TEITUR LASSEN

Romeo Answers

Songs from Juliet Letters

for Voice, String Quartet,
and Computer Voices

(2015)

ARLO&BETTY
RECORDINGS

Commissioned by Messer Quartet
with support by Statens Kulturfond.
from an idea by Andrea Rebekka Alsted.

First performed by Messer Quartet (electric with effects)
in Engelsholm Castle, February 2015

Letters given by kind permission of Juliet Club in Verona, Italy.
Many thanks to Giovanna Tamassia and all of Juliet's secretaries.

Computer voices are comments from the Internet and search engine answers.

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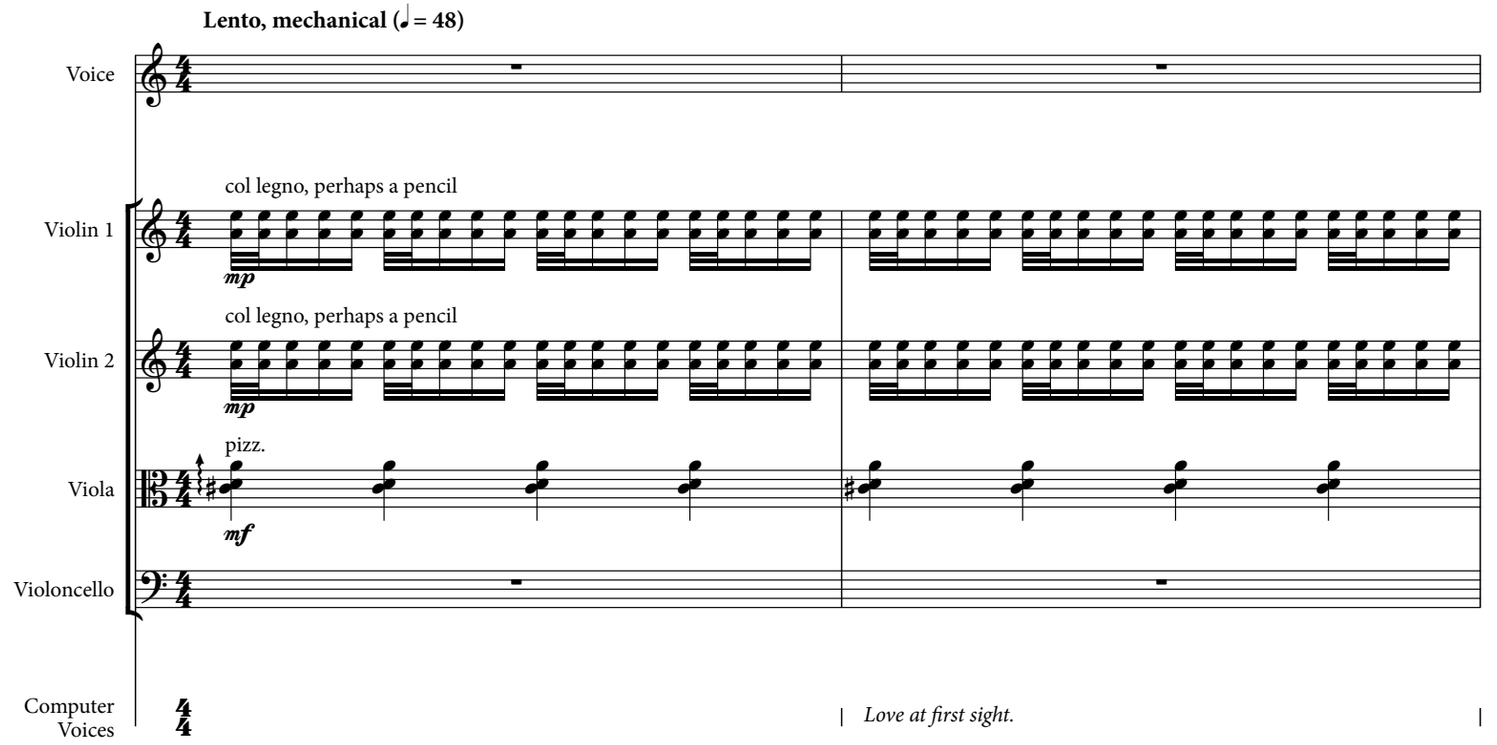
ROMEO ANSWERS

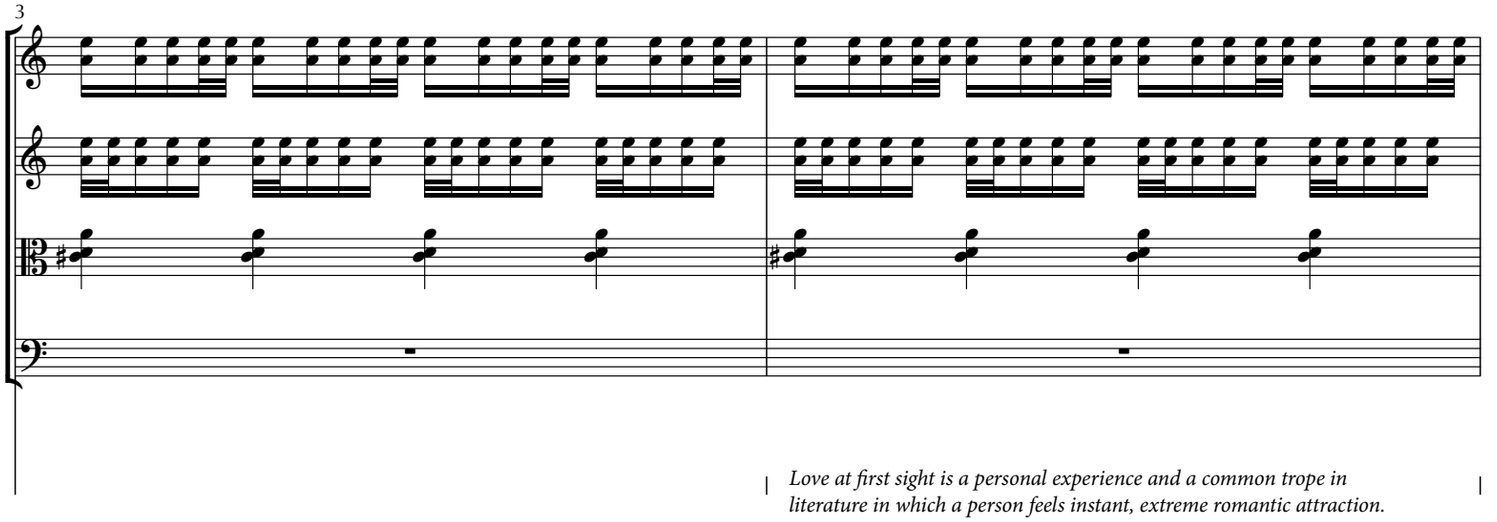
Full Score

Songs from Juliet Letters

Part One: Love at First Sight, Love-struck and Naive

TEITUR LASSEN (Velbastaður 2015)





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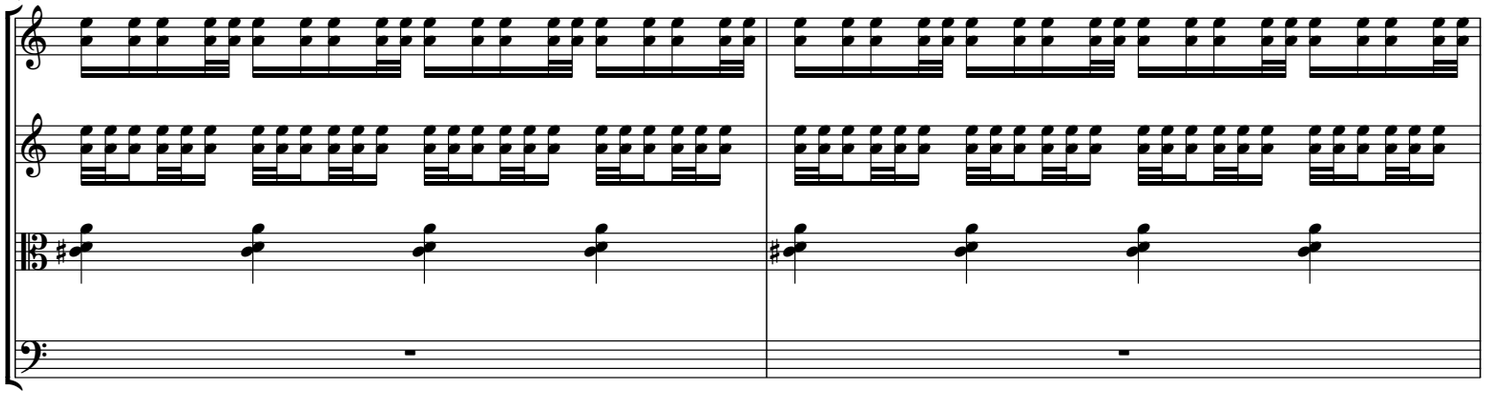

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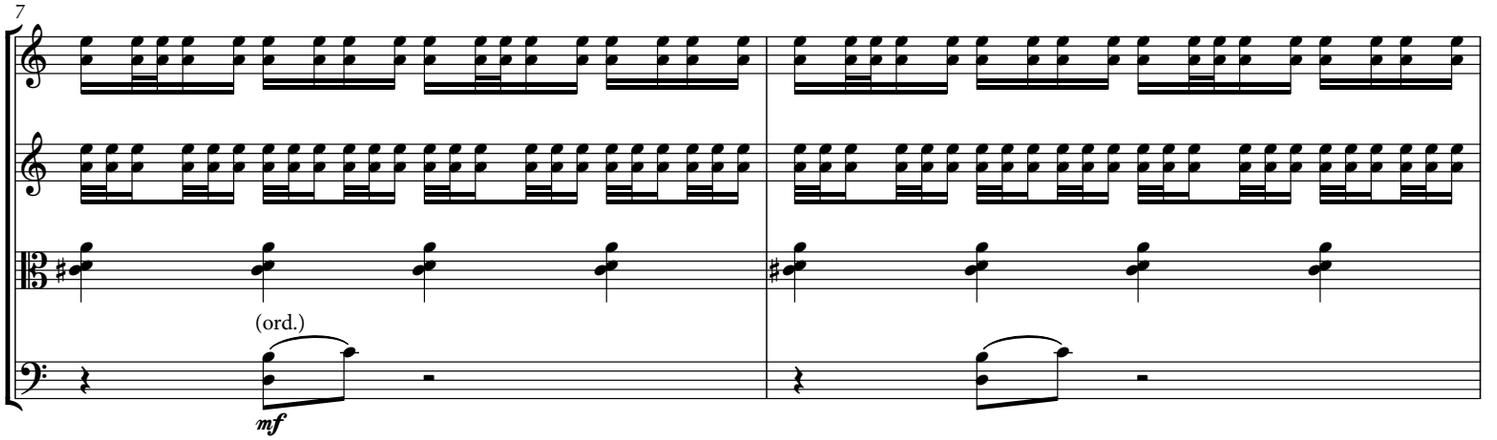

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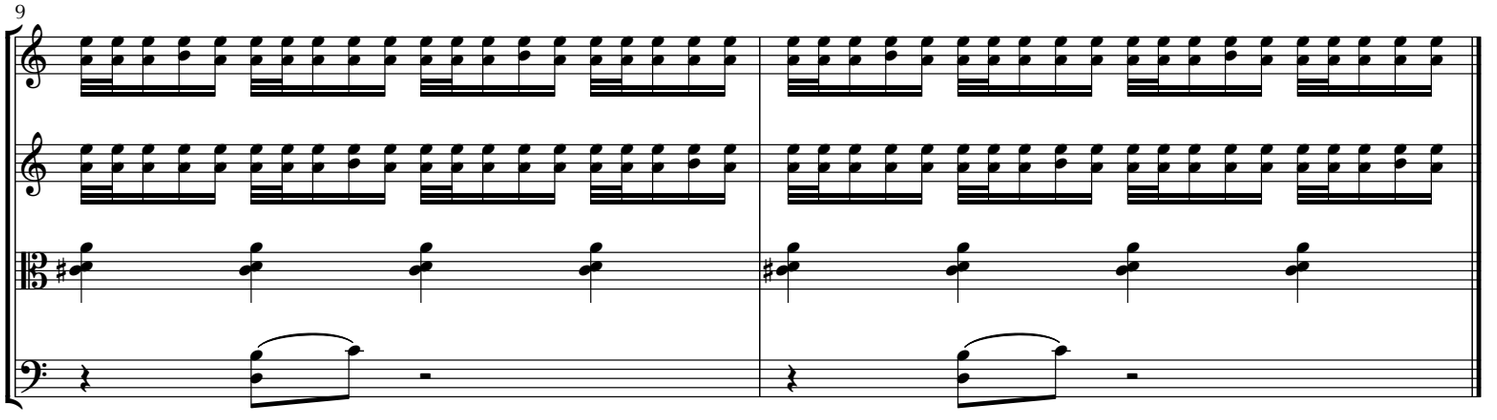
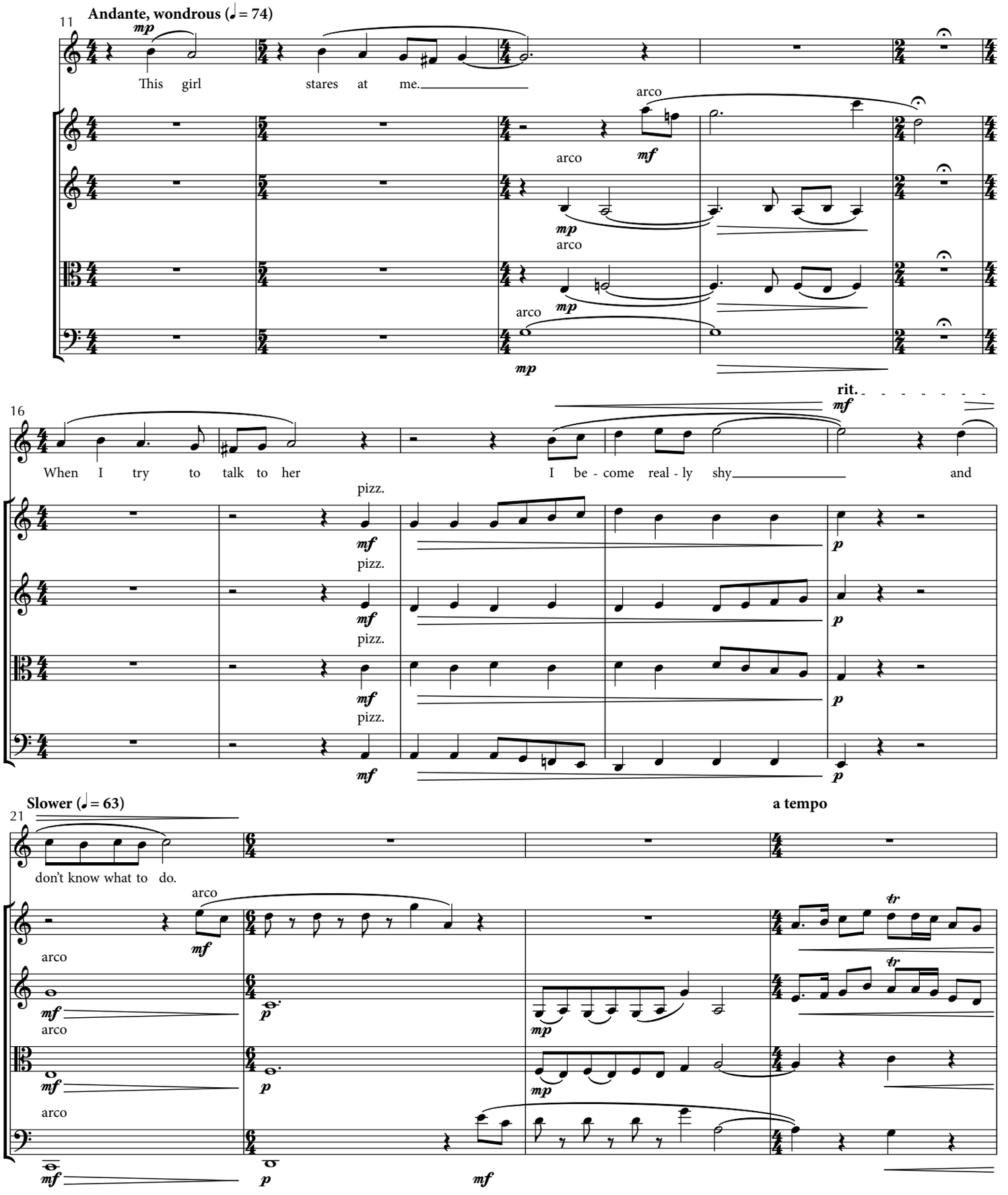
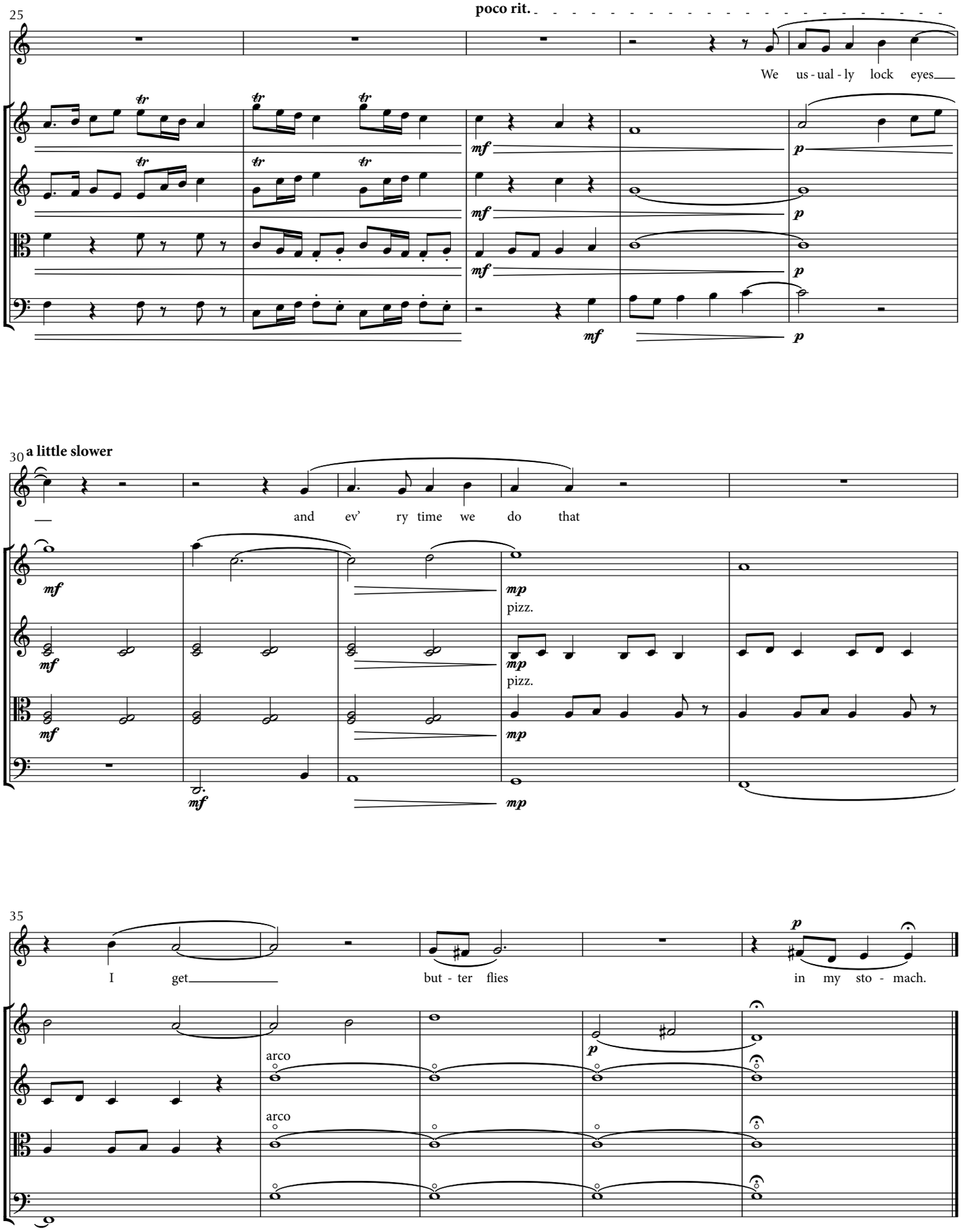


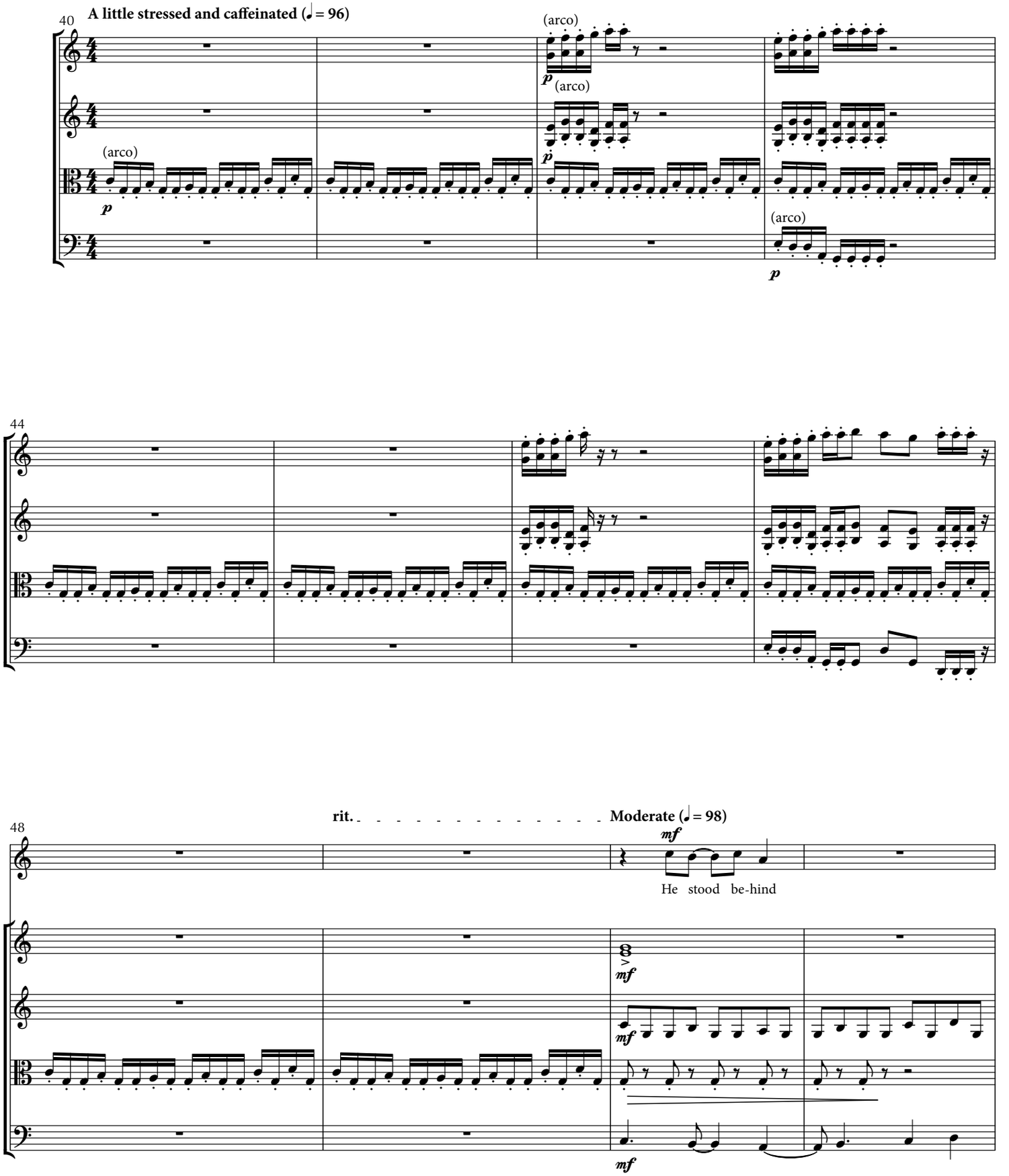
Butterflies in my Stomach

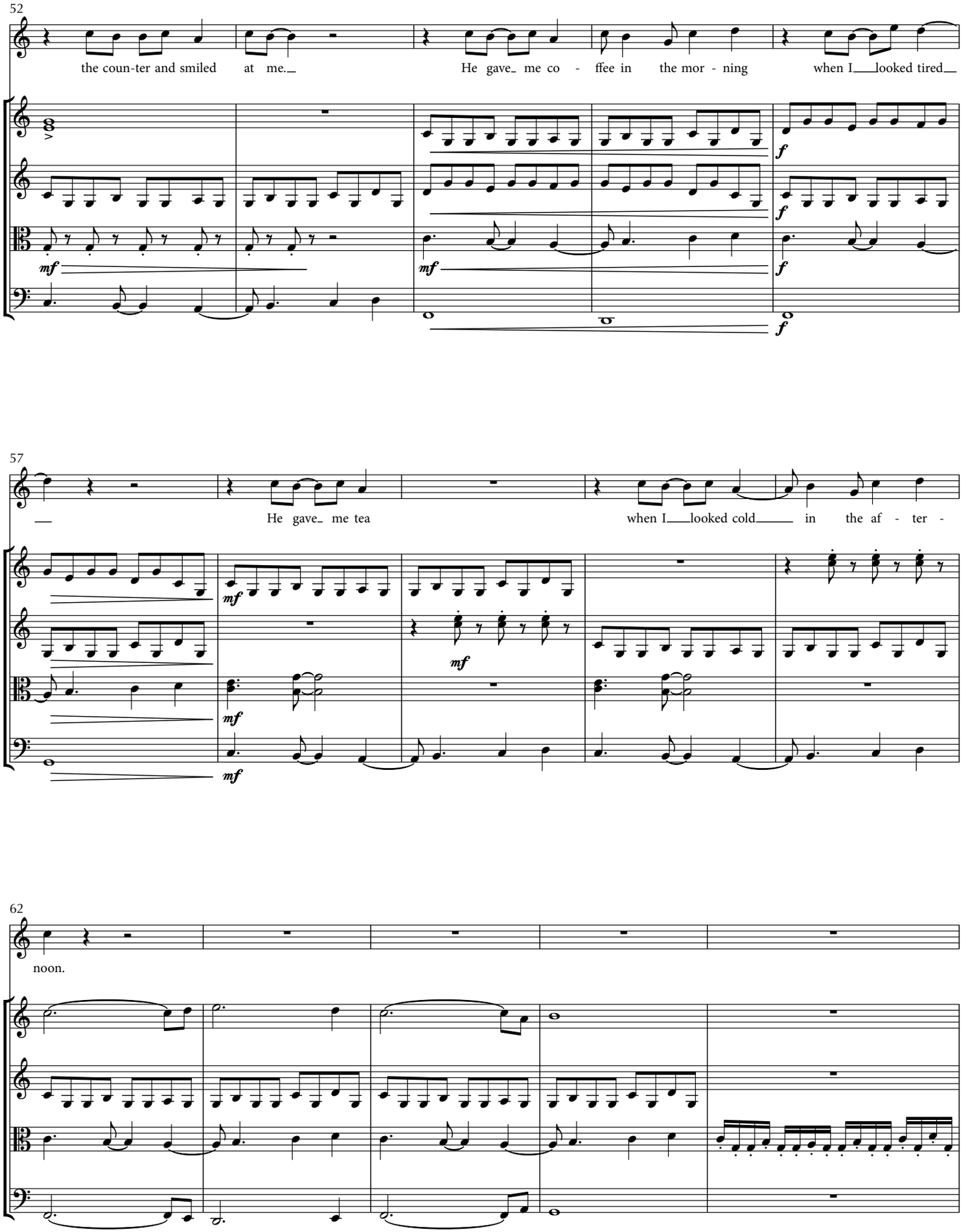
Letter from school boy




25
poco rit.
We us - ual - ly lock eyes
30
a little slower
and ev' ry time we do that
pizz.
pizz.
35
I get
but - ter flies
in my sto - mach.
arco
arco

The Barista
Letter from an exchange student




52
the coun-ter and smiled at me.
He gave me co - ffee in the mor - ning
when I looked tired
57
He gave me tea
when I looked cold in the af - ter -
62
noon.

67

I should have lis-tened to my ma-ma

70

and stayed a-way from this char-ming I - ta - li - an

ff

73 **Slower and a little rubato (♩ = 67)**

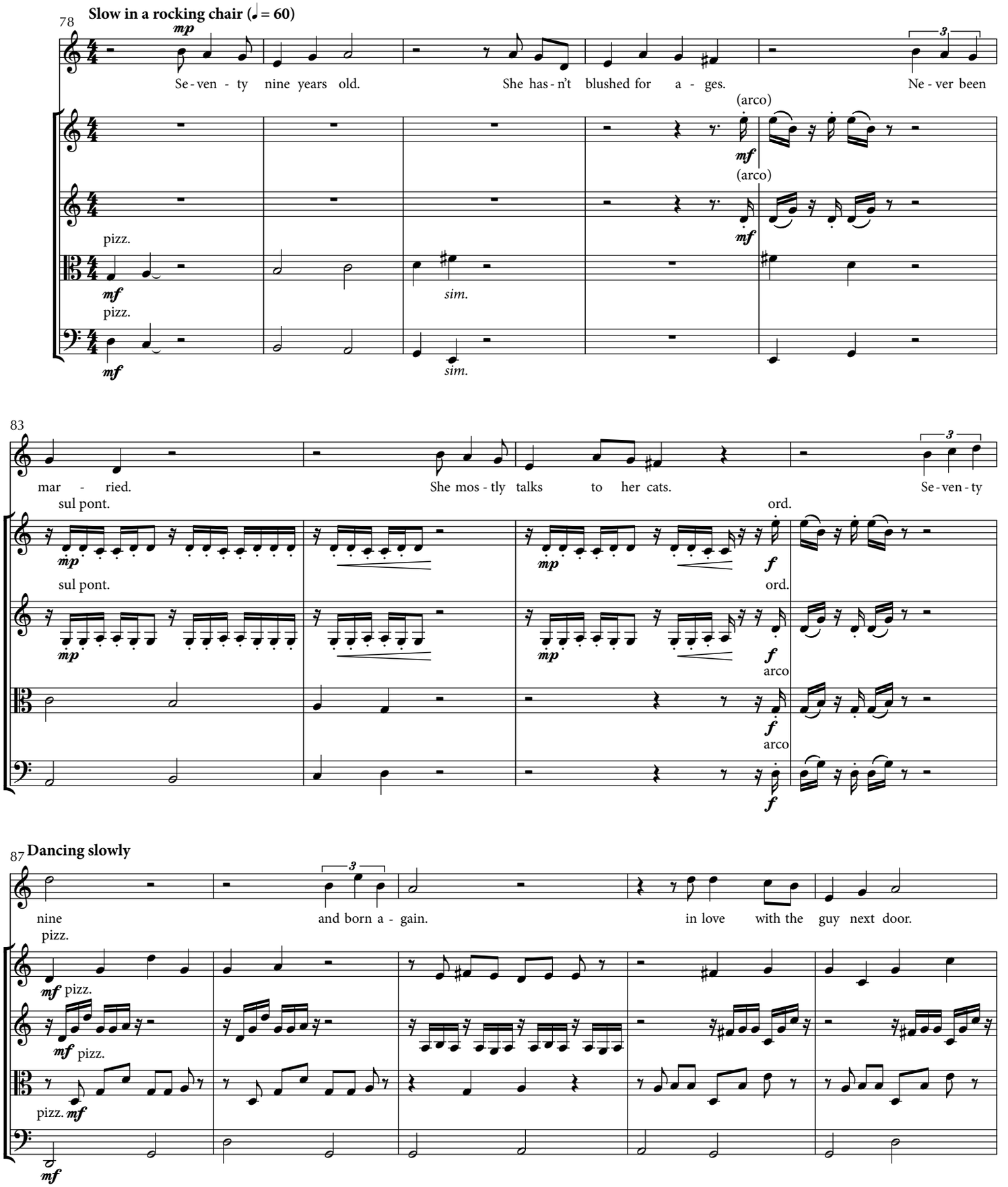
non legato

And then he told me he was mo - ving to Au - stra - li - a.

mp sub.

mf sub.

Seventy-nine Years
Summary of letter from an old lady



92

He is young and vi - brant, six - ty years old.

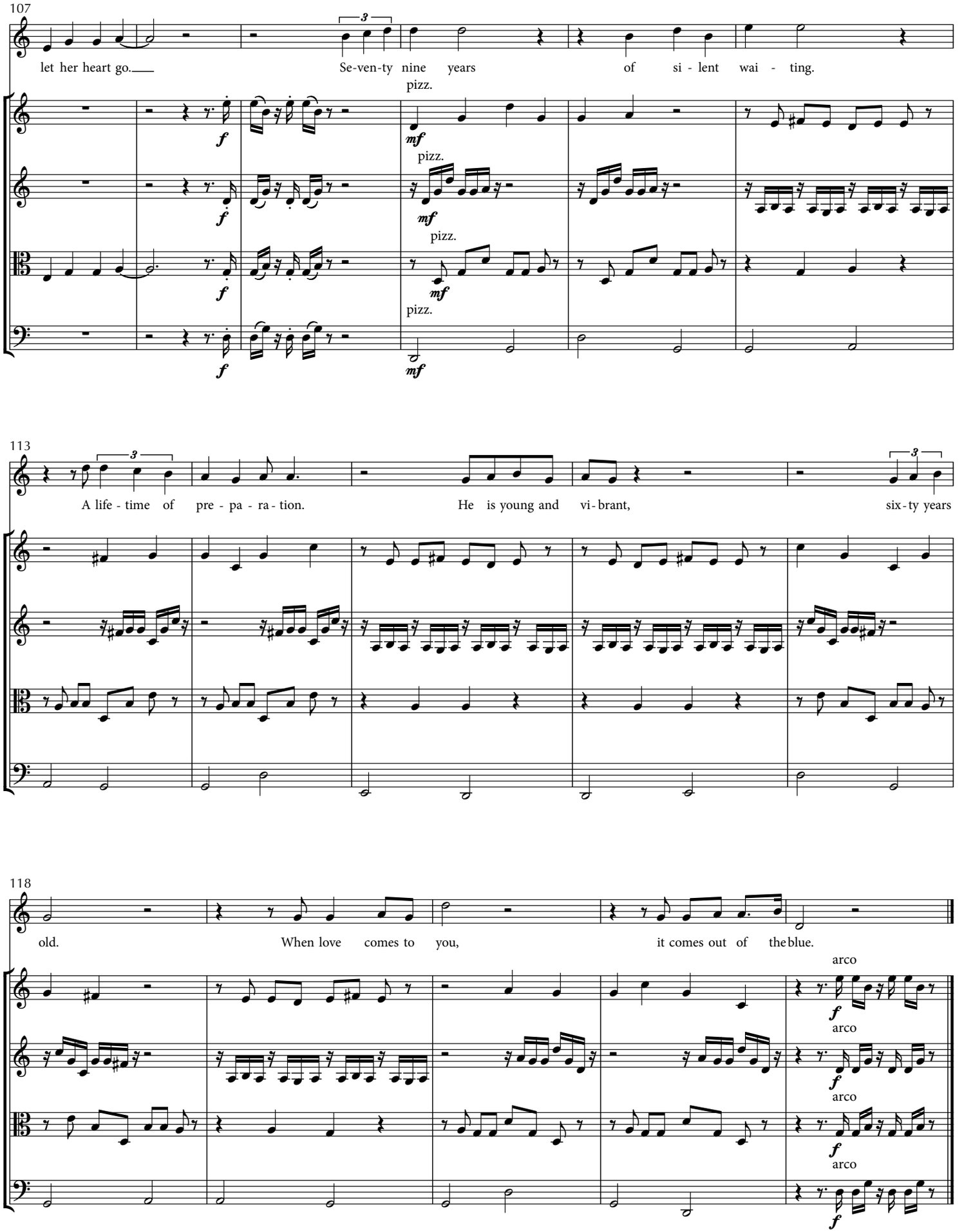
96

When love comes to you, it comes out of the blue.

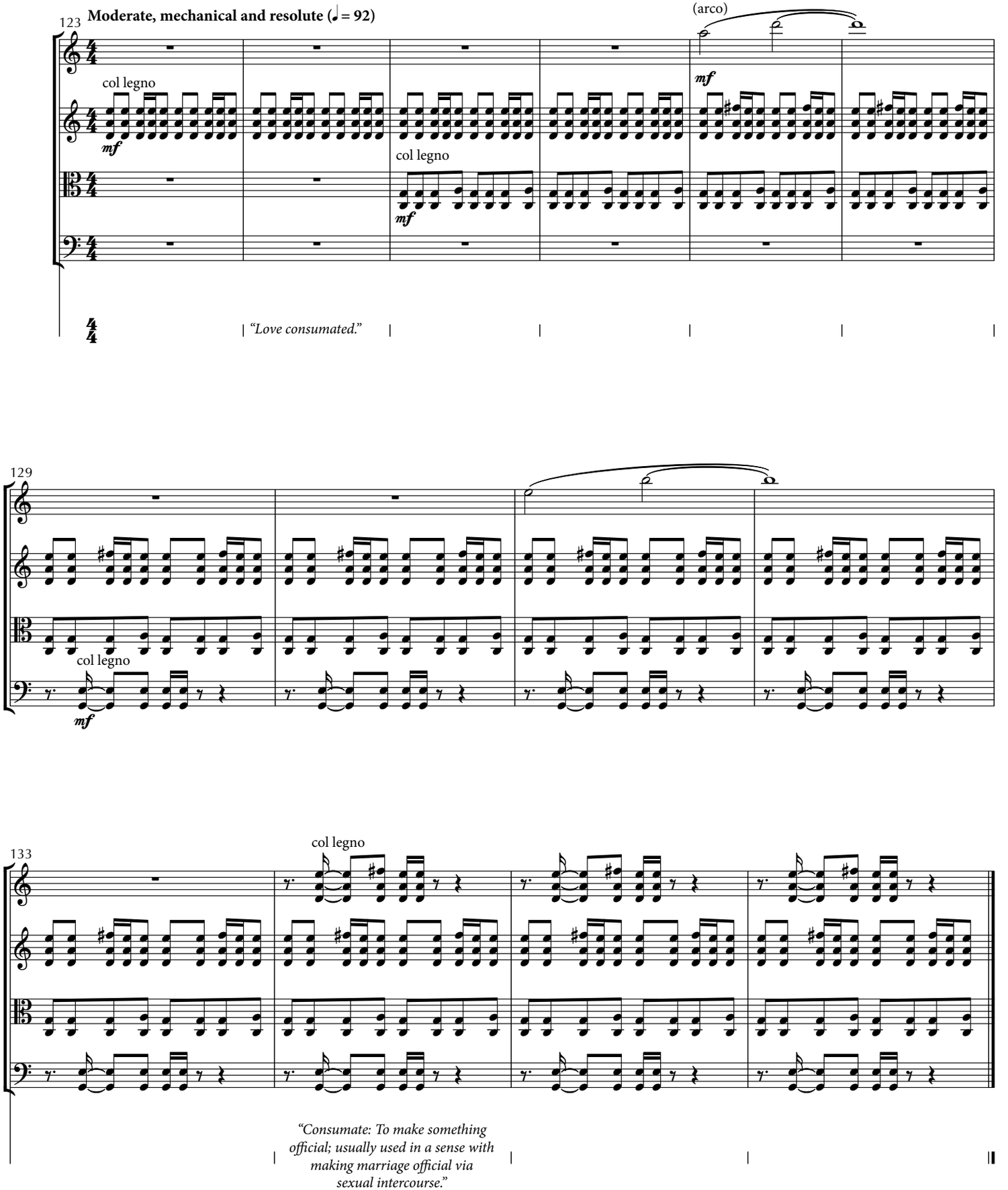
arco

100

She wants to know those moves. How she can win him o - ver. Sug-ges-tions to start a re - la-tion - ship. Tips on how to


107
let her heart go.
Se-ven-ty nine years of si - lent wai - ting.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
113
A life - time of pre - pa - ra - tion.
He is young and vi - brant,
six - ty years
118
old.
When love comes to you,
it comes out of the blue.
arco
arco
arco
arco

Part Two: Love Consumated, with Confidence and Stride



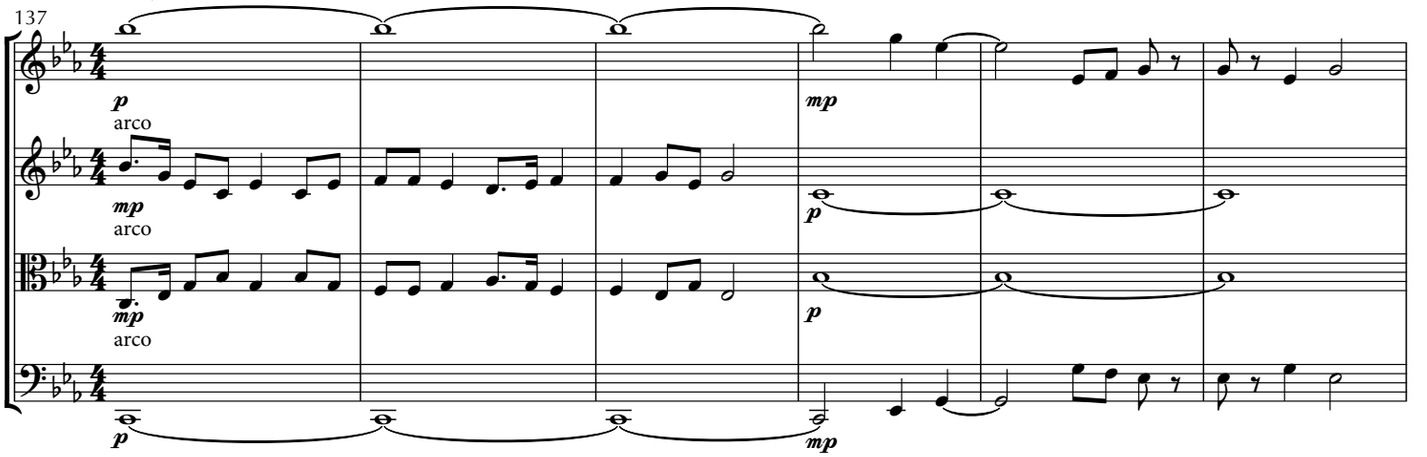
When a Symphony Orchestra Came to Her Town

Summary of letter from suburban girl

Moderate and optimistic, like folk music (♩ = 70)

arco, non vib.

137



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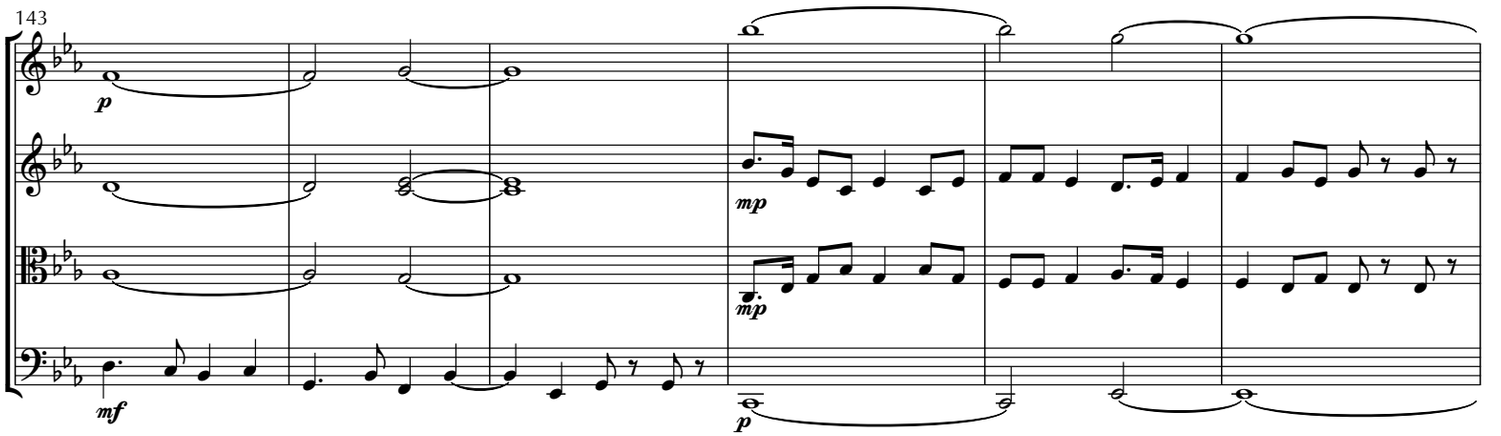

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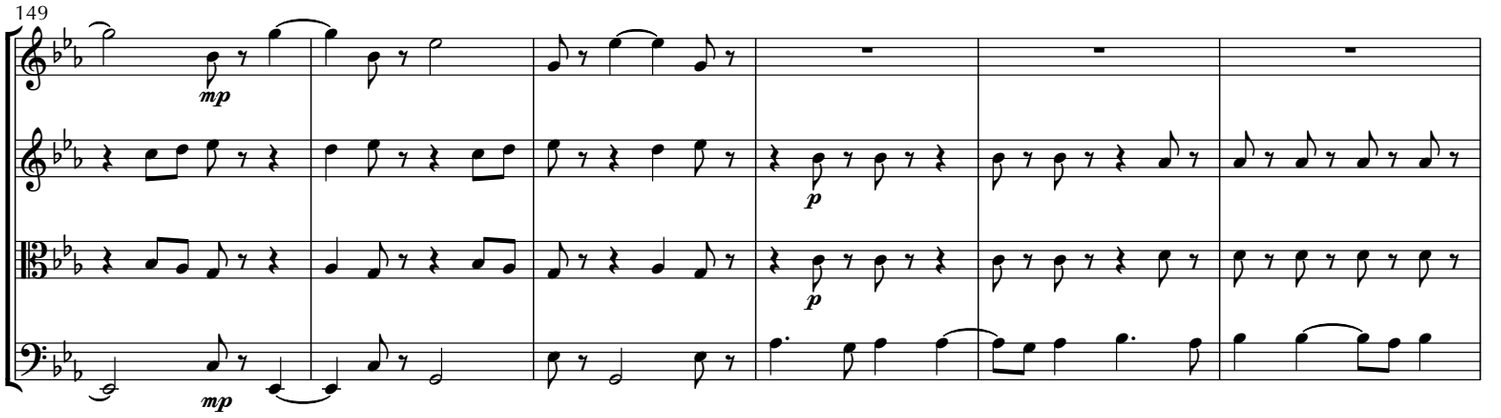
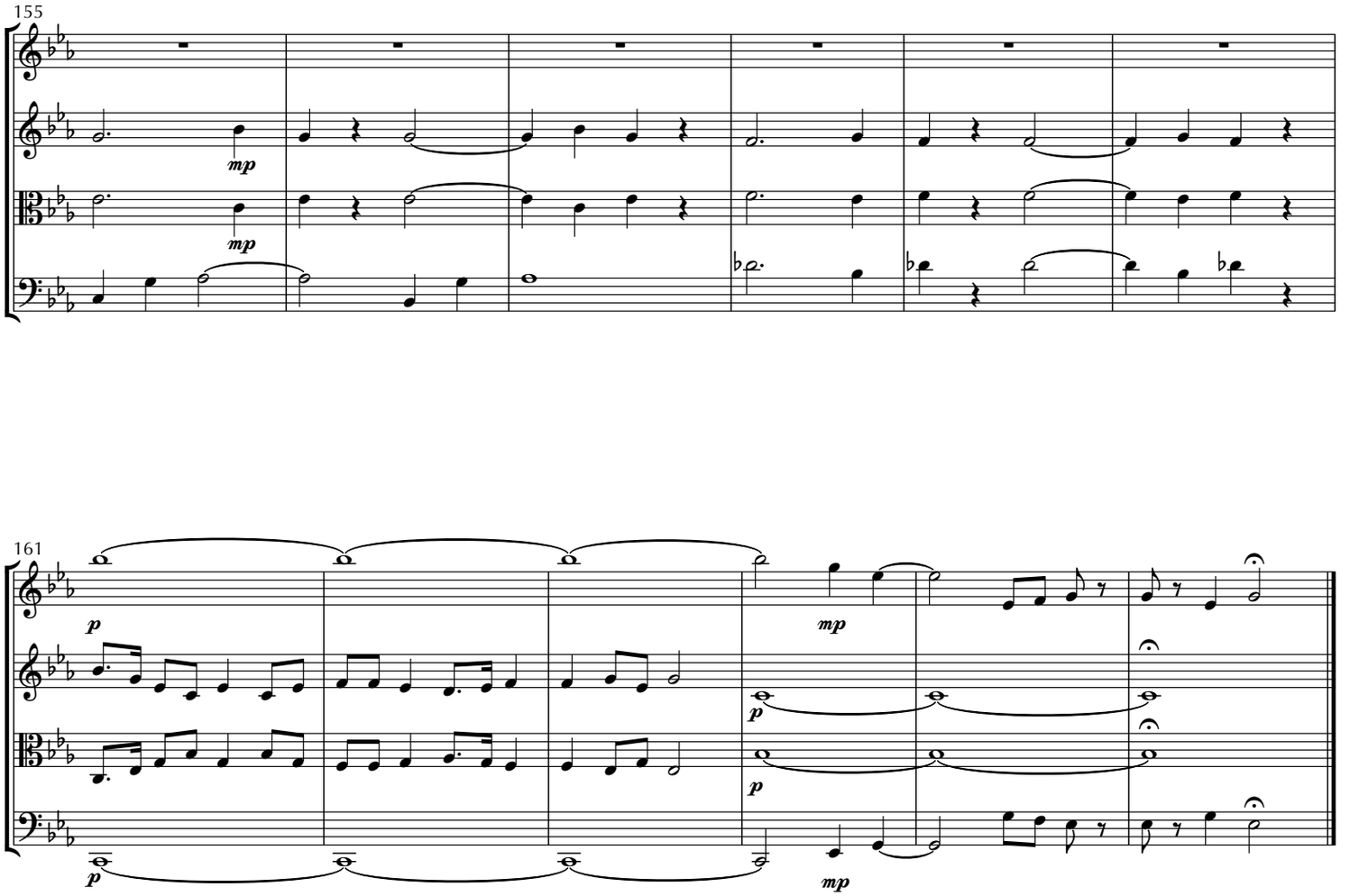




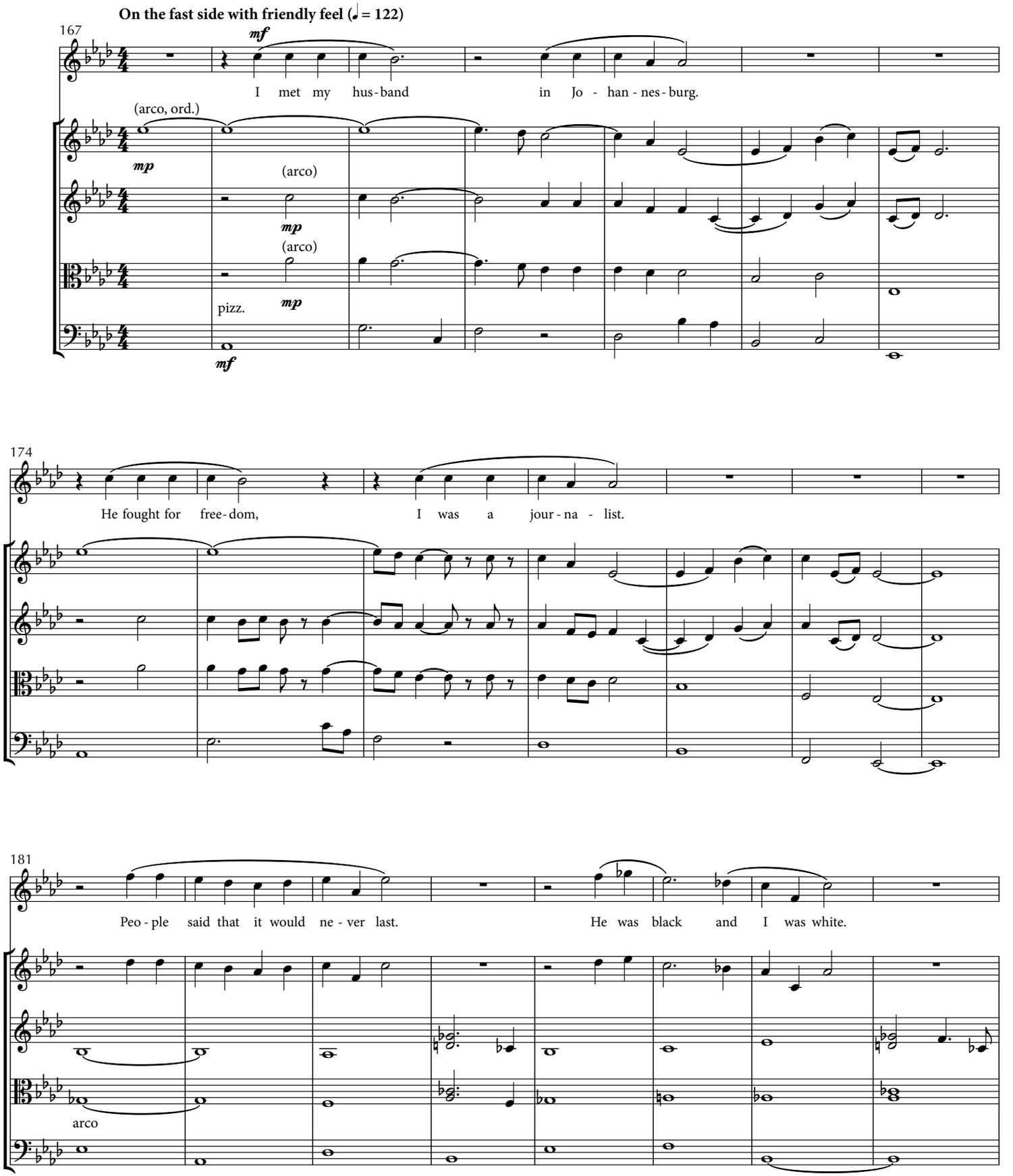
Spoken after music has finished:

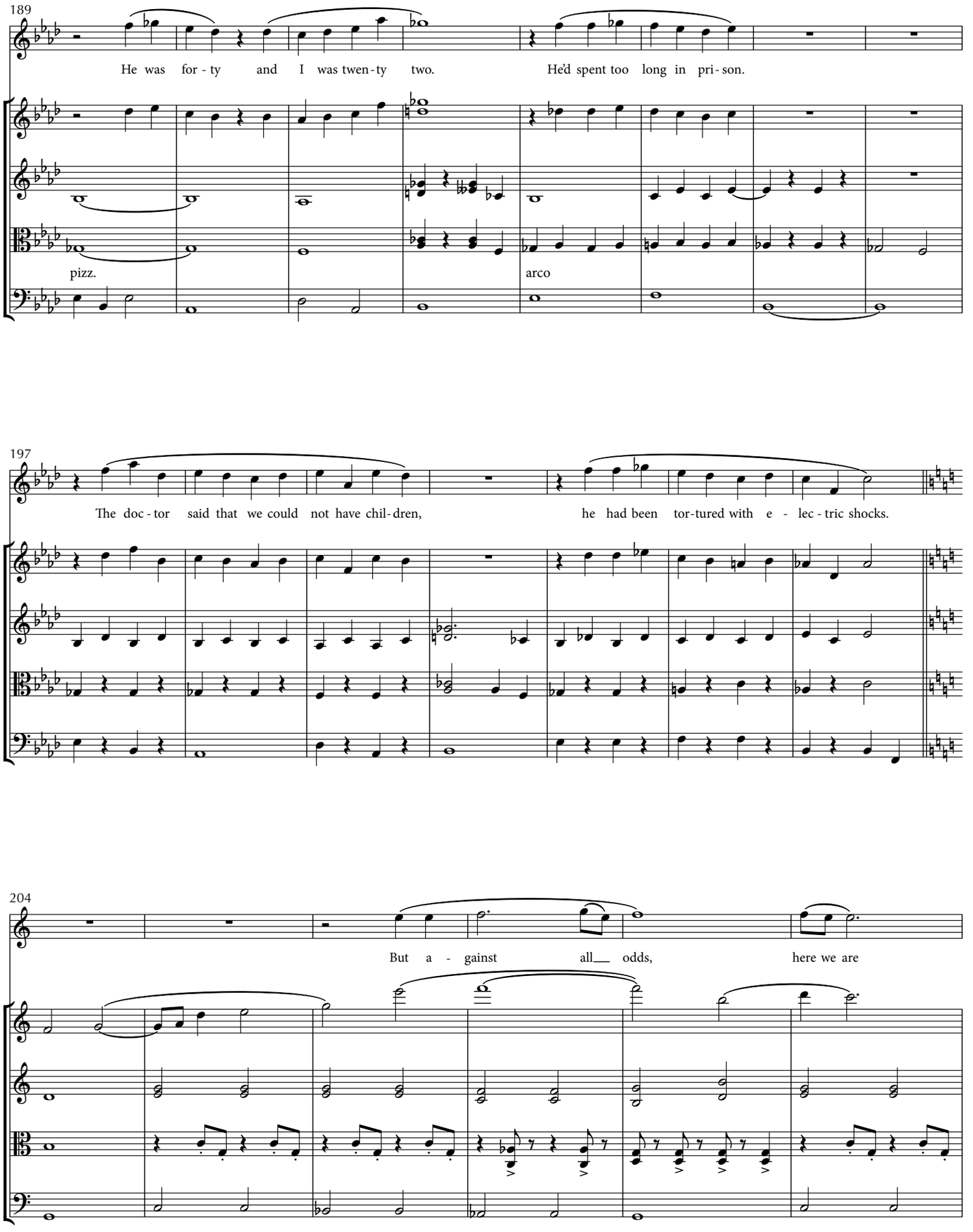
When a symphony orchestra came to her town all her predictions fell into place. She had rejected all courting and explained the complexities of love and her particular destiny to her friends. At five o'clock in the morning she was standing at the railway station holding a sign with his name. He was the last to get off of the coach. She felt something very significant coming into her life. Her heart started to beat fast with a blazing passion. Everything was like in fairy tales. They understood each other perfectly. She was like a fire—energetic, burning and cheerful. He was like water—calm, fluent and melancholy. She was a painter, he was a musician. They were united by art. Their countries, former enemies of war, were now united in their love. Everyone looked around them and said: "What a great love." After the last concert, she knew that in a short time, he would be gone. It was cold and rainy as if nature was crying. He put his bags into the bus again and ran towards her. She stopped dead and felt sad. She had promised him not to cry, but she cried hysterically when she was back in her mother's arms. She kept silent about her feelings. No one would understand her, she was sure.

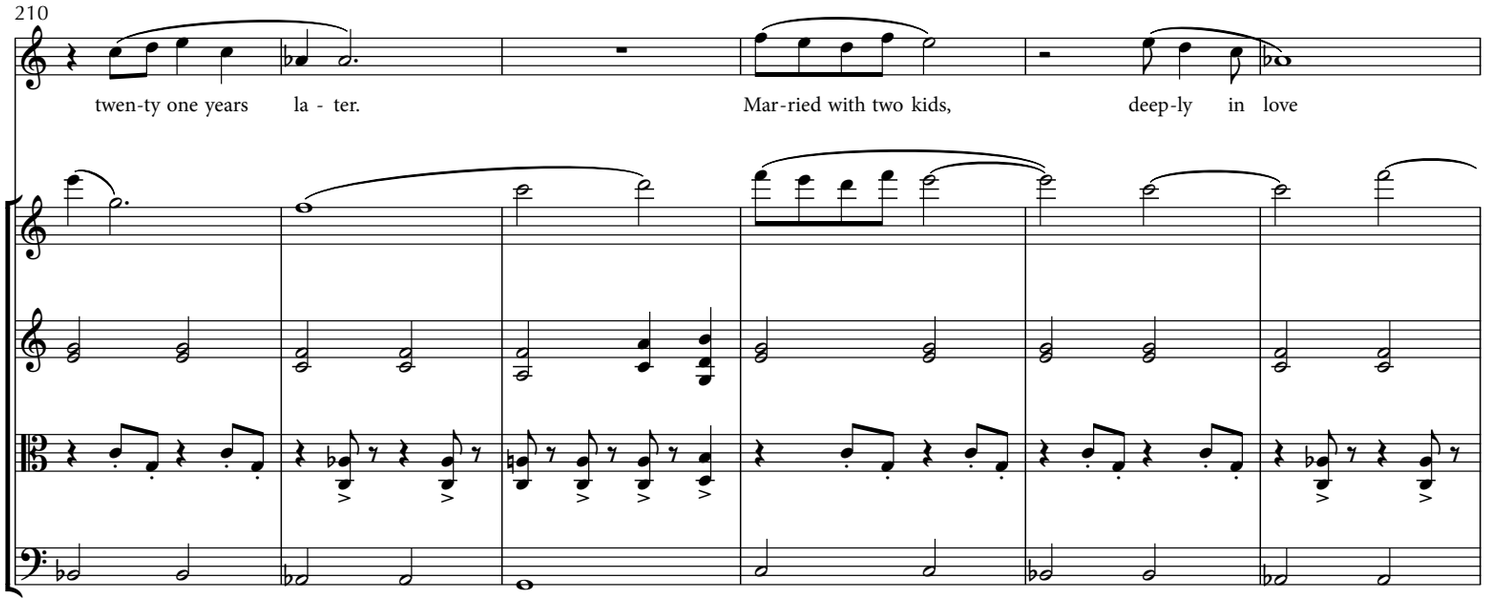
She is learning his language. She is an optimist and believes that they have their whole lives in front of them. She can wait for years to meet him again.

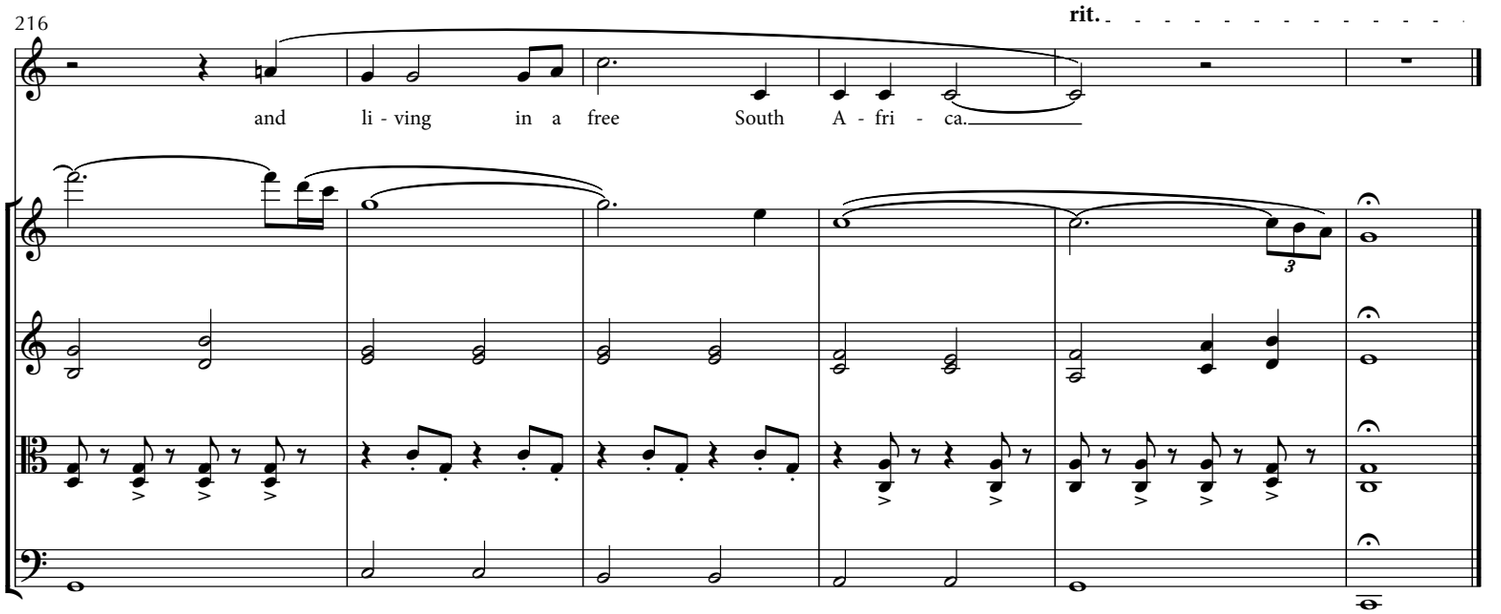
My Fairy Tale Came True

Letter from Scandinavian woman happily married in Africa



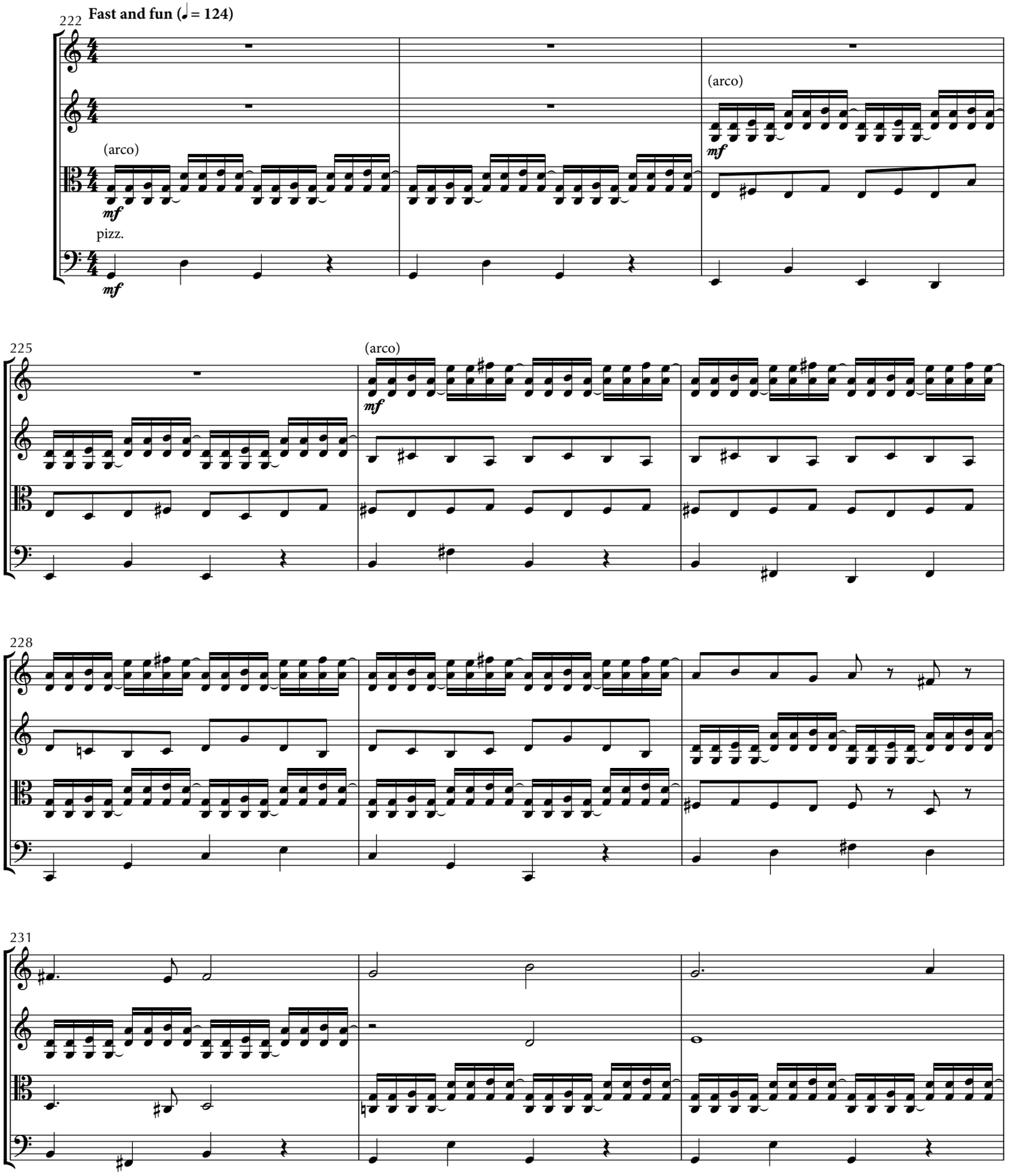

189
He was for - ty and I was twen - ty two.
He'd spent too long in pri - son.
pizz.
arco
197
The doc - tor said that we could not have chil - dren,
he had been tor - tured with e - lec - tric shocks.
204
But a - gainst all odds,
here we are

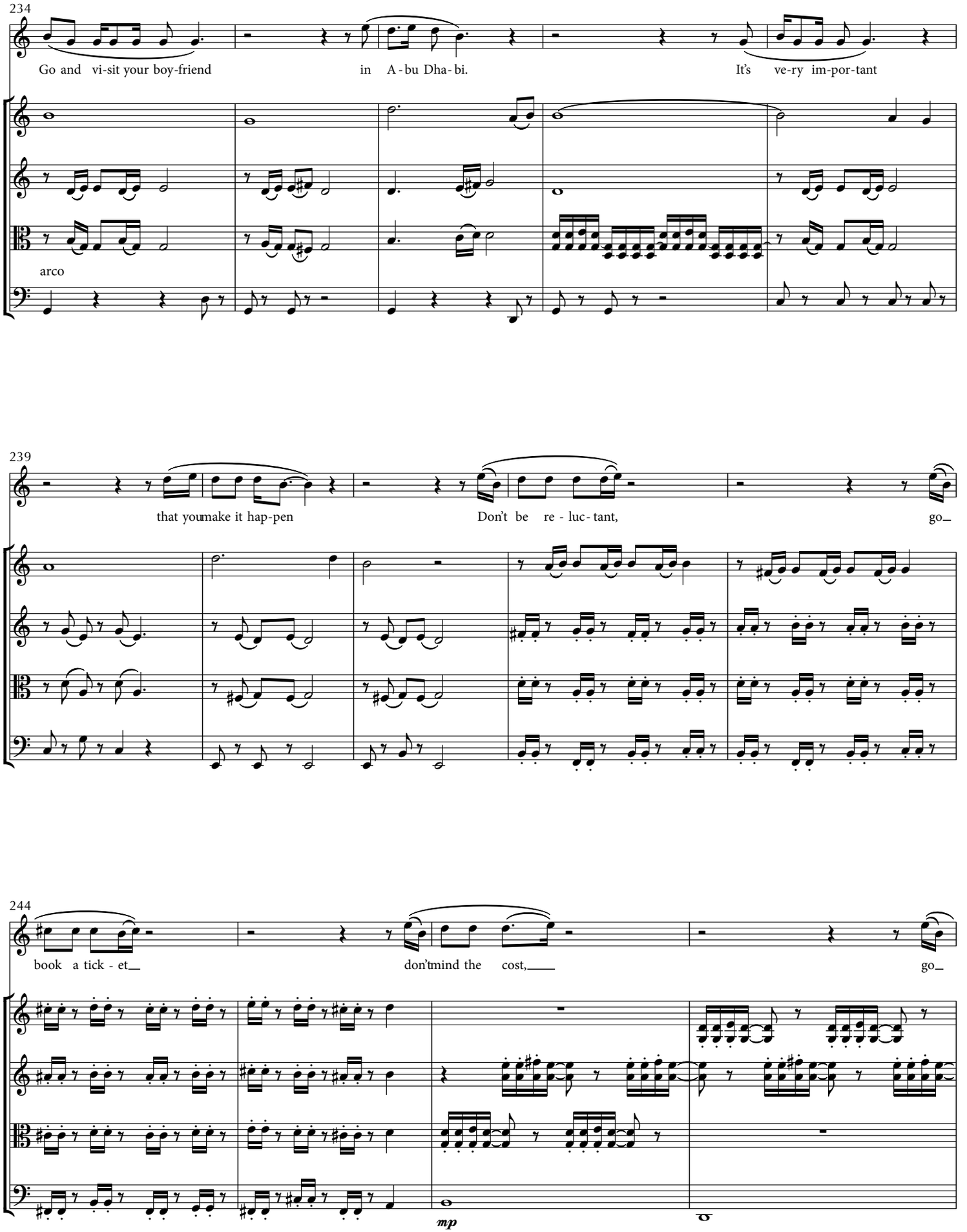

210
twen-ty one years la - ter.
Mar-ried with two kids, deep-ly in love

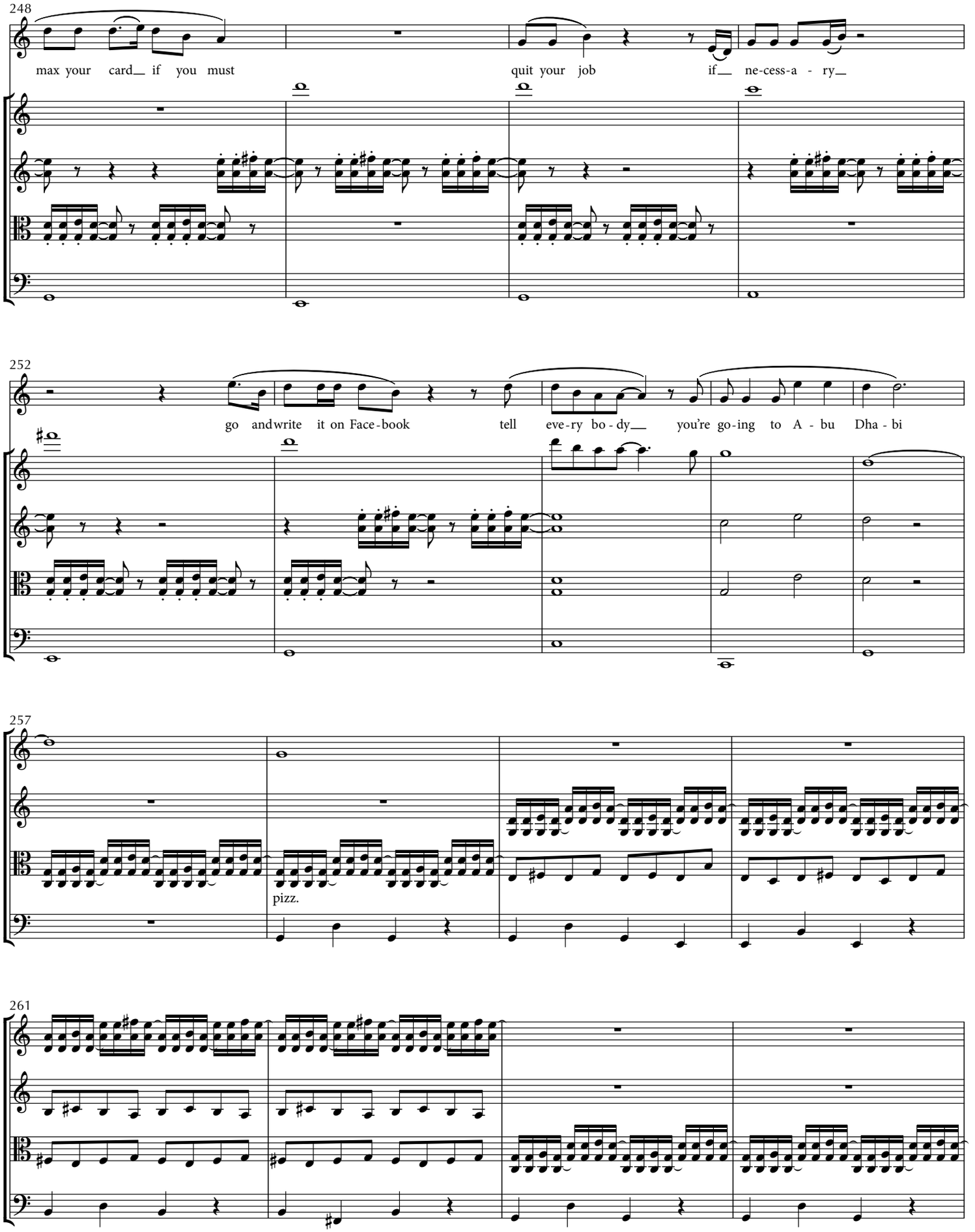

216
rit.
and li - ving in a free South A - fri - ca.

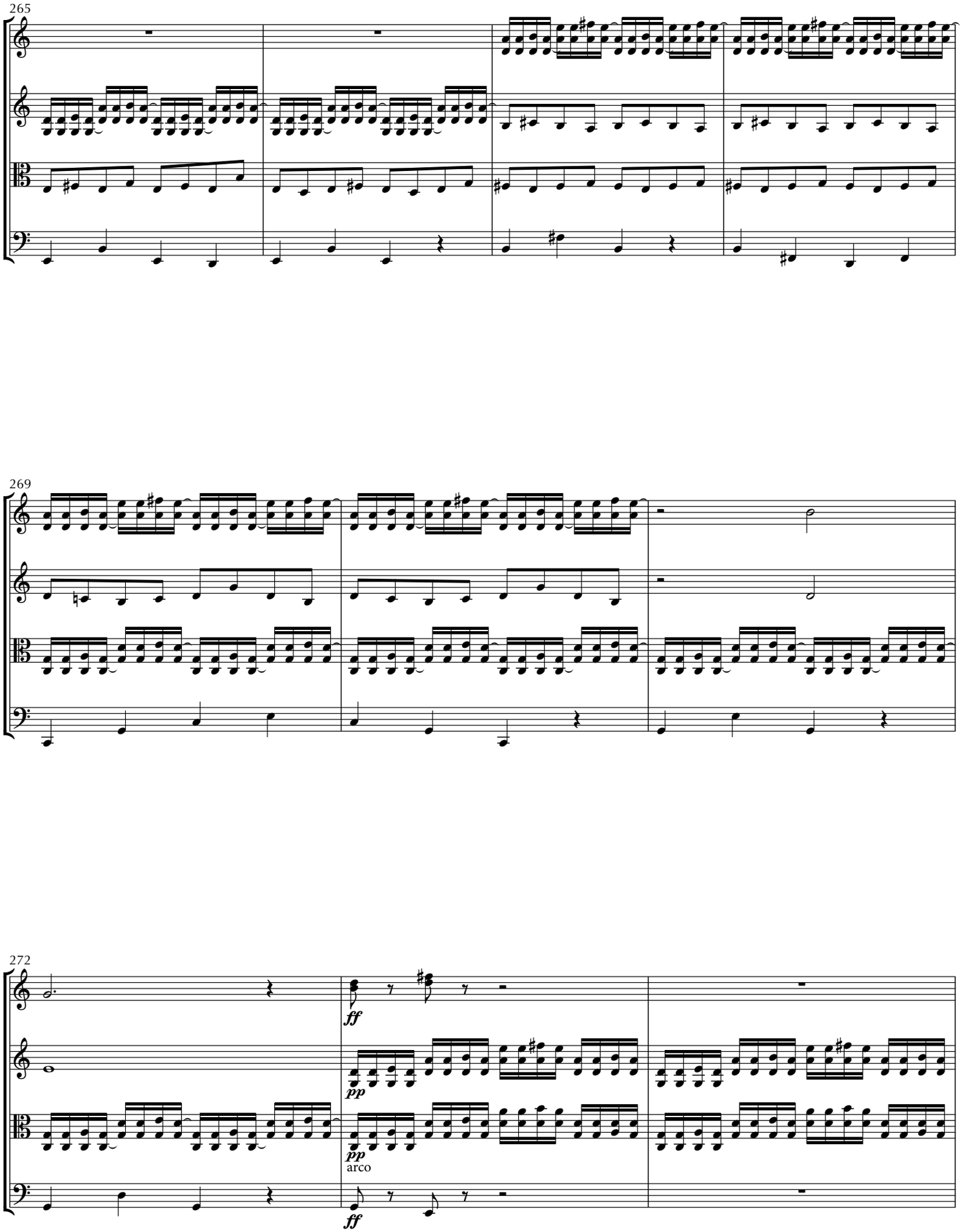
Go to Abu Dhabi

Answer to woman with boyfriend working from abroad



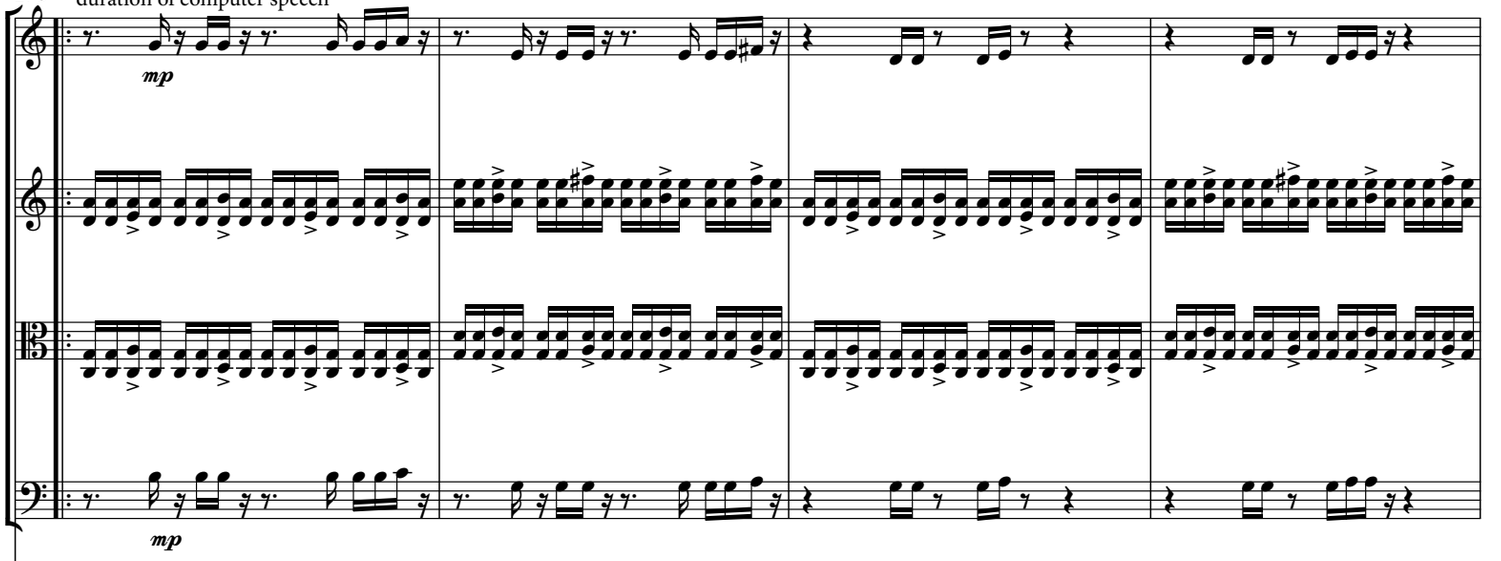

234
Go and vi-sit your boy-friend in A-bu Dha-bi. It's ve-ry im-por-tant
arco
239
that youmake it hap-pen Don't be re-luc-tant, go_
244
book a tick-et_ don'tmind the cost,_____ go_
mp


248
max your card if you must
quit your job
if ne-cess-a - ry
252
go and write it on Face-book
tell eve-ry bo - dy
you're go-ing to A - bu Dha - bi
257
pizz.
261


265
269
272
ff
pp
pp
arco
ff

Medium fast and mechanical
Loop these next eight bars for duration of computer speech

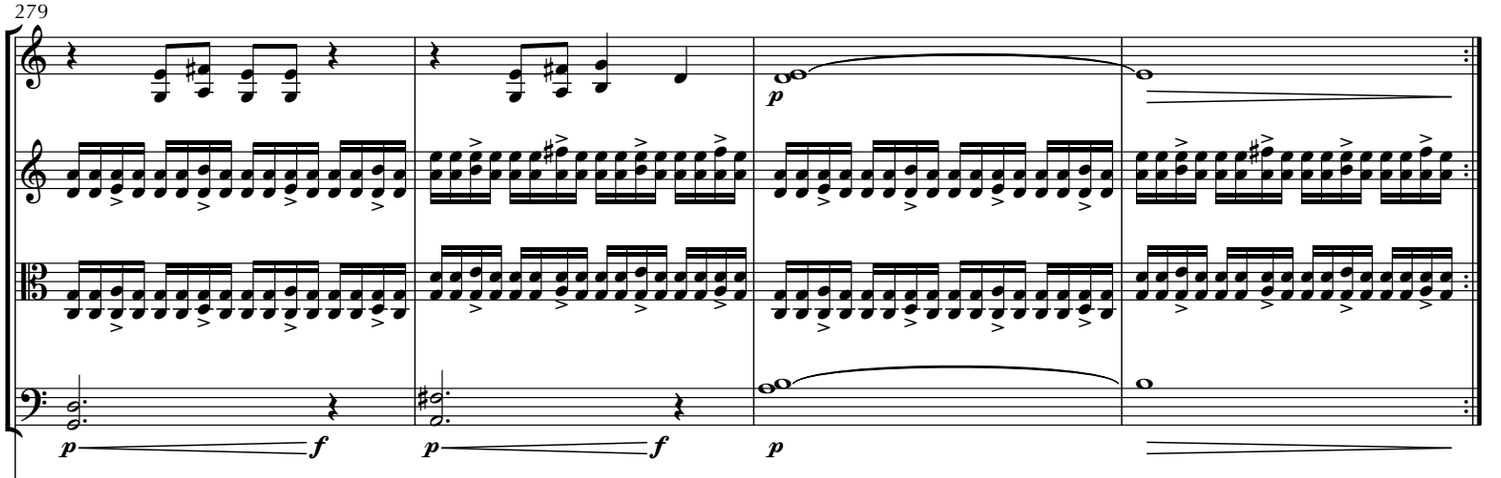
275



Places to stay: Jumeirah at Etihad Towers, great hotel! Southern Sun Abu Dhabi, quality comfort and service.

Restaurants: Jazz & Fizz Bar, a night touching the sky, stress reliever. Chill'o Pool Bar, amazing food and view, amazeballs.

279

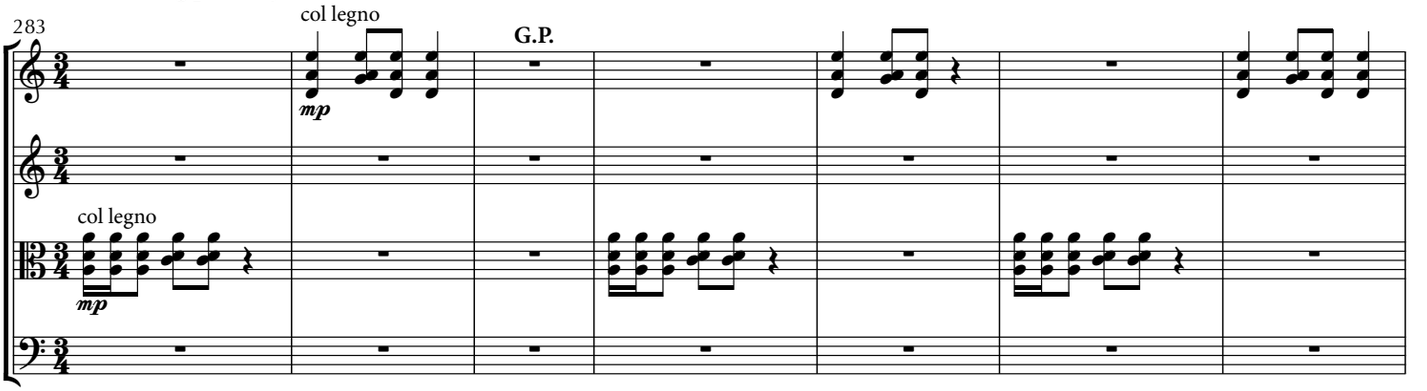


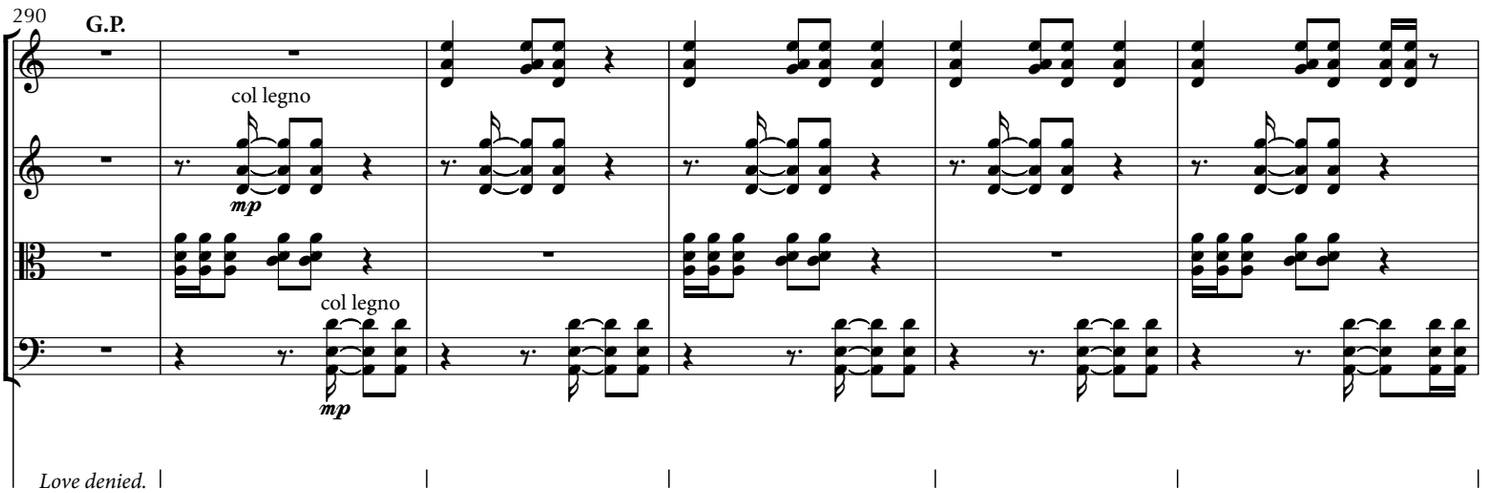
Things to do: Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, it's symmetrical, stunning and serene. Yas Beach. Safari.

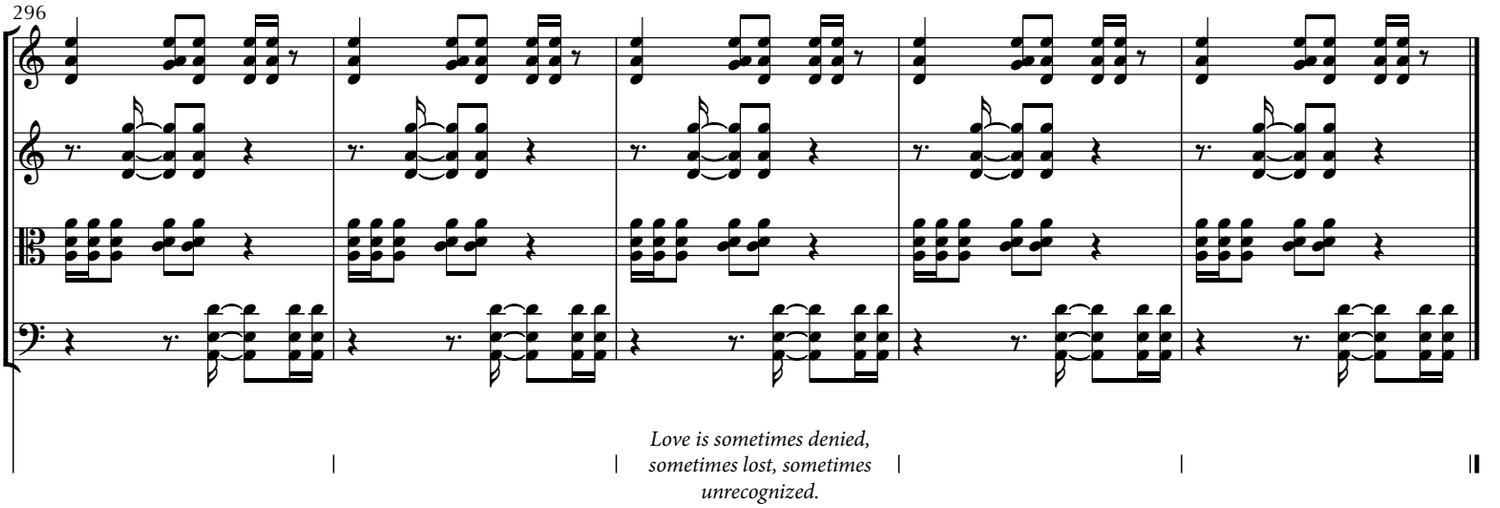
Fun facts: The UAE sees an average of 360 sunny days. The Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, is seven times taller than Big Ben. In 1968 there were only 13 cars in Dubai, in 2014 there were more than 1,138,000 cars.

Part Three: Love Denied, Fragile and Sad, like Darkness Descending

Slow walking pace, mysterious and mechanical (♩ = 51)

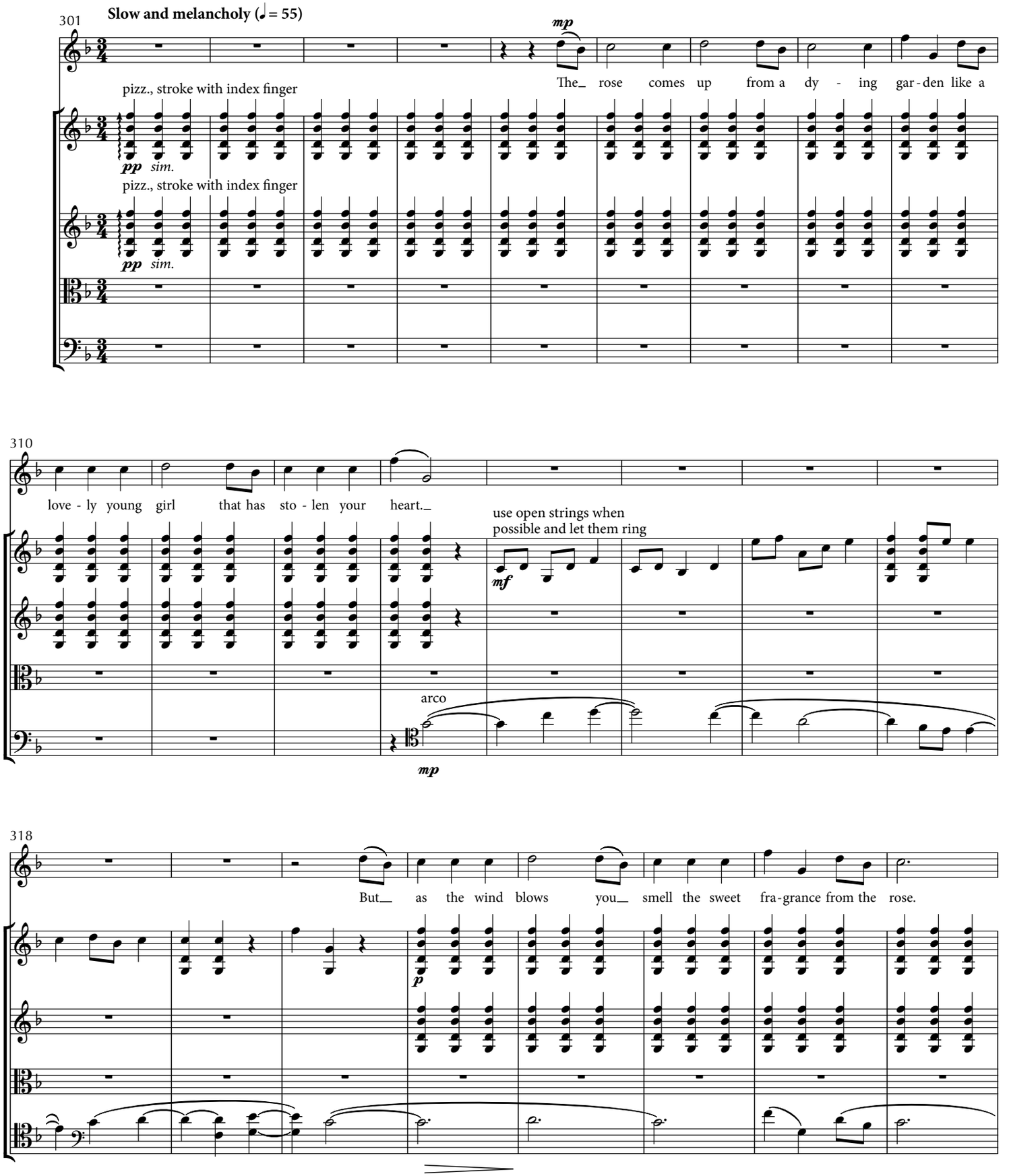


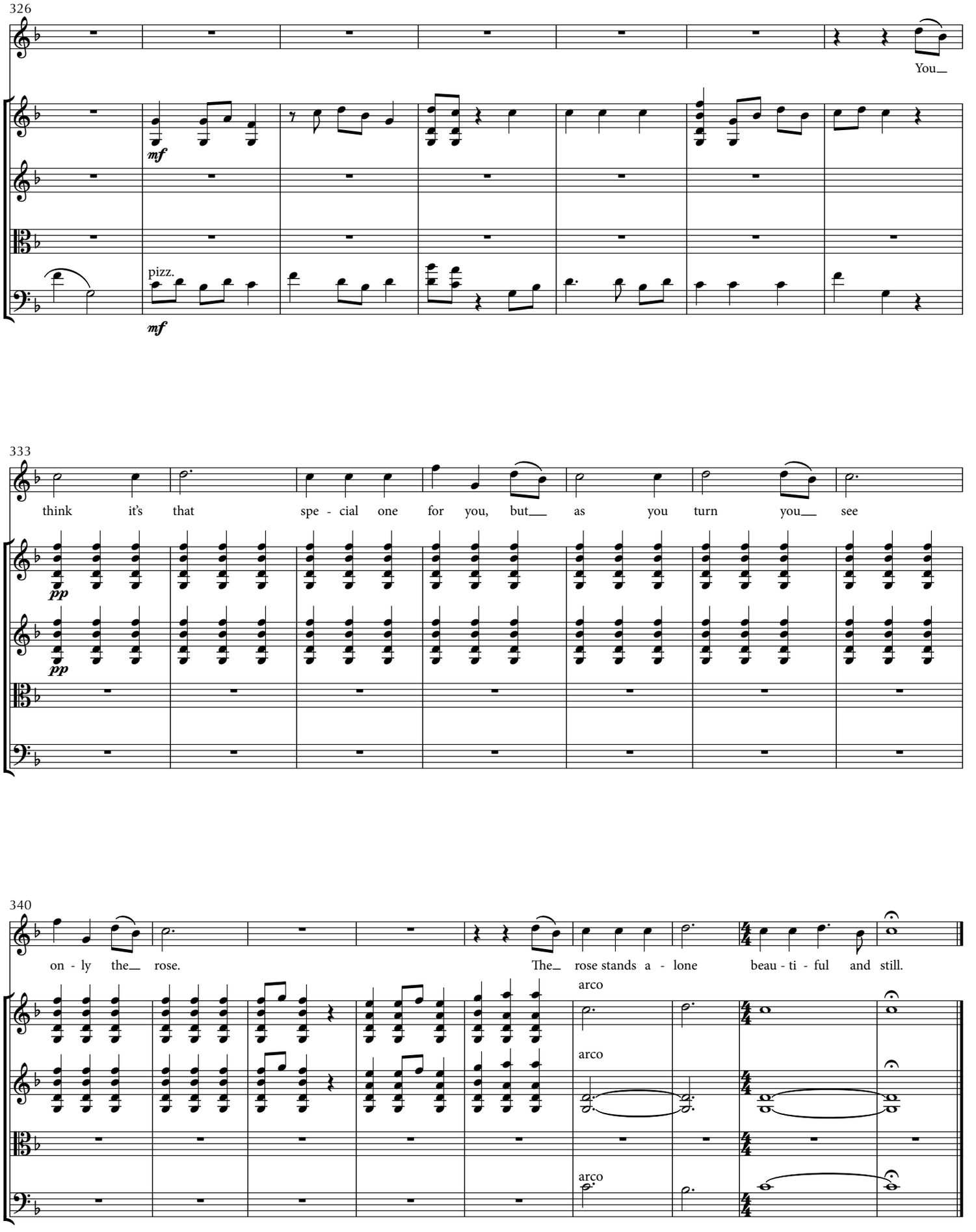




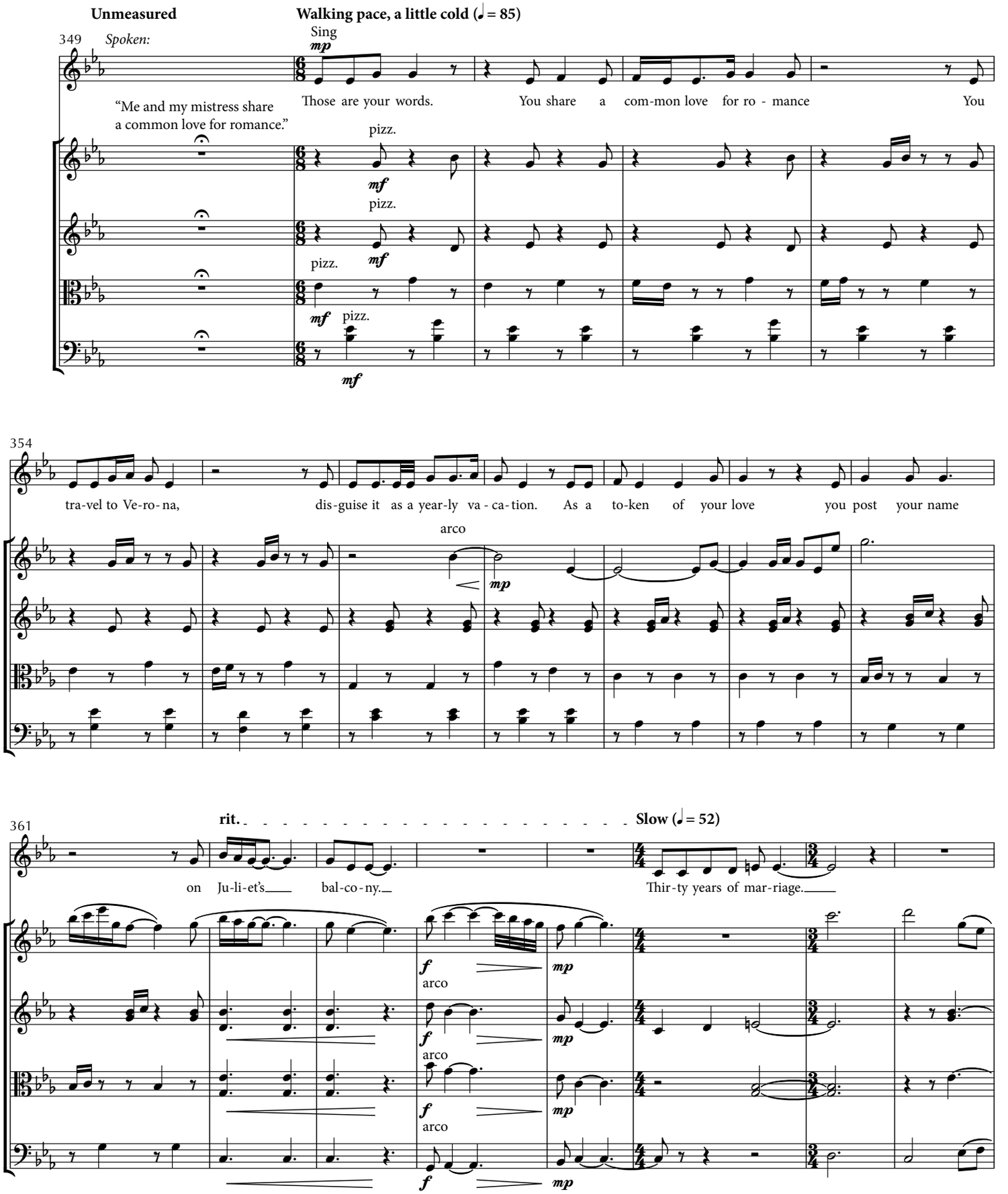
The Rose Comes Up From a Dying Garden

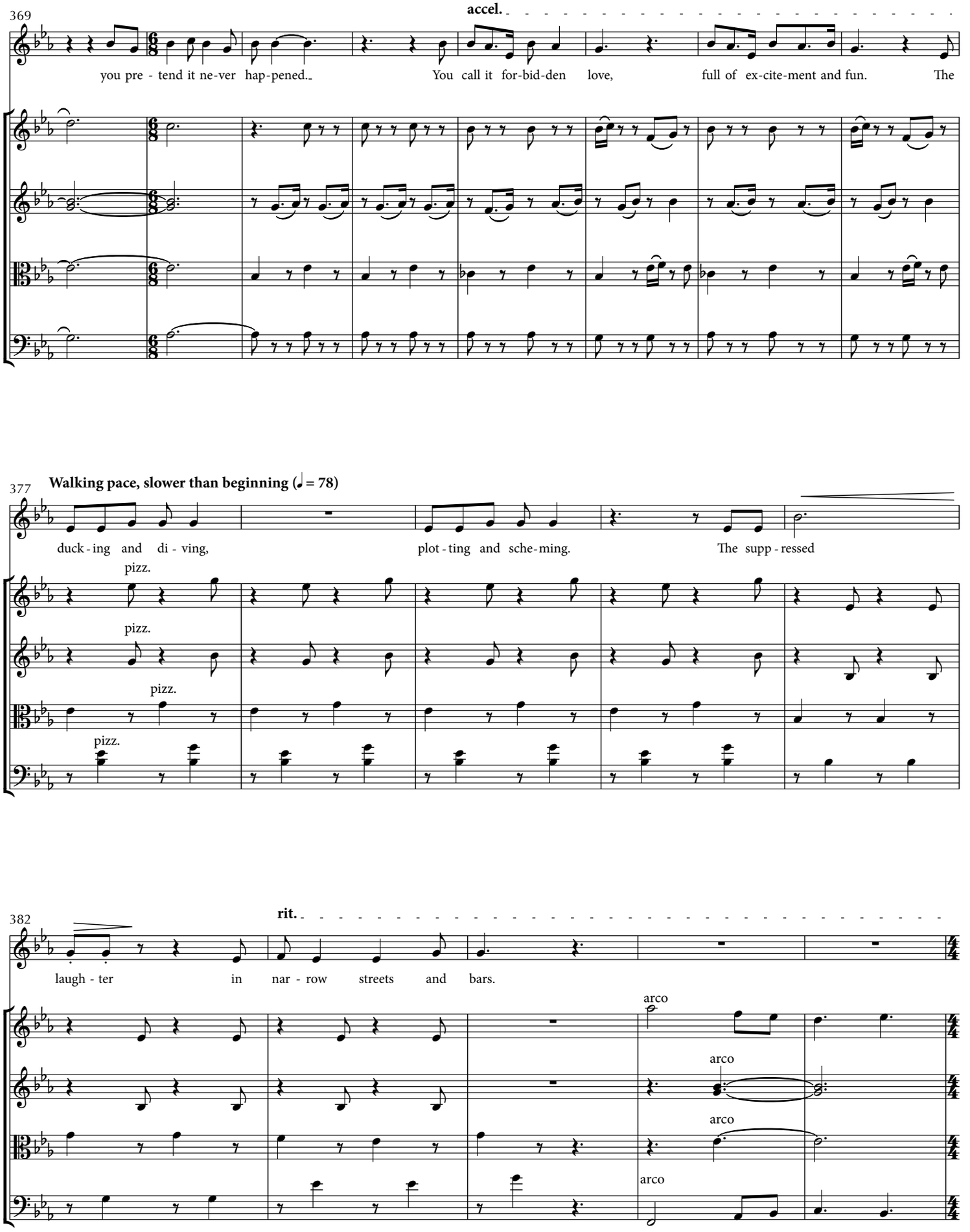
Poem from a young boy

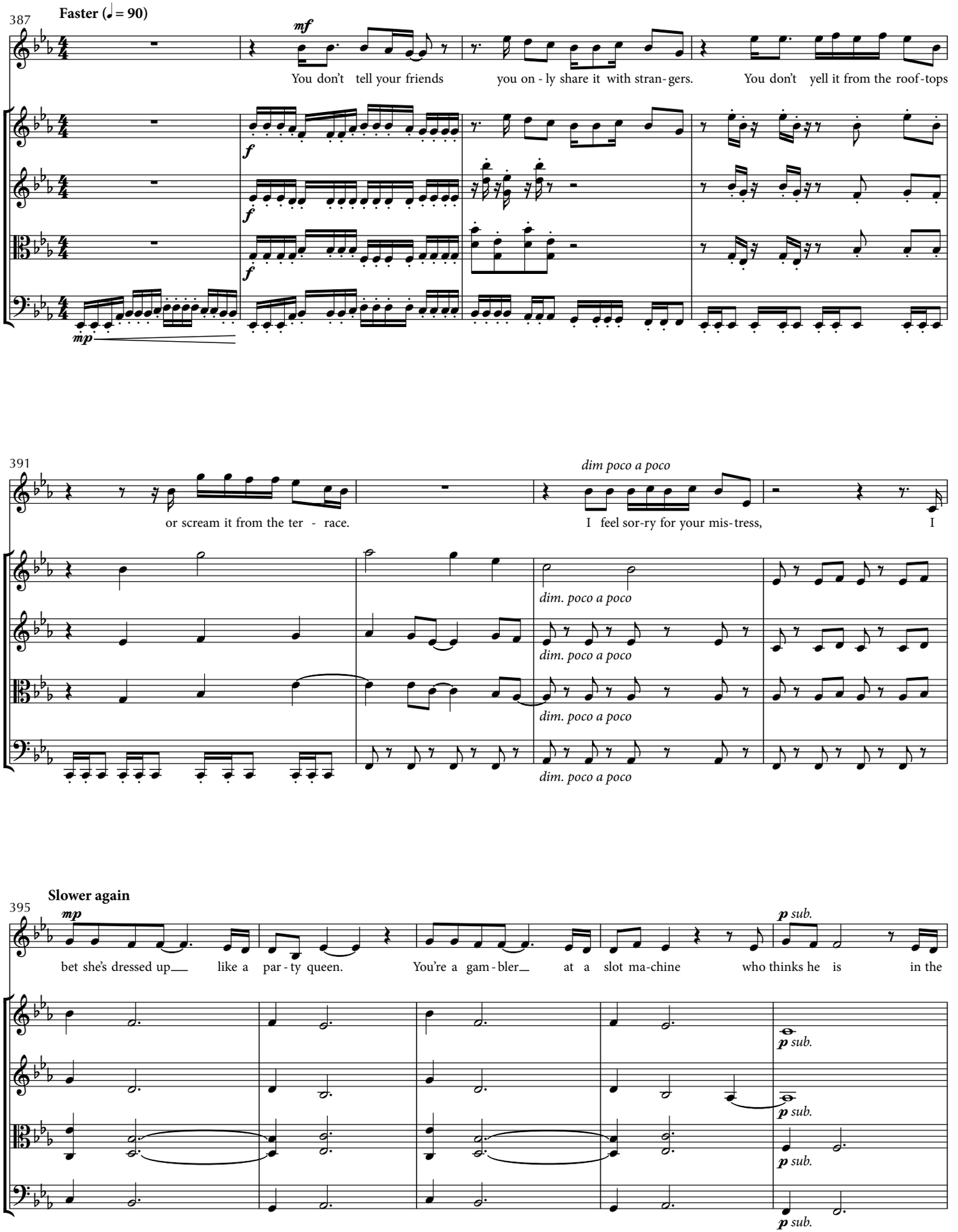


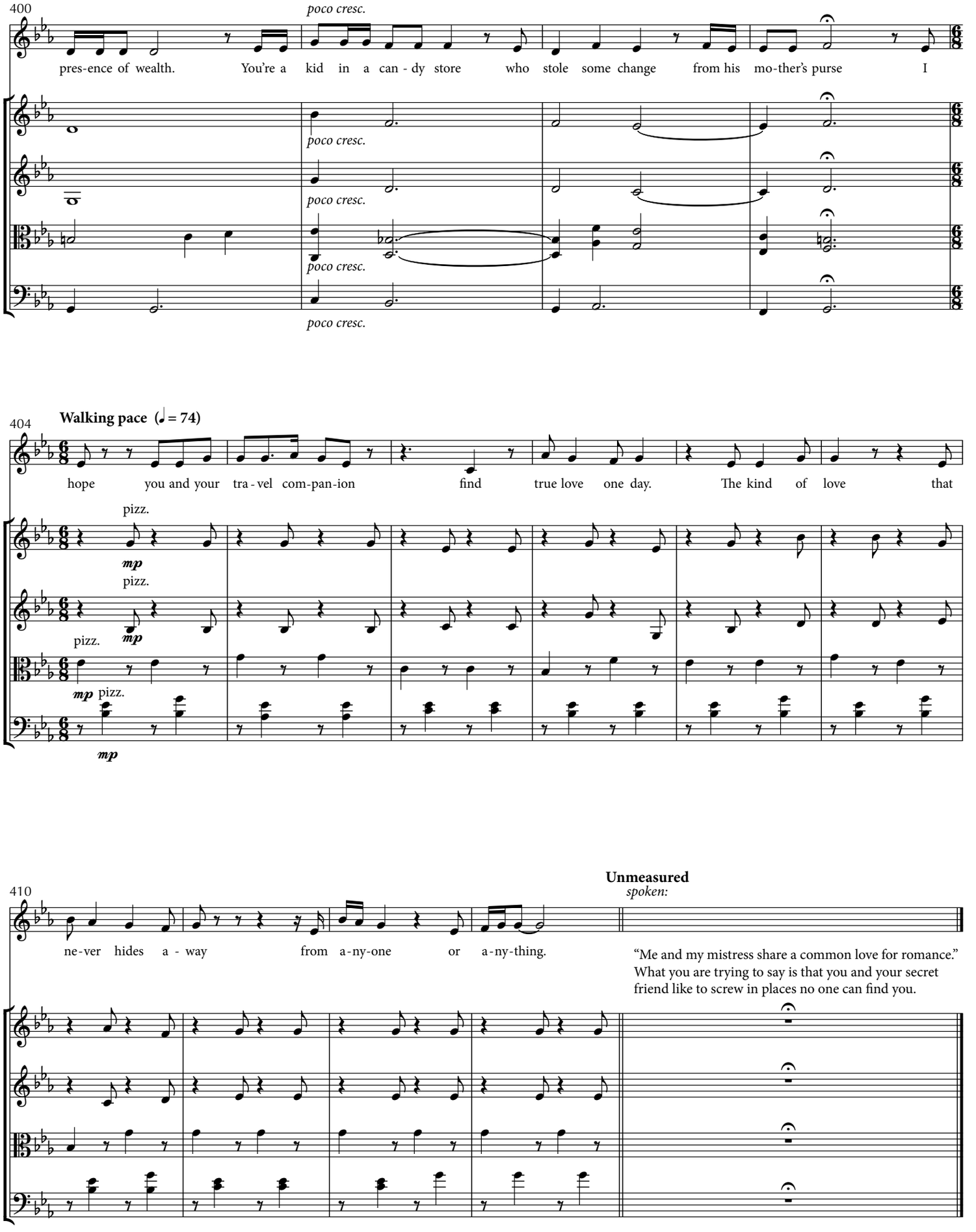

326
You
mf
pizz.
mf
333
think it's that spe - cial one for you, but as you turn you see
pp
pp
340
on - ly the rose. The rose stands a - lone beau - ti - ful and still.
arco
arco
arco

Beautiful Things Want to be Seen
Answer to husband who cheats on his wife



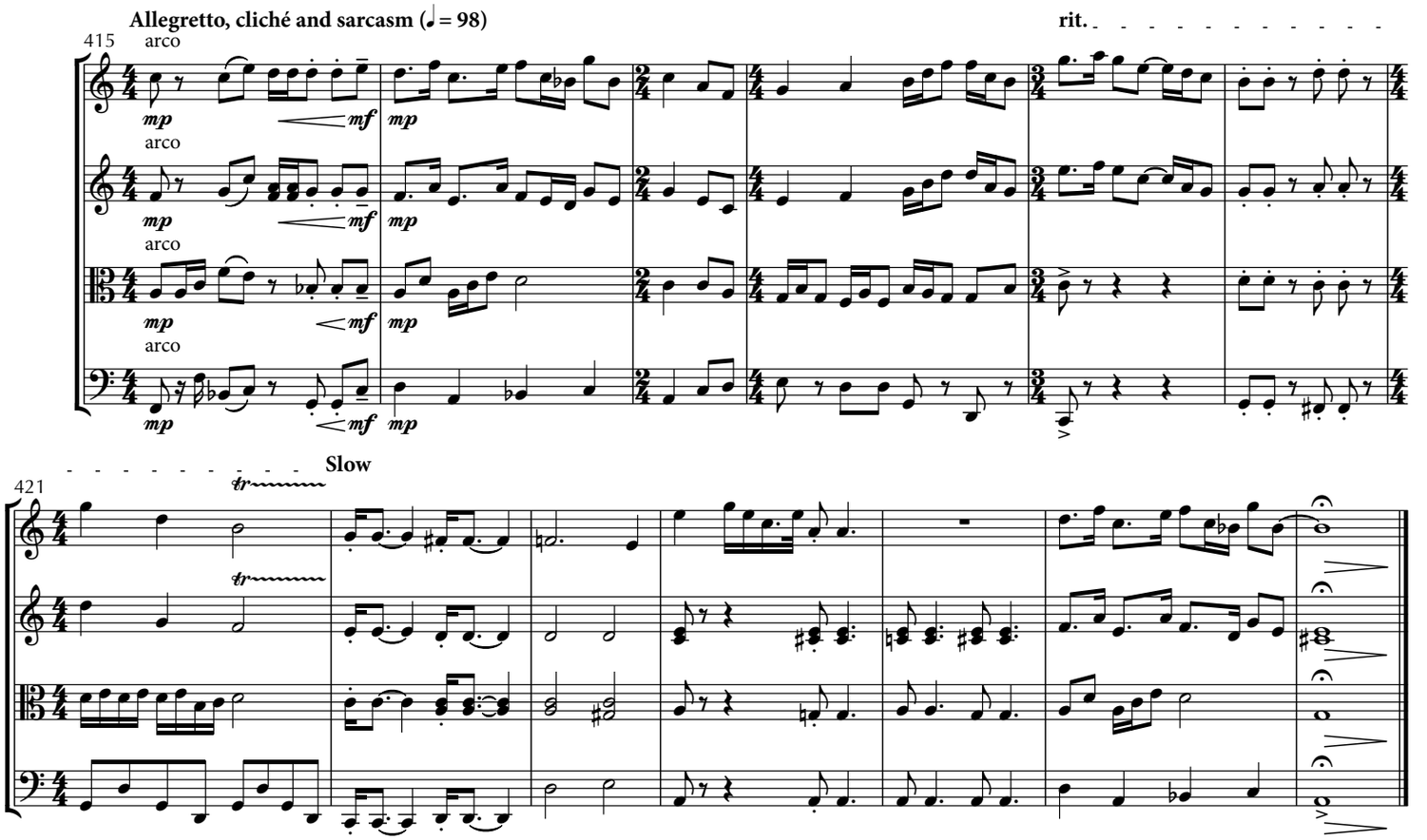

369
accel.
you pre - tend it ne-ver hap-pened. You call it for-bid-den love, full of ex-cite-ment and fun. The
377
Walking pace, slower than beginning (♩ = 78)
duck - ing and di - ving, plot - ting and sche-ming. The supp - ressed
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
382
rit.
laugh - ter in nar - row streets and bars.
arco
arco
arco
arco


387
Faster (♩= 90)
mf
You don't tell your friends you on - ly share it with stran - gers. You don't yell it from the roof - tops
f
f
f
mp
391
or scream it from the ter - race.
dim poco a poco
I feel sor - ry for your mis - tress, I
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
Slower again
395
mp
bet she's dressed up like a par - ty queen. You're a gam - bler at a slot ma - chine who thinks he is in the
p sub.
p sub.
p sub.
p sub.


400
poco cresc.
pres-ence of wealth. You're a kid in a can - dy store who stole some change from his mo-ther's purse I
404
Walking pace (♩= 74)
hope you and your tra - vel com-pan-ion find true love one day. The kind of love that
pizz.
mp
410
Unmeasured
spoken:
ne-ver hides a - way from a-ny-one or a-ny-thing.
"Me and my mistress share a common love for romance." What you are trying to say is that you and your secret friend like to screw in places no one can find you.

A Couple of Three

Answer to man with two girlfriends



Spoken after music has finished:

Dear person from Isle of Man,

You have two girlfriends, one in Aberdeen and one in Plymouth. Both of them want to come and visit for Christmas. You ask for advice. What should you do?

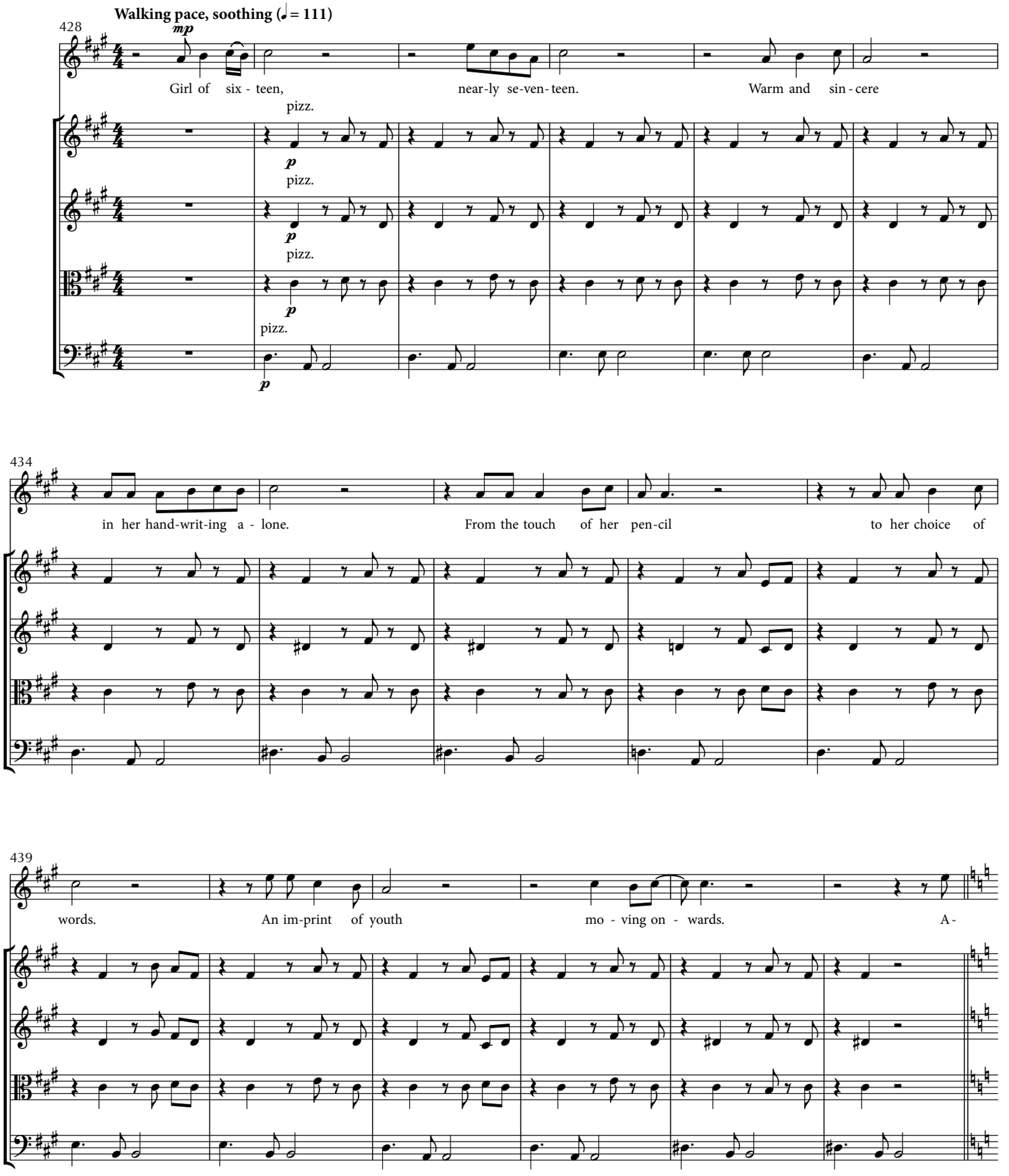
At first glance, it seems like a bad idea. They might despise each other and start a catfight as soon as they are in the same room. What's even worse … what if they took all their anger and frustration out on *you*?

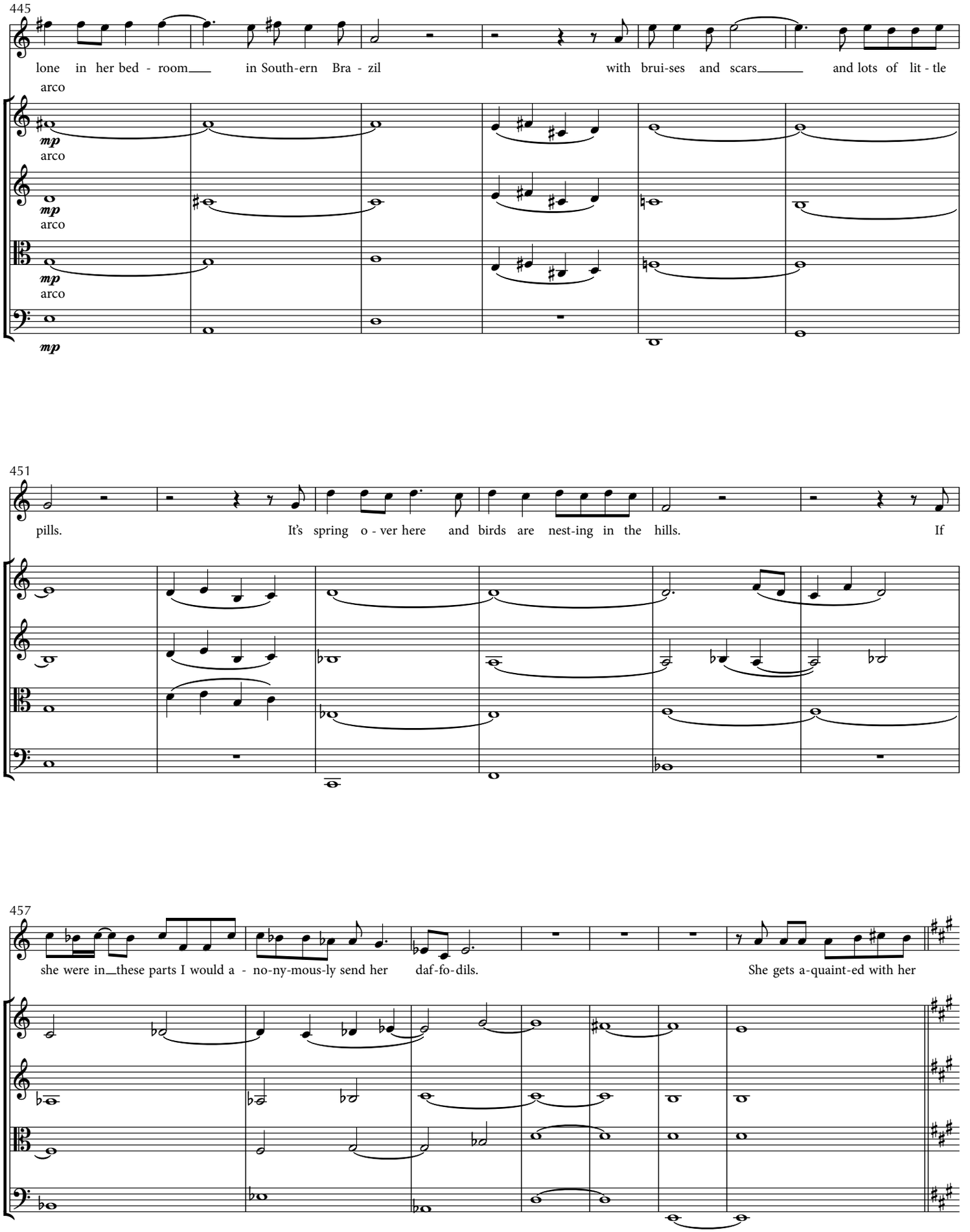
In the romantic spirit of Christmas, you should consider the most idyllic scene. Imagine if both of them are fine with your two-girlfriend situation? Imagine you could be a couple of three? Making angels in the snow on the Isle of Man. Christmas holidays are such a wonderful occasion to bond and surprise each other. Why don't you tell them to arrive on the same day at the exact same hour while you wait at the door dressed up like Santa Claus? Then you take it from there.

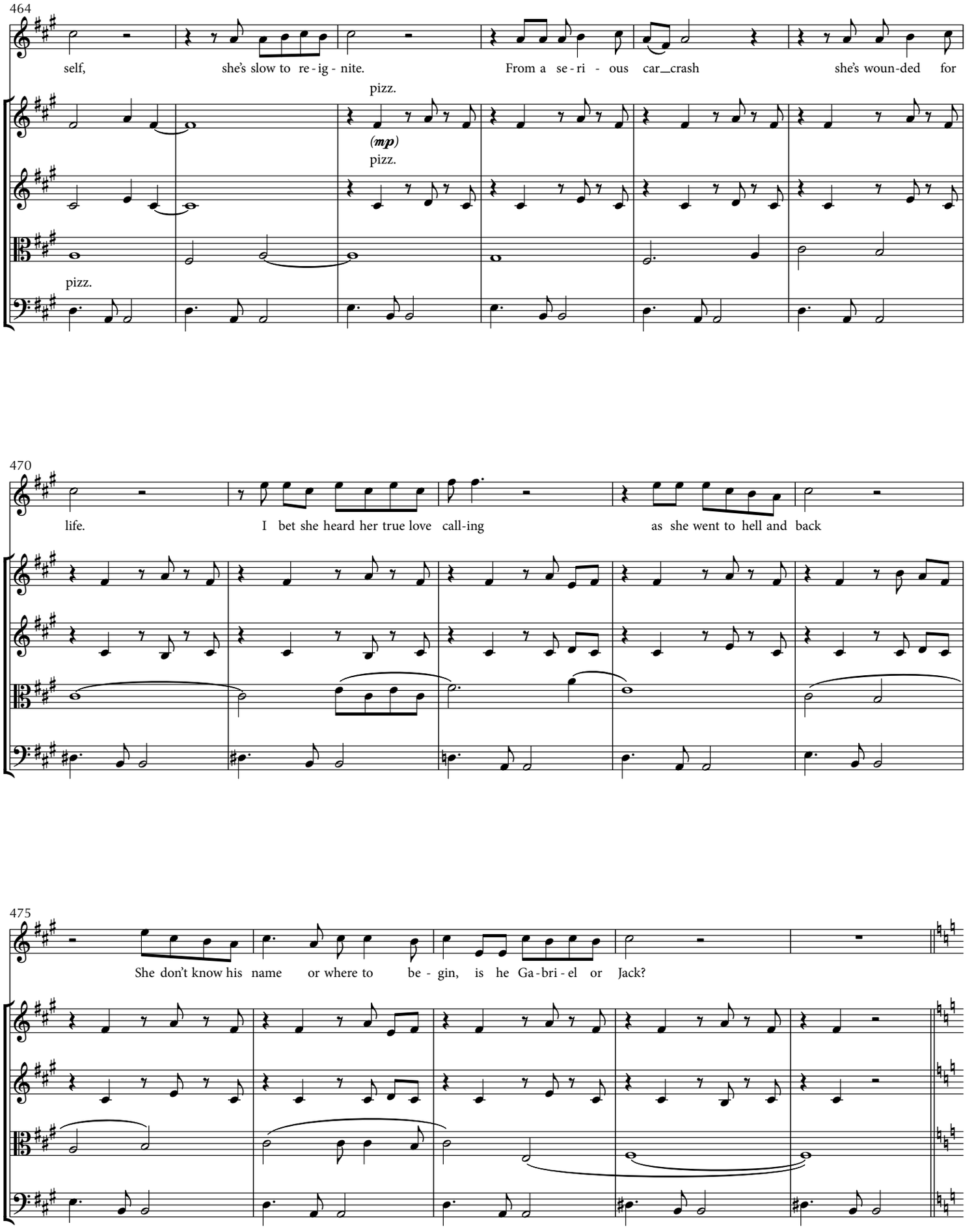
My pleasure!

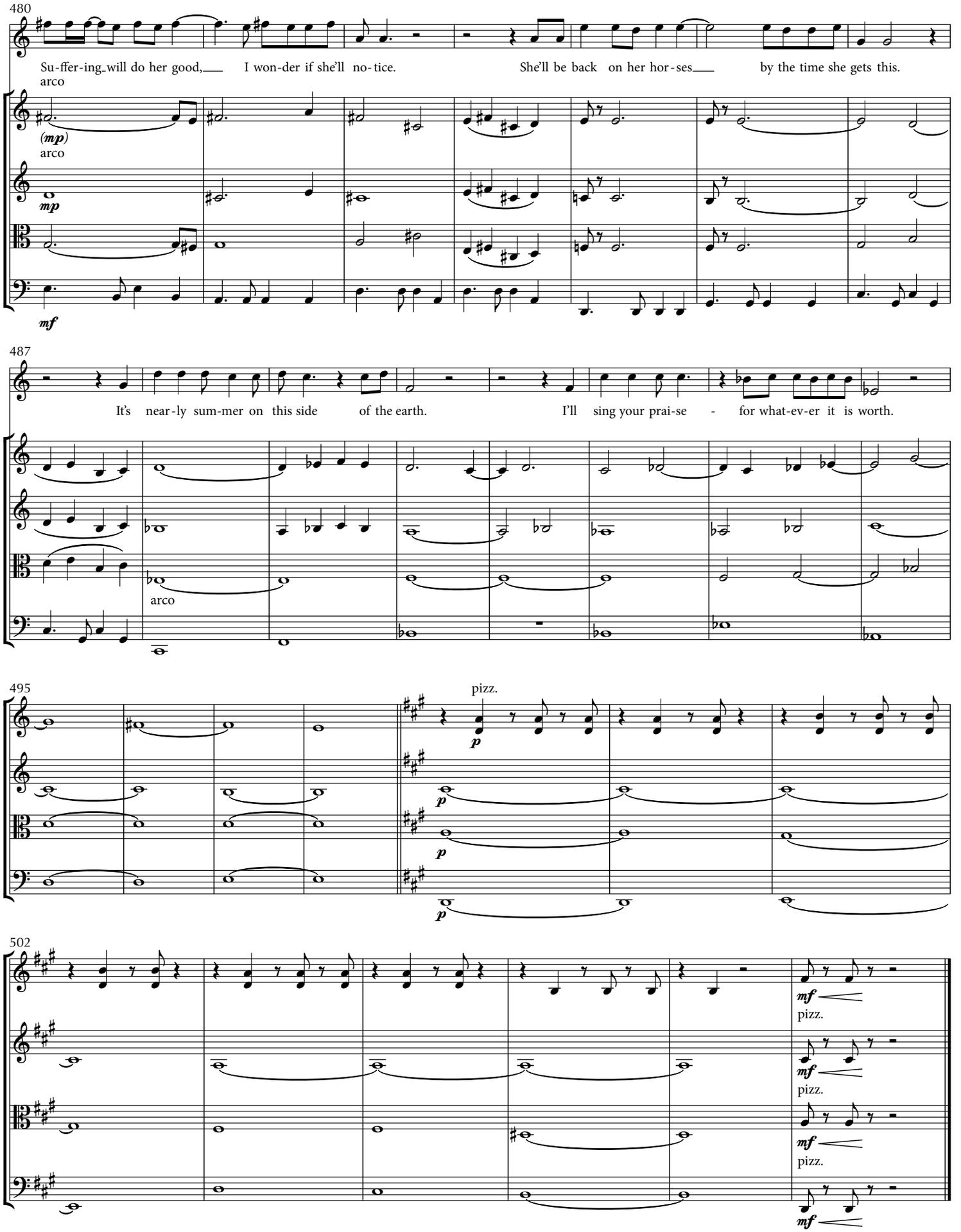
Alone in her Bedroom in Southern Brazil, with Bruises and Scars and Lots of Little Pills

Summary of letter from teenager with scars



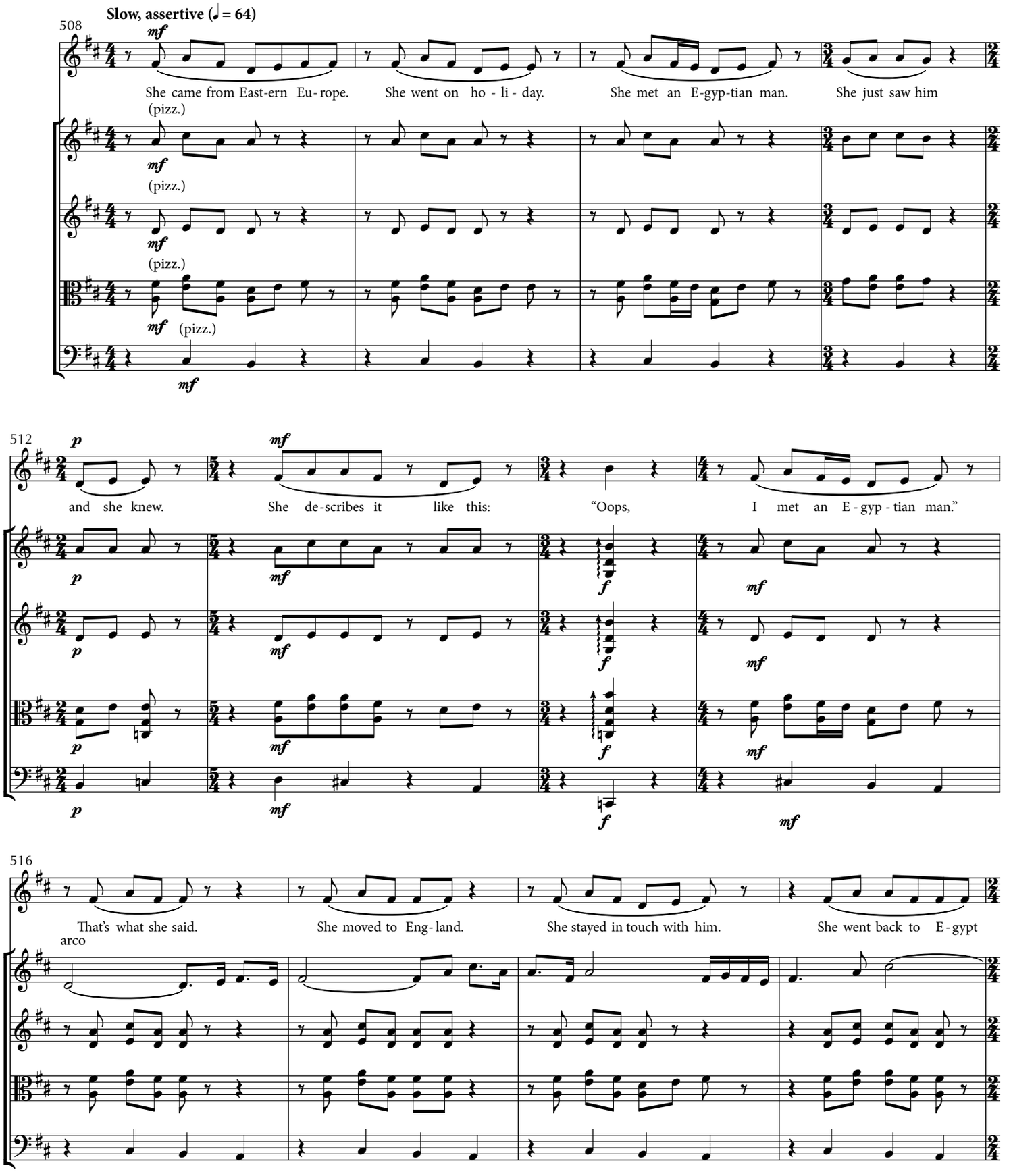

445
lone in her bed - room in South-ern Bra - zil with brui-ses and scars and lots of lit - tle
arco
mp
arco
mp
arco
mp
arco
mp
451
pills. It's spring o - ver here and birds are nest-ing in the hills. If
457
she were in these parts I would a - no-ny-mous-ly send her daf-fo-dils. She gets a-quaint-ed with her


464
self,
she's slow to re - ig - nite.
From a se - ri - ous car_crash
she's woun-ded for
pizz.
(mp)
pizz.
pizz.
470
life.
I bet she heard her true love call-ing
as she went to hell and back
475
She don't know his name or where to be - gin, is he Ga - bri - el or Jack?

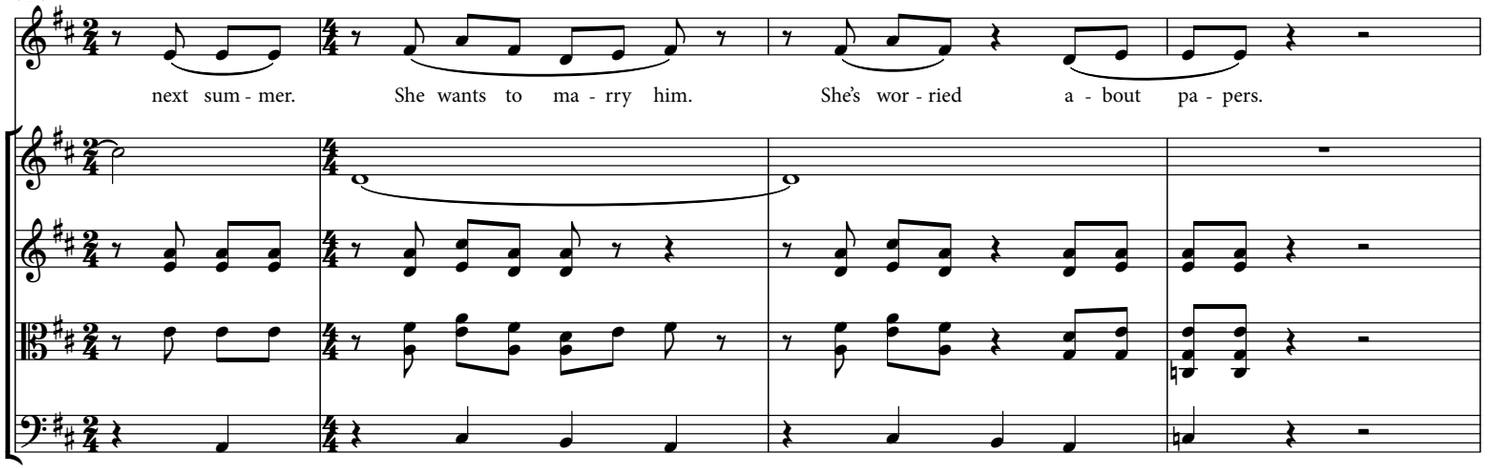

480
Su-ffer-ing_will do her good,___ I won-der if she'll no-tice. She'll be back on her hor-ses___ by the time she gets this.
arco
(mp)
arco
mp
mf
487
It's near-ly sum-mer on this side of the earth. I'll sing your prai-se - for what-ev-er it is worth.
arco
495
pizz.
p
p
p
502
mf
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf

She Met an Egyptian Man

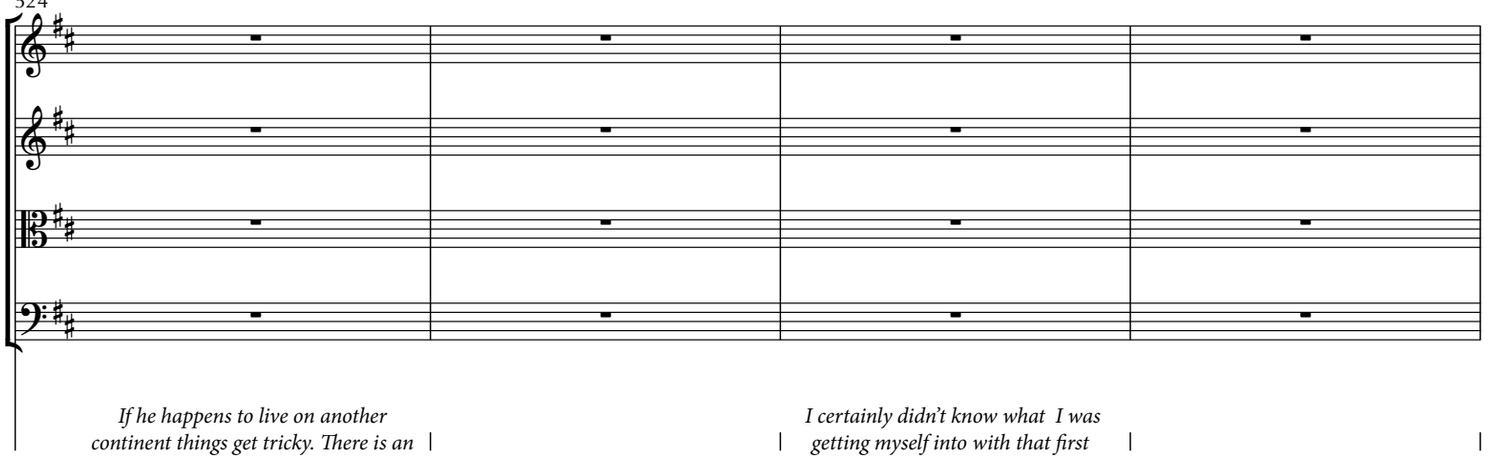
Summary of letter from woman who falls in love on continental holiday



520

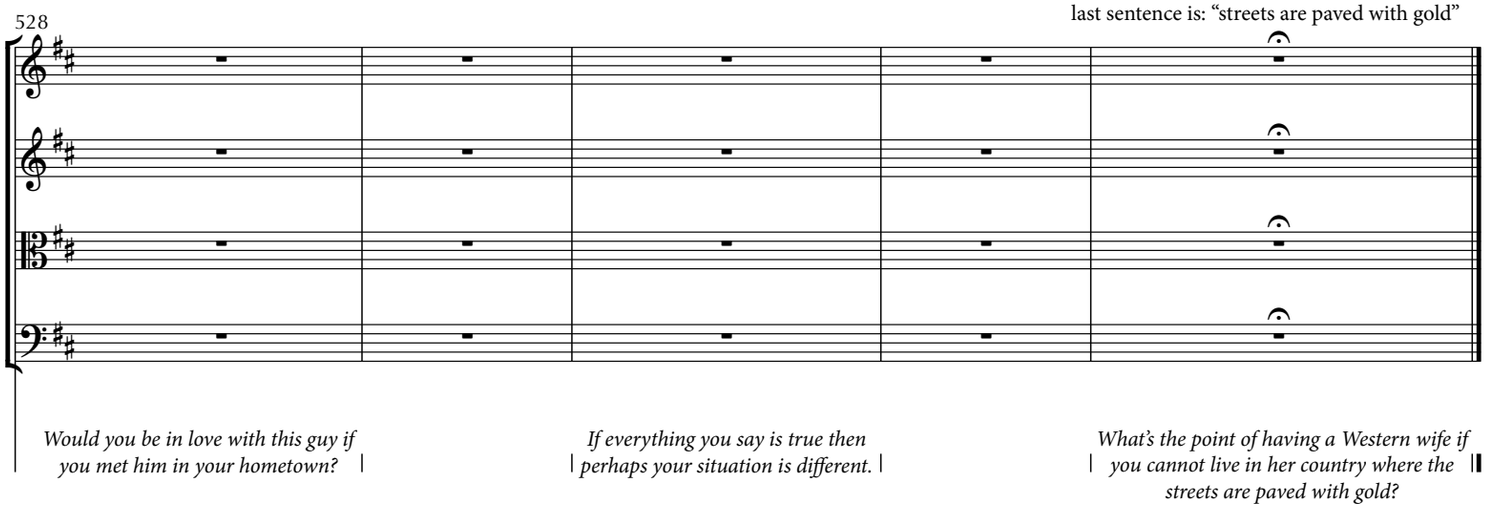


524 **Unmeasured**

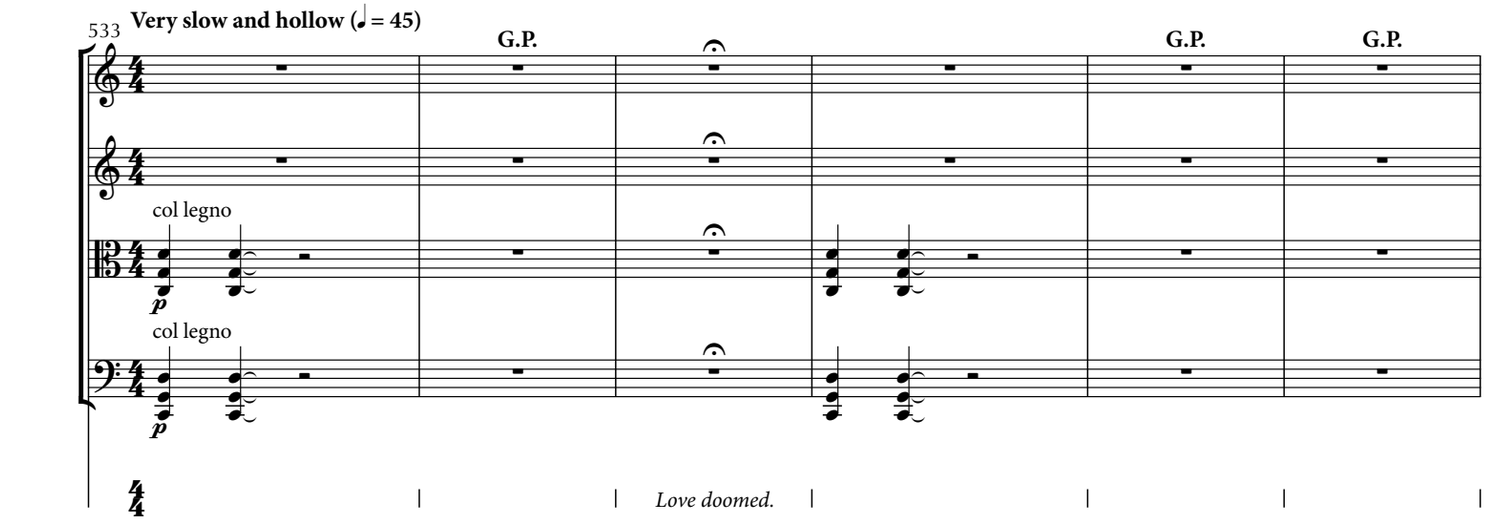


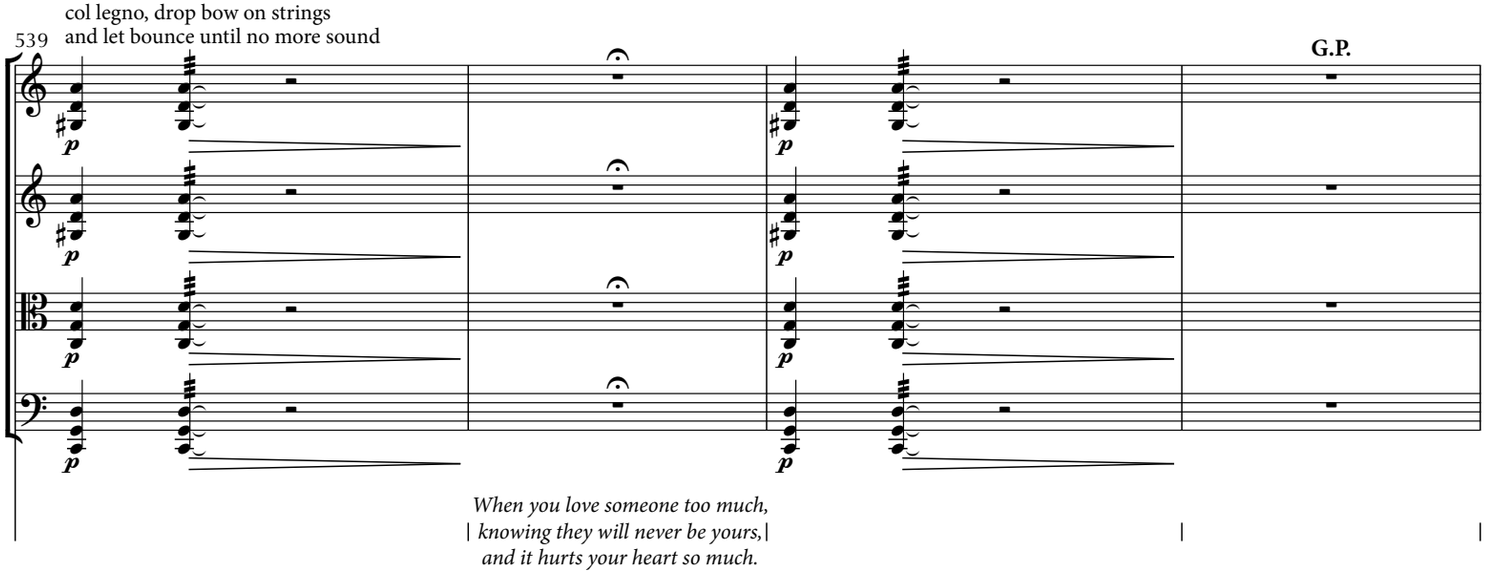
528

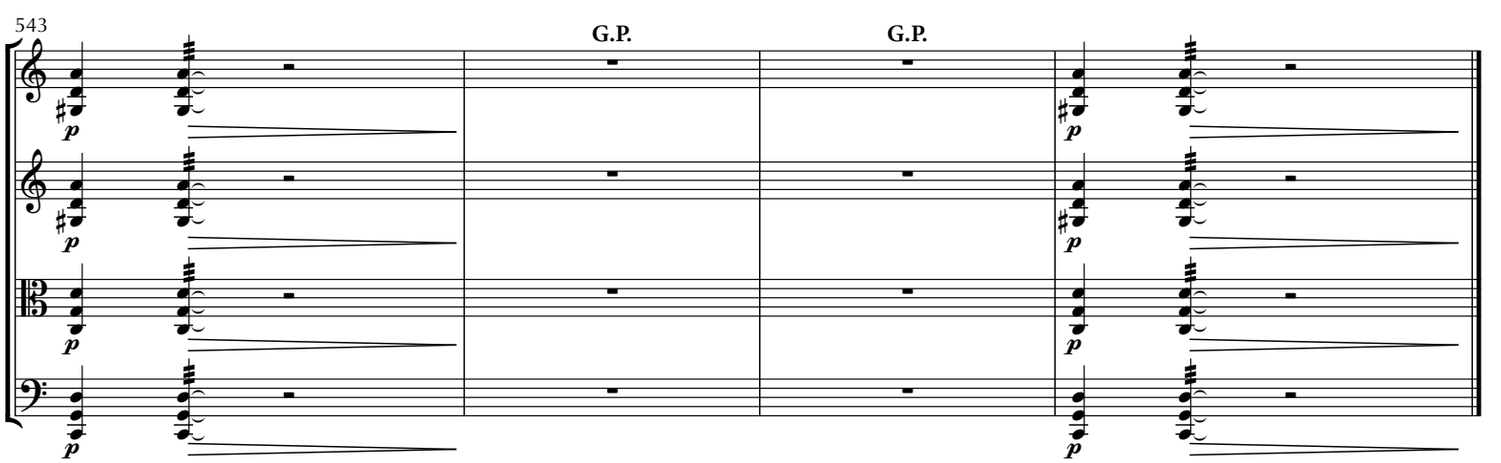
Wait for computer voices to finish,
last sentence is: "streets are paved with gold"



Part Four: Love doomed, darkness and doom

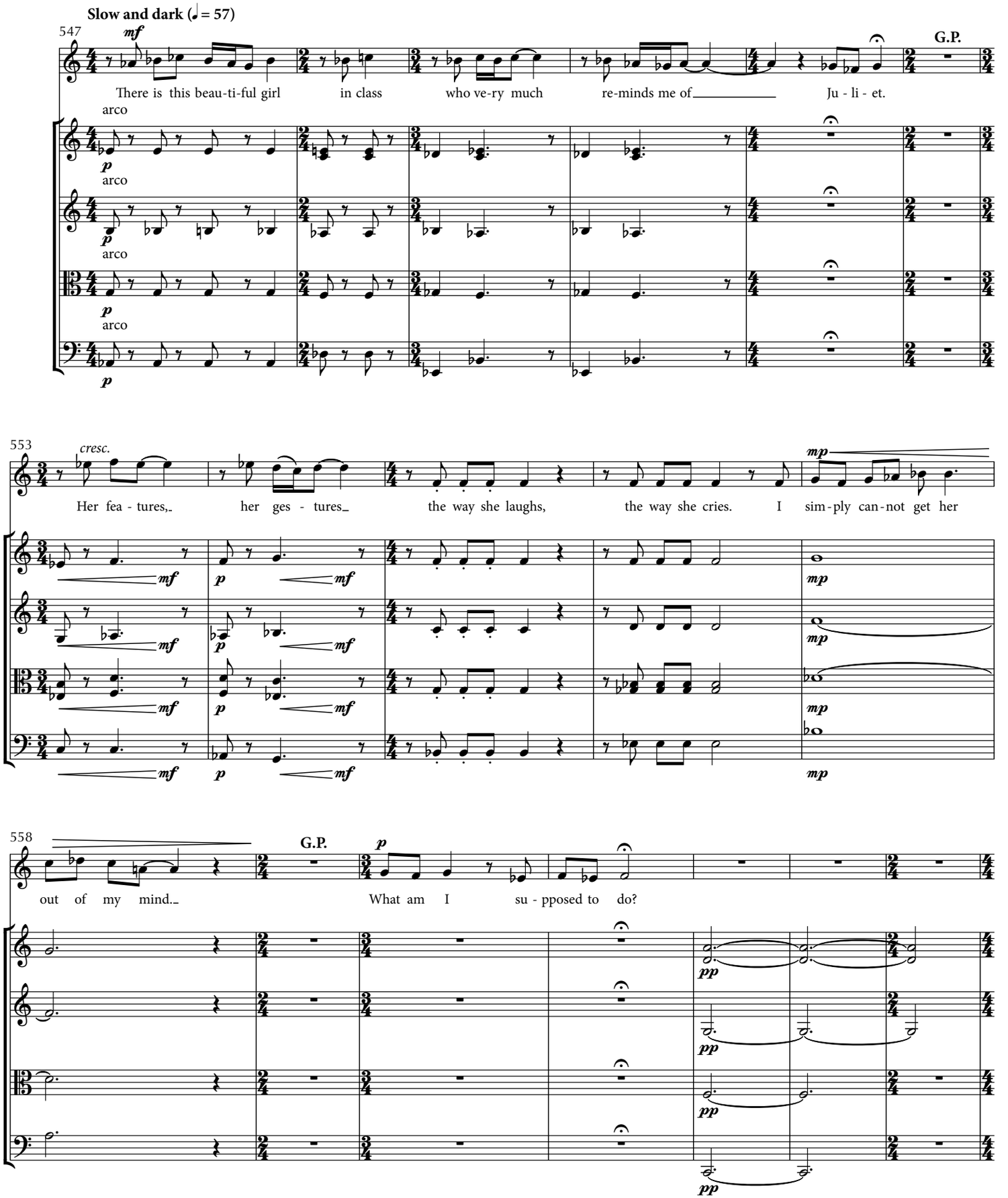


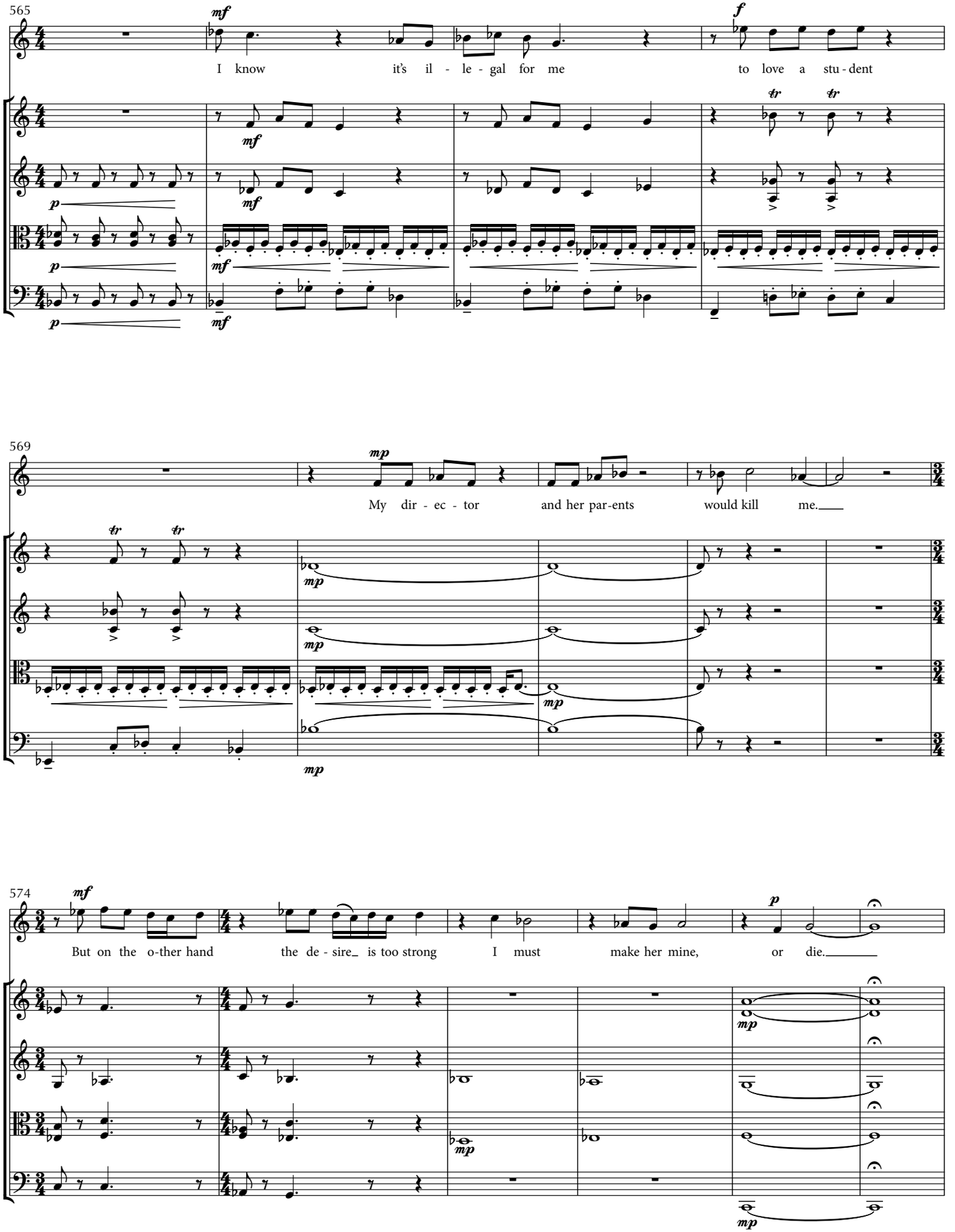




English Teacher

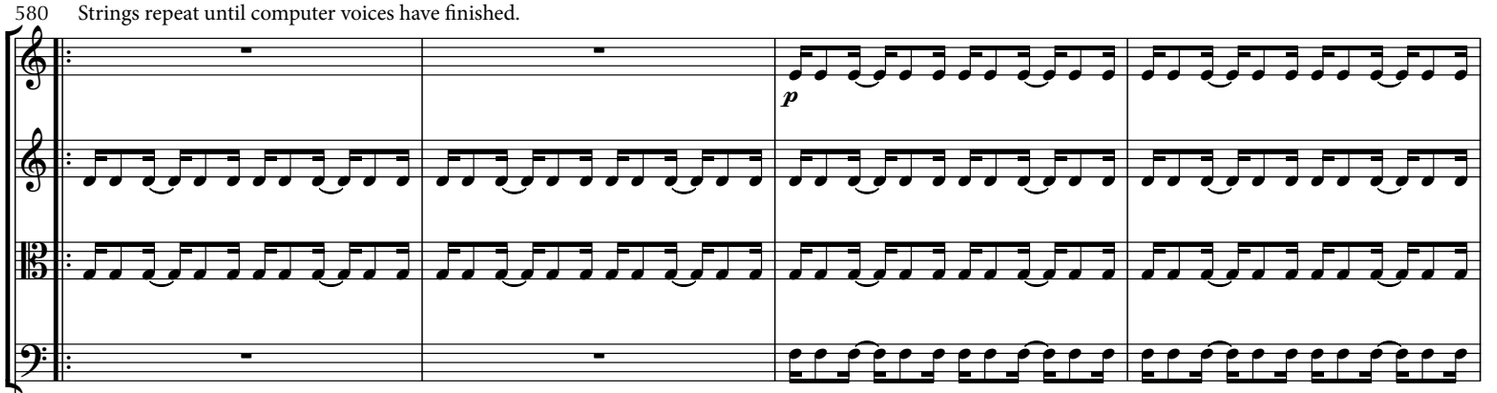
Letter from teacher in love with student




565
mf
I know it's il - le - gal for me
f
to love a stu - dent
tr
tr
p
mf
569
mp
My dir - ec - tor
and her par-ents
would kill me.
574
mf
But on the o-ther hand
the de - sire_ is too strong
I must
make her mine,
or die.
p

Medium slow (♩ = 64)

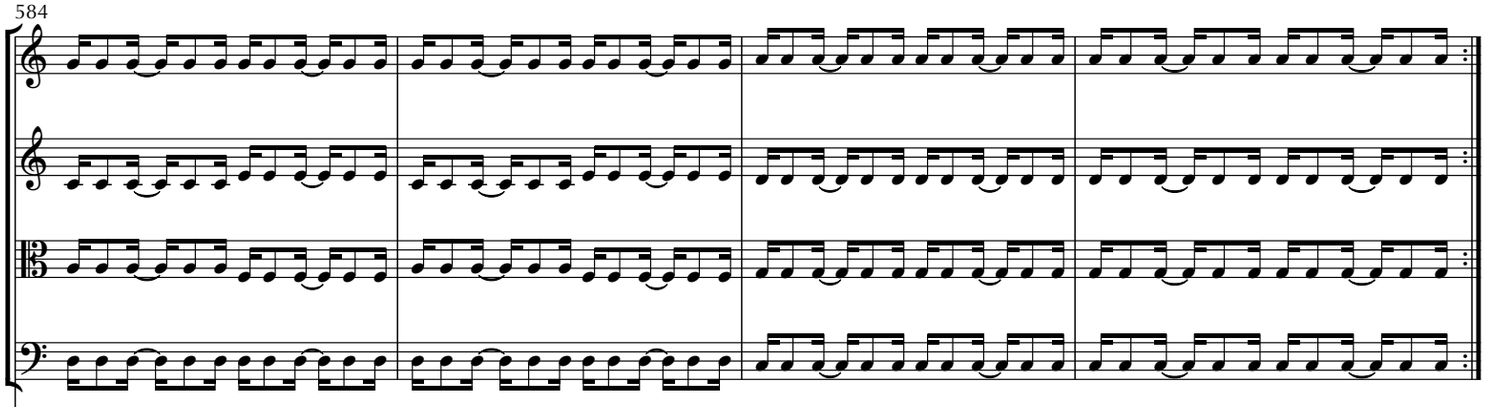
580 Strings repeat until computer voices have finished.



Teachers are in positions of trusted authority and of course they'll sometimes be the objects of student fantasy. They must never abuse that authority or compromise their delicate role in the lives of young people.

Responsible teachers shouldn't have feelings for their students which will sometimes be sexual. They will. It goes with the territory. Those feelings can be acknowledged and talked about as inevitabilities rather than as signs of weakness or perversity then teachers are more likely to remain in control of the situation and not end up crossing any boundaries.

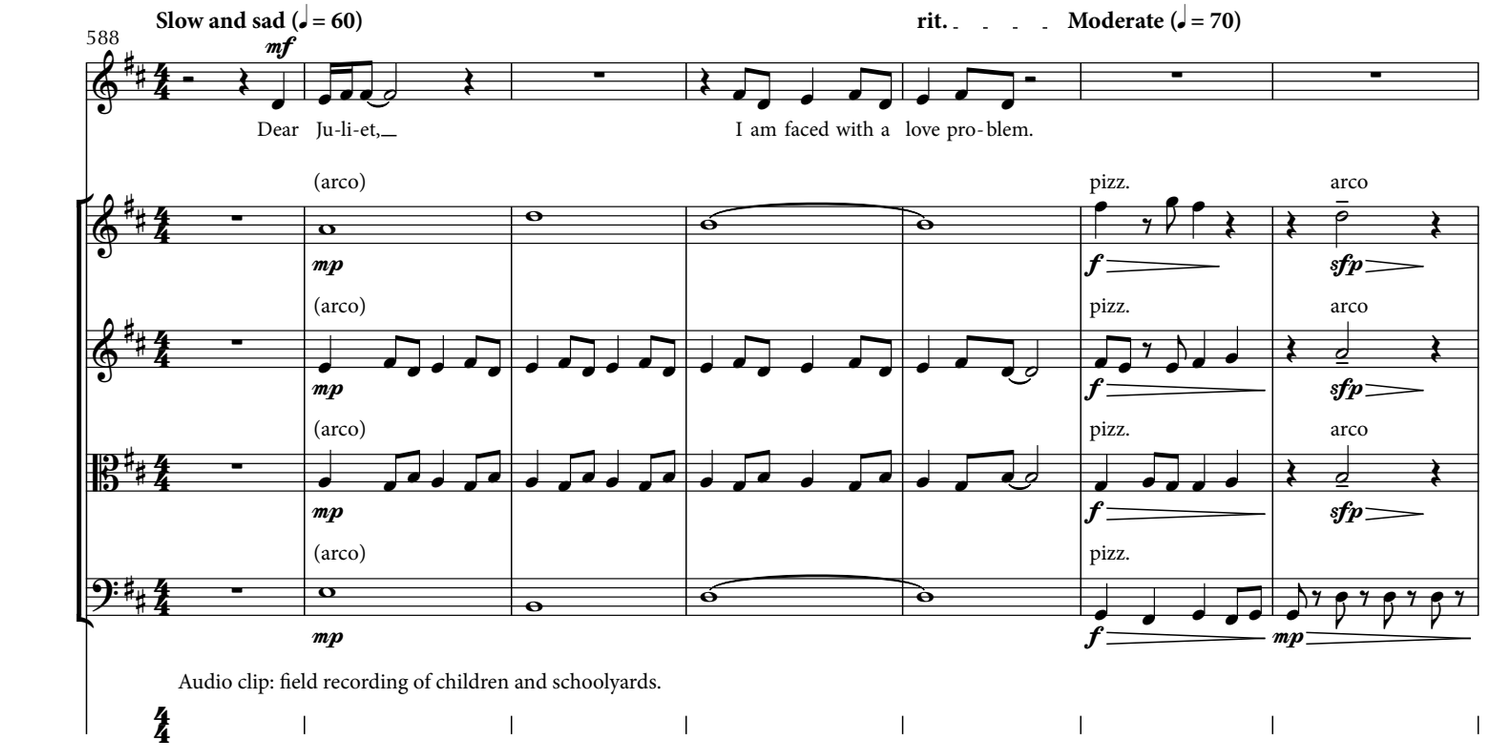
584

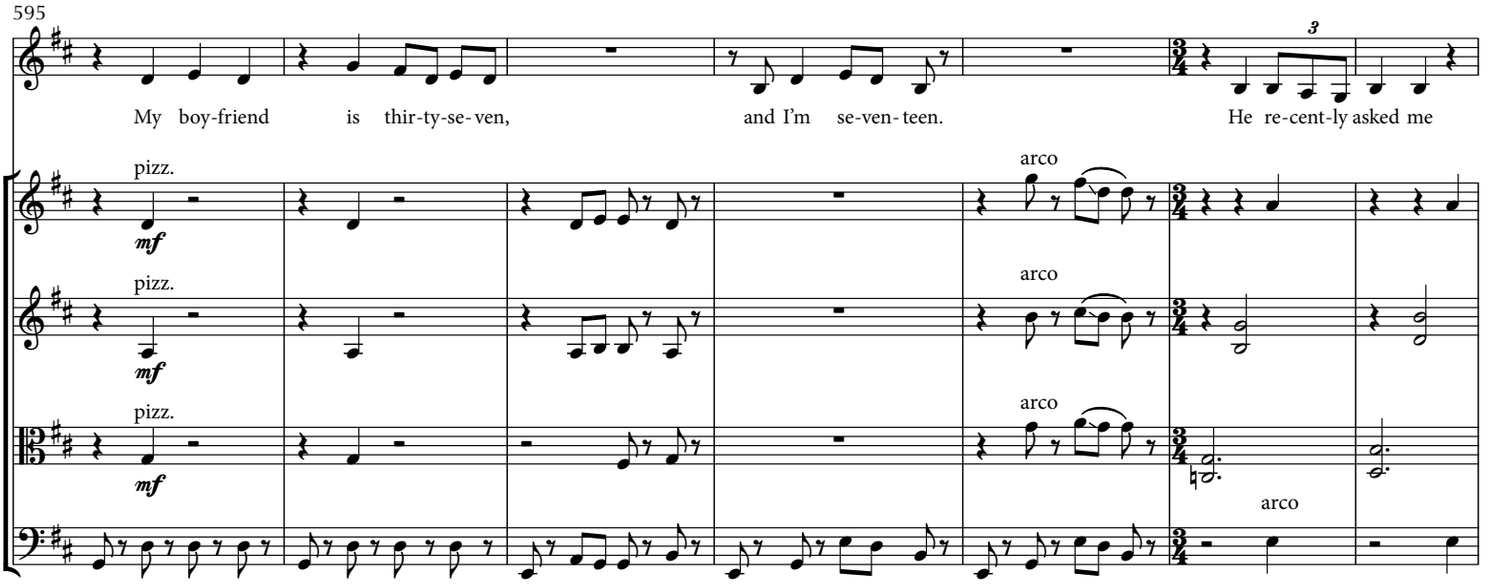


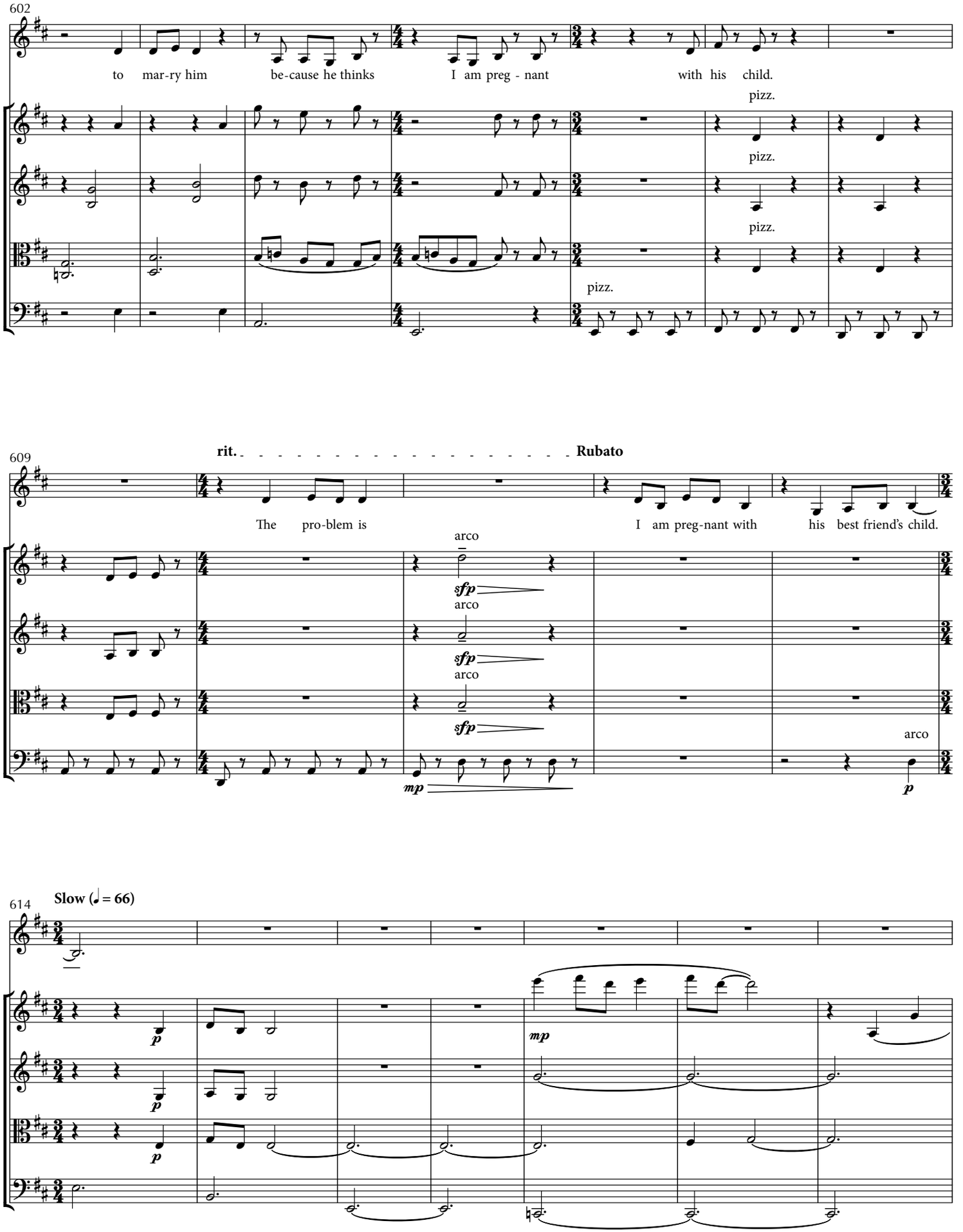
I hope this is my english teacher talking about me (heart) haha.

Be gallant, be a man. Understand your attraction is natural, but don't act upon it.

Teenage Love Problem
Letter from pregnant teenager






602
to mar-ry him be-cause he thinks I am preg - nant with his child.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
609
rit.
Rubato
The pro-blem is I am preg-nant with his best friend's child.
arco
sfp
arco
sfp
arco
sfp
arco
mp
p
614
Slow (♩ = 66)
p
p
p
mp

621

I al - so don't think_ I'm not rea - dy to mar - ry yet.

mp

626

I am still in high school and I have my whole life in

630

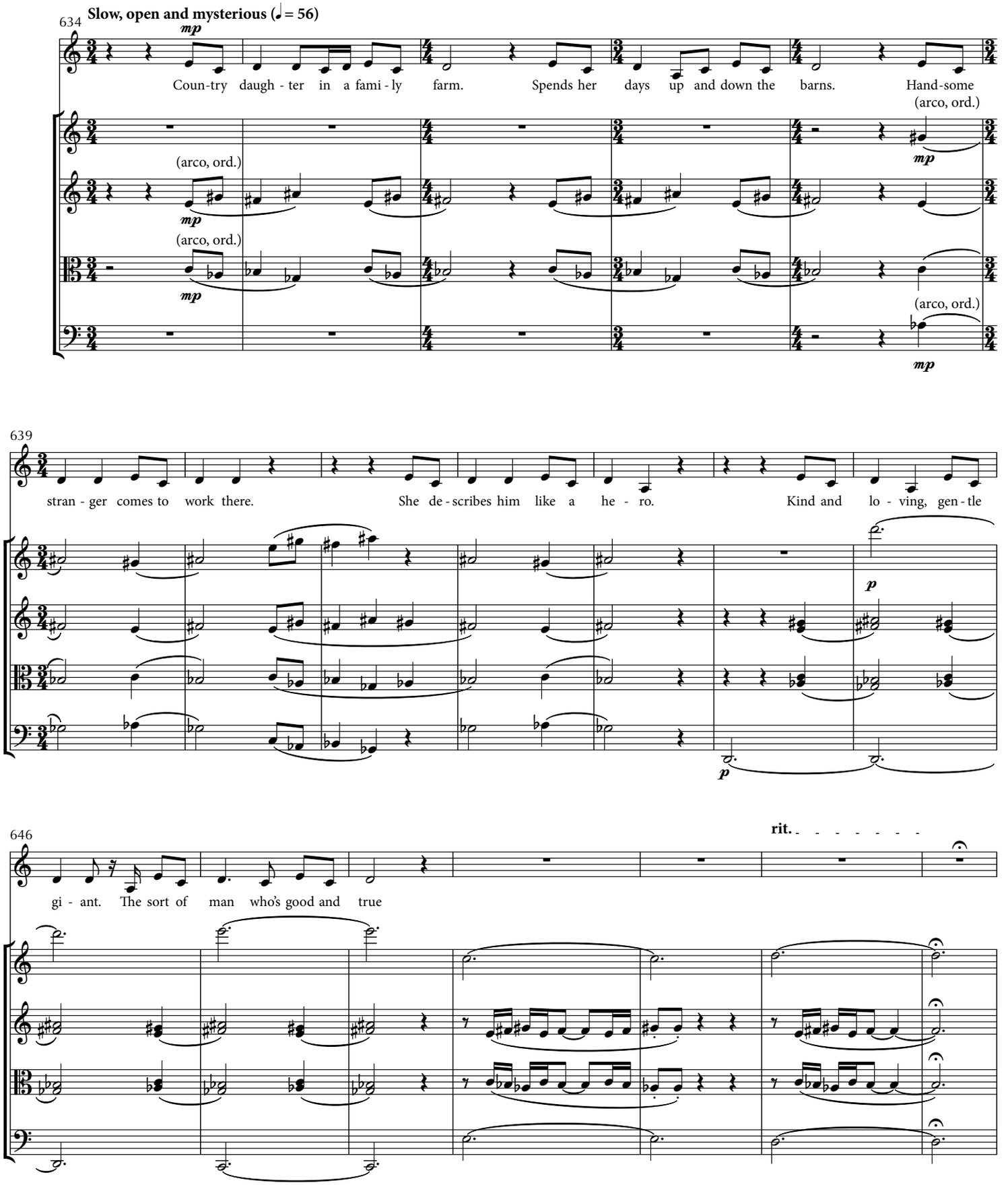
rit.

front of me. Do you have a - ny ad - vice for me?

non vib.

Country Daughter

Summary of letter from farmer's daughter



653

Andante (♩ = 78)

Years go by and no-thing hap - pens. No one takes it a step fur - ther.

660

They ne - ver touch and ne - ver kiss. Per-haps he ne - ver was in love. Per-haps they wai - ted for too

667

long.

Slightly faster,
lighter and more positive (♩ = 90)

676

Youn-ger bro-ther full of ea-ger-ness. He sweeps her off and makes it hap-pen. He calls her

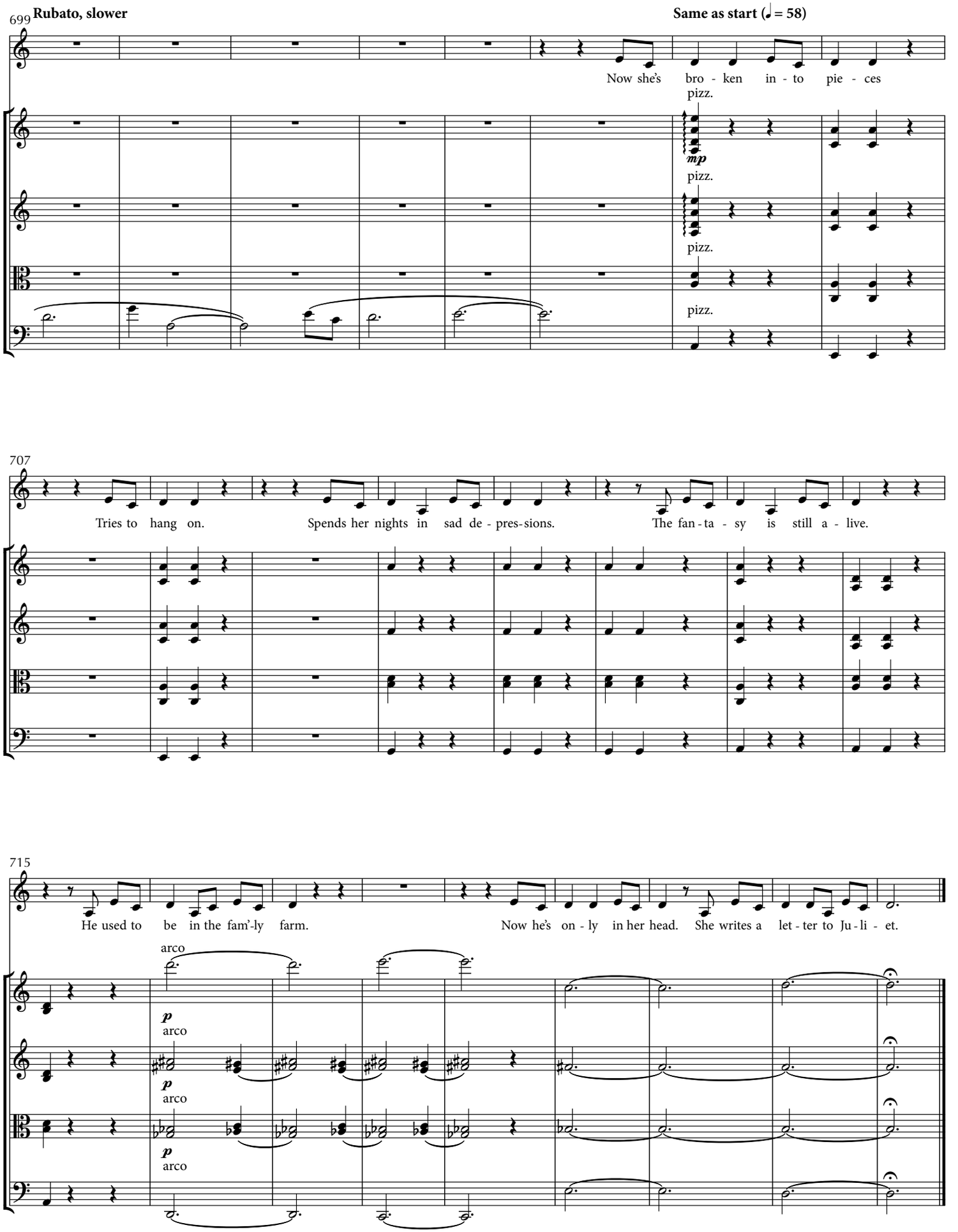
684

"sweet-heart" and wins her o-ver. They go for rides down to the ri-ver. Jea-lous bro-ther leaves the farm. He is

692

bit-ter and won't come back. Youn-ger bro-ther does-n't care He takes off on some new ad-ven-ture.

solo


699
Rubato, slower
Same as start (♩ = 58)
Now she's bro - ken in - to pie - ces
pizz.
mp
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
707
Tries to hang on.
Spends her nights in sad de - pres - sions.
The fan - ta - sy is still a - live.
715
He used to be in the fam'-ly farm.
Now he's on - ly in her head. She writes a let - ter to Ju - li - et.
arco
p
arco
p
arco
p
arco

Three Years in Prison

Summary of letter from man coming out of prison

Unmeasured, moderate blues, rubato (♩ = 85)

Spoken, after strings have finished:

724

Here's a guy who drops out of high school, marries his eighteen year-old girlfriend.

He starts his own trucking company and it becomes very successful.

(arco)

(arco)

(arco)

(arco)

728

He works long hours to support his wife and son. One day she tells him that he's no longer around. That she wants to see someone else.

He takes twenty-seven sleeping pills.

733 **In time (♩ = 91)**

He spends five days unconscious at the hospital.

When he comes home from the hospital the man who has been seeing his wife has raped her and beaten up his three year old.

742

When he finds out, he loses control and knocks the guy out.

He breaks his jaw, his nose, six of his ribs, his right arms and his left leg.

748

He gets arrested and is sentenced three years in state prison.

Unmeasured

His wife comes to see him and writes him letters every day. He is really in love with her and wants to know if he should take her back.

Slow blues (♩ = 82)

Stomp your feet on one, snap your fingers on four, "sounds, like" etc.

753

mp

It sounds to me like he ne - ver let her go. He loves her more than

p

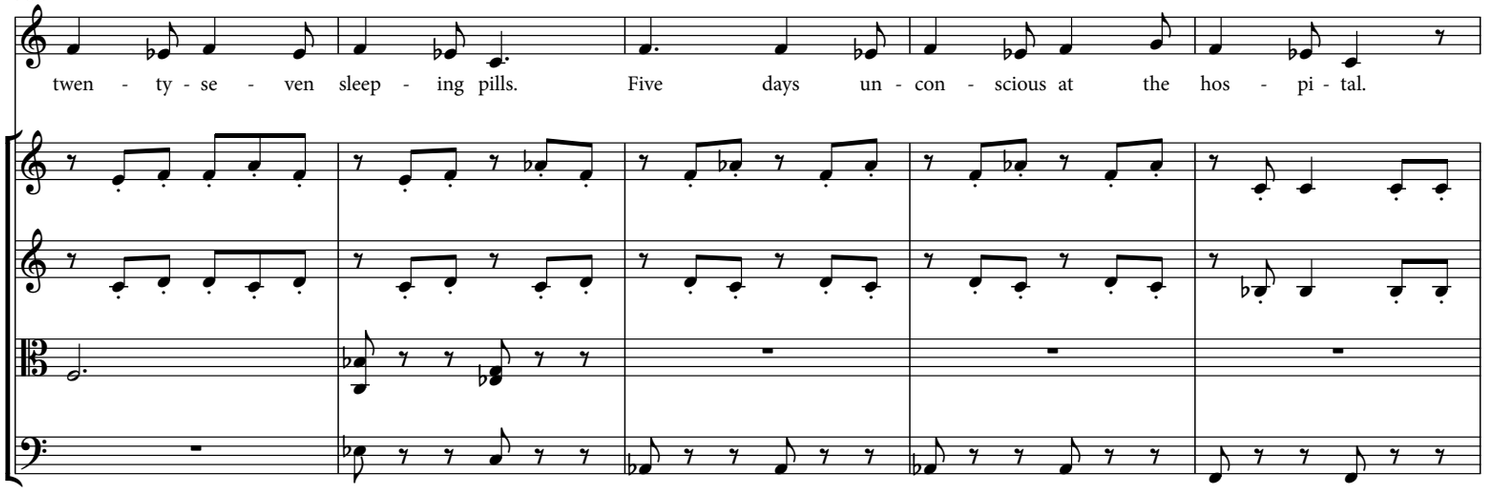
p

mp

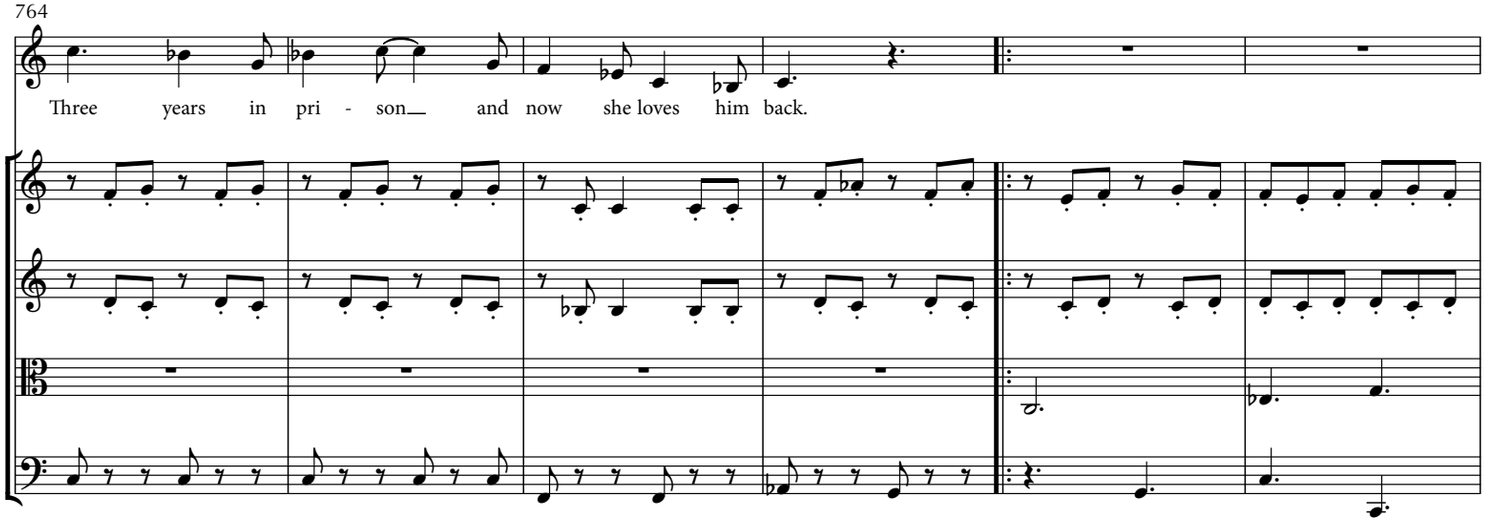
pizz.

mf

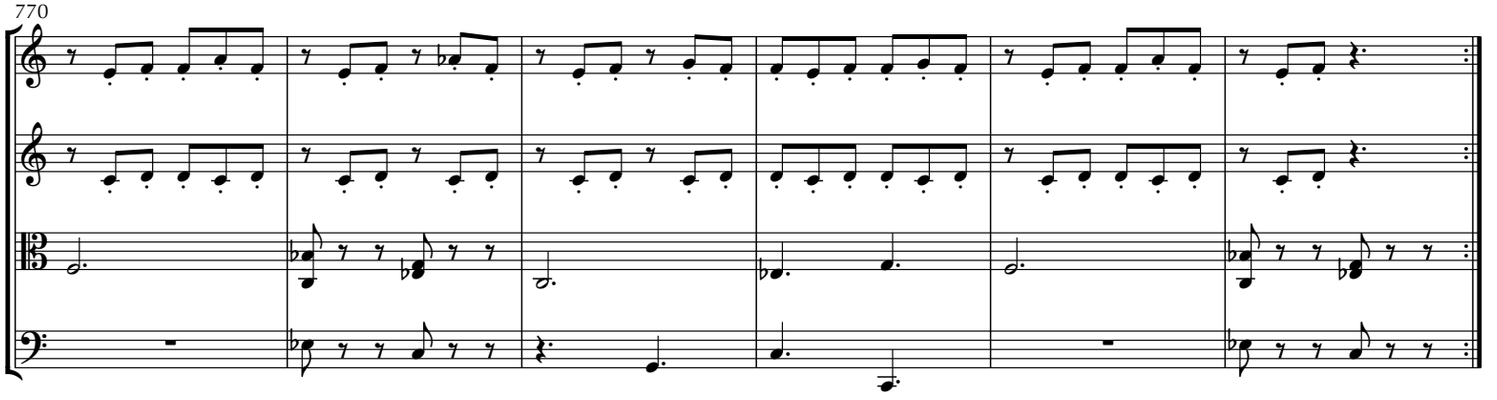
759


twen - ty - se - ven sleep - ing pills. Five days un - con - scious at the hos - pi - tal.

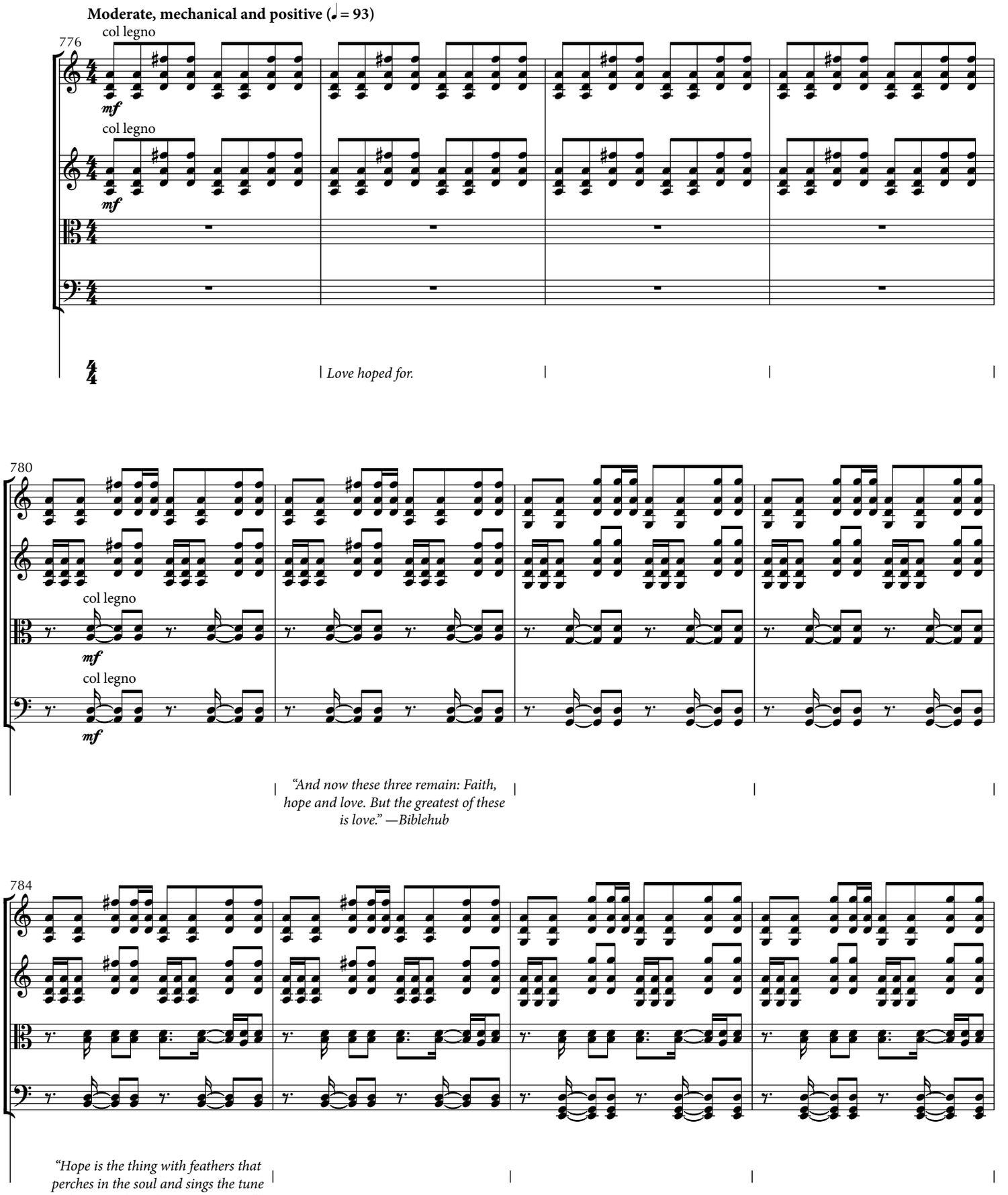
764

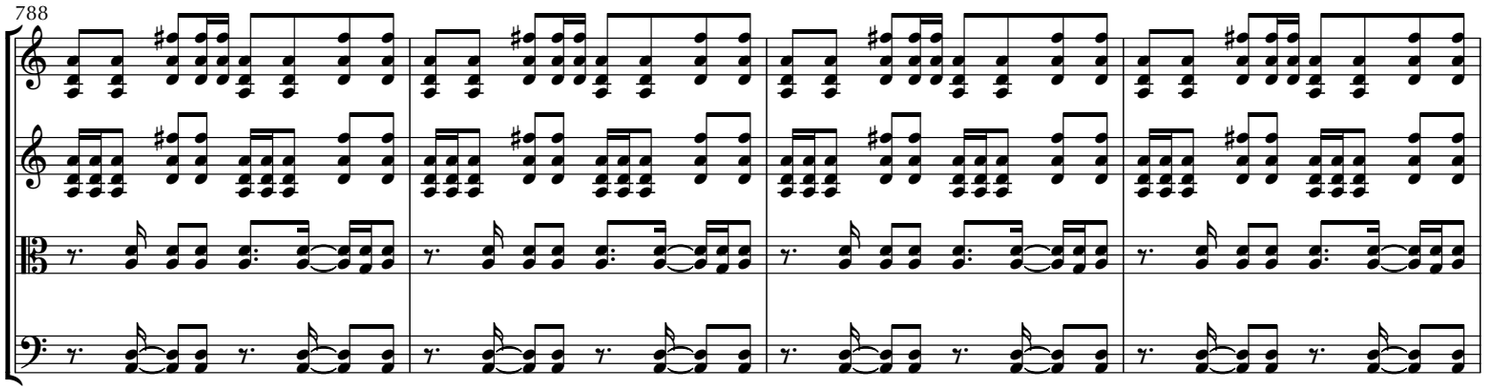

Three years in pri - son and now she loves him back.

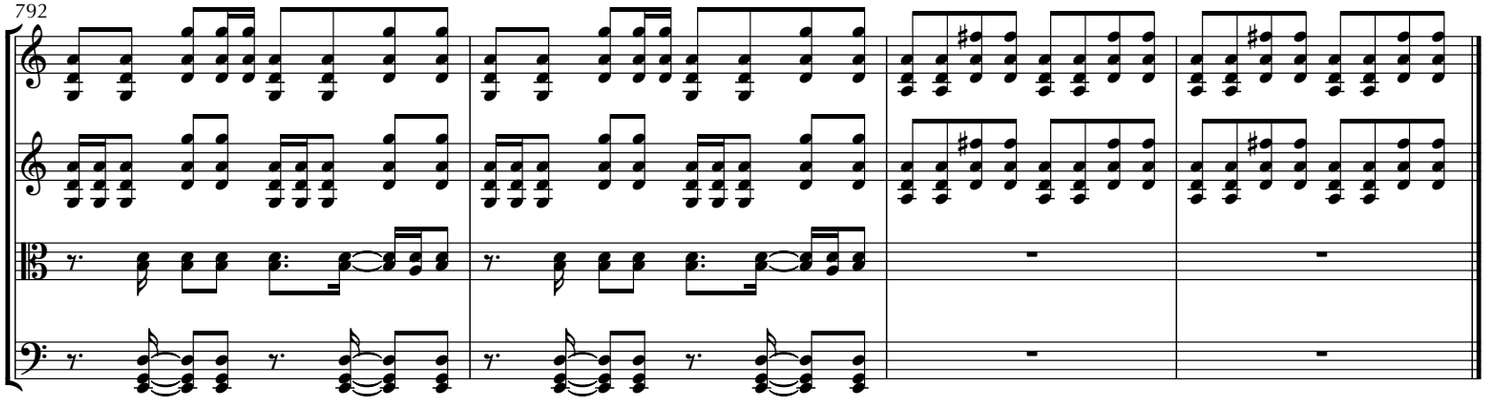
770



Part Five: Love Hoped For, Hopeful and Light Again

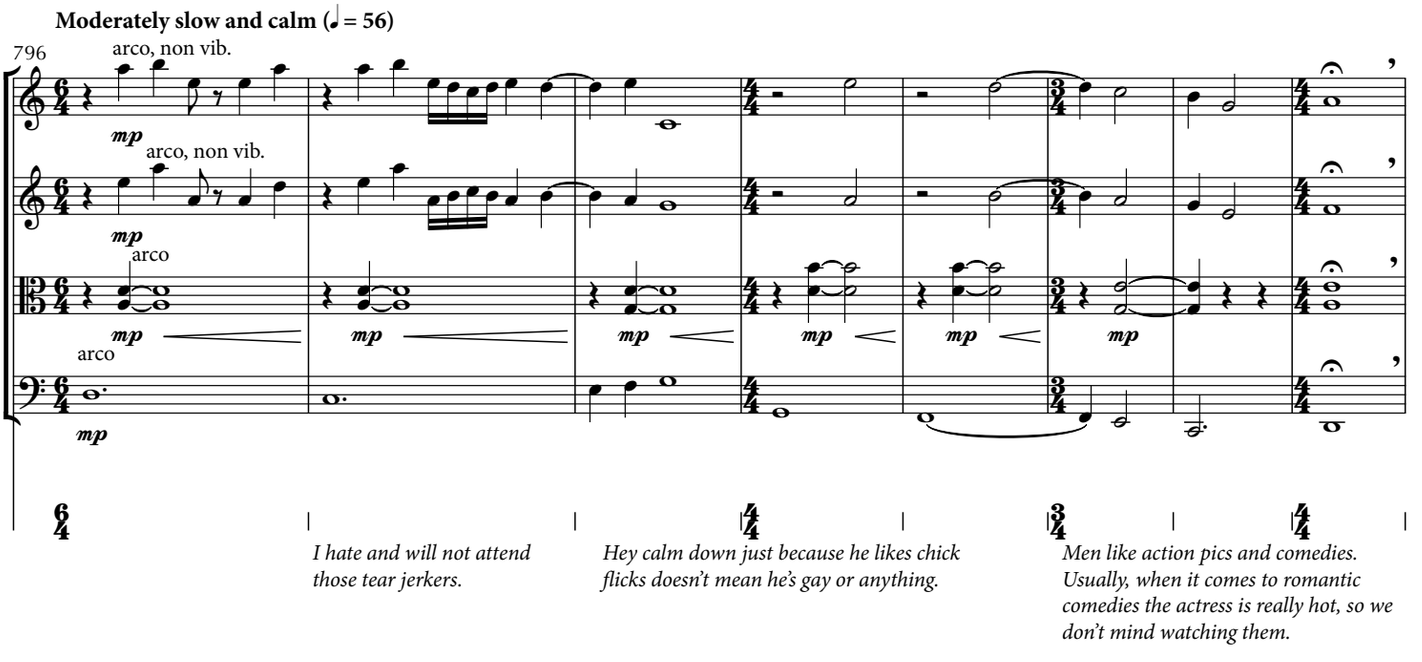






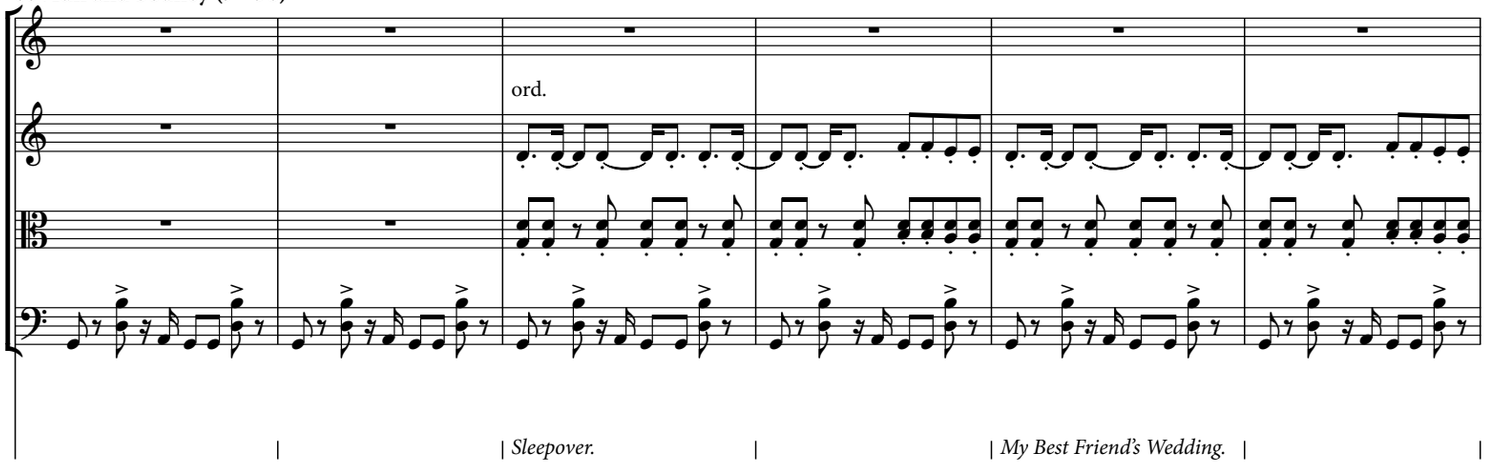
Chick Flick Guy

Letter from girl who wants a boyfriend who watches chick flicks

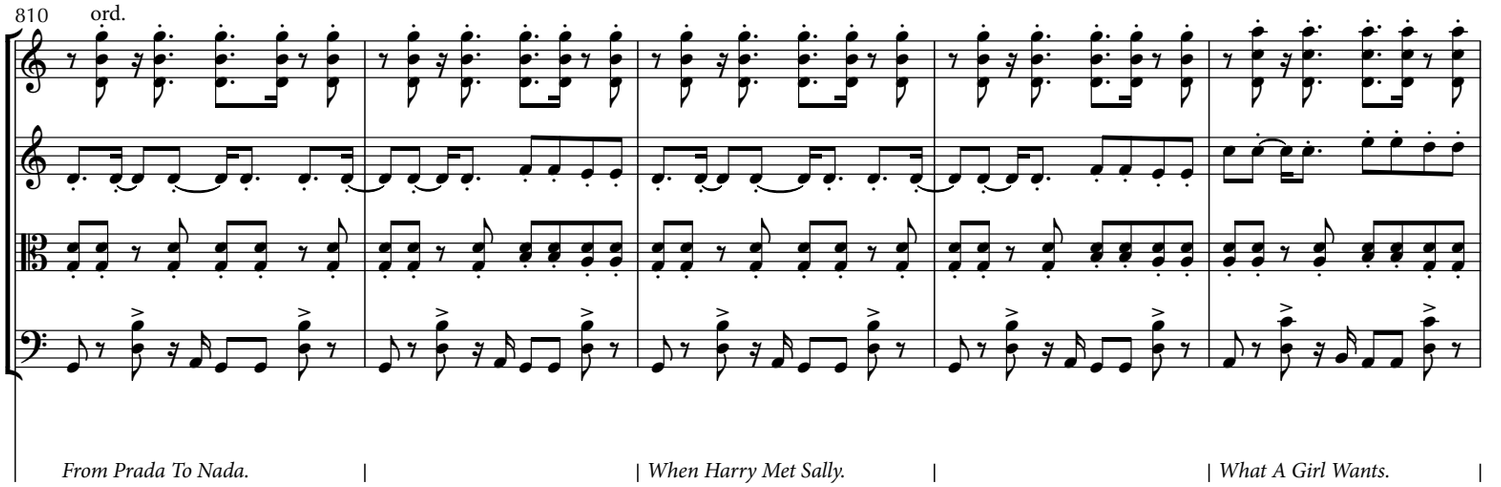


Walking pace,

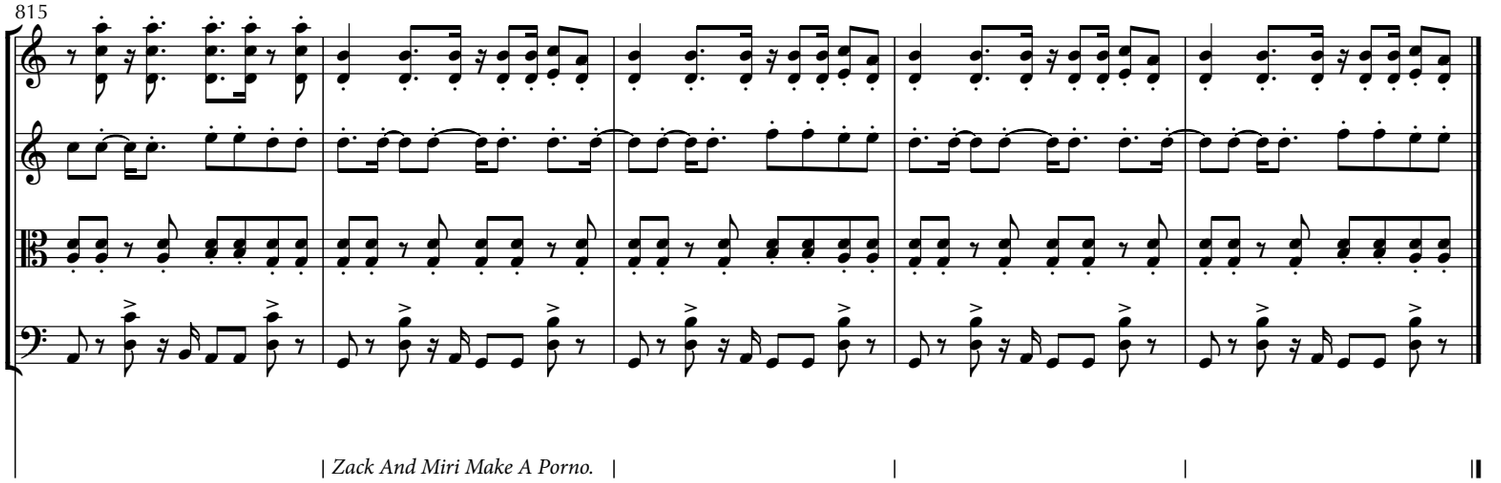
804 **fun and bouncy (♩ = 98)**



810 ord.



815



I Want a Tiger
Letter from a girl who wants a tiger

Unmeasured, expressive tease

820

Speak clearly and take your time between sentences

Dear Juliet. I want everything.
I want desire.

scratch string—press hard with bow hair coming into note

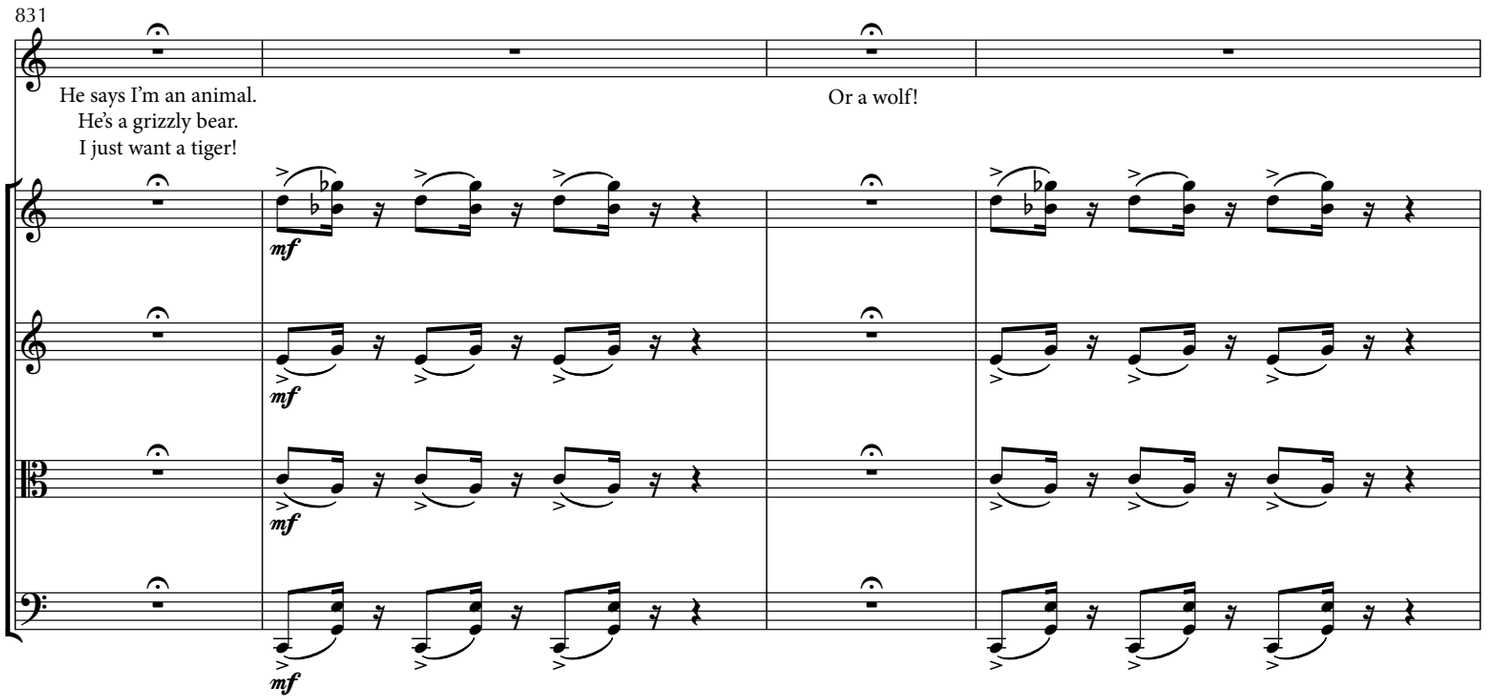
after speaker:

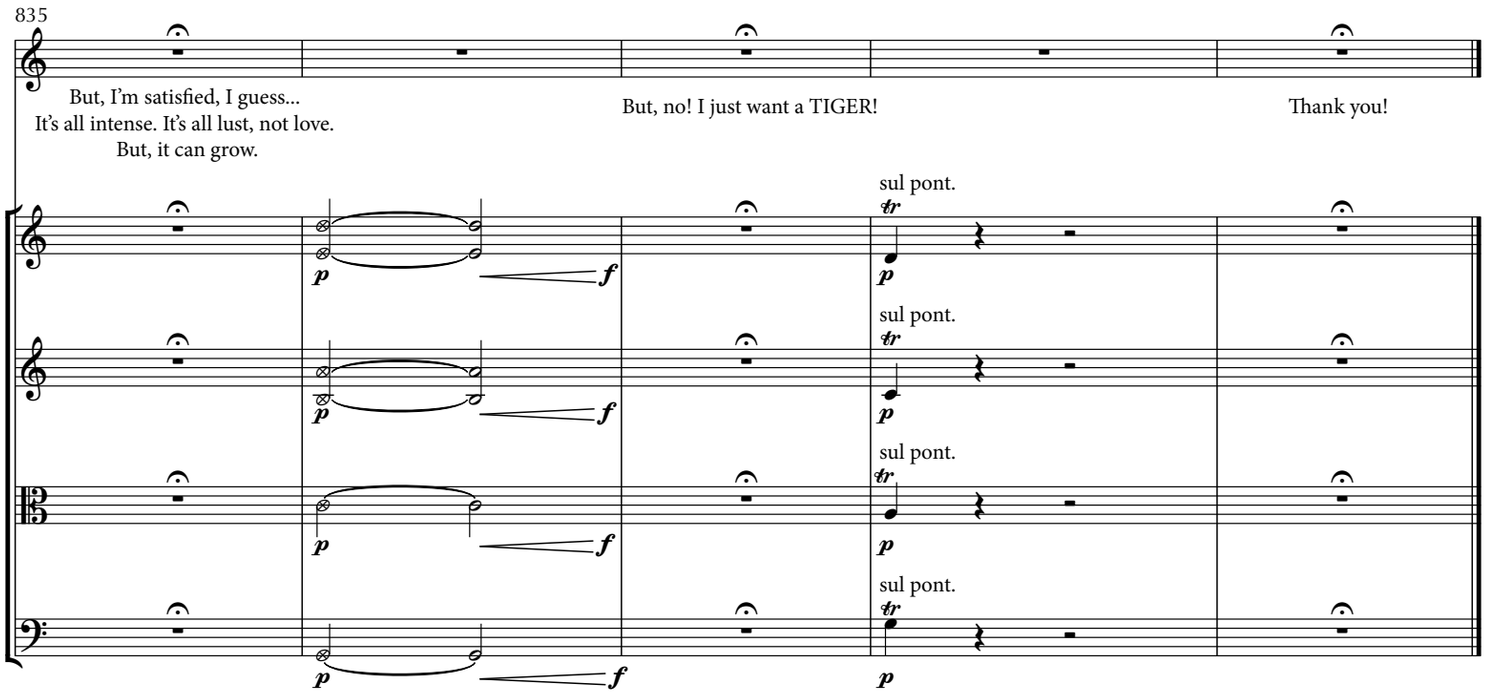
825

I need. I have. I get. So, where do I go now; because... I want more than I could ever imagine. There is nothing for me to say really. But...

I love the passion that I have between my friend and I.

He calls me a panther.


831
He says I'm an animal.
He's a grizzly bear.
I just want a tiger!
Or a wolf!
mf


835
But, I'm satisfied, I guess...
It's all intense. It's all lust, not love.
But, it can grow.
But, no! I just want a TIGER!
Thank you!
sul pont.
p
f