# Buzz & Bud

Chamber Piece for Two Performers


Music by

Bruce Trinkley

Words by

Jason Charnesky

# Buzz & Bud

## Chamber Piece for Two Performers

### CAST

**Bud, a flower. Medium or medium high voice**
**Buzz, a flying insect. Medium or medium high voice**

### INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

**Piano**
**String bass (electric or acoustic)**
**Percussion**
**(trap set, triangle, wood block, bell tree, tam-tam)**

### POET'S NOTE

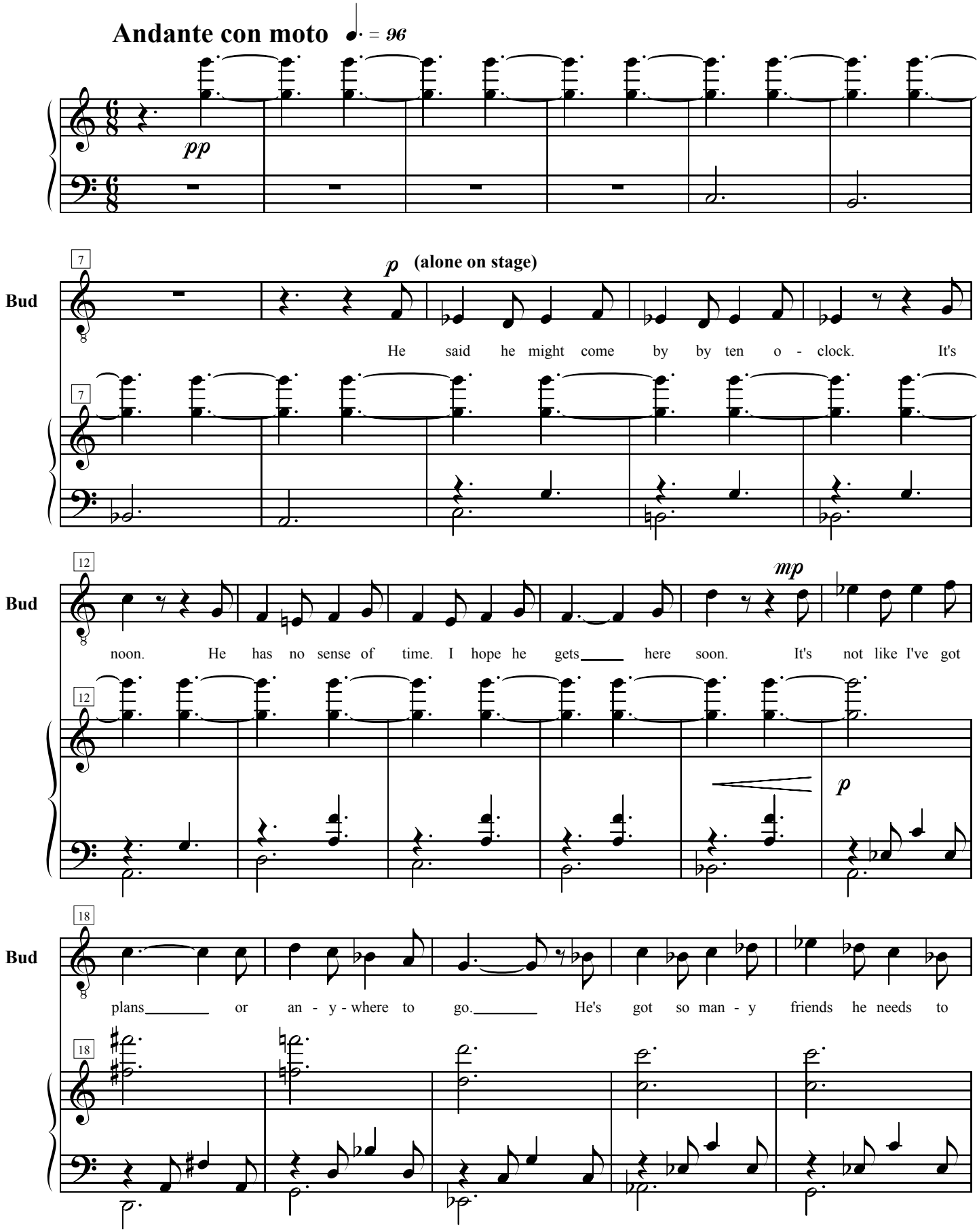
For a long time biologists have known about the peculiar relations maintained between some orchids and certain wasps. The flower is able to confound the hornet's senses so completely that he mistakes the scent of the blossom for the lineaments of his dream date, and these two utterly different organisms enter into a complex, cross-species dance of partnership. *Buzz & Bud* is all about that difficult partnership of commitment, as seen from the point of view of the hornet and the orchid. Since this is a piece about soul-mates rather than body parts, the roles of Bud and Buzz can be played by either male or female performers. But under no circumstances should either character be dressed up in a "bee suit" or "flower costume." Bud, the more conservative of our duo, is dressed in performance tails, a subtly orchidaceous shirt, and a small but elegant boutonnière. Buzz, imitating the hood he never belonged to, wears all the gear of his beloved hip-hop culture, and he almost pulls it off.

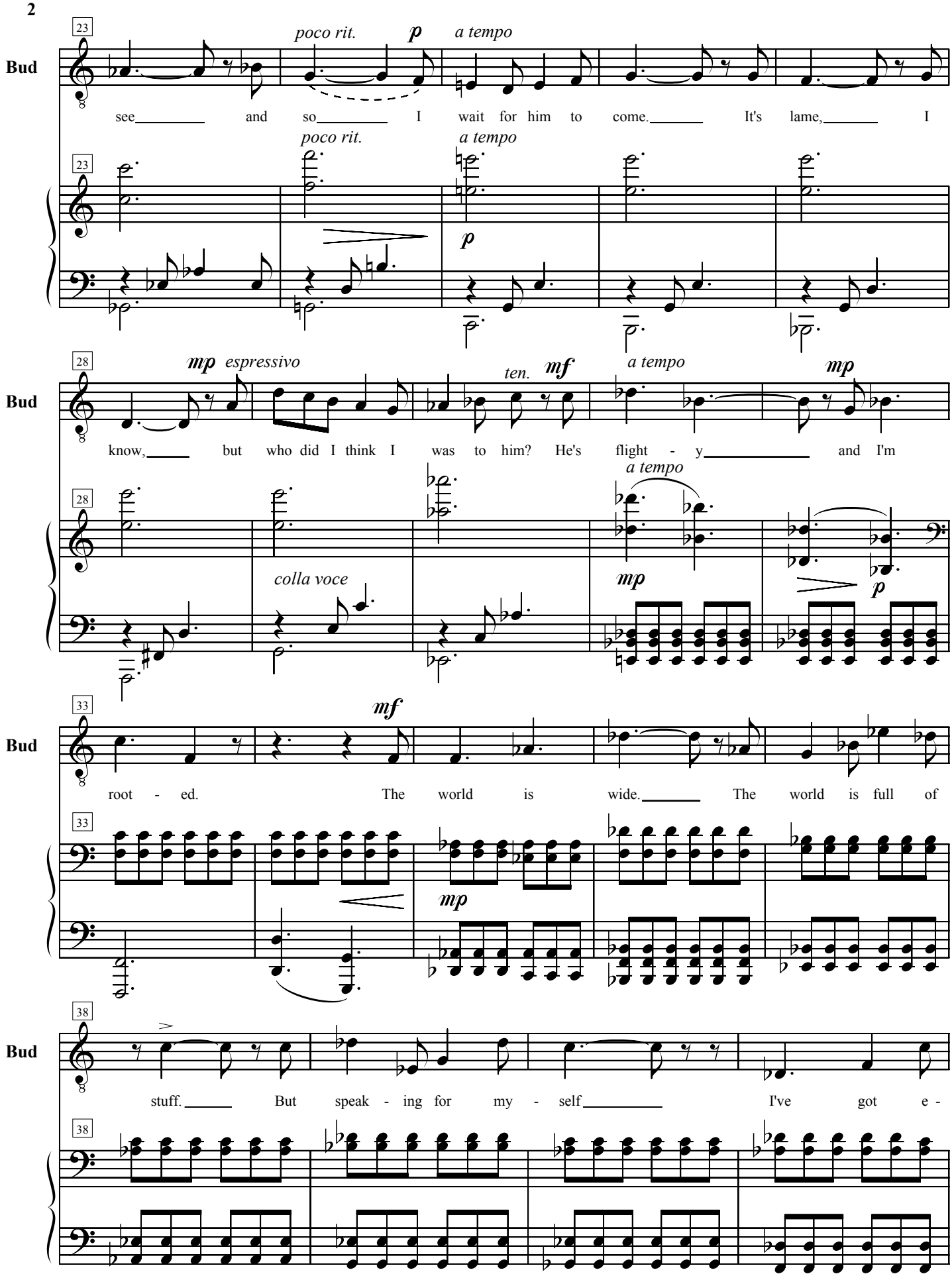
The model for the libretto was that sexy, gossipy medieval allegory *The Owl and the Nightingale*, while Buzz' attempt at rap was inspired by Lil' Kim, as heard on the remix of Puffy Daddy's "It's All About the Benjamins."

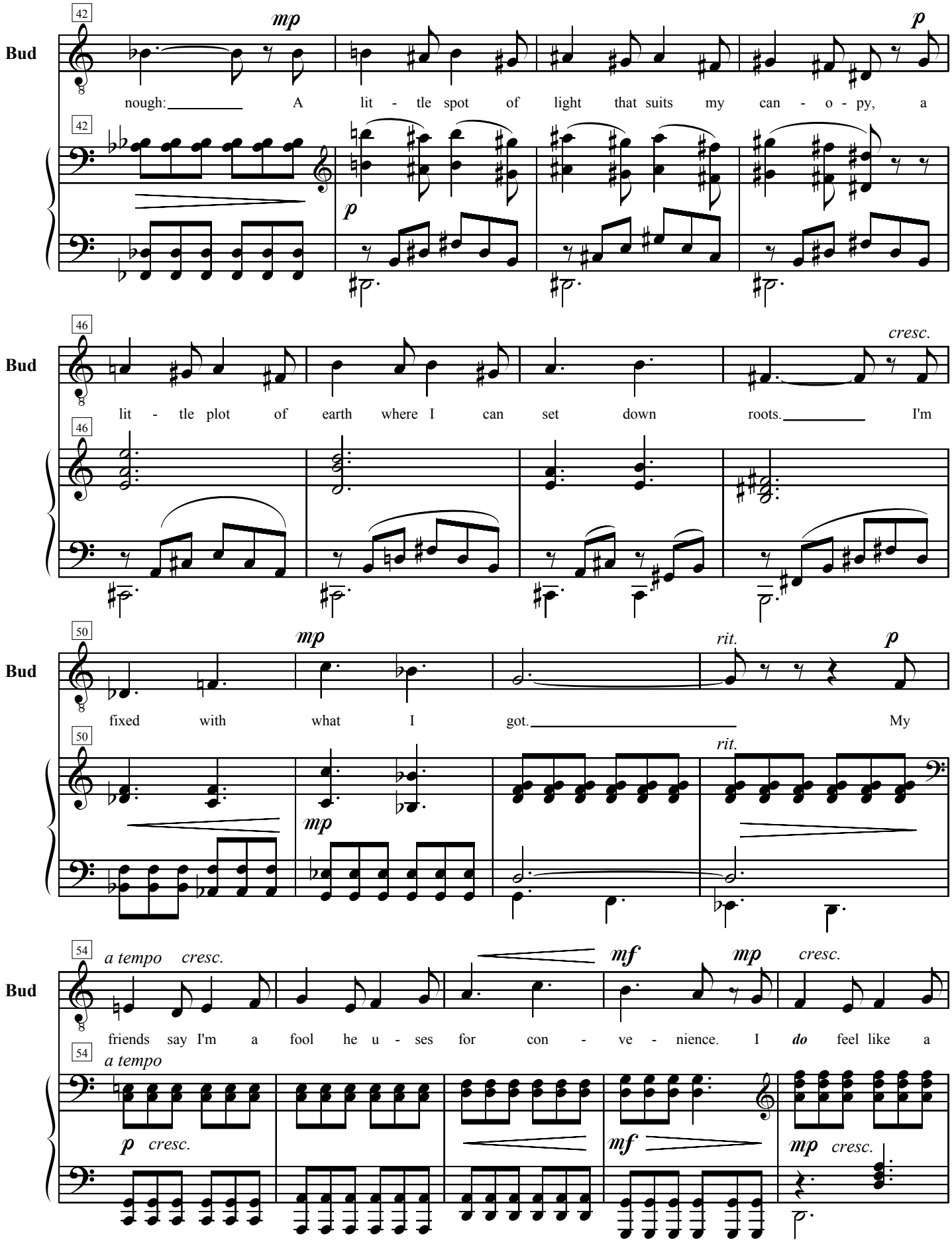
The composition of *Buzz & Bud* was made possible by a deeply appreciated residency at the Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts in Rabun Gap, Georgia in April and May, 2008.

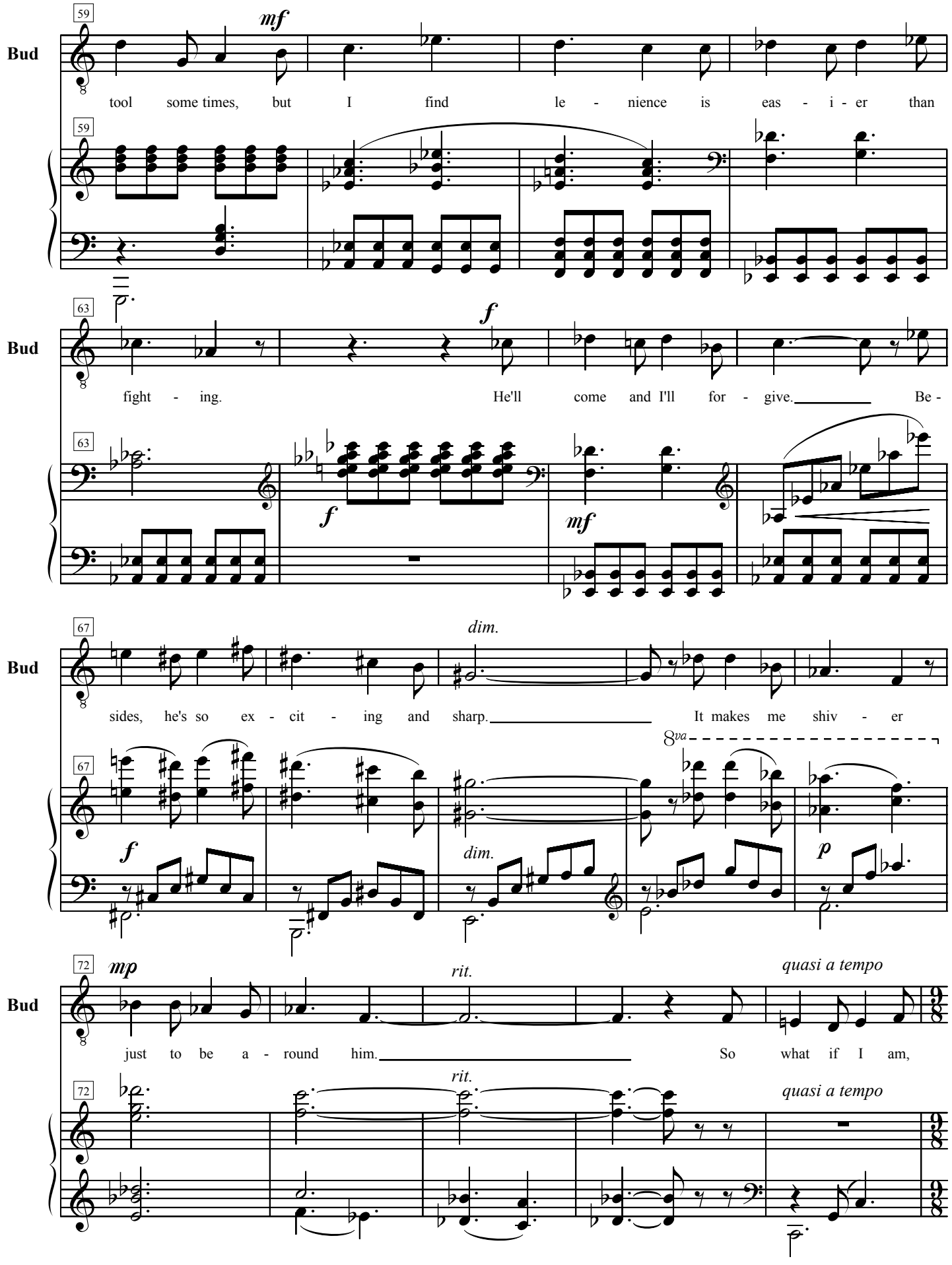
Duration: approximately 21 minutes

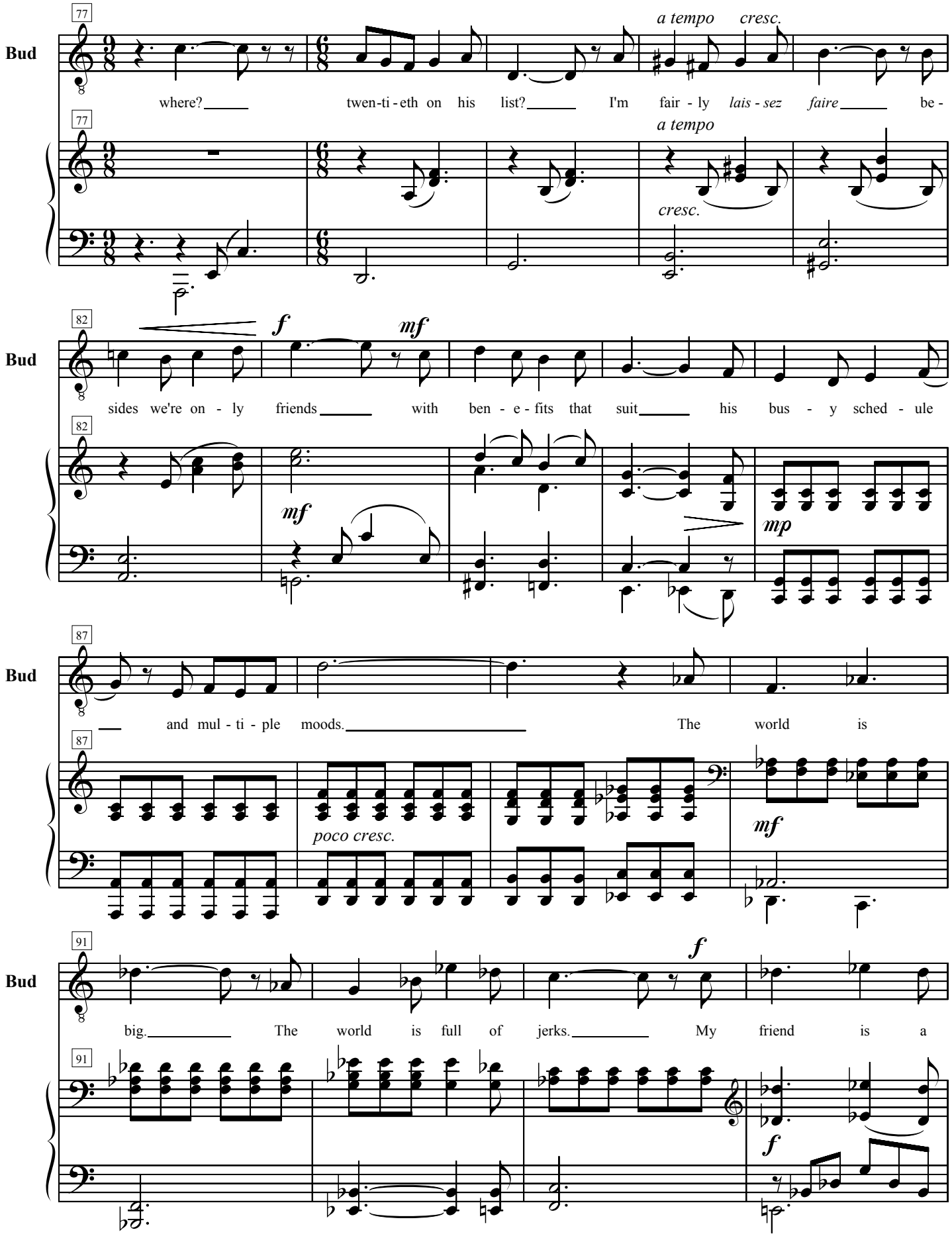
# Buzz & Bud

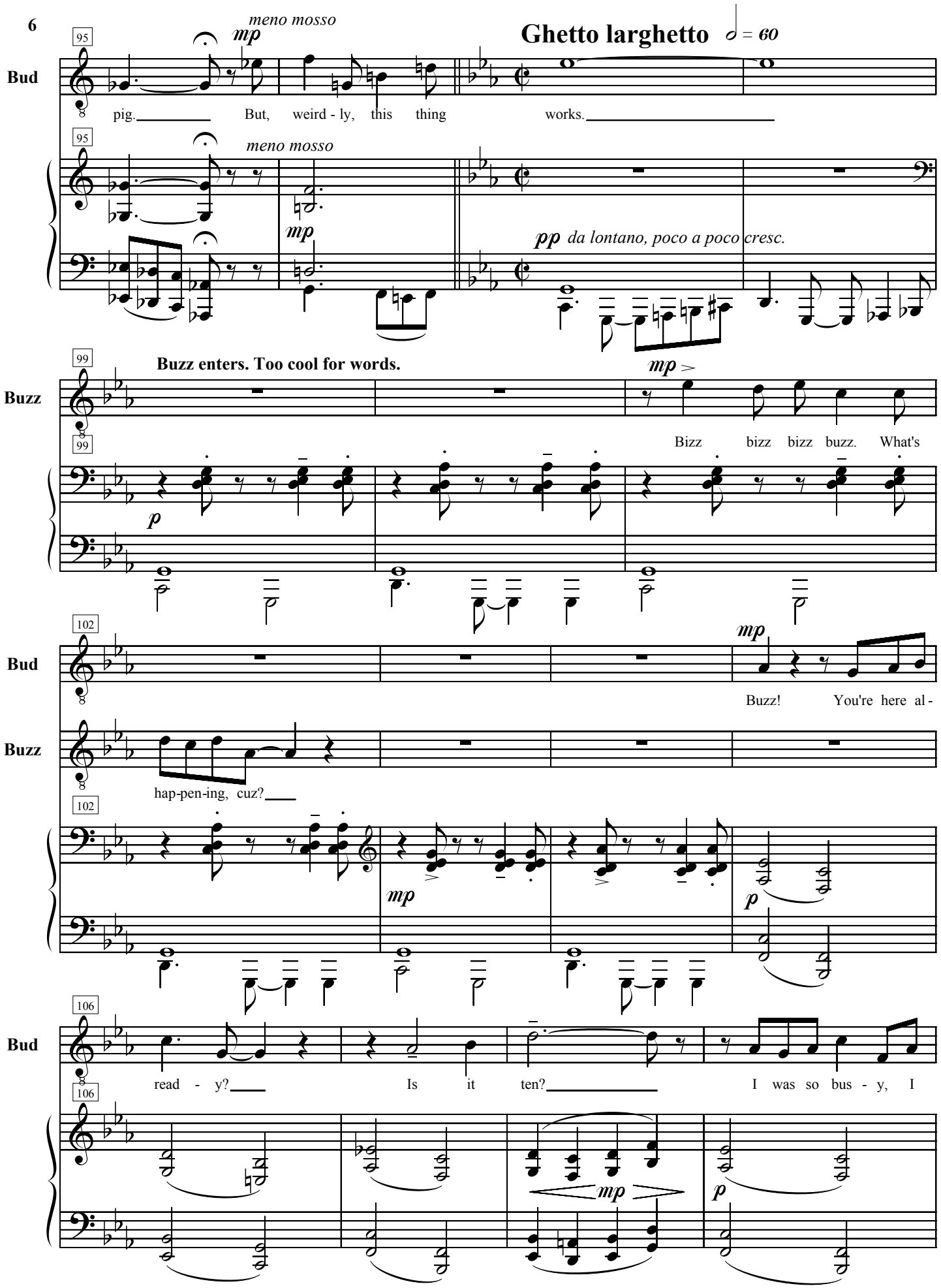

Andante con moto
pp
7
p (alone on stage)
Bud
He said he might come by by ten o - clock. It's
12
mp
noon. He has no sense of time. I hope he gets here soon. It's not like I've got
p
18
plans or an - y - where to go. He's got so man - y friends he needs to

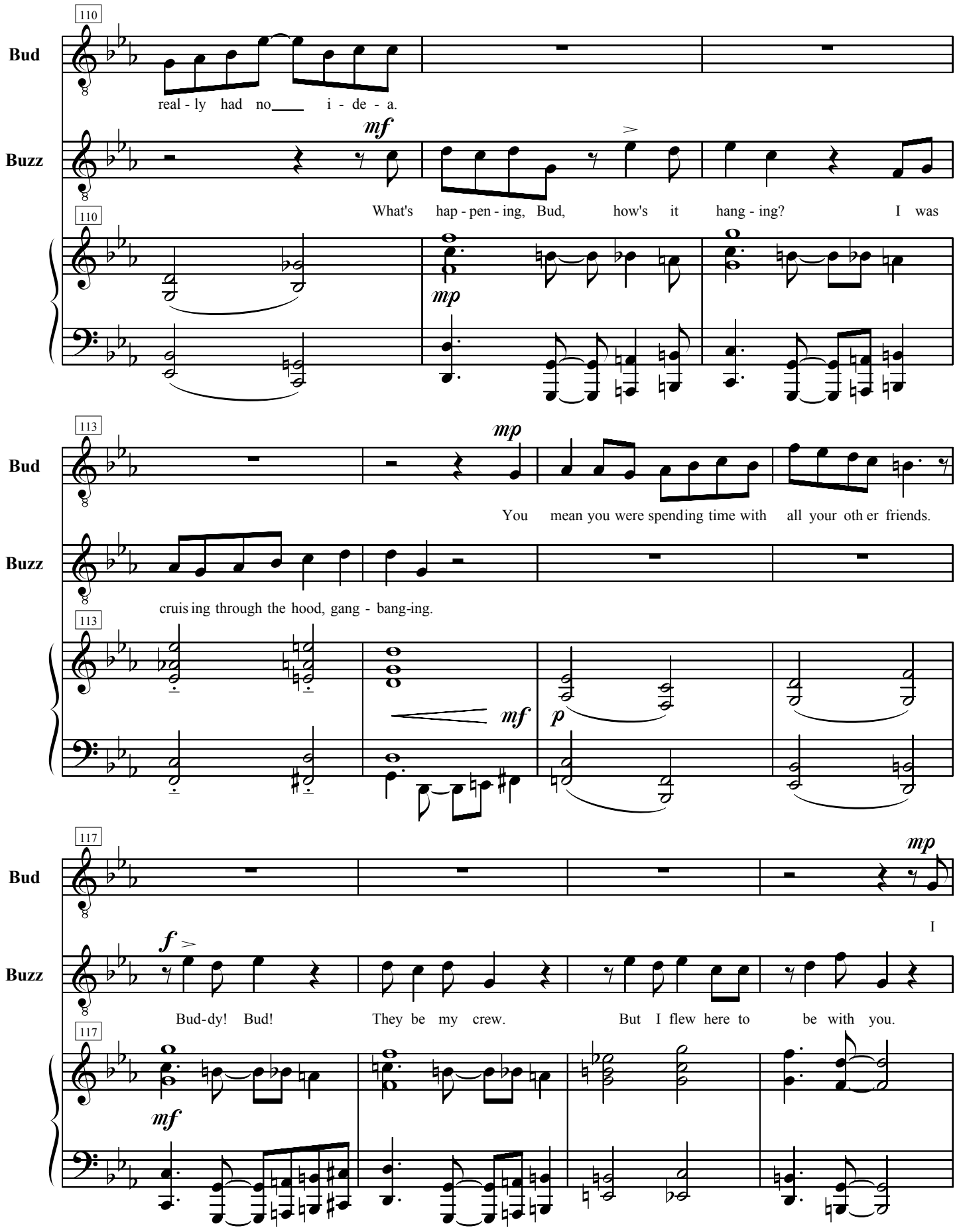

23
Bud
poco rit.
p
a tempo
see and so I wait for him to come. It's lame, I
23
poco rit.
a tempo
p
28
Bud
mp espressivo
ten.
mf
a tempo
mp
know, but who did I think I was to him? He's flight - y and I'm
28
a tempo
colla voce
mp
p
33
Bud
mf
root - ed. The world is wide. The world is full of
33
mp
38
Bud
stuff. But speak - ing for my - self I've got e -
38

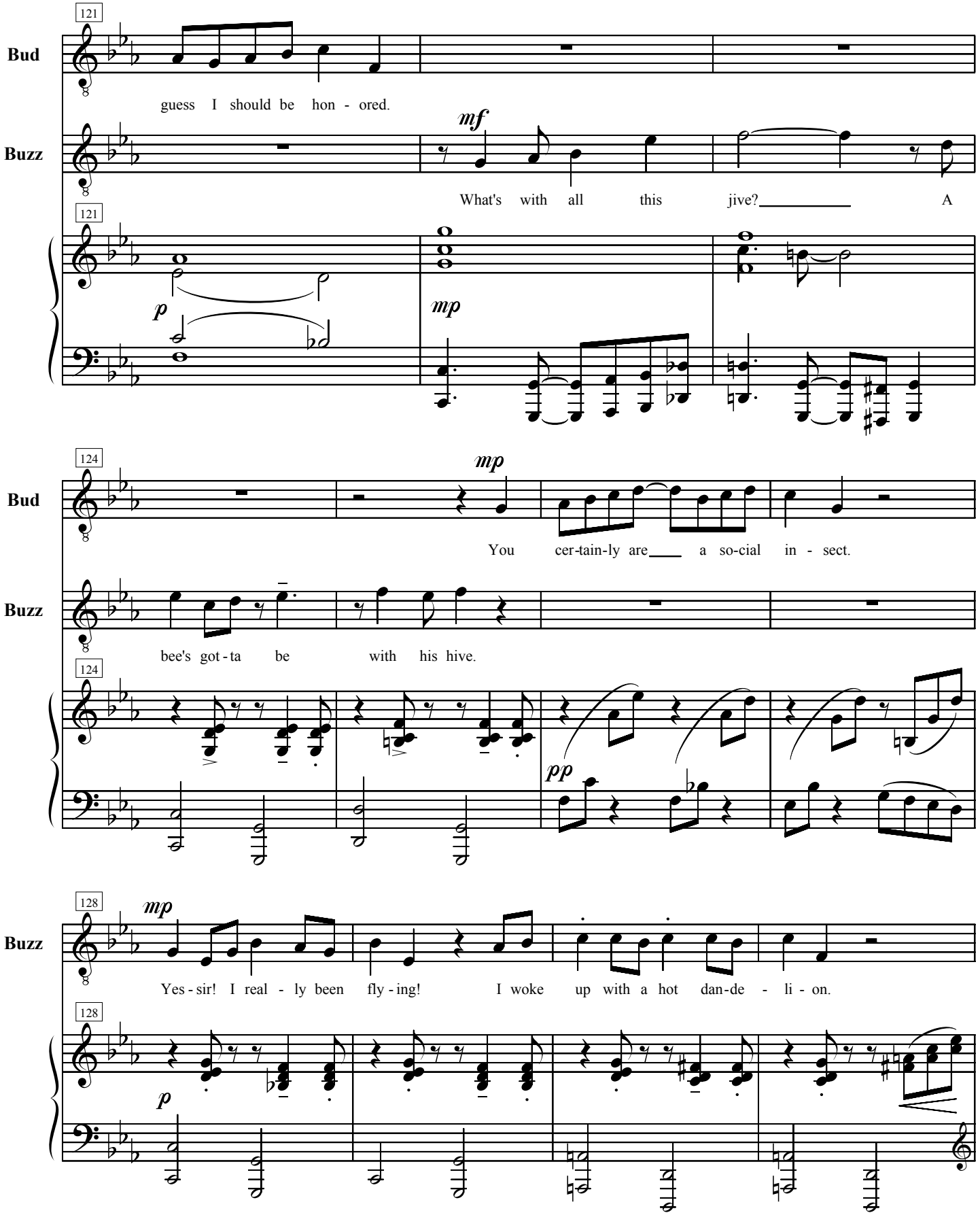

42
Bud
mp
p
nough: A lit - tle spot of light that suits my can - o - py, a
42
p
46
Bud
cresc.
lit - tle plot of earth where I can set down roots. I'm
46
50
Bud
mp
rit.
p
fixed with what I got. My
50
mp
rit.
54
Bud
a tempo
cresc.
mf
mp
cresc.
friends say I'm a fool he u - ses for con - ve - nience. I do feel like a
54
a tempo
p
cresc.
mf
mp
cresc.

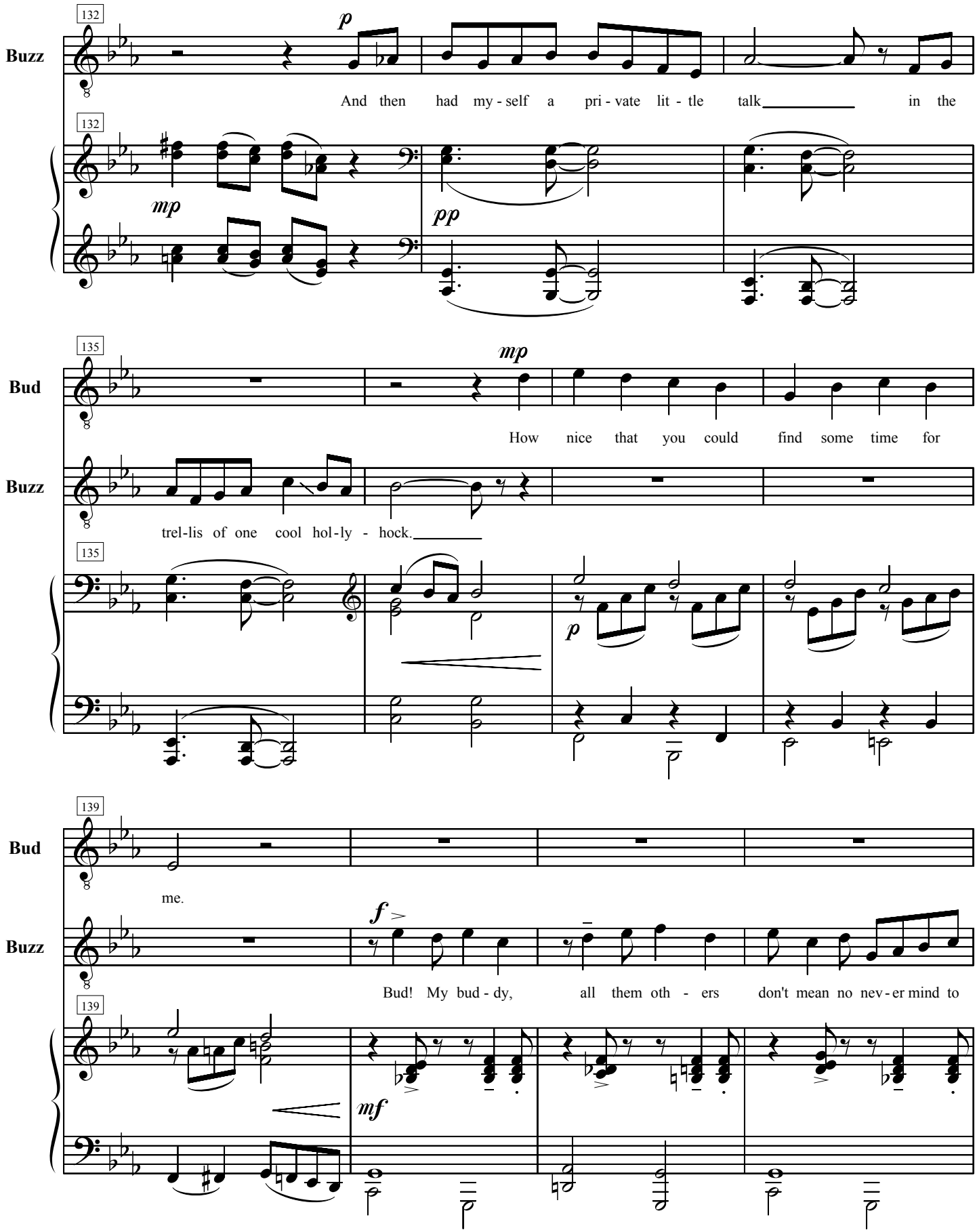

59
Bud
mf
tool some times, but I find le - nience is eas - i - er than
63
Bud
f
fight - ing. He'll come and I'll for - give. Be -
f
mf
67
Bud
dim.
sides, he's so ex - cit - ing and sharp. It makes me shiv - er
8va
f
dim.
p
72
Bud
mp
rit.
quasi a tempo
just to be a - round him. So what if I am,
rit.
quasi a tempo

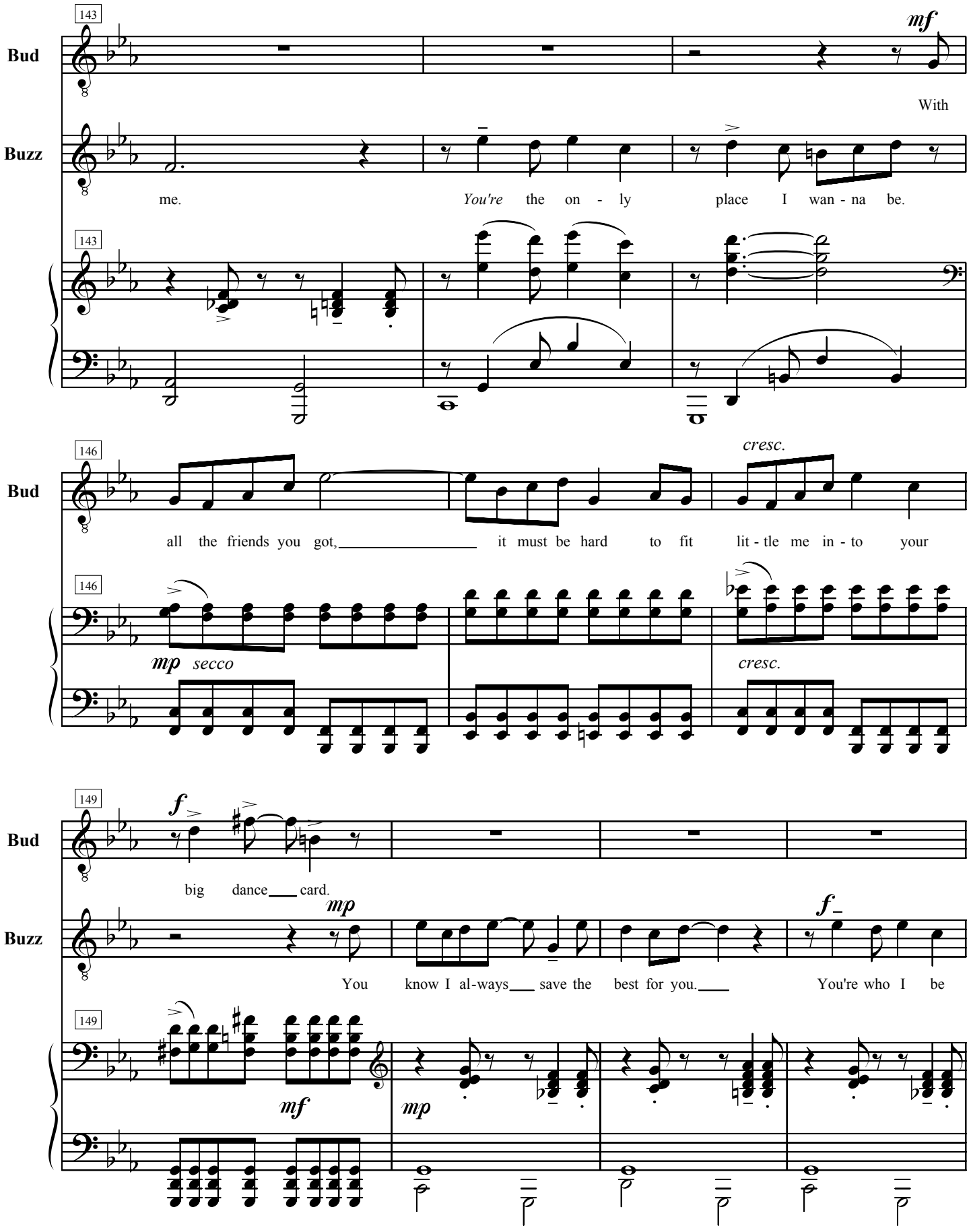

77
Bud
where?
twen-ti-eth on his list?
I'm fair - ly lais - sez faire be -
a tempo
cresc.
77
a tempo
cresc.
82
Bud
f
mf
sides we're on - ly friends with ben - e - fits that suit his bus - y sched - ule
82
mf
mp
87
Bud
and mul - ti - ple moods.
The world is
87
poco cresc.
mf
91
Bud
f
big.
The world is full of jerks.
My friend is a
91
f

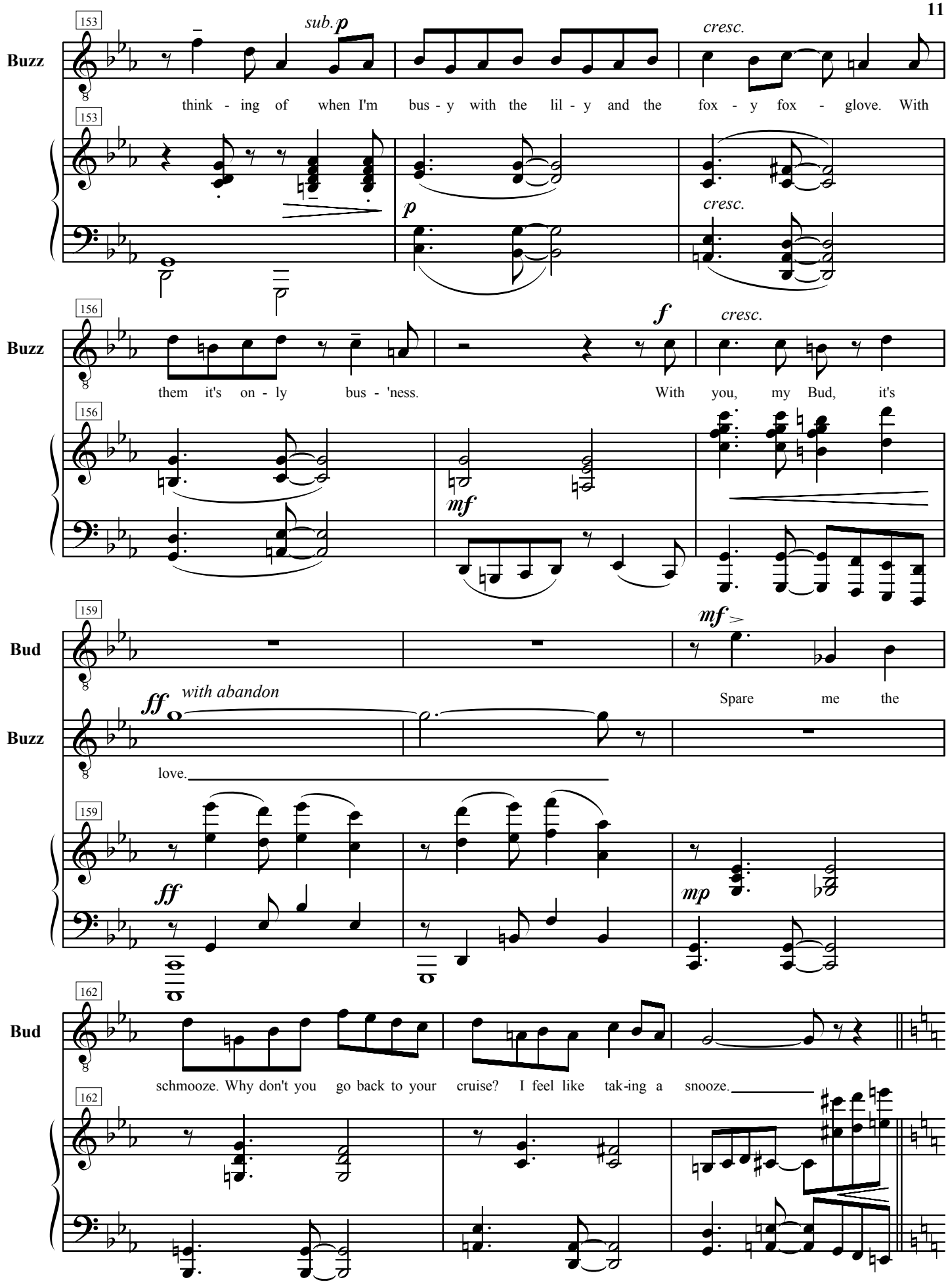

meno mosso
mp
Ghetto larghetto ♩ = 60
Bud
95
pig. But, weird - ly, this thing works.
meno mosso
mp
pp da lontano, poco a poco cresc.
Buzz
99
Buzz enters. Too cool for words.
mp
Bizz bizz bizz buzz. What's
p
Bud
102
mp
Buzz! You're here al -
Buzz
hap-pen-ing, cuz?
mp
p
Bud
106
read - y? Is it ten? I was so bus - y, I
mp
p

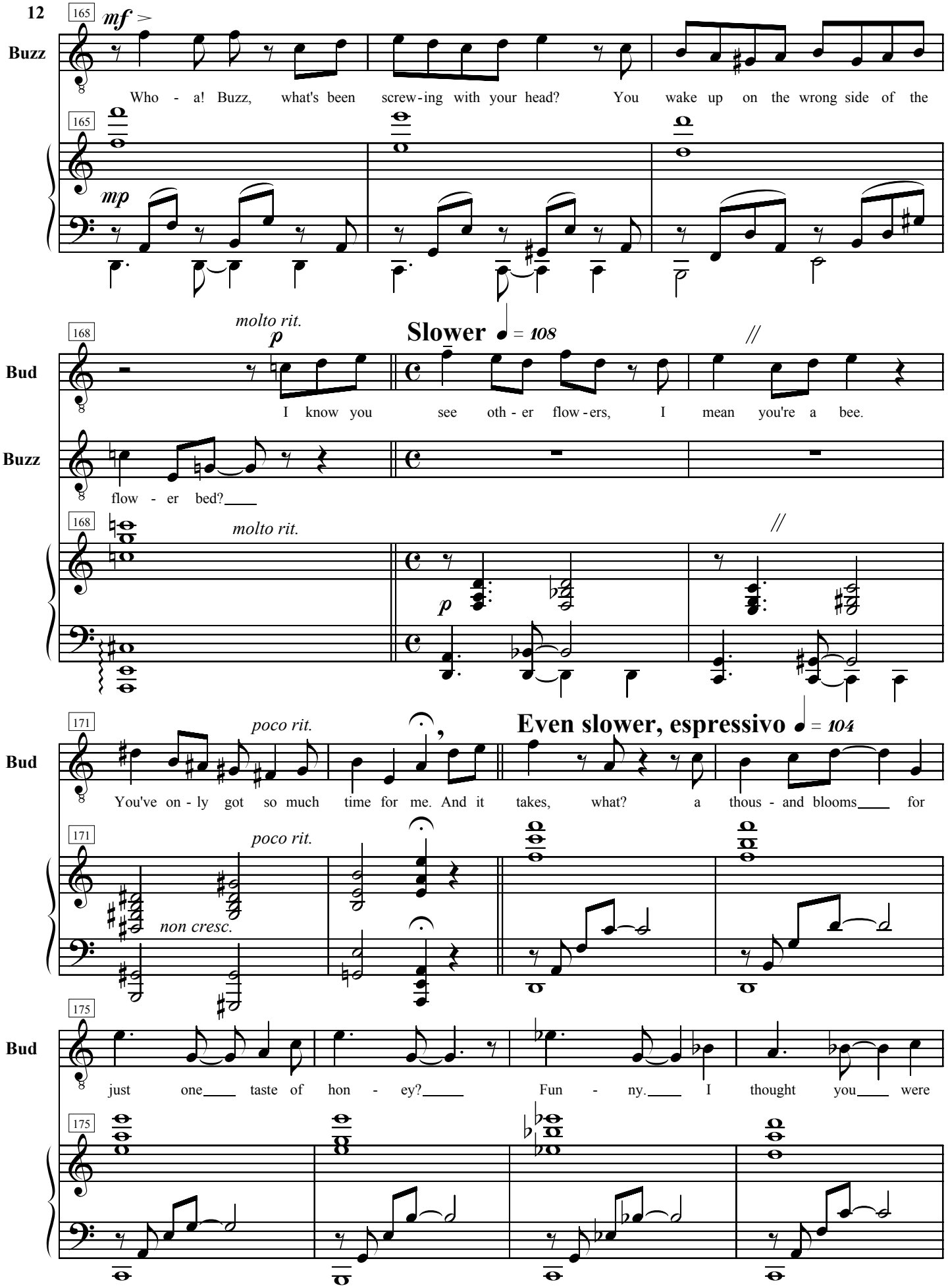

110
Bud
real - ly had no i - de - a.
Buzz
mf
What's hap - pen - ing, Bud, how's it hang - ing? I was
110
mp
113
Bud
mp
You mean you were spending time with all your oth er friends.
Buzz
cruis ing through the hood, gang - bang-ing.
113
mf
p
117
Bud
mp
I
Buzz
f
Bud-dy! Bud! They be my crew. But I flew here to be with you.
117
mf

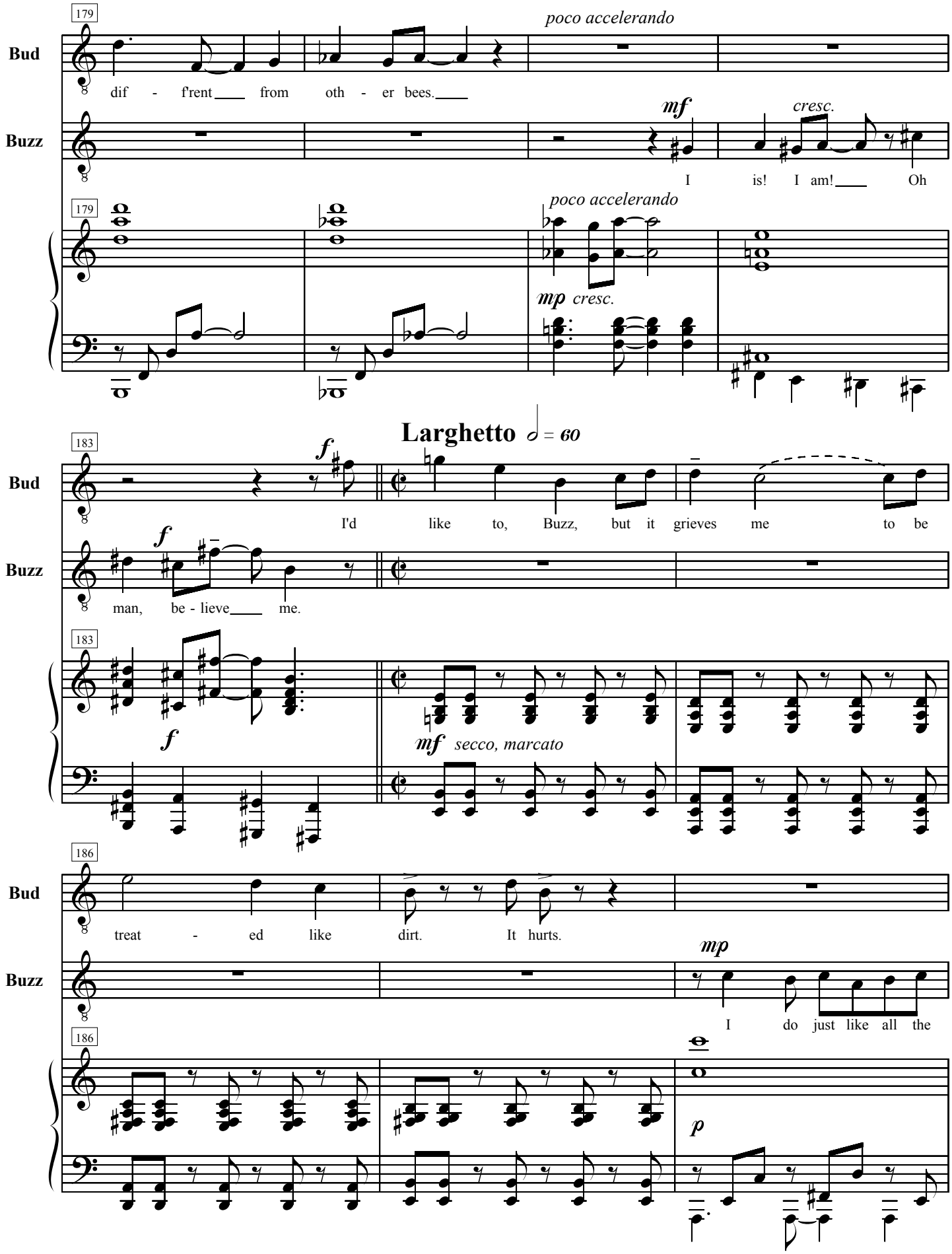

121
Bud
guess I should be hon - ored.
Buzz
mf
What's with all this jive? A
121
p
mp
124
Bud
mp
You cer-tain-ly are a so-cial in - sect.
Buzz
bee's got - ta be with his hive.
124
pp
128
Buzz
mp
Yes - sir! I real - ly been fly - ing! I woke up with a hot dan-de - li - on.
128
p

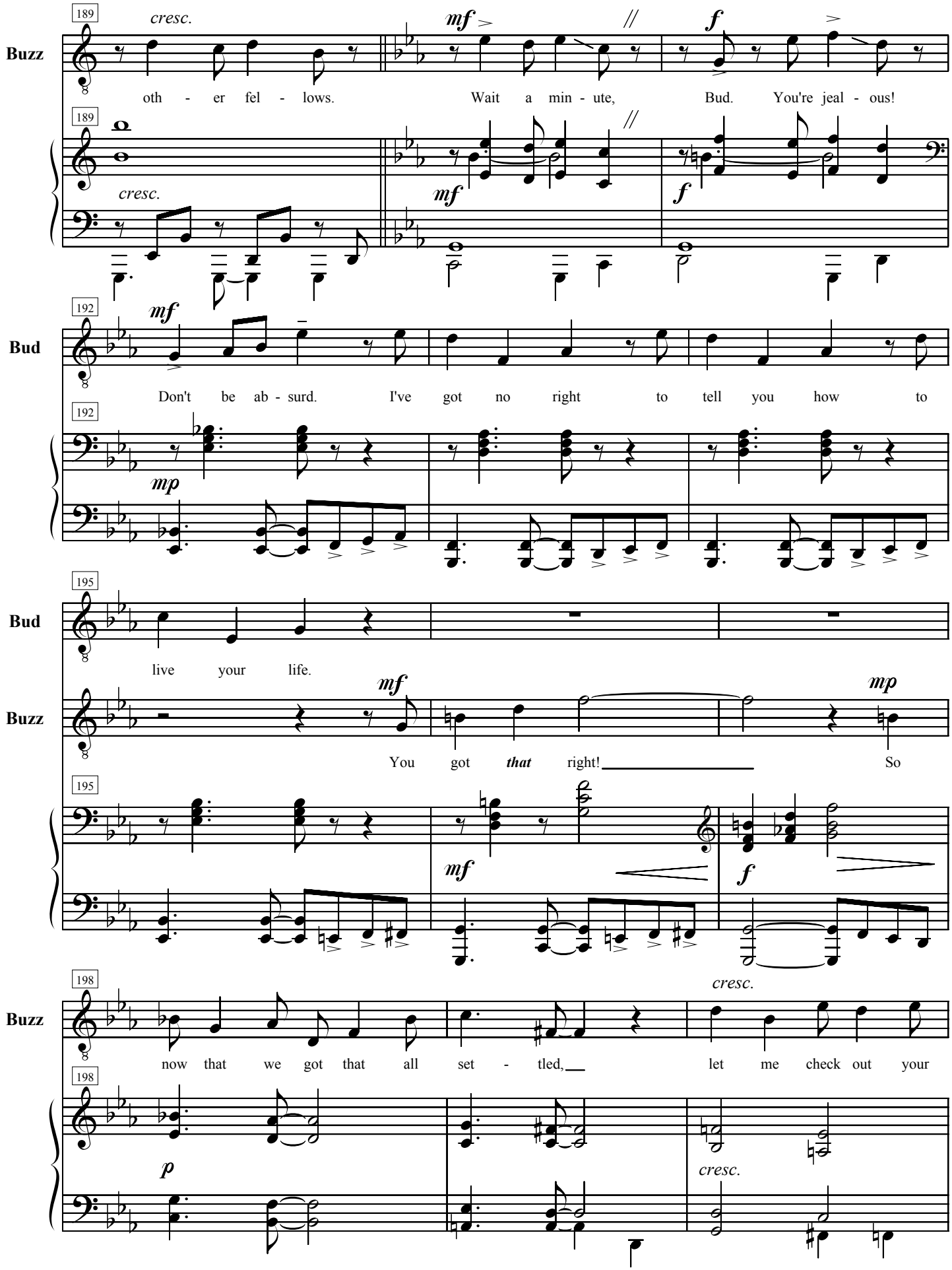

132
Buzz
p
And then had my - self a pri - vate lit - tle talk in the
132
mp
pp
135
Bud
mp
How nice that you could find some time for
Buzz
trel-lis of one cool hol-ly - hock.
135
p
139
Bud
me.
Buzz
f
Bud! My bud - dy, all them oth - ers don't mean no nev - er mind to
139
mf

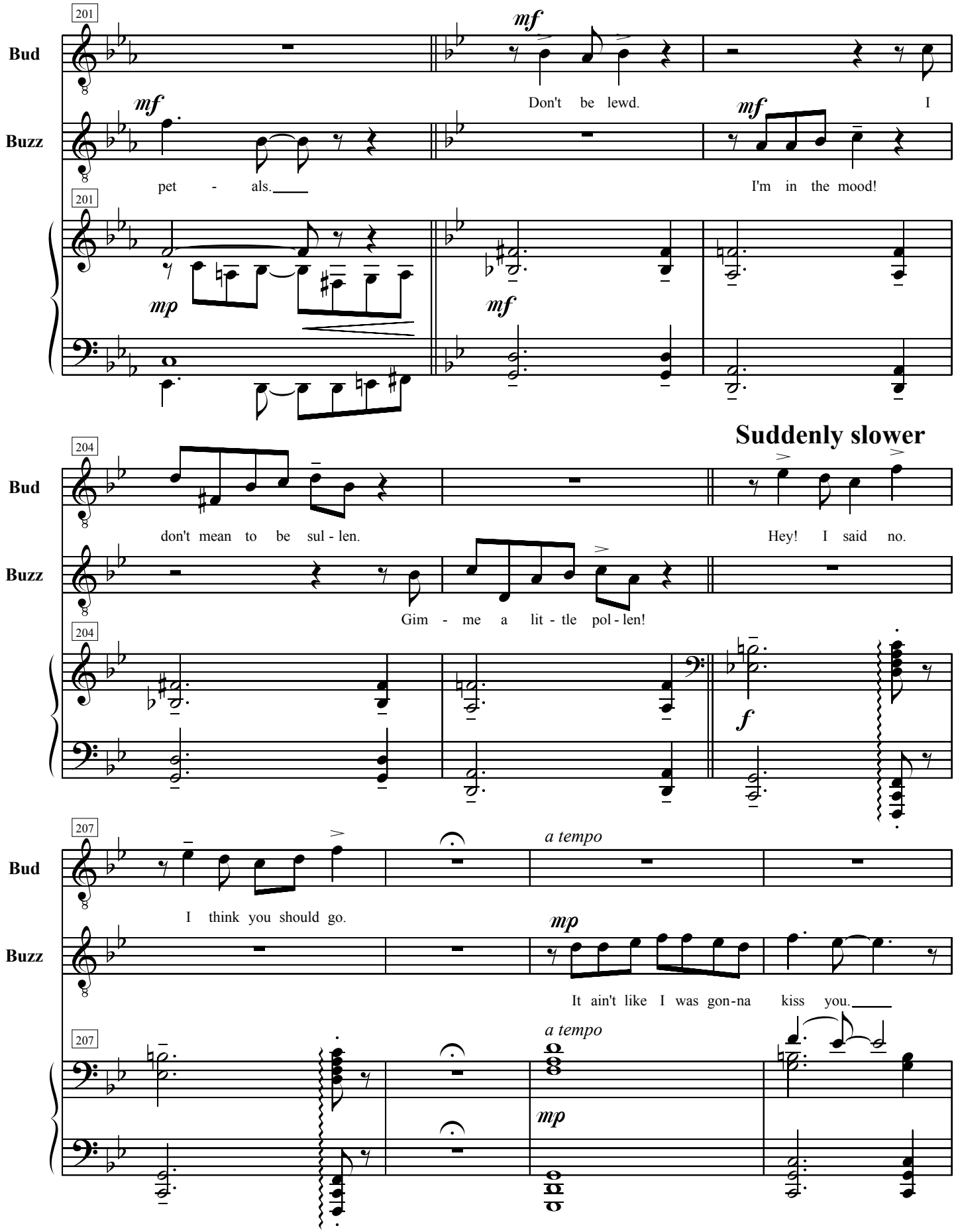

143
Bud
mf
With
Buzz
me.
You're the on - ly place I wan - na be.
143
146
Bud
cresc.
all the friends you got, it must be hard to fit lit - tle me in - to your
146
mp secco
cresc.
149
Bud
f
big dance card.
Buzz
mp
You know I al-ways save the best for you.
f
You're who I be
149
mf
mp

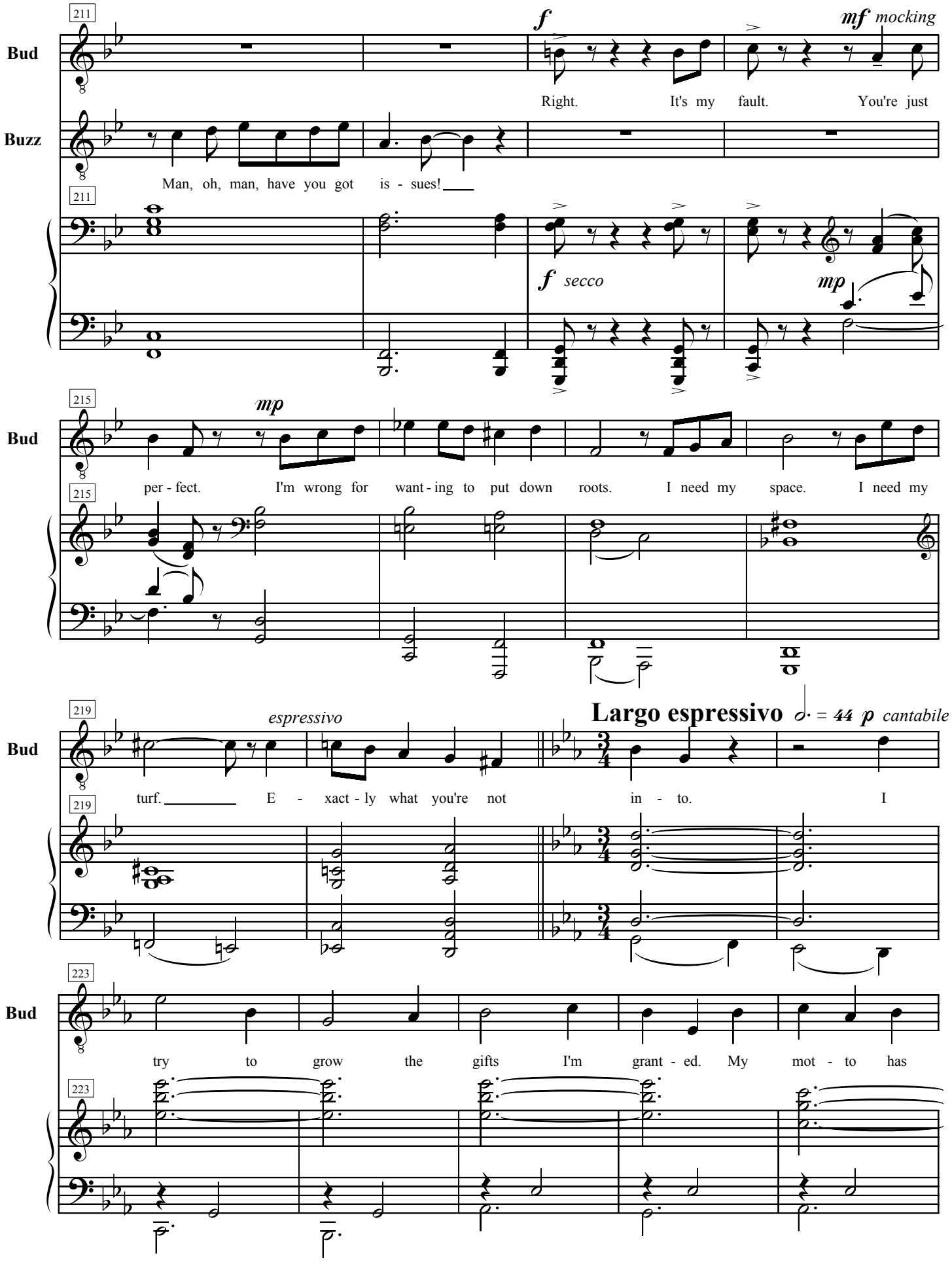

153
Buzz
sub. p
cresc.
think - ing of when I'm bus - y with the lil - y and the fox - y fox - glove. With
153
p
cresc.
156
Buzz
f
cresc.
them it's on - ly bus - 'ness. With you, my Bud, it's
156
mf
159
Bud
mf
Spare me the
159
Buzz
ff with abandon
love.
ff
mp
162
Bud
schmooze. Why don't you go back to your cruise? I feel like tak-ing a snooze.
162

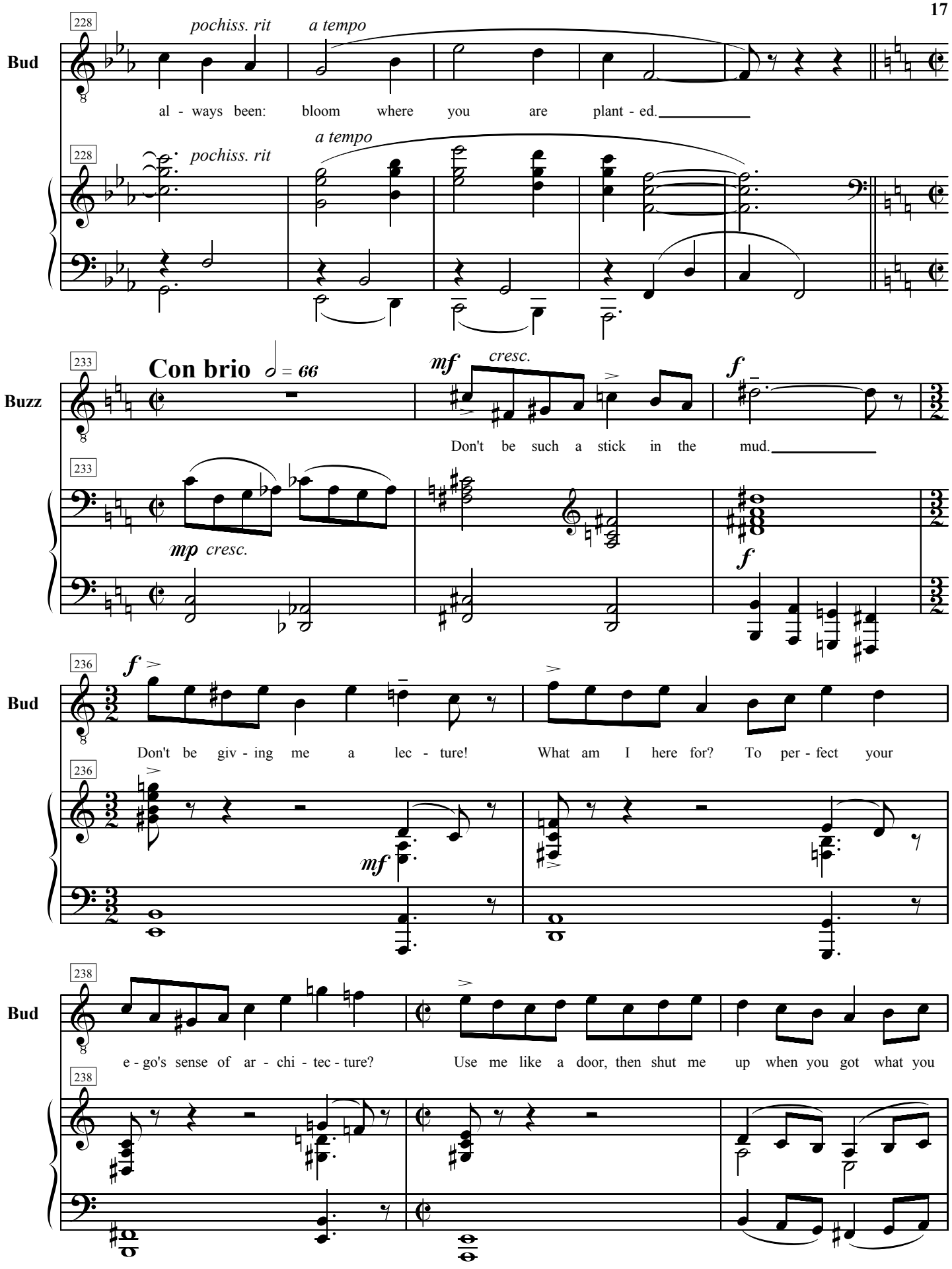

165
mf
Buzz
Who - a! Buzz, what's been screw-ing with your head? You wake up on the wrong side of the
mp
168
molto rit.
p
Slower ♩ = 108
//
Bud
I know you see oth - er flow - ers, I mean you're a bee.
Buzz
flow - er bed?
molto rit.
p
//
171
poco rit.
Even slower, espressivo ♩ = 104
Bud
You've on - ly got so much time for me. And it takes, what? a thous - and blooms for
poco rit.
non cresc.
175
Bud
just one taste of hon - ey? Fun - ny. I thought you were

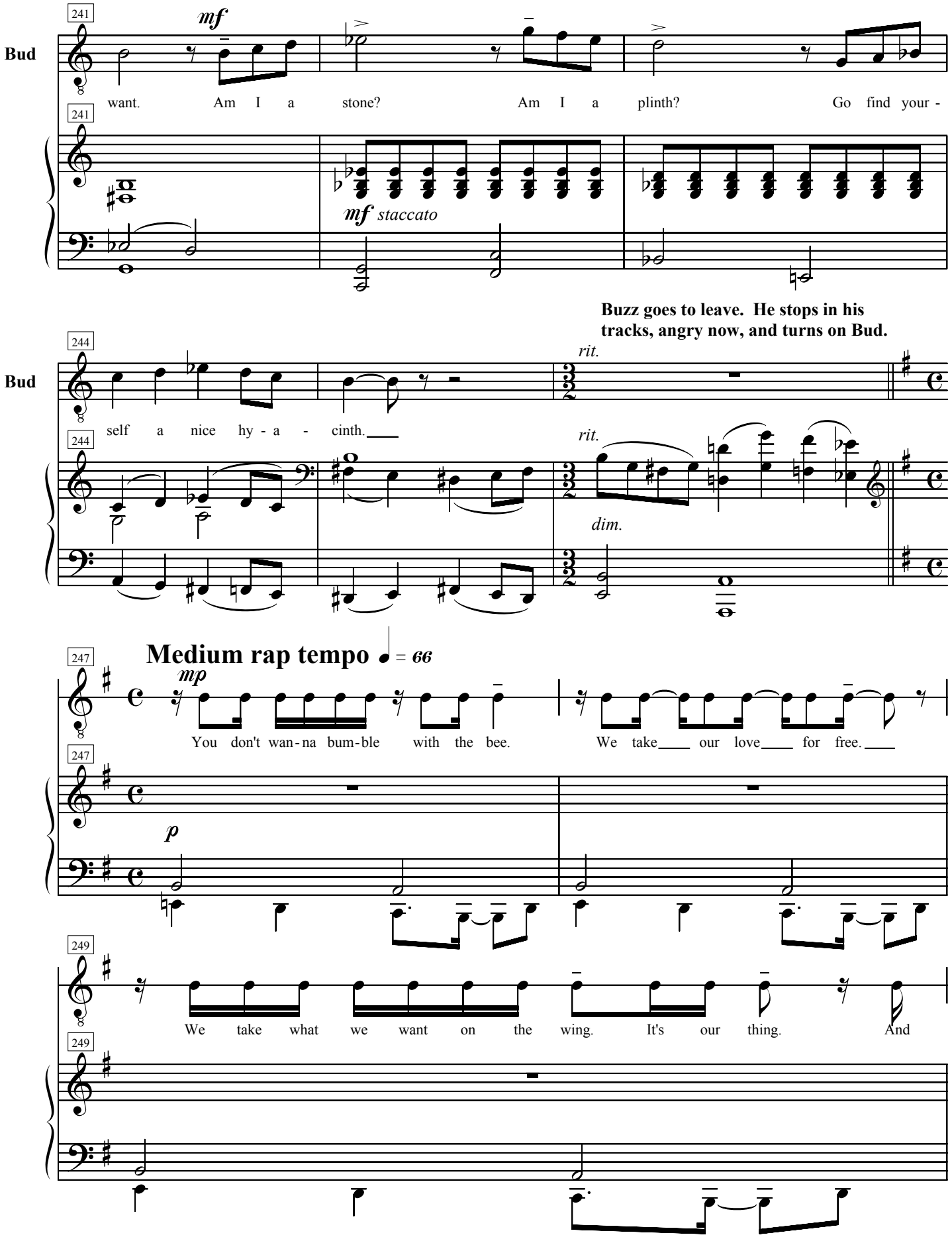

179
Bud
dif - f'rent from oth - er bees.
poco accelerando
Buzz
mf
cresc.
I is! I am! Oh
179
poco accelerando
mp cresc.
Larghetto ♩ = 60
183
Bud
f
I'd like to, Buzz, but it grieves me to be
Buzz
f
man, be - lieve me.
183
f
mf secco, marcato
186
Bud
treat - ed like dirt. It hurts.
Buzz
mp
I do just like all the
186
p

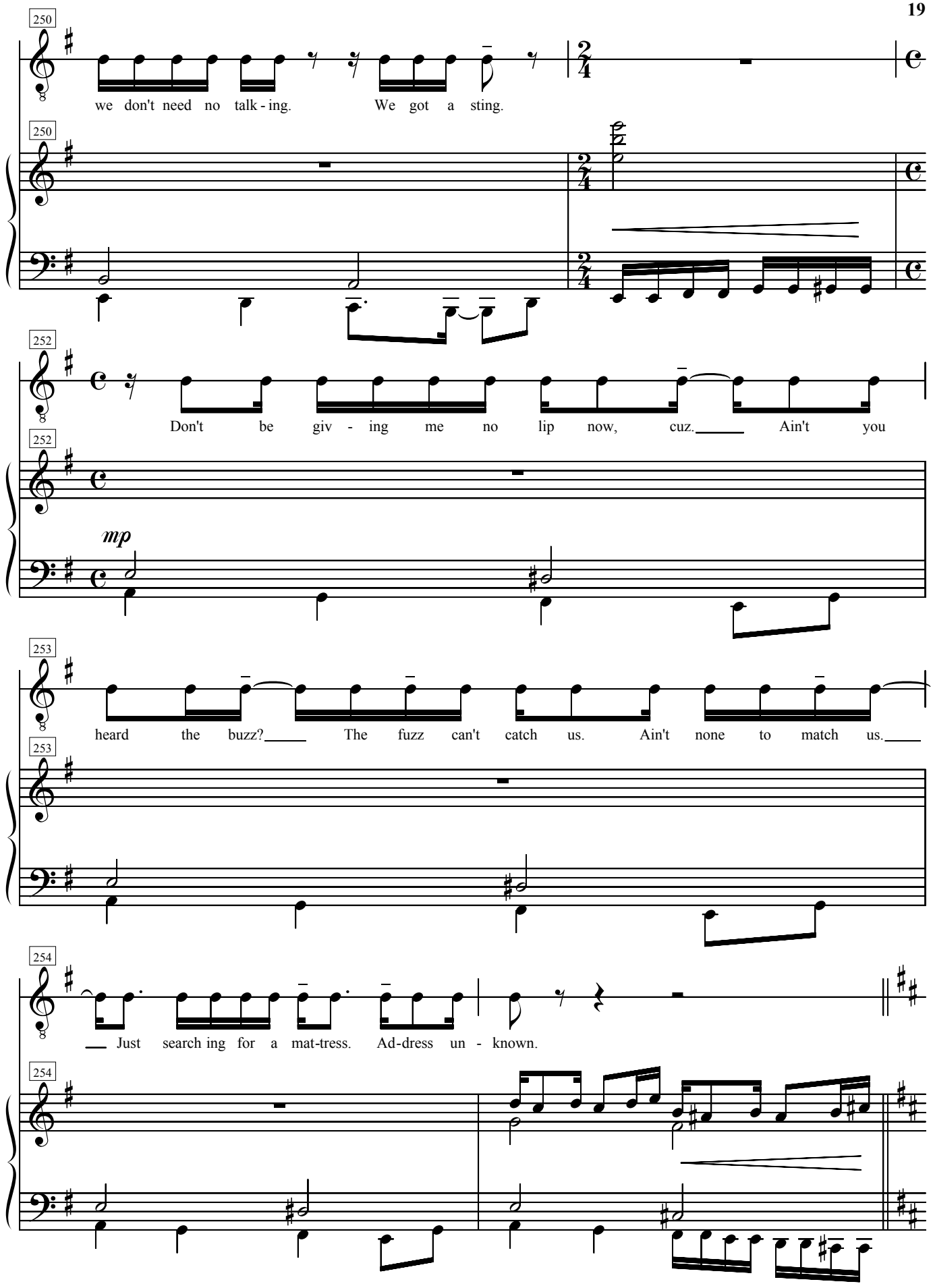

189
Buzz
cresc.
mf
f
oth - er fel - lows.
Wait a min - ute,
Bud. You're jeal - ous!
189
cresc.
mf
f
192
Bud
mf
Don't be ab - surd. I've got no right to tell you how to
192
mp
195
Bud
live your life.
Buzz
mf
mp
You got that right!
So
195
mf
f
198
Buzz
cresc.
now that we got that all set - tled,
let me check out your
198
p
cresc.

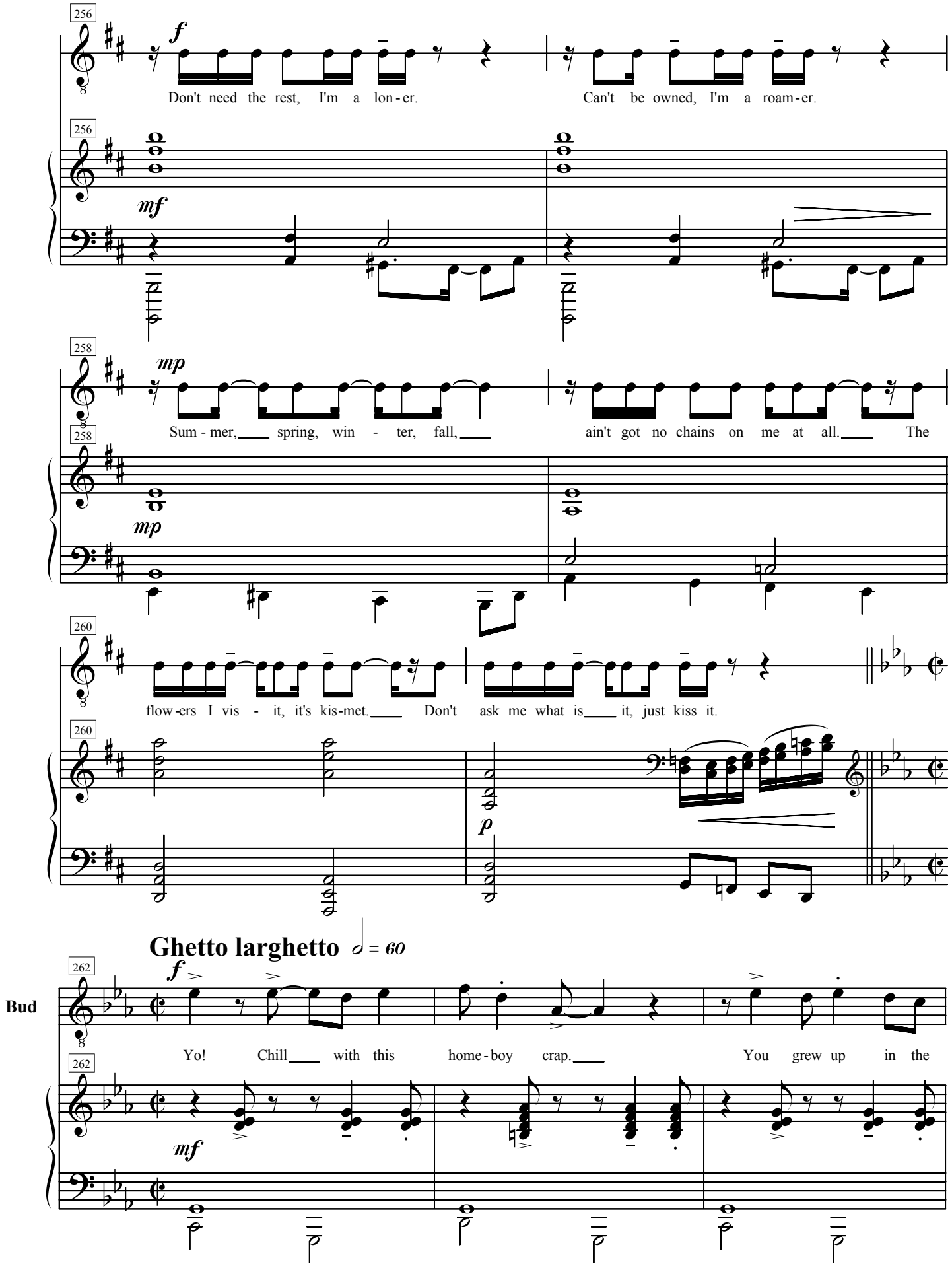

201
Bud
Buzz
mf
Don't be lewd.
I
pet - als.
I'm in the mood!
mp
mf
Suddenly slower
204
don't mean to be sul - len.
Hey! I said no.
Gim - me a lit - tle pol - len!
f
207
a tempo
I think you should go.
mp
It ain't like I was gon-na kiss you.


211
Bud
Buzz
f
mf mocking
Right. It's my fault. You're just
Man, oh, man, have you got is - sues!
f secco
mp
215
Bud
mp
per - fect. I'm wrong for want - ing to put down roots. I need my space. I need my
219
Bud
espressivo
Largo espressivo
= 44 p cantabile
turf. E - xact - ly what you're not in - to. I
223
Bud
try to grow the gifts I'm grant - ed. My mot - to has

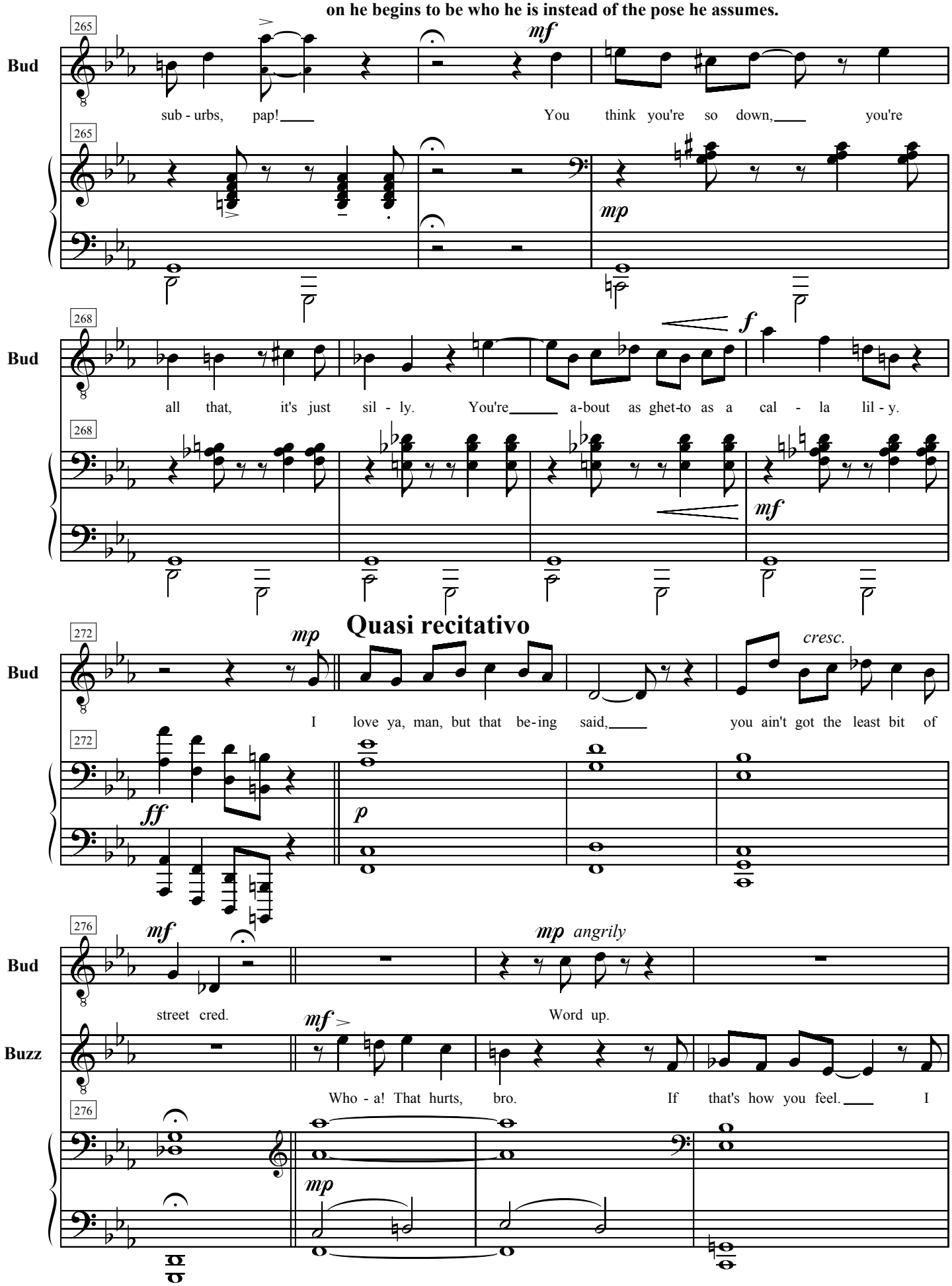

228
pochiss. rit
a tempo
Bud
al - ways been: bloom where you are plant - ed.
228
pochiss. rit
a tempo
233
Con brio
mf
cresc.
f
Buzz
Don't be such a stick in the mud.
233
mp
cresc.
f
236
f
Bud
Don't be giv - ing me a lec - ture! What am I here for? To per - fect your
236
mf
238
Bud
e - go's sense of ar - chi - tec - ture? Use me like a door, then shut me up when you got what you
238

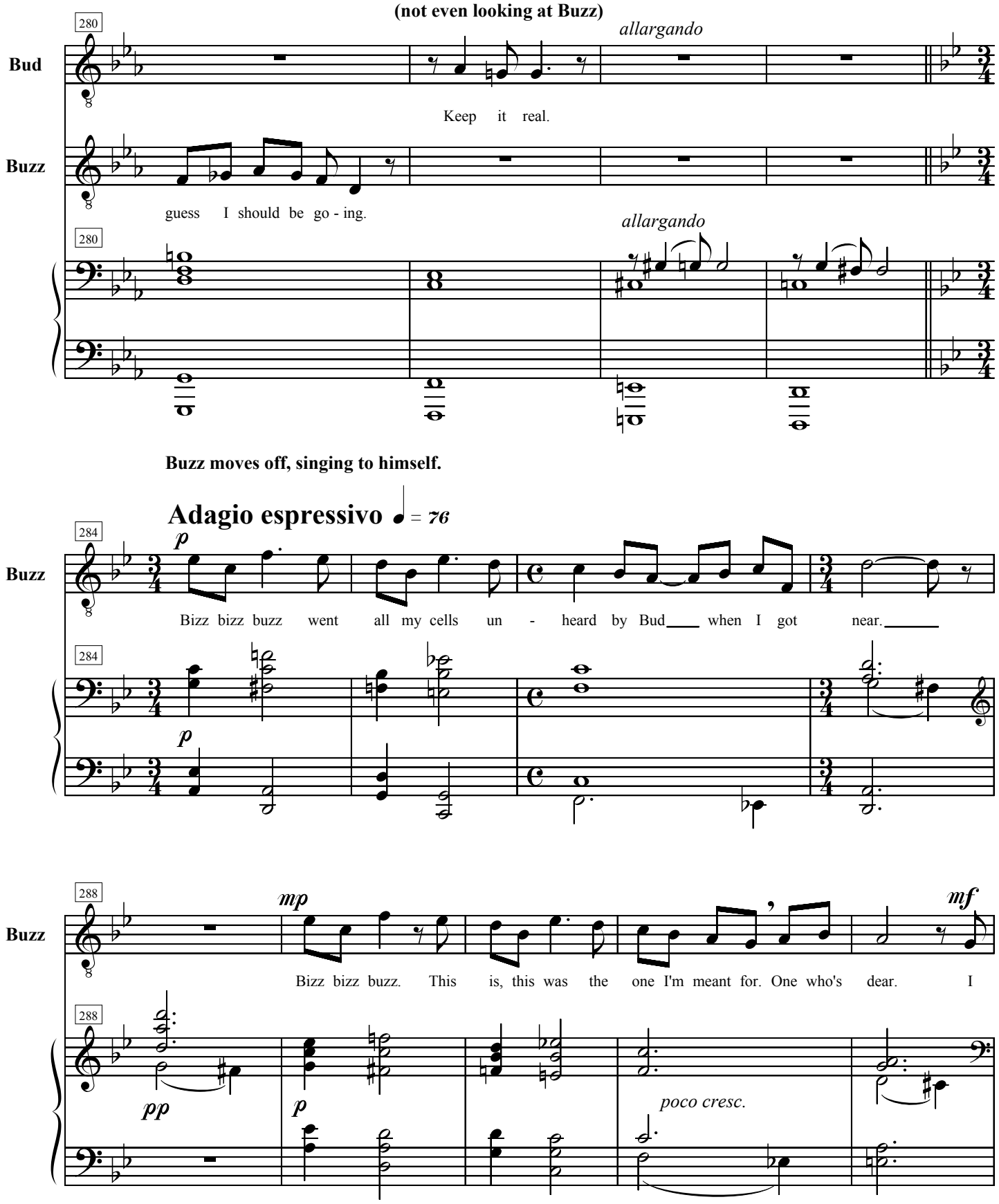

241
Bud
mf
want. Am I a stone? Am I a plinth? Go find your -
mf staccato
Buzz goes to leave. He stops in his tracks, angry now, and turns on Bud.
244
Bud
rit.
self a nice hy - a - cinth.
dim.
Medium rap tempo ♩ = 66
247
mp
You don't wan-na bum-ble with the bee. We take our love for free.
p
249
We take what we want on the wing. It's our thing. And

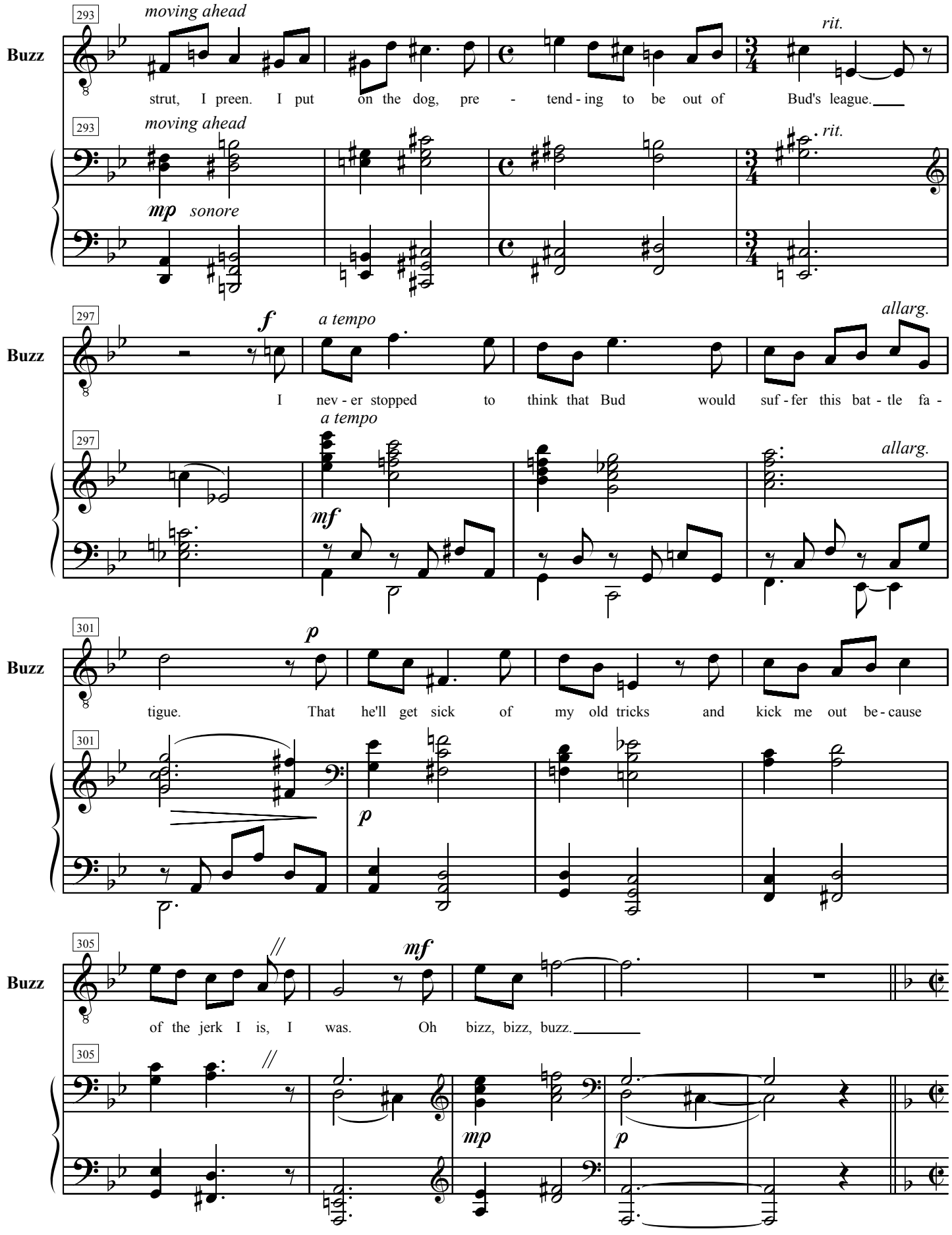

250
we don't need no talk - ing. We got a sting.
250
252
Don't be giv - ing me no lip now, cuz. Ain't you
252
mp
253
heard the buzz? The fuzz can't catch us. Ain't none to match us.
253
254
Just search ing for a mat-tress. Ad-dress un - known.
254


256
f
Don't need the rest, I'm a lon - er.
Can't be owned, I'm a roam - er.
256
mf
258
mp
Sum - mer, spring, win - ter, fall, ain't got no chains on me at all. The
258
mp
260
flow - ers I vis - it, it's kis - met. Don't ask me what is it, just kiss it.
260
p
Ghetto larghetto
= 60
262
Bud
f
Yo! Chill with this home - boy crap. You grew up in the
262
mf

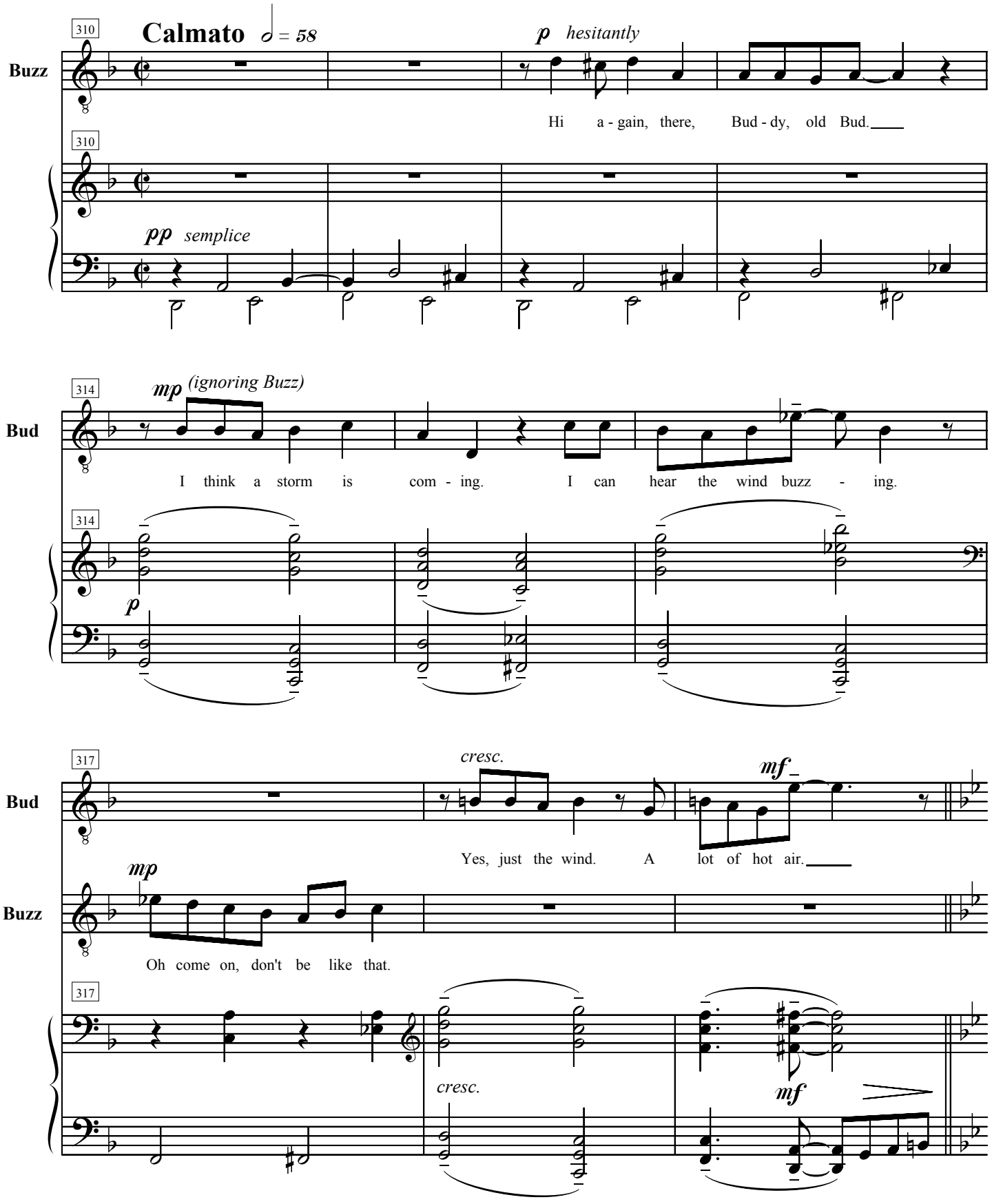
**This line deflates Buzz completely so that from this point on he begins to be who he is instead of the pose he assumes.**

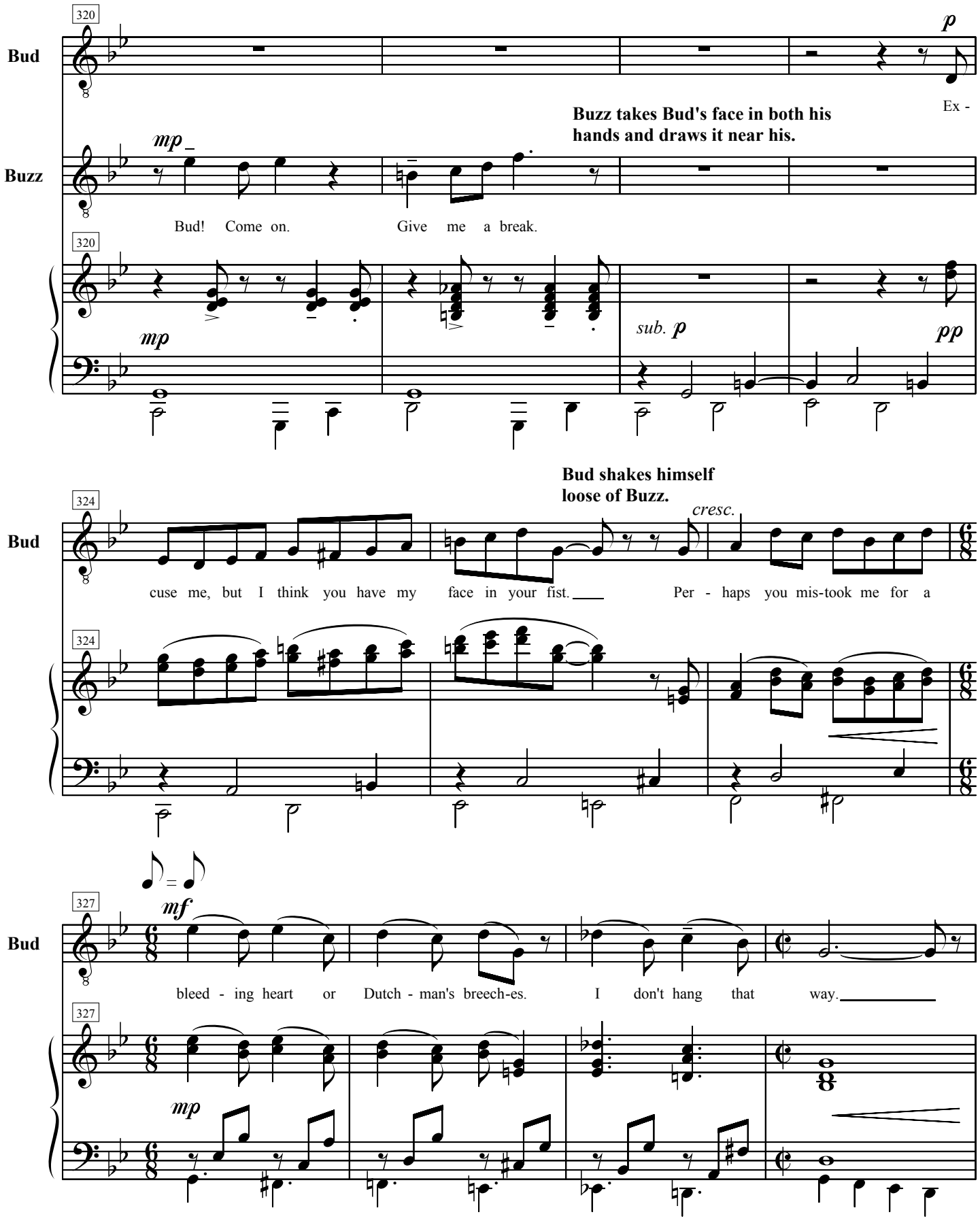


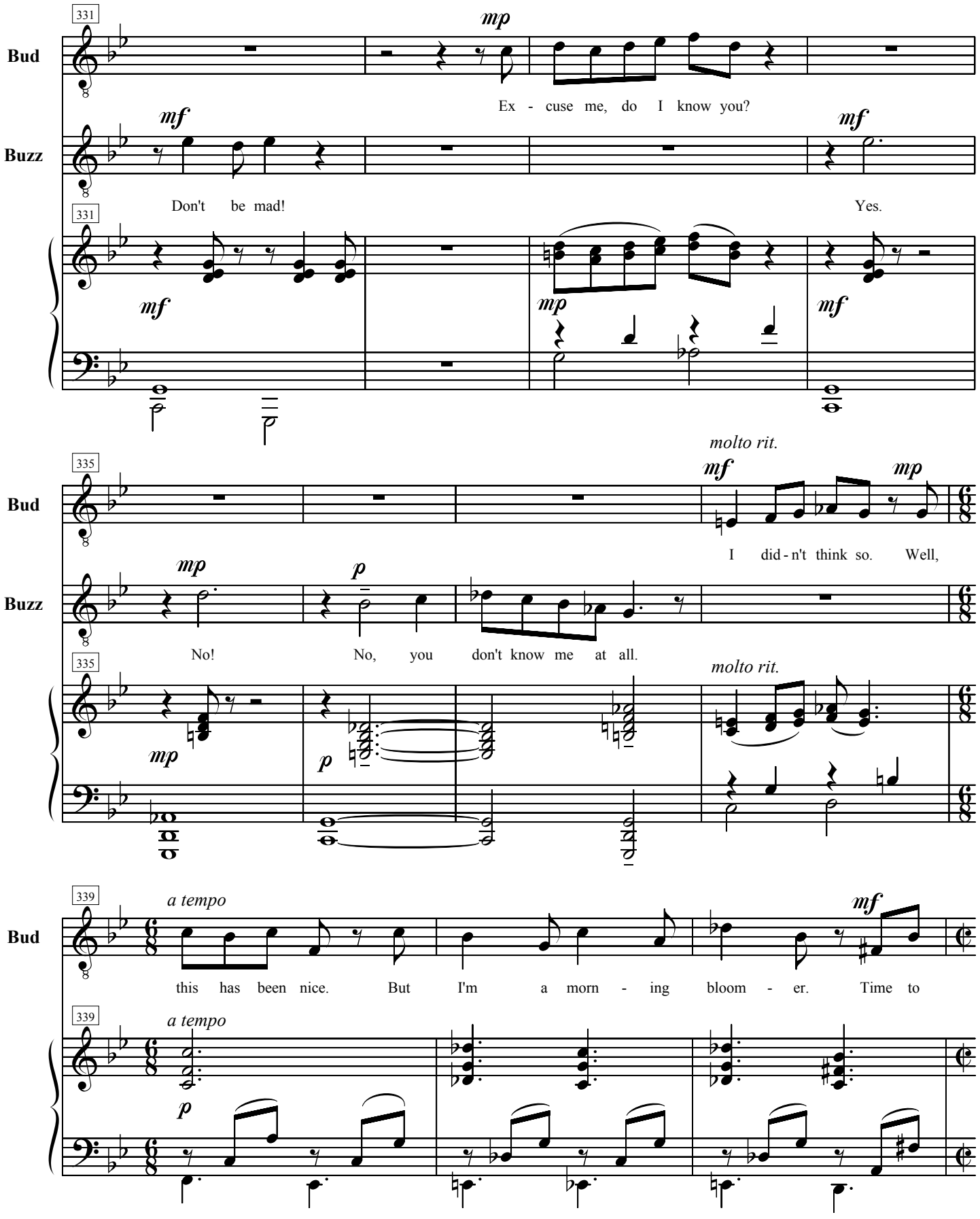

(not even looking at Buzz)
280
Bud
allargando
Keep it real.
Buzz
guess I should be go - ing.
allargando
280
Buzz moves off, singing to himself.
Adagio espressivo ♩ = 76
284
Buzz
p
Bizz bizz buzz went all my cells un - heard by Bud when I got near.
284
p
288
Buzz
mp
mf
Bizz bizz buzz. This is, this was the one I'm meant for. One who's dear. I
288
pp
p
poco cresc.

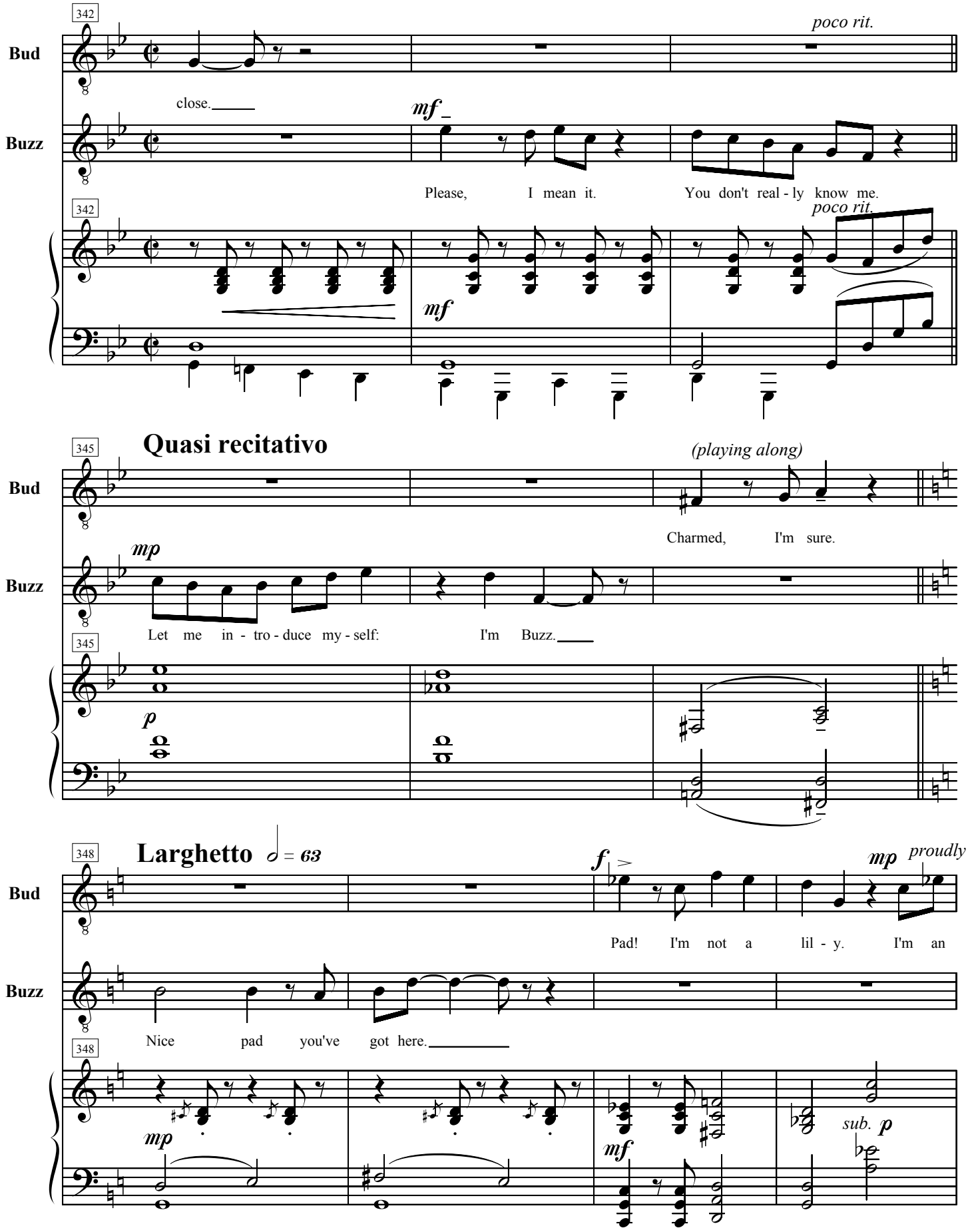

293
moving ahead
Buzz
strut, I preen. I put on the dog, pre - tend - ing to be out of Bud's league.
rit.
293
moving ahead
mp sonore
rit.
297
f
a tempo
Buzz
I nev - er stopped to think that Bud would suf - fer this bat - tle fa -
allarg.
297
a tempo
mf
allarg.
301
p
Buzz
tigue. That he'll get sick of my old tricks and kick me out be - cause
301
p
305
mf
Buzz
of the jerk I is, I was. Oh bizz, bizz, buzz.
305
mp
p

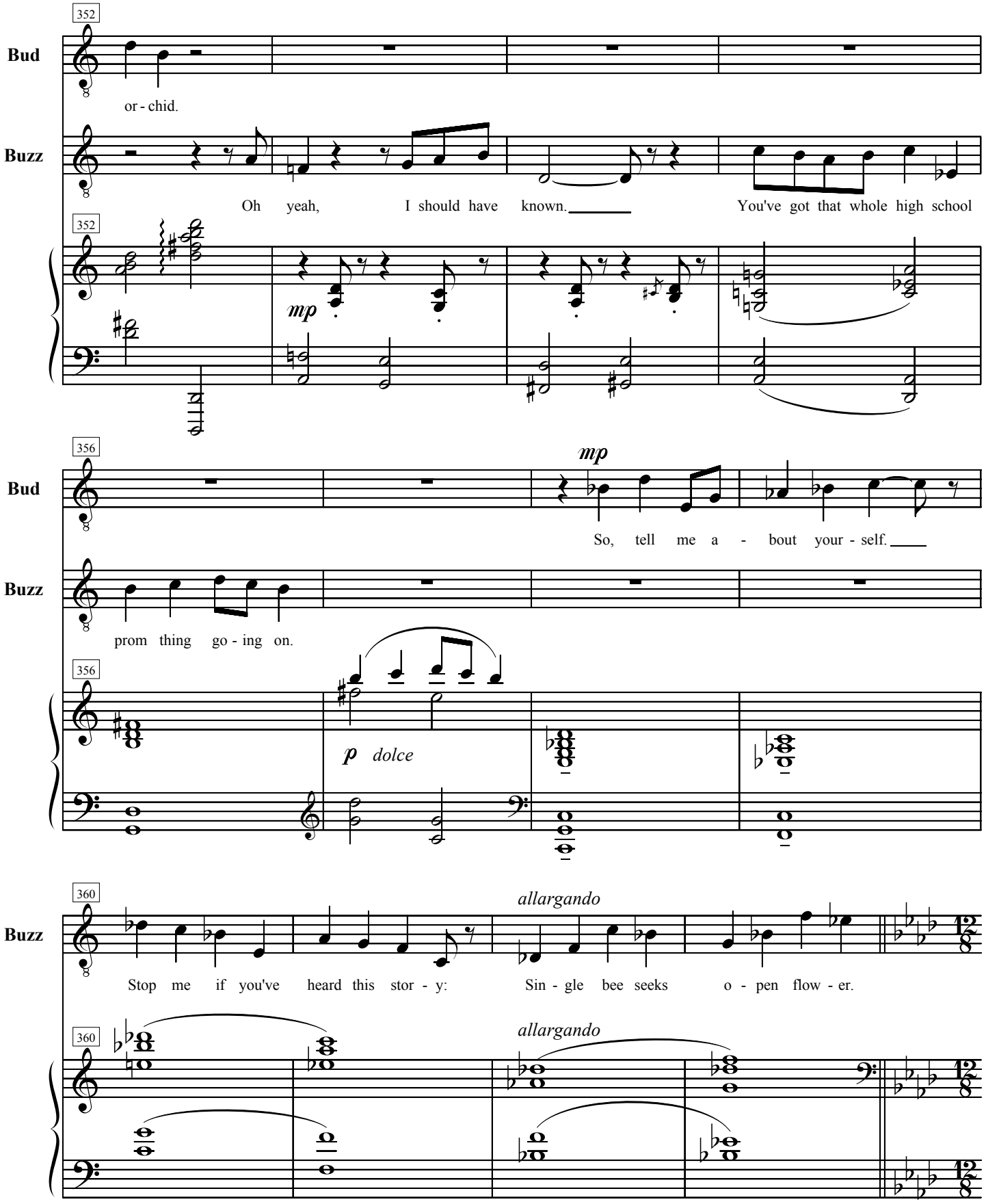
**Buzz comes back to Bud.**

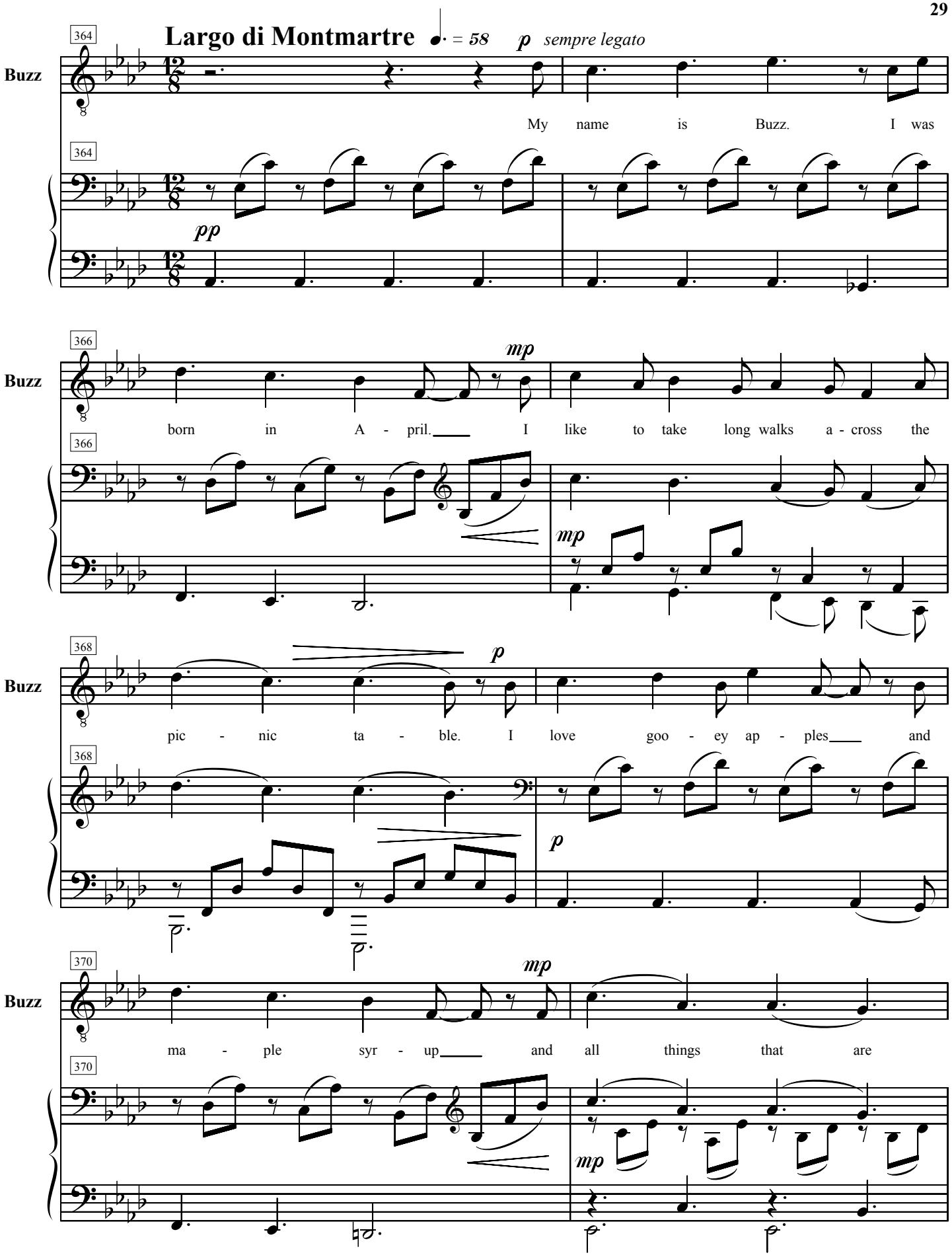


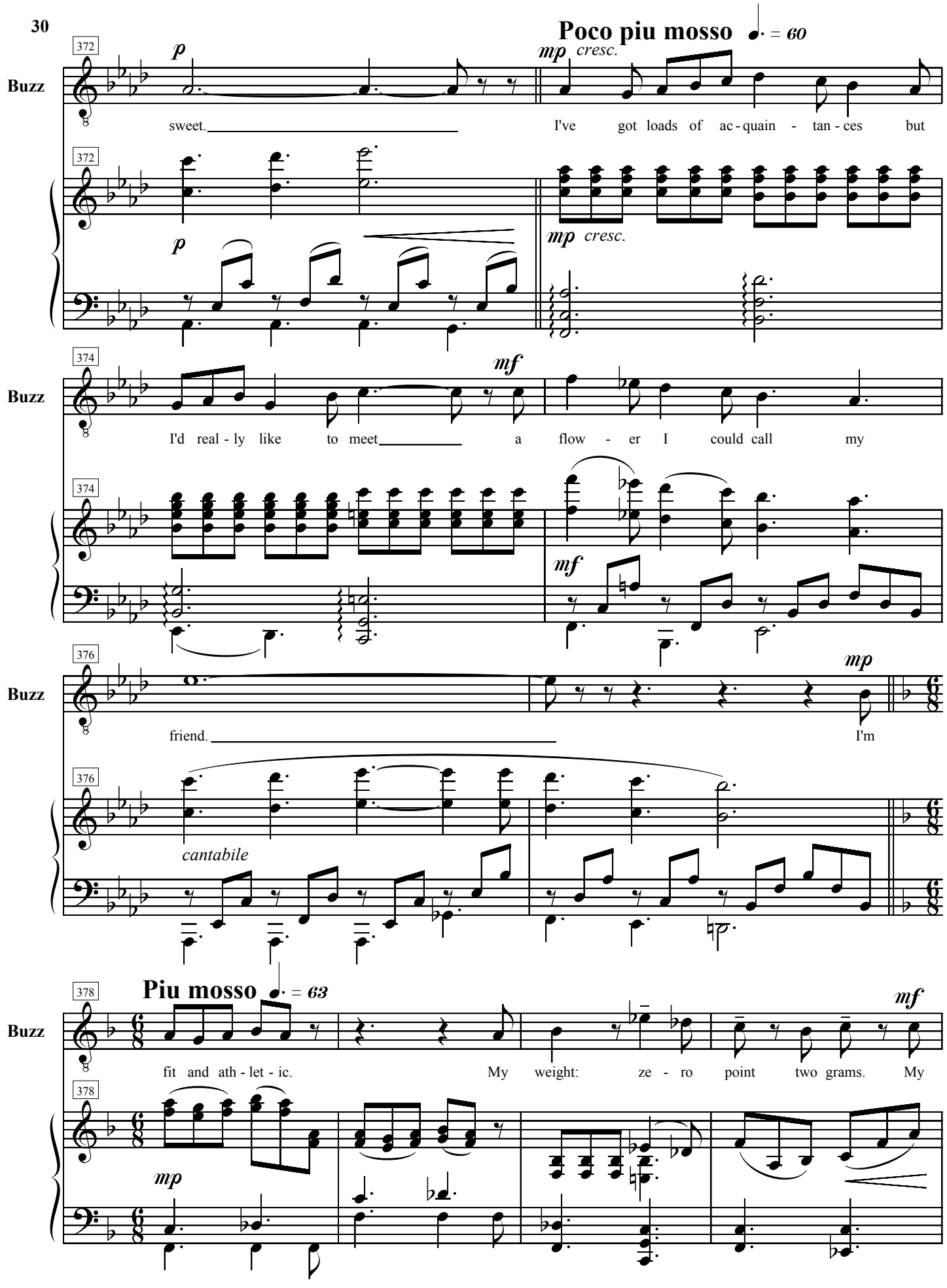

320
Bud
p
Ex -
Buzz takes Bud's face in both his hands and draws it near his.
mp
Buzz
Bud! Come on. Give me a break.
320
mp
sub. p
pp
Bud shakes himself loose of Buzz.
324
Bud
cresc.
cuse me, but I think you have my face in your fist. Per - haps you mis-took me for a
324
= 
327
mf
Bud
bleed - ing heart or Dutch - man's breech-es. I don't hang that way.
327
mp

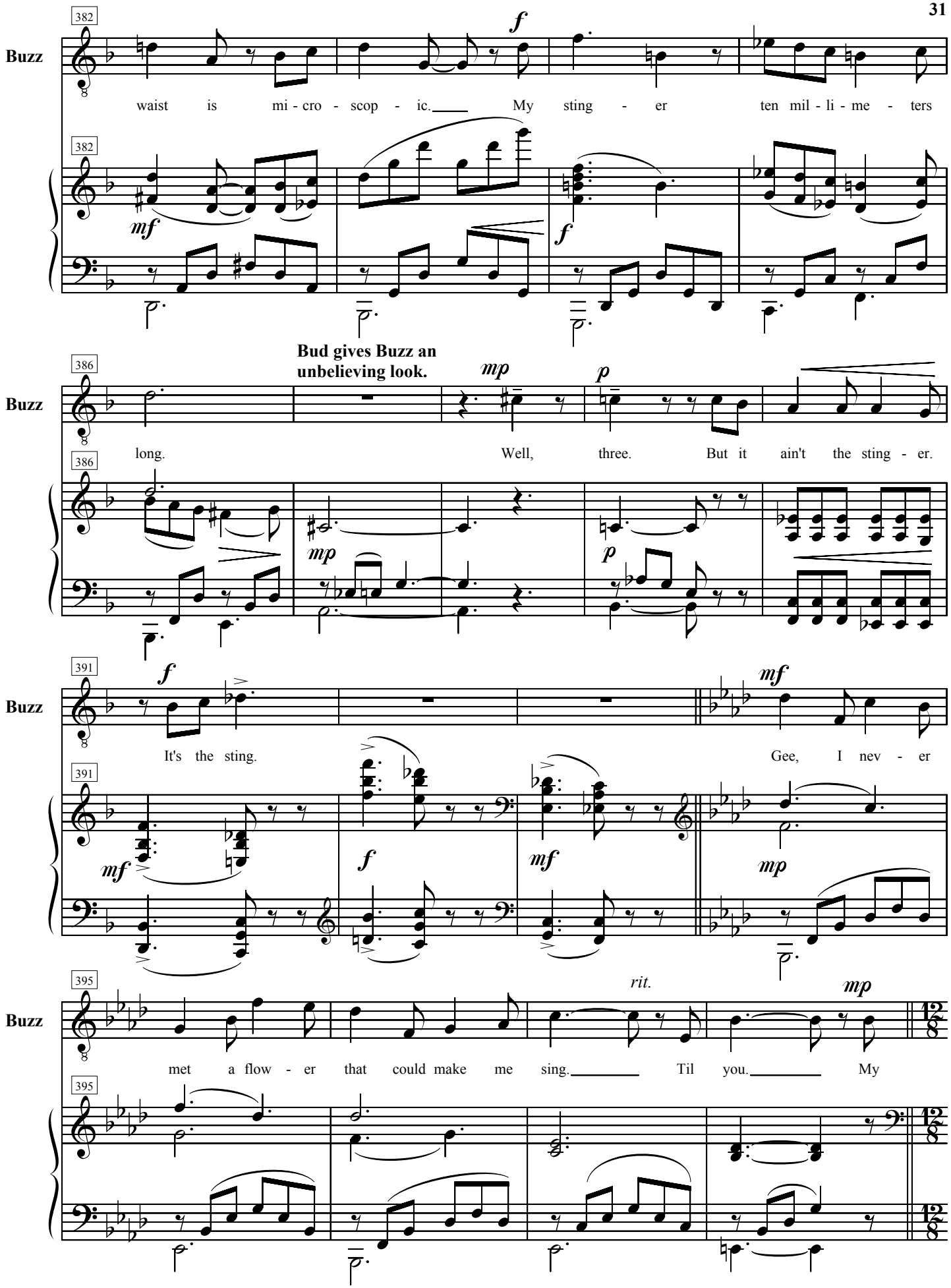

331
Bud
mp
Ex - cuse me, do I know you?
Buzz
mf
Don't be mad!
mf
Yes.
331
mf
mp
mf
335
molto rit.
Bud
mf
mp
I did - n't think so. Well,
Buzz
mp
p
No!
No, you don't know me at all.
335
molto rit.
mp
p
339
a tempo
Bud
mf
this has been nice. But I'm a morn - ing bloom - er. Time to
339
a tempo
p

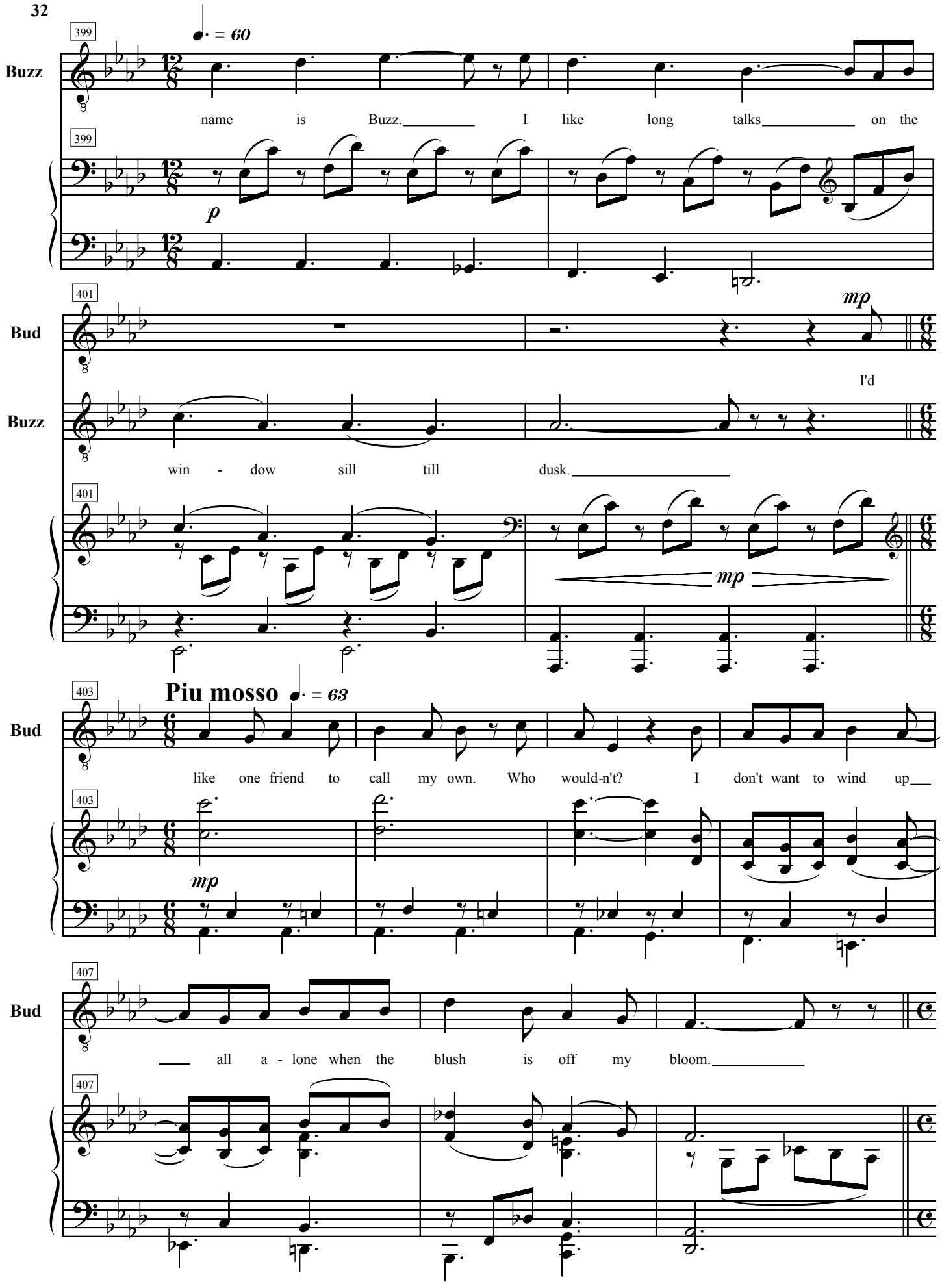

342
Bud
poco rit.
close.
mf
Buzz
Please, I mean it. You don't real - ly know me.
342
poco rit.
mf
345
Quasi recitativo
Bud
(playing along)
Charmed, I'm sure.
mp
Buzz
Let me in - tro - duce my - self: I'm Buzz.
345
p
348
Larghetto ♩ = 63
Bud
f
mp
proudly
Pad! I'm not a lil - y. I'm an
Buzz
Nice pad you've got here.
348
mp
mf
sub. p

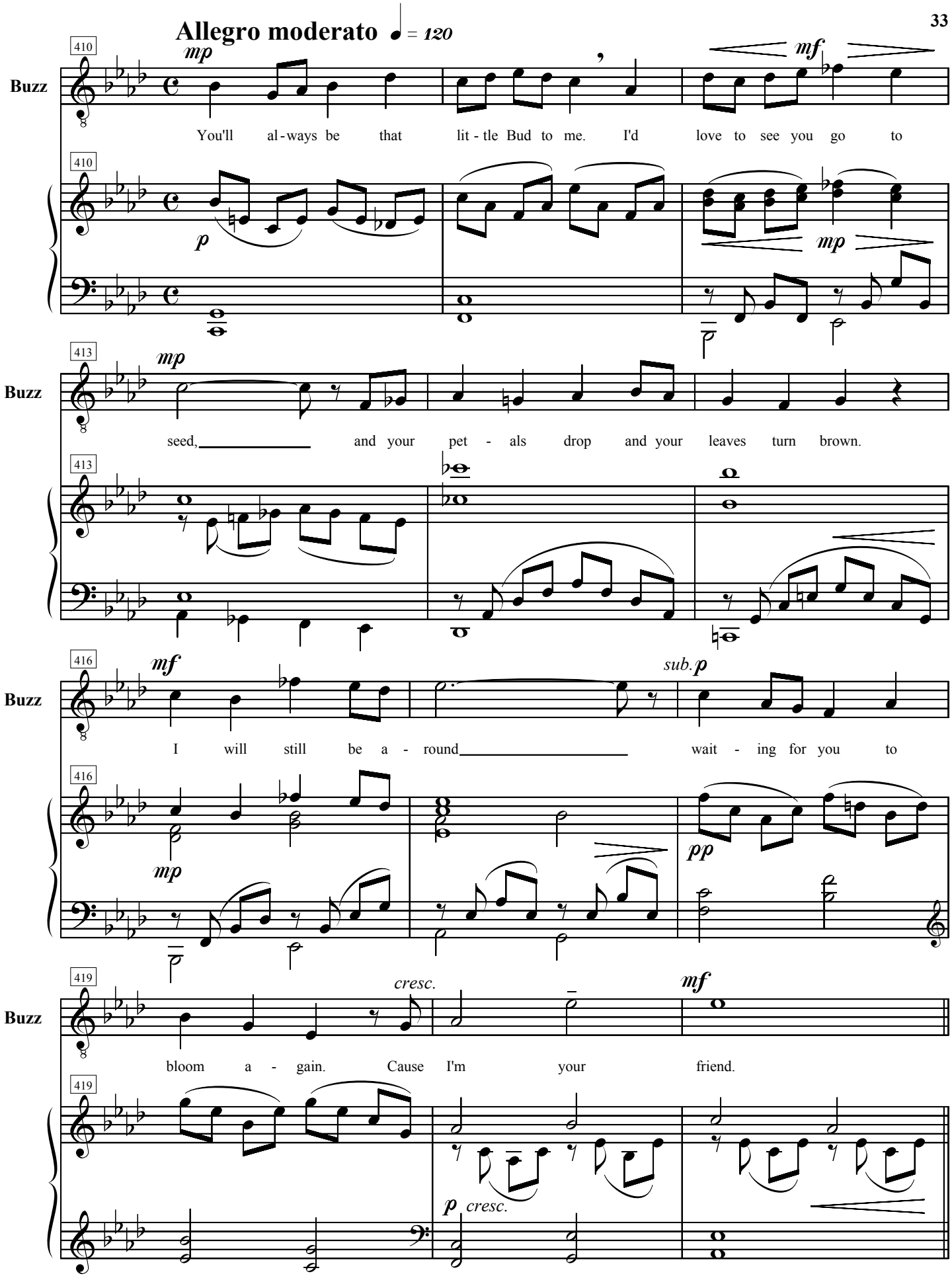

352
Bud
or - chid.
Buzz
Oh yeah, I should have known. You've got that whole high school
352
mp
356
Bud
mp
So, tell me a - bout your - self.
Buzz
prom thing go - ing on.
356
p dolce
360
Buzz
allargando
Stop me if you've heard this stor - y: Sin - gle bee seeks o - pen flow - er.
360
allargando

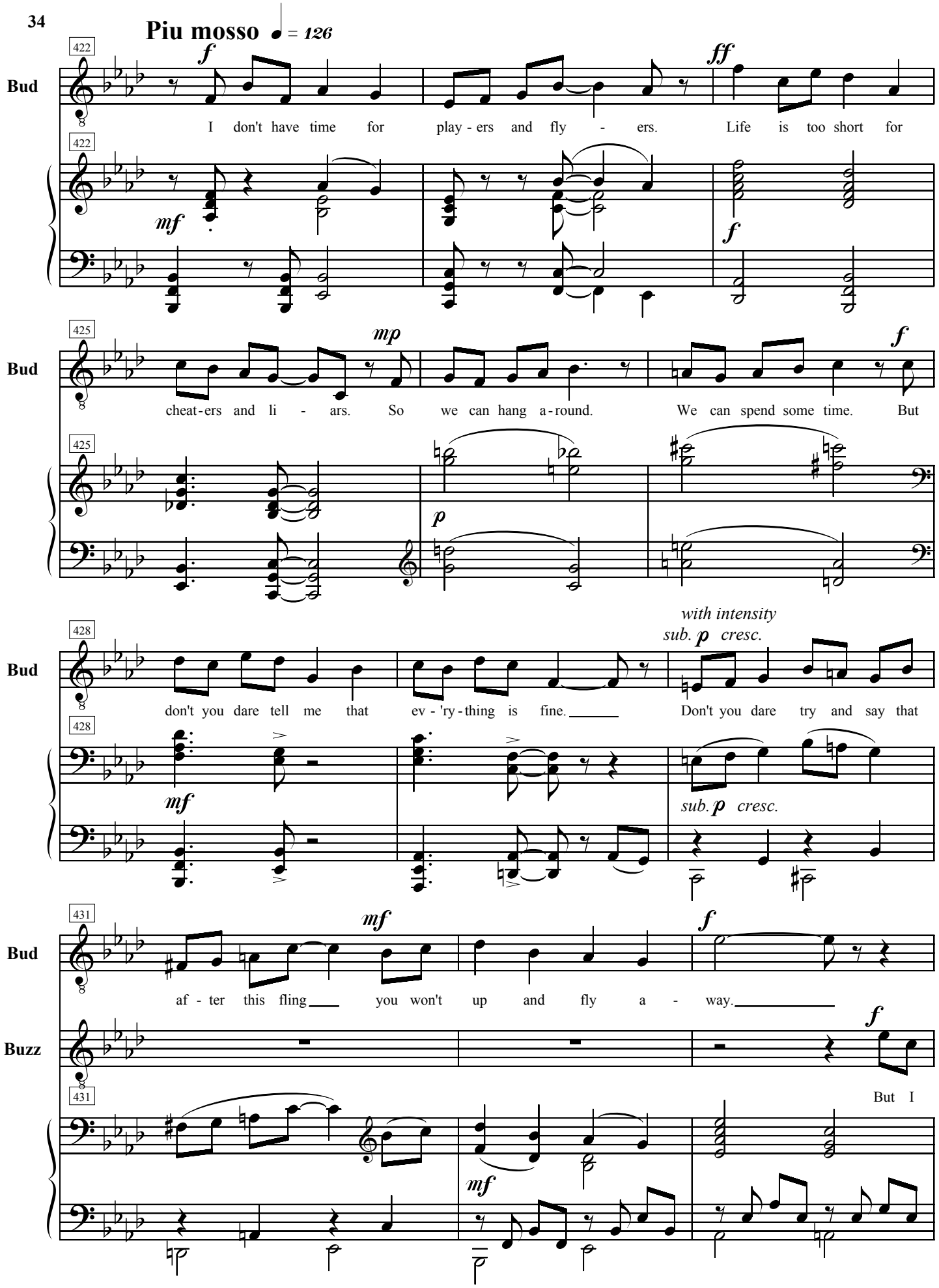

Largo di Montmartre
♩. = 58
p sempre legato
Buzz
My name is Buzz. I was
pp
born in A - pril. I like to take long walks a - cross the
mp
pic - nic ta - ble. I love goo - ey ap - ples and
ma - ple syr - up and all things that are

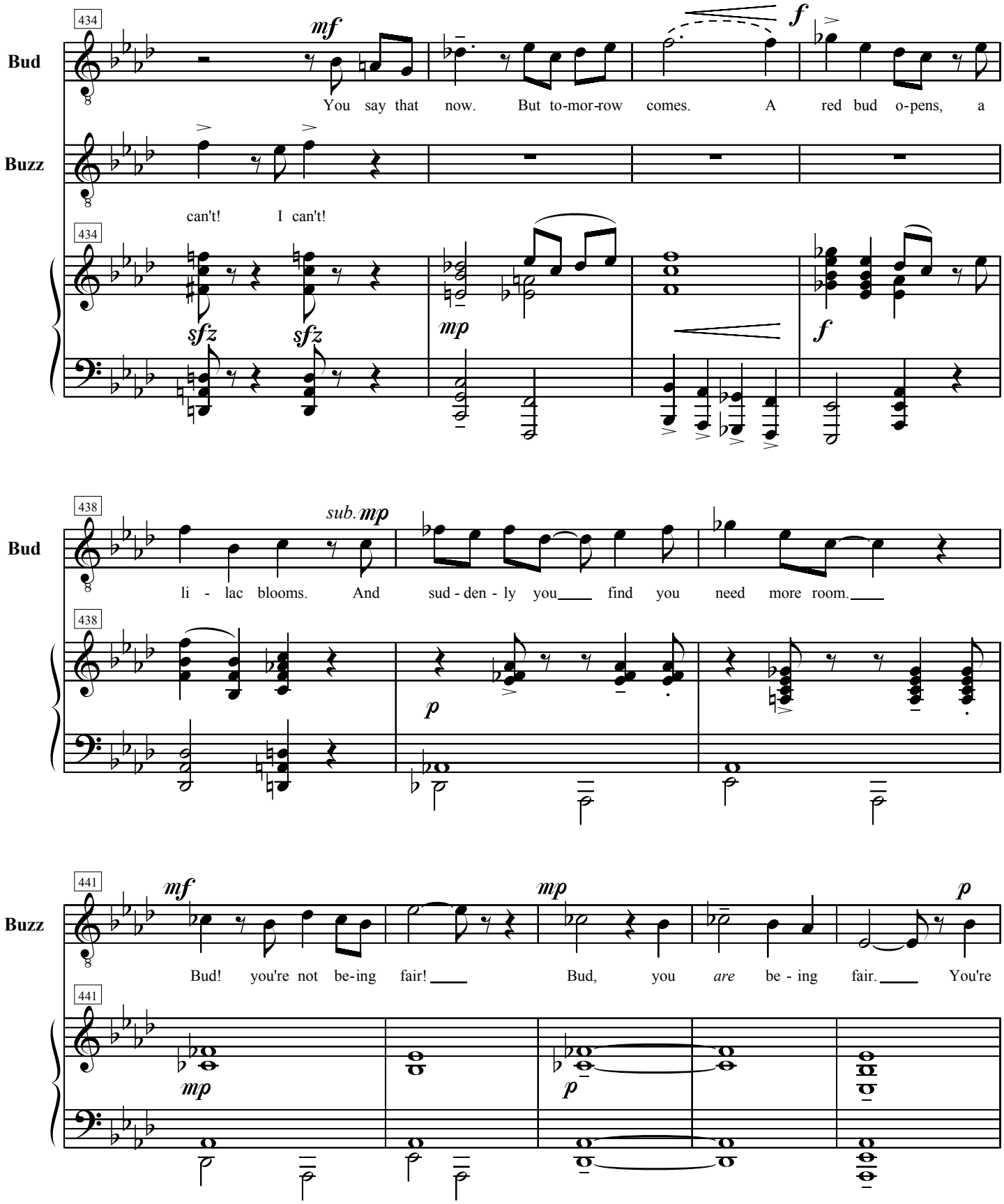

Poco piu mosso ♩. = 60
372
Buzz
p
mp cresc.
sweet.
I've got loads of ac - quain - tan - ces but
374
mf
I'd real - ly like to meet
a flow - er I could call my
376
friend.
mp
I'm
cantabile
Piu mosso ♩. = 63
378
fit and ath - let - ic.
My weight: ze - ro point two grams. My

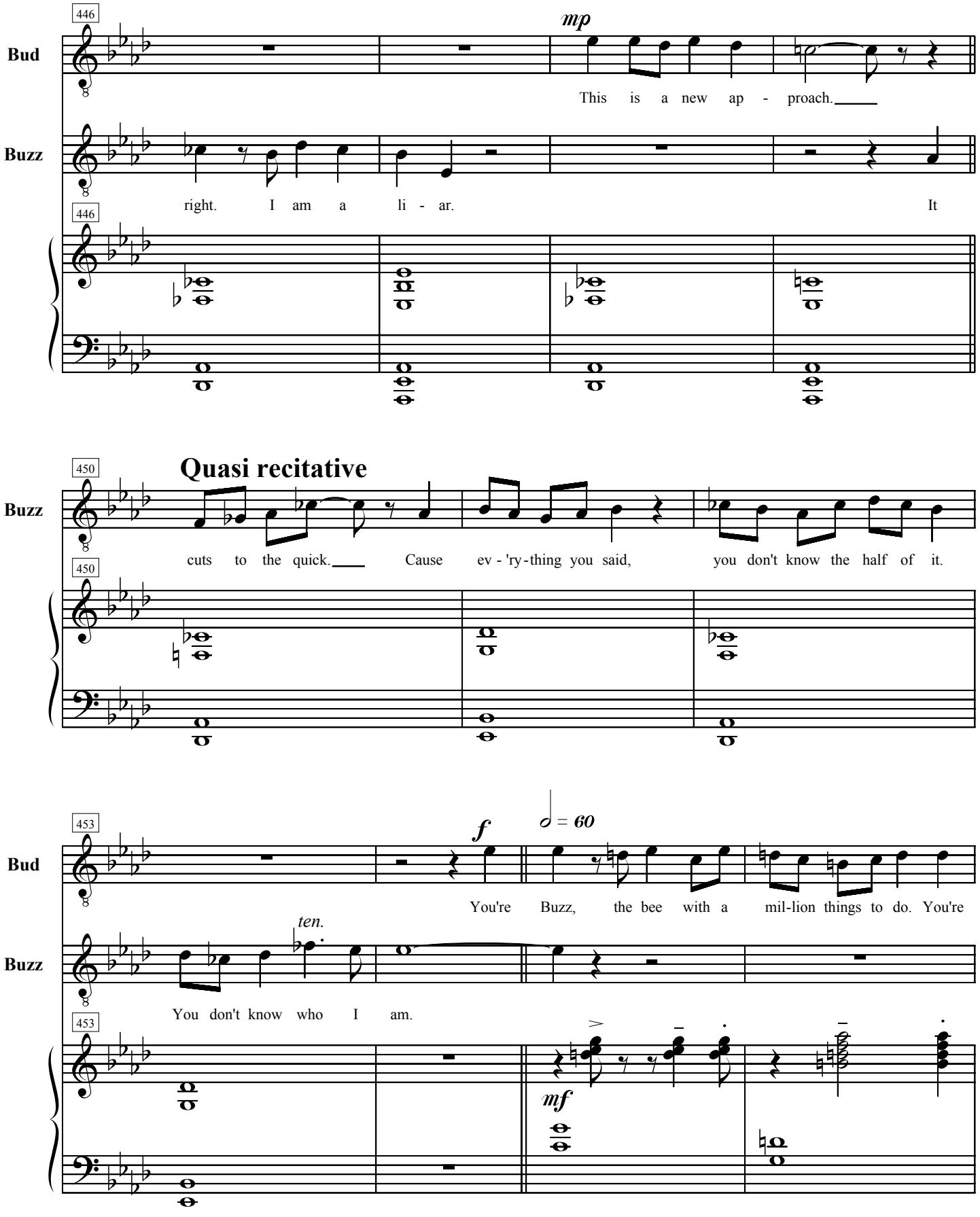

382
Buzz
waist is mi - cro - scop - ic. My sting - er ten mil - li - me - ters
382
386
Bud gives Buzz an unbelieving look.
Buzz
long. Well, three. But it ain't the sting - er.
386
391
Buzz
It's the sting. Gee, I nev - er
391
395
rit.
Buzz
met a flow - er that could make me sing. Til you. My
395

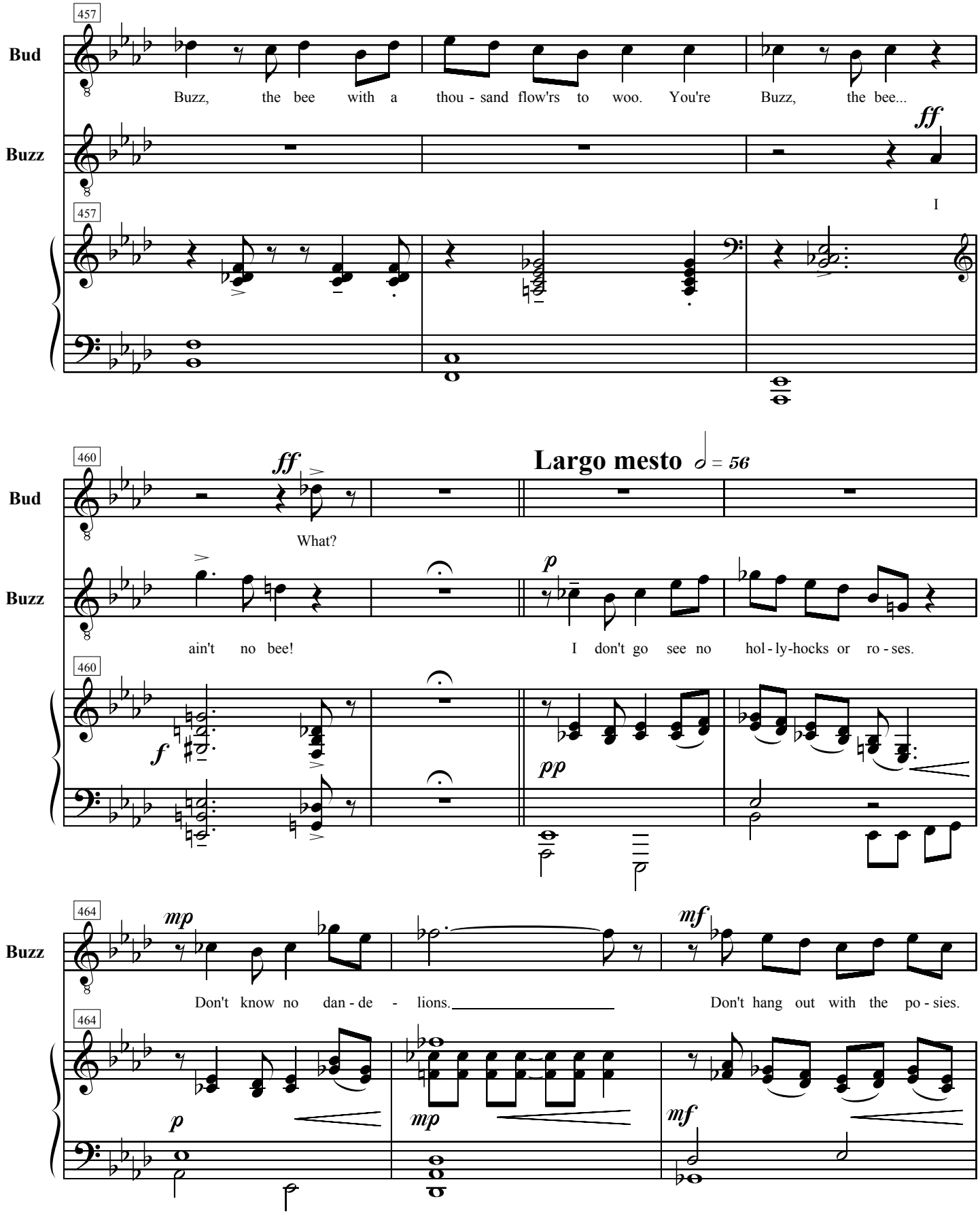

399
♩. = 60
Buzz
name is Buzz. I like long talks on the
399
p
401
Bud
mp
I'd
Buzz
win - dow sill till dusk.
401
mp
403
Piu mosso
♩. = 63
Bud
like one friend to call my own. Who would-n't? I don't want to wind up
403
mp
407
Bud
all a - lone when the blush is off my bloom.
407

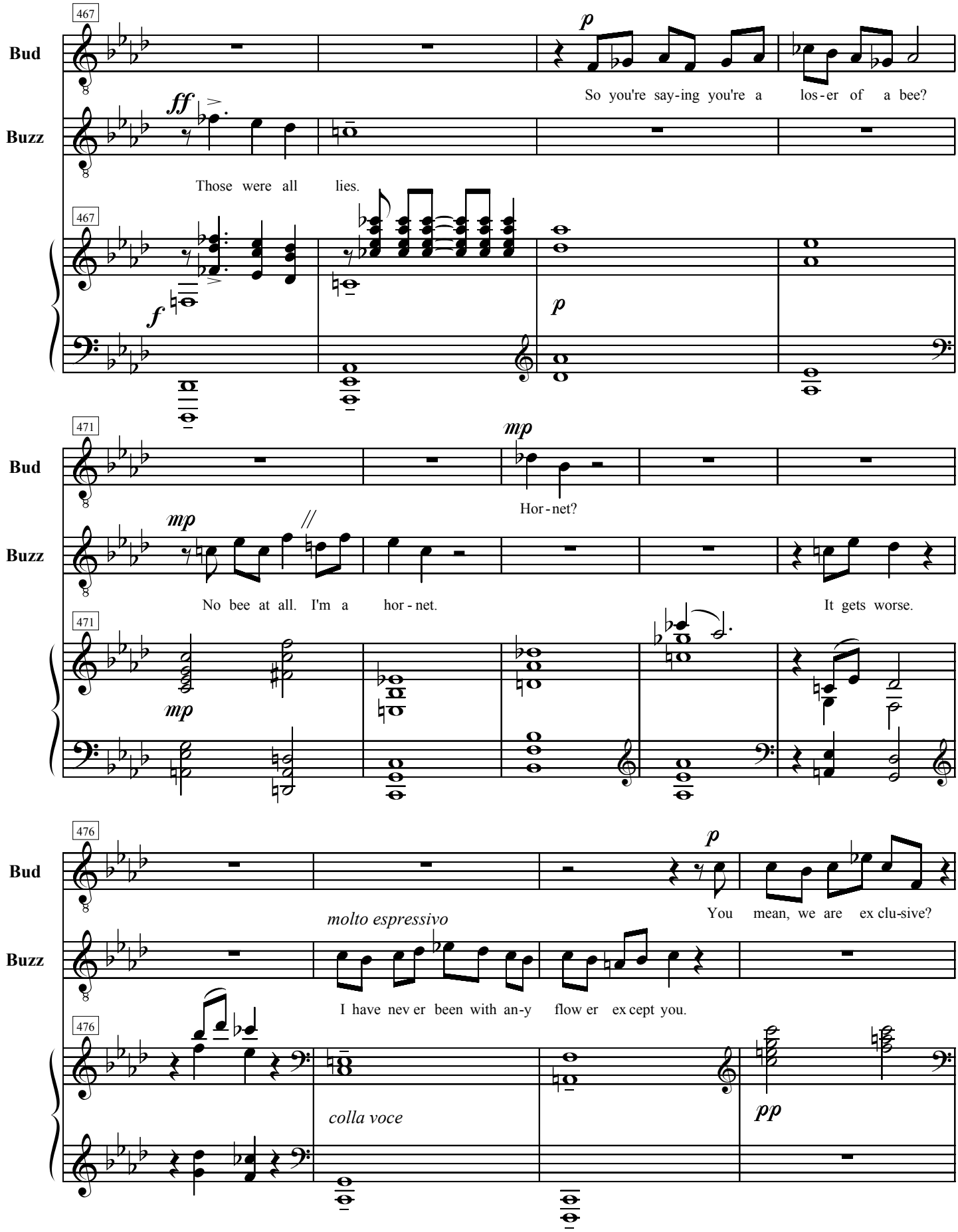

Allegro moderato ♩ = 120
410
mp
mf
Buzz
You'll al - ways be that lit - tle Bud to me. I'd love to see you go to
410
p
mp
413
mp
Buzz
seed, and your pet - als drop and your leaves turn brown.
413
416
mf
sub. p
Buzz
I will still be a - round wait - ing for you to
416
mp
pp
419
cresc.
mf
Buzz
bloom a - gain. Cause I'm your friend.
419
p cresc.

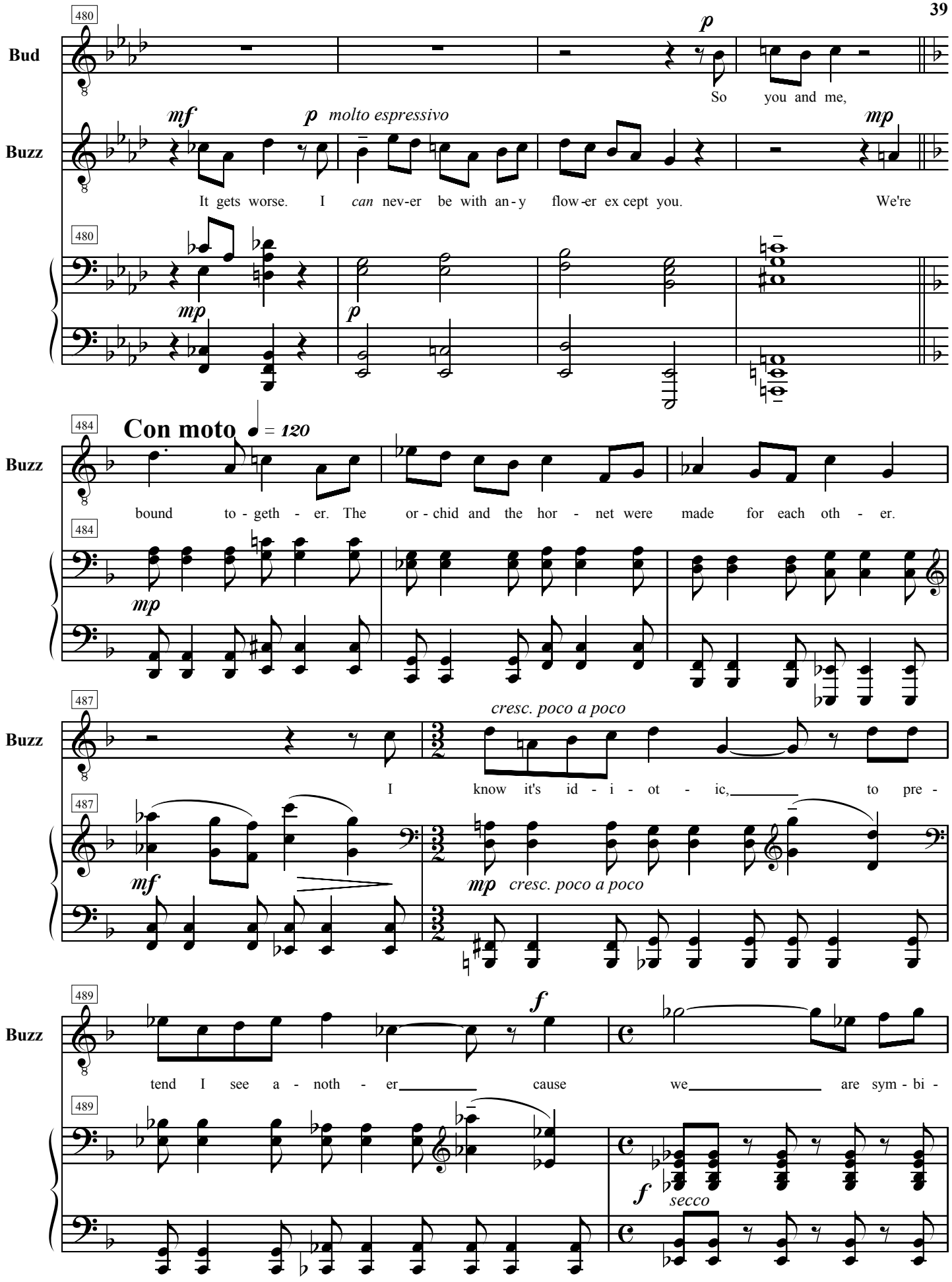

Piu mosso ♩ = 126
422
Bud
I don't have time for play - ers and fly - ers. Life is too short for
425
Bud
cheat - ers and li - ars. So we can hang a - round. We can spend some time. But
428
Bud
don't you dare tell me that ev - 'ry - thing is fine. Don't you dare try and say that
with intensity
sub. p cresc.
431
Bud
af - ter this fling you won't up and fly a - way.
Buzz
But I

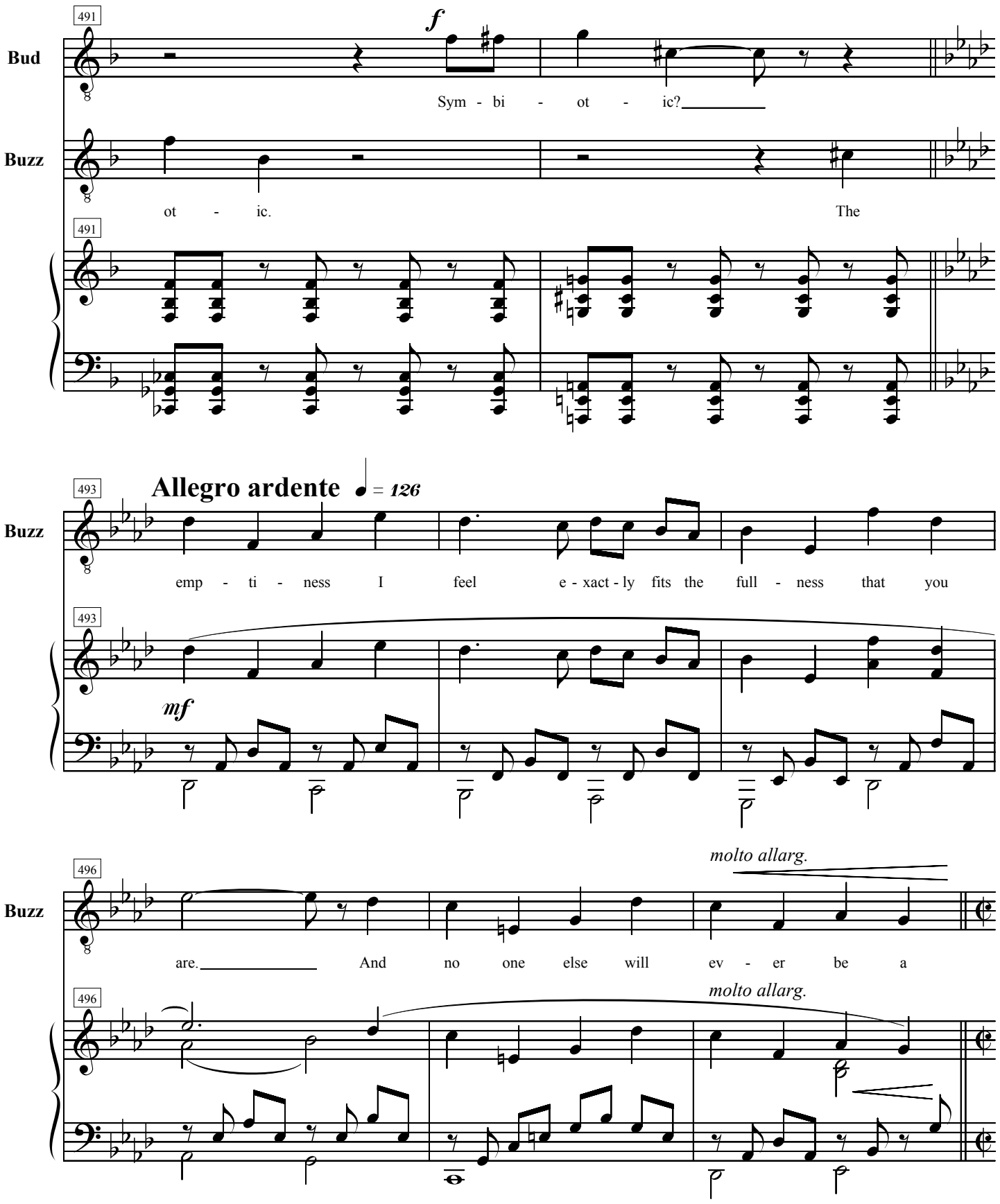

434
Bud
mf
f
You say that now. But to-mor-row comes. A red bud o-pens, a
Buzz
can't! I can't!
434
sfz
sfz
mp
f
438
Bud
sub. mp
li - lac blooms. And sud - den - ly you find you need more room.
438
p
441
Buzz
mf
mp
p
Bud! you're not be-ing fair! Bud, you are be - ing fair. You're
441
mp
p

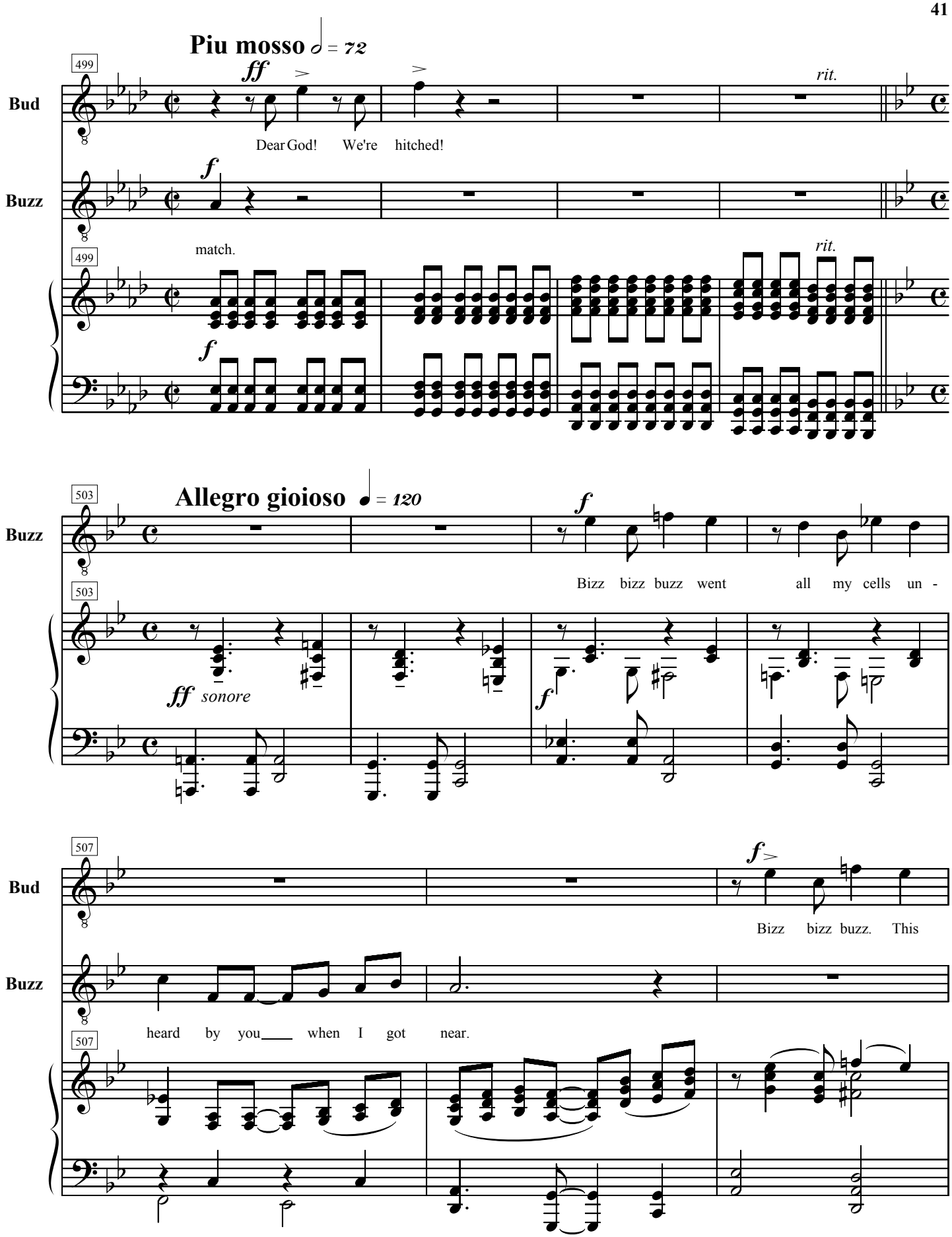

446
Bud
mp
This is a new ap - proach.
Buzz
right. I am a li - ar. It
446
450
Quasi recitative
Buzz
cuts to the quick. Cause ev - 'ry - thing you said, you don't know the half of it.
450
453
Bud
f
♩ = 60
You're Buzz, the bee with a mil-lion things to do. You're
Buzz
ten.
You don't know who I am.
453
mf

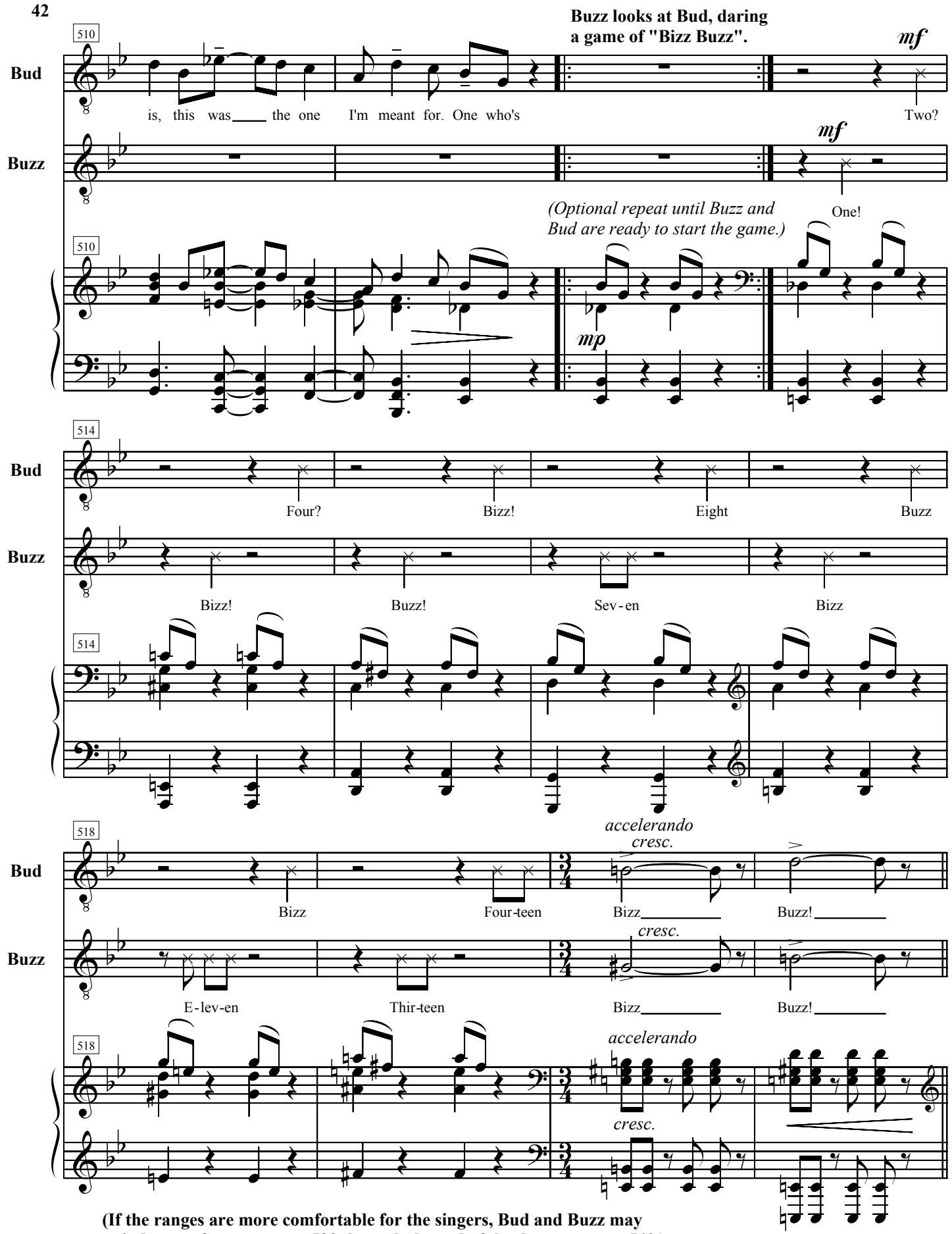

457
Bud
Buzz, the bee with a thou - sand flow'rs to woo. You're Buzz, the bee...
Buzz
ff
I
457
460
ff
What?
Largo mesto
= 56
Bud
ain't no bee!
p
I don't go see no hol - ly-hocks or ro - ses.
460
f
pp
464
mp
Buzz
Don't know no dan - de - lions.
mf
Don't hang out with the po - sies.
464
p
mp
mf

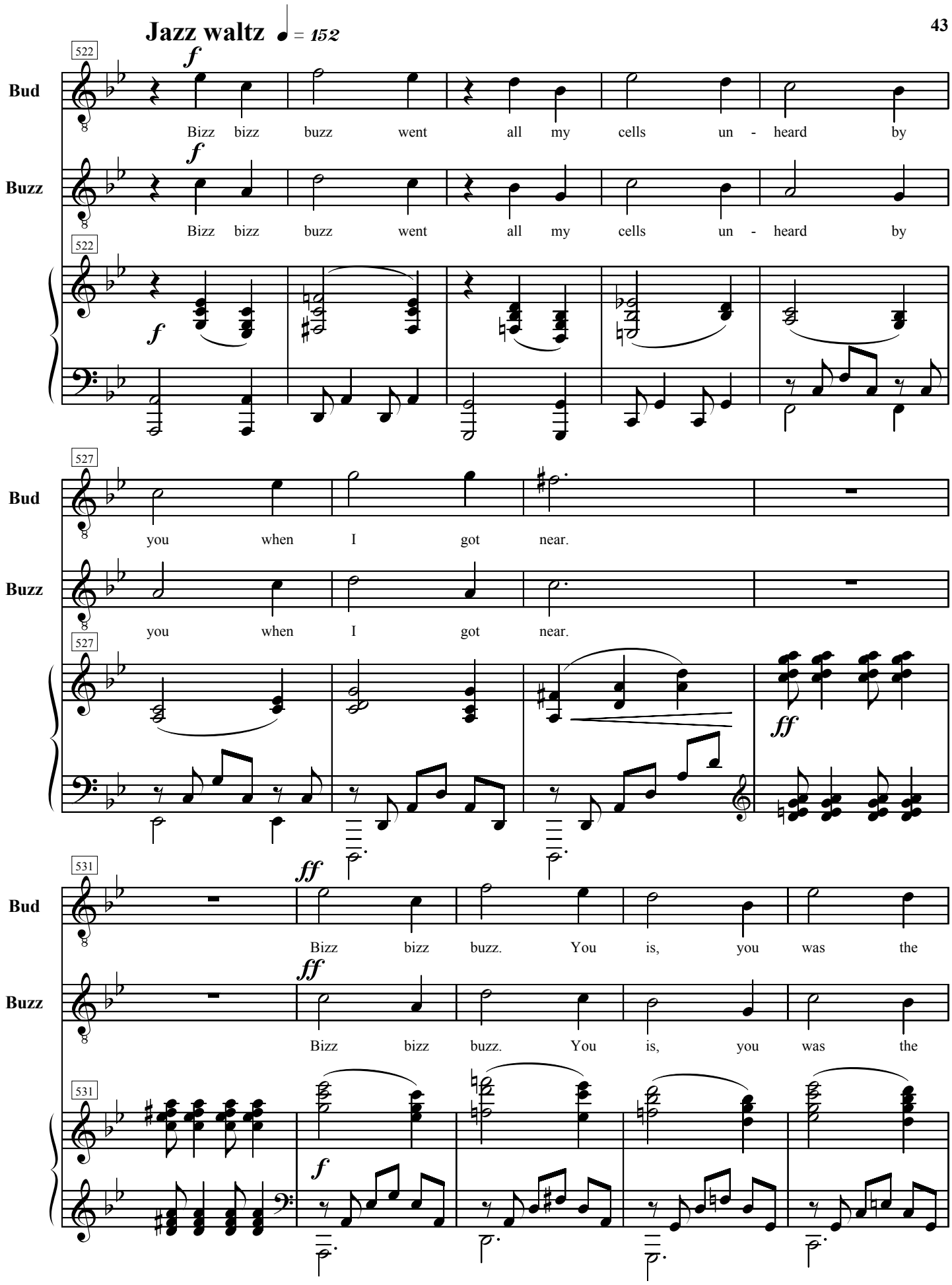

467
Bud
Buzz
p
So you're say-ing you're a los-er of a bee?
ff
Those were all lies.
f
p
471
mp
Hor-net?
No bee at all. I'm a hor-net.
It gets worse.
476
molto espressivo
You mean, we are ex clu-sive?
I have nev er been with an-y flow er ex cept you.
colla voce
pp

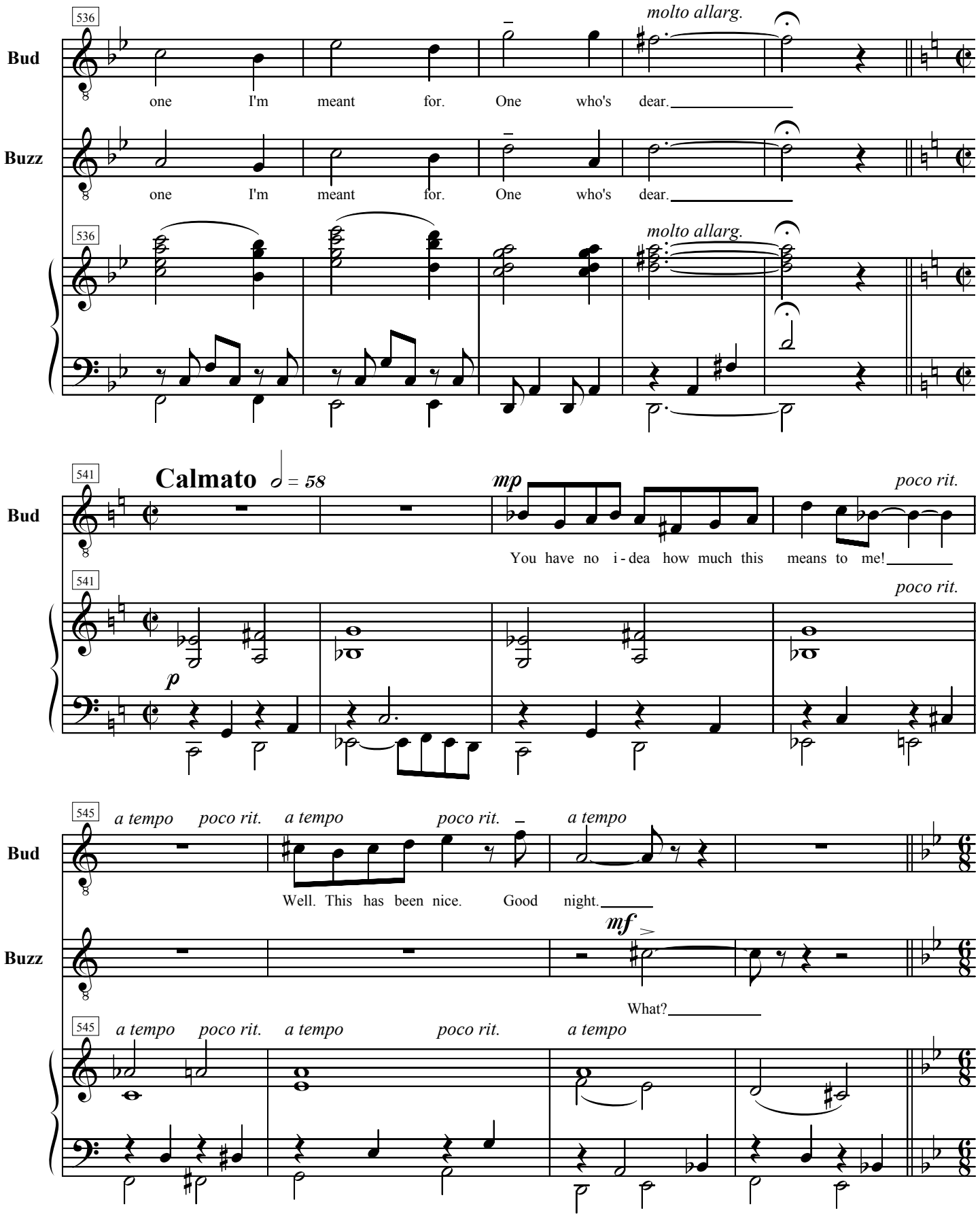

480
Bud
p
So you and me,
Buzz
mf
p molto espressivo
mp
It gets worse. I can nev-er be with an-y flow-er ex cept you. We're
480
mp
p
484
Con moto ♩ = 120
Buzz
bound to - geth - er. The or - chid and the hor - net were made for each oth - er.
484
mp
487
cresc. poco a poco
Buzz
I know it's id - i - ot - ic, to pre -
487
mf
mp cresc. poco a poco
489
Buzz
f
tend I see a - noth - er cause we are sym - bi -
489
f
secco

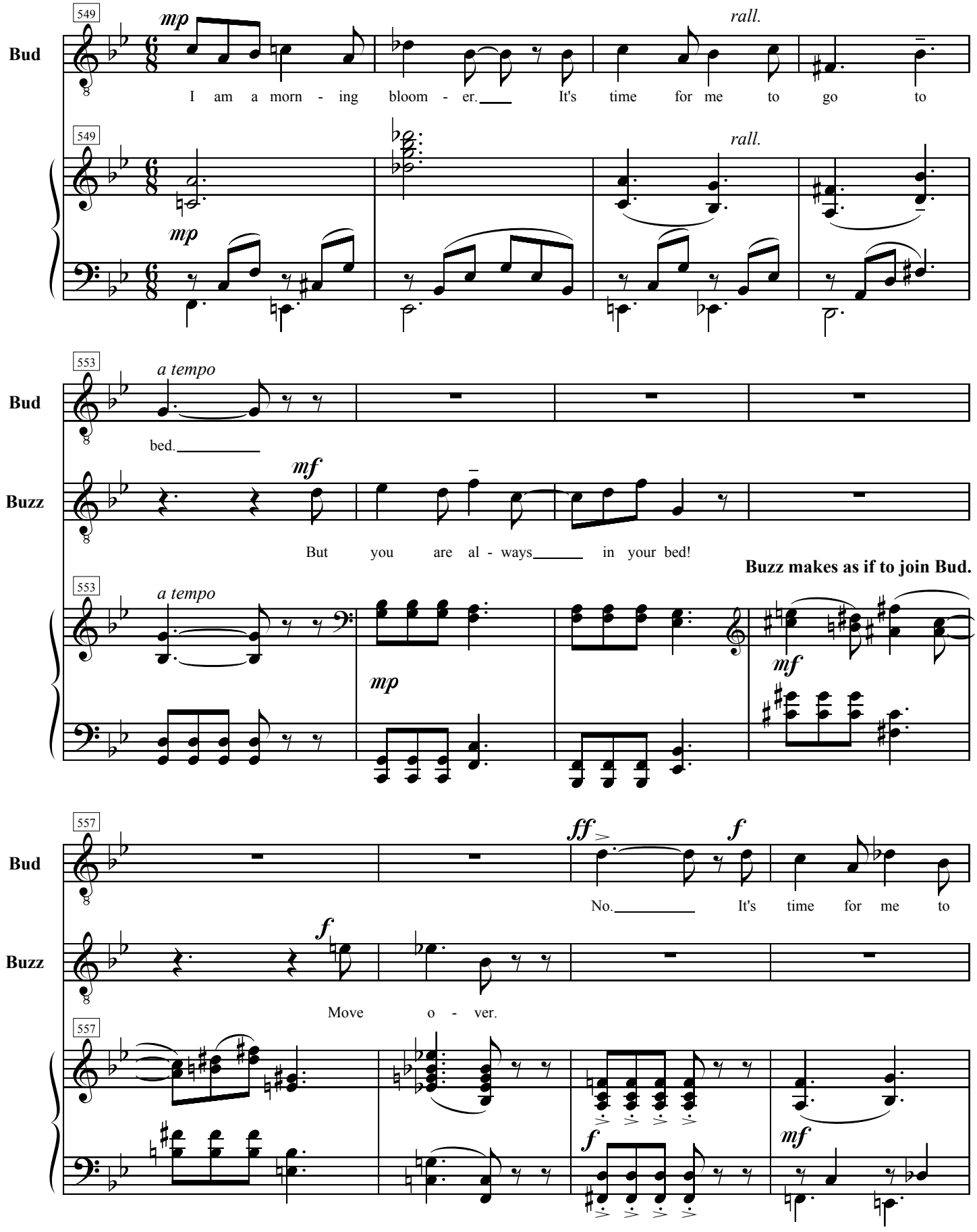

491
Bud
f
Sym - bi - ot - ic?
Buzz
ot - ic.
The
491
493
Allegro ardente
= 126
Buzz
emp - ti - ness I feel e - xact - ly fits the full - ness that you
493
mf
496
molto allarg.
Buzz
are. And no one else will ev - er be a
496
molto allarg.

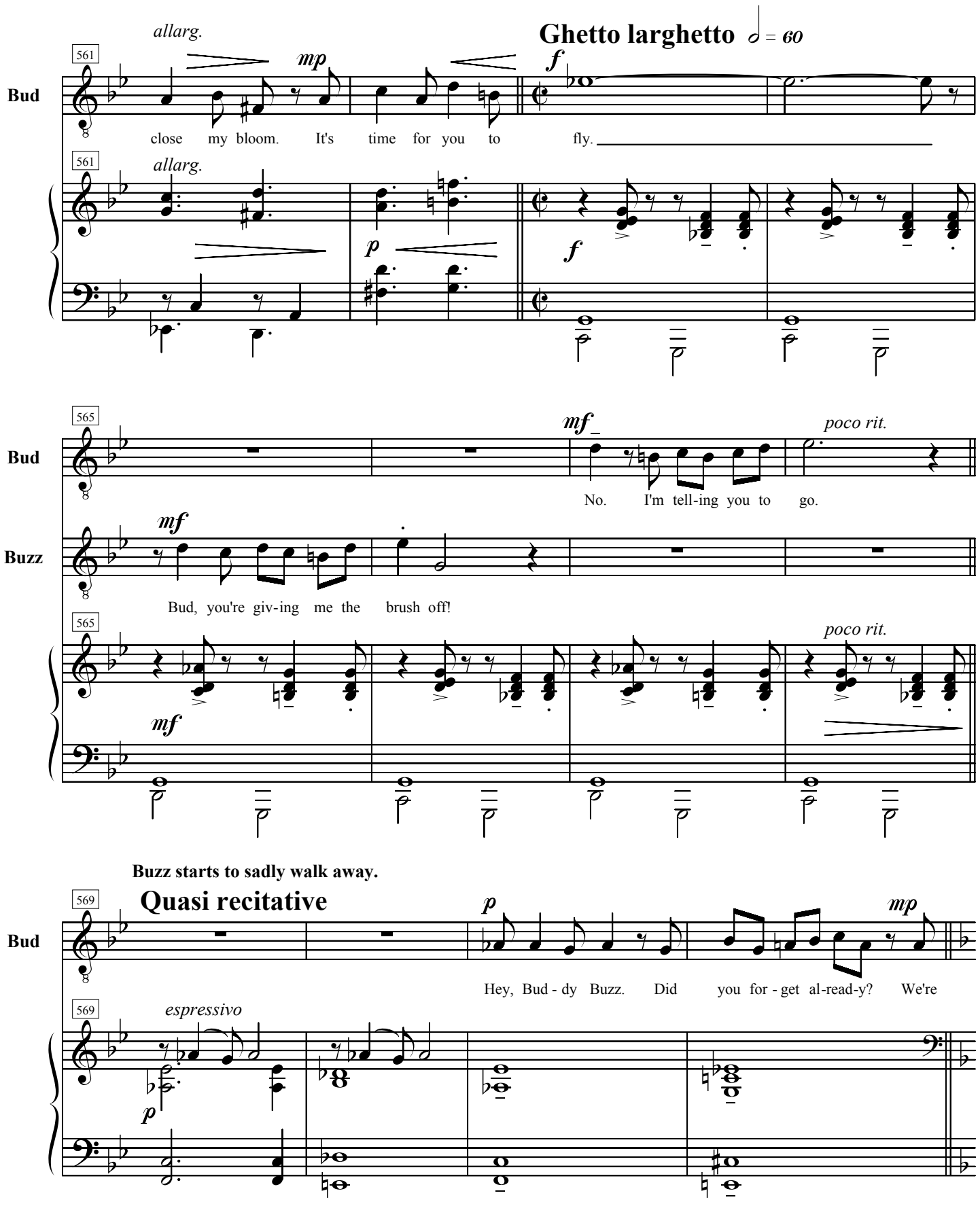

Piu mosso 𝅗𝅥 = 72
499
Bud
ff
Dear God! We're hitched!
rit.
Buzz
f
match.
rit.
503
Allegro gioioso ♩ = 120
Buzz
f
Bizz bizz buzz went all my cells un -
ff sonore
507
Bud
f
Bizz bizz buzz. This
Buzz
heard by you when I got near.

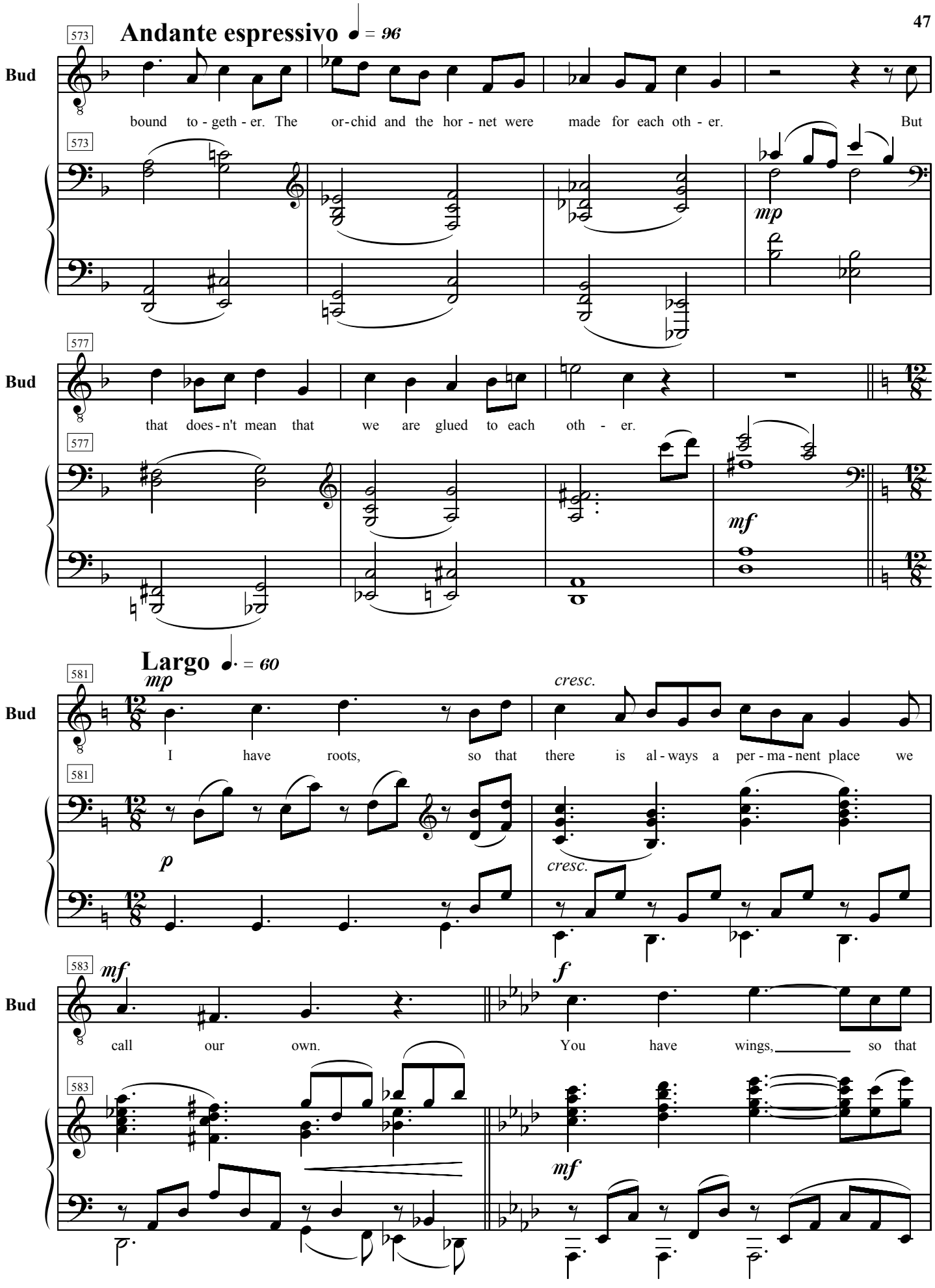

Buzz looks at Bud, daring a game of "Bizz Buzz".
mf
510
Bud
is, this was the one I'm meant for. One who's
Two?
Buzz
mf
(Optional repeat until Buzz and Bud are ready to start the game.)
One!
mp
514
Four?
Bizz!
Eight
Buzz
Bizz!
Buzz!
Sev-en
Bizz
518
accelerando
cresc.
Bizz
Four-teen
Bizz
Buzz!
E-lev-en
Thir-teen
Bizz
Buzz!
(If the ranges are more comfortable for the singers, Bud and Buzz may switch parts from measure 520 through the end of the duet, measure 540.)

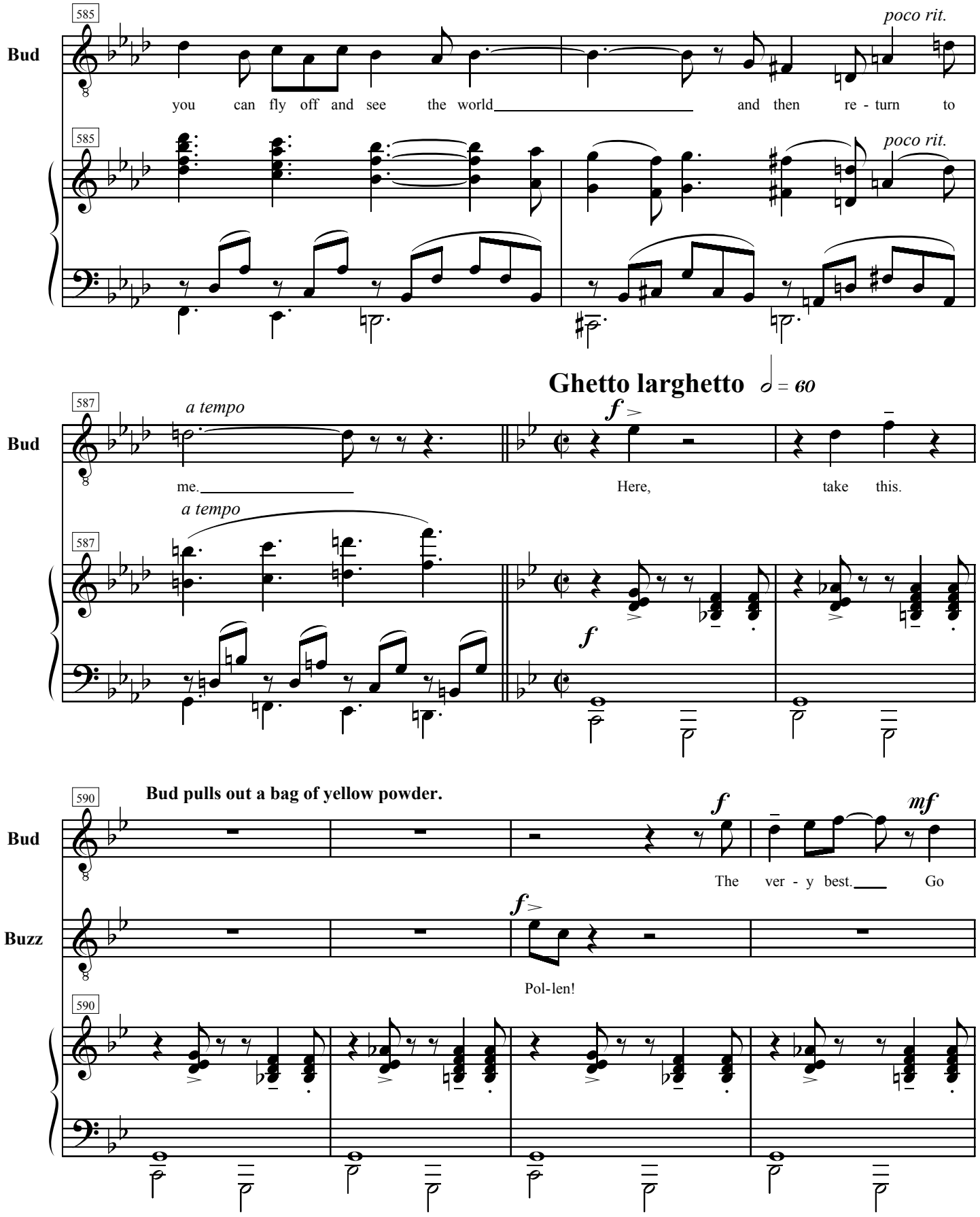

Jazz waltz ♩ = 152
522
Bud
Bizz bizz buzz went all my cells un - heard by
Buzz
Bizz bizz buzz went all my cells un - heard by
527
you when I got near.
531
Bizz bizz buzz. You is, you was the

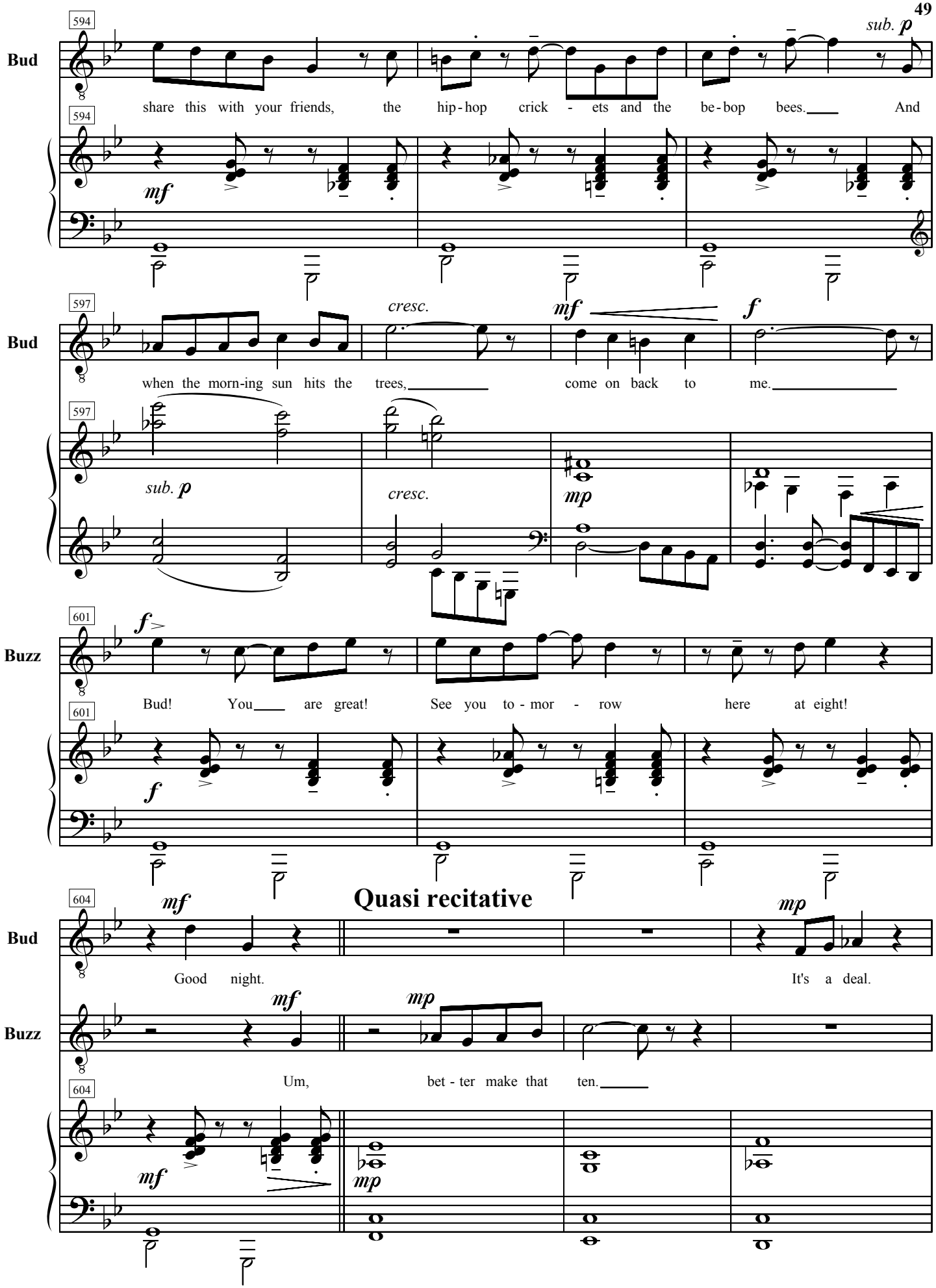

536
Bud
molto allarg.
one I'm meant for. One who's dear.
Buzz
one I'm meant for. One who's dear.
536
molto allarg.
541
Calmato ♩ = 58
mp
poco rit.
Bud
You have no i - dea how much this means to me!
541
poco rit.
p
545
a tempo poco rit. a tempo poco rit. a tempo
Bud
Well. This has been nice. Good night.
mf
Buzz
What?
545
a tempo poco rit. a tempo poco rit. a tempo


549
Bud
mp
I am a morn - ing bloom - er. It's time for me to go to
rall.
549
mp
rall.
553
Bud
a tempo
bed.
Buzz
mf
But you are al - ways in your bed!
Buzz makes as if to join Bud.
553
a tempo
mp
mf
557
Bud
ff
f
No. It's time for me to
Buzz
f
Move o - ver.
557
f
mf


allarg.
Ghetto larghetto ♩ = 60
561
Bud
mp
f
close my bloom. It's time for you to fly.
allarg.
p
f
565
Bud
mf
poco rit.
No. I'm tell-ing you to go.
Buzz
mf
Bud, you're giv-ing me the brush off!
565
poco rit.
mf
Buzz starts to sadly walk away.
569
Quasi recitative
Bud
p
mp
Hey, Bud - dy Buzz. Did you for - get al-read-y? We're
569
espressivo
p


573
Andante espressivo ♩ = 96
Bud
bound to - geth - er. The or - chid and the hor - net were made for each oth - er. But
mp
577
that does - n't mean that we are glued to each oth - er.
mf
581
Largo ♩. = 60
mp
I have roots, so that there is al - ways a per - ma - nent place we
cresc.
p
583
mf
call our own.
f
You have wings, so that
mf


585
Bud
poco rit.
you can fly off and see the world and then re - turn to
585
poco rit.
Ghetto larghetto ♩ = 60
587
a tempo
Bud
f
me.
Here, take this.
a tempo
587
f
590
Bud pulls out a bag of yellow powder.
Bud
f
mf
The ver - y best. Go
Buzz
f
Pol-len!
590


Bud
share this with your friends, the hip-hop crick - ets and the be-bop bees. And
sub. p
mf
Bud
when the morn-ing sun hits the trees, come on back to me.
cresc.
mf
f
sub. p
cresc.
mp
Buzz
Bud! You are great! See you to - mor - row here at eight!
f
Quasi recitative
Bud
Good night.
It's a deal.
mf
mp
Buzz
Um, bet - ter make that ten.

**Buzz flies off.**

## Allegro volante ♩ = 80

608

**Bud**

See you then.

608

*f dim. poco a poco*

611

**Bud**

*p*

He

611

8va

## Andante ♩. = 96

614

**Bud**

*rit.*

*mp*

said he would come by by ten o' - clock, or noon, or two. He

614

*rit.*

*pp*

618

*a tempo*

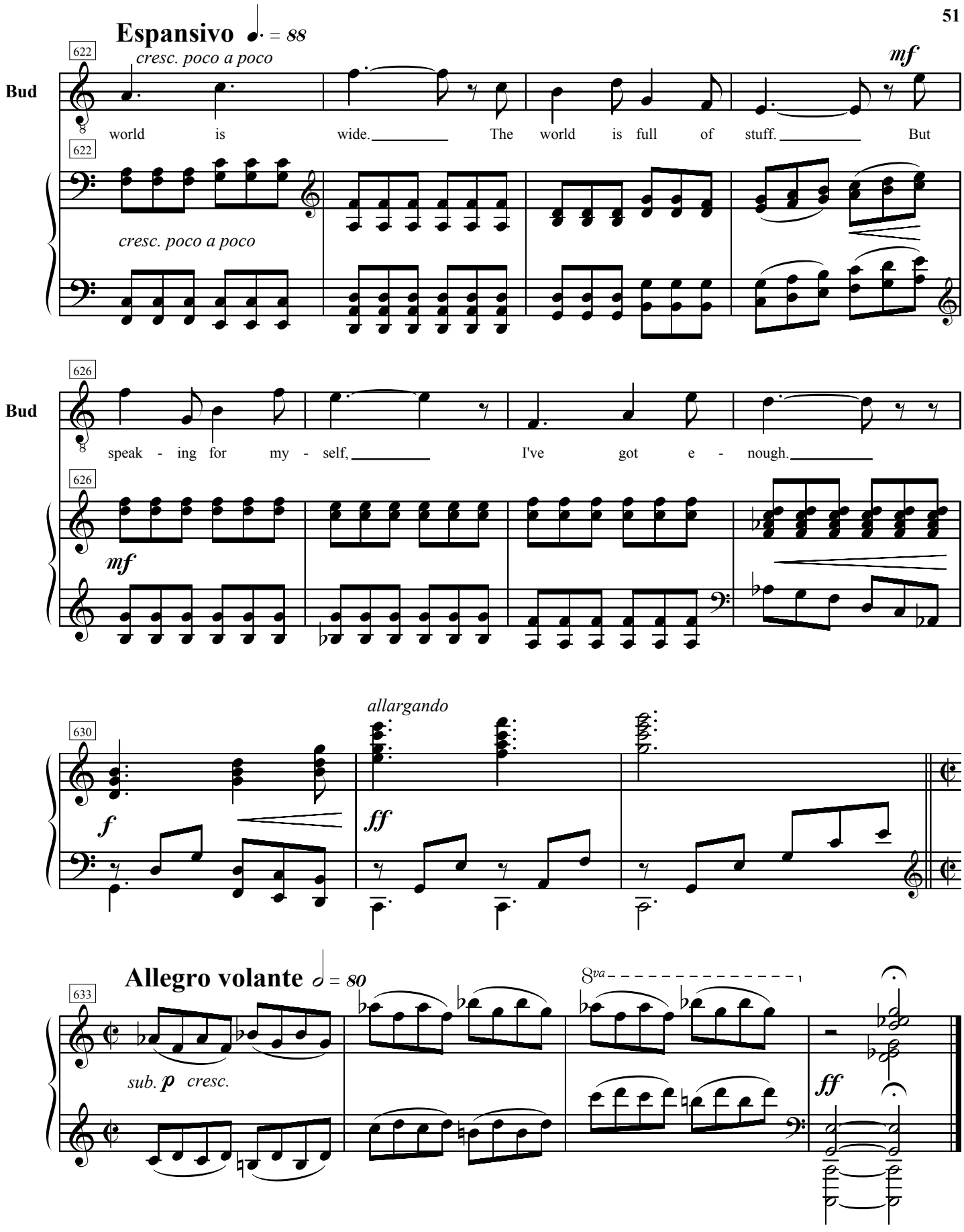
**Bud**

has no sense of time. Does - n't mat - ter. He is mine. The

618

*a tempo*

*p*


Espansivo ♩. = 88
622
cresc. poco a poco
mf
Bud
world is wide. The world is full of stuff. But
cresc. poco a poco
626
Bud
speak - ing for my - self, I've got e - nough.
mf
allargando
630
f
ff
Allegro volante 𝅗𝅥 = 80
633
8va
sub. p cresc.
ff