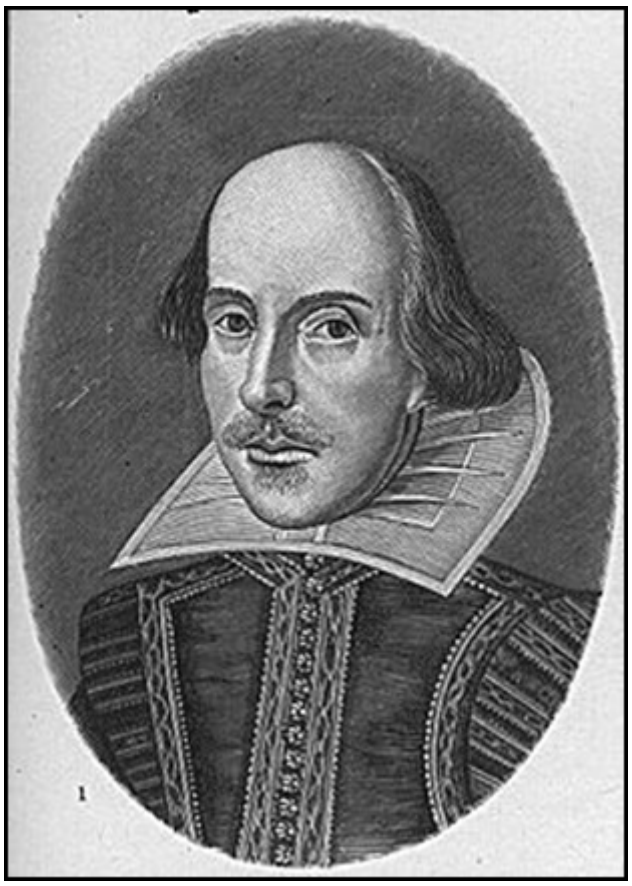
Richard Lambert

Five Shakespeare Songs

for baritone & piano



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Five Shakespeare Songs are re-workings of incidental music composed for productions of *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It* in 1980 and 1981.

1. **Under the Greenwood Tree** (*As You Like It,* II.v):

   Amiens' song is a celebration of the pastoral setting for this play. It encourages an escape from the backbiting world of the royal court to a life of paradise in the Forest of Arden. The last verse, however, is a pessimistic contribution from Jacques, who suggests that leaving a life of "wealth and ease" by living in the woods is mere foolishness.

2. **O Mistress Mine** (*Twelfth Night,* II.iii)

   The rôle of the clown Feste embodies the spirit of Twelfth Night festivities. His rôle is to dance, sing and generally entertain those around him. His song reminds the characters that life is short, that love and joy should be embraced without delay. Sir Toby Belch pays him sixpence for the song.

3. **Come Away Death** (*Twelfth Night,* II.iv)

   Twelfth Night is full of music. This is another song from Feste – about a man who dies of unrequited love from the "fair cruel maid". He wants to be buried anonymously and far away. The emphasis here is on the innocence of love.

4. **It was a lover and his lass** (*As You Like It,* V.iii)

   Presented in the play by two Pages, this pastoral song celebrates young love in springtime, fitting the woodland setting for this comedy.

5. **Blow, blow thou winter wind** (*As You Like It,* II.vii)

   Amiens' song is a lyrical poem about life and foolish behaviour – a stark comparison between the harsh winter wind and the unremitting realities of human life. Shakespeare personifies the idea of a painful, bitter wind to communicate the notion of how much more painful false love and friendship can be.

Duration 11'.

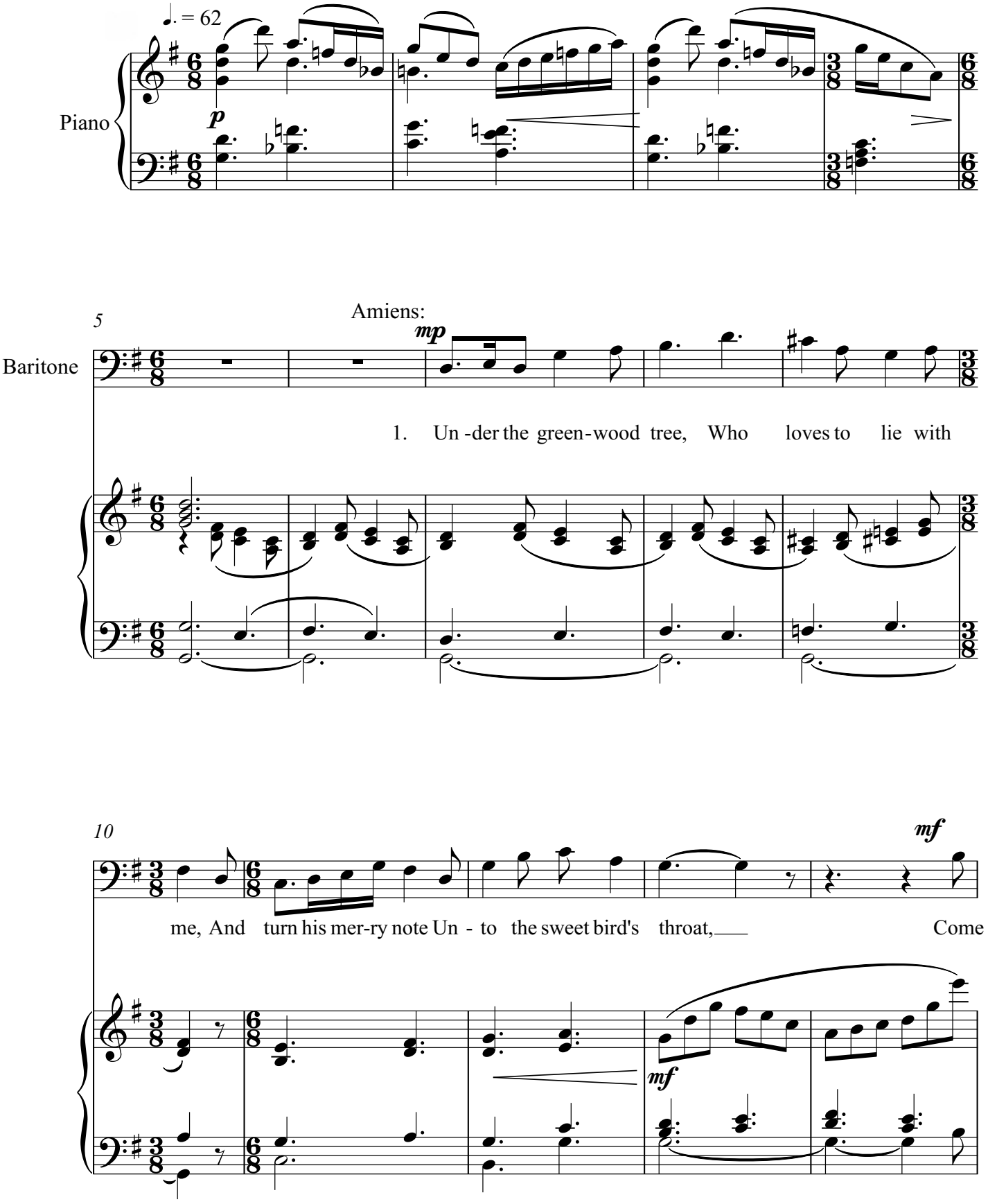
Five Shakespeare Songs

for baritone and piano

1. Under the Greenwood Tree

'As You Like It' II.v

Richard Lambert (b.1951)



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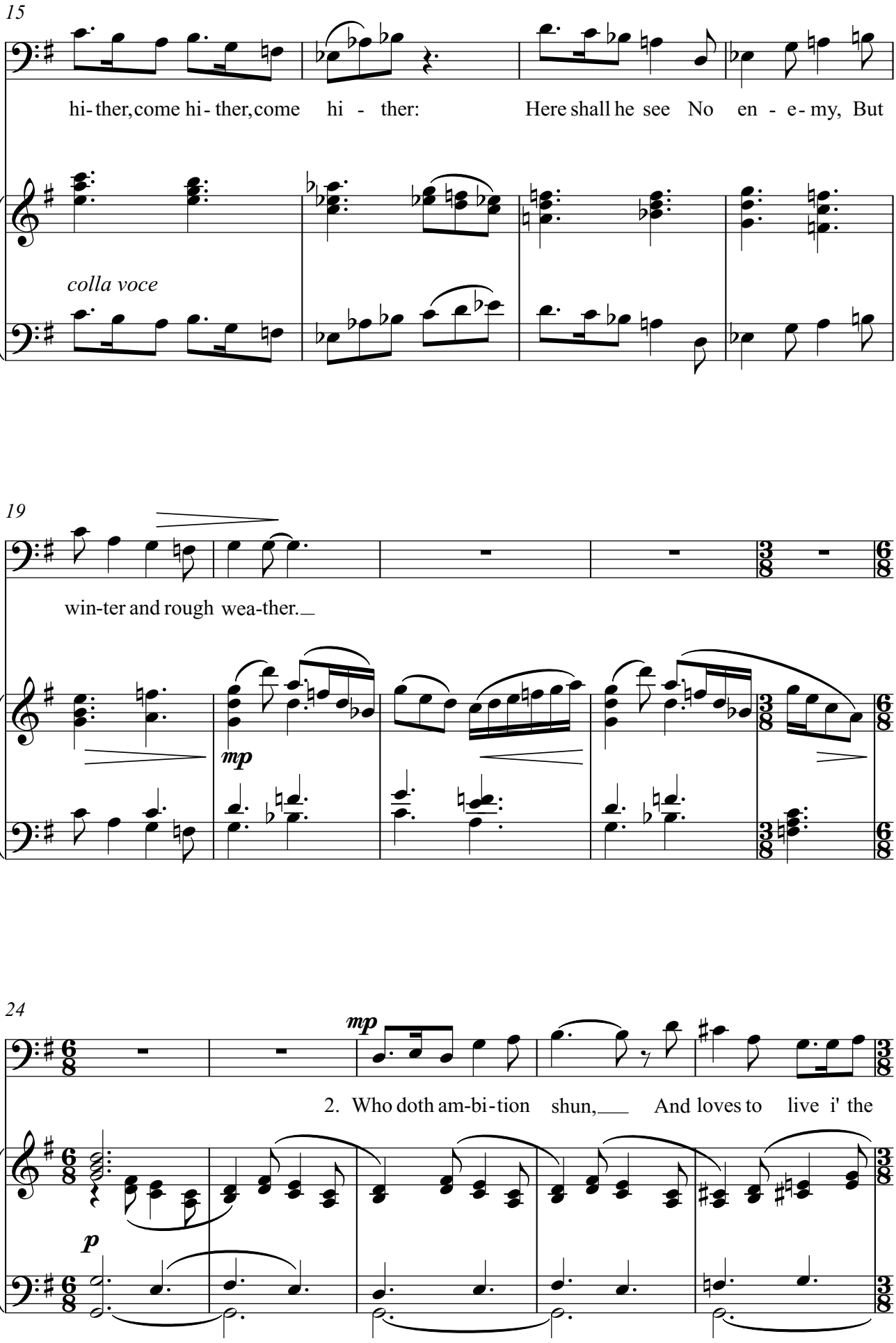
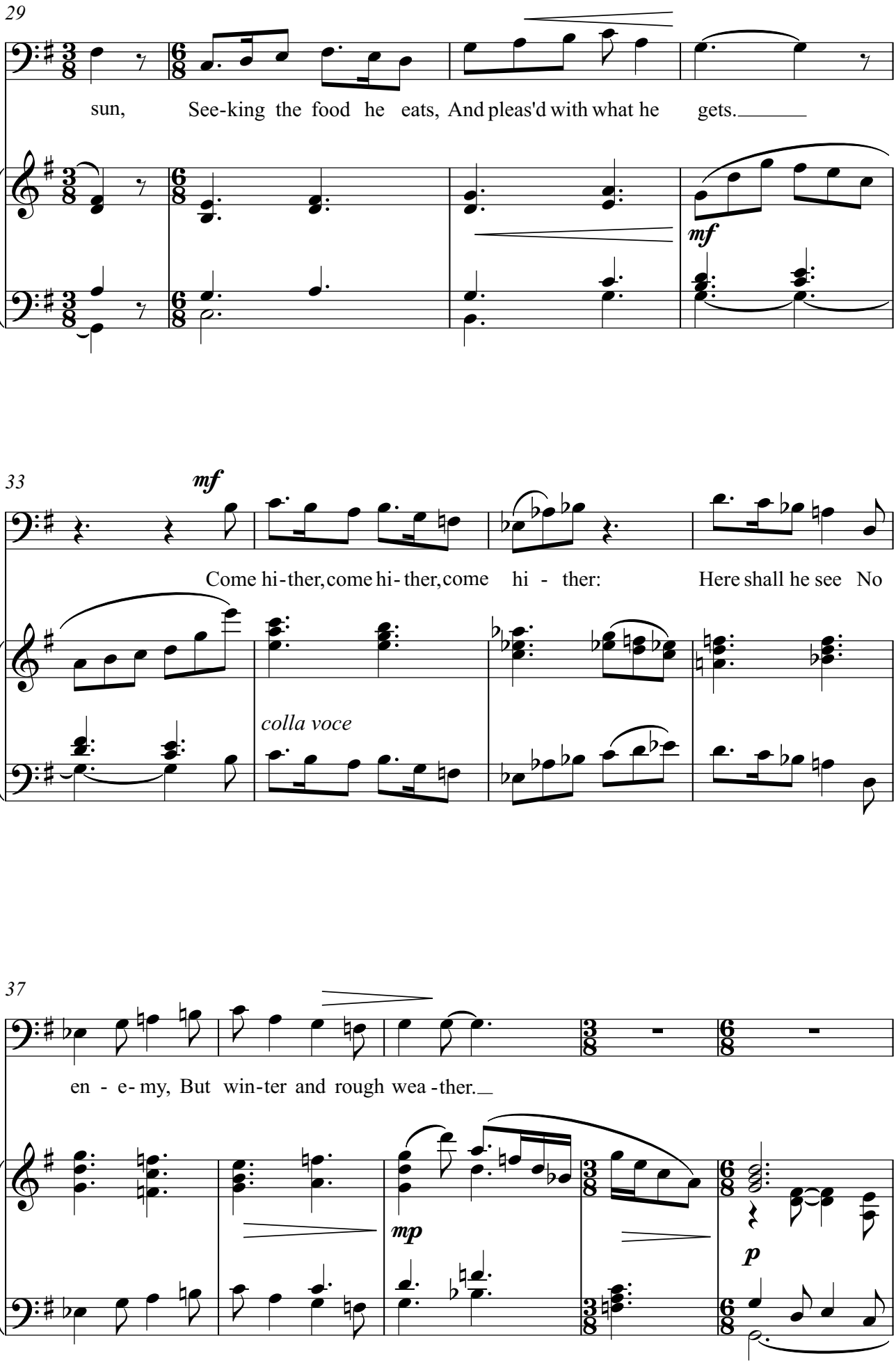

15
hi-ther, come hi-ther, come hi - ther: Here shall he see No en - e-my, But
colla voce
19
win-ter and rough wea-ther.
mp
24
mp
2. Who doth am-bi-tion shun, And loves to live i' the
p


29
sun, See-king the food he eats, And pleas'd with what he gets.
mf
33
mf
Come hi-ther, come hi-ther, come hi - ther: Here shall he see No
colla voce
37
en - e-my, But win-ter and rough wea-ther.
mp
p

Jacques: (*pessimistically)*

42 *mf*

3. If it do come to pass,___ That a-ny man turn ass, Leav-ing his wealth and ease,

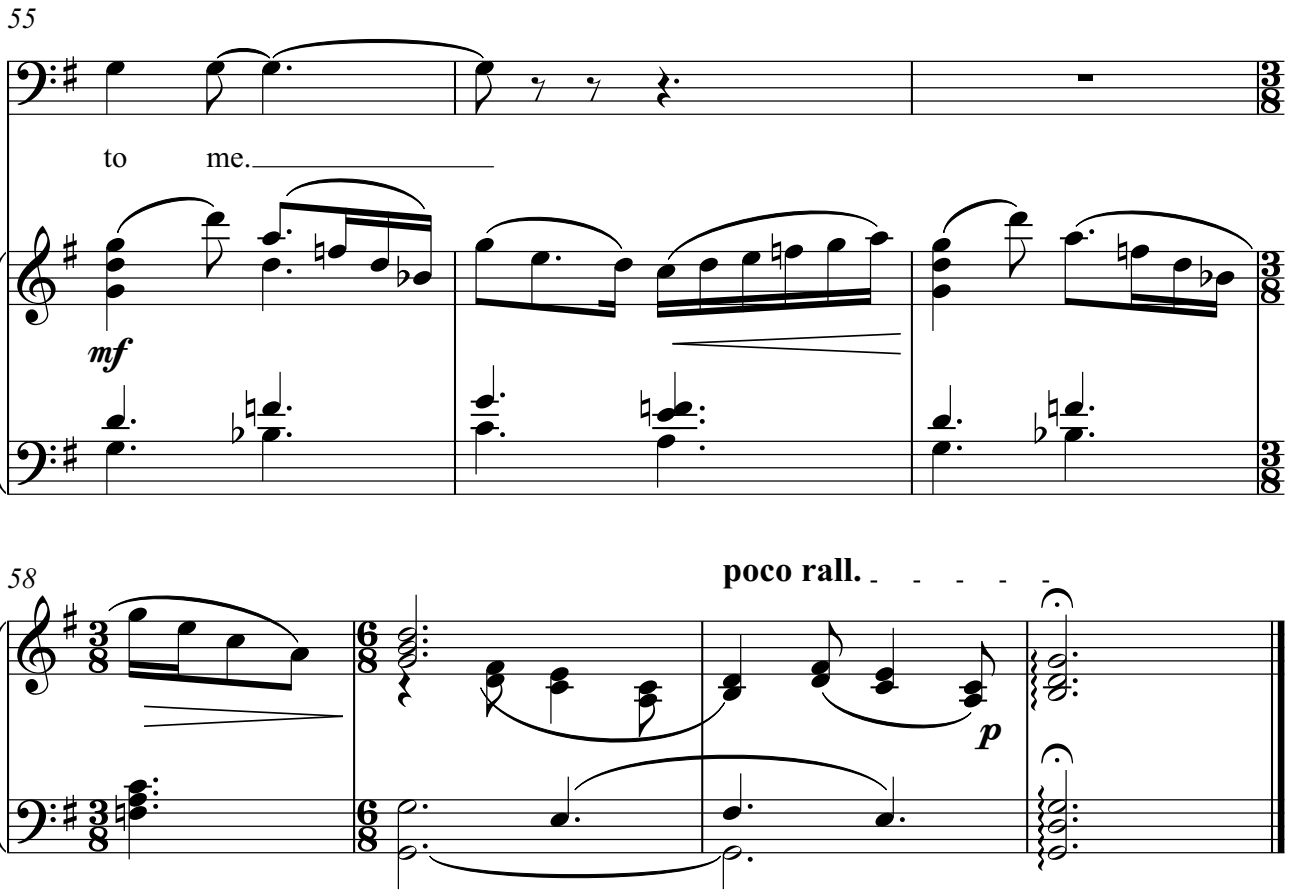
47 *mf*

A stub-born will to please,___ Duc - da - me, duc - da - me,

mf *colla voce*

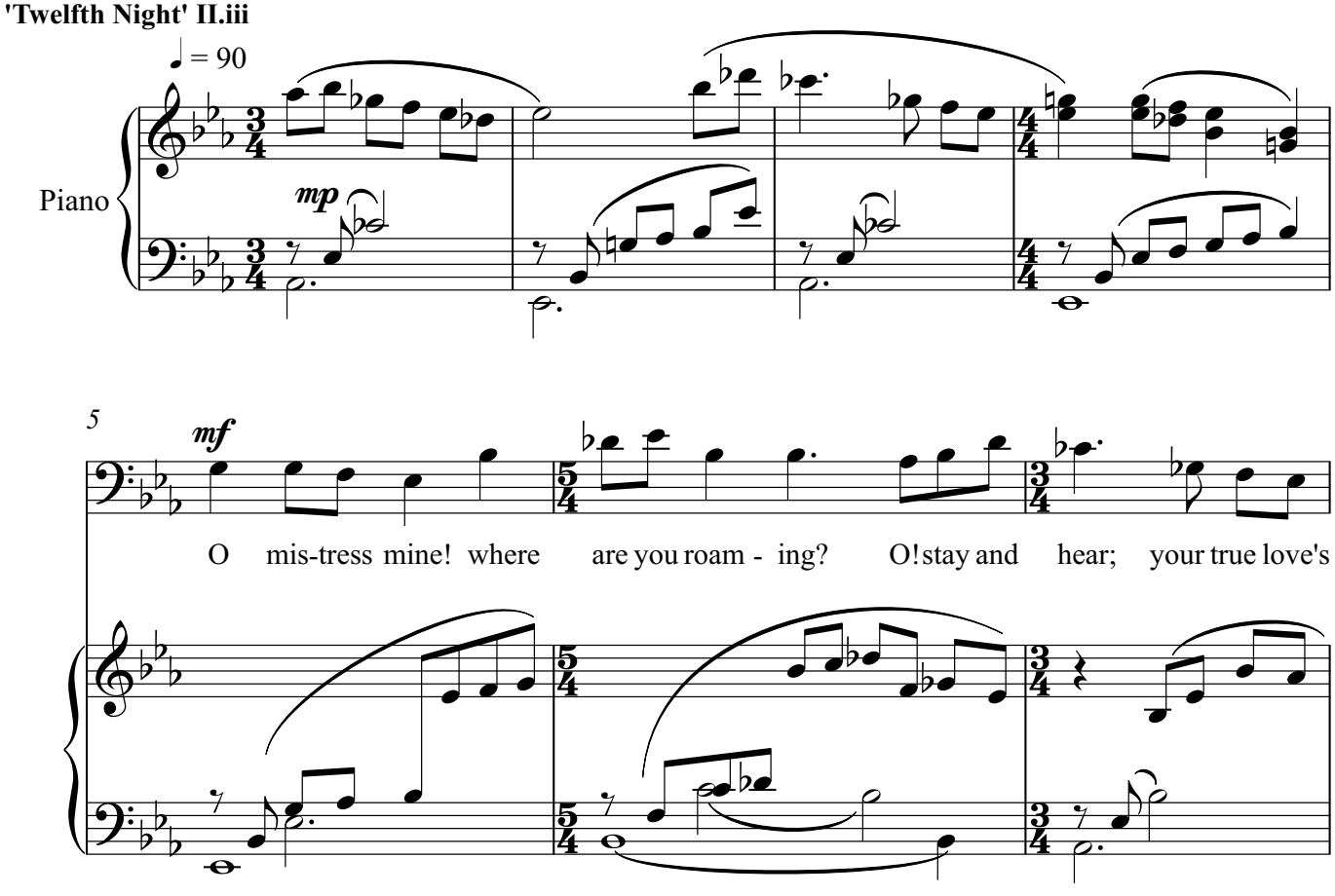
51

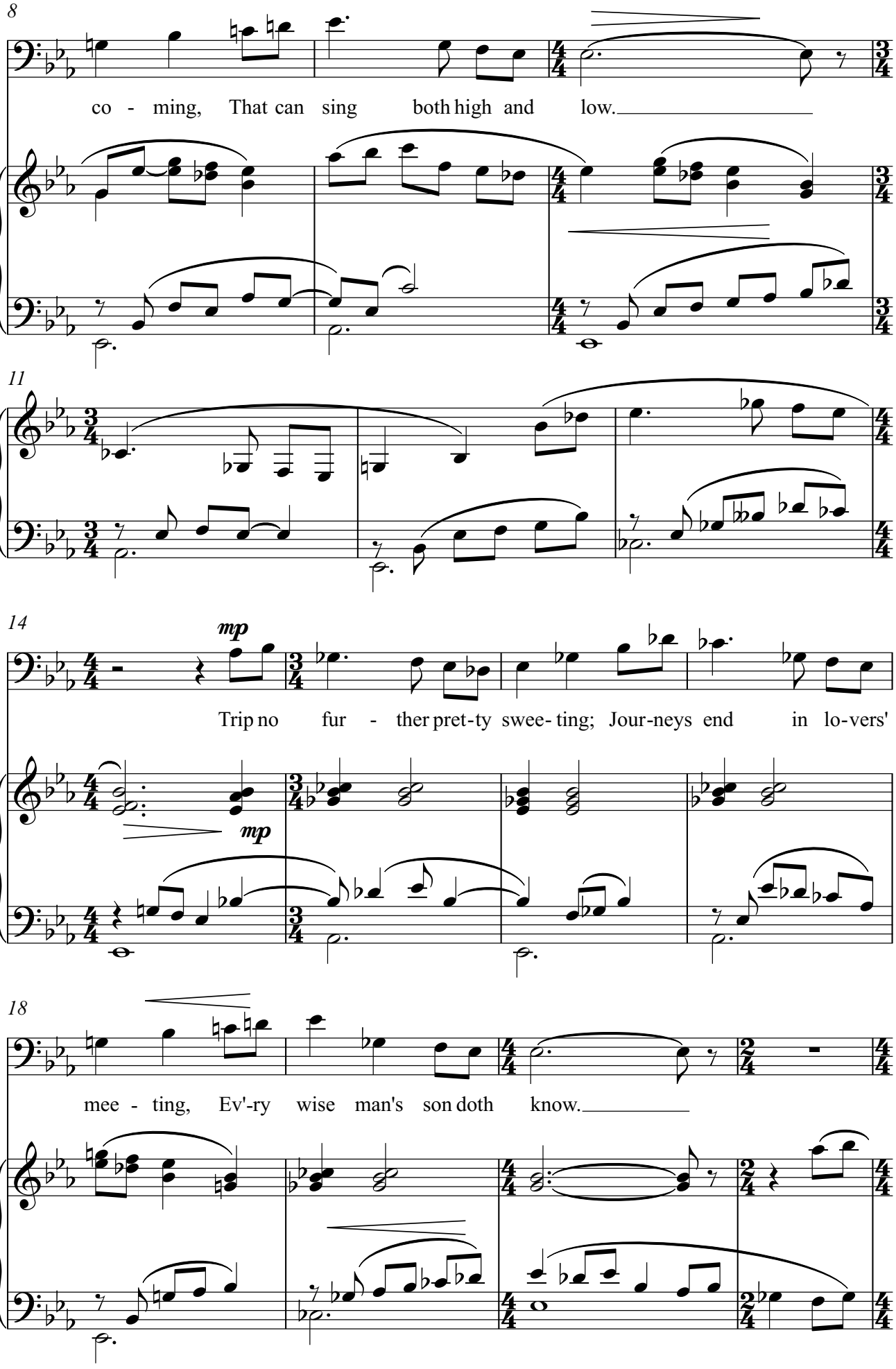
duc - da - me:_ Here shall he see Gross fools as he, An if he will come

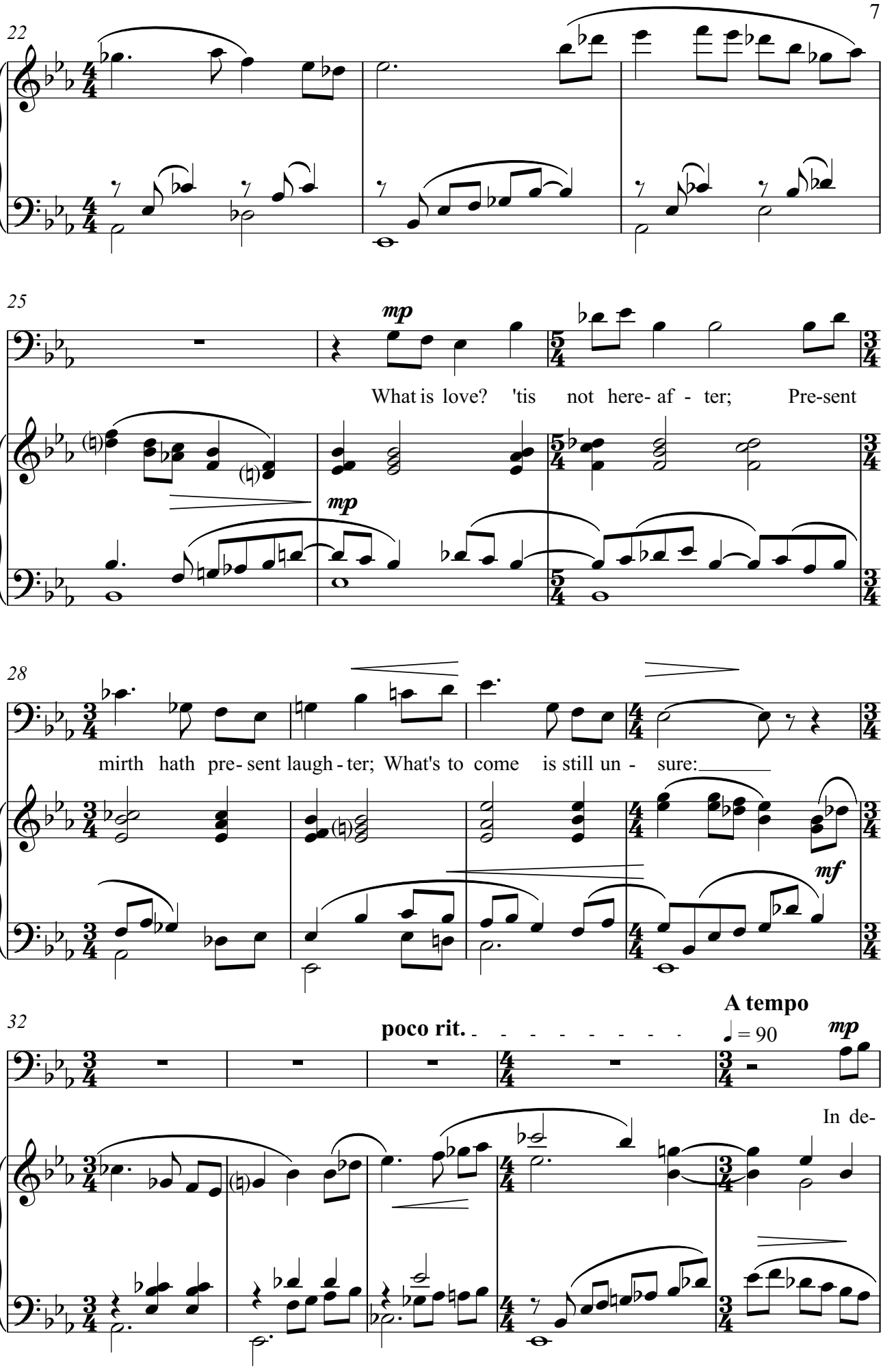


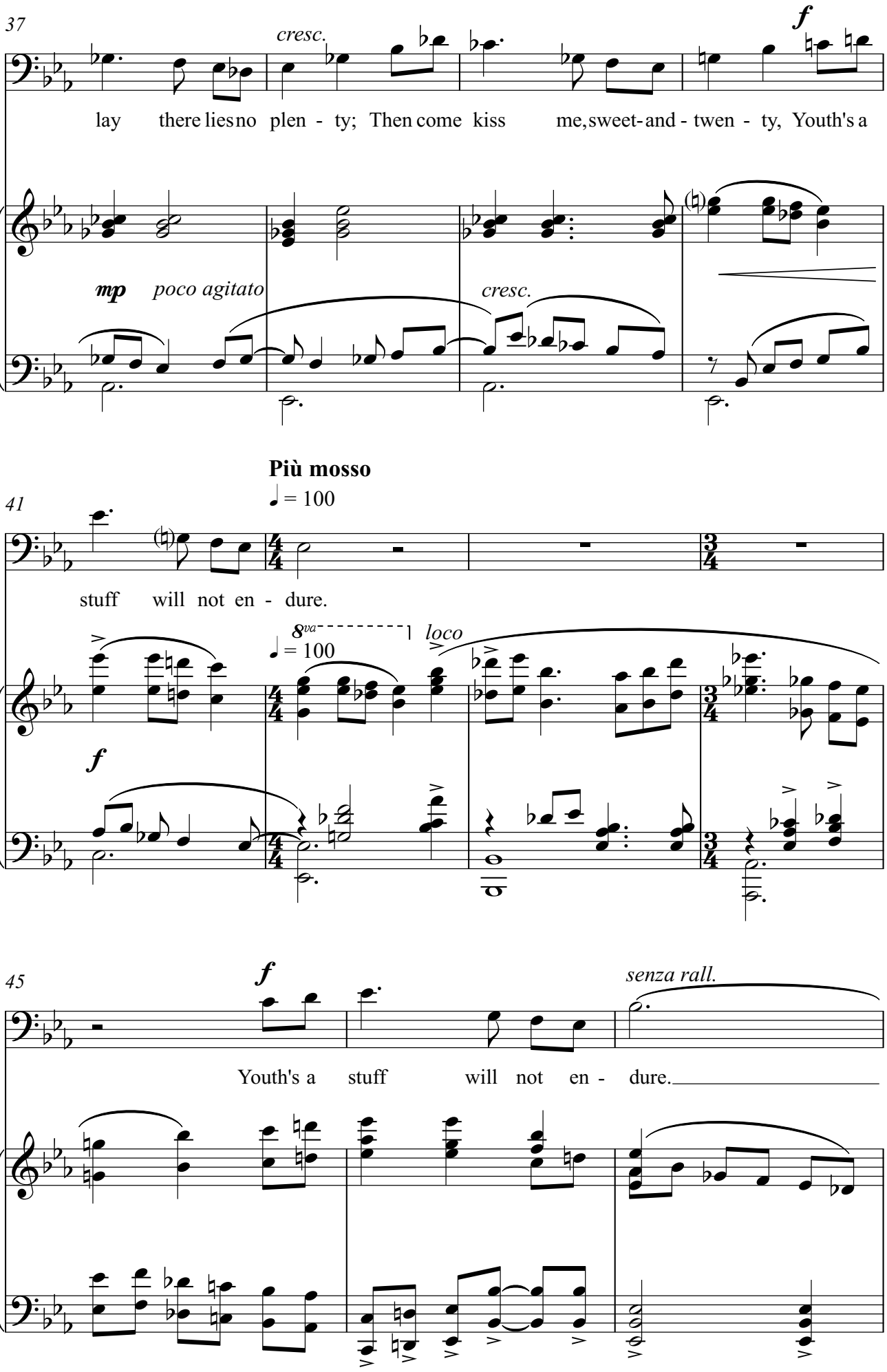
2. O Mistress Mine

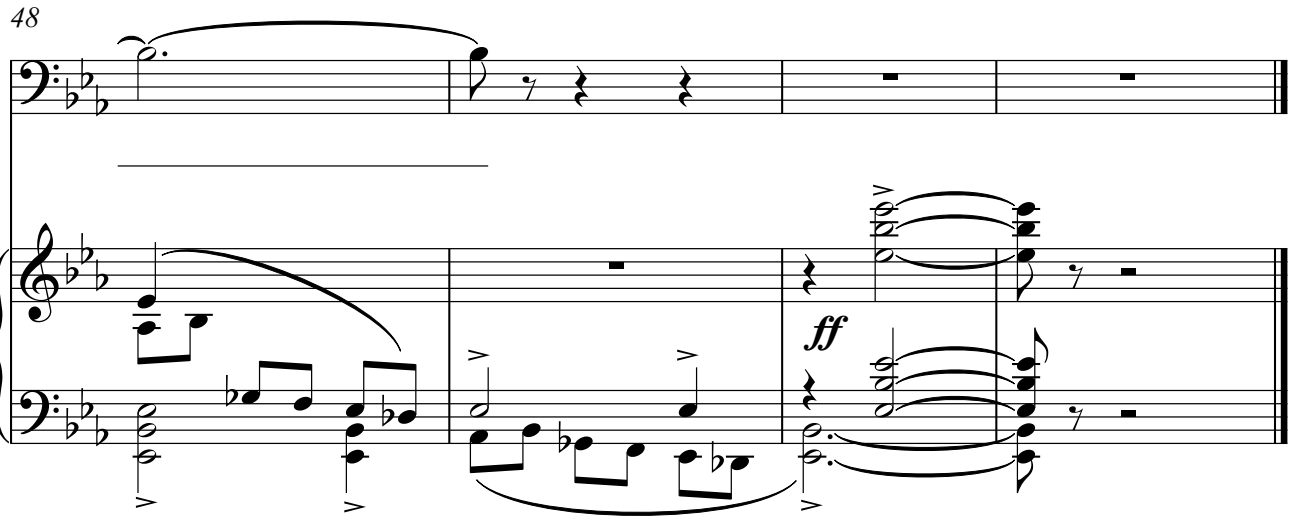
'Twelfth Night' II.iii




8
co - ming, That can sing both high and low.
11
14
mp
mp
Trip no fur - ther pret-ty swee- ting; Jour-neys end in lo-vers'
18
mee - ting, Ev'-ry wise man's son doth know.

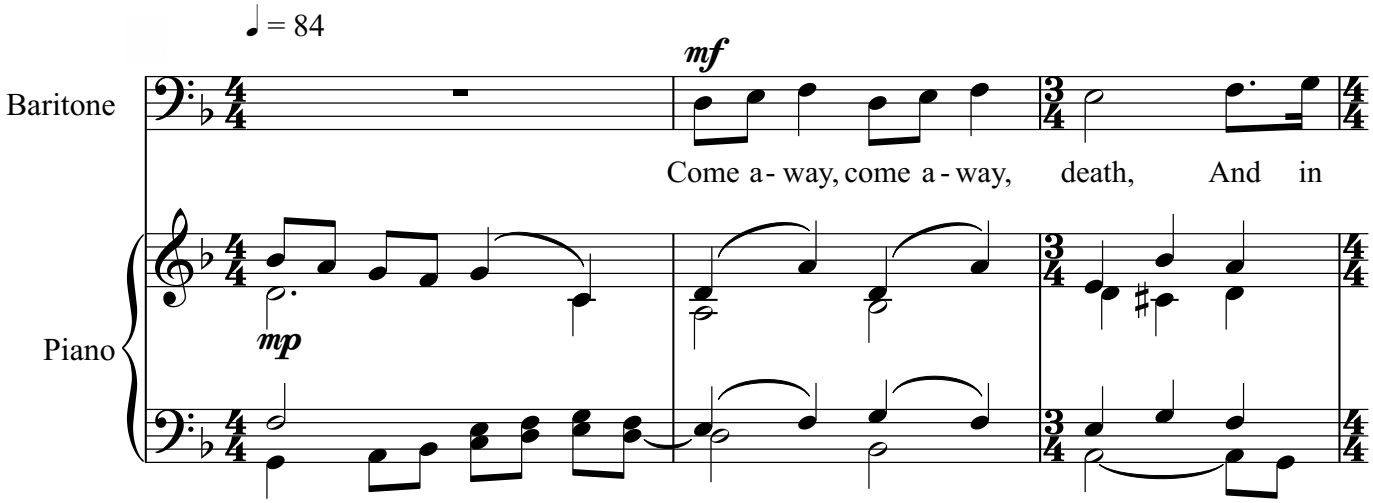

22
25
mp
What is love? 'tis not here- af - ter; Pre-sent
mp
28
mirth hath pre- sent laugh - ter; What's to come is still un - sure:
mf
32
poco rit.
A tempo
♩ = 90
mp
In de-

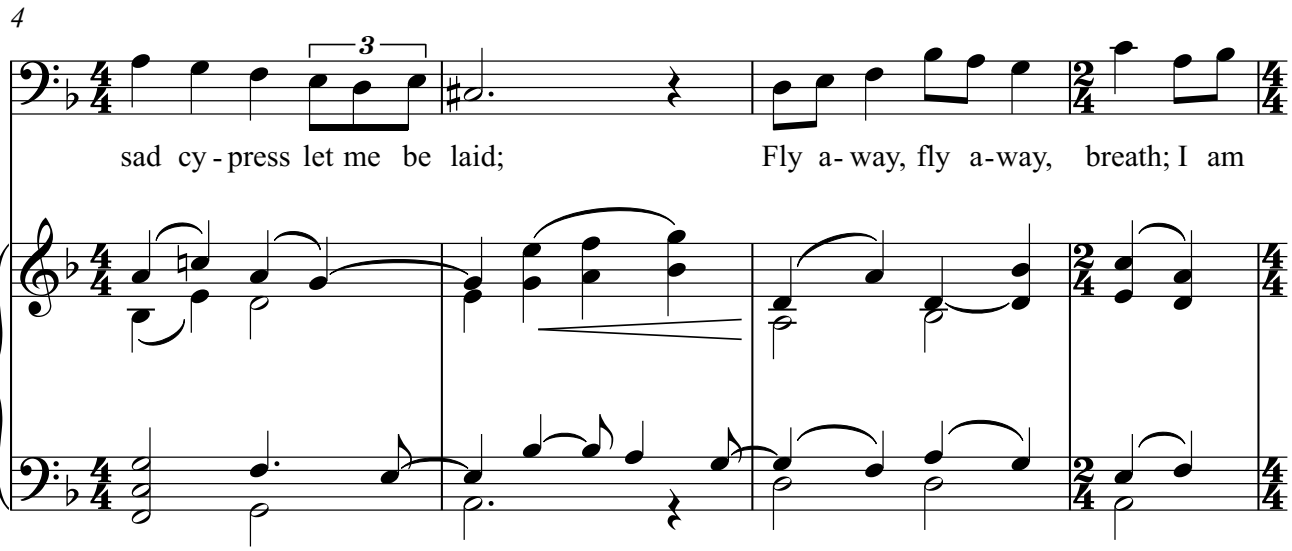

37
cresc.
f
lay there lies no plen - ty; Then come kiss me, sweet- and - twen - ty, Youth's a
mp poco agitato
cresc.
Più mosso
41
= 100
stuff will not en - dure.
8va
loco
= 100
f
45
f
senza rall.
Youth's a stuff will not en - dure.

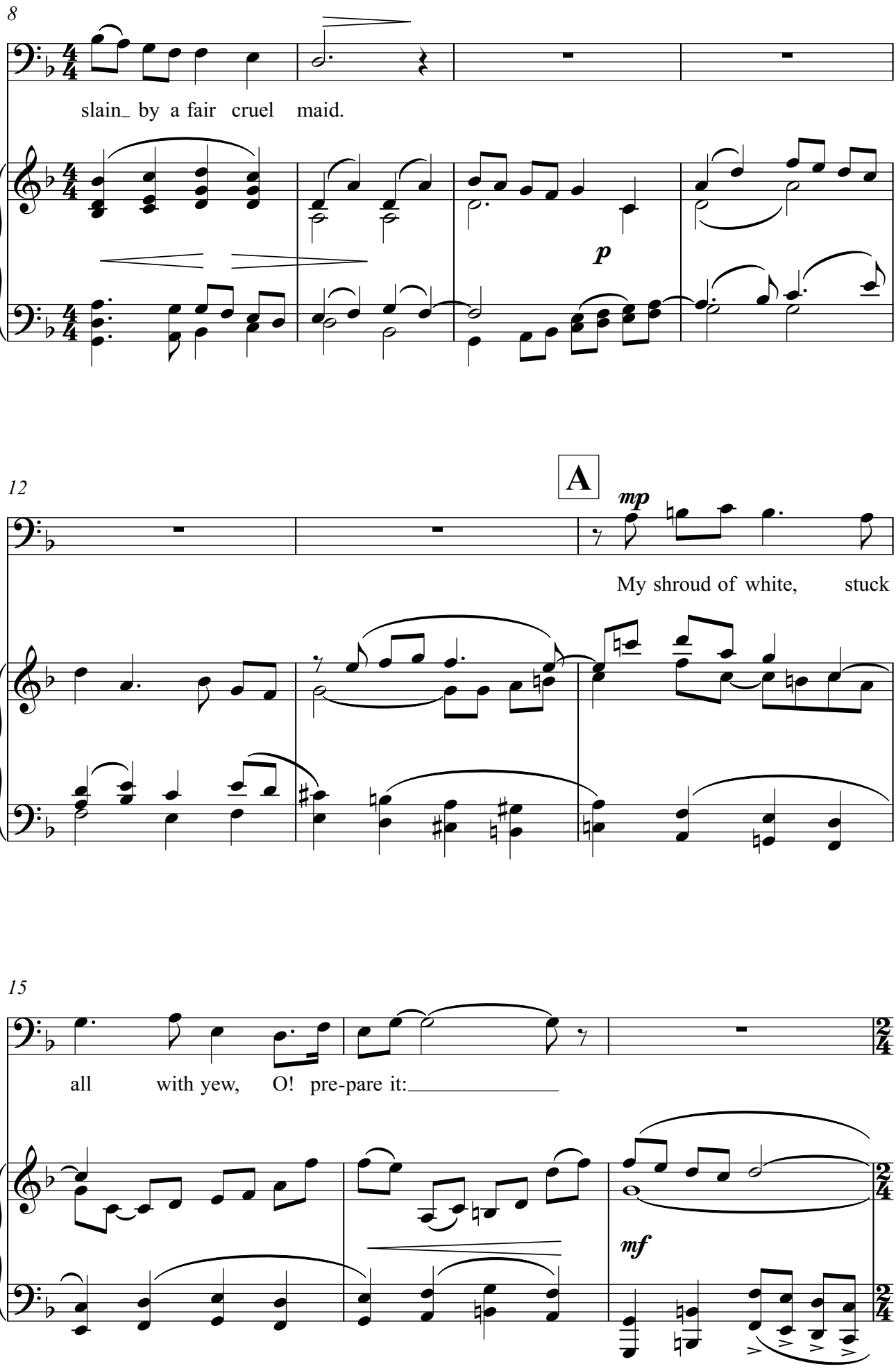


3. Come Away Death

'Twelfth Night' II.iv






8
slain_ by a fair cruel maid.
p
12
A
mp
My shroud of white, stuck
15
all with yew, O! pre-pare it:
mf

18

mf

rall.

My part of death, no one so true Did share

22

A tempo

poco rit.

it.

mp

B

Tempo primo

25

♩=84

mp

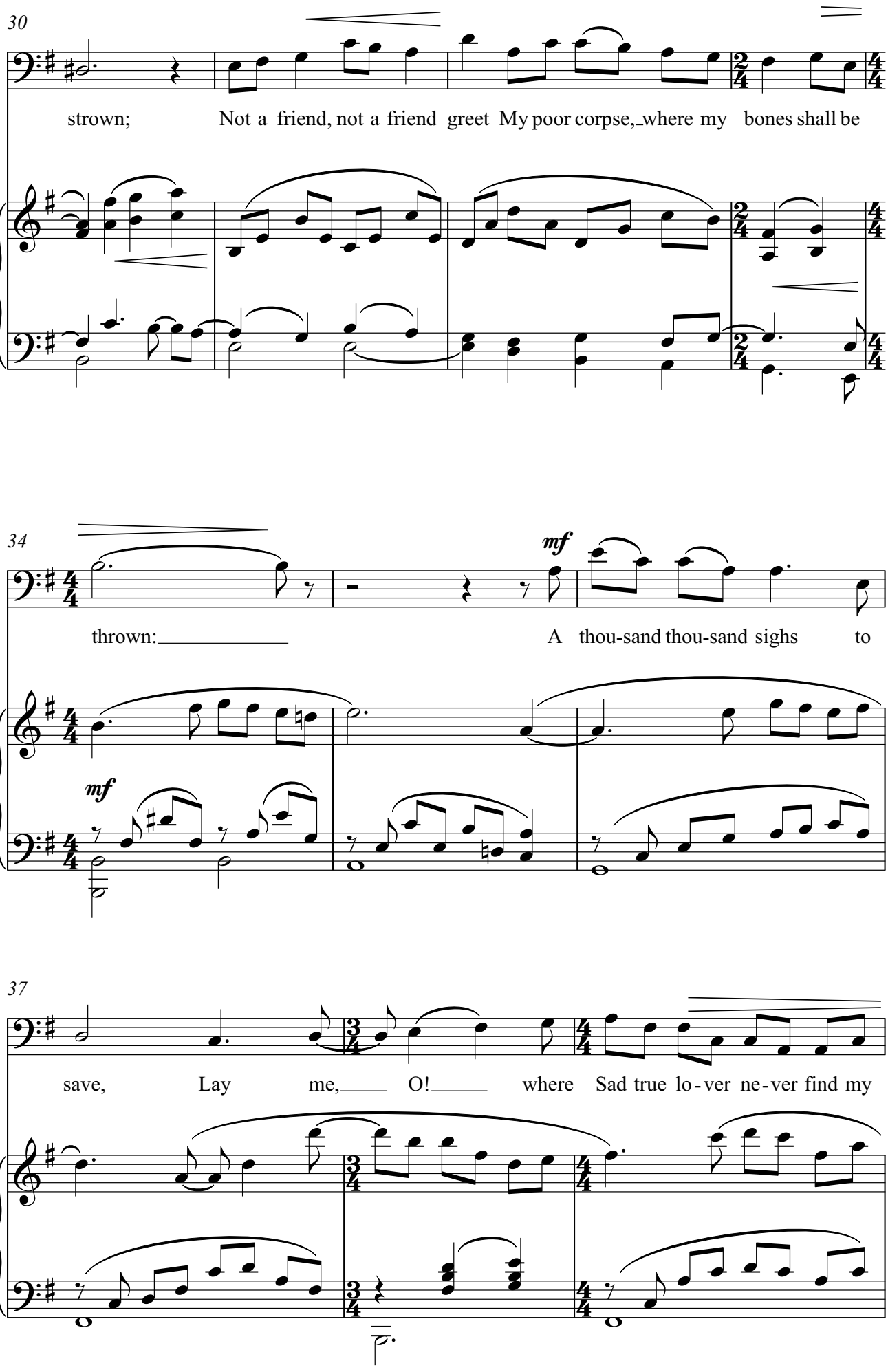
Ped.

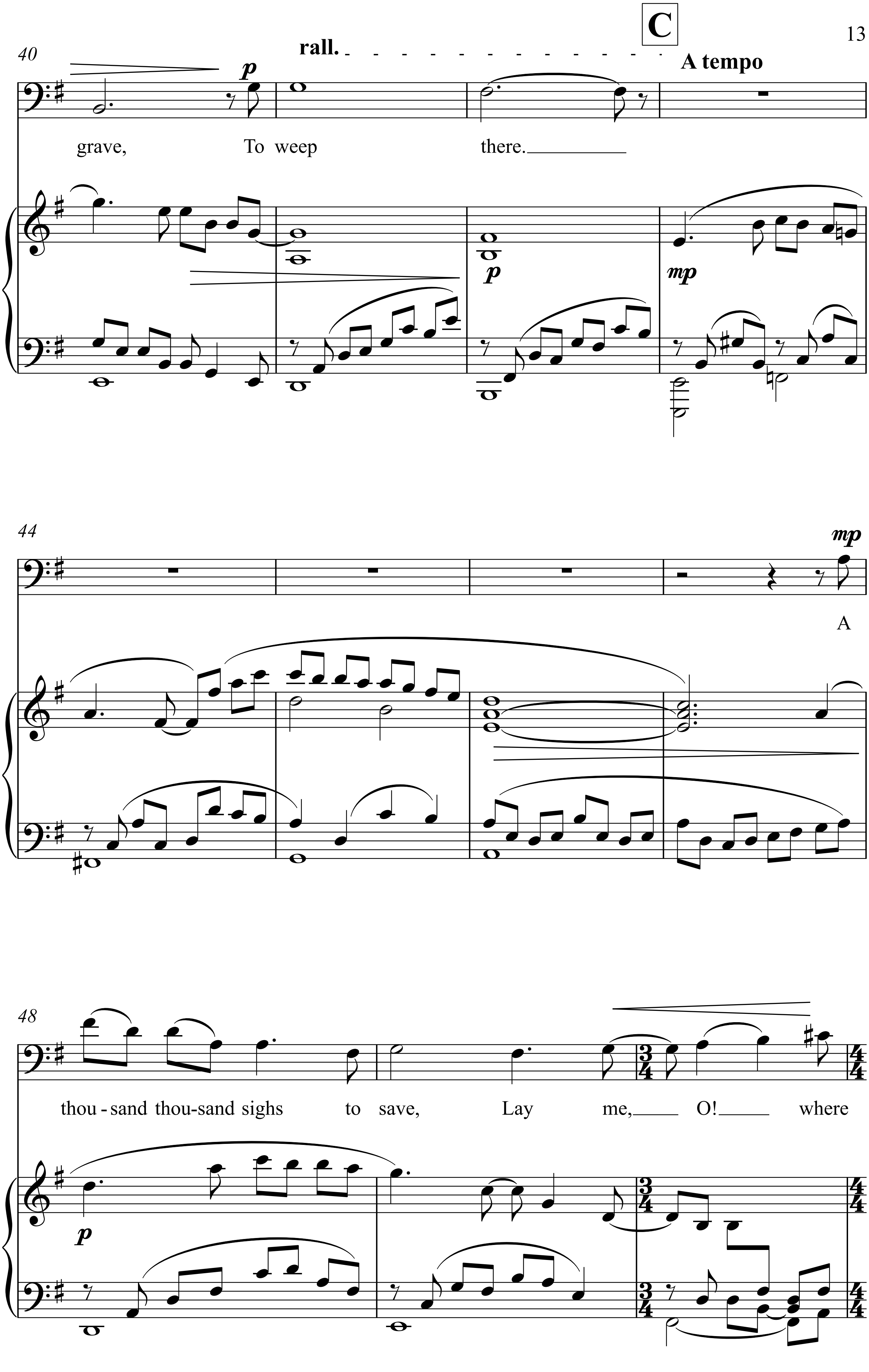
27

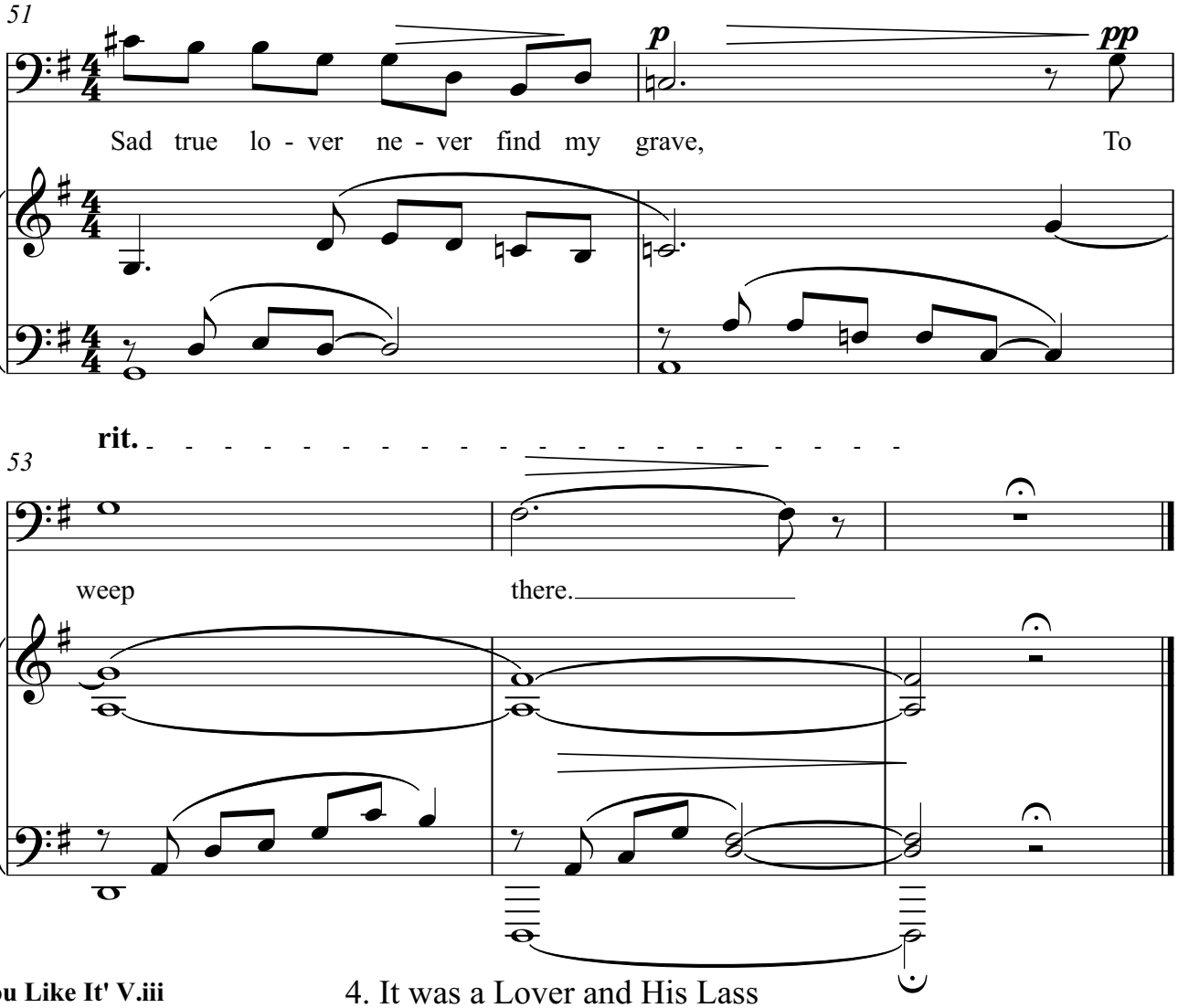
mp

3

Not a flow'r, not a flow'r sweet, On my black cof - fin let there be

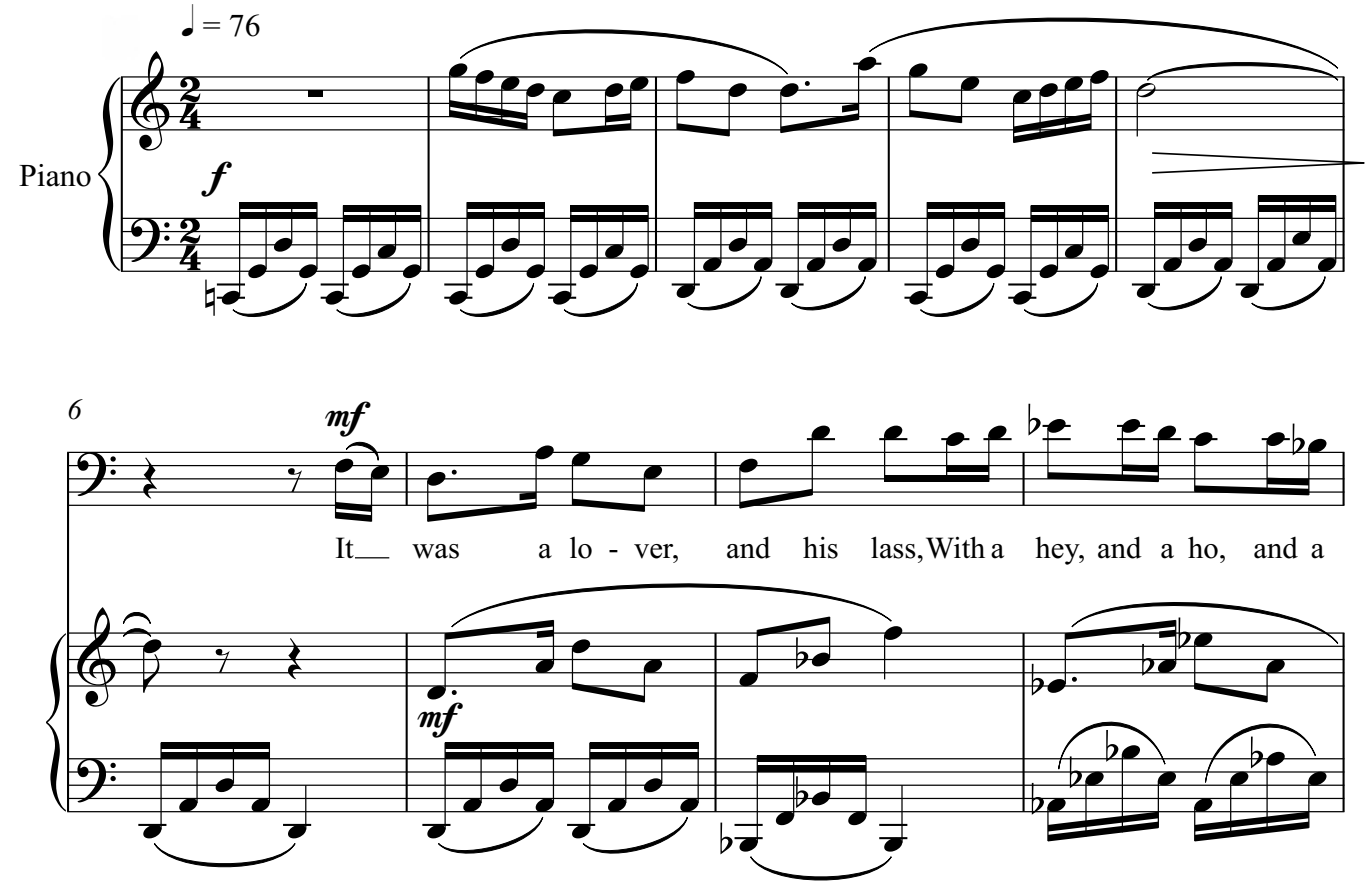

30
strown; Not a friend, not a friend greet My poor corpse, where my bones shall be
34
mf
thrown: A thou-sand thou-sand sighs to
mf
37
save, Lay me, O! where Sad true lo-ver ne-ver find my

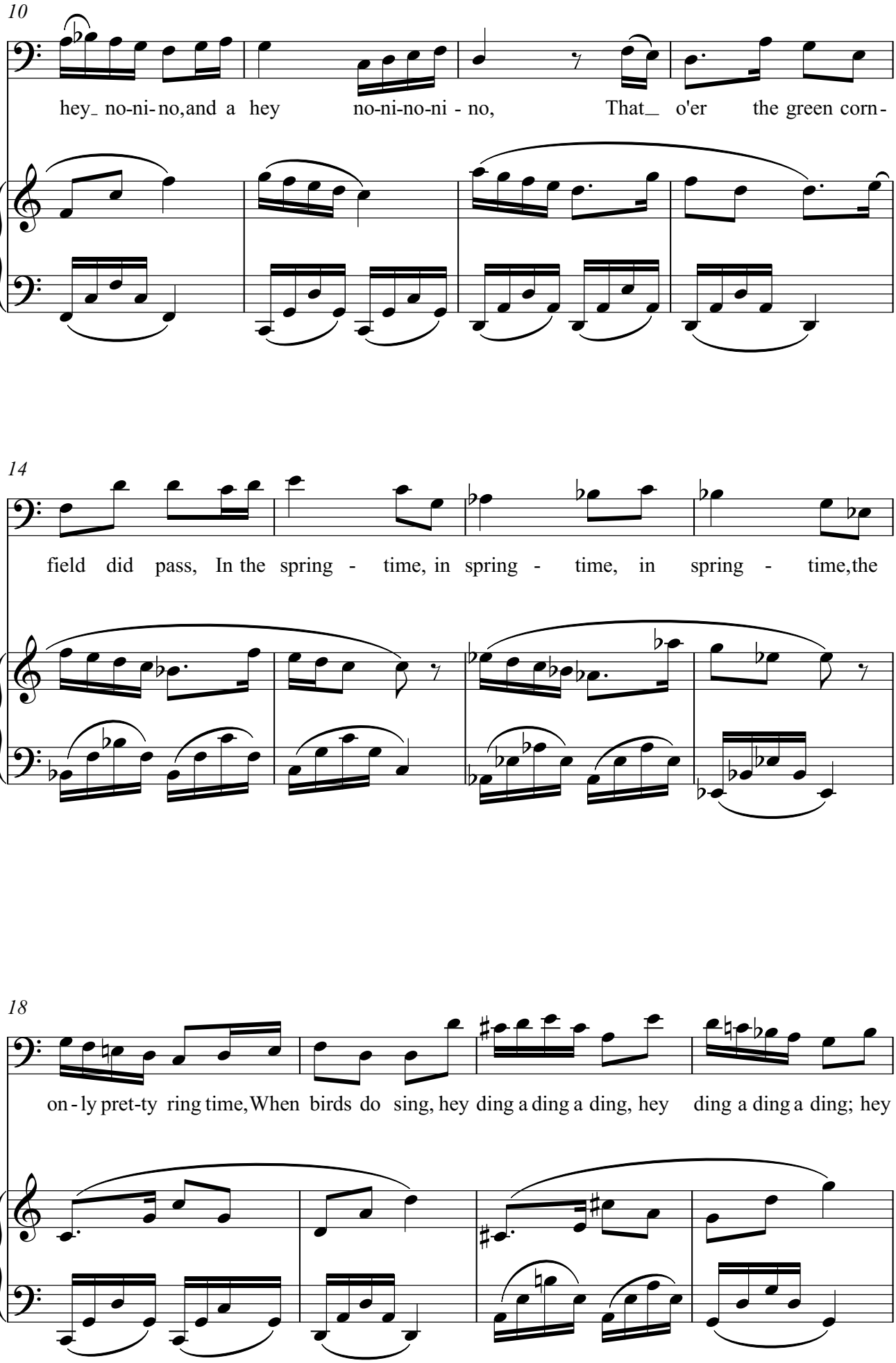

C
rall.
A tempo
40
p
grave, To weep there.
p
mp
44
mp
A
48
thou - sand thou-sand sighs to save, Lay me, O! where
p

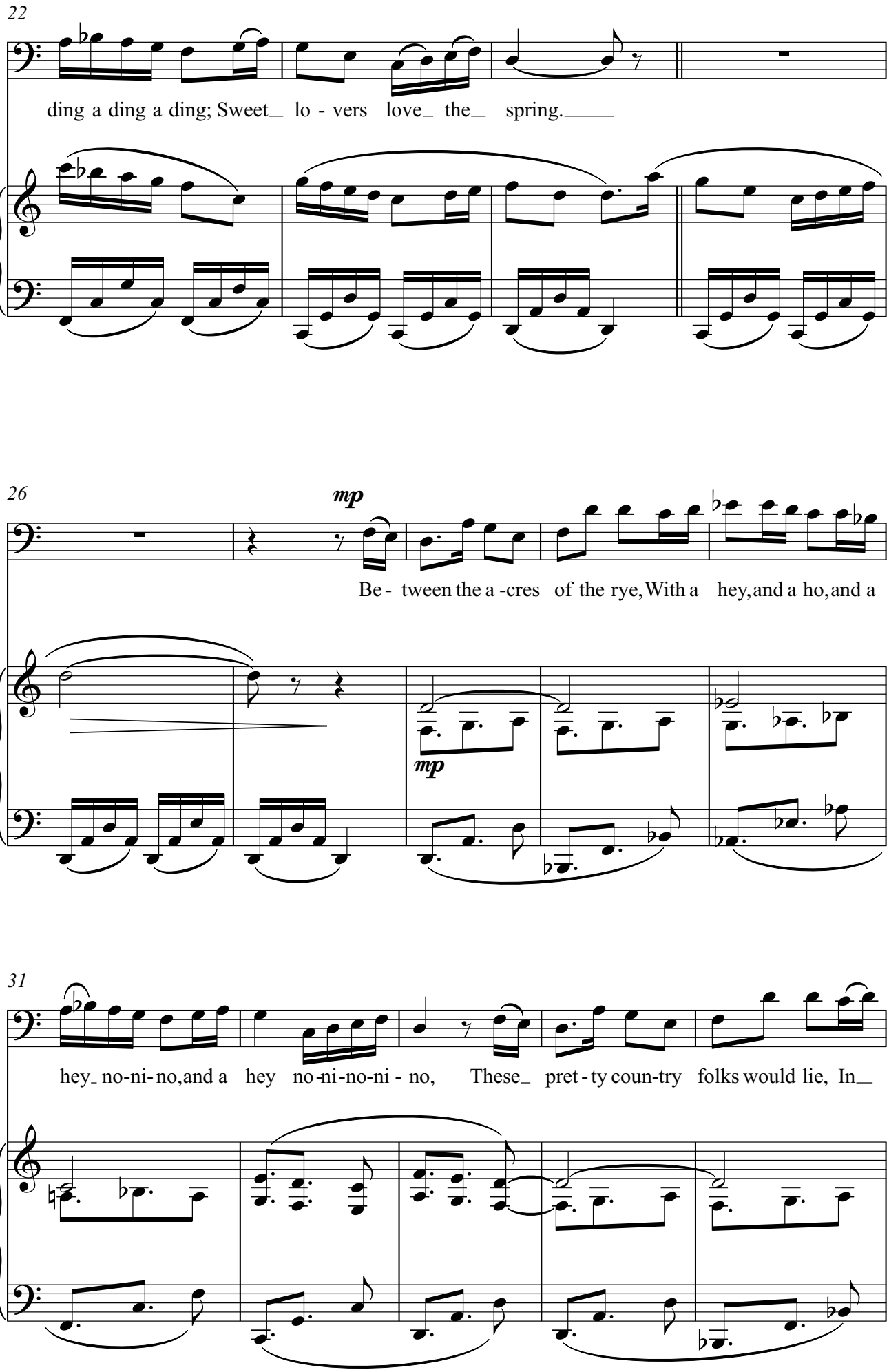


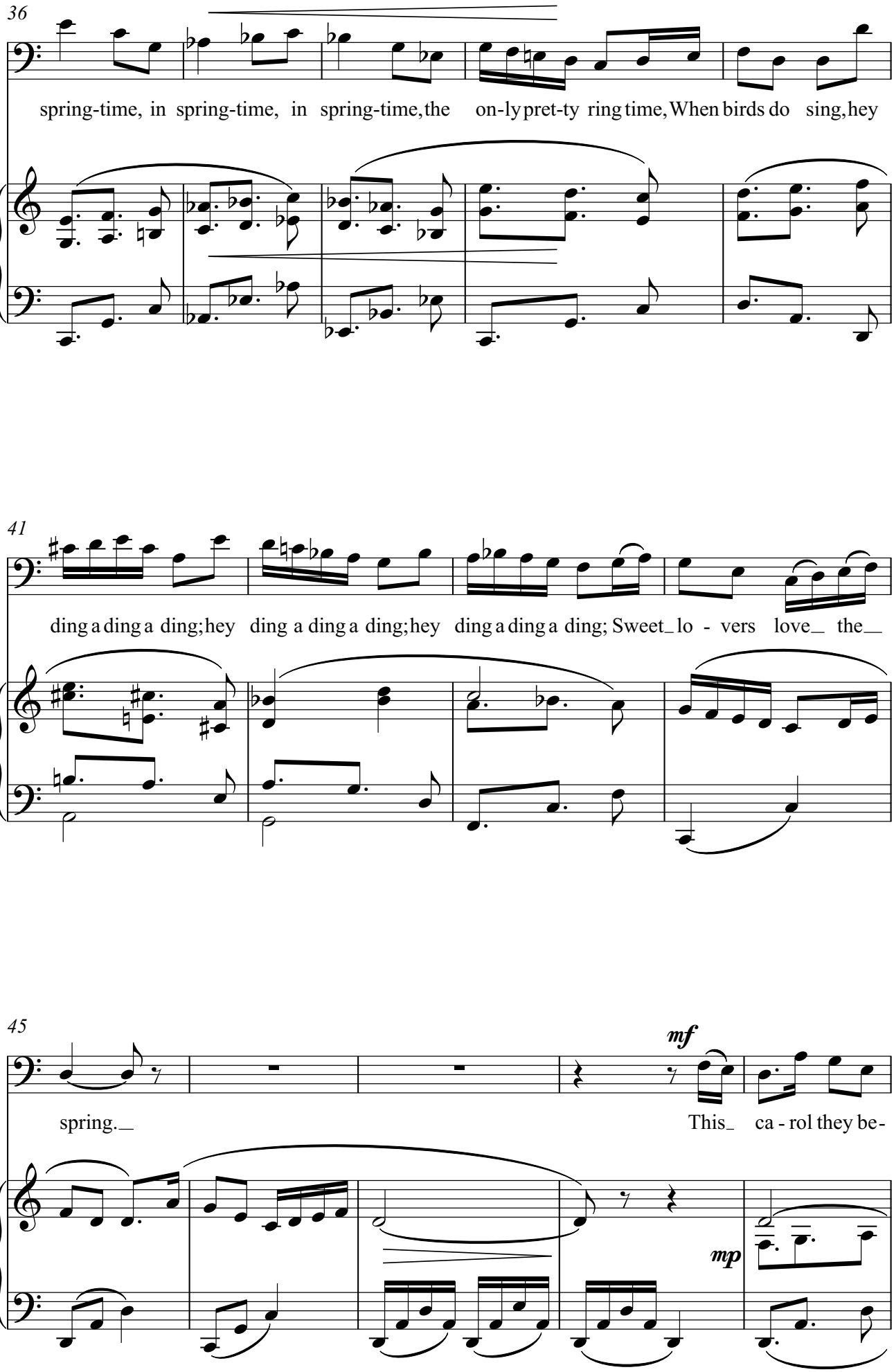
'As You Like It' V.iii

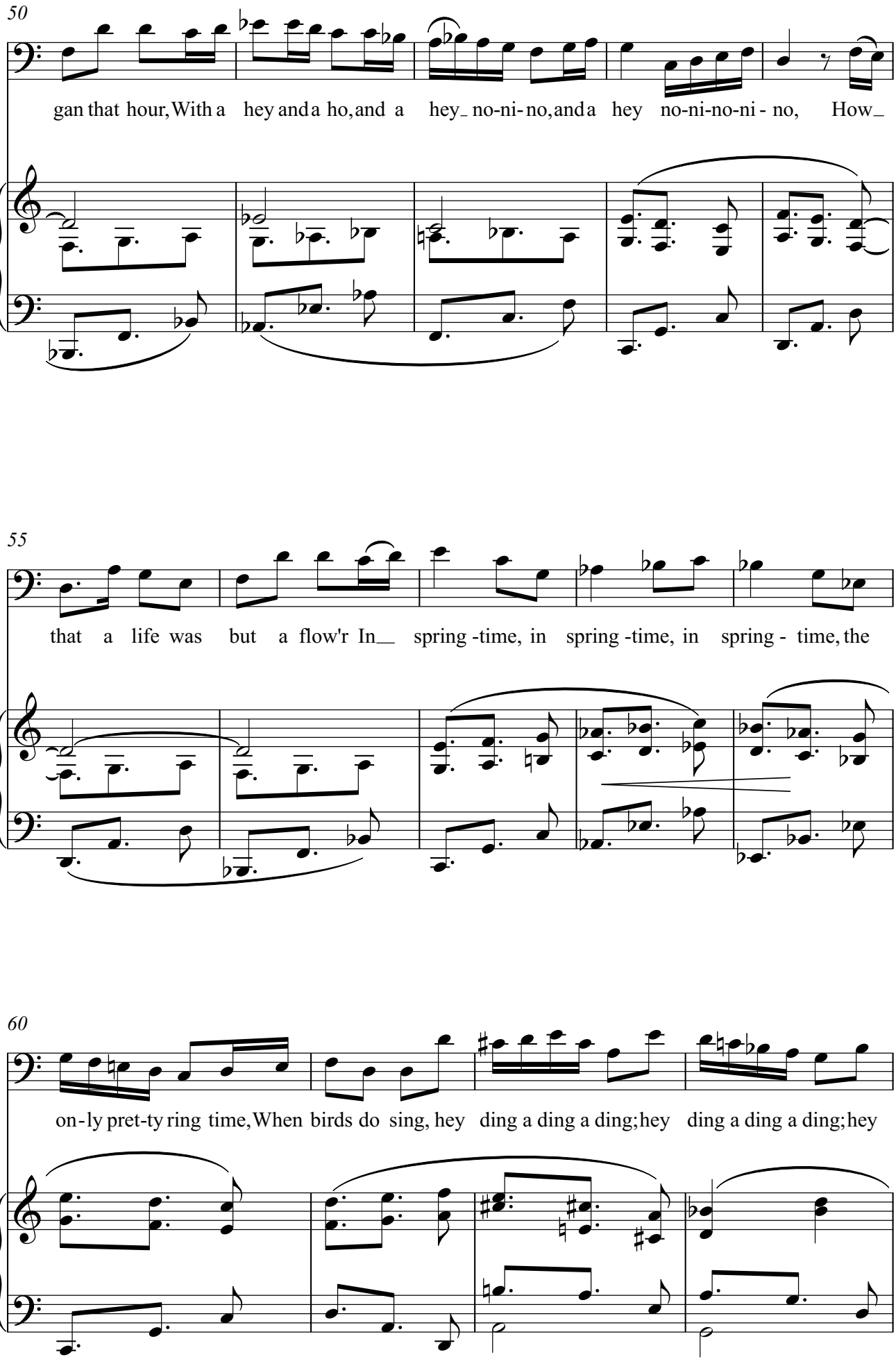
4. It was a Lover and His Lass

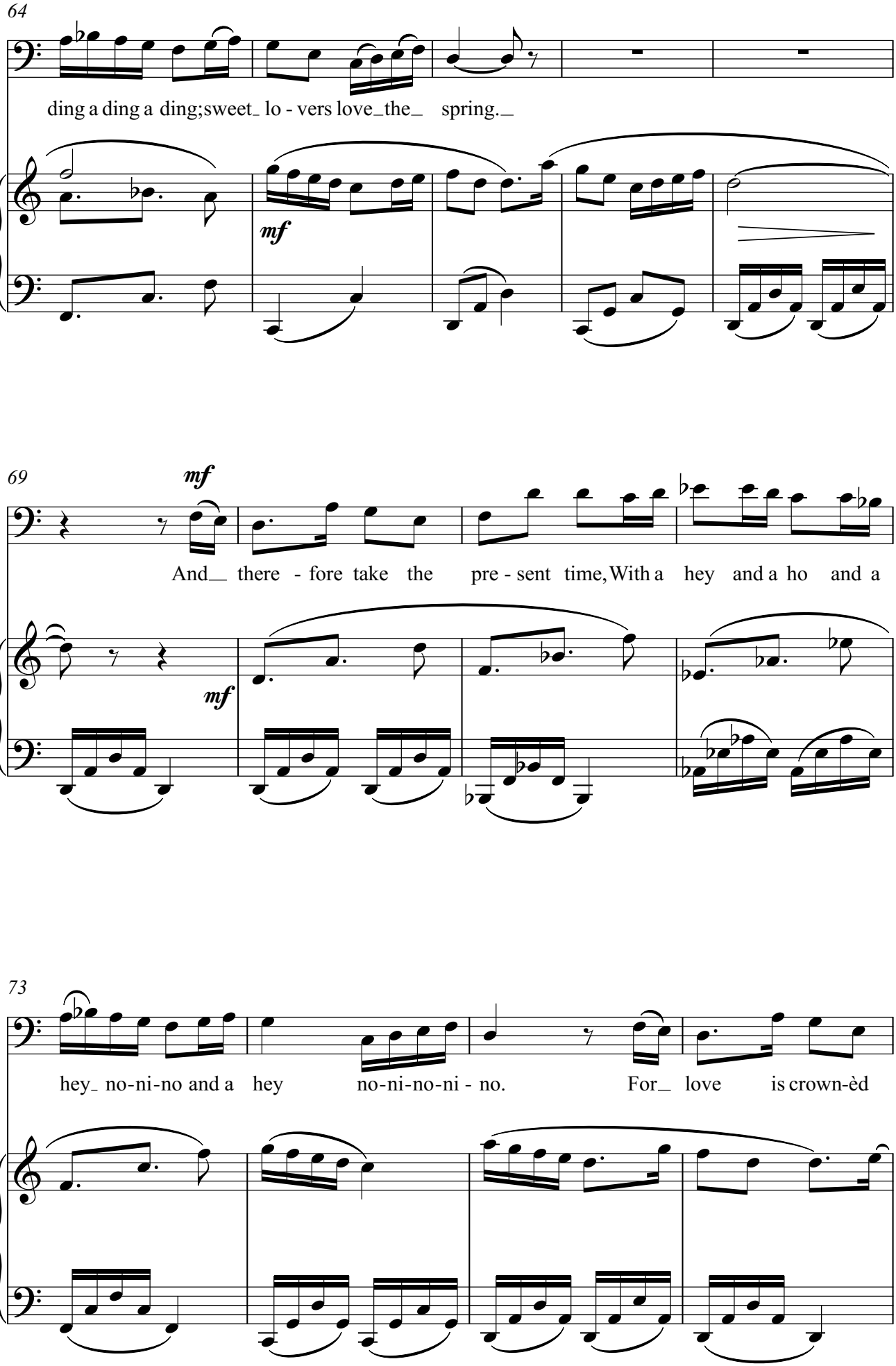


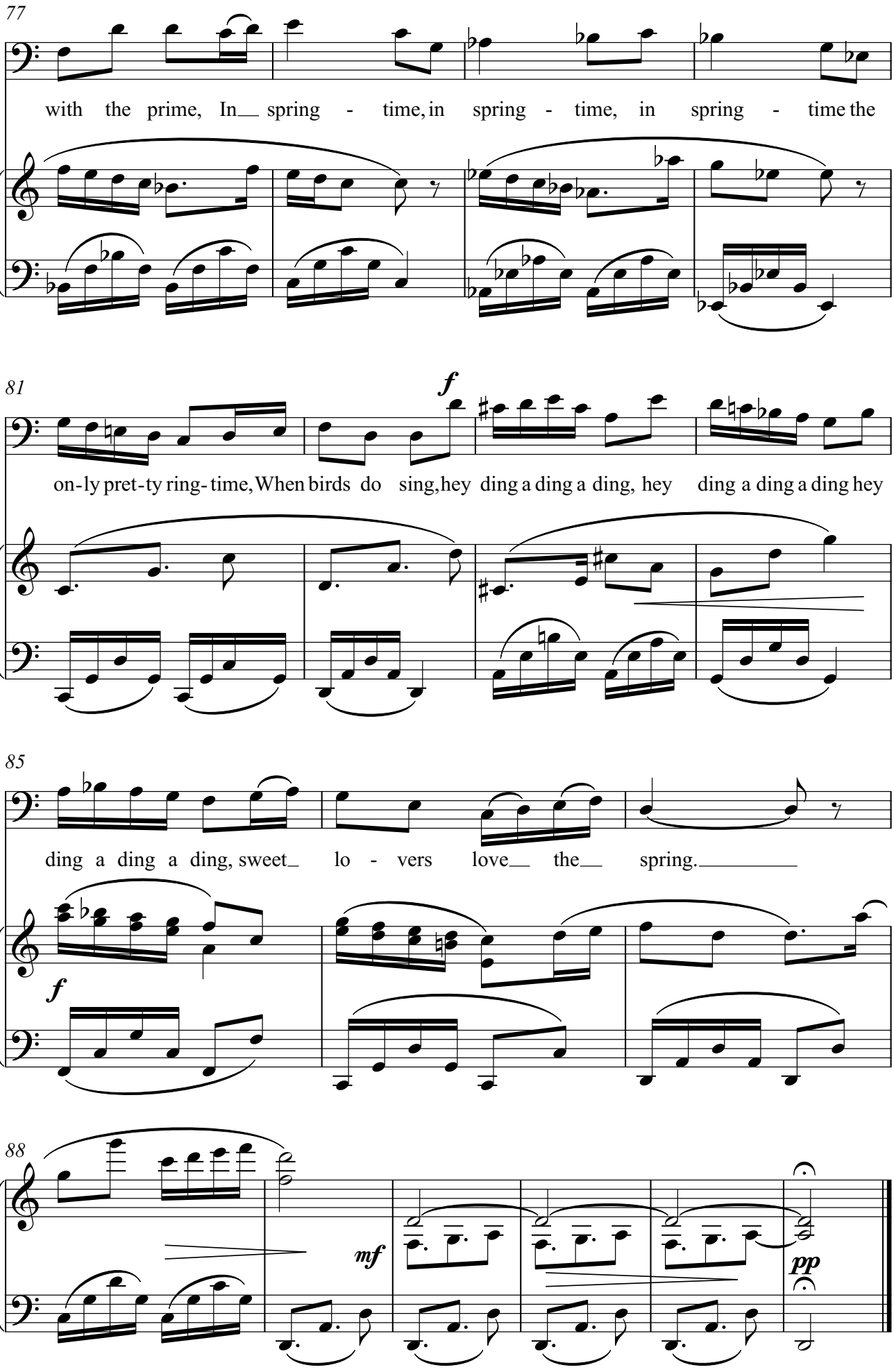

10
hey_ no-ni-no,and a hey no-ni-no-ni - no, That_ o'er the green corn -
14
field did pass, In the spring - time, in spring - time, in spring - time,the
18
on - ly pret-ty ring time,When birds do sing, hey ding a ding a ding, hey ding a ding a ding; hey

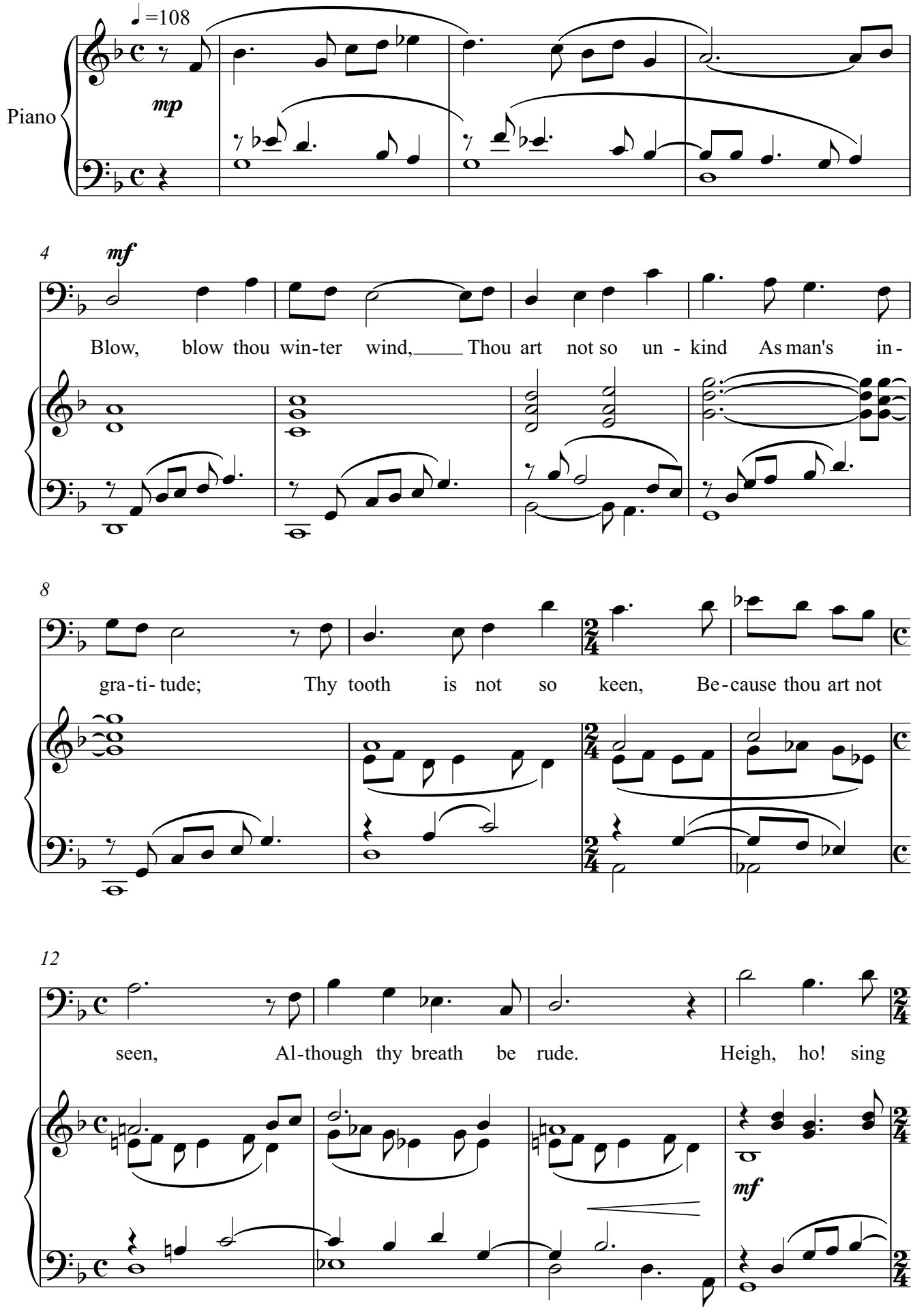

22
ding a ding a ding; Sweet_ lo - vers love_ the_ spring._____
26
mp
Be - tween the a -cres of the rye, With a hey, and a ho, and a
mp
31
hey_ no-ni-no, and a hey no-ni-no-ni - no, These_ pret - ty coun-try folks would lie, In_

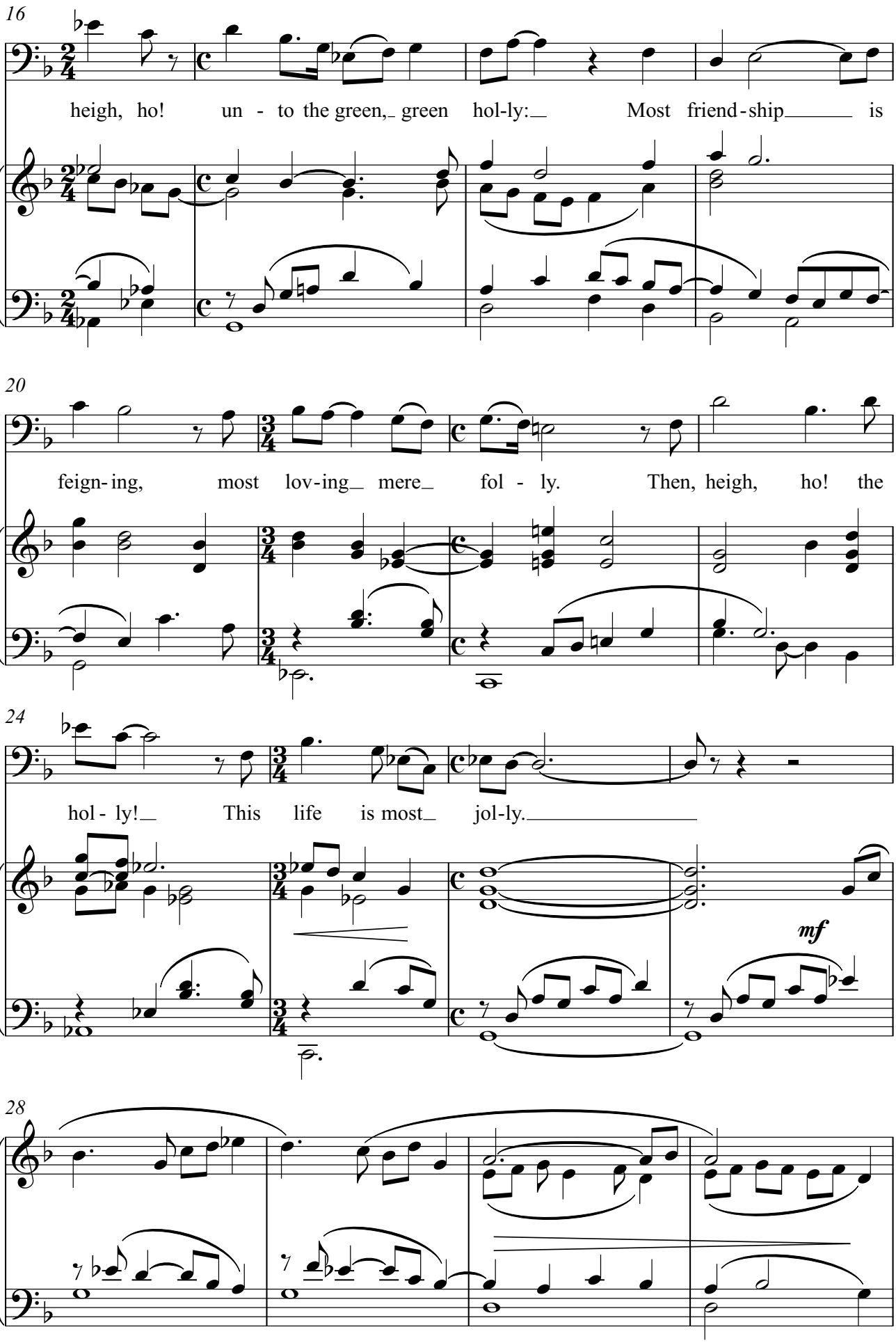

36
spring-time, in spring-time, in spring-time, the on-ly pret-ty ring time, When birds do sing, hey
41
ding a ding a ding; hey ding a ding a ding; hey ding a ding a ding; Sweet_ lo - vers love_ the_
45
mf
spring._
This_ ca - rol they be-
mp

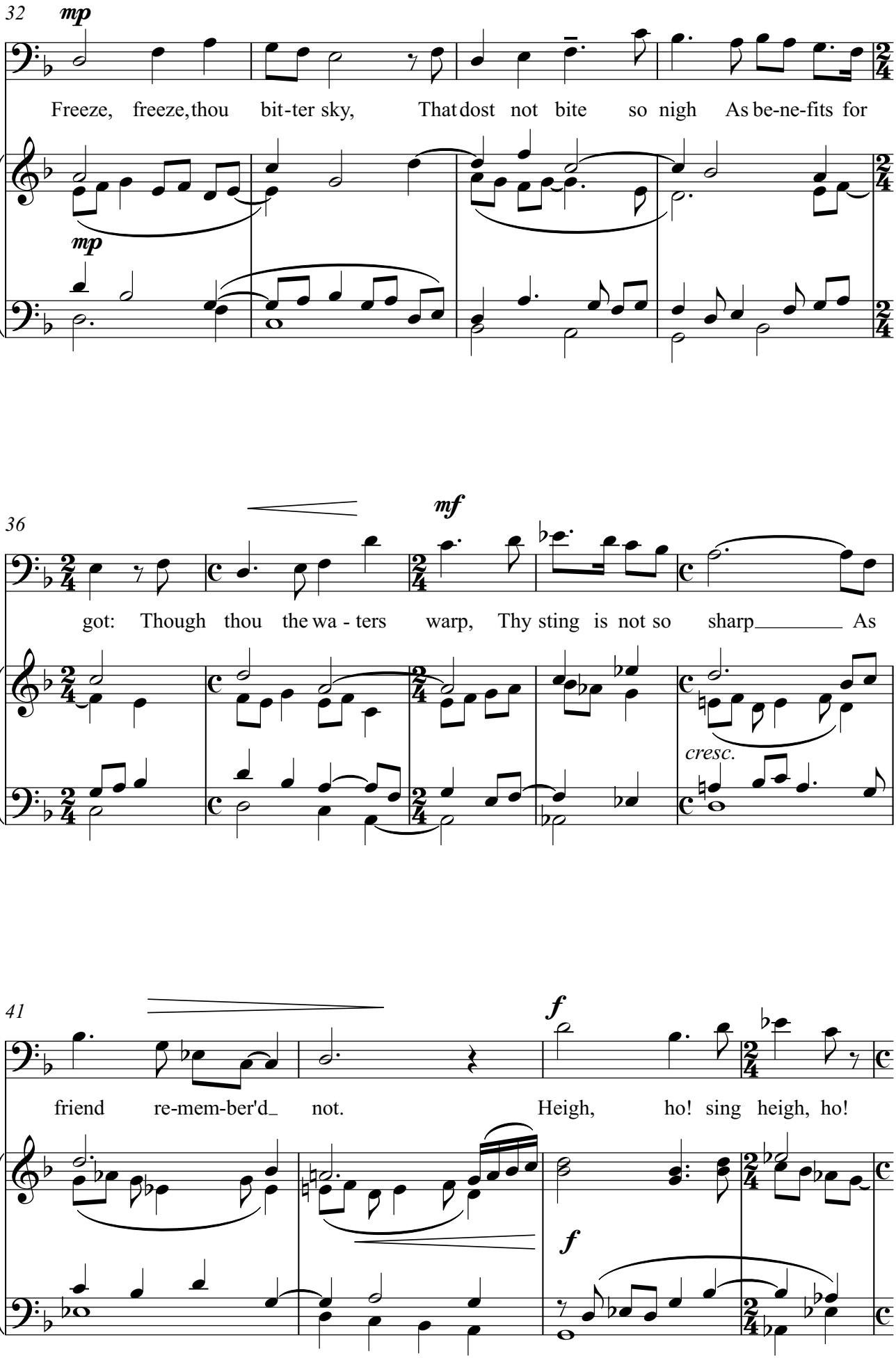

50
gan that hour, With a hey and a ho, and a hey_ no-ni-no, and a hey no-ni-no-ni - no, How_
55
that a life was but a flow'r In__ spring -time, in spring -time, in spring - time, the
60
on - ly pret-ty ring time, When birds do sing, hey ding a ding a ding; hey ding a ding a ding; hey

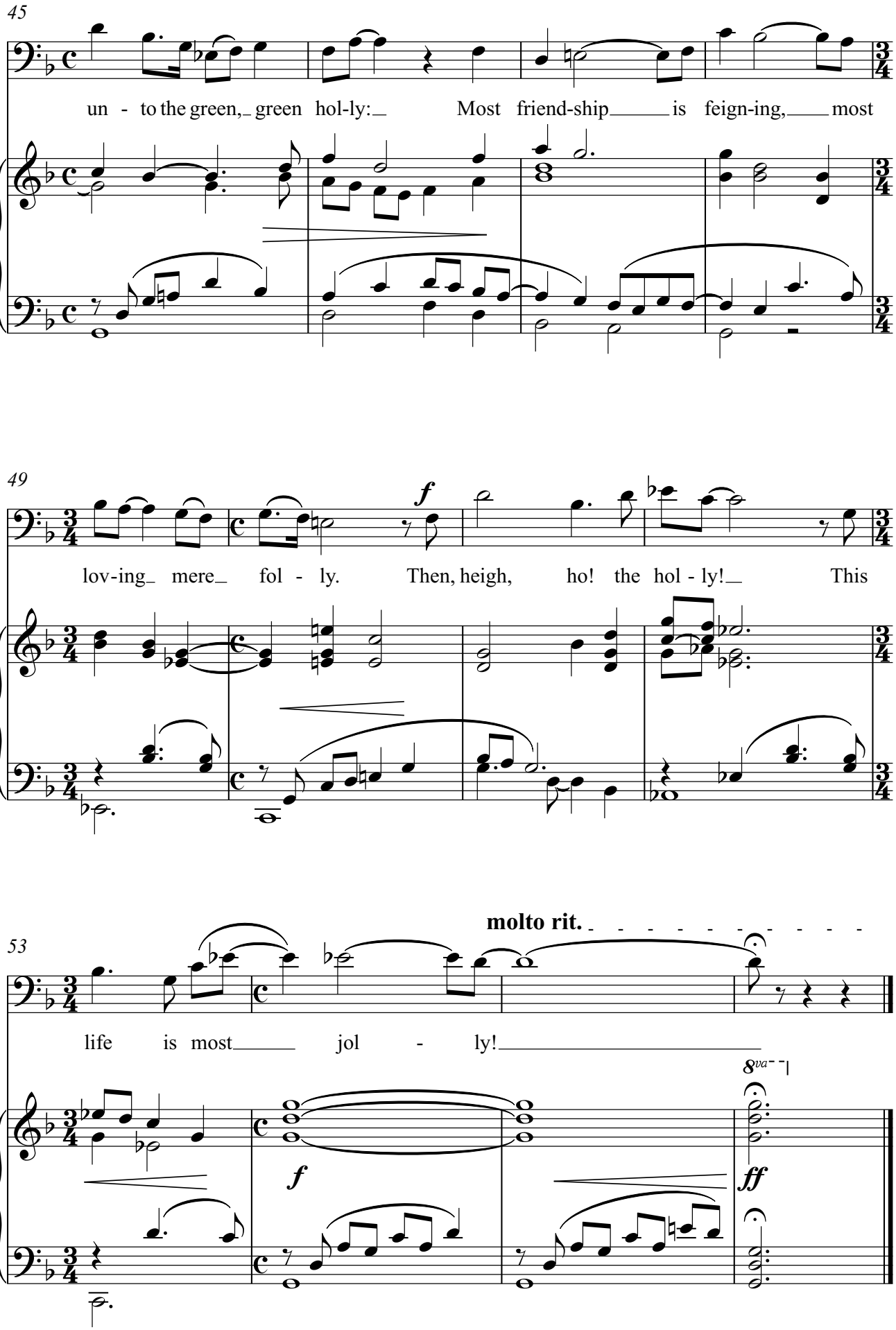

64
ding a ding a ding;sweet_ lo - vers love_the_ spring._
mf
69
mf
And__ there - fore take the pre - sent time, With a hey and a ho and a
mf
73
hey_ no-ni-no and a hey no-ni-no-ni - no. For_ love is crown-èd


77
with the prime, In spring - time, in spring - time, in spring - time the
81
f
on-ly pret-ty ring-time, When birds do sing, hey ding a ding a ding, hey ding a ding a ding hey
85
ding a ding a ding, sweet lo - vers love the spring.
f
88
mf
pp


♩=108
Piano
mp
4
mf
Blow, blow thou win-ter wind, Thou art not so un - kind As man's in -
8
gra-ti-tude; Thy tooth is not so keen, Be-cause thou art not
12
seen, Al-though thy breath be rude. Heigh, ho! sing
mf


16
heigh, ho! un - to the green, green hol-ly: Most friend-ship is
20
feign-ing, most lov-ing mere fol - ly. Then, heigh, ho! the
24
hol - ly! This life is most jol-ly.
mf
28


32
mp
Freeze, freeze, thou bit-ter sky, That dost not bite so nigh As be-ne-fits for
mp
36
mf
got: Though thou the wa - ters warp, Thy sting is not so sharp As
cresc.
41
f
friend re-mem-ber'd not. Heigh, ho! sing heigh, ho!
f


45
un - to the green, green hol-ly: Most friend-ship is feign-ing, most
49
f
lov-ing mere fol - ly. Then, heigh, ho! the hol - ly! This
53
molto rit.
life is most jol - ly!
8va
f
ff

Richard Lambert

FIVE SHAKESPEARE SONGS

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