LUCENT FLOWERS

for soprano and chamber orchestra

I. CASSIA BLOSSOMS

II. ROSE, I HAVE LOVED

Diane Thome

Program Note

LUCENT FLOWERS

for soprano and chamber orchestra

Even when it does not set a text, my music is often inspired by poetry. Frequently a poetic or visual image serves as a springboard for my imagination. I had come across some particularly beautiful translations by James Cryer of the poetry of China's most celebrated woman poet, Li Ch'ing Chao, and was most struck by the poem CASSIA BLOSSOMS with its wealth of mood, allusion, and its depth of feeling. The life of the flower is personified with great vividness verging on adoration, giving the poem a metaphorical dimension which reminded me of a sonnet by Sri Aurobindo also beginning with the image of a flower -- ROSE, I HAVE LOVED. The abundant and expansive symbolisms delineated through these lucent flowers suggested a coupling in one musical work of the poems by the 12th-century Chinese poetess and the 20th-century Indian visionary and poet. Scored for chamber orchestra of solo winds and brass, multiple strings, harp, piano and timpani, LUCENT FLOWERS was commissioned by the Seattle Symphony and premiered on May 19, 1989.

Diane Thome

M1537A

Orchestra

flute

oboe

clarinet in Bb, A

horn in F

bass trombone

tympani (c)

harp

piano

violin (6)

viola (4)

'cello (2)

bass (1)

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CASSIA BLOSSOMS

forbidden by the curtains
you stretch out below
cleverly helped
by the red railing
by you alone
I divine the dying Spring
whose flowers stand
pale and waiting
meek modest childlike
how you've waited
for those flocks to pass
for that turn of wind and dew
when first you would adorn
the morning
seductive captivating
the wind jealous
the moon laughing
and when long held back
over the Eastern quarter
over the Southern streets
from first light Lord Sun
bakes ponds and inns
until at last
his chariot goes by
who can succeed him?
only you
who are more lucent
than the Brilliant Palace
almost equal the sun
when you first appear
on branches
for you I'll pour
a golden cup
disregard the dying candle
ignore the yellow dusk

poet: Li Ch'ing-Chao

translator: James Cryer

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M
1613.3
T465
L82
1989

CASSIA BLOSSOMS

DIANE THOME

I

♩= 66

Fl.
con sord.
Vl.
p
Harp
p (E F G A B C# D)
Fl.
Vl.
Harp
Continue, ad lib.
Fl.
fl. tongue
f
ff
Quietly
mp legato
7
senza sord.
Vl.
Mute off
pp
Harp
L.V.
Cl. (A) (transposed)
pp
Vl.
poco
legatis.
dolce, leggiero
Vla.
con sord. pp

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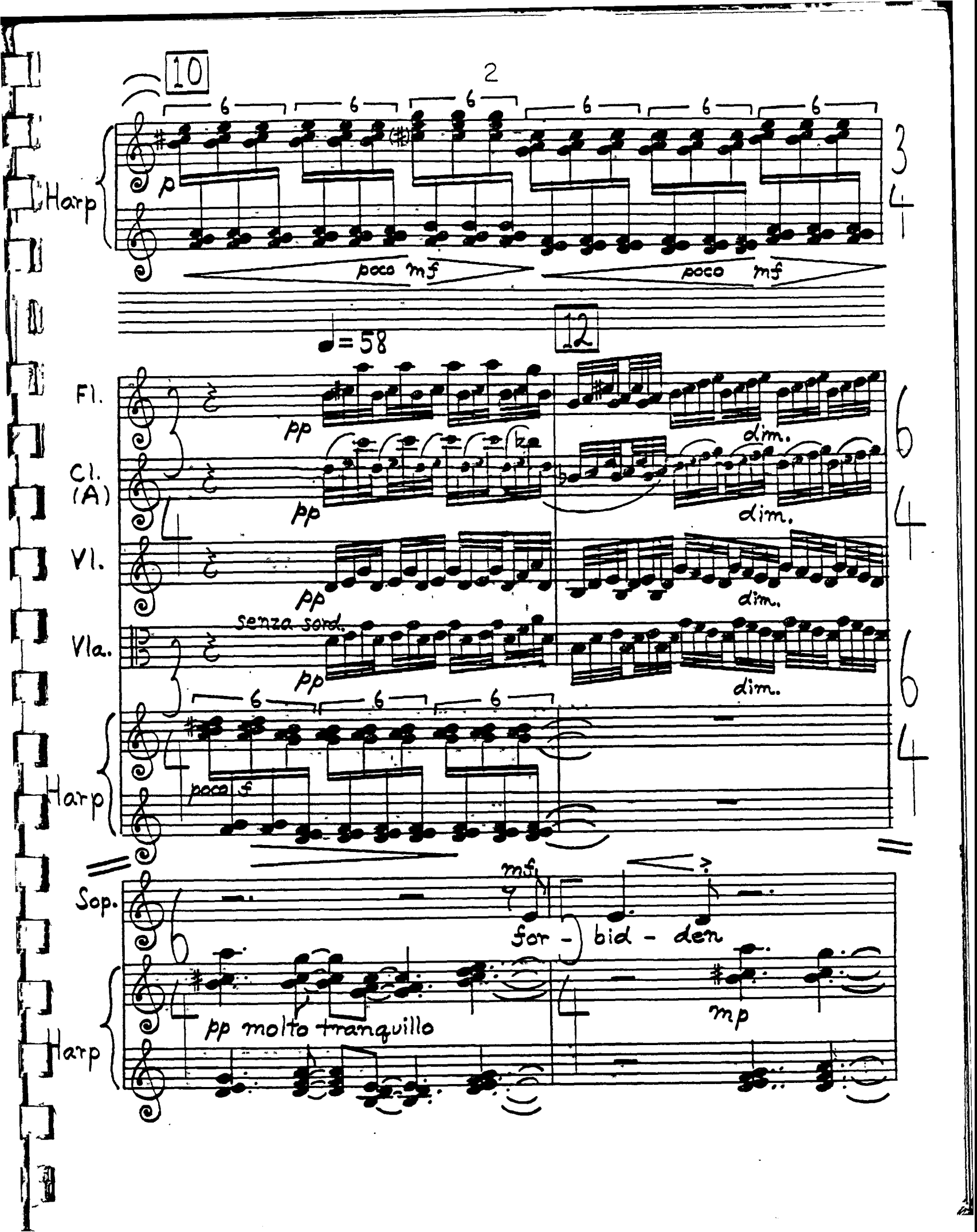
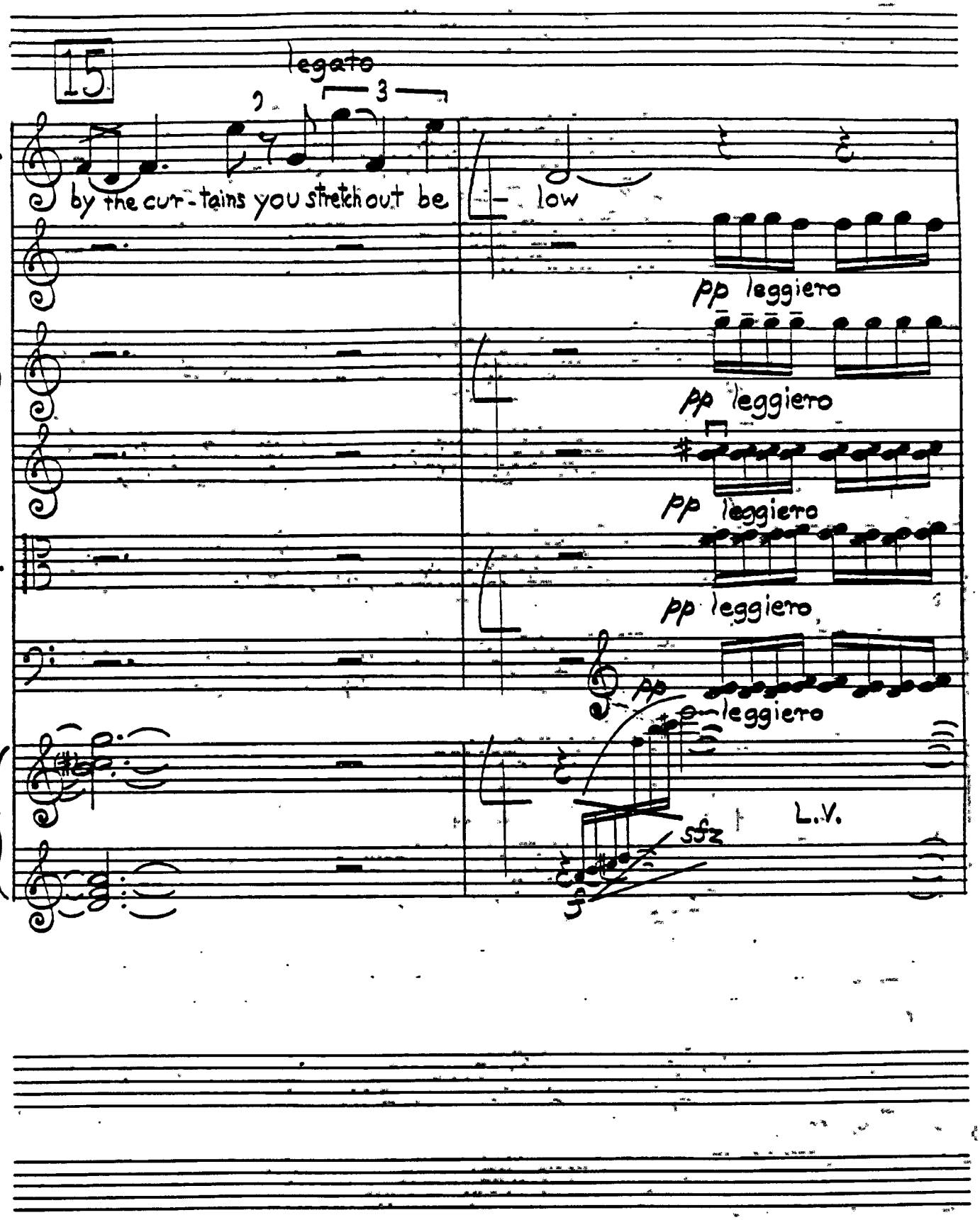
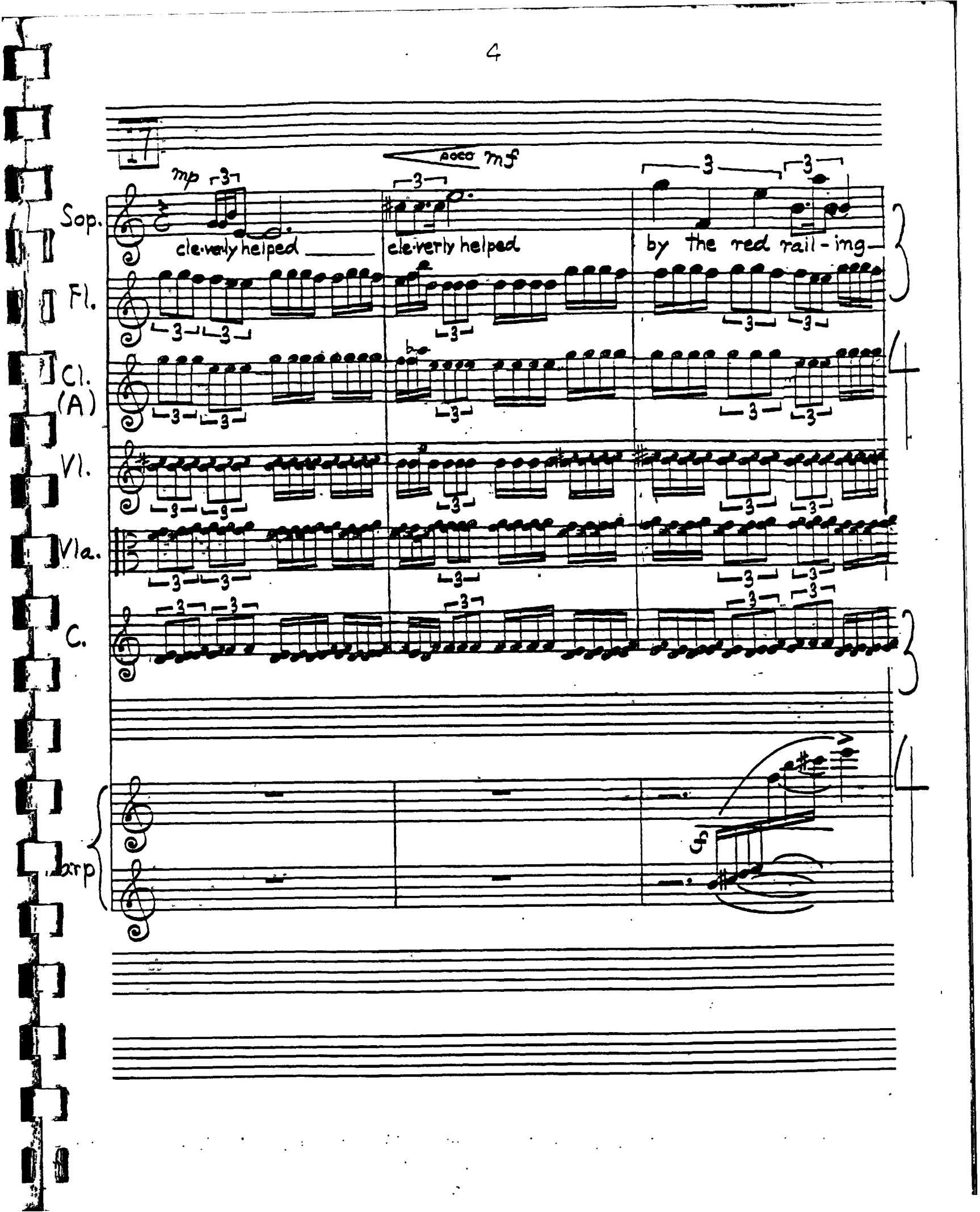
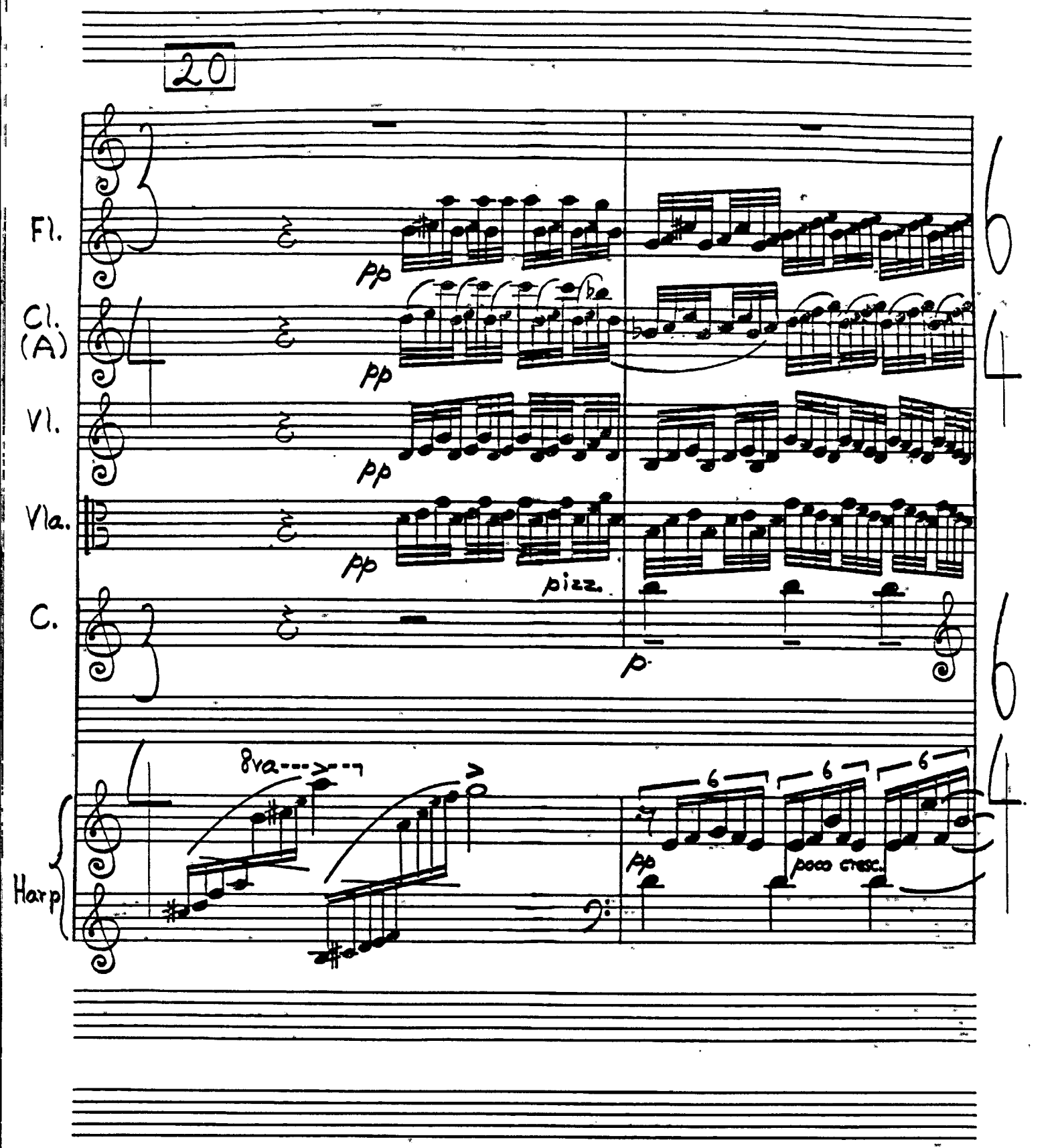
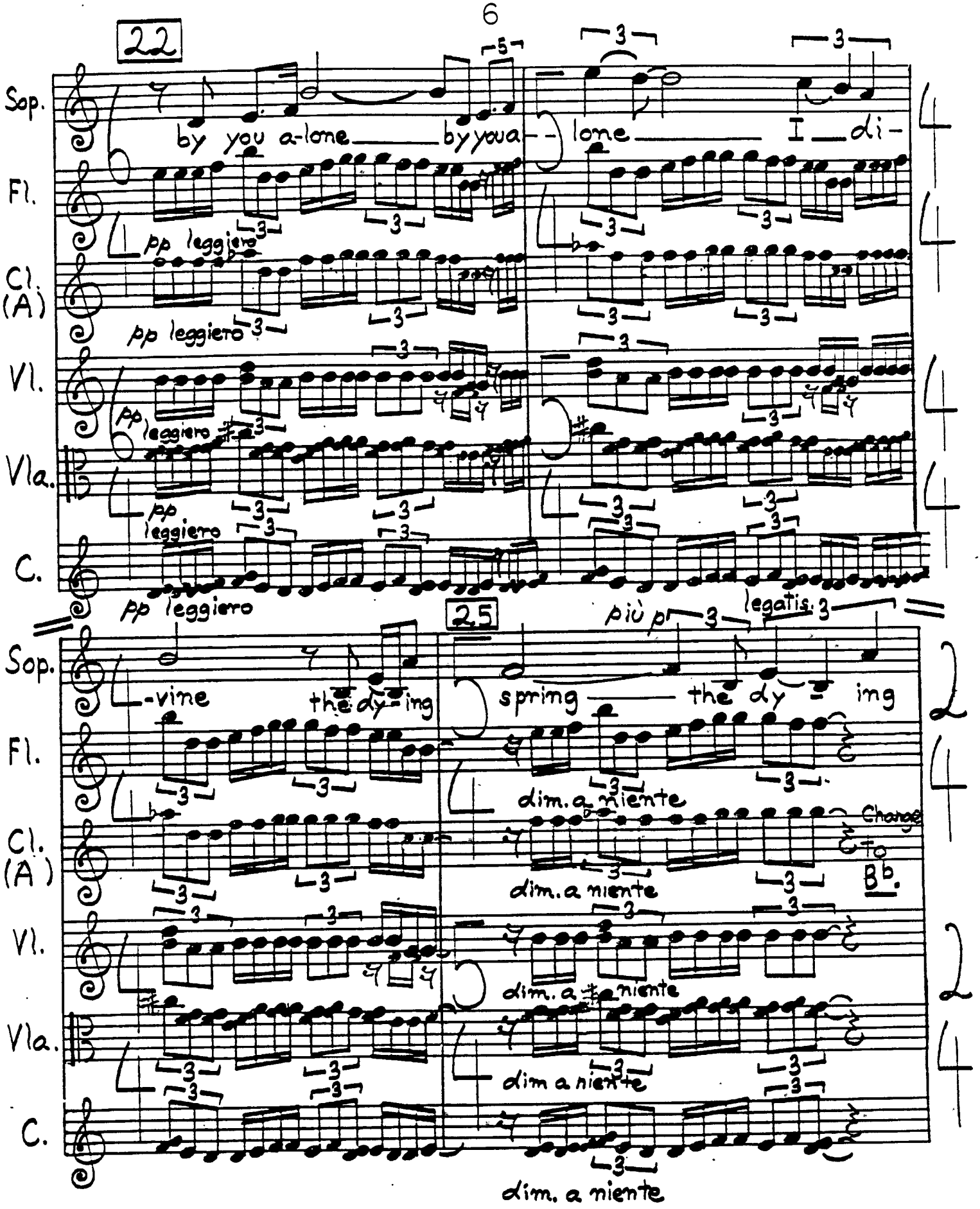
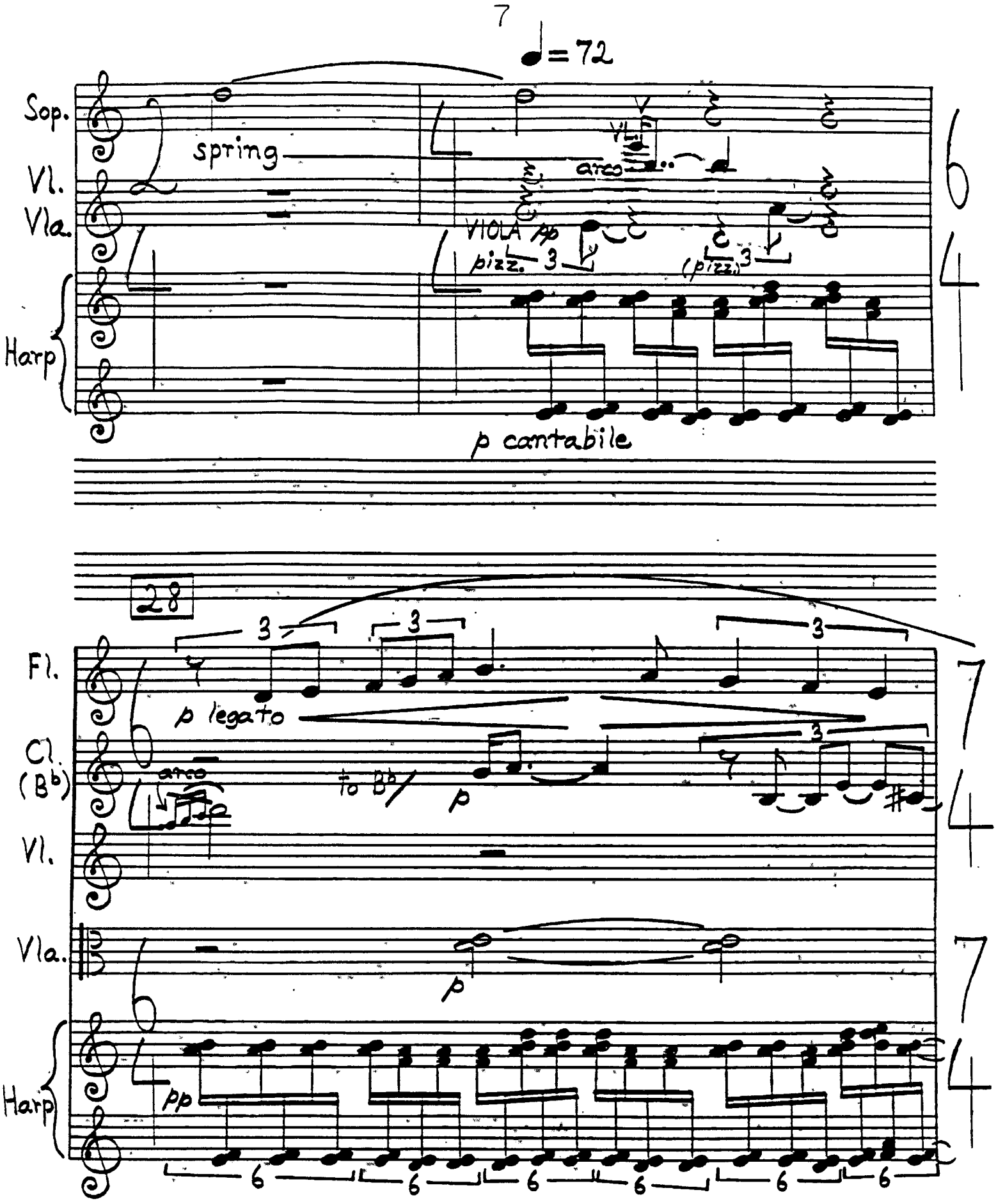

10
Harp
p
poco mf
poco mf
12
♩=58
Fl.
Cl. (A)
Vl.
Vla.
pp
dim.
senza sord.
Harp
poco f
Sop.
mf
for - bid - den
Harp
pp molto tranquillo
mp

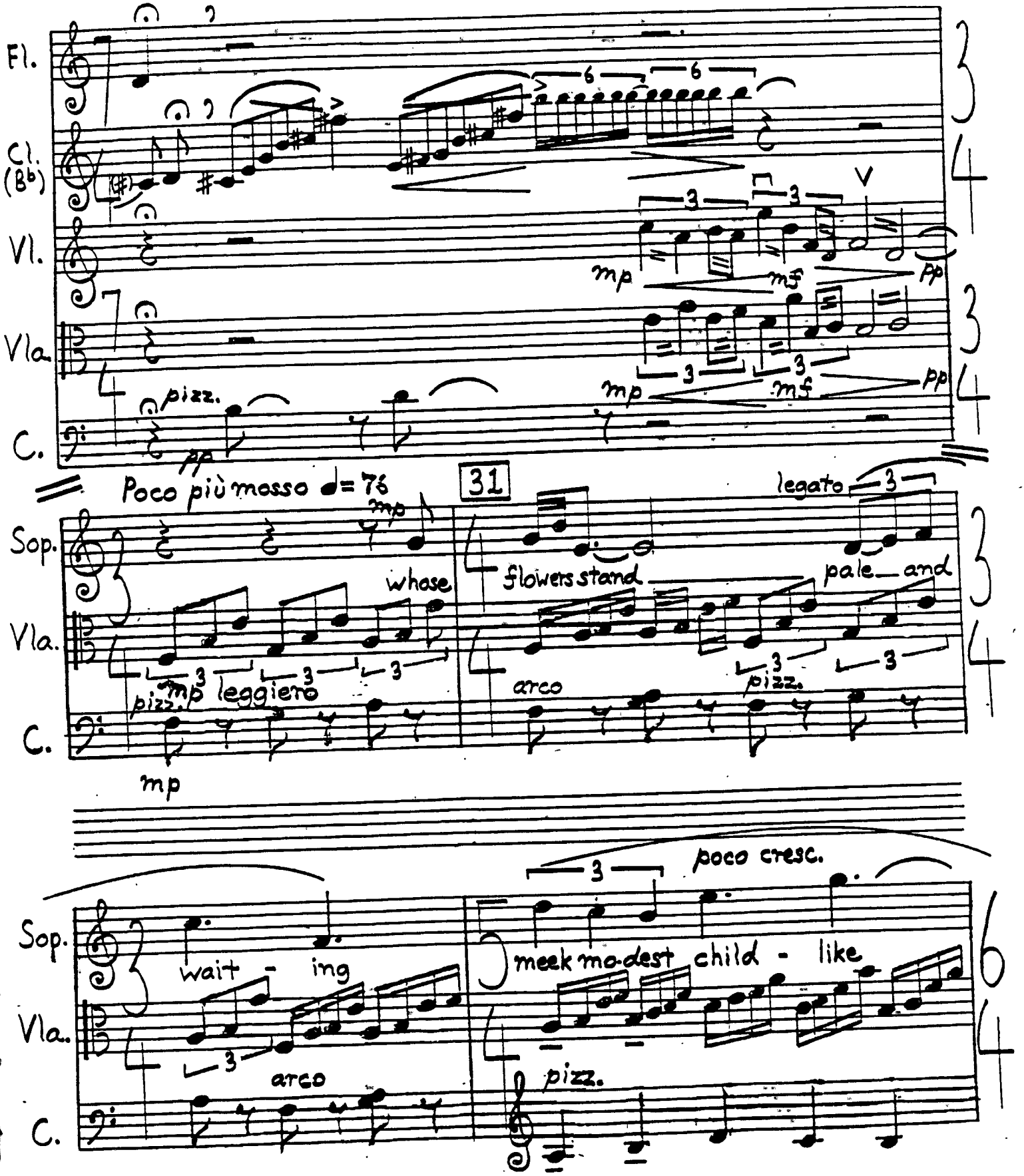

15
legato
3
Sop.
by the cur - tains you stretch out be - low
Fl.
pp leggiero
Cl. (A)
pp leggiero
Vl.
pp leggiero
Vla.
pp leggiero
C.
pp
leggiero
Harp
sfz
L.V.

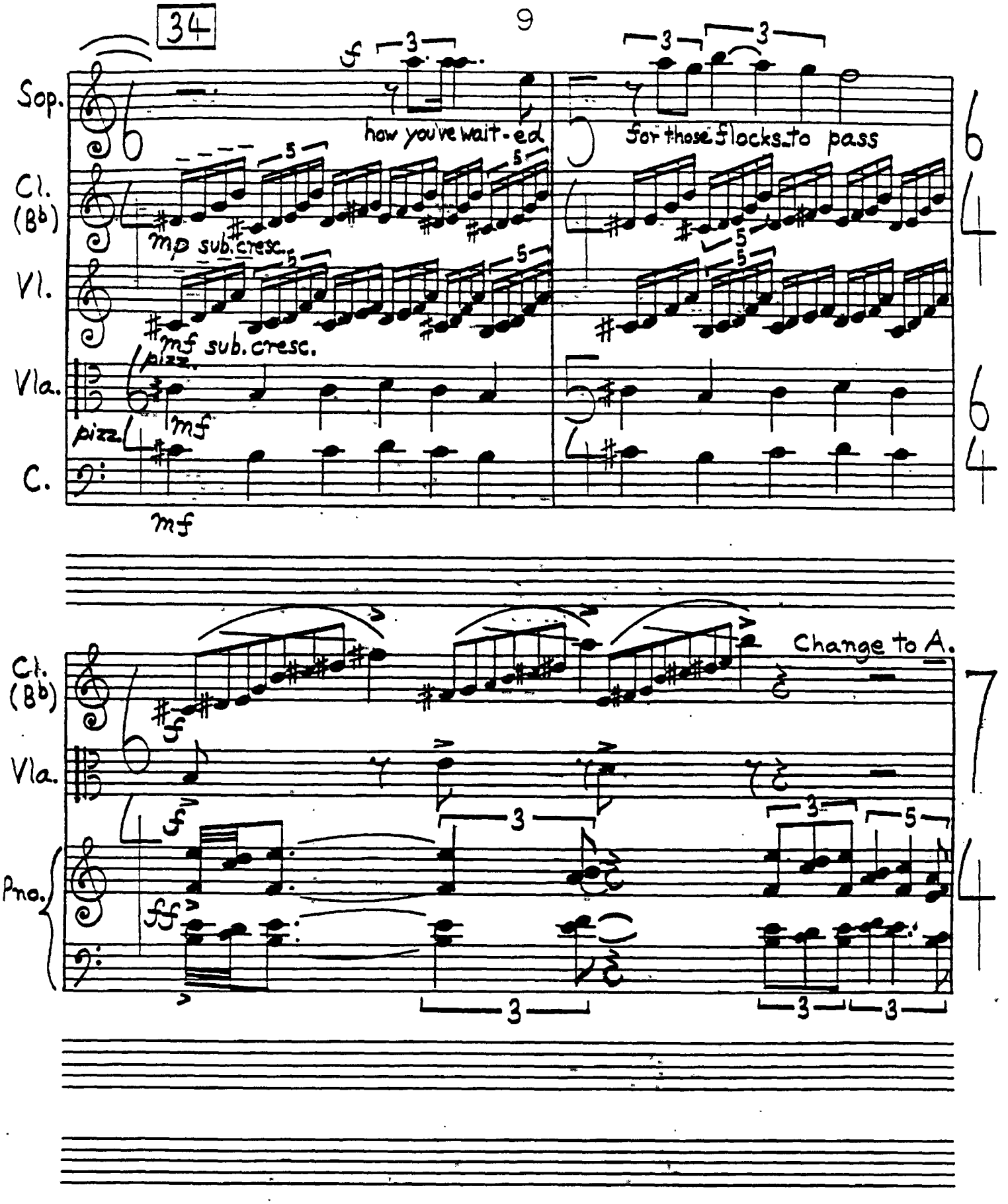

mp
poco mf
Sop.
cle-verly helped
cle-verly helped
by the red rail-ing
Fl.
Cl.
(A)
Vl.
Vla.
C.
Harp
f

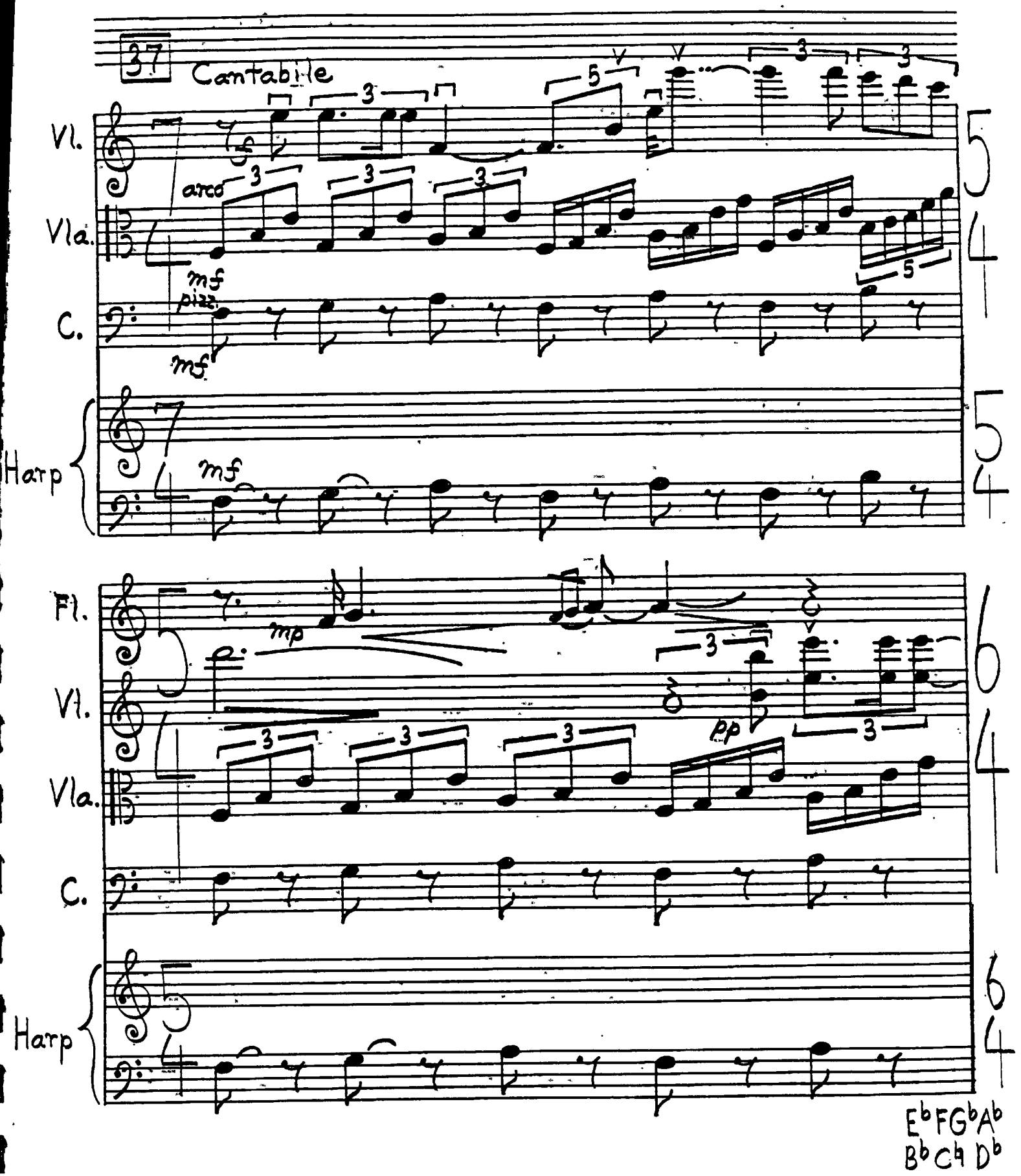

20
Fl.
pp
Cl.
(A)
pp
Vl.
pp
Vla.
pp
pizz.
C.
p
8va
Harp
6
6
6
pp
poco cresc.

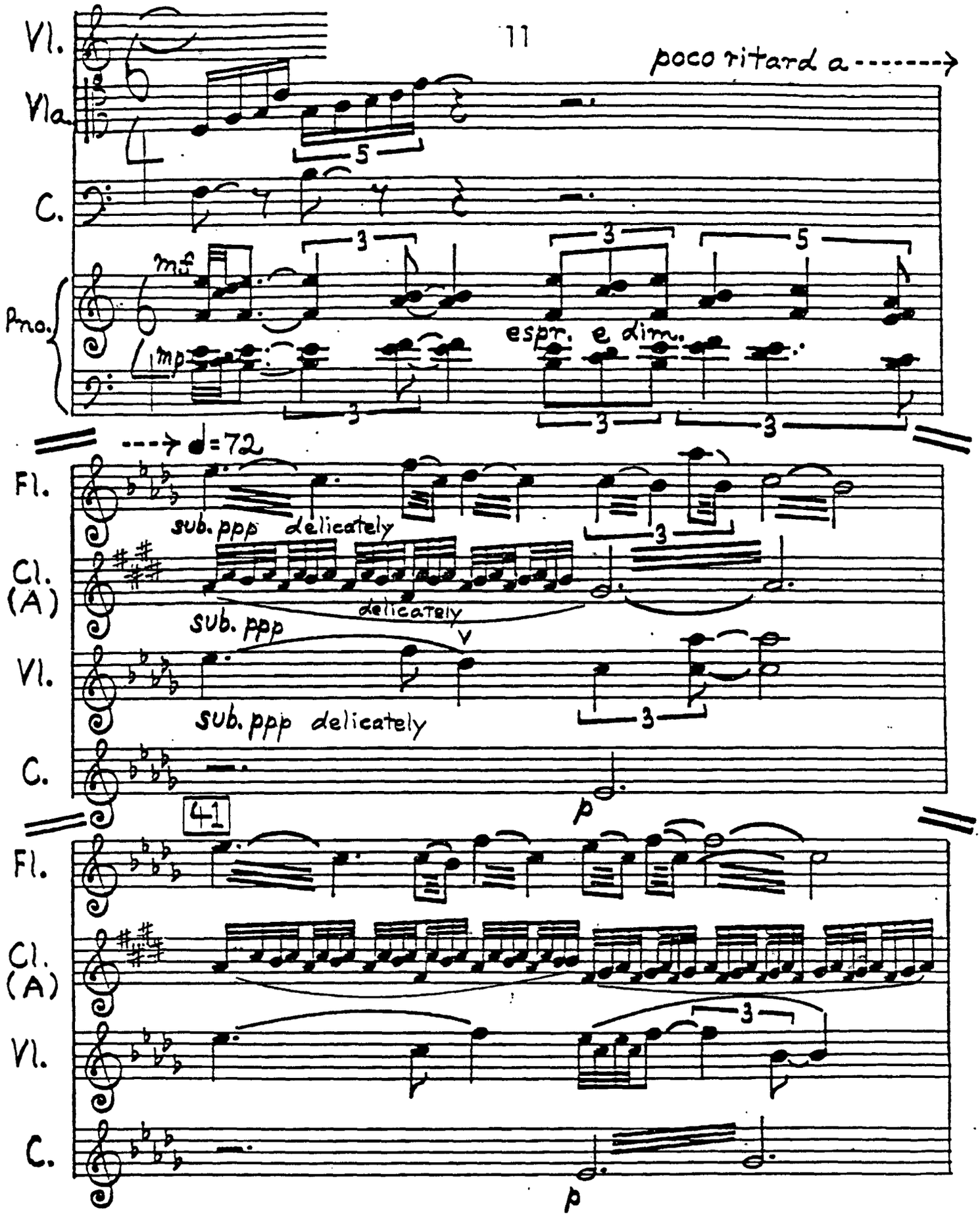

22
Sop.
by you a-lone by you a- lone I di-
Fl.
pp leggiero
Cl. (A)
pp leggiero
Vl.
pp leggiero
Vla.
pp leggiero
C.
pp leggiero
25
più p
legatis.
Sop.
-vine the dy-ing spring the dy-ing
Fl.
dim. a niente
Cl. (A)
dim. a niente
Change to B♭.
Vl.
dim. a niente
Vla.
dim a niente
C.
dim. a niente

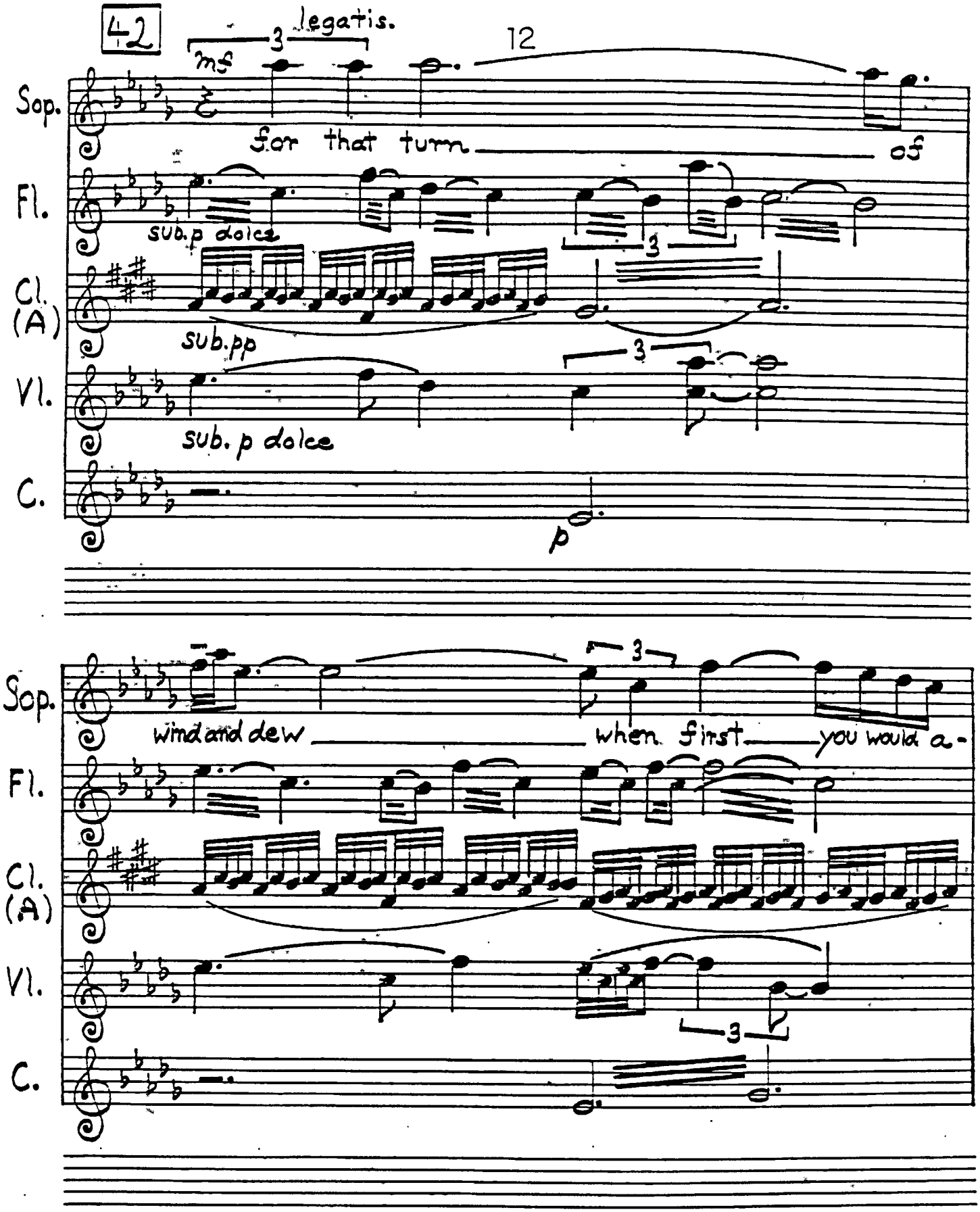

♩= 72
Sop.
spring
Vl.
arco
Vla.
VIOLA pp
pizz. 3
(pizz.) 3
Harp
p cantabile
28
Fl.
3
3
3
p legato
Cl. (B♭)
arco
to B♭
p
Vl.
Vla.
p
Harp
pp
6
6
6
6
6
6

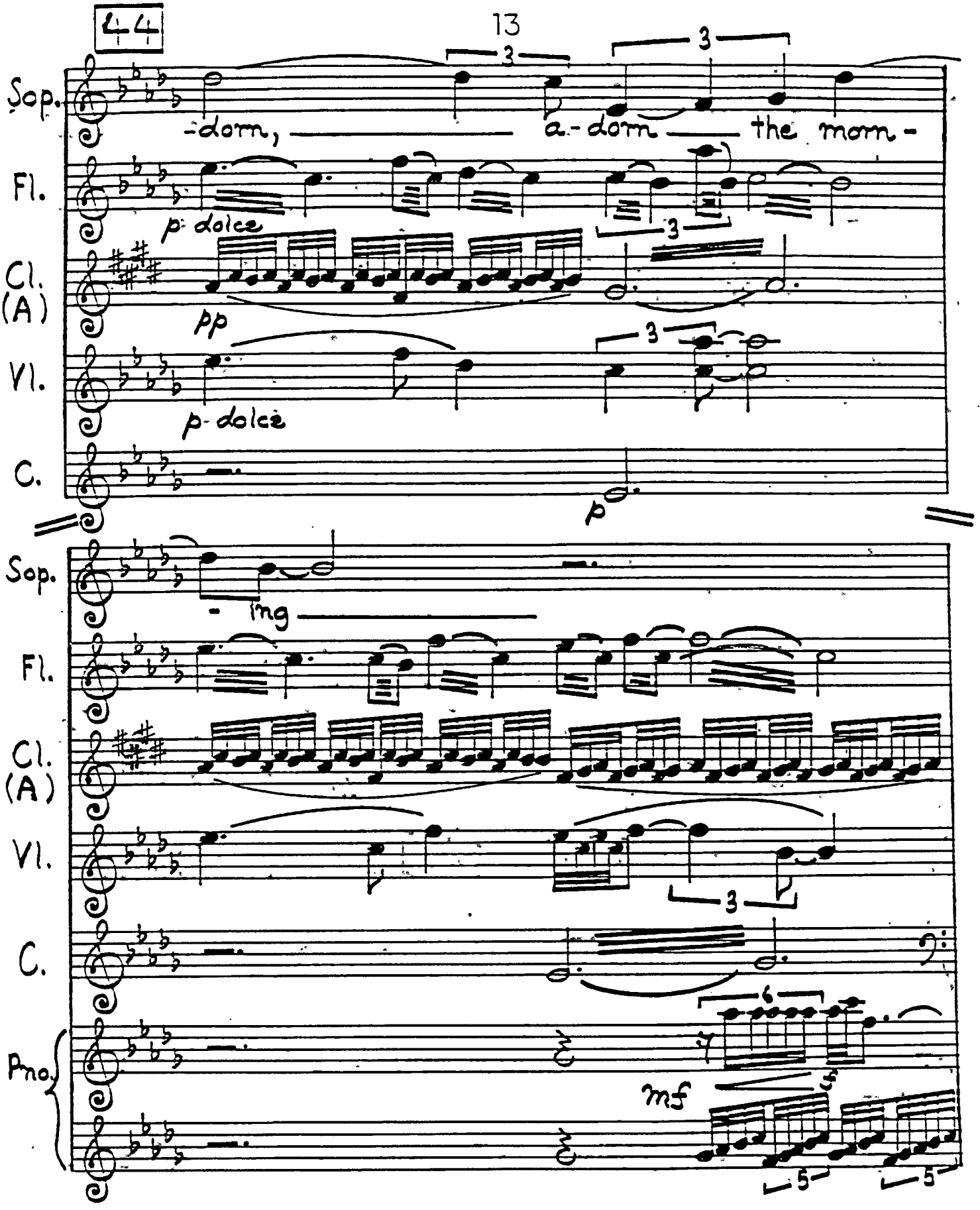

Fl.
Cl. (B♭)
Vl.
Vla.
C.
pizz.
pp
mp
mf
pp
Poco più mosso ♩= 76
31
Sop.
Vla.
C.
whose
flowers stand
pale and
legato
mp leggiero
pizz.
arco
pizz.
mp
wait - ing
meek mo-dest child - like
poco cresc.
arco
pizz.

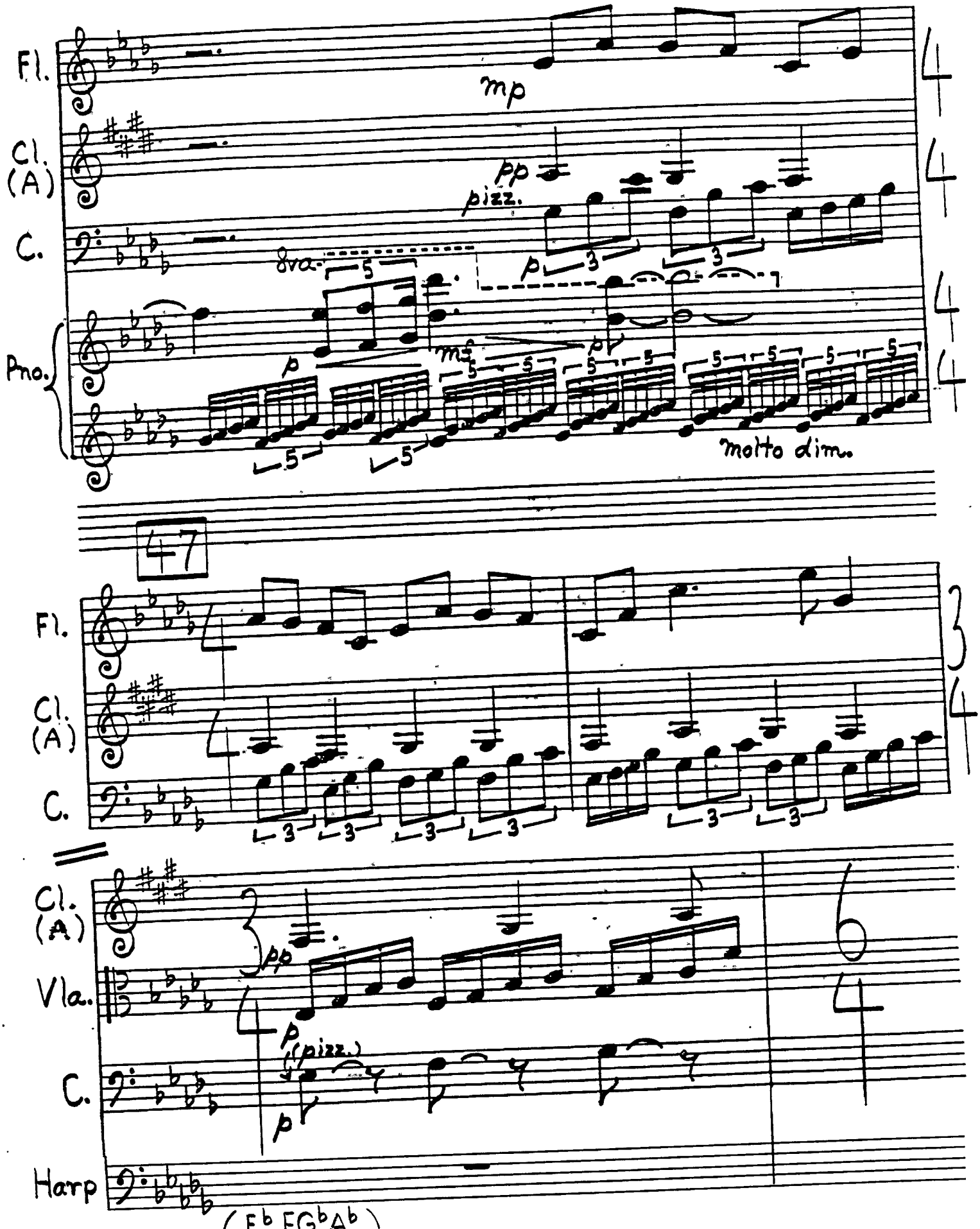

34
Sop.
how you've wait-ed
for those flocks to pass
Cl. (B♭)
mp sub. cresc.
Vl.
mf sub. cresc.
Vla.
pizz.
mf
C.
mf
Change to A.
Pno.
ff

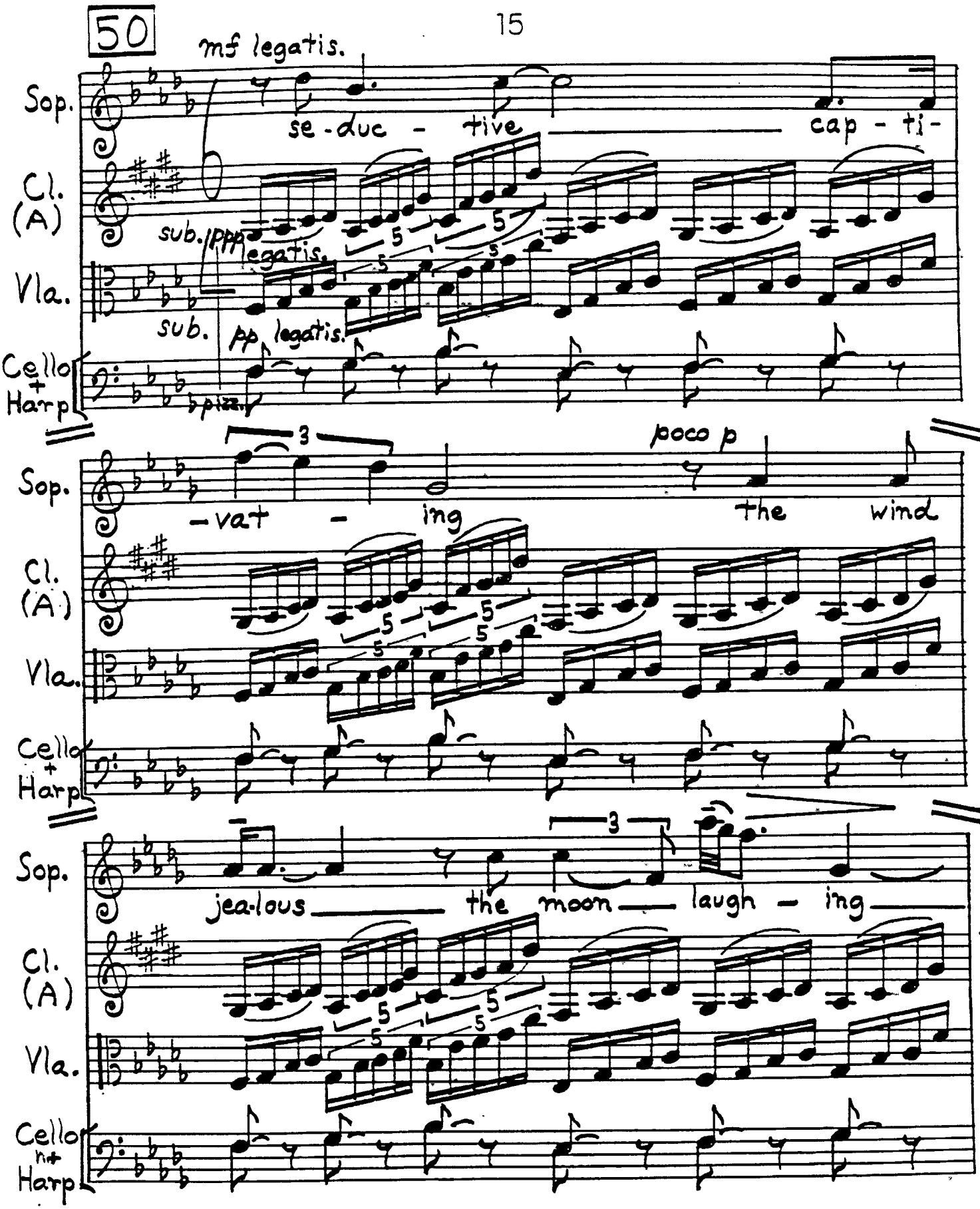

37
Cantabile
Vl.
Vla.
C.
Harp
arco
pizz.
mf
mp
pp
Fl.
E♭ F G♭ A♭
B♭ C♭ D♭

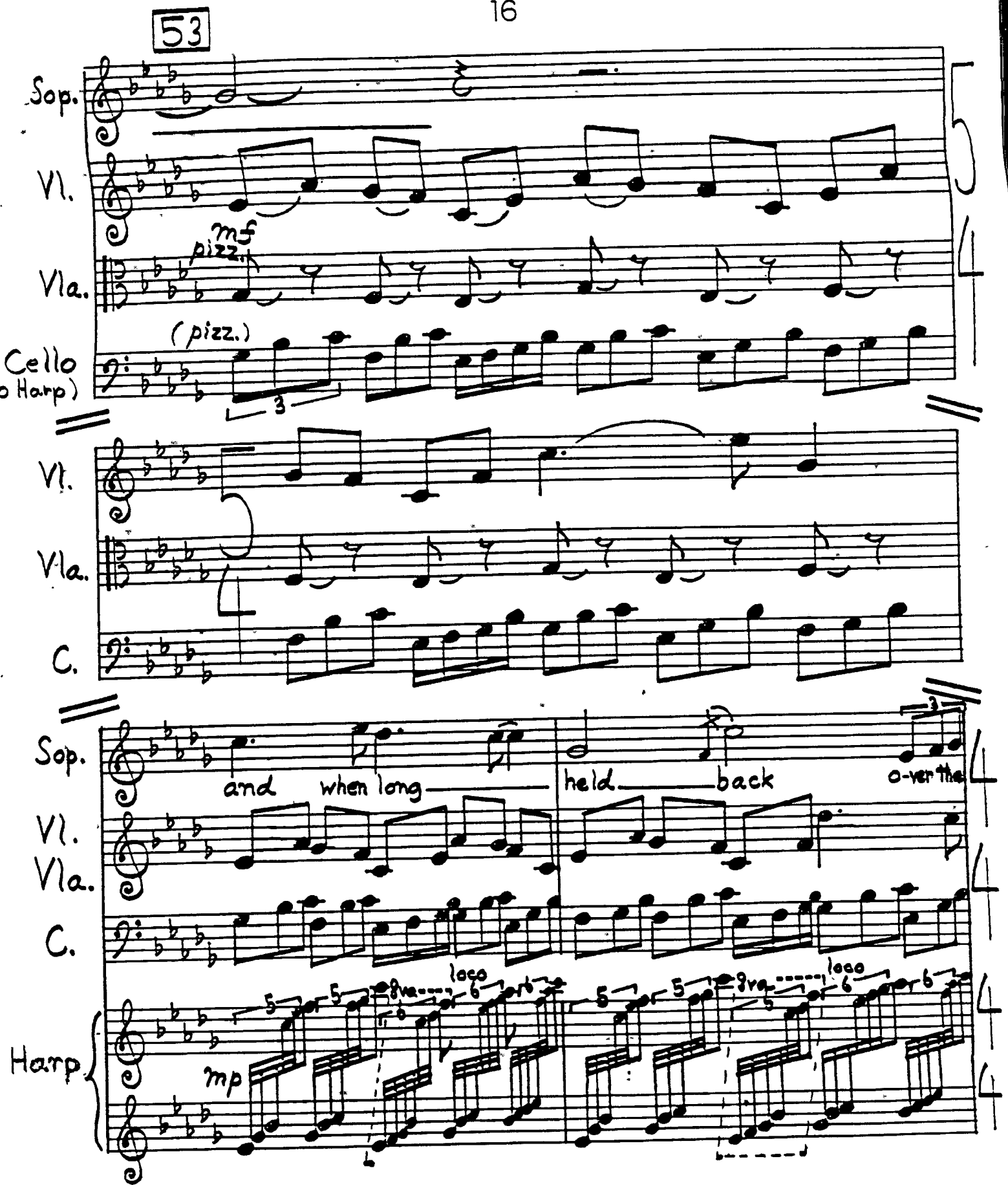

Vl.
Vla.
C.
poco ritard a
mf
Pno.
mp
espr. e dim.
--→ ♩=72
Fl.
sub. ppp delicately
Cl. (A)
delicately
sub. ppp
Vl.
sub. ppp delicately
C.
p
41
Fl.
Cl. (A)
Vl.
C.
p

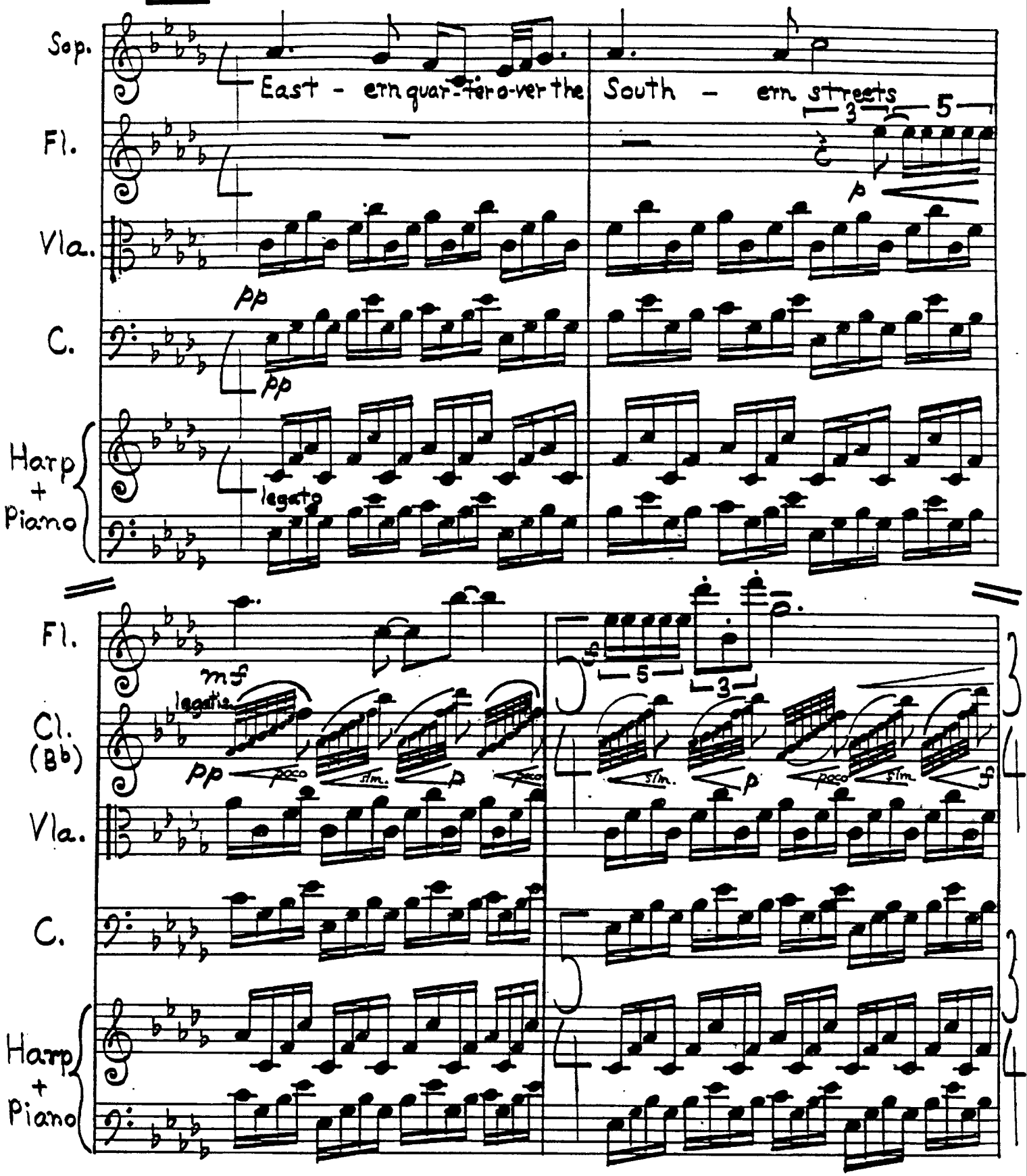

42
legatis.
12
ms
Sop.
for that turn
of
Fl.
sub.p dolce
Cl. (A)
sub.pp
Vl.
sub. p dolce
C.
p
Sop.
wind and dew
when first
you would a-
Fl.
Cl. (A)
Vl.
C.

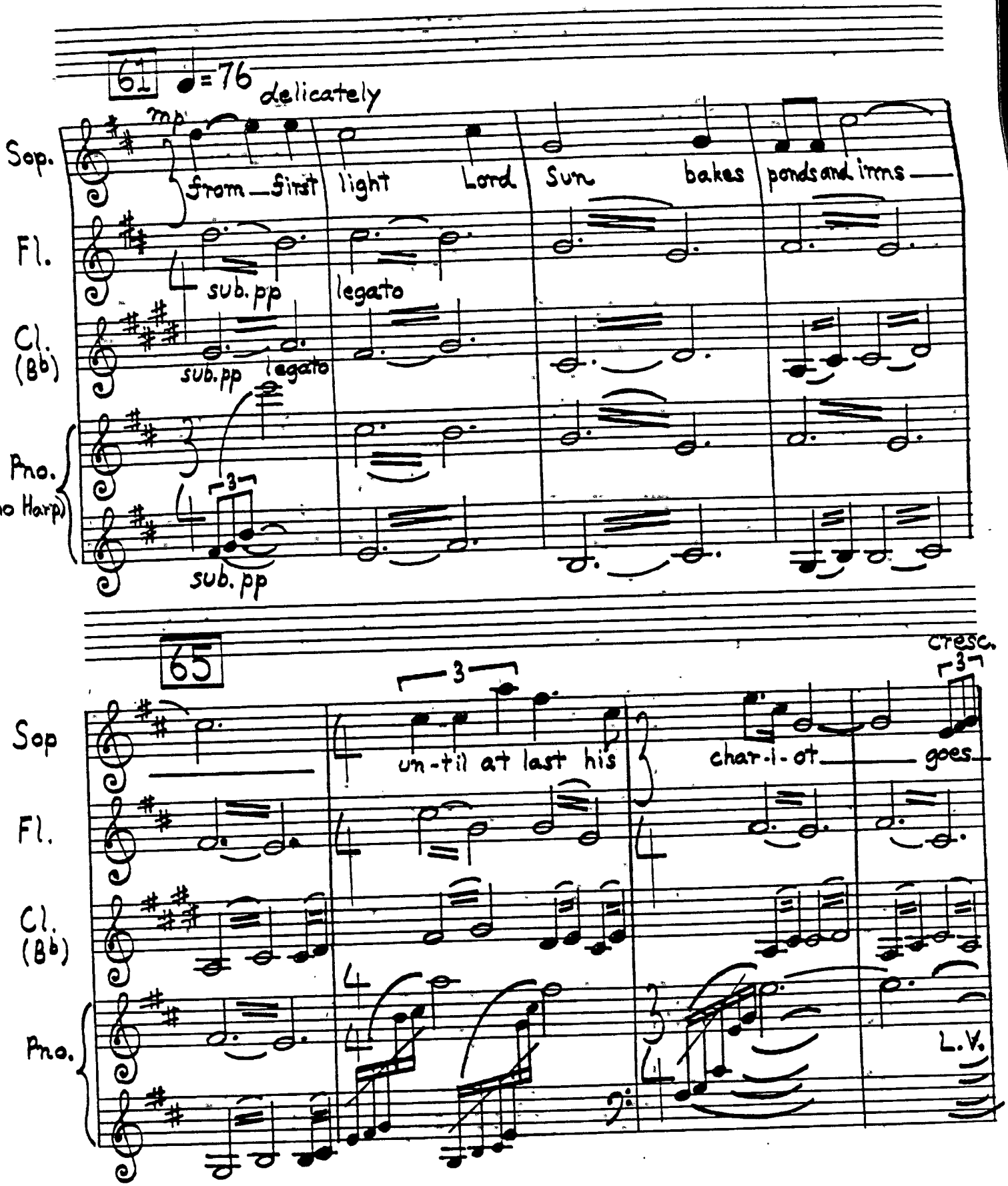

4/4
Sop.
-dorn,
a-dorn
the morn-
Fl.
p dolce
Cl. (A)
pp
Vl.
p-dolce
C.
p
-ing
mf

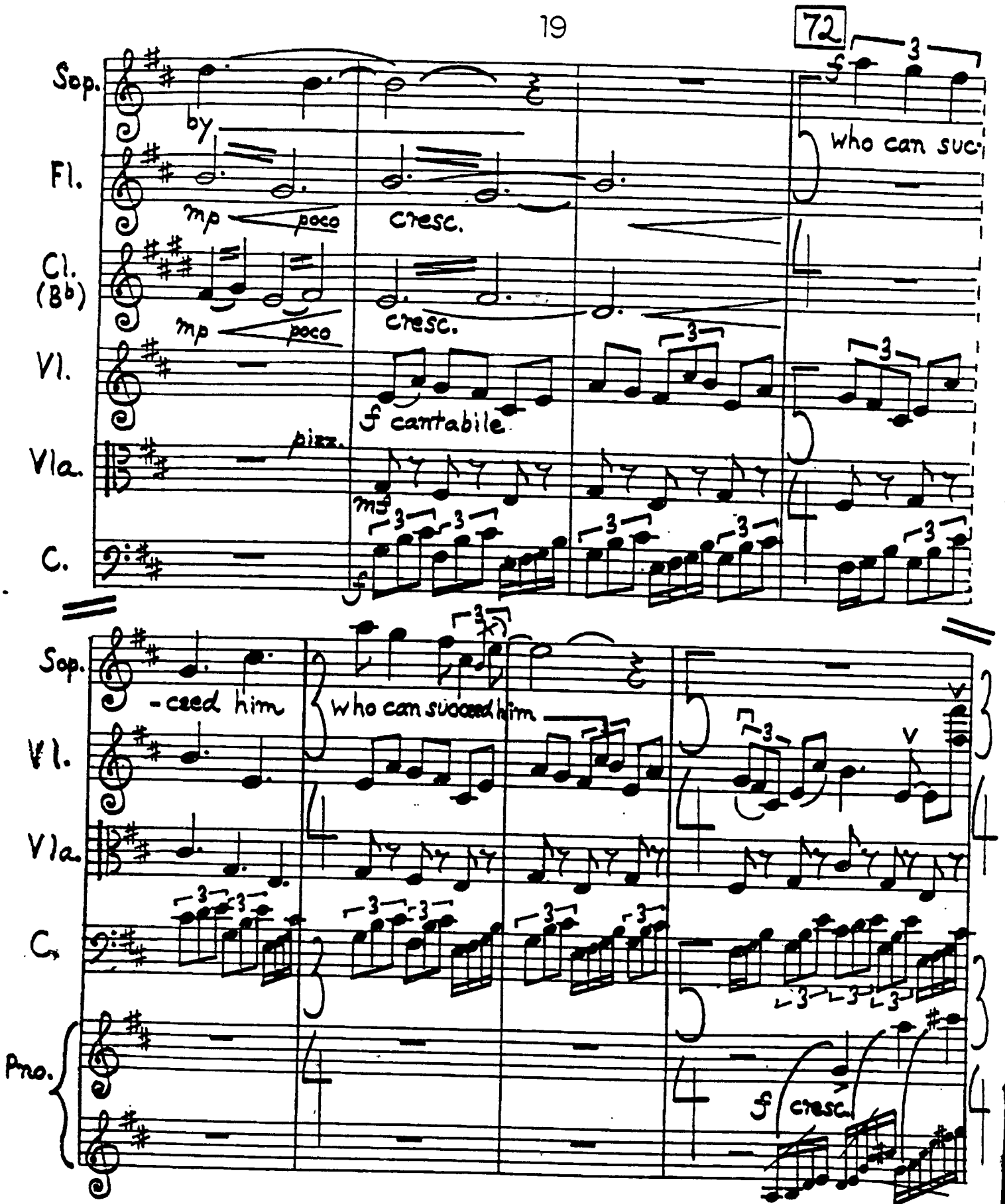

Fl.
Cl. (A)
C.
Pno.
mp
pp
pizz.
8va
p
molto dim.
Fl.
Cl. (A)
C.
Cl. (A)
Vla.
C.
Harp
pp
p
(pizz.)
p
(E♭ F G♭ A♭)

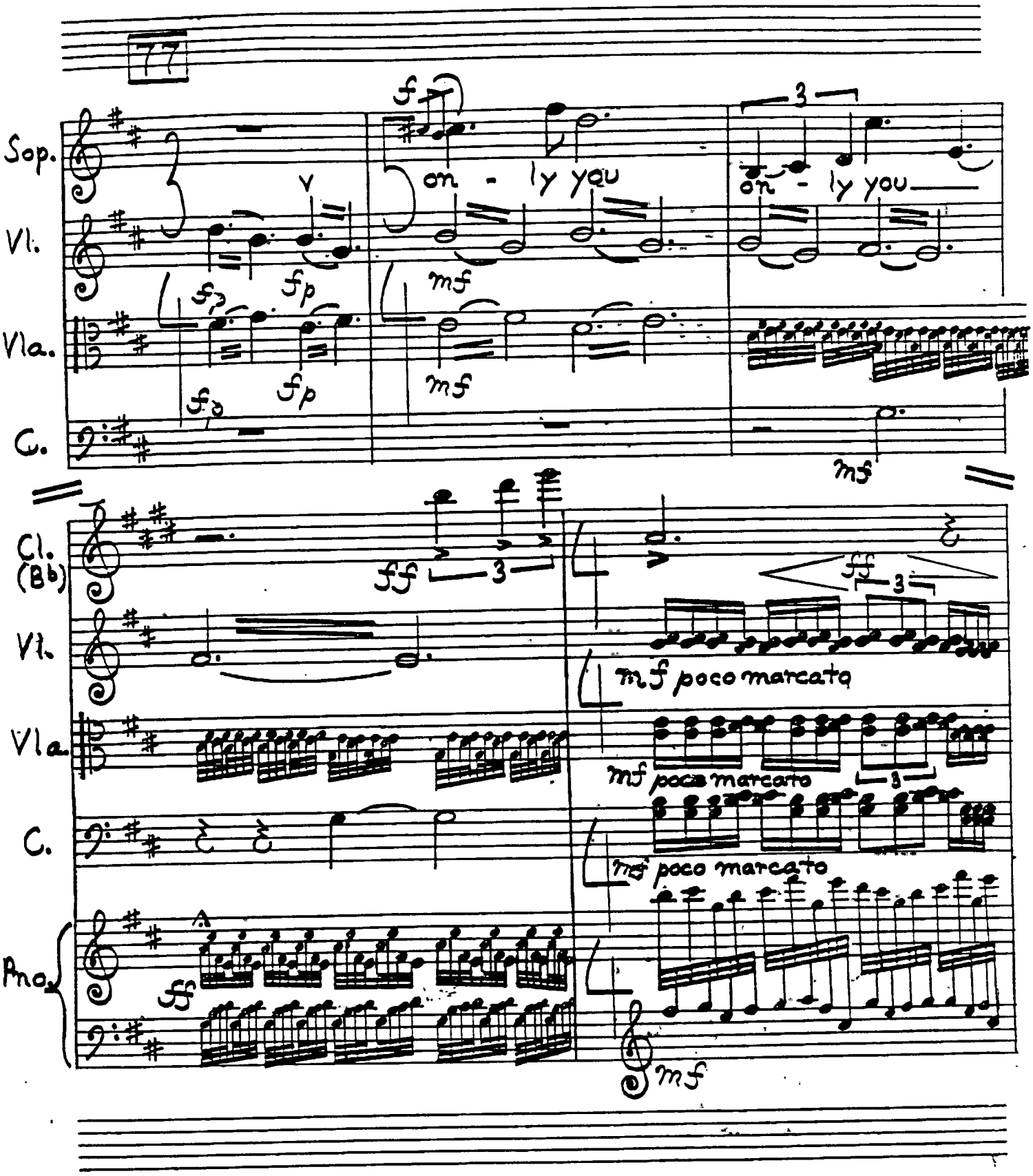

50
mf legatis.
Sop.
se - duc - tive
cap - ti -
Cl. (A)
sub. ppp legatis.
Vla.
sub. pp legatis.
Cello + Harp
pizz.
poco p
- vat - ing
the wind
jea-lous
the moon
laugh - ing

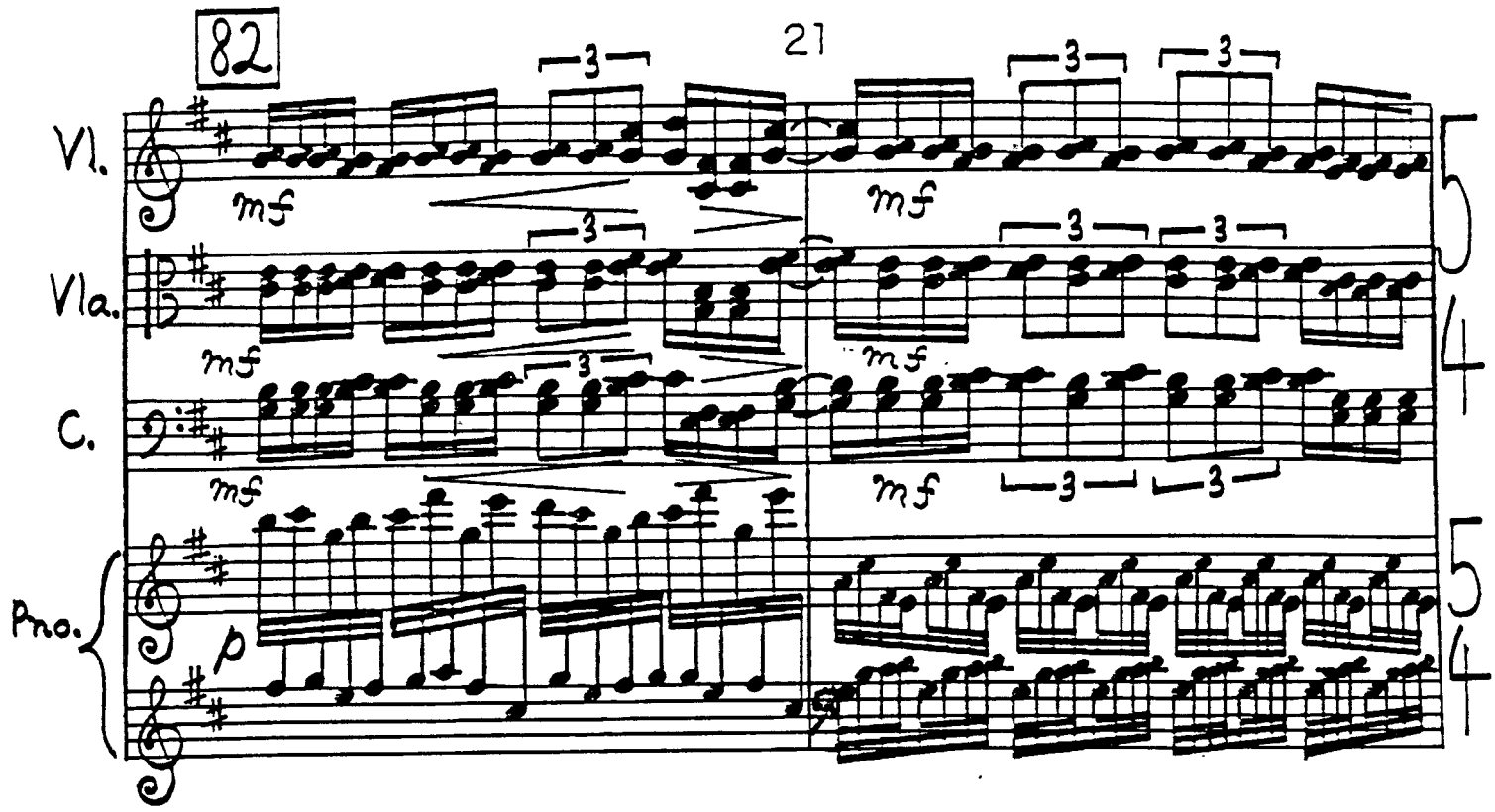

53
Sop.
Vl.
Vla.
Cello
o Harp)
mf
pizz.
(pizz.)
3
Vl.
Vla.
C.
Sop.
and when long held back o-ver the
Vl.
Vla.
C.
Harp
mp
8va
loco
5
6

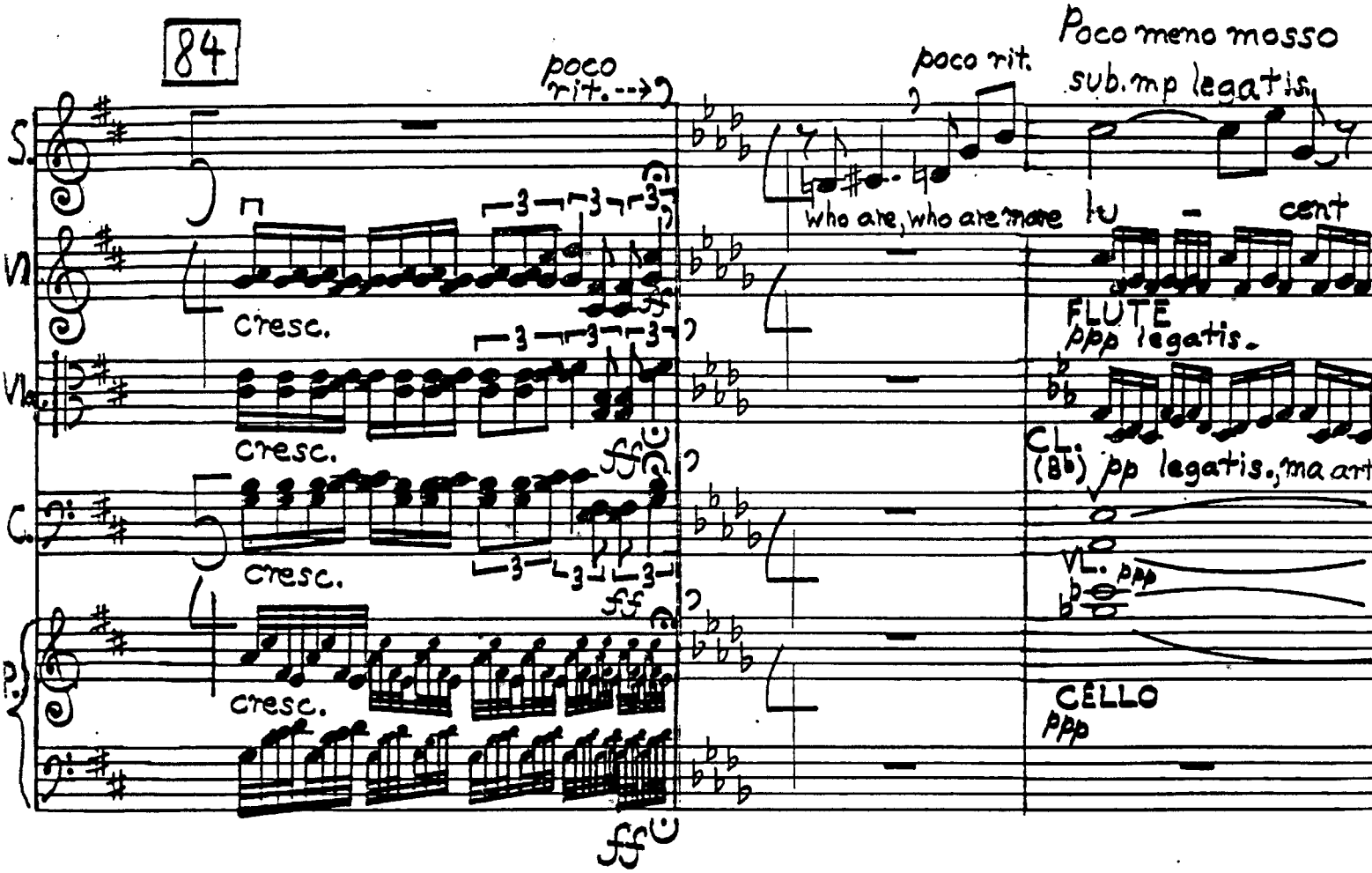

Sop.
East - ern quar-ter o-ver the
South - ern streets
Fl.
Vla.
C.
Harp + Piano
legato
Fl.
Cl. (B♭)
Vla.
C.
Harp + Piano
legato
poco
slm.

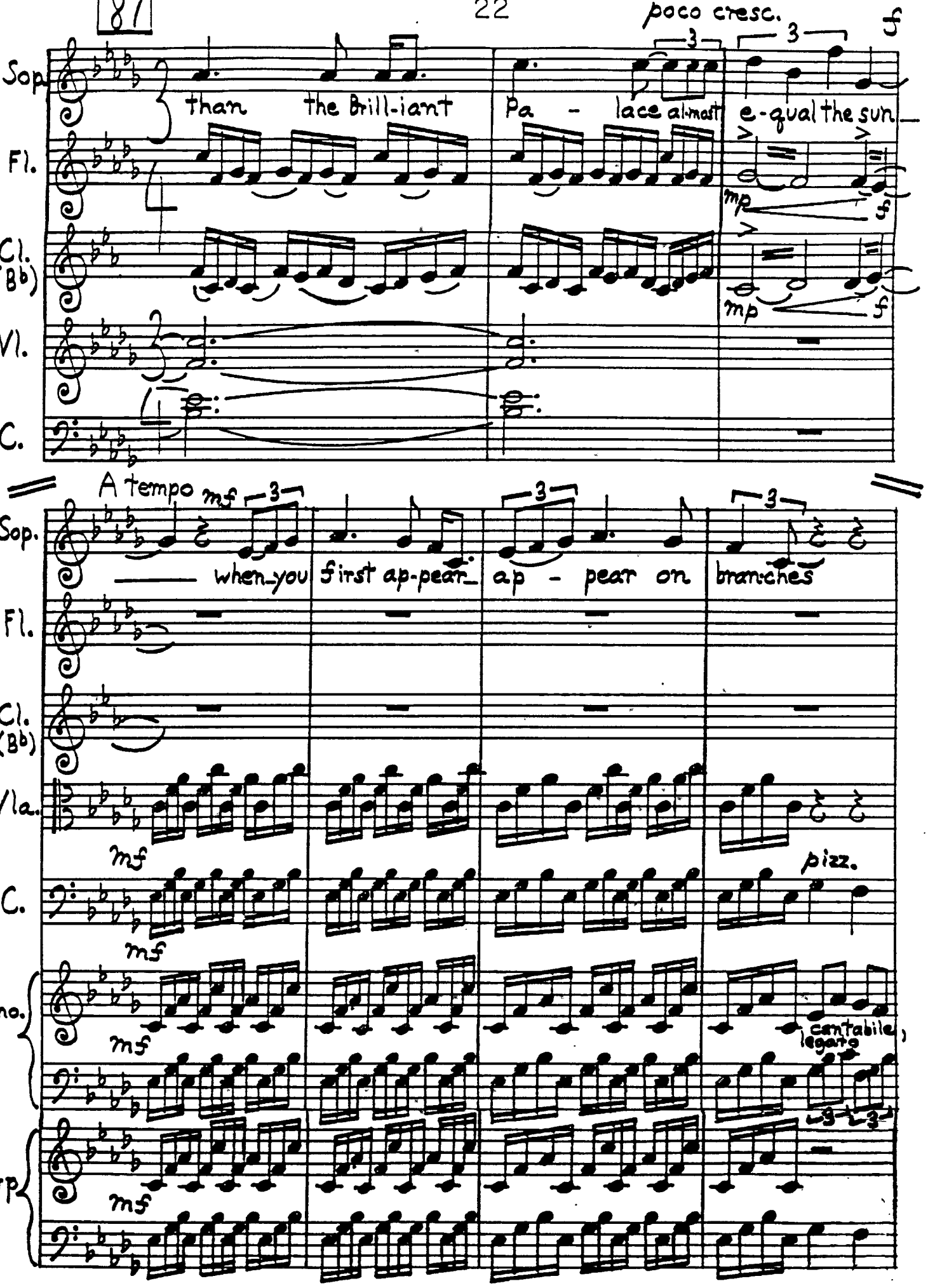

61
♩=76
delicately
mp
Sop.
from first light Lord Sun bakes ponds and irns
Fl.
sub. pp
legato
Cl. (B♭)
sub. pp
legato
Pno. (no Harp)
3
sub. pp
65
cresc.
3
3
Sop
un-til at last his
char-i-ot goes
Fl.
Cl. (B♭)
Pno.
L.V.


72
Sop.
by
who can suc-
Fl.
mp poco
cresc.
Cl. (B♭)
mp poco
cresc.
Vl.
f cantabile
Vla.
pizz.
mf
C.
-ceed him
who can succeed him
Sop.
Vl.
Vla.
C.
Pno.
f cresc.


77
Sop.
Vl.
Vla.
C.
on - ly you
on - ly you
Cl. (Bb)
Vl.
Vla.
C.
Pno.
mf poco marcato
mf poco marcato
mf poco marcato


82
Vl.
Vla.
C.
Pno.
mf
p


84
S.
Vl.
Vla.
C.
Pno.
poco rit. --->
cresc.
ff
poco rit.
Poco meno mosso
sub. mp legatis.
who are, who are more
FLUTE
ppp legatis.
CL. (Bb)
pp legatis., ma art
VL.
ppp
CELLO
ppp


poco cresc.
Sop.
than the Brill-iant Pa - lace al-most e-qual the sun
Fl.
Cl. (B♭)
Vl.
C.
A tempo
Sop.
when you first ap-pear ap - pear on branches
Fl.
Cl. (B♭)
Vla.
C.
pizz.
Pno.
cantabile, legato
Harp

94

Fl.

Cl. (B♭)

Vl.

C.

Pno.

Harp

(pizz.) p

più p

molto tranquillo

pp

mf legatiss.

Sop. for you I'll pour a gold-en cup

Fl.

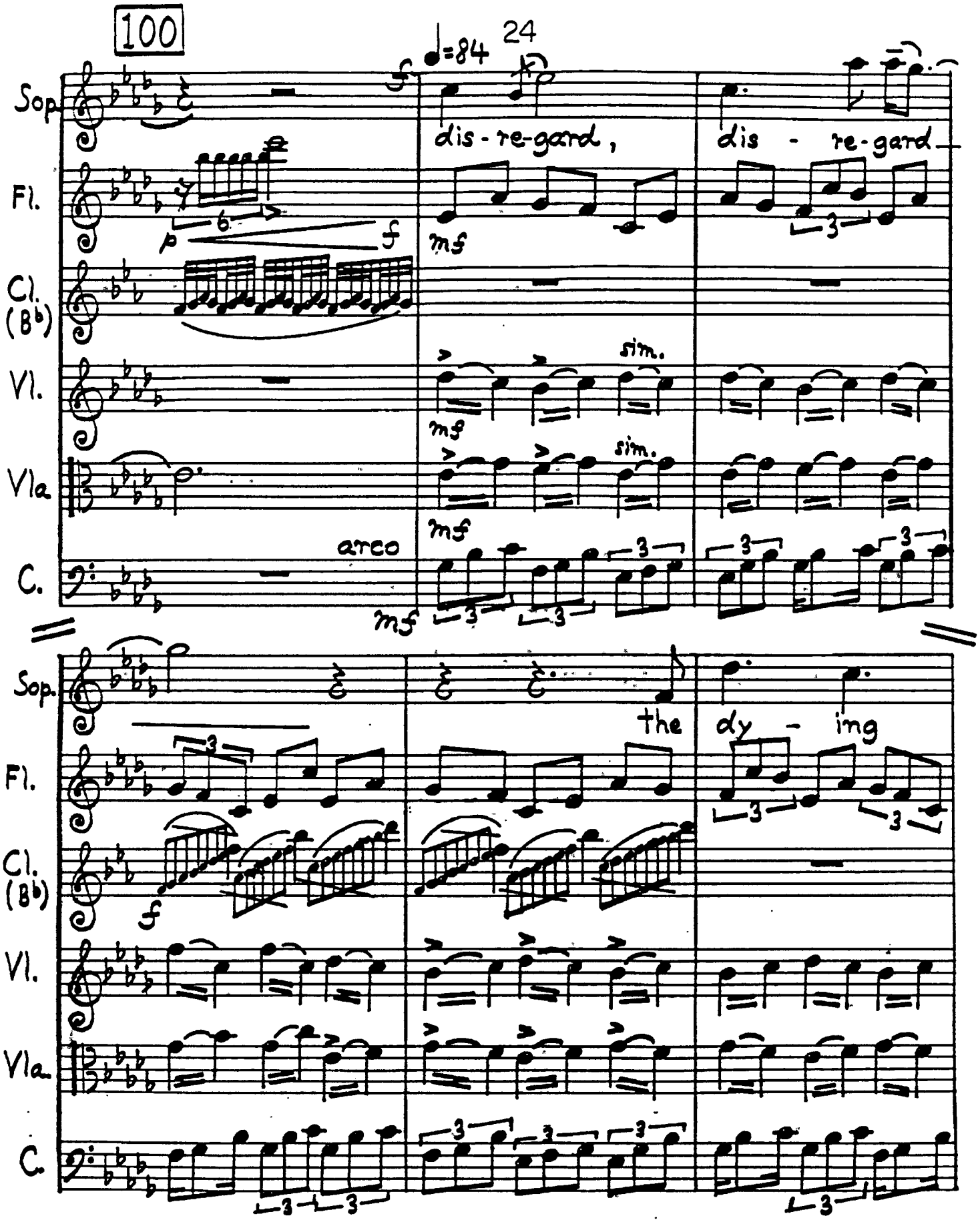
Cl. (B♭)

Vla

mp

mp

mp


100
♩=84
24
Sop.
Fl.
Cl. (B♭)
Vl.
Vla.
C.
dis - re-gard,
dis - re-gard
arco
sim.
sim.
the dy - ing

106

Sop. candle

Fl.

Vl.

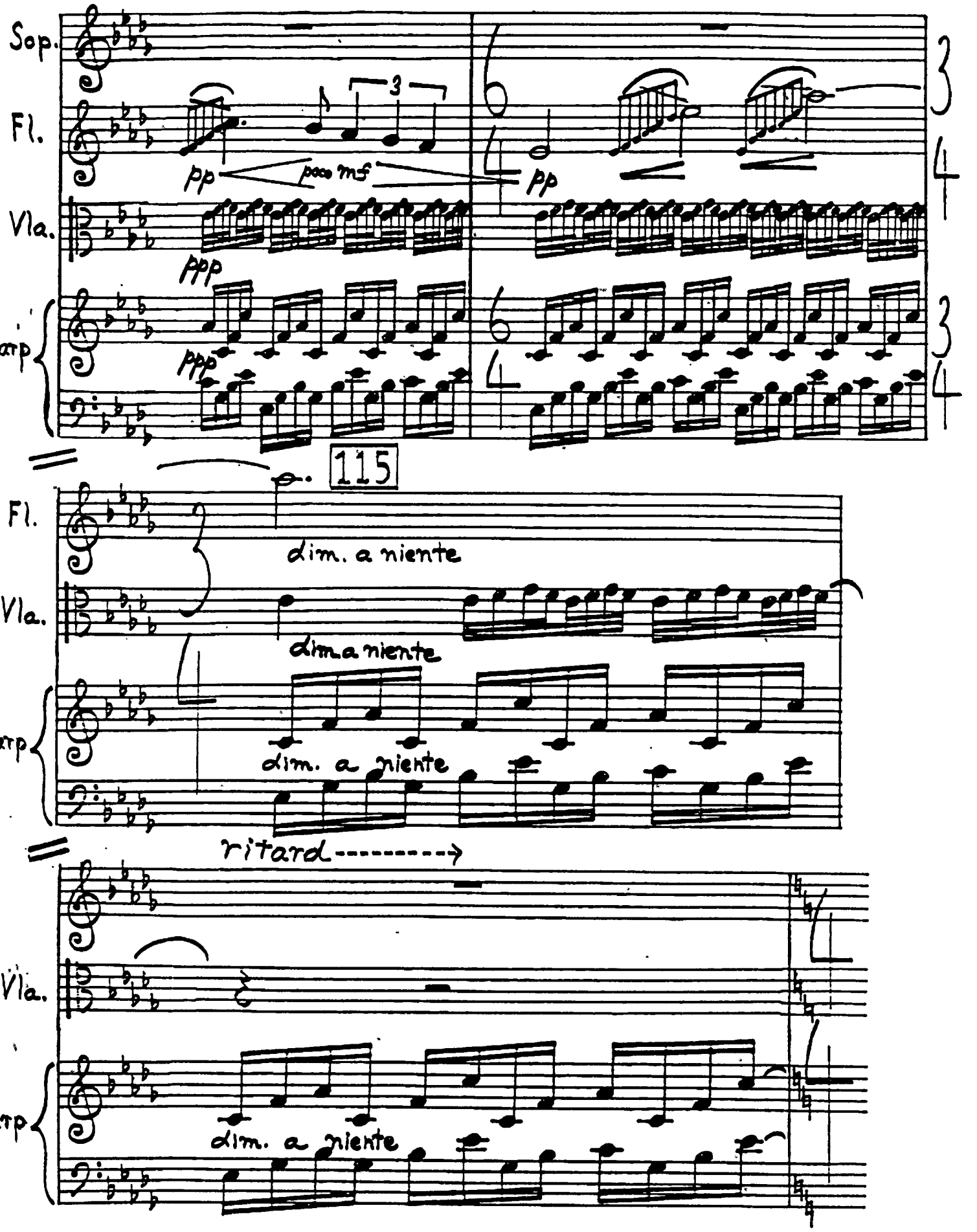
Vla. mp esp.

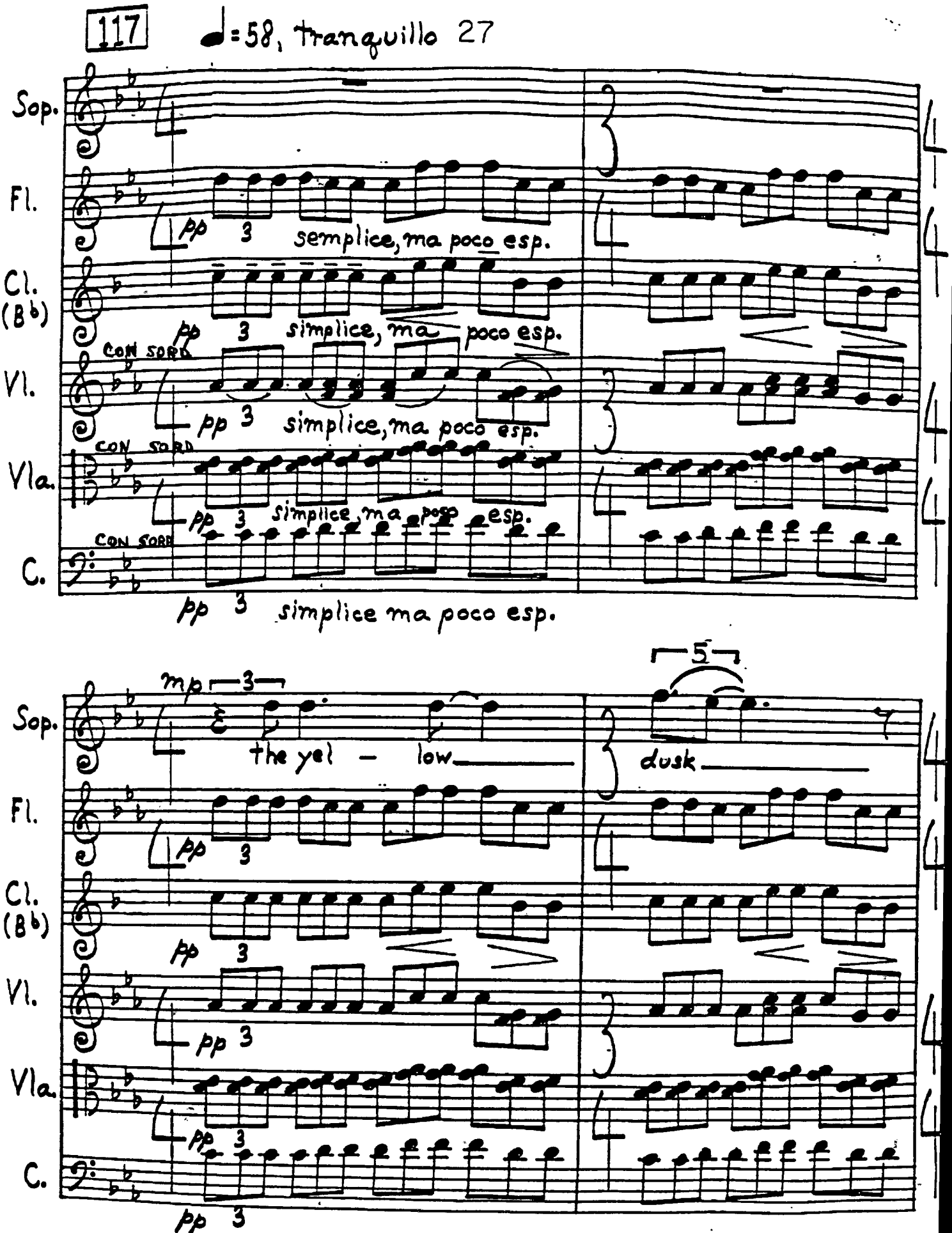
C.

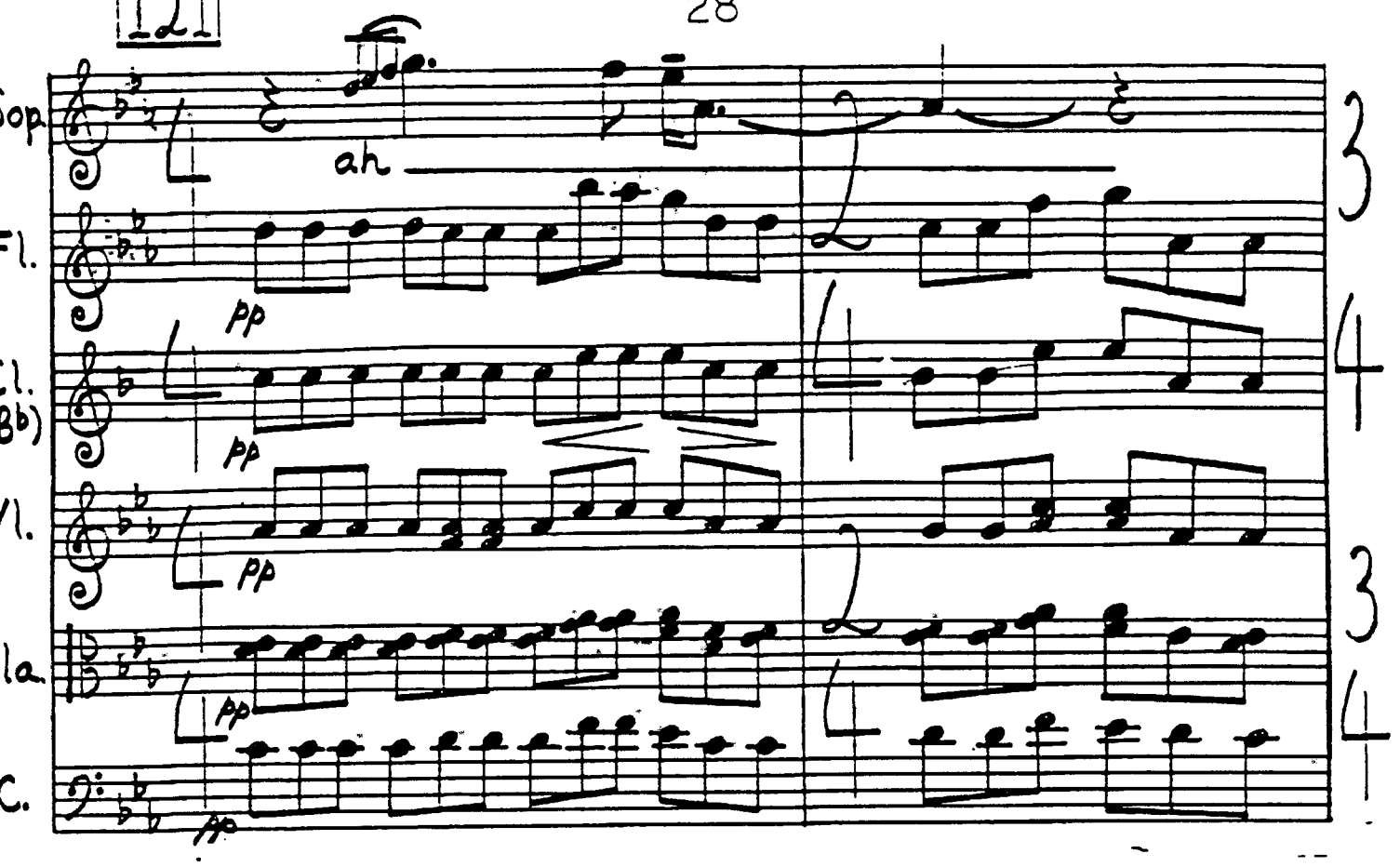
Harp sub p

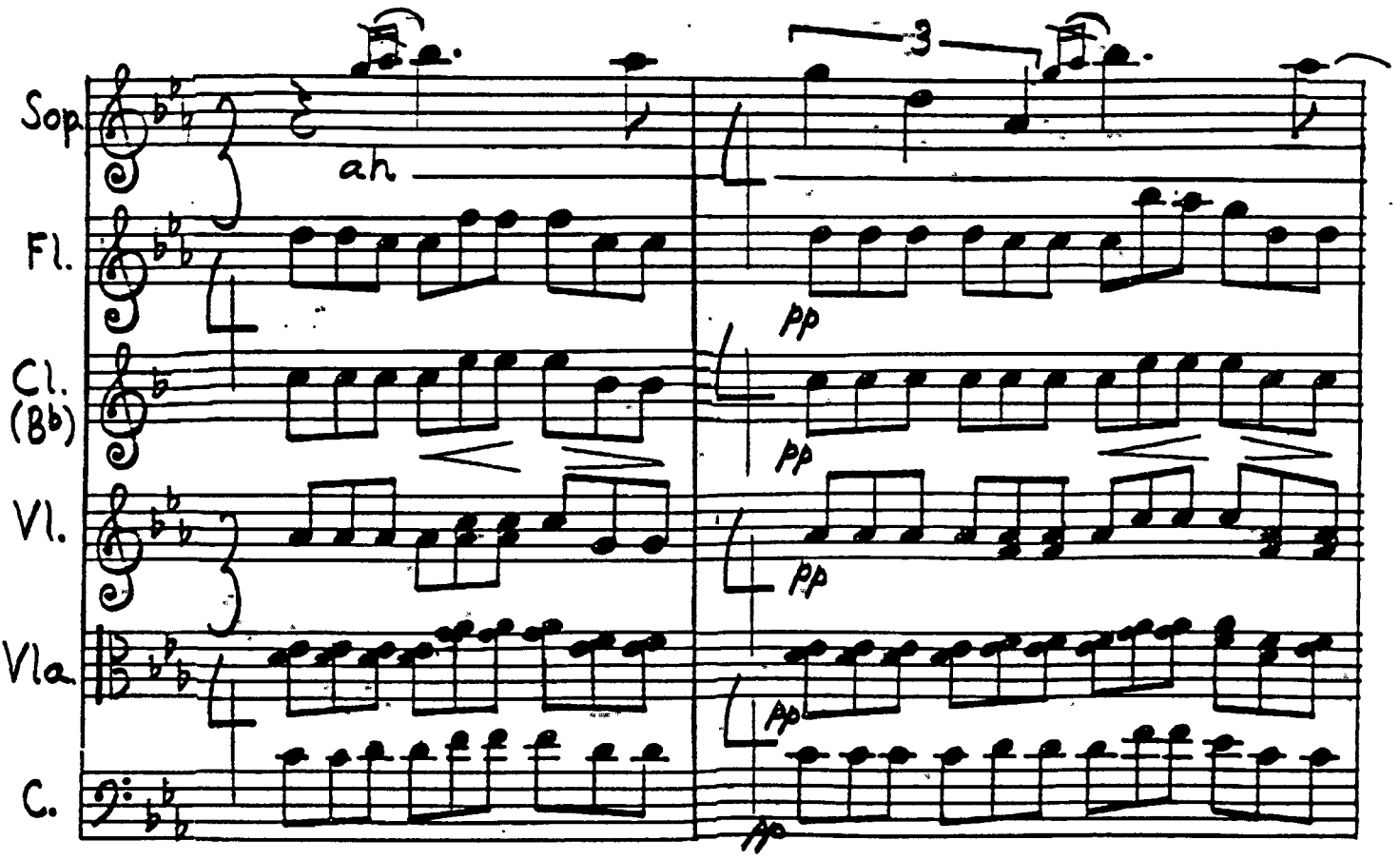
p ig - nore, ig - nore

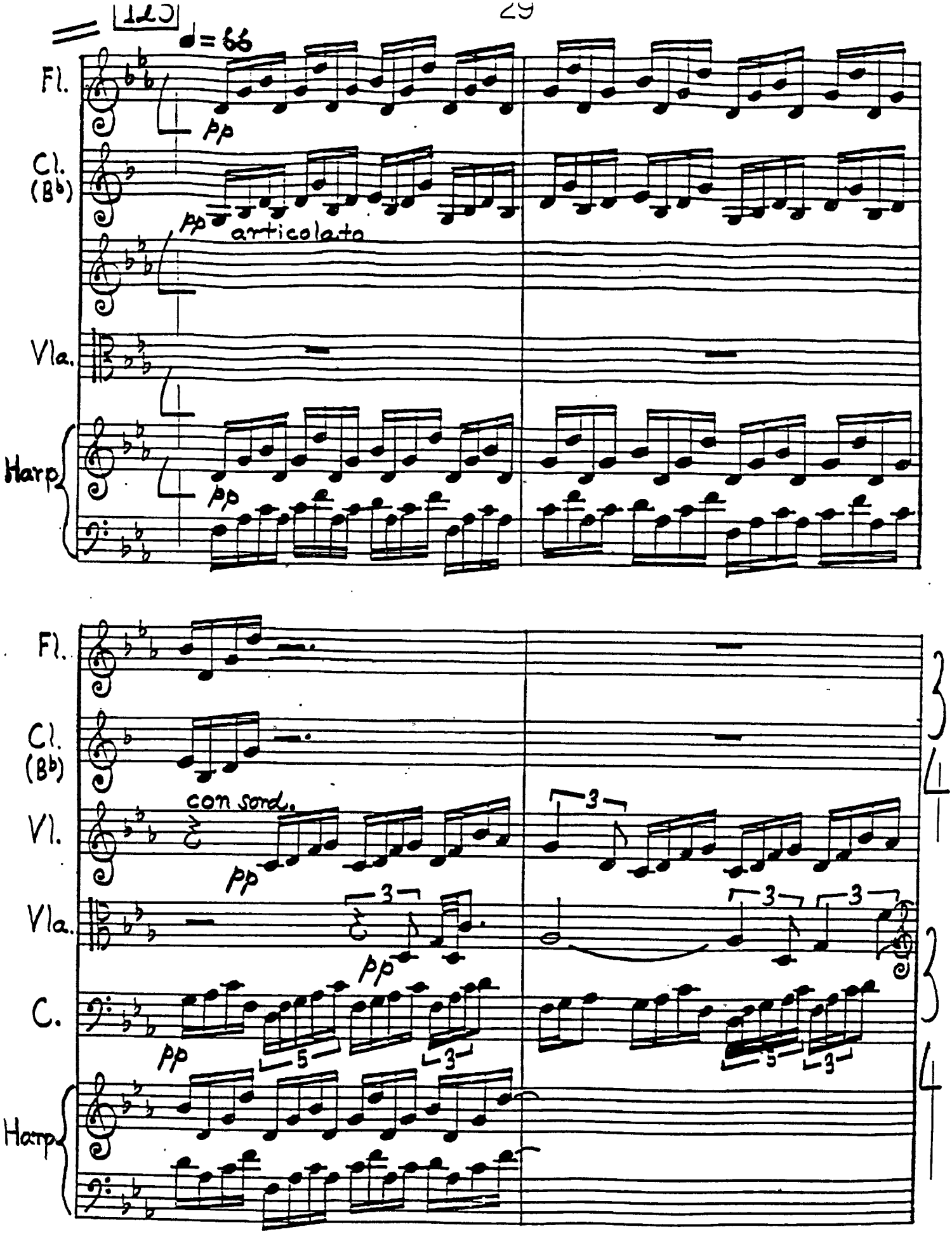
Harp


Sop.
Fl.
Vla.
Harp
pp
poco mf
pp
ppp
ppp
3
6
4
3
4
115
Fl.
dim. a niente
Vla.
dim. a niente
Harp
dim. a niente
ritard
Vla.
Harp
dim. a niente


117
♩=58, tranquillo 27
Sop.
Fl.
Cl. (B♭)
Vl.
Vla.
C.
pp 3 semplice, ma poco esp.
pp 3 simplice, ma poco esp.
CON SORD
pp 3 simplice, ma poco esp.
CON SORD
pp 3 simplice, ma poco esp.
CON SORD
pp 3 simplice ma poco esp.
mp
the yel - low
dusk
5


Sop.
ah
Fl.
pp
Cl.
(B♭)
pp
Vl.
pp
Vla.
pp
C.
pp
3
4
3
4


Sop.
ah
3
Fl.
pp
Cl.
(B♭)
pp
Vl.
pp
Vla.
pp
C.
pp


120
♩= 66
Fl.
pp
Cl. (B♭)
pp articolato
Vla.
Harp
pp
Fl.
Cl. (B♭)
con sord.
Vl.
pp
3
Vla.
pp
3
3
3
C.
pp
5
3
5
3
Harp

129

sul tasto

Vl.

Vla.

C.

sempre dim. a niente

sempre dim. a niente

poco ritard

poco ritard

Vl.

C.

March, 1988
Seattle, Washington

ROSE, I HAVE LOVED

Rose, I have loved thy beauty, as I love
The dress that thou has worn, the transient grass,
O'er which thy happy careless footsteps move,
The yet-thrilled waysides that have watched thee pass.
Soul, I have loved thy sweetness as men love
The necessary air they crave to breathe,
The sunlight lavished from the skies above,
And firmness of the earth their steps beneath.
But were that beauty all, my love might cease
Like love of weaker spirits; were't thy charm
And grace of soul, mine might with age decrease
Or find in Death a silence and a term,
But rooted to the unnameable in thee
Shall triumph and transcend eternity.

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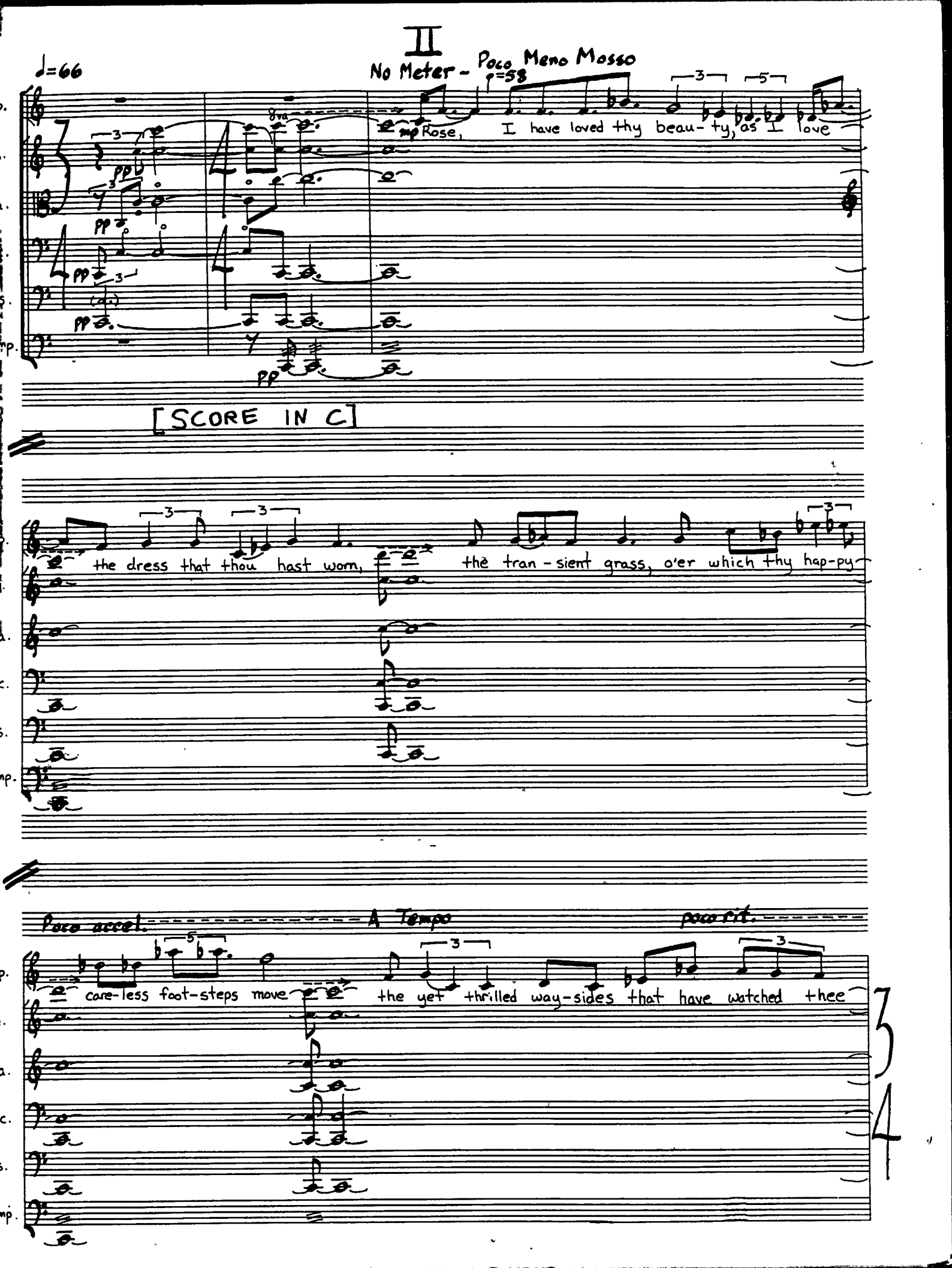
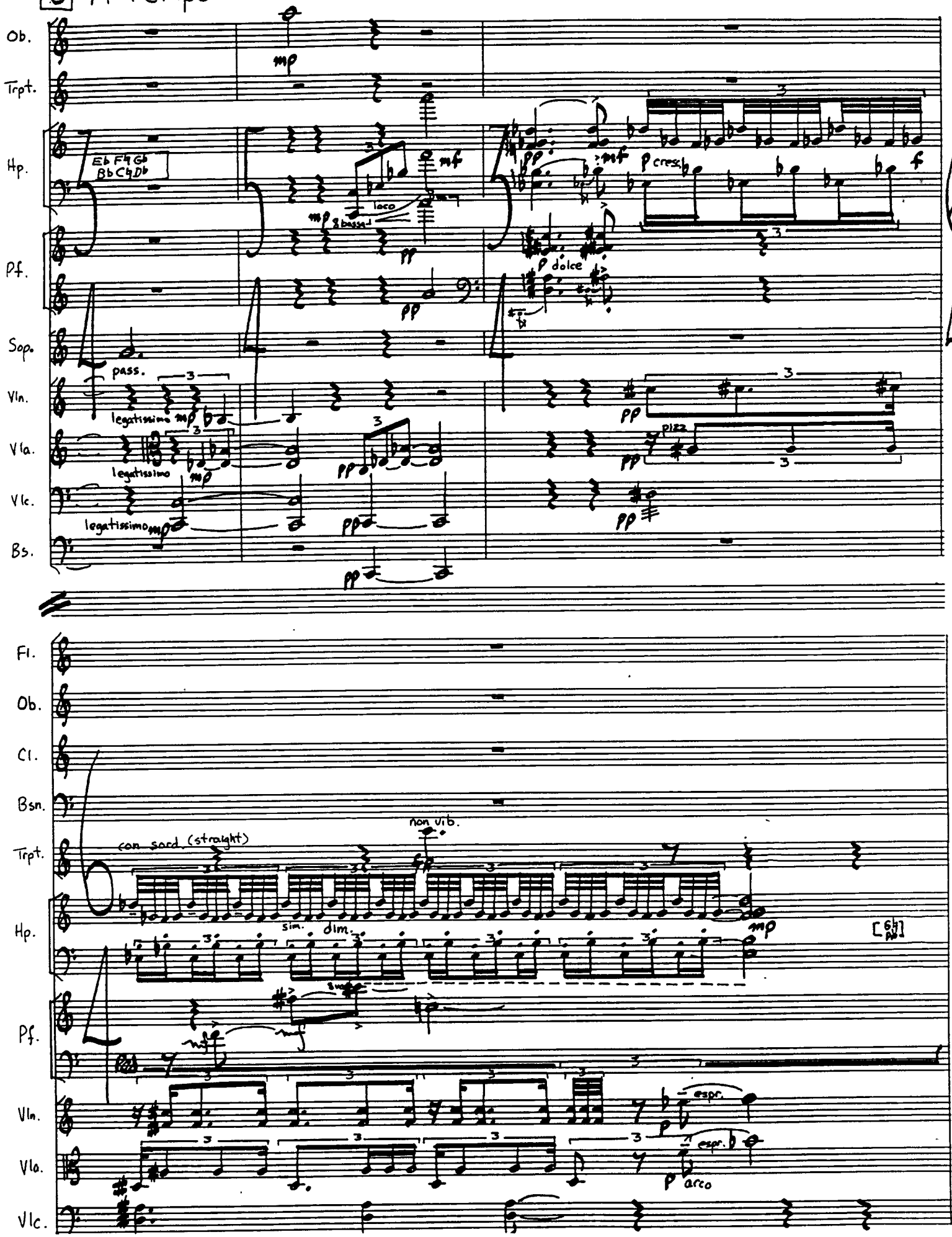
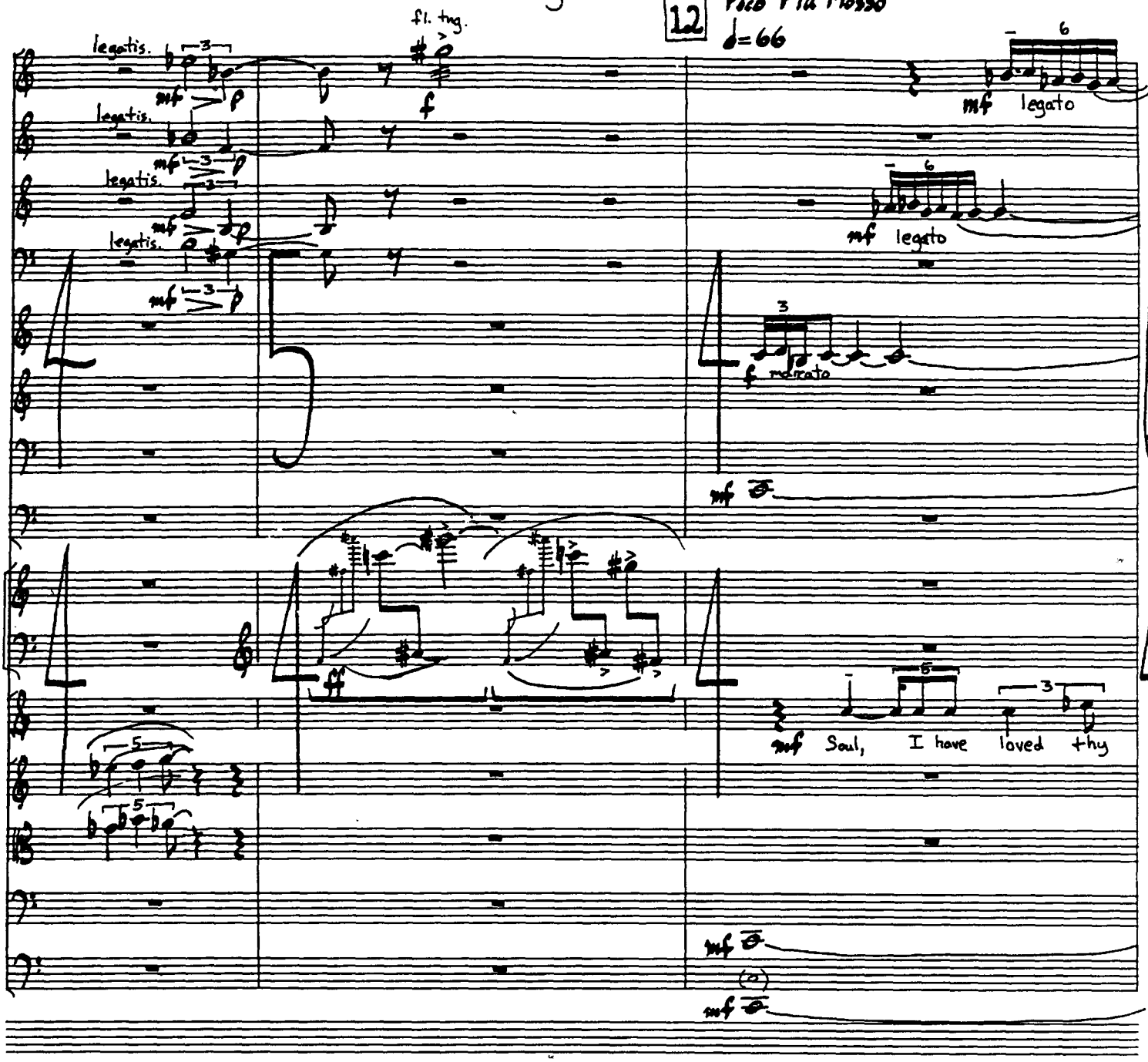
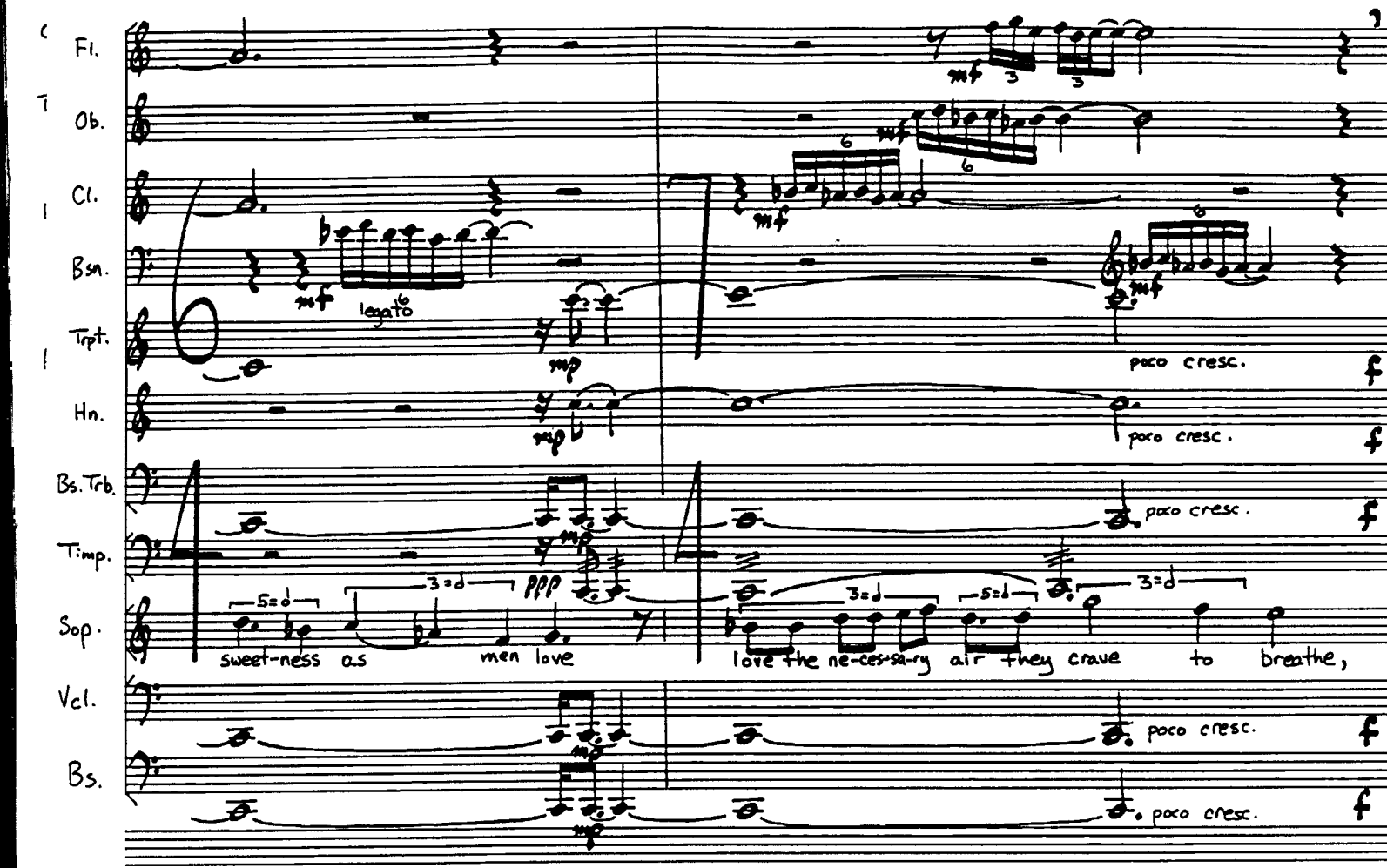
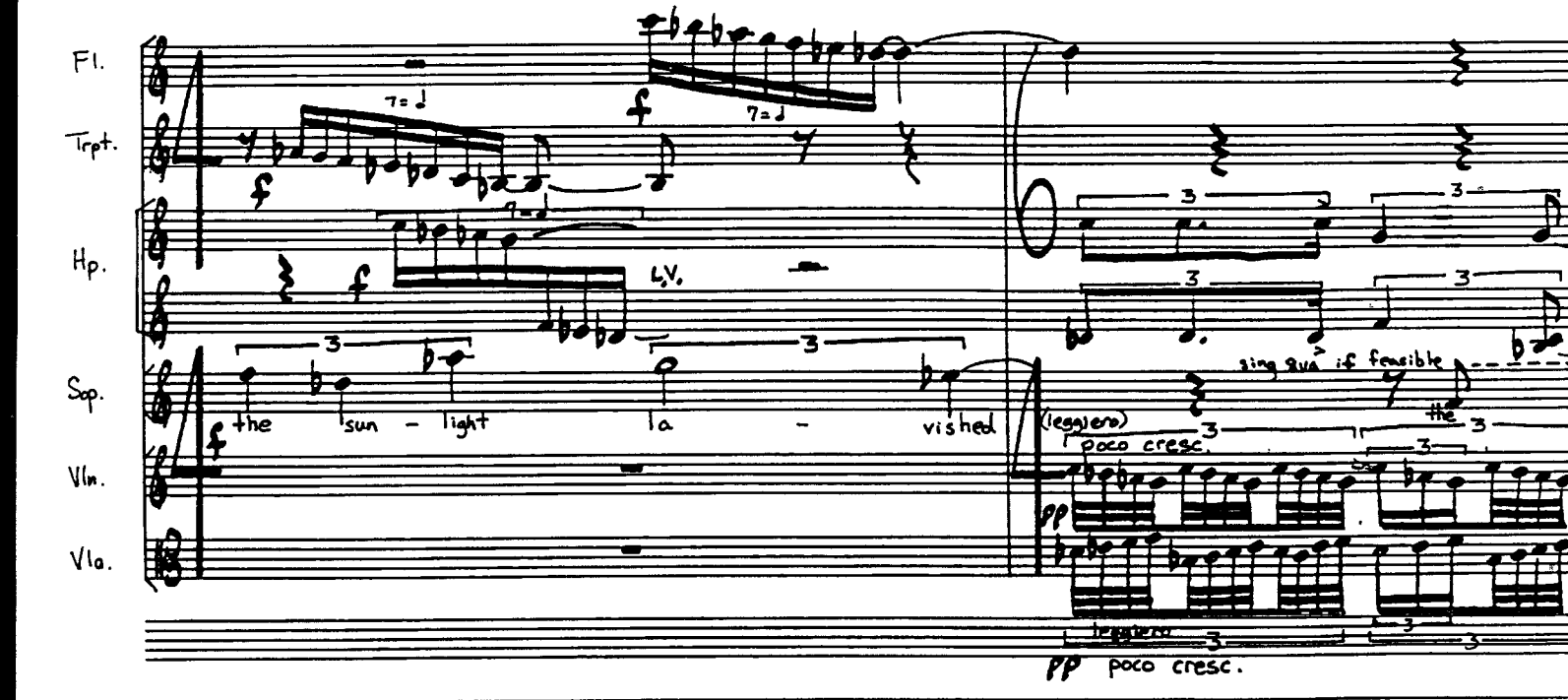

II
No Meter - Poco Meno Mosso
♩=66
♩=58
Rose, I have loved thy beau-ty, as I love
[SCORE IN C]
the dress that thou hast worn, the tran-sient grass, o'er which thy hap-py
Poco accel.
A Tempo
poco rit.
care-less foot-steps move the yet thrilled way-sides that have watched thee
3/4

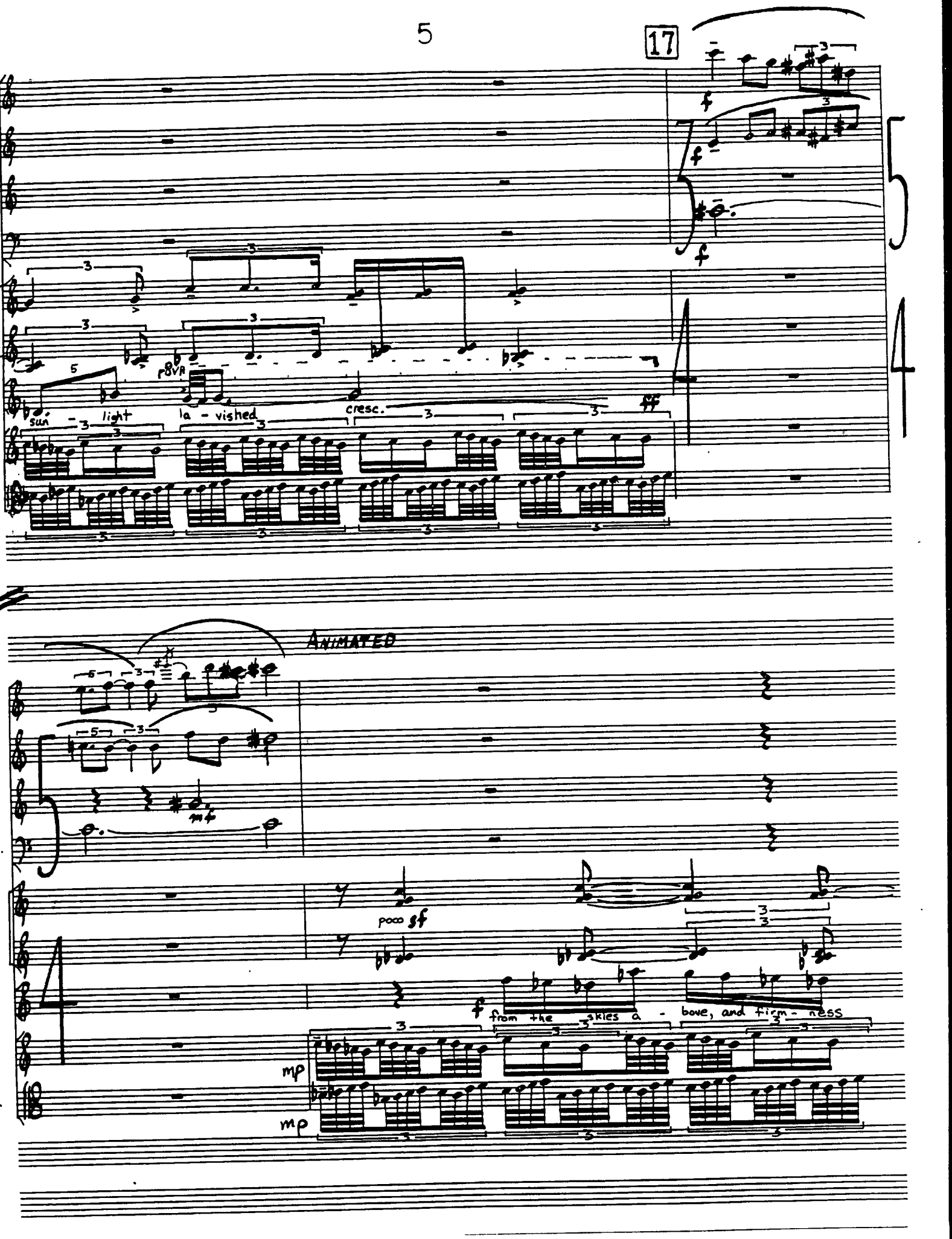

6 A tempo
Ob.
Trpt.
Hp.
Pf.
Sop.
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bs.
Eb F♮ G♭
B♭ C♮ D♭
mp
mf
pp
loco
8 bassa
p cresc.
f
p dolce
pass.
legatissimo
pizz
Fl.
Cl.
Bsn.
con sord. (straight)
non vib.
sim.
dim.
espr.
arco

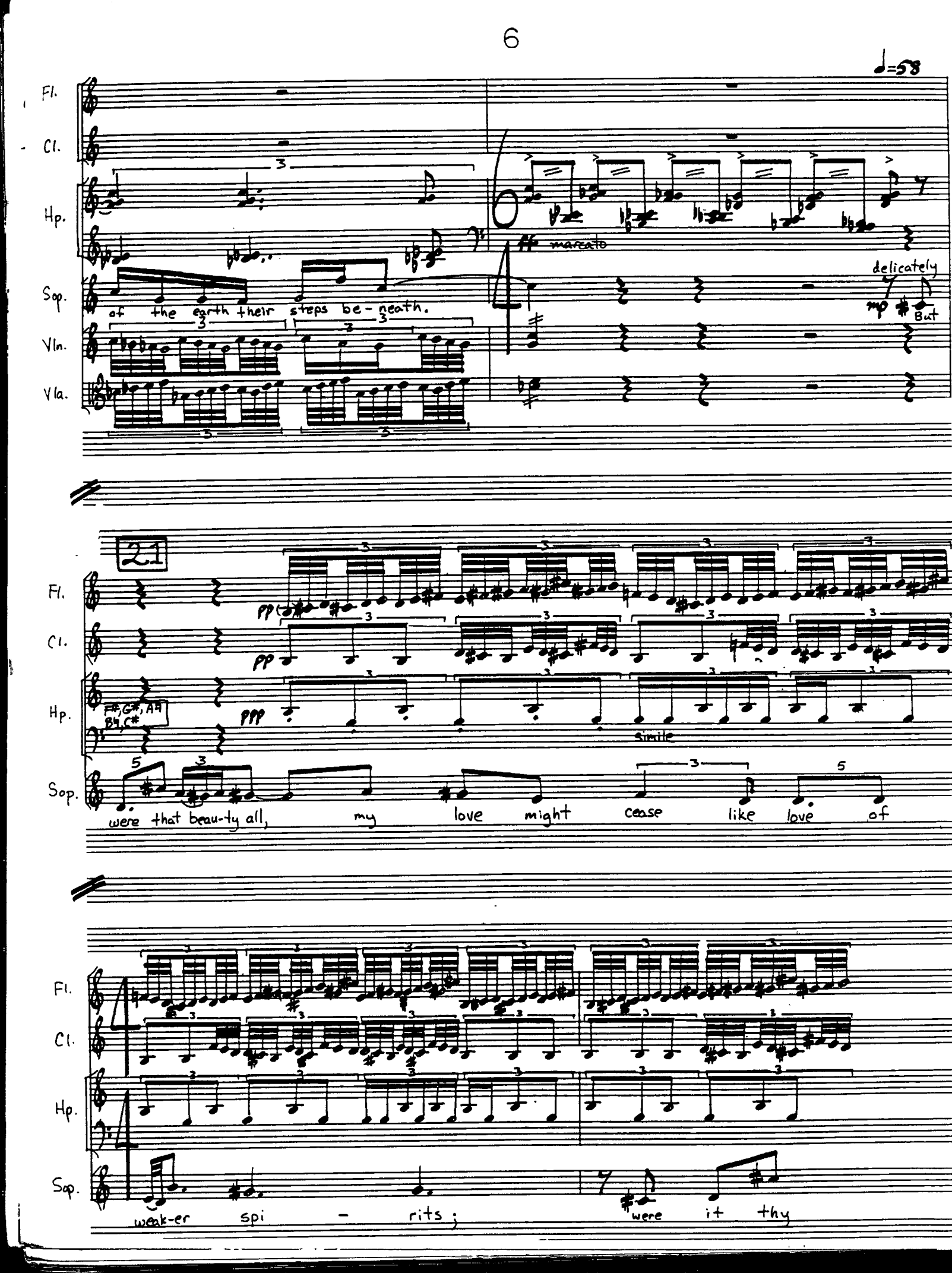
12 Poco Più Mosso
♩=66

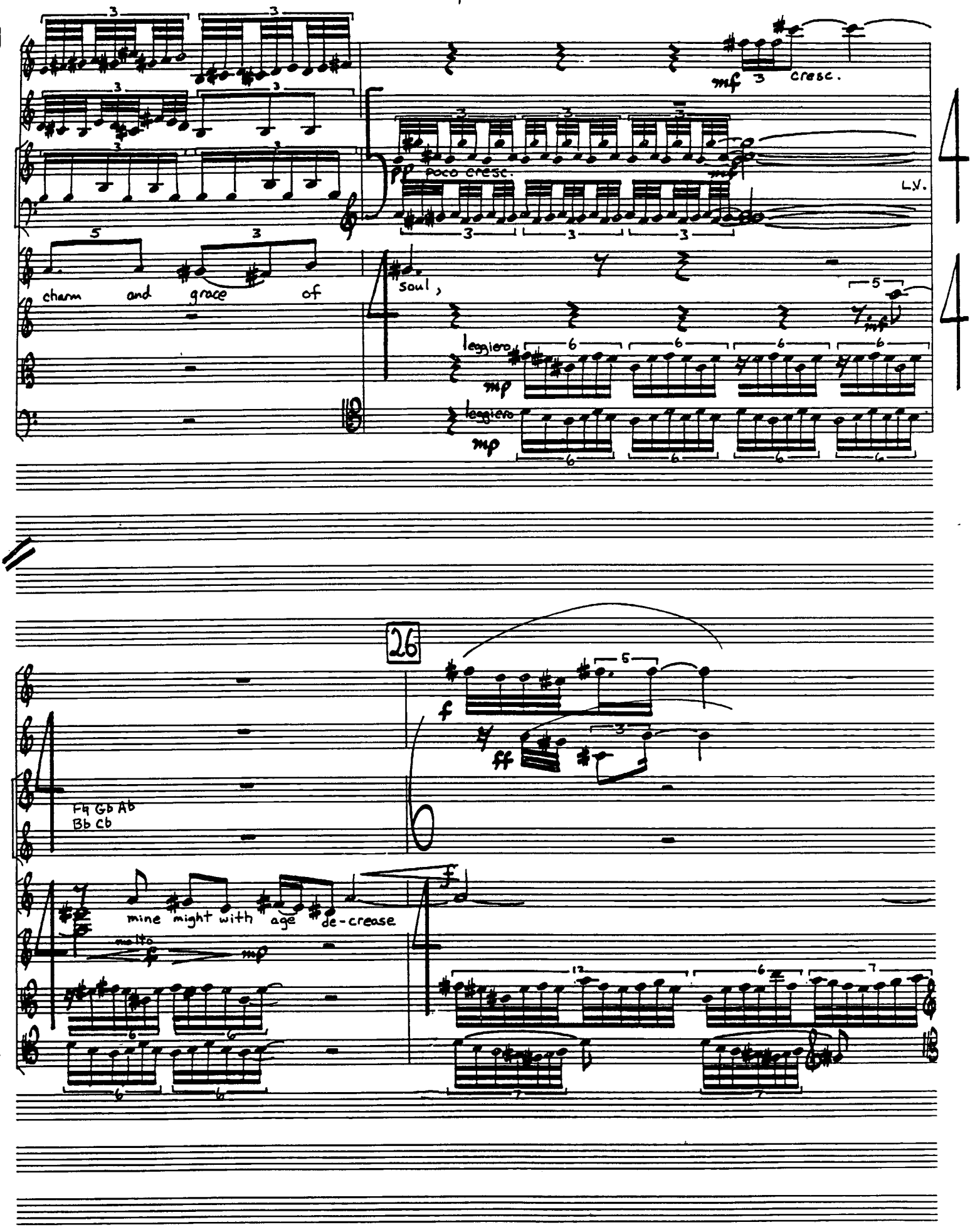


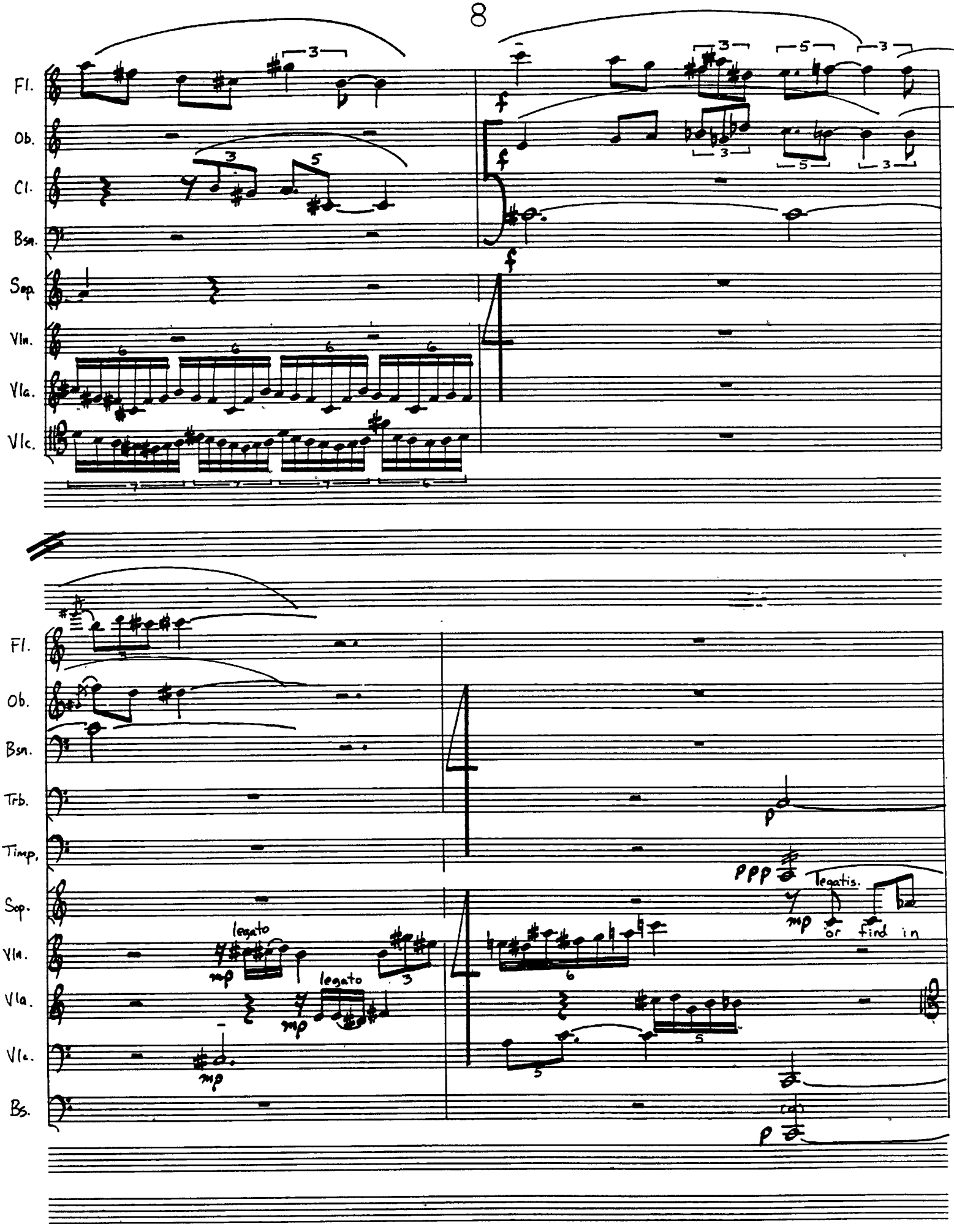

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Trpt.
Hn.
Bs. Trb.
Timp.
Sop.
Vcl.
Bs.
mf
legato
mp
poco cresc.
f
ppp
5=d
3=d
sweet-ness as men love
love the ne-ces-sa-ry air they crave to breathe,

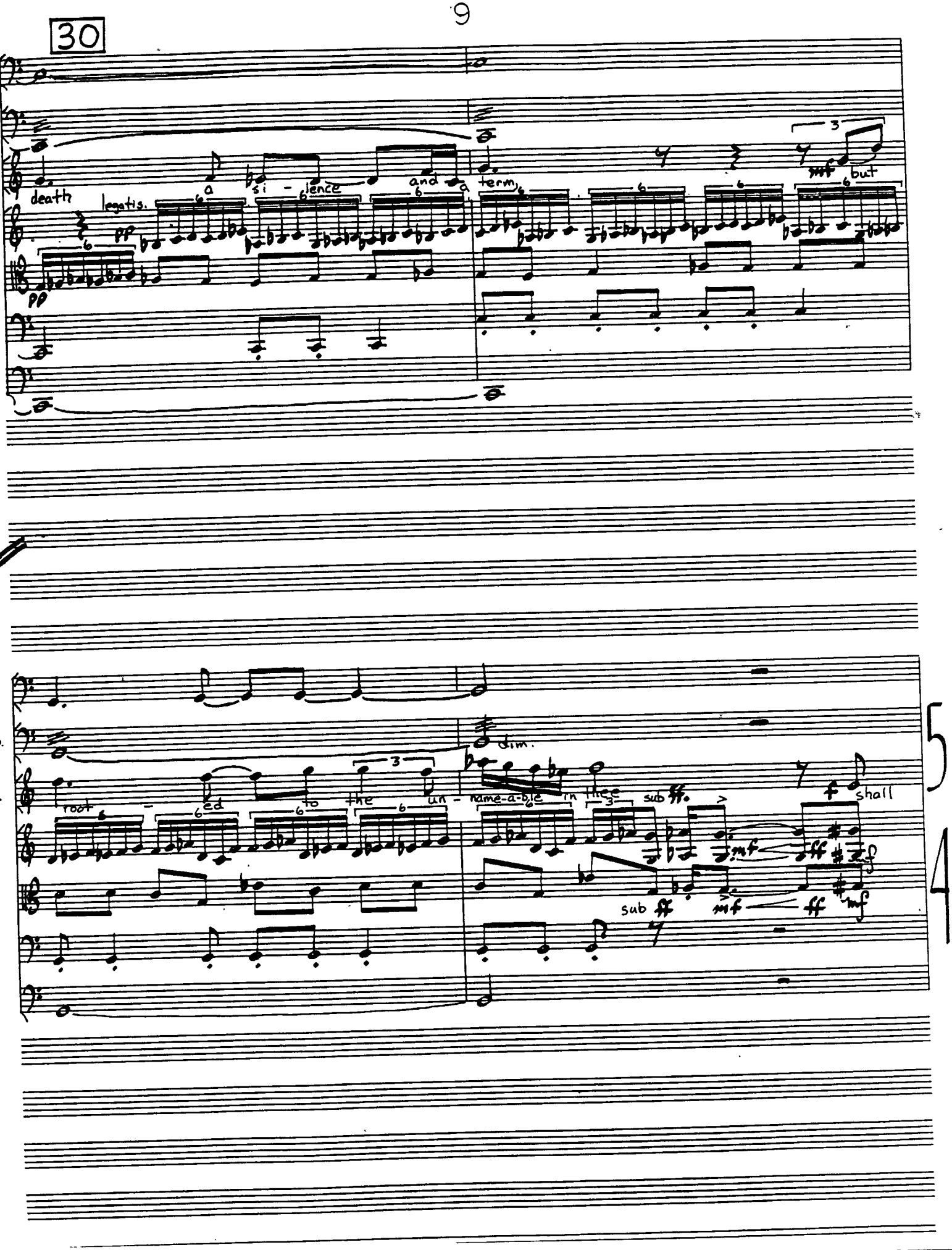

Fl.
Trpt.
Hp.
Sop.
Vln.
Vla.
7=d
L.V.
the sun - light la - vished
sing out if feasible
the
(leggiero)
poco cresc.
pp

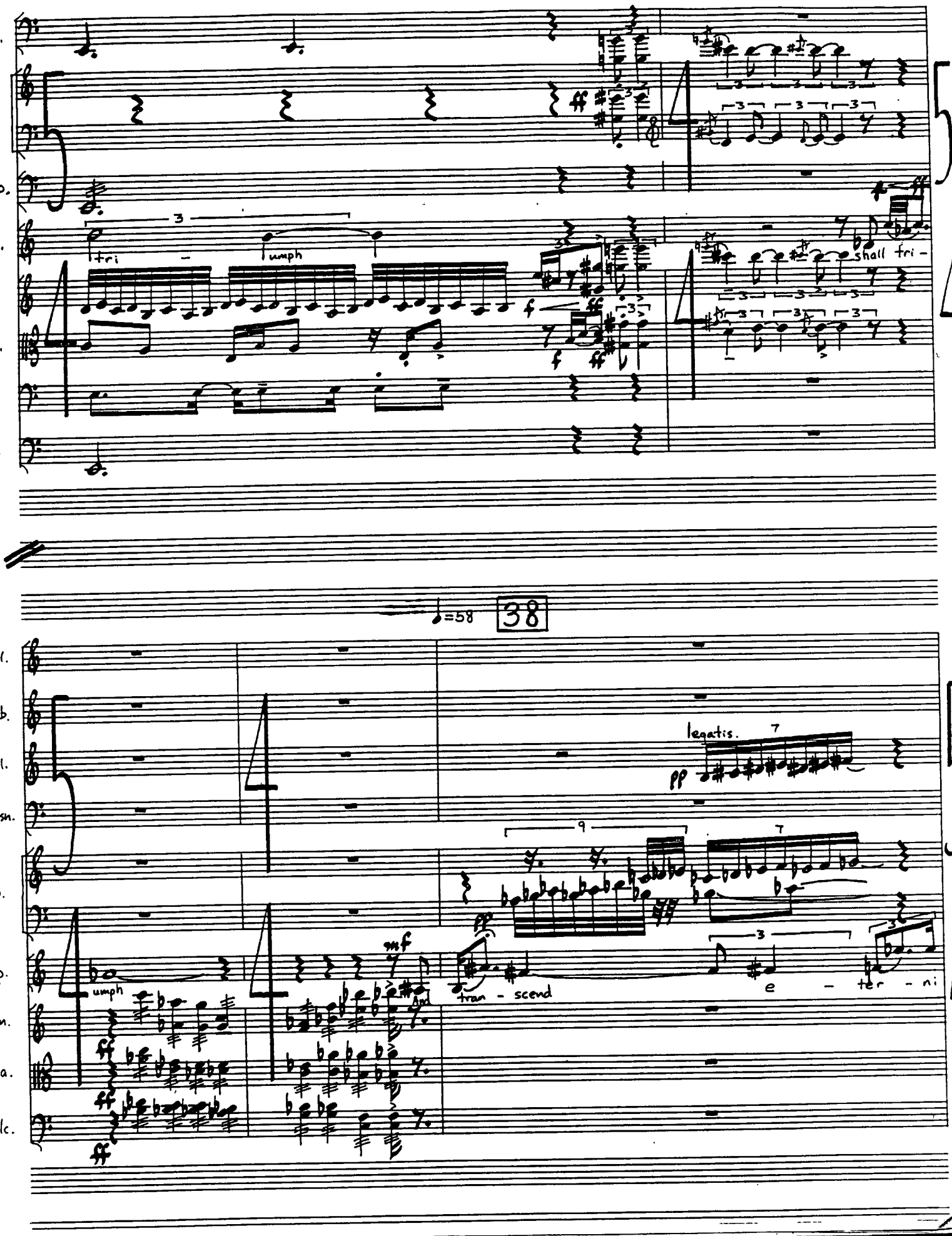

17
sun - light la - vished
cresc.
ANIMATED
poco sf
from the skies a - bove, and firm - ness

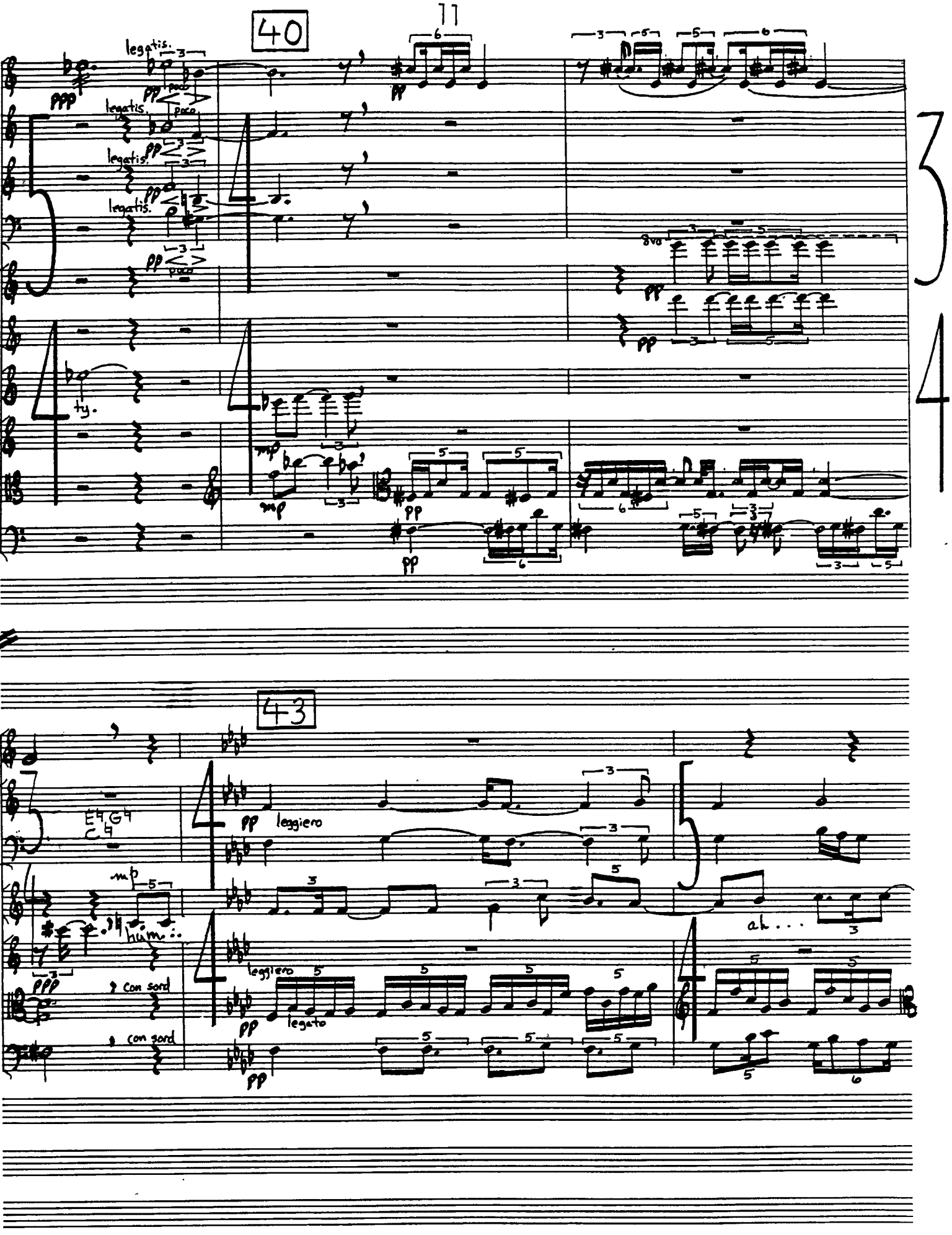

♩=58
Fl.
Cl.
Hp.
Sop.
Vln.
Vla.
marcato
delicately
mp
But
of the earth their steps be-neath.
21
pp
ppp
F♯, G♯, A♯
B♭, C♯
simile
were that beau-ty all, my love might cease like love of
weak-er spi - rits; were it thy

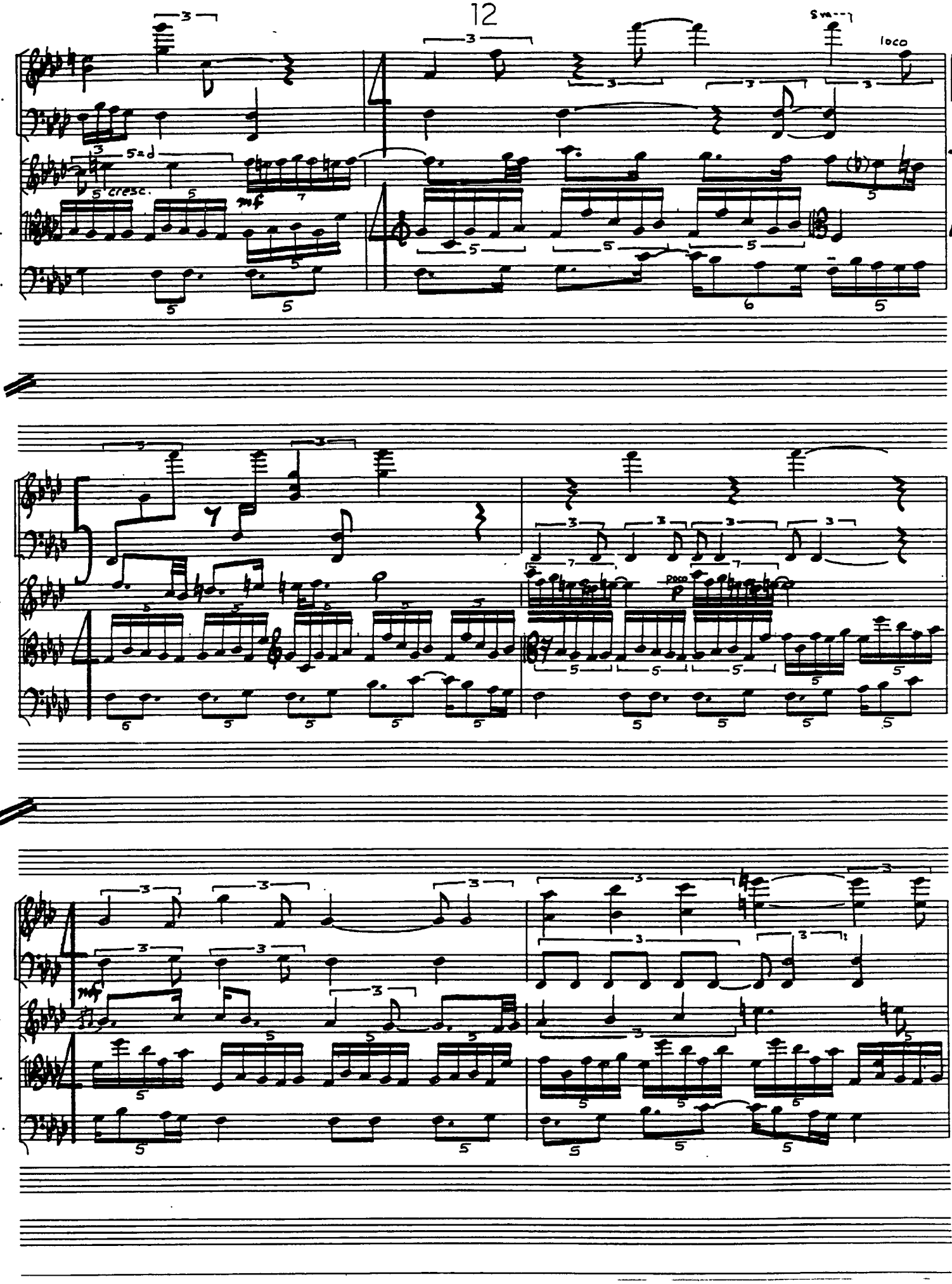

mf
cresc.
pp
poco cresc.
mf
L.V.
charm and grace of
soul,
leggiero
mp
leggiero
mp
26
f
ff
Fb Gb Ab
Bb Cb
mine might with age de-crease
molto
f
mp

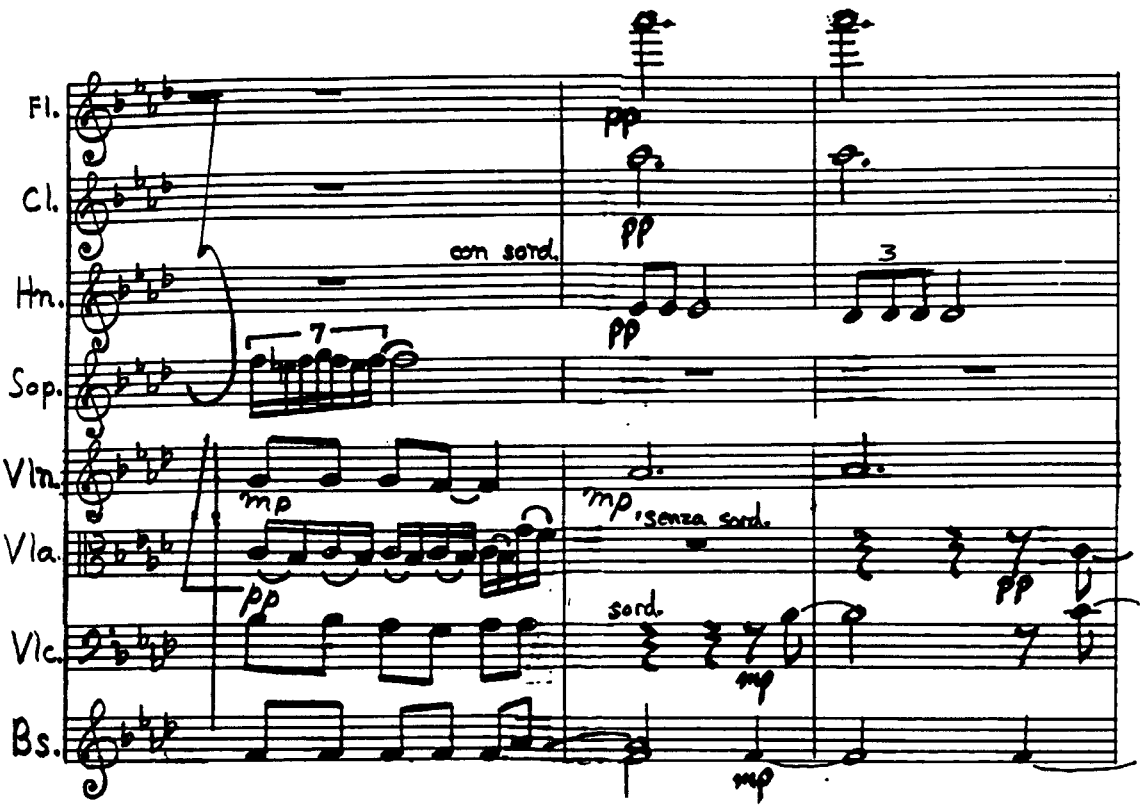

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Sop.
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Fl.
Ob.
Bsn.
Trb.
Timp.
Sop.
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bs.
legato
mp
legato
mp
mp
ppp
Tegatis.
mp
or find in
p
p

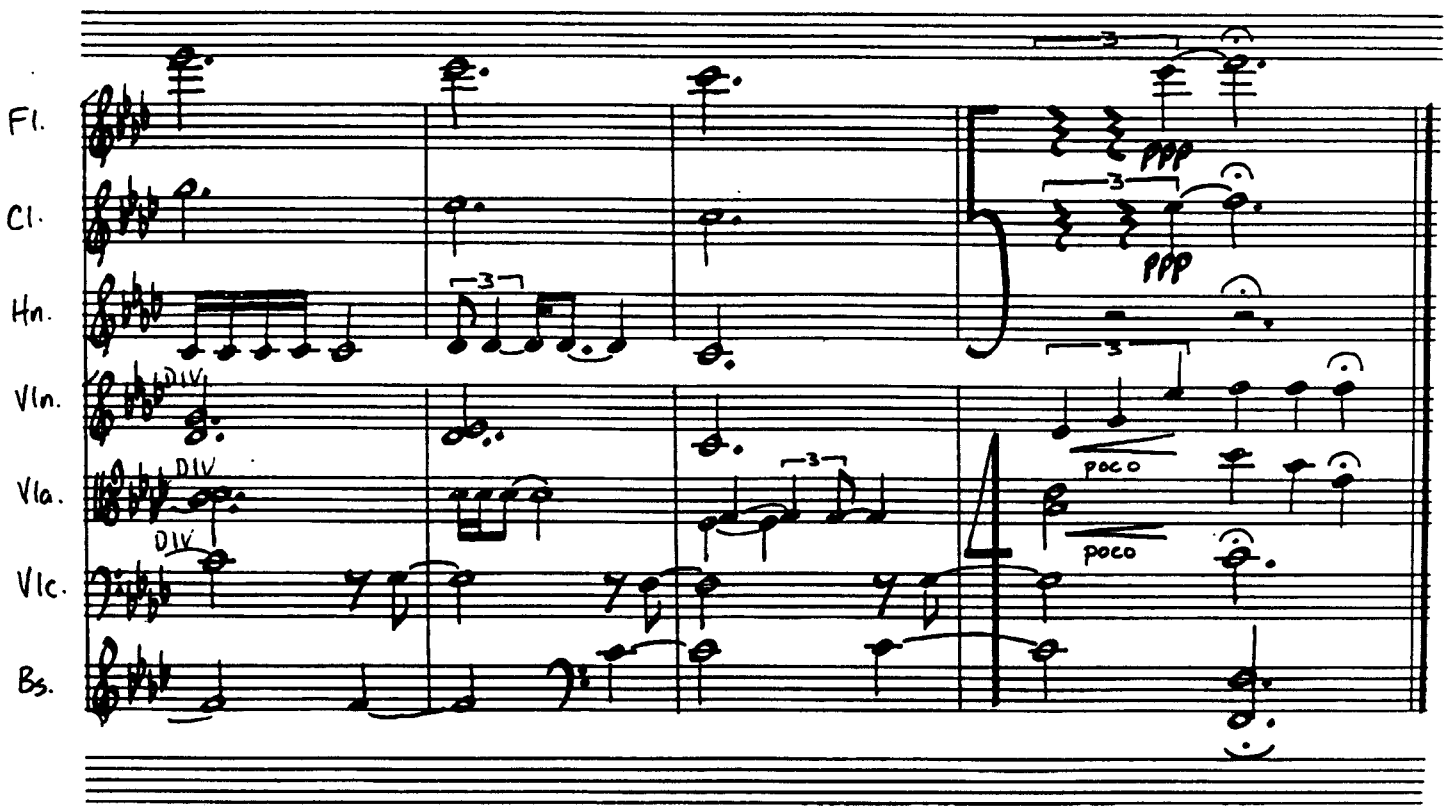

30
death
legatis.
a si - lence and a term
but
root - ed to the un - name-a-ble in thee
dim.
sub
shall
5
4


Trb.
Pf.
Timp.
Sop.
Hn.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bs.
tri - umph
shall tri -
♩=58
38
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hp.
Sop.
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
legatis.
pp
mf
tran - scend
e - ter - ni
umph


40
legatis.
poco
ty.
8va
43
leggiero
mp
hum...
con sord
legato
ah...


Hp.
Sop.
Vla.
Vlc.
cresc.
mf
poco
p
loco


Fl.
Cl.
Hn.
Sop.
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bs.
con sord.
senza sord.
sord.
pp
mp
7
3


Fl.
Cl.
Hn.
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bs.
DIV
ppp
poco
3