# Let's Marry Said the Cherry

**Low Voice and Piano**

**Poems by**
**N. M. BODECKER**

**Music by**
**BRUCE TRINKLEY**

# Let's Marry Said the Cherry

**Voice and Piano**

## Poems by N. M. Bodecker
## Music by Bruce Trinkley


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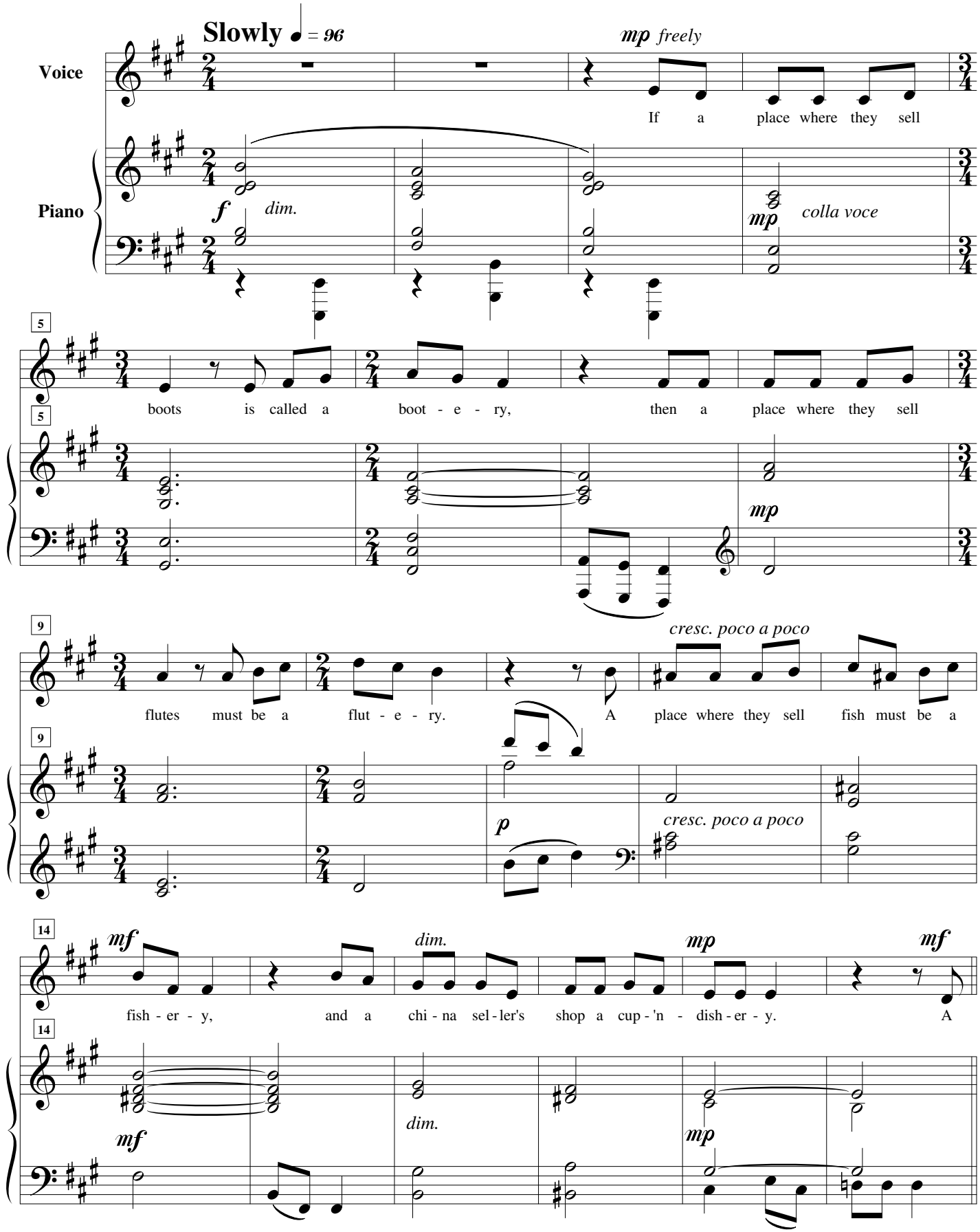
**Niels Mogens Bodecker (1922-1988) was a Danish author, translator and illustrator. He was born in Copenhagen and emigrated to the United States after World War II. He lived in New York City and did illustrations for many magazines, including Harper's, Esquire, Holiday and The Saturday Evening Post. Many of his books are collections of nonsense poems for children with his own illustrations, including *A Person from Britain Whose Head Was the Shape of a Mitten* and *Pigeon Cubes and Other Verses*.**

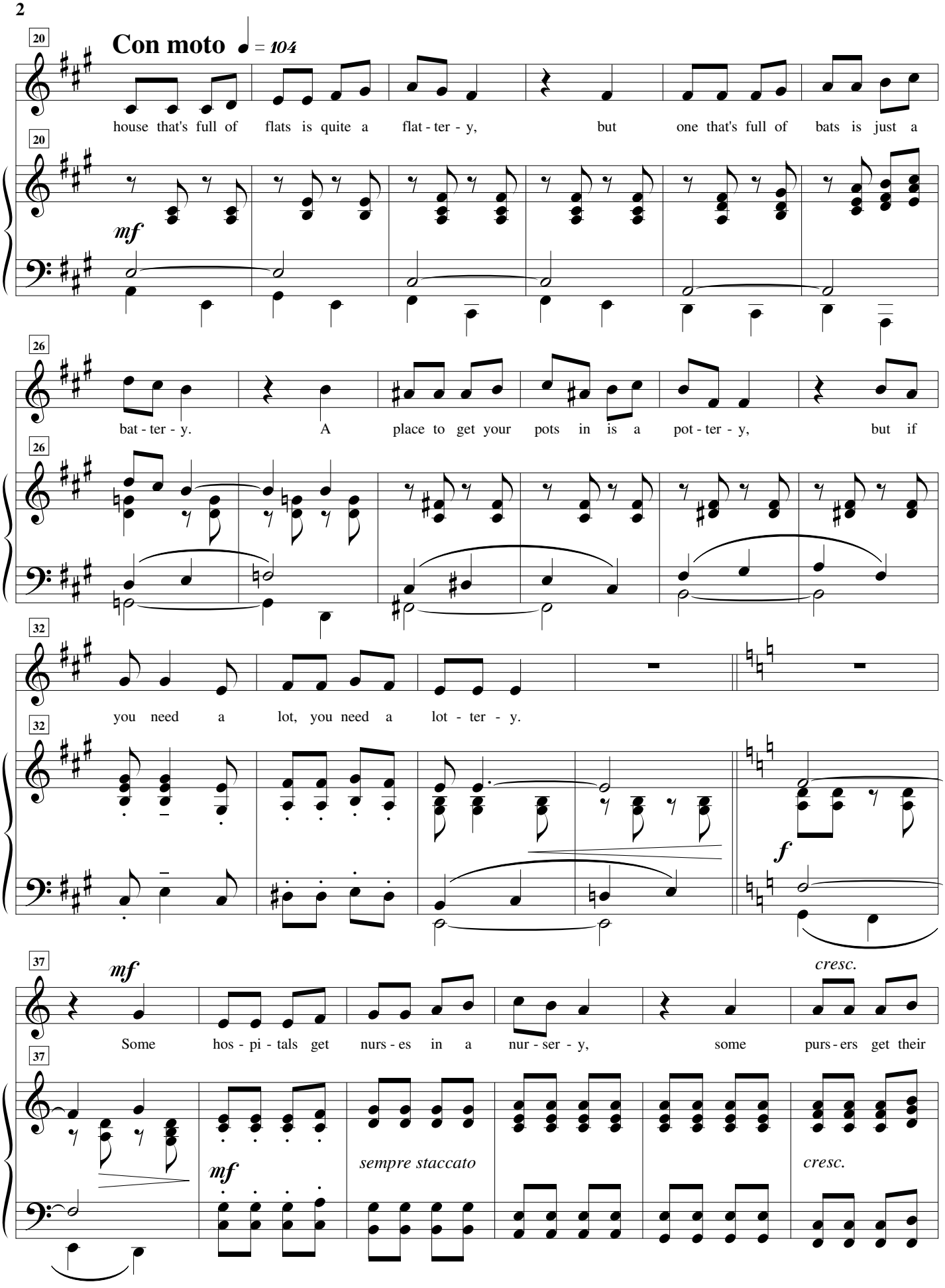
***Let's Marry Said the Cherry*** **was published by Atheneum Press in 1974. Atheneum has given permission to use the poetry in the musical settings.**

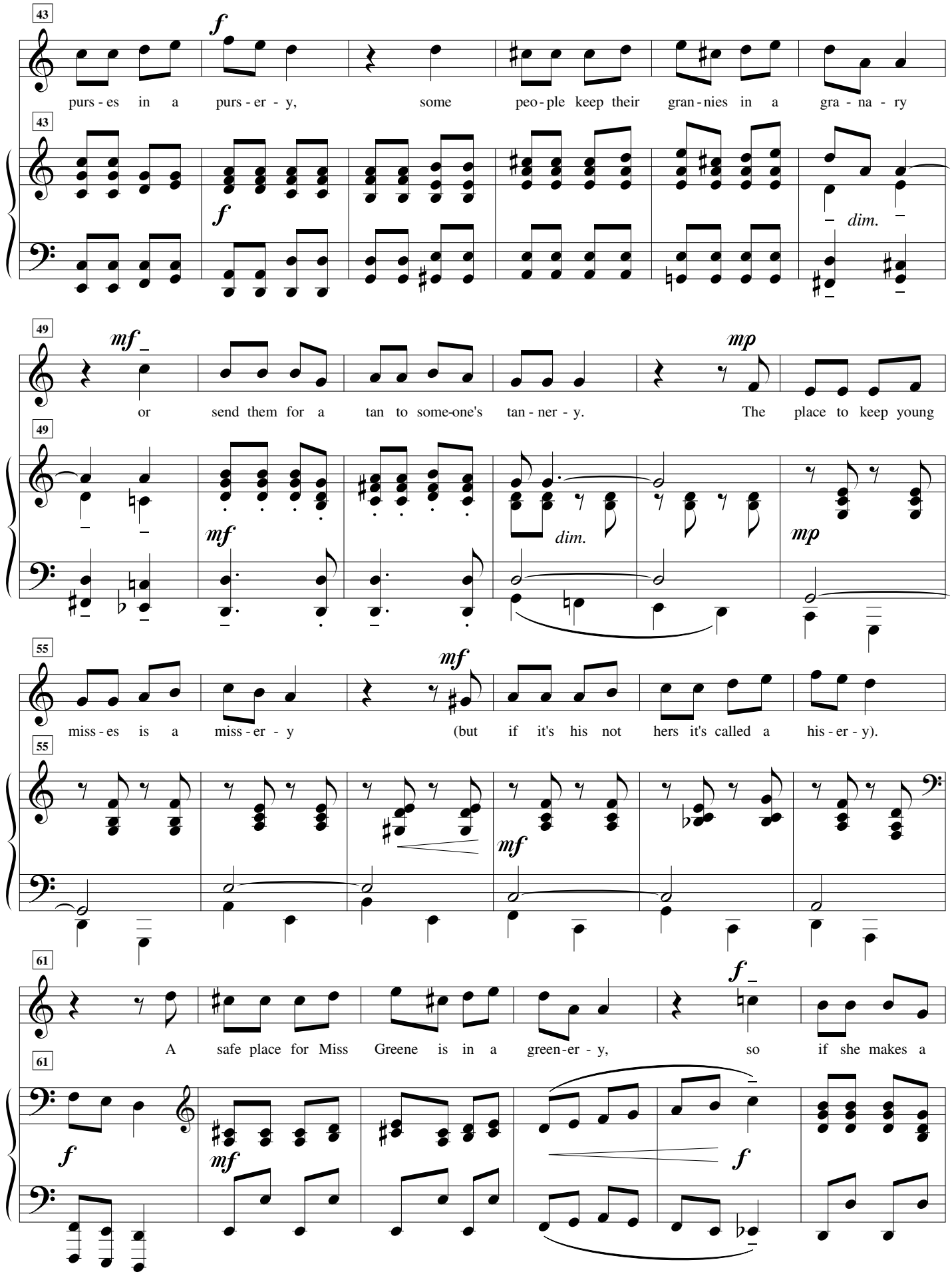
**The choruses were composed during a residency at the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico in Taos, New Mexico, January through April 2012.**

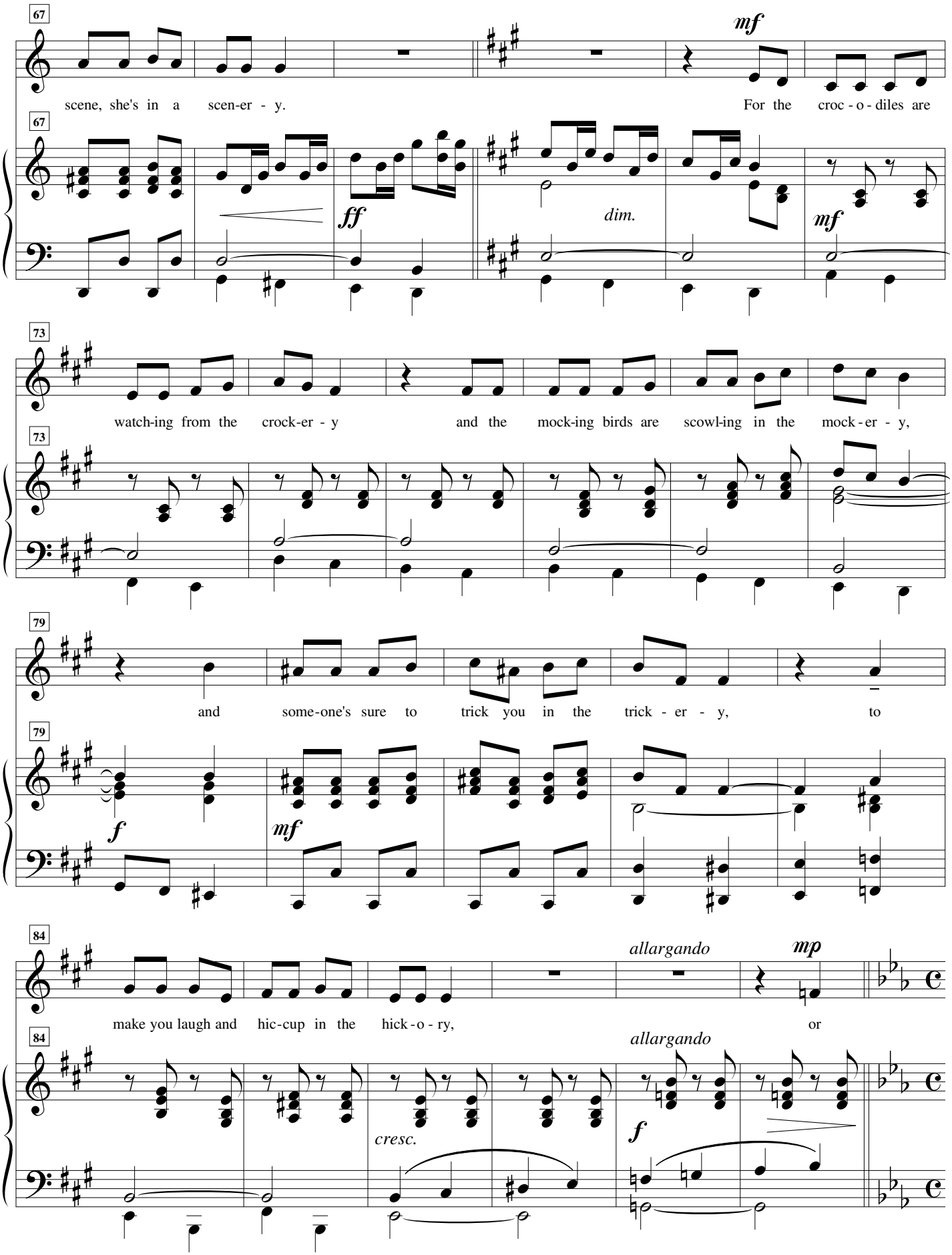
**Duration: approximately 14 minutes, 30 seconds.**

# 1. Booteries and Fluteries




Con moto ♩ = 104
20
house that's full of flats is quite a flat - ter - y, but one that's full of bats is just a
mf
26
bat - ter - y. A place to get your pots in is a pot - ter - y, but if
32
you need a lot, you need a lot - ter - y.
f
37
mf
Some hos - pi - tals get nurs - es in a nur - ser - y, some purs - ers get their
cresc.
sempre staccato
cresc.


43
f
purs - es in a purs - er - y, some peo - ple keep their gran - nies in a gra - na - ry
43
f
dim.
49
mf
or send them for a tan to some-one's tan - ner - y.
mp
The place to keep young
49
mf
dim.
mp
55
mf
miss - es is a miss - er - y (but if it's his not hers it's called a his - er - y).
55
mf
61
A safe place for Miss Greene is in a green - er - y,
f
so if she makes a
61
f
mf
f


67
scene, she's in a scen-er - y.
mf
For the croc - o - diles are
ff
dim.
mf
73
watch-ing from the crock-er - y
and the mock-ing birds are scowl-ing in the mock - er - y,
79
and some-one's sure to trick you in the trick - er - y,
to
f
mf
84
make you laugh and hic-cup in the hick - o - ry,
allargando
mp
or
allargando
cresc.
f

**Dark and sombre** ♩ = 88

90

*cresc.* *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

make you spell for - ev - er in the spell - er - y, in the deep - est, dark - est cel - lar in the

90

*mp sonore* *cresc.* *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

95

*f* *poco rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

cel - e - ry. So you'd bet - ter do your sums now in the sum - ma - ry and af - ter - ward stay

95

*f* *poco rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

100

*poco accel. ed cresc.*

mum in some-one's mum - mer - y, for the act - ors want to put you in their

100

*poco accel. ed cresc.*

105

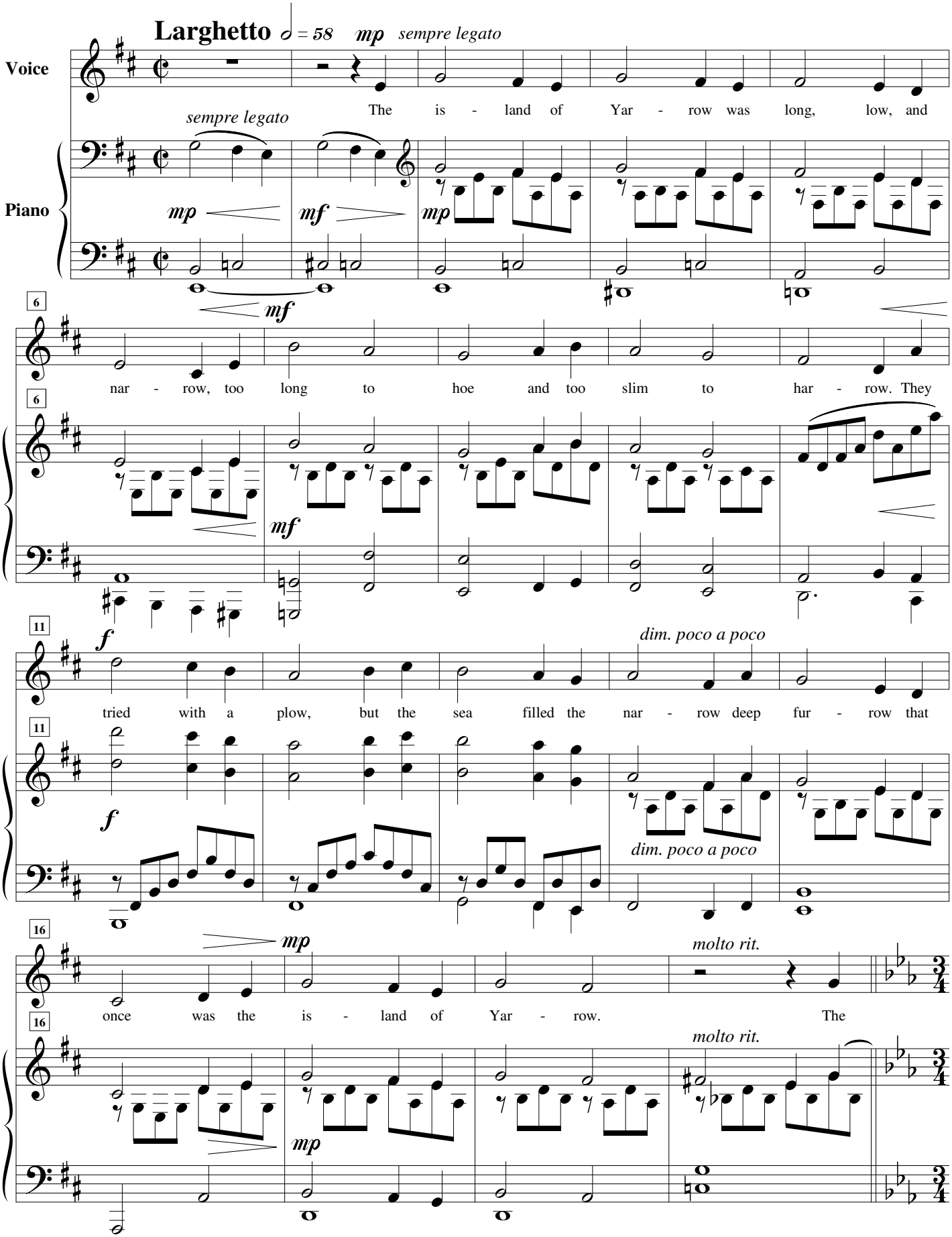
*rit. al fine* *f*

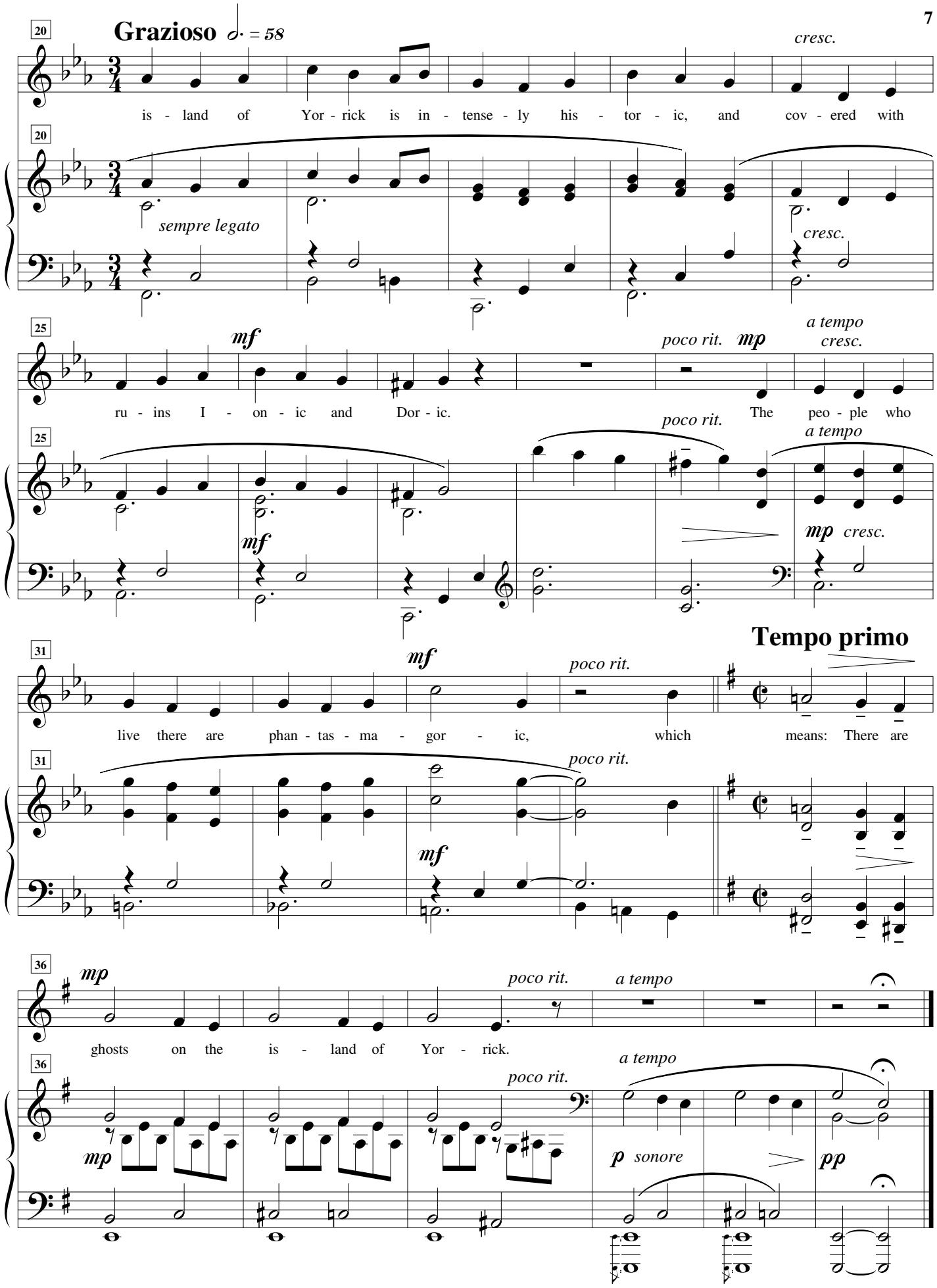
act - or - y, and that's a fact, in an - y - bod - y's fac - tor - y.

105

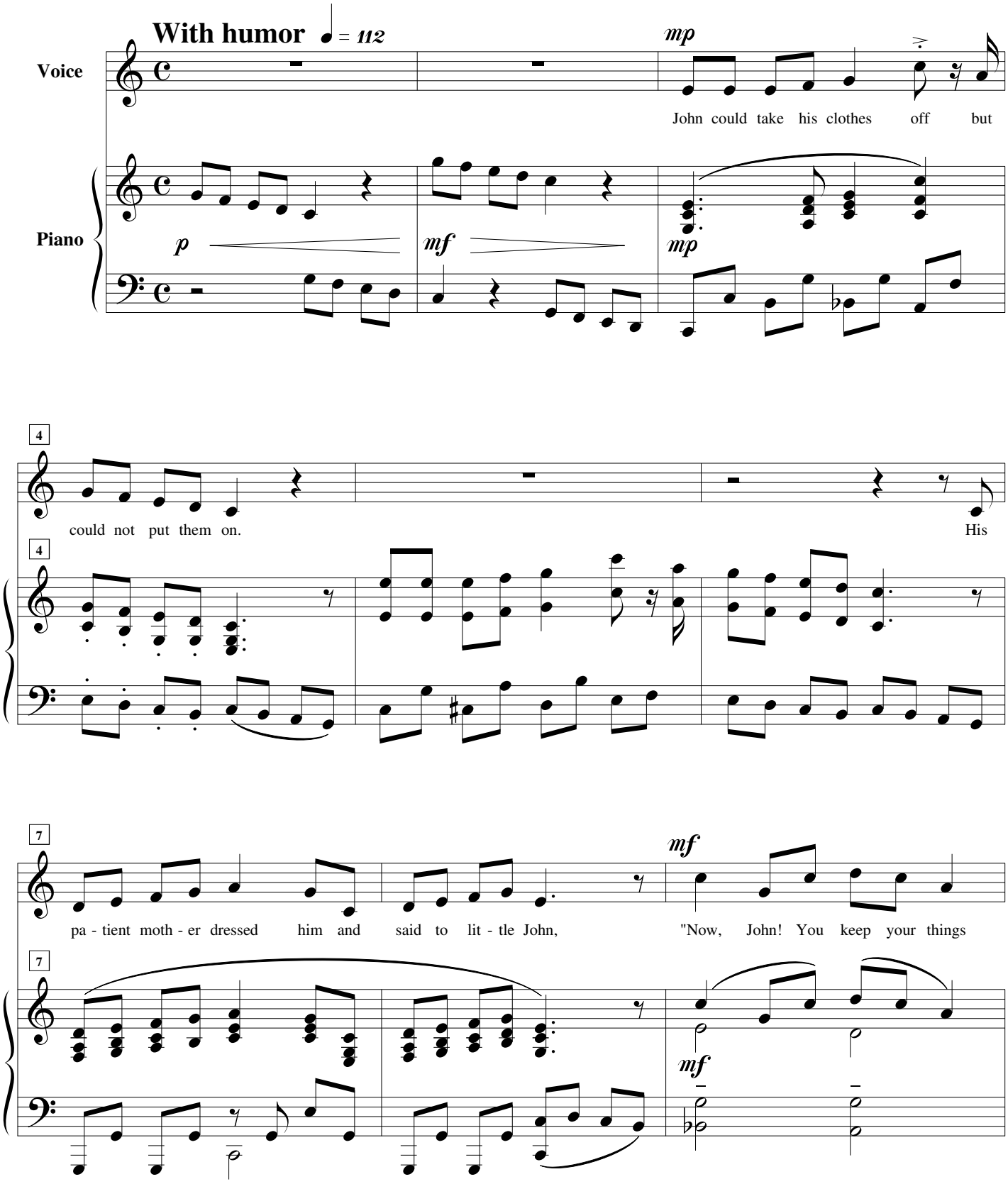
*rit. al fine* *f*

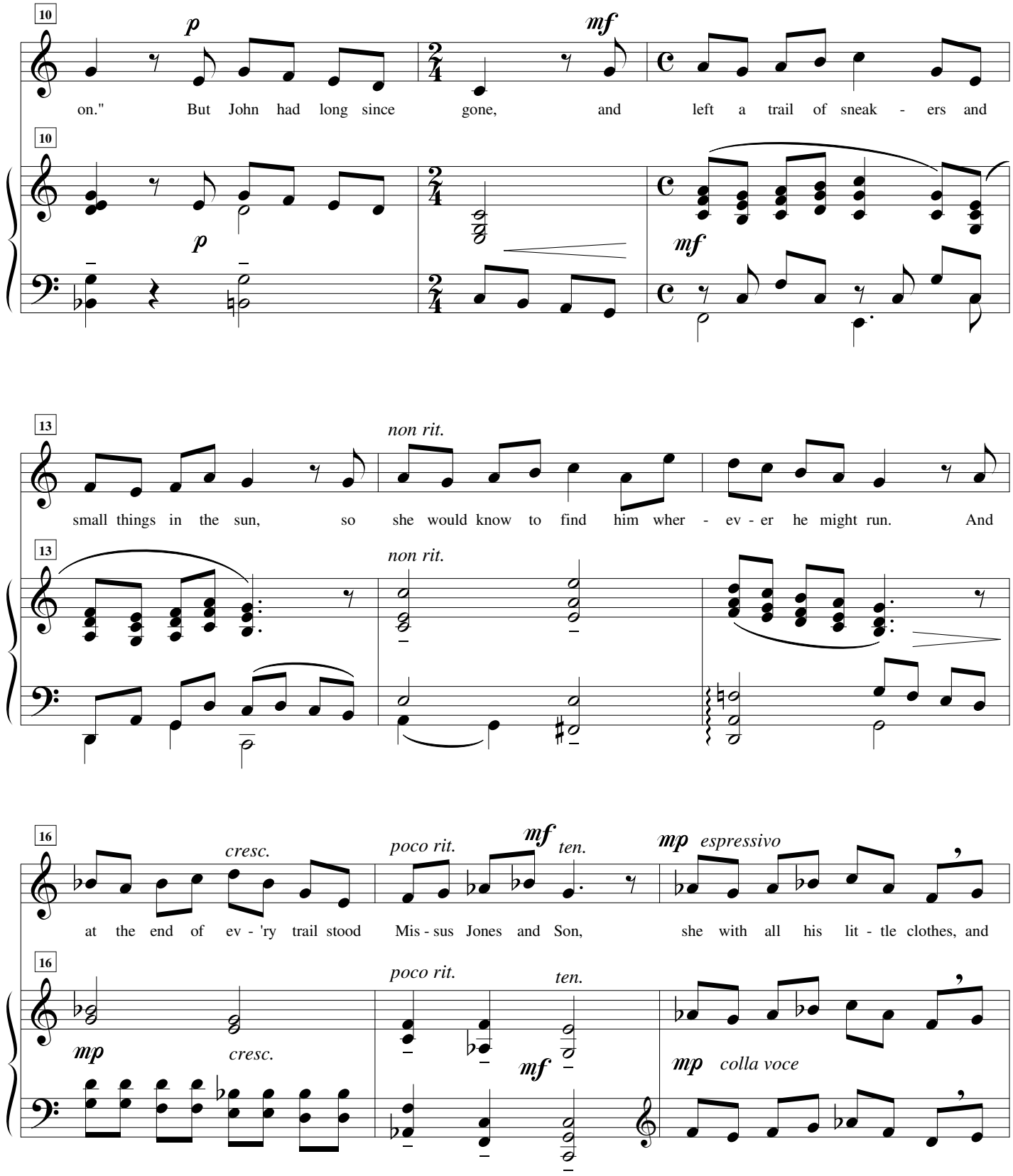
# 2. The Island of Yarrow
# The Island of Yorrick

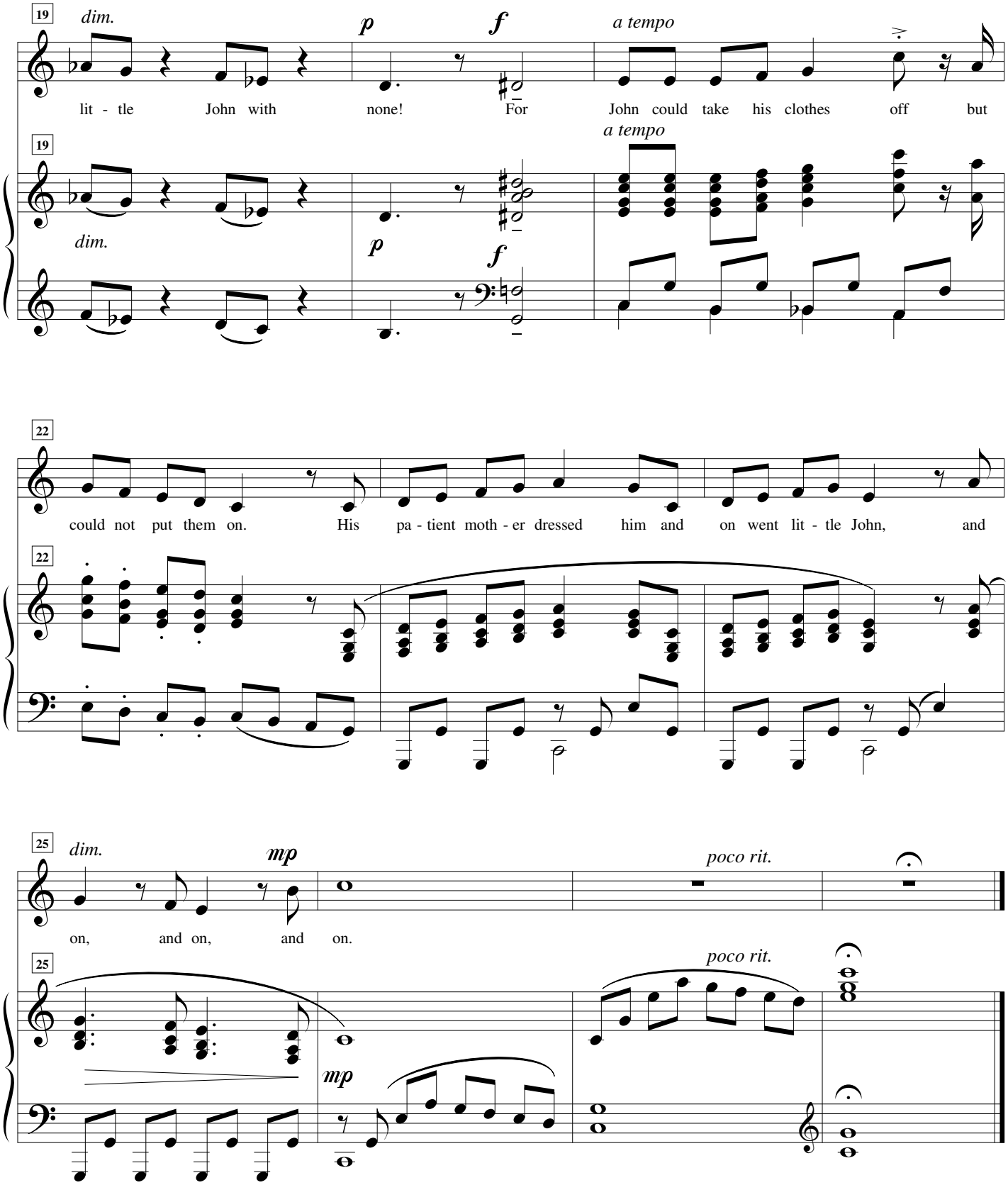



Grazioso ♩. = 58
cresc.
is - land of Yor - rick is in - tense - ly his - tor - ic, and cov - ered with
sempre legato
cresc.
mf
poco rit.
mp
a tempo
cresc.
ru - ins I - on - ic and Dor - ic. The peo - ple who
poco rit.
a tempo
mf
mp cresc.
Tempo primo
mf
poco rit.
live there are phan - tas - ma - gor - ic, which means: There are
poco rit.
mf
mp
poco rit.
a tempo
ghosts on the is - land of Yor - rick.
a tempo
poco rit.
mp
p sonore
pp

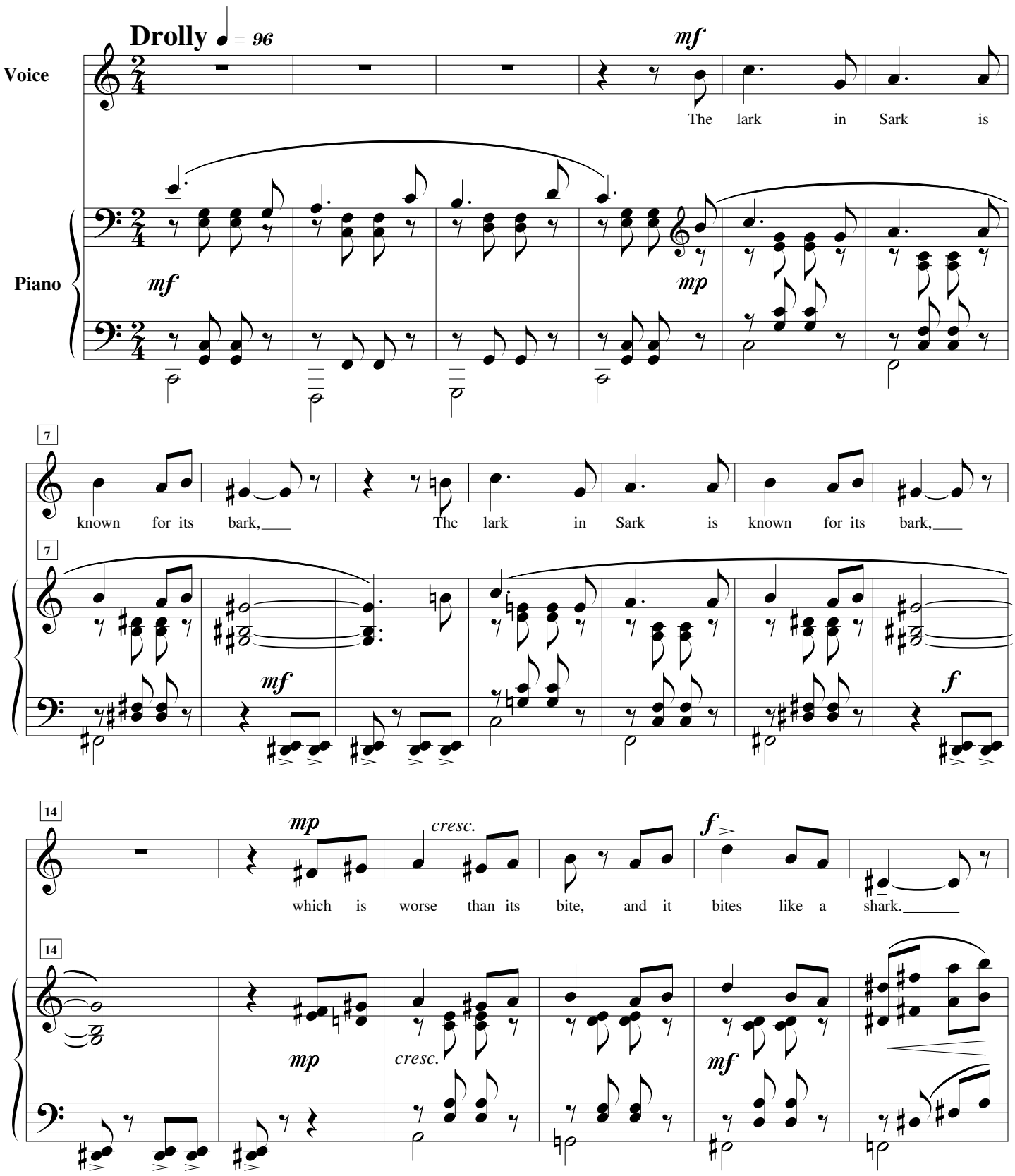
# 3. John

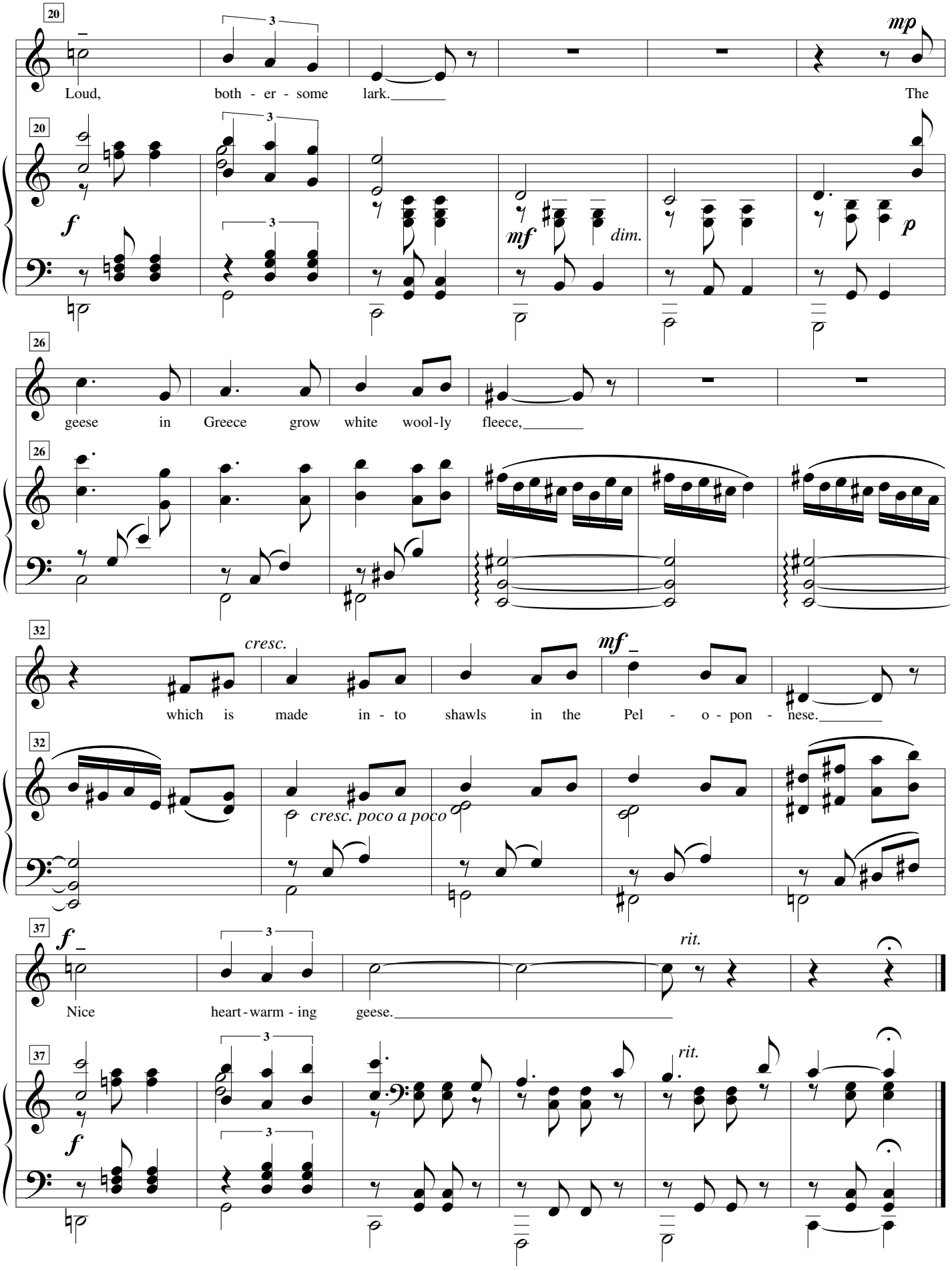

With humor
♩ = 112
Voice
Piano
mp
John could take his clothes off but
p
mf
mp
4
could not put them on.
His
7
mf
pa - tient moth - er dressed him and said to lit - tle John,
"Now, John! You keep your things
mf


10
p
mf
on." But John had long since gone, and left a trail of sneak - ers and
10
p
mf
13
non rit.
small things in the sun, so she would know to find him wher - ev - er he might run. And
13
non rit.
16
cresc.
poco rit.
mf
ten.
mp espressivo
at the end of ev - 'ry trail stood Mis - sus Jones and Son, she with all his lit - tle clothes, and
16
poco rit.
ten.
mp
cresc.
mf
mp colla voce

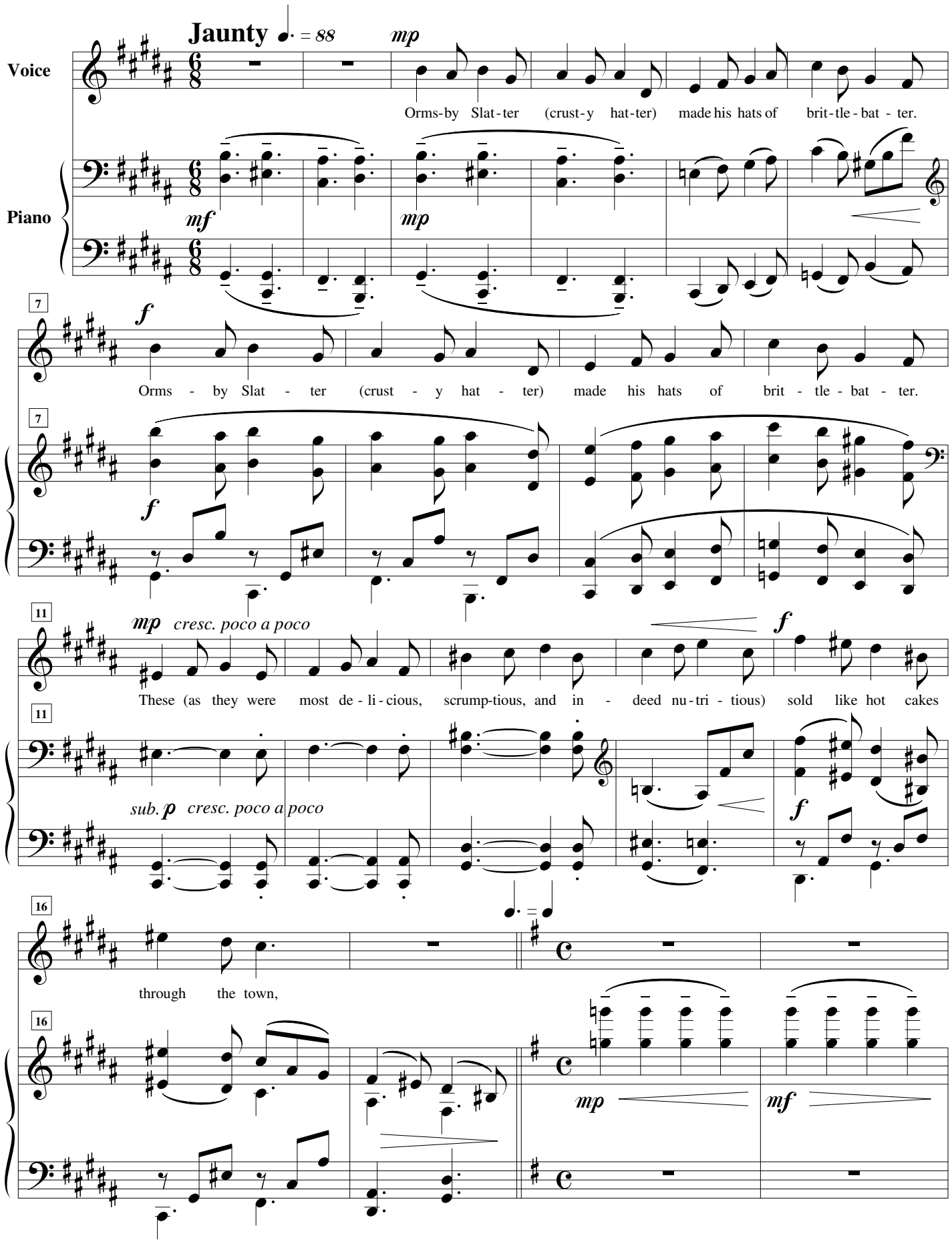

19
dim.
p
f
a tempo
lit - tle John with none! For John could take his clothes off but
19
a tempo
dim.
p
f
22
could not put them on. His pa - tient moth - er dressed him and on went lit - tle John, and
22
25
dim.
mp
poco rit.
on, and on, and on.
25
poco rit.
mp

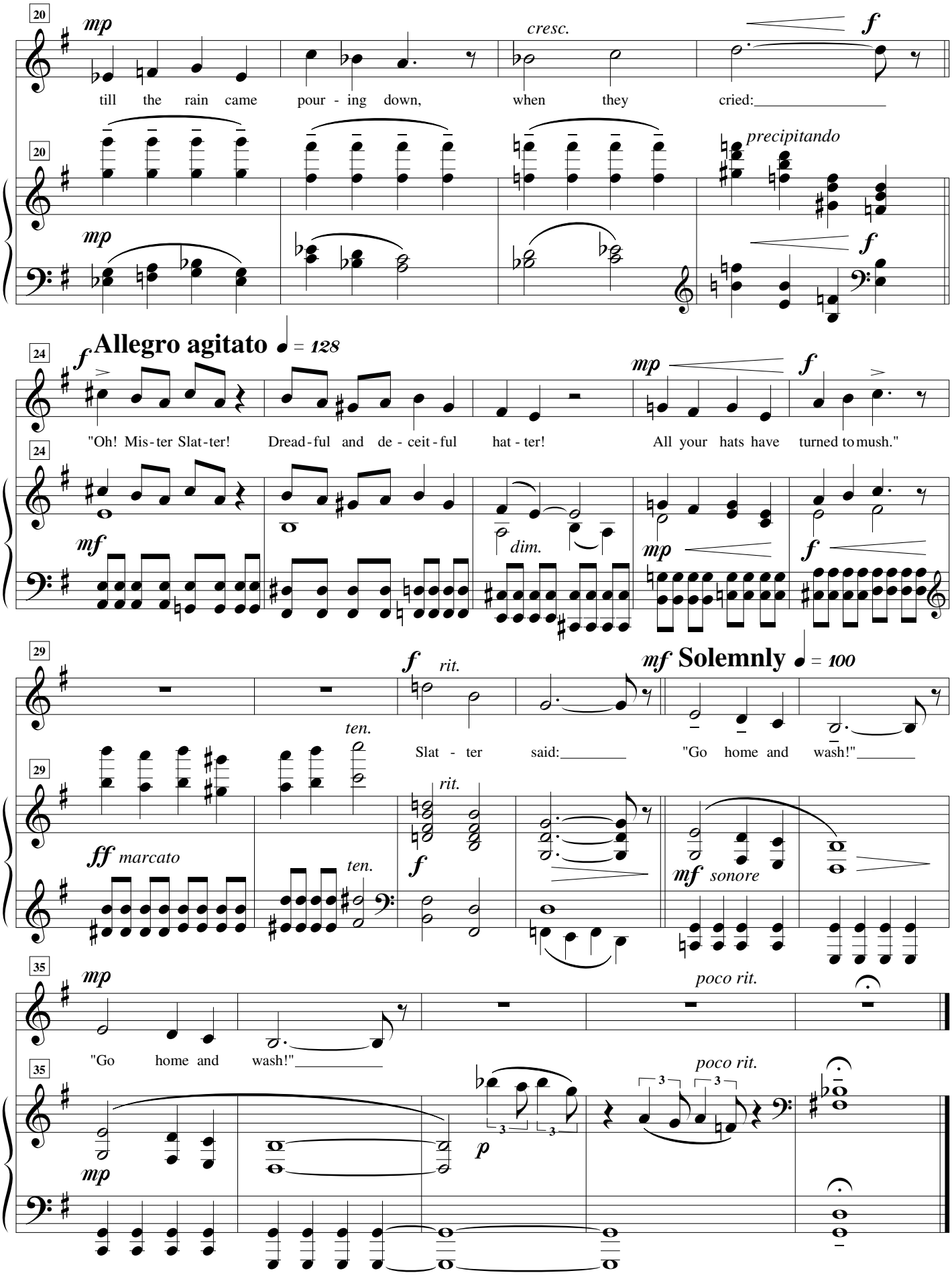
# 4. The Lark in Sark
# The Geese in Greece



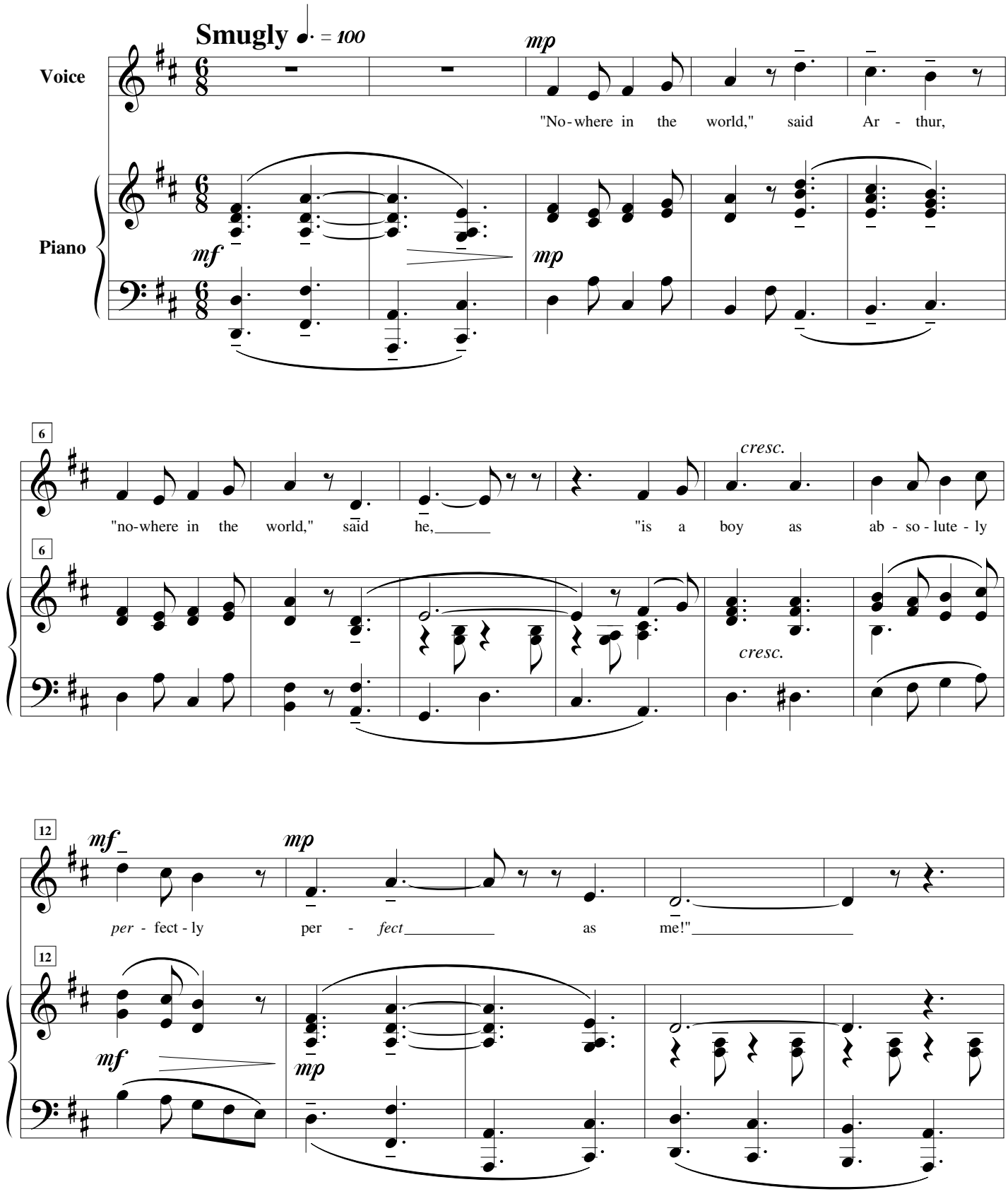

20
Loud, both - er - some lark.
mp
The
20
f
mf
dim.
p
26
geese in Greece grow white wool-ly fleece,
26
32
cresc.
mf
which is made in - to shawls in the Pel - o - pon - nese.
32
cresc. poco a poco
37
f
Nice heart-warm - ing geese.
rit.
37
f
rit.

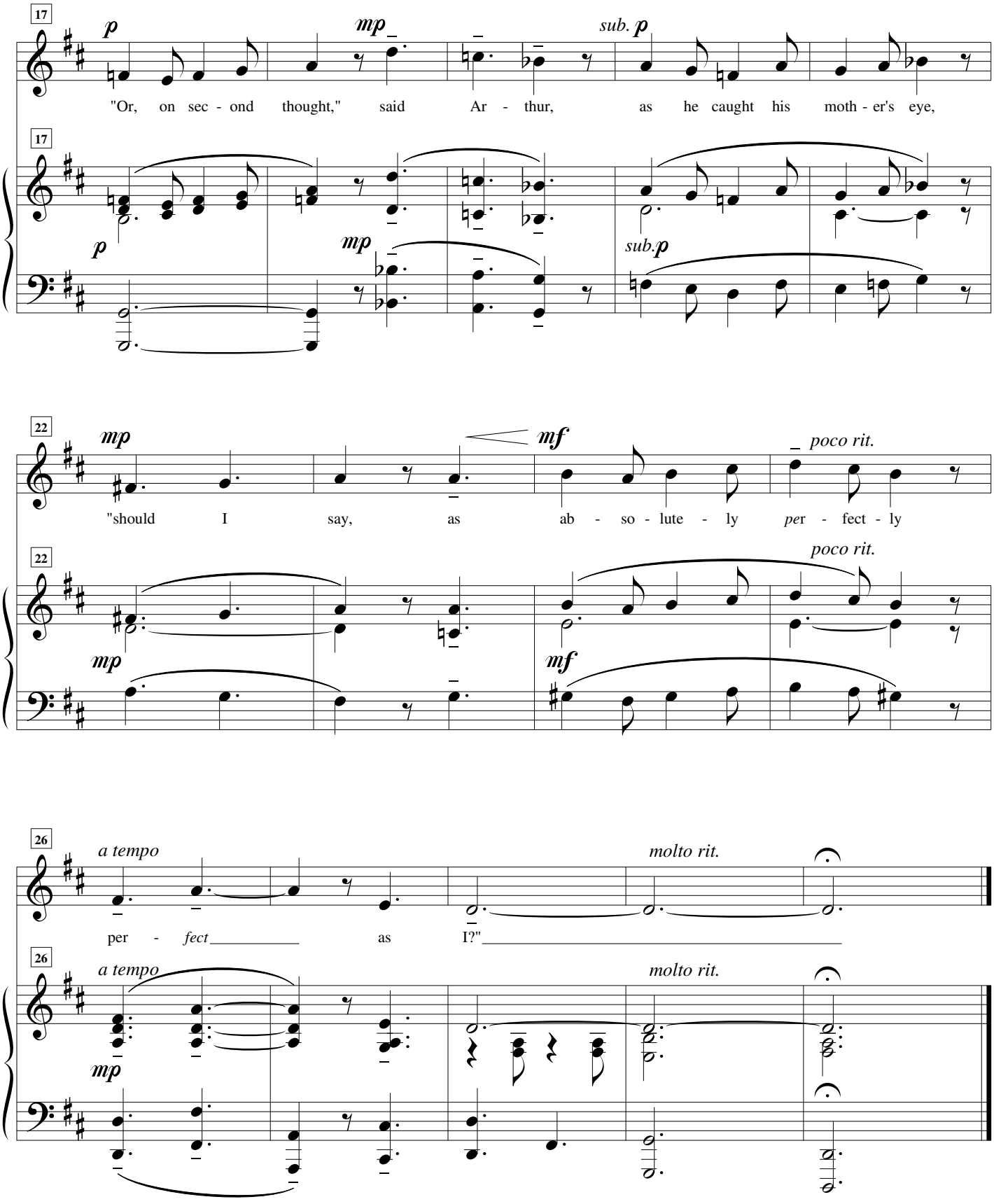
# 5. Mr. Slatter


Jaunty ♩. = 88
mp
Voice
Orms-by Slat-ter (crust-y hat-ter) made his hats of brit-tle-bat - ter.
Piano
mf
mp
7
f
Orms - by Slat - ter (crust - y hat - ter) made his hats of brit - tle - bat - ter.
11
mp cresc. poco a poco
These (as they were most de - li - cious, scrump-tious, and in - deed nu - tri - tious) sold like hot cakes
sub. p cresc. poco a poco
16
through the town,
mp
mf


20
mp
cresc.
f
till the rain came pour - ing down, when they cried:
precipitando
Allegro agitato ♩ = 128
"Oh! Mis-ter Slat-ter! Dread-ful and de - ceit-ful hat - ter! All your hats have turned to mush."
mf
dim.
Solemnly ♩ = 100
rit.
ten.
Slat - ter said: "Go home and wash!"
ff marcato
sonore
poco rit.
p

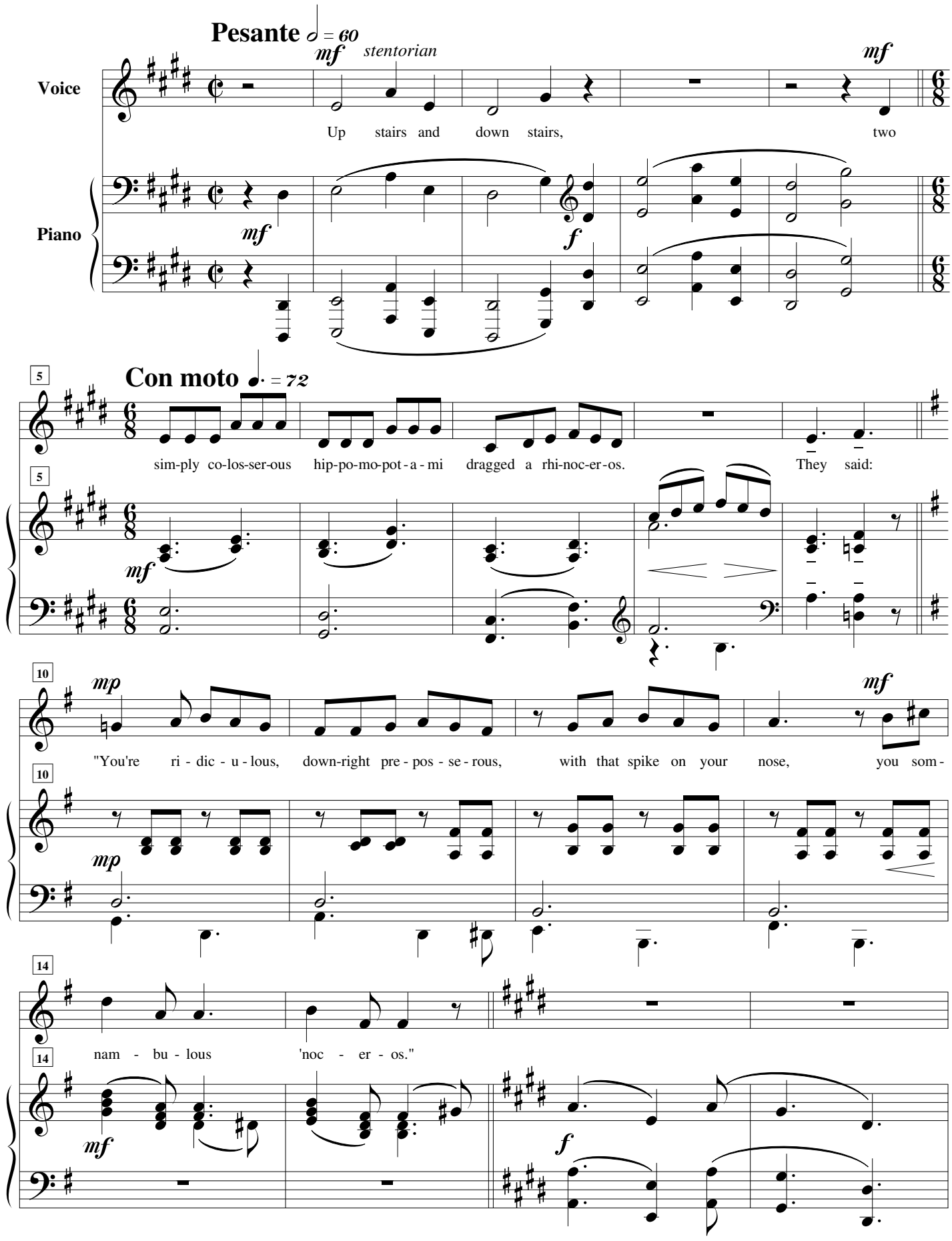
# 6. Perfect Arthur

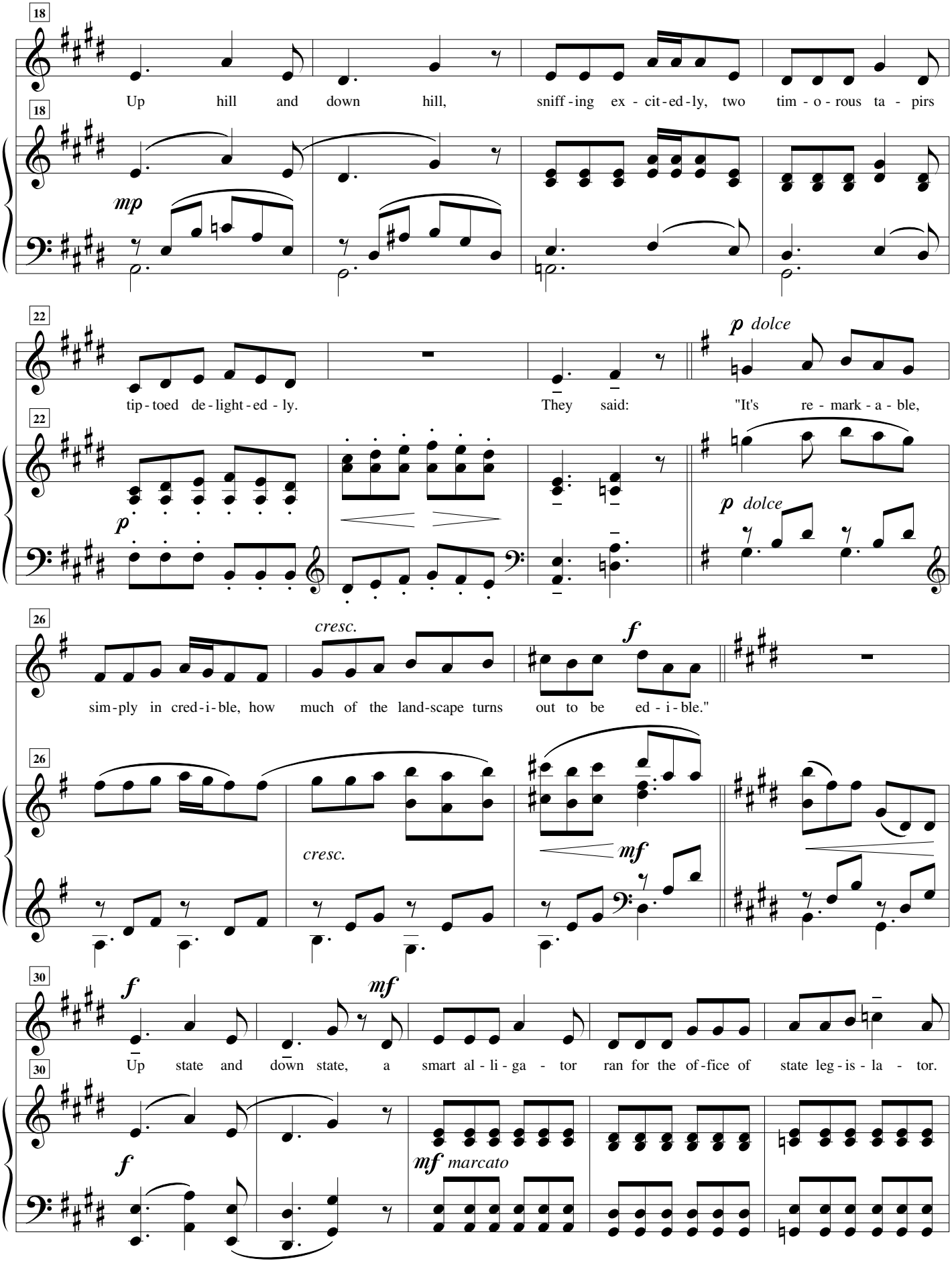


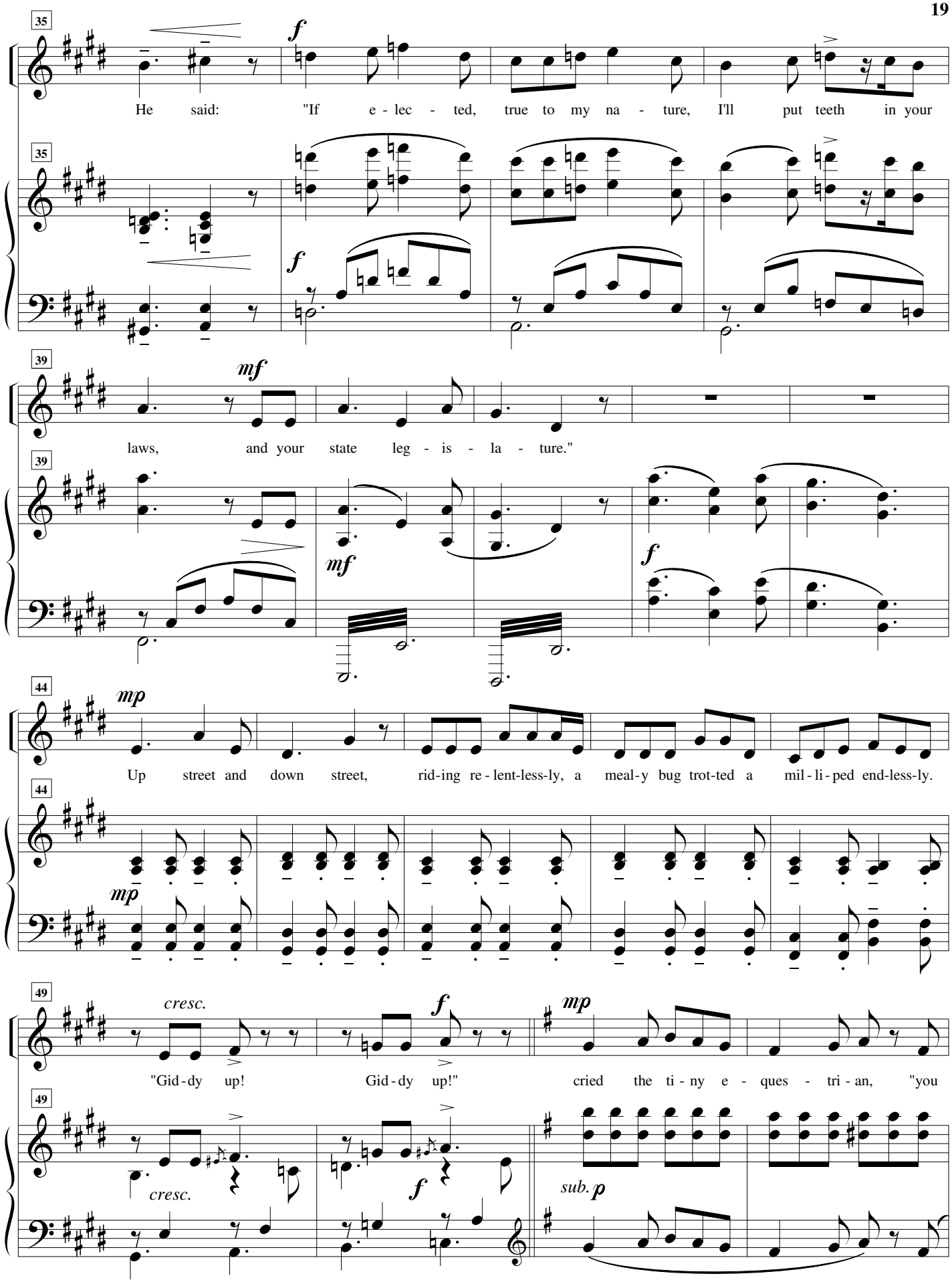

17
p
mp
sub. p
"Or, on sec - ond thought," said Ar - thur, as he caught his moth - er's eye,
17
p
mp
sub.p
22
mp
mf
poco rit.
"should I say, as ab - so - lute - ly per - fect - ly
22
poco rit.
mp
mf
26
a tempo
molto rit.
per - fect as I?"
26
a tempo
molto rit.
mp

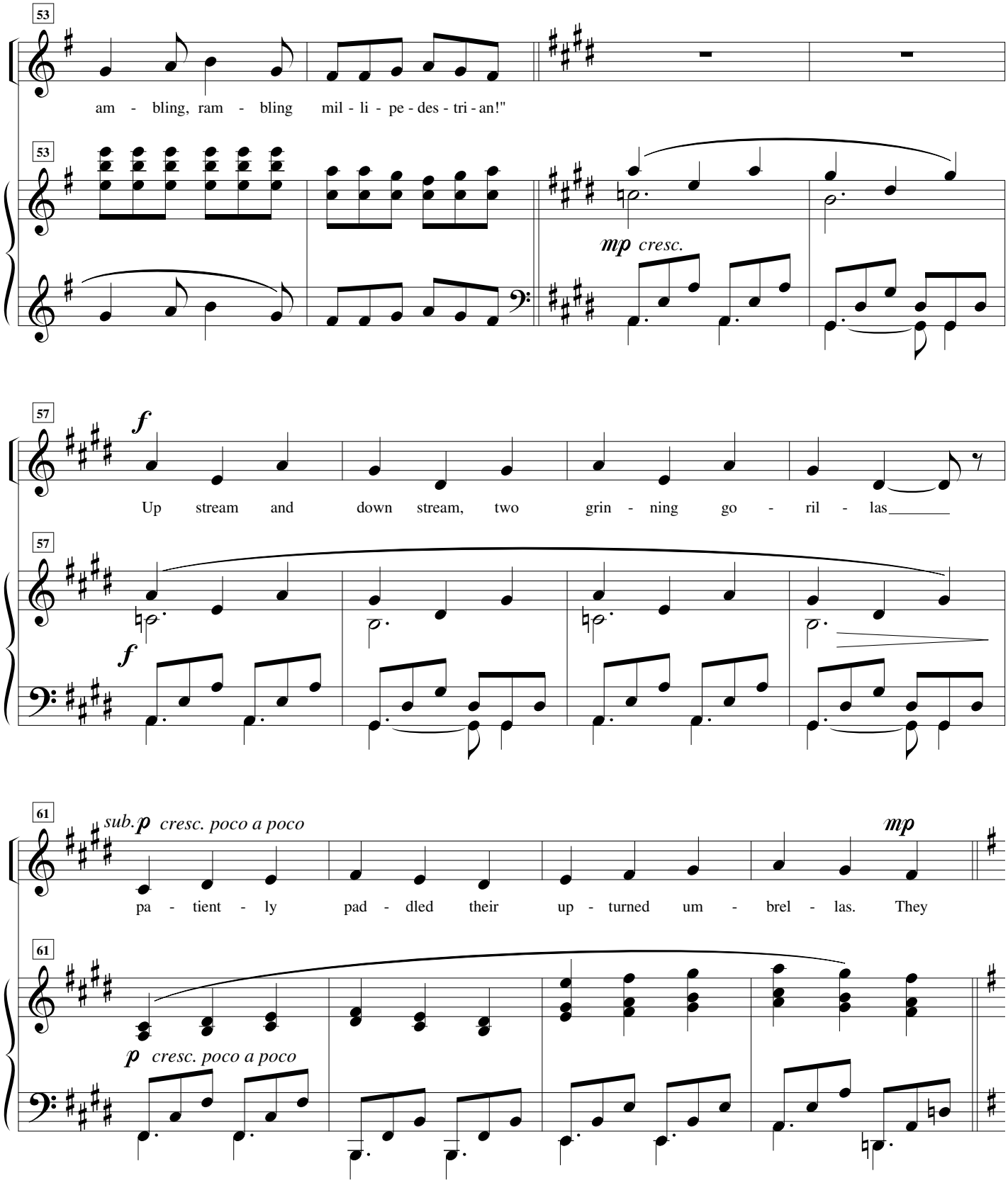
# 7. Up and Down

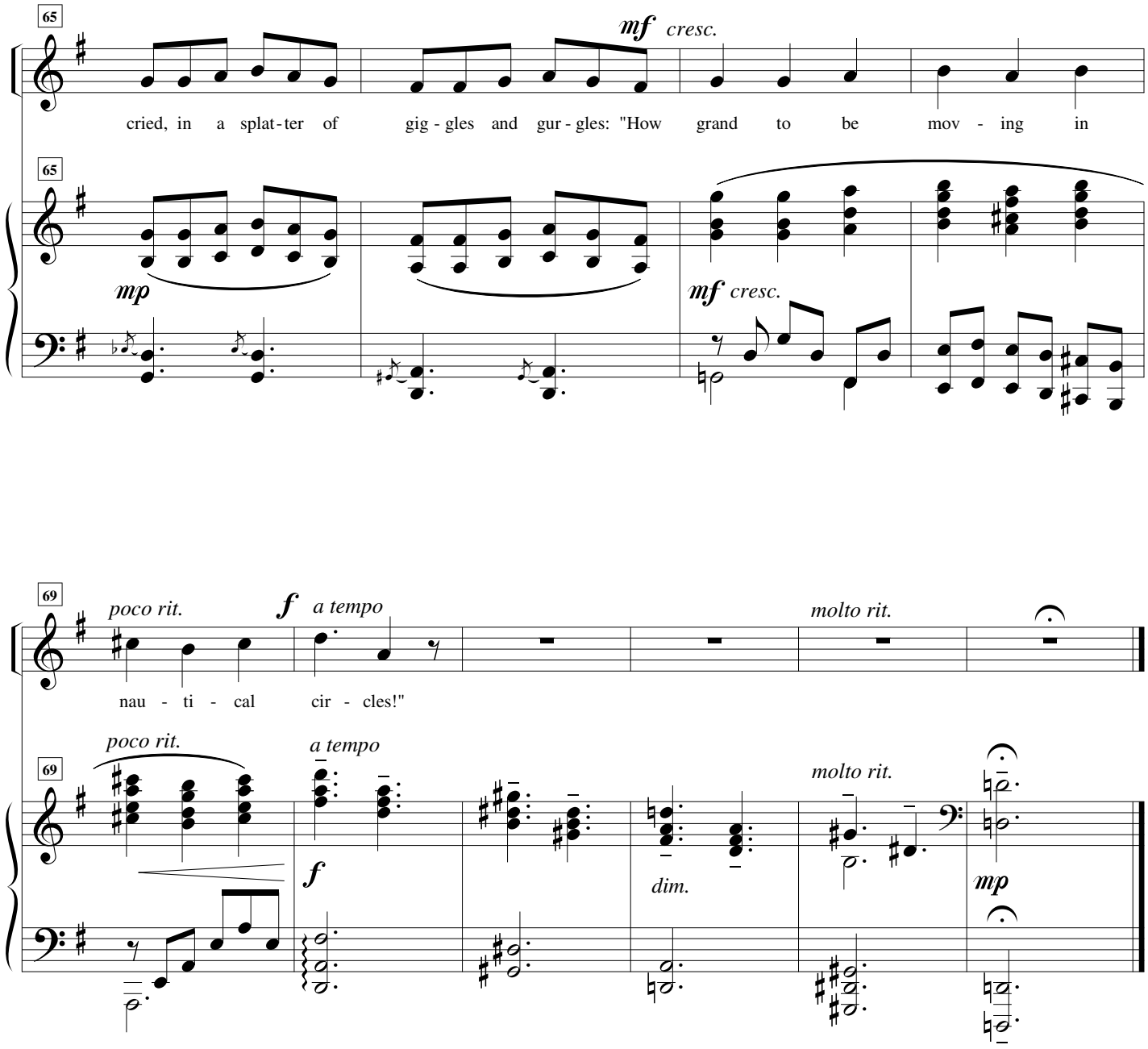



Pesante ♩ = 60
mf stentorian
mf
Voice
Up stairs and down stairs, two
Piano
mf
f
5
Con moto ♩. = 72
sim-ply co-los-ser-ous hip-po-mo-pot-a-mi dragged a rhi-noc-er-os. They said:
mf
10
mp
"You're ri - dic - u - lous, down-right pre - pos - se - rous, with that spike on your nose, you som -
mf
mp
14
nam - bu - lous 'noc - er - os."
mf
f

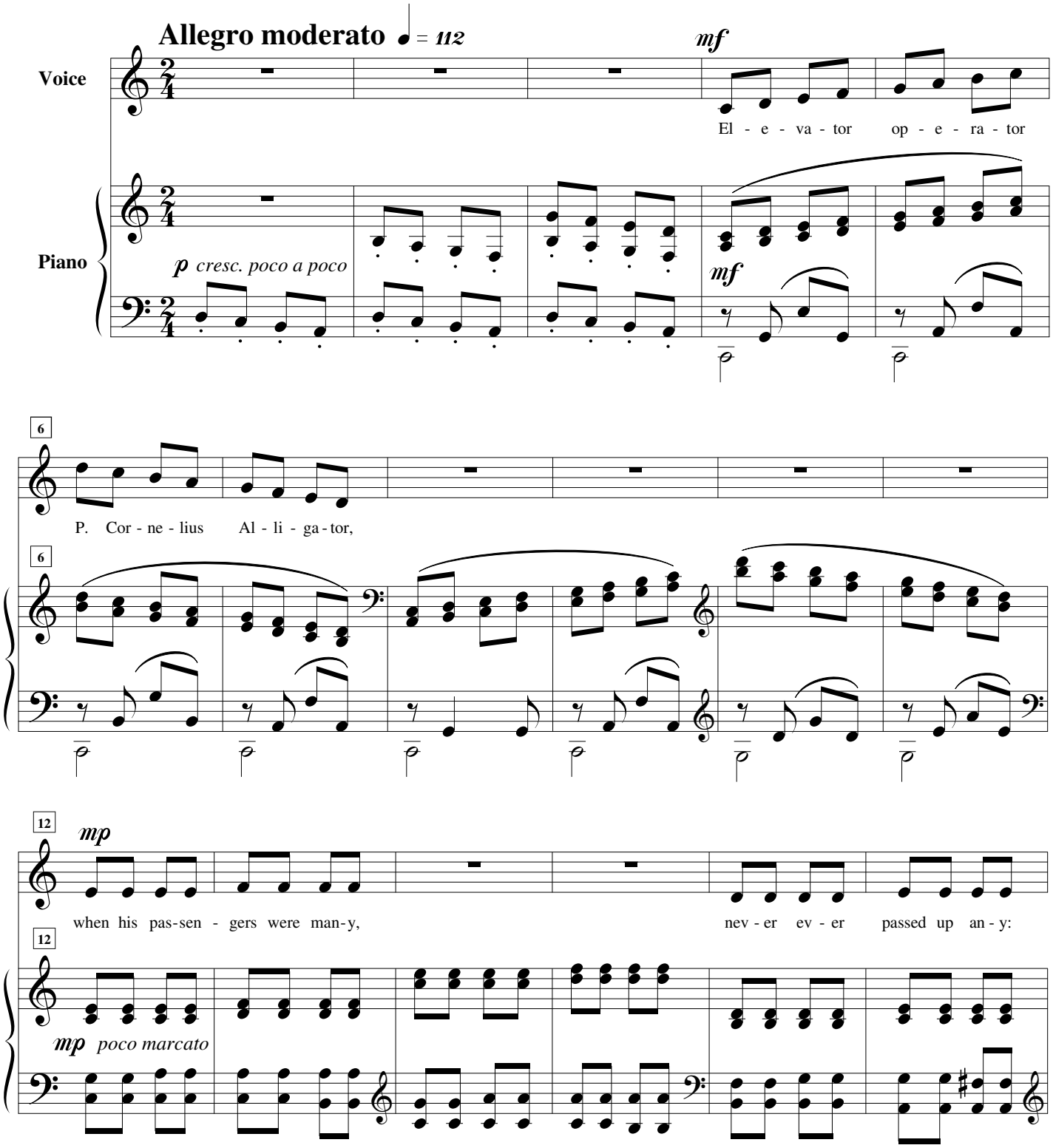

18
Up hill and down hill, sniff-ing ex-cit-ed-ly, two tim-o-rous ta-pirs
mp
22
tip-toed de-light-ed-ly. They said: "It's re-mark-a-ble,
p dolce
p
p dolce
26
sim-ply in cred-i-ble, how much of the land-scape turns out to be ed-i-ble."
cresc.
f
cresc.
mf
30
Up state and down state, a smart al-li-ga-tor ran for the of-fice of state leg-is-la-tor.
f
mf
f
mf marcato

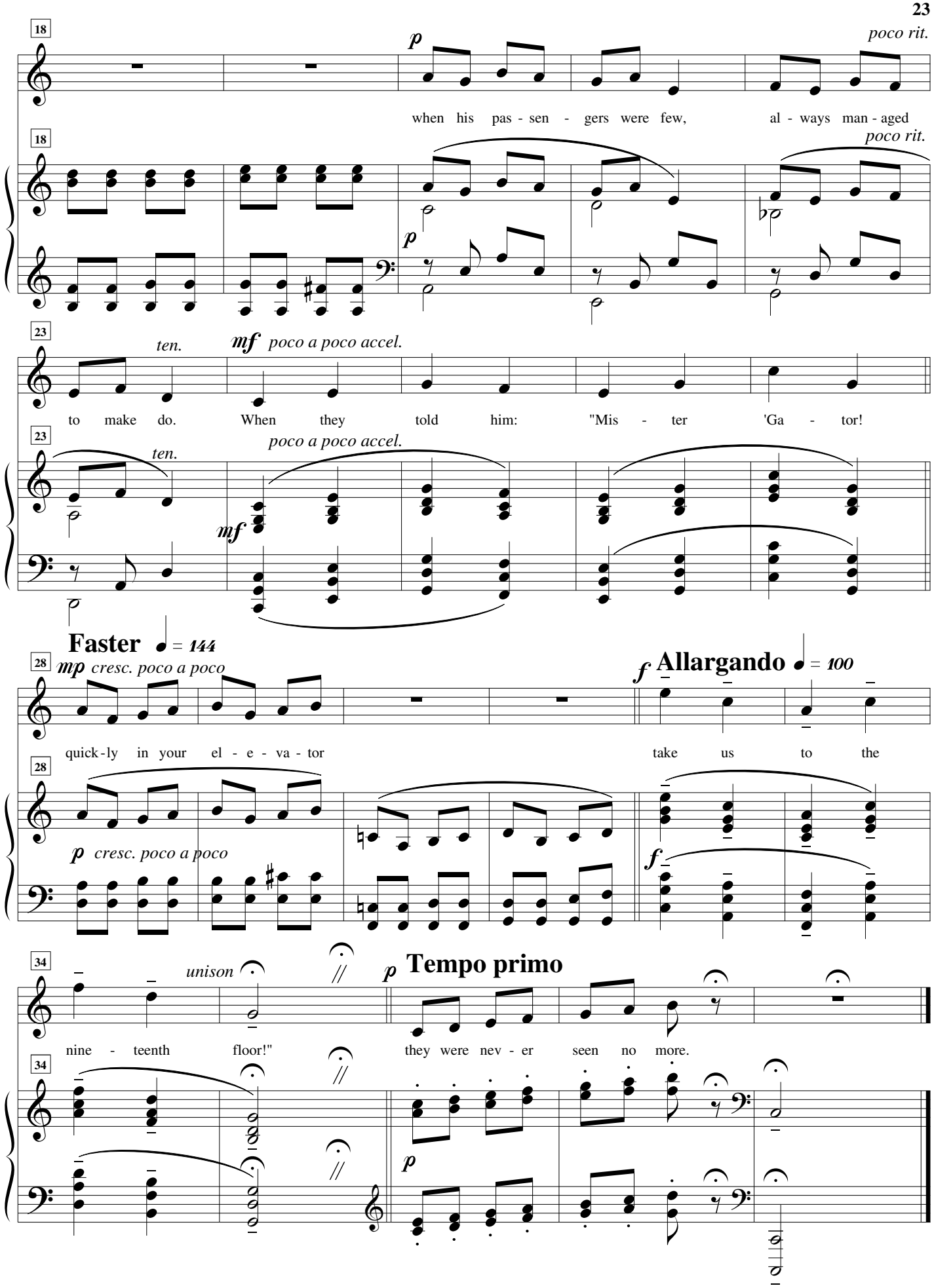

35
He said: "If e - lec - ted, true to my na - ture, I'll put teeth in your
35
39
laws, and your state leg - is - la - ture."
39
44
Up street and down street, rid-ing re - lent-less-ly, a meal-y bug trot-ted a mil - li - ped end-less-ly.
44
49
"Gid - dy up! Gid - dy up!" cried the ti - ny e - ques - tri - an, "you
49


53
am - bling, ram - bling mil - li - pe - des - tri - an!"
53
mp cresc.
57
f
Up stream and down stream, two grin - ning go - ril - las
57
f
61
sub. p cresc. poco a poco
pa - tient - ly pad - dled their up - turned um - brel - las. They
mp
61
p cresc. poco a poco

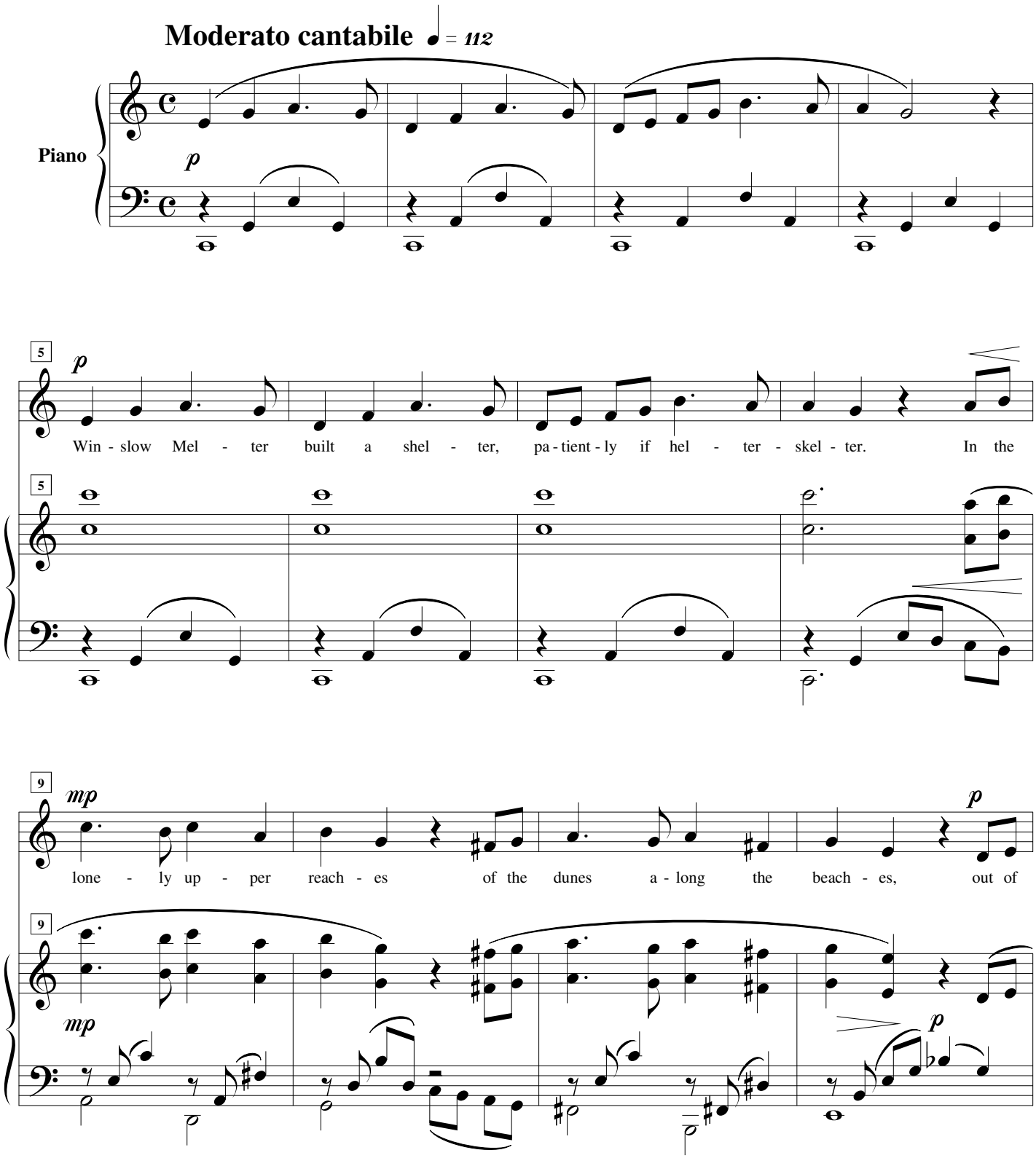

65
mf cresc.
cried, in a splat - ter of gig - gles and gur - gles: "How grand to be mov - ing in
65
mp
mf cresc.
69
poco rit.
f a tempo
molto rit.
nau - ti - cal cir - cles!"
69
poco rit.
a tempo
molto rit.
f
dim.
mp

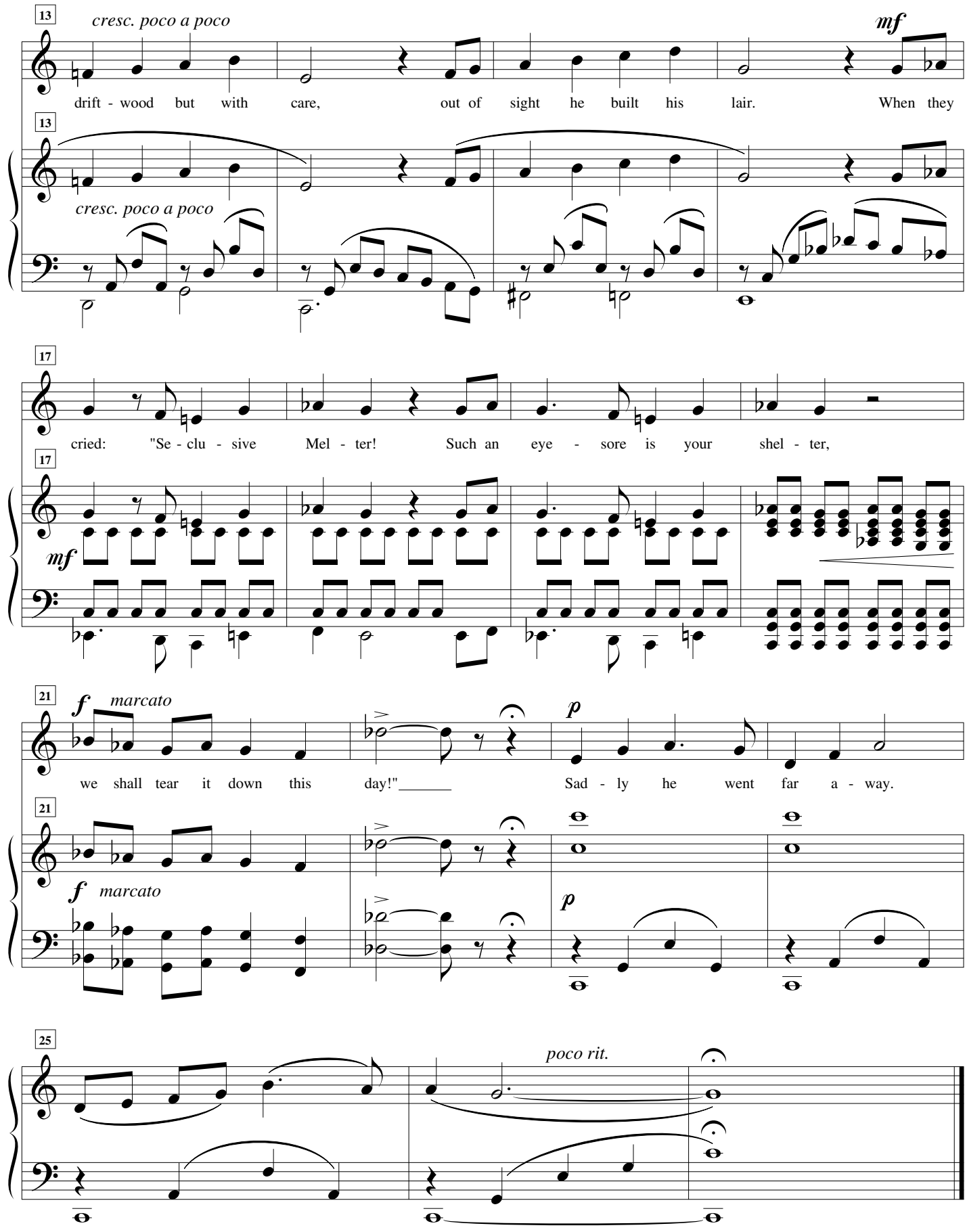
# 8. Mr. 'Gator


Allegro moderato ♩ = 112
Voice
Piano
mf
El - e - va - tor op - e - ra - tor
p cresc. poco a poco
mf
6
P. Cor - ne - lius Al - li - ga - tor,
12
mp
when his pas-sen - gers were man-y, nev - er ev - er passed up an - y:
mp poco marcato

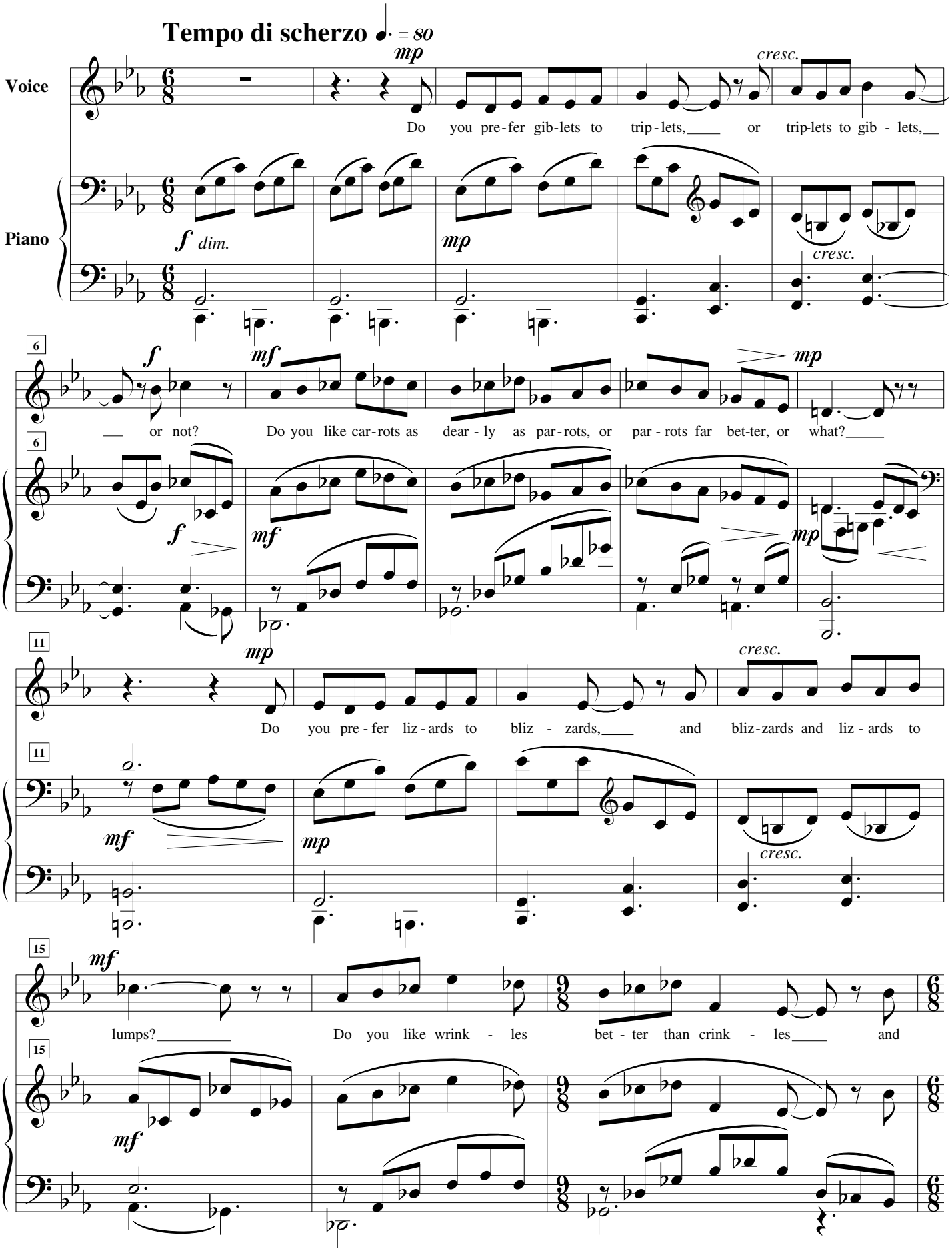

18
p
poco rit.
when his pas - sen - gers were few, al - ways man - aged
18
poco rit.
p
23
ten.
mf poco a poco accel.
to make do. When they told him: "Mis - ter 'Ga - tor!
23
ten.
poco a poco accel.
mf
Faster ♩ = 144
28
mp cresc. poco a poco
f Allargando ♩ = 100
quick - ly in your el - e - va - tor take us to the
28
p cresc. poco a poco
f
34
unison
p Tempo primo
nine - teenth floor!" they were nev - er seen no more.
34
p

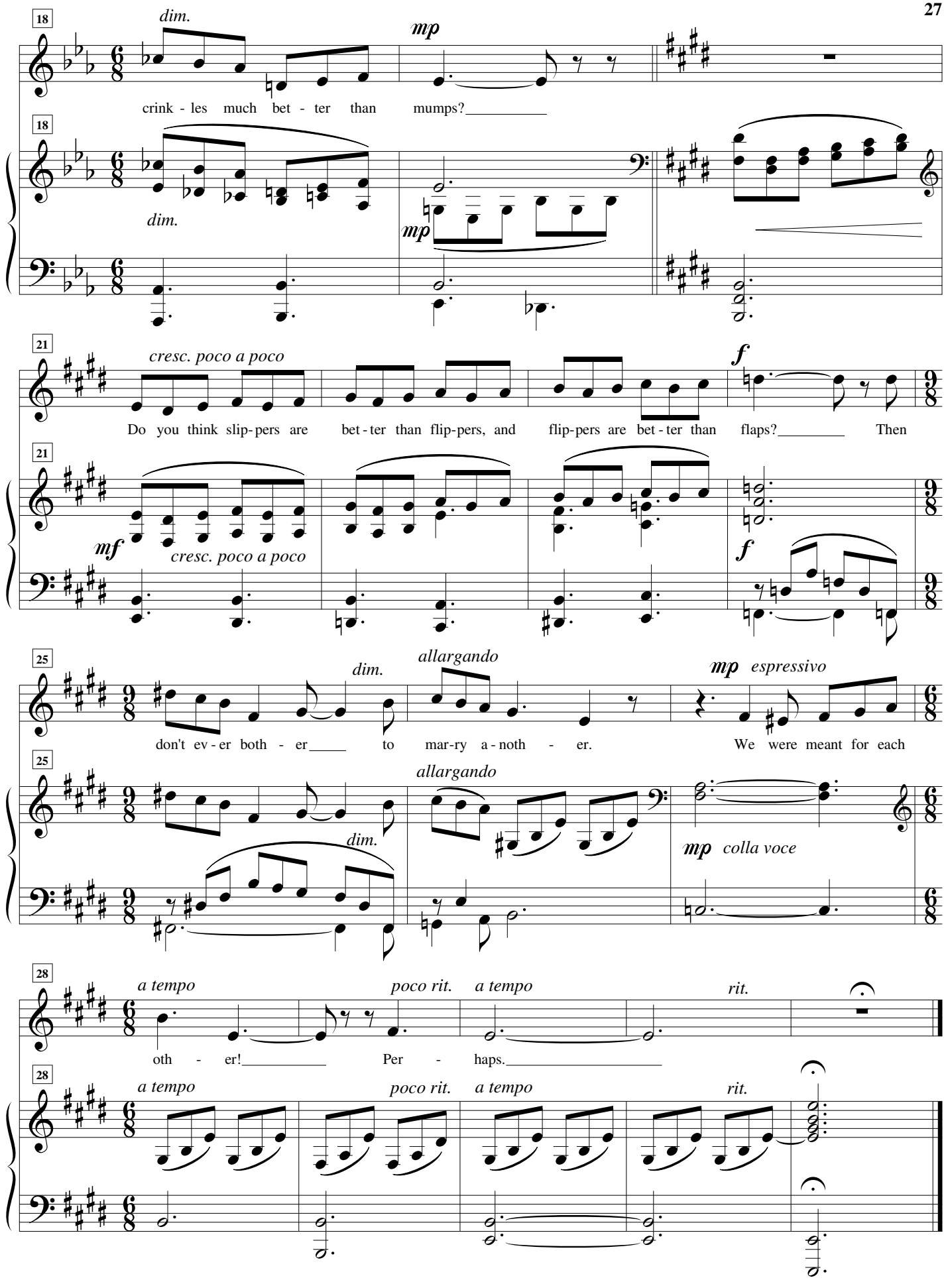
# 9. Mr. Melter


Moderato cantabile ♩ = 112
Piano
p
5
Win - slow Mel - ter built a shel - ter, pa - tient - ly if hel - ter - skel - ter. In the
9
mp
lone - ly up - per reach - es of the dunes a - long the beach - es, out of
p

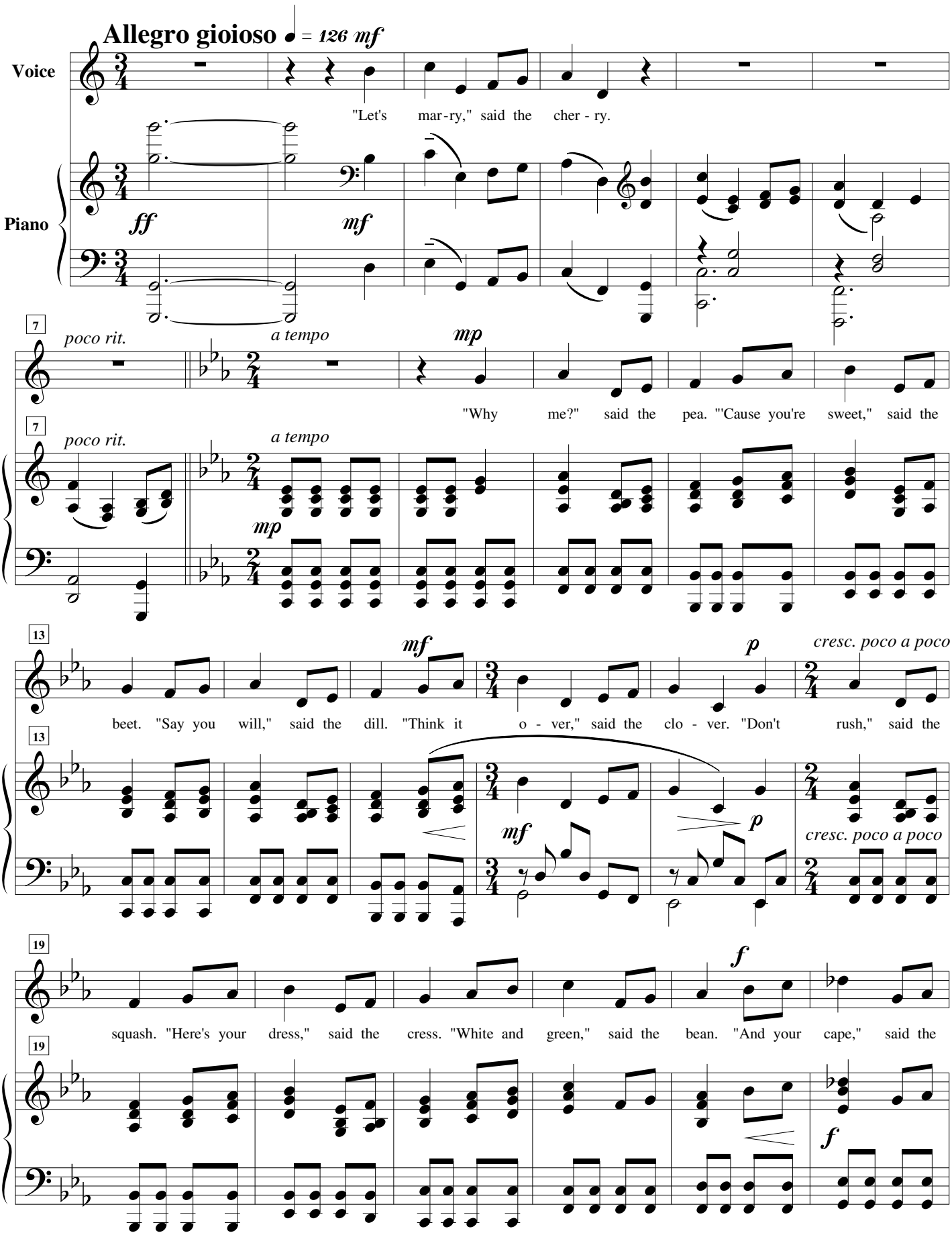

13
cresc. poco a poco
mf
drift - wood but with care, out of sight he built his lair. When they
13
cresc. poco a poco
17
cried: "Se - clu - sive Mel - ter! Such an eye - sore is your shel - ter,
17
mf
21
f marcato
we shall tear it down this day!"
p
Sad - ly he went far a - way.
21
f marcato
p
25
poco rit.

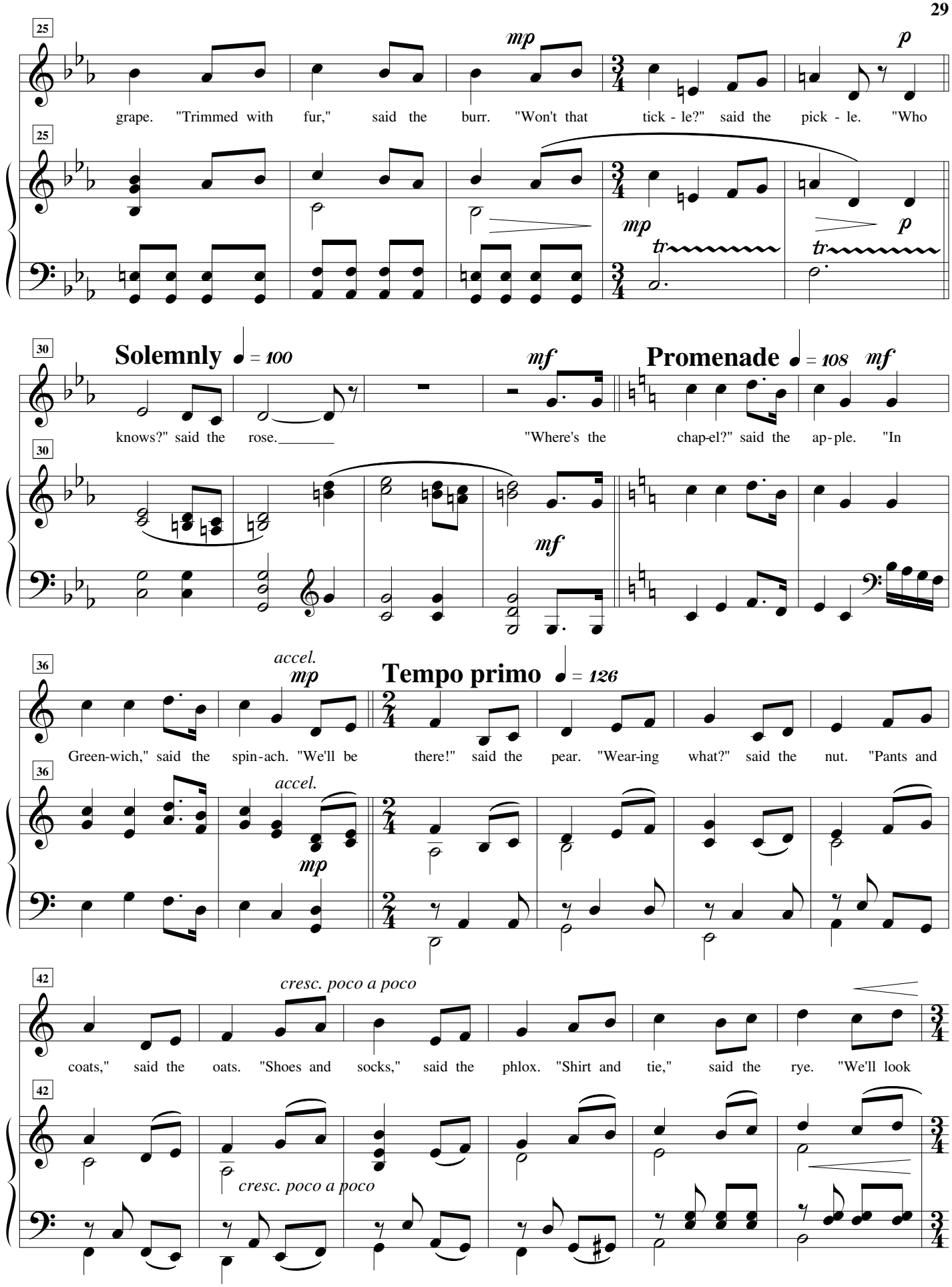
# 10. Getting Together

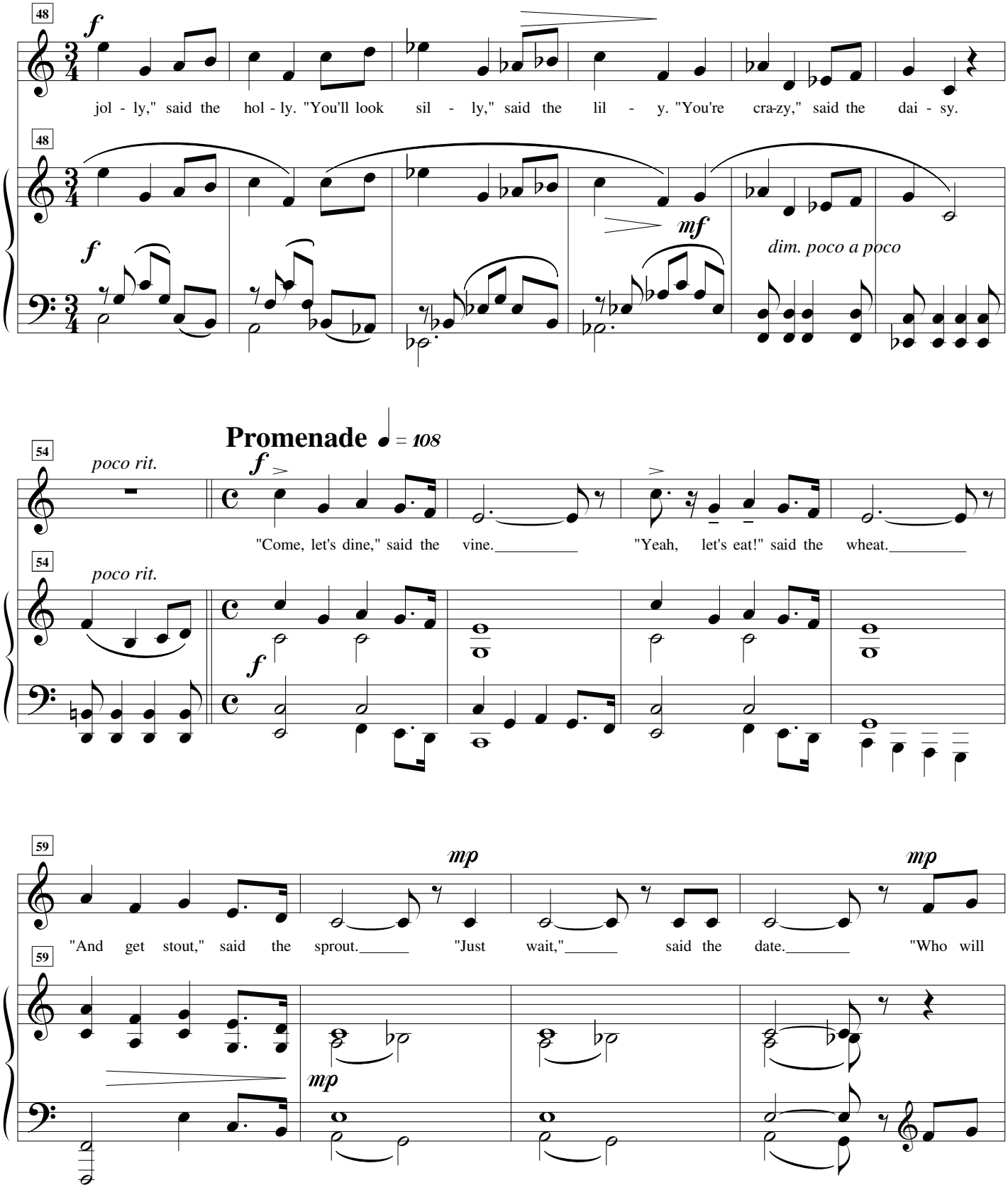


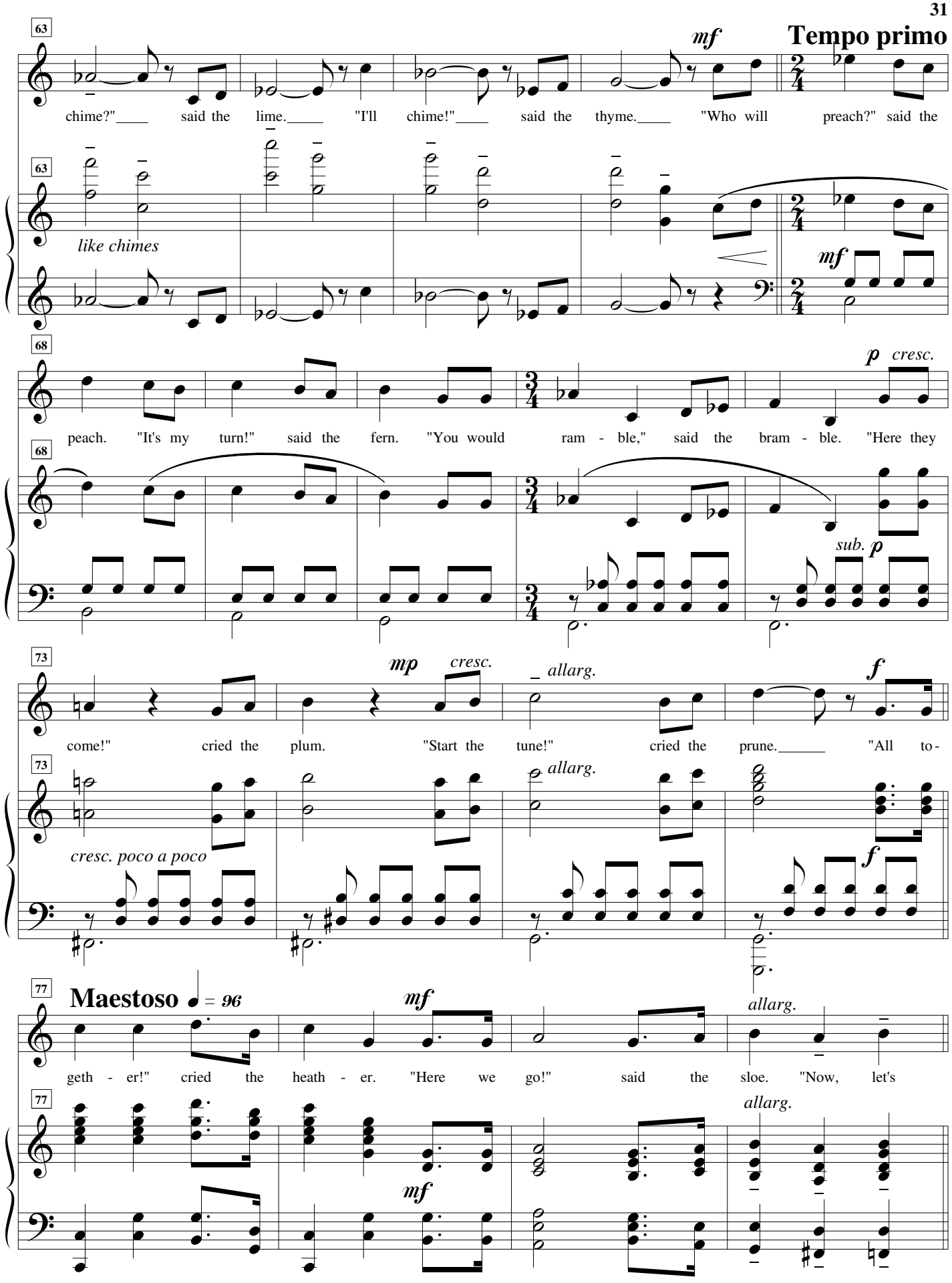

18
dim.
mp
crink - les much bet - ter than mumps?
18
dim.
mp
21
cresc. poco a poco
f
Do you think slip-pers are bet - ter than flip-pers, and flip-pers are bet - ter than flaps? Then
21
mf
cresc. poco a poco
f
25
dim.
allargando
mp espressivo
don't ev - er both - er to mar-ry a - noth - er. We were meant for each
25
allargando
dim.
mp colla voce
28
a tempo
poco rit.
a tempo
rit.
oth - er! Per - haps.
28
a tempo
poco rit.
a tempo
rit.

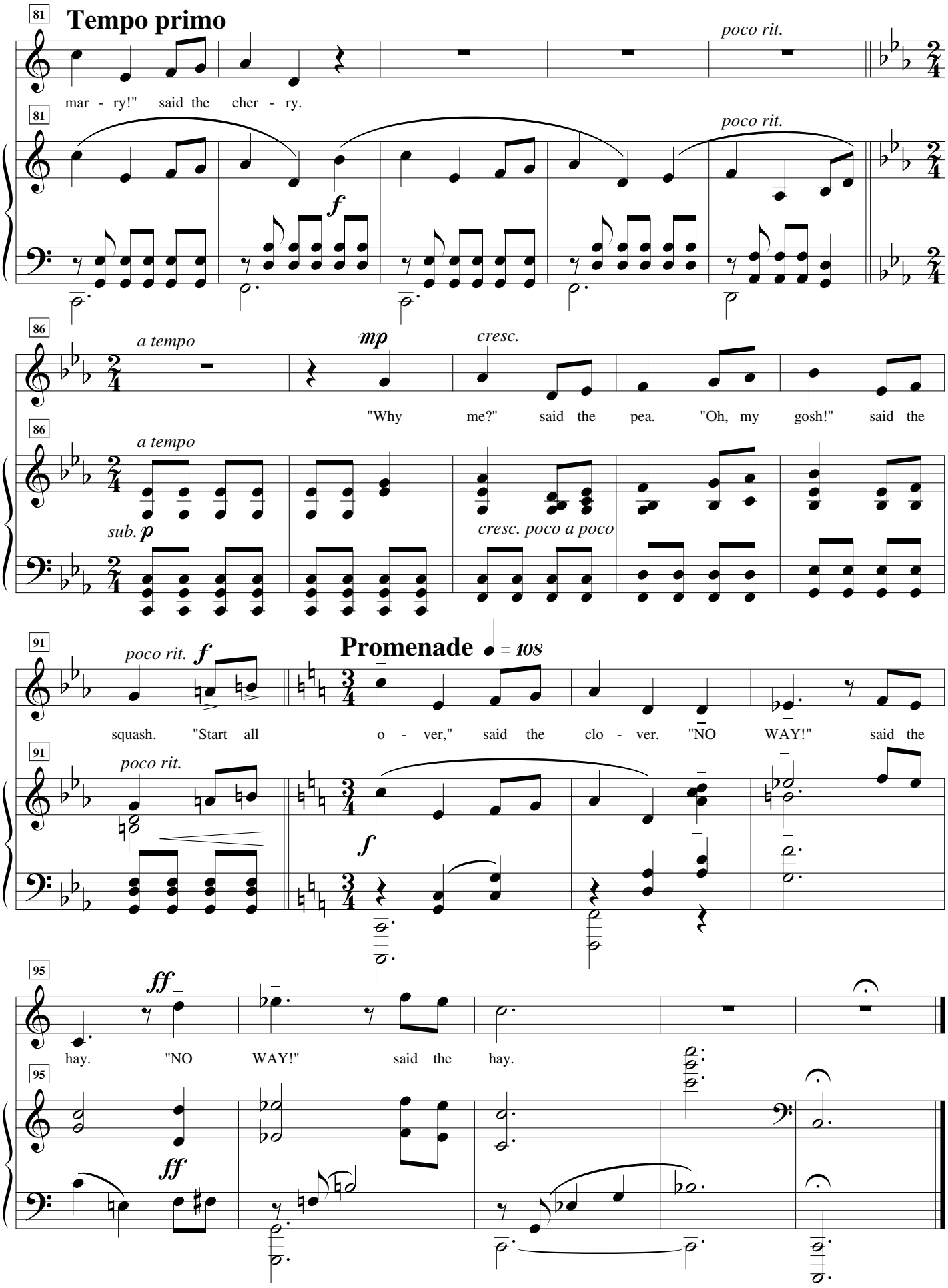
# 11. "Let's Marry!" Said the Cherry




25
mp
p
grape. "Trimmed with fur," said the burr. "Won't that tick - le?" said the pick - le. "Who
25
mp
tr
p
tr
30
Solemnly ♩ = 100
mf
Promenade ♩ = 108
mf
knows?" said the rose. "Where's the chap-el?" said the ap-ple. "In
30
mf
36
accel.
mp
Tempo primo ♩ = 126
Green-wich," said the spin-ach. "We'll be there!" said the pear. "Wear-ing what?" said the nut. "Pants and
36
accel.
mp
42
cresc. poco a poco
coats," said the oats. "Shoes and socks," said the phlox. "Shirt and tie," said the rye. "We'll look
42
cresc. poco a poco


48
f
jol - ly," said the hol - ly. "You'll look sil - ly," said the lil - y. "You're cra-zy," said the dai - sy.
48
f
mf
dim. poco a poco
Promenade ♩ = 108
54
poco rit.
f
"Come, let's dine," said the vine. "Yeah, let's eat!" said the wheat.
54
poco rit.
f
59
mp
mp
"And get stout," said the sprout. "Just wait," said the date. "Who will
59
mp


63
mf
Tempo primo
chime?" said the lime. "I'll chime!" said the thyme. "Who will preach?" said the
63
like chimes
mf
68
p cresc.
peach. "It's my turn!" said the fern. "You would ram - ble," said the bram - ble. "Here they
68
sub. p
73
mp cresc.
allarg.
f
come!" cried the plum. "Start the tune!" cried the prune. "All to -
73
allarg.
cresc. poco a poco
f
77
Maestoso ♩ = 96
mf
allarg.
geth - er!" cried the heath - er. "Here we go!" said the sloe. "Now, let's
77
allarg.
mf


81
Tempo primo
poco rit.
mar - ry!" said the cher - ry.
81
poco rit.
f
86
a tempo
mp
cresc.
"Why me?" said the pea. "Oh, my gosh!" said the
86
a tempo
sub. p
cresc. poco a poco
91
poco rit.
f
Promenade ♩ = 108
squash. "Start all o - ver," said the clo - ver. "NO WAY!" said the
91
poco rit.
f
95
ff
hay. "NO WAY!" said the hay.
95
ff