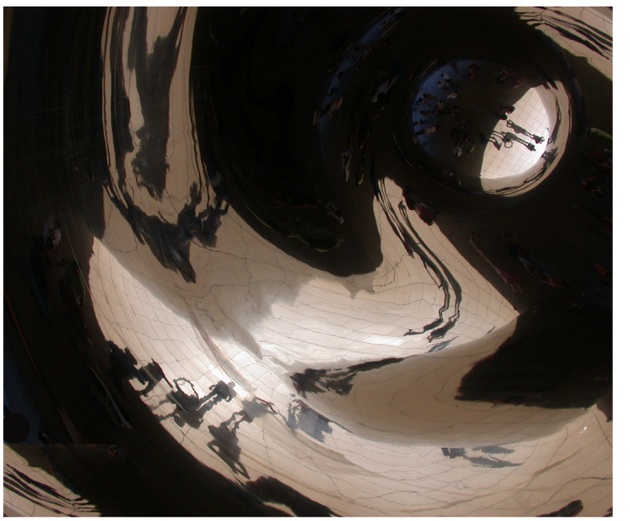
William Grosvenor Neil

Voci dell'Ombra

for soprano and piano

(2020)



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English translations by Nick Ceramella

Mille volte il dì moro.
E voi, empi sospiri,
non fate, oimè, che in sospirando io spiri?
E tu, alma crudele, se il mio duolo
t'affligge sì, che non ten'fuggi a volo?
Ahi, che sol Morte al mio duol, aspro e rio,
divien pietosa e ancide il viver mio!
Così, dunque, i sospiri e l'alma mia
sono ver me spietati e morte pia.

A thousand times a day I die,
and you, wicked sighs,
don't you make me, alàs, die, sighing?
And you, cruel soul, if my grief
Afflicts you so, why don't you fly away?
Ah, only Death alone, takes pity
on my harsh and bitter grief and kills my life!
Thus, then, my sighs and soul
are ruthless towards me, and Death merciful.

Correte, amanti, a prova,
a mirar meco quello
onde s'adorna il mondo e si fa bello!
Vista dolce et acerba in cui si trova
virtù di forza tale
c'or breve fa la vita, or immortale.

Hurry up, lovers, see for yourselves,
look with me how
the world adorns itself and beautiful it becomes!
A sweet and bitter sight endowed with
such a mighty virtue
which in a moment shortens life and makes it immortal.

Itene, o miei sospiri,
precipitate'l volo,
a lei che m'è cagion d'aspri martiri,
ditele, per pietà, del mio gran duolo:
ch'ormai ella mi sia
come bella ancor pia,
che l'amaro mia pianto
cangerò, lieto, in amoroso canto.

Oh, my sighs go
swiftly fly to her.
who's the cause of my bitter torment.
tell her, I beg you, of my great grief,
that now, at last that she may be
as merciful as she is beautiful,
so that my bitter tears I may
exchange for a joyful song of love.

Tu m'uccidi, o crudele,
d'amor empia homicida,
e vuoi ch'io taccia e 'l mio morir non grida?
Ahi, non si può tacer l'aspro martire
che va innanzi al morire
ond'io ne vo gridando:
"Oimè ch'io moro amando1"

Oh cruel one, you are killing me.
You evil love-slayer.
And you want me to keep quiet and not cry out that I am dying.
Ah, the bitter martyr can not keep quiet
that he is going to meet death.
That's why I go about screaming:
"Alàs I'm dying of love!"

Languisce al fin chi de la vita parte
e di morte il dolore
l'affligge si ché in crude pene more.
Ahi, che quello son io,
dolcissimo cor mio,
che da voi parto e, per mia crudel sorte,
la vita lascio e me ne vado a morte.

One languishes at the end who departs from life.
And it is the pain of death
that torments him.
thus, in bitter pain he dies.
Ah, this is me,
my sweetest heart,
departing from you is my cruel fate,
life I leave and go to death.

"Mercè!" grido piangendo
ma c hi m'ascolta?
Ahi lasso! io vengo meno.
Morrò dunque tacendo.
Deh, per pietade, almeno,
dolce del mio cor tesoro,
potessi dirti, pria ch'io mora: "Io moro".

"Mercy!" I scream, crying
but who hears me?
Alas! I flake out.
I'll die then silently.
Deh, if only out of pity,
oh treasure of my heart,
could I tell you, before I died, "I'm dying".

Program Notes: Voci dell'Ombra (Voices from the Shadow) The madrigals of the Renaissance composer, Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa, have interested me for some time with their articulate mode of expression and their rich and mysterious musical textures. I have chosen six madrigals from the composer's fifth book of madrigals to set for piano and solo soprano voice. Above all, my goal was to capture the expression and drama of text found in Gesualdo's five part vocal writing, selecting freely from the each of the voices to construct my recomposition of the music for a single voice. I also desired to create a piano accompaniment that orchestrated the harmonic and rhythmic contrasts that are so prevalent in these Madrigals. The end result, stylistically, spans the pre-renaissance and post-renaissance periods of music with my own predilection for complex textures and sonorities found in my own original music. These pieces were composed in collaboration with the Italian-Mongolian soprano, Ayana Sambuu, who was so generous with her comments regarding the setting of the Italian words and vocal technique required to perform the pieces. Finally, I am appreciative of Nick Ceramella for his translations of the texts into English and his assistance in interpreting the meaning of the Italian words.

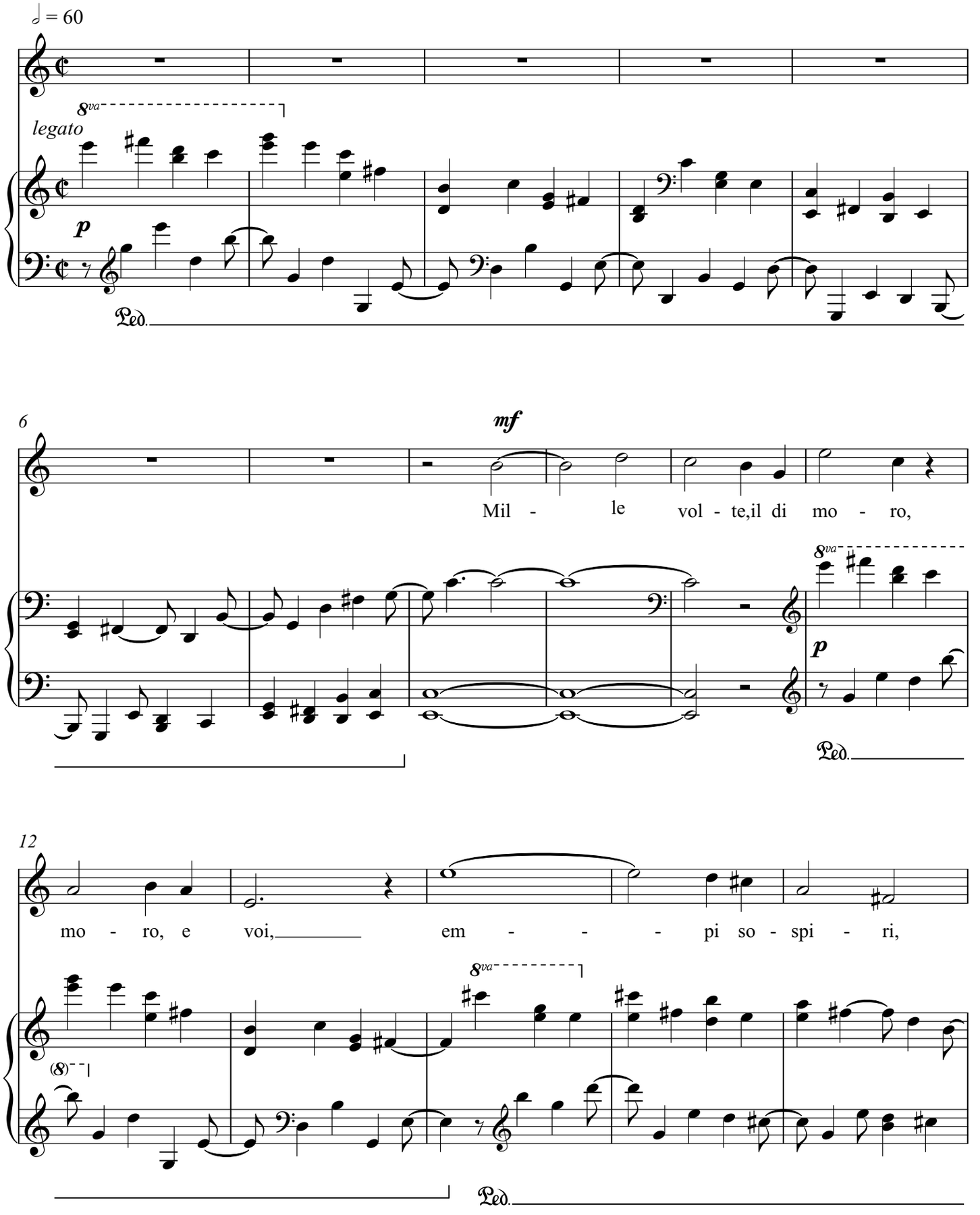
Duration: ca. 22 minutes

Dedicated to Ayana Sambuu

Mille volte al di moro

(based on madrigal No. 7 of book VI by Carlo Gesualdo)

William Grosvenor Neil



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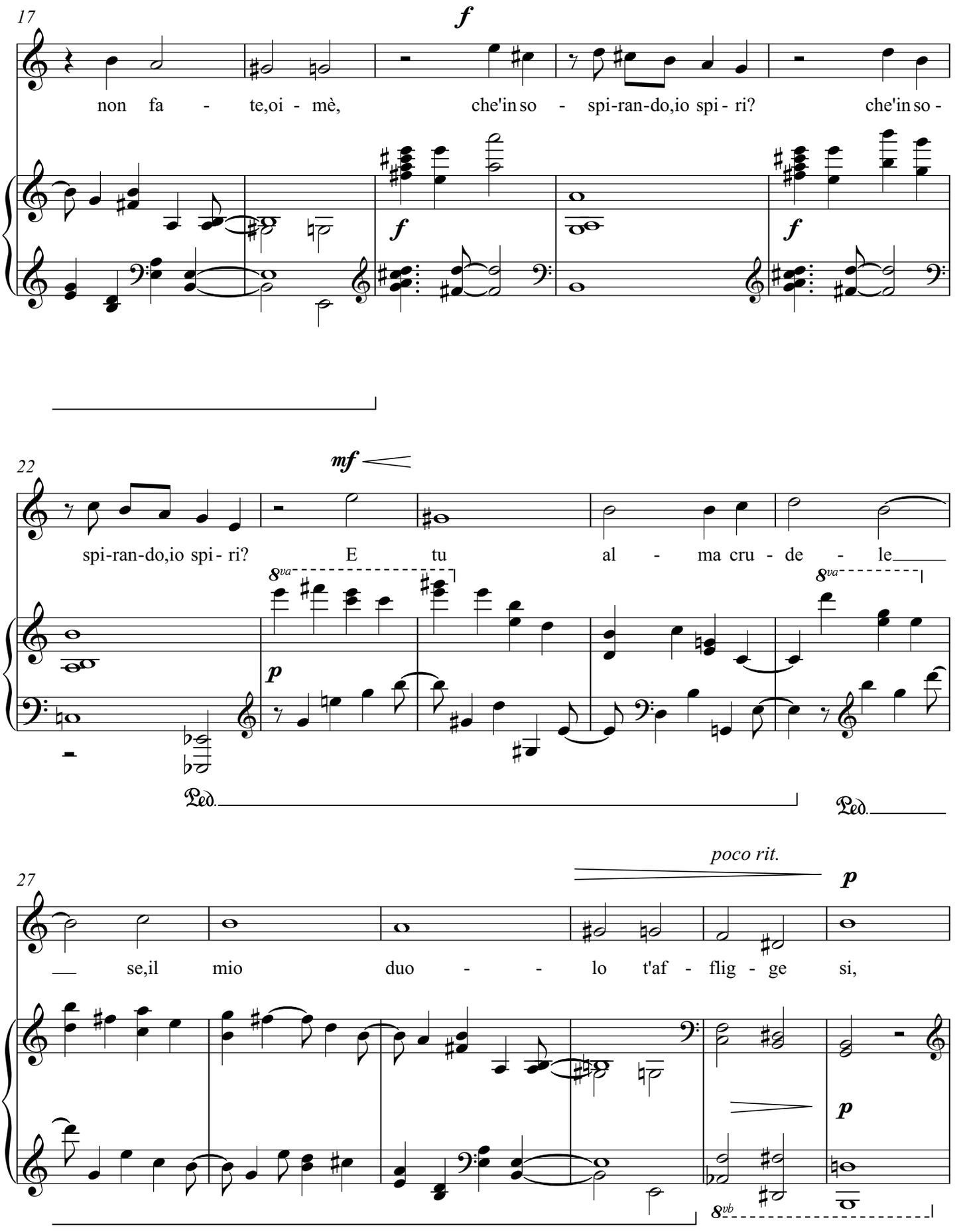
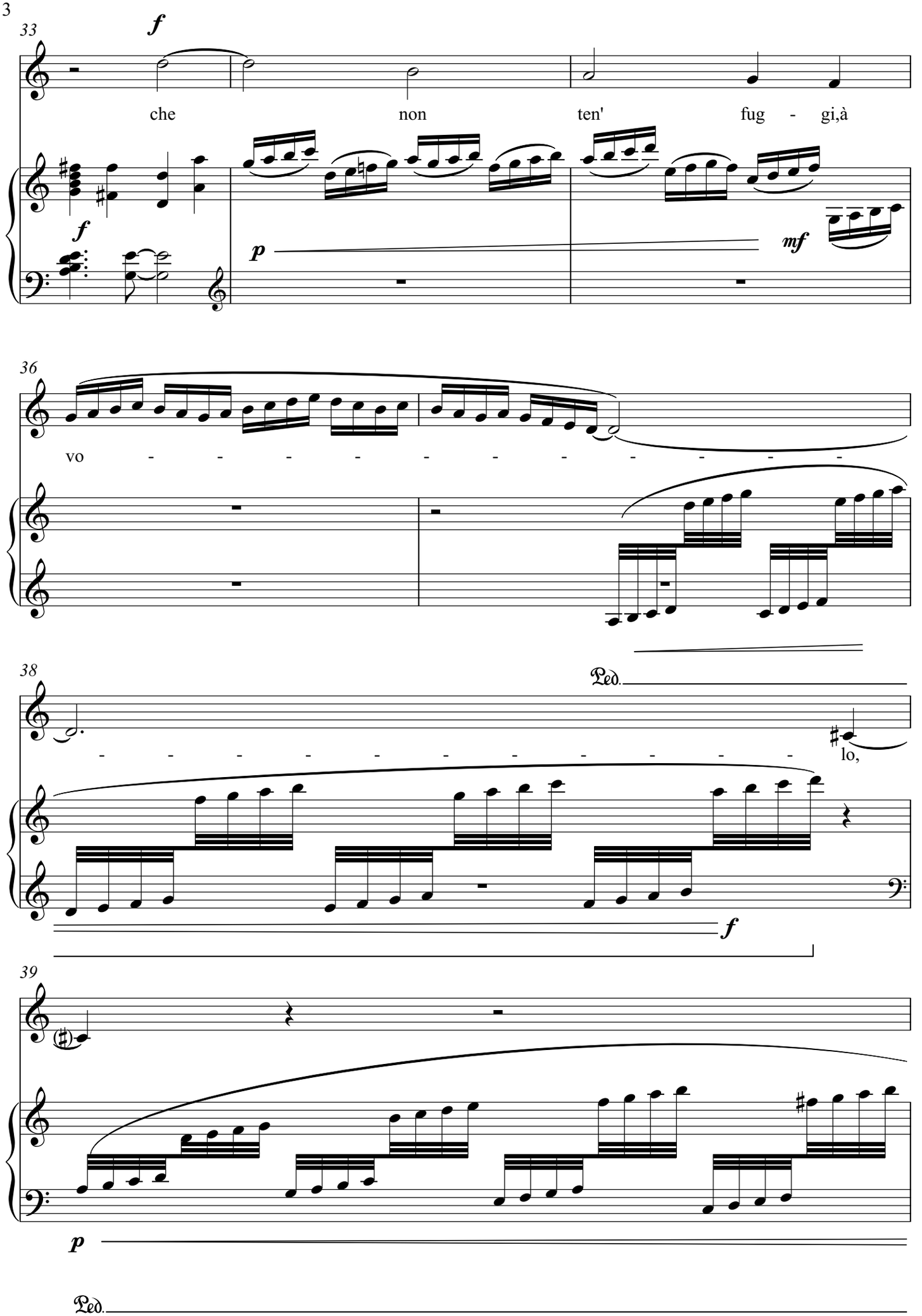

17
f
non fa - te,oi - mè, che'in so - spi-ran-do,io spi - ri? che'in so -
22
mf
spi-ran-do,io spi - ri? E tu al - ma cru - de - le
8va
p
Ped.
27
poco rit.
p
se,il mio duo - - lo t'af - flig - ge si,
8vb


33
f
che non ten' fug - gi,à
f
p
mf
36
vo - - - - - - - - - - - -
38
Ped.
- - - - - - - - - - - - -
lo,
f
39
p
Ped.

40

fpp < *f*

Ahi,

8vb

f

42

che sol Mor - te,al mio duol a - spro,e ri - o di - vien

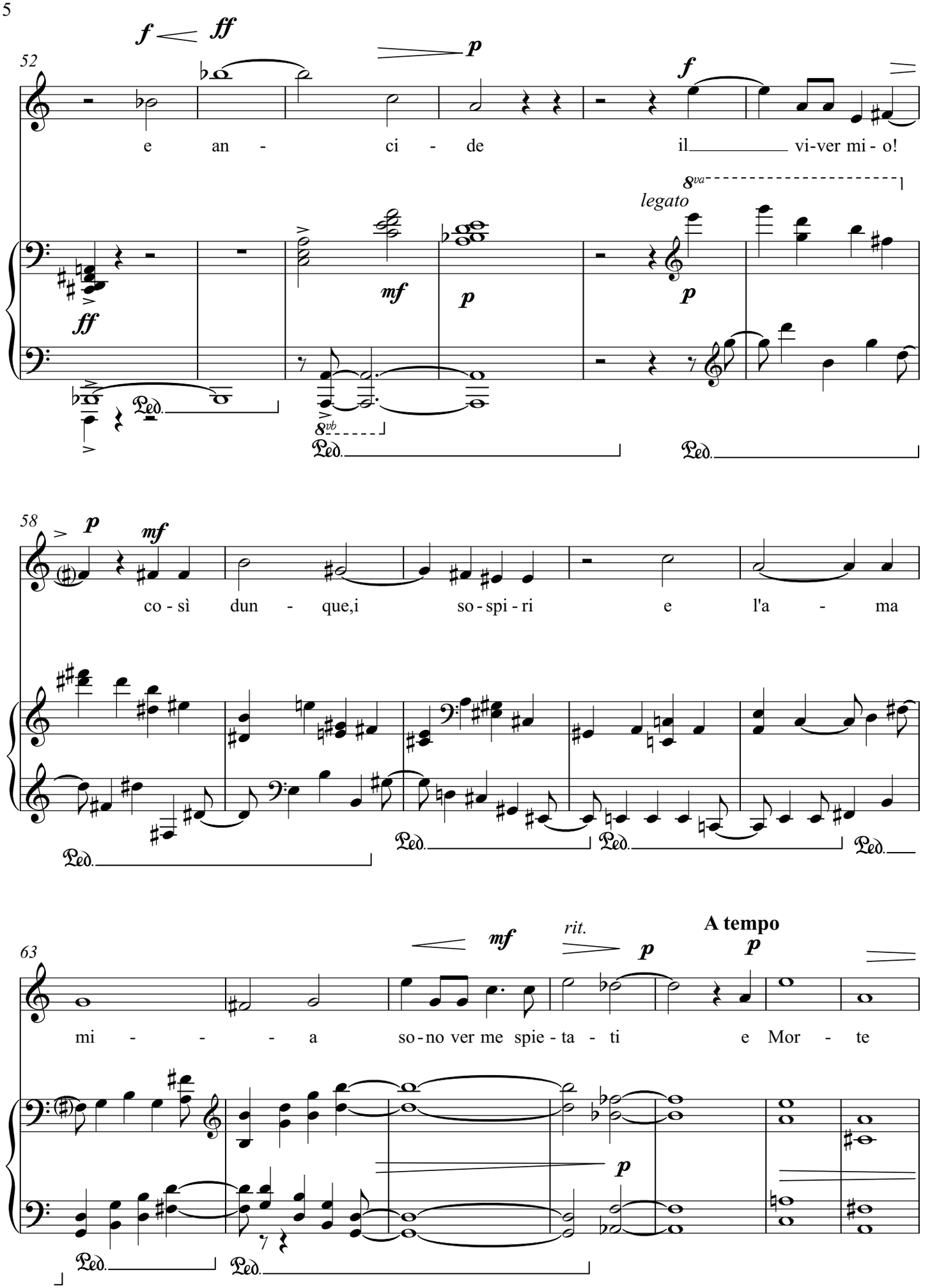
ff *f* *ff* *f*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

48

pie - to - sa

Ped.


52
f
ff
p
f
e an - ci - de il vi-ver mi - o!
8va
legato
mf
p
ff
8vb
Ped.
58
p
mf
co - sì dun - que,i so - spi - ri e l'a - ma
63
mf
rit.
p
A tempo
p
mi - - - - a so - no ver me spie - ta - ti e Mor - te
p

70

pp

f

pi - a e Mor - te, e

8va

molto legato

p

ppp

Ped.

76

p

Mor - - te pi - -

(8)

78

f

pp

- - - - - - - - - a.

Correte, amanti, a prova

(based on madrigal No. 13 of book V by Carlo Gesulado)

William Grosvenor Neil

81 ♩=70

mf

Cor - re - - - - - - te,

p

Ped.

Ped.

85

a - man - ti,a pro - - - -

8va

89

f

- va, a mi - rar me - co

f

Ped.

93

quel - lo, A mir - rar me - co

8va

97

mp

quel - lo On - de s'a - dor - na'il

p

101

f

ritardando

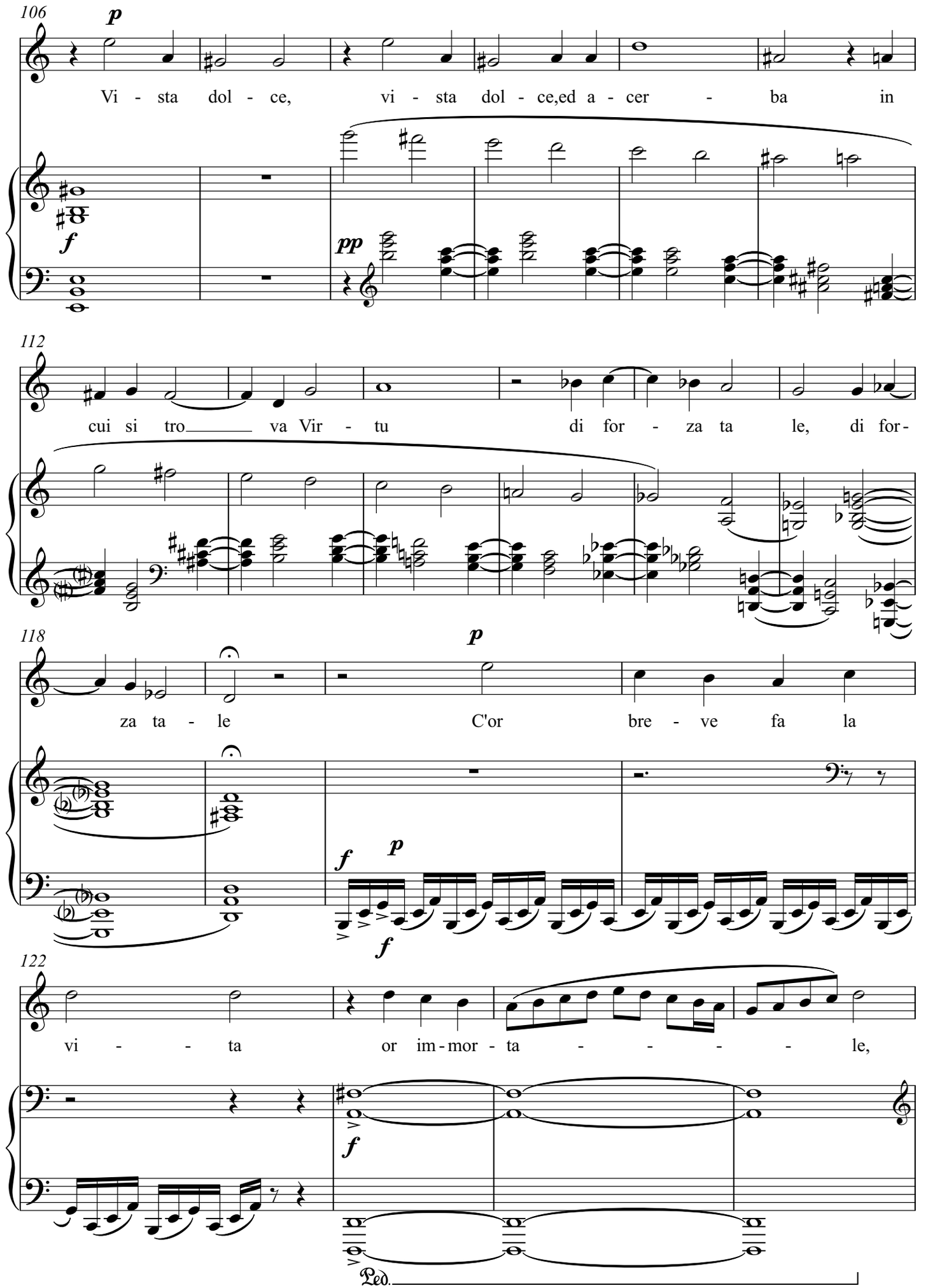
mon - do e si fa bel - lo!

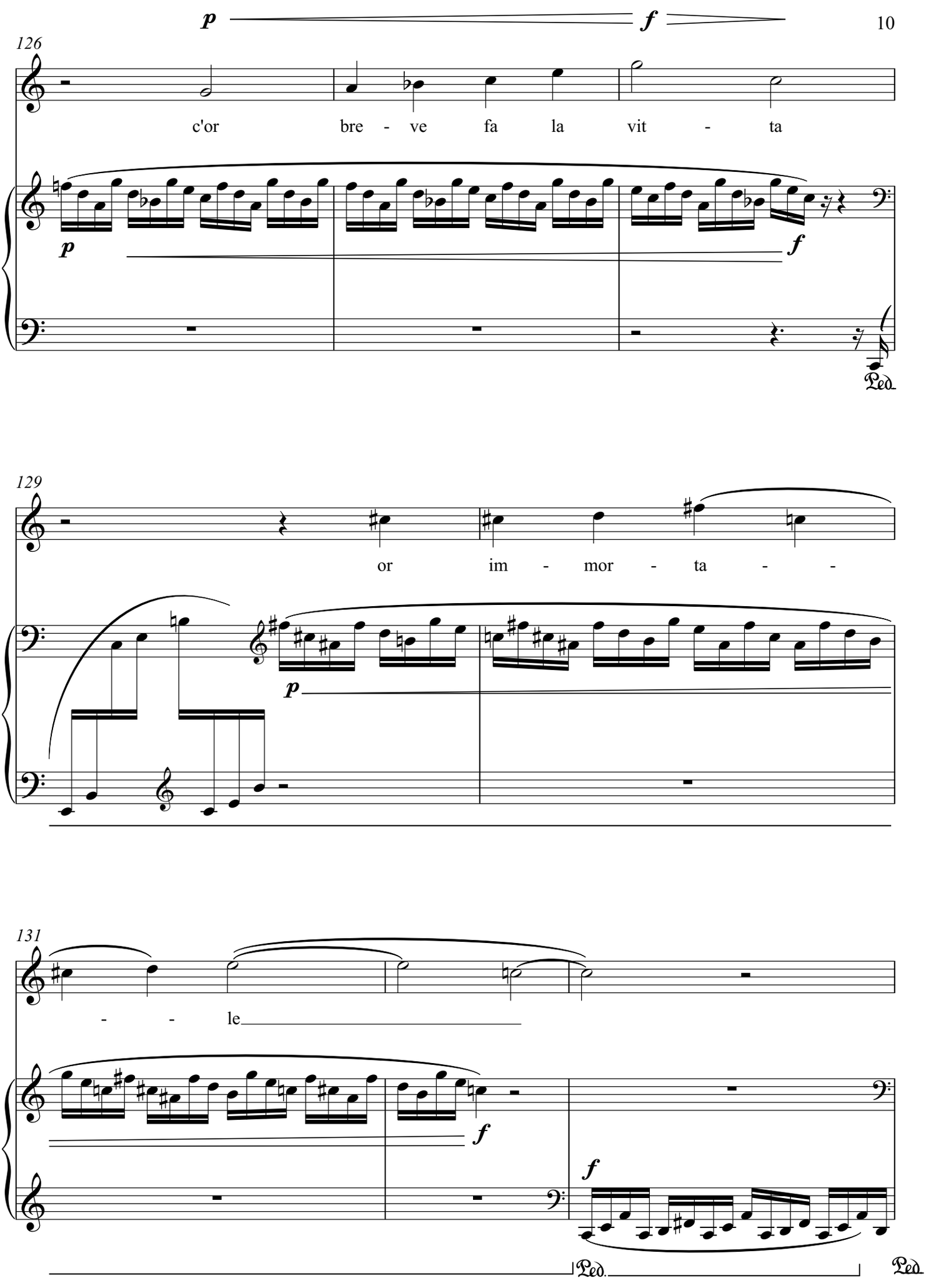
pausa

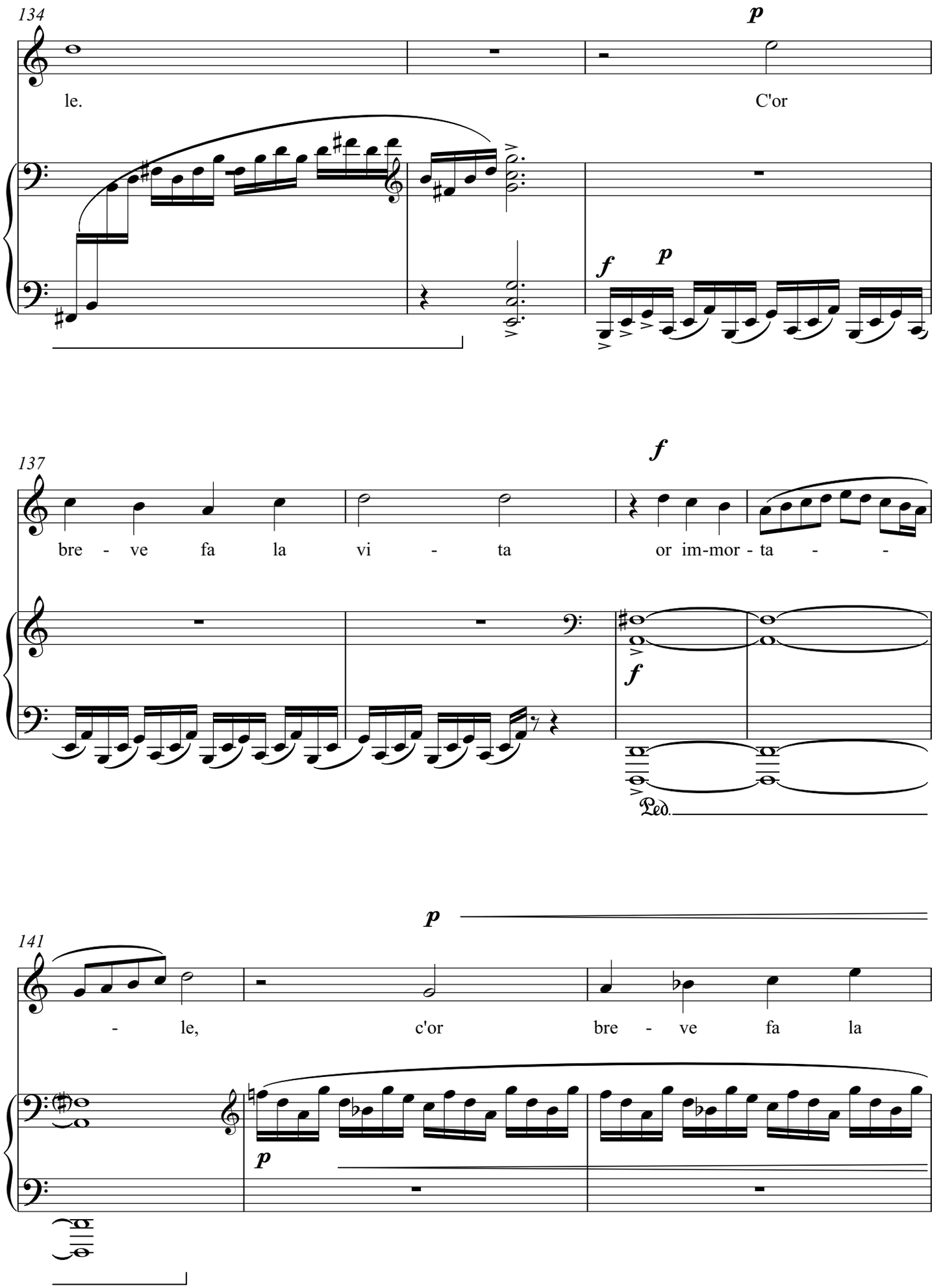
tr

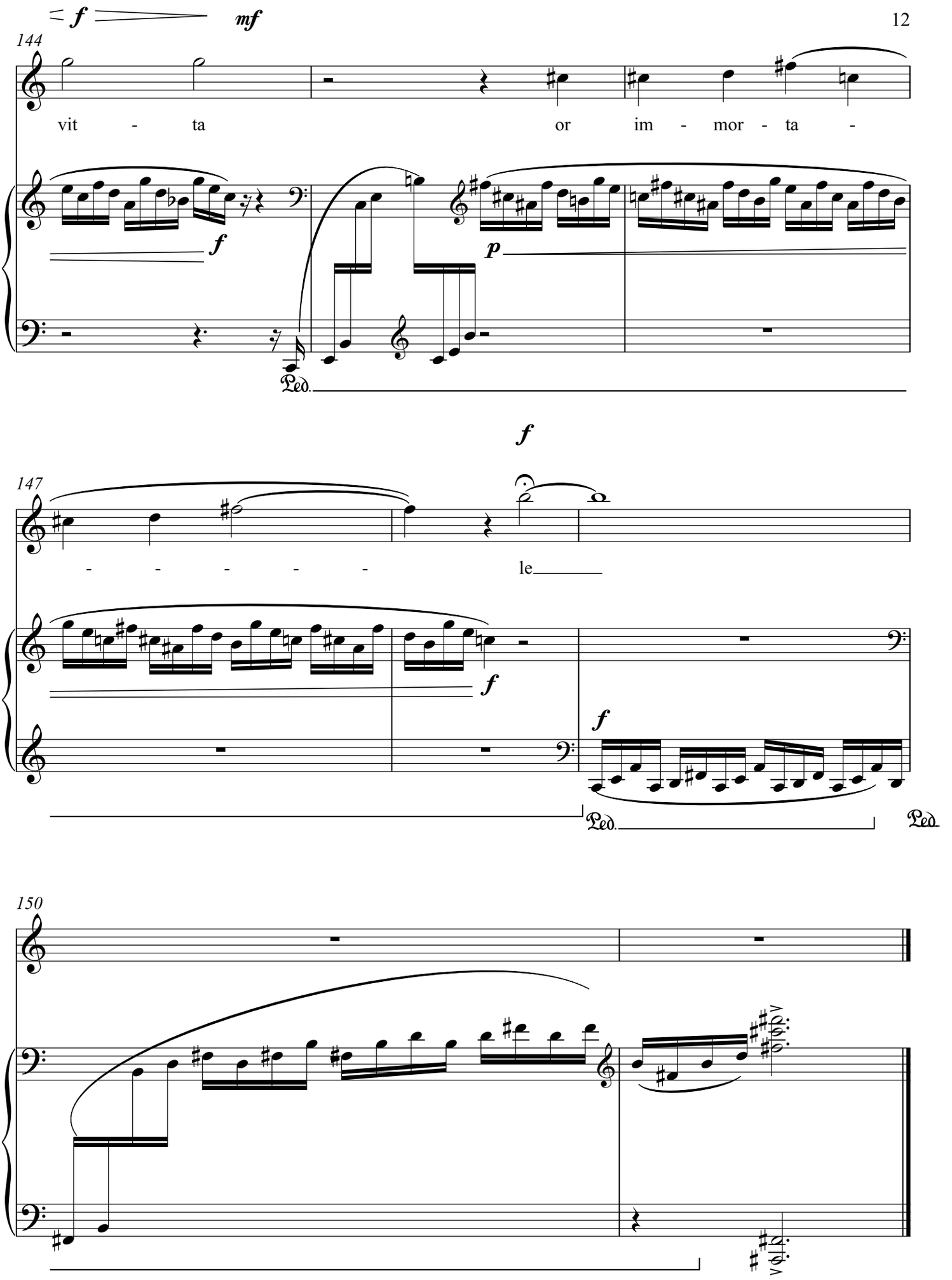
f

p


106
p
Vi - sta dol - ce, vi - sta dol - ce,ed a - cer - ba in
f
pp
112
cui si tro va Vir - tu di for - za ta le, di for -
118
p
za ta - le C'or bre - ve fa la
f
p
f
122
vi - - ta or im - mor - ta - - - - - le,
f
Ped.


p
f
126
c'or bre - ve fa la vit - ta
p
f
Ped
129
or im - mor - ta - -
p
131
- - le
f
f
Ped.
Ped


134
p
le.
C'or
f
p
137
f
bre - ve fa la vi - ta
or im-mor - ta - -
f
Ped.
141
p
- le,
c'or
bre - ve fa la
p


144
f
mf
vit - ta or im - mor - ta -
f
p
Ped.
147
- - - - - - le
f
f
Ped.
Ped.
150

Itene, o miei sospiri

(based on madrigal No.3 of book V by Carlo Gesualdo)

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152 ♩=70

mf

I -

8va

f

pp

156

te ne, o miei so - spi - ri,

f

160

Pre - ci - pi - ta - te'l vo - lo,

8va

f

Ped.

164

pre - ci - pi - ta - te'l vo - lo,

8va

p

Ped.

f

167

pre - ci - pi - ta - - te'l vo - - - - - -

mf

171

- lo, A lui, a lui che m'è ca -

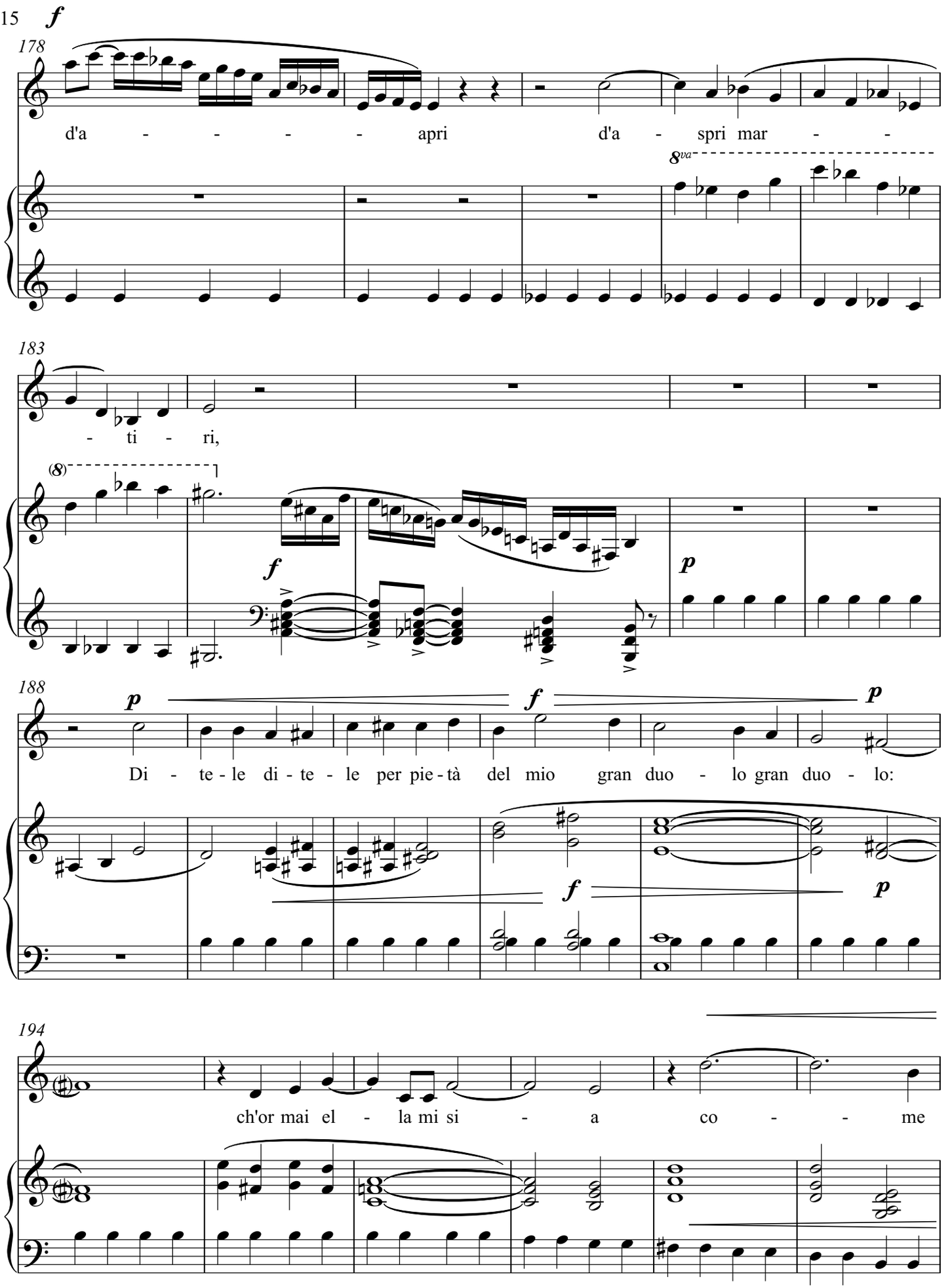
f *p*

Ped.

175

gion d'a - - spri mar - ti - ri,

8va


f
178
d'a - - - - - apri d'a - spri mar - -
8va
183
- ti - ri,
(8)
f
p
188
p
f
p
Di - te - le di - te - le per pie - tà del mio gran duo - lo gran duo - lo:
f
p
194
ch'or mai el - la mi si - a co - - me

200

f *p*

bel - la an-cor pi - a, an-cor pi - a,

f *subito* *p*

206

Ped.

p

Che l'a - mar - o mia pian - - - - to

pp

212

p *f*

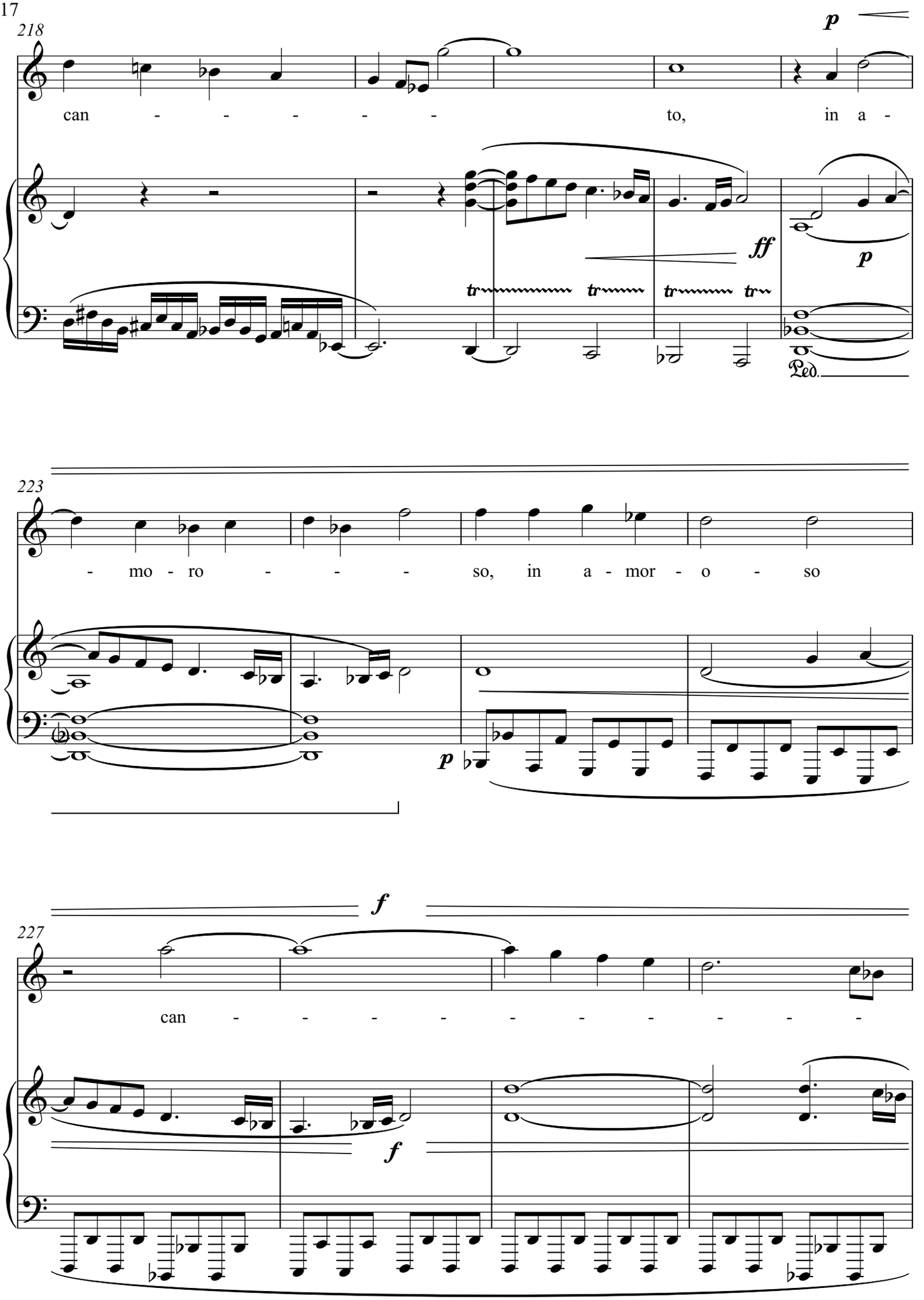
Con - ge - rò lie - to, Con - ge - rò in

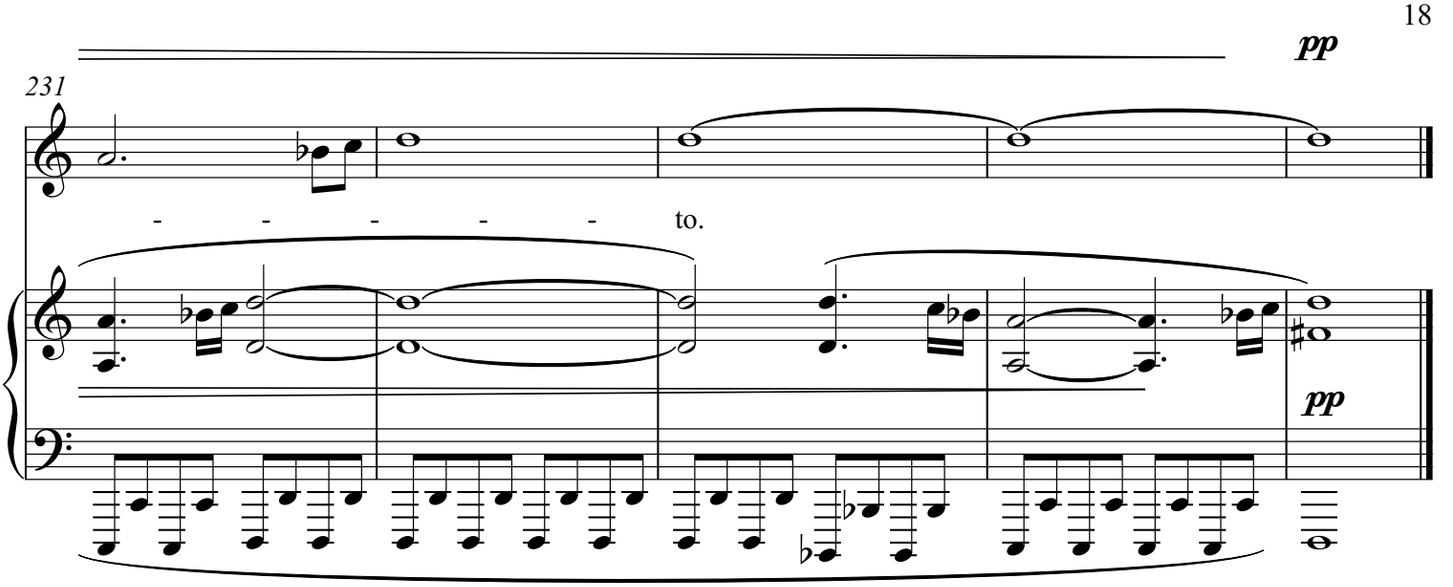
p *f*

215

a - - - - mo - ro - so

tr


218
p
can - - - - - - to, in a -
ff
p
tr
tr
tr
tr
Ped.
223
- mo - ro - - - - so, in a - mor - o - so
p
f
227
can - - - - - - - - - - -
f


231
pp
- - - - - to.
pp

Tu m'uccidi, o crudele

(based on madrigal No. 15 of book V by Carlo Gesualdo)

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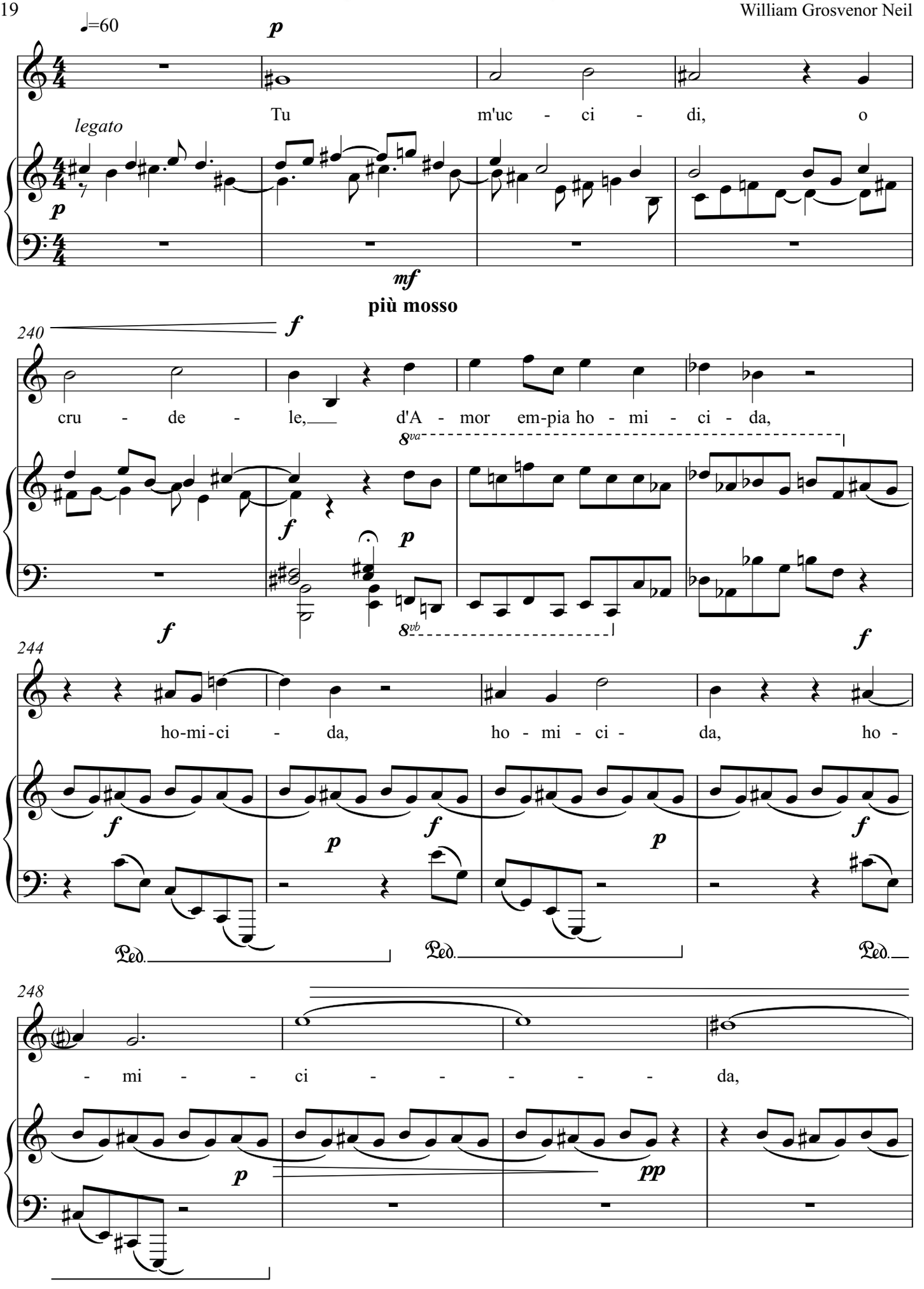
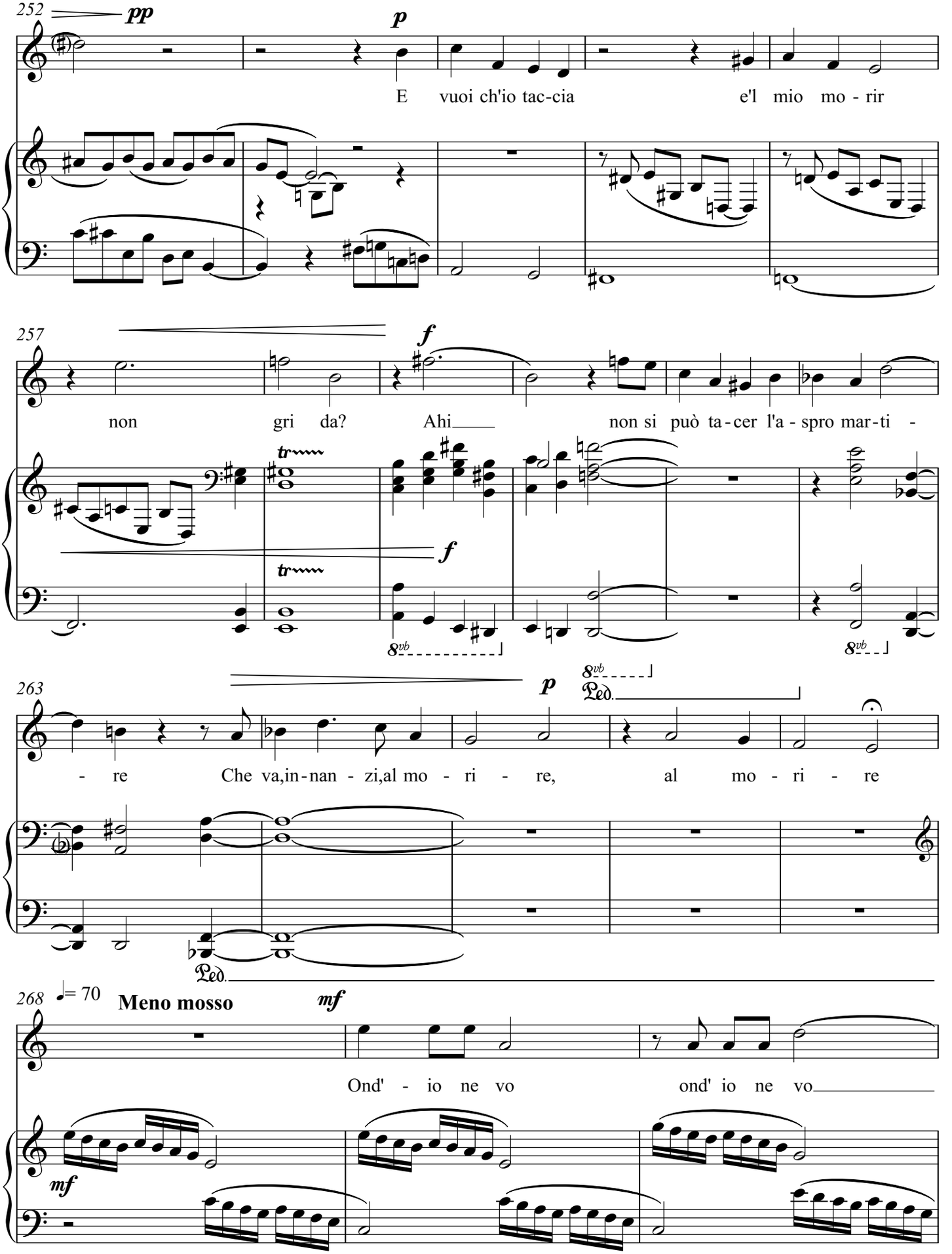
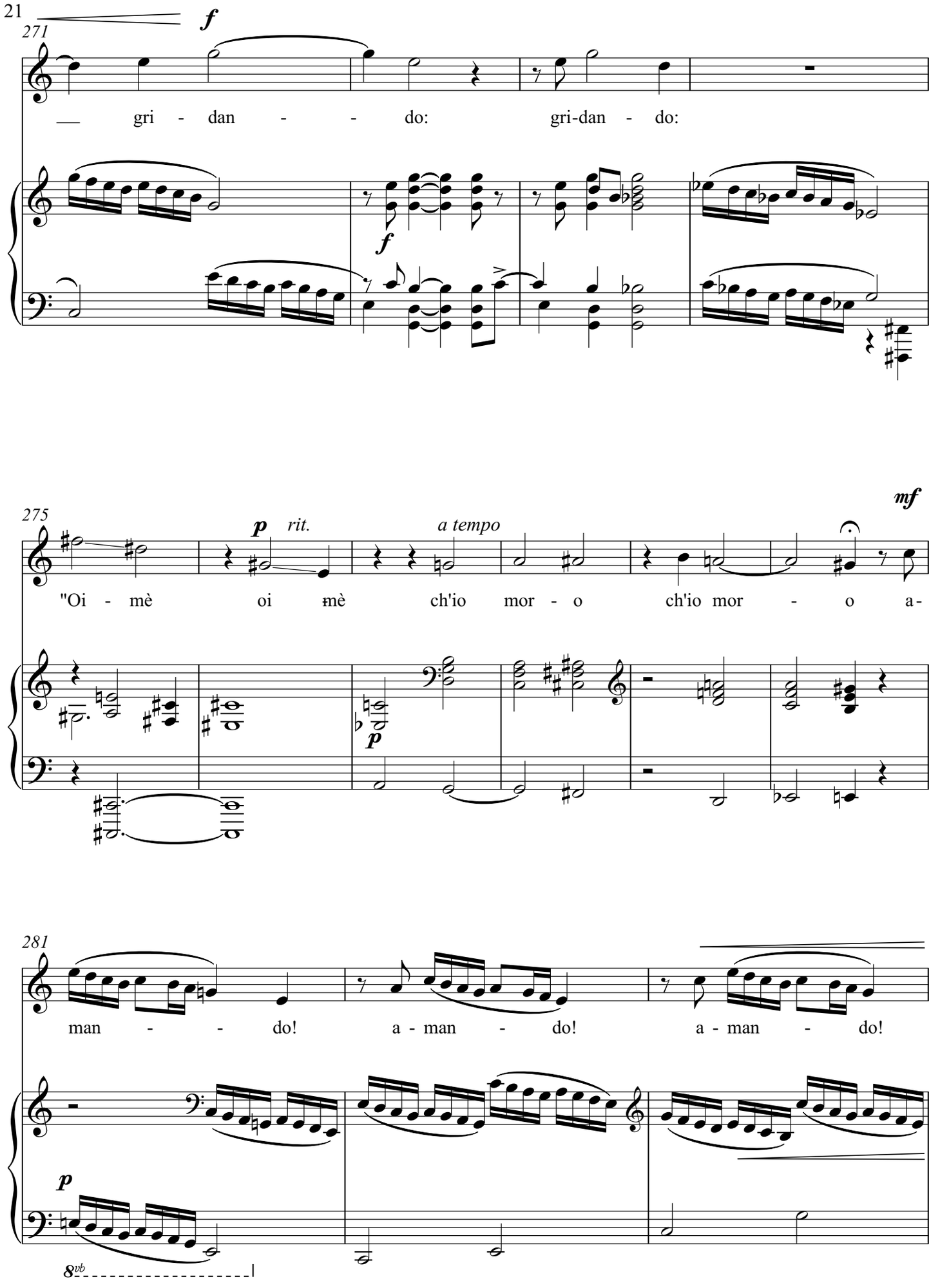
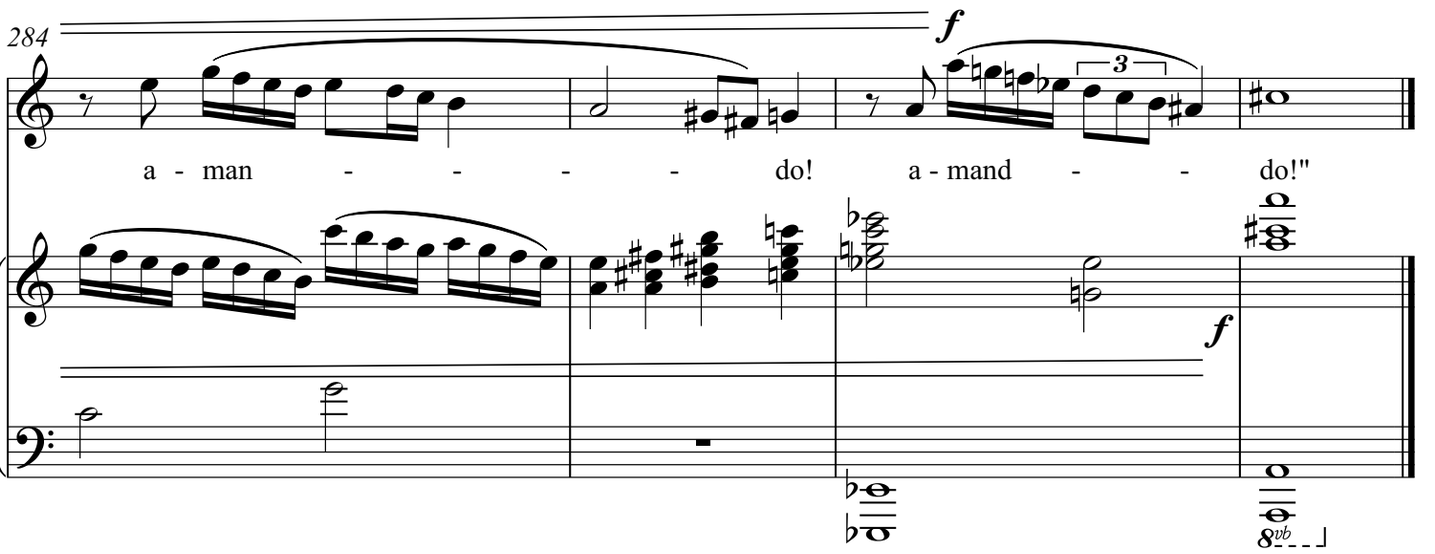



252
pp
p
E vuoi ch'io tac-cia e'l mio mo - rir
257
f
non gri da? Ahi non si può ta-cer l'a-spro mar-ti -
tr
f
8vb
263
p
8vb
Ped.
- re Che va,in-nan - zi,al mo - ri - re, al mo - ri - re
Ped.
268
♩= 70
Meno mosso
mf
Ond' - io ne vo ond' io ne vo
mf


271
f
gri - dan - - do: gri-dan - do:
f
275
p rit.
a tempo
mf
"Oi - mè oi mè ch'io mor - o ch'io mor - o a-
p
281
man - - do! a - man - do! a - man - do!
p
8vb

attacca



Languisce al fin

William Grosvenor Neil

(based on madrigal No.10 of book V by Carlo Gesualdo)

288 ♩ = 70

p

Lan - -

f *p`* *f*

Ped.

291

pp

- - - - gui-sce al fin,

p`* *f* *p`

Ped. Ped.

295

p *f* *p*

chi da la vi - - - - - - ta par - - -

p`

f *f*

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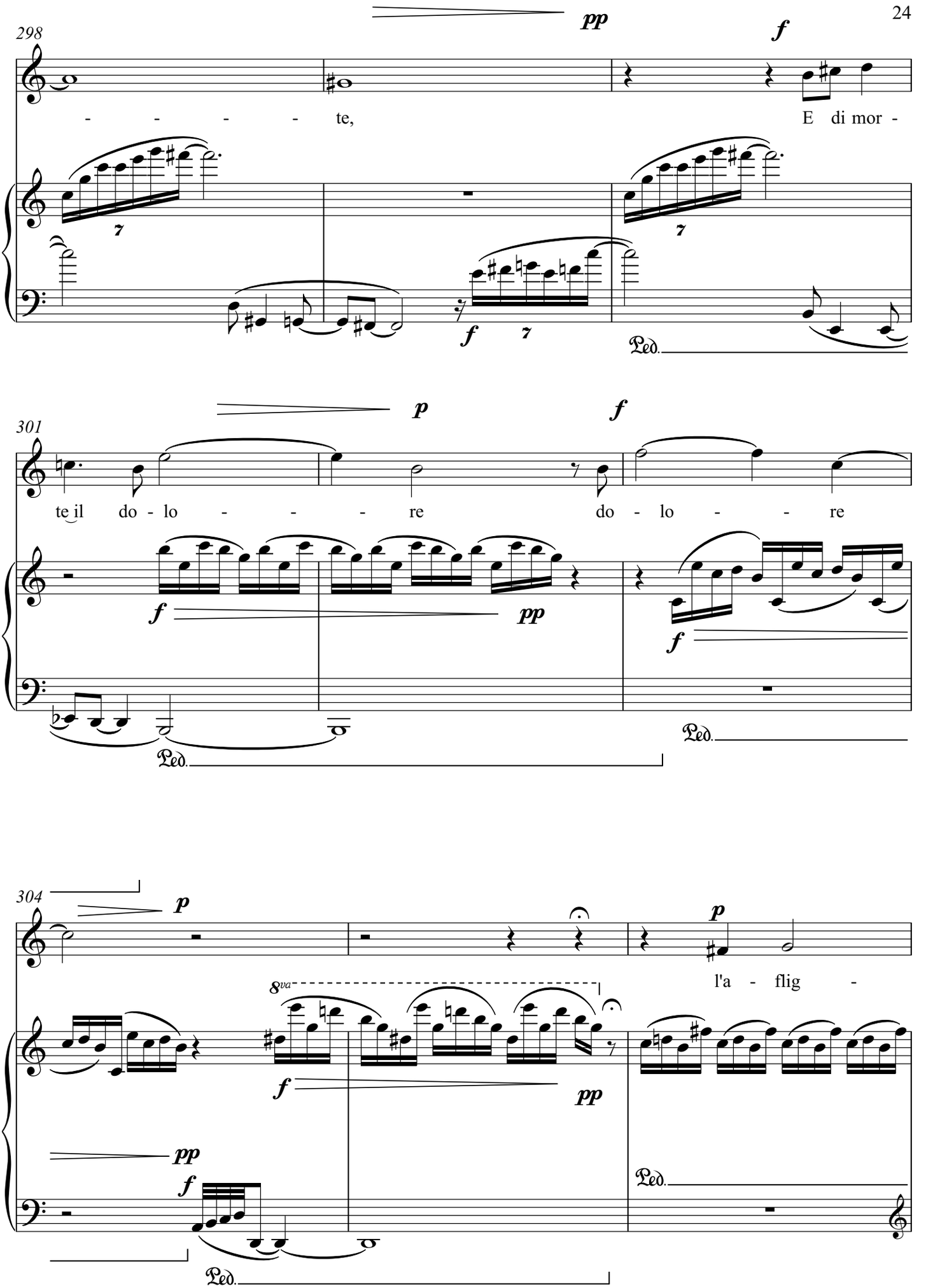

298
pp
f
- - - - - te,
E di mor -
7
7
f
7
Ped.
301
p
f
te il do - lo - - - - re
do - lo - - - re
f
pp
f
Ped.
Ped.
304
p
p
l'a - flig -
8va
f
pp
pp
f
Ped.
Ped.

307

ge si che in cru - de pe -

310

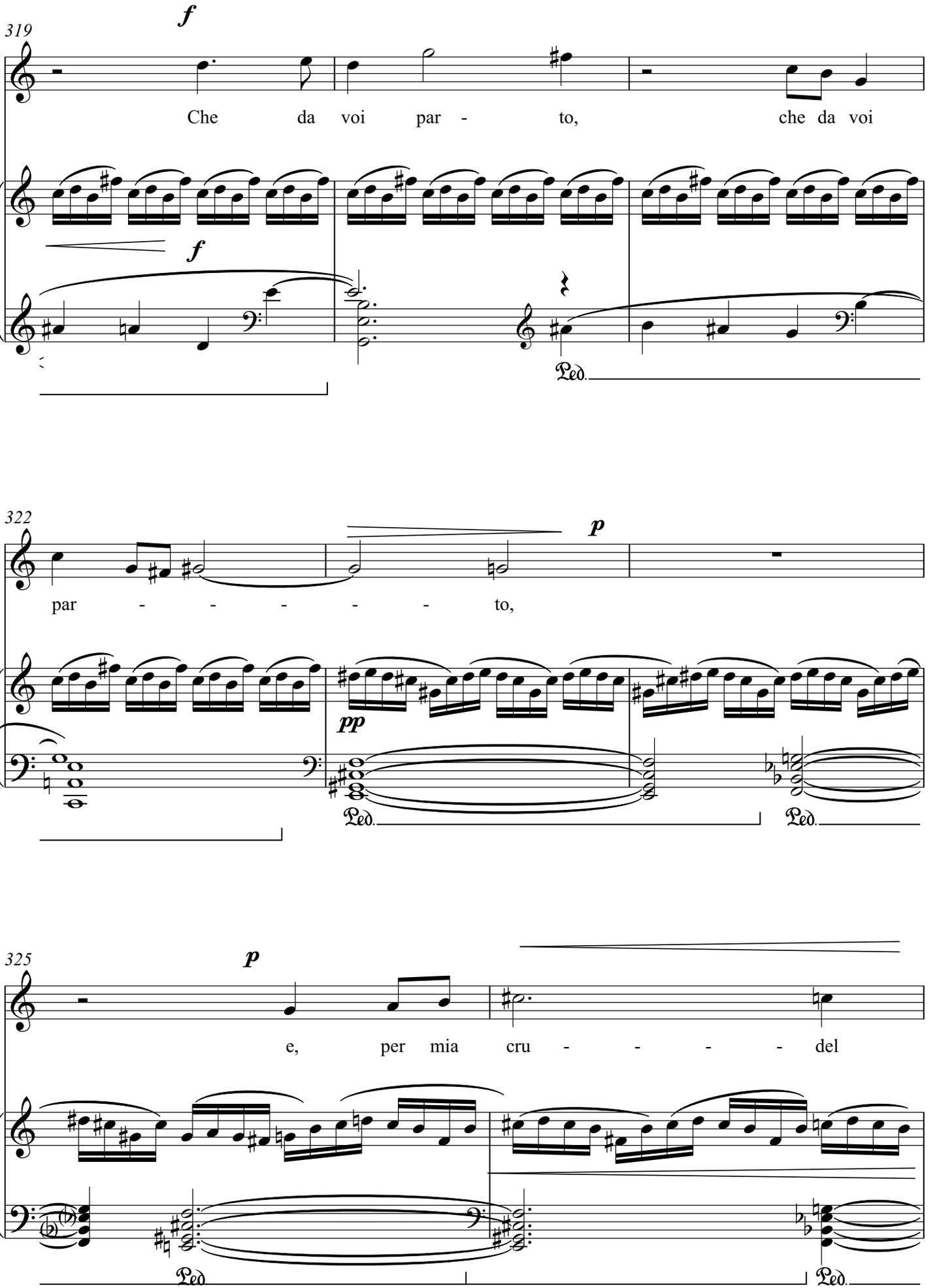
ne mo - - re, Ahi, che

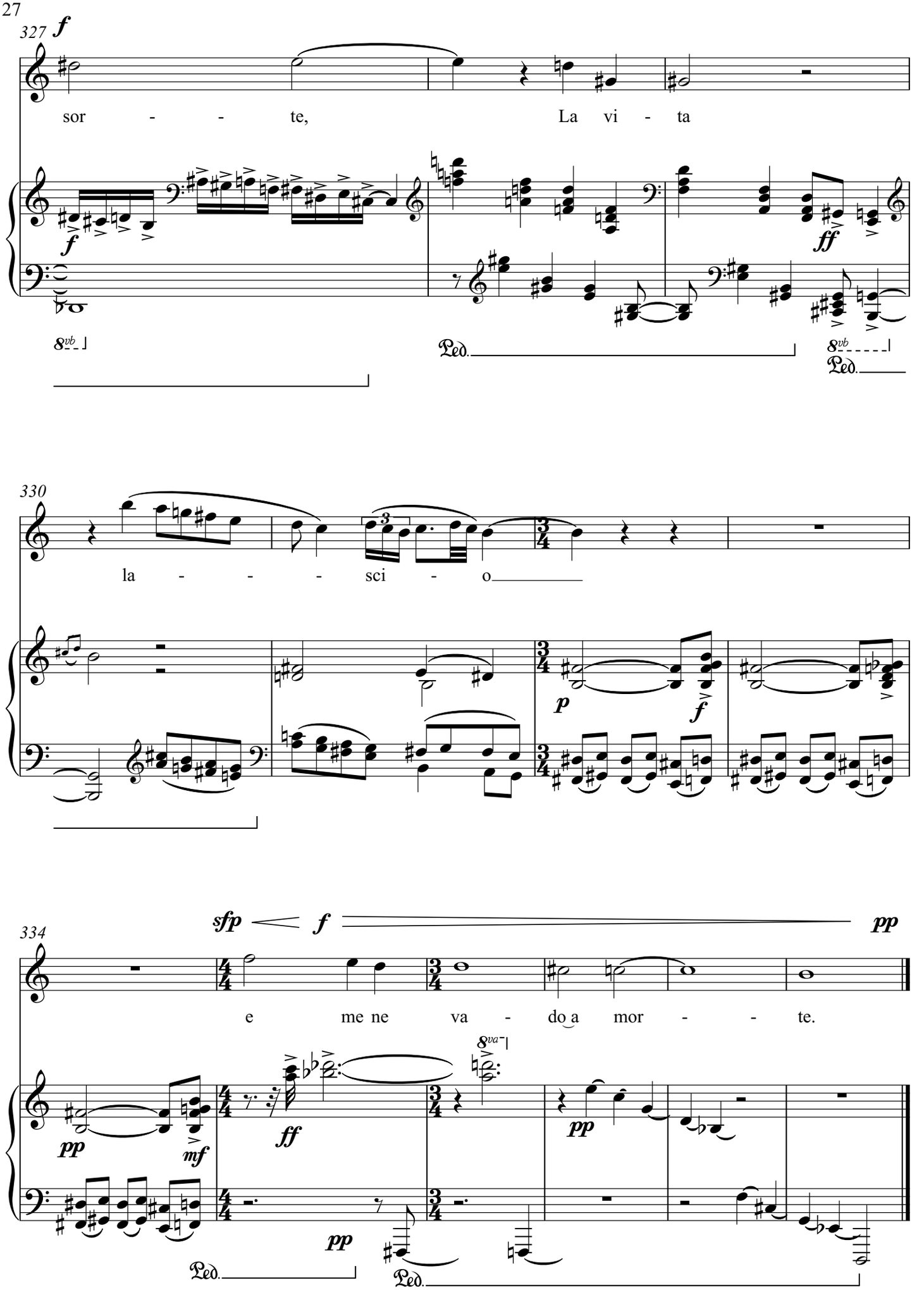
313

quel - - lo son i - - - - - - o,

316

Dol - cis - si - mo cor mi - o,

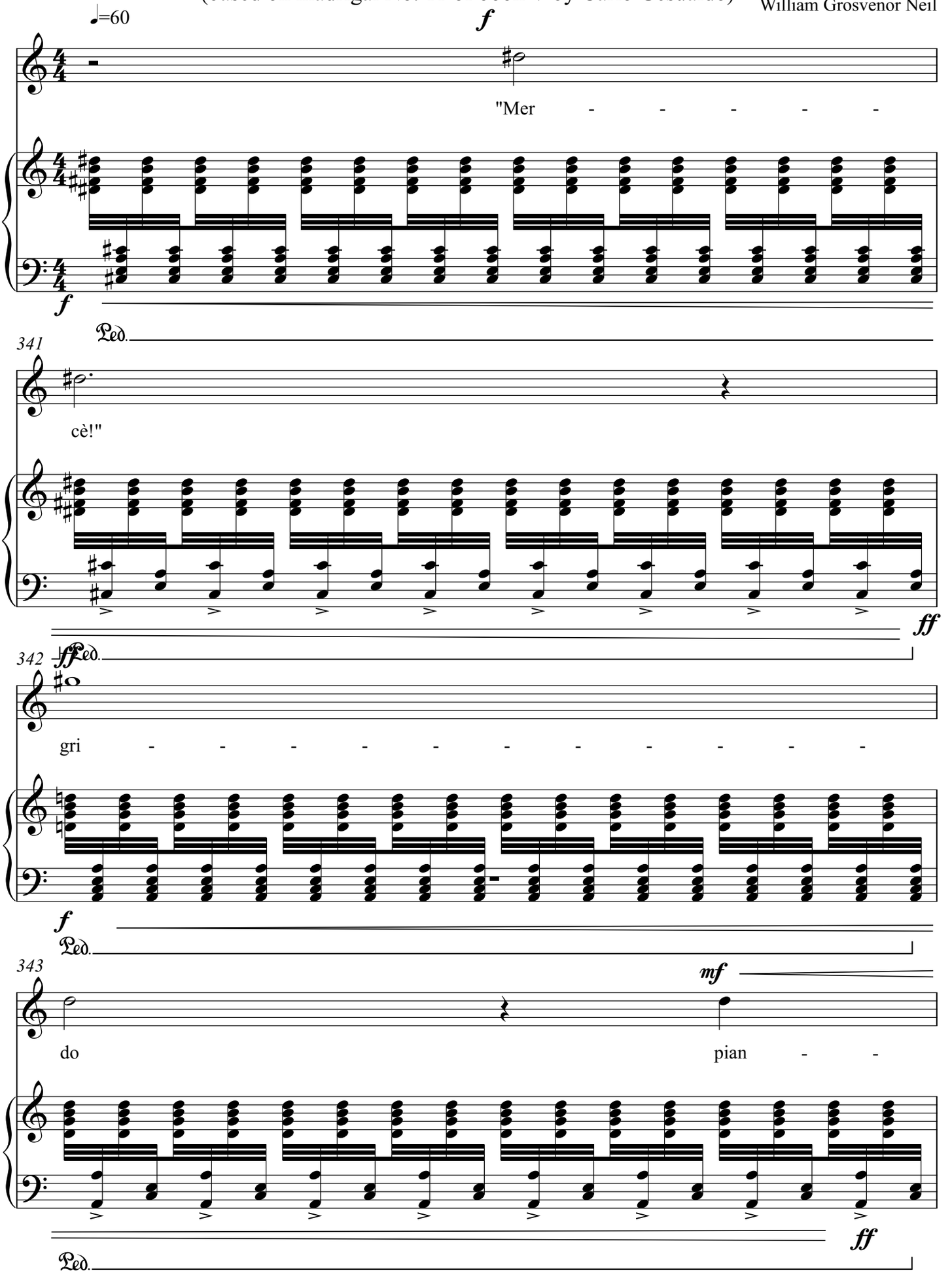

319
f
Che da voi par - to, che da voi
f
Ped.
322
p
par - - - - - to,
pp
Ped.
Ped.
325
p
e, per mia cru - - - - del
Ped
Ped.

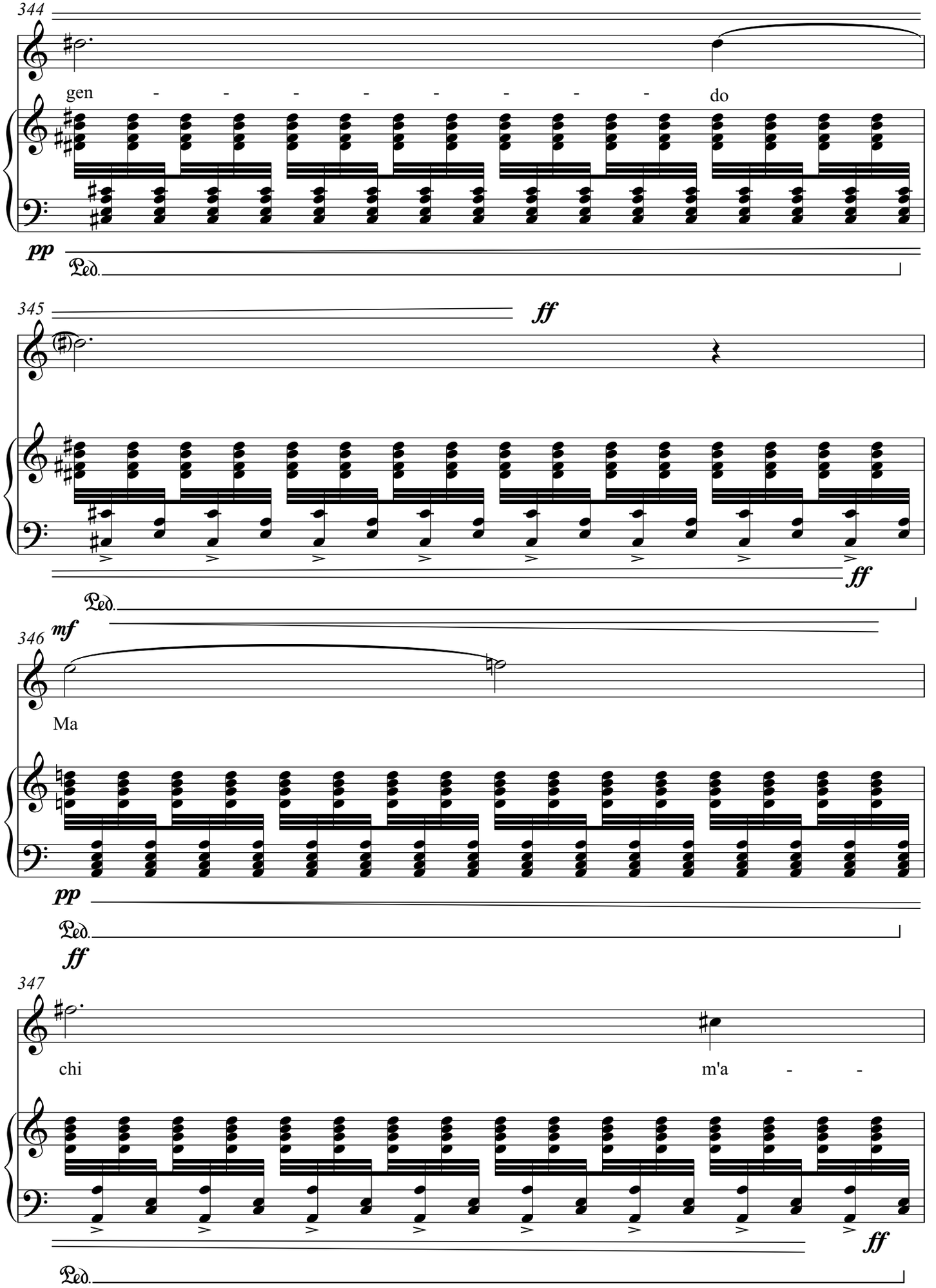

327
f
sor - - - te,
La vi - ta
f
ff
8vb
Ped.
8vb
Ped.
330
la - - - - sci - o
p
f
334
sfp
f
pp
e me ne va - do a mor - - te.
pp
mf
ff
8va
pp
pp
Ped.
Ped.

Mercè grido piangendo

(based on madrigal No. 11 of book V by Carlo Gesualdo)

William Grosvenor Neil




344
gen - - - - - - - - do
pp
Ped.
345
ff
ff
Ped.
346
mf
Ma
pp
Ped.
ff
347
chi
m'a - -
ff
Ped.

348

mf

scol - - - - - ta?

pp *ff*

Ped.

349

mf

Ma

350

f

chi m'a - -

Ped.

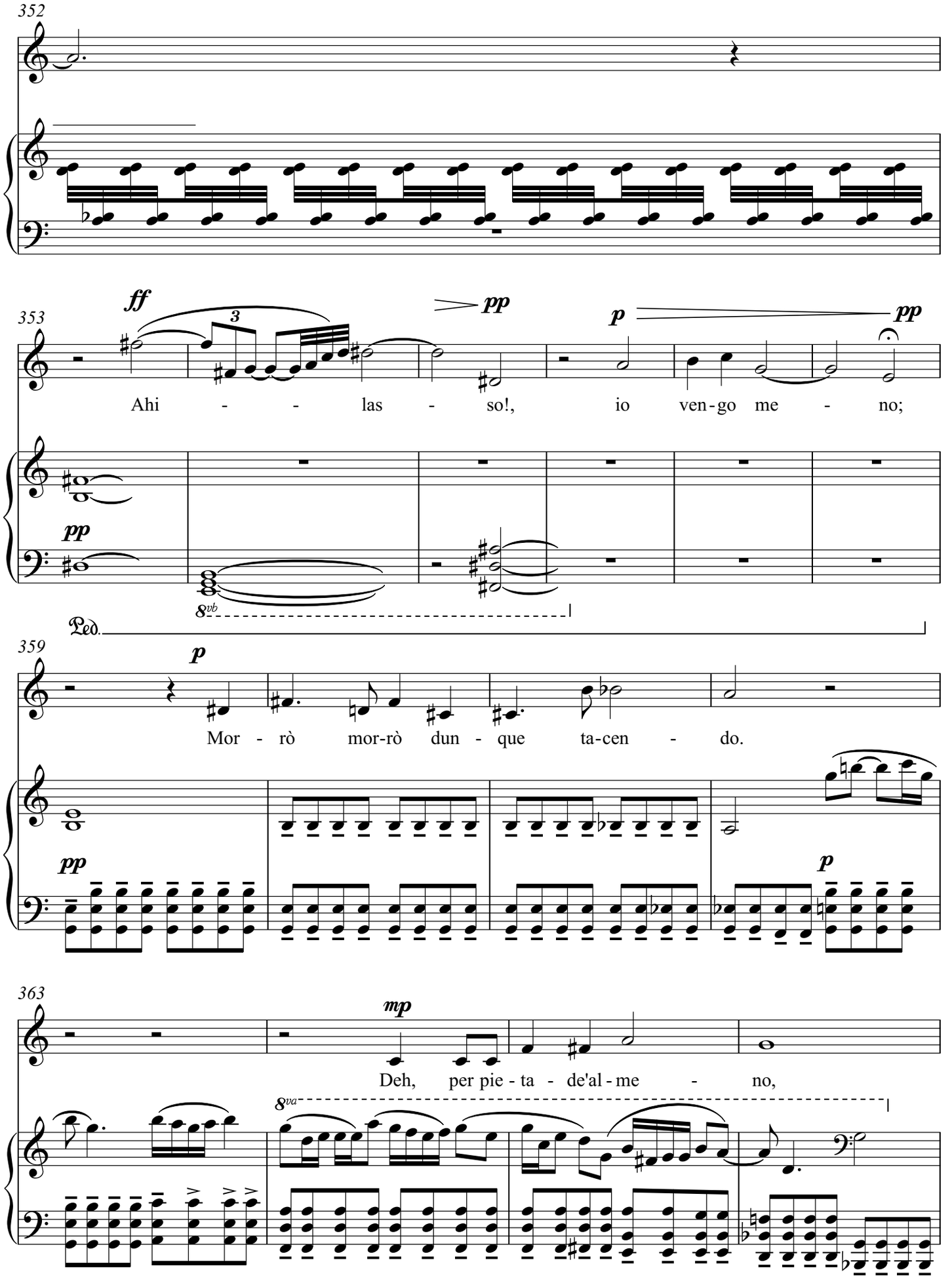
351

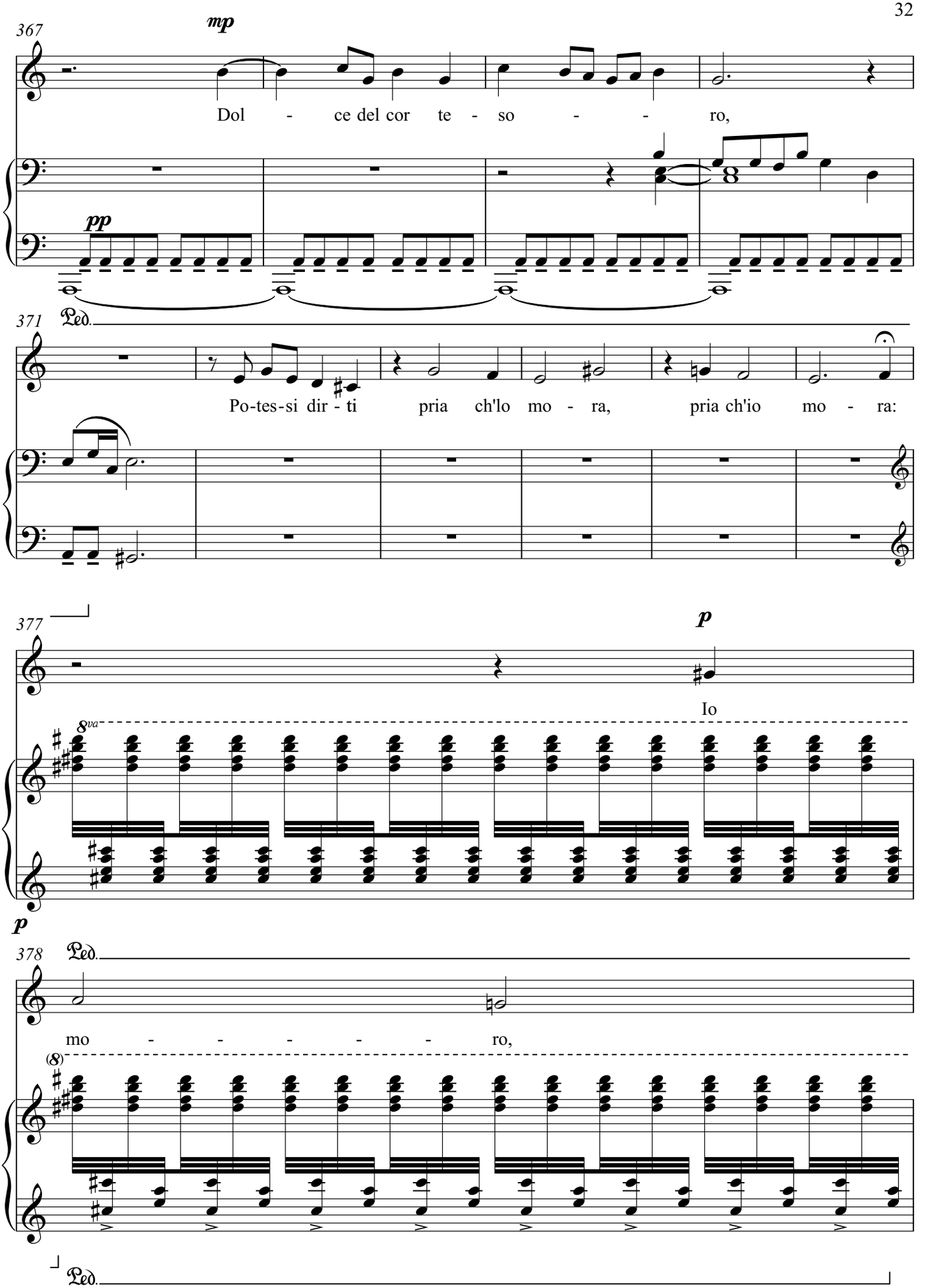
p

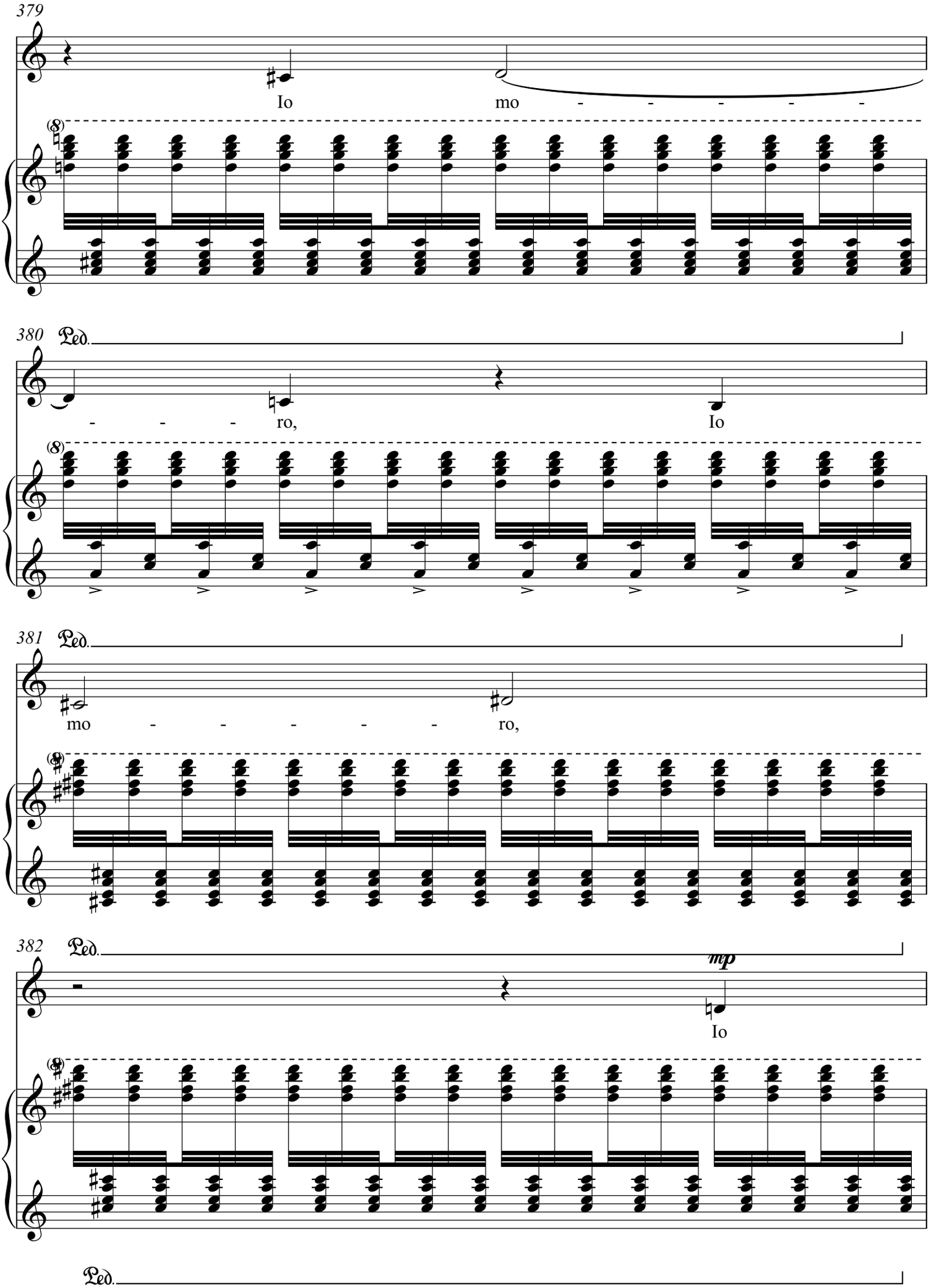
scol - - - - - ta?

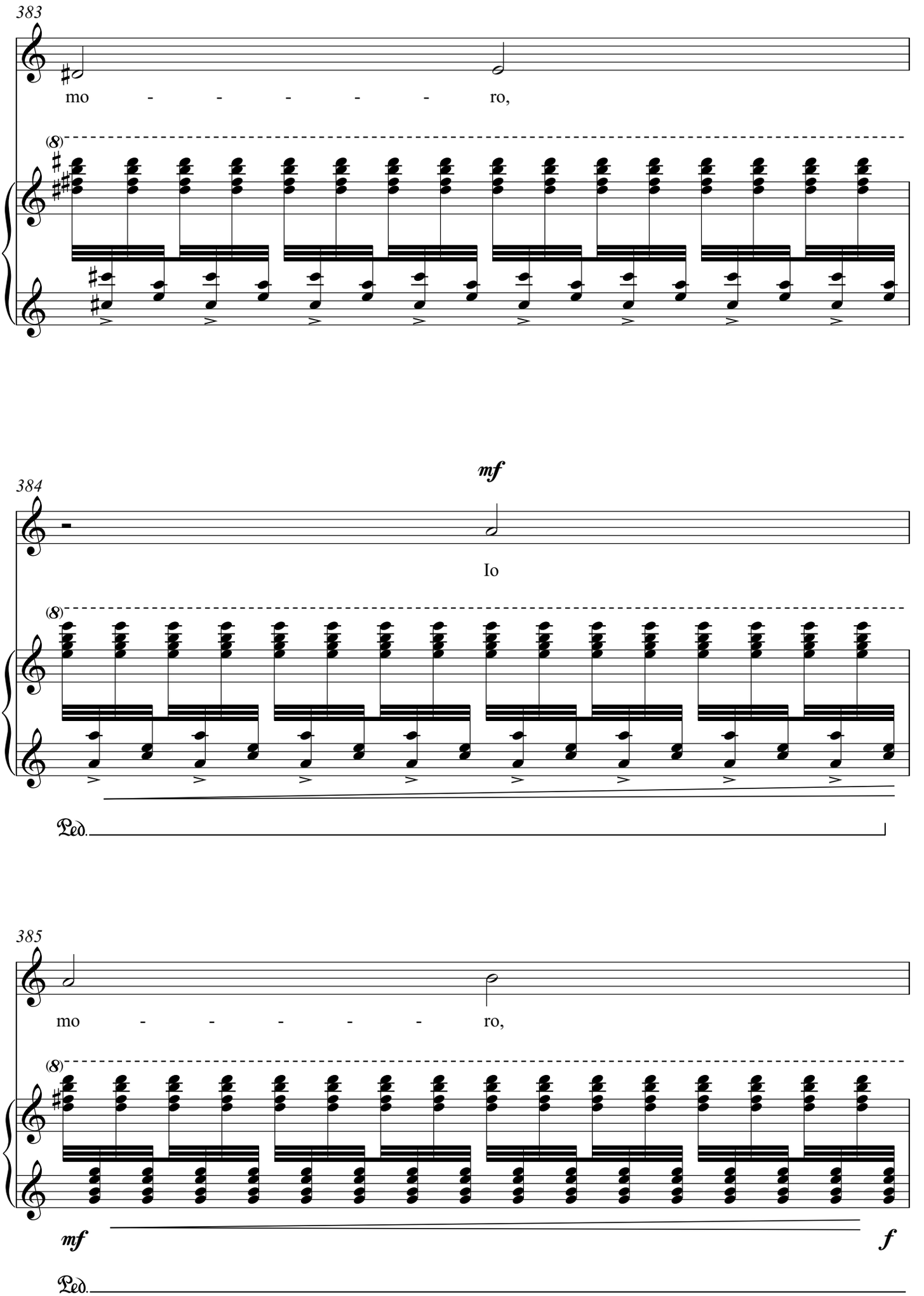
p

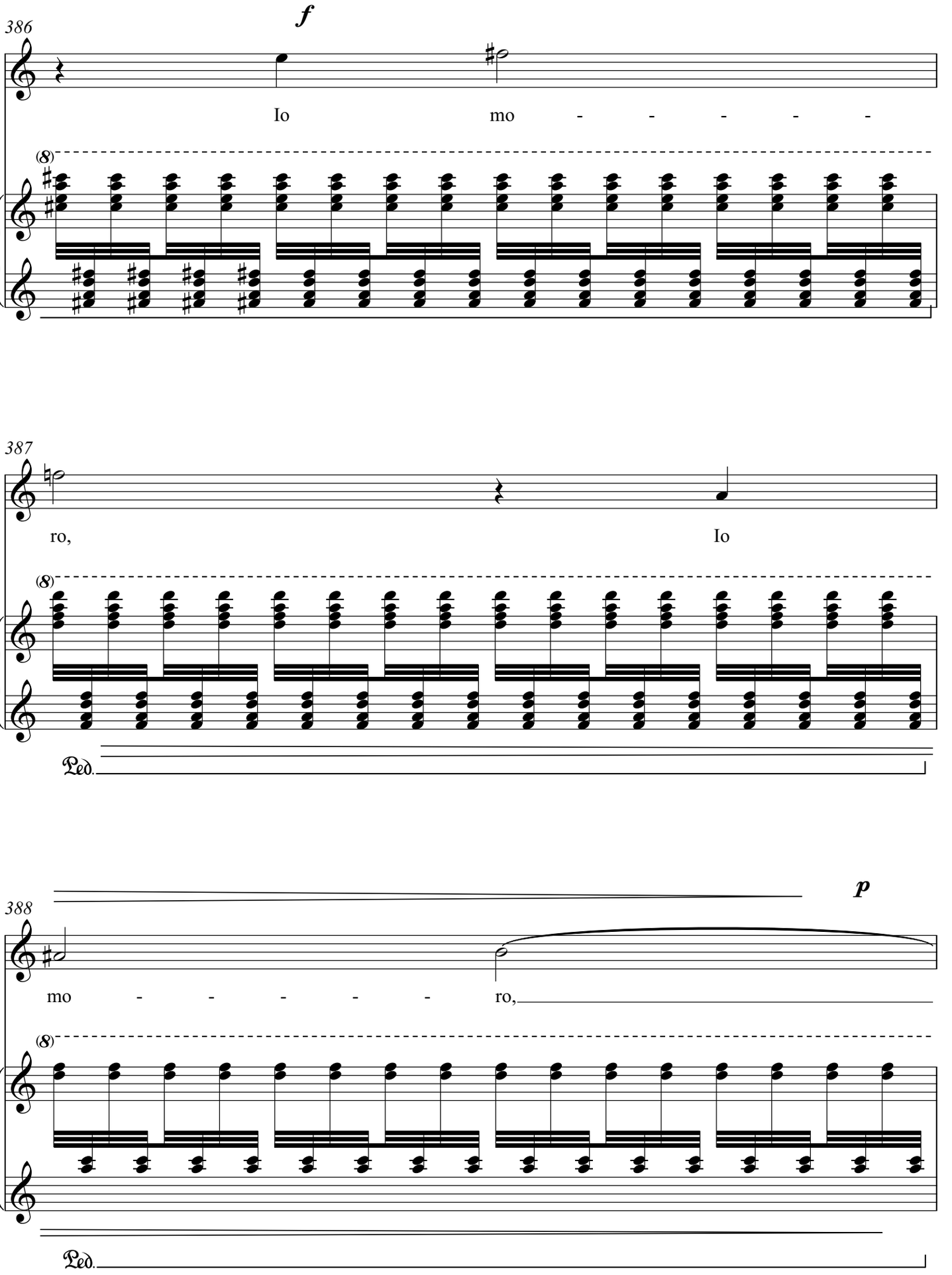
Ped.


352
353
ff
pp
p
pp
Ahi - - las - so!, io ven-go me - no;
8vb
Ped.
359
p
Mor - rò mor-rò dun - que ta-cen - do.
363
mp
Deh, per pie - ta - de'al - me - no,
8va


367
mp
Dol - ce del cor te - so - - ro,
pp
371
Ped.
Po-tes-si dir - ti pria ch'lo mo - ra, pria ch'io mo - ra:
377
p
Io
8va
p
378
Ped.
mo - - - - - ro,
(8)
Ped.


379
Io
mo - - - - -
380
Ped.
- - - ro,
Io
381
Ped.
mo - - - - - ro,
382
Ped.
mp
Io
Ped.


383
mo - - - - - ro,
(8)
384
mf
Io
(8)
Ped.
385
mo - - - - - ro,
(8)
mf
f
Ped.


386
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387
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388
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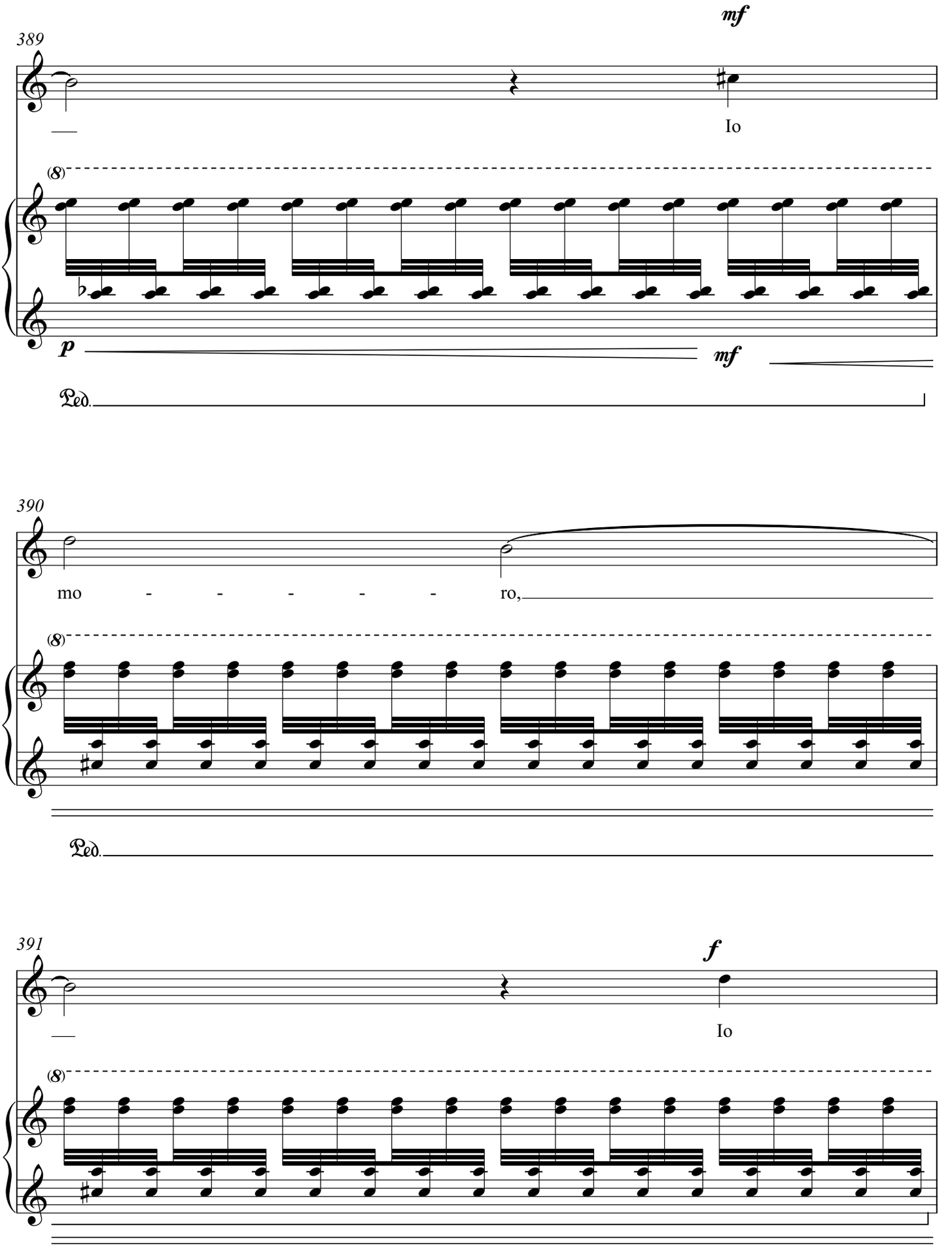
389
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390
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391
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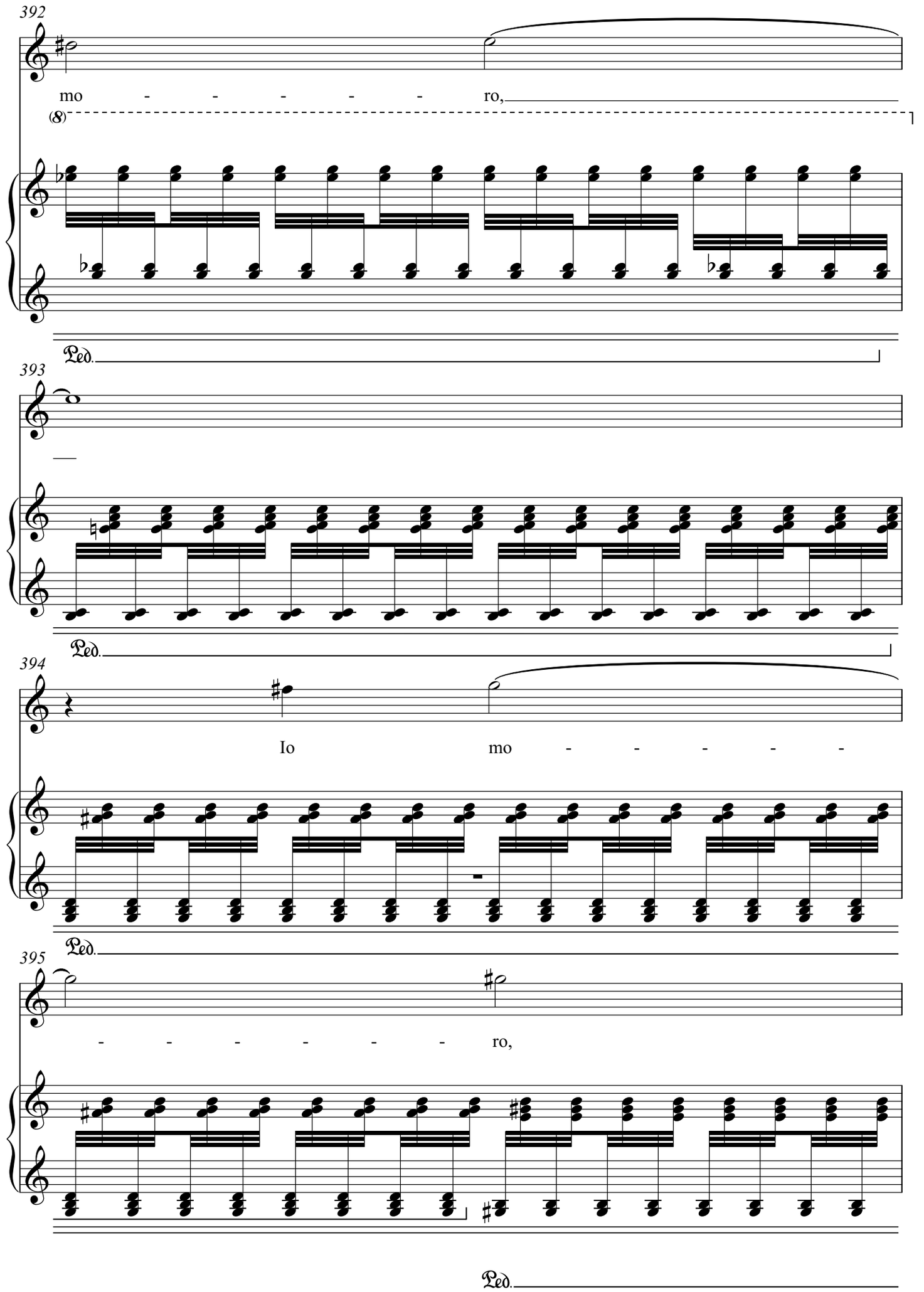
392
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393
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394
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395
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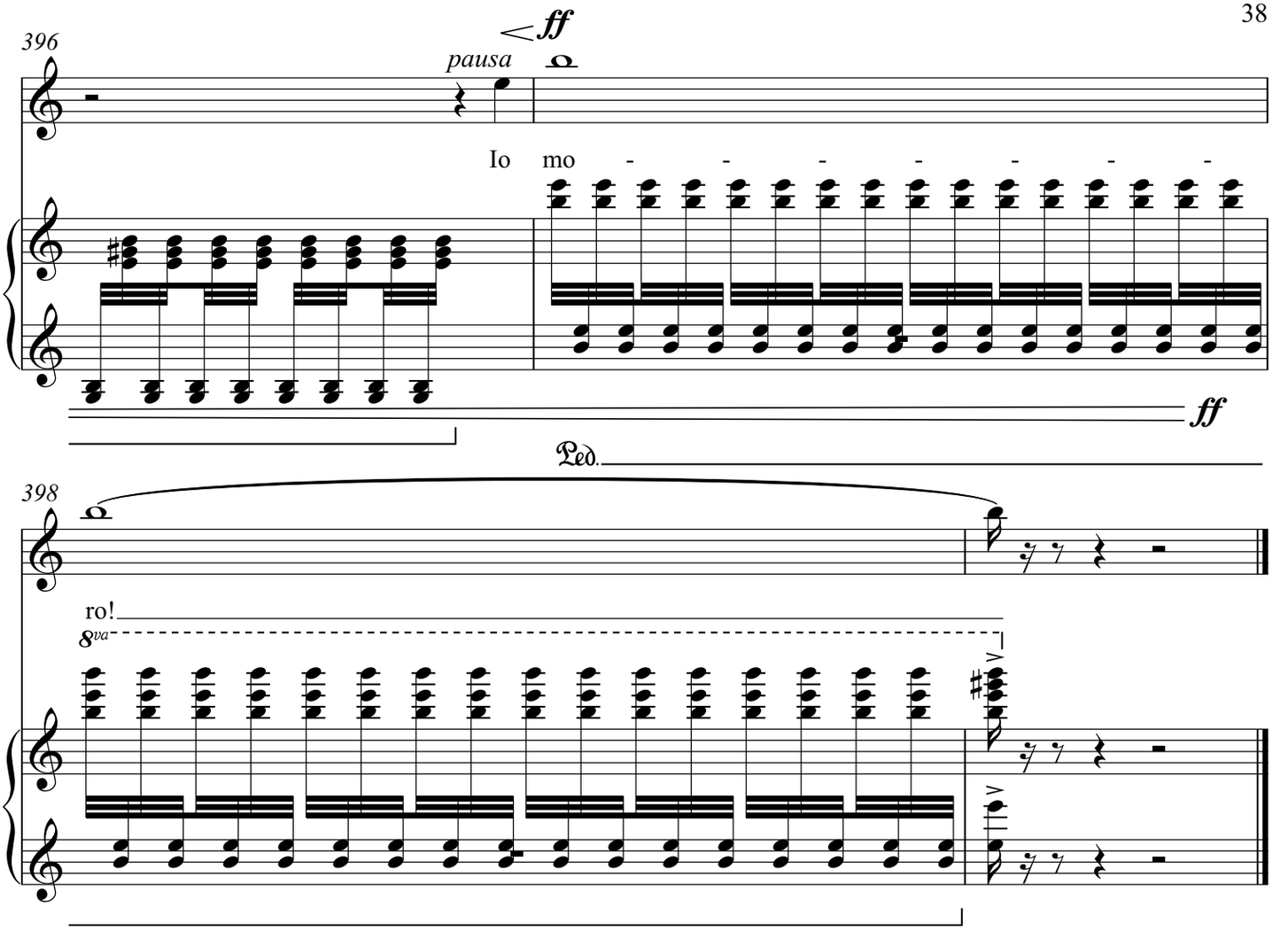
396
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398
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