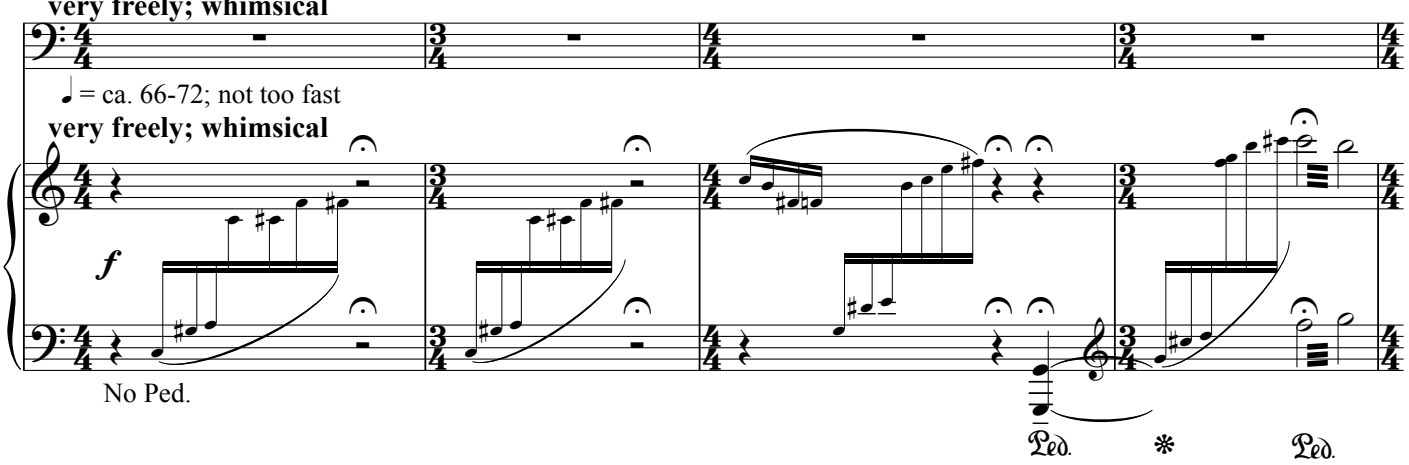
The Lesson of the Moth

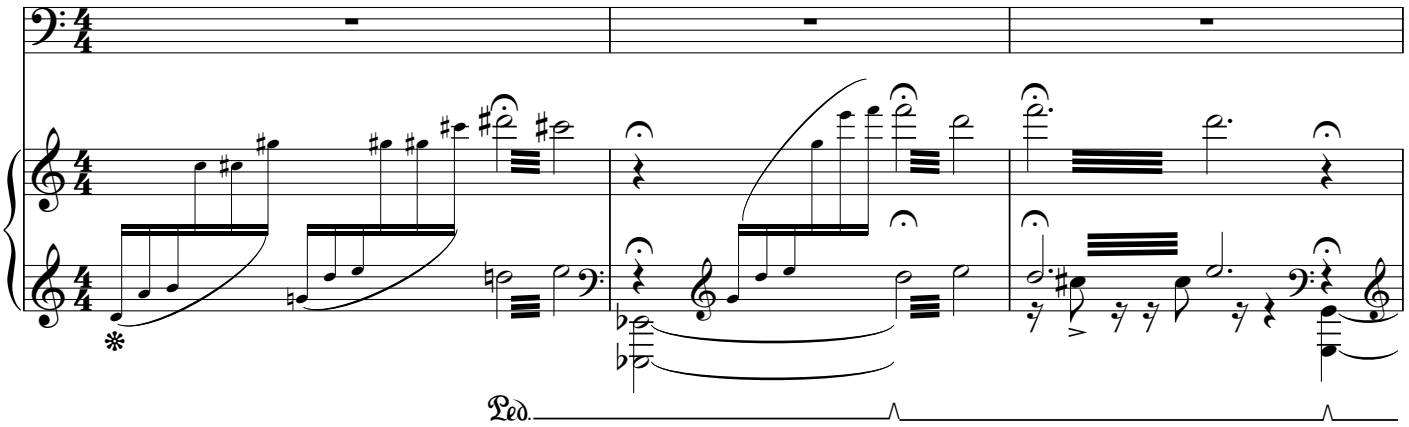
Jennifer Fitzgerald
text by: Don Marquis

*** note for piano :
prepare F# 5 with a strip of 1" thick strip of paper woven between strings 1&2, and 2&3.

♩ = ca. 66-72; not too fast
very freely; whimsical



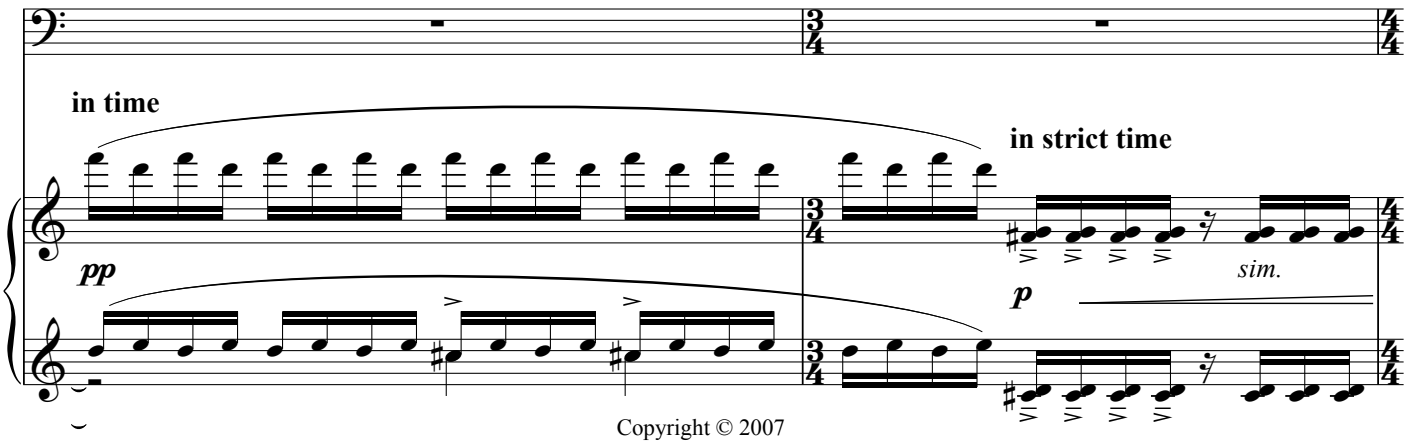
5



in time

8

in strict time



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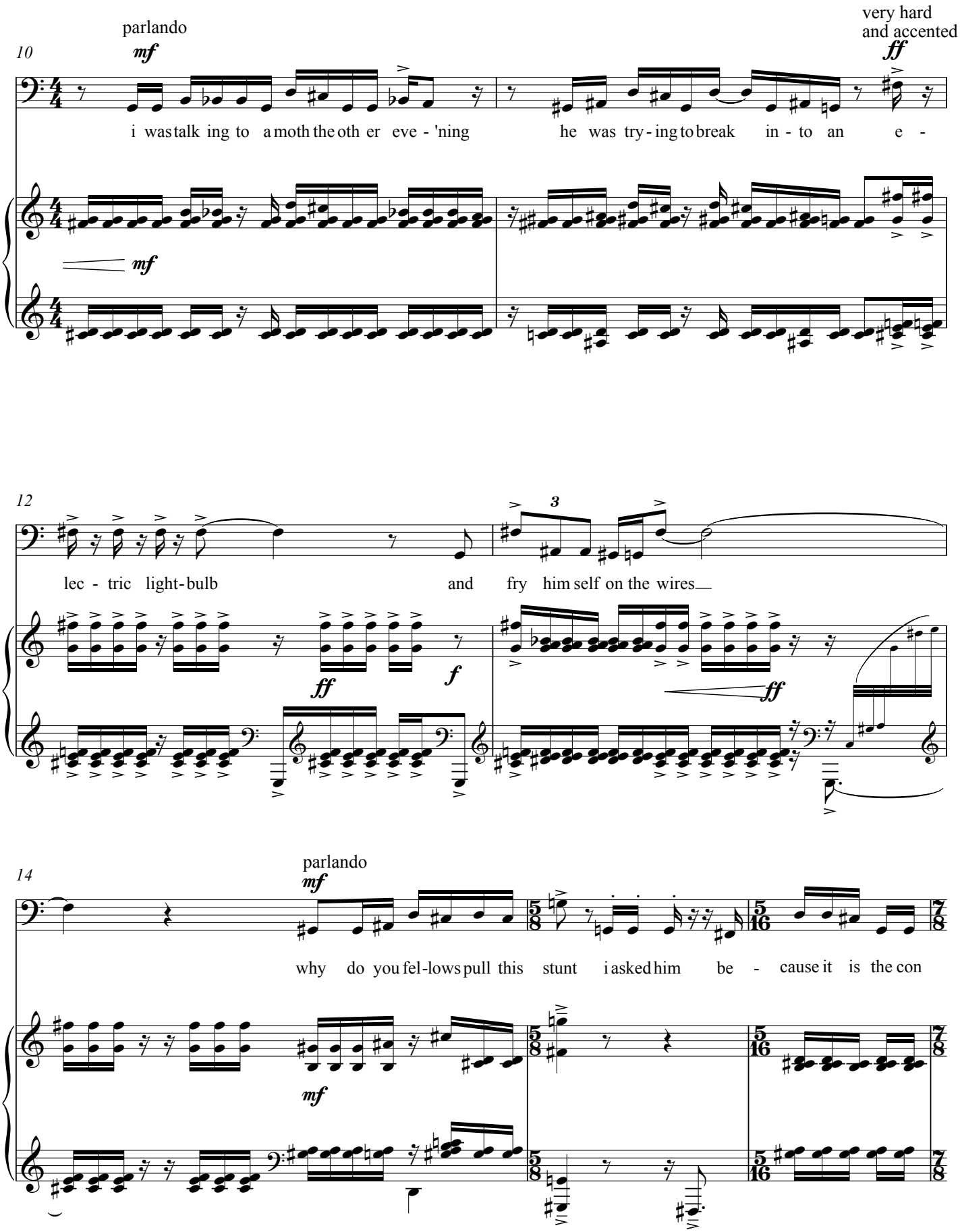
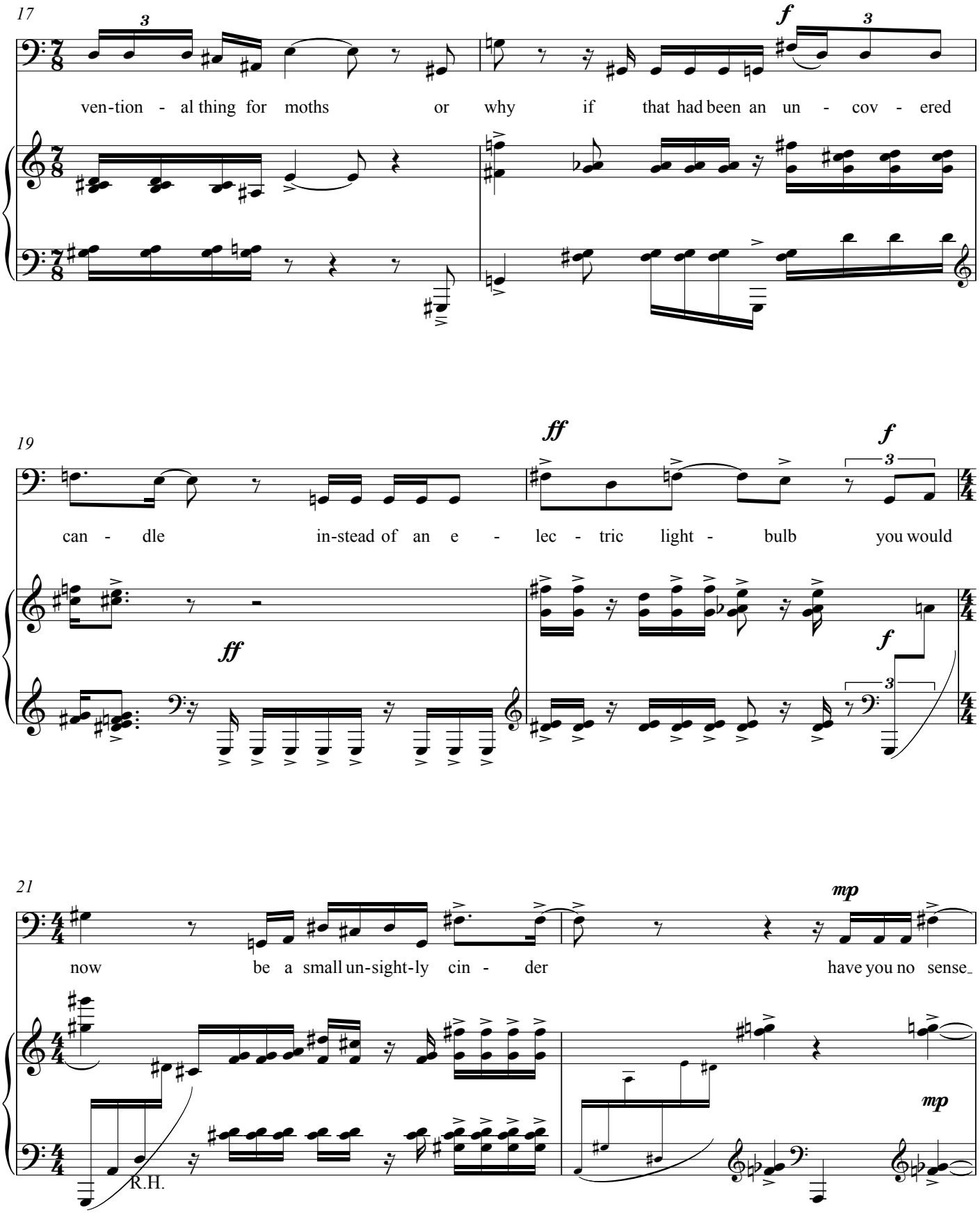
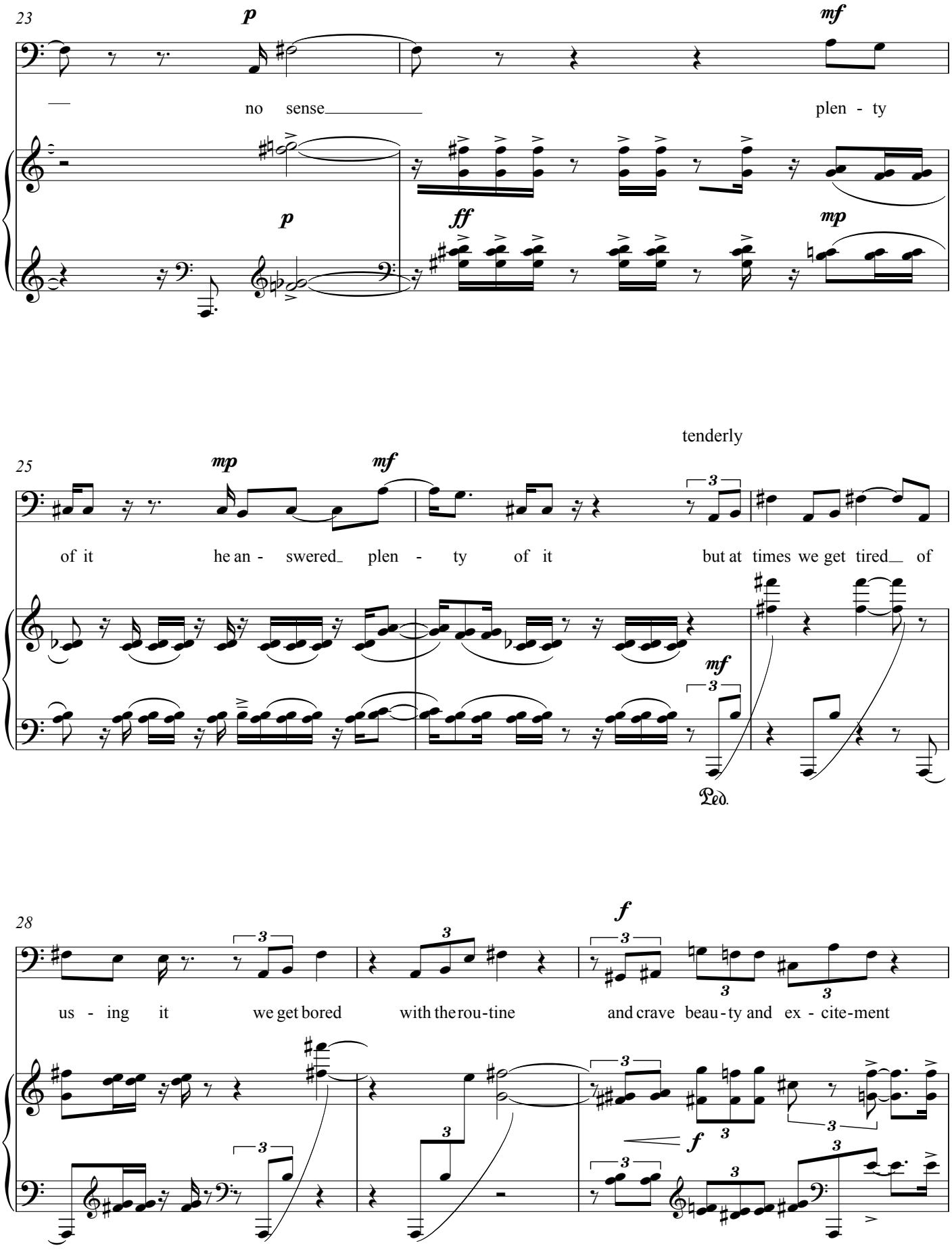
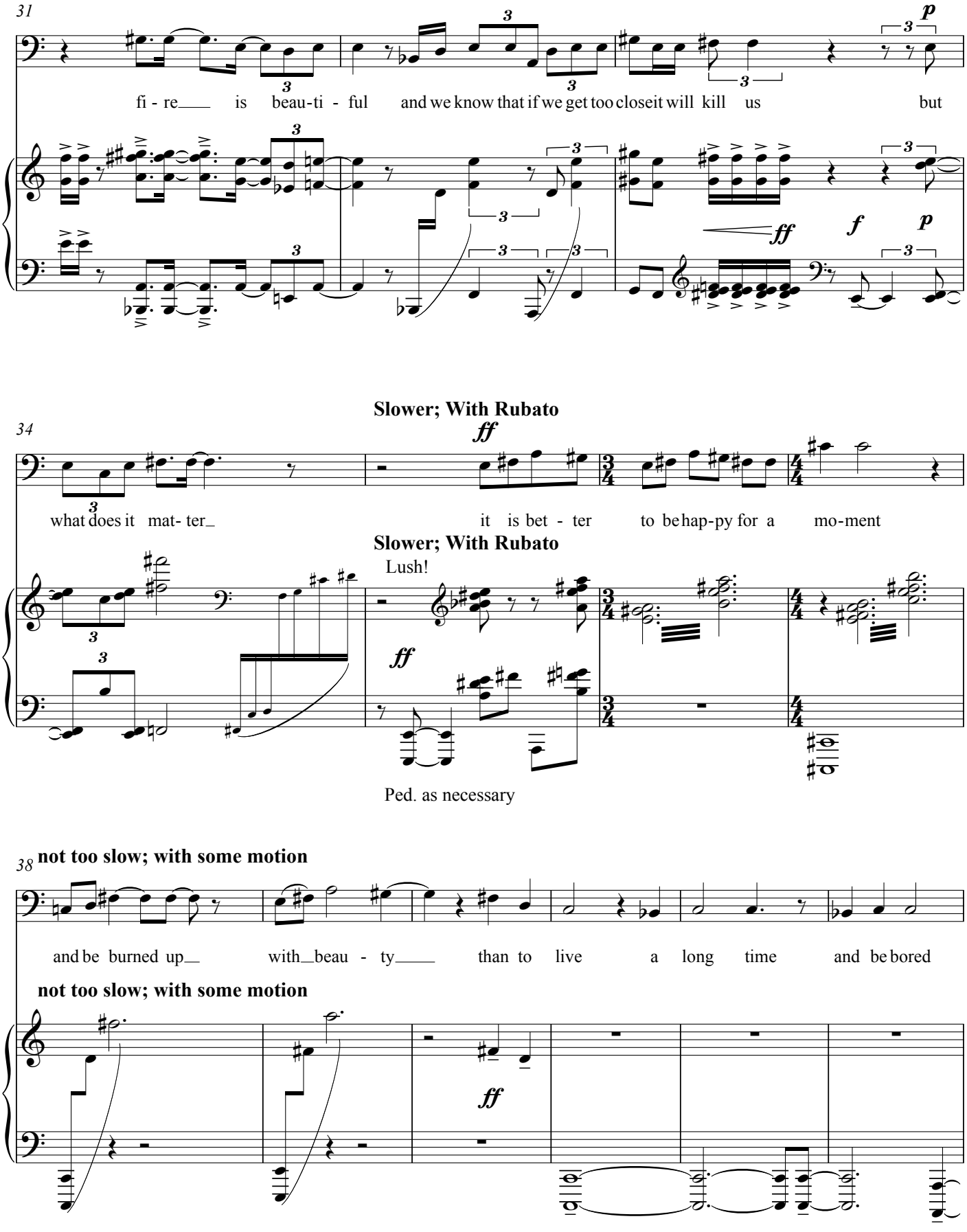
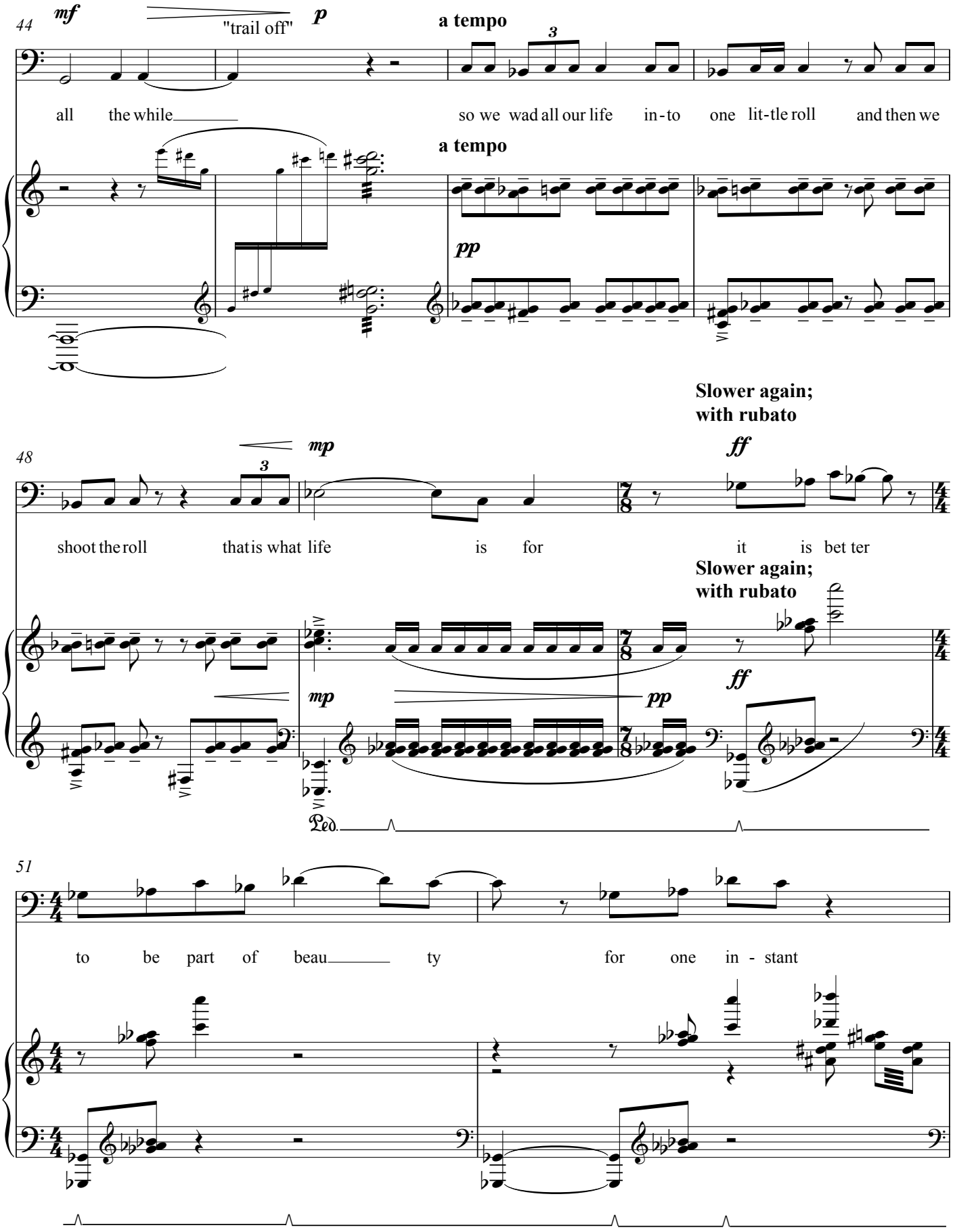
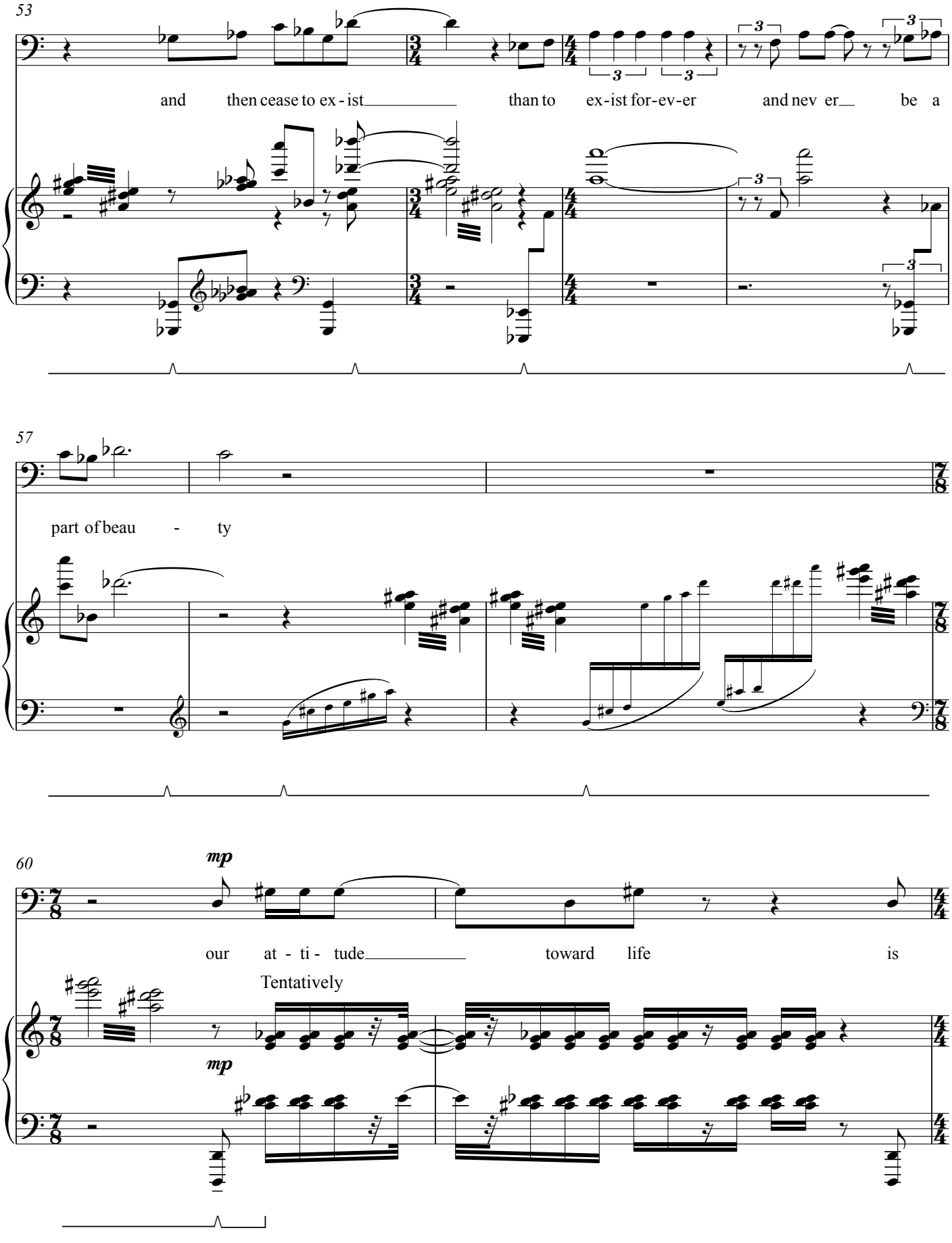

10
parlando
mf
very hard
and accented
ff
i was talk ing to a moth the oth er eve - 'ning
he was try - ing to break in - to an e -
mf
12
lec - tric light - bulb
and
fry him self on the wires
3
ff
f
ff
14
parlando
mf
why do you fel - lows pull this stunt i asked him be - cause it is the con
mf

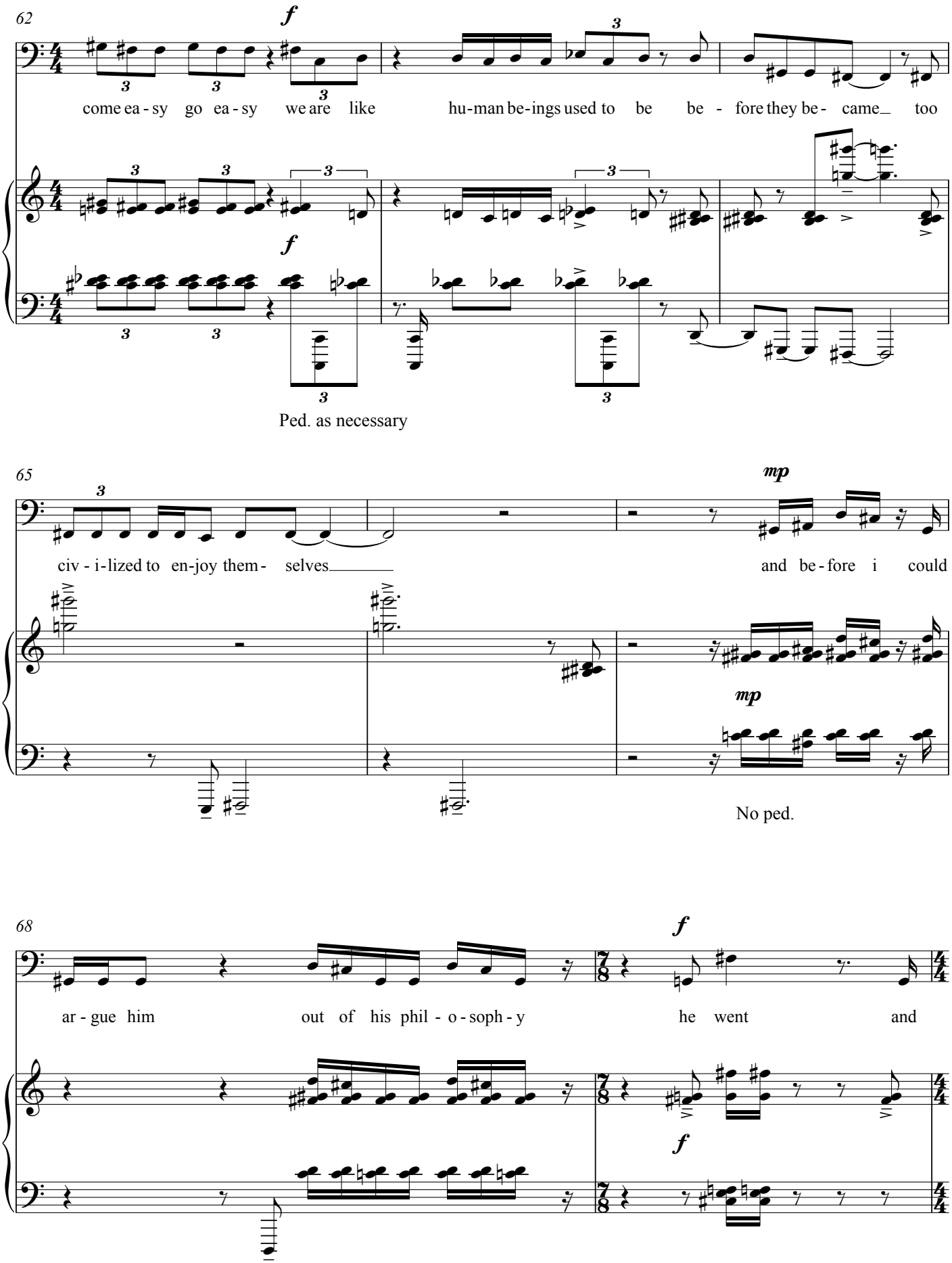

17
ven-tion - al thing for moths or why if that had been an un - cov - ered
19
can - dle in-stead of an e - lec - tric light - bulb you would
21
now be a small un-sight-ly cin - der have you no sense
R.H.

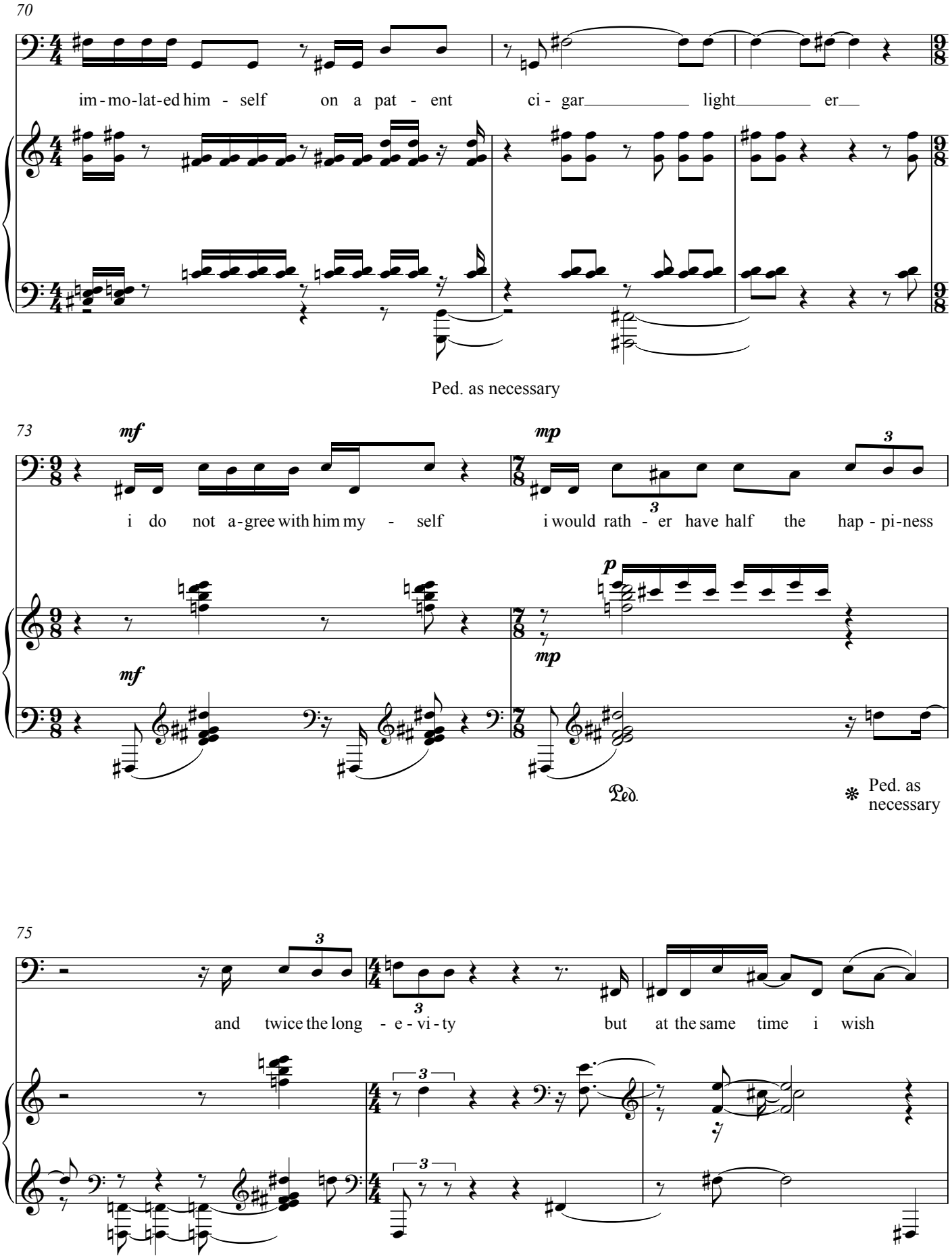

23
p
mf
no sense
plen - ty
p
ff
mp
tenderly
25
mp
mf
of it
he an - swered
plen - ty
of it
but at times we get tired
of
mf
Ped.
28
f
us - ing it
we get bored
with the rou-tine
and crave beau-ty and ex - cite-ment
f


31
fi - re is beau-ti - ful and we know that if we get too closeit will kill us but
Slower; With Rubato
34
what does it mat- ter it is bet - ter to be hap-py for a mo-ment
Slower; With Rubato
Lush!
Ped. as necessary
38 not too slow; with some motion
and be burned up with beau - ty than to live a long time and be bored
not too slow; with some motion


44
mf
"trail off"
p
a tempo
all the while
so we wad all our life in-to one lit-tle roll and then we
a tempo
pp
48
mp
shoot the roll that is what life is for it is bet ter
Slower again;
with rubato
ff
Slower again;
with rubato
mp
pp
ff
Ped.
51
to be part of beau ty for one in - stant


53
and then cease to ex - ist than to ex-ist for-ev-er and nev er be a
57
part of beau - ty
60
mp
our at - ti - tude toward life is
Tentatively
mp


62
f
come ea - sy go ea - sy we are like hu-man be-ings used to be be - fore they be - came too
f
Ped. as necessary
65
civ - i-lized to en-joy them - selves
and be - fore i could
mp
mp
No ped.
68
f
ar - gue him out of his phil - o - soph - y
he went and
f


70
im - mo-lat-ed him - self on a pat - ent ci - gar light er
Ped. as necessary
73
mf
mp
i do not a-gree with him my - self i would rath - er have half the hap - pi-ness
p
mf
mp
Ped.
* Ped. as necessary
75
and twice the long - e - vi - ty but at the same time i wish

78

mf *p* *f*

there was some-thing i___ want_ ed as bad-ly as he___ want___ ed to

pp *f*

Ped. *

81

fry_____ him_____ self_____

Ped.

Ped. as necessary

83