Dedicated to
The Society of English Singers.

A BROKEN ARC

ROBERT BROWNING

ARTHUR SOMERVELL

BOOSEY & CO., LONDON & NEW YORK.

Dedicated to
THE SOCIETY OF ENGLISH SINGERS.

A BROKEN ARC

SONG CYCLE

THE POEMS BY

ROBERT BROWNING

SET TO MUSIC

BY

ARTHUR SOMERVELL.

PRICE 5/= NET

BOOSEY & Co
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A Broken Arc

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A Broken Arc.

I

SONG. *Two Poets*

1

Such a starved bank of moss
  Till that May-morn,
Blue ran the flash across:
  Violets were born!

2

Sky– what scowl of cloud
  Till, near and far
Ray on ray split the shroud
  Splendid, a star!

3

World– how it walled about
  Life with disgrace
Till God's own smile came out:
  That was thy face!

II

MEETING AT NIGHT.

1

The grey sea and the long black land;
And the yellow half-moon large and low;
And the startled little waves that leap
In fiery ringlets from their sleep,
As I gain the cove with pushing prow,
And quench its speed i' the slushy sand.

2

Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach;
Three fields to cross till a farm appears;
A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch
And blue spurt of a lighted match,
And a voice less loud, through its joys and fears,
Than the two hearts beating each to each!

III

MY STAR.

All that I know
  Of a certain star
Is, it can throw
  (Like the angled spar)
Now a dart of red,
  Now a dart of blue;
Till my friends have said
  They would fain see, too,
My star that dartles the red and the blue!
Then it stops like a bird; like a flower, hangs furled:
  They must solace themselves with the Saturn above it.
What matter to me if their star is a world?
  Mine has opened its soul to me; therefore I love it.

IV

SONG.

1

Nay but you, who do not love her,
  Is she not pure gold, my mistress?
Holds earth aught– speak truth– above her?
  Aught like this tress, see, and this tress,
And this last fairest tress of all,
So fair, see, ere I let it fall?

2

Because, you spend your lives in praising;
  To praise, you search the wide world over:
Then why not witness, calmly gazing,
  If earth holds aught– speak truth– above her?
Above this tress, and this, I touch
But cannot praise, I love so much!

V

THE WORST OF IT.

Would it were I had been false, not you!
  I that am nothing, not you that are all:
I, never the worse for a touch or two
  On my speckled hide; not you, the pride
Of the day, my swan, that a first fleck's fall
  On her wonder of white must unswan, undo!

. . . . . .

But what will God say? Oh, my sweet,
  Think, and be sorry you did this thing
Though earth were unworthy to feel you feet,
  There's a heaven above may deserve your love.

. . . . . .

Dear, I look from my hiding-place.
  Are you still so fair? Have you still the eyes?
Be happy! Add but the other grace,
  Be good! Why want what the angels vaunt?
I knew you once: but in Paradise,
  If we meet, I will pass nor turn my face.

VI

AFTER.

Take the cloak from his face and at first
  Let the corpse do its worst!

How he lies in his rights of a man!
  Death has done all death can.
And, absorbed in the new life he leads,
  He recks not, he heeds
Nor his wrong nor my vengeance; both strike
  On his senses alike,
And are lost in the solemn and strange
  Surprise of the change.

Ha, what avails death to erase
  His offence, my disgrace?
I would we were boys as of old
  In the field, by the fold:
His outrage, God's patience, man's scorn
  Were so easily born!

I stand here now, he lies in his place:
  Cover the face!

VII

From "EASTER DAY."

Thou Love of God! Or let me die,
Or grant what shall seem heaven almost!
Let me not know that all is lost,
Though lost it be—leave me not tied
To this despair, this corpse-like bride!
Let that old life seem mine— no more—
With limitation as before,
With darkness, hunger, toil, distress:
Be all the earth a wilderness!
Only let me go on, go on,
Still hoping ever and anon
To reach one eve the Better Land!

VIII

THE YEAR'S AT THE SPRING.

The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;

The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven—
All's right with the world!

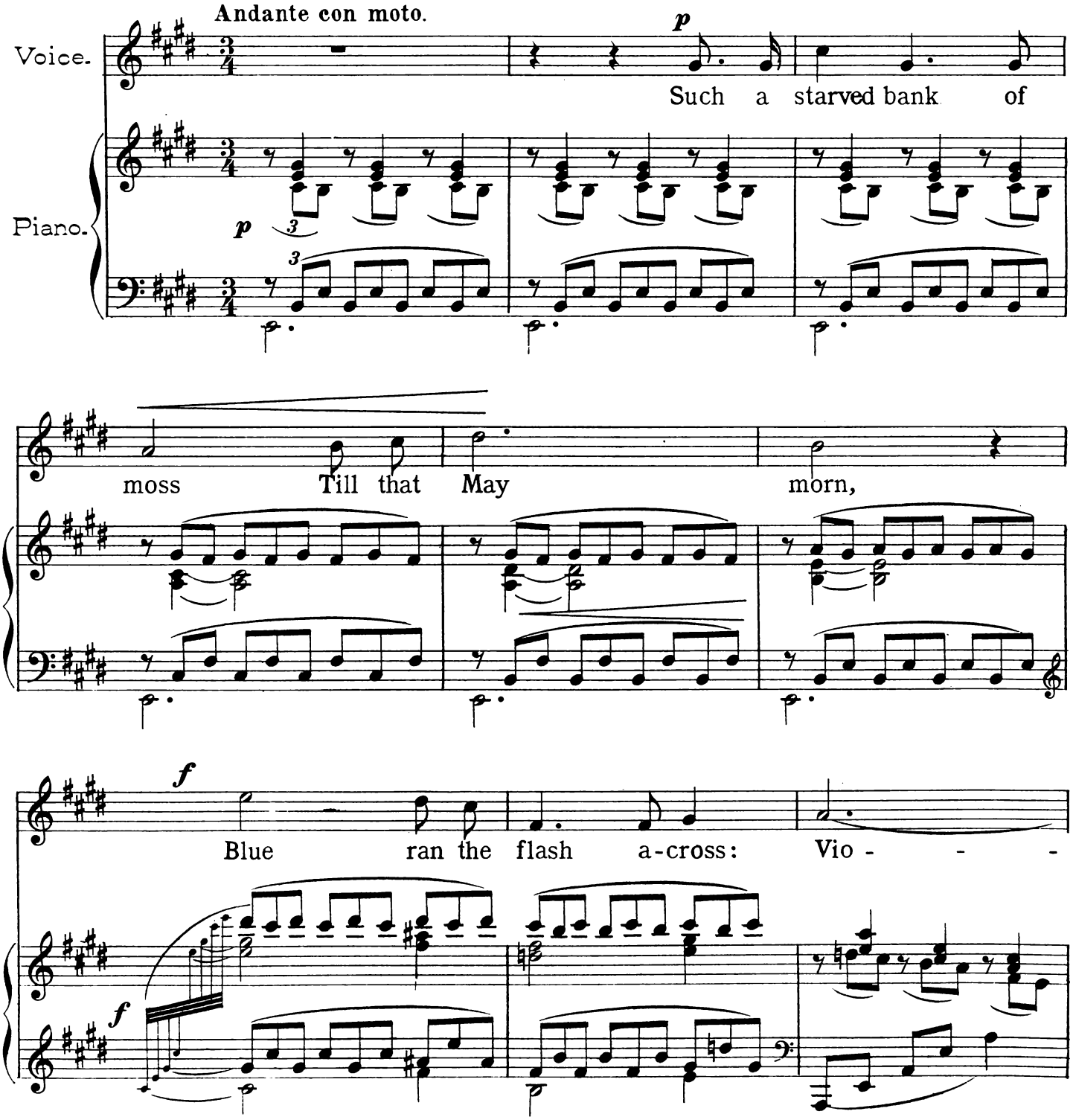
ROBERT BROWNING.

I

Such a starved bank of moss.

Words by
ROBERT BROWNING.

Music by
ARTHUR SOMERVELL.



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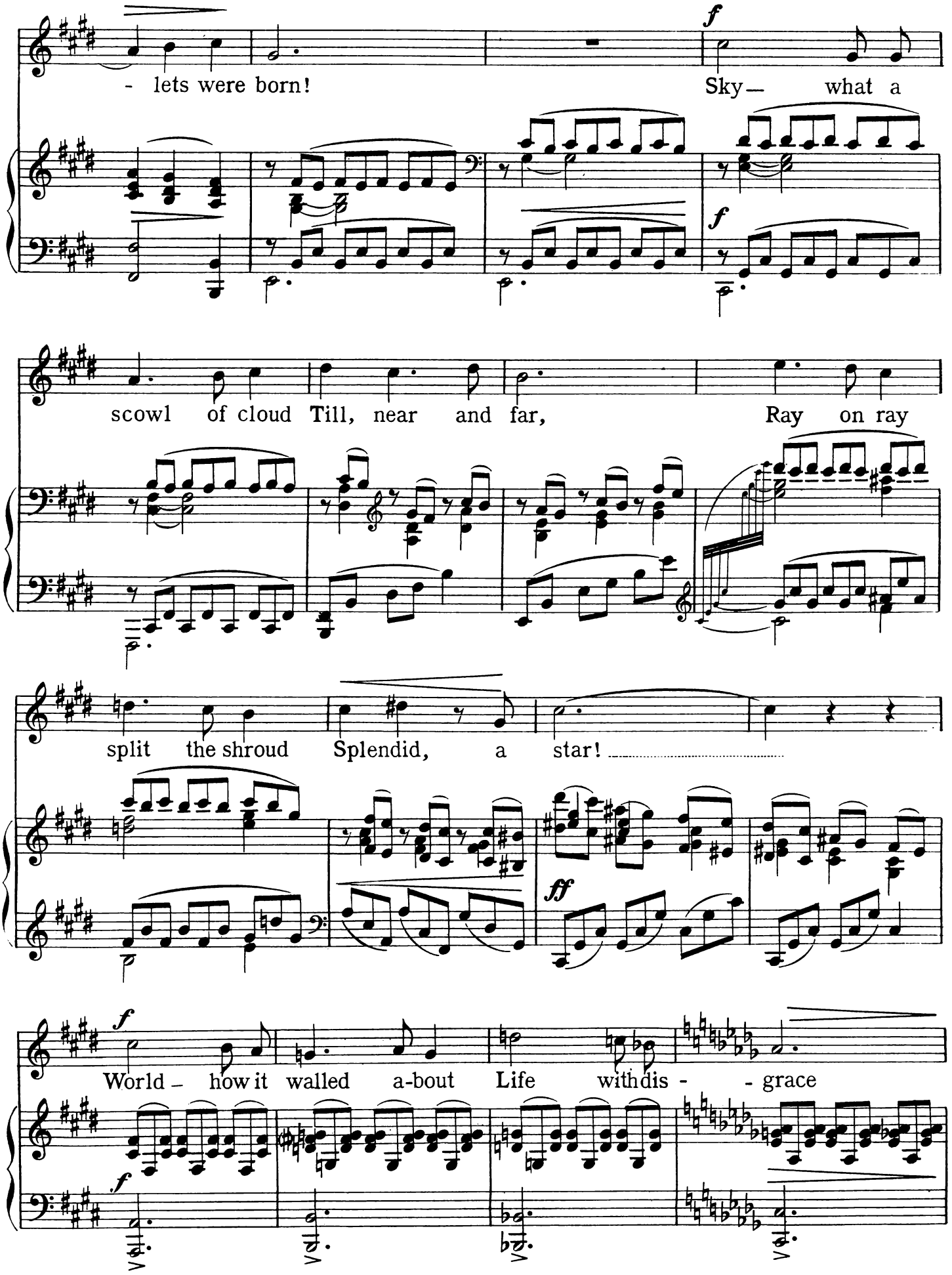
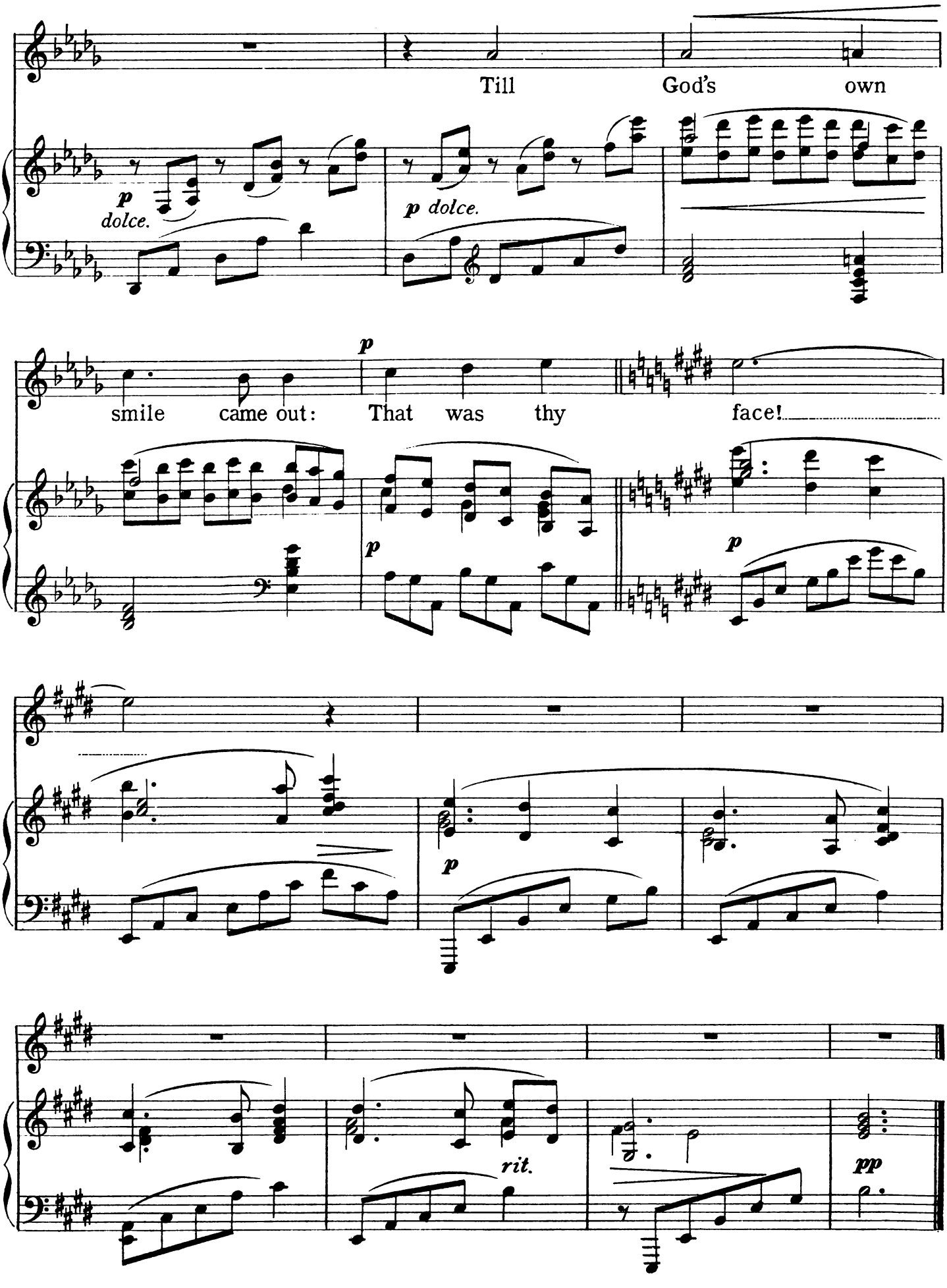


Such a starved bank of Moss.

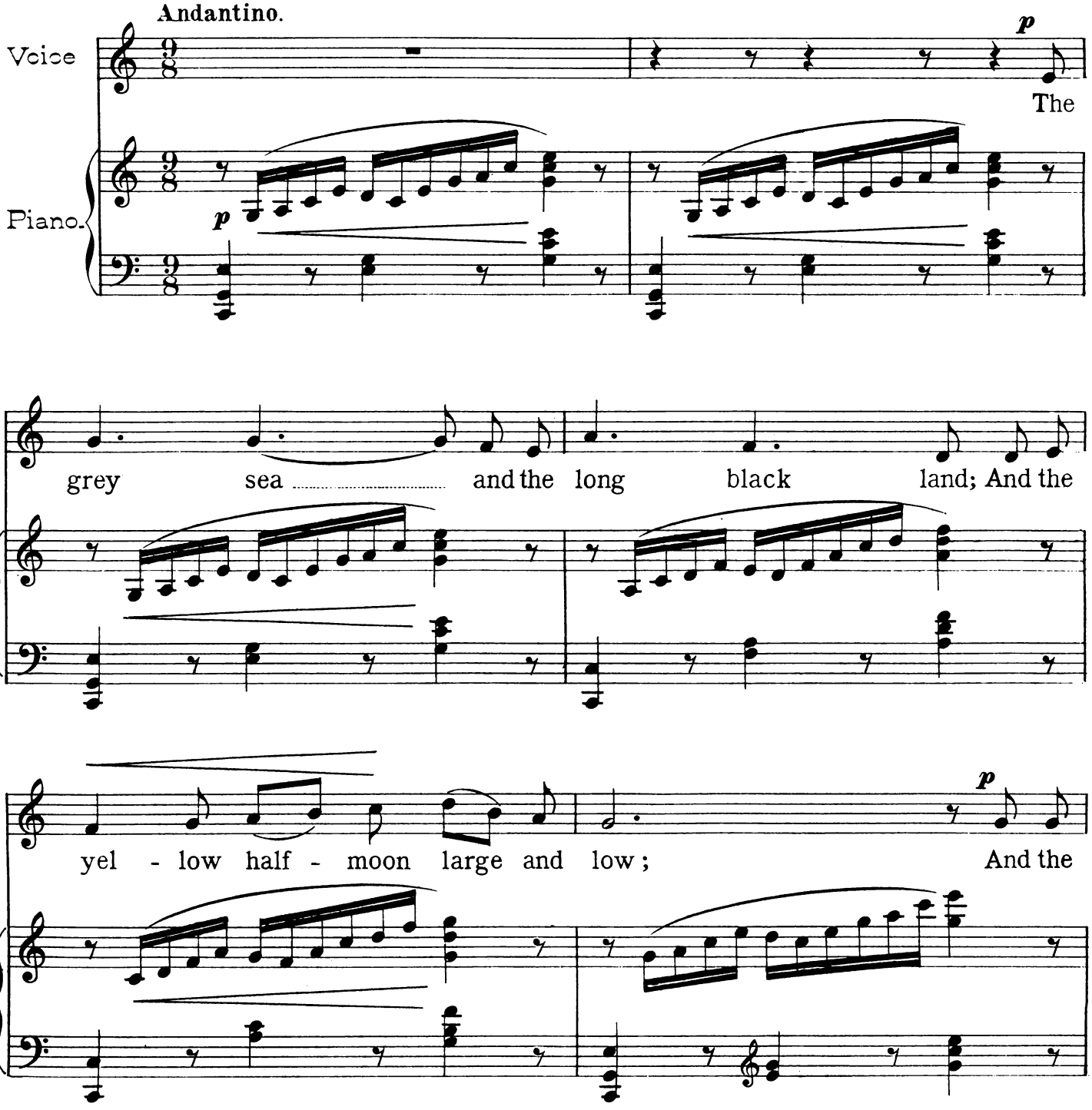

Till God's own
p dolce.
p dolce.
smile came out: That was thy face!
p
p
p
p
rit.
pp

II

Meeting at night.

Words by
ROBERT BROWNING.

Music by
ARTHUR SOMERVELL.



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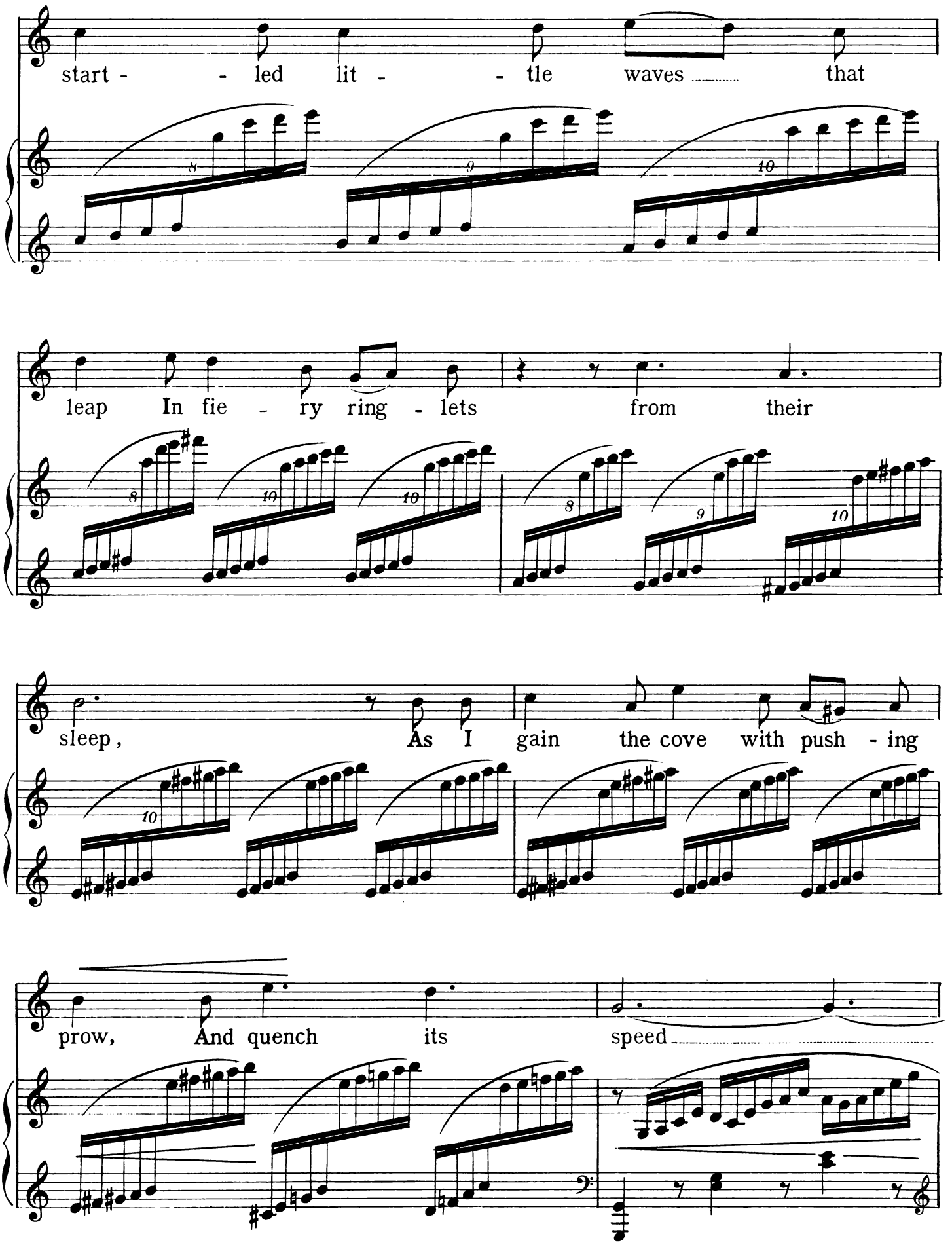
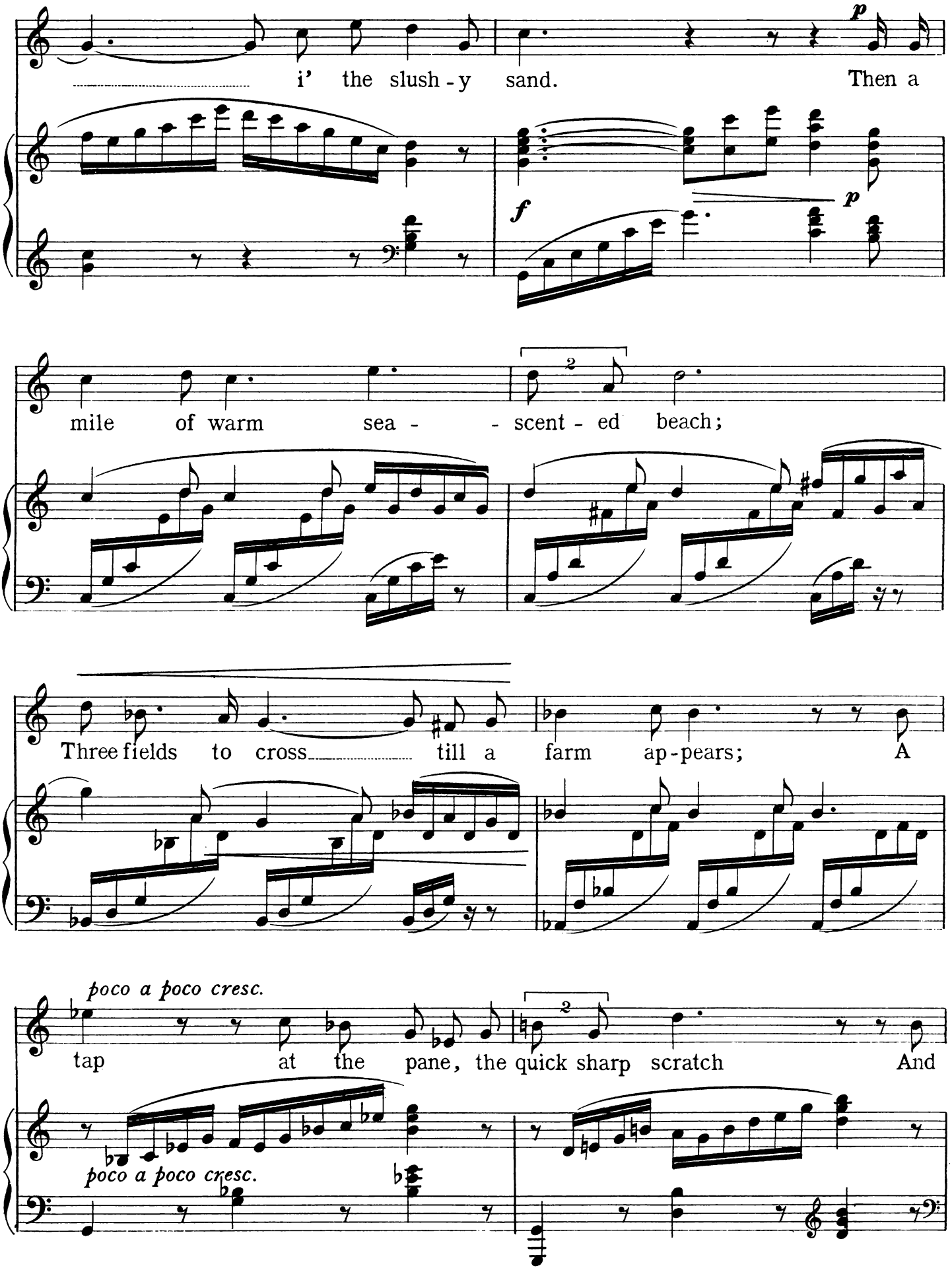
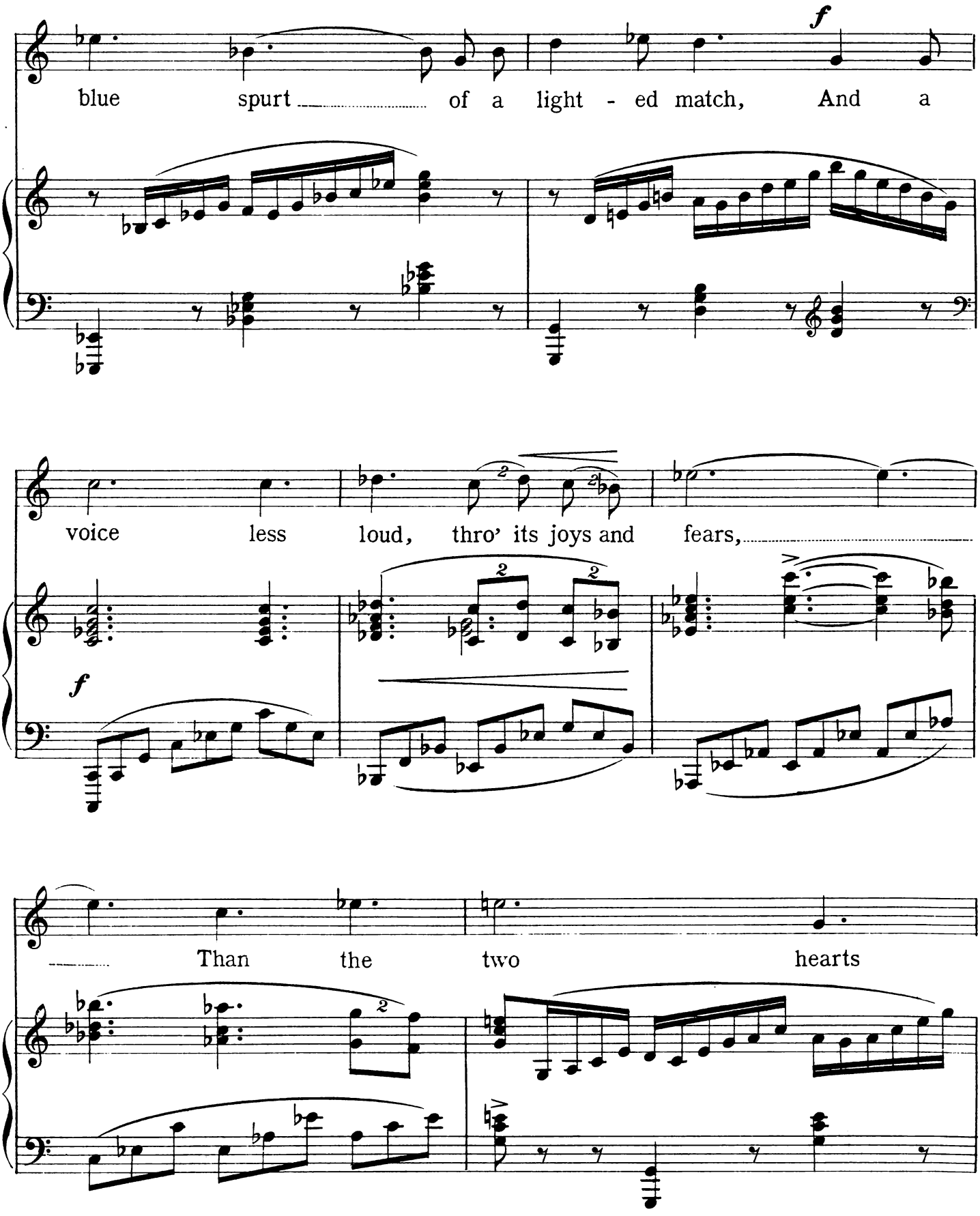
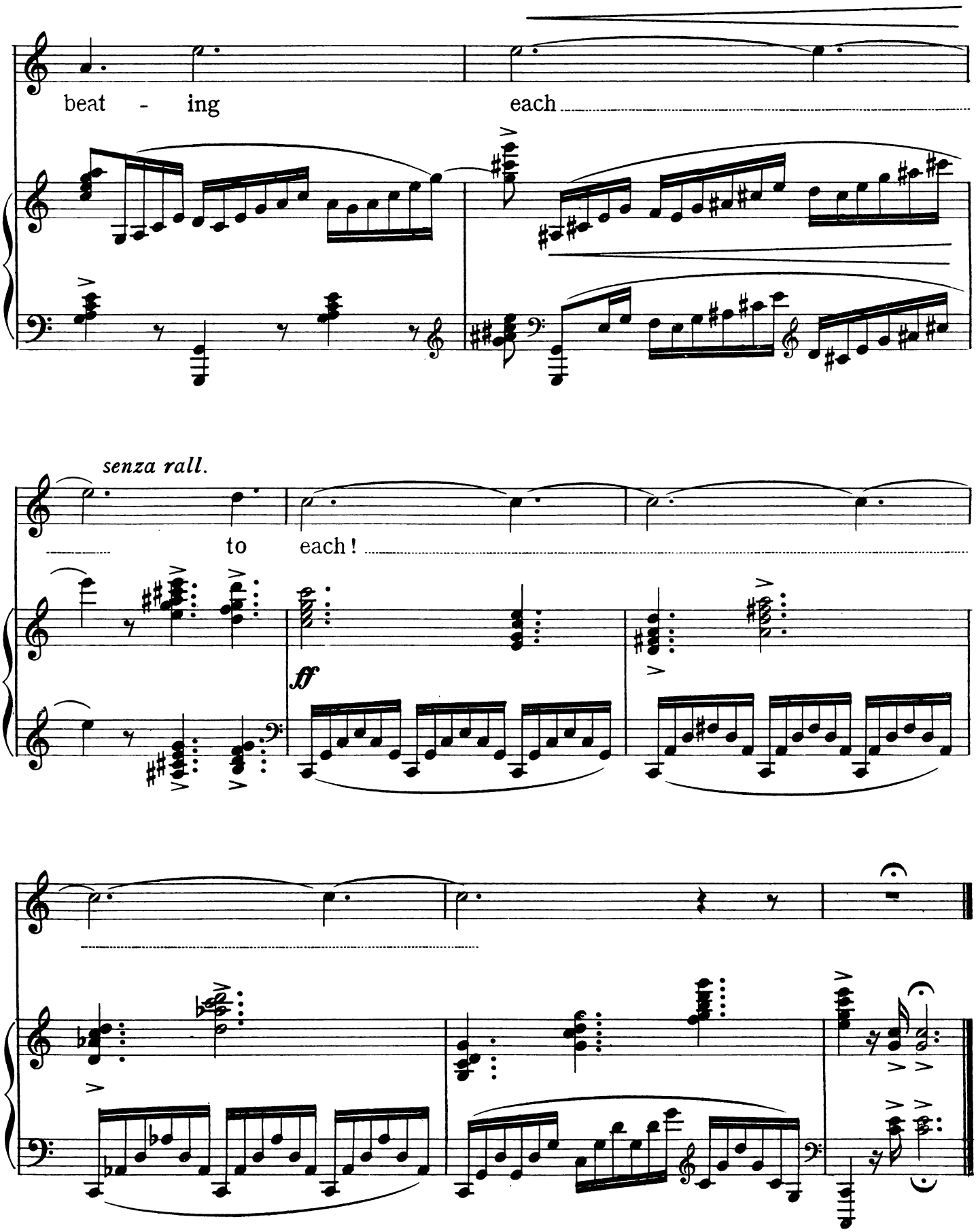

start - - led lit - - tle waves that
leap In fie - ry ring - lets from their
sleep, As I gain the cove with push - ing
prow, And quench its speed


i' the slush - y sand. Then a
p
f
p
mile of warm sea - - scent - ed beach;
2
Three fields to cross till a farm ap - pears; A
poco a poco cresc.
tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch And
2
poco a poco cresc.


blue spurt ..... of a light - ed match, And a
voice less loud, thro' its joys and fears, ...
f
Than the two hearts

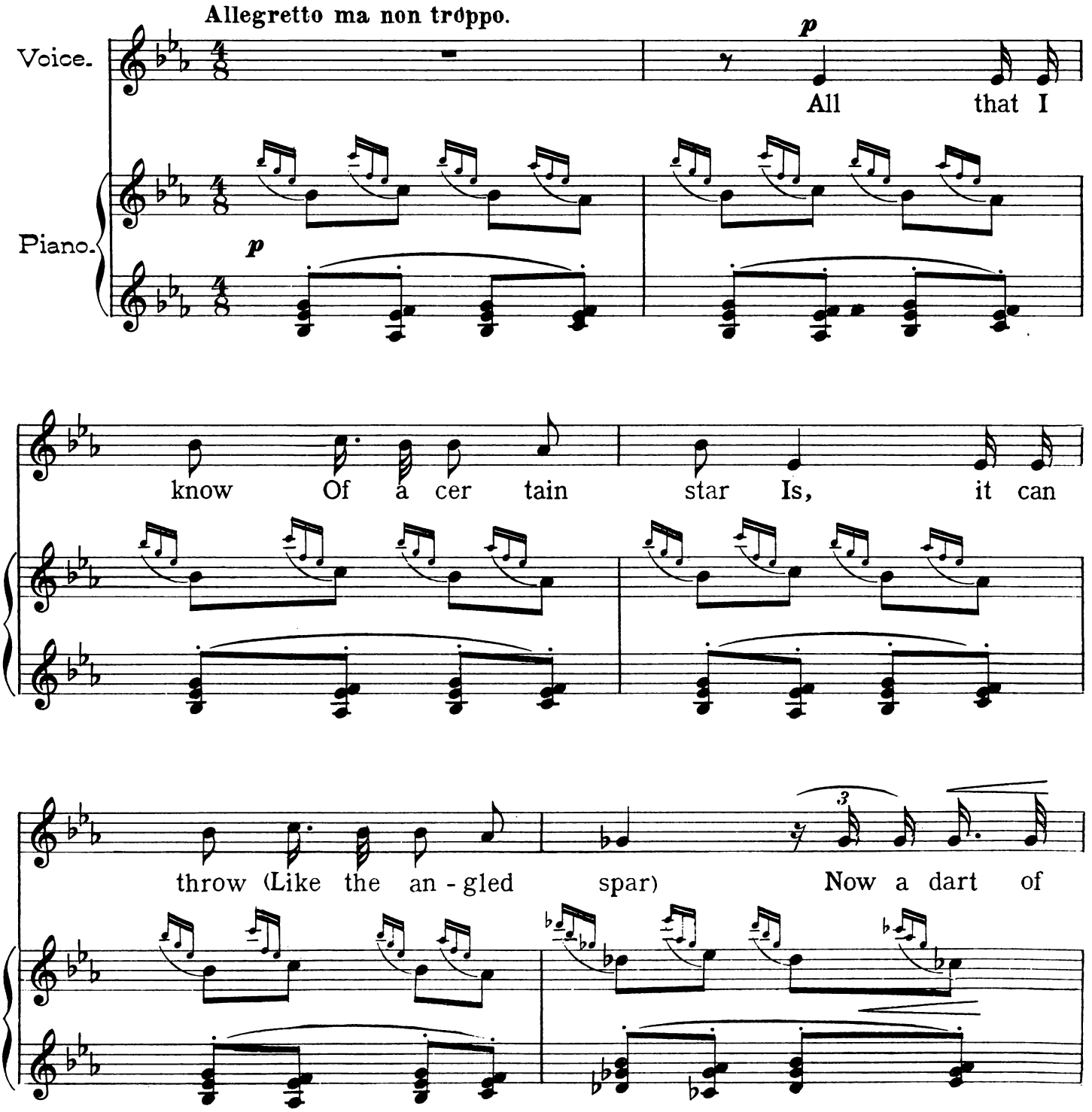

beat - ing each
senza rall.
to each!
ff

III

My Star.

Words by
ROBERT BROWNING.

Music by
ARTHUR SOMERVELL.



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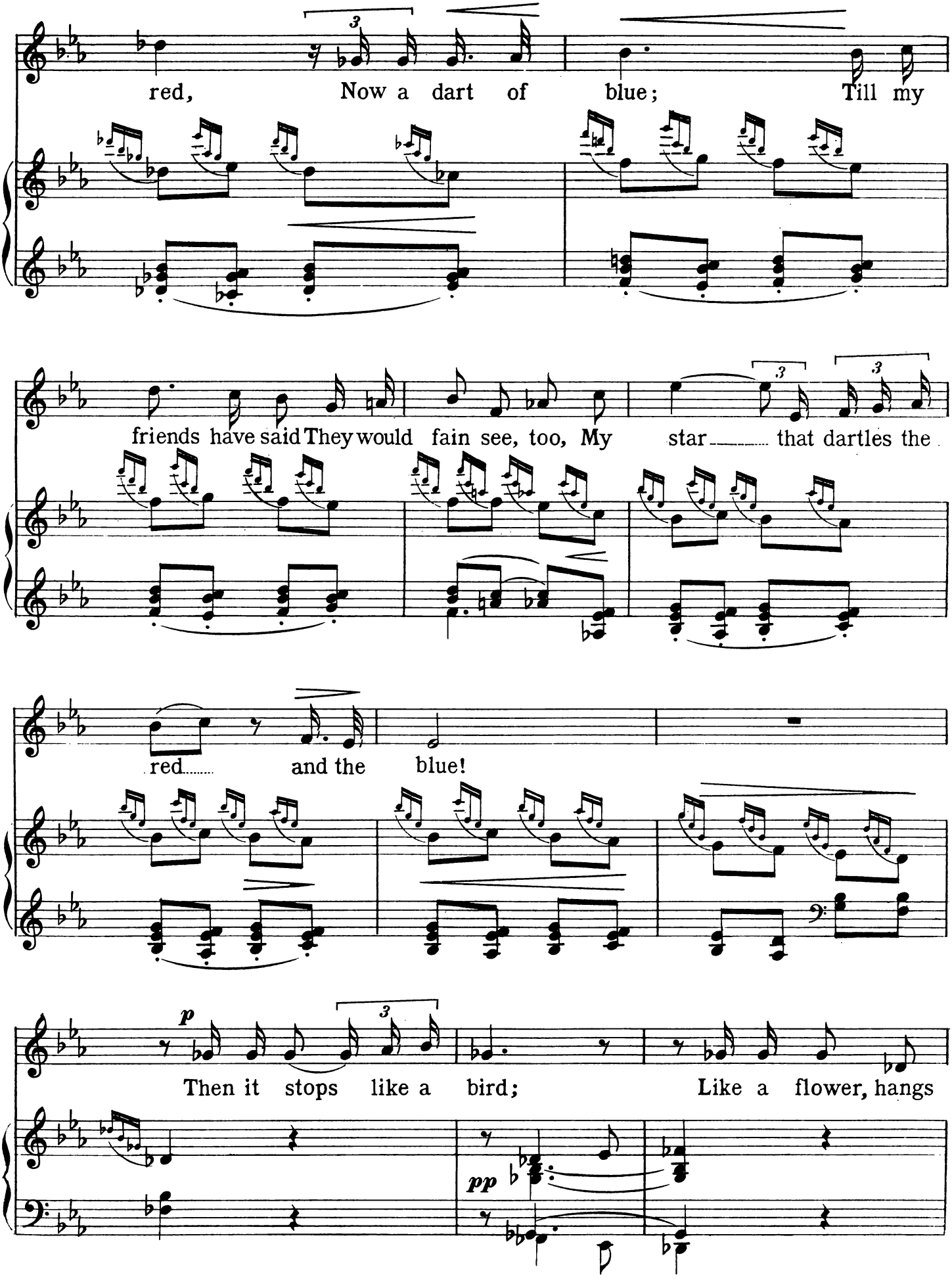
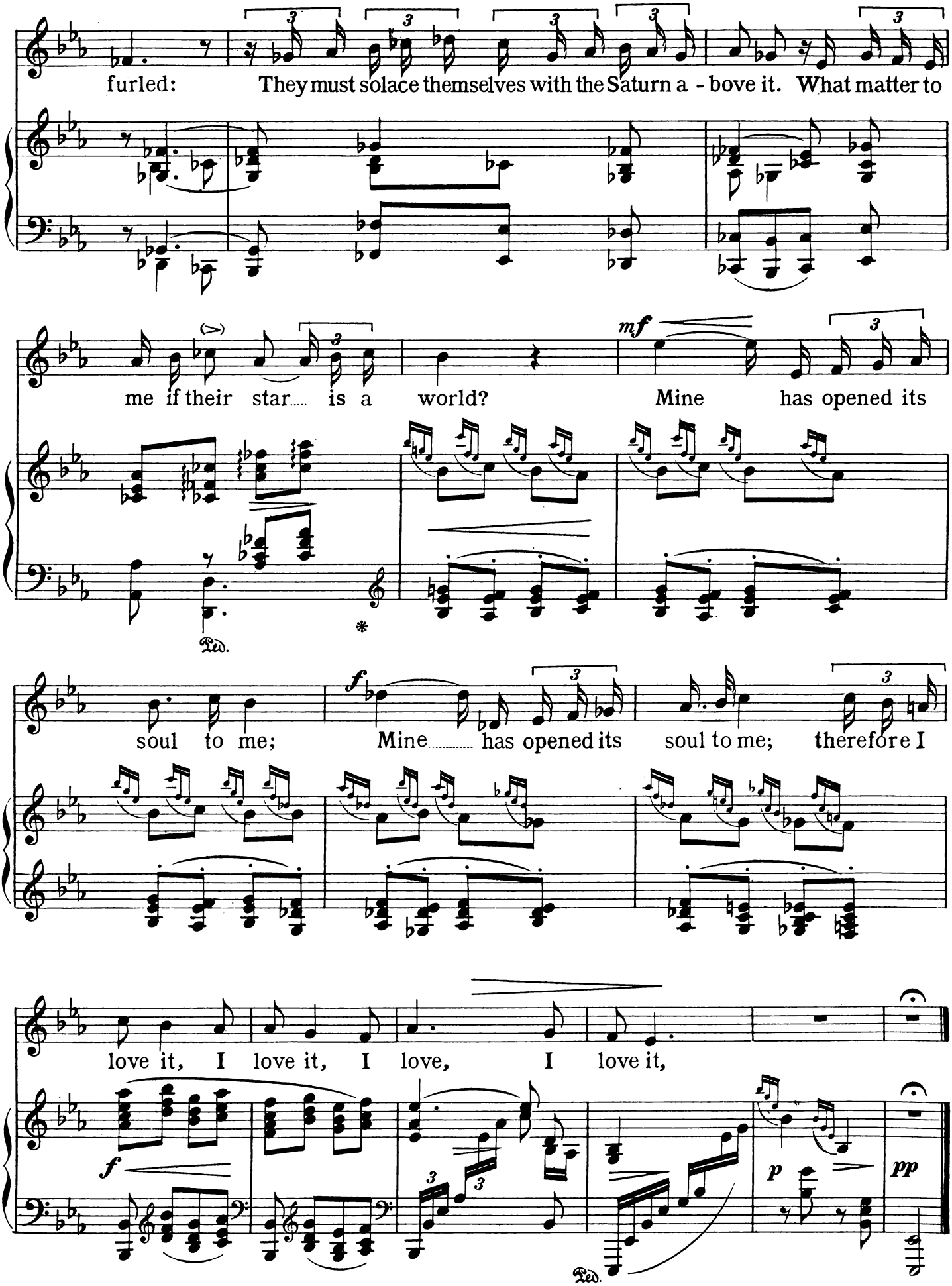

red, Now a dart of blue; Till my
friends have said They would fain see, too, My star that dartles the
red and the blue!
p
Then it stops like a bird; Like a flower, hangs
pp

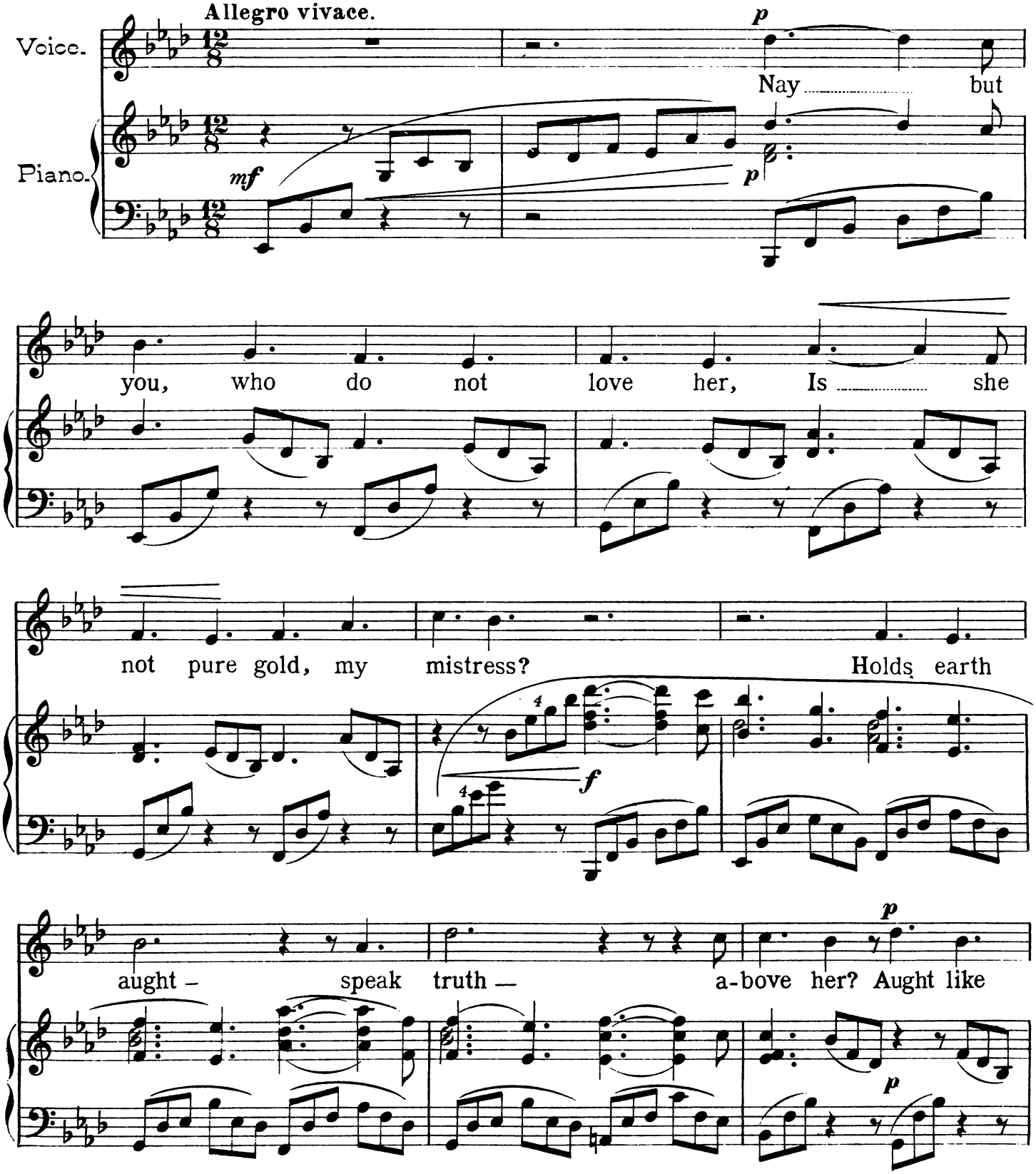

furled: They must solace themselves with the Saturn a - bove it. What matter to
me if their star.... is a world? Mine has opened its
soul to me; Mine..... has opened its soul to me; therefore I
love it, I love it, I love, I love it,
mf
f
p
pp
Ped.
*

IV

Nay, but you, who do not love her.

Words by
ROBERT BROWNING

Music by
ARTHUR SOMERVELL.



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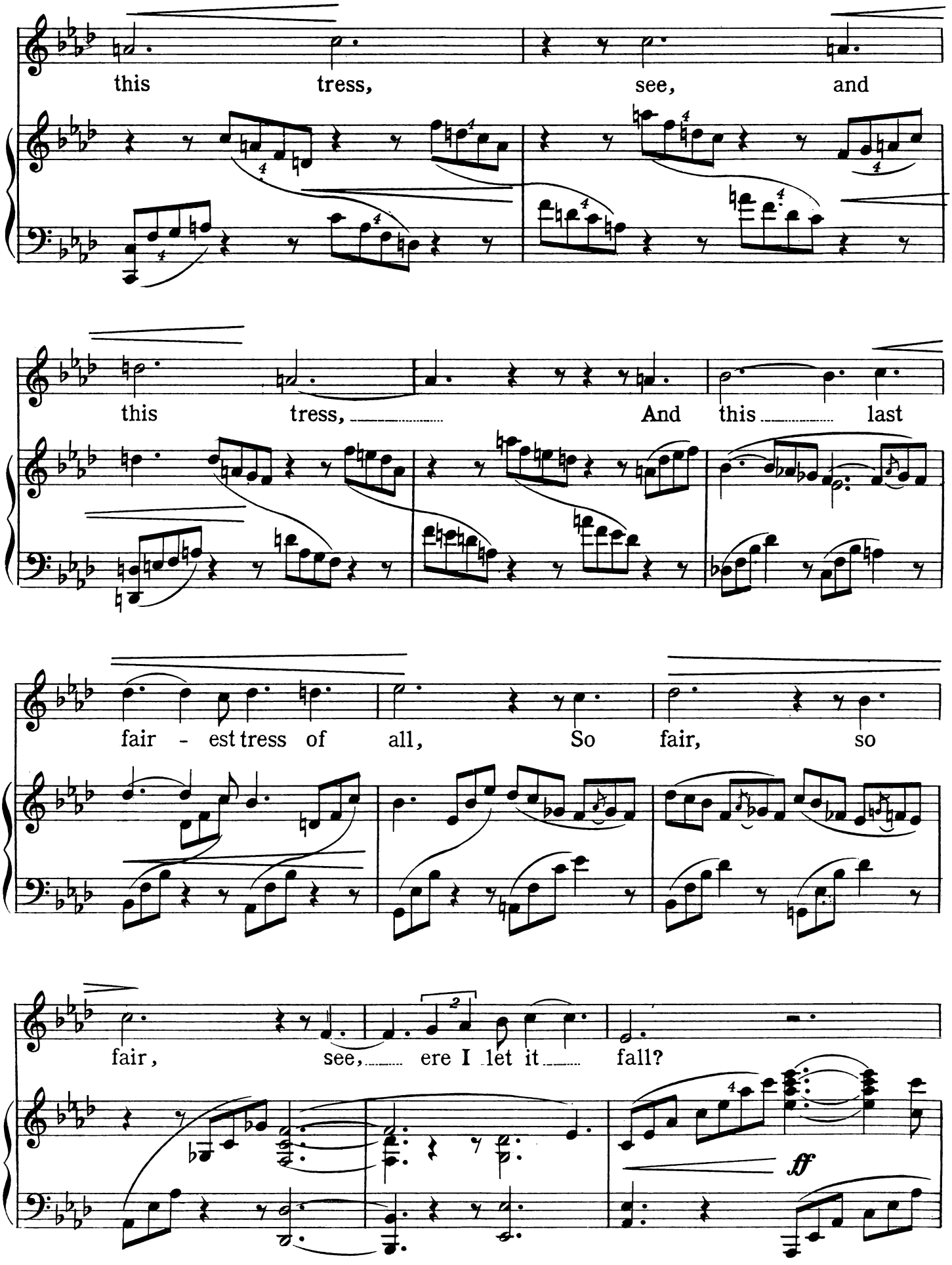
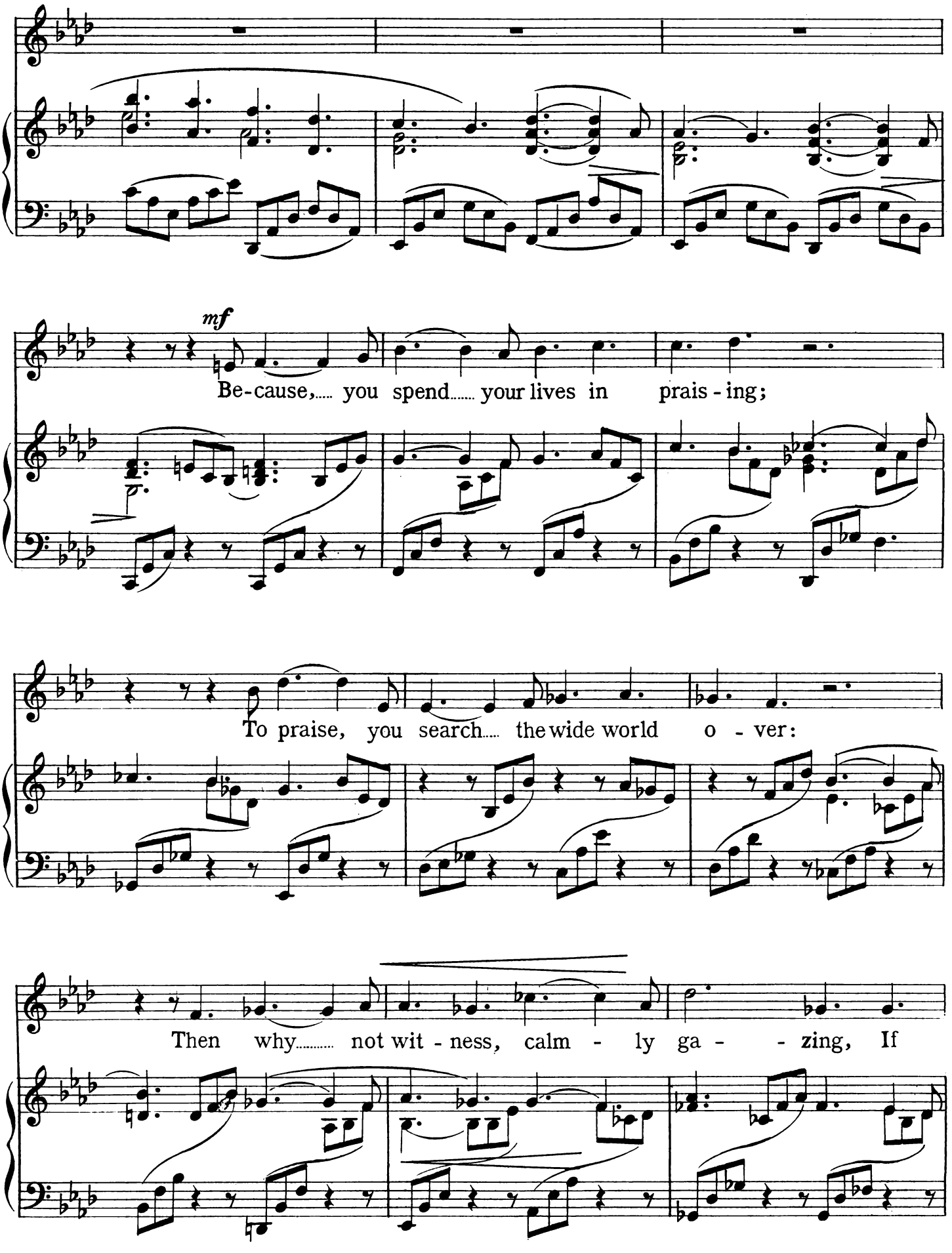
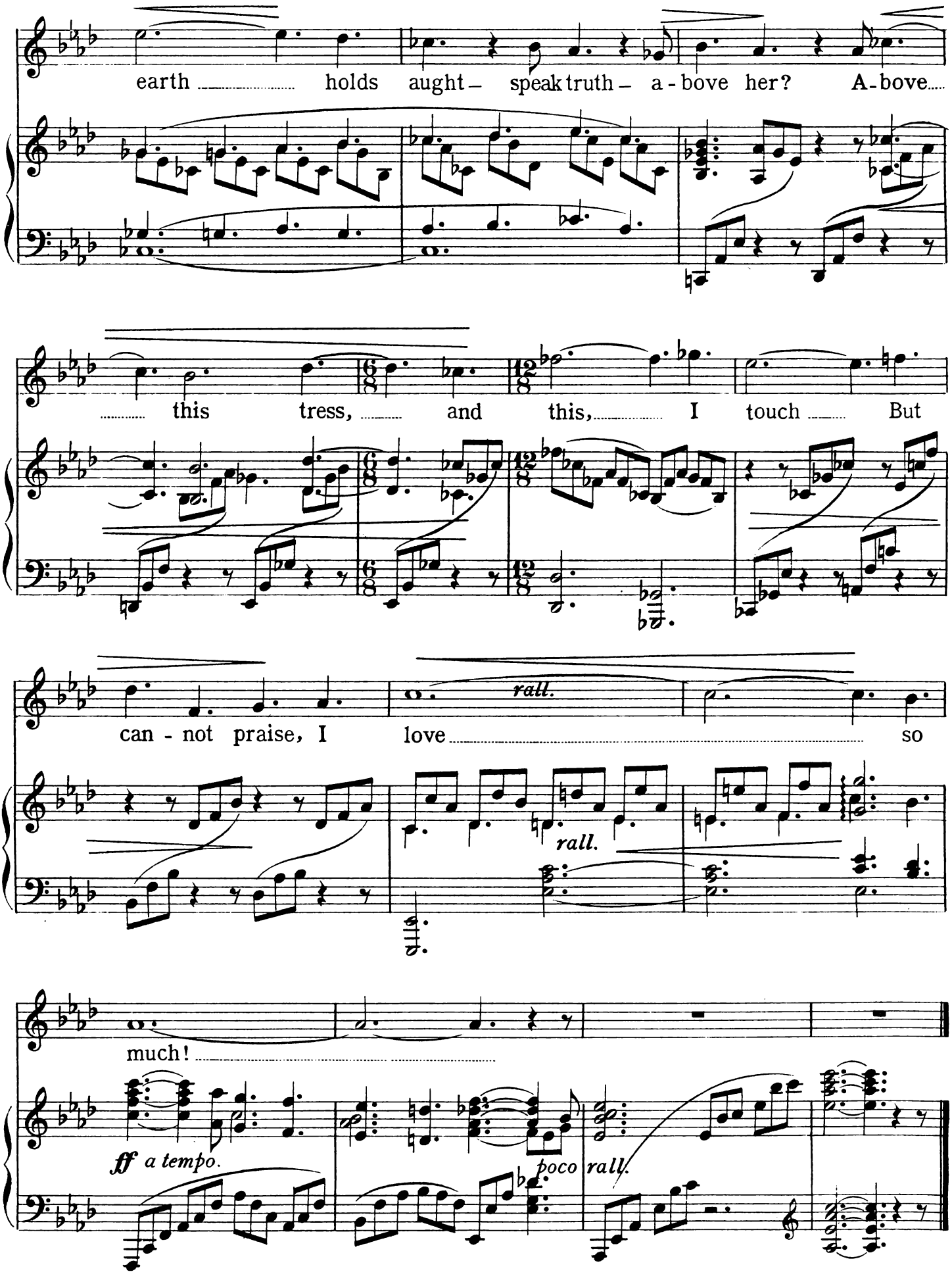


Nay, but you, who do not love her.



Nay, but you, who do not love her.



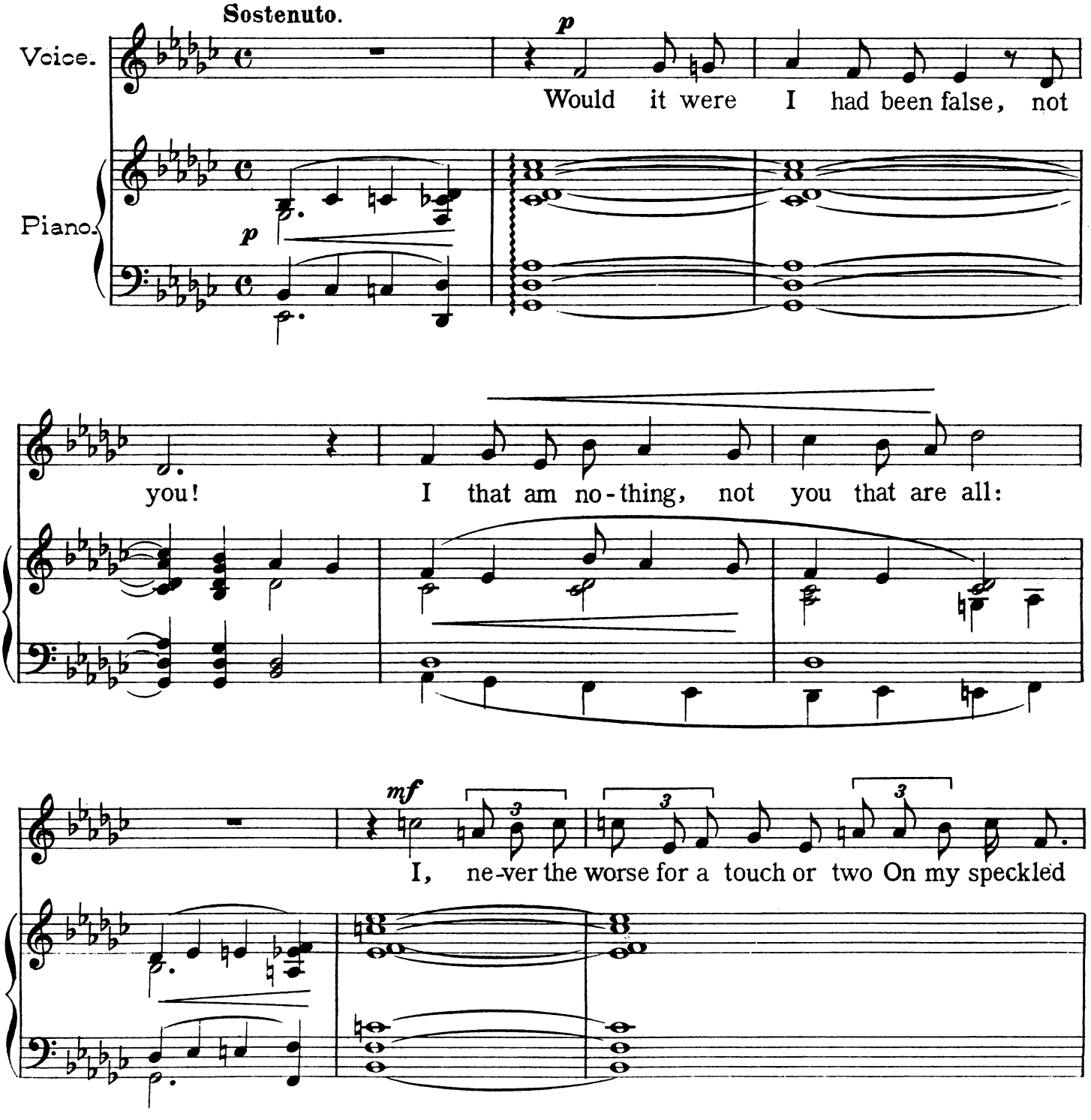
Nay, but you, who do not love her.

V

The worst of it.

Words by
ROBERT BROWNING

Music by
ARTHUR SOMERVELL



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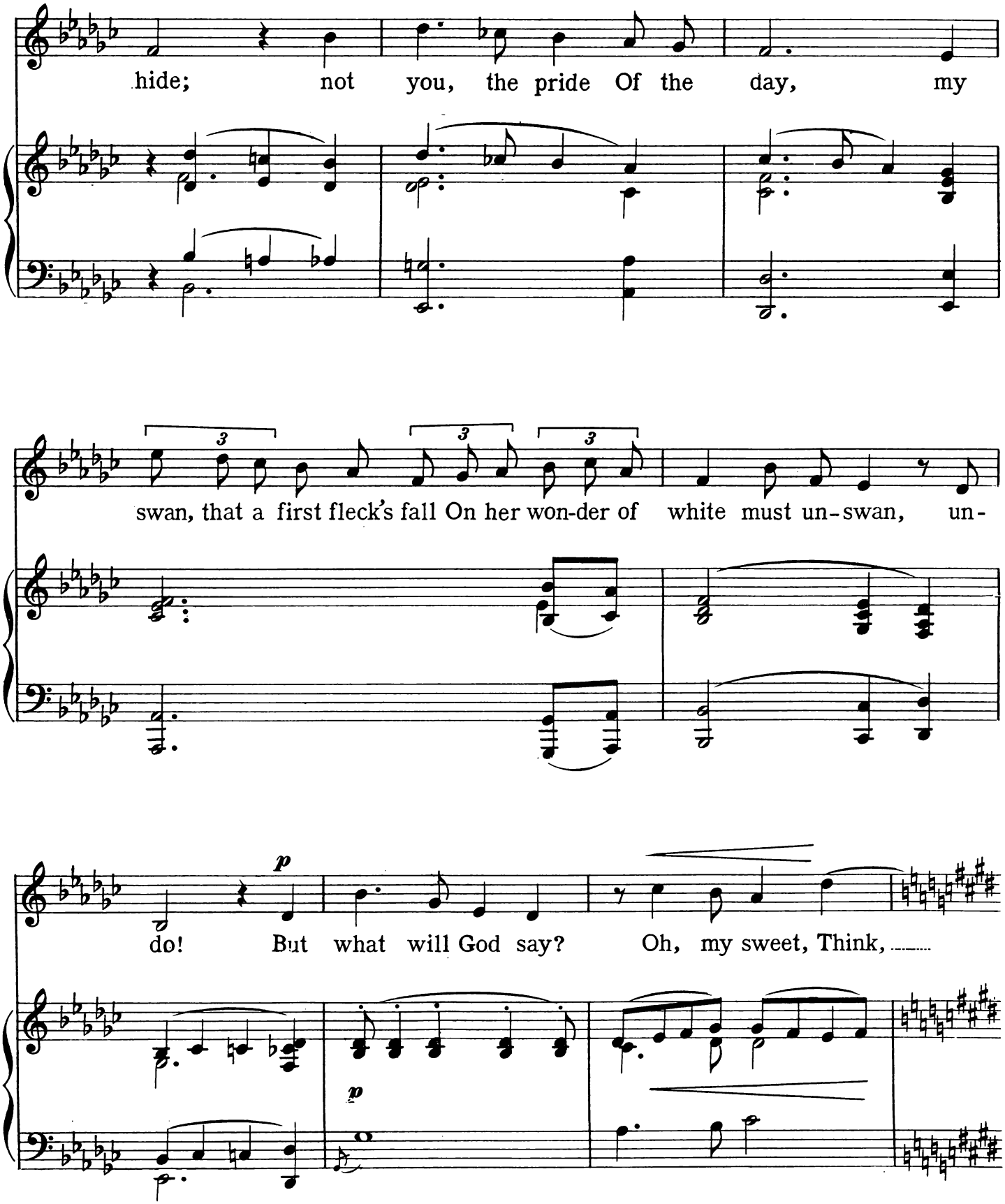
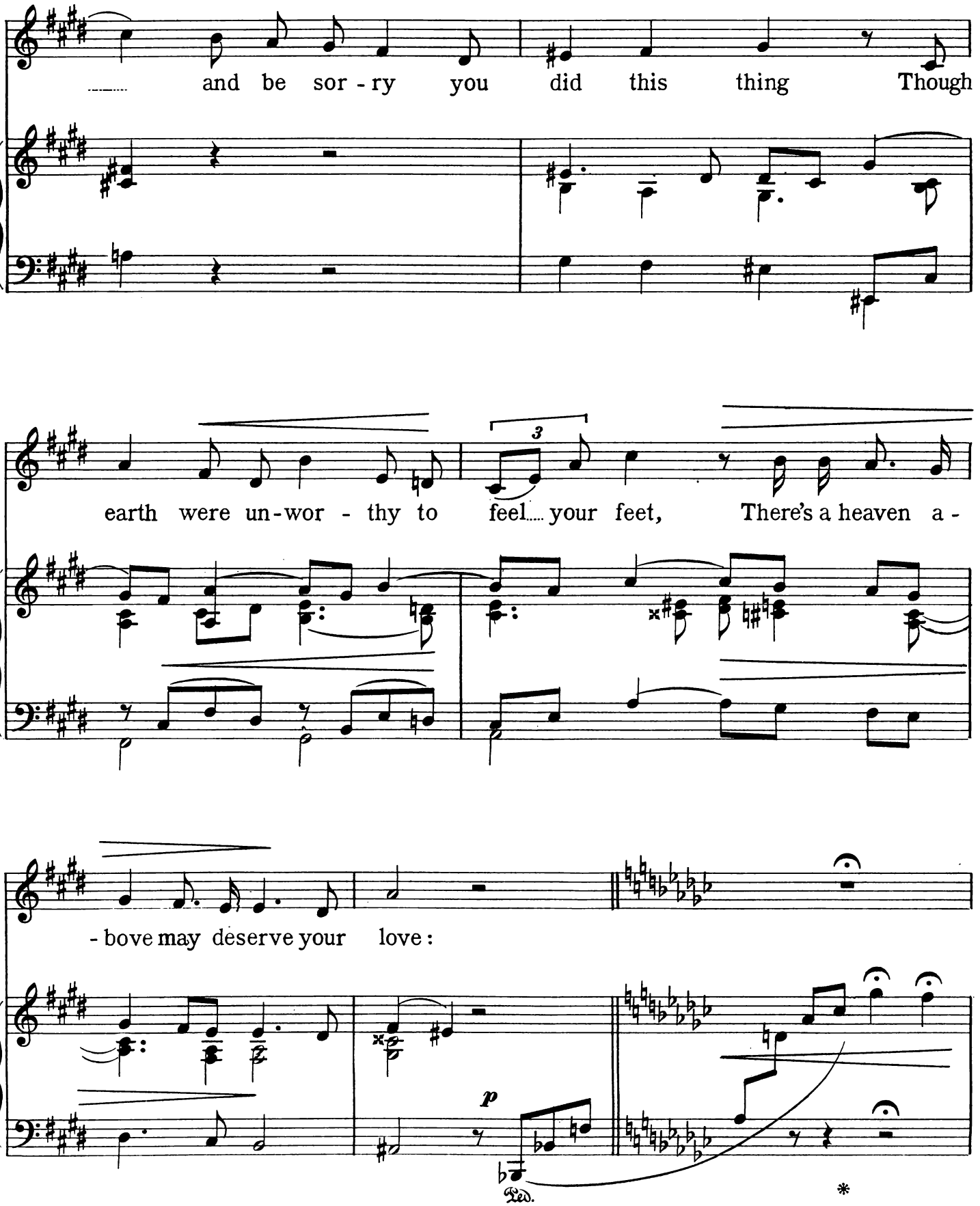
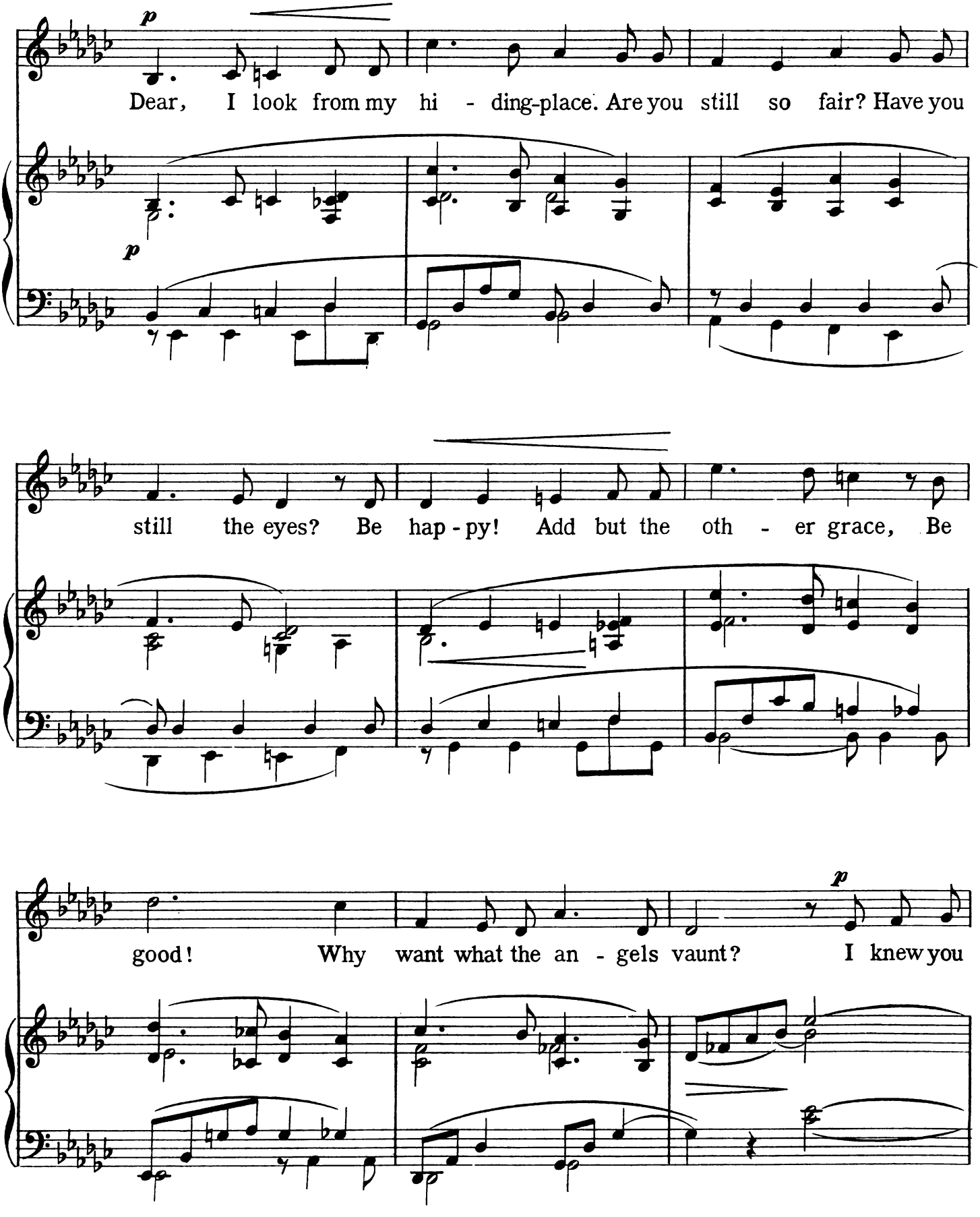
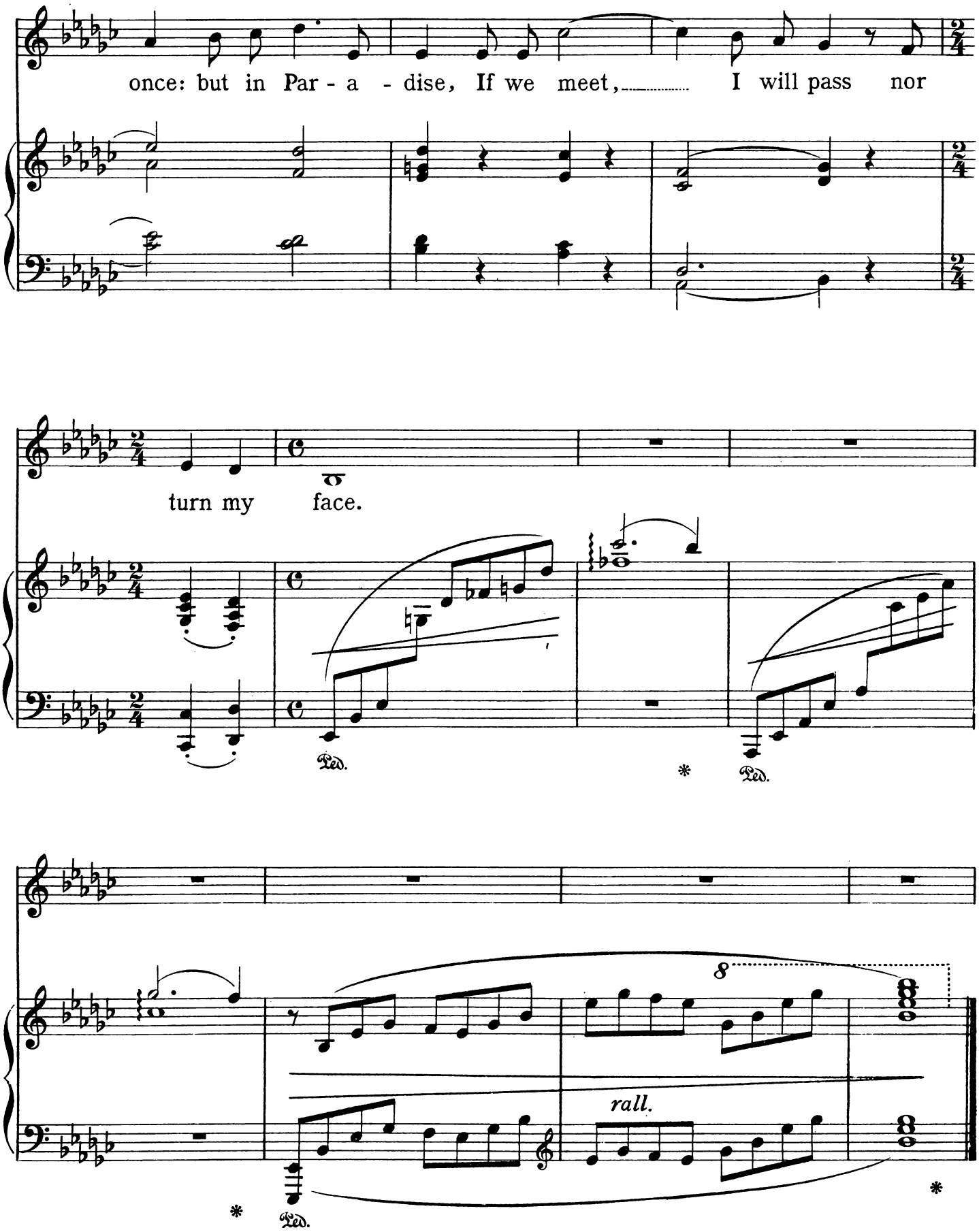

hide; not you, the pride Of the day, my
swan, that a first fleck's fall On her won-der of white must un-swan, un-
do! But what will God say? Oh, my sweet, Think,
p
p


and be sor - ry you did this thing Though
earth were un-wor - thy to feel your feet, There's a heaven a -
- bove may deserve your love:
p
Ped.
*

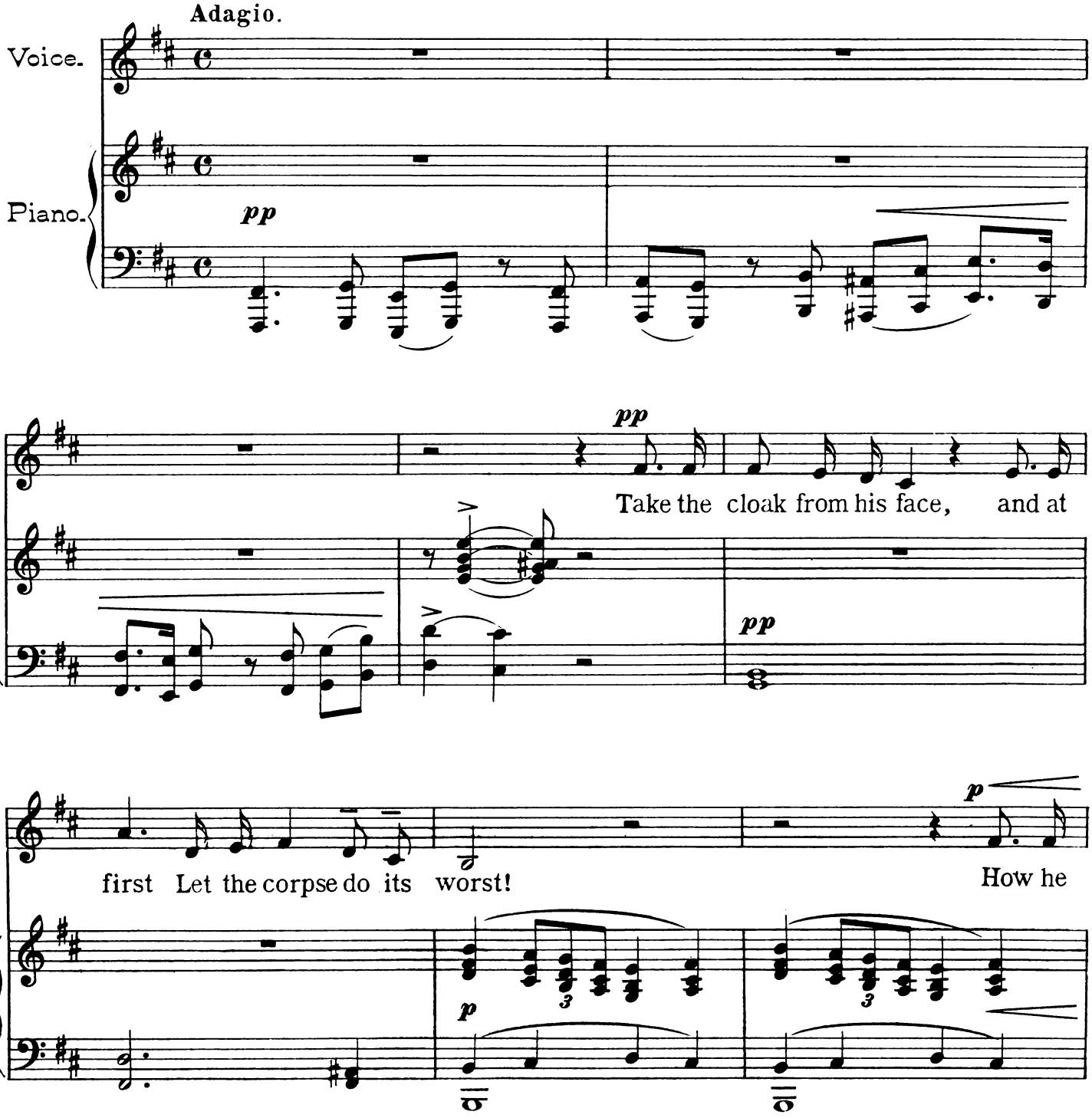

p
Dear, I look from my hi - ding-place. Are you still so fair? Have you
still the eyes? Be hap - py! Add but the oth - er grace, Be
good! Why want what the an - gels vaunt? I knew you


once: but in Par - a - dise, If we meet, I will pass nor
turn my face.
Ped.
*
Ped.
8
rall.
*
Ped.
*

VI
After.

Words by
ROBERT BROWNING.

Music by
ARTHUR SOMERVELL.



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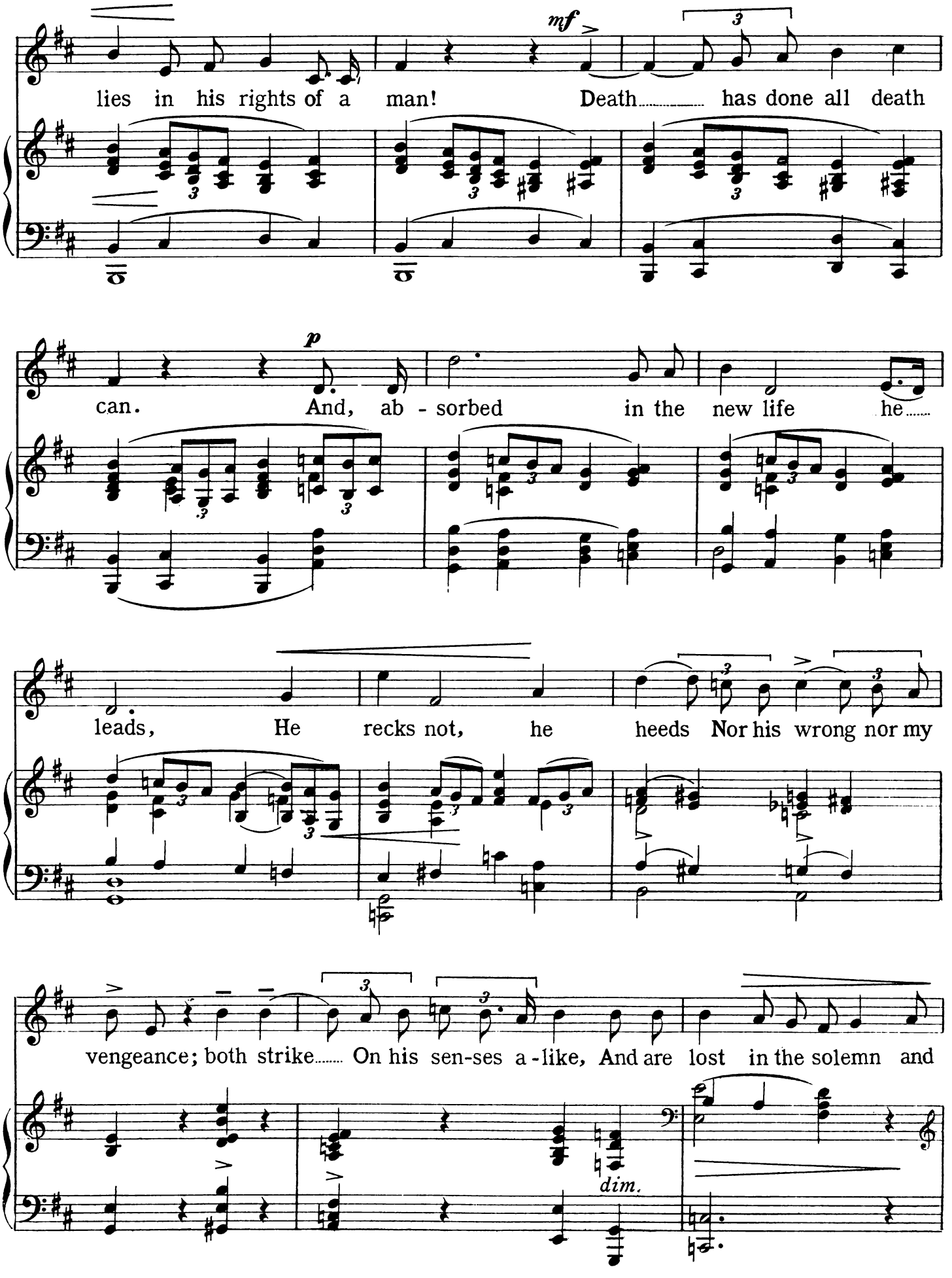
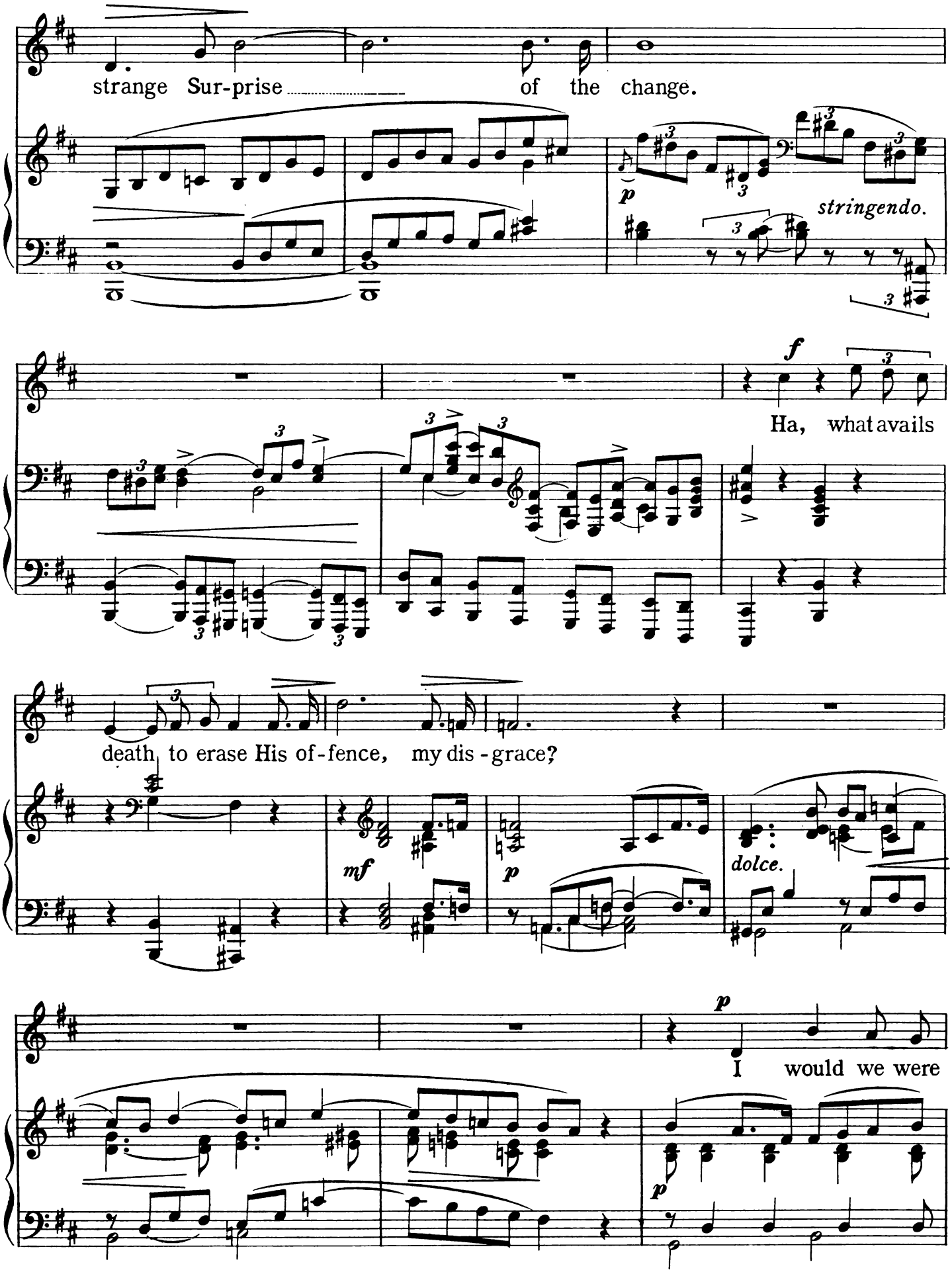
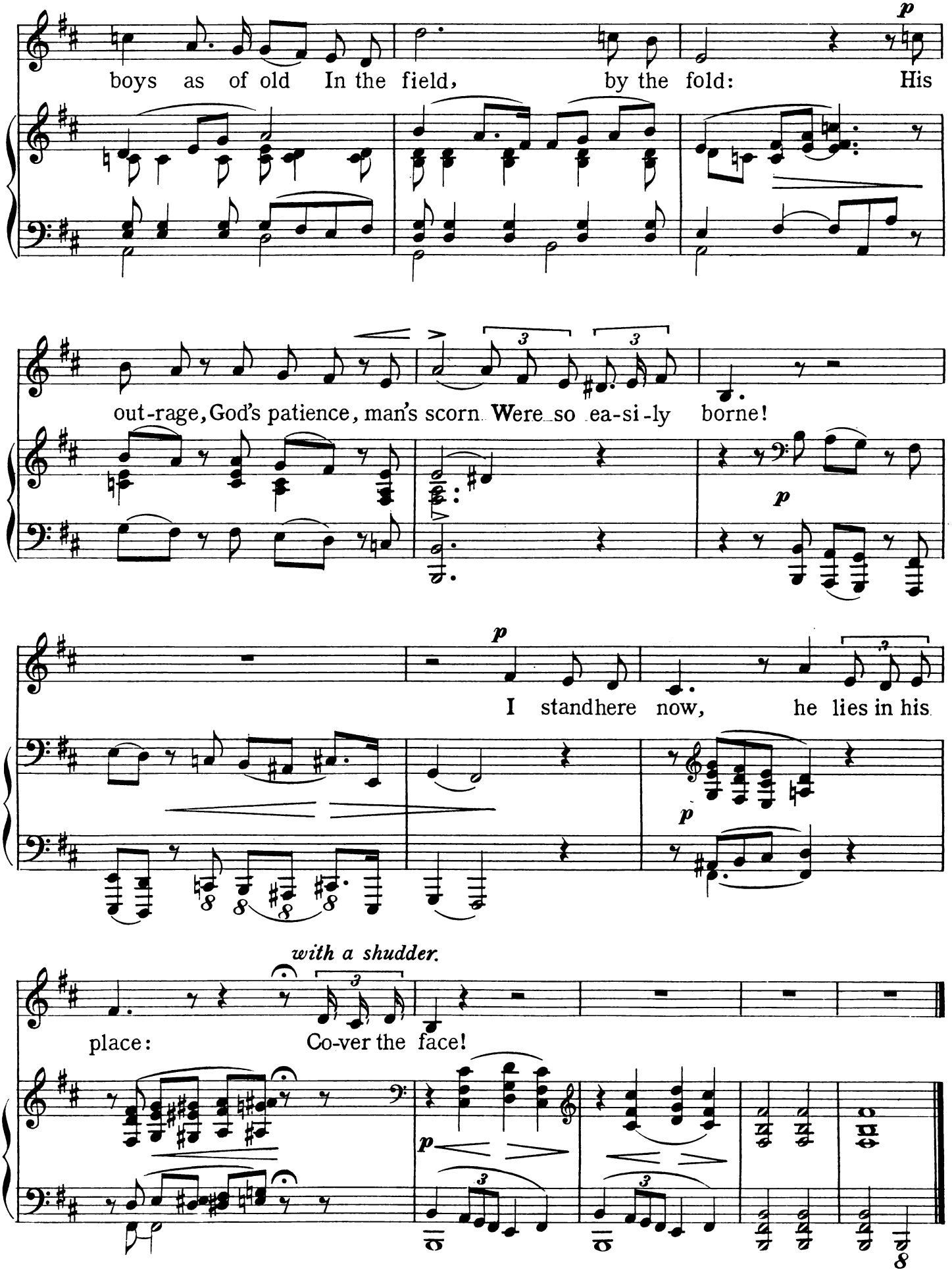

lies in his rights of a man! Death has done all death
mf
can. And, ab - sorbed in the new life he
p
leads, He recks not, he heeds Nor his wrong nor my
vengeance; both strike On his sen-ses a - like, And are lost in the solemn and
dim.


strange Sur-prise of the change.
p
stringendo.
f
Ha, what avails
death to erase His of-fence, my dis-grace?
mf
p
dolce.
p
I would we were
p

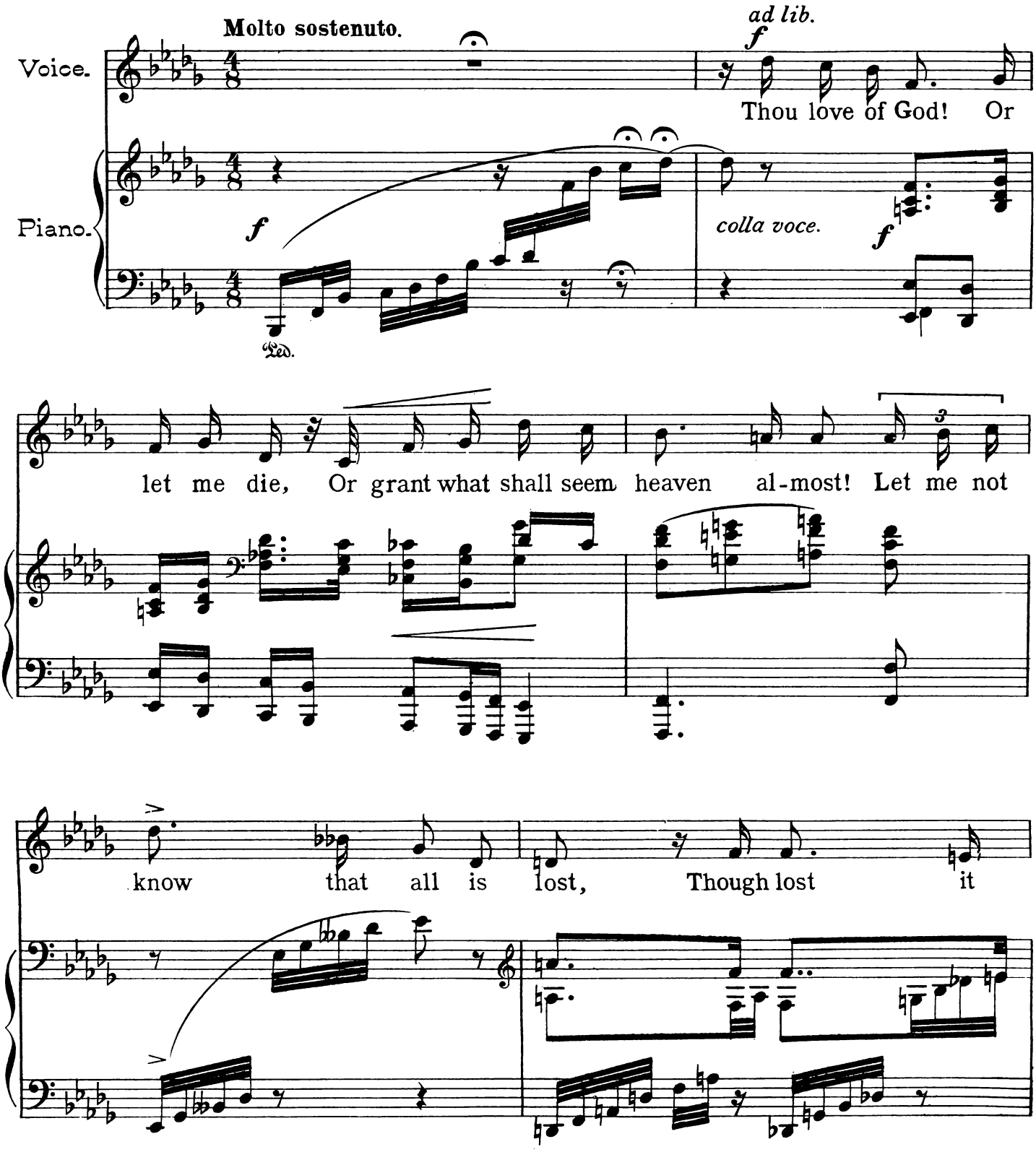

p
boys as of old In the field, by the fold: His
out-rage, God's patience, man's scorn Were so ea-si-ly borne!
p
p
I standhere now, he lies in his
p
with a shudder.
place: Co-ver the face!
p

VII

From "Easter Day."

Words by
ROBERT BROWNING.

Music by
ARTHUR SOMERVELL.



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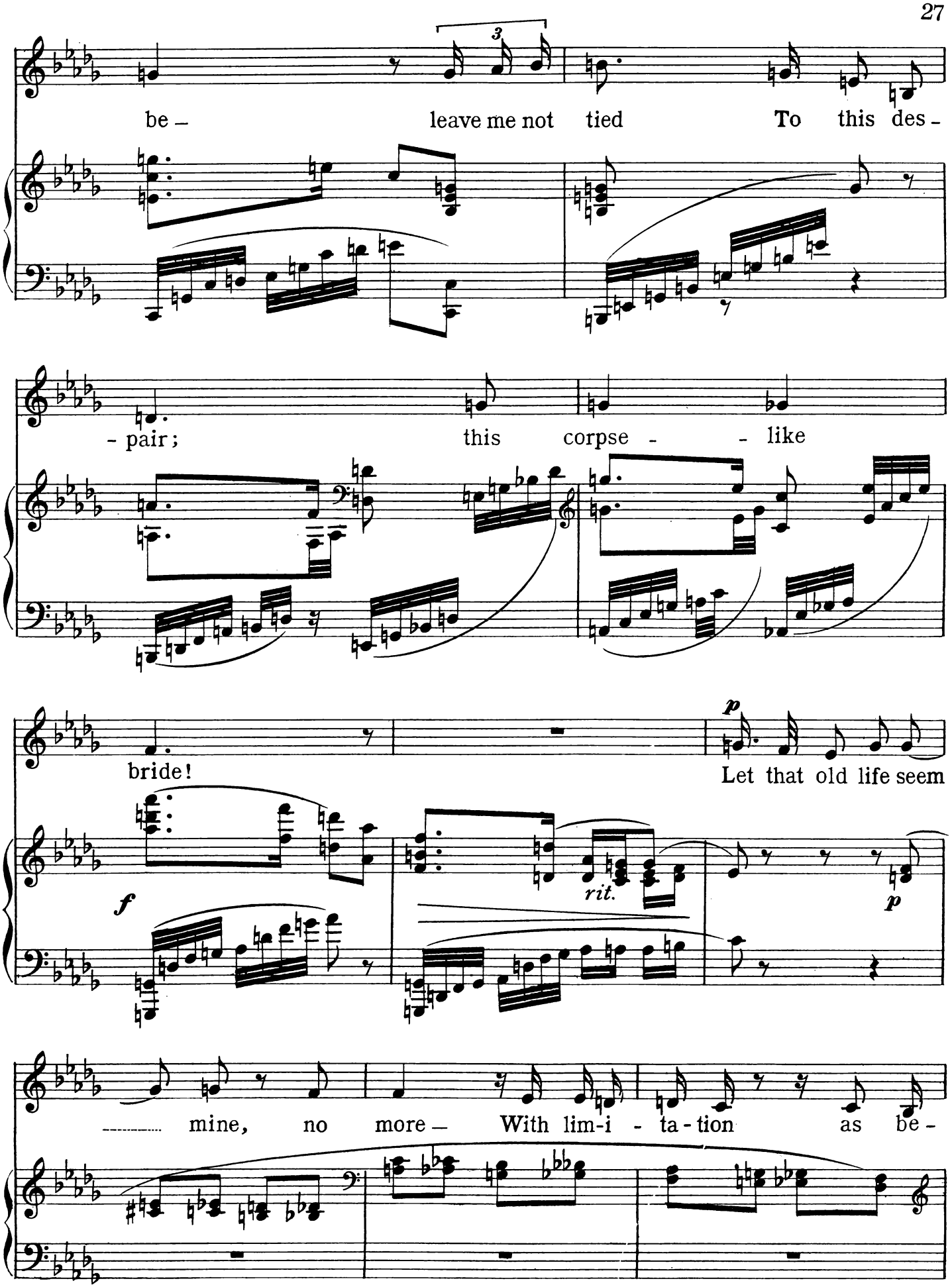
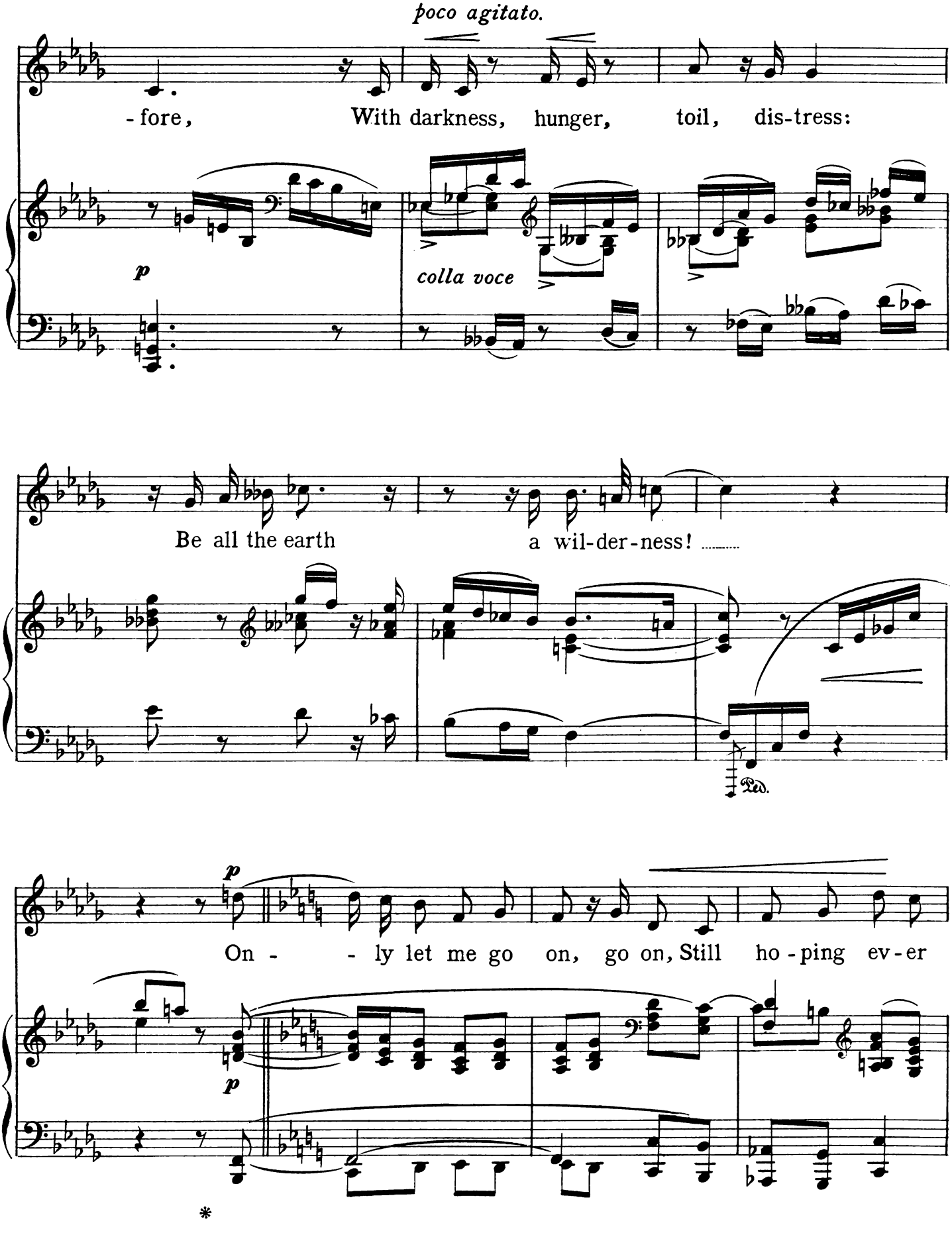
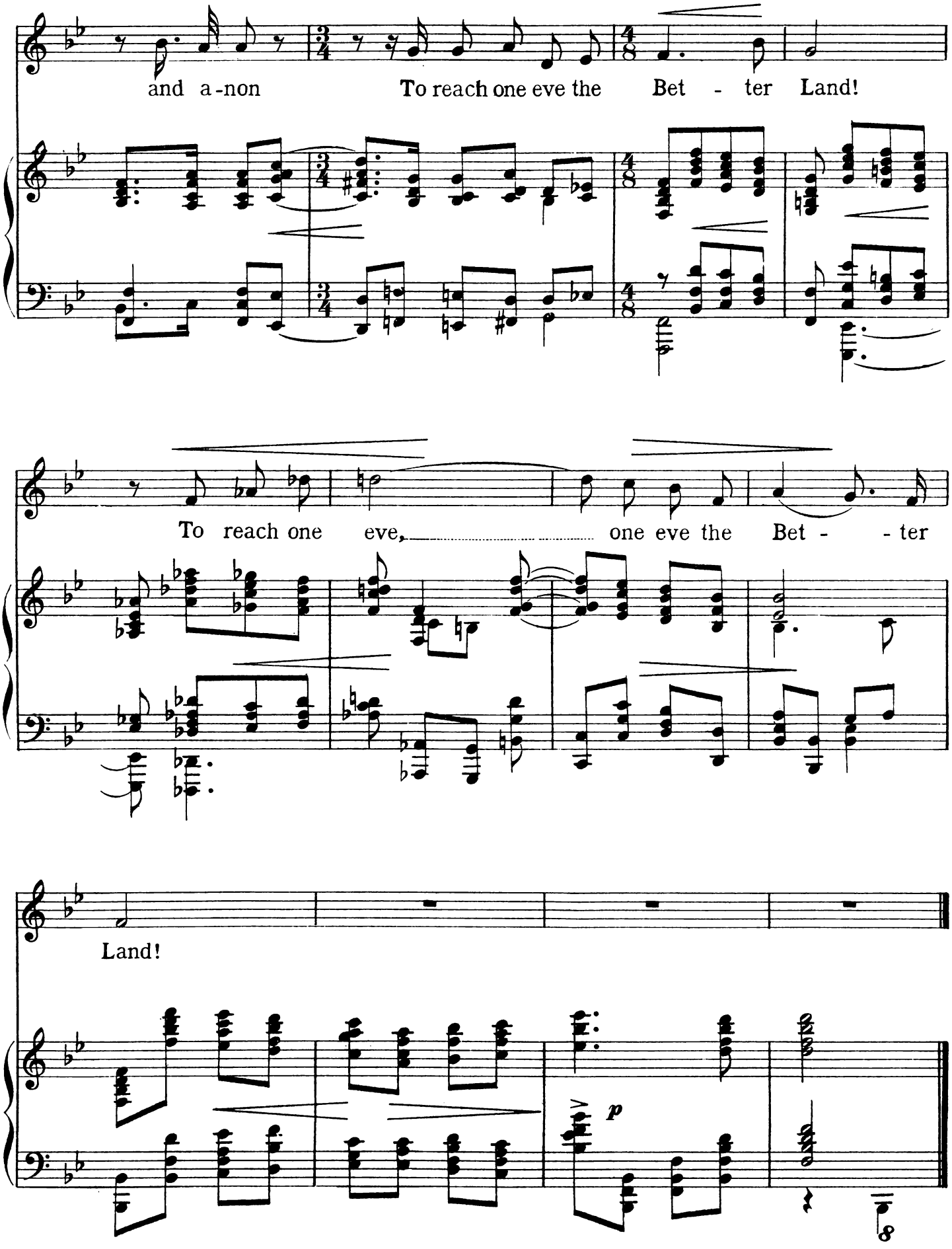


From "Easter Day."


poco agitato.
-fore, With darkness, hunger, toil, dis-tress:
p
colla voce
Be all the earth a wil-der-ness!
Ped.
p
On - - ly let me go on, go on, Still ho-ping ev-er
p
*

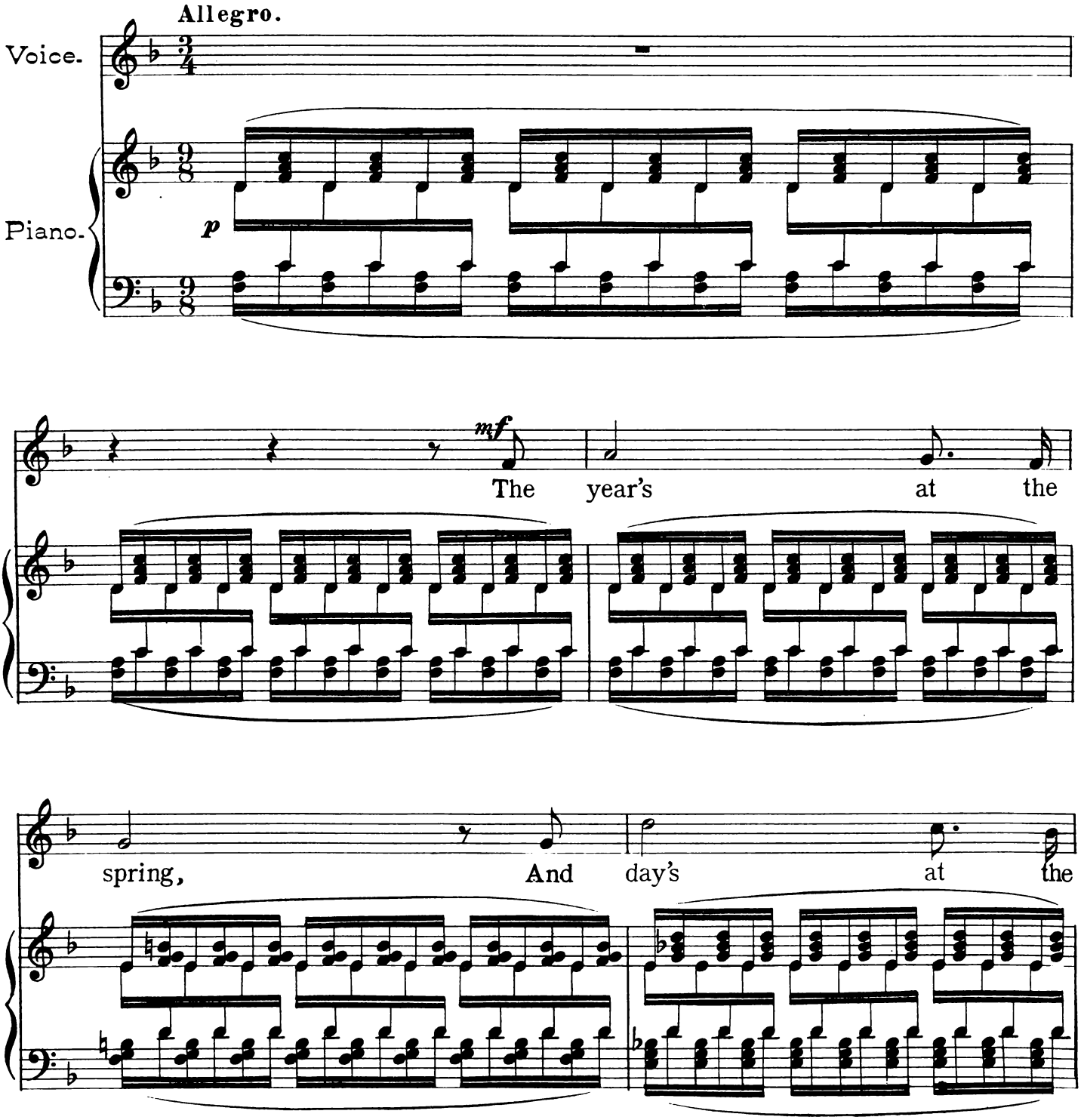

and a-non To reach one eve the Bet - ter Land!
To reach one eve, one eve the Bet - - ter
Land!
p

VIII

The Year's at the Spring.

Words by
ROBERT BROWNING

Music by
ARTHUR SOMERVELL



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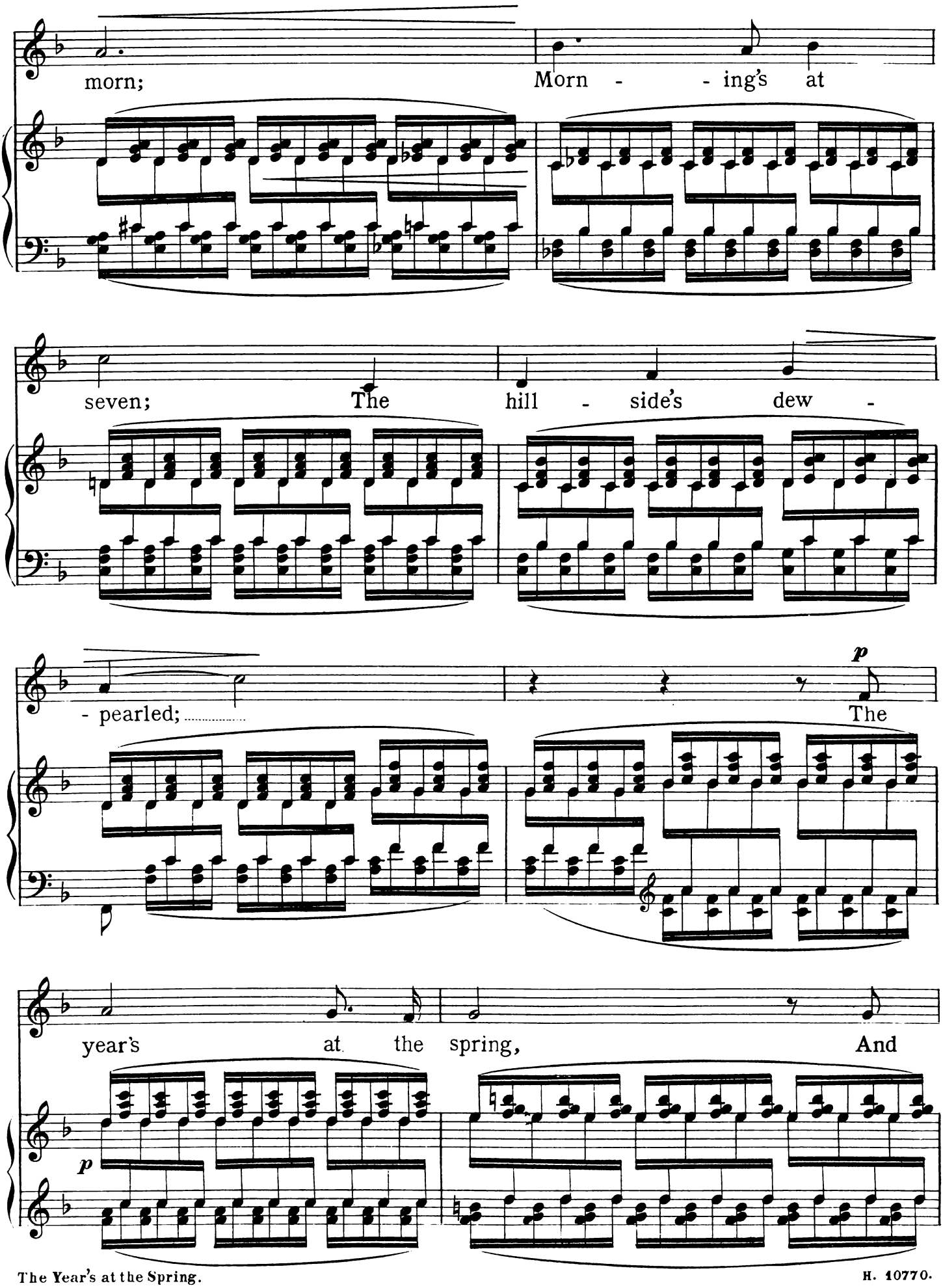
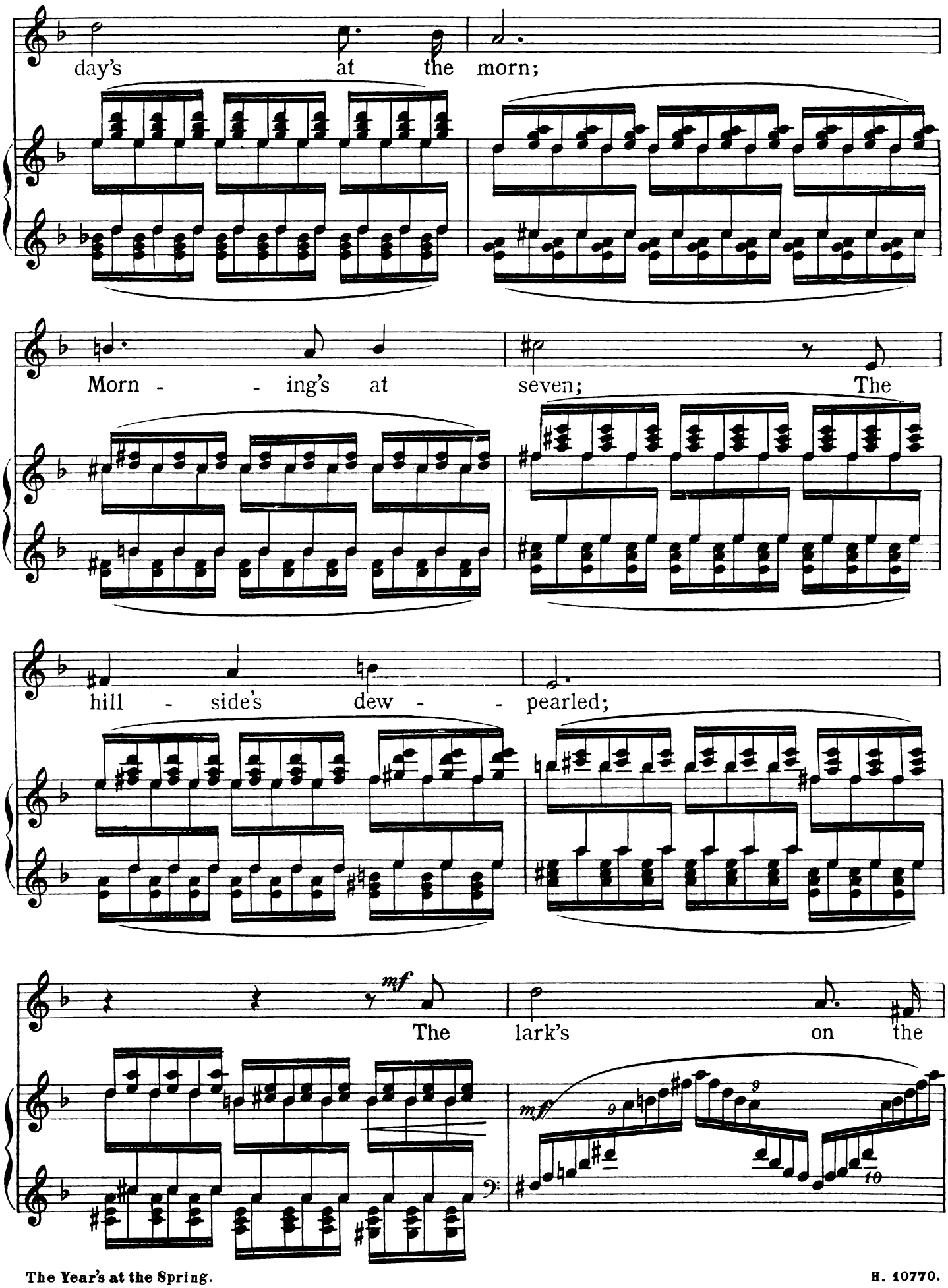
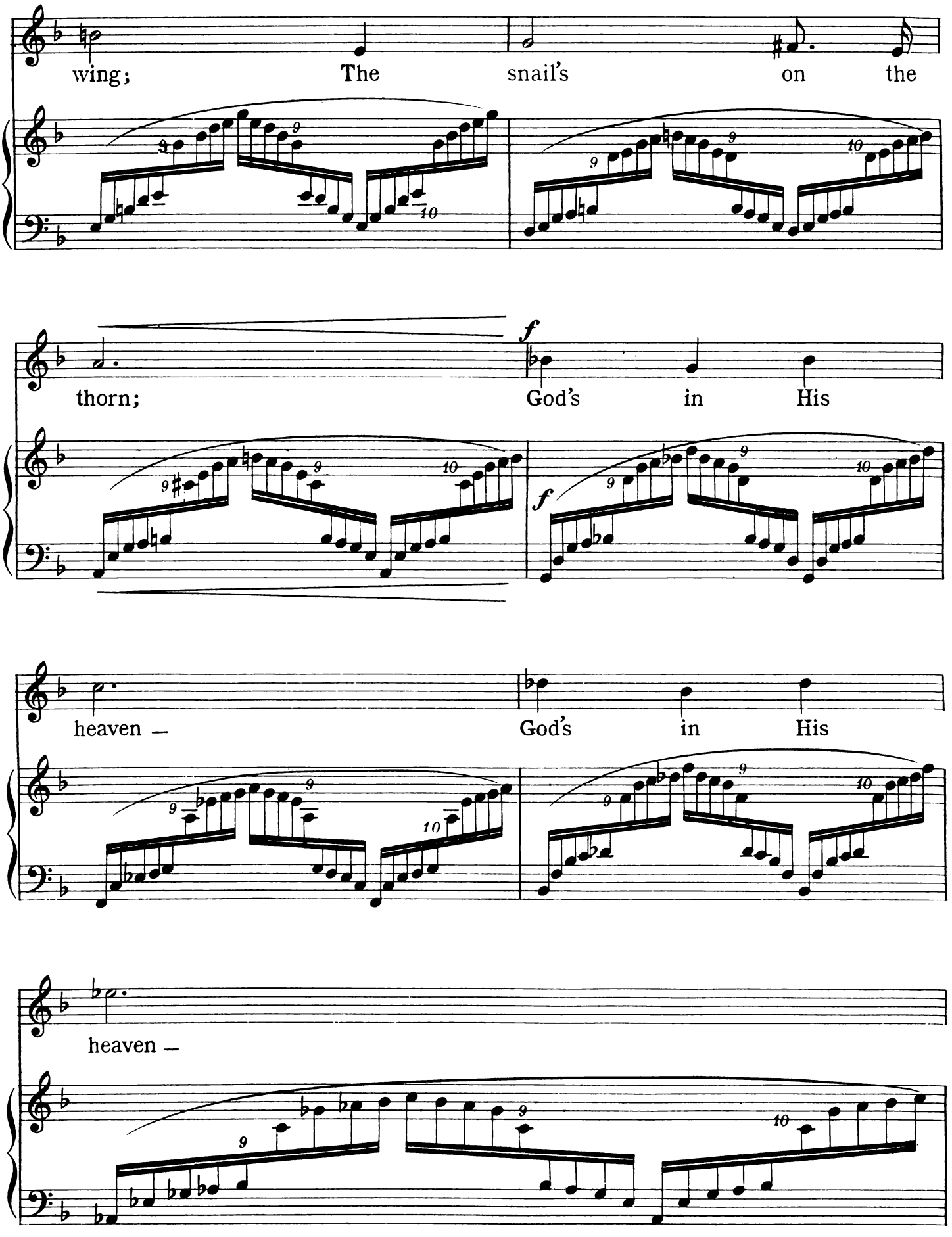
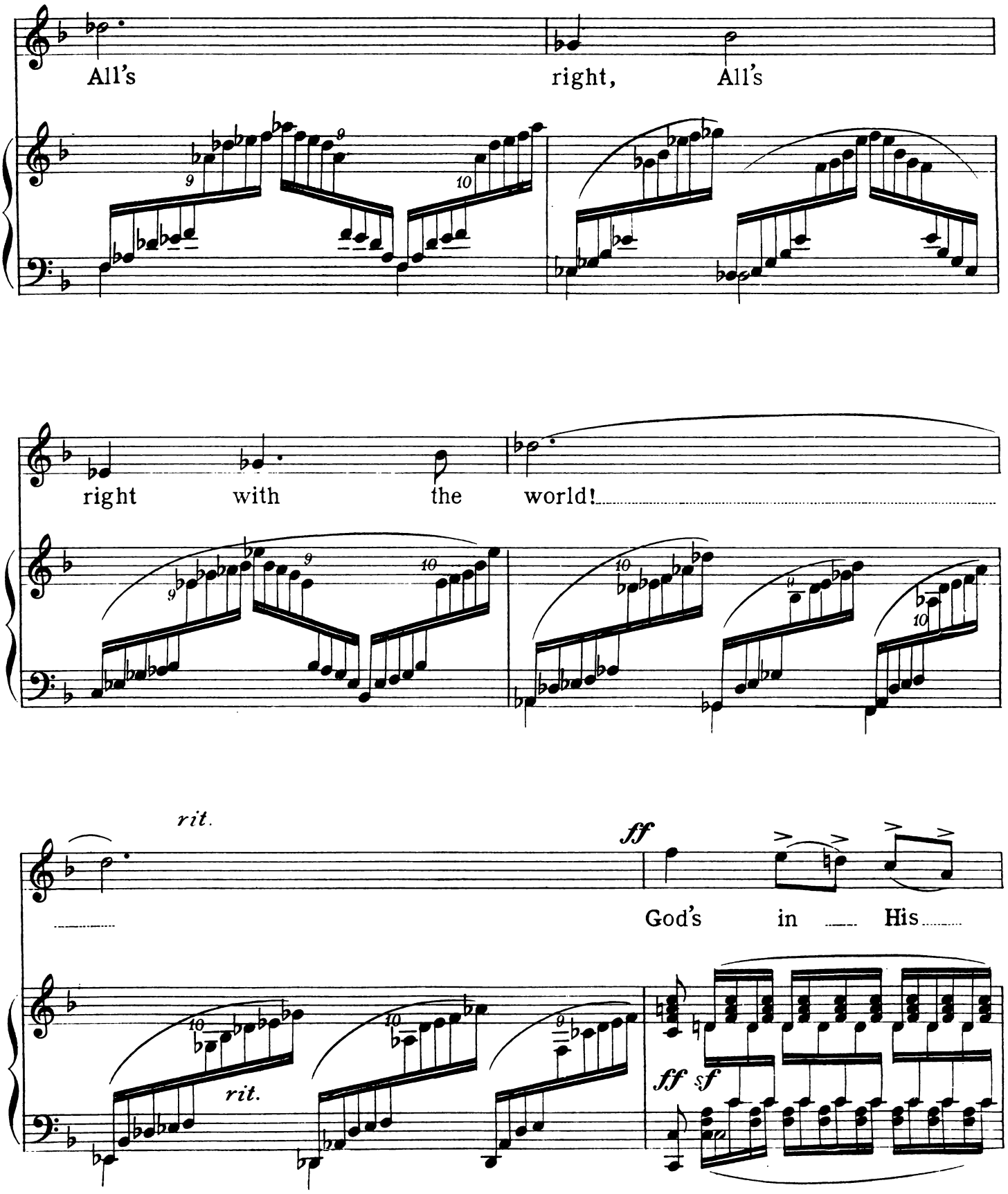
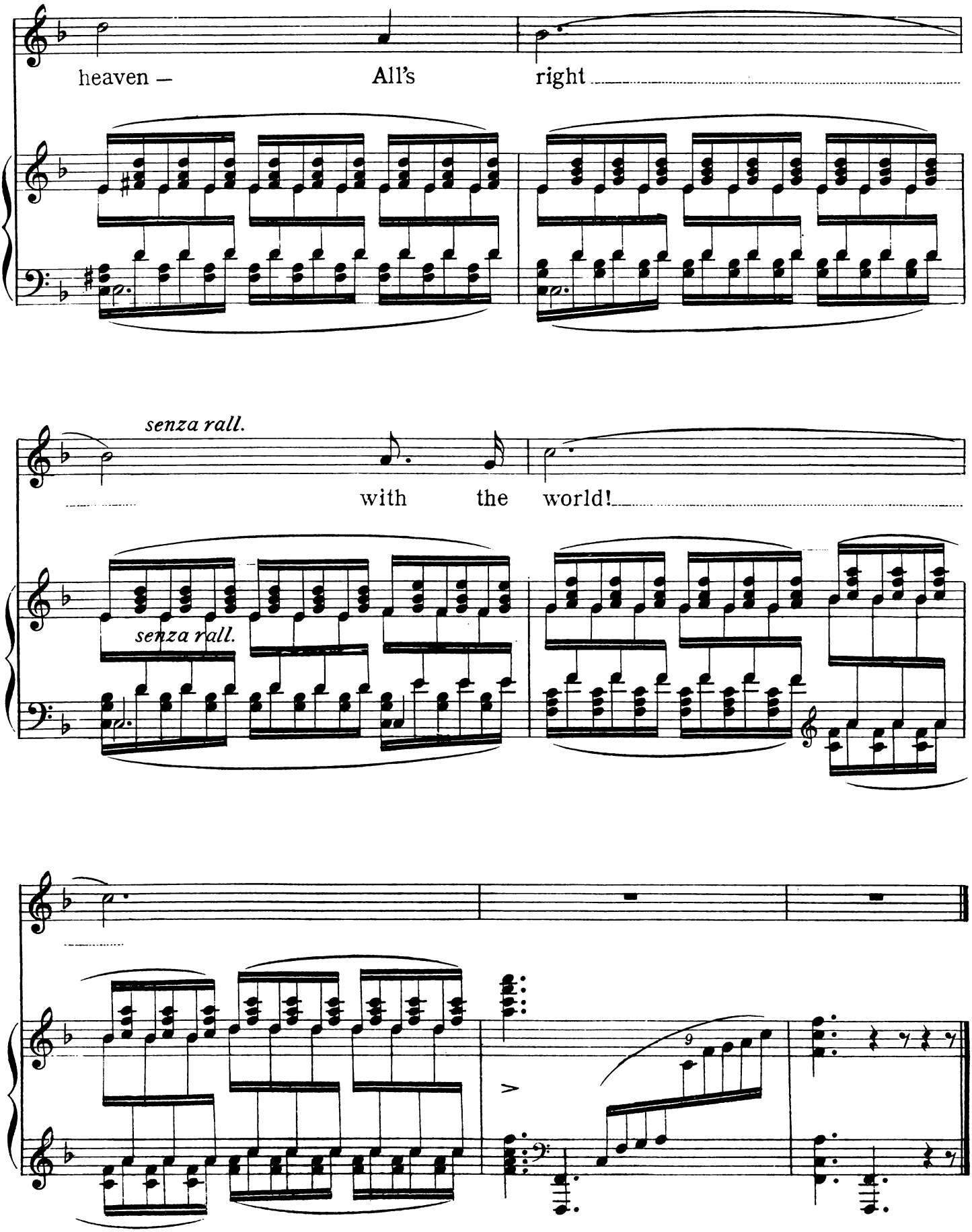

morn;
Morn - - ing's at
seven;
The
hill - side's dew -
- pearled;
p
The
year's
at the spring,
And
p


day's at the morn;
Morn - - ing's at seven; The
hill - side's dew - - pearled;
mf
The lark's on the
mff


wing; The snail's on the
thorn; God's in His
heaven — God's in His
heaven —


All's right, All's
right with the world!
rit.
ff
God's in His
rit.
ff sf


heaven — All's right
senza rall.
with the world!
senza rall.
9

ARTHUR SOMERVELL'S COMPOSITIONS.

SONG ALBUMS.

CYCLE OF SONGS FROM TENNYSON'S "MAUD."

I hate the dreadful Hollow
A Voice by the Cedar Tree
She came to the Village Church
O let the solid Ground
Birds in the High Hall Garden
Go not, happy Day

I have led her Home
Come into the Garden Maud
The fault was mine
Dead, long dead
O that 'twere possible
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Evening Shadows	D & E
Go not, happy day	F
In Summer-time on Bredon	C
In the Early dawning... ...	E minor
Kingdom by the Sea (A) ...	D & E
Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry now	E
Love unto love	E♭
Maud has a garden	B♭
Mine own Country	E, F, & G
On a Summer morning ...	B♭, C, & D
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Spring is here	G, B♭, & C
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