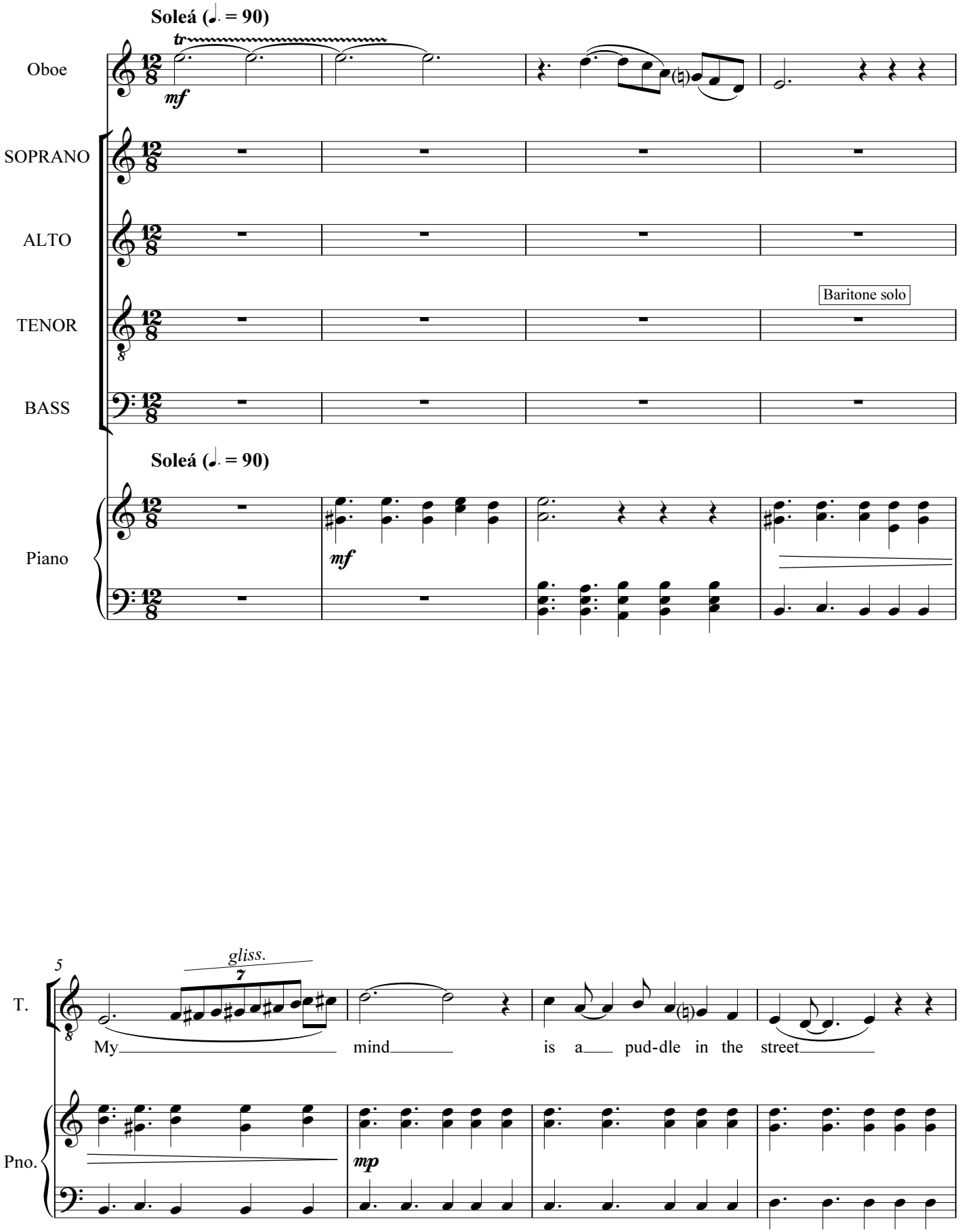
Enduring

Four poems by John Gould Fletcher (1886-1950)

1. Impromptu

Peter Bird



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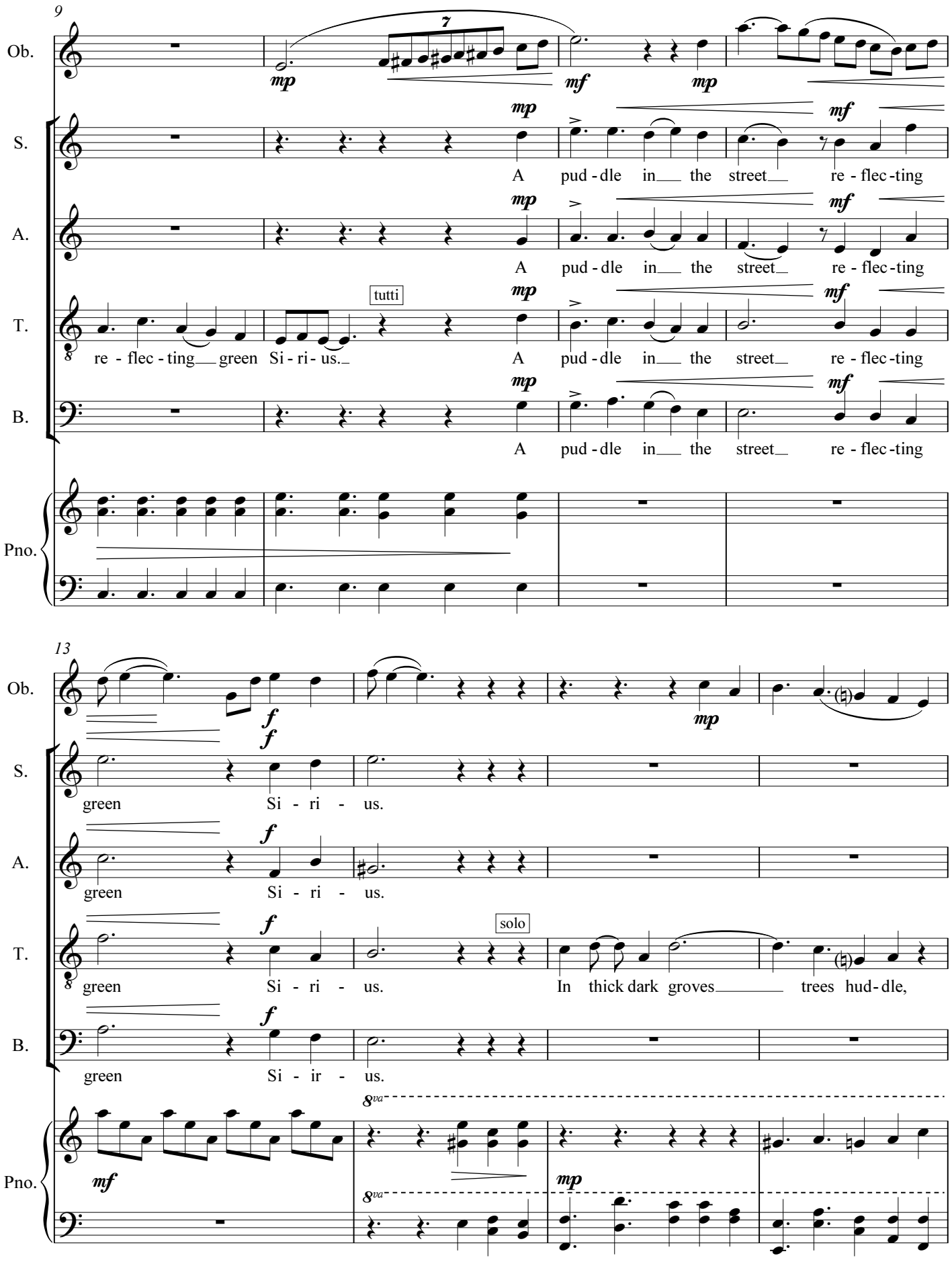
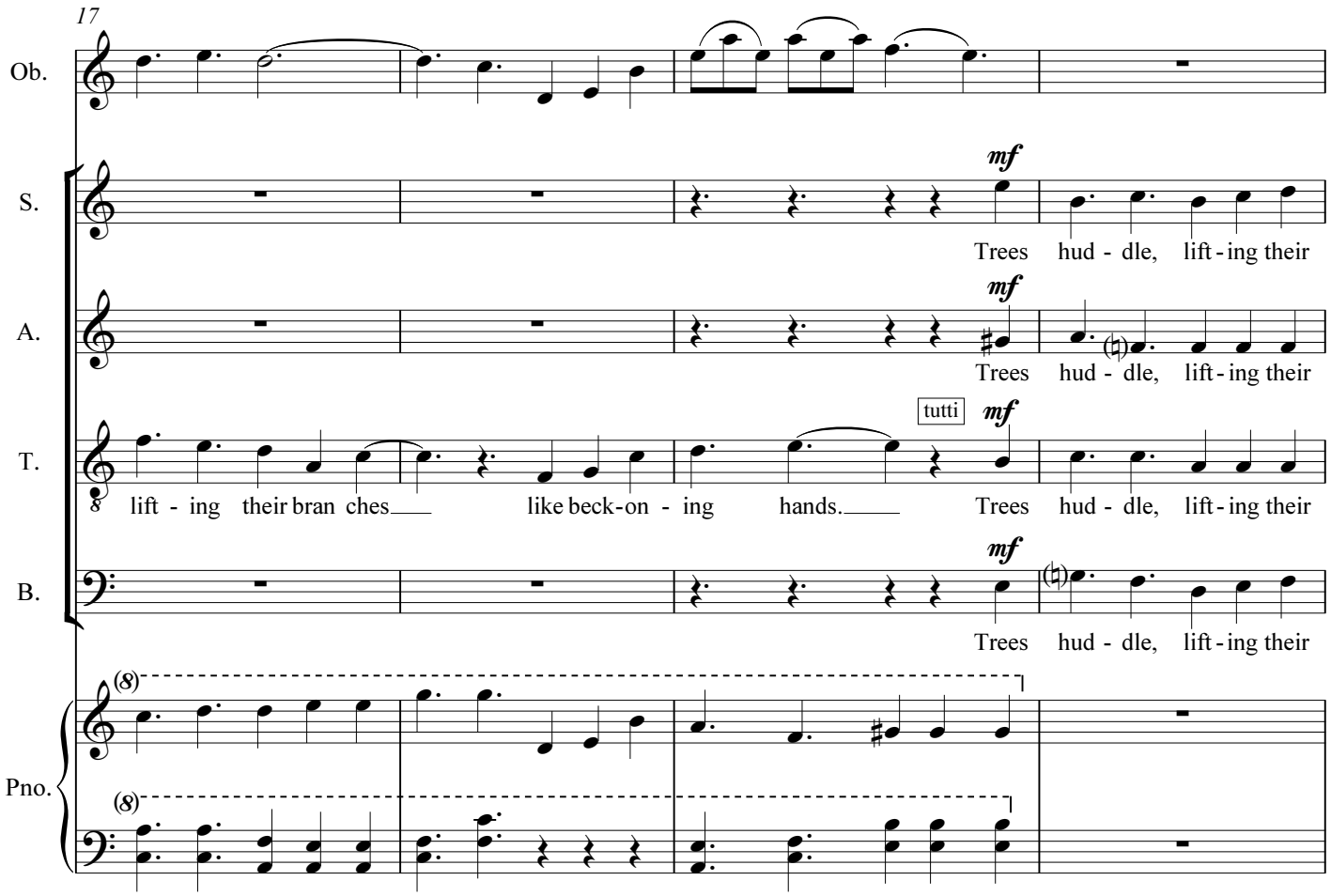
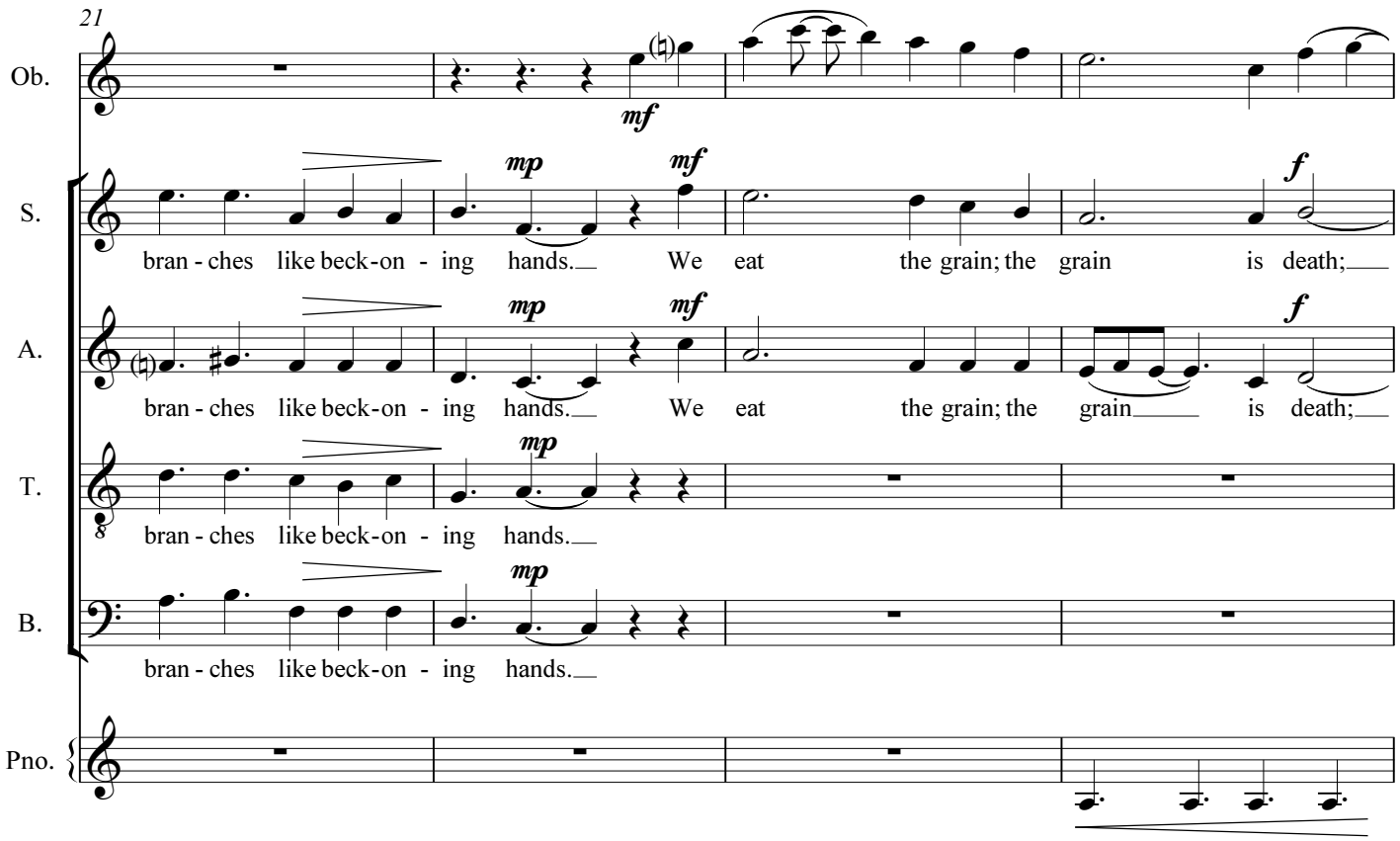
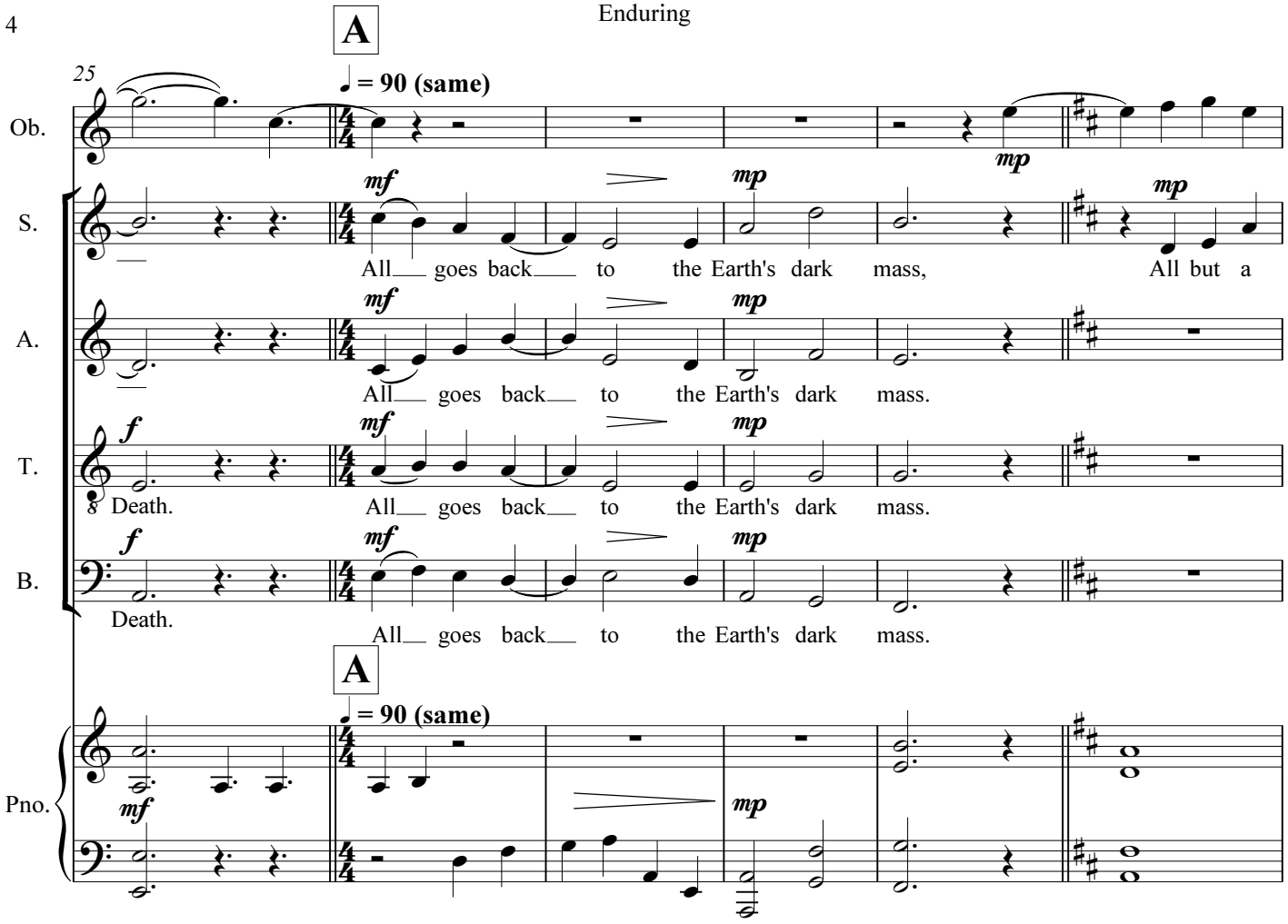
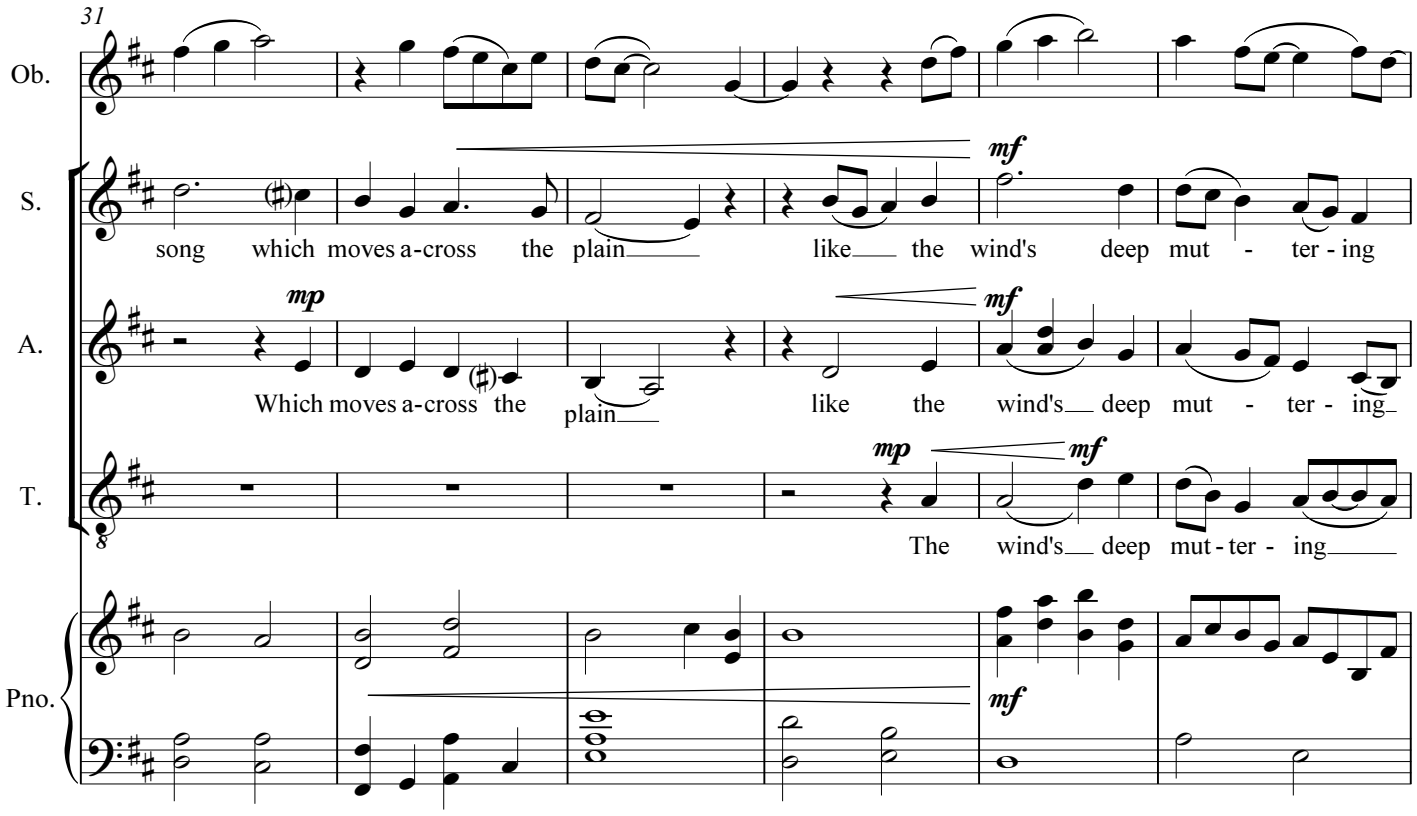
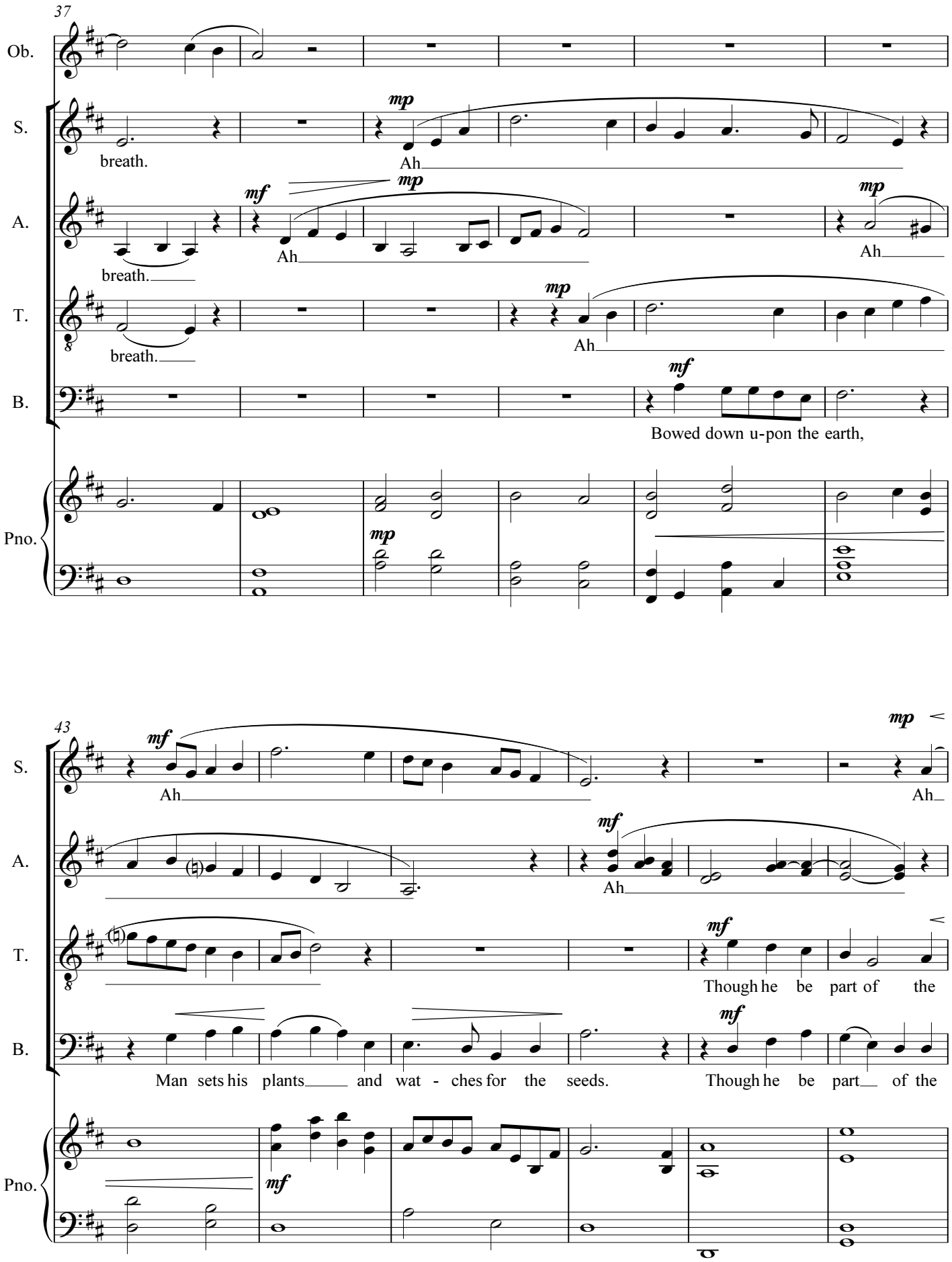

9
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mp
mf
A pud - dle in the street re - flec - ting
tutti
re - flec - ting green Si - ri - us.
13
f
green Si - ri - us.
solo
In thick dark groves trees hud - dle,
Si - ir - us.
8va

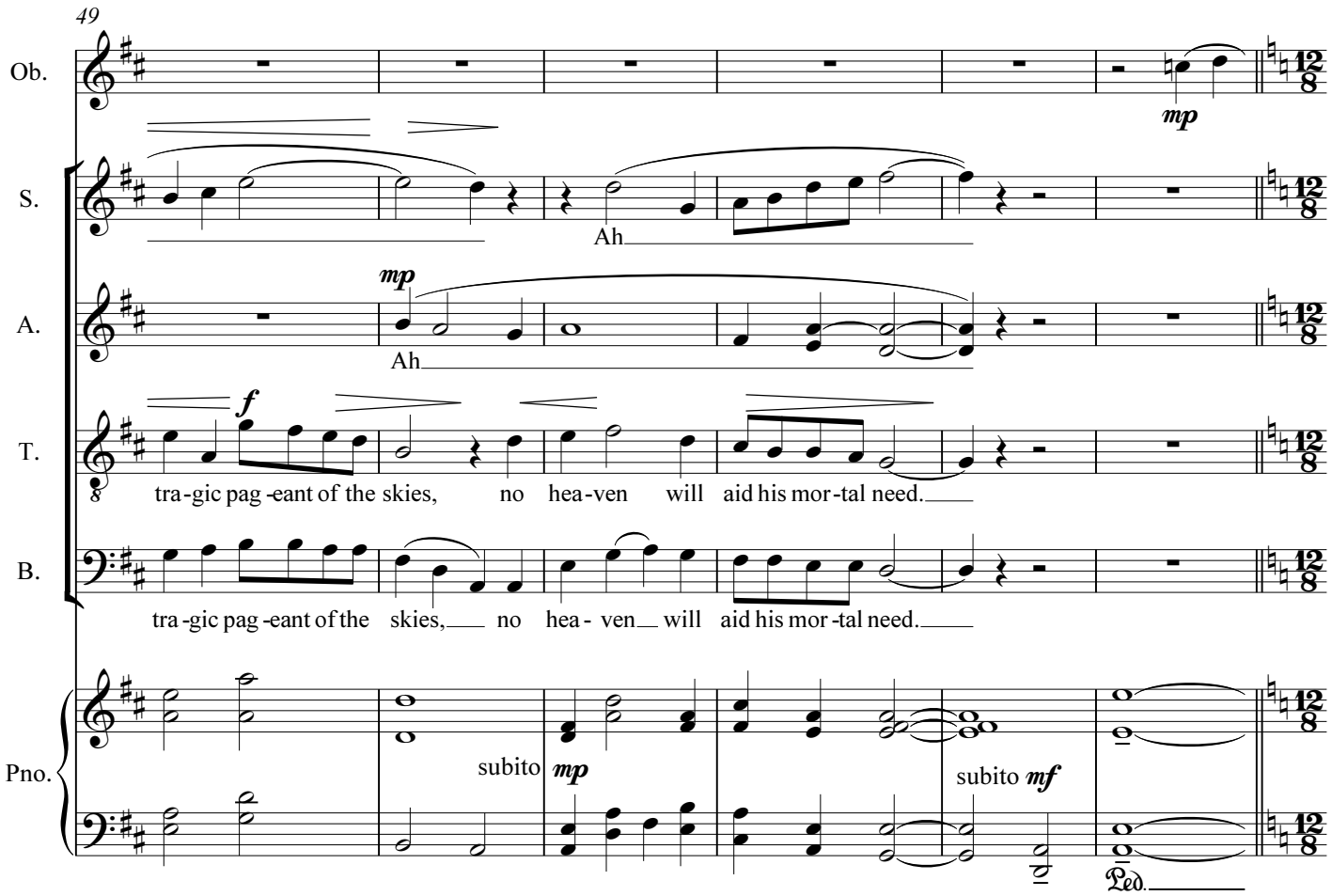

17
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
Trees hud - dle, lift - ing their
tutti
lift - ing their bran ches like beck-on - ing hands. Trees hud - dle, lift - ing their

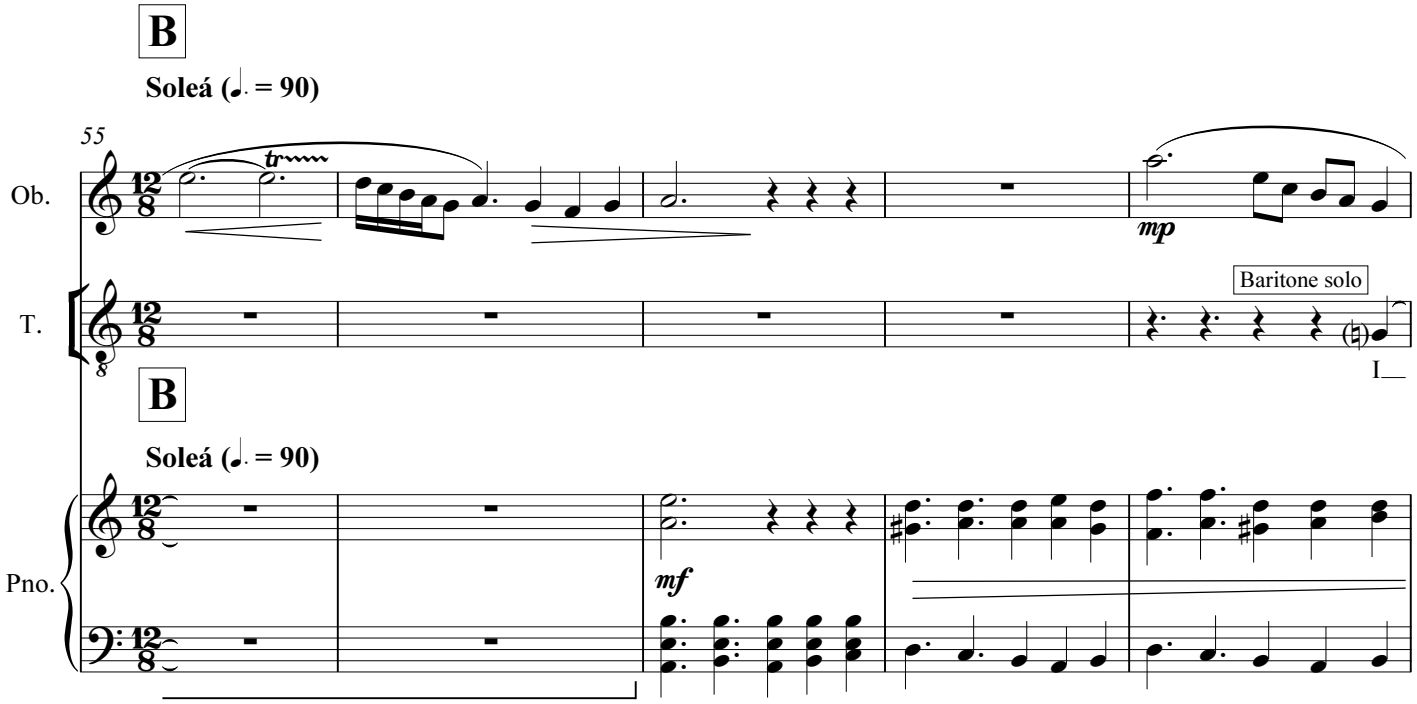

21
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mp
mf
f
bran - ches like beck-on - ing hands. We eat the grain; the grain is death;

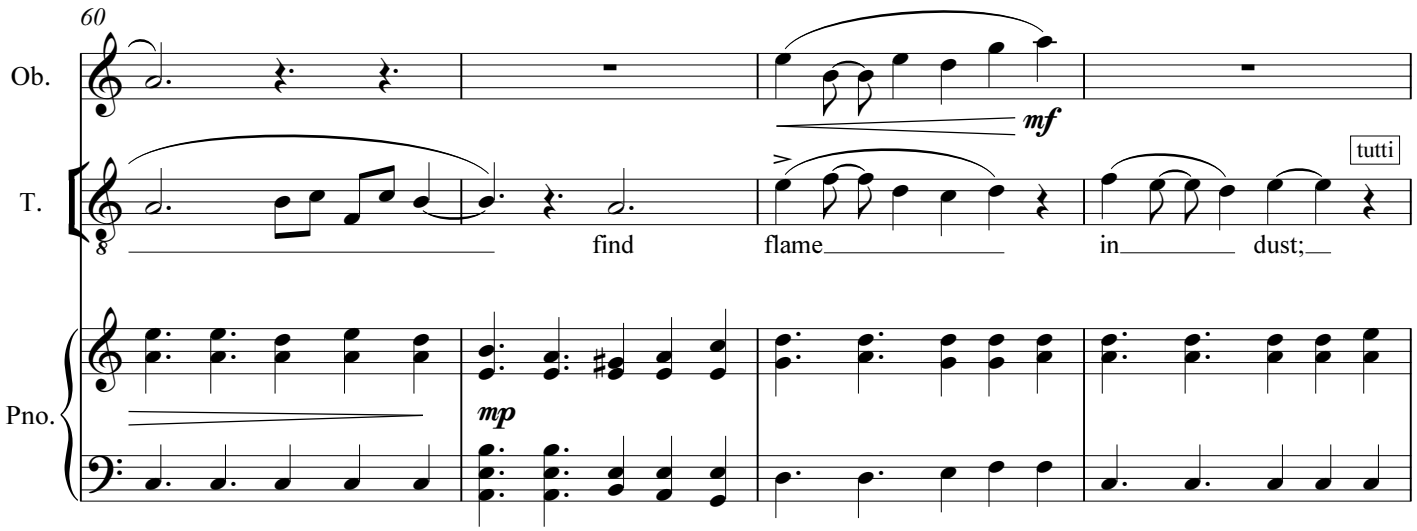

A
25
♩ = 90 (same)
Ob.
S.
All goes back to the Earth's dark mass, All but a
A.
All goes back to the Earth's dark mass.
T.
Death. All goes back to the Earth's dark mass.
B.
Death. All goes back to the Earth's dark mass.
Pno.

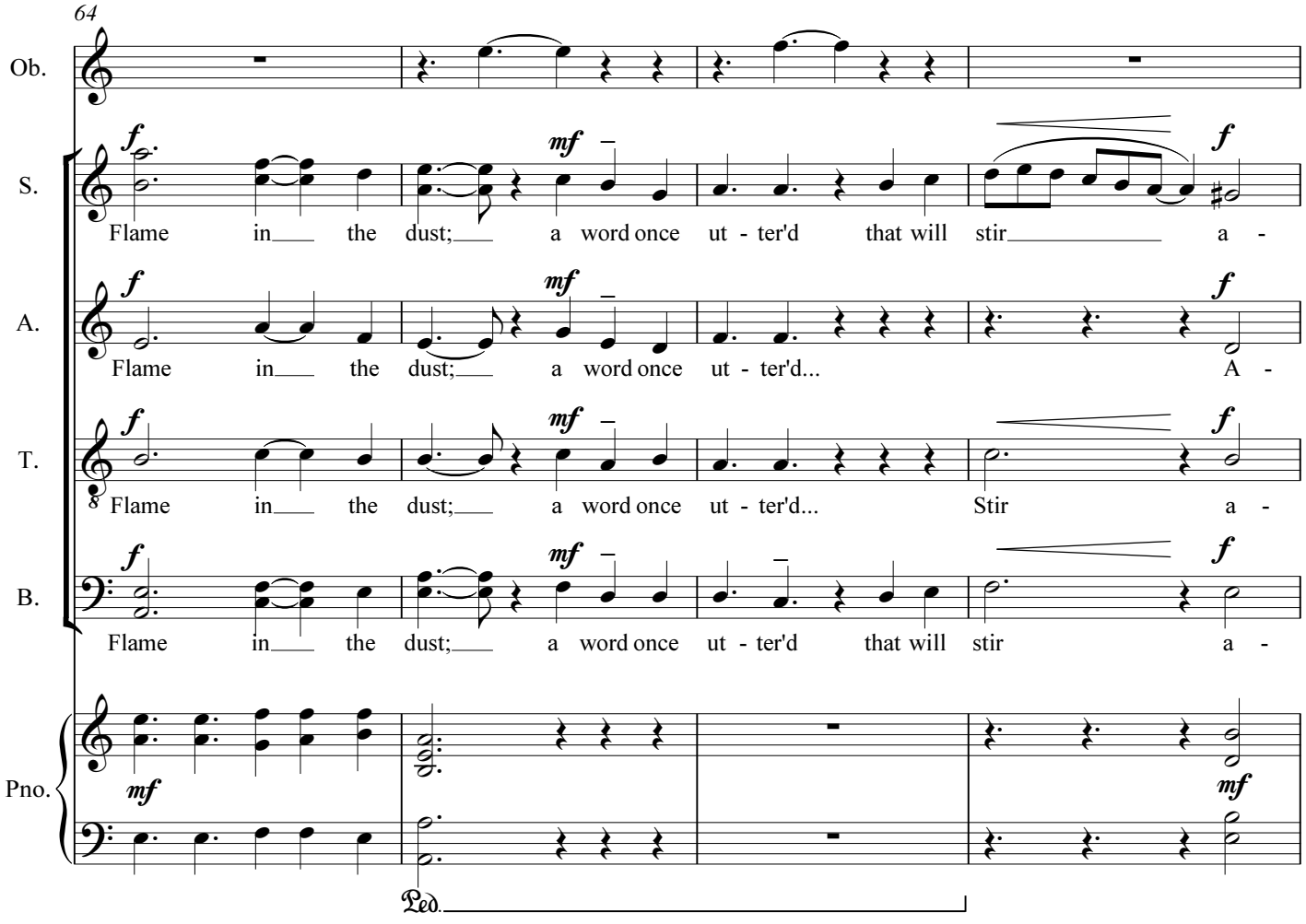

31
Ob.
S.
song which moves a-cross the plain like the wind's deep mut - ter - ing
A.
Which moves a-cross the plain like the wind's deep mut - ter - ing
T.
The wind's deep mut - ter - ing
Pno.

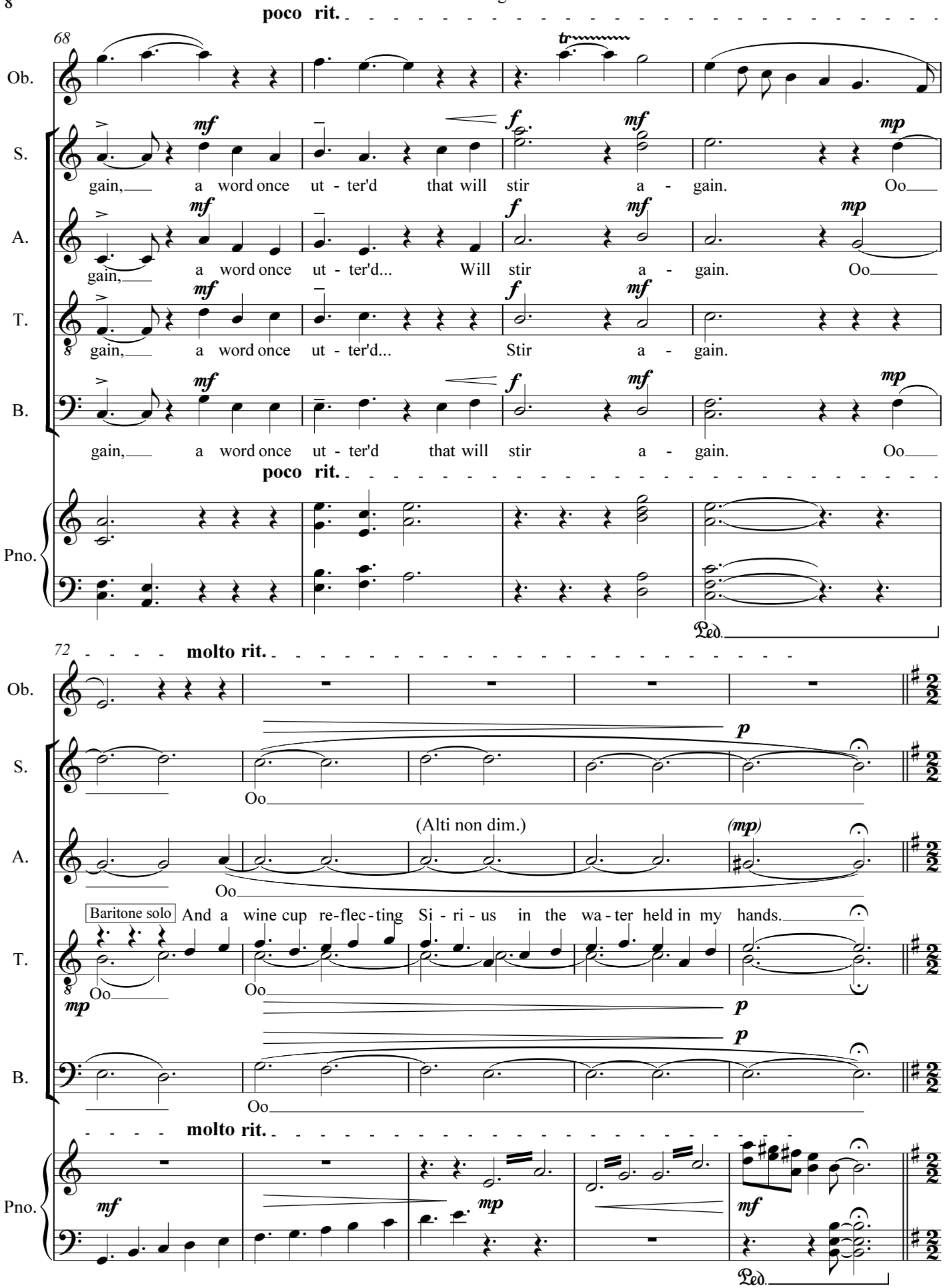

37
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
breath.
Ah
breath.
Ah
Ah
breath.
Ah
Bowed down u-pon the earth,
43
Ah
Ah
Ah
Though he be part of the
Man sets his plants and wat - ches for the seeds.
Though he be part of the

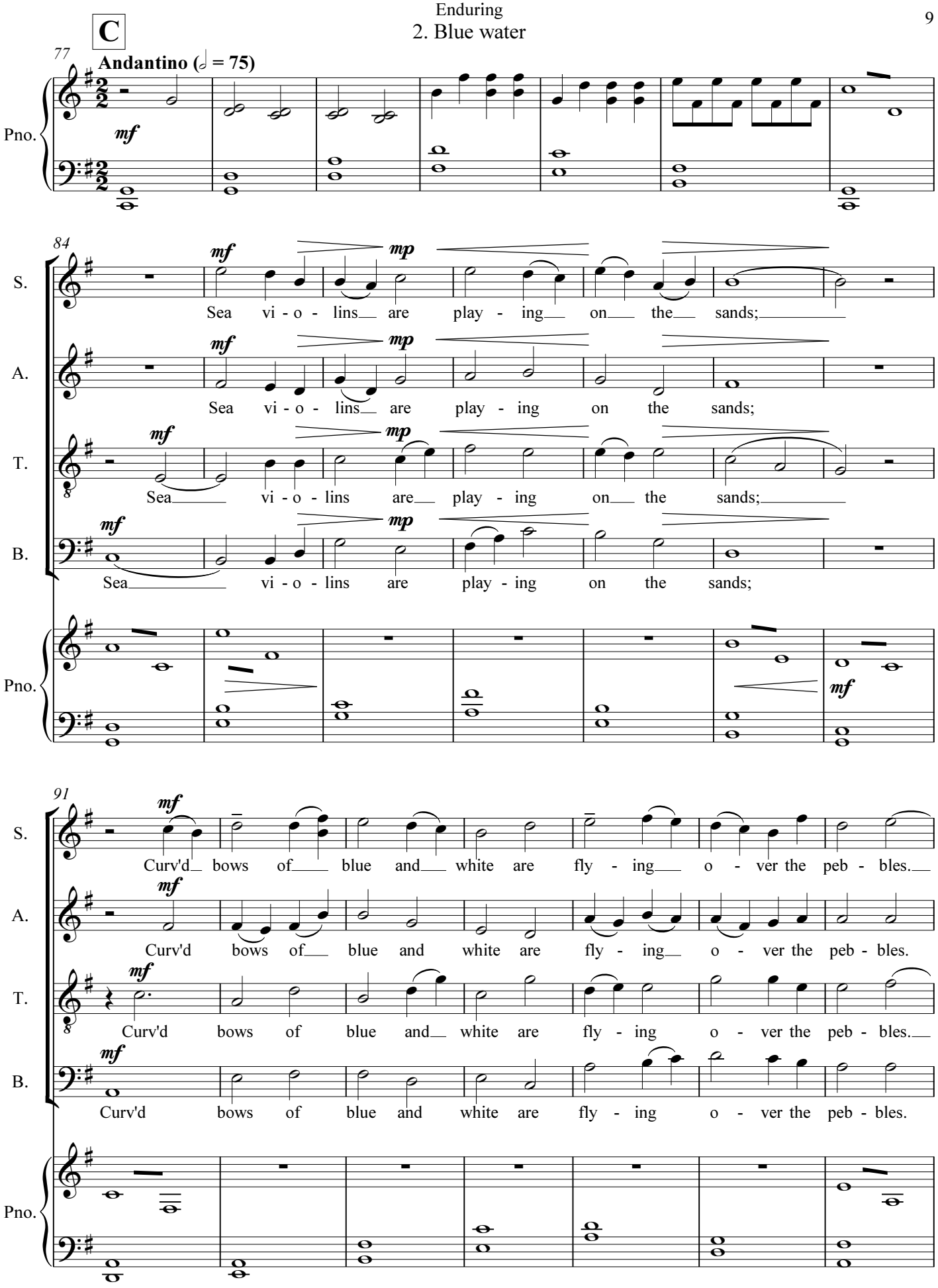

49
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mp
Ah
Ah
f
tra-gic pag-eant of the skies, no hea-ven will aid his mor-tal need.
tra-gic pag-eant of the skies, no hea-ven will aid his mor-tal need.
subito mp
subito mf
Ped.

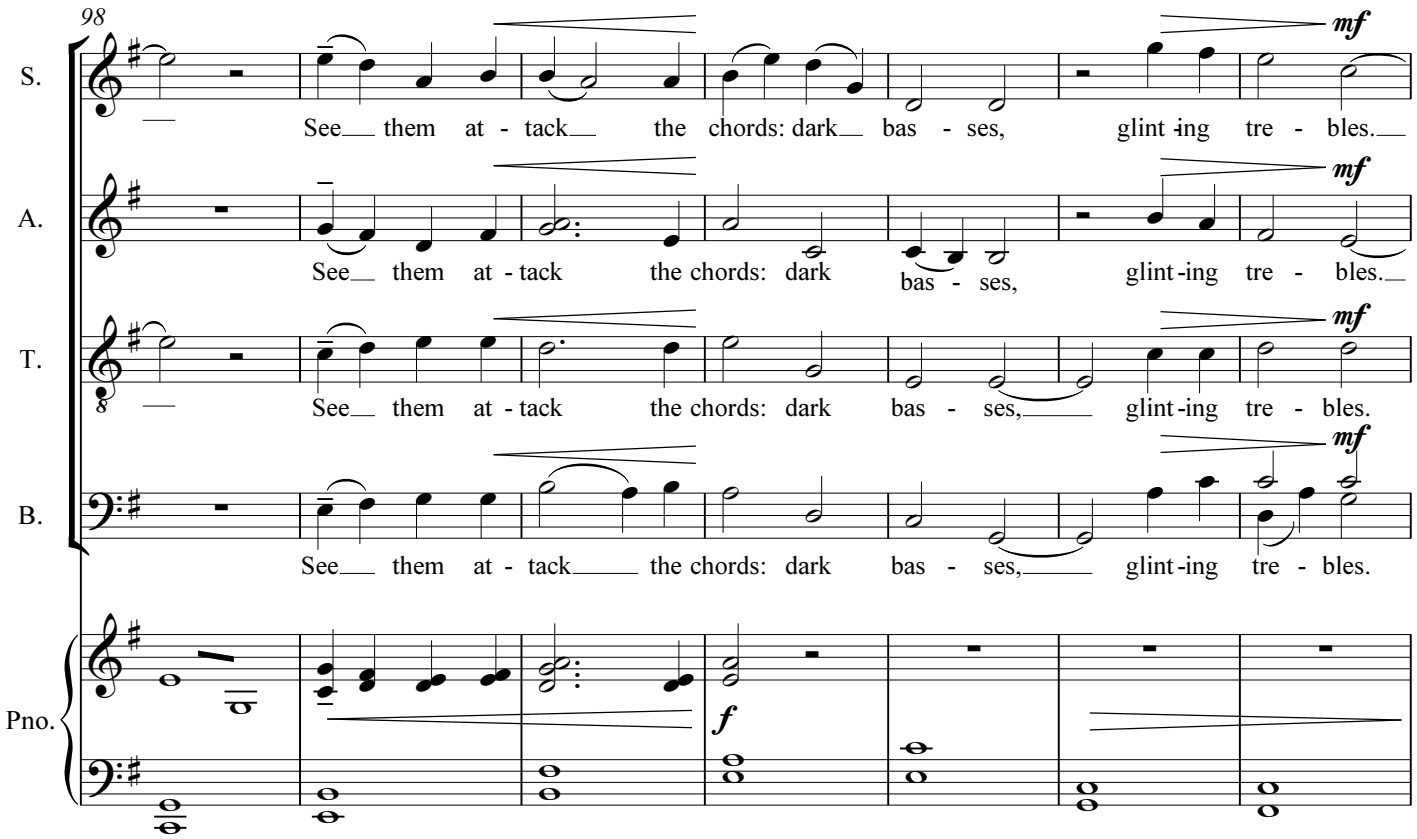

B
Soleá (♩. = 90)
55
Ob.
T.
Pno.
tr
mp
Baritone solo
I
B
Soleá (♩. = 90)
mf

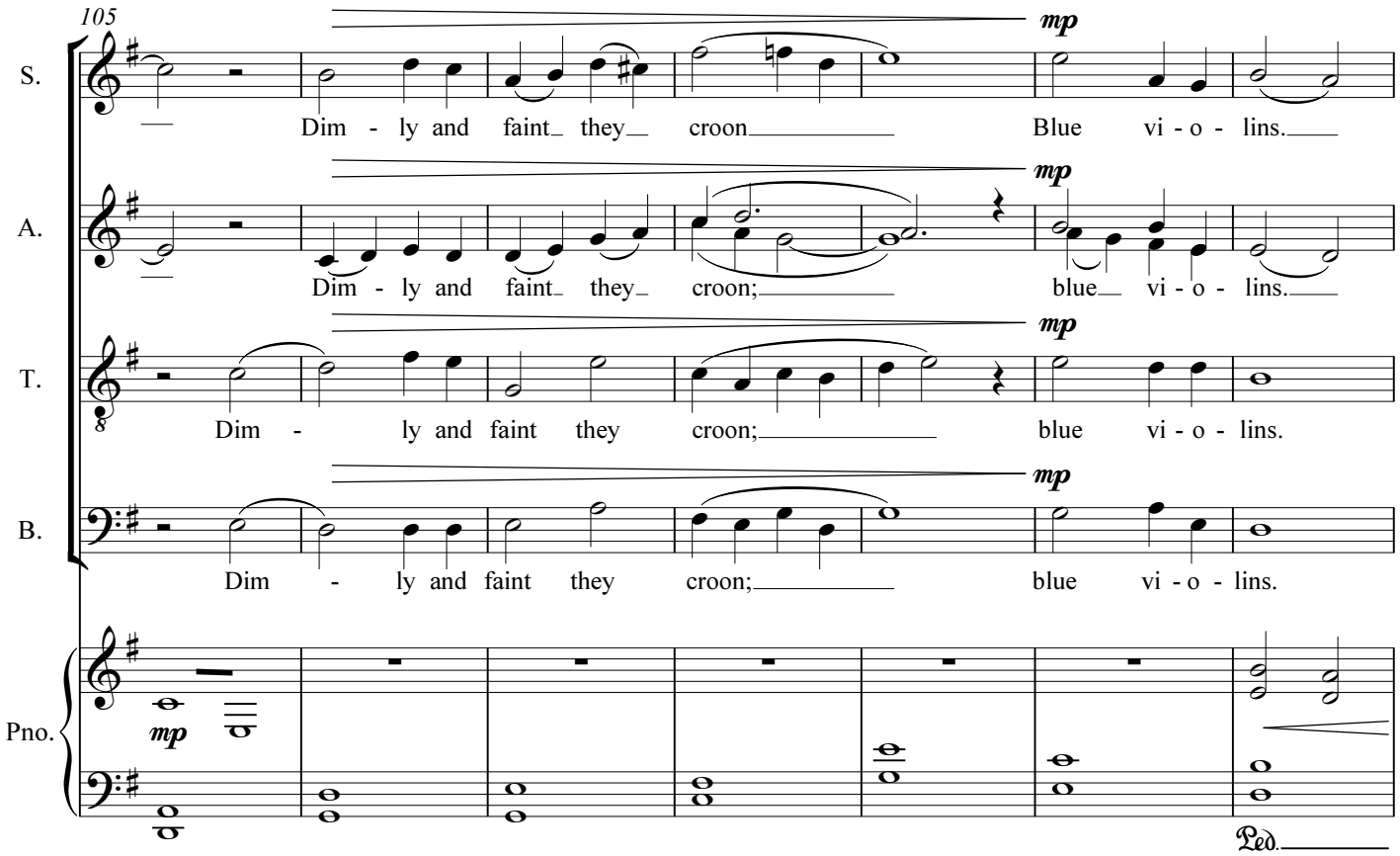

60
Ob.
T.
Pno.
mf
tutti
find
flame
in
dust;
mp

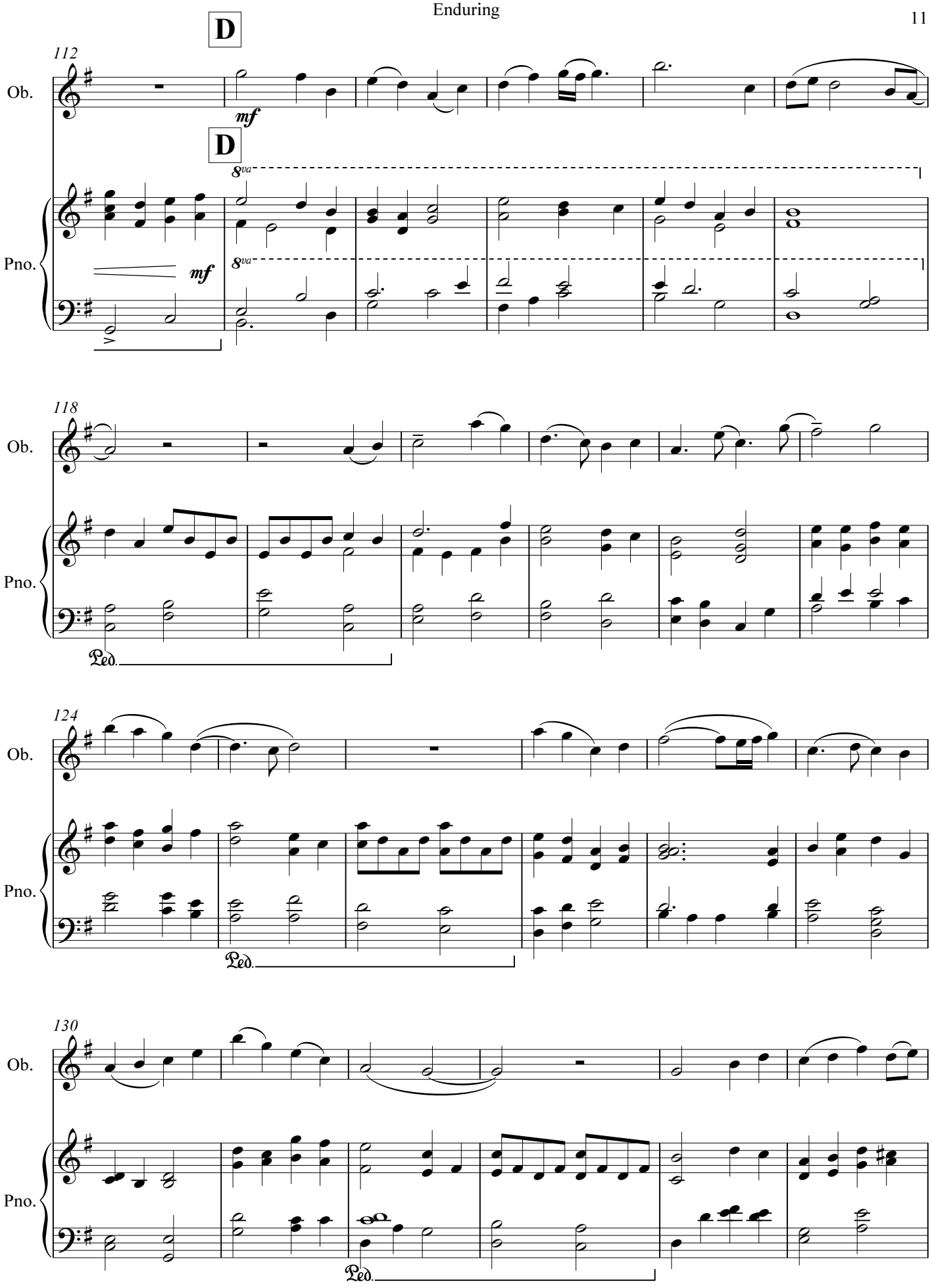

64
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
Flame in the dust; a word once ut - ter'd that will stir a -
Flame in the dust; a word once ut - ter'd... A -
Flame in the dust; a word once ut - ter'd... Stir a -
Flame in the dust; a word once ut - ter'd that will stir a -
Ped.

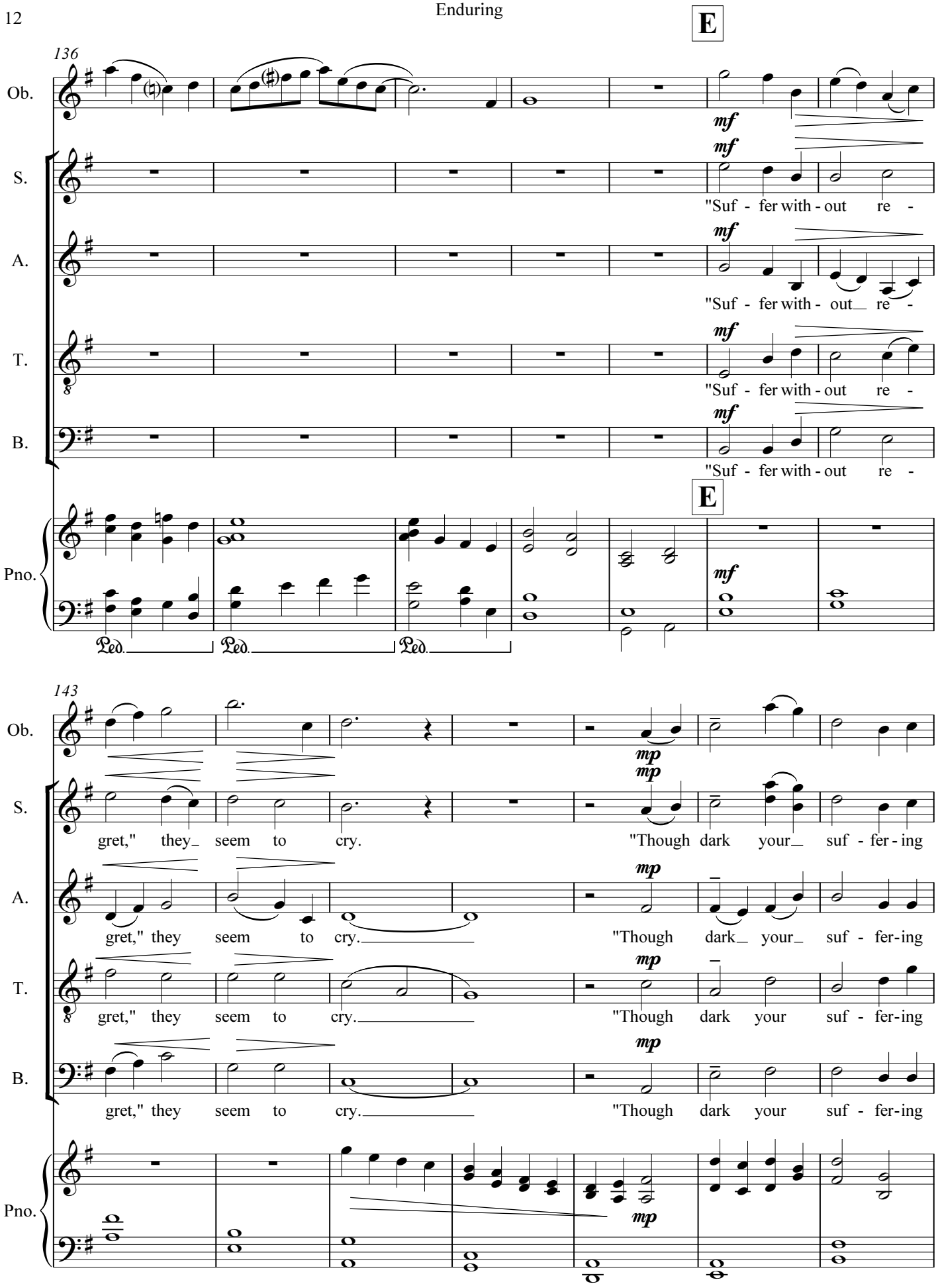

poco rit.
68
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
gain, a word once ut - ter'd that will stir a - gain. Oo
gain, a word once ut - ter'd... Will stir a - gain. Oo
gain, a word once ut - ter'd... Stir a - gain.
gain, a word once ut - ter'd that will stir a - gain. Oo
poco rit.
Ped.
72
molto rit.
(Alti non dim.)
Baritone solo
And a wine cup re-flec-ting Si - ri - us in the wa - ter held in my hands.
molto rit.
Ped.

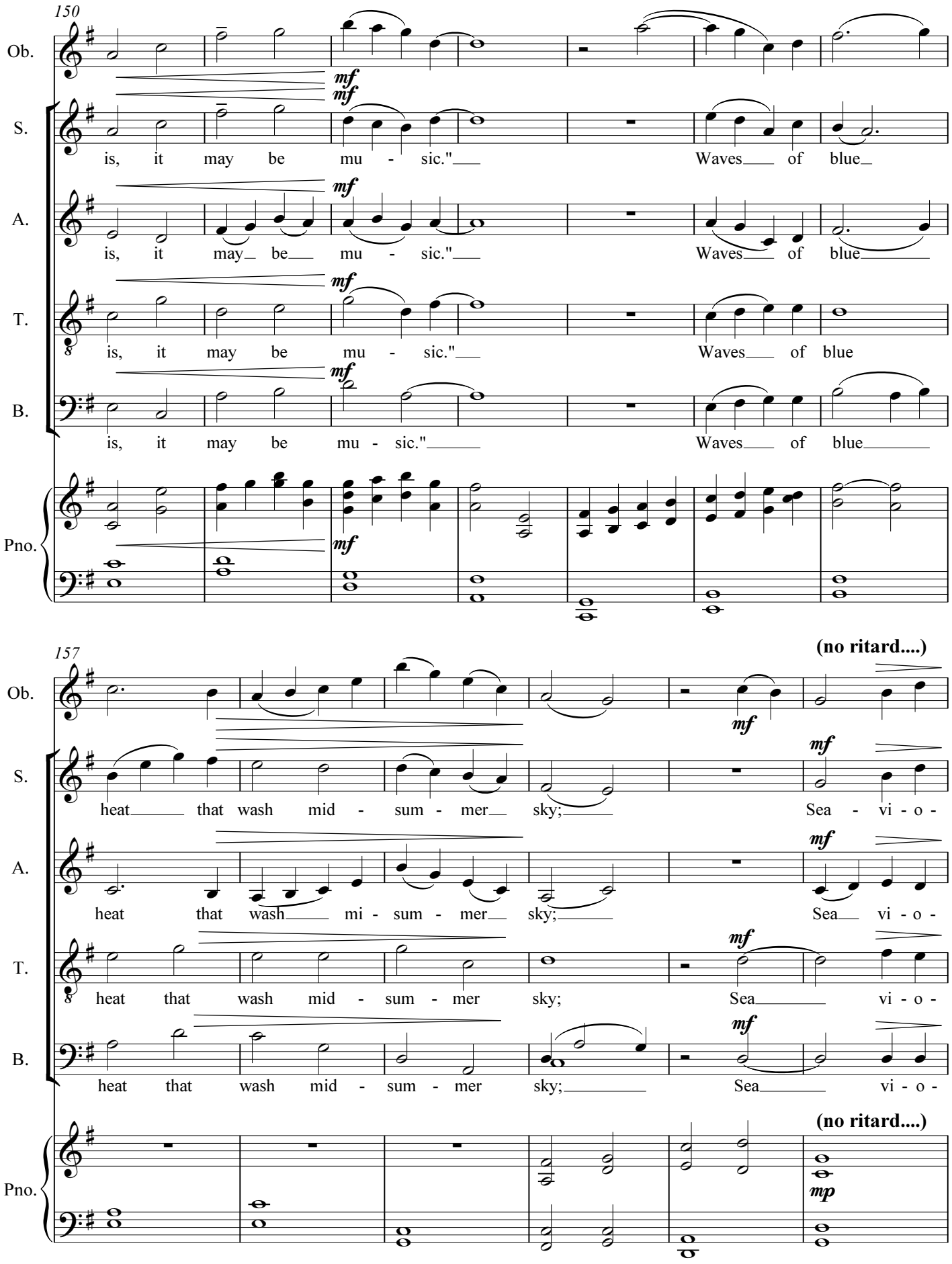

C
77
Andantino (𝅗𝅥 = 75)
Pno.
mf
84
S.
A.
T.
B.
Sea vi - o - lins are play - ing on the sands;
91
Curv'd bows of blue and white are fly - ing o - ver the peb - bles.

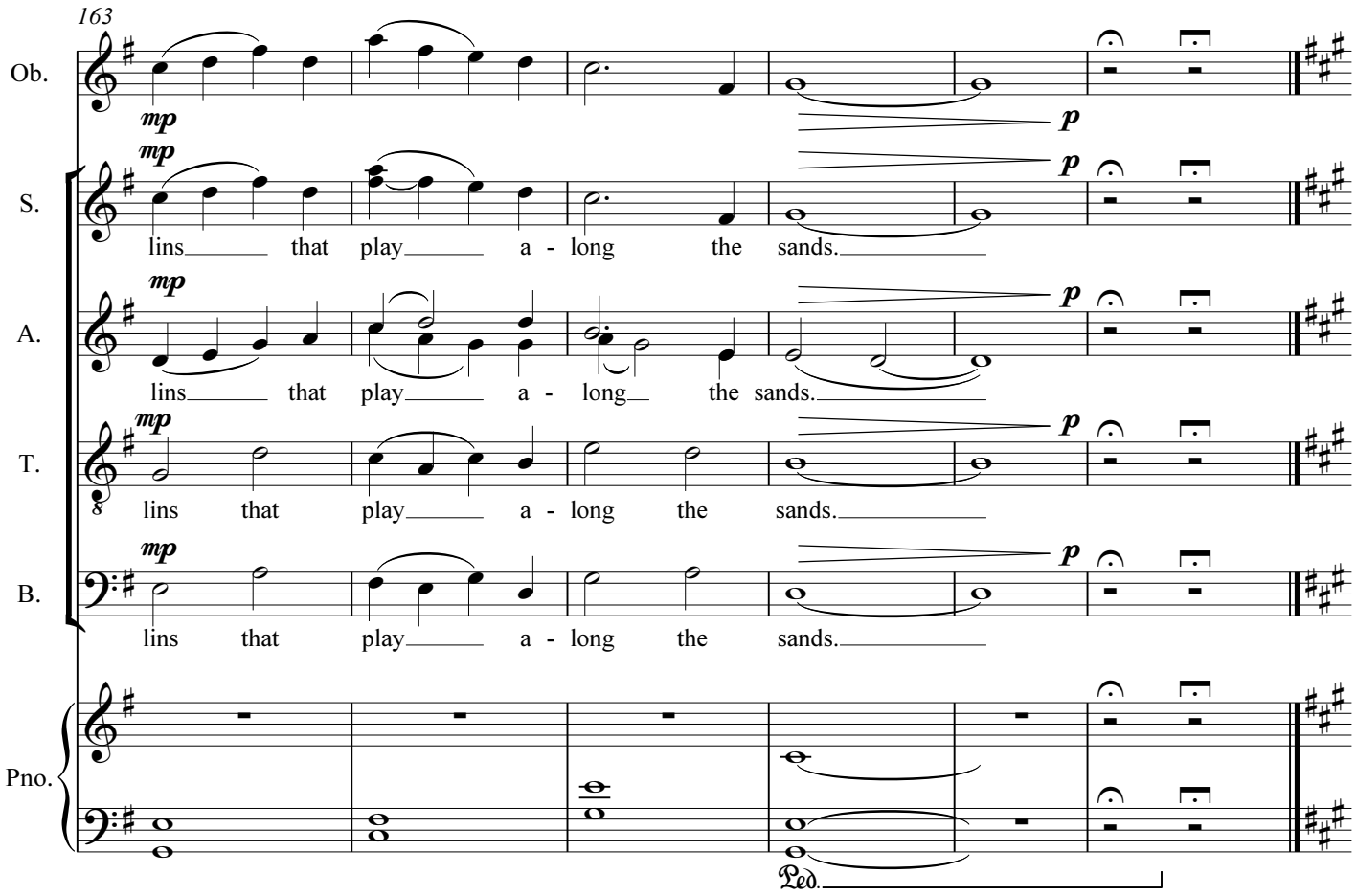

98
S.
See them at - tack the chords: dark bas - ses, glint-ing tre - bles.
A.
See them at - tack the chords: dark bas - ses, glint-ing tre - bles.
T.
See them at - tack the chords: dark bas - ses, glint-ing tre - bles.
B.
See them at - tack the chords: dark bas - ses, glint-ing tre - bles.
Pno.
mf
f

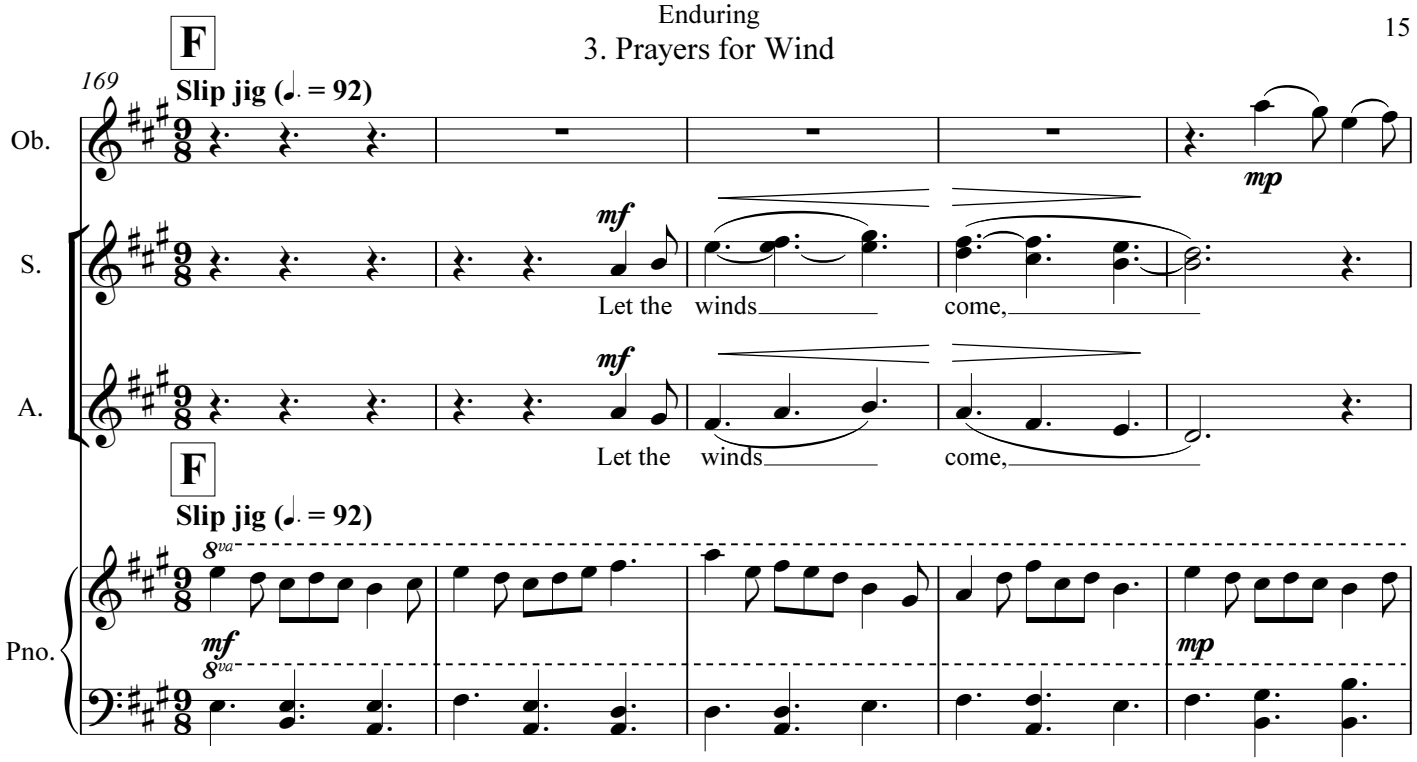

105
S.
Dim - ly and faint they croon Blue vi - o - lins.
A.
Dim - ly and faint they croon; blue vi - o - lins.
T.
Dim - ly and faint they croon; blue vi - o - lins.
B.
Dim - ly and faint they croon; blue vi - o - lins.
Pno.
mp
Ped.

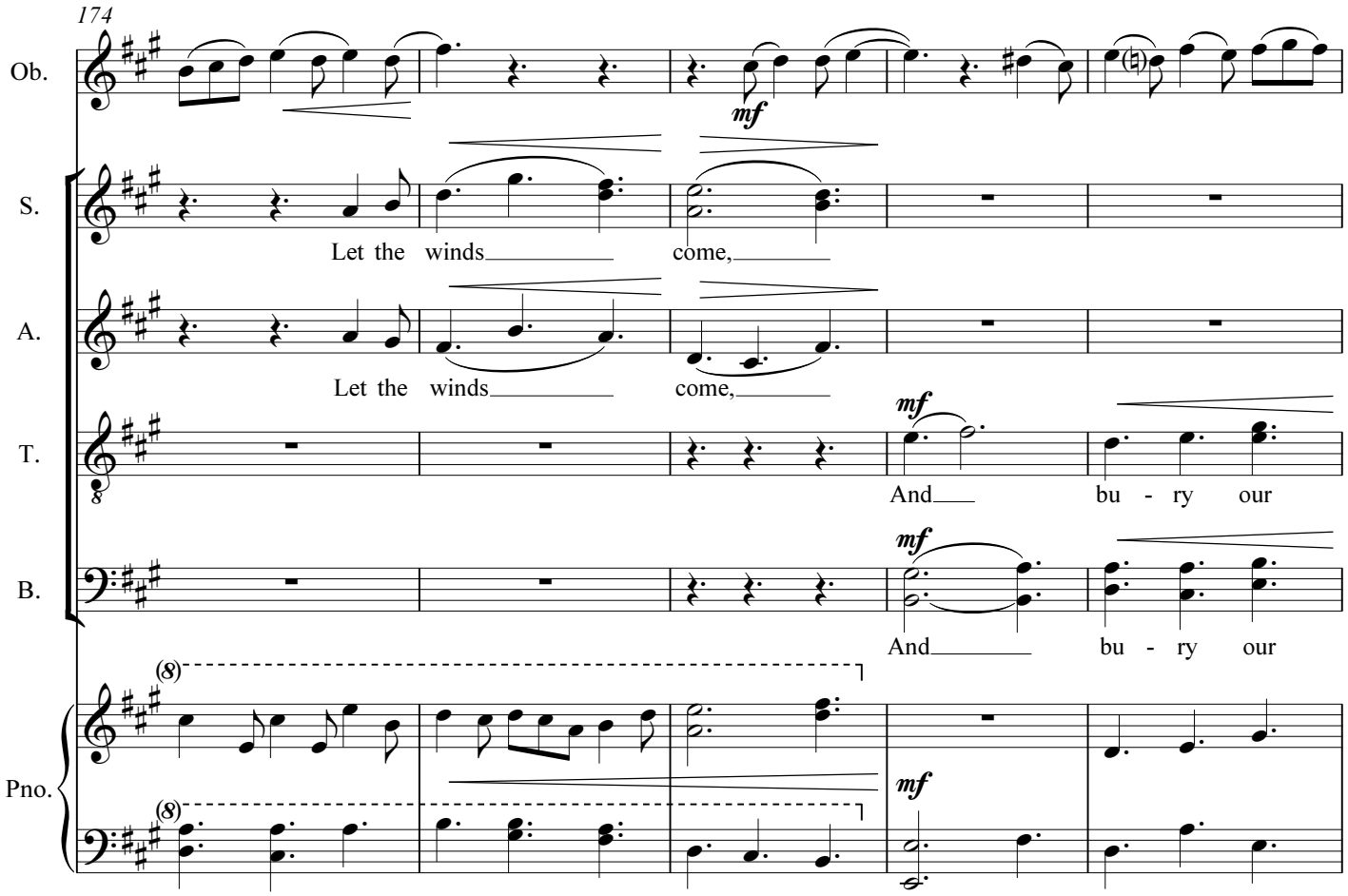

D
112
Ob.
mf
D
8va
Pno.
mf
8va
118
Ob.
Pno.
Ped.
124
Ob.
Pno.
Ped.
130
Ob.
Pno.
Ped.

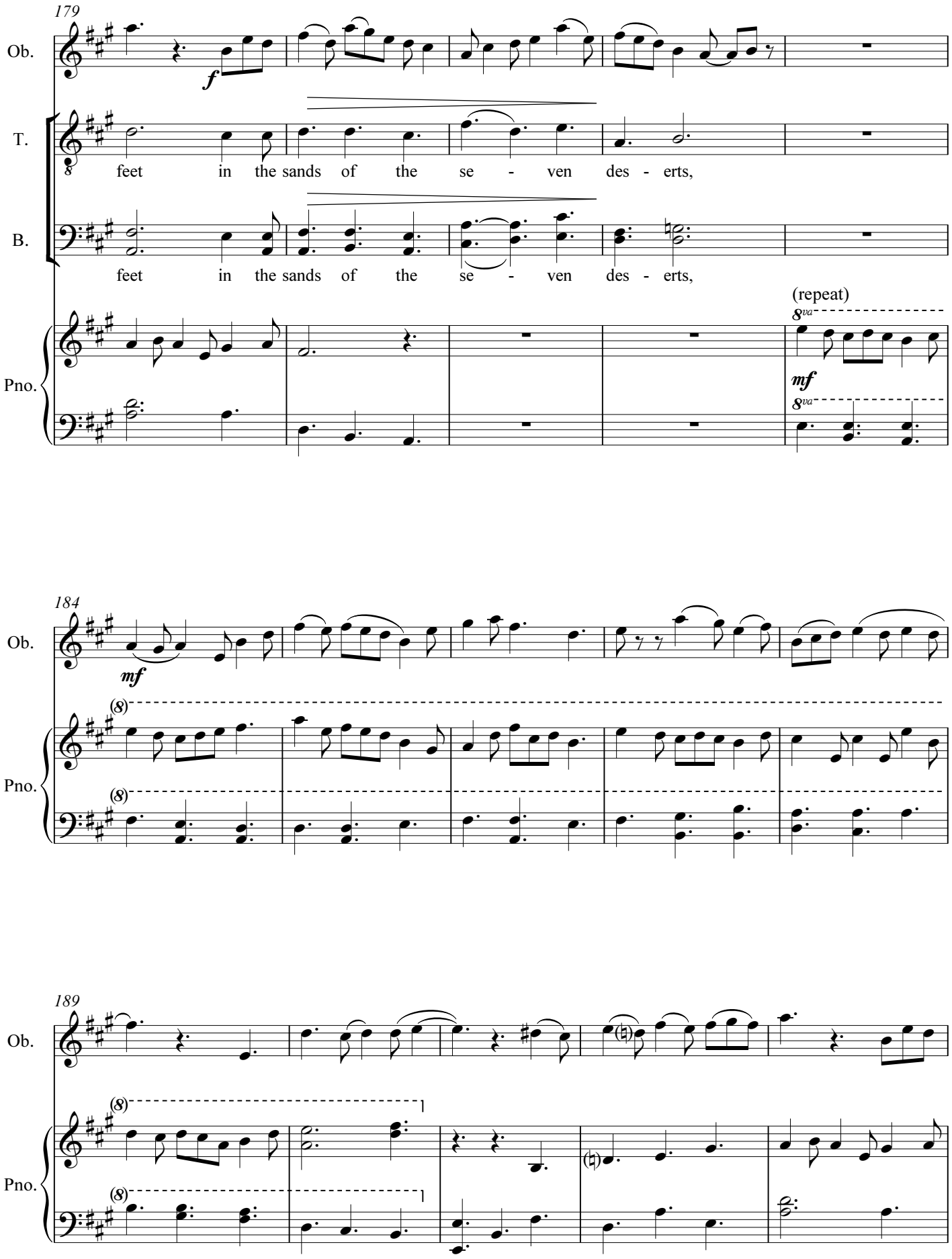

136
E
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
"Suf - fer with - out re -
"Suf - fer with - out_ re -
"Suf - fer with - out re -
"Suf - fer with - out re -
Ped.
143
mp
gret," they_ seem to cry. "Though dark your_ suf - fer - ing
gret," they seem to cry. "Though dark_ your_ suf - fer-ing
gret," they seem to cry. "Though dark your suf - fer-ing
gret," they seem to cry. "Though dark your suf - fer-ing

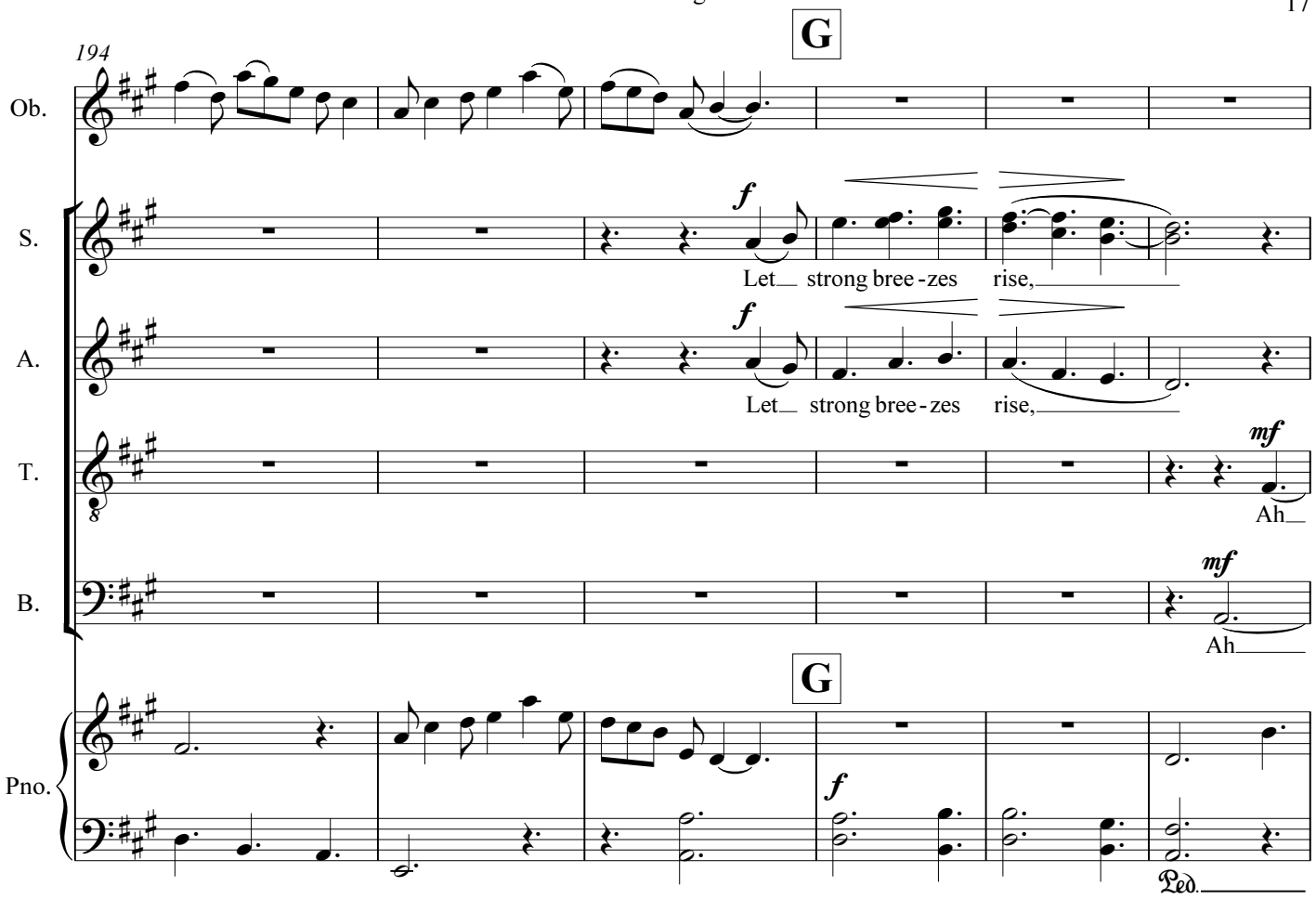

150
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
is, it may be mu - sic." Waves of blue
is, it may be mu - sic." Waves of blue
is, it may be mu - sic." Waves of blue
is, it may be mu - sic." Waves of blue
157
(no ritard....)
heat that wash mid - sum - mer sky; Sea - vi - o -
heat that wash mi - sum - mer sky; Sea vi - o -
heat that wash mid - sum - mer sky; Sea vi - o -
heat that wash mid - sum - mer sky; Sea vi - o -
(no ritard....)
mp

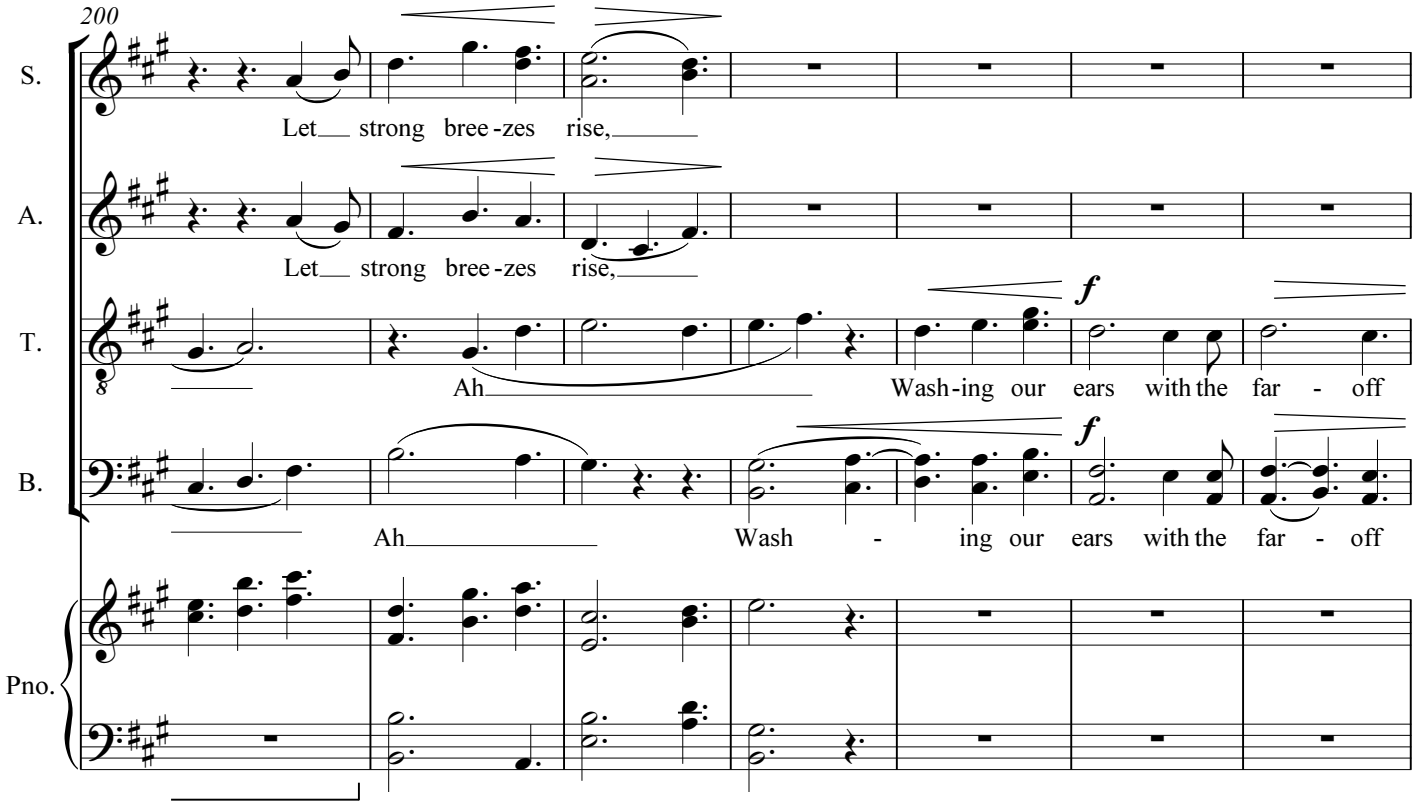

163
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mp
p
lins that play a - long the sands.
Ped.

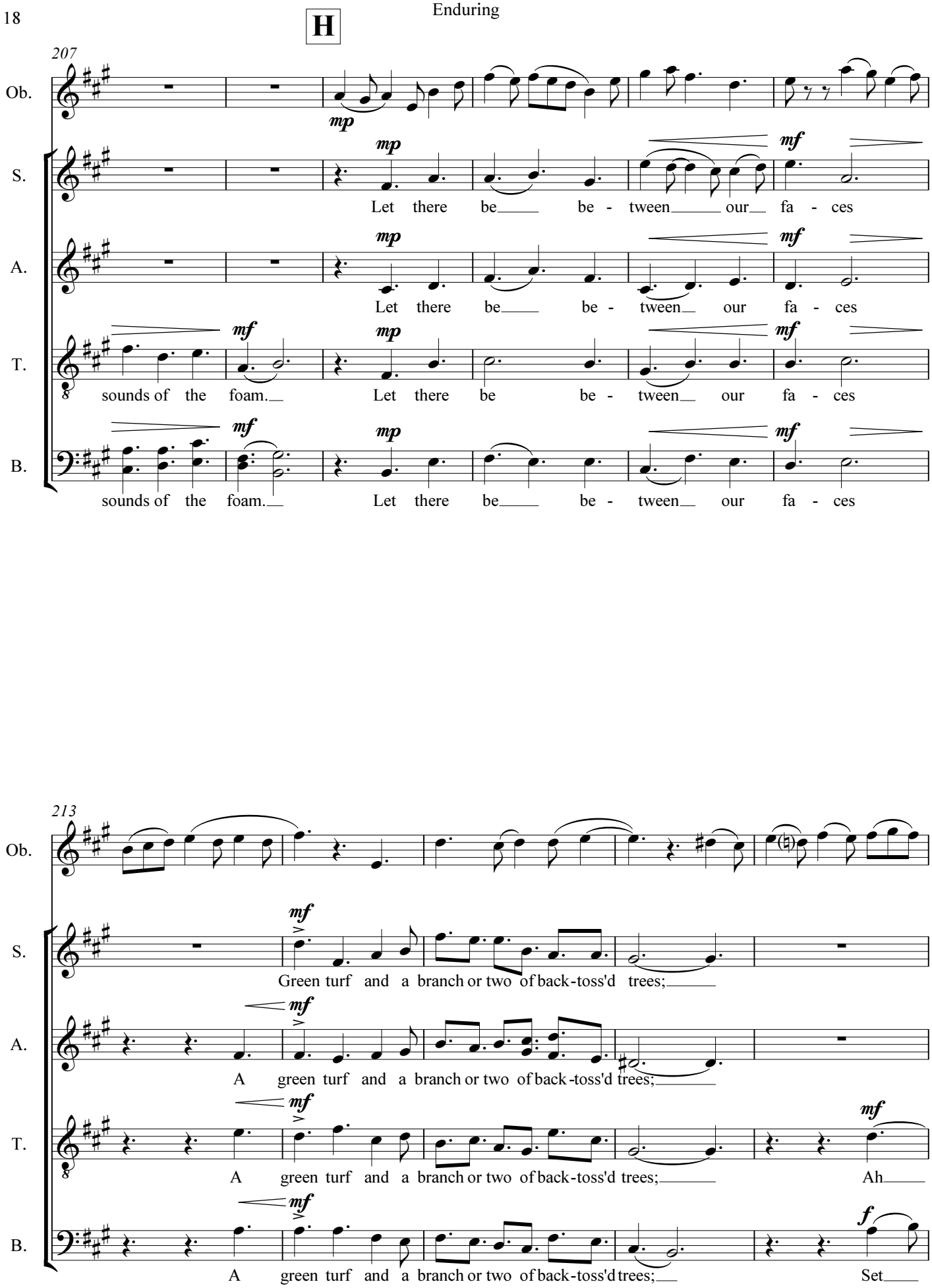

F
169
Slip jig (♩. = 92)
Ob.
S.
A.
Pno.
mf
mp
Let the winds come,
8va

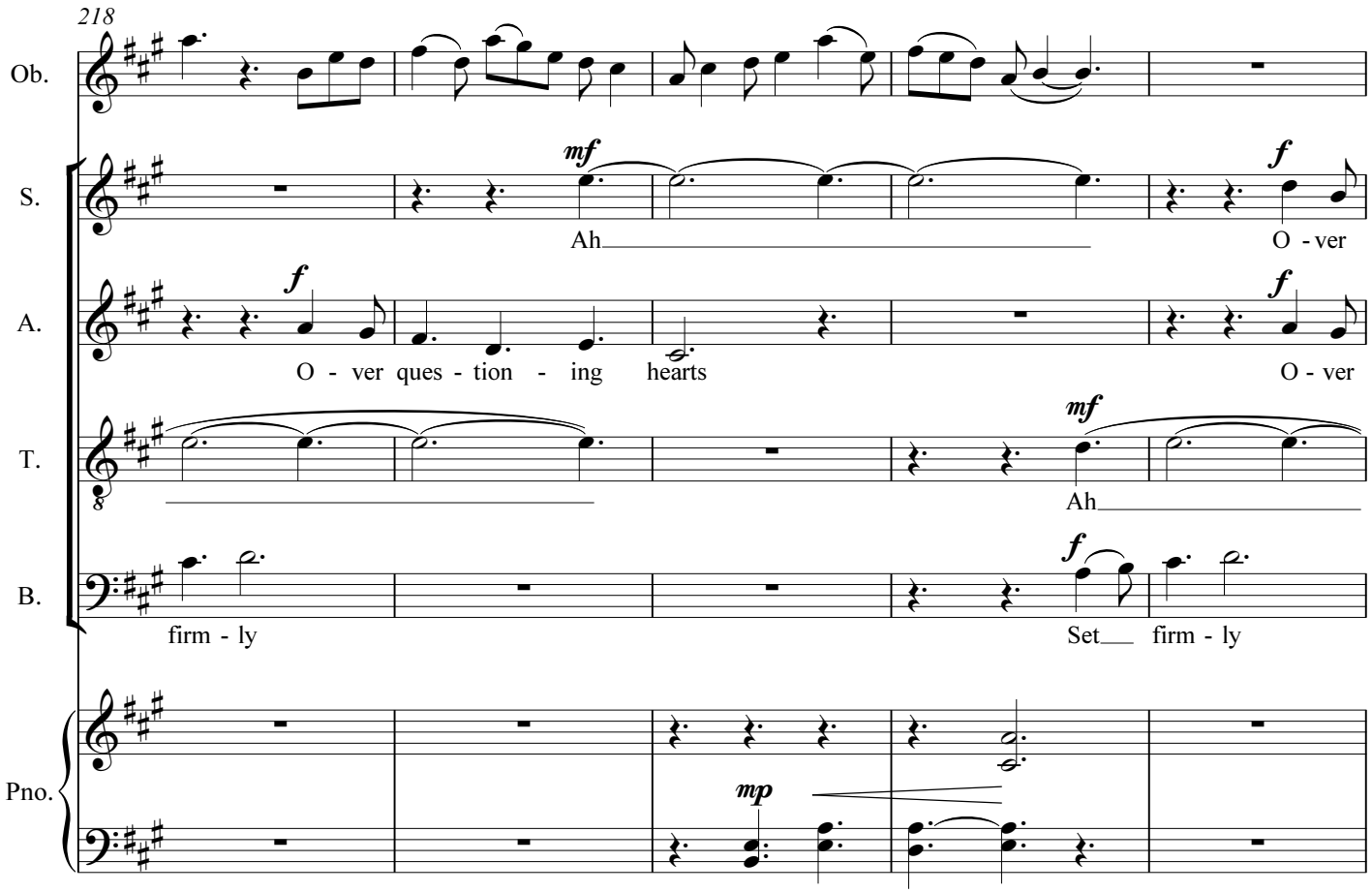

174
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
Let the winds come,
And bu - ry our
(8)

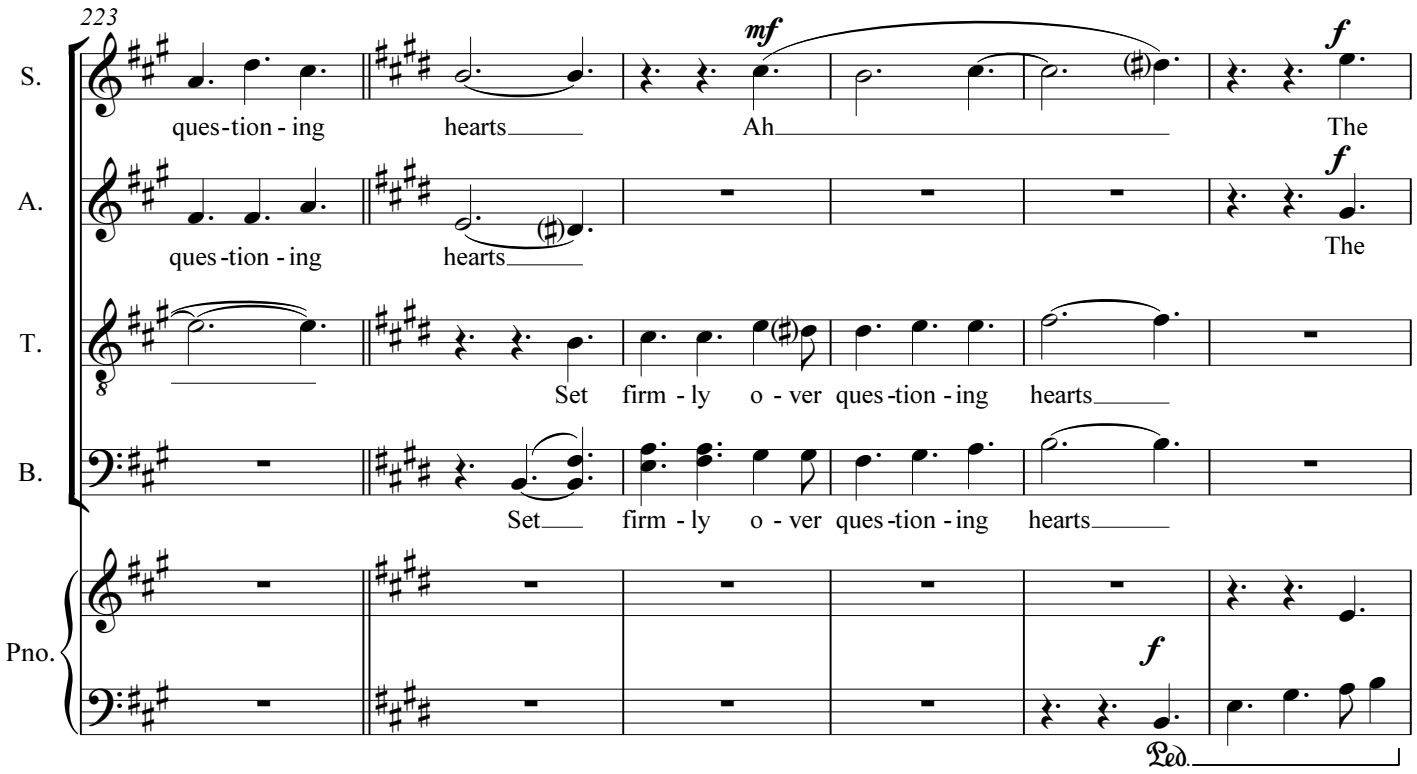

179
Ob.
T.
B.
Pno.
f
feet in the sands of the se - ven des - erts,
feet in the sands of the se - ven des - erts,
(repeat)
8va
mf
8va
184
Ob.
mf
Pno.
(8)
(8)
189
Ob.
Pno.
(8)
(8)
1
1

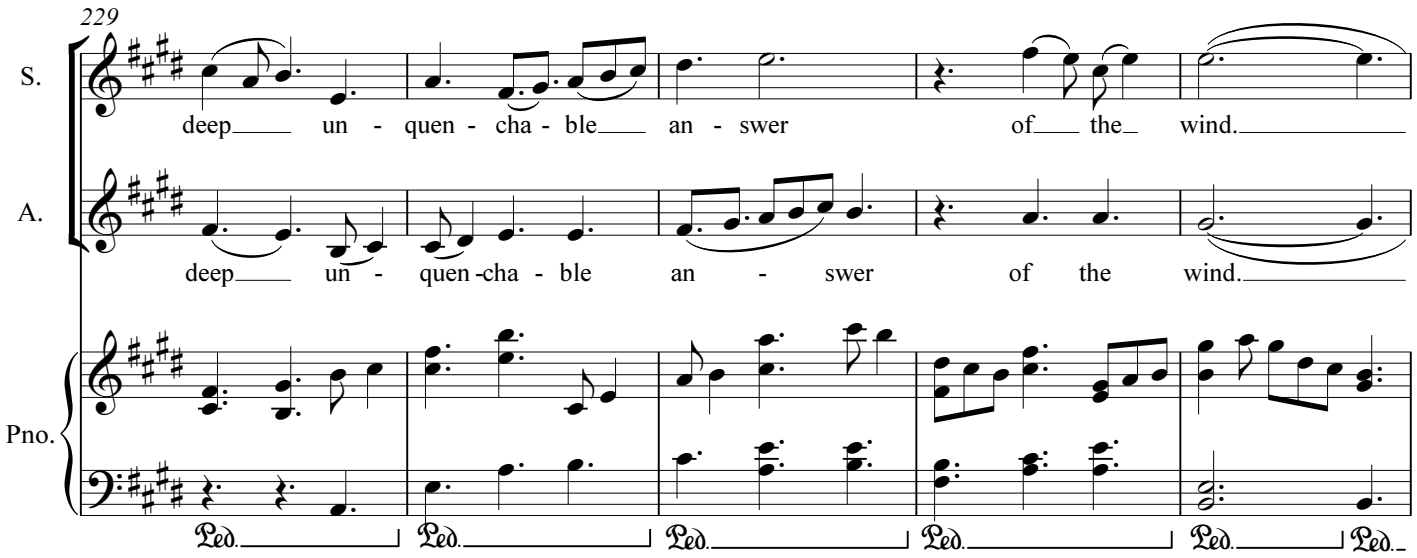

194
G
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
f
Let strong bree - zes rise,
mf
Ah
Ped.

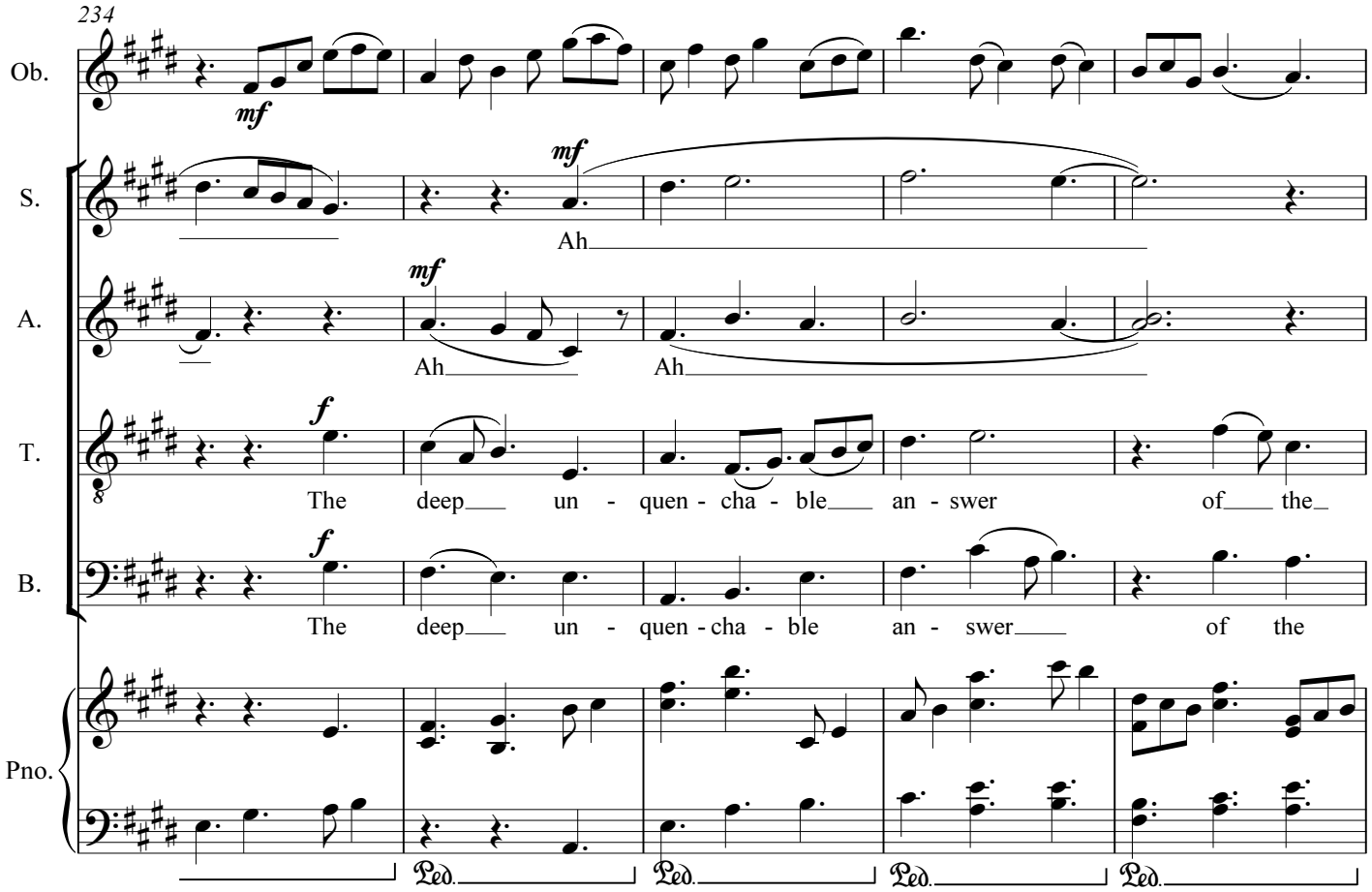

200
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
Let strong bree - zes rise,
Ah
Wash - ing our ears with the far - off

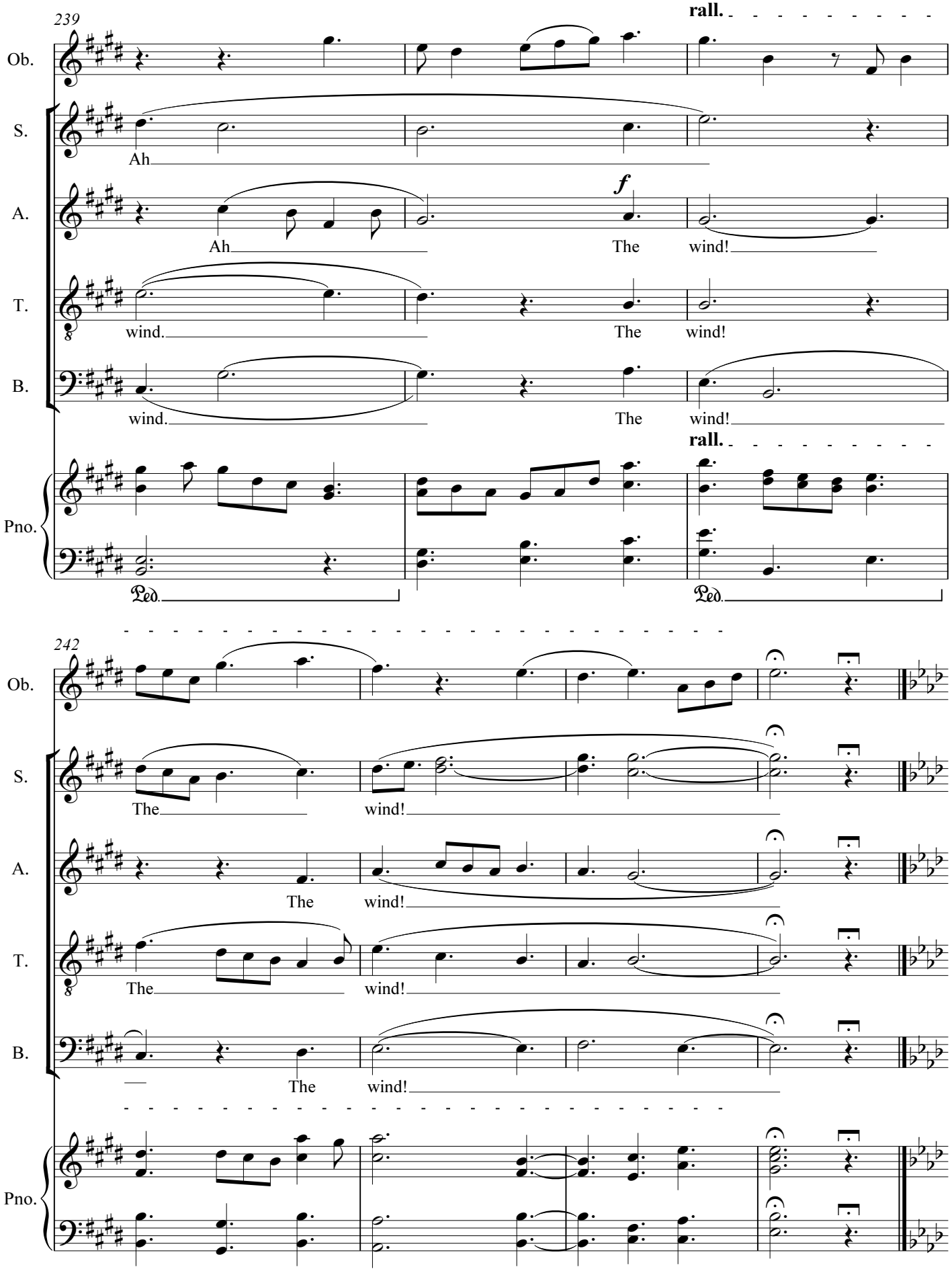

H
207
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
mp
mf
Let there be be - tween our fa - ces
Let there be be - tween our fa - ces
sounds of the foam. Let there be be - tween our fa - ces
sounds of the foam. Let there be be - tween our fa - ces
213
Green turf and a branch or two of back-toss'd trees;
A green turf and a branch or two of back-toss'd trees;
A green turf and a branch or two of back-toss'd trees; Ah
A green turf and a branch or two of back-toss'd trees; Set
f

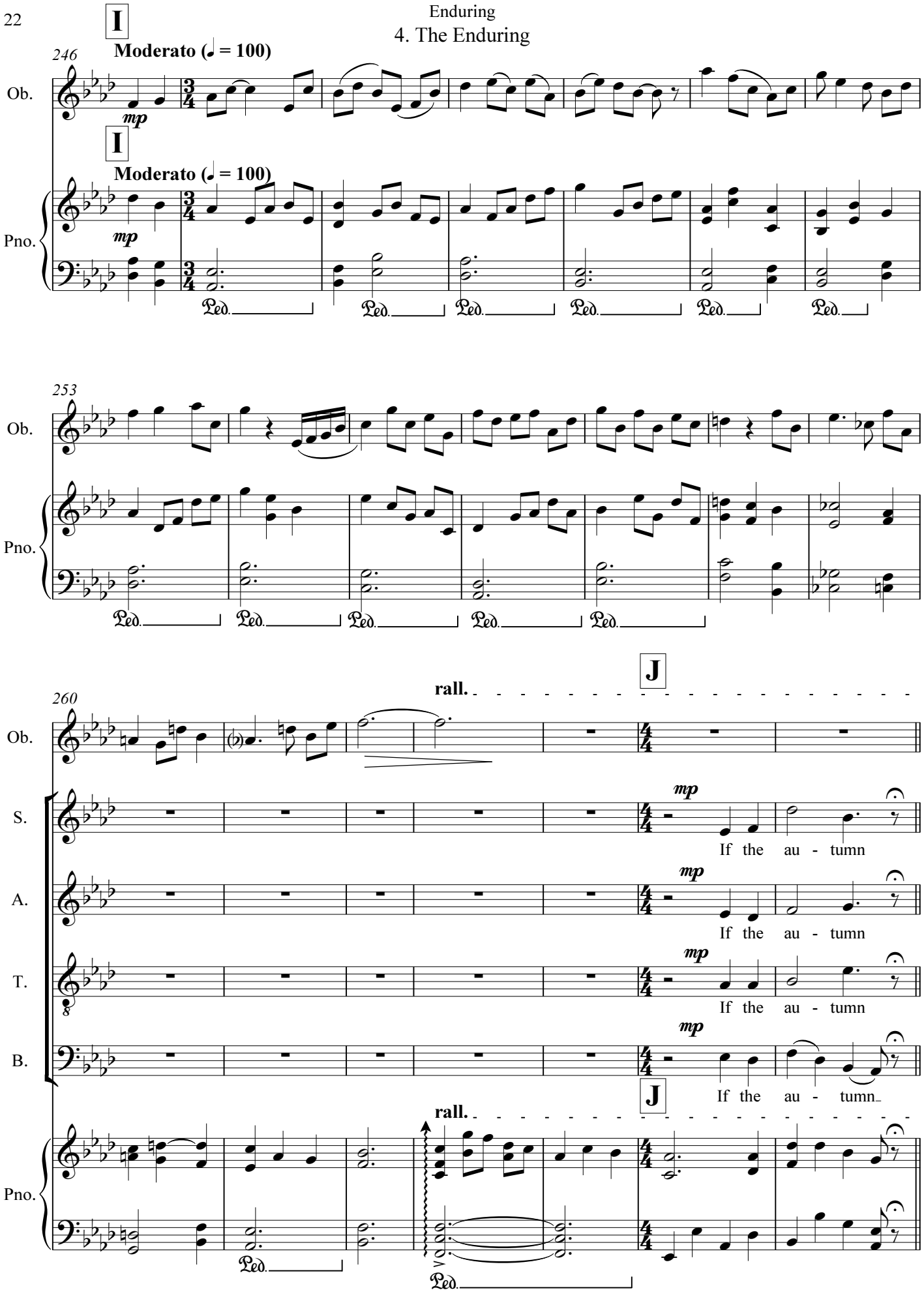

218
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
Ah
f
O - ver
O - ver ques - tion - ing hearts
O - ver
mf
Ah
f
firm - ly
Set firm - ly
mp

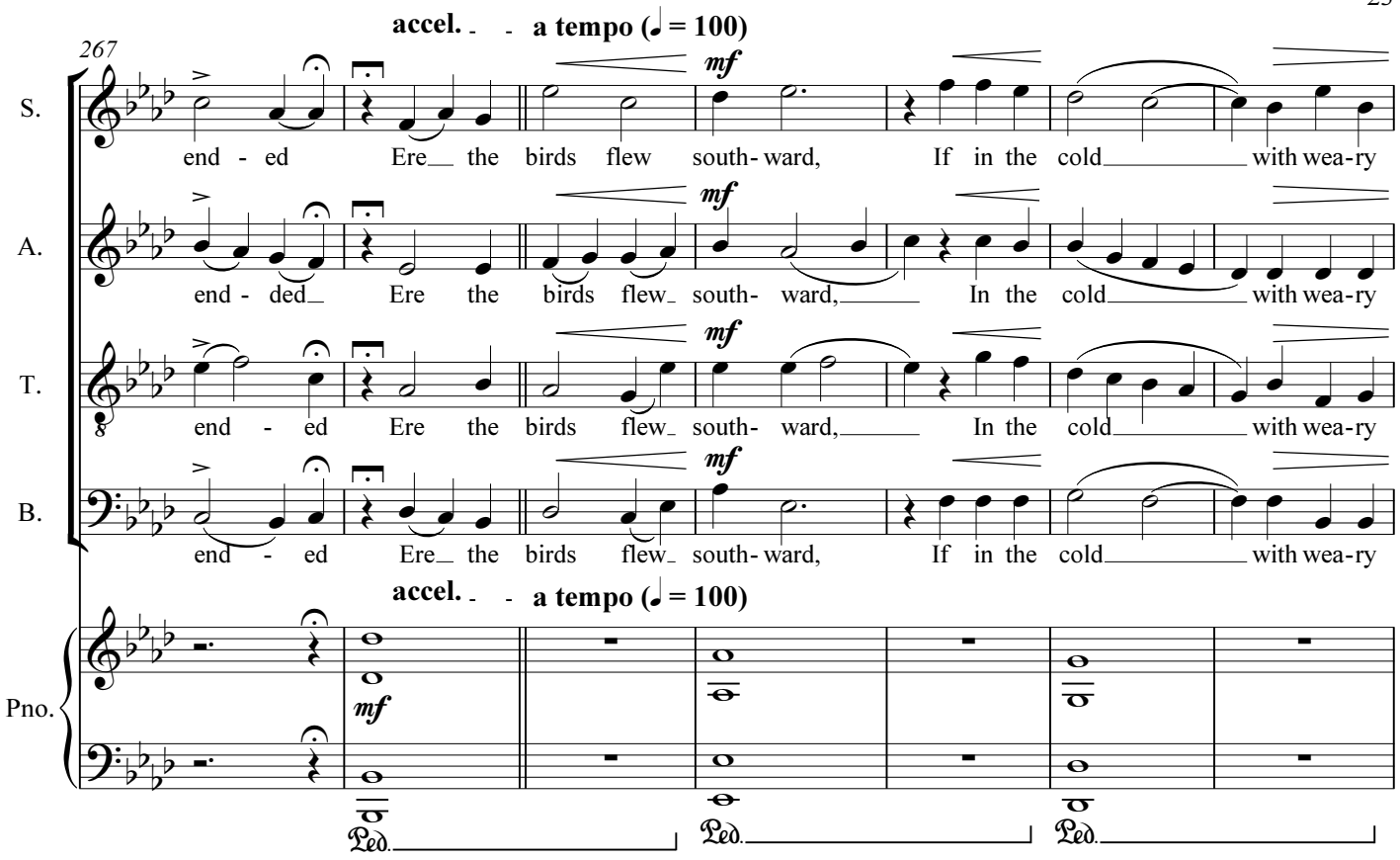

223
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
ques-tion - ing hearts
mf
Ah
f
The
ques-tion - ing hearts
f
The
Set firm - ly o - ver ques-tion - ing hearts
Set firm - ly o - ver ques-tion - ing hearts
f
Ped.

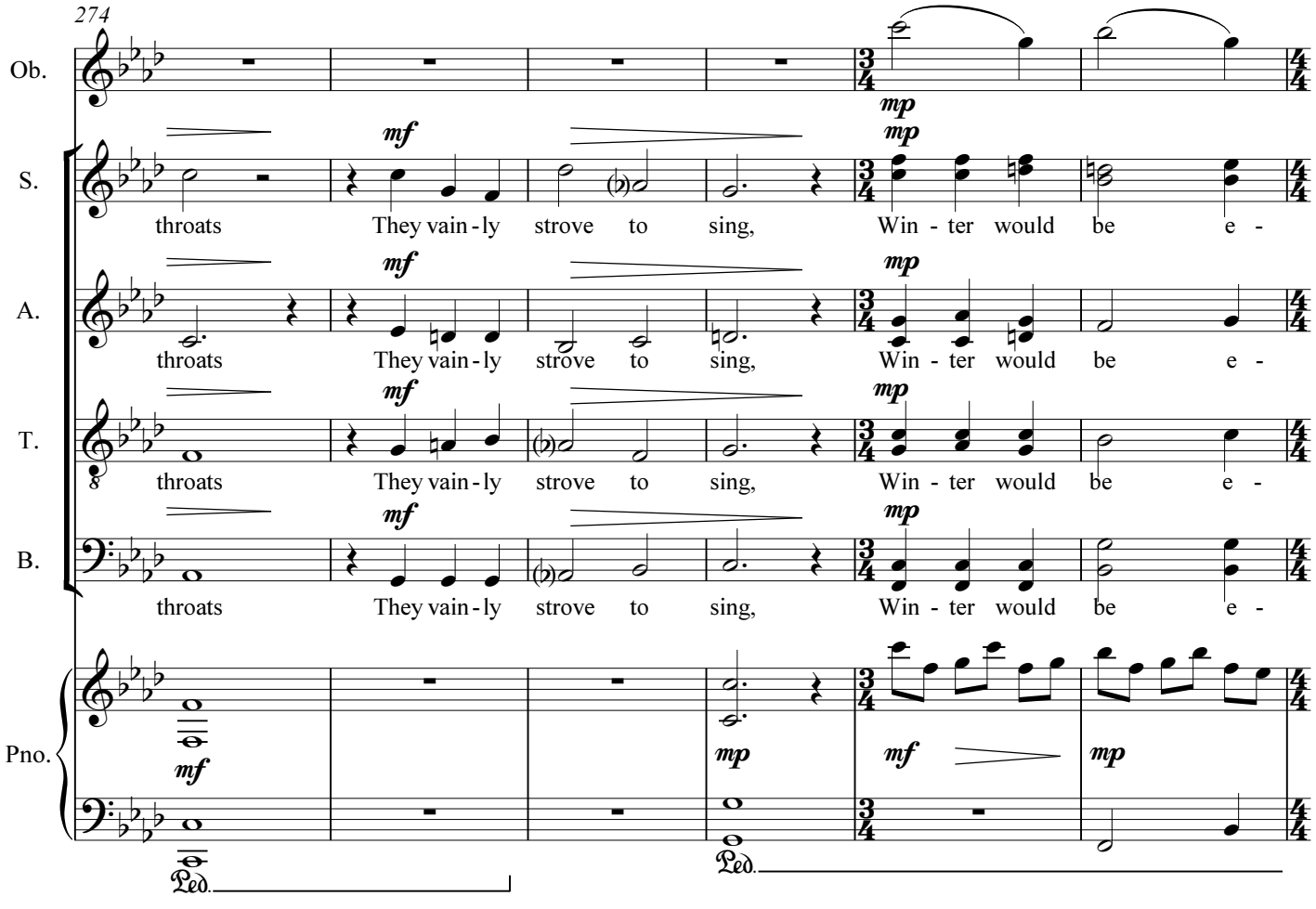

229
S.
deep un - quen - cha - ble an - swer of the wind.
A.
deep un - quen - cha - ble an - swer of the wind.
Pno.
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

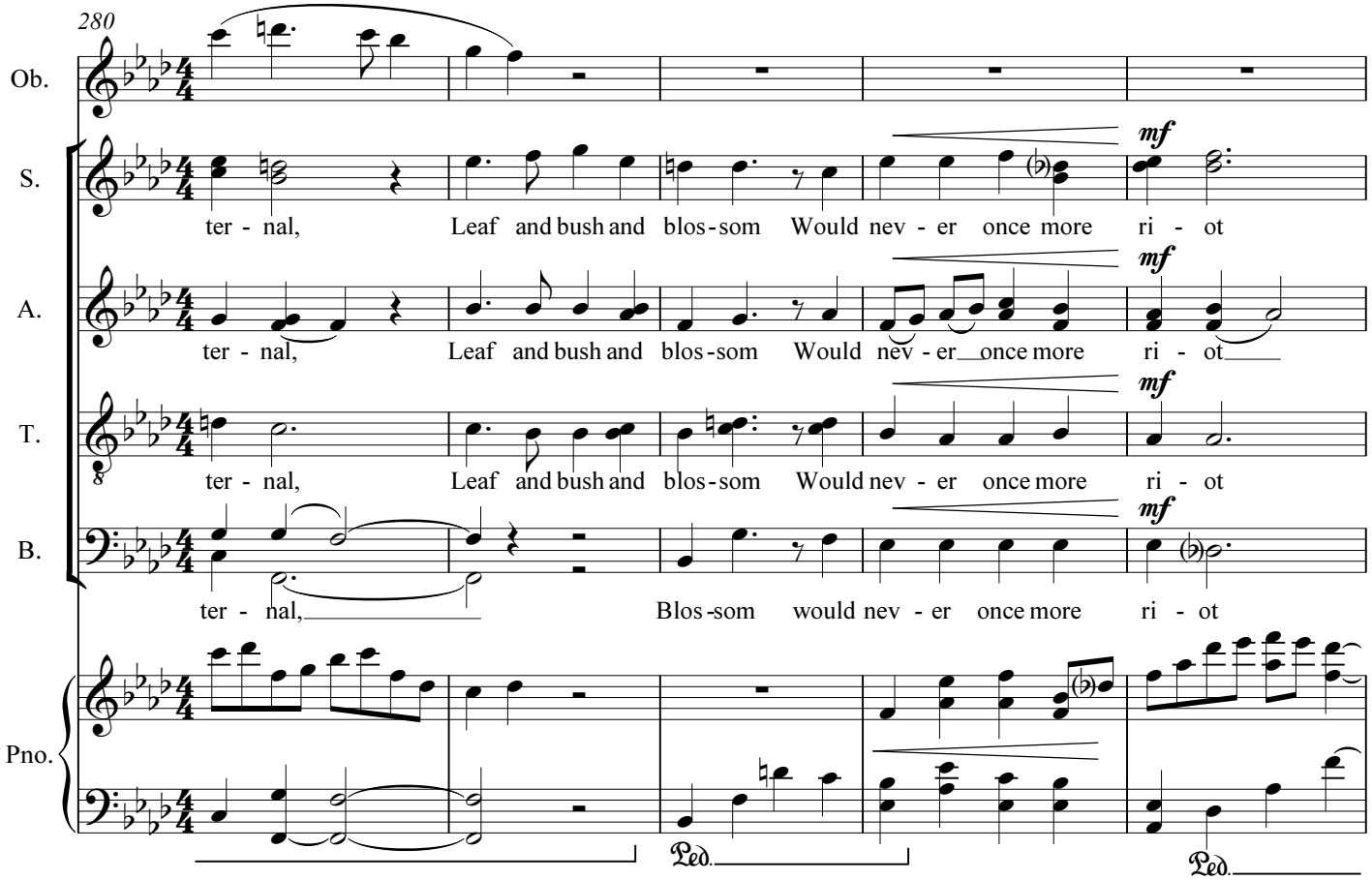

234
Ob.
mf
S.
mf
Ah
A.
mf
Ah Ah
T.
f
The deep un - quen - cha - ble an - swer of the
B.
f
The deep un - quen - cha - ble an - swer of the
Pno.
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

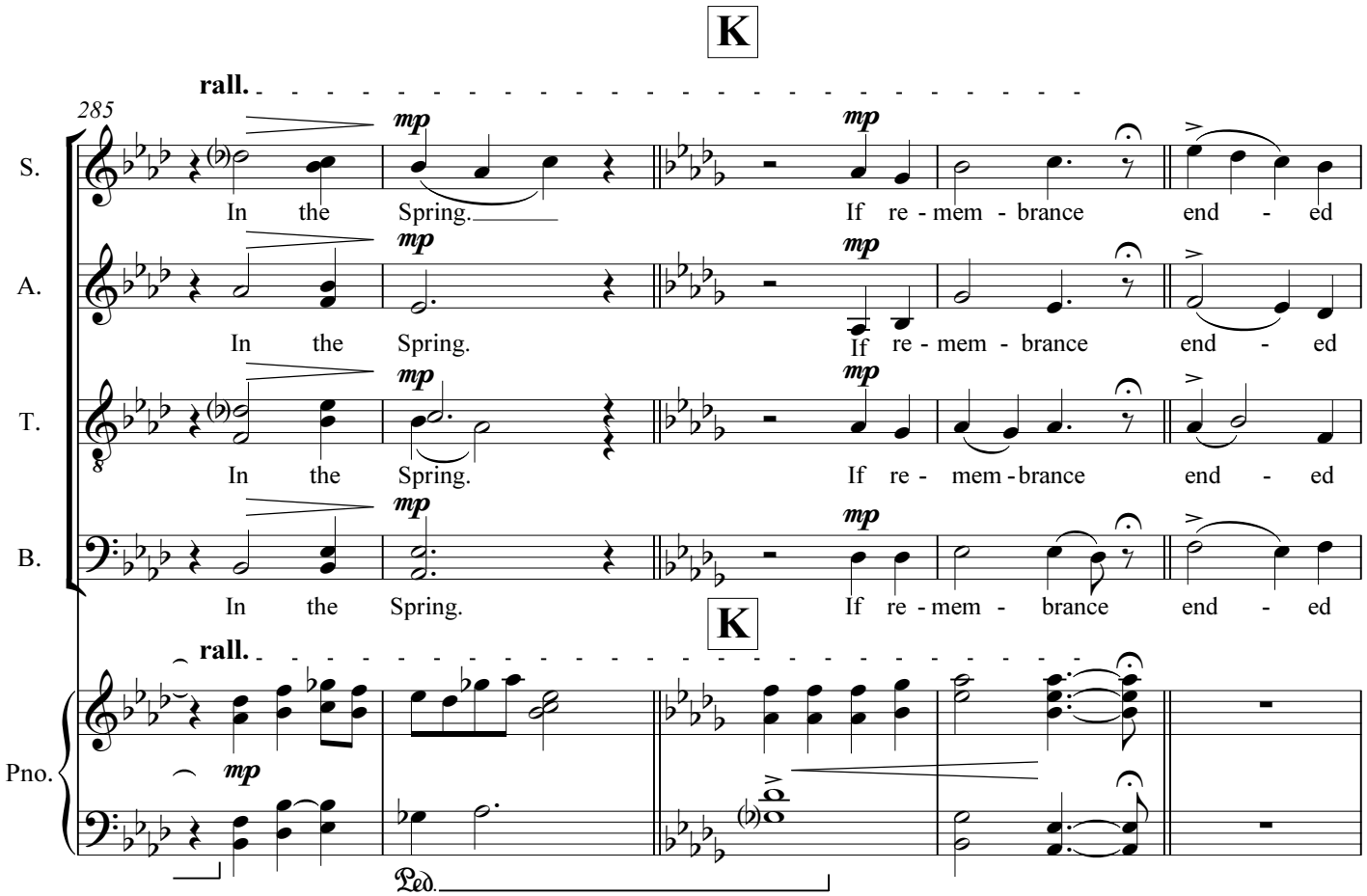

239
rall.
Ob.
S.
Ah
A.
Ah
f
The wind!
T.
wind.
The wind!
B.
wind.
The wind!
rall.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
242
Ob.
S.
The wind!
A.
The wind!
T.
The wind!
B.
The wind!
Pno.

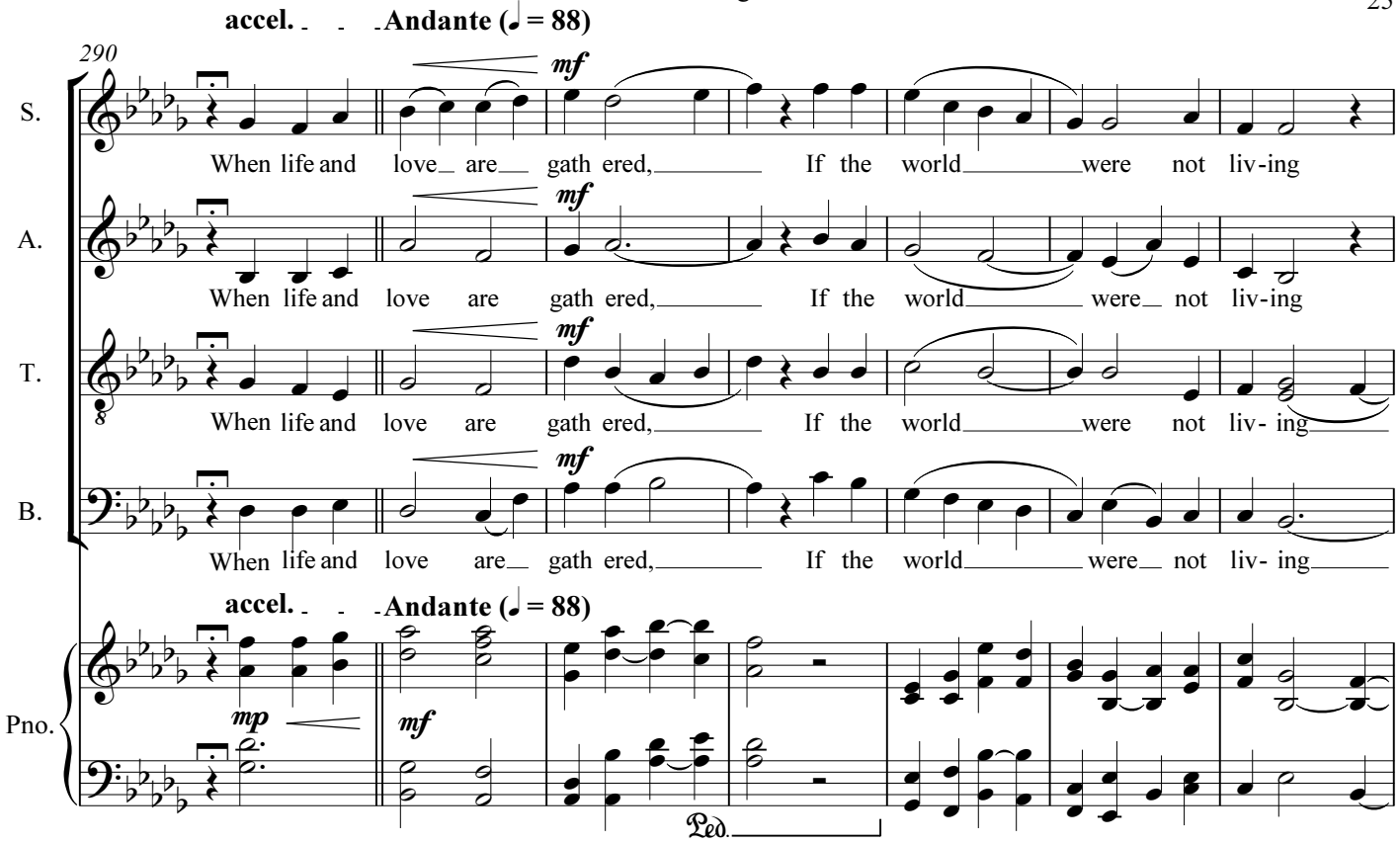

I
Moderato (♩ = 100)
246
Ob.
mp
I
Moderato (♩ = 100)
Pno.
mp
Ped.
253
Ob.
Pno.
Ped.
J
rall.
260
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
mp
If the au - tumn
Pno.
Ped.

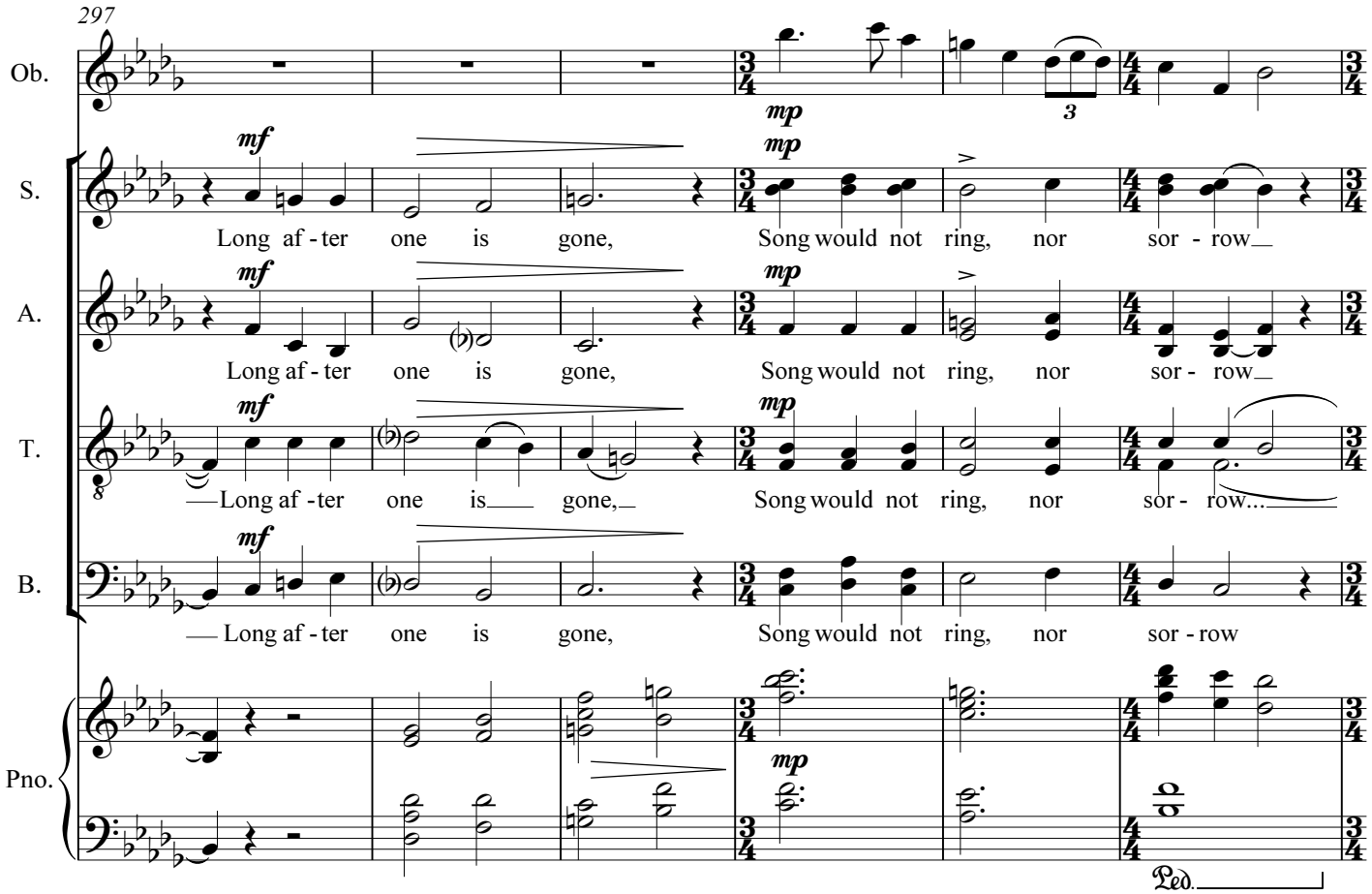

accel. - - a tempo (♩ = 100)
267
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
end - ed Ere the birds flew south- ward, If in the cold with wea-ry
end - ded Ere the birds flew south- ward, In the cold with wea-ry
Ped.

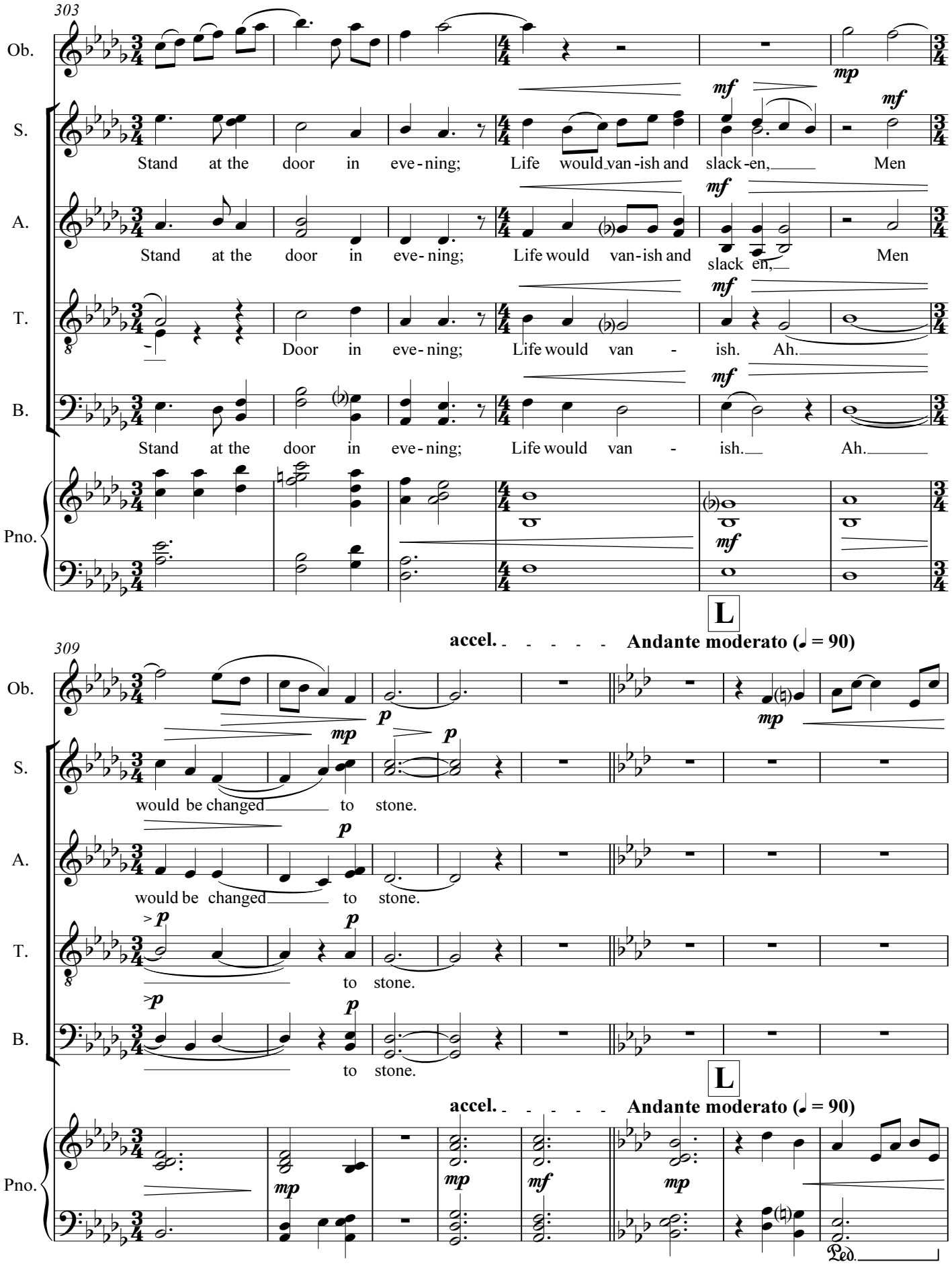

274
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
mp
throats They vain - ly strove to sing, Win - ter would be e -
Ped.

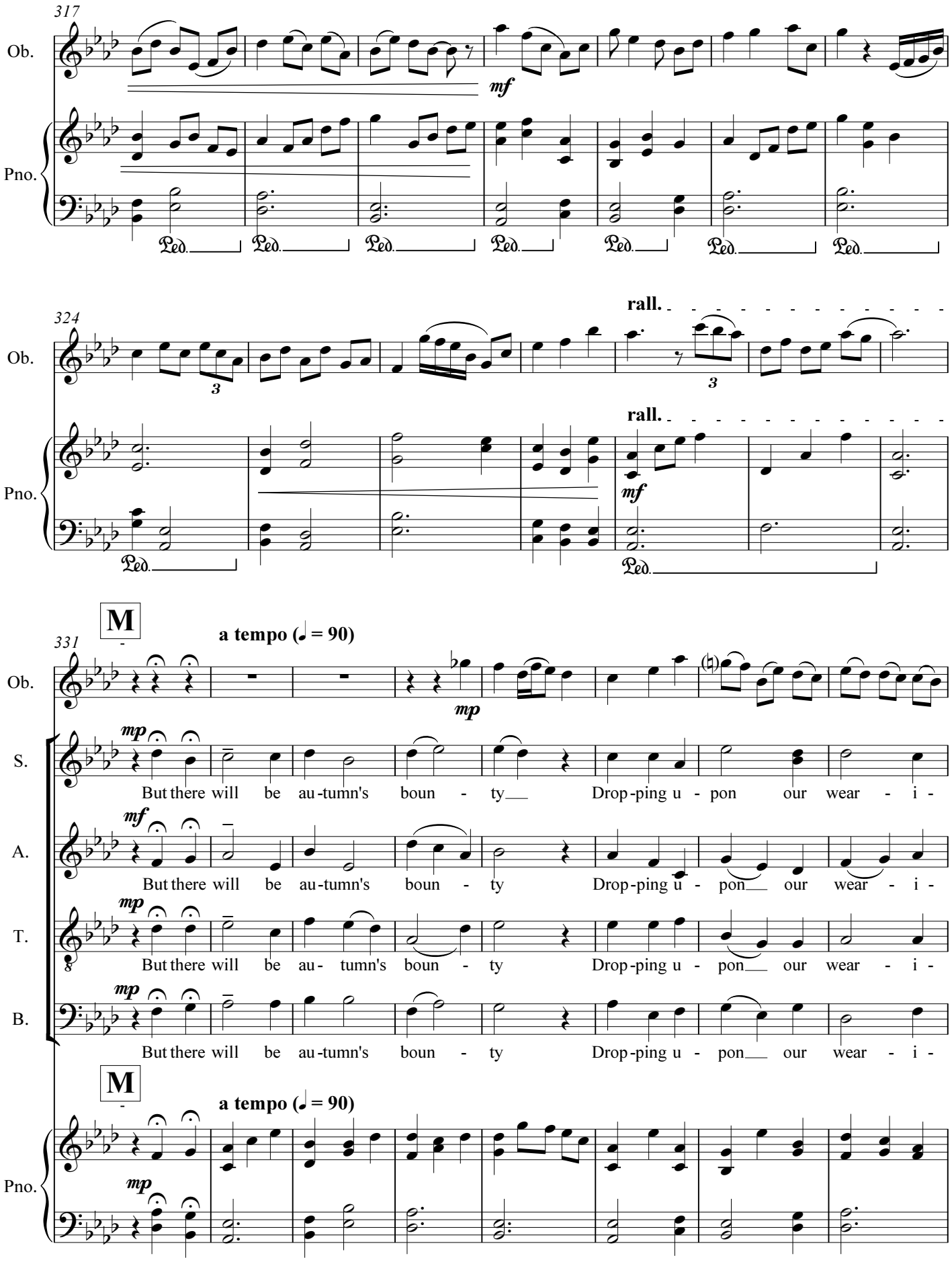

280
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
ter - nal, Leaf and bush and blos - som Would nev - er once more ri - ot
ter - nal, Leaf and bush and blos - som Would nev - er once more ri - ot
ter - nal, Leaf and bush and blos - som Would nev - er once more ri - ot
ter - nal, Blos - som would nev - er once more ri - ot
Ped.
Ped.

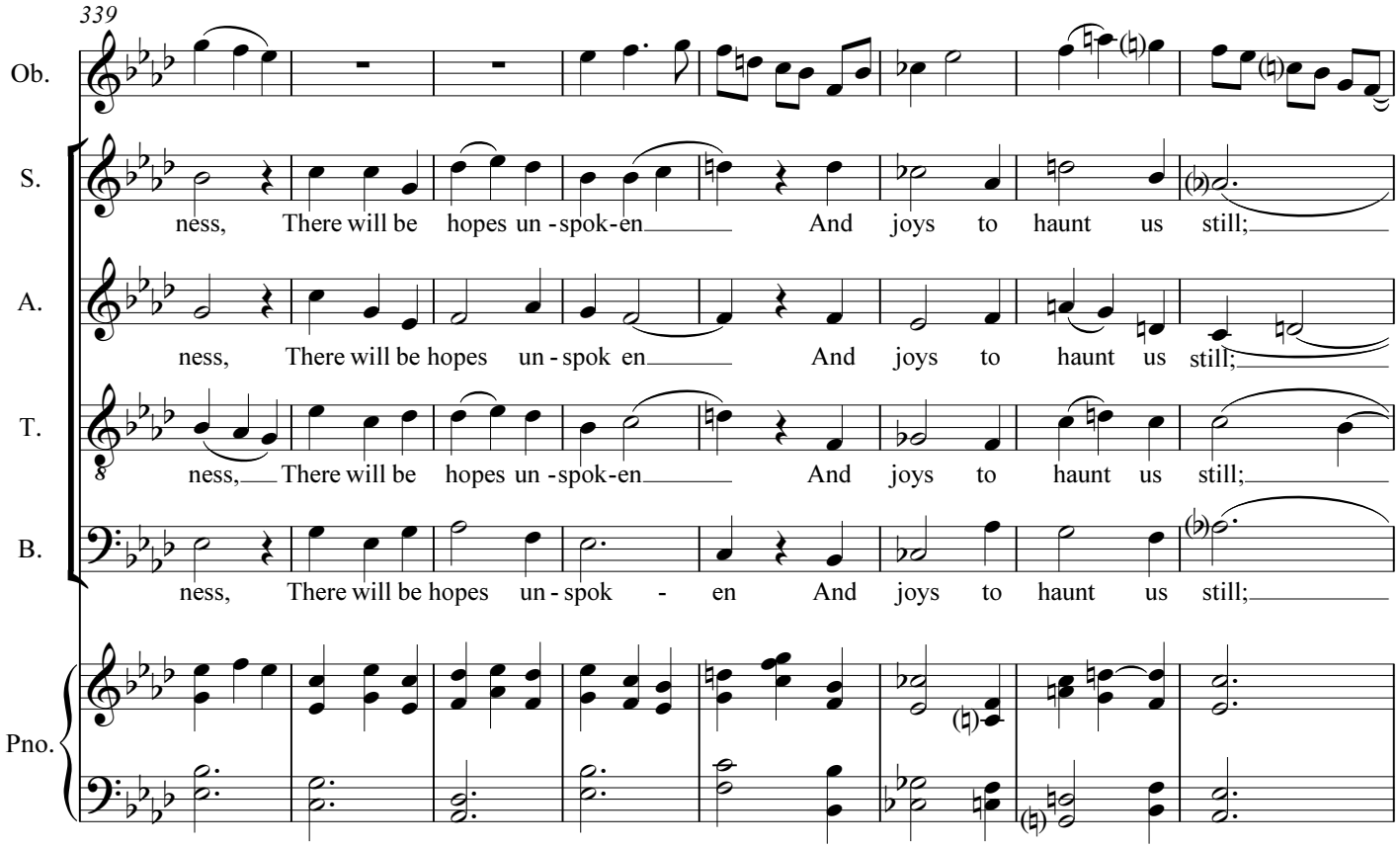

K
rall.
285
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mp
In the Spring. If re - mem - brance end - ed
In the Spring. If re - mem - brance end - ed
In the Spring. If re - mem - brance end - ed
In the Spring. If re - mem - brance end - ed
K
rall.
Ped.

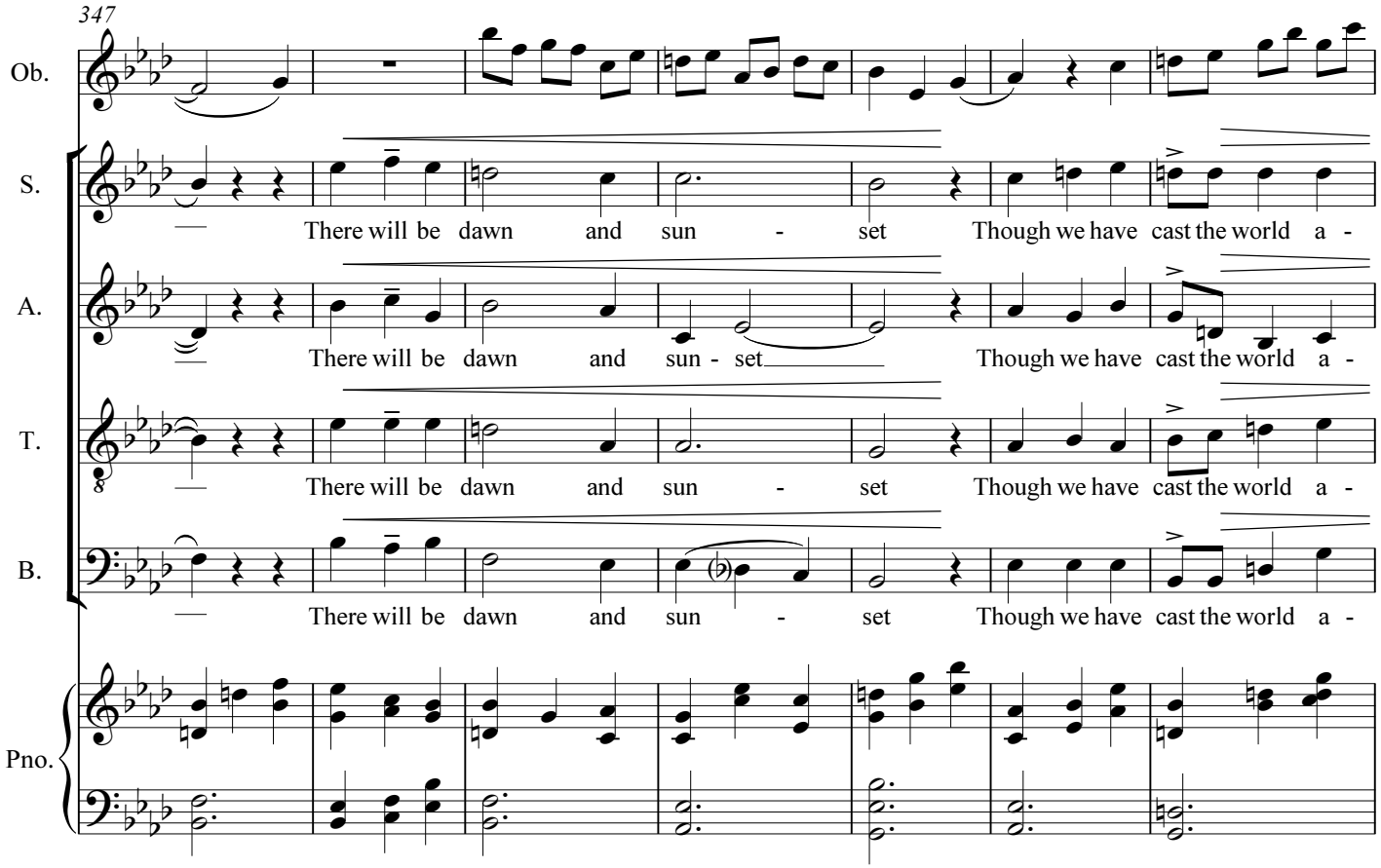

accel. Andante (♩ = 88)
290
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
When life and love are gath ered, If the world were not liv-ing
mp
Ped.

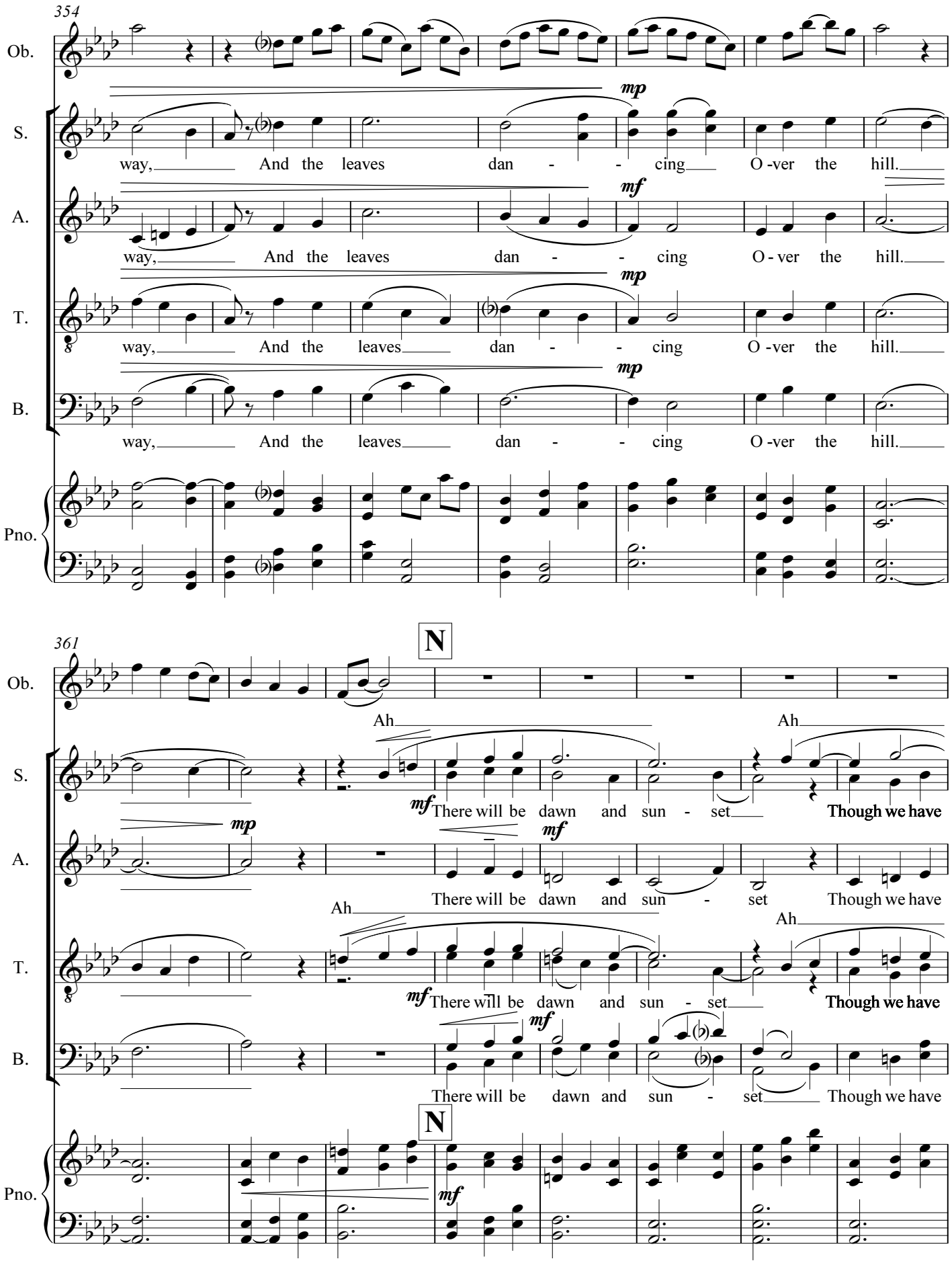

297
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
mp
Long af - ter one is gone, Song would not ring, nor sor - row
Ped.

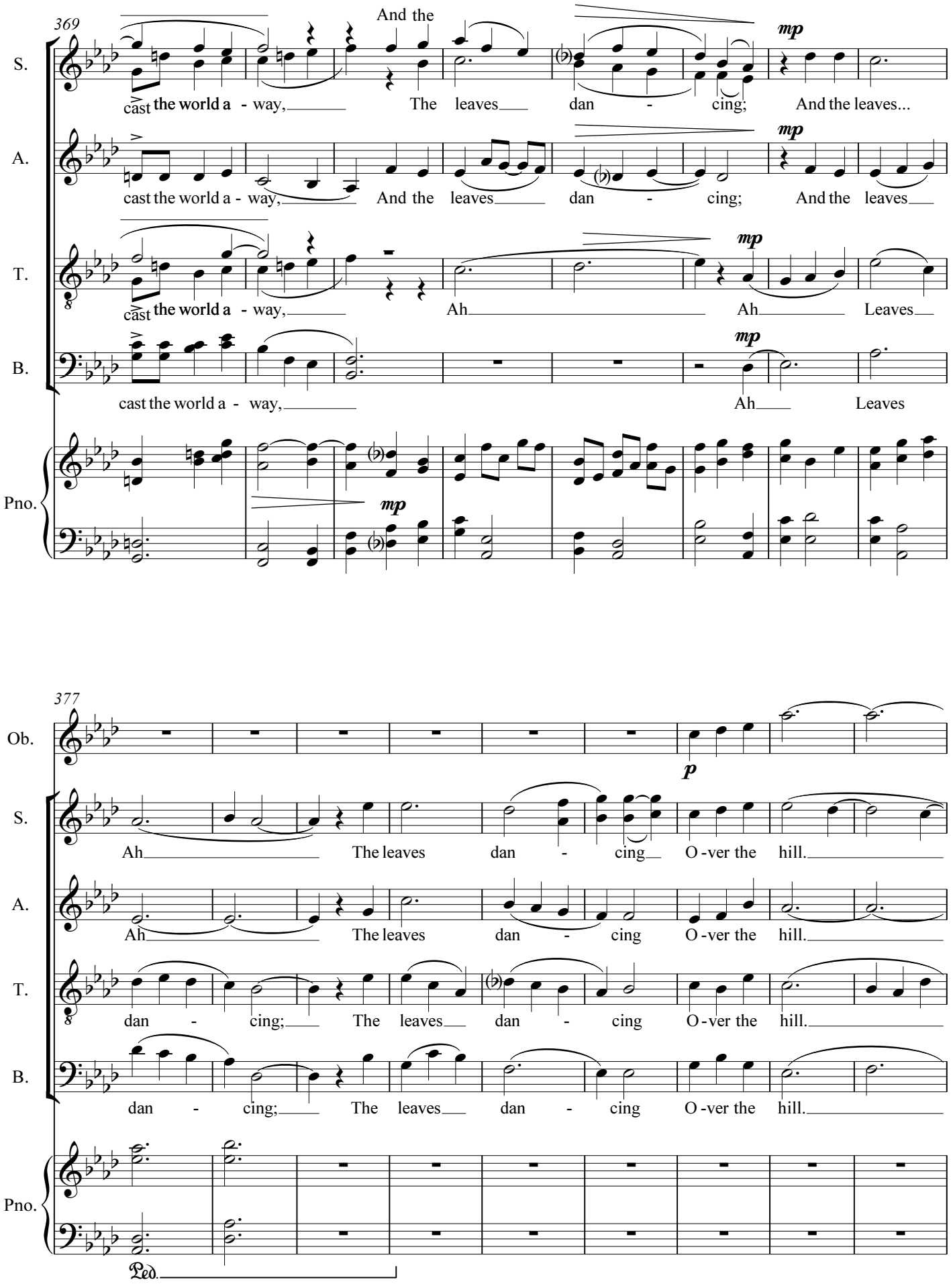

303
Ob.
S.
Stand at the door in eve - ning; Life would van - ish and slack - en, Men
A.
Stand at the door in eve - ning; Life would van - ish and slack en, Men
T.
Door in eve - ning; Life would van - ish. Ah.
B.
Stand at the door in eve - ning; Life would van - ish. Ah.
Pno.
mf
L
accel.
Andante moderato (♩ = 90)
309
would be changed to stone.
to stone.
mp
p
Ped.

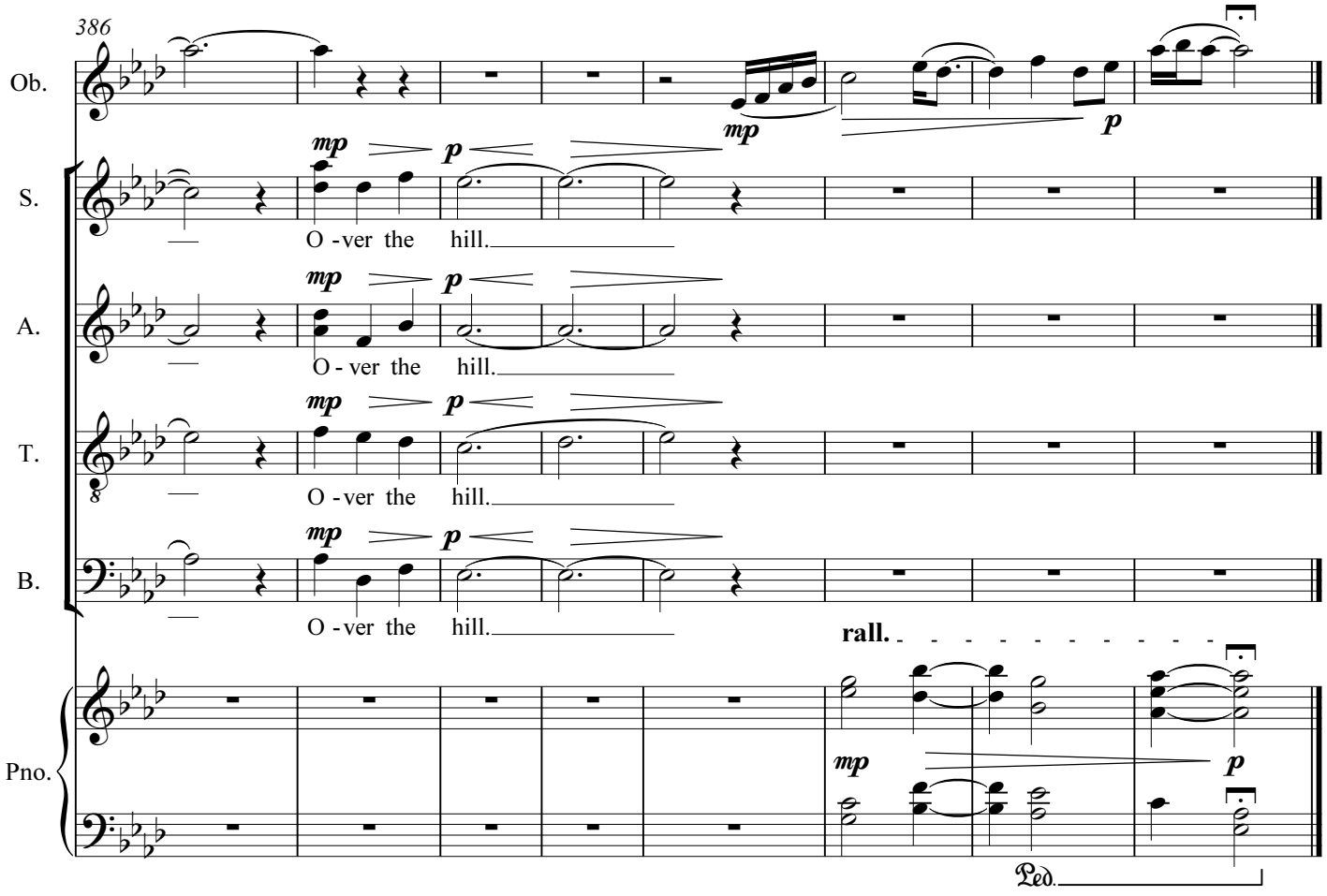

317
Ob.
Pno.
mf
324
rall.
331
M
a tempo (♩ = 90)
mp
S.
But there will be au-tumn's boun - ty Drop-ping u - pon our wear - i -
A.
But there will be au-tumn's boun - ty Drop-ping u - pon our wear - i -
T.
But there will be au- tumn's boun - ty Drop-ping u - pon our wear - i -
B.
But there will be au-tumn's boun - ty Drop-ping u - pon our wear - i -


339
Ob.
S.
ness, There will be hopes un - spok-en And joys to haunt us still;
A.
ness, There will be hopes un - spok en And joys to haunt us still;
T.
ness, There will be hopes un - spok-en And joys to haunt us still;
B.
ness, There will be hopes un - spok - en And joys to haunt us still;
Pno.


347
Ob.
S.
There will be dawn and sun - set Though we have cast the world a -
A.
There will be dawn and sun - set Though we have cast the world a -
T.
There will be dawn and sun - set Though we have cast the world a -
B.
There will be dawn and sun - set Though we have cast the world a -
Pno.


354
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mp
mf
way, And the leaves dan - - cing O -ver the hill.
361
N
Ah
There will be dawn and sun - set
Though we have


369
And the
S.
cast the world a - way, The leaves dan - cing; And the leaves...
A.
cast the world a - way, And the leaves dan - cing; And the leaves
T.
cast the world a - way, Ah Ah Leaves
B.
cast the world a - way, Ah Leaves
Pno.
mp
377
Ob.
p
S.
Ah The leaves dan - cing O -ver the hill.
A.
Ah The leaves dan - cing O -ver the hill.
T.
dan - cing; The leaves dan - cing O -ver the hill.
B.
dan - cing; The leaves dan - cing O -ver the hill.
Pno.
Ped.


386
rall.
Ob.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mp
p
O - ver the hill.
rall.
Ped.

ENDURING

Four poems (from a self-selected sequence of 10) published in 1922 by American Imagist poet **John Gould Fletcher** (1886-1950), in *American Poetry 1922: A Miscellany* [Harcourt Brace & Co., New York], available from Project Gutenberg.

Their common theme is our deep need to pass on and augment both remembrance and art, through poetry and song, in order to give meaning to the human condition.

1. Impromptu

My mind is a puddle in the street reflecting
green Sirius;
In thick dark groves trees huddle lifting their
branches like beckoning hands.
We eat the grain, the grain is death, all goes
back to the earth's dark mass,
All but a song which moves across the plain
like the wind's deep-muttering breath.
Bowed down upon the earth, man sets his
plants and watches for the seed,
Though he be part of the tragic pageant of
the sky, no heaven will aid his mortal
need.
I find flame in the dust, a word once uttered
that will stir again,
And a wine-cup reflecting Sirius in the
water held in my hands.

2. Blue Water

Sea-violins are playing on the sands;
Curved bows of blue and white are flying
over the pebbles,
See them attack the chords—dark basses,
glinting trebles.
Dimly and faint they croon, blue violins.
"Suffer without regret," they seem to cry,
"Though dark your suffering is, it may be
music."
Waves of blue heat that wash midsummer
sky;
Sea-violins that play along the sands.

3. Prayers for Wind

Let the winds come,
And bury our feet in the sands of seven
deserts;
Let strong breezes rise,
Washing our ears with the far-off sounds of
the foam.
Let there be between our faces
Green turf and a branch or two of back-
tossed trees;
Set firmly over questioning hearts
The deep unquenchable answer of the wind.

4. The Enduring

If the autumn ended
Ere the birds flew southward,
If in the cold with weary throats
They vainly strove to sing,
Winter would be eternal;
Leaf and bush and blossom
Would never once more riot
In the spring.

If remembrance ended
When life and love are gathered,
If the world were not living
Long after one is gone,
Song would not ring, nor sorrow
Stand at the door in evening;
Life would vanish and slacken,
Men would be changed to stone.

But there will be autumn's bounty
Dropping upon our weariness,
There will be hopes unspoken
And joys to haunt us still;
There will be dawn and sunset
Though we have cast the world away,
And the leaves dancing
Over the hill.

Oboe

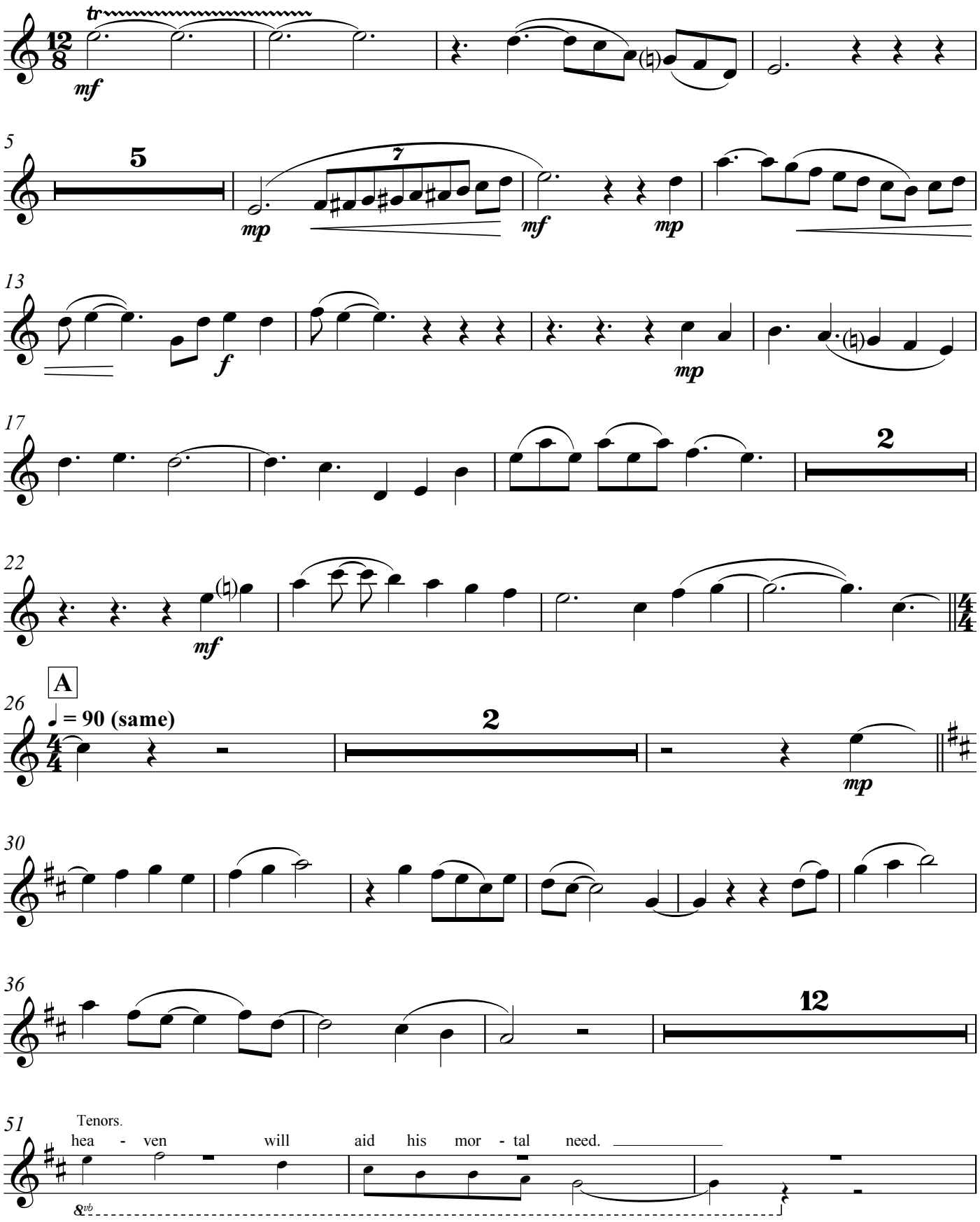
Enduring

Four poems by John Gould Fletcher (1886-1950)

Peter Bird

1. Impromptu

Soleá (♩. = 90)



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B

Soleá (♩. = 90)

54

mp

tr

59

mp

mf

63

2

poco rit.

68

tr

72

molto rit.

4

2. Blue water

C

Andantino (𝅗𝅥 = 75)

77

33

Soprani.

Blue vi - o - lins.

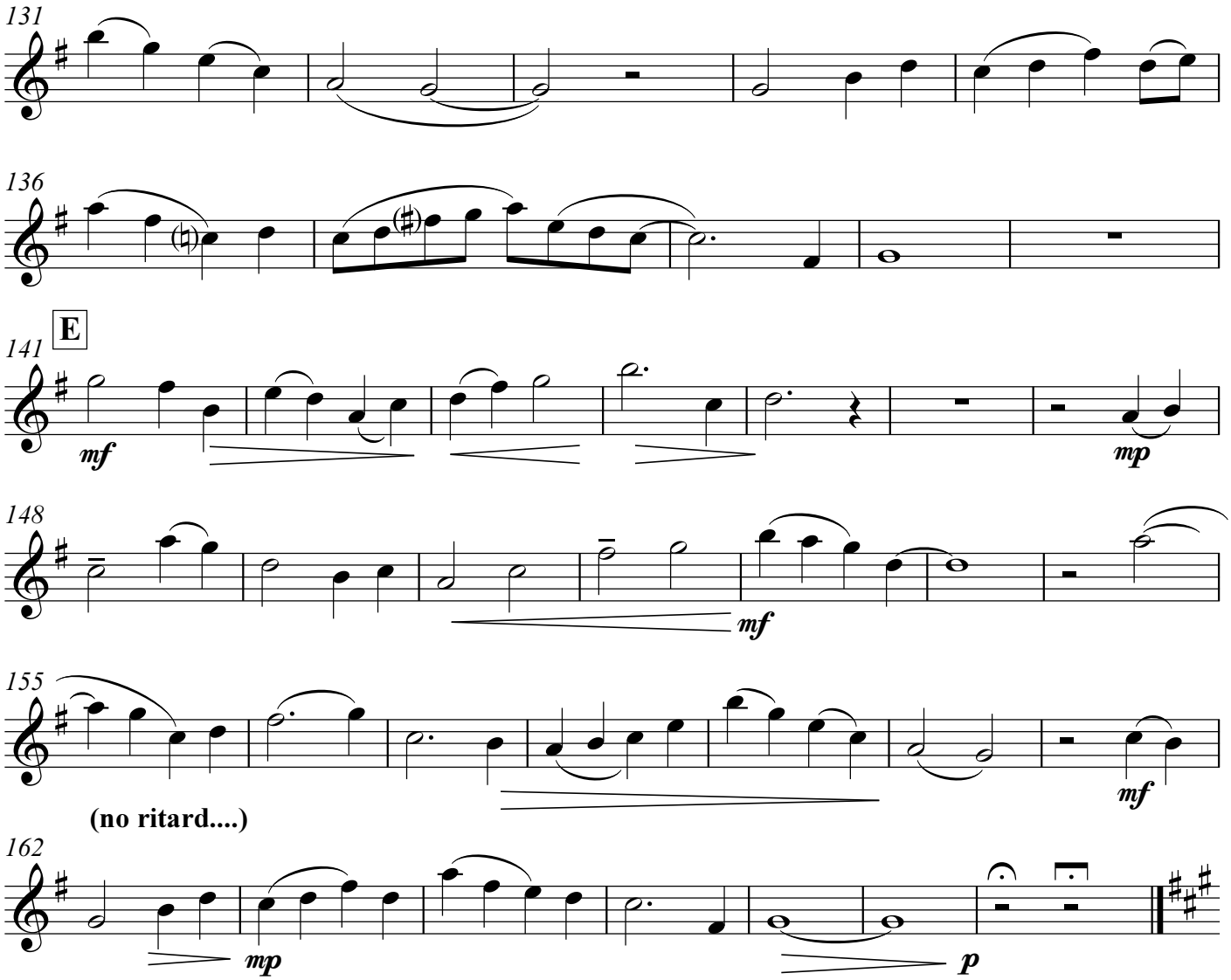
D

113

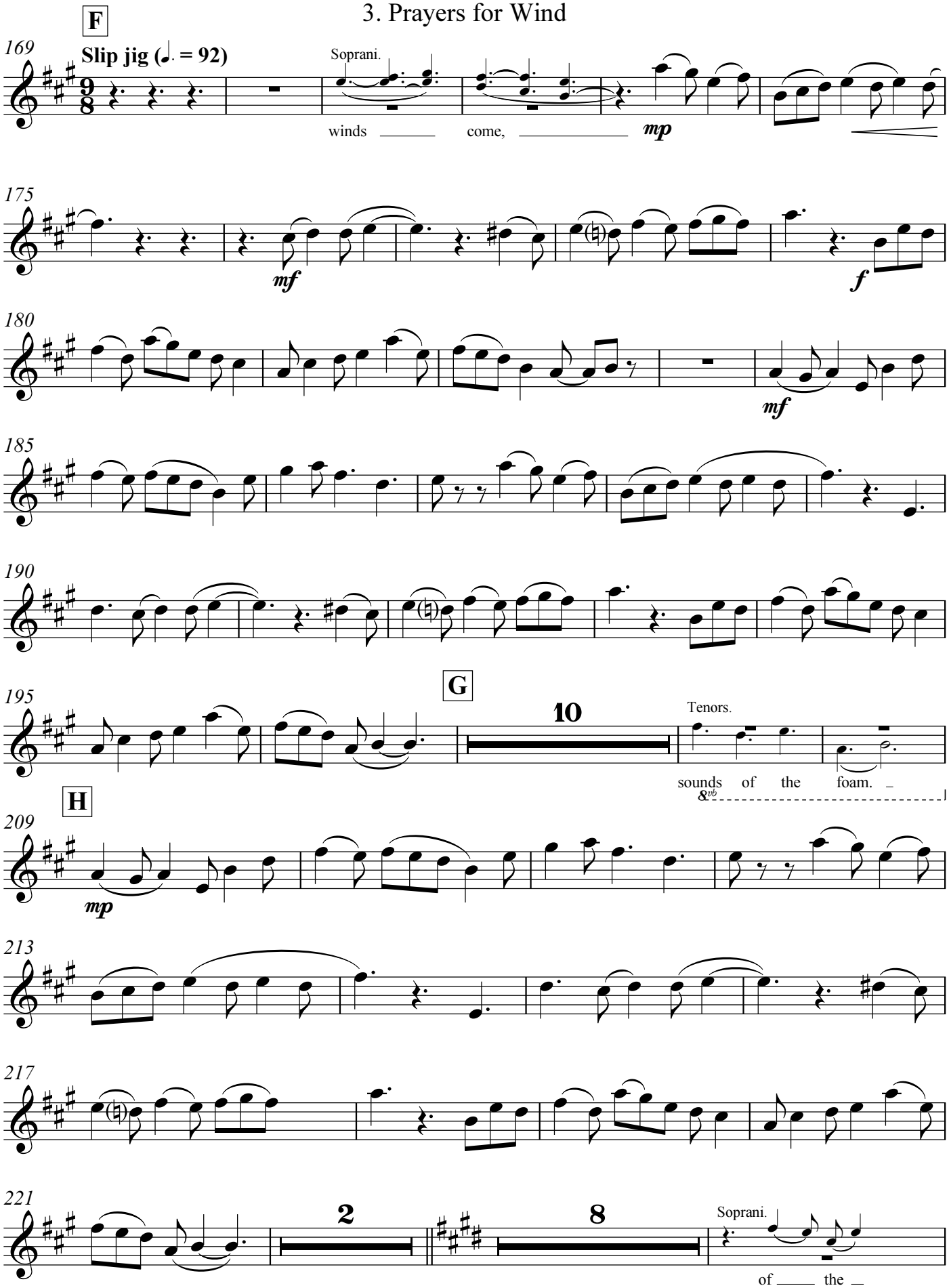
mf

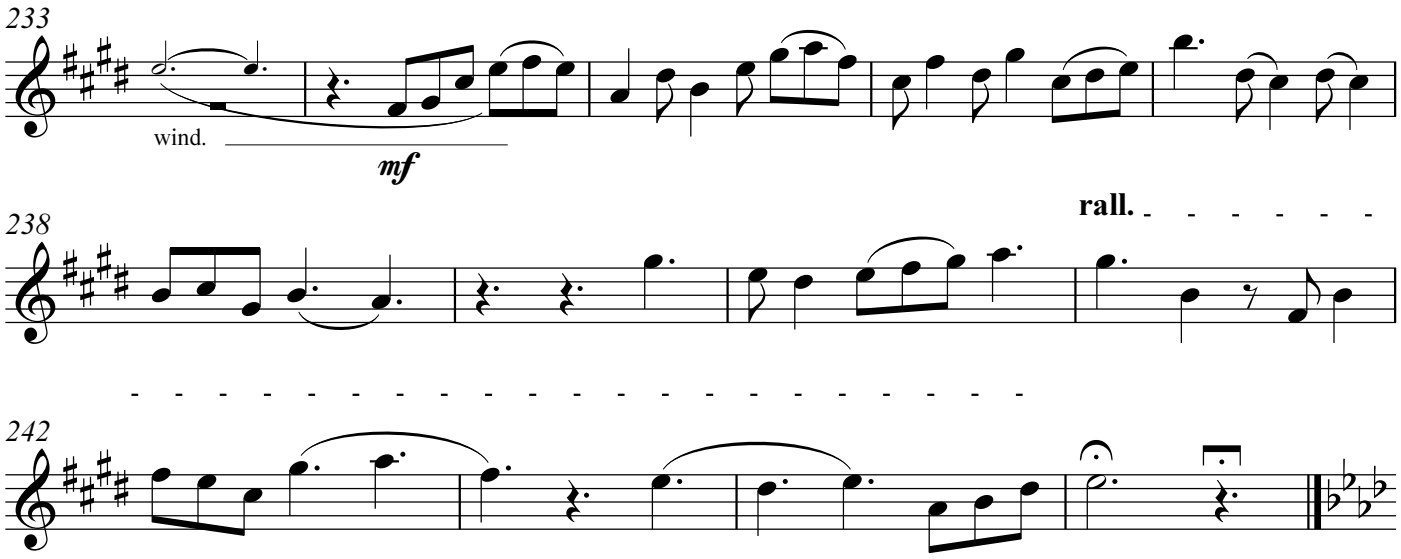
119

125

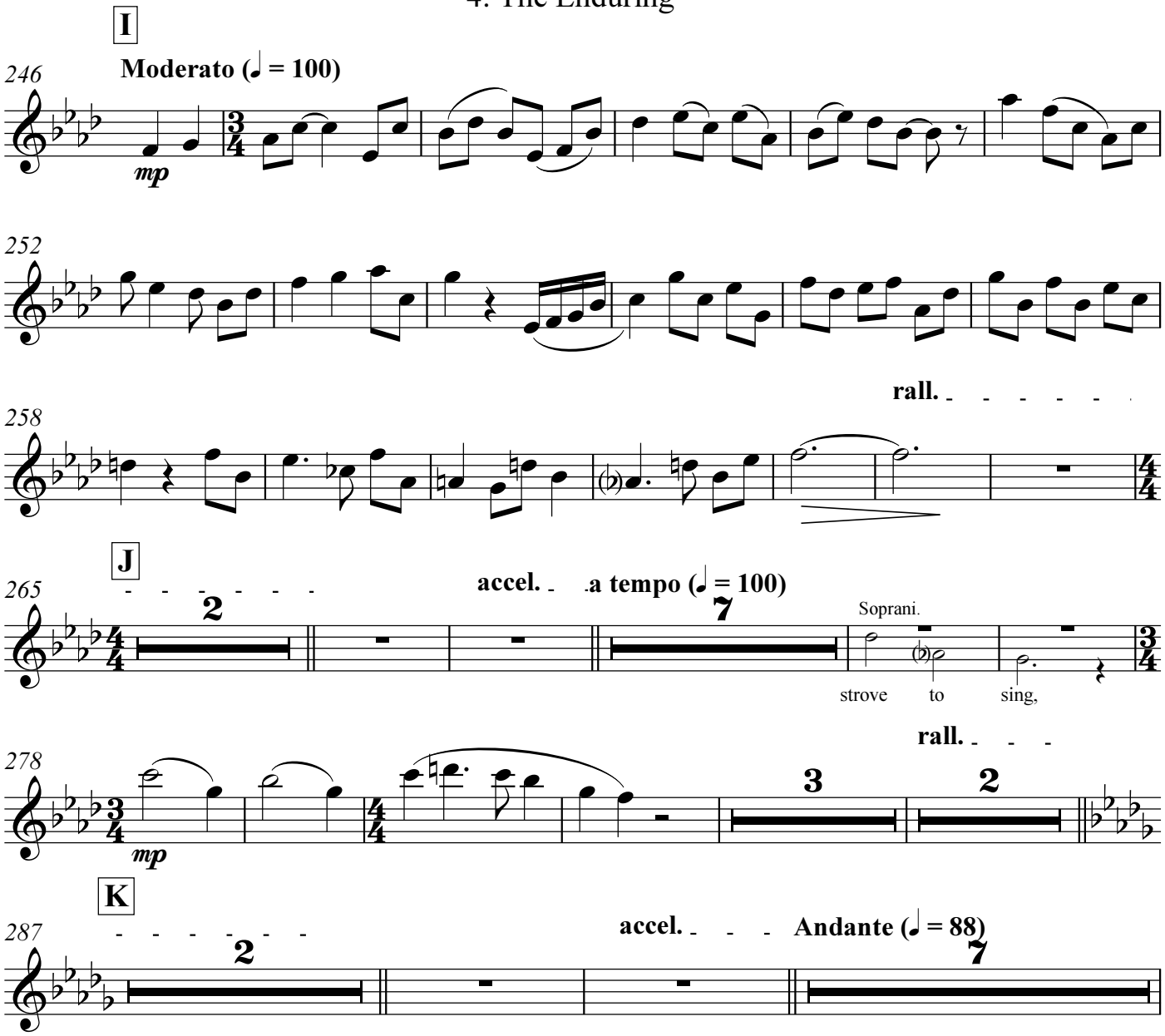

131
136
E
141
mf
mp
148
mf
155
mf
(no ritard....)
162
mp
p

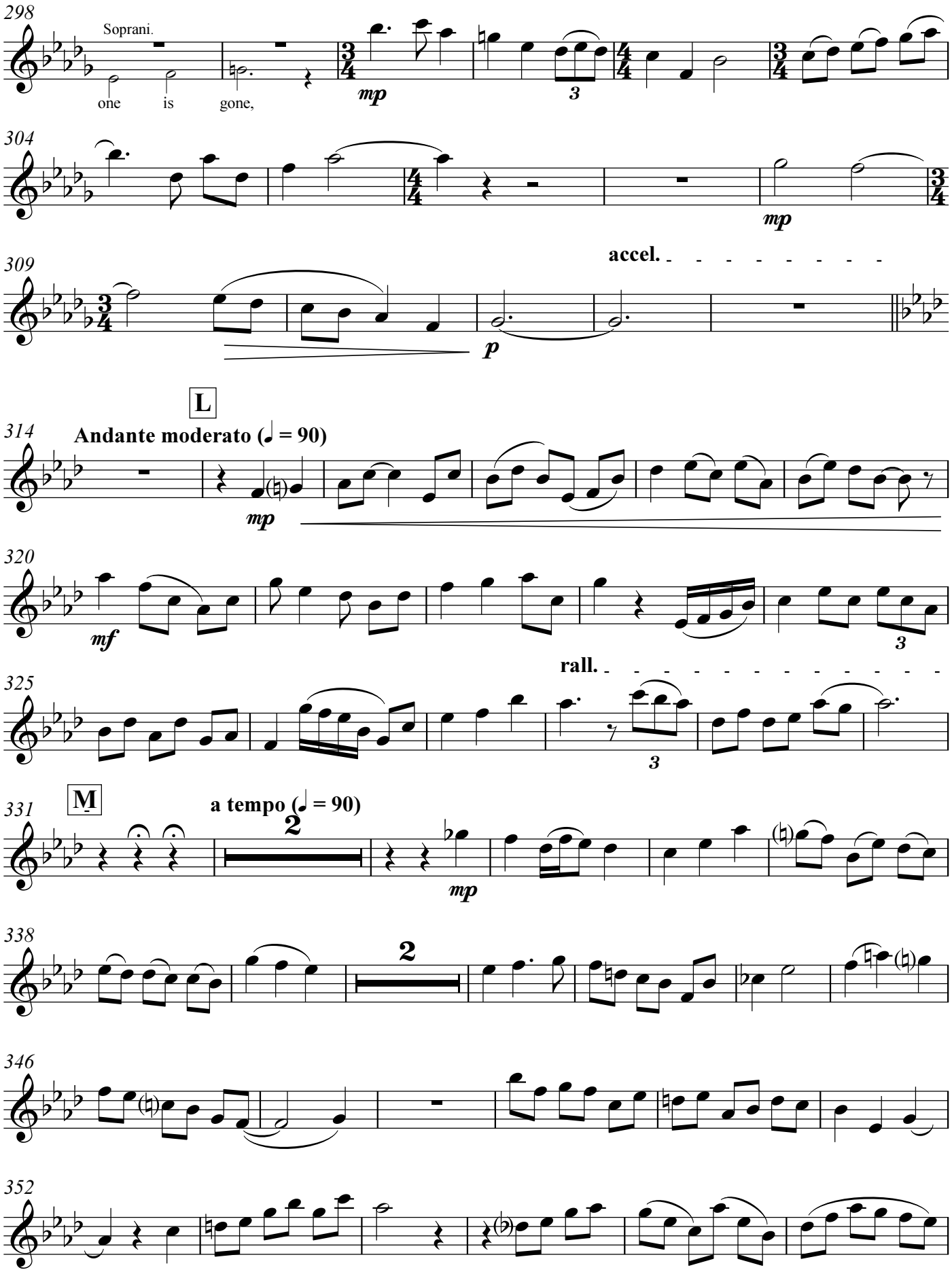
Enduring
Oboe
3. Prayers for Wind

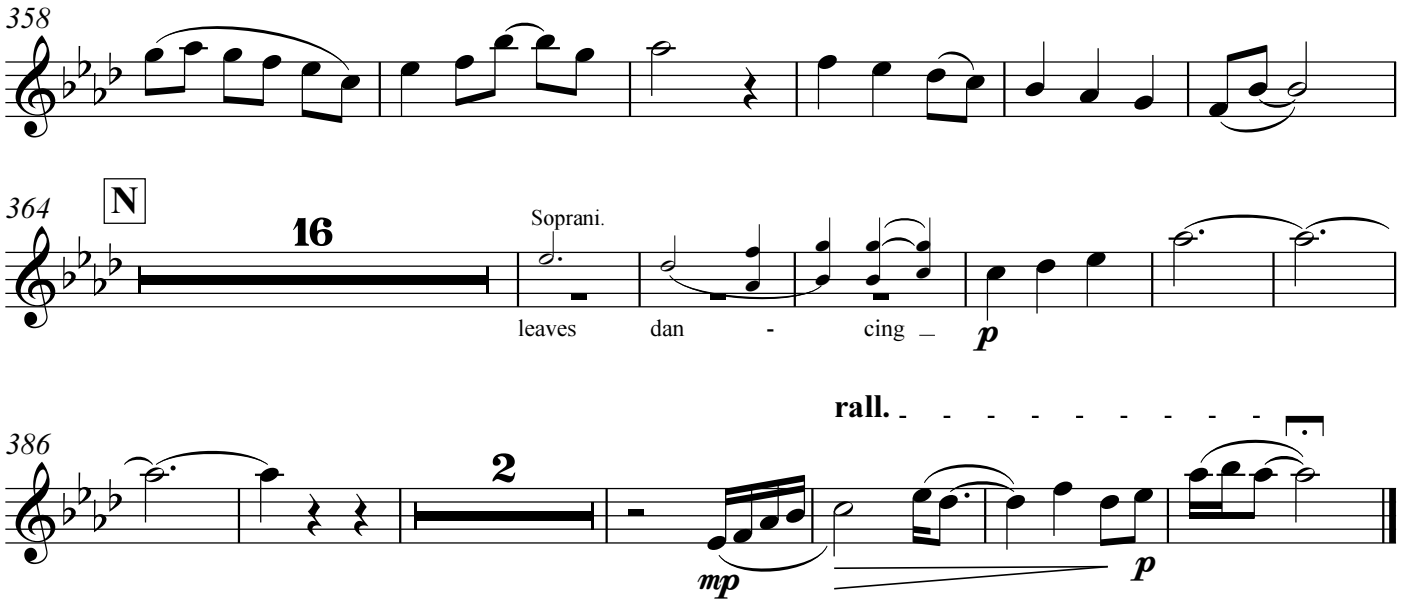




4. The Enduring




298
Soprani.
one is gone,
mp
3
304
mp
accel.
309
p
L
314
Andante moderato (♩ = 90)
mp
320
mf
3
rall.
325
3
M
331
a tempo (♩ = 90)
2
mp
338
2
346
352


358
364
N
16
Soprani.
leaves
dan
-
cing
p
386
rall.
2
mp
p

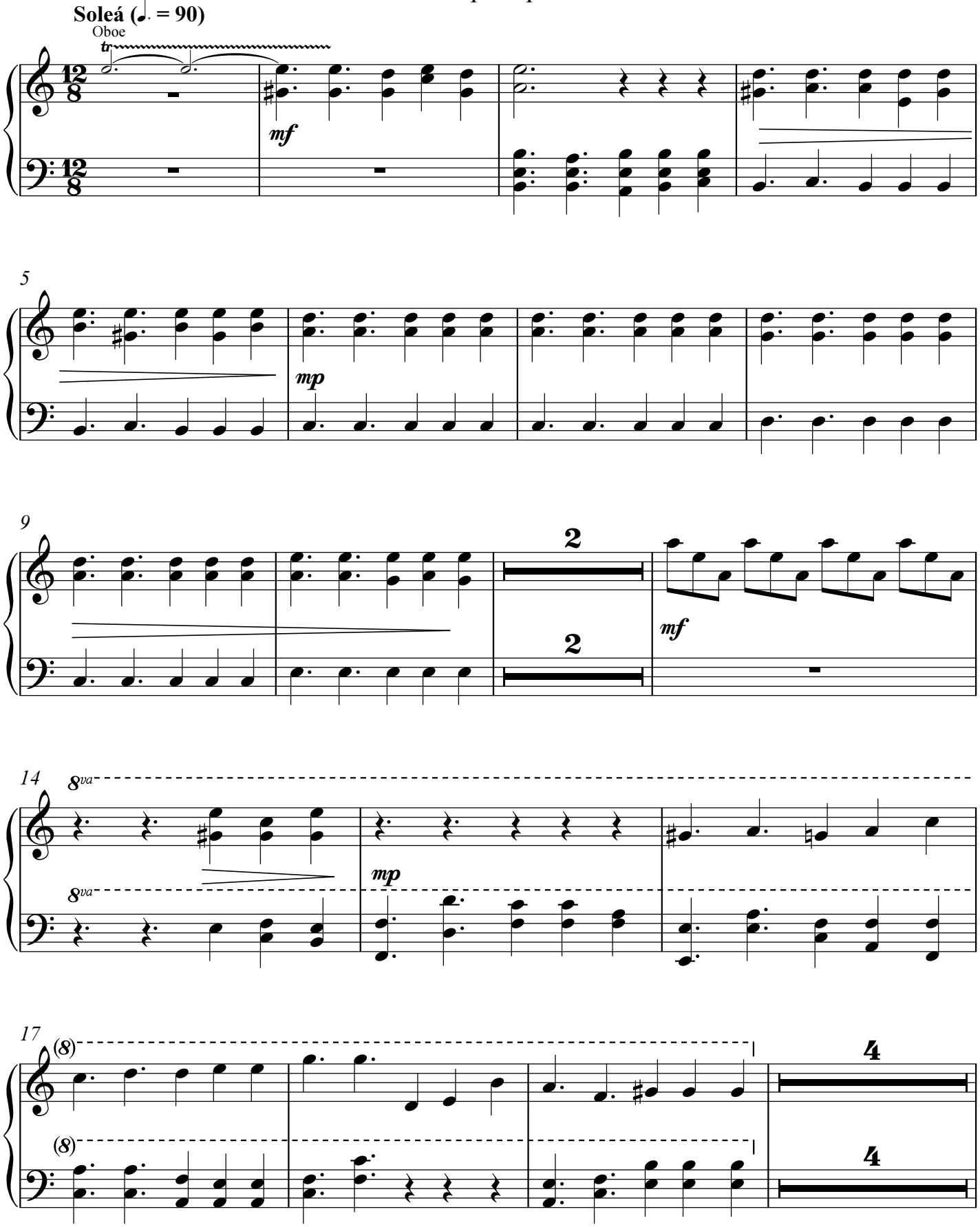
Piano

Enduring

Four poems by John Gould Fletcher (1886-1950)

Peter Bird

1. Impromptu



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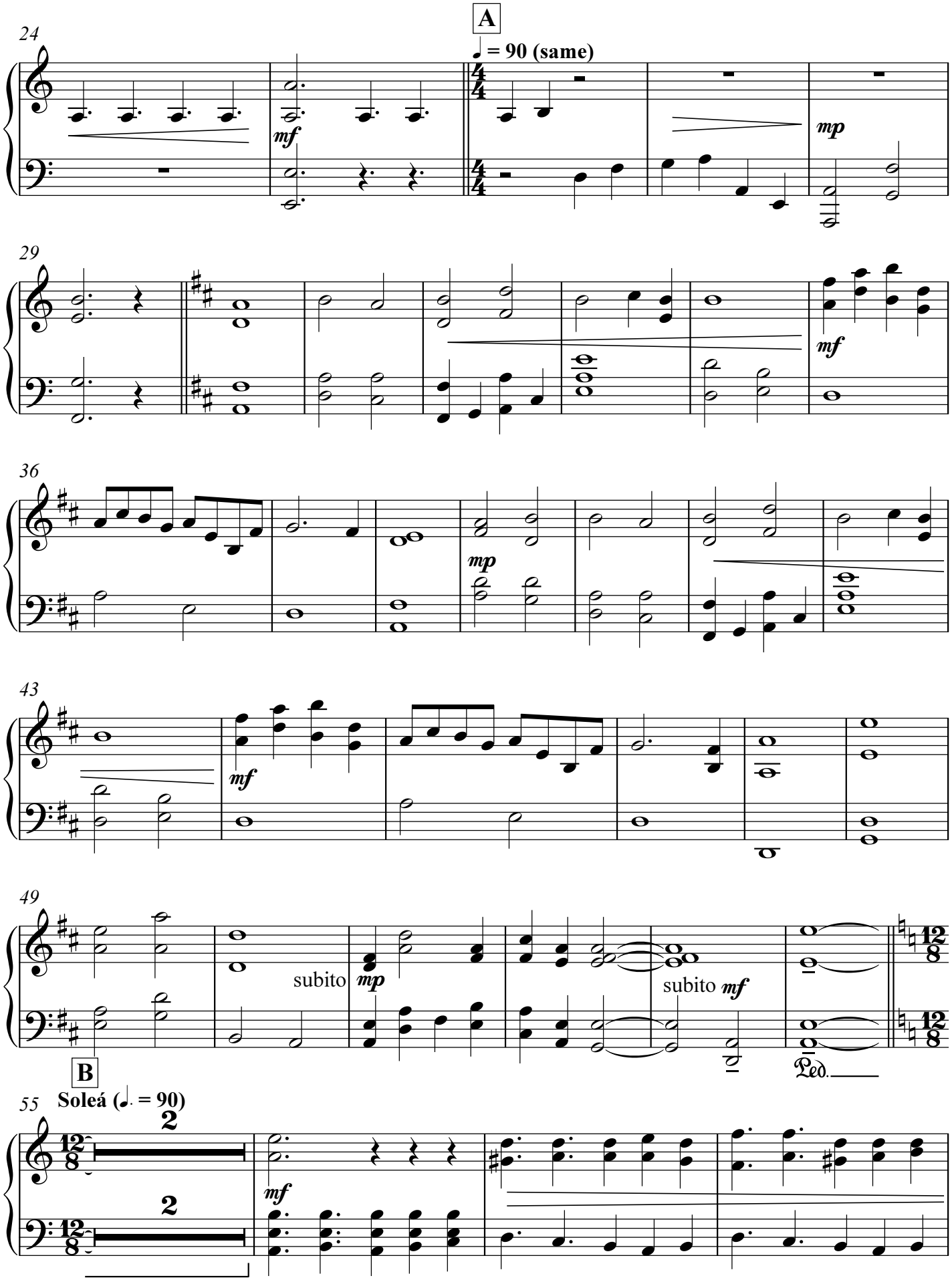
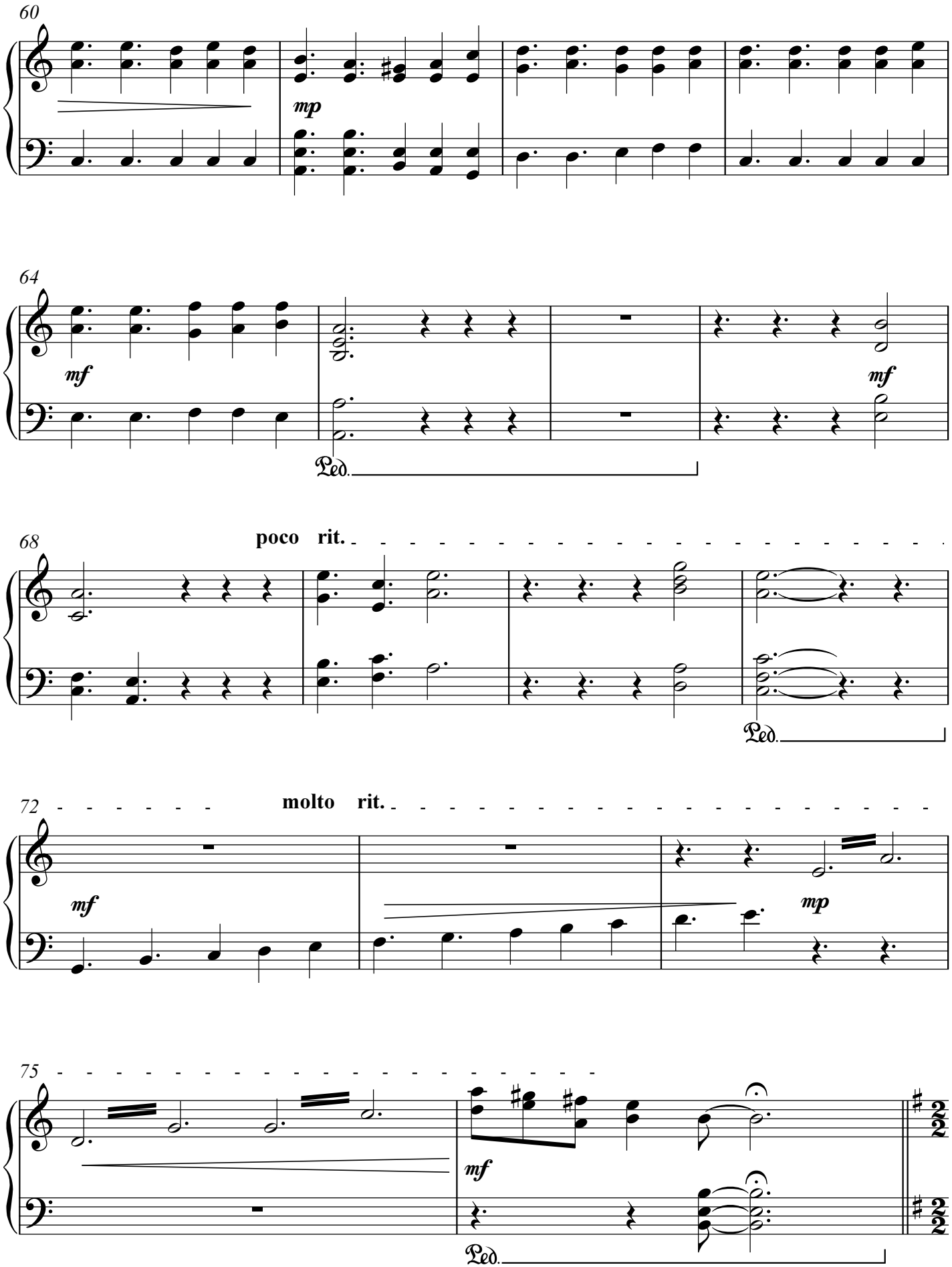

A
♩ = 90 (same)
24
mf
mp
29
mf
36
mp
43
mf
49
subito
mp
subito mf
Ped.
B
55
Soleá (♩. = 90)
2
2
mf


60
mp
64
mf
Ped.
mf
68
poco rit.
Ped.
72
molto rit.
mf
mp
75
mf
Ped.

2. Blue water

C

77 **Andantino (𝅗𝅥 = 75)**

mf

83

mf

91

99

f

mp

106

mf

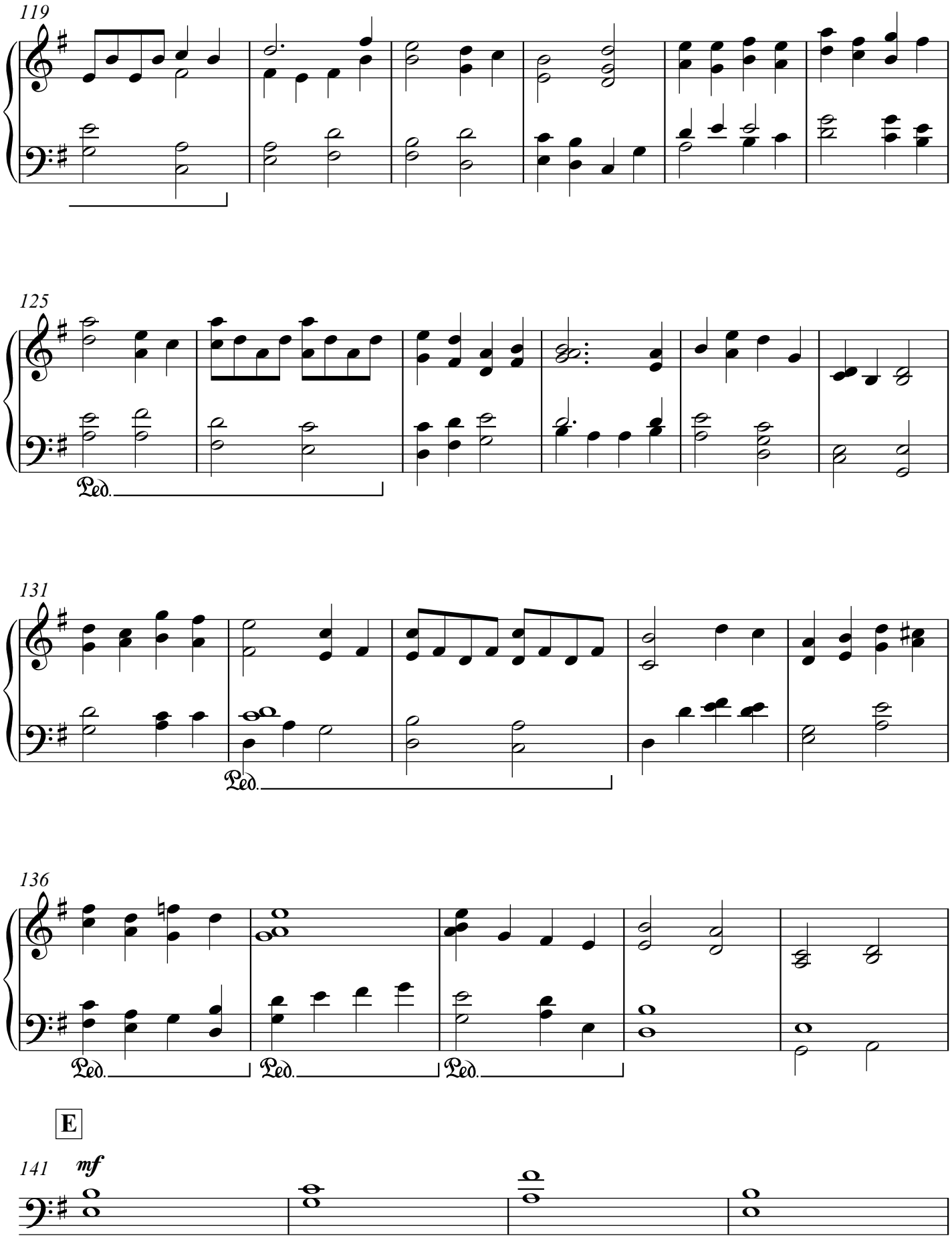
Ped.

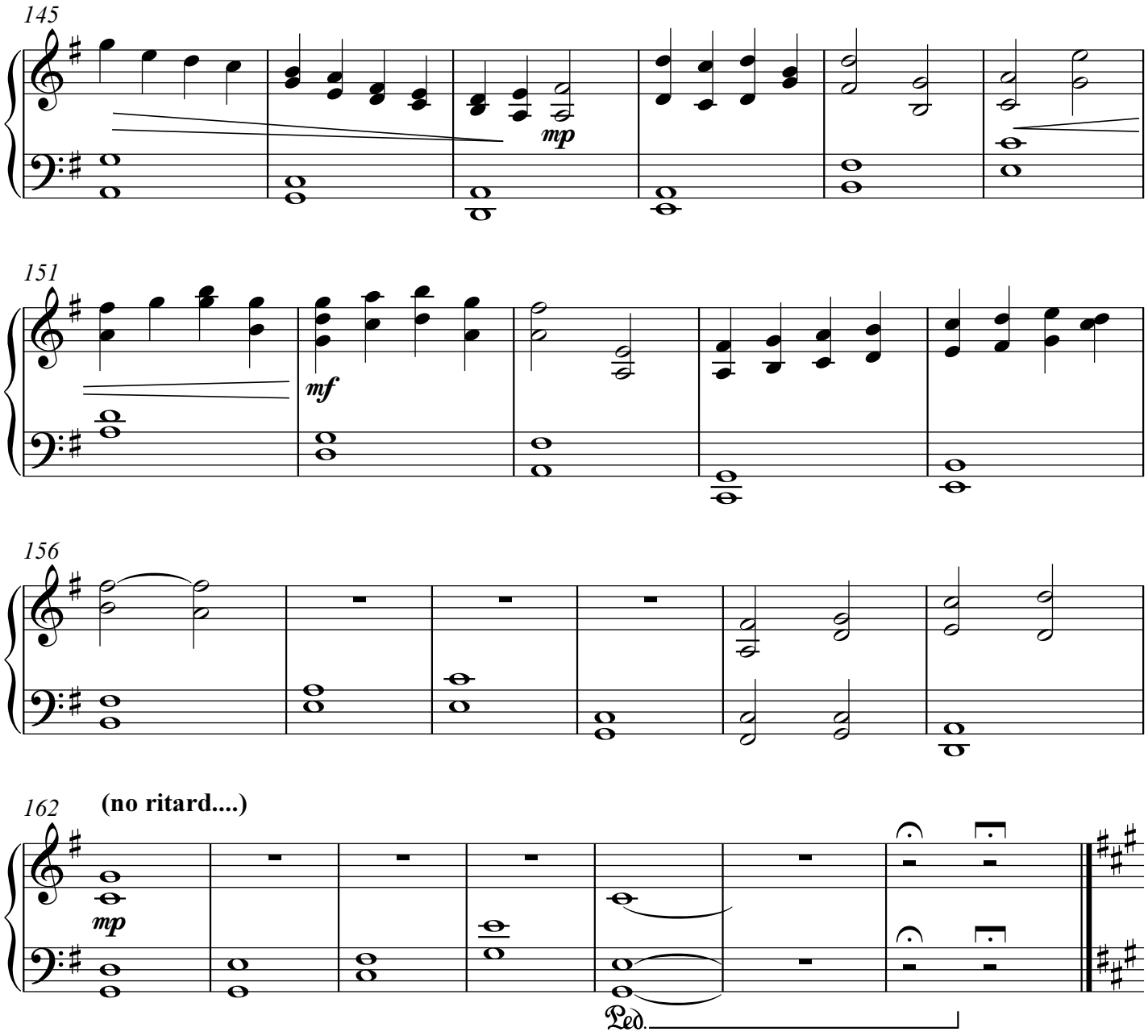
D

113 8va

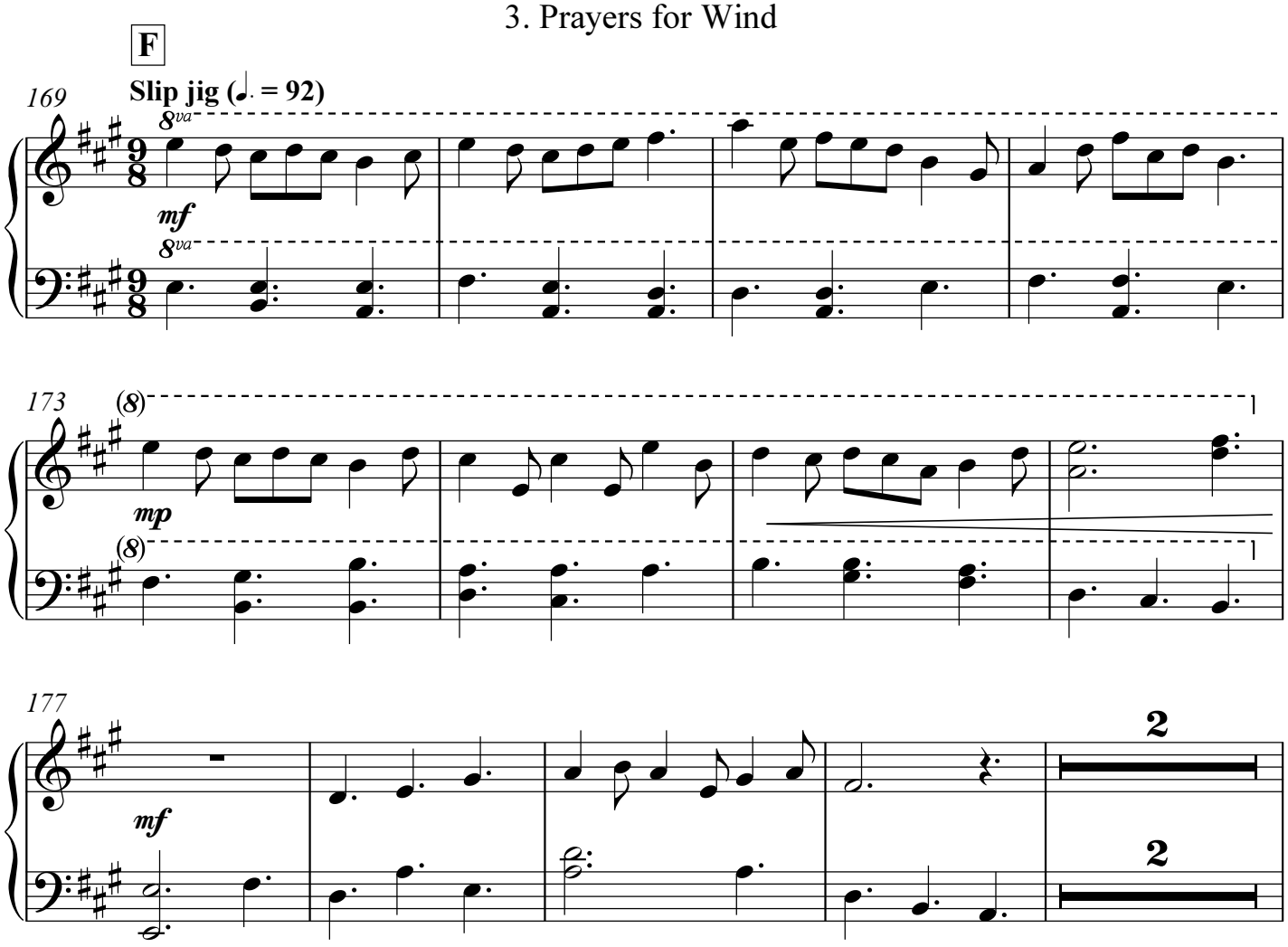
8va

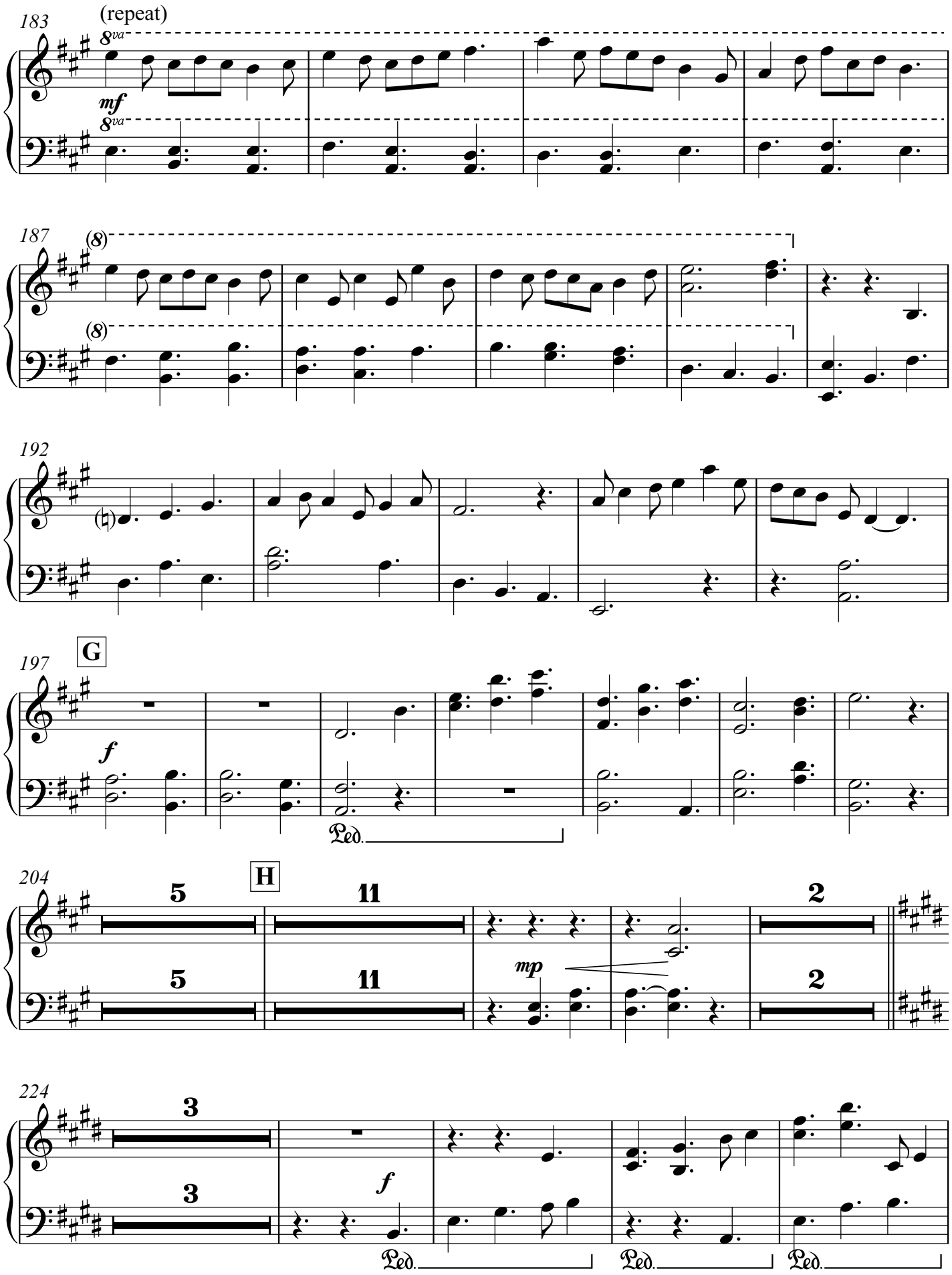
Ped.

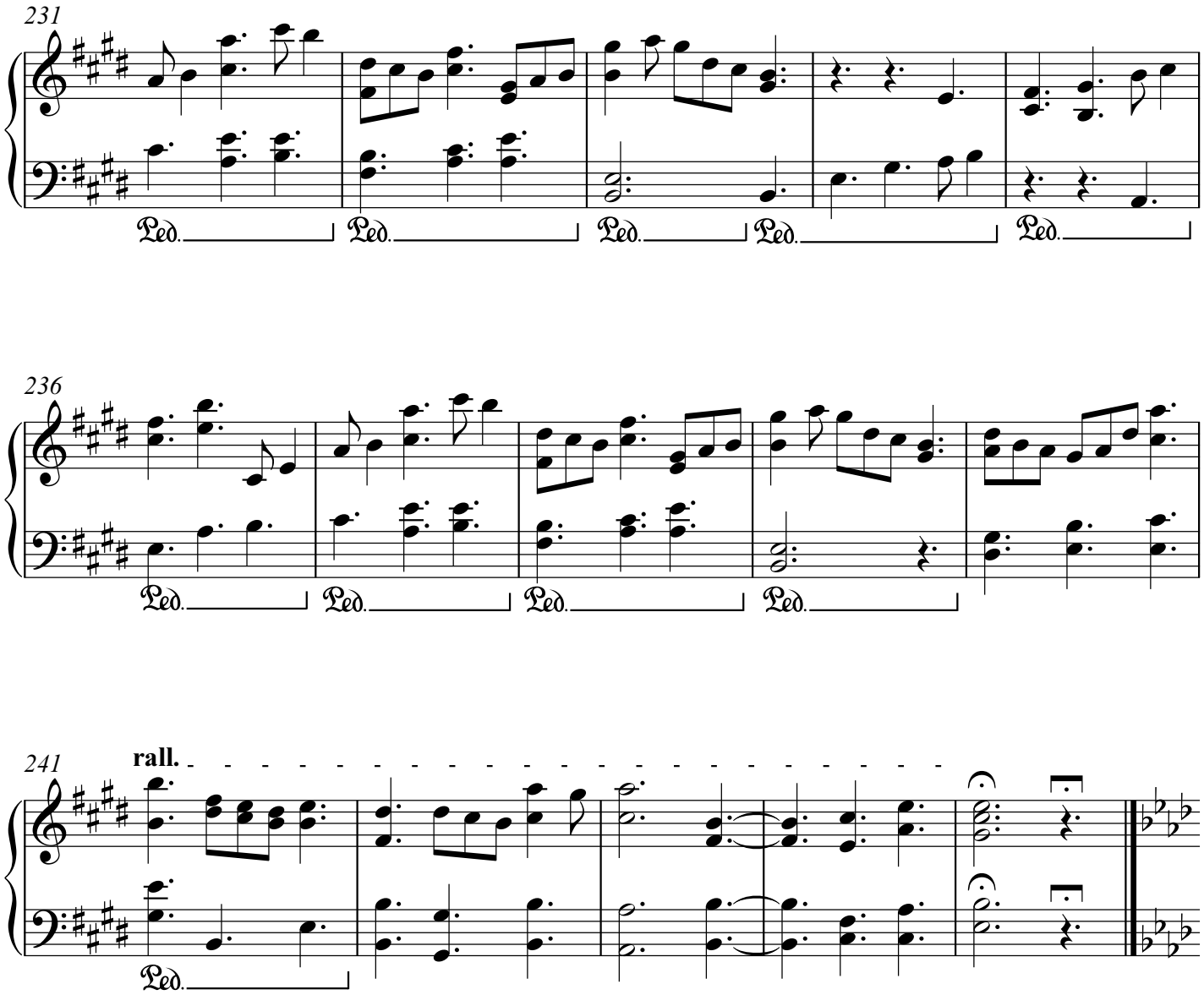

119
125
Ped.
131
Ped.
136
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
E
141
mf


145
mp
151
mf
156
162
(no ritard....)
mp
Ped.

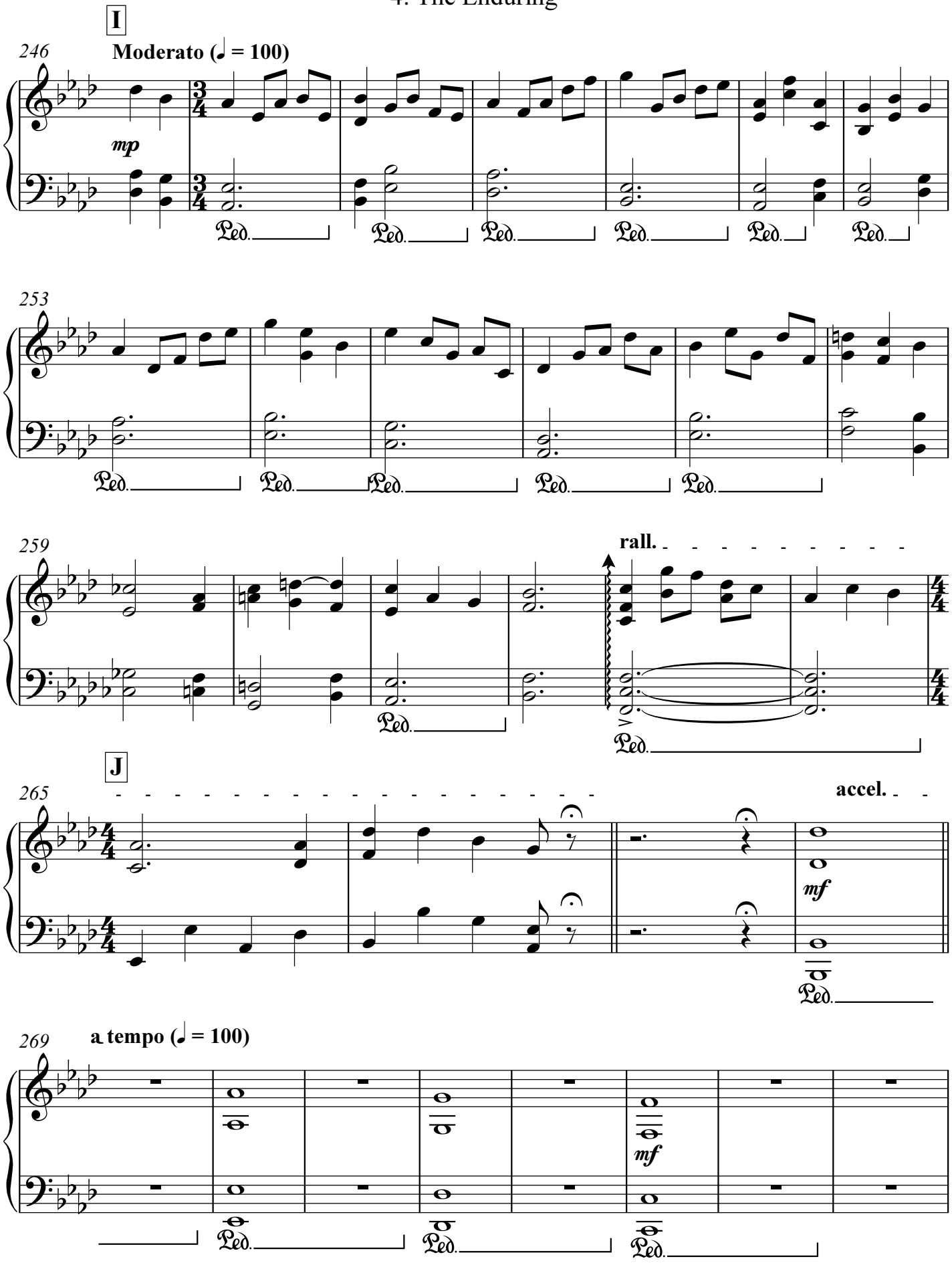
3. Prayers for Wind

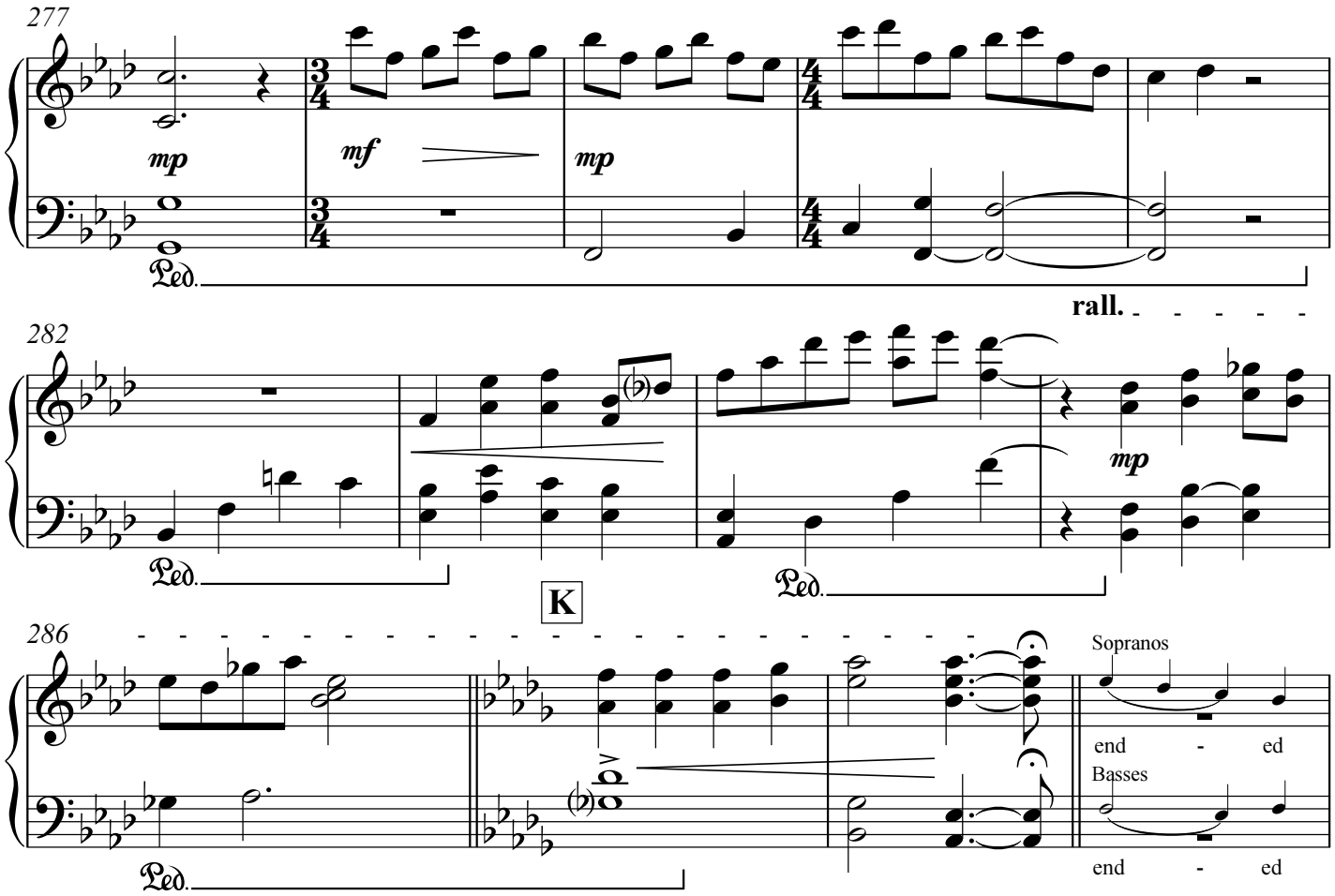


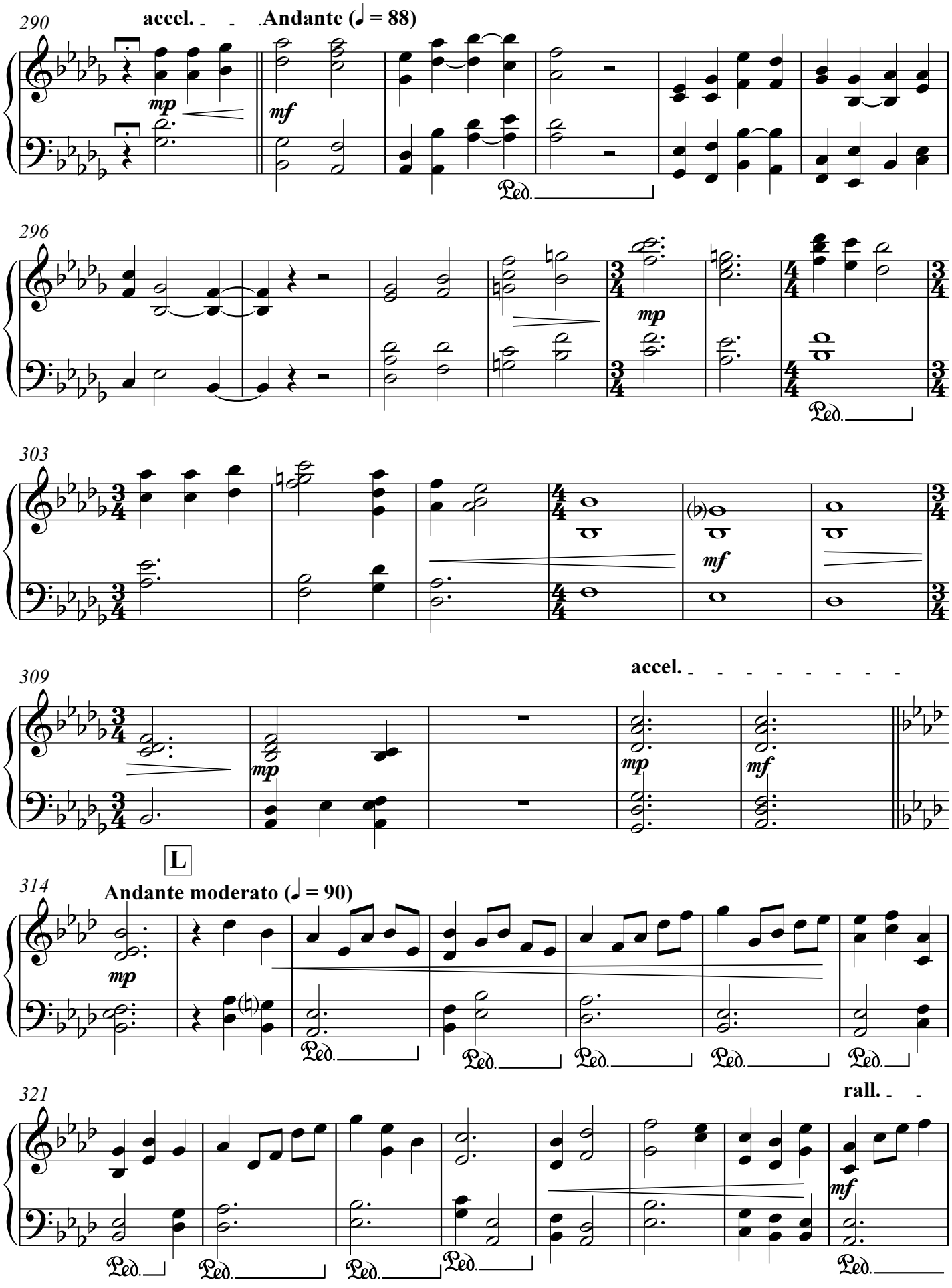

183
(repeat)
8va
mf
8va
187
(8)
(8)
192
197
G
f
Ped.
204
H
5
11
2
5
11
mp
2
224
3
3
f
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

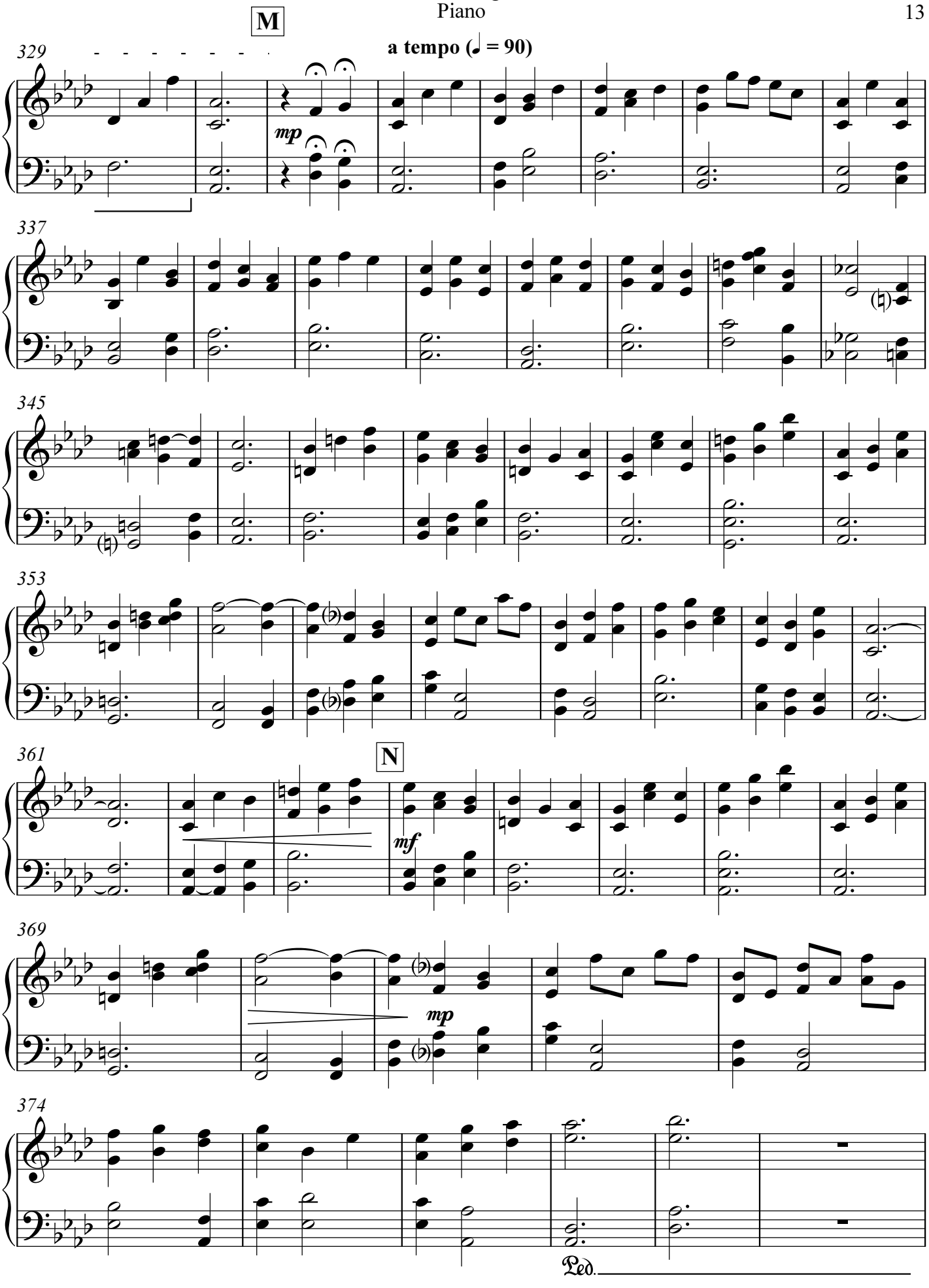

231
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
236
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
241
rall.
Ped.

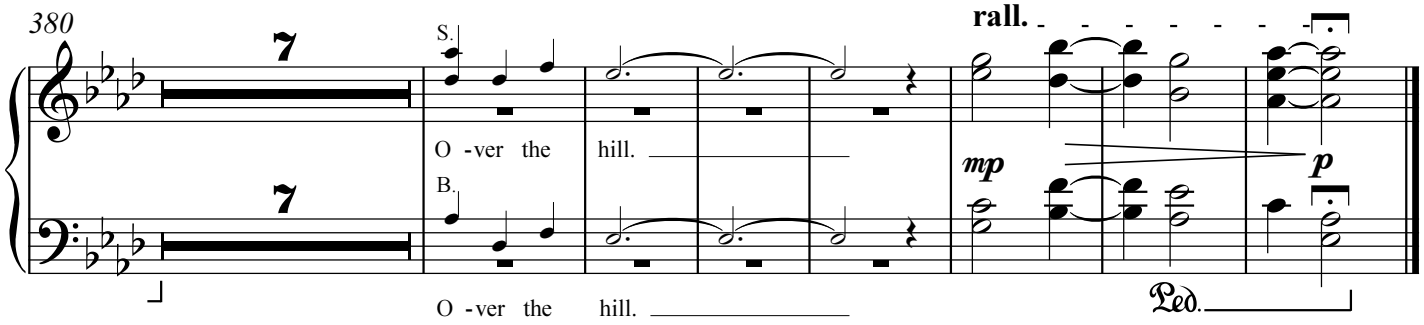
4. The Enduring




277
mp
mf
mp
Ped.
rall.
282
mp
Ped.
Ped.
K
286
Sopranos
end - ed
Basses
end - ed
Ped.


290
accel.
Andante (♩ = 88)
mp
mf
Ped.
296
mp
Ped.
303
mf
309
accel.
mp
mf
L
314
Andante moderato (♩ = 90)
mp
Ped.
321
rall.
mf
Ped.


M
a tempo (♩ = 90)
329
mp
337
345
353
361
N
mf
369
mp
374
Ped.


380
7
7
S.
O - ver the
hill.
B.
O - ver the
hill.
rall.
mp
p
Ped.