The Bargain

Four Poems for Low Voice and Piano

text

Philip Sidney

music

D.K.L. Masmanian

The Bargain
Four Poems for Low Voice and Piano

This is a set of four separate poems to be performed either individually or as a cycle; in this case the order of the songs should be as published, namely:

1. Splendidis Longum Valedico Nugis
2. The Bargain
3. My Sheep Are Thoughts
4. Why Fear to Die?

For this cycle the texts by Philip Sidney (1554-1586) were selected due to their mystical nature, and should be performed not so much as a treatise, or defense from the opinion of the orator, but towards that of a discourse with the self in the light of a conclusion without resolution, or vice-versa. Tempi should be regarded as suggestions and treated with gentle freedom.

Splendidis Longum Valedico Nugis

LEAVE me, O Love, which reachest but to dust;
And thou, my mind, aspire to higher things;
Grow rich in that which never taketh rust:
Whatever fades, but fading pleasure brings.
Draw in thy beams, and humble all thy might
To that sweet yoke where lasting freedoms be;
Which breaks the clouds and opens forth the light,
That doth both shine and give us sight to see.
O take fast hold! let that light be thy guide
In this small course which birth draws out to death,
And think how evil becometh him to slide,
Who seeketh Heaven, and comes of heavenly breath.
Then farewell, world! thy uttermost I see:
Eternal Love, maintain thy life in me.

The Bargain

MY true loue hath my hart, and I haue his,
By iust exchange one for another gi'une.
I hold his deare, and myne he cannot misse:
There neuer was a better bargaine driu'ne.
His hart in me keepes me and him in one,
My hart in him, his thoughts and senses guides:
He loues my hart, for once it was his owne:
I cherish his because in me it bides.
His hart his would reveiued from my sight:
My hart was wounded, with his wounded hart,
For as from me, on him his hurt did light,
So still me thought in me his hurt did smart:
Moth equall hurt, in this change sought out blisse;
My true loue hath my hart, and I haue his.

My Sheep are Thoughts

My sheep are thoughts, which I both guide and serve;
Their pasture is fair hills of fruitless love.
On barren sweets they feed, and feeding sterve.
I wail their lot, but will not other prove.
Their sheep-hook is wanhope, which all upholds;
My weeds desire, cut out in endless folds;
What wool my sheep will bear, whiles thus they live,
In you it is, you must the judgment give.

Why Fear to Die?

Since Nature's works be good, and death doth serve
As Nature's work, why should we fear to die?
Since fear is vain but when it may preserve,
Why should we fear that which we cannot fly?
Fear is more pain that is the pain it fears,
Disarming human minds of native might;
While each conceit an ougly figure bears,
Which were not evil, well view'd in reason's light
Our only eyes, which dimmed with passions be,
And scarce discern the dawn of coming day,
Let them be clear'd, and now begin to see
Our life is but a step in dusty way:
Then let us hold the bliss of peaceful mind,
Since this we feel, great loss we cannot find.

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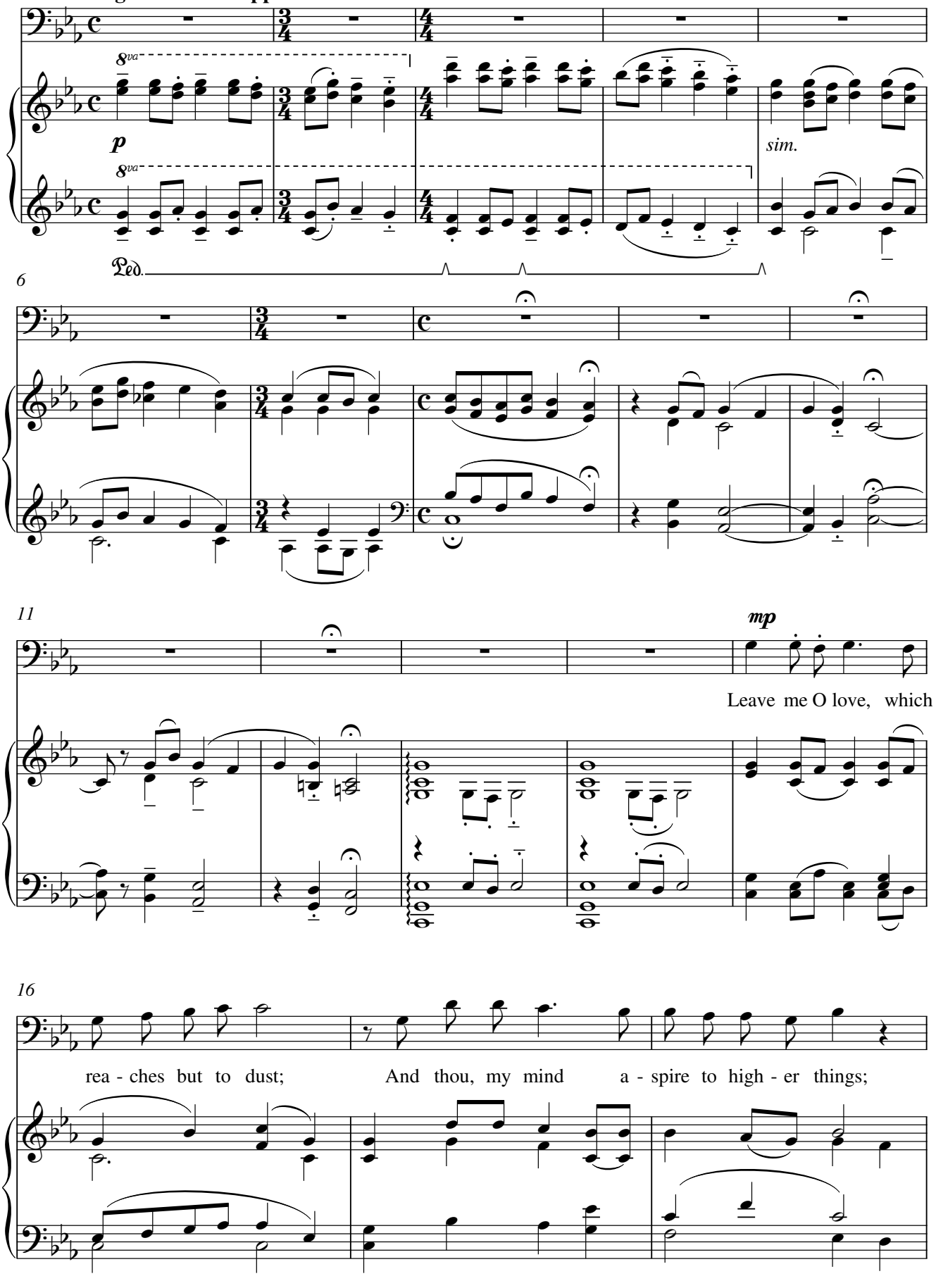
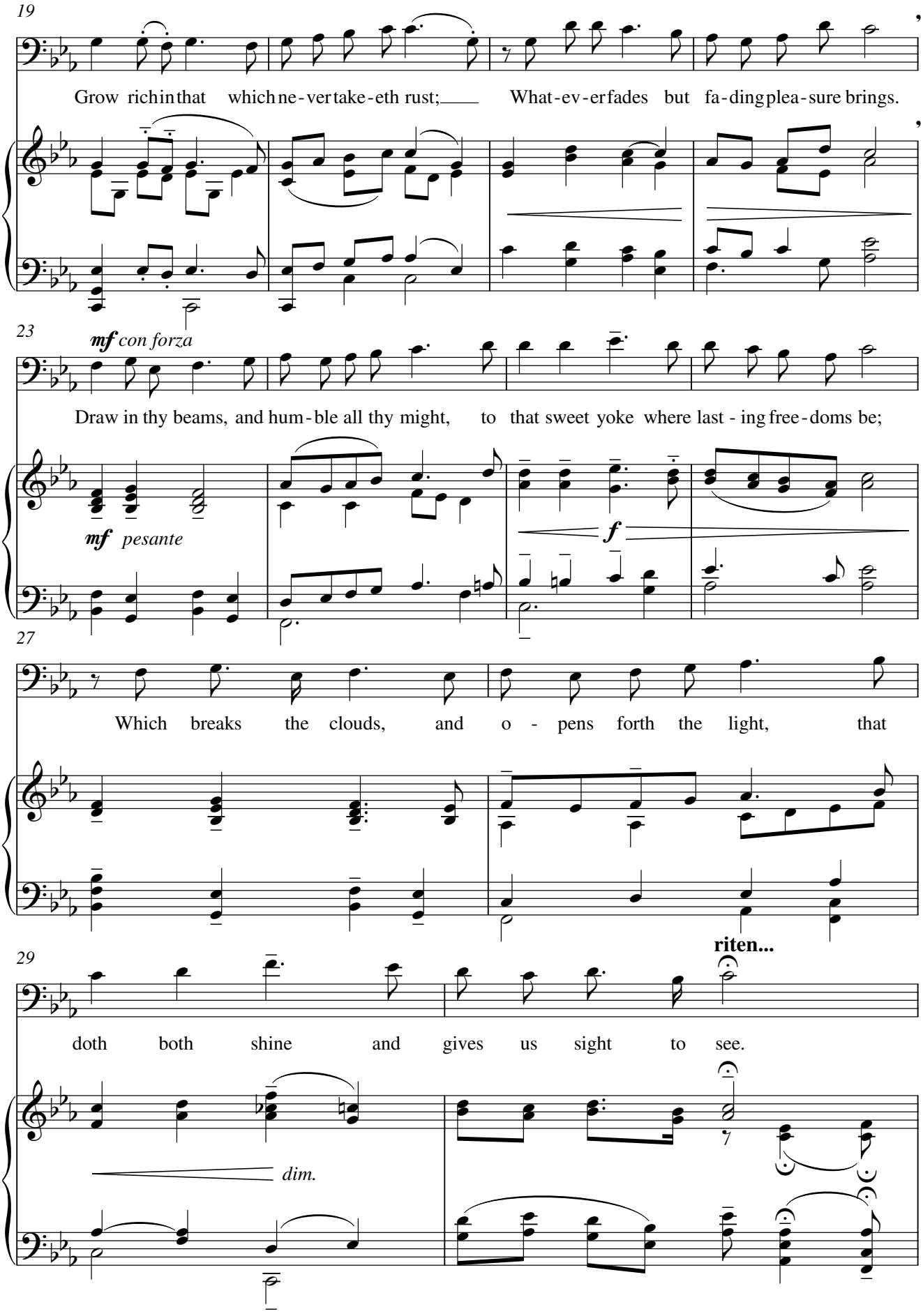
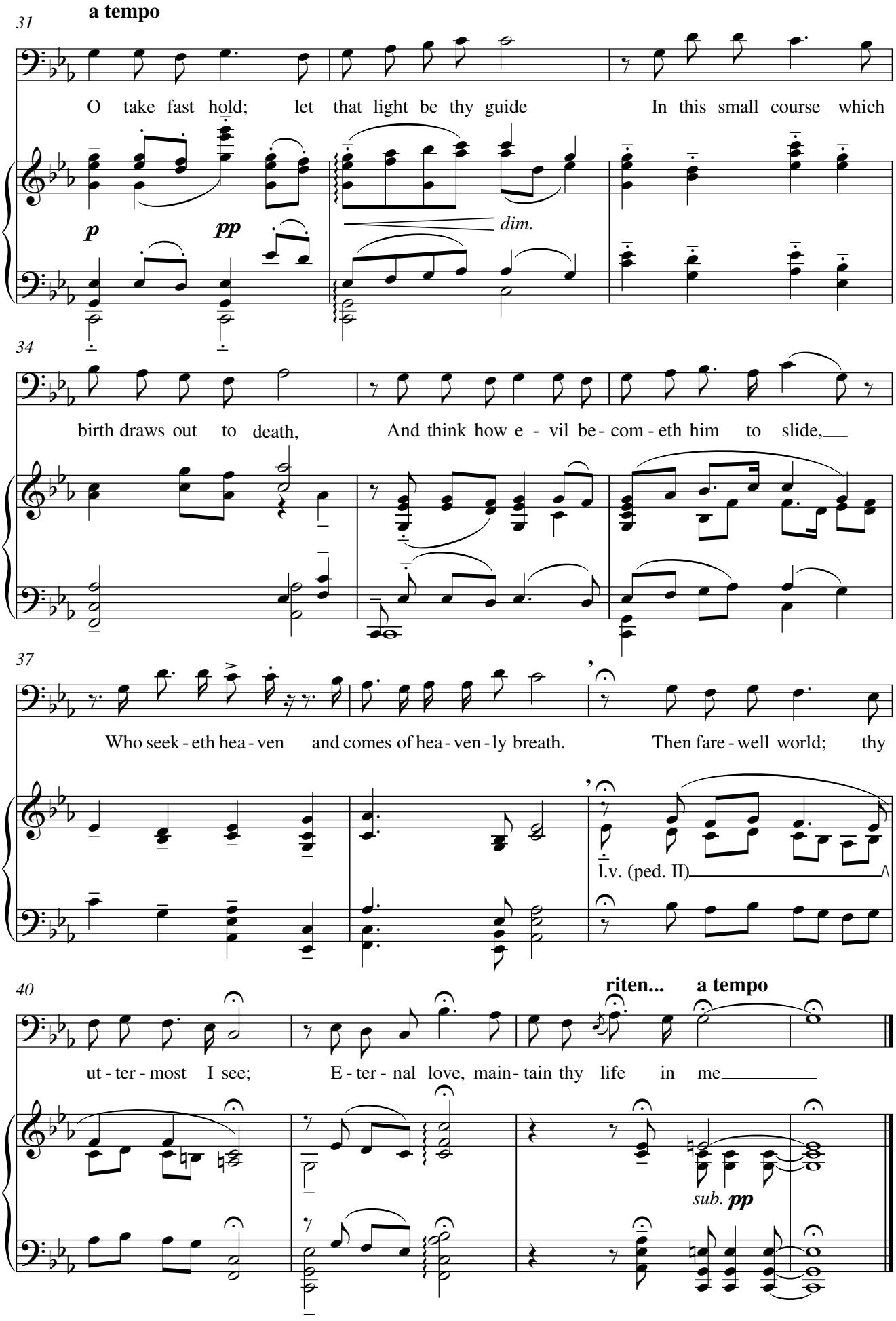
SPLENDIDIS LONGUM VALEDICO NUGIS

PHILIP SIDNEY

Adagio ma non troppo




19
Grow rich in that which ne - ver take - eth rust; What - ev - er fades but fa - ding plea - sure brings.
23
mf con forza
Draw in thy beams, and hum - ble all thy might, to that sweet yoke where last - ing free - doms be;
mf pesante
f
27
Which breaks the clouds, and o - pens forth the light, that
29
riten...
doth both shine and gives us sight to see.
dim.

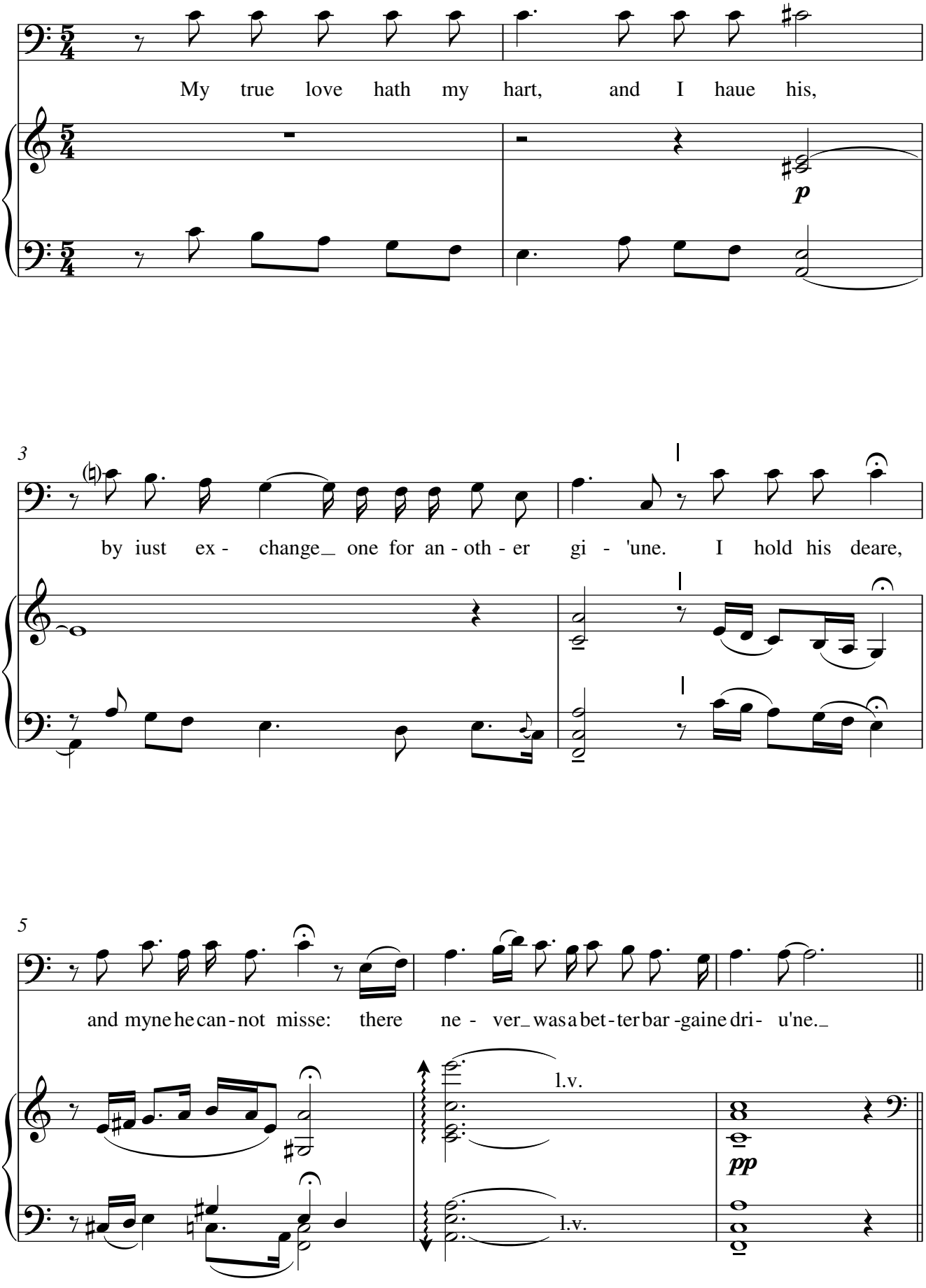

31
a tempo
O take fast hold; let that light be thy guide In this small course which
p
pp
dim.
34
birth draws out to death, And think how e - vil be - com - eth him to slide,
37
Who seek - eth hea - ven and comes of hea - ven - ly breath. Then fare - well world; thy
l.v. (ped. II)
40
riten... a tempo
ut - ter - most I see; E - ter - nal love, main - tain thy life in me
sub. pp

The Bargain

Philip Sidney

D.K.L.M

Andante



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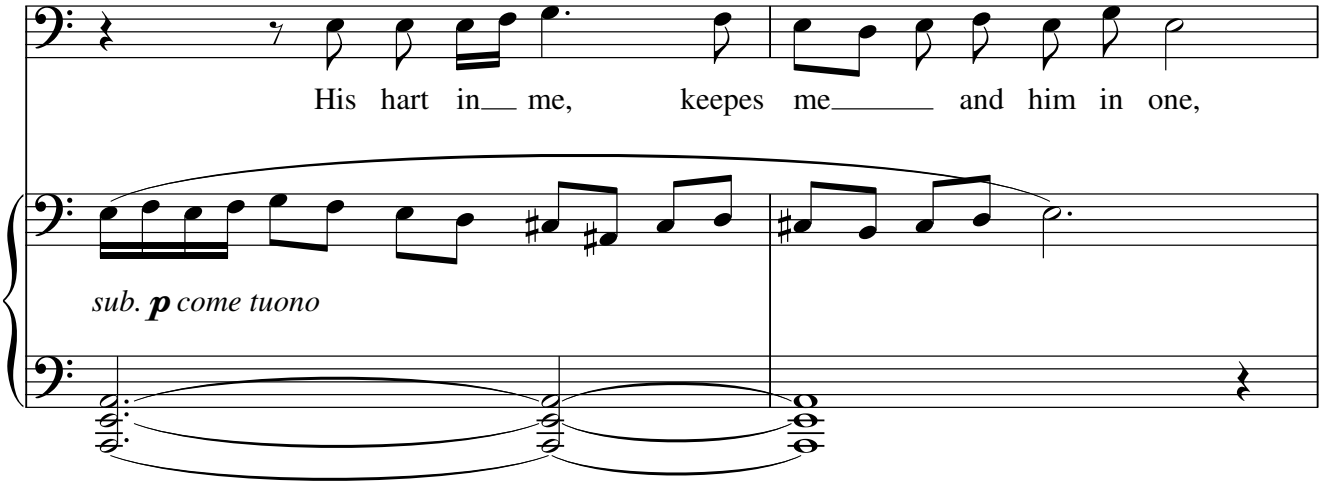
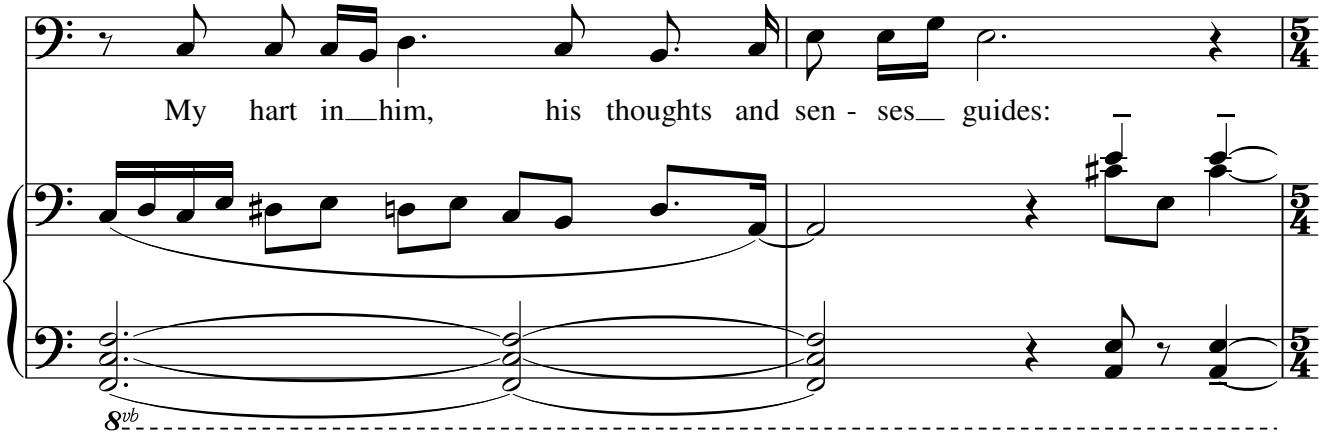
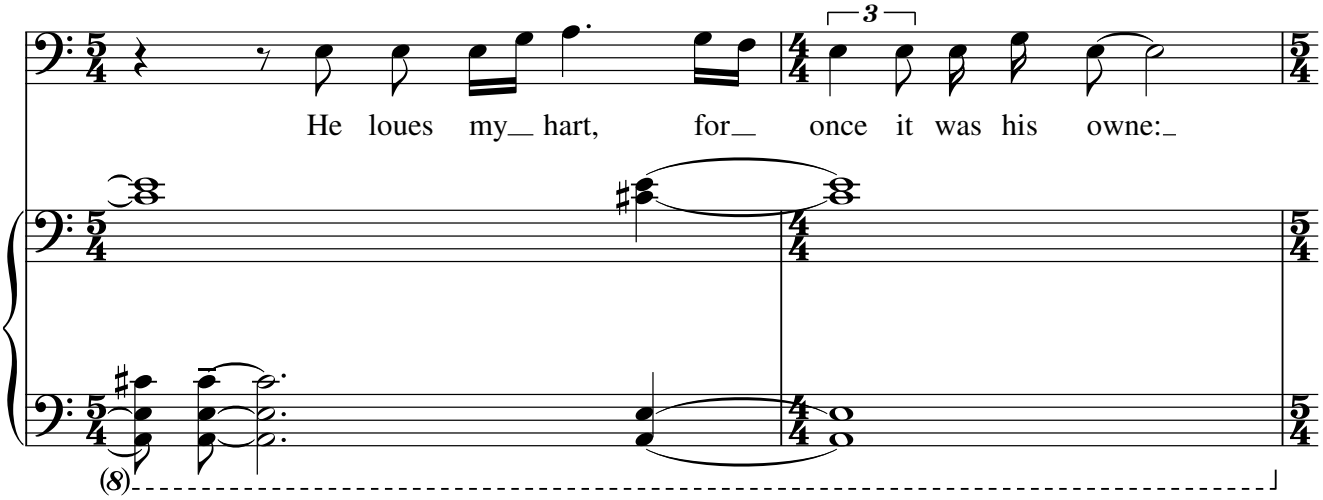

His hart in me, keepes me and him in one,
sub. p come tuono

10


My hart in him, his thoughts and sen - ses guides:
8vb

12


3
He loues my hart, for once it was his owne:
(8)

14

I cher - ish his be - cause in me it bides.

l.v.

(p)

l.v.

16

His hart his wound re - ceiued from my sight:

ff

p dim.

3

17

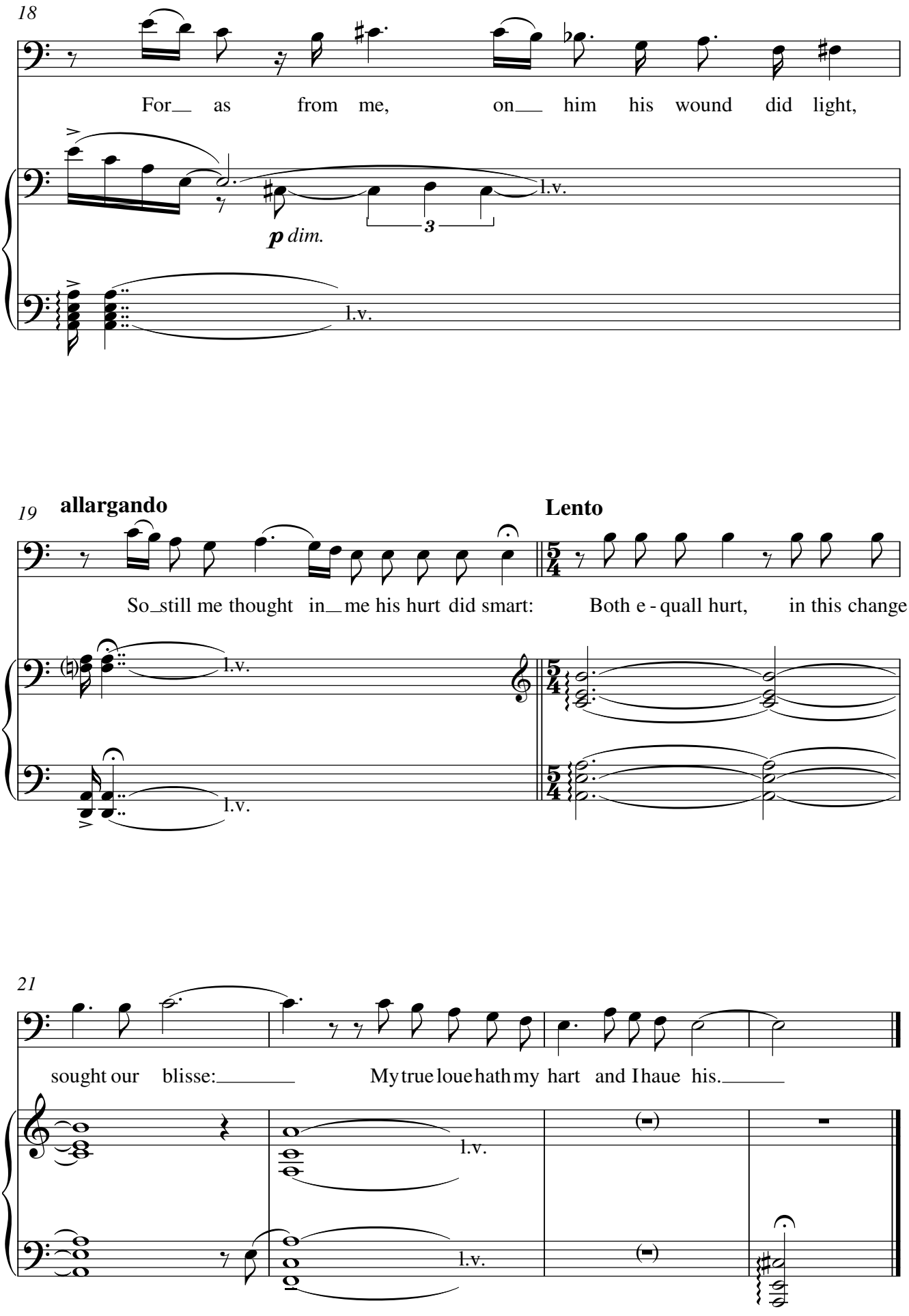
My hart was wound - ed with his wound - ed hart,

l.v.

ff

l.v.

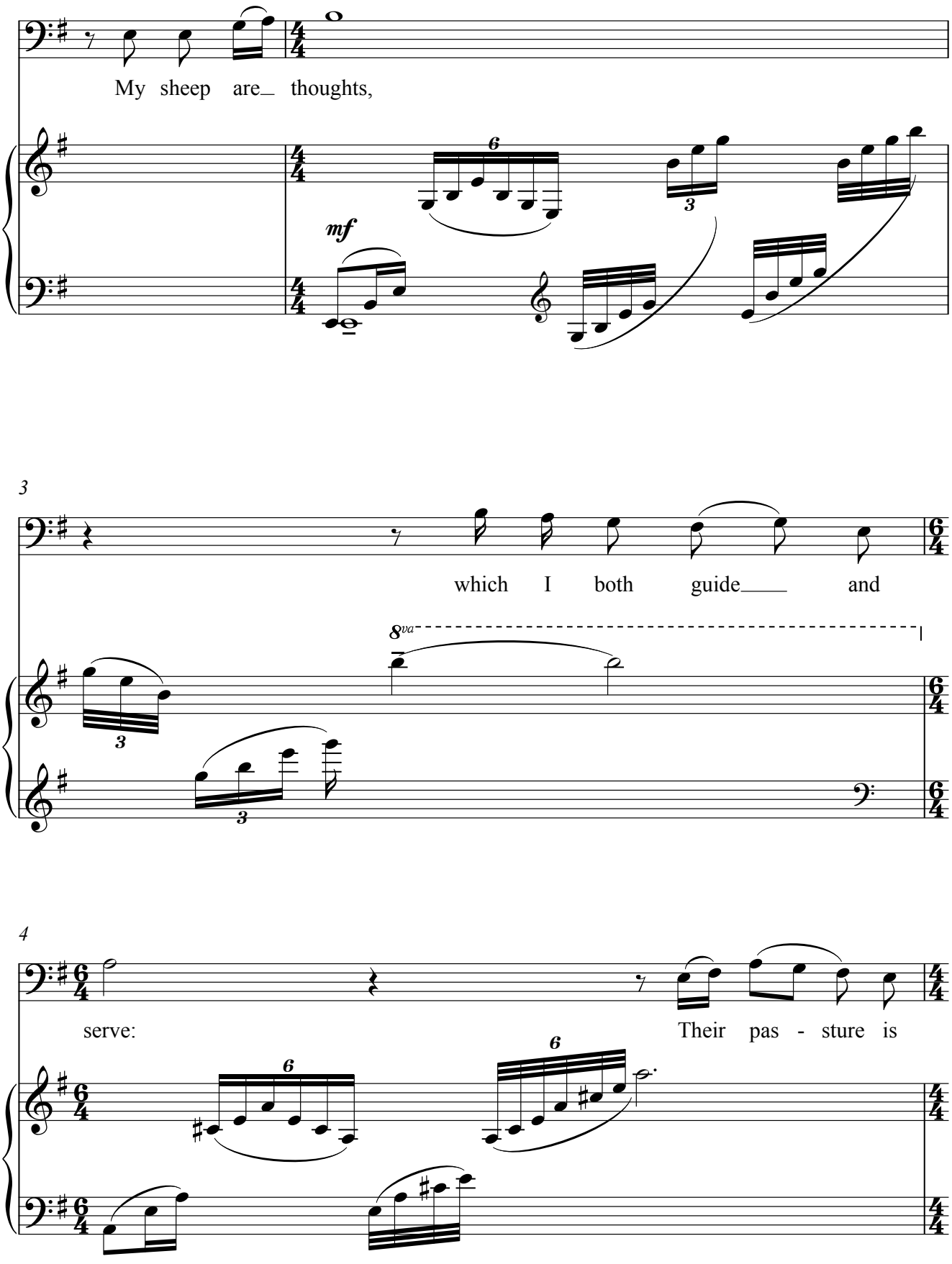
8vb

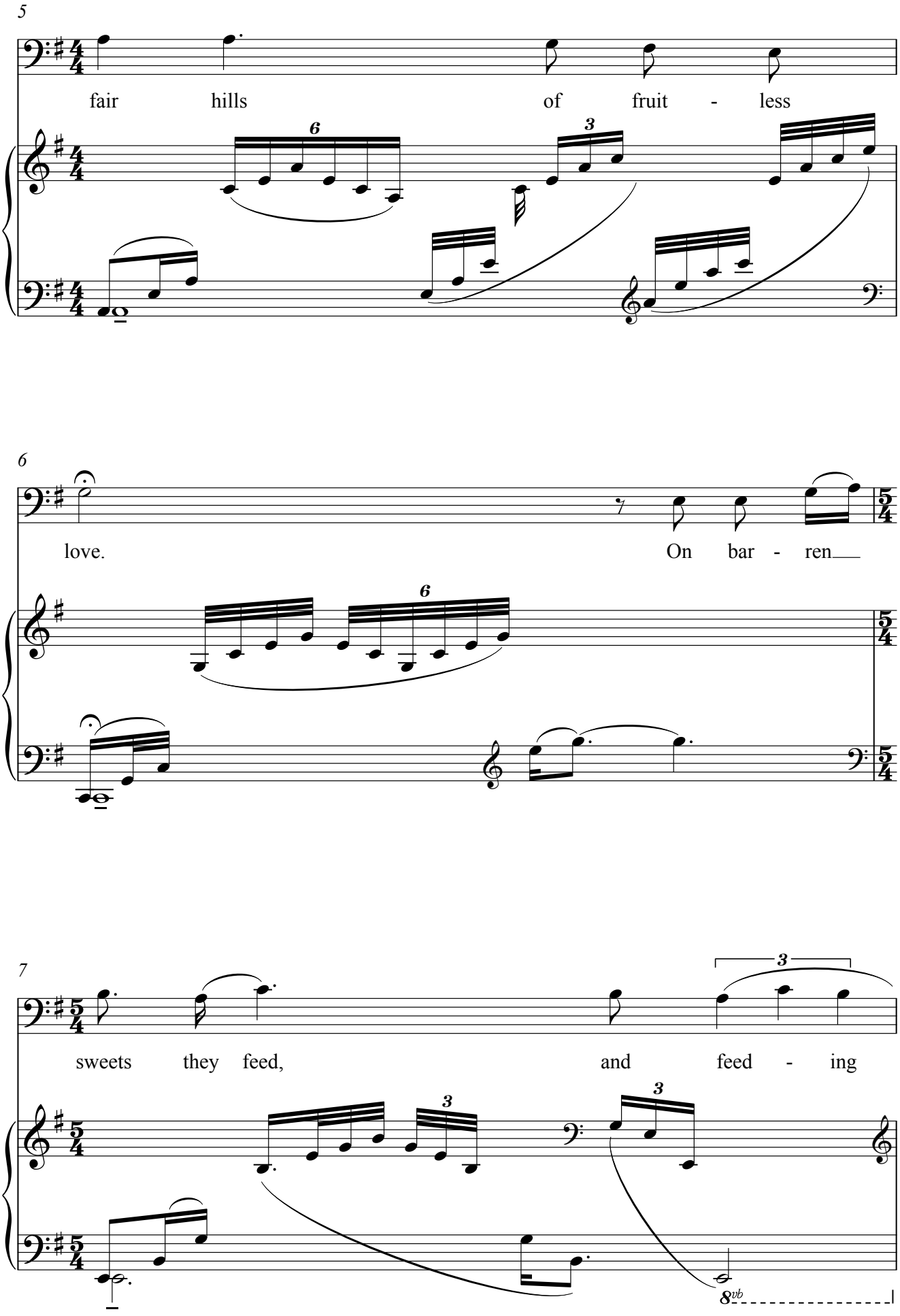

18
For as from me, on him his wound did light,
p dim.
l.v.
l.v.
19
allargando
Lento
So still me thought in me his hurt did smart: Both e - quall hurt, in this change
l.v.
l.v.
21
sought our blisse: My true loue hath my hart and I haue his.
l.v.
l.v.

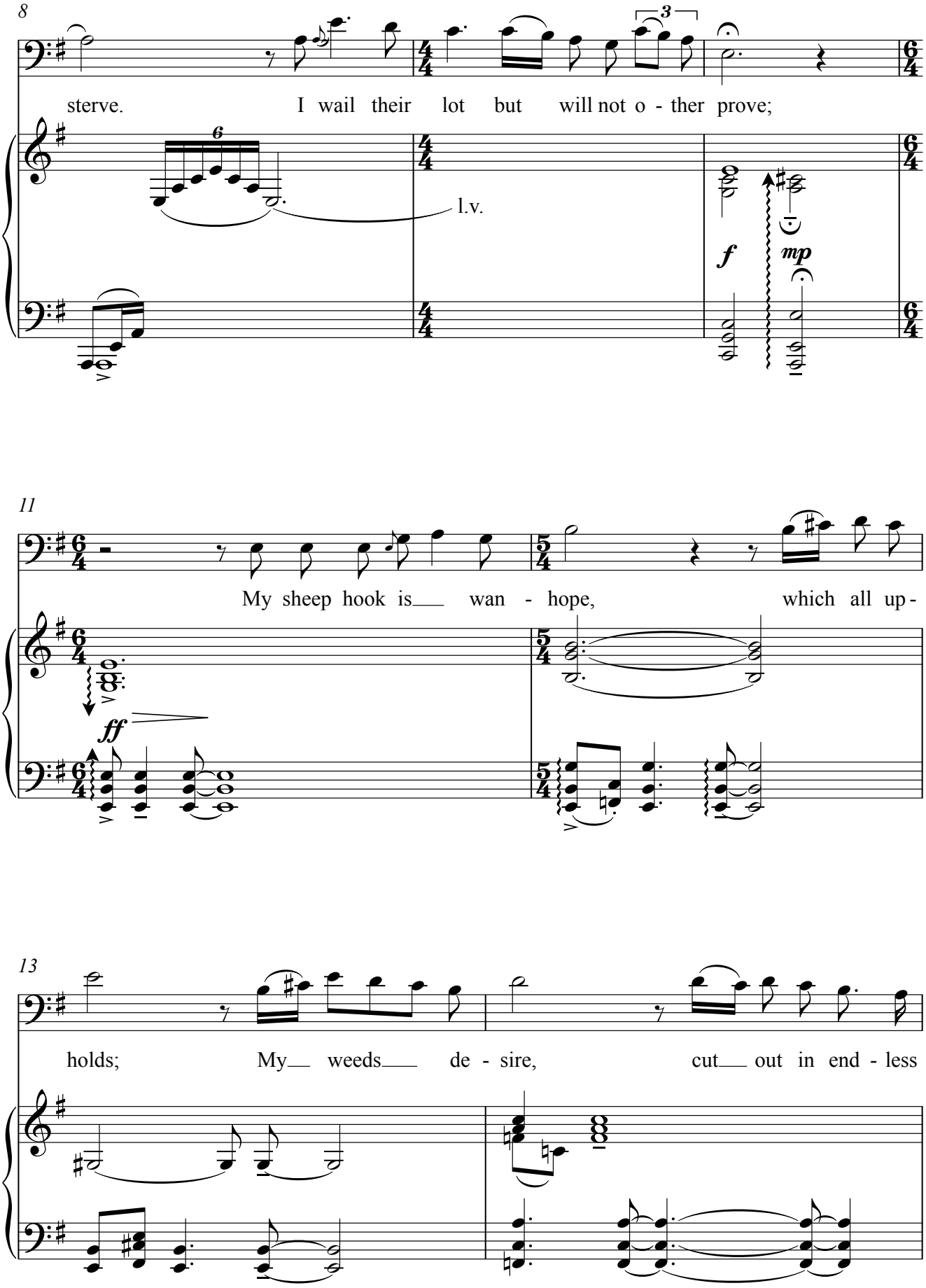
My Sheep are Thoughts

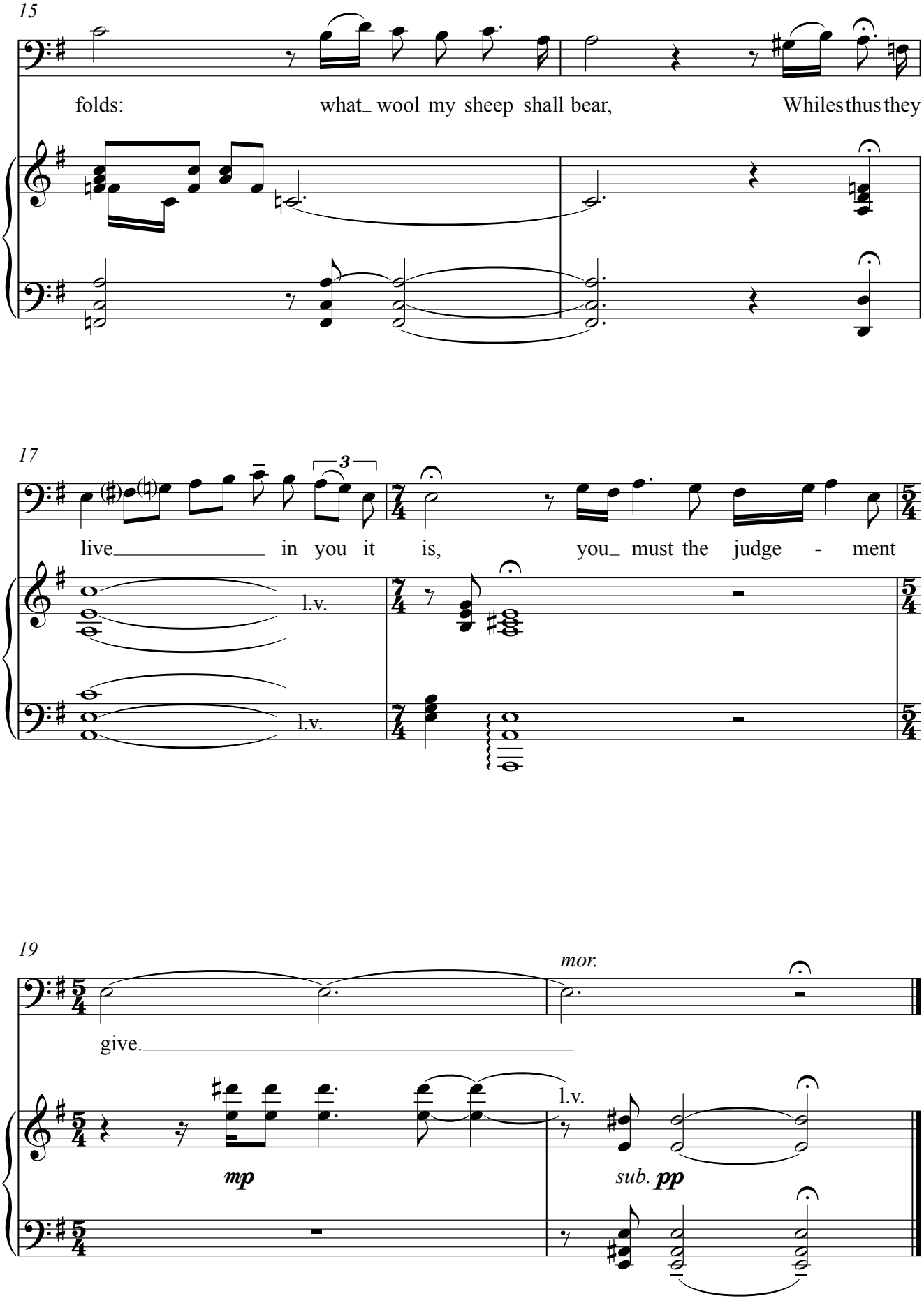
Philip Sidney D.K.L.M

Grave




5
fair hills of fruit - less
6
love. On bar - ren
7
sweets they feed, and feed - ing
8vb


8
sterve. I wail their lot but will not o - ther prove;
6
l.v.
f
mp
11
My sheep hook is wan - hope, which all up -
ff
13
holds; My weeds de - sire, cut out in end - less


15
folds: what_ wool my sheep shall bear, While thus they
17
3
live_____ in you it is, you_ must the judge - ment
l.v.
l.v.
19
mor.
give._____
l.v.
mp
sub. pp

Why Fear to Die?

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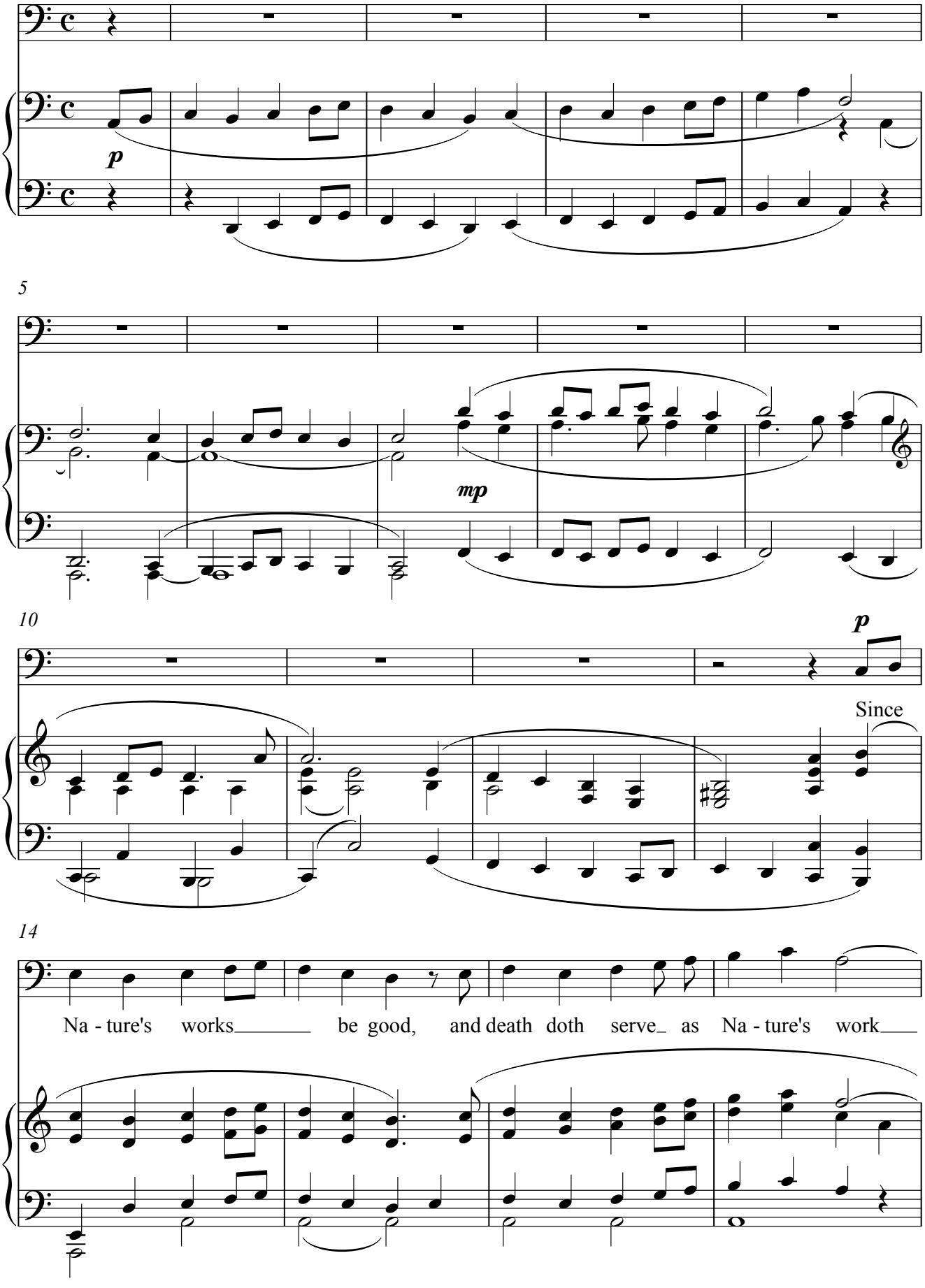
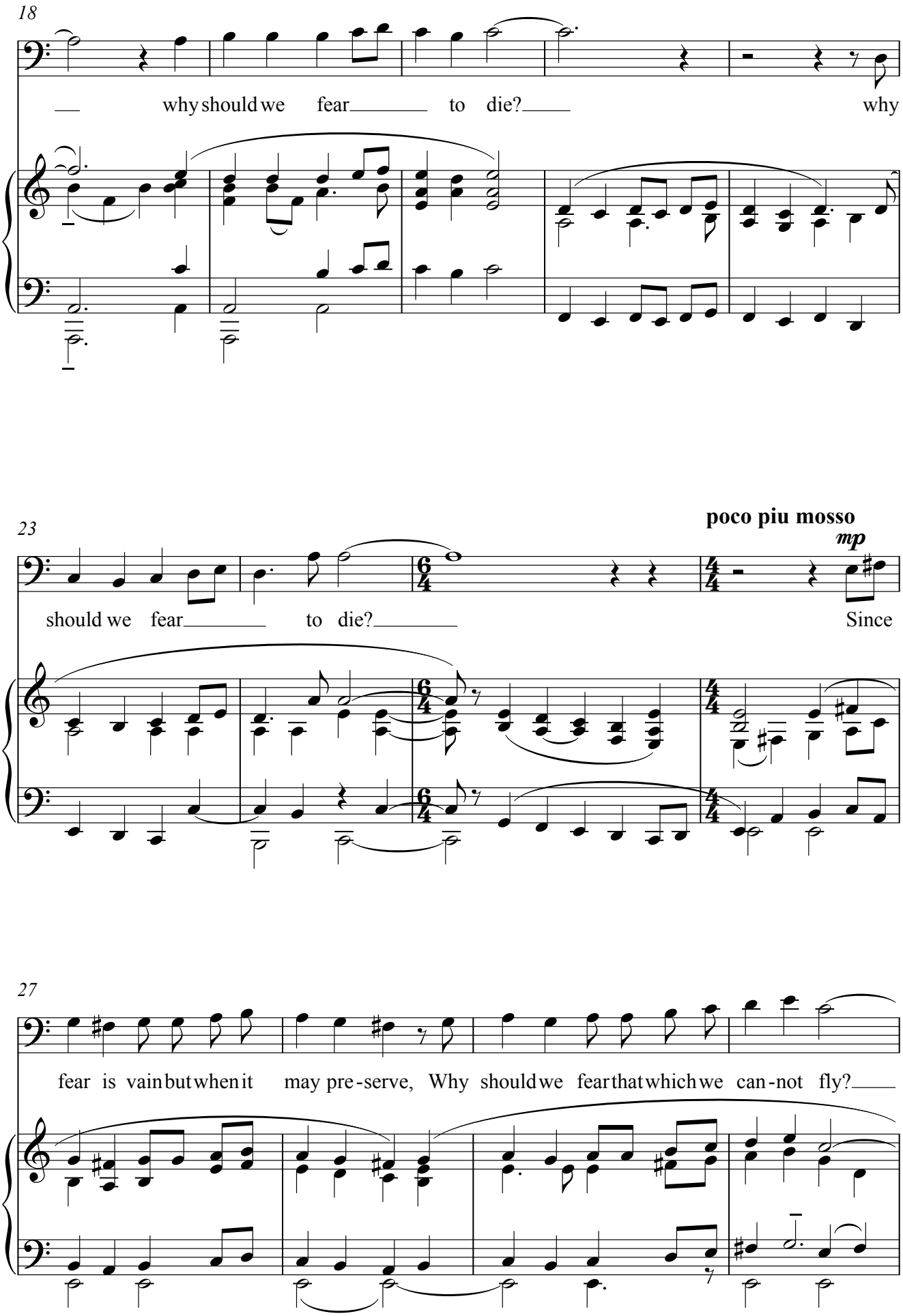
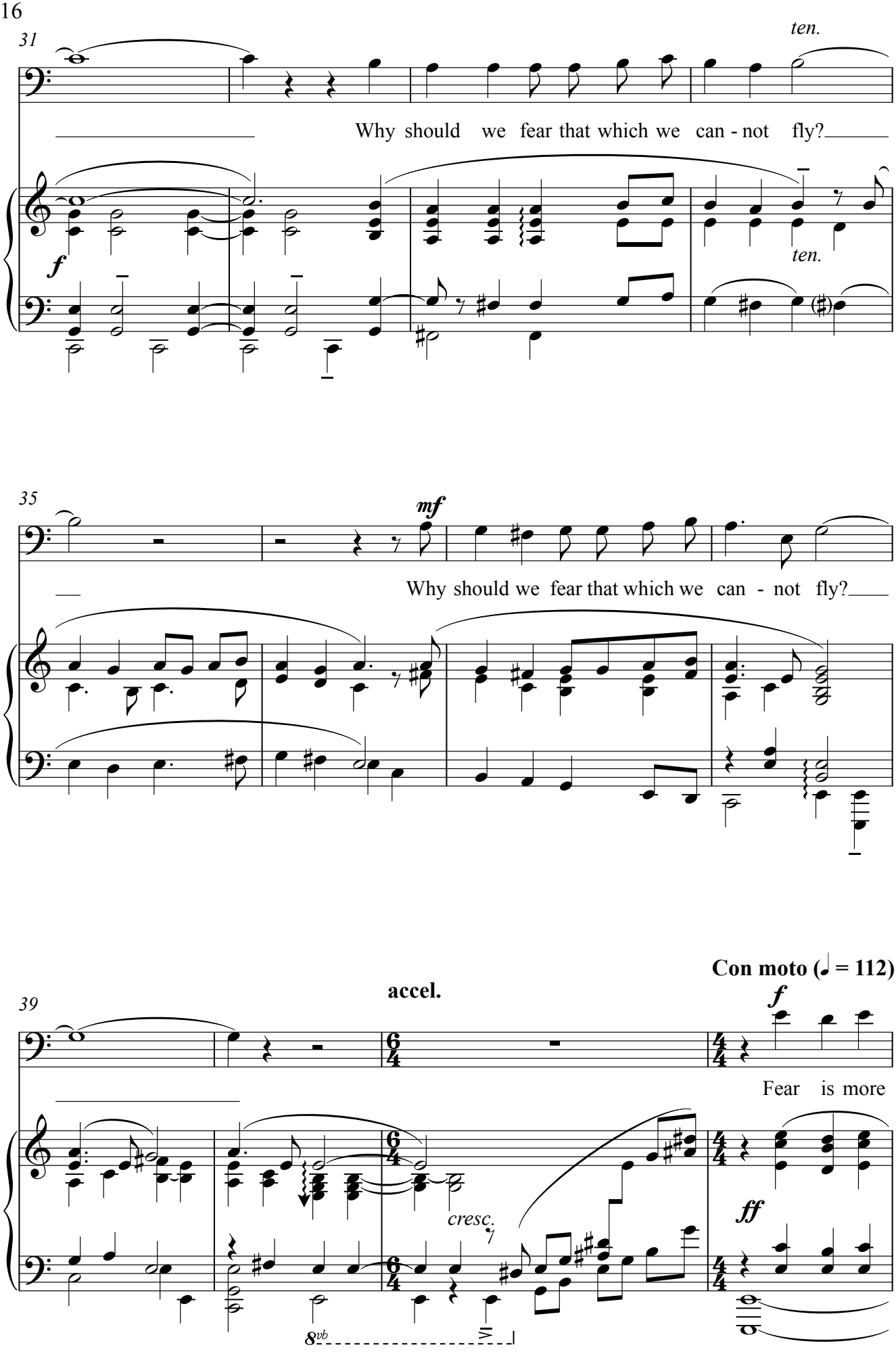
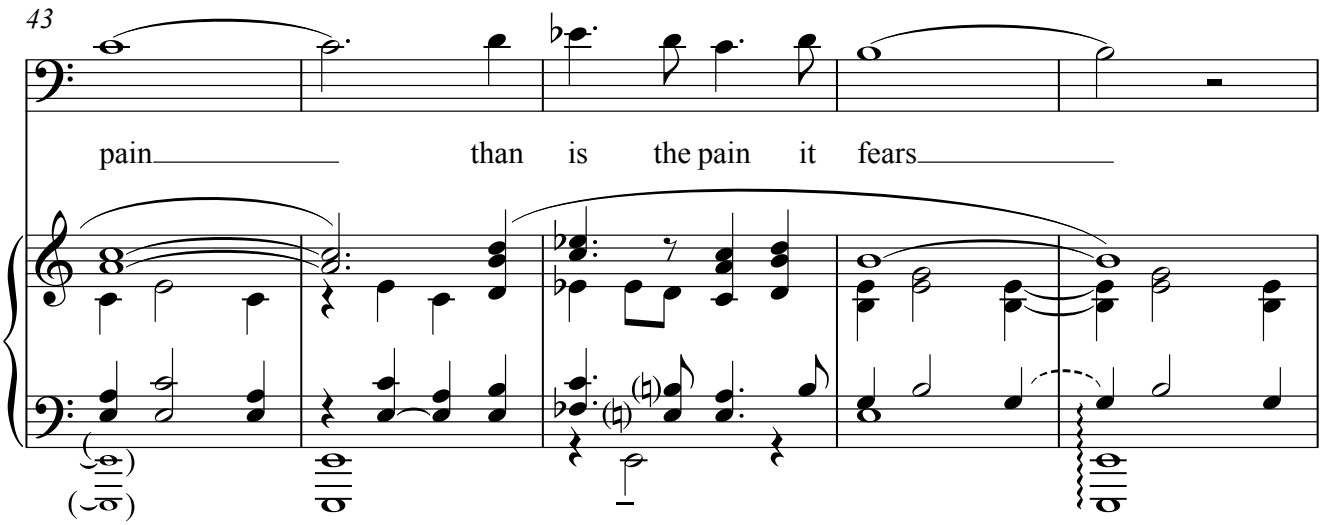
D.K.L.M

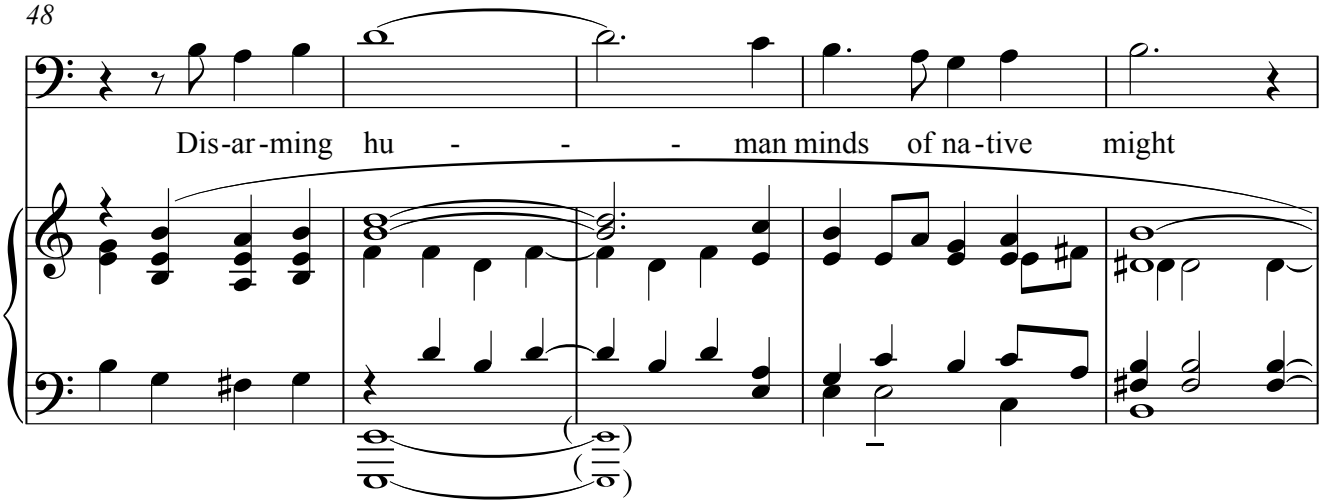
Allegretto

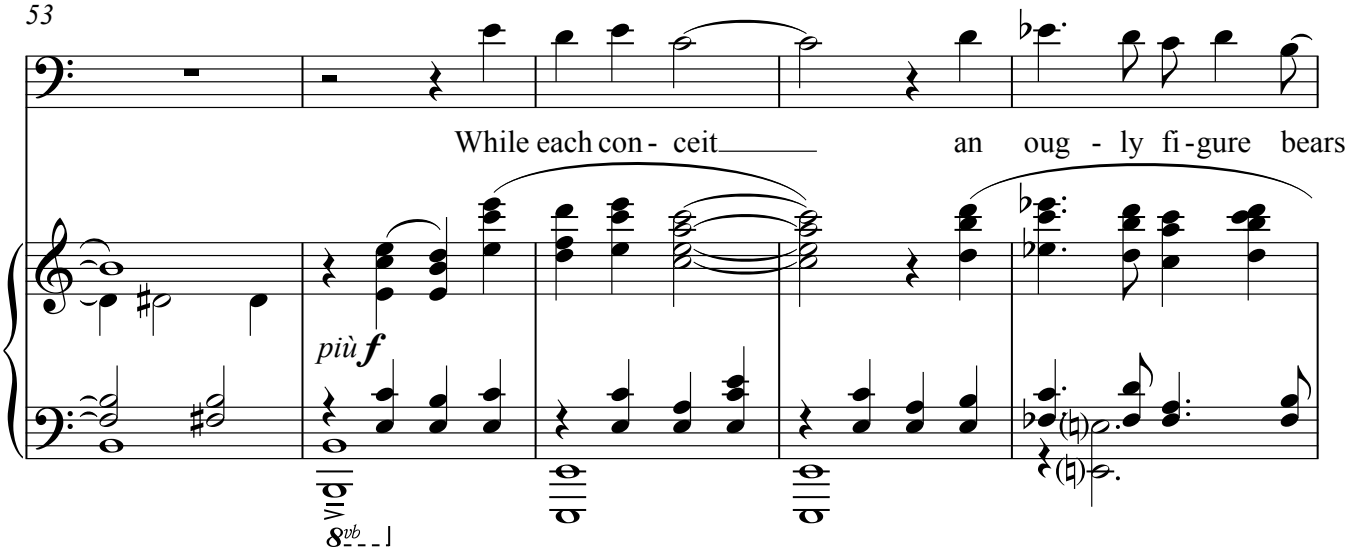


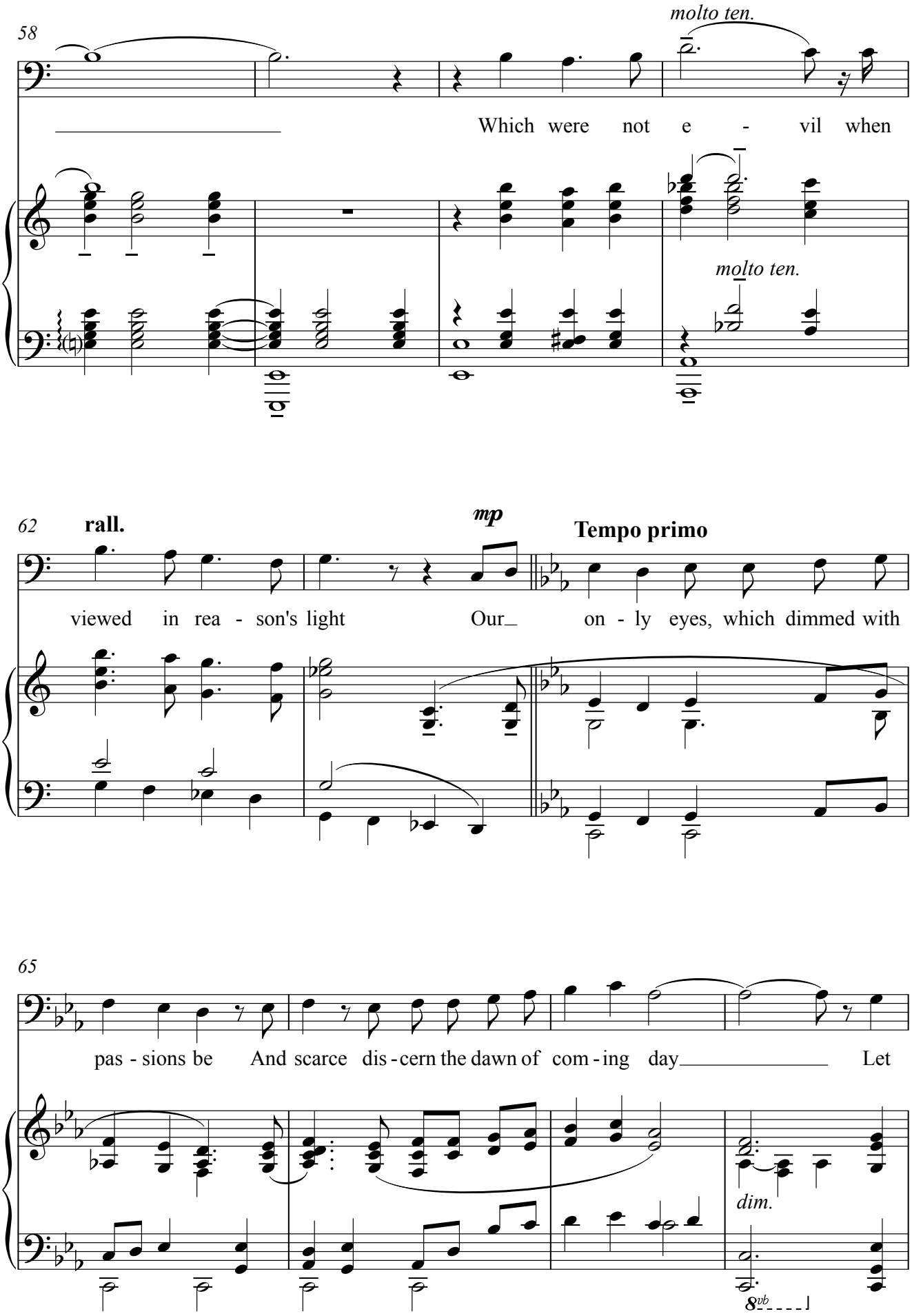

18
why should we fear to die? why
23
poco piu mosso
mp
should we fear to die? Since
27
fear is vain but when it may pre-serve, Why should we fear that which we can-not fly?

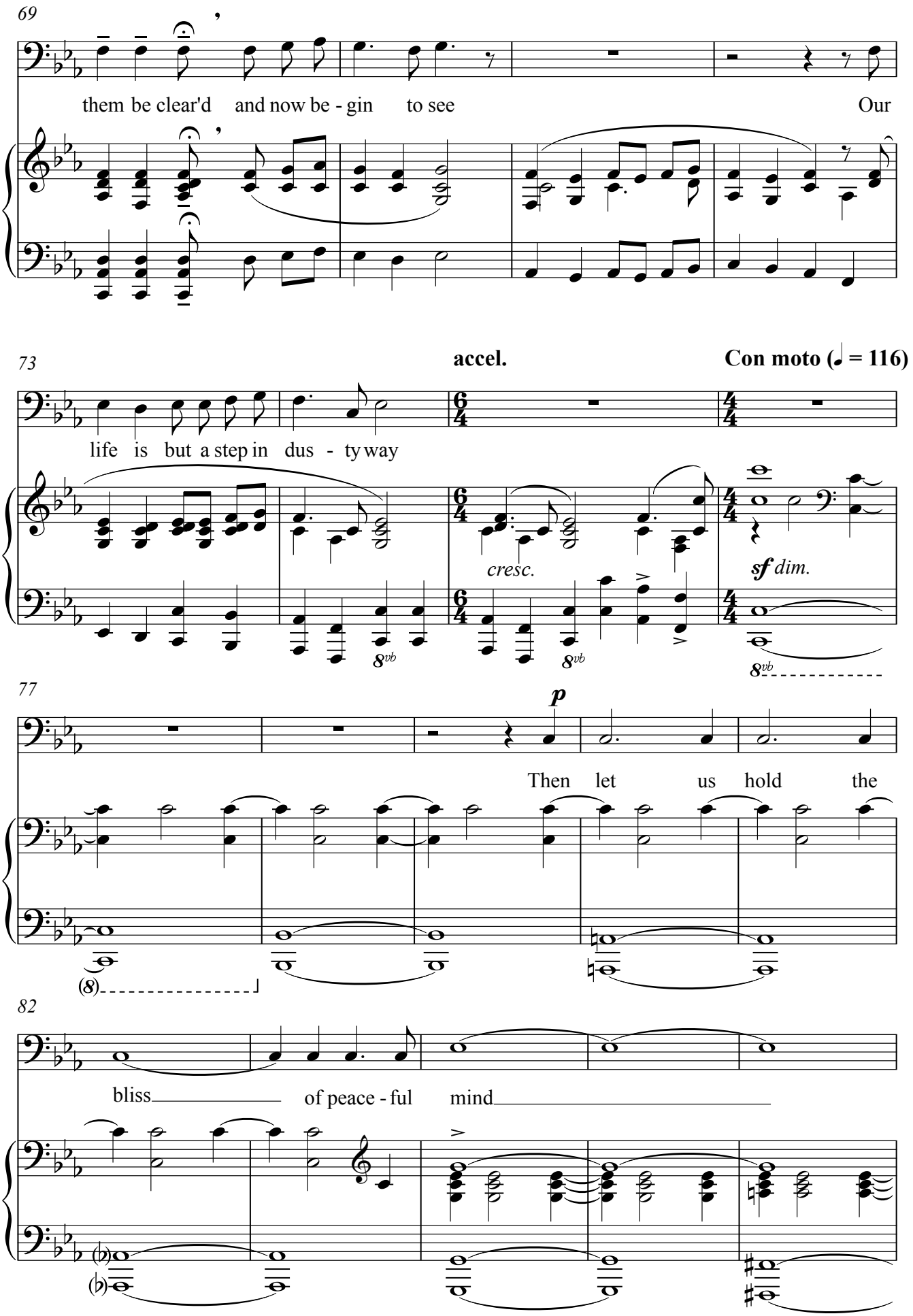

31
ten.
Why should we fear that which we can - not fly?
f
ten.
35
mf
Why should we fear that which we can - not fly?
39
accel.
Con moto (♩ = 112)
f
Fear is more
cresc.
ff
8vb

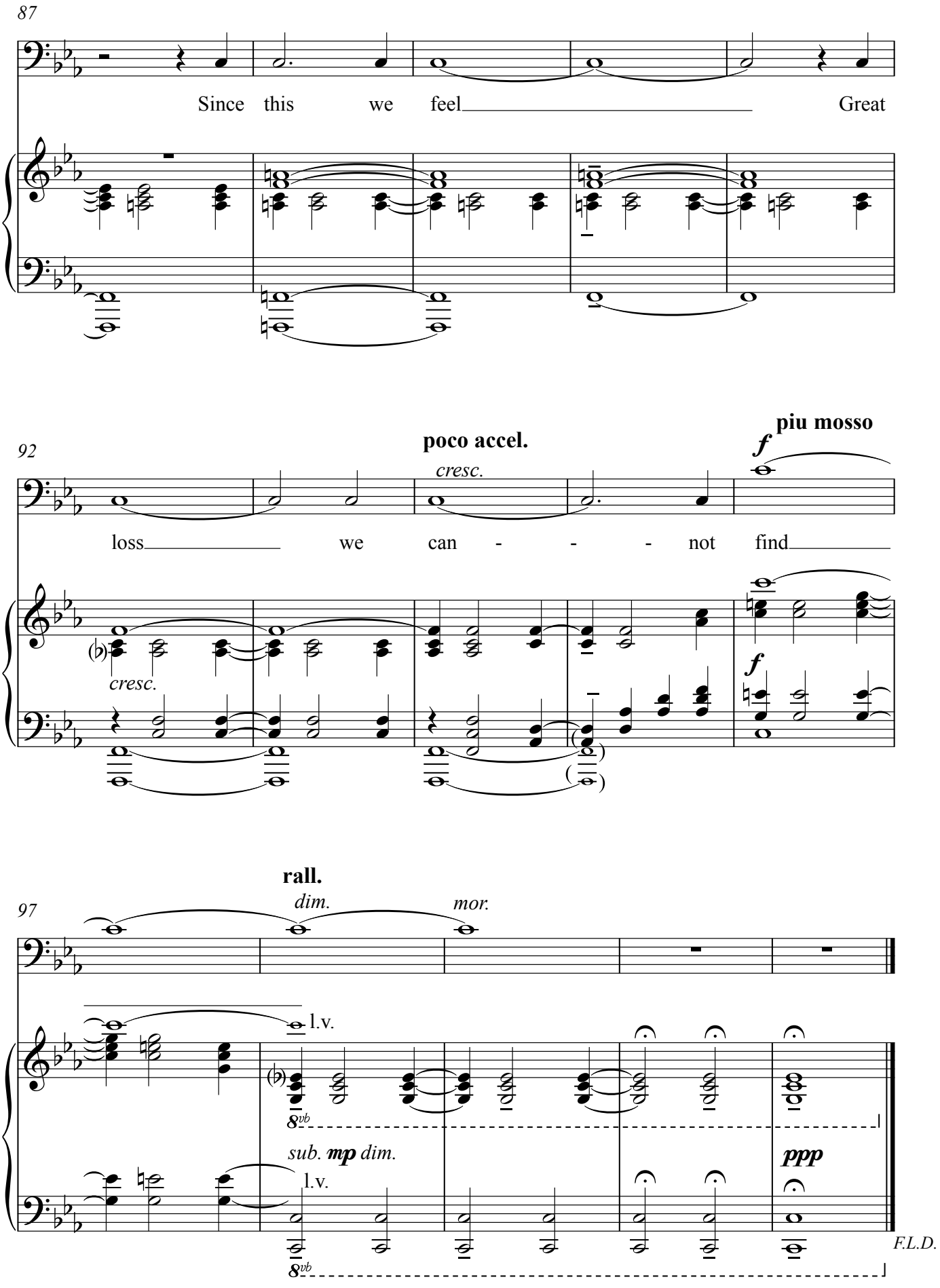

43
pain than is the pain it fears


48
Dis-ar-ming hu - - - man minds of na-tive might


53
While each con- ceit an oug - ly fi-gure bears
più f
8vb


58
molto ten.
Which were not e - vil when
molto ten.
62
rall.
mp
Tempo primo
viewed in rea - son's light Our_ on - ly eyes, which dimmed with
65
pas - sions be And scarce dis - cern the dawn of com - ing day_____ Let
dim.
8vb


69
them be clear'd and now be - gin to see Our
73
accel.
Con moto (♩ = 116)
life is but a step in dus - ty way
cresc.
sf dim.
8vb
77
p
Then let us hold the
(8)
82
bliss of peace - ful mind


87
Since this we feel Great
92
poco accel.
piu mosso
cresc.
loss we can - - - not find
cresc.
97
rall.
dim.
mor.
l.v.
sub. mp dim.
l.v.
ppp
F.L.D.