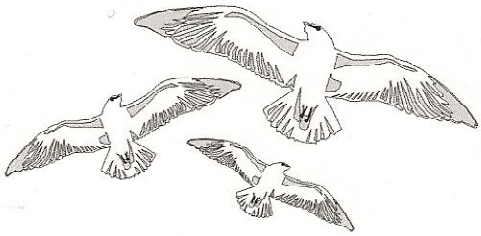
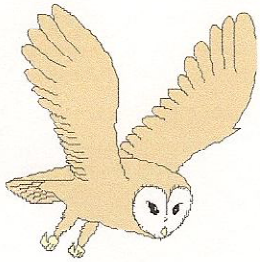


‘There was’ Stories.



Lyrics by Edward Lear

Music by Sonja Grossner

For two singers and piano

There was' Stories.
For two singers and piano.

Lyrics by Edward Lear

I had the urge to write something comical, something to laugh about, something happy and jolly.
For this I chose five limericks from 'A book of Nonsense'. These five '; There was stories are about three men and two women, and all have something to do with birds. When I started to write these duets I thought nothing more than to write something humoresque. But this changed after occupying myself with these poems.
I suddenly had the feeling and vision that after writing the last note to the last song 'There was an young lady whose bonnet' that there is more than meets the eye to these simple nonsense poems. They have a deeper meaning, especially this last song, is more of a serious nature and has a slight melancholic character. This work is about five people who are different, eccentric, creative and unusual. It is about people that are not always understood and accepted. They are made fun off and laughed at. It is like a clown in costume, hiding his more serious side behind a mask and exaggerating things. The man with the over large beard, the man with the too long nose could resemble people that look different but are happy in themselves and do not bother too much what others think.
The old man of Dunbree is an eccentric person who is convinced he can tame his owls and the lady of France is obsessed with her ducks. The young lady who loves to wear an oversized bonnet does not care what others think. Perhaps there is a lesson to learn here. Lets take each other for what we are and accept each other's looks and talents.
The two singers could combine these five songs with some comments, short discussions and acting between each song and so create a whole story. I have left the actual discussions and acting to the individual performers.

There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said, ' It's just as I feared!-
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard!'

There was an old man of Dumbree,
Who taught little owls to drink tea;
For he said, 'To eat mice, is not proper or nice'
That amiable man of Dumbree.

There was an old lady of France,
Who taught little ducklings to dance;
When she said, 'Tick-a-tack!'-They only said Quack!'
Which grieved that old lady of France.

There was an Old Man, on whose nose,
Most birds of the air could repose;
But they all flew away, at the closing of day,
Which relieved that Old Man and his nose.

There was a Young Lady whose bonnet,
Came untied when the birds sate upon it;
But she said, 'I don't care! all the birds in the air
Are welcome to sit on my bonnet!'

copyright: Sonja Grossner , 1997, 2011
Graphics by Lorna Jane Grossner
www.duba3generations.webs.com

There was an Old Man with a beard.

Sonja Grossner

Allegro assai humoresque (♩ = c. 132)

Soprano

mf

There was an Old

Bass

Allegro assai humoresque (♩ = c. 132)

Piano

f *sfz* *mf* *mf*

7

Soprano

f

Man with a beard, an Old Man who

Bass

f

There was an Old Man with a beard,

f *sfz* *p* *f* *sfz* *p* *f* *p* *sfz* *f*

12

Soprano

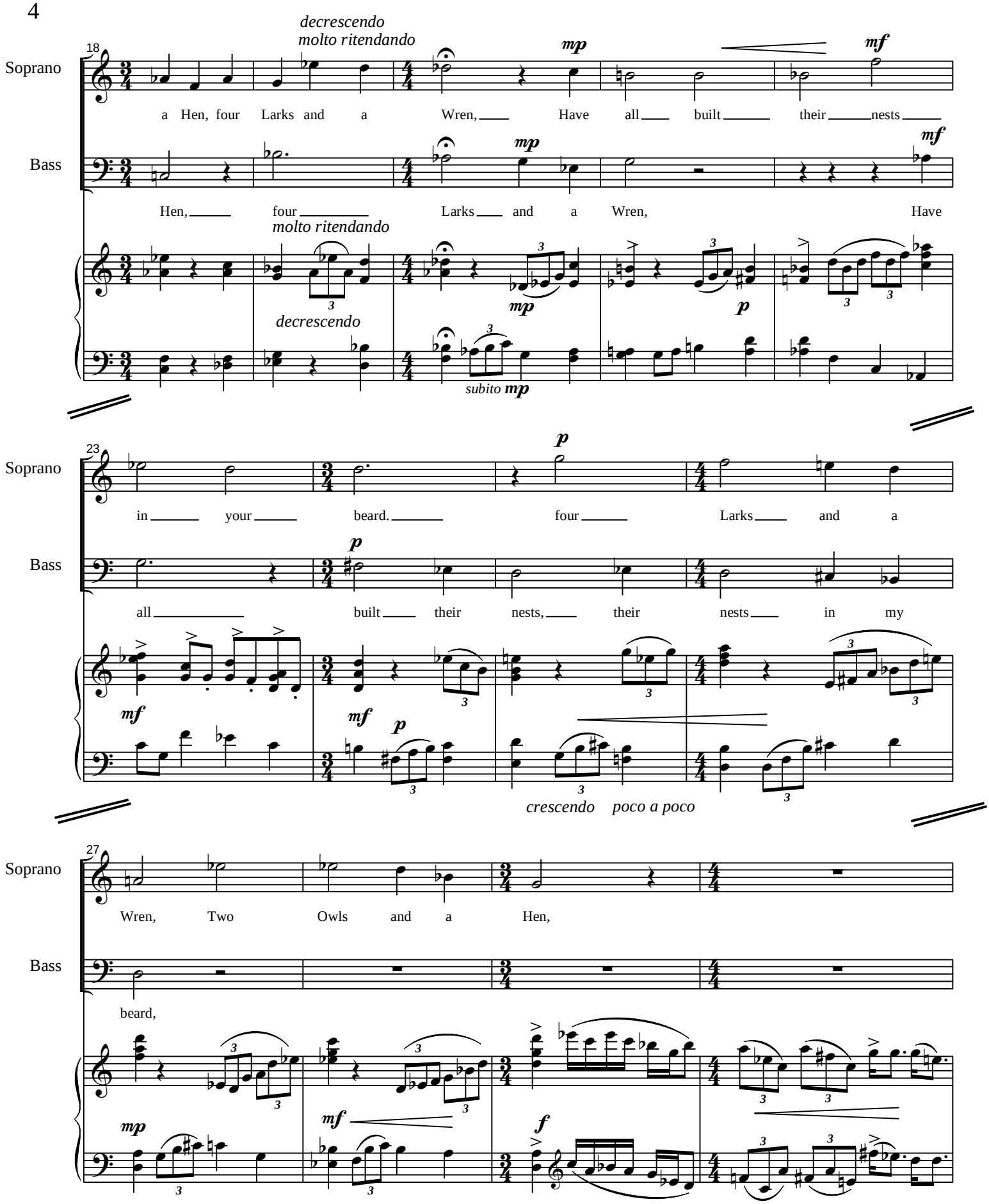
said, who said, Two Owls, a Hen, four Larks, a Wren, Two Owls

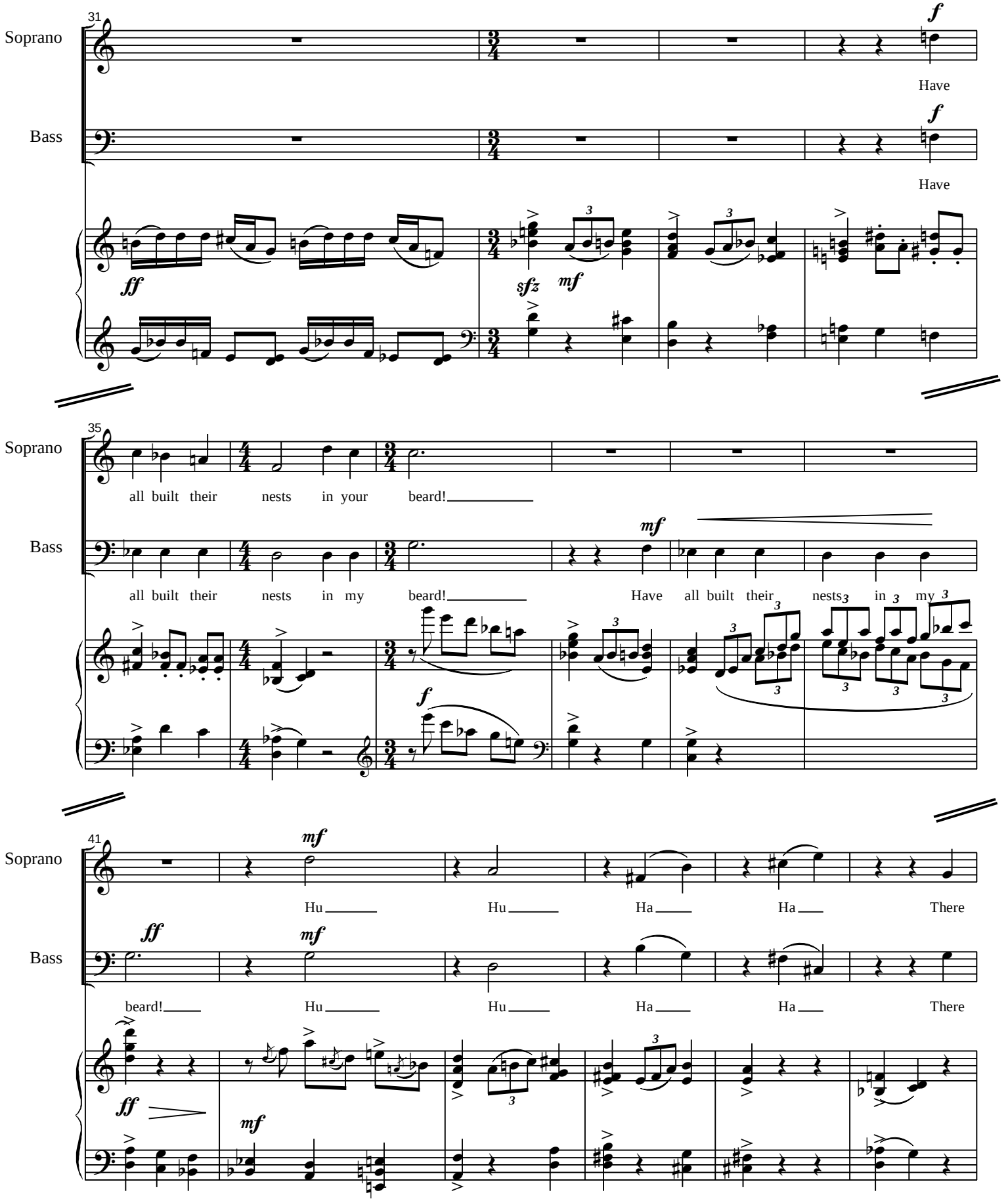
Bass

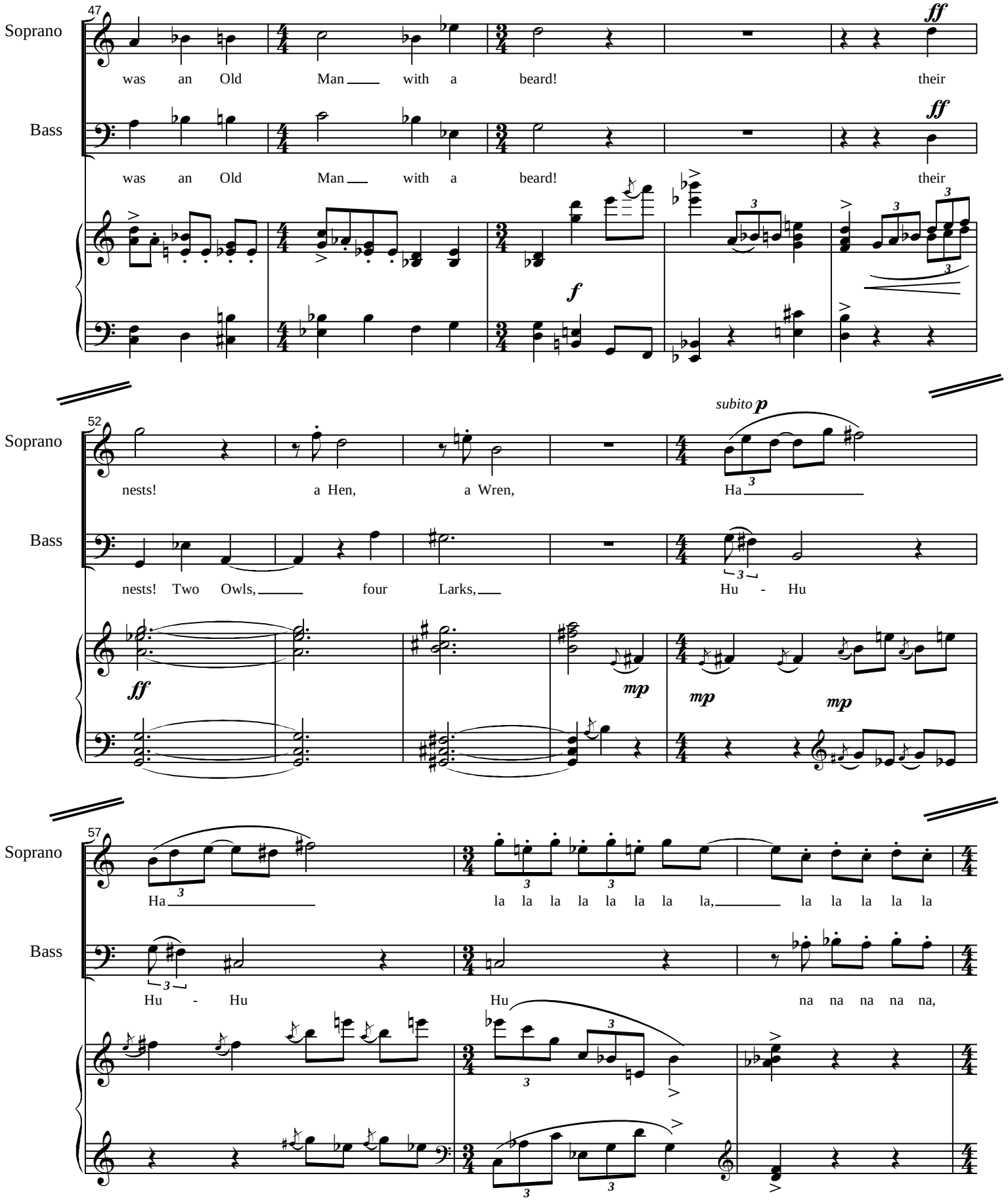
Who said it is just as I feard, Two Owls and a

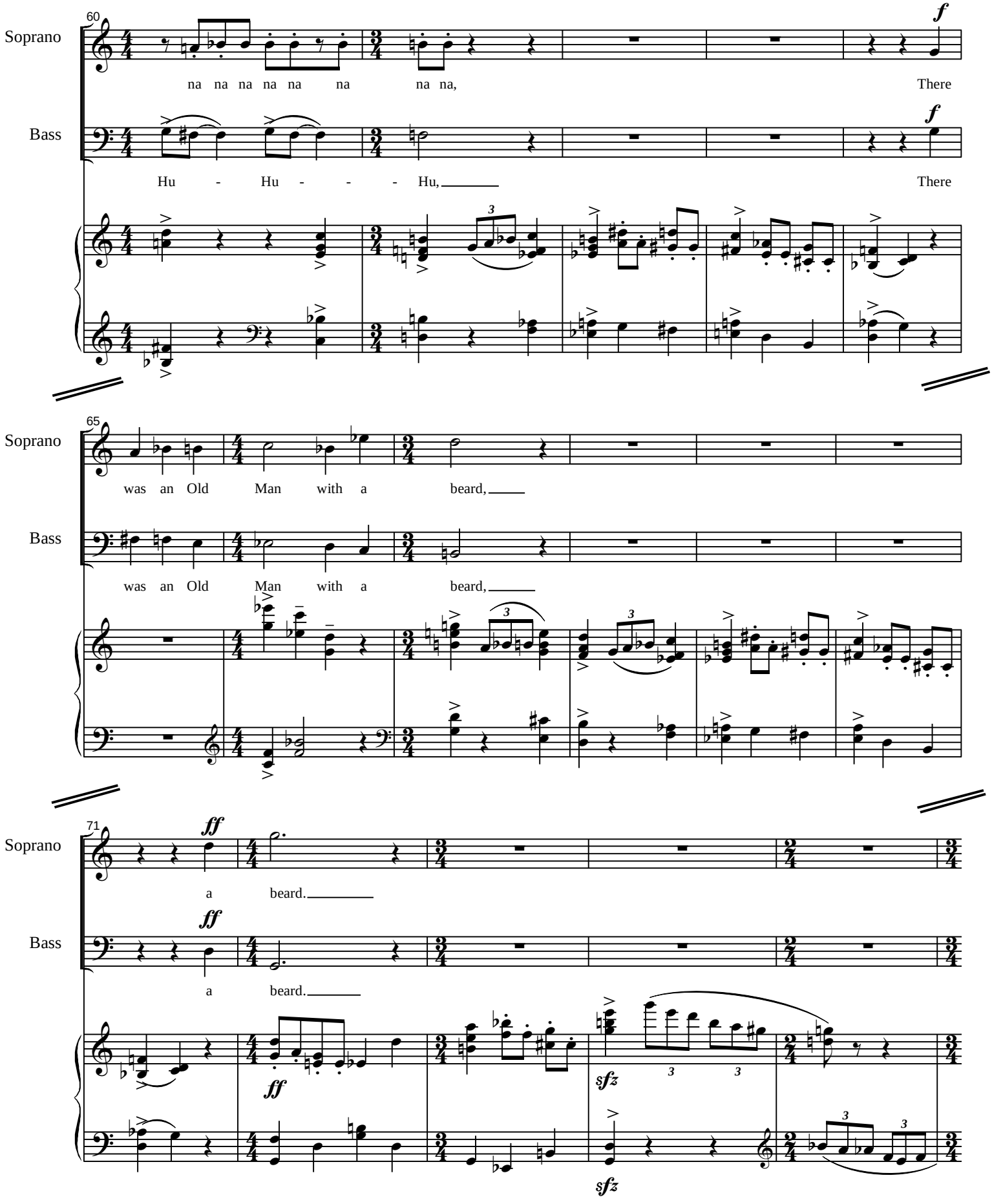
f *ff* *subito p* *f*

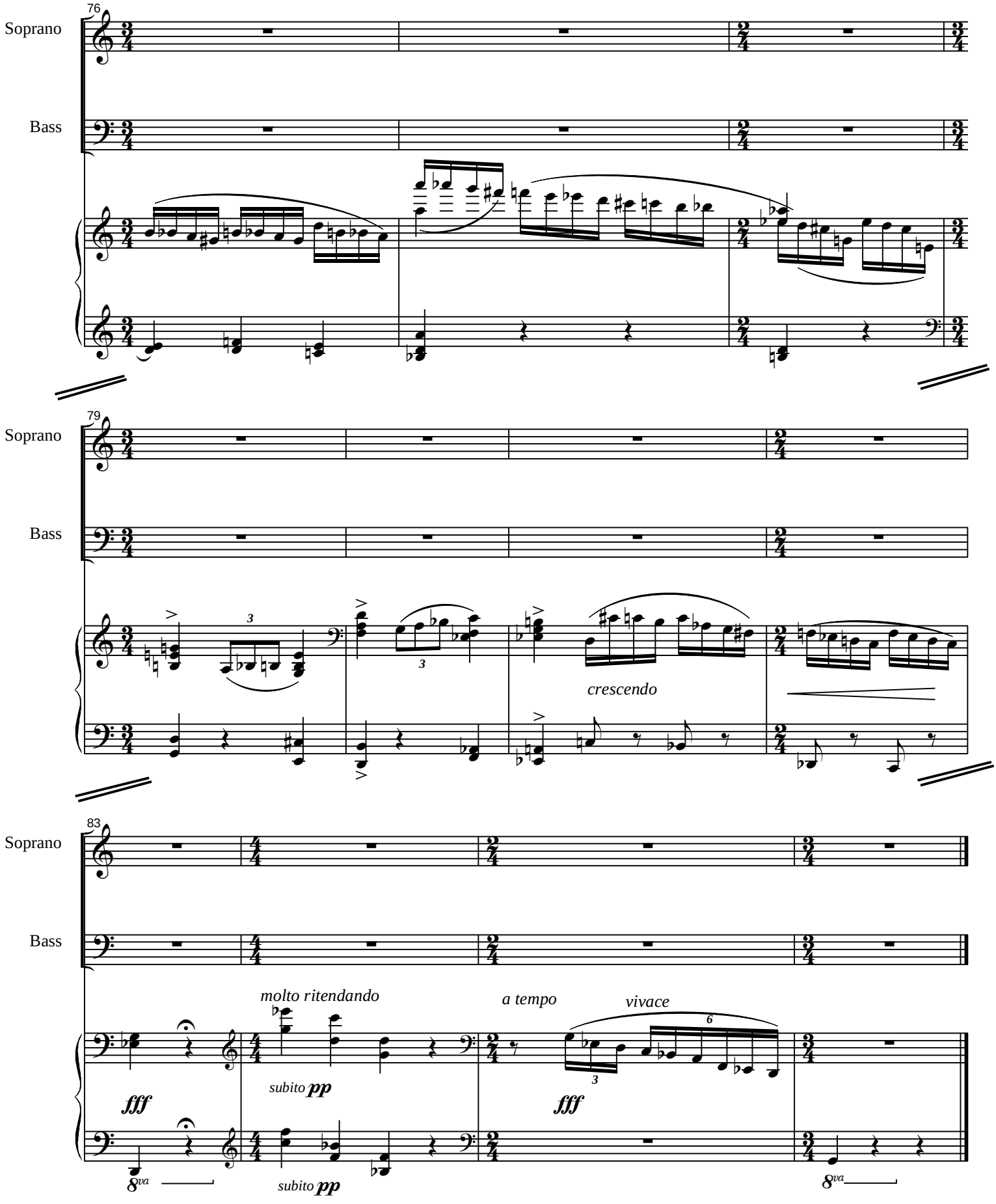
© Sonja Grossner 2011


18
Soprano
Bass
decrescendo
molto ritendando
mp
mf
a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have all built their nests
Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have
molto ritendando
decrescendo
mp
p
subito mp
23
Soprano
Bass
p
in your beard. four Larks and a
all built their nests, their nests in my
mf
mf
p
crescendo poco a poco
27
Soprano
Bass
Wren, Two Owls and a Hen,
beard,
mp
mf
f


31
Soprano
Bass
f
Have
f
Have
ff
sfz
mf
35
Soprano
all built their nests in your beard!
Bass
mf
all built their nests in my beard!
Have all built their nests in my
f
41
Soprano
mf
Hu Hu Ha Ha There
Bass
ff
mf
beard! Hu Hu Ha Ha There
ff
mf


47
Soprano
was an Old Man with a beard! their
ff
Bass
was an Old Man with a beard! their
ff
f
52
Soprano
nests! a Hen, a Wren, Ha
subito p
Bass
nests! Two Owls, four Larks, Hu - Hu
ff
mp
mp
mp
57
Soprano
Ha la la la la la la la, la la la la la
Bass
Hu - Hu Hu na na na na na,


60
Soprano
Bass
f
na na na na na na na na, There
Hu - Hu - - - Hu, There
65
was an Old Man with a beard,
was an Old Man with a beard,
71
ff
a beard.
ff
a beard.
sfz
sfz


76
Soprano
Bass
79
Soprano
Bass
crescendo
83
Soprano
Bass
molto ritendando
a tempo
vivace
fff
subito pp
fff
subito pp
8va
8va

There was an old man of Dumbree.

Moderato - amabile (♩. = c. 88)

Soprano

Bass

Moderato - amabile (♩. = c. 88)

p *p* *crescendo* *mf* *crescendo*

5

Soprano

Bass

♩. = ♩ ♩ = ♩.

f

9

Soprano

Bass

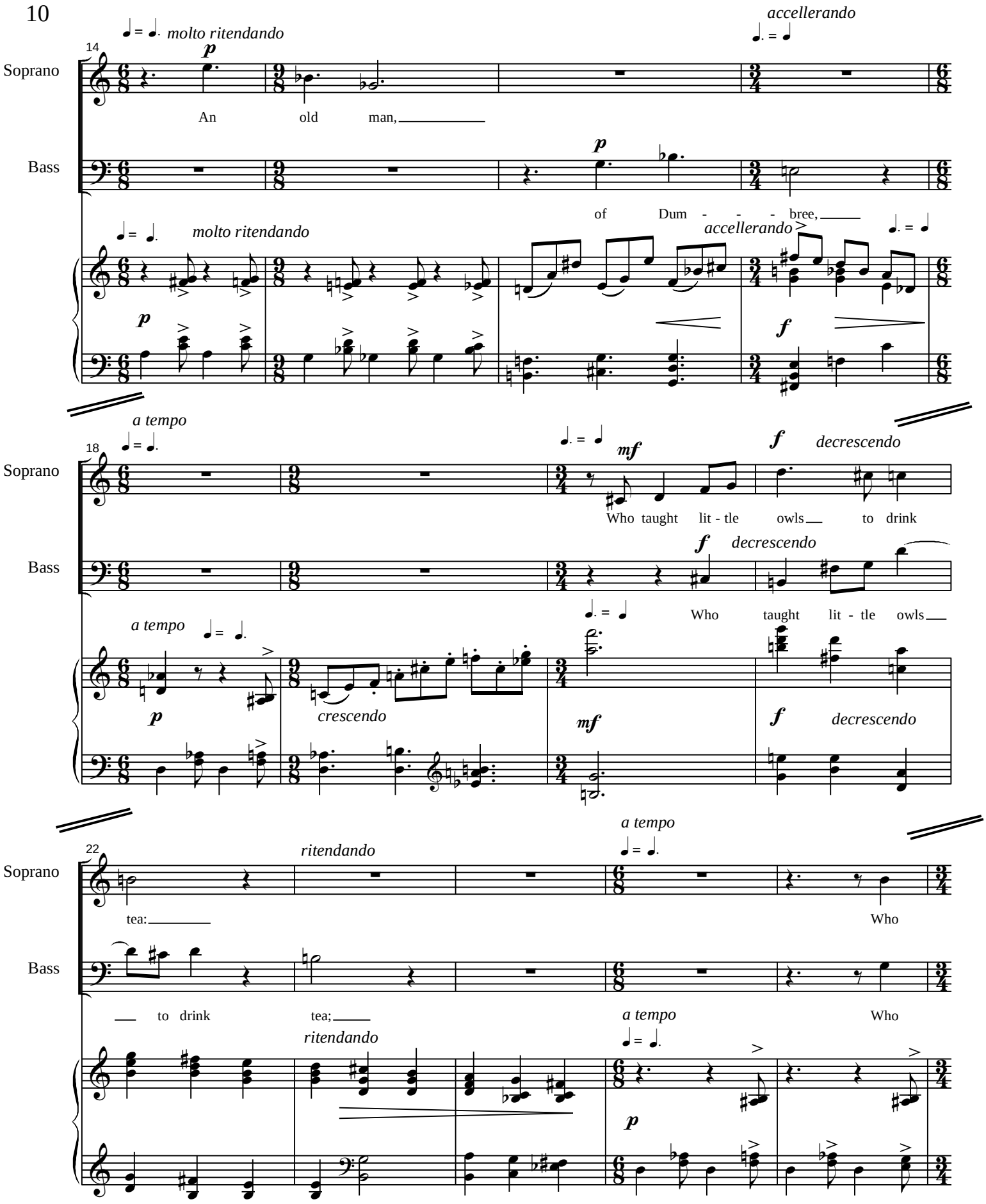
♩. = ♩ *mf*

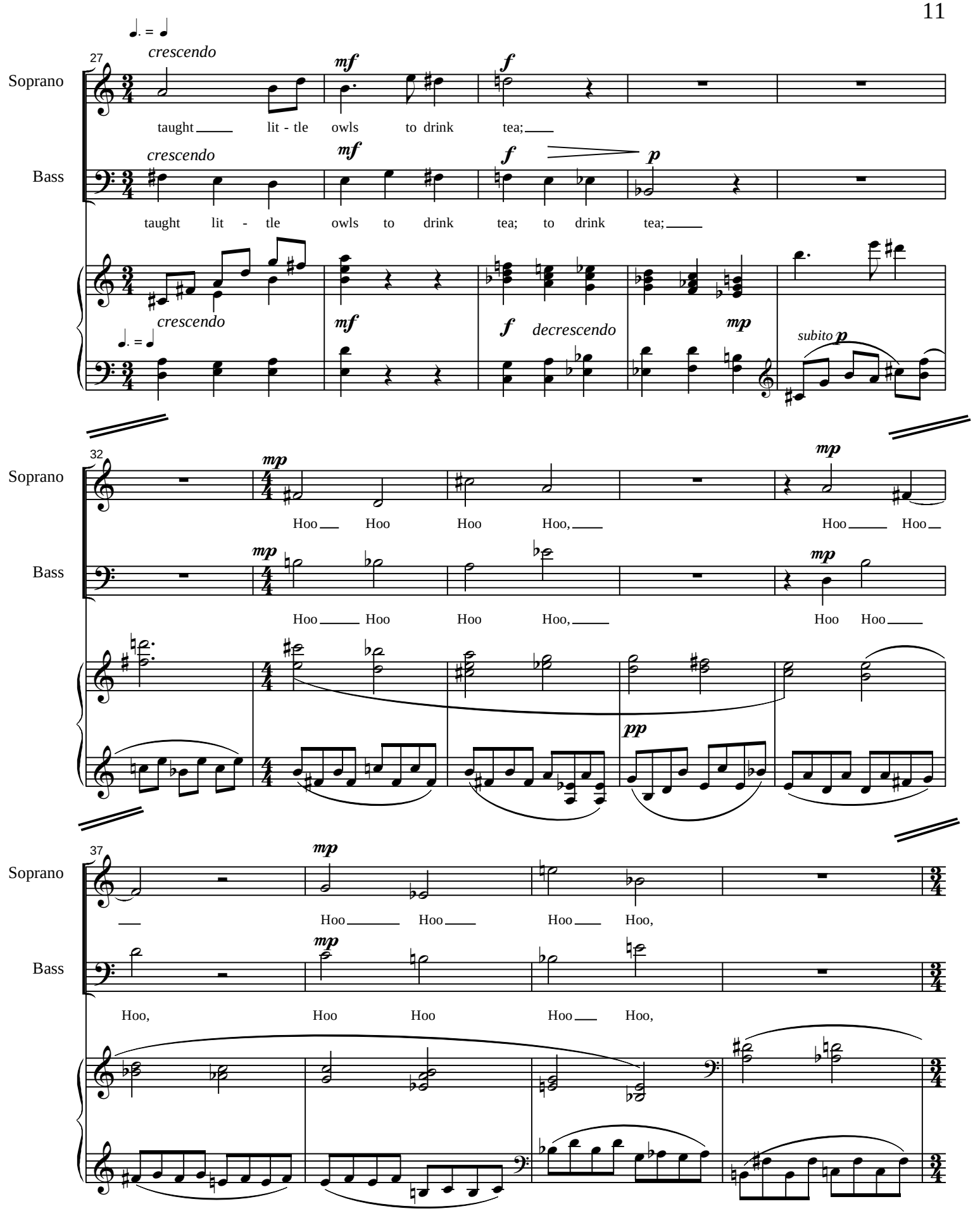
There was an old man of Dum - bree,

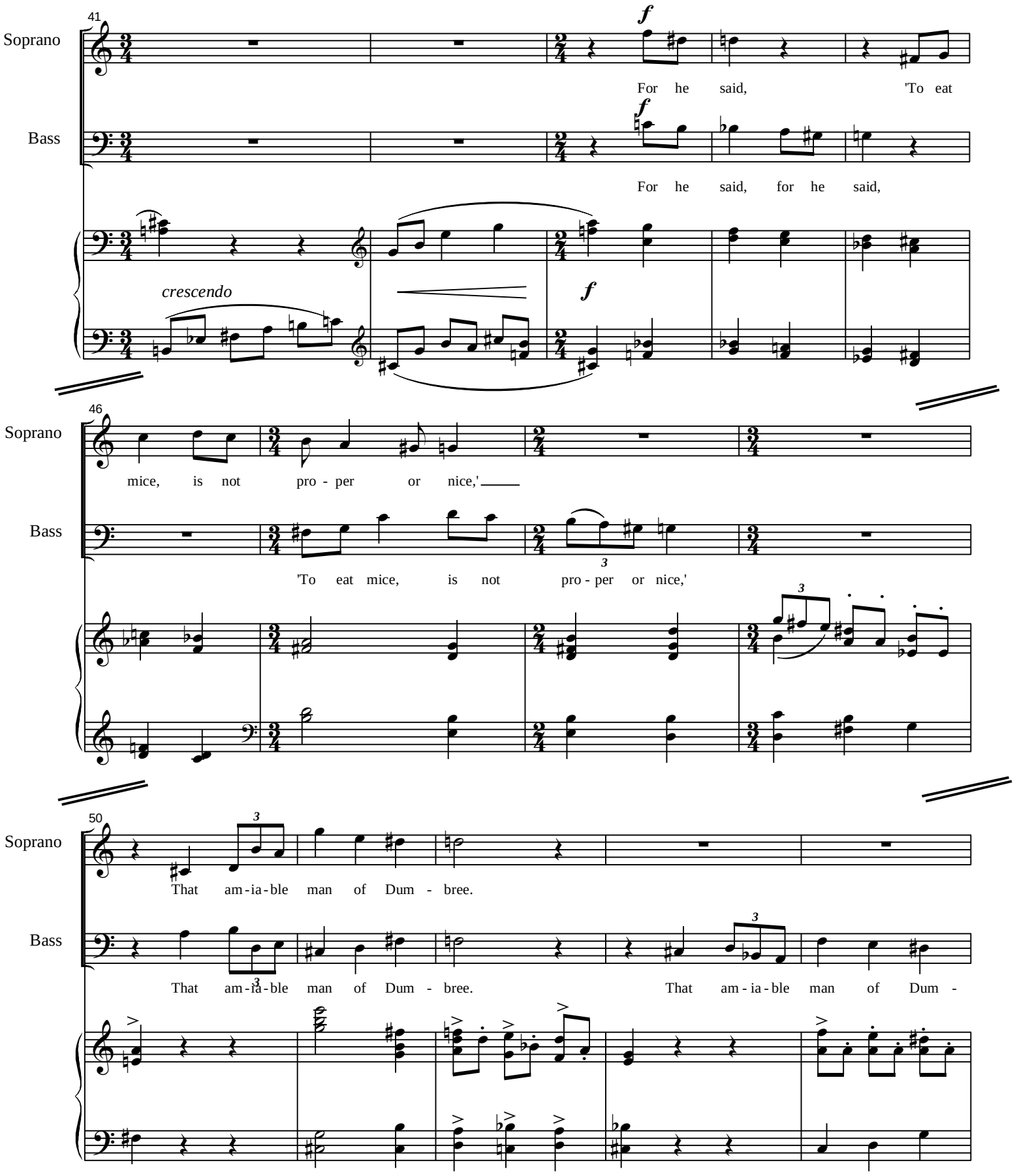
mf

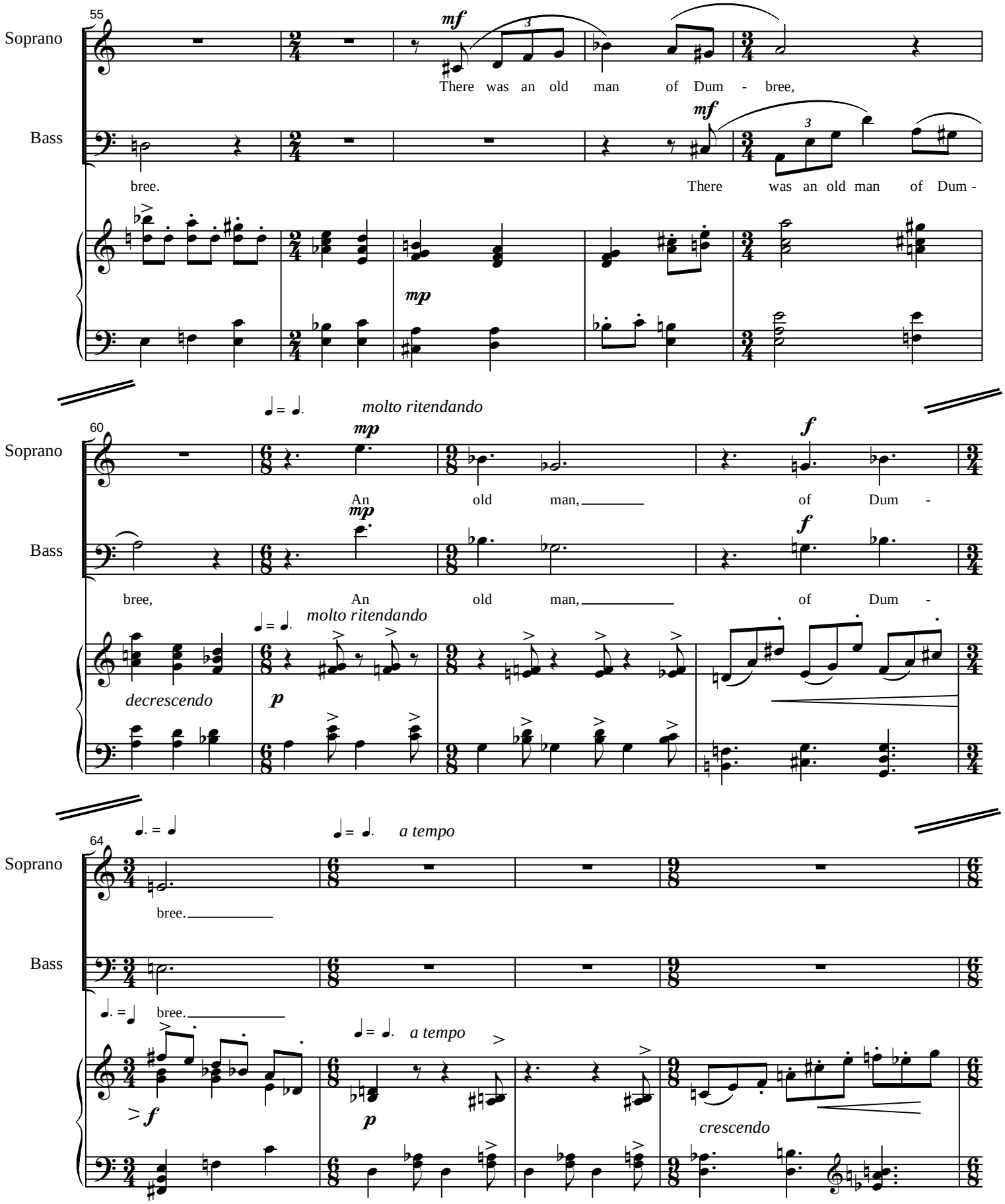
There was an old man of Dum - bree,

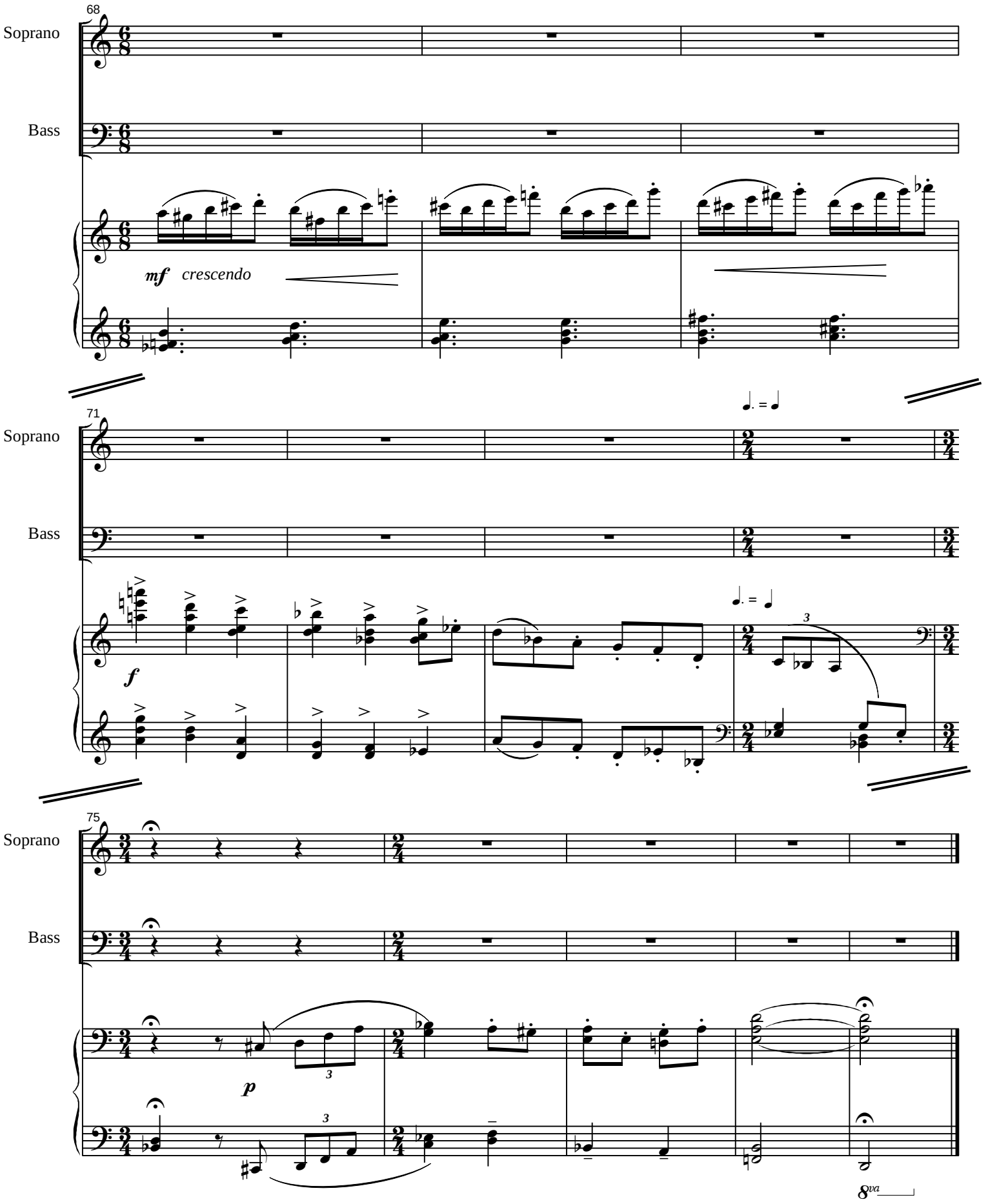
decrescendo *p* *crescendo* *mf* *decrescendo*


14
Soprano
Bass
molto ritendando
accellerando
An old man,
of Dum - - - bree,
molto ritendando
accellerando
18
a tempo
Soprano
Bass
Who taught lit - tle owls to drink
Who taught lit - tle owls
a tempo
crescendo
decrescendo
22
ritendando
a tempo
Soprano
Bass
tea:
Who
to drink
tea;
Who
ritendando
a tempo

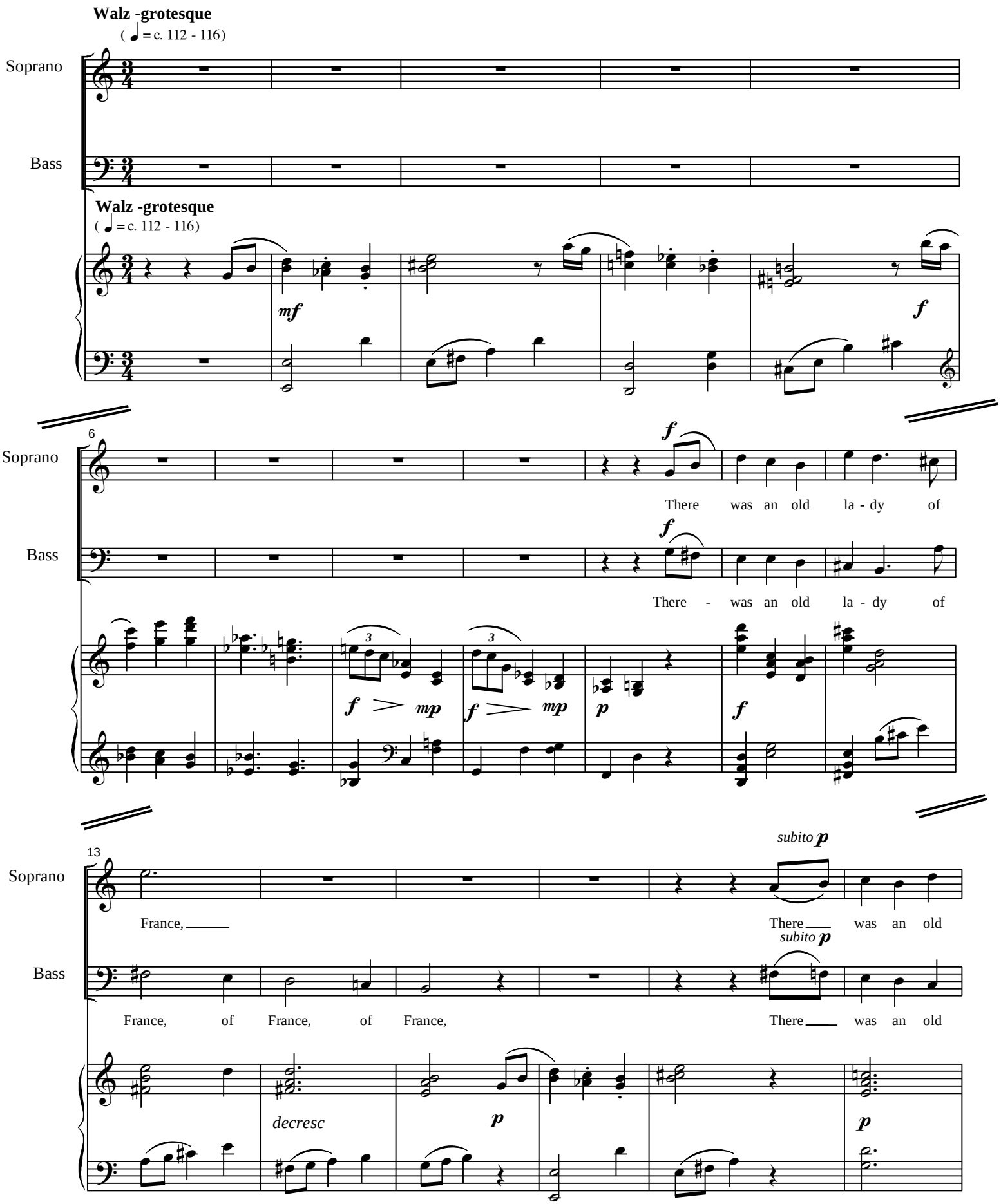

27
Soprano
Bass
crescendo
mf
f
p
taught lit - tle owls to drink tea;
taught lit - tle owls to drink tea; to drink tea;
decrescendo
mp
subito p
32
Hoo Hoo Hoo Hoo, Hoo Hoo
pp
37
Hoo, Hoo Hoo Hoo Hoo,

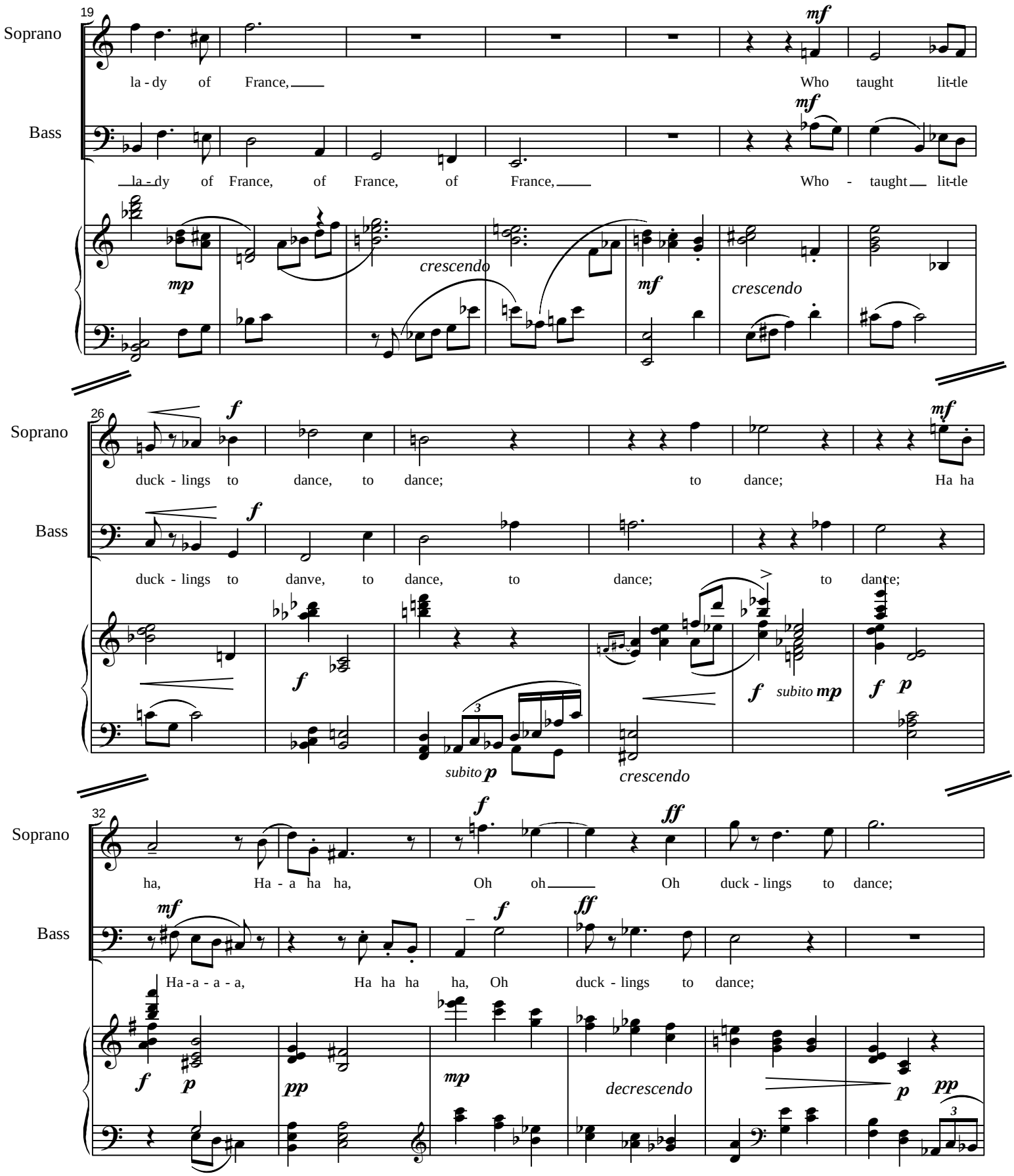

41
Soprano
Bass
f
For he said, 'To eat
For he said, for he said,
crescendo
f
46
Soprano
Bass
mice, is not pro - per or nice,'
'To eat mice, is not pro - per or nice,'
3
50
Soprano
Bass
That am-ia-ble man of Dum - bree.
That am-ia-ble man of Dum - bree. That am-ia-ble man of Dum -

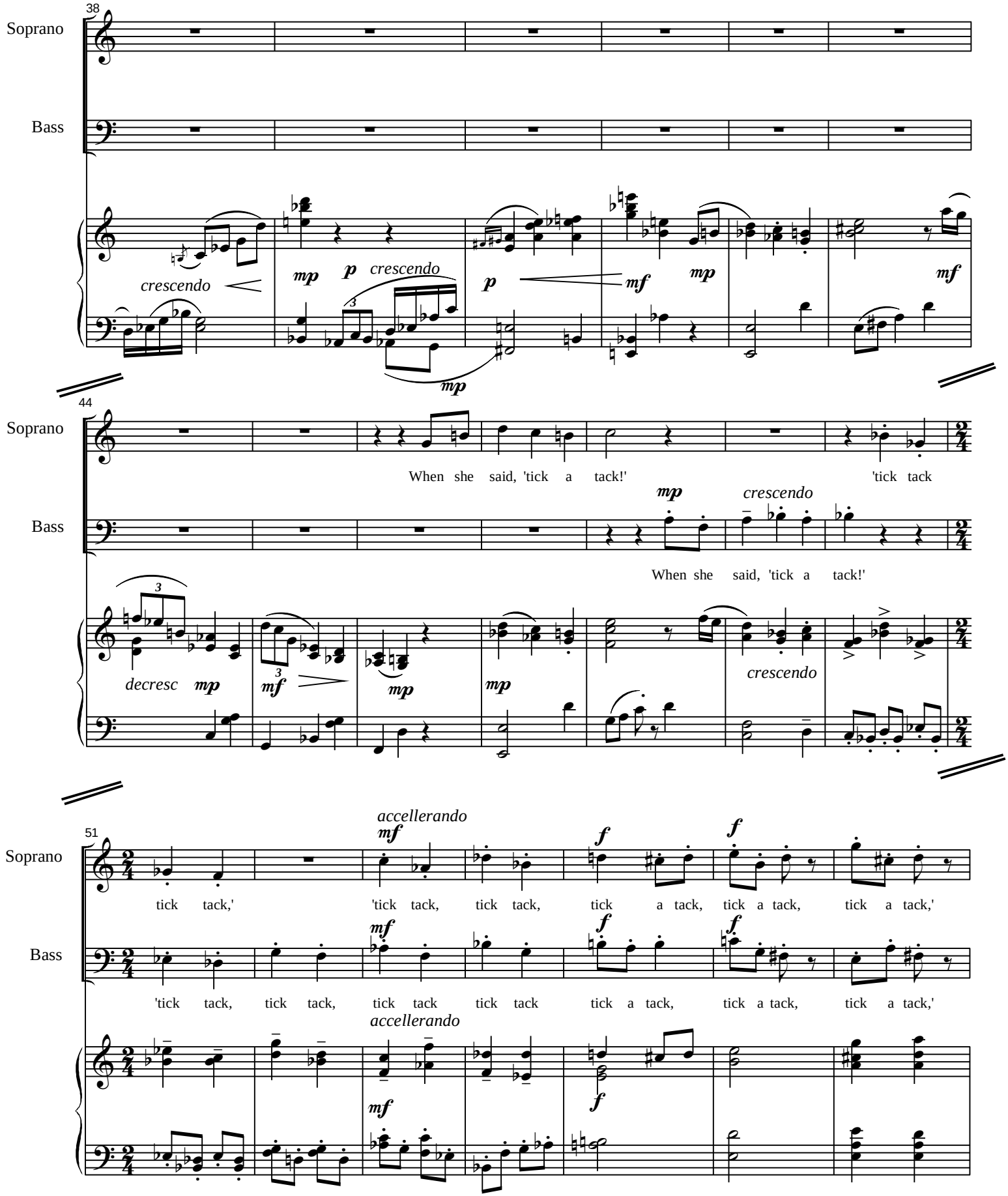

55
Soprano
Bass
mf
There was an old man of Dum - bree,
bree.
There was an old man of Dum -
mp
60
molto ritendando
An old man, of Dum -
bree, An old man, of Dum -
decrescendo
p
64
a tempo
bree.
crescendo

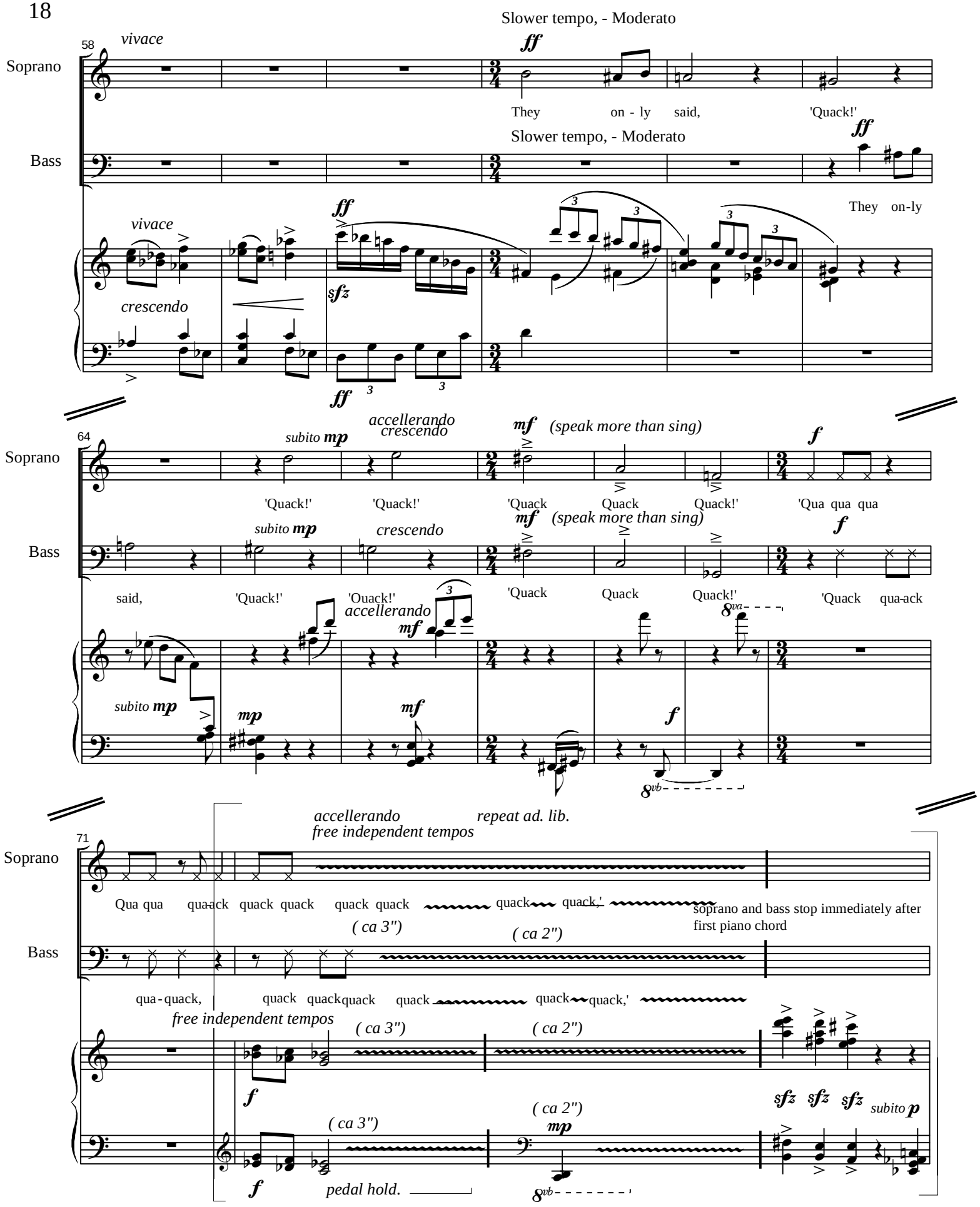

68
Soprano
Bass
mf crescendo
71
Soprano
Bass
f
3
75
Soprano
Bass
p
3
3
8va

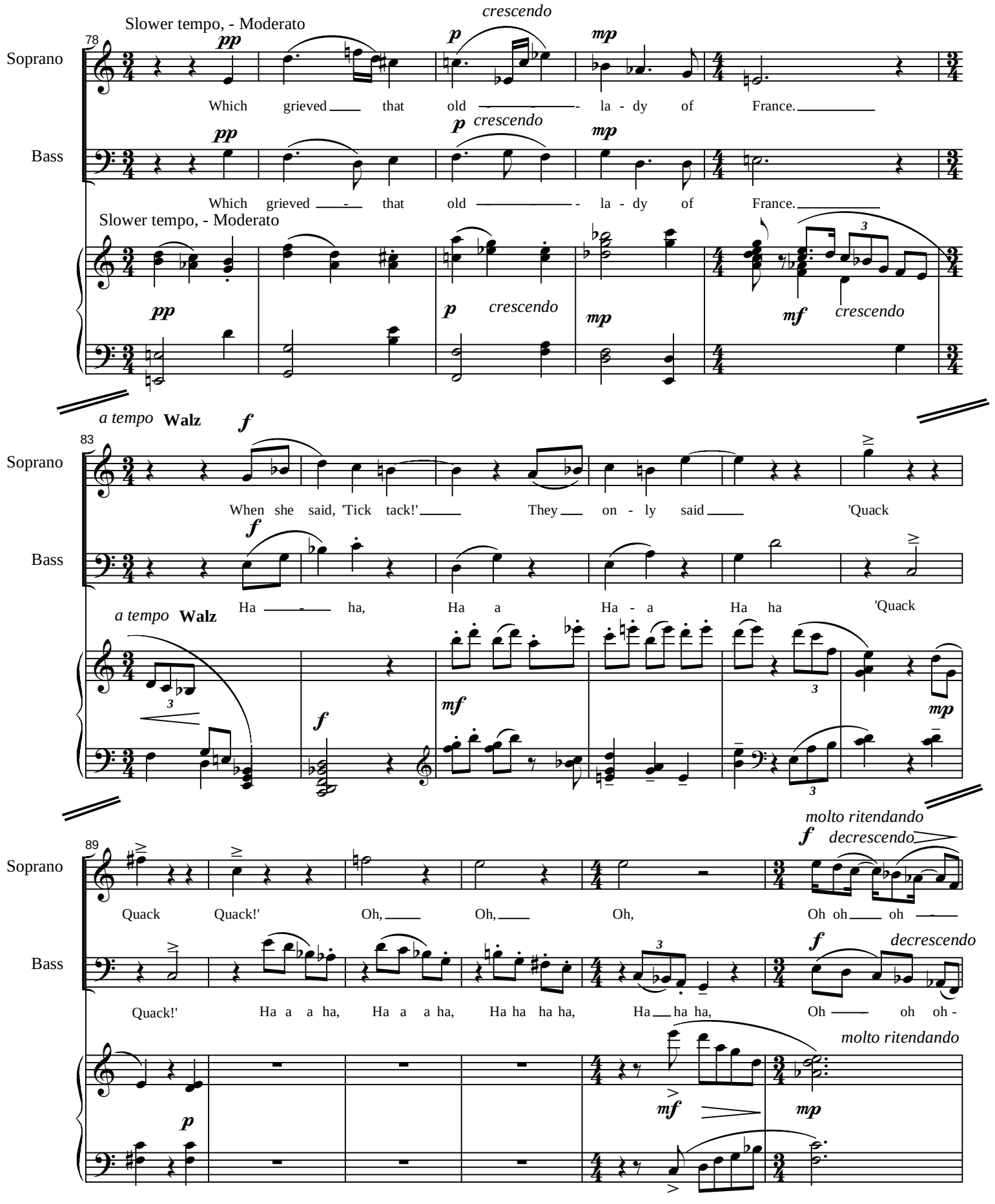
There was an old lady of France.

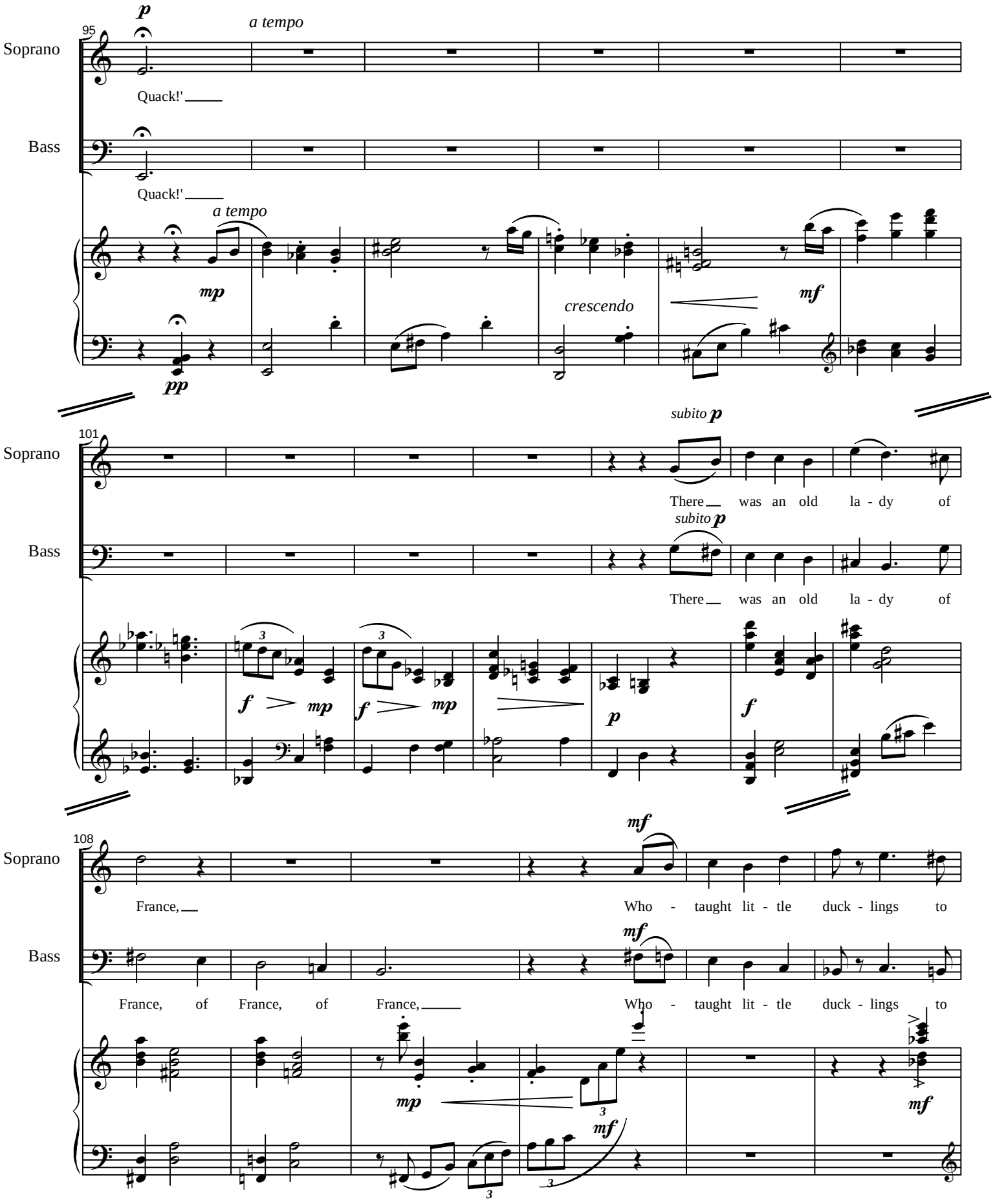


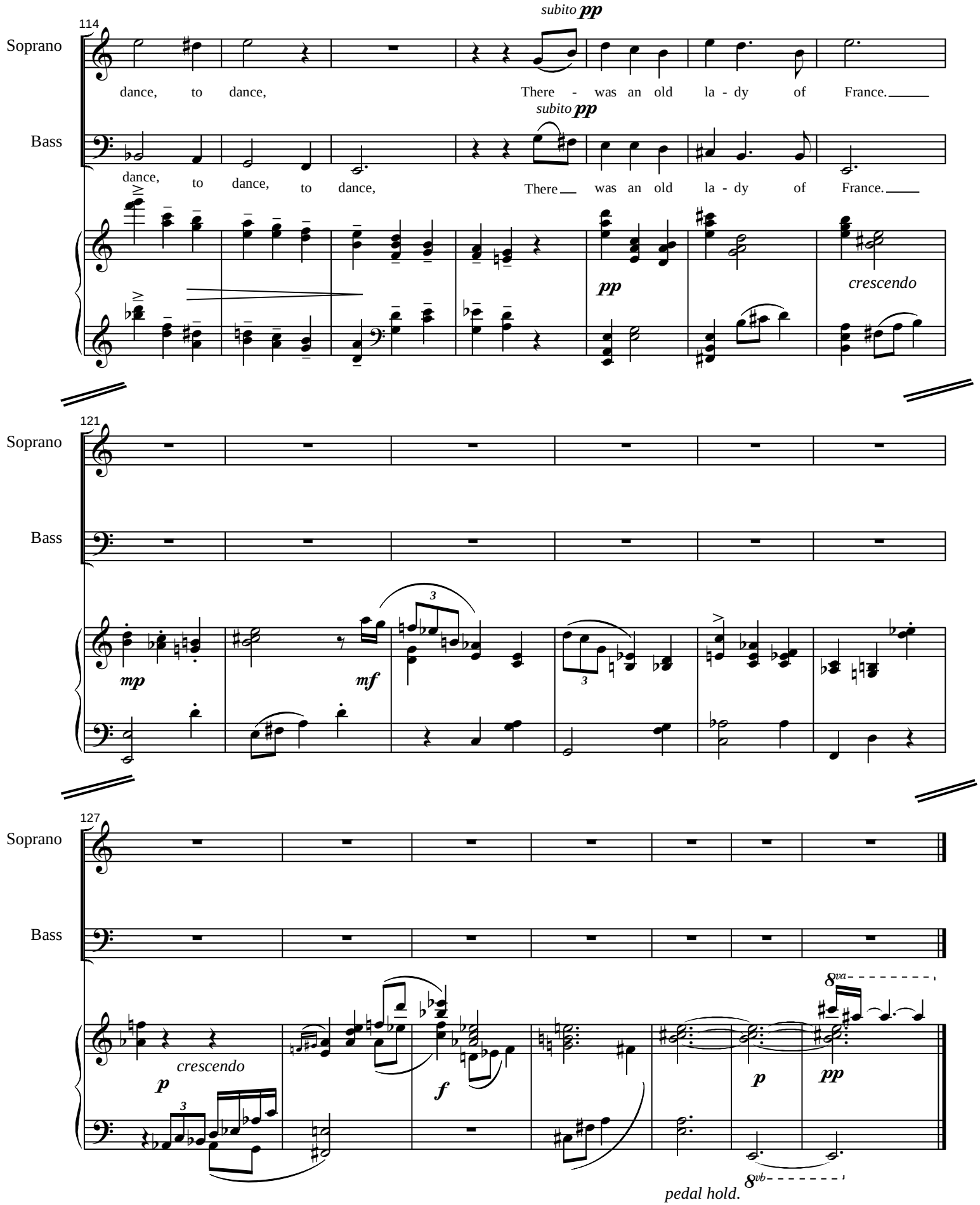

19
Soprano
la - dy of France,
Who taught lit-tle
Bass
la - dy of France, of France, of France,
Who - taught lit-tle
mf
mp
crescendo
mf
crescendo
26
Soprano
duck - lings to dance, to dance;
to dance;
Ha ha
Bass
duck - lings to danve, to dance, to dance;
to dance;
f
f
subito mp
f p
subito p
crescendo
32
Soprano
ha, Ha - a ha ha,
Oh oh
Oh duck - lings to dance;
Bass
Ha - a - a - a,
Ha ha ha ha, Oh
duck - lings to dance;
mf
f
ff
f p
pp
mp
decrescendo
p pp


38
Soprano
Bass
crescendo
mp
p
crescendo
p
mf
mp
mf
mp
44
Soprano
When she said, 'tick a tack!'
'tick tack
Bass
mp
crescendo
When she said, 'tick a tack!'
decresc
mp
mf
mp
mp
crescendo
51
accellerando
mf
f
f
Soprano
tick tack,'
'tick tack, tick tack, tick a tack, tick a tack, tick a tack,'
Bass
mf
f
f
'tick tack, tick tack, tick tack tick tack tick a tack, tick a tack, tick a tack,'
accellerando
mf
f


Slower tempo, - Moderato
58
vivace
Soprano
Bass
ff
They on - ly said, 'Quack!'
Slower tempo, - Moderato
ff
vivace
ff
They on-ly
sfz
crescendo
ff
64
subito mp
accellerando
crescendo
mf (speak more than sing)
f
'Quack!' 'Quack!' 'Quack Quack Quack!' 'Qua qua qua
subito mp
crescendo
mf (speak more than sing)
f
said, 'Quack!' 'Ouack!' 'Quack Quack Quack!' 'Quack qua-ack
accellerando
mf
8va
subito mp
mp
mf
f
8vb
71
accellerando
free independent tempos
repeat ad. lib.
Qua qua qua-ack quack quack quack quack quack quack,'
soprano and bass stop immediately after first piano chord
(ca 3")
(ca 2")
qua - quack, quack quackquack quack quack quack,'
free independent tempos
(ca 3")
(ca 2")
f
sfz sfz sfz
subito p
(ca 3")
(ca 2")
mp
f
pedal hold.
8vb


Slower tempo, - Moderato
78
Soprano
Bass
pp
p
crescendo
mp
Which grieved that old la - dy of France.
Which grieved that old la - dy of France.
Slower tempo, - Moderato
mf
crescendo
a tempo Walz
83
f
When she said, 'Tick tack!' They on - ly said 'Quack
Ha ha, Ha a Ha - a Ha ha 'Quack
mf
mp
molto ritendando
89
decrescendo
Quack Quack!' Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh oh oh
Quack!' Ha a a ha, Ha a a ha, Ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha, Oh oh oh -


95
Soprano
Bass
p
a tempo
Quack!'
Quack!'
a tempo
mp
pp
crescendo
mf
101
Soprano
Bass
subito p
There was an old la - dy of
subito p
There was an old la - dy of
f
mp
f
mp
p
f
108
Soprano
Bass
mf
France,
Who - taught lit - tle duck - lings to
mf
France, of France, of France,
Who - taught lit - tle duck - lings to
mp
mf
mf


114
Soprano
Bass
subito pp
dance, to dance, There - was an old la - dy of France.
dance, to dance, to dance, There was an old la - dy of France.
pp
crescendo
121
mp
mf
3
127
crescendo
p
f
p
pp
8va
8vb
pedal hold.

There was an Old Man, on whose nose.

Andantino - grazioso - delicato

(♩. = c. 69)

Soprano

Bass

Andantino - grazioso - delicato (♩. = c. 69)

mp

p

6

molto ritendando

agitato - a tempo

mp

There

molto ritendando

agitato - a tempo

subito f

subito p

9

was an Old Man, on whose nose, Most birds of the air could re - pose;

mp

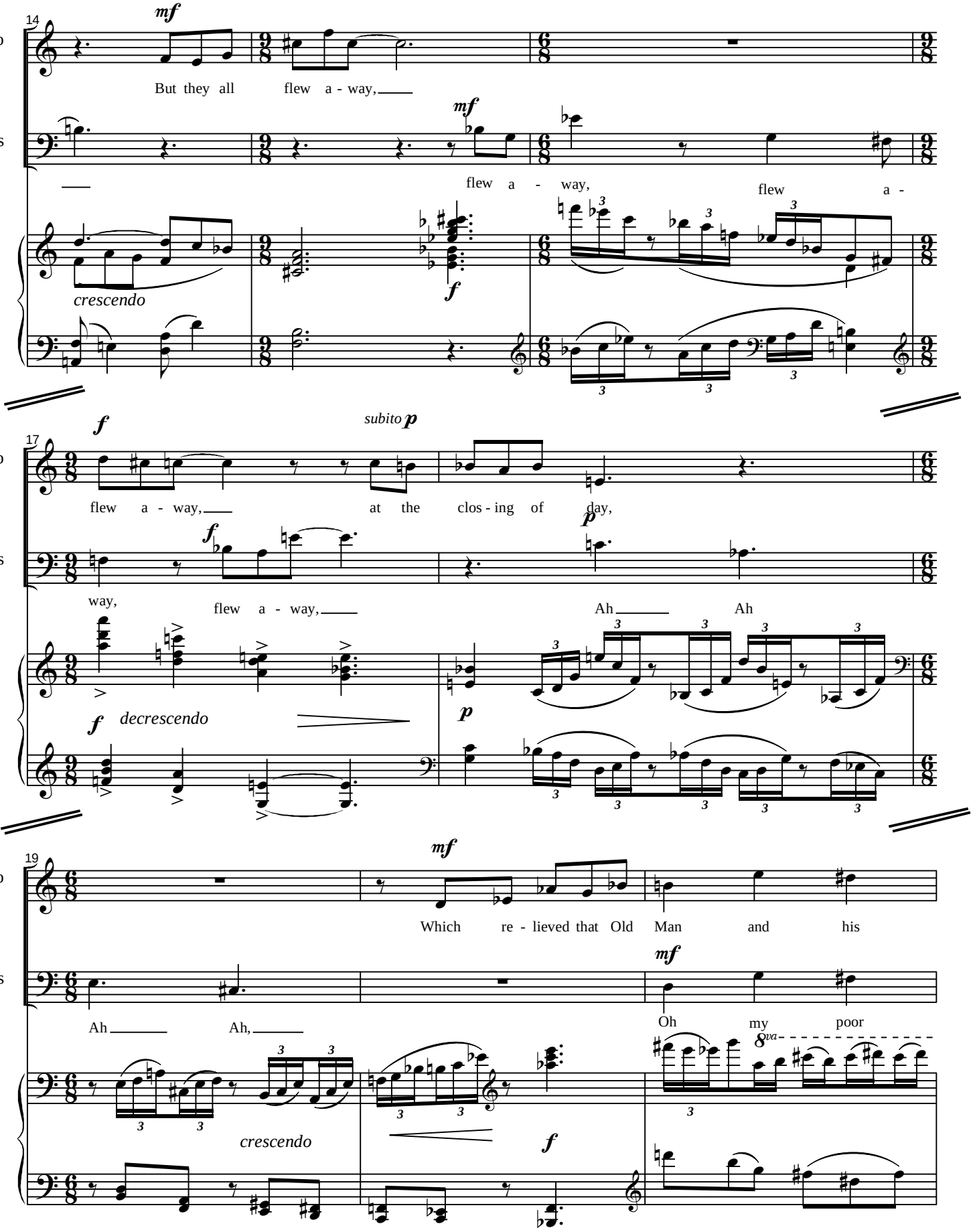
Aa

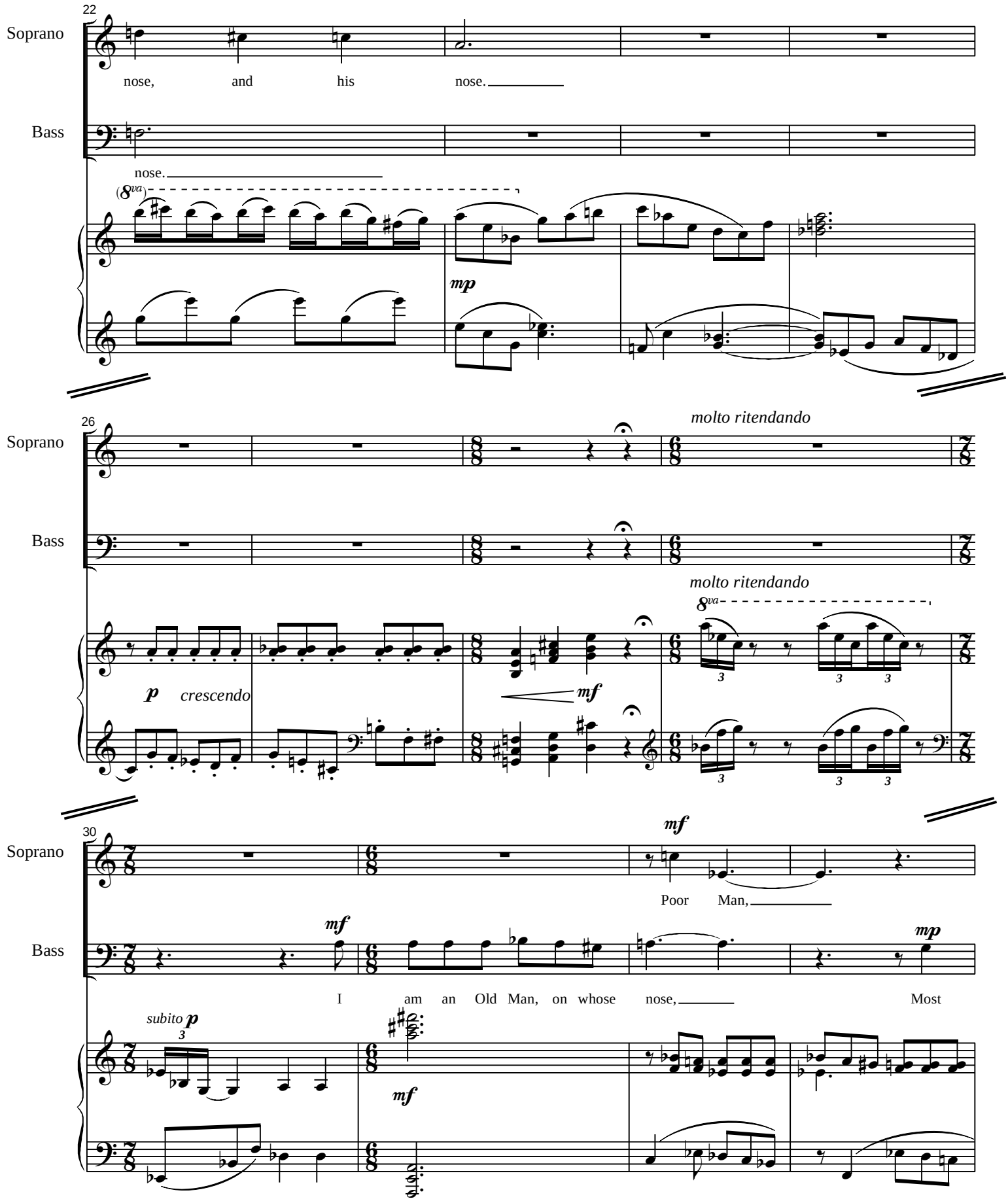
Aa

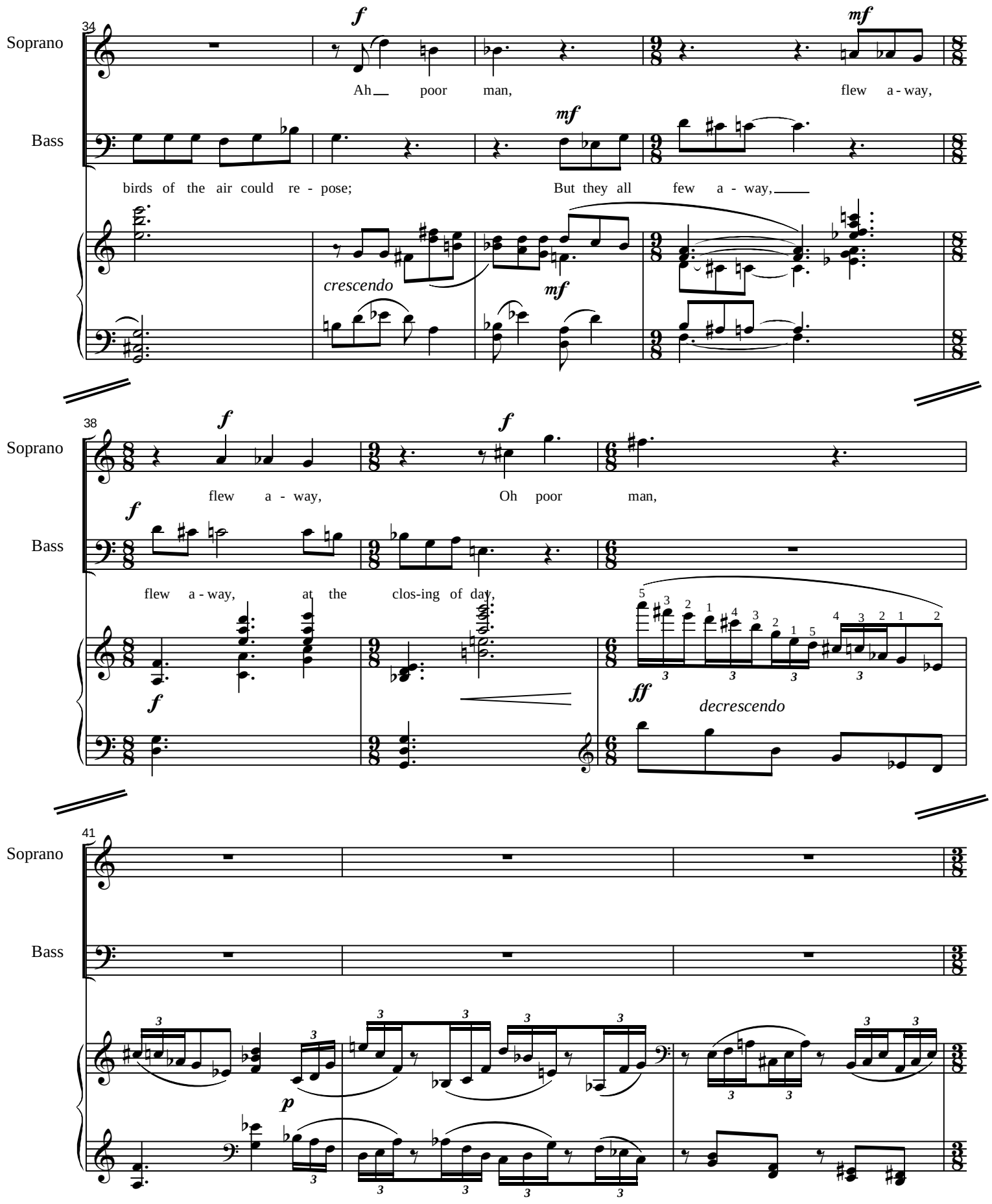
mf

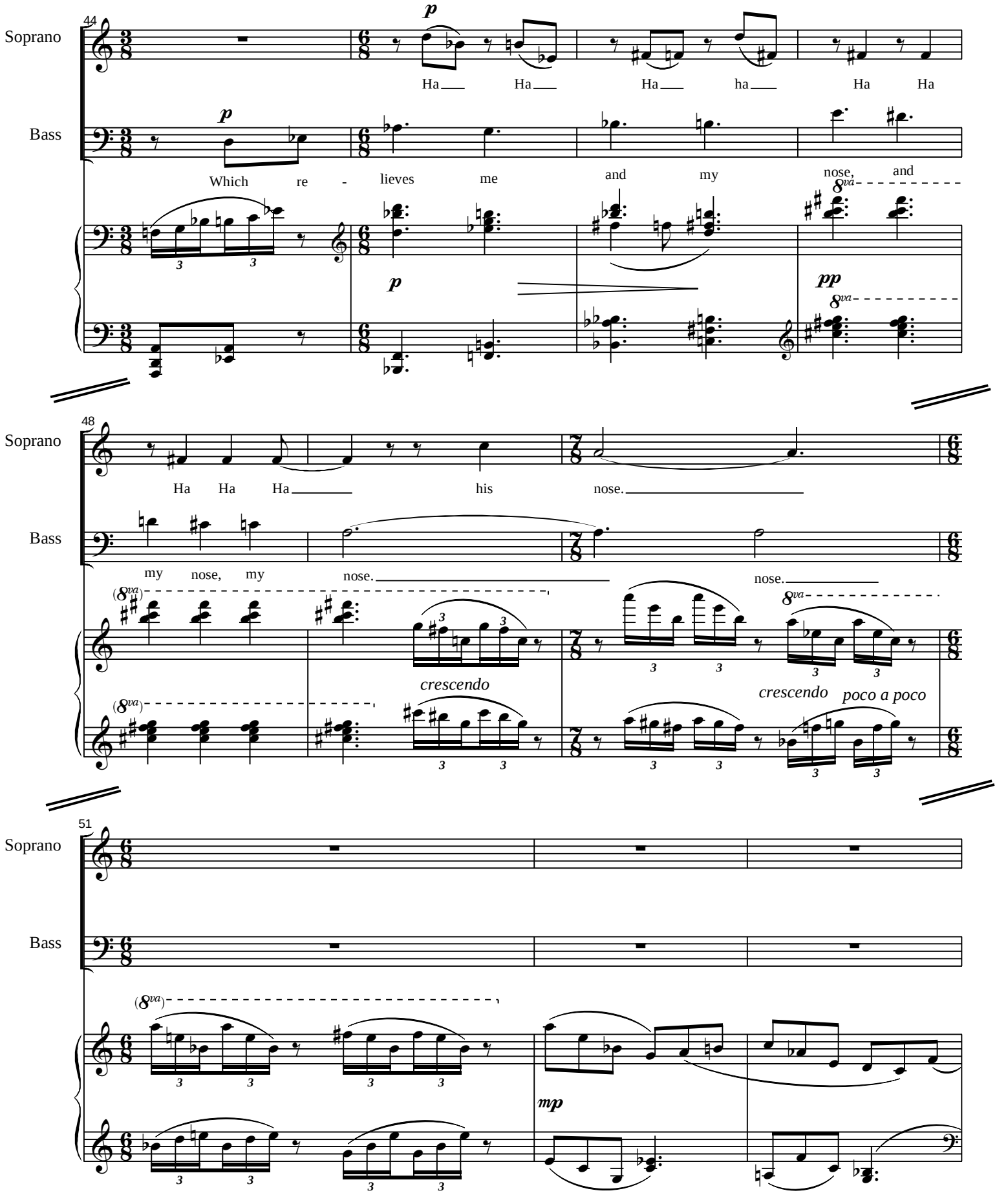
p

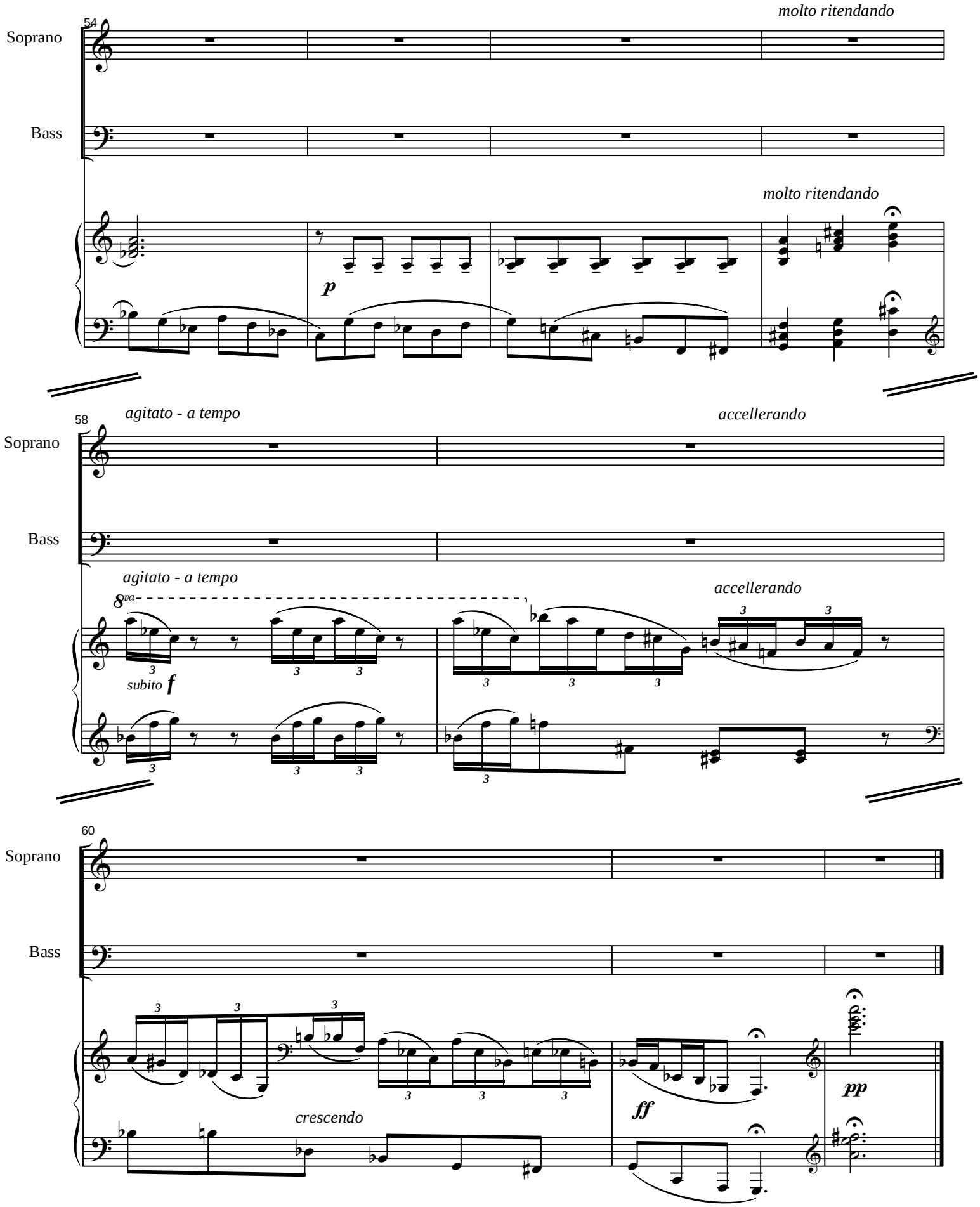
mf


14
Soprano
Bass
mf
But they all flew a - way,
mf
flew a - way, flew a -
crescendo
f
17
Soprano
Bass
f
subito p
flew a - way, at the clos - ing of day,
f
p
way, flew a - way,
Ah Ah
f decrescendo
p
19
Soprano
Bass
mf
Which re - lieved that Old Man and his
mf
Ah Ah,
Oh my poor
8va
crescendo
f


22
Soprano
nose, and his nose.
Bass
nose.
(8va)
mp
26
Soprano
molto ritendando
Bass
molto ritendando
8va
p crescendo
mf
30
Soprano
mf
Poor Man,
Bass
mf
mp
I am an Old Man, on whose nose, Most
subito p
mf


34
Soprano
Bass
f
mf
Ah poor man, flew a - way,
birds of the air could re - pose; But they all few a - way,
crescendo
38
flew a - way, Oh poor man,
flew a - way, at the clos-ing of day,
ff
decrescendo
41
p


44
Soprano
Bass
p
Ha Ha Ha ha Ha Ha
Which re - lieves me and my nose, and
8va
pp
48
Ha Ha Ha his nose.
my nose, my nose.
nose.
(8va)
crescendo
crescendo poco a poco
51
mp


54
Soprano
Bass
molto ritendando
molto ritendando
p
58
Soprano
Bass
agitato - a tempo
accellerando
agitato - a tempo
8va
accellerando
subito f
60
Soprano
Bass
crescendo
ff
pp

There was a Young Lady whose bonnet.

Allegretto - leggiero (♩ = c. 108)

Soprano

Bass

Allegretto - leggiero (♩ = c. 108)

subito ***p*** ***mf*** ***p*** ***mp*** *decrescendo*

8vb ***sfz*** ***sfz*** ***mp***

5

Soprano

Bass

f

There was a Young La - dy

sfz ***p*** *crescendo* ***f*** ***p*** *crescendo*

9

Soprano

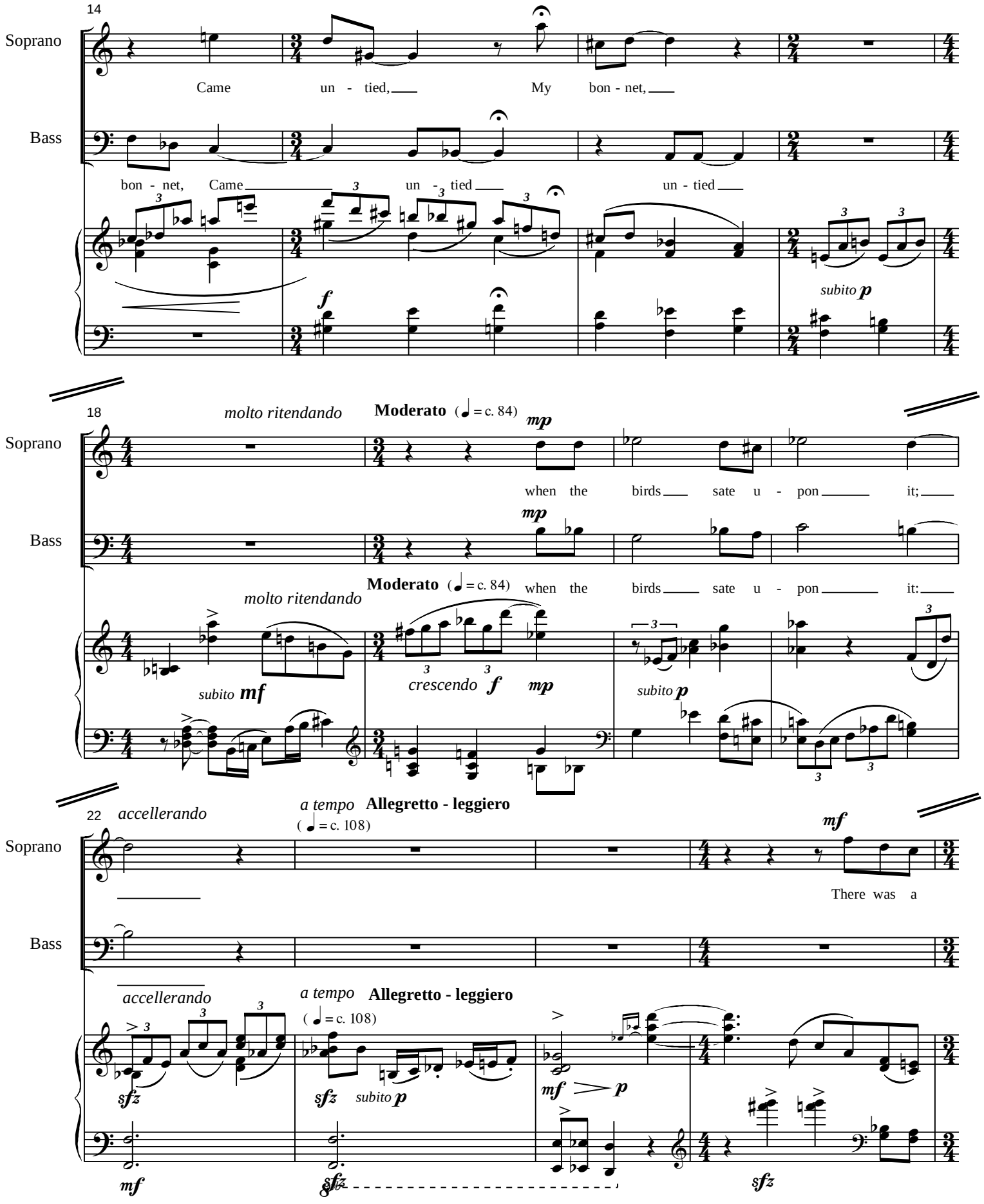
f

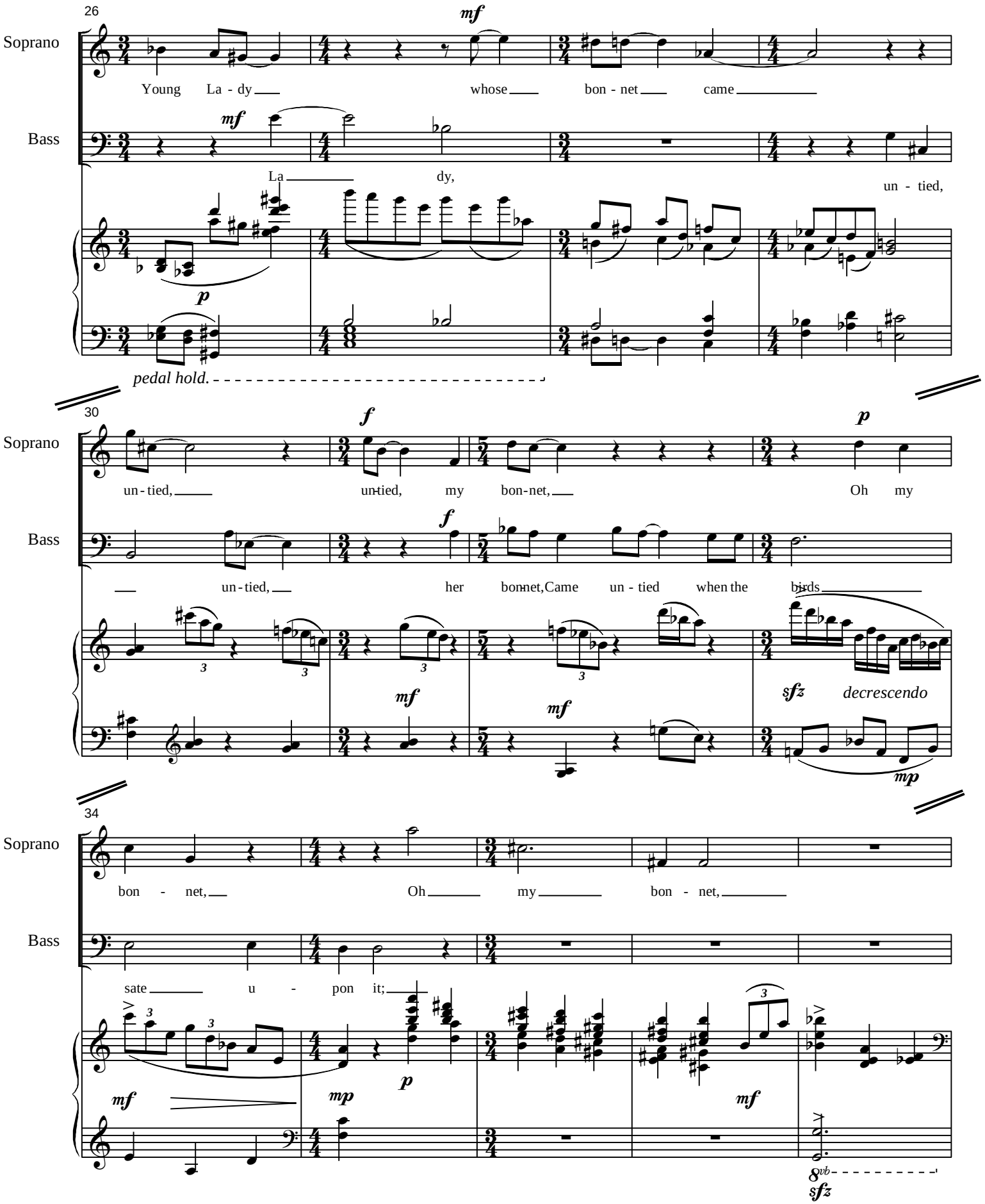
A Young La - dy Young La - dy, young La - dy,

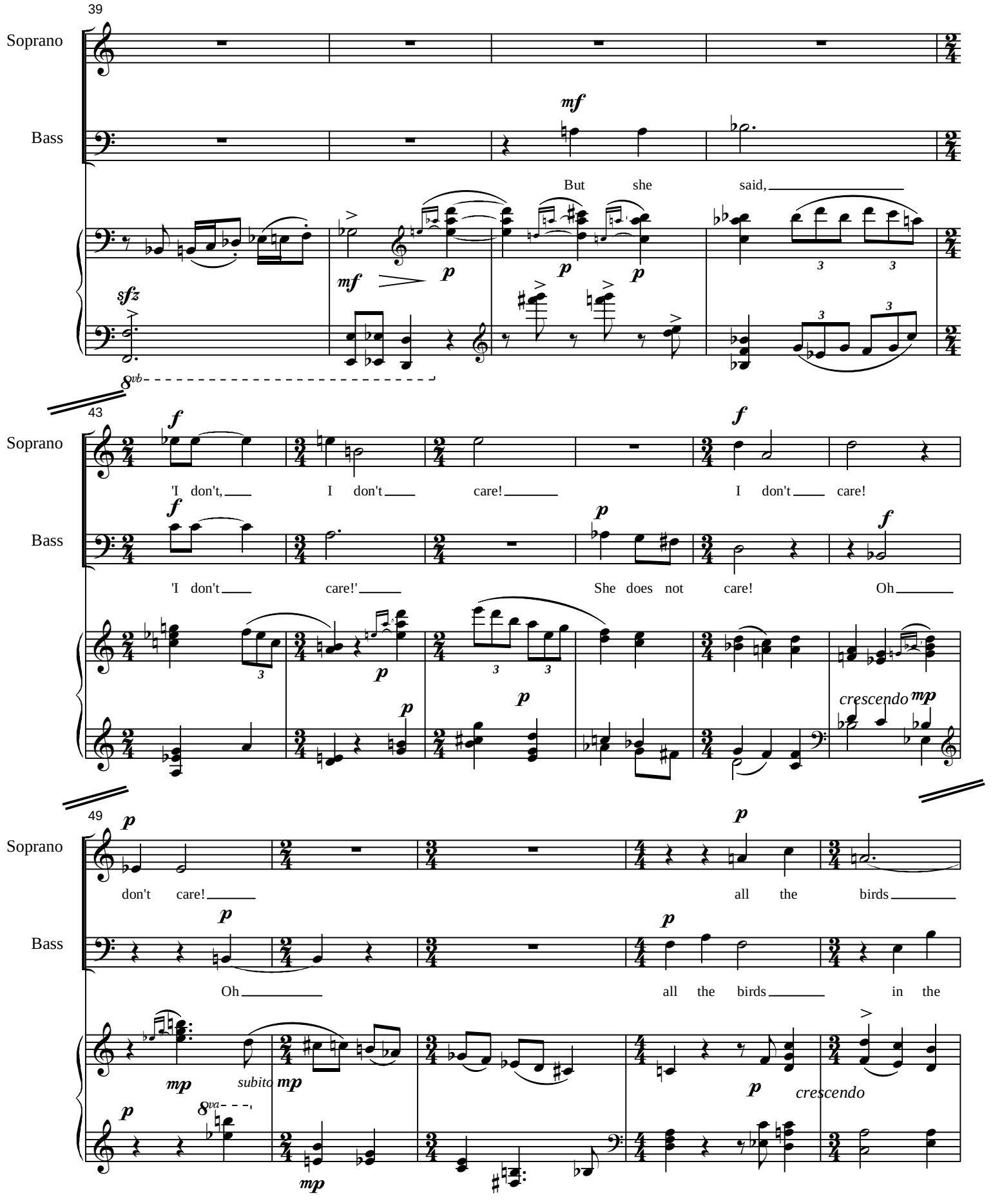
Bass

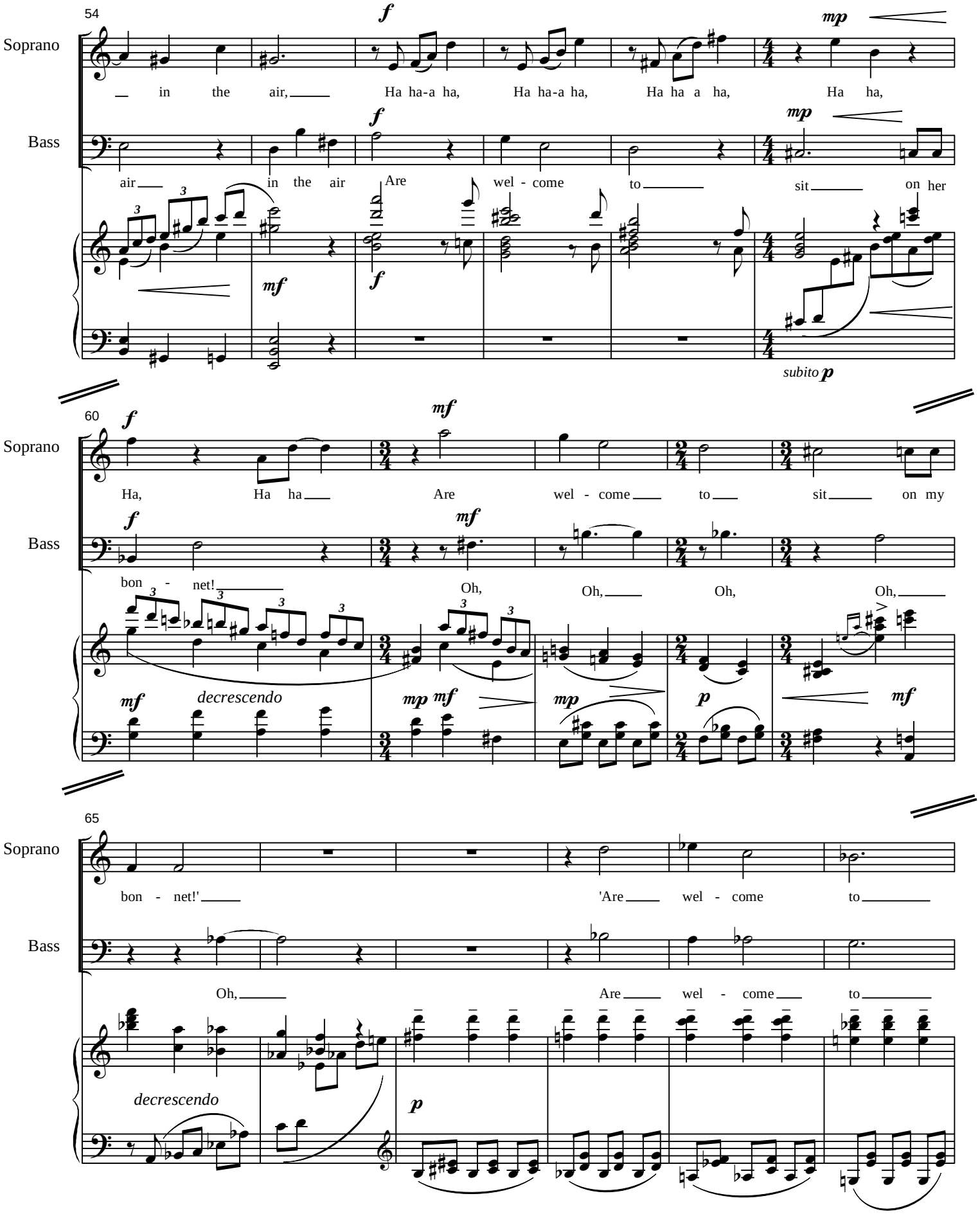
A Young La - dy, whose

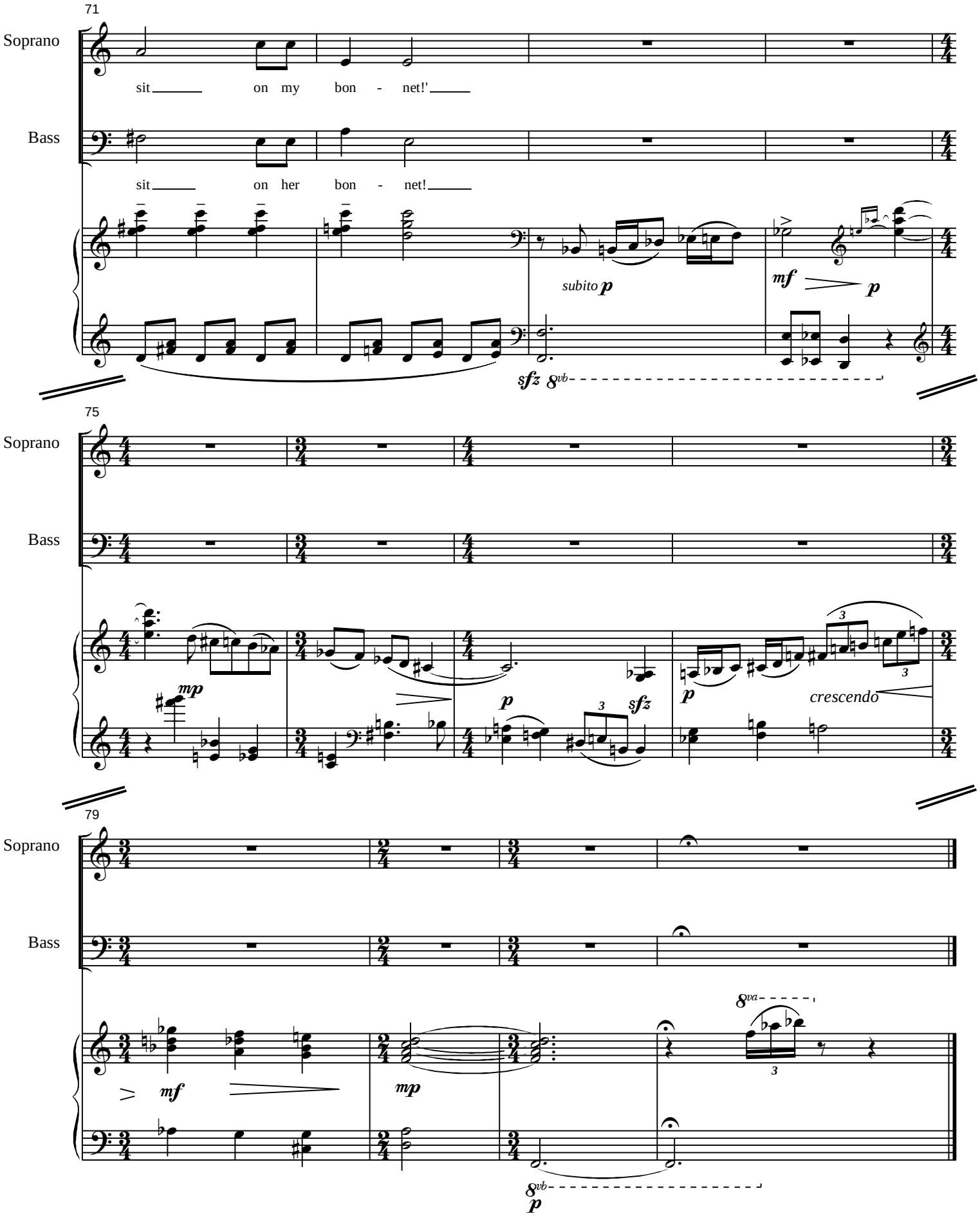
mp *crescendo* ***mf*** *subito* ***p*** *crescendo*


14
Soprano
Bass
Came un - tied, My bon - net,
bon - net, Came un - tied un - tied
f
subito p
18
molto ritendando
Moderato (♩ = c. 84)
mp
when the birds sate u - pon it;
Moderato (♩ = c. 84)
when the birds sate u - pon it:
molto ritendando
subito mf
crescendo f
mp
subito p
22
accellerando
a tempo Allegretto - leggiero
(♩ = c. 108)
mf
There was a
accellerando
a tempo Allegretto - leggiero
(♩ = c. 108)
sfz
subito p
mf > p
mf
sfz
sfz


26
Soprano
Young La - dy whose bon - net came
Bass
La dy, un - tied,
mf
p
pedal hold.
30
Soprano
un - tied, un - tied, my bon - net, Oh my
Bass
un - tied, her bon - net, Came un - tied when the birds
f
mf
sfz
decrescendo
mp
34
Soprano
bon - net, Oh my bon - net,
Bass
sate u - pon it;
mf
mp
p
8vb
sfz


39
Soprano
Bass
But she said,
43
'I don't, I don't care! I don't care!
'I don't care!' She does not care! Oh
crescendo
49
don't care! all the birds
Oh all the birds in the
subito
crescendo


54
Soprano
Bass
f
mp
— in the air, — Ha ha-a ha, Ha ha-a ha, Ha ha a ha, Ha ha,
air — in the air Are wel - come to — sit — on her
mf
f
subito p
60
Soprano
Bass
f
mf
Ha, Ha ha — Are wel - come — to — sit — on my
bon - net! — Oh, Oh, — Oh, Oh, —
mf
decrescendo
mp mf
mp
p
mf
65
Soprano
Bass
bon - net!' — 'Are — wel - come to —
Oh, — Are — wel - come — to —
decrescendo
p


71
Soprano
sit on my bon - net!'
Bass
sit on her bon - net!
subito p
mf
p
sfz 8vb
75
Soprano
Bass
mp
p
sfz
p
crescendo
79
Soprano
Bass
mf
mp
8va
8vb
p

copyright: Sonja Grossner , 1997, 2011
Graphics by Lorna Jane Grossner
www.duba3generations.webs.com