The Book of Tea

Art Song Cycle for Soprano

Text by Kakuzo Okakura

As set by John Haukoos

for Natalia St. Jean, a fellow lover of tea

Opening Monologue

From *The Book of Tea*

One may indeed wonder at this seeming much ado about nothing. What a tempest in a tea-cup! he will say. But when we consider how small after all the cup of human enjoyment is, how soon overflowed with tears, how easily drained to the dregs in our quenchless thirst for infinity, we shall not blame ourselves for making so much of the tea-cup. Mankind has done worse. In the worship of Bacchus, we have sacrificed too freely; and we have even transfigured the gory image of Mars. Why not consecrate ourselves to the queen of the Camelias, and revel in the warm stream of sympathy that flows from her altar? In the liquid amber within the ivory-porcelain, the initiated may touch the sweet reticence of Confucius, the piquancy of Laozi, and the ethereal aroma of Sakyamuni himself.

In religion the future is behind us

Tea Cycle

Text by Kakuzo Okakura

John Haukoos

declamatory

♩ = 90

Voice

In re – li–gion the fu–ture is be–hind us.

Piano

mf

3

3

3

4

a bit warmer

♩ = 100

In art the pre–sent is the e – ter – nal

3

3

mp

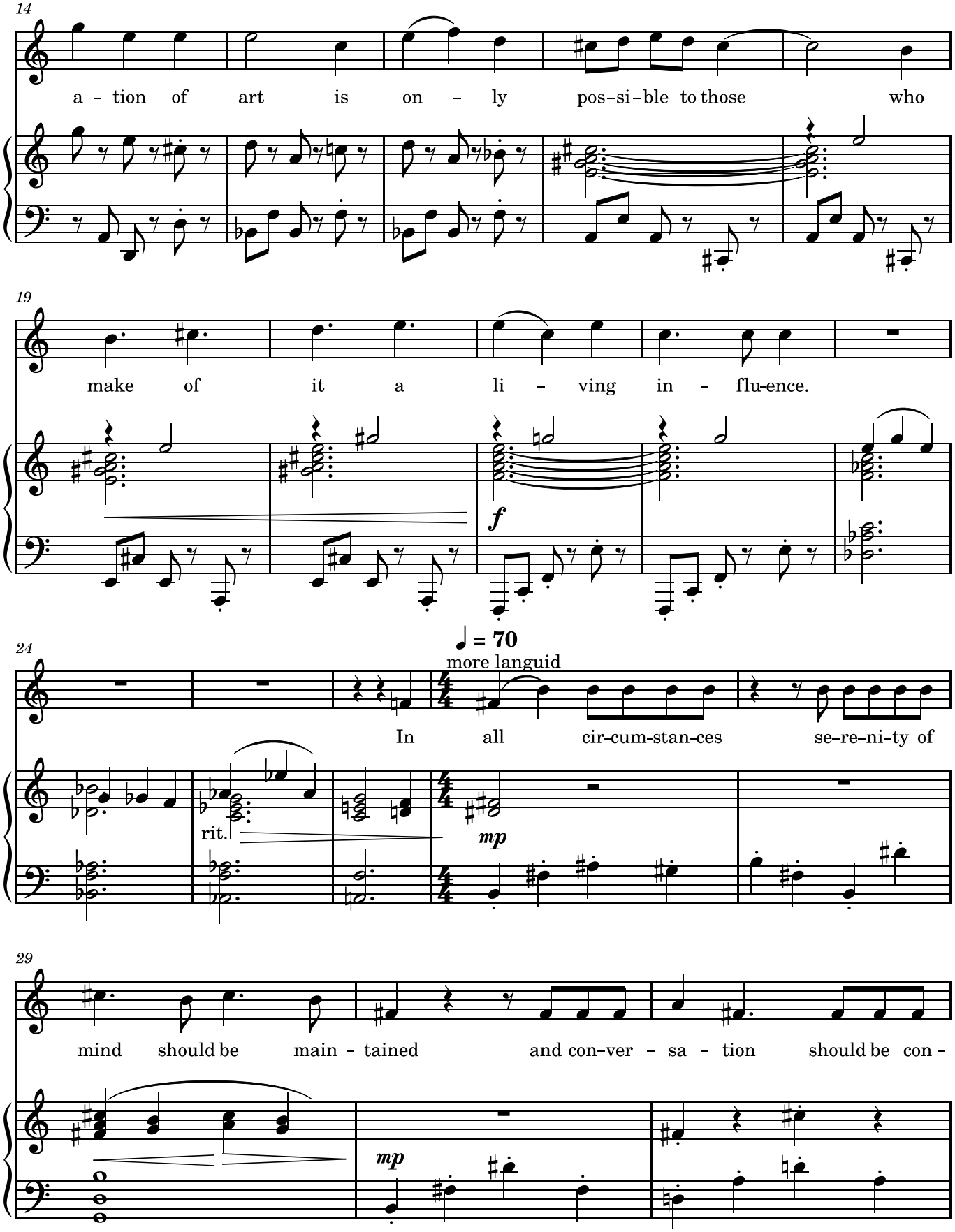
mf

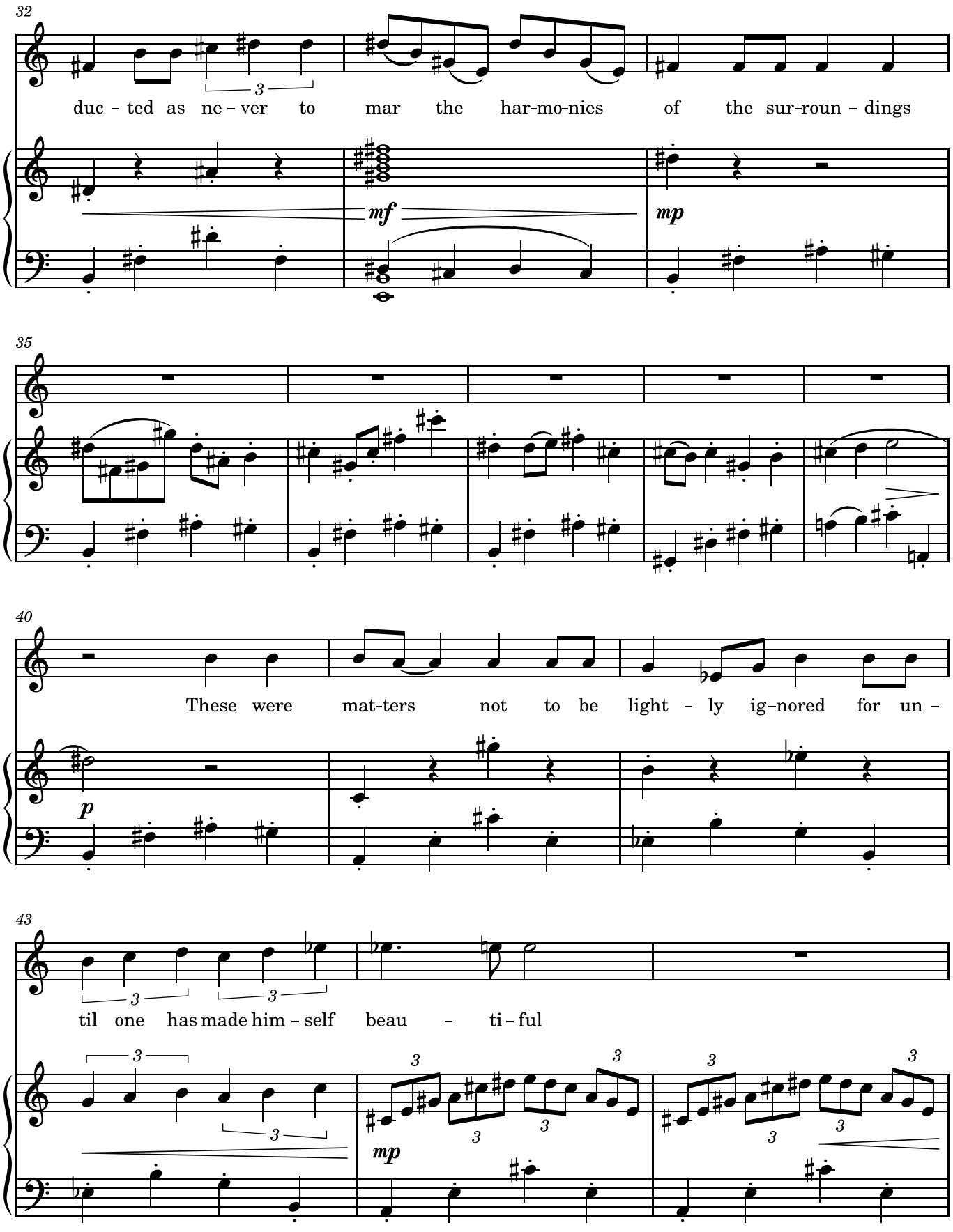
f

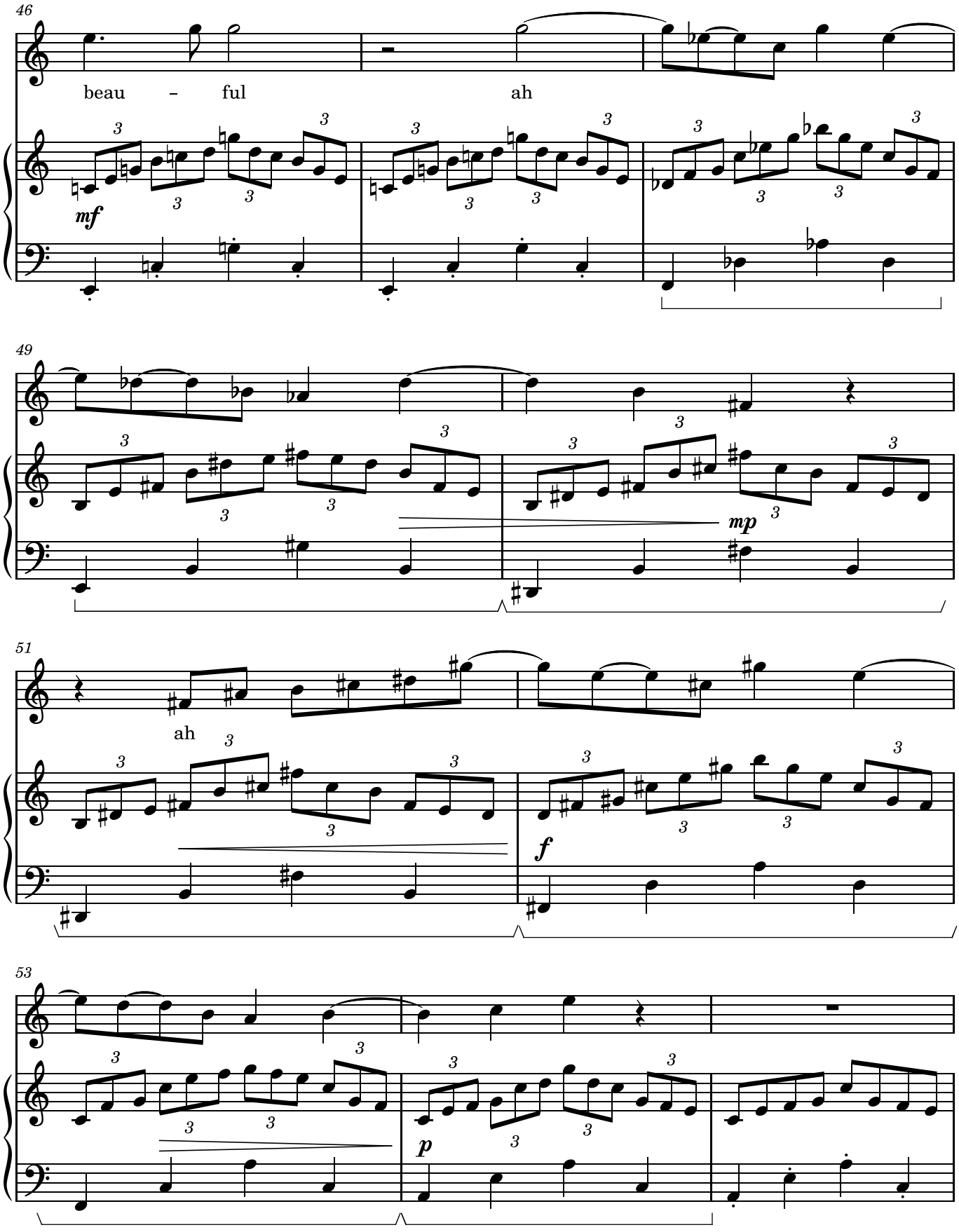
9

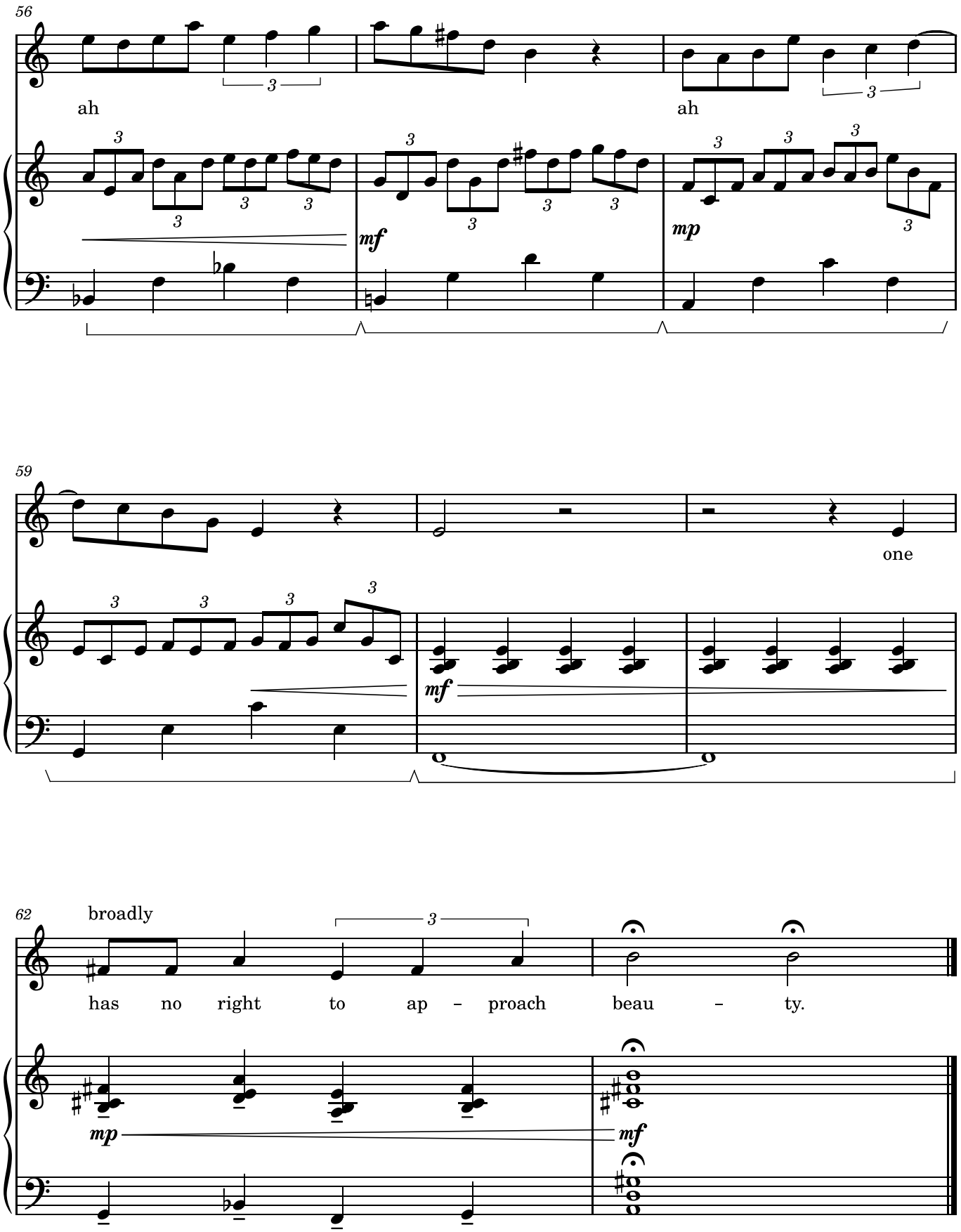
The tea mas–ters held that real ap–pre–ci –

mp


14
a – tion of art is on – ly pos-si-ble to those who
19
make of it a li – ving in – flu-ence.
f
24
♩ = 70
more languid
In all cir-cum-stan-ces se-re-ni-ty of
rit.
mp
29
mind should be main – tained and con-ver – sa – tion should be con –
mp

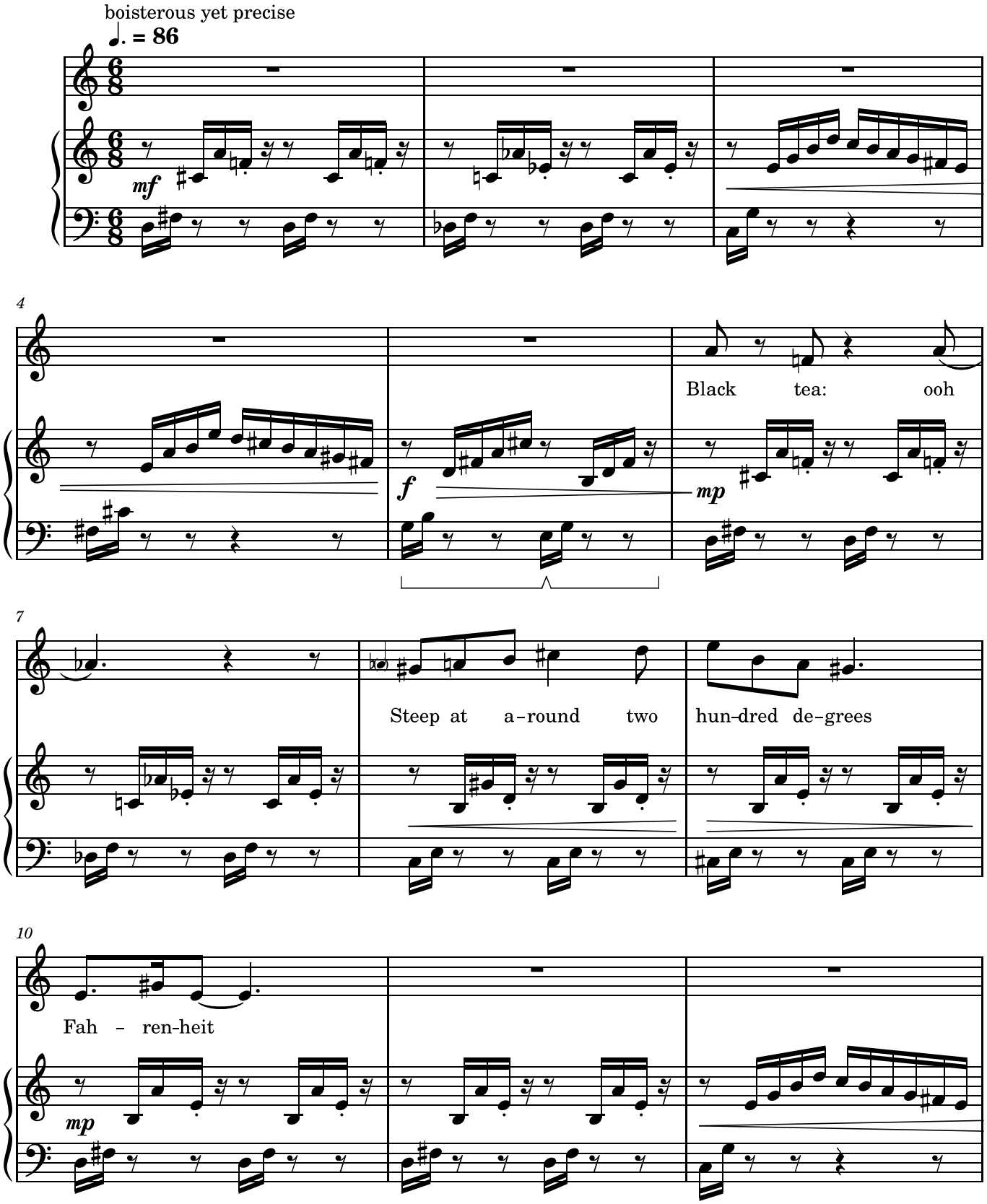

32
duc – ted as ne – ver to mar the har-mo-nies of the sur-roun – dings
mf
mp
35
40
These were mat-ters not to be light – ly ig-nored for un –
p
43
til one has made him – self beau – ti – ful
mp

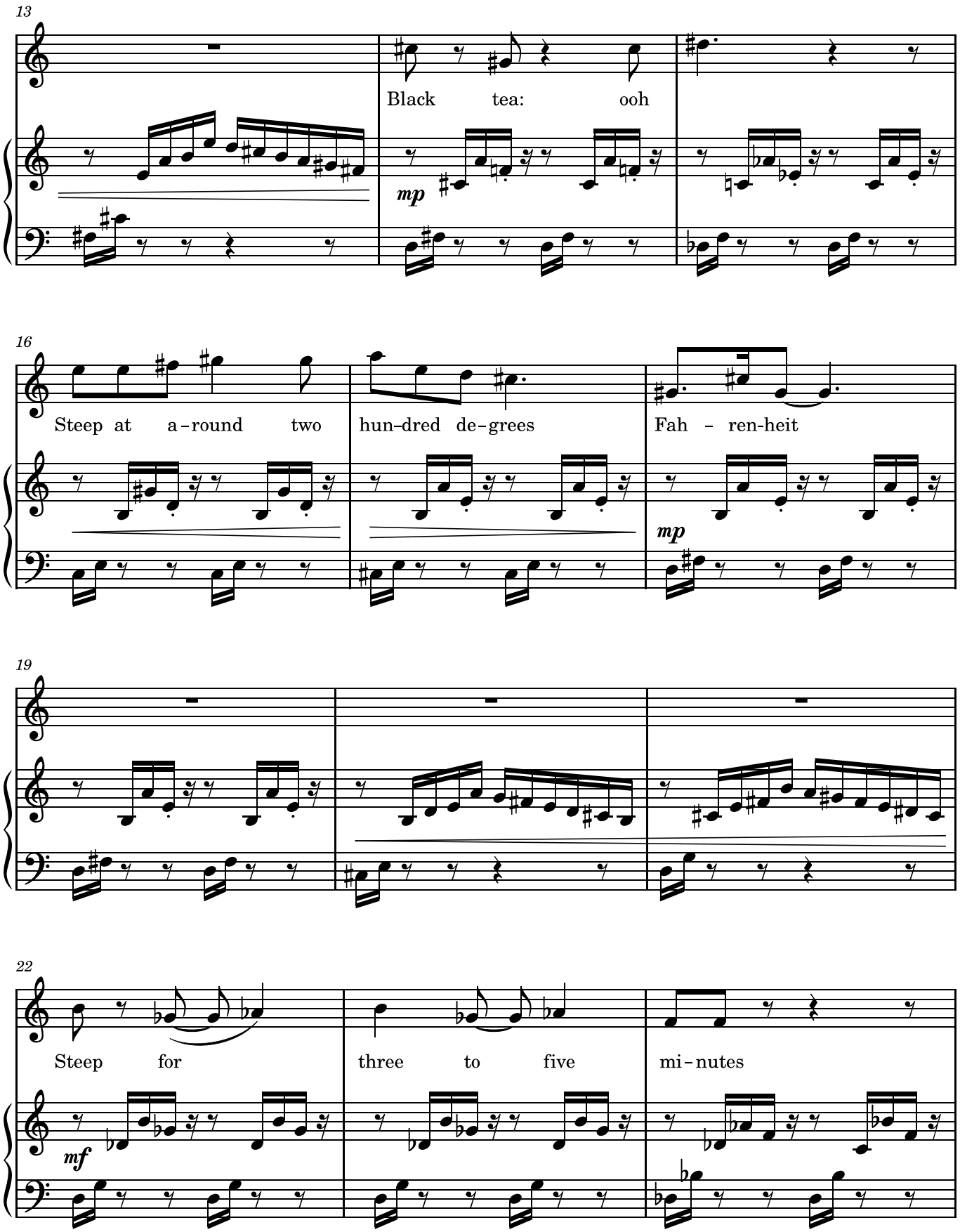

46
beau – ful
ah
mf
49
mp
51
ah
f
53
p

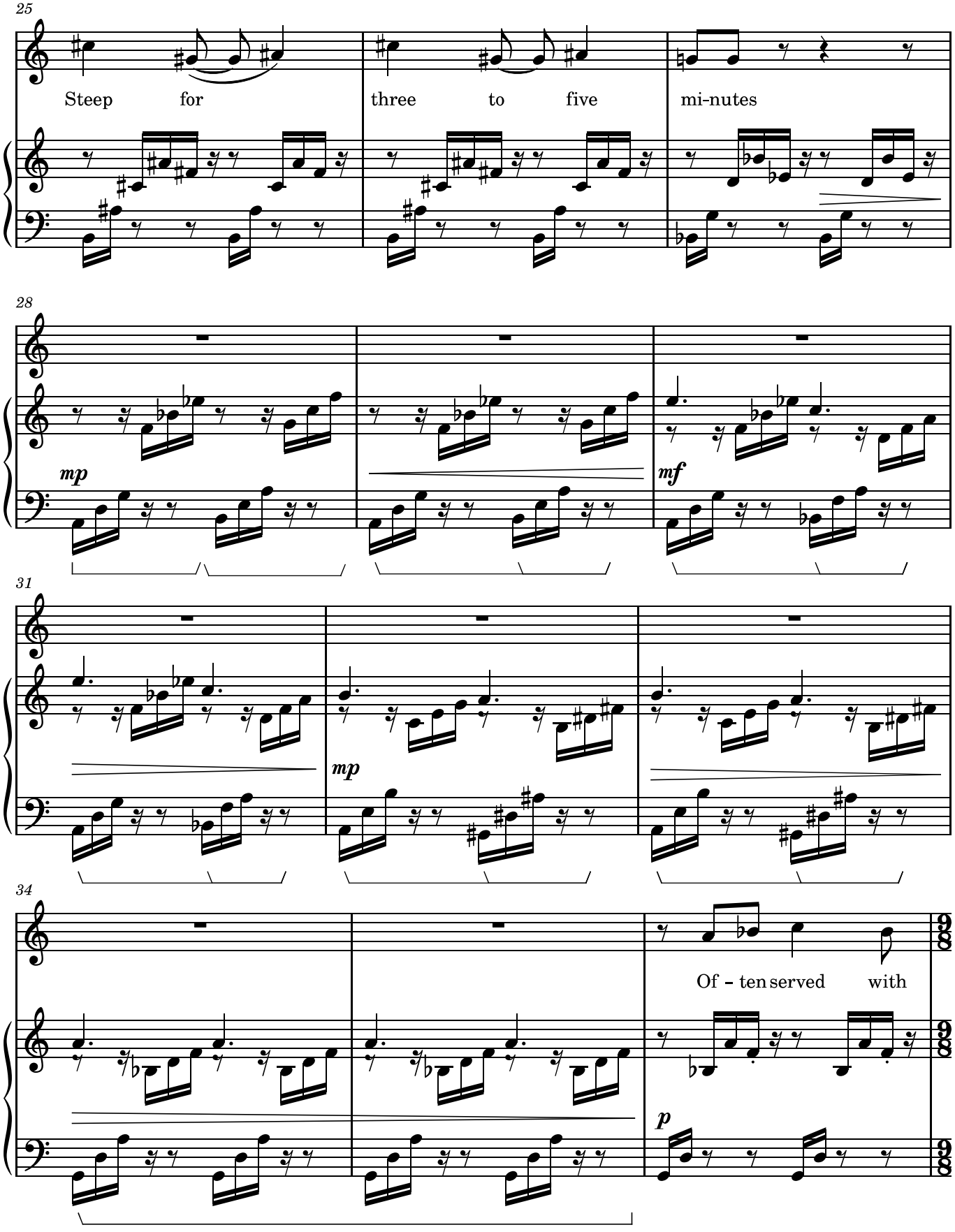

56
ah
ah
mf
mp
59
one
mf
62
broadly
has no right to ap - proach beau - ty.
mp
mf

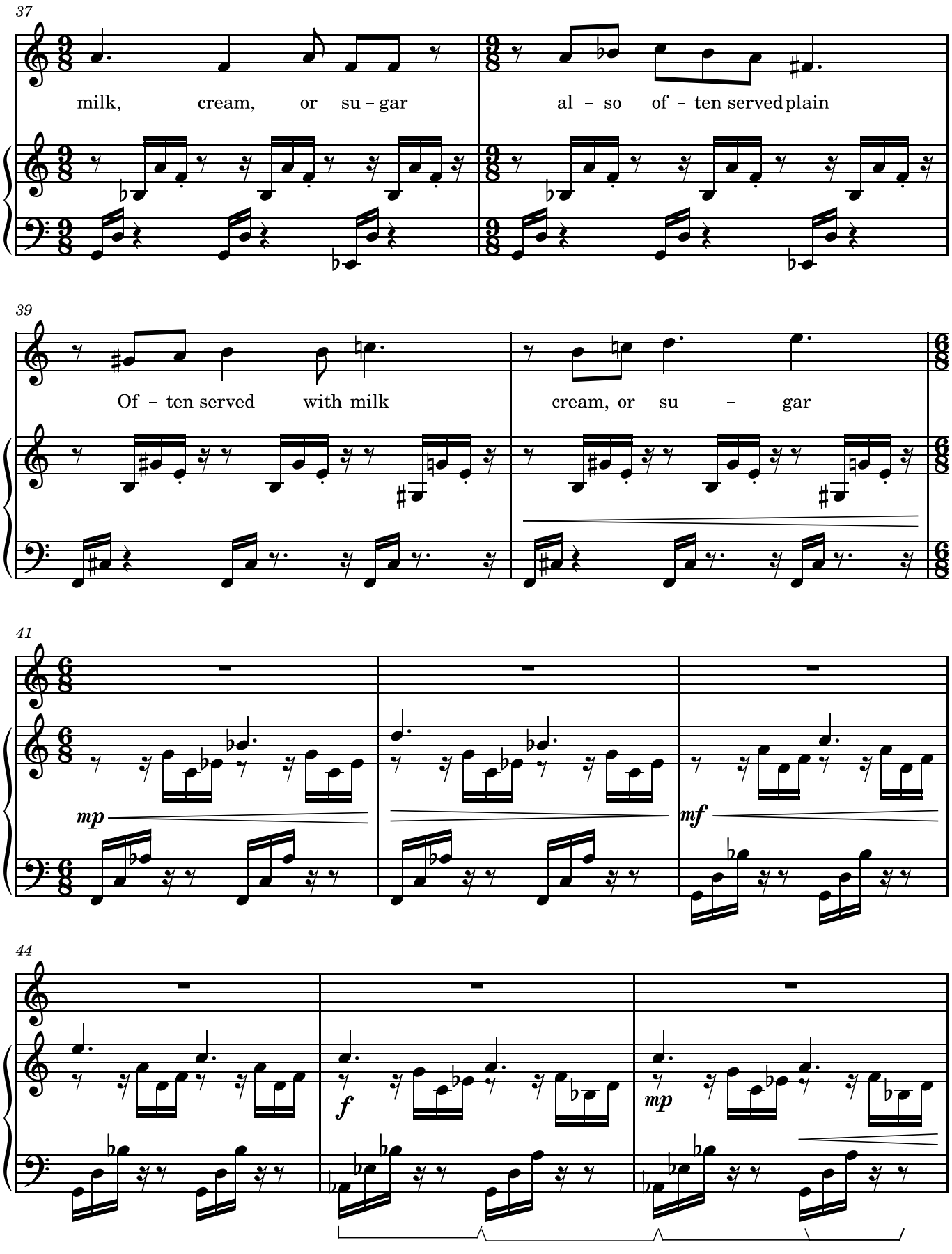
Black Tea

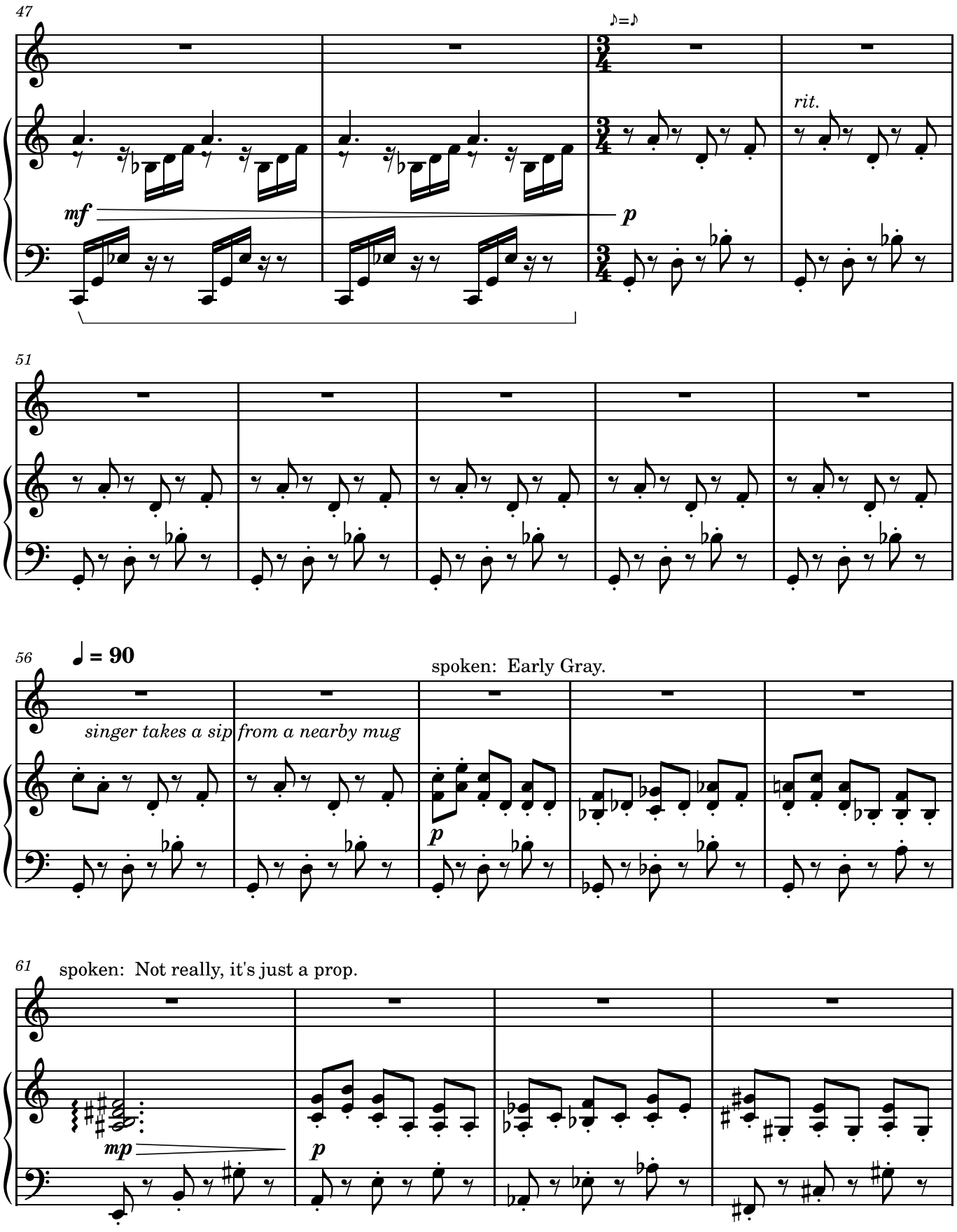
John Haukoos

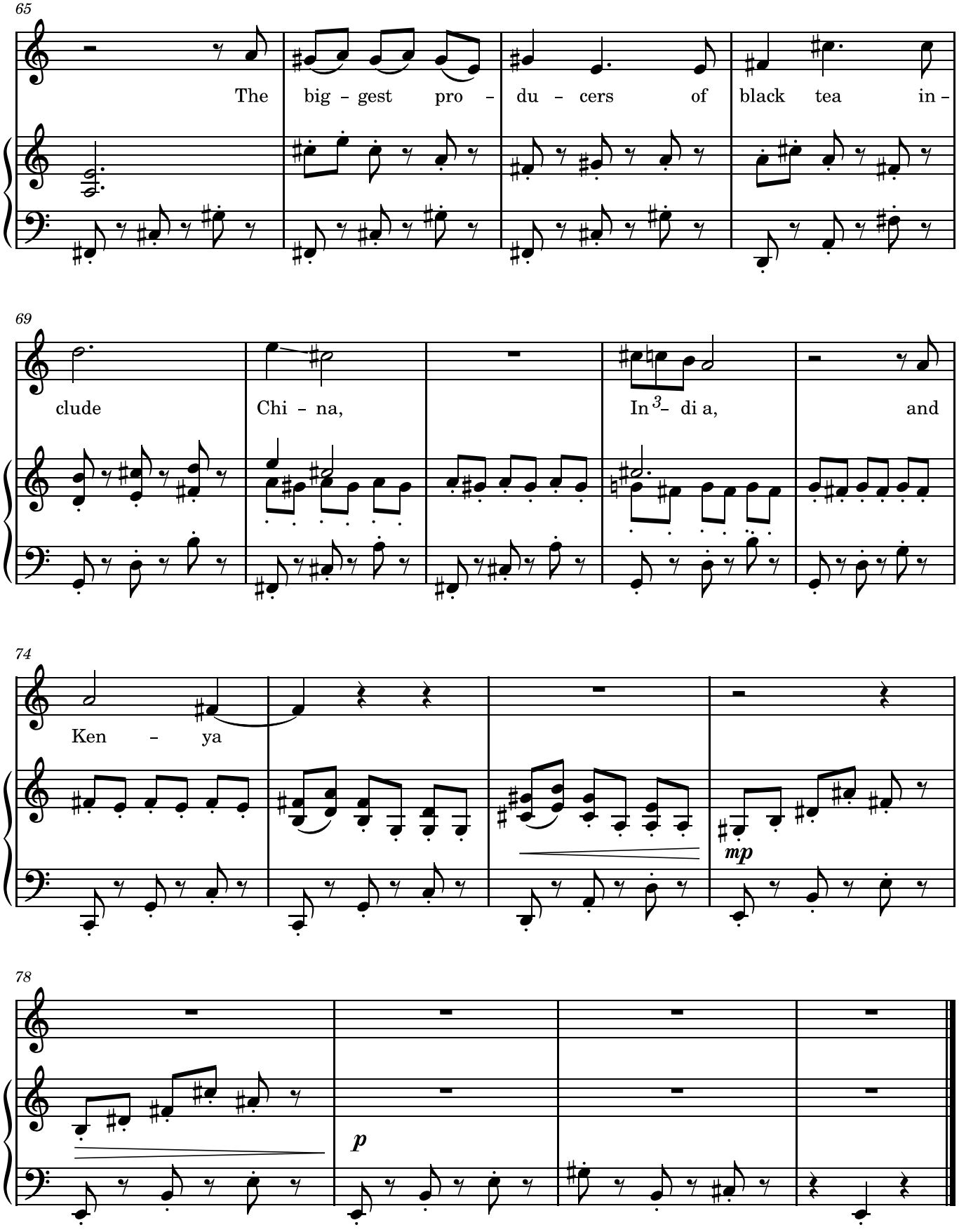



13
Black tea: ooh
mp
16
Steep at a-round two hun-dred de-grees Fah - ren-heit
mp
19
22
Steep for three to five mi-nutes
mf


25
Steep for three to five mi-nutes
28
mp
mf
31
mp
34
Of - ten served with
p


37
milk, cream, or su - gar
al - so of - ten served plain
39
Of - ten served with milk
cream, or su - gar
41
mp
mf
44
f
mp

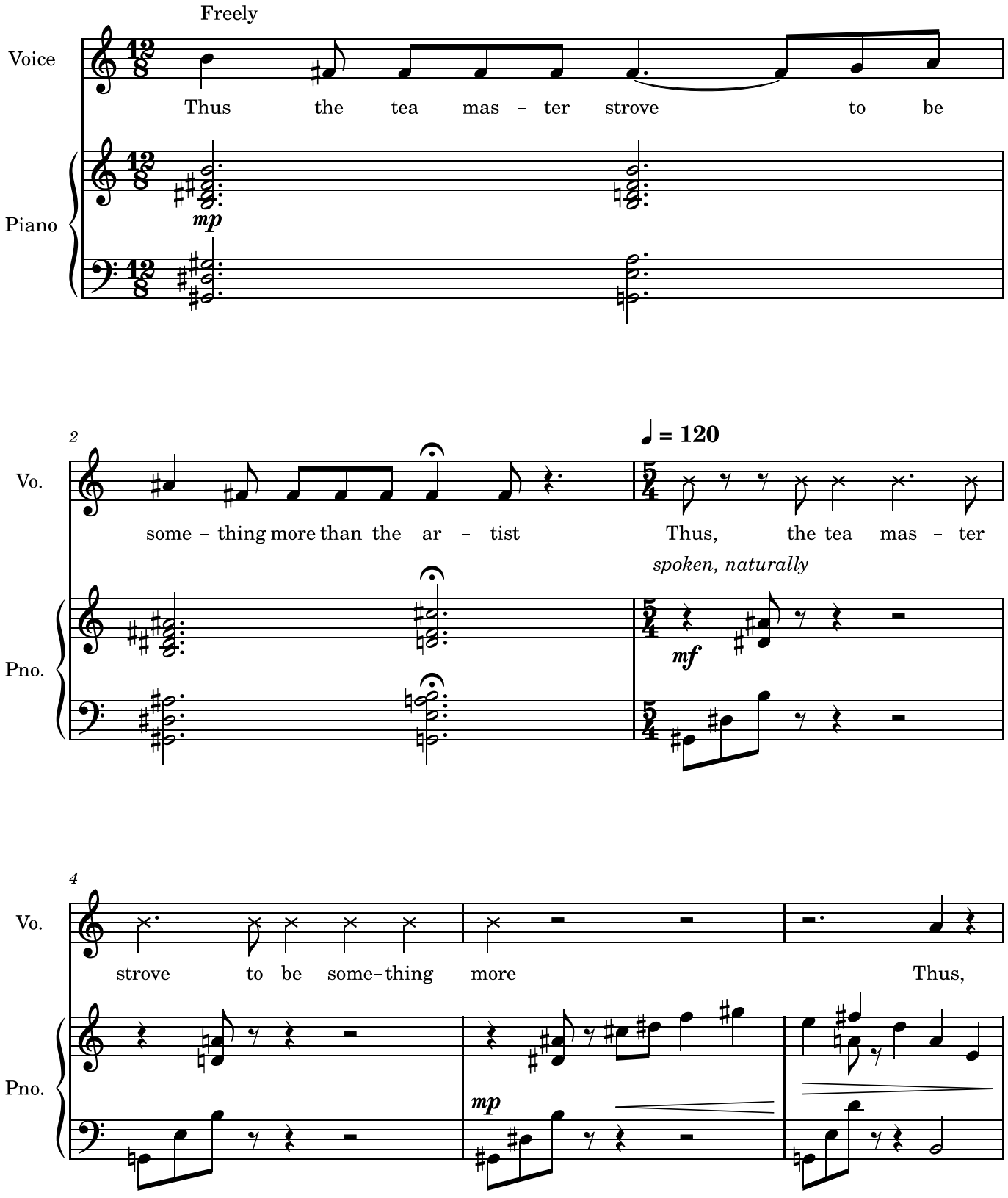

47
♪=♪
rit.
mf
p
51
56
♩ = 90
spoken: Early Gray.
singer takes a sip from a nearby mug
p
61
spoken: Not really, it's just a prop.
mp
p

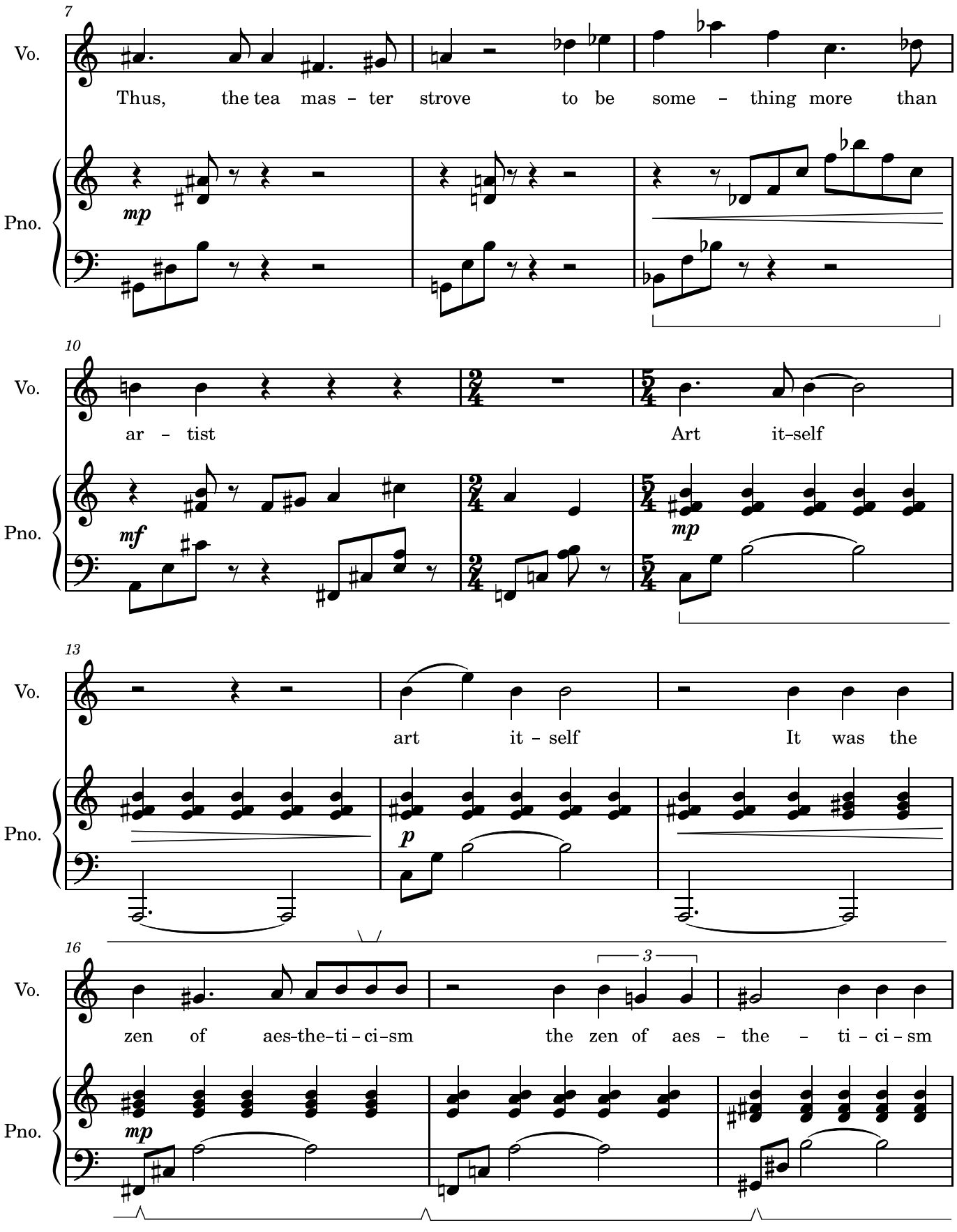

65
The big - gest pro - du - cers of black tea in -
69
clude Chi - na, In - di a, and
74
Ken - ya
mp
78
p

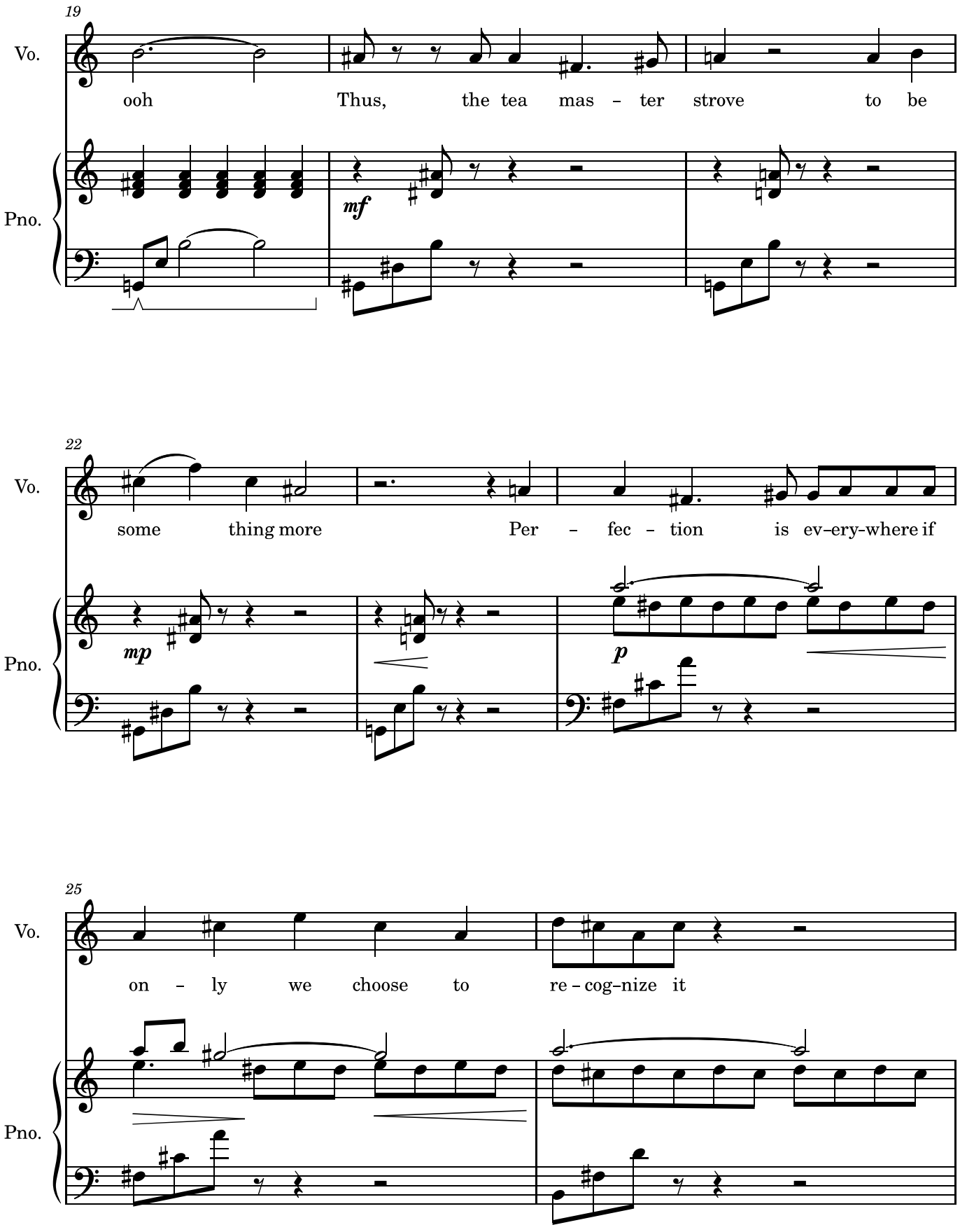
Thus the tea master strove

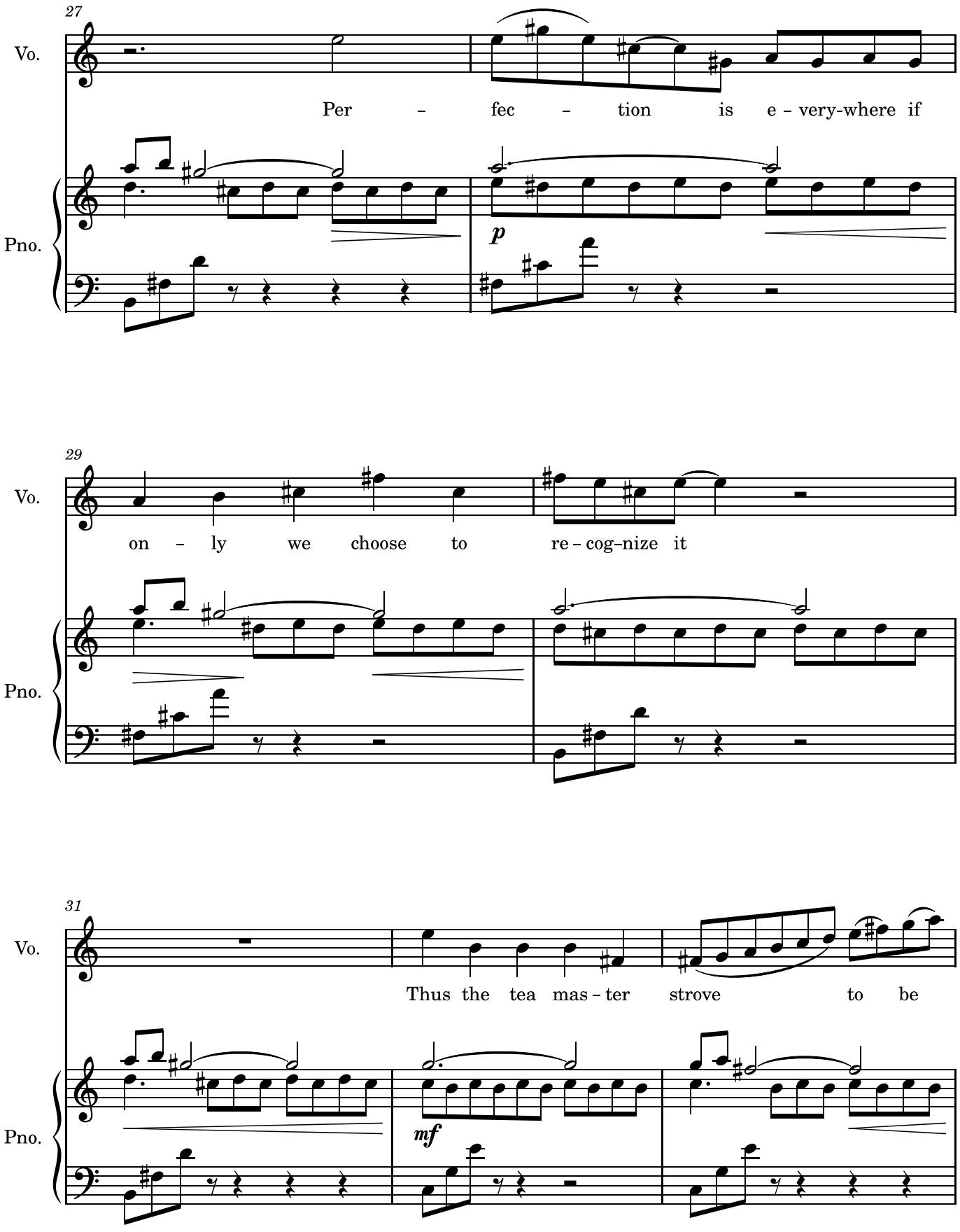
Text by Kakuzo Okakura

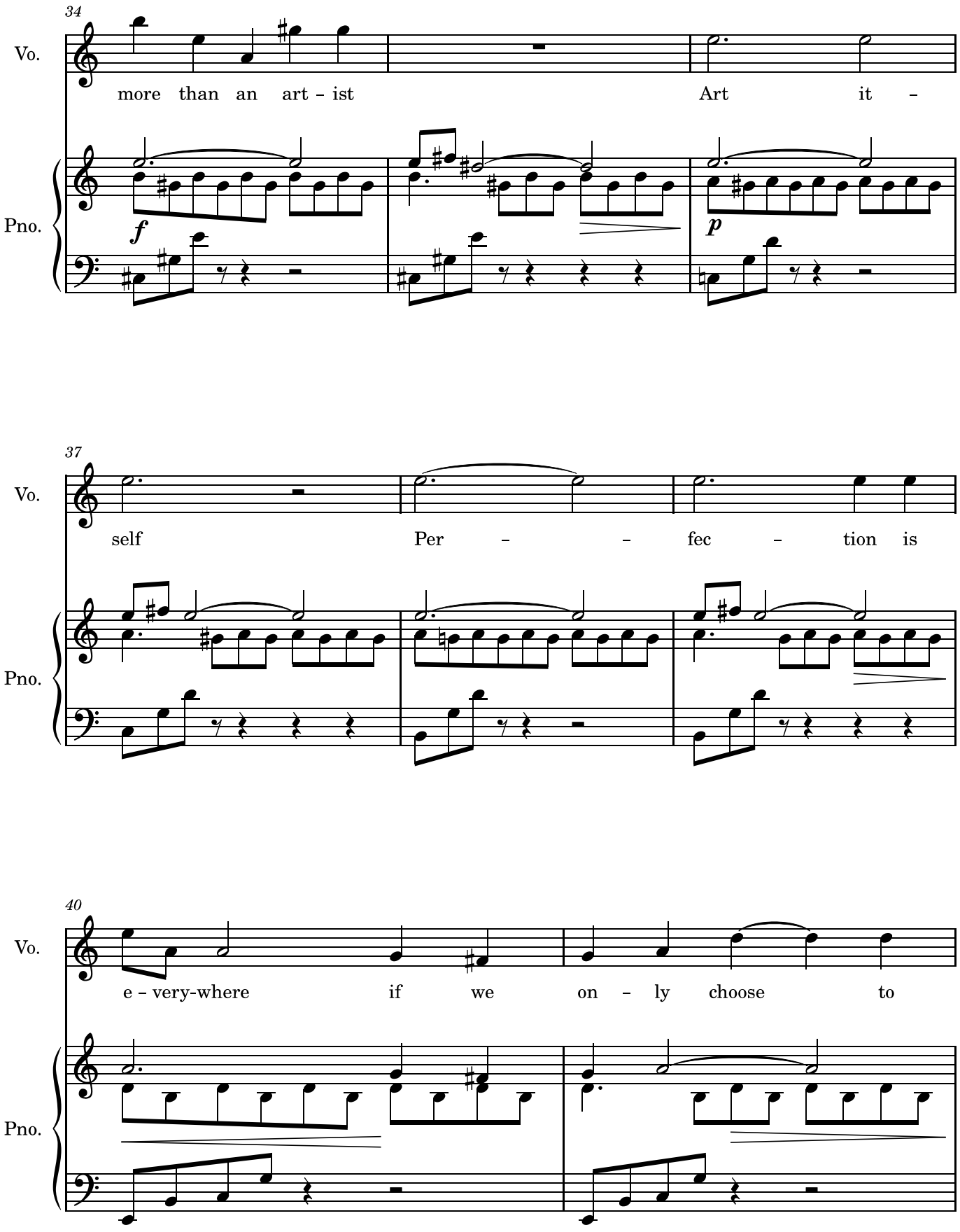
John Haukoos

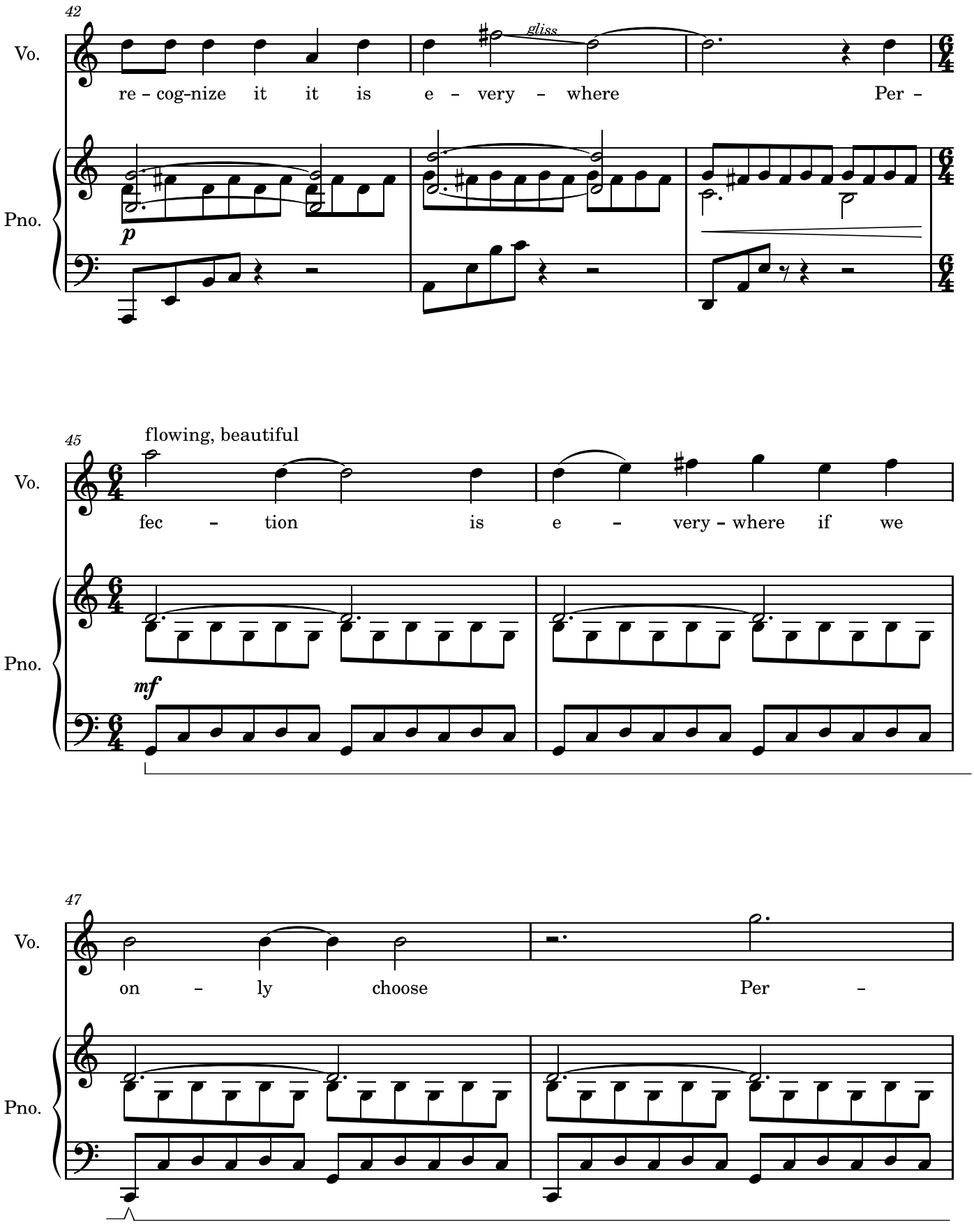


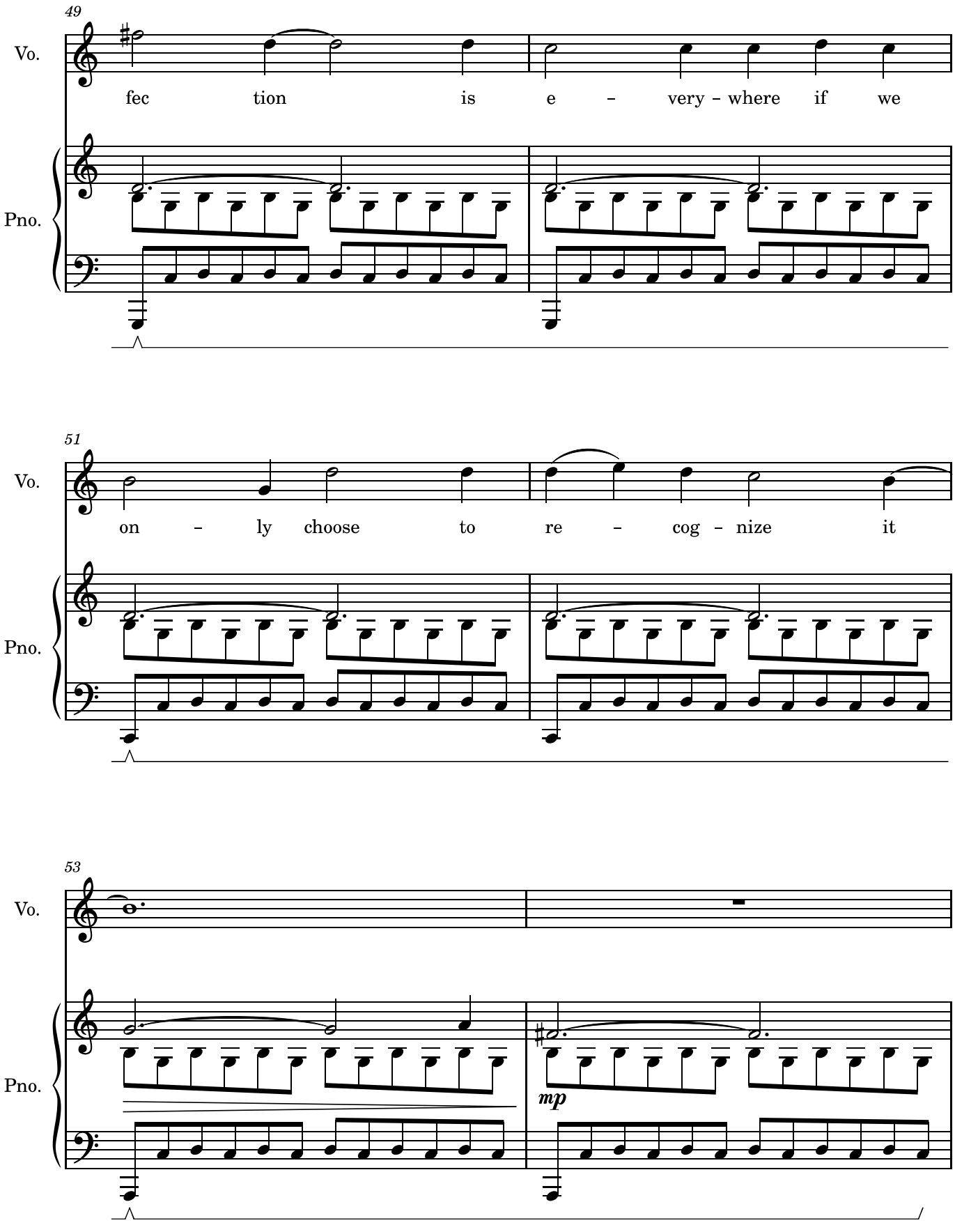

7
Vo.
Thus, the tea mas - ter strove to be some - thing more than
Pno.
mp
10
Vo.
ar - tist
Art it-self
Pno.
mf
mp
13
Vo.
art it - self
It was the
Pno.
p
16
Vo.
zen of aes-the-ti - ci-sm
3
the zen of aes - the - ti - ci - sm
Pno.
mp

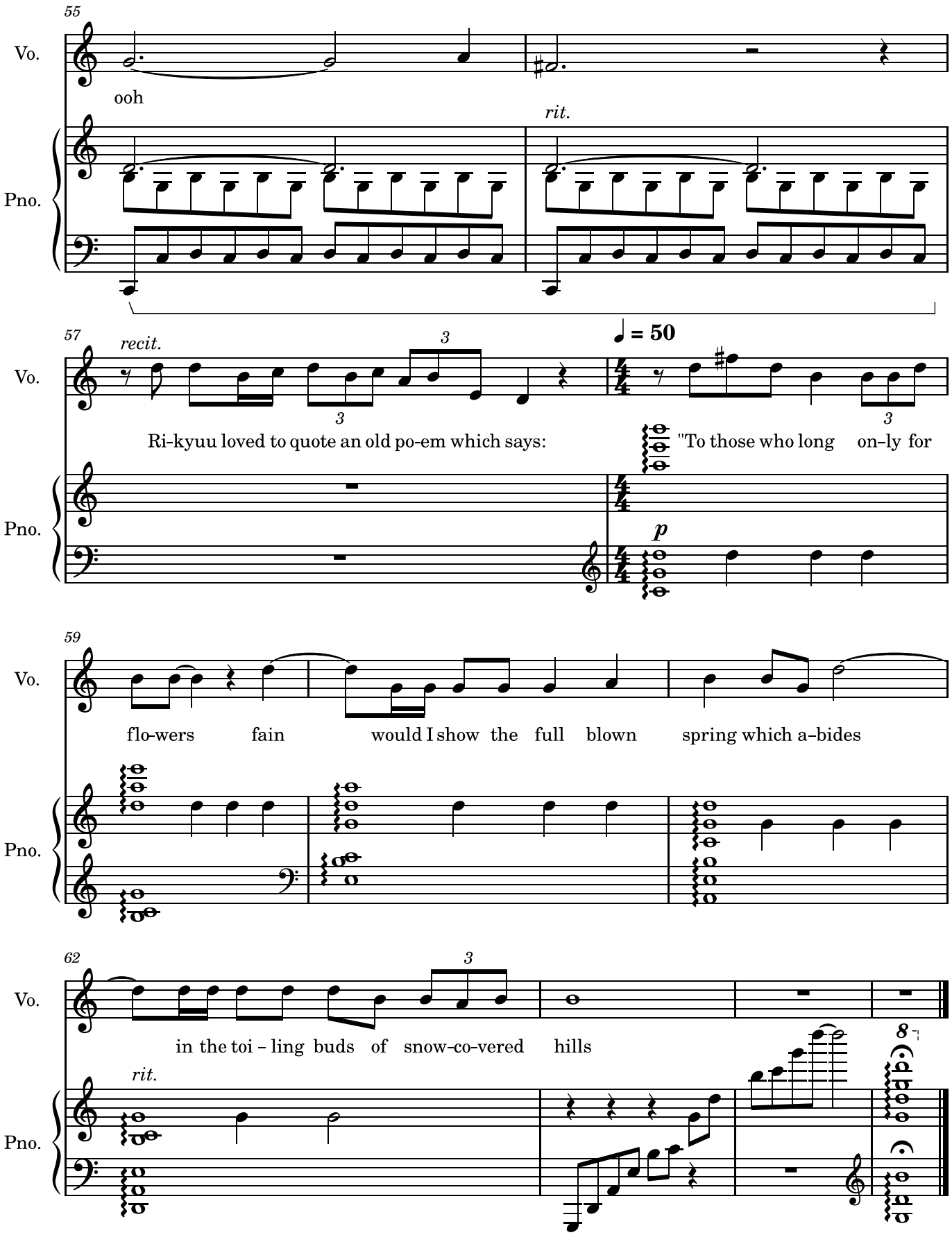

19
Vo.
ooh
Thus, the tea mas – ter strove to be
Pno.
mf
22
Vo.
some thing more
Per – fec – tion is ev–ery-where if
Pno.
mp
p
25
Vo.
on – ly we choose to re – cog–nize it
Pno.


27
Vo.
Per – fec – tion is e – very-where if
Pno.
p
29
Vo.
on – ly we choose to re – cog–nize it
Pno.
31
Vo.
Thus the tea mas – ter strove to be
Pno.
mf


34
Vo.
more than an art - ist
Art it -
Pno.
f
p
37
Vo.
self
Per - - fec - tion is
Pno.
40
Vo.
e - very-where if we on - ly choose to
Pno.


42
Vo.
re – cog-nize it it is e – very – where Per –
gliss
Pno.
p
45
flowing, beautiful
Vo.
fec – tion is e – very – where if we
Pno.
mf
47
Vo.
on – ly choose Per –
Pno.


49
Vo.
fec tion is e - very - where if we
Pno.
51
Vo.
on - ly choose to re - cog - nize it
Pno.
53
Vo.
Pno.
mp


55
Vo.
ooh
rit.
Pno.
57
recit.
3
♩ = 50
Vo.
Ri-kyuu loved to quote an old po-em which says:
"To those who long on–ly for
Pno.
p
59
Vo.
flo-wers fain would I show the full blown spring which a–bides
Pno.
62
3
Vo.
in the toi – ling buds of snow-co-vered hills
8
rit.
Pno.

Students of Zen

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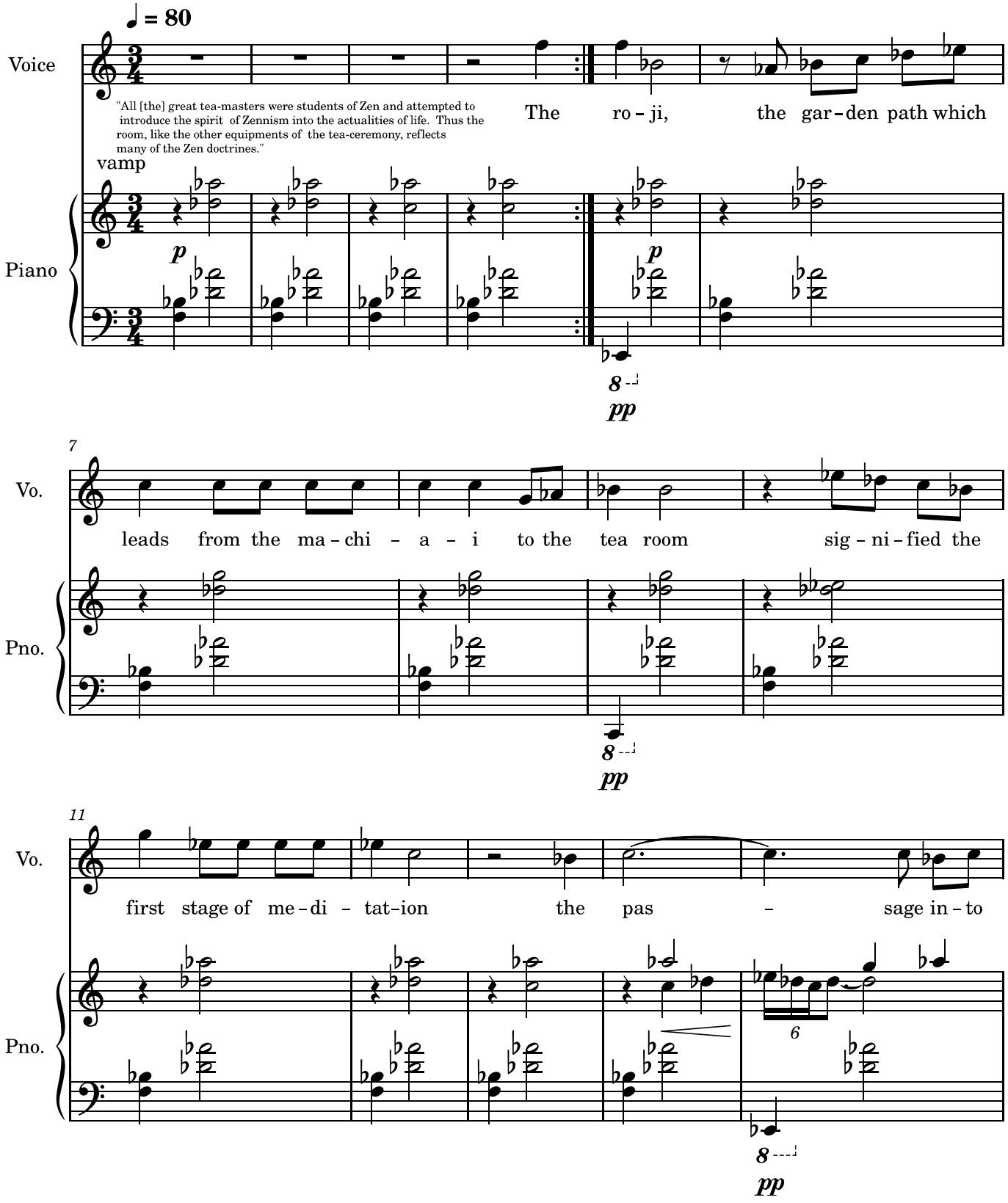
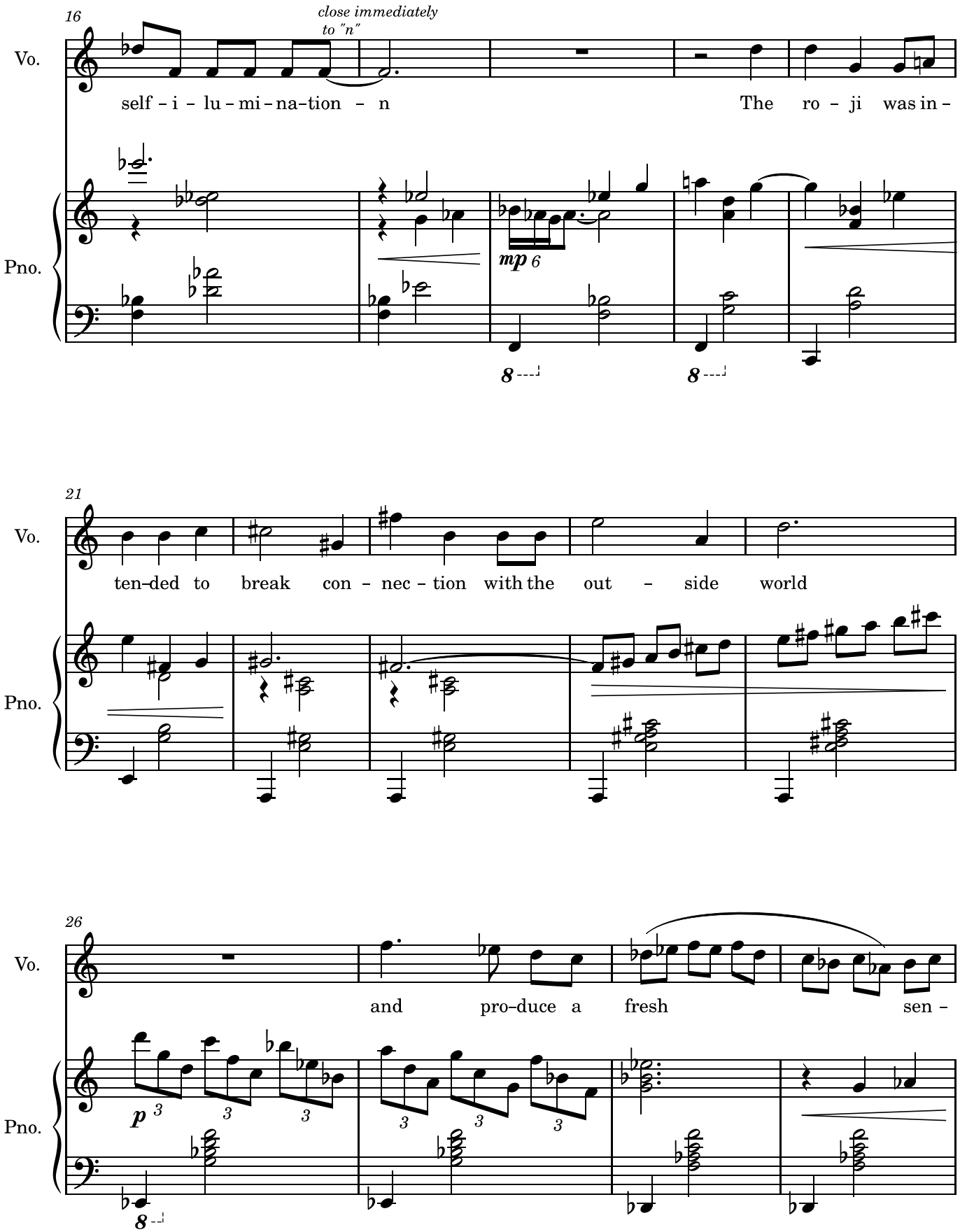
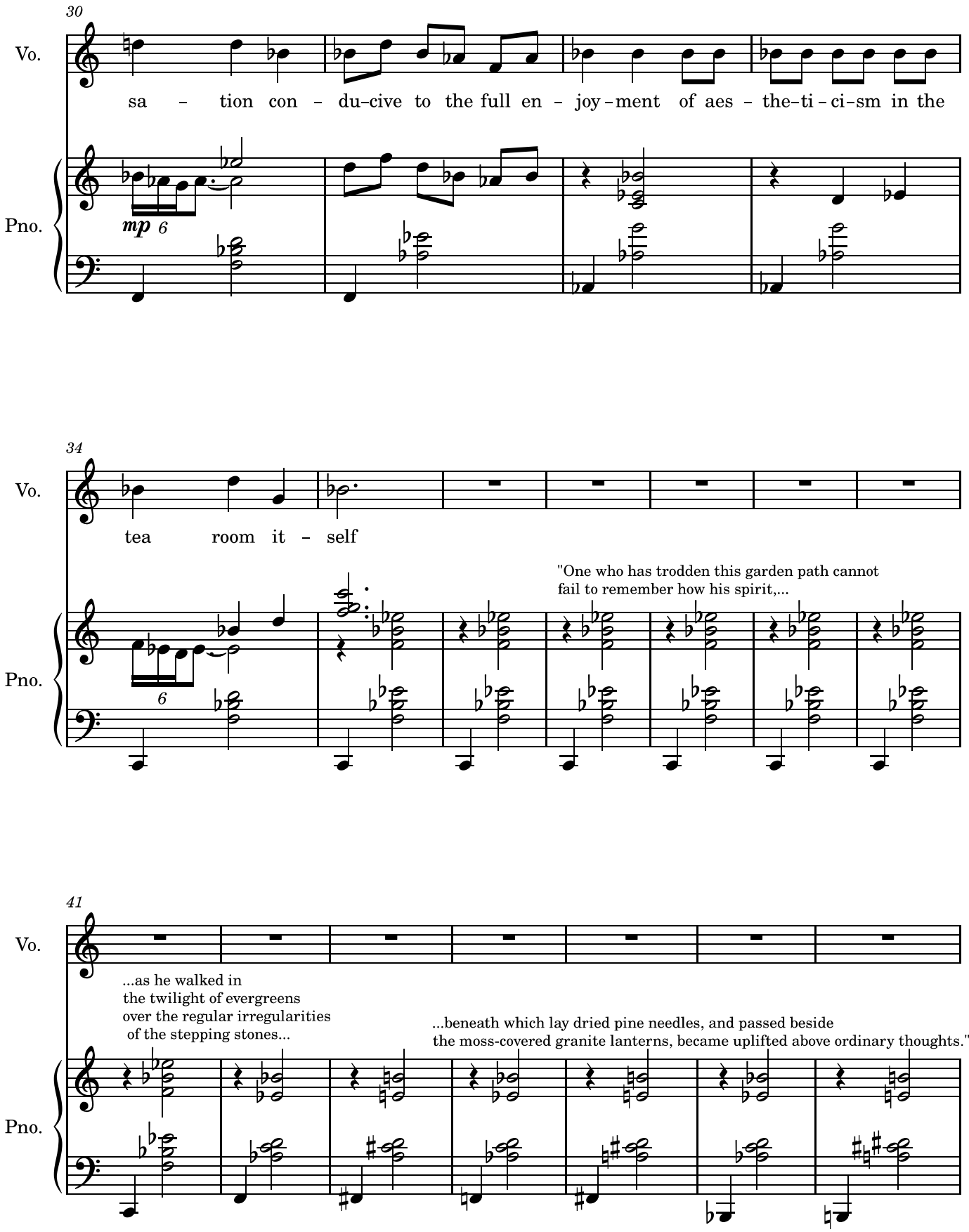
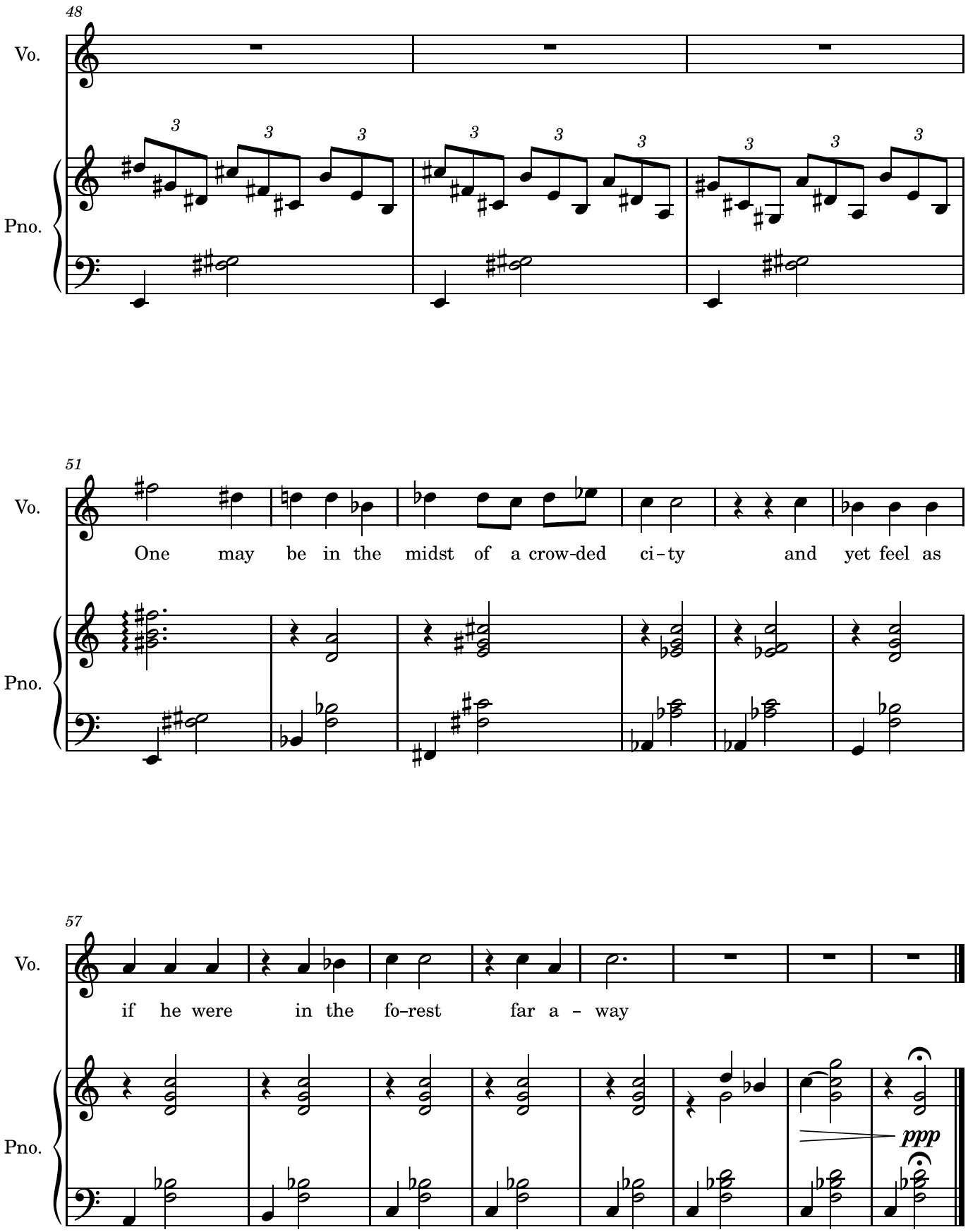
John Haukoos




16
close immediately to "n"
Vo.
self – i – lu – mi – na – tion – n
The ro – ji was in –
Pno.
mp 6
8
8
21
Vo.
ten – ded to break con – nec – tion with the out – side world
Pno.
26
Vo.
and pro – duce a fresh sen –
Pno.
p
3
3
3
3
3
3
8


30
Vo.
sa - tion con - du-cive to the full en - joy-ment of aes - the-ti-ci-sm in the
Pno.
mp
6
34
Vo.
tea room it - self
"One who has trodden this garden path cannot
fail to remember how his spirit,...
Pno.
6
41
Vo.
...as he walked in
the twilight of evergreens
over the regular irregularities
of the stepping stones...
...beneath which lay dried pine needles, and passed beside
the moss-covered granite lanterns, became uplifted above ordinary thoughts."
Pno.

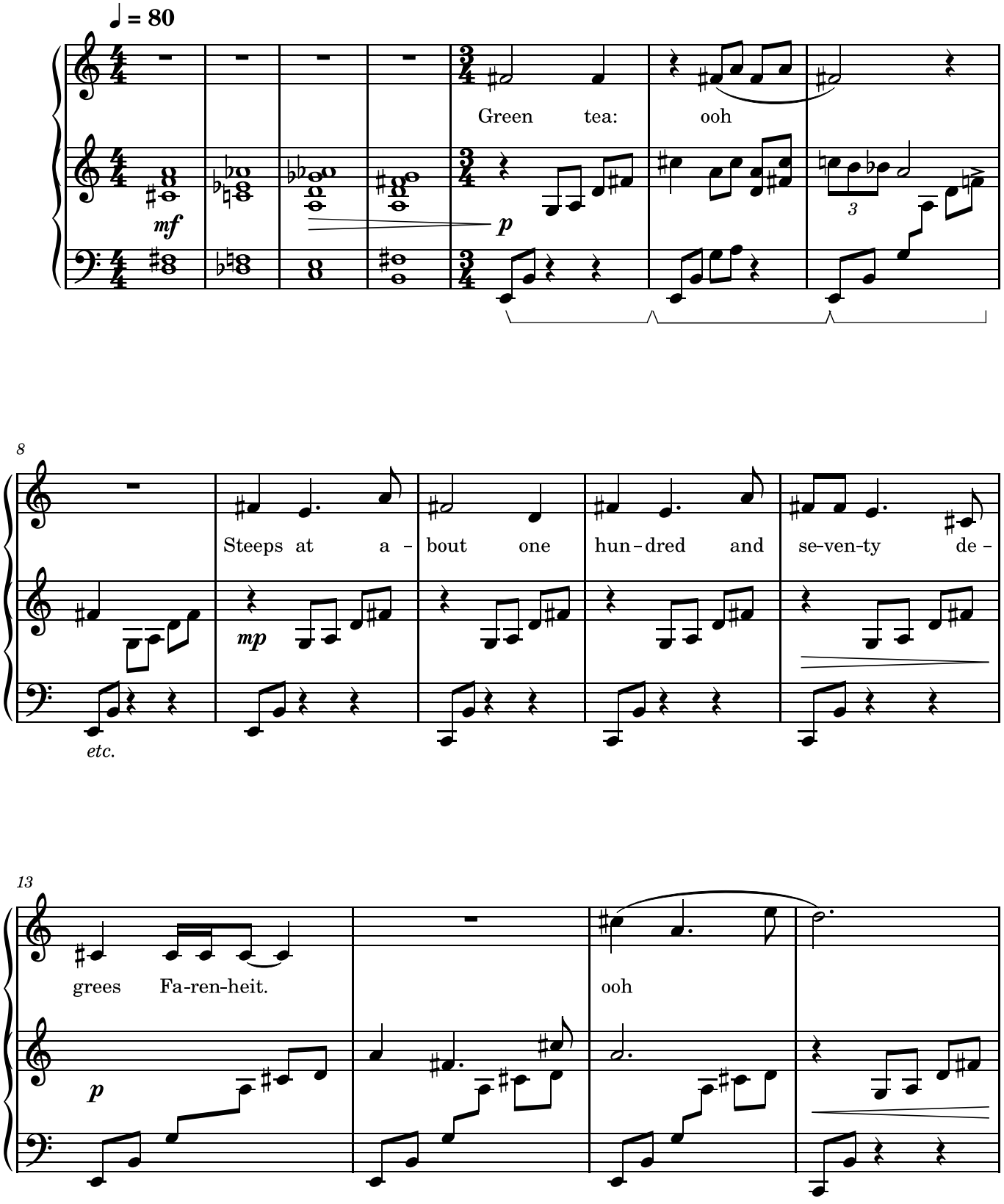

48
Vo.
Pno.
51
Vo.
One may be in the midst of a crow-ded ci-ty and yet feel as
Pno.
57
Vo.
if he were in the fo-rest far a - way
Pno.
ppp

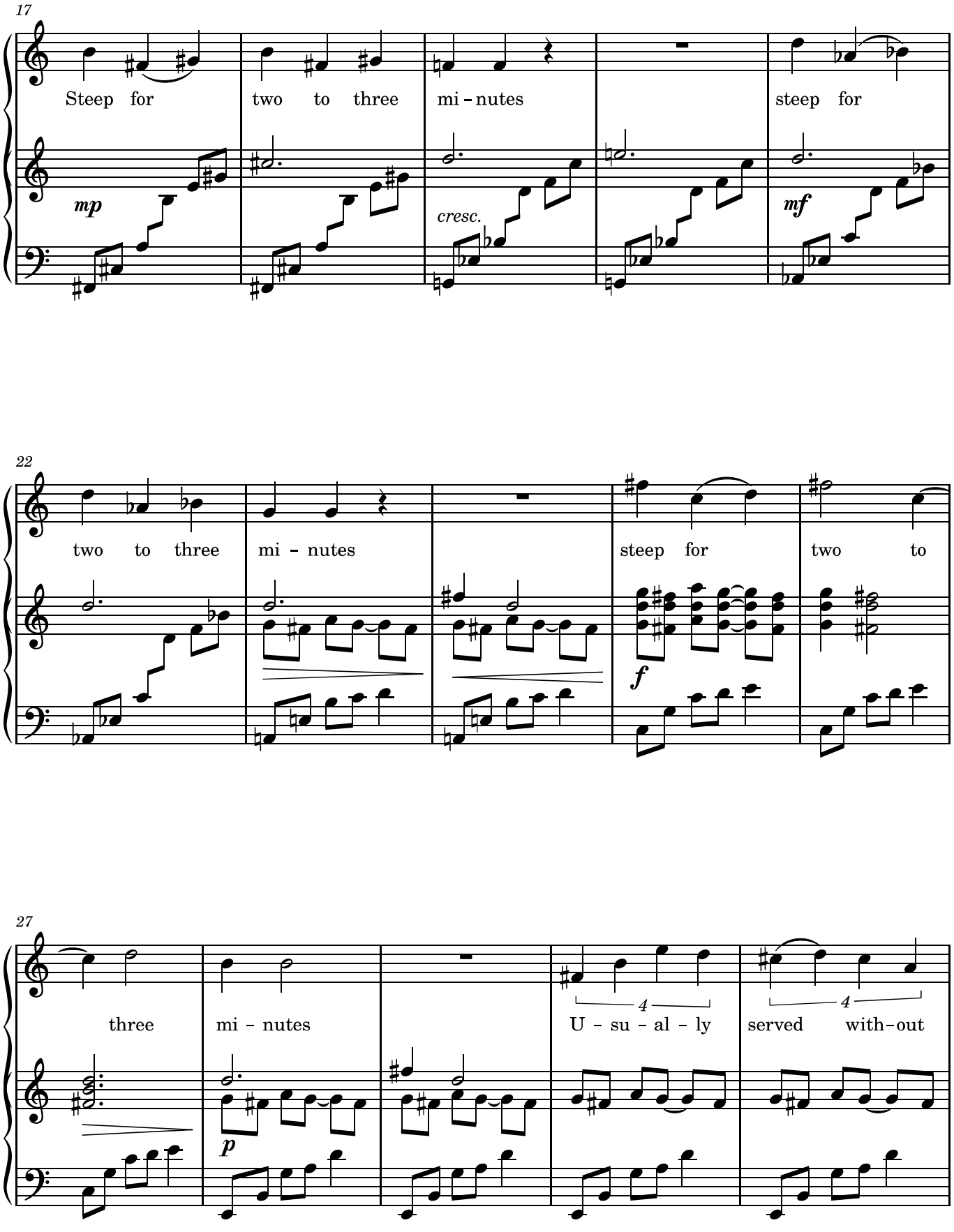
Green Tea

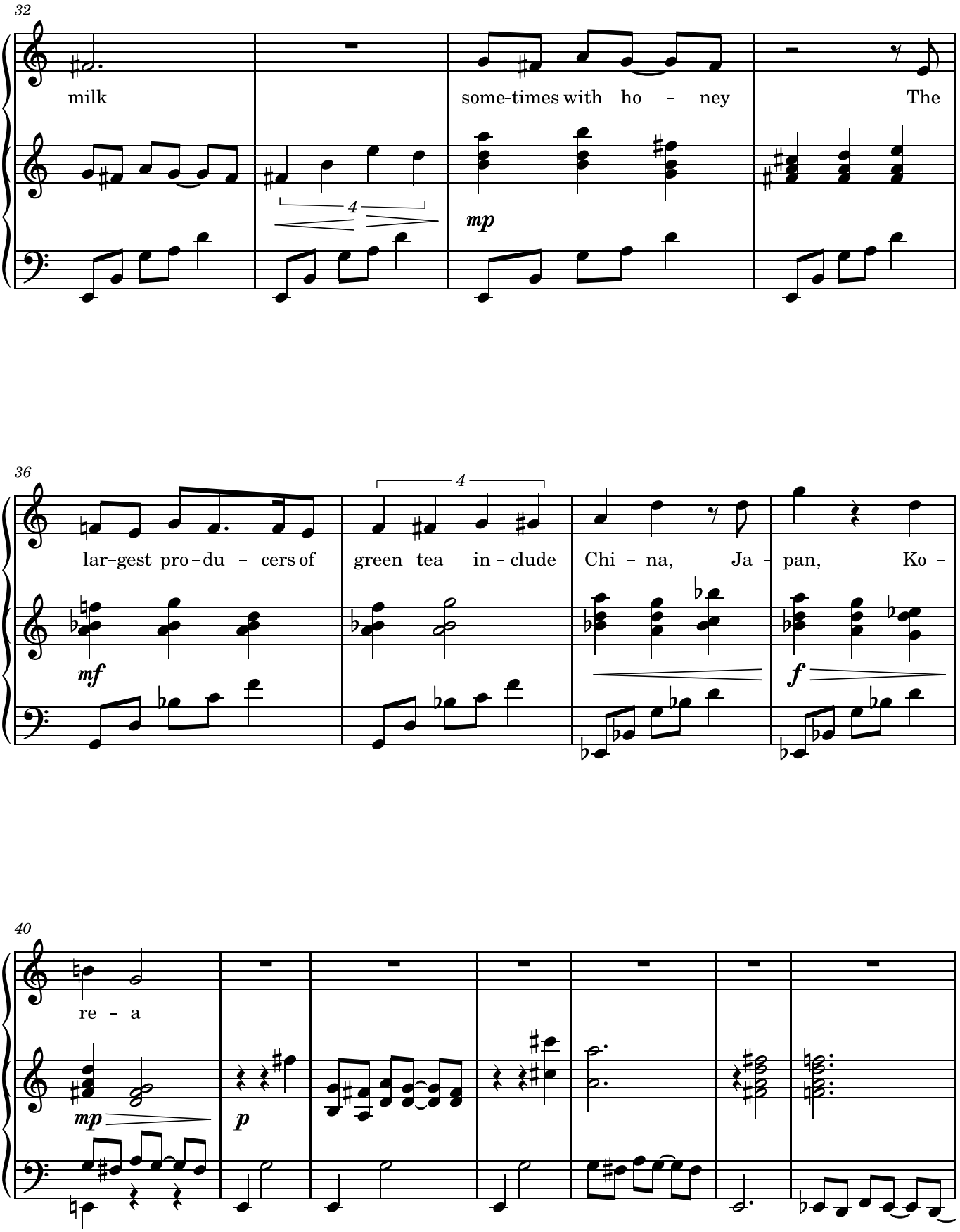
The Book of Tea

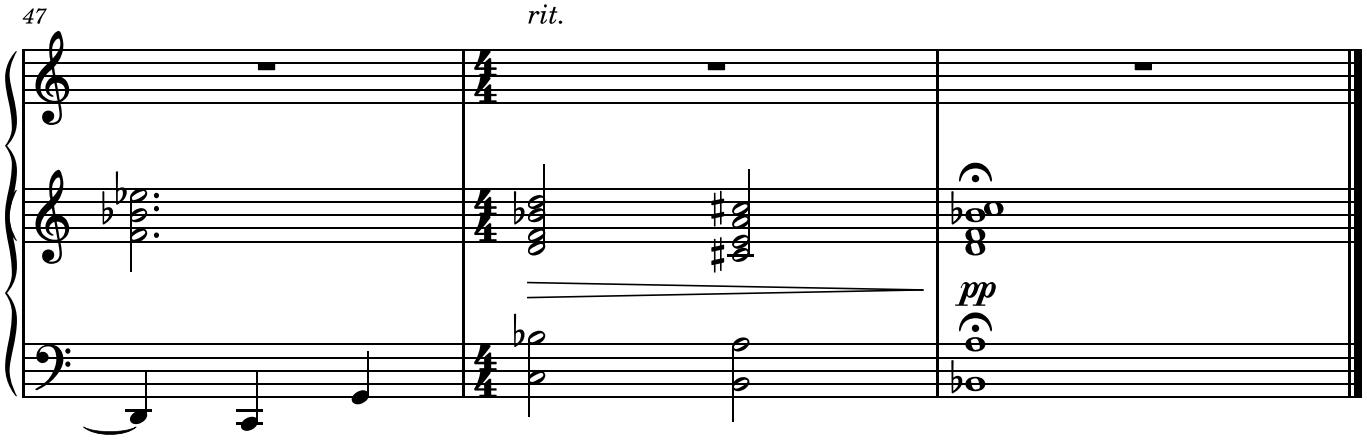
original text

John Haukoos




17
Steep for two to three mi - nutes steep for
mp
cresc.
mf
22
two to three mi - nutes steep for two to
f
27
three mi - nutes U - su - al - ly served with - out
4
4
p


32
milk
some-times with ho - ney
The
4
mp
36
lar-gest pro-du - cers of
green tea in-clude
Chi - na,
Ja - pan,
Ko -
4
mf
f
40
re - a
mp
p


47
rit.
pp

Meanwhile

From The Book of Tea

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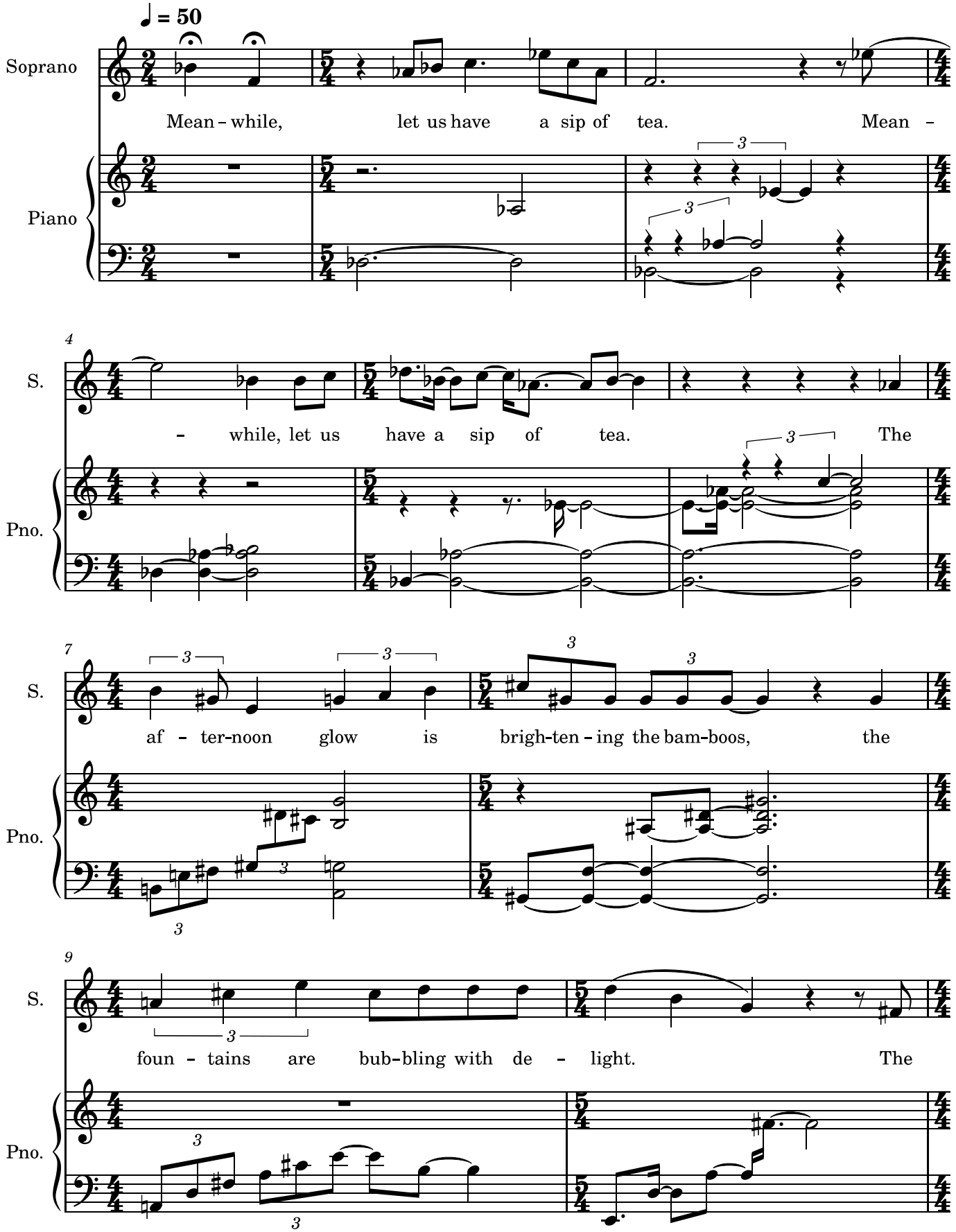
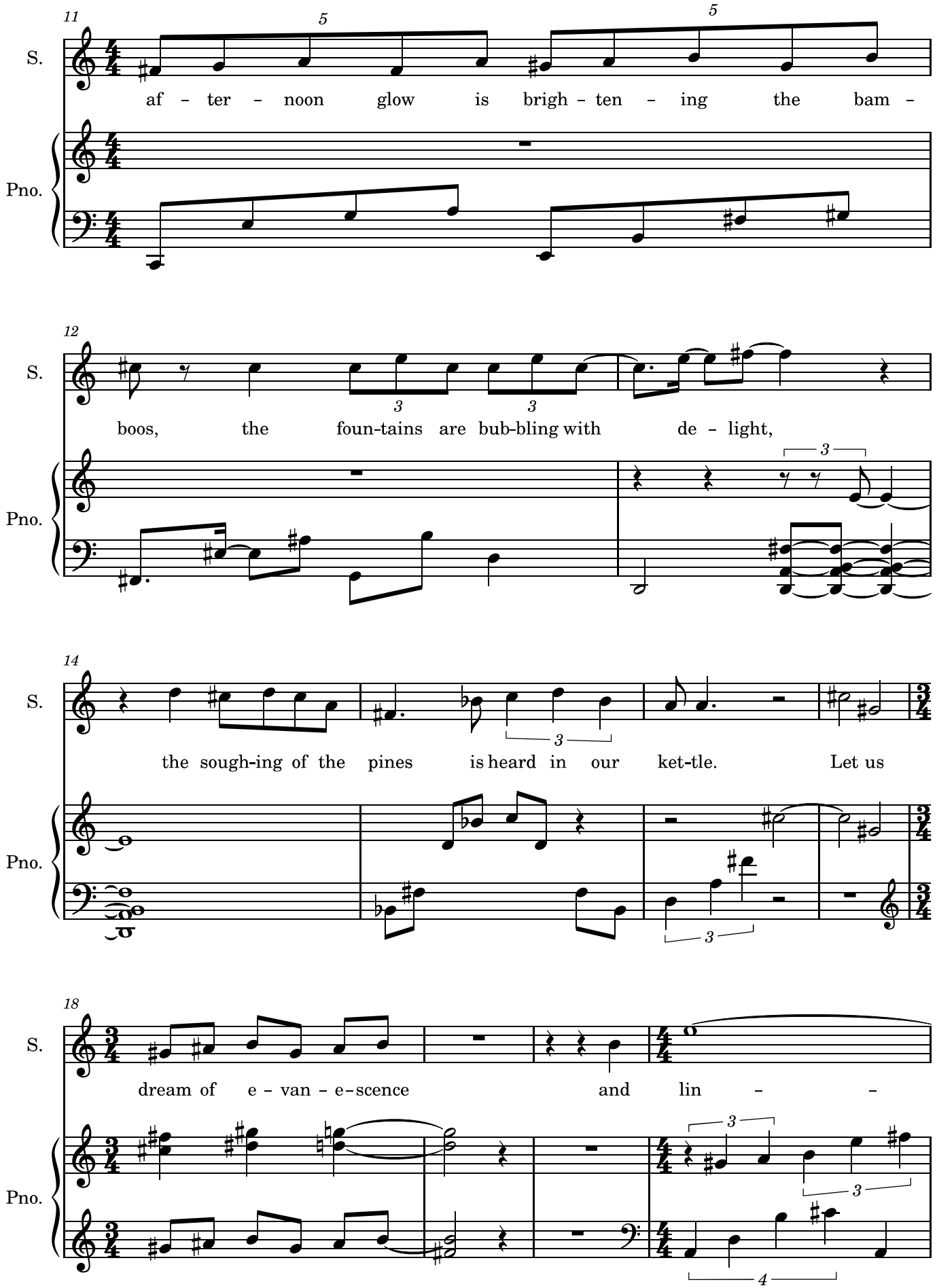
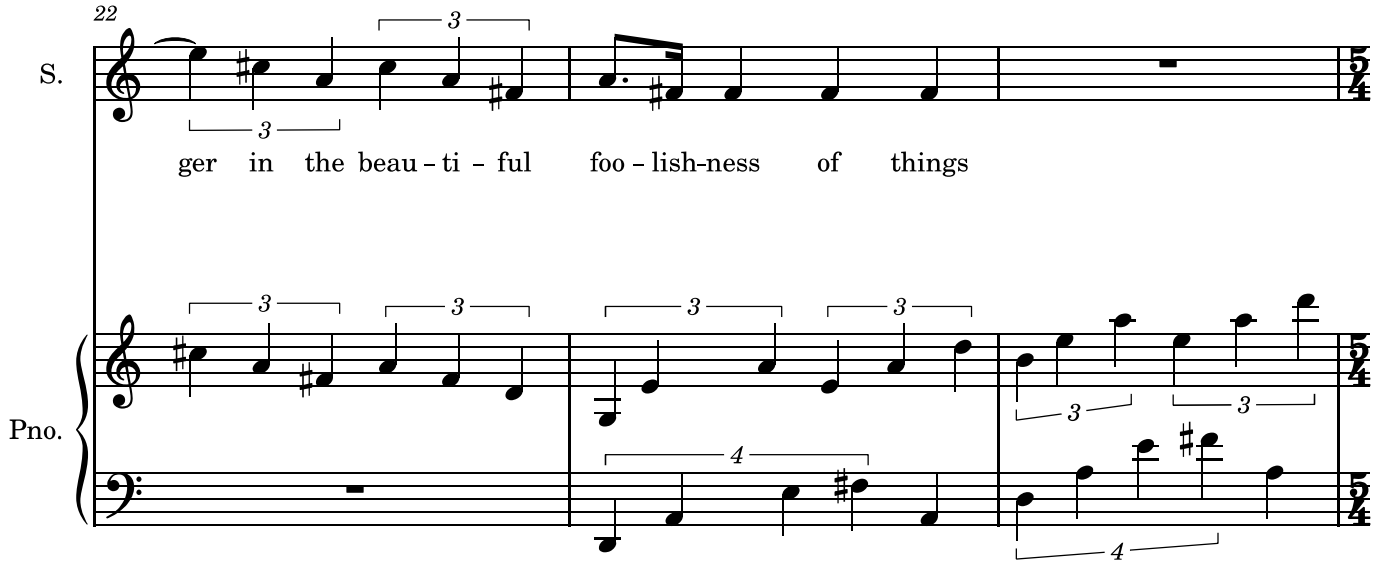
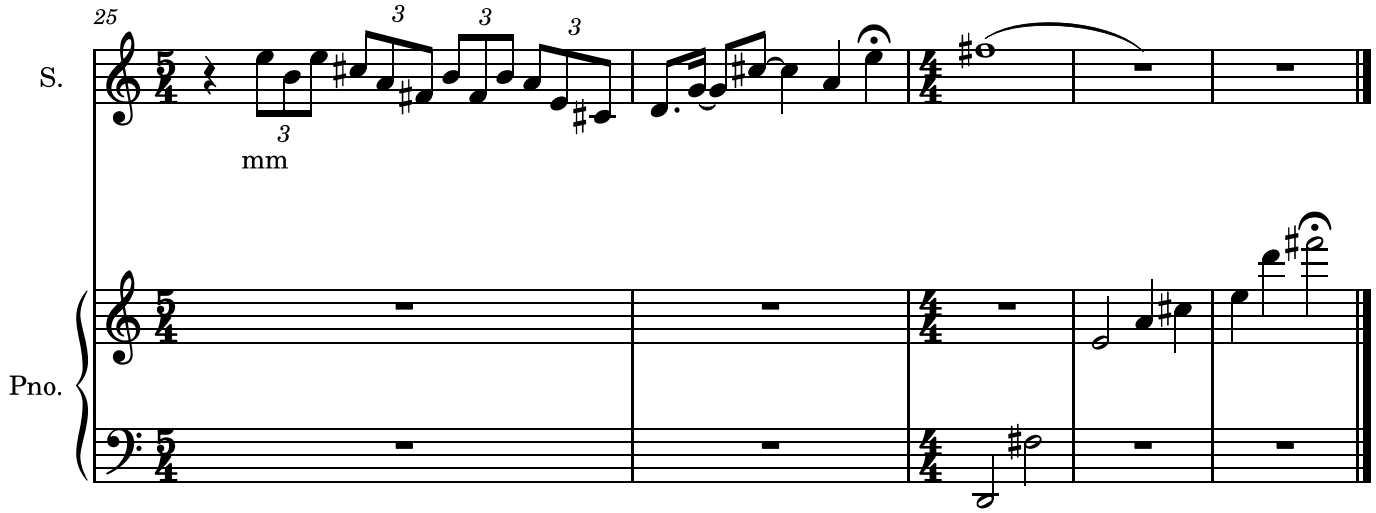



11
S.
af – ter – noon glow is brigh – ten – ing the bam –
Pno.
12
S.
boos, the foun-tains are bub-bling with de – light,
Pno.
14
S.
the sough-ing of the pines is heard in our ket-tle. Let us
Pno.
18
S.
dream of e – van – e–scence and lin – –
Pno.


22
S.
ger in the beau - ti - ful foo - lish-ness of things
Pno.


25
S.
mm
Pno.