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Gonçalo Gato

To the Muses

for soprano and piano

Programme Notes:

The word 'music' has its origins in Greek mythology denoting the (art) of the Muses. *To the Muses* is based on William Blake's (1757–1827) poem, which appealed to me because of its musical allusions. Expressions such as "From ancient melody have ceas'd", "melodious winds", "The languid strings do scarcely move! / The sound is forc'd, the notes are few!" allude directly to music, but also metaphorically to inspirational issues. This is further emphasized by expressions such as "Fair Nine [muses], forsaking Poetry!" and "How have you left the ancient love".

London, March 2012

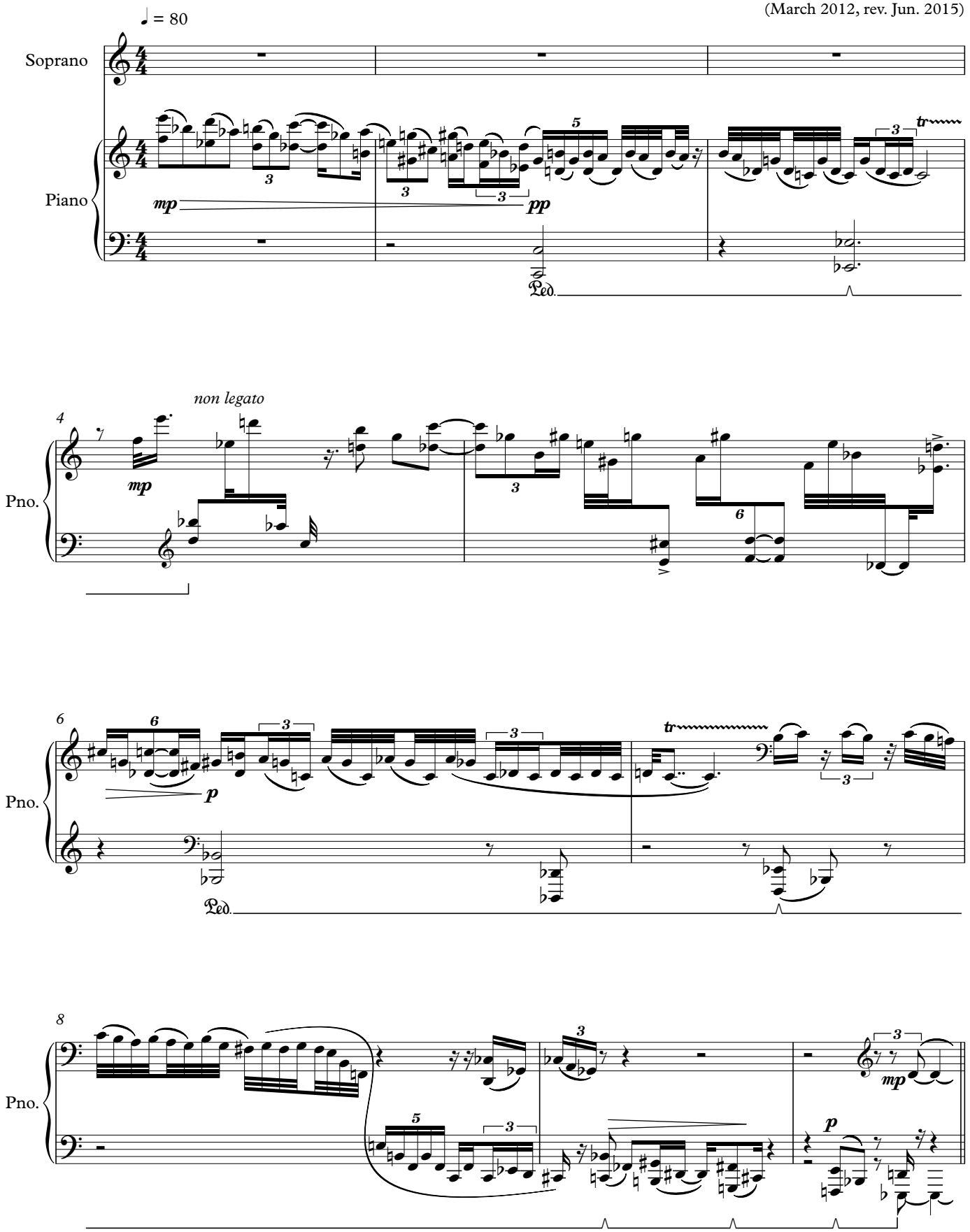
Execution notes:

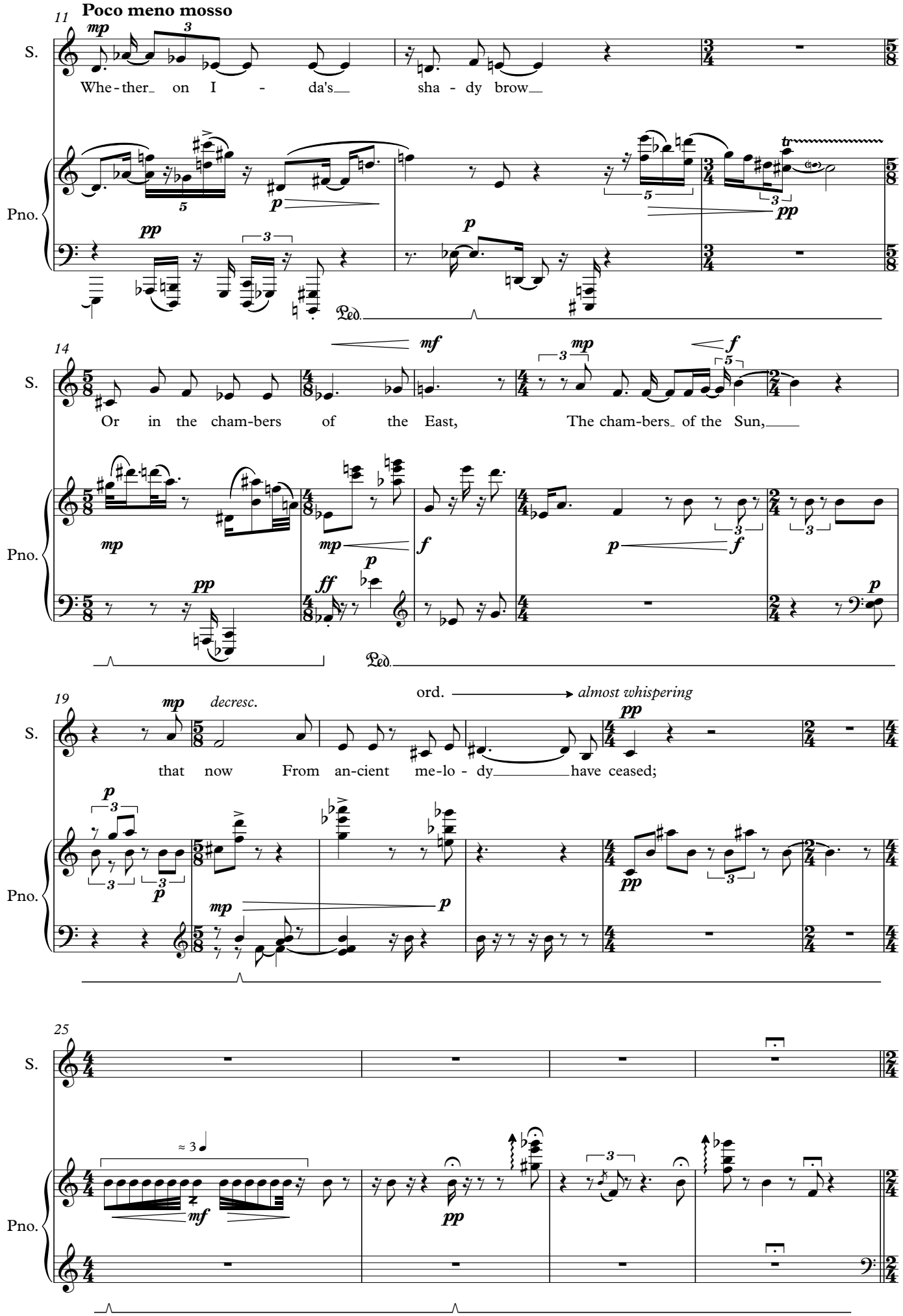
- Accidentals last one bar and hold for the octave on which they appear;
- Last section Largo is intended to be performed as a poetry recitation with a piano accompaniment. Some drama is welcome.

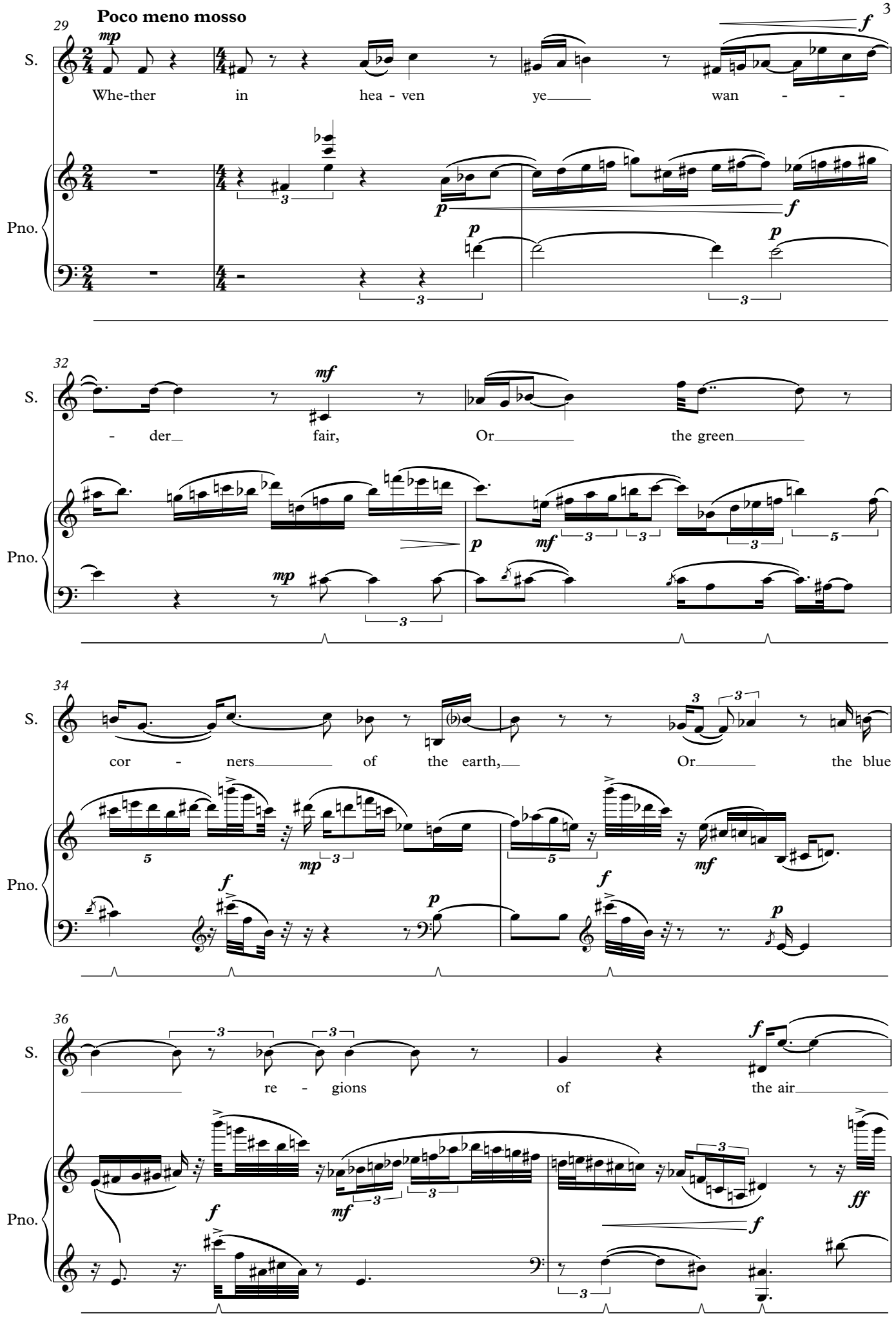
To the Muses

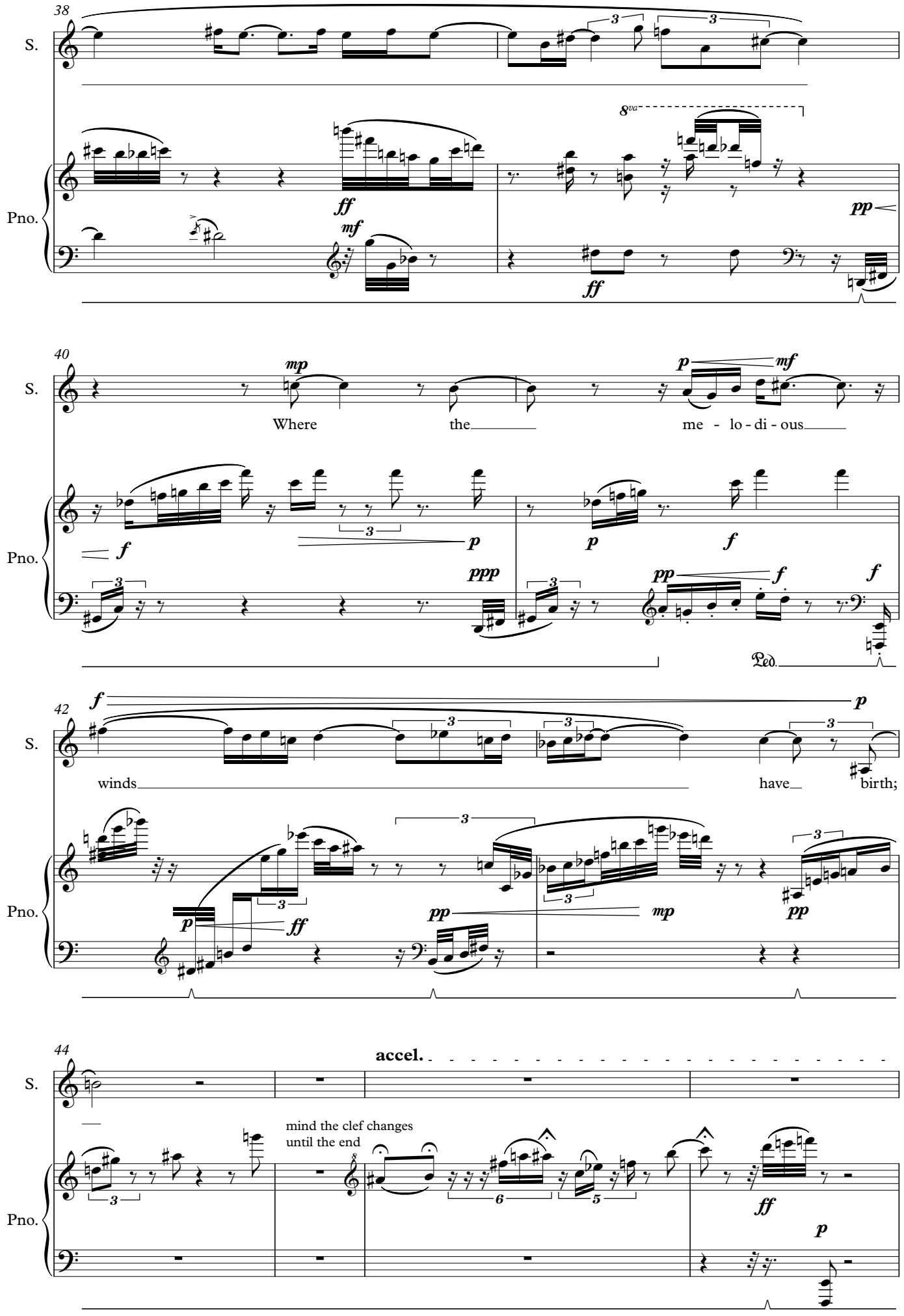
Words from the poem by William Blake (1757-1827)

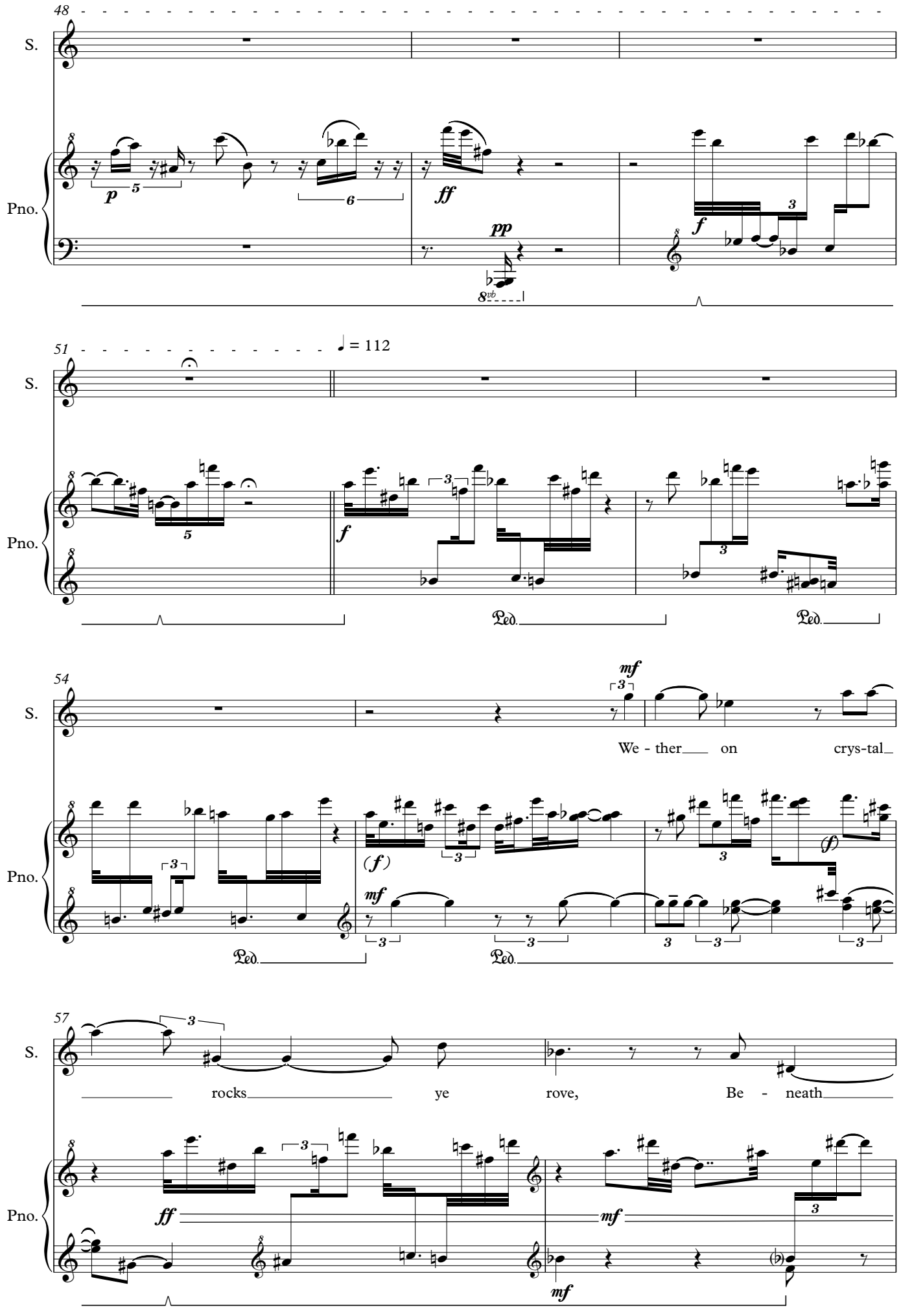
Gonçalo Gato
(March 2012, rev. Jun. 2015)

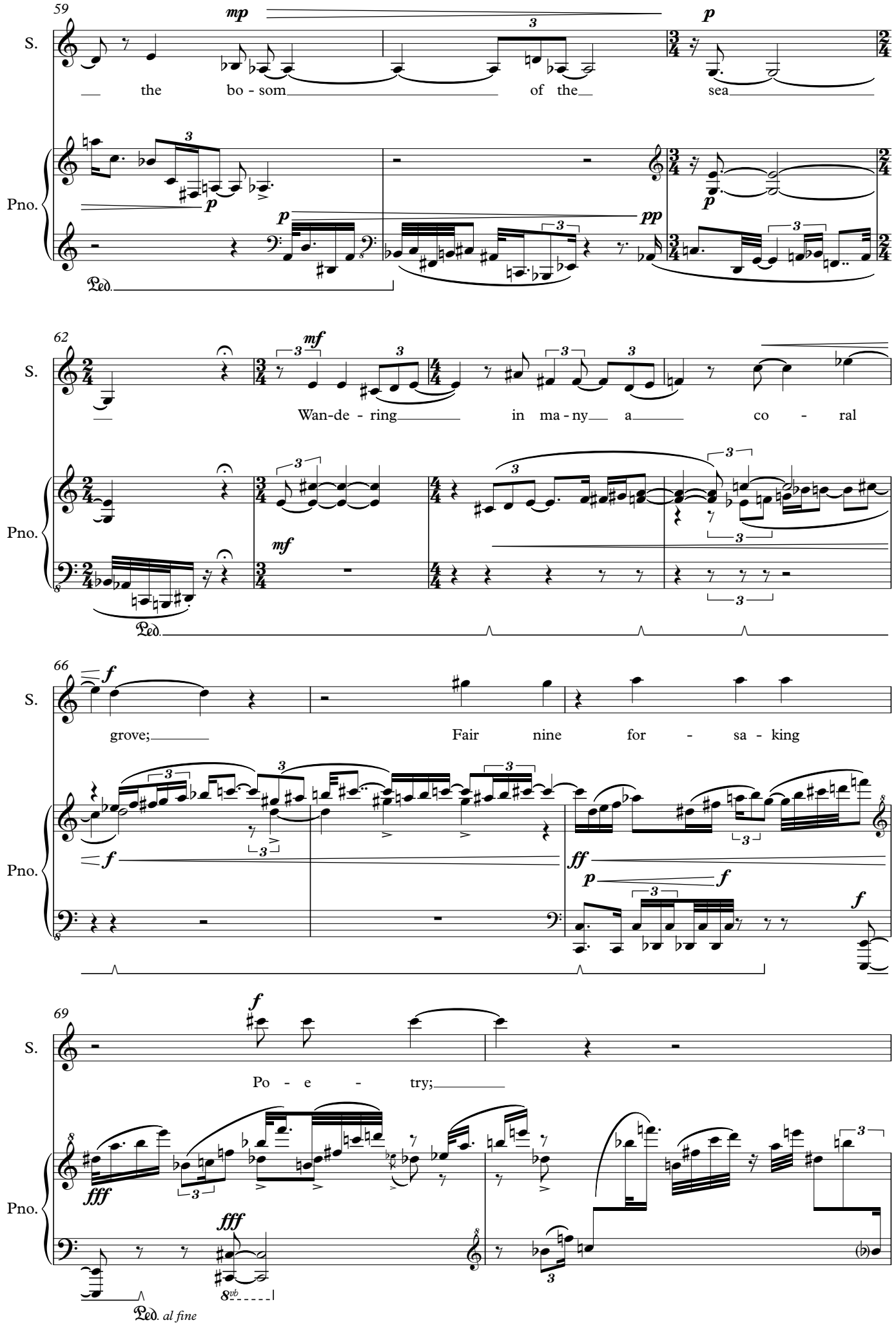


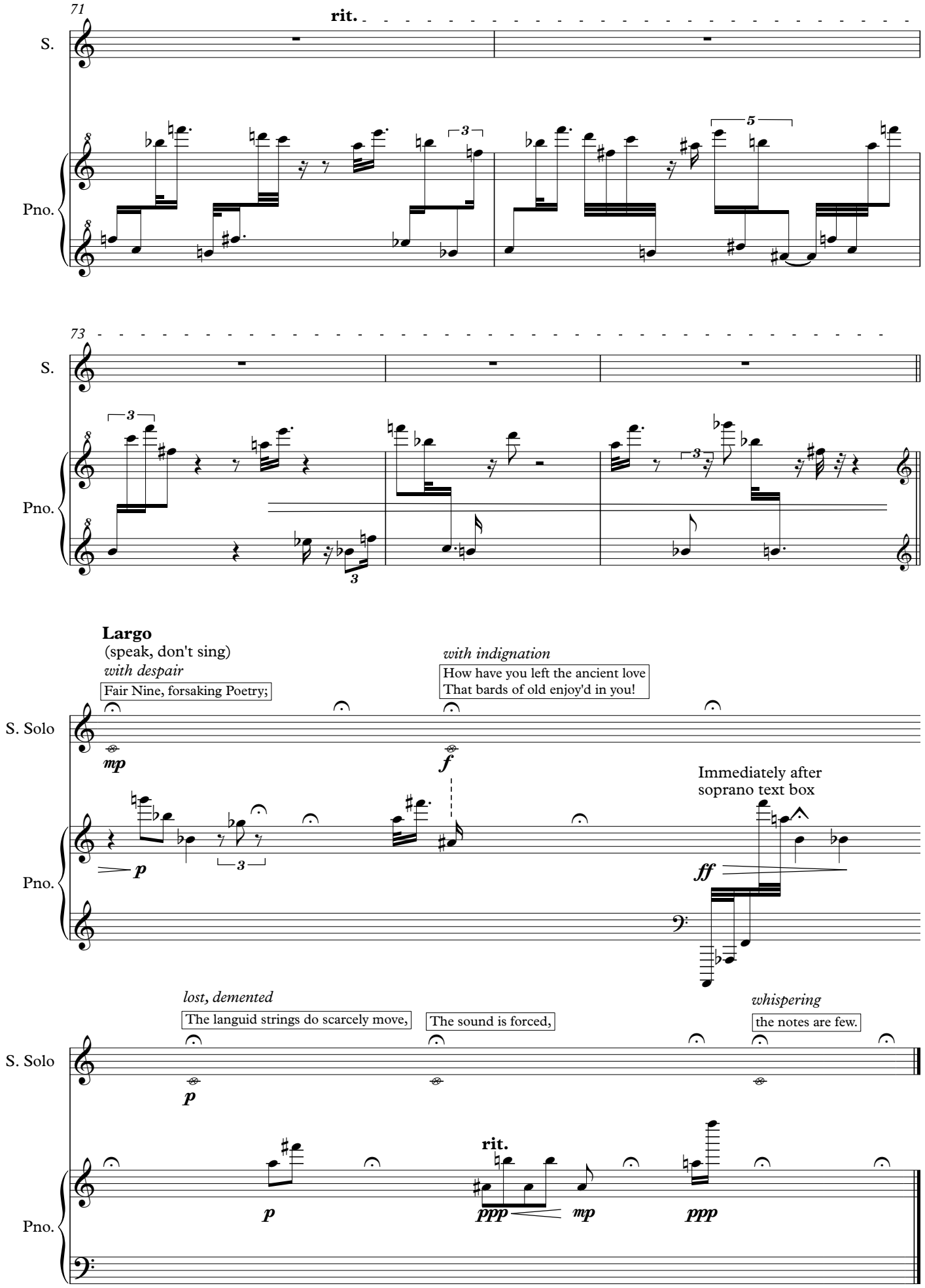

Poco meno mosso
S.
Pno.
Whe-ther on I - da's sha - dy brow
Or in the cham-bers of the East, The cham-bers of the Sun,
that now From an-cient me-lo - dy have ceased;
decresc.
ord.
almost whispering


Poco meno mosso
29
mp
f
S.
Whe-ther in hea - ven ye wan - -
Pno.
p
f
p
p
32
mf
S.
- der fair, Or the green
Pno.
p
mf
mp
34
S.
cor - ners of the earth, Or the blue
Pno.
mp
mf
f
f
p
p
36
S.
re - gions of the air
Pno.
mf
f
f
ff


38
S.
Pno.
8va
40
Where the me - lo - di - ous
winds have birth;
Ped.
42
44
accel.
mind the clef changes
until the end


48
S.
Pno.
p
ff
pp
f
51
♩ = 112
S.
Pno.
f
Ped.
Ped.
54
S.
mf
We - ther on crys-tal
Pno.
(f)
mf
Ped.
Ped.
57
S.
rocks ye rove, Be - neath
Pno.
ff
mf
mf


59
S.
Pno.
mp
p
the bo - som of the sea
pp
Ped.
62
mf
Wan-de - ring in ma - ny a co - ral
66
f
grove; Fair nine for - sa - king
ff
69
Po - e - try;
fff
8vb
Ped. al fine


71
rit.
S.
Pno.
73
S.
Pno.
Largo
(speak, don't sing)
with despair
Fair Nine, forsaking Poetry;
with indignation
How have you left the ancient love
That bards of old enjoy'd in you!
S. Solo
Pno.
Immediately after
soprano text box
lost, demented
The languid strings do scarcely move,
The sound is forced,
whispering
the notes are few.
S. Solo
Pno.
rit.