Ellen Ruth Harrison

ALL ONE CAN IMAGINE

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ALL ONE CAN IMAGINE

for soprano and violin

Sefiros *
Bone-frame *
Shade threaded thru shade
So I beat this song
All the threads of my roads
Stones blossom *

Texts by Jakob Stein

This artist was awarded an Individual Excellence Award for 2014.

I wish to thank Jakob Stein for giving me permission to set these evocative poems. Their striking imagery resonates deeply with me. Although the music has a mournful quality to it, as does much of my work, it is tinged with longing as well. And with longing comes hope for "all one can imagine."

My thanks also go to Don Bogen, Poetry Editor of *The Cincinnati Review*, for commissioning three of these songs (*) and for inviting me to be part of the journal's poetry and music project.

Duration: circa 13 minutes

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Sefiros

In every room one
tree the same tree

in every abandoned chamber of names

charred limbs & leaves read
by black flame

ash-scrolls of the cinder tree

ash-fruit sustains me

Bone-frame

my tree of death

& the knowledge of death
as yet untasted

but bone-known & written in skeletal verse

till all roll down the tunnel-lines
of scrolls

to final Jerusalem

Shade threaded thru shade

rings hooked thru rings in a ring
made of rings

concealed in the concealed

in the bone-frame the death-tree

mobile immoblile, above
& below, the hollow of death

on her throne

I saw her figure cast on the Wall

widow queen turning
away from my turning away

All the threads of my roads
tied to one knot
cinder of light

impossible impassable

So I beat this song

against stone walls or doors that open
on nothing

to wall after wall till all singing is done

Stones blossom

slow blooming of stone in stone-rain
across the sand garden

of all our long wandering

after such error even
the desert a river of riches

all one can imagine

until the black plume
the bottomless chasm

the blazing gate

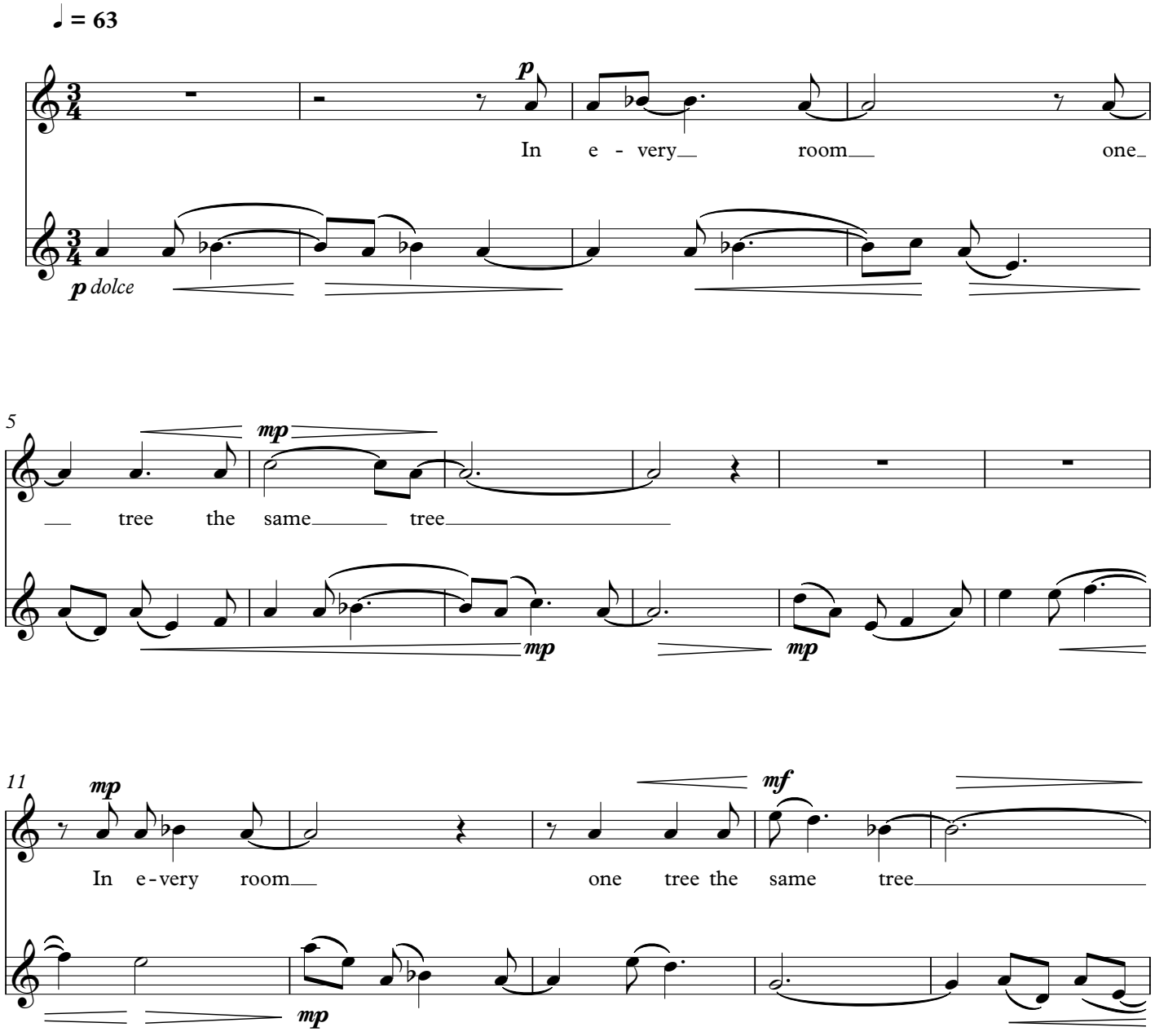
All One Can Imagine

Sefiros

in memory of Cathryn Long

Jakob Stein

Ellen Ruth Harrison (2014)



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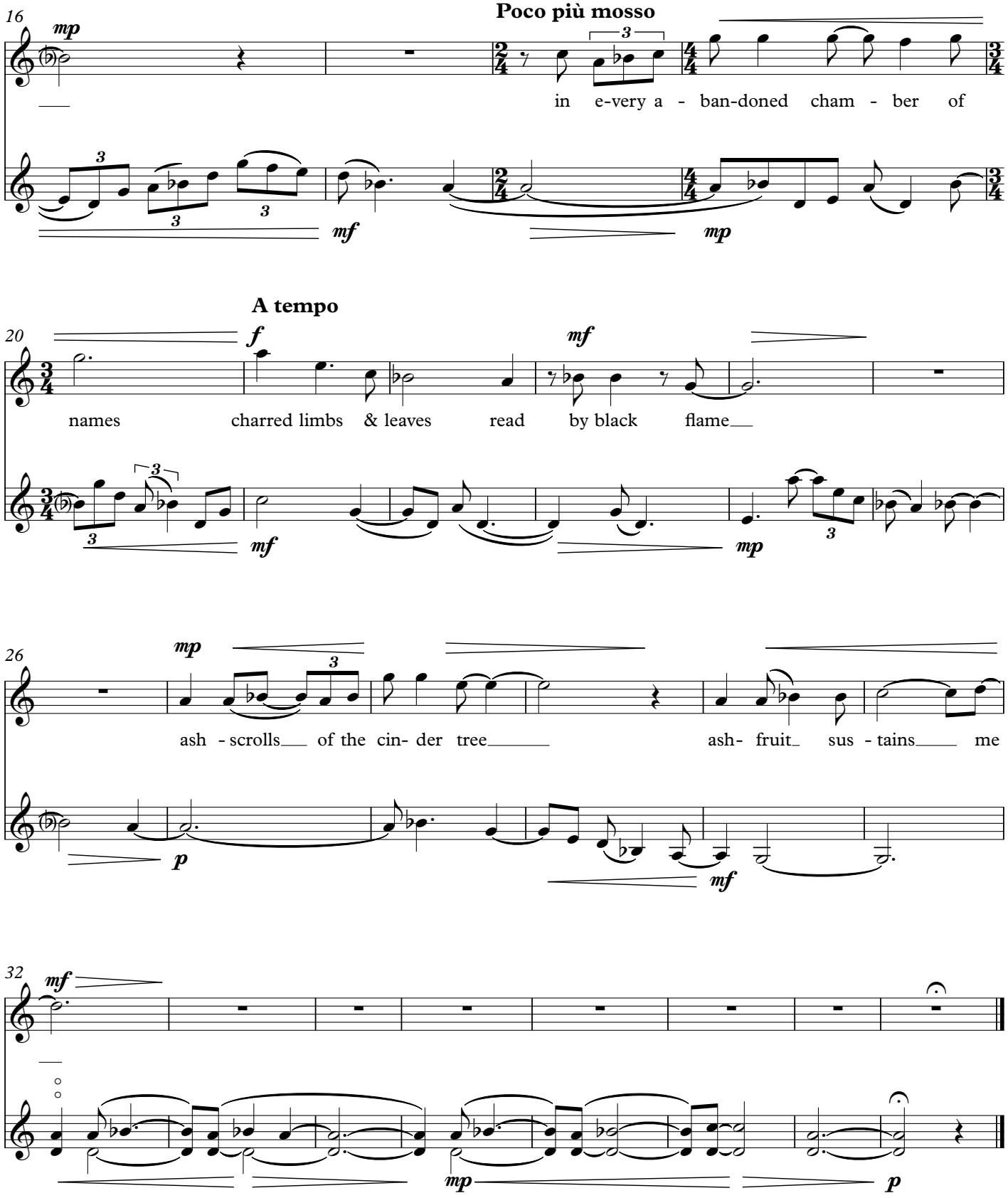
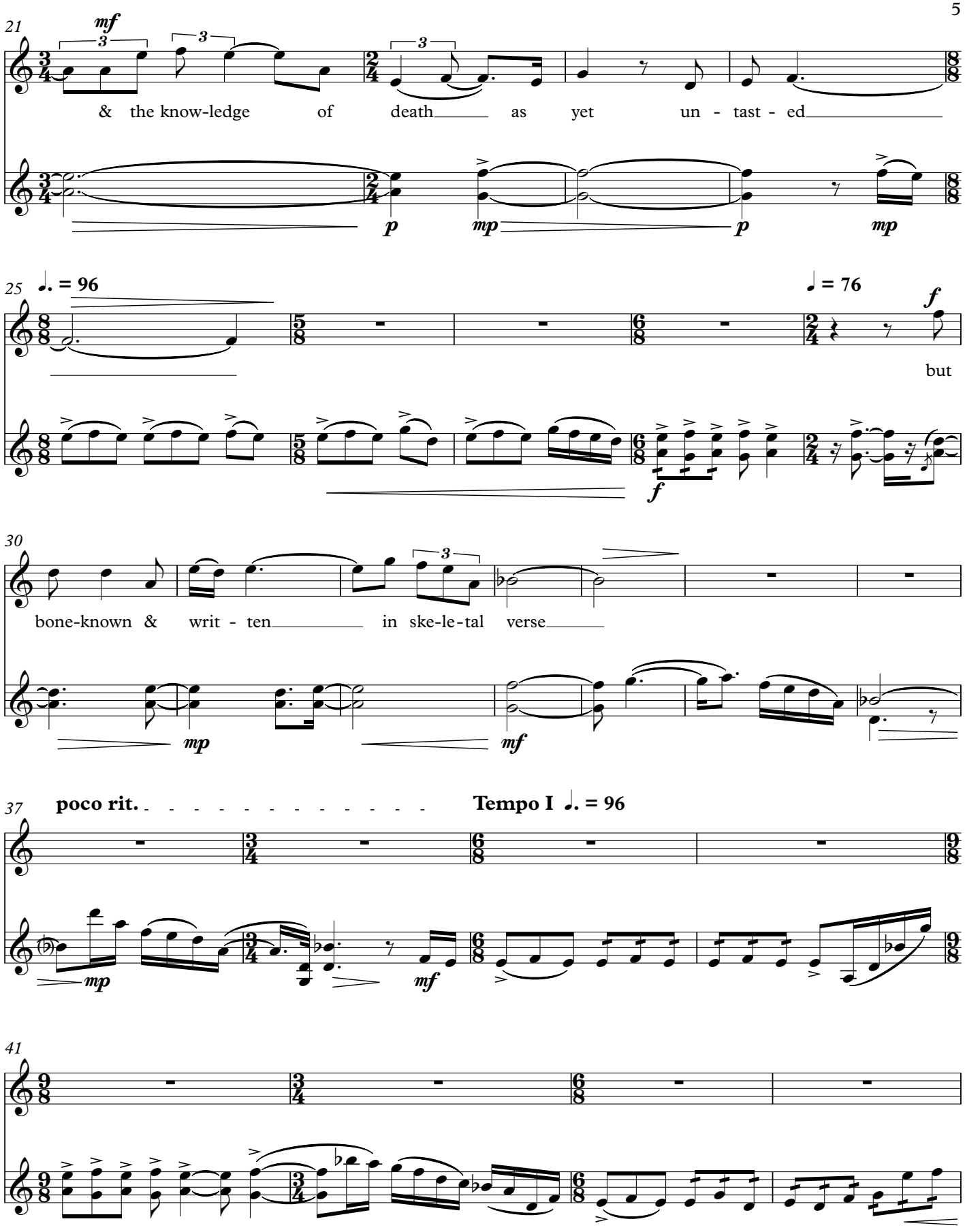
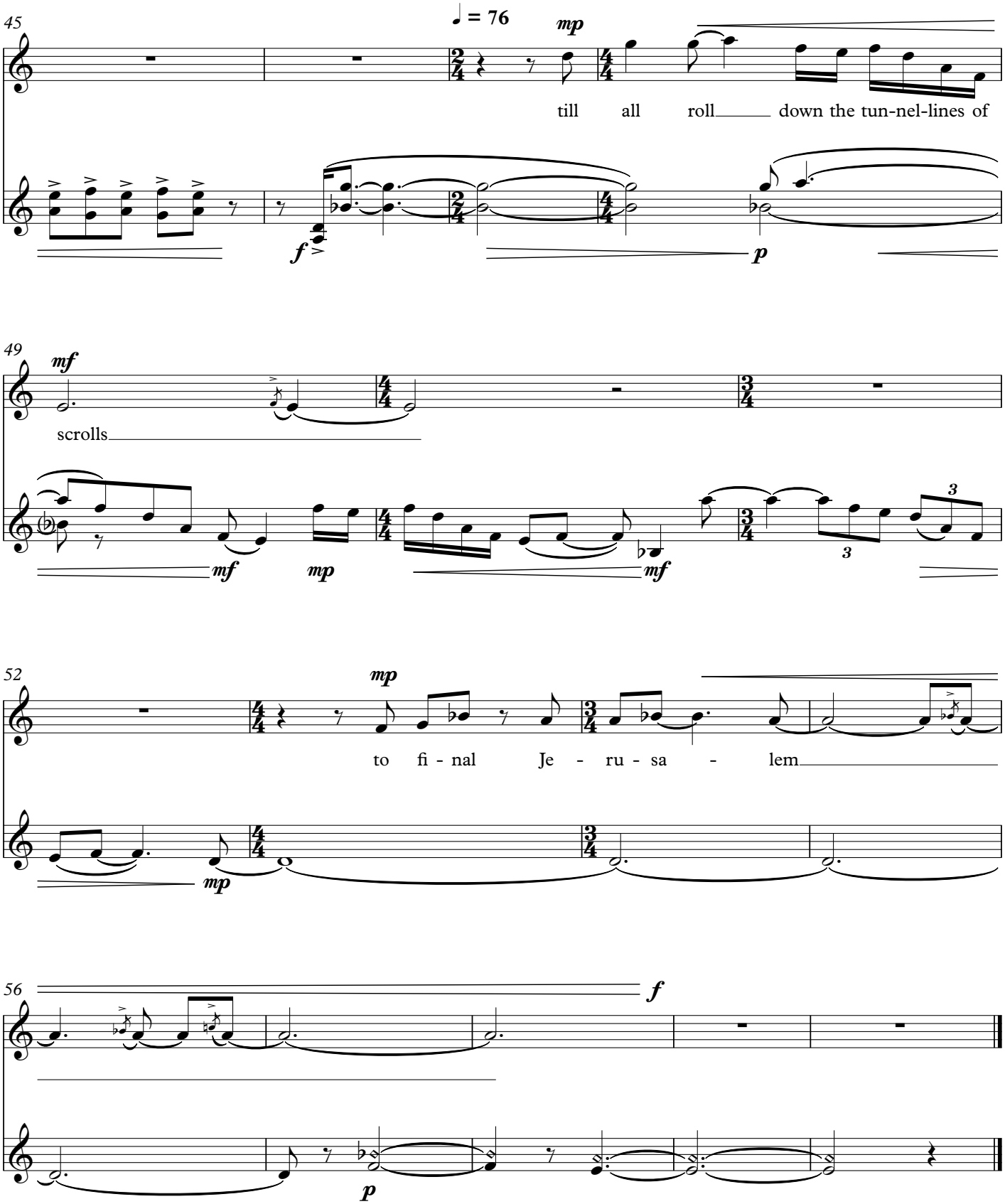

16
mp
Poco più mosso
in e-very a - ban-doned cham - ber of
mf
mp
20
A tempo
f
mf
names charred limbs & leaves read by black flame
mf
mp
26
mp
ash - scrolls of the cin- der tree ash- fruit sus - tains me
p
mf
32
mf
mp
p

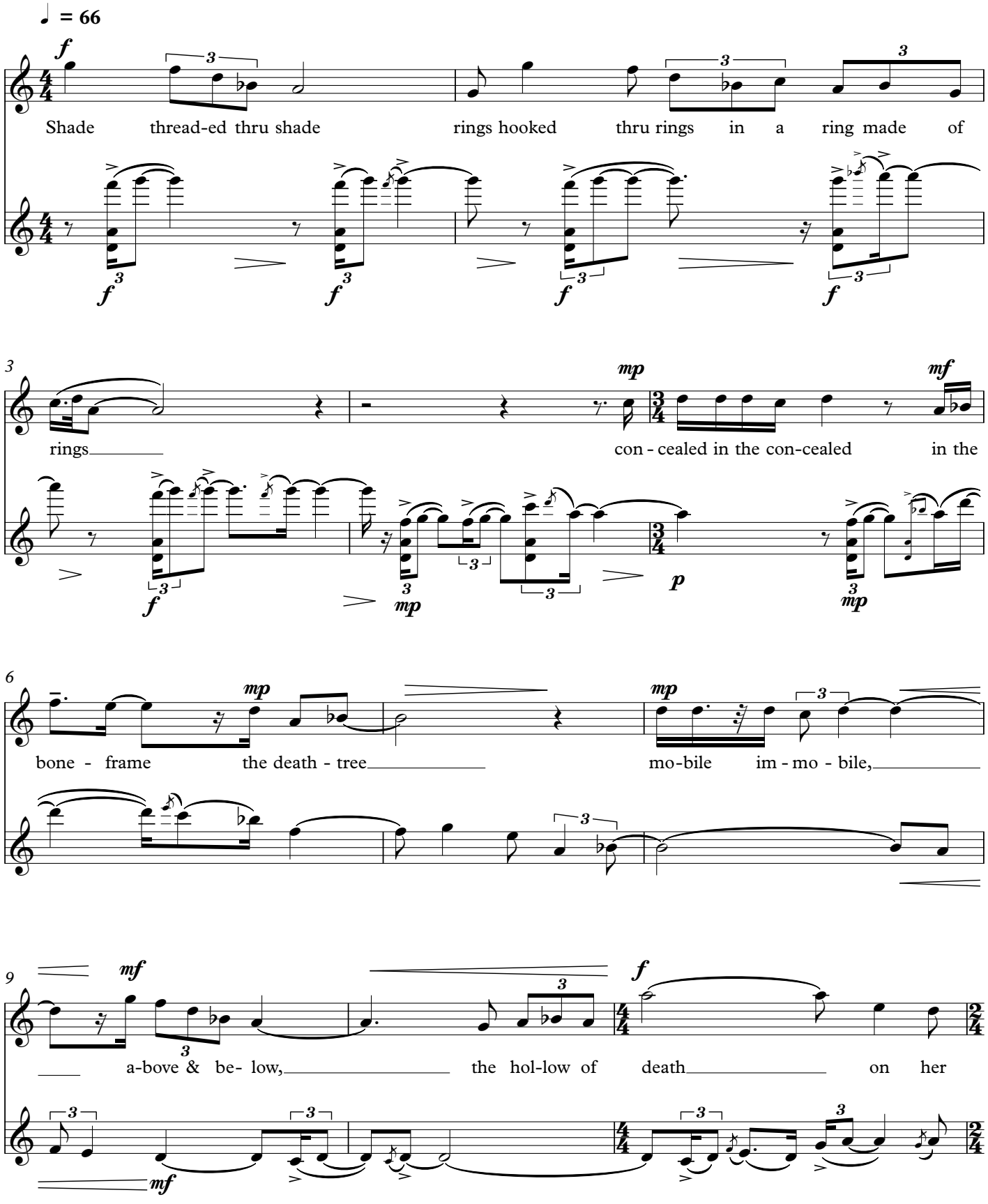
Bone-frame

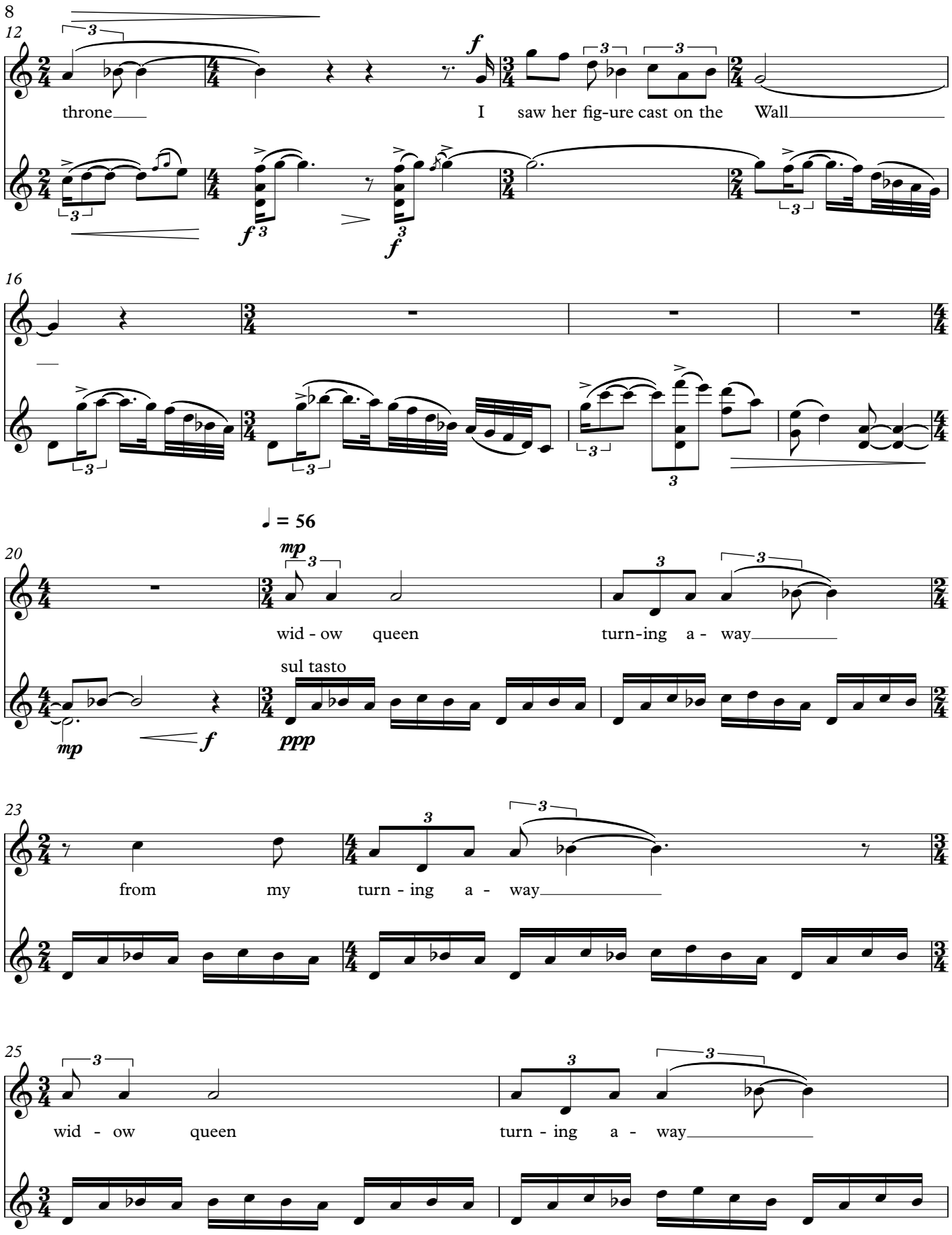
♩. = 96
f
Bone - frame
p
f
mp
7
mp
sub. f
p
f
13
♩ = 76
mp
my tree of death
sub. f
f
sub. p
3
3
mf

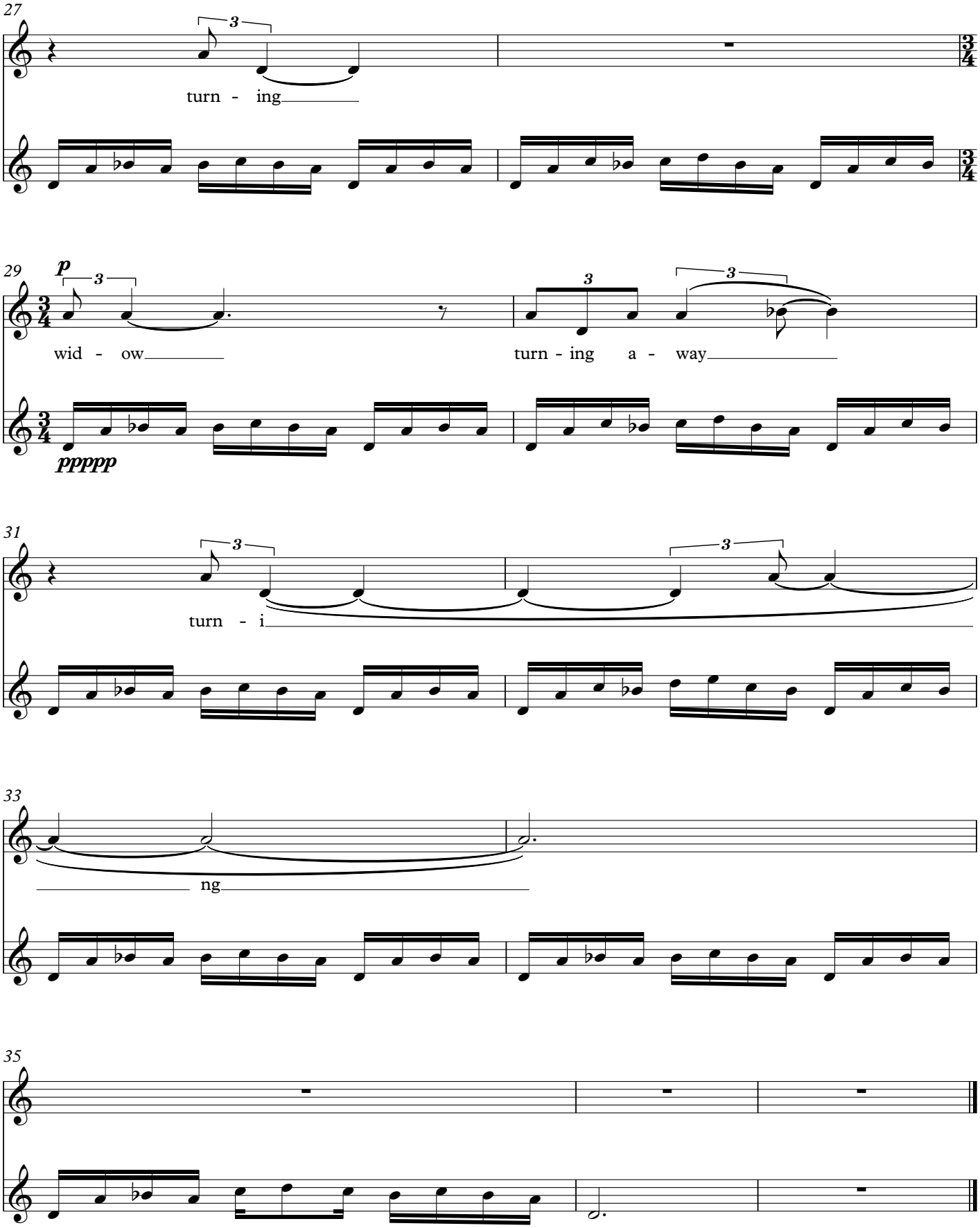

21
mf
& the know-ledge of death as yet un - tast - ed
p
mp
p
mp
25
♩. = 96
♩ = 76
f
but
f
30
bone-known & writ - ten in ske-le-tal verse
mp
mf
37
poco rit.
Tempo I ♩. = 96
mp
mf
41


45
♩ = 76
mp
till all roll down the tun-nel-lines of
f
p
49
mf
scrolls
mf
mp
mf
3
3
52
mp
to fi - nal Je - ru - sa - lem
mp
56
f
p

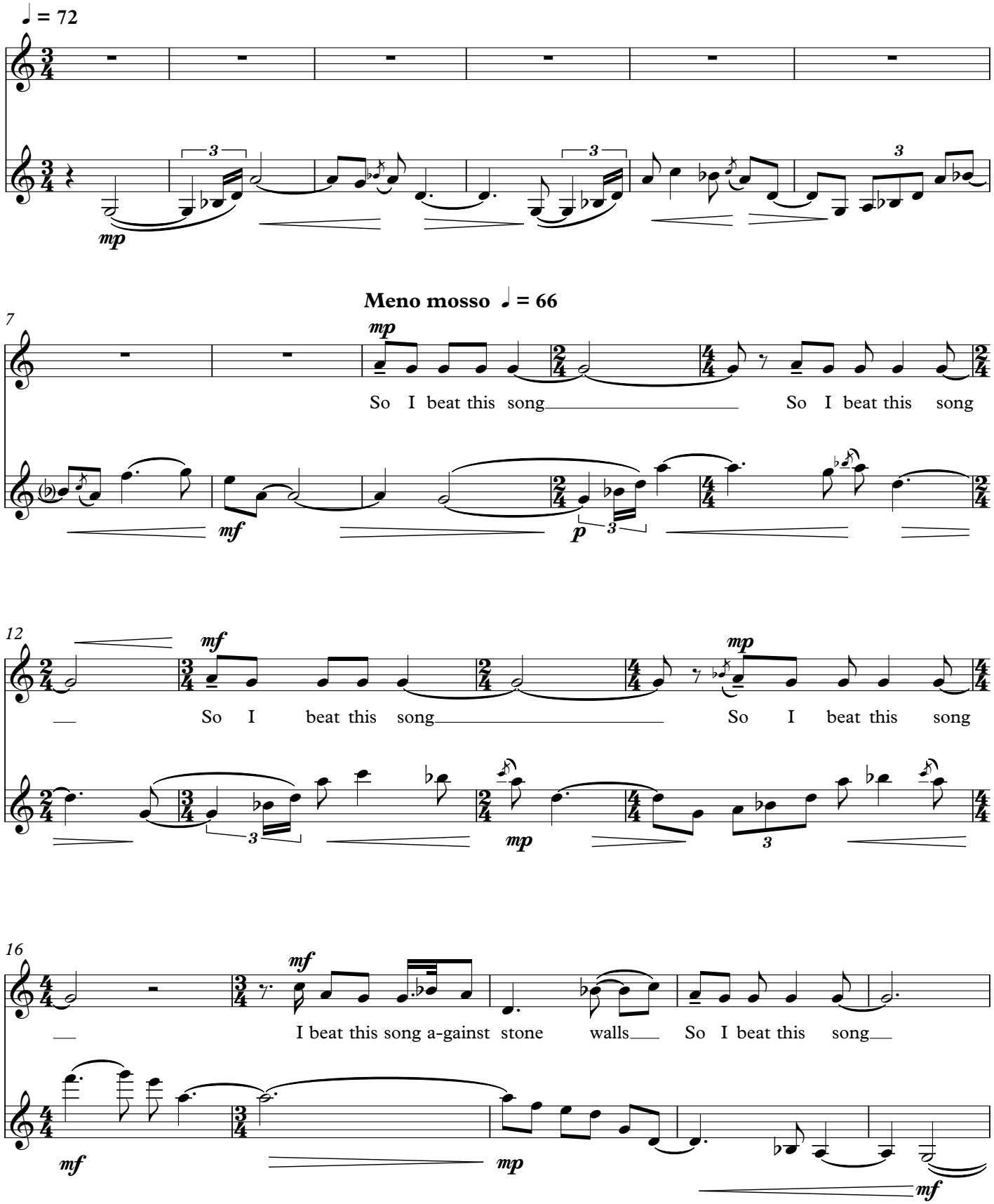
Shade threaded thru shade

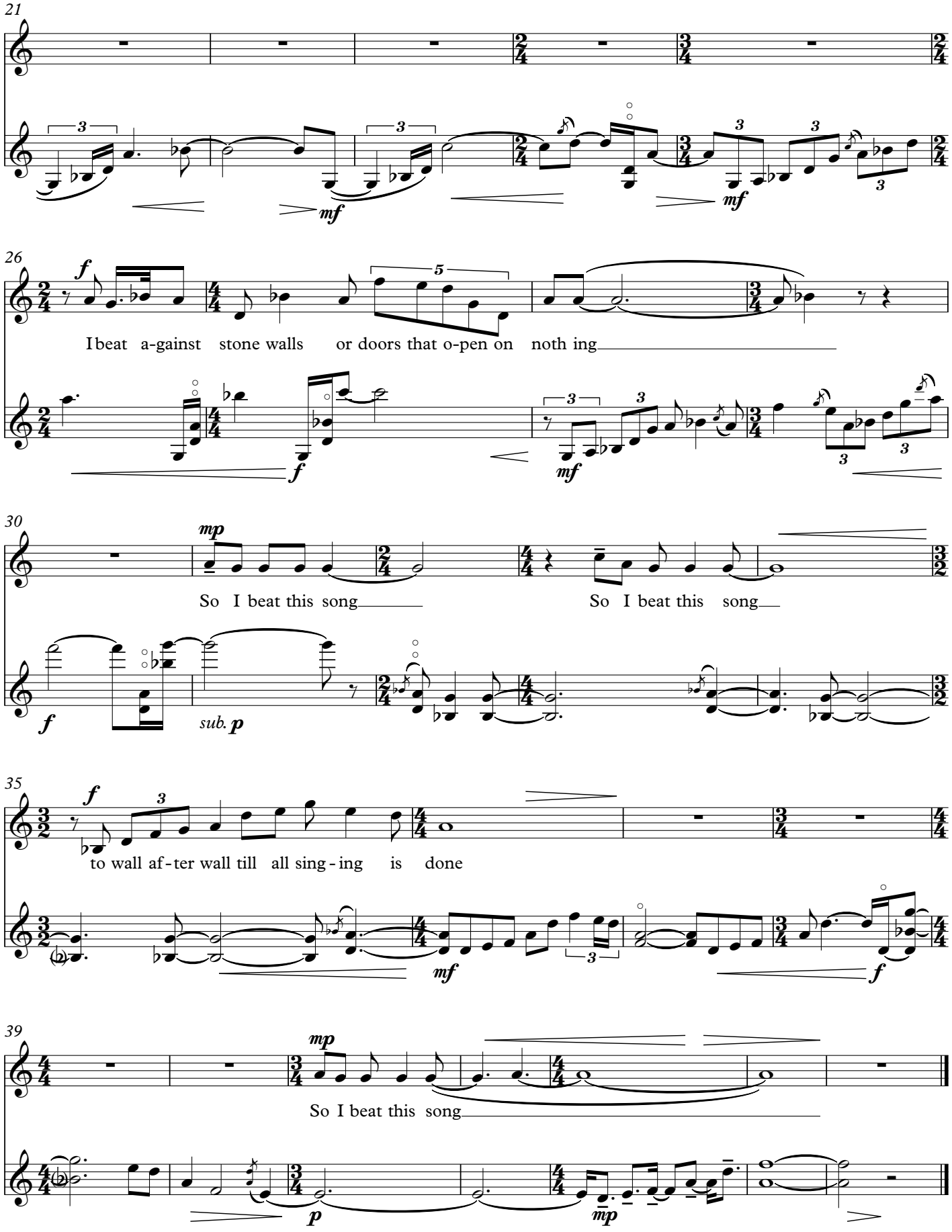



12
throne
I saw her fig-ure cast on the Wall
16
20
♩ = 56
wid - ow queen
turn-ing a - way
sul tasto
23
from my turn - ing a - way
25
wid - ow queen
turn - ing a - way

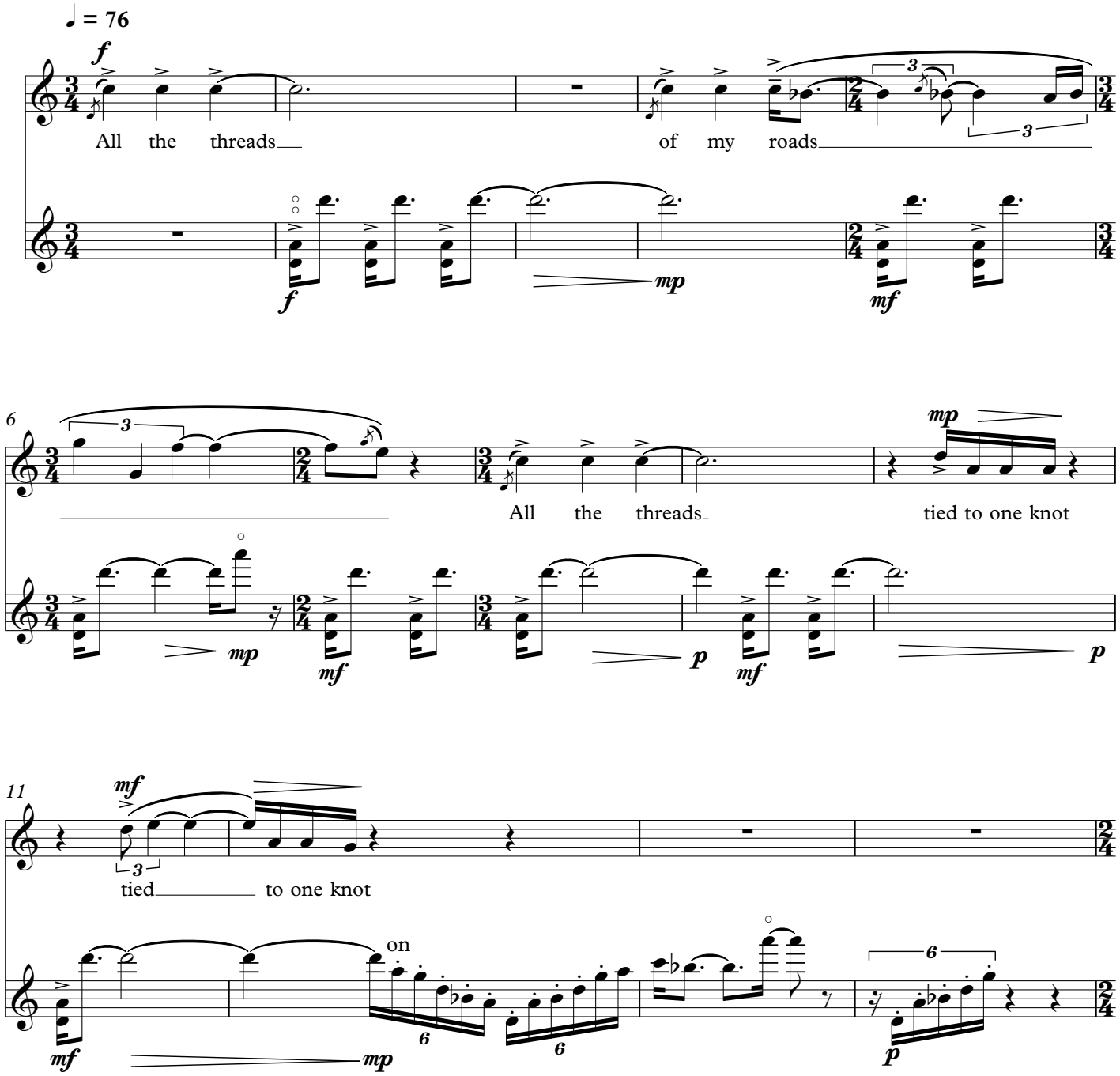

27
turn - ing
29
p
wid - ow
turn - ing a - way
ppppp
31
turn - i
33
ng
35

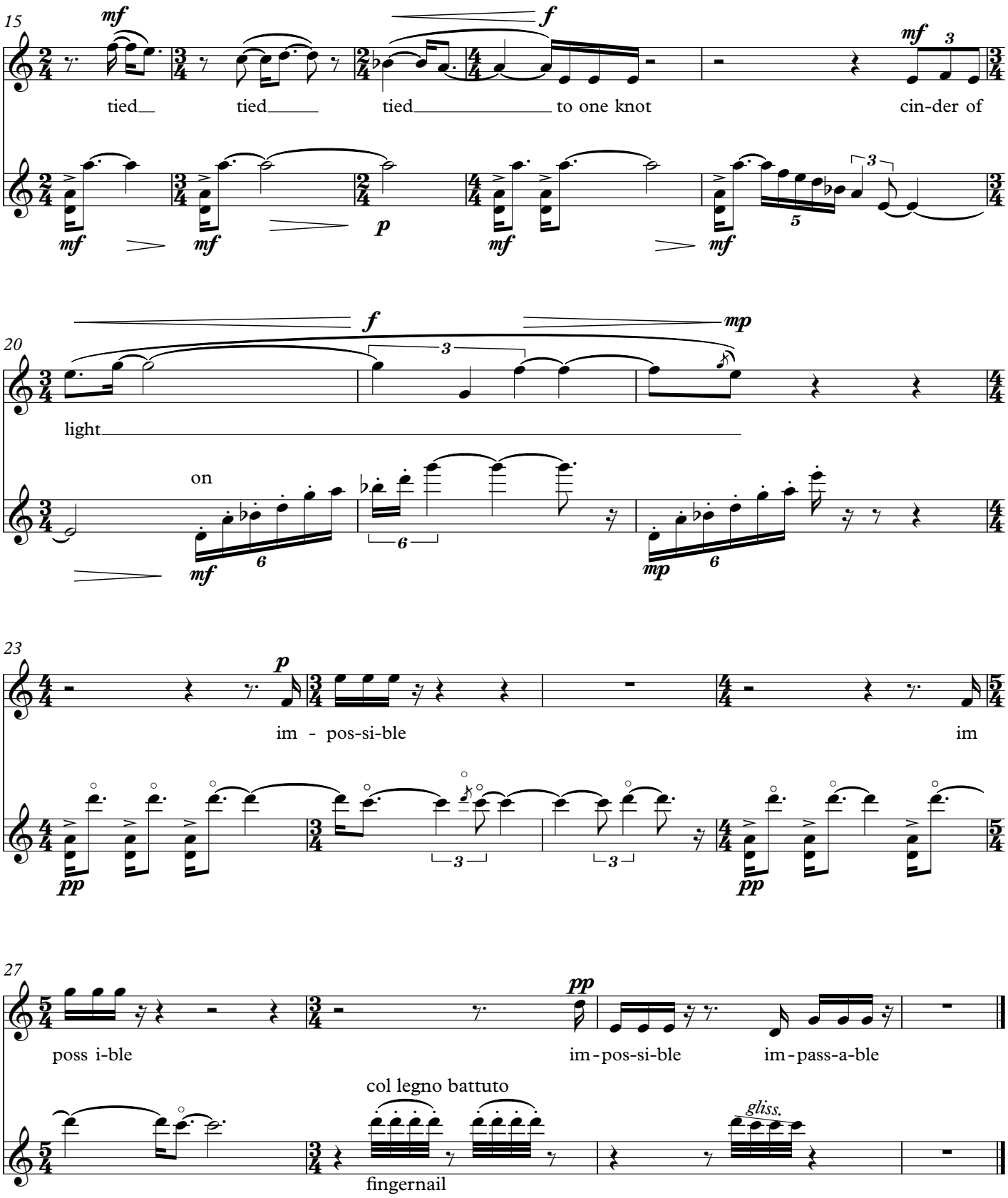
So I beat this song



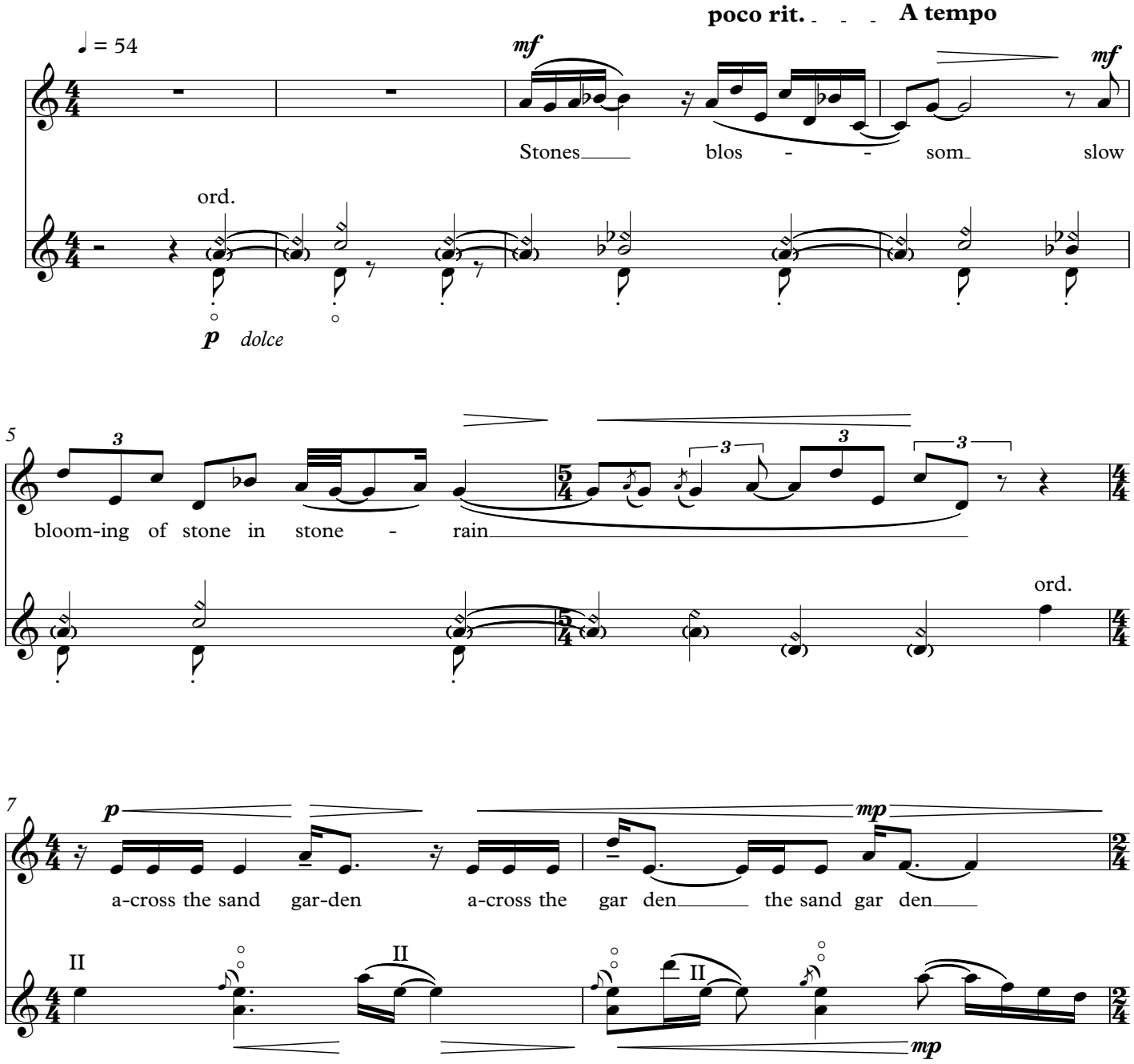

21
26
I beat a-gainst stone walls or doors that o-pen on noth ing
30
So I beat this song
So I beat this song
35
to wall af-ter wall till all sing-ing is done
39
So I beat this song

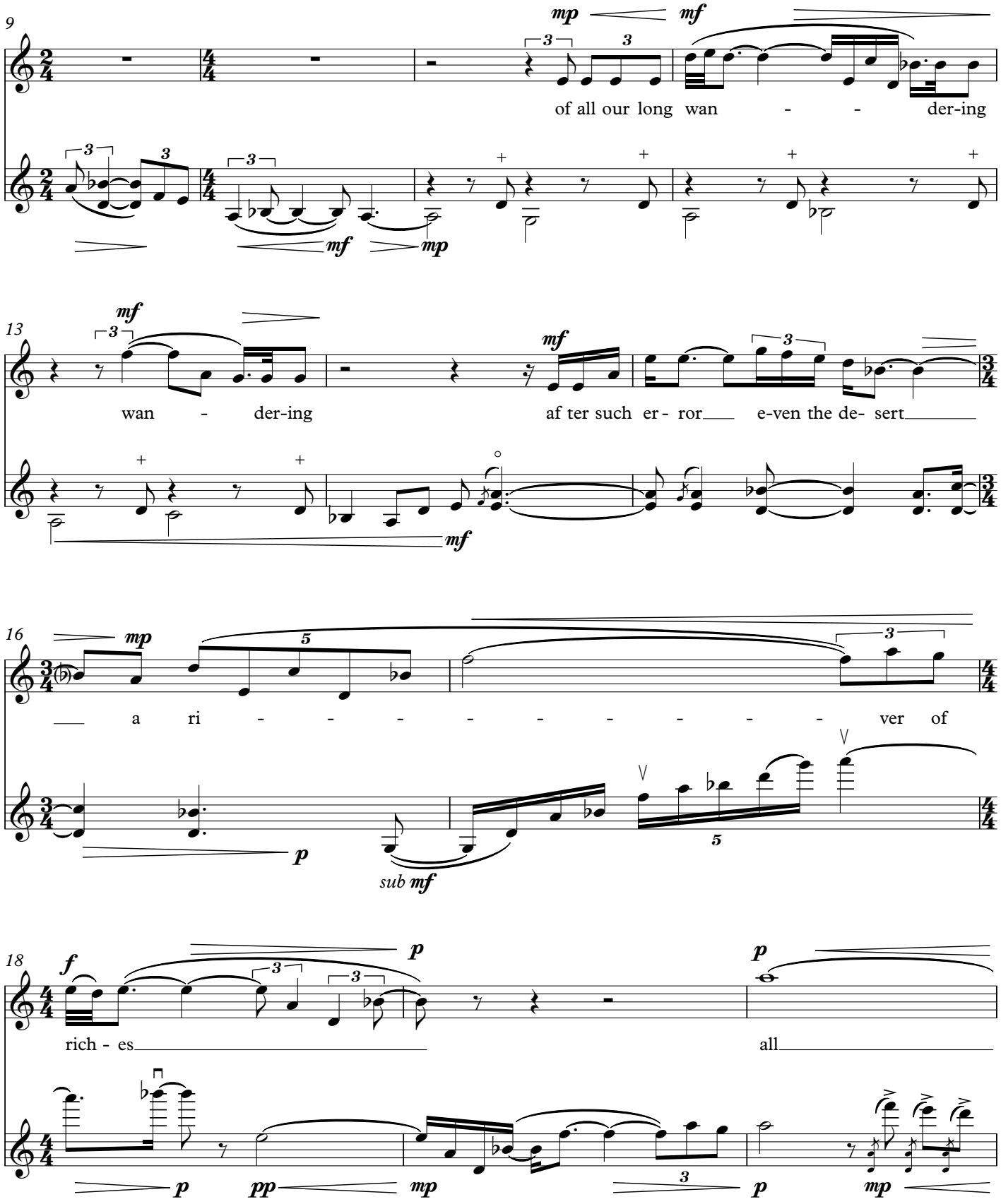
All the threads of my roads

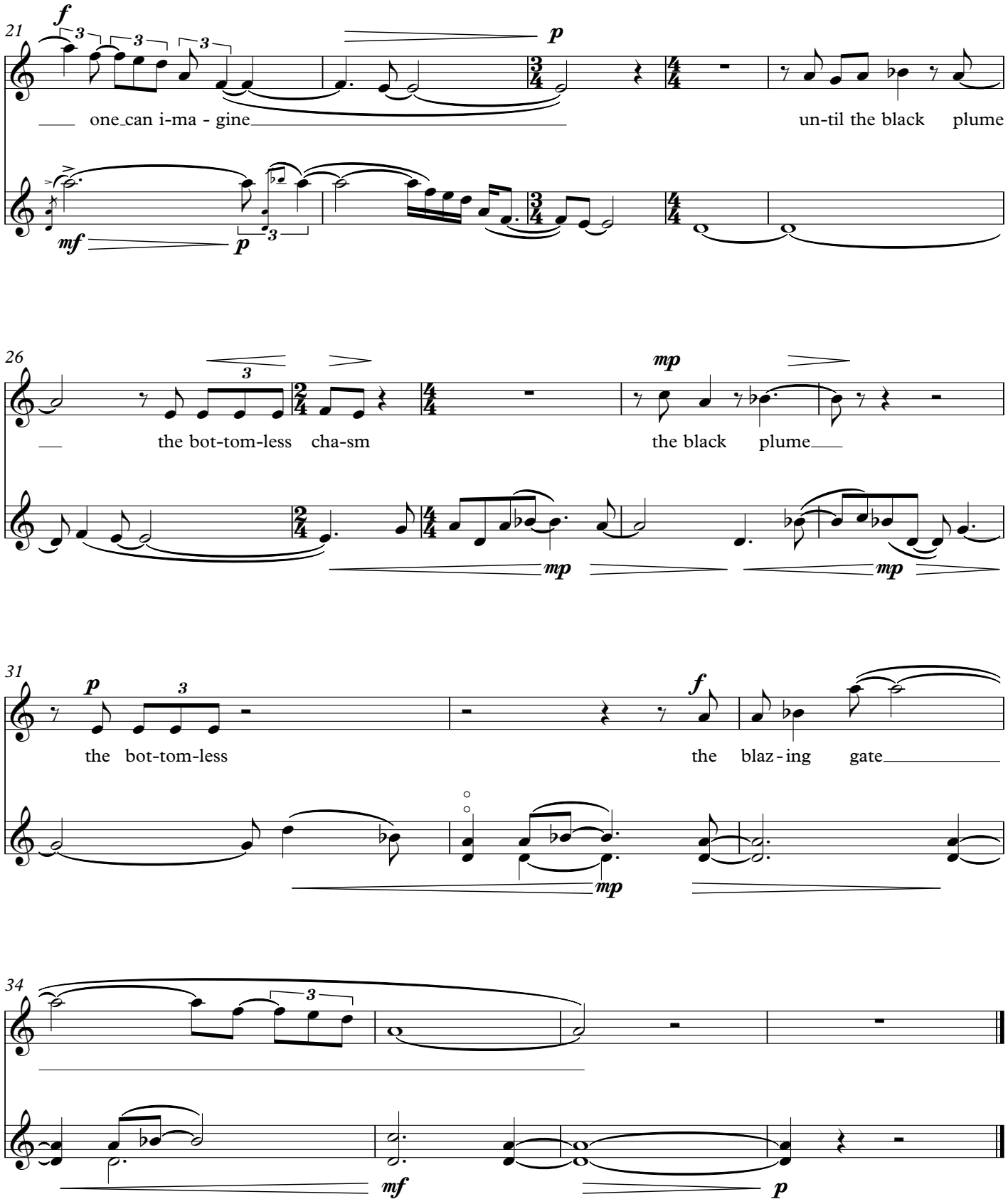



15
mf
f
mf 3
tied
tied
tied
to one knot
cin-der of
mf
mf
p
mf
mf
5
3
20
f
mp
3
light
on
mf
6
6
mp
6
23
p
im - pos-si-ble
im
pp
3
3
pp
27
pp
poss i-ble
im-pos-si-ble
im-pass-a-ble
col legno battuto
gliss.
fingernail

Stones blossom




9
mp
mf
of all our long wan - - der-ing
mf
mp
13
mf
wan - der-ing
mf
af ter such er- ror e-ven the de- sert
mf
16
mp
a ri - - - - - - - - - - ver of
p
sub mf
18
f
p
rich - es
p
all
p
pp
mp
p
mp


21
f
p
one can i-ma - gine
un-til the black plume
mf
p
26
the bot-tom-less cha-sm
the black plume
mp
mp
mp
31
p
the bot-tom-less
f
the blaz - ing gate
mp
34
mf
p