SILVER

for Baritone (or Tenor) & Piano

Phillip A. Cooke

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for Baritone (or Tenor) & Piano

(2024)

PERFORMANCE NOTE

- Although the pedalling is left entirely to the discretion of the pianist, a full sustained tone is necessary to give the required mood, this being particularly pronounced in the final song.
- The songs can be performed individually, but if performed as a set they should be in the order presented here.
- A slight melancholy should pervade every song, as should an awareness of early twentieth-century English song.

'Full Moon' was first performed by Robert Rice and Will Vann at the Unitarian Church, St Saviourgate, York, UK on the 3 February 2024.

Silver was first performed by Robert Rice and Will Vann at the Acorn Centre, Inverurie, UK on the 25 May 2024.

Duration: 8 minutes

Cover photograph: www.unsplash.com

For more information: www.phillipcooke.com

PROGRAMME NOTE

Silver is an attempt to write simple, melodic songs that are direct and emotive, but stripped of any unnecessary embellishments or ornaments. The three songs are all poems from Walter De La Mare (1873-1956), one of my favourite poets as a composer and are a return to his work for me after setting it earlier with *Two De La Mare Songs* (2012) and *The Song of Shadows* (2016). All three songs relate to moonlight, and all include the word 'silver' that gives the set its title. Despite the intended simplicity and directness, there is a cloying melancholy that pervades the songs – for an idiomatic performance, the singer can 'lean into' this emotion for full effect.

PAC

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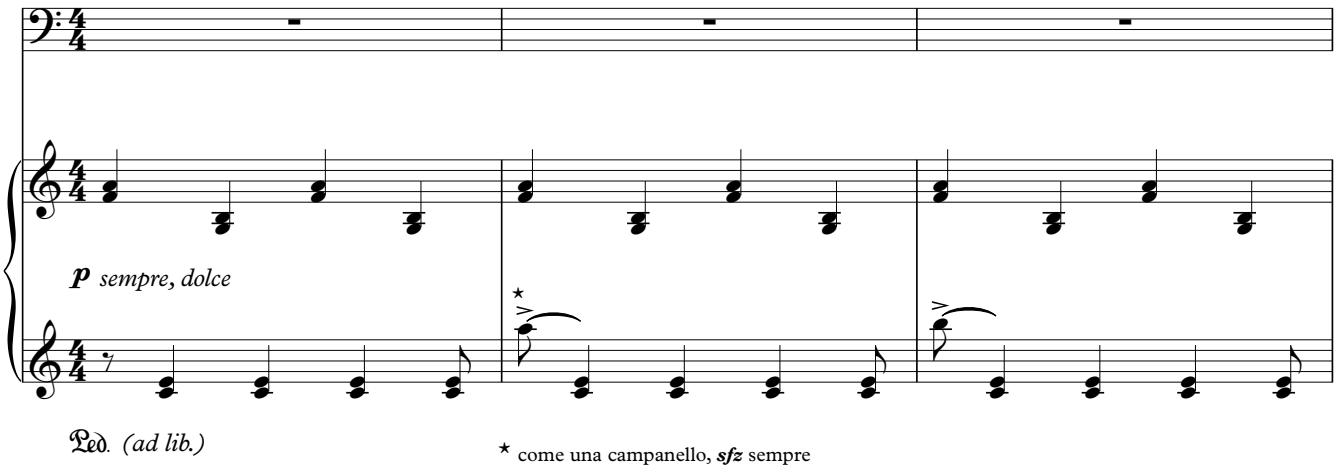
SILVER

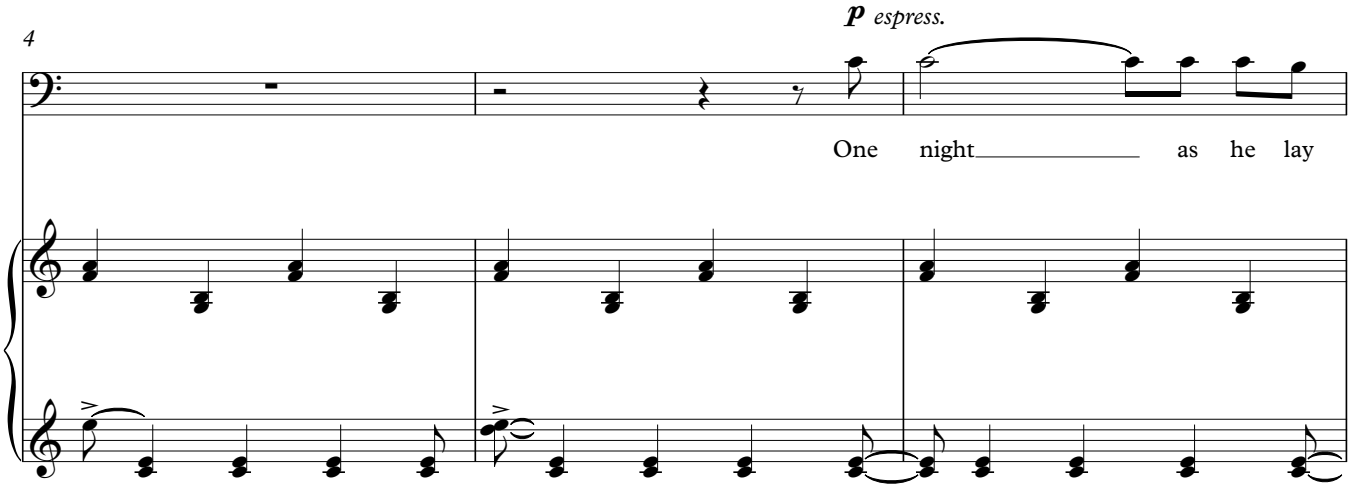
Three Songs for Baritone (or Tenor) and Piano

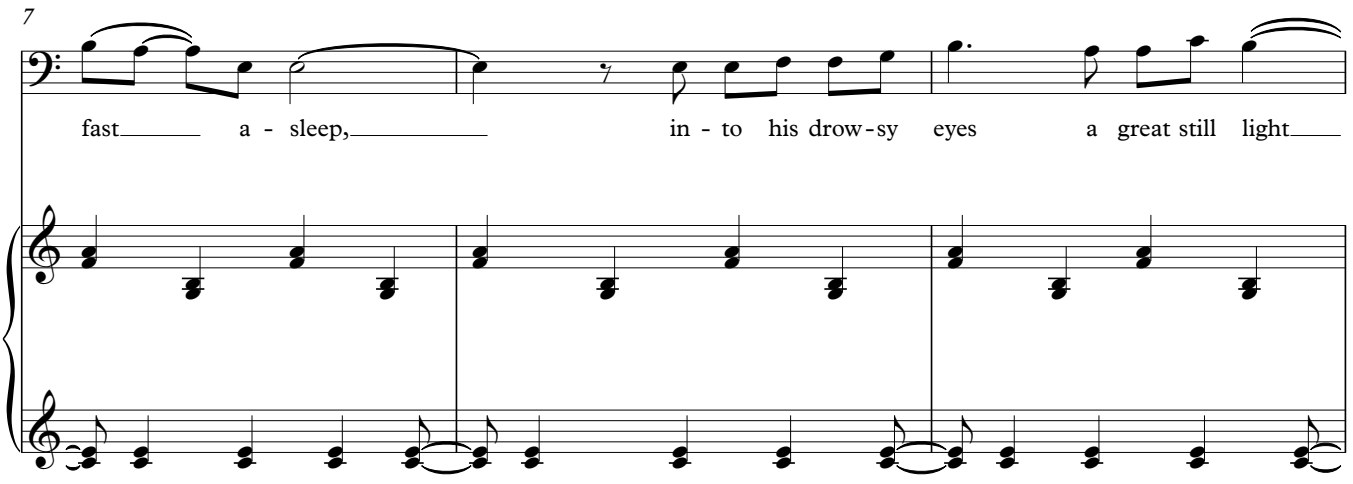
WALTER DE LA MARE **PHILLIP A. COOKE (2024)**

I. Full Moon

Semplice e delicato (♩=c.60)







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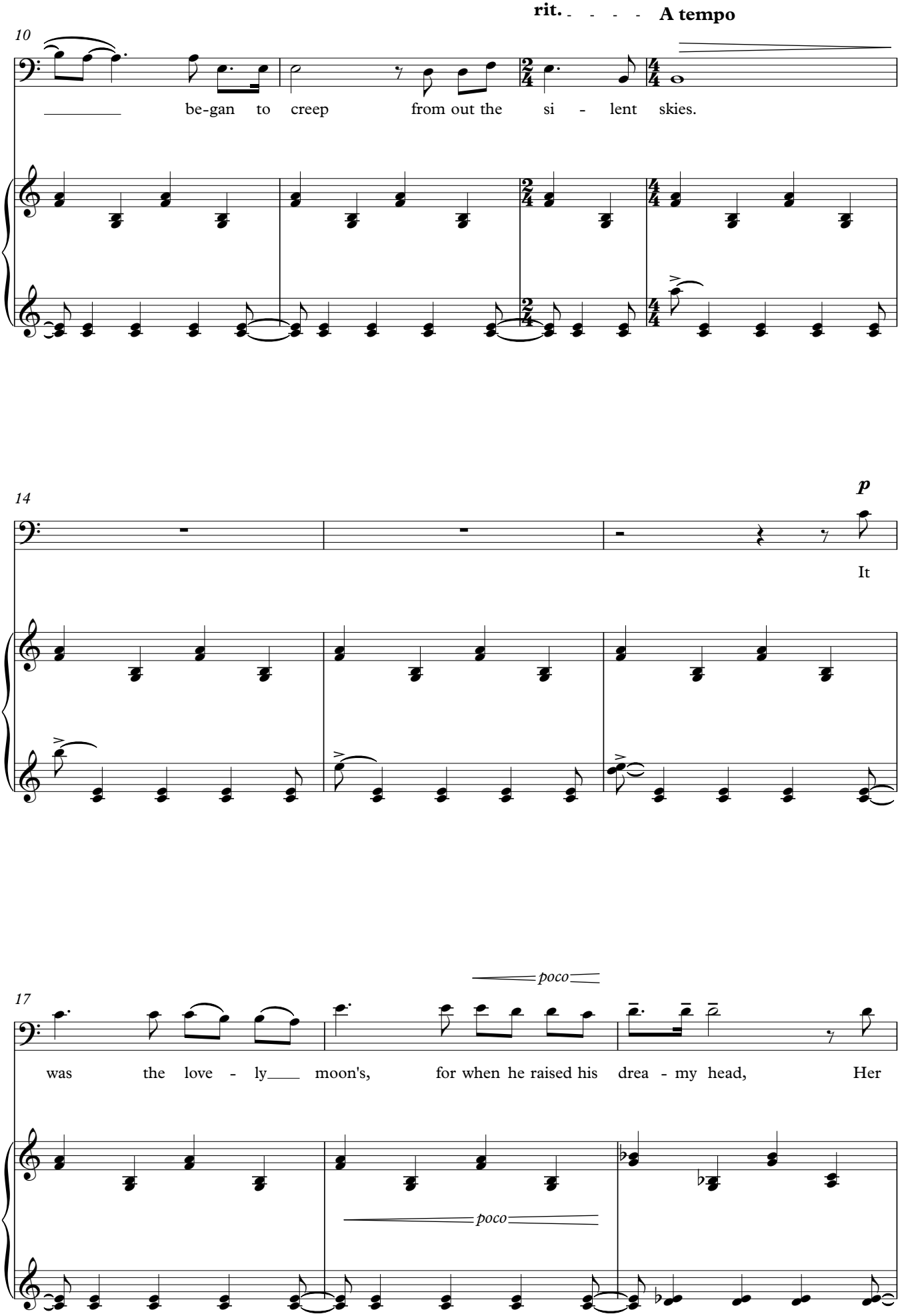
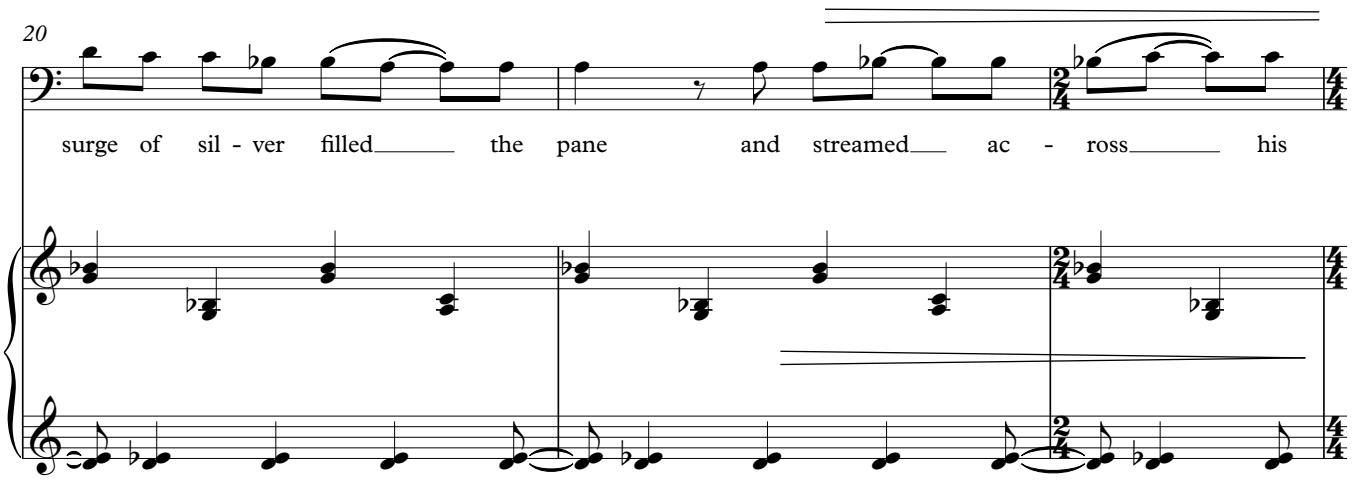
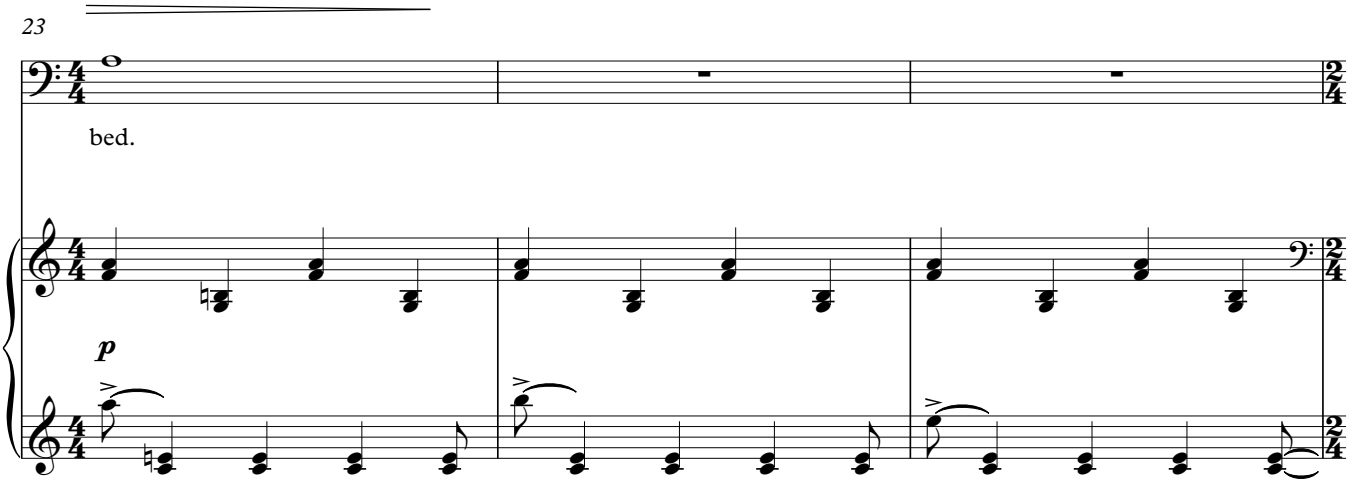
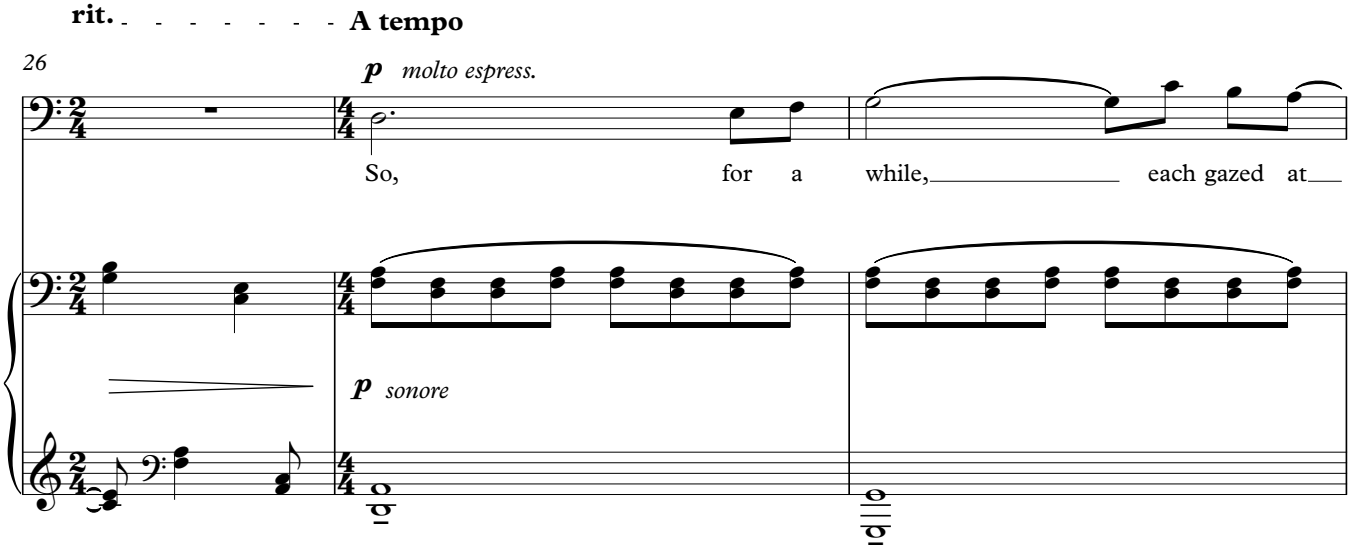
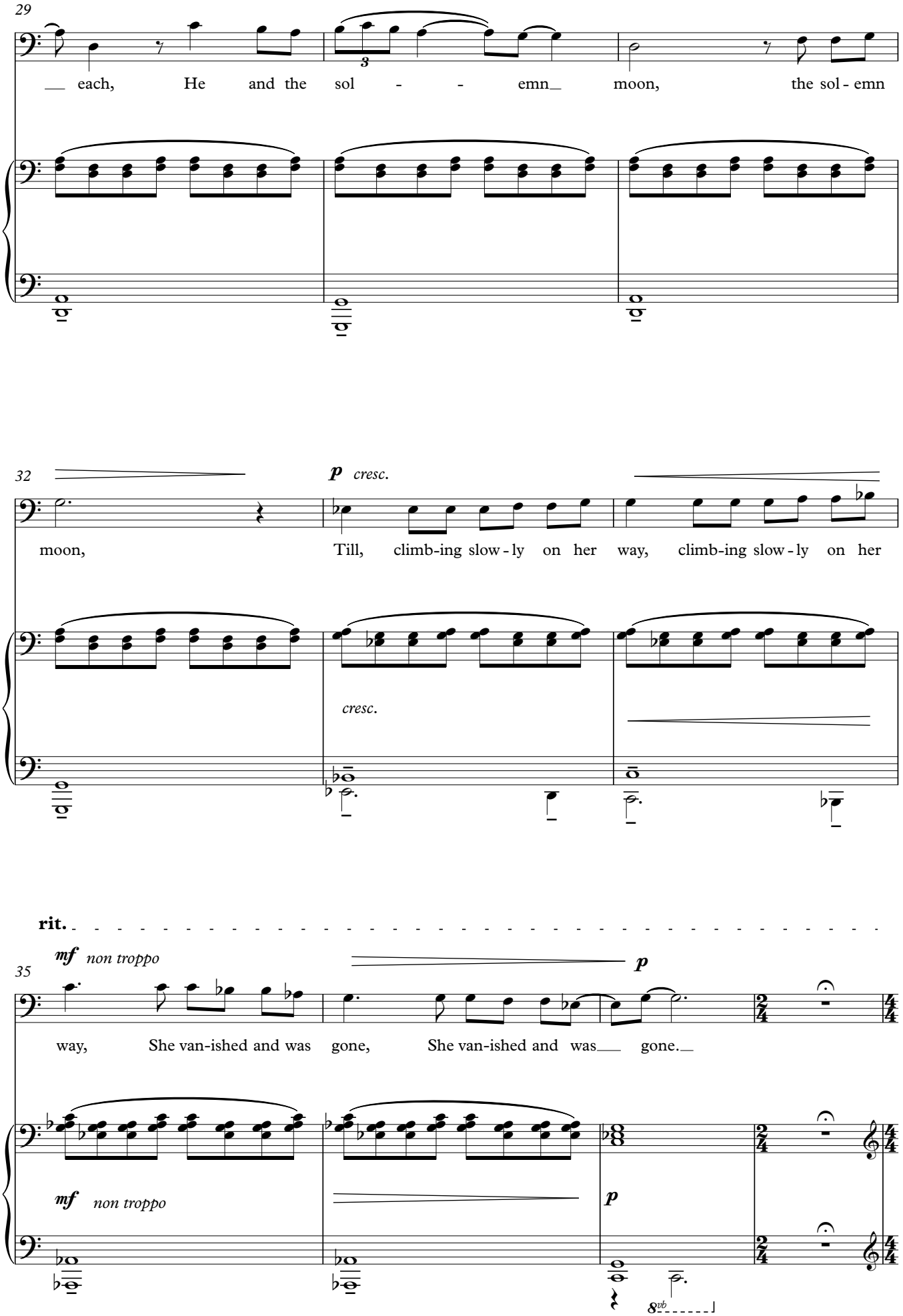
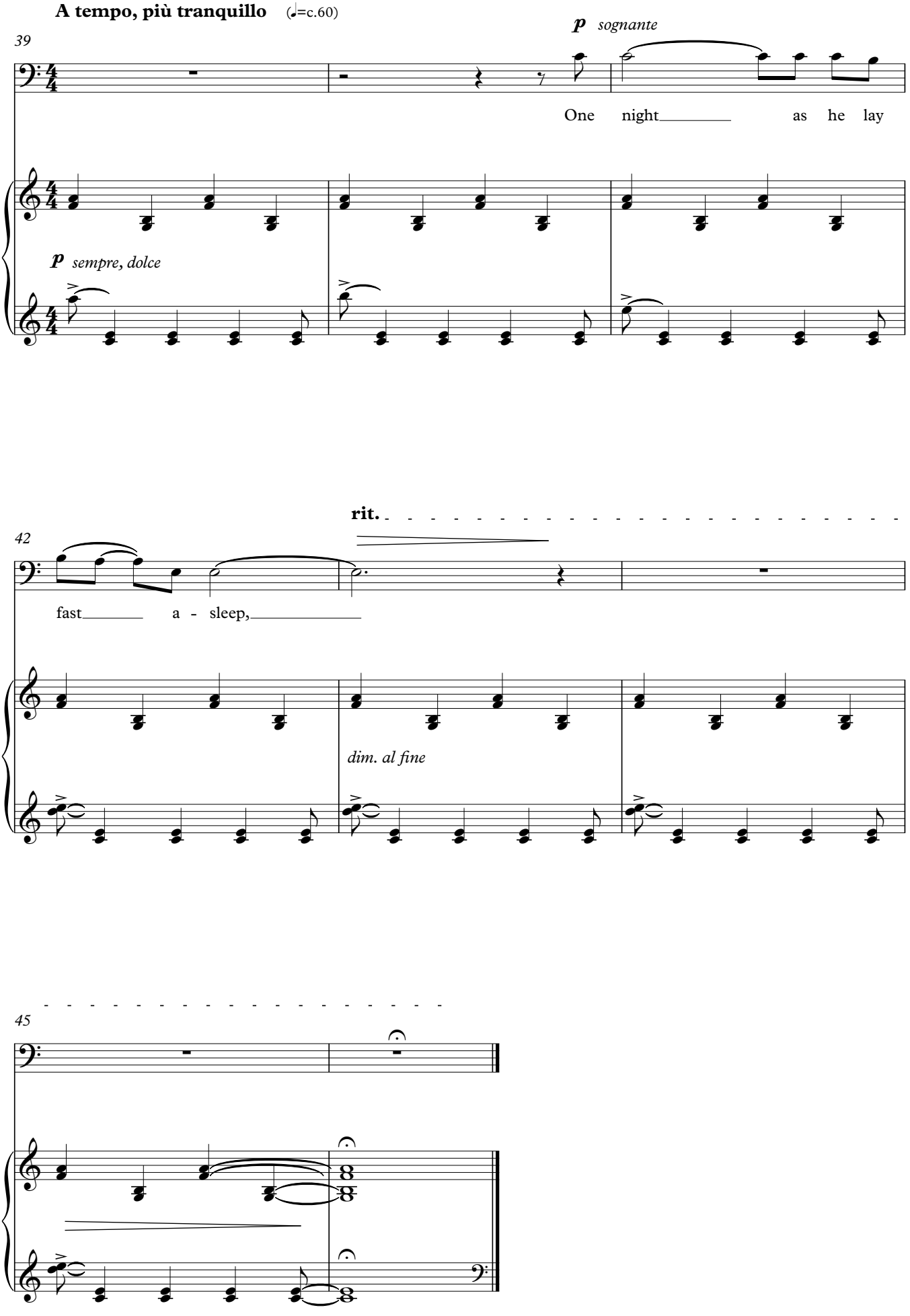

rit.
A tempo
10
be-gan to creep from out the si - lent skies.
14
p
It
17
poco
was the love - ly moon's, for when he raised his drea - my head, Her
poco


20
surge of sil - ver filled the pane and streamed ac - ross his


23
bed.
p


rit.
A tempo
26
p molto espress.
So, for a while, each gazed at
p sonore


29
each, He and the sol - - emn moon, the sol - emn
32
p cresc.
moon, Till, climb-ing slow - ly on her way, climb-ing slow - ly on her
cresc.
rit.
mf non troppo
35
p
way, She van-ished and was gone, She van-ished and was gone.
mf non troppo
p
8vb


A tempo, più tranquillo (𝅗𝅥=c.60)
39
p sognante
One night as he lay
p sempre, dolce
rit.
42
fast a - sleep,
dim. al fine
45

II. Why?

Andante (♩=c.72)

mp espress.

E - ver, e - ver stir and shi - ver the

mp sempre

Ped. *(ad lib.)*

4

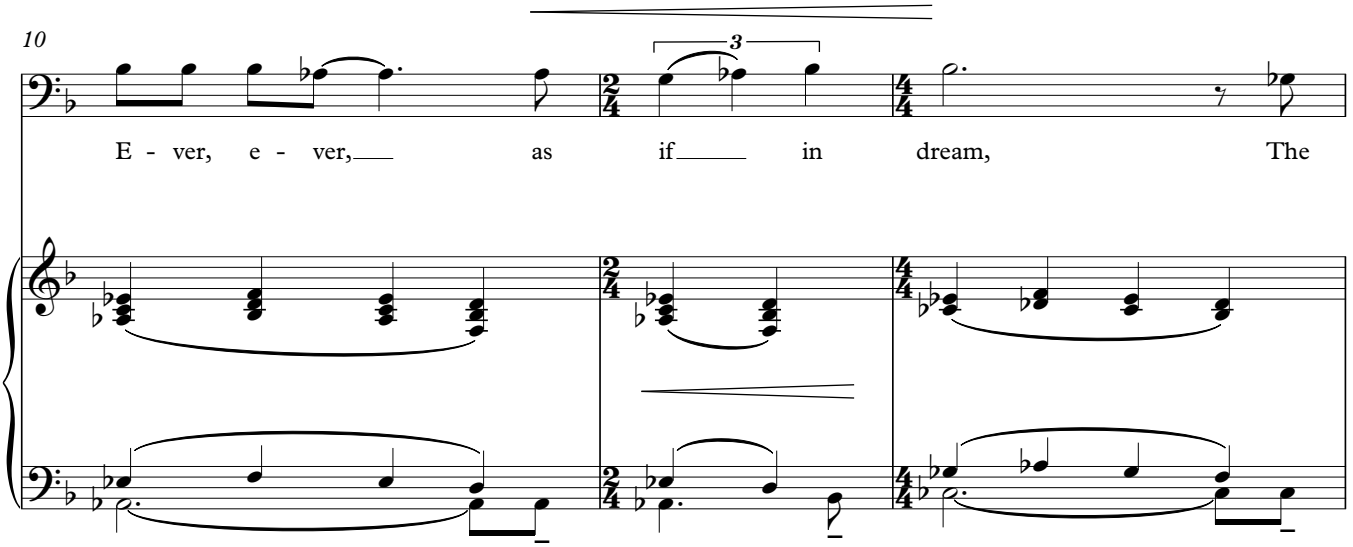
reeds and rush - es by the ri - ver:

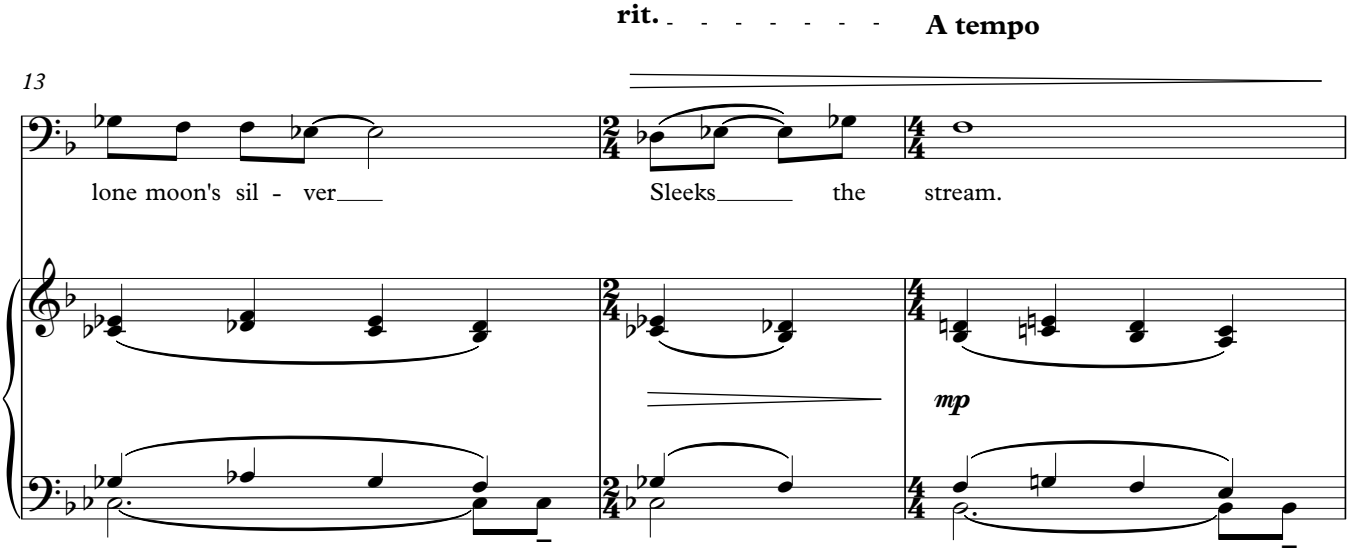
7 *mp*

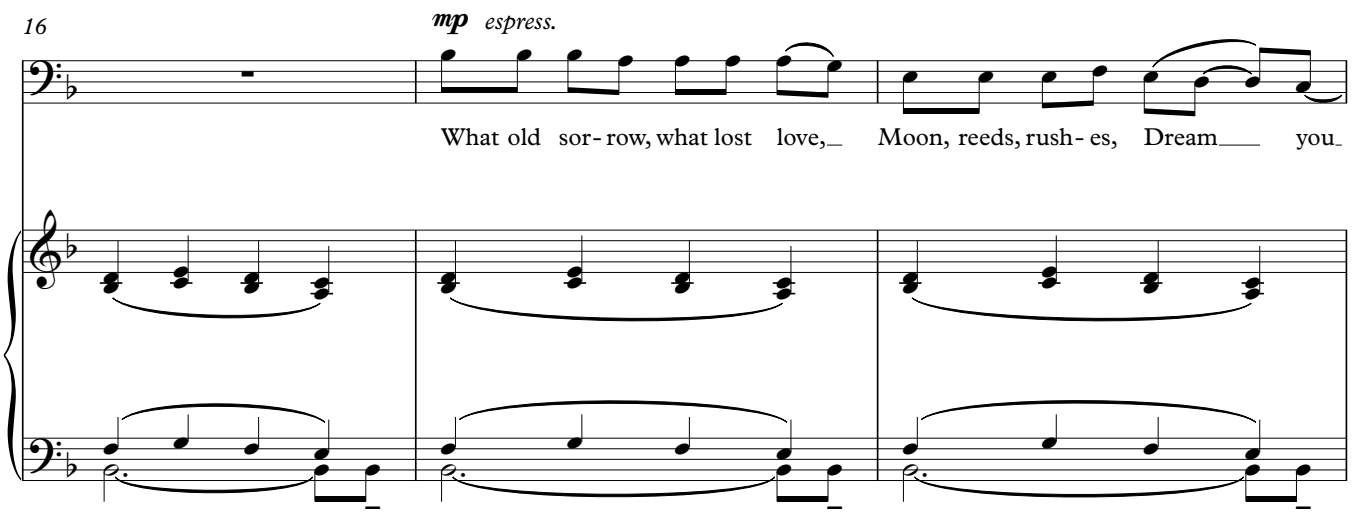
E - ver, e - ver stir and shi - ver the reeds and rush - es by the ri - ver:

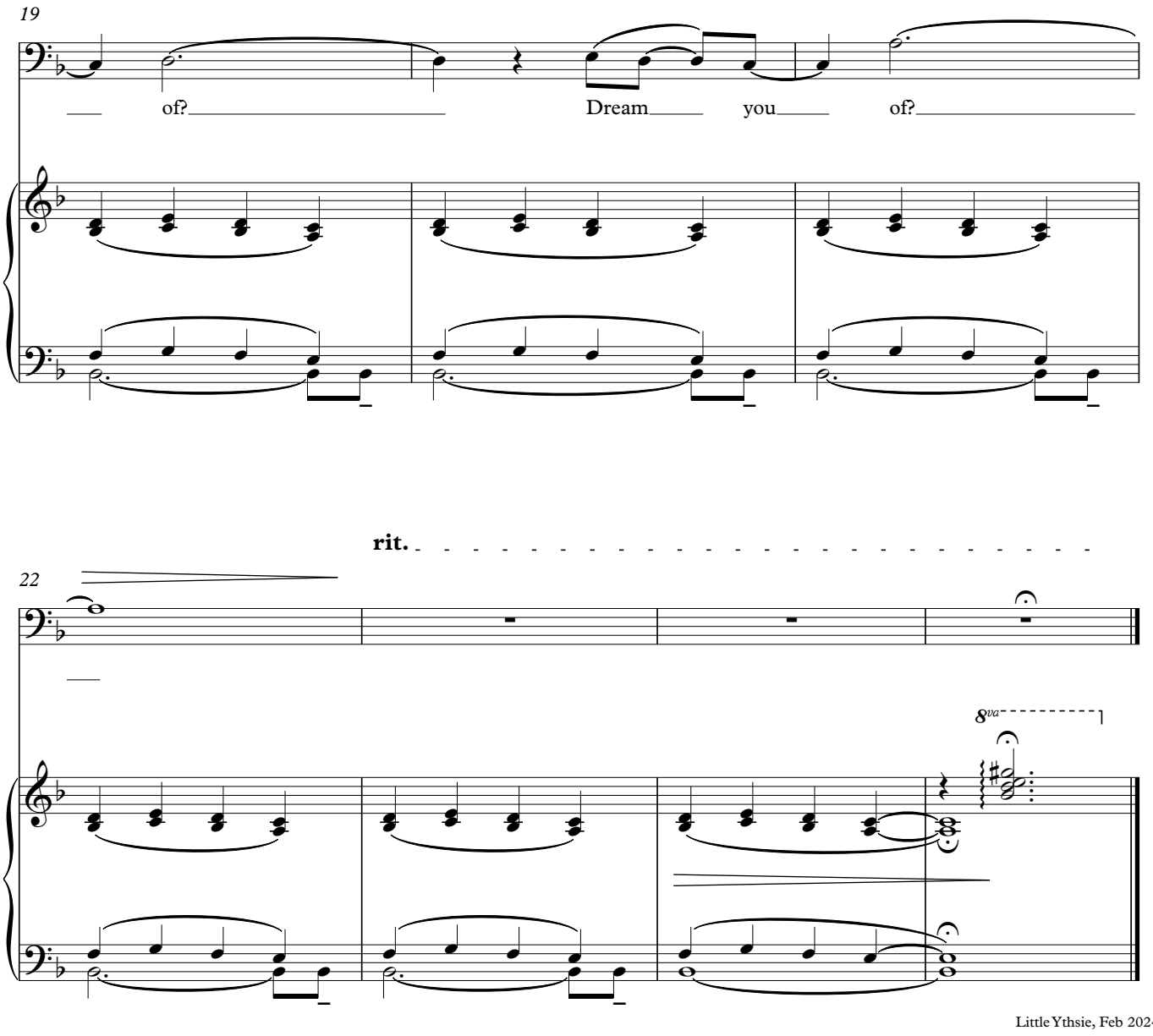
poco

poco


10
3
E - ver, e - ver, as if in dream, The


rit.
A tempo
13
lone moon's sil - ver Sleeks the stream.
mp

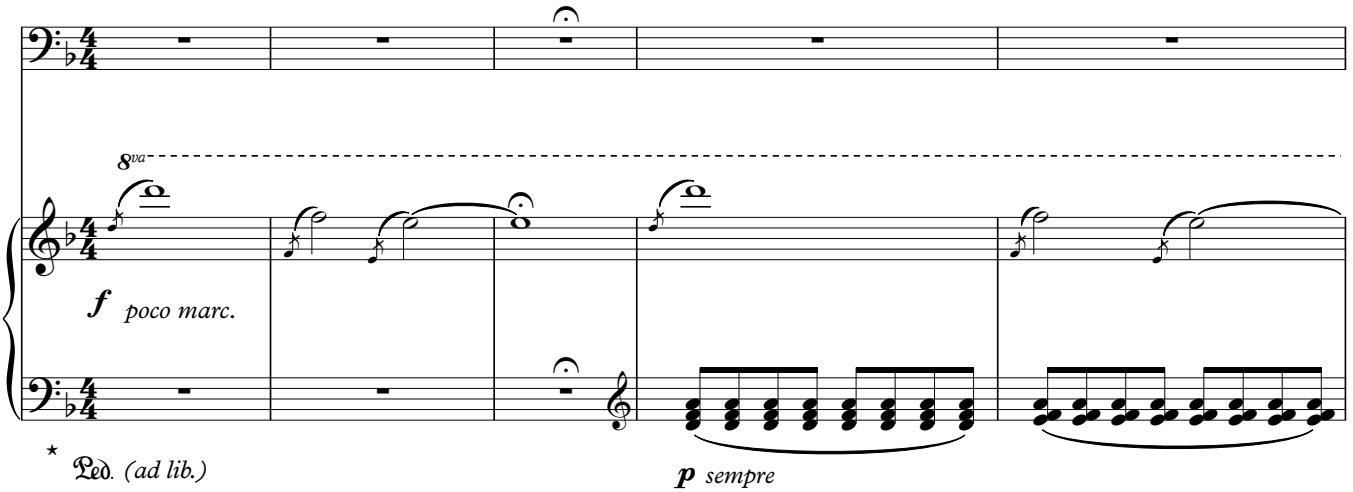

16
mp espress.
What old sor - row, what lost love, Moon, reeds, rush - es, Dream you



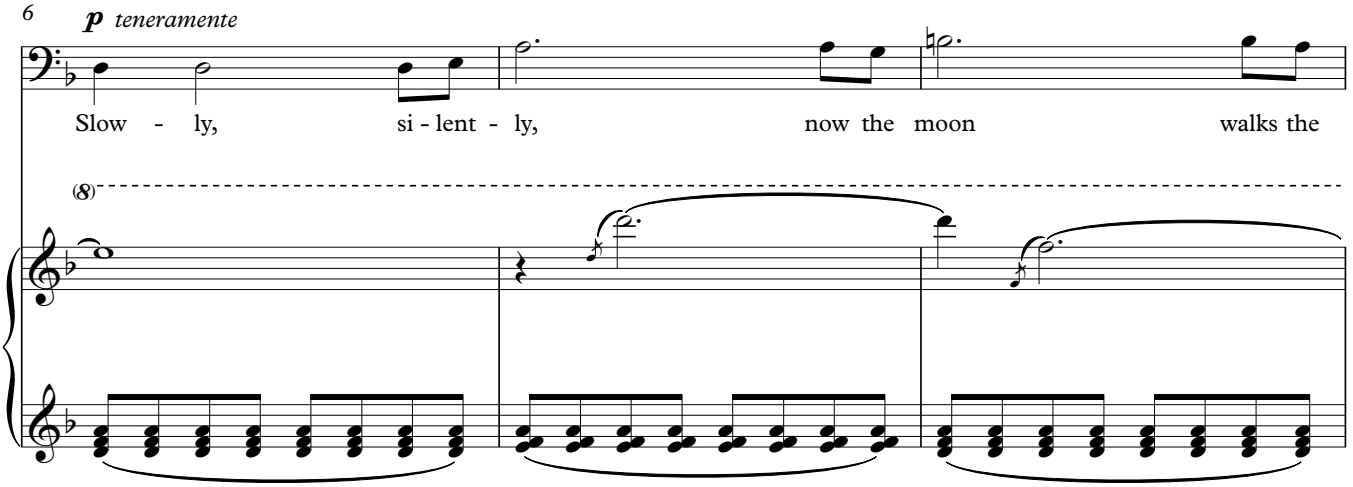
Little Ythsie, Feb 2024

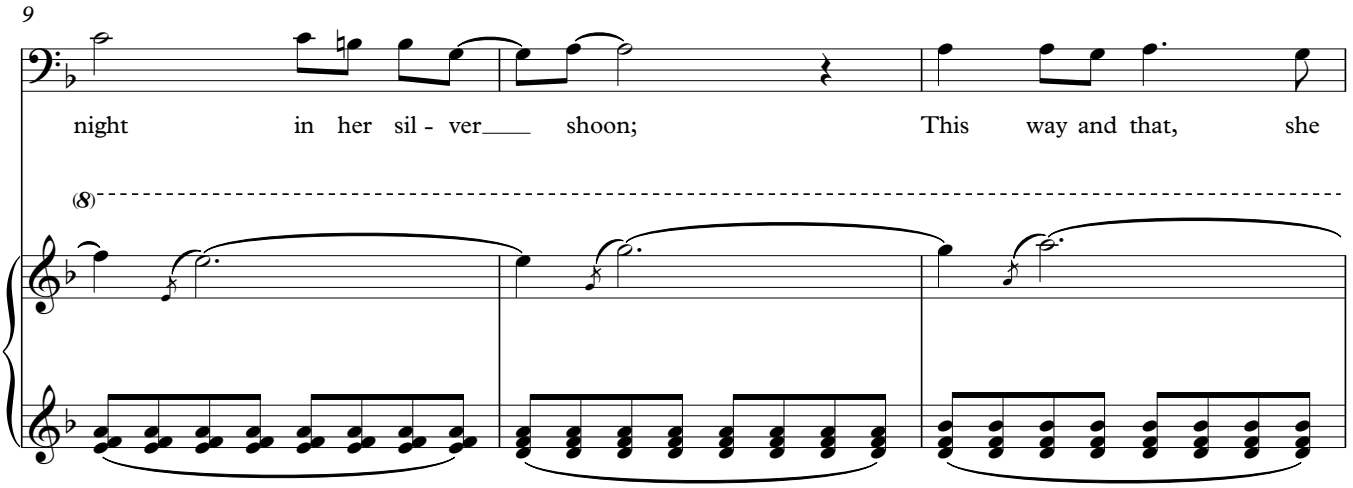
III. Silver

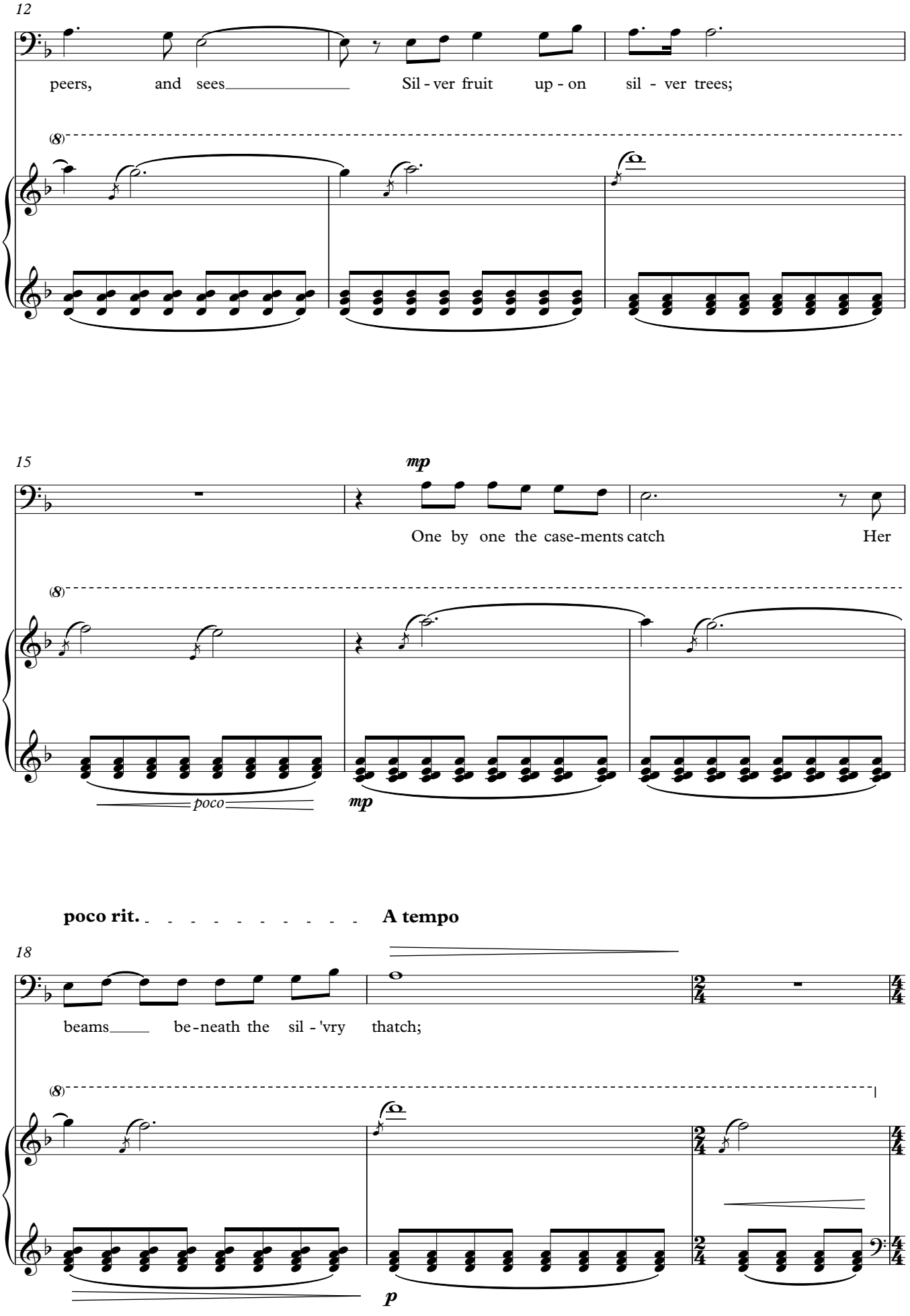
Sostenuto (come un notturno) (𝅗𝅥=c.63)

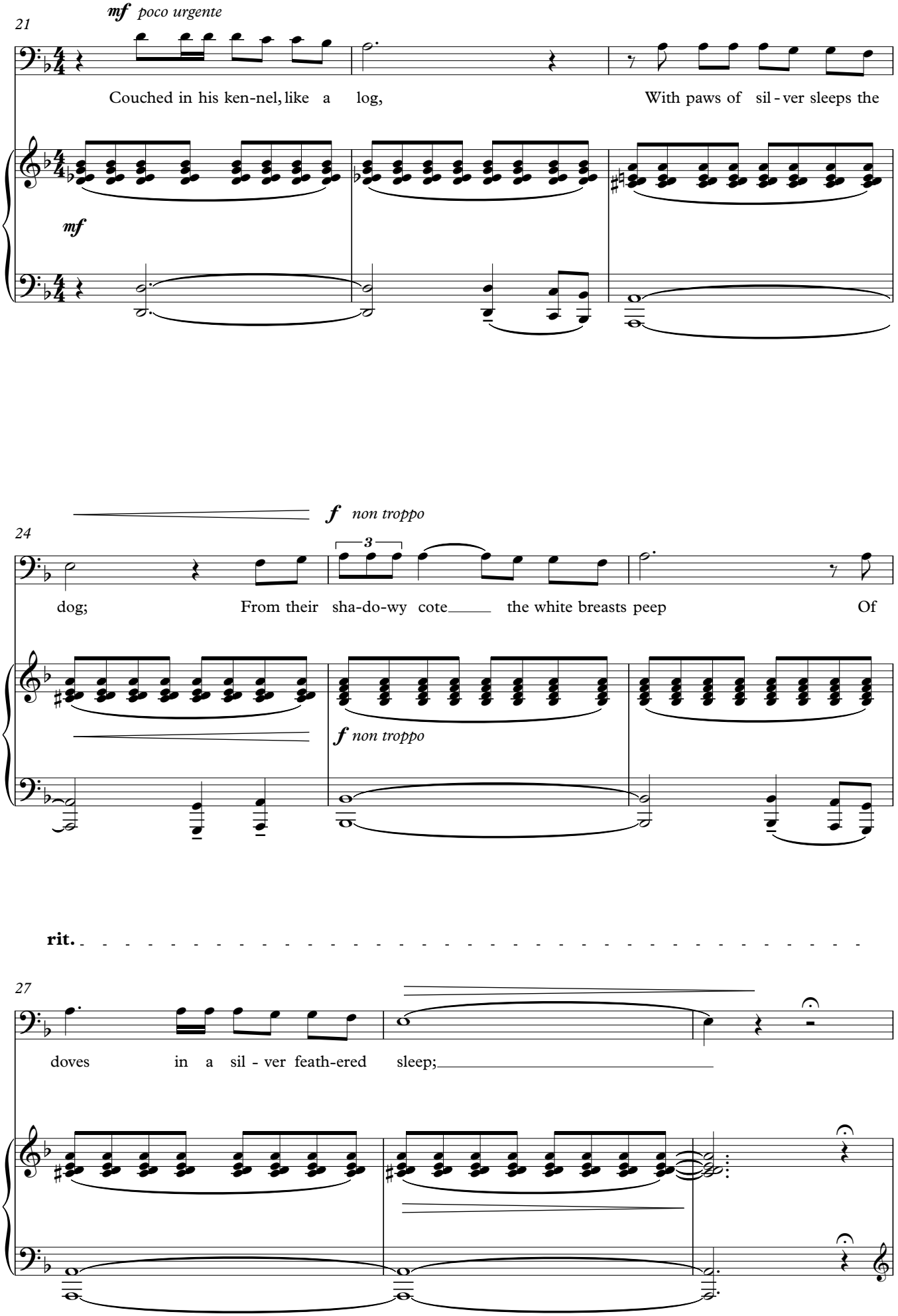


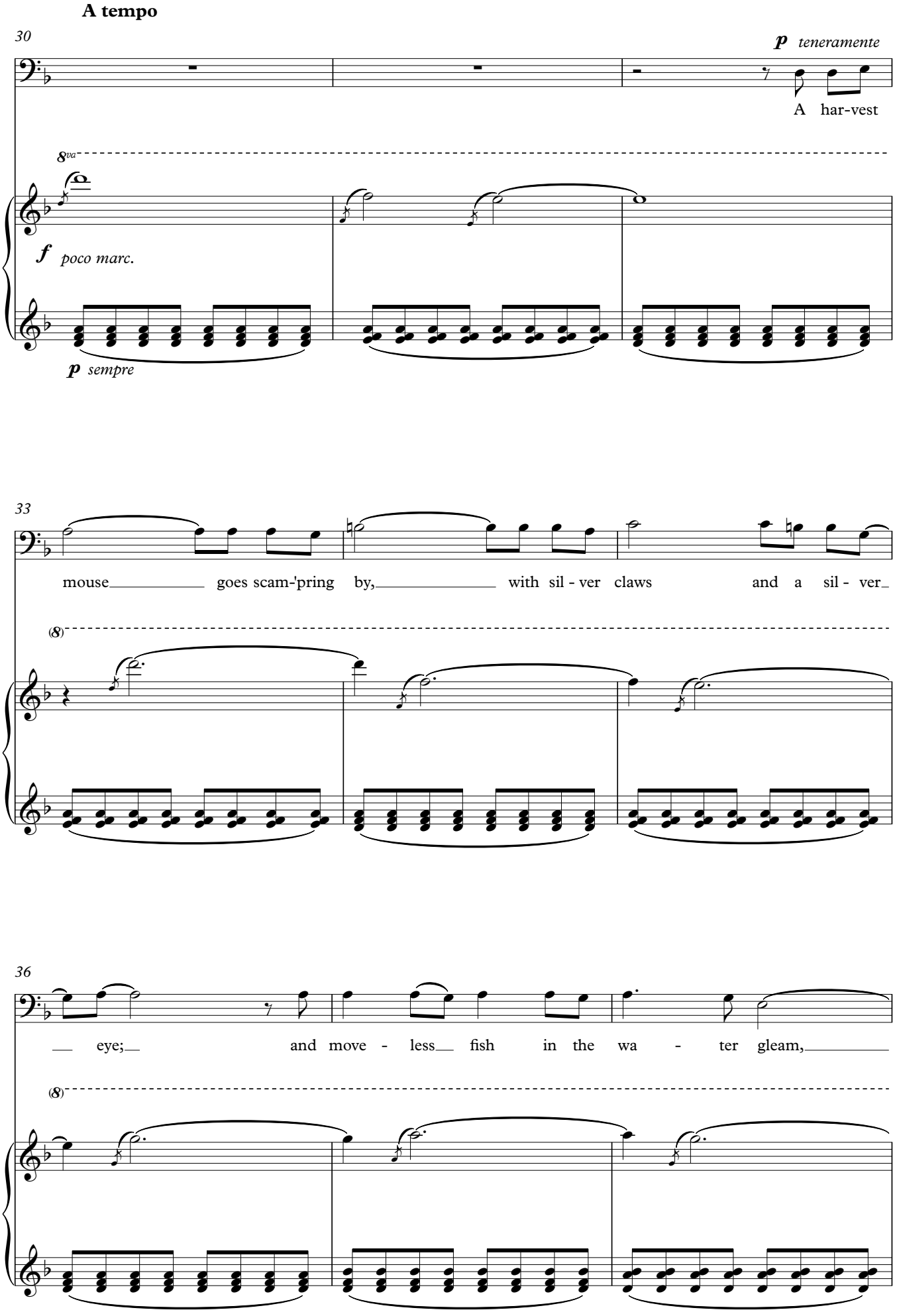
* use a good deal of pedal to create the necessary effect.

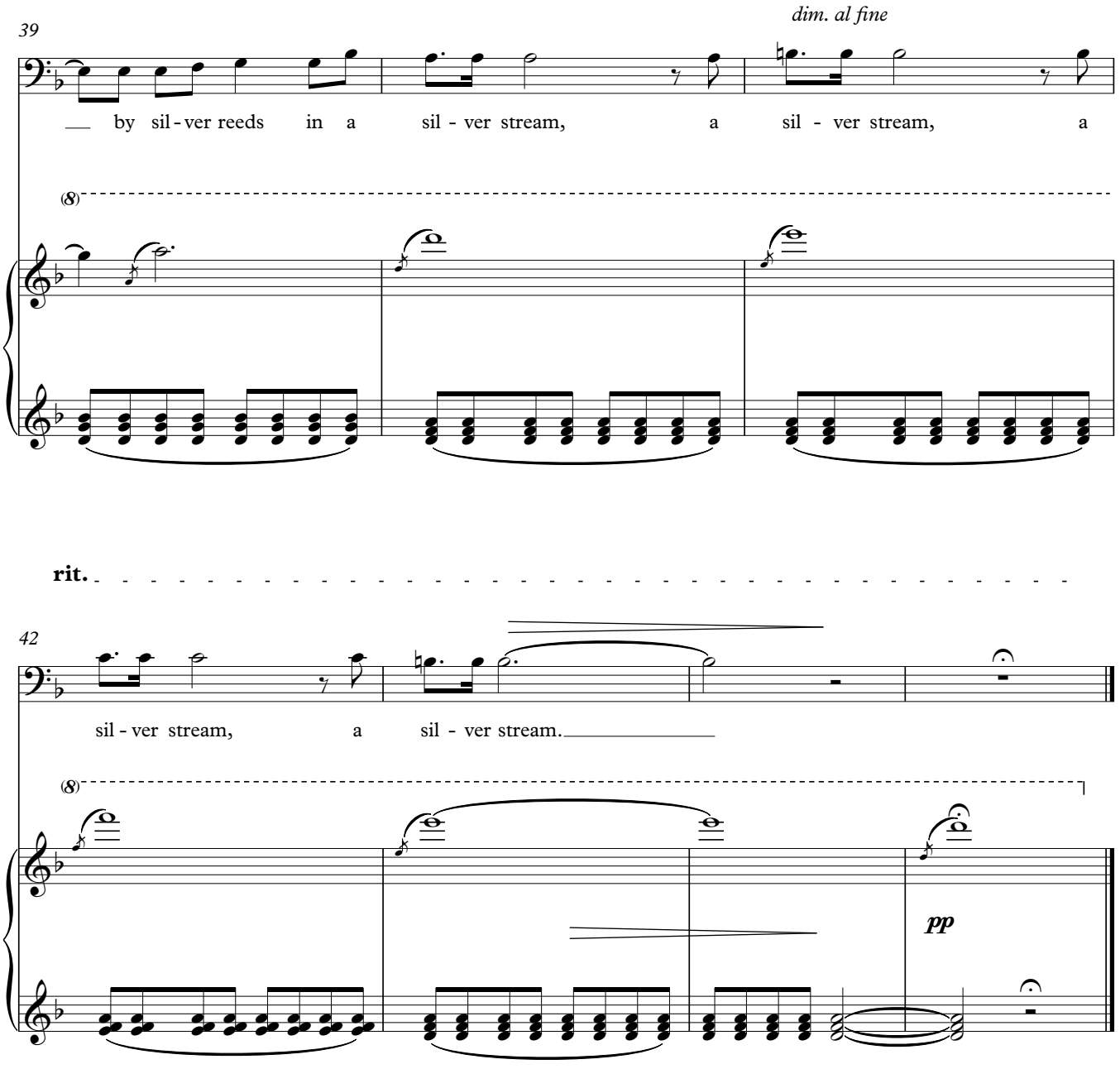





12
peers, and sees Sil - ver fruit up - on sil - ver trees;
15
mp
One by one the case-ments catch Her
poco
mp
poco rit.
A tempo
18
beams be - neath the sil - 'vry thatch;
p


21
mf poco urgente
Couched in his ken-nel, like a log,
With paws of sil - ver sleeps the
mf
24
f non troppo
3
dog;
From their sha-do-wy cote
the white breasts peep
Of
f non troppo
rit.
27
doves
in a sil - ver feath-ered
sleep;


A tempo
30
p teneramente
A har-vest
8va
f poco marc.
p sempre
33
mouse goes scam-'pring by, with sil - ver claws and a sil - ver
(8)
36
eye; and move - less fish in the wa - ter gleam,
(8)



Little Ythsie, March 2024