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LEVADI (ALONE)

by

Diane Thome

for soprano and tape

PROGRAM NOTE

LEVADI (ALONE)

The poetry of Chaim Nachman Bialik, which inspired the present work, has had a special meaning for me since my sixteenth year when I wrote a ballet based on his poem, IN MY GARDEN. Having decided to write a solo voice and synthesized tape composition, I began to search out other poems of this great Russian-Jewish writer of the Haskelah, the Jewish enlightenment. The particular text chosen, while it alludes to specific historical events, also contains a multitude of haunting images and associations which awakened deep responses in me. I was also impressed with the rich melodic resources of Ladino songs and I incorporated certain sephardic or sephardic-style melodies in the soprano part while simultaneously providing a tapestry of other voices in the tape. These layerings reappear in various guises and textures throughout the work, suggesting a compositional analog of certain recurrent elements in the poem.

For the creation of the tape portion, a Yamaha DX-7, TX-7, QX-7, REV-7, CX-5M computer, mixer and 4-track tape recorder were used. I wish to thank Robert Austin for his collaboration in the realization of the tape. I also wish to express my appreciation to Samuel Roskin for his enlightening discussions of the Hebrew text, and to Issac Maimon for his Ladino translation.

LEVADI was commissioned by the Belle Arte Concerts for Montserrat Alavedra, who has recorded it on the Opus One label. It is dedicated to my mother and my grandmother.

Diane Thome

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ALONE

The wind carried all of them away
the light swept all of them away
A new song made the morning of their lives
exult with song:
And I, a soft fledgling, was completely forgotten
from the hearts of all
under the wings of the Shekinah.

Solitary, solitary I remained, and the Shekinah too;
She fluttered her broken right wing over my head
My heart understood her heart; she trembled with anxiety
over me, over her son, over her only son.

She has already been driven from every corner
Only one hidden nook, desolate and small, remained
-- the House of Study -- and she covered herself
with the shadow, and I was together with her
sharing in her distress.

And when my heart yearned for the window, for the light
and when the place under her wing was too narrow for me,
she hid her head in my shoulder, and her tear
dropped on my Talmud page --

Silently she wept over me and enfolded me
as though shielding me with her broken wing:
"The wind carried them all away, they have all flown off
and I was left alone, alone ...."

And something akin to a very ancient lamentation
and something akin to a prayer, a supplication-and-trembling;
My heart heard in that silent weeping
and in that tear, churning --

English translation by T. Rübner

LEVADI (Soliko) --Chaim Nachman Bialik

El ayre los careyo leshos, la luz los bario a todos.
Un cante nuevo alevanto la manyana de sus vidas
I yo pasharicó kedi olvidado de todos los corasones
Debasho las alas de la Shehina.

Soliko, soliko kedí i la Shehina también.
Meneó su ala derecha, rota, ensima mi cabesa
Temblió con esperansa sobre mi, sobre su ijo regalado
I mi corason entendió su corason.

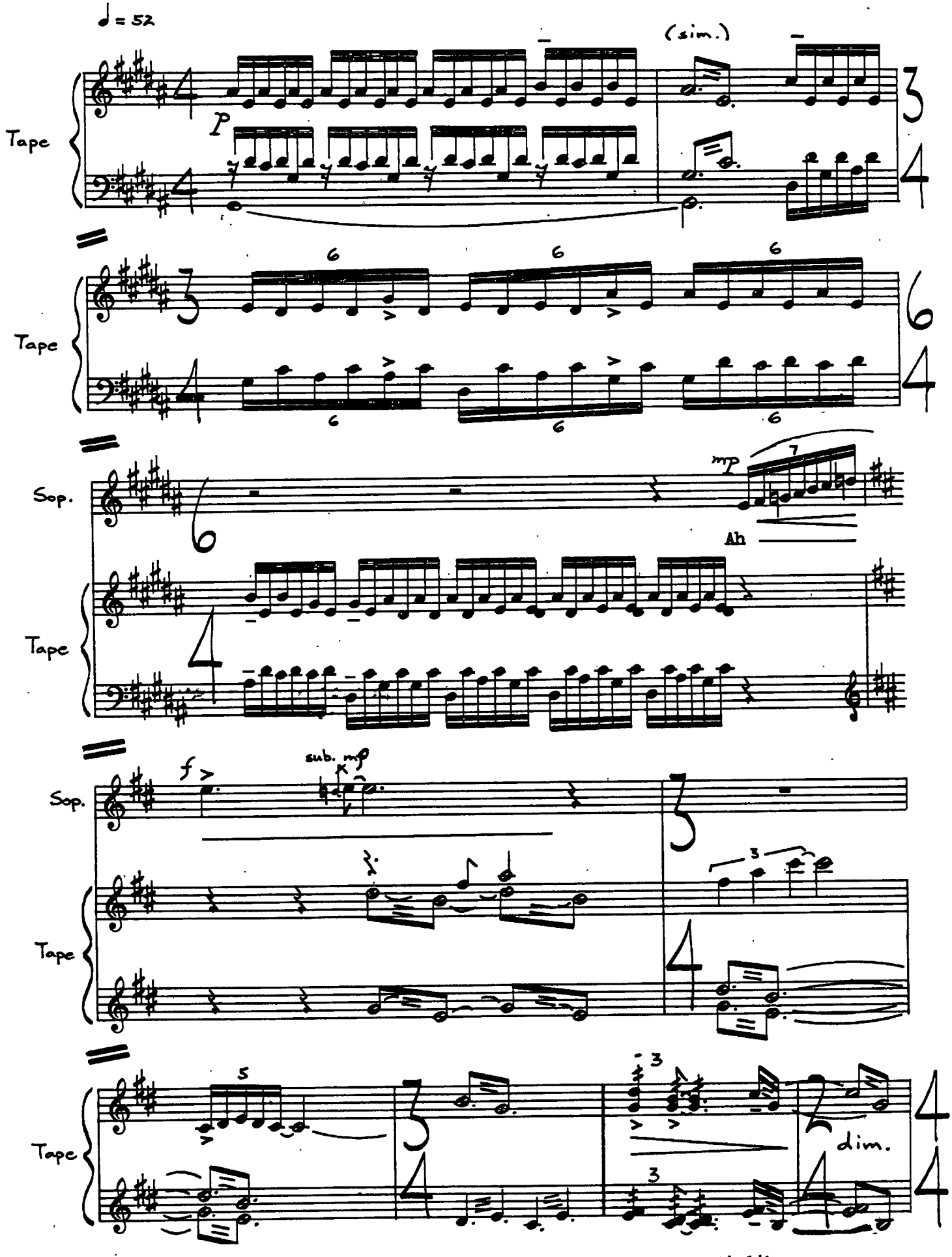
Fué aronjada de cada rincón.
Solamente uno, escondido, desolado i chico kedo
-- la Casa de Estudio -- i se abrigo con solombra
Yo con eya sufriendo en la estrechura.

Mi corason dezeyava la ventana i la luz
Cuando el lugar debasho su ala era muy estrecho para mí.
I escondió su cabesa en mi espalda
I su lagrima cayo en la oja del Talmud.

Cayada eya yoro i me abrasó
I paresia ke me estava protectando con su ala rota:
"El ayre los careyo a todos leshos, todos bolaron afuera
I yo kedi soliko, soliko ...."

Una cosa ke asemejava a una alguaya vieja,
A una orasion, a una rogativa,
Sintió mi corason en este yoro sin boz
I temblió en esta lagrima cayente.

Ladino translation by Issac Maimon



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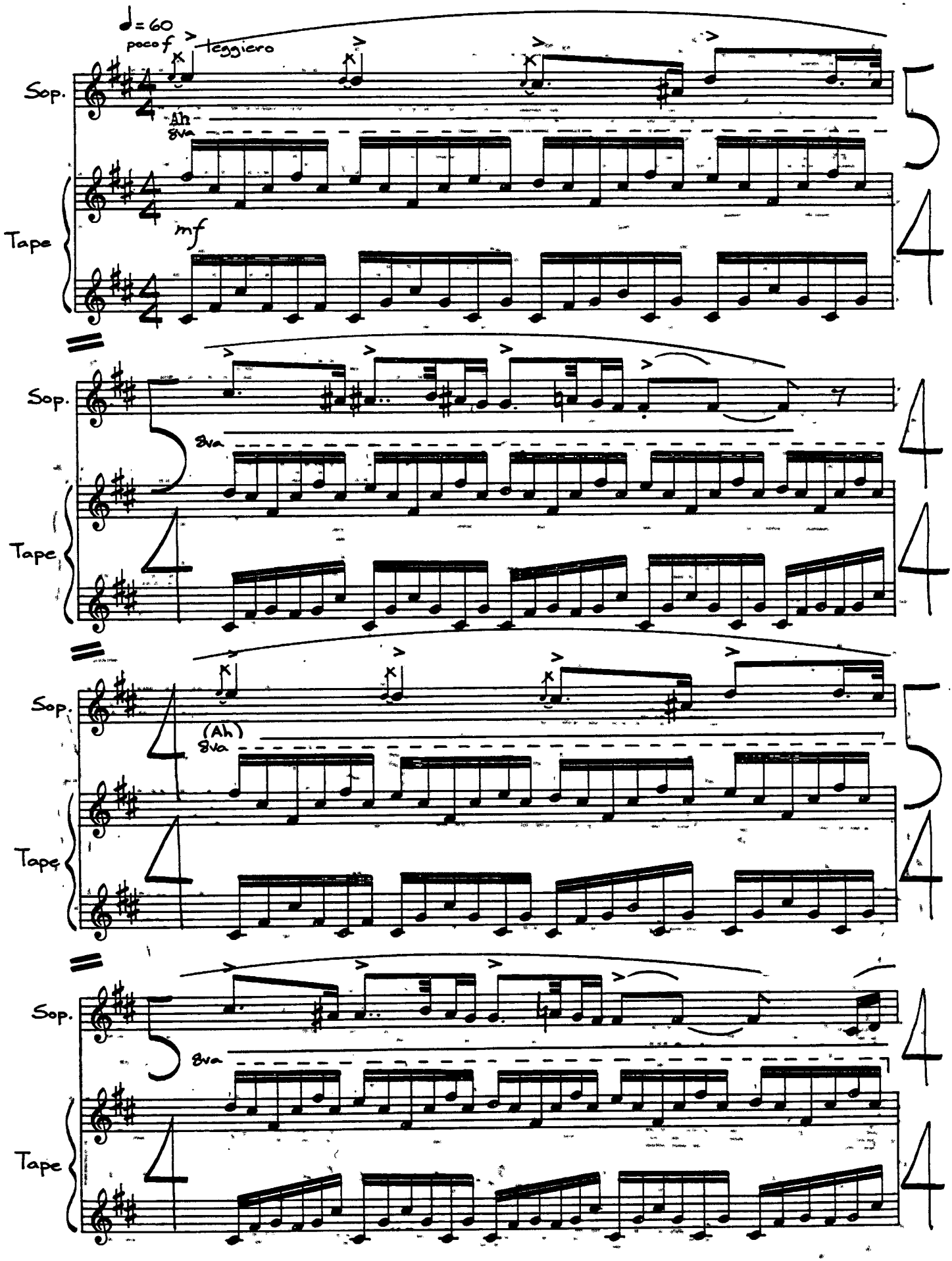
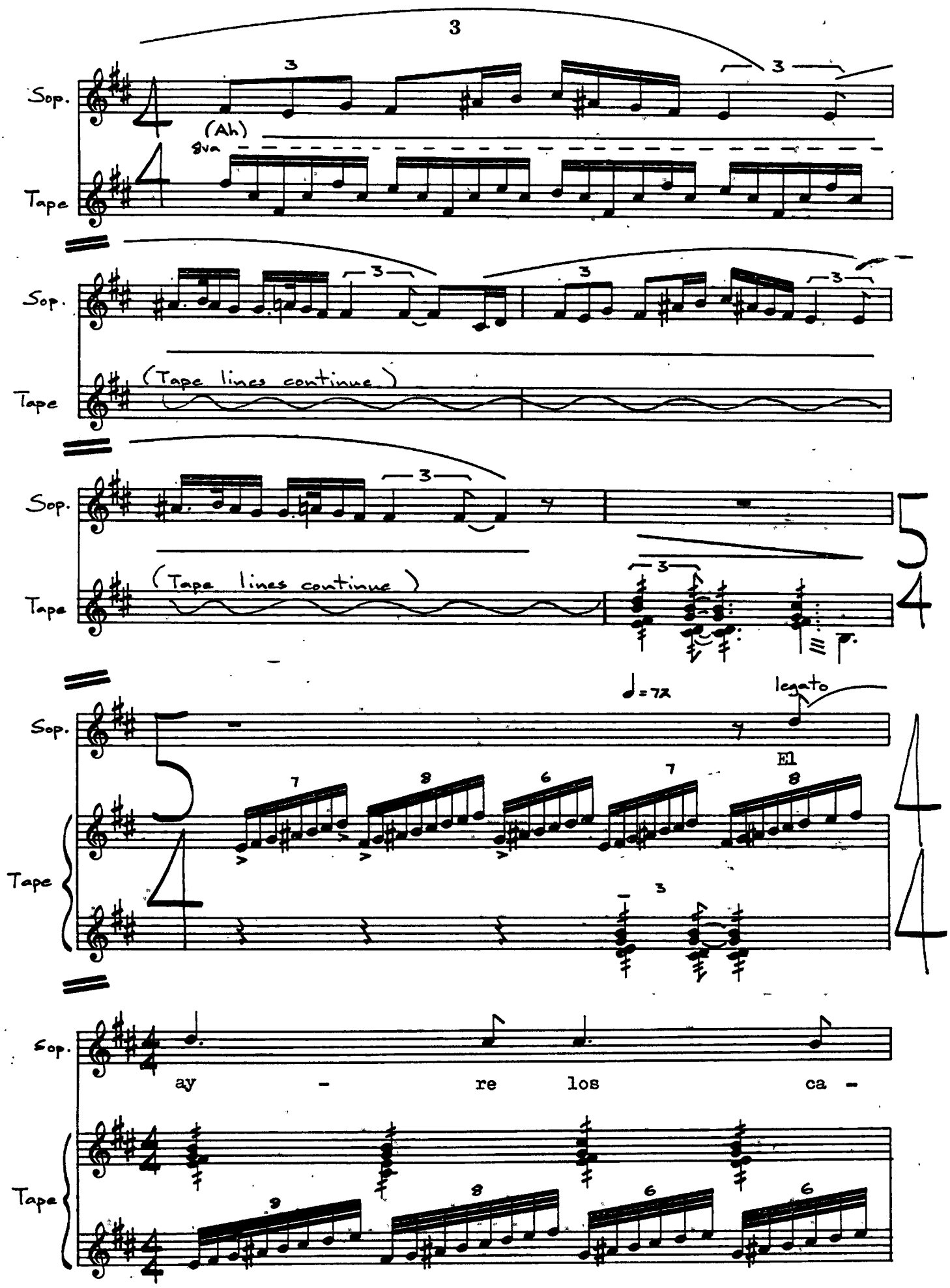
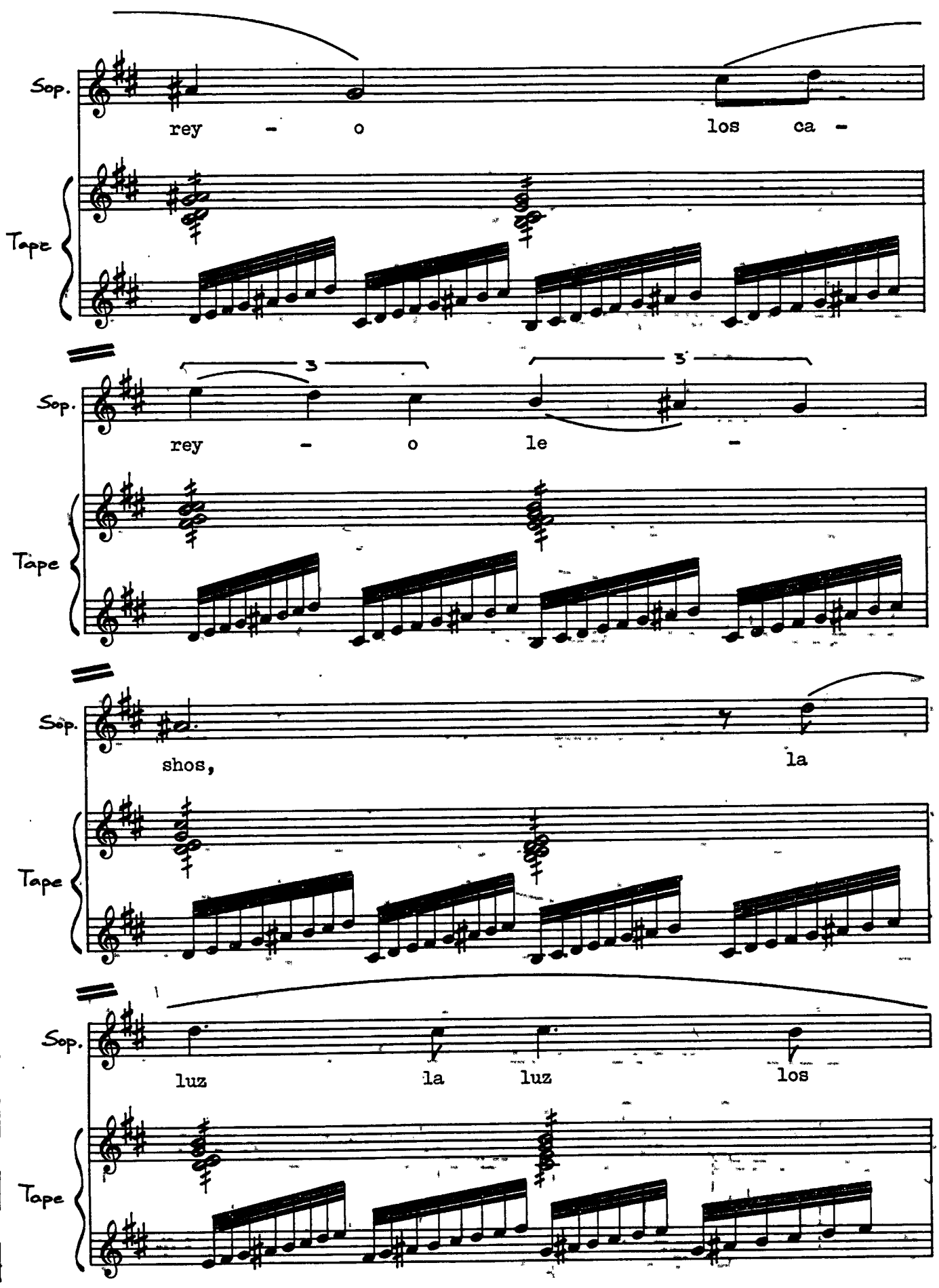
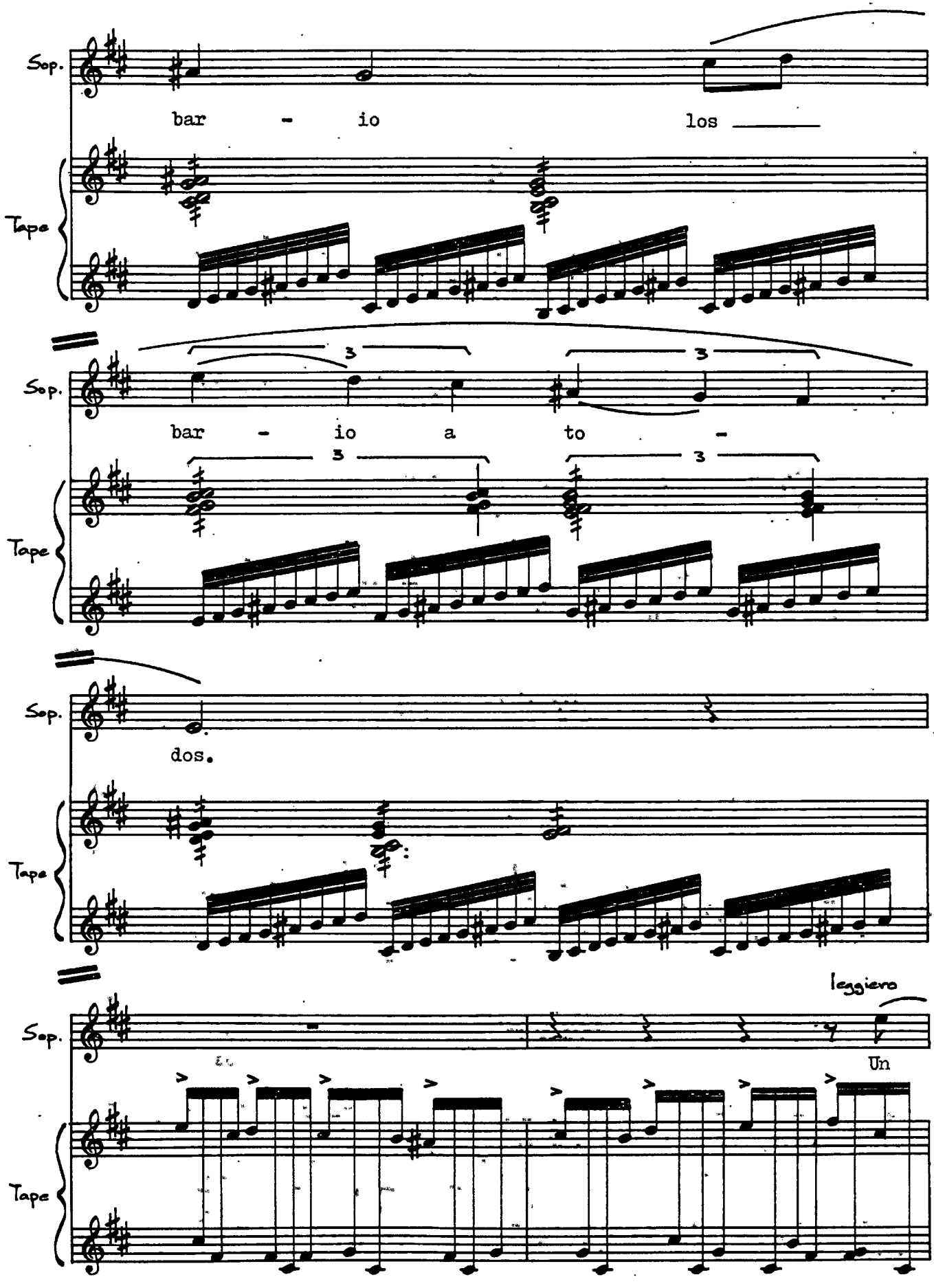
poem by C. N. Bialik

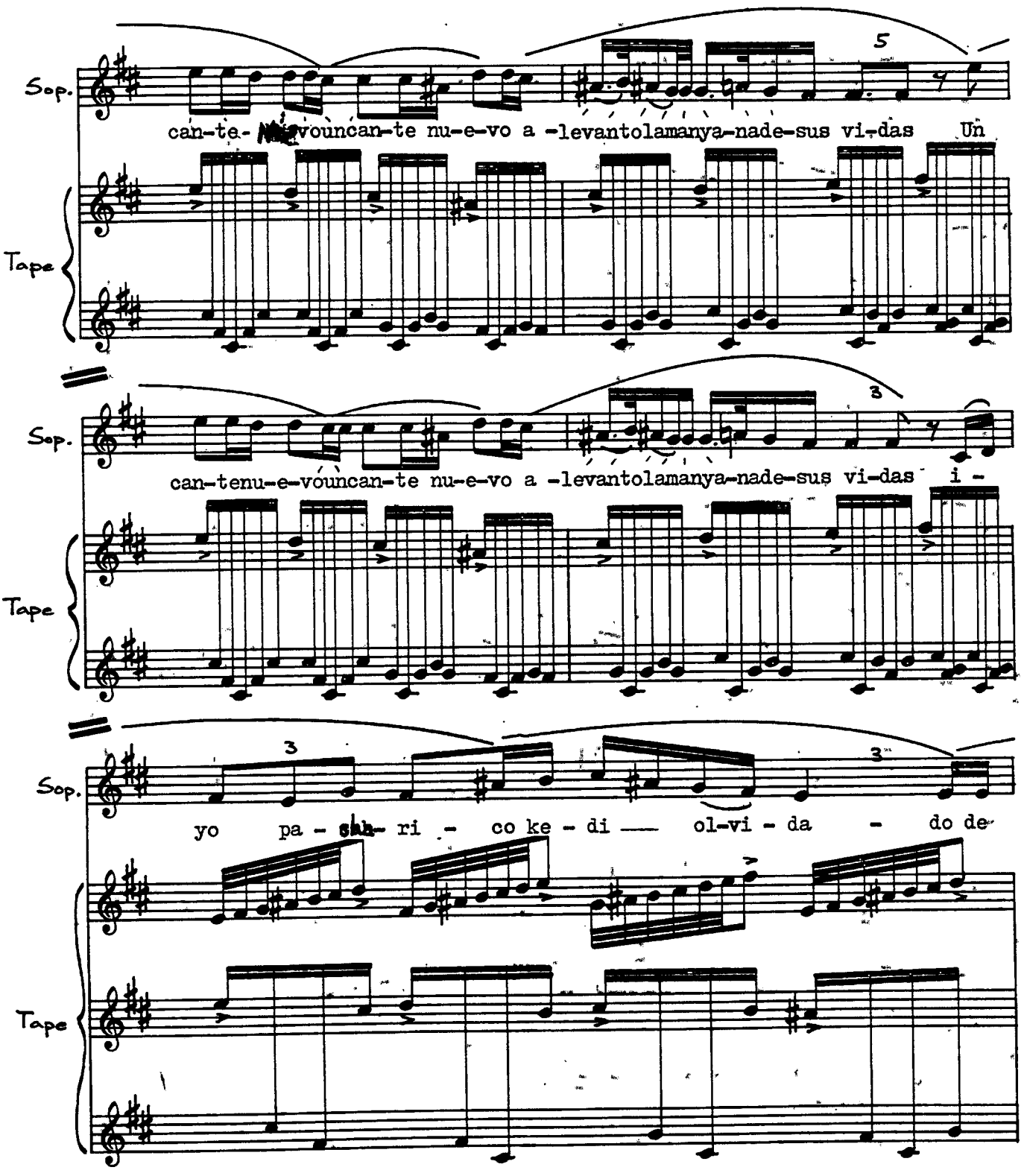
Ladino translation by I. Maimon

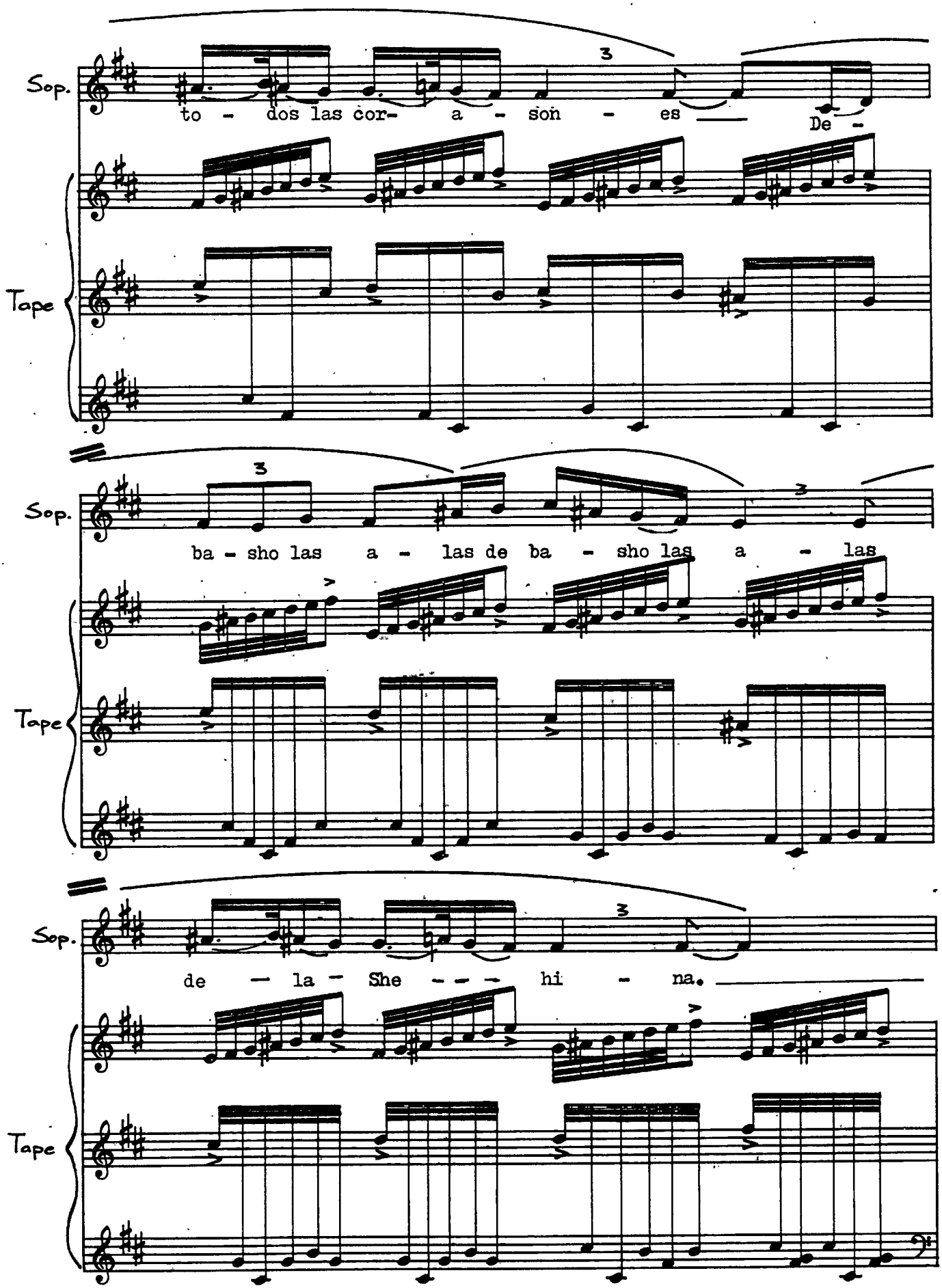

♩= 60
poco f
leggiero
Sop.
Ah
8va
Tape
mf
Sop.
8va
Tape
Sop.
(Ah)
8va
Tape
Sop.
8va
Tape

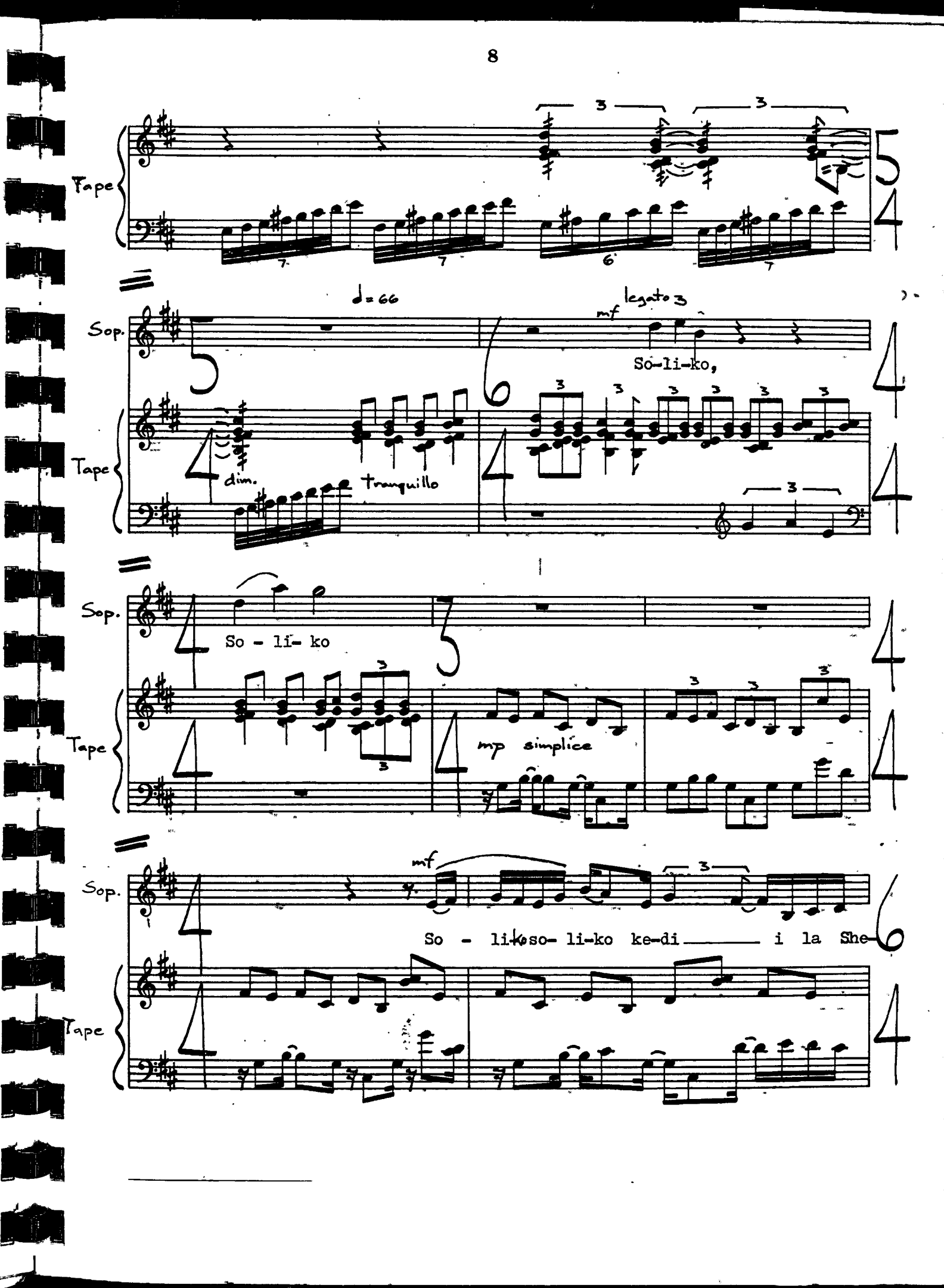

Sop.
(Ah)
8va
Tape
Sop.
Tape
(Tape lines continue)
Sop.
Tape
(Tape lines continue)
5
4
♩= 72
legato
Sop.
El
Tape
Sop.
ay - re los ca -
Tape

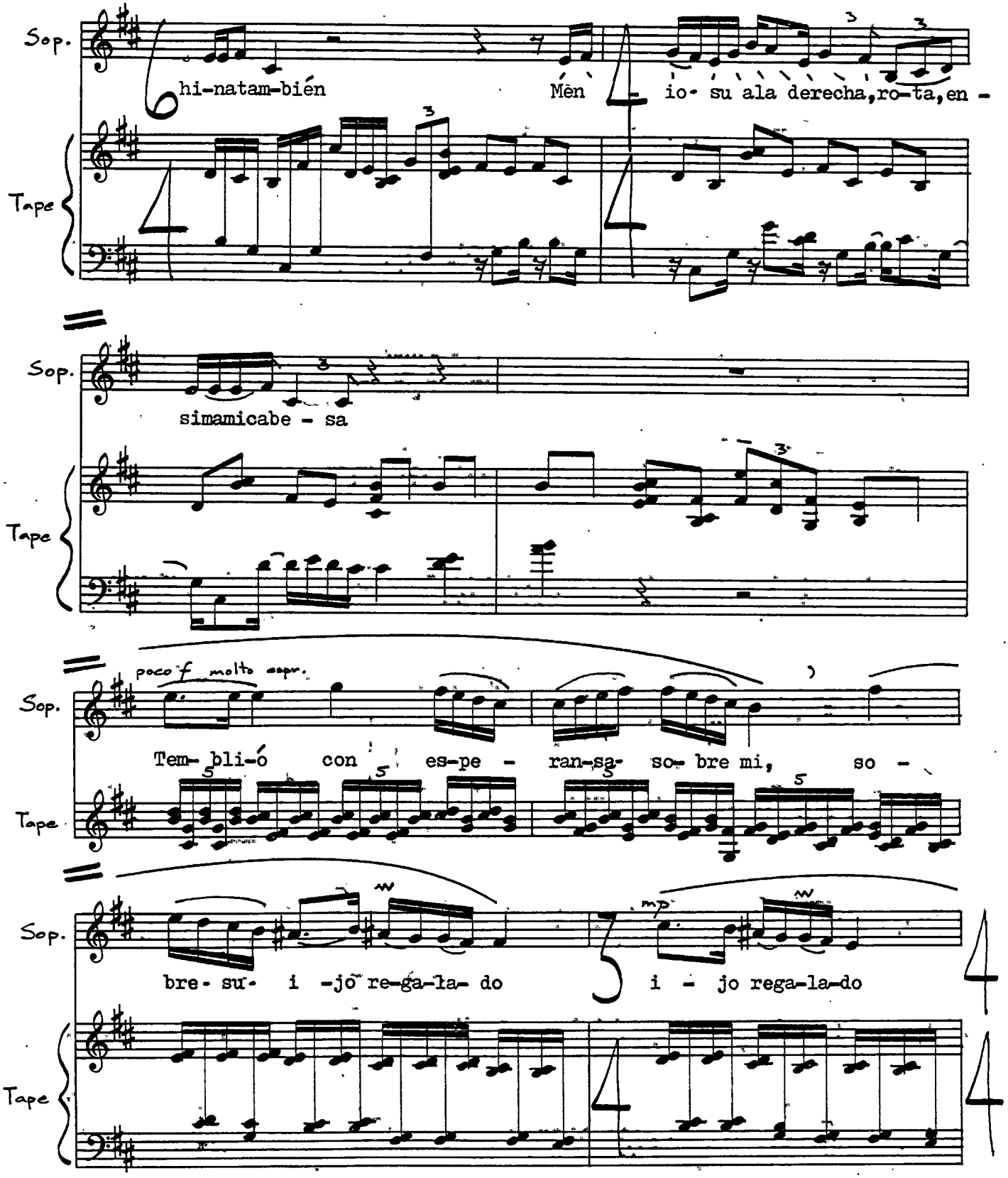

Sop.
rey - o los ca -
Tape
3
3
Sop.
rey - o le -
Tape
Sop.
shos, la
Tape
Sop.
luz la luz los
Tape

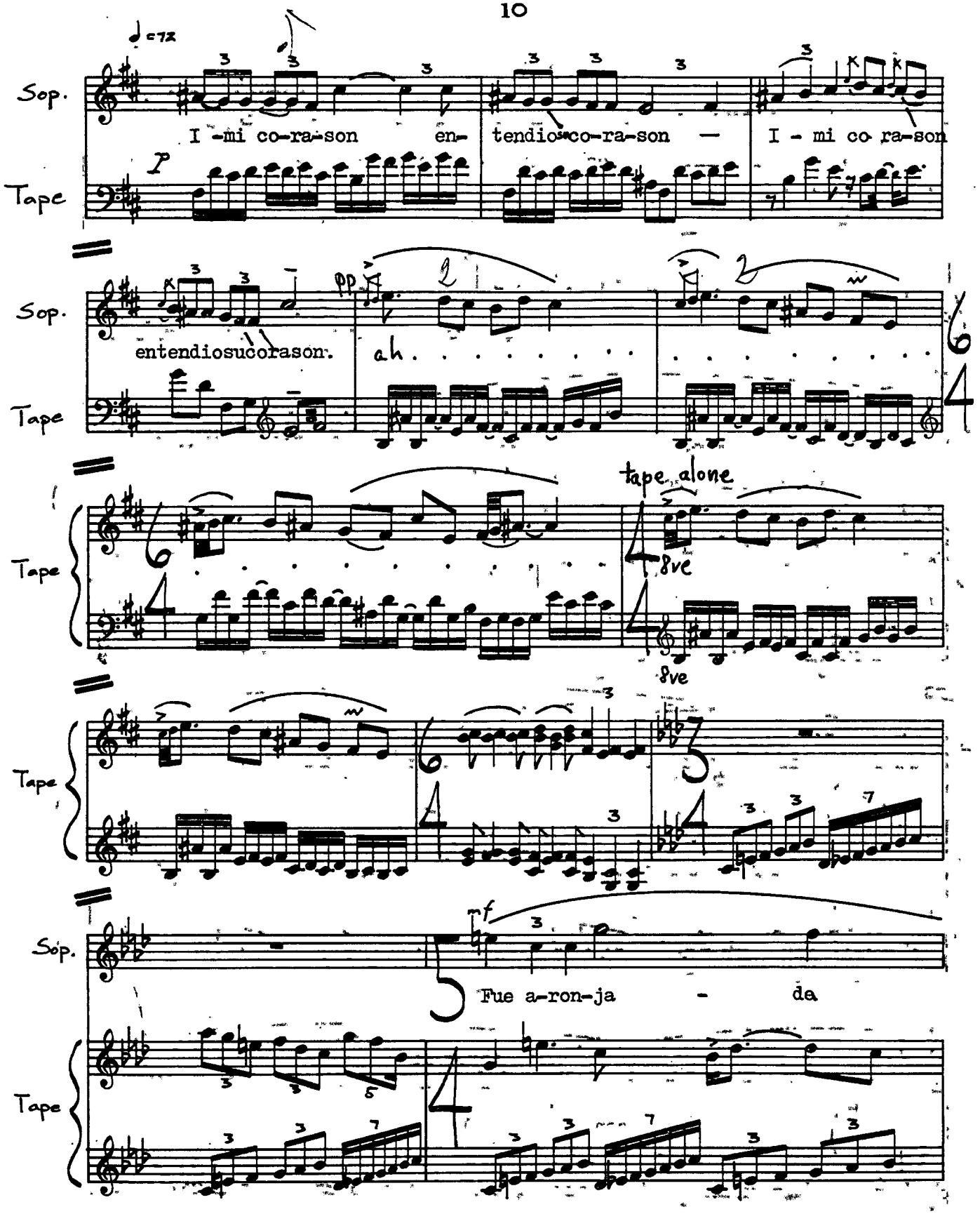

Sop.
bar - io los
Tape
Sop.
3
3
bar - io a to -
3
3
Tape
Sop.
dos.
Tape
leggiero
Sop.
Un
Tape

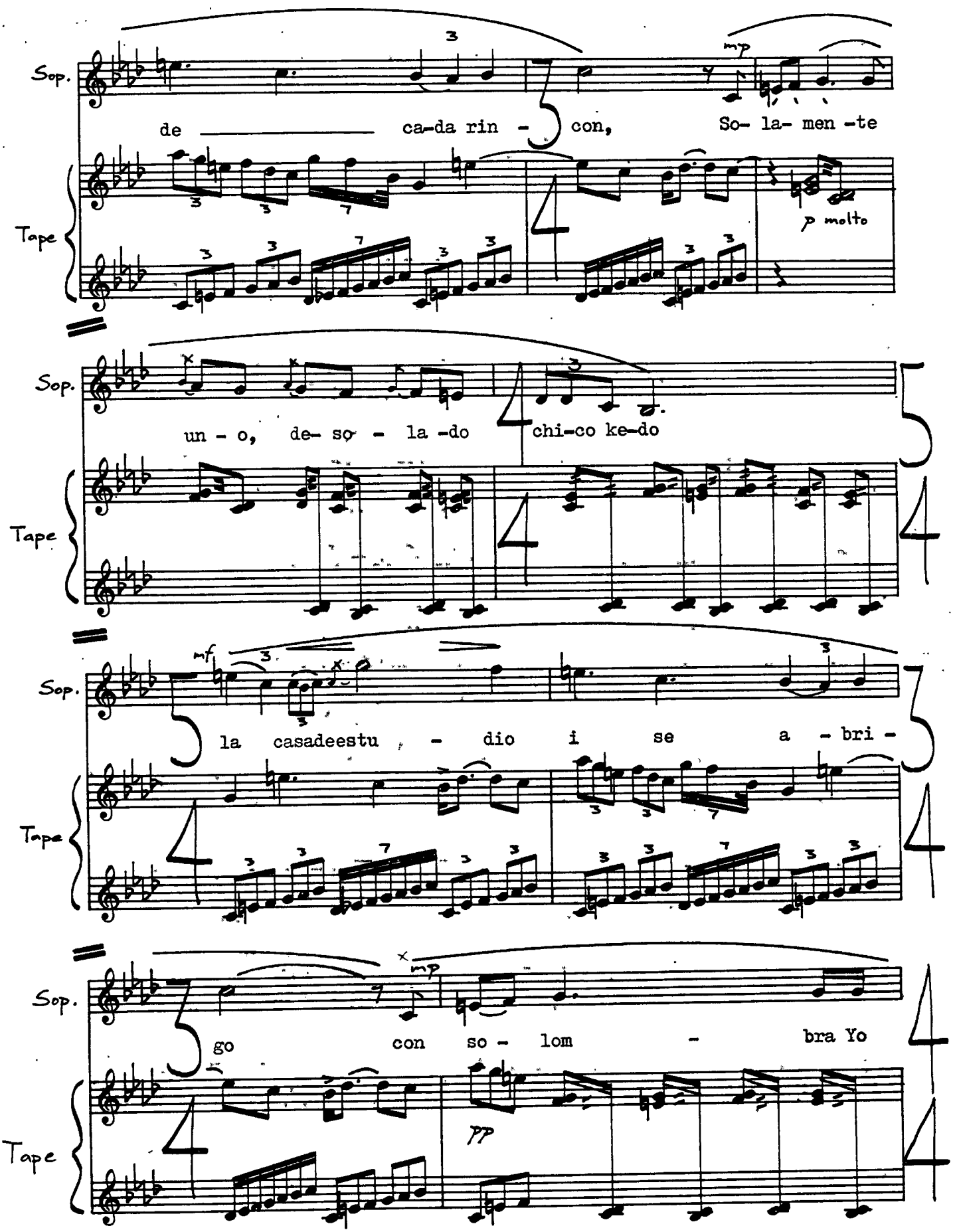

Sop.
5
can-te- vouncan-te nu-e-vo a -levantolamanya-nade-sus vi-das Un
Tape
Sop.
3
can-tenu-e-vouncan-te nu-e-vo a -levantolamanya-nade-sus vi-das i -
Tape
Sop.
3
3
yo pa - rah- ri - co ke - di — ol-vi - da - do de
Tape

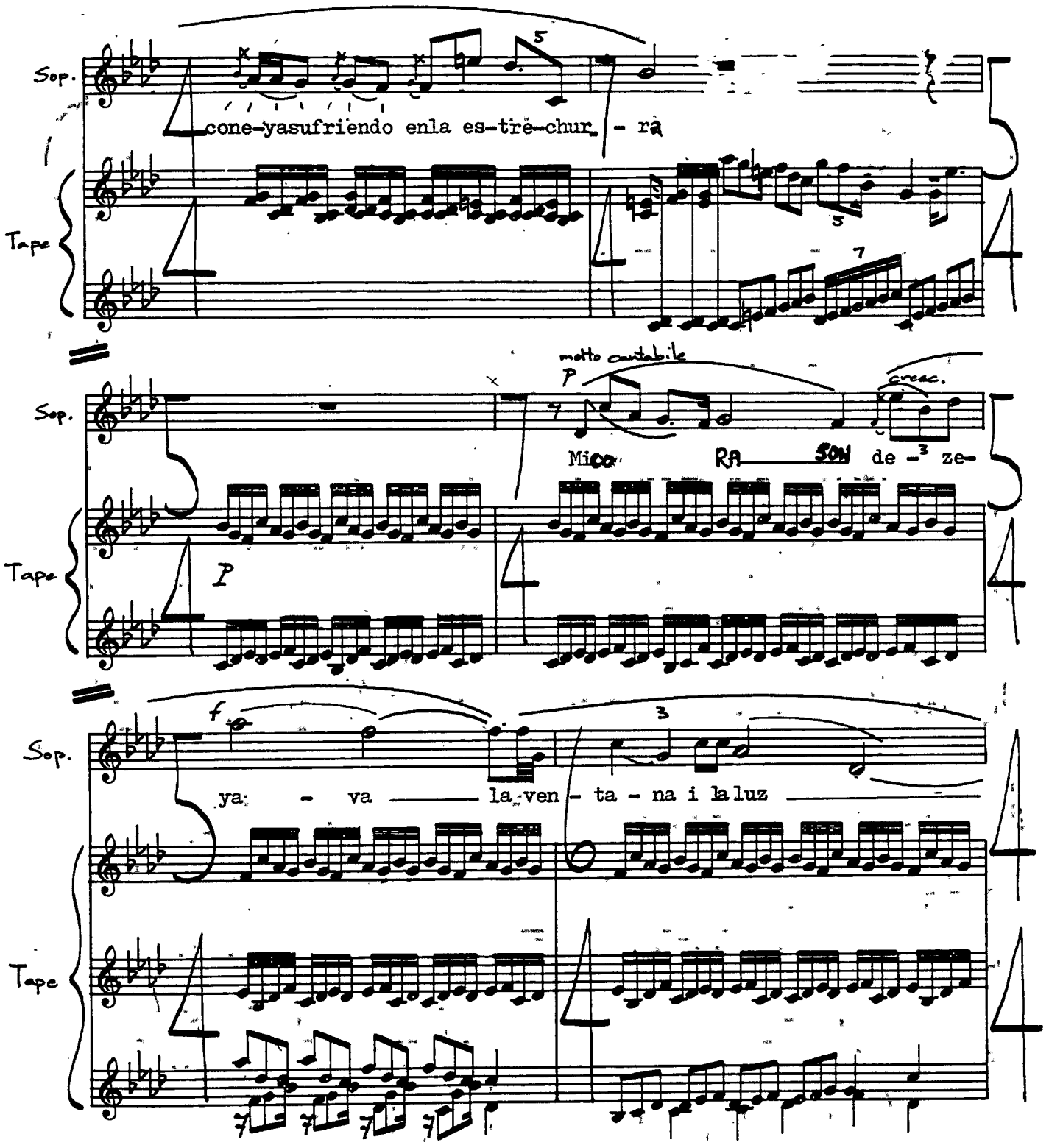

Sop.
to - dos las cor- a - son - es De -
Tape
Sop.
ba - sho las a - las de ba - sho las a - las
Tape
Sop.
de - la - She - - - hi - na.
Tape

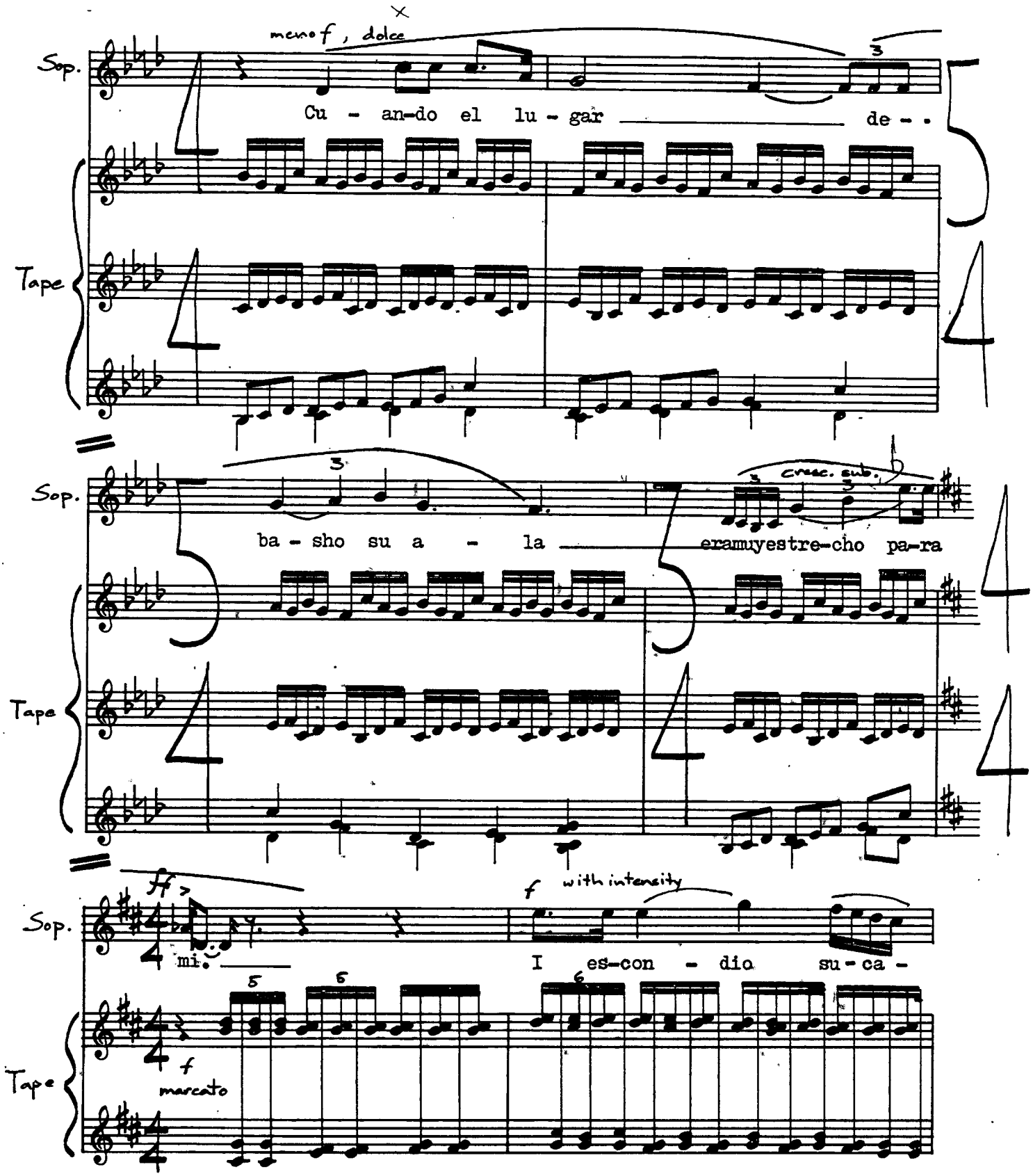

Tape
Sop.
♩= 66
legato 3
mf
So-li-ko,
dim.
tranquillo
So - li- ko
mp simplice
mf
So - li-ko so- li-ko ke-di i la She

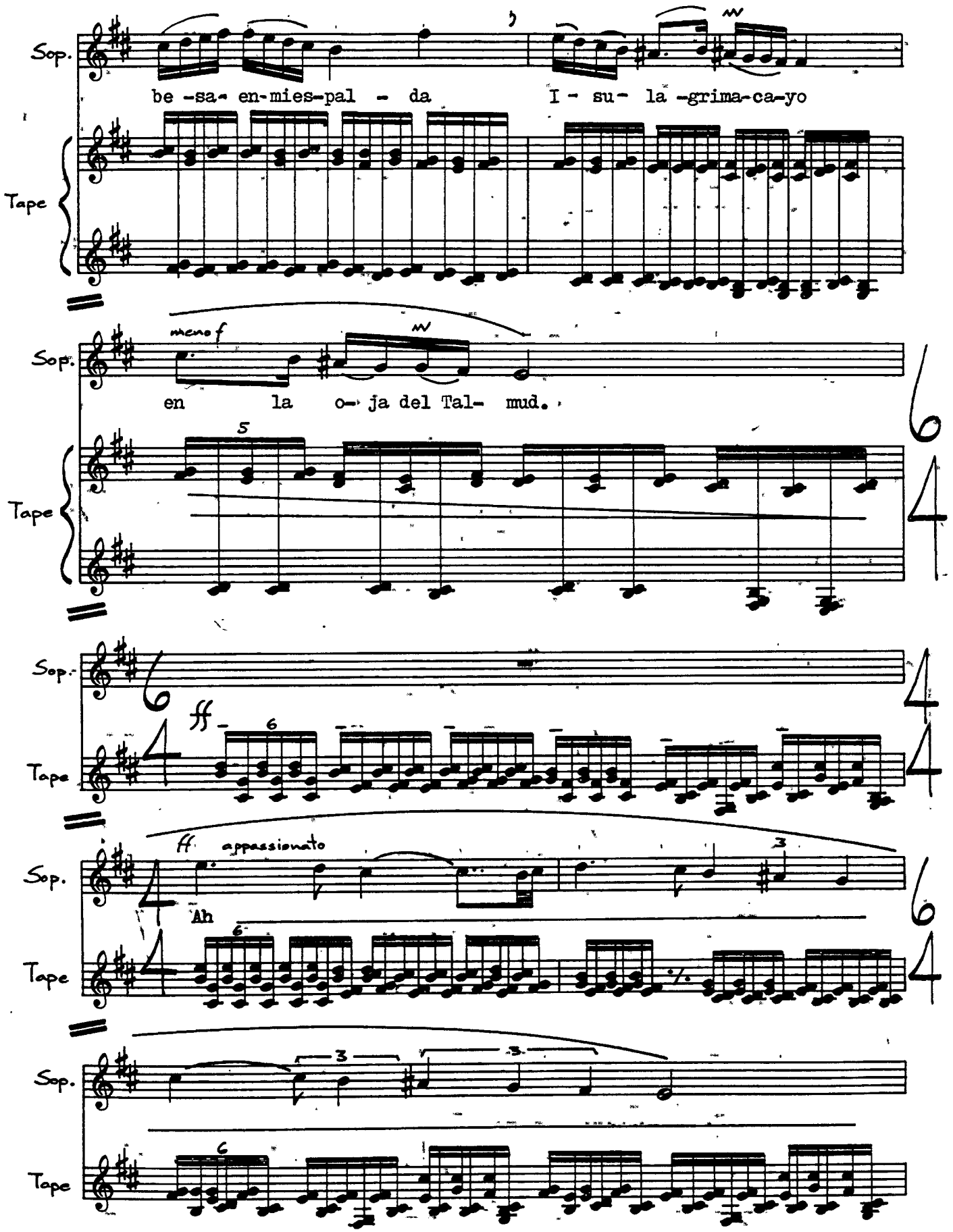

Sop.
hi-natam-bién
Mèn
io- su ala derecha,ro-ta,en -
Tape
Sop.
simamicabe - sa
Tape
poco f molto espr.
Sop.
Tem- bli-ó con es-pe - ran-sa- so- bre mi, so -
Tape
Sop.
bre- su- i -jo re-ga-la- do
mp
i - jo rega-la-do
Tape

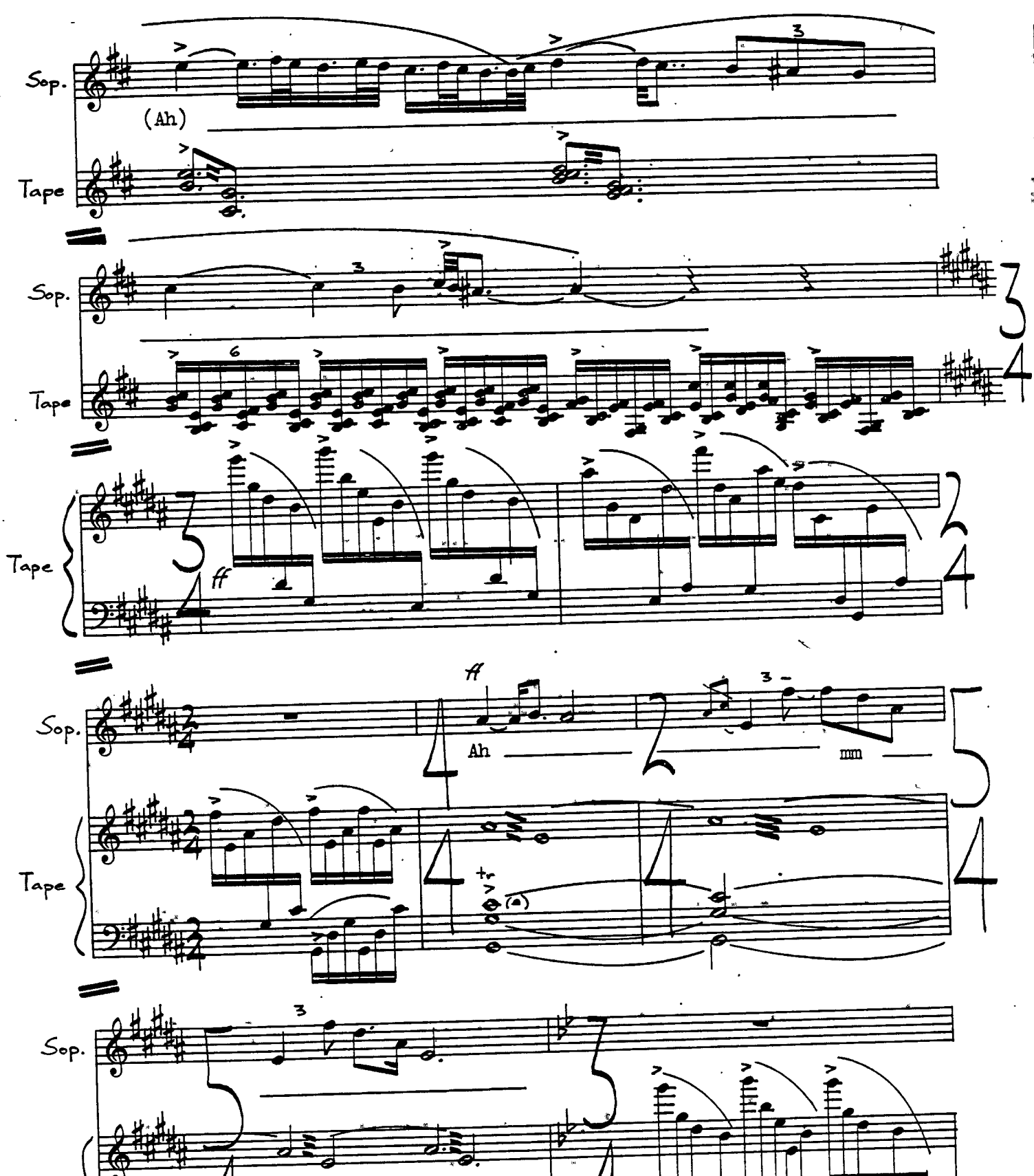

♩ c72
Sop.
I - mi co-ra-son en- tendio co-ra-son — I - mi co ra-son
Tape
P
Sop.
entendiosucorason.
pp
ah . . . . . .
Tape
tape alone
8ve
Tape
Sop.
mf
Fue a-ron-ja - da
Tape

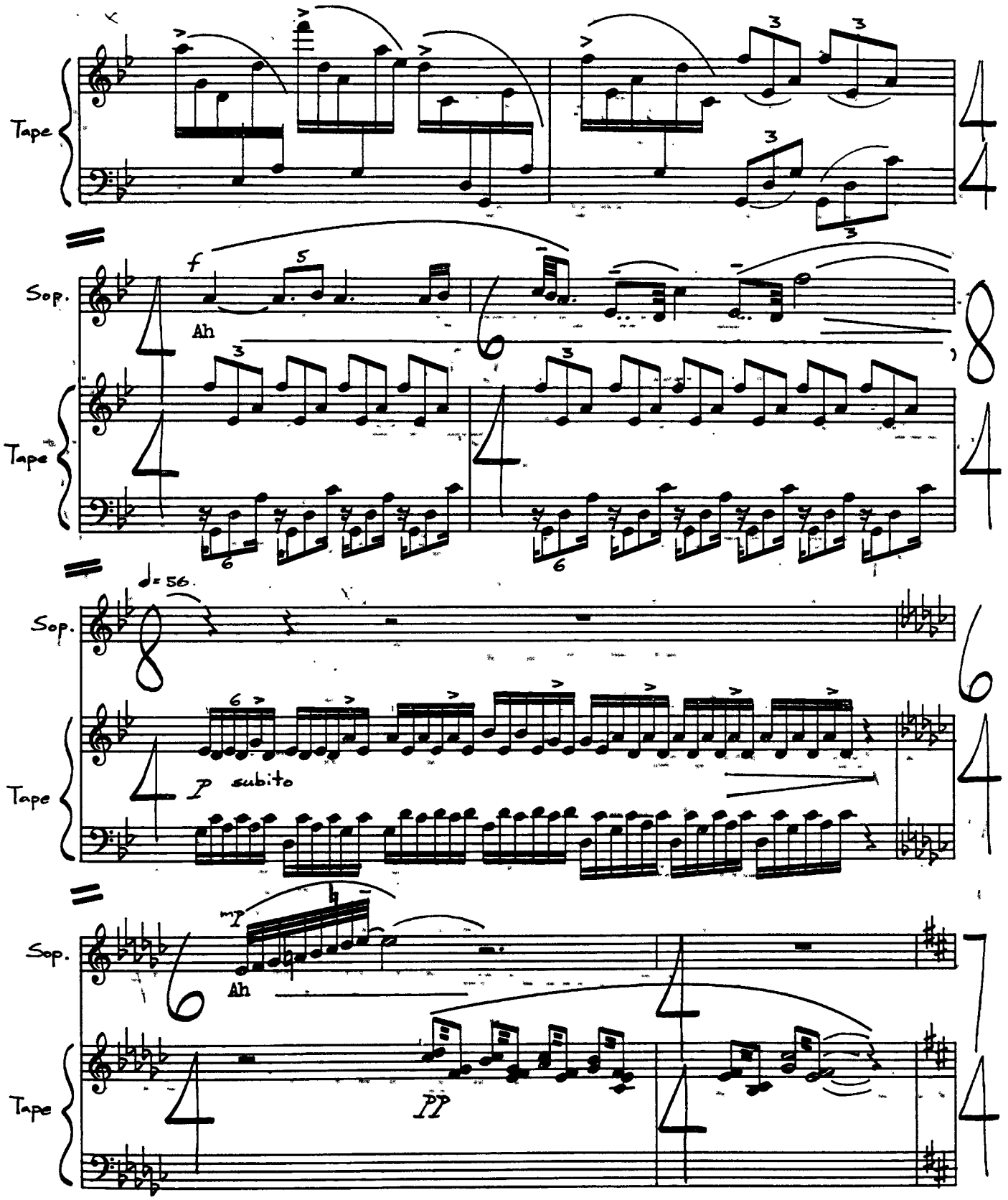

Sop.
de ca-da rin - con,
So- la- men -te
mp
p molto
Tape
Sop.
un - o, de- so - la -do
chi-co ke-do
Tape
Sop.
mf
la casadeestu - dio i se a - bri -
Tape
Sop.
mp
go con so - lom - bra Yo
pp
Tape

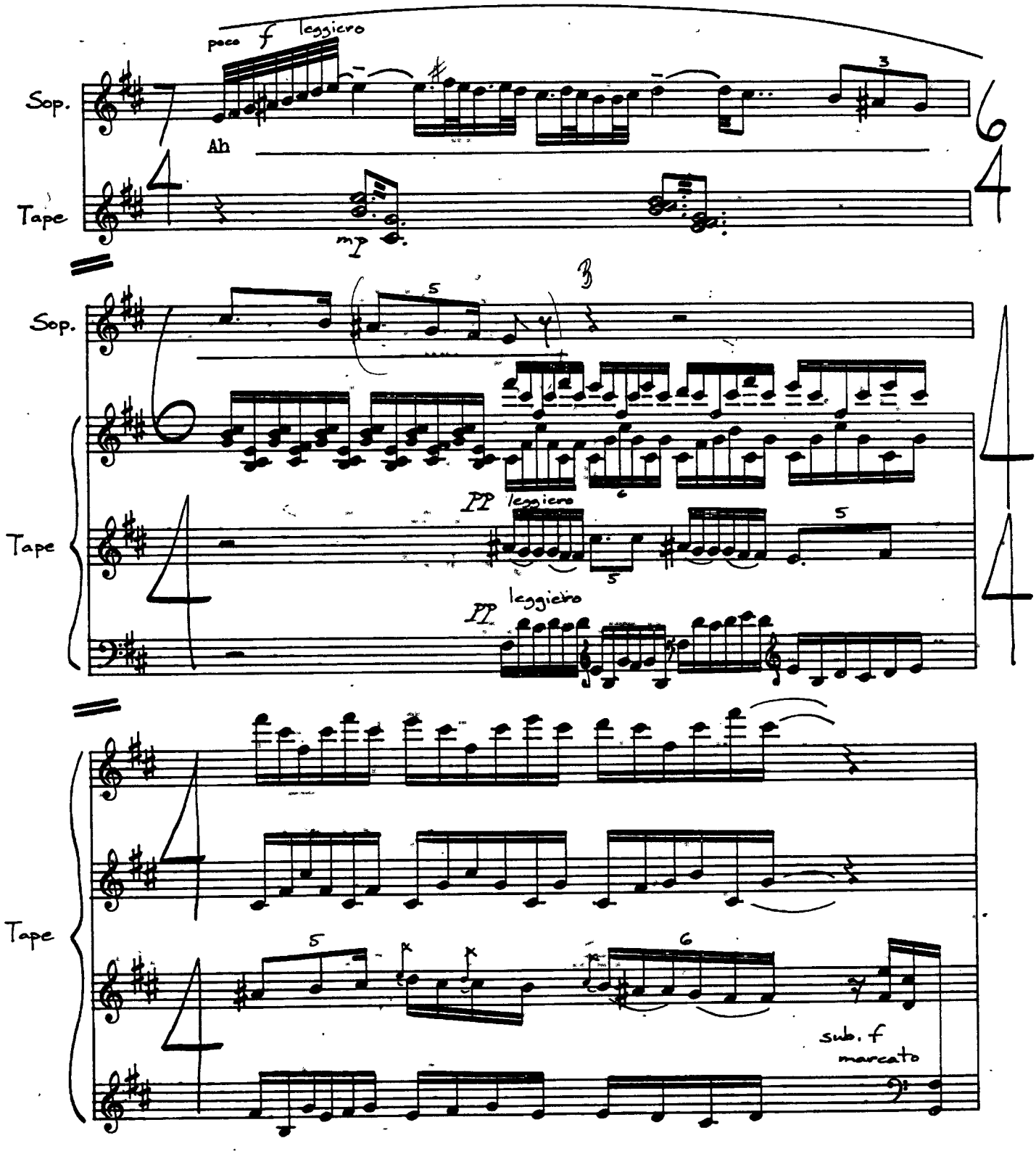

Sop.
cone-yasufriendo enla es-tre-chur - ra
Tape
molto cantabile
P
cresc.
Mico RA SON de - ze-
f
ya - va la ven - ta - na i la luz

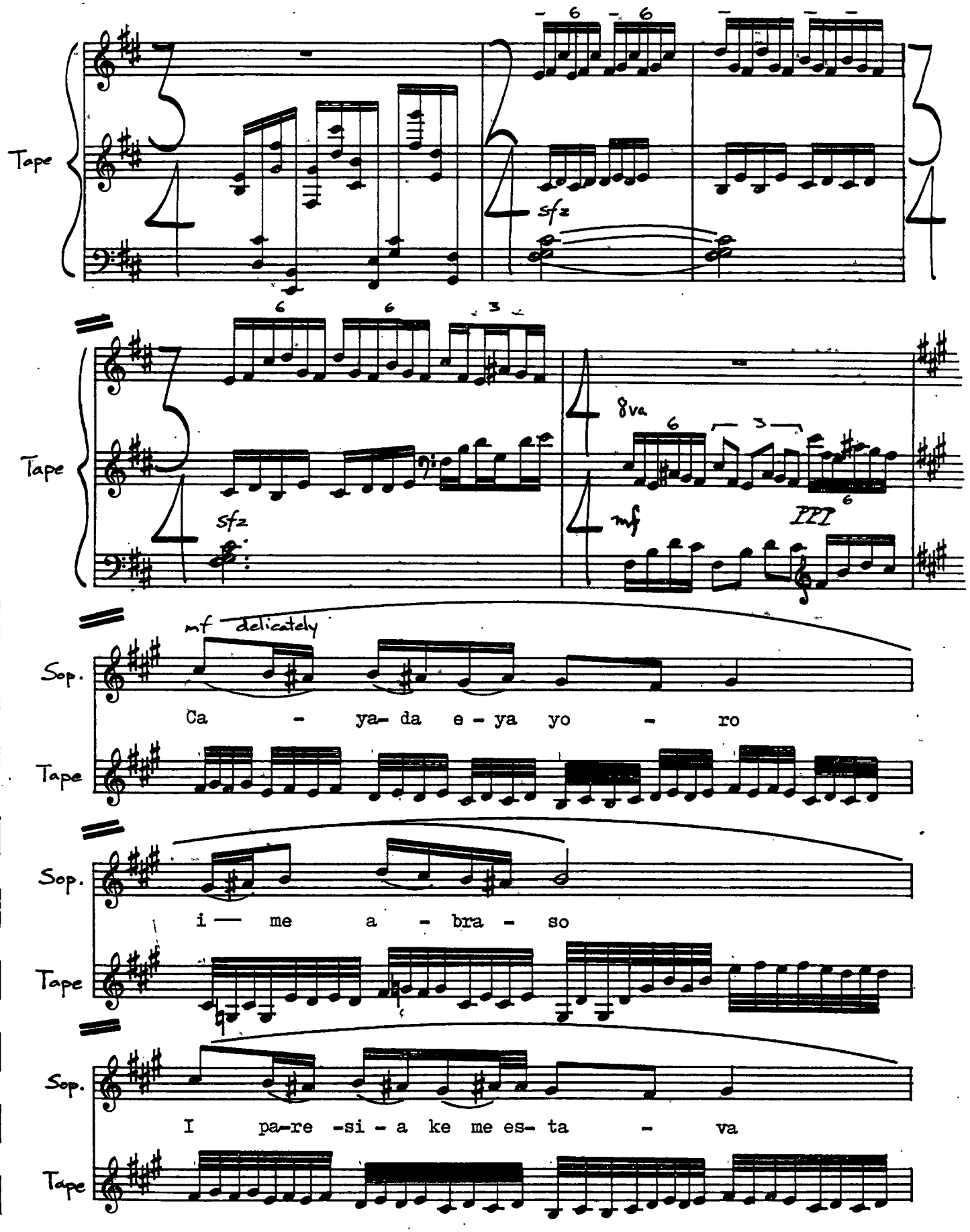

meno f, dolce
Sop.
Cu - an-do el lu - gar de - -
Tape
Sop.
ba - sho su a - la
cresc. sub.
eramuyestre-cho pa-ra
Tape
ff
Sop.
mi.
f with intensity
I es-con - dio su - ca -
Tape
f
marcato

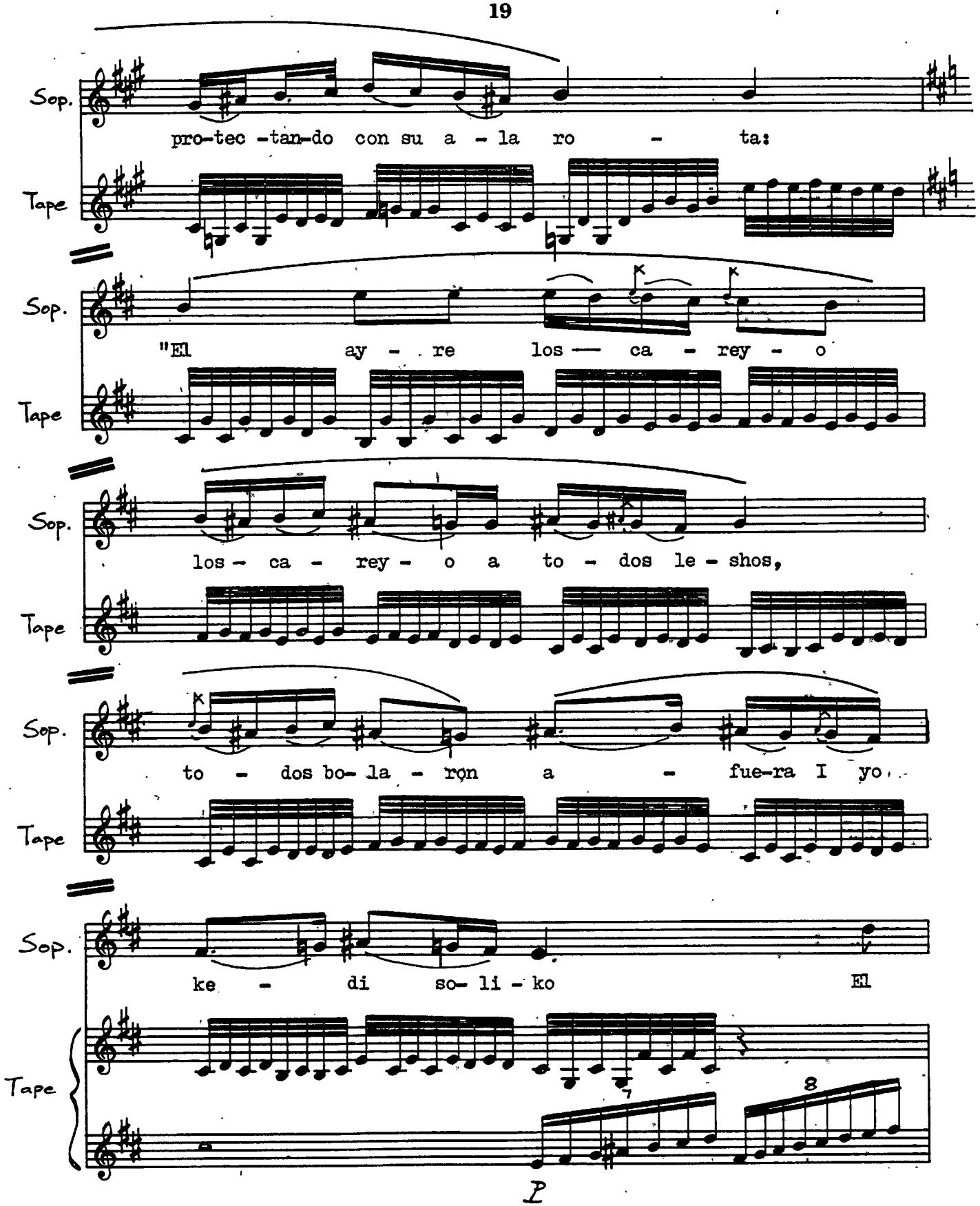

Sop.
be -sa- en-mies-pal - da
I - su- la -grima-ca-yo
Tape
meno f
Sop.
en la o- ja del Tal- mud.
Tape
Sop.
ff
Tape
ff appassionato
Sop.
Ah
Tape
Sop.
Tape

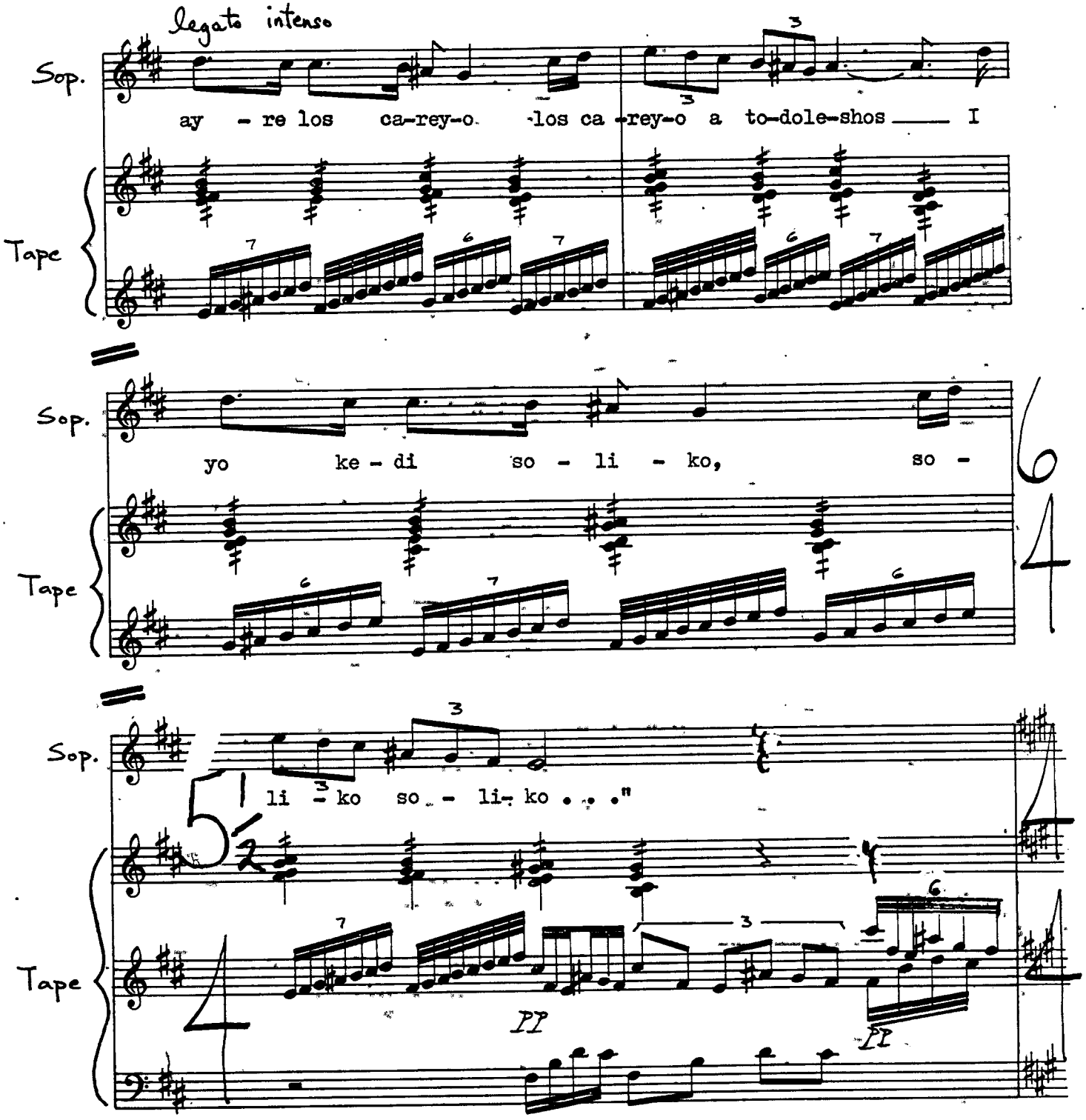

Sop.
(Ah)
Tape
Sop.
Tape
Tape
ff
Sop.
Ah
mm
Tape
Sop.
Tape
ff

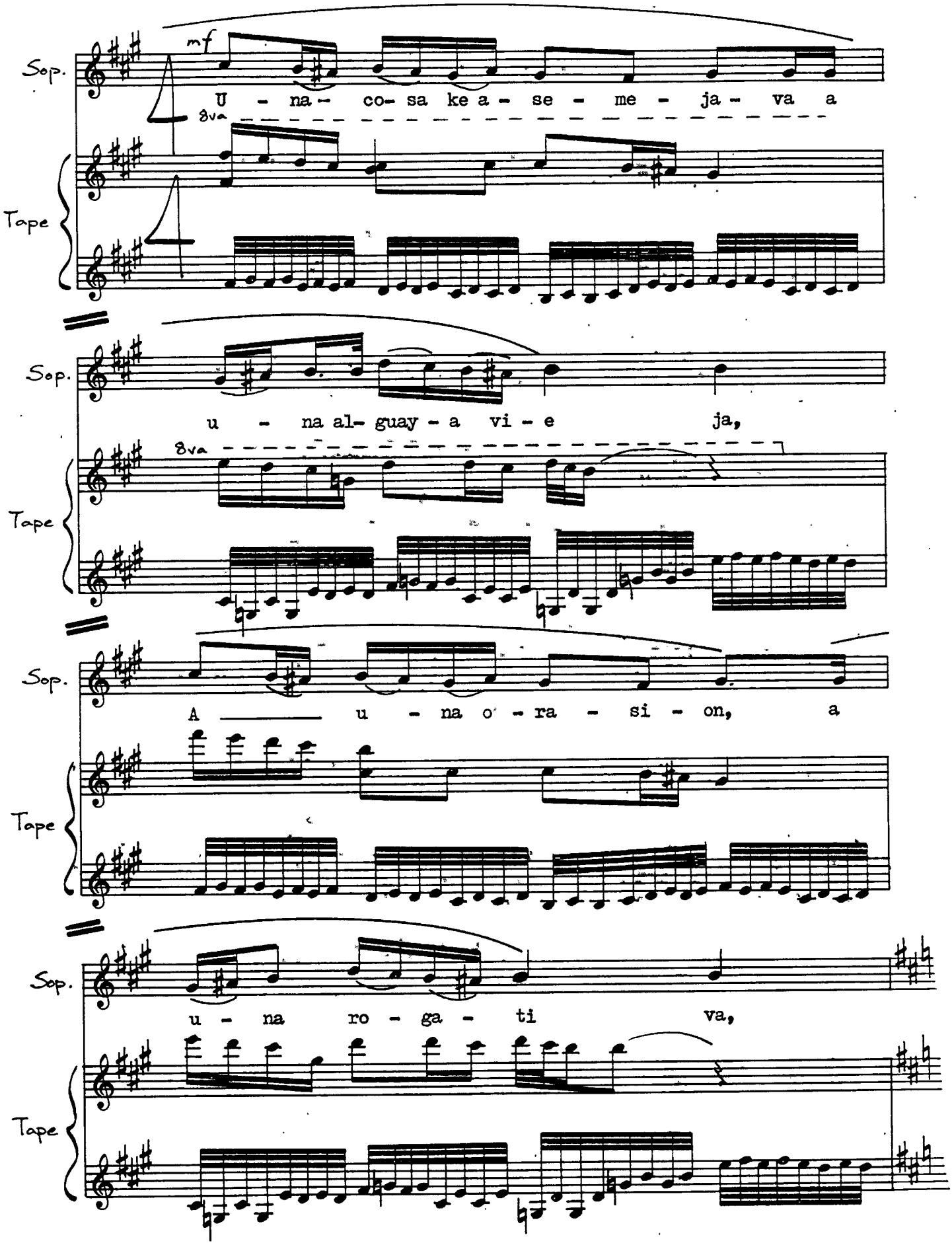

Tape
Sop.
Ah
Tape
Sop.
♩= 56
Tape
P subito
Sop.
Ah
Tape
PP

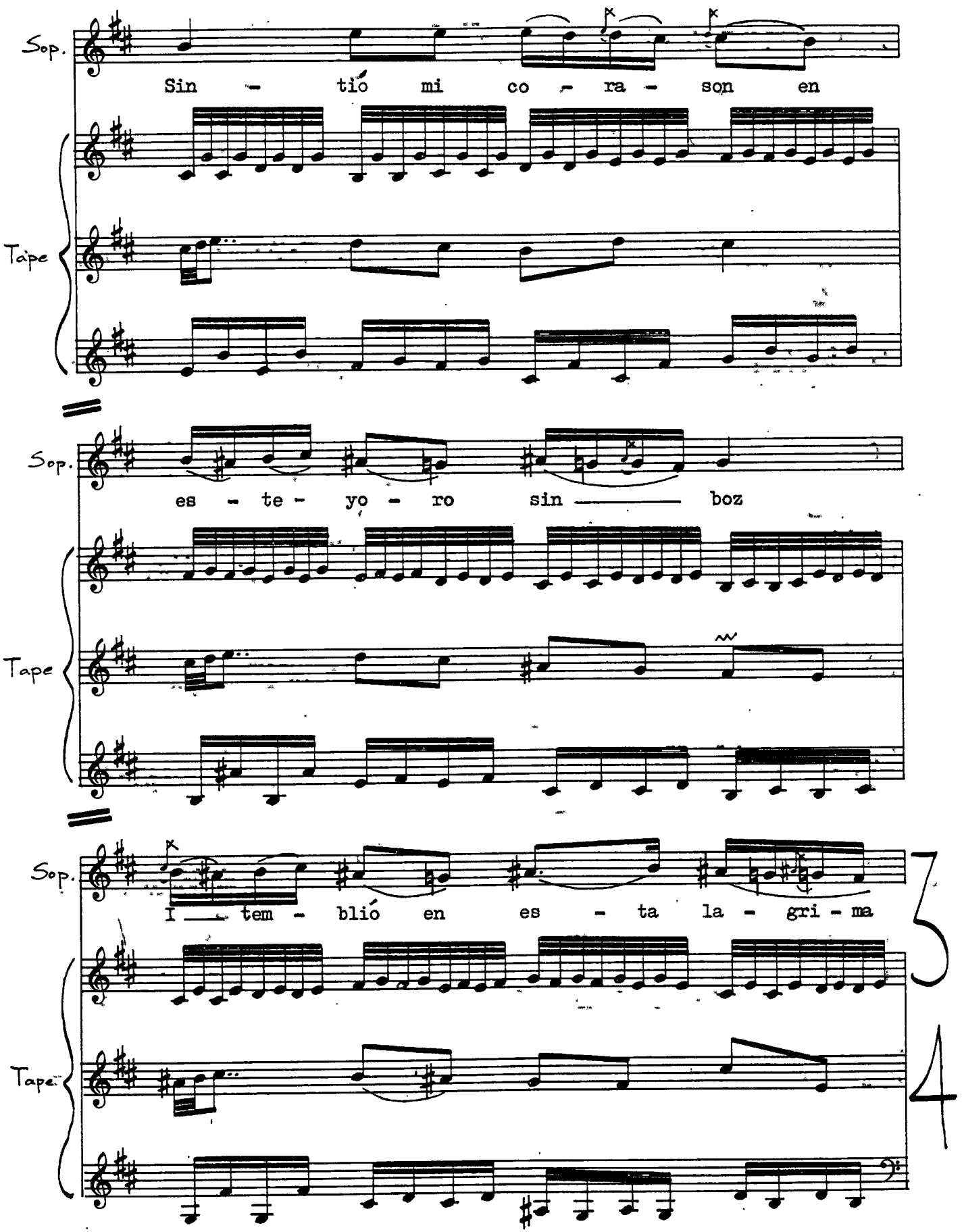

poco f leggiero
Sop.
Ah
Tape
mp
B
Sop.
Tape
PP leggiero
PP leggiero
Tape
sub. f
marcato

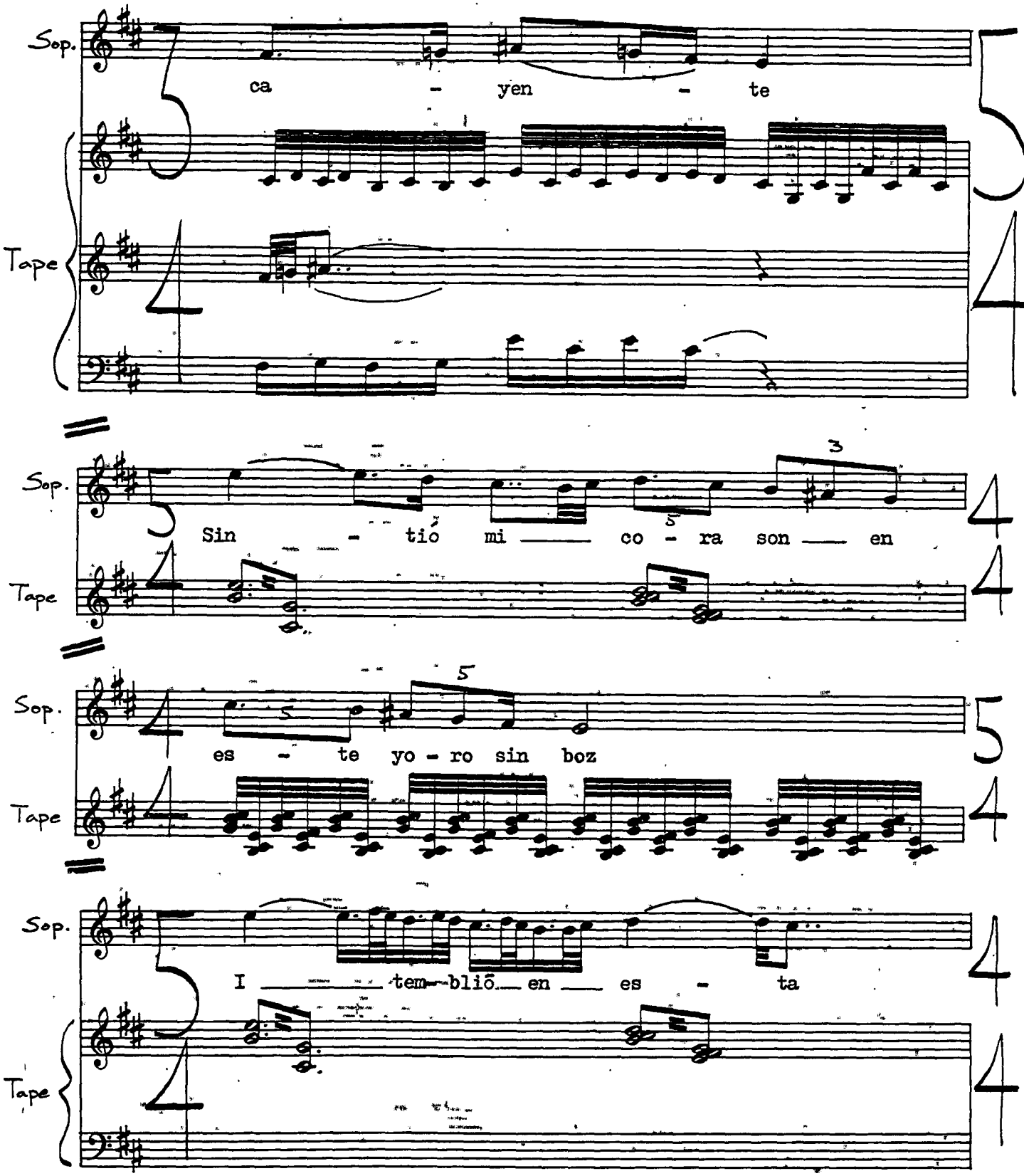

Tape
sfz
Tape
sfz
8va
mf
PPP
mf delicately
Sop.
Ca - ya- da e - ya yo - ro
Tape
Sop.
i — me a - bra - so
Tape
Sop.
I pa-re -si - a ke me es- ta - va
Tape

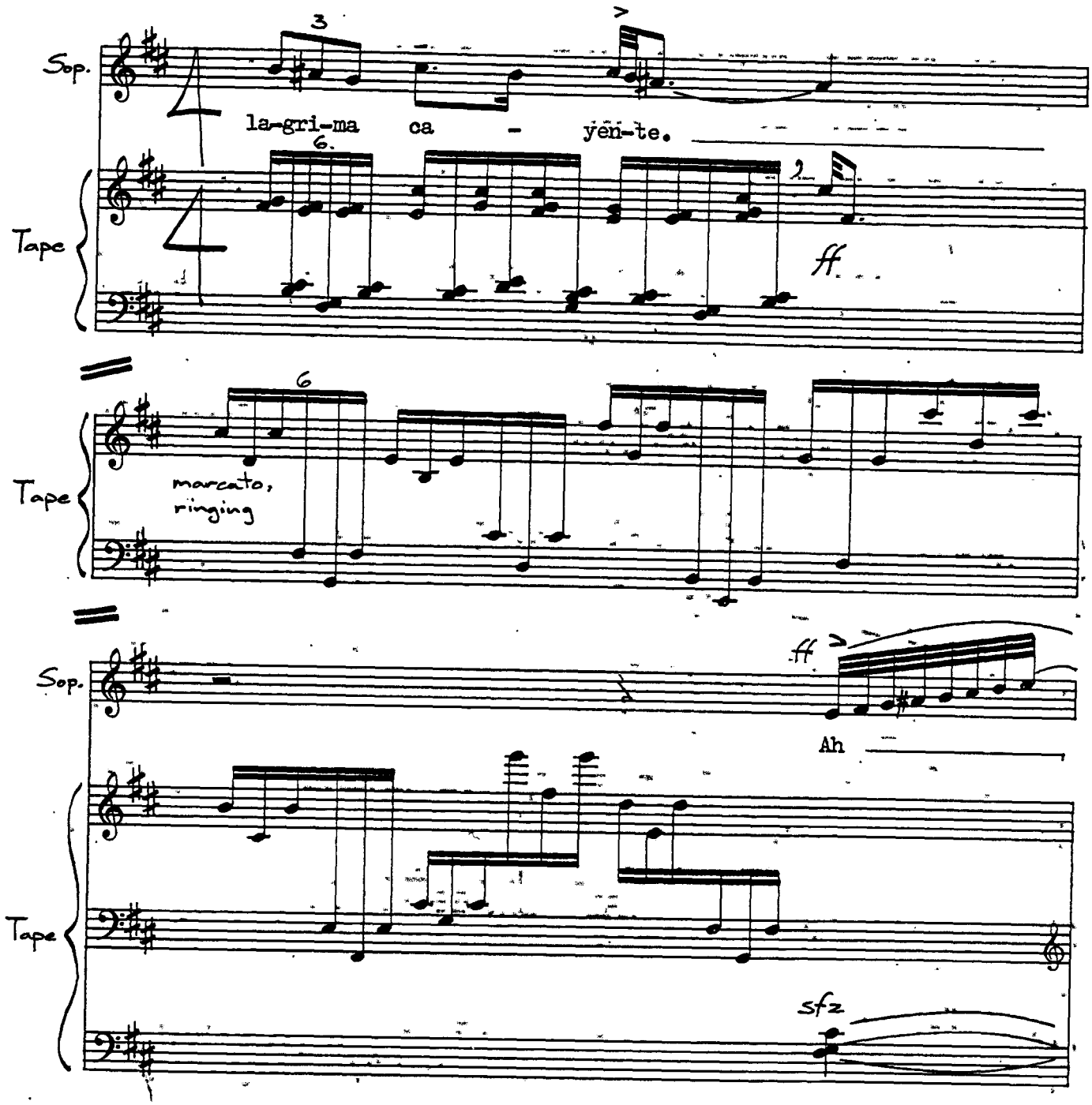

Sop.
pro-tec -tan-do con su a - la ro - ta:
Tape
Sop.
"El ay - re los — ca - rey - o
Tape
Sop.
los - ca - rey - o a to - dos le - shos,
Tape
Sop.
to - dos bo- la - ron a - fue-ra I yo
Tape
Sop.
ke - di so- li - ko El
Tape
8
P

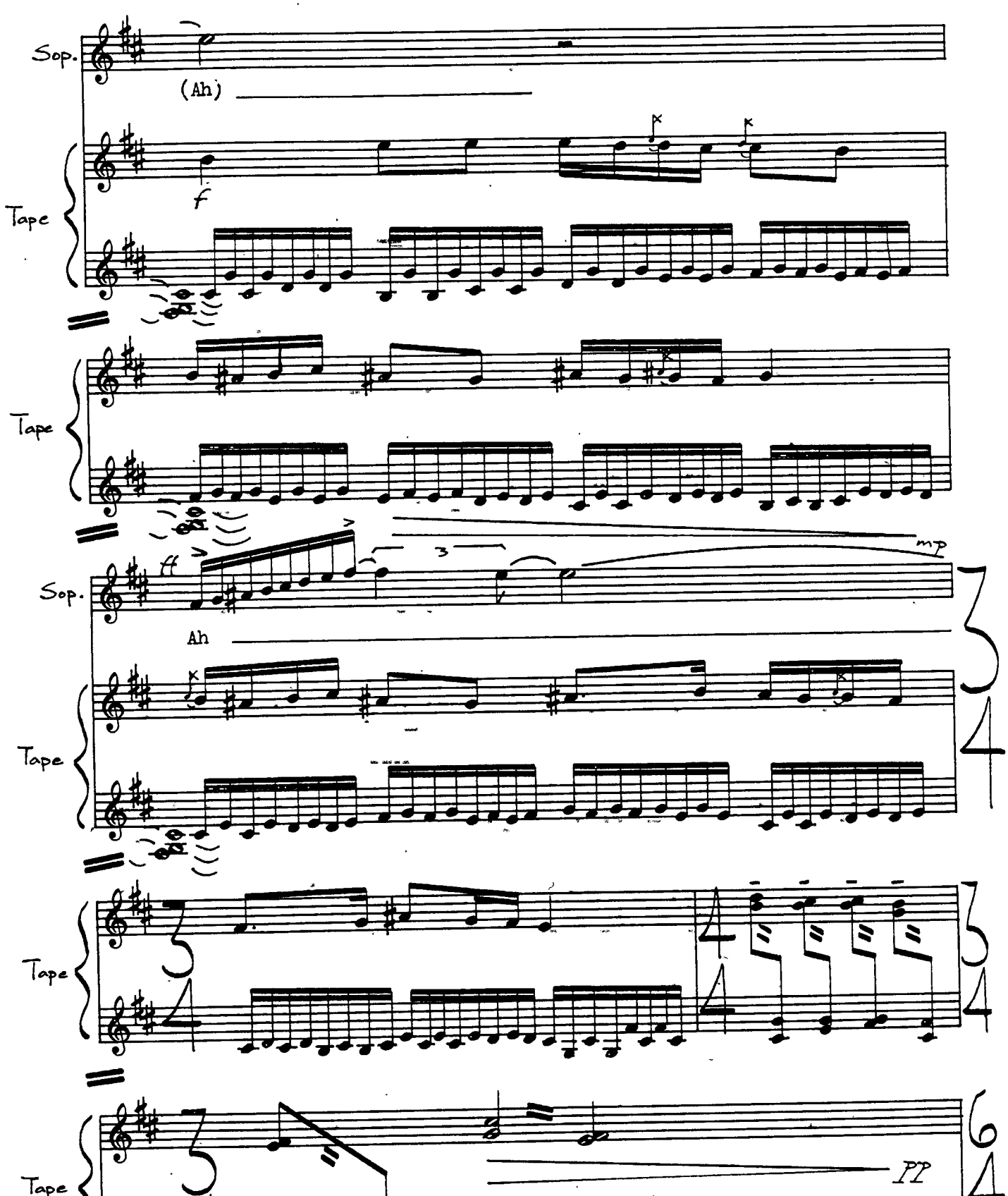

legato intenso
Sop.
ay - re los ca-rey-o los ca-rey-o a to-dole-shos I
Tape
Sop.
yo ke - di so - li - ko, so -
Tape
Sop.
li - ko so - li - ko . . ."
Tape
PP
PP

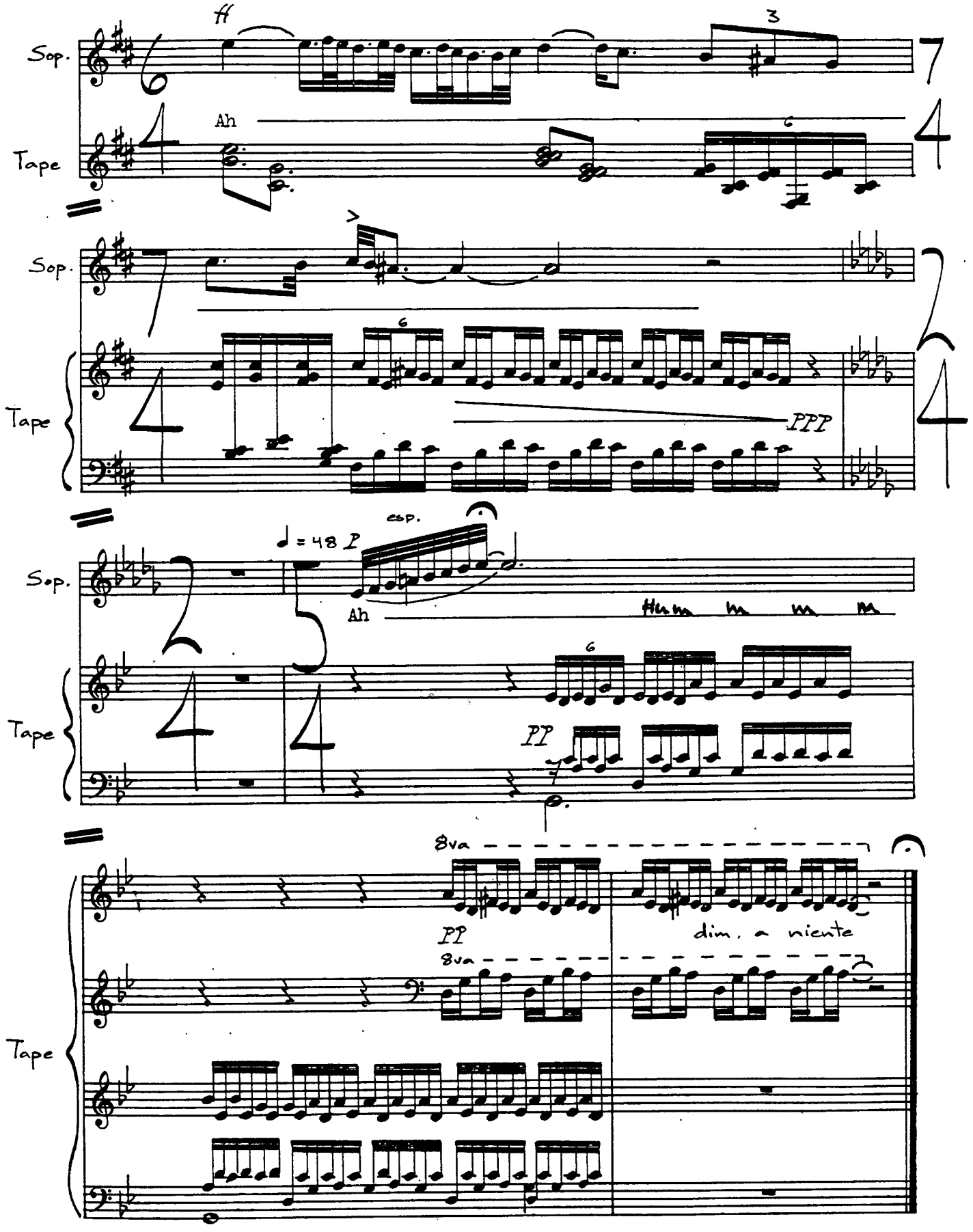

Sop.
mf
U - na - co- sa ke a - se - me - ja - va a
8va
Tape
Sop.
u - na al- guay - a vi - e ja,
8va
Tape
Sop.
A u - na o - ra - si - on, a
Tape
Sop.
u - na ro - ga - ti va,
Tape


Sop.
Sin - tió mi co - ra - son en
Tape
Sop.
es - te - yo - ro sin ——— boz
Tape
Sop.
I ——— tem - blió en es - ta la - gri - ma
Tape
3
4


Sop.
ca - yen - te
Tape
Sop.
Sin - tió mi co - ra son en
Tape
Sop.
es - te yo - ro sin boz
Tape
Sop.
I tem - bliõ en es - ta
Tape


Sop.
3
la-gri-ma ca - yen-te.
Tape
6.
2
ff
6
marcato, ringing
Tape
Sop.
ff
Ah
Tape
sfz


Sop.
(Ah)
f
Tape
Tape
ff
mp
Sop.
Ah
Tape
Tape
Tape
PP



Completed Oct. 1986, Seattle, Wa.