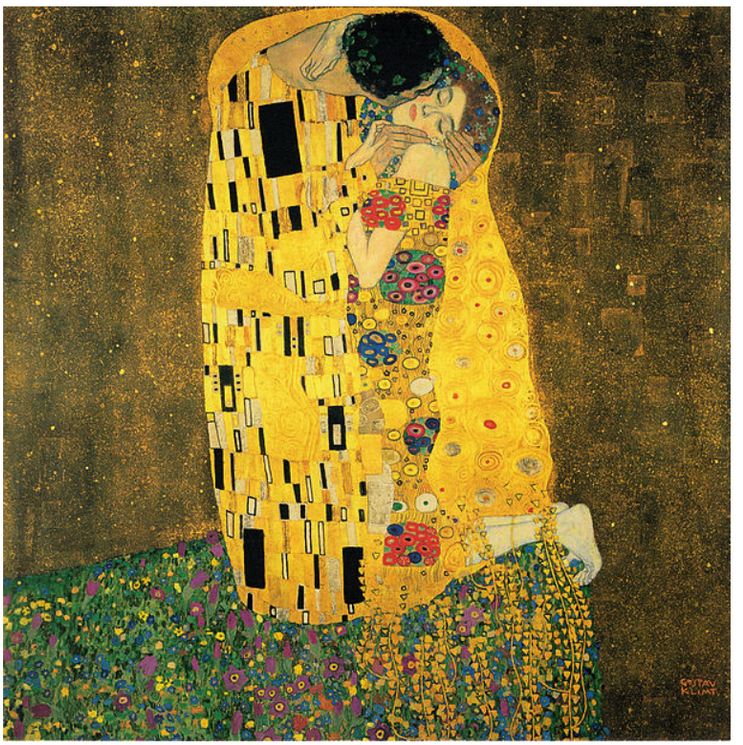
Abraham Newsom

The Kiss

for Baritone and String Quartet

webbermusic.org
300014



Composer's Notes

It might seem odd to have a male voice singing words from women. The reason I voiced it that way is because these words are my interpretation of scriptures read on various days in the monastery usually in honor of Mary Magdalene and Mary the Virgin. Hearing these words read in the dark church at 4:00am, I have, over the years, identified myself with the characters (which is probably the intended effect), so I have a male voice singing the parts.

Of all my compositions, this one is most reflective of my own thoughts and feelings: "Why would God want me? Where is God? I have nothing, but take all of me anyway."

As with all of my music, The Kiss is intentionally repetitive, slow moving, and meditative. It starts from a haze of inactivity and ends in a haze of inactivity, bubbling out of and back into nothingness, like the universe from the quantum foam.

And, yes, I stole the title from the painting by Gustav Klimt. I really like his stuff. Many thanks to John Webber for all the work he has done bringing my music to life. The manuscripts sat for a decade on a shelf in the monastery, and he has spent a lot of time and energy typesetting them and making them available in print and electronically.

Br. Abraham Newsom

The Kiss

for Baritone and String Quartet

1996

ABRAHAM NEWSOM

St. Gregory's Abbey
Three Rivers, Michigan

webber music - kalamazoo, michigan, u.s.a.

Prelude: Andante, ♩= 160

I: Mary Magdalene

Song of Solomon 3: 1-3
John 20: 10-18

I sought him, him whom my heart loves I sought him on my bed him whom my heart loves I sought him on my bed whom mu heart loves I will cling to him
whom my heart loves I sought him who knows my name. He was not there I sought him, him whom my heart loves I sought him on my bed, him whom my heart loves. I sought him on my bed, whom my heart loves I will cling to him whom my heart loves I sought him who knows my name I sought him I sought him where have they taken him? him, him whom my heart loves where have they taken him, him whom my heart loves, the one who knows my name? Where? Where? Where have they taken him? him who my heart loves, the one who knows my name. Where? Where? Where have they taken him? Him, him whom my heart loves. Where have they taken him? Him whom my heart loves, the one who knows my name? I sought him him whom my heart loves. I sought him on my bed, him whom my heart loves. He was not there I sought him.

II: Mary, Mother of God: Andante, ♩= 192

Luke 1: 26-38

Here am I Why would he want me? Here am I Why would he want me, aren't there others? Why would he want me? Here am I Why would he want me aren't there others? Why would he want me? Here am I Take me. Take me. Take me. Take me. Take me Take me.

III: The Bride: A tempo, ♩= 192

Song of Solomon 1: 1-9; 2: 3-6, 14; 4: 16, 5:1,8-6

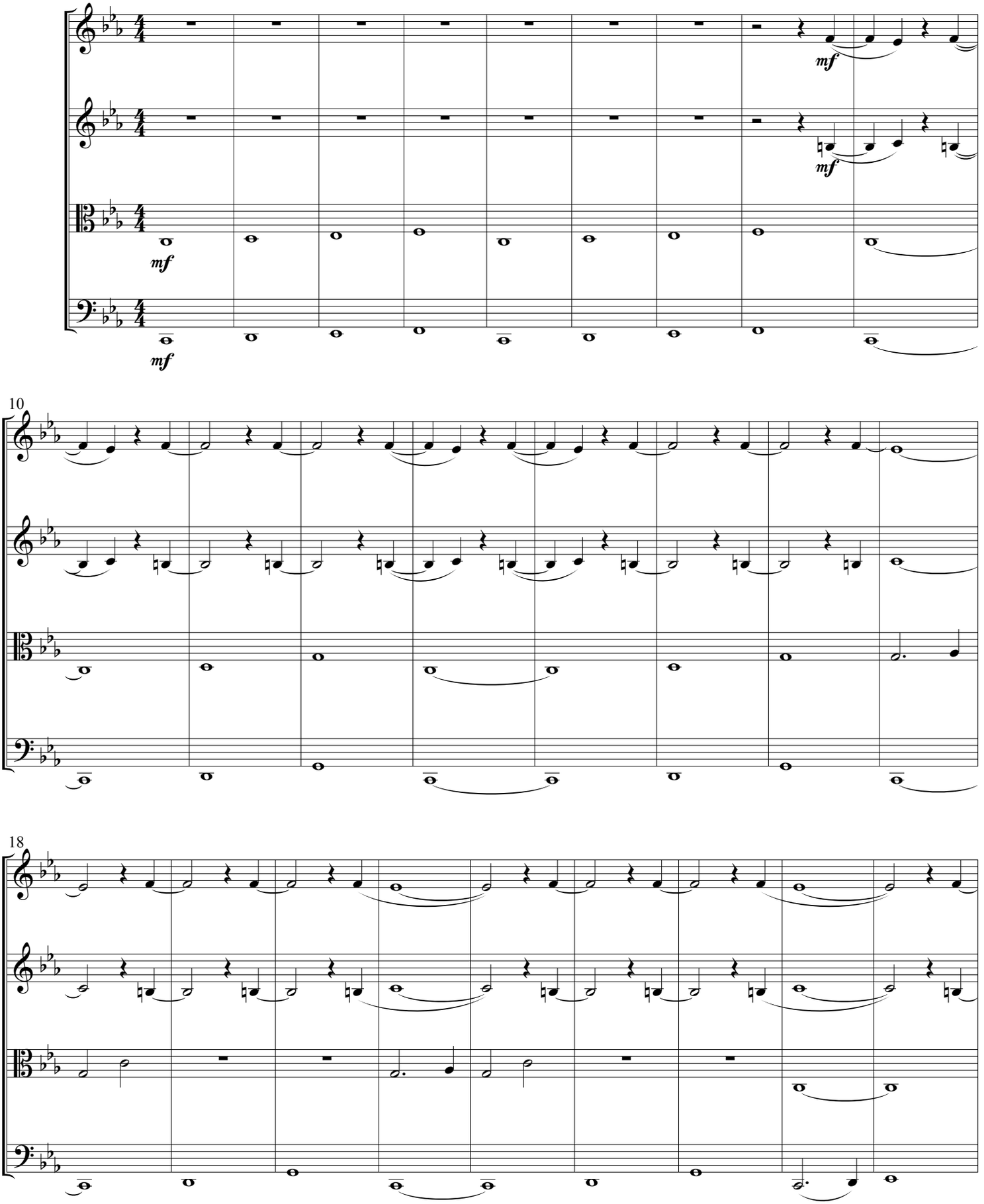
Drink deep Kiss me with the kisses of your lips. Come into my garden, take me in your arms. Let me hear your voice. Take me place me on your heart. Take me in your arms Drink deep. Kiss me with the kisses of your lips. Come into my garden, feast upon the fruit of my trees. Take me place me on your heart. Let me hear your voice. Drink deep. Take me, place me on your heart. Let me hear your voice. Cover me with your love. Cover me with you love. Love as strong as death Kiss me with the kisses of your lips. Come into my garden take me in your arms. Let me hear your voice Take me place me on your heart. Take me in your arms. Cover me with your love. Cover me with your love. Love as strong as death. Take me, I am yours. Take me I am yours. Take me I am yours. Pour yourself upon me. Take me I am yours. Pour yourself upon me. Take me. Take me. Take me. Take me. Pour yourself upon me, take me. Take me. Drink deep Take me. Take me.

The Kiss

for Baritone and String Quartet

Prelude: Andante, ♩ = 160

Abraham Newsom



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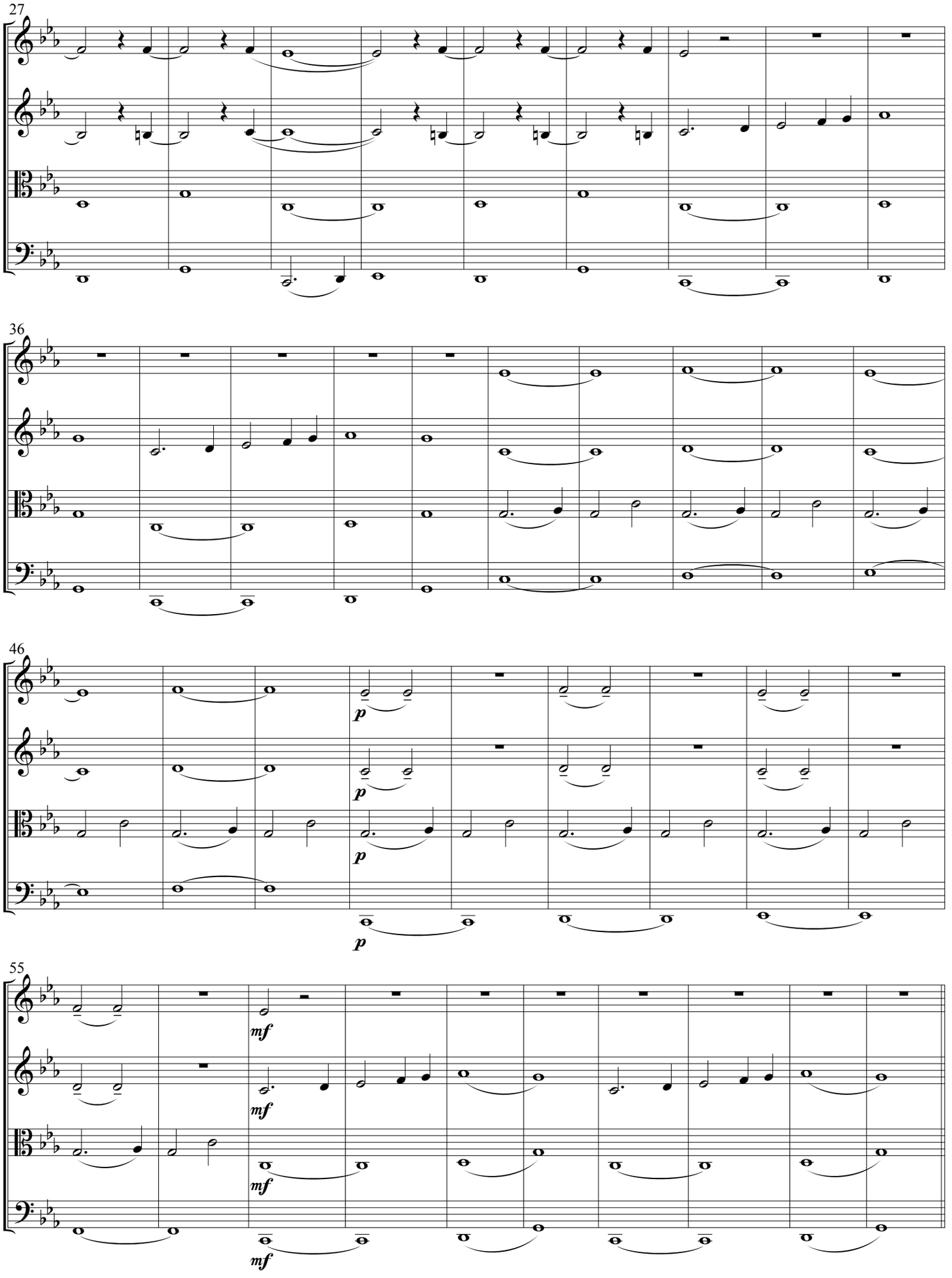
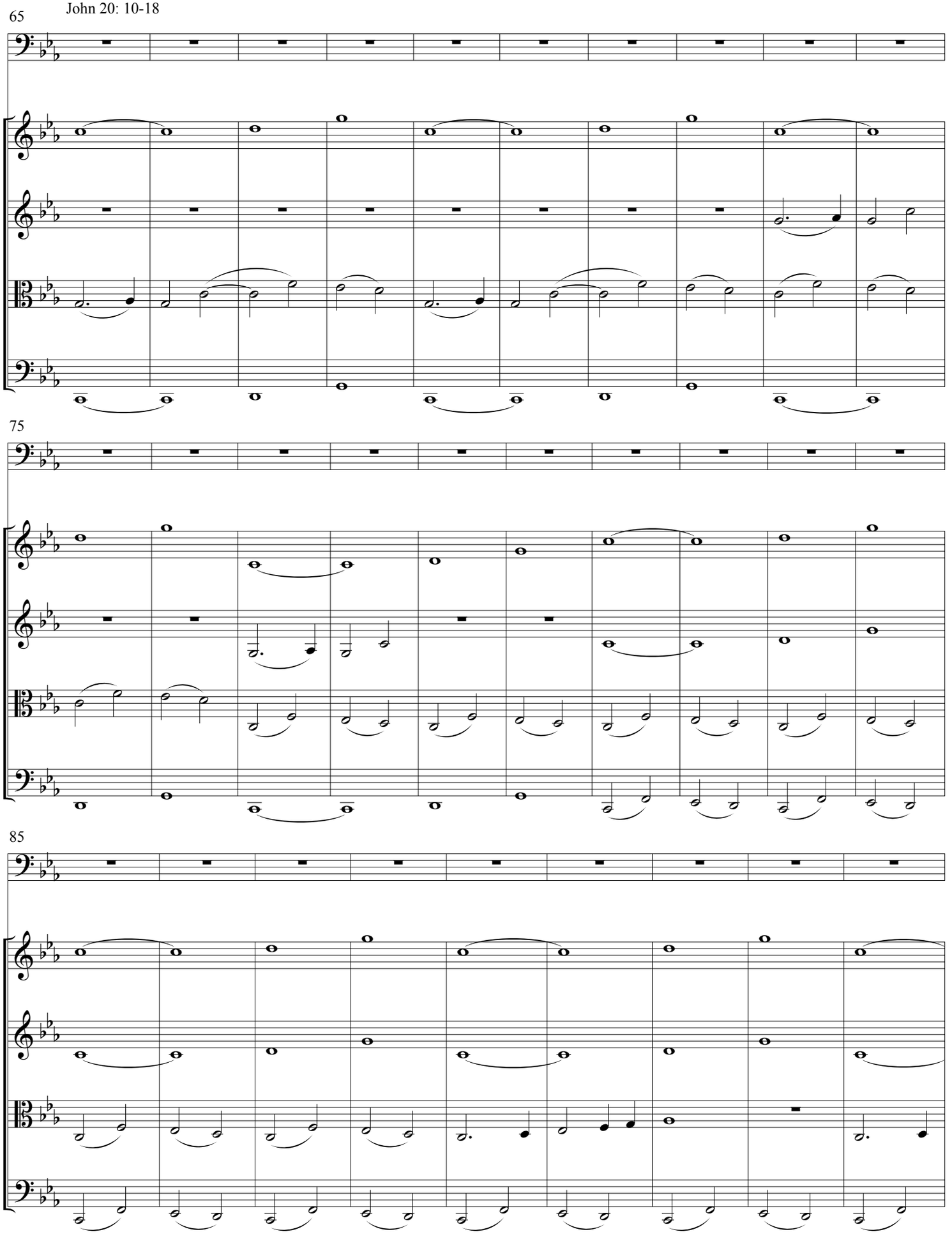
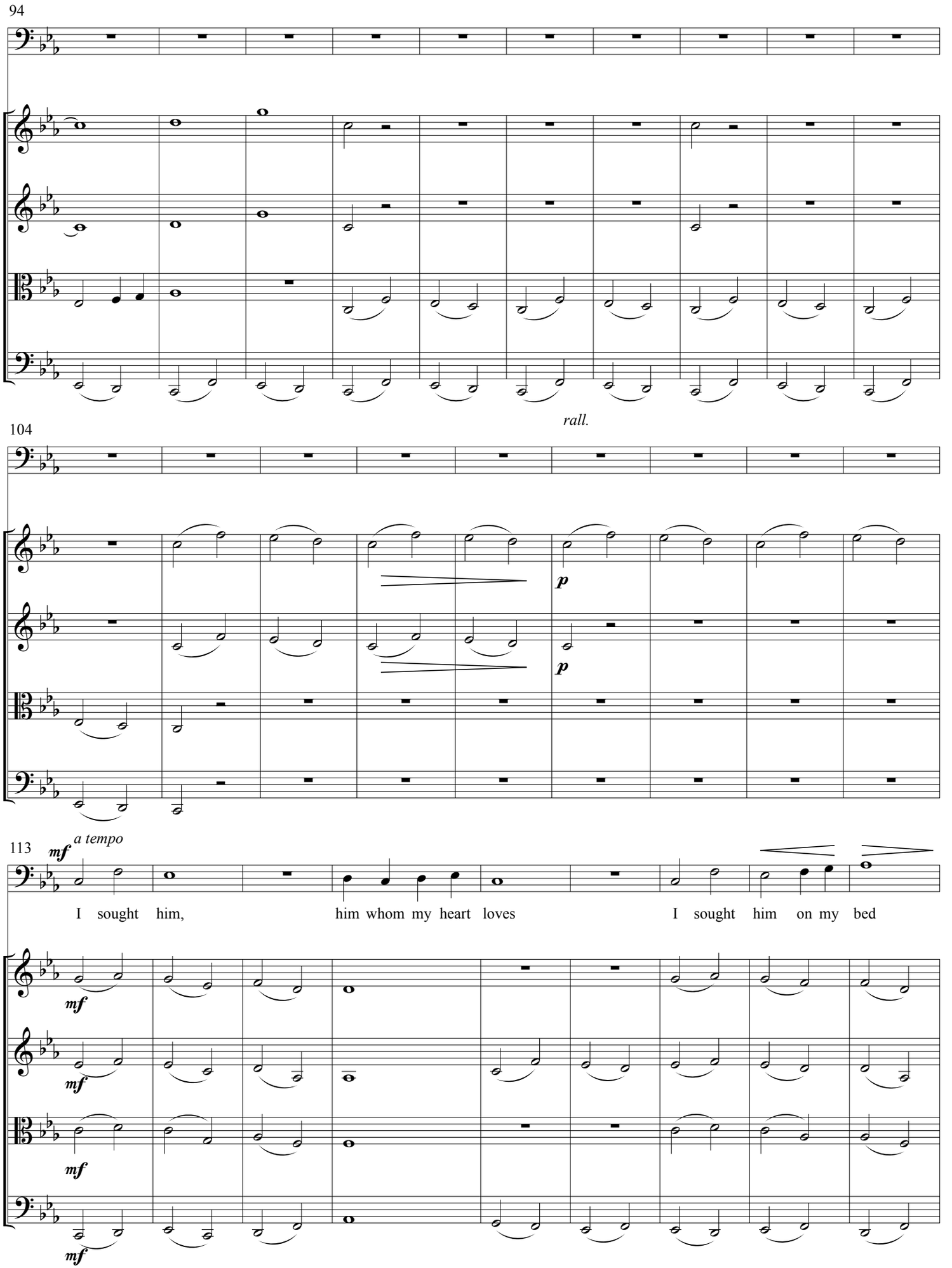
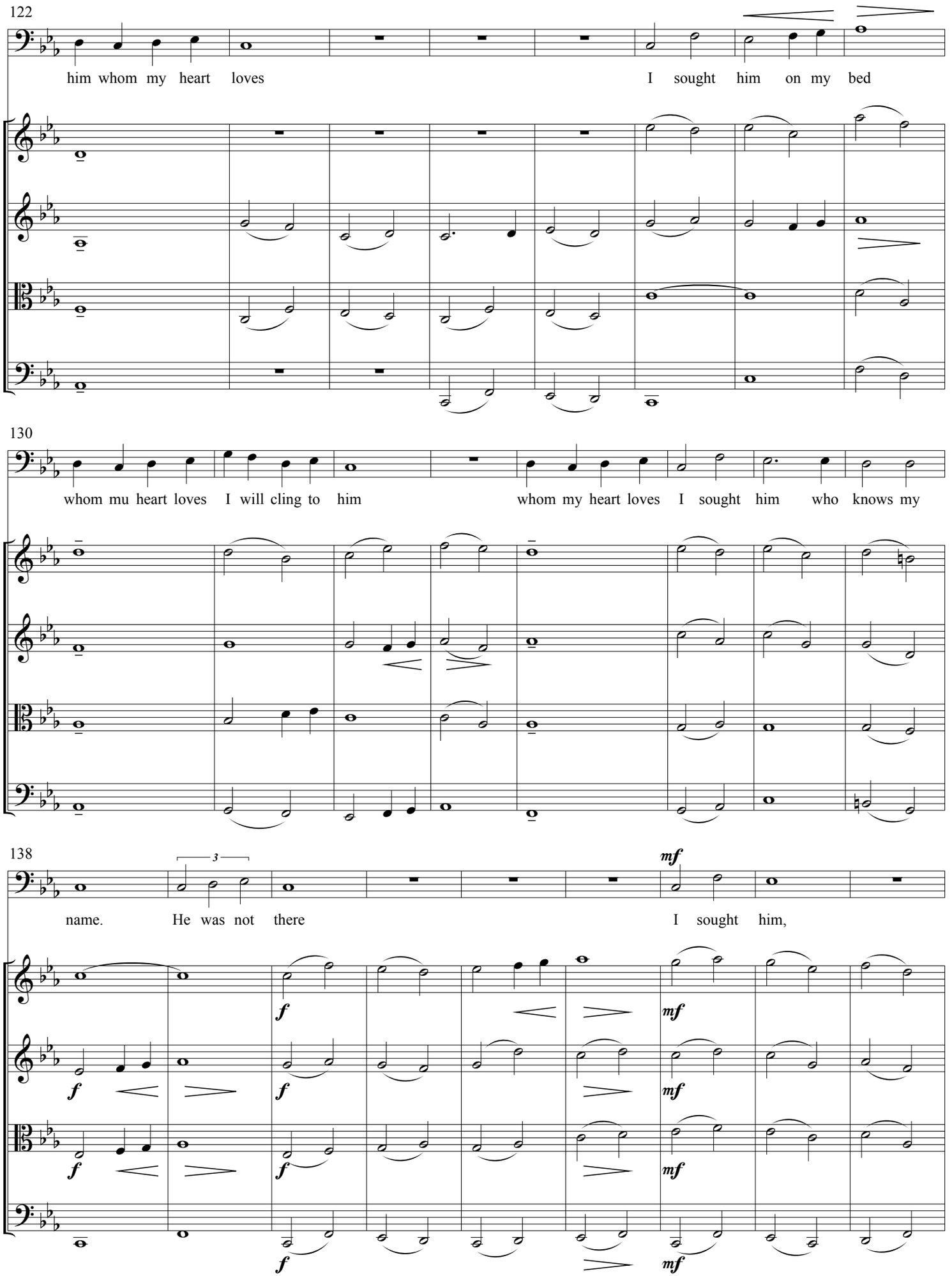

27
36
46
p
p
p
55
mf
mf
mf

I: Mary Magdalene
Song of Solomon 3: 1-3
John 20: 10-18




94
rall.
104
p
p
113
mf
a tempo
I sought him, him whom my heart loves I sought him on my bed
mf
mf
mf
mf


122
him whom my heart loves
I sought him on my bed
130
whom mu heart loves I will cling to him
whom my heart loves I sought him who knows my
138
3
name.
He was not there
I sought him,
mf
f
mf

147

him whom my heart loves I sought him on my bed, him whom my heart loves.

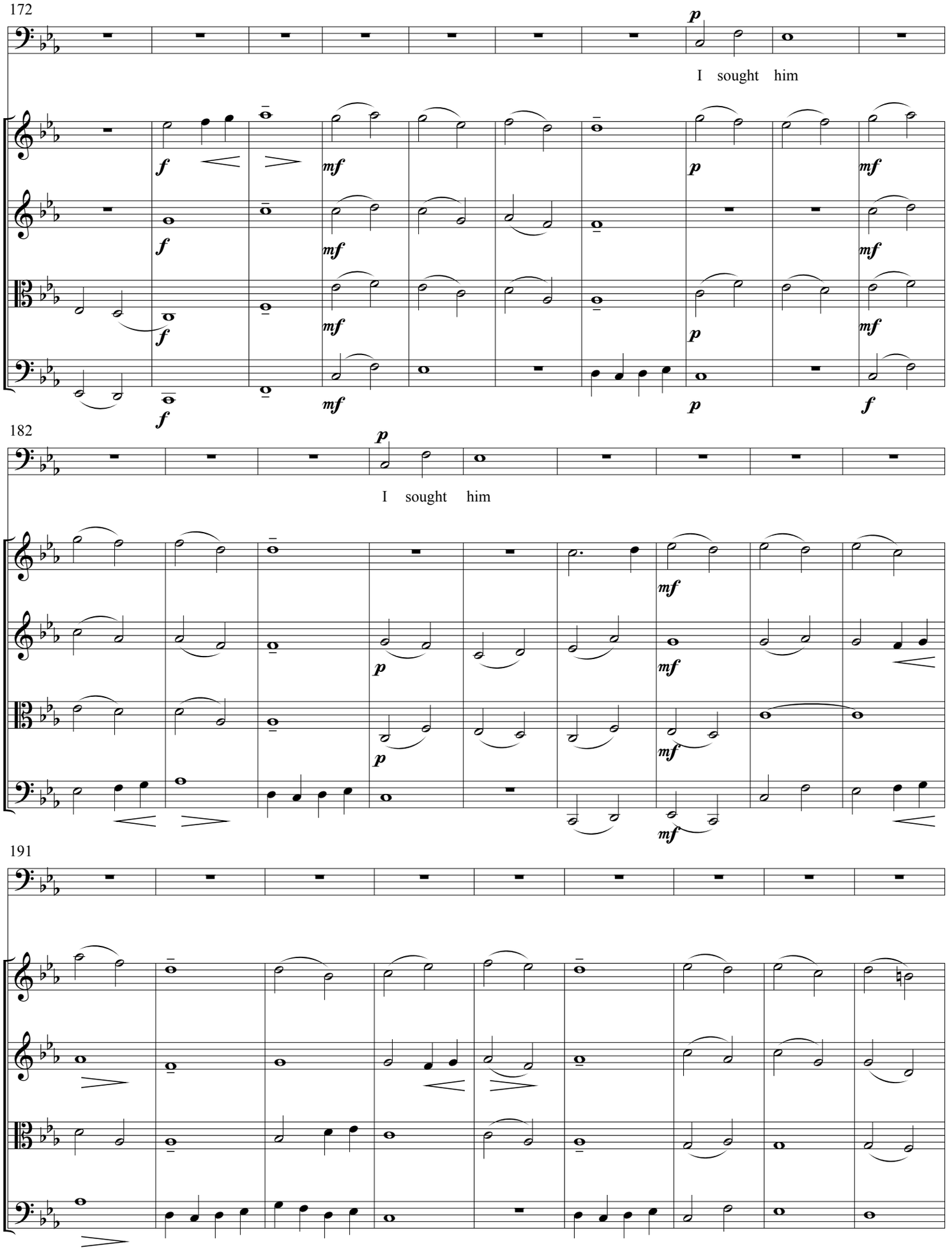
155

I sought him on my bed, whom my heart loves I will cling to

163

him whom my heart loves I sought him who knows my name

f *f* *f* *p* *f* *p*


172
I sought him
182
I sought him
191

piu mosso ♩ = 176

200

mp

where have they ta - ken him?

f *f* *mp subito*

f *f* *mp subito*

f *p* *f* *mp subito*

f *p* *f* *mp subito*

209

mp *mp*

him, him whom my heart loves where have they ta - ken

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

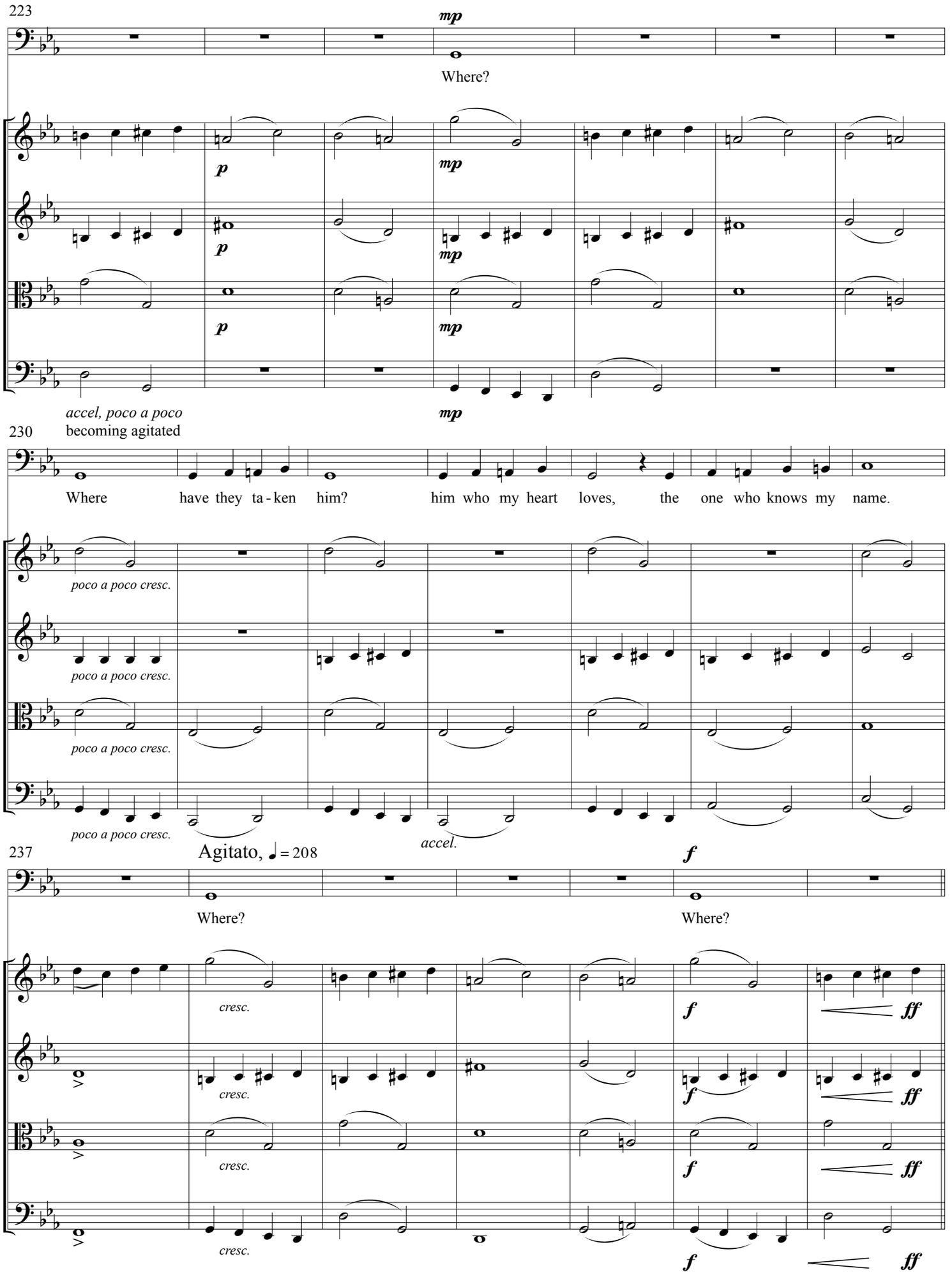
pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

mp *mp*

mp *mp*

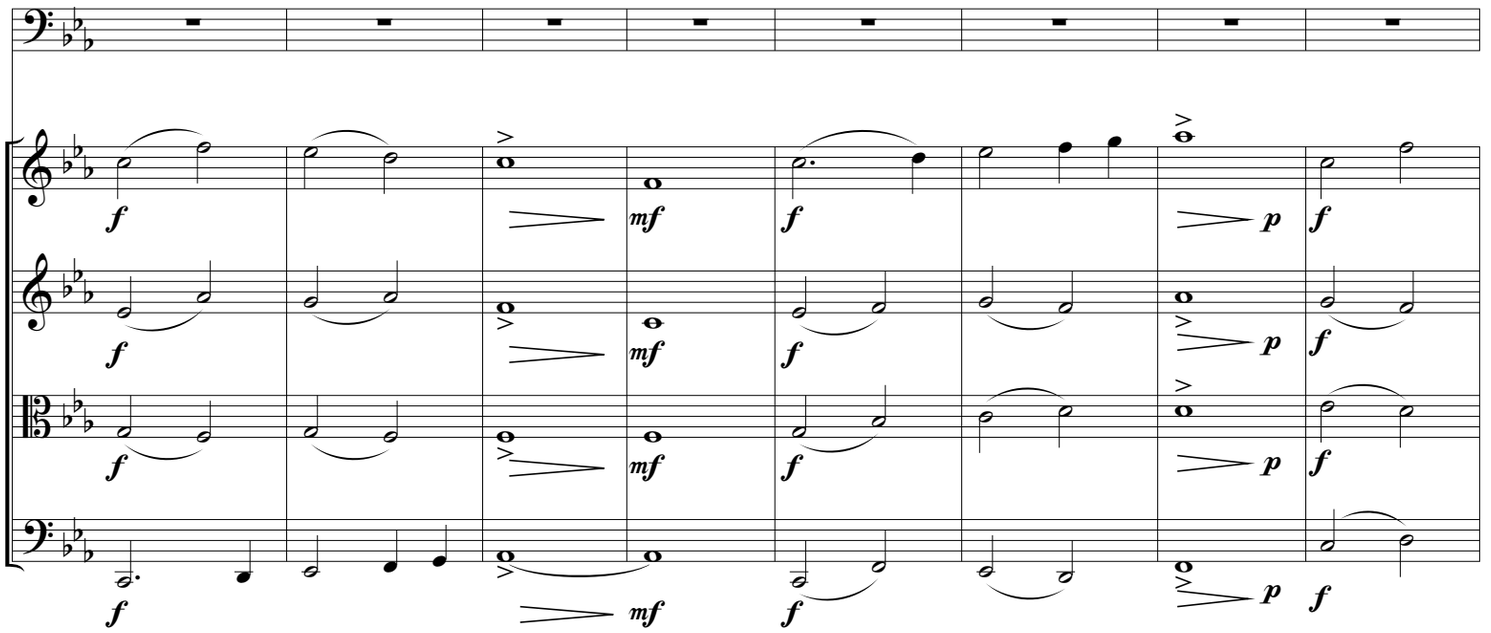
216

him, him whom my heart loves, the one who knows my name? Where?

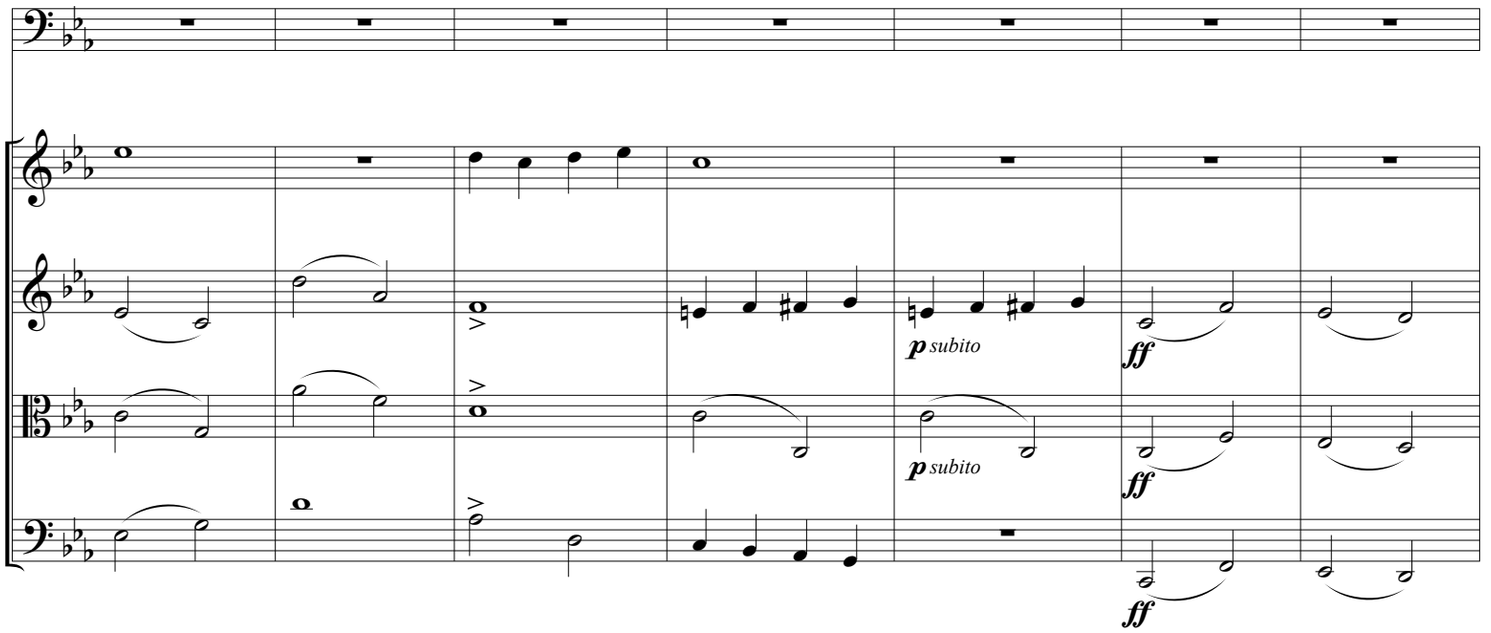

223
mp
Where?
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp
accel, poco a poco
becoming agitated
mp
230
Where have they ta - ken him? him who my heart loves, the one who knows my name.
poco a poco cresc.
poco a poco cresc.
poco a poco cresc.
poco a poco cresc.
accel.
237
Agitato, ♩ = 208
f
Where?
Where?
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
f
ff
f
ff
f
ff
f
ff

Agitato, ♩ = 160

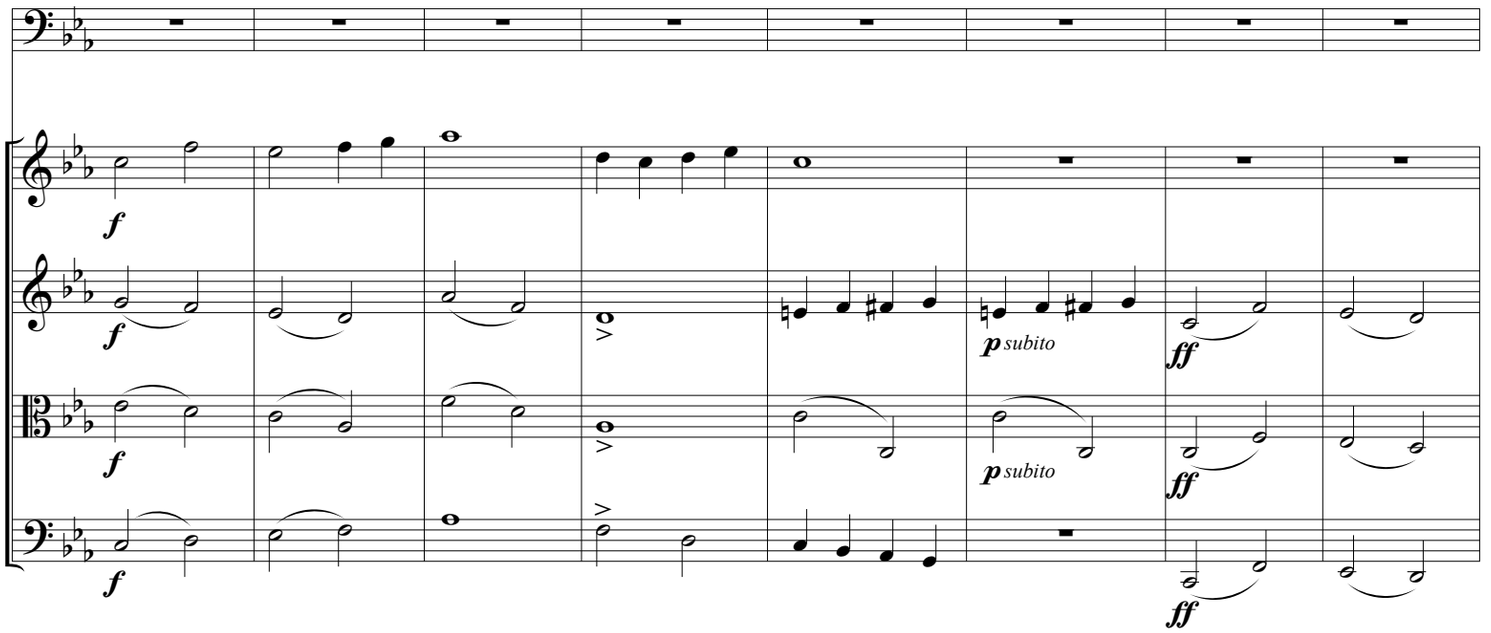
244

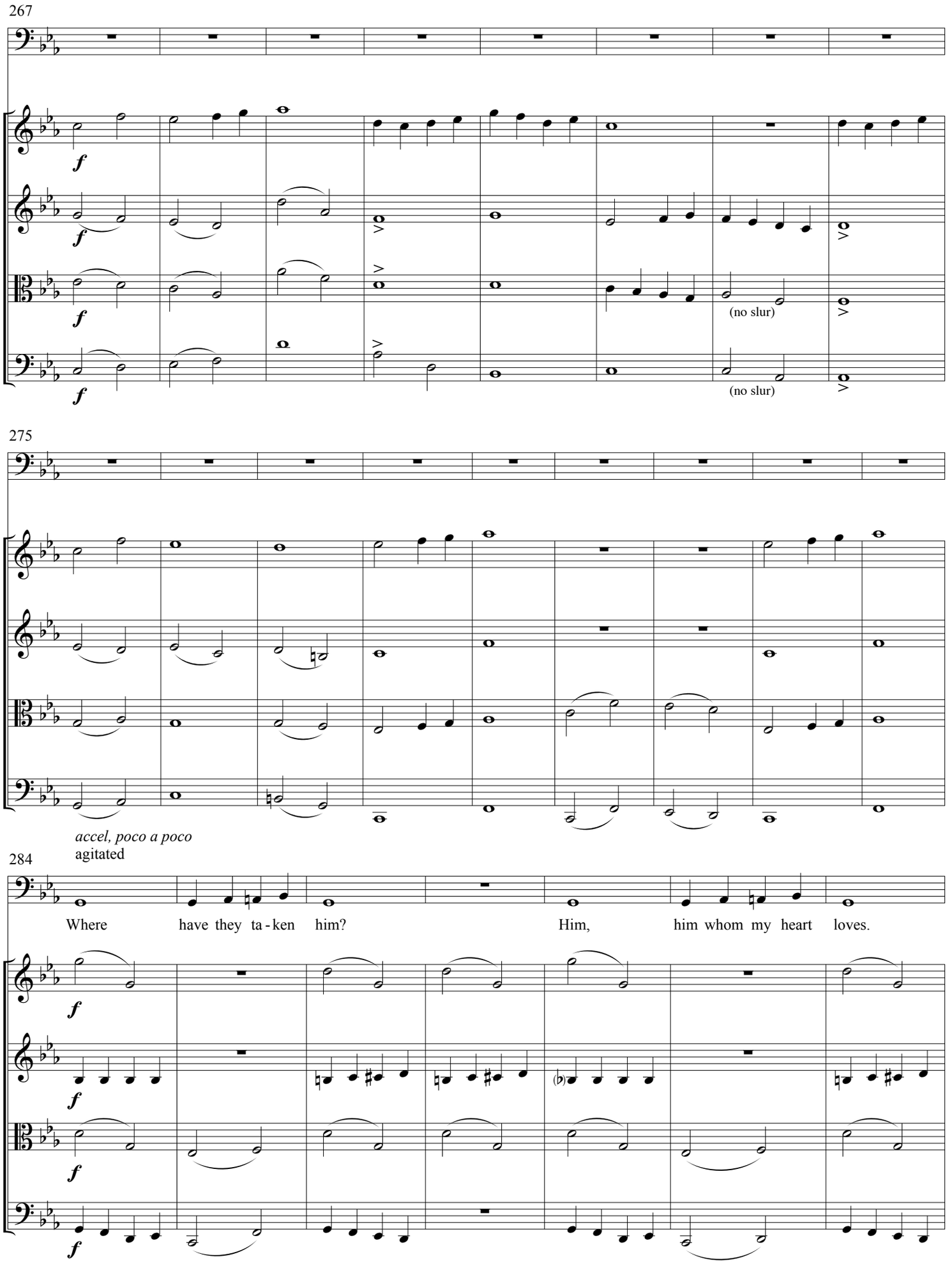


252



259




267
f
(no slur)
(no slur)
275
accel, poco a poco
agitated
284
Where have they ta - ken him?
Him, him whom my heart loves.

291

(accel, poco a poco)

Where have they ta-ken him? Him whom my heart loves, the one who knows my

298

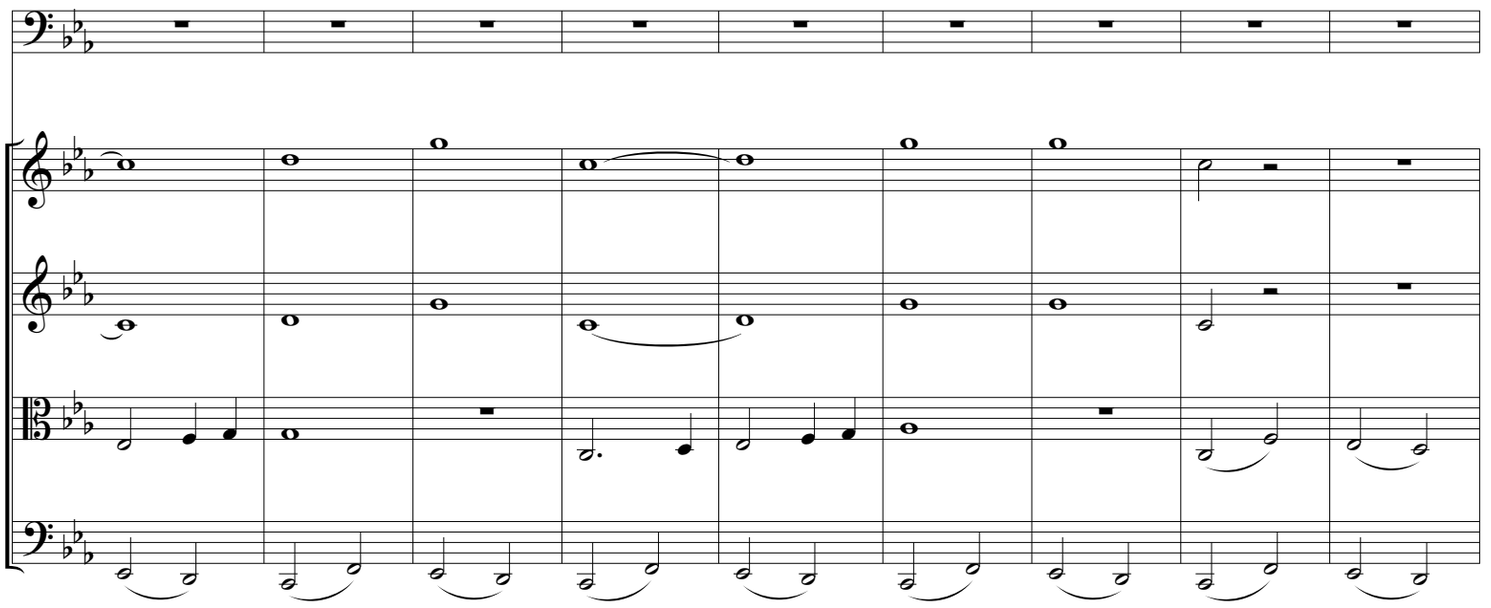
Allegro, ♩ = 192

name?

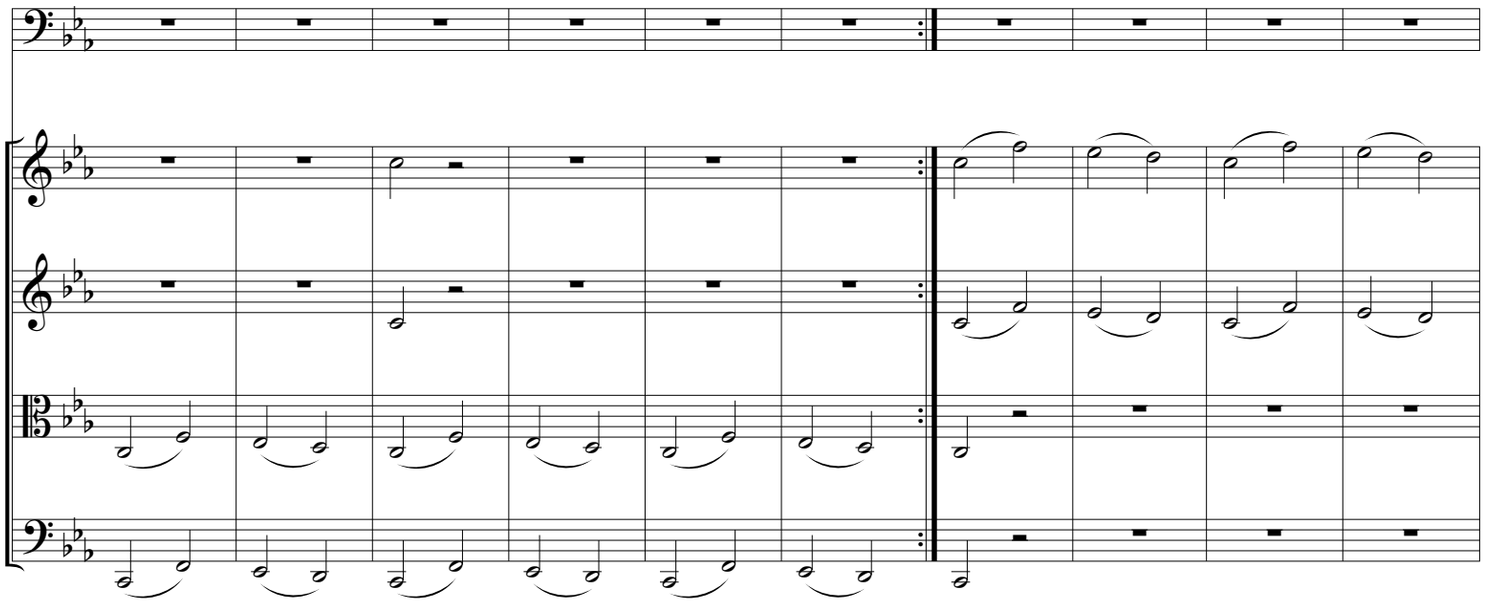
ff *f*

308

317

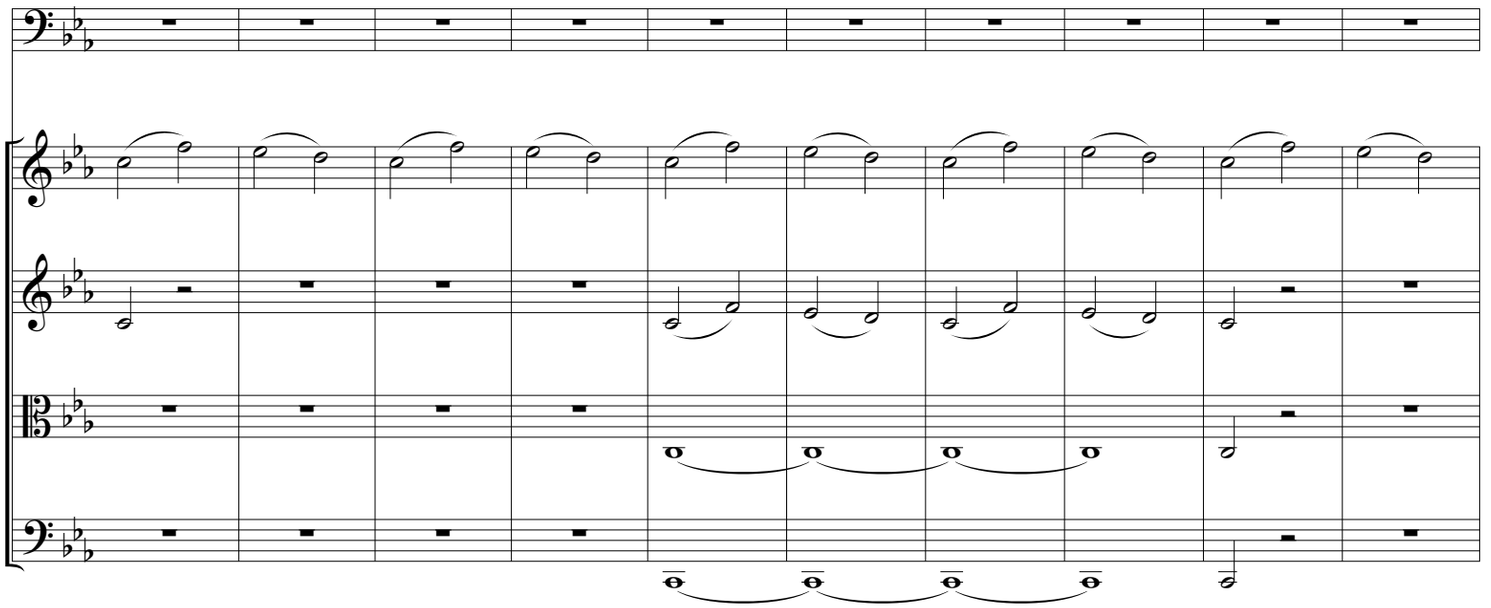


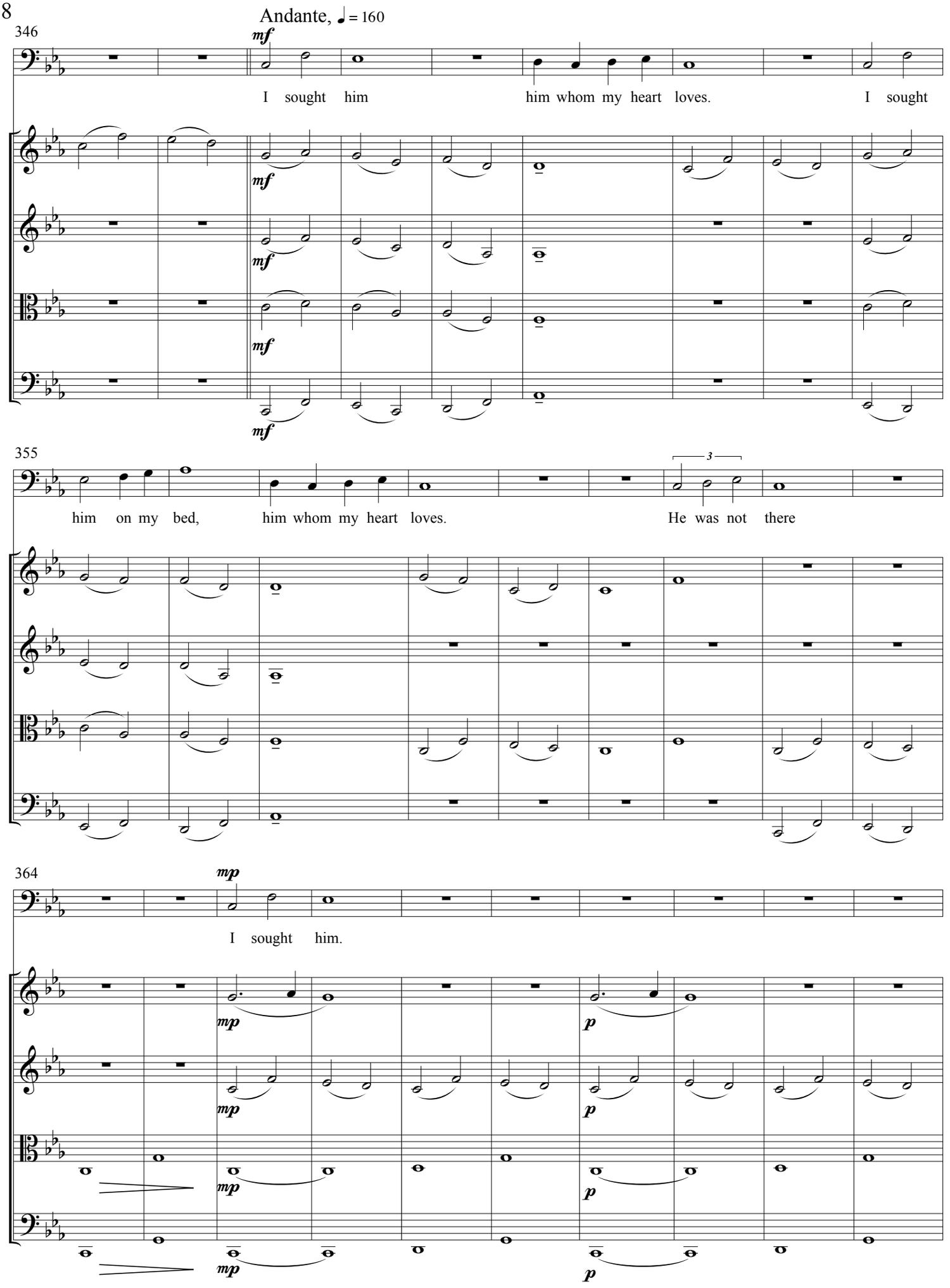
326



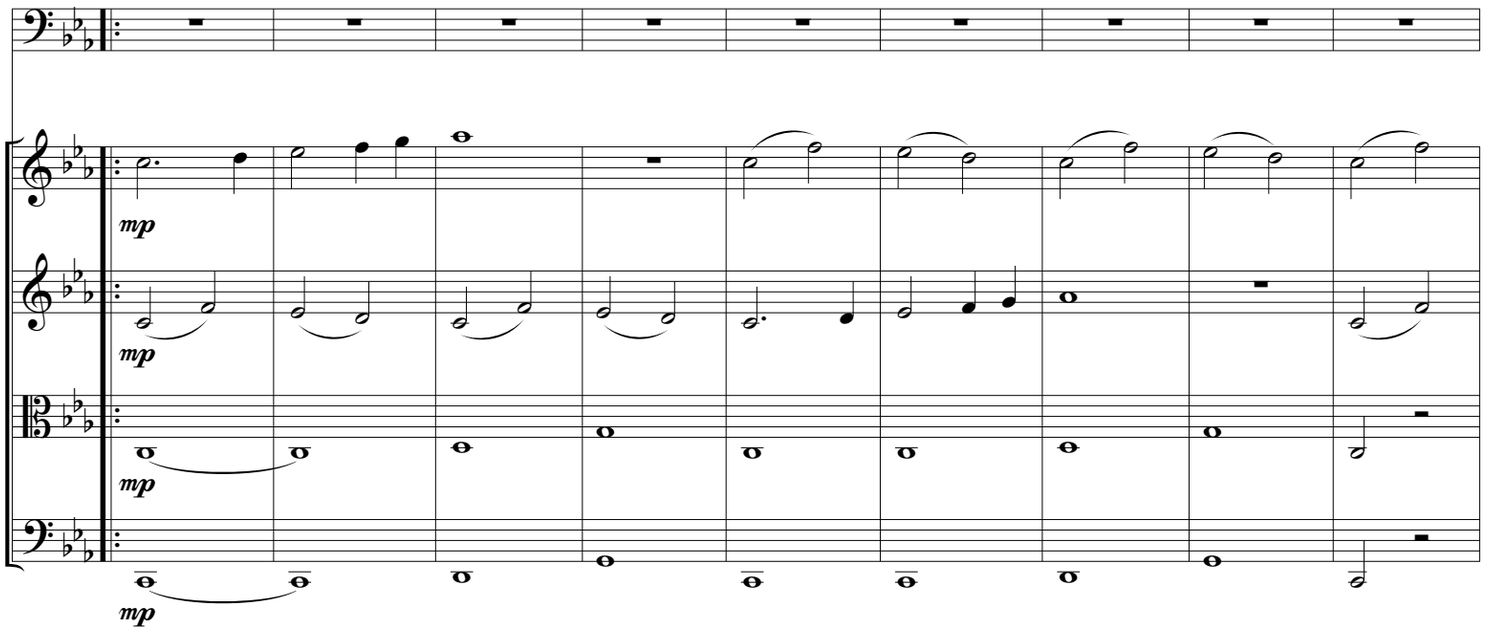
dim a rall poco a poco

336

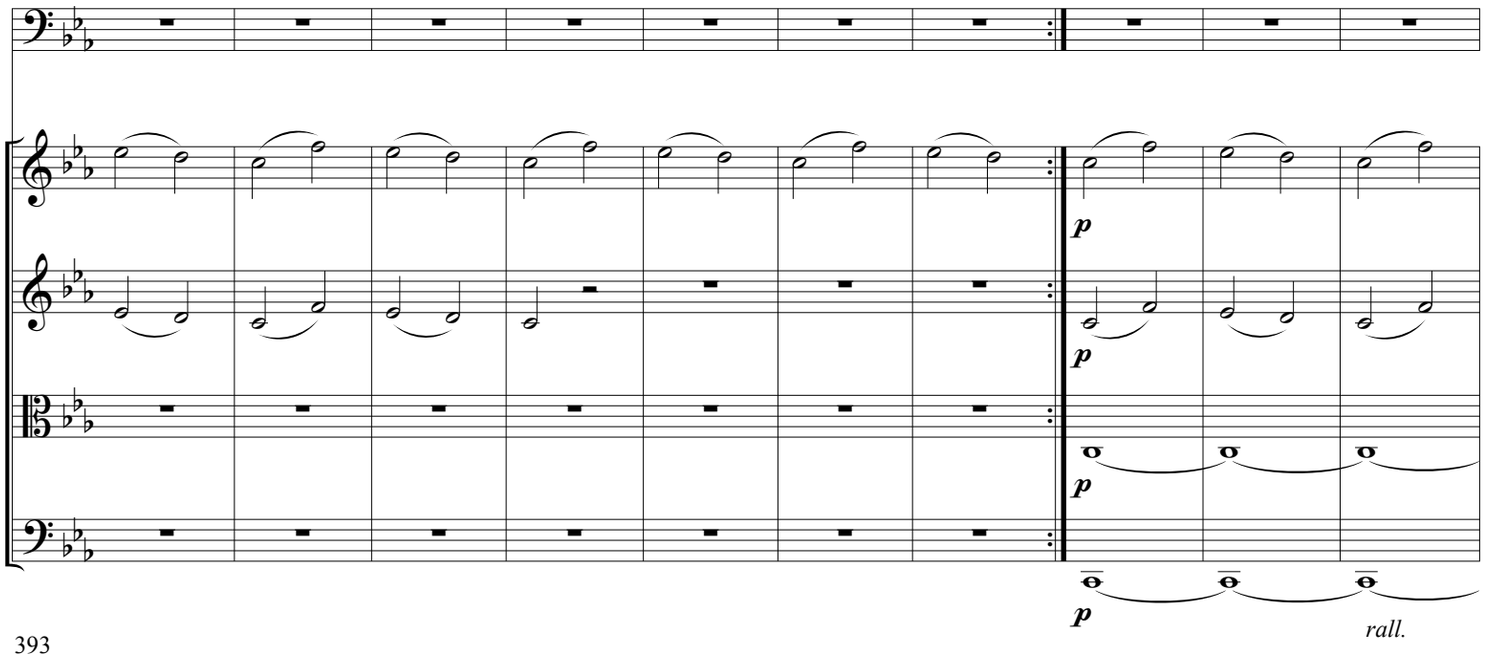



Andante, ♩ = 160
346
mf
I sought him him whom my heart loves. I sought
355
him on my bed, him whom my heart loves. He was not there
3
364
mp
I sought him.
p

374

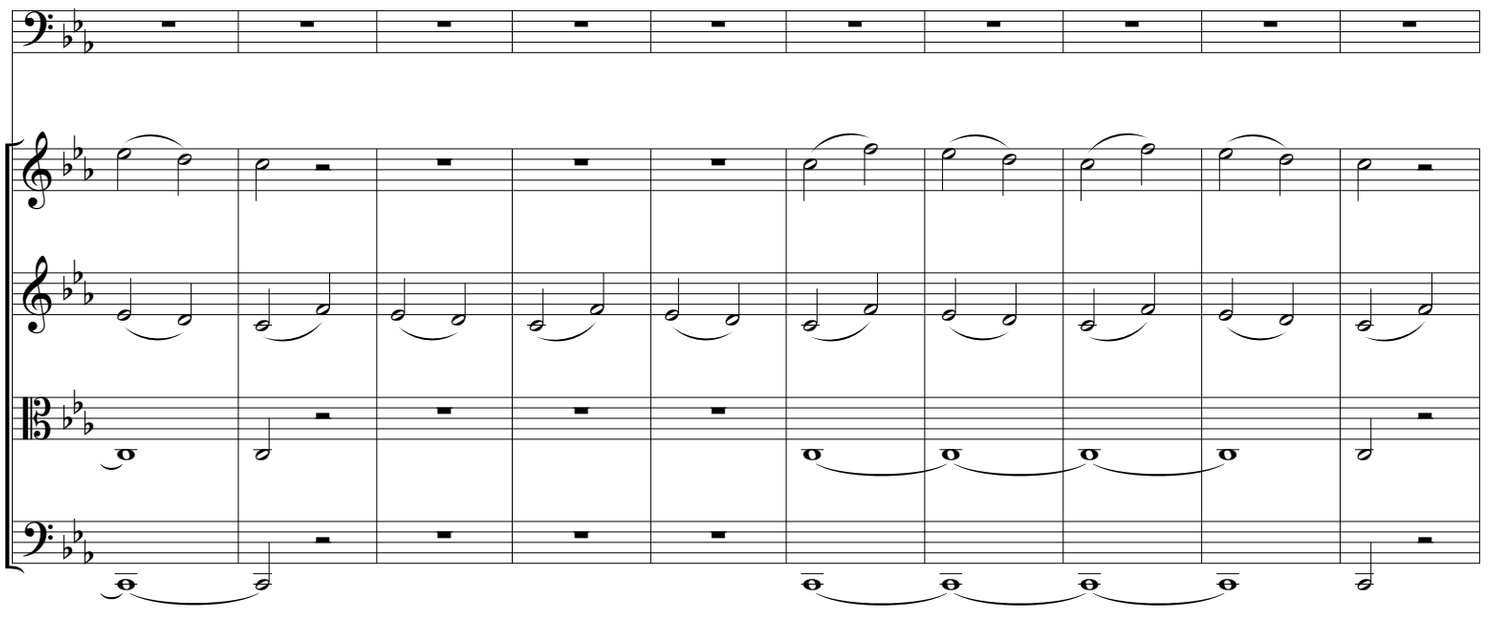


383



393

rall.



II: Mary, Mother of God: Andante, ♩ = 192

Luke 1: 26-38

403

mp

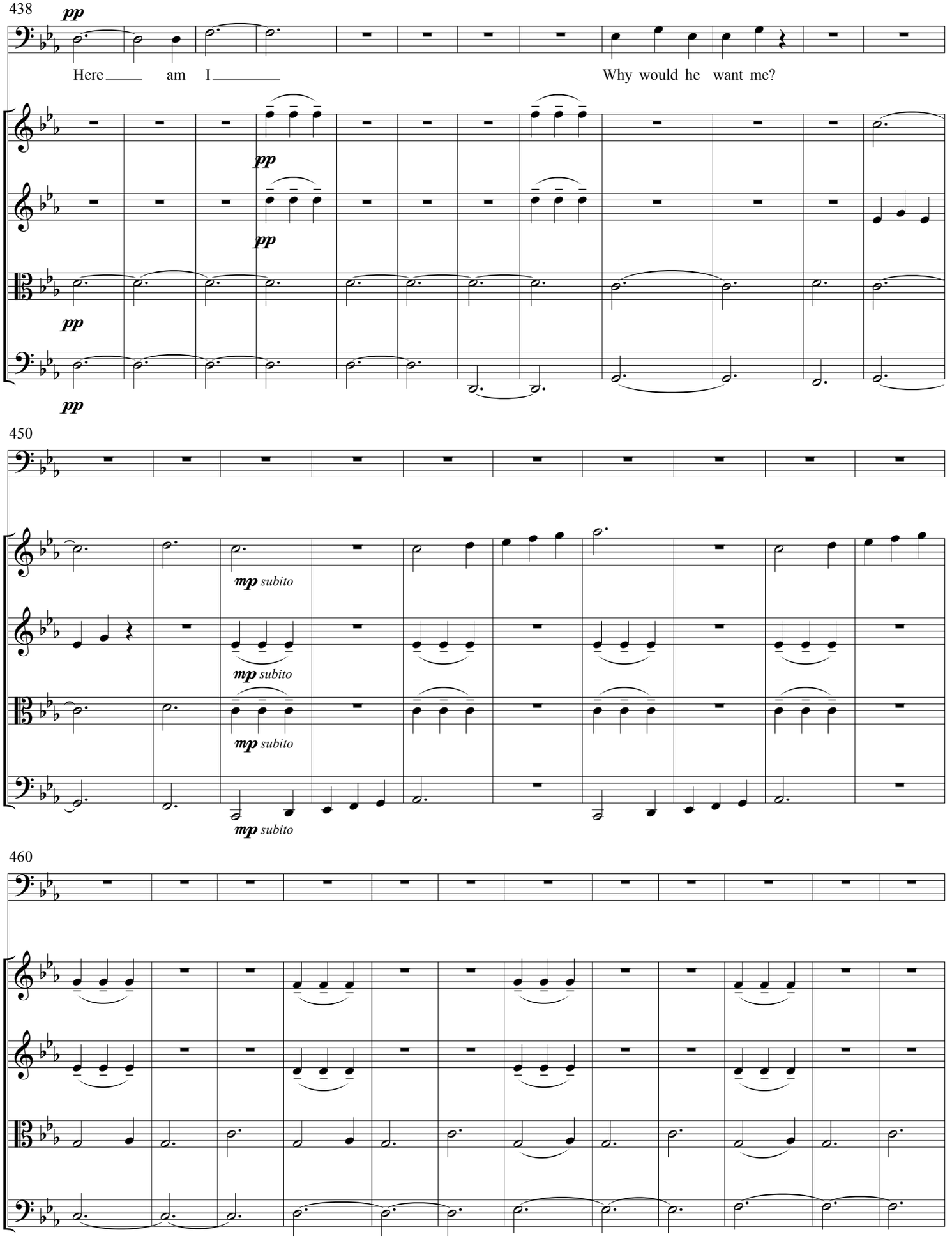
mp

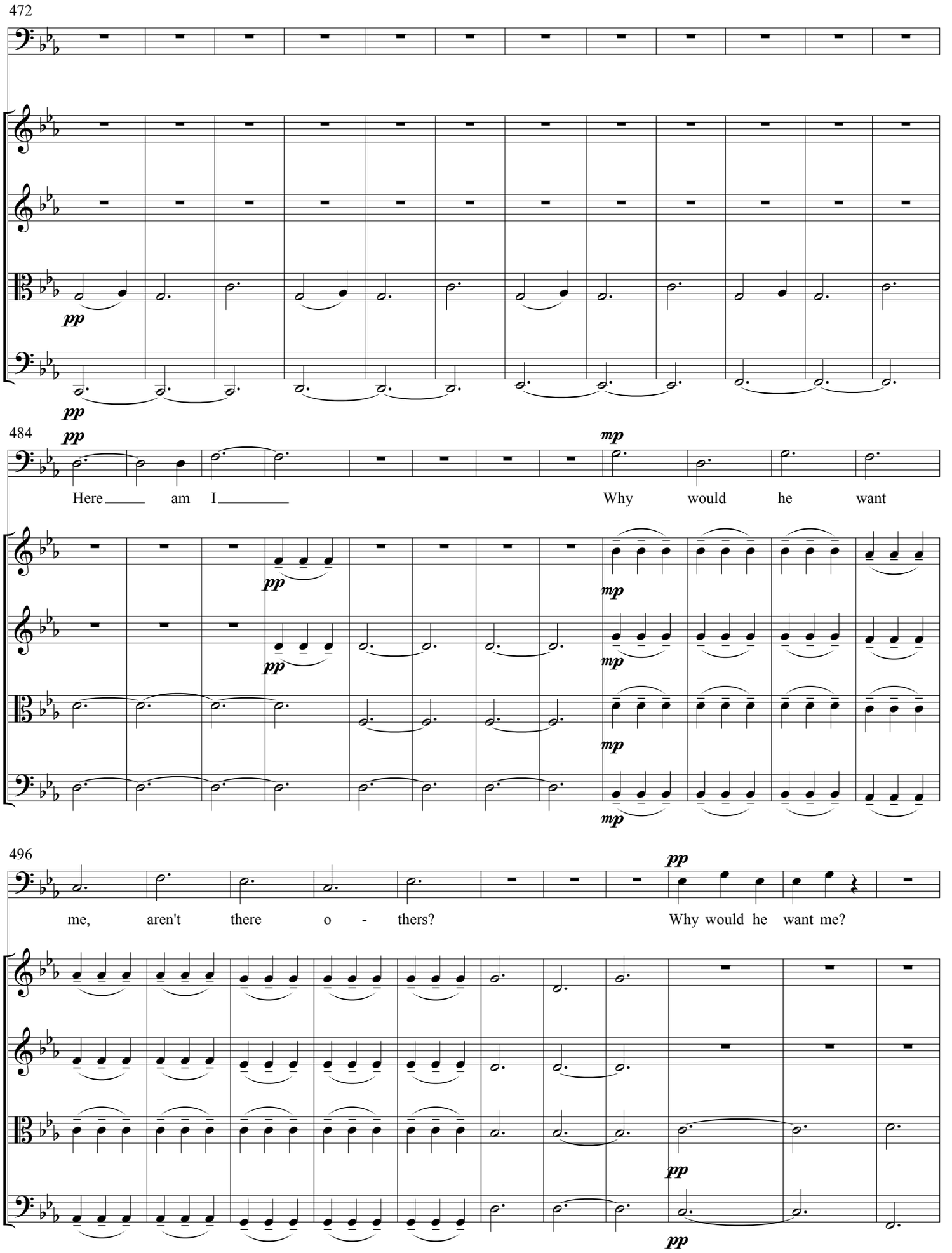
413

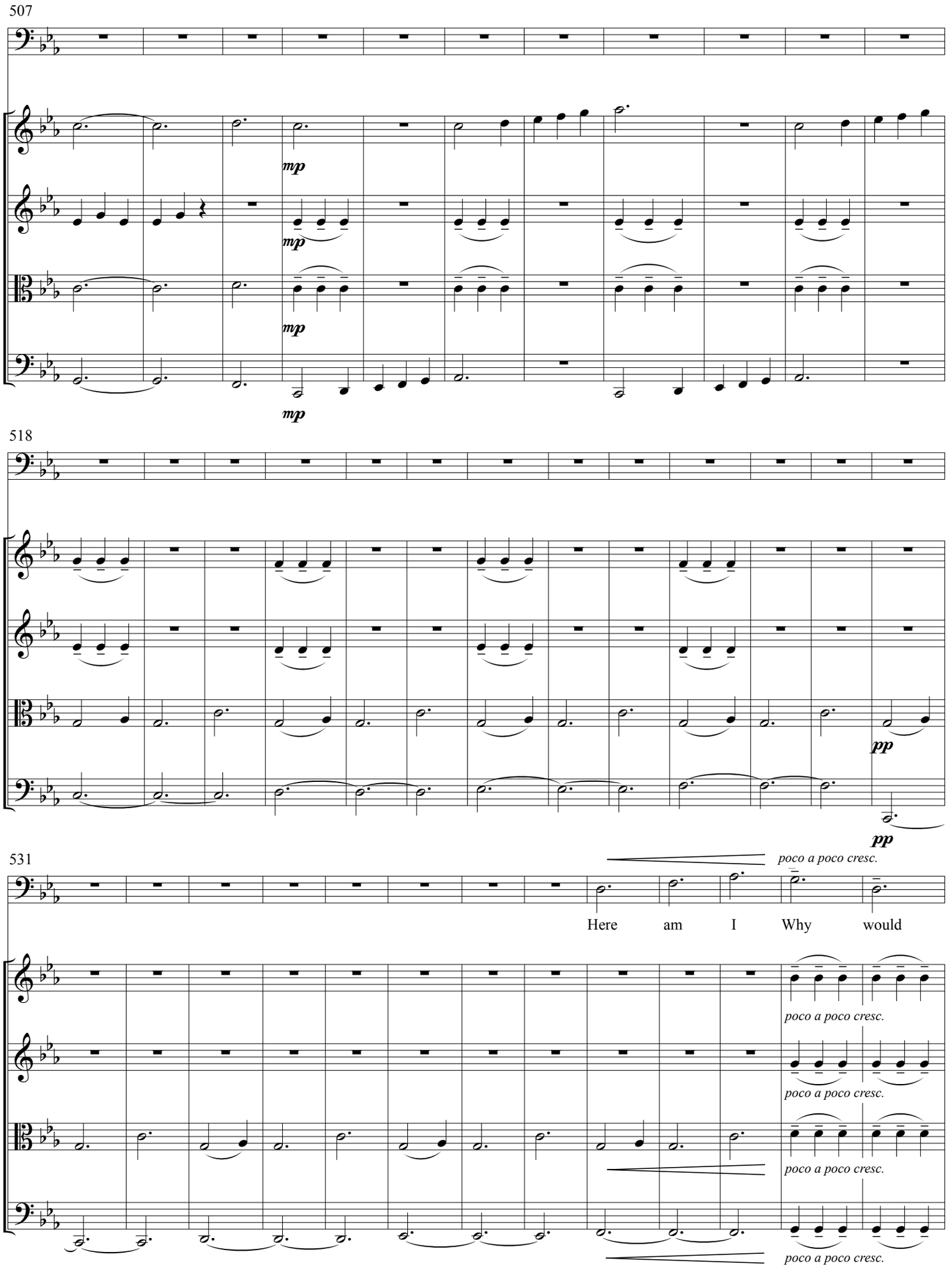
426

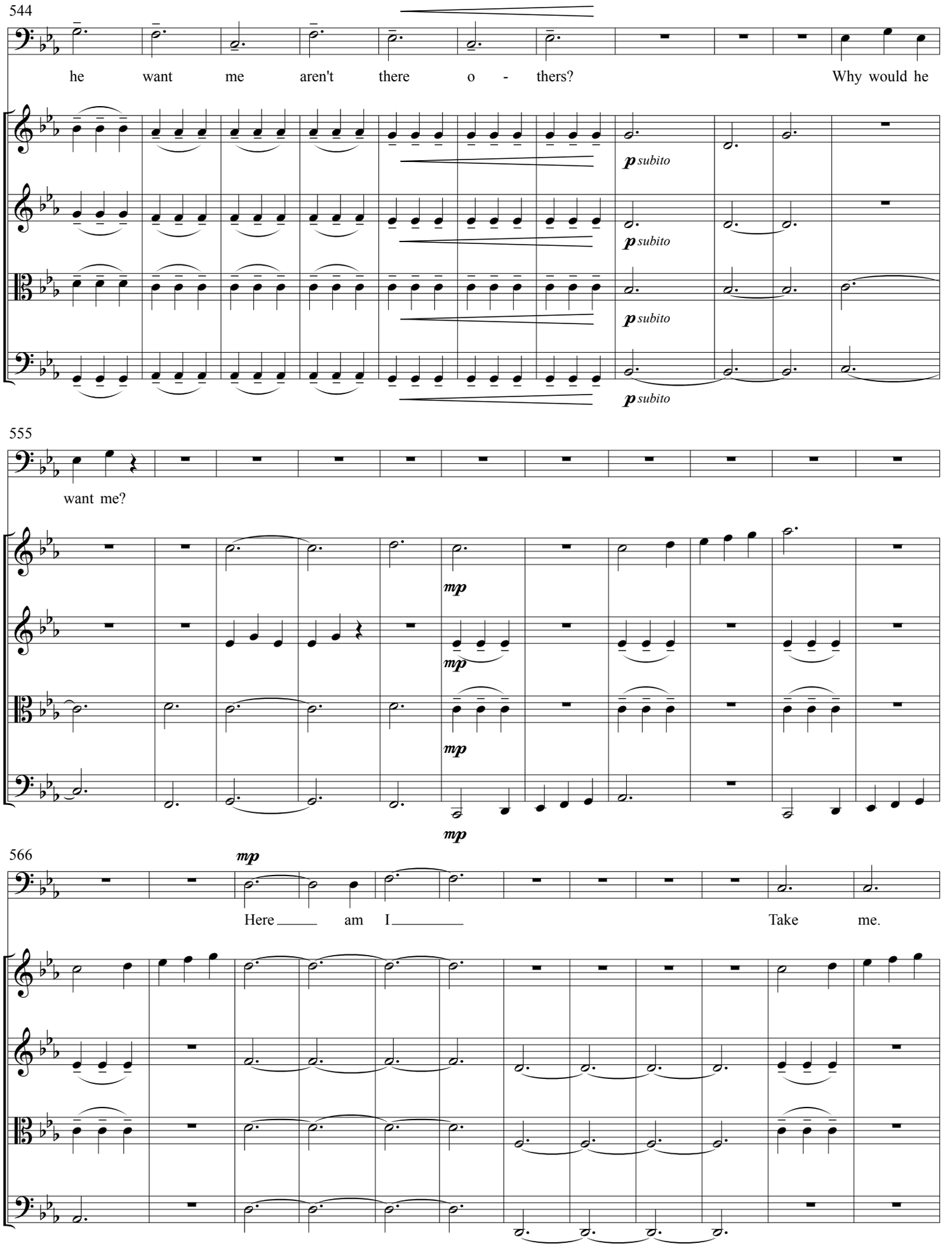
pp

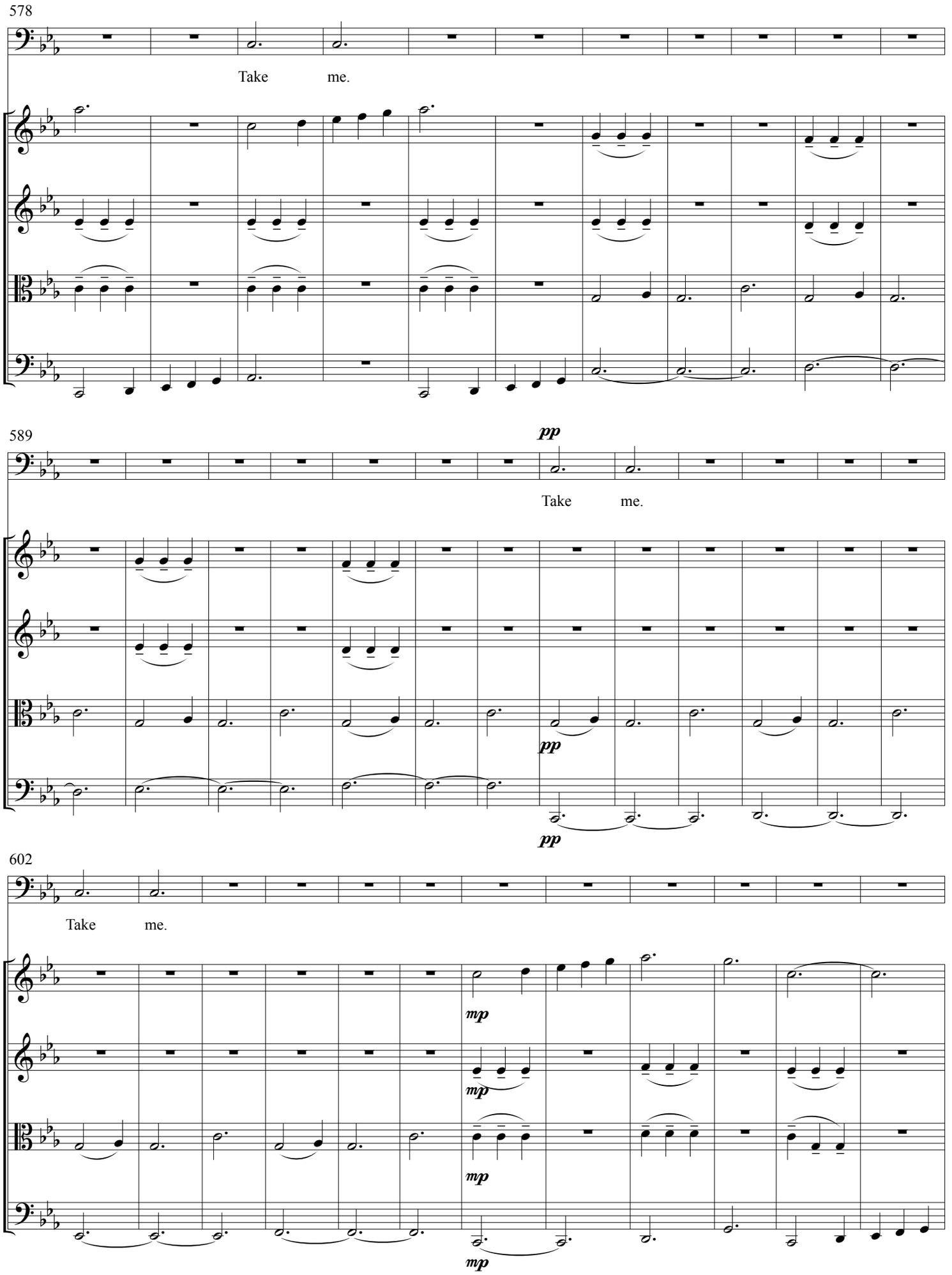
pp


438
pp
Here am I
Why would he want me?
pp
pp
pp
450
mp subito
mp subito
mp subito
mp subito
460


472
pp
pp
484
pp
mp
Here am I
Why would he want
pp
mp
mp
mp
496
me, aren't there o - thers?
Why would he want me?
pp
pp
pp


507
mp
mp
mp
mp
518
pp
pp
531
poco a poco cresc.
Here am I Why would
poco a poco cresc.
poco a poco cresc.
poco a poco cresc.
poco a poco cresc.


544
he want me aren't there o - thers? Why would he
p subito
p subito
p subito
p subito
555
want me?
mp
mp
mp
mp
566
mp
Here am I Take me.


578
Take me.
589
pp
Take me.
pp
pp
602
Take me.
mp
mp
mp
mp

614

627

rit.

pp

Take me Take me.

pp

pp

pp

pp

III: The Bride: A tempo, ♩ = 192

Song of Solomon 1: 1-9; 2: 3-6, 14; 4: 16, 5:1,8-6

640

mp *poco a poco cresc.*

mf

mp *poco a poco cresc.*

mf

mp *poco a poco cresc.*

mf

mp *poco a poco cresc.*

mf

649

659

669

mf

Drink deep

mf

mf

mf

mf

677

Kiss me with the kiss-es of your lips. Come in - to my gar-den, take me in your

685

arms. Let me hear your voice. Take me place me on your heart.

694

Take me in your arms Drink deep.

703

Kiss me with the kiss-es of your lips. Come in-to my gar-den, feast u-pon the

711

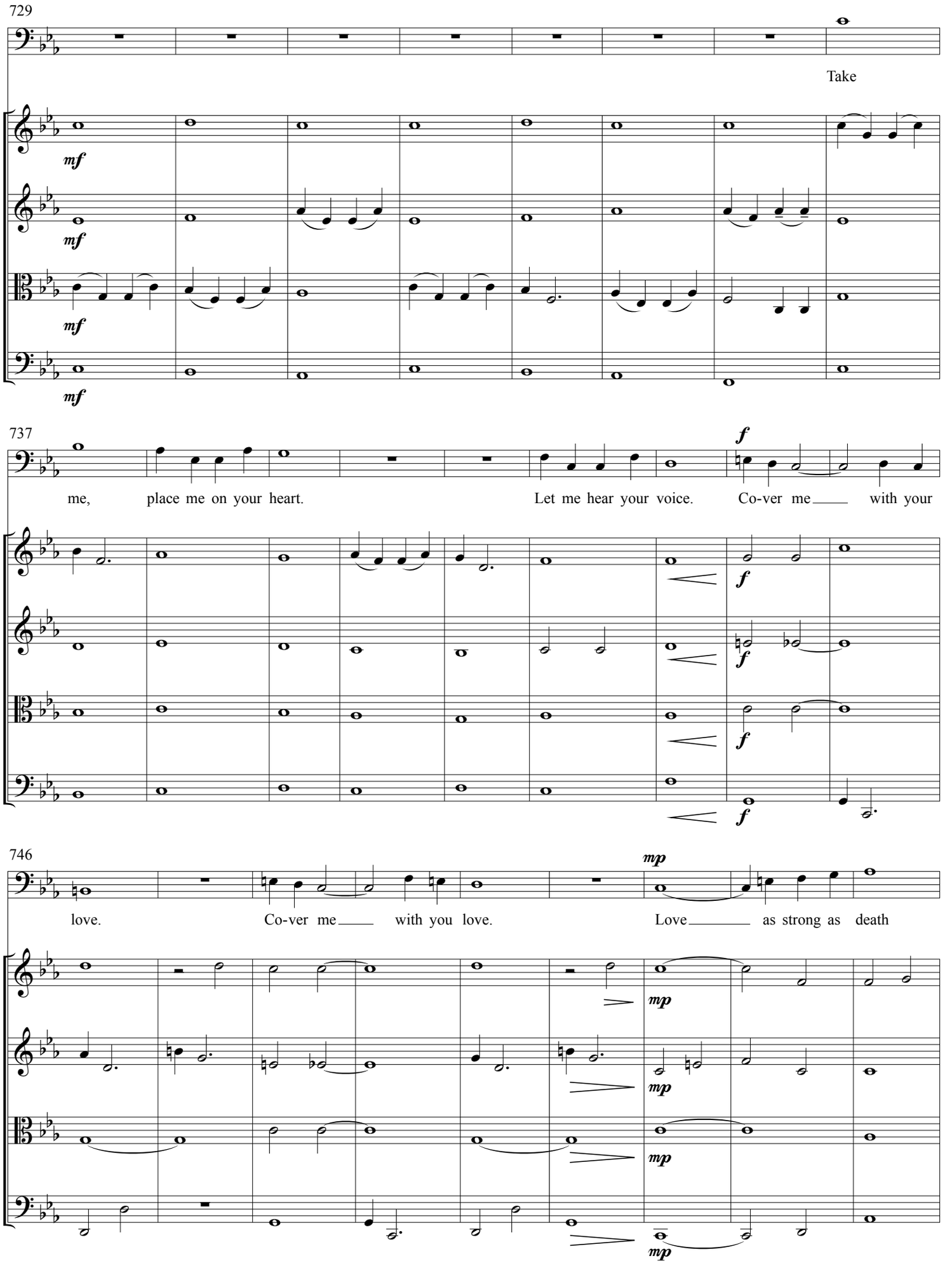
fruit of my trees. Take me place me on your heart.

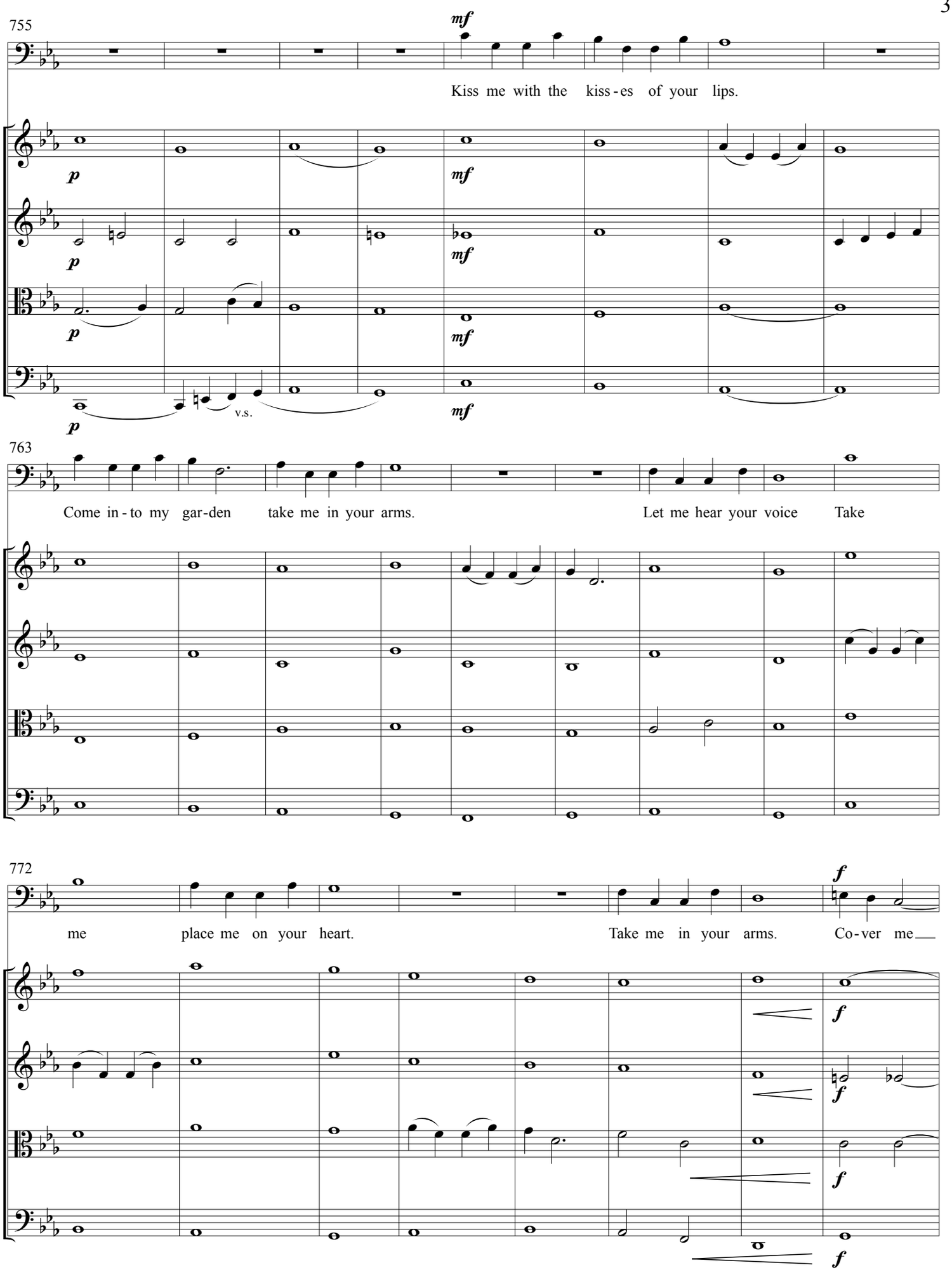
mf subito

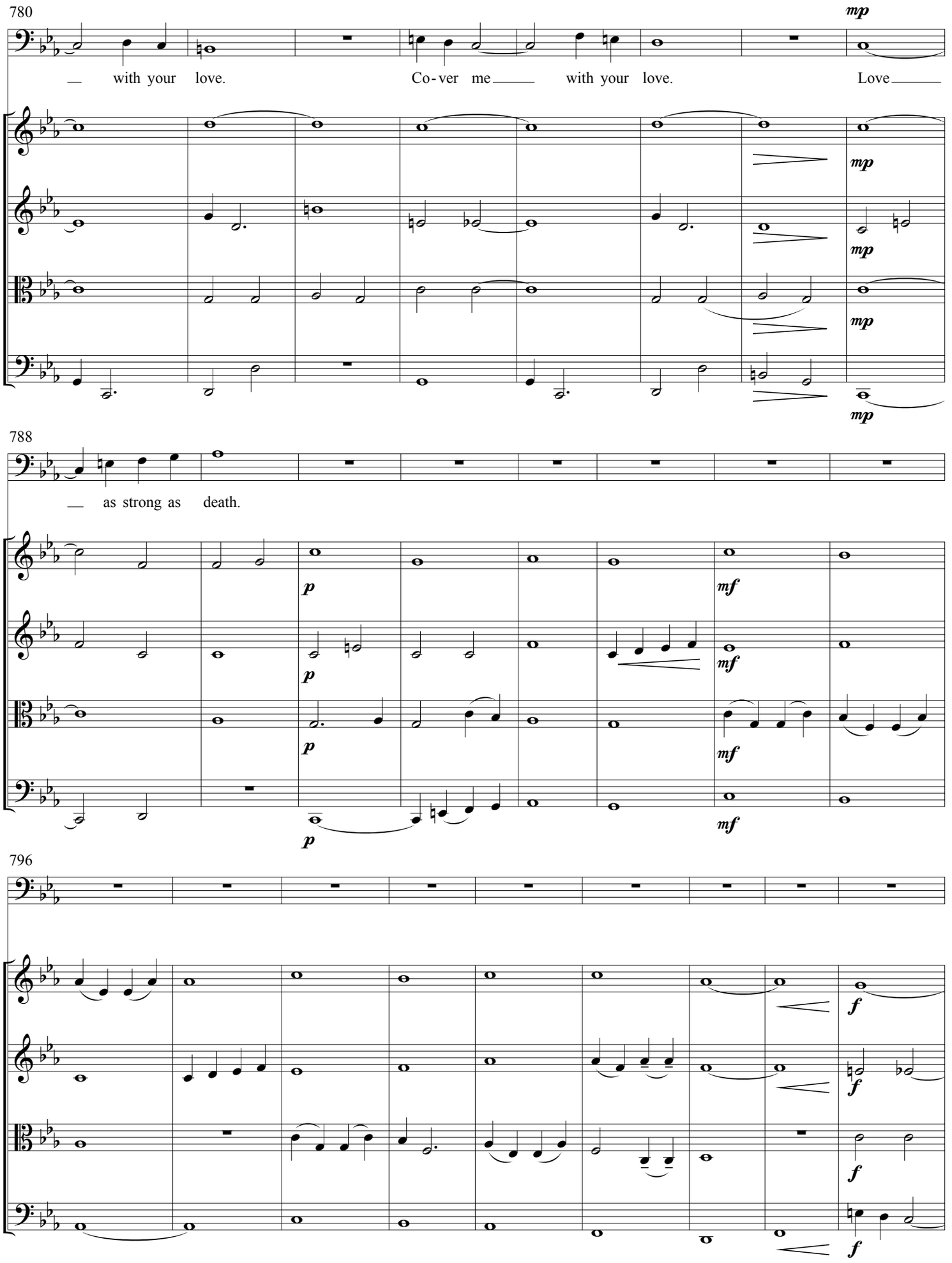
720

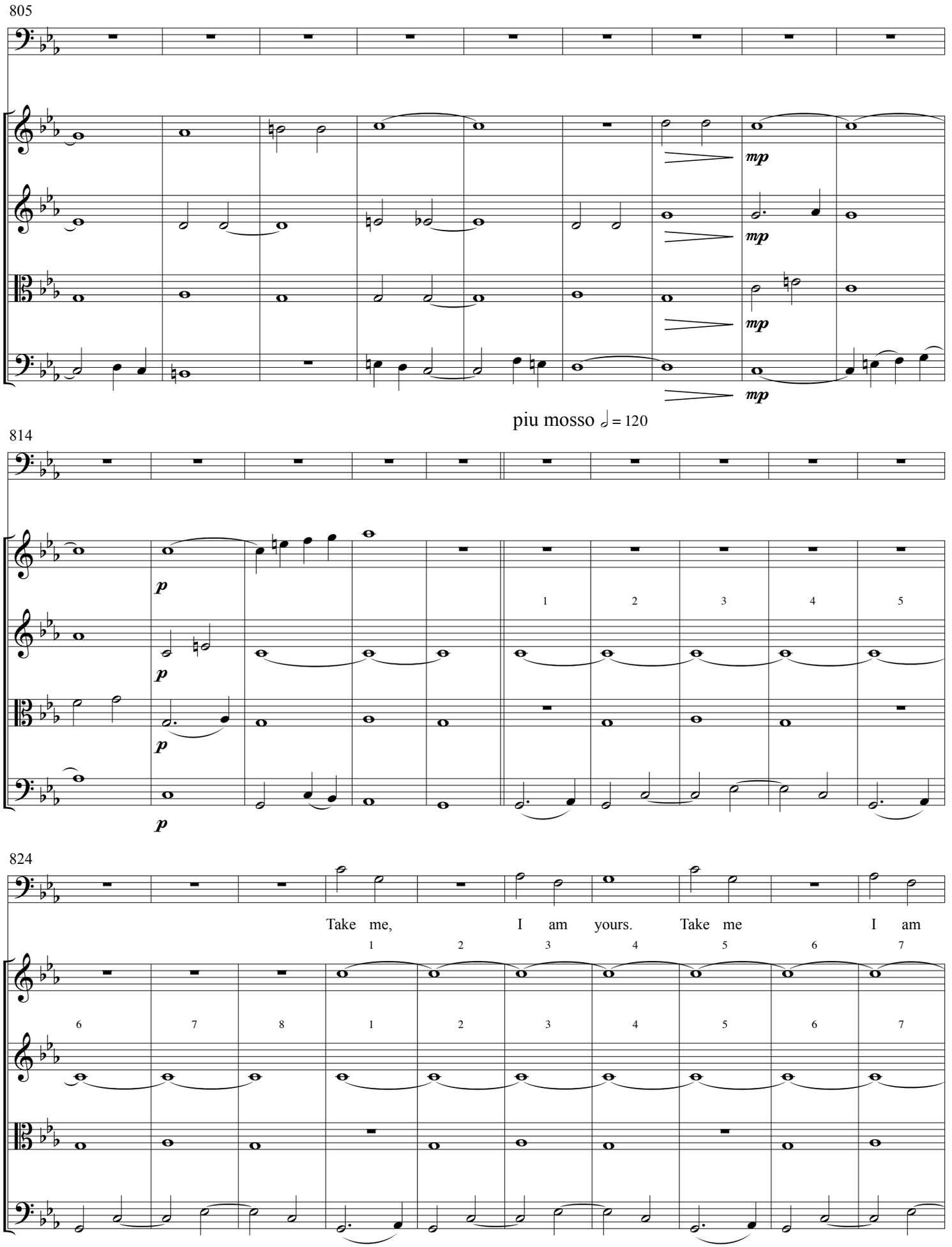
Let me hear your voice. Drink deep.

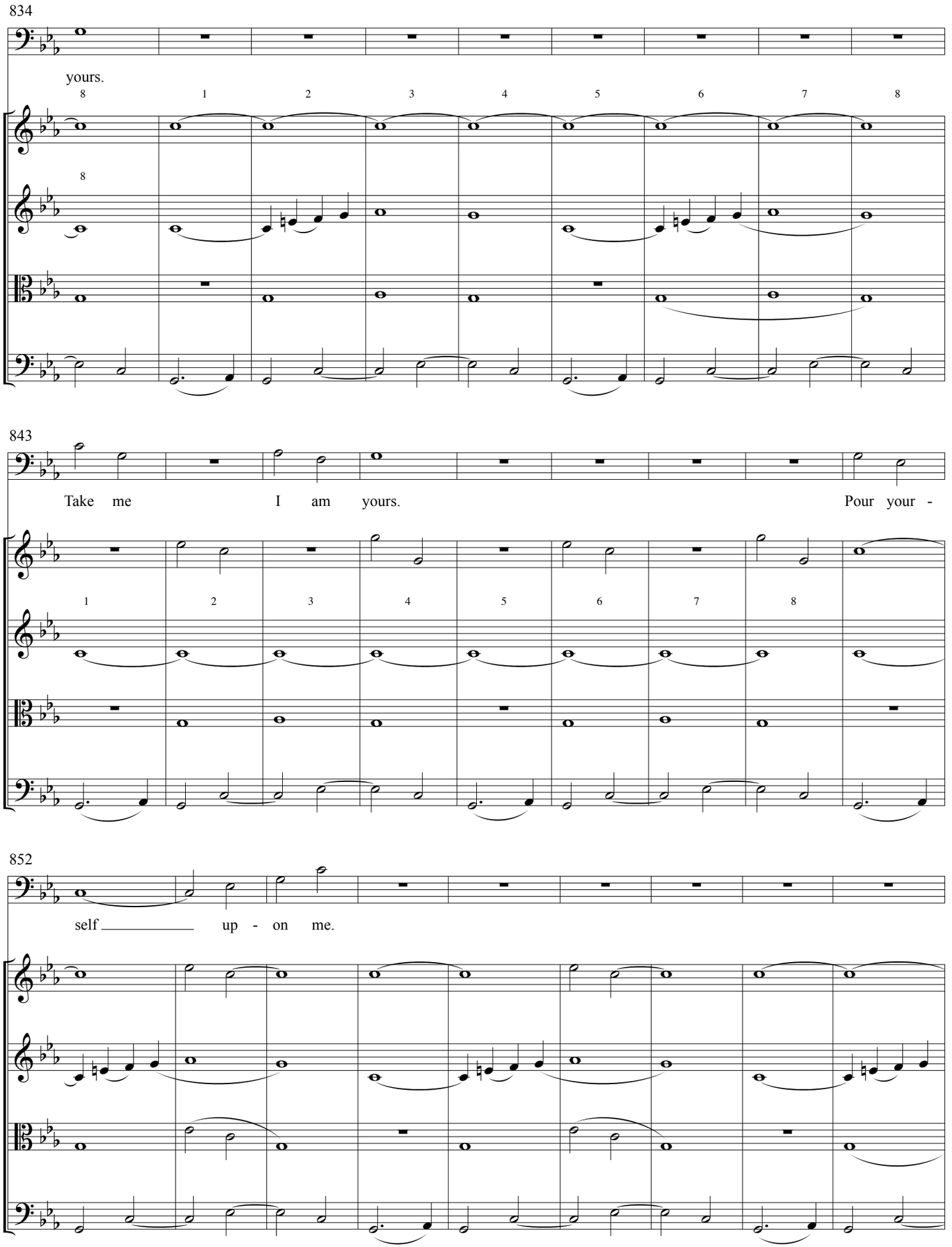
p

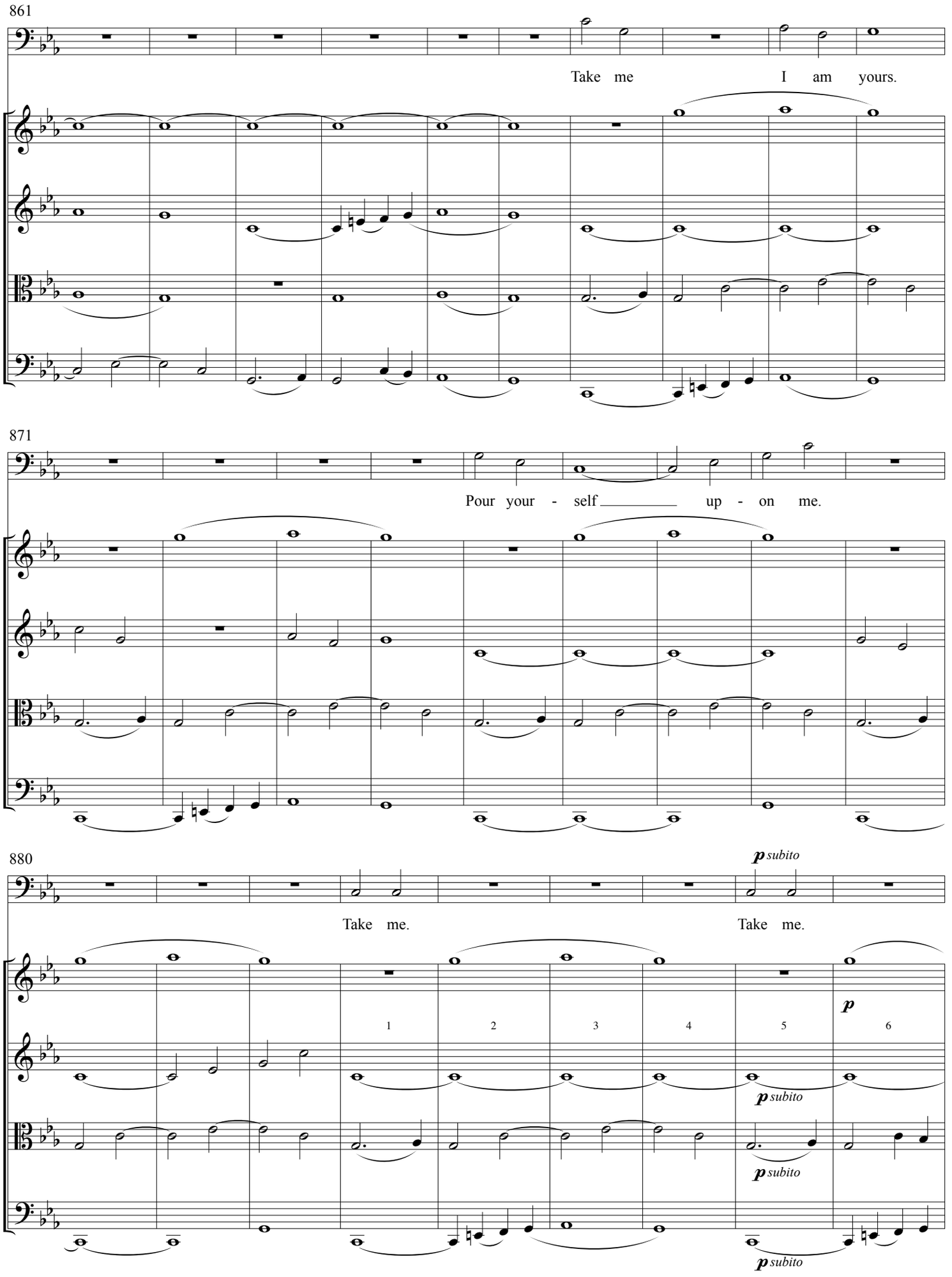

729
Take
mf
mf
mf
mf
737
me, place me on your heart. Let me hear your voice. Co-ver me with your
f
f
f
f
746
love. Co-ver me with you love. Love as strong as death
mp
mp
mp
mp
mp

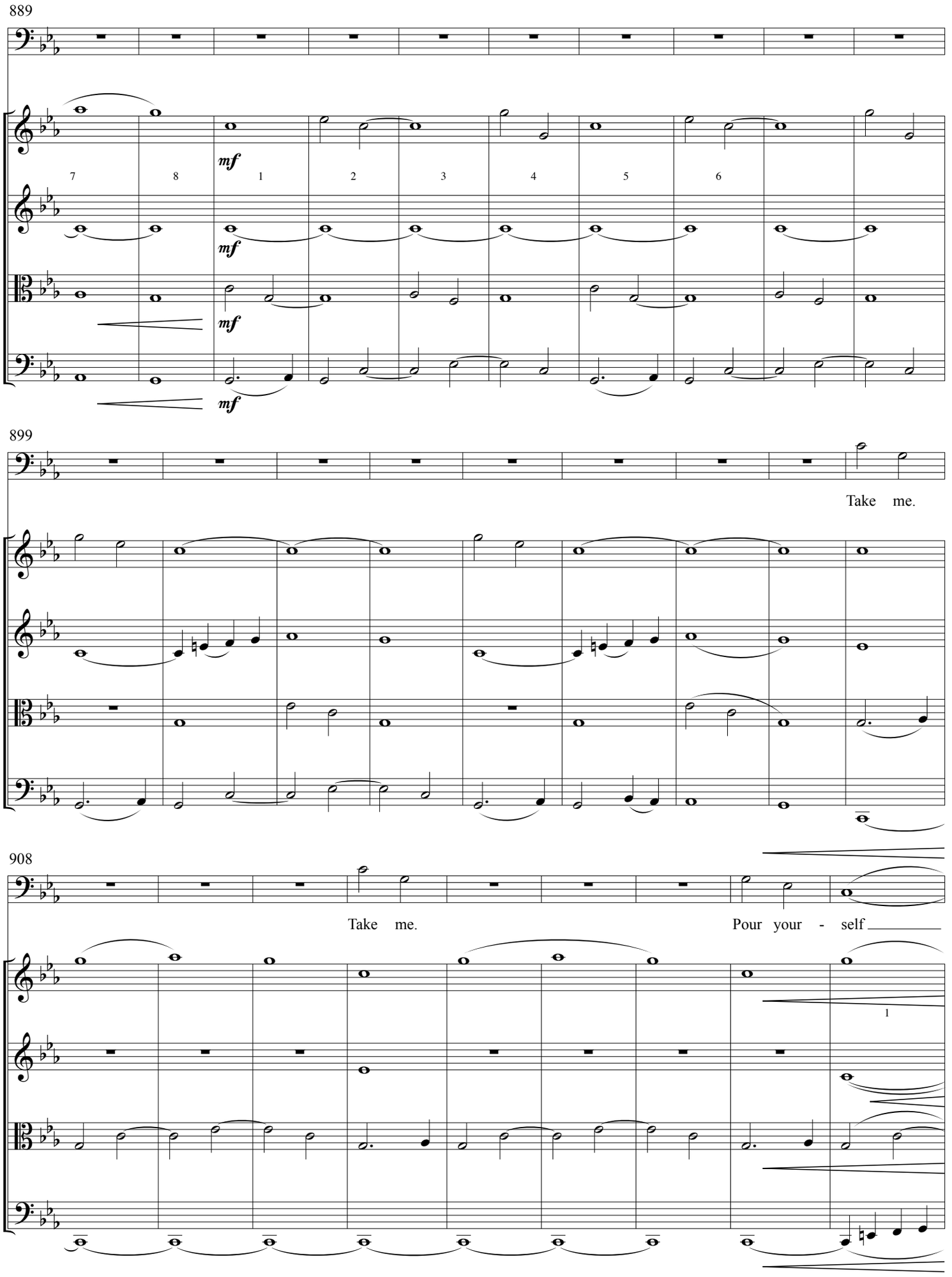

755
mf
Kiss me with the kiss-es of your lips.
p
mf
v.s.
763
Come in-to my gar-den take me in your arms. Let me hear your voice Take
772
me place me on your heart. Take me in your arms. Co-ver me
f

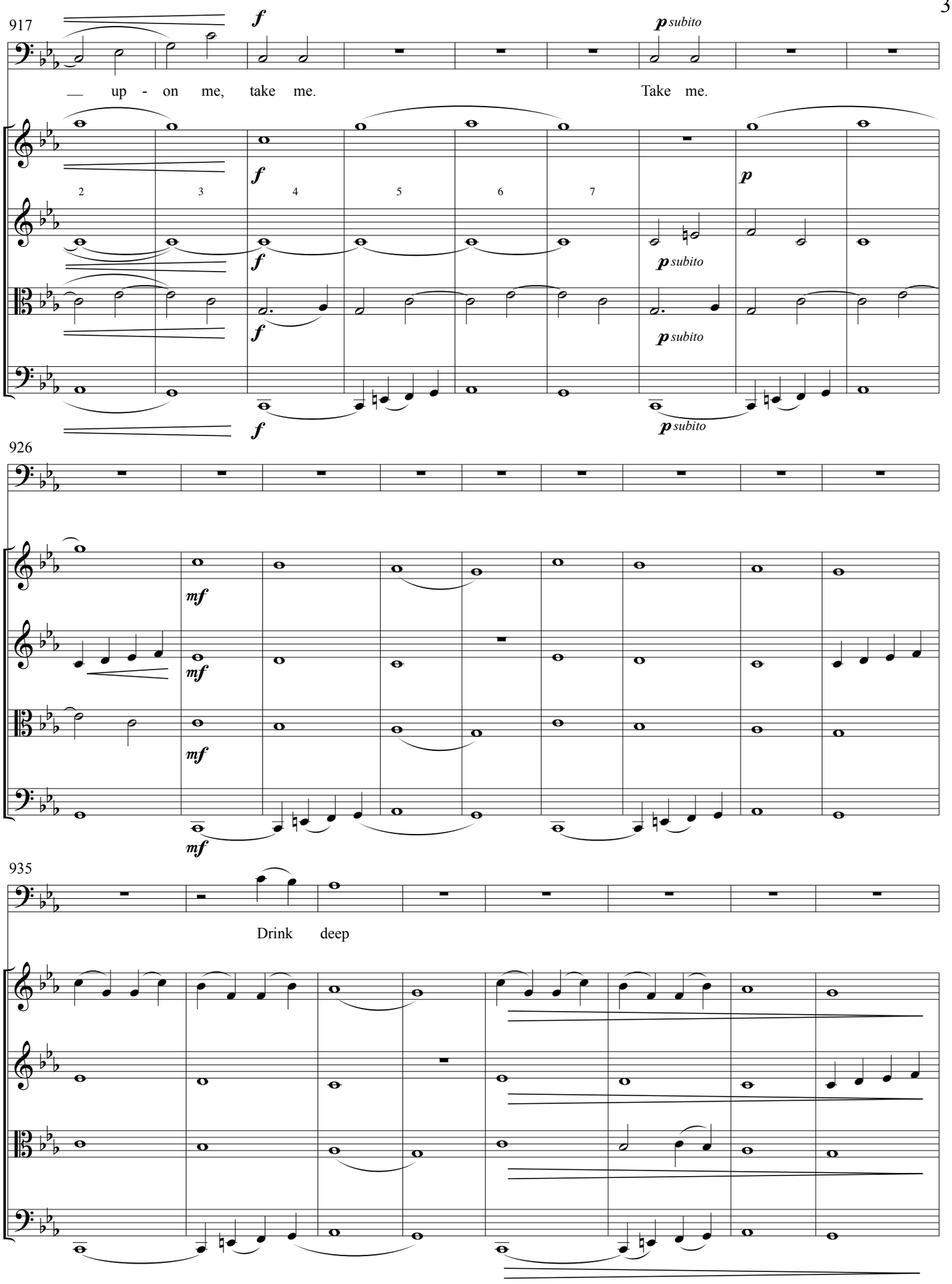

780
mp
with your love.
Co-ver me
with your love.
Love
788
as strong as death.
p
mf
796
f

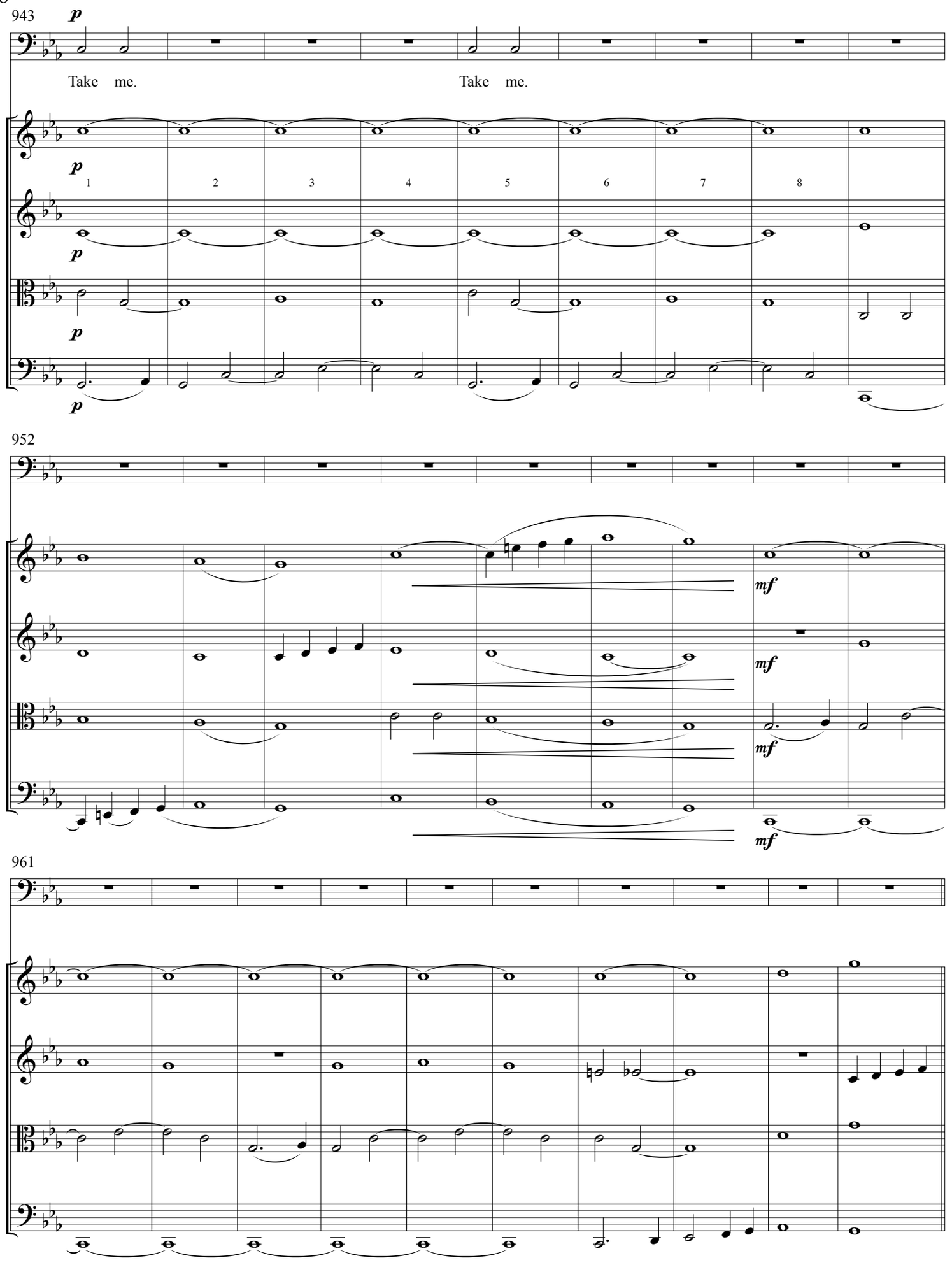

805
mp
mp
mp
piu mosso ♩ = 120
814
p
p
p
1 2 3 4 5
824
Take me, I am yours. Take me I am
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
6 7 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

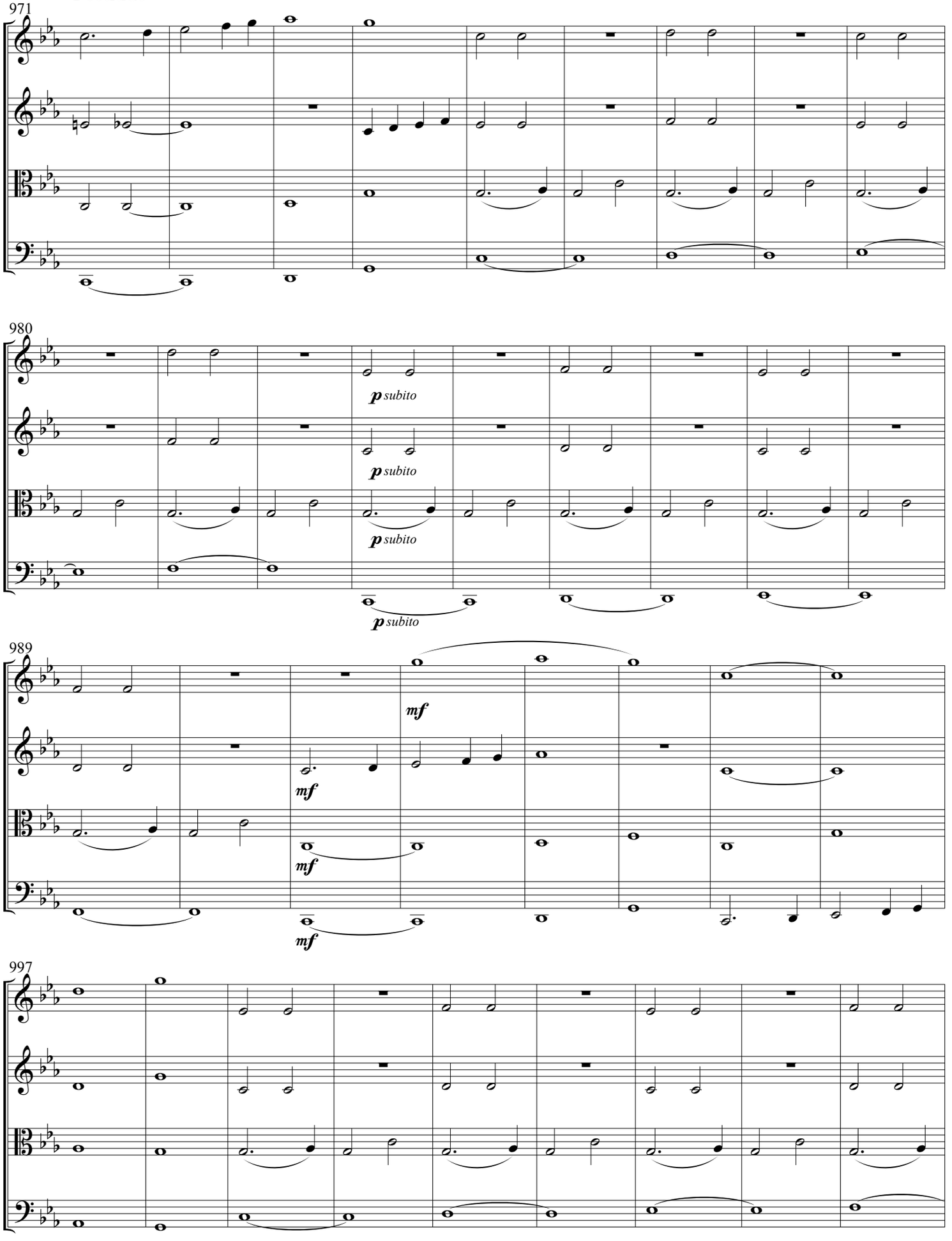

834
yours.
843
Take me I am yours. Pour your -
852
self up - on me.

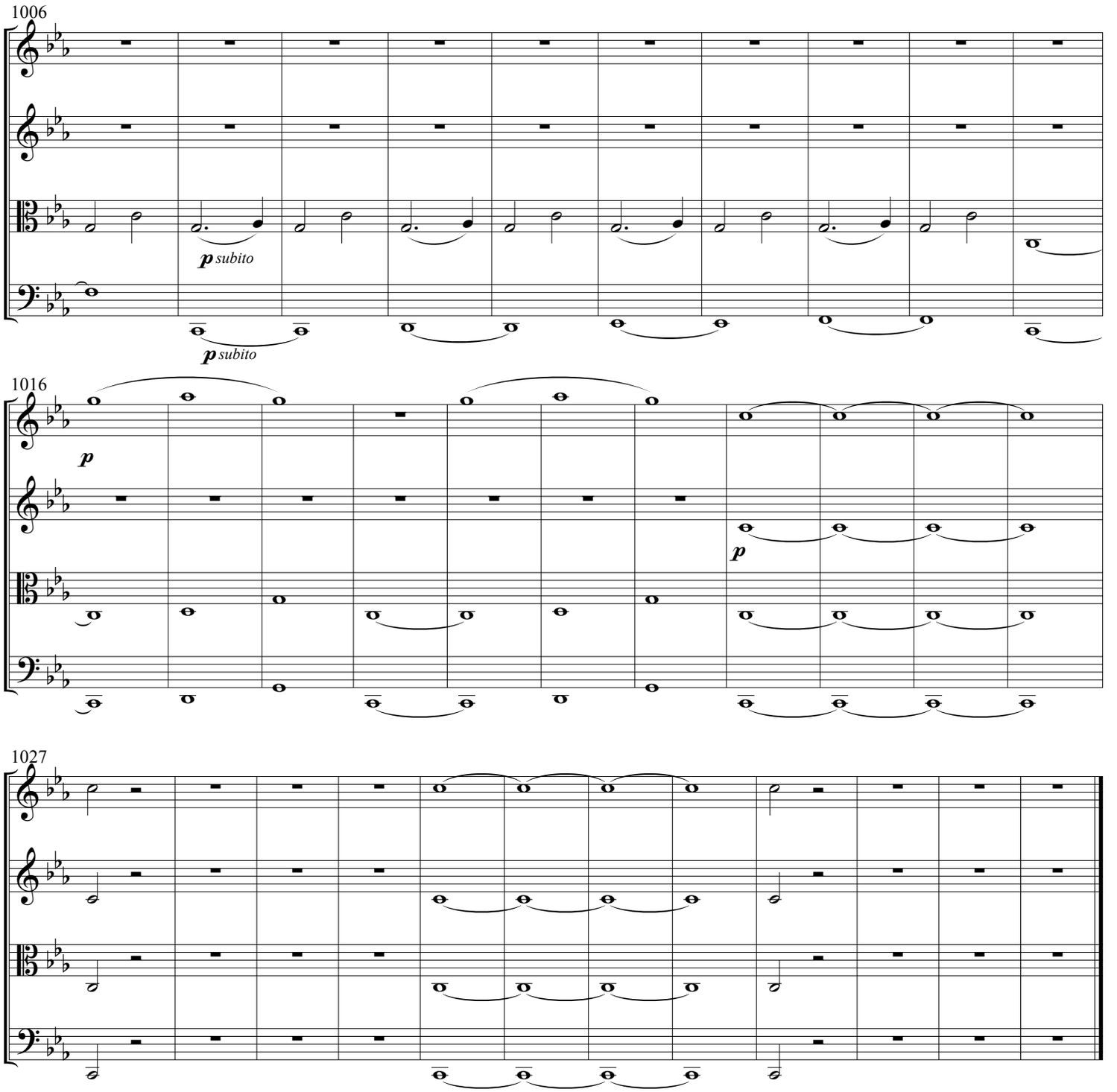

861
Take me I am yours.
871
Pour your - self up - on me.
880
p subito
Take me. Take me.
p
1
2
3
4
5
6
p subito
p subito
p subito


889
mf
7
8
1
2
3
4
5
6
899
Take me.
908
Take me.
Pour your - self


917
f
p subito
— up - on me, take me.
Take me.
2
3
4
5
6
7
926
mf
935
Drink deep


943
p
Take me.
Take me.
p
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
p
p
p
952
mf
mf
mf
mf
961


971
980
p subito
p subito
p subito
p subito
989
mf
mf
mf
997


1006
p subito
p subito
1016
p
p
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