AS IT FELL

UPON A DAY

SONG FOR SOPRANO

WITH FLUTE AND CLARINET ACC.

BY AARON COPLAND

As It Fell Upon A Day

As it fell upon a day,
In the merry month of May,
Sitting in a pleasant shade
Which a grove of myrtles made
Beasts did leap, and birds did sing
Trees did grow, and plants did spring:
Everything did banish moan,
Save the nightingale alone:
She, poor bird, as all forlorn,
Lean'd her breast up-till a thorn,
And there sang the doleful'st ditty,
That to hear it was great pity:
"Fie, fie, fie?" now would she cry,
"Tereu, Tereu!" by-and-by:
That to hear her so complain,
Scarce I could from tears refrain;
For her griefs so lively shown,
Made me think upon mine own.
Ah! thought I, thou mourn'st in vain;
None takes pity on thy pain:
Senseless trees they cannot hear thee;
Ruthless bears they will not cheer thee.
King Pandion, he is dead;
All thy friends are lapp'd in lead
All thy fellow birds do sing,
Careless of thy sorrowing.
Even so, poor bird like thee
None alive will pity me.

Richard Barnefield
(1574-1627)

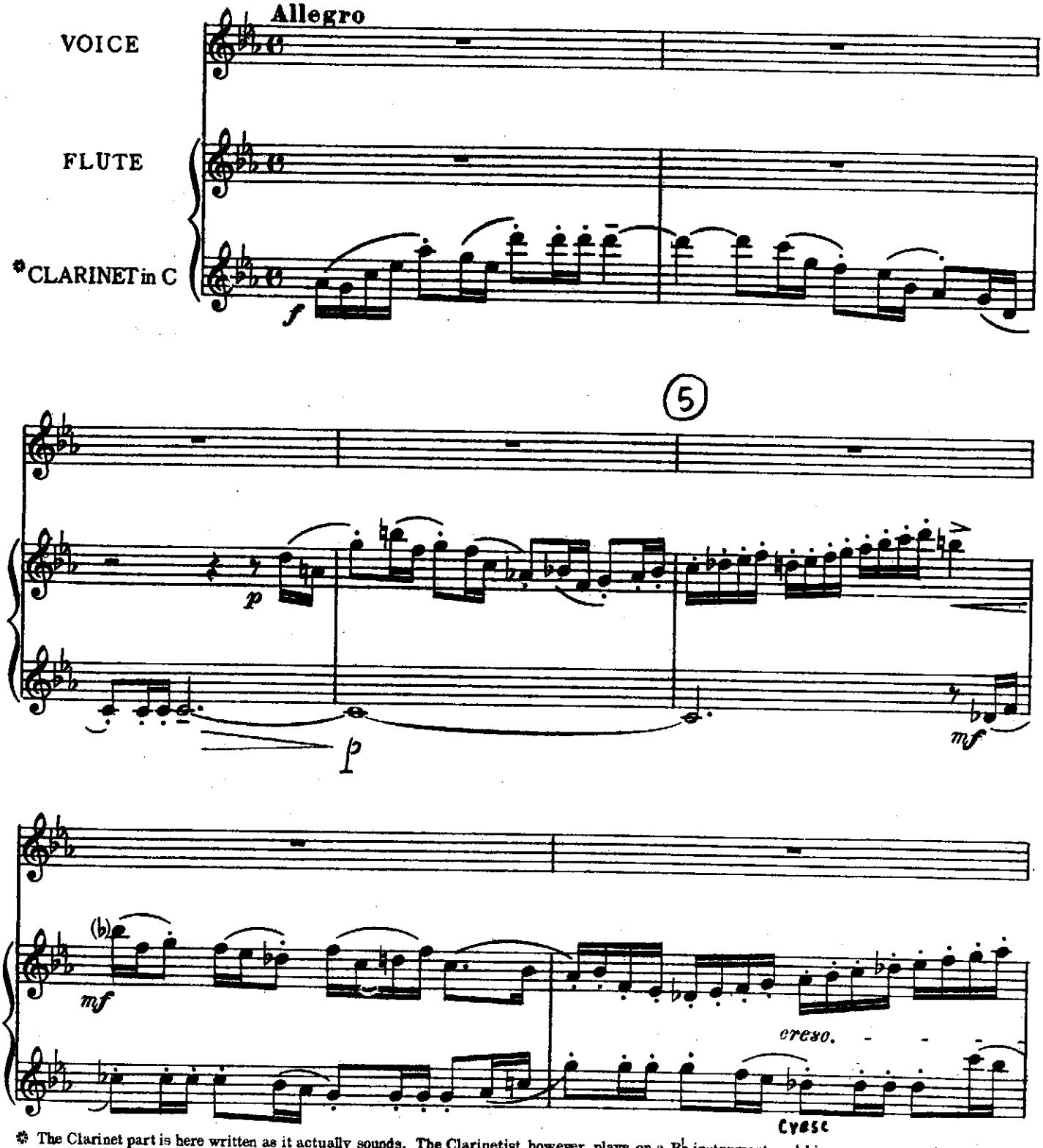
As It Fell Upon A Day

Song for Soprano

with accompaniment of Flute and Clarinet

Words from RICHARD BARNEFIELD

AARON COPLAND
(1923)



* The Clarinet part is here written as it actually sounds. The Clarinetist, however, plays on a B♭ instrument and his separate part is written accordingly.

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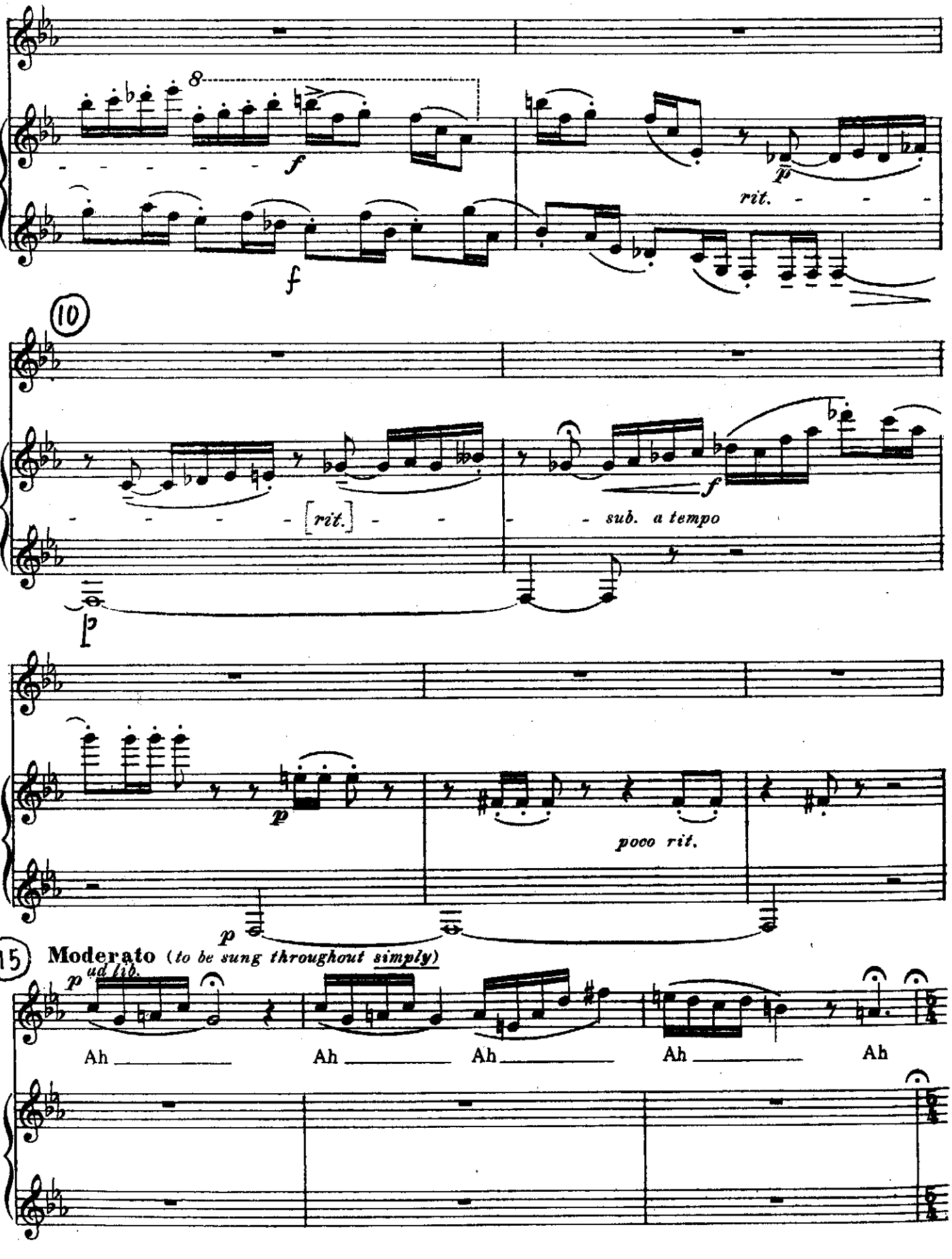
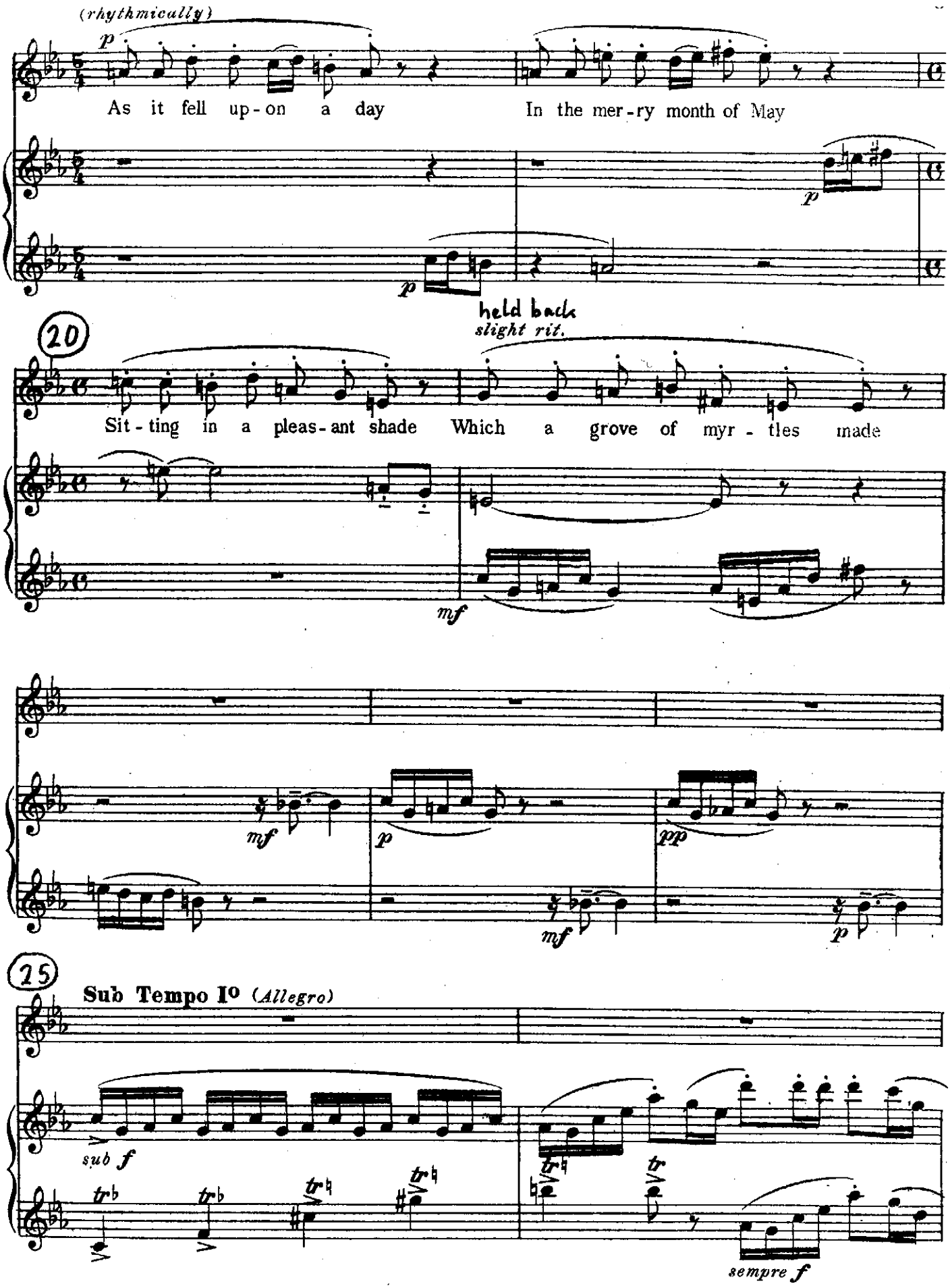
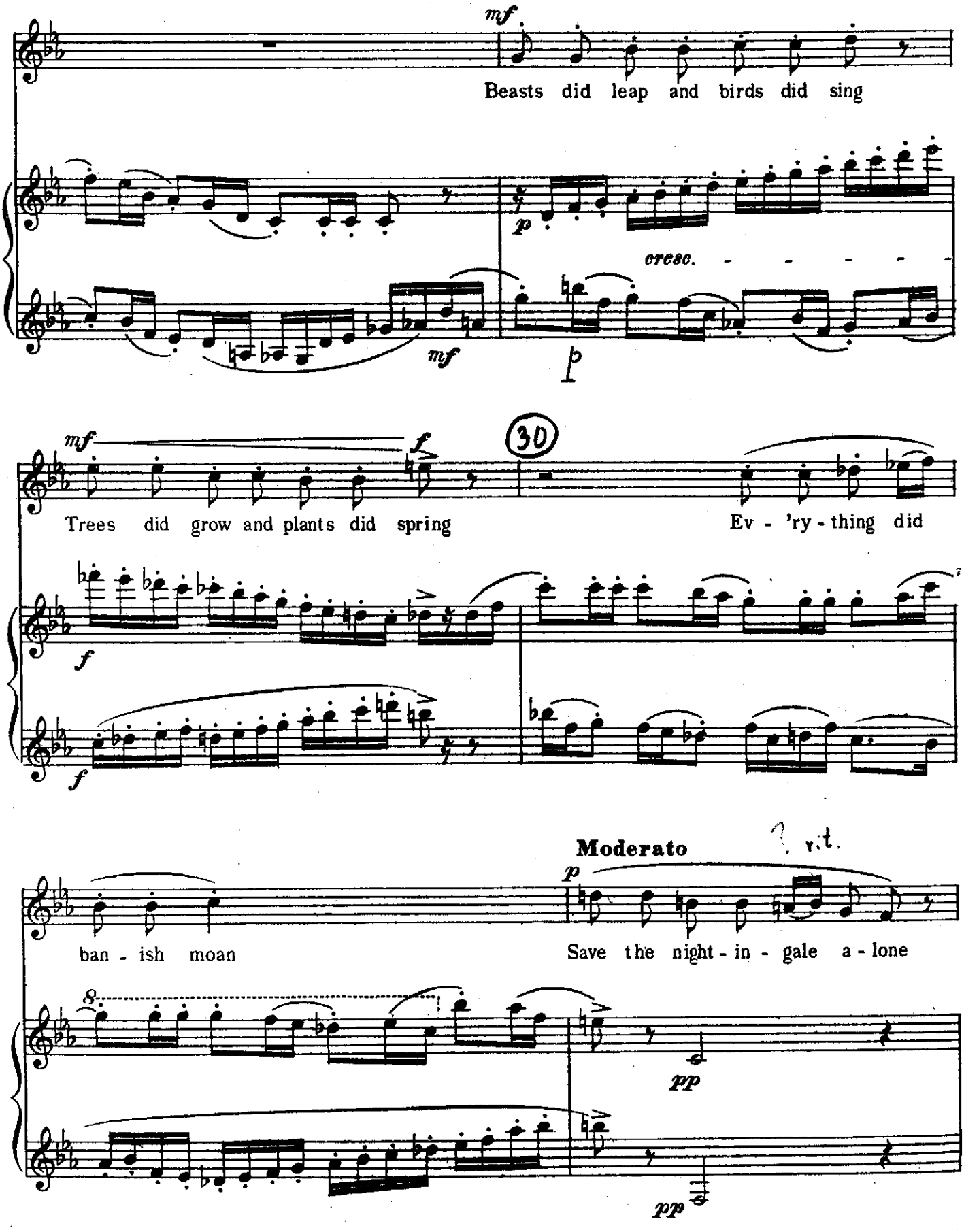

8
f
f
p
rit.
10
[rit.]
sub. a tempo
f
p
p
poco rit.
p
15
Moderato (to be sung throughout simply)
p ad lib.
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah


(rhythmically)
p
As it fell up-on a day
In the mer-ry month of May
p
p
held back
slight rit.
20
Sit-ting in a pleas-ant shade
Which a grove of myr-tles made
mf
mf
p
pp
mf
p
25
Sub Tempo Io (Allegro)
sub f
sempre f


mf
Beasts did leap and birds did sing
p
cresc.
mf
p
mf
f
30
Trees did grow and plants did spring
Ev - 'ry - thing did
f
f
Moderato
rit.
p
ban - ish moan
Save the night - in - gale a - lone
pp
pp

a tempo

p

sempre pp

rit. *a tempo*

mf

p

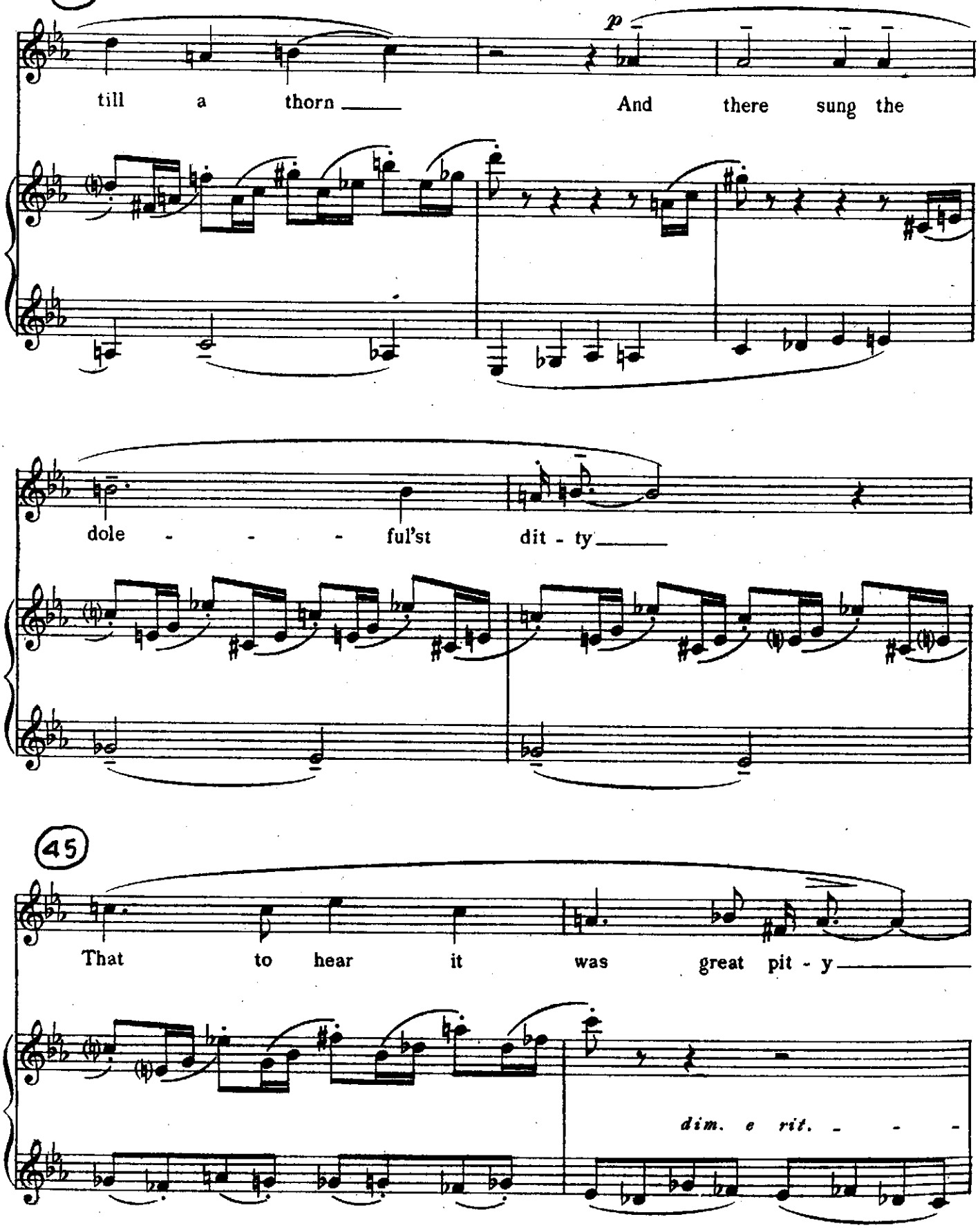
Tempo Io (*Allegro*)

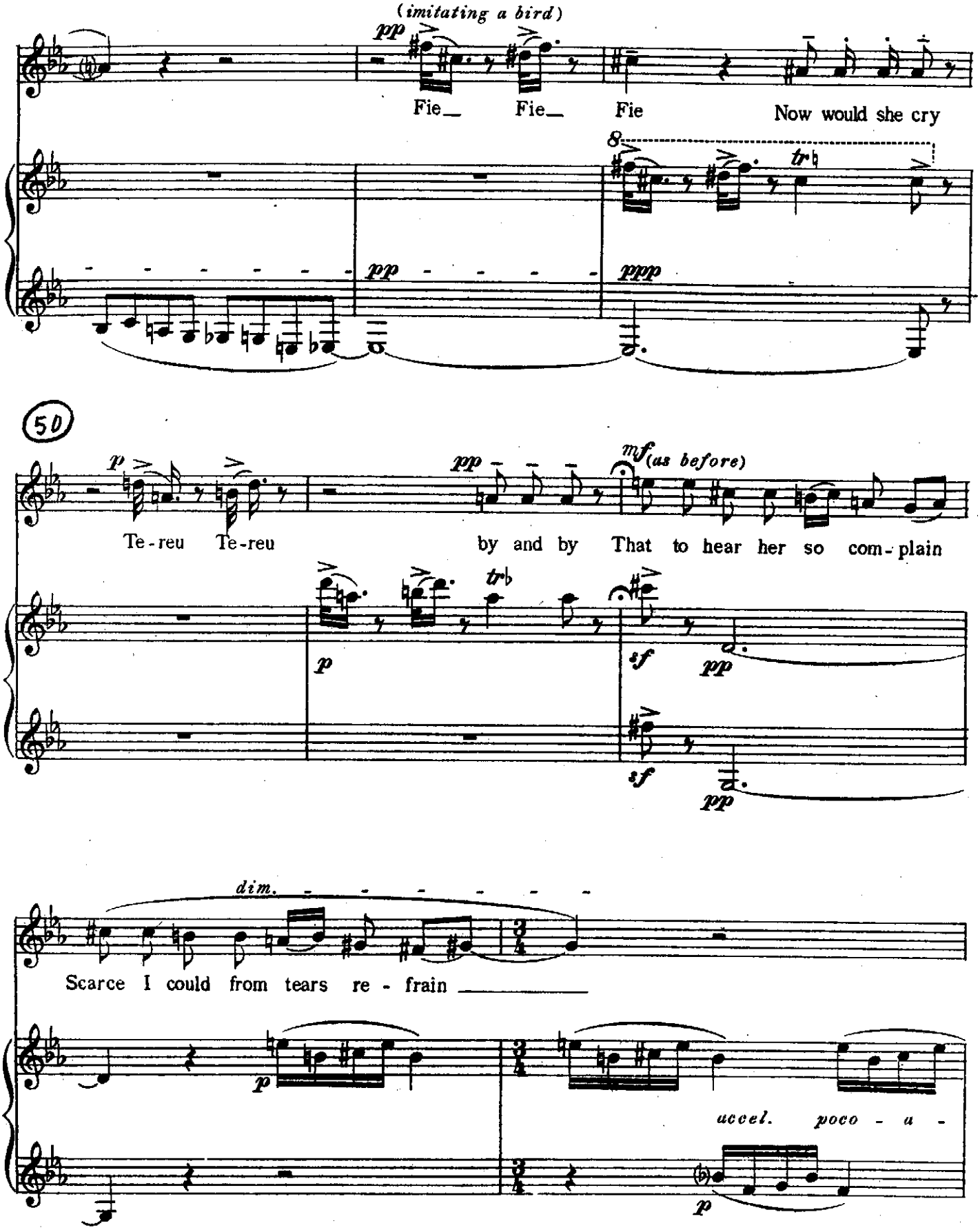
mf

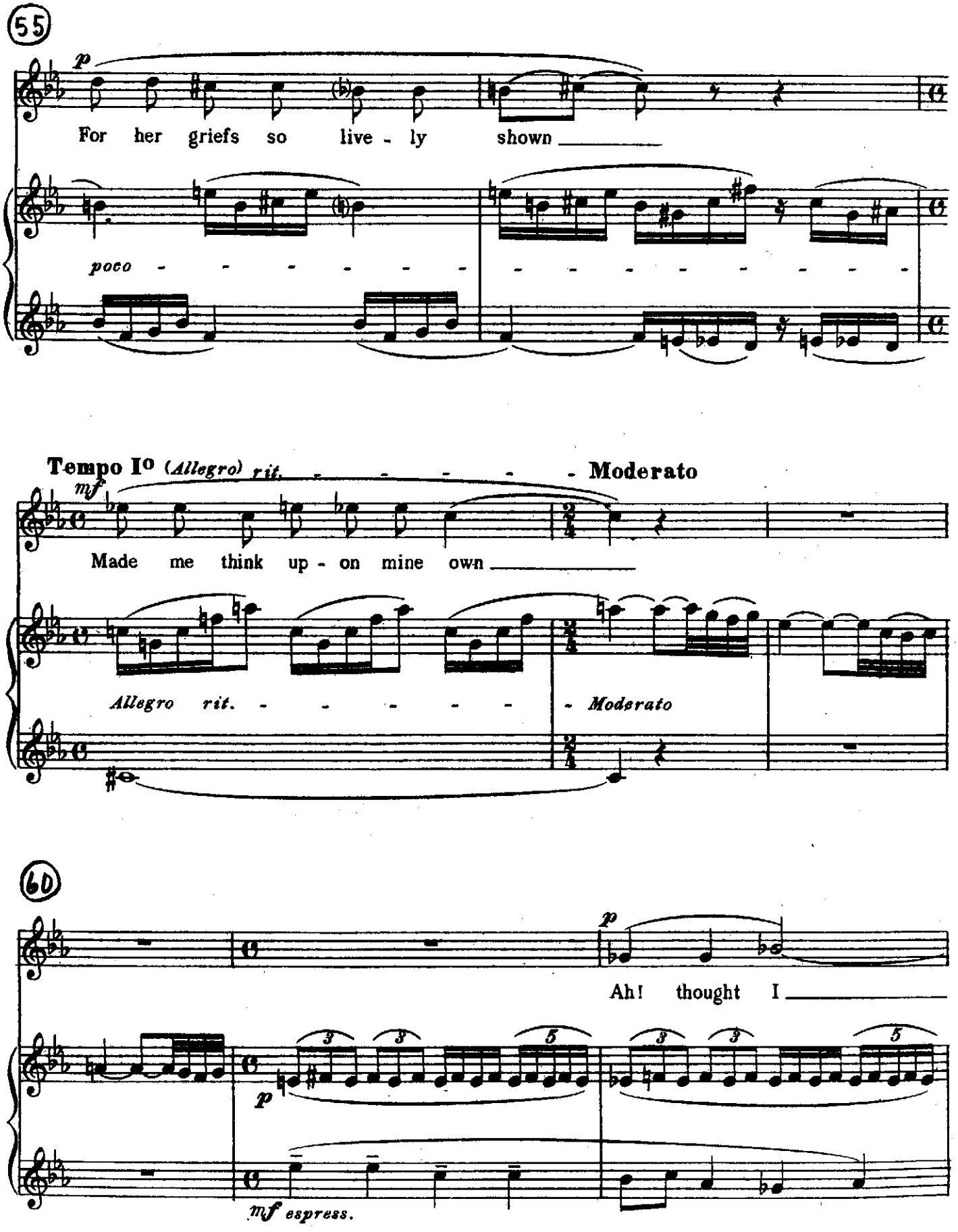
She poor bird as all for - lorn

mf espress.

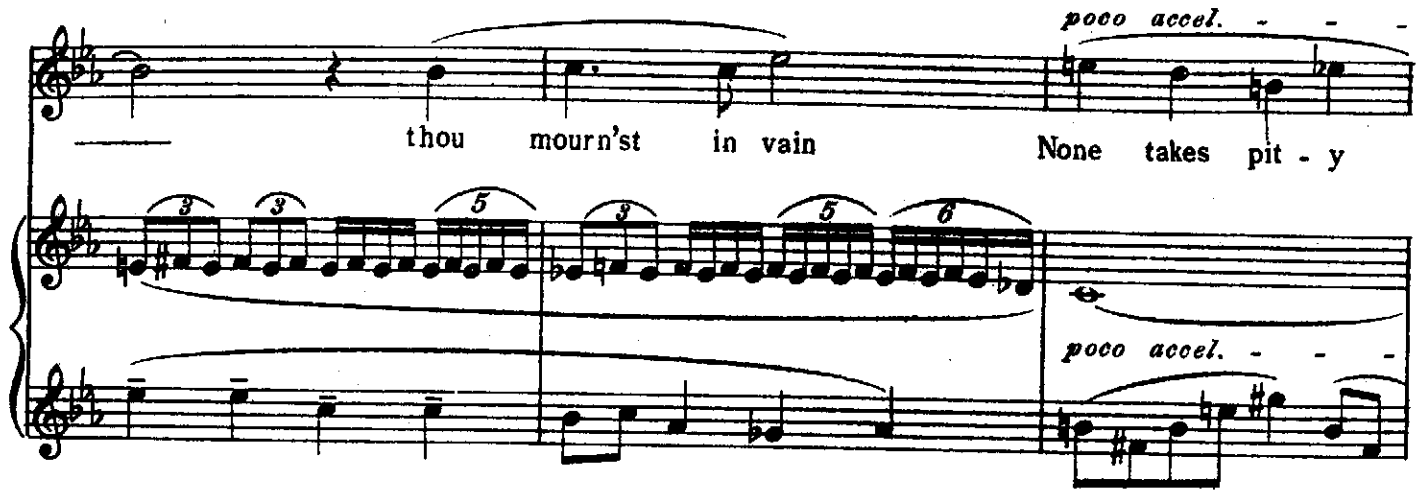
Lean'd her breast up -

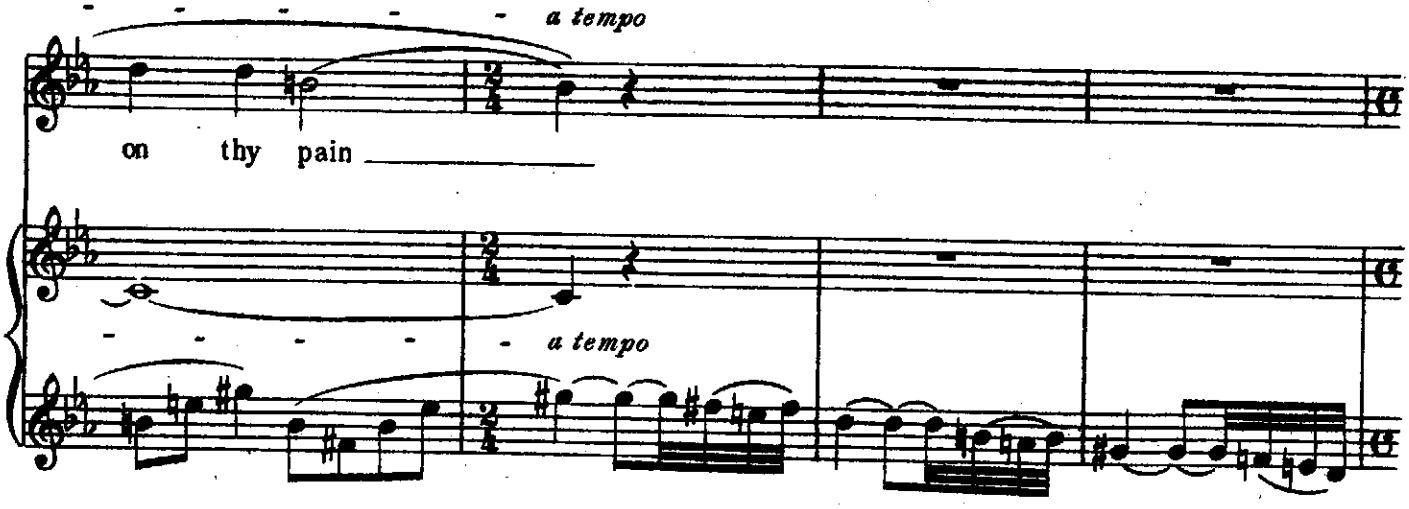

40
p
till a thorn
And there sung the
dole - - - - ful'st dit - ty
45
That to hear it was great pit - y
dim. e rit. - - -


(imitating a bird)
pp
Fie_ Fie_ Fie
Now would she cry
8
tr
pp
ppp
50
p
Te-reu Te-reu
pp
mf (as before)
by and by That to hear her so com-plain
p
sf
pp
sf
pp
dim.
Scarce I could from tears re-frain
p
accel. poco - a -
p


55

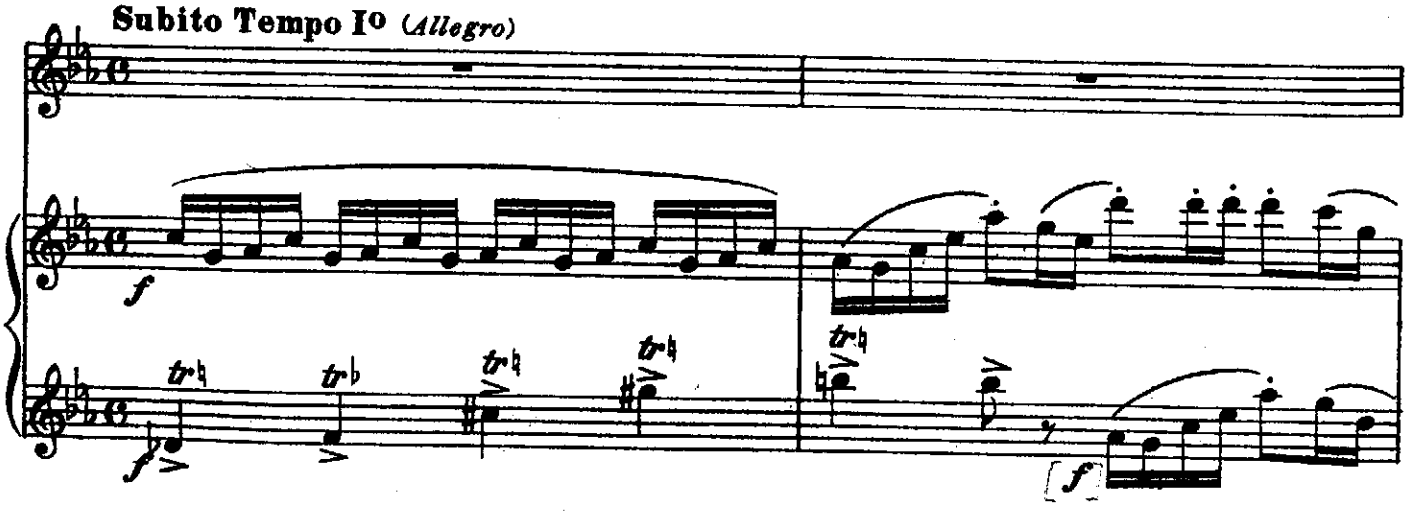
For her griefs so live - ly shown
poco
Tempo I° (Allegro) rit. - - - - - Moderato
mf
Made me think up - on mine own
Allegro rit. - - - - - - Moderato
60
p
Ah! thought I
p
mf espress.

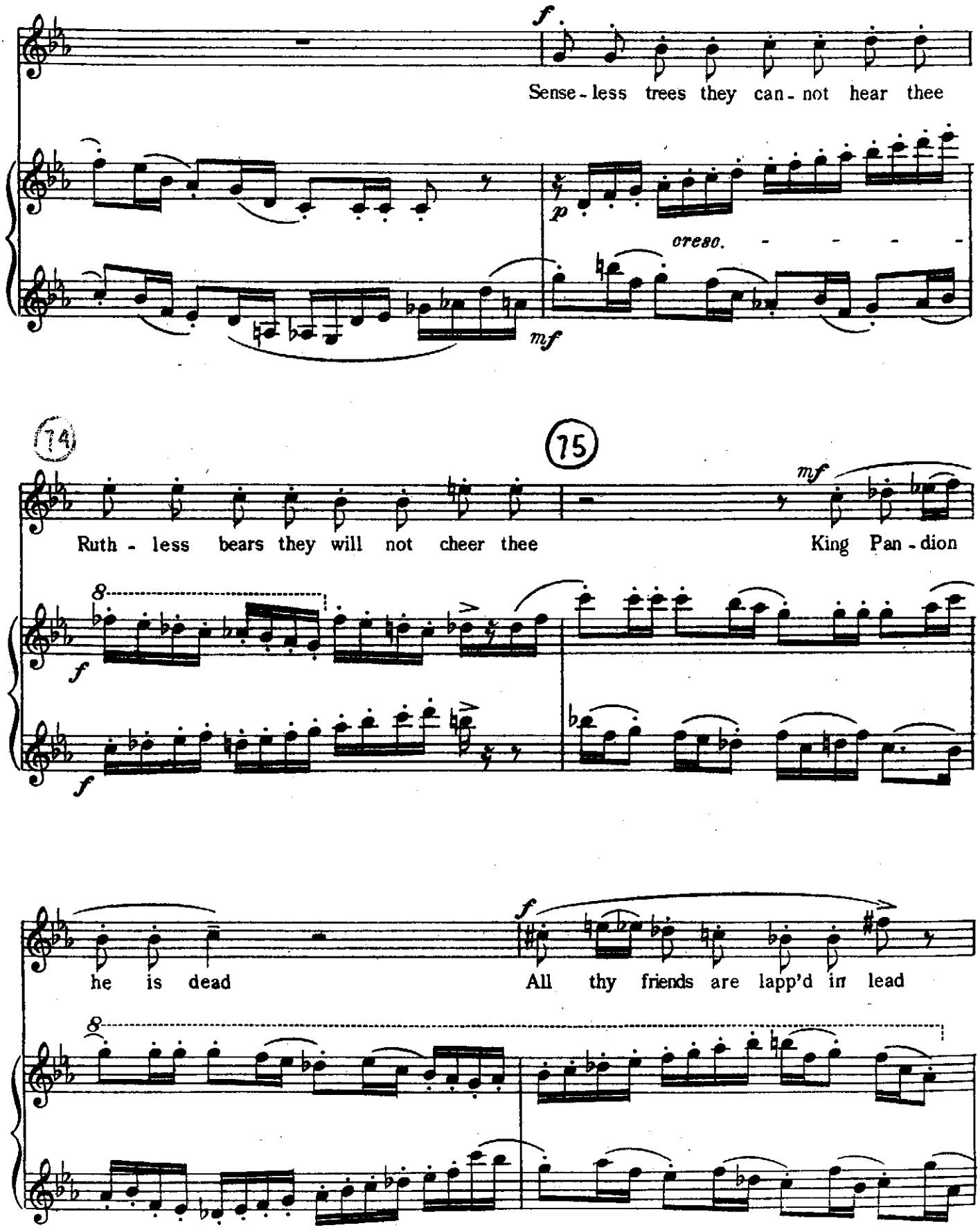




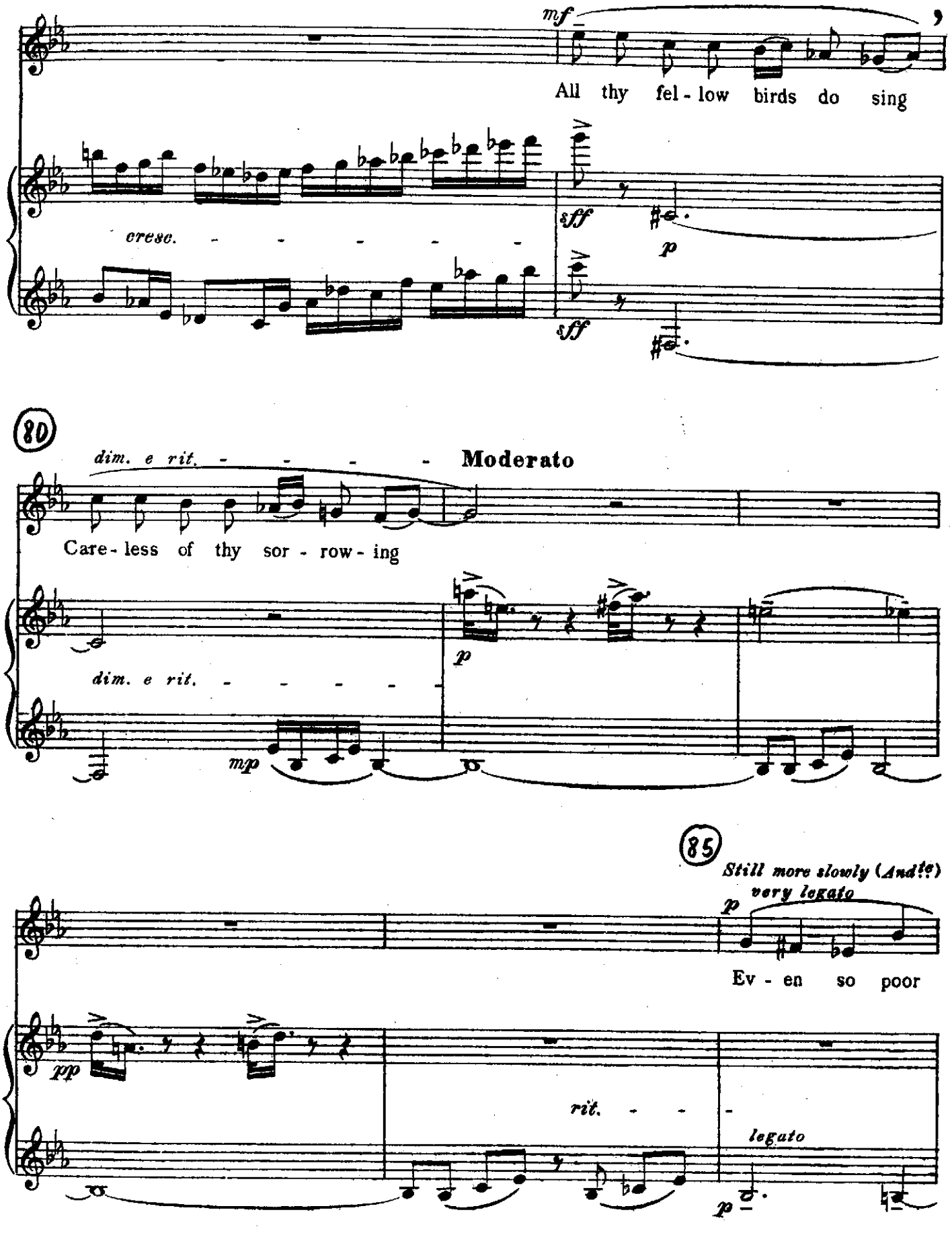
(70)

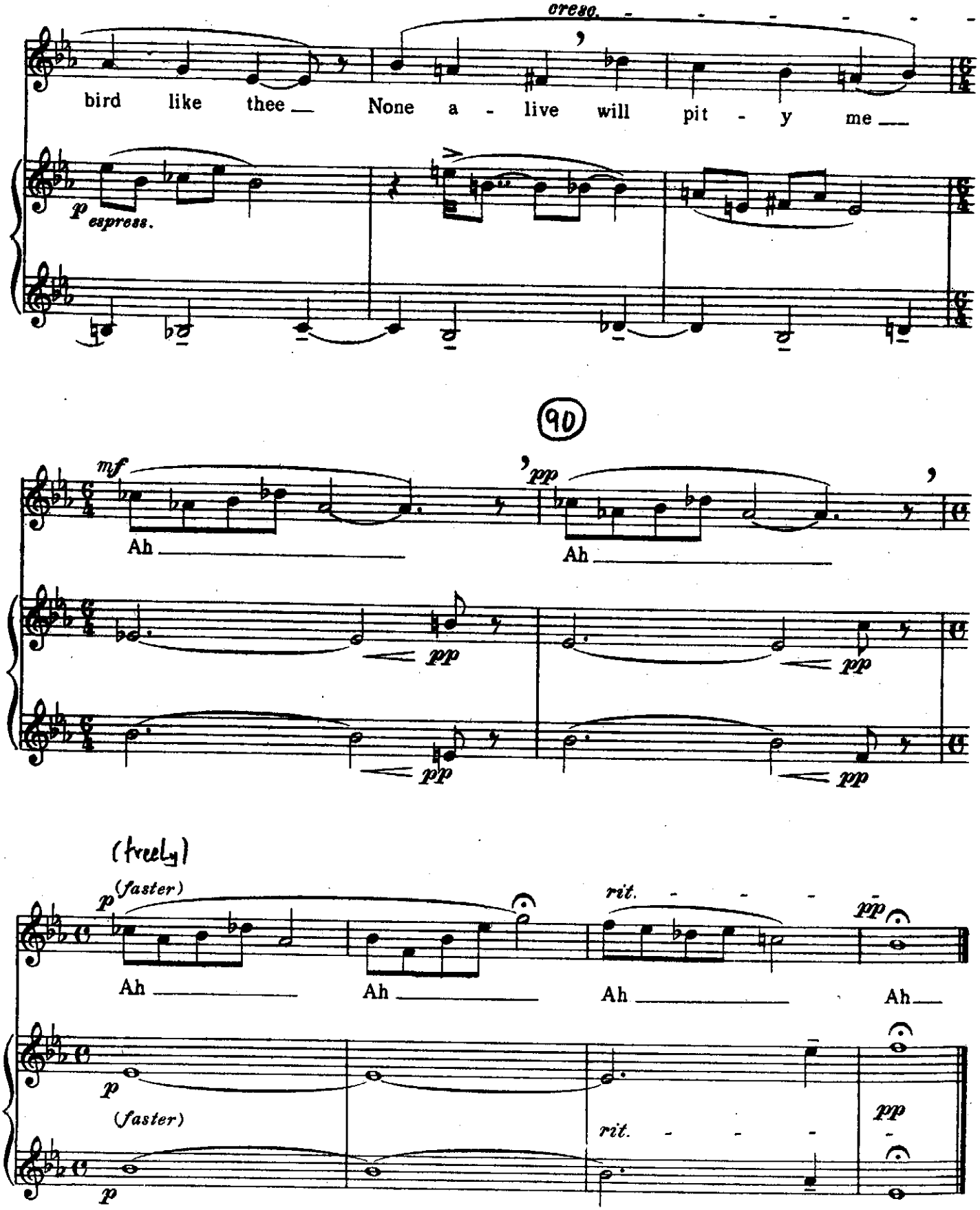
Subito Tempo Io *(Allegro)*




f
Sense - less trees they can - not hear thee
p
cresc.
mf
(74)
75
mf
Ruth - less bears they will not cheer thee
King Pan - dion
8
f
f
he is dead
f
All thy friends are lapp'd in lead
8

Sub. Moderato




cresc.
bird like thee None a - live will pit - y me
p espress.
90
mf
pp
Ah
Ah
pp
pp
pp
pp
(freely)
p (faster)
rit.
pp
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
p
(faster)
rit.
pp
p