Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Three Milton Sonnets

XIV

On the Religious Memory of Mrs. Catherine Thomson,
My Christian Friend, Deceased Dec. 16, 1646.

When Faith and Love, which parted from thee never,
Had ripen'd thy just soul to dwell with God,
Meekly thou did'st resign this earthy load
Of death, called life, which us from life doth sever.
Thy works, and alms, and all thy good endeavour,
Stay'd not behind, nor in the grave were trod;
But, as Faith pointed with her golden rod,
Follow'd thee up to joy and bliss for ever.
Love led them on; and Faith, who knew them best
Thy handmaids, clad them o'er with purple beams
And azure wings, that up they flew so drest,
And spake the truth of thee in glorious Theams
Before the Judge; who thenceforth bid thee rest,
And drink thy fill of pure immortal streams.
(1646)

XXIII

Methought I saw my late espoused saint
Brought to me, like Alcestis, from the grave,
Whom Jove's great son to her glad husband gave,
Rescu'd from death by force, though pale and faint.
Mine, as whom wash'd from spot of child-bed taint
Purification in the old Law did save,
And such as yet once more I trust to have
Full sight of her in Heaven without restraint,
Came vested all in white, pure as her mind;
Her face was veil'd, yet to my fancied sight
Love, sweetness, goodness, in her person shin'd
So clear as in no face with more delight.
But O as to embrace me she inclin'd,
I wak'd, she fled, and day brought back my night.
(1658)

XIX

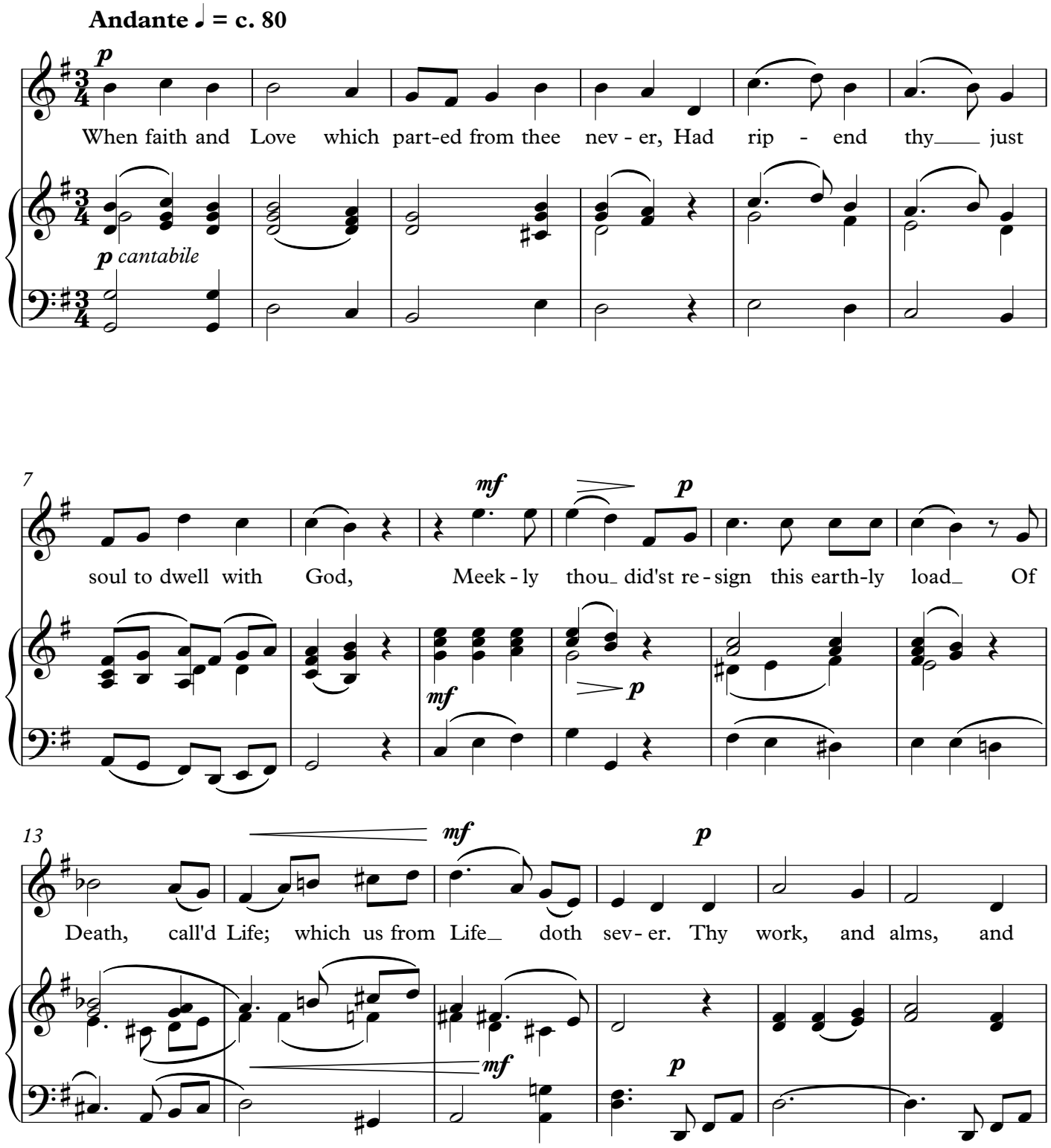
When I consider how my light is spent,
E're half my days, in this dark world and wide,
And that one Talent which is death to hide
Lodged with me useless, though my Soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest he returning chide;
"Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"
I fondly ask. But patience, to prevent
That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need
Either man's work or his own gifts; who best
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state
Is Kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed
And post o'er Land and Ocean without rest:
They also serve who only stand and wait."
(1655)

Three Milton Sonnets

Texts by John Milton (1608-1674)

Music by Samuel Lord Kalcheim (1990-)

1. "When Faith and Love which parted from thee never..."



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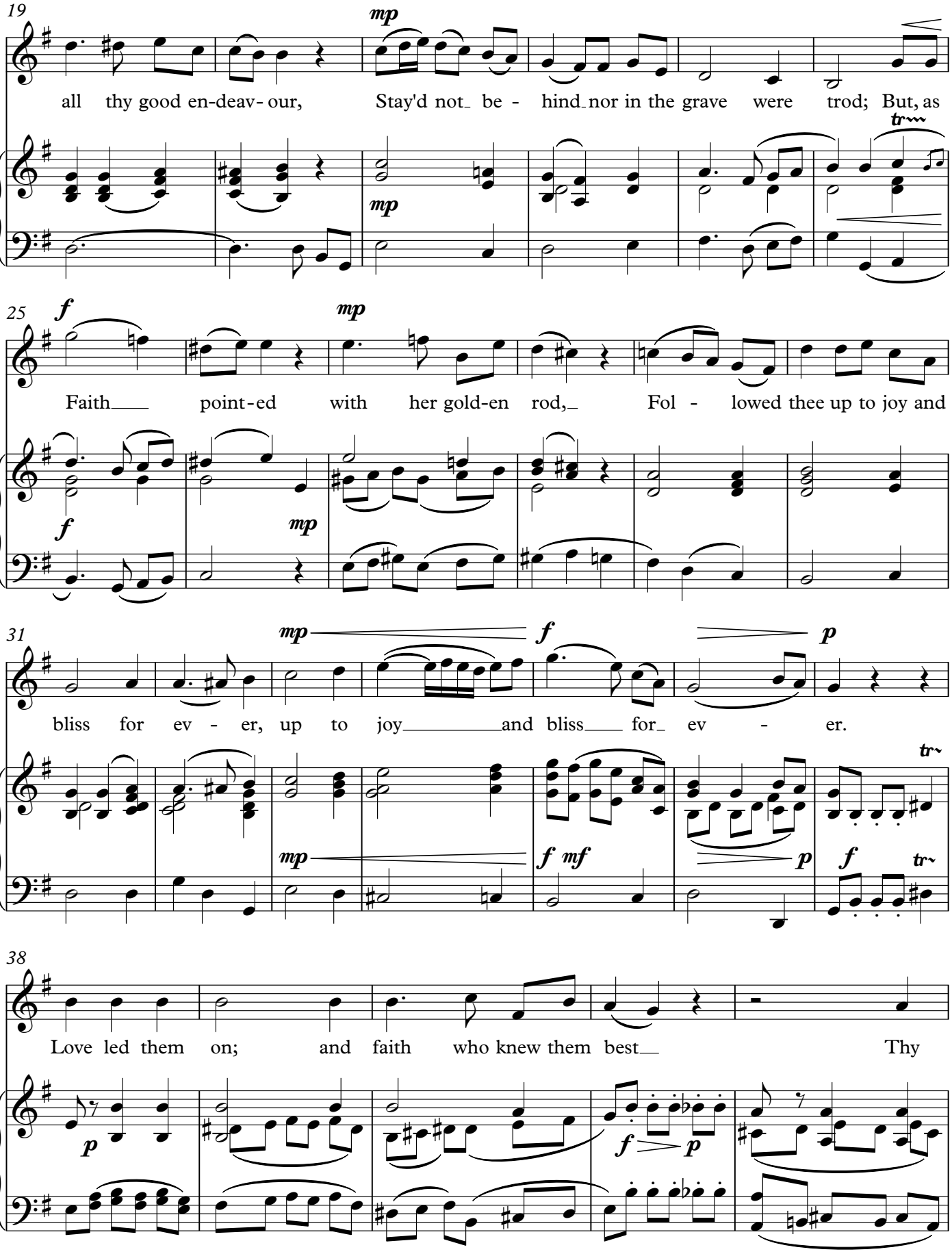
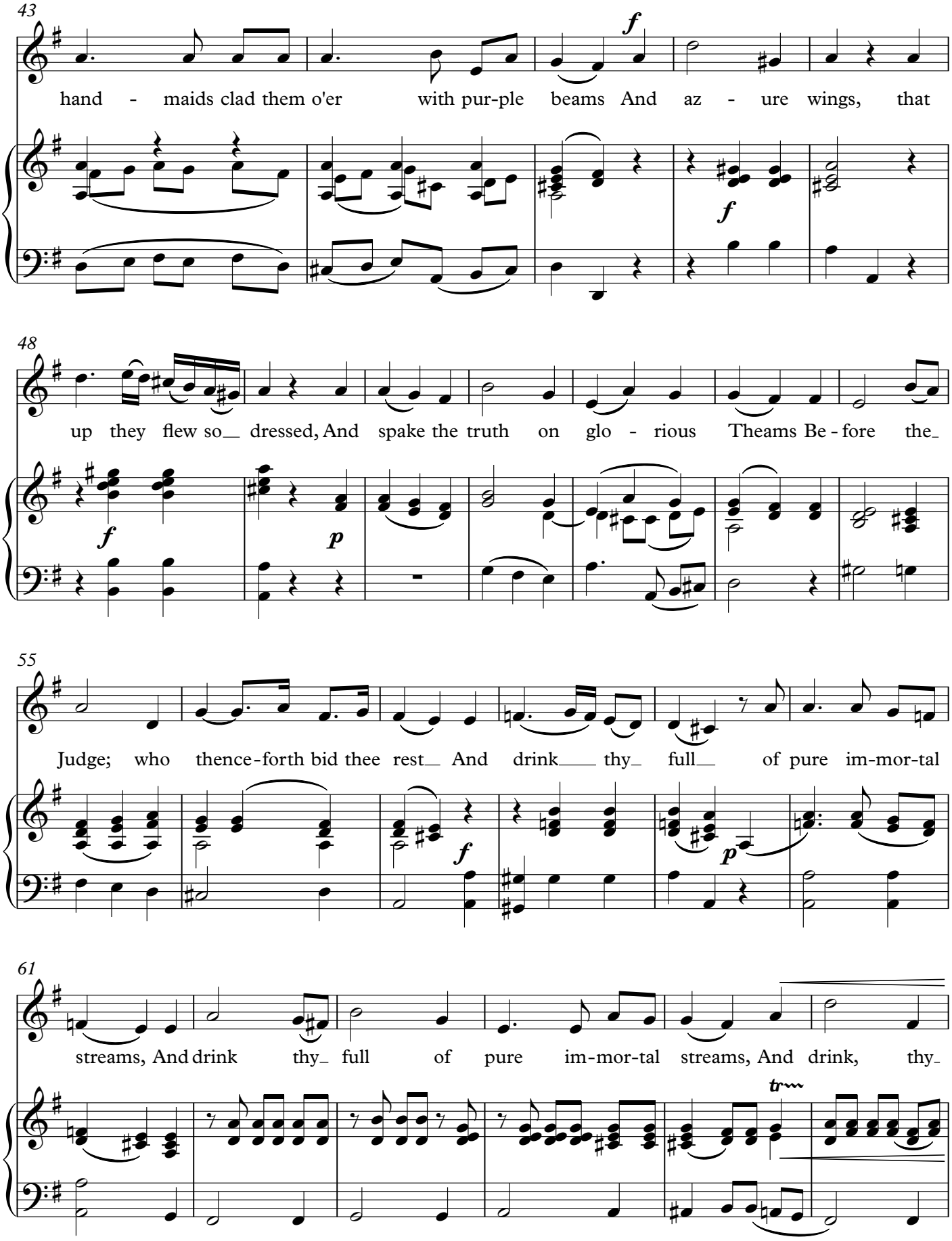
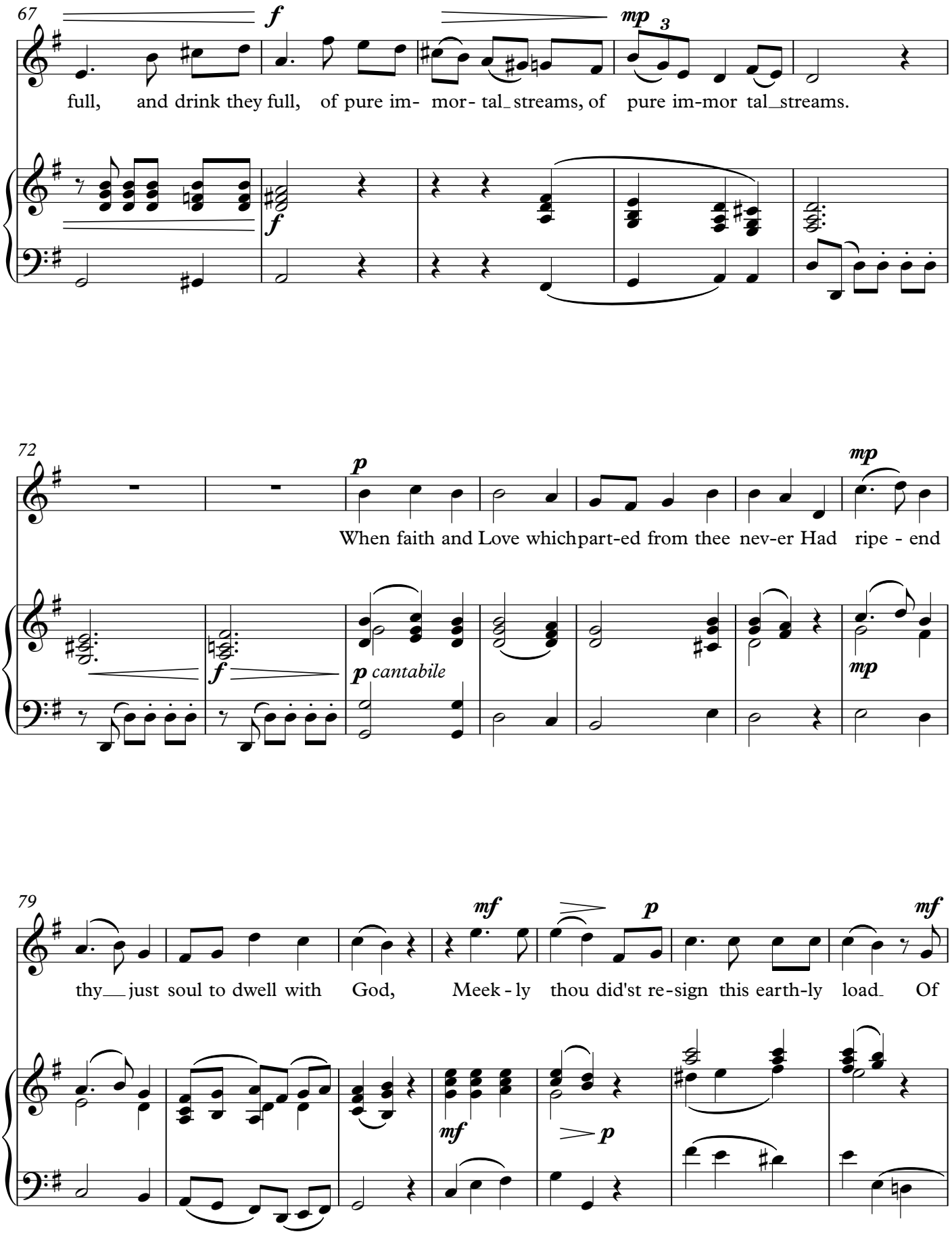
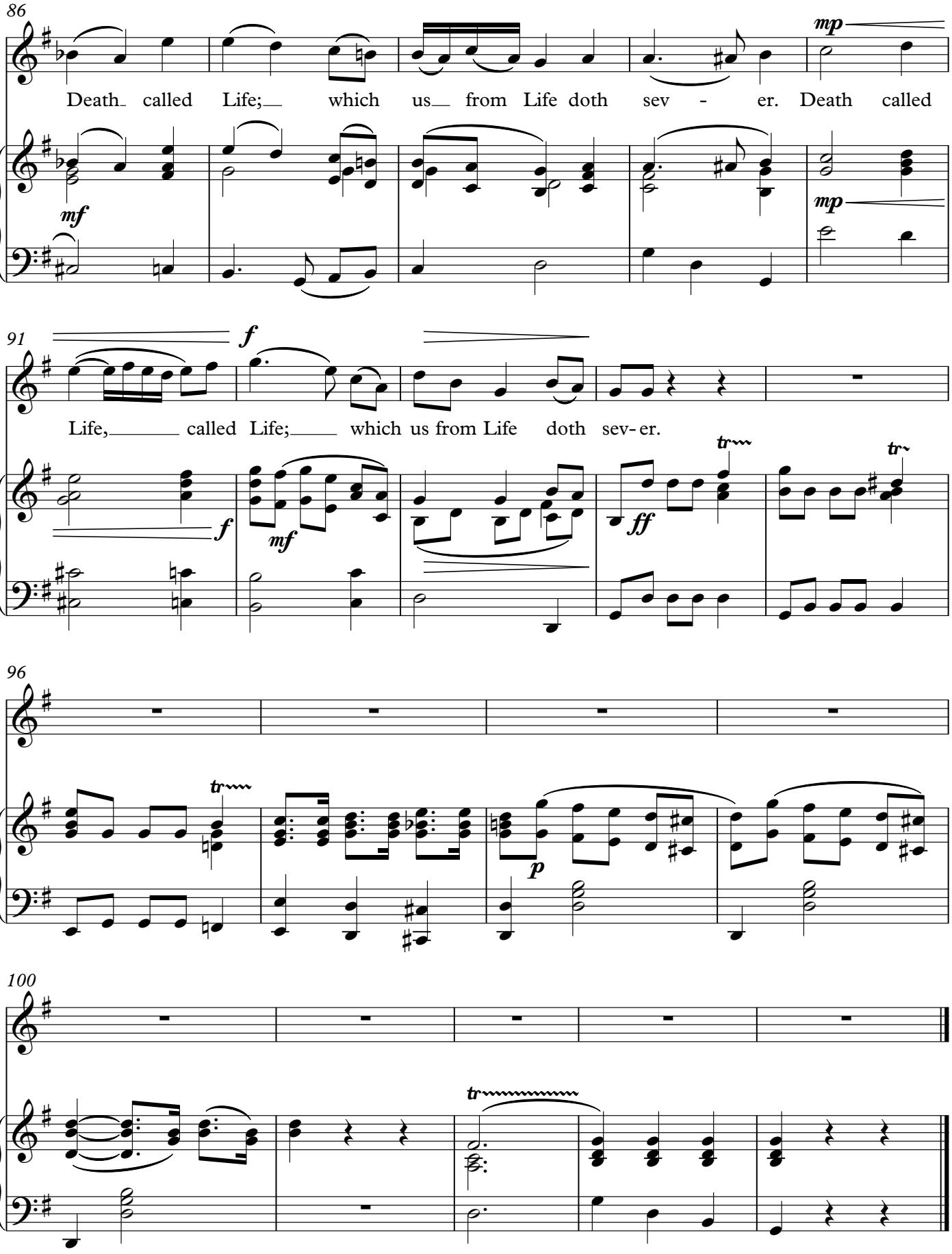
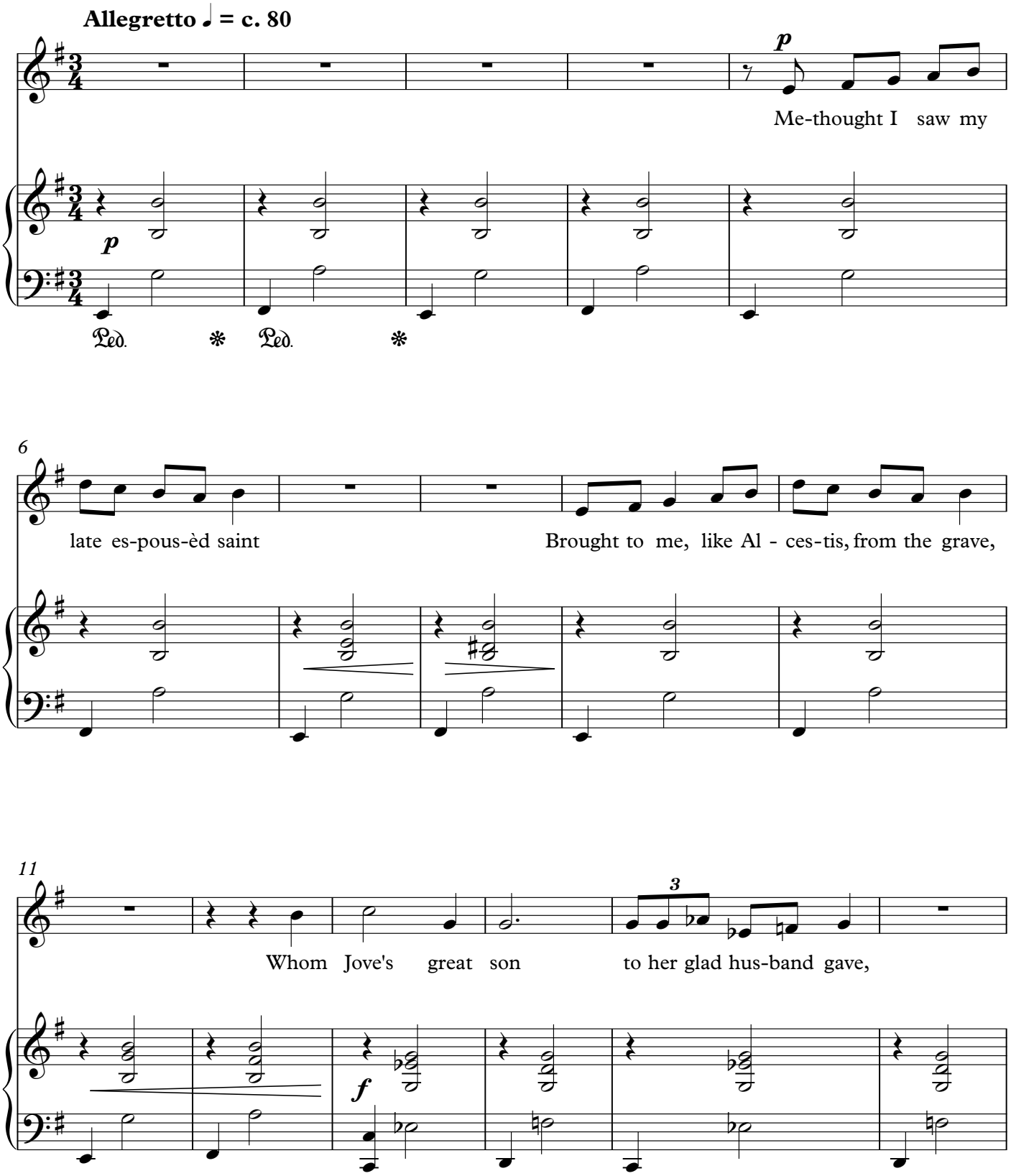

19
mp
all thy good en-deav- our, Stay'd not be - hind nor in the grave were trod; But, as
25
f
mp
Faith point-ed with her gold-en rod, Fol - lowed thee up to joy and
31
mp
f
p
bliss for ev - er, up to joy and bliss for ev - er.
38
Love led them on; and faith who knew them best Thy

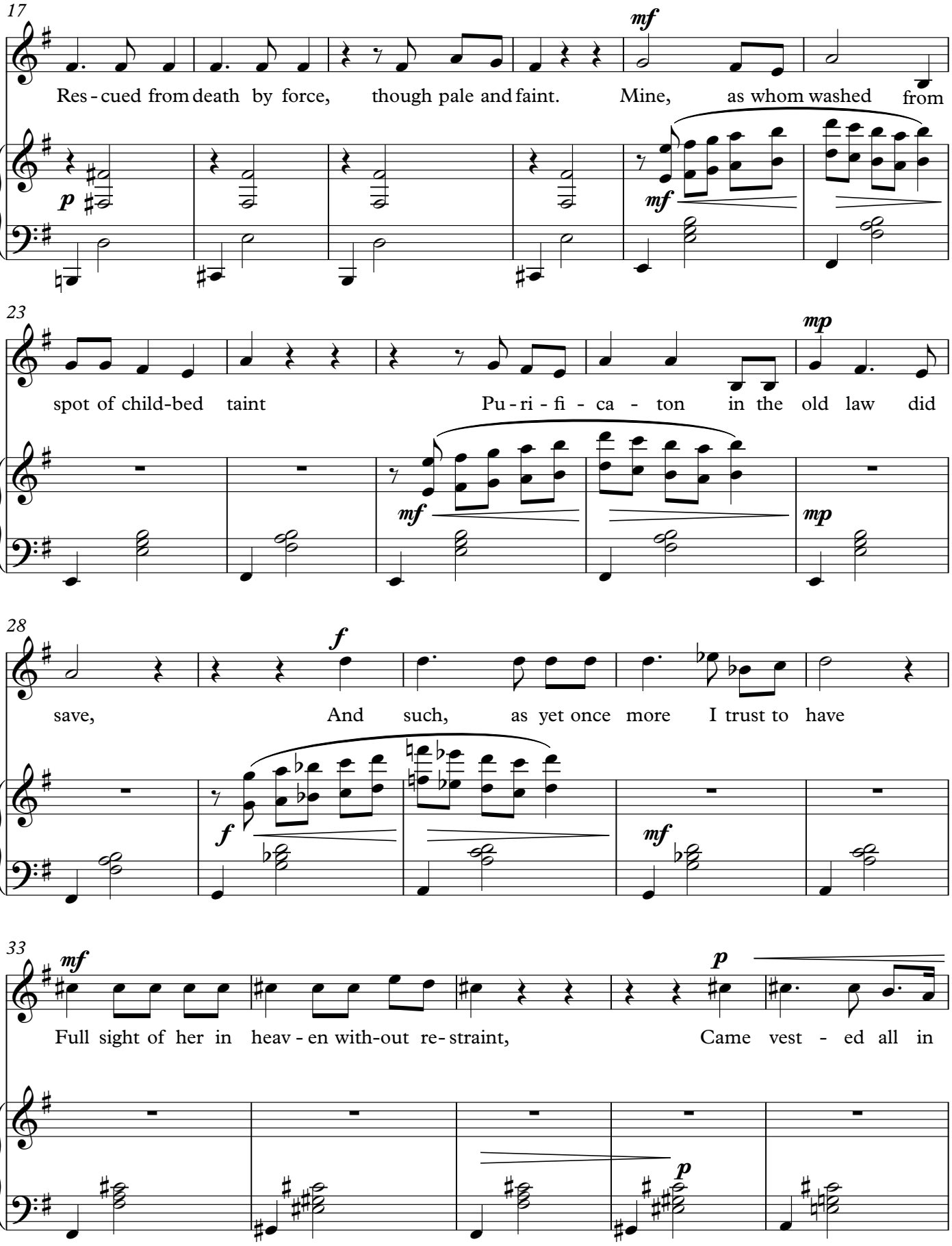

43
hand - maids clad them o'er with pur-ple beams And az - ure wings, that
48
up they flew so_ dressed, And spake the truth on glo - rious Theams Be - fore the_
55
Judge; who thence-forth bid thee rest_ And drink_ thy_ full_ of pure im-mor-tal
61
streams, And drink thy_ full of pure im-mor-tal streams, And drink, thy_

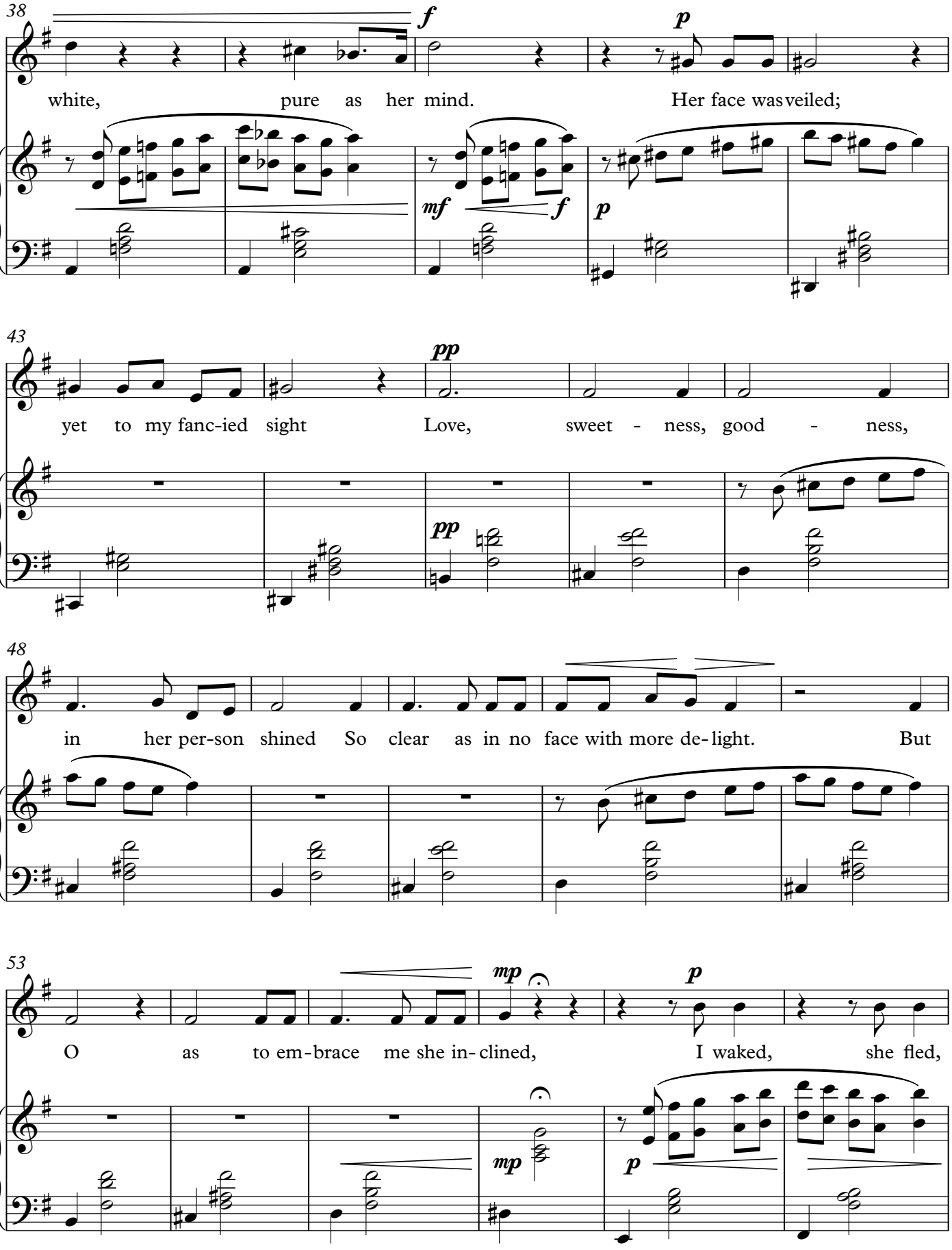

67
f
mp
3
full, and drink they full, of pure im- mor- tal_ streams, of pure im-mor tal_streams.
f
72
p
mp
When faith and Love whichpart-ed from thee nev-er Had ripe - end
f
p cantabile
mp
79
mf
p
mf
thy__ just soul to dwell with God, Meek - ly thou did'st re-sign this earth-ly load_ Of
mf
p

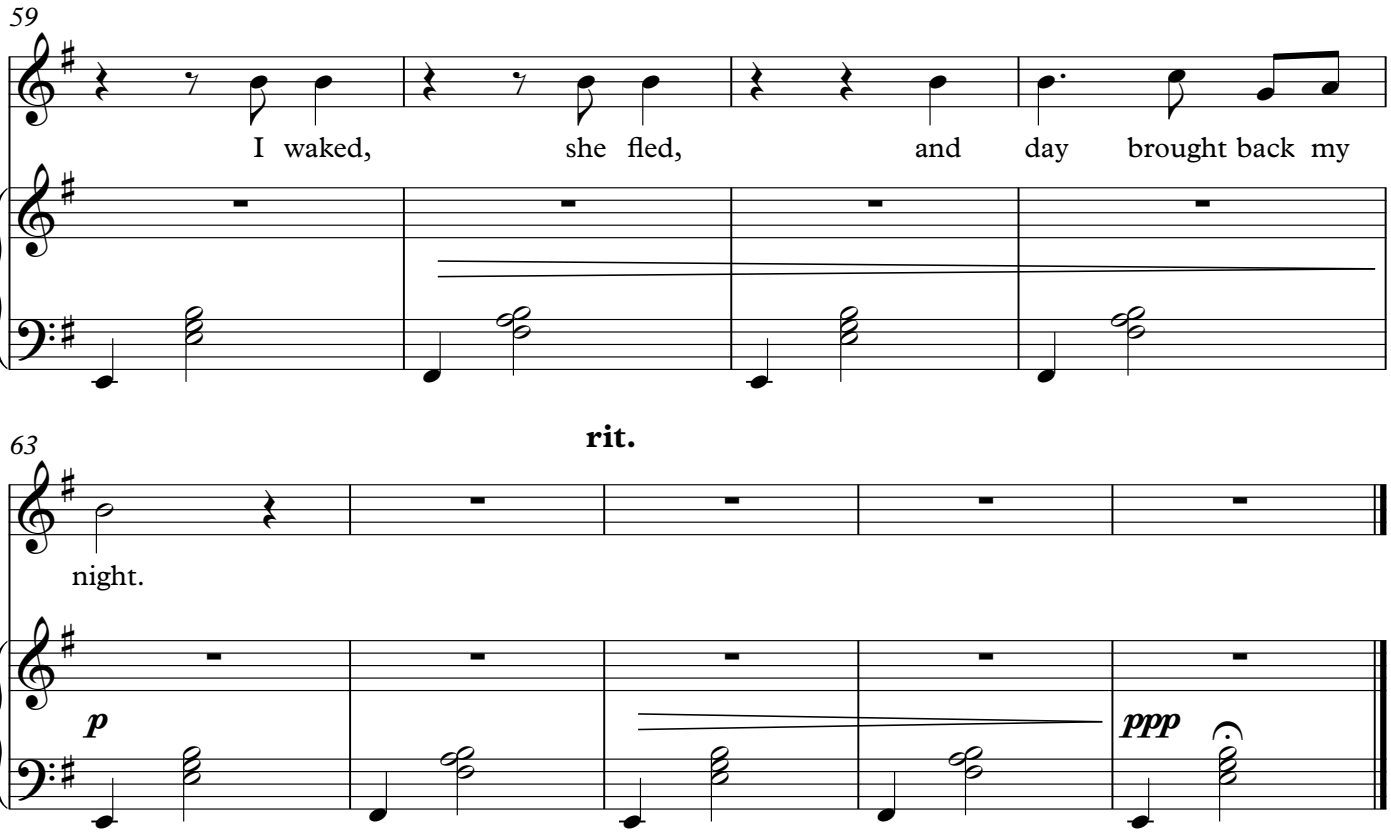

86
Death called Life; which us from Life doth sev - er. Death called
mp
mf
mp
91
Life, called Life; which us from Life doth sev- er.
f
f
mf
ff
96
p
100

2. "Methought I saw my late espousèd saint..."

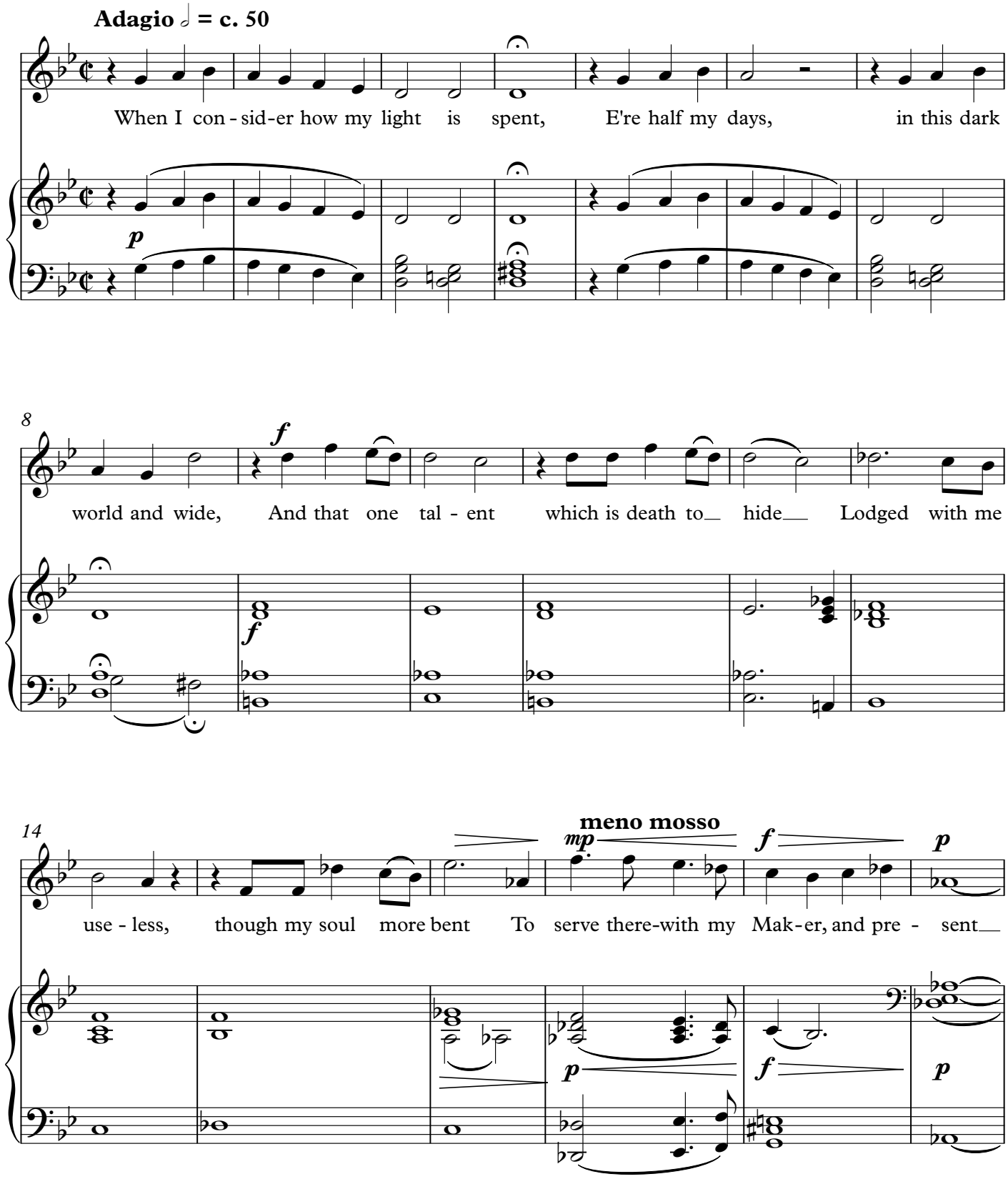


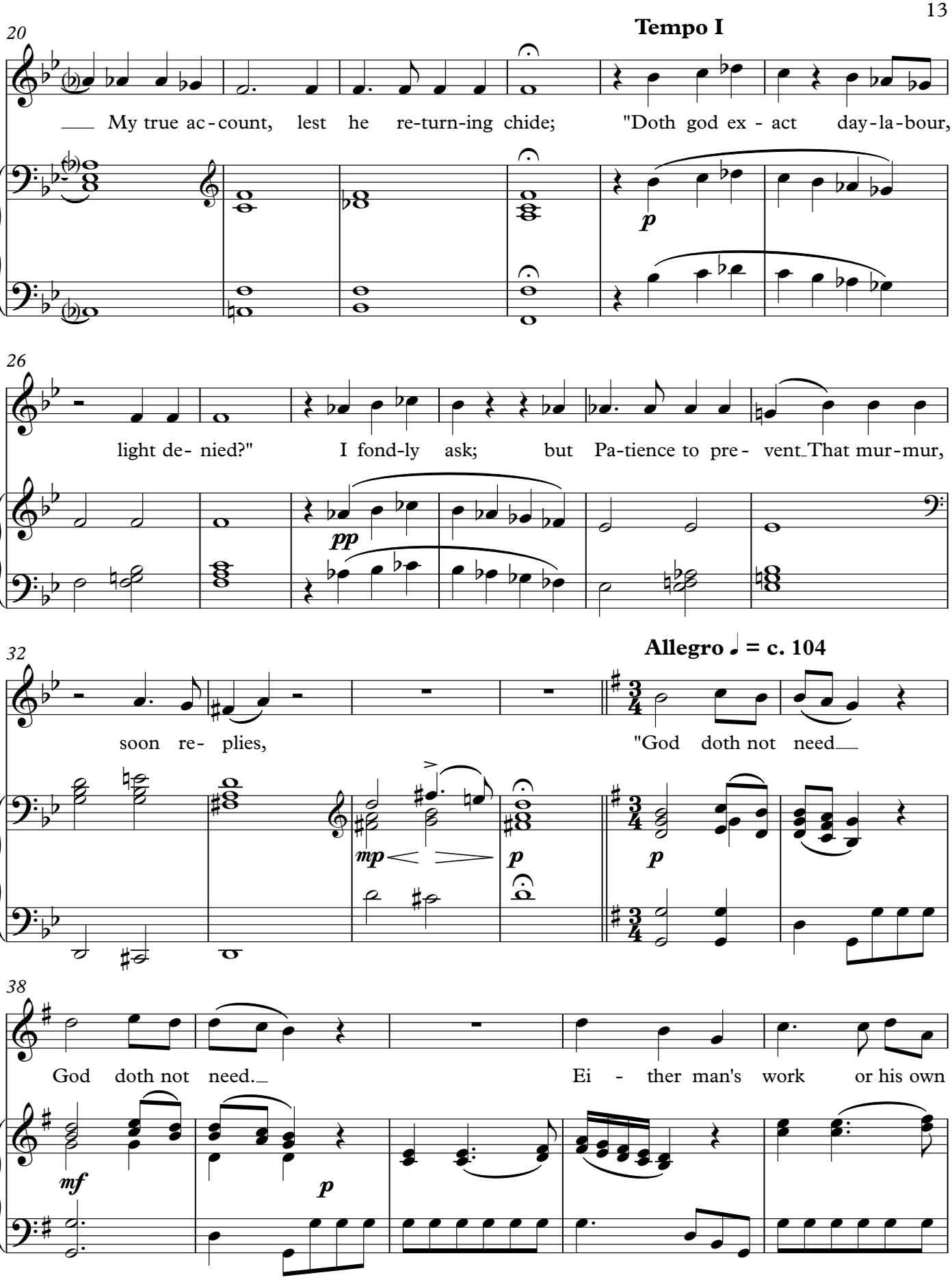

17
mf
Res - cued from death by force, though pale and faint. Mine, as whom washed from
p
mf
23
mp
spot of child-bed taint Pu - ri - fi - ca - ton in the old law did
mf
mp
28
f
save, And such, as yet once more I trust to have
f
mf
33
mf
p
Full sight of her in heav - en with-out re- straint, Came vest - ed all in
p

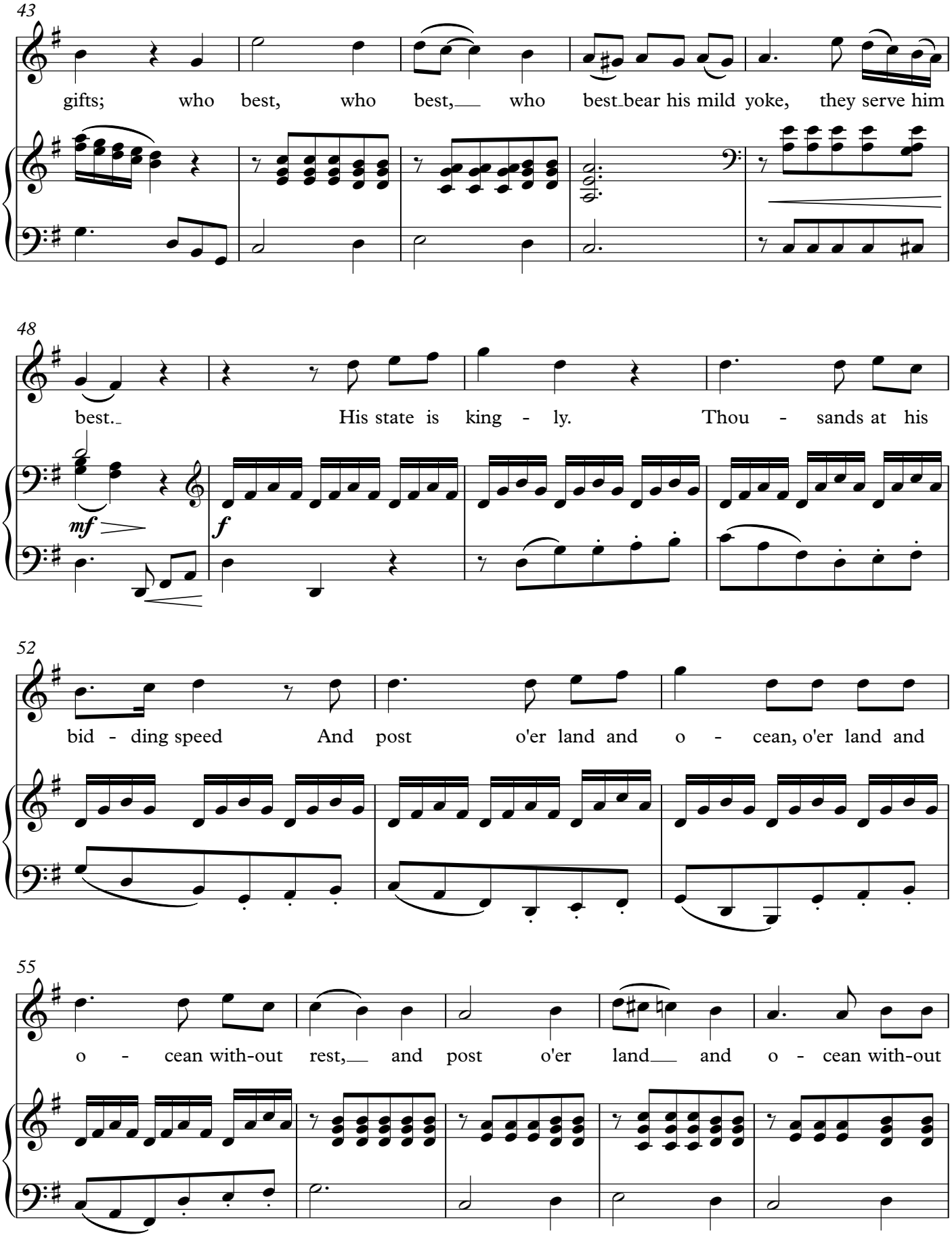

38
f
p
white, pure as her mind. Her face was veiled;
mf
f
p
43
pp
yet to my fanc-ied sight Love, sweet - ness, good - ness,
pp
48
in her per-son shined So clear as in no face with more de-light. But
53
mp
p
O as to em-brace me she in-clined, I waked, she fled,
mp
p

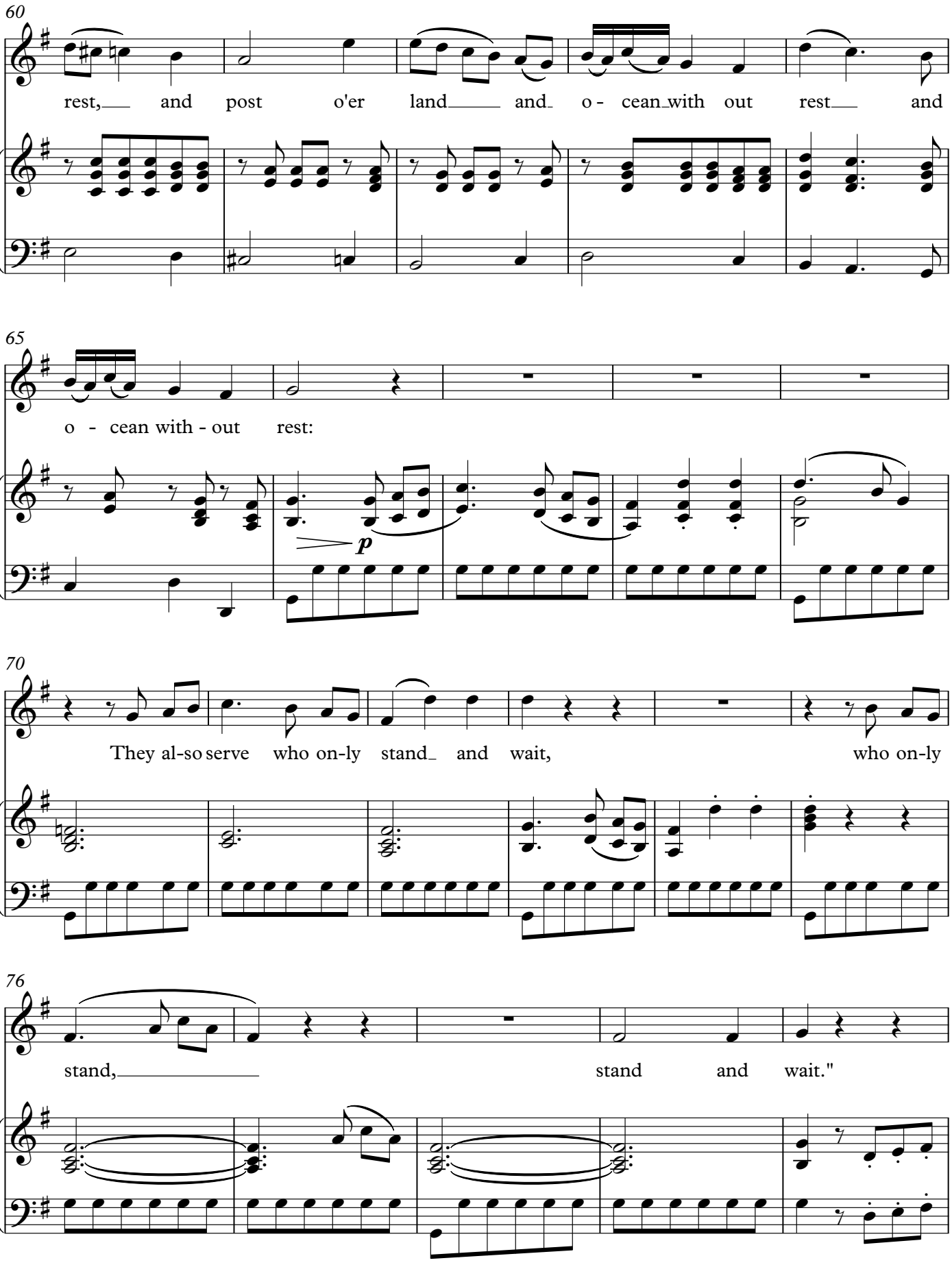

59
I waked, she fled, and day brought back my
63
rit.
night.
p
ppp

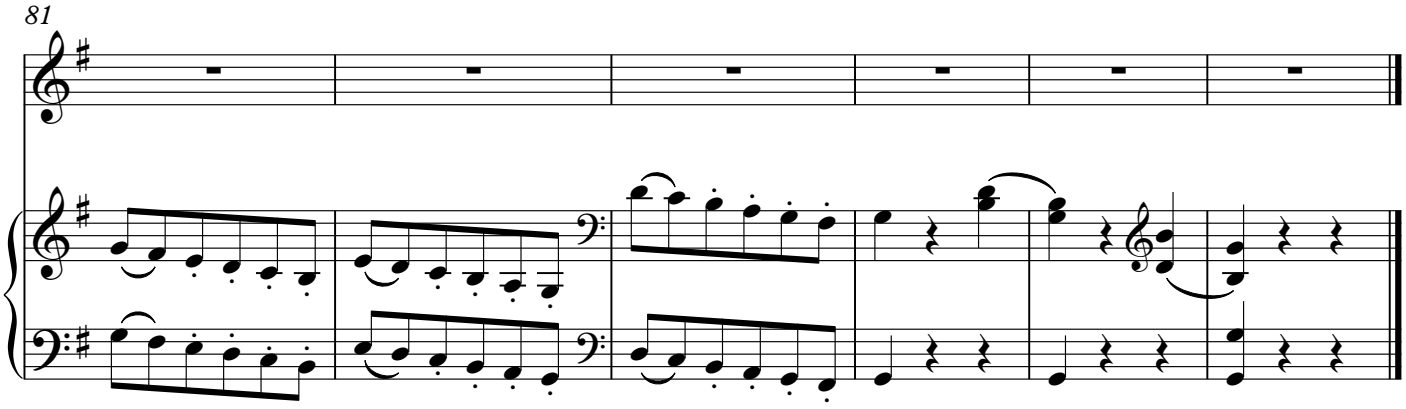
3. "When I consider how my light is spent..."




20
Tempo I
My true ac - count, lest he re-turn-ing chide; "Doth god ex - act day-la-bour,
p
26
light de- nied?" I fond-ly ask; but Pa-tience to pre- vent That mur-mur,
pp
32
Allegro ♩ = c. 104
soon re- plies, "God doth not need
mp
p
p
38
God doth not need. Ei - ther man's work or his own
mf
p


43
gifts; who best, who best, who best bear his mild yoke, they serve him
48
best. His state is king - ly. Thou - sands at his
mf
f
52
bid - ding speed And post o'er land and o - cean, o'er land and
55
o - cean with-out rest, and post o'er land and o - cean with-out


60
rest, and post o'er land and o - cean with out rest and
65
o - cean with - out rest:
p
70
They al-so serve who on-ly stand and wait, who on-ly
76
stand, stand and wait."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