Nature

As Seen Through the Eyes of Great Women
of Poetry

A Song Cycle for Soprano and Piano

by Melva Wheelwright

Mary Mapes Dodge

Sara Teasdale

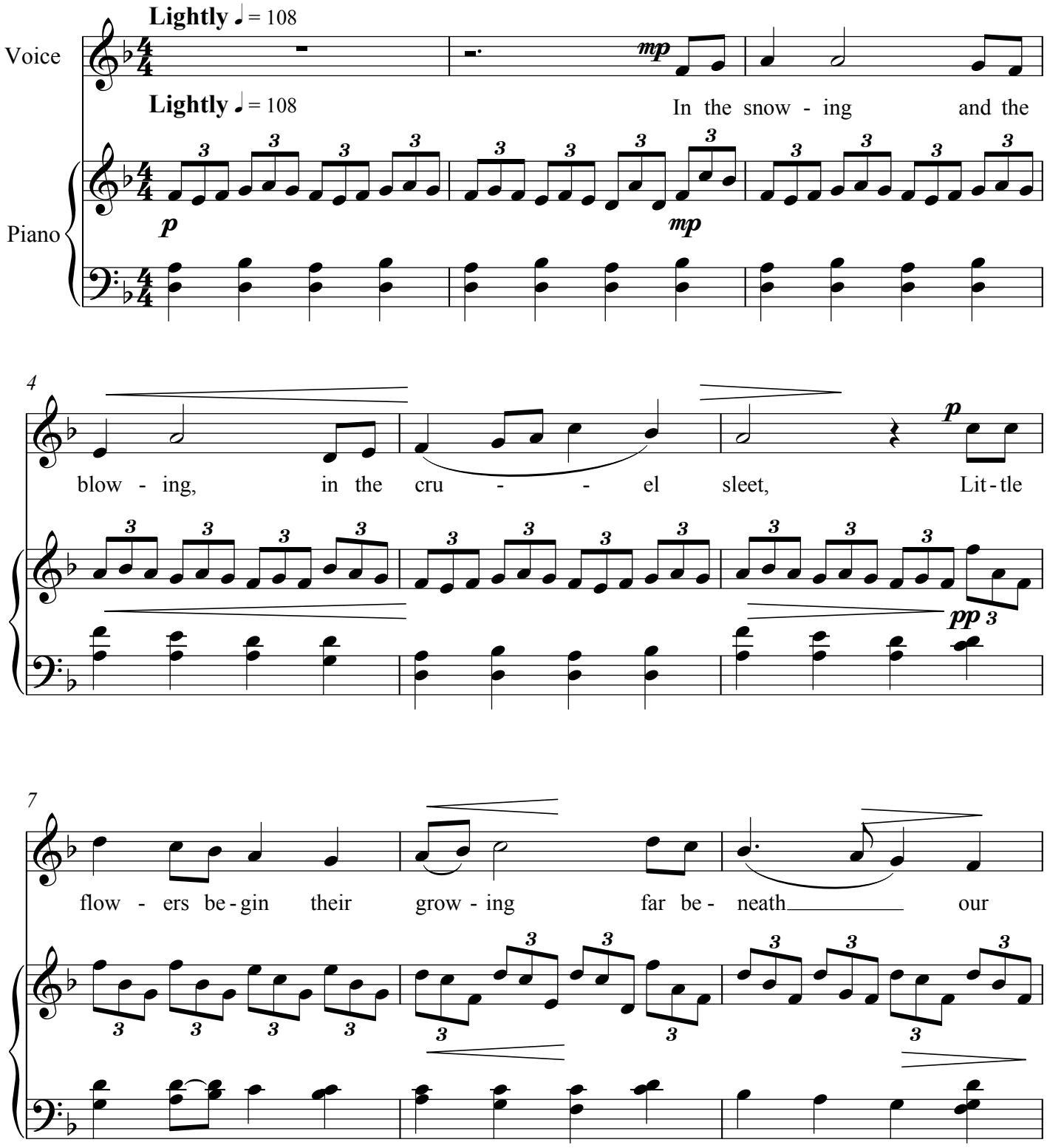
1. Nearly Ready by Mary Mapes Dodge
2. The Spicebush in March by Sara Teasdale
3. The Dandelions by Helen Gray Cone
4. The Morns are Meeker than They Were
by Emily Dickinson
5. The Frost by Hannah Flagg Gould

To Bonnie, Susan, and Yvonne, three terrific musicians

Nearly Ready

Mary Mapes Dodge (1831-1905)

Melva Wheelwright



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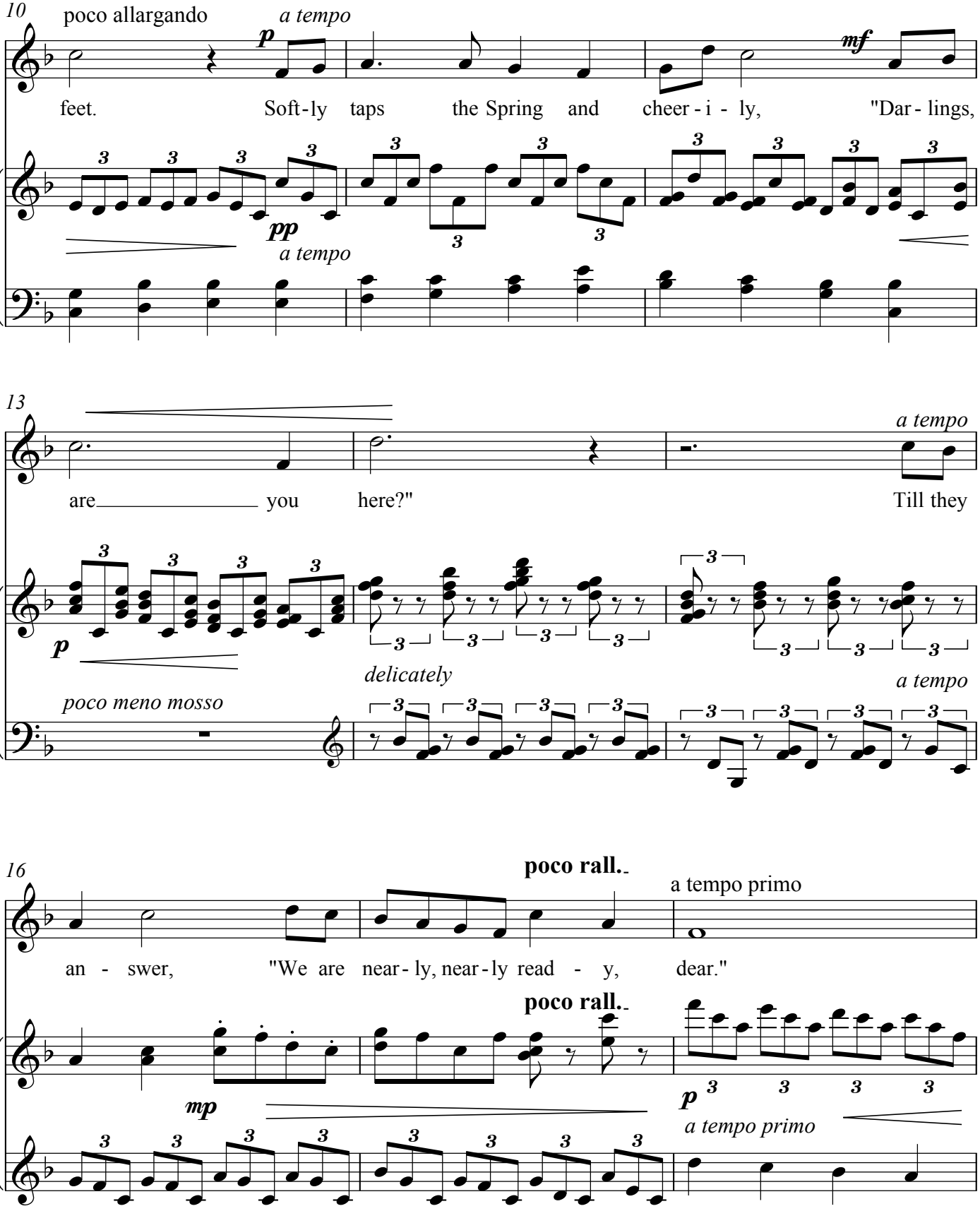
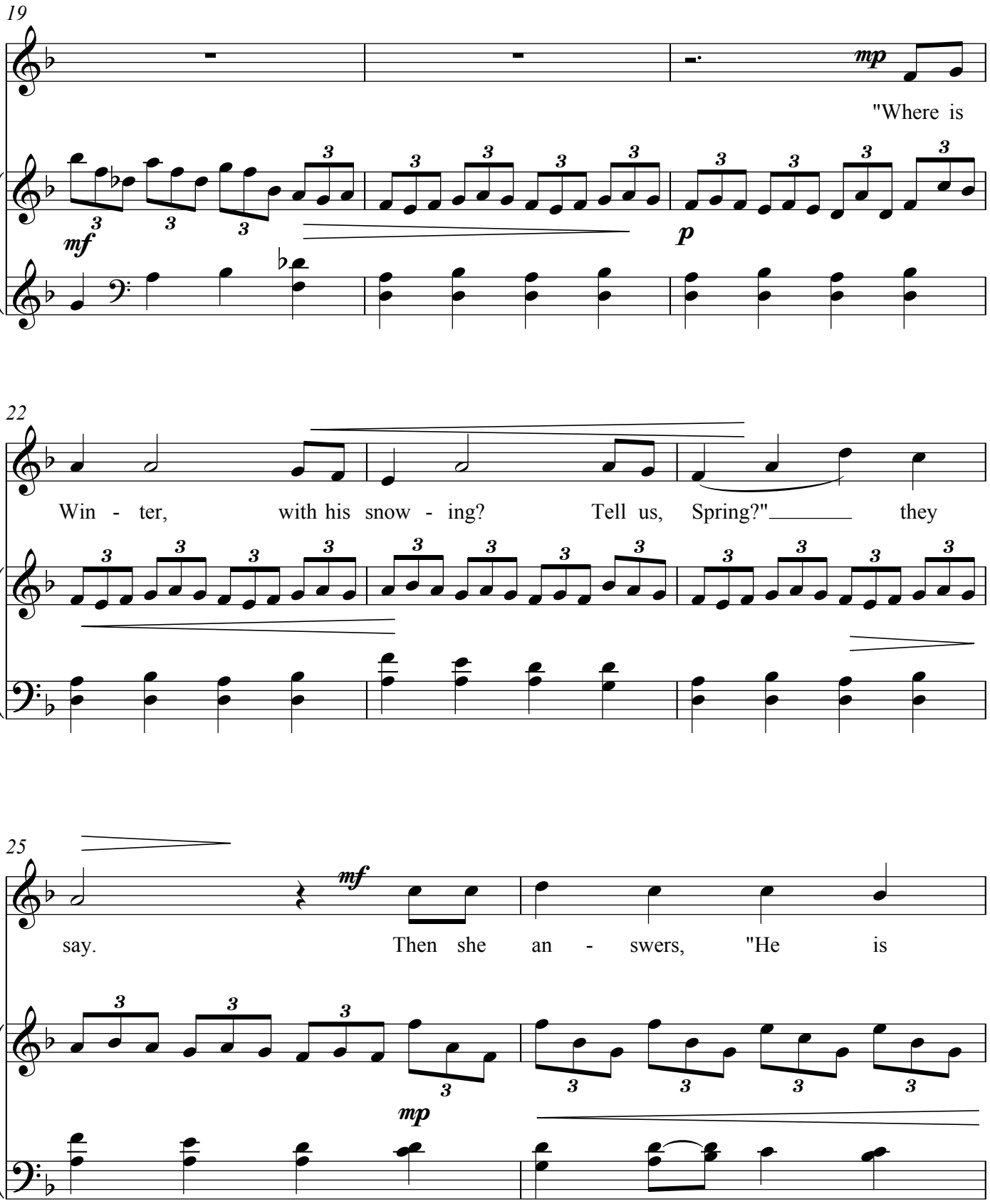
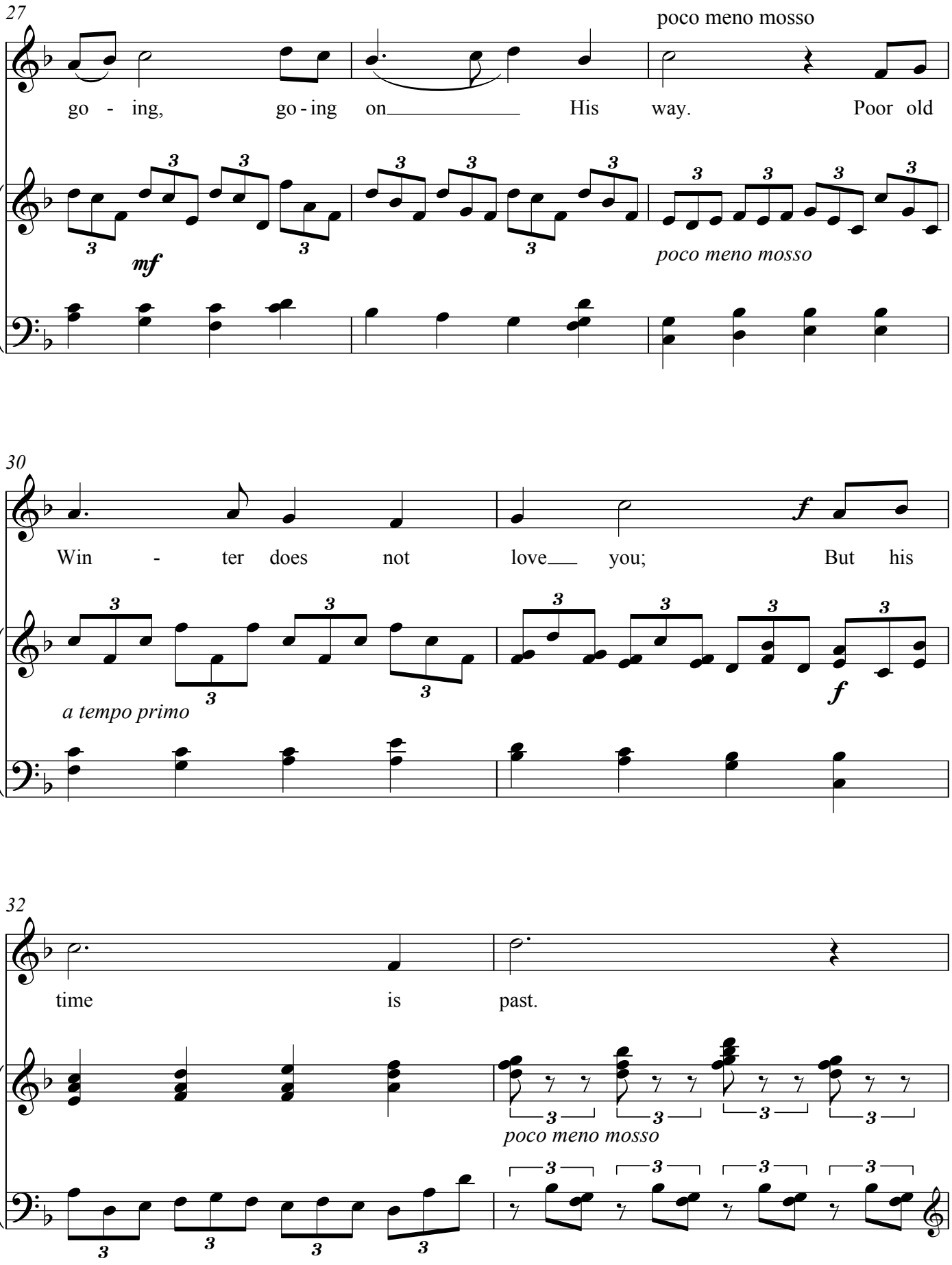
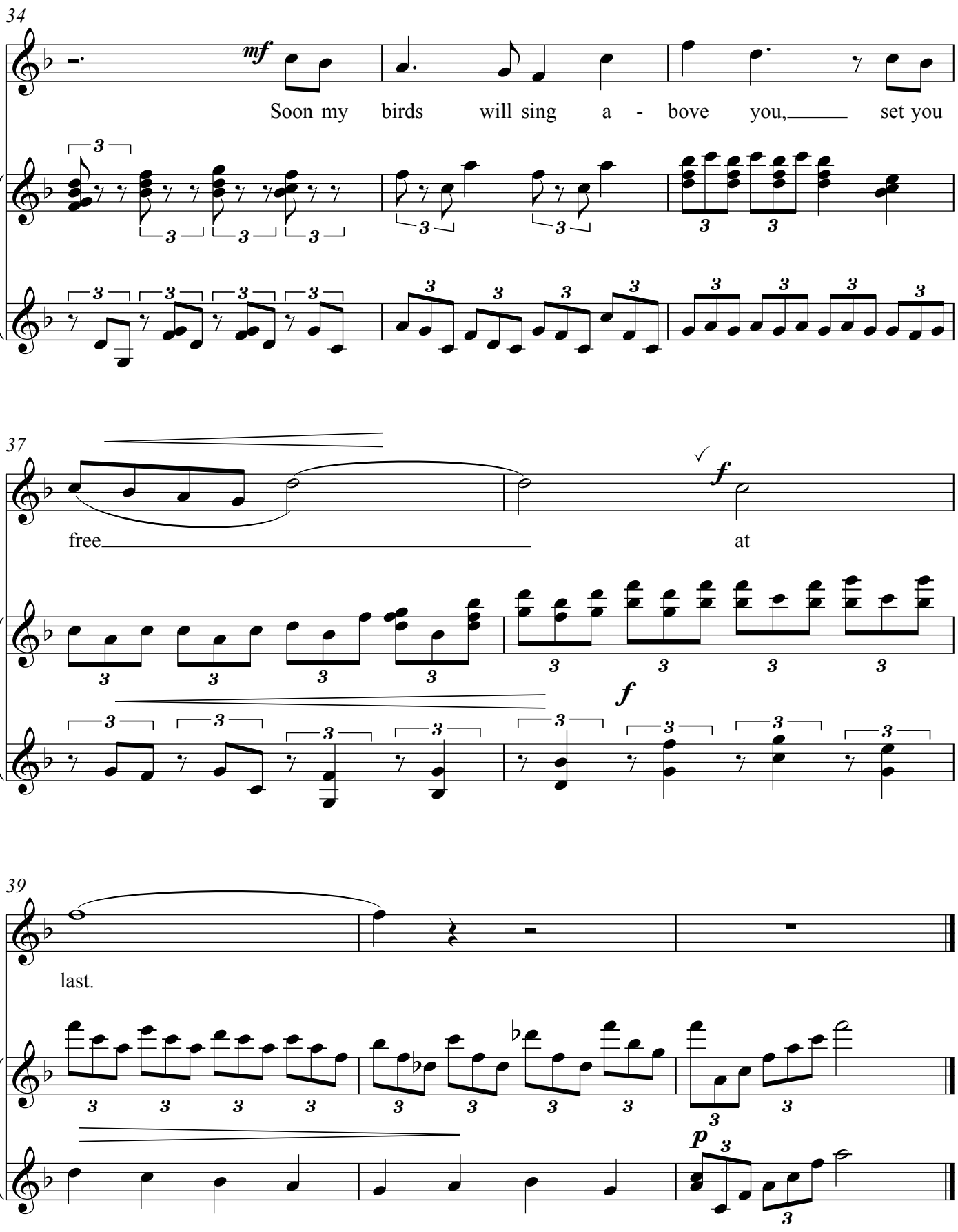

10
poco allargando
a tempo
p
mf
feet. Soft-ly taps the Spring and cheer-i-ly, "Dar-lings,
pp
a tempo
13
a tempo
are you here?" Till they
p
delicately
poco meno mosso
a tempo
16
poco rall.
a tempo primo
an-swer, "We are near-ly, near-ly read-y, dear."
poco rall.
mp
p
a tempo primo


19
mp
"Where is
mf
p
22
Win - ter, with his snow - ing? Tell us, Spring?" they
25
mf
say. Then she an - swers, "He is
mp


27
poco meno mosso
go - ing, go - ing on His way. Poor old
mf
poco meno mosso
30
Win - ter does not love you; But his
f
a tempo primo
f
32
time is past.
poco meno mosso

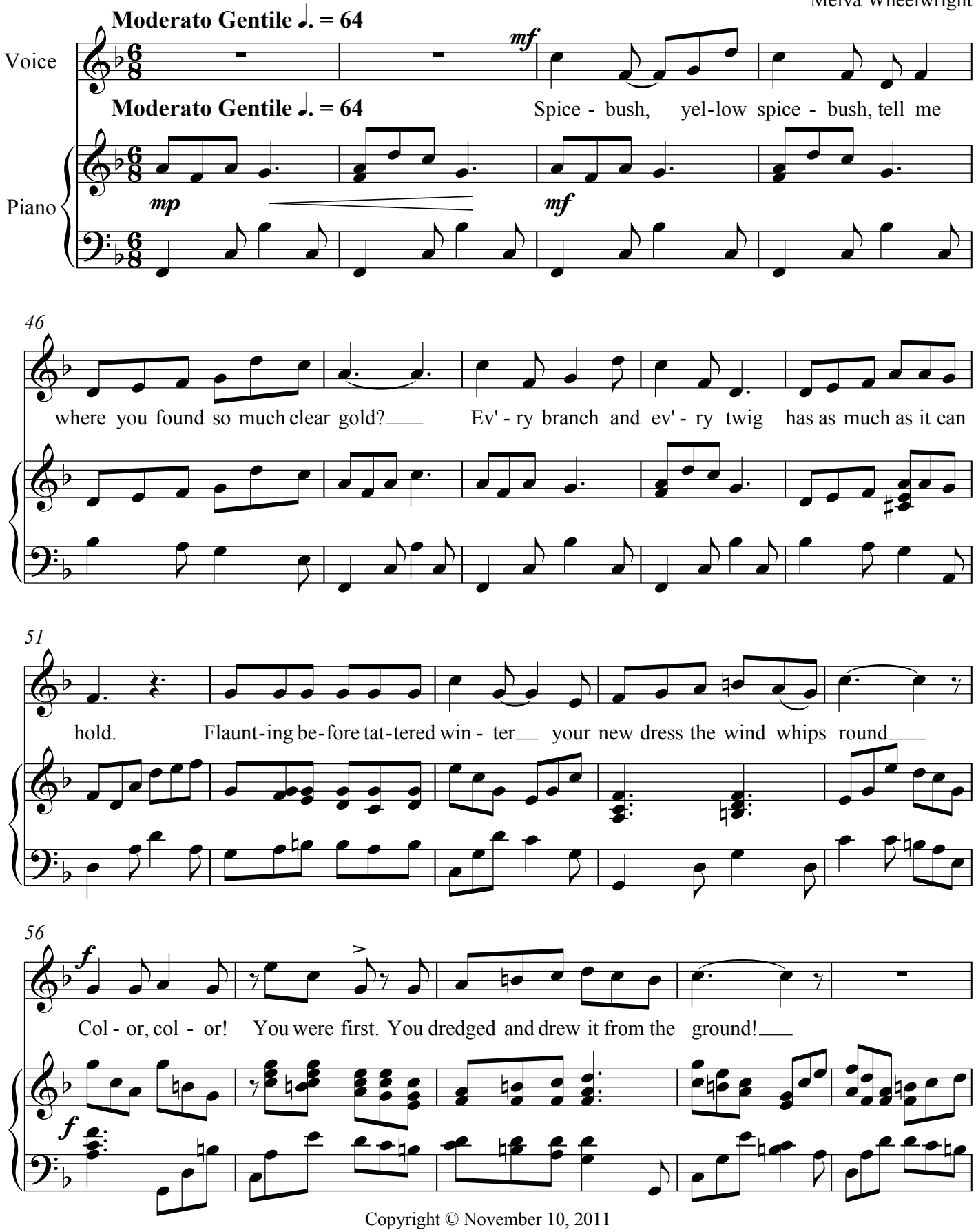

34
mf
Soon my birds will sing a - bove you, set you
37
free
f
at
f
39
last.
p

The Spicebush in March

Special thanks to Wellesley College

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

Melva Wheelwright



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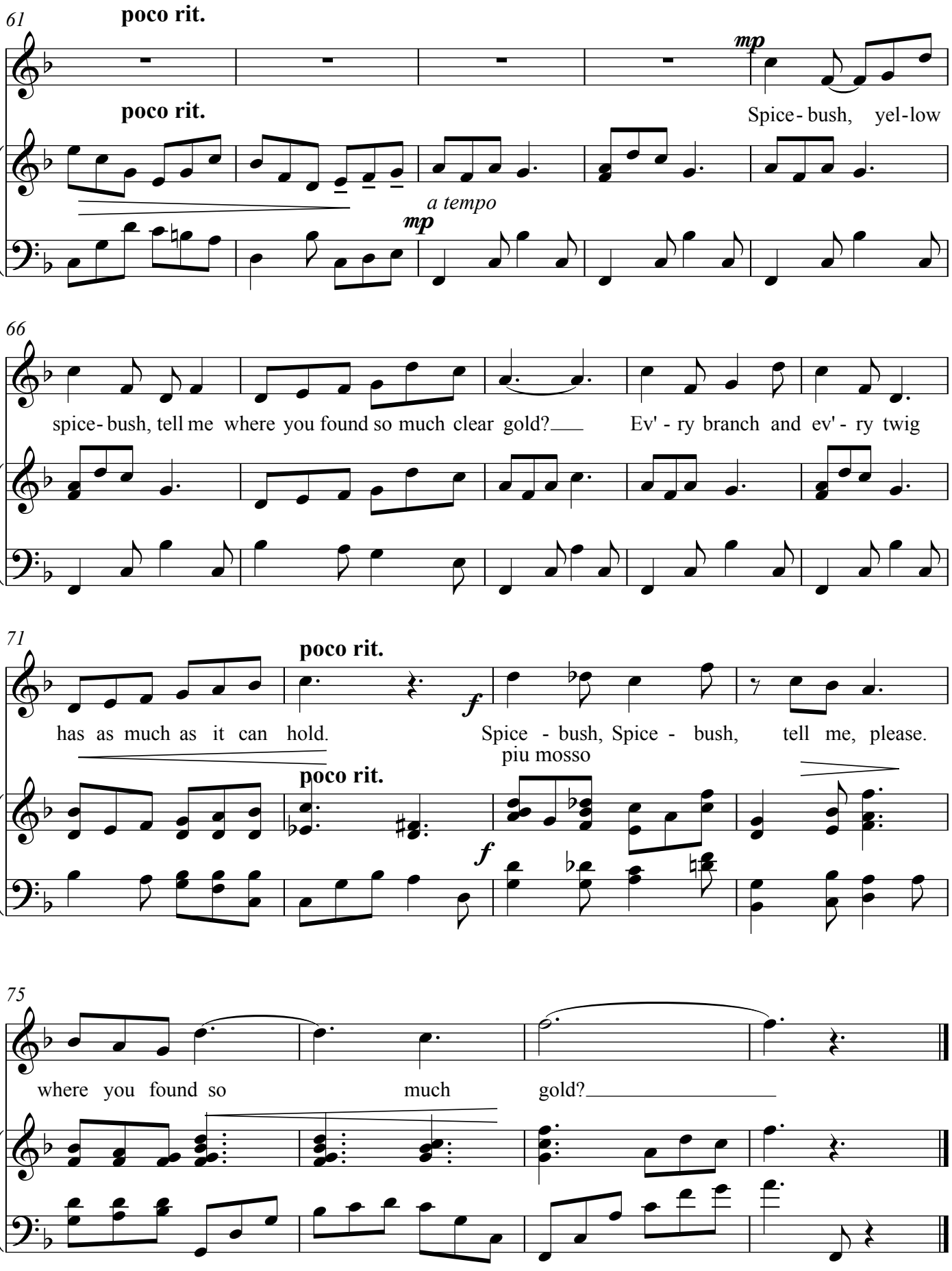
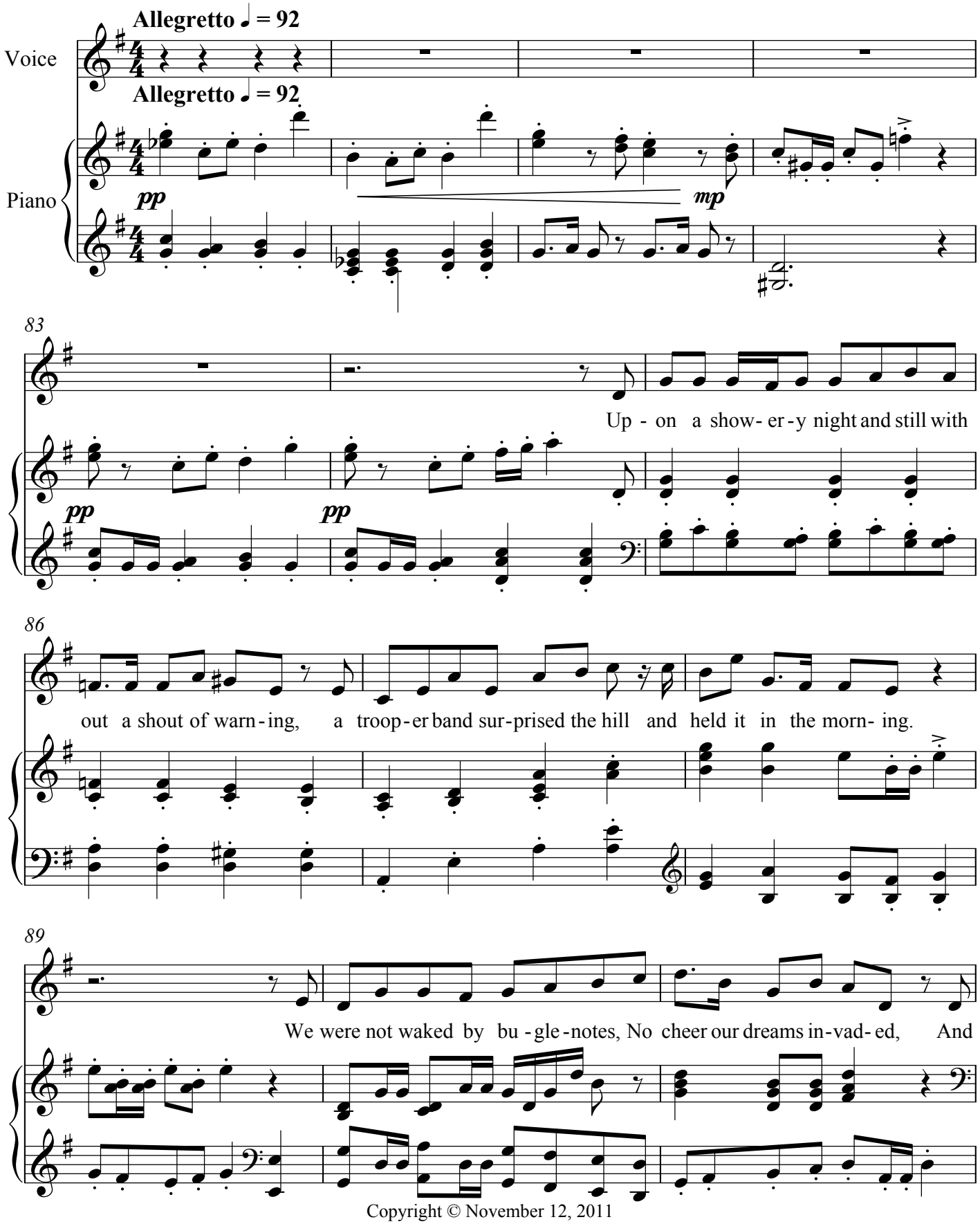

61
poco rit.
poco rit.
mp
Spice - bush, yel - low
a tempo
mp
66
spice - bush, tell me where you found so much clear gold?
Ev' - ry branch and ev' - ry twig
71
poco rit.
has as much as it can hold.
f
Spice - bush, Spice - bush, tell me, please.
piu mosso
poco rit.
f
75
where you found so much gold?

The Dandelions

Helen Gray Cone (1859-1934)

Melva Wheelwright



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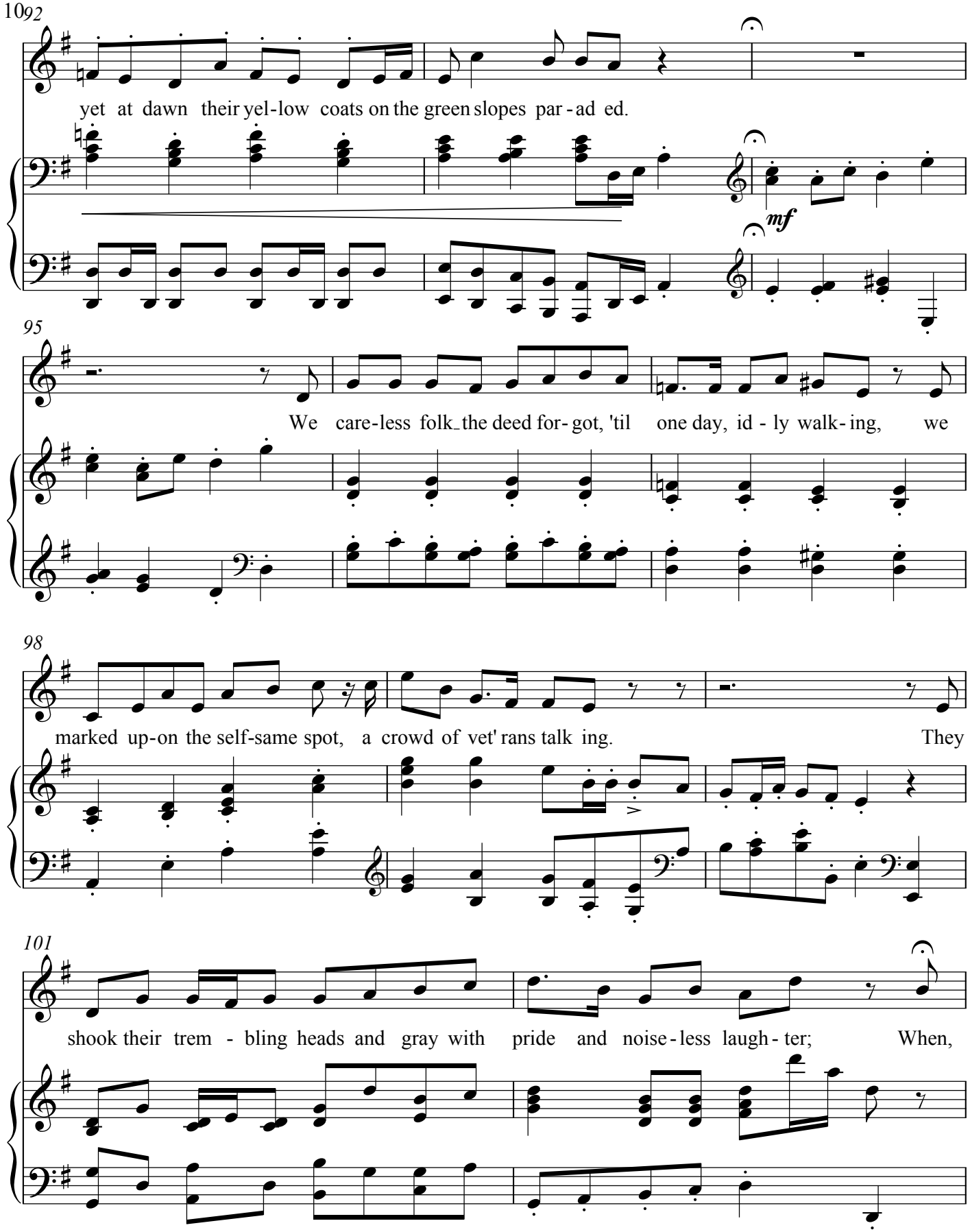
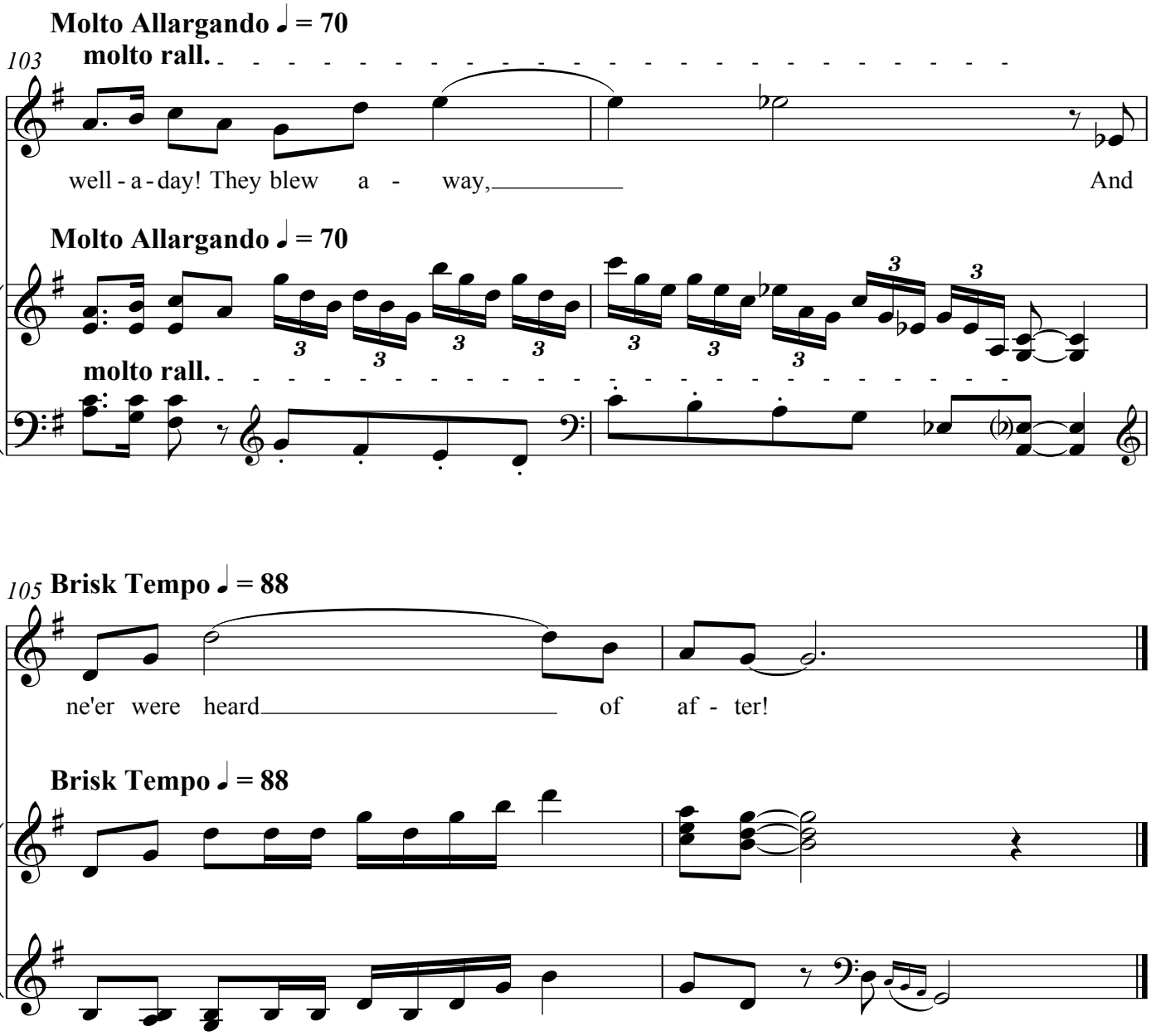
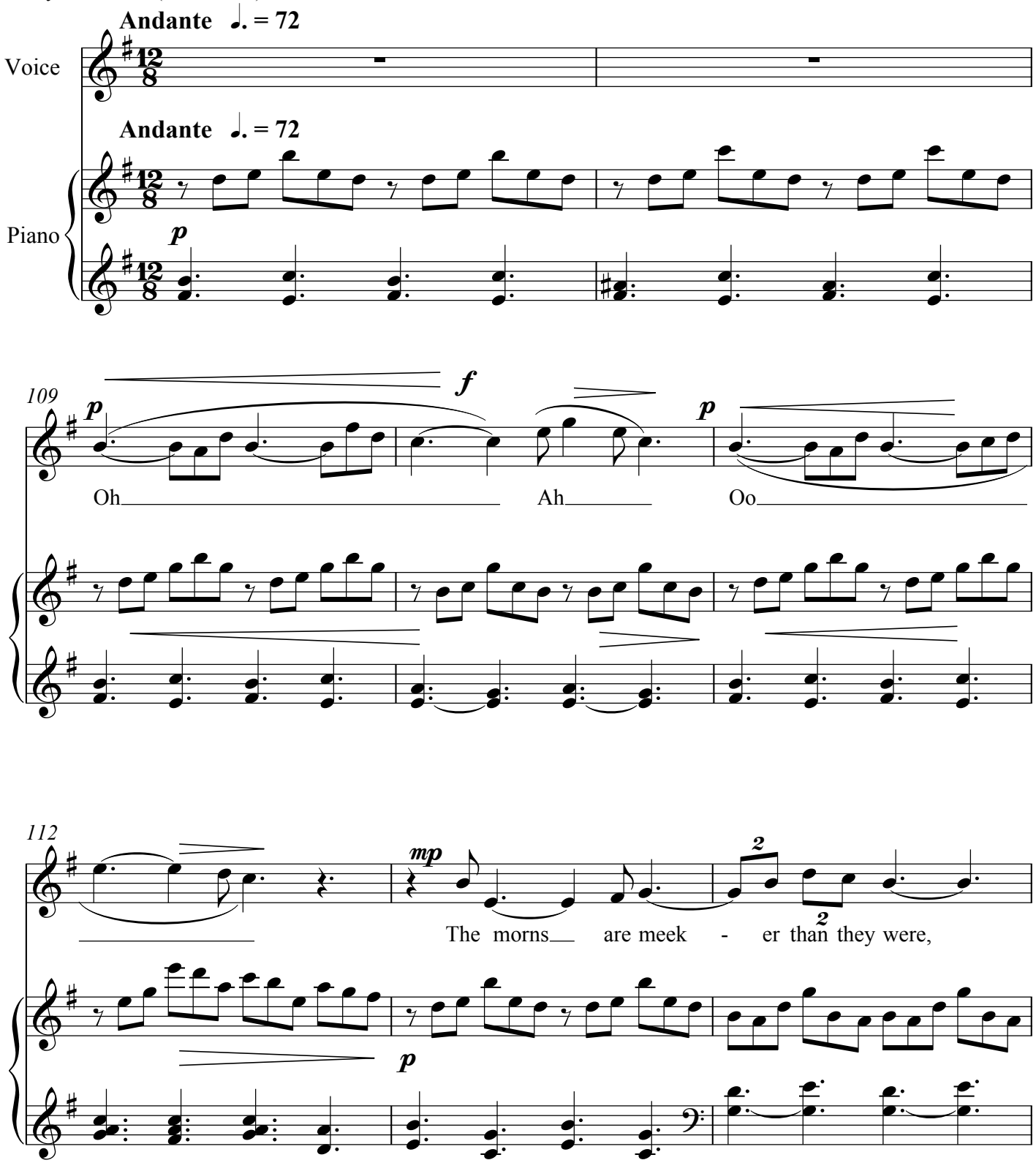

10
92
yet at dawn their yel-low coats on the green slopes par-ad ed.
mf
95
We care-less folk_the deed for-got, 'til one day, id - ly walk-ing, we
98
marked up-on the self-same spot, a crowd of vet' rans talk ing. They
101
shook their trem - bling heads and gray with pride and noise-less laugh-ter; When,


Molto Allargando ♩ = 70
103
molto rall.
well - a - day! They blew a - way, And
Molto Allargando ♩ = 70
molto rall.
105
Brisk Tempo ♩ = 88
ne'er were heard of af - ter!
Brisk Tempo ♩ = 88

The Morns are Meeker Than They Were

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Melva Wheelwright



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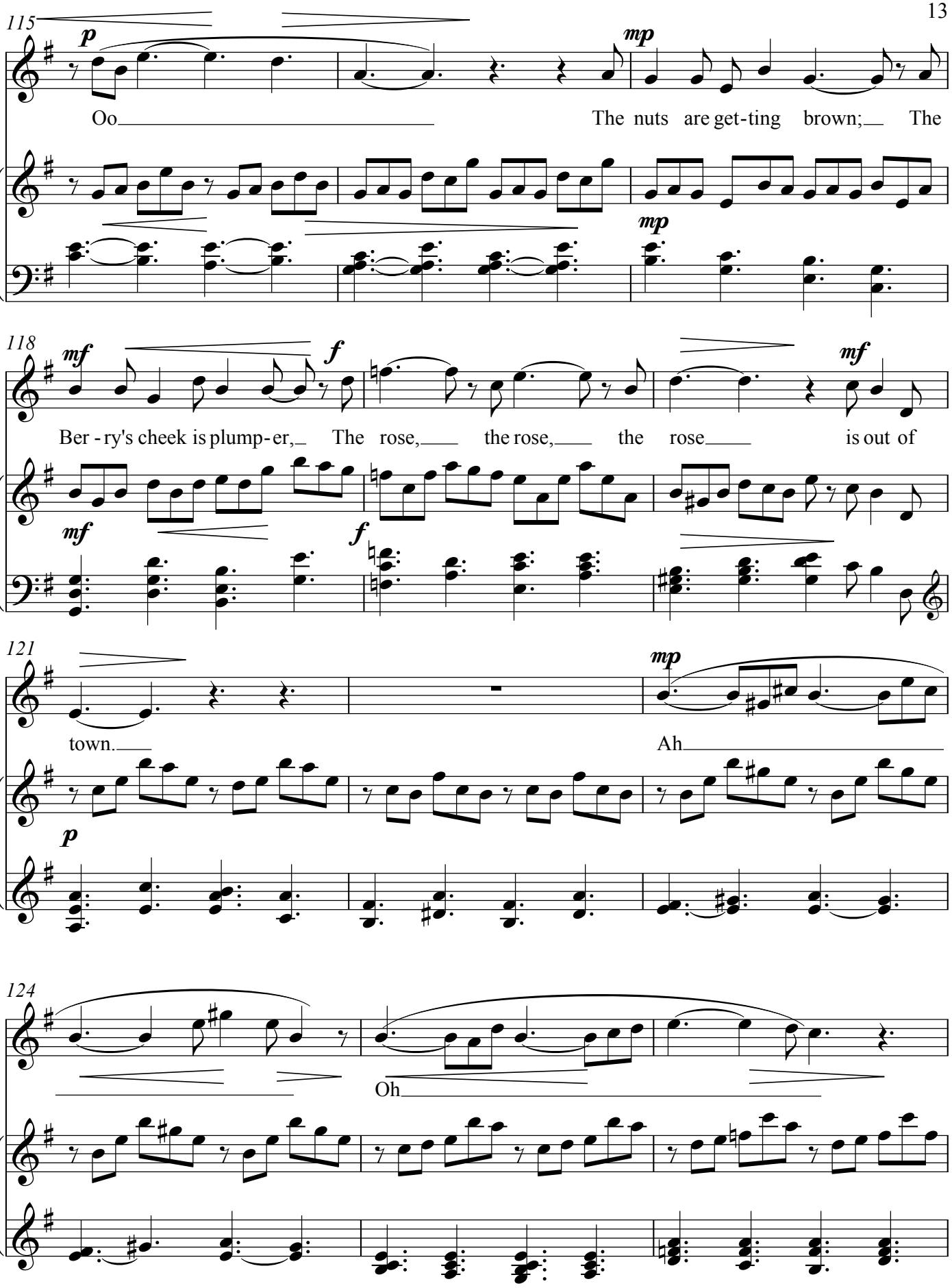
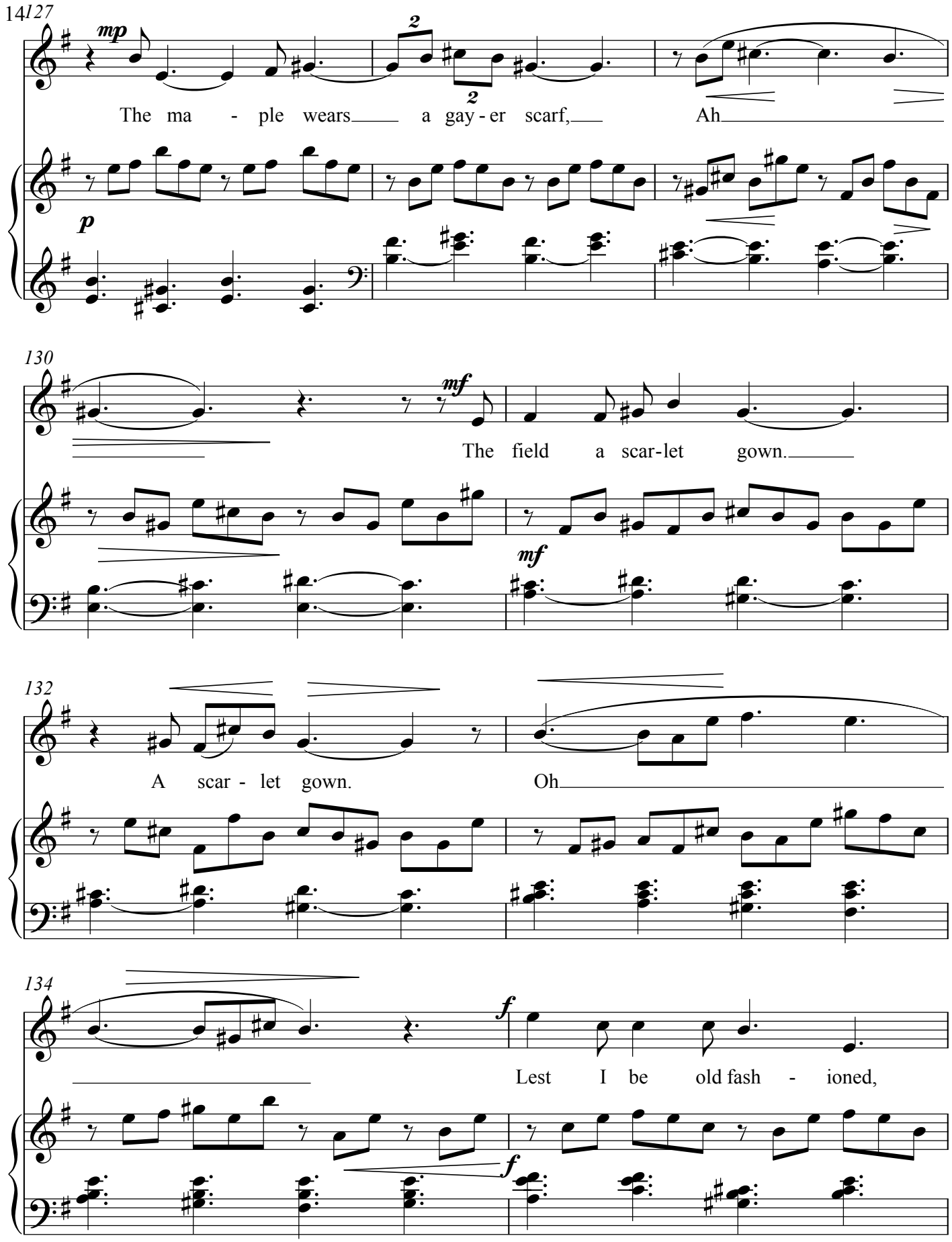
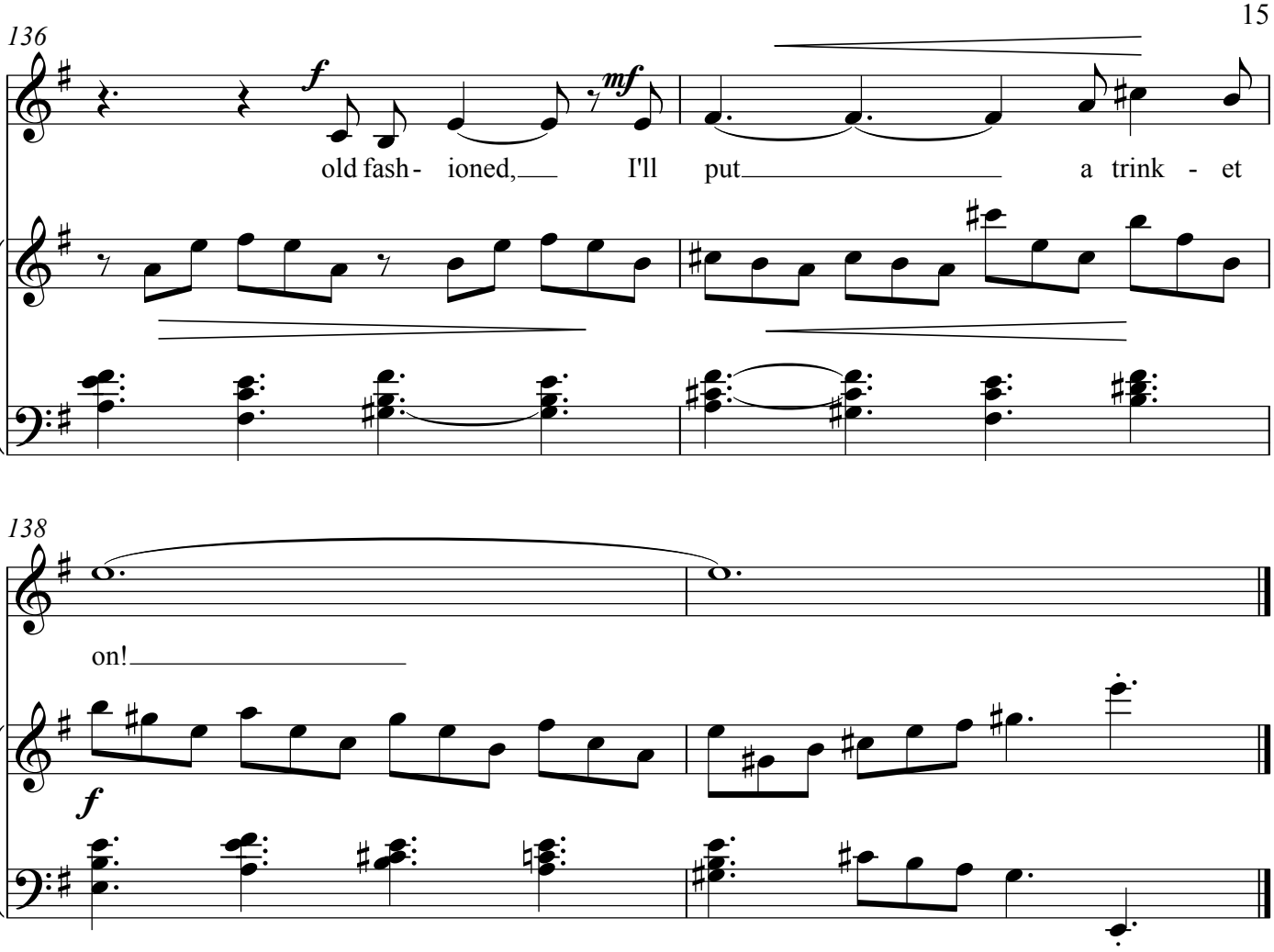
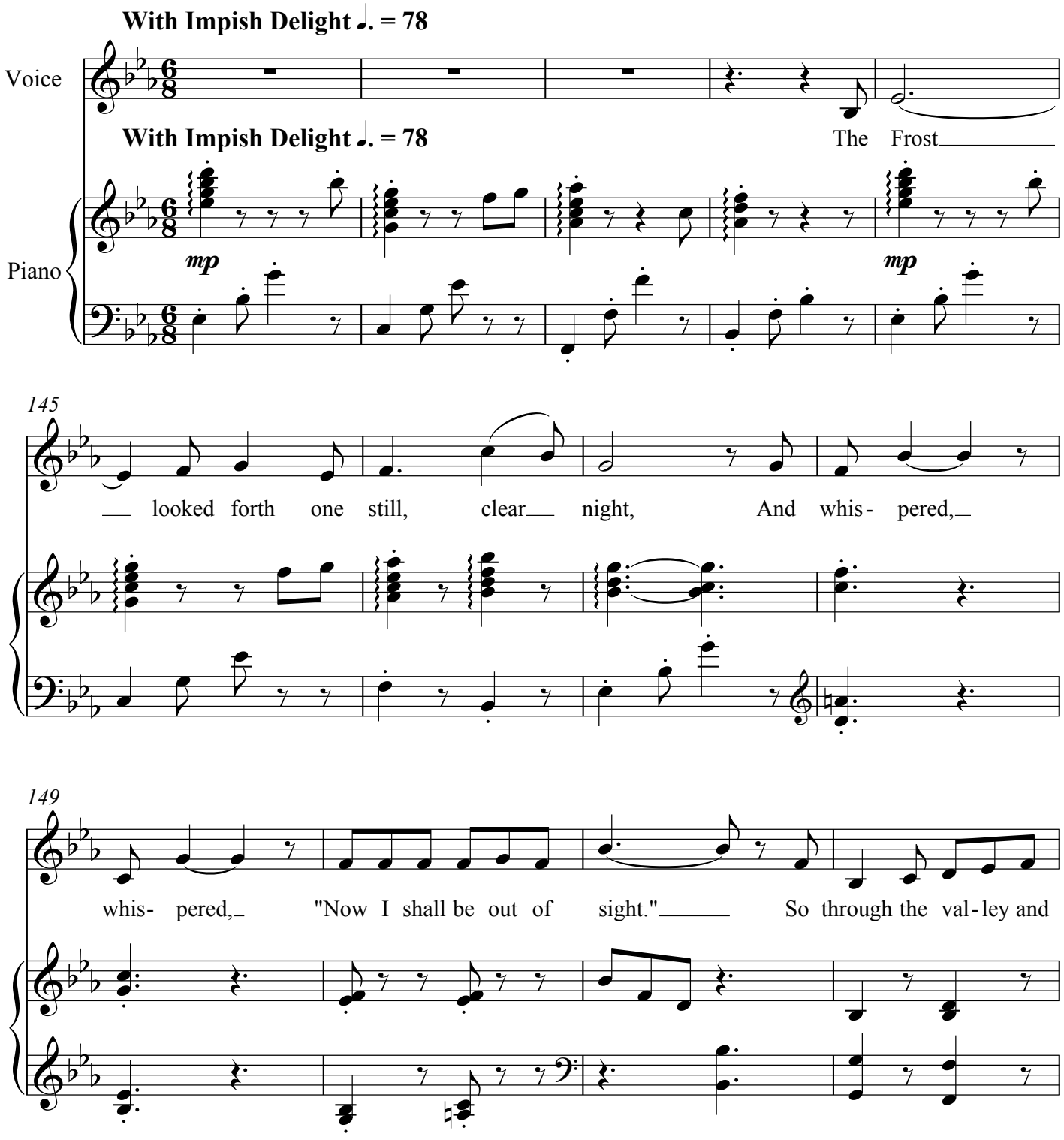

115
p
mp
Oo
The nuts are get-ting brown; The
mp
118
mf
f
mf
Ber - ry's cheek is plump - er, The rose, the rose, the rose is out of
mf
f
121
mp
town.
Ah
p
124
Oh


14
127
mp
2
2
The ma - ple wears a gay - er scarf, Ah
p
130
mf
The field a scar-let gown.
mf
132
A scar - let gown. Oh
134
f
Lest I be old fash - ioned,
f


136
f
mf
old fash - ioned, I'll put a trink - et
138
on!
f

The Frost

Hannah Flagg Gould (1789-1865) Melva Wheelwright



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153

o - ver the height, in si - lence

157

— I'll take my way. I will not go on with that

161

blus-ter-ing train, the wind and the snow, the hail and the rain, who make so much bus-tle and

165

noise in vain, but I'll be as bu - sy as they." Then he flew to the moun-tain and

mp

171

pow-dered its crest; He lit on the trees, and their boughs he dressed in dia-mond beads,

175

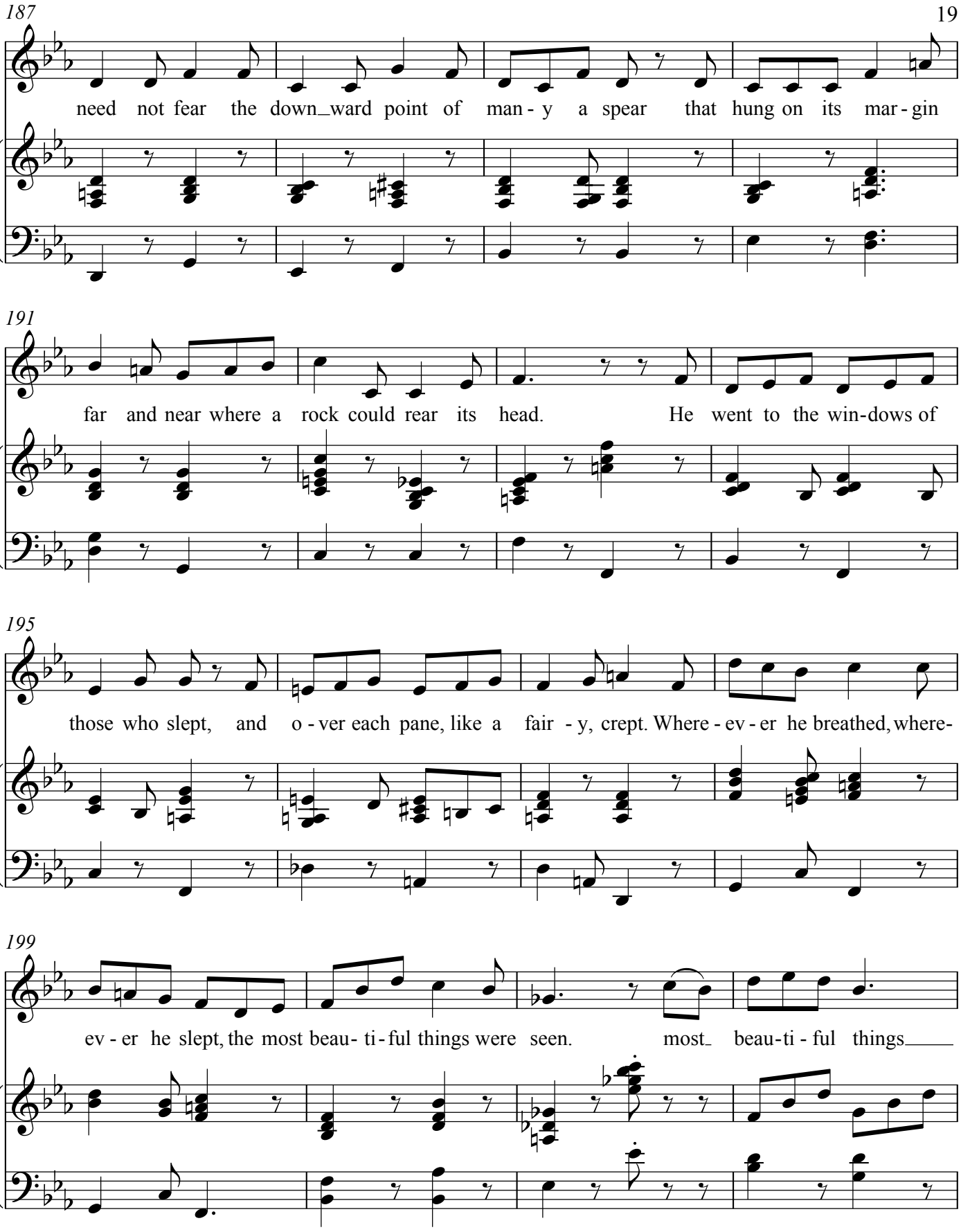
dia-mond beads, in dia - mond beads! and o - ver the crest of the

179

qui-ver-ing lake he spread, he spread

183

a coat of mail. A coat of mail, that it


187
need not fear the down_ward point of man - y a spear that hung on its mar - gin
191
far and near where a rock could rear its head. He went to the win-dows of
195
those who slept, and o - ver each pane, like a fair - y, crept. Where - ev - er he breathed, where-
199
ev - er he slept, the most beau- ti - ful things were seen. most_ beau-ti - ful things

203

were seen. There were flow - ers and

209

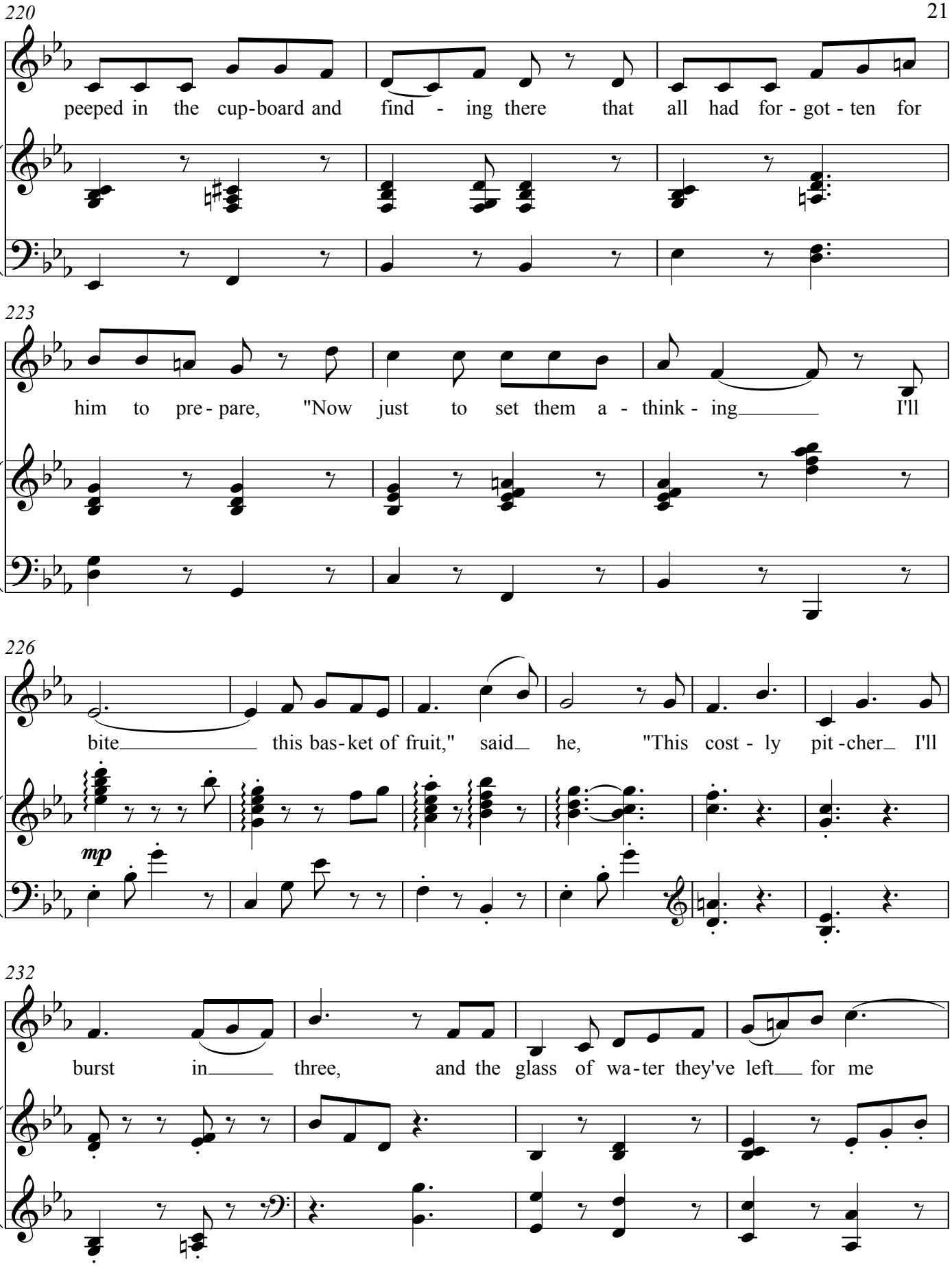
trees; there were be - vies of birds and swarms of bees; there were

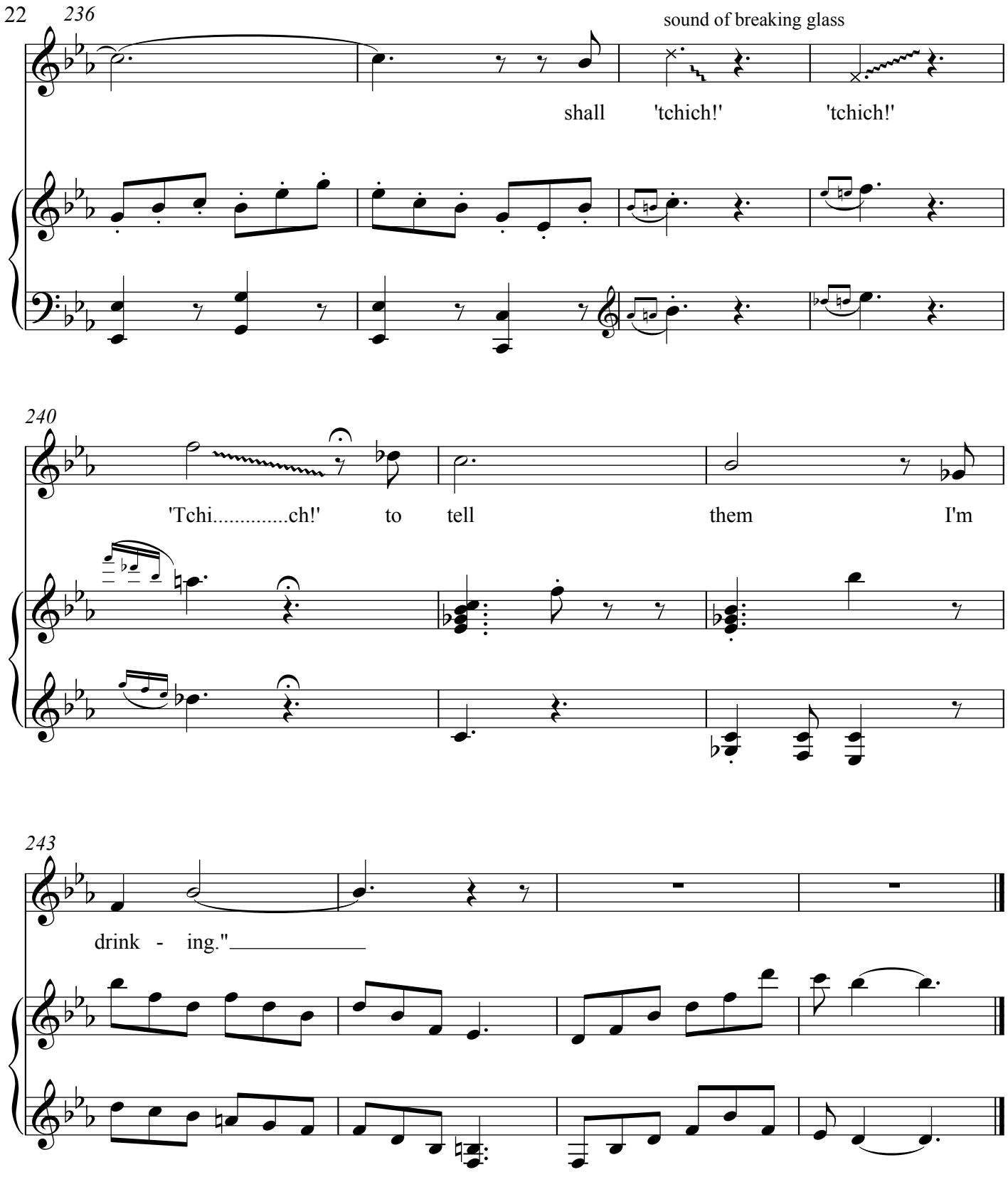
212

ci - ties with tem - ples and tow - ers, and these all pic - tured in

216

sil - ver sheen! But he did one thing that was hard - ly fair; He


220
peeped in the cup-board and find - ing there that all had for - got - ten for
223
him to pre - pare, "Now just to set them a - think - ing I'll
226
bite this bas-ket of fruit," said he, "This cost - ly pit-cher I'll
mp
232
burst in three, and the glass of wa-ter they've left for me


236
sound of breaking glass
shall 'tchich!' 'tchich!'
240
'Tchi.....ch!' to tell them I'm
243
drink - ing."