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September: Mt. Carrigain

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Rebekah Driscoll

SEPTEMBER: MT. CARRIGAIN

for soprano voice and string quartet

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www.rebekahdriscoll.com

ABOUT THIS PIECE

Mt. Carrigain is a 4,683-foot peak in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, which I climbed in September 2014. It was my 43rd of New Hampshire's 48 peaks over 4,000 feet, the last before my worsening health made this kind of hiking no longer possible. This piece will be included in *Ill on a Journey*, a multilingual opera/oratorio about navigating life with chronic illness.

I began climbing these mountains as a child
back then I set a goal to one day know them all
when I got sick so many goals had to be abandoned
and yet I held onto this

Signal Ridge Trail is a rocky spine ascending through evergreens
soaked in mist, clothed in moss and mushrooms
although I've never been here, somehow I feel at home

today it's not too difficult to hold my head up straight
today my vision is clear
today the grip of pain is loose enough to move
this is as good as I can feel
as good as I'll ever feel

Signal Ridge Trail is laced with slippery tree roots
sending me stumbling— ankles twisting—
my body knows I want to leave it and bites the rock in despair

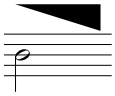
taking a break, out of breath, we tell each other
"The view will be sublime, when the clouds lift!"
but the clouds never lift
they swirl around the firetower
in wind threatening to tear us away
refusing to allow even a glimpse of the green beyond

heading down
knees also refuse to obey
blood turned spiky as the trail

paper birch, I am a foreigner in your home now
will you kindly steady me?

—Rebekah Driscoll, 2017

PERFORMANCE NOTES

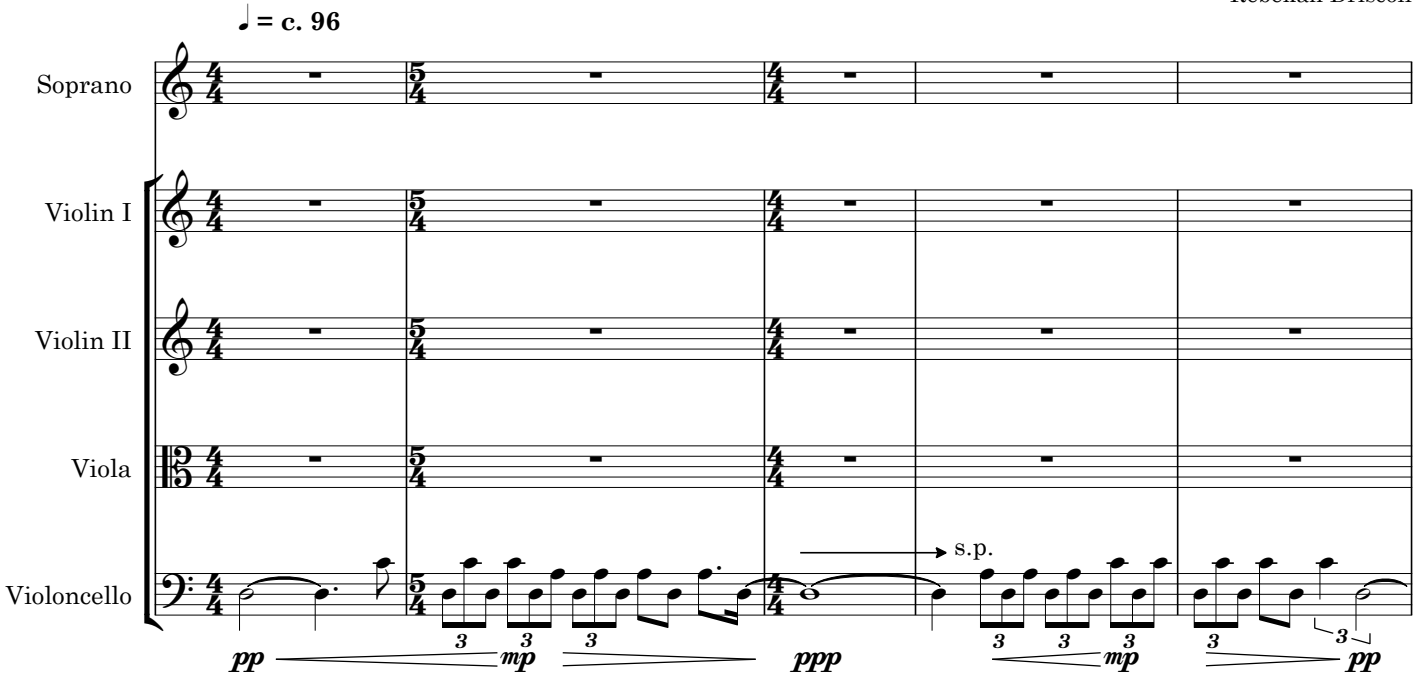
s.p.	sul ponticello
	Airy tone: mute with left hand, use fast bow speed and light pressure, without completely obscuring the pitch.
n	*niente*, as quietly as possible
	Crunch bow: use slow bow speed and increasingly heavy pressure, distorting the tone.

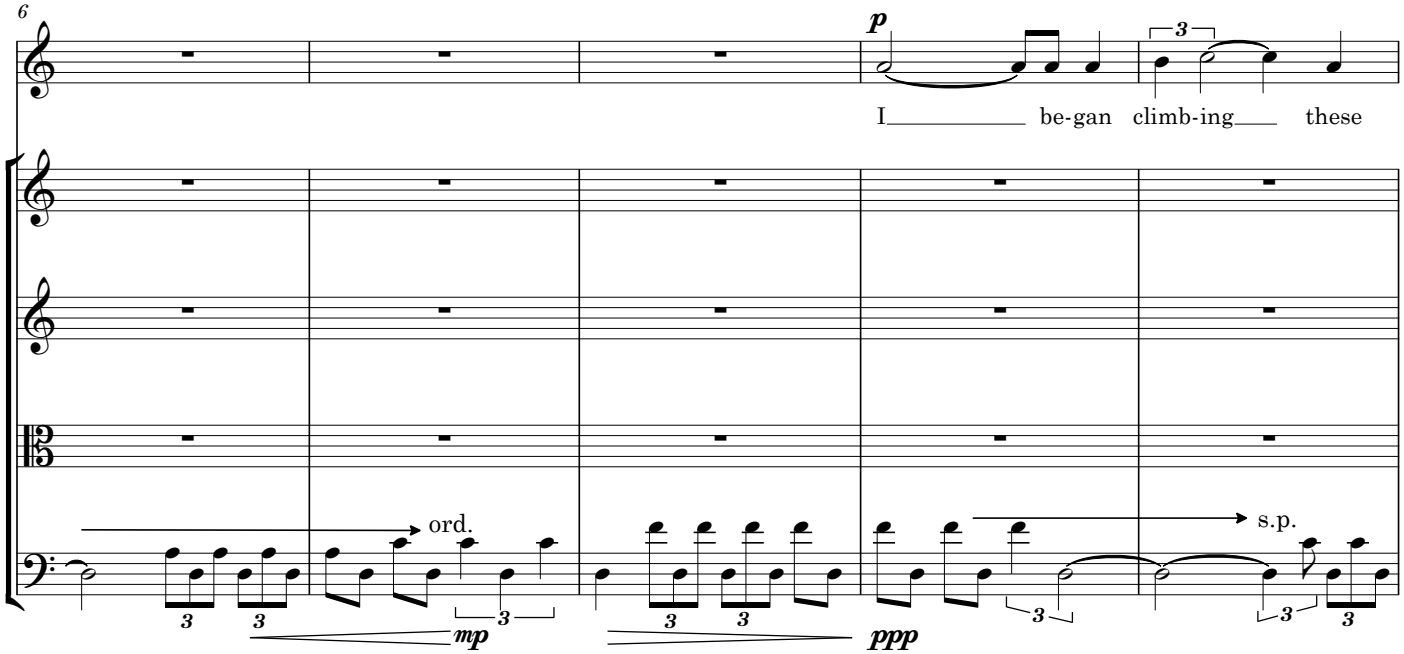
Accidentals carry through the bar.

Duration: c. 7 minutes.

September: Mt. Carrigain

Words & Music by
Rebekah Driscoll





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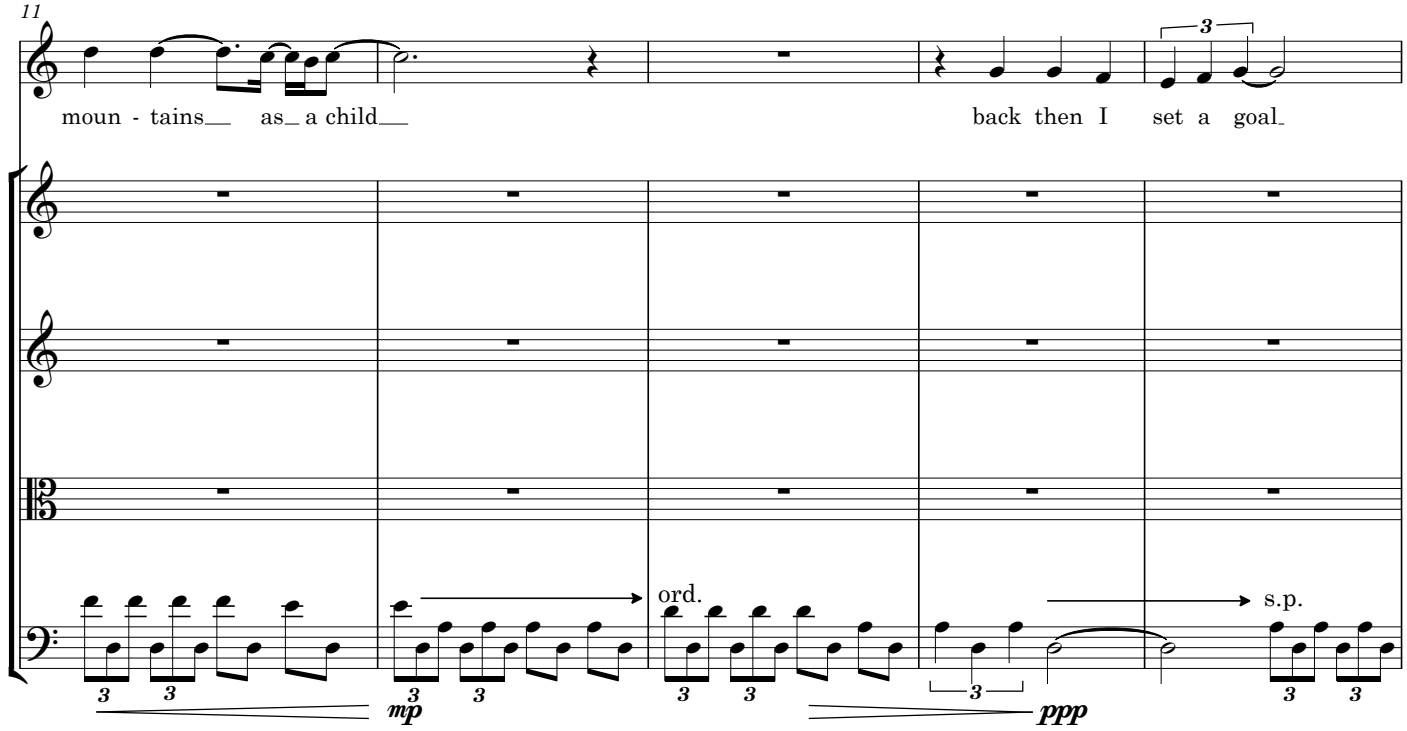
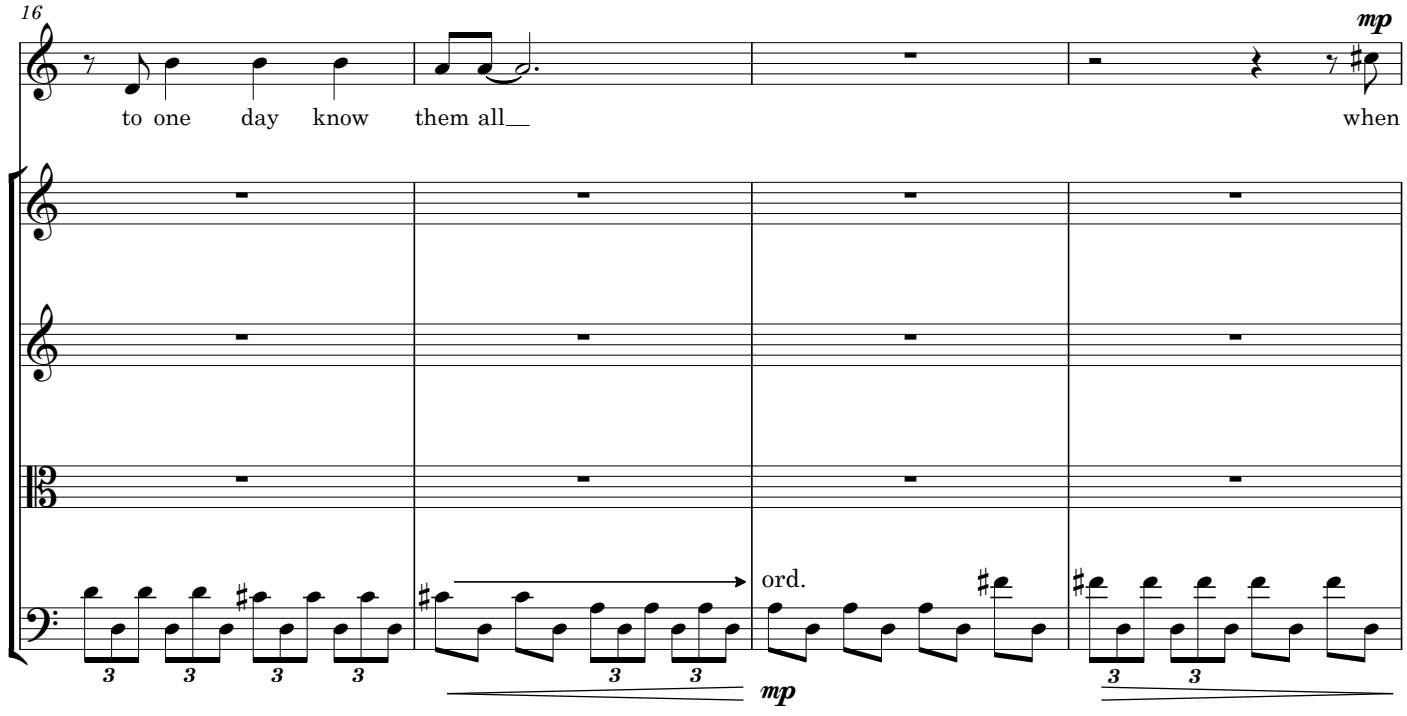
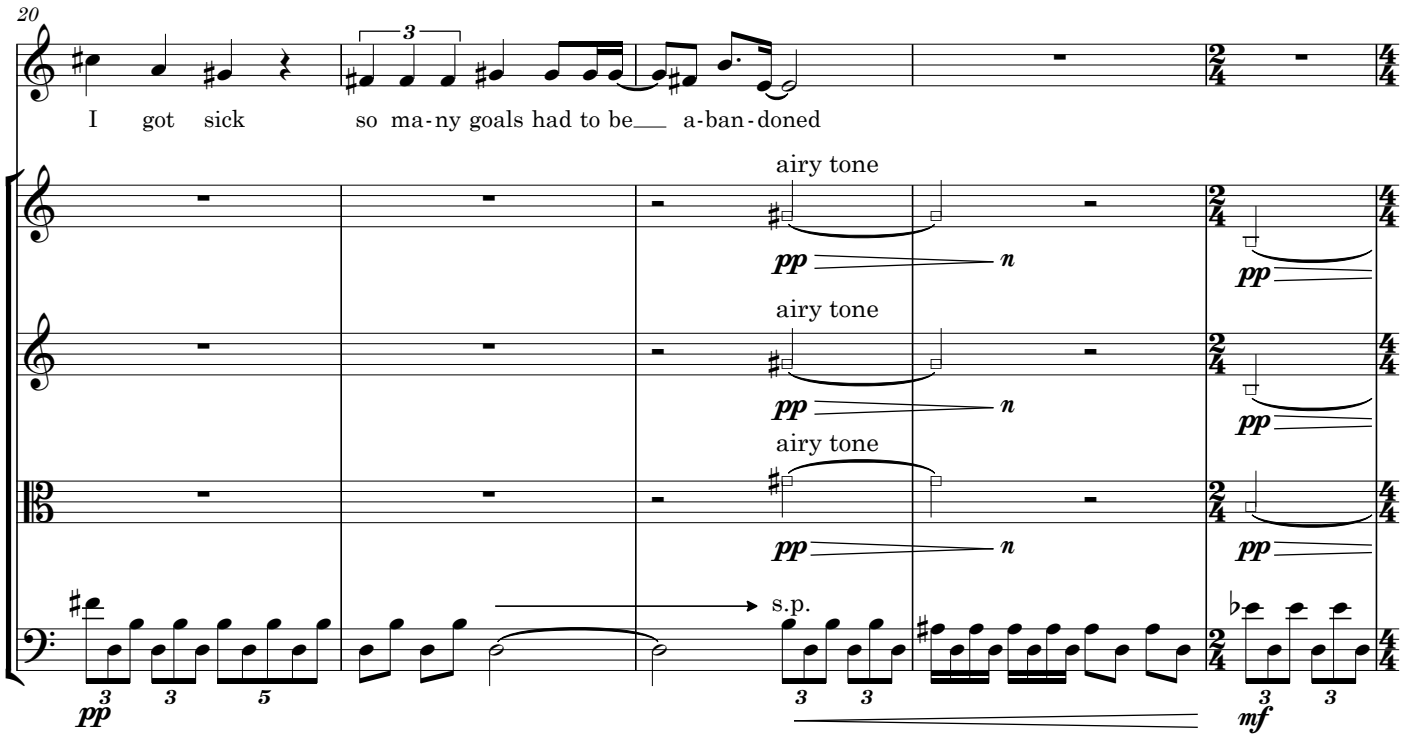
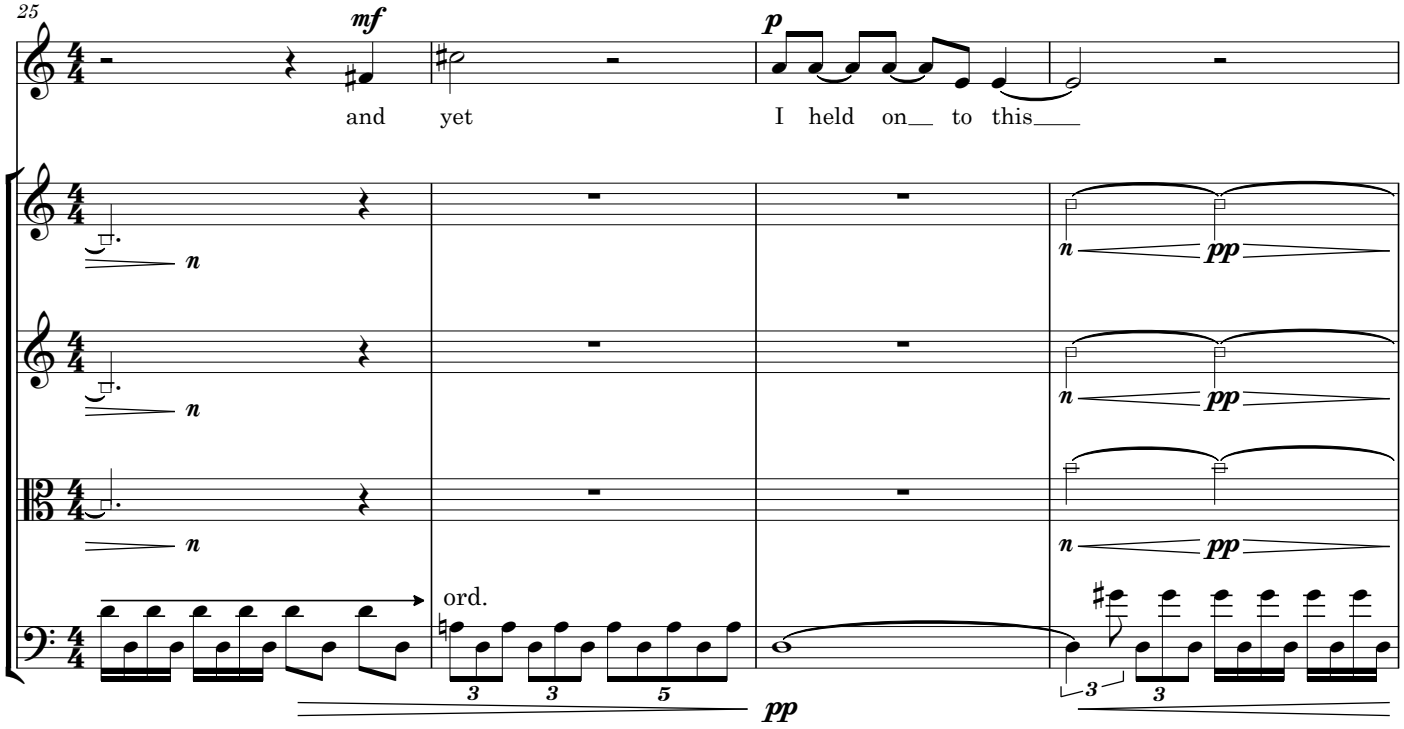
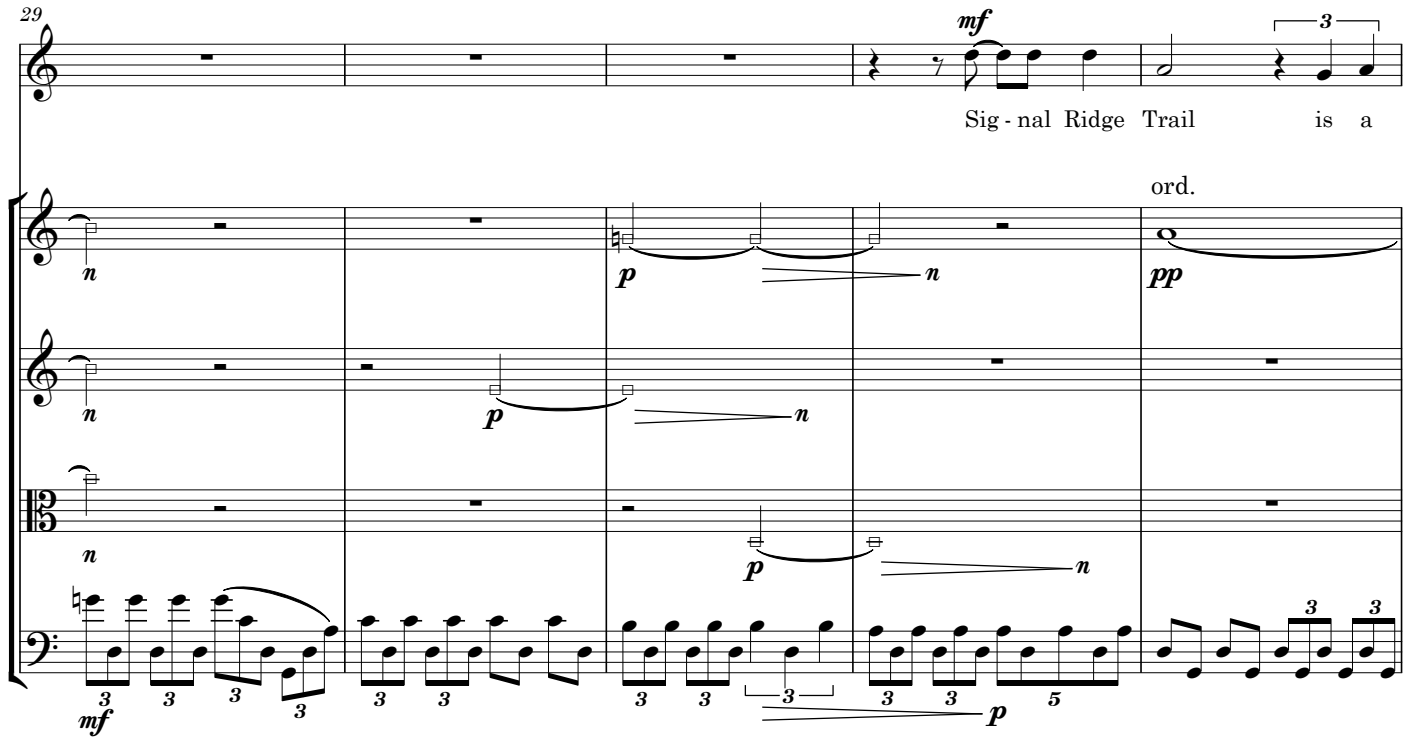
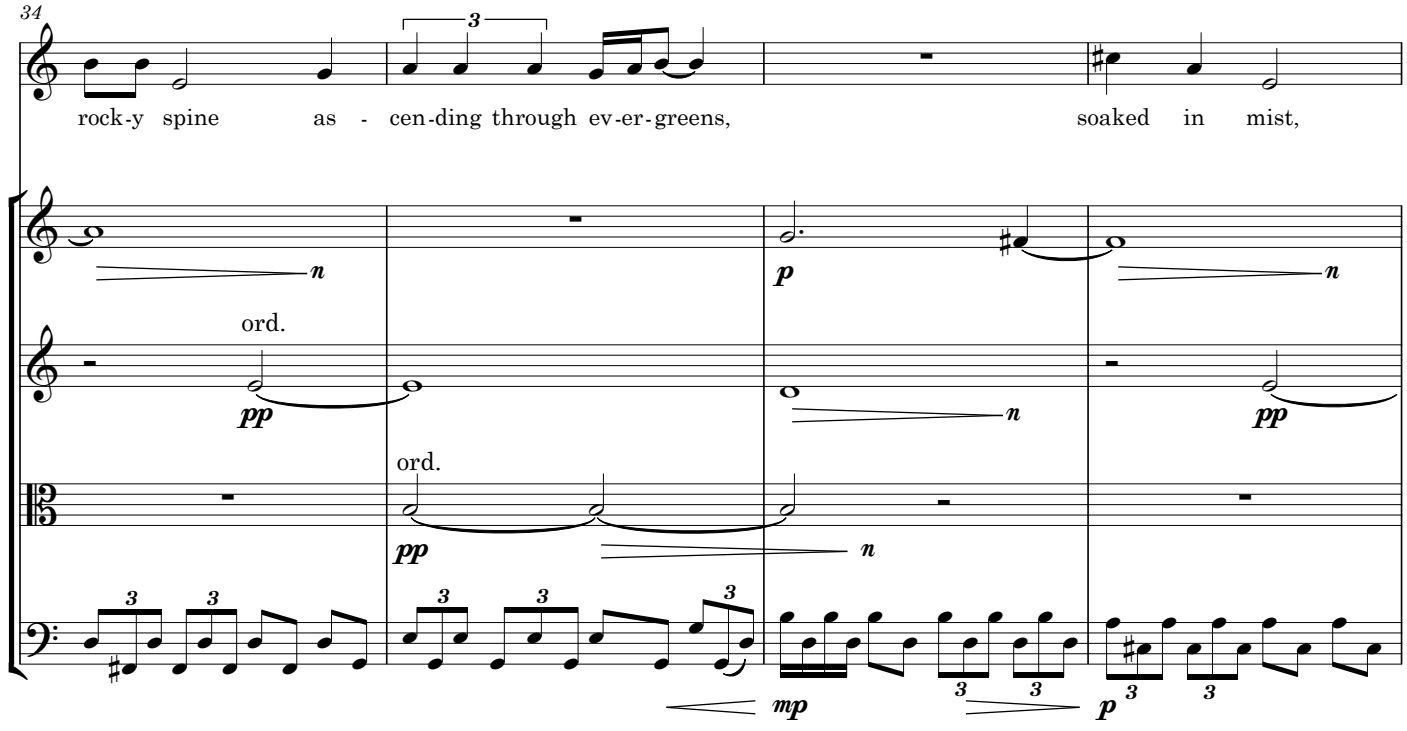

11
moun - tains as a child
back then I set a goal
ord.
s.p.
mp
ppp

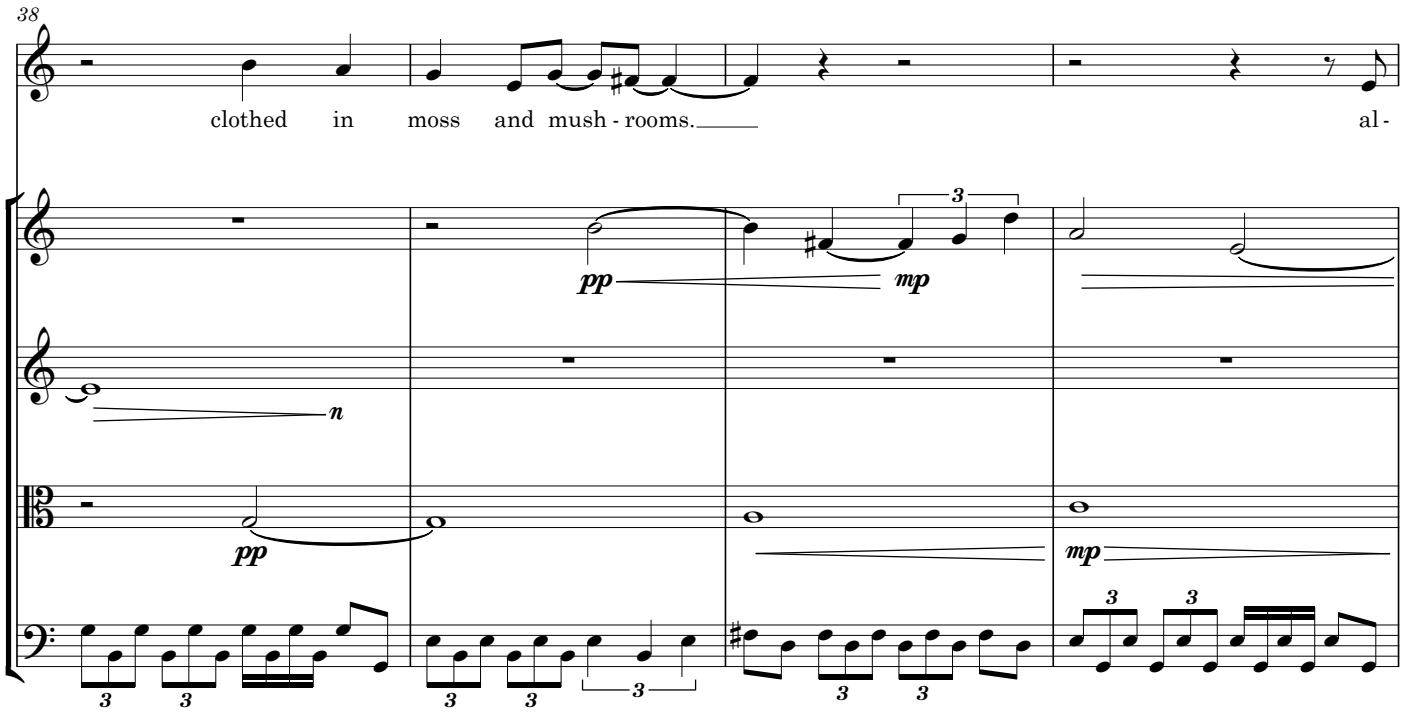

16
to one day know them all
when
mp
ord.
mp

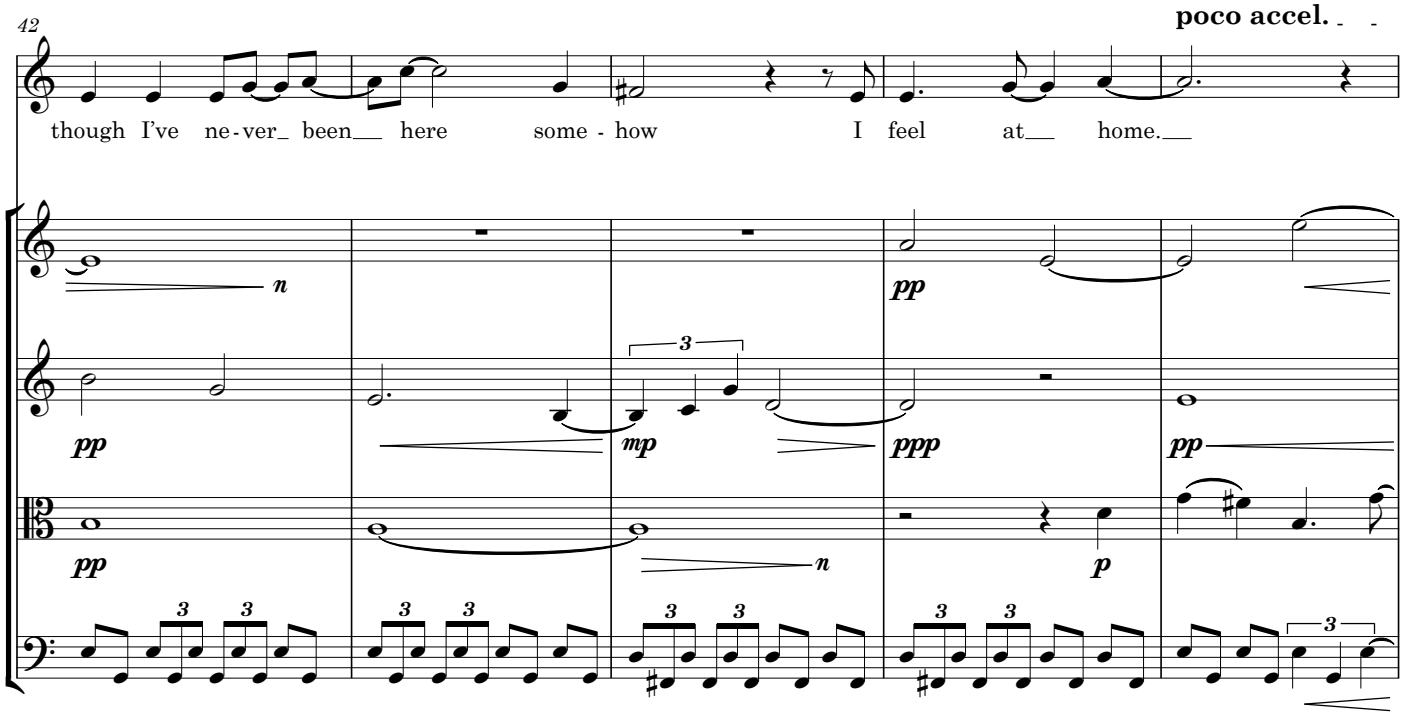

20
I got sick so ma-ny goals had to be a-ban-doned
airy tone
airy tone
airy tone
pp
n
s.p.
mf


25
mf
and yet
p
I held on to this
ord.
pp


29
mf
Sig - nal Ridge Trail is a
ord.
n
p
n
pp
n
p
n
p
n
mf
p

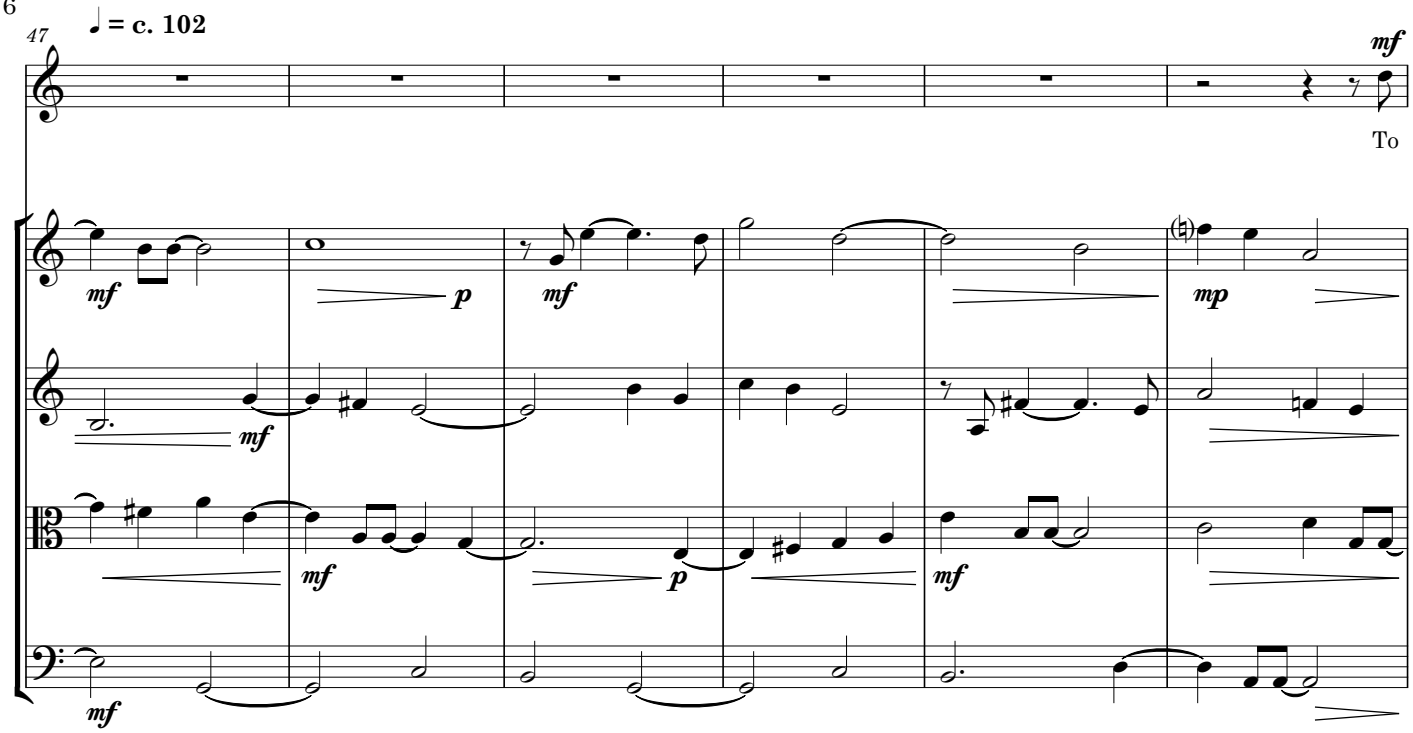

34
rock-y spine as - cen-ding through ev-er-greens, soaked in mist,
n
p
n
ord.
pp
n
pp
ord.
pp
n
mp
p


38
clothed in moss and mush - rooms.
al -
pp
mp
n
pp
mp

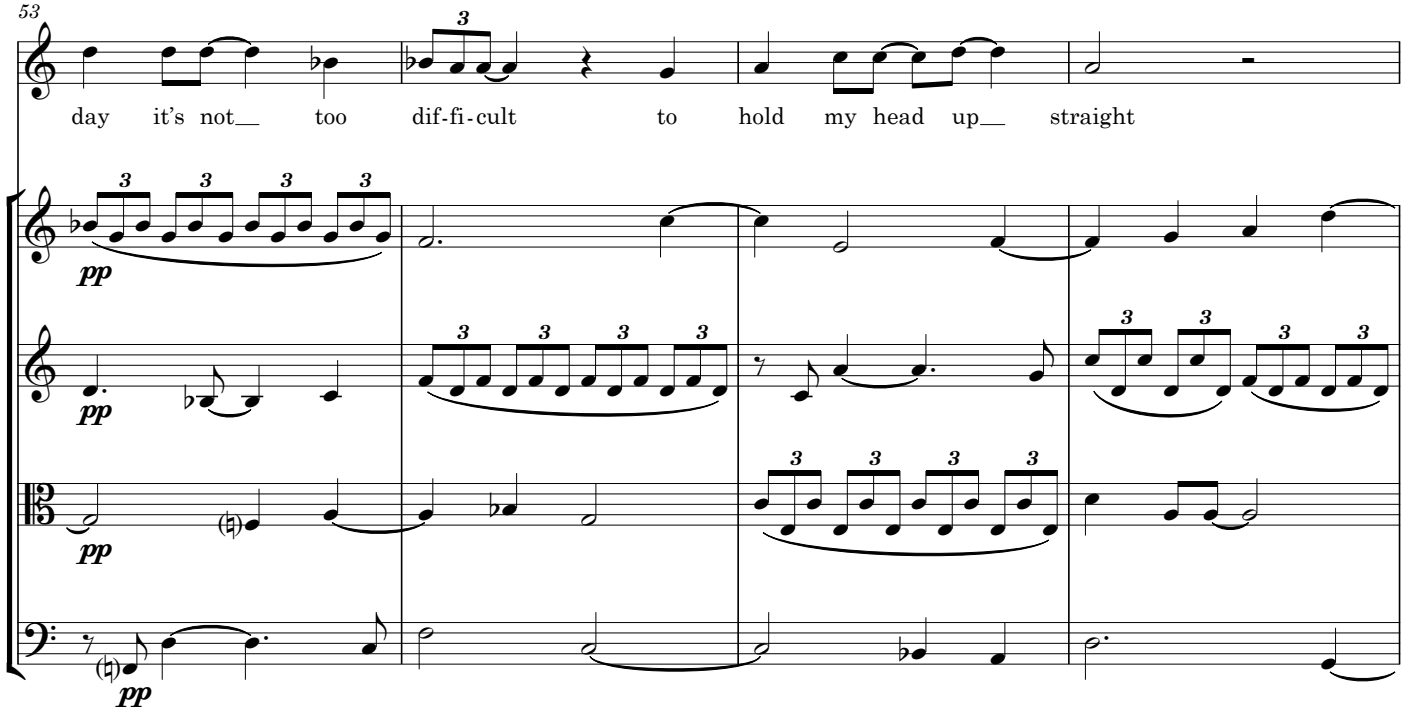

42
poco accel.
though I've ne - ver_ been__ here some - how I feel at__ home.__
n
pp
pp
mp
ppp
pp
pp
n
p

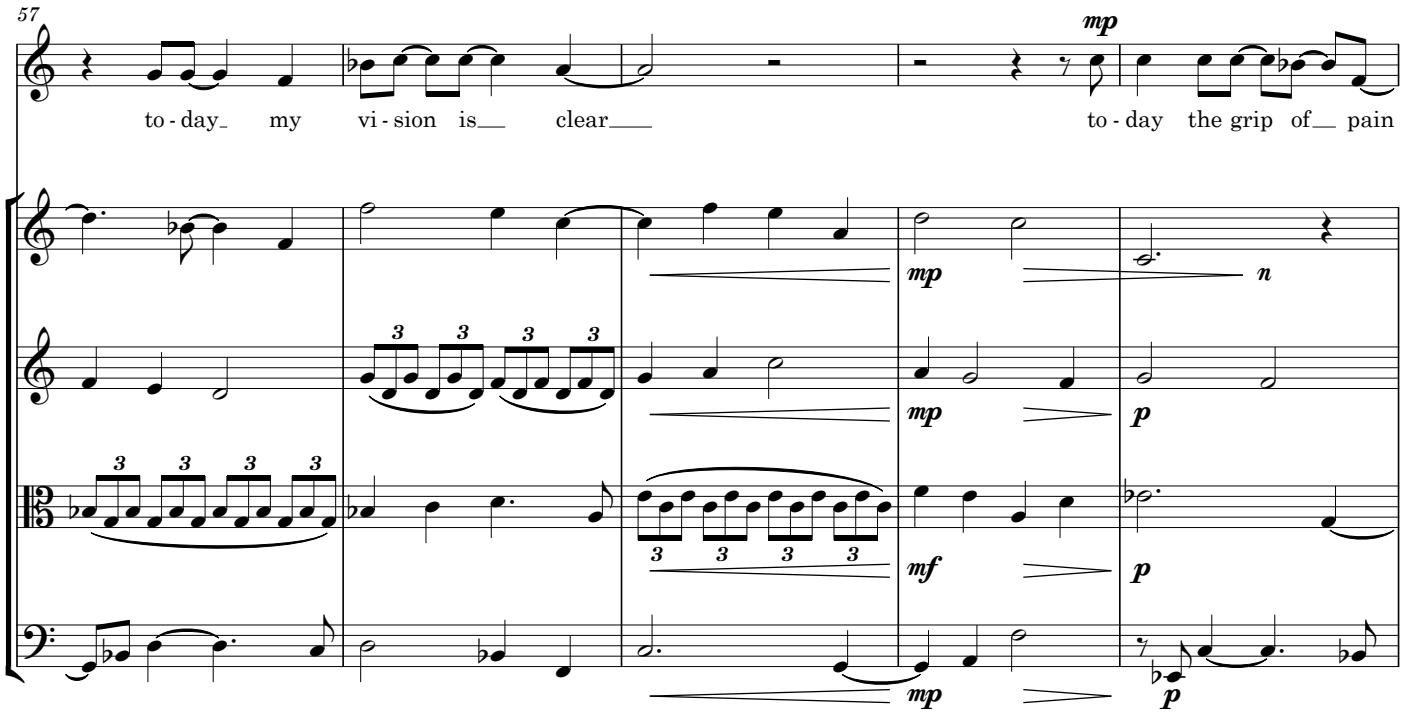
47

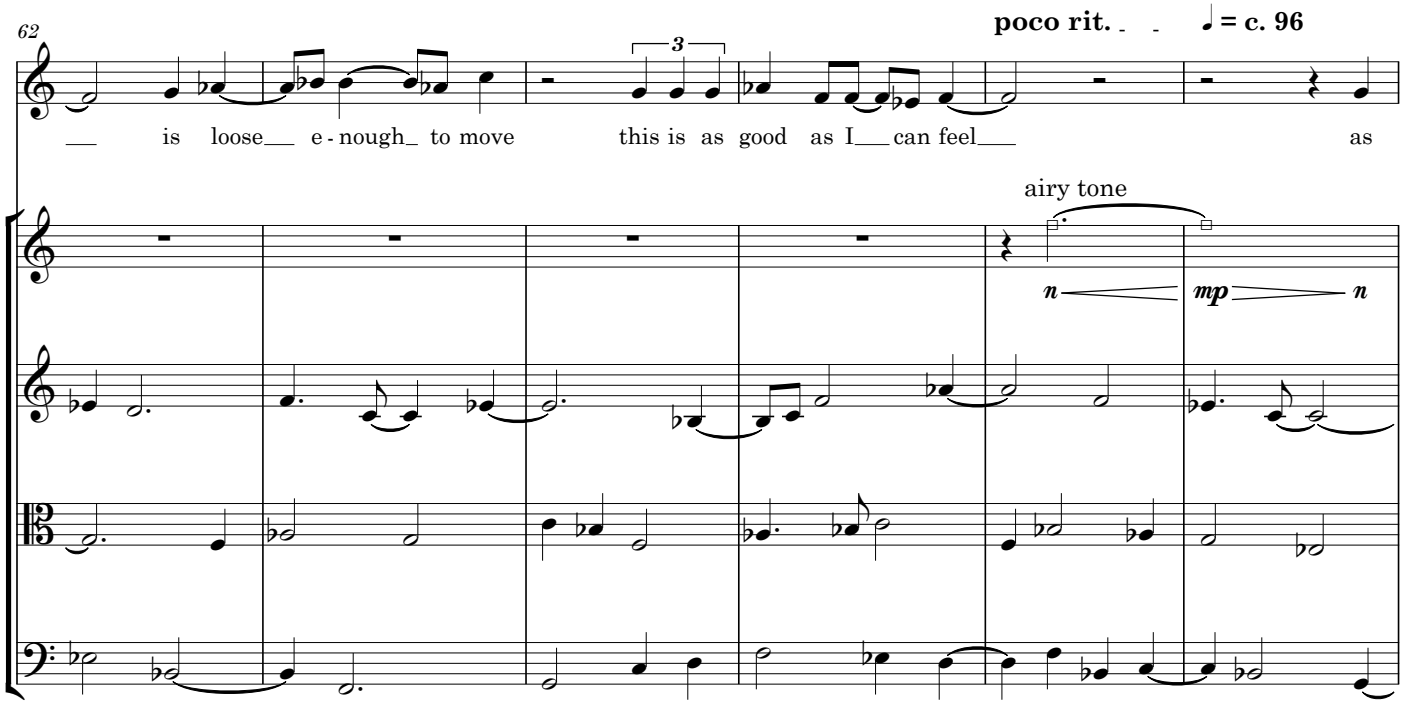
♩ = c. 102

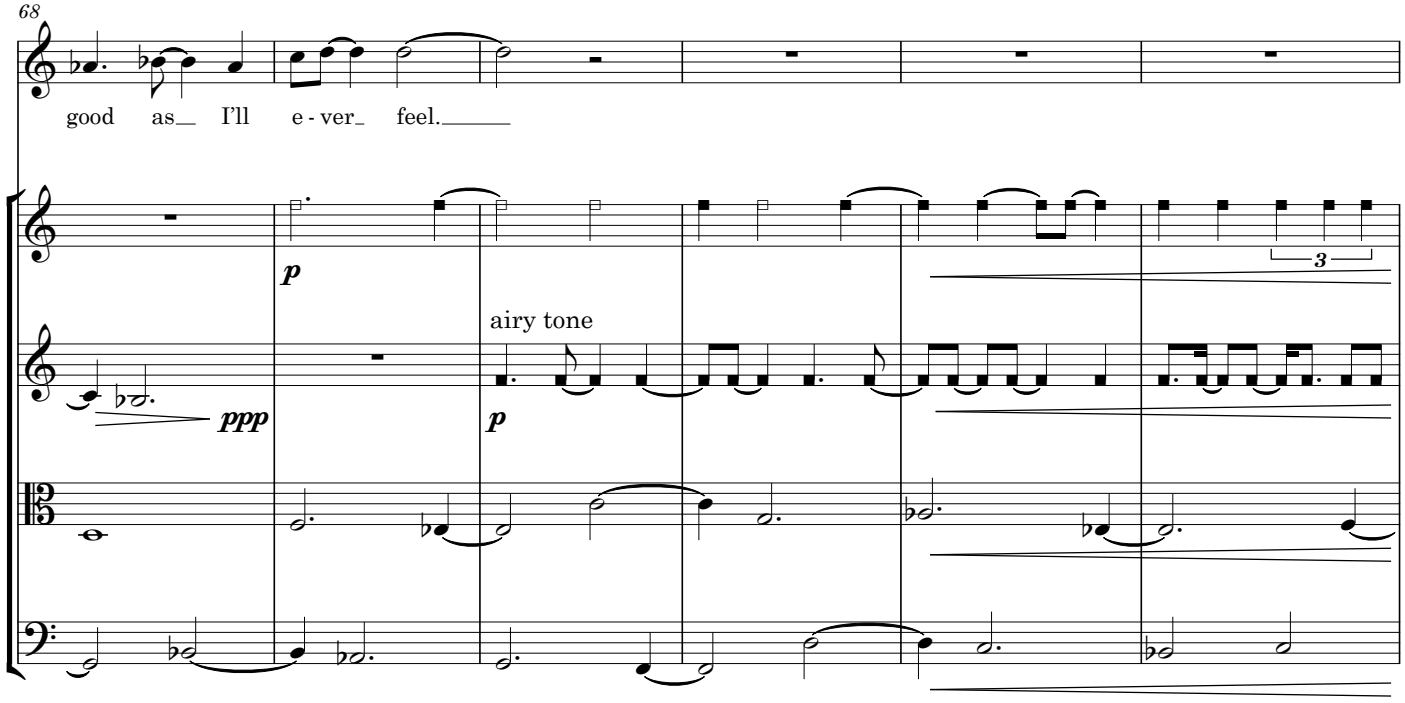

mf
To
mf
p
mf
mp
mf
mf
p
mf
mf

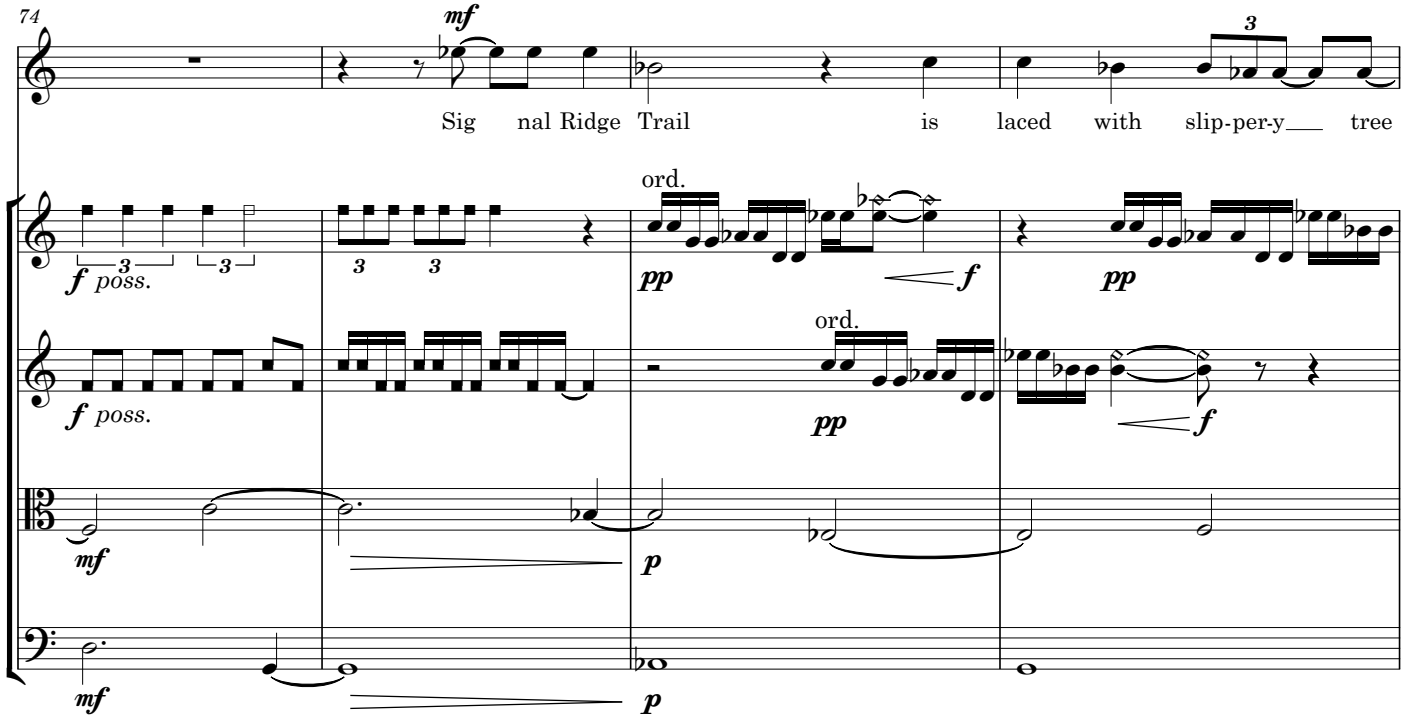
53

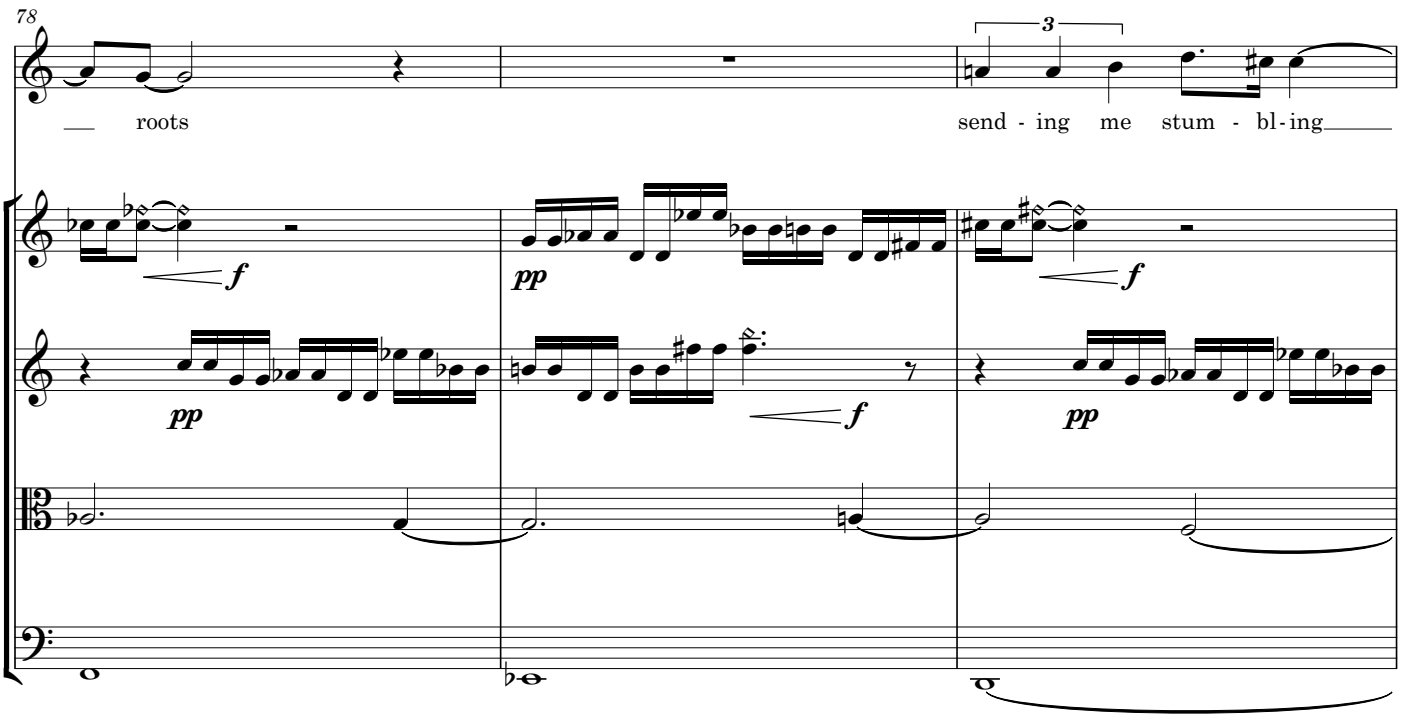

day it's not__ too dif-fi-cult to hold my head up__ straight
pp
pp
pp
pp

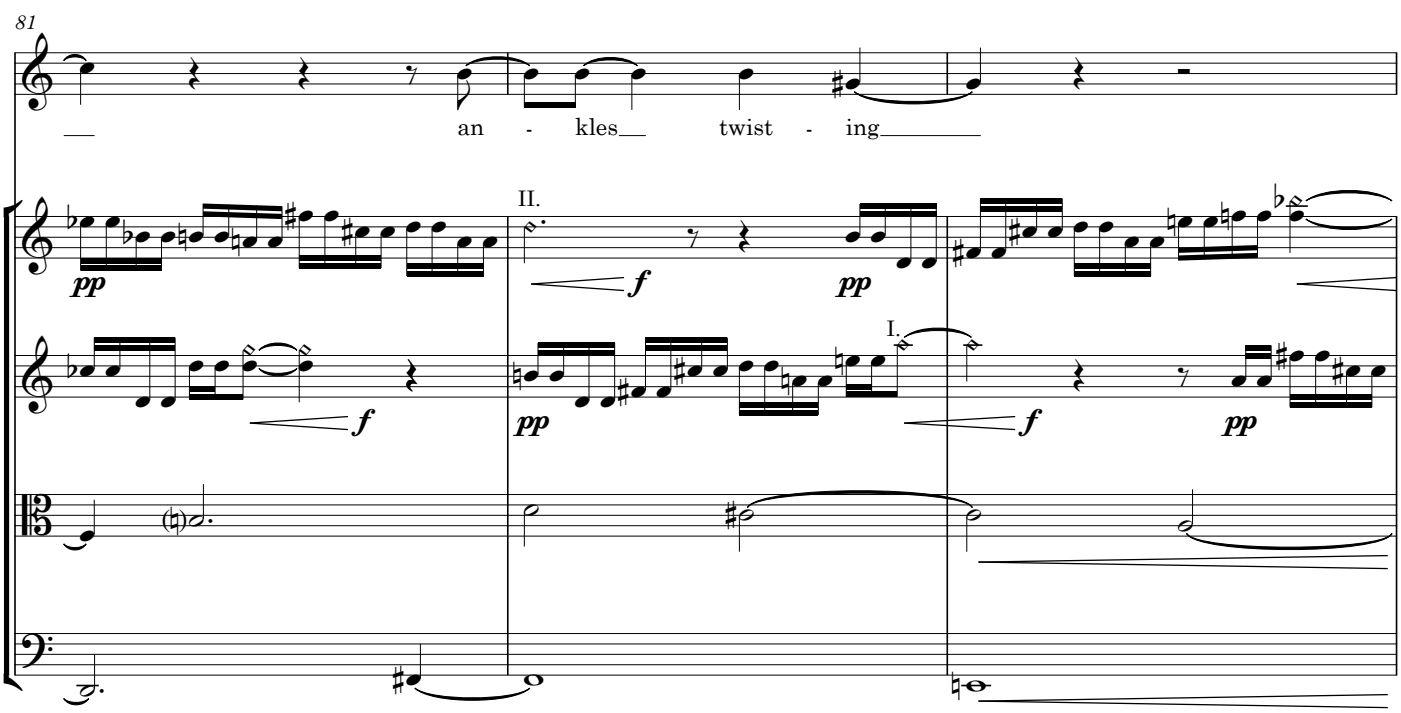

57
mp
to - day_ my vi - sion is__ clear___
to - day the grip of__ pain
mp
n
mp
p
mf
p
mp
p


62
poco rit.
♩ = c. 96
___ is loose___ e - nough_ to move this is as good as I___can feel___ as
airy tone
n
mp
n


68
good as I'll e - ver feel.
p
airy tone
ppp
p


74
mf
Sig nal Ridge Trail is laced with slip-per-y tree
f poss.
ord.
pp
f
mf
p


78
roots
send - ing me stum - bl - ing
3
f
pp
f
pp
f
pp

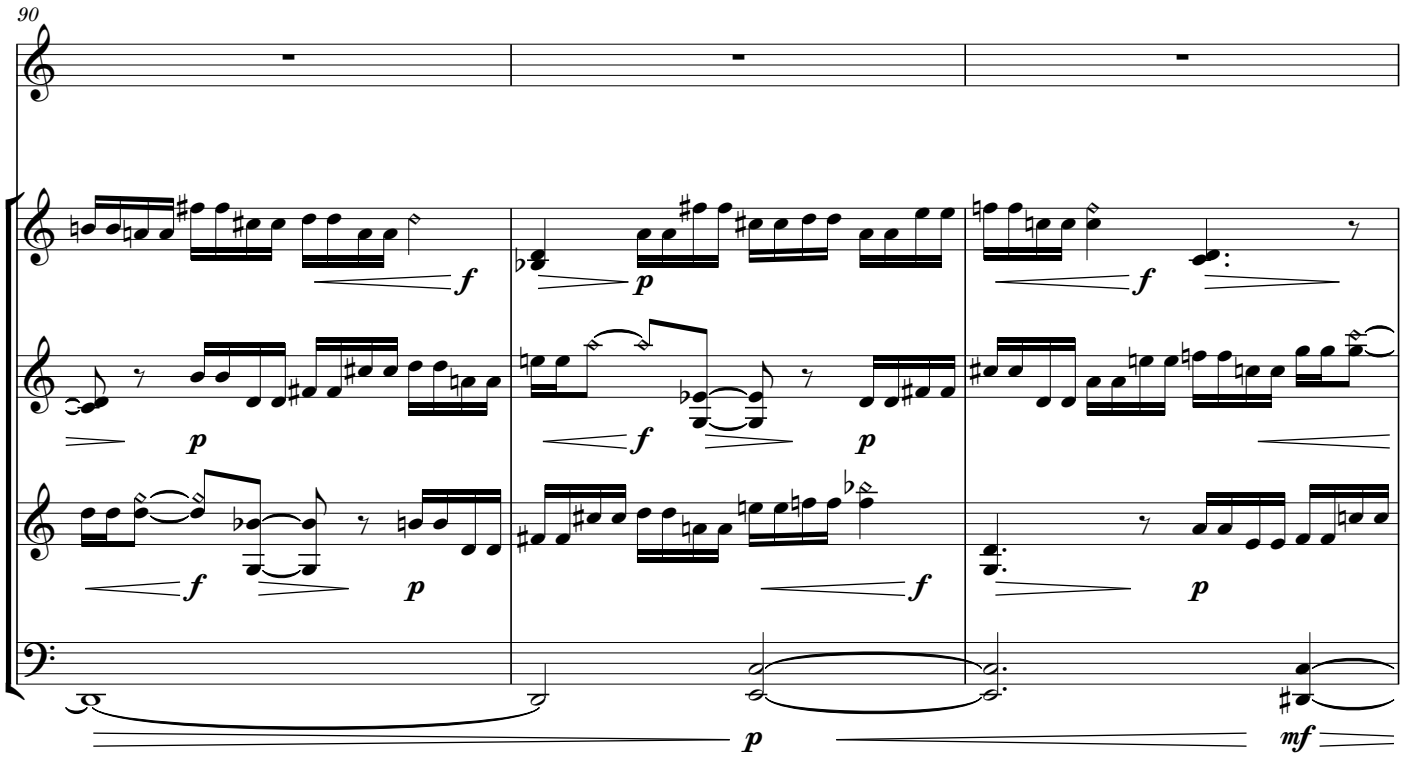

81
an - kles twist - ing
II.
I.
pp
f
pp
f
pp
f
pp

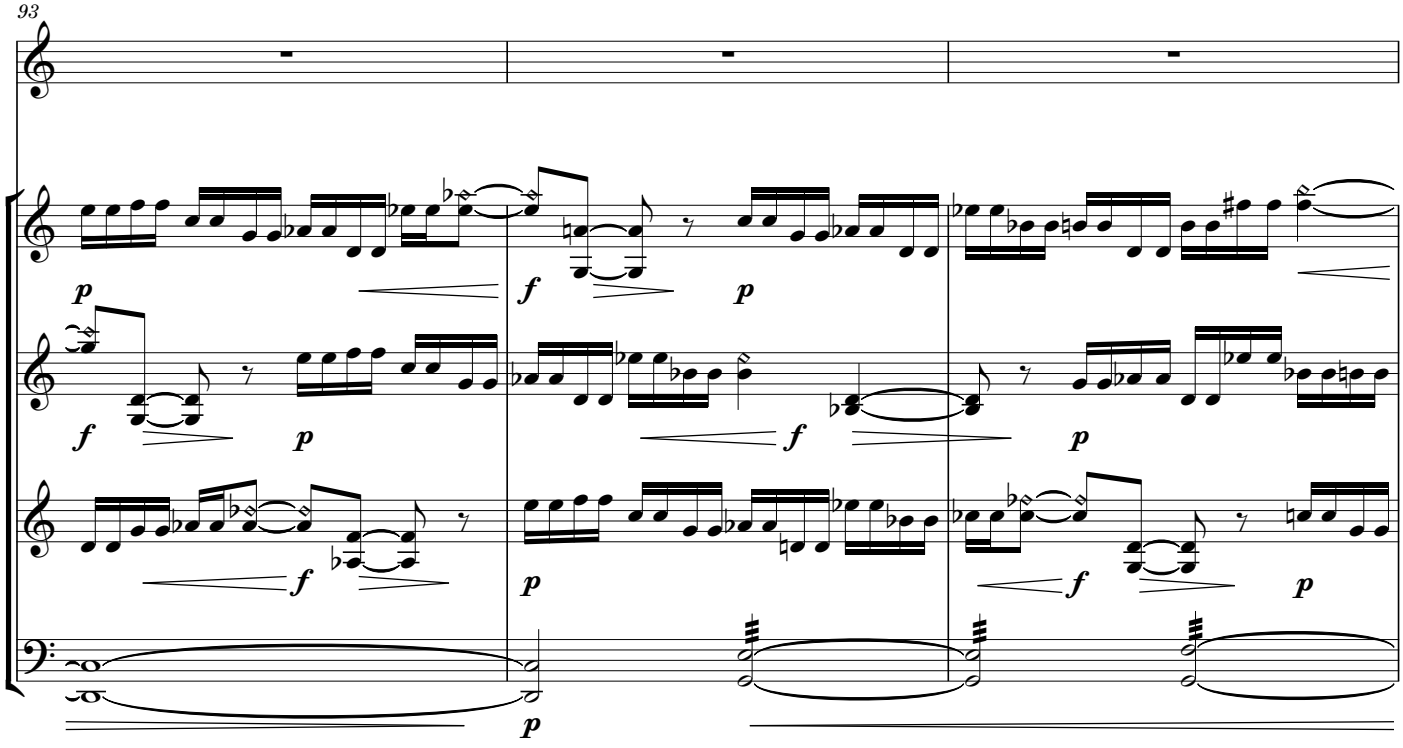
84

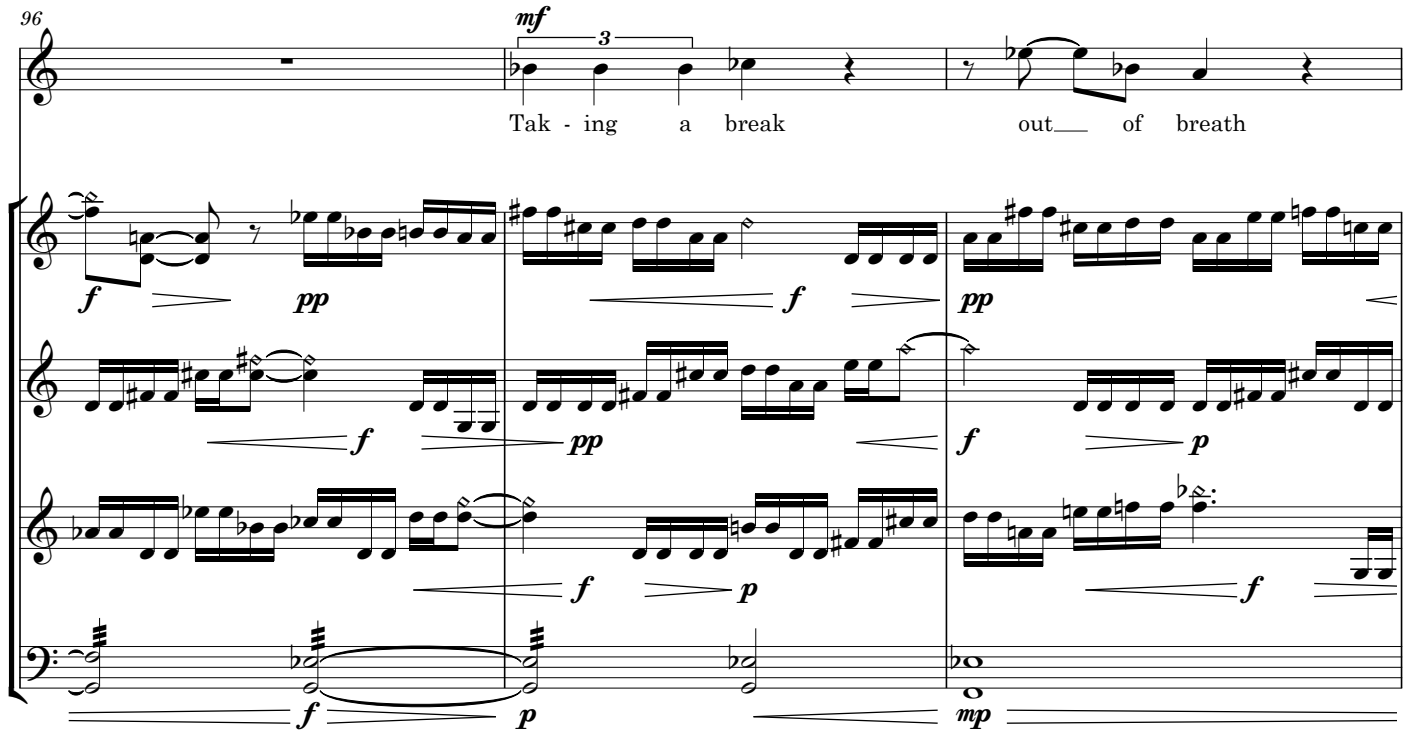
My bo - dy knows I want to leave it

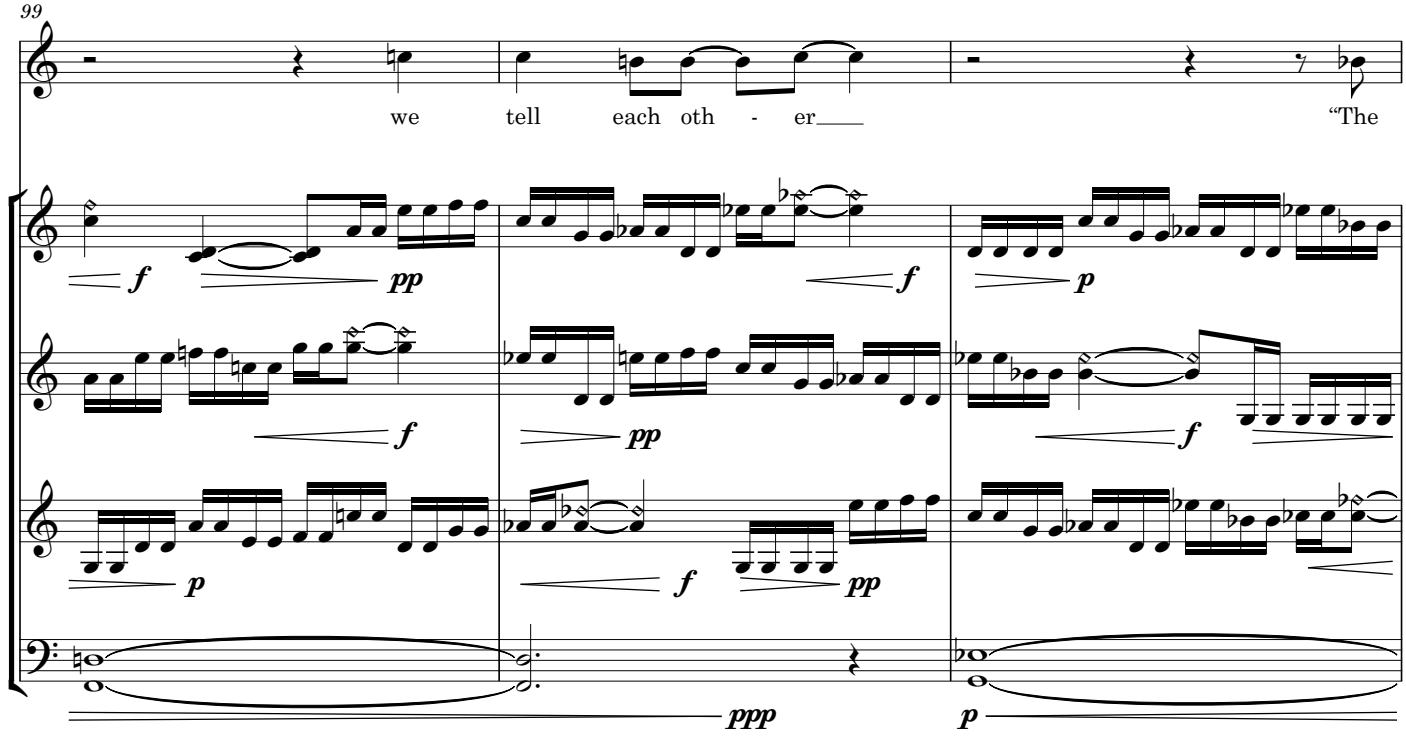
87

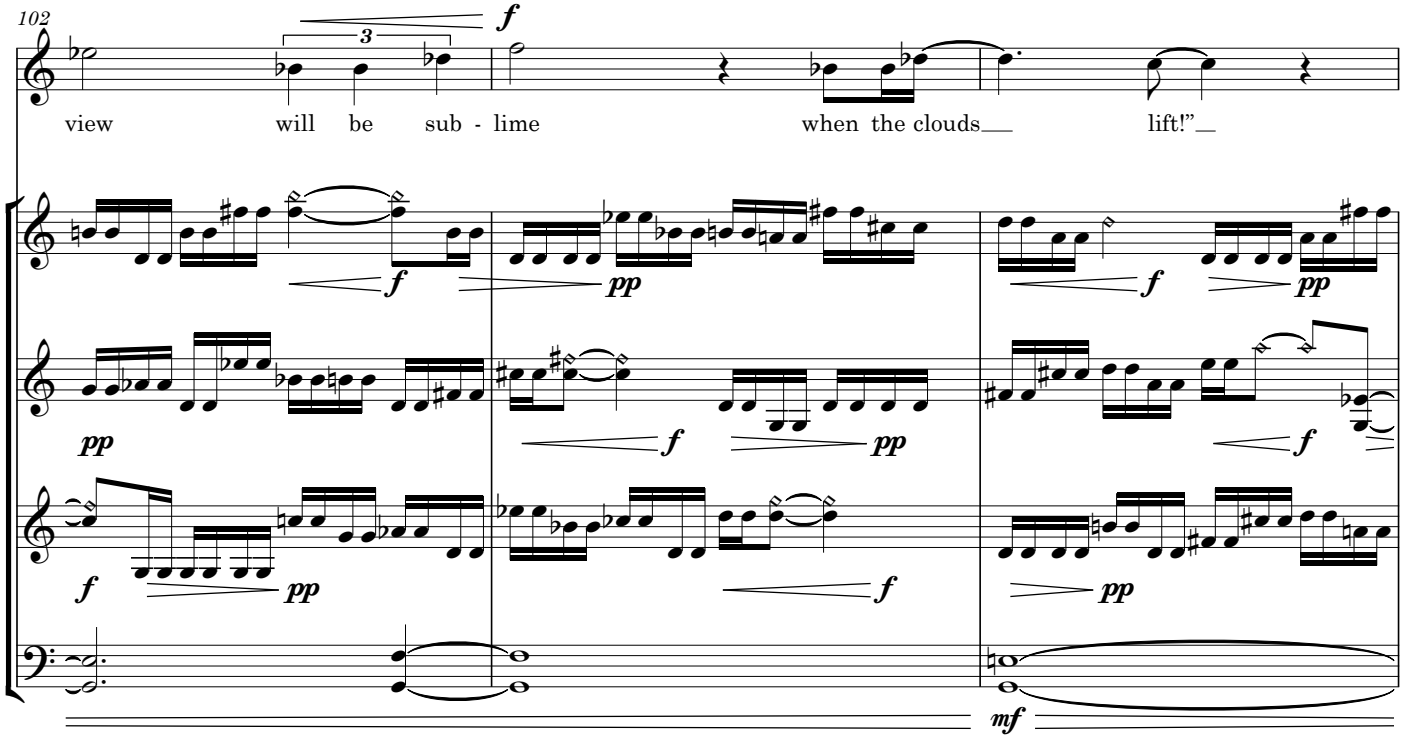
and bites the rock in des - pair

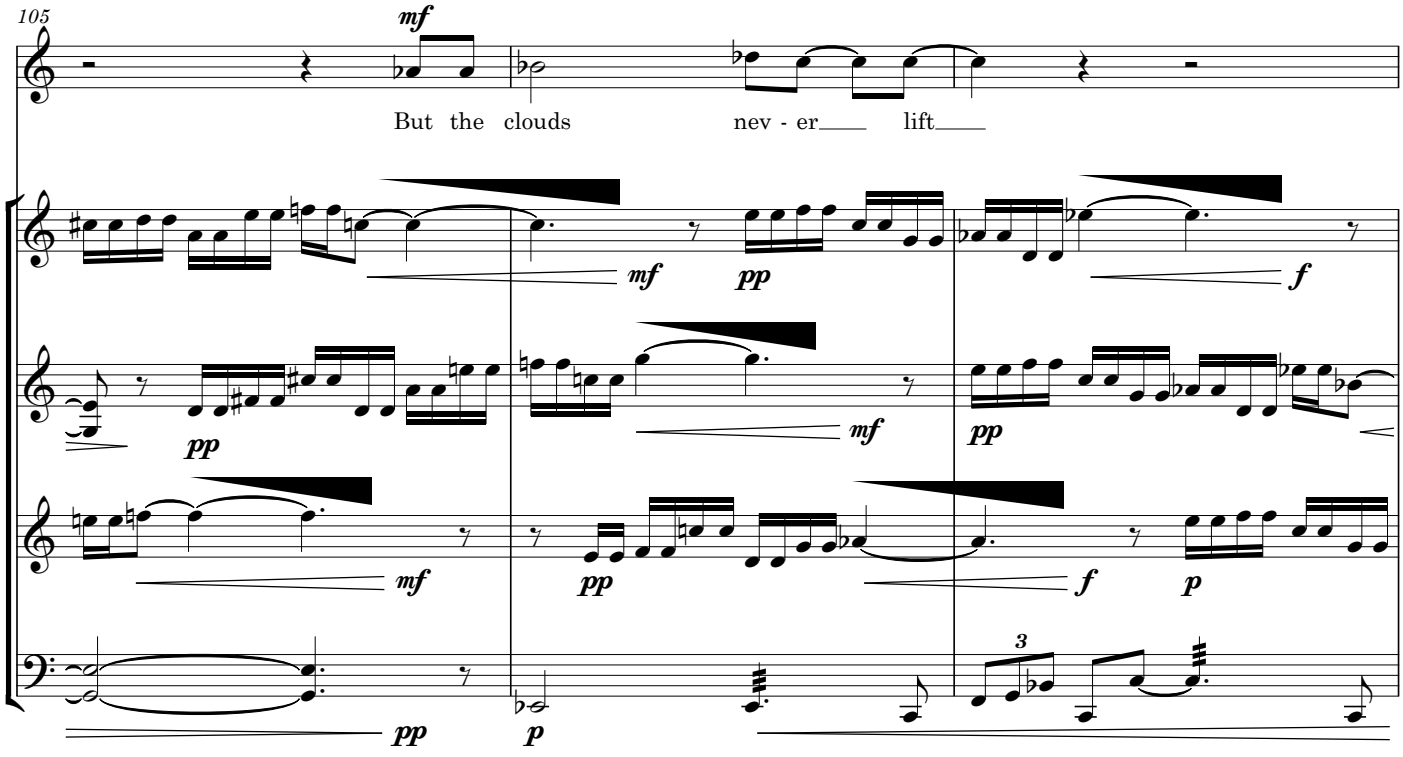

90
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
p
mf

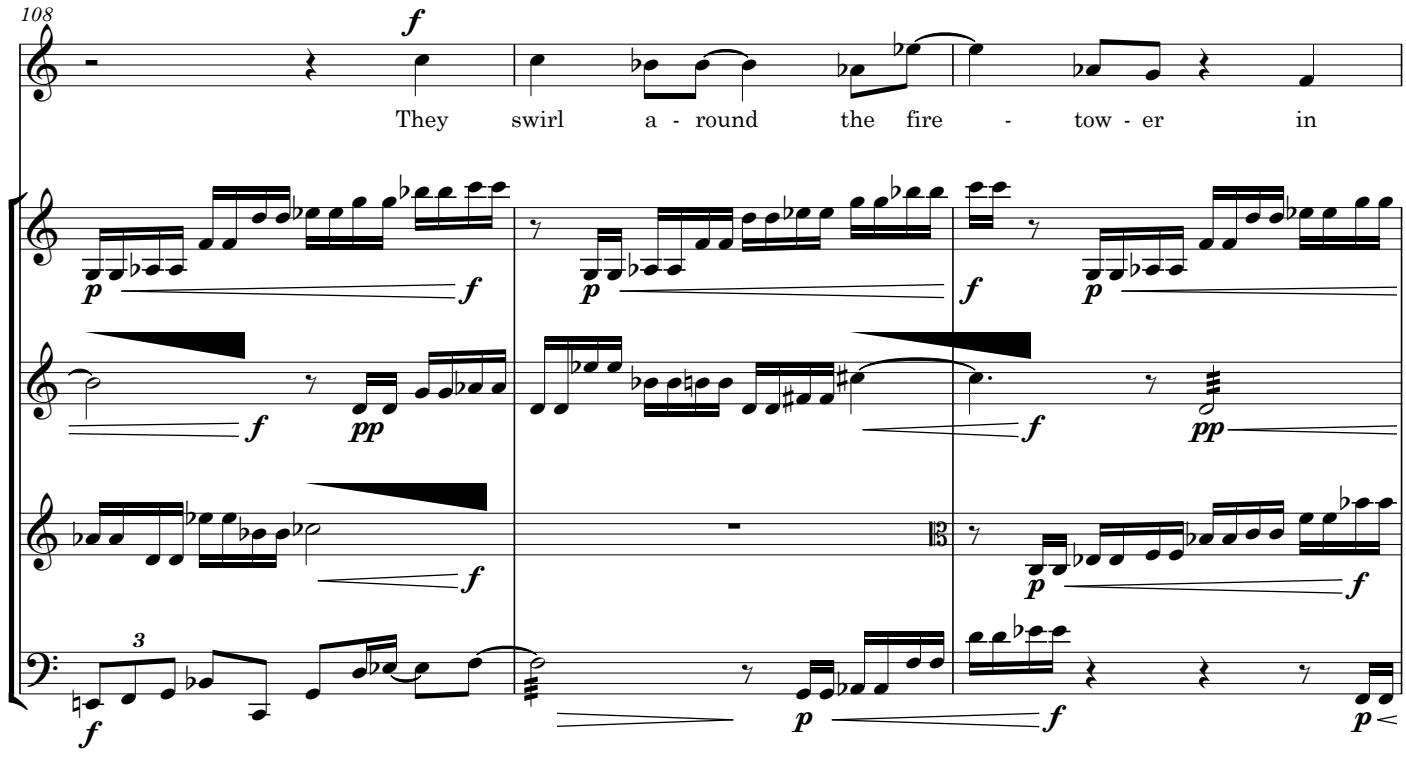

93
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
p

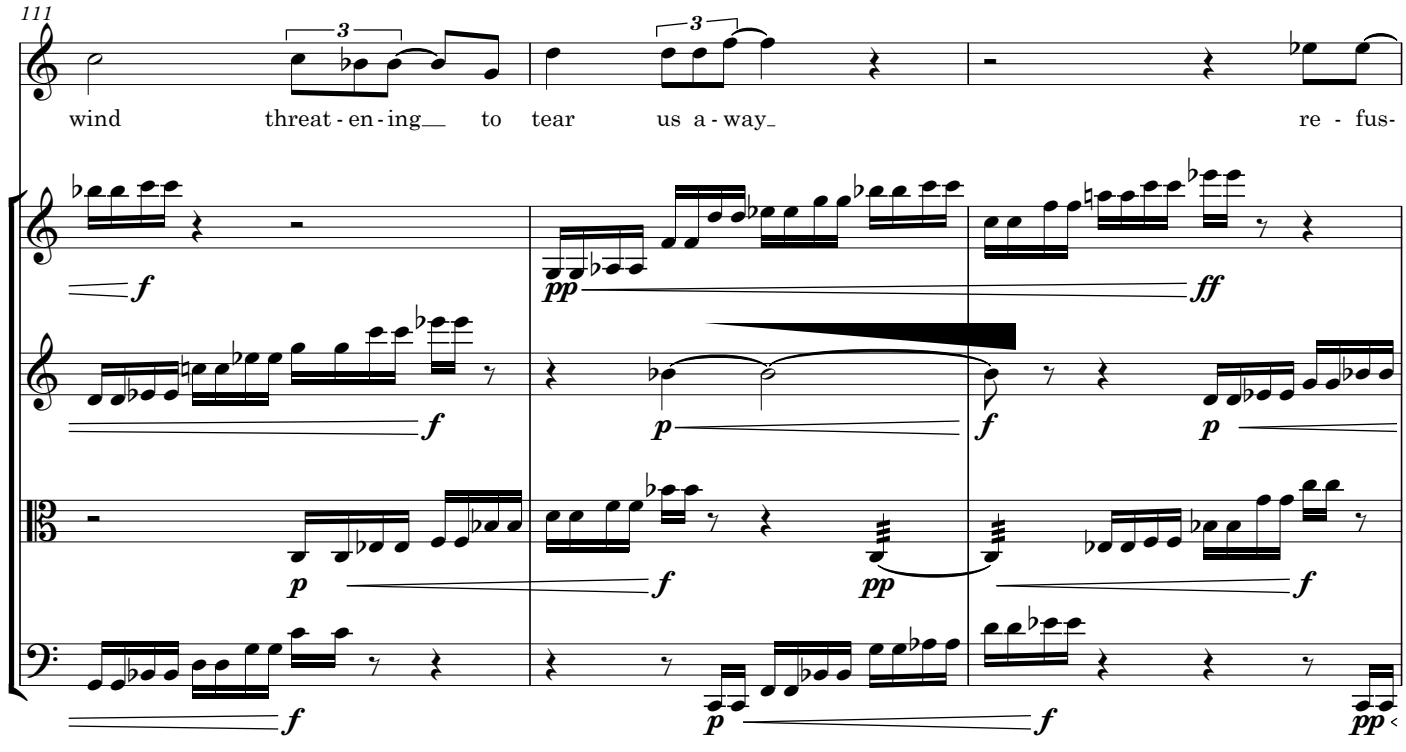

96
mf
3
Tak - ing a break out of breath
f
pp
f
pp
f
pp
f
pp
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
mp

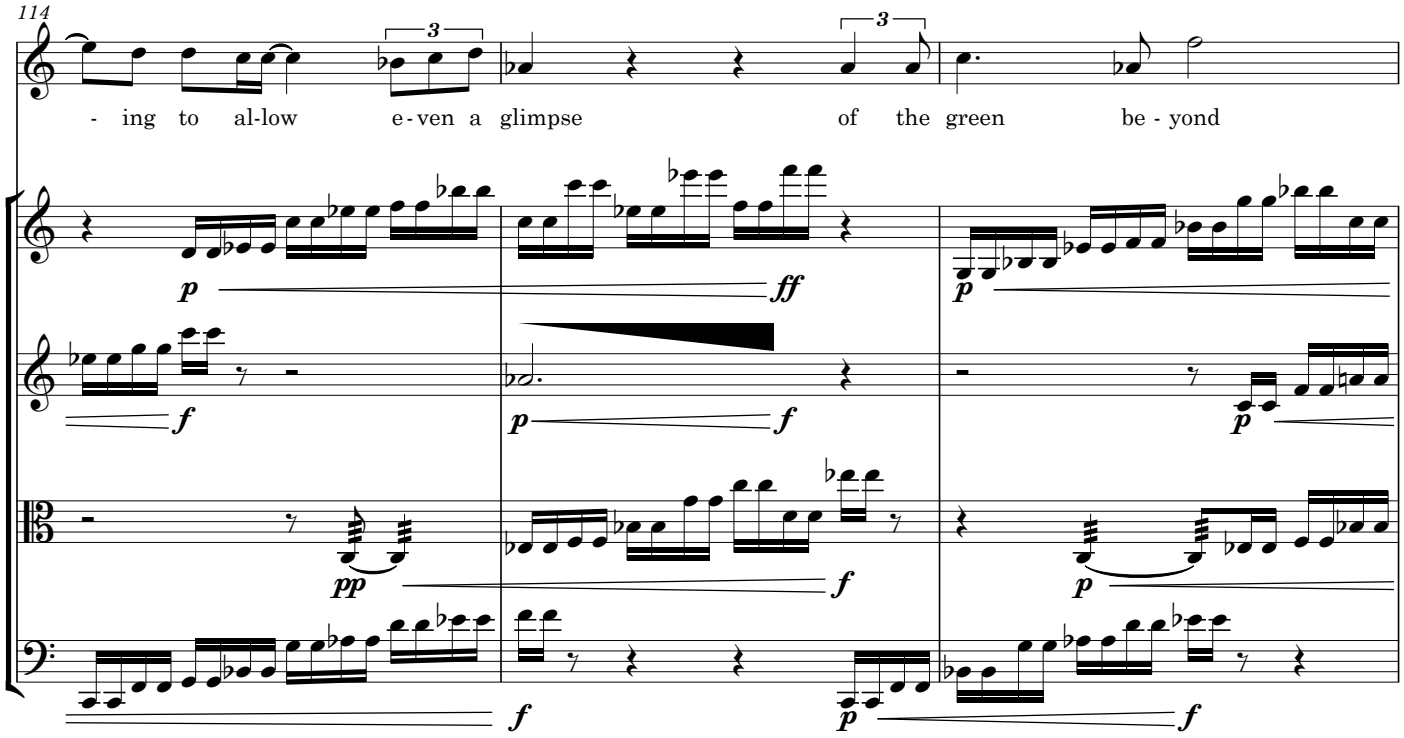

99
we tell each oth - er
"The
f
pp
f
p
f
pp
f
p
f
pp
ppp
p

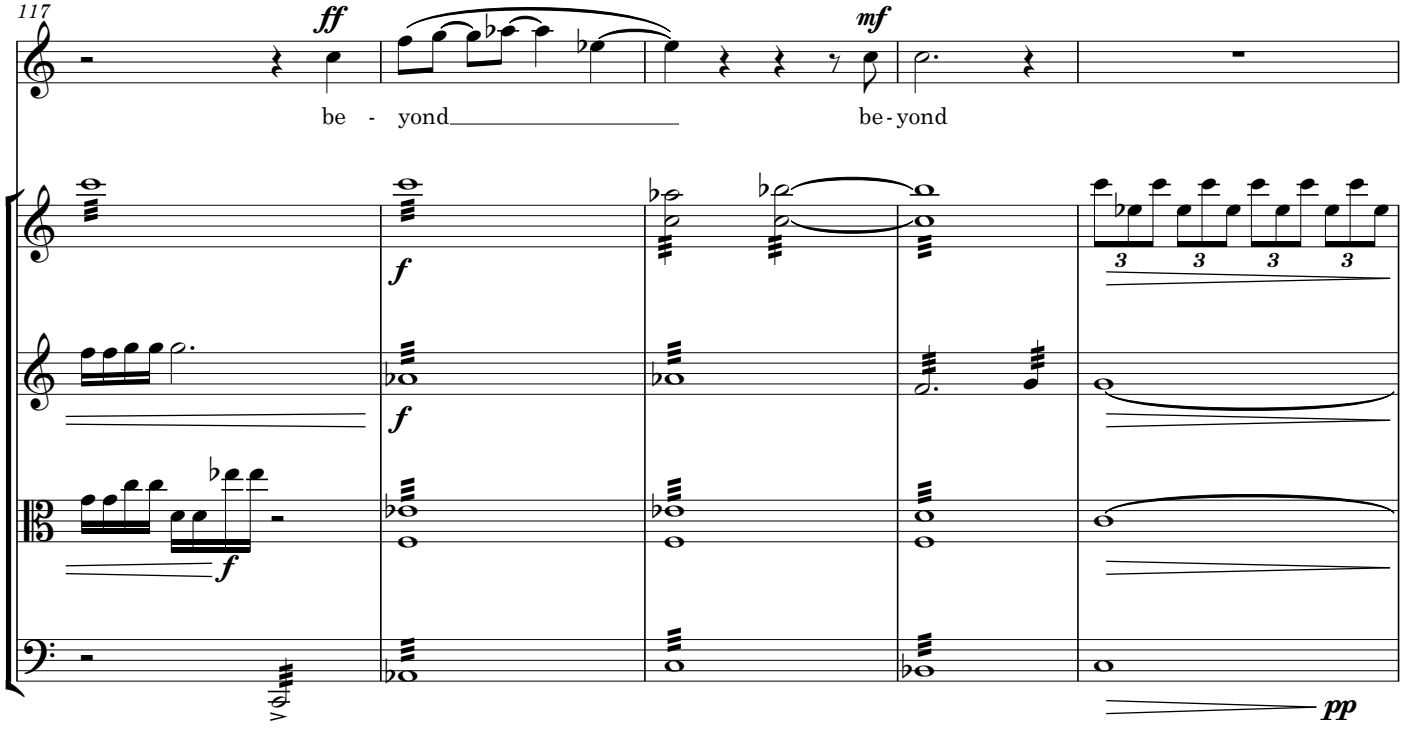

102
f
3
view will be sub - lime when the clouds lift!"
f pp f pp
pp f pp f
f pp f pp
mf

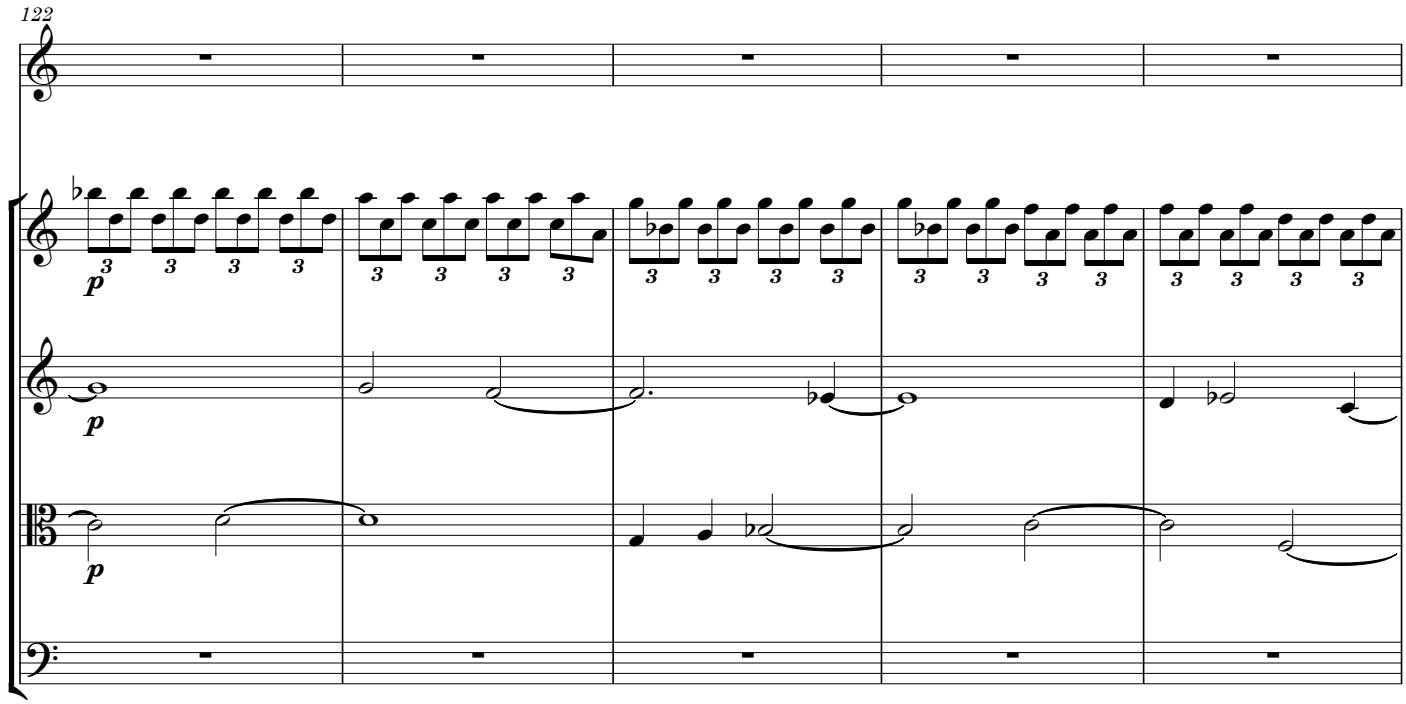

105
mf
But the clouds nev - er lift
mf pp f
pp mf pp
mf pp f p
pp p 3

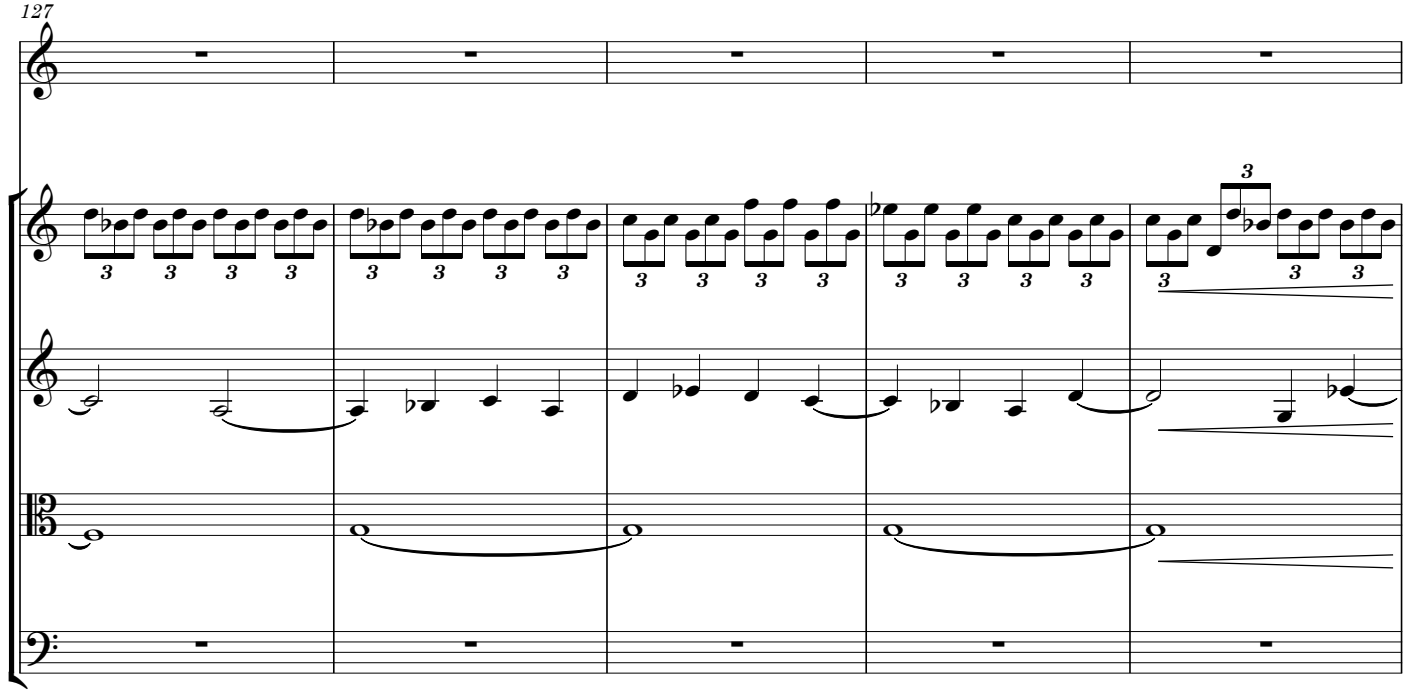

108
They swirl a - round the fire - tow - er in


111
wind threat - en - ing to tear us a - way re - fus-


114
- ing to al-low e-ven a glimpse of the green be - yond


117
be - yond
be-yond


122
p
p
p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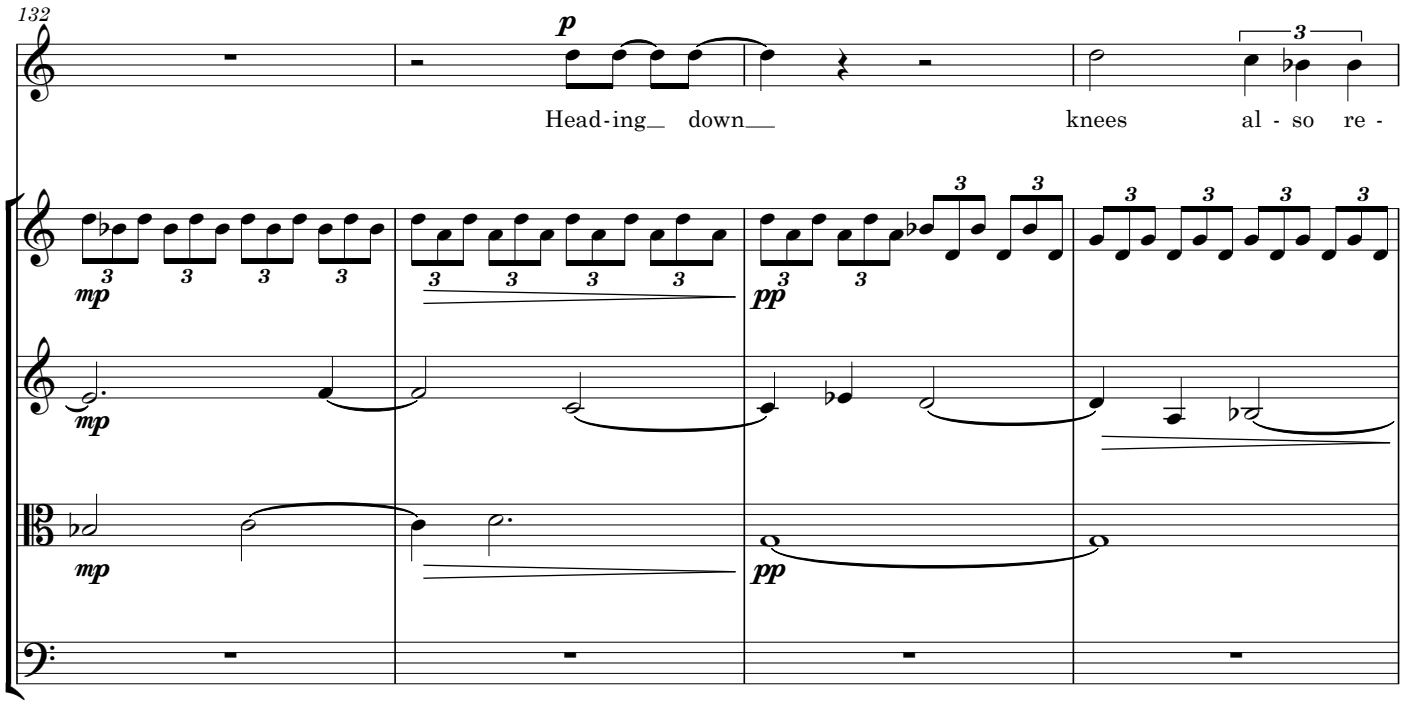
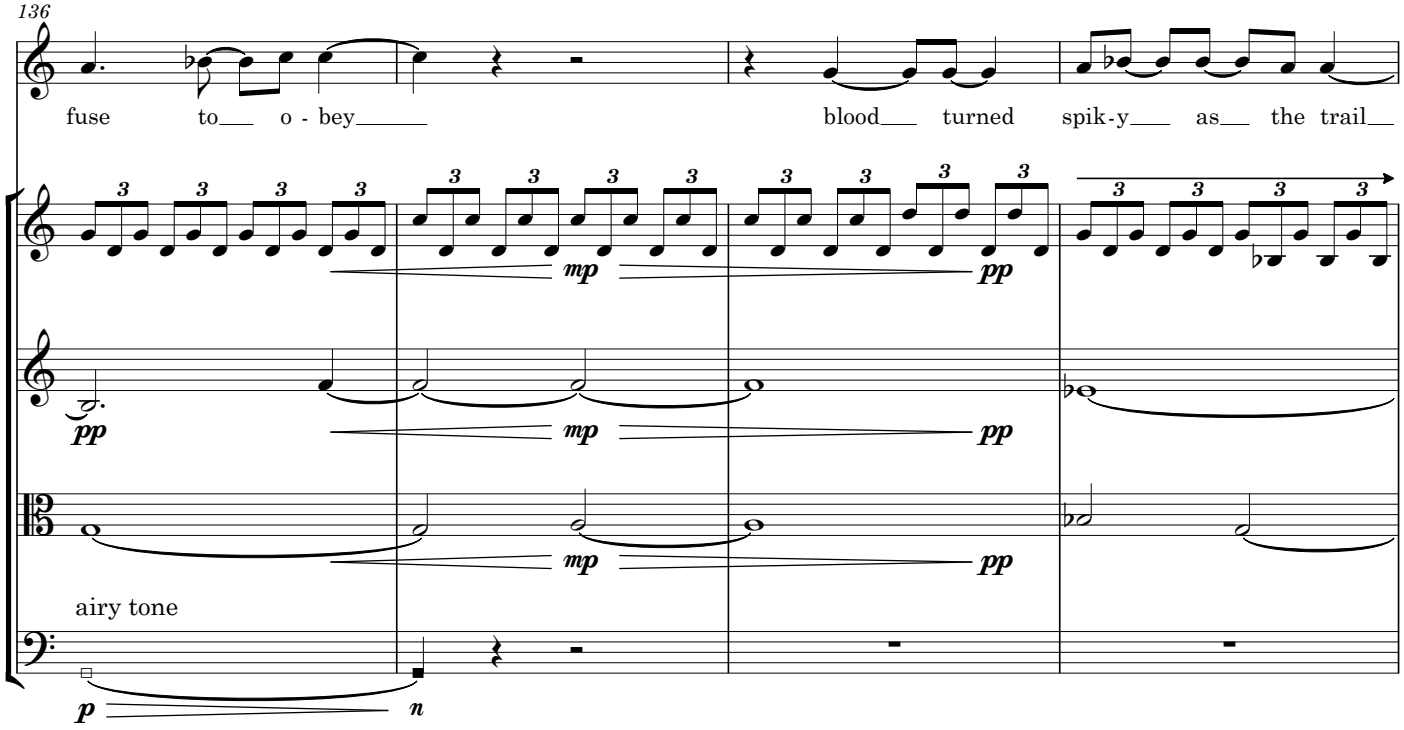
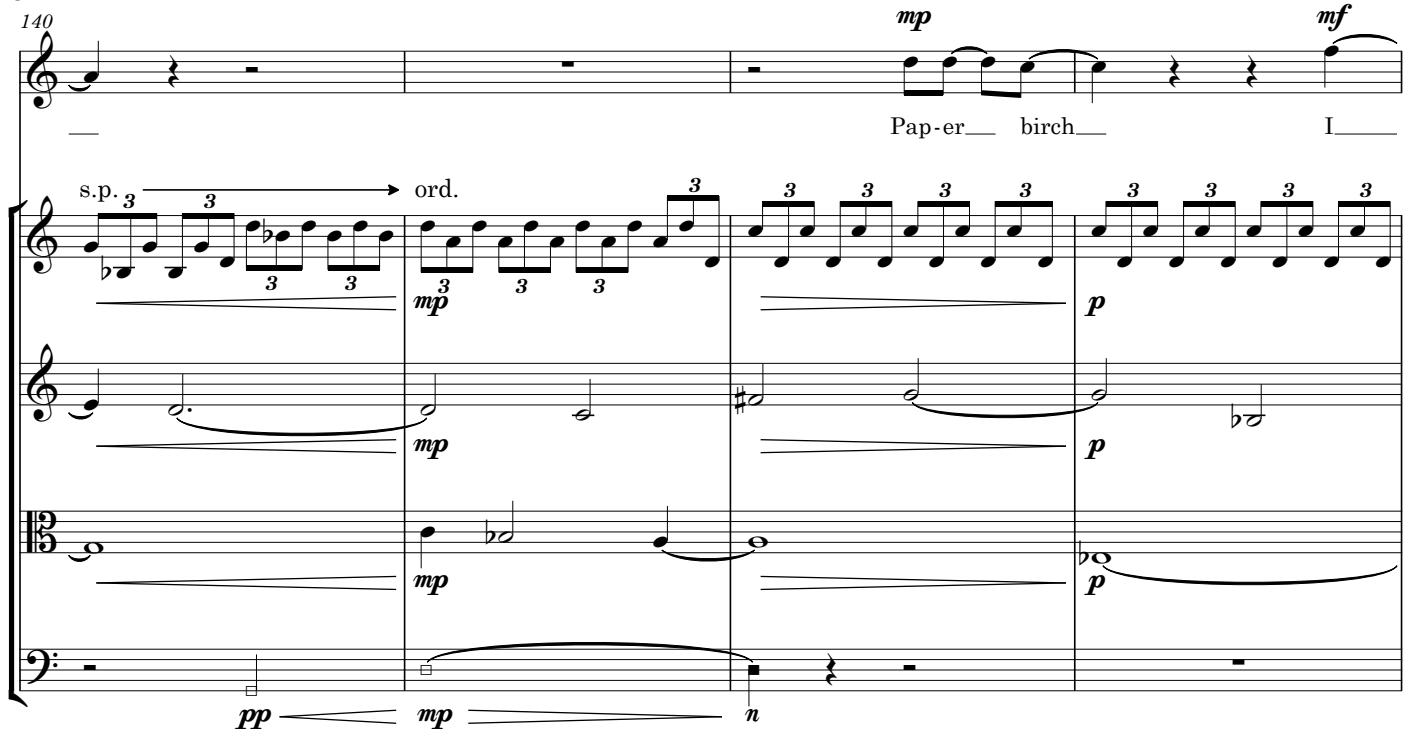
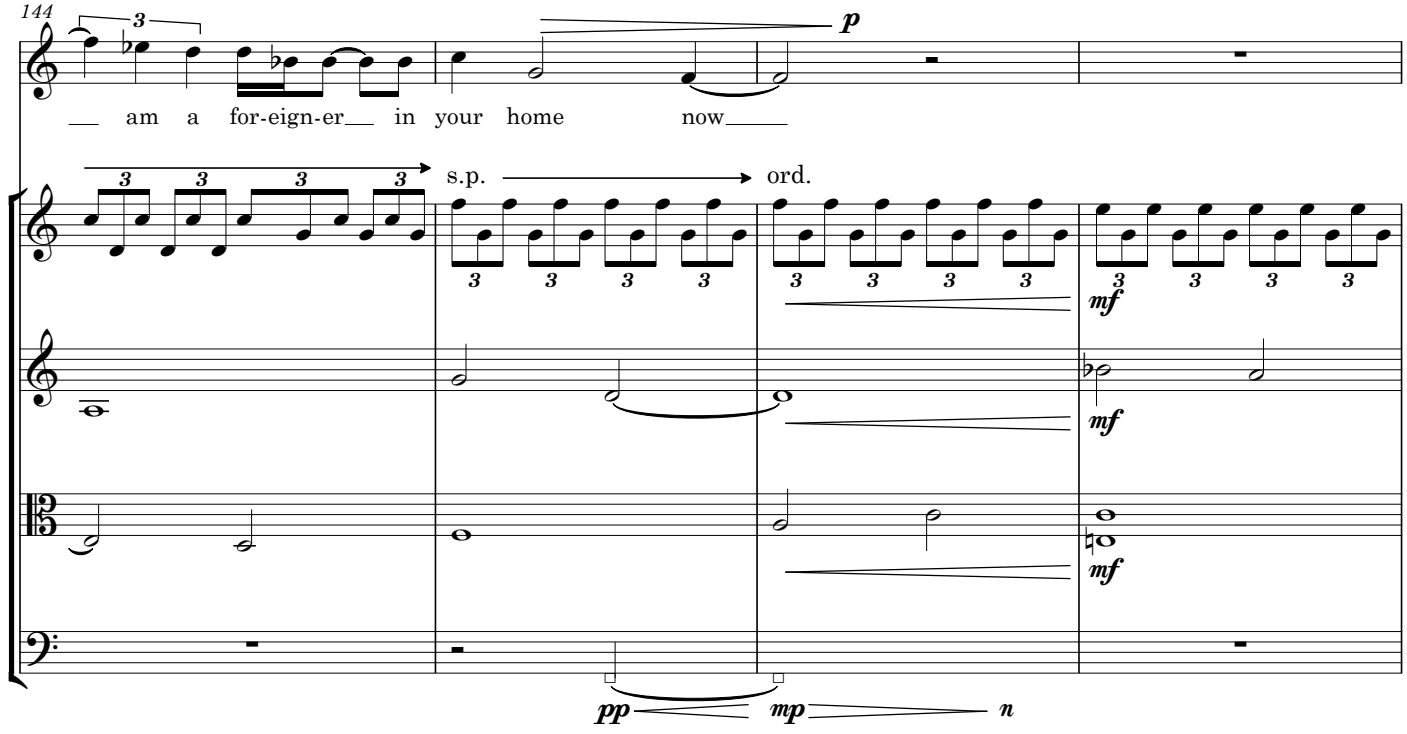
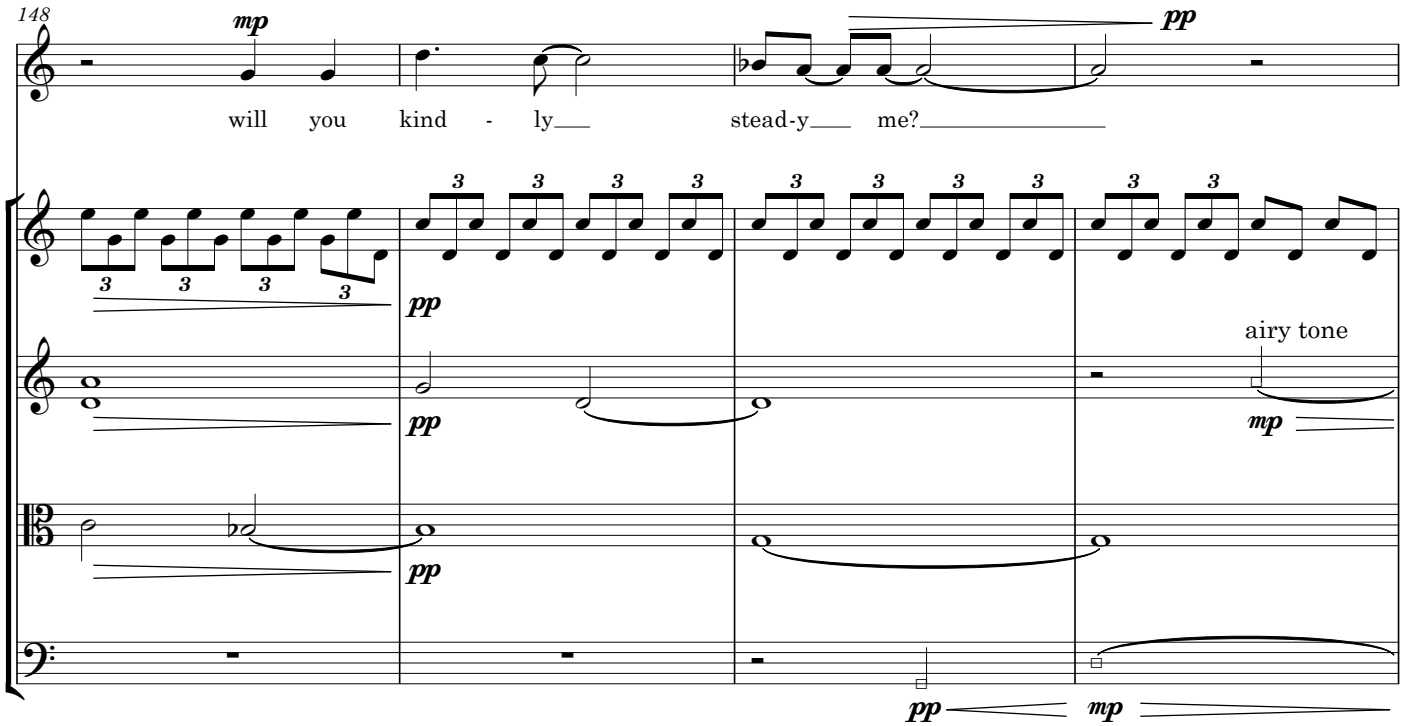
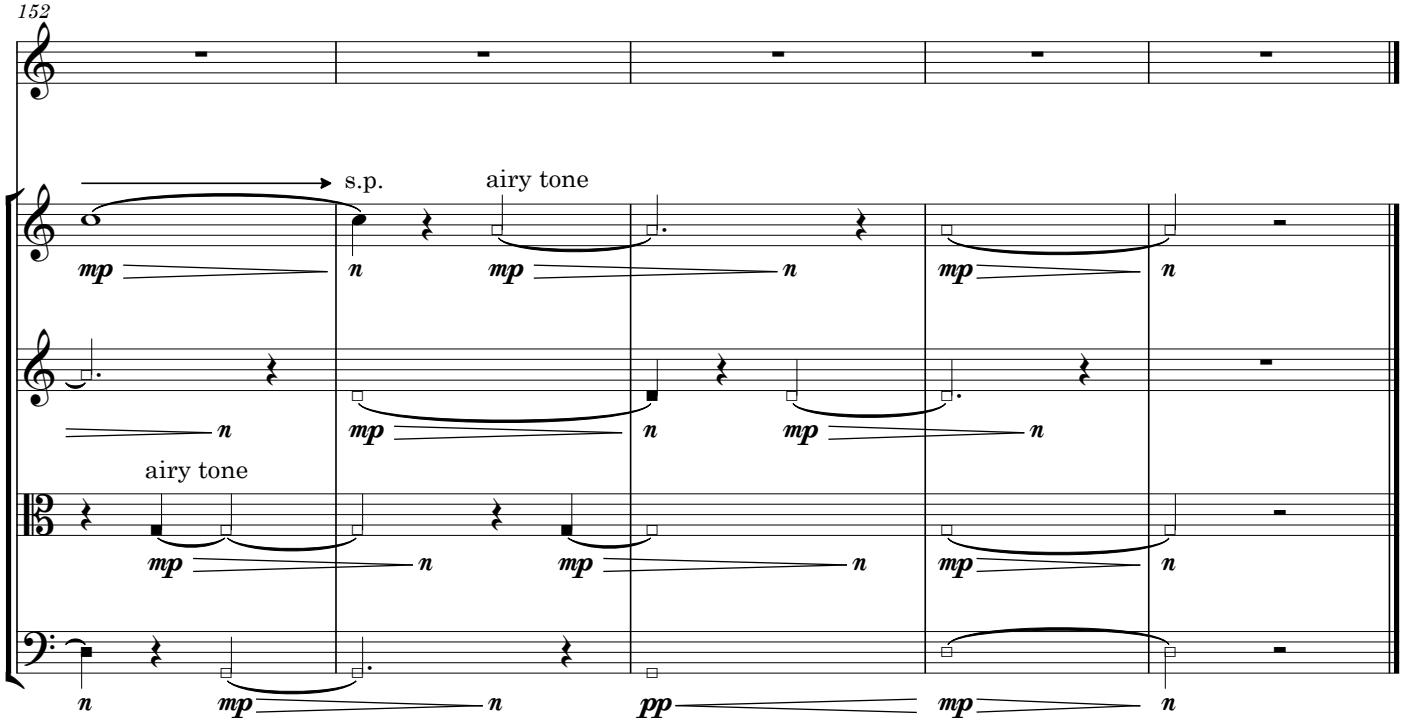

132
p
Head-ing down
knees al - so re -
mp
pp


136
fuse to o - bey
blood turned spik-y as the trail
mp
pp
airy tone
p
n


140
mp
mf
Pap-er birch I
s.p.
ord.
mp
p
pp
n


144
p
am a for-eign-er in your home now
s.p.
ord.
mf
pp
n


148
mp
pp
will you kind - ly stead-y me?
airy tone


152
s.p.
airy tone
airy tone