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The Phrases of the Moon

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Akari Komura

The Phrases of the Moon

(2019)

3 Movements
for Mezzo-soprano and Violin

Text by Andrew Joron

The Phrases of the Moon

I. Full/Half

II. Crescent

III. New

Duration

ca. 10 min

Text

Inspired by **"The Phrases of the Moon"**

by Andrew Joron (b. 1955)

(The piece excludes the text in second stanza)

Full

the blow to a gong
—gone blind

with the sight of white
Silk, O milk
of my reason—

sun reseen in
My mad mad mirror.

Gibbous

Sense
Less science: the

Wish-apparition of a perfect fact.

As thought, the war
Of one upon one.

Half

Half a mind almost mine.

Whole
fragment, I am
A being from another word.

Crescent

Bow bent back—to what release?

My lone line, the join of all I am not.

A minor truth betrays
A major one—
A lore
for the lyre.
For it is written: liar with a why.

New

Calling all coincidence, I will
Deem the dark my day.

Yet—if I say
I am lying, I am lying
To you now.

O zero raised to zero—I am lying with you now.

Program Note

The piece explores the timbre of voice and violin in three movements, as the sung text narrates four stages of the moon from a poem by Andrew Joron. The two instruments sometimes emerge as one timbre but often move in canon or in two distinct musical lines, as some of these melodic motives get passed onto one another throughout each movement. The transformational relationship of the voice and violin in its timbre and melodic lines portrays the different appearances of the moon in nature, and how it evokes different atmospheres in the sky above us.

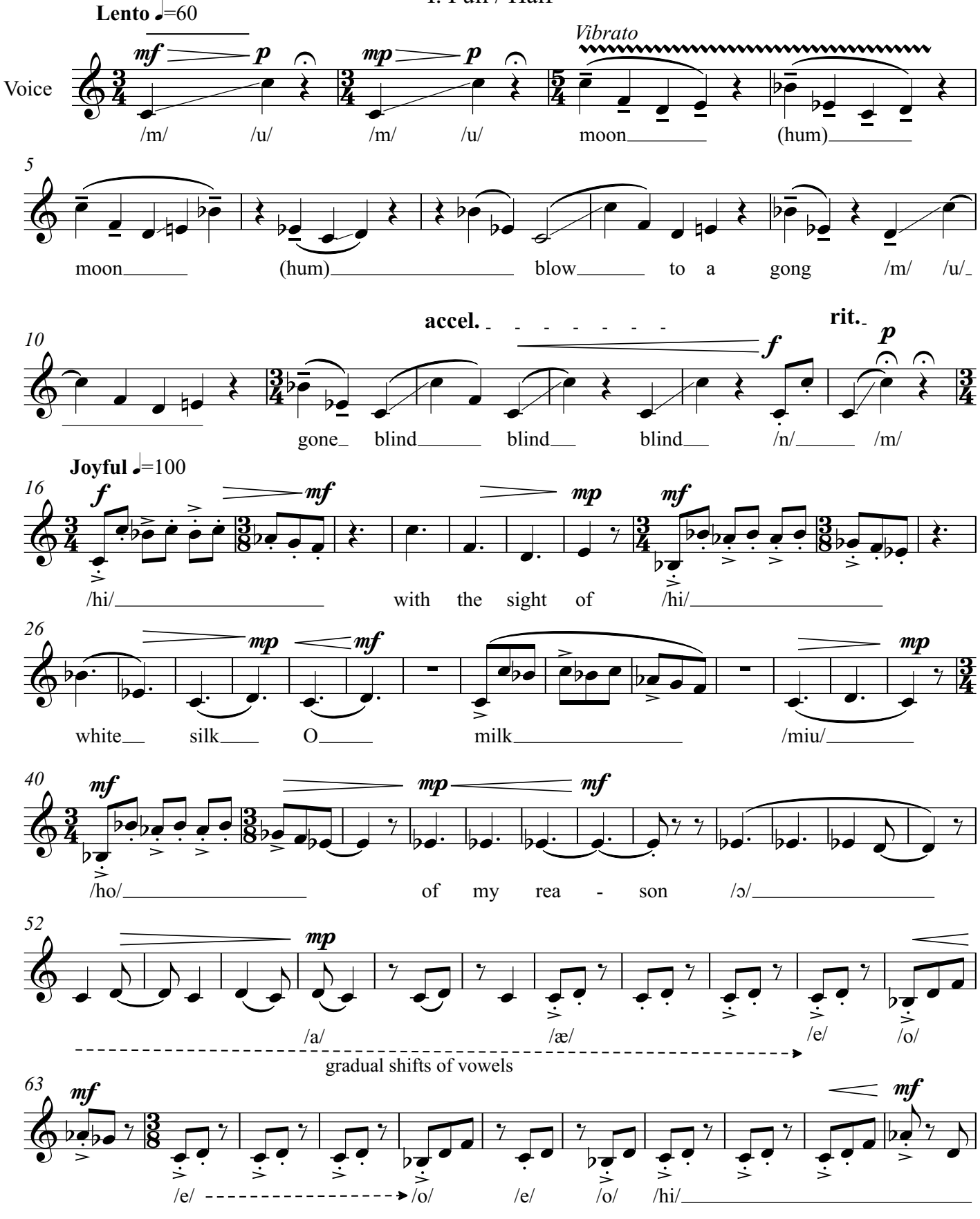
Andrew Joron
(b. 1955)

The Phrases of the Moon

(2019)

Akari Komura
(b. 1996)

I. Full / Half



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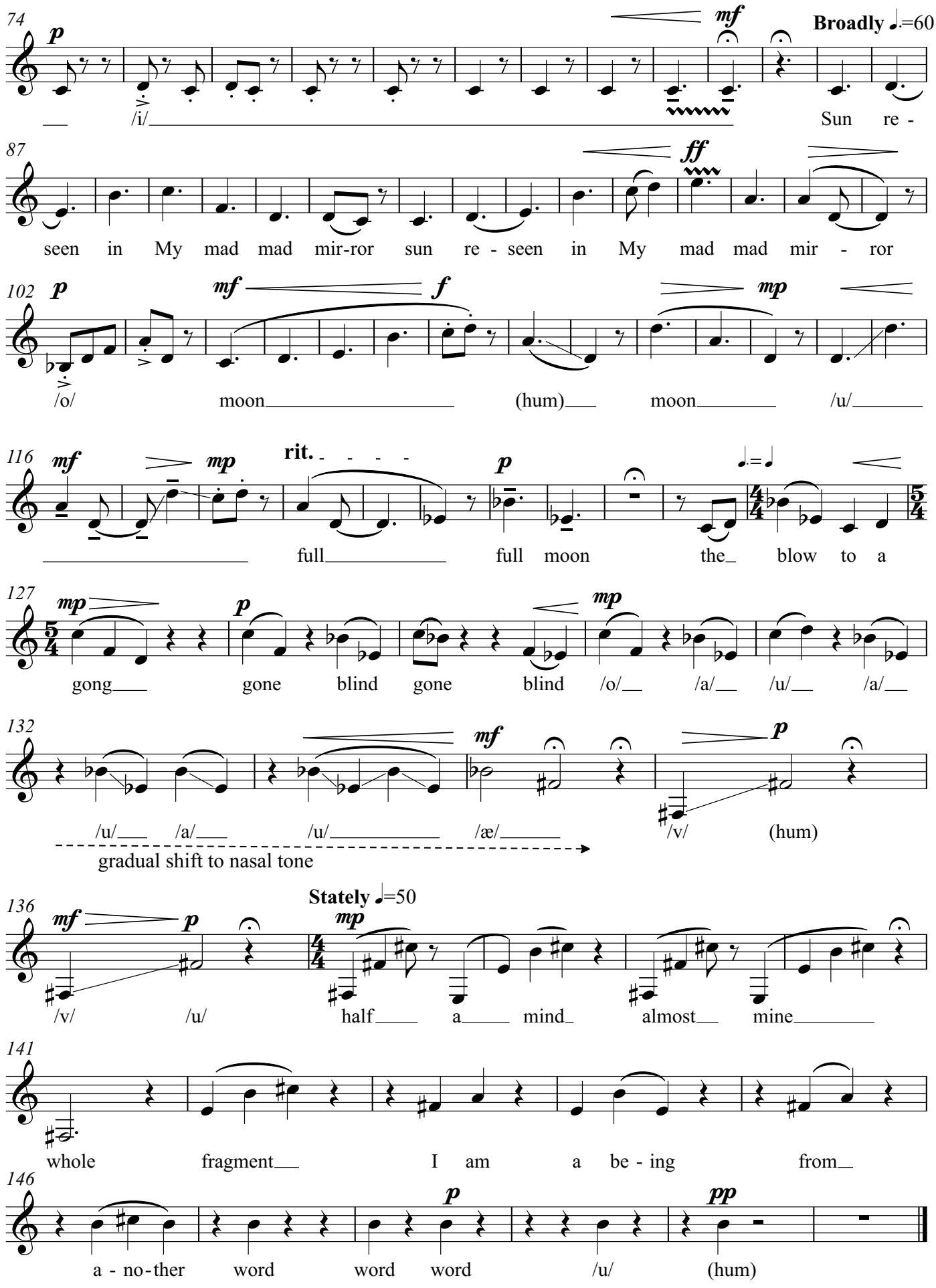
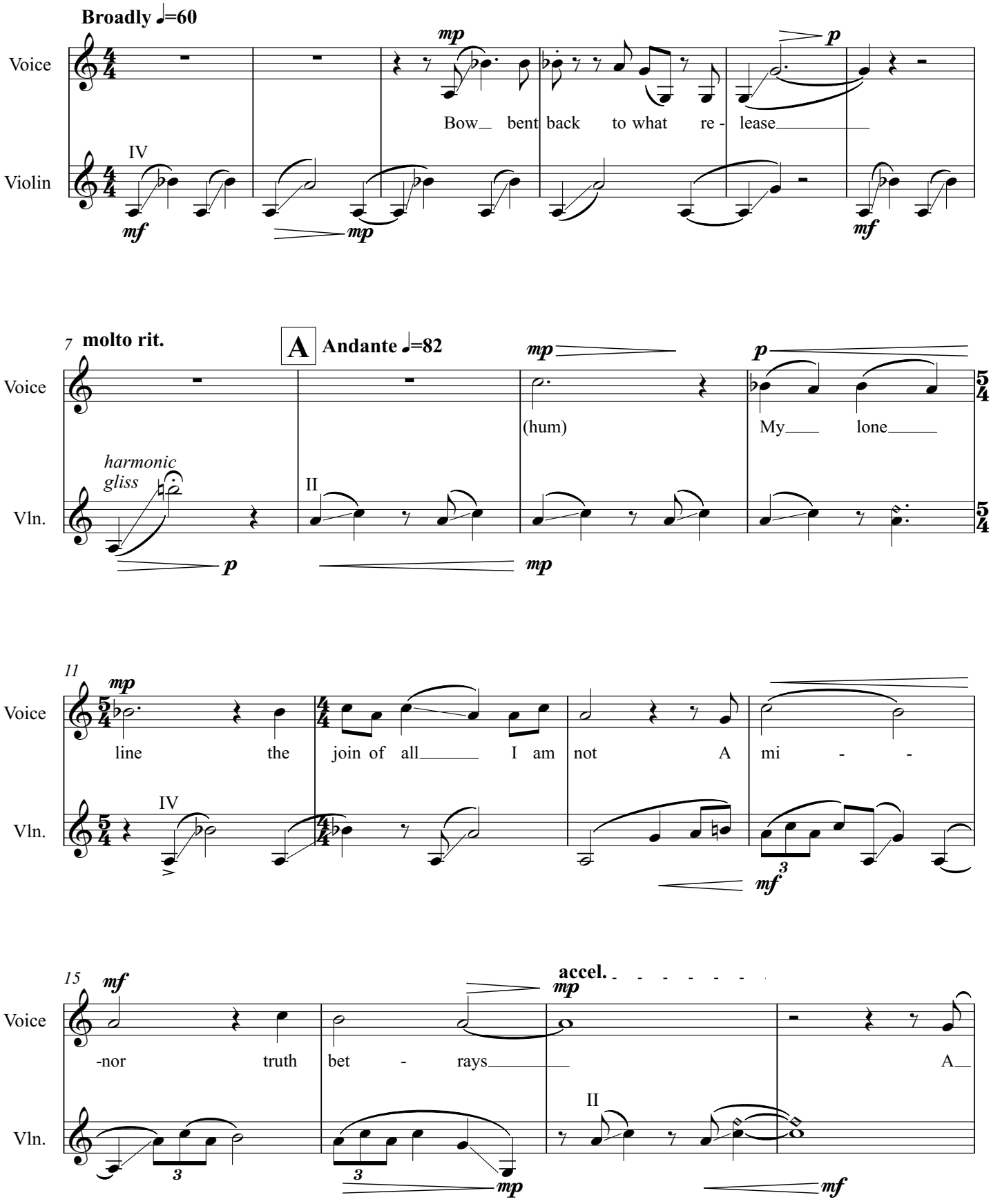
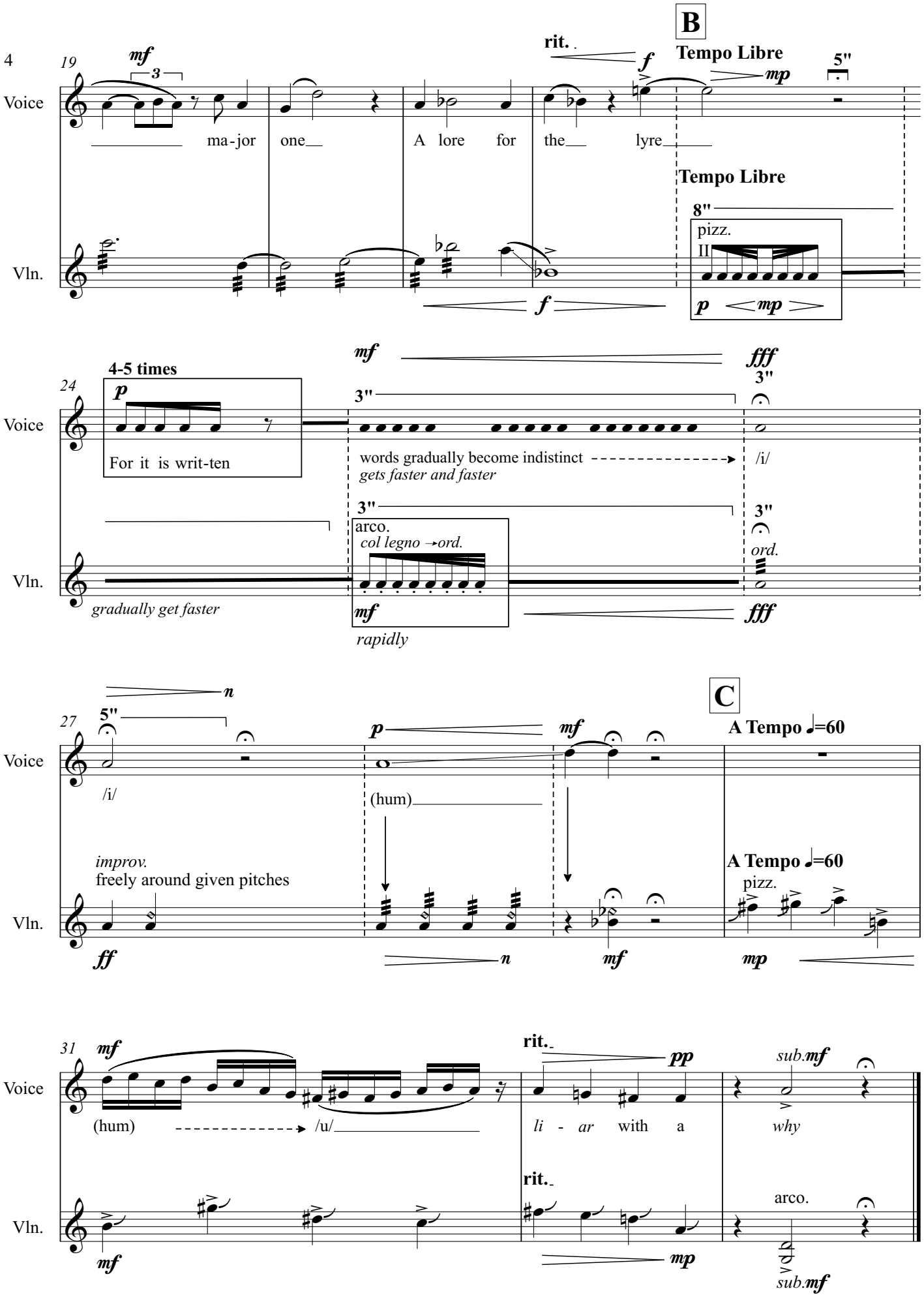
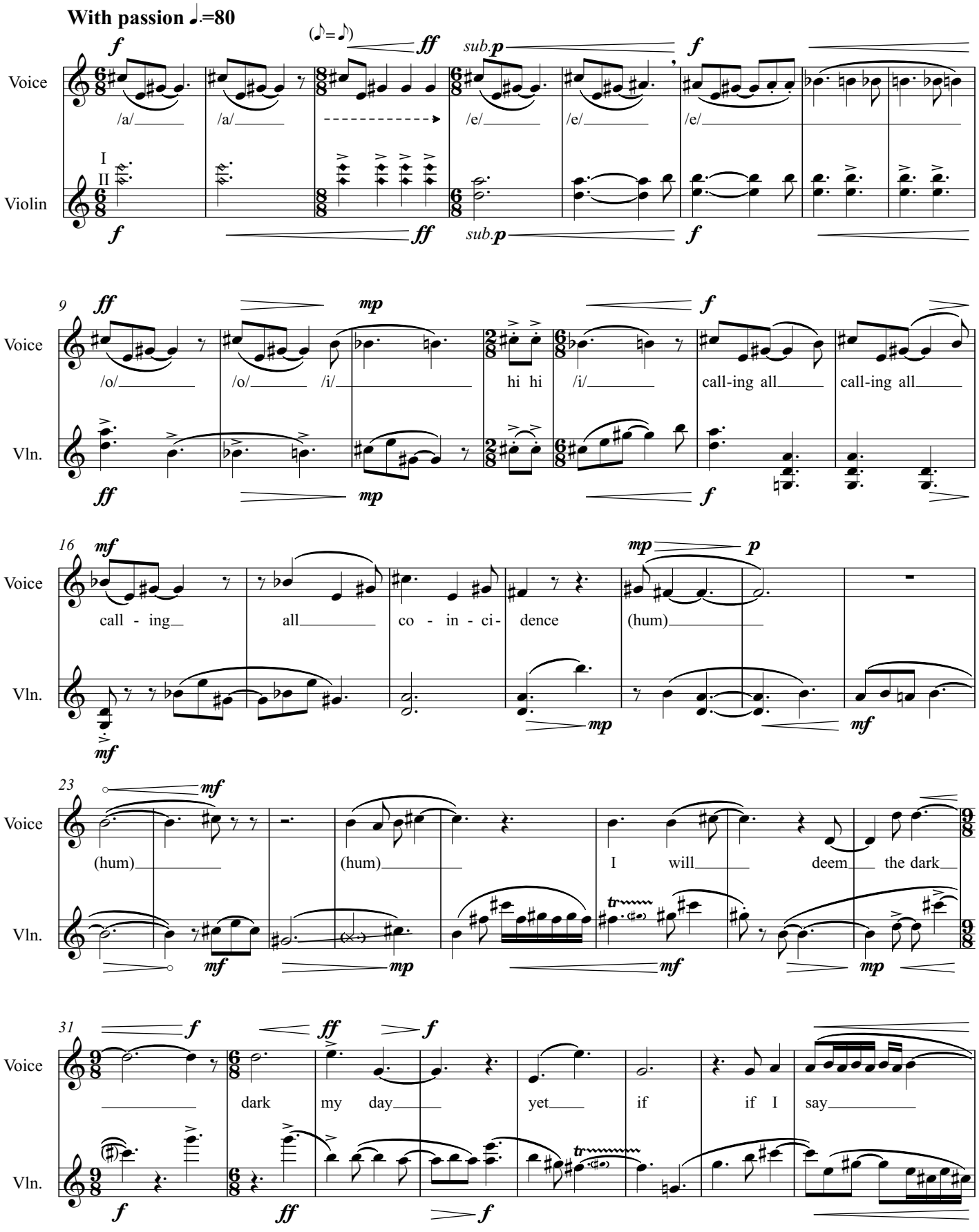
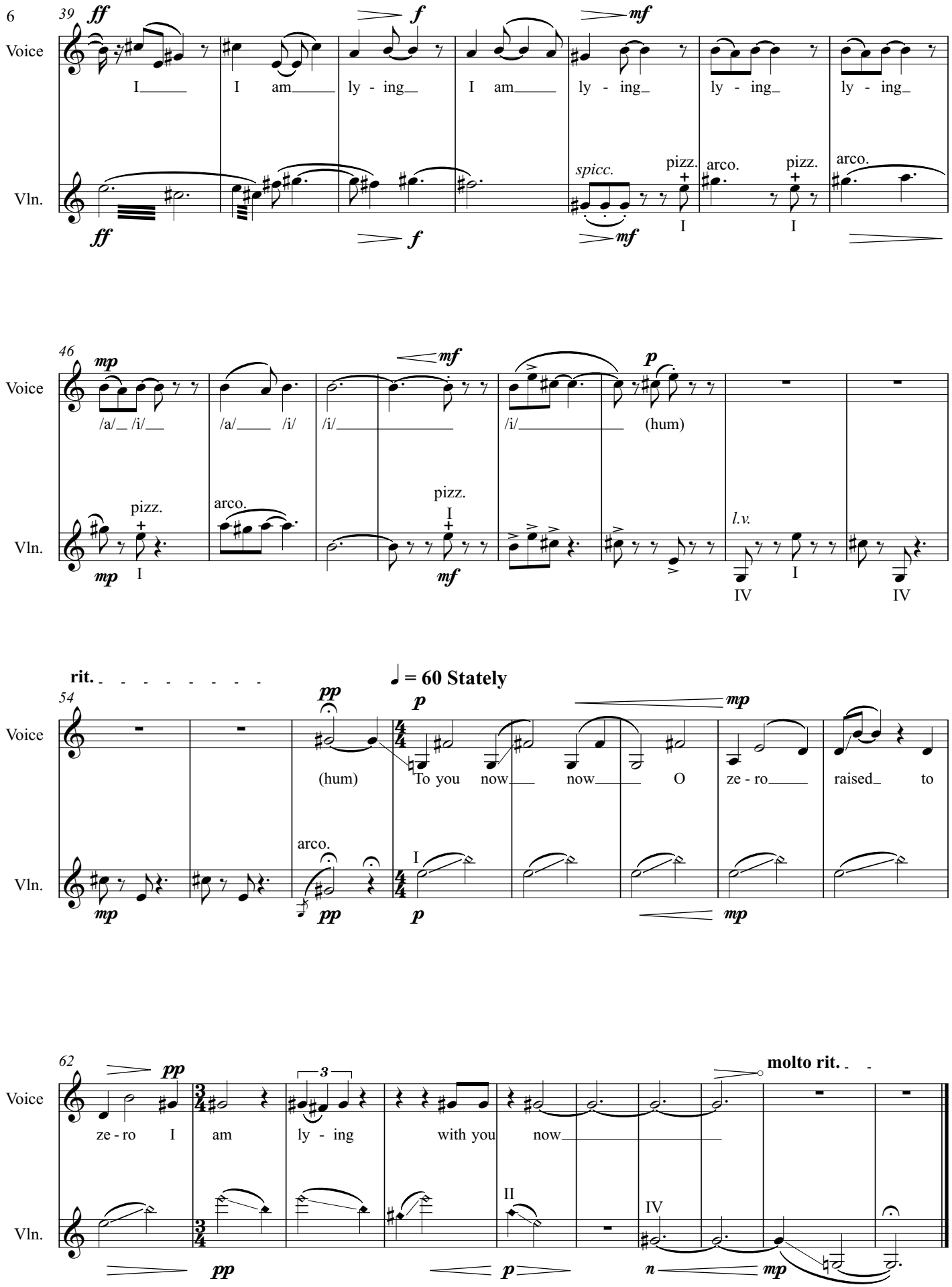

74
p
mf
Broadly ♩.=60
/i/
Sun re -
87
ff
seen in My mad mad mir-ror sun re - seen in My mad mad mir - ror
102
p
mf
f
mp
/o/
moon
(hum)
moon
/u/
116
mf
mp
rit.
p
full
full moon
the
blow to a
127
mp
p
mp
gong
gone blind gone blind /o/ /a/ /u/ /a/
132
mf
p
/u/ /a/ /u/ /æ/
/v/ (hum)
gradual shift to nasal tone
136
mf
p
Stately ♩=50
mp
/v/ /u/
half a mind almost mine
141
whole fragment I am a be - ing from
146
p
pp
a - no-ther word word word /u/ (hum)


Broadly ♩=60
Voice
Violin
mp
p
Bow_ bent back to what re - lease_____
IV
mf
mp
mf
7 molto rit.
A Andante ♩=82
mp
p
(hum)
My___ lone___
harmonic gliss
II
Vln.
p
mp
11
mp
line the join of all_____ I am not A mi - -
IV
mf
15
mf
accel.
mp
-nor truth bet - rays_____ A_
II
mp
mf


19
mf
3
rit.
f
B
Tempo Libre
5"
mp
Voice
ma-jor one
A lore for the lyre
Tempo Libre
8"
pizz.
II
Vln.
f
p
mp
24
mf
fff
4-5 times
p
3"
3"
For it is writ-ten
words gradually become indistinct
gets faster and faster
/i/
3"
3"
arco.
col legno →ord.
ord.
Vln.
gradually get faster
mf
fff
rapidly
27
n
5"
C
p
mf
A Tempo ♩=60
Voice
/i/
(hum)
improv.
freely around given pitches
A Tempo ♩=60
pizz.
Vln.
ff
n
mf
mp
31
mf
rit.
pp
sub.mf
Voice
(hum)
/u/
li - ar with a
why
rit.
arco.
Vln.
mf
mp
sub.mf


With passion ♩.=80
Voice
Violin
Vln.
/a/ /a/ /e/ /e/ /e/
/o/ /o/ /i/ hi hi /i/ call-ing all call-ing all
call - ing all co - in - ci- dence (hum)
(hum) (hum) I will deem the dark
dark my day yet if if I say


39
ff
f
mf
Voice
I
I am
ly - ing
I am
ly - ing
ly - ing
ly - ing
Vln.
spicc.
pizz.
arco.
pizz.
arco.
I
I
46
mp
mf
p
/a/ /i/
/a/ /i/
/i/
/i/
(hum)
pizz.
arco.
pizz.
I
l.v.
I
IV
IV
54
rit.
pp
p
mp
= 60 Stately
(hum)
To you now
now
O
ze - ro
raised to
arco.
I
62
pp
3
molto rit.
ze - ro I am
ly - ing
with you now
II
IV
n