Gwyneth Walker

SONGS OF THE NIGHT WIND

for Soprano and Piano

Duration: 15 minutes

SONGS OF THE NIGHT WIND were composed in 1982 for Soprano, Marsha Hogan, an active performer in Hartford, Connecticut. The original scoring was for Soprano and Cello, and the songs have been performed frequently with cello accompaniment. A transcription for Soprano and Piano is also available.

The texts for SONGS OF THE NIGHT WIND are five poems by 20th-century women poets: Louise Bogan, Lisel Mueller and H.D. (Hilda Doolittle). Each of the poems makes reference to either the night or the wind, or both.

These musical settings are unusually delicate, and are intended for recital performance by skilled musicians.

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WALKER MUSIC PRODUCTIONS

Credits:

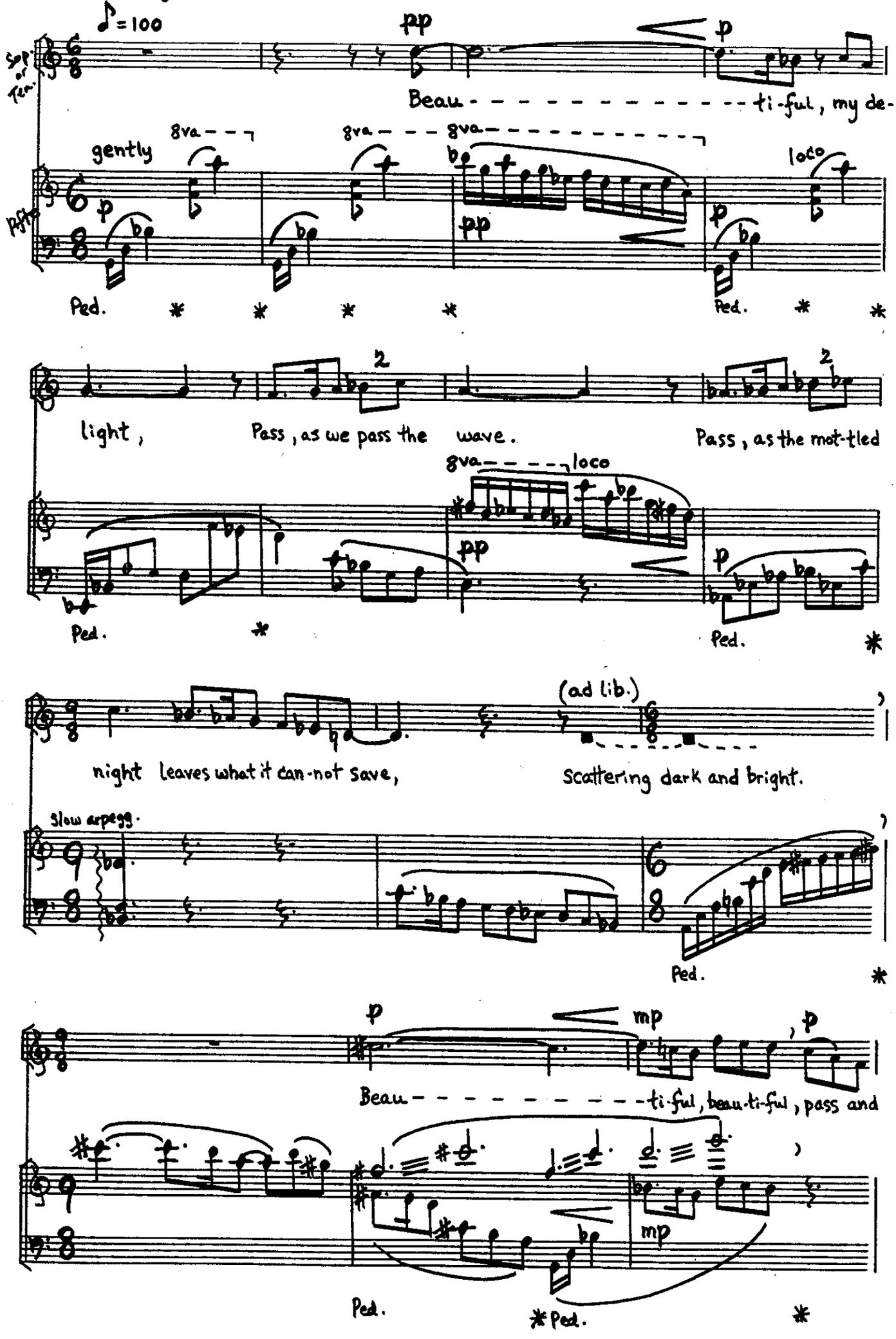
"To Be Sung Upon the Water" & "Song for a Lyre" by Louise Bogan
from The Blue Estuaries: Poems 1923-1968
used with permission of the publisher, Farrar, Straus & Giroux

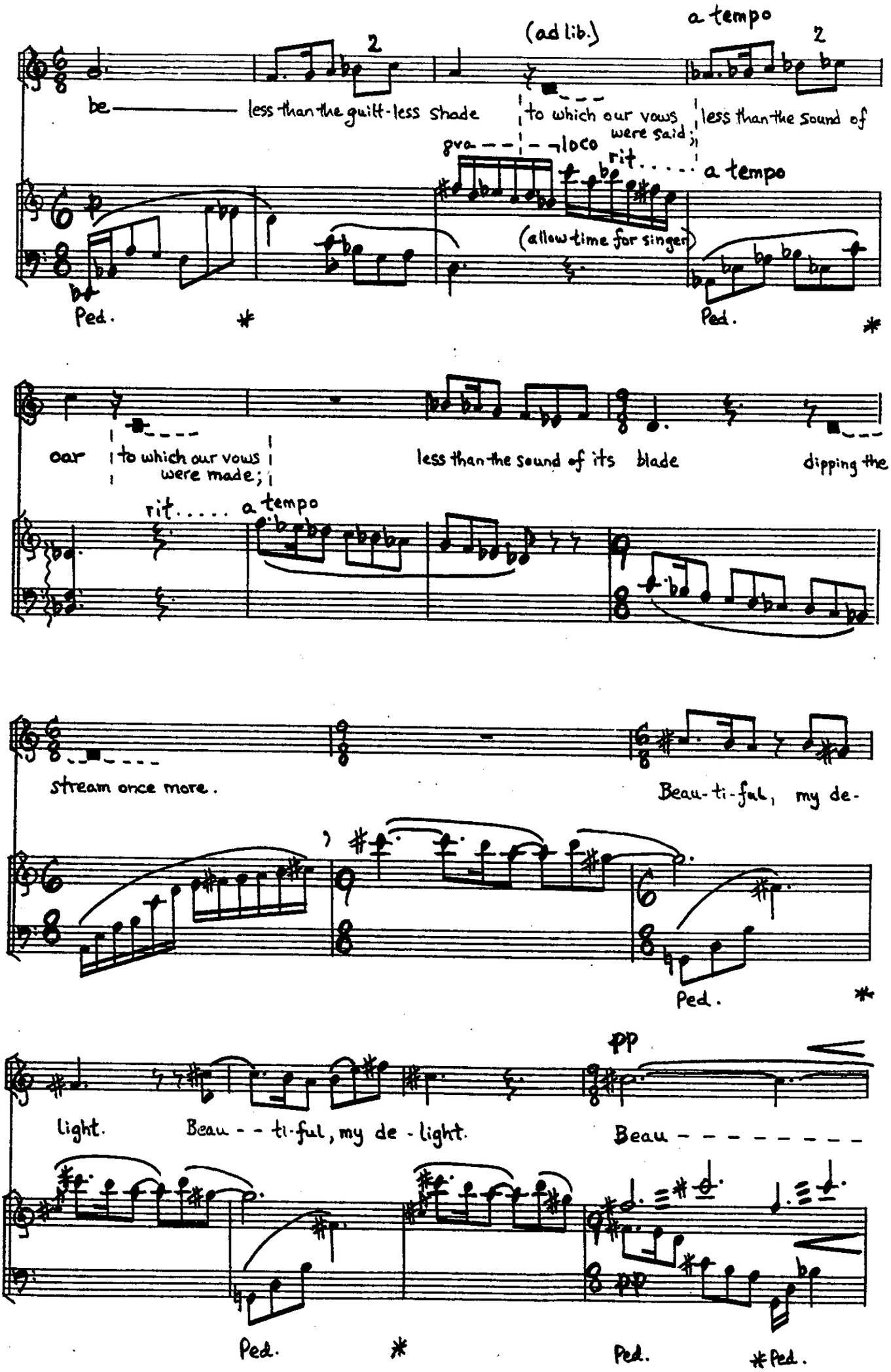
"Where is the Nightingale" & "Never More Will the Wind" by H.D.
from Selected Poems of H.D.
used with permission of the publisher, New Directions Publishing Corporation

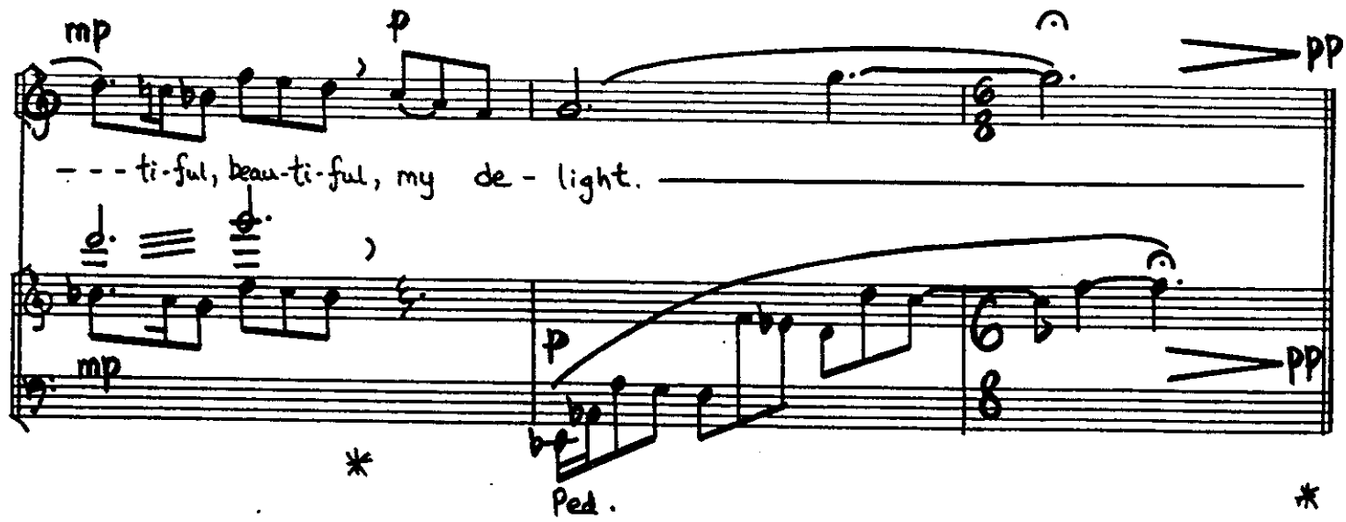
"Night Song" by Lisel Mueller from
The Need to Hold Still: Poems by Lisel Mueller (1980)
used with permission of the publisher, Louisiana State University Press

TO BE SUNG ON THE WATER

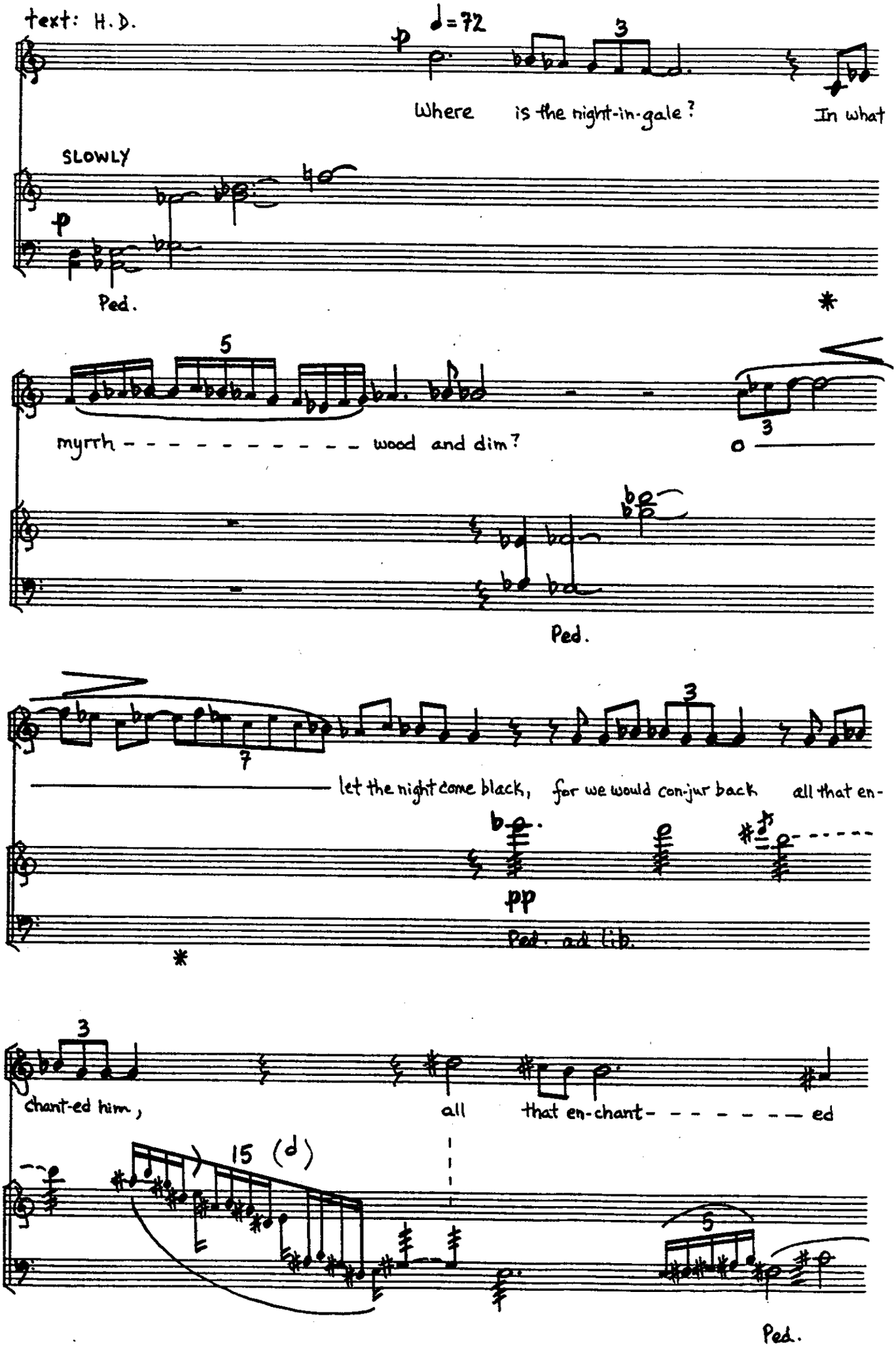
text: Louise Bogan

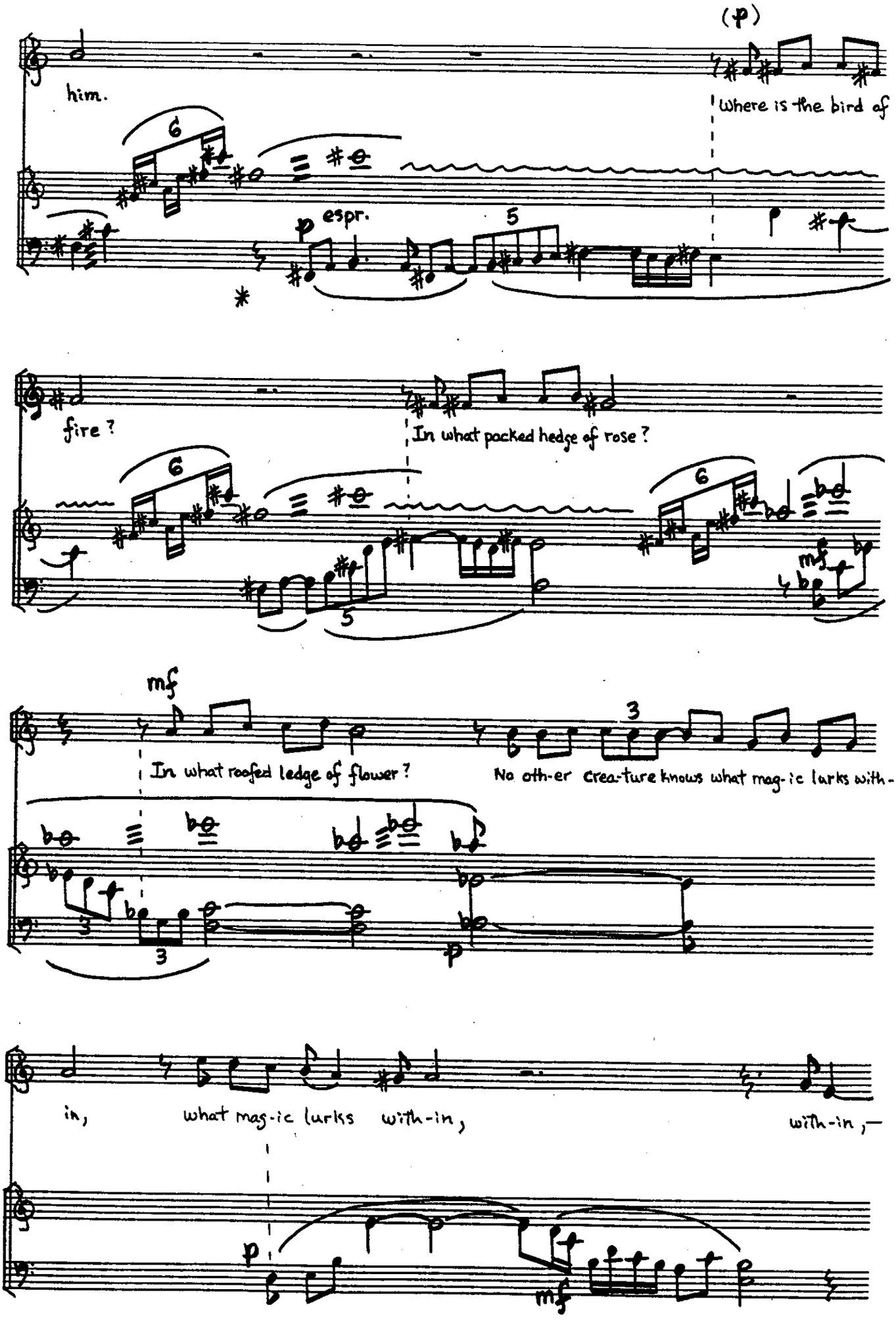


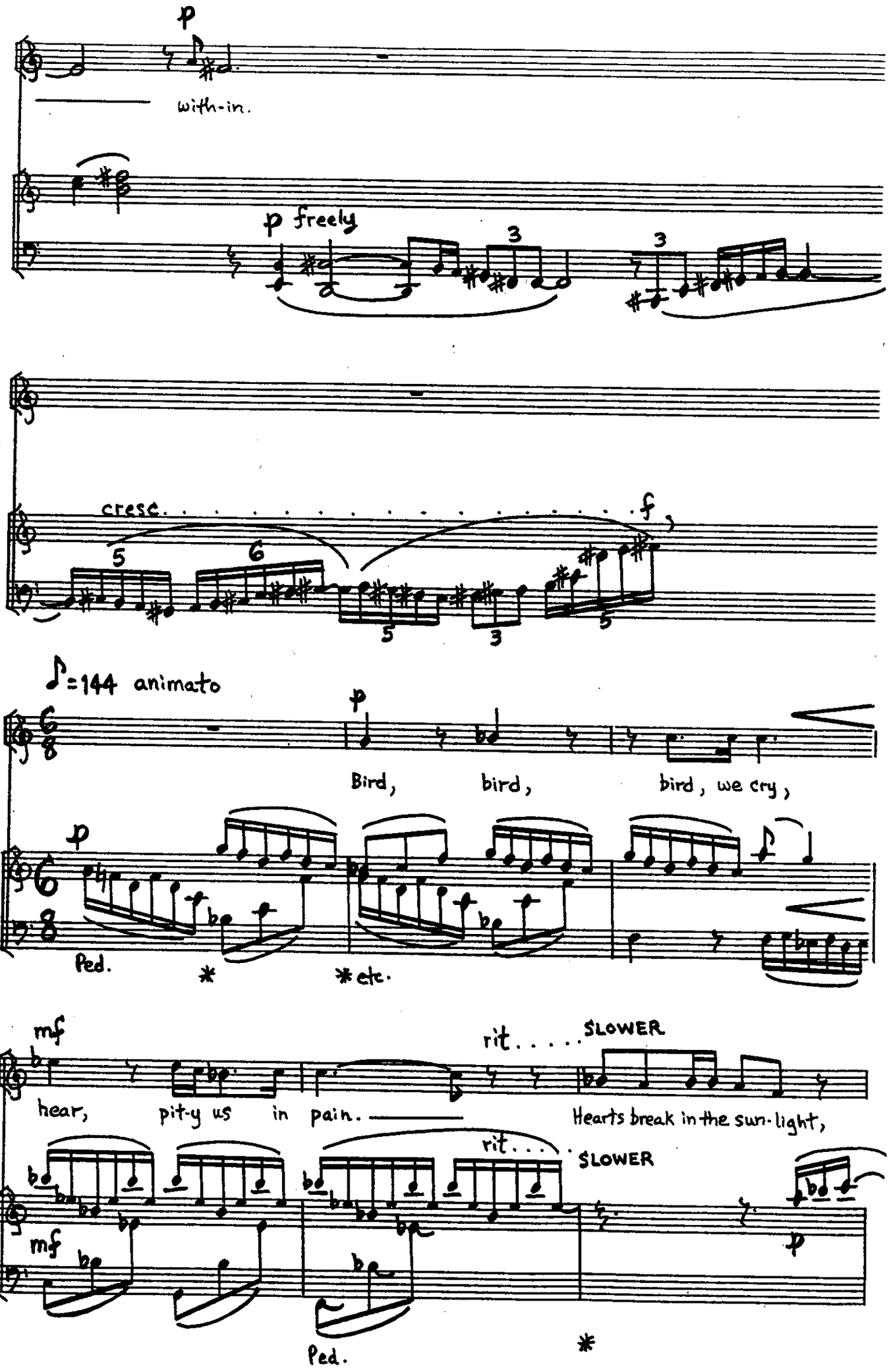

(ad lib.)
a tempo
be less than the guilt-less shade
to which our vows were said;
less than the sound of
8va
loco
rit.
a tempo
(allow time for singer)
Ped.
oar
to which our vows were made;
less than the sound of its blade
dipping the
rit.
a tempo
stream once more.
Beau-ti-ful, my de-
Ped.
pp
light.
Beau - - ti-ful, my de - light.
Beau - - - - - - - - -
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

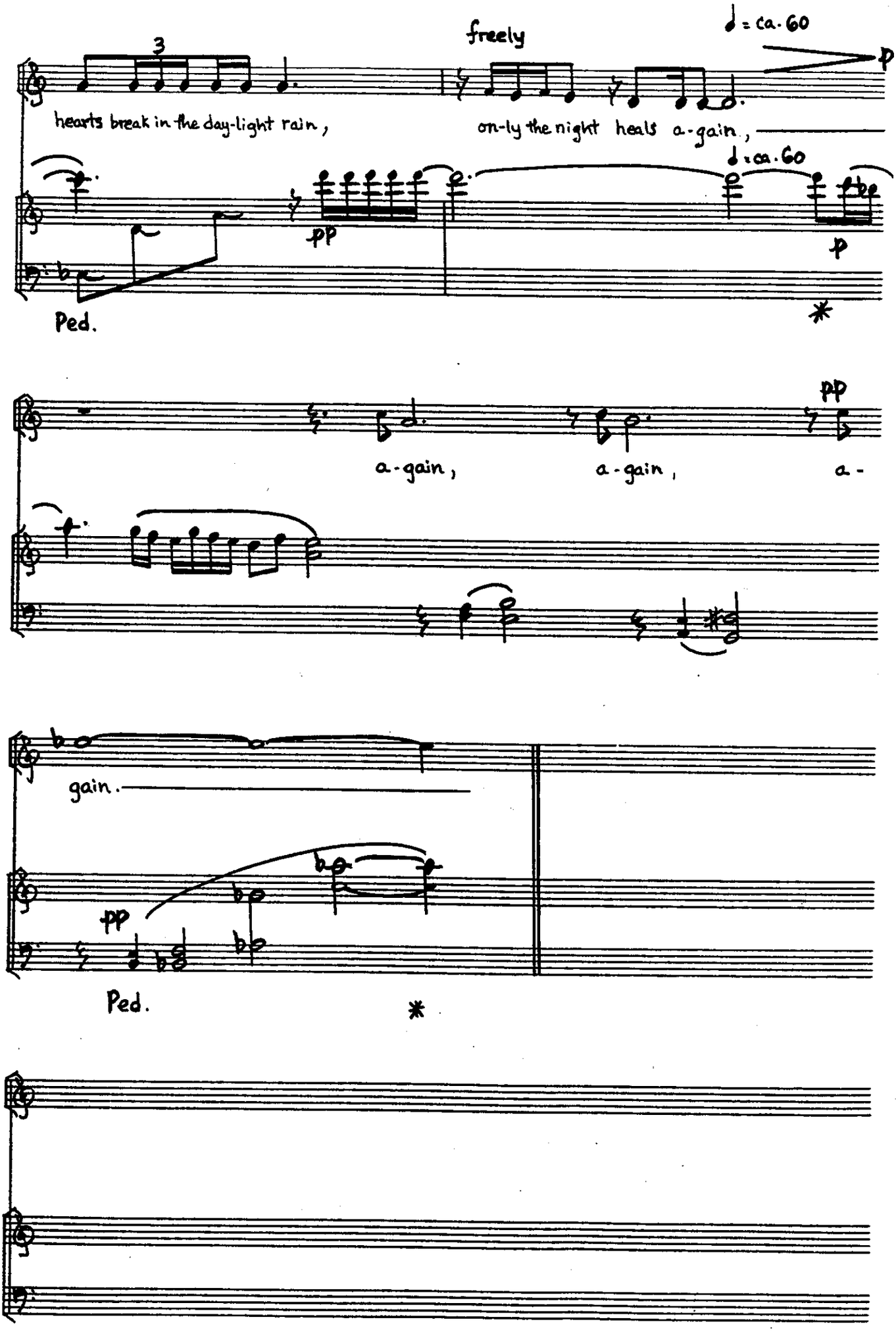

mp
p
pp
- - - ti-ful, beau-ti-ful, my de - light.
mp
p
pp
Ped.
*
*

WHERE IS THE NIGHTINGALE




him.
Where is the bird of
fire?
In what packed hedge of rose?
In what roofed ledge of flower?
No oth-er crea-ture knows what mag-ic lurks with-
in,
what mag-ic lurks with-in,
with-in,—


p
with-in.
p freely
3
3
cresc.
f
5
6
5
3
5
♩=144 animato
p
Bird, bird, bird, we cry,
p
Ped.
*
*etc.
mf
rit. . . . . SLOWER
hear, pit-y us in pain.
Hearts break in the sun-light,
rit. . . . SLOWER
mf
p
Ped.
*


freely
♩ = ca. 60
3
hearts break in the day-light rain,
only the night heals a-gain,
p
♩ = ca. 60
pp
p
Ped.
*
pp
a-gain,
a-gain,
a-
gain.
pp
Ped.
*

NIGHT SONG

text: Lisel Mueller

♩ = 56 SLOWLY

p

A-mong rocks, I am the

8va

pp

Ped. I (soft ped.) stays down until p.9, end of 2nd system

loose one, A-mong ar-rows, I am the heart, A-mong daugh-ters, I am the re-cluse,

Repeat pattern

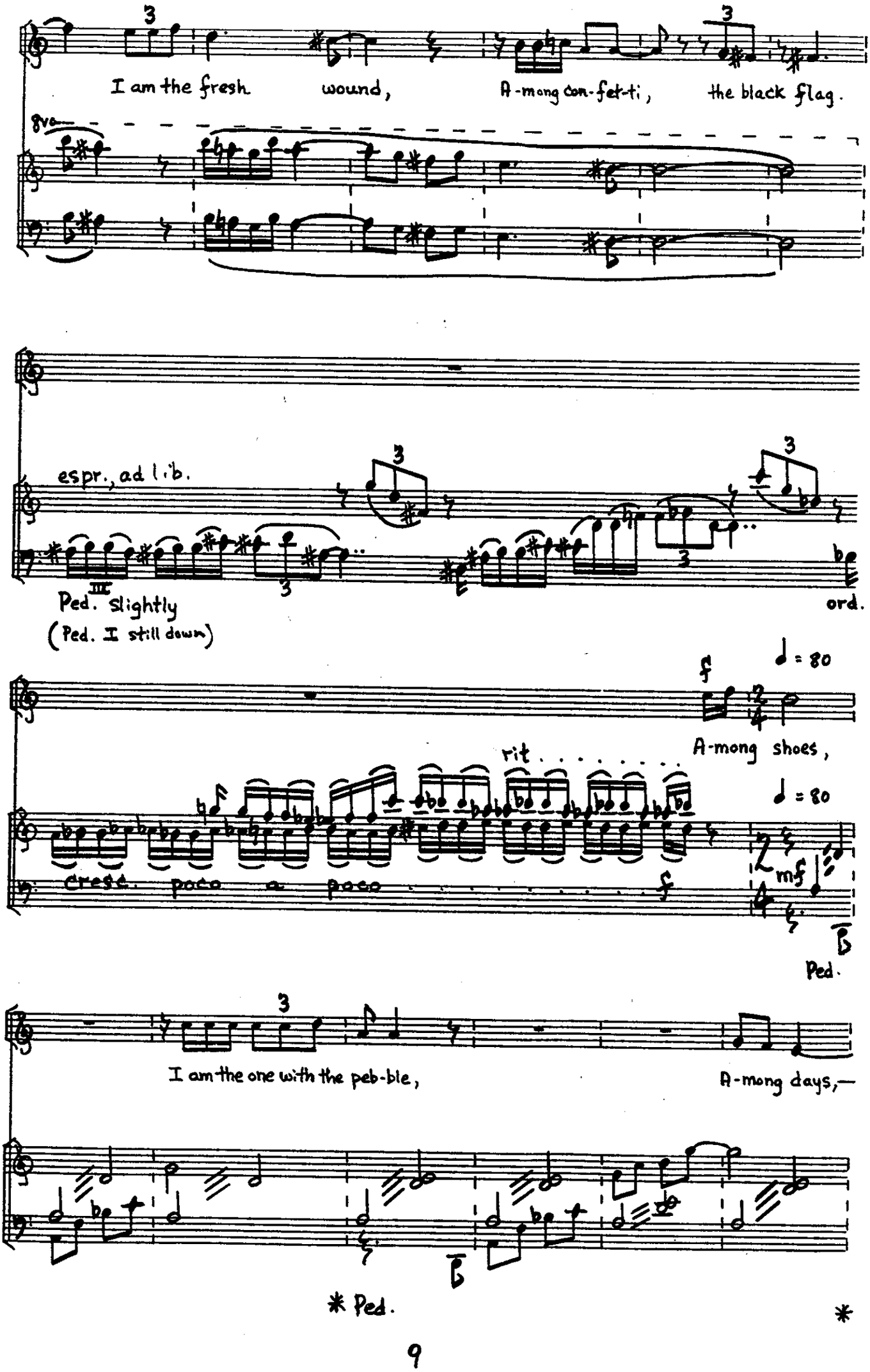
A-mong sons, the one who dies young. A-mong an- - - swers, I am the

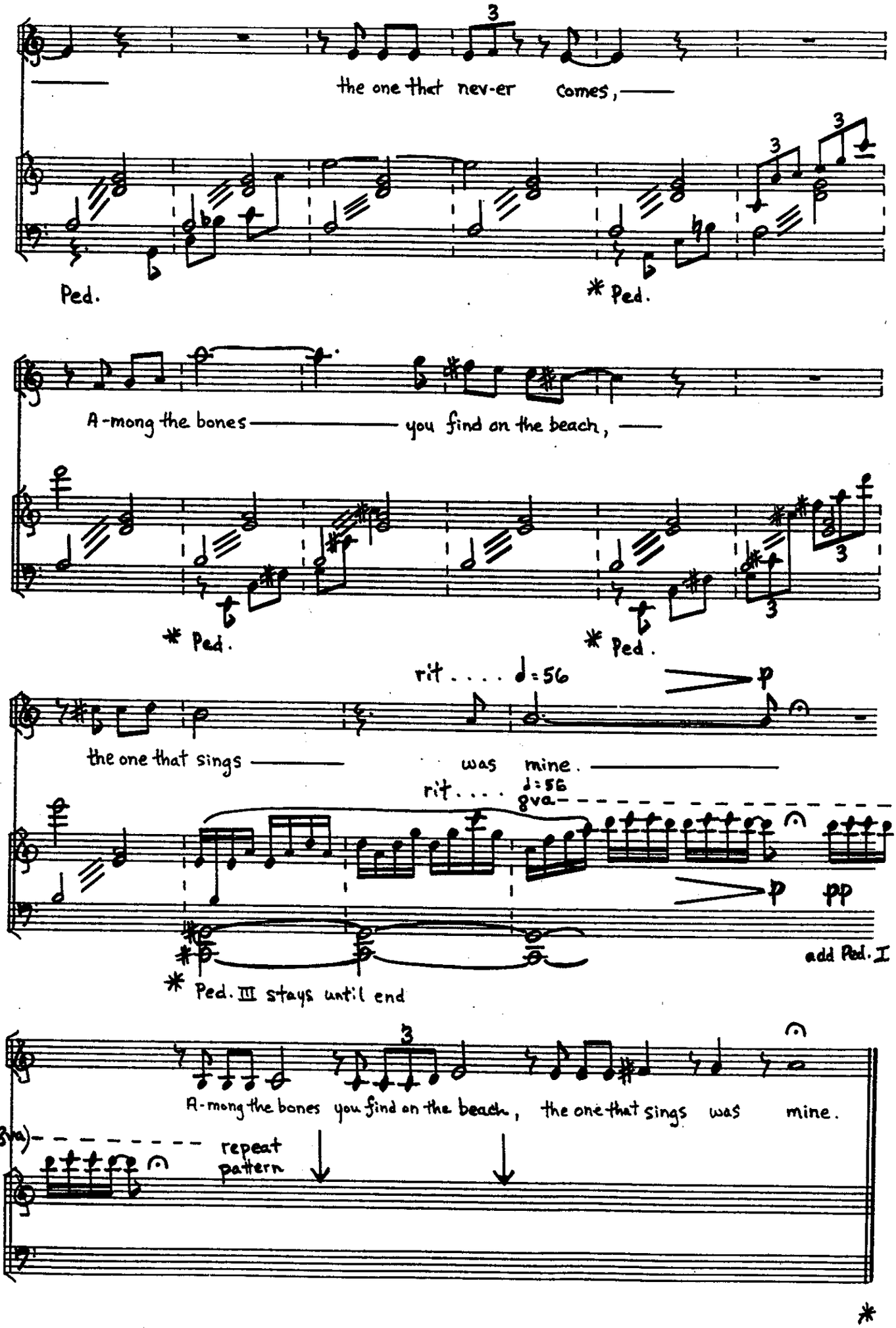
8va

p

ques- - - tion, be-tween lov-ers I am the sword, A-mong scars,

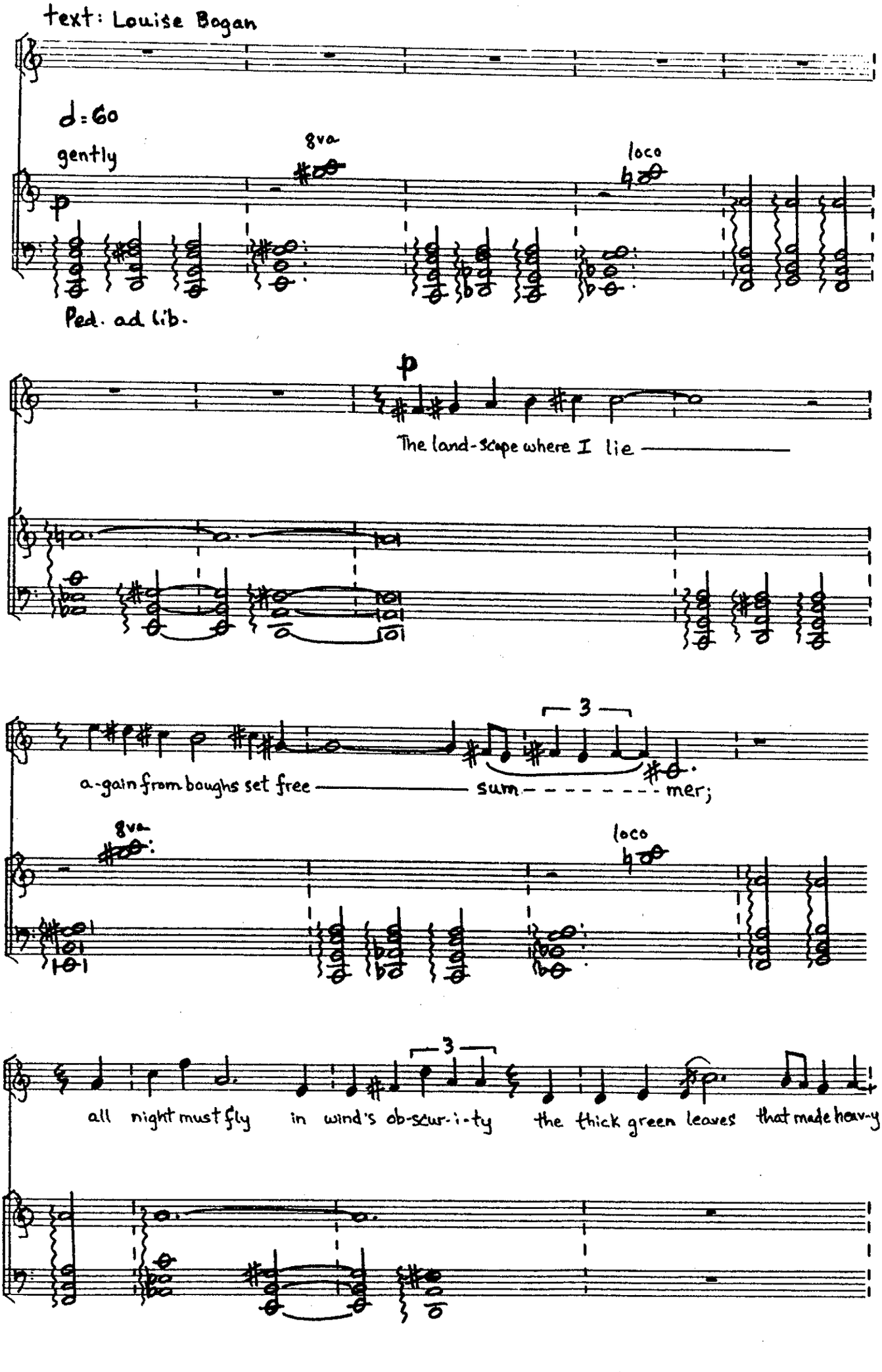
8va

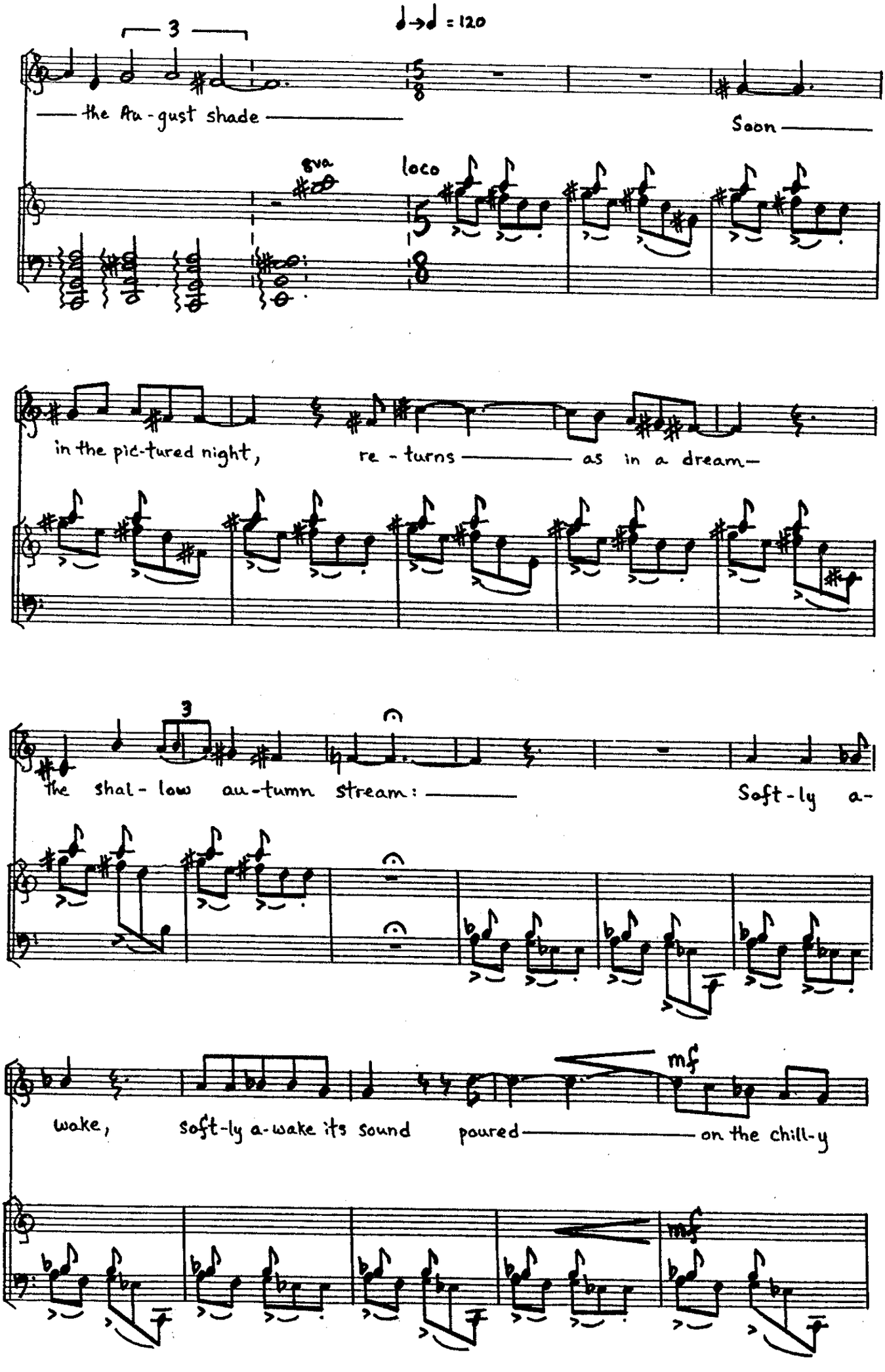

I am the fresh wound,
A-mong con-fet-ti,
the black flag.
8va
espr., ad lib.
Ped. slightly
(Ped. I still down)
ord.
f
♩ = 80
A-mong shoes,
rit . . . . . .
♩ = 80
cresc. poco a poco
f
mf
Ped.
I am the one with the peb-ble,
A-mong days,—
* Ped.
*

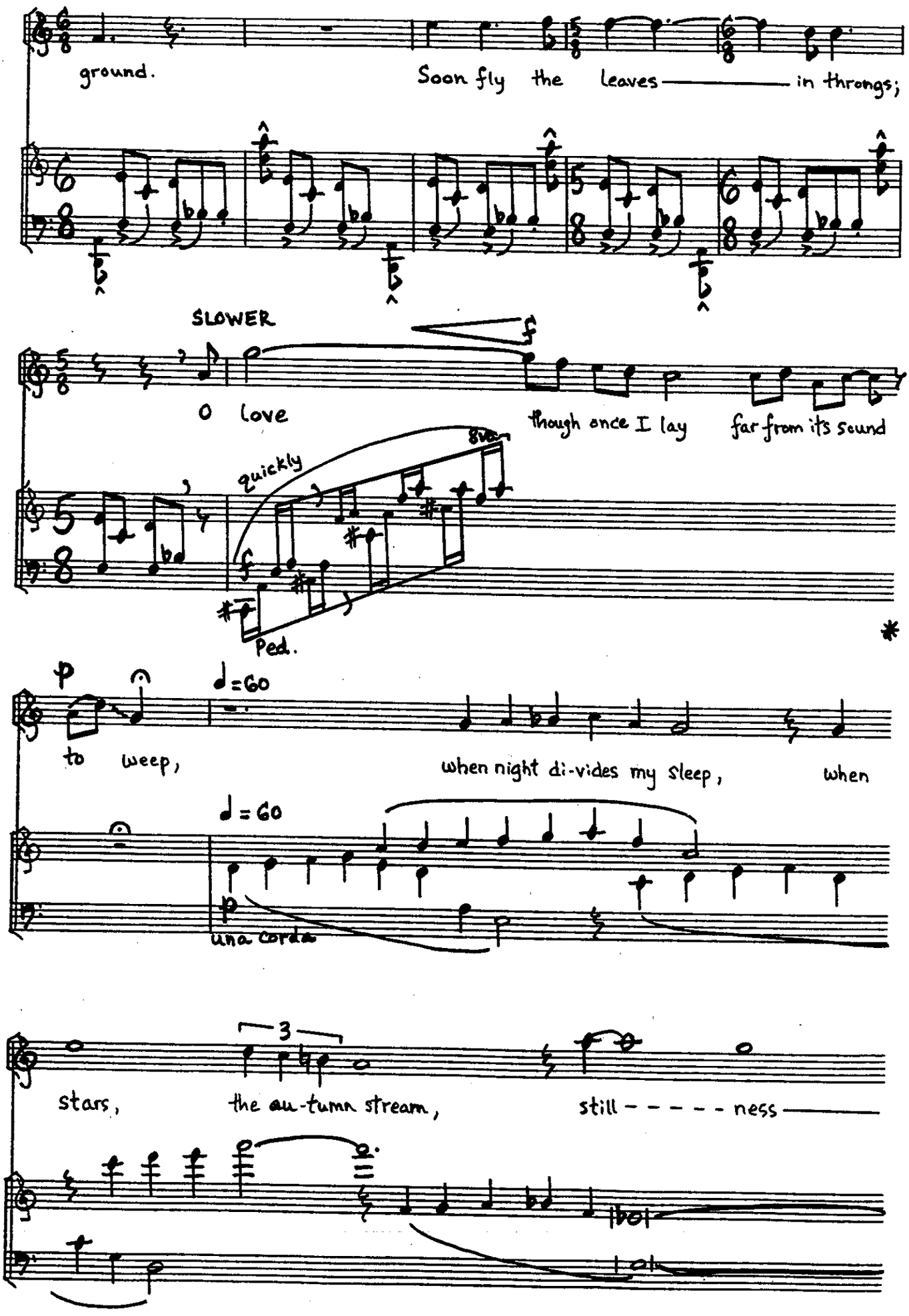

the one that nev-er comes,
Ped.
* Ped.
A-mong the bones you find on the beach,
* Ped.
* Ped.
rit . . . . ♩=56
the one that sings was mine.
rit . . . . ♩=56
8va
p
pp
add Ped. I
* Ped. III stays until end
A-mong the bones you find on the beach, the one that sings was mine.
(8va)
repeat pattern
*

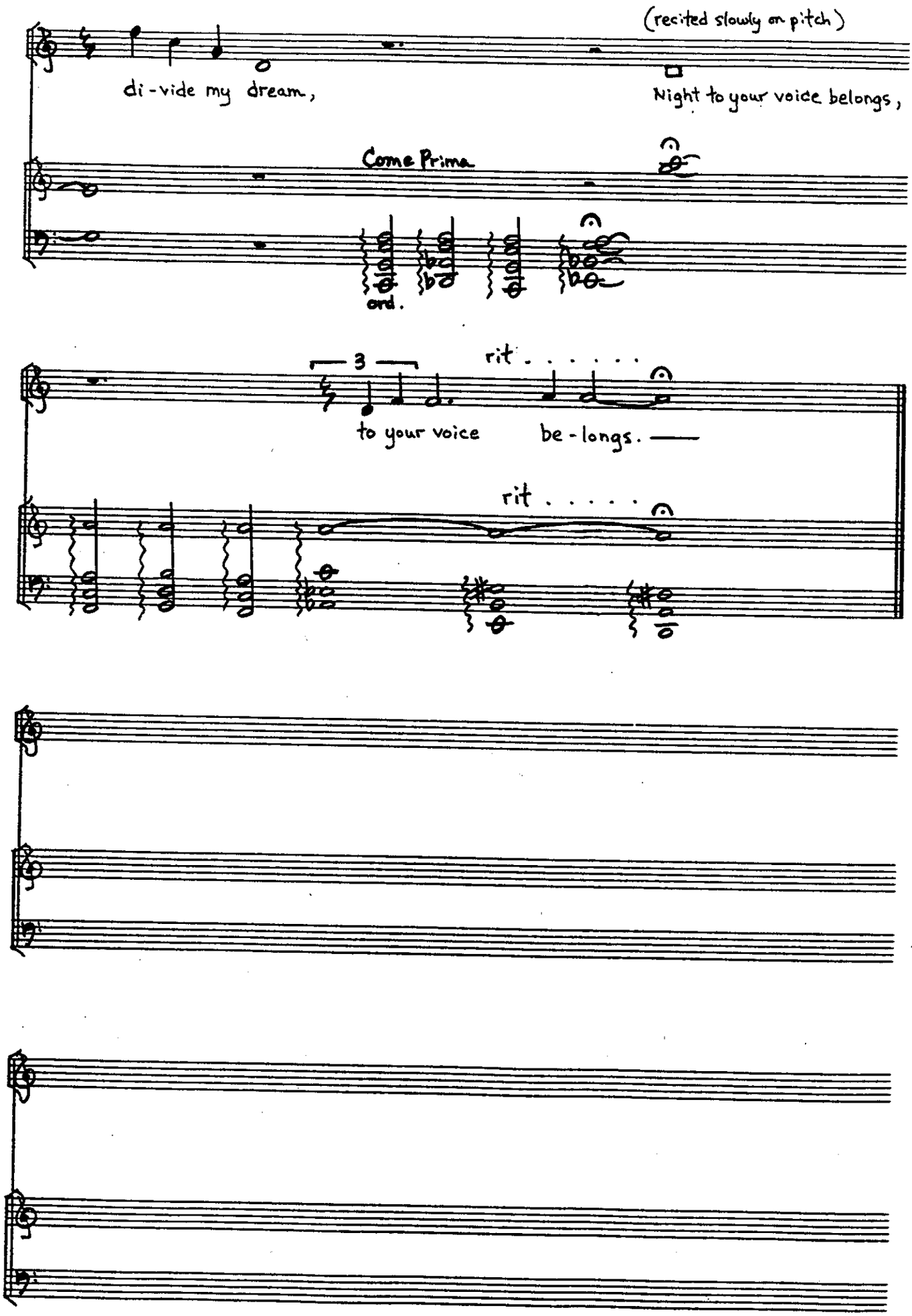
SONG FOR A LYRE

text: Louise Bogan




3
♩→♩ = 120
the Au-gust shade
Soon
8va
loco
in the pic-tured night,
re-turns
as in a dream—
3
the shal-low au-tumn stream:
Soft-ly a-
mf
wake,
soft-ly a-wake its sound
poured
on the chill-y
mf


ground.
Soon fly the leaves in throngs;
SLOWER
O love
though once I lay far from its sound
quickly
8va
Ped.
*
to weep,
when night di-vides my sleep,
when
una corda
stars,
the au-tumn stream,
still - - - - - ness


(recited slowly on pitch)
di-vide my dream,
Night to your voice belongs,
Come Prima
ord.
3
rit . . . . . .
to your voice
be-longs.
rit . . . . .

NEVER MORE WILL THE WIND

text: H.D.

spoken freely: Never more will the wind Cherish you again, Never more will the rain. | Never more Shall we find you bright in the snow and wind.

(inside piano) slow gliss. on strings

pp

The snow is melted, The snow is gone, and you are flown: Like a bird out of our hand, Like a light out of our heart,

you are gone.

♩ = 72

p

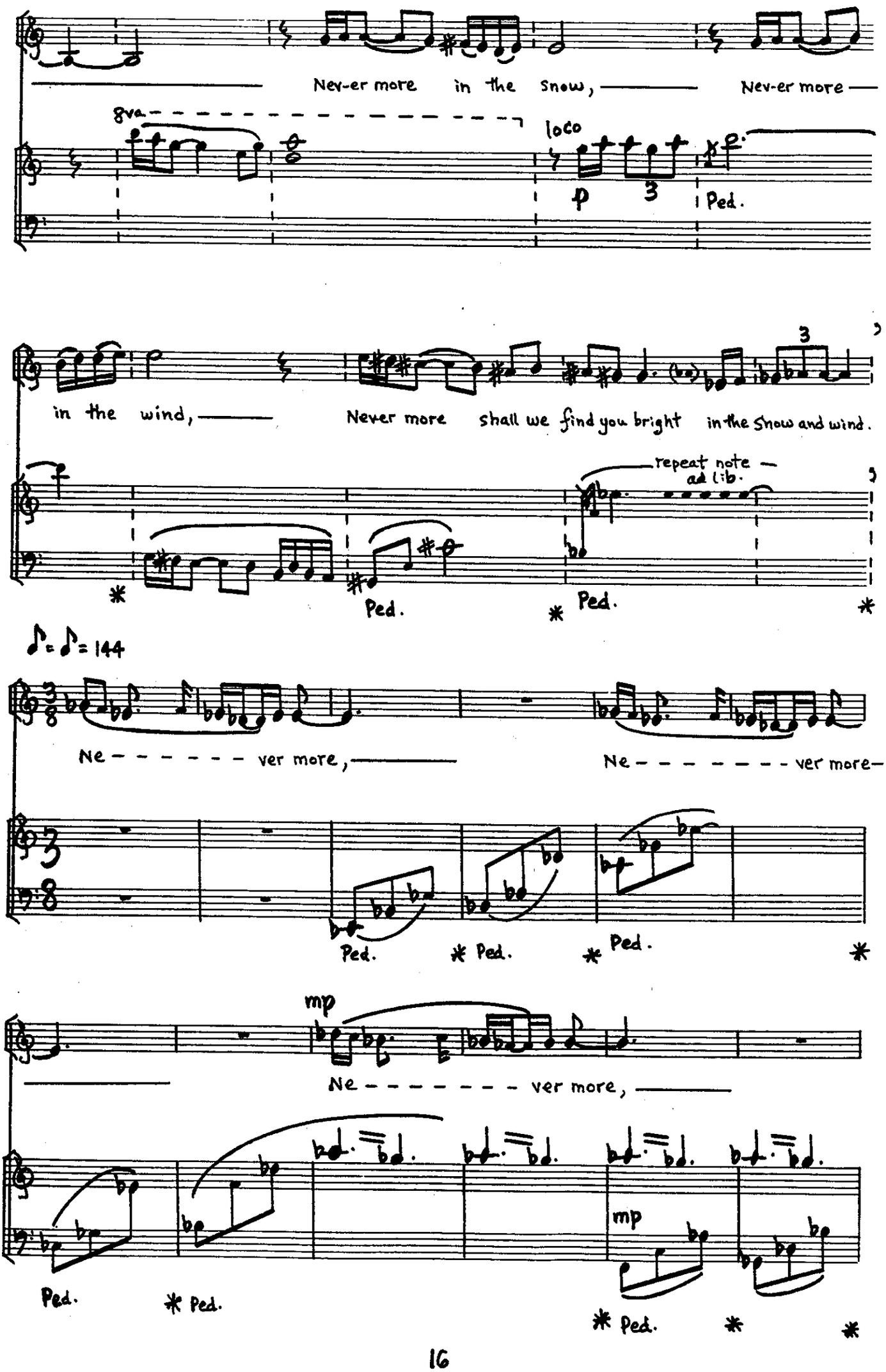
Nev-er more will the wind, Nev-er more will the rain,

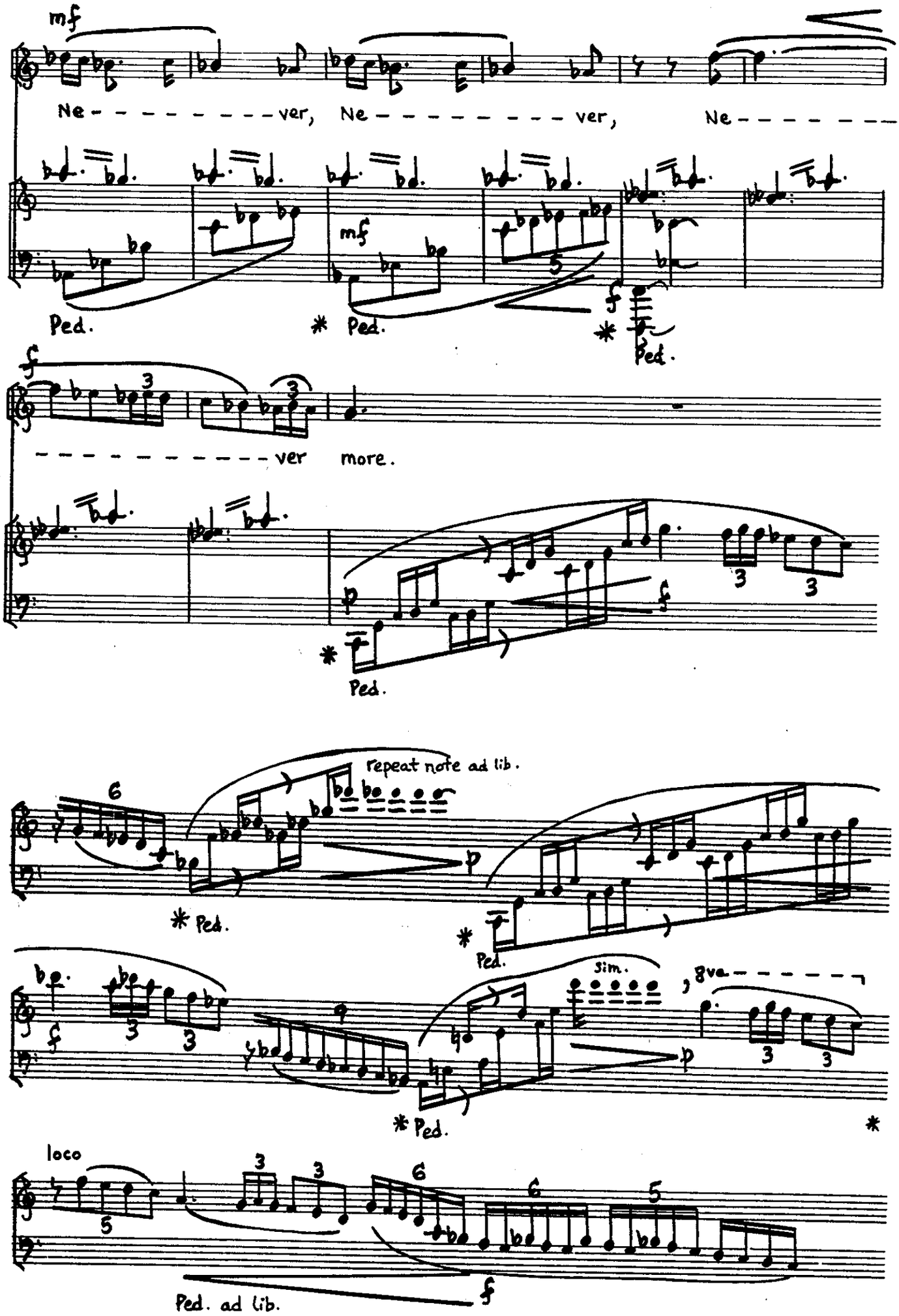
8va

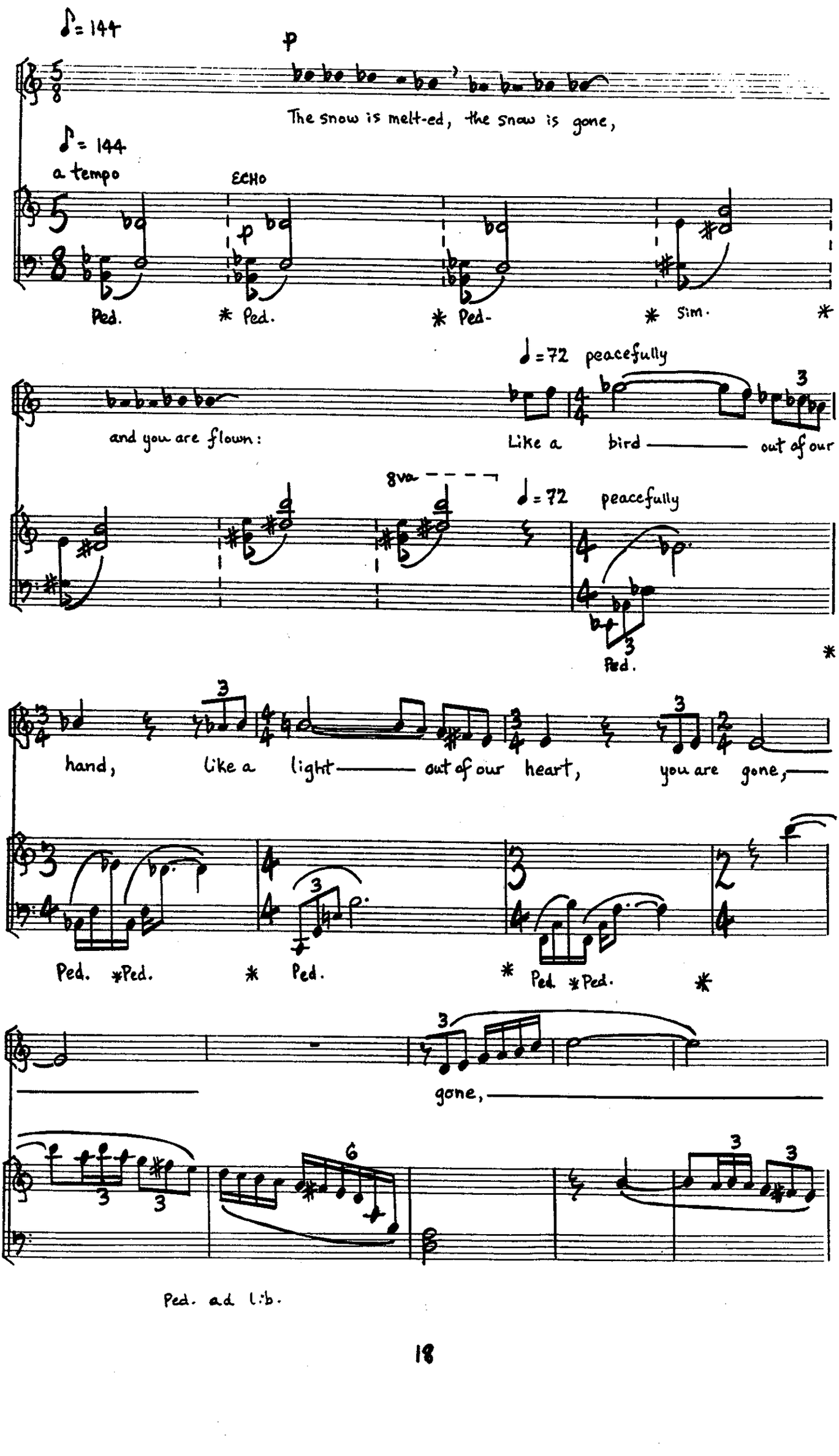
on keyboard

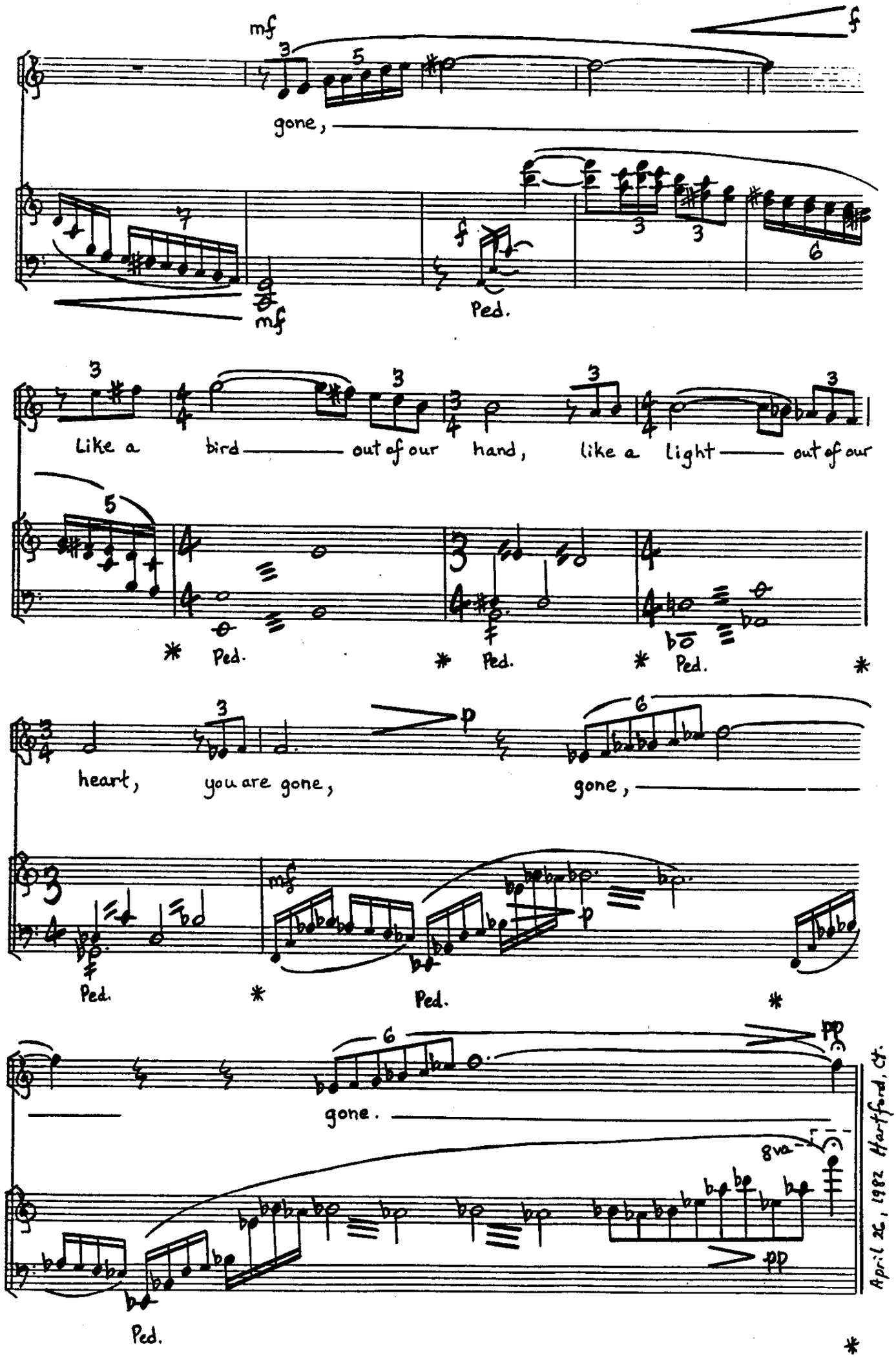
5

Nev-er more — will the wind — cher-ish you a-gain, — Nev-er more will the rain —


Nev-er more in the snow, Nev-er more
8va
loco
p
3
Ped.
3
in the wind, Never more shall we find you bright in the snow and wind.
repeat note ad lib.
Ped.
Ped.
♪ = ♪ = 144
Ne - - - - - - - ver more, Ne - - - - - - - - ver more
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
mp
Ne - - - - - - - - ver more,
Ped.
Ped.
mp
Ped.


mf
Ne - - - - - - - - - - ver, Ne - - - - - - - - - - ver, Ne - - - - - - - -
mf
Ped.
* Ped.
f
* Ped.
f
- - - - - - - - - - - - ver more.
p
f
* Ped.
repeat note ad lib.
* Ped.
* Ped.
sim.
8va
* Ped.
*
loco
f
Ped. ad lib.


♪= 144
p
The snow is melt-ed, the snow is gone,
♪= 144
a tempo
ECHO
p
Ped.
* Ped.
* Ped-
* Sim.
*
♩= 72 peacefully
and you are flown:
Like a bird ——— out of our
8va
♩= 72 peacefully
Ped.
*
hand, like a light ——— out of our heart, you are gone, ———
Ped. *Ped.
* Ped.
* Ped. *Ped.
*
gone, ———
Ped. ad lib.


mf
f
gone,
mf
Ped.
Like a bird out of our hand, like a light out of our
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
heart, you are gone,
p
gone,
mf
Ped.
Ped.
p
gone.
pp
8va
pp
Ped.
April 26, 1982 Hartford, Ct.