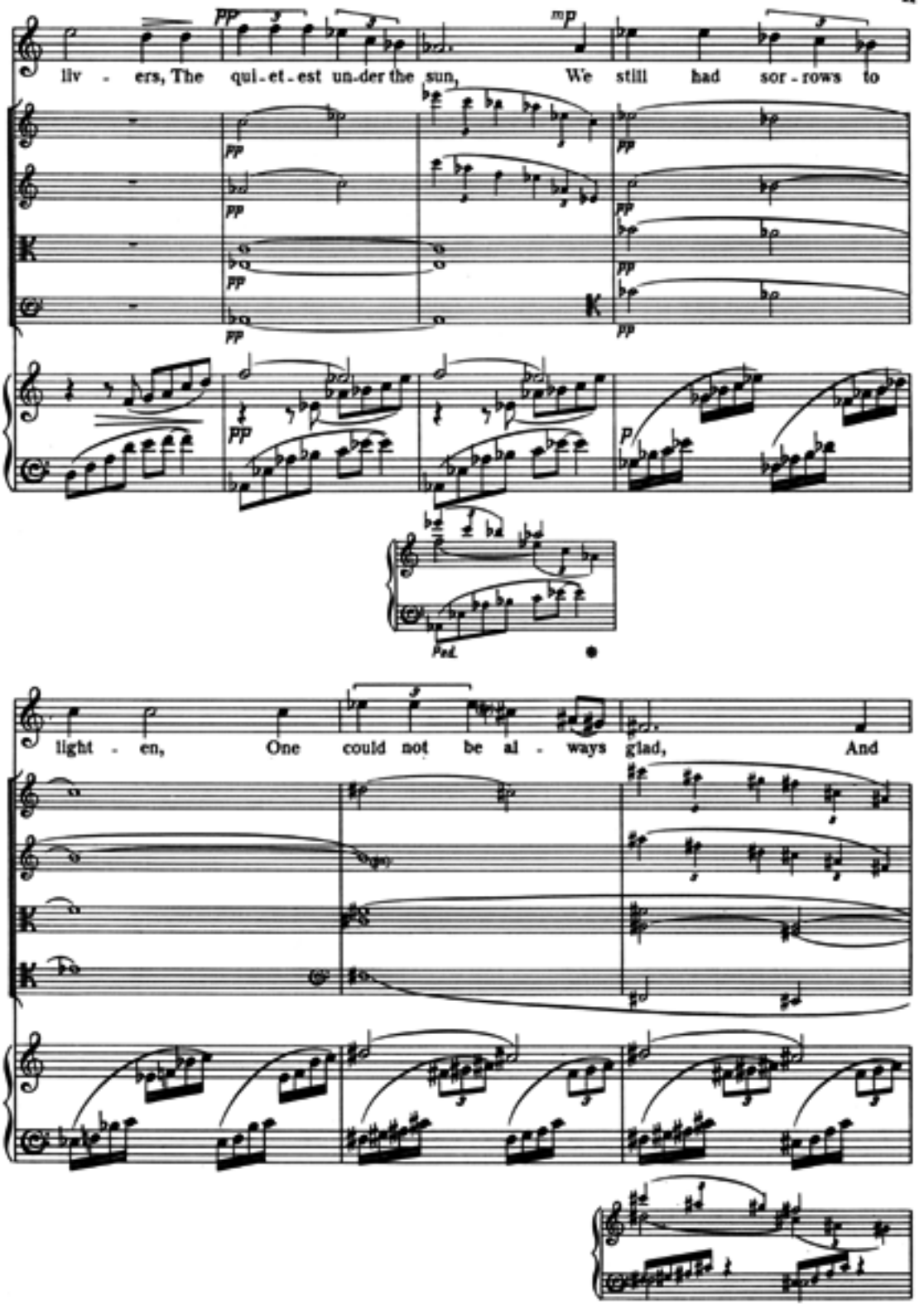
dim.

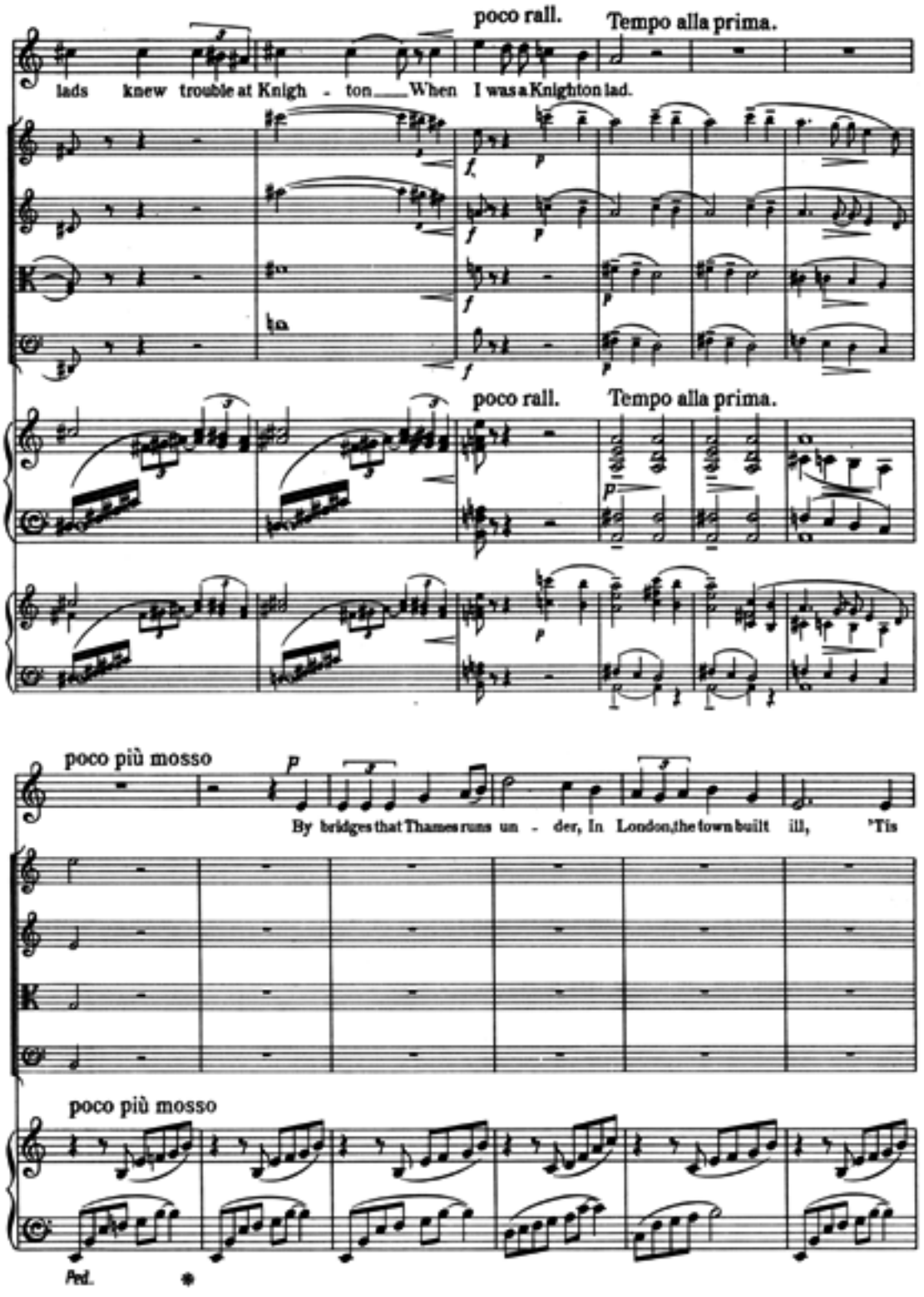
dim.

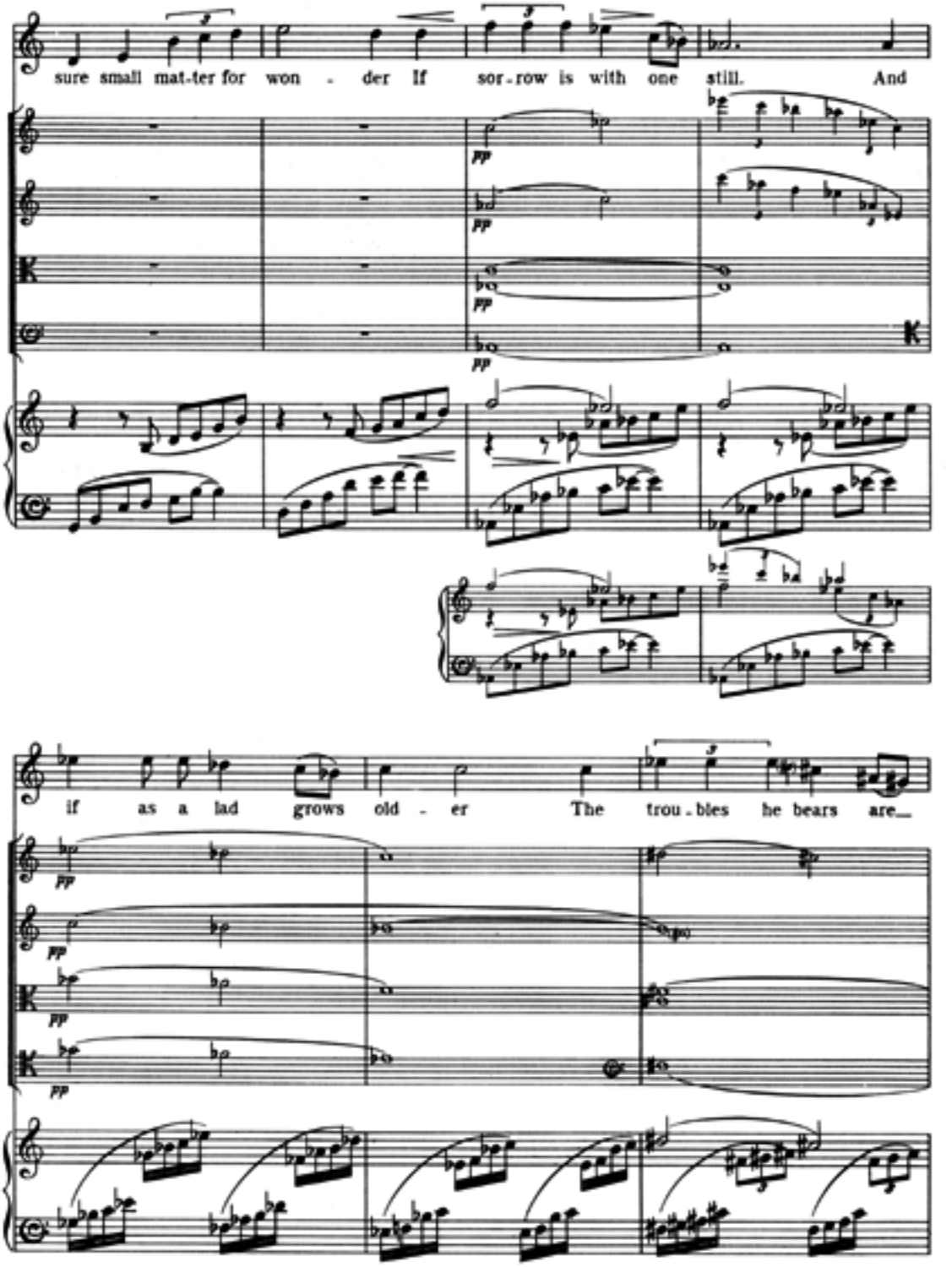

Tempo alla prima.
pp con sord.
pp con sord.
pp con sord.
pp con sord.
Tempo alla prima.
mp
pp
p dim.
ppp
pp una corda
Ped.
pp una corda
Ped.
pp (freely)
I will come.
sul D
sul G
sul G
sul A
ppp
ppp
ppp
ppp
colla voce
colla voce
colla voce
colla voce
pp colla voce
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
ppp
colla voce

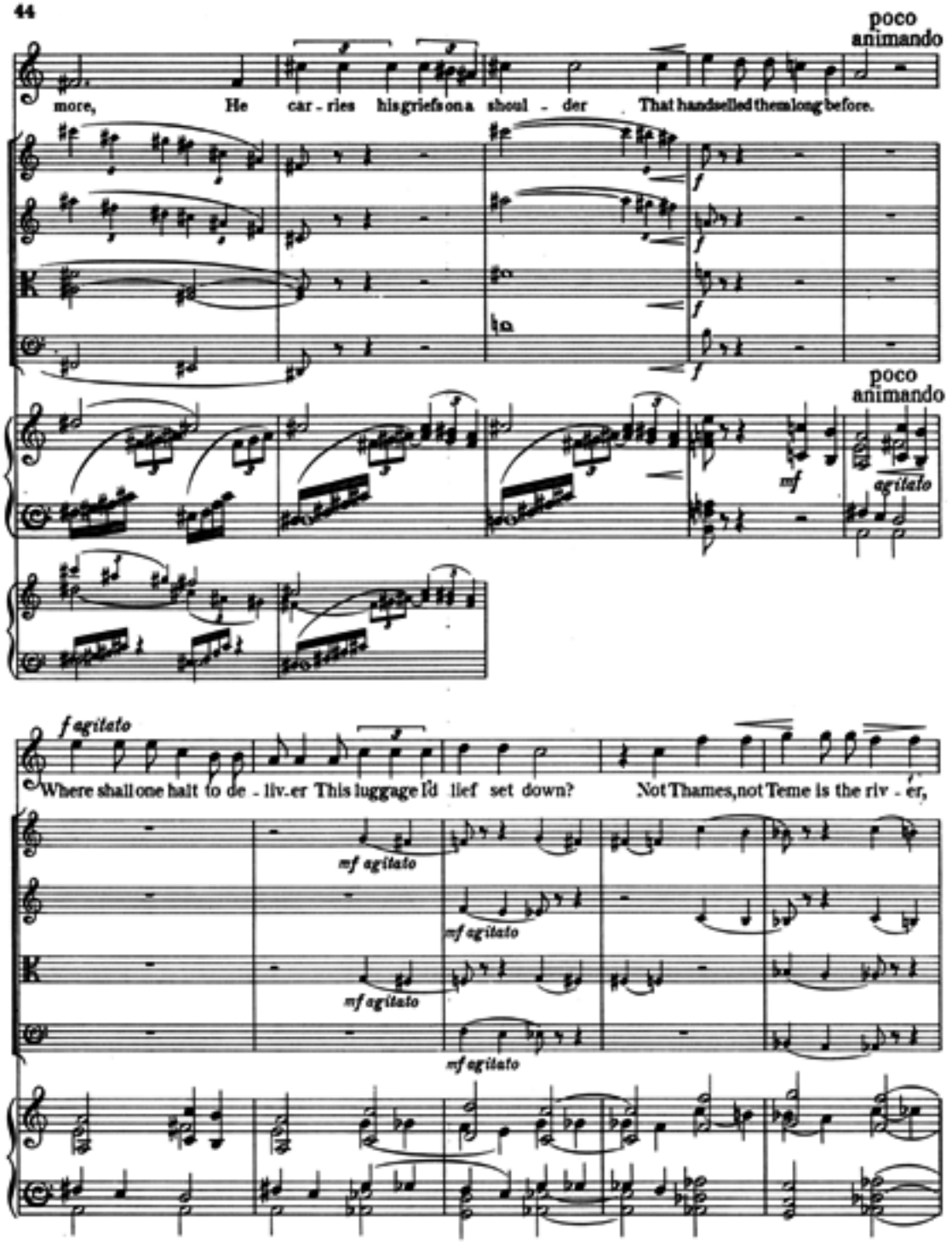
VI. CLUN.

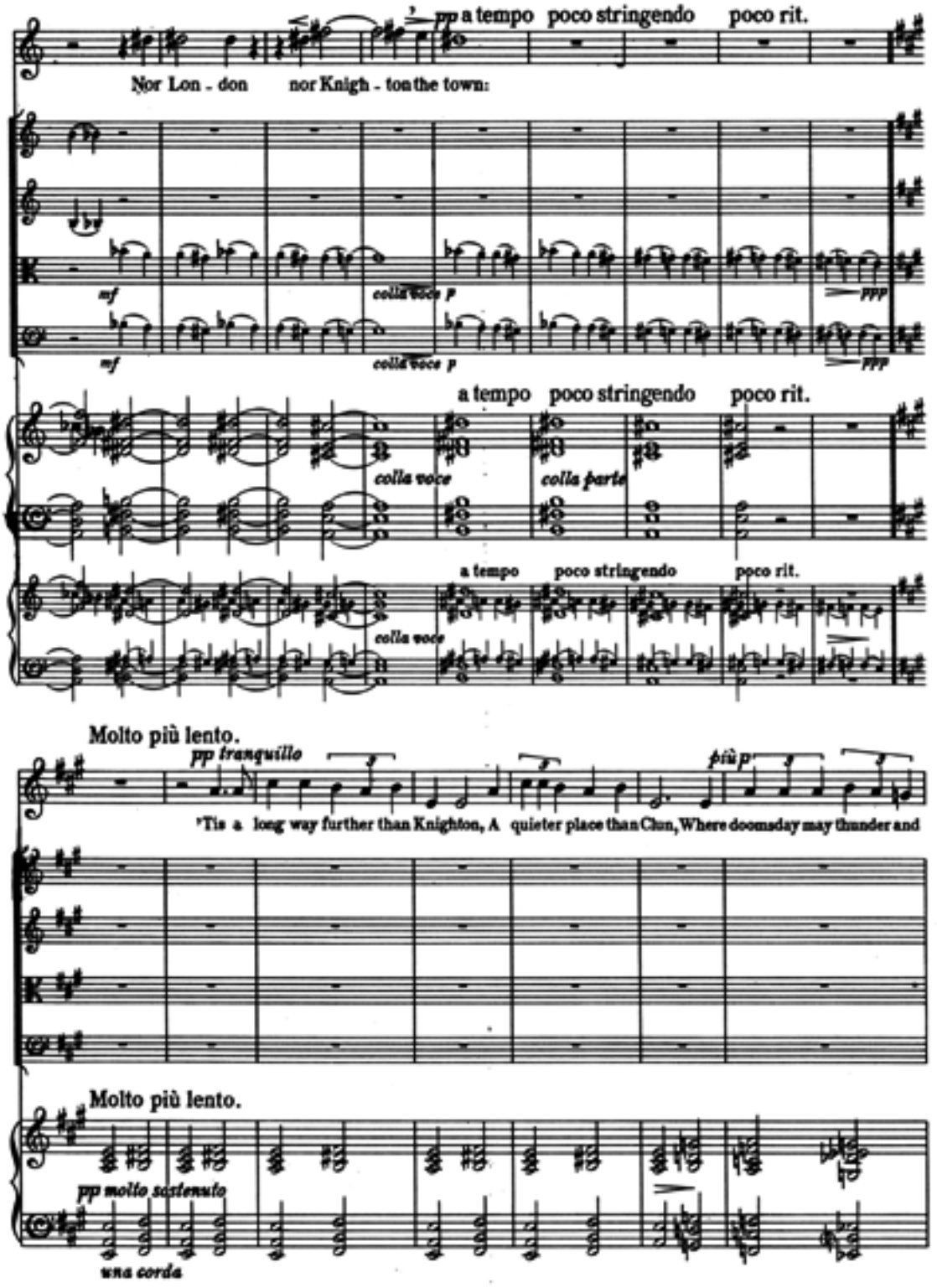

Andante tranquillo.
poco più mosso
VOICE.
In
Violino I.
Violino II.
Viola.
Violoncello.
p senza sord.
PIANO.
Ped.
val-leys of springs of riv - ers, By On-y and Teme and Clun, The coun-try for ea - sy

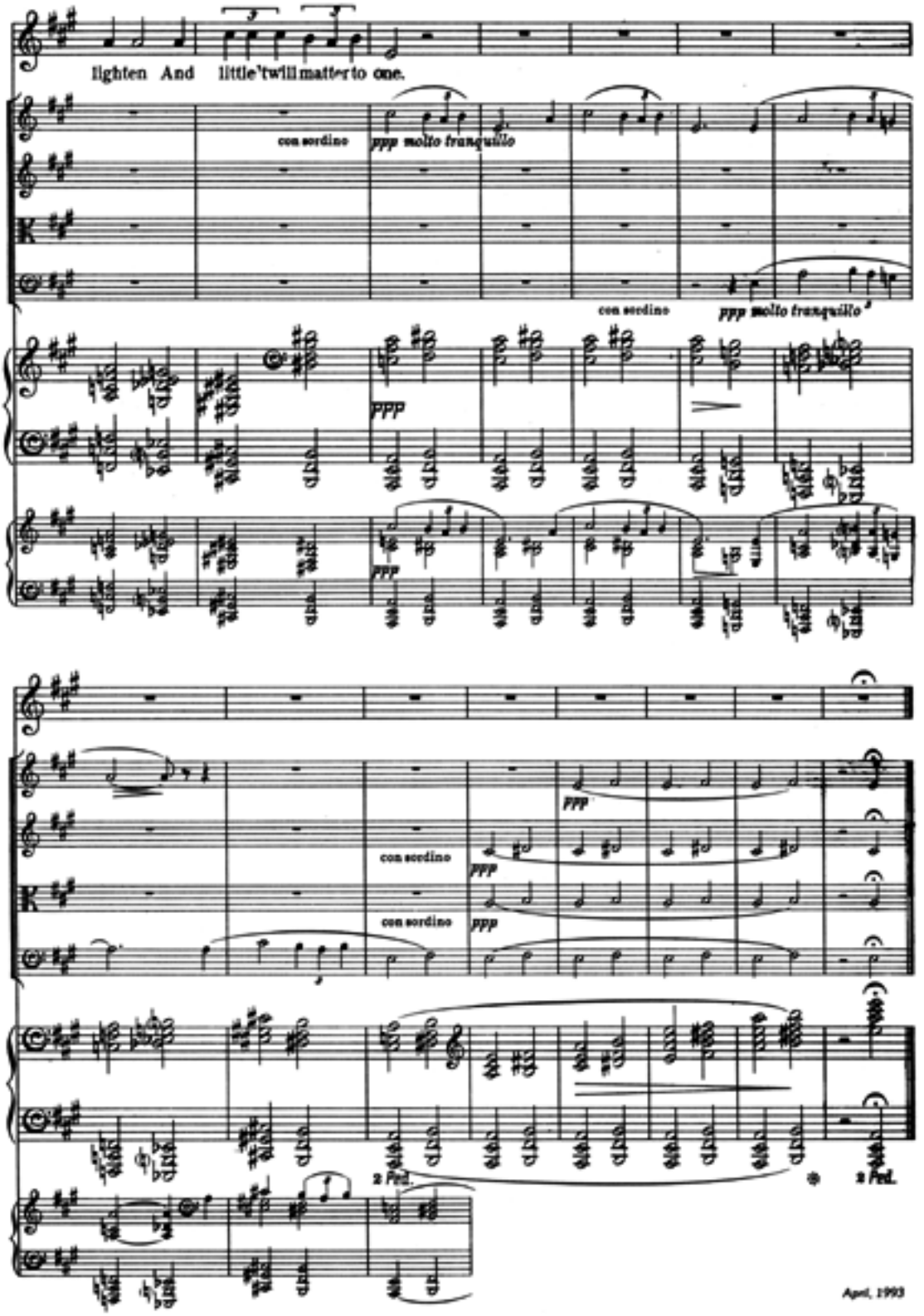

liv - ers, The qui - et - est un - der the sun, We still had sor - rows to
light - en, One could not be al - ways glad, And


poco rall.
Tempo alla prima.
lads knew trouble at Knigh - ton When I was a Knighton lad.
poco rall.
Tempo alla prima.
poco più mosso
By bridges that Thames runs un - der, In London, the town built ill, 'Tis
poco più mosso
Ped.


sure small mat-ter for won - der If sor-row is with one still. And
pp
pp
pp
pp
if as a lad grows old - er The trou-bles he bears are...
pp
pp
pp
pp


poco animando
more, He car - ries his griefs on a shoul - der That handselled them long before.
f
poco animando
mf
agitato
f agitato
Where shall one halt to de - liv-er This luggage I'd lief set down? Not Thames, not Teme is the riv - er,
mf agitato
mf agitato
mf agitato
mf agitato


pp a tempo poco stringendo poco rit.
Nor Lon - don nor Knigh - ton the town:
mf
colla voce p
ppp
a tempo poco stringendo poco rit.
colla voce
colla parte
Molto più lento.
pp tranquillo
più p
'Tis a long way further than Knighton, A quieter place than Clun, Where doomsday may thunder and
pp molto sostenuto
una corda


lighten And little'twill matter to one.
con sordino
ppp molto tranquillo
con sordino
ppp molto tranquillo
PPP
PPP
con sordino
con sordino
PPP
ppp
PPP
2 Ped.
2 Ped.

April, 1993