The Lament for Beowulf

From the Anglo-Saxon Epic

Translation by
WILLIAM MORRIS and A.J. WYATT

For Chorus of Mixed Voices and Orchestra

HOWARD HANSON

Opus 25

C. C. BIRCHARD & CO.
BOSTON

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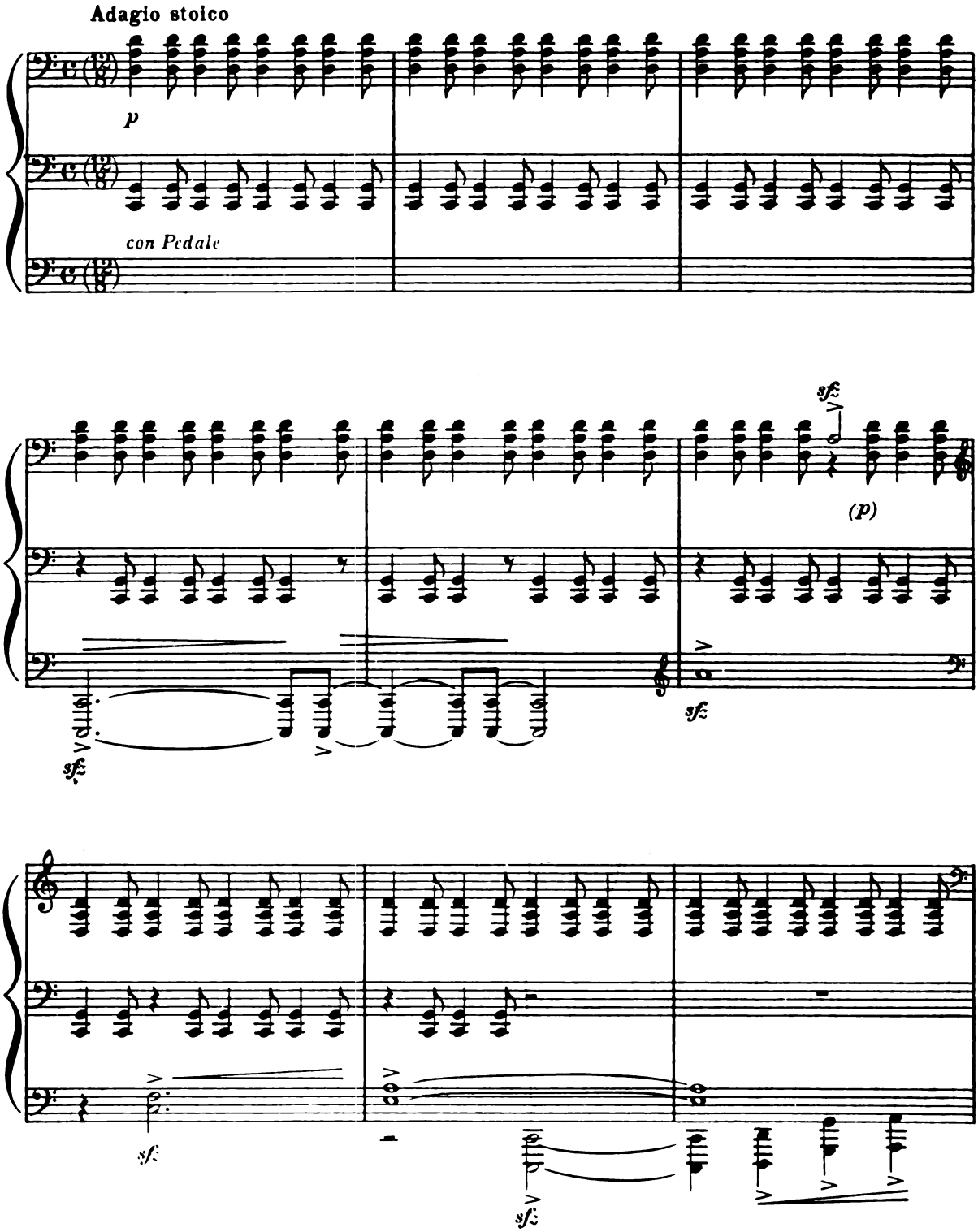
To the Leeds Festival Chorus this work is sincerely dedicated

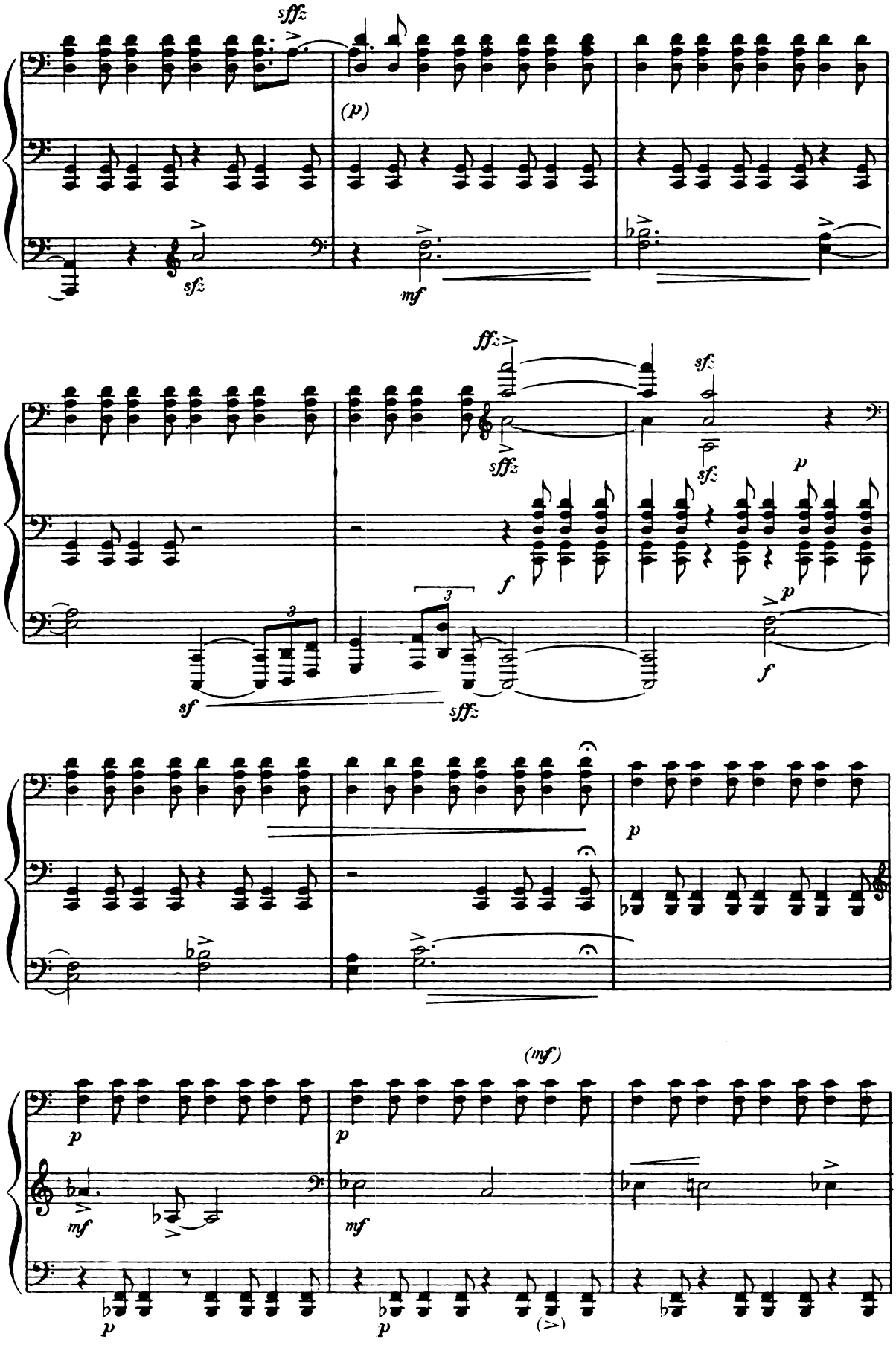
THE LAMENT FOR BEOWULF

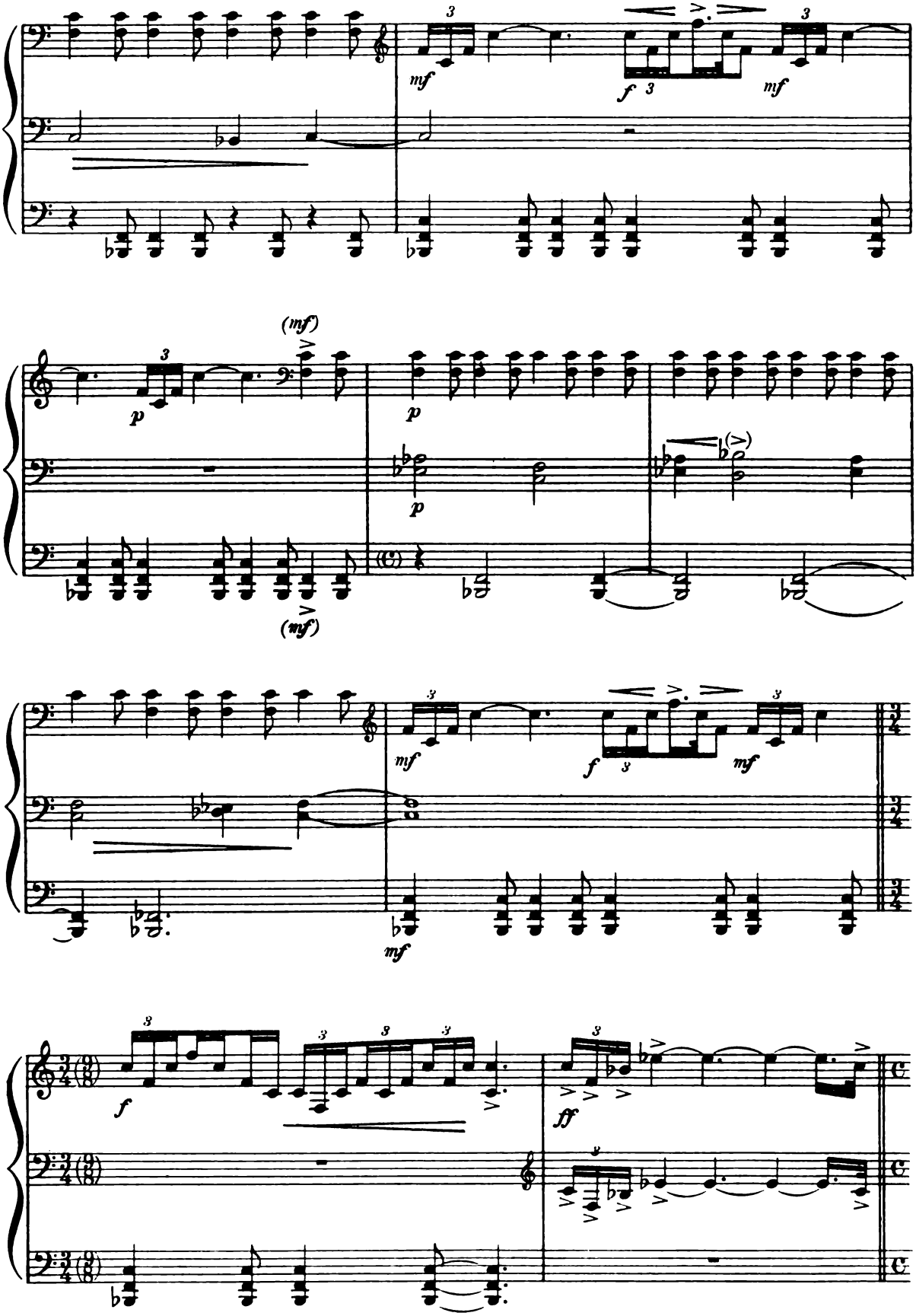
For Chorus and Orchestra

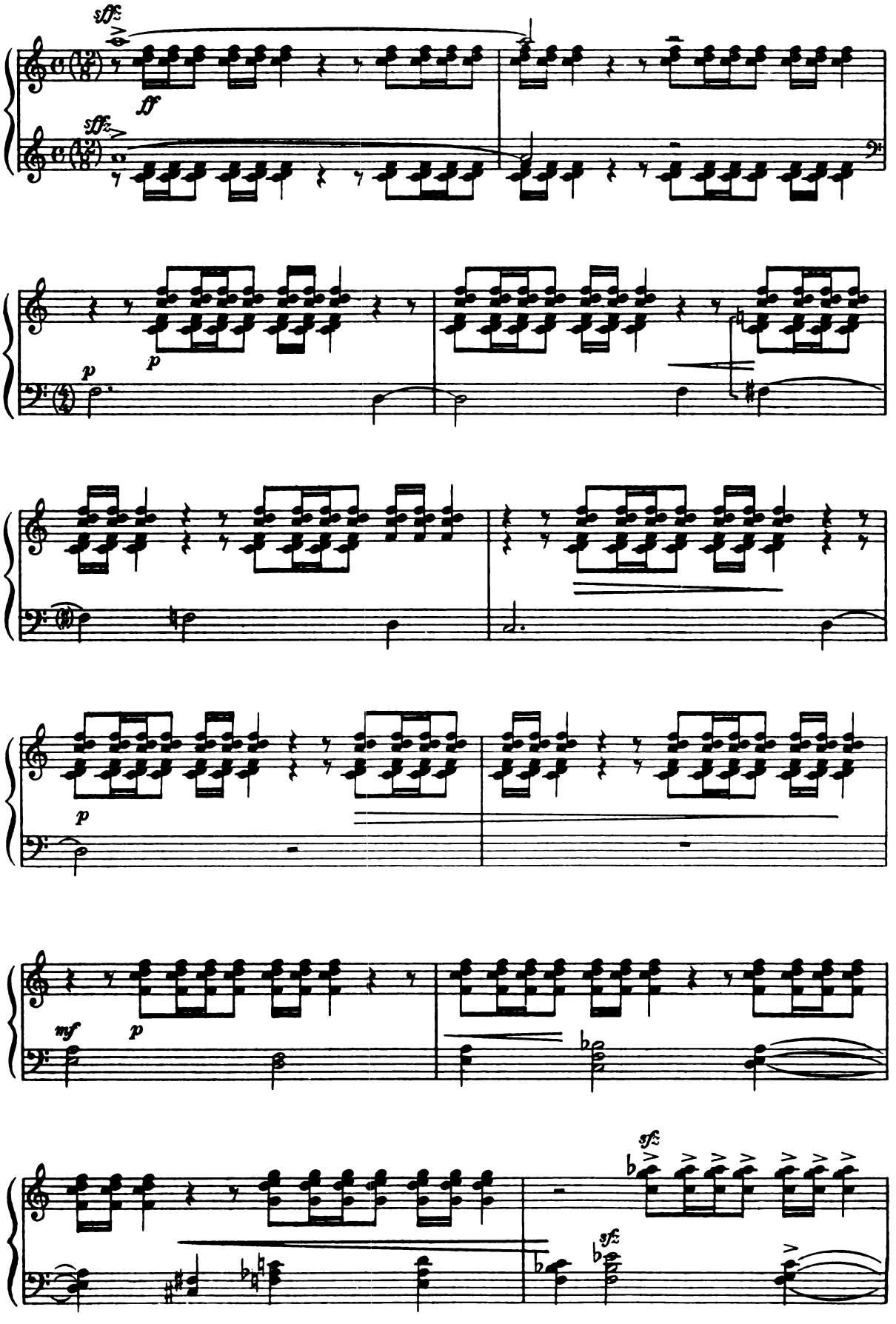
From the translation of
William Morris and A. J. Wyatt

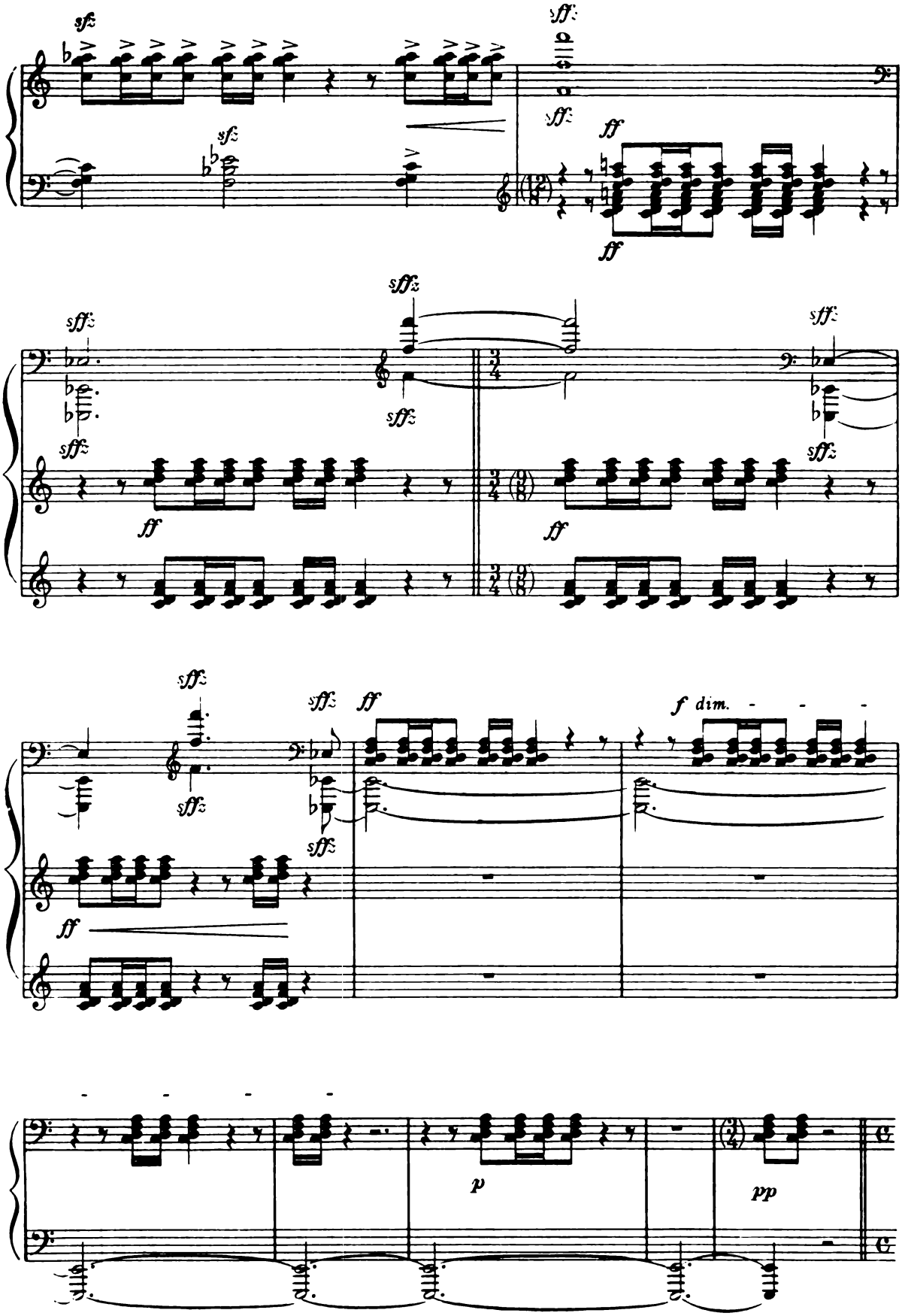
HOWARD HANSON, Opus 25

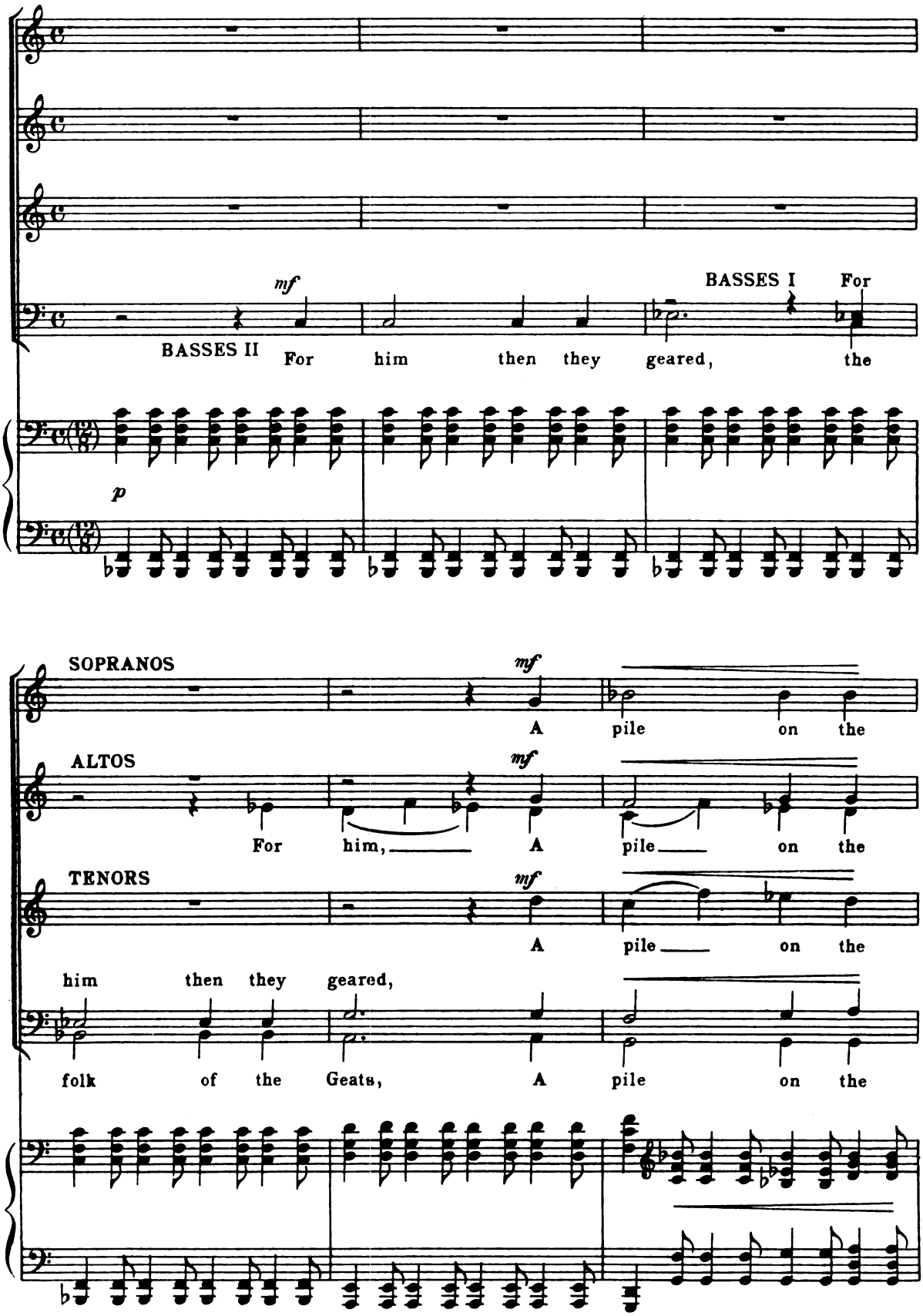


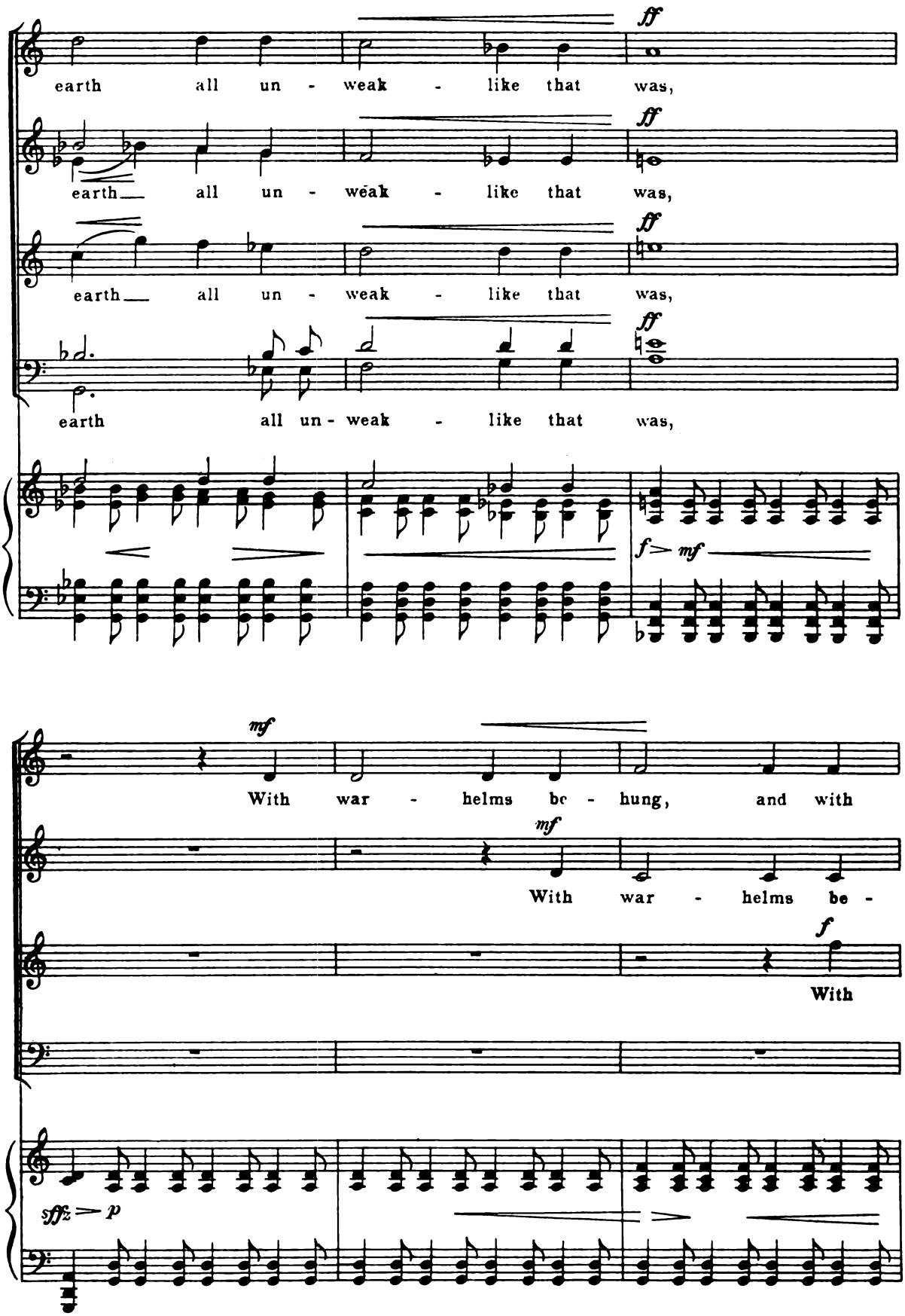

sffz
(p)
sfz
mf
ffz
sffz
sfz
sfz
p
f
3
3
sf
sffz
p
f
p
(mf)
p
mf
p
mf
p
p
(>)

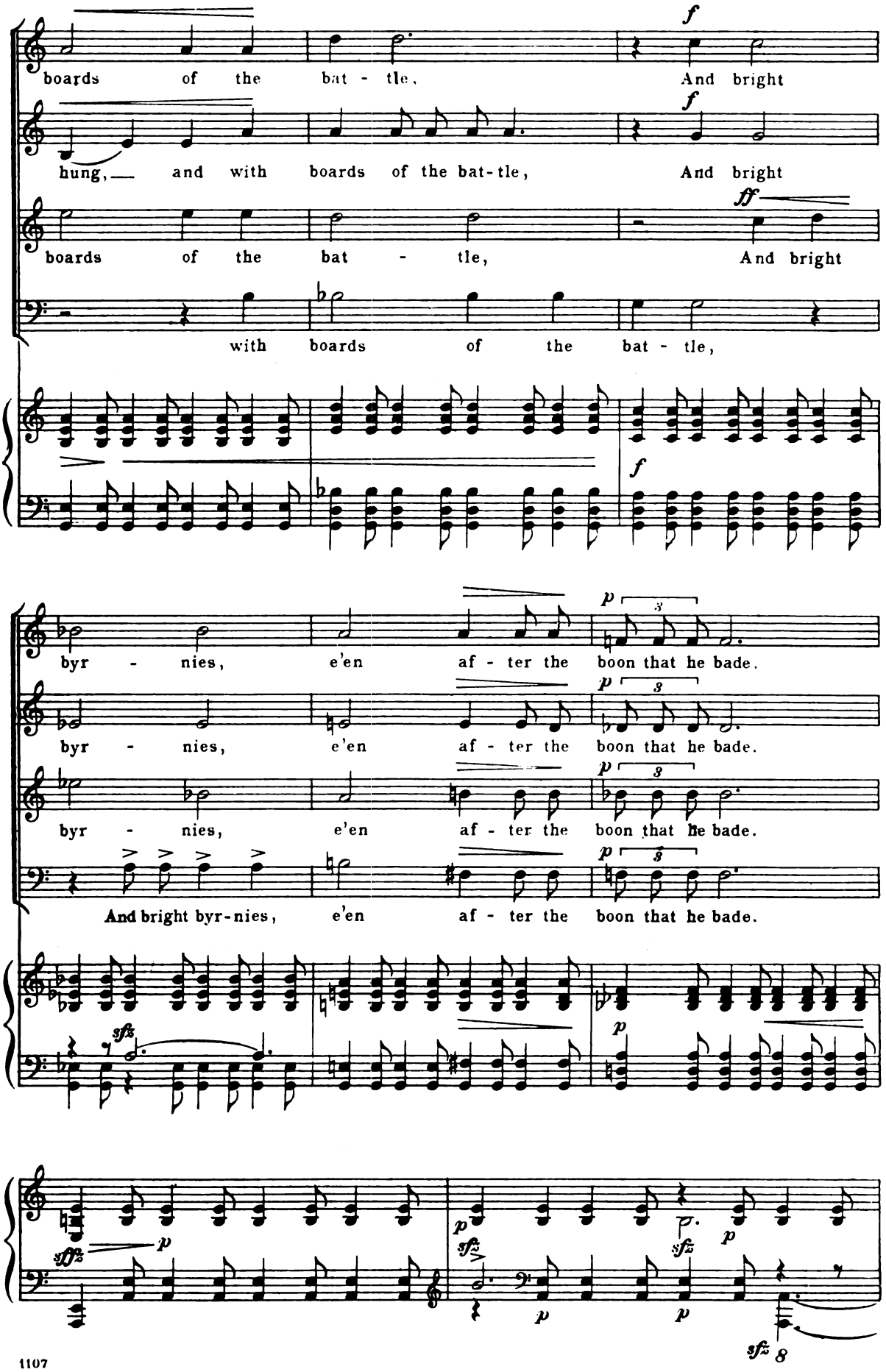

mf
f
mf
(mf)
p
p
p
(mf)
mf
f
mf
mf
f
ff

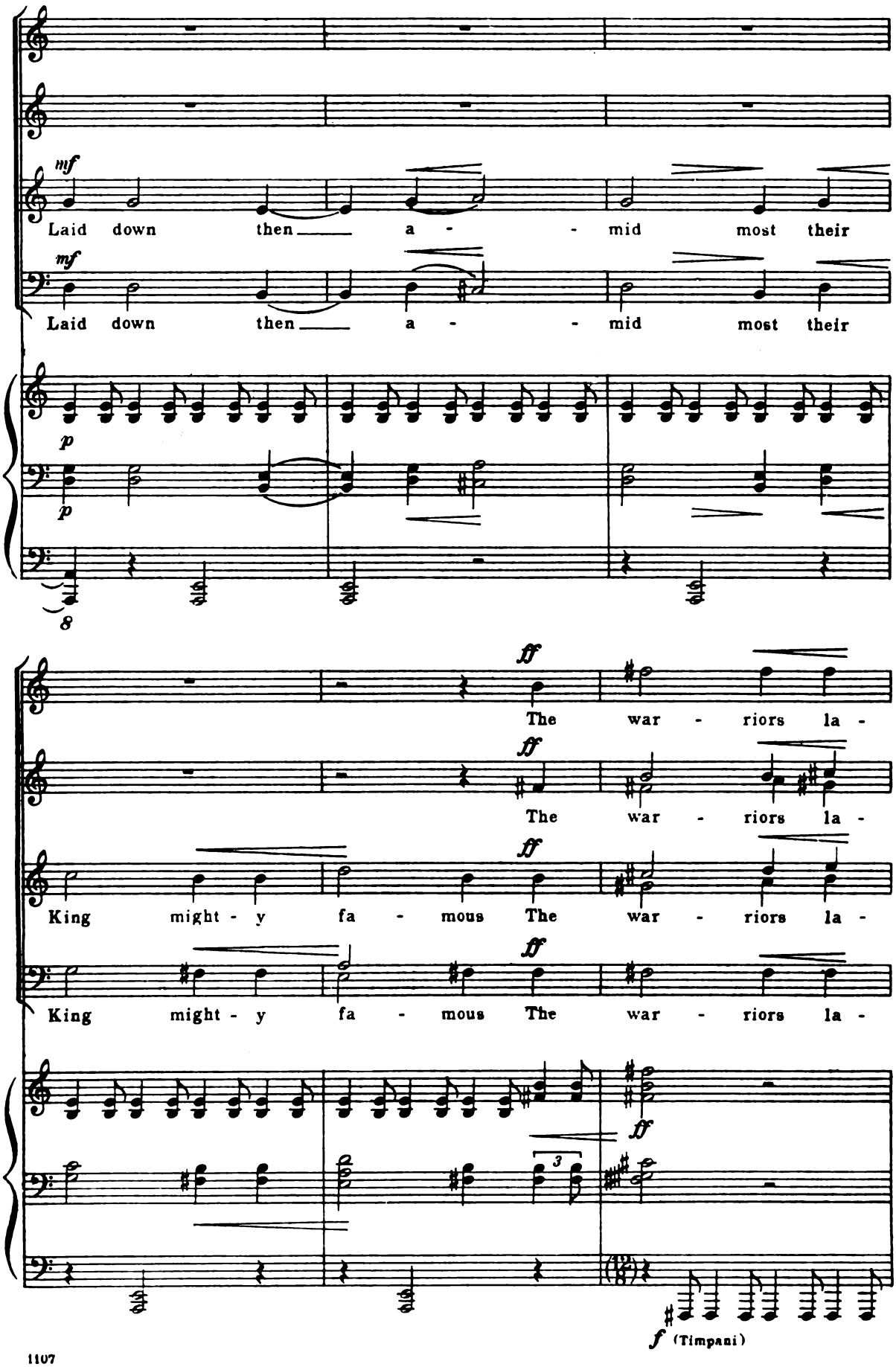

sffz
ff
sffz
p
p
p
mf
p
sfz
sfz

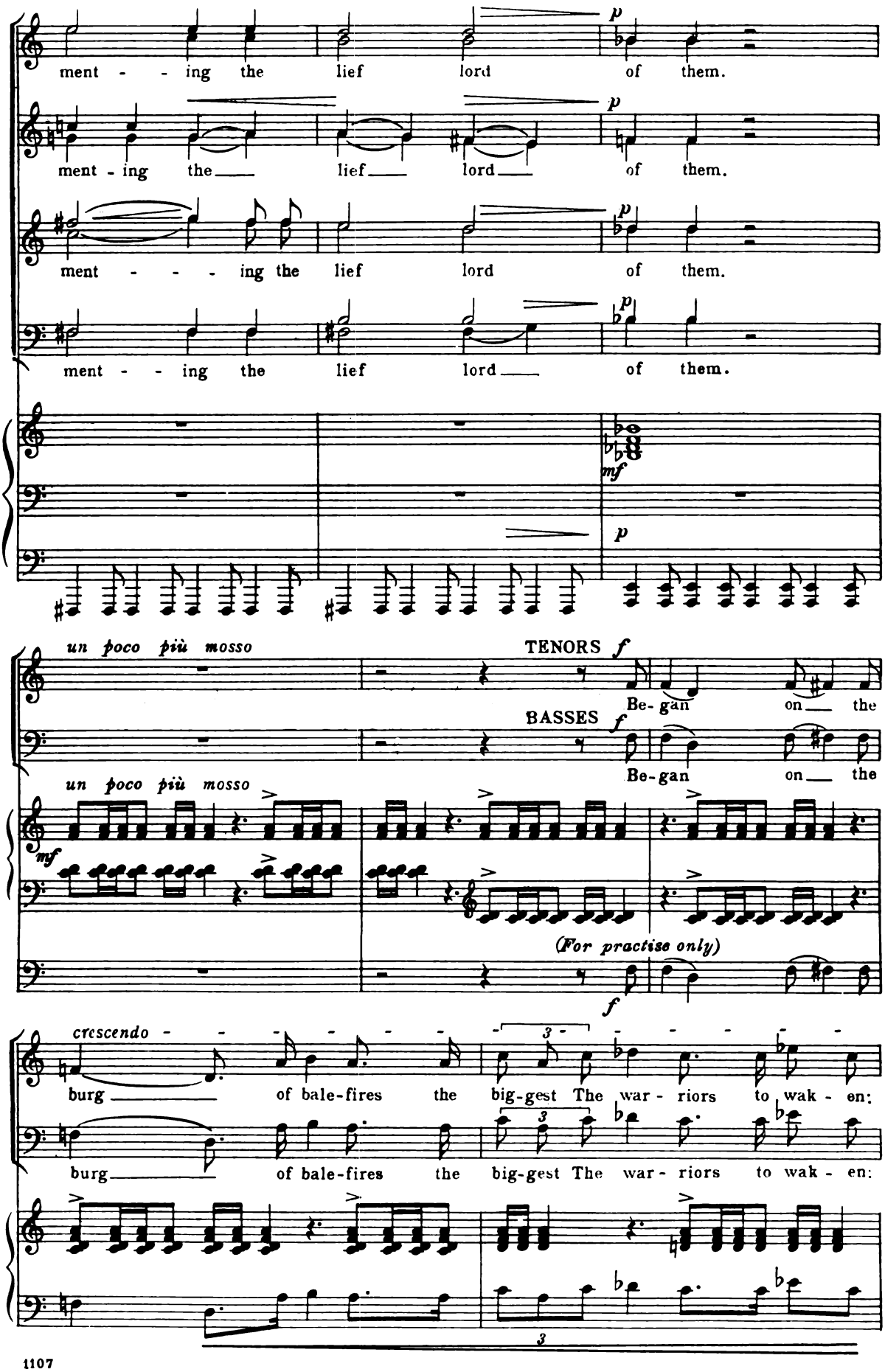

sfz
sffz
ff
f dim.
p
pp

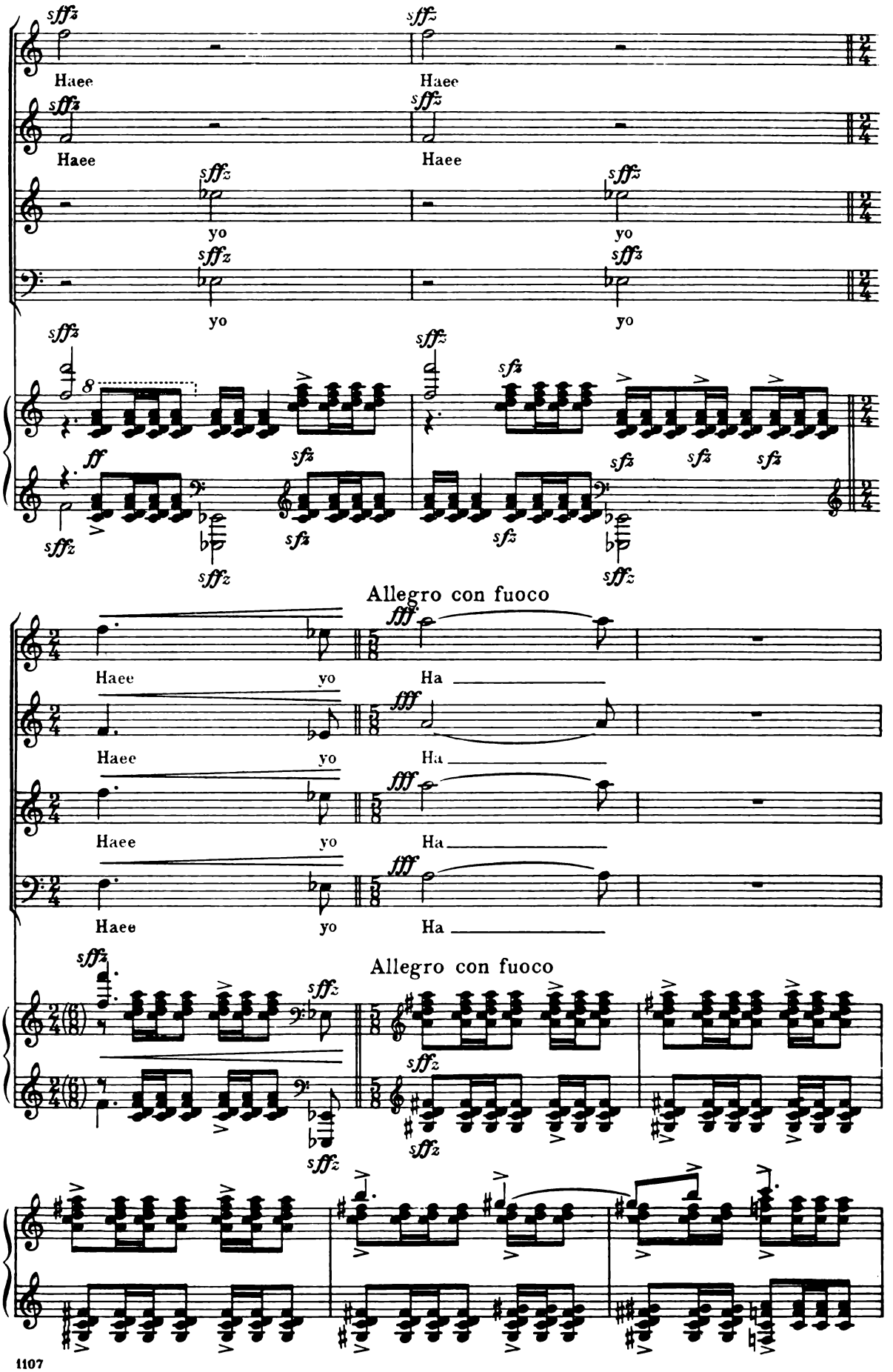

mf
BASSES I For
BASSES II For him then they geared, the
p
SOPRANOS
mf
A pile on the
ALTOS
mf
For him, A pile on the
TENORS
mf
A pile on the
him then they geared,
folk of the Geats, A pile on the

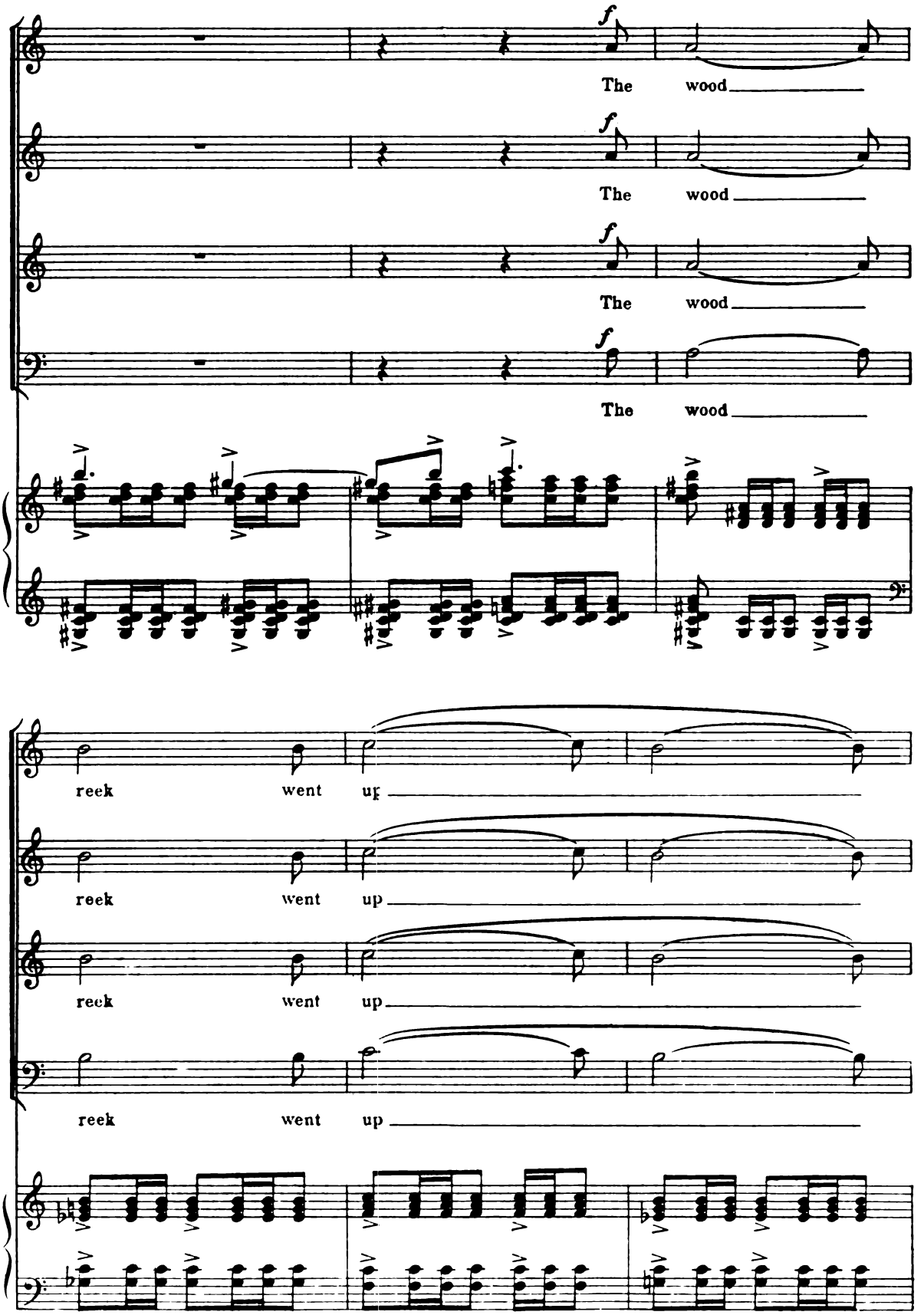

ff
earth all un - weak - like that was,
earth all un - weak - like that was,
earth all un - weak - like that was,
earth all un - weak - like that was,
f mf
mf
With war - helms be - hung, and with
mf
With war - helms be -
f
With
sffz p

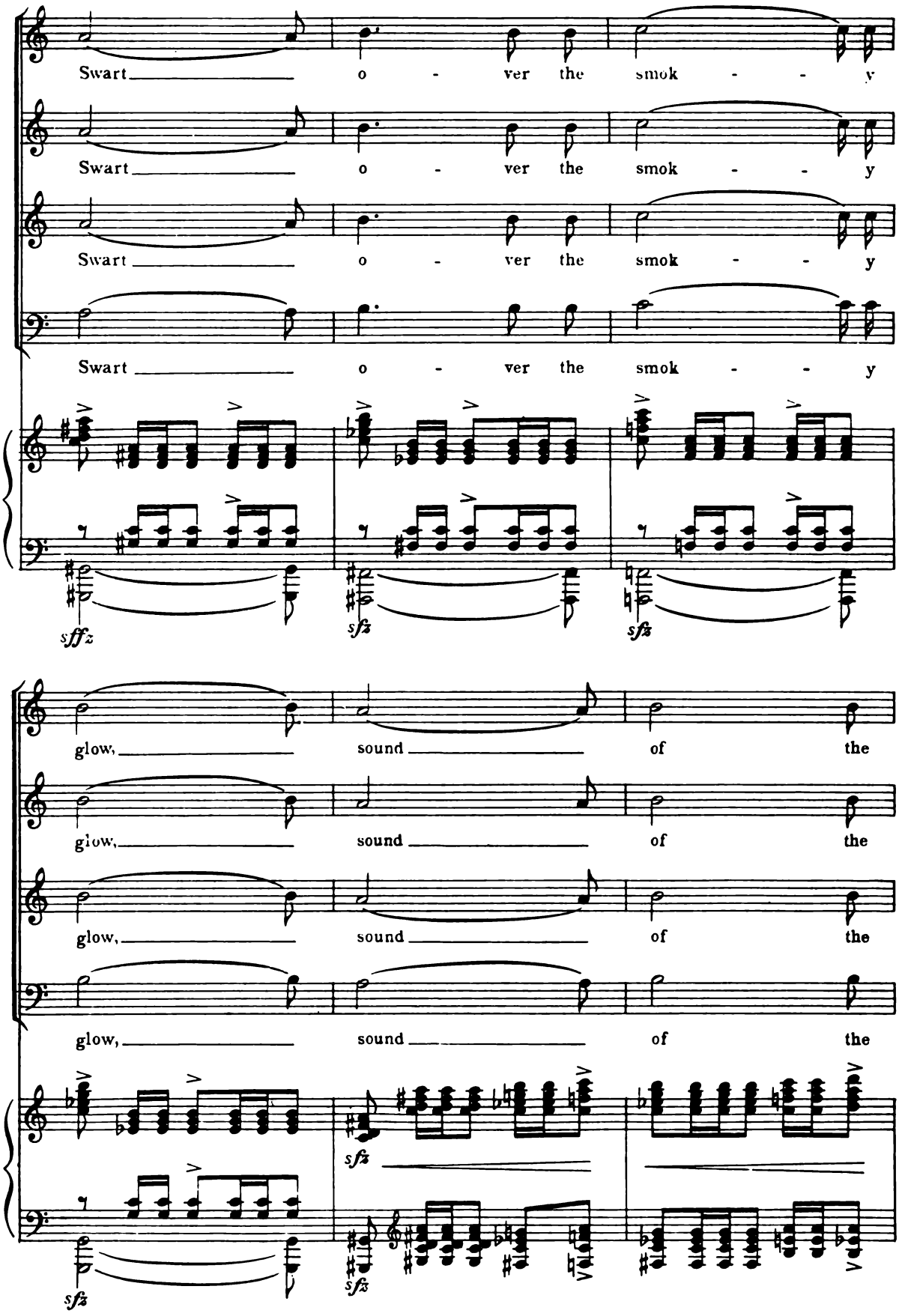

boards of the bat - tle, And bright
hung, and with boards of the bat-tle, And bright
boards of the bat - tle, And bright
with boards of the bat - tle,
byr - nies, e'en af - ter the boon that he bade.
byr - nies, e'en af - ter the boon that he bade.
byr - nies, e'en af - ter the boon that he bade.
And bright byr-nies, e'en af - ter the boon that he bade.

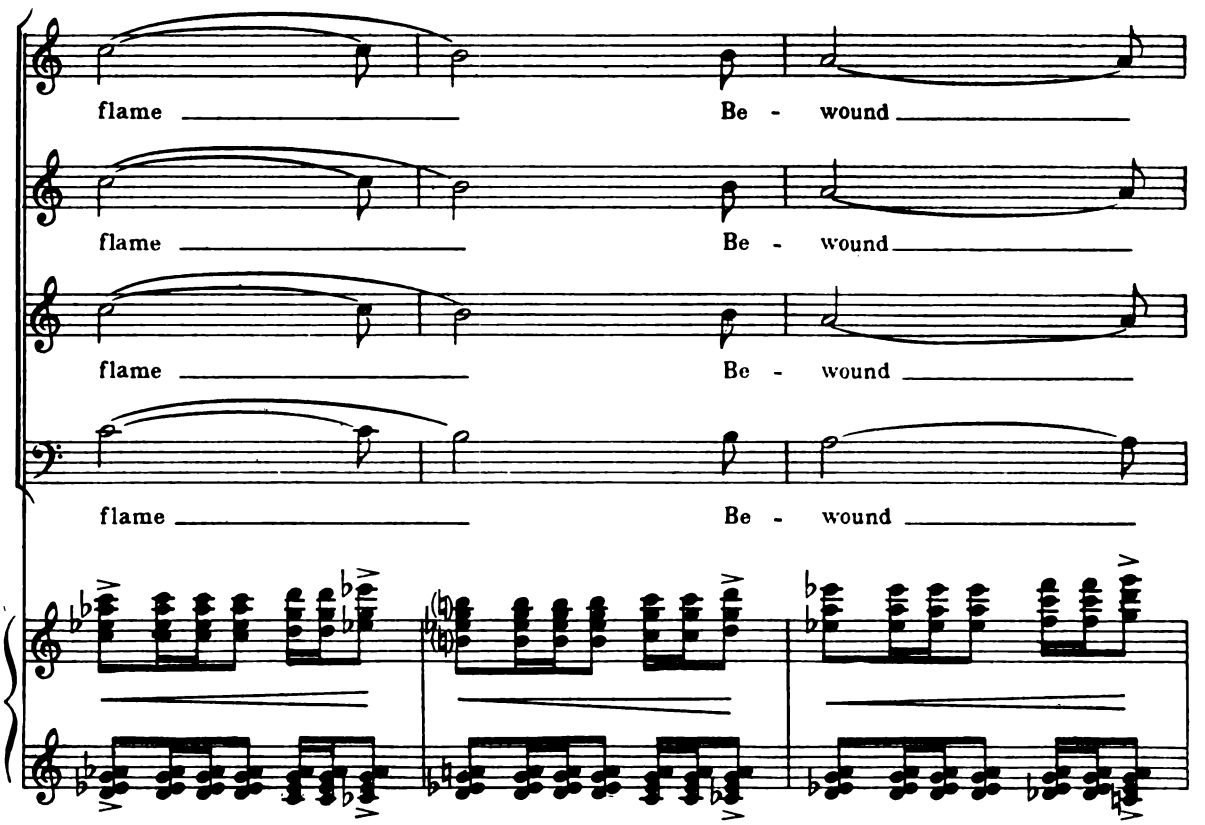

mf
Laid down then a - - mid most their
mf
Laid down then a - - mid most their
p
p
8
ff
The war - riors la -
ff
The war - riors la -
ff
King might - y fa - mous The war - riors la -
ff
King might - y fa - mous The war - riors la -
ff
3
f (Timpani)

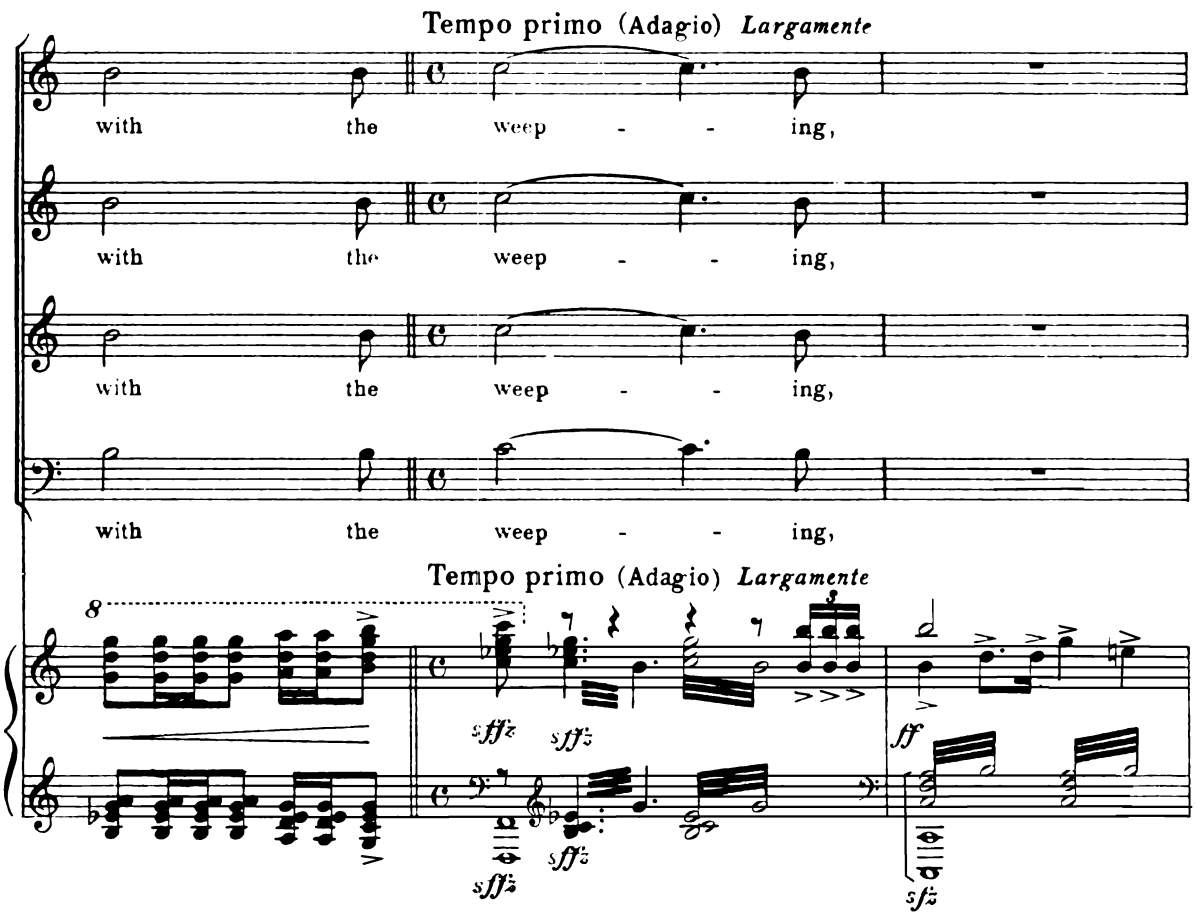

ment - - ing the lief lord of them.
ment - ing the lief lord of them.
ment - - - ing the lief lord of them.
ment - - ing the lief lord of them.
p
mf
un poco più mosso
TENORS f
Be- gan on the
BASSES f
Be-gan on the
(For practise only)
crescendo
burg of bale-fires the big-gest The war - riors to wak - en:
3

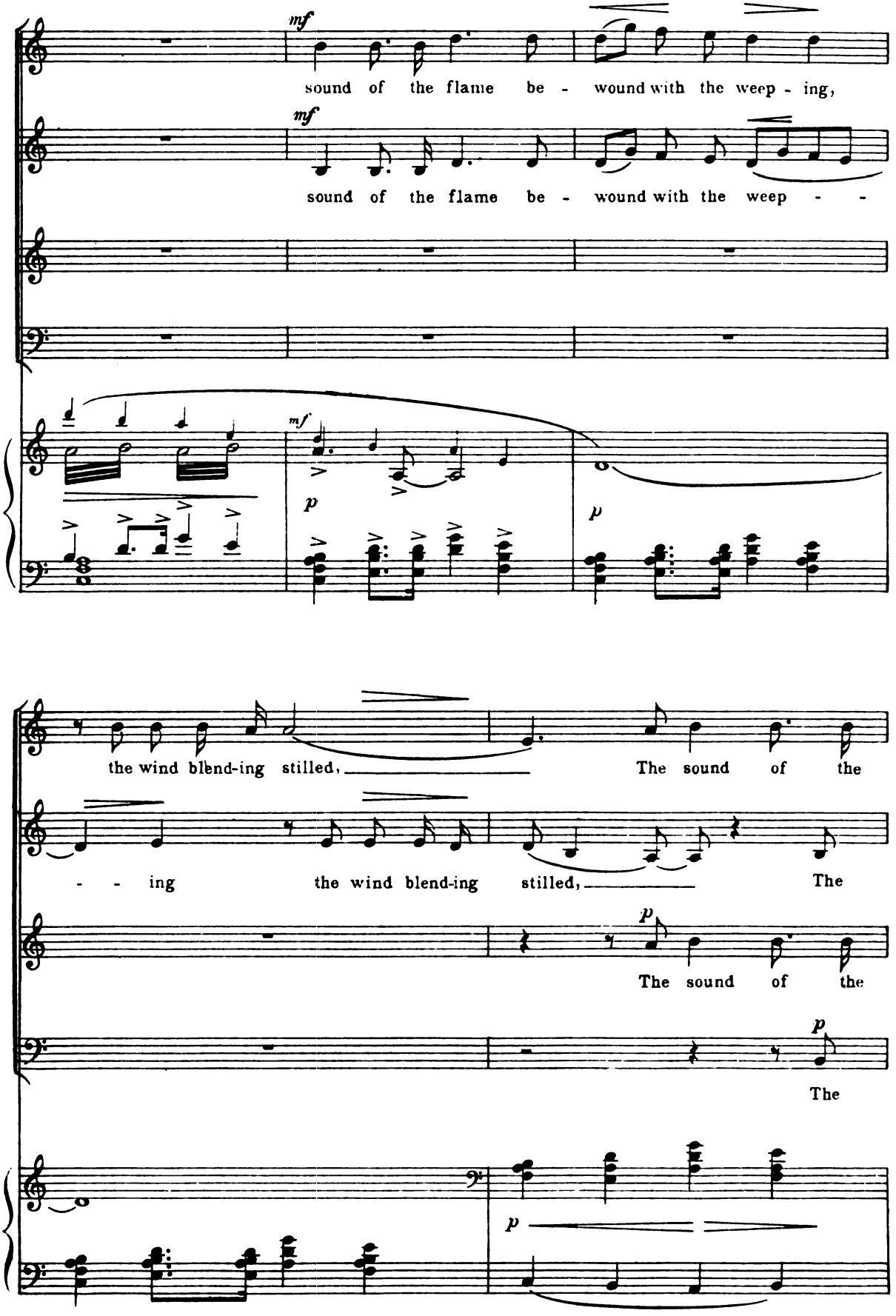

Haee
yo
Allegro con fuoco
Ha
Allegro con fuoco

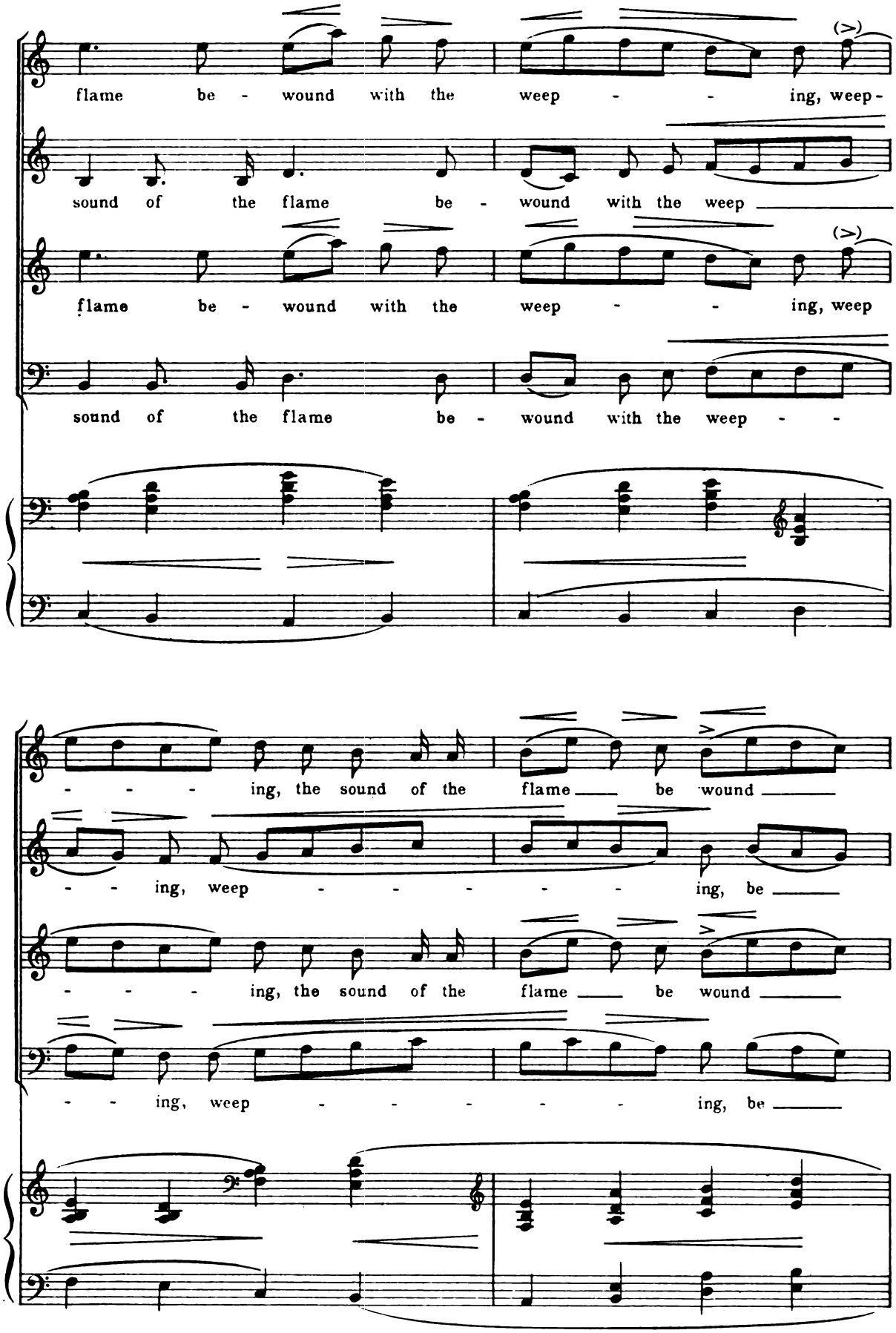

f
The wood
The wood
The wood
The wood
reek went up
reek went up
reek went up
reek went up

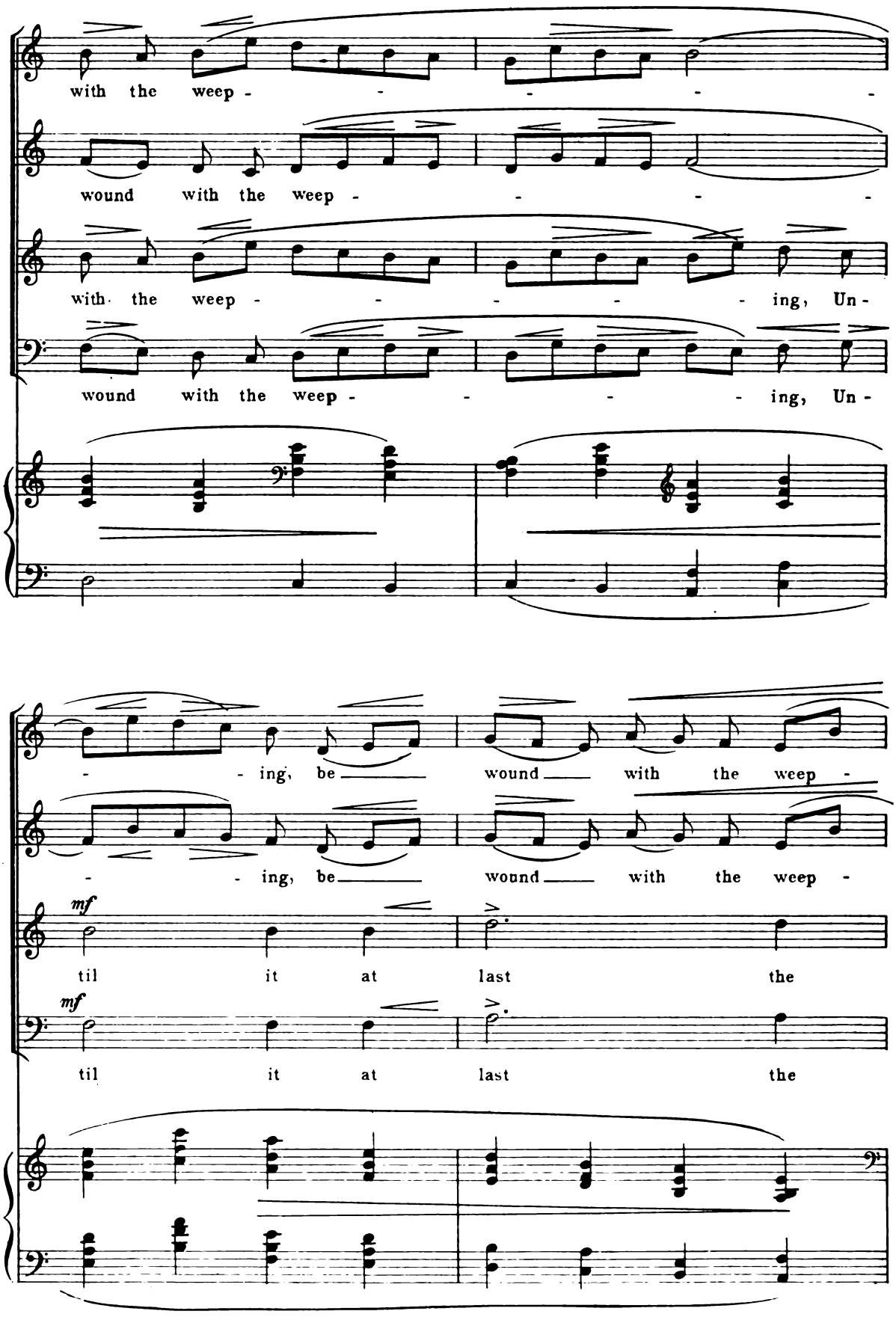

Swart o - ver the smok - - y
Swart o - ver the smok - - y
Swart o - ver the smok - - y
Swart o - ver the smok - - y
sffz
sfz
sfz
glow, sound of the
glow, sound of the
glow, sound of the
glow, sound of the
sfz
sfz
sfz

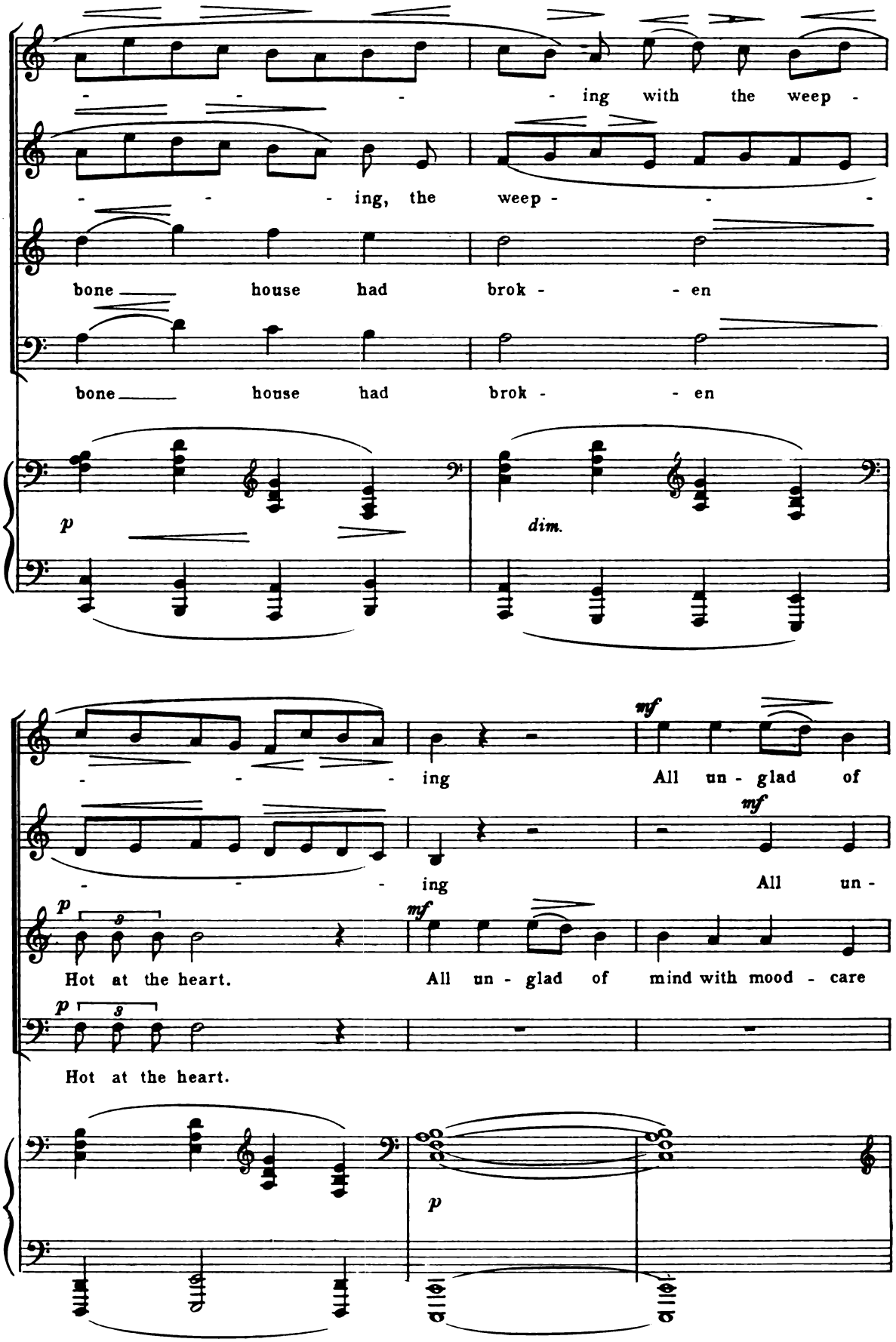

flame Be - wound
flame Be - wound
flame Be - wound
flame Be - wound

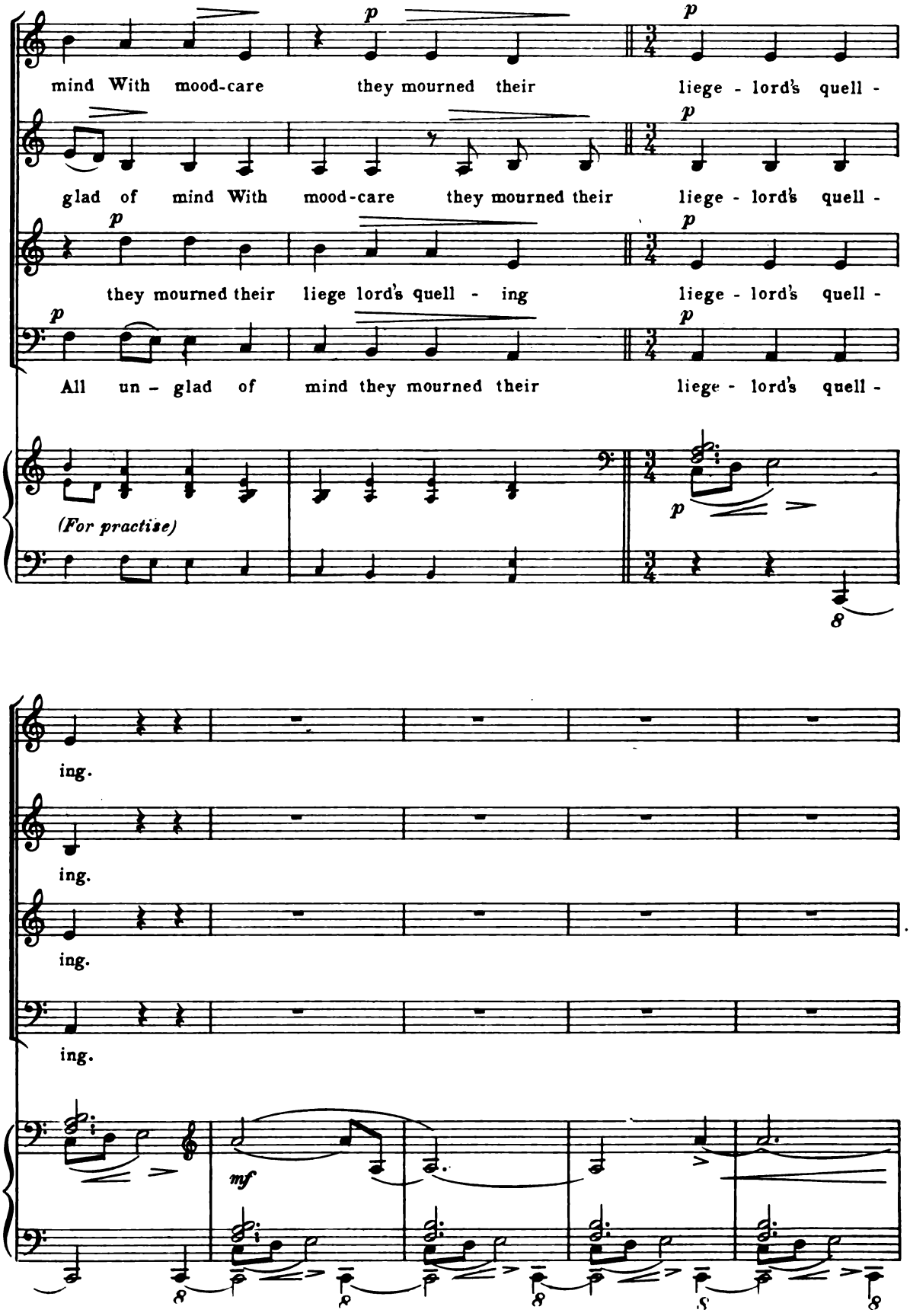

Tempo primo (Adagio) Largamente
with the weep - - ing,
with the weep - - ing,
with the weep - - ing,
with the weep - - ing,
Tempo primo (Adagio) Largamente
8
sfffz
sfffz
sfffz
sfffz
ff
sfz

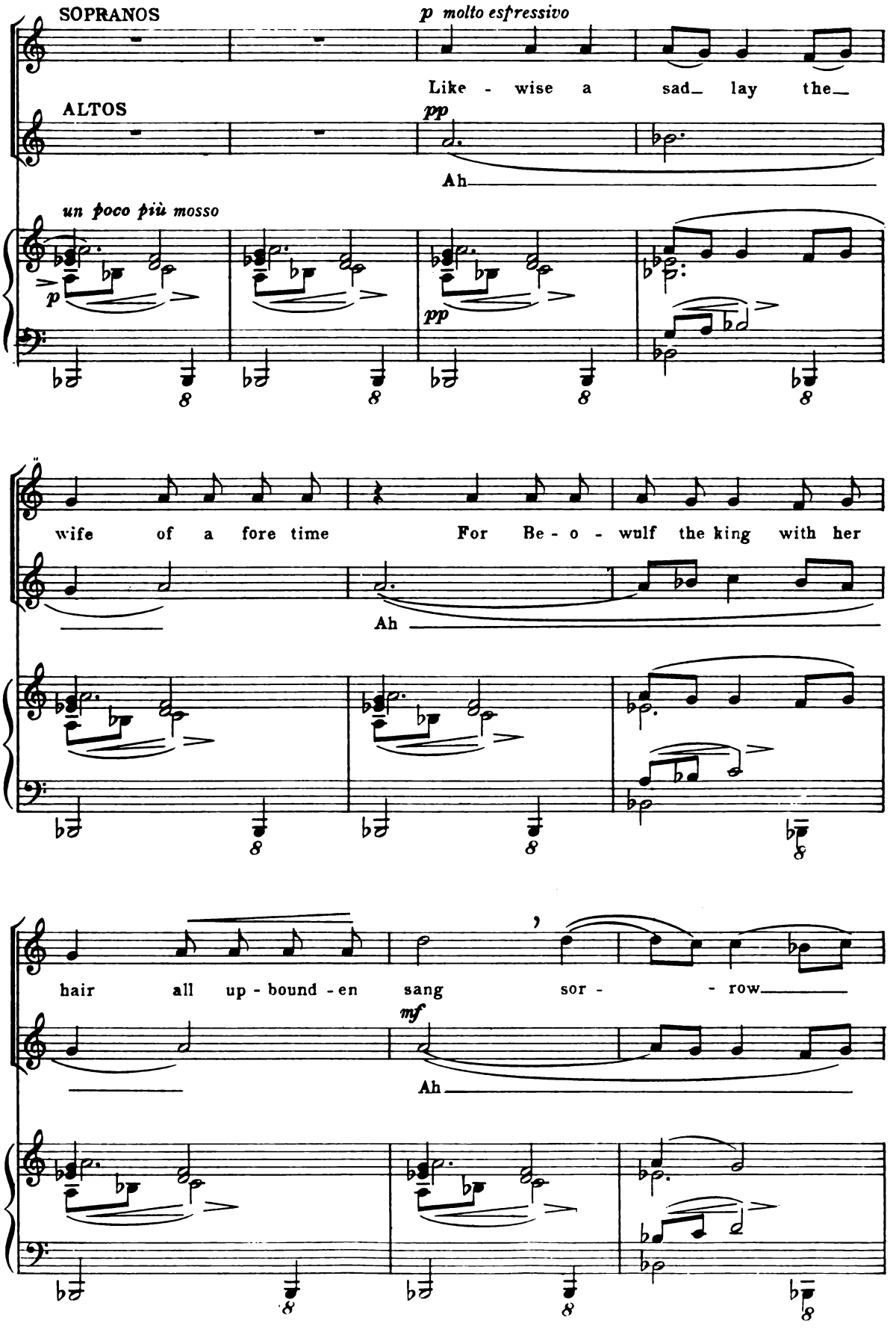

mf
sound of the flame be - wound with the weep - ing,
mf
sound of the flame be - wound with the weep - -
mf
p
p
the wind blend-ing stilled, The sound of the
- - ing the wind blend-ing stilled, The
p
The sound of the
p
The
p

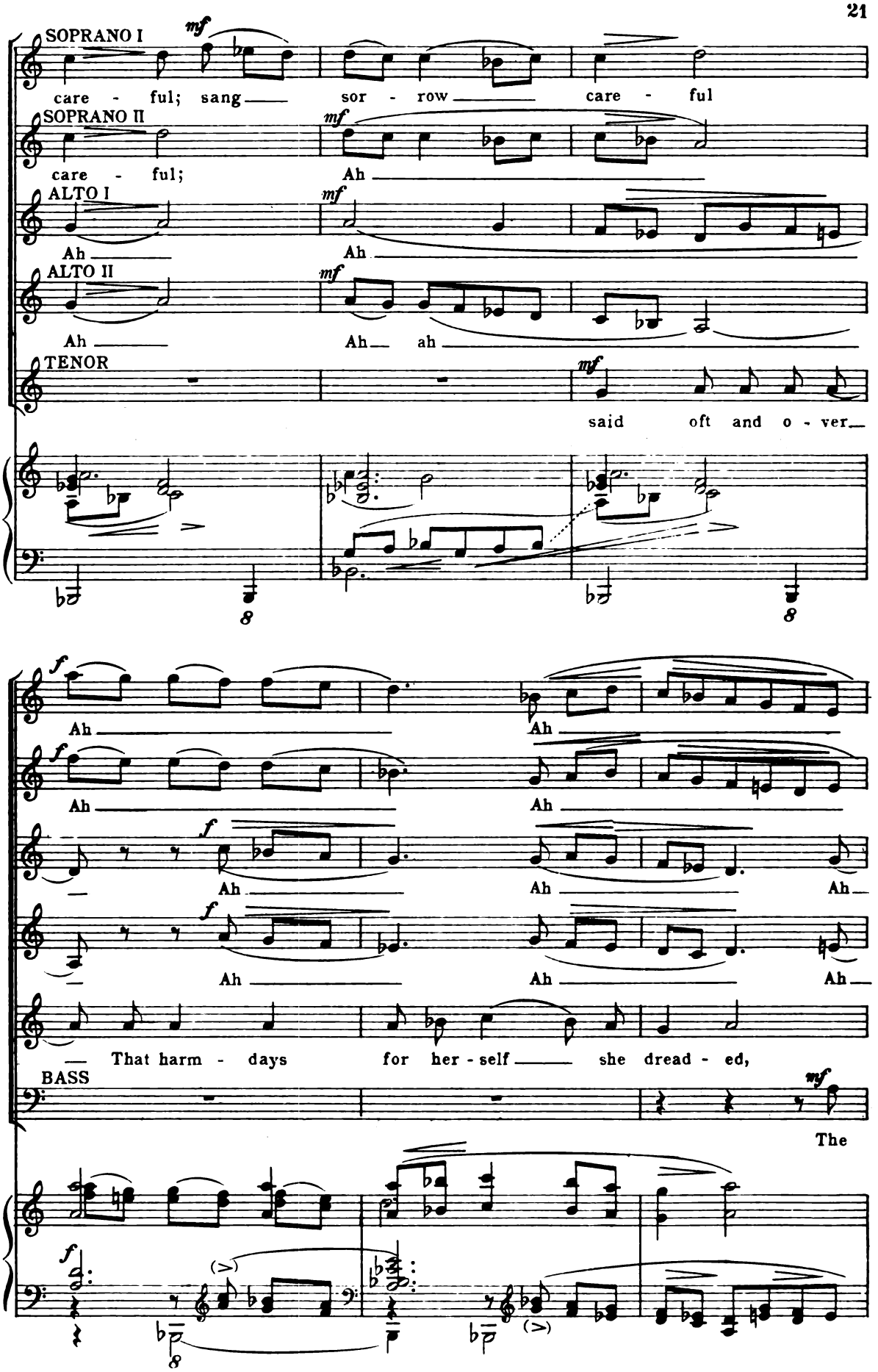

flame be - wound with the weep - - ing, weep -
sound of the flame be - wound with the weep
flame be - wound with the weep - - ing, weep
sound of the flame be - wound with the weep - -
- - - ing, the sound of the flame be wound
- - ing, weep - - - - - ing, be
- - - ing, the sound of the flame be wound
- - ing, weep - - - - - ing, be

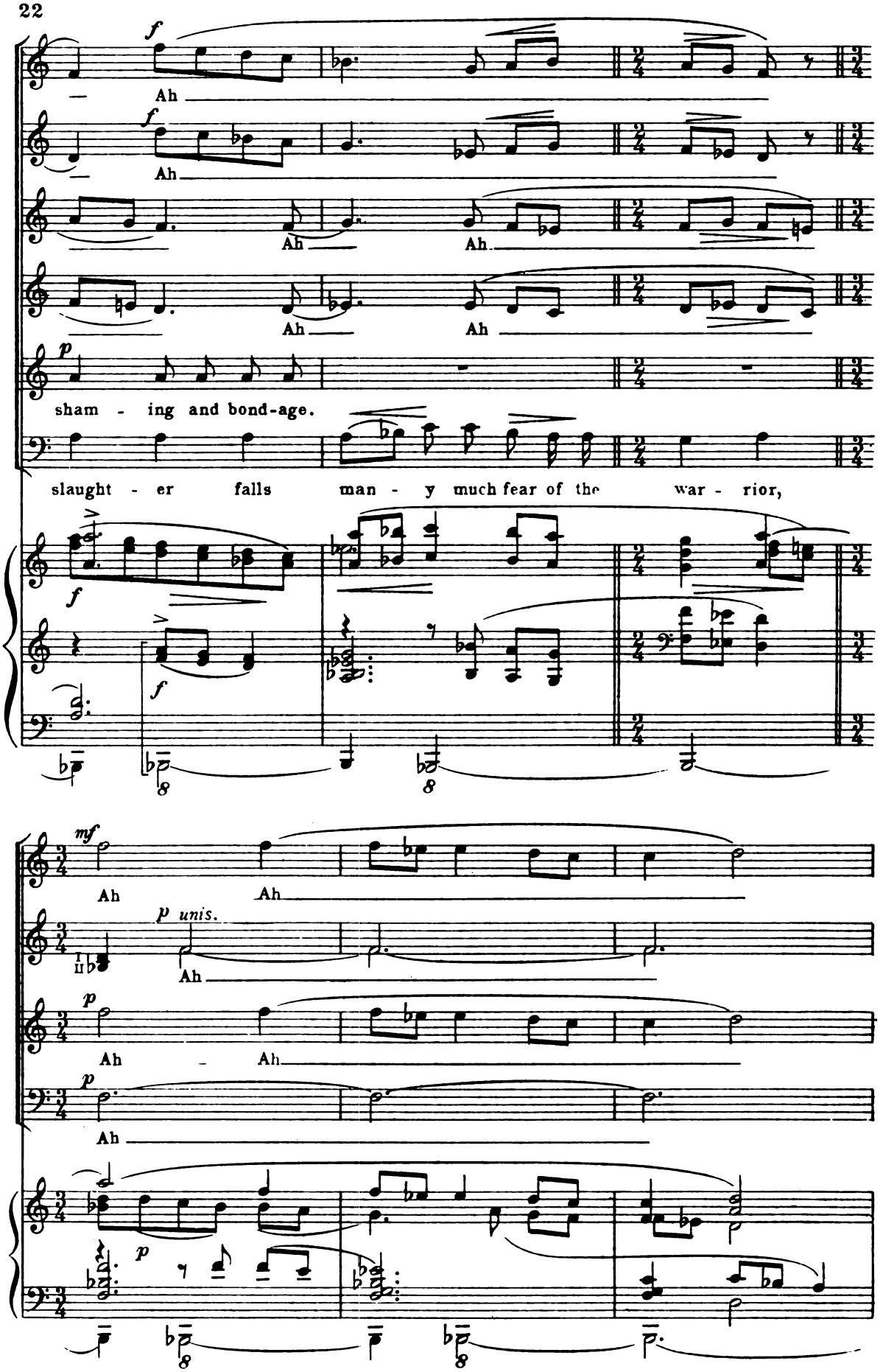

with the weep - - - - -
wound with the weep - - - -
with the weep - - - - - ing, Un -
wound with the weep - - - - ing, Un -
- - ing, be wound with the weep -
- - ing, be wound with the weep -
mf
til it at last the
mf
til it at last the

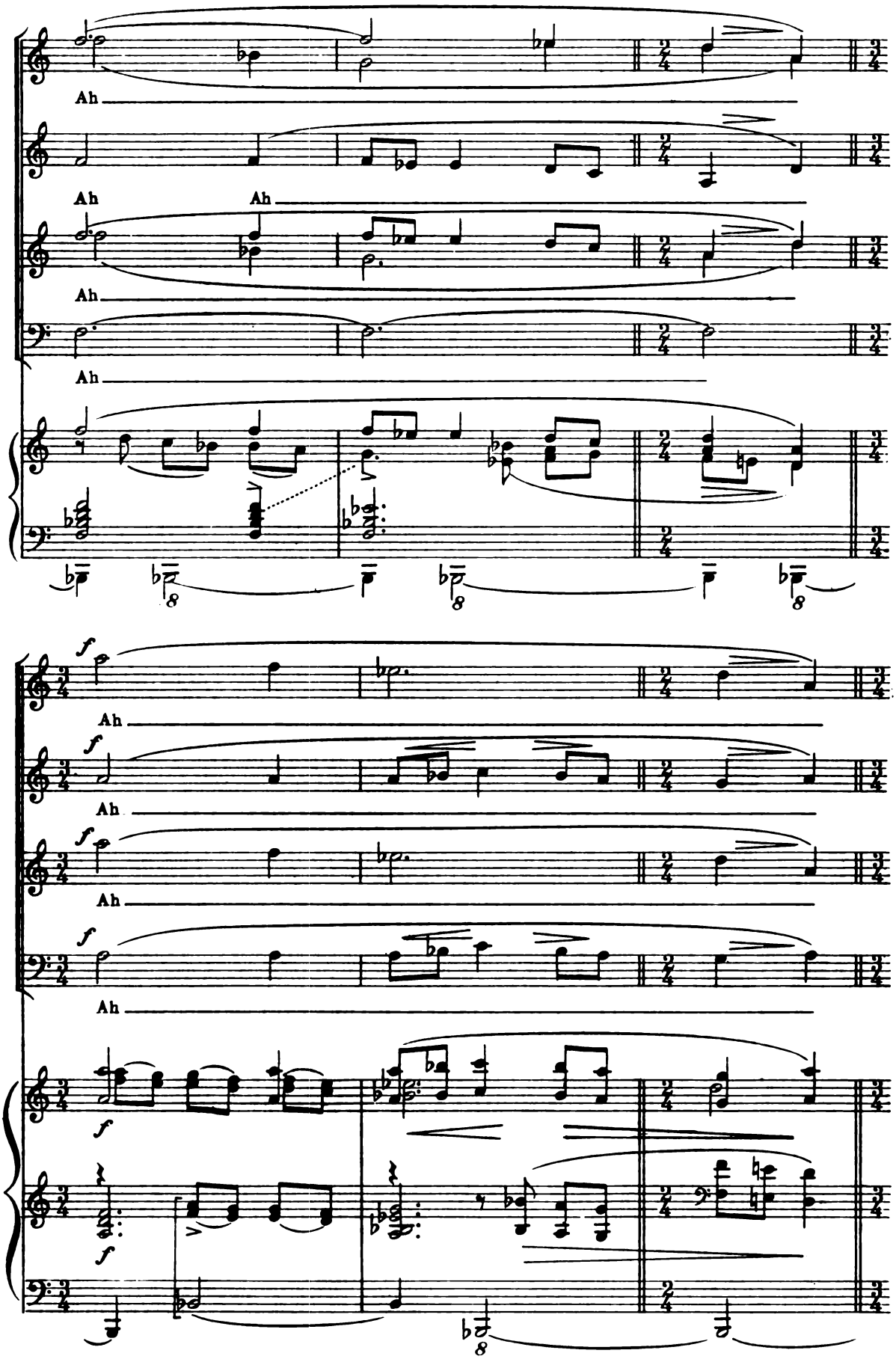

- - - - ing with the weep -
- - - ing, the weep - - -
bone house had brok - - en
bone house had brok - - en
p
dim.
- - - ing
mf
All un - glad of
- - - ing
mf
All un -
p
3
Hot at the heart.
mf
All un - glad of mind with mood - care
p
3
Hot at the heart.
p

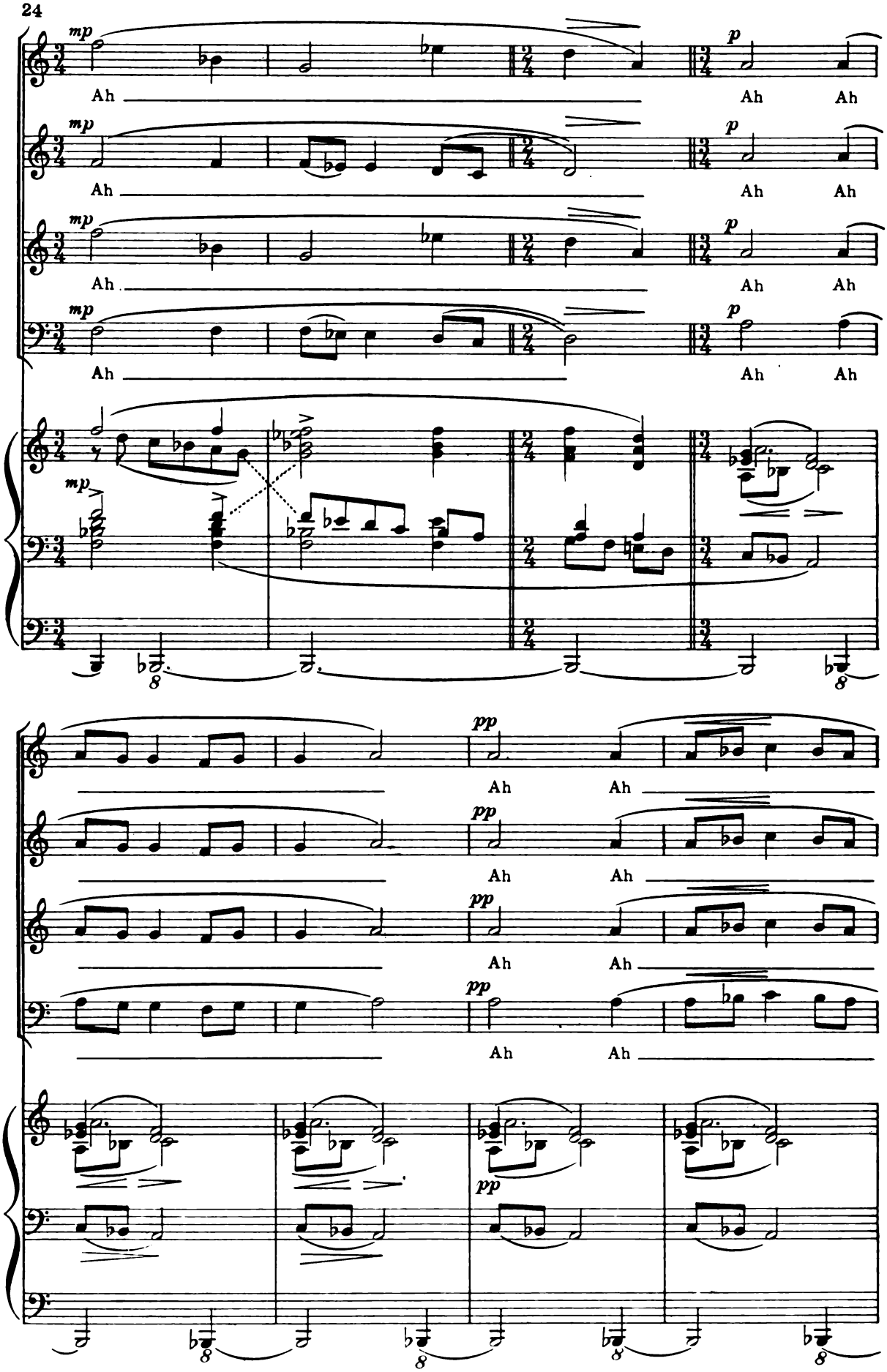

mind With mood-care they mourned their liege - lord's quell -
glad of mind With mood-care they mourned their liege - lord's quell -
they mourned their liege lord's quell - ing liege - lord's quell -
All un - glad of mind they mourned their liege - lord's quell -
(For practise)
ing.
ing.
ing.
ing.
mf

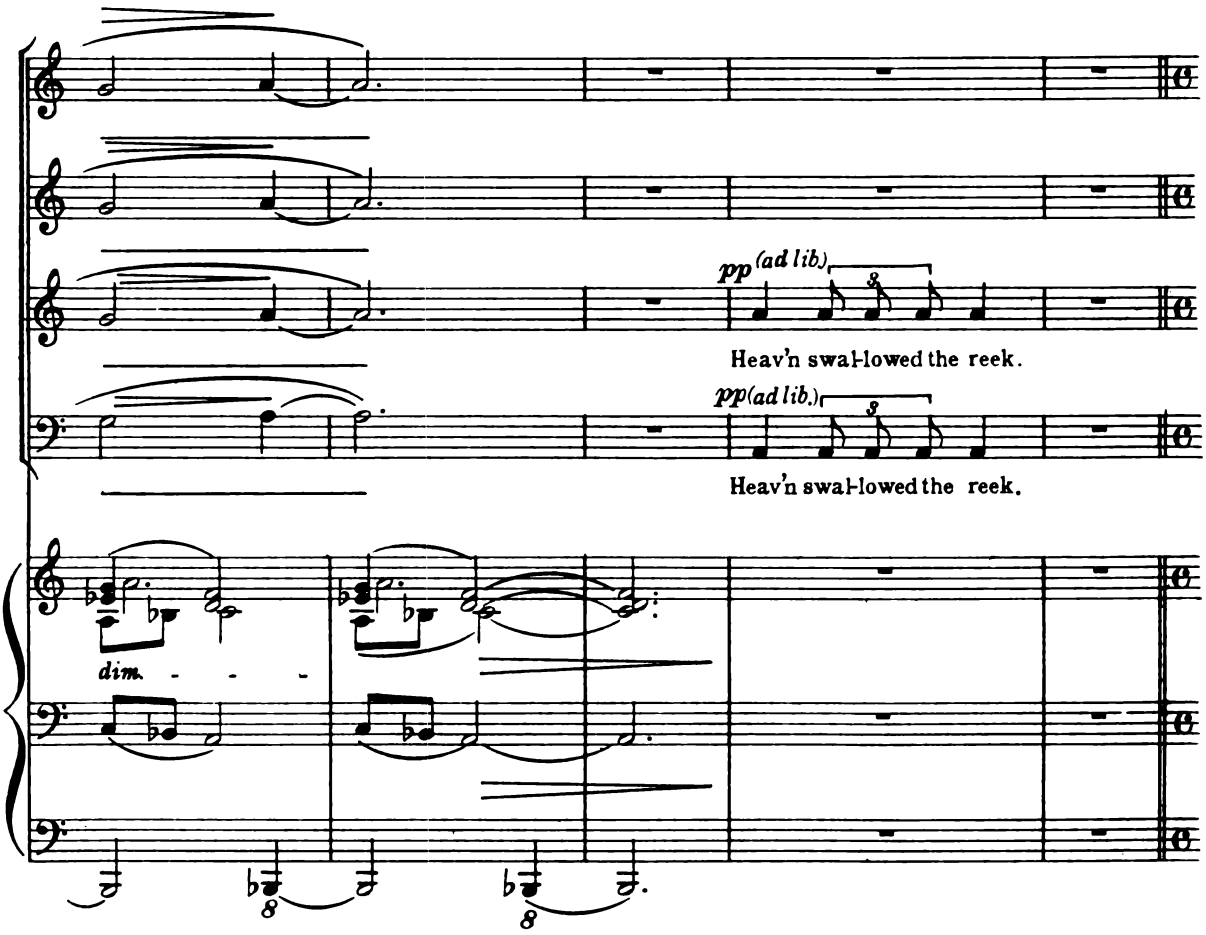

SOPRANOS
p molto espressivo
Like - wise a sad_ lay the_
ALTOS
pp
Ah
un poco più mosso
p
pp
wife of a fore time For Be - o - wulf the king with her
Ah
hair all up - bound - en sang sor - - row_
mf
Ah

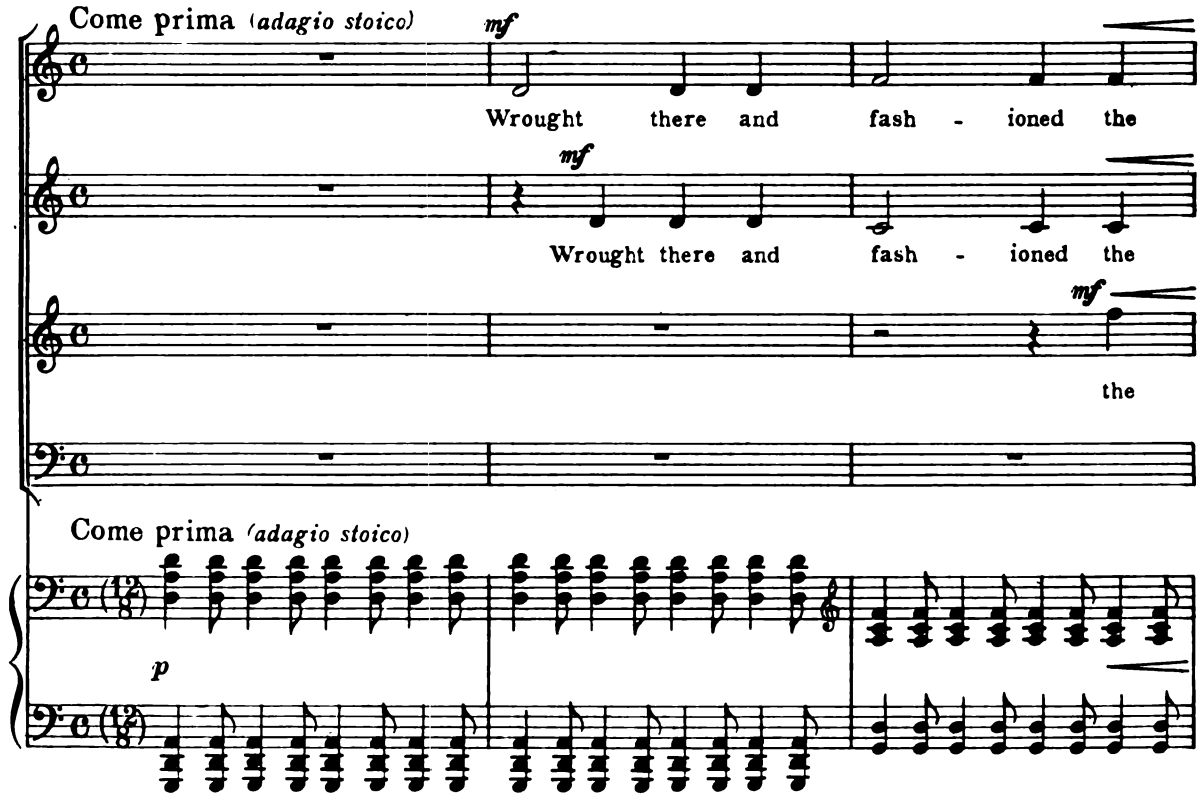

SOPRANO I
mf
care - ful; sang sor - row care - ful
SOPRANO II
mf
care - ful; Ah
ALTO I
mf
Ah Ah
ALTO II
mf
Ah Ah ah
TENOR
mf
said oft and o - ver
f
Ah Ah
f
Ah Ah
f
Ah Ah Ah
f
Ah Ah Ah
That harm - days for her - self she dread - ed,
BASS
mf
The
f

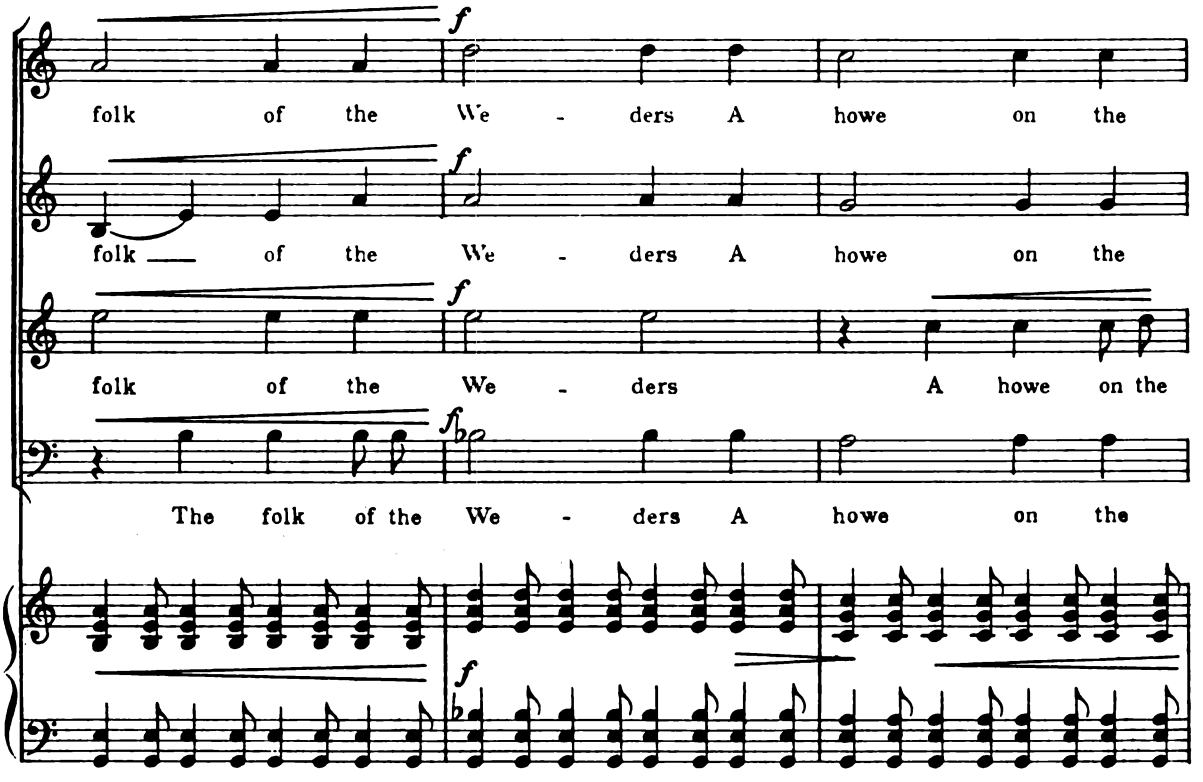

f
Ah
f
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
p
sham - ing and bond-age.
slaught - er falls man - y much fear of the war - rior,
f
f
8
8
mf
Ah
Ah
p unis.
Ah
p
Ah - Ah
p
Ah
p
8
8

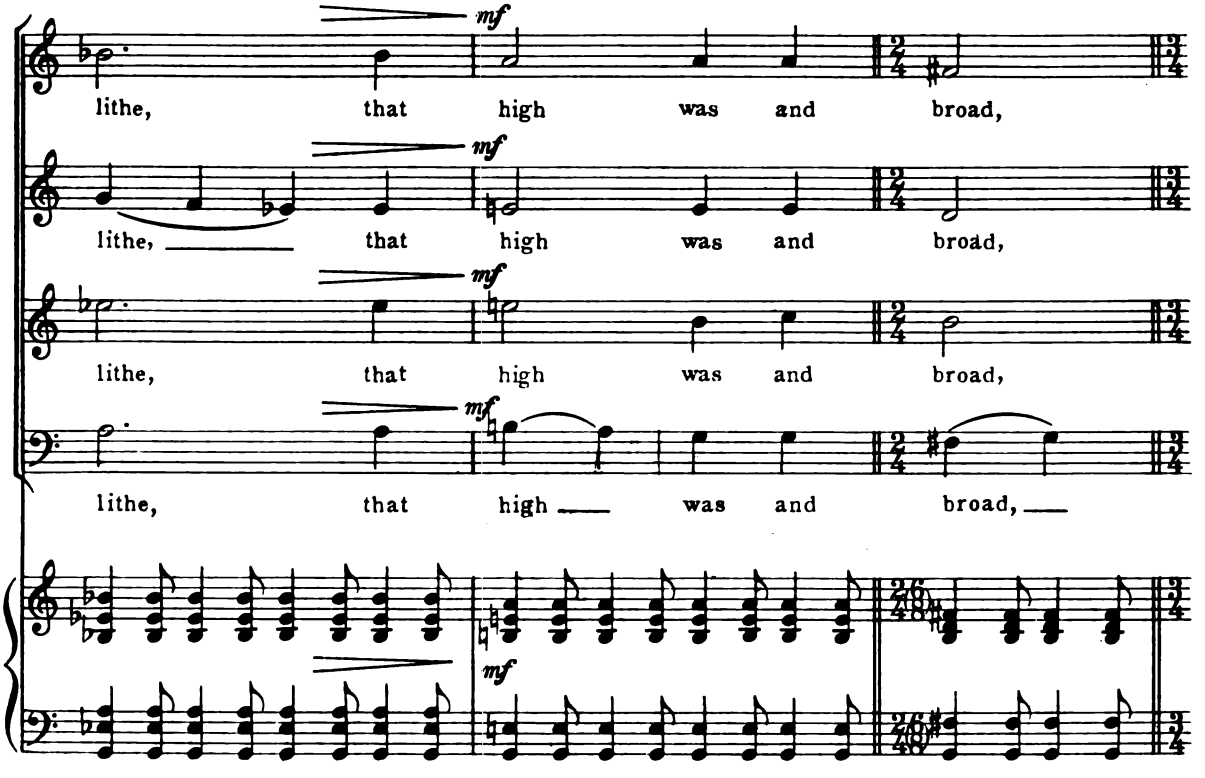

Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
f
Ah
f
Ah
f
Ah
f
f
8
8
8
8

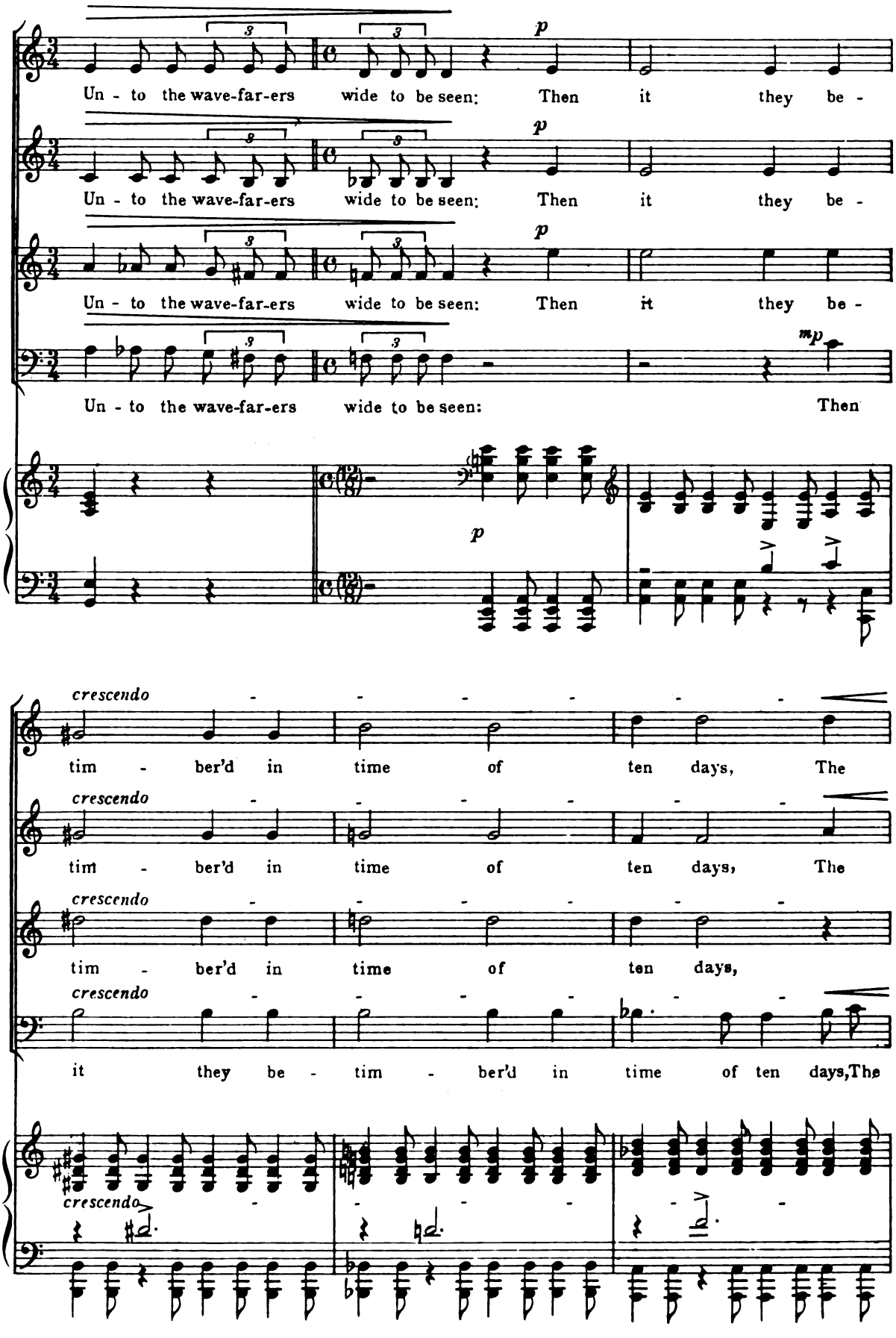

mp
Ah
p
Ah
Ah
pp

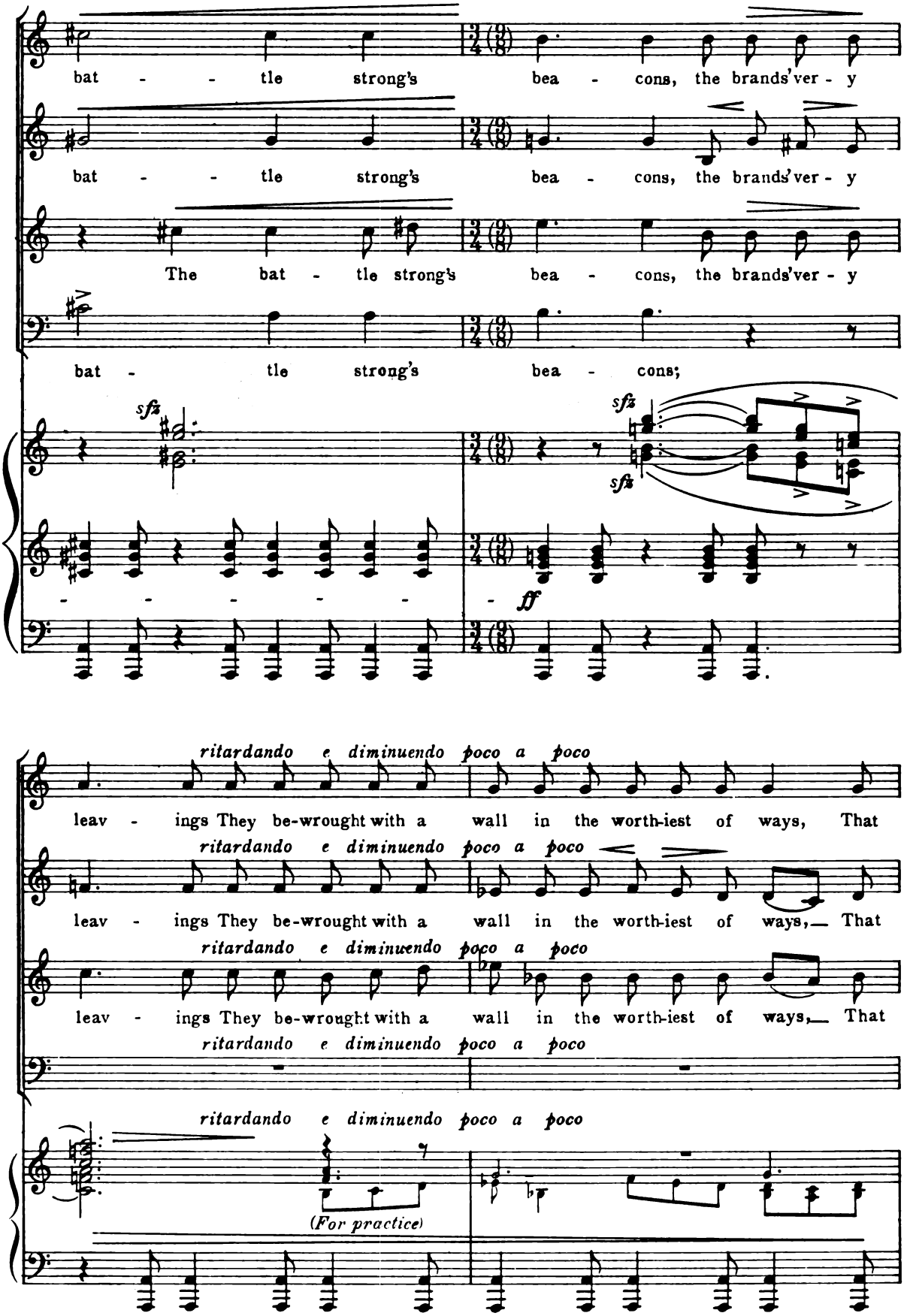

pp (ad lib.)
Heav'n swal-lowed the reek.
pp (ad lib.)
Heav'n swal-lowed the reek.
dim.

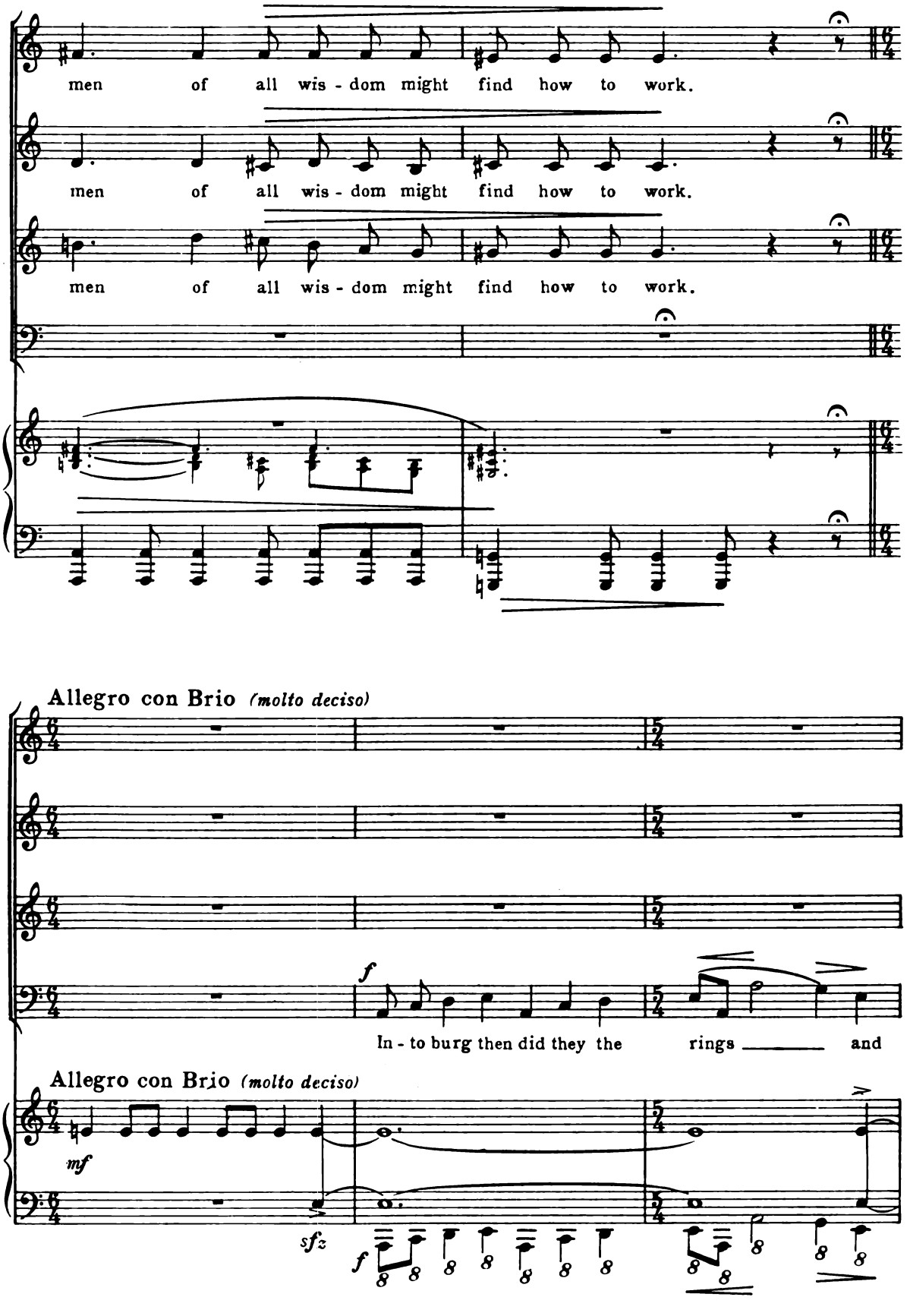

Come prima (adagio stoico)
mf
Wrought there and fash - ioned the
mf
Wrought there and fash - ioned the
mf
the
Come prima (adagio stoico)
p

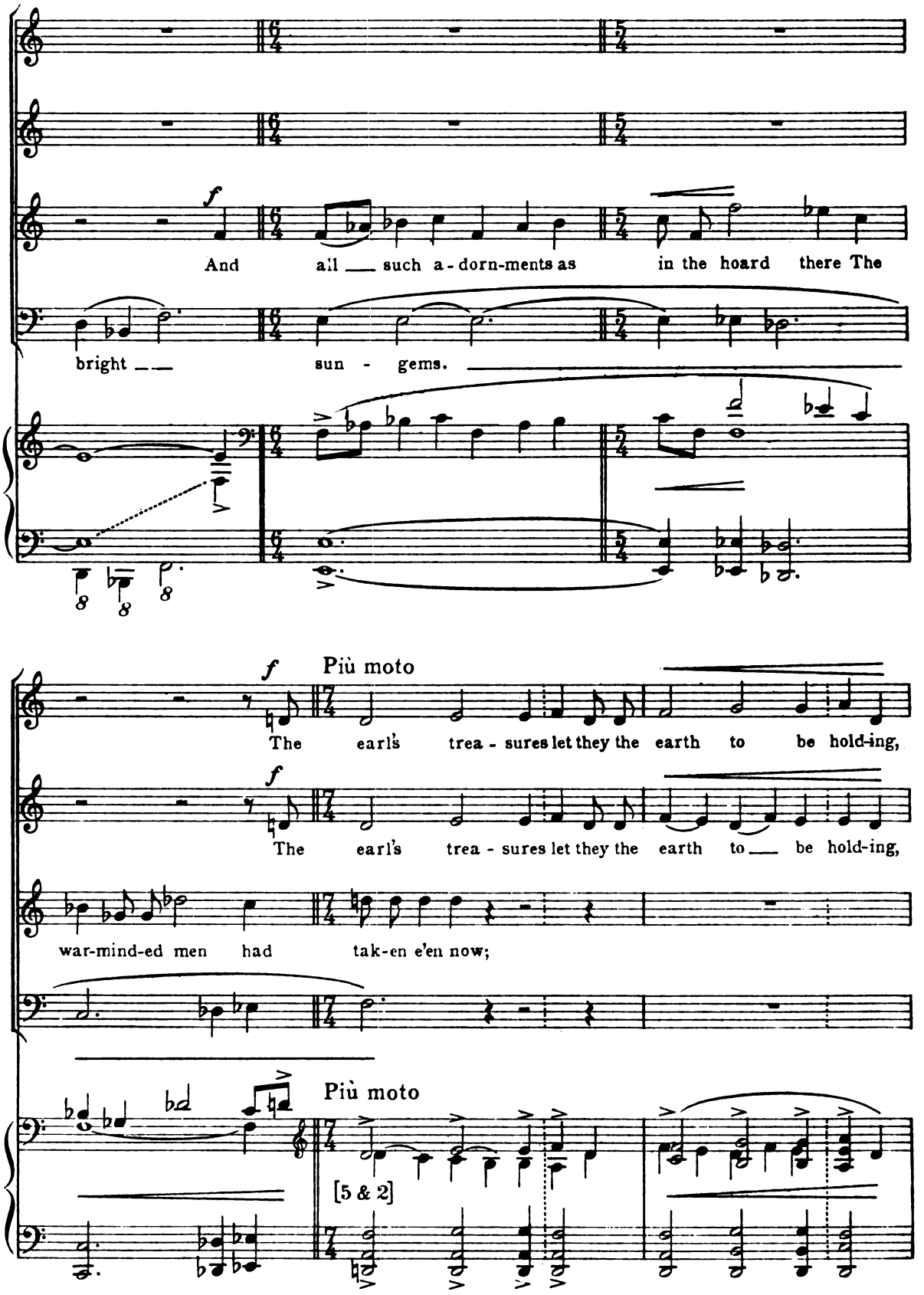

f
folk of the We - ders A howe on the
f
folk of the We - ders A howe on the
f
folk of the We - ders A howe on the
f
The folk of the We - ders A howe on the
f

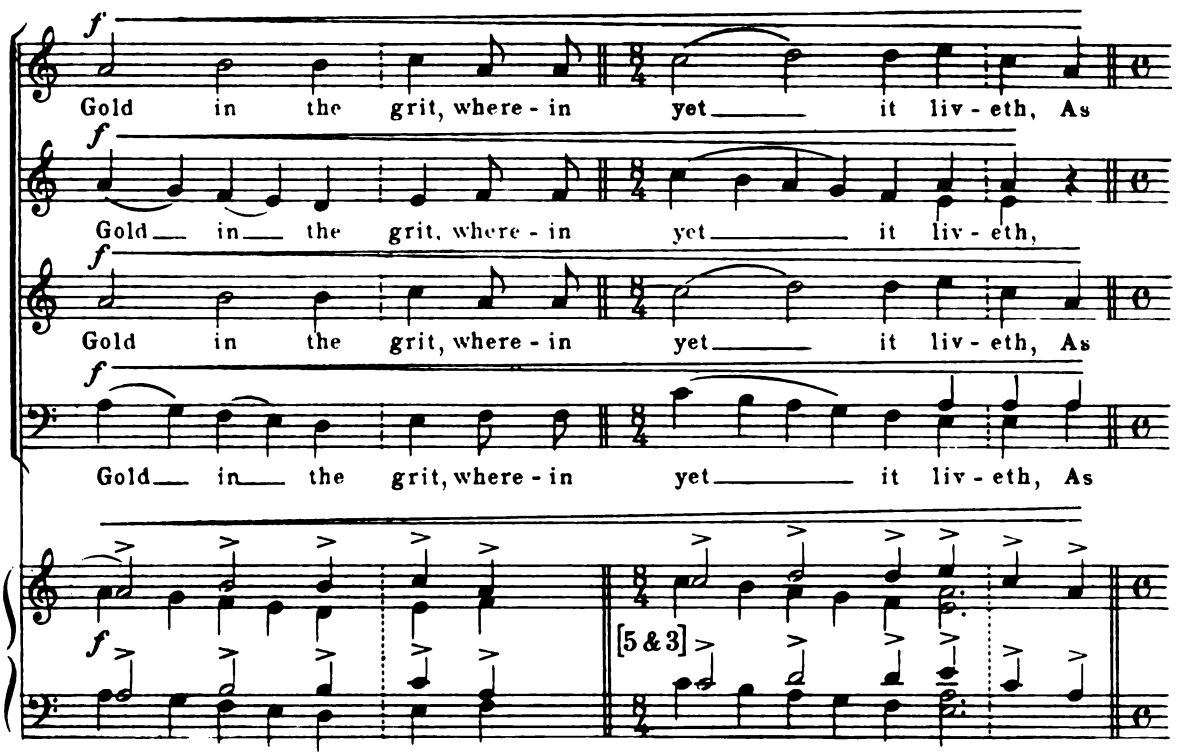

mf
lithe, that high was and broad,
mf
lithe, that high was and broad,
mf
lithe, that high was and broad,
mf
lithe, that high was and broad,
mf

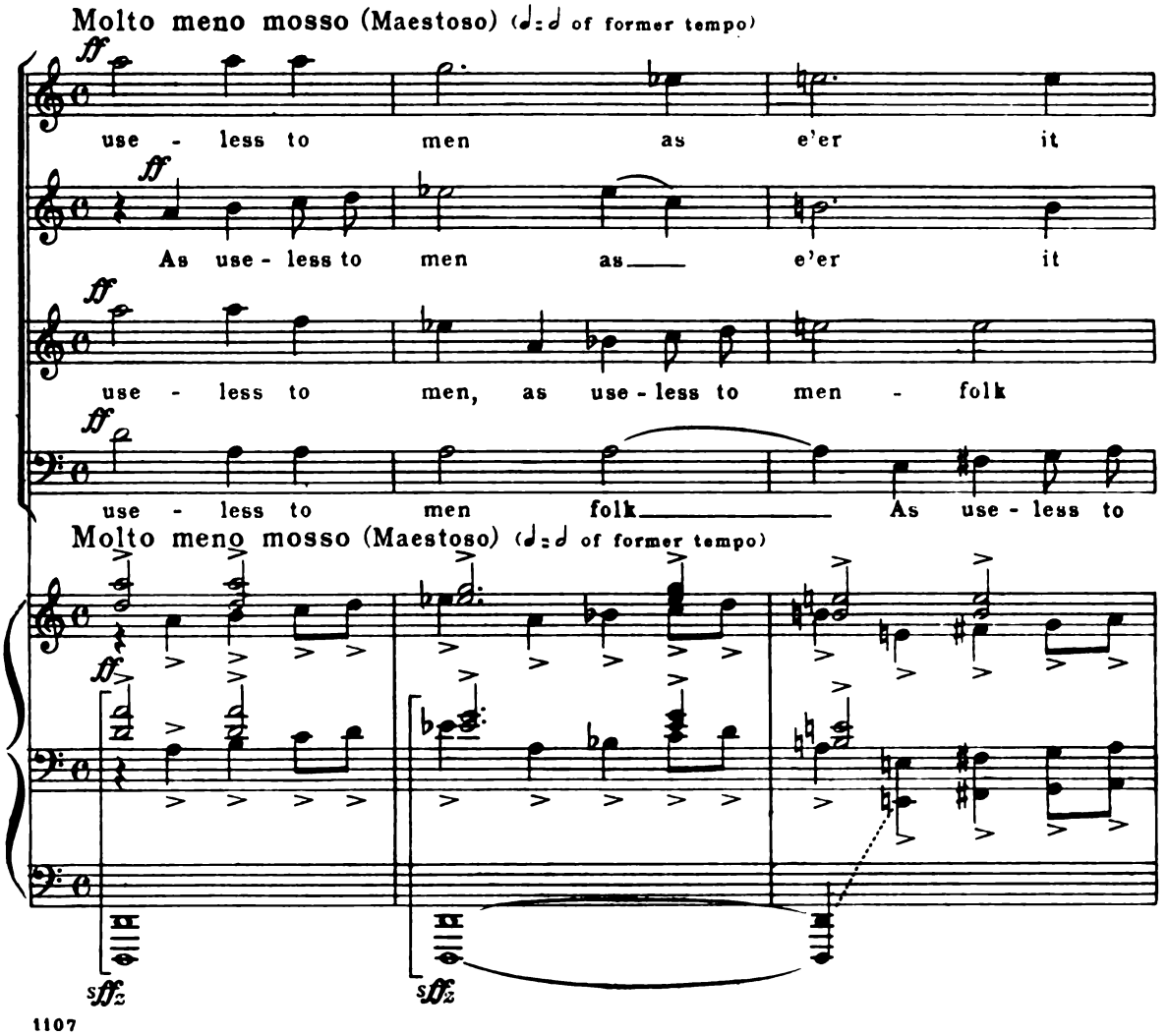

Un - to the wave-far-ers wide to be seen: Then it they be -
Un - to the wave-far-ers wide to be seen: Then it they be -
Un - to the wave-far-ers wide to be seen: Then it they be -
Un - to the wave-far-ers wide to be seen: Then
crescendo
tim - ber'd in time of ten days, The
crescendo
tim - ber'd in time of ten days, The
crescendo
tim - ber'd in time of ten days,
crescendo
it they be - tim - ber'd in time of ten days, The
crescendo

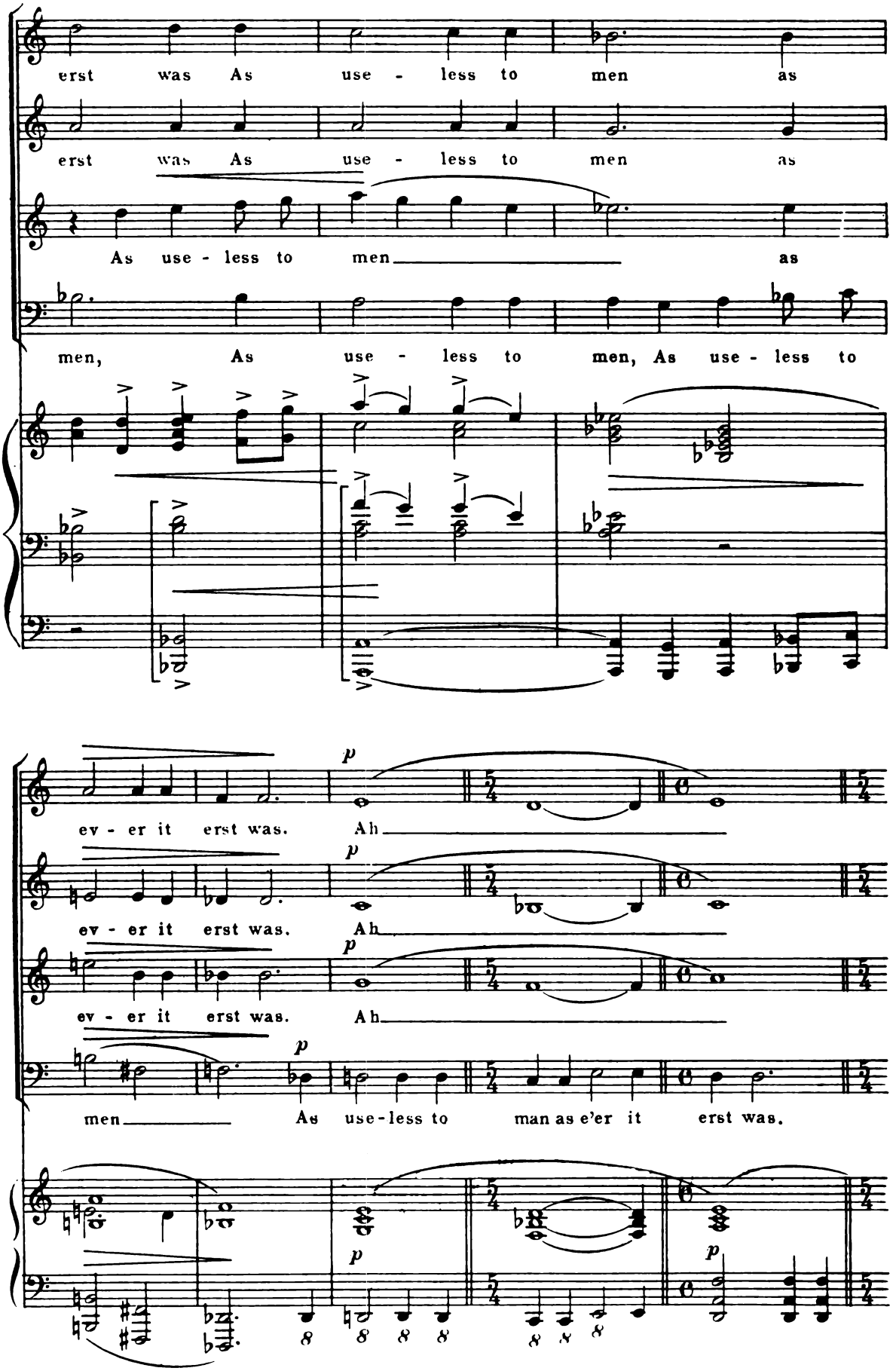

bat - - tle strong's bea - cons, the brands'ver - y
bat - - tle strong's bea - cons, the brands'ver - y
The bat - tle strong's bea - cons, the brands'ver - y
bat - tle strong's bea - cons;
sfz
sfz
sfz
- - - - - -
- ff
ritardando e diminuendo poco a poco
leav - ings They be-wrought with a wall in the worth-iest of ways, That
ritardando e diminuendo poco a poco
leav - ings They be-wrought with a wall in the worth-iest of ways, That
ritardando e diminuendo poco a poco
leav - ings They be-wrought with a wall in the worth-iest of ways, That
ritardando e diminuendo poco a poco
ritardando e diminuendo poco a poco
(For practice)

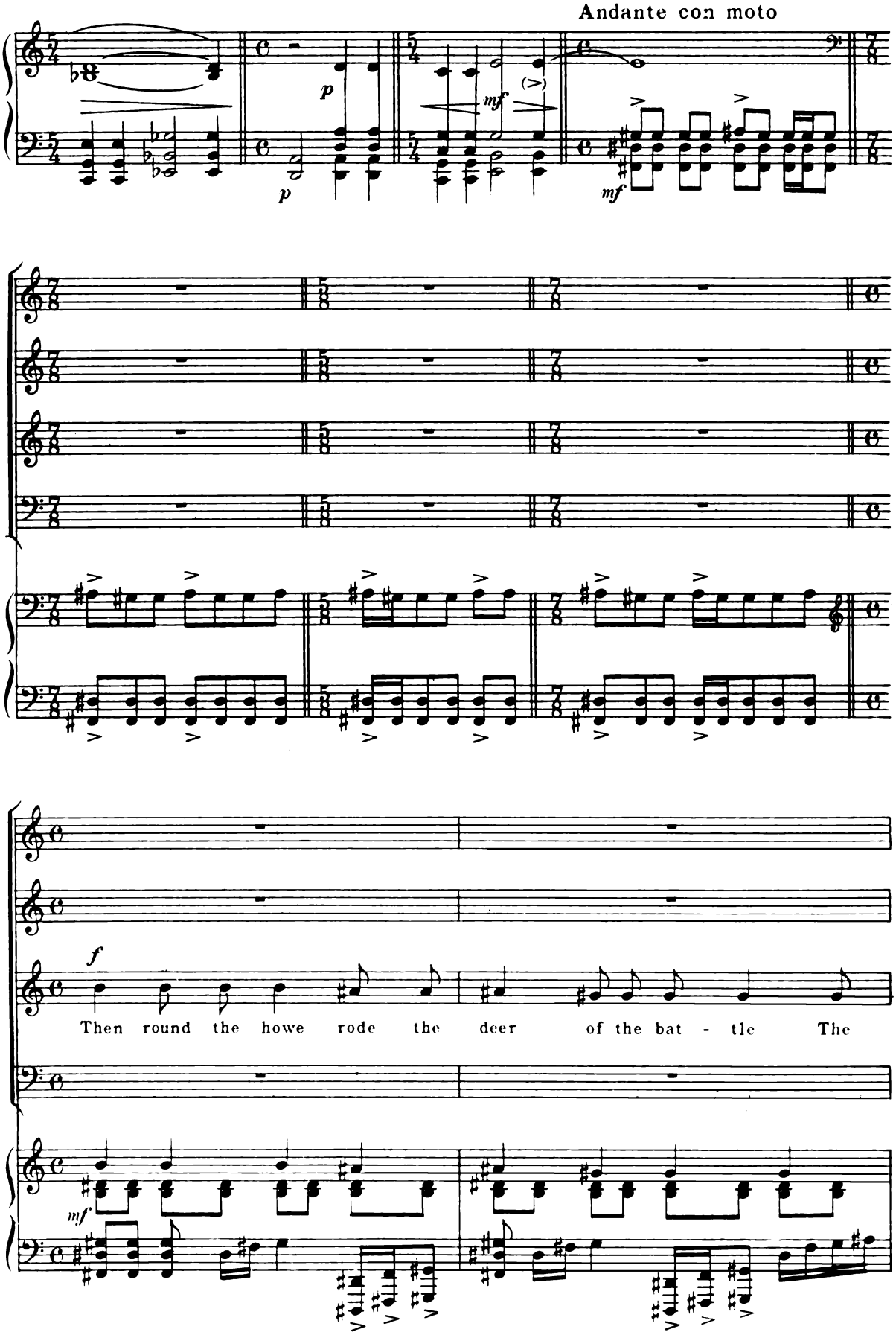

men of all wis - dom might find how to work.
men of all wis - dom might find how to work.
men of all wis - dom might find how to work.
Allegro con Brio (molto deciso)
f
In - to burg then did they the rings and
Allegro con Brio (molto deciso)
mf
sfz
f

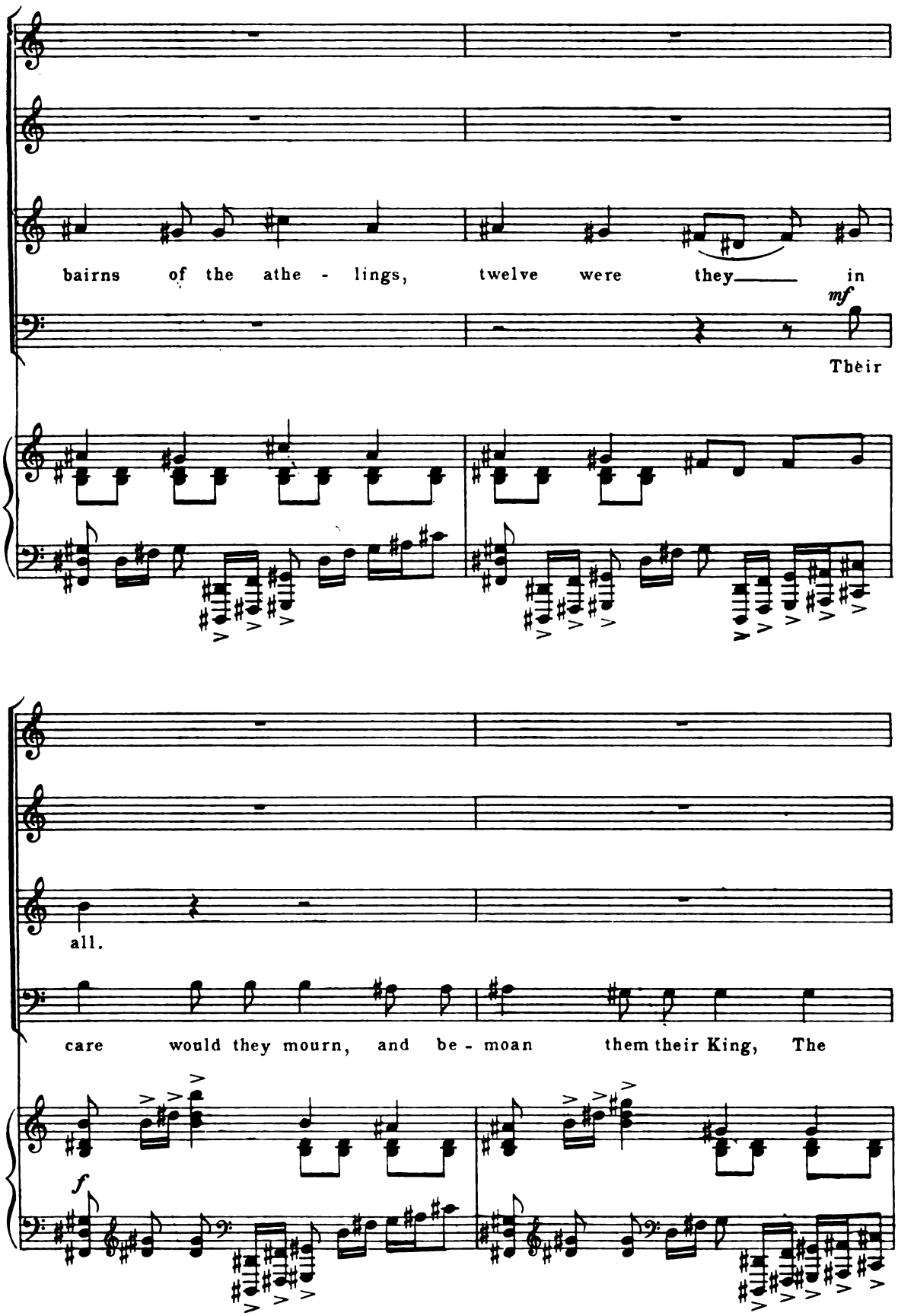

f
And all such a - dorn-ments as in the hoard there The
bright sun - gems.
f
Più moto
The earl's trea - sures let they the earth to be hold-ing,
f
The earl's trea - sures let they the earth to be hold-ing,
war-mind-ed men had tak-en e'en now;
Più moto
[5 & 2]

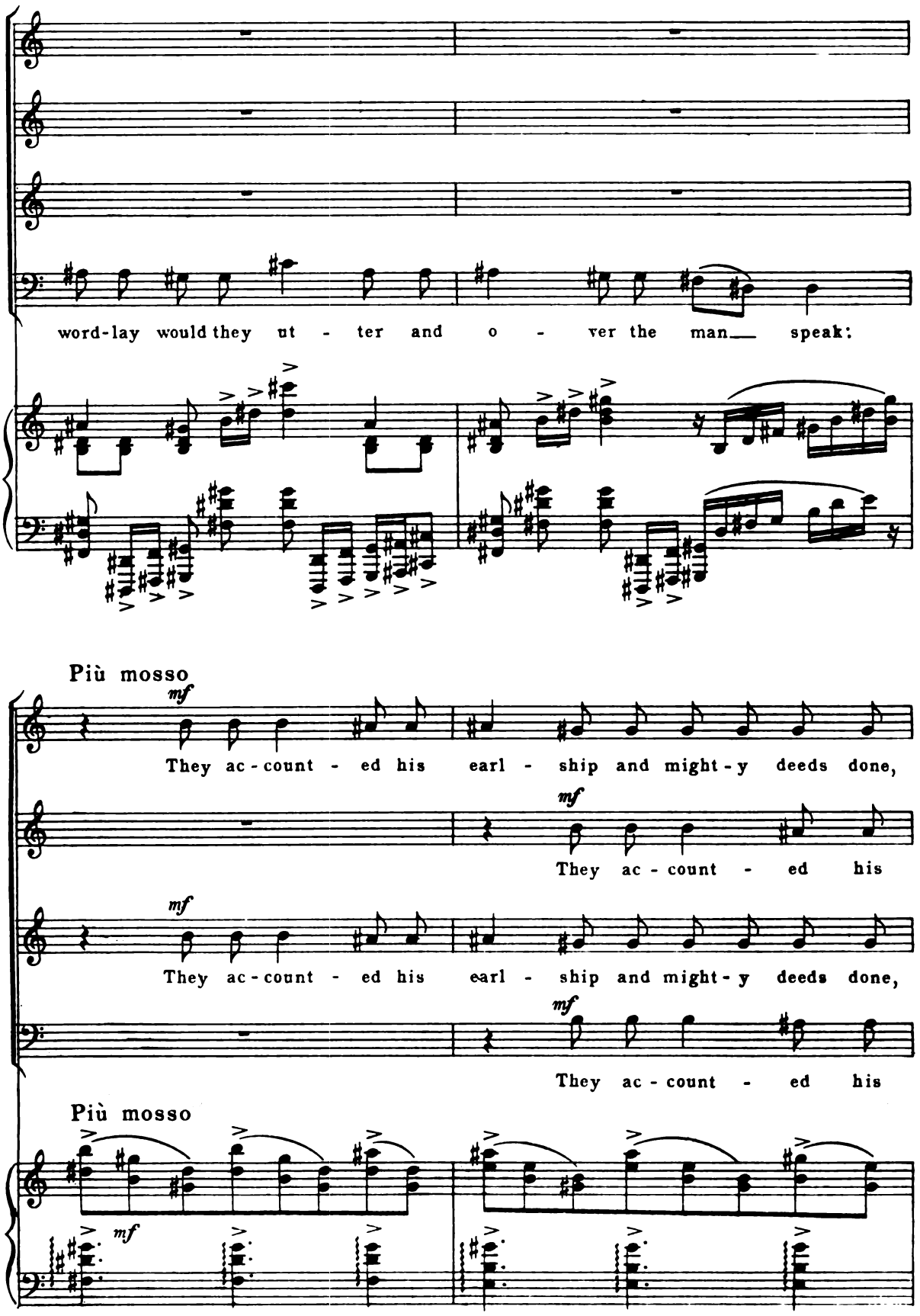

Gold in the grit, where - in yet it liv - eth, As
Gold in the grit, where - in yet it liv - eth,
Gold in the grit, where - in yet it liv - eth, As
Gold in the grit, where - in yet it liv - eth, As
[5 & 3]

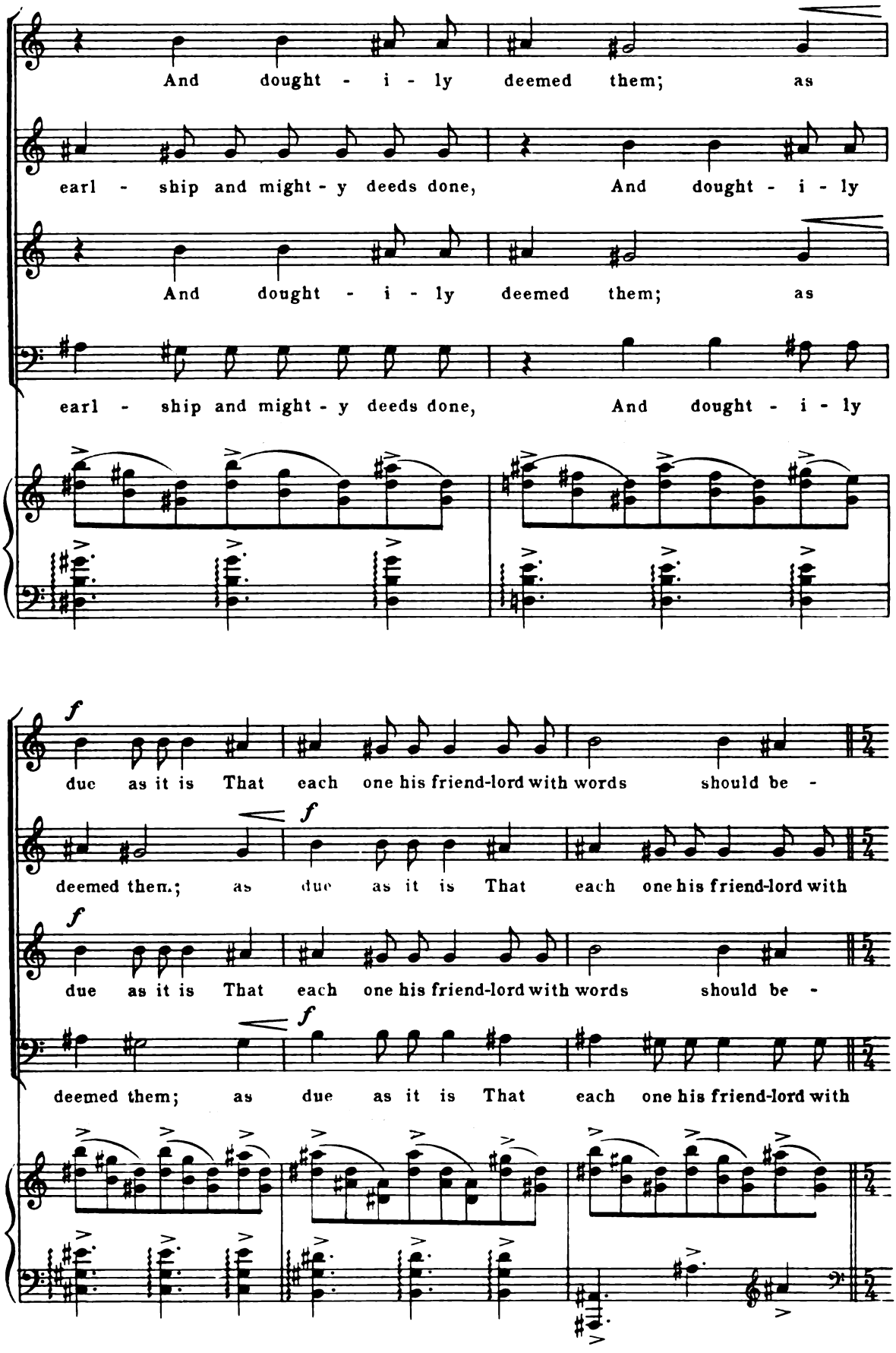

Molto meno mosso (Maestoso) (♩ = ♩ of former tempo)
use - less to men as e'er it
As use - less to men as e'er it
use - less to men, as use - less to men - folk
use - less to men folk As use - less to
Molto meno mosso (Maestoso) (♩ = ♩ of former tempo)

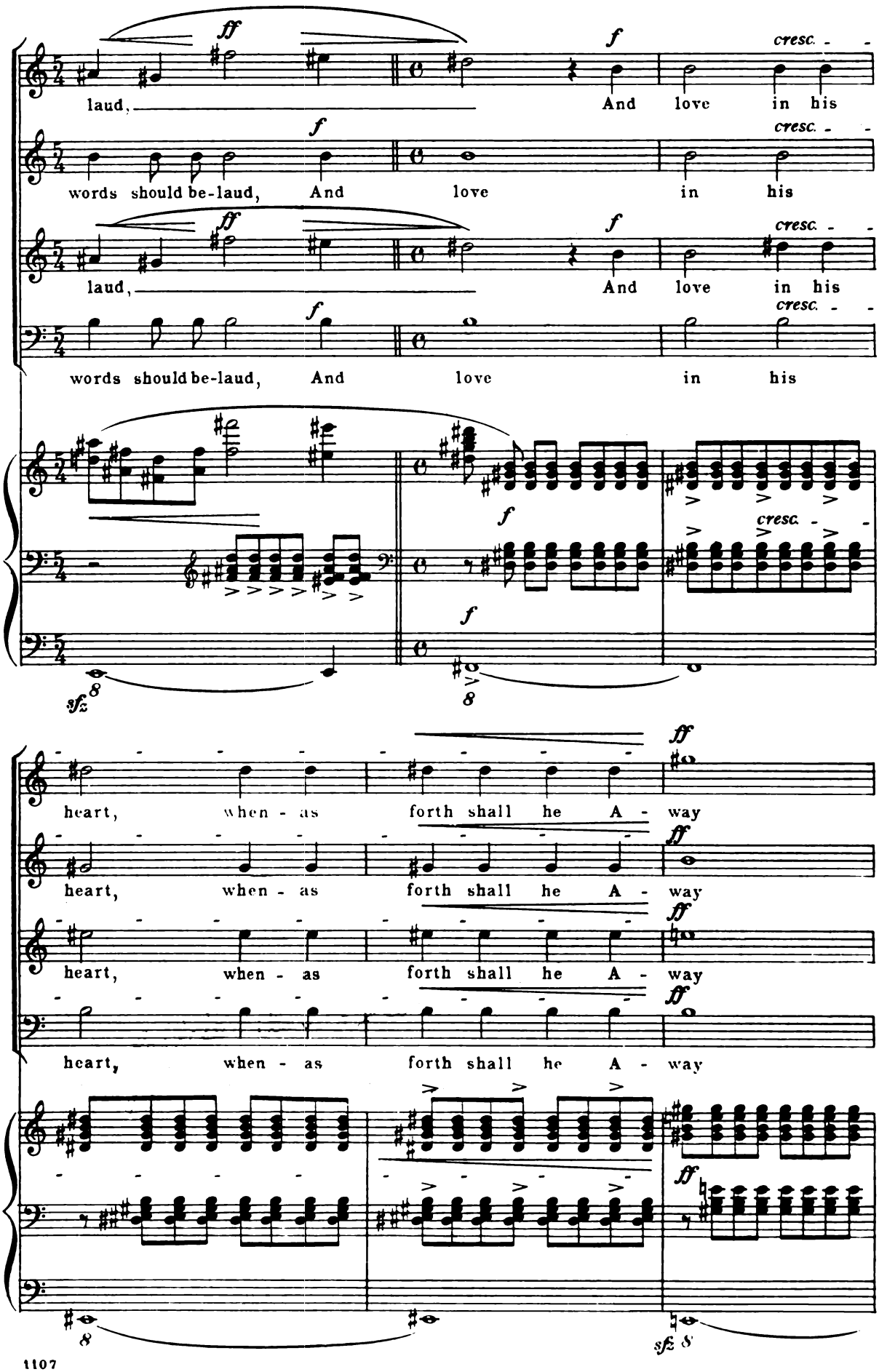

erst was As use - less to men as
erst was As use - less to men as
As use - less to men as
men, As use - less to men, As use - less to
ev - er it erst was. Ah
ev - er it erst was. Ah
ev - er it erst was. Ah
men As use-less to man as e'er it erst was.

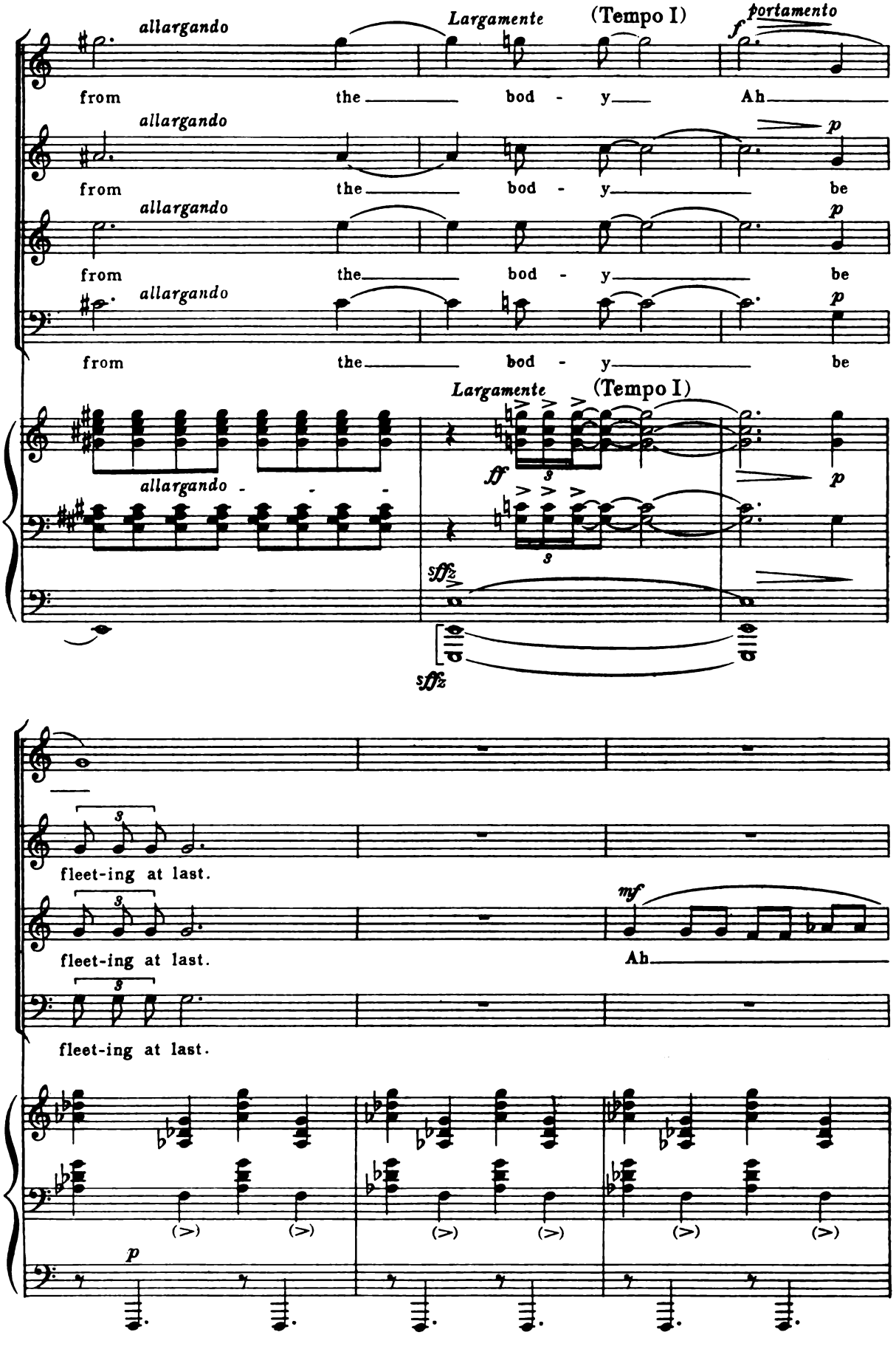

Andante con moto
p
mf
p
mf
f
Then round the howe rode the deer of the bat - tle The
mf

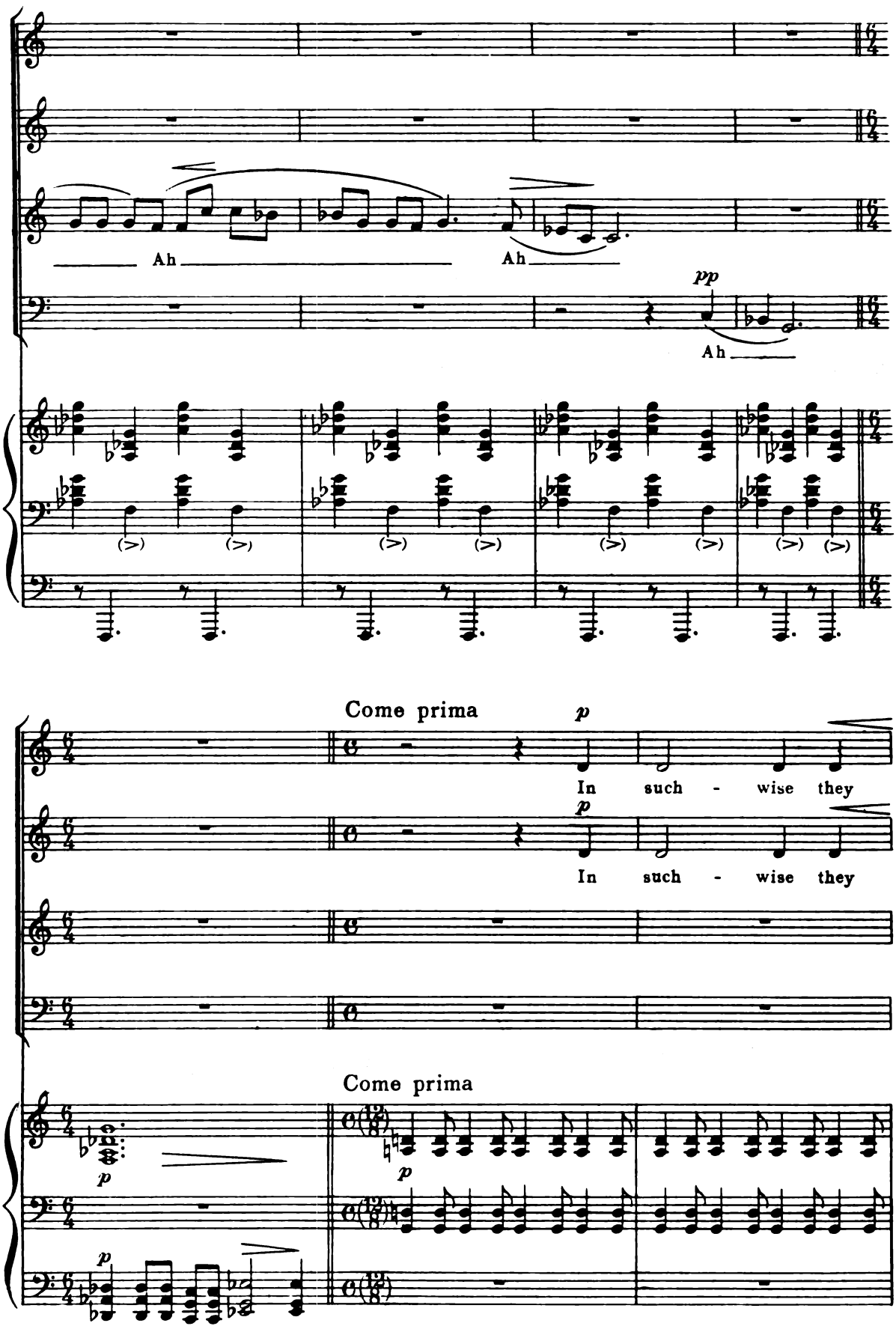

bairns of the athe - lings, twelve were they in
mf
Their
all.
care would they mourn, and be - moan them their King, The
f

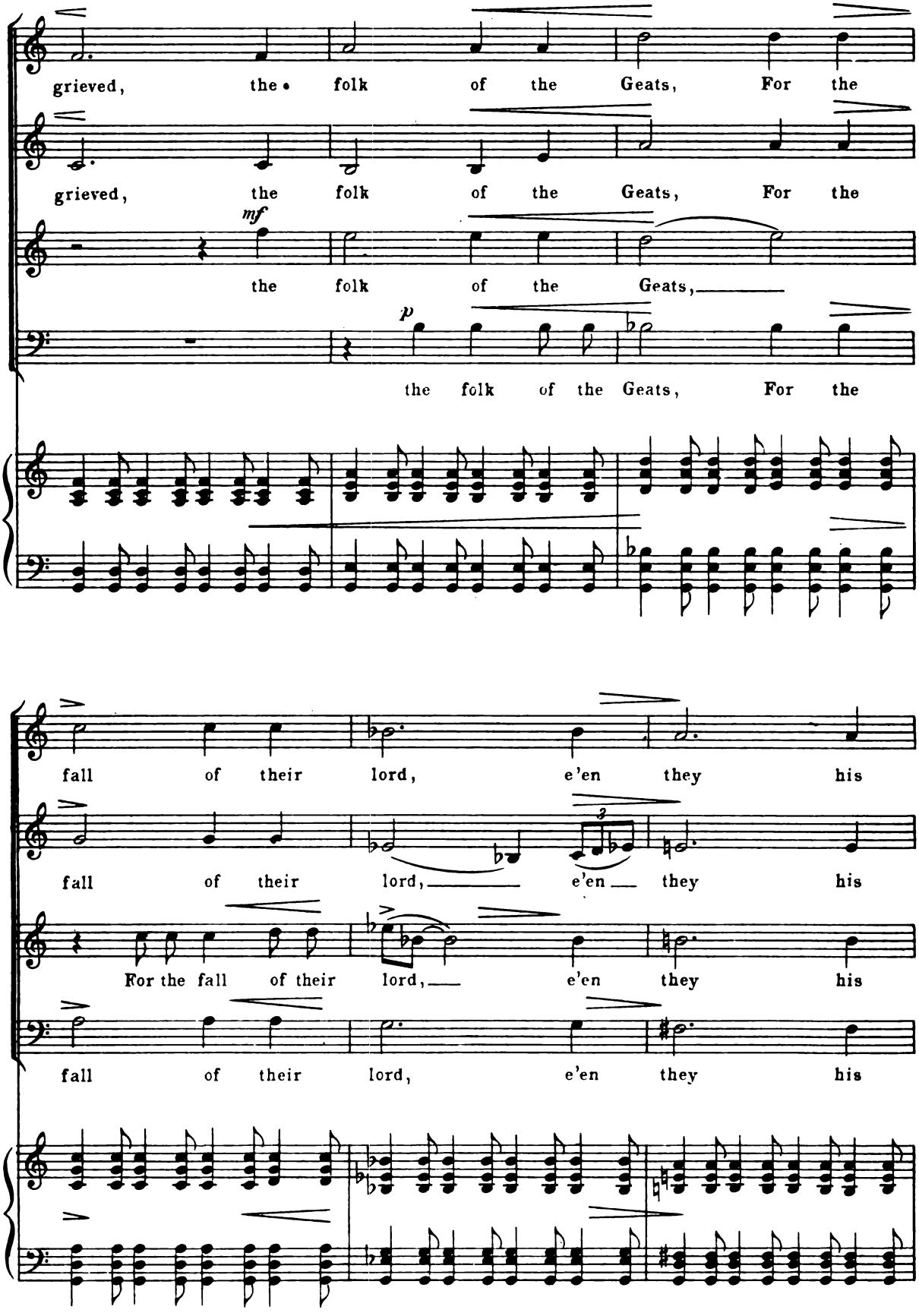

word-lay would they ut - ter and o - ver the man speak:
Più mosso
mf
They ac-count - ed his earl - ship and might-y deeds done,
mf
They ac - count - ed his
mf
They ac-count - ed his earl - ship and might-y deeds done,
mf
They ac - count - ed his
Più mosso
mf

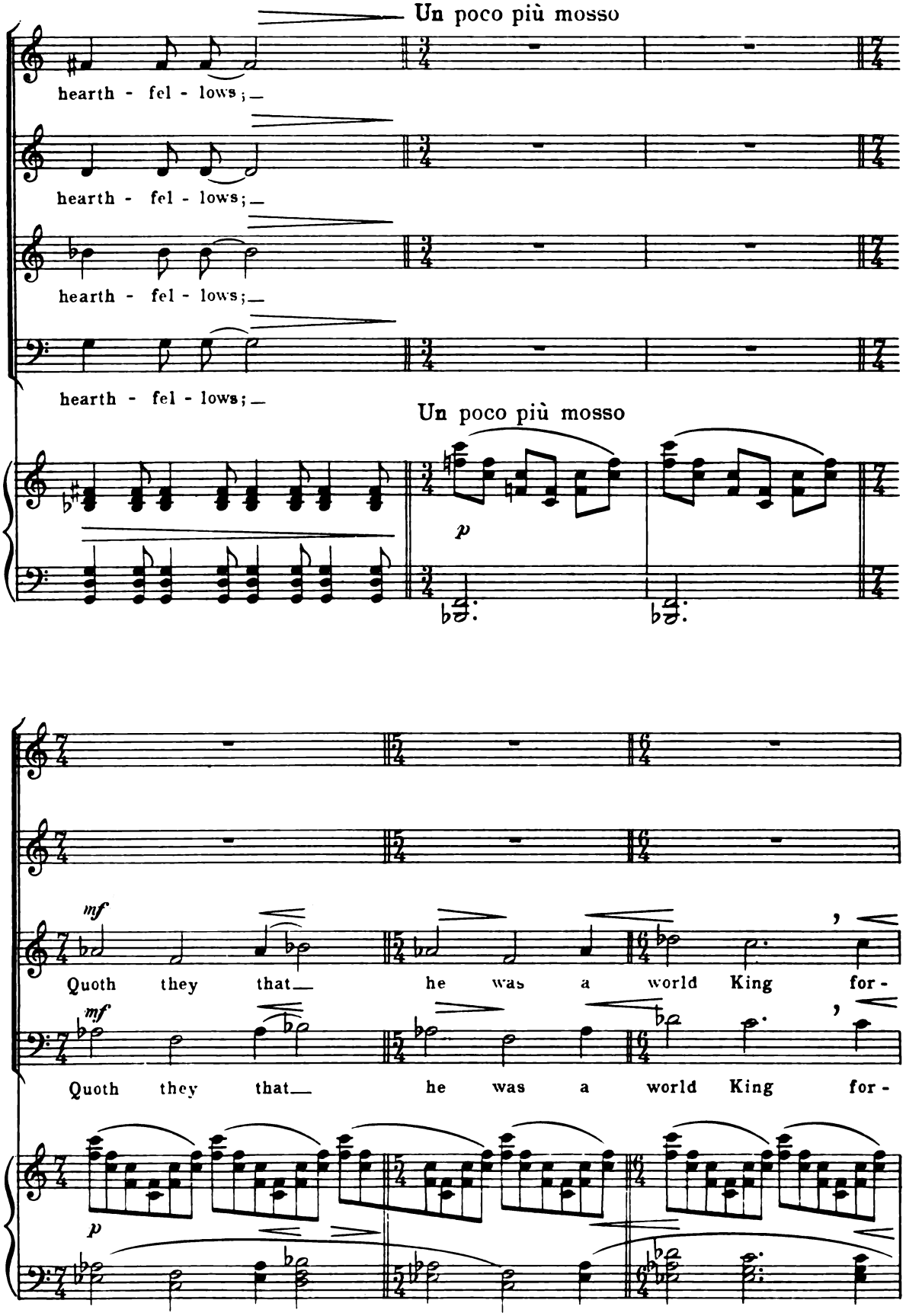

And dought - i - ly deemed them; as
earl - ship and might - y deeds done, And dought - i - ly
And dought - i - ly deemed them; as
earl - ship and might - y deeds done, And dought - i - ly
f
due as it is That each one his friend-lord with words should be -
deemed them; as due as it is That each one his friend-lord with
f
due as it is That each one his friend-lord with words should be -
deemed them; as due as it is That each one his friend-lord with

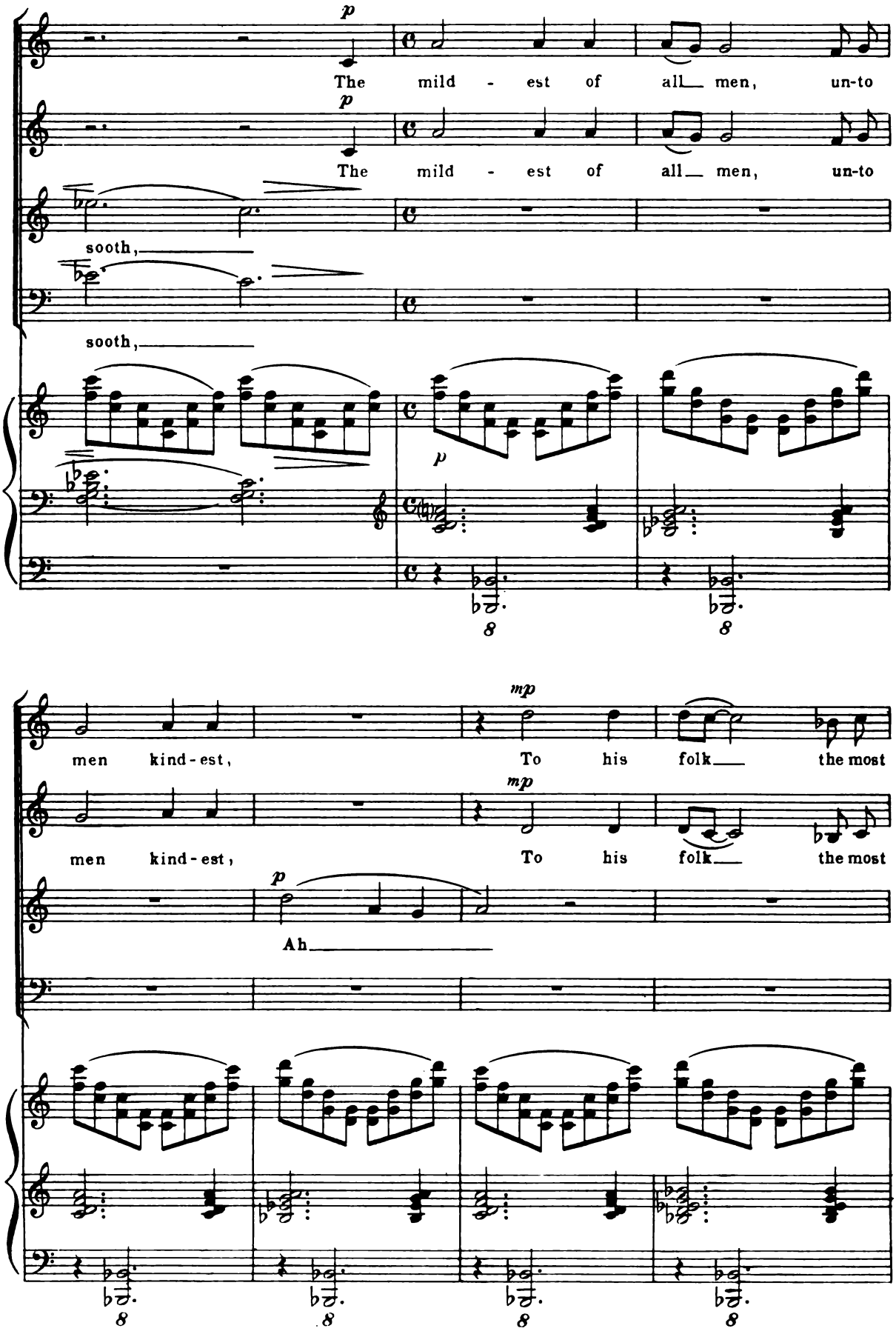

laud, And love in his
words should be-laud, And love in his
laud, And love in his
words should be-laud, And love in his
heart, when - as forth shall he A - way
heart, when - as forth shall he A - way
heart, when - as forth shall he A - way
heart, when - as forth shall he A - way

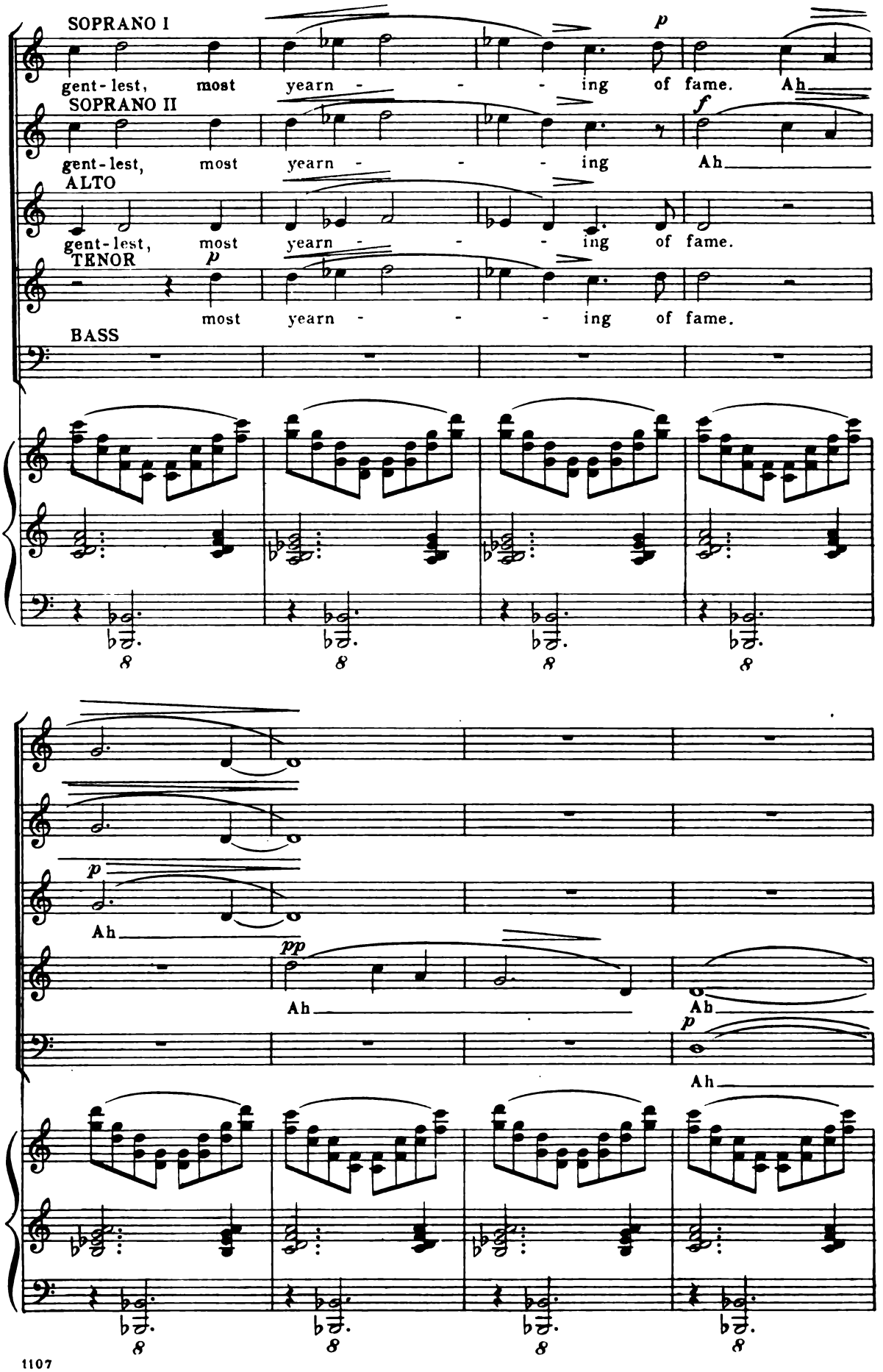

allargando
Largamente
(Tempo I)
portamento
from the bod - y Ah
from the bod - y be
from the bod - y be
from the bod - y be
fleet-ing at last.
fleet-ing at last.
Ah
fleet-ing at last.

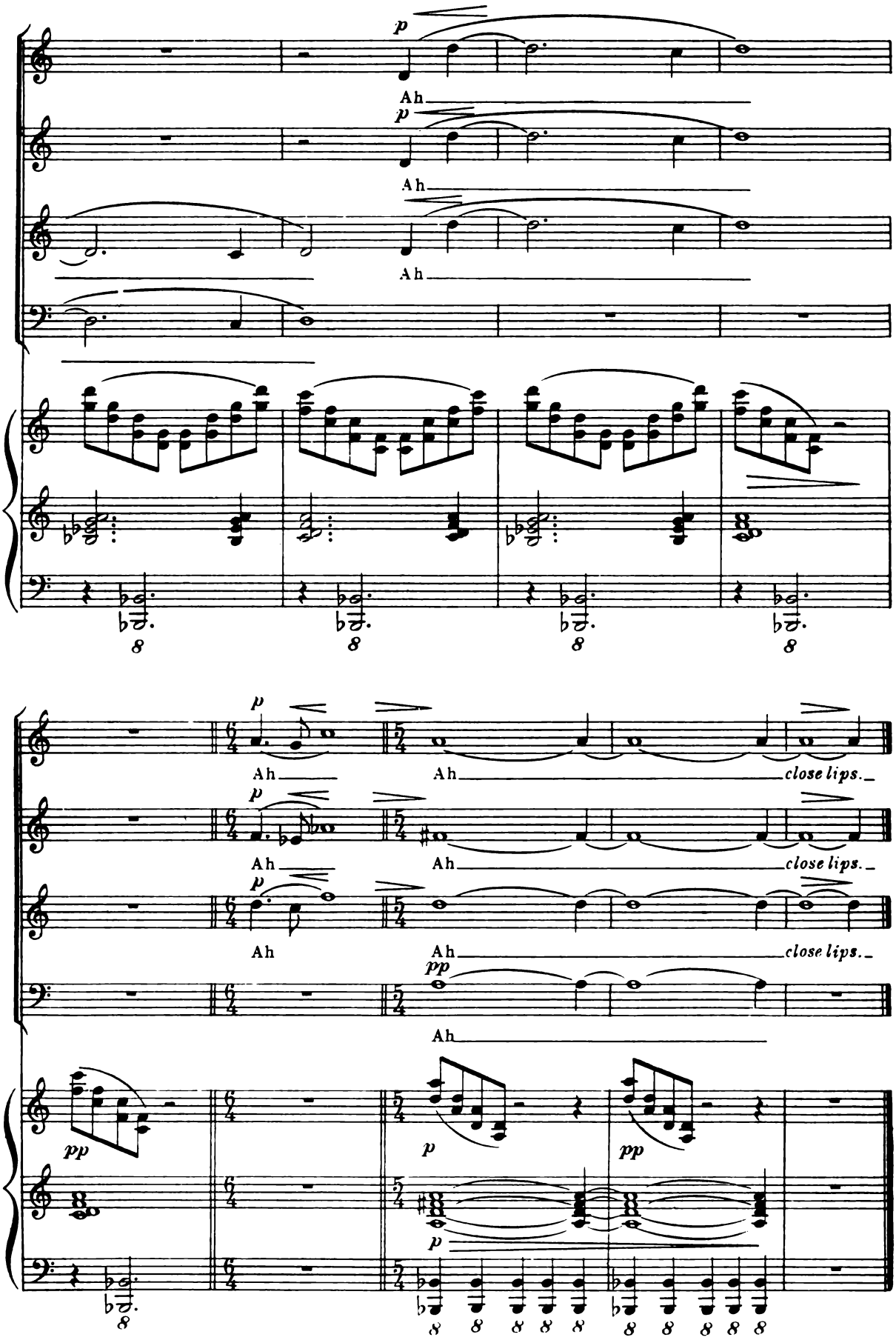

Ah
Ah
pp
Ah
(>)
Come prima
p
In such - wise they
p
In such - wise they
Come prima
p
p
p


grieved, the folk of the Geats, For the
grieved, the folk of the Geats, For the
mf
the folk of the Geats,
p
the folk of the Geats, For the
fall of their lord, e'en they his
fall of their lord, e'en they his
For the fall of their lord, e'en they his
fall of their lord, e'en they his


Un poco più mosso
hearth - fel - lows;
hearth - fel - lows;
hearth - fel - lows;
hearth - fel - lows;
Un poco più mosso
p
mf
Quoth they that he was a world King for -
mf
Quoth they that he was a world King for -
p


p
The mild - est of all men, un-to
p
The mild - est of all men, un-to
sooth,
sooth,
p
8
8
mp
men kind-est, To his folk the most
mp
men kind-est, To his folk the most
p
Ah
8
8
8
8


SOPRANO I
gent-lest, most yearn - - - ing of fame. Ah
SOPRANO II
gent-lest, most yearn - - - ing Ah
ALTO
gent-lest, most yearn - - - ing of fame.
TENOR
most yearn - - - ing of fame.
BASS
p
f
Ah
pp
Ah
Ah
Ah
8


p
Ah
p
Ah
Ah
8
8
8
8
p
Ah
Ah
close lips.
p
Ah
Ah
close lips.
p
Ah
Ah
close lips.
pp
Ah
pp
p
pp
p
8
8
8
8
8
8
8
8
8
8

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