Chris Kincaid

Lunar Year: Twelve Asterisms of the Moon

Poem by

David Autin

(2012)

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Instrumentation

Baritone

Piano

(2012)

Duration

9 minutes

Lunar Year: Twelve Asterisms of the Moons
by David Autin

January
There are three silent things: the fallen snow, the dark of the moon, the dead whom we loved.
February
Cold as death, cold even as despair, is the eye of the winter moon.
March
Though the winds are rough, they do not trouble the serenity of the moon.
April
Time has sharpened the bright moon to so fine a point that it can prick the sleeping ocean without waking her up.
May
The smiles of the moon are the lovers' lamp: it burns brighter for their passion.
June
The half-moon limps through its hour of darkness -- a broken heart seeking for what it has lost.
July
Clumsy moon! Are you tangled again in the coils of the summer stars?
August
In the mirror of the lake lies another heaven where another moon bathes among stars we do not know.
September
An old china plate sits sulking in the sky: I guess the spoon ran away with someone else.
October
This autumn moon, like a great pale moth yearning for the candle of the sun.
November
I see your bow, but where are you hiding, Huntress of the stars?
December
The sun sets, but the full moon rises in prophecy and promise of sunrises yet to come.

Program Note

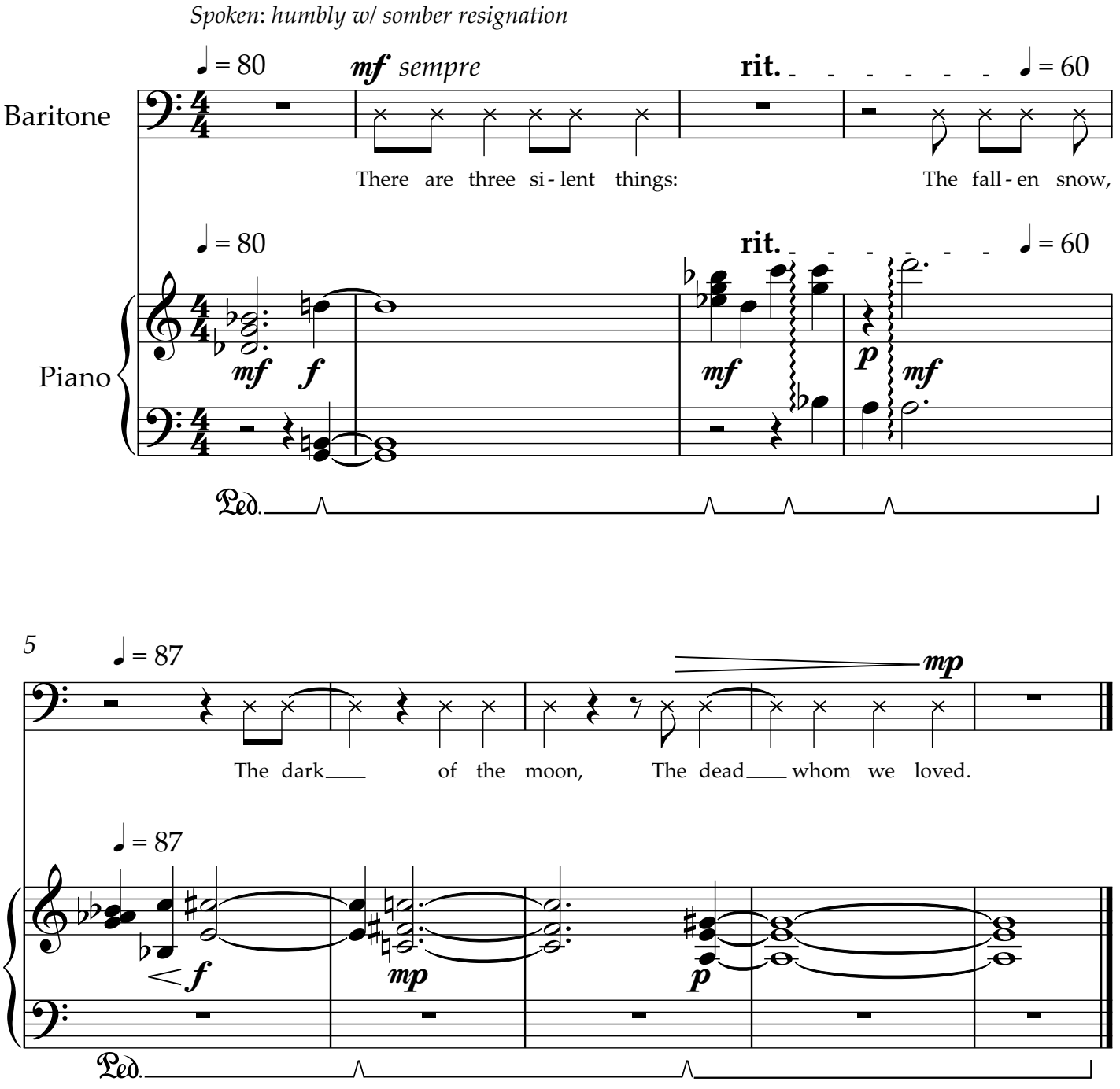
David Autin's poem elicits an ever-changing image of the moon. Each miniature presents a new month, coming and going as fast as the seasons. With every new moon comes a new identity.

Lunar Year:
Twelve Asterism of the Moon

January

David Autin

Chris Kincaid



Time between songs should feel natural, allowing for pauses when a movement needs it, without breaking continuity of the piece as a whole.

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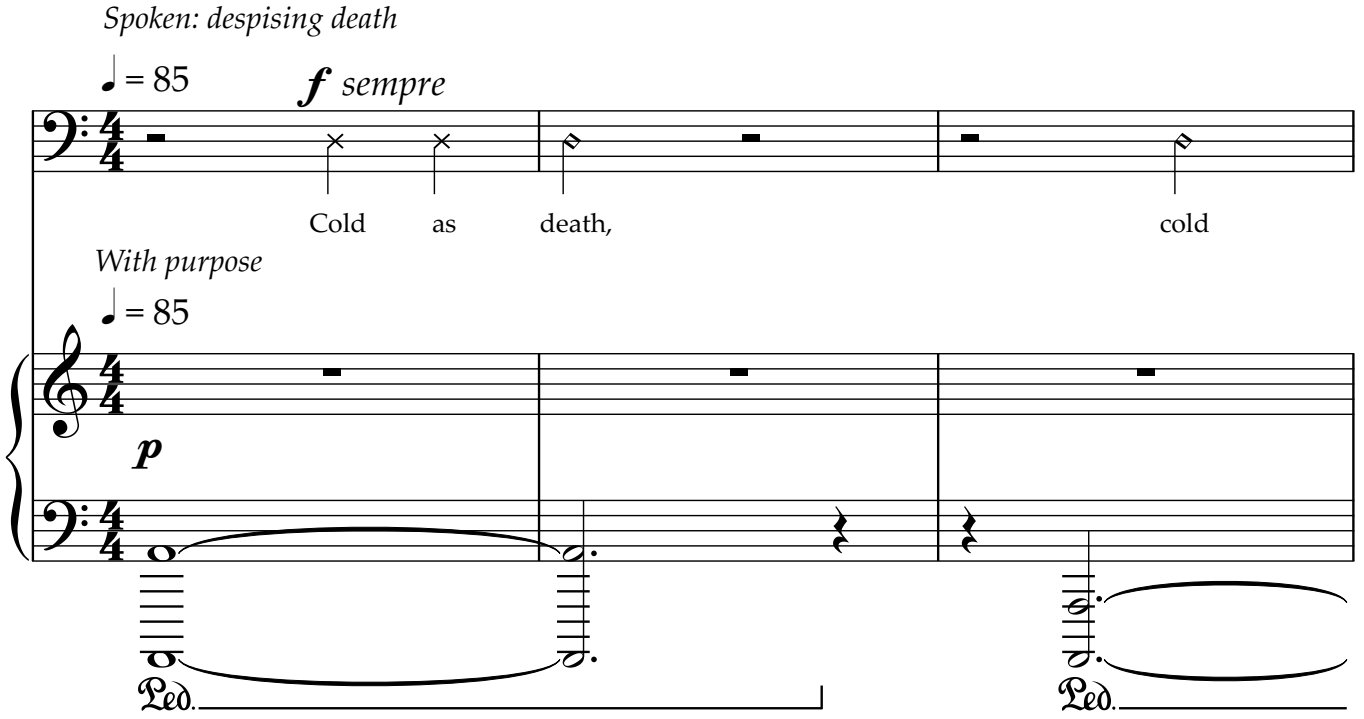
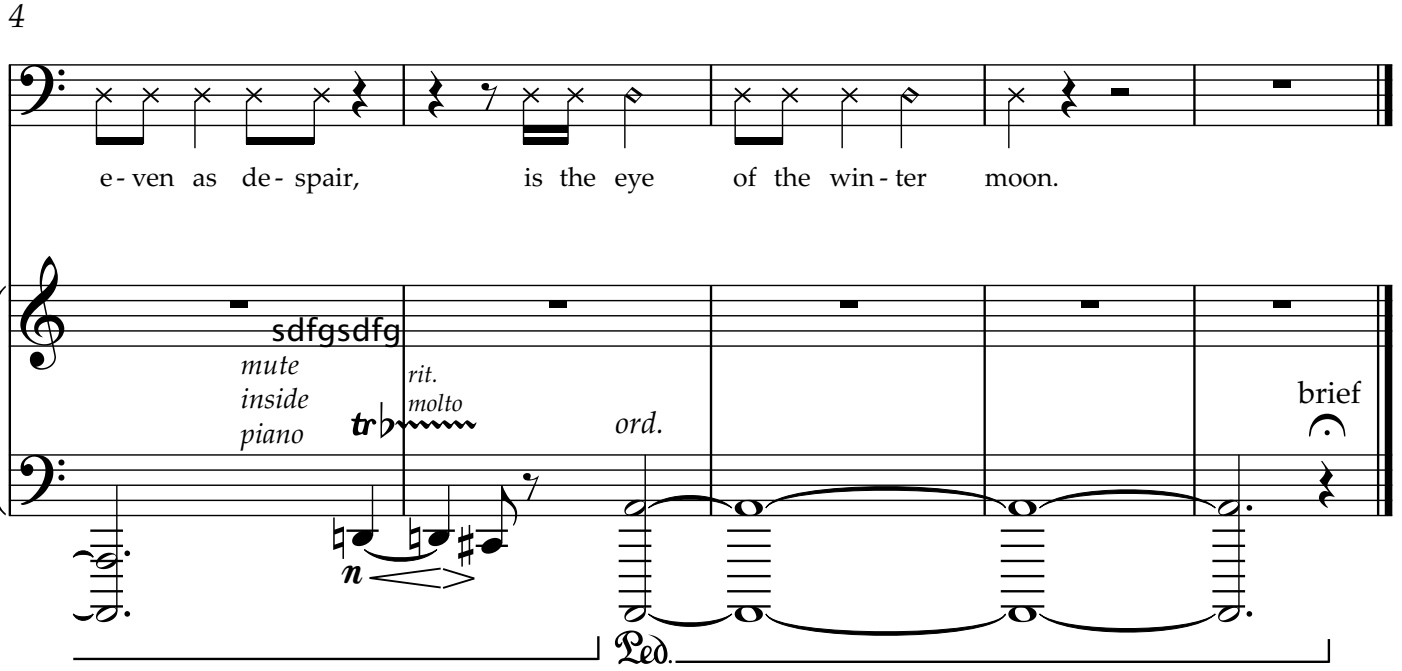
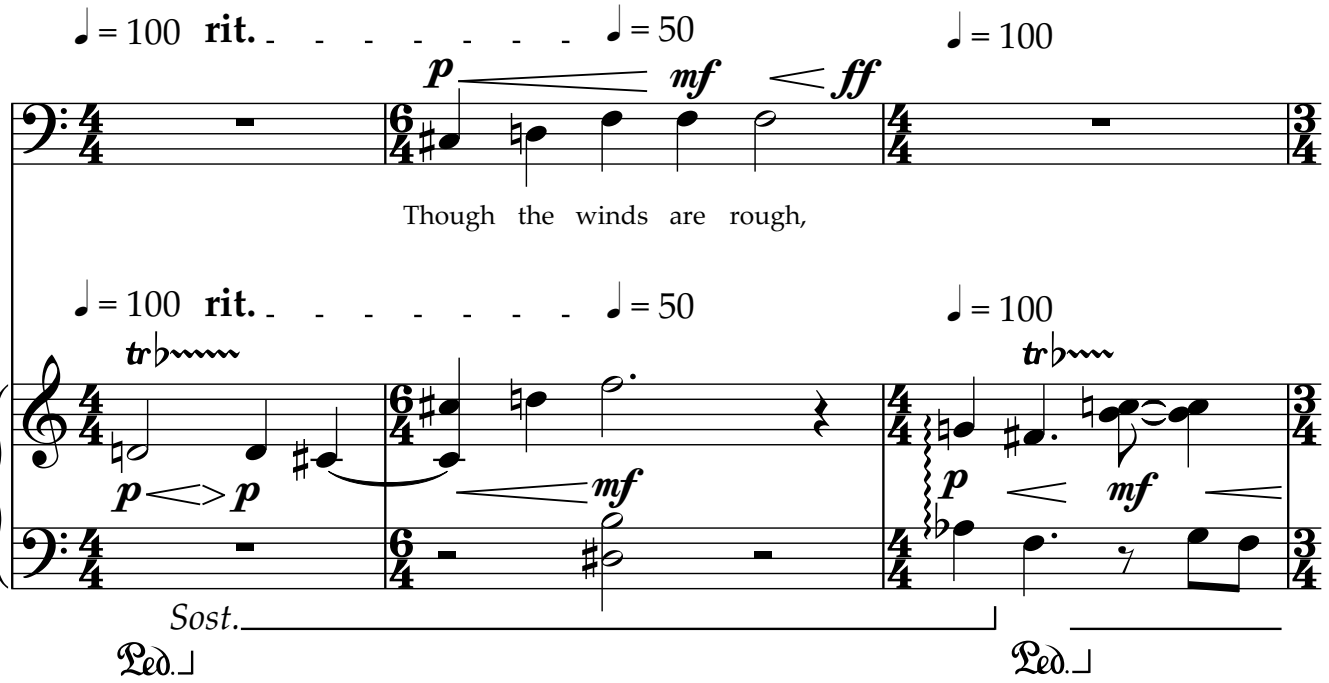
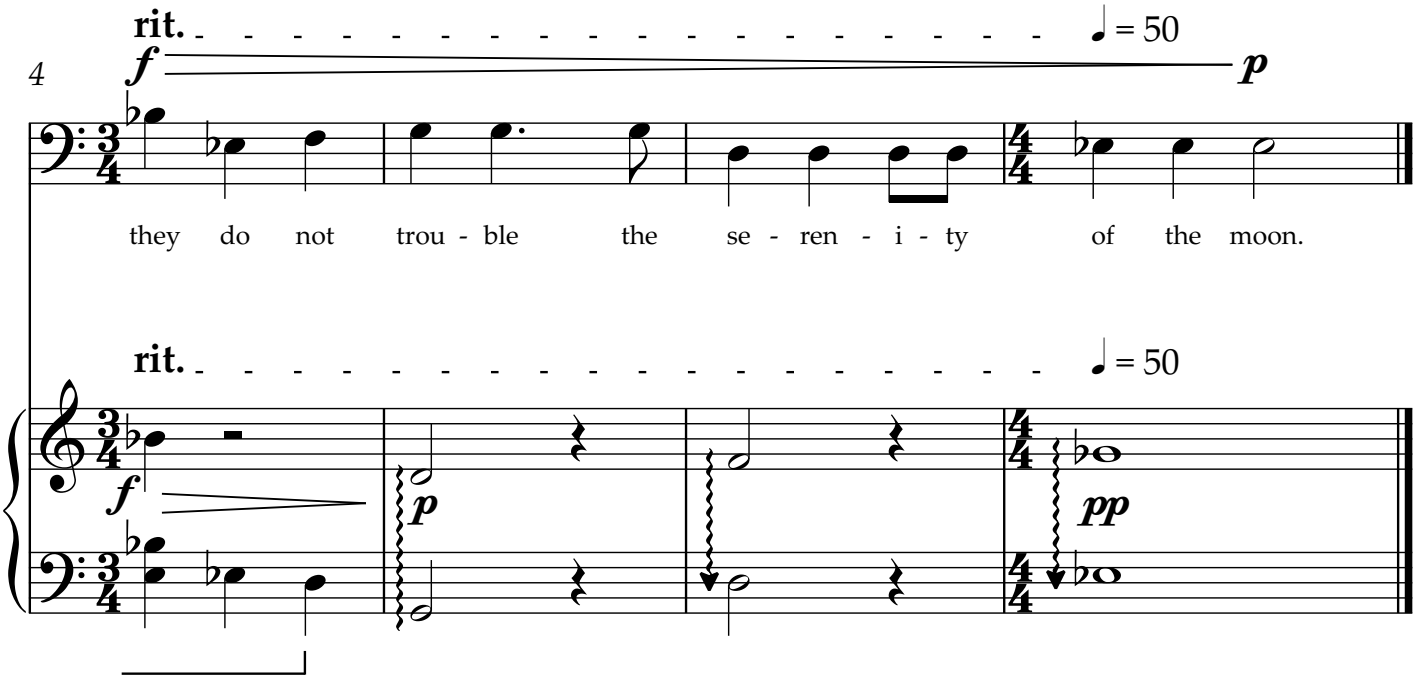
February


Spoken: despising death
♩ = 85
f sempre
Cold as death, cold
With purpose
♩ = 85
p
Ped.
Ped.

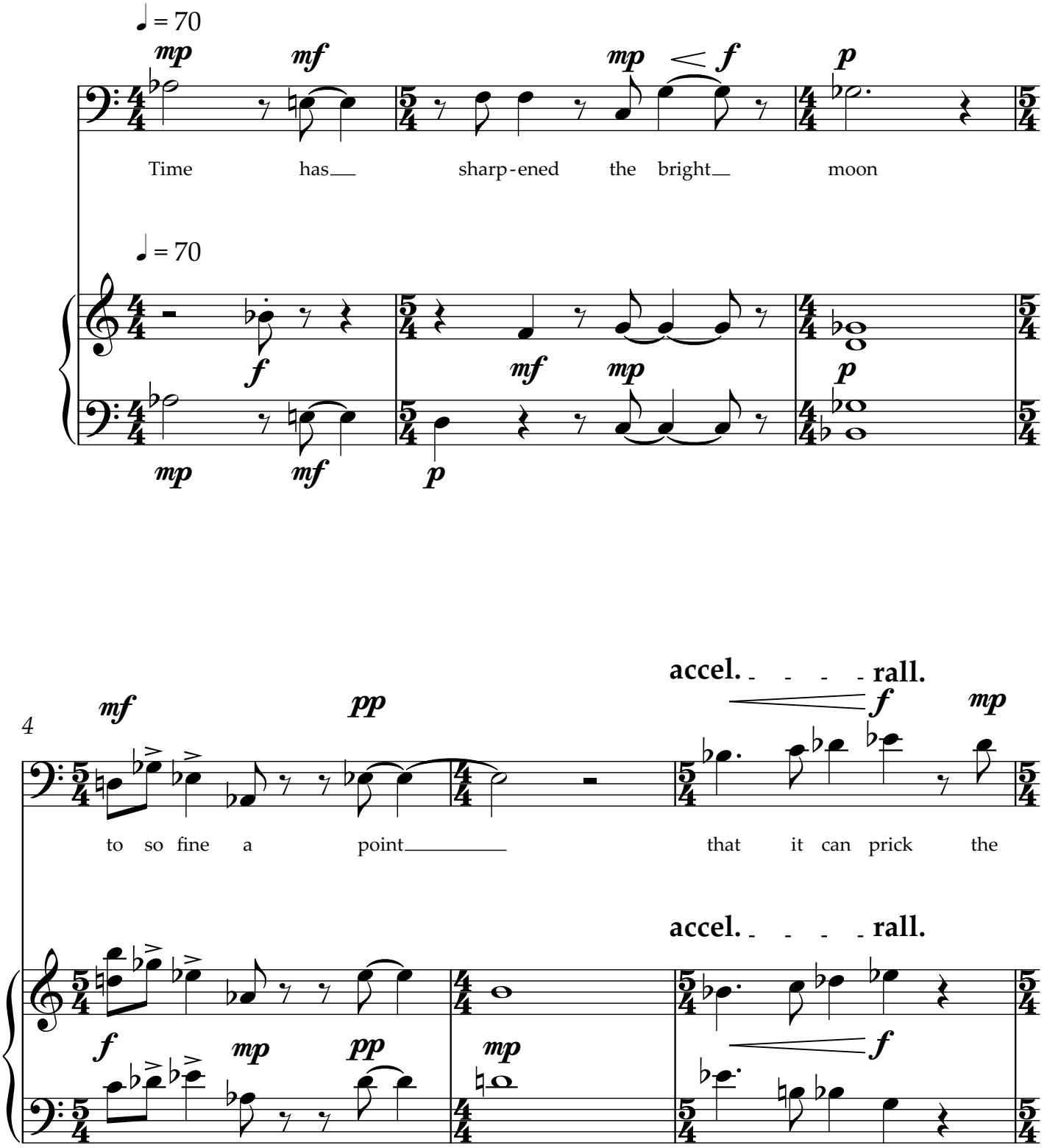

4
e - ven as de - spair, is the eye of the win - ter moon.
sdfgsdfg
mute
inside
piano
rit.
molto
tr
ord.
brief
n
Ped.

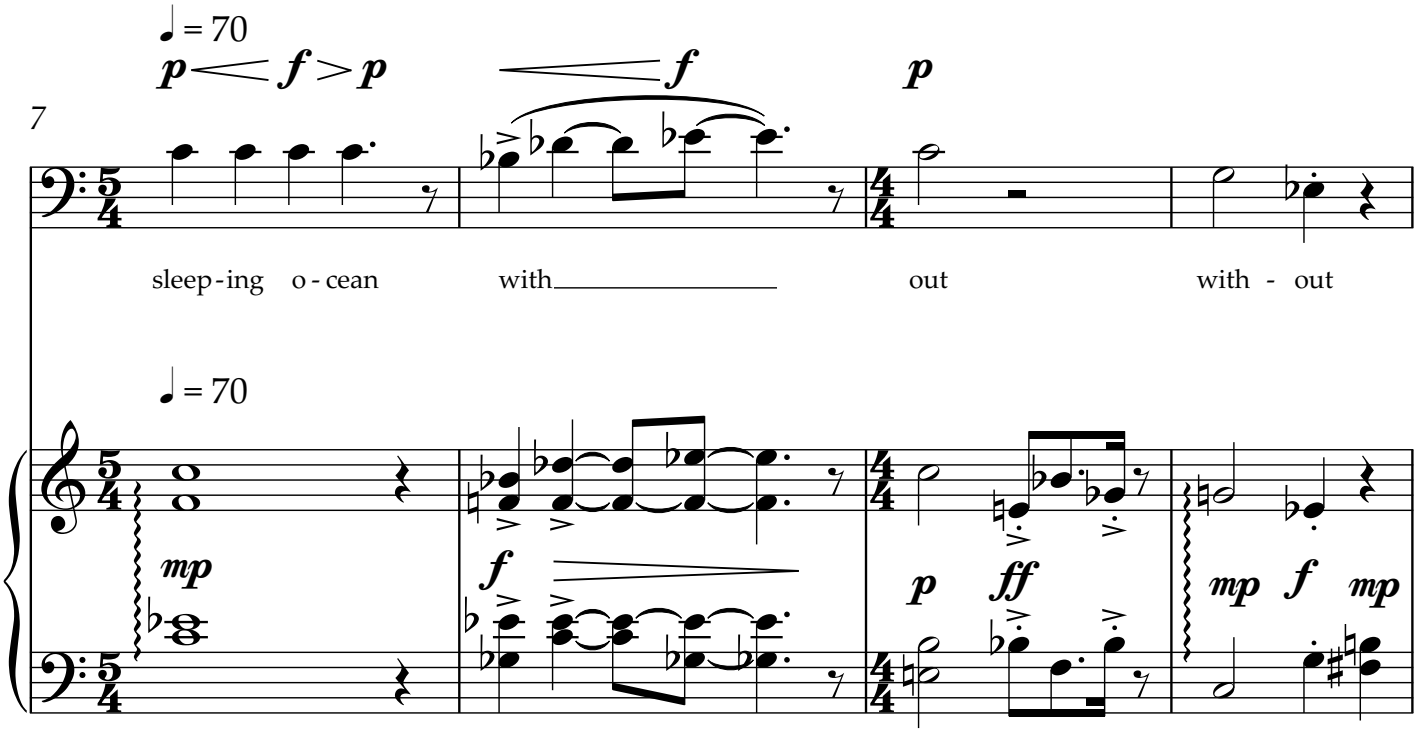
March

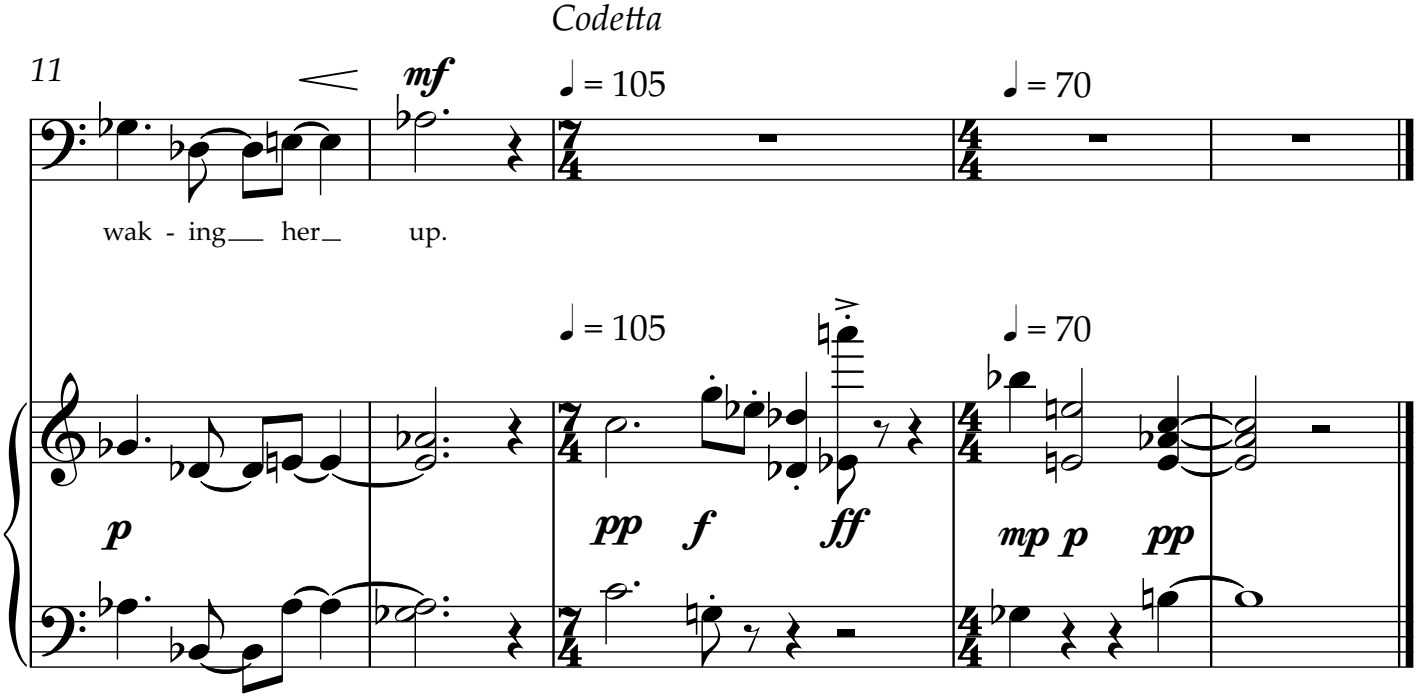

♩ = 100 rit.
♩ = 50
♩ = 100
p
mf
ff
Though the winds are rough,
♩ = 100 rit.
♩ = 50
♩ = 100
tr
p
mf
Sost.
Ped.
Ped.


4
rit.
♩ = 50
f
p
they do not trou - ble the se - ren - i - ty of the moon.
rit.
♩ = 50
f
p
pp

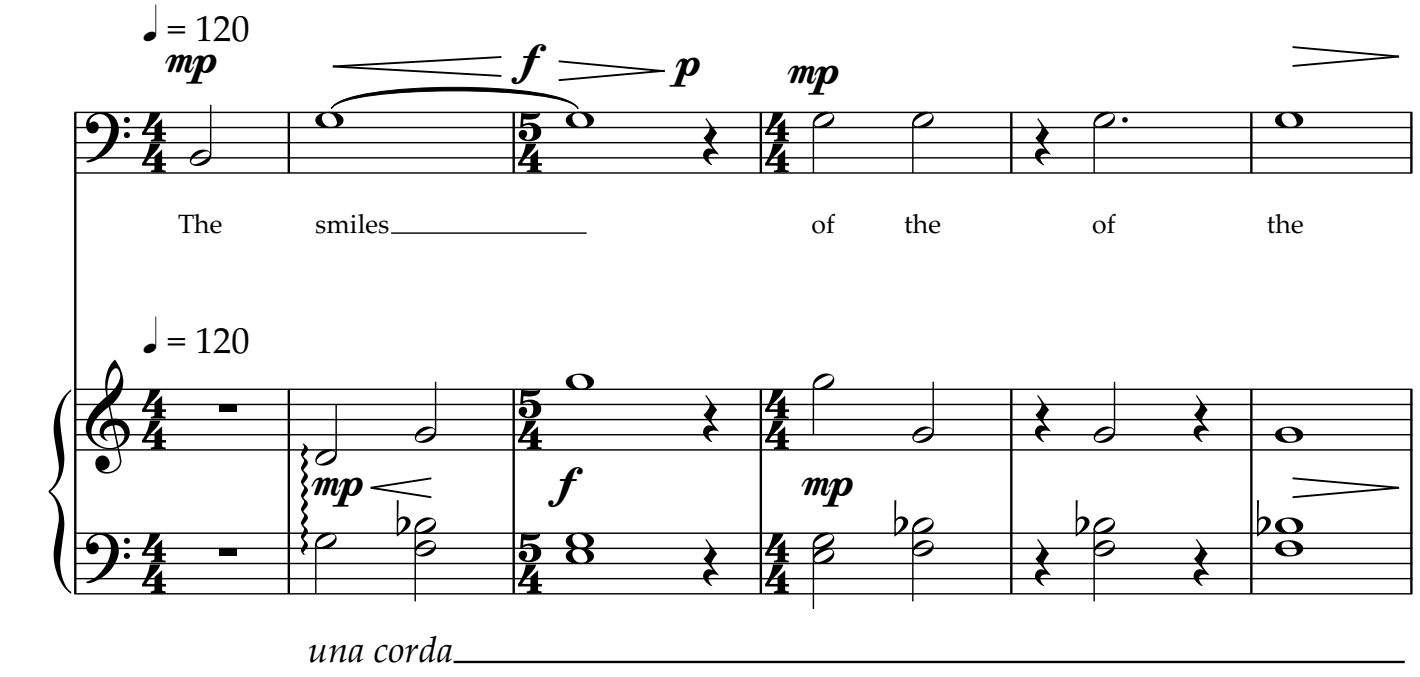
April

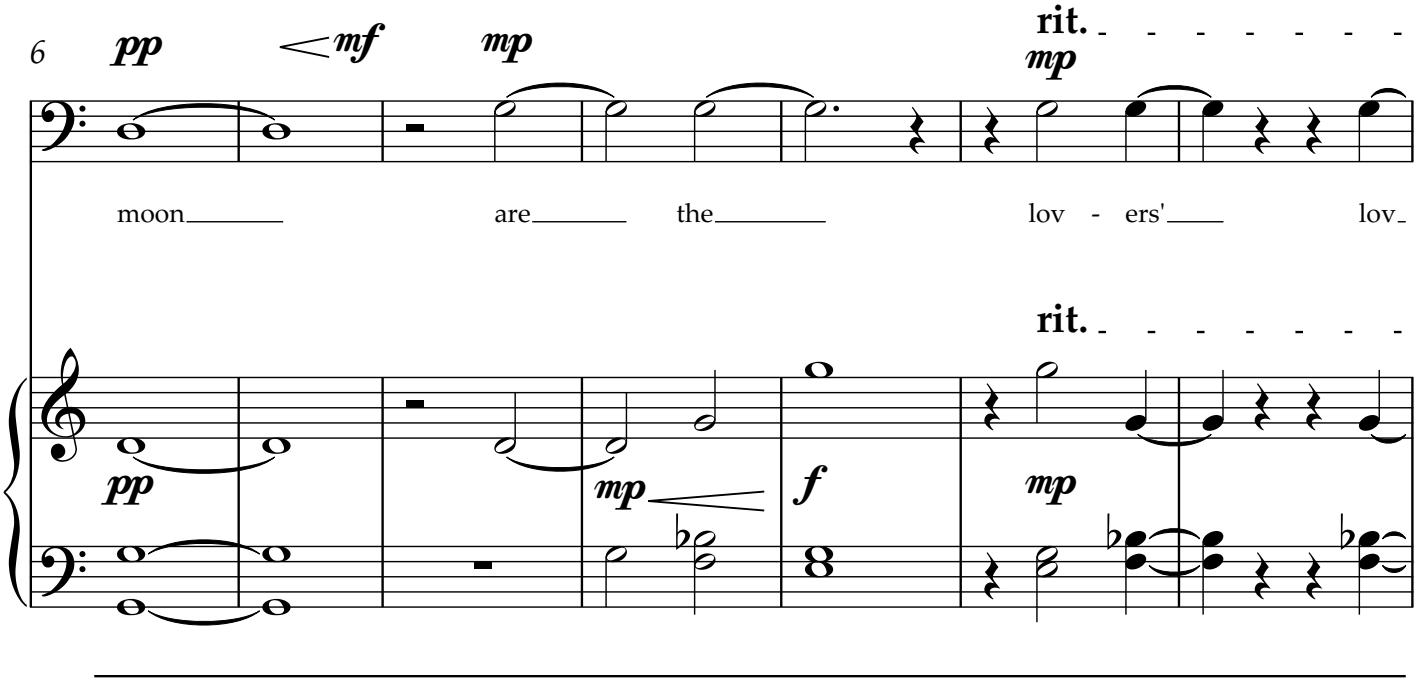

♩ = 70
mp
mf
mp
f
p
Time has sharp-ened the bright moon
♩ = 70
f
mf
mp
p
mp
mf
p
4
mf
pp
accel.
rall.
f
mp
to so fine a point that it can prick the
accel.
rall.
f
mp
pp
mp
f

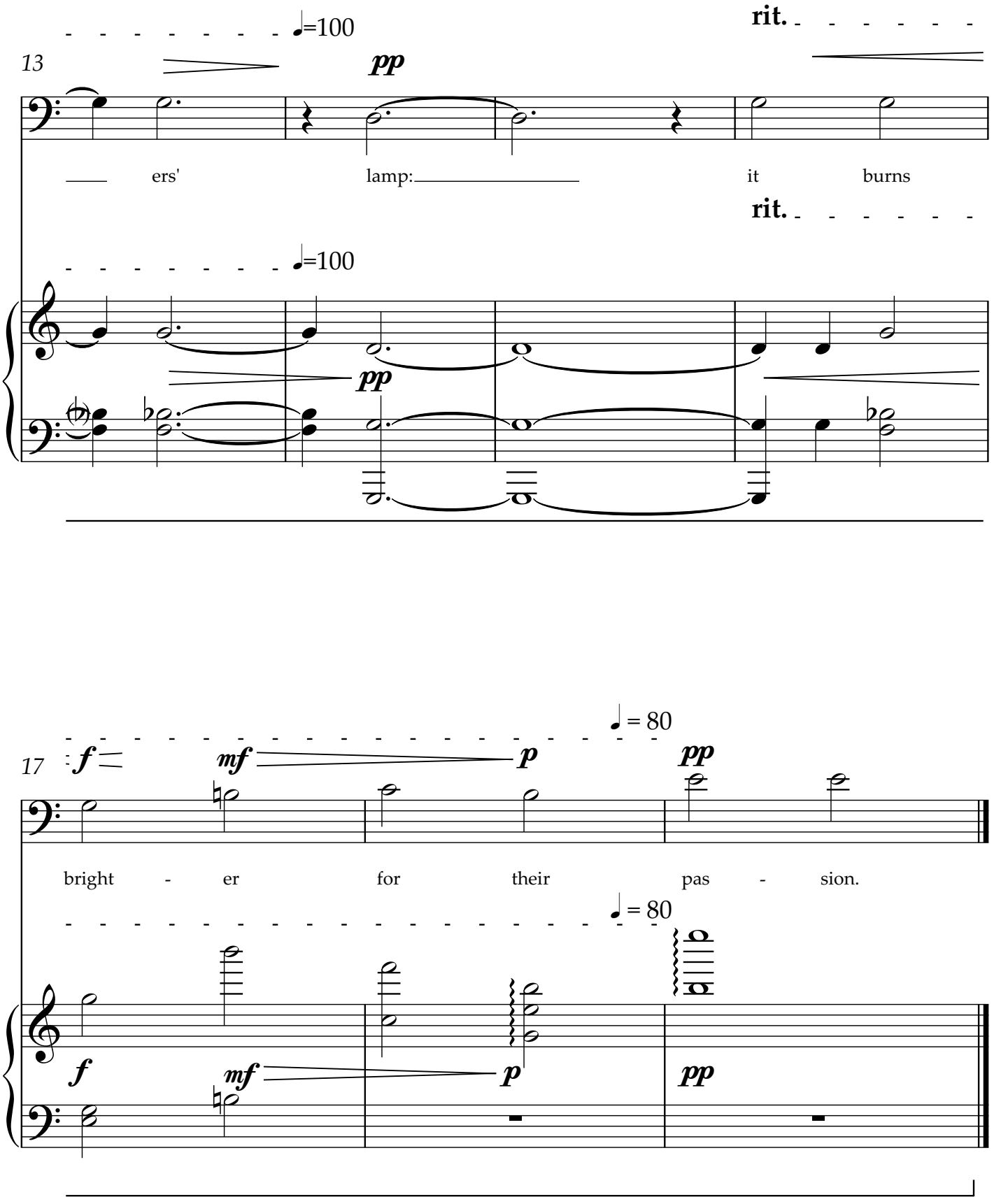

♩ = 70
p < f > p
f
p
7
sleep - ing o - cean
with
out
with - out
♩ = 70
mp
f
p
ff
mp f mp


Codetta
11
mf
♩ = 105
♩ = 70
wak - ing her up.
♩ = 105
♩ = 70
p
pp f ff
mp p pp

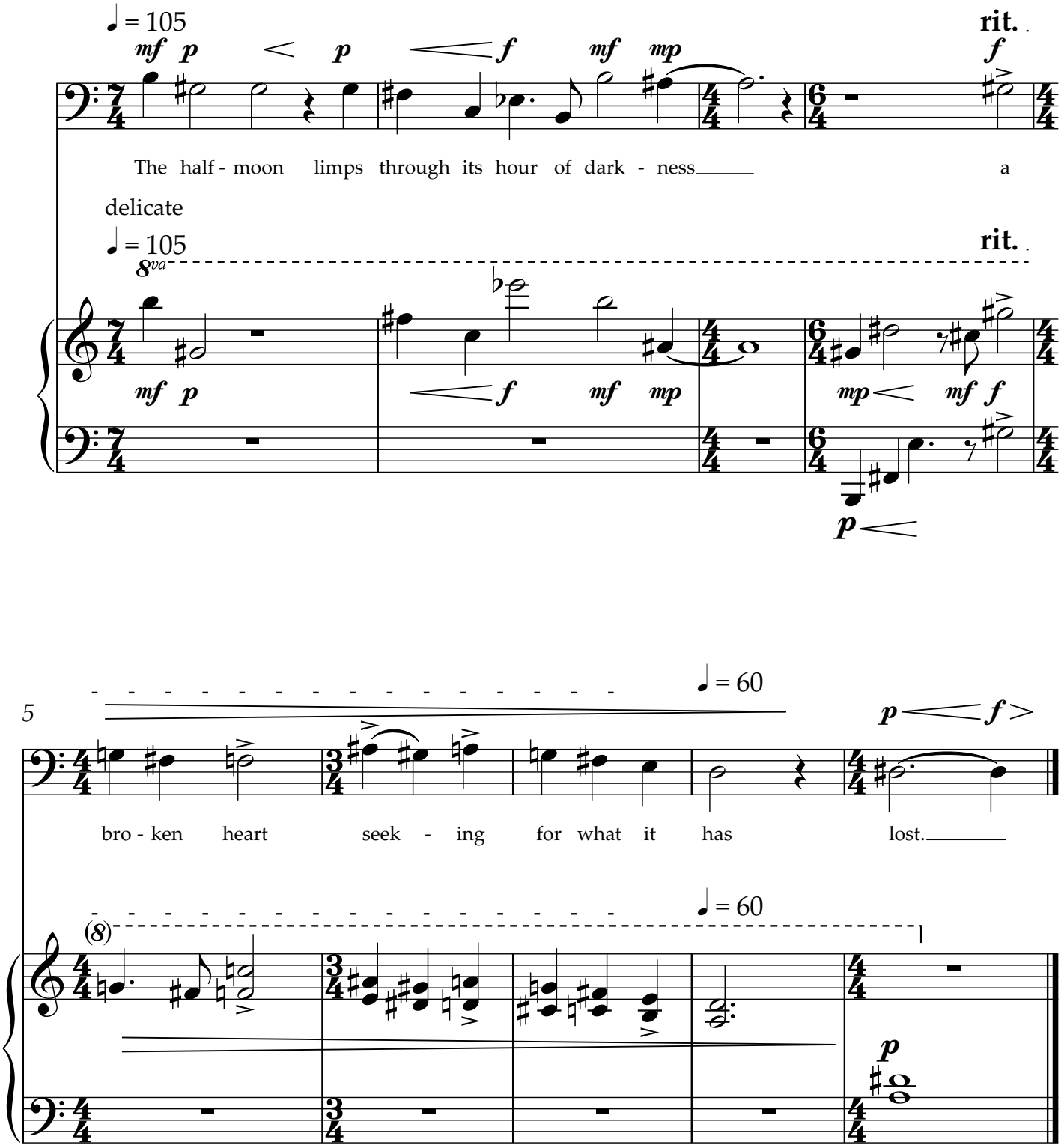
May


♩ = 120
mp
f
p
mp
The smiles of the of the
♩ = 120
mp
f
mp
una corda

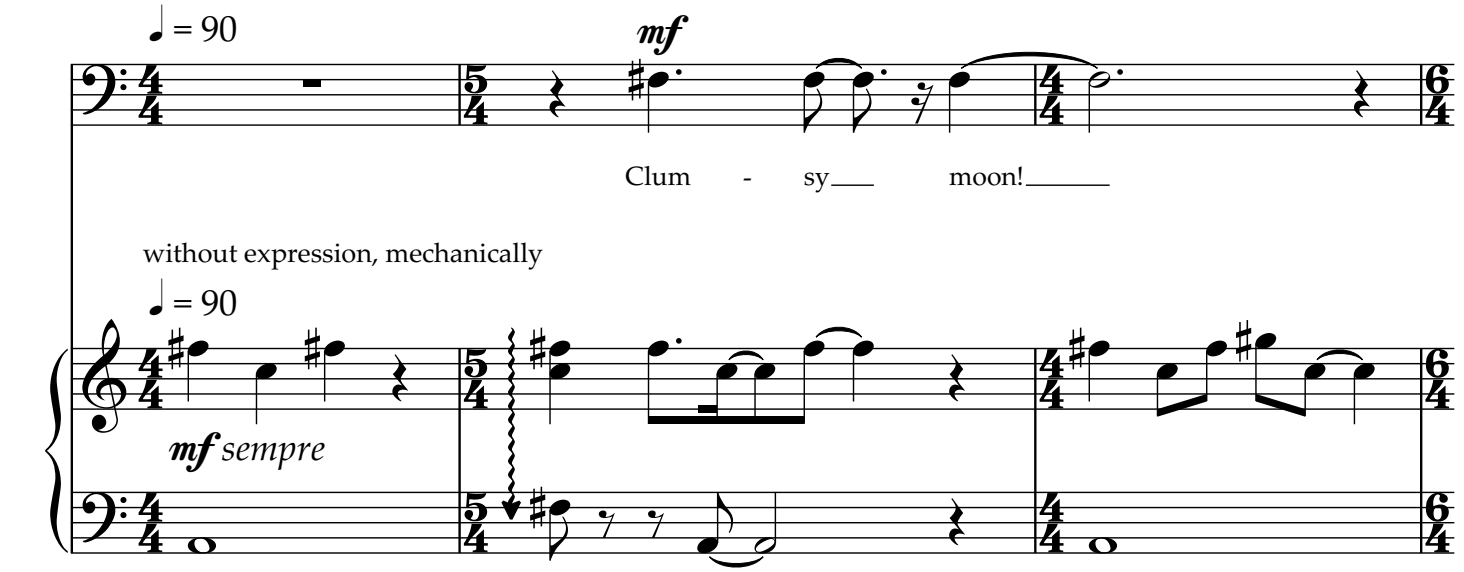

6
pp
mf
mp
rit.
mp
moon are the lov - ers' lov
rit.
pp
mp
f
mp

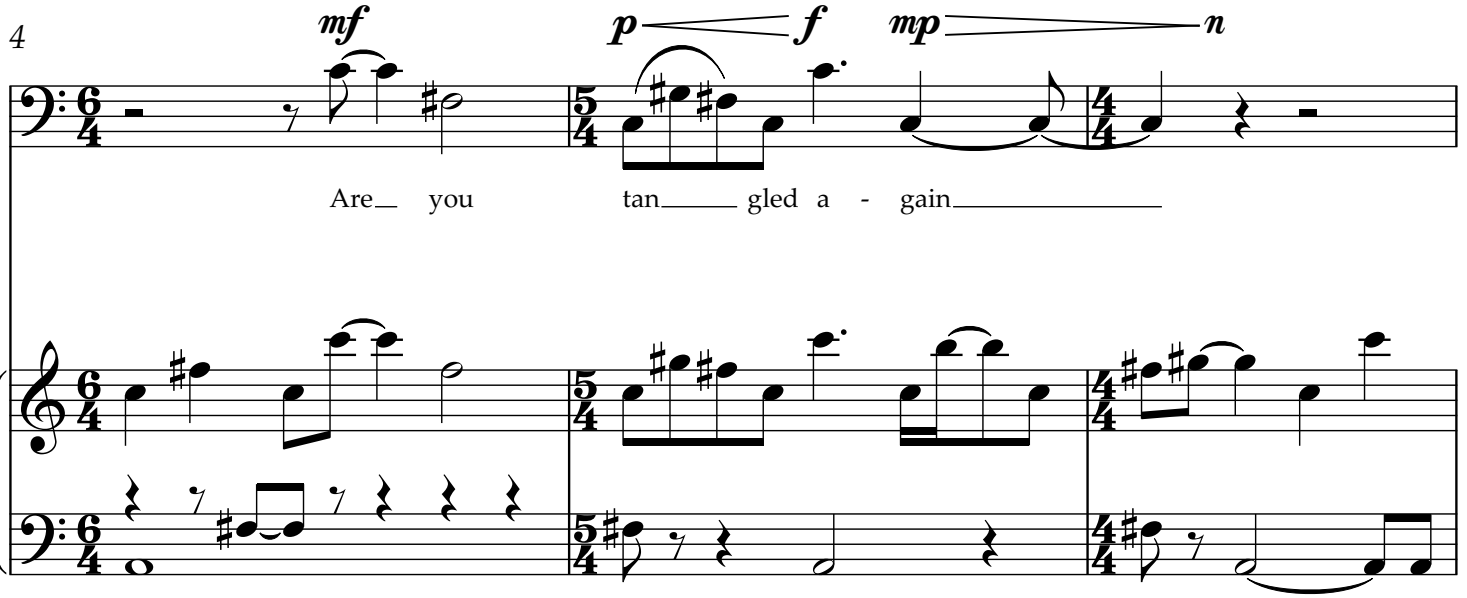

13
♩=100
pp
rit.
ers'
lamp:
it
burns
rit.
♩=100
pp
17
♩ = 80
f
mf
p
pp
bright
-
er
for
their
pas
-
sion.
♩ = 80
f
mf
p
pp

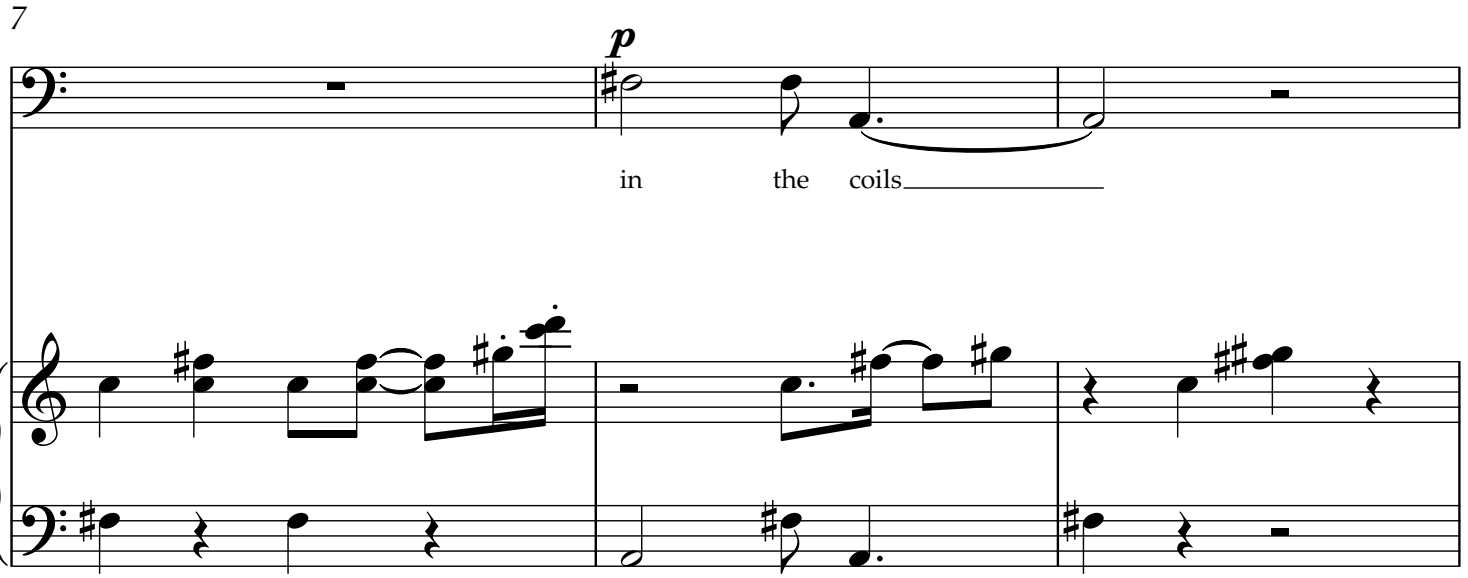
June

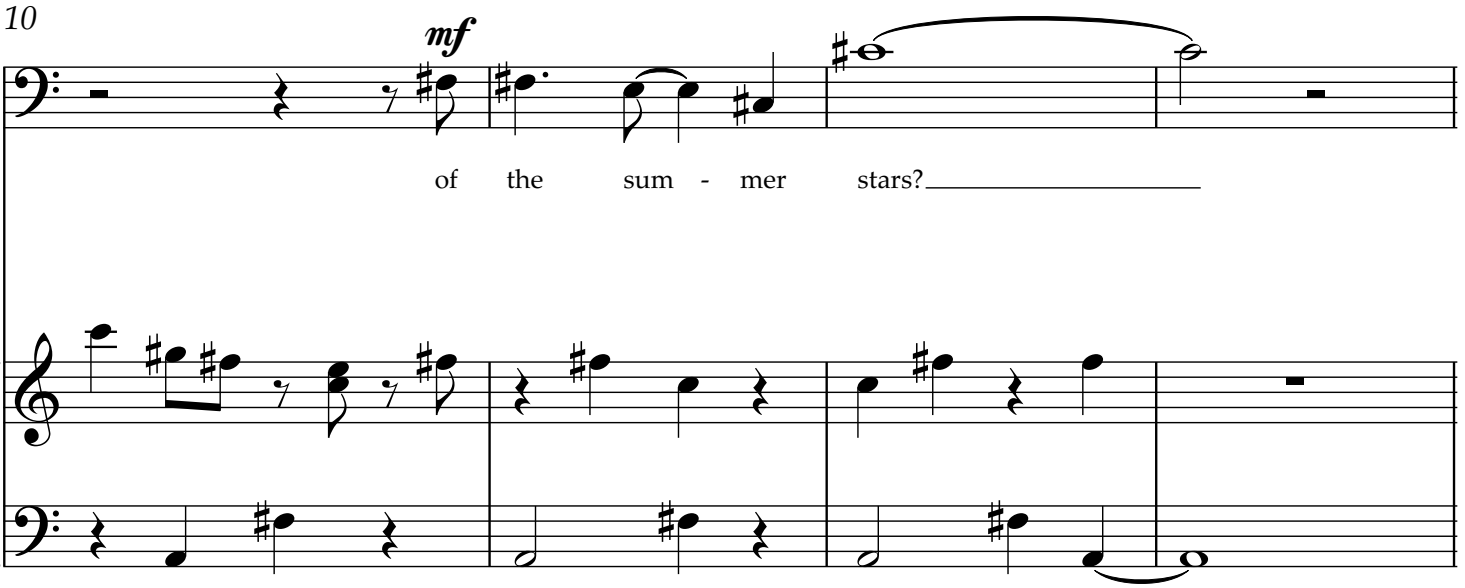

♩ = 105
mf p < p < f mf mp
rit.
f
The half - moon limps through its hour of dark - ness a
delicate
♩ = 105
rit.
8va
mf p
f mf mp
mp < mf f
p <
5
♩ = 60
p < f >
bro - ken heart seek - ing for what it has lost.
♩ = 60
(8)
p

July


♩ = 90
mf
Clum - sy moon!
without expression, mechanically
♩ = 90
mf sempre


4
mf
p f
mp n
Are you tan gled a - gain


7
p
in the coils


10
mf
of the sum - mer stars?

August

Mysterious

♩ = 115

In the mir - ror of the lake lies an-

♩ = 115

pp *p* *mp* *p*

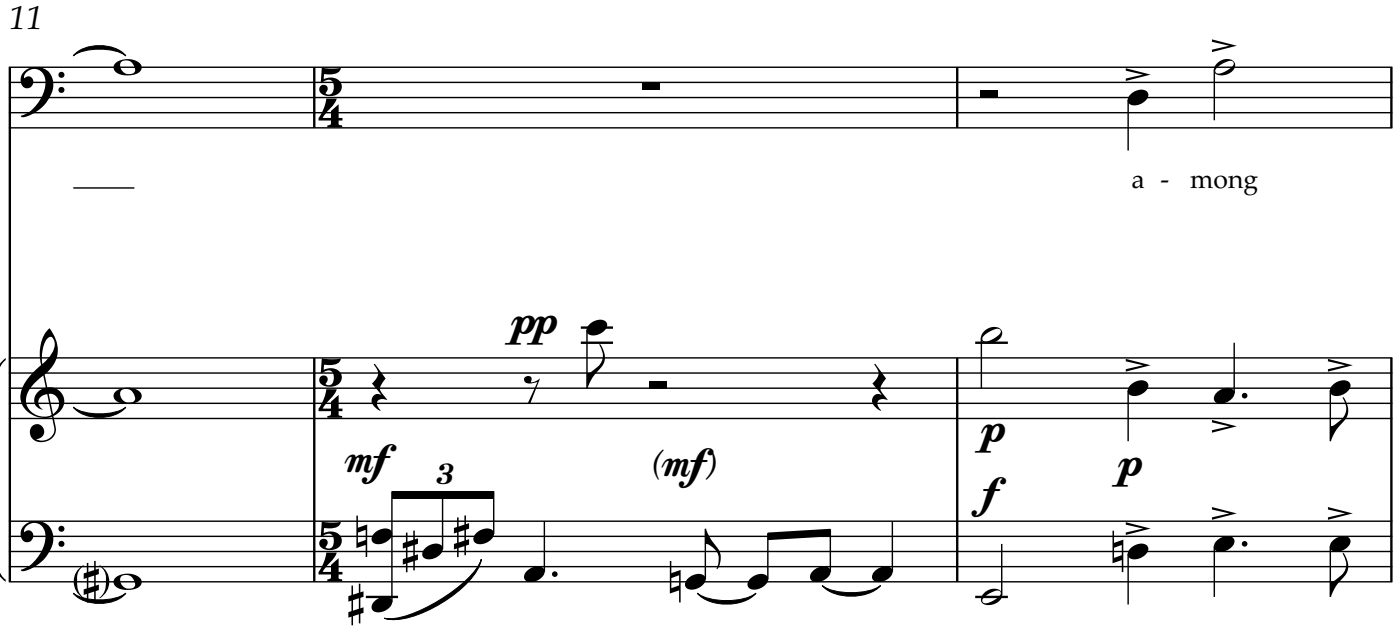
5

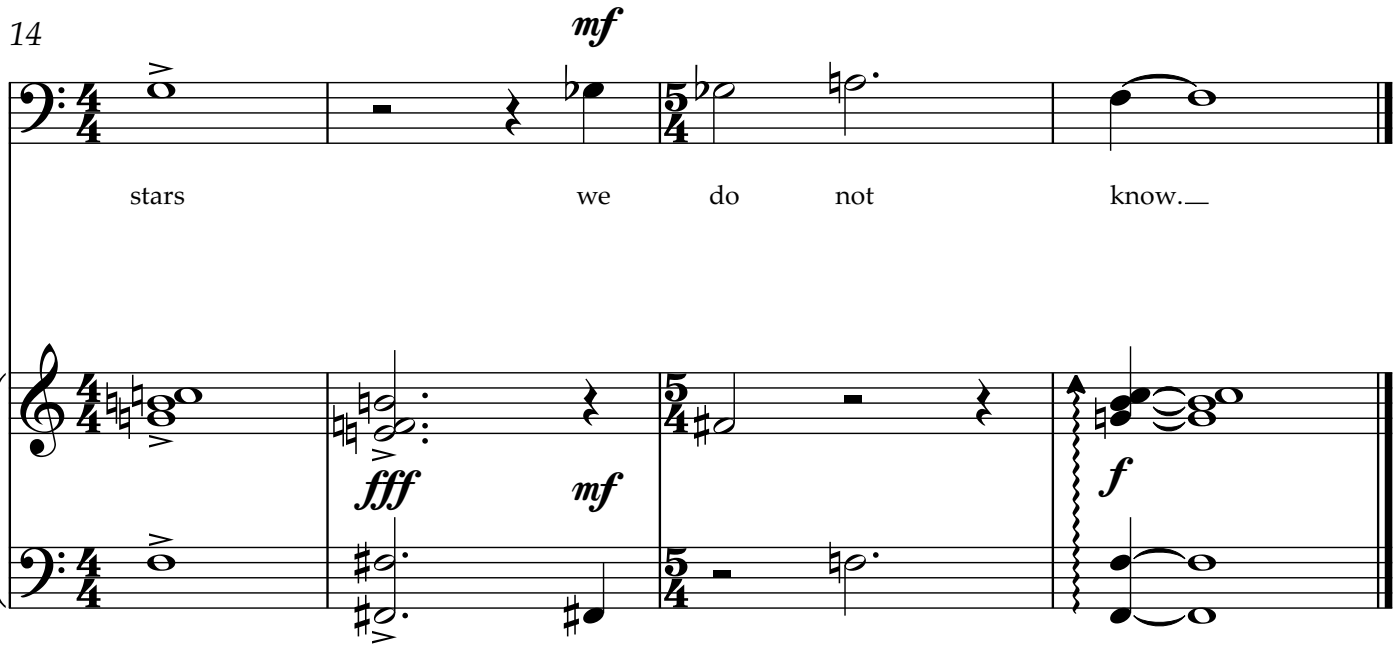
mf *f* *mp* *mp* < *f* *mf* *pp*

oth - er heav - en where an - oth er moon bathes

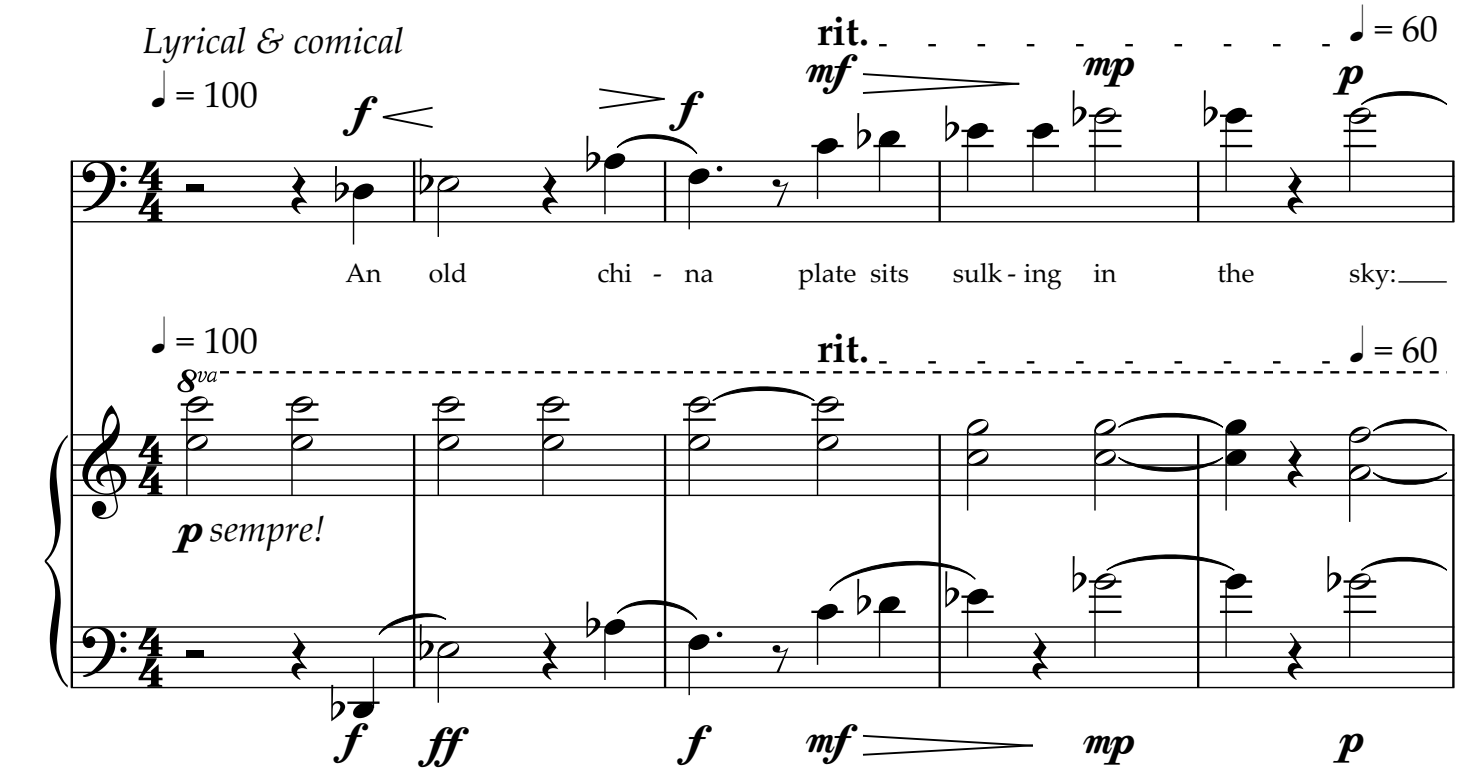
mf *f* *mp* *f* *p* *ff* *mf* *p*

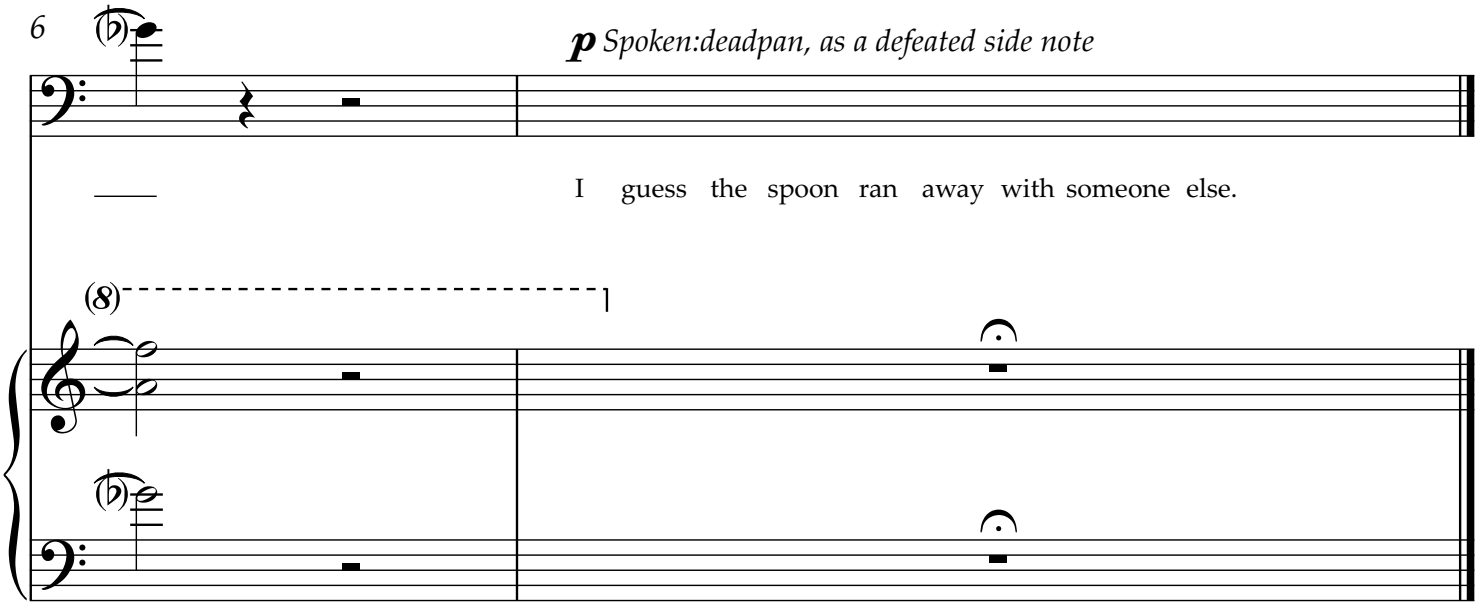
Ped.


11
a - mong
pp
mf
3
(mf)
p
f
p

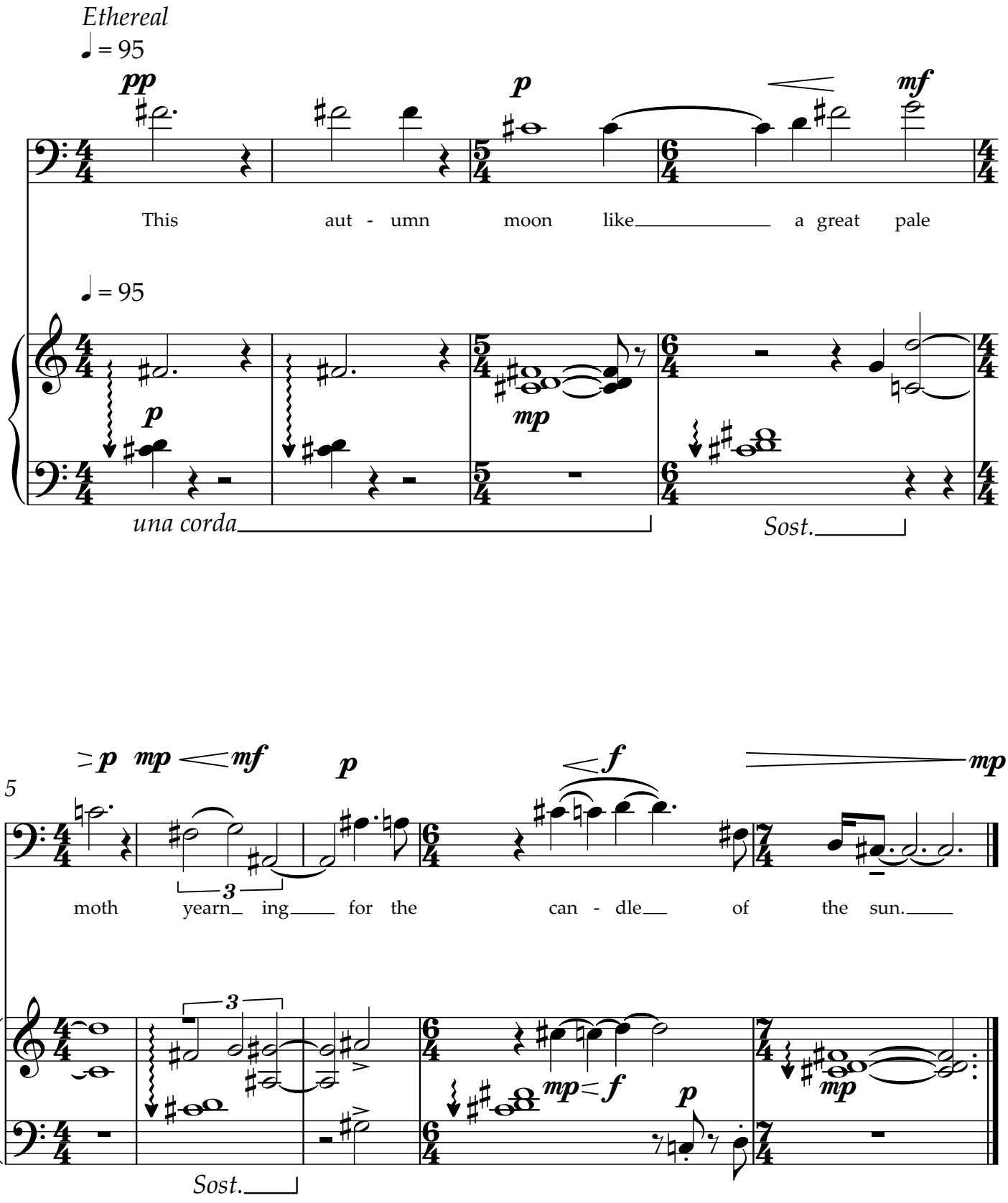

14
mf
stars
we
do
not
know.
fff
mf
f

September

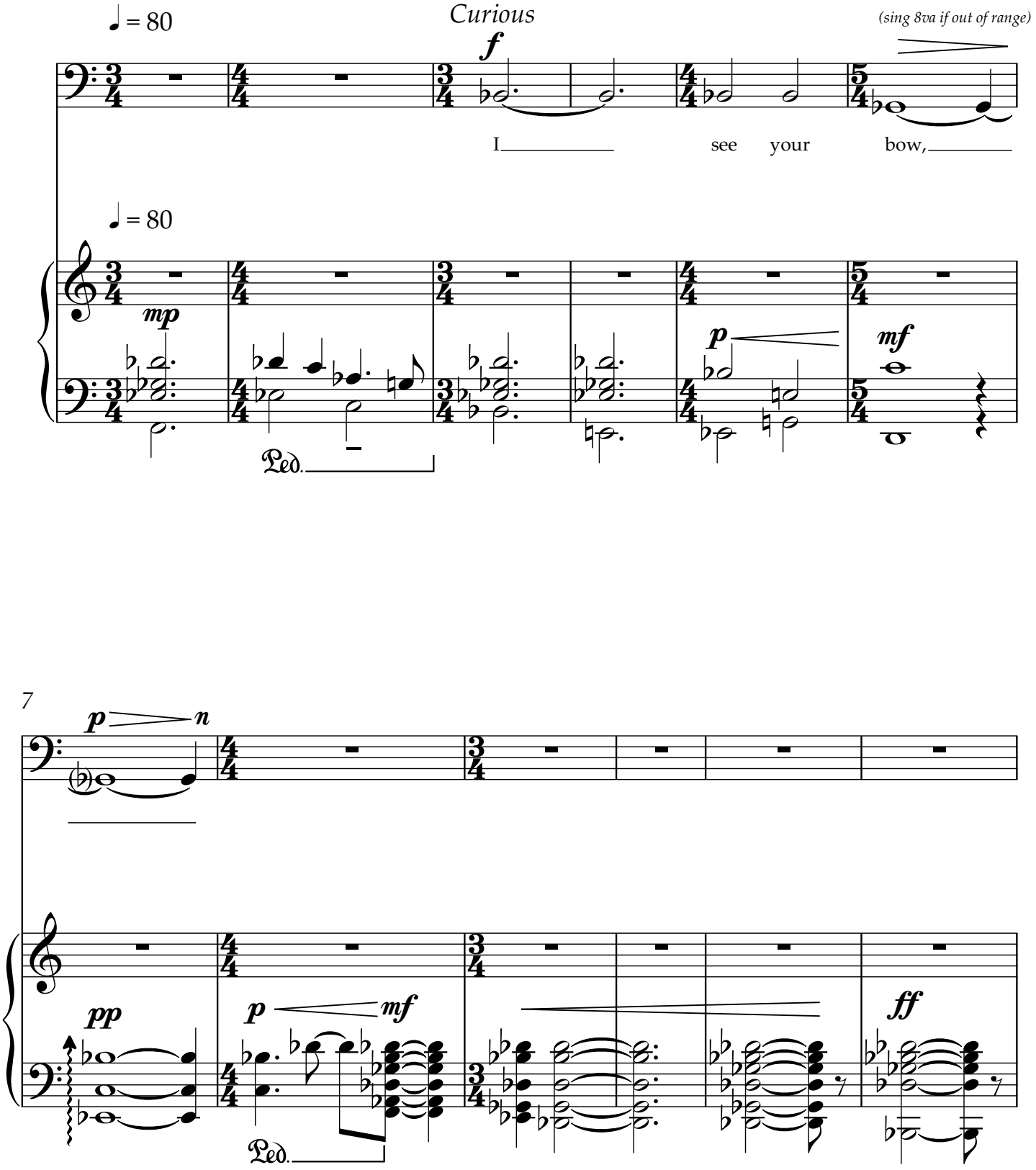

Lyrical & comical
♩ = 100
f
f
rit.
mf
mp
p
♩ = 60
An old chi - na plate sits sulk - ing in the sky:
♩ = 100
8va
rit.
♩ = 60
p sempre!
f
ff
f
mf
mp
p

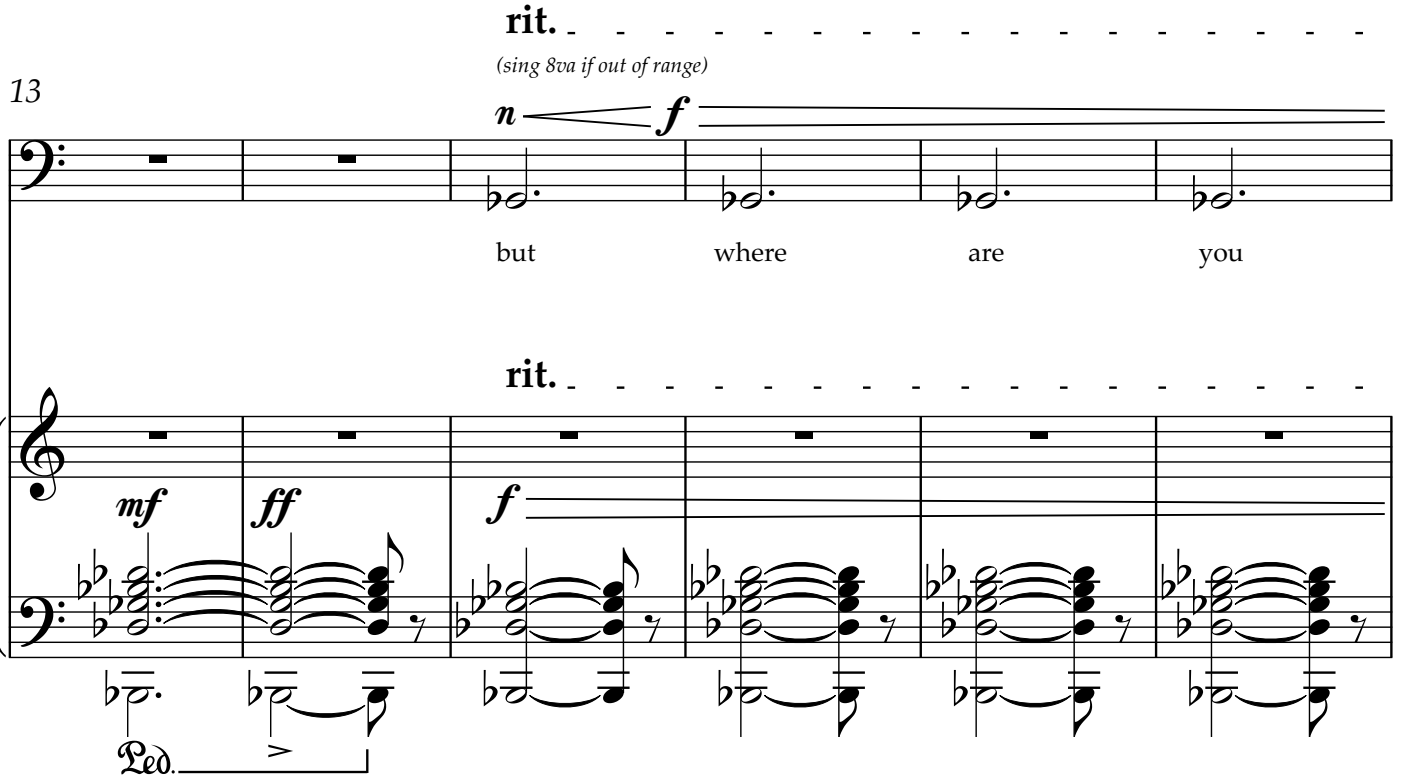

6
p Spoken:deadpan, as a defeated side note
I guess the spoon ran away with someone else.
(8)
1

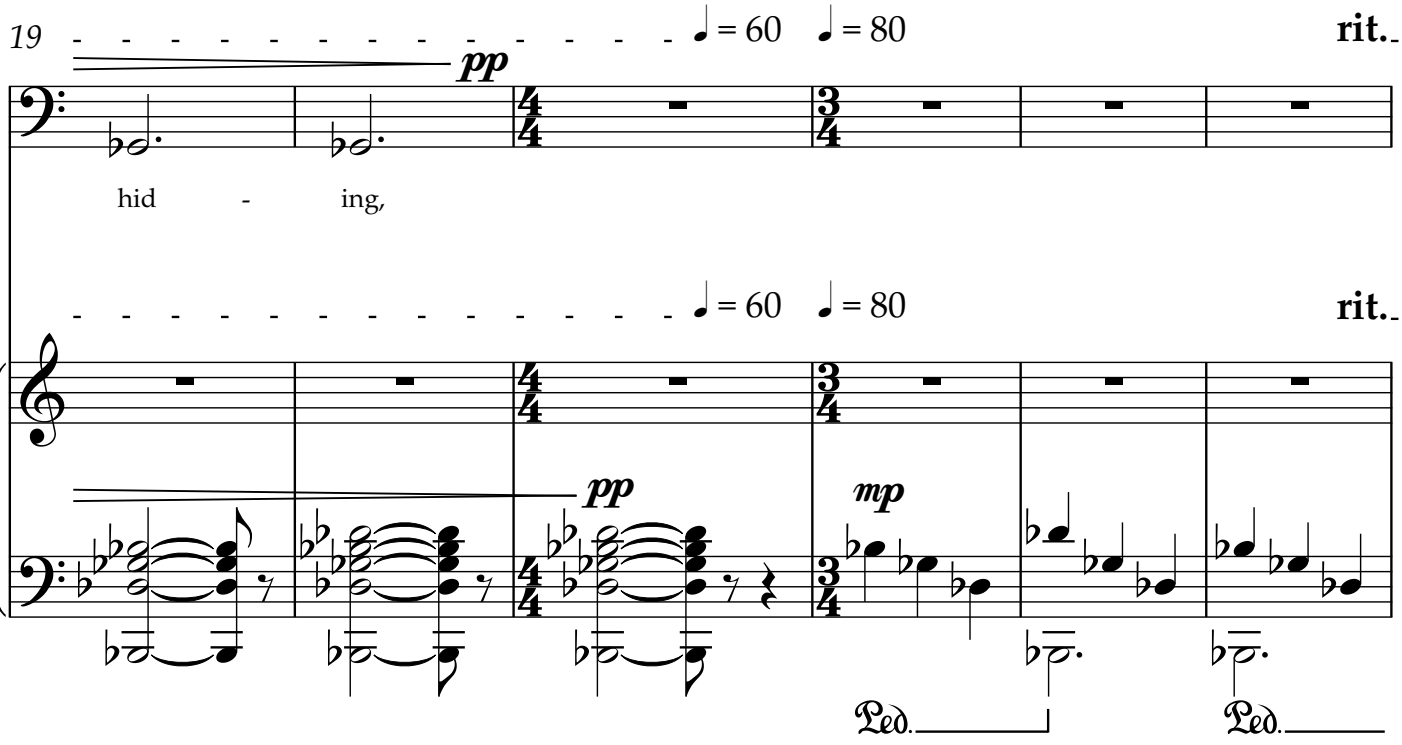
October

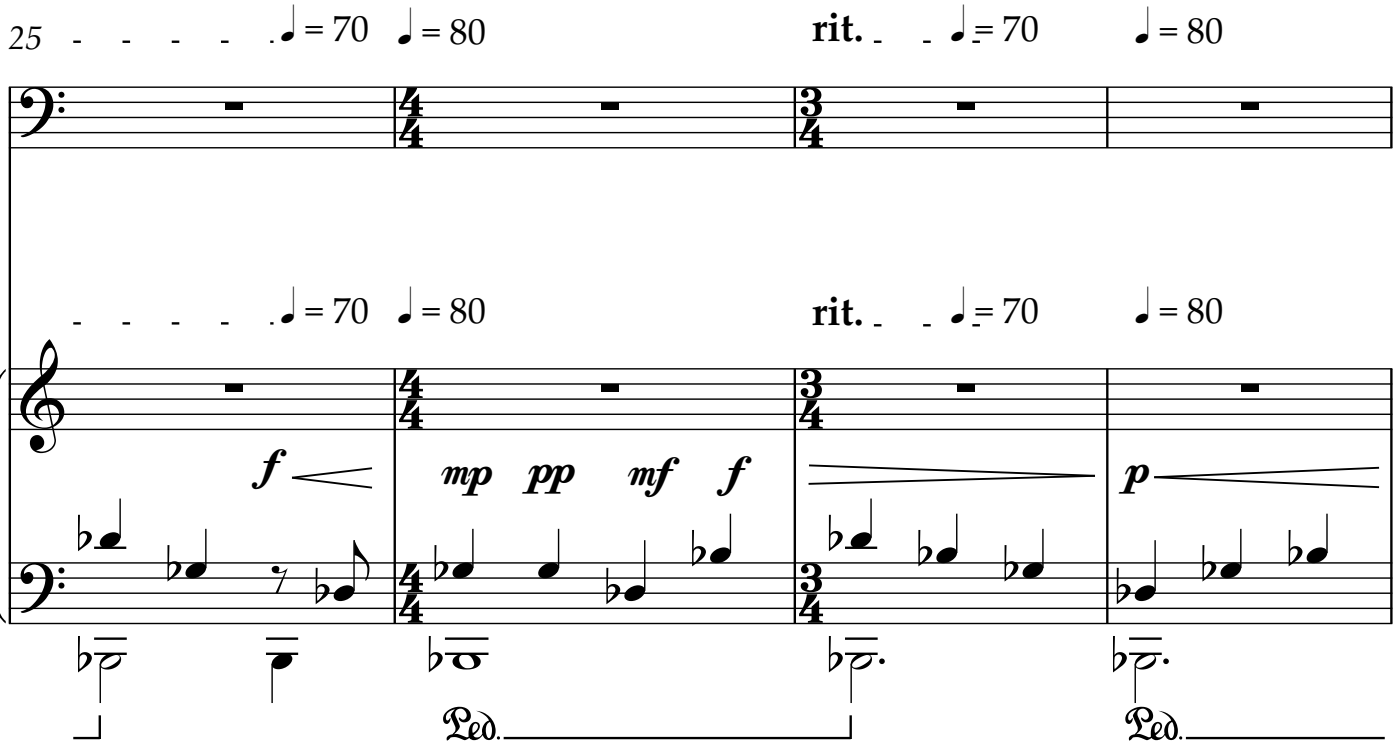

Ethereal
♩ = 95
pp
p
mf
This aut - umn moon like a great pale
♩ = 95
p
mp
una corda
Sost.
5
p mp mf
p
f
mp
moth yearn ing for the can - dle of the sun.
3
3
mp f
p
mp
Sost.

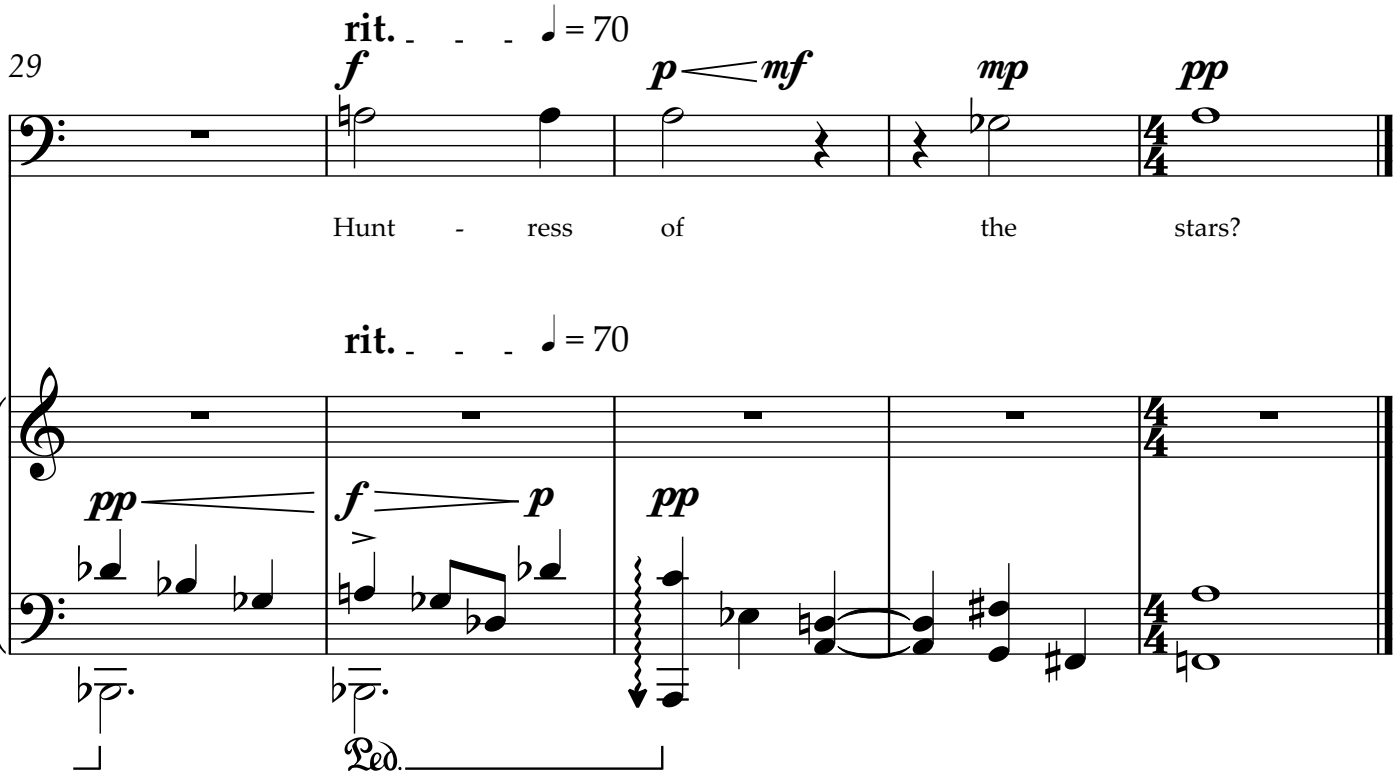
November



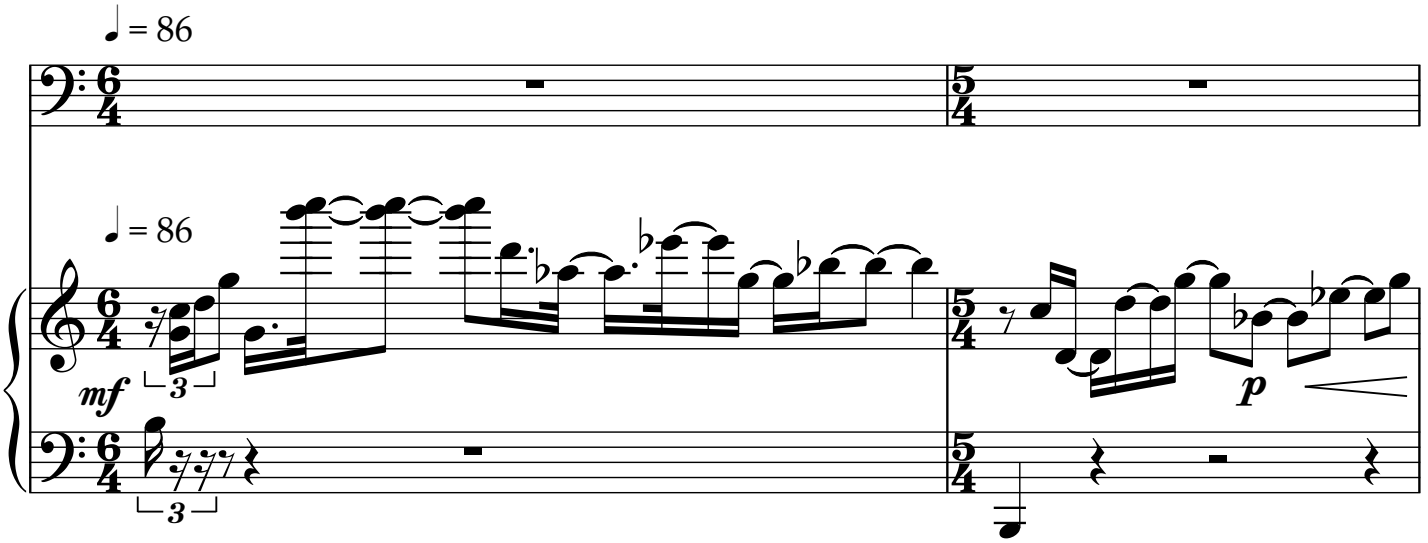

rit.
(sing 8va if out of range)
13
n
f
but
where
are
you
rit.
mf
ff
f
Ped.

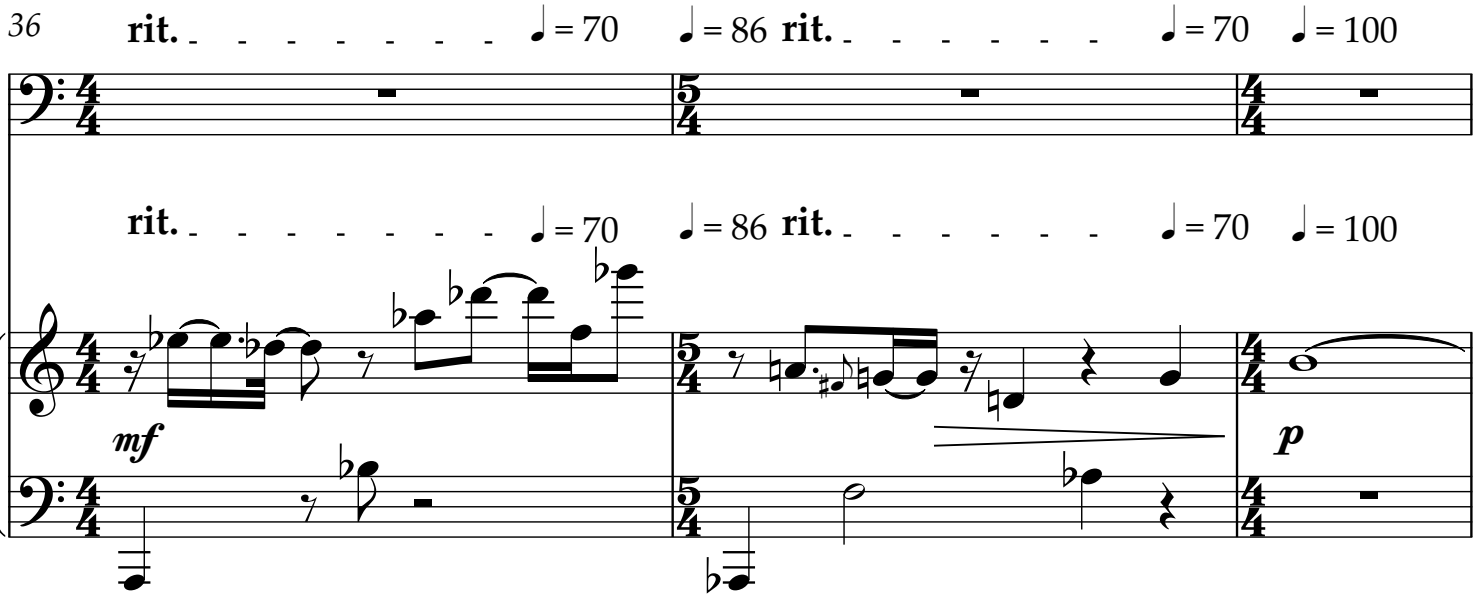

19
♩ = 60
♩ = 80
rit.
pp
hid - ing,
♩ = 60
♩ = 80
rit.
pp
mp
Ped.
Ped.

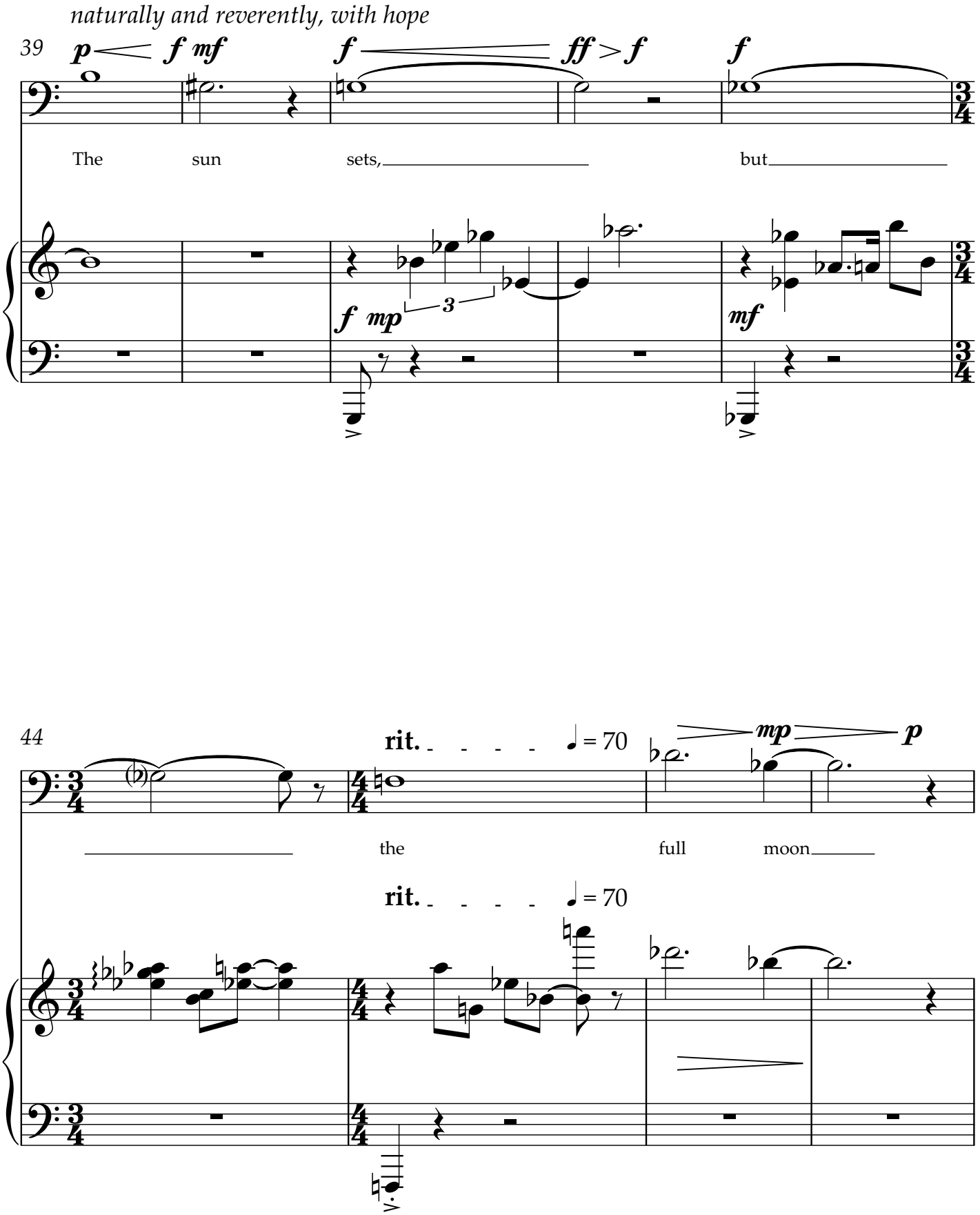

25
♩ = 70 ♩ = 80
rit.
♩ = 70 ♩ = 80
♩ = 70 ♩ = 80
rit.
♩ = 70 ♩ = 80
f
mp pp mf f
p
Ped.
Ped.

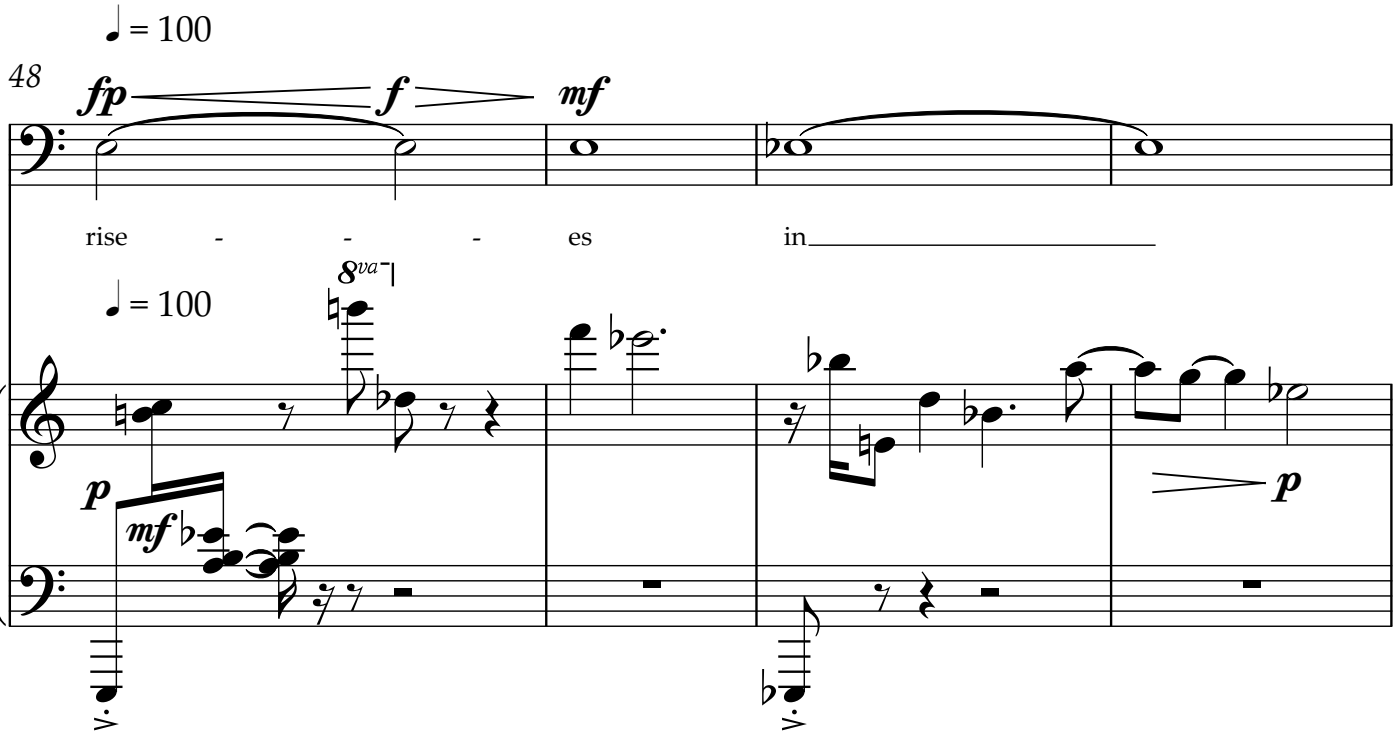

29
rit.
♩ = 70
f
p mf
mp
pp
Hunt - ress of the stars?
rit.
♩ = 70
pp
f p
pp
Ped.

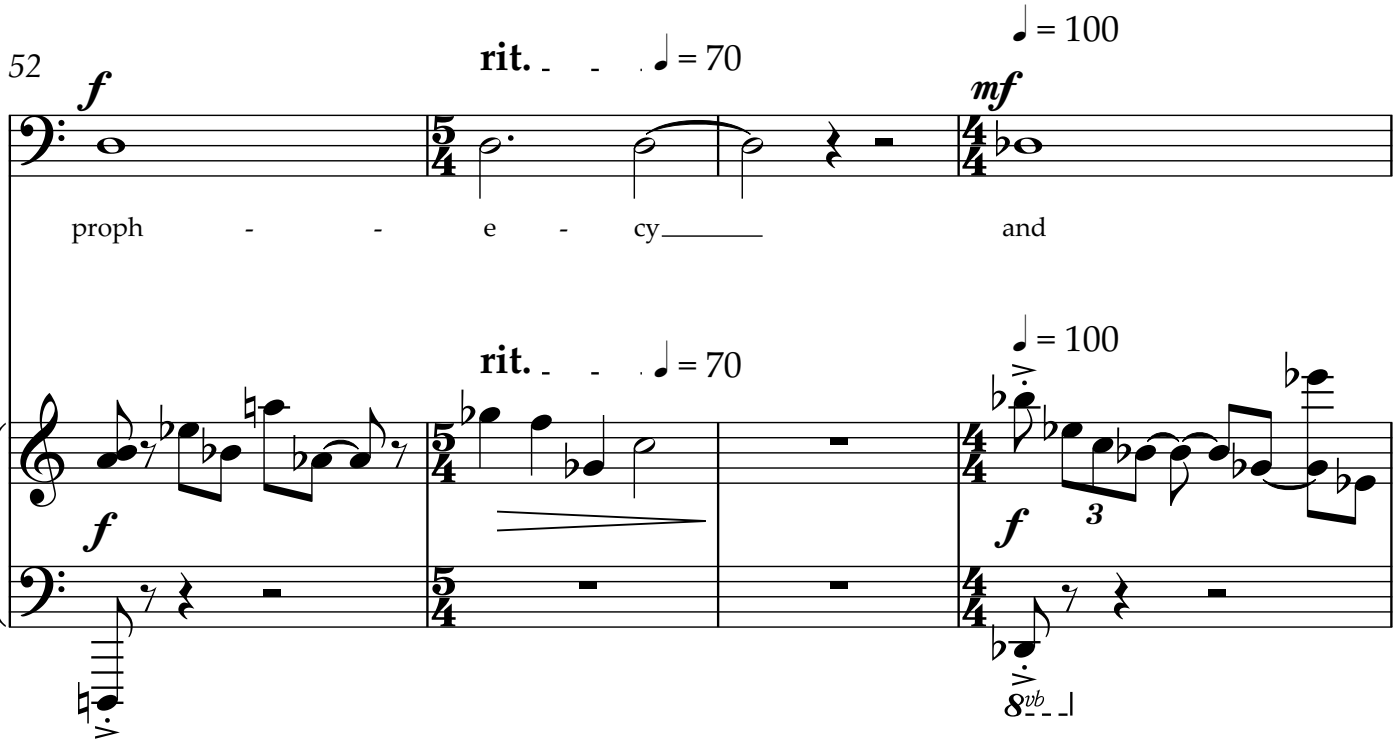
December

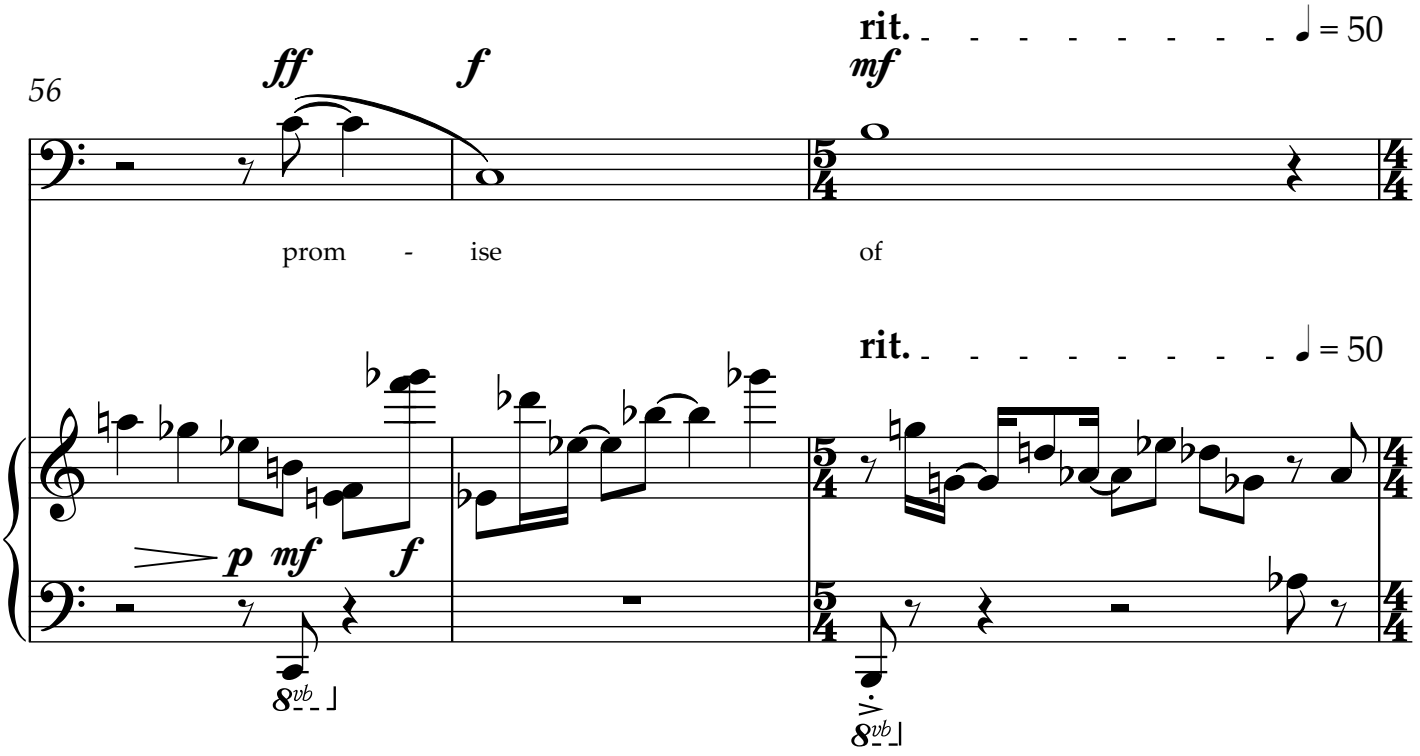


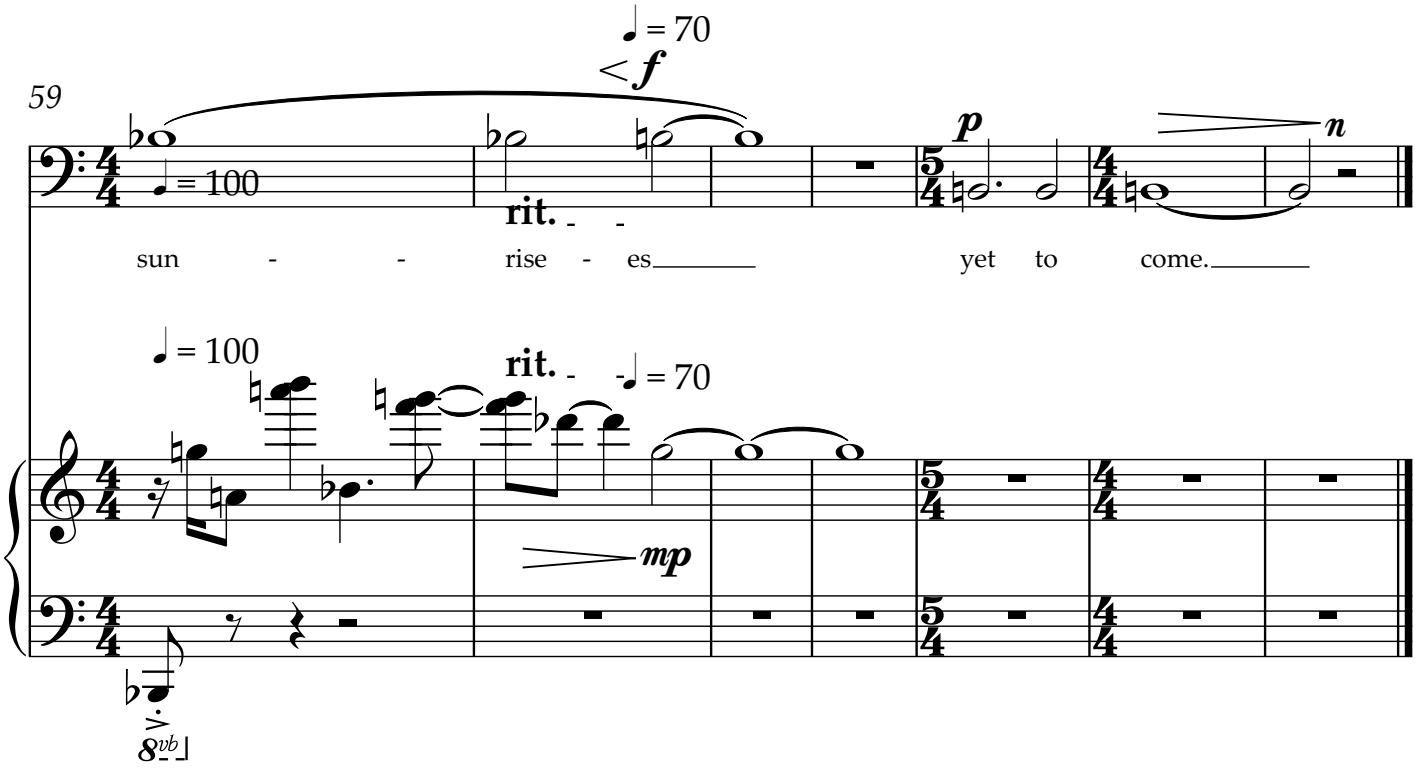



naturally and reverently, with hope
39
p
f mf
f
ff > f
f
The sun sets, but
f mp
3
mf
44
rit.
= 70
mp
p
the full moon
rit.
= 70


♩ = 100
48
fp
f
mf
rise - - - es in
8va
♩ = 100
p
mf
p


♩ = 100
52
f
rit.
♩ = 70
mf
proph - - e - cy and
rit.
♩ = 70
♩ = 100
f
3
f
8vb


56
ff
f
mf
rit.
♩ = 50
prom - ise
of
p
mf
f
8vb
rit.
♩ = 50
8vb


59
♩ = 70
f
♩ = 100
rit.
sun - - rise - es
p
n
yet to come.
♩ = 100
rit.
♩ = 70
mp
8vb