Songs of the Mises-Kreis

Original settings by Felix Kaufmann
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Songs of the Mises-Kreis

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MISES INSTITUTE

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Foreword

From 1920 until 1934, Ludwig von Mises conducted a fortnightly private seminar in his office, which could be attended only by invitation. Many of the greatest economists, historians, and philosophers of Europe would gather to discuss problems and issues in a setting where Mises himself led the discussion as "first among equals."

The formal meetings would begin at 7:30 p.m. and last as late as 10:00 p.m. Most of the members would then gather for dinner at the restaurant Anchora Verde, where the discussion would grow lighter. Afterwards, they would continue to the Café Künstler, opposite the University of Vienna, for coffee until 1:00 a.m., when Mises usually left. Fritz Machlup reports, however, that when he left at 3:00 a.m., he usually had to say goodnight to philosopher Alfred Schütz!

Adding poetry and music to the late-night gatherings at the Café Künstler were the songs that philosopher Felix Kaufman wrote for the seminar. Based on Austrian folk melodies and popular songs, and written in both High German and Austrian dialect, they featured clever references to the contemporary debates and the internal culture of the Mises Kreis.

In 1934, after economist Gottfried von Haberler had left Vienna for Geneva, Switzerland, Kaufmann delivered to Haberler copies of all the songs, a total of 28.

When in 1990 it was decided to publish them in a German-language edition, Haberler was interviewed about them. The interviewer asked about his surprising ability to recall so many by heart.

"In the first place," Haberler said, "they dealt with interesting problems or with actual events that we all knew and that as a result were rendered memorable. The same went for the melodies Kaufmann chose for his lyrics—we knew them all.… Kaufmann took great pains with the text of his songs. Still today, the reader will find interesting points throughout. Kaufmann was also careful to see that the thoughts sounded well in rhyme."

This is the first English-language edition, with a more elaborate presentation with full musical scores and poetic renderings offered by Arlene Oost-Zinner, who researched both text and melody for more than a year. The songs were performed for several events at the Mises Institute, sometimes to uproarious applause and laughter. These "canonical" editions of the songs were typeset by Jonathan Eason.

The Mises Institute extends a special thanks to *Das Wiener Volksliedwerk* for its ongoing help in reconstructing these songs for contemporary performance. May they provide artistic enjoyment, but more importantly, a special look into the cultural heart of the Misesian intellectual movement in the interwar period.

The Song of the Mises Circle

This must have been a main theme song for the circle, and it is striking that this song is among the most difficult to sing, with complicated rhythms and a large tonal range. It speaks of the sheer excitement of those coming to the gathering. The members rarely received academic credit, and with the university department chair warning people against going, it is easy to imagine a sense of camaraderie must have been part of the culture of the group. There are references to the late-night hours, the chocolate truffles that Mises would frequently bring, and how the evening and night would breeze by. The final verse includes a strong stand in favor of sticking by principle no matter what the state of opinion or the seeming futility of fighting against political trends.

The Grenadier of the Marginal Utility School

This song is a hilarious takeoff on Schumann's famed Grenadier song about the personality cult surrounding Napoleon. The subject here, however, is (however implausibly) the theory of marginal utility as fashioned by Carl Menger and carried forth by his student Eugen von Boehm-Bawerk. An economist goes to Germany to discover that the theory has few followers in that country. Shocked and horrified, he decides that his books and his life are worth nothing. He prepares to commit suicide but is spared this fate by the ghost of Boehm-Bawerk, who appears as a vision to tell him to fight on for the theory, even to a bitter end.

The Mises-Mayer Debate

Hans Mayer was the chairman of the economics department, the leading student of Friedrich von Wieser, and an advocate of national socialism. He had targeted Mises early on, and made life as difficult for him as possible. Mises, however, had no interest in Mayer's theories or political machinations, and continued to his work in the Mengerian tradition. This song, then, presents two economists talking past each other - sort of "inside joke" for all the Misesians gathered. Mises's words forms the repeating choral: "I know this 'cause marginal utility sheds light on economy."

Mr. Stonier and Mr. Sweezy

The Mises Circle entertained many foreign visitors, among them Alfred Stonier from London and Paul Sweezy from Boston. This song pokes some delightful fun at their guests. In particular, the dedicated Marxist Sweezy, famed for his role in the promotion of socialist theory, comes in for some teasing. After repeated lecturing from members of the Mises Circle, Sweezy finally begins to get a feel for the theory of marginal utility and swears that he will take these insights back to Harvard with him. But just before getting back on the boat, he chooses doctrine over science. Exasperated, the Austrians say: "Ach, it's not that complicated, values can't be calculated; people do just what they do."

Downfall of the Business Cycle

A frustrating problem for Circle members was the inability of the public and policy makers to understand business cycle theory. One has to look beneath the numbers, this song instructs, to understand the "broad tableaus" of human choice. The state, in particular, is attached to numbers rather than causal-realist analytics. The lyrics say that this is a dangerous method, particularly when it is detached from any value in favor of freedom. Memorable lines include: "The ways of science provide for us but one small slice, And it alone cannot a nation feed," as well as "Oh take not value from our repertoire; heavens, without it man has no North star." Finally, there is an oblique reference to F.A. Hayek here as the one man at the Business Cycle Institute who does all the work.

The Scientist and the Methodologist

This song must have been a joy for methodologist Felix Kauffman, who, despite his attendance at the Mises Circle, remained a dedicated positivist. The song tells the story of Mises himself, rendered here as "the scientist," working into the late-night hours on a book on methodology for the social sciences. A devil's advocate appears and vexes him with an endless array of objections and puzzling questions. The lesson of the song is that one should stay away from this area of research, since all it will "weave you is heartache, and thoughts torn apart at the seams."

Pure Theory

This song once again returns to the great debate between the Mengerians and the Wieserians, while adding a third school to the mix: that of German empiricism. The first verse begins with the claim that all that matters is the collection of data. The Mises Circle instructs that "such a data set, theory will not beget, and efforts of this kind invite redress." Next up are the Wieserians with their theory of "natural value" and their promotion of socialism. The Circle concludes that this theory is "sadly lacking." The final verse is a tribute to Mises that prompts all present to choose getting to dinner rather than continuing the debate: "But with Professor Mises' seminar that teases thoughts of truth from those who love retort; thinking begins at seven, And lasts 'til nearly eleven, but certainty's supply is never short. Now all ears in suspension, everyone's attention turns to him with wisdom nonpareil. With knowledge apodictic, dinner looms realistic: Theory alone cannot our hunger quell."

Farewell to Professor Mises

This is the most heartbreaking of all the songs. It tells of the preparations in place for Mises to leave Vienna for Geneva, given the rise of the Nazi threat right in Vienna. Hayek was already in England and now Mises is leaving too. The chorus regrets: *O quae mutatio rerum*. How things change. The ending line about "Wilson's dream" refers to the League of Nations, which had provided the funding for Mises's new position.

Elegy of the Mises Kreis

One can assume that this song was written after Mises's departure. It is as clever and abstract as it is affecting. The lyrics employ geometric references about how the circle has come apart: "Radii are left to wander with nowhere to go." It ends with a dream that someday the circle will come back together again. And when this happens, "π's jubilation [will not] be restrained."

1. Song of the Mises Circle

Felix Kaufmann (1895-1949)
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Das Mises-Kreis-Lied

Music by Ralph Benatzky (1884-1957)
arr. Arlene Oost-Zinner

In flottem Walzertempo ♩ = 160

Voice

Piano

1. Come and gath - er all a-round, it's Fri - day

Time for Mi-ses' *Pri - vat Se - mi - nar.* I'll be there for sure, e - ven if it's May

And the day is the sweet-est thus far. Oh, the fra - grance fades, it is cer - tain

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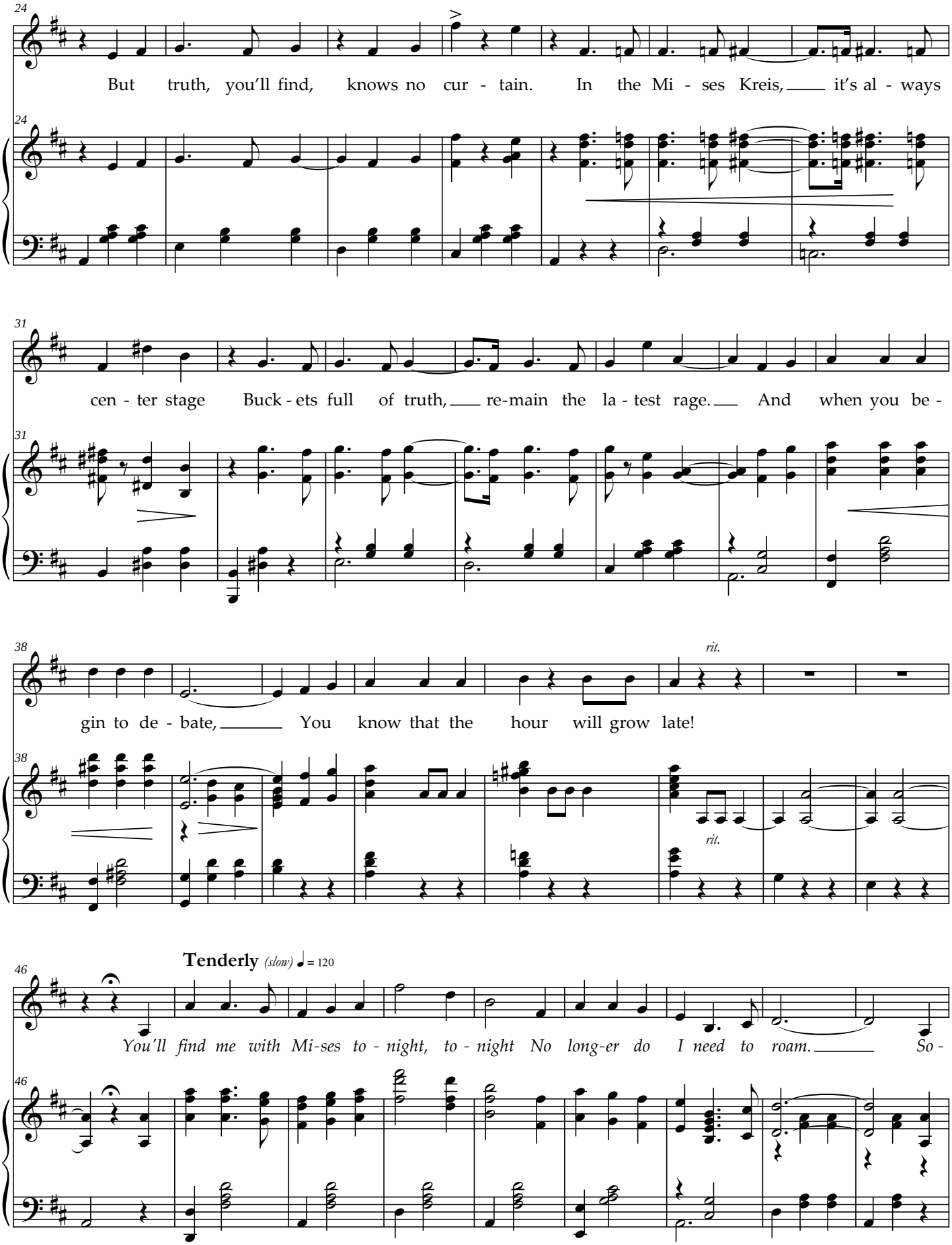

24
But truth, you'll find, knows no cur - tain. In the Mi - ses Kreis, it's al - ways
31
cen - ter stage Buck - ets full of truth, re-main the la - test rage. And when you be -
38
gin to de - bate, You know that the hour will grow late!
rit.
Tenderly (slow) ♩ = 120
46
You'll find me with Mi-ses to - night, to - night No long-er do I need to roam. So -

55

ci-e-ty, E-con-o-my and Truth, that's right Are de-ba-ted, de-fend-ed, I'm home! And

63

rit.

if you de - si-re Ver-steh-en's made clear At all costs, you must come, you get your-self here! For

71

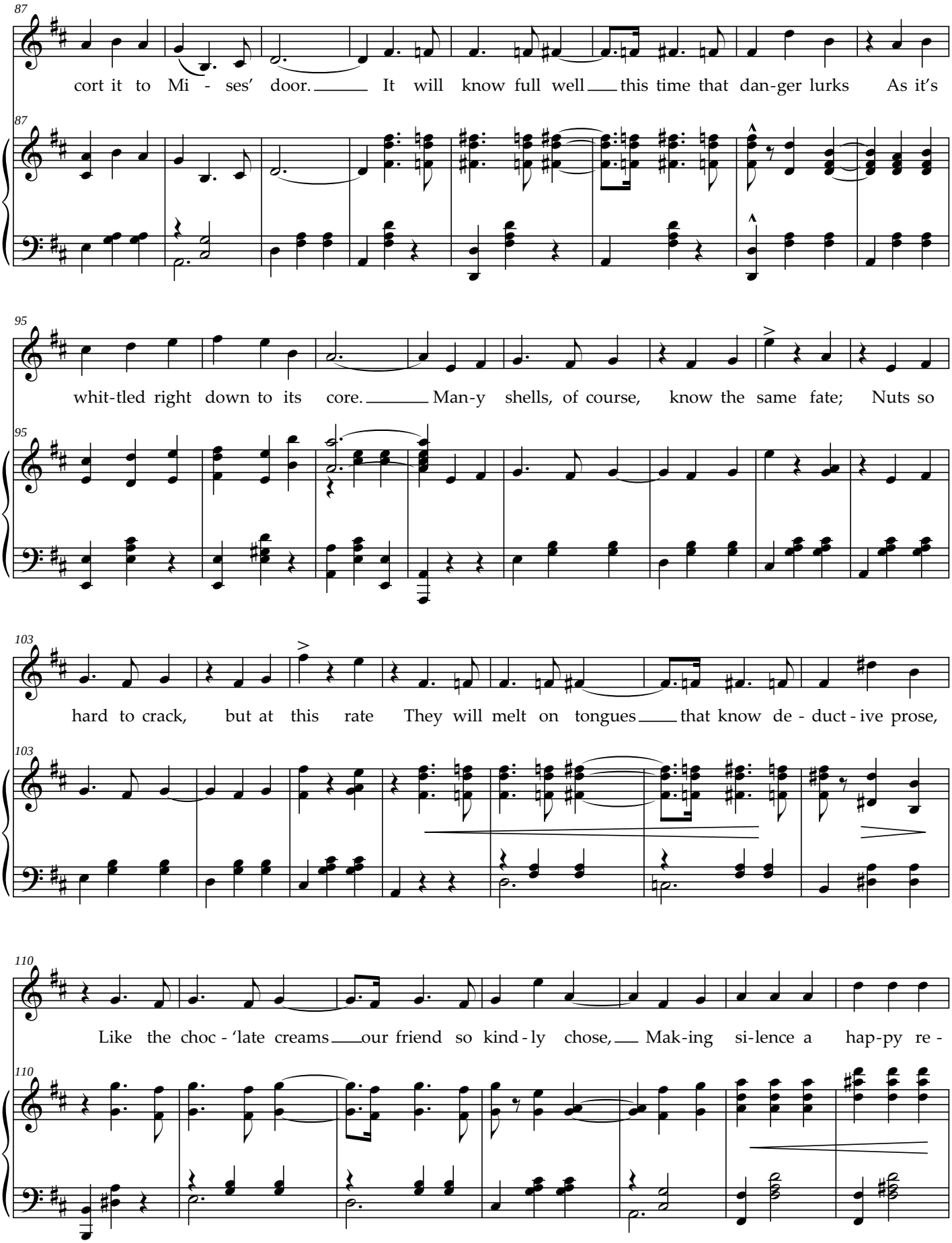
clar-i-ty, and wis-dom, and truth en - tice, Here at the Mi - ses Kreis.

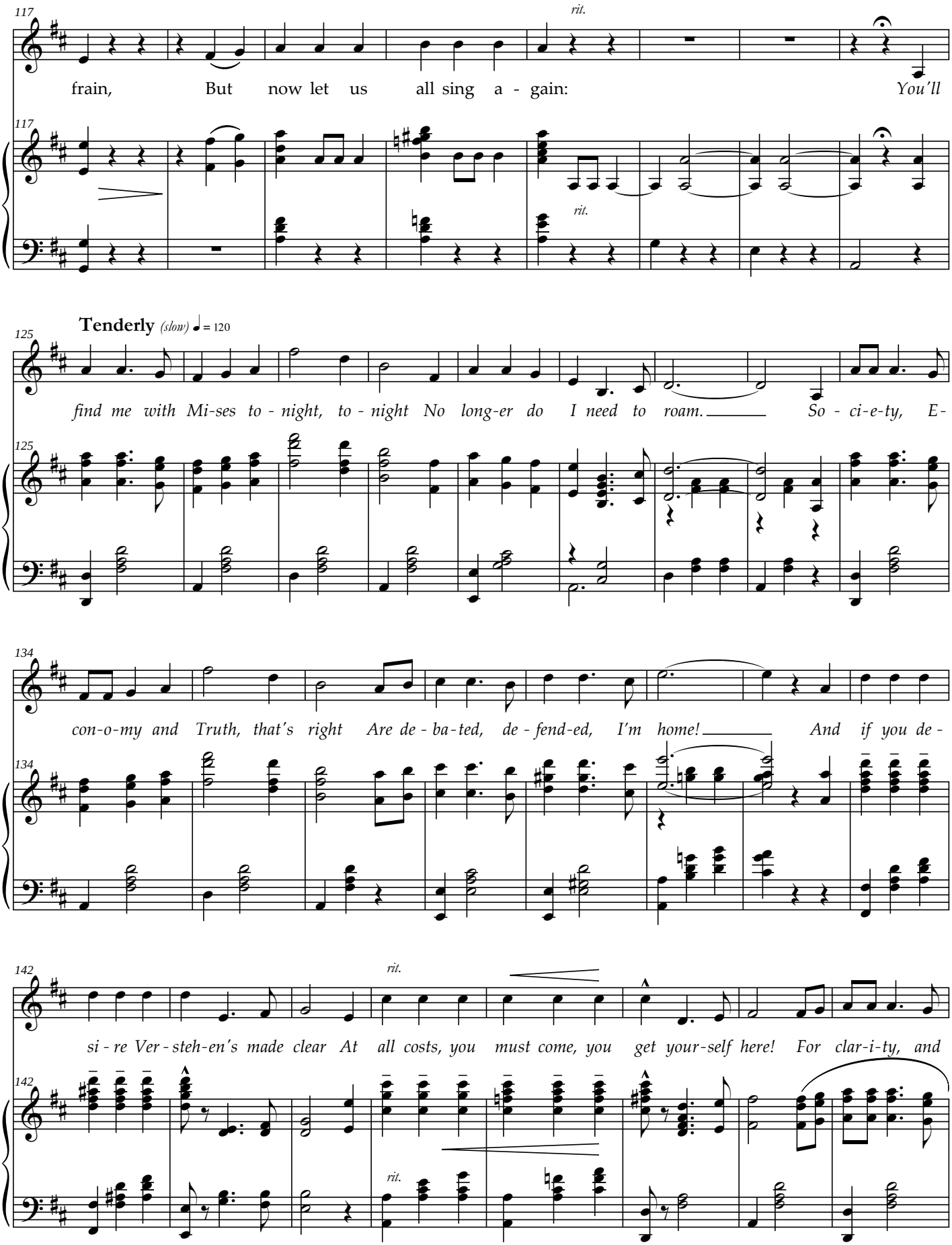
79

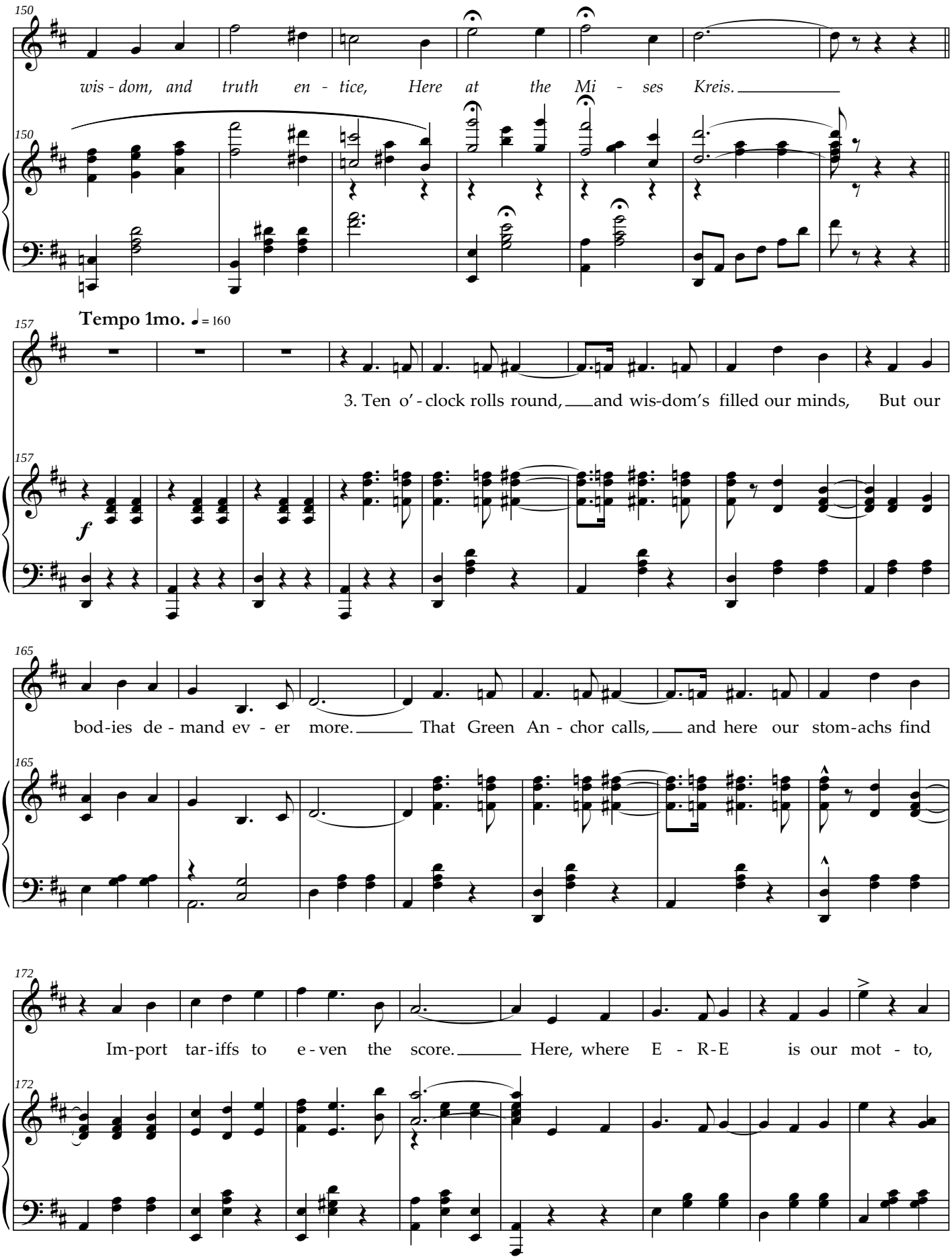
Tempo 1mo. ♩ = 160

2. Do you know a prob - lem full of nast-y quirks? Come es-

f


87
cort it to Mi - ses' door. It will know full well this time that dan-ger lurks As it's
95
whit-tled right down to its core. Man-y shells, of course, know the same fate; Nuts so
103
hard to crack, but at this rate They will melt on tongues that know de - duct - ive prose,
110
Like the choc - 'late creams our friend so kind - ly chose, Mak-ing si-lence a hap-py re -


117
rit.
frain, But now let us all sing a - gain: You'll
117
rit.
Tenderly (slow) ♩ = 120
125
find me with Mi-ses to - night, to - night No long-er do I need to roam. So - ci-e-ty, E-
125
134
con-o-my and Truth, that's right Are de - ba-ted, de - fend-ed, I'm home! And if you de -
134
142
rit.
si - re Ver - steh-en's made clear At all costs, you must come, you get your-self here! For clar-i-ty, and
142
rit.


150
wis - dom, and truth en - tice, Here at the Mi - ses Kreis.
150
Tempo 1mo. ♩ = 160
157
3. Ten o' - clock rolls round, and wis-dom's filled our minds, But our
157
f
165
bod-ies de - mand ev - er more. That Green An - chor calls, and here our stom-achs find
165
172
Im-port tar-iffs to e - ven the score. Here, where E - R-E is our mot - to,
172

180

Have spa - ghet - ti, and eat ri - sot - to. No one ev - er dreams how fast the

180

187

time can race; Mid - night rings its chime, we take our fav' - rite place In that nice lit - tle

187

194

rit.

Künst - ler - ca - fé: An in - gen - i - ous end to the day!

194

rit.

Tenderly *(slow)* ♩ = 120

202

You'll find me with Mi-ses to - night, to - night No long-er do I need to roam. *So -*

202

211

ci-e-ty, E-con-o-my and Truth, that's right Are de-ba-ted, de-fend-ed, I'm home! And

rit.

219

if you de - si-re Ver-steh-en's made clear At all costs, you must come, you get your-self here! For

rit.

227

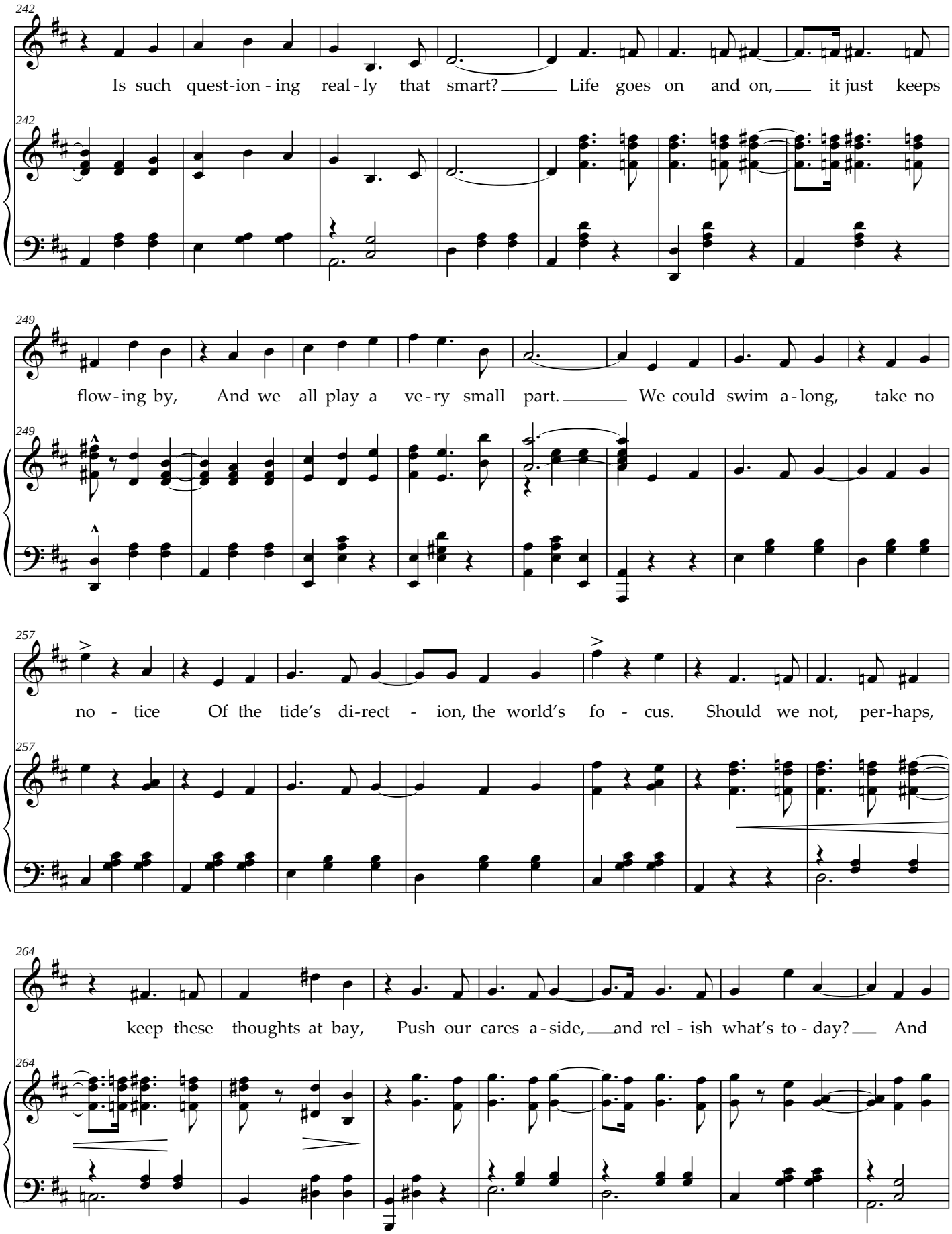
clar-i-ty, and wis-dom, and truth en-tice, Here at the Mi - ses Kreis.

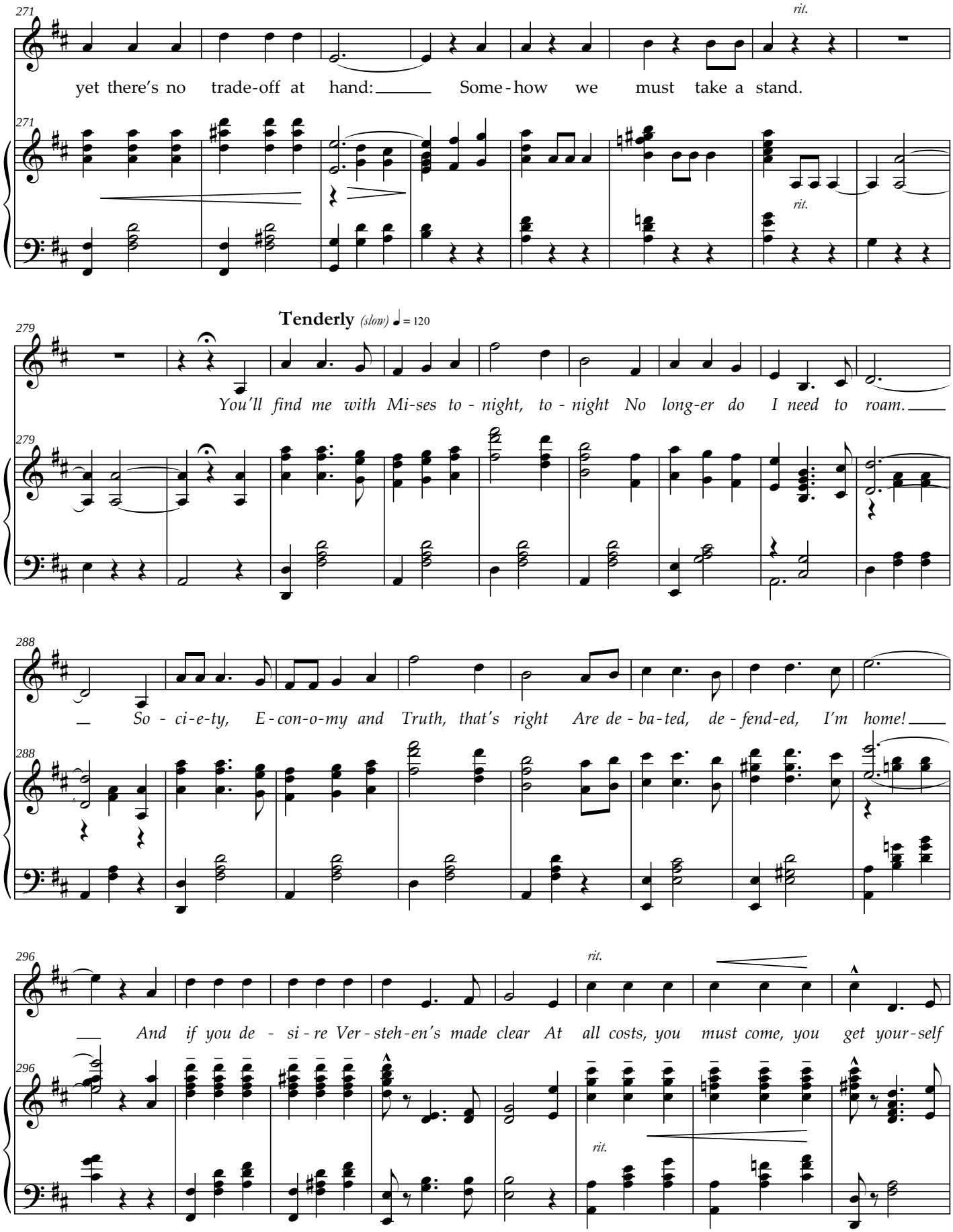
235

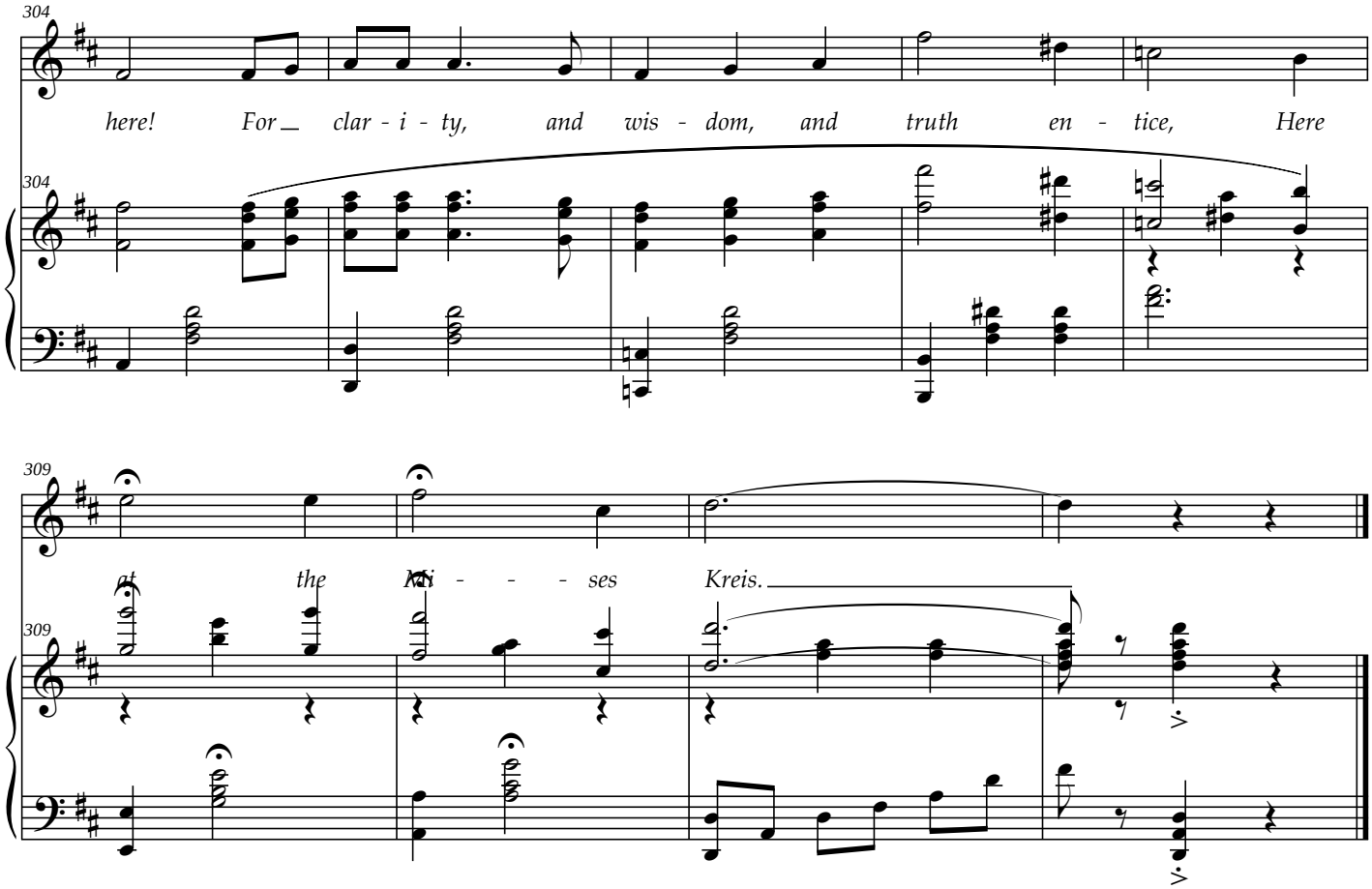
Tempo 1mo. ♩ = 160

4. Oh, the time, it comes, when we must quest-ion why:

f


242
Is such quest-ion-ing real-ly that smart? Life goes on and on, it just keeps
249
flow-ing by, And we all play a ve-ry small part. We could swim a-long, take no
257
no - tice Of the tide's di-rect - ion, the world's fo - cus. Should we not, per-haps,
264
keep these thoughts at bay, Push our cares a-side, and rel - ish what's to - day? And


271
rit.
yet there's no trade-off at hand: Some-how we must take a stand.
271
rit.
279
Tenderly (slow) ♩ = 120
You'll find me with Mi-ses to-night, to-night No long-er do I need to roam.
279
288
So-ci-e-ty, E-con-o-my and Truth, that's right Are de-ba-ted, de-fend-ed, I'm home!
288
296
rit.
And if you de-si-re Ver-steh-en's made clear At all costs, you must come, you get your-self
296
rit.


304
here! For clar - i - ty, and wis - dom, and truth en - tice, Here
304
309
at the Mi - - - ses Kreis.
309

2. The Grenadier of the Marginal Utility School

Die Grenznutzenschule

Felix Kaufmann (1895-1949),
with apologies to Heinrich Heine (1797-1856)
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Music by Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
arr. Arlene Oost-Zinner

Moderato ♩ = 92

Voice

Piano

mf

An e - con - omist moved toGer - ma-

mf

p

p

4

ny A learn - ed po - si - tion to pur - sue This should have been a cert - ain -

p

8

ty, For in Wien he'd learned a thing or two. But the

p

p

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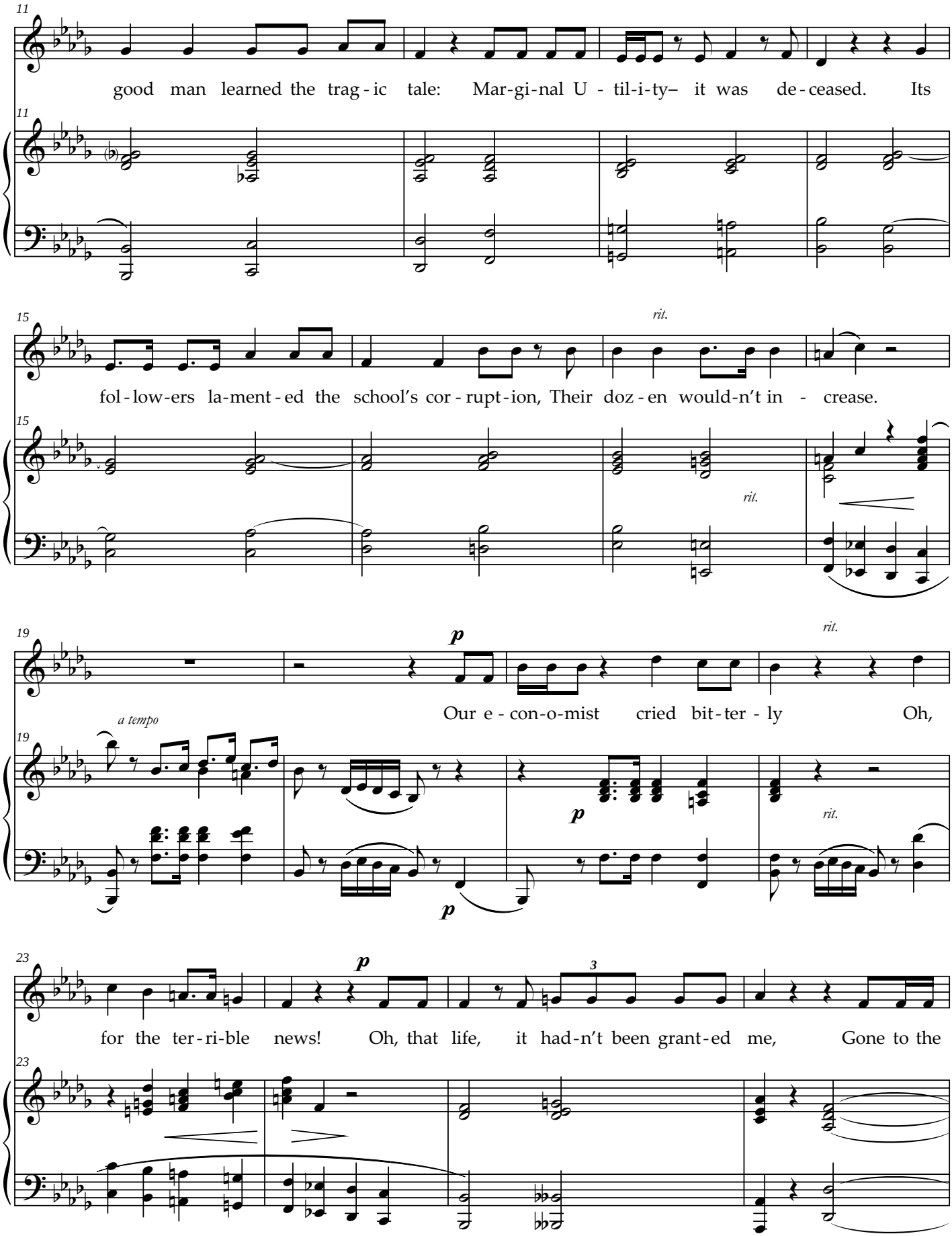
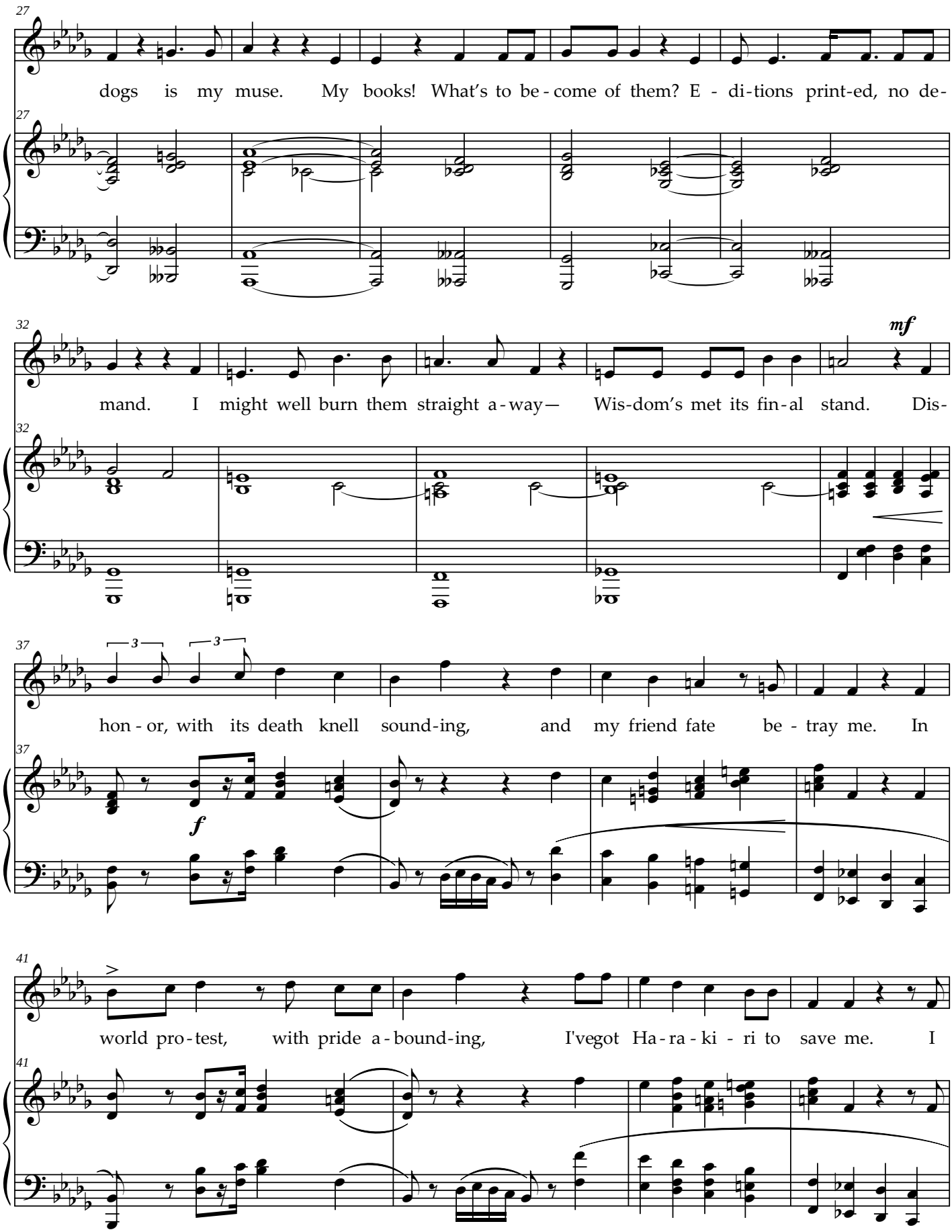
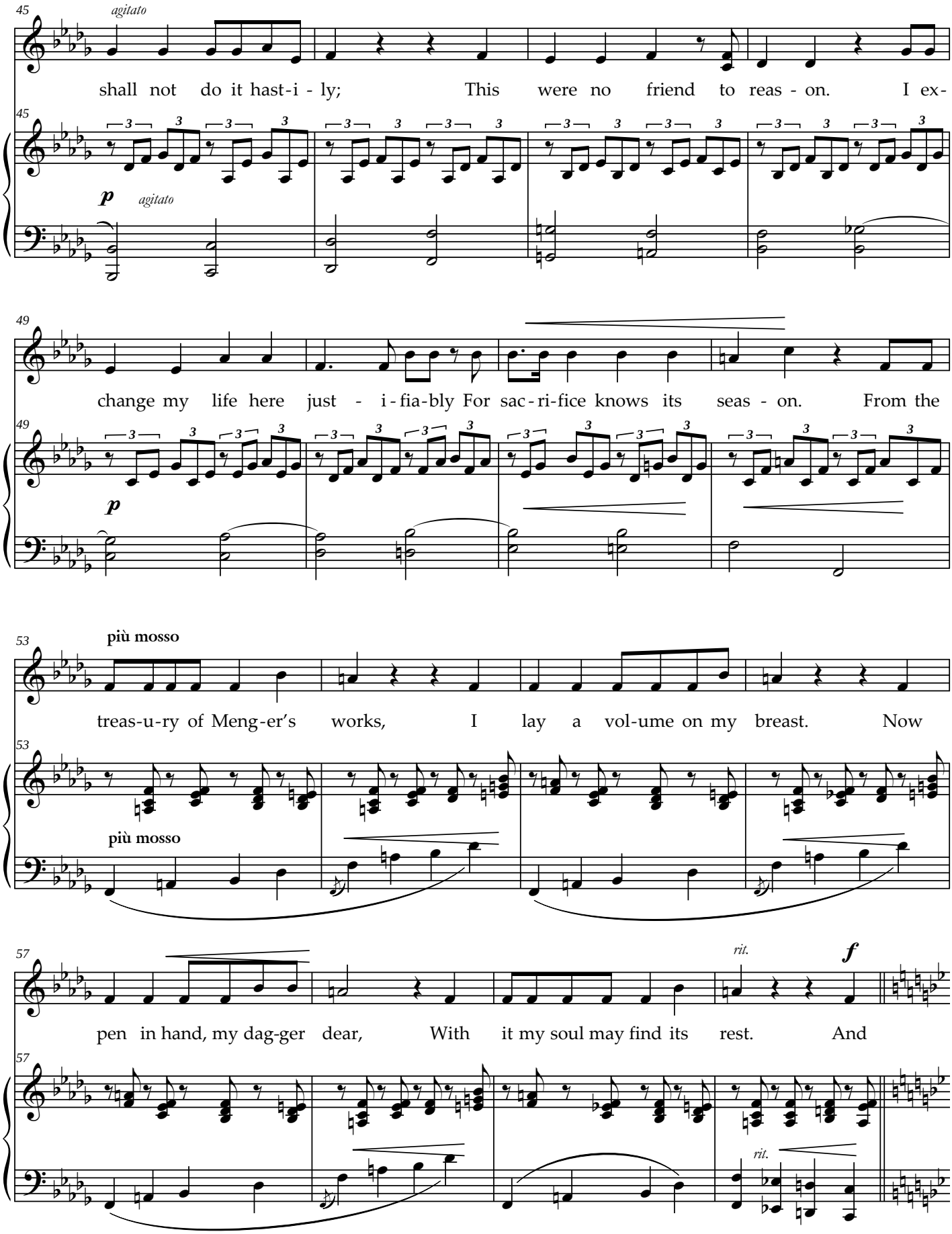
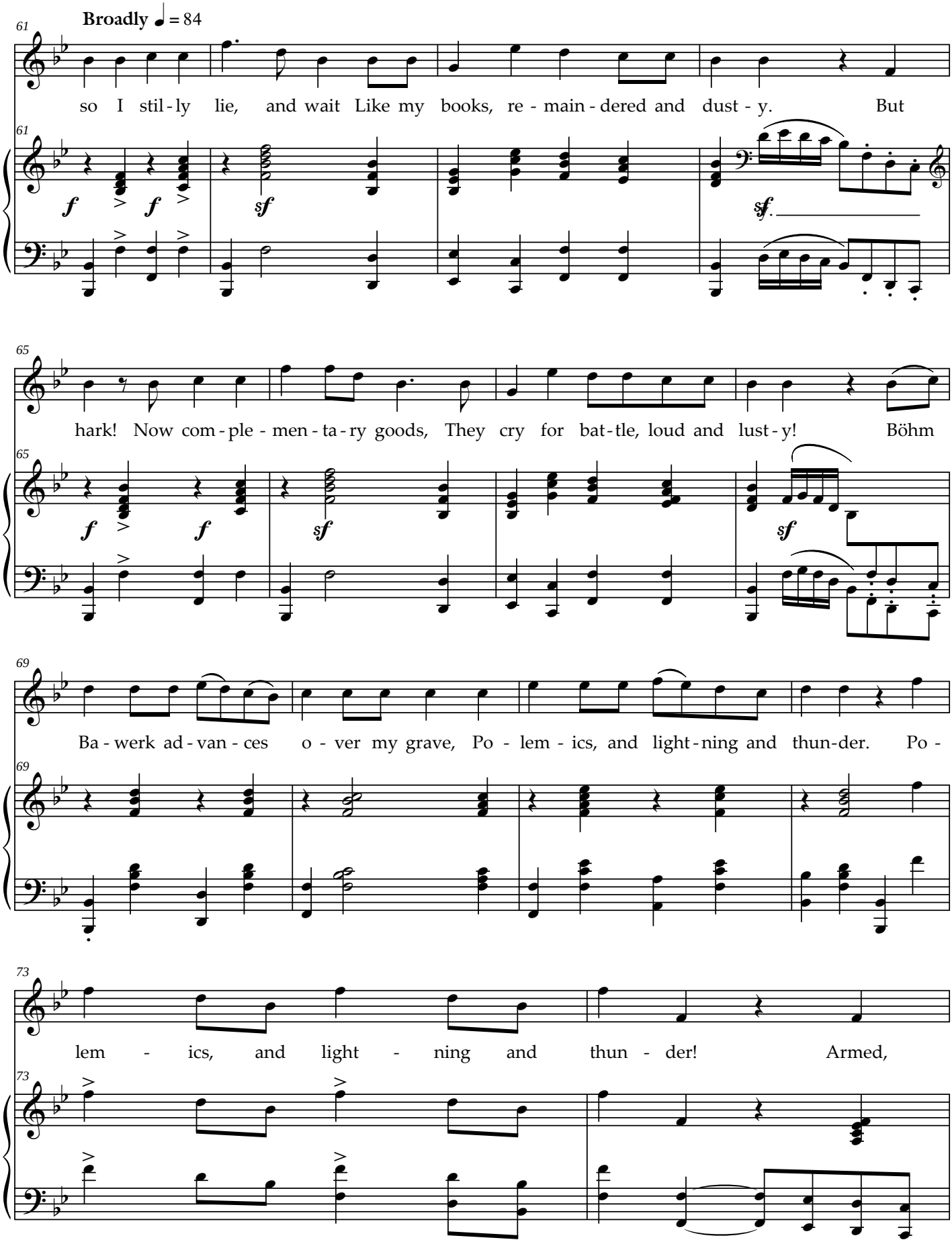
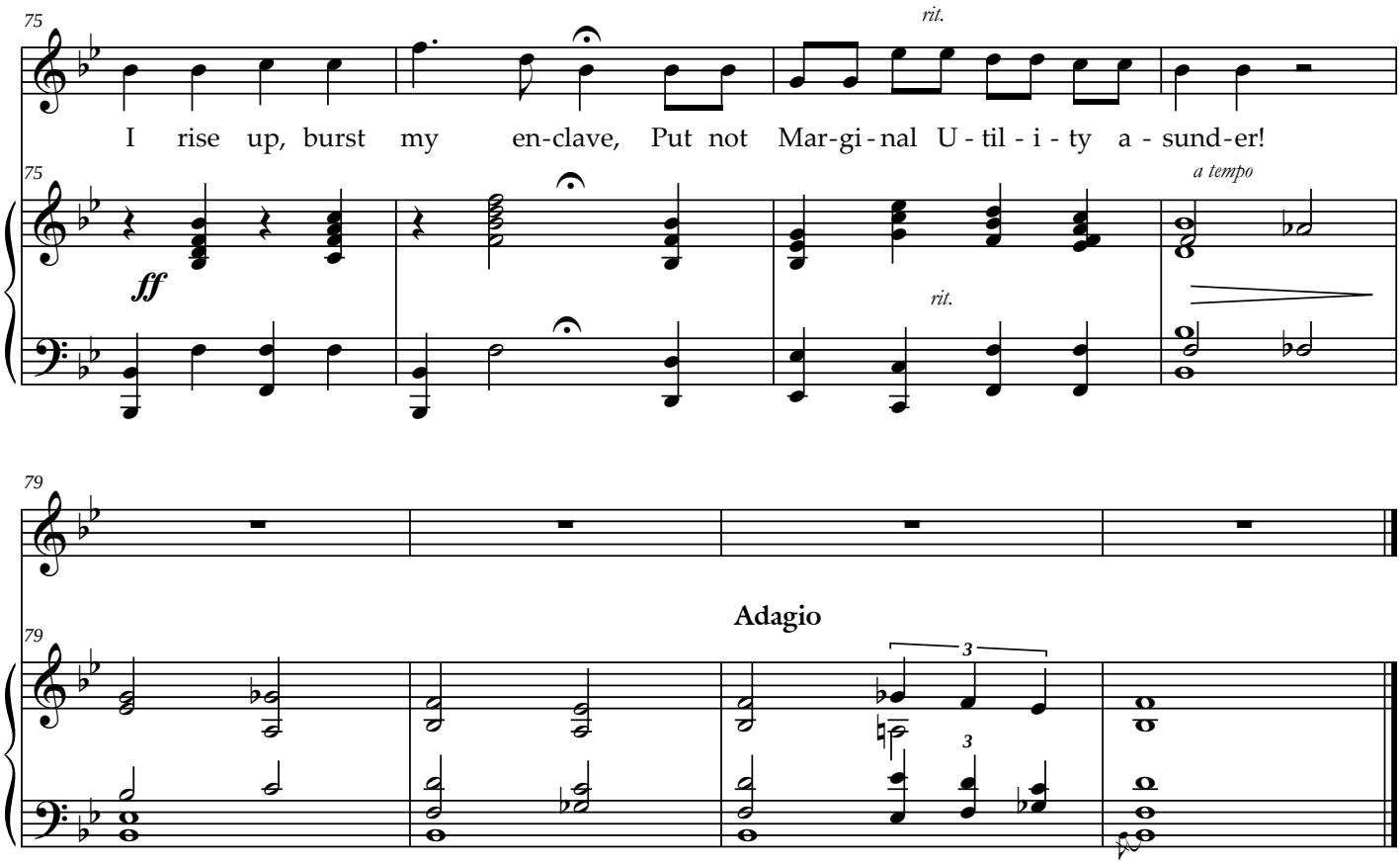

11
good man learned the trag - ic tale: Mar-gi-nal U - til-i-ty– it was de - ceased. Its
15
rit.
fol - low-ers la-ment - ed the school's cor - rupt - ion, Their doz - en would-n't in - crease.
rit.
19
p
rit.
Our e - con-o-mist cried bit - ter - ly Oh,
a tempo
p
p
rit.
23
p
3
for the ter - ri-ble news! Oh, that life, it had-n't been grant-ed me, Gone to the


27
dogs is my muse. My books! What's to be - come of them? E - di-tions print-ed, no de-
32
mf
mand. I might well burn them straight a - way— Wis-dom's met its fin - al stand. Dis-
37
3
3
hon - or, with its death knell sound-ing, and my friend fate be - tray me. In
f
41
world pro - test, with pride a - bound-ing, I'vegot Ha - ra - ki - ri to save me. I


45
agitato
shall not do it hast-i - ly; This were no friend to reas - on. I ex-
p
agitato
49
change my life here just - i-fia-bly For sac-ri-fice knows its seas - on. From the
p
53
più mosso
treas-u-ry of Meng-er's works, I lay a vol-ume on my breast. Now
più mosso
57
rit.
f
pen in hand, my dag-ger dear, With it my soul may find its rest. And
rit.


Broadly ♩ = 84
so I stil - ly lie, and wait Like my books, re - main - dered and dust - y. But
hark! Now com - ple - men - ta - ry goods, They cry for bat - tle, loud and lust - y! Böhm
Ba - werk ad - van - ces o - ver my grave, Po - lem - ics, and light - ning and thun - der. Po -
lem - ics, and light - ning and thun - der! Armed,

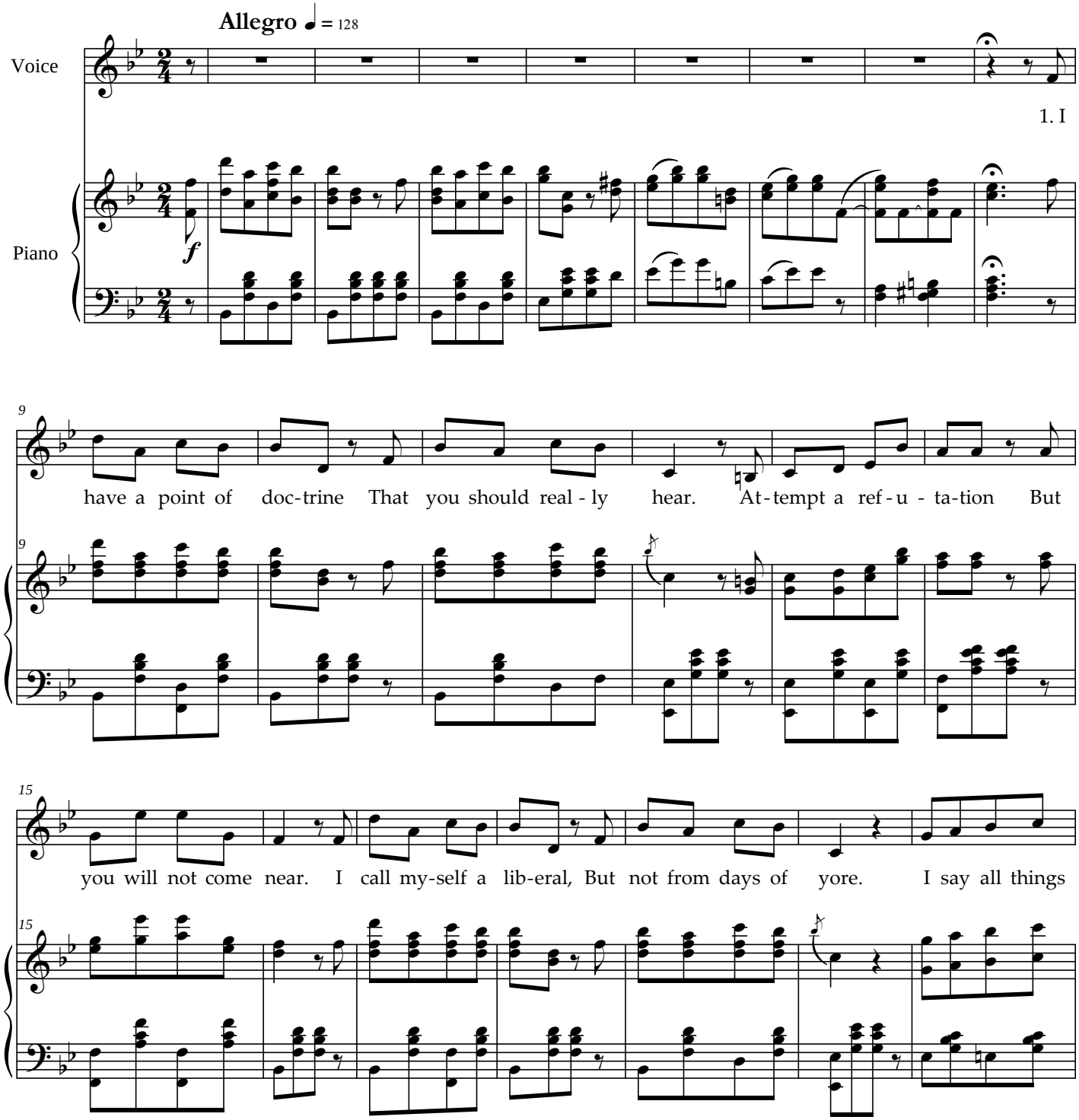

75
rit.
I rise up, burst my en-clave, Put not Mar-gi-nal U-til-i-ty a-sund-er!
ff
a tempo
rit.
79
Adagio
3
3

3. The Mises-Mayer Debate

Die Mises-Mayer-Diskussion (Fiakerlied)

Felix Kaufmann (1895-1949)
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Music by Gustav Pick (1832-1921)
arr. Arlene Oost-Zinner



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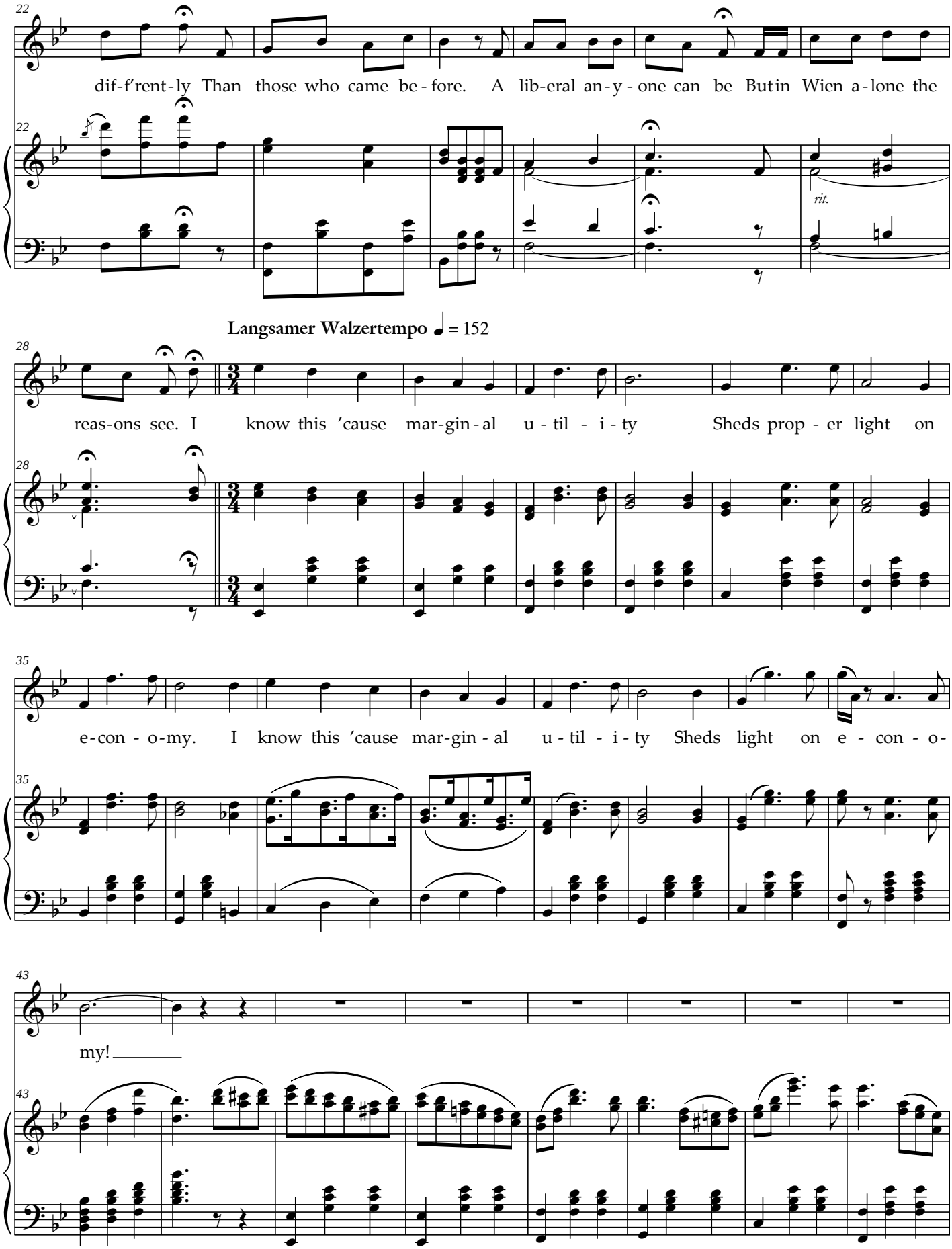
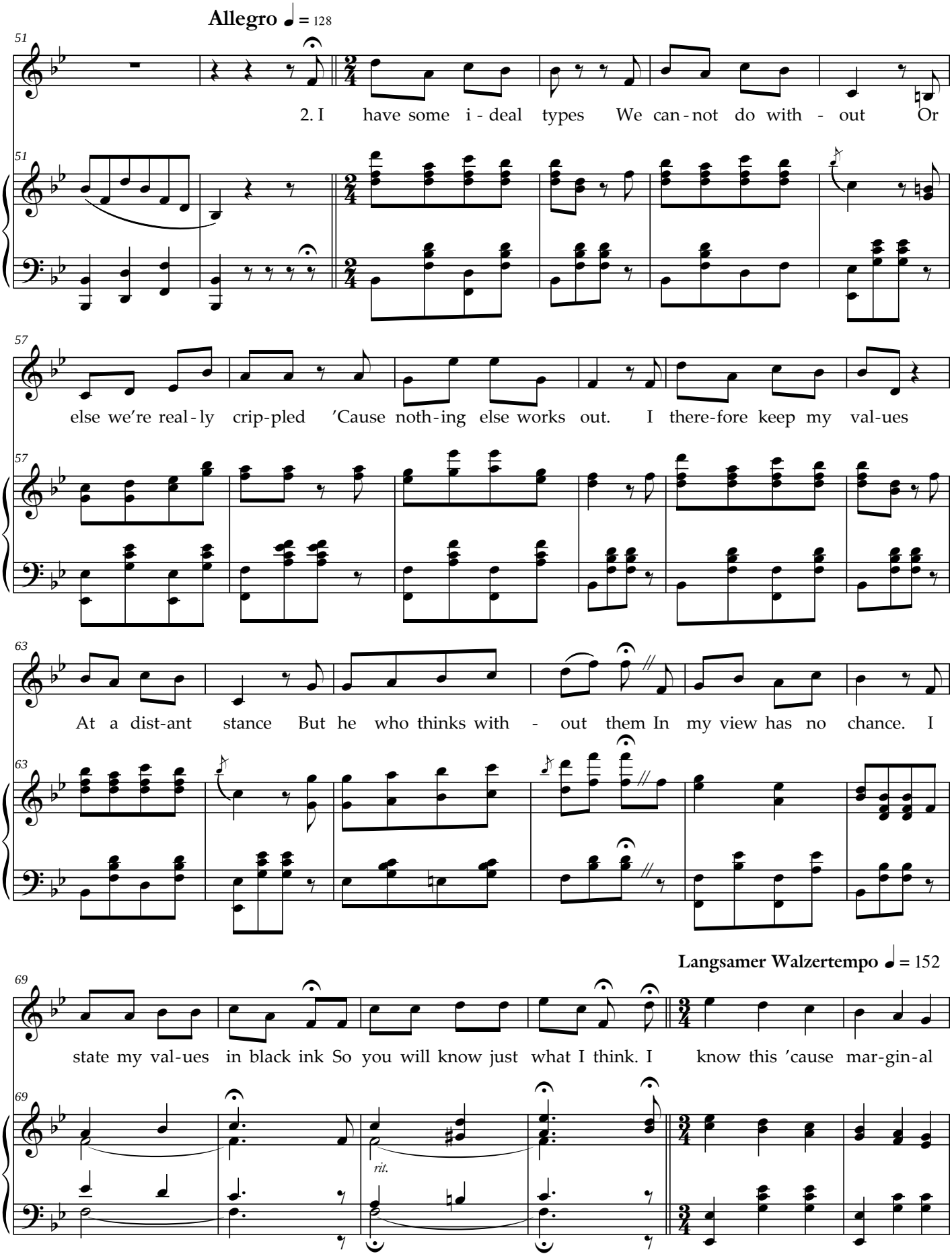
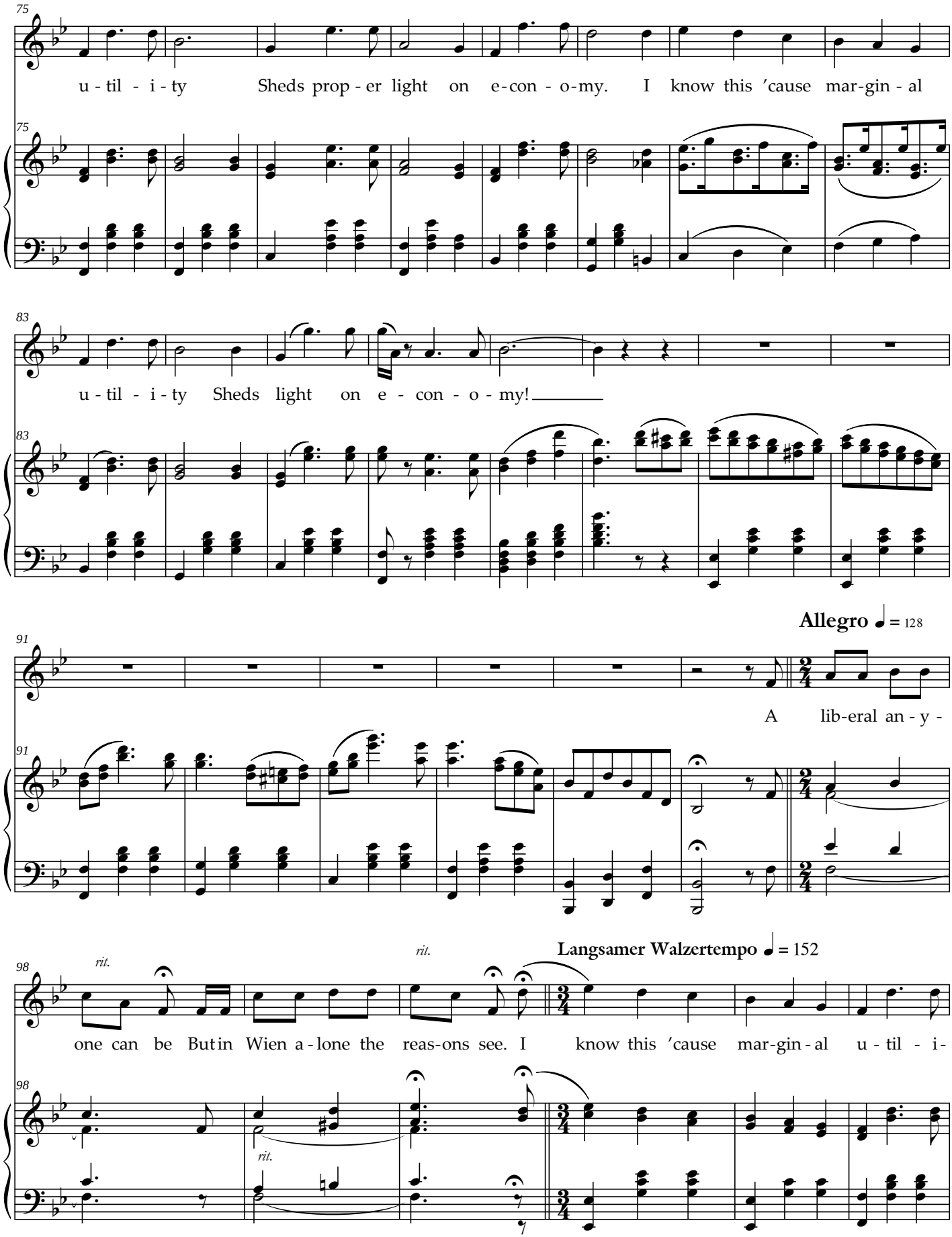
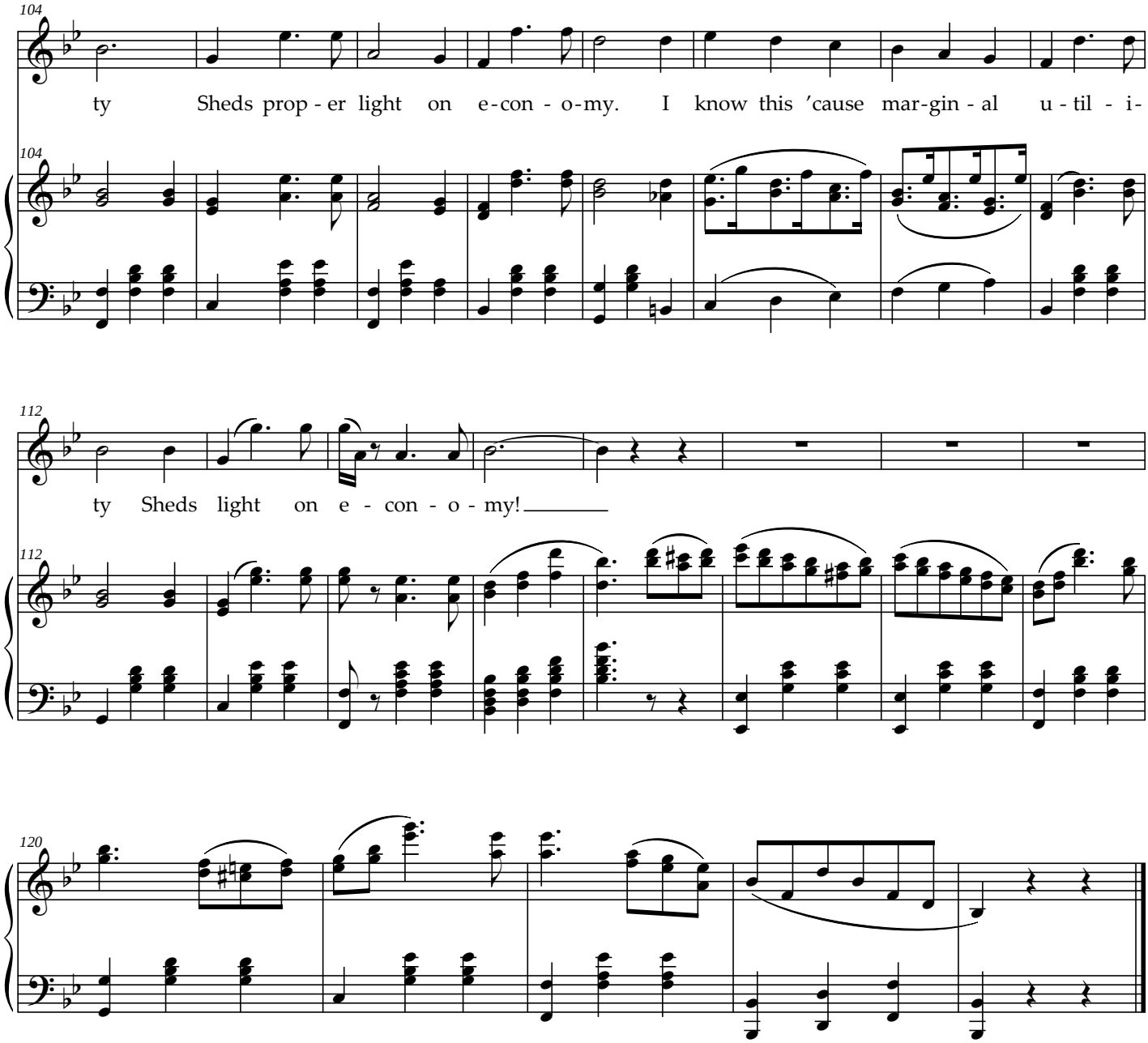

22
dif-f'rent-ly Than those who came be-fore. A lib-eral an-y-one can be But in Wien a-lone the
rit.
Langsamer Walzertempo ♩ = 152
28
reas-ons see. I know this 'cause mar-gin-al u-til-i-ty Sheds prop-er light on
35
e-con-o-my. I know this 'cause mar-gin-al u-til-i-ty Sheds light on e-con-o-
43
my!


Allegro ♩ = 128
2. I have some i - deal types We can - not do with - out Or
else we're real - ly crip-pled 'Cause noth-ing else works out. I there-fore keep my val-ues
At a dist-ant stance But he who thinks with - out them In my view has no chance. I
Langsamer Walzertempo ♩ = 152
state my val-ues in black ink So you will know just what I think. I know this 'cause mar-gin-al
rit.


75
u - til - i - ty Sheds prop - er light on e - con - o - my. I know this 'cause mar - gin - al
83
u - til - i - ty Sheds light on e - con - o - my!
Allegro ♩ = 128
91
A lib - eral an - y -
rit.
rit.
Langsamer Walzertempo ♩ = 152
98
one can be But in Wien a - lone the reas - ons see. I know this 'cause mar - gin - al u - til - i -
rit.


104
ty Sheds prop - er light on e - con - o - my. I know this 'cause mar - gin - al u - til - i-
104
112
ty Sheds light on e - con - o - my!
112
120

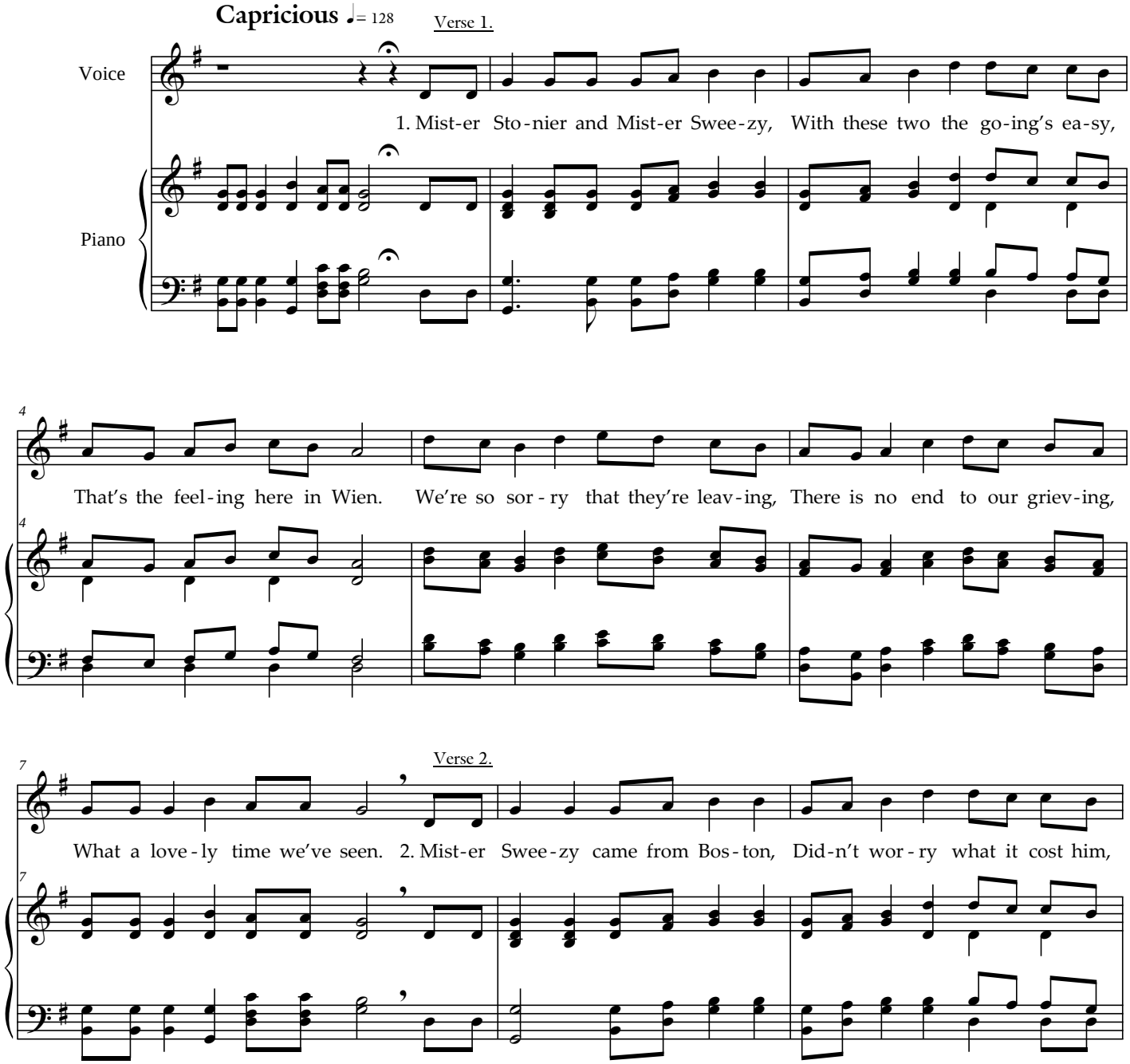
4. Mr. Stonier and Mr. Sweezy

Stonier und Sweezy

Felix Kaufmann (1895-1949)
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Music: Folk melody,
"Prinz Eugenius, der edle Ritter"

arr. Arlene Oost-Zinner



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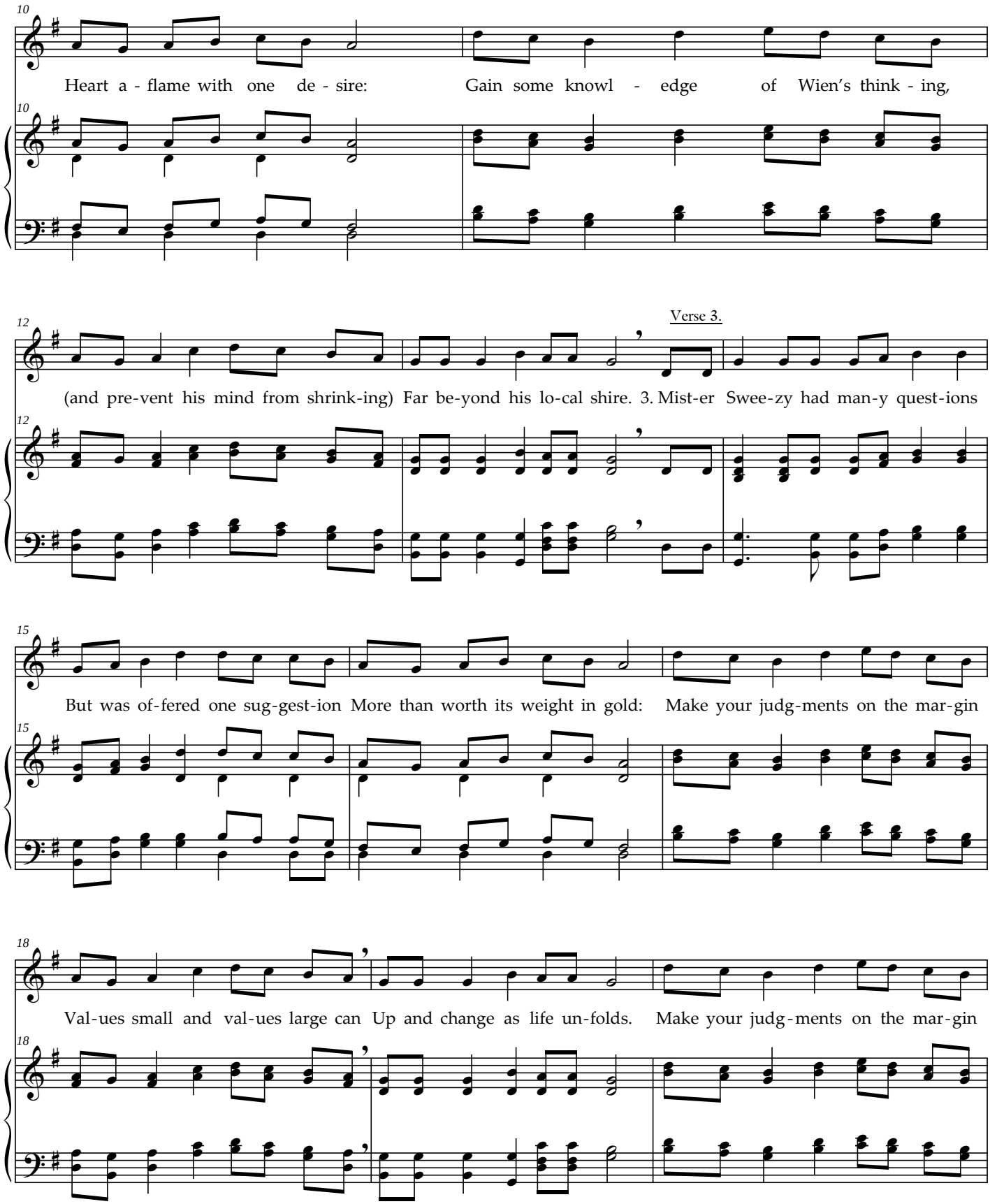
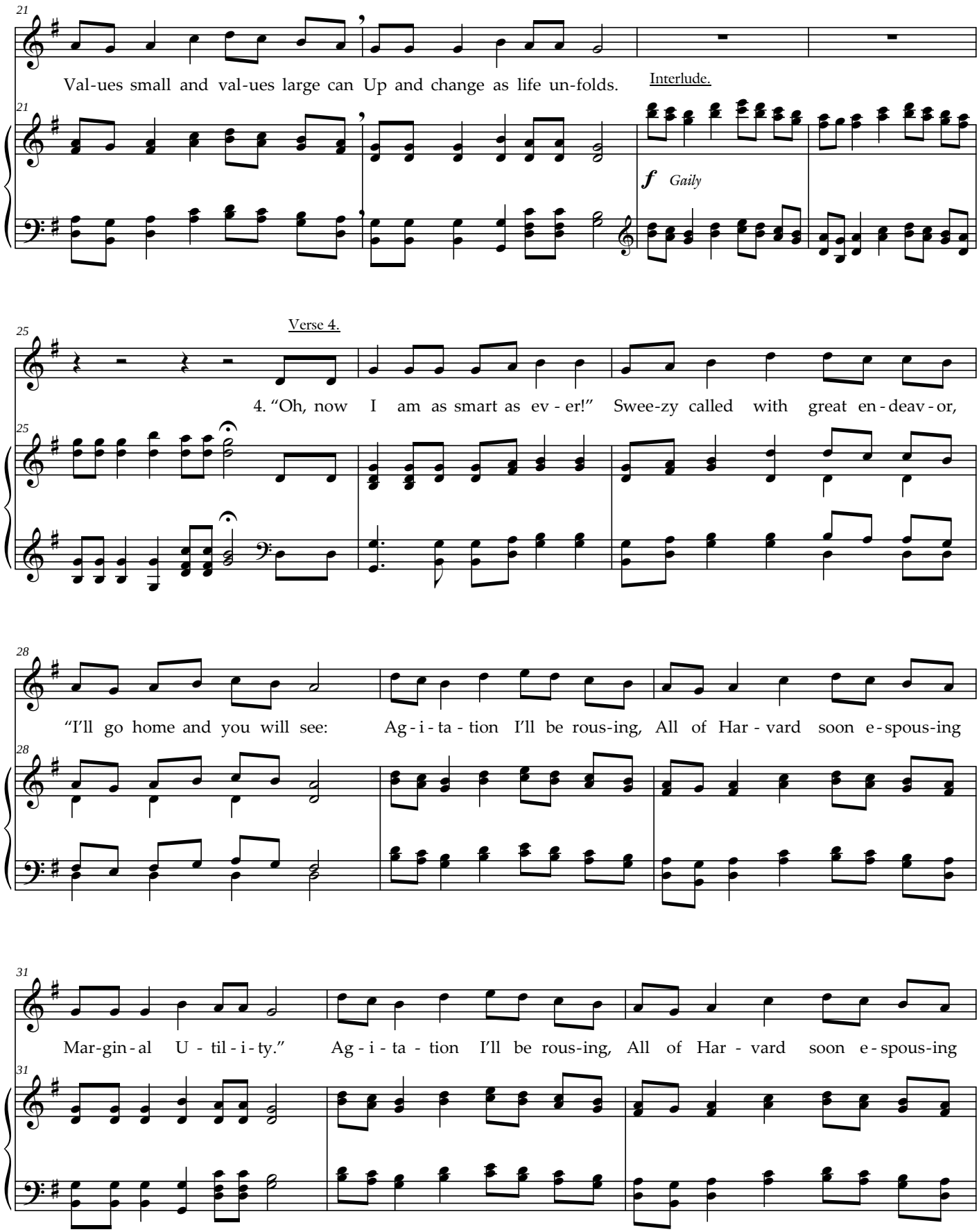
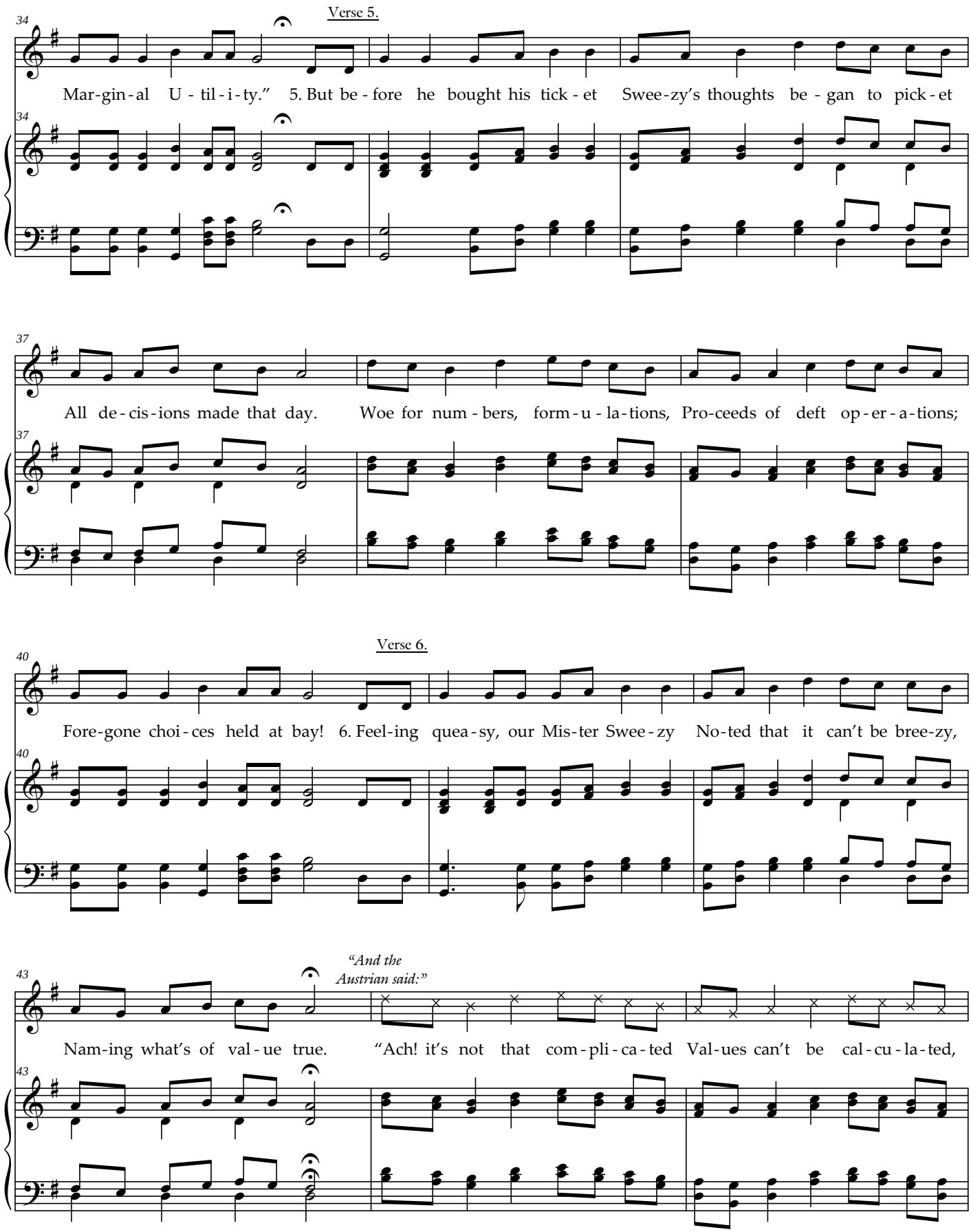
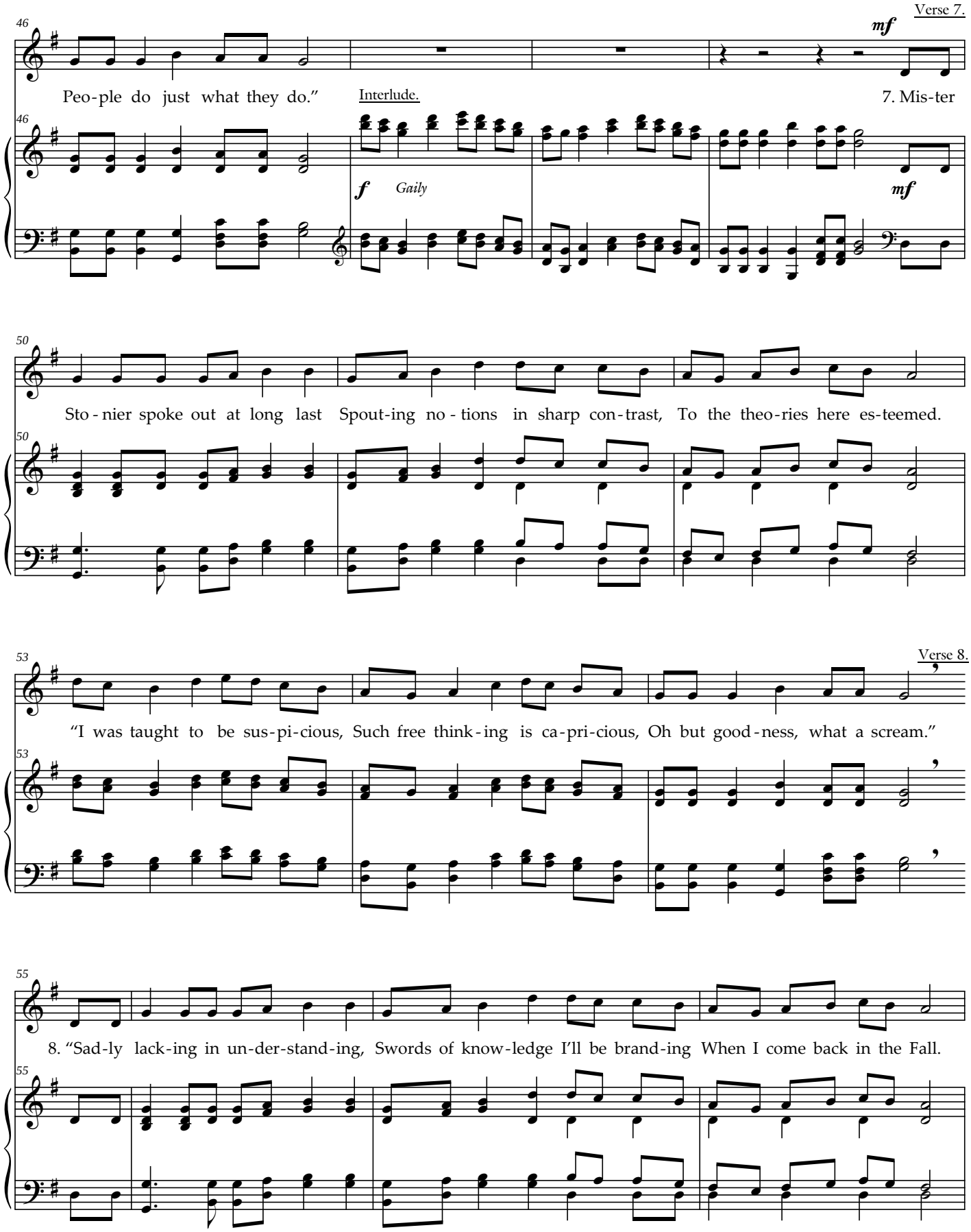
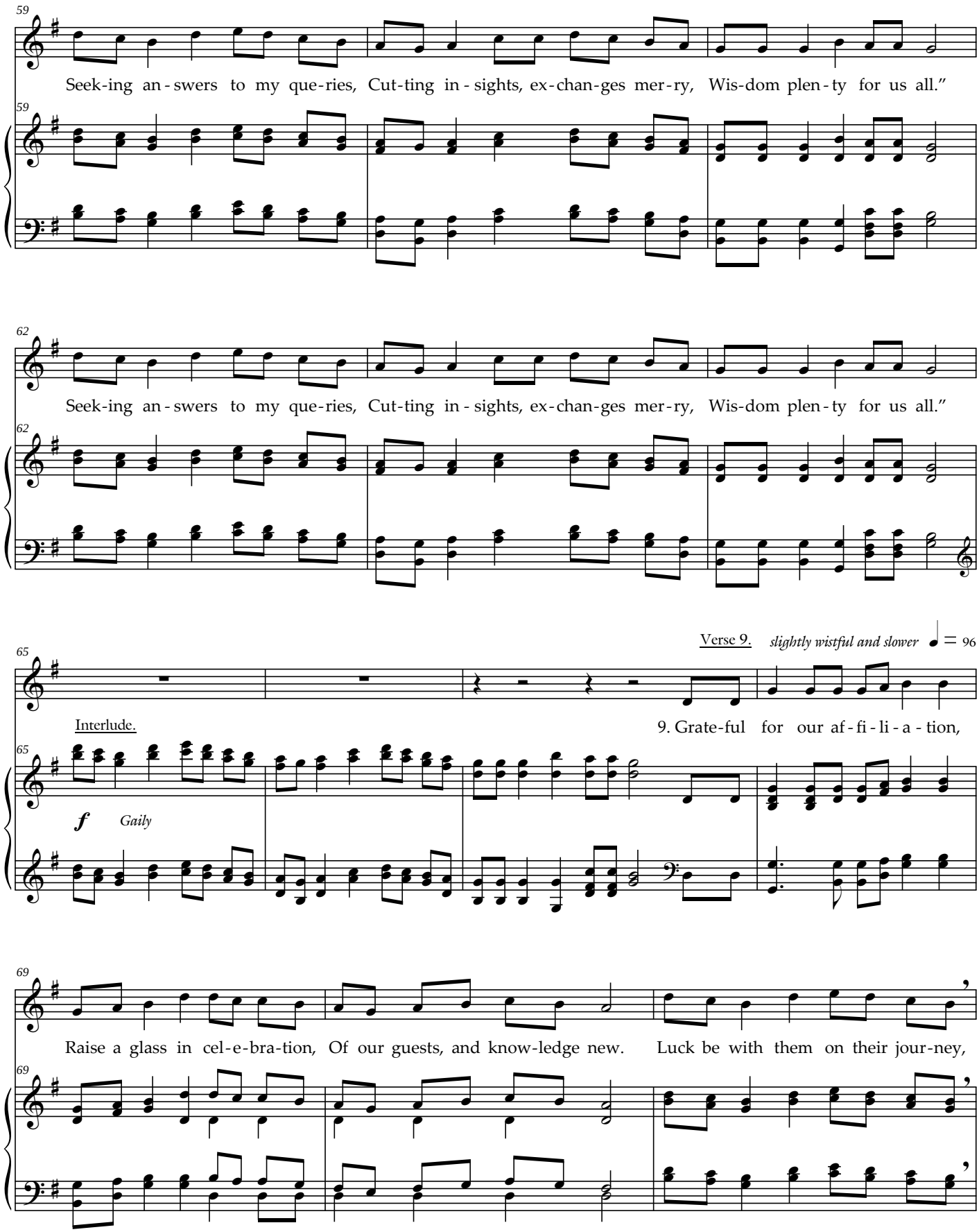
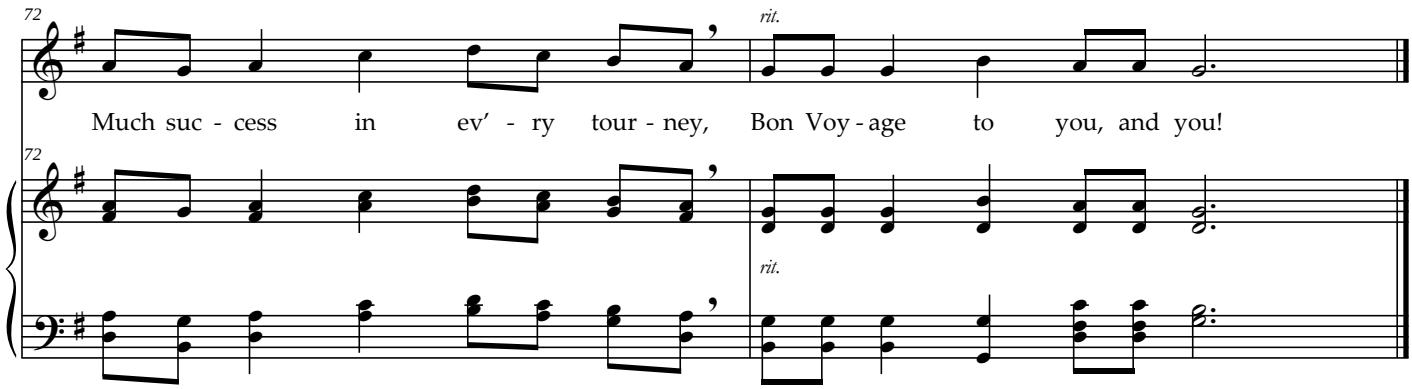

10
Heart a - flame with one de - sire: Gain some knowl - edge of Wien's think - ing,
12
Verse 3.
(and pre-vent his mind from shrink-ing) Far be-yond his lo-cal shire. 3. Mist-er Swee-zy had man-y quest-ions
15
But was of-fered one sug-gest-ion More than worth its weight in gold: Make your judg-ments on the mar-gin
18
Val-ues small and val-ues large can Up and change as life un-folds. Make your judg-ments on the mar-gin


21
Val-ues small and val-ues large can Up and change as life un-folds.
Interlude.
f Gaily
25
Verse 4.
4. "Oh, now I am as smart as ev - er!" Swee-zy called with great en - deav - or,
28
"I'll go home and you will see: Ag - i - ta - tion I'll be rous-ing, All of Har - vard soon e - spous-ing
31
Mar-gin - al U - til - i - ty." Ag - i - ta - tion I'll be rous-ing, All of Har - vard soon e - spous-ing


Verse 5.
Mar-gin-al U-til-i-ty." 5. But be-fore he bought his tick-et Swee-zy's thoughts be-gan to pick-et
All de-cis-ions made that day. Woe for num-bers, form-u-la-tions, Pro-ceeds of deft op-er-a-tions;
Verse 6.
Fore-gone choi-ces held at bay! 6. Feel-ing quea-sy, our Mis-ter Swee-zy No-ted that it can't be bree-zy,
"And the Austrian said:"
Nam-ing what's of val-ue true. "Ach! it's not that com-pli-ca-ted Val-ues can't be cal-cu-la-ted,


Verse 7.
mf
Peo-ple do just what they do."
Interlude.
7. Mis-ter
f
Gaily
mf
Sto-nier spoke out at long last Spout-ing no-tions in sharp con-trast, To the theo-ries here es-teemed.
Verse 8.
"I was taught to be sus-pi-cious, Such free think-ing is ca-pri-cious, Oh but good-ness, what a scream."
8. "Sad-ly lack-ing in un-der-stand-ing, Swords of know-ledge I'll be brand-ing When I come back in the Fall.


59
Seek-ing an-swers to my que-ries, Cut-ting in-sights, ex-chan-ges mer-ry, Wis-dom plen-ty for us all."
62
Seek-ing an-swers to my que-ries, Cut-ting in-sights, ex-chan-ges mer-ry, Wis-dom plen-ty for us all."
Verse 9.
slightly wistful and slower
♩ = 96
65
Interlude.
9. Grate-ful for our af-fi-li-a-tion,
f
Gaily
69
Raise a glass in cel-e-bra-tion, Of our guests, and know-ledge new. Luck be with them on their jour-ney,

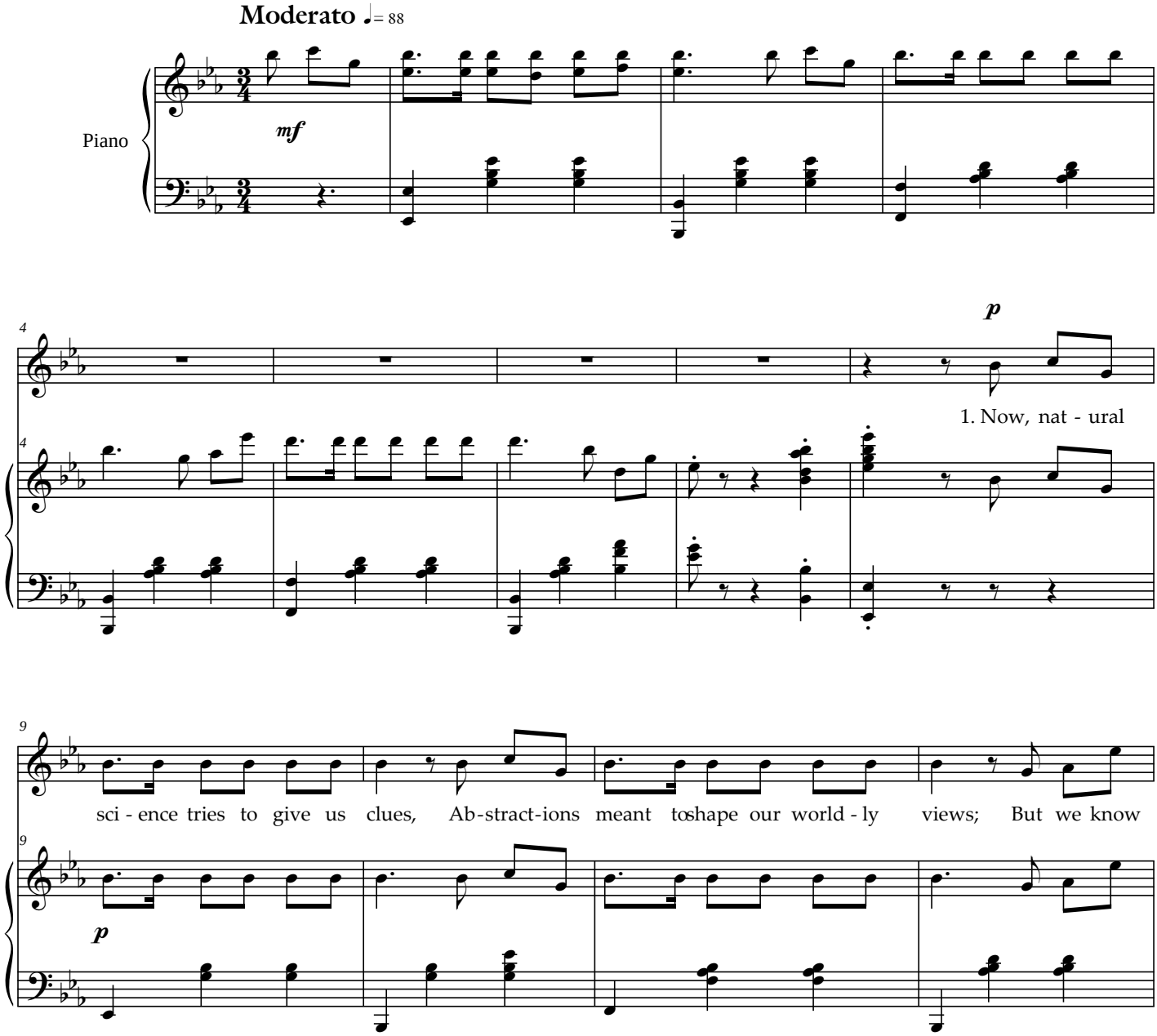

72
rit.
Much suc - cess in ev' - ry tour - ney, Bon Voy - age to you, and you!
72
rit.

5. Downfall of the Business Cycle

Untergang der Konjunktur durch Erforschung

Felix Kaufmann (1895-1949),
after Wilhelm Wiesberg (1850-1896)
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Music by Johann Sioly (1843-1911)
arr. Arlene Oost-Zinner



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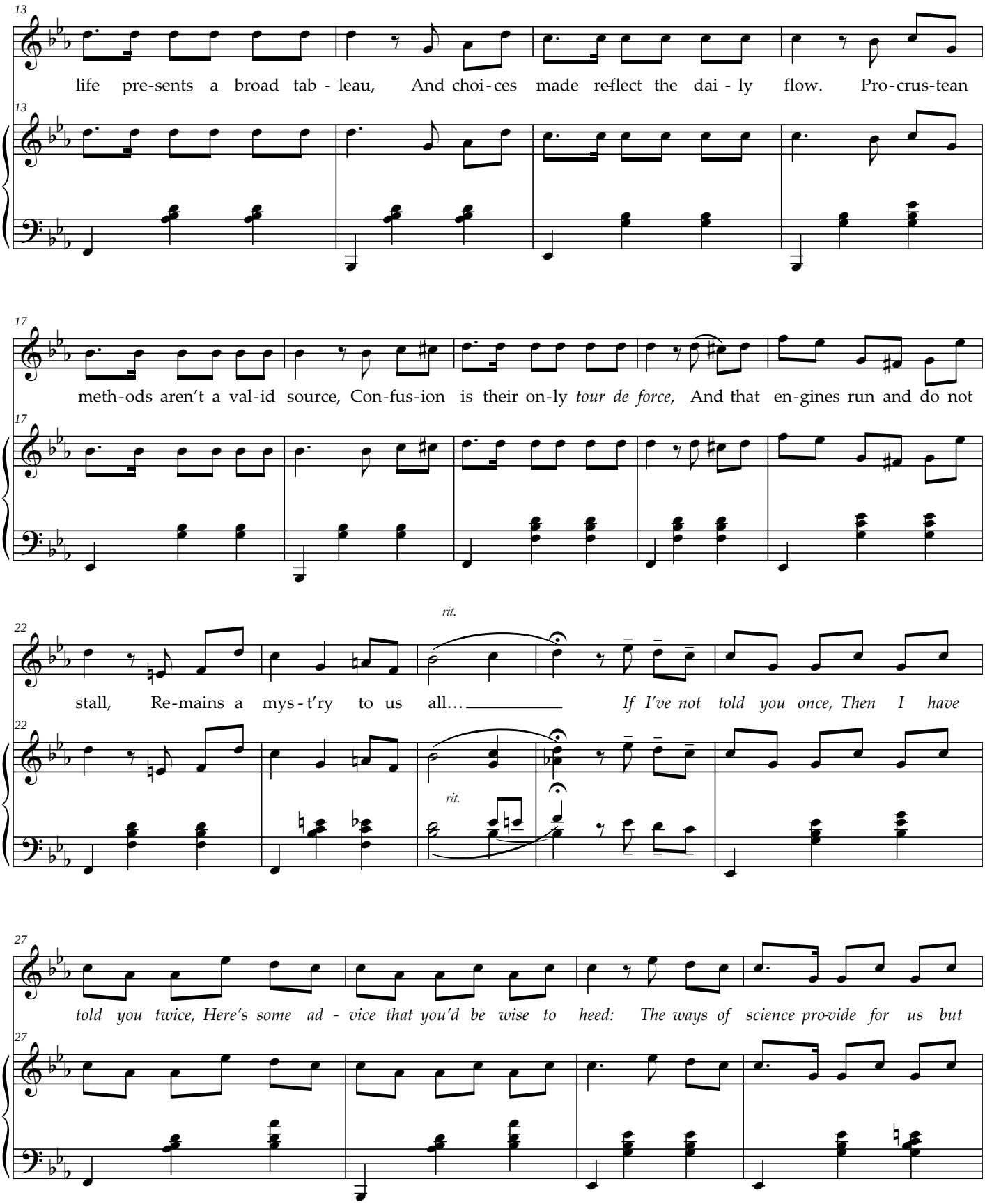
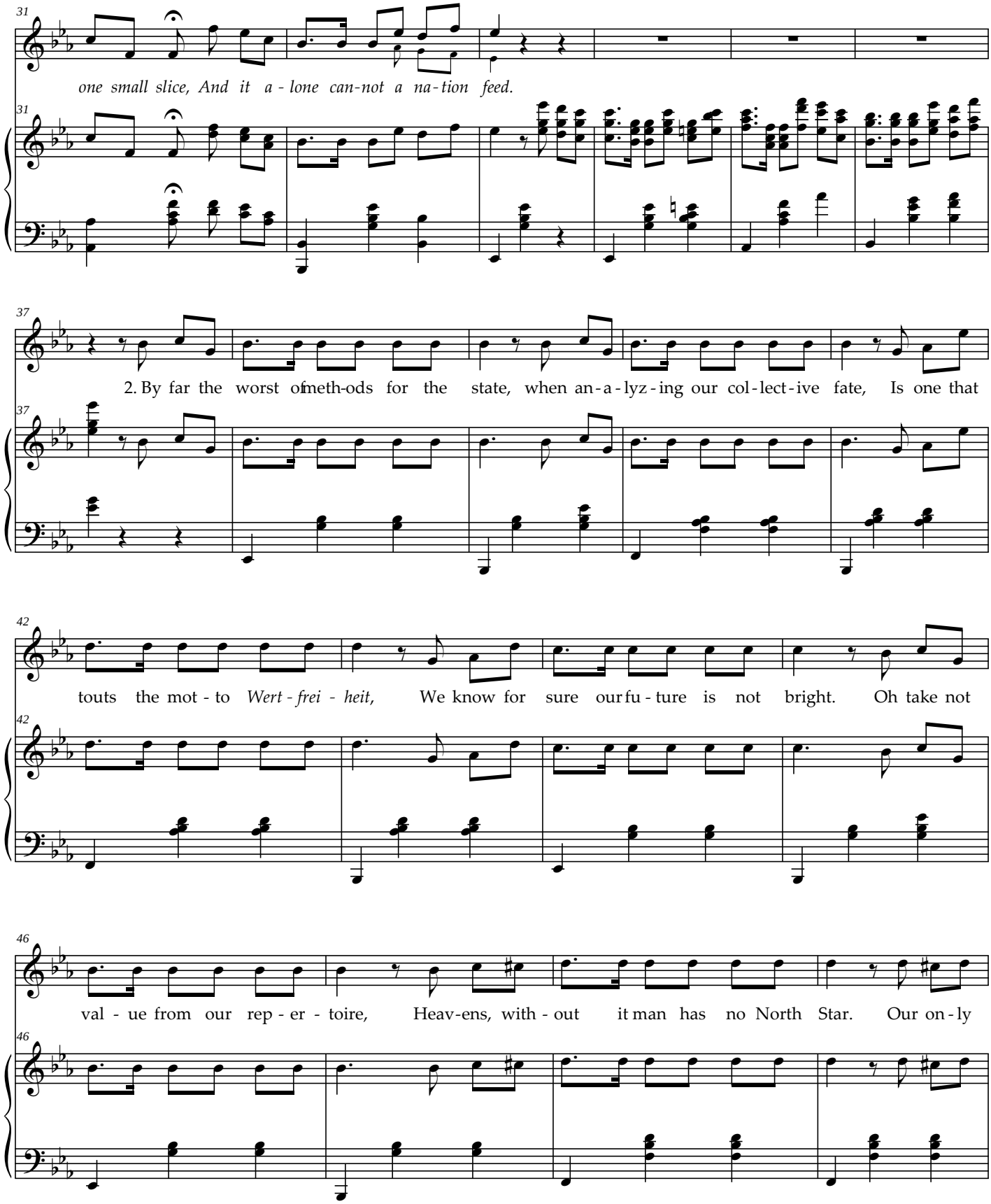
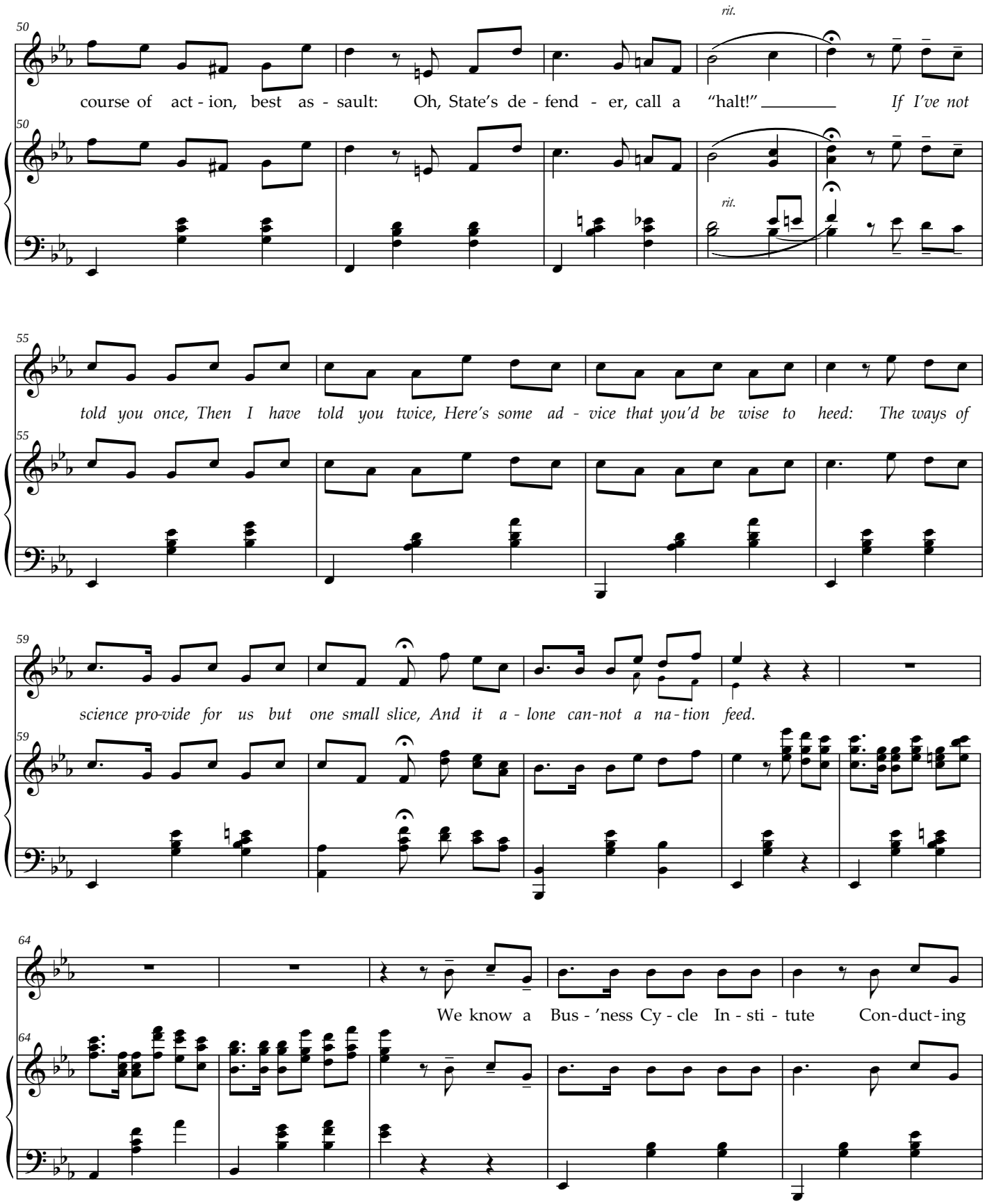
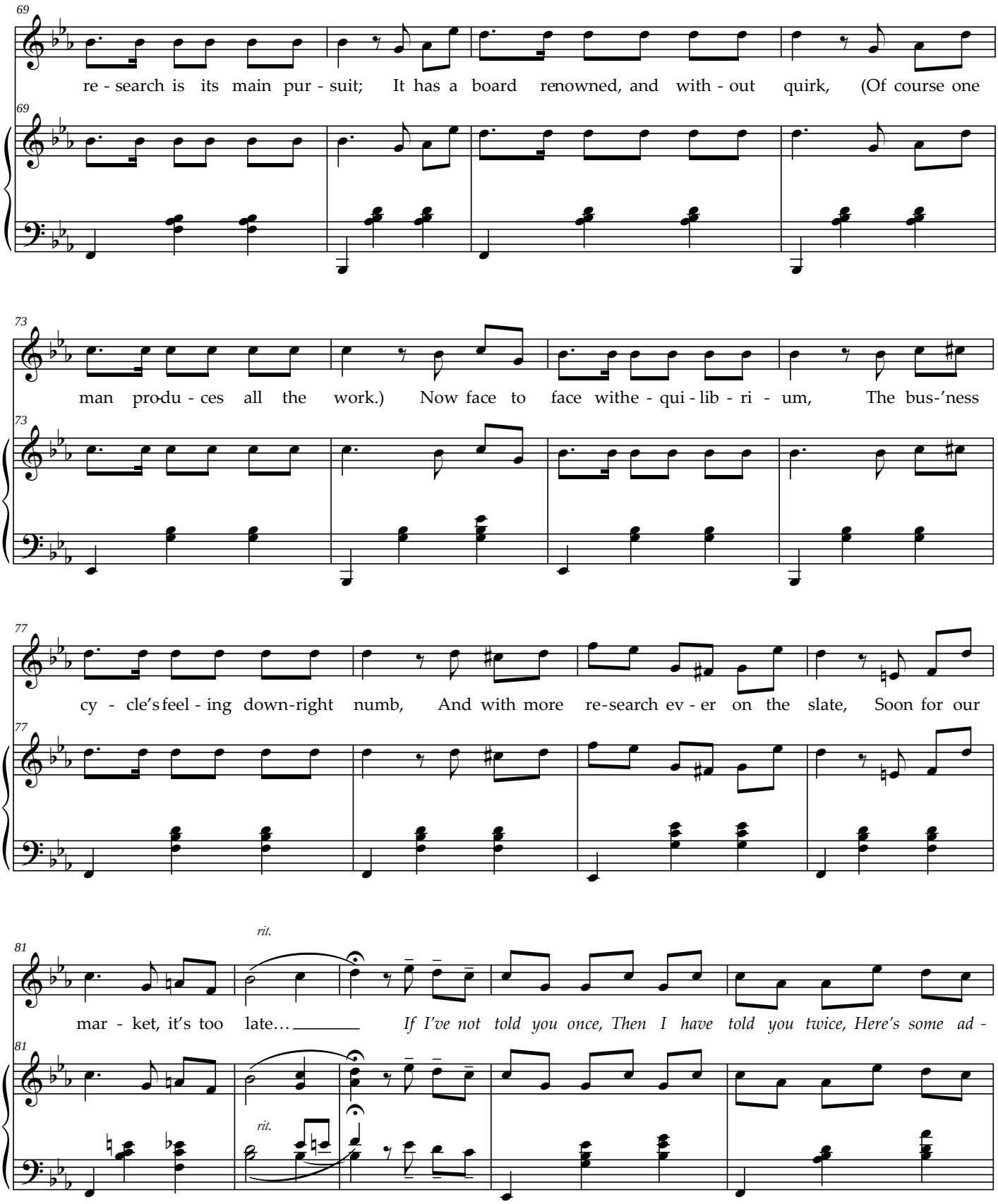
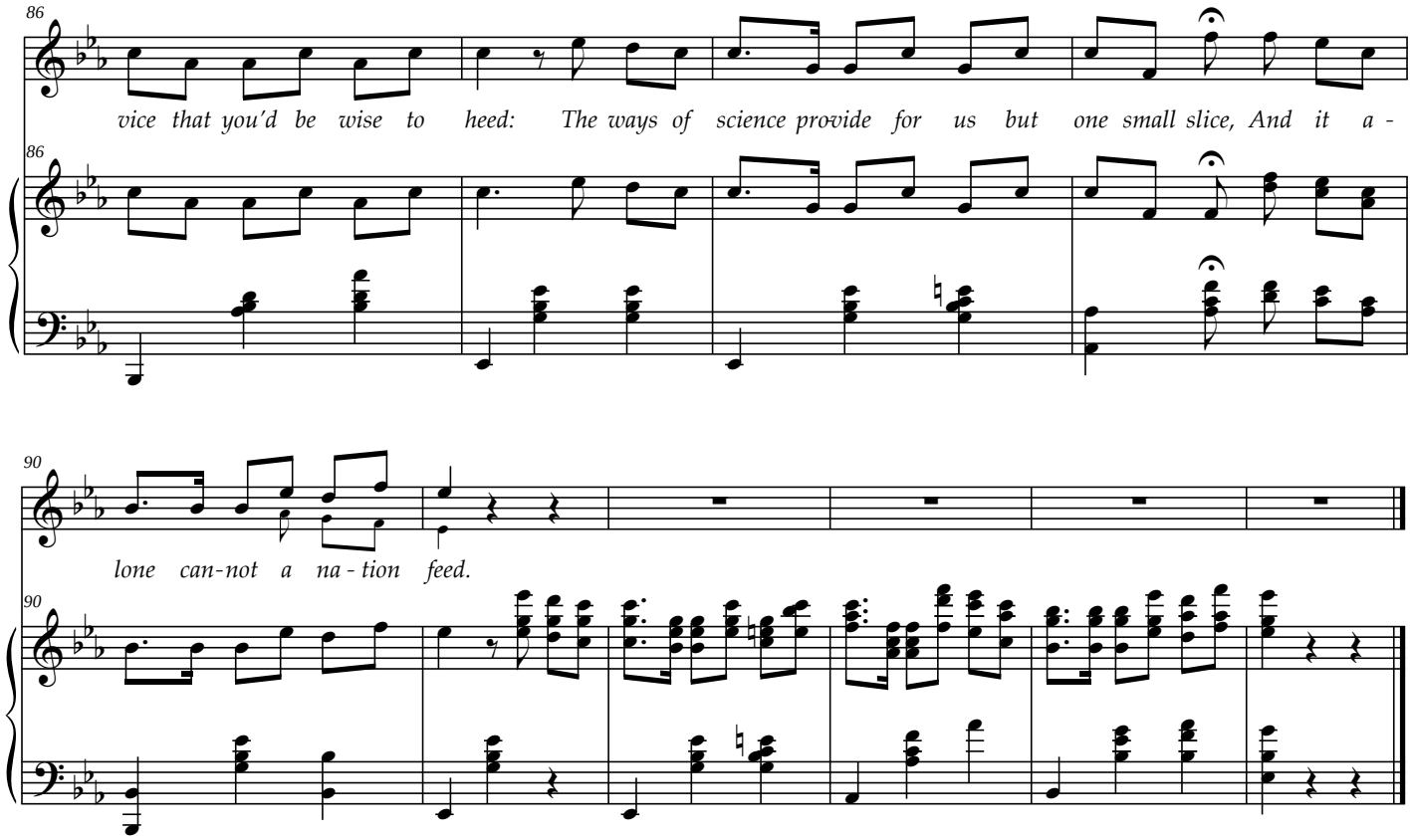

13
life pre-sents a broad tab - leau, And choi-ces made re-flect the dai - ly flow. Pro-crus-tean
17
meth-ods aren't a val-id source, Con-fus-ion is their on-ly *tour de force,* And that en-gines run and do not
22
rit.
stall, Re-mains a mys - t'ry to us all… *If I've not told you once, Then I have*
rit.
27
told you twice, Here's some ad - vice that you'd be wise to heed: The ways of science pro-vide for us but


one small slice, And it a - lone can-not a na - tion feed.
2. By far the worst of meth-ods for the state, when an - a - lyz - ing our col - lect - ive fate, Is one that
touts the mot - to *Wert - frei - heit*, We know for sure our fu - ture is not bright. Oh take not
val - ue from our rep - er - toire, Heav-ens, with - out it man has no North Star. Our on - ly


rit.
course of act - ion, best as - sault: Oh, State's de - fend - er, call a "halt!" If I've not
told you once, Then I have told you twice, Here's some ad - vice that you'd be wise to heed: The ways of
science pro-vide for us but one small slice, And it a - lone can-not a na - tion feed.
We know a Bus - 'ness Cy - cle In - sti - tute Con-duct-ing


69
re - search is its main pur - suit; It has a board renowned, and with - out quirk, (Of course one
73
man pro-du - ces all the work.) Now face to face withe - qui - lib - ri - um, The bus-'ness
77
cy - cle's feel - ing down-right numb, And with more re-search ev - er on the slate, Soon for our
81
rit.
mar - ket, it's too late… If I've not told you once, Then I have told you twice, Here's some ad -

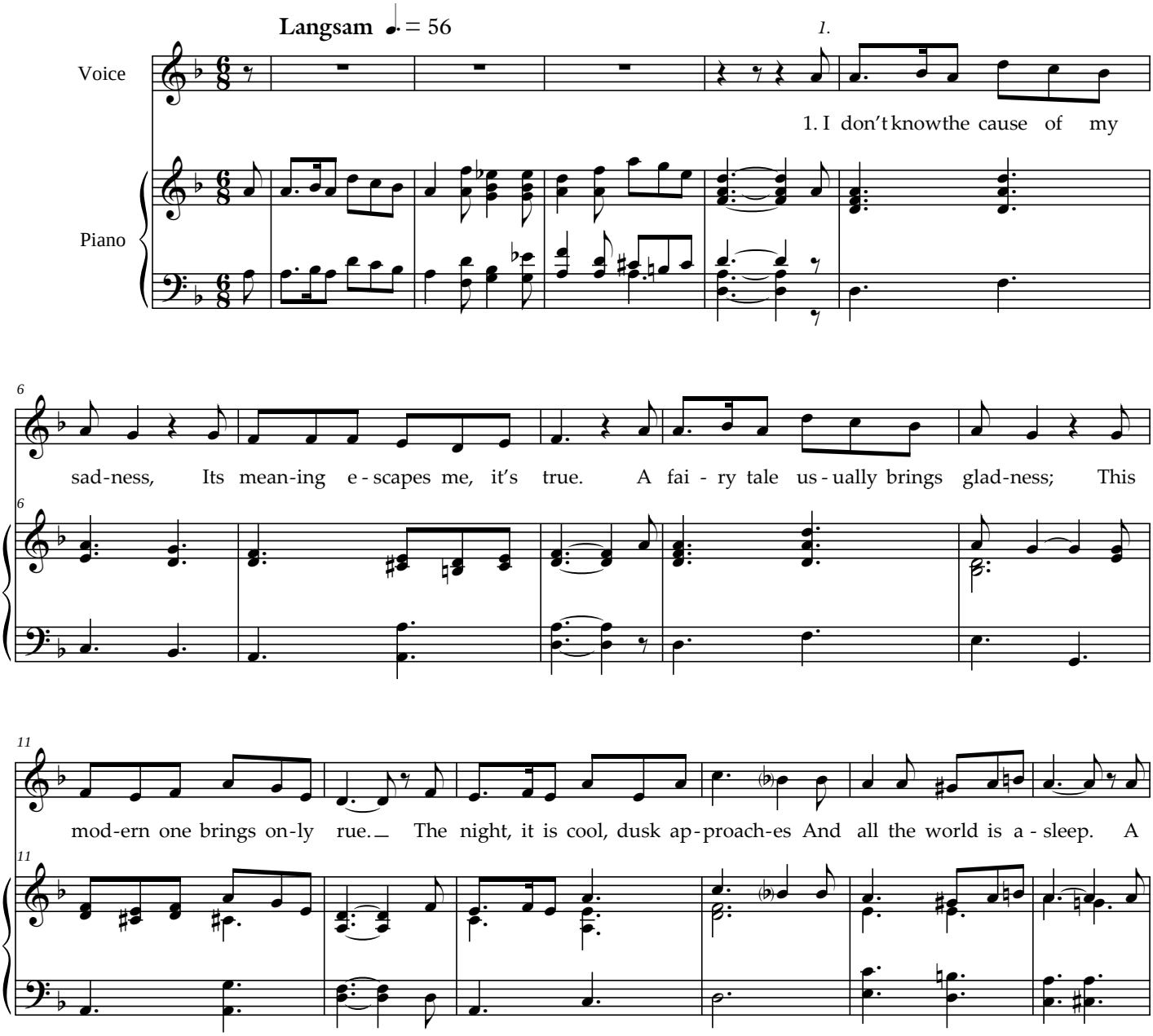

86
vice that you'd be wise to heed: The ways of science provide for us but one small slice, And it a -
86
90
lone can-not a na - tion feed.
90

6. The Scientist and the Methodologist

Der Forscher und der Methodologe

Felix Kaufmann (1895-1949),
with apologies to Heinrich Heine (1797-1856)
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Music by Friedrich Silcher (1789-1860)
arr. Arlene Oost-Zinner



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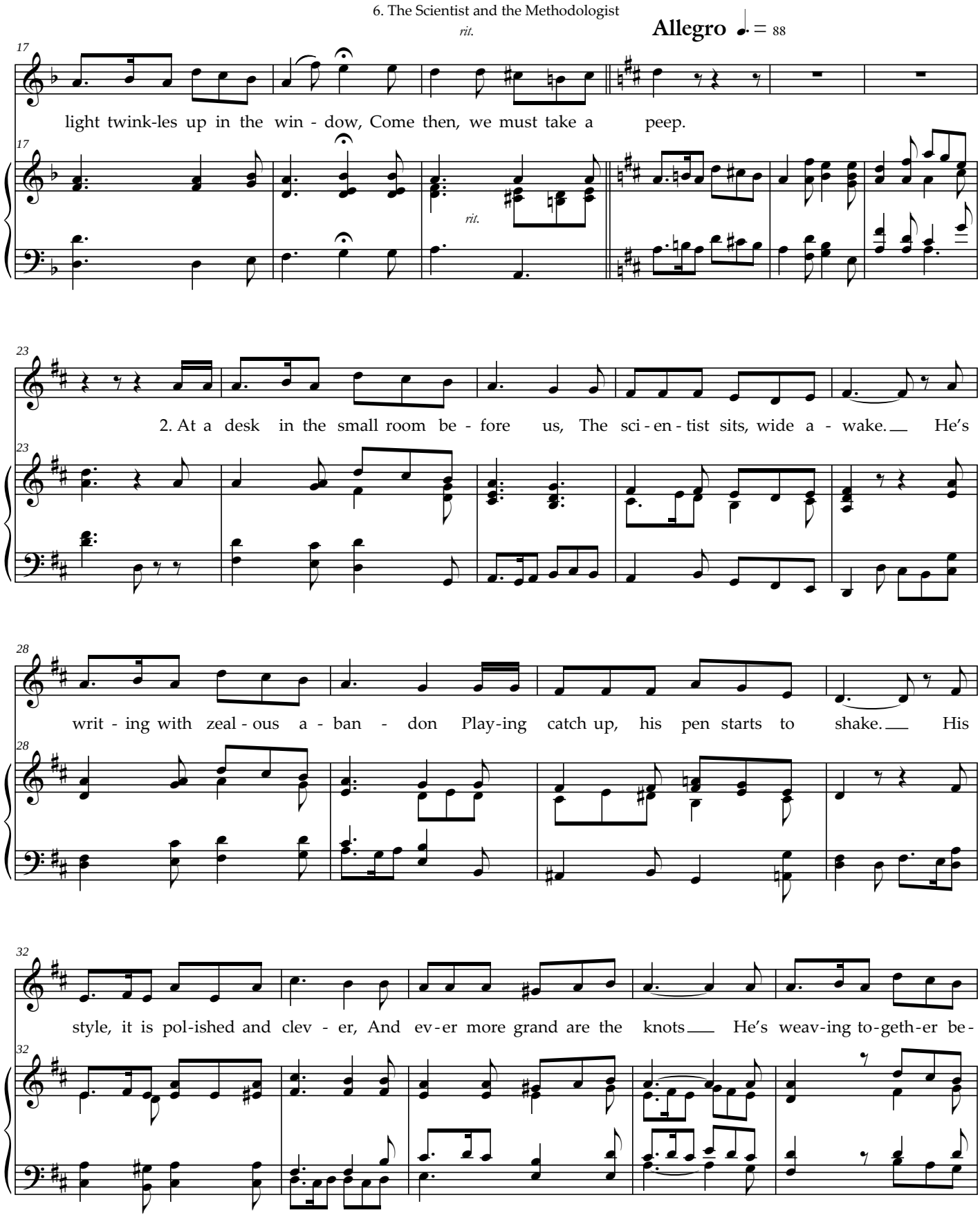
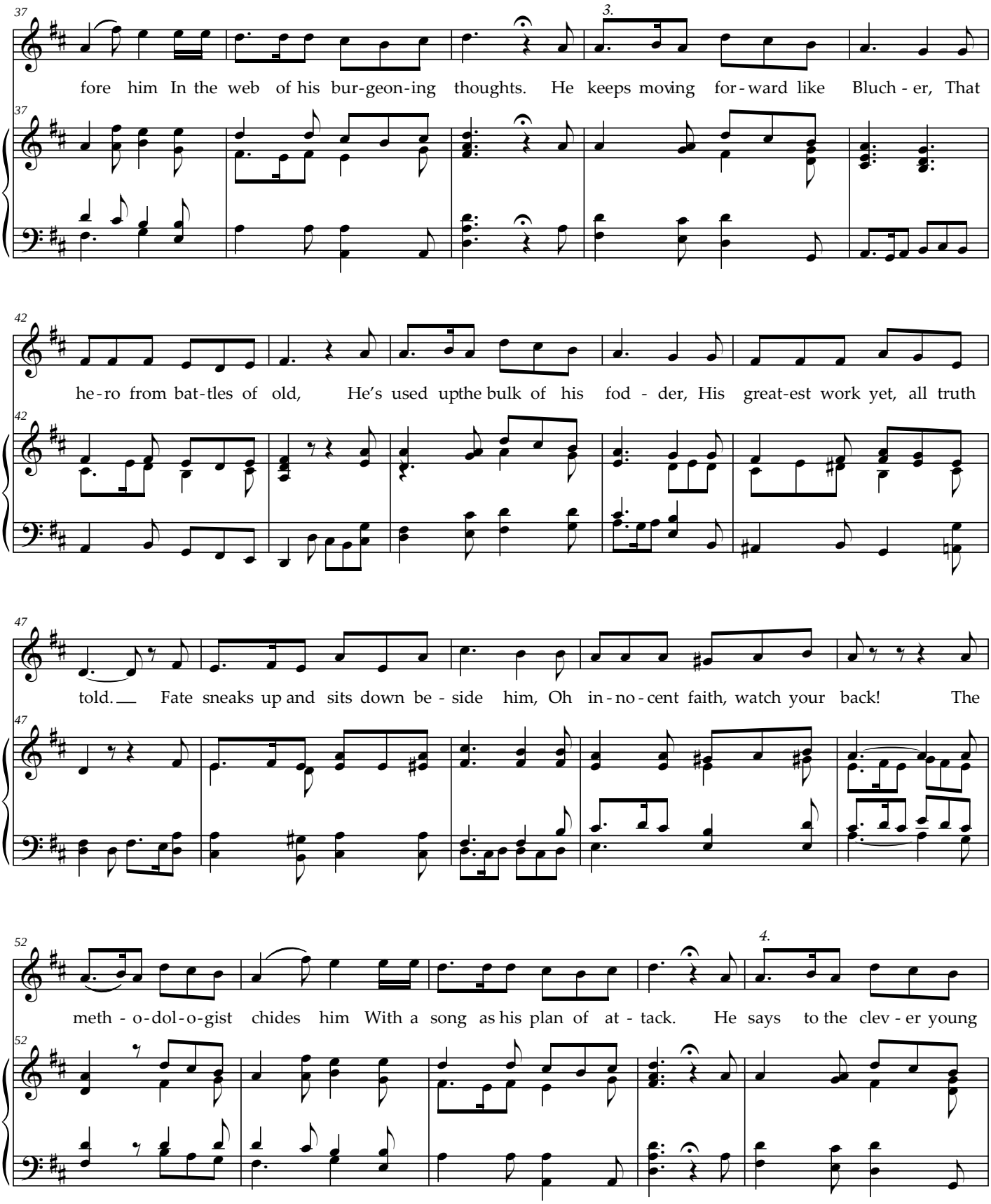
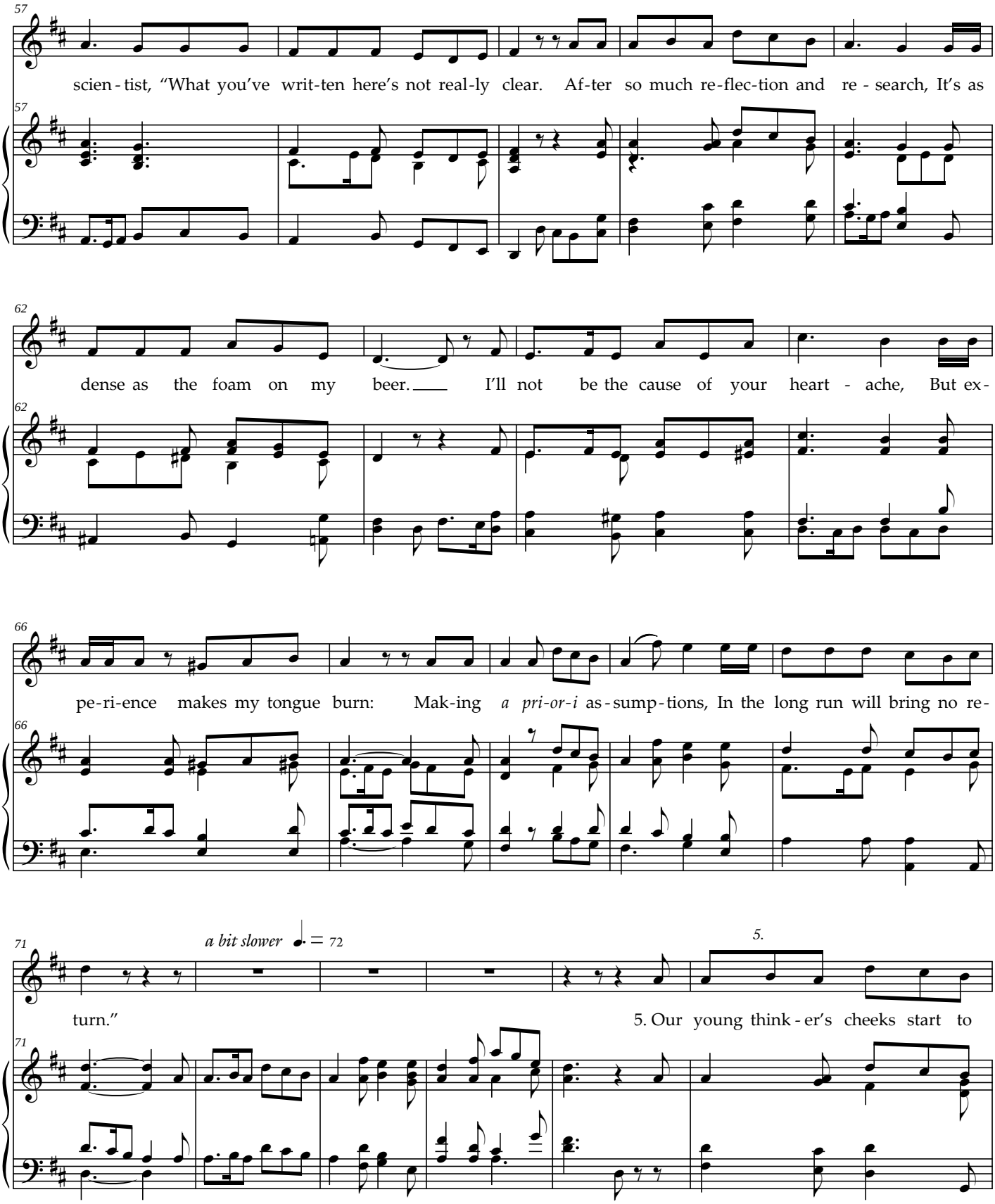

rit.
Allegro ♩. = 88
17
light twink-les up in the win - dow, Come then, we must take a peep.
rit.
23
2. At a desk in the small room be - fore us, The sci - en - tist sits, wide a - wake. He's
28
writ - ing with zeal - ous a - ban - don Play-ing catch up, his pen starts to shake. His
32
style, it is pol-ished and clev - er, And ev-er more grand are the knots He's weav-ing to-geth-er be-


37
3.
fore him In the web of his bur-geon-ing thoughts. He keeps moving for-ward like Bluch-er, That
42
he-ro from bat-tles of old, He's used upthe bulk of his fod-der, His great-est work yet, all truth
47
told. Fate sneaks up and sits down be-side him, Oh in-no-cent faith, watch your back! The
52
4.
meth-o-dol-o-gist chides him With a song as his plan of at-tack. He says to the clev-er young


57
scien - tist, "What you've writ-ten here's not real-ly clear. Af-ter so much re-flec-tion and re - search, It's as
62
dense as the foam on my beer. I'll not be the cause of your heart - ache, But ex-
66
pe-ri-ence makes my tongue burn: Mak-ing *a pri-or-i* as - sump - tions, In the long run will bring no re-
71
a bit slower = 72
5.
turn."
5. Our young think - er's cheeks start to

77

red-den At the sub-stance of what he's been told. Now dread, like a fog, wraps a - round him; De-

82

spair-ing, he gives up his soul. Fire can de-vou-r new kind - ling, With flames cut-ting sharp as a

87

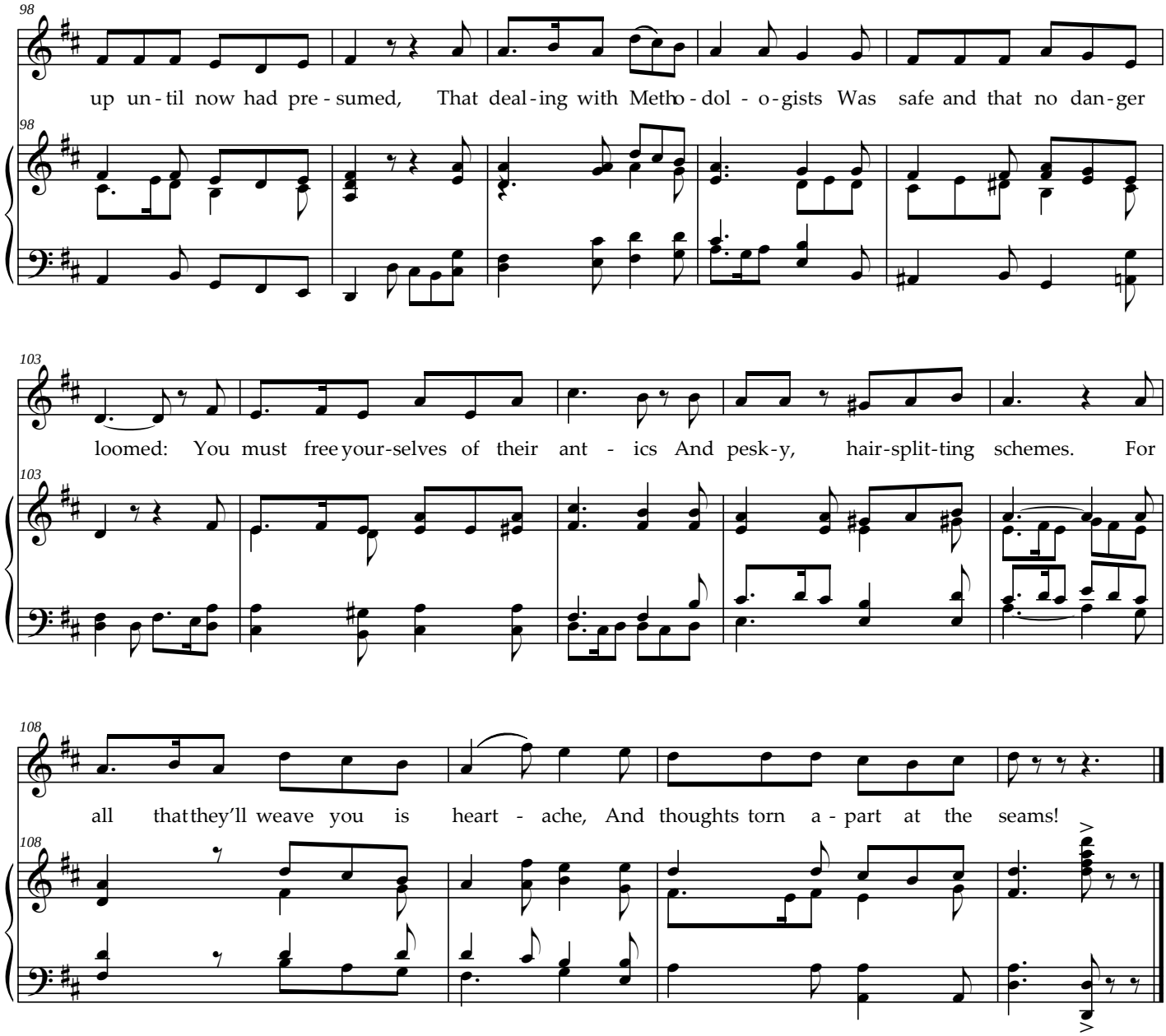
knife, And like kind - ling his work sinks to ash - es, And with it the mean-ing of life.

92

freely, with nostalgia ♩. = 60

6.

And so I warn all of the learn - ed Who

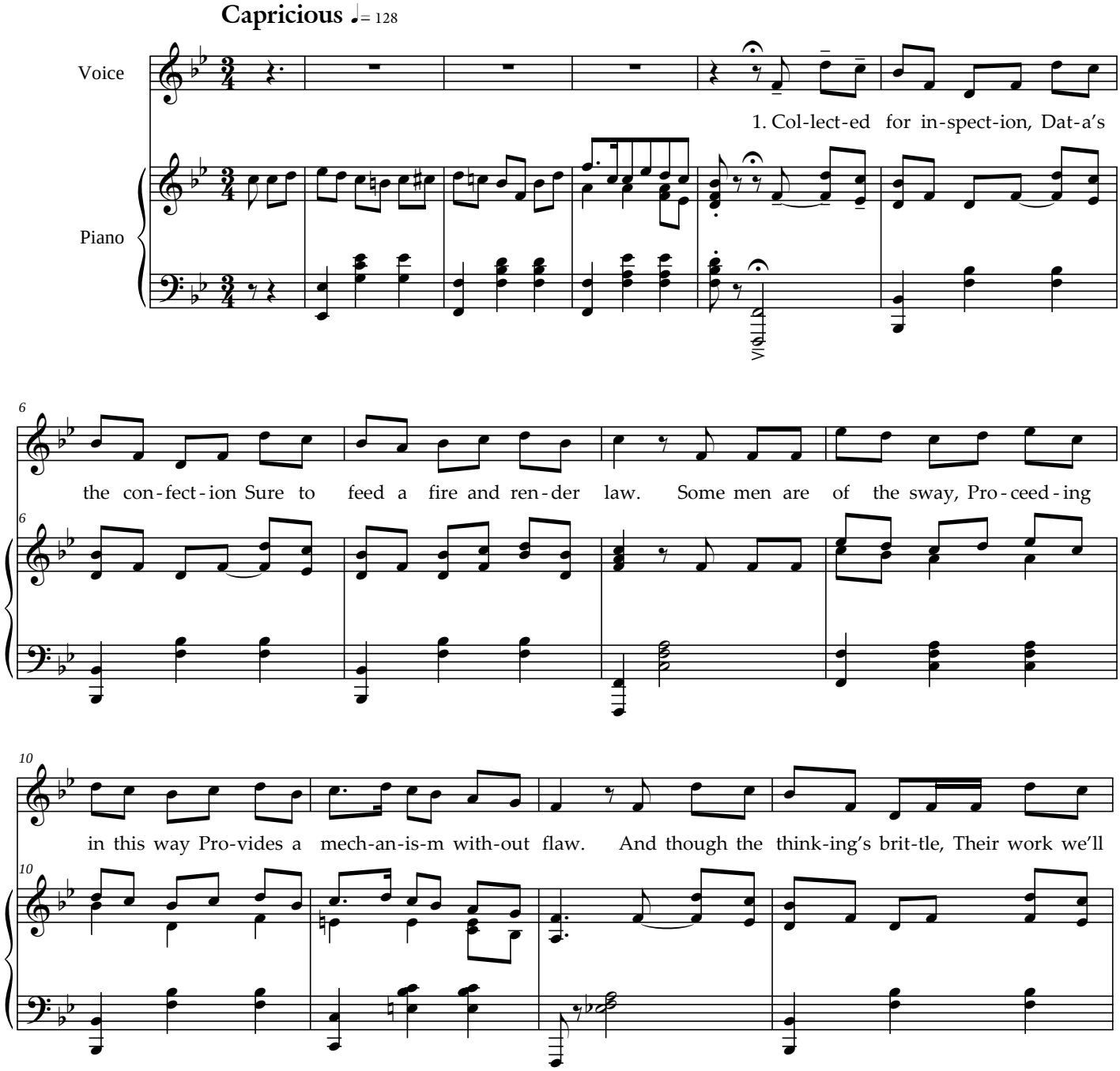

98
up un - til now had pre - sumed, That deal - ing with Metho - dol - o - gists Was safe and that no dan - ger
103
loomed: You must free your-selves of their ant - ics And pesk-y, hair-split-ting schemes. For
108
all that they'll weave you is heart - ache, And thoughts torn a - part at the seams!

7. Pure Theory

Die Reine Theorie

Felix Kaufmann (1895-1949)
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Music by Unknown Composer
arr. Arlene Oost-Zinner



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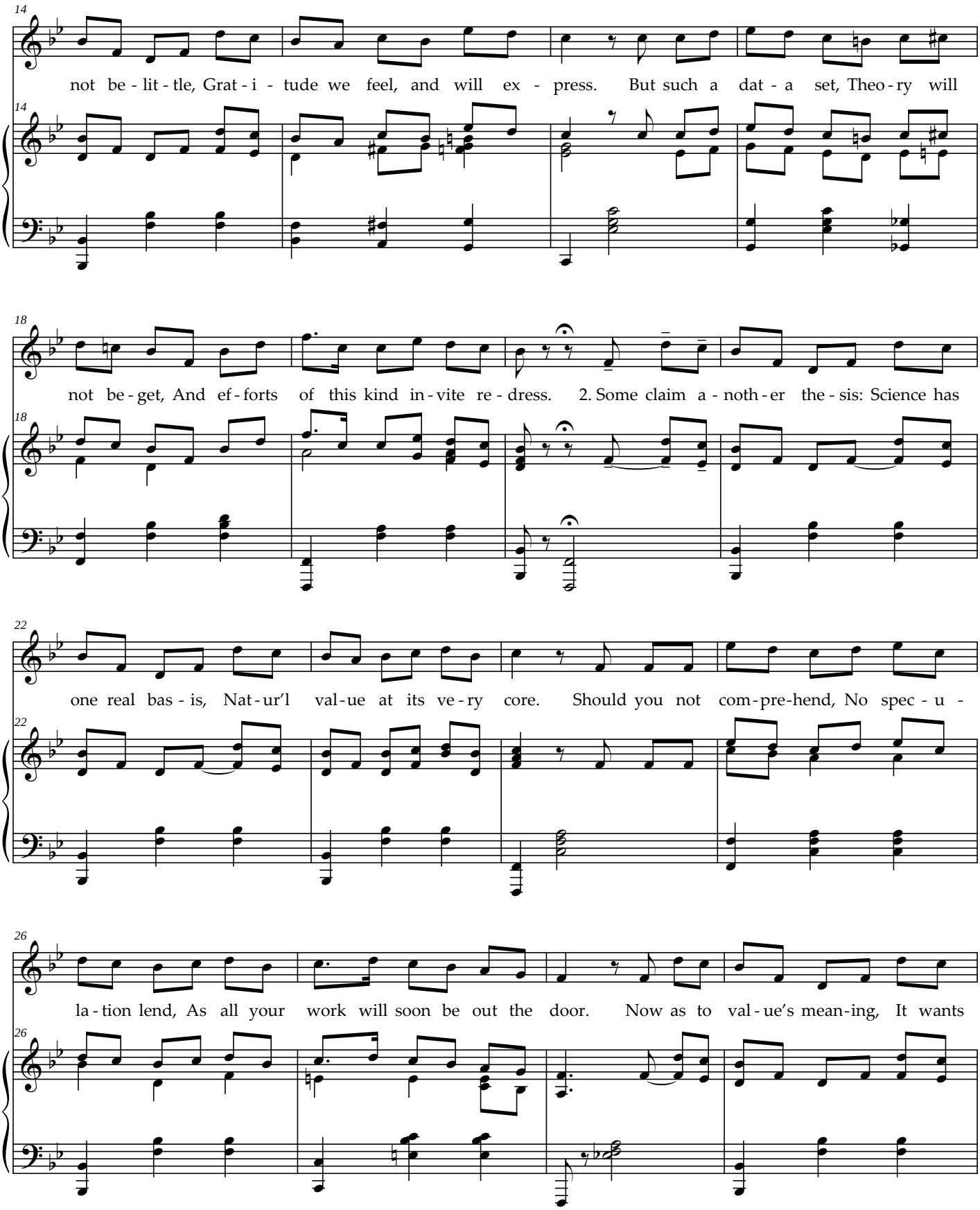
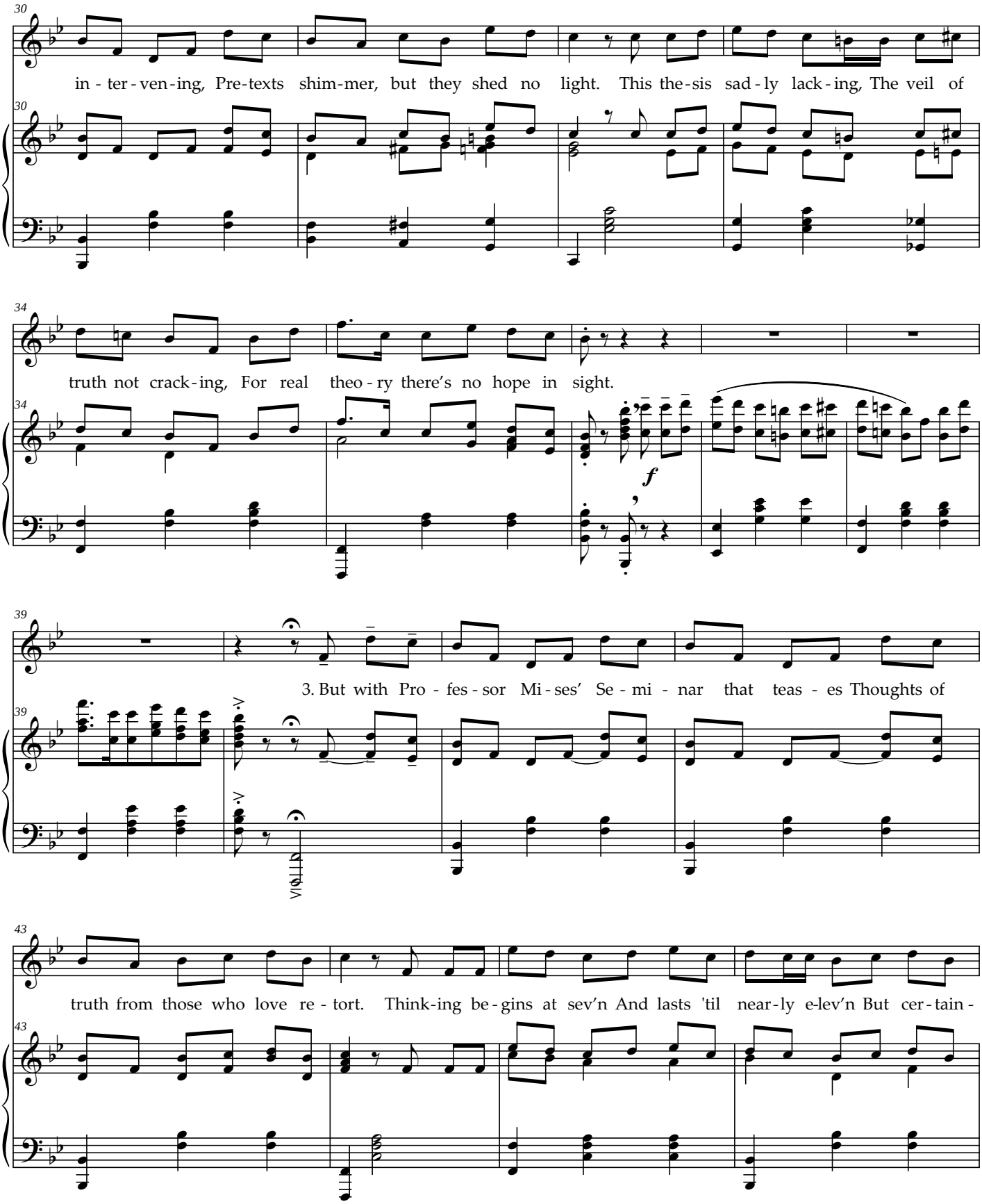
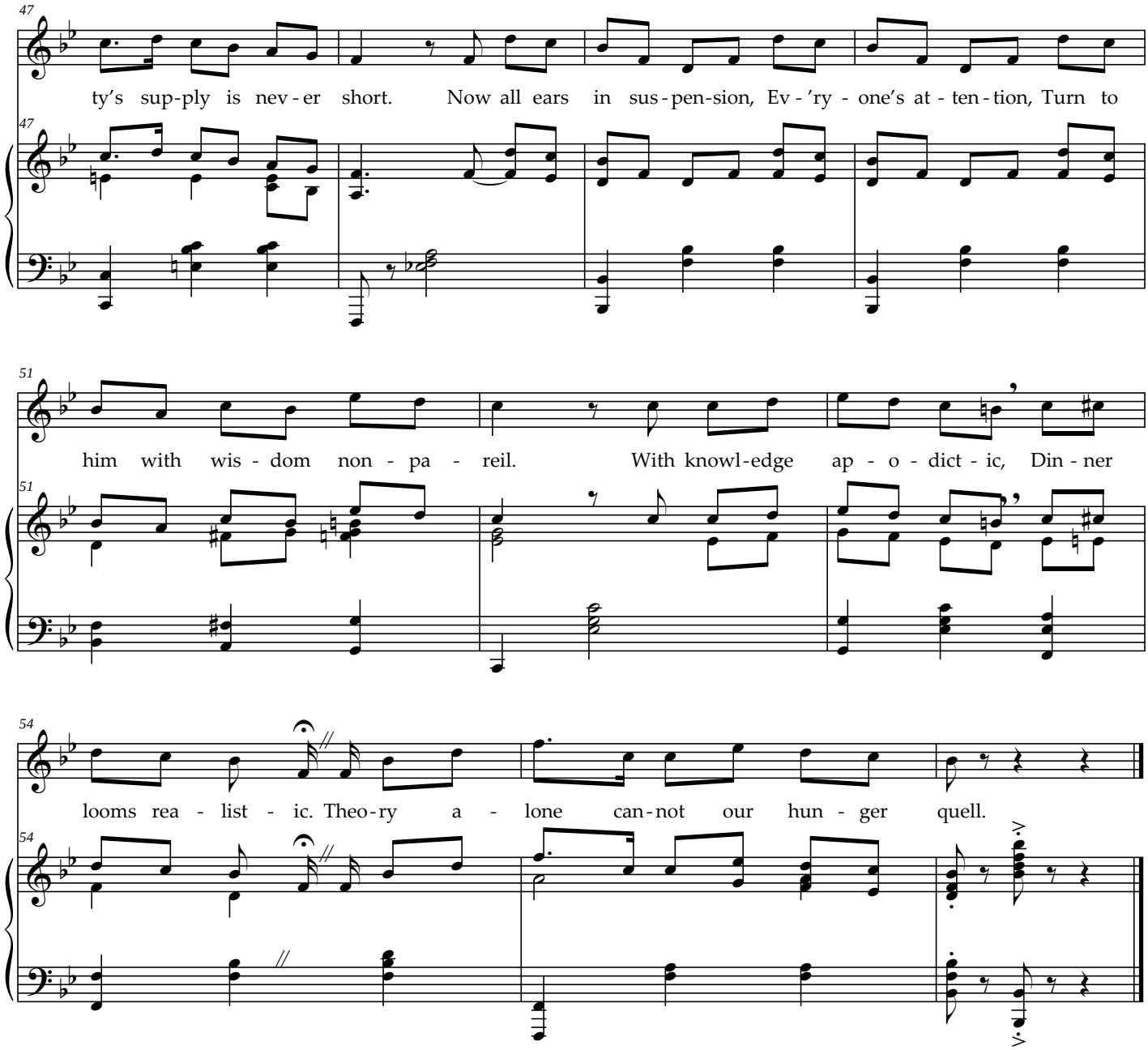

14
not be - lit - tle, Grat - i - tude we feel, and will ex - press. But such a dat - a set, Theo - ry will
18
not be - get, And ef - forts of this kind in - vite re - dress. 2. Some claim a - noth - er the - sis: Science has
22
one real bas - is, Nat - ur'l val - ue at its ve - ry core. Should you not com - pre - hend, No spec - u -
26
la - tion lend, As all your work will soon be out the door. Now as to val - ue's mean - ing, It wants


in - ter - ven - ing, Pre-texts shim-mer, but they shed no light. This the-sis sad - ly lack - ing, The veil of
truth not crack - ing, For real theo - ry there's no hope in sight.
f
3. But with Pro - fes - sor Mi - ses' Se - mi - nar that teas - es Thoughts of
truth from those who love re - tort. Think-ing be - gins at sev'n And lasts 'til near-ly e-lev'n But cer - tain -


47
ty's sup-ply is nev-er short. Now all ears in sus-pen-sion, Ev-'ry-one's at-ten-tion, Turn to
51
him with wis-dom non-pa-reil. With knowl-edge ap-o-dict-ic, Din-ner
54
looms rea-list-ic. Theo-ry a-lone can-not our hun-ger quell.

8. Farewell to Professor Mises

Abschied von Professor Mises

Felix Kaufmann (1895-1949)
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Volksweise (Folk Song)
arr. Arlene Oost-Zinner

Feierlich (solemn) ♩ = 84

Voice

Piano

1. What is going to be-come of the Mi - ses - Kreis —
2. The fac - ul - ty will heave a sigh When
3. And for all those who so brave - ly fought For
4. Now the mast - er, too, must soon de - part A -

In the year that's com - ing. Ge - ne - va can't for all suf - fice, My
they real - ize in hor - ror: For each who leaves, more say good - bye, Wien's
Mi - ses' man - y teach - ings, For whom im - port tax - es ang - er wrought, While
noth - er chair a - wait - ing. And truth re - mains his cho - sen art Wien's

fing - ers won't stop drum-ming. The quest - ion will not leave me be, The
ranks will be much poor - er. To Eng - land and the U - S - A, Oh,
truth for - ev - er reach-ing. They tar - ry now in dist - ant lands, While
les - sons not bat - ing. — And we pray that Wil - son's dream With

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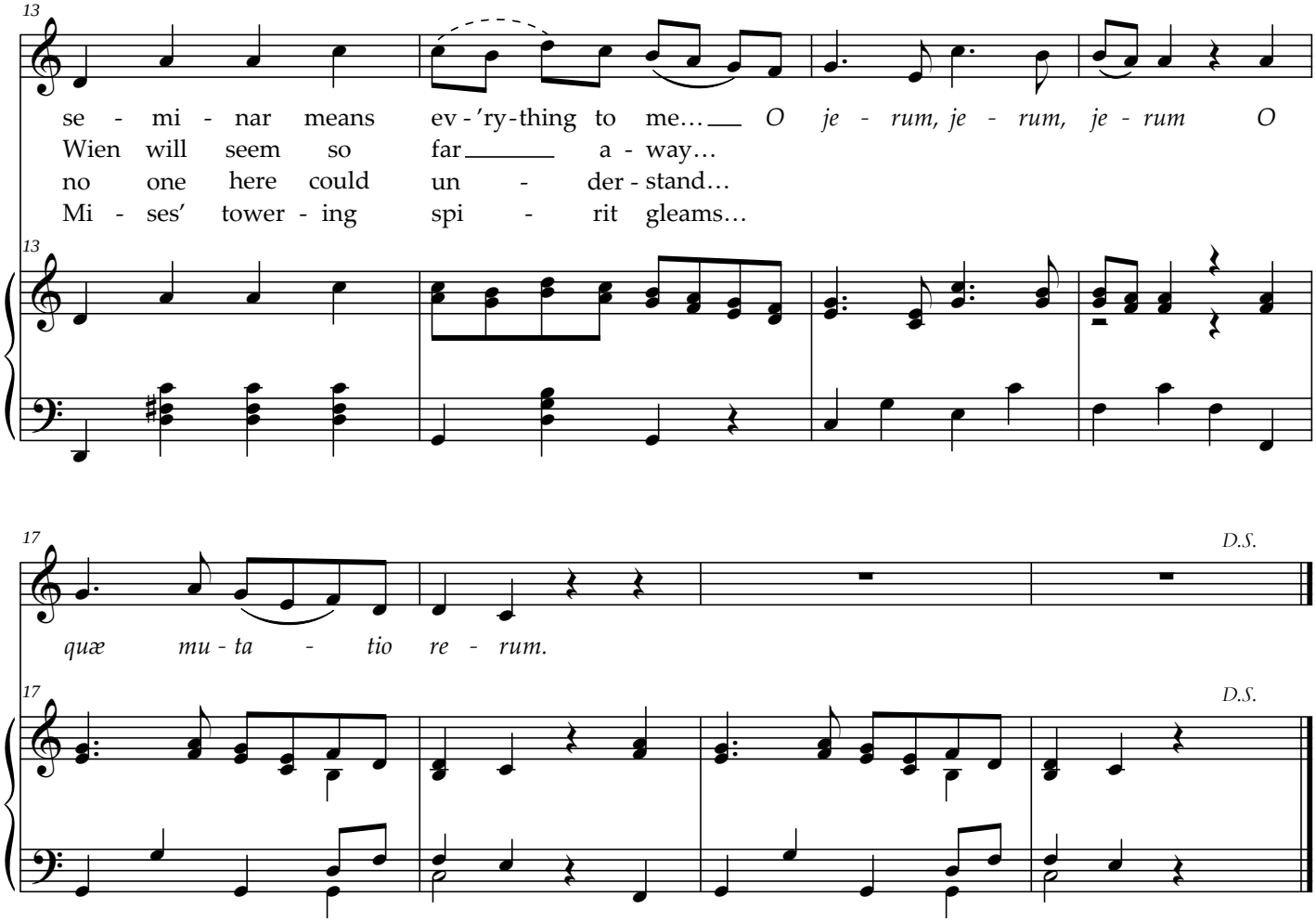
13
se - mi - nar means ev - 'ry - thing to me… O je - rum, je - rum, je - rum O
Wien will seem so far a - way…
no one here could un - der - stand…
Mi - ses' tower - ing spi - rit gleams…
17
D.S.
quæ mu - ta - tio re - rum.

9. Elegy of the Mises-Kreis

Klagelied des Mises-Kreises

Felix Kaufmann (1895-1949)
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Music by Franz von Woyna, ca. 1845
arr. Arlene Oost-Zinner

Slow and rueful ♩= ca. 112

Voice

Piano

1. And the cir - cle grieves so. When its cen-ter starts to saun-ter, Its cir-

7

cum-ference feels emp-ty, dis - heart-ened, and low. There are cri - ses here to pon - der Ra-di - i are left to

14

wan-der Ra-di - i are left to wan-der with no - where to go. Ra-di - i are left to wan-der with

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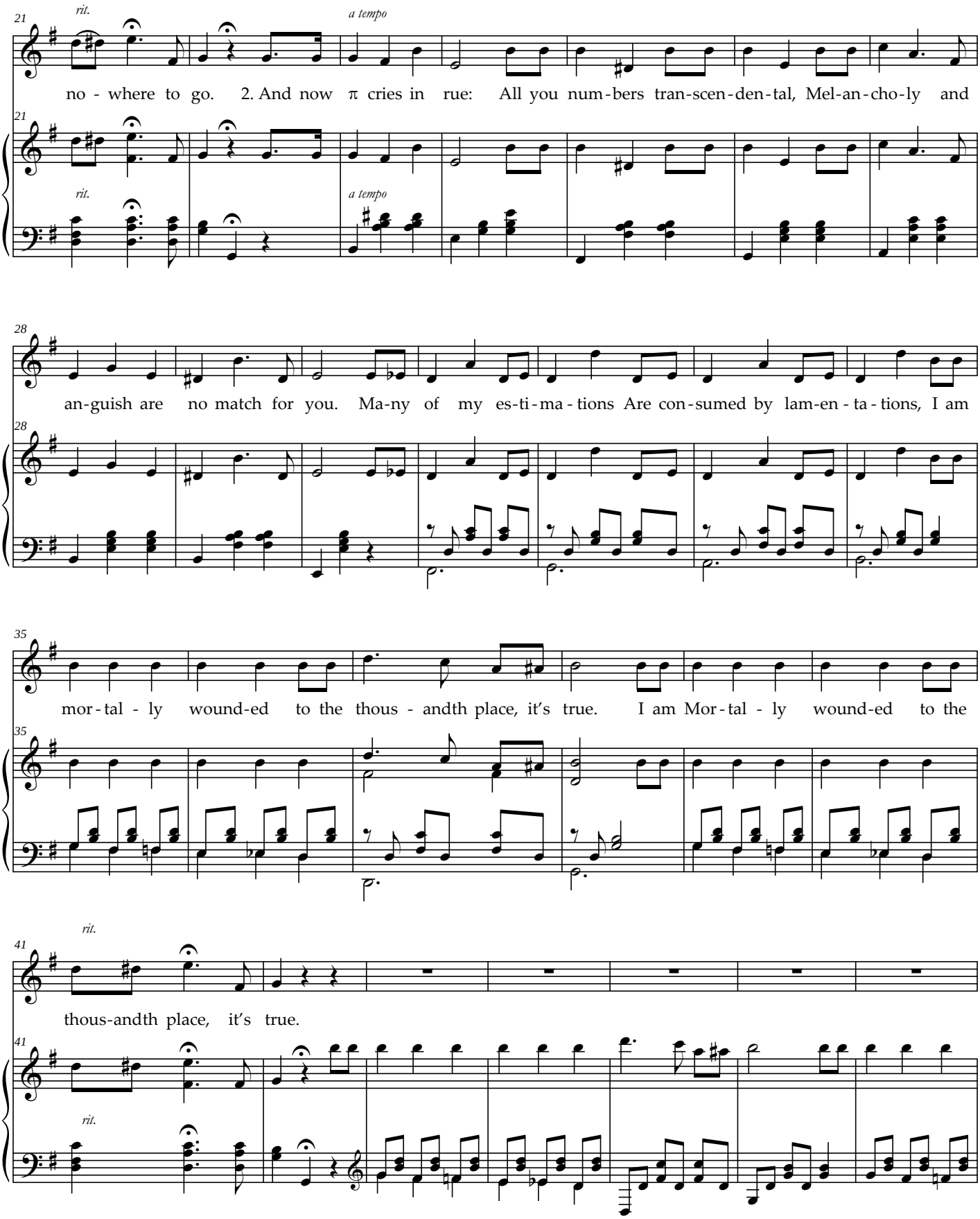
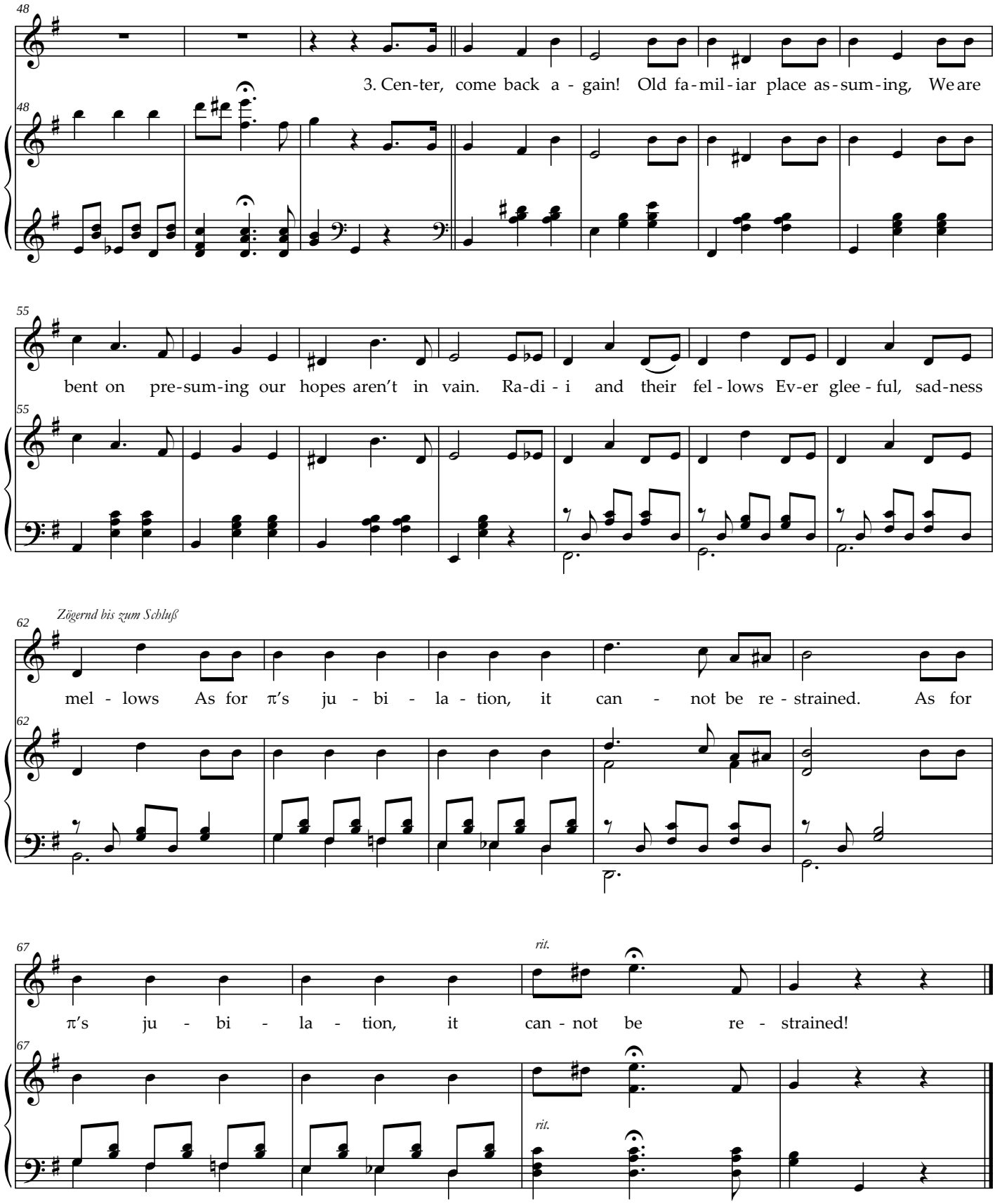

21
rit.
a tempo
no - where to go. 2. And now π cries in rue: All you num-bers tran-scen-den-tal, Mel-an-cho-ly and
28
an-guish are no match for you. Ma-ny of my es-ti-ma-tions Are con-sumed by lam-en-ta-tions, I am
35
mor-tal - ly wound-ed to the thous - andth place, it's true. I am Mor-tal - ly wound-ed to the
41
rit.
thous-andth place, it's true.


48
3. Cen-ter, come back a - gain! Old fa-mil-iar place as-sum-ing, We are
55
bent on pre-sum-ing our hopes aren't in vain. Ra-di - i and their fel - lows Ev-er glee - ful, sad-ness
Zögernd bis zum Schluß
62
mel - lows As for π's ju - bi - la - tion, it can - not be re - strained. As for
67
rit.
π's ju - bi - la - tion, it can - not be re - strained!

10. Song of the Mises Circle (Reprise)

Das Mises-Kreis-Lied

Felix Kaufmann (1895-1949)
Translated by Arlene Oost-Zinner

Music by Ralph Benatzky (1884-1957)
arr. Arlene Oost-Zinner

Begeistert ♩= 168

Voice

Piano

f

Oh, the time, it comes, when we must quest-ion why:

8

Is such quest-ion-ing real-ly that smart? Life goes on and on, it just keeps flow-ing by,

16

And we all play a ve-ry small part. We could swim a-long, take no no - tice

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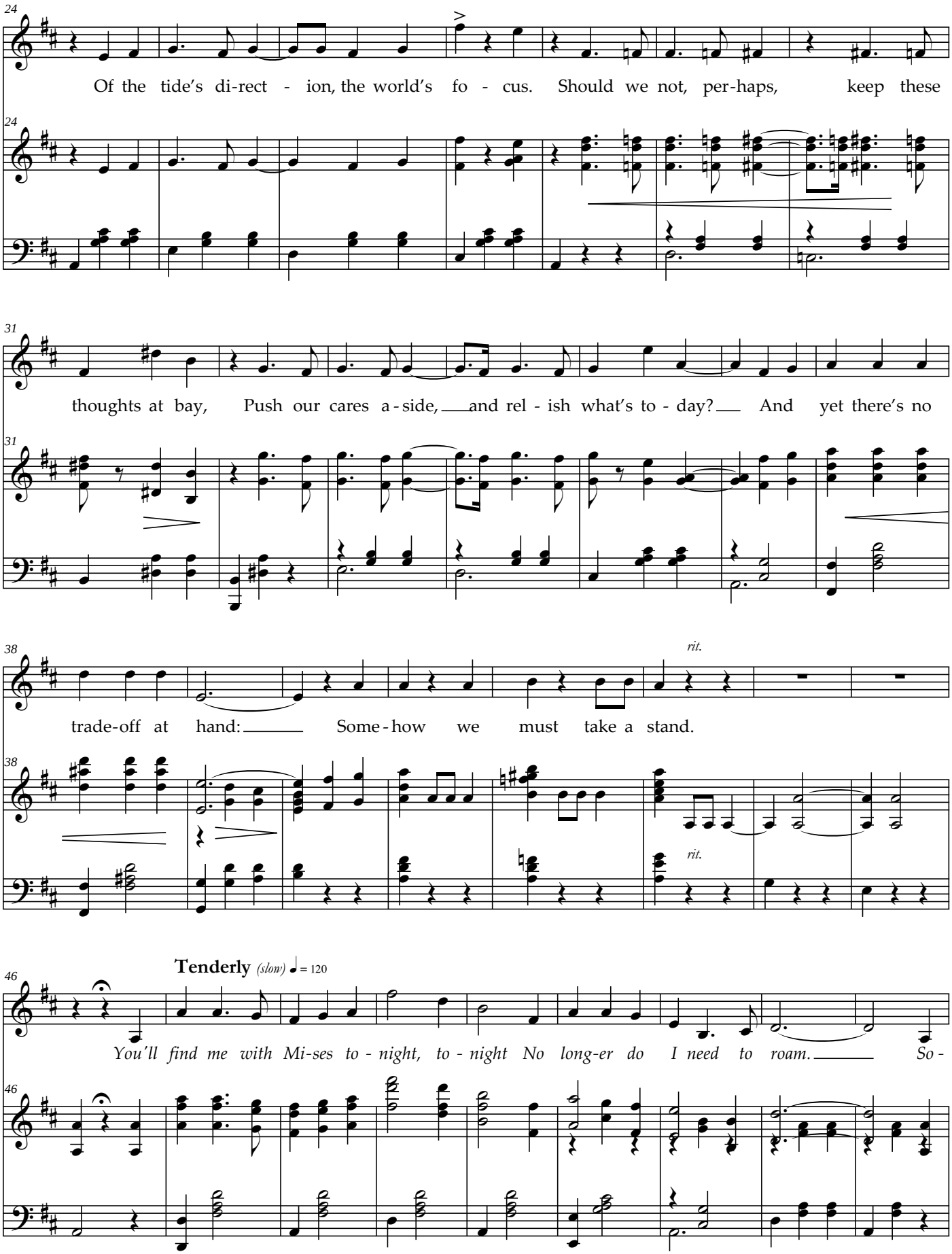
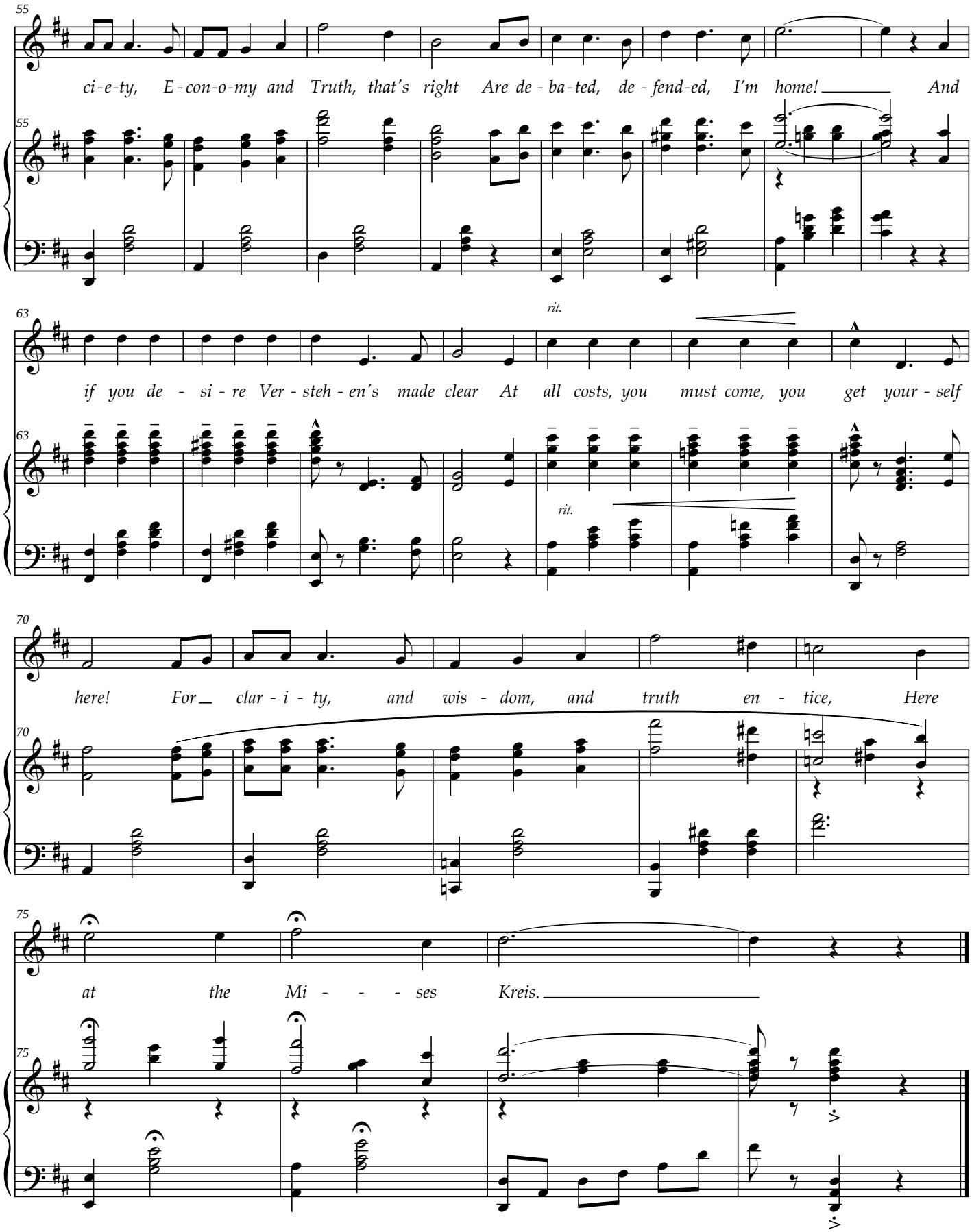

24
Of the tide's di-rect - ion, the world's fo - cus. Should we not, per-haps, keep these
31
thoughts at bay, Push our cares a-side, and rel - ish what's to - day? And yet there's no
38
rit.
trade-off at hand: Some-how we must take a stand.
rit.
46
Tenderly (slow) ♩ = 120
You'll find me with Mi-ses to - night, to - night No long-er do I need to roam. So -


55
ci-e-ty, E-con-o-my and Truth, that's right Are de-ba-ted, de-fend-ed, I'm home! And
63
rit.
if you de-si-re Ver-steh-en's made clear At all costs, you must come, you get your-self
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here! For clar-i-ty, and wis-dom, and truth en-tice, Here
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at the Mi-ses Kreis.

From 1920 until 1934, Ludwig von Mises conducted a fortnightly private seminar in his office, which could be attended only by invitation. Many of the greatest economists, historians, and philosophers of Europe would gather to discuss problems and issues in a setting where Mises himself led the discussion as "first among equals."

The formal meetings would begin at 7:30 p.m. and last as late as 10:00 p.m. Most of the members would then gather for dinner at the restaurant Anchora Verde, where the discussion would grow lighter. Afterwards, they would continue to the Café Künstler, opposite the University of Vienna, for coffee until 1:00 a.m.

Adding poetry and music to the late-night gatherings at the Café Künstler were the songs that philosopher Felix Kaufman wrote for the seminar. Based on Austrian folk melodies and popular songs, and written in both High German and Austrian dialect, they featured clever references to the contemporary debates and the internal culture of the Mises Kreis.

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