Gwyneth Walker

The Great Lakes

a cantata for Mixed Chorus, SATB Soloists
and Orchestra (or Piano)

Prologue: “Lyric”
“By Blue Ontario’s Shore”
“Erie Waters”
“Lake Huron” (Islands)
“Songs from the Shore” (Lake Michigan)
“Lake Superior”
Epilogue: “As Birds in Flight”

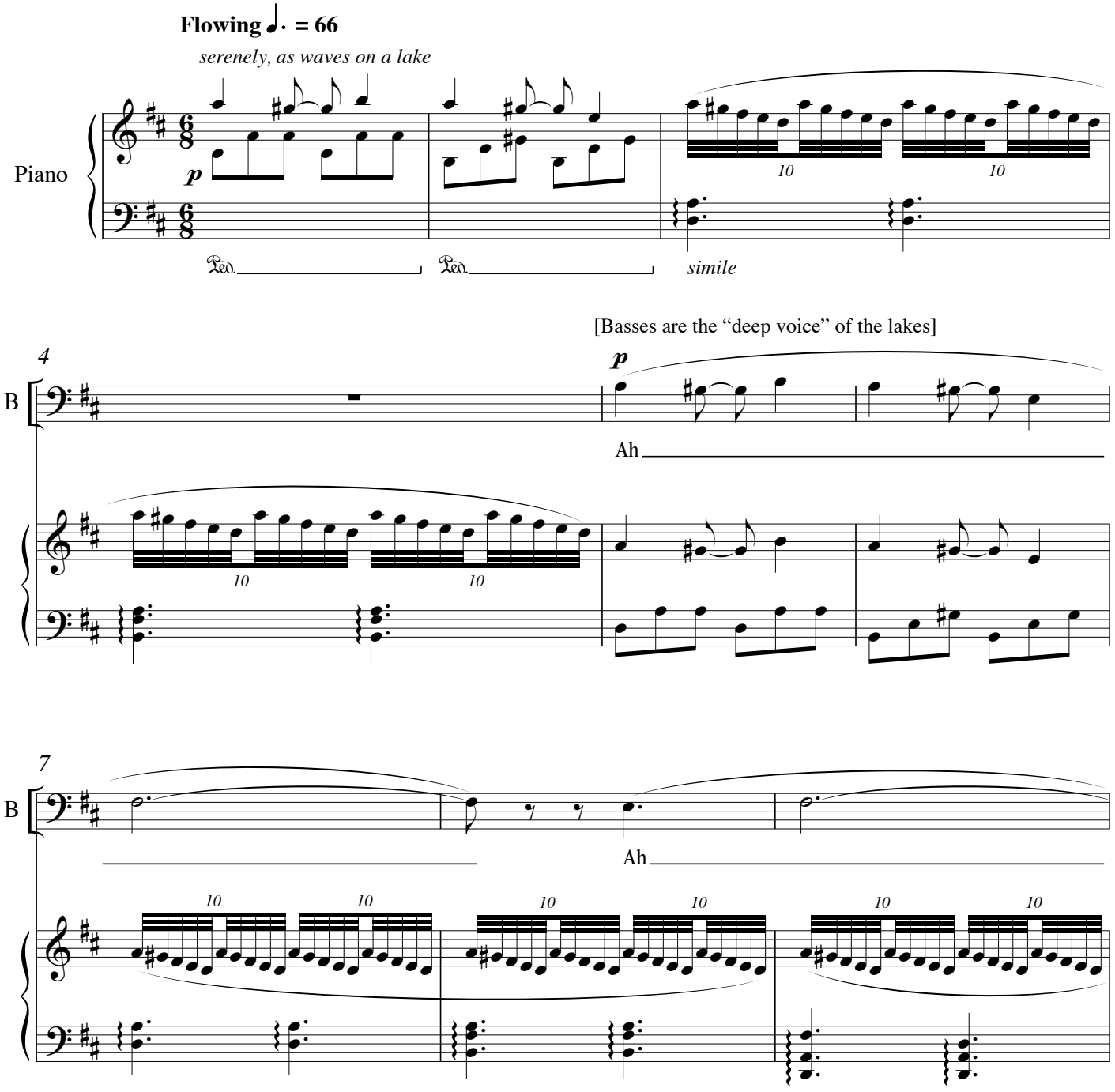
The Great Lakes

for SATB Chorus and Piano

"A Lyric" by
William Wilfred Campbell (1860–1918)
Canadian Poet

Gwyneth Walker

1. Lyric



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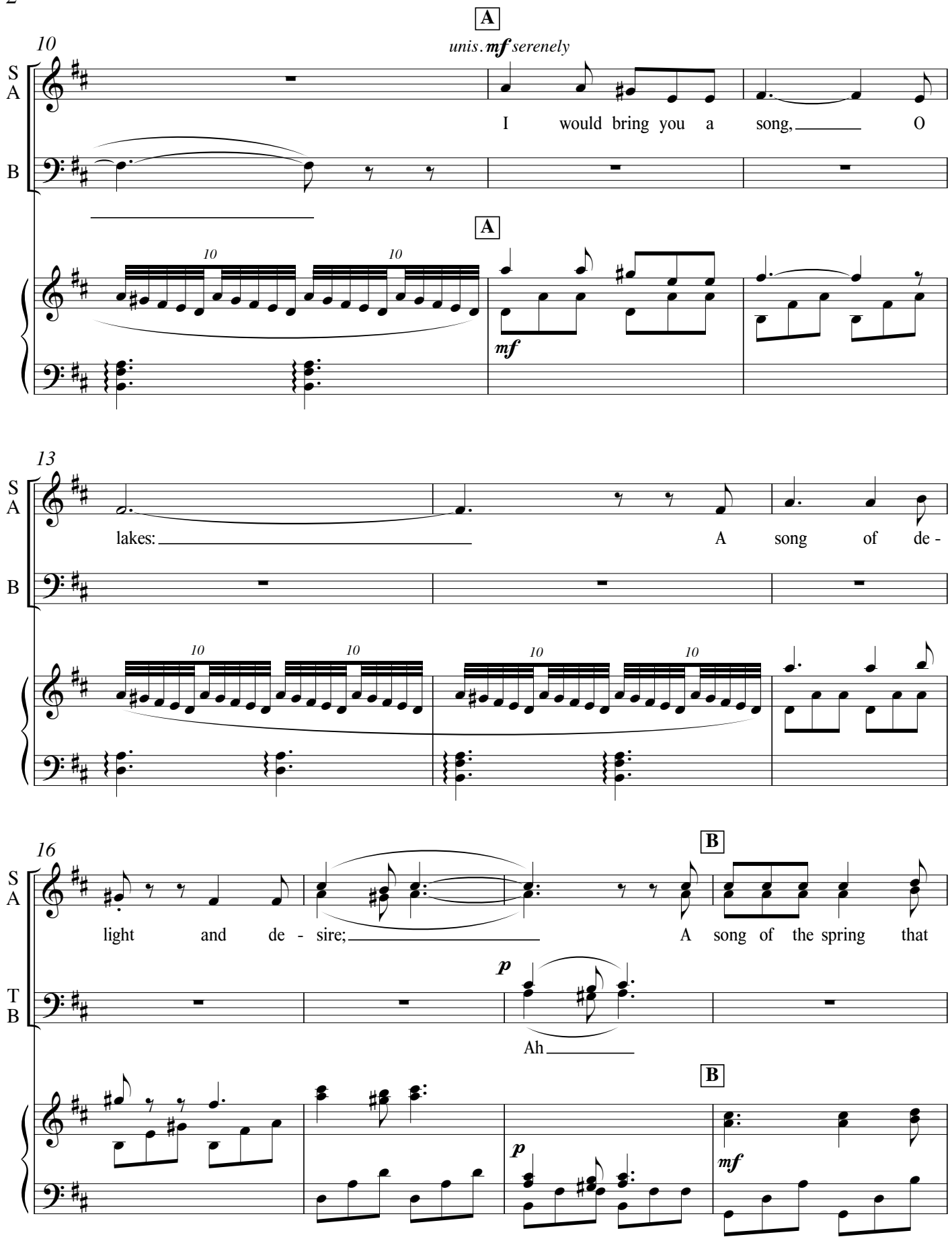
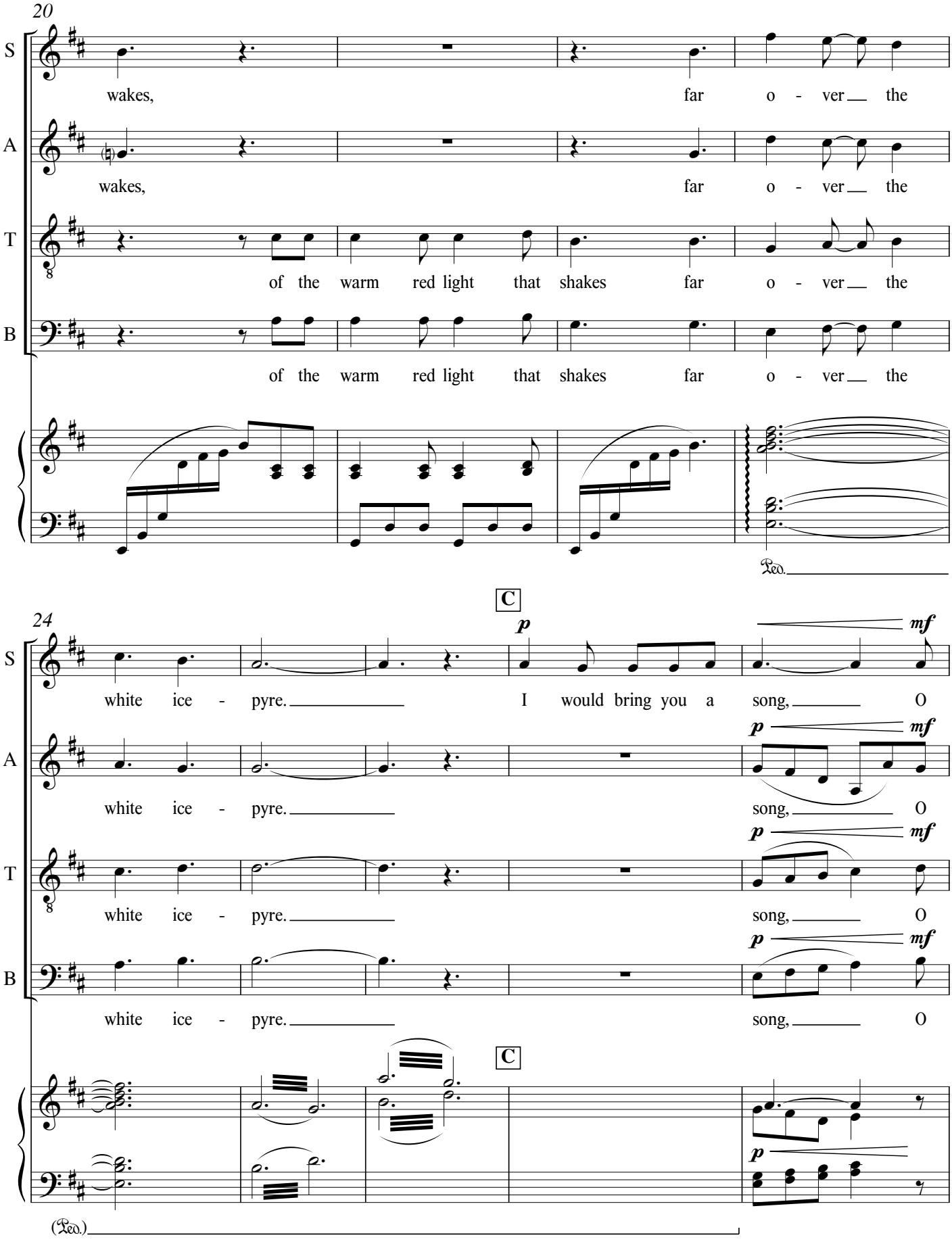
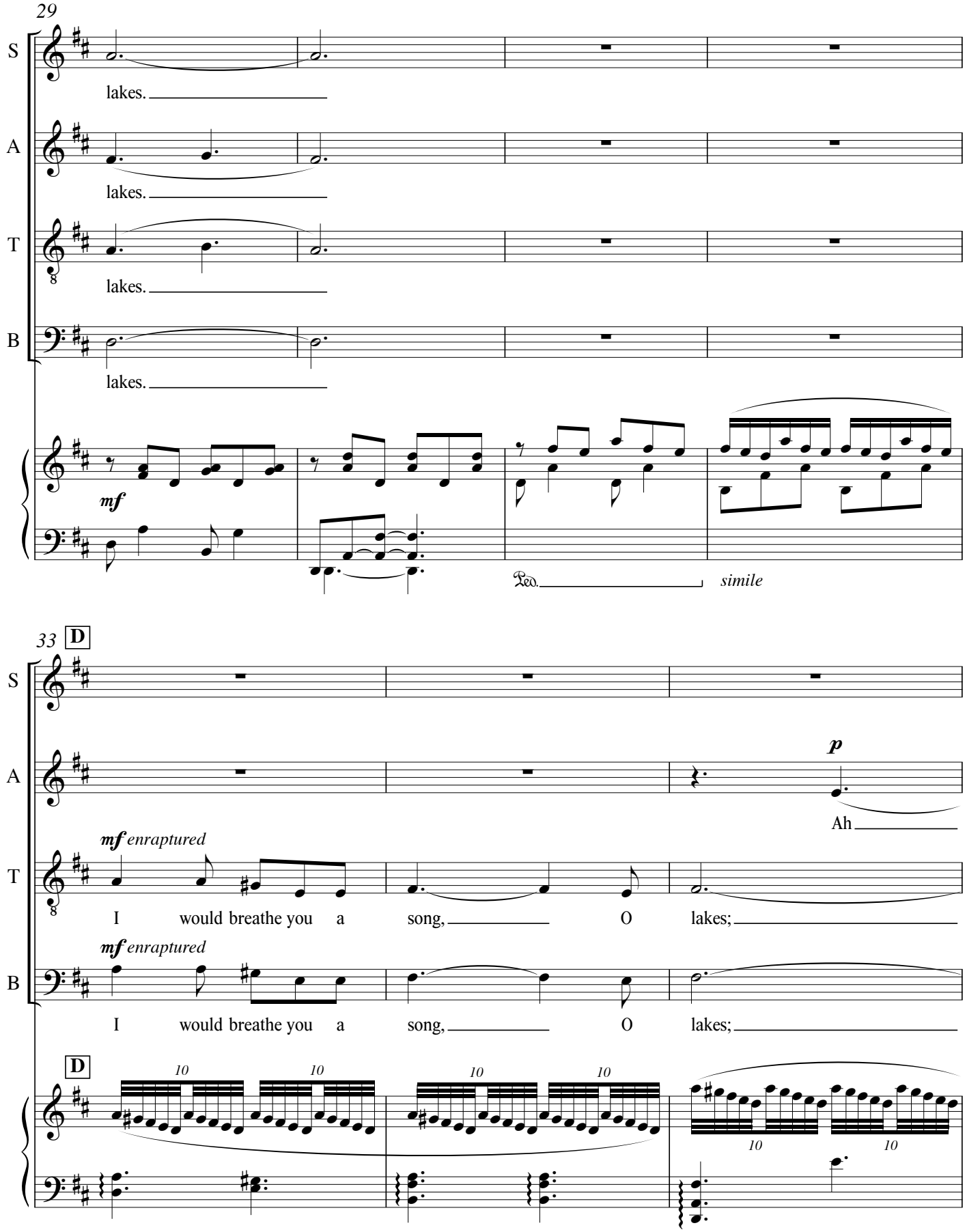
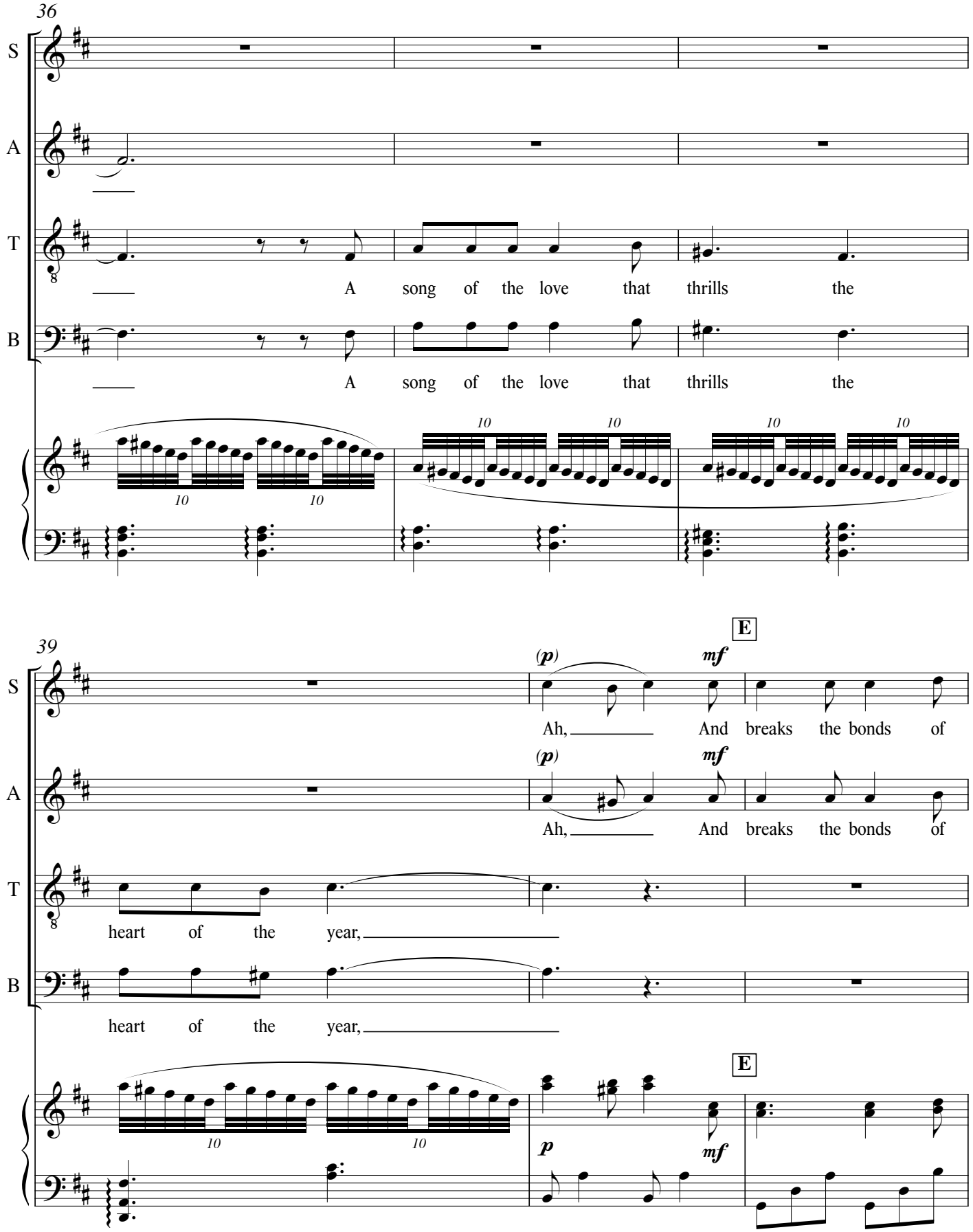
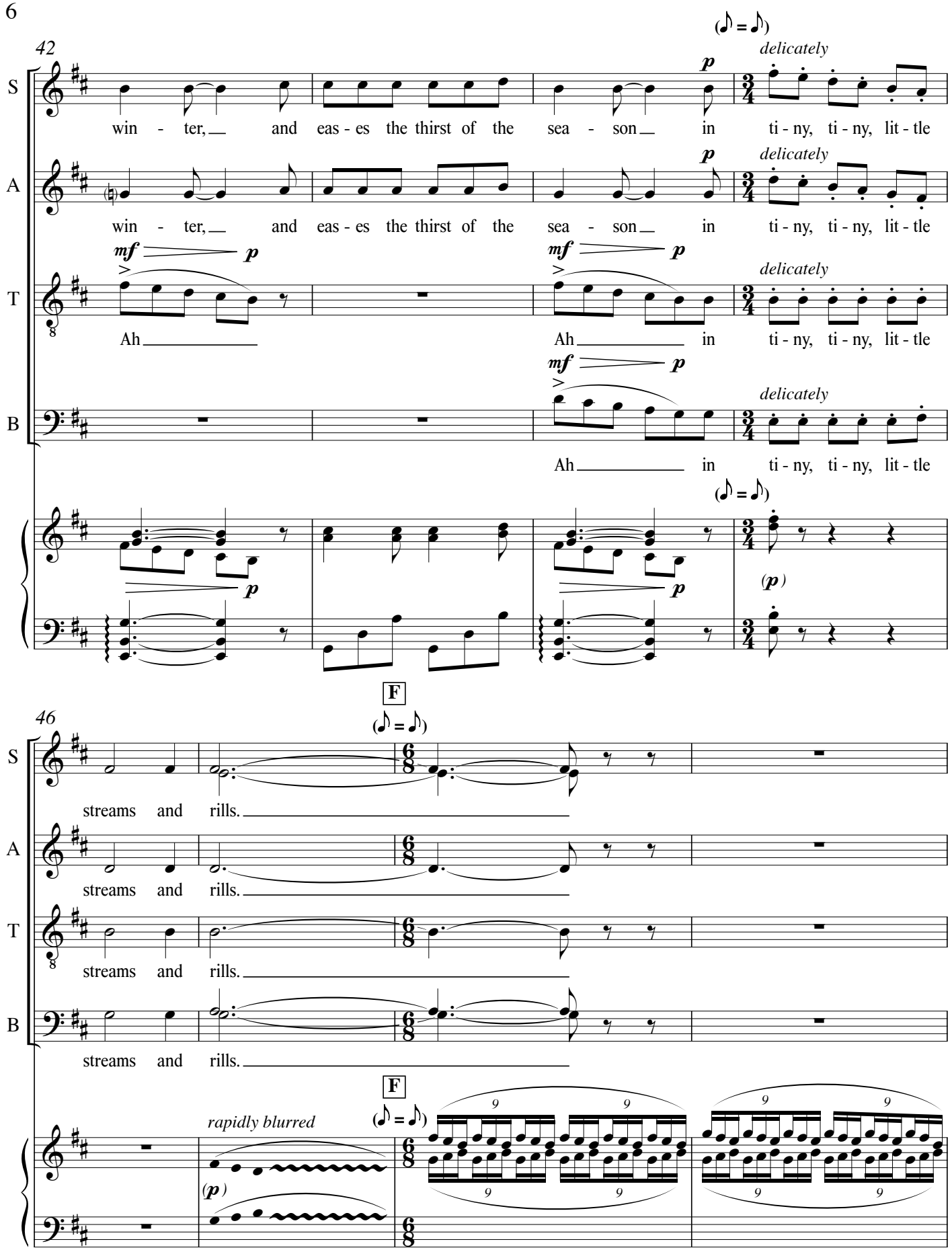

A
10
unis. mf serenely
S
A
I would bring you a song, O
B
A
10
10
mf
13
S
A
lakes: A song of de -
B
10
10
10
10
16
B
S
A
light and de - sire; A song of the spring that
p
T
B
Ah
B
p
mf


20
S
wakes, far o - ver the
A
wakes, far o - ver the
T
of the warm red light that shakes far o - ver the
B
of the warm red light that shakes far o - ver the
Ped.
C
24
p
mf
white ice - pyre. I would bring you a song, O
white ice - pyre. song, O
white ice - pyre. song, O
white ice - pyre. song, O
C
(Ped.)


29
S
A
T
B
lakes.
lakes.
lakes.
lakes.
mf
Ped.
simile
33
D
S
A
T
B
p
Ah
mf enraptured
I would breathe you a song, O lakes;
mf enraptured
I would breathe you a song, O lakes;
D
10
10
10
10
10
10

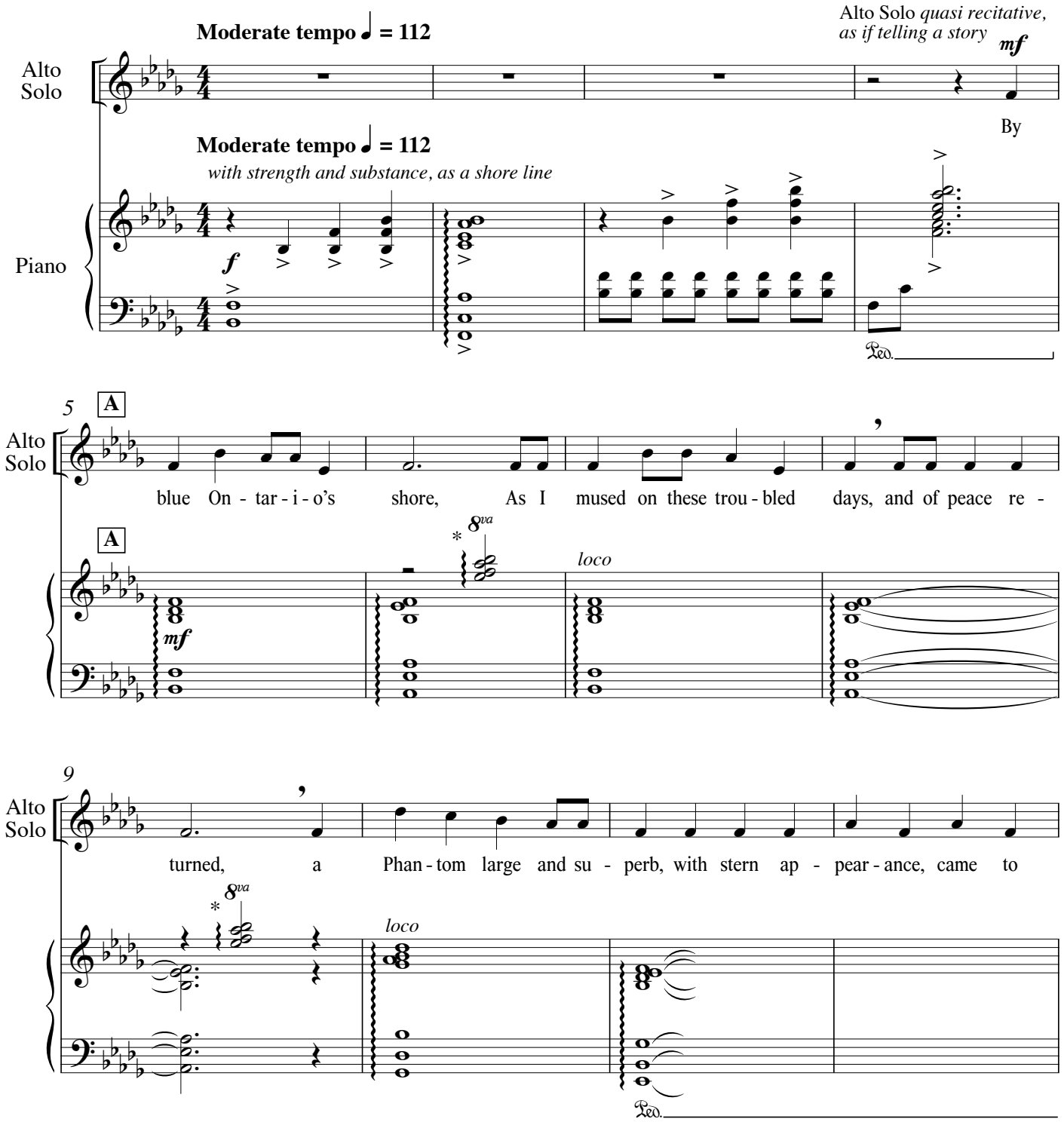

36
S
A
T
B
A song of the love that thrills the
A song of the love that thrills the
10
10
10
10
10
10
39
E
(p)
mf
Ah, And breaks the bonds of
(p)
mf
Ah, And breaks the bonds of
heart of the year,
heart of the year,
E
p
mf


42
S
win - ter, and eas - es the thirst of the sea - son in ti - ny, ti - ny, lit - tle
A
win - ter, and eas - es the thirst of the sea - son in ti - ny, ti - ny, lit - tle
T
Ah Ah in ti - ny, ti - ny, lit - tle
B
Ah in ti - ny, ti - ny, lit - tle
delicately
mf p
46
F
streams and rills.
rapidly blurred

2. By Blue Ontario's Shore

[A Vision of Democracy]

"By Blue Ontario's Shore" by
Walt Whitman (1819–1892)
G. Walker, alt.



*These high patterns represent the wonder and mystery of the "Vision of Democracy."

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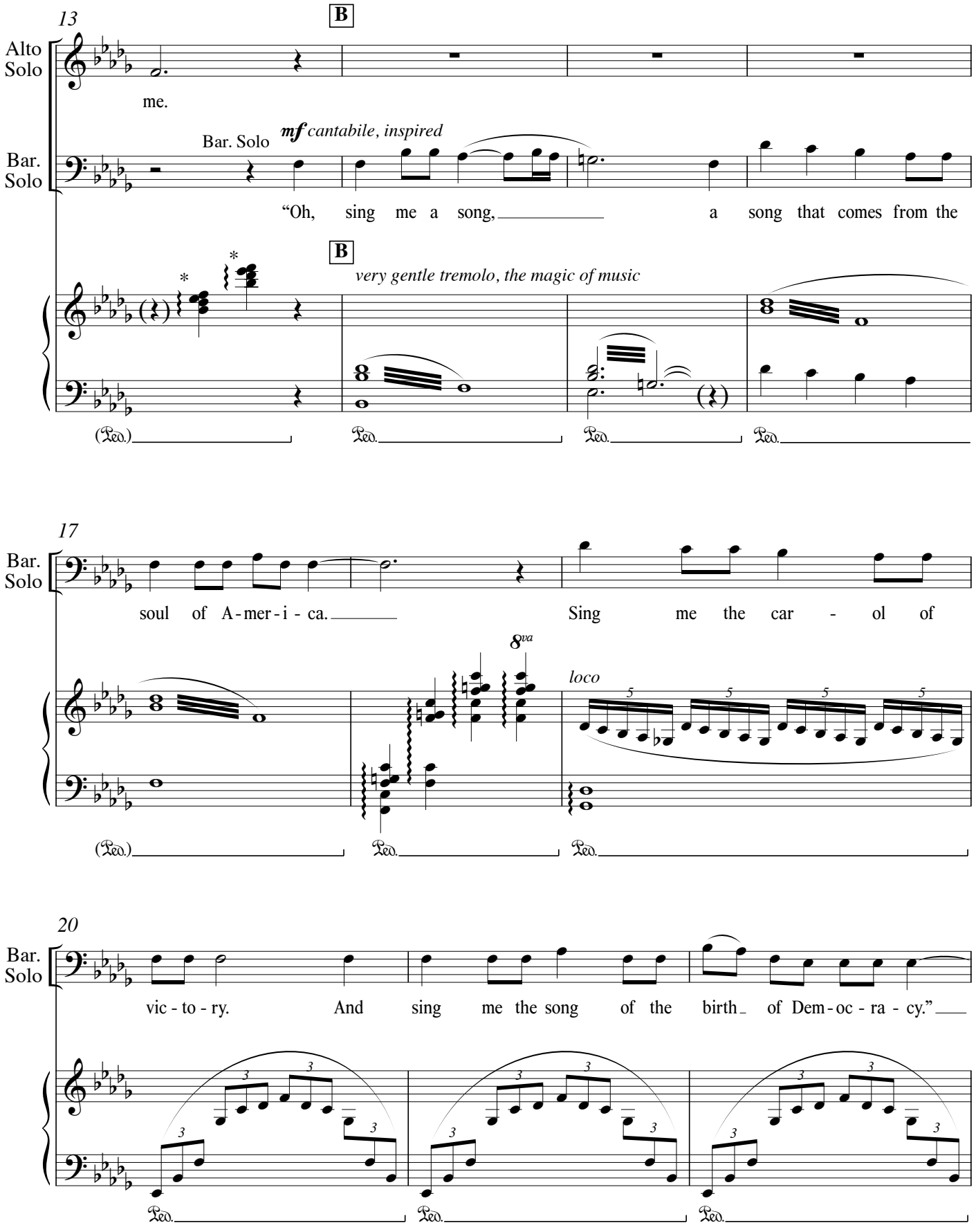

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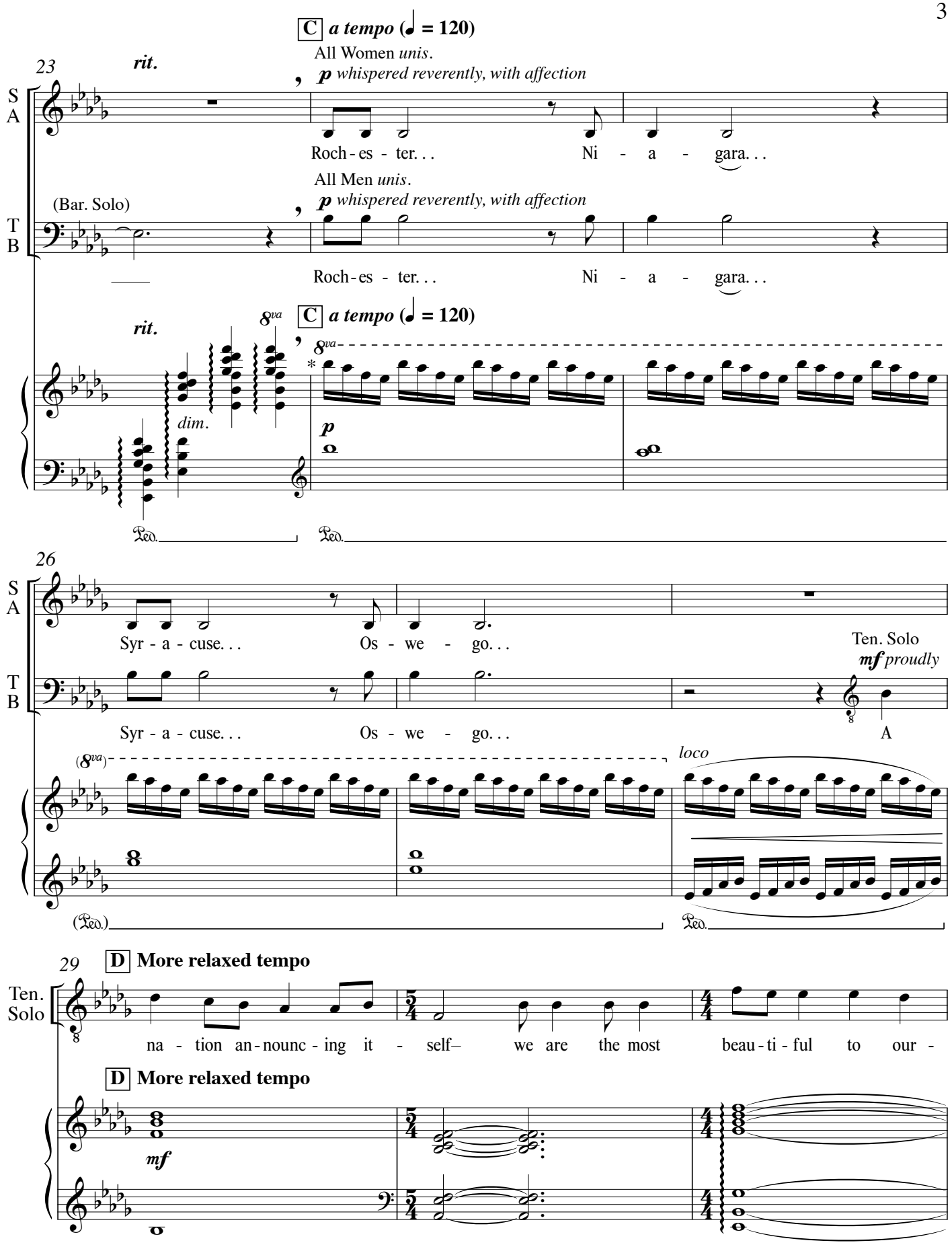
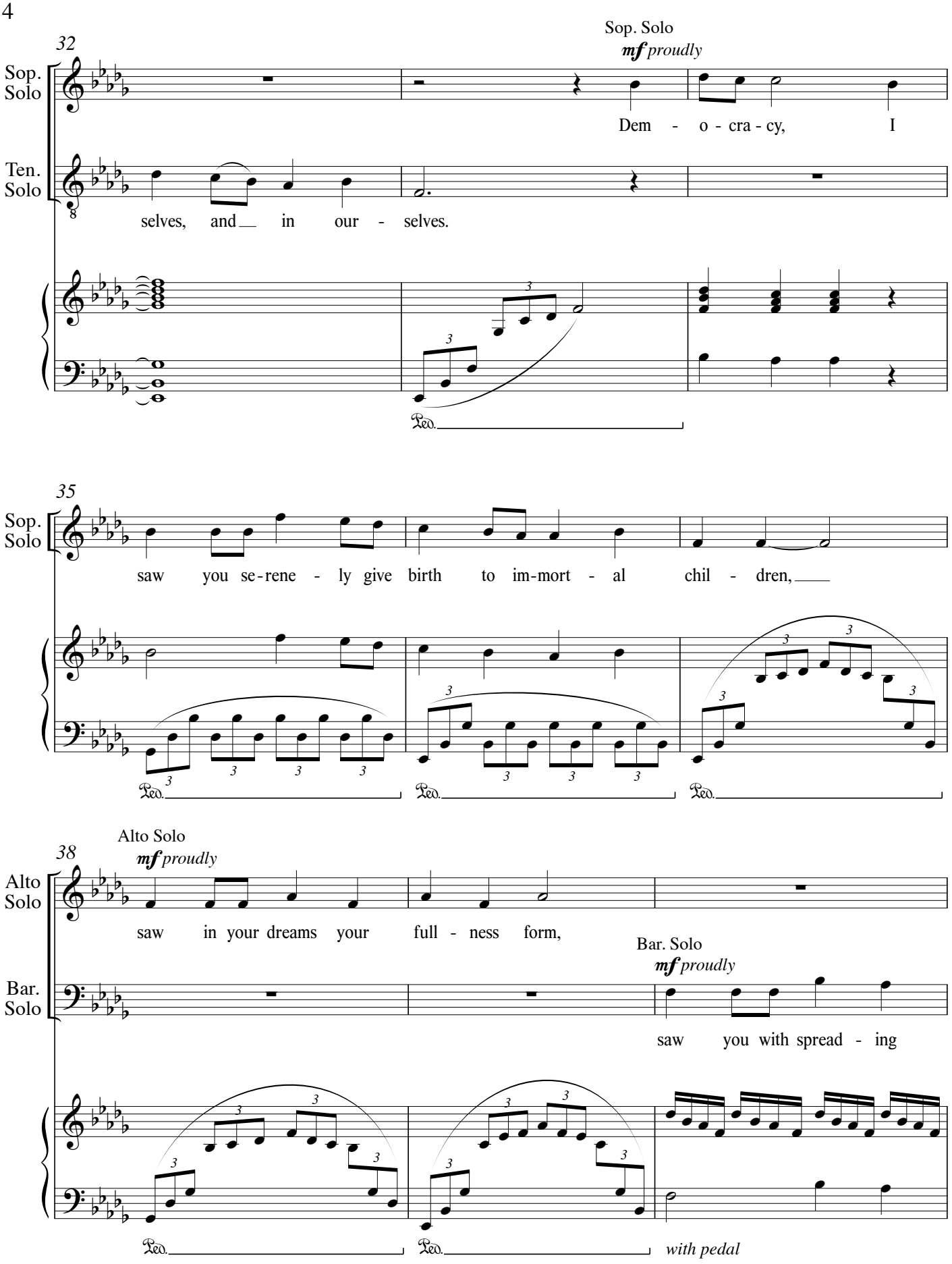
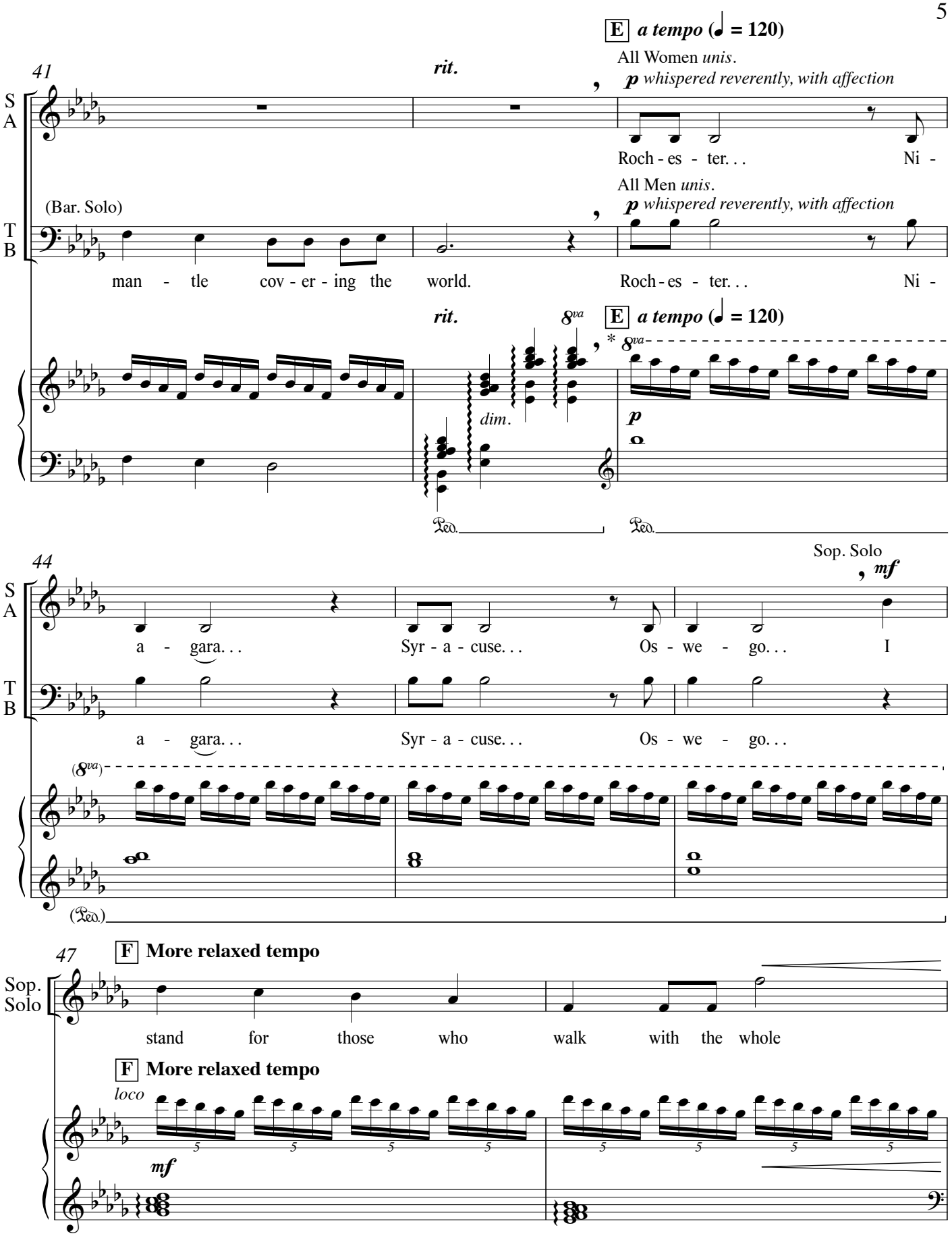


*These high patterns represent the wonder and mystery of the "Vision of Democracy."


32
Sop. Solo
mf proudly
Sop. Solo
Dem - o - cra - cy, I
Ten. Solo
selves, and in our - selves.
Ped.
35
Sop. Solo
saw you se-rene - ly give birth to im-mort - al chil - dren,
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
38
Alto Solo
mf proudly
Alto Solo
saw in your dreams your full - ness form,
Bar. Solo
mf proudly
Bar. Solo
saw you with spread - ing
Ped.
Ped.
with pedal



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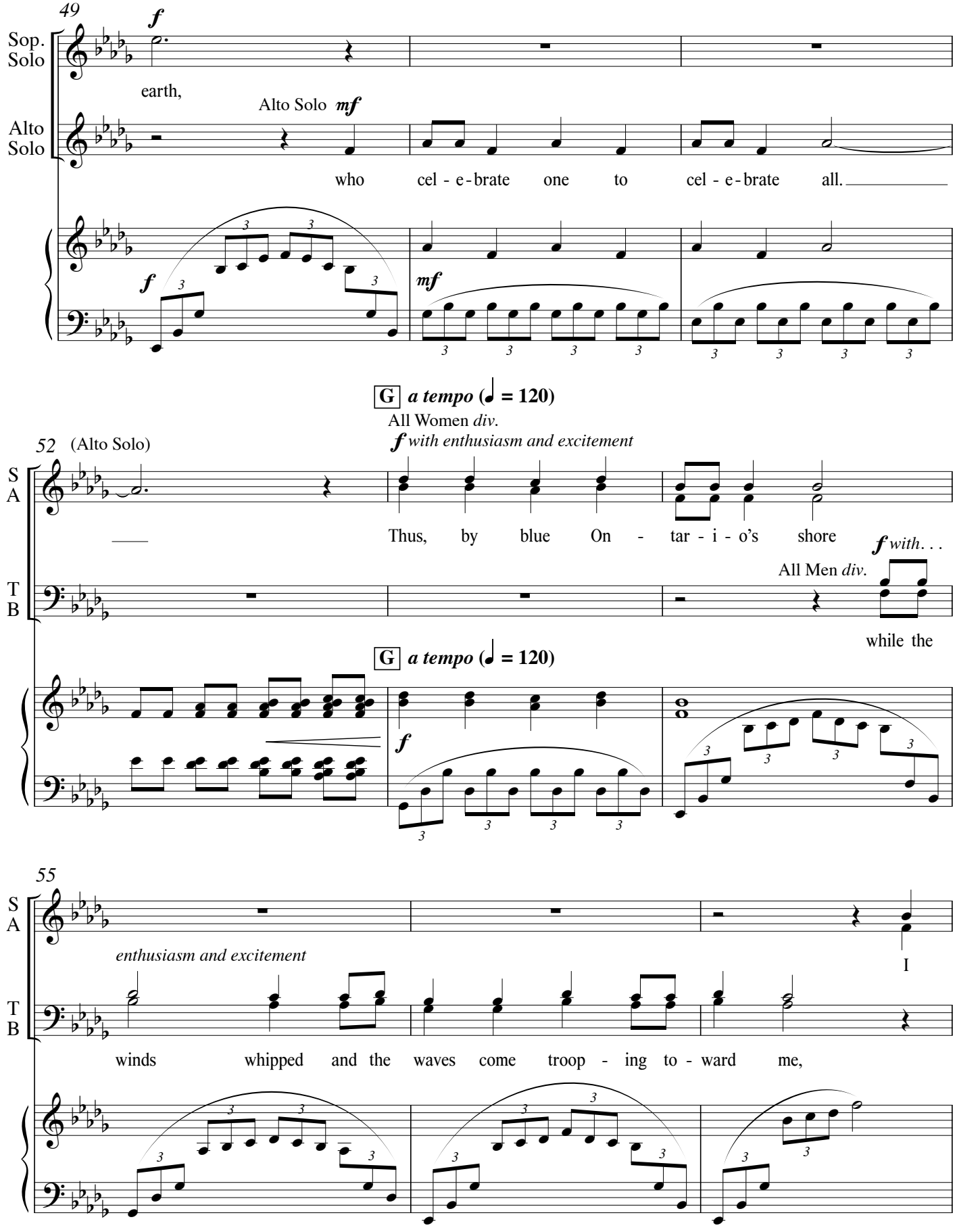
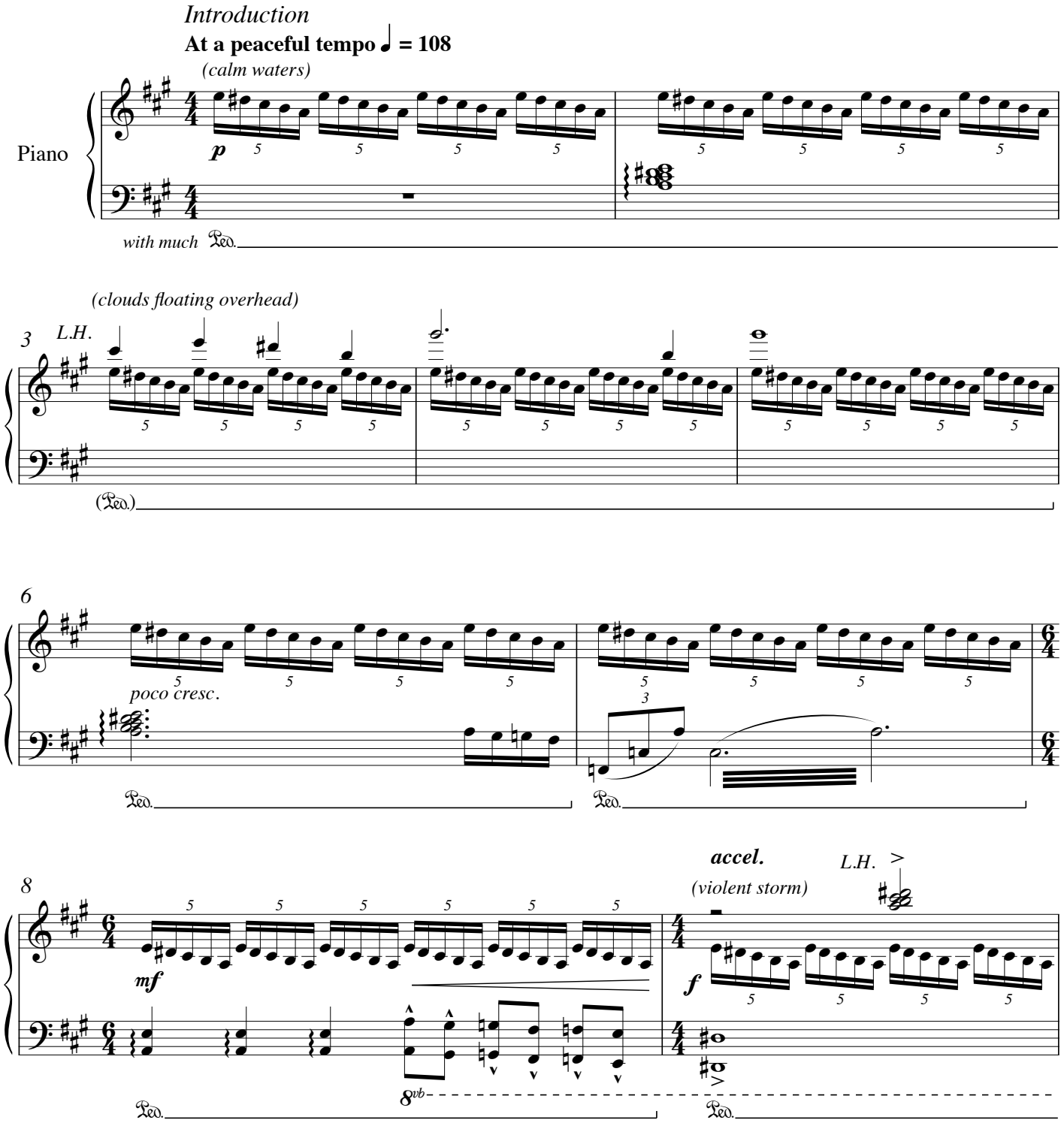

49
Sop. Solo
earth,
Alto Solo mf
Alto Solo
who cel - e - brate one to cel - e - brate all.
f
mf
G a tempo (♩ = 120)
All Women div.
f with enthusiasm and excitement
52 (Alto Solo)
S A
Thus, by blue On - tar - i - o's shore
f with. . .
All Men div.
T B
while the
G a tempo (♩ = 120)
f
55
S A
enthusiasm and excitement
I
T B
winds whipped and the waves come troop - ing to - ward me,

3. Erie Waters

[the calm and the storm]

"Erie Waters" by
Emily Pauline Johnson (1861–1913)
Canadian Poet



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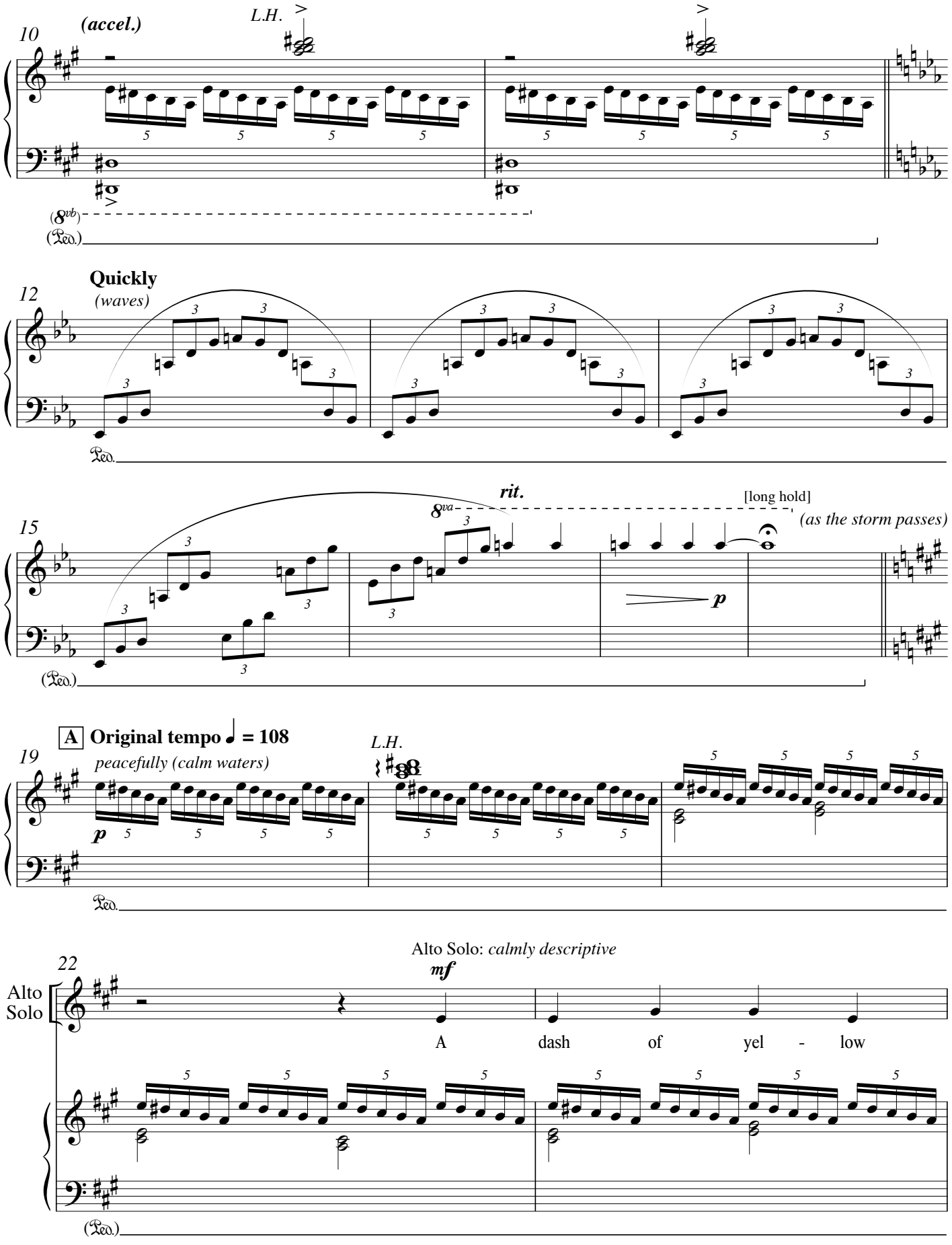
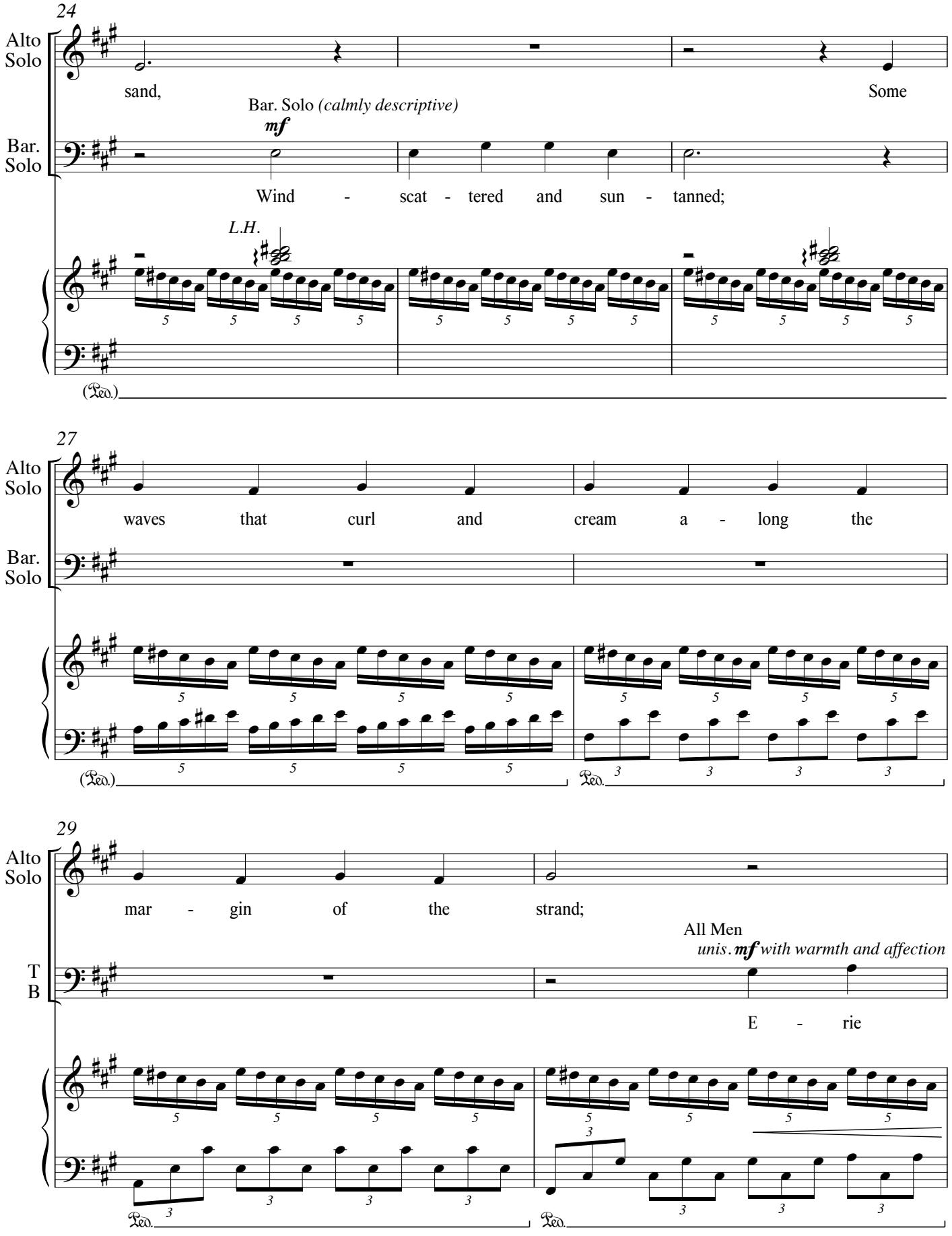
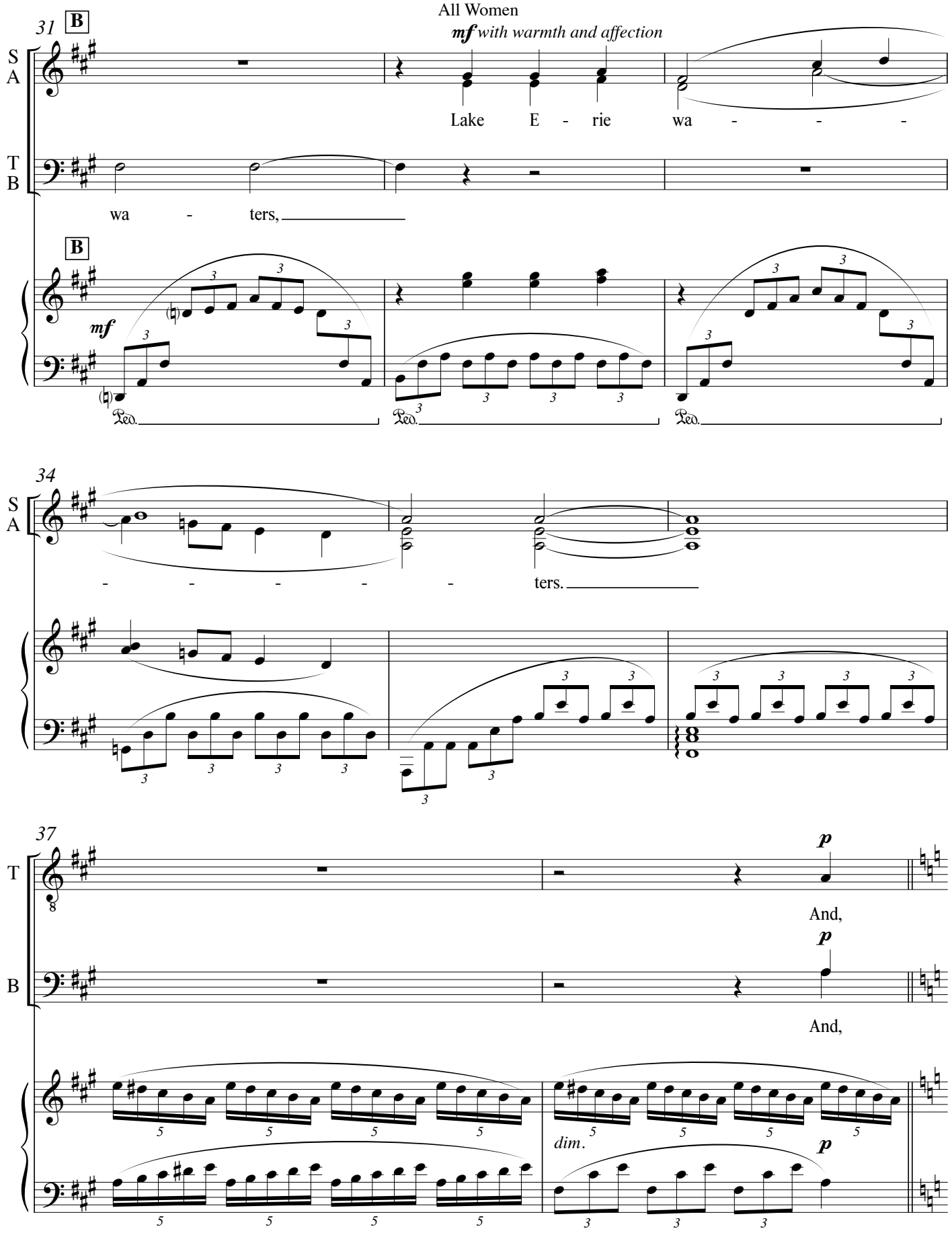
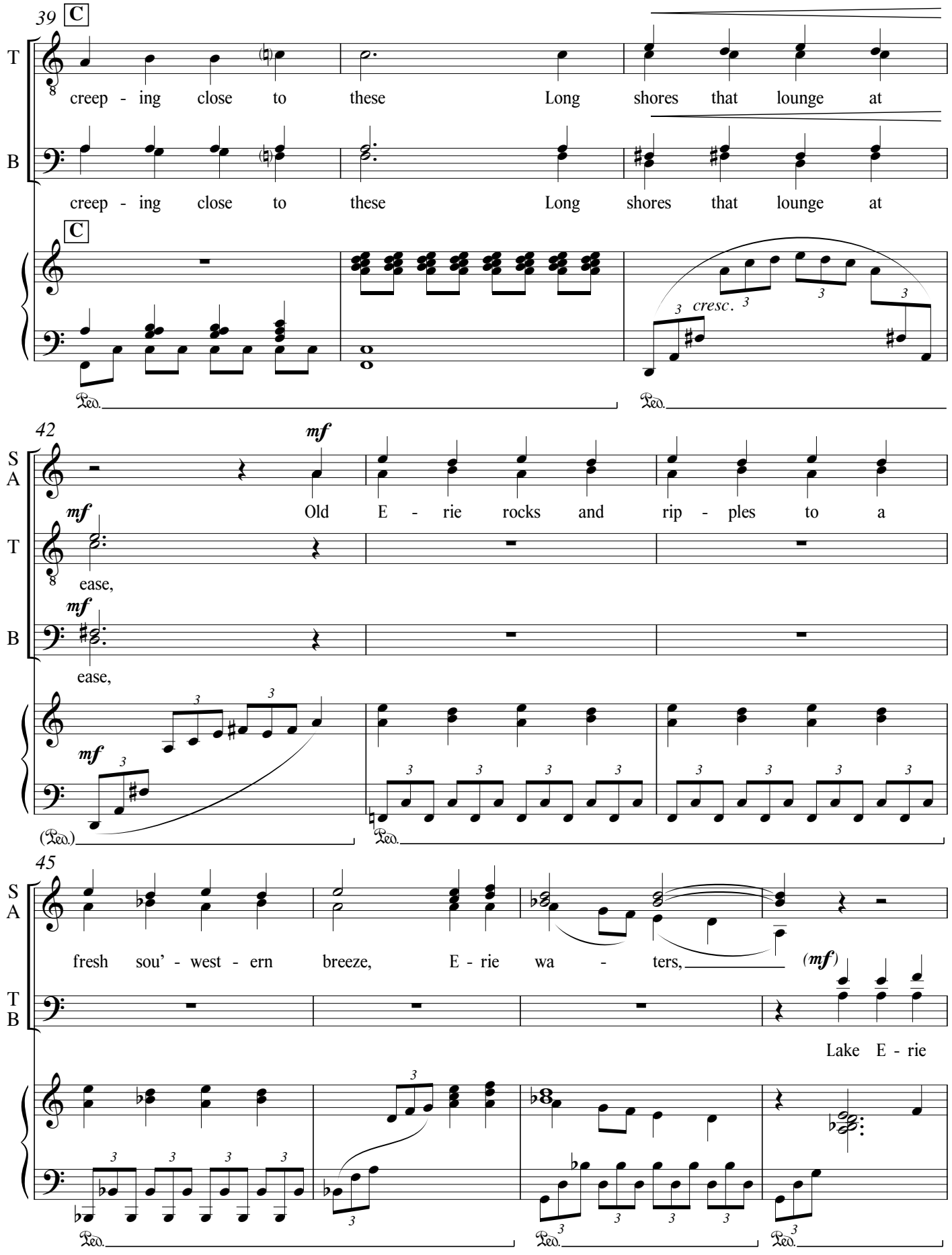
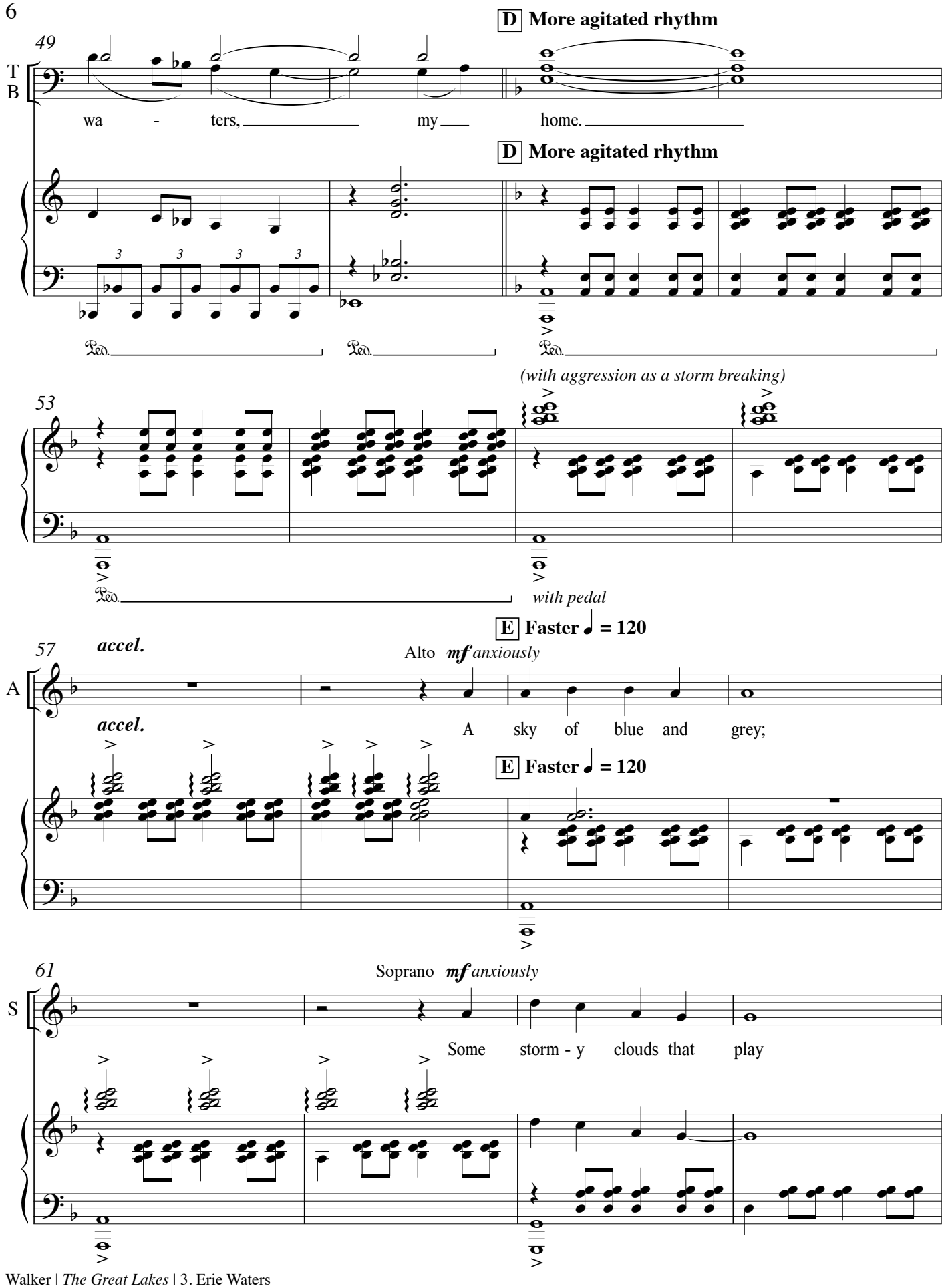
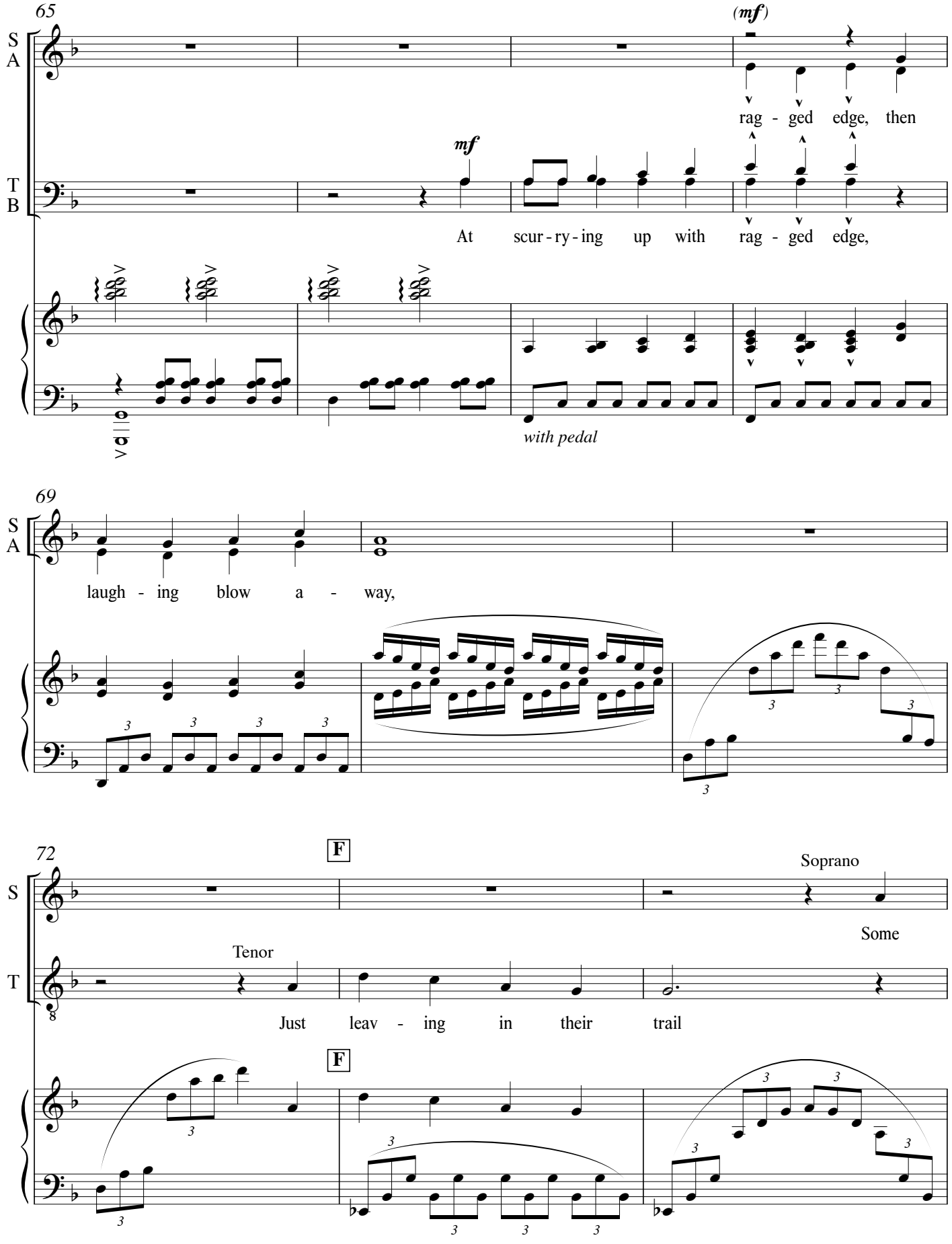

10
(accel.)
L.H.
(8vb)
(Ped.)
12
Quickly
(waves)
Ped.
15
rit.
8va
[long hold]
(as the storm passes)
p
(Ped.)
19
A Original tempo ♩ = 108
peacefully (calm waters)
L.H.
p
Ped.
22
Alto Solo: calmly descriptive
mf
Alto Solo
A dash of yel - low
(Ped.)


24
Alto Solo
sand,
Some
Bar. Solo (calmly descriptive)
mf
Bar. Solo
Wind - scat - tered and sun - tanned;
L.H.
(Ped.)
27
Alto Solo
waves that curl and cream a - long the
Bar. Solo
(Ped.)
Ped.
29
Alto Solo
mar - gin of the strand;
All Men
unis. mf with warmth and affection
T B
E - rie
Ped.
Ped.


All Women
mf with warmth and affection
31
B
S
A
T
B
Lake E - rie wa - - -
wa - ters,
mf
Ped.
34
- - - - - ters.
37
T
B
p
And,
dim.


39
C
T
B
creep - ing close to these Long shores that lounge at
creep - ing close to these Long shores that lounge at
C
cresc.
Ped.
Ped.
42
mf
S
A
T
B
Old E - rie rocks and rip - ples to a
ease,
ease,
mf
mf
(Ped.)
Ped.
45
S
A
T
B
fresh sou' - west - ern breeze, E - rie wa - ters,
(mf)
Lake E - rie
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


D More agitated rhythm
49
T
B
wa - ters, my home.
D More agitated rhythm
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
(with aggression as a storm breaking)
53
Ped.
with pedal
E Faster ♩ = 120
57
accel.
Alto mf anxiously
A
accel.
A sky of blue and grey;
E Faster ♩ = 120
61
Soprano mf anxiously
S
Some storm - y clouds that play


65
S
A
T
B
(mf)
rag - ged edge, then
mf
At scur - ry - ing up with rag - ged edge,
with pedal
69
S
A
laugh - ing blow a - way,
72
F
S
T
Soprano
Some
Tenor
Just leav - ing in their trail
F

4. Lake Huron

[Islands]

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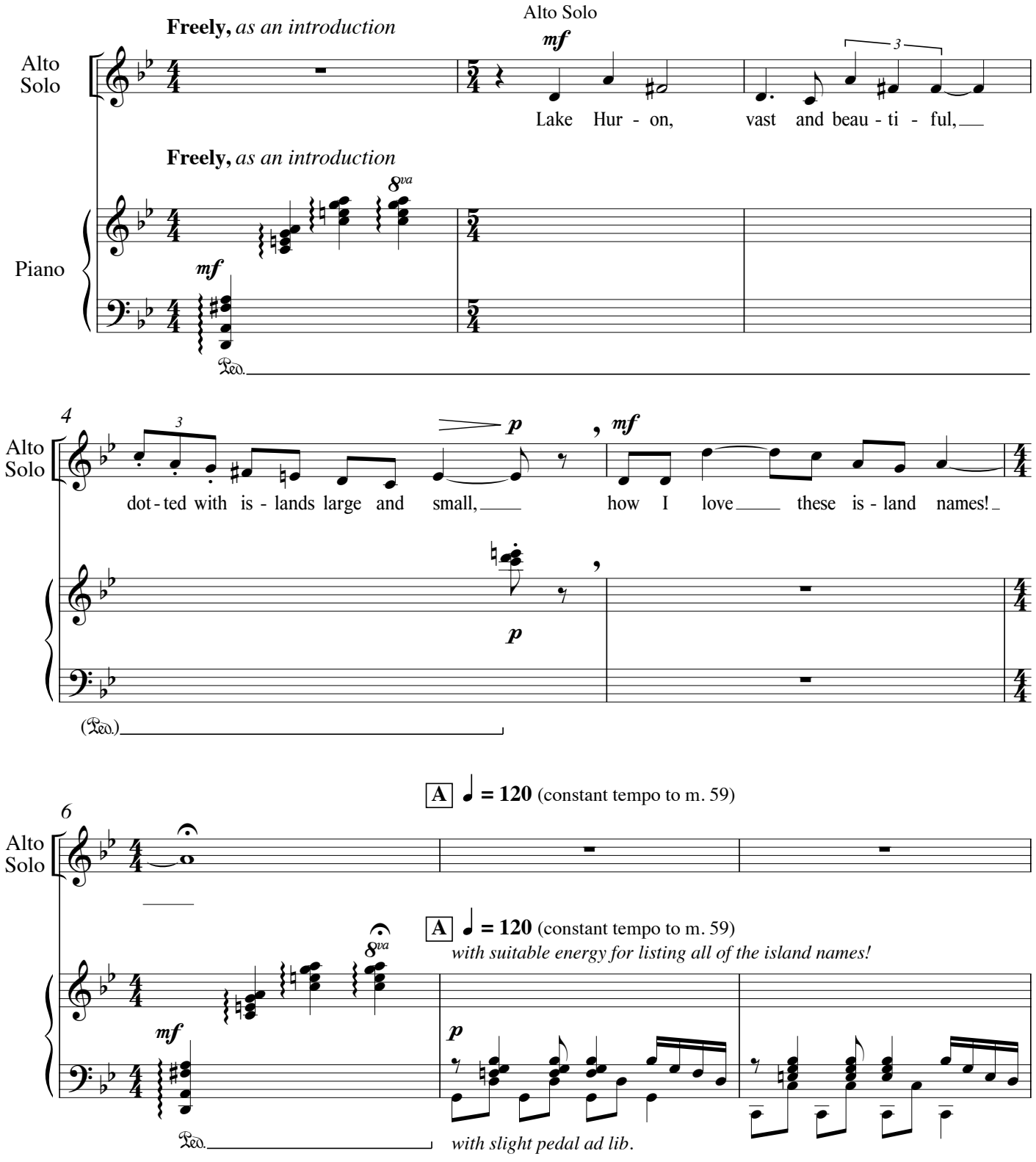

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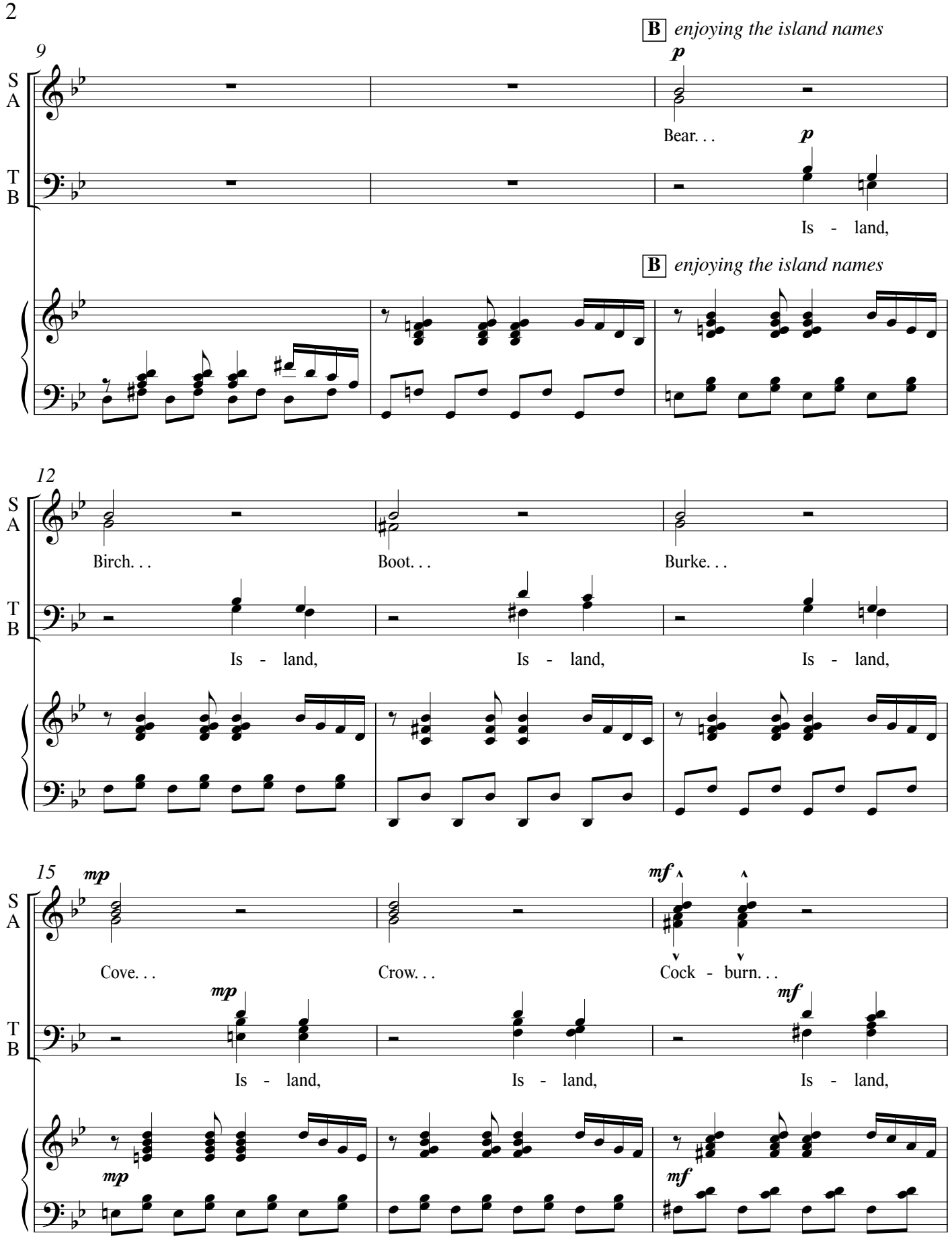
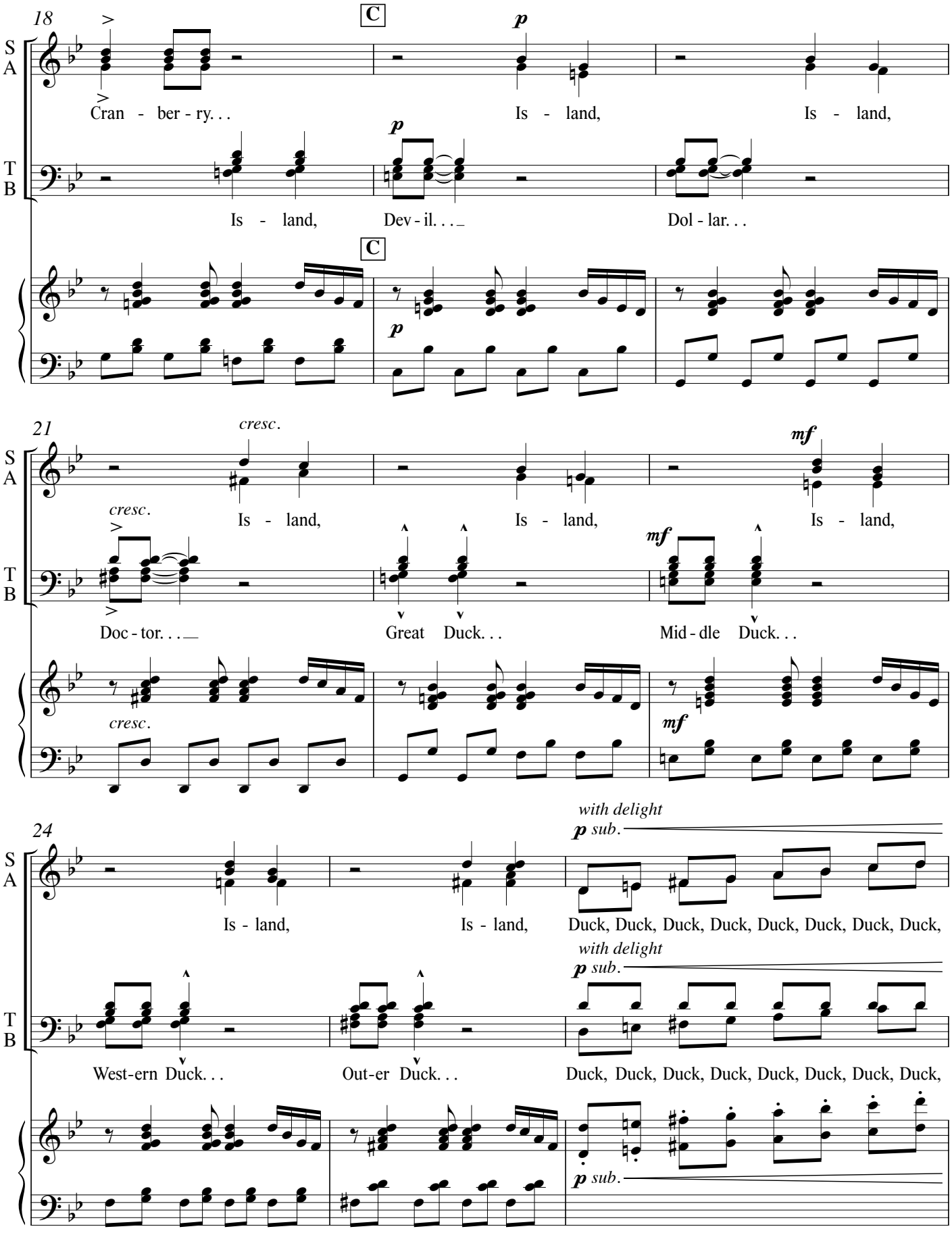
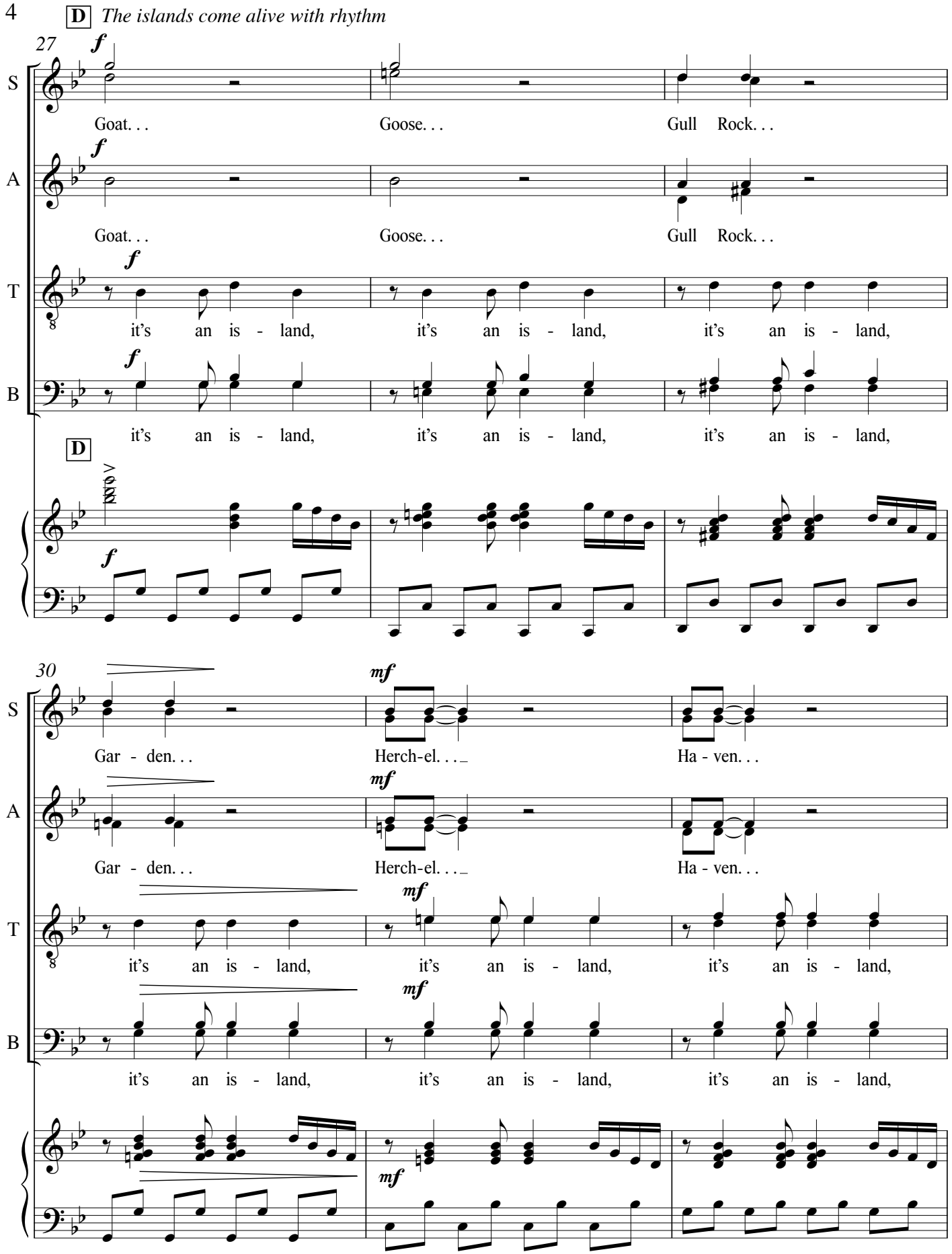
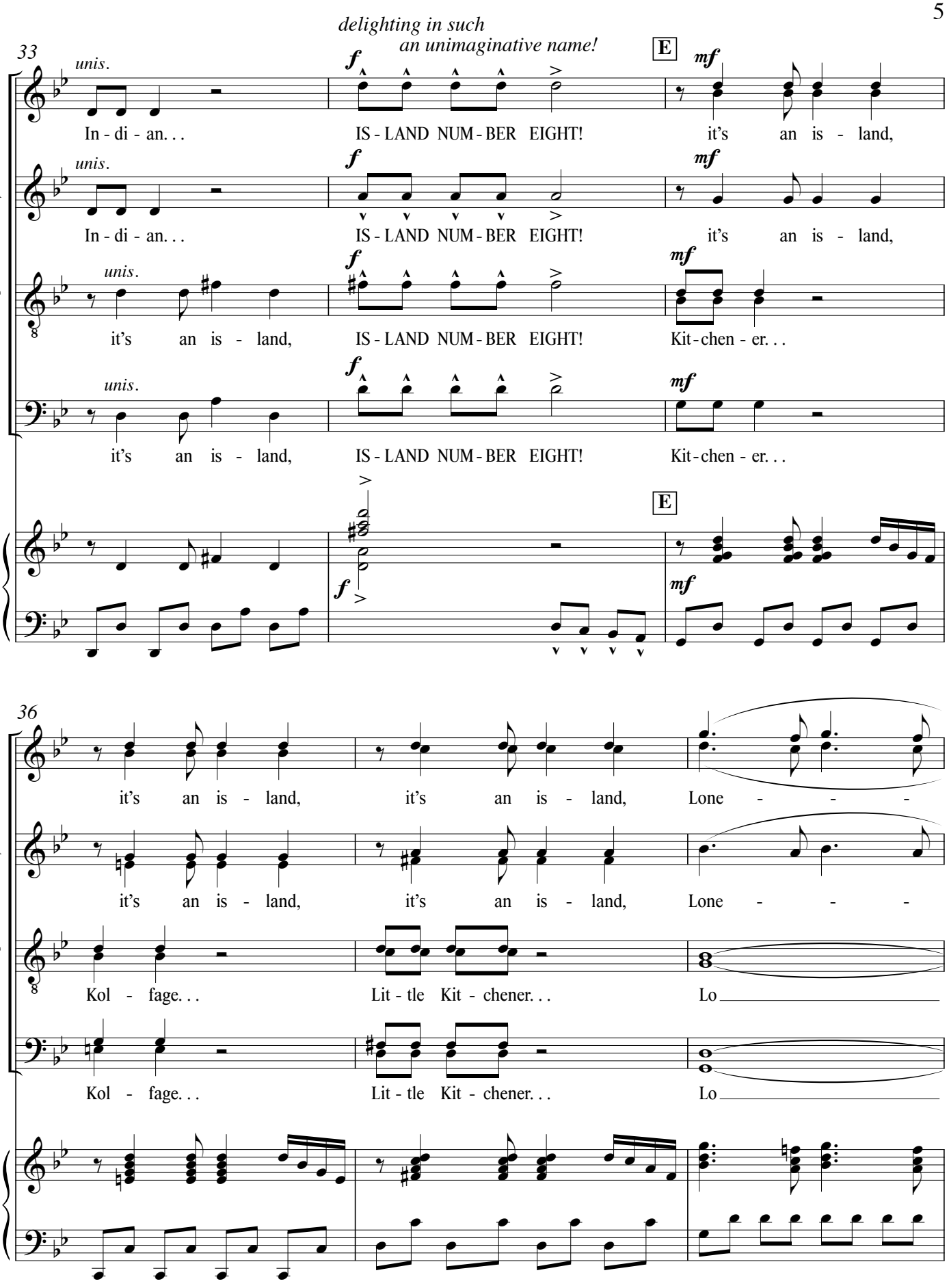

B enjoying the island names
9
S
A
T
B
p
Bear. . .
p
Is - land,
B enjoying the island names
12
Birch. . .
Boot. . .
Burke. . .
Is - land,
Is - land,
Is - land,
15
mp
mf
Cove. . .
Crow. . .
Cock - burn. . .
mp
mf
Is - land,
Is - land,
Is - land,
mp
mf


18
C
p
S
A
Cran - ber - ry. . .
Is - land,
Is - land,
T
B
p
Is - land,
Dev - il. . . _
Dol - lar. . .
C
p
21
cresc.
mf
S
A
cresc.
Is - land,
Is - land,
Is - land,
T
B
mf
Doc - tor. . . _
Great Duck. . .
Mid - dle Duck. . .
cresc.
mf
24
with delight
p sub.
S
A
Is - land,
Is - land,
Duck, Duck, Duck, Duck, Duck, Duck, Duck, Duck,
with delight
p sub.
T
B
West-ern Duck. . .
Out-er Duck. . .
Duck, Duck, Duck, Duck, Duck, Duck, Duck, Duck,
p sub.

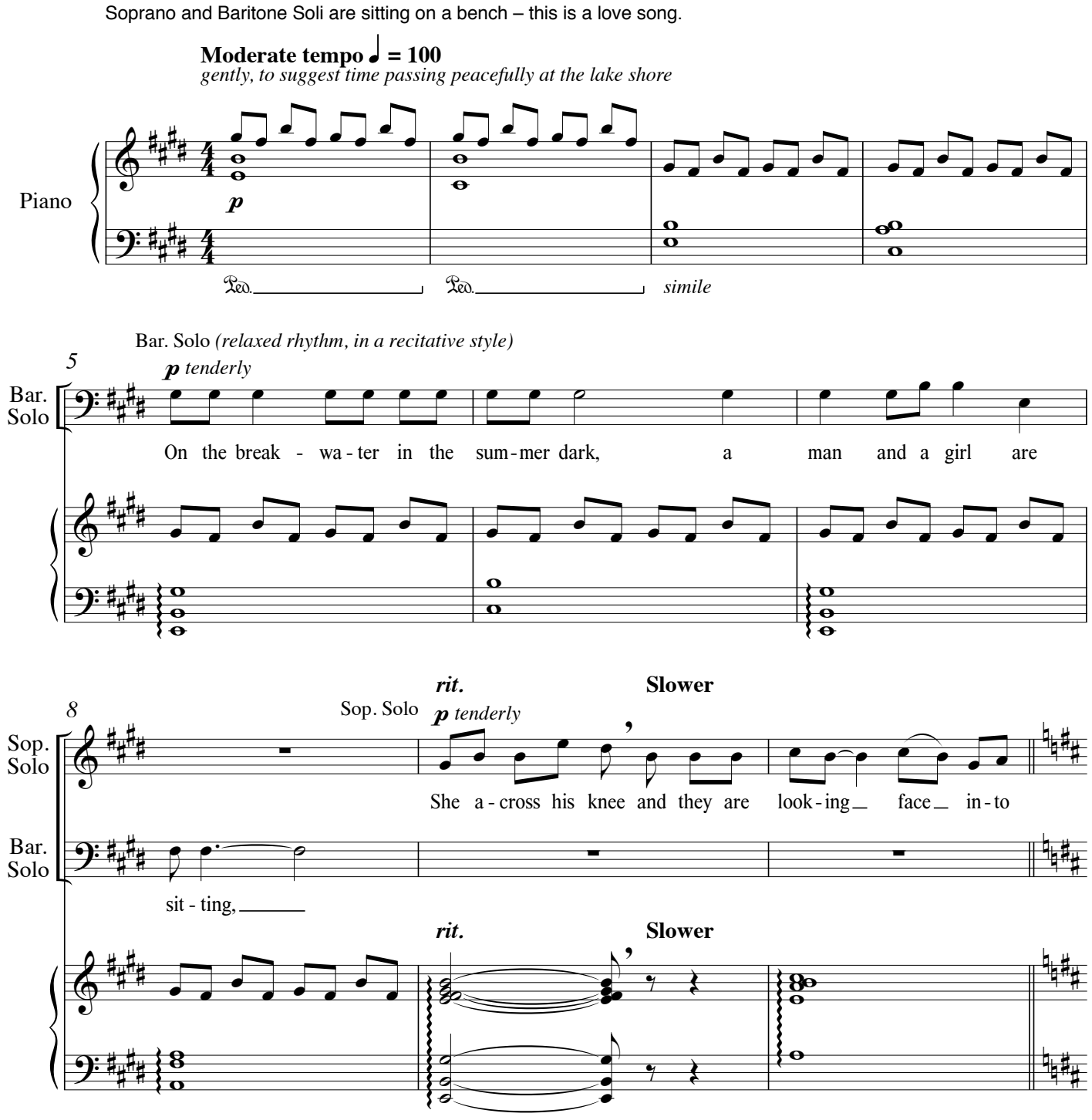

D The islands come alive with rhythm
27
f
S
Goat. . .
Goose. . .
Gull Rock. . .
A
Goat. . .
Goose. . .
Gull Rock. . .
T
it's an is - land,
it's an is - land,
it's an is - land,
B
it's an is - land,
it's an is - land,
it's an is - land,
D
30
mf
S
Gar - den. . .
Herch-el. . .
Ha - ven. . .
A
Gar - den. . .
Herch-el. . .
Ha - ven. . .
T
it's an is - land,
it's an is - land,
it's an is - land,
B
it's an is - land,
it's an is - land,
it's an is - land,


delighting in such
an unimaginative name!
33
unis.
S
A
T
B
In - di - an. . .
IS - LAND NUM - BER EIGHT!
it's an is - land,
Kit - chen - er. . .
E
36
Lone - - -
Kol - fage. . .
Lit - tle Kit - chener. . .
Lo

5. Songs From the Shore
[Lake Michigan]

1. On the Breakwater

"On the Breakwater" by
Carl Sandburg (1878–1967)
from *Chicago Poems* (pub. 1916)



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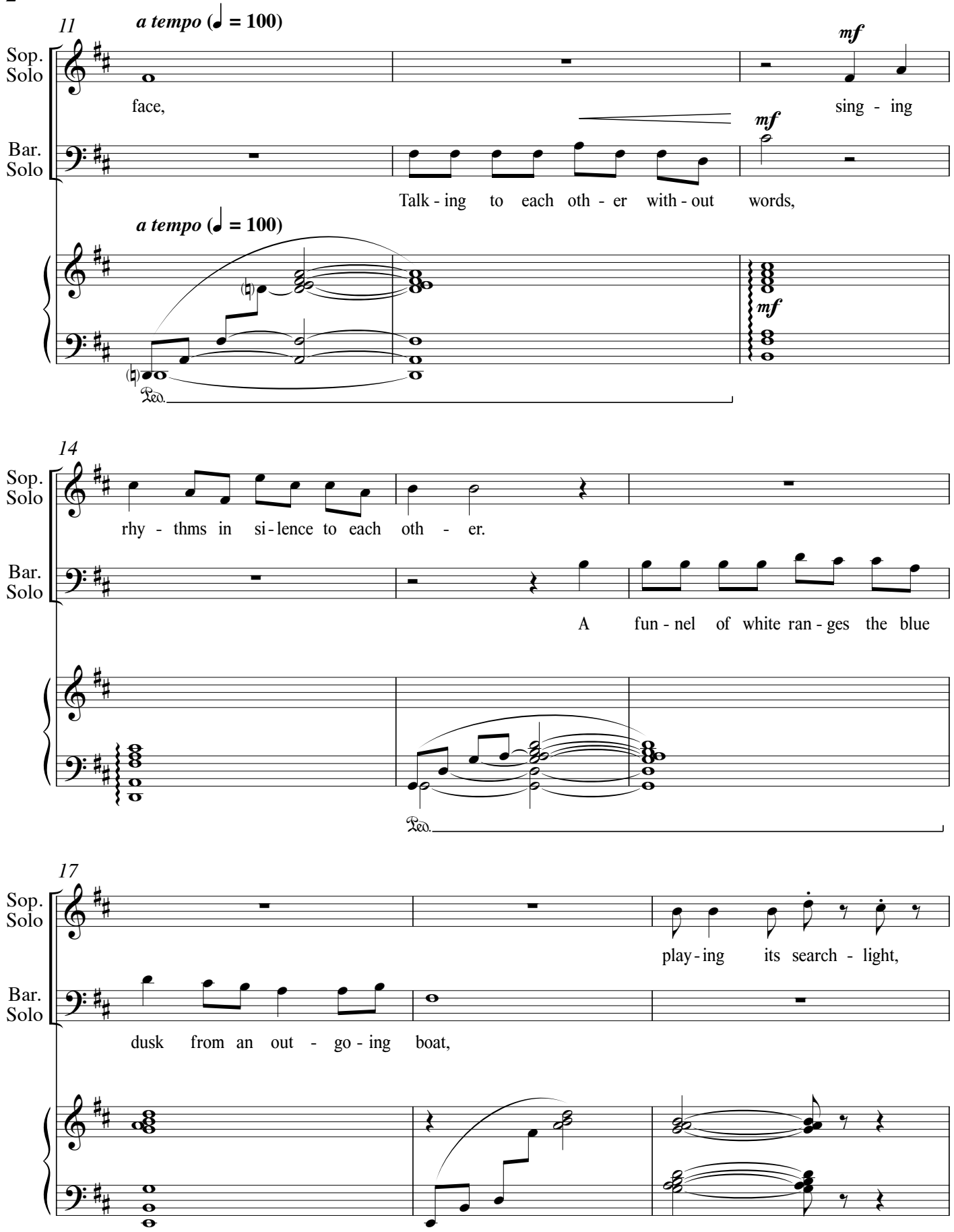
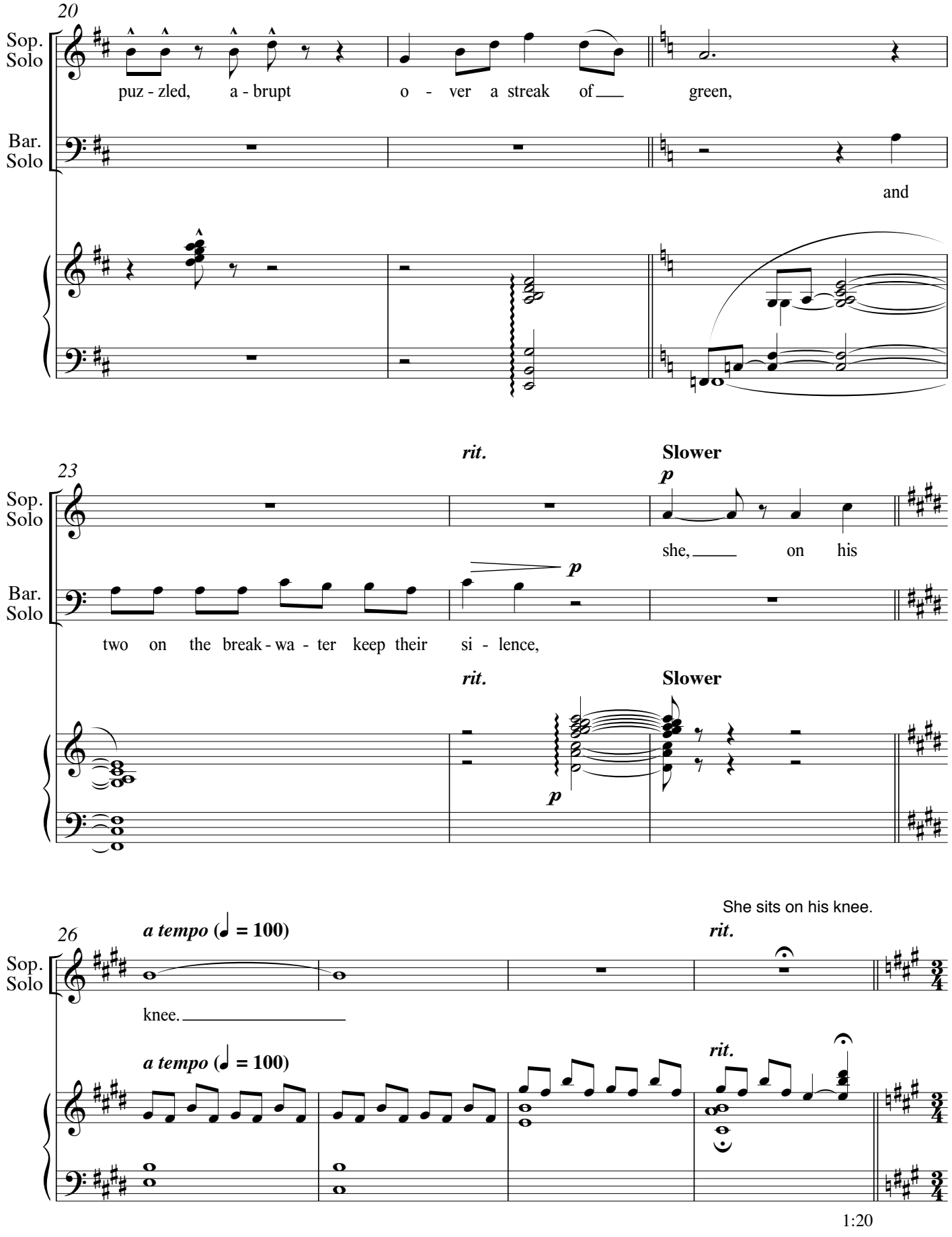
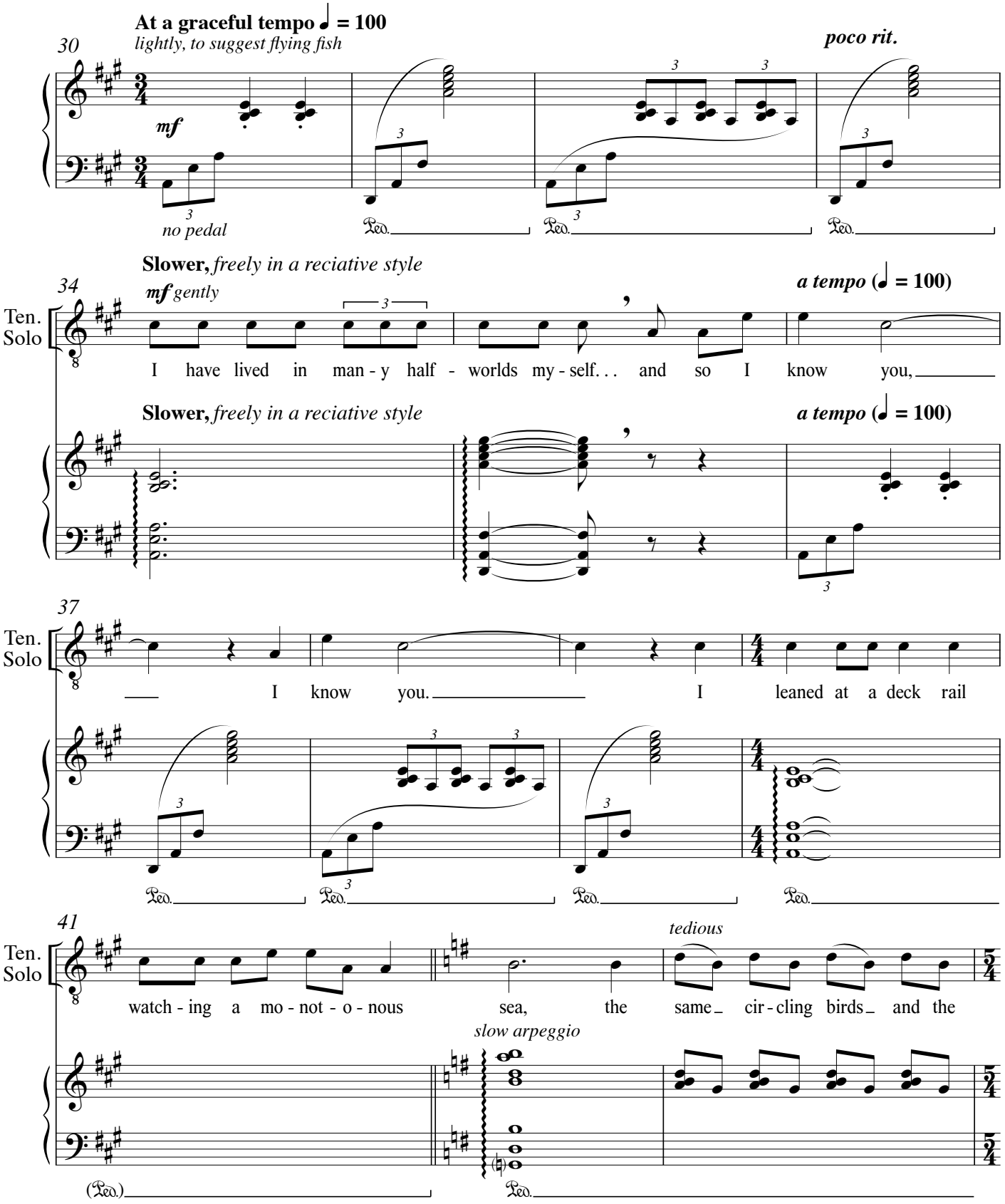
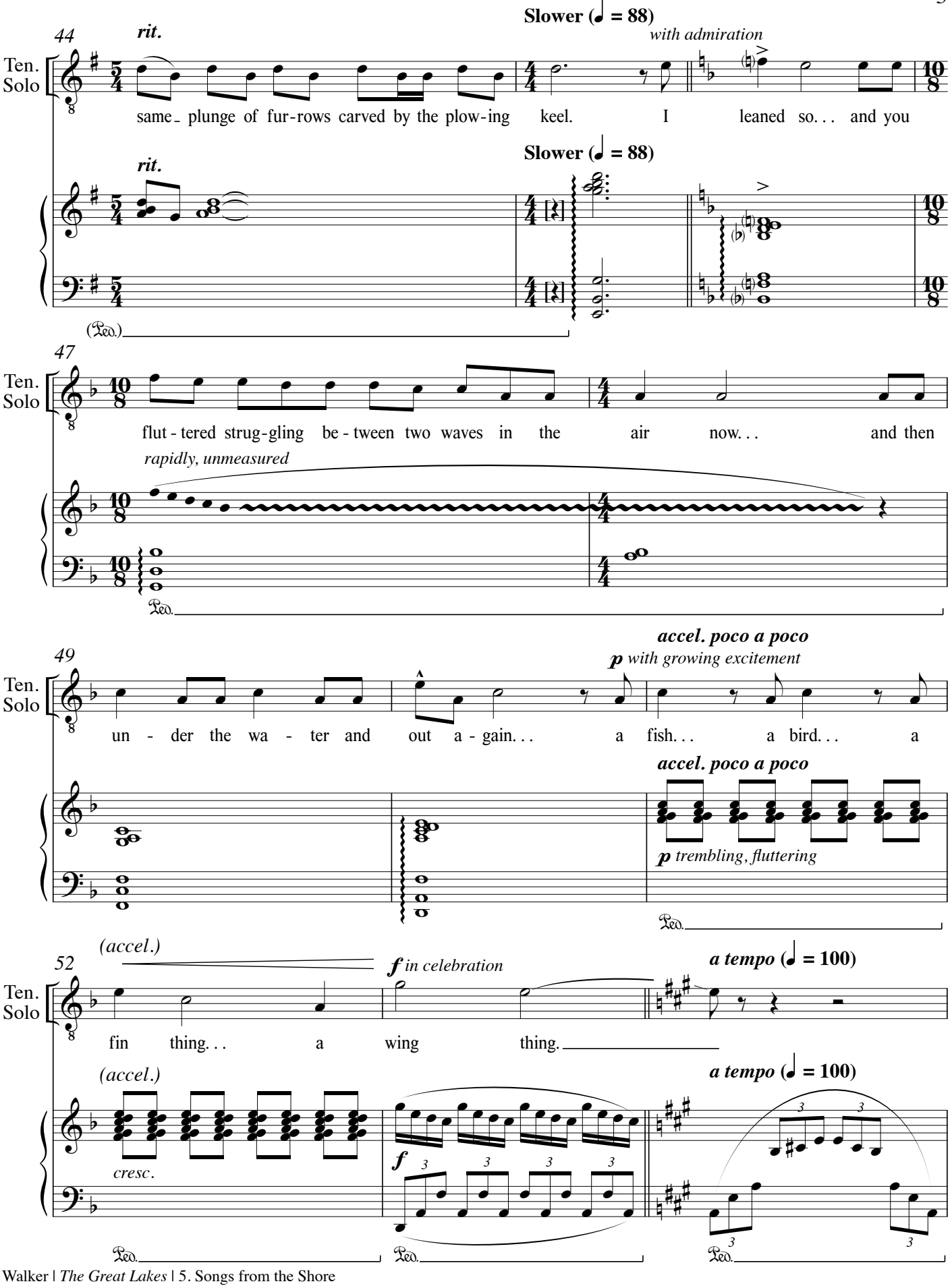

11
a tempo (♩ = 100)
Sop. Solo
face,
mf
sing - ing
Bar. Solo
mf
Talk - ing to each oth - er with - out words,
a tempo (♩ = 100)
mf
Ped.
14
Sop. Solo
rhy - thms in si - lence to each oth - er.
Bar. Solo
A fun - nel of white ran - ges the blue
Ped.
17
Sop. Solo
play - ing its search - light,
Bar. Solo
dusk from an out - go - ing boat,

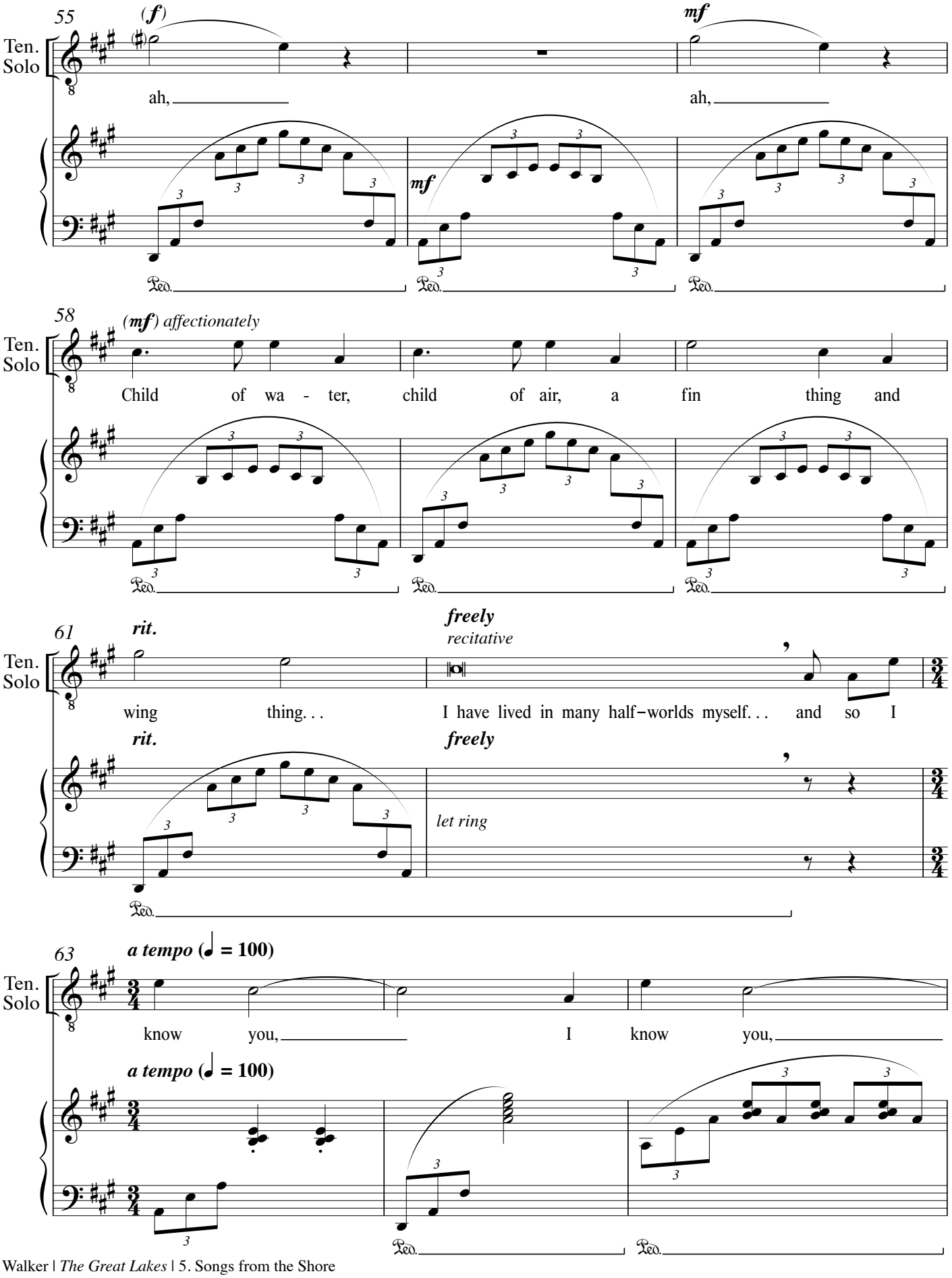

20
Sop. Solo
puz - zled, a - brupt o - ver a streak of green,
Bar. Solo
and
23
rit.
Slower
p
she, on his
p
two on the break - wa - ter keep their si - lence,
rit.
Slower
p
26
a tempo (♩ = 100)
She sits on his knee.
rit.
knee.
a tempo (♩ = 100)
rit.
1:20

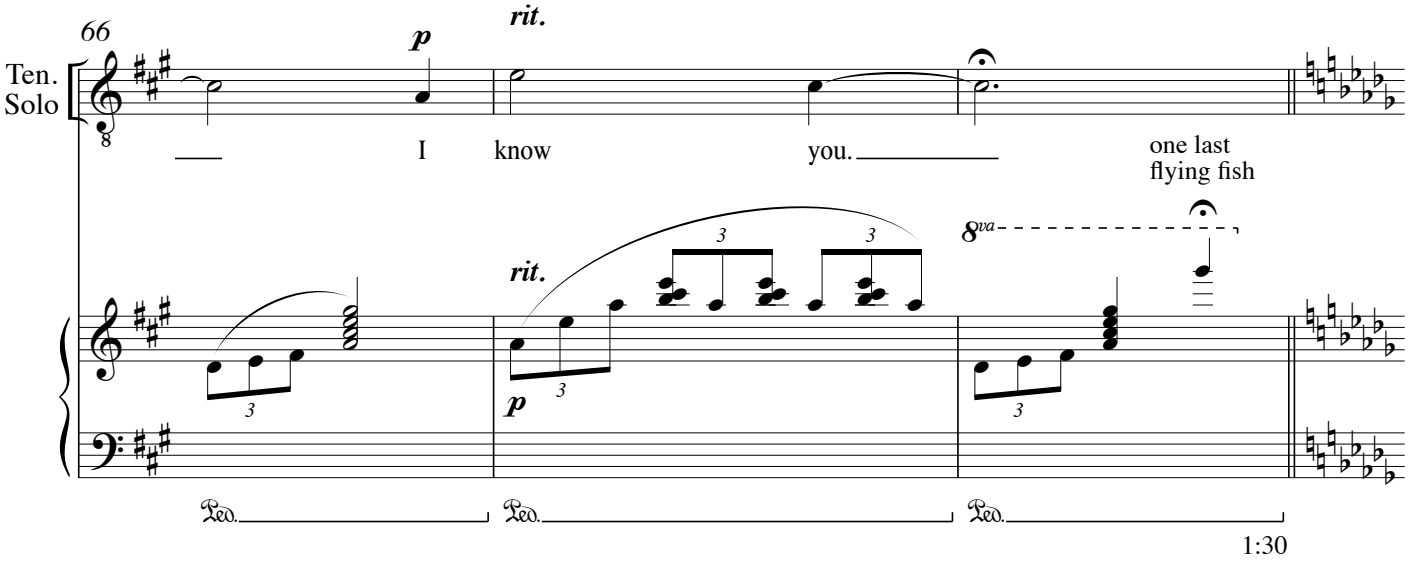
2. Flying Fish

"Flying Fish" by
Carl Sandburg (1878–1967)
from *Smoke and Steel* (pub. 1922)



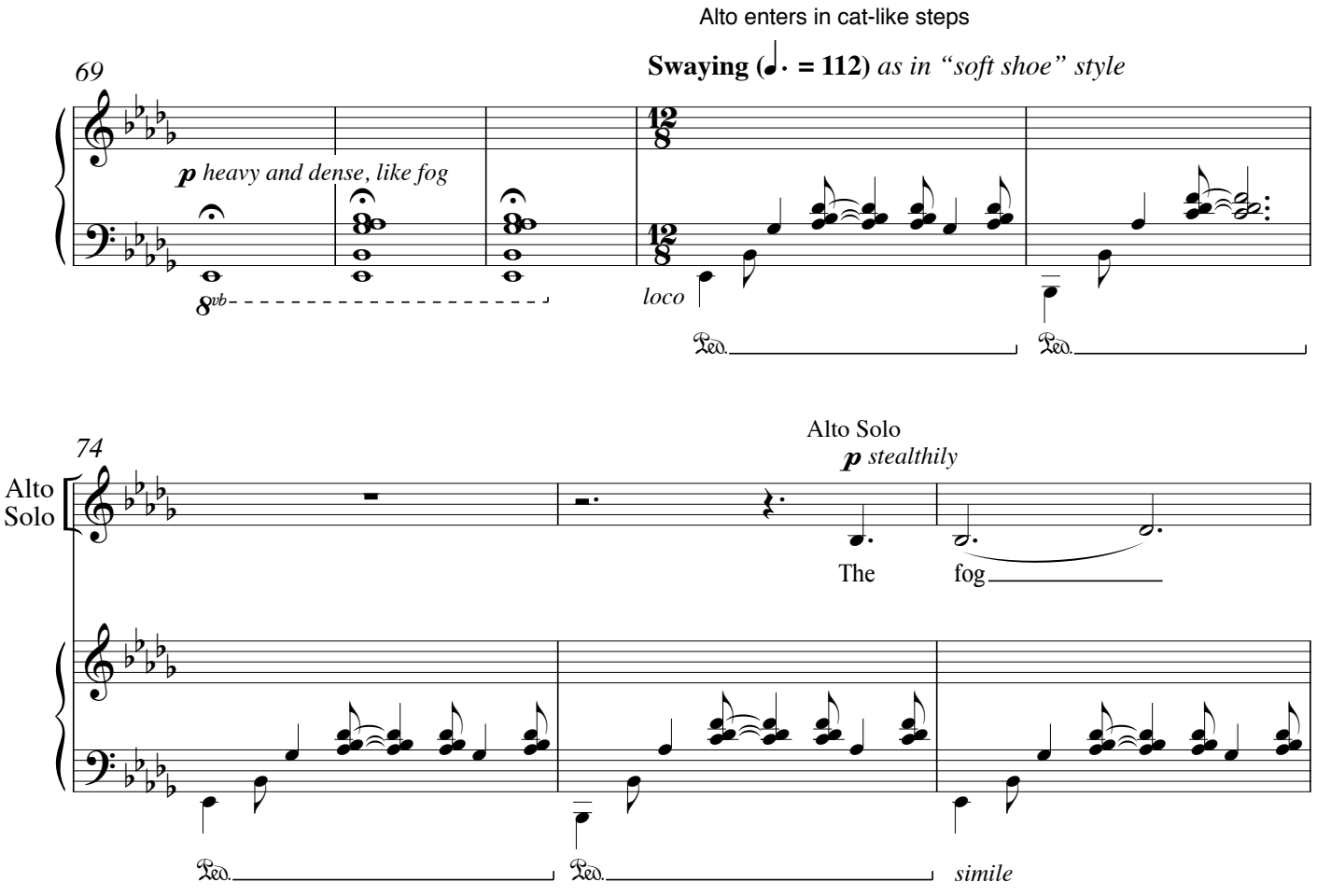

44
rit.
Slower (♩ = 88)
with admiration
Ten. Solo
same plunge of fur-rows carved by the plow-ing keel. I leaned so... and you
rit.
Slower (♩ = 88)
(Ped.)
47
Ten. Solo
flut-tered strug-gling be-tween two waves in the air now... and then
rapidly, unmeasured
Ped.
49
accel. poco a poco
p with growing excitement
Ten. Solo
un-der the wa-ter and out a-gain... a fish... a bird... a
accel. poco a poco
p trembling, fluttering
Ped.
52
(accel.)
f in celebration
a tempo (♩ = 100)
Ten. Solo
fin thing... a wing thing.
(accel.)
a tempo (♩ = 100)
cresc.
f
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

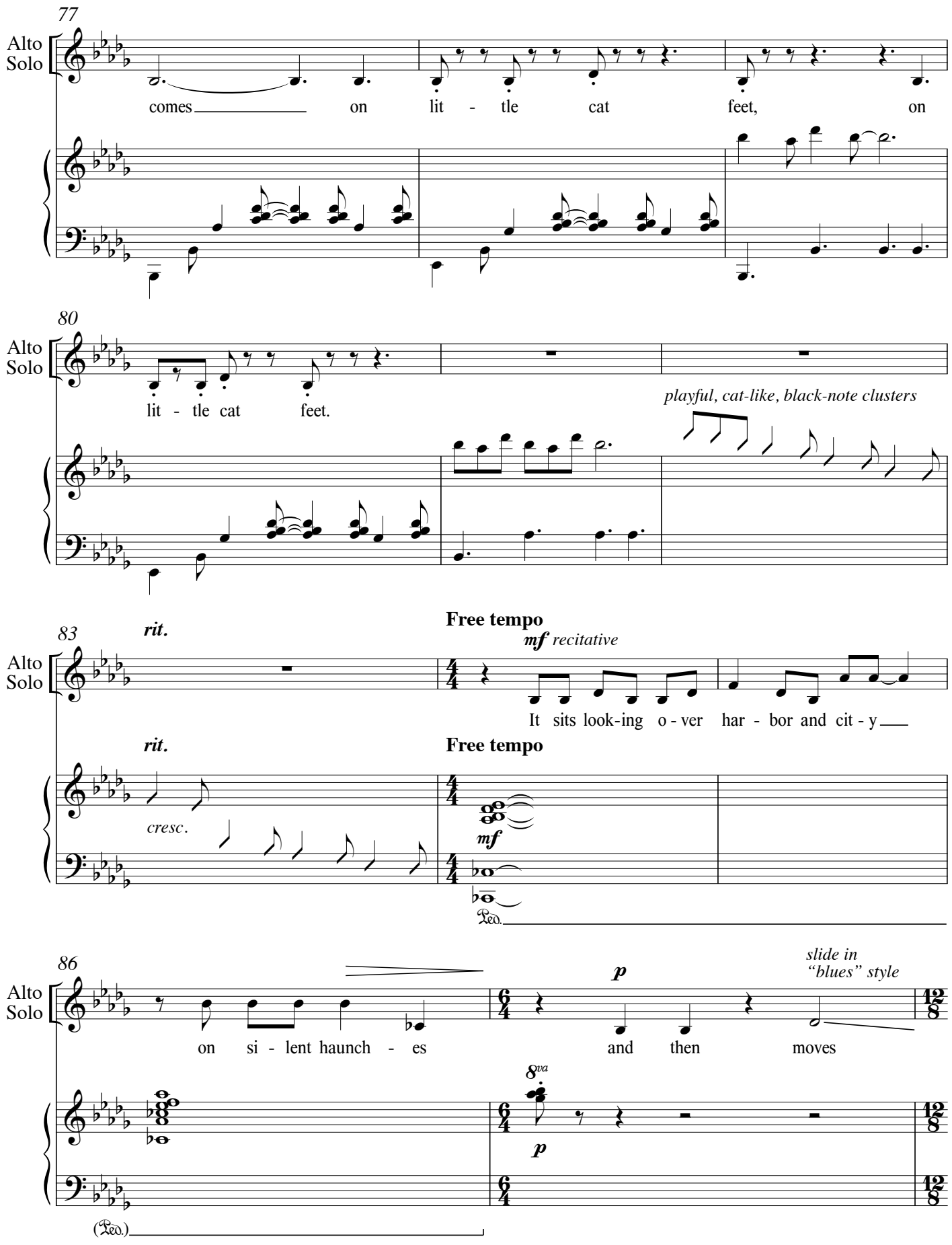

55
(f)
mf
Ten.
Solo
ah,
ah,
mf
58
(mf) affectionately
Ten.
Solo
Child of wa - ter, child of air, a fin thing and
61
rit.
freely
recitative
Ten.
Solo
wing thing. . .
I have lived in many half−worlds myself. . . and so I
rit.
freely
let ring
63
a tempo (♩ = 100)
Ten.
Solo
know you,
I know you,
a tempo (♩ = 100)

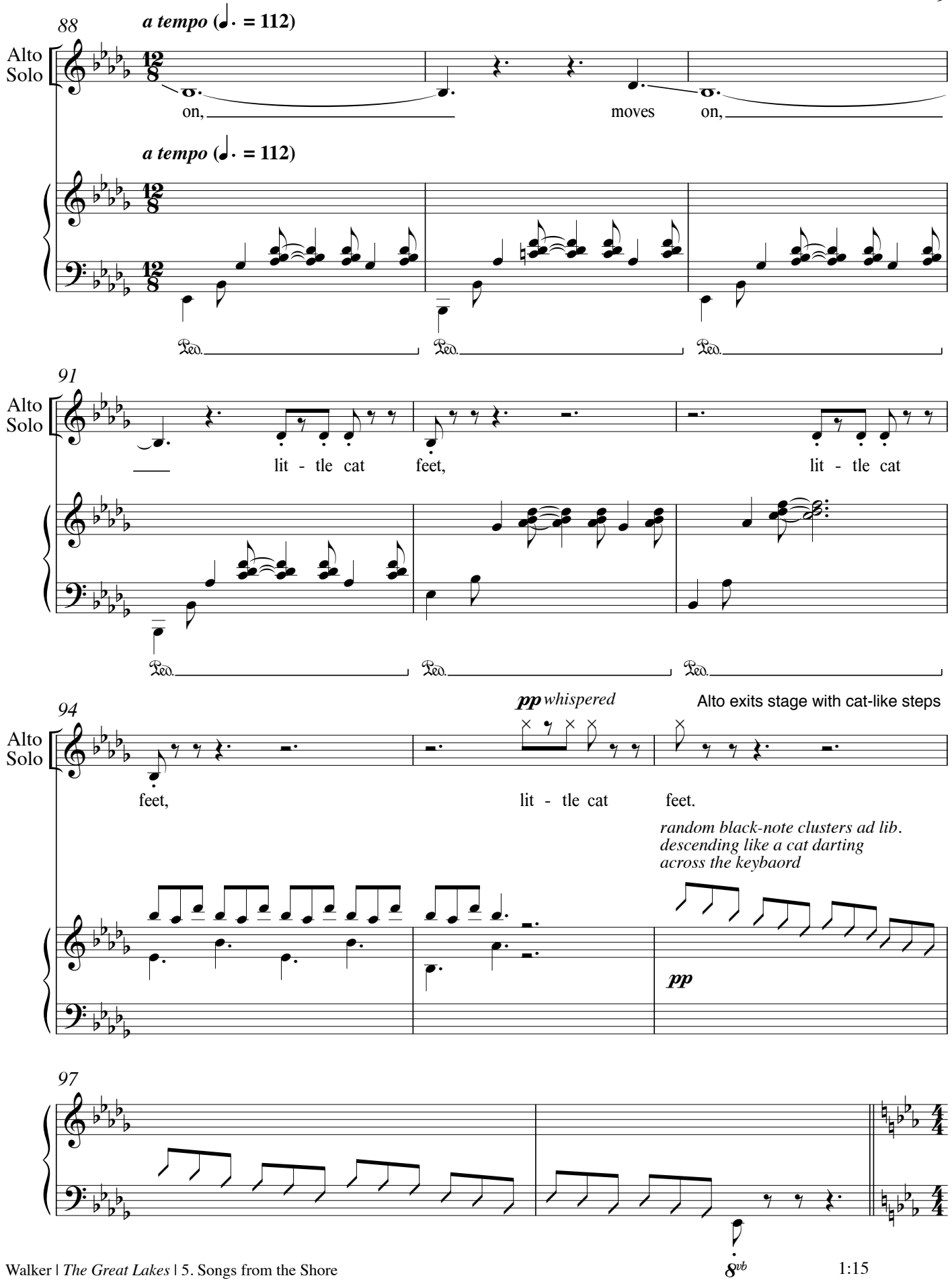


3. Fog (a soft shoe)

"Fog" by
Carl Sandburg (1878–1967)
from *Chicago Poems* (pub. 1916)

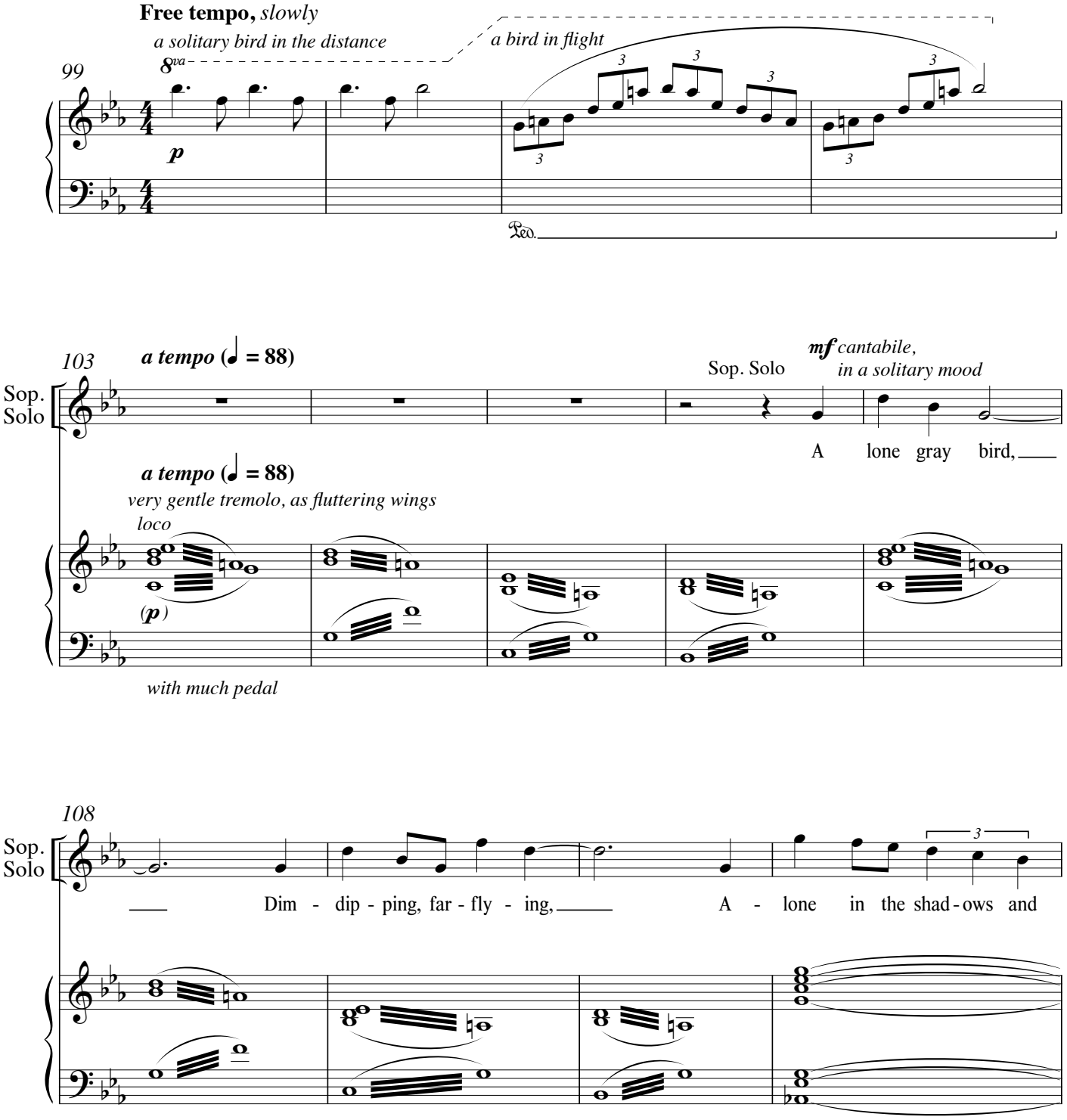


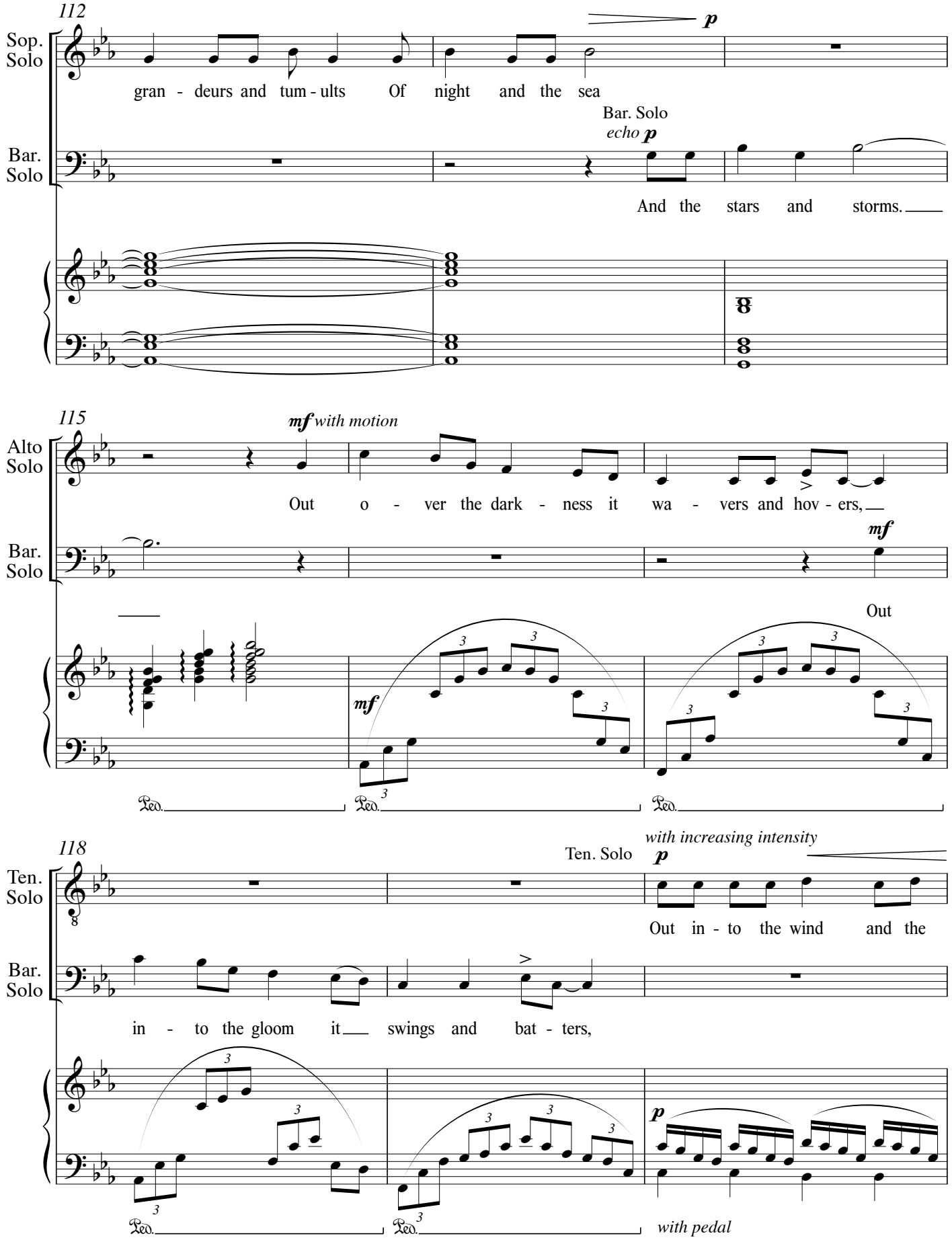

77
Alto Solo
comes on lit - tle cat feet, on
80
Alto Solo
lit - tle cat feet.
playful, cat-like, black-note clusters
83
rit.
Free tempo
mf recitative
Alto Solo
It sits look-ing o - ver har - bor and cit - y
rit.
Free tempo
cresc.
mf
Ped.
86
Alto Solo
on si - lent haunch - es
p
and then moves
slide in "blues" style
8va
p
(Ped.)

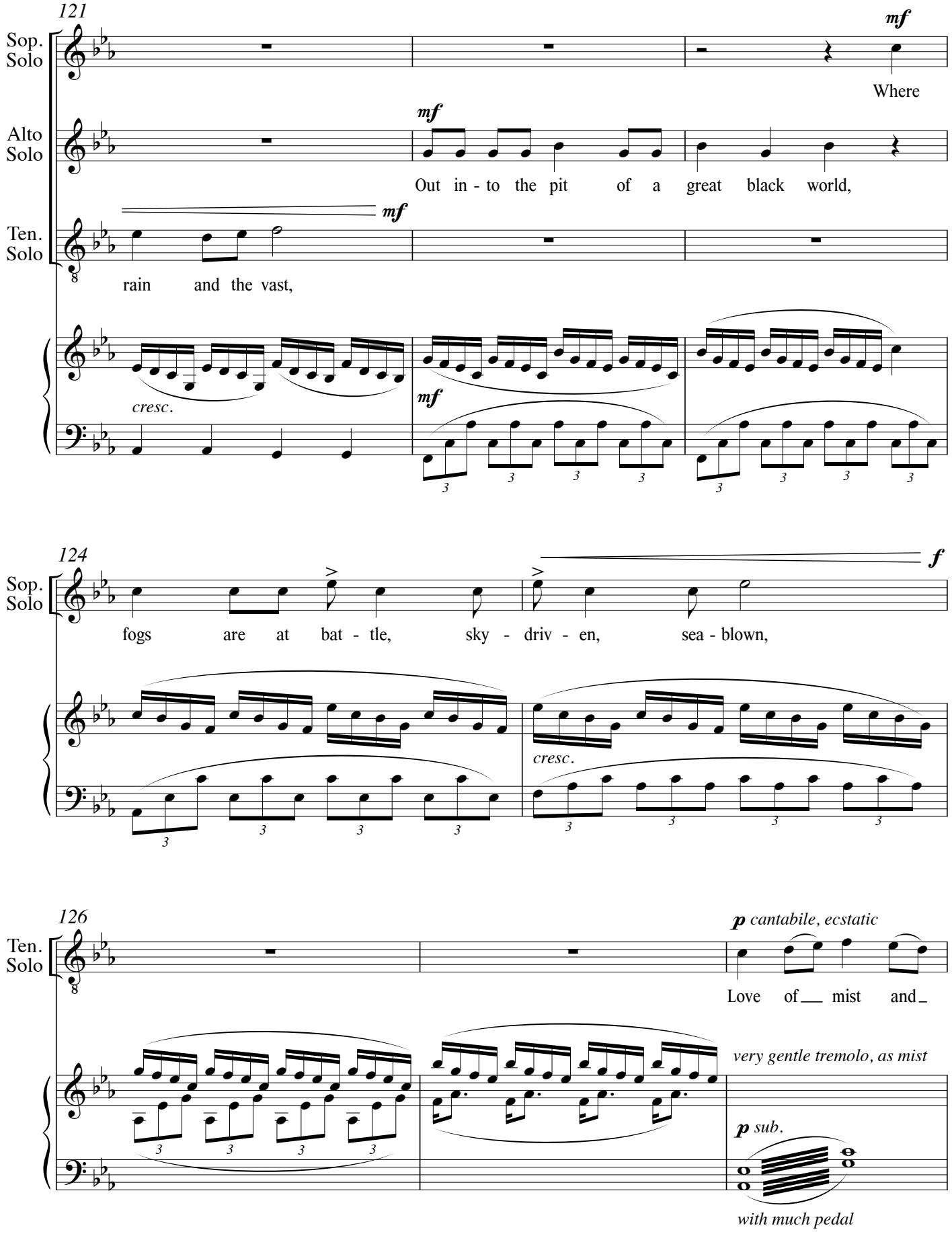

88
a tempo (♩. = 112)
Alto Solo
on,
moves
on,
a tempo (♩. = 112)
Ped.
91
Alto Solo
lit - tle cat
feet,
lit - tle cat
94
pp whispered
Alto exits stage with cat-like steps
Alto Solo
feet,
lit - tle cat
feet.
random black-note clusters ad lib.
descending like a cat darting
across the keybaord
pp
97
8vb

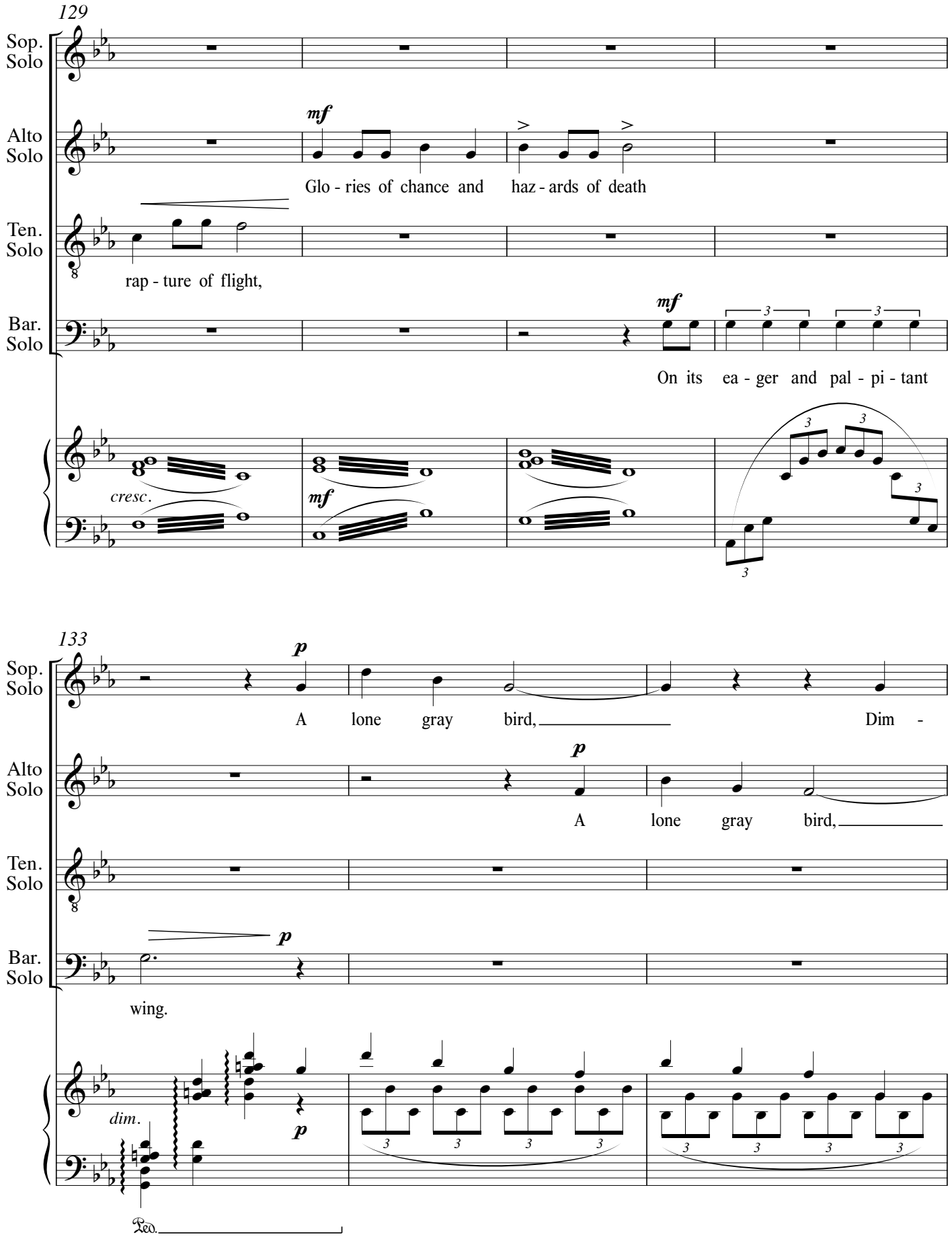
4. From the Shore

"From the Shore" by
Carl Sandburg (1878–1967)
from *Chicago Poems* (pub. 1916)



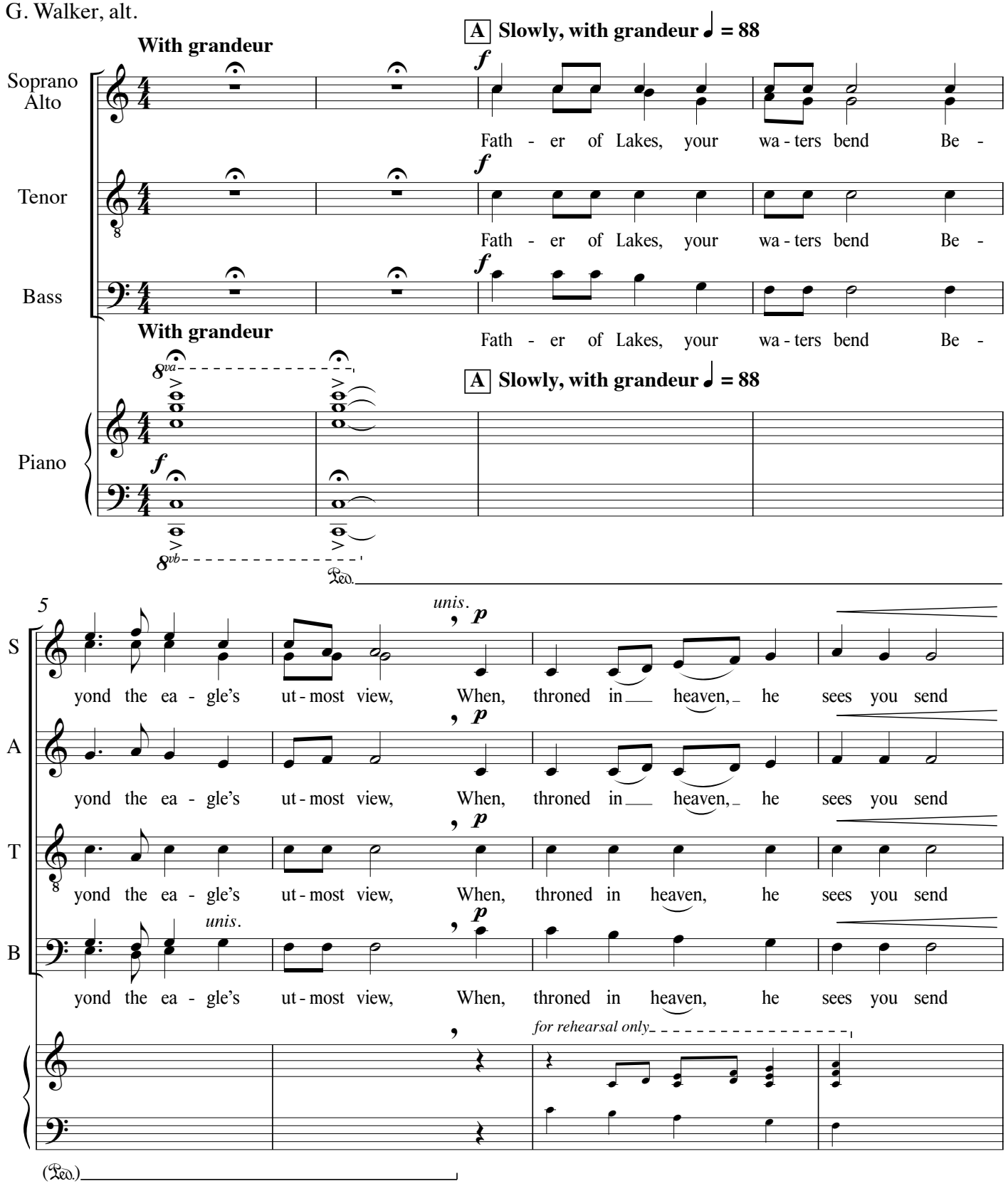

112
Sop. Solo
p
gran - deurs and tum - ults Of night and the sea
Bar. Solo
Bar. Solo
echo p
And the stars and storms.
115
Alto Solo
mf with motion
Out o - ver the dark - ness it wa - vers and hov - ers,
Bar. Solo
mf
Out
mf
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
118
Ten. Solo
with increasing intensity
p
Ten. Solo
Out in - to the wind and the
Bar. Solo
in - to the gloom it swings and bat - ters,
p
Ped.
Ped.
with pedal


121
Sop. Solo
mf
Where
Alto Solo
mf
Out in - to the pit of a great black world,
Ten. Solo
mf
rain and the vast,
cresc.
mf
124
Sop. Solo
f
fogs are at bat - tle, sky - driv - en, sea - blown,
cresc.
126
Ten. Solo
p cantabile, ecstatic
Love of mist and
very gentle tremolo, as mist
p sub.
with much pedal


129
Sop. Solo
Alto Solo
Ten. Solo
Bar. Solo
mf
Glo - ries of chance and haz - ards of death
rap - ture of flight,
mf
On its ea - ger and pal - pi - tant
cresc.
mf
133
p
A lone gray bird,
Dim -
p
A lone gray bird,
p
wing.
dim.
p
Ped.

6. Lake Superior

"Lake Superior" by
Samuel Griswold Goodrich (1793–1860)
G. Walker, alt.



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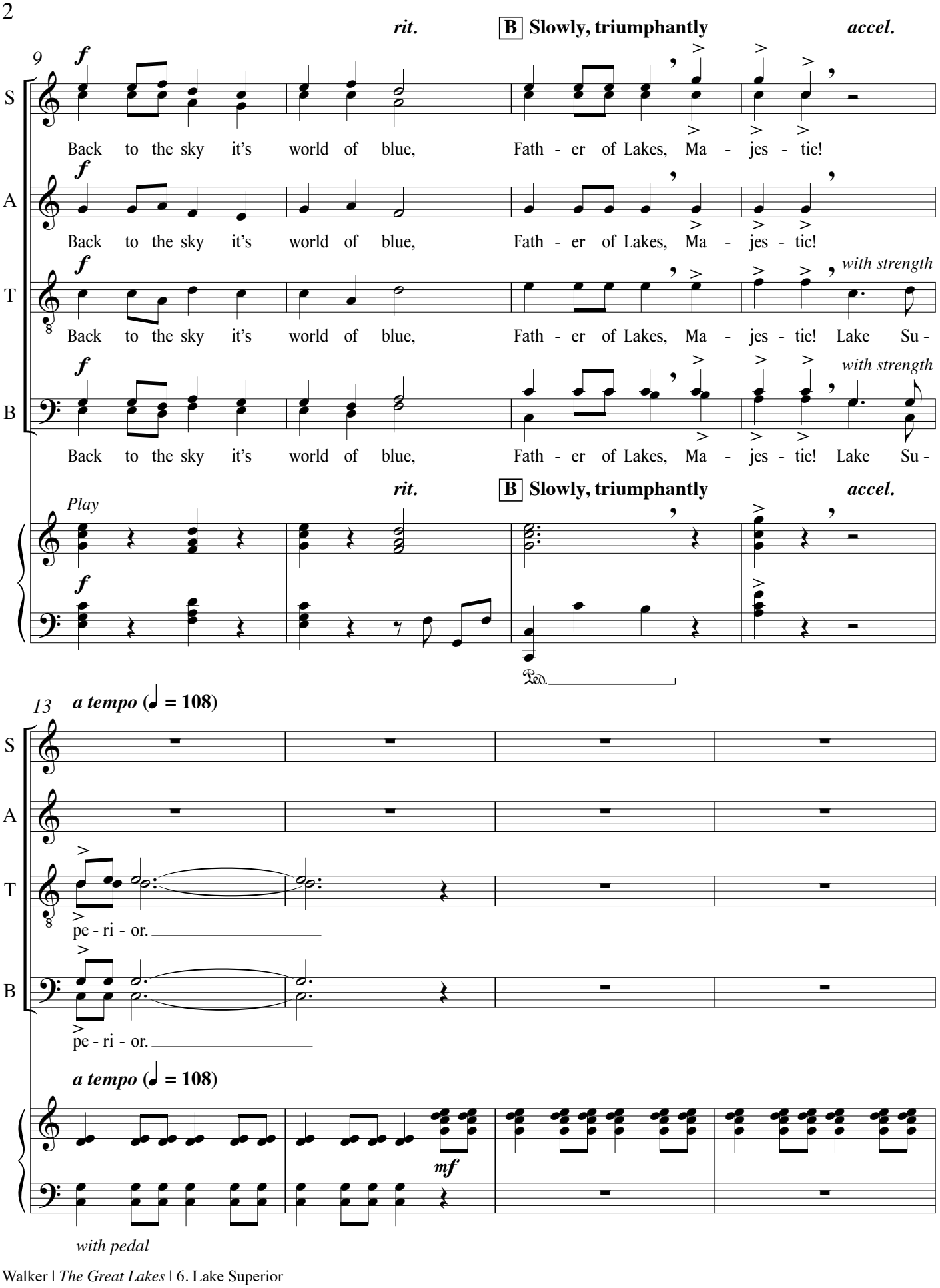
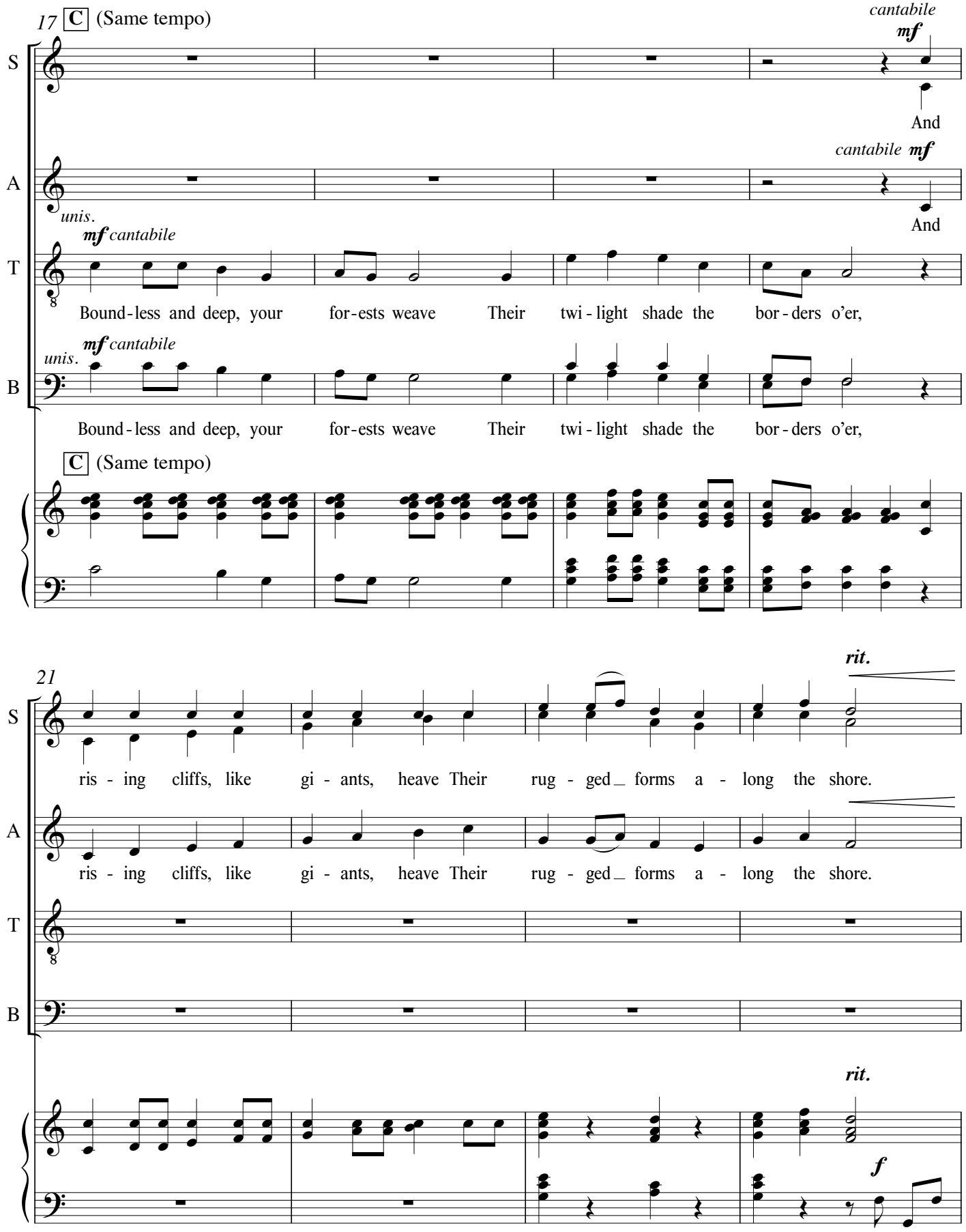
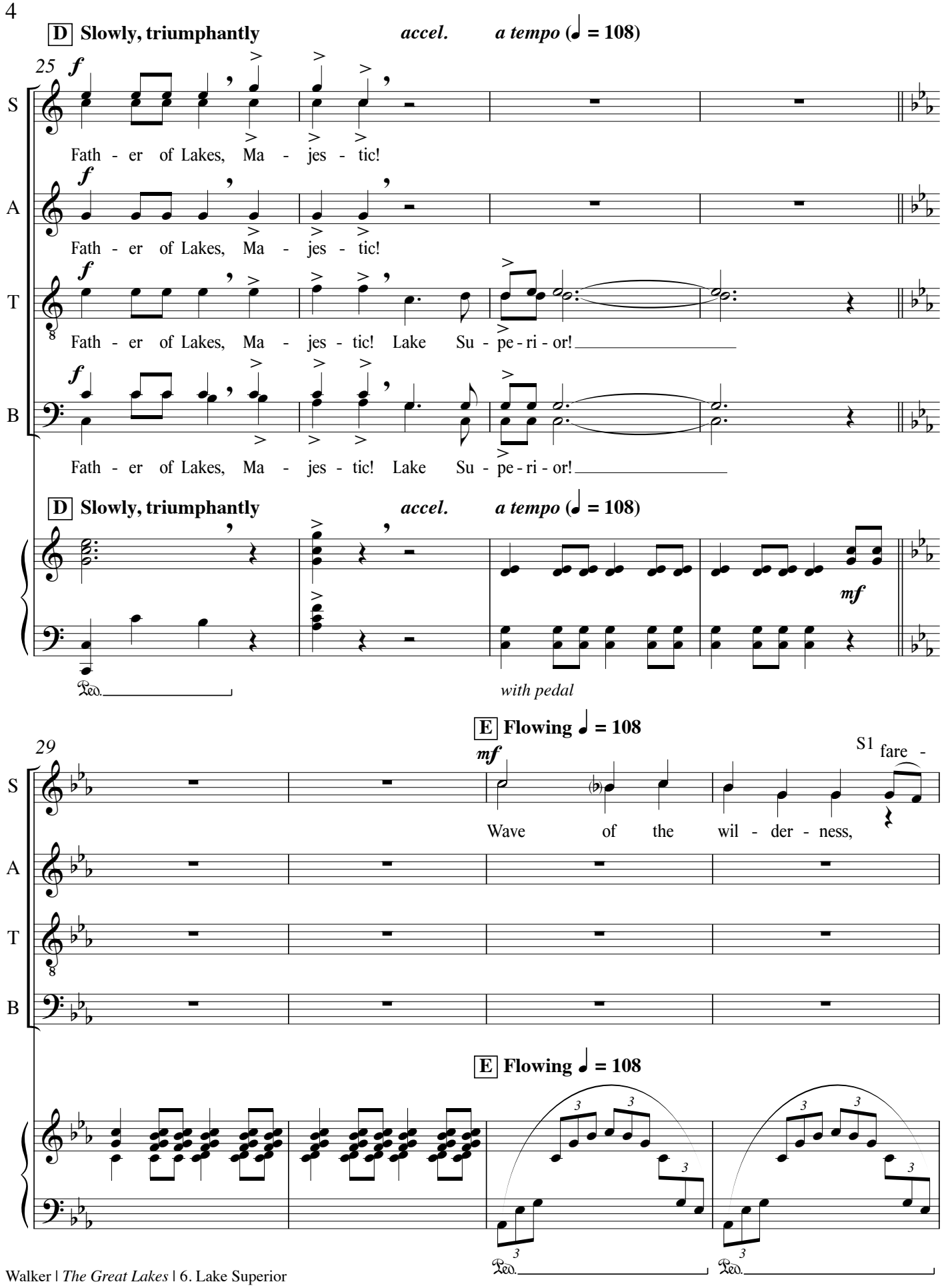
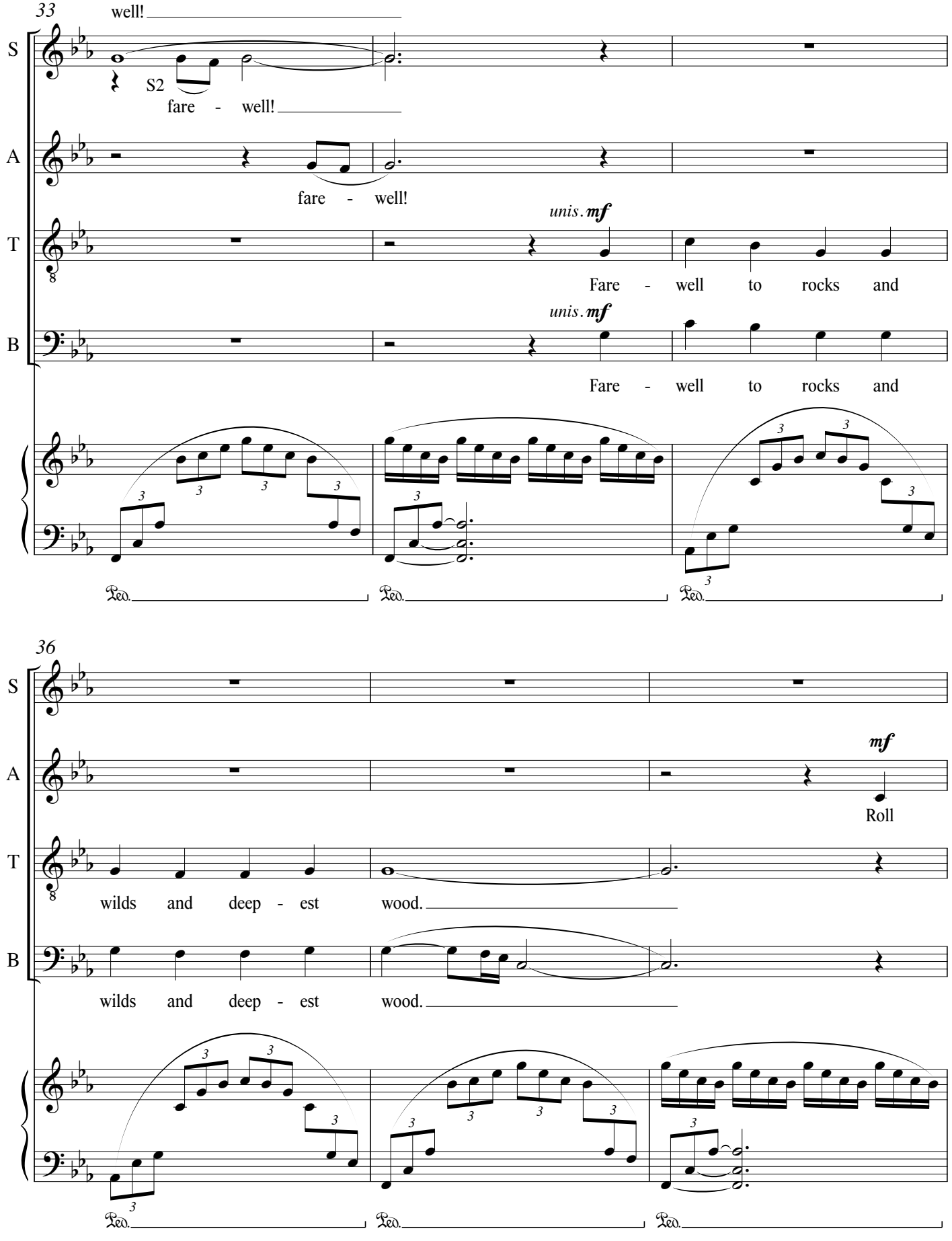

rit.
B Slowly, triumphantly
accel.
9
f
S
Back to the sky it's world of blue, Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic!
A
Back to the sky it's world of blue, Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic!
T
Back to the sky it's world of blue, Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic! Lake Su -
with strength
B
Back to the sky it's world of blue, Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic! Lake Su -
with strength
Play
Ped.
13
a tempo (♩ = 108)
pe - ri - or.
pe - ri - or.
mf
with pedal

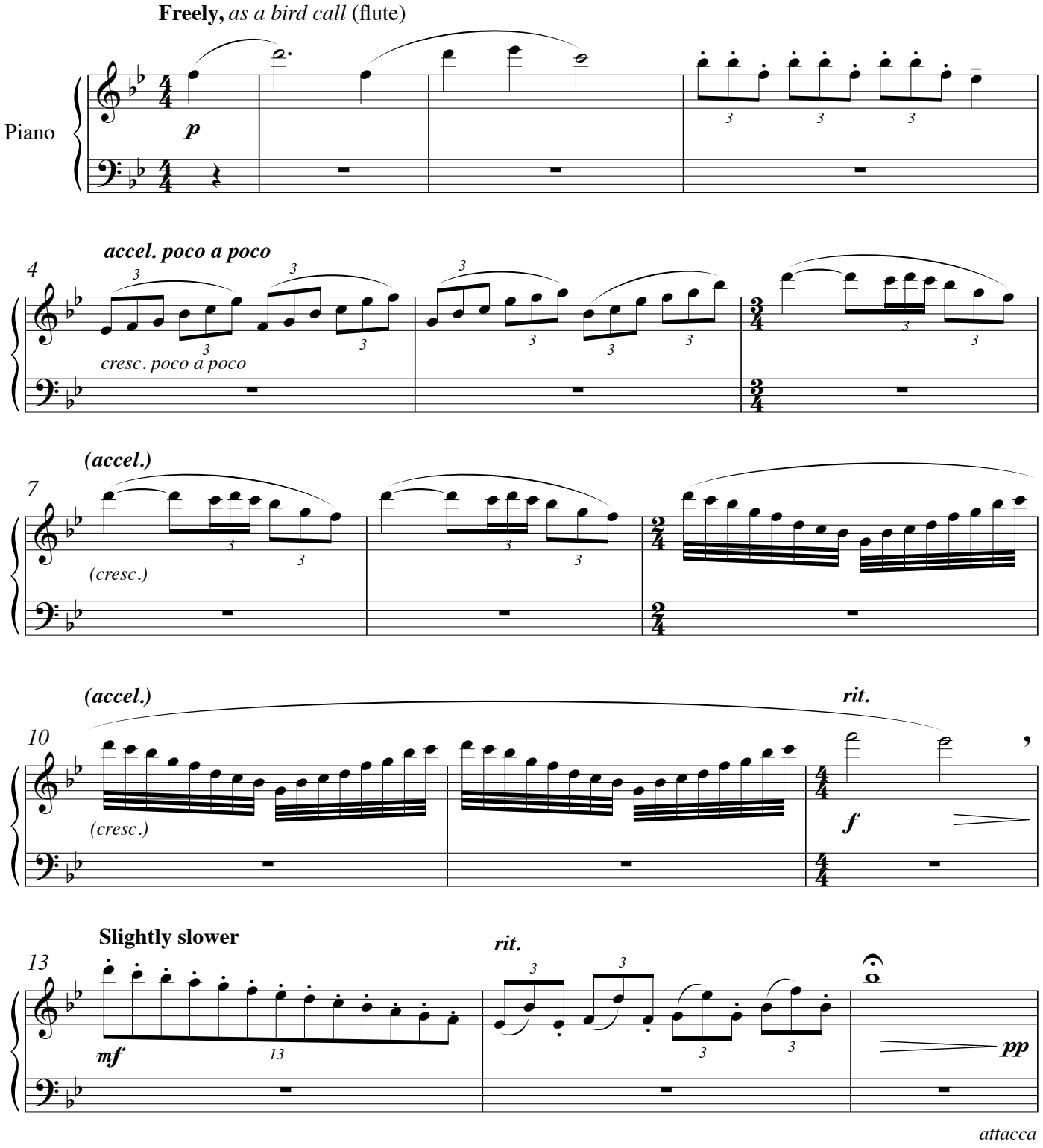

17 C (Same tempo)
cantabile
mf
S
And
cantabile mf
A
unis.
And
mf cantabile
T
Bound-less and deep, your for-ests weave Their twi-light shade the bor-ders o'er,
unis.
mf cantabile
B
Bound-less and deep, your for-ests weave Their twi-light shade the bor-ders o'er,
C (Same tempo)
21
rit.
S
ris-ing cliffs, like gi-ants, heave Their rug-ged_ forms a-long the shore.
A
ris-ing cliffs, like gi-ants, heave Their rug-ged_ forms a-long the shore.
T
B
rit.
f


D Slowly, triumphantly
accel.
a tempo (♩ = 108)
25
f
S
A
T
B
Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic!
Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic!
Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic! Lake Su - pe - ri - or!
Fath - er of Lakes, Ma - jes - tic! Lake Su - pe - ri - or!
D Slowly, triumphantly
accel.
a tempo (♩ = 108)
mf
Ped.
with pedal
E Flowing ♩ = 108
29
mf
S1
fare -
Wave of the wil - der - ness,
E Flowing ♩ = 108
3
Ped.
Ped.


33
well!
S
S2
fare - well!
A
fare - well!
T
unis. mf
Fare - well to rocks and
B
unis. mf
Fare - well to rocks and
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
36
S
A
mf
Roll
T
wilds and deep - est wood.
B
wilds and deep - est wood.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

7. As Birds in Flight

"Invocation to the Lakes" by
William Wilfred Campbell (1860–1918)
Canadian Poet



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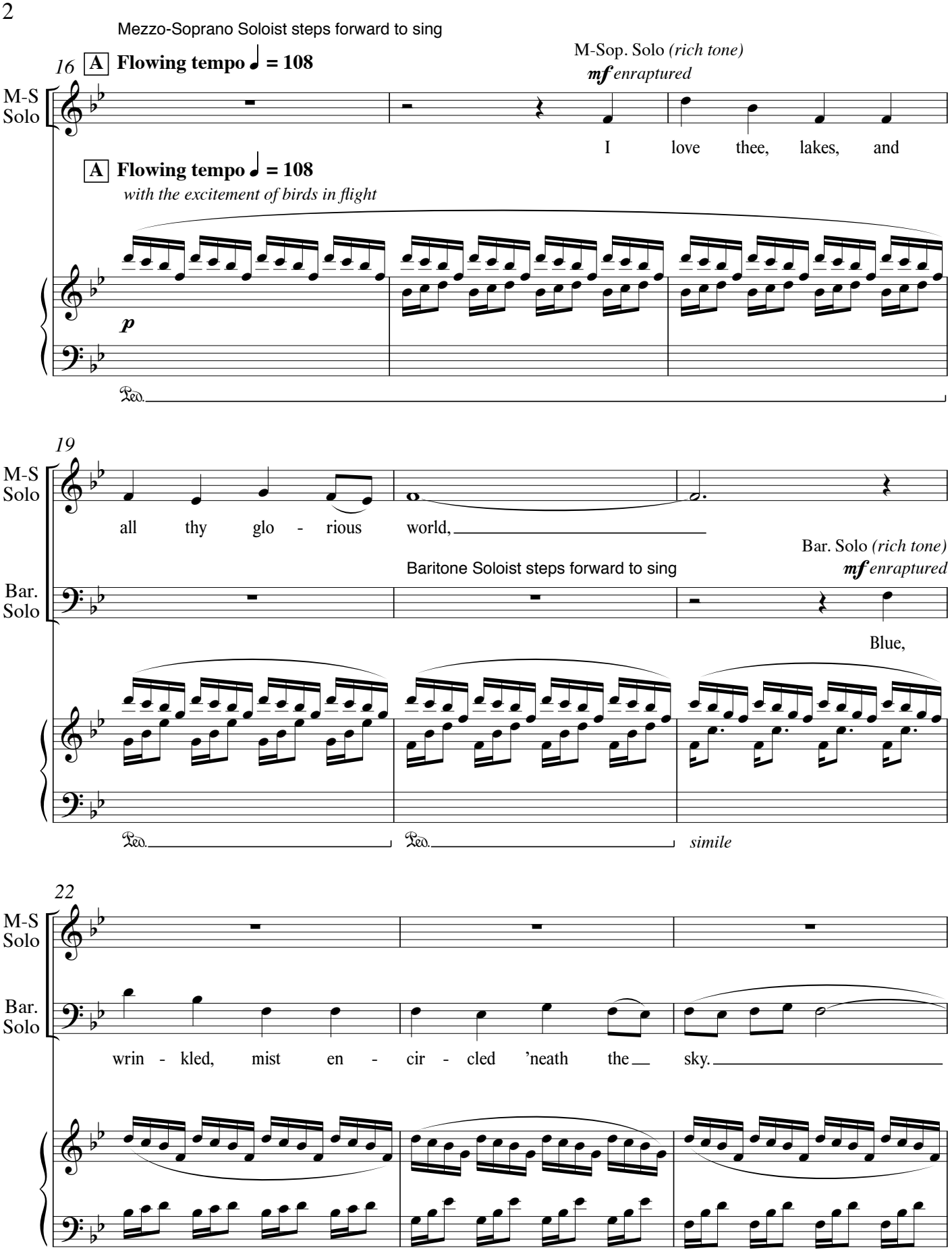
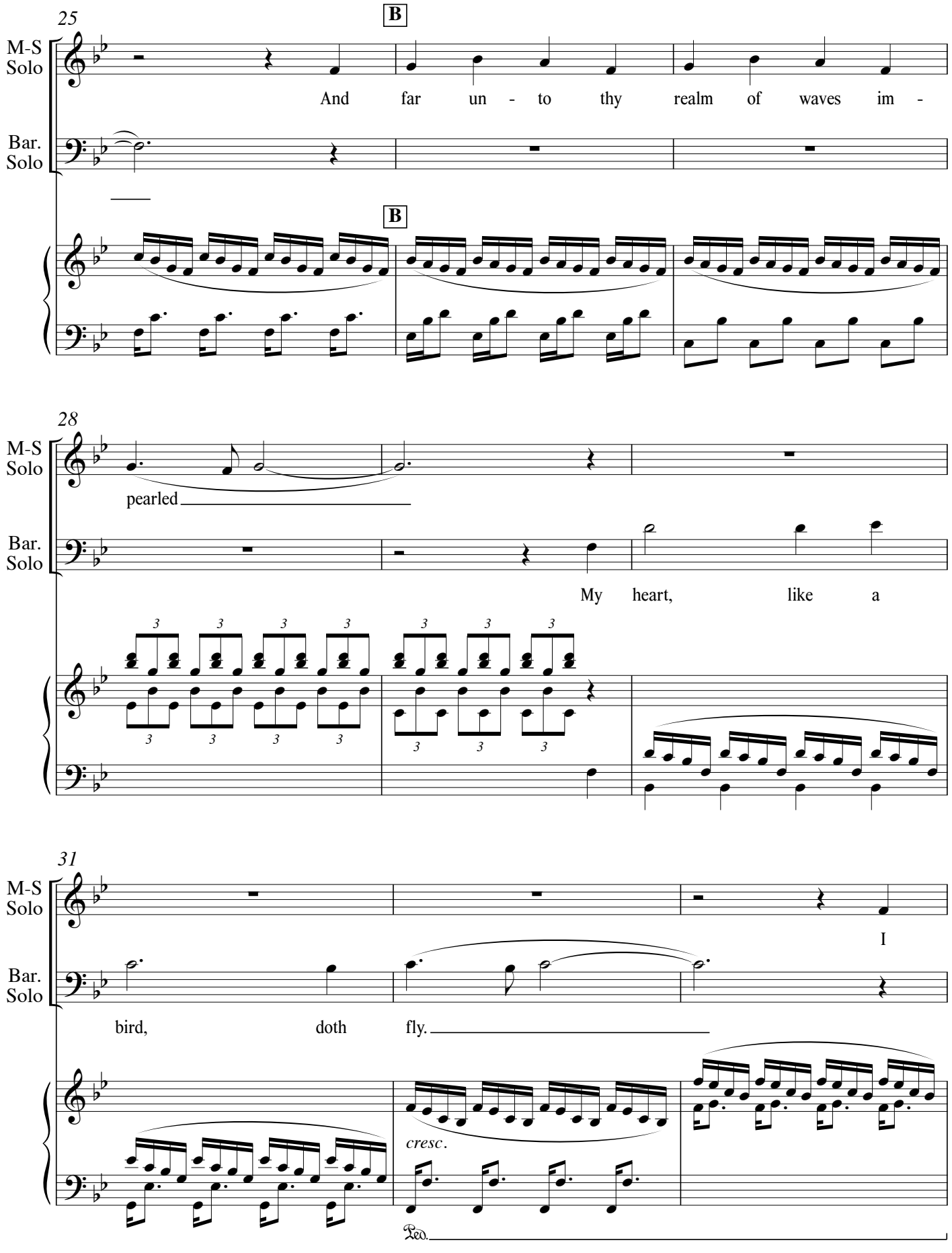
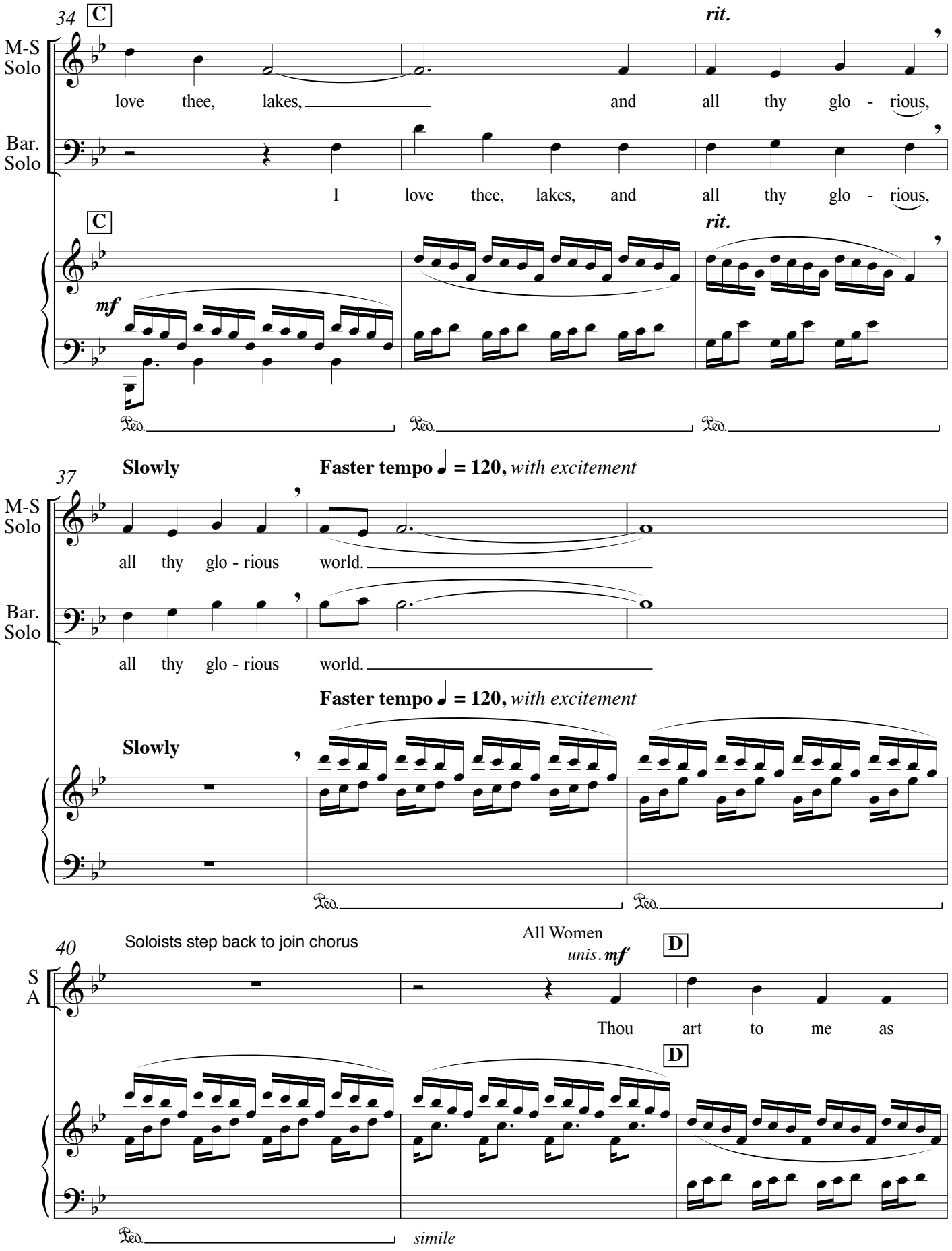
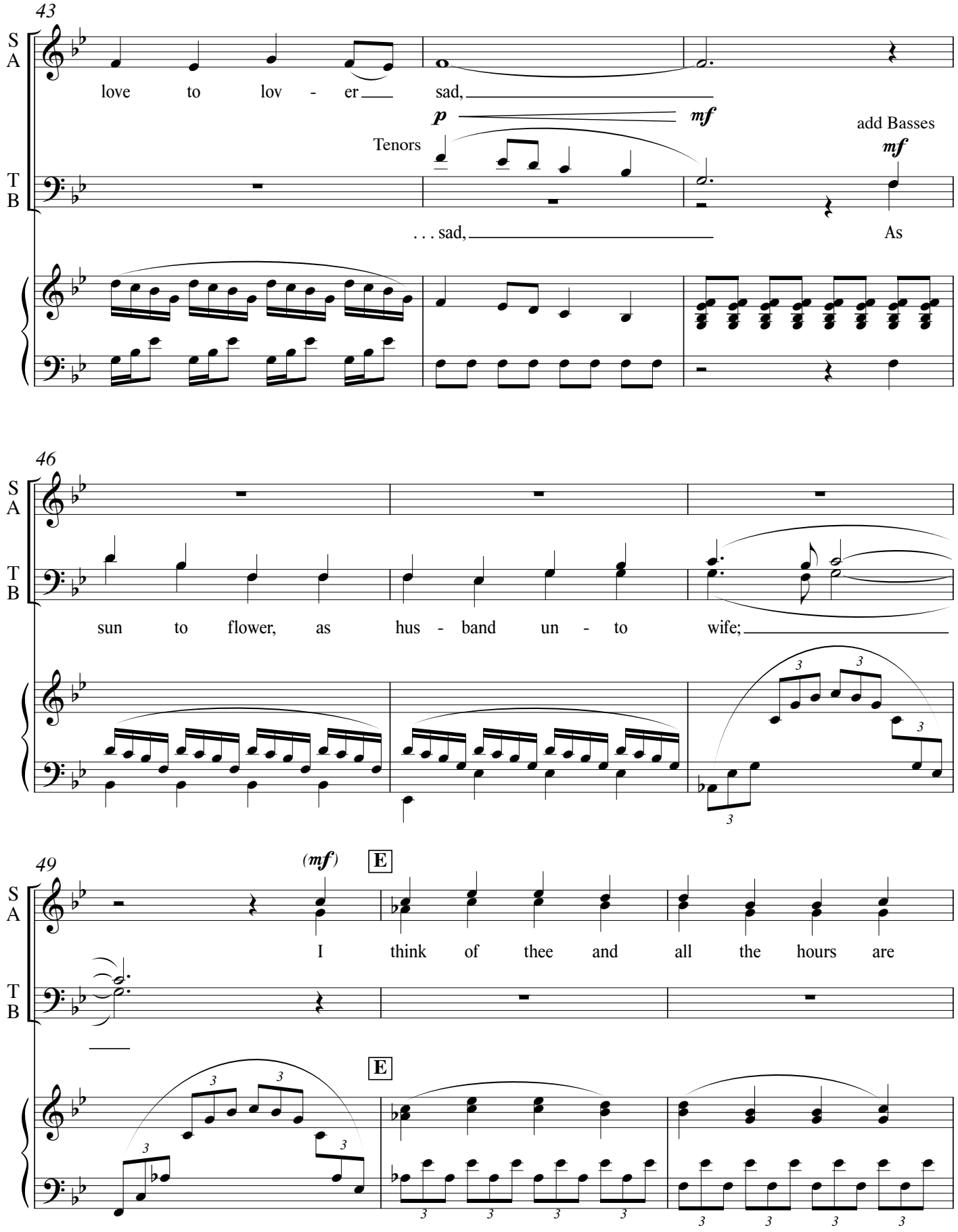
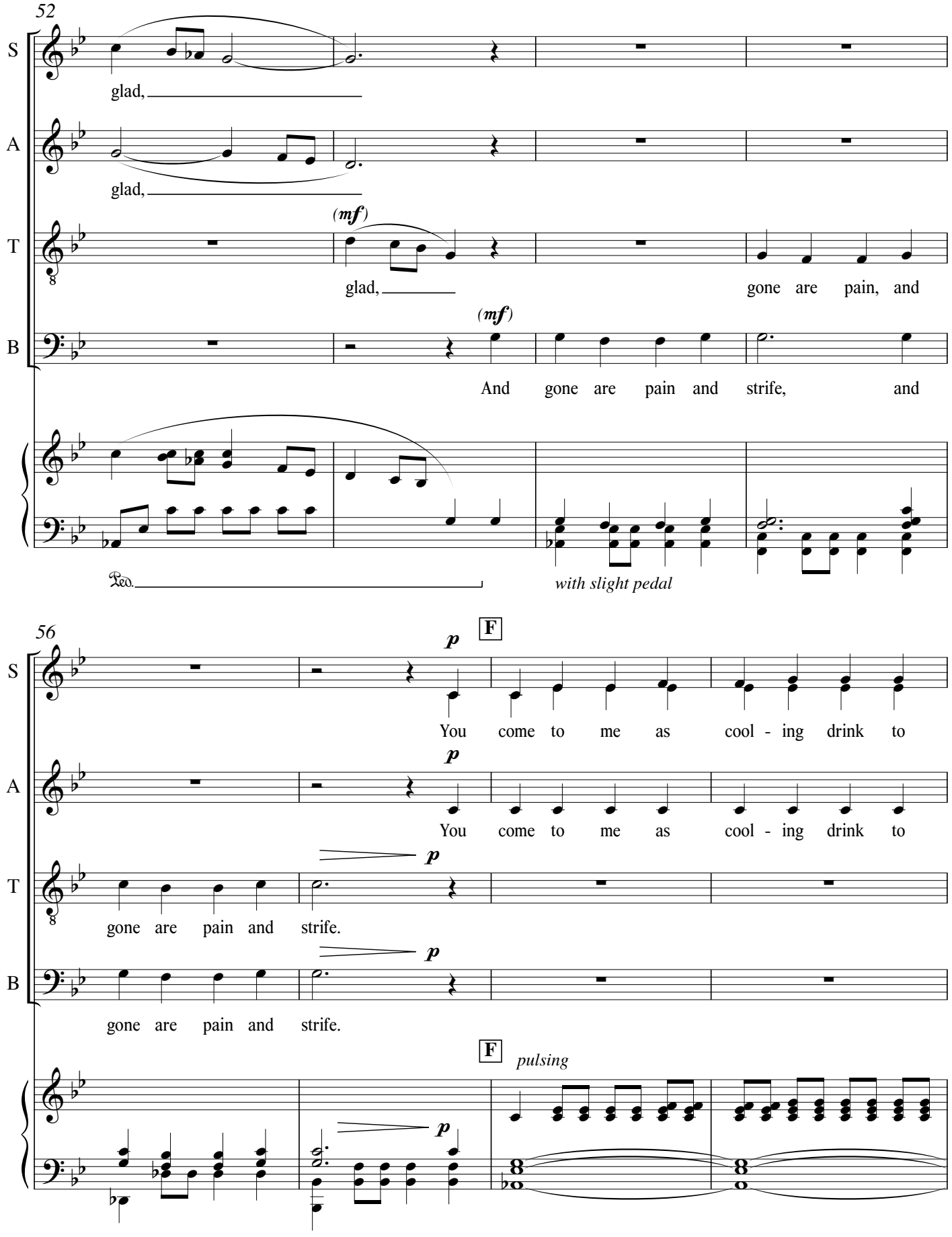
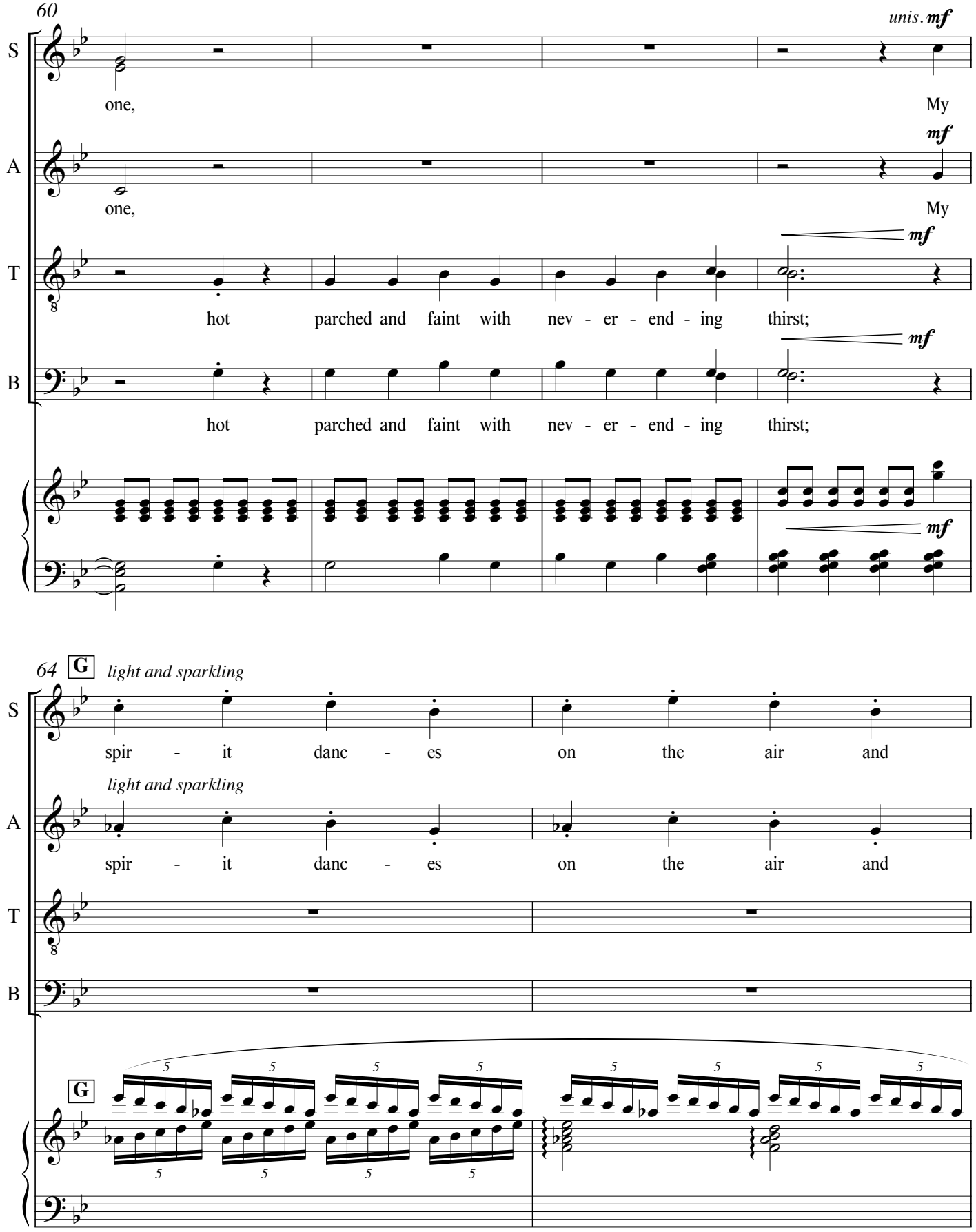

Mezzo-Soprano Soloist steps forward to sing
16
A Flowing tempo ♩ = 108
M-Sop. Solo (rich tone)
mf enraptured
M-S Solo
I love thee, lakes, and
A Flowing tempo ♩ = 108
with the excitement of birds in flight
p
Ped.
19
M-S Solo
all thy glo - rious world,
Bar. Solo (rich tone)
mf enraptured
Baritone Soloist steps forward to sing
Bar. Solo
Blue,
Ped.
Ped.
simile
22
M-S Solo
Bar. Solo
wrin - kled, mist en - cir - cled 'neath the sky.

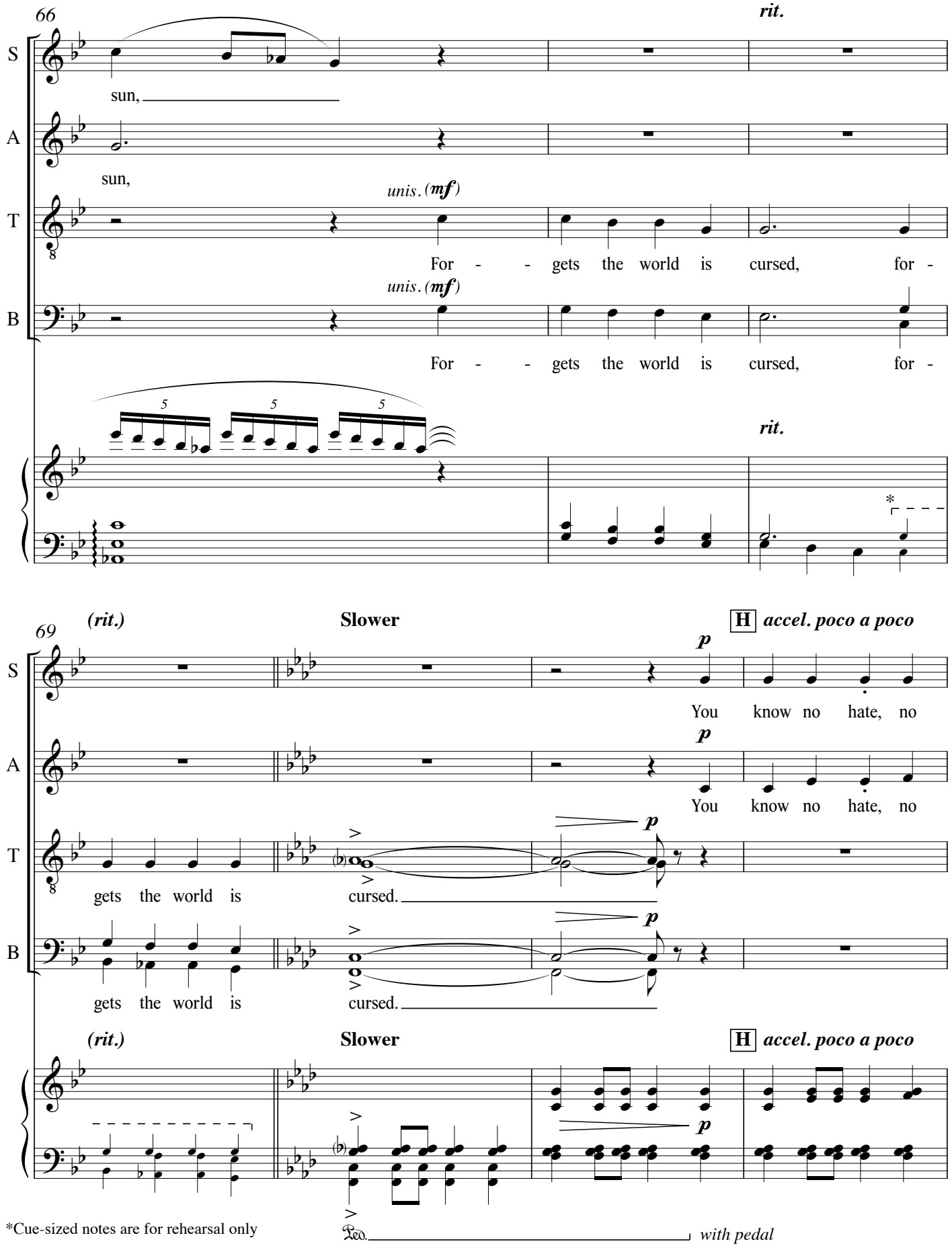

25
B
M-S Solo
Bar. Solo
And far un - to thy realm of waves im -
B
28
M-S Solo
pearled
Bar. Solo
My heart, like a
31
M-S Solo
I
Bar. Solo
bird, doth fly.
cresc.
Ped.


34
C
rit.
M-S Solo
love thee, lakes, and all thy glo - rious,
Bar. Solo
I love thee, lakes, and all thy glo - rious,
C
rit.
mf
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
37
Slowly
Faster tempo ♩ = 120, with excitement
M-S Solo
all thy glo - rious world.
Bar. Solo
all thy glo - rious world.
Faster tempo ♩ = 120, with excitement
Slowly
Ped.
Ped.
40
Soloists step back to join chorus
All Women
unis. mf
D
S
A
Thou art to me as
D
Ped.
simile


43
S
A
T
B
love to lov - er sad,
p
mf
Tenors
add Basses
mf
. . . sad,
As
46
sun to flower, as hus - band un - to wife;
3
49
(mf)
E
I think of thee and all the hours are
E


52
S
glad,
A
glad,
(mf)
T
glad,
gone are pain, and
(mf)
B
And gone are pain and strife, and
Ped.
with slight pedal
56
p
F
You come to me as cool - ing drink to
p
You come to me as cool - ing drink to
p
gone are pain and strife.
p
gone are pain and strife.
F
pulsing
p


60
unis. mf
S
one,
My
mf
A
one,
My
mf
T
hot parched and faint with nev - er - end - ing thirst;
mf
B
hot parched and faint with nev - er - end - ing thirst;
mf
64
G
light and sparkling
S
spir - it danc - es on the air and
light and sparkling
A
spir - it danc - es on the air and
T
B
G



*Cue-sized notes are for rehearsal only