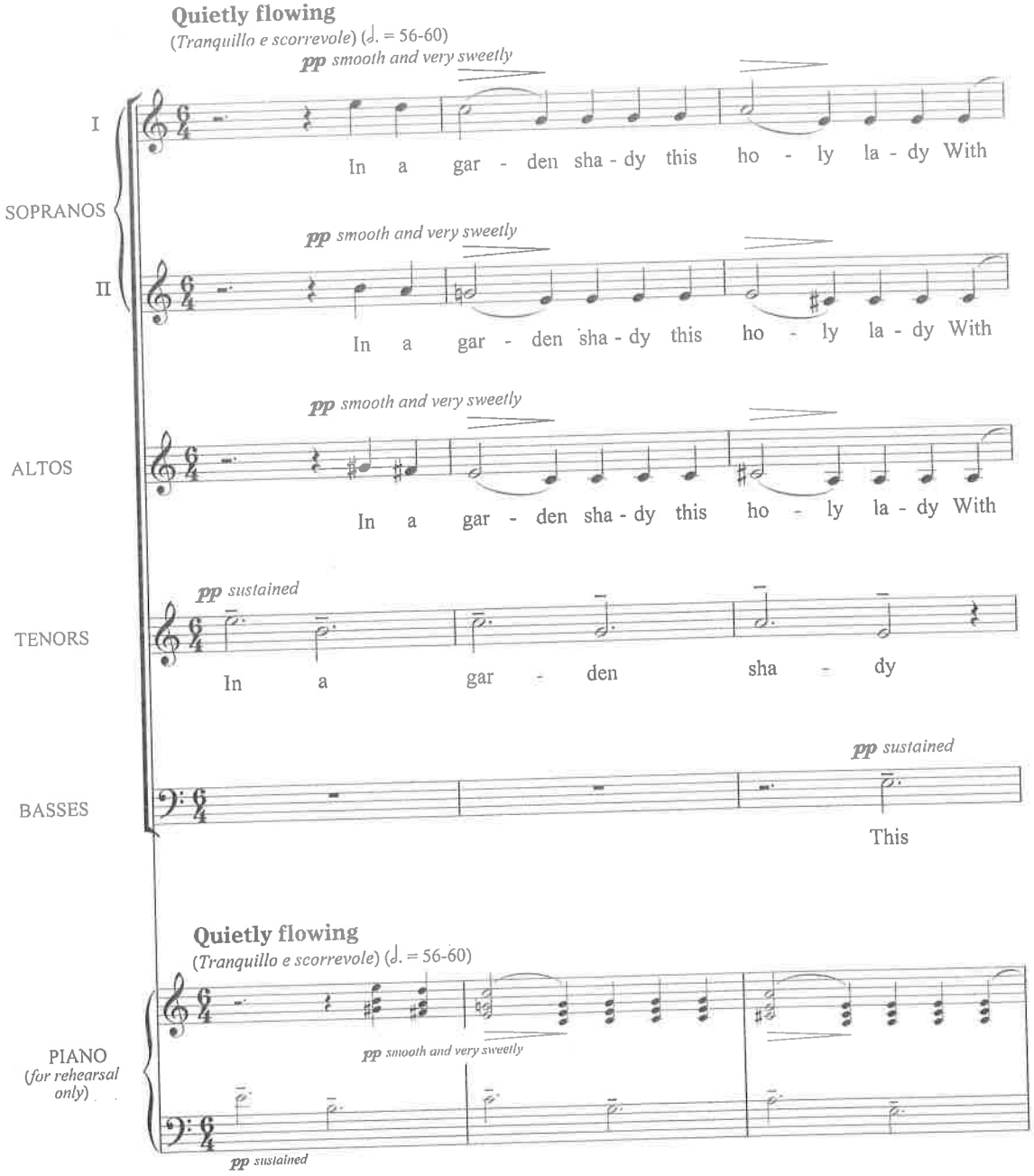
To Elizabeth Mayer

HYMN TO ST. CECILIA

W. H. AUDEN

BENJAMIN BRITTEN
Op. 27



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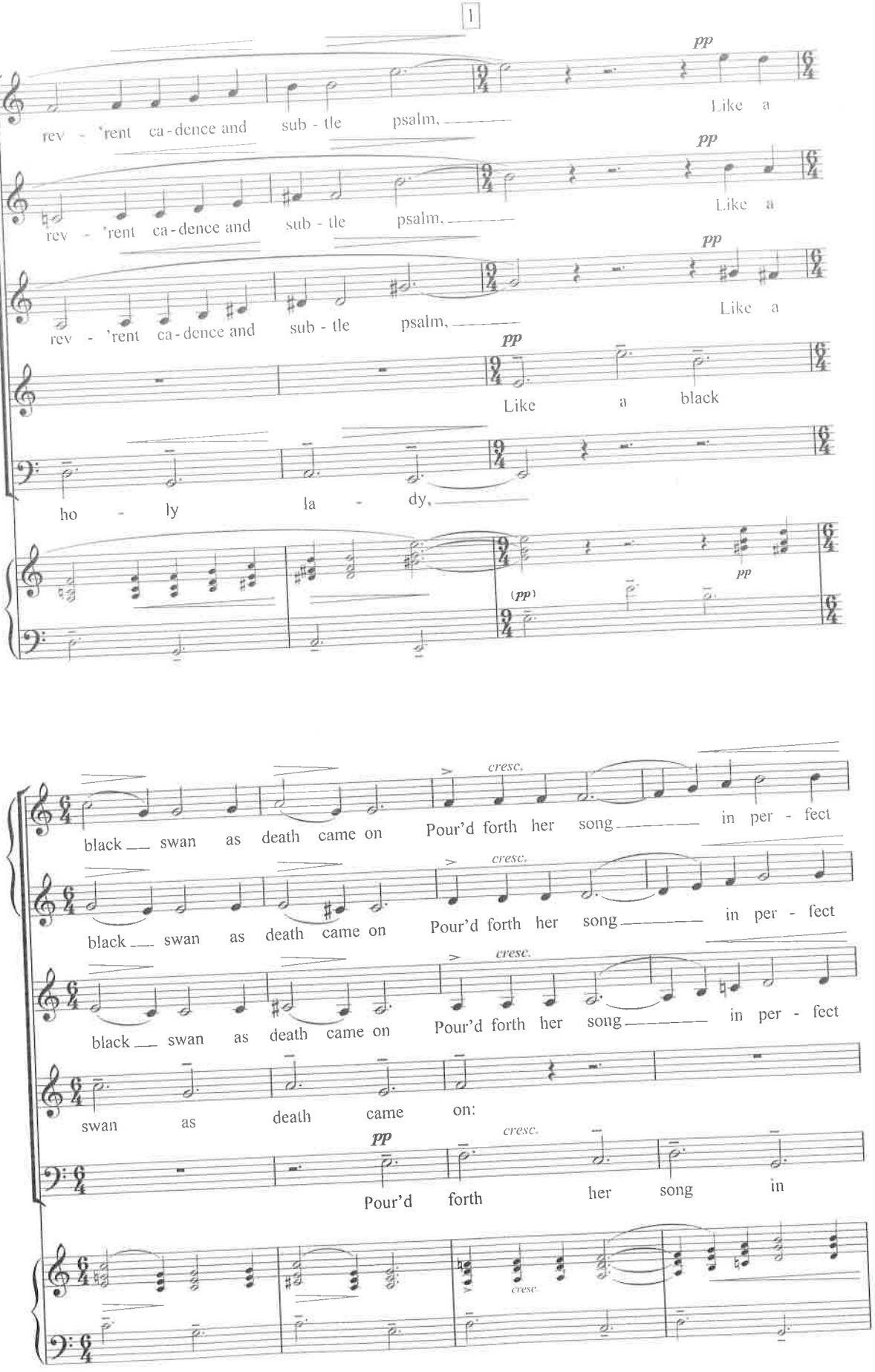
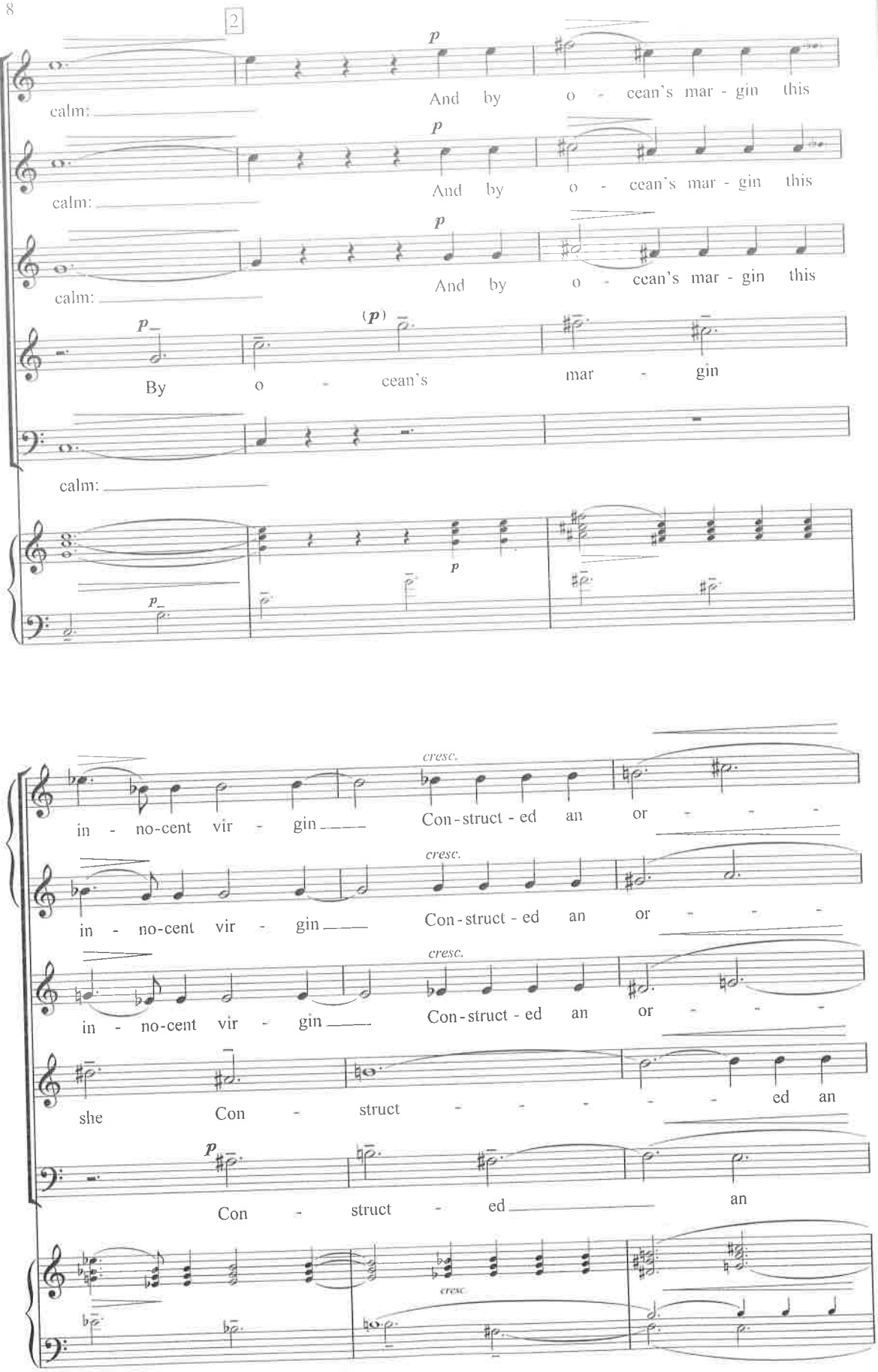
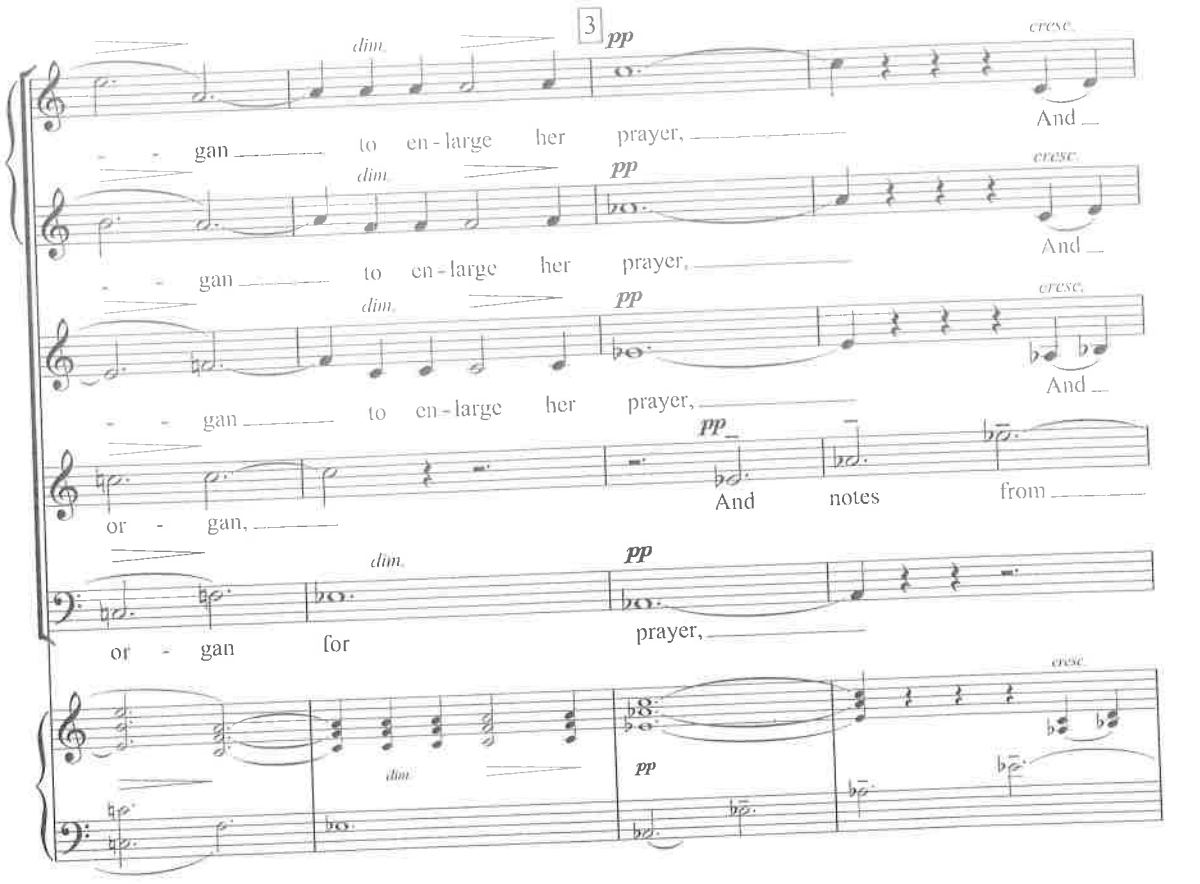
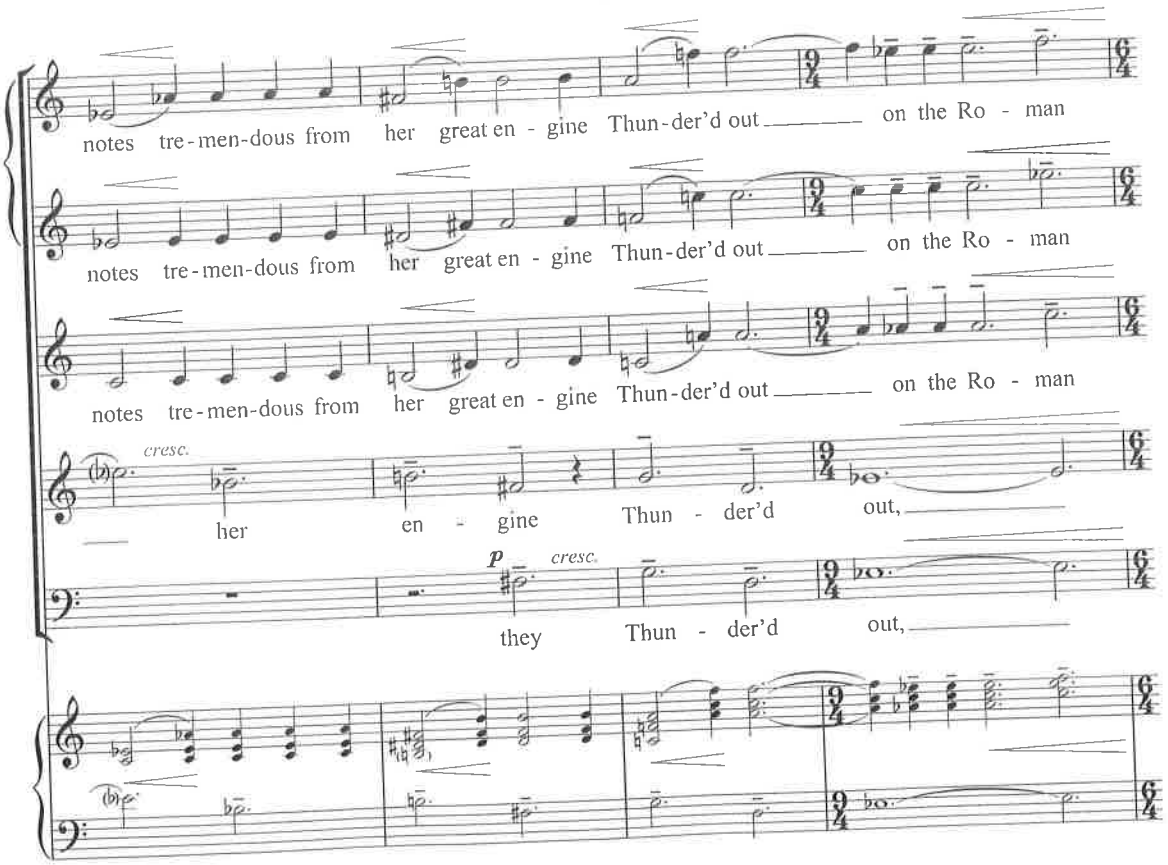
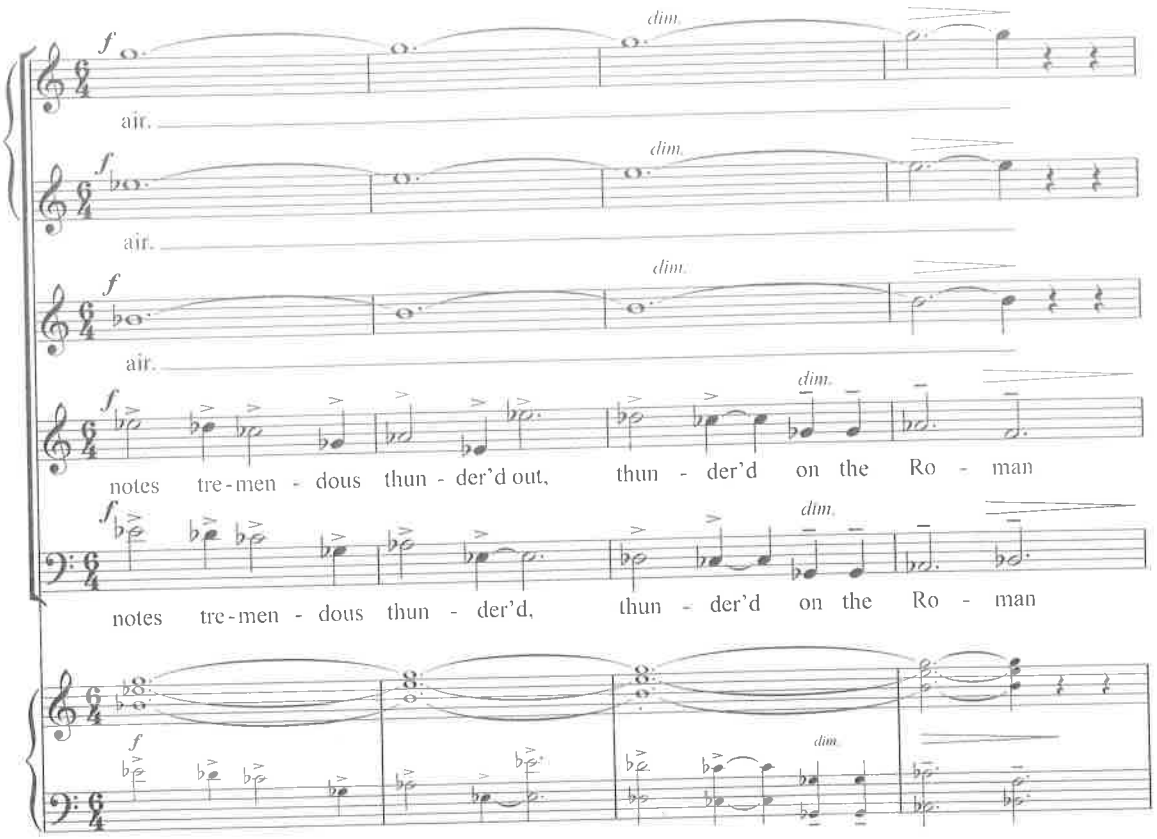

1
pp
rev - 'rent ca-dence and sub - tle psalm,
Like a
rev - 'rent ca-dence and sub - tle psalm,
Like a
rev - 'rent ca-dence and sub - tle psalm,
Like a
Like a black
ho - ly la - dy,
(pp)
cresc.
black swan as death came on Pour'd forth her song in per - fect
black swan as death came on Pour'd forth her song in per - fect
black swan as death came on Pour'd forth her song in per - fect
swan as death came on:
Pour'd forth her song in

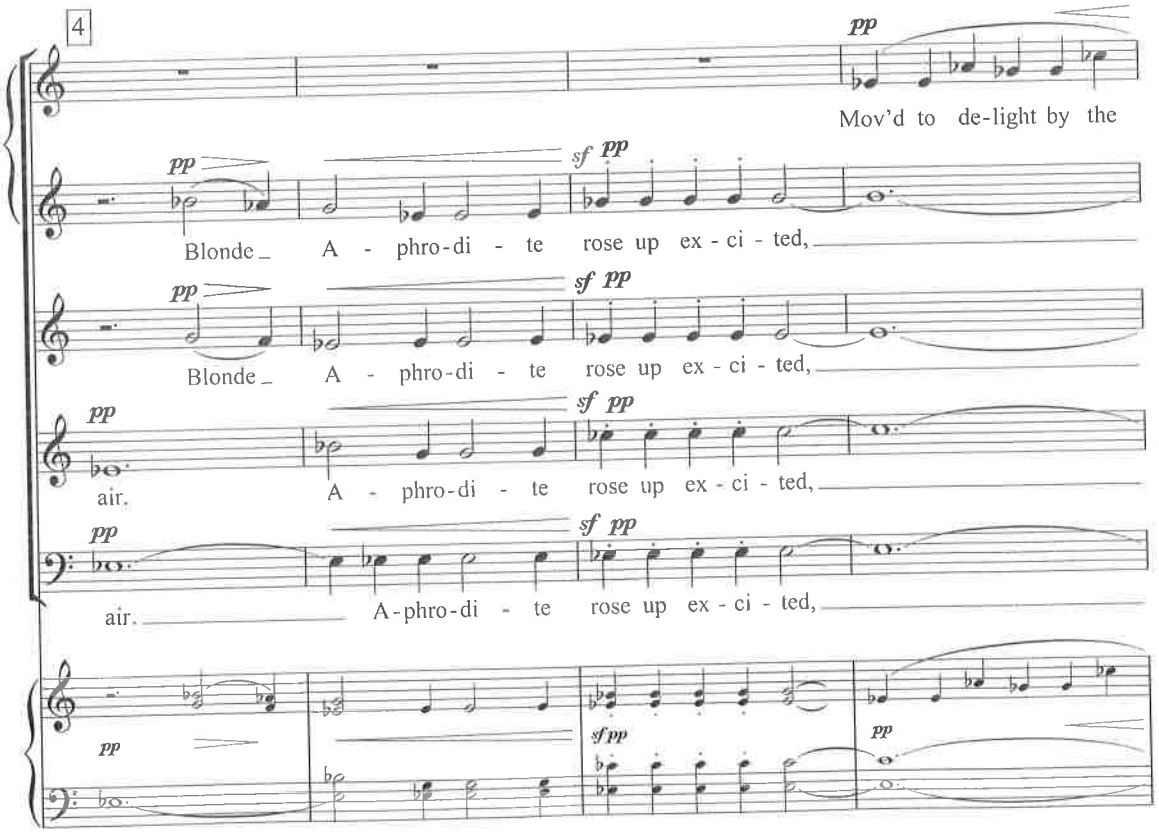
2

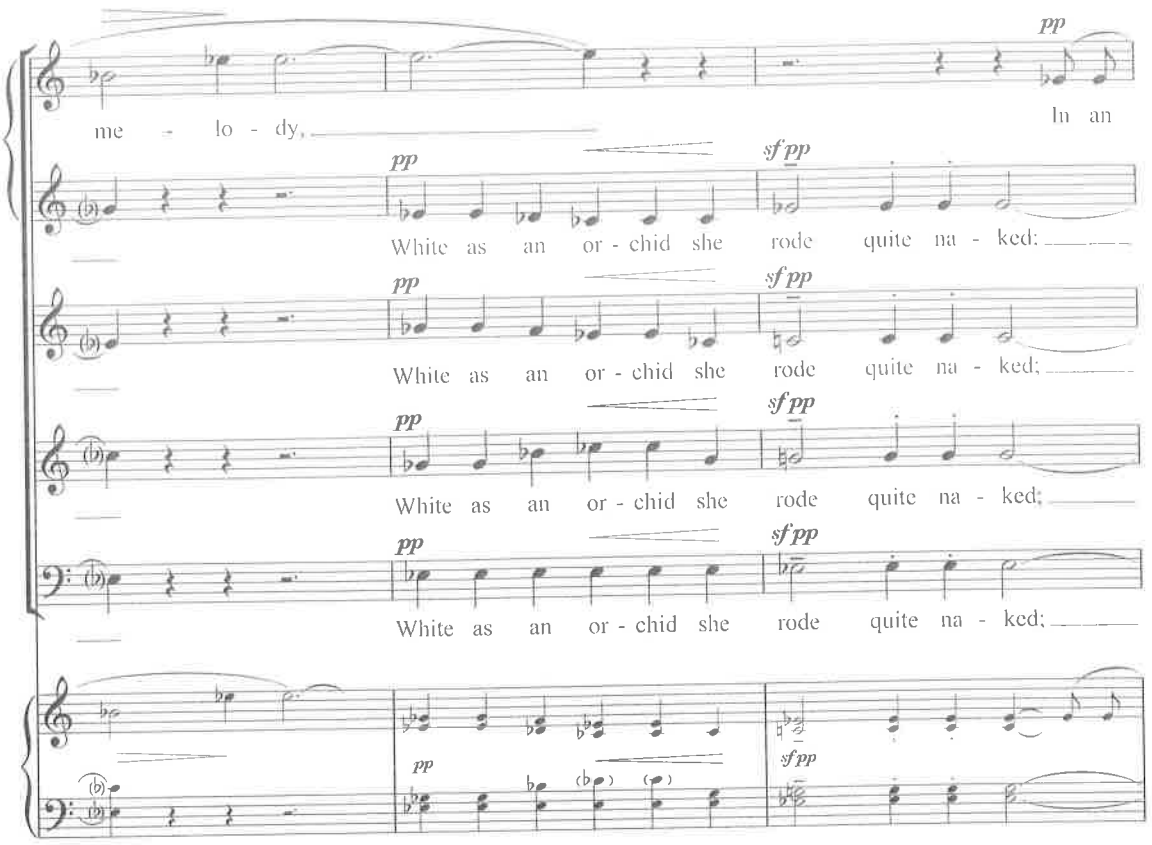

p
And by o - cean's mar - gin this
calm:
p
And by o - cean's mar - gin this
calm:
p
And by o - cean's mar - gin this
calm:
p (p)
By o - cean's mar - gin
calm:
p
p
cresc.
in - no-cent vir - gin
Con-struct - ed an or - - -
cresc.
in - no-cent vir - gin
Con-struct - ed an or - - -
cresc.
in - no-cent vir - gin
Con-struct - ed an or - - -
she Con - struct - - - - - ed an
p
Con - struct - ed an
cresc.

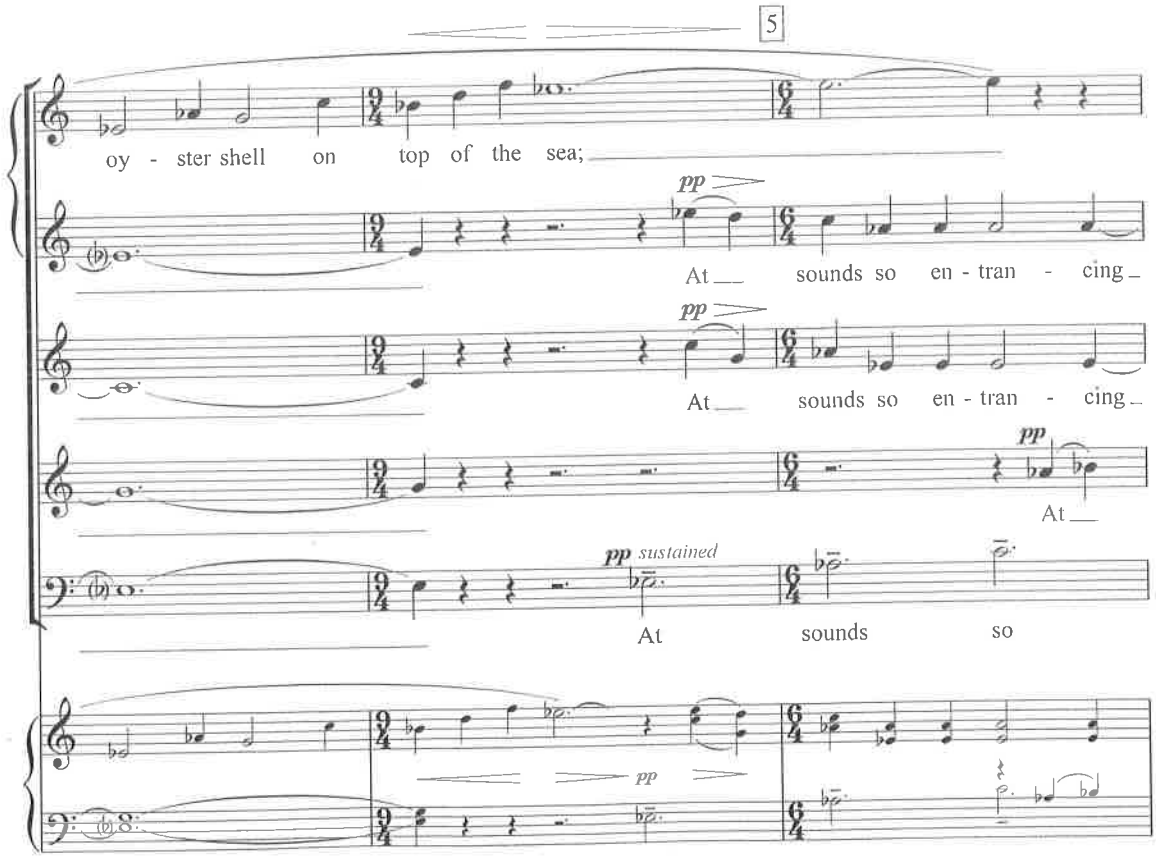

3
dim.
pp
cresc.
- - gan to en - large her prayer,
And
or - gan,
And notes from
or - gan for
prayer,

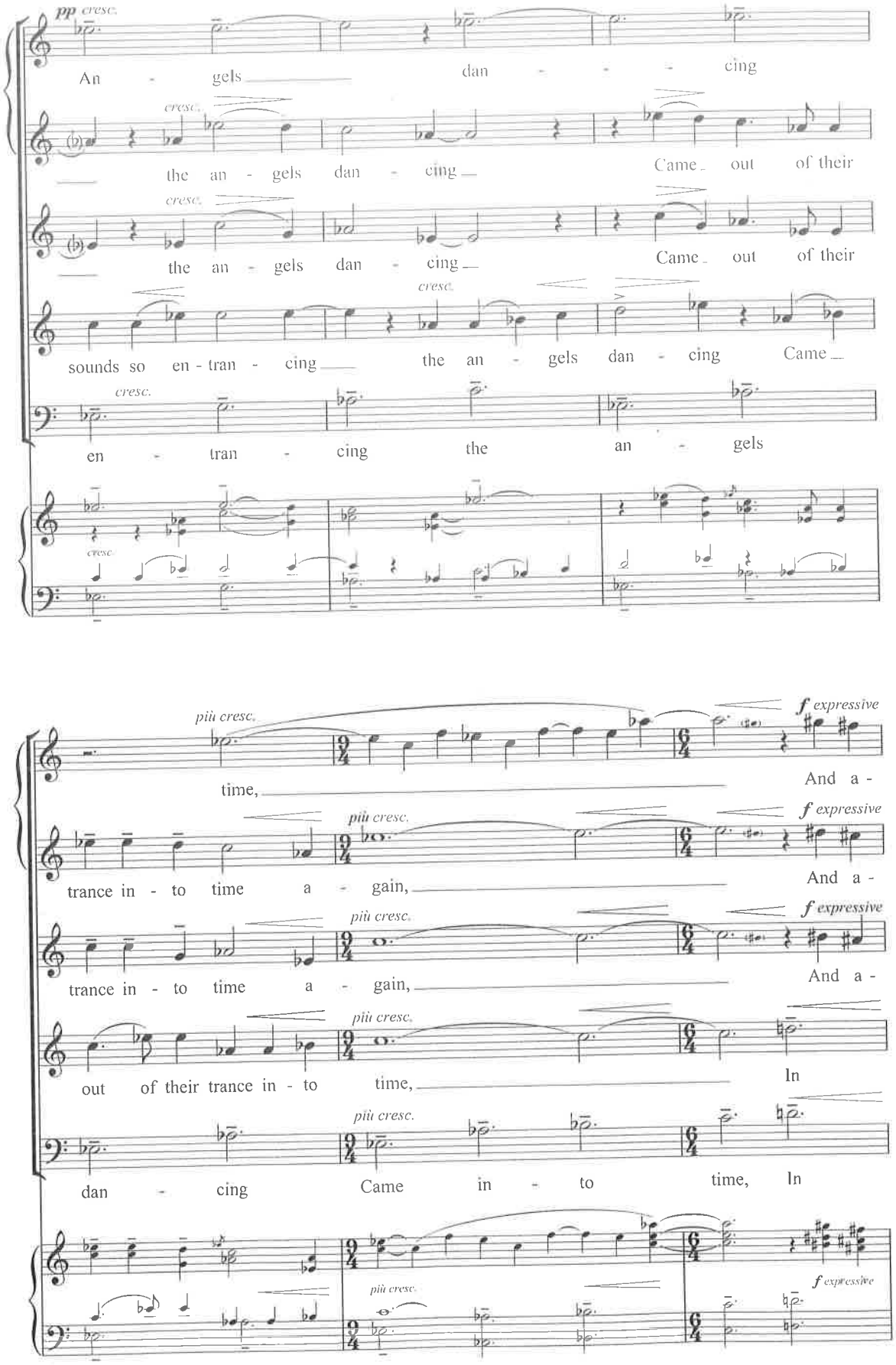

notes tre - men - dous from her great en - gine Thun - der'd out on the Ro - man
cresc.
her en - gine Thun - der'd out,
p
they Thun - der'd out,

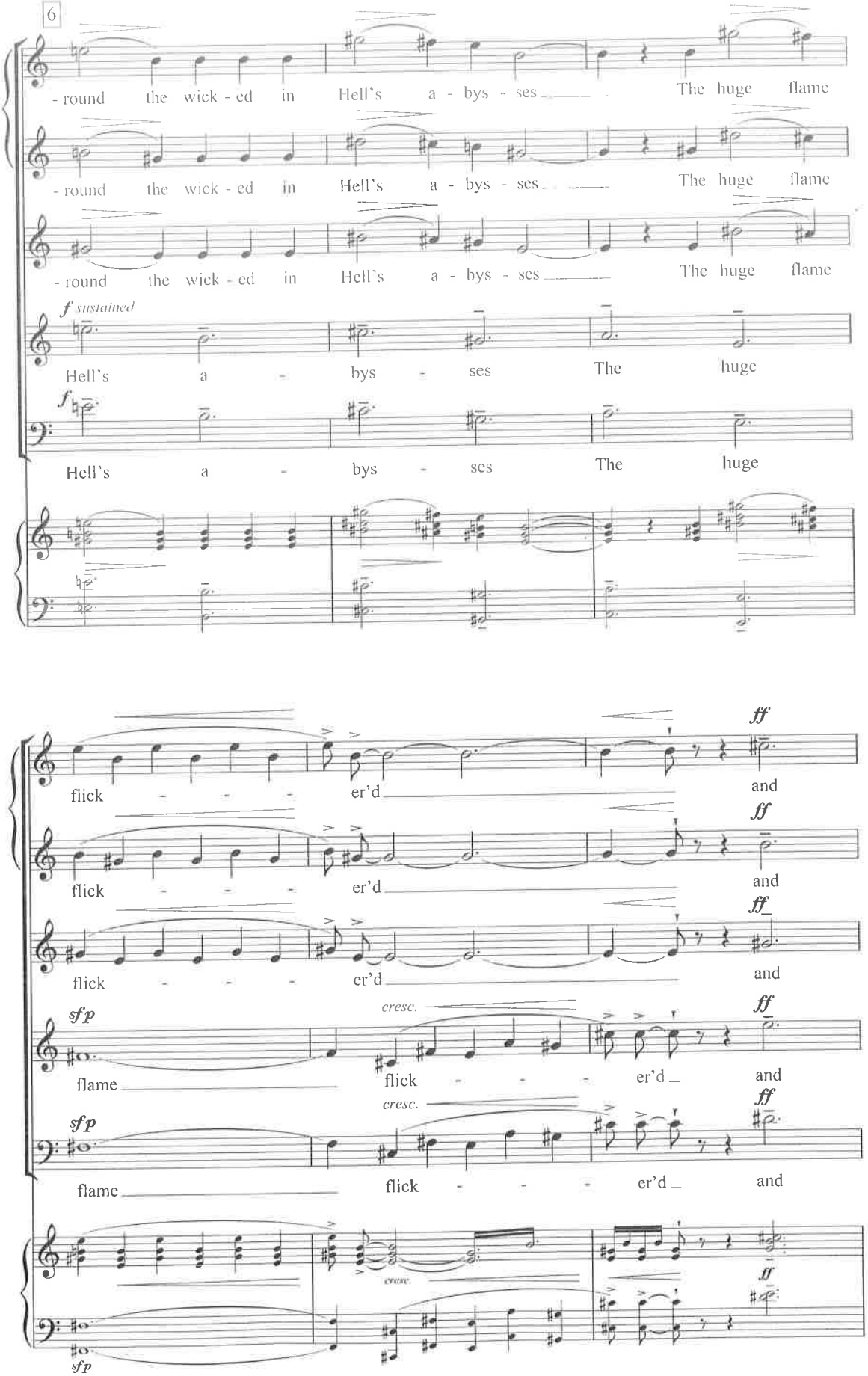

f
dim.
air.
notes tre-men - dous thun - der'd out, thun - der'd on the Ro - man
notes tre-men - dous thun - der'd, thun - der'd on the Ro - man

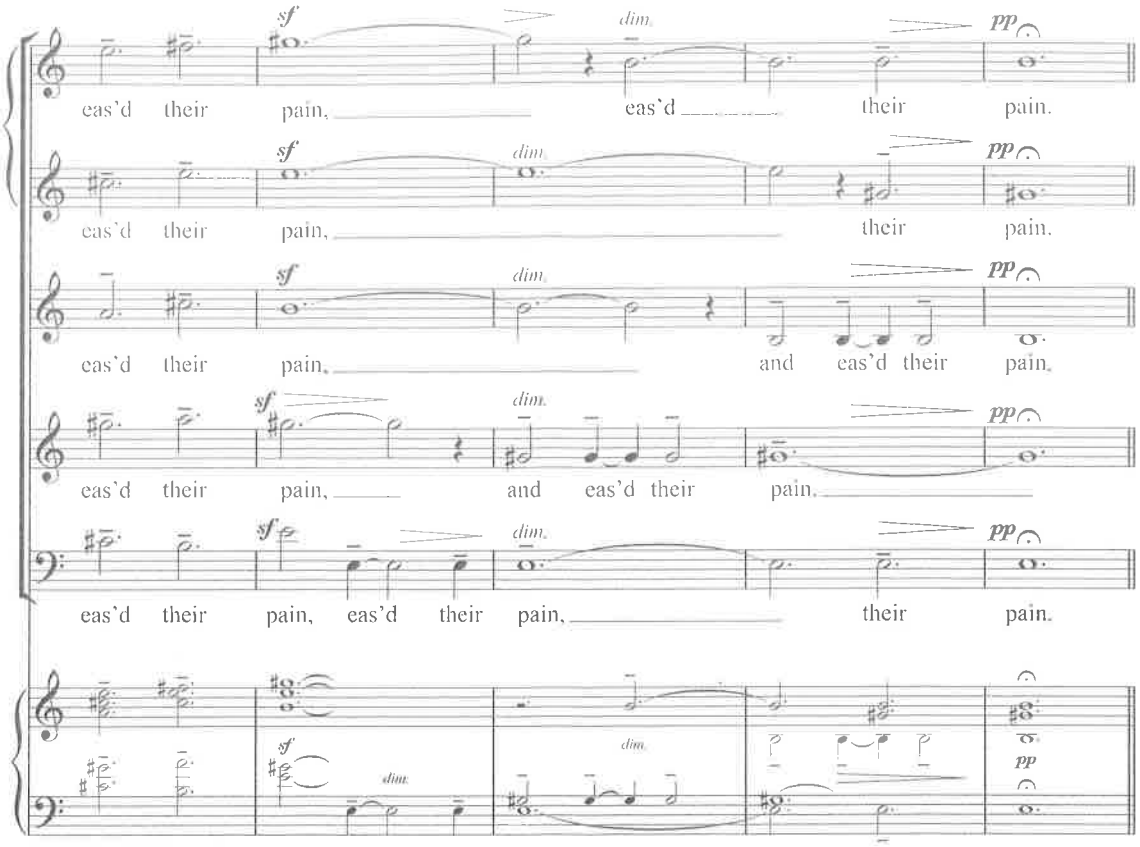

4
pp
Mov'd to de-light by the
Blonde_ A - phro-di - te rose up ex - ci - ted,
sf pp
air.
A-phro-di - te rose up ex - ci - ted,

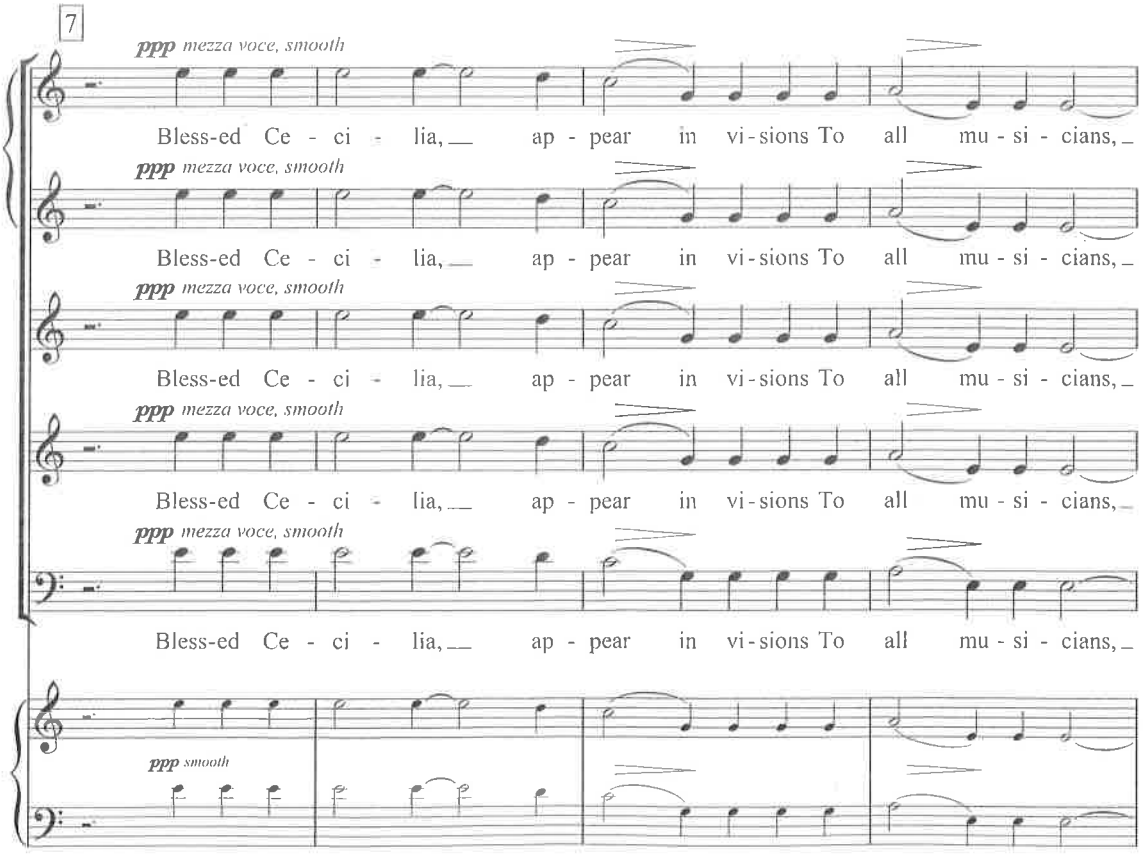

pp
me - lo - dy,
In an
pp
sf pp
White as an or - chid she rode quite na - ked;
pp
sf pp
White as an or - chid she rode quite na - ked;
pp
sf pp
White as an or - chid she rode quite na - ked;
pp
sf pp
pp

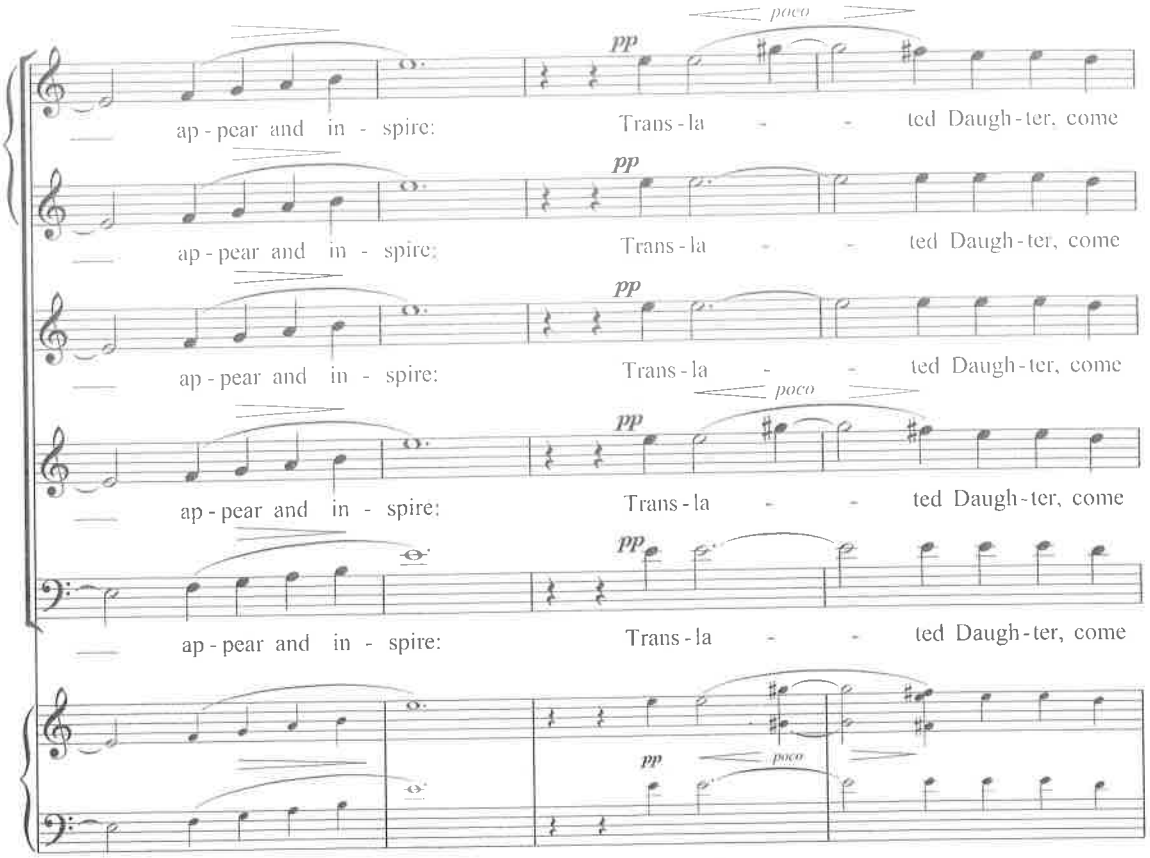

5
oy - ster shell on top of the sea;
pp
At sounds so en - tran - cing
pp
At sounds so en - tran - cing
pp
At
pp sustained
At sounds so
pp

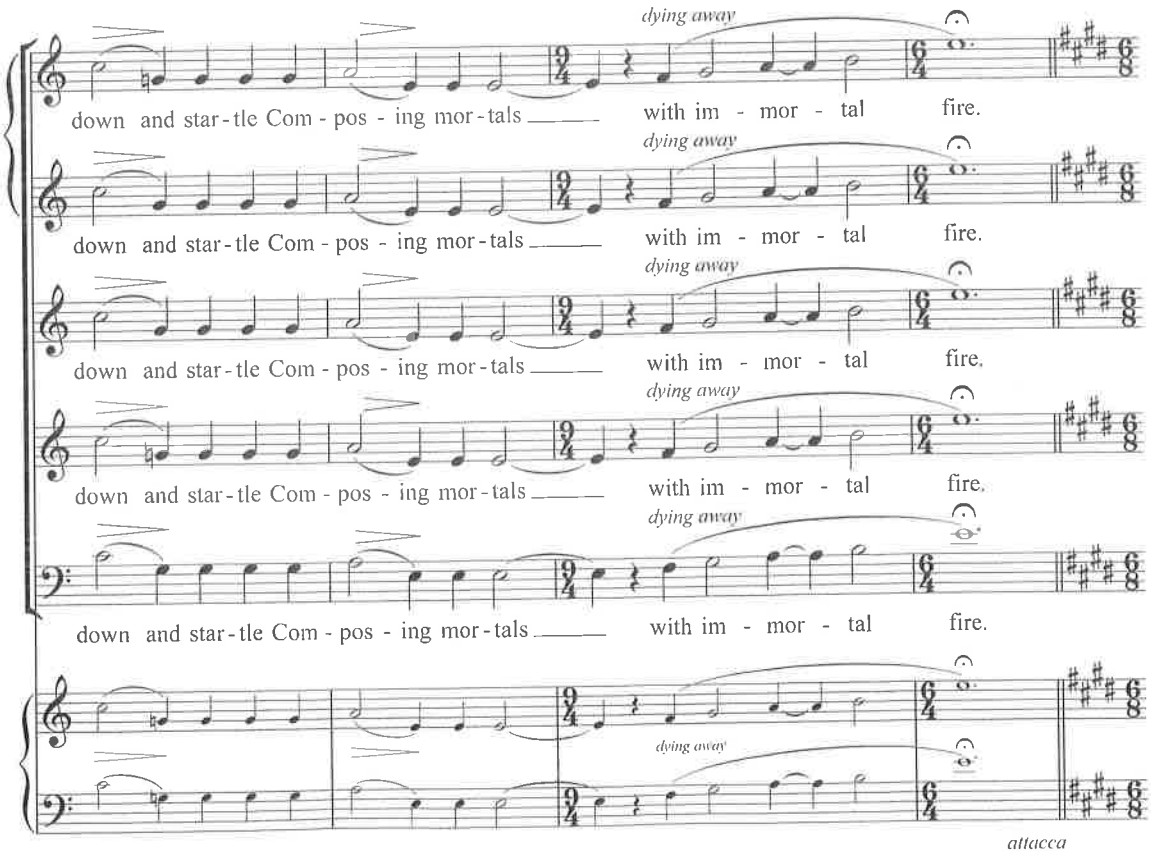

pp cresc.
An - gels dan - - - cing
cresc.
the an - gels dan - cing Came out of their
cresc.
the an - gels dan - cing Came out of their
cresc.
sounds so en - tran - cing the an - gels dan - cing Came
cresc.
en - tran - cing the an - gels
cresc.
più cresc.
f expressive
time, And a -
più cresc.
f expressive
trance in - to time a - gain, And a -
più cresc.
f expressive
trance in - to time a - gain, And a -
più cresc.
out of their trance in - to time, In
più cresc.
dan - cing Came in - to time, In
più cresc.
f expressive

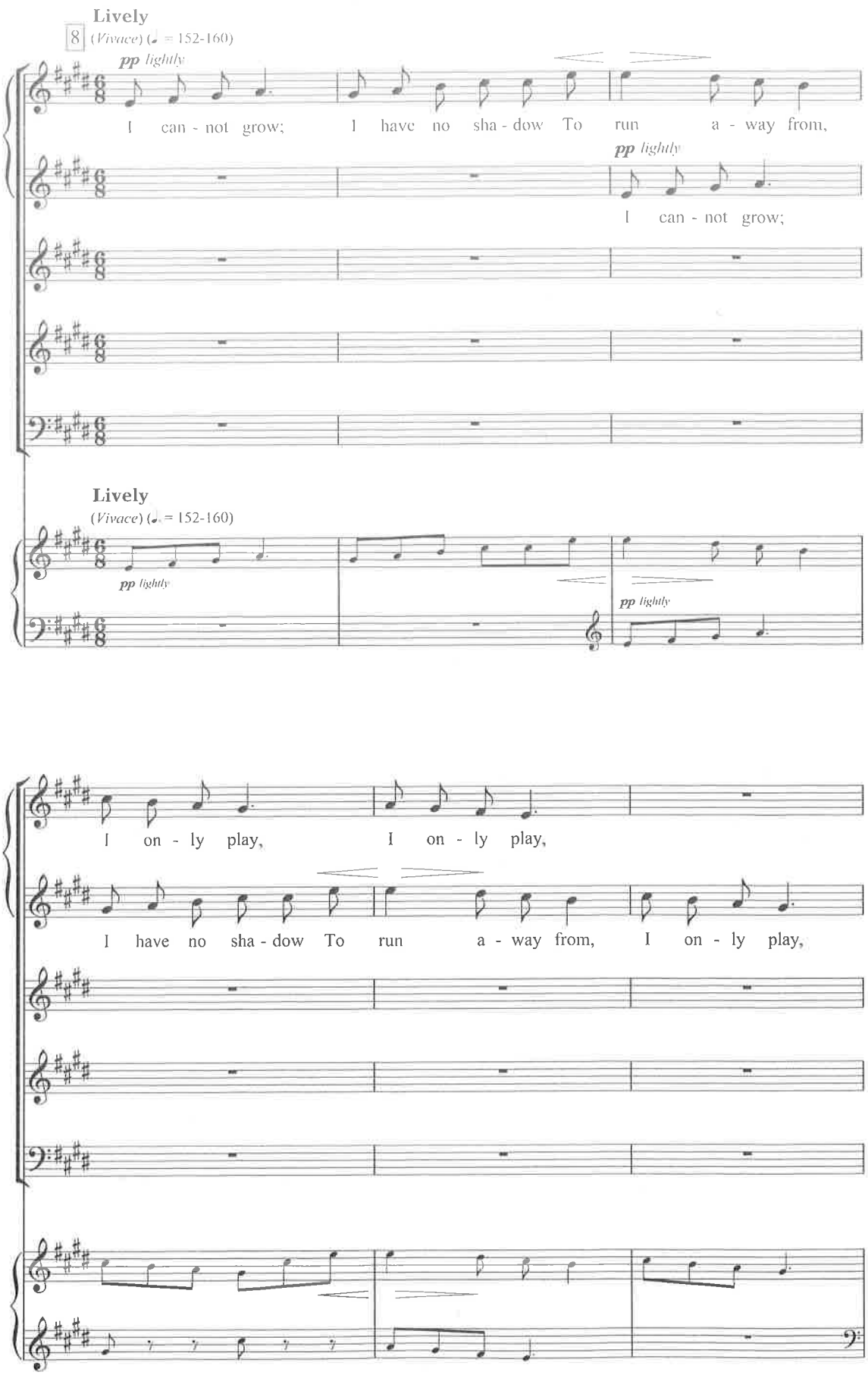

6
- round the wick - ed in Hell's a - bys - ses The huge flame
- round the wick - ed in Hell's a - bys - ses The huge flame
- round the wick - ed in Hell's a - bys - ses The huge flame
f sustained
Hell's a - bys - ses The huge
f
Hell's a - bys - ses The huge
ff
flick - - - er'd and
ff
flick - - - er'd and
ff
flick - - - er'd and
sfp
cresc.
ff
flame flick - - - er'd and
sfp
cresc.
ff
flame flick - - - er'd and
cresc.
ff
sfp

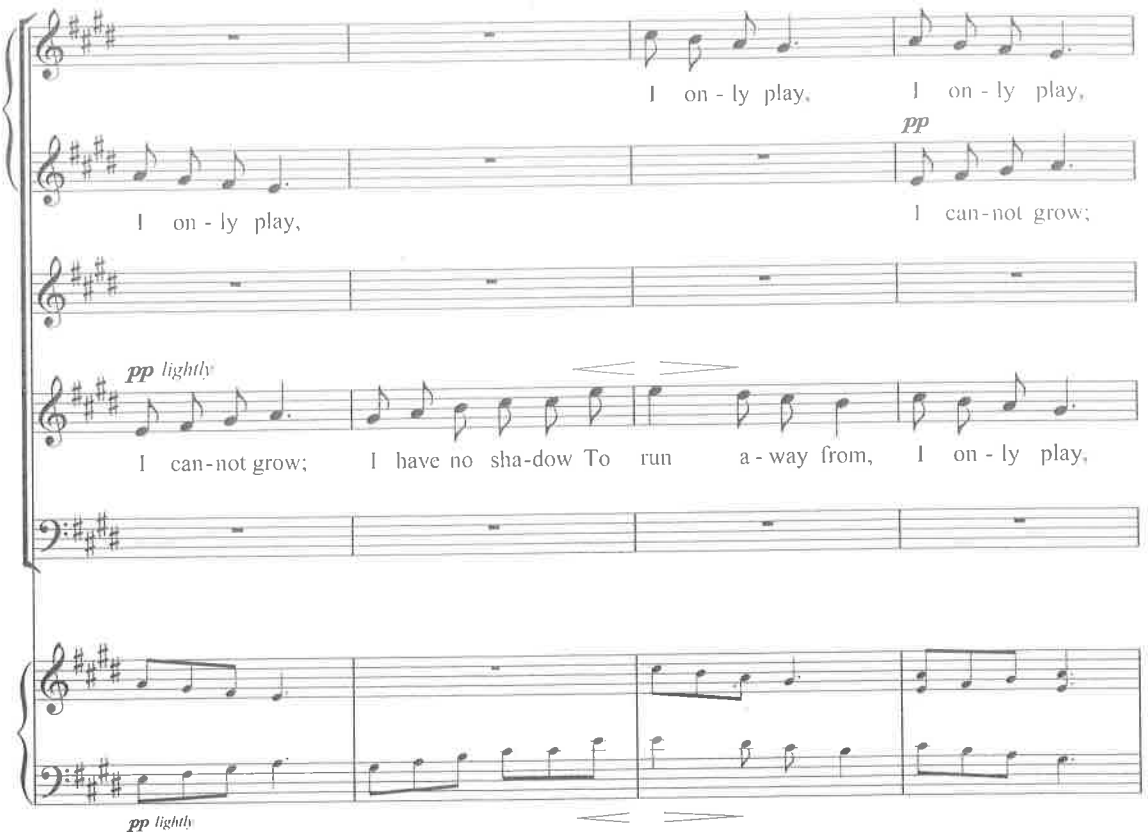

sf dim. pp
eas'd their pain, eas'd their pain.
sf dim. pp
eas'd their pain, their pain.
sf dim. pp
eas'd their pain, and eas'd their pain.
sf dim. pp
eas'd their pain, and eas'd their pain,
sf dim. pp
eas'd their pain, eas'd their pain, their pain.
sf dim. dim. pp

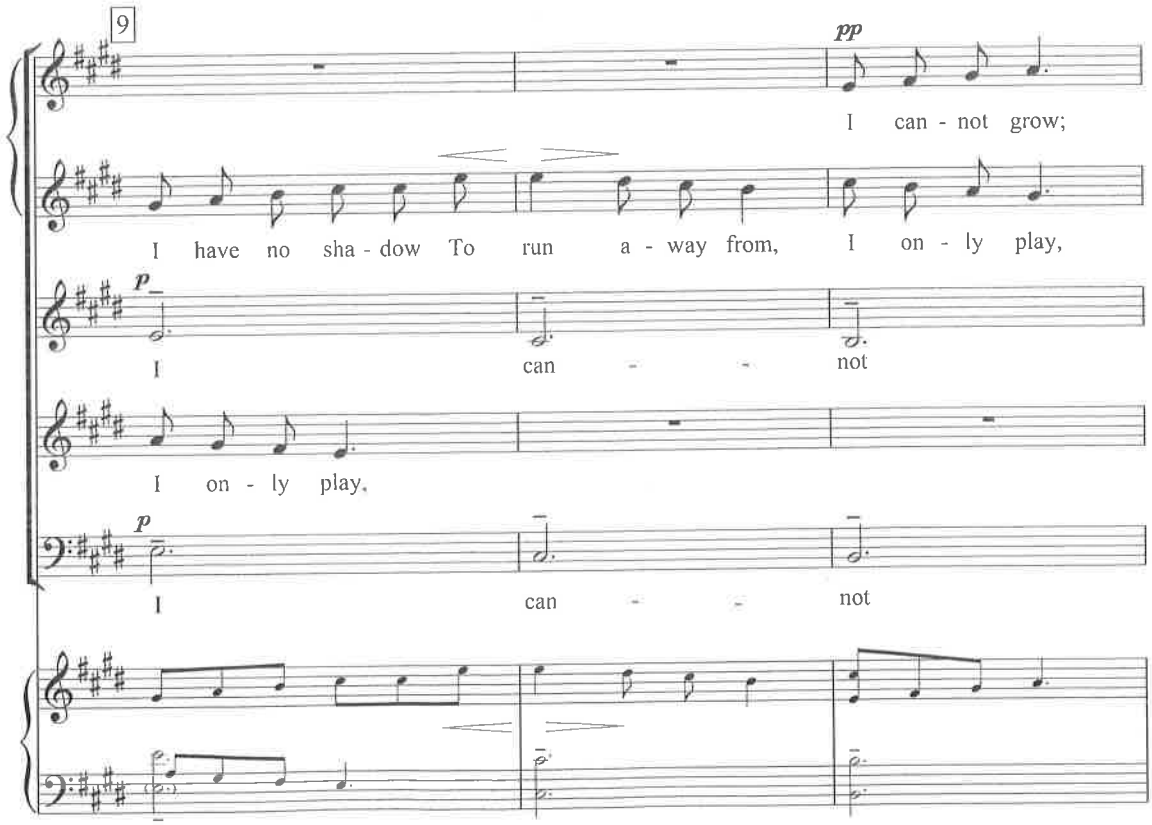

7
ppp mezza voce, smooth
Bless-ed Ce - ci - lia, ap - pear in vi-sions To all mu - si - cians,
ppp mezza voce, smooth
Bless-ed Ce - ci - lia, ap - pear in vi-sions To all mu - si - cians,
ppp mezza voce, smooth
Bless-ed Ce - ci - lia, ap - pear in vi-sions To all mu - si - cians,
ppp mezza voce, smooth
Bless-ed Ce - ci - lia, ap - pear in vi-sions To all mu - si - cians,
ppp mezza voce, smooth
Bless-ed Ce - ci - lia, ap - pear in vi-sions To all mu - si - cians,
ppp smooth

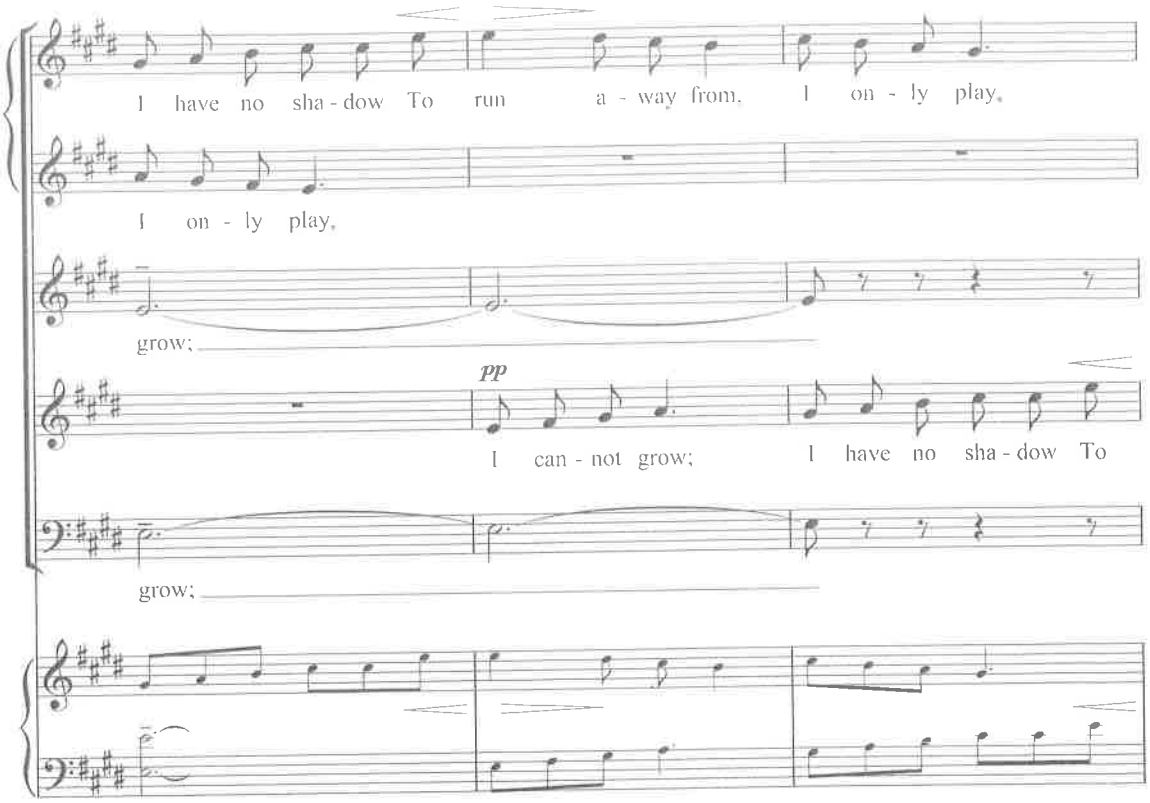

poco
pp
ap - pear and in - spire:
Trans - la - - ted Daugh - ter, come

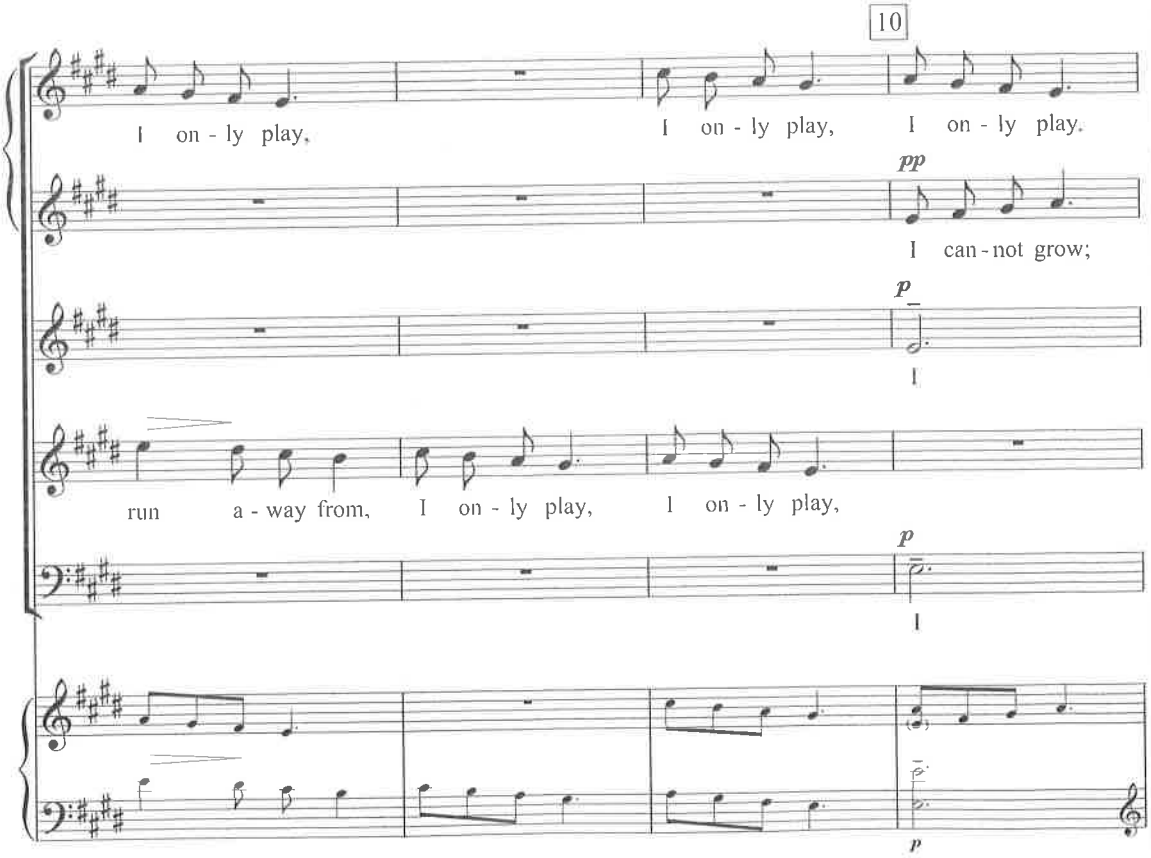

dying away
down and star - tle Com - pos - ing mor - tals
with im - mor - tal fire.
attacca

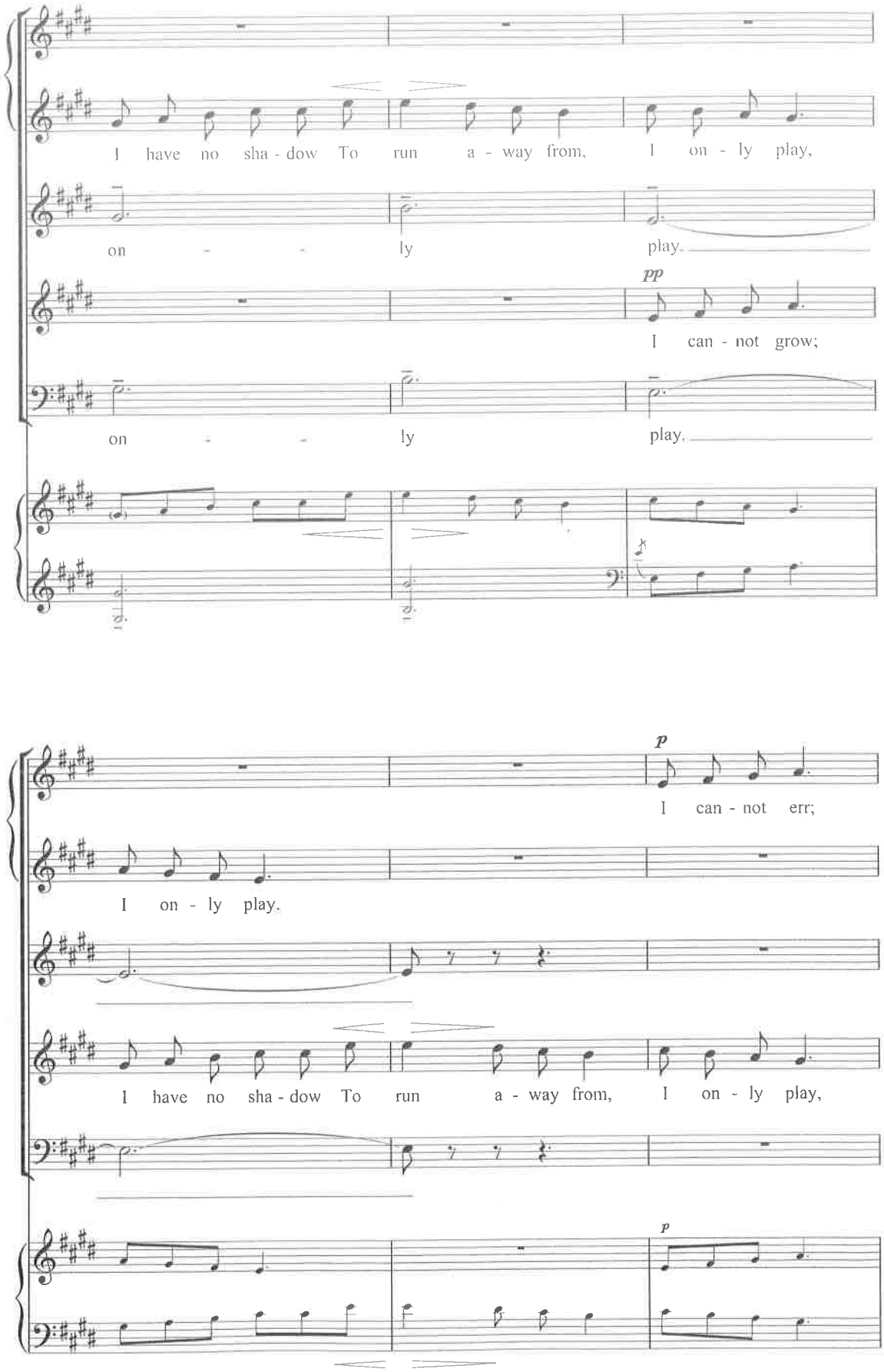

Lively
8 (Vivace) (♩. = 152-160)
pp lightly
I can - not grow; I have no sha - dow To run a - way from,
pp lightly
I can - not grow;
Lively
(Vivace) (♩. = 152-160)
pp lightly
pp lightly
I on - ly play, I on - ly play,
I have no sha - dow To run a - way from, I on - ly play,

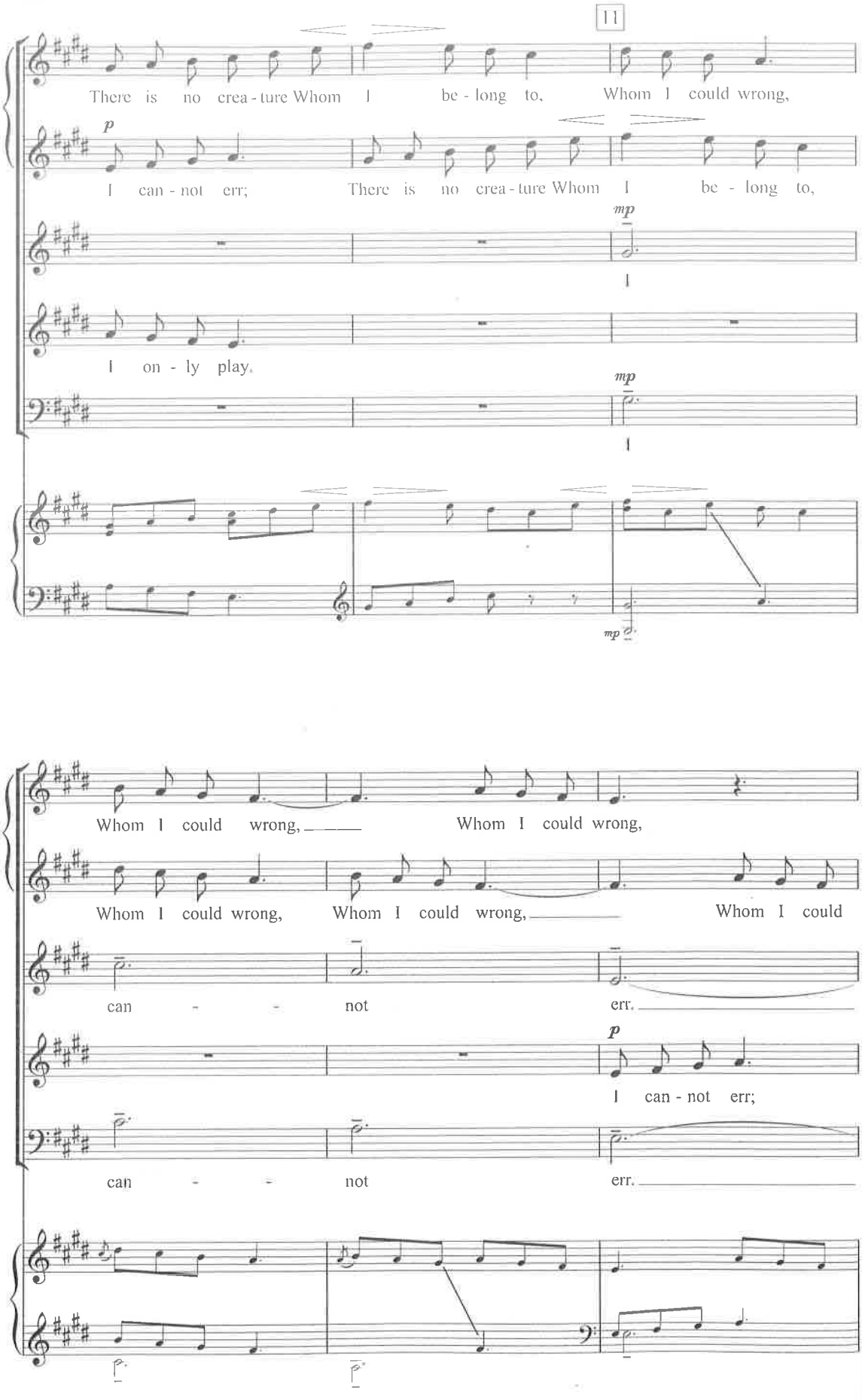

I on - ly play, I on - ly play,
pp
I on - ly play, I can-not grow;
pp lightly
I can-not grow; I have no sha-dow To run a - way from, I on - ly play,
pp lightly

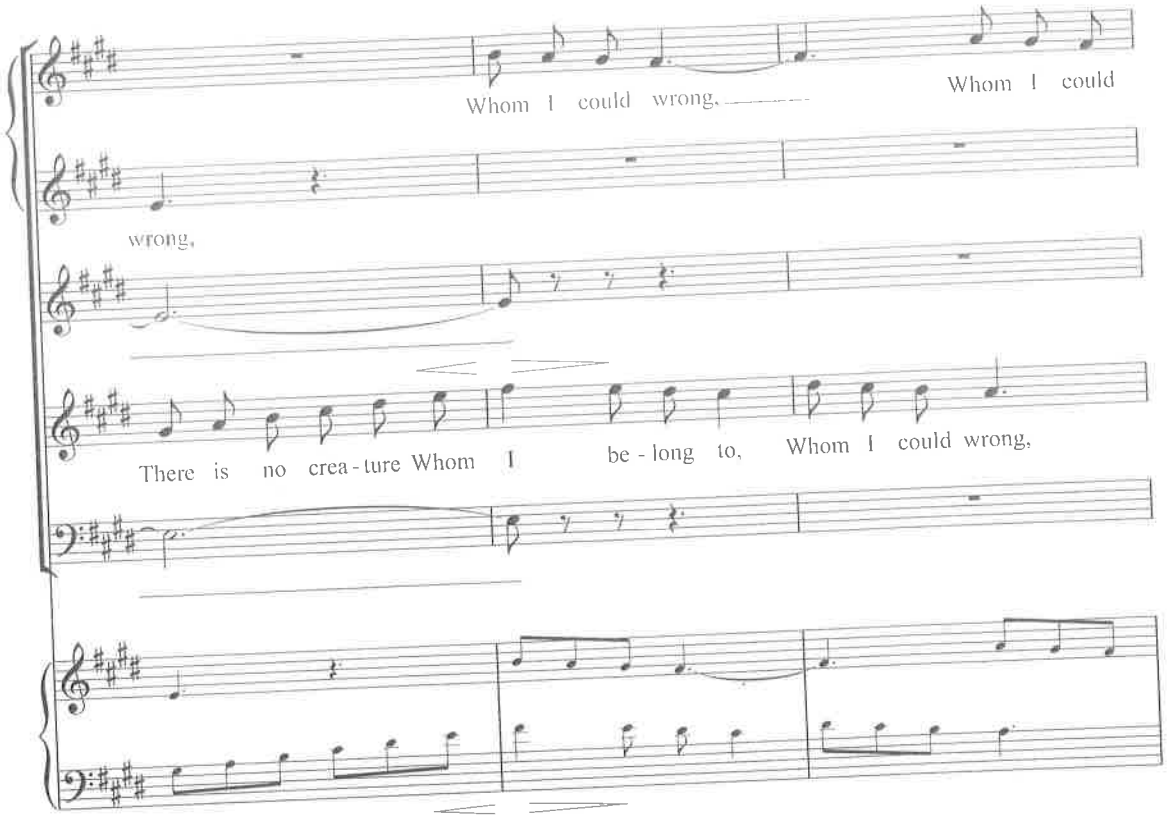

9
pp
I can - not grow;
I have no sha - dow To run a - way from, I on - ly play,
p
I can - - not
I on - ly play,
p
I can - - not

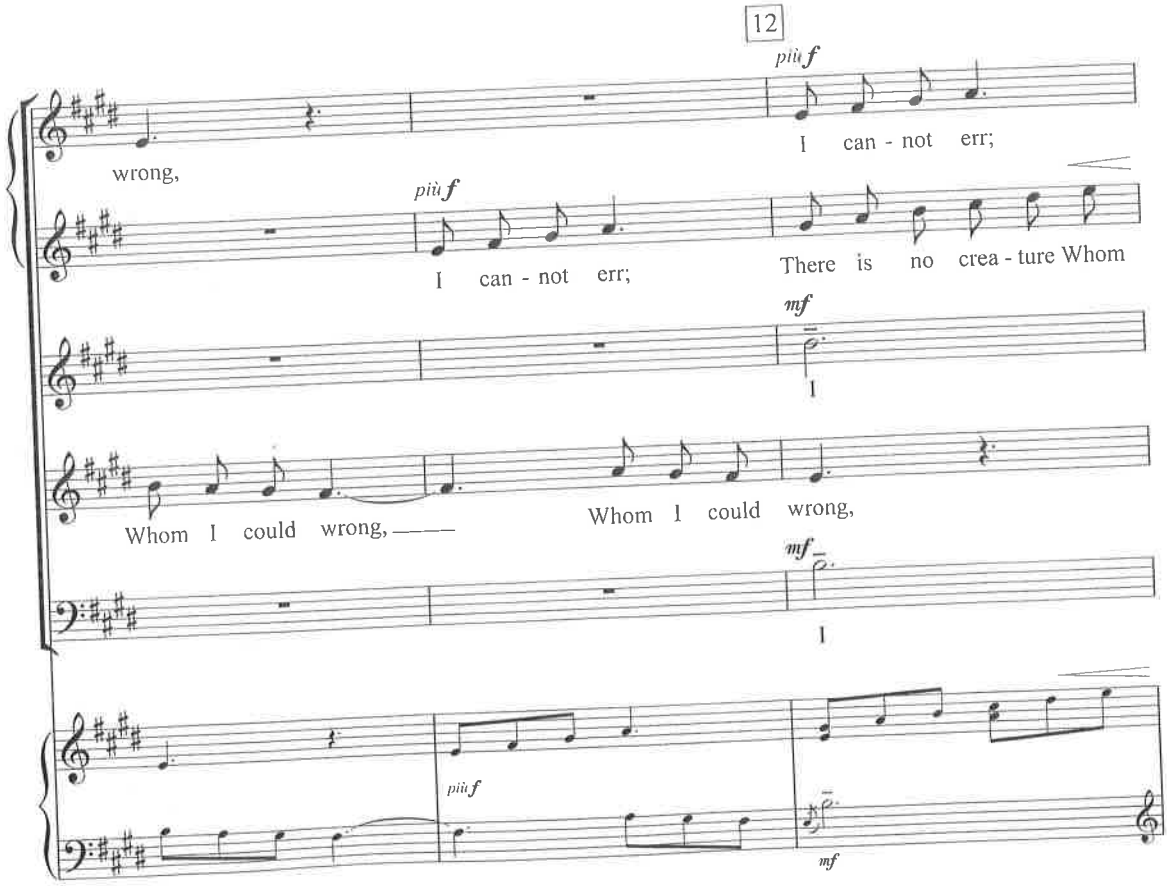

I have no sha - dow To run a - way from. I on - ly play.
I on - ly play.
grow;
pp
I can - not grow; I have no sha - dow To
grow;

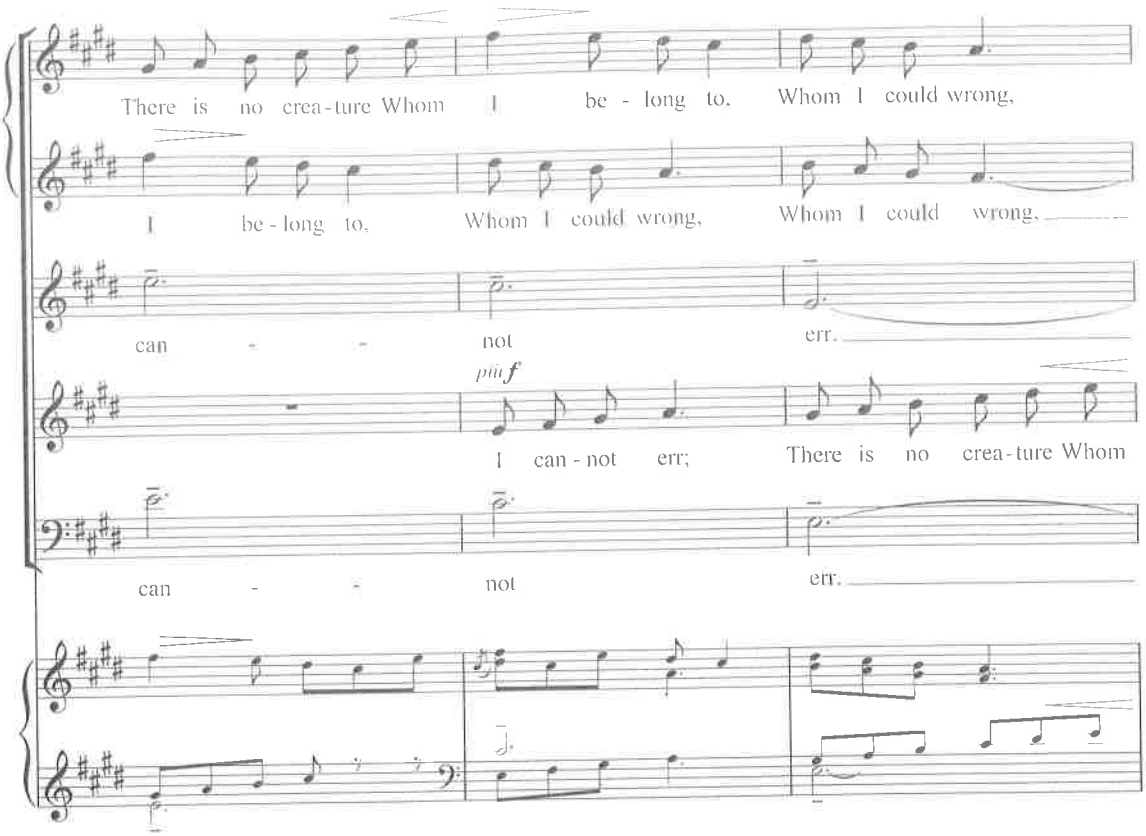

10
I on - ly play, I on - ly play, I on - ly play.
pp
I can - not grow;
p
I
run a - way from, I on - ly play, I on - ly play,
p
I
p

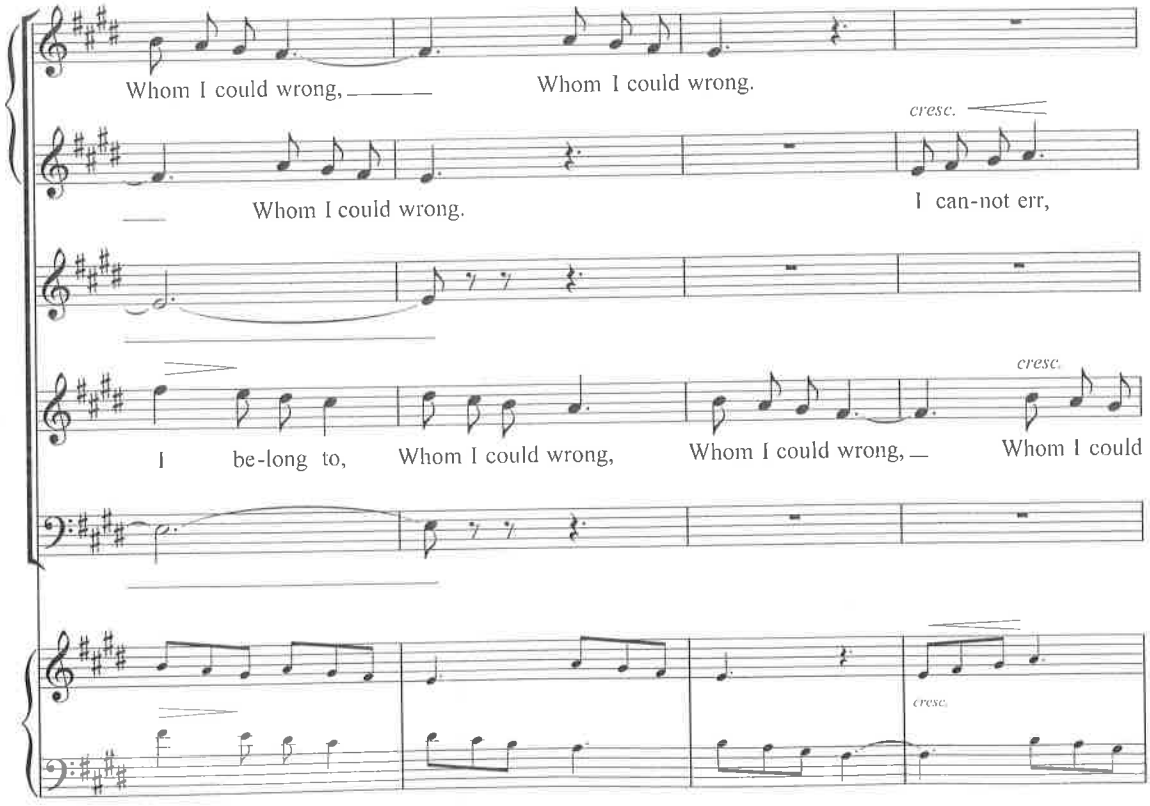

I have no sha - dow To run a - way from, I on - ly play,
on - - ly play.
pp
I can - not grow;
on - - ly play.
p
I can - not err;
I on - ly play.
I have no sha - dow To run a - way from, I on - ly play,
p

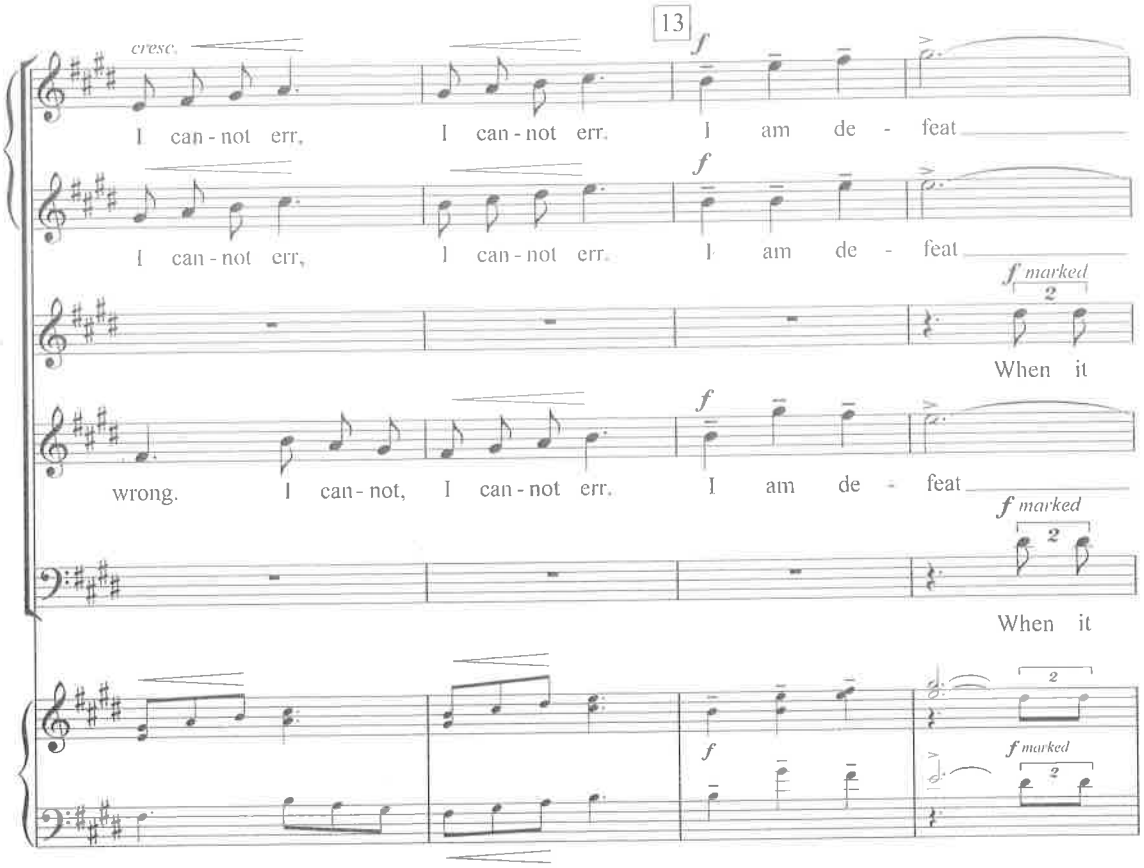

11
There is no crea - ture Whom I be - long to, Whom I could wrong,
p
I can - not err; There is no crea - ture Whom I be - long to,
mp
I
I on - ly play.
mp
I
mp
Whom I could wrong, Whom I could wrong,
Whom I could wrong, Whom I could wrong, Whom I could
can - - not err.
p
I can - not err;
can - - not err.

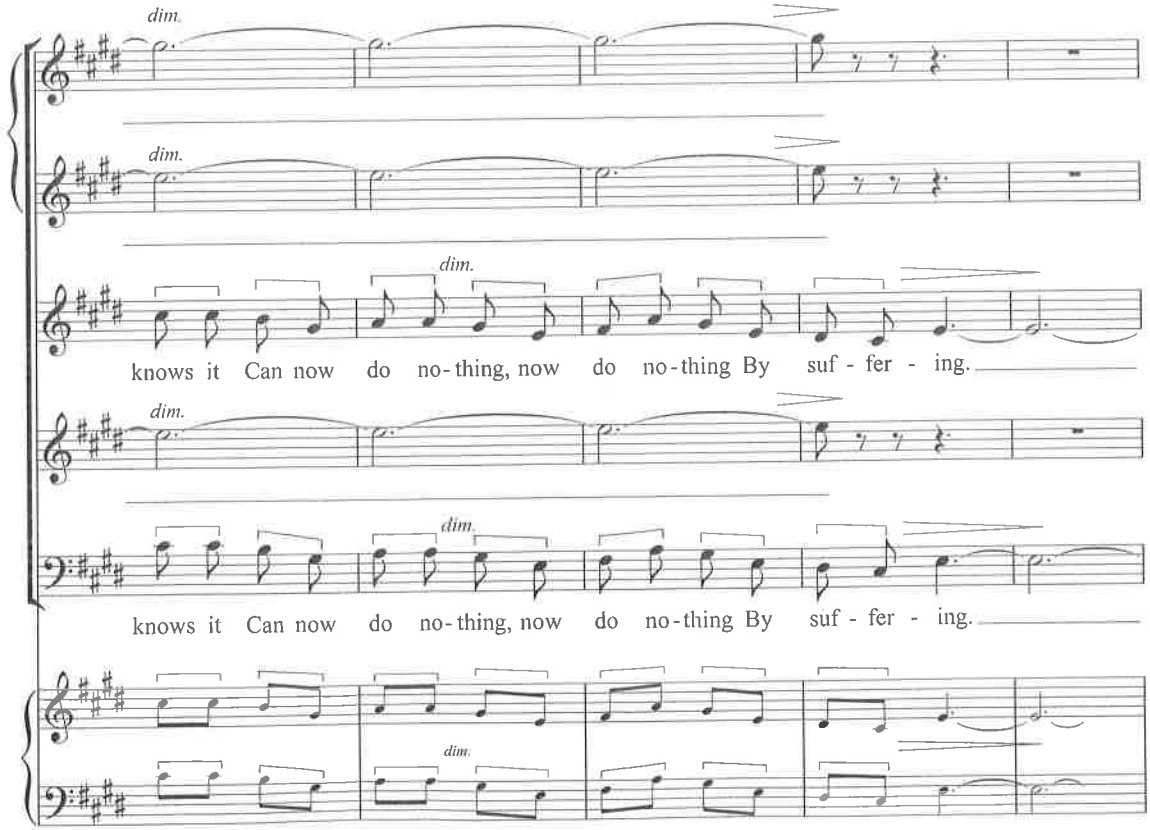

Whom I could wrong,
Whom I could
wrong,
There is no crea - ture Whom I be - long to, Whom I could wrong,

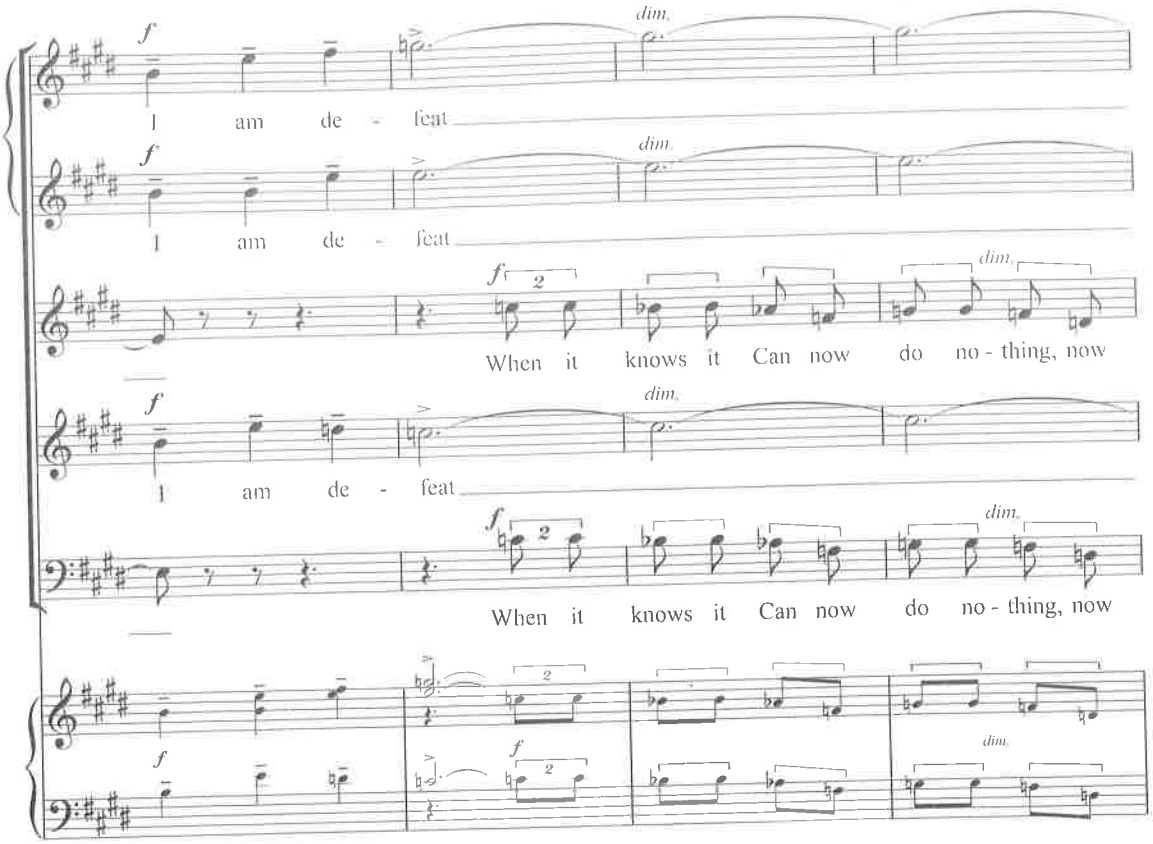

12
più f
I can - not err;
wrong,
più f
I can - not err;
There is no crea - ture Whom
mf
I
Whom I could wrong,
Whom I could wrong,
mf
I
più f
mf

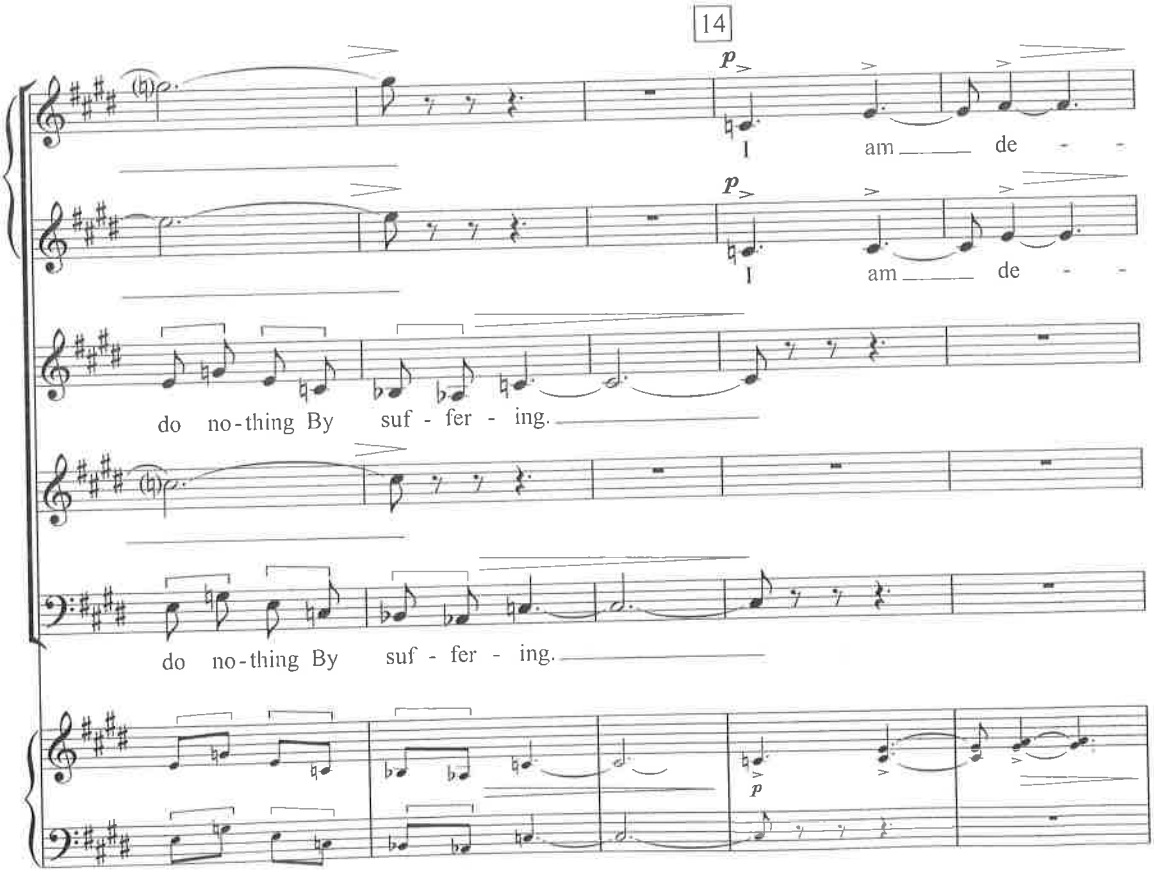

There is no crea-ture Whom I be - long to, Whom I could wrong,
I be - long to, Whom I could wrong, Whom I could wrong,
can - - not err.
più f
I can - not err; There is no crea-ture Whom
can - - not err.

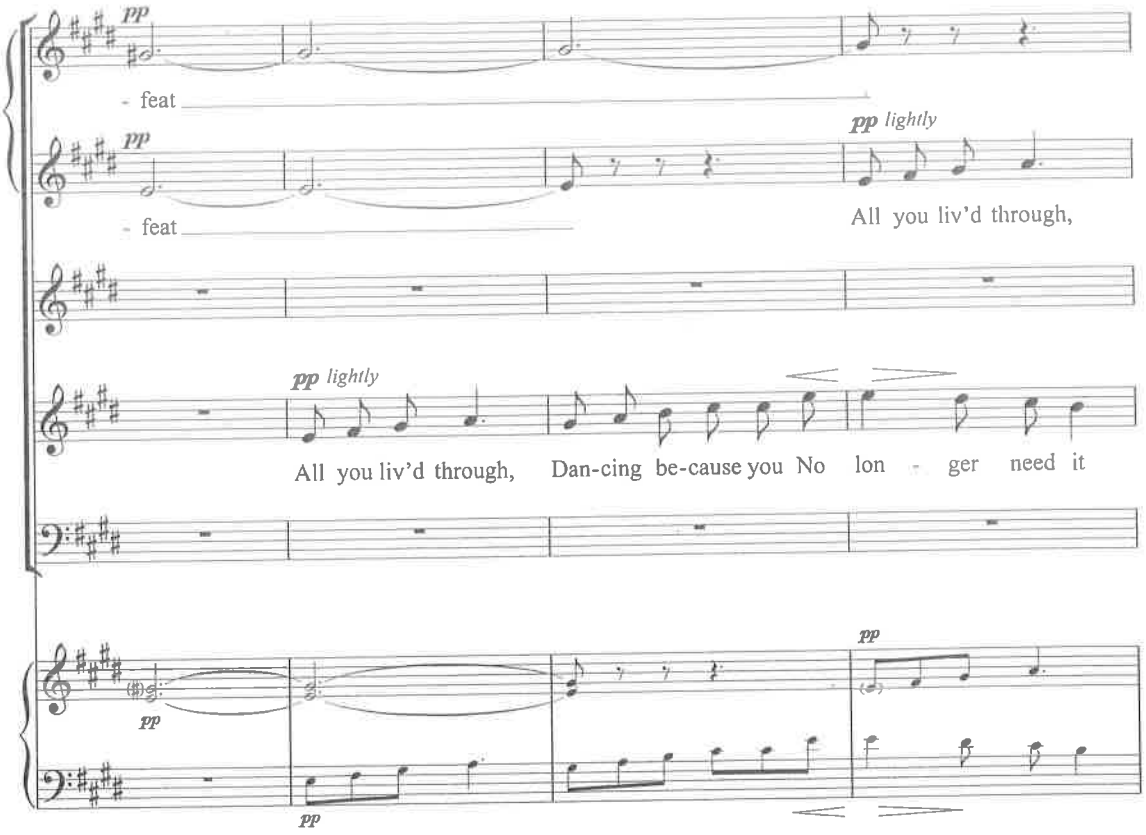

Whom I could wrong, Whom I could wrong.
cresc.
Whom I could wrong. I can-not err,
I be-long to, Whom I could wrong, Whom I could wrong, Whom I could
cresc.
cresc.

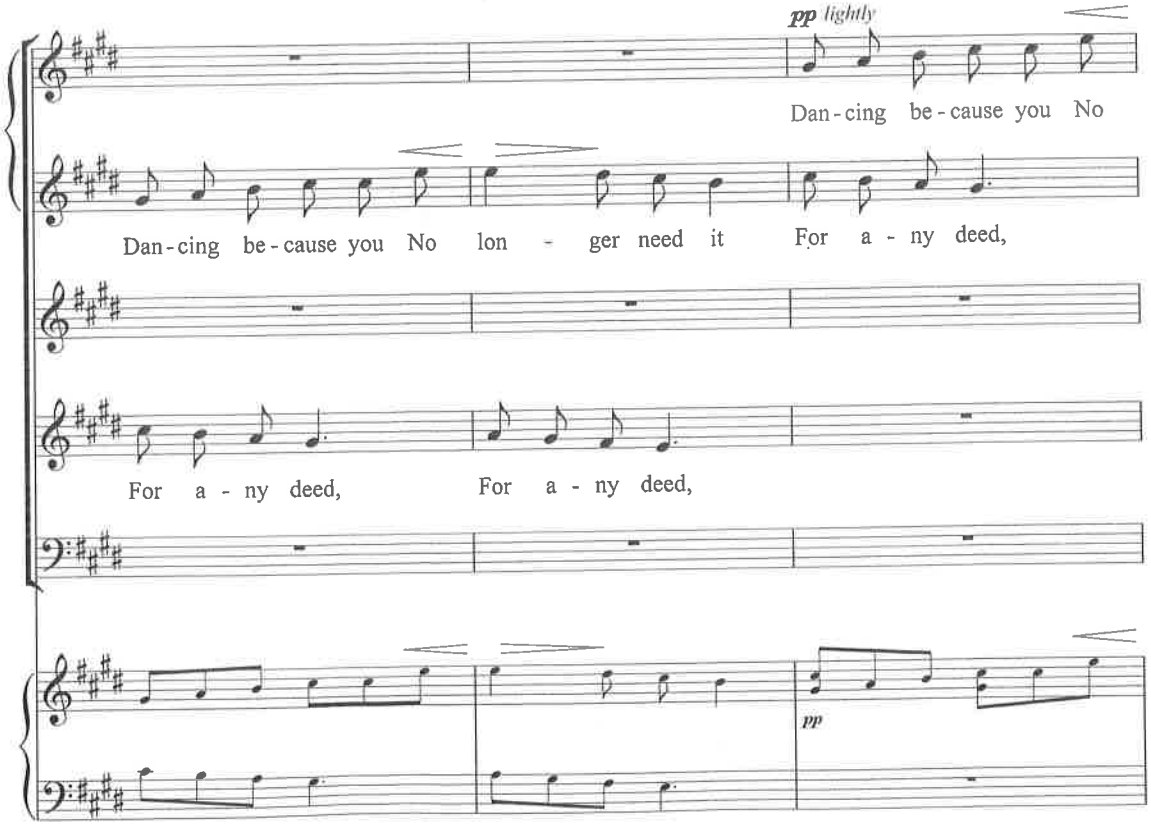

13
cresc.
f
I can - not err, I can - not err. I am de - feat
f marked
When it
wrong. I can - not, I can - not err. I am de - feat
When it

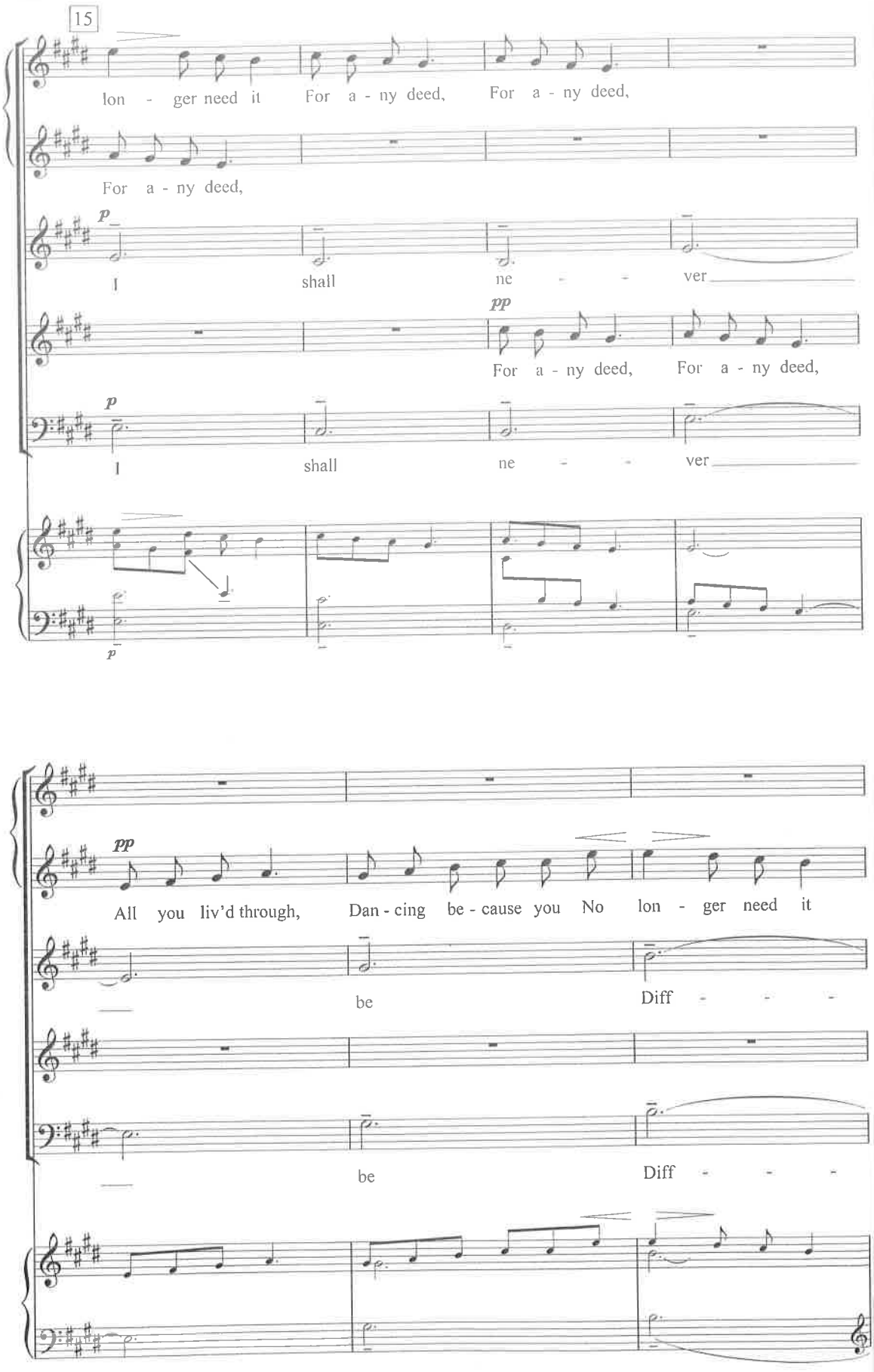

dim.
knows it Can now do no - thing, now do no - thing By suf - fer - ing.
knows it Can now do no - thing, now do no - thing By suf - fer - ing.

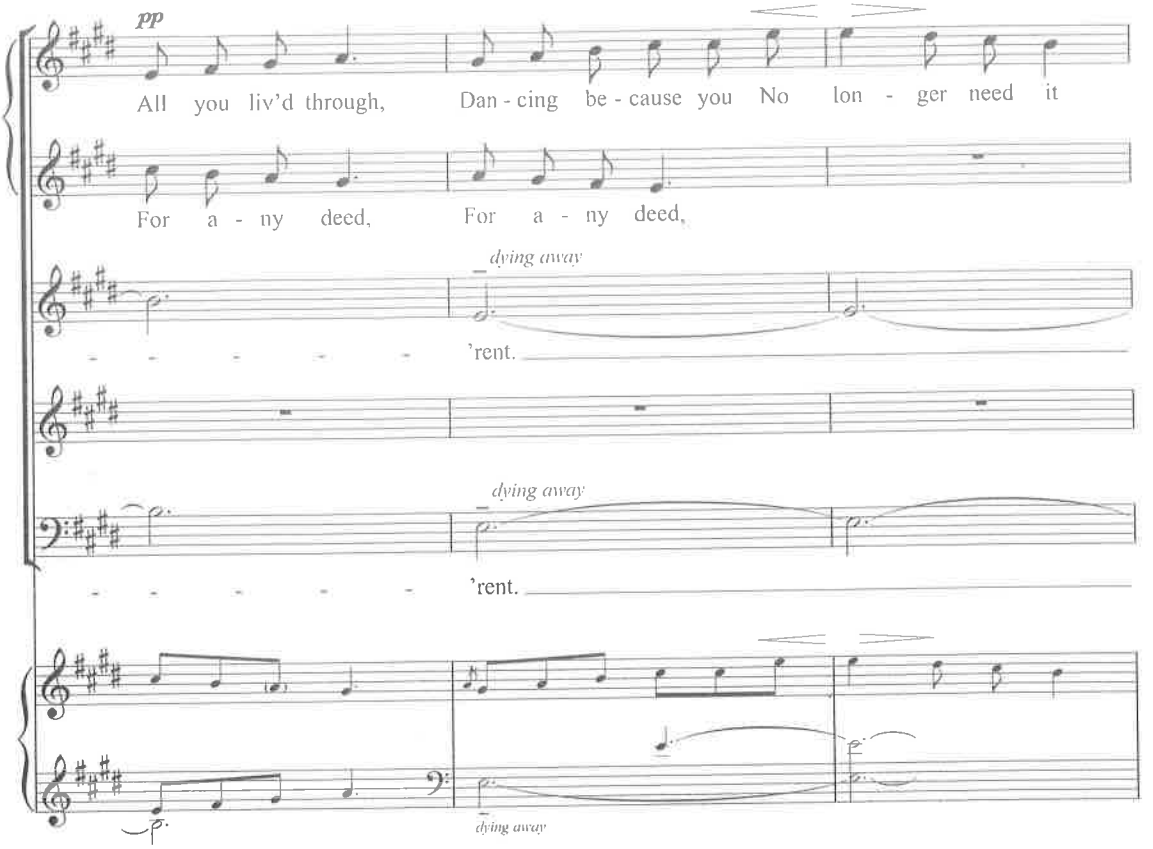

f
dim.
I am de - feat
When it knows it Can now do no - thing, now

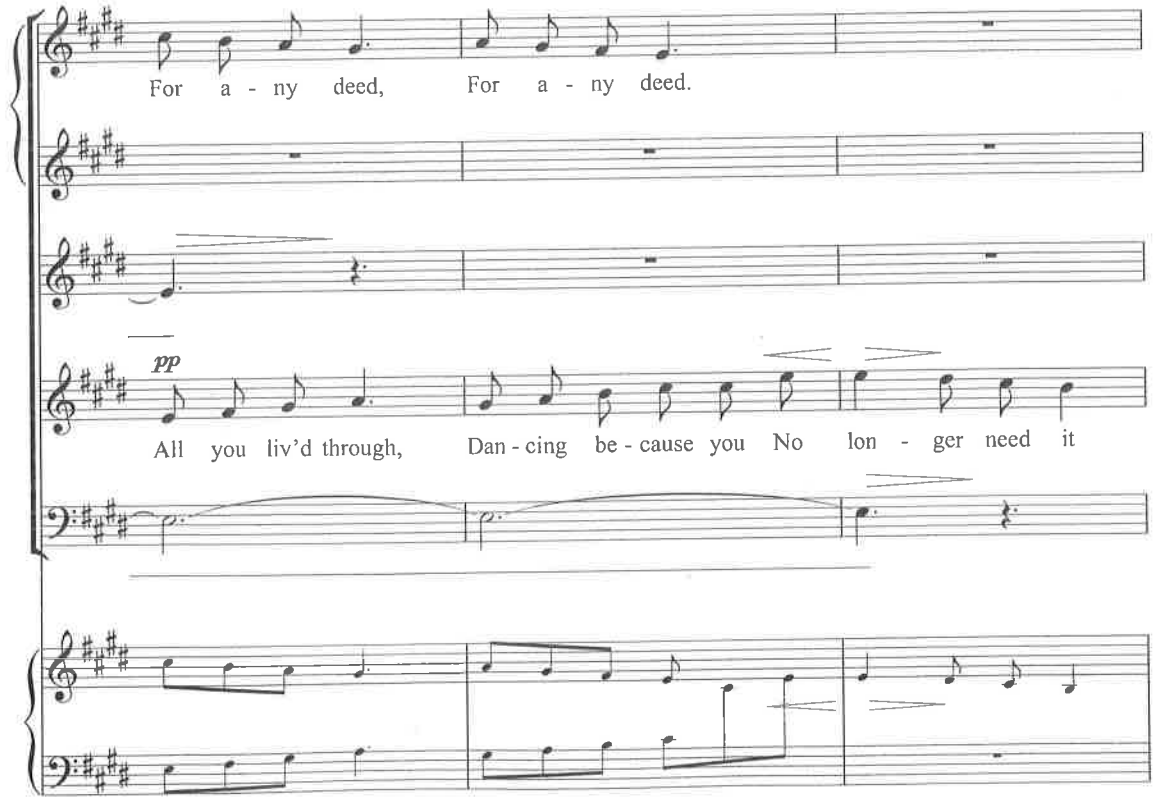

14
p
I am de - -
do no-thing By suf - fer - ing.

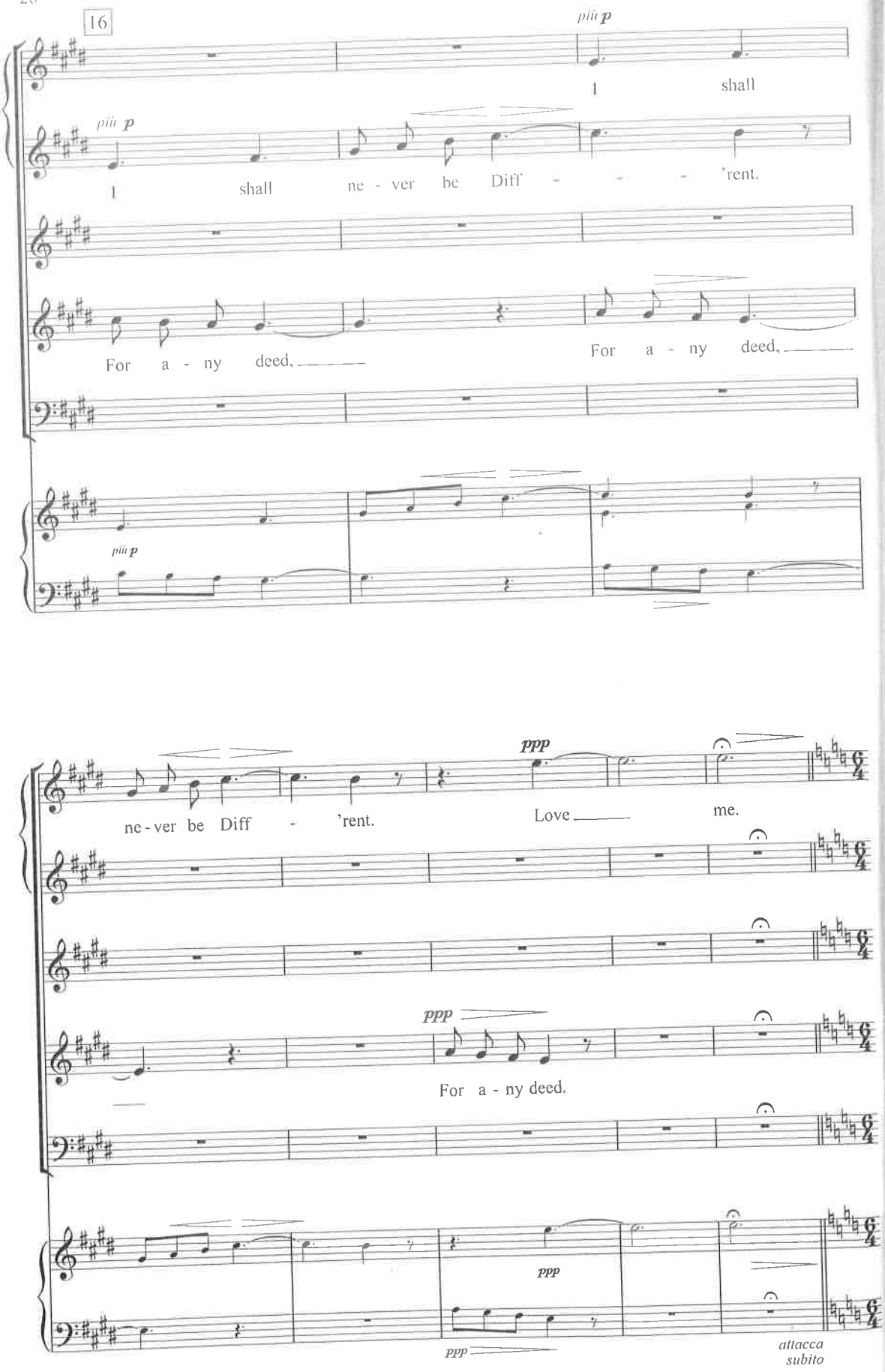

pp
- feat
pp
- feat
pp lightly
All you liv'd through,
pp lightly
All you liv'd through, Dan-cing be-cause you No lon - ger need it
pp
pp
pp

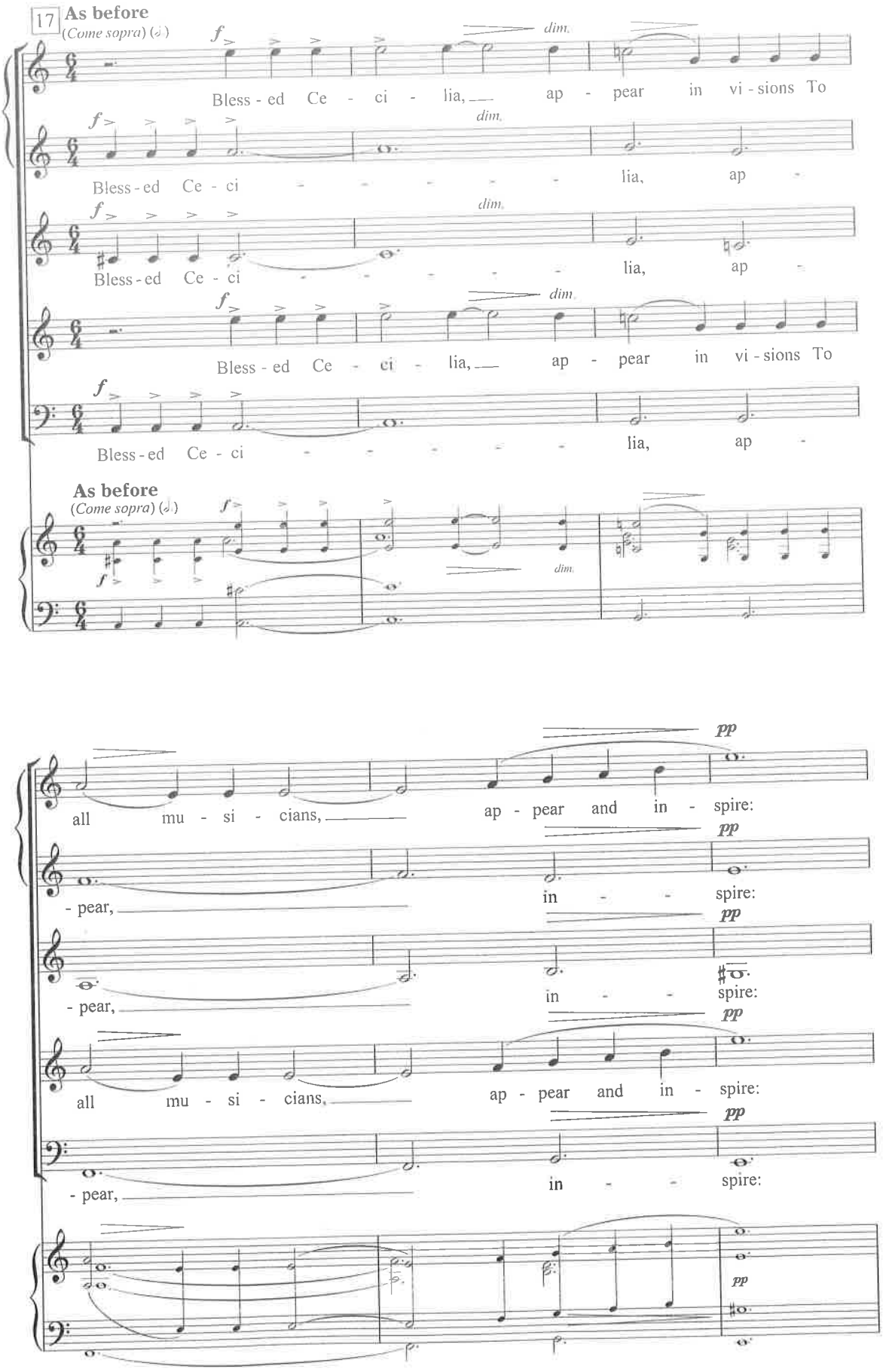

pp lightly
Dan-cing be-cause you No
Dan-cing be-cause you No lon - ger need it For a - ny deed,
For a - ny deed, For a - ny deed,
pp

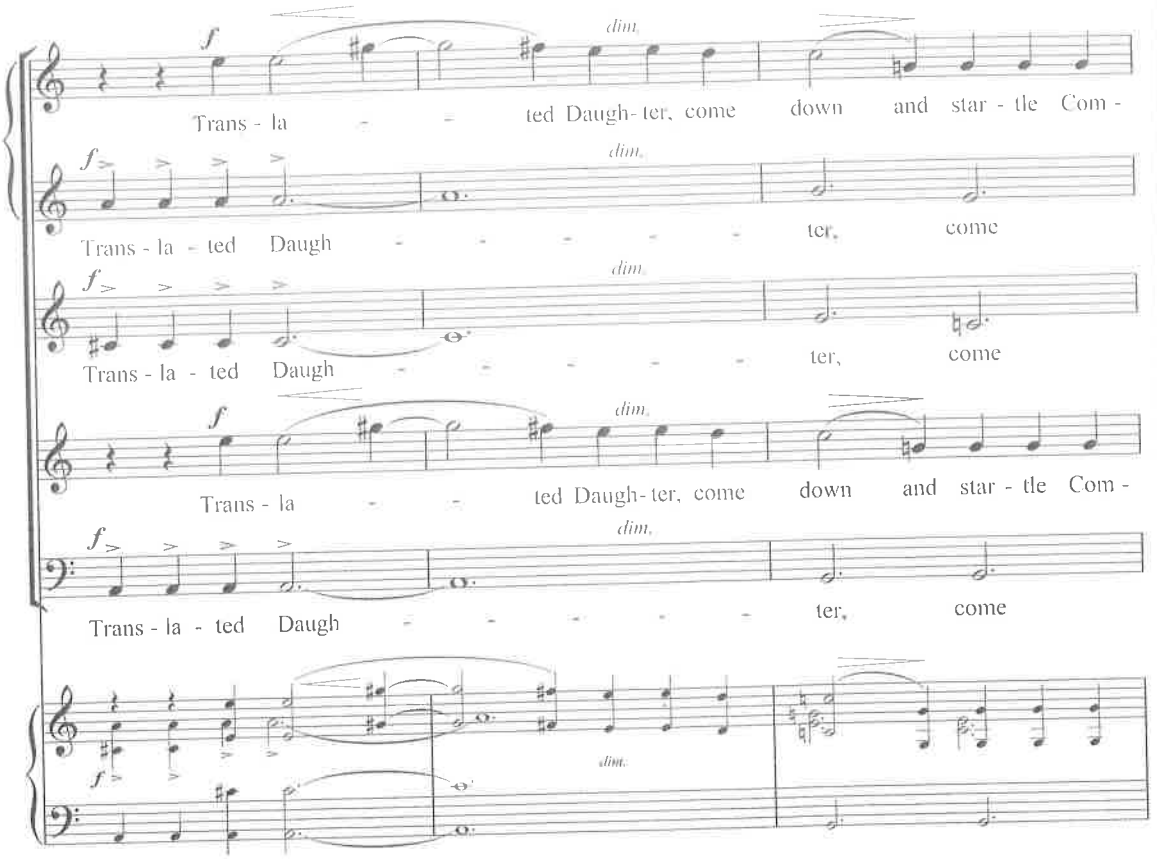

15
lon - ger need it For a - ny deed, For a - ny deed,
For a - ny deed,
p
I shall ne - - ver
pp
For a - ny deed, For a - ny deed,
p
I shall ne - - ver
pp
All you liv'd through, Dan - cing be - cause you No lon - ger need it
be Diff - - -
be Diff - - -

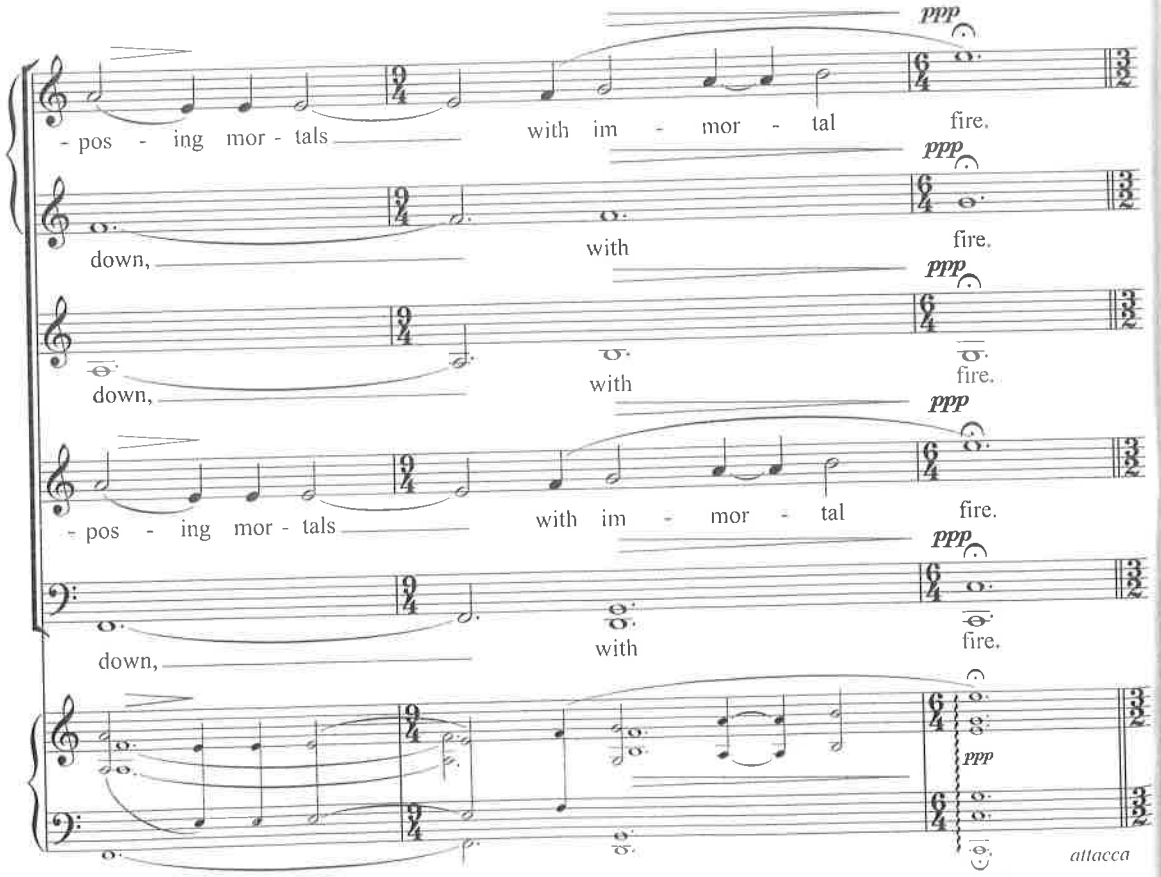

pp
All you liv'd through, Dan - cing be - cause you No lon - ger need it
For a - ny deed, For a - ny deed,
dying away
'rent.
dying away
'rent.
dying away

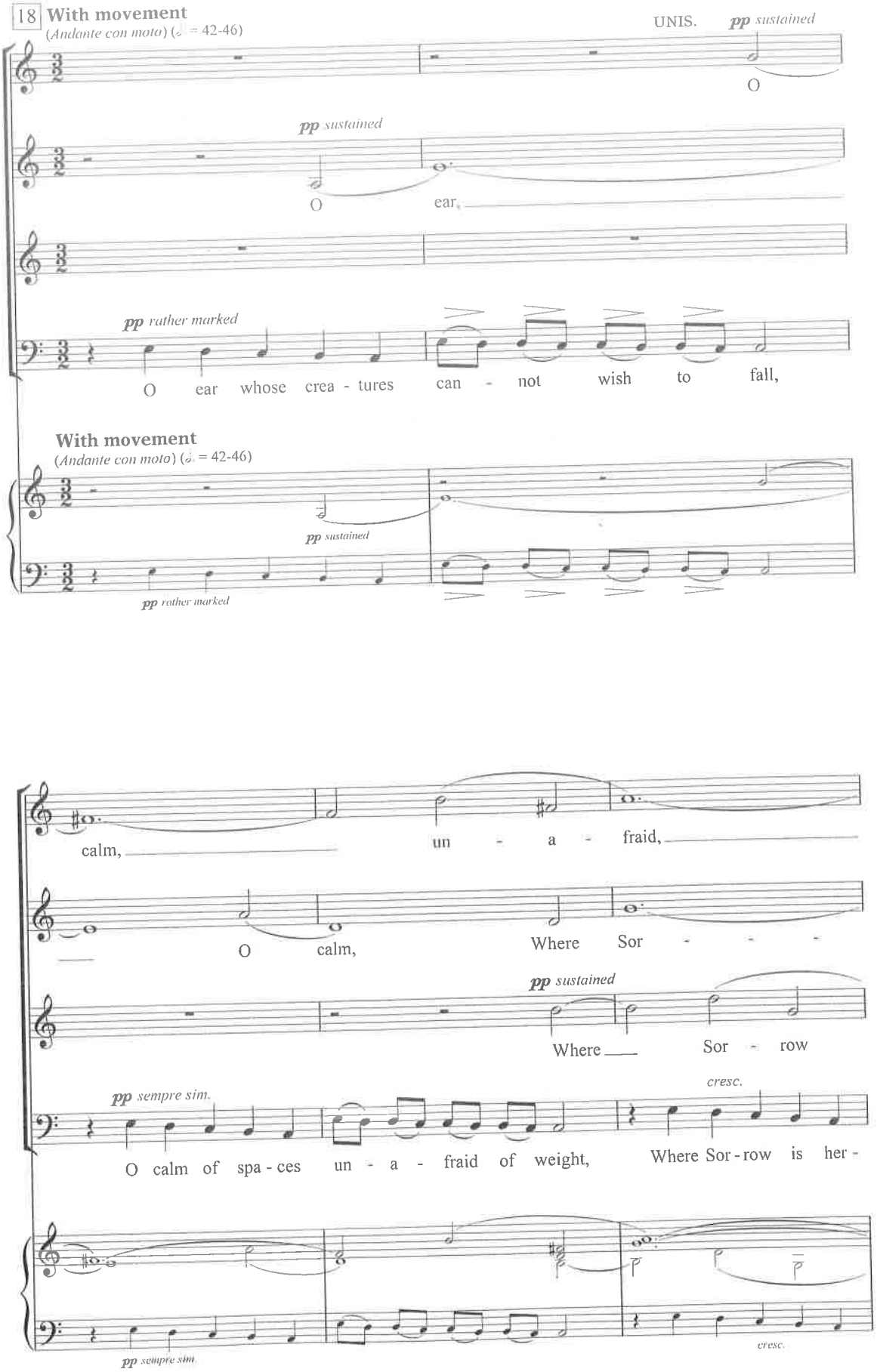

For a - ny deed, For a - ny deed.
pp
All you liv'd through, Dan - cing be - cause you No lon - ger need it

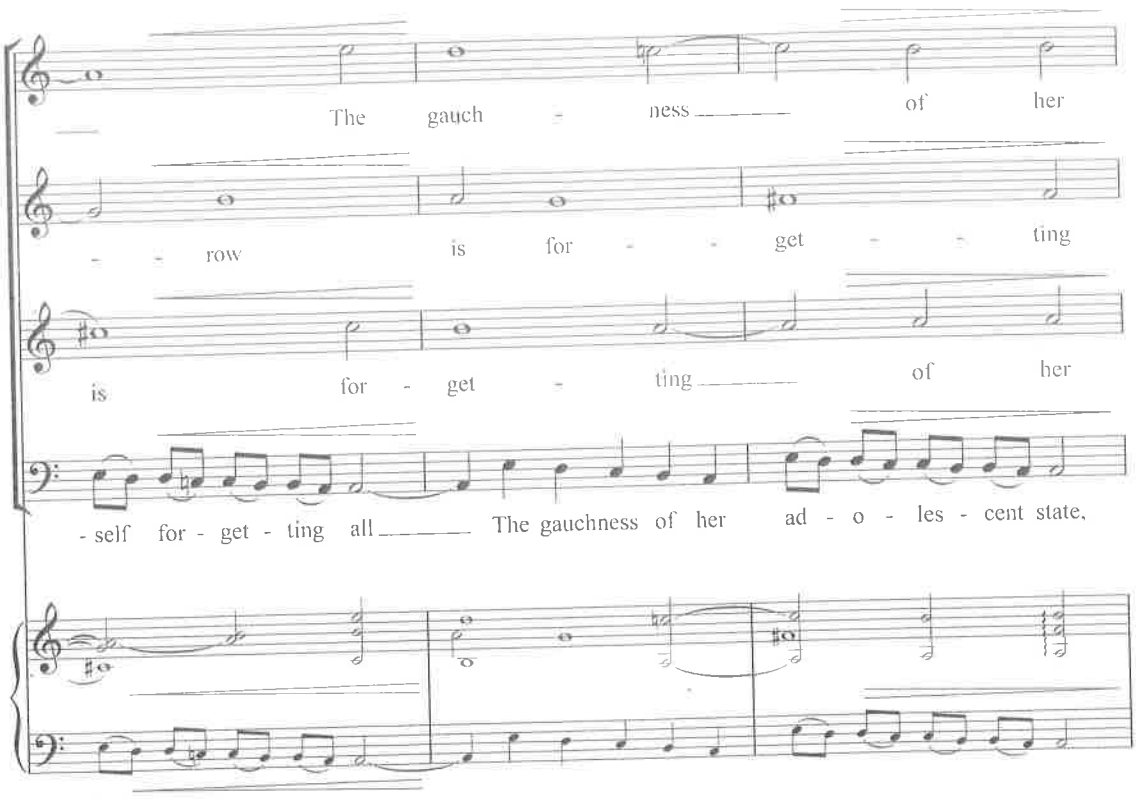

16
più p
I shall
più p
I shall ne - ver be Diff - - - 'rent.
For a - ny deed,
For a - ny deed,
più p
ppp
ne - ver be Diff - 'rent.
Love me.
ppp
For a - ny deed.
ppp
ppp
attacca
subito

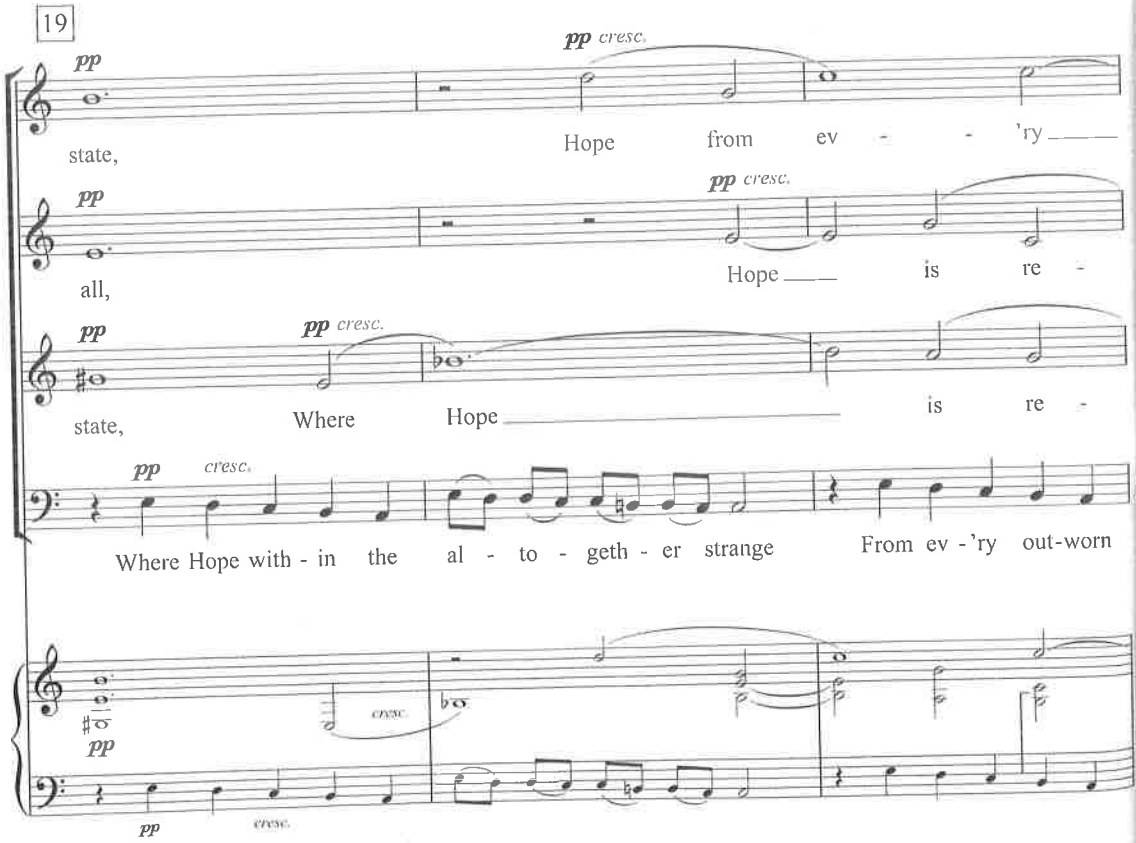

17 As before
(Come sopra)
f
dim.
Bless - ed Ce - ci - lia, ap - pear in vi - sions To
Bless - ed Ce - ci - - - - - lia, ap -
Bless - ed Ce - ci - - - - - lia, ap -
Bless - ed Ce - ci - lia, ap - pear in vi - sions To
Bless - ed Ce - ci - - - - - lia, ap -
As before
(Come sopra)
pp
all mu - si - cians, ap - pear and in - spire:
- pear, in - - spire:
- pear, in - - spire:
all mu - si - cians, ap - pear and in - spire:
- pear, in - - spire:

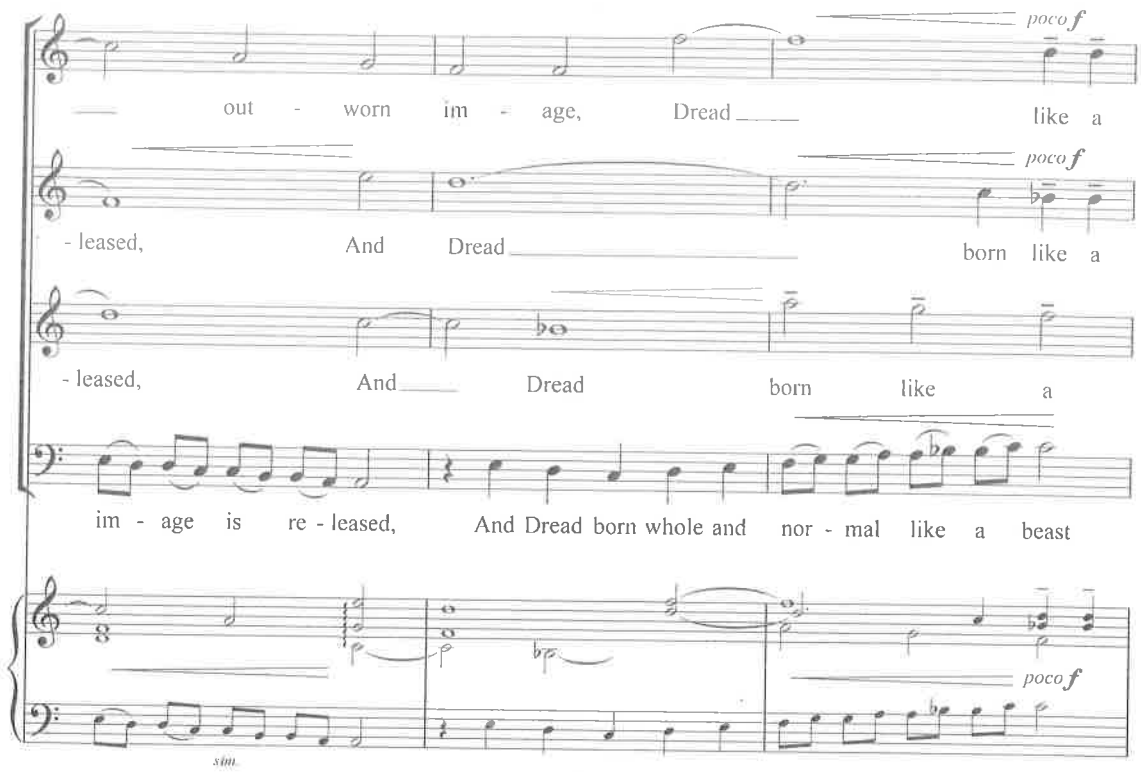

f
dim.
Trans - la - ted Daugh - ter, come down and star - tle Com -
Trans - la - ted Daugh - ter, come
Trans - la - ted Daugh - ter, come
Trans - la - ted Daugh - ter, come down and star - tle Com -
Trans - la - ted Daugh - ter, come

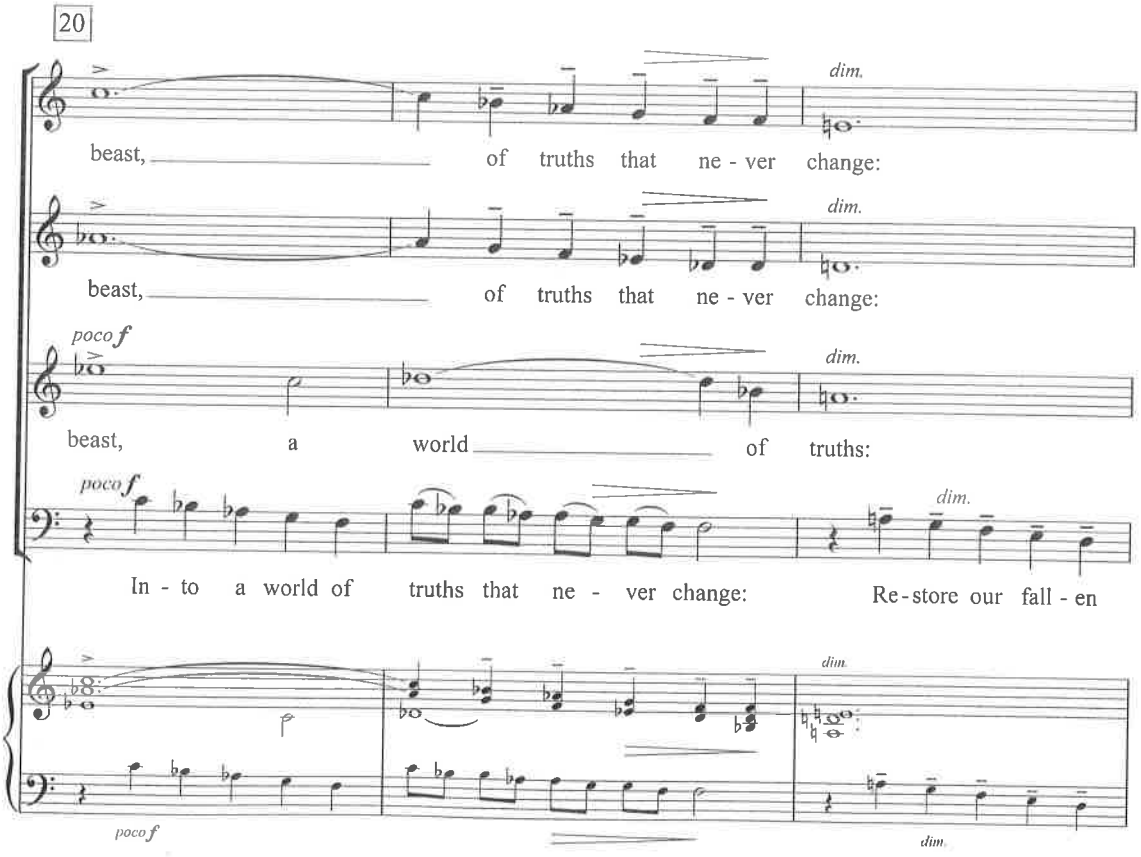

ppp
- pos - ing mor - tals with im - mor - tal fire.
down, with fire.
down, with fire.
- pos - ing mor - tals with im - mor - tal fire.
down, with fire.
attacca

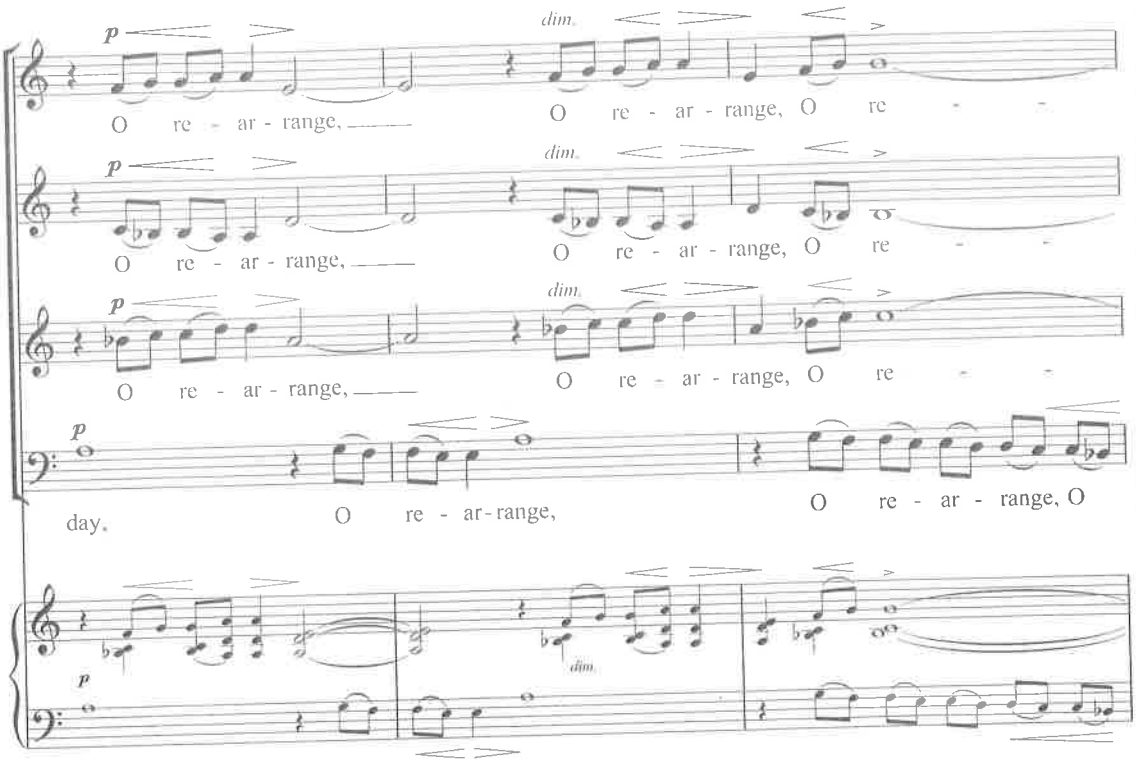

18 With movement
(Andante con moto) (♩. = 42-46)
UNIS.
pp sustained
O
pp sustained
O
ear,
pp rather marked
O ear whose crea - tures can - not wish to fall,
With movement
(Andante con moto) (♩. = 42-46)
pp sustained
pp rather marked
calm,
un - a - fraid,
O calm,
Where Sor - - - -
pp sustained
Where
Sor - row
pp sempre sim.
cresc.
O calm of spa - ces un - a - fraid of weight,
Where Sor - row is her -
pp sempre sim.
cresc.

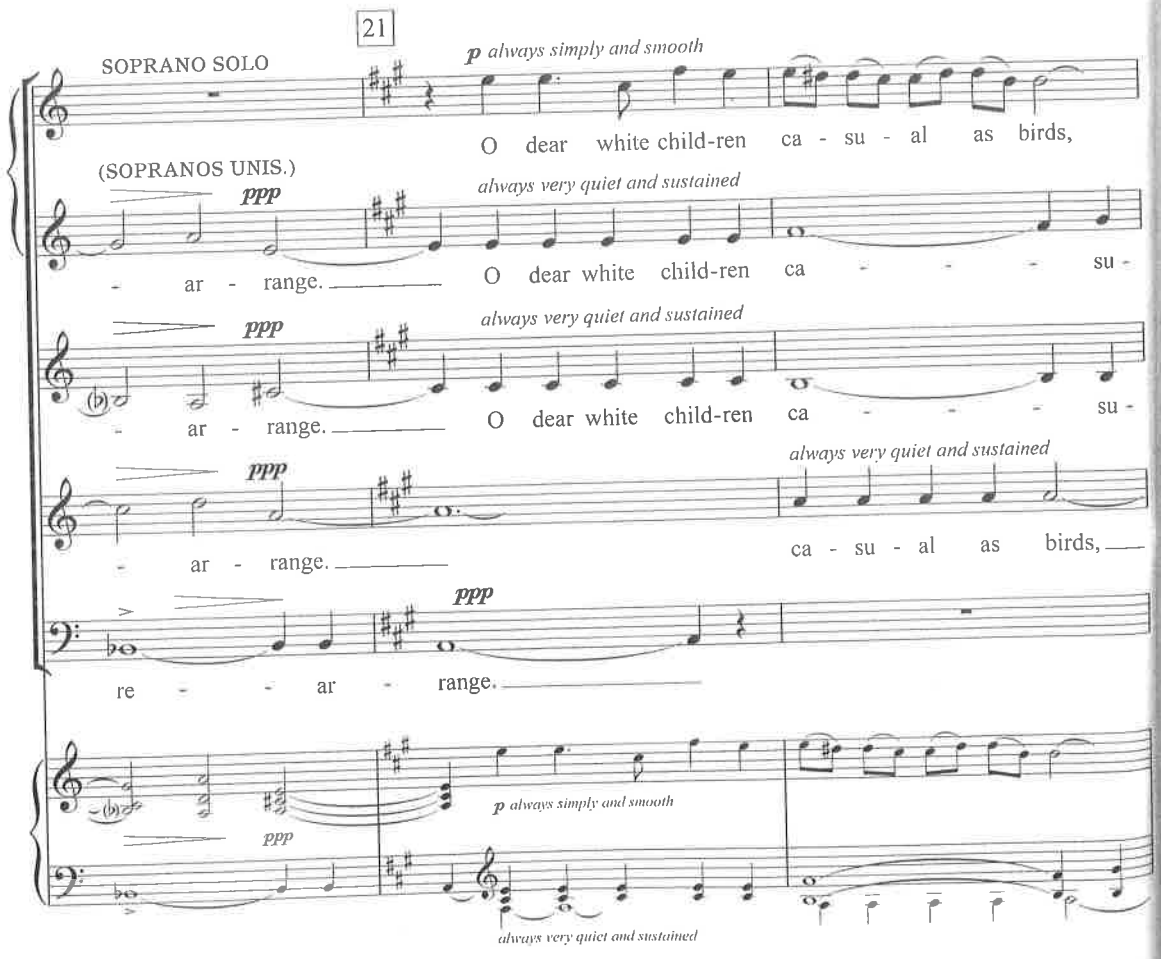

The gauch - ness of her
- - row is for - - get - - ting
is for - get - ting of her
- self for - get - ting all The gauchness of her ad - o - les - cent state,

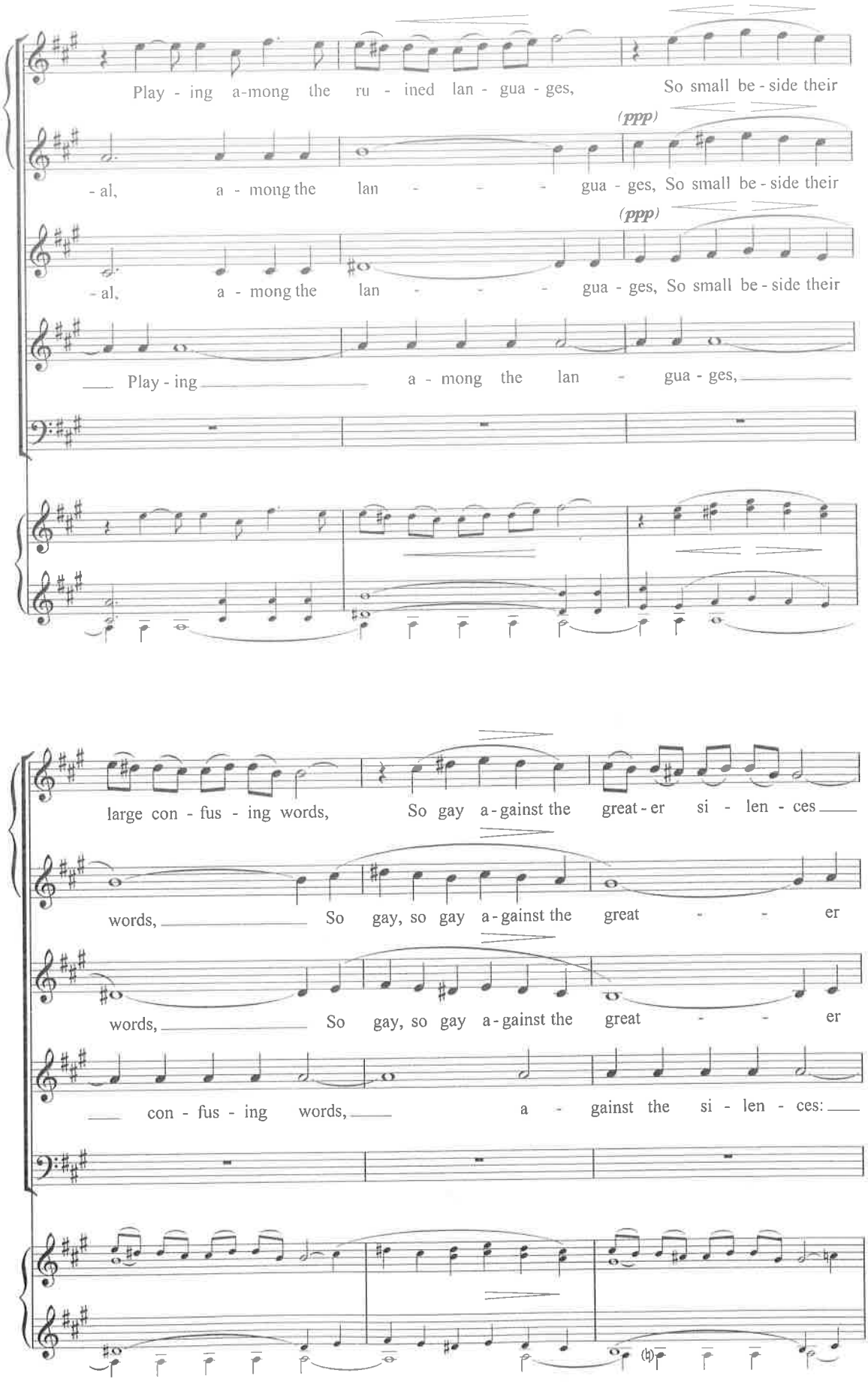

19
pp
pp cresc.
state,
Hope from ev - - 'ry
all,
Hope is re -
state,
Where Hope is re -
Where Hope with - in the al - to - geth - er strange From ev - 'ry out-worn


poco f
out - worn im - age, Dread like a
poco f
- leased, And Dread born like a
- leased, And Dread born like a
im - age is re - leased, And Dread born whole and nor - mal like a beast
poco f
sim.

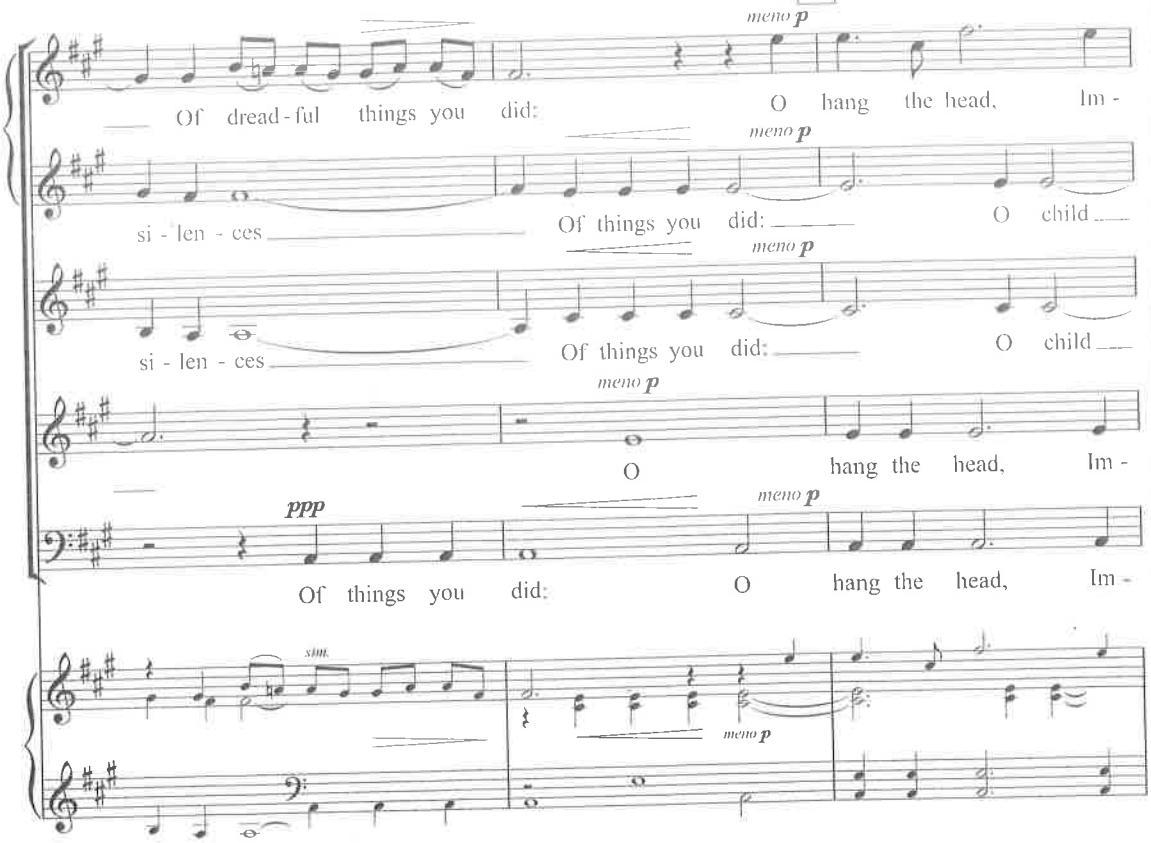

20
dim.
beast, of truths that ne - ver change:
dim.
beast, of truths that ne - ver change:
poco f
dim.
beast, a world of truths:
poco f
dim.
In - to a world of truths that ne - ver change: Re - store our fall - en
dim.
poco f
dim.

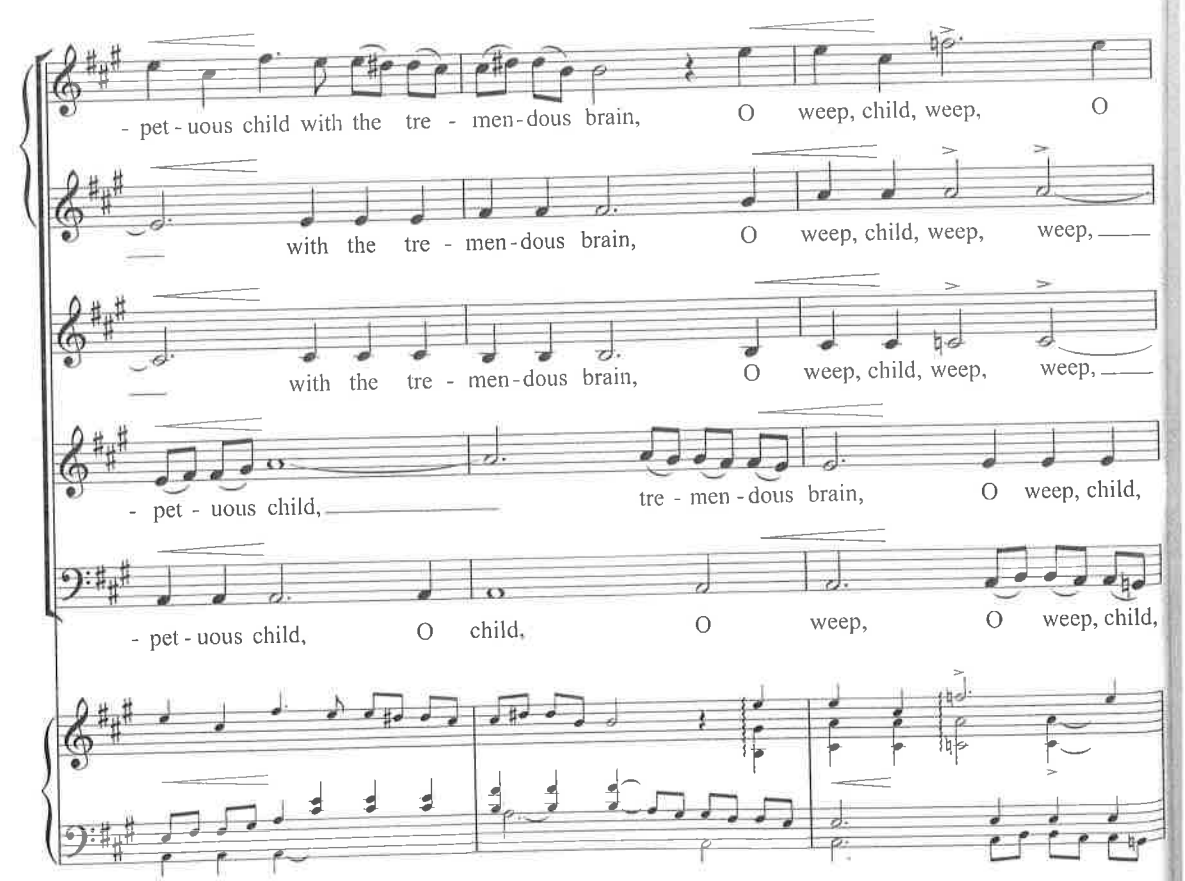

p
dim.
O re - ar - range,
O re - ar - range, O re
day,
O re - ar - range,
O re - ar - range, O

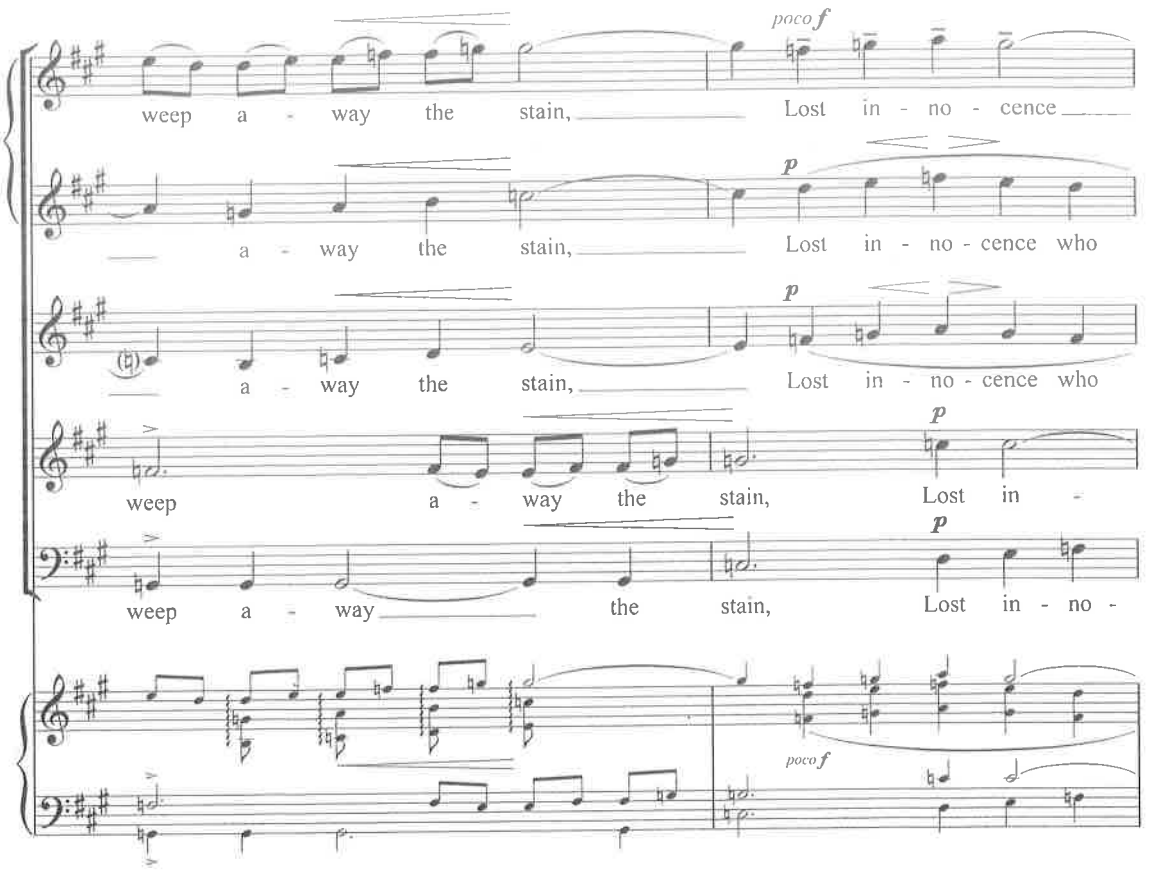

21
SOPRANO SOLO
p always simply and smooth
O dear white child-ren ca - su - al as birds,
(SOPRANOS UNIS.)
ppp
always very quiet and sustained
- ar - range.
O dear white child-ren ca - - - su -
ca - su - al as birds,
re - - ar - range.

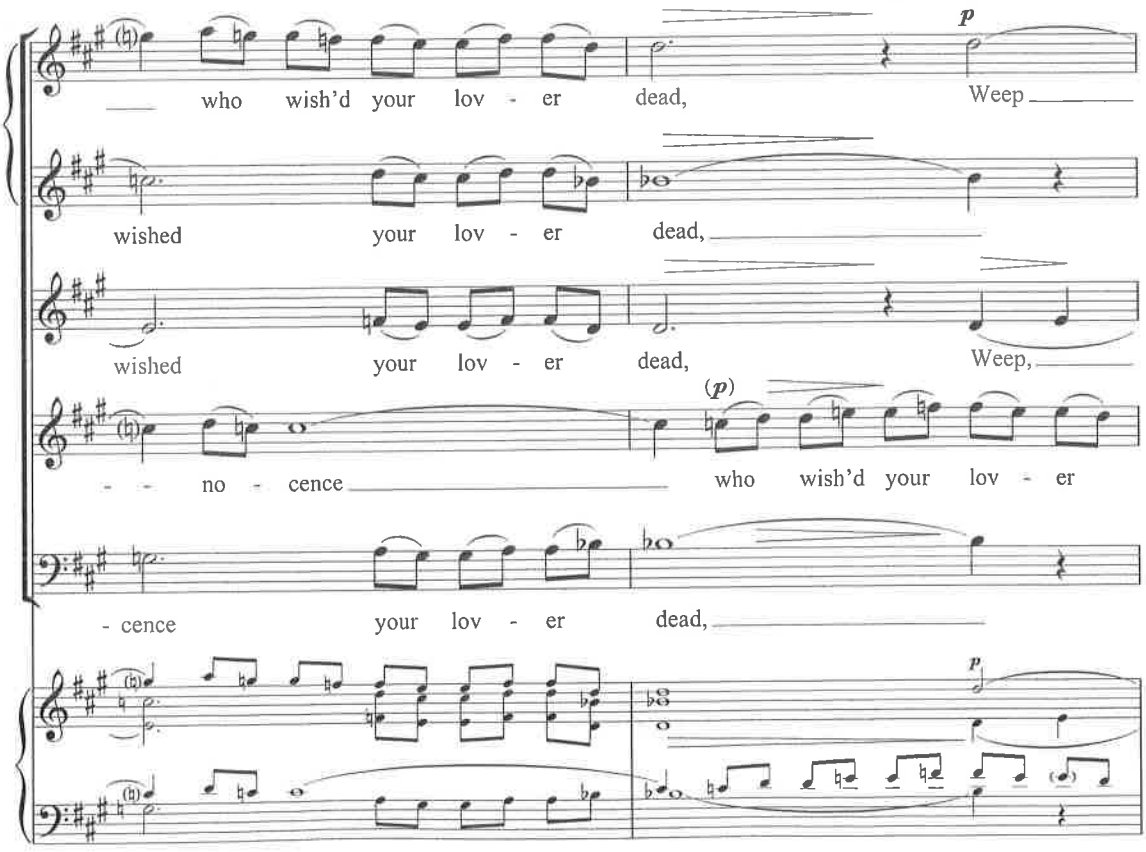

Play - ing a-mong the ru - ined lan - gua - ges, So small be - side their
(ppp)
- al, a - mong the lan - - - gua - ges, So small be - side their
(ppp)
- al, a - mong the lan - - - gua - ges, So small be - side their
Play - ing a - mong the lan - gua - ges,
large con - fus - ing words, So gay a - gainst the great - er si - len - ces
words, So gay, so gay a - gainst the great - - er
words, So gay, so gay a - gainst the great - - er
con - fus - ing words, a - gainst the si - len - ces:

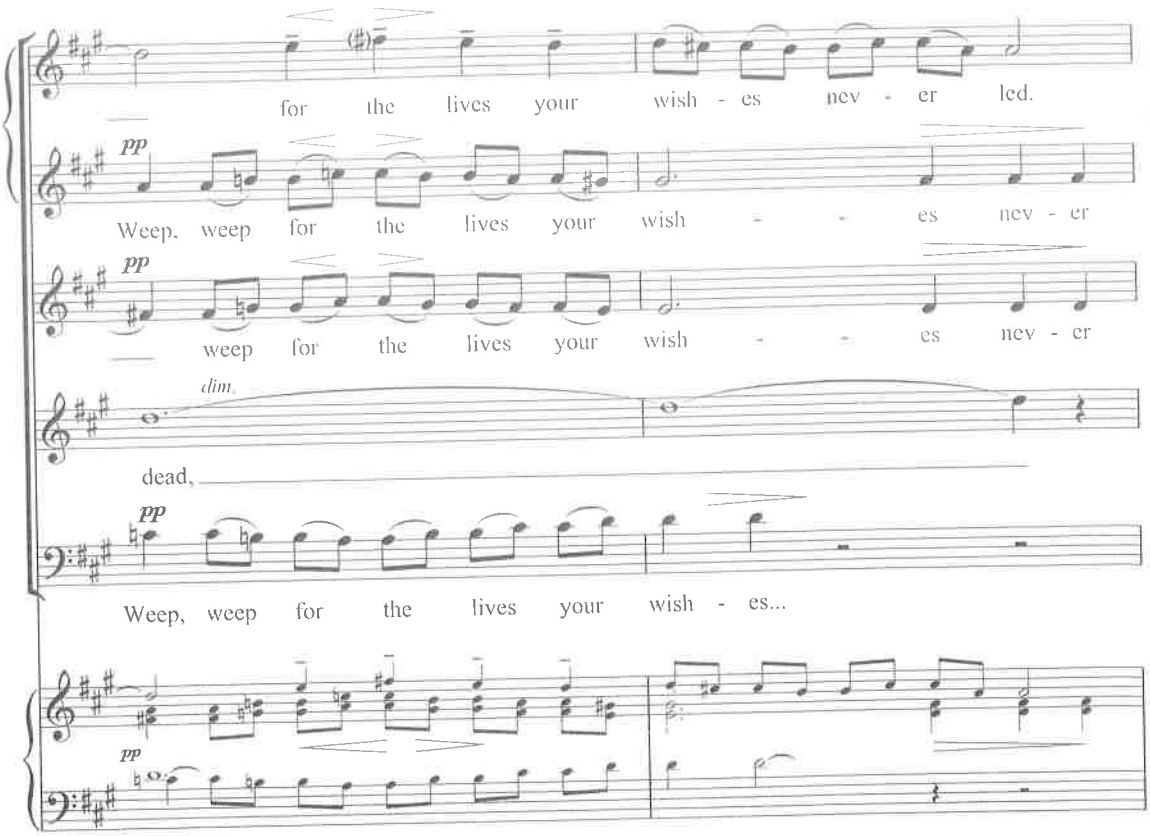
22

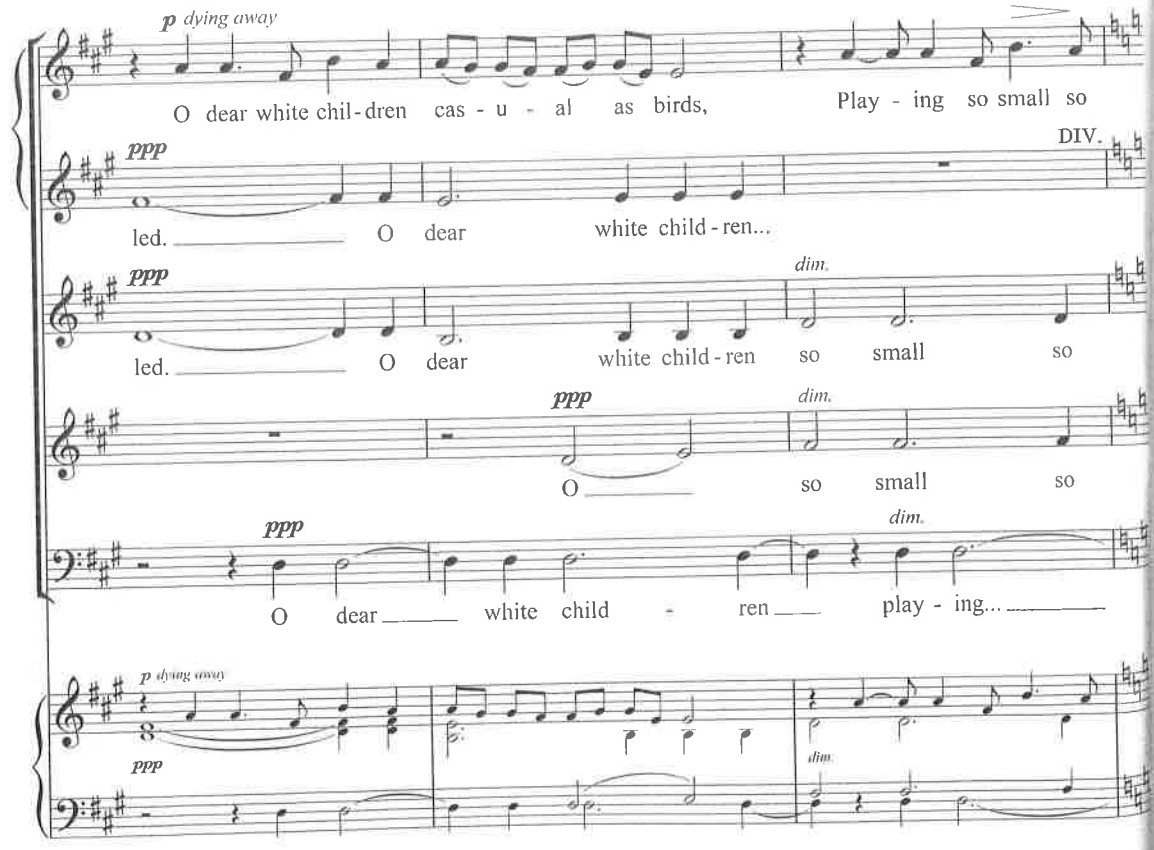

meno p
Of dread - ful things you did:
O hang the head, Im -
si - len - ces
Of things you did:
O child
ppp
O

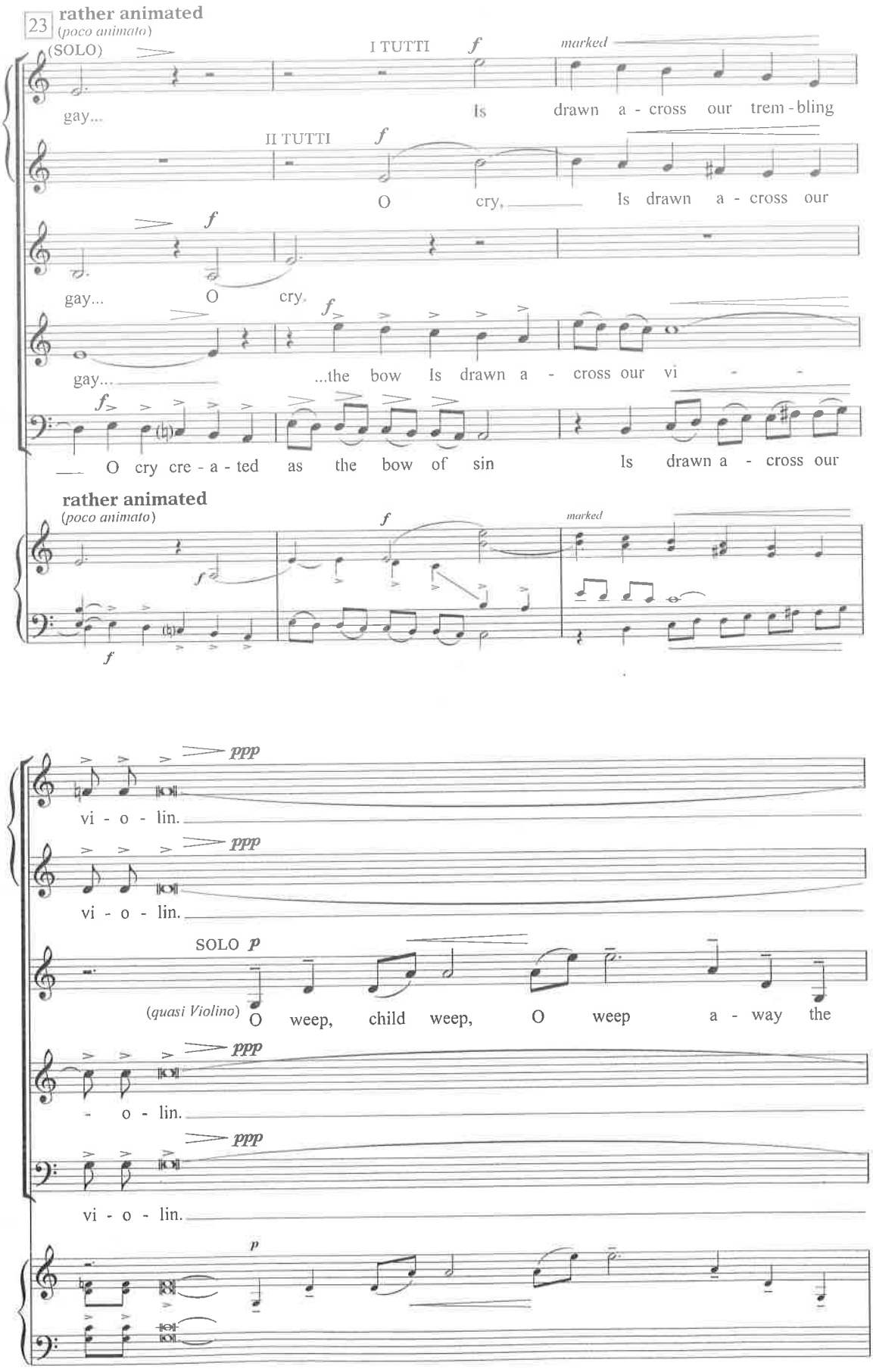

- pet - uous child with the tre - men - dous brain,
O weep, child, weep, O
with the tre - men - dous brain,
O weep, child, weep, weep,
- pet - uous child,
tre - men - dous brain,
O weep, child,
- pet - uous child,
O child,
O weep,
O weep, child,

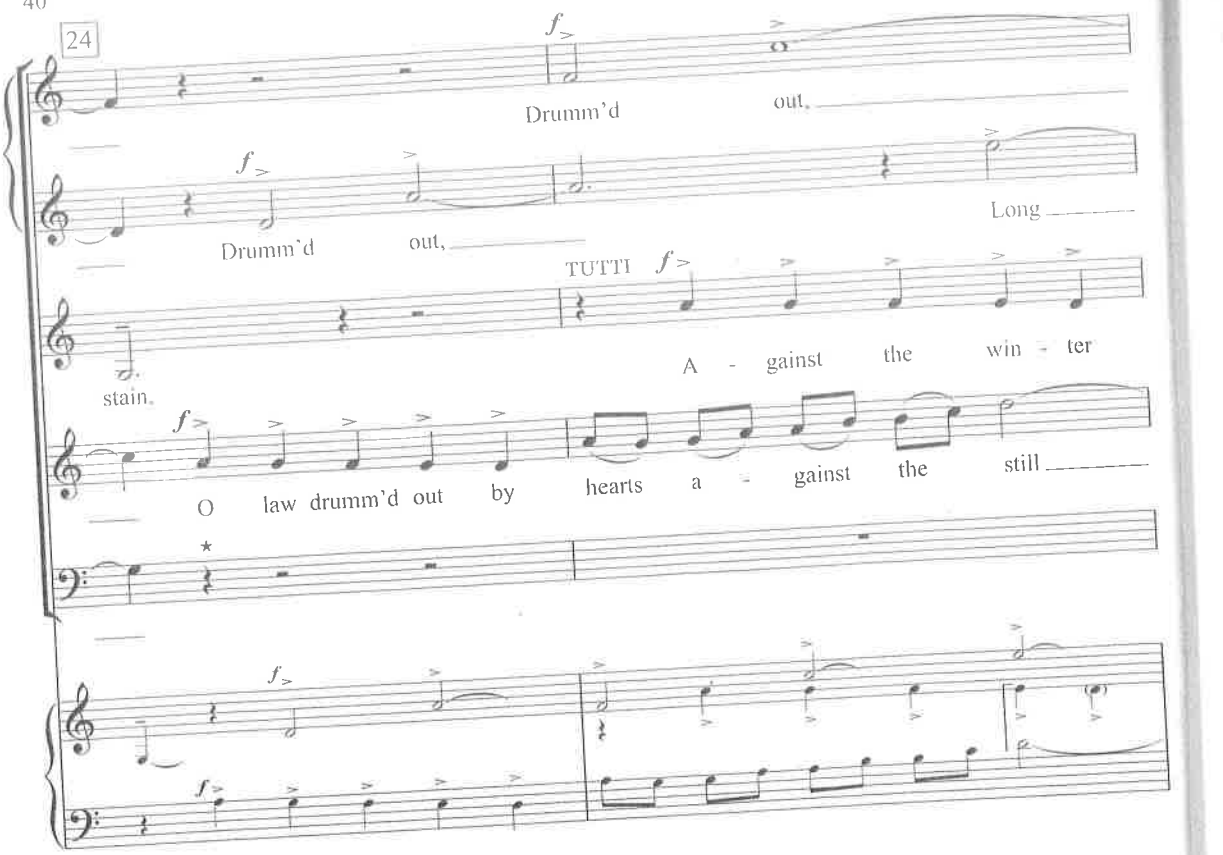

poco f
weep a - way the stain, Lost in - no - cence
p
a - way the stain, Lost in - no - cence who
p
a - way the stain, Lost in - no - cence who
p
weep a - way the stain, Lost in -
p
weep a - way the stain, Lost in - no -
poco f

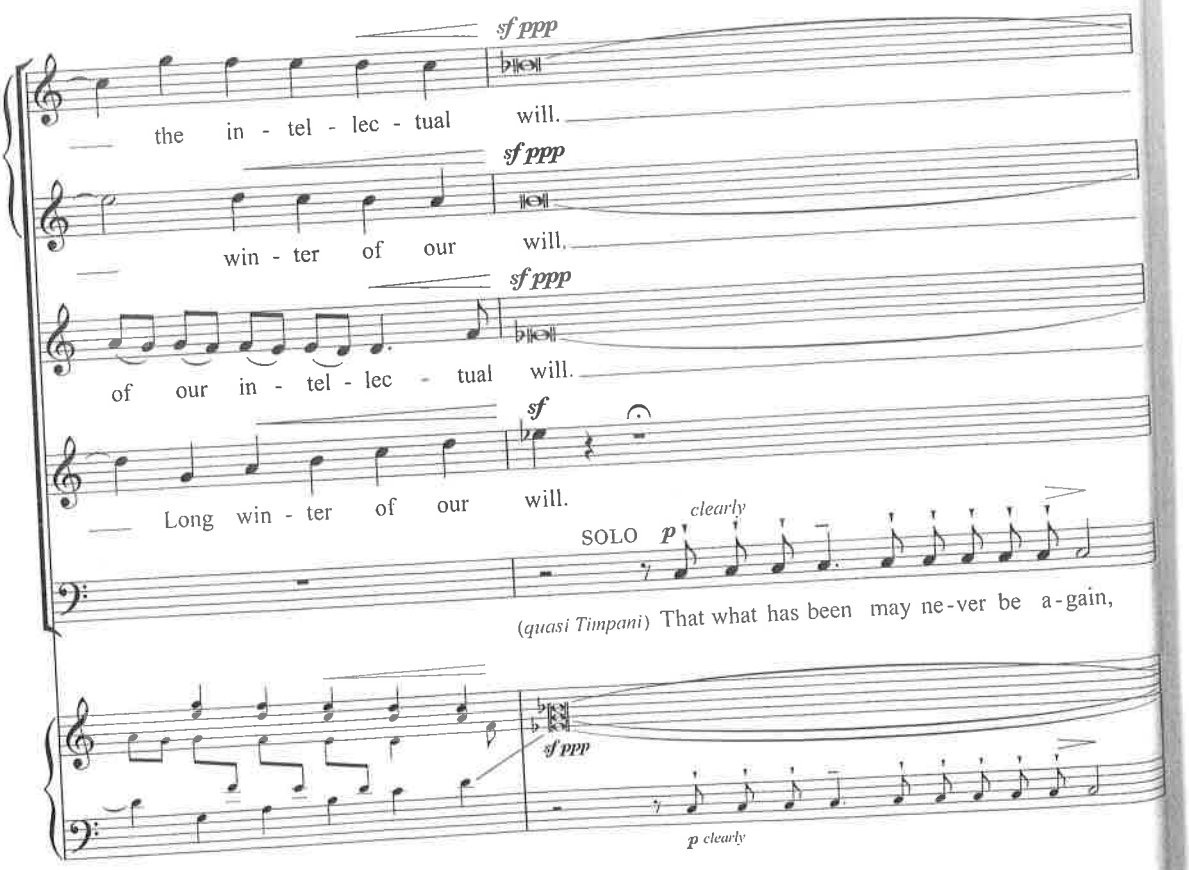

p
who wish'd your lov - er dead, Weep
wished your lov - er dead,
wished your lov - er dead, Weep,
(p)
- - no - cence who wish'd your lov - er
- cence your lov - er dead,
p


for the lives your wish - es nev - er led.
pp
Weep, weep for the lives your wish - - es nev - er
pp
weep for the lives your wish - - es nev - er
dim.
dead,
pp
Weep, weep for the lives your wish - es...
pp

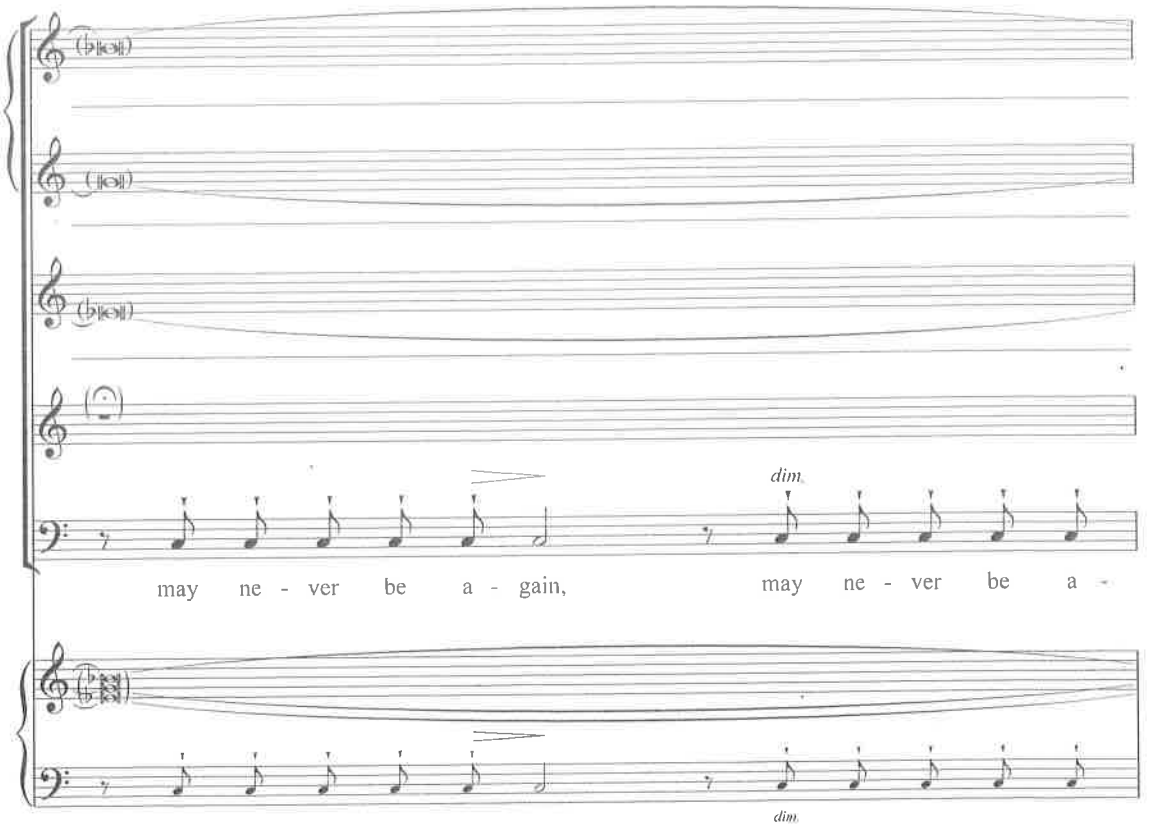

p dying away
O dear white chil-dren cas - u - al as birds, Play - ing so small so
DIV.
ppp
led. O dear white child-ren...
ppp
dim.
led. O dear white child-ren so small so
ppp
dim.
O so small so
ppp
dim.
O dear white child - ren play - ing...
p dying away
ppp
dim.

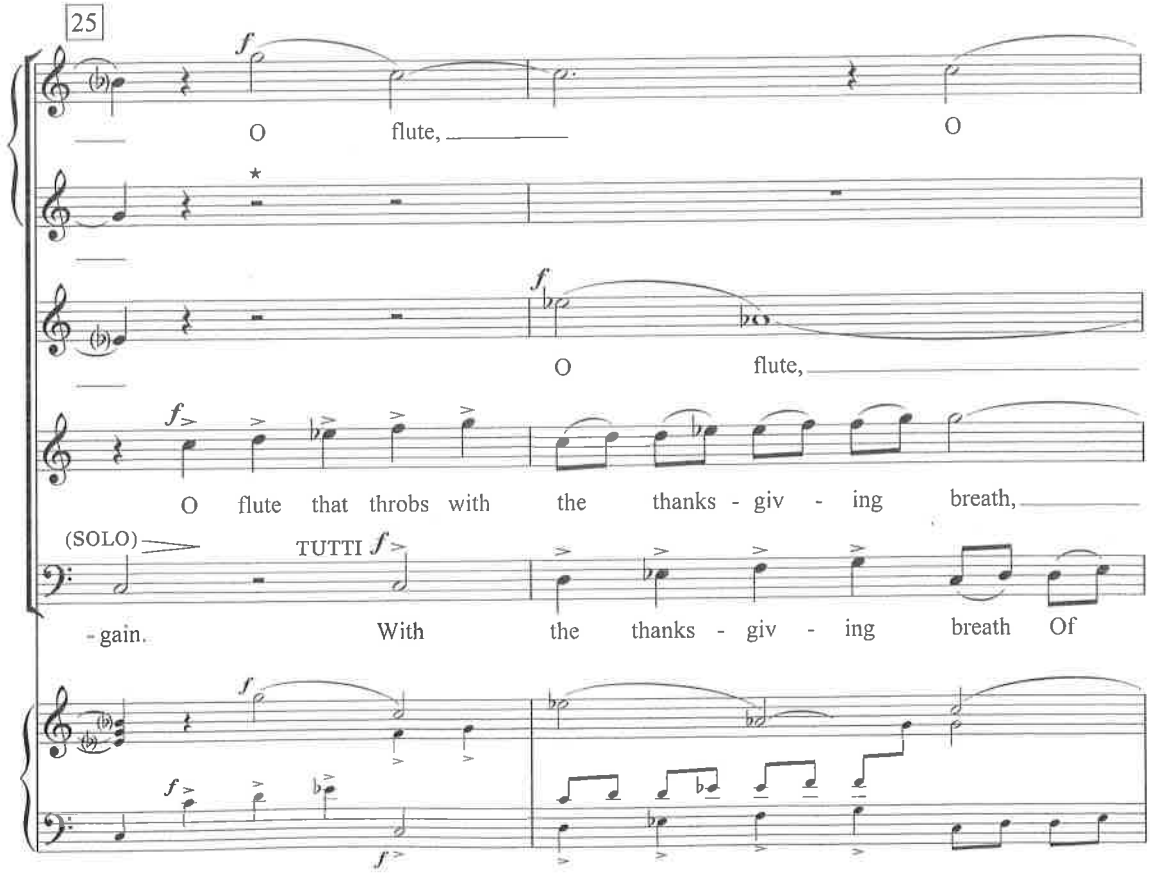

23 rather animated
(poco animato)
(SOLO)
I TUTTI
marked
gay...
Is drawn a - cross our trem - bling
II TUTTI
O cry, Is drawn a - cross our
gay... O cry.
gay... ...the bow Is drawn a - cross our vi - -
O cry cre - a - ted as the bow of sin Is drawn a - cross our
rather animated
(poco animato)
marked
vi - o - lin.
vi - o - lin.
SOLO
(quasi Violino)
O weep, child weep, O weep a - way the
- o - lin.
vi - o - lin.



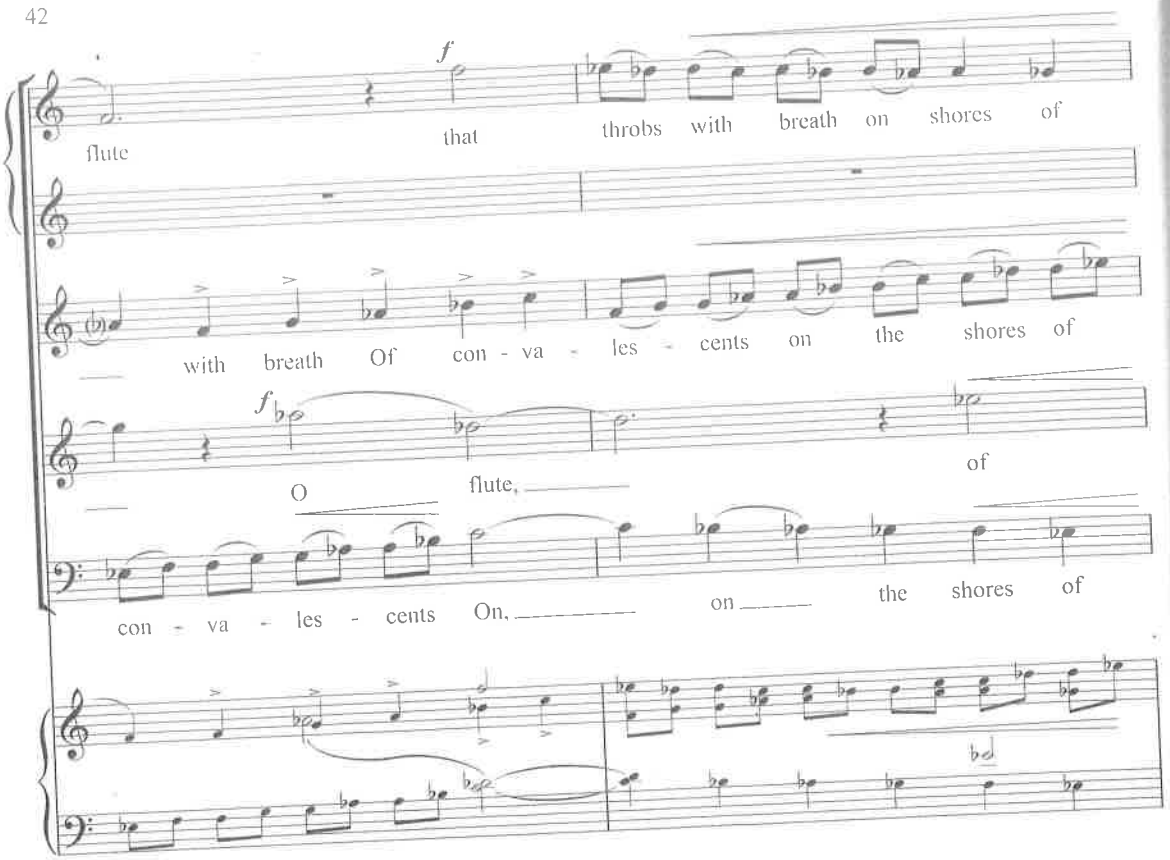


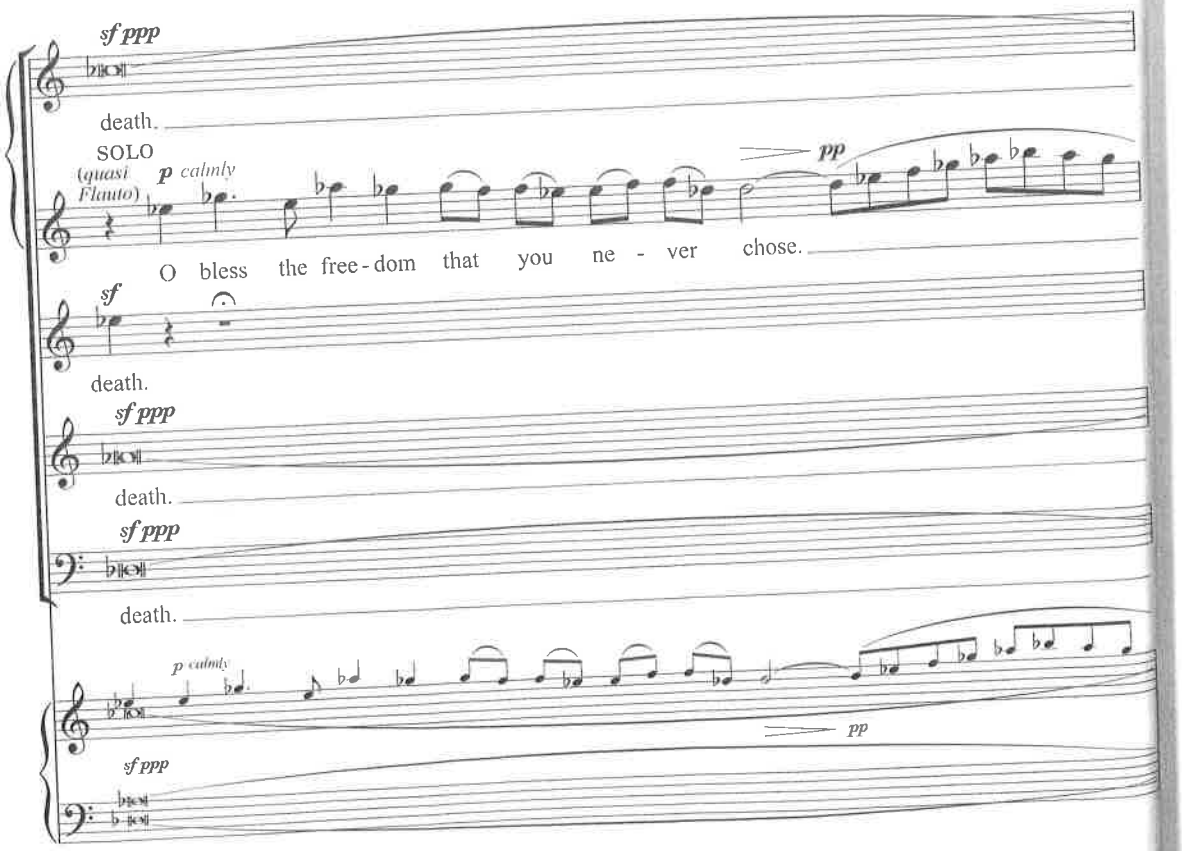
*With Tenors *ad lib.* for three bars.

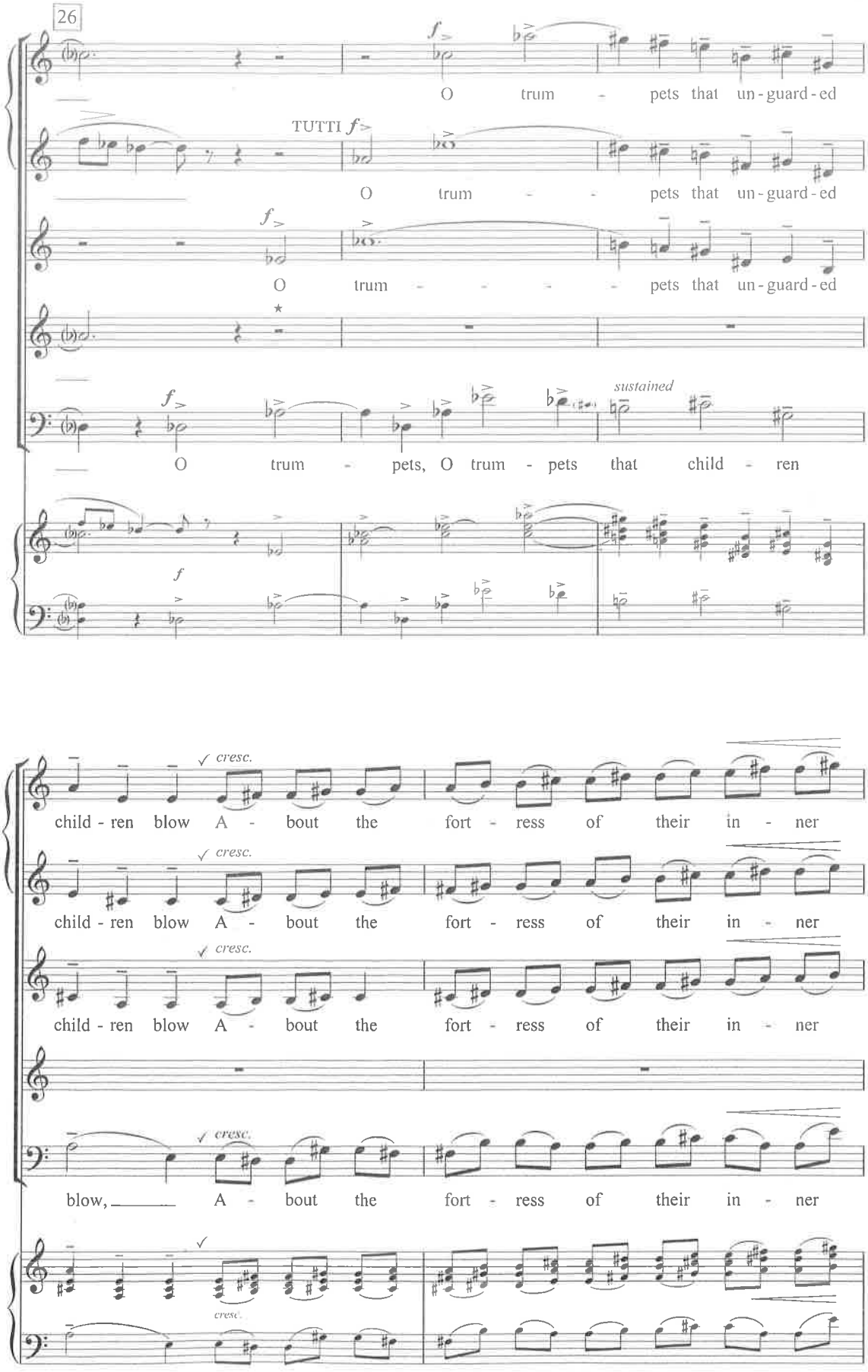




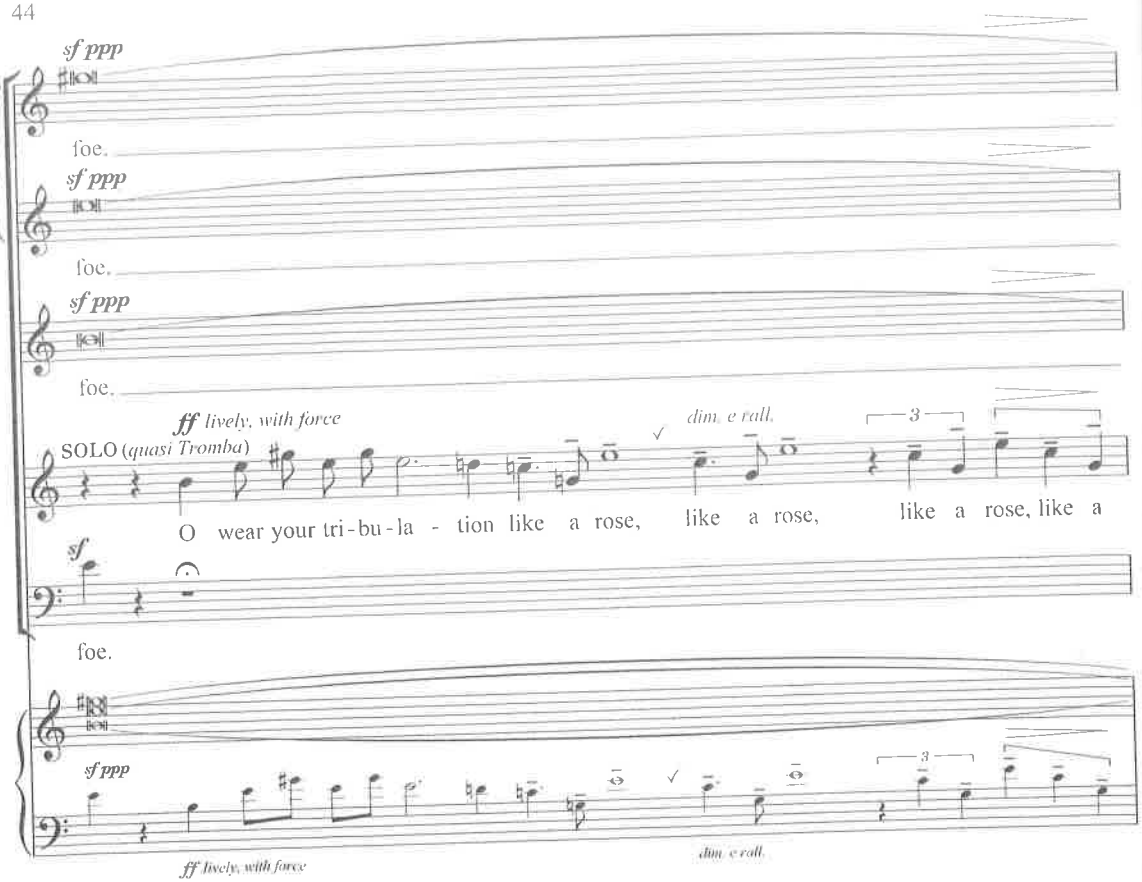
*With Sopranos I *ad lib.* for five bars.

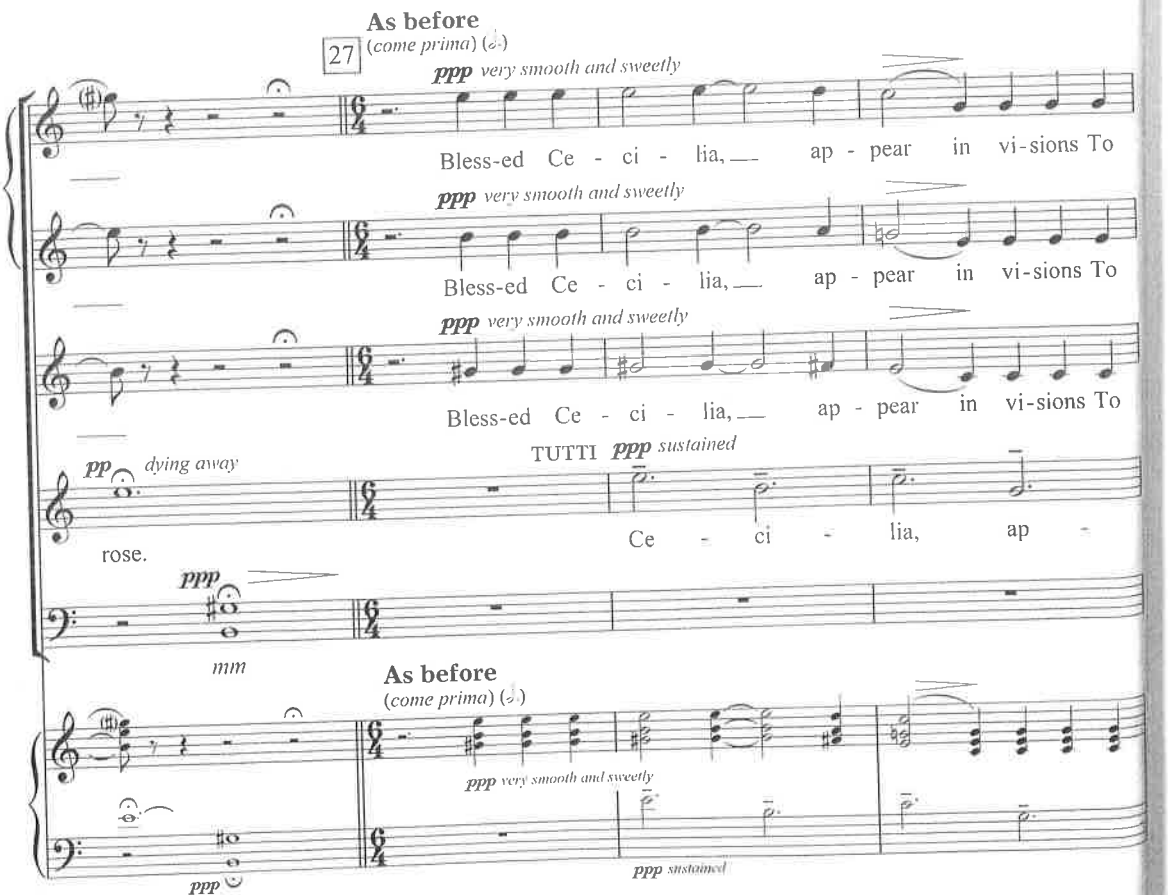

f
flute
that throbs with breath on shores of
with breath Of con - va - les - cents on the shores of
f
O flute,
of
con - va - les - cents On,
on
the shores of

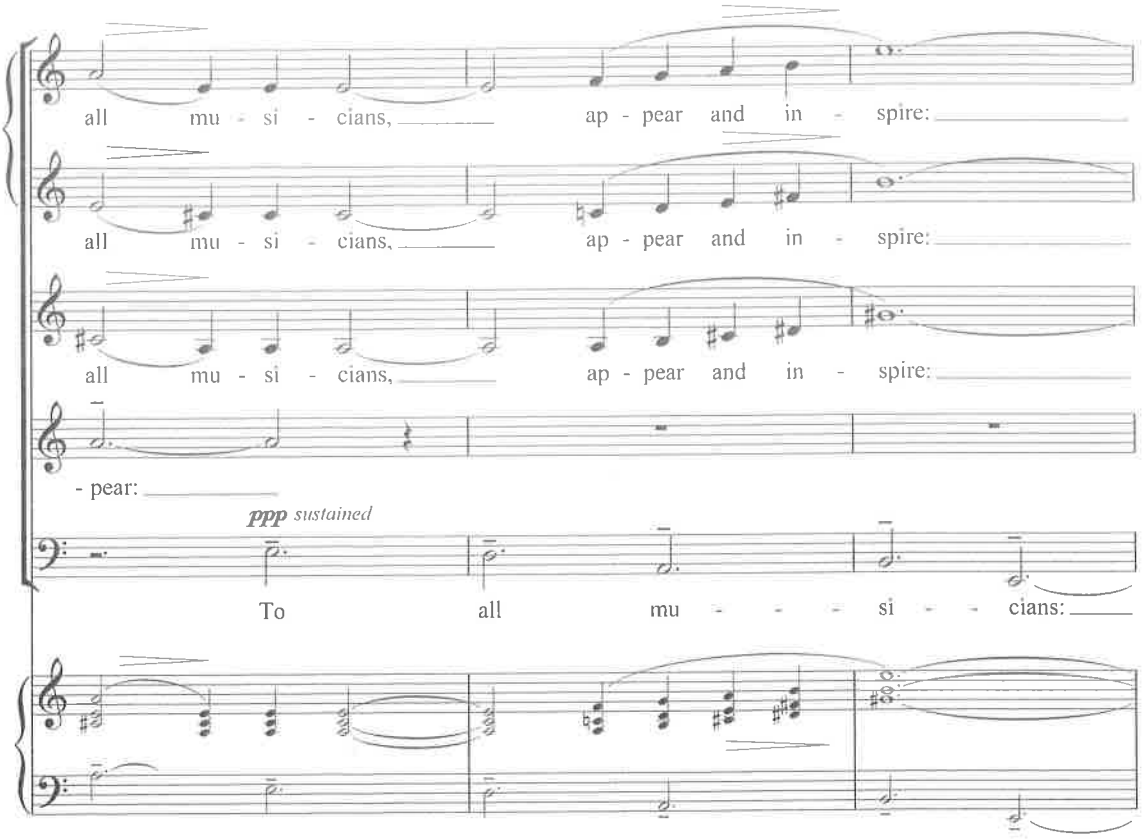

sf ppp
death.
SOLO
(quasi Flauto)
p calmly
pp
O bless the free - dom that you ne - ver chose.
sf
death.
sf ppp
death.
sf ppp
death.
p calmly
pp
sf ppp

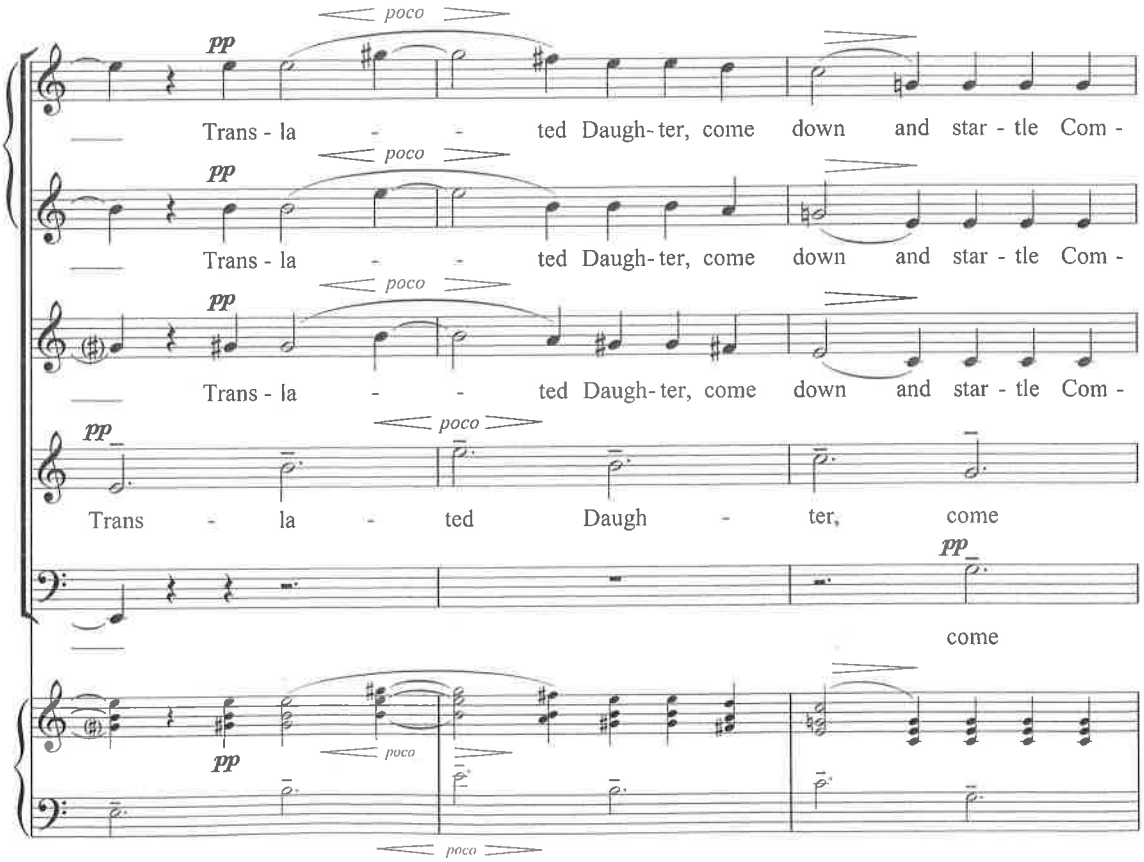


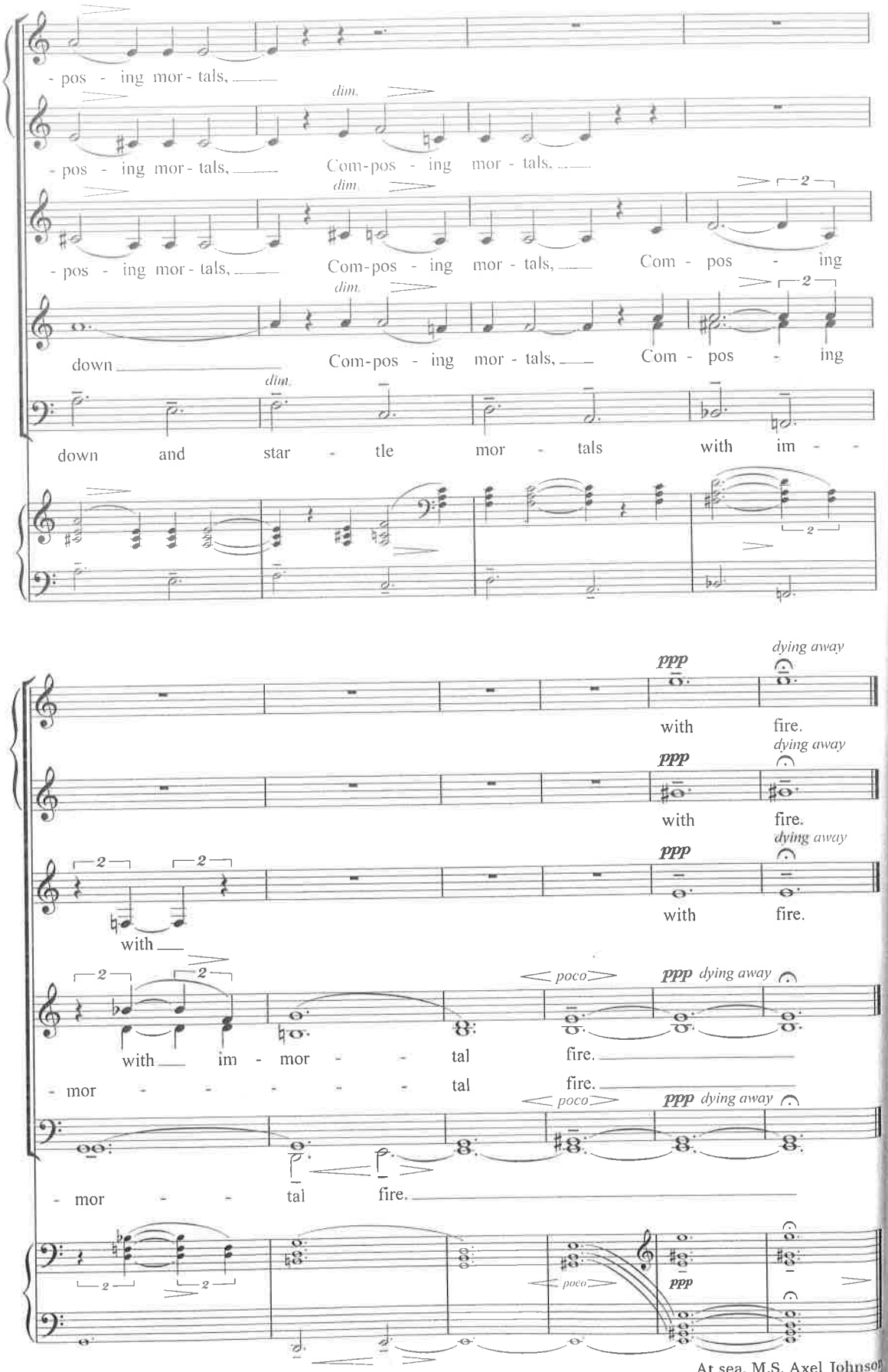
*With Basses *ad lib.* for five bars.


sf ppp
foe.
sf ppp
foe.
sf ppp
foe.
ff lively, with force
SOLO (quasi Tromba)
dim. e rall.
3
O wear your tri-bu-la - tion like a rose, like a rose, like a rose, like a
sf
foe.
sf ppp
ff lively, with force
dim. e rall.


As before
(come prima)
27
ppp very smooth and sweetly
Bless-ed Ce - ci - lia, ap - pear in vi-sions To
ppp very smooth and sweetly
Bless-ed Ce - ci - lia, ap - pear in vi-sions To
ppp very smooth and sweetly
Bless-ed Ce - ci - lia, ap - pear in vi-sions To
pp dying away
rose.
TUTTI ppp sustained
Ce - ci - lia, ap -
ppp
mm
As before
(come prima)
ppp very smooth and sweetly
ppp
ppp sustained


all mu - si - cians, ap - pear and in - spire:
all mu - si - cians, ap - pear and in - spire:
all mu - si - cians, ap - pear and in - spire:
- pear:
ppp sustained
To all mu - - - si - - cians:


poco
pp
Trans - la - - ted Daugh - ter, come down and star - tle Com -
Trans - la - - ted Daugh - ter, come down and star - tle Com -
Trans - la - - ted Daugh - ter, come down and star - tle Com -
Trans - la - ted Daugh - ter, come
come



At sea, M.S. Axel Johnson
2 April 1942, revised 196