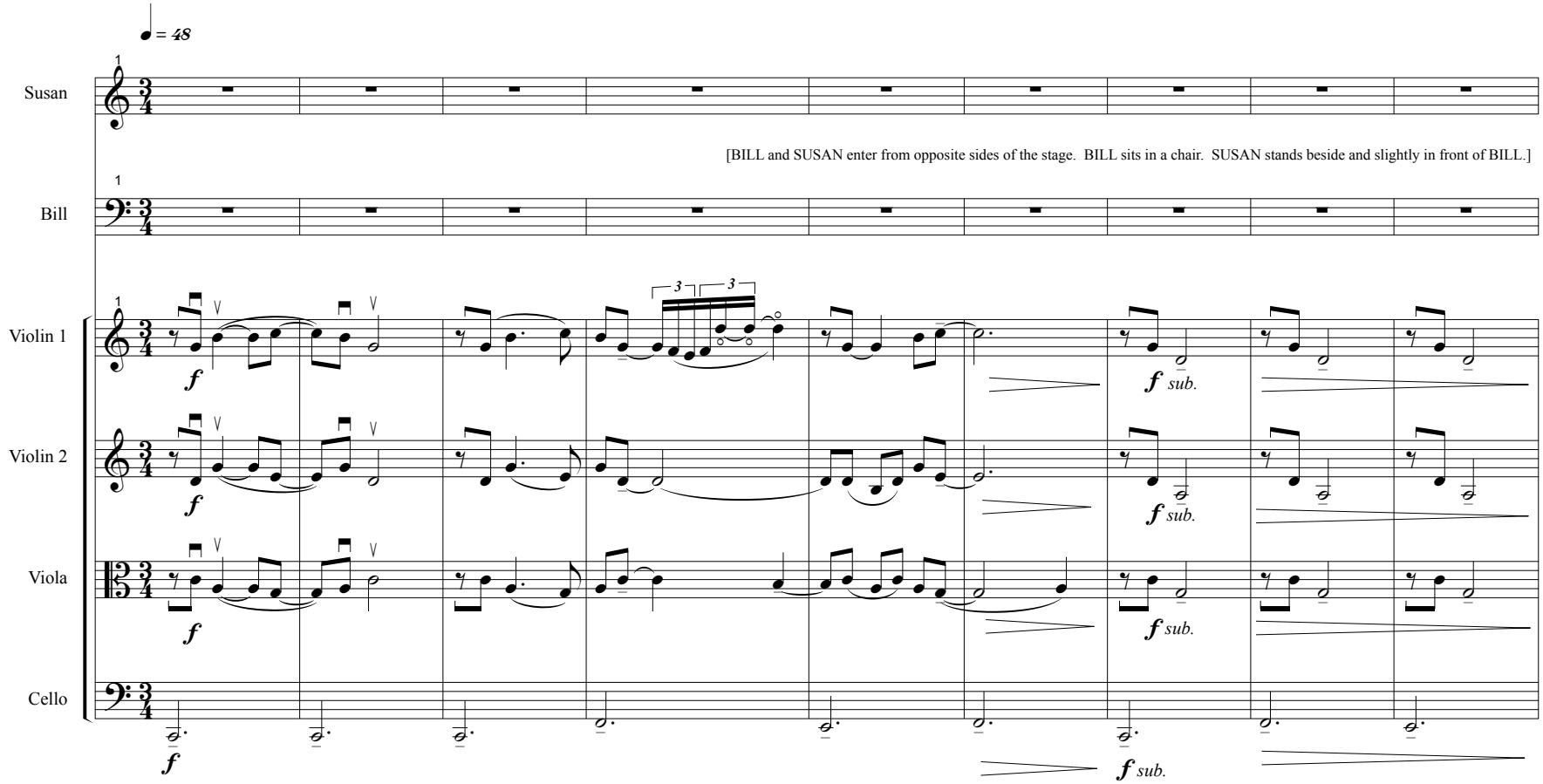
If I Could Stand, If I Could Sit, or, Oh, Bill, Oh, Susan

for soprano, baritone and string quartet

Stuart Sherman

Jeffrey Lependorf



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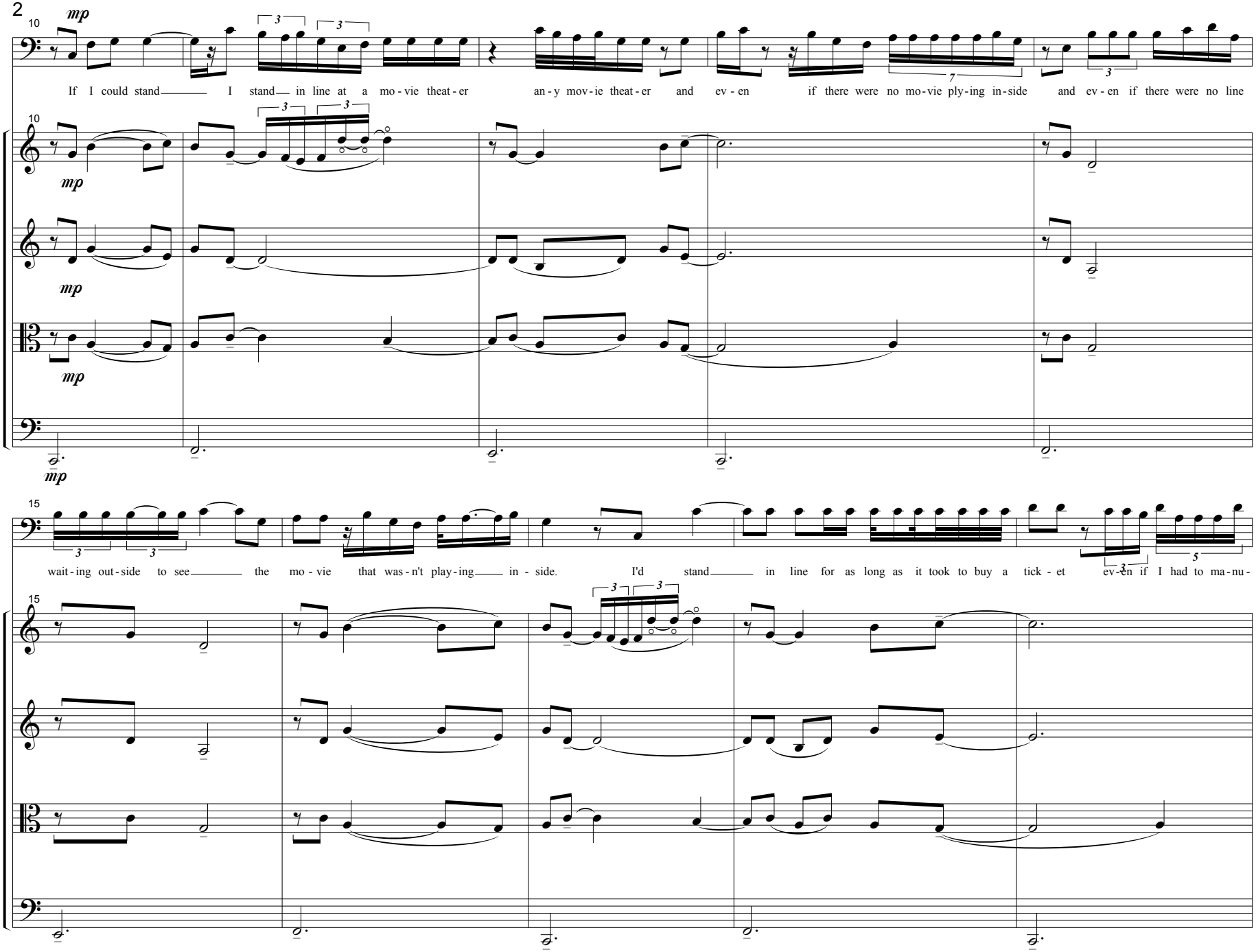
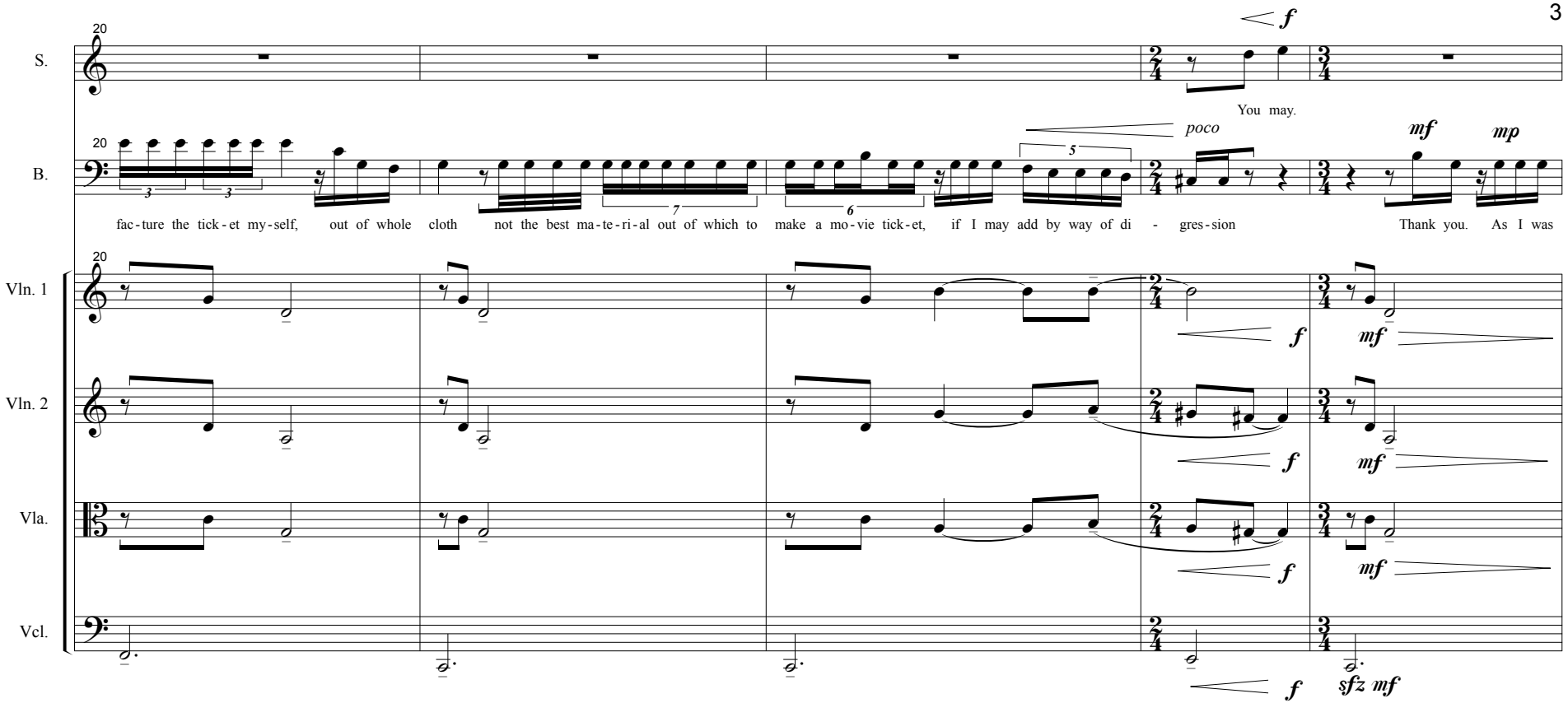
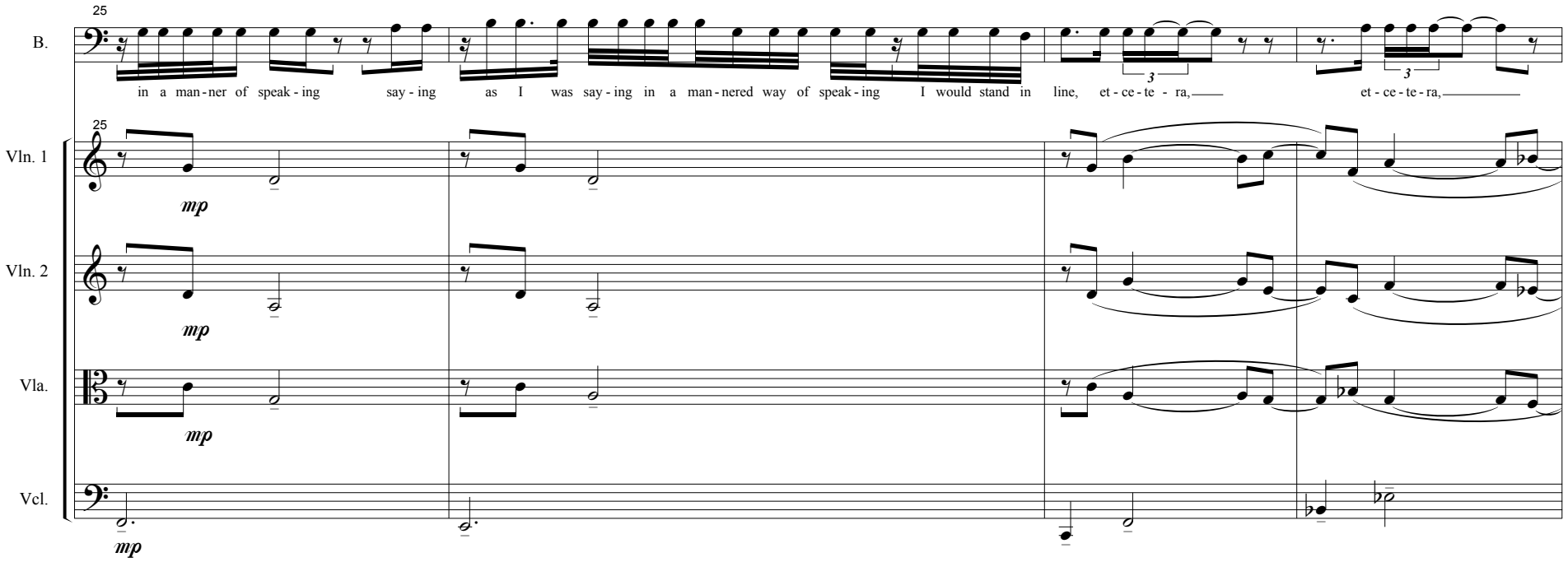
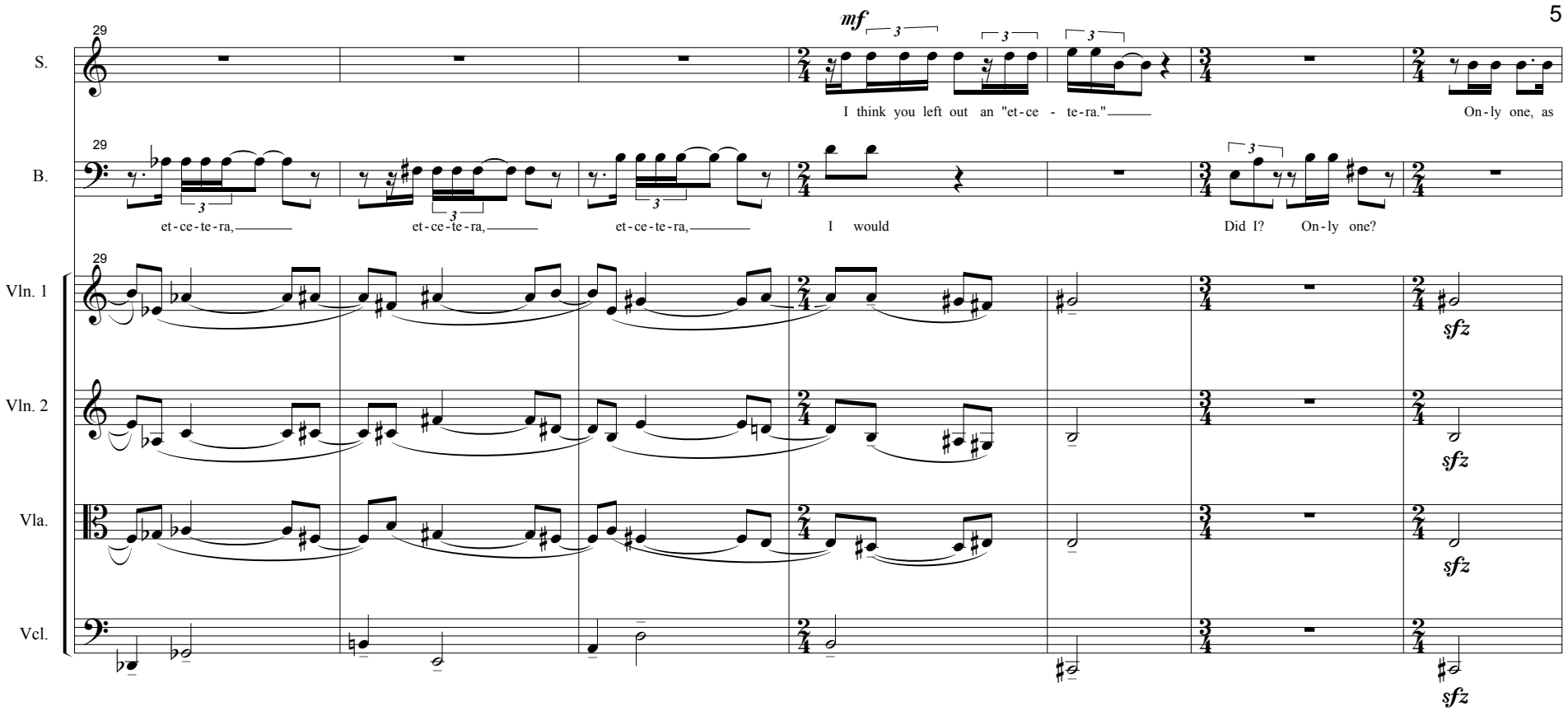
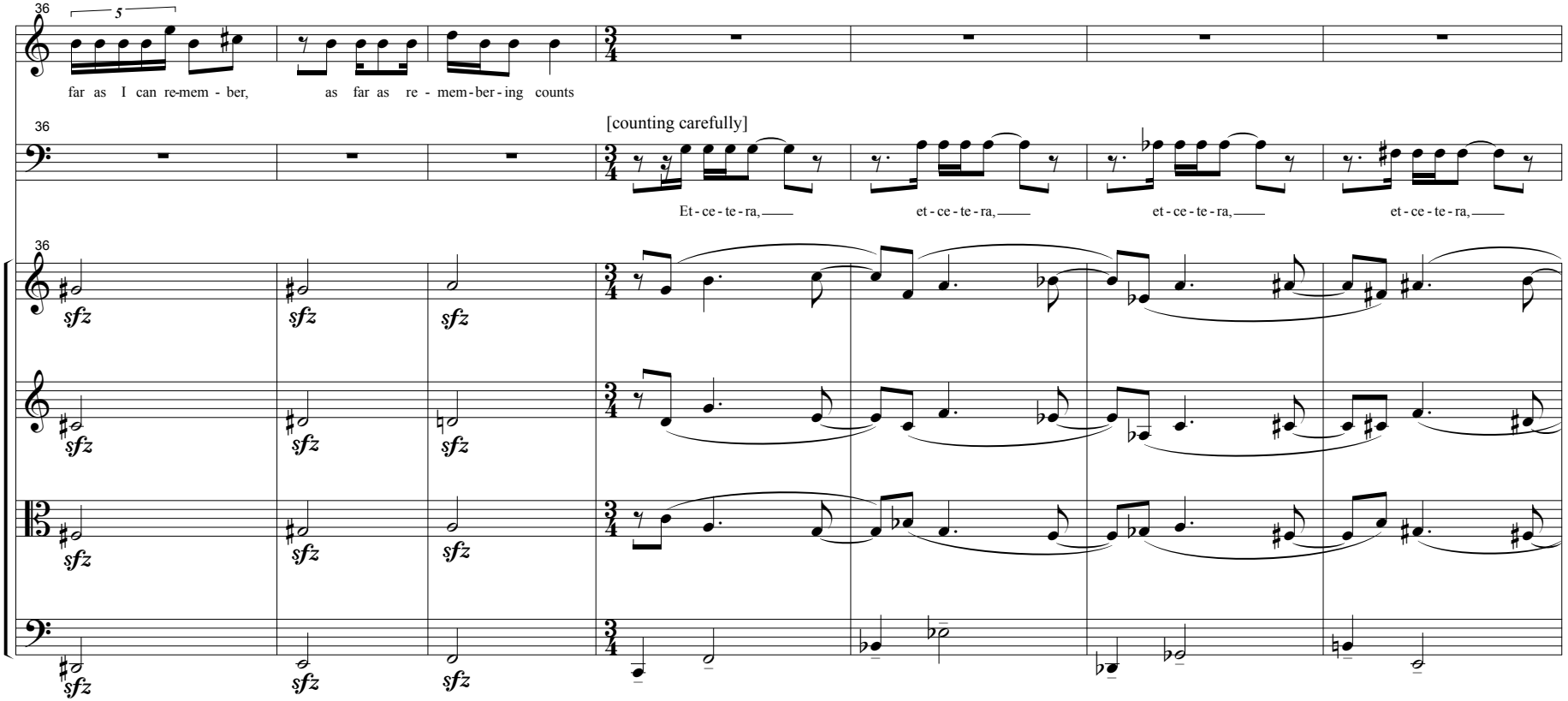
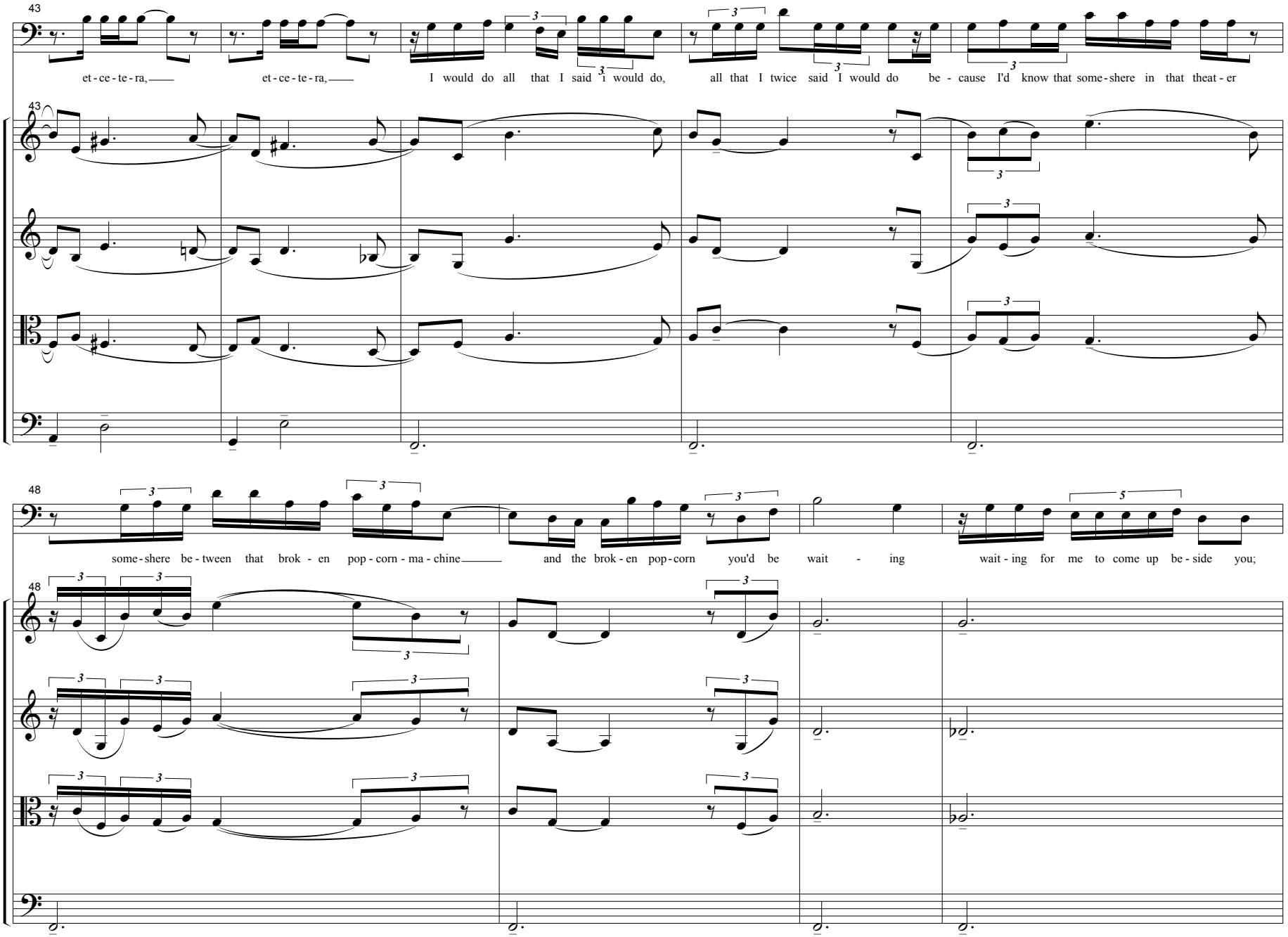

10
mp
B.
If I could stand I stand in line at a mo-vie theat-er an-y mov-ie theat-er and ev-en if there were no mo-vie ply-ing in-side and ev-en if there were no line
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
15
wait-ing out-side to see the mo-vie that was-n't play-ing in-side. I'd stand in line for as long as it took to buy a tick-et ev-en if I had to ma-nu-

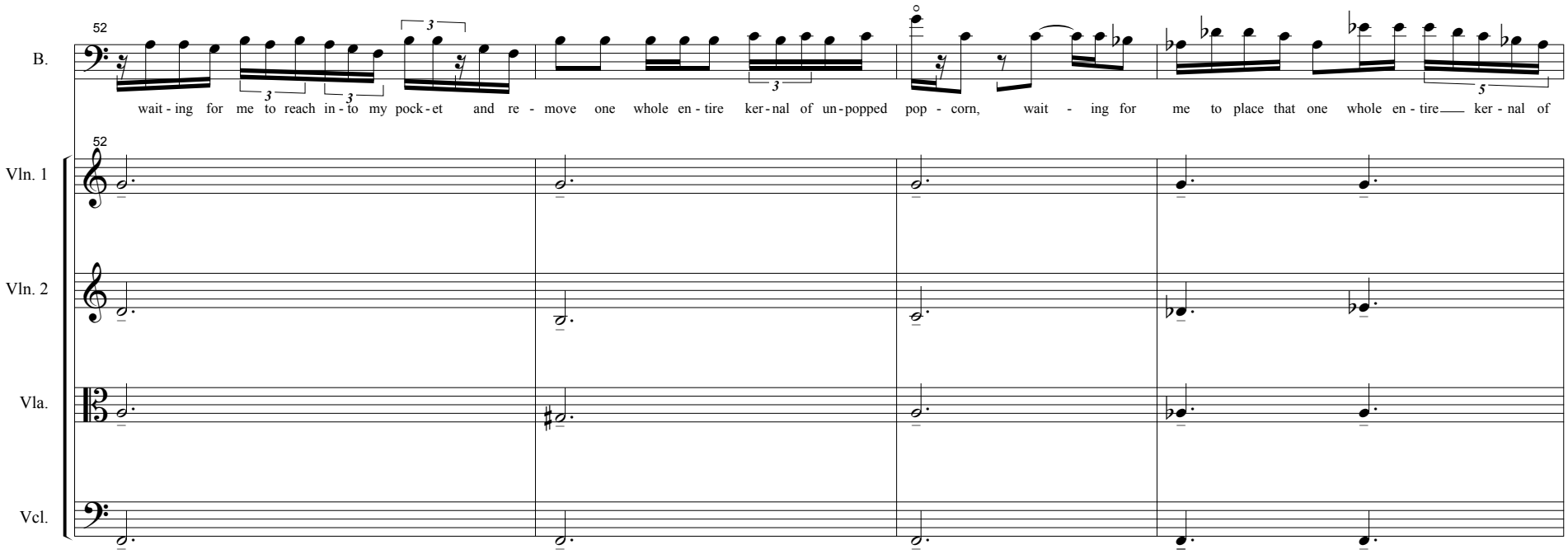

20
S.
f
You may.
B.
poco
mf
mp
fac-ture the tick-et my-self, out of whole cloth not the best ma-te-ri-al out of which to make a mo-vie tick-et, if I may add by way of di - gres-sion Thank you. As I was
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
sfz mf

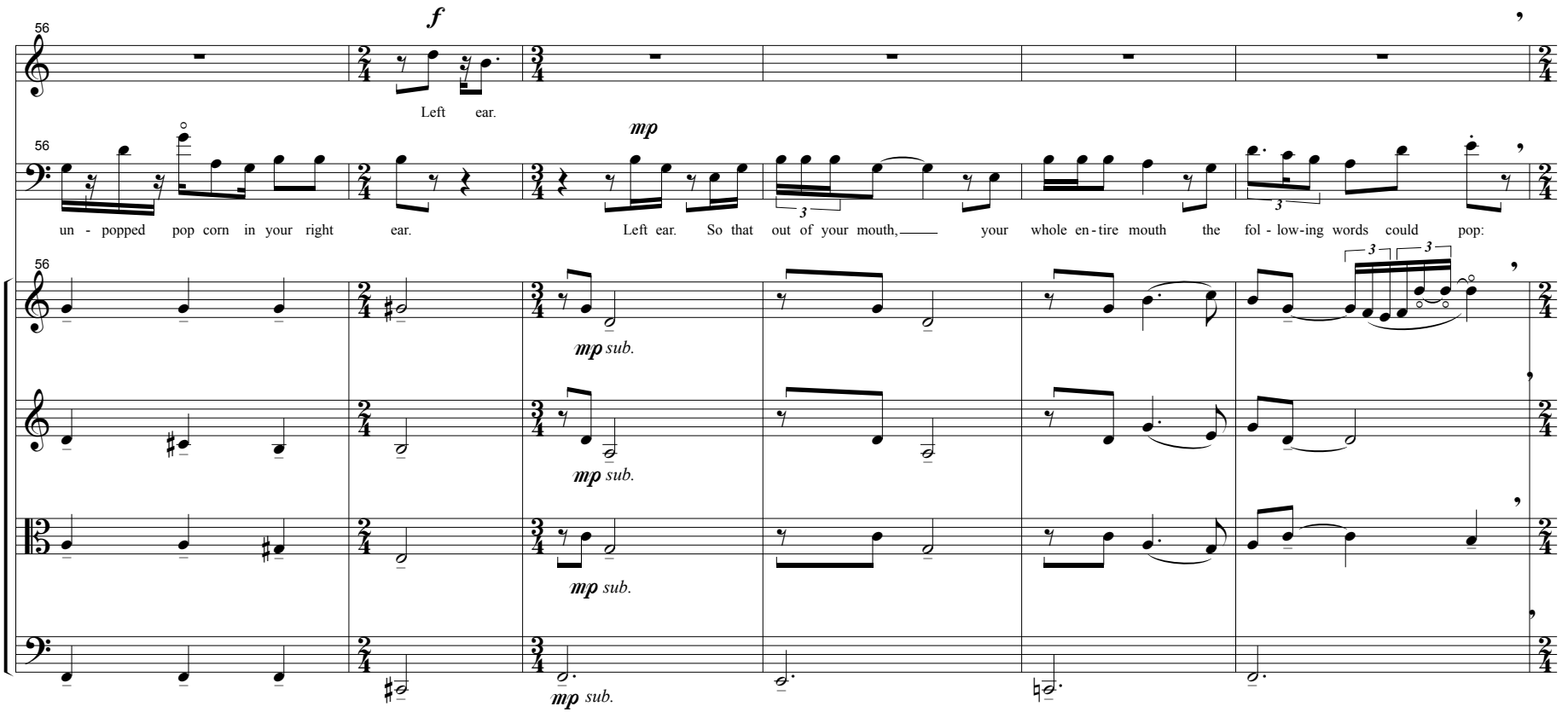

25
B.
in a man-ner of speak-ing say-ing as I was say-ing in a man-nered way of speak-ing I would stand in line, et-ce-te-ra, et-ce-te-ra,
25
Vln. 1
mp
Vln. 2
mp
Vla.
mp
Vcl.
mp

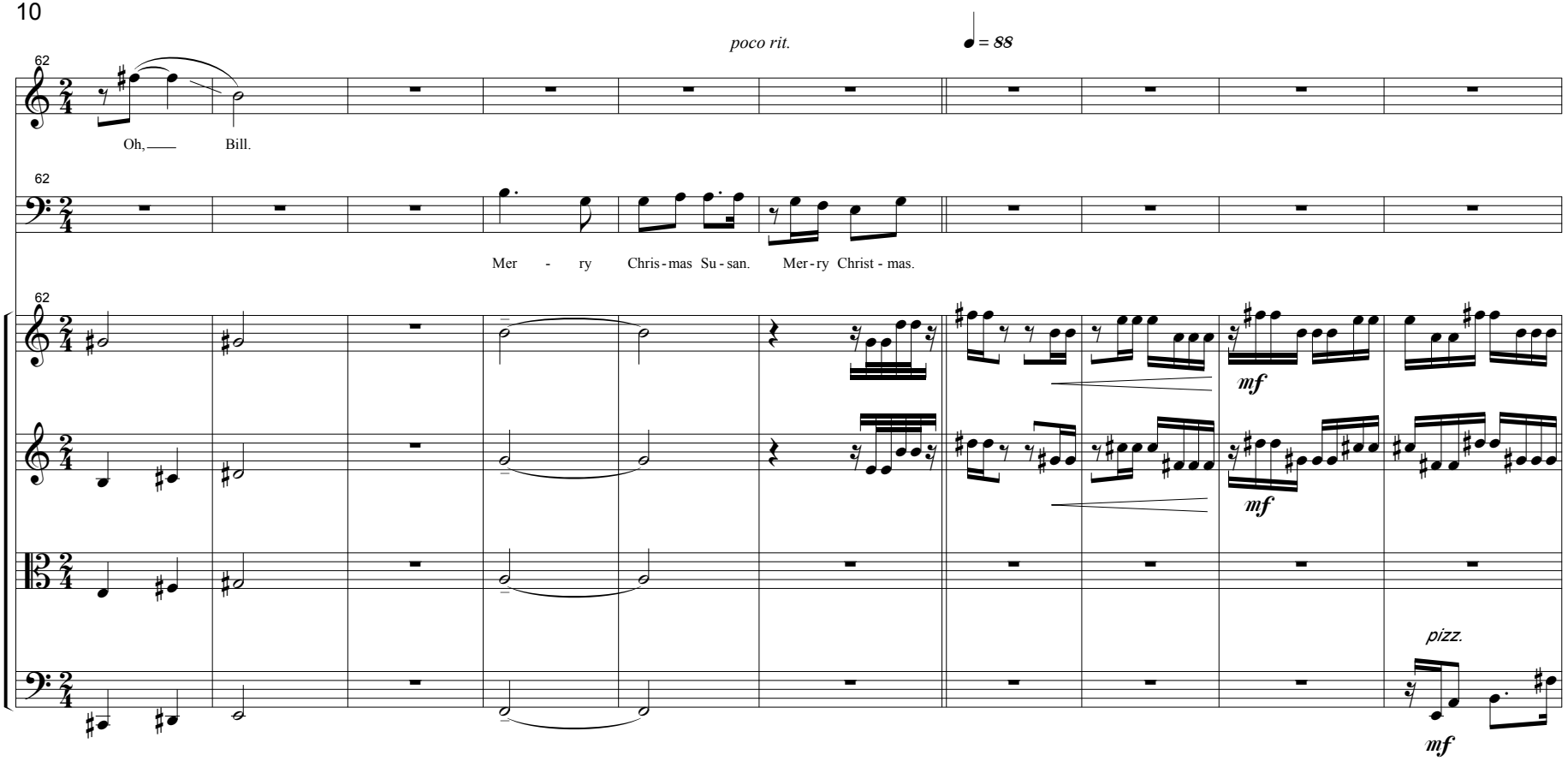

29
S.
mf
I think you left out an "et-ce - te-ra."
On-ly one, as
B.
et-ce-te-ra,
et-ce-te-ra,
et-ce-te-ra,
I would
Did I?
On-ly one?
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
sfz

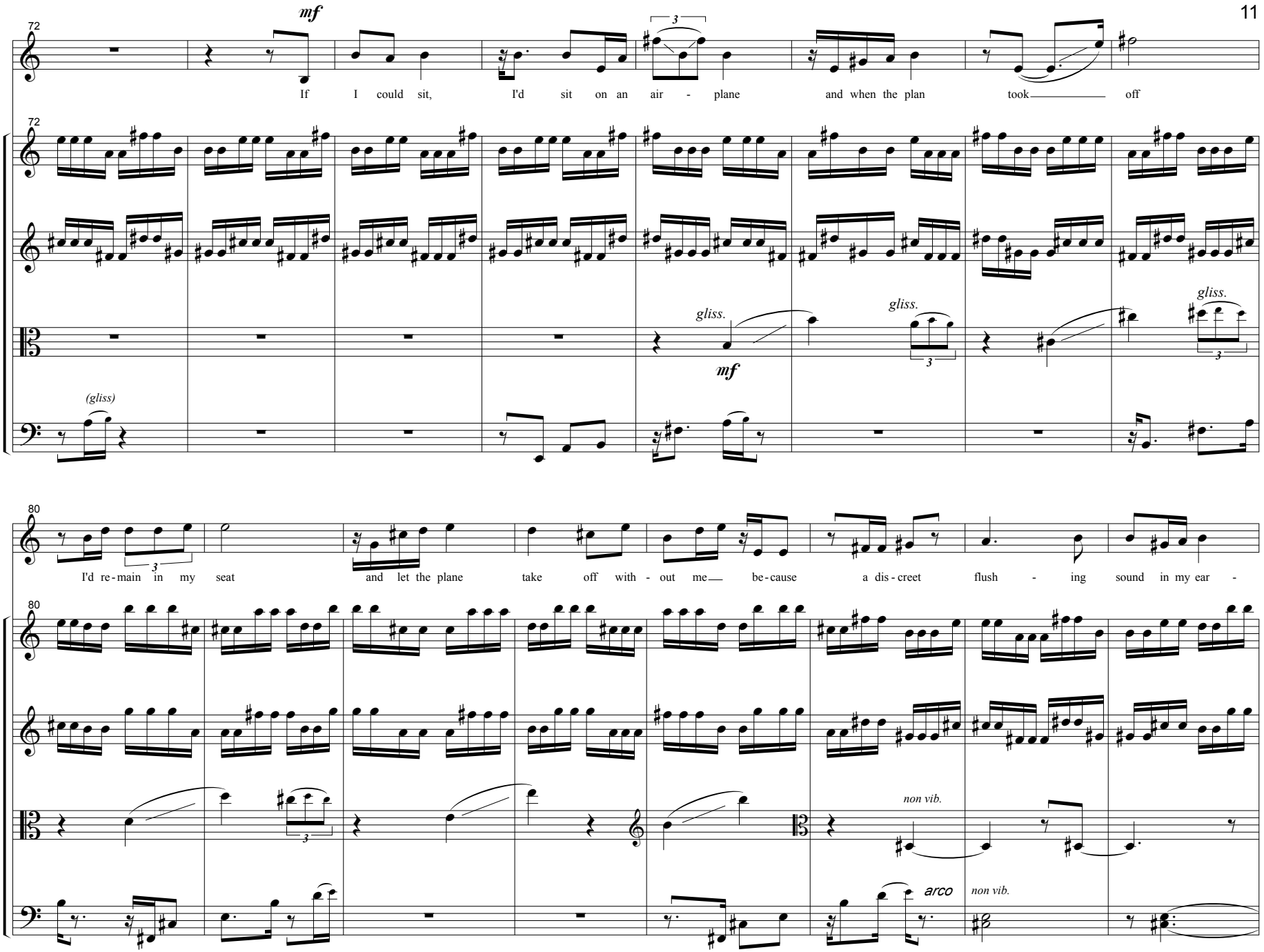

36
5
S.
far as I can re-mem - ber, as far as re - mem-ber-ing counts
36
[counting carefully]
B.
Et - ce - te - ra, et - ce - te - ra, et - ce - te - ra, et - ce - te - ra,
36
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
sfz

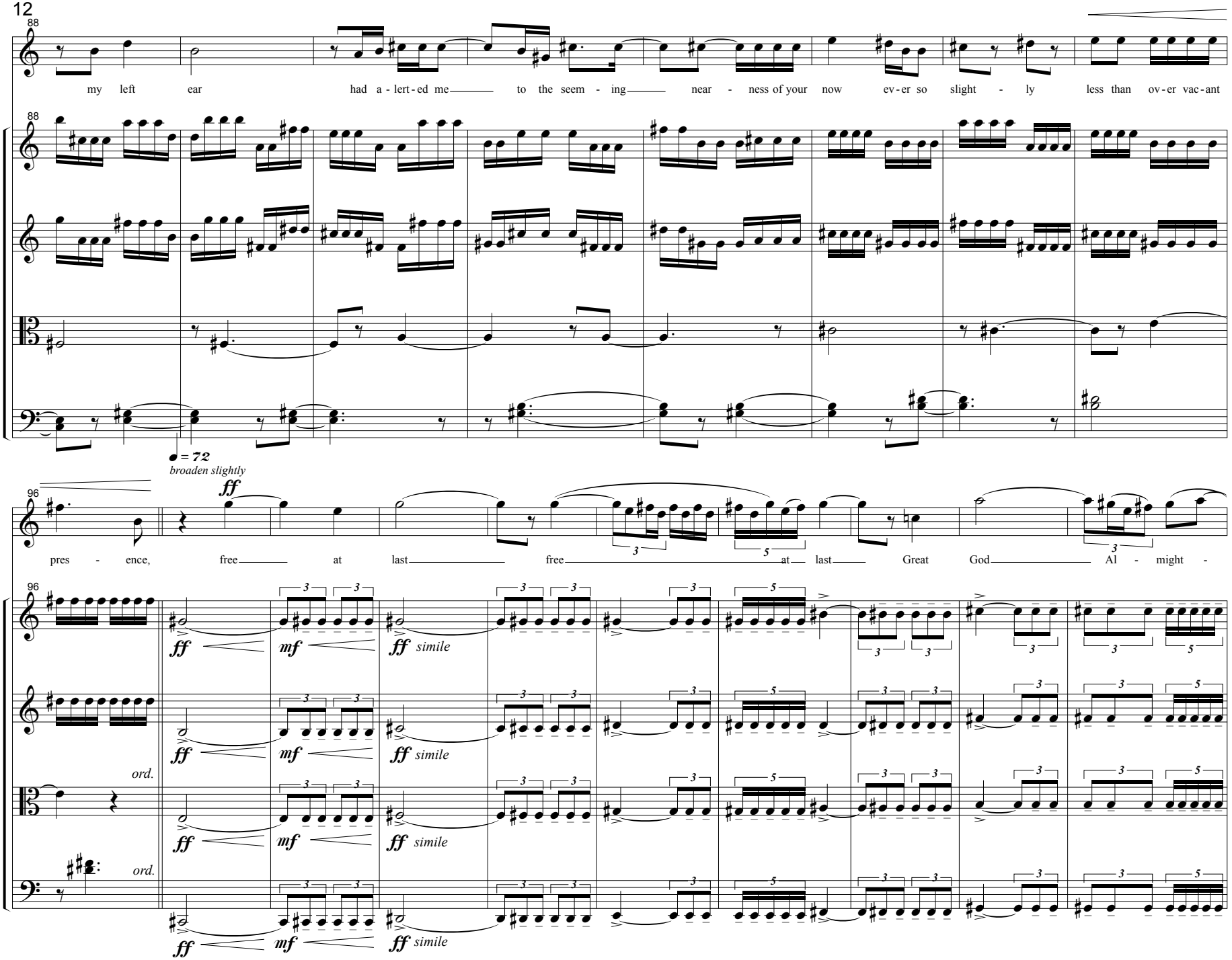

43
B.
et - ce - te - ra,
et - ce - te - ra,
I would do all that I said I would do,
all that I twice said I would do
be - cause I'd know that some - shere in that theat - er
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
48
some - shere be - tween that brok - en pop - corn - ma - chine
and the brok - en pop - corn
you'd be wait - ing
wait - ing for me to come up be - side you;

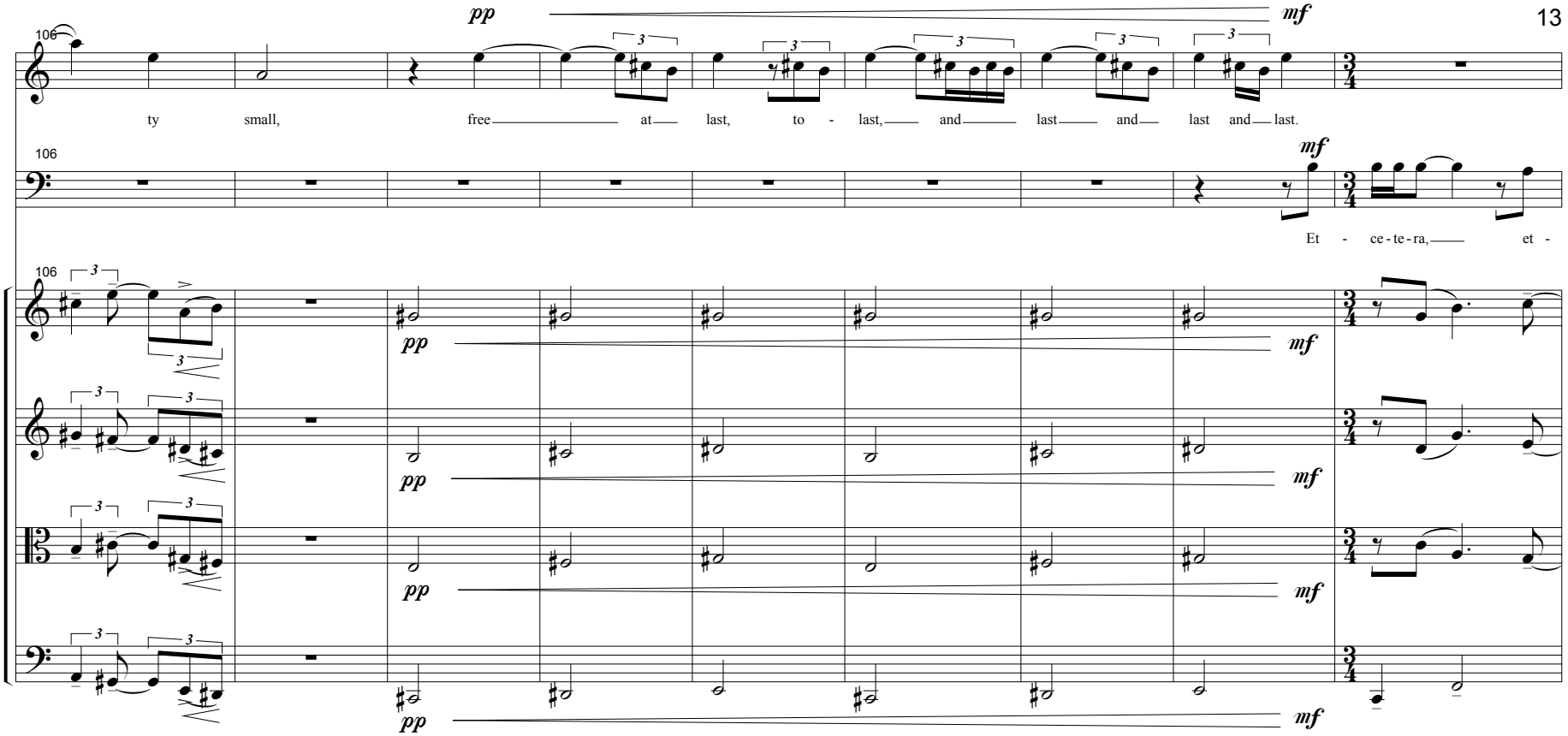

52
B.
wait - ing for me to reach in - to my pock - et and re - move one whole en - tire ker - nal of un - popped pop - corn, wait - ing for me to place that one whole en - tire ker - nal of
52
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.

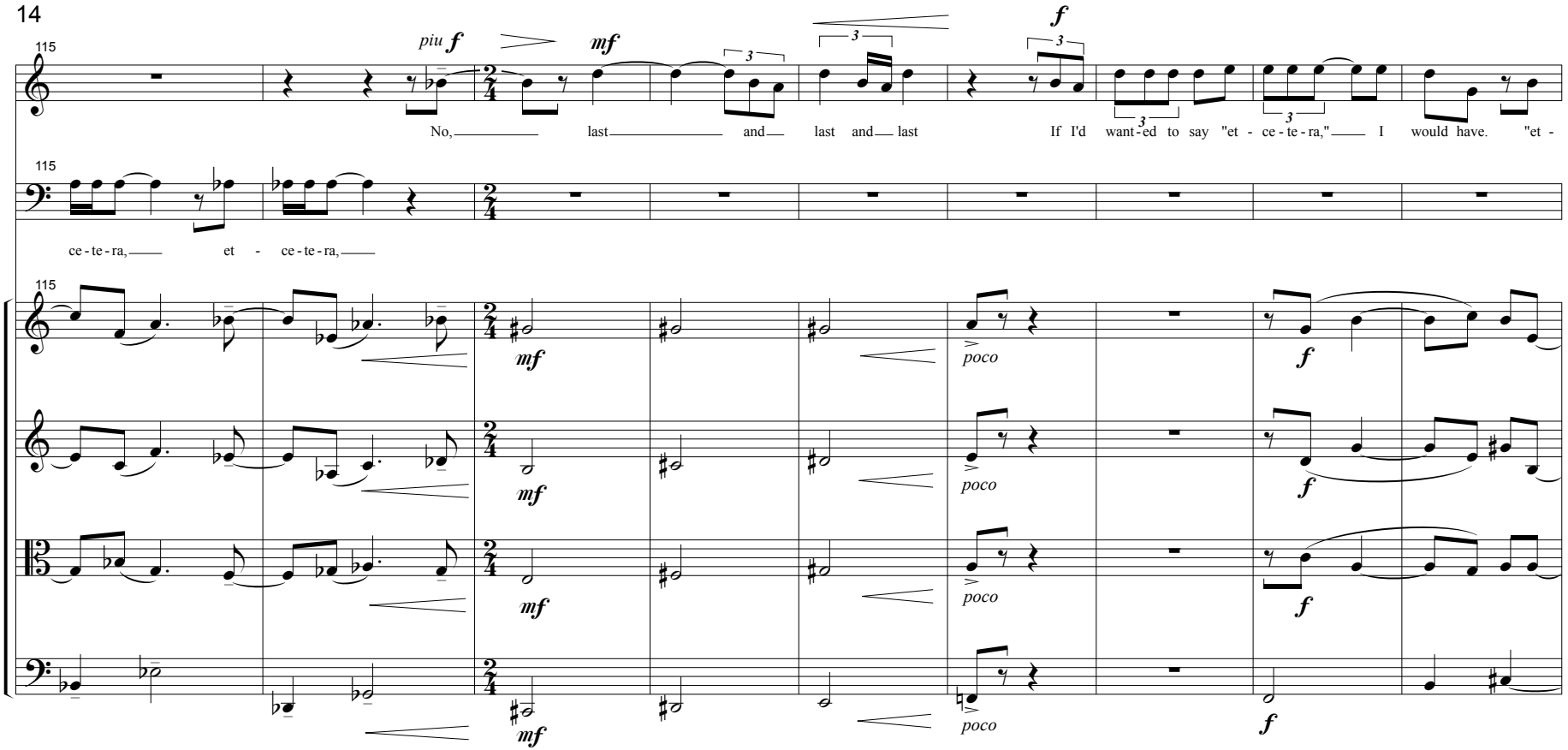

56
S.
f
Left ear.
56
B.
mp
un - popped pop corn in your right ear.
Left ear. So that out of your mouth, your whole en-tire mouth the fol - low-ing words could pop:
56
Vln. 1
mp sub.
Vln. 2
mp sub.
Vla.
mp sub.
Vcl.
mp sub.

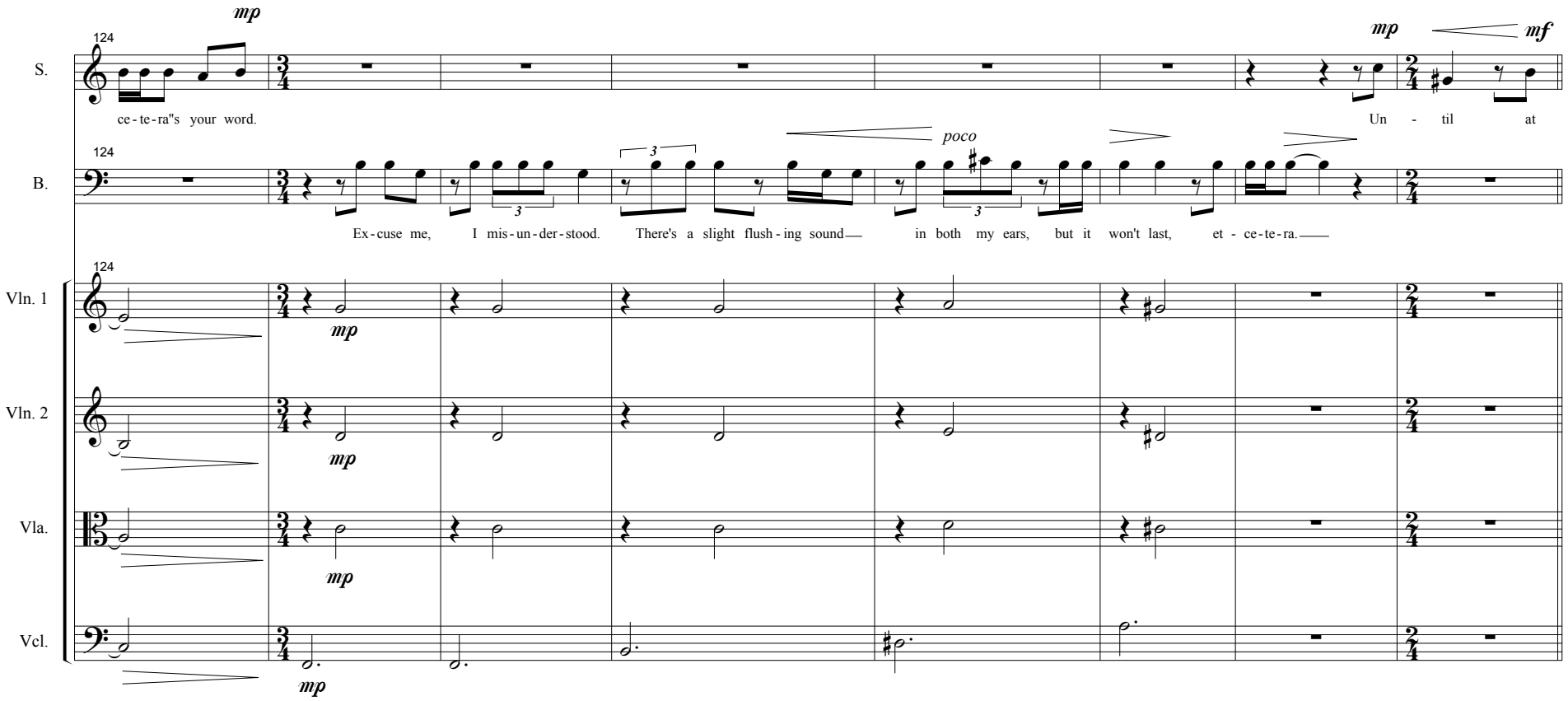

poco rit.
♩ = 88
62
S.
Oh, Bill.
B.
Mer - ry Chris - mas Su - san. Mer - ry Christ - mas.
Vln. 1
mf
Vln. 2
mf
Vla.
Vcl.
pizz.
mf

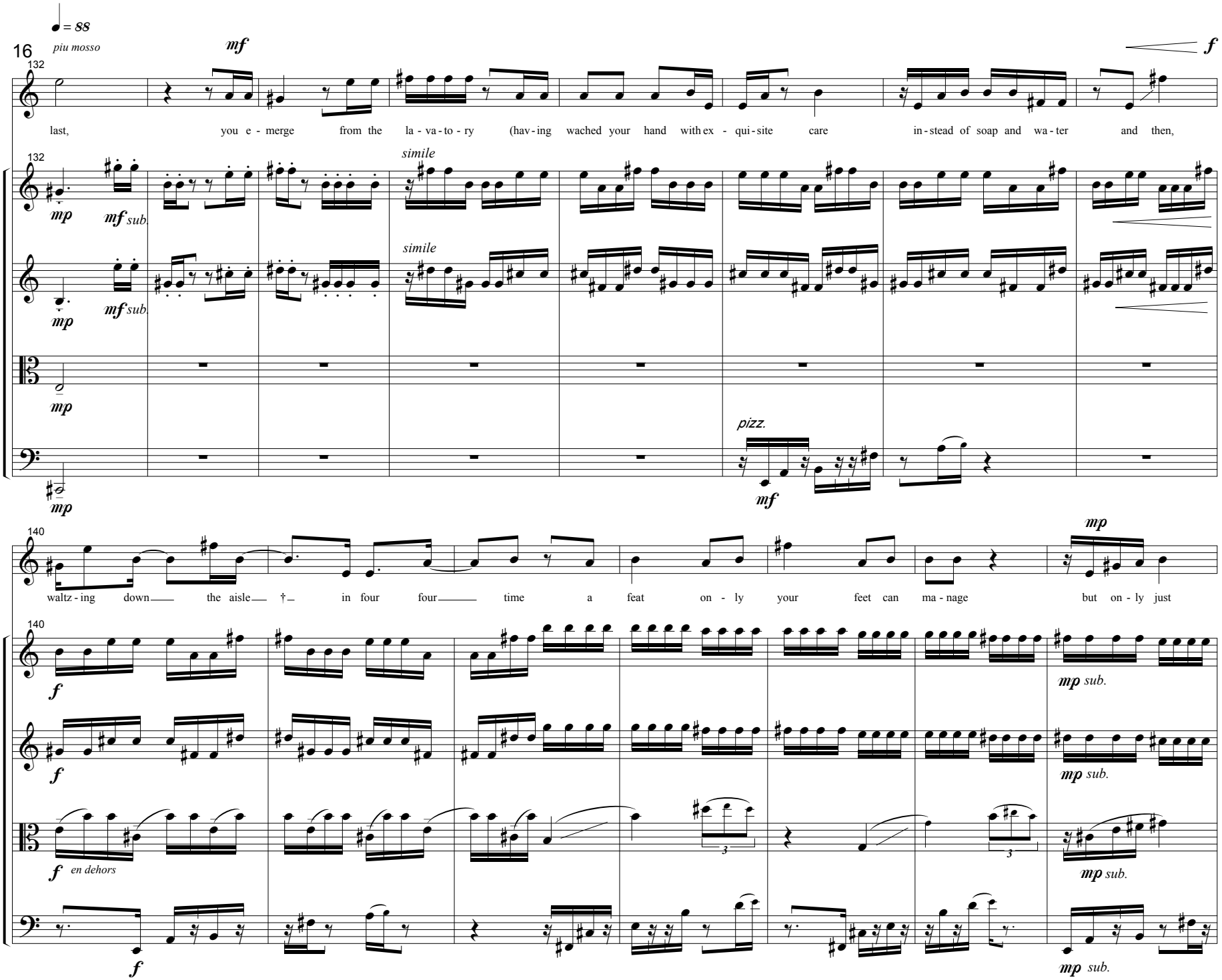

72
S.
mf
3
If I could sit, I'd sit on an air - plane and when the plan took off
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
3
3
mf
Vcl.
(gliss)
80
S.
3
I'd re-main in my seat and let the plane take off with - out me be-cause a dis-creet flush - ing sound in my ear -
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
non vib.
Vcl.
arco
non vib.

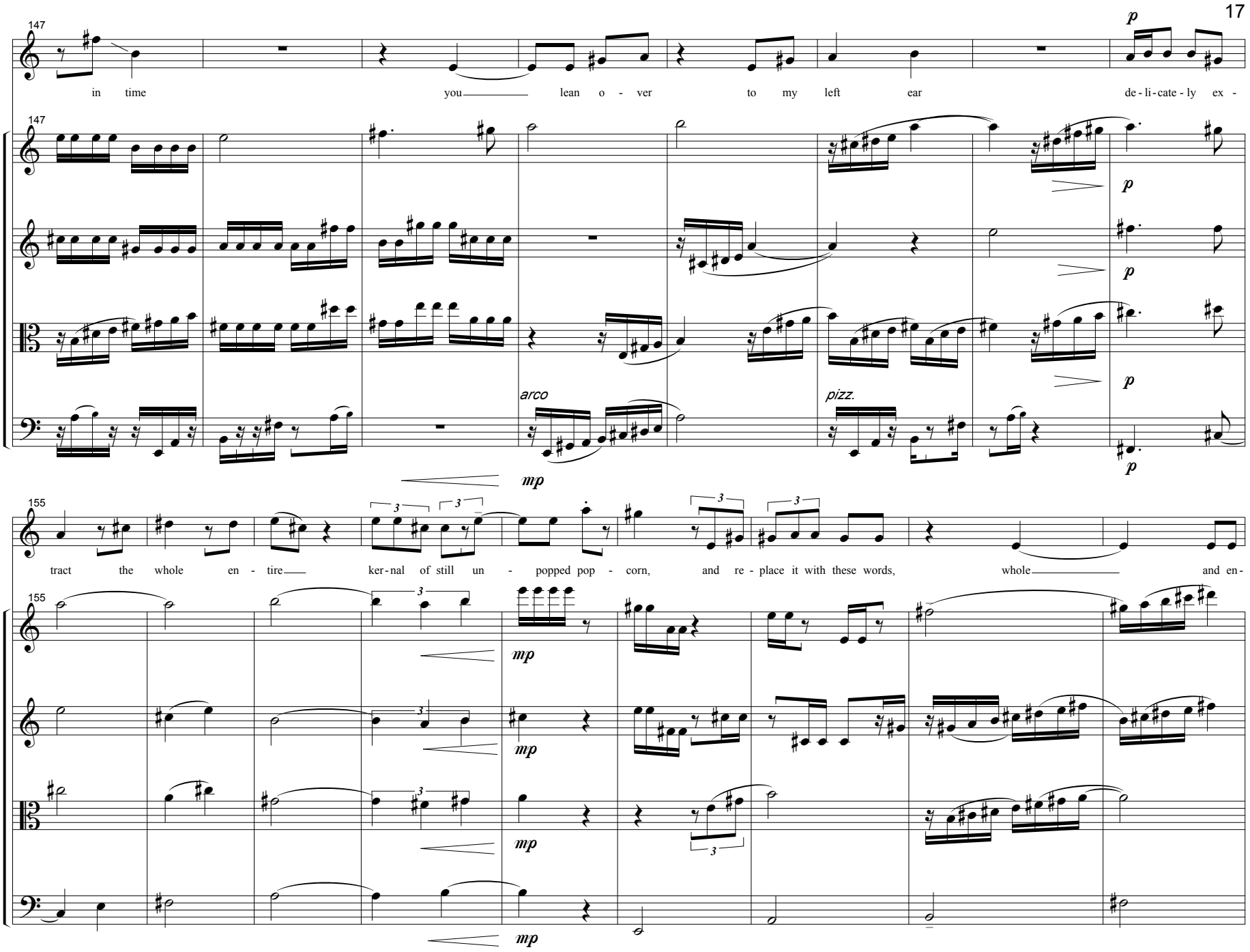

88
S.
my left ear had a - lert - ed me to the seem - ing near - ness of your now ev - er so slight - ly less than ov - er vac - ant
88
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
♩ = 72
broaden slightly
96
S.
pres - ence, free at last free at last Great God Al - might -
96
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
ff
mf
ff simile
ord.

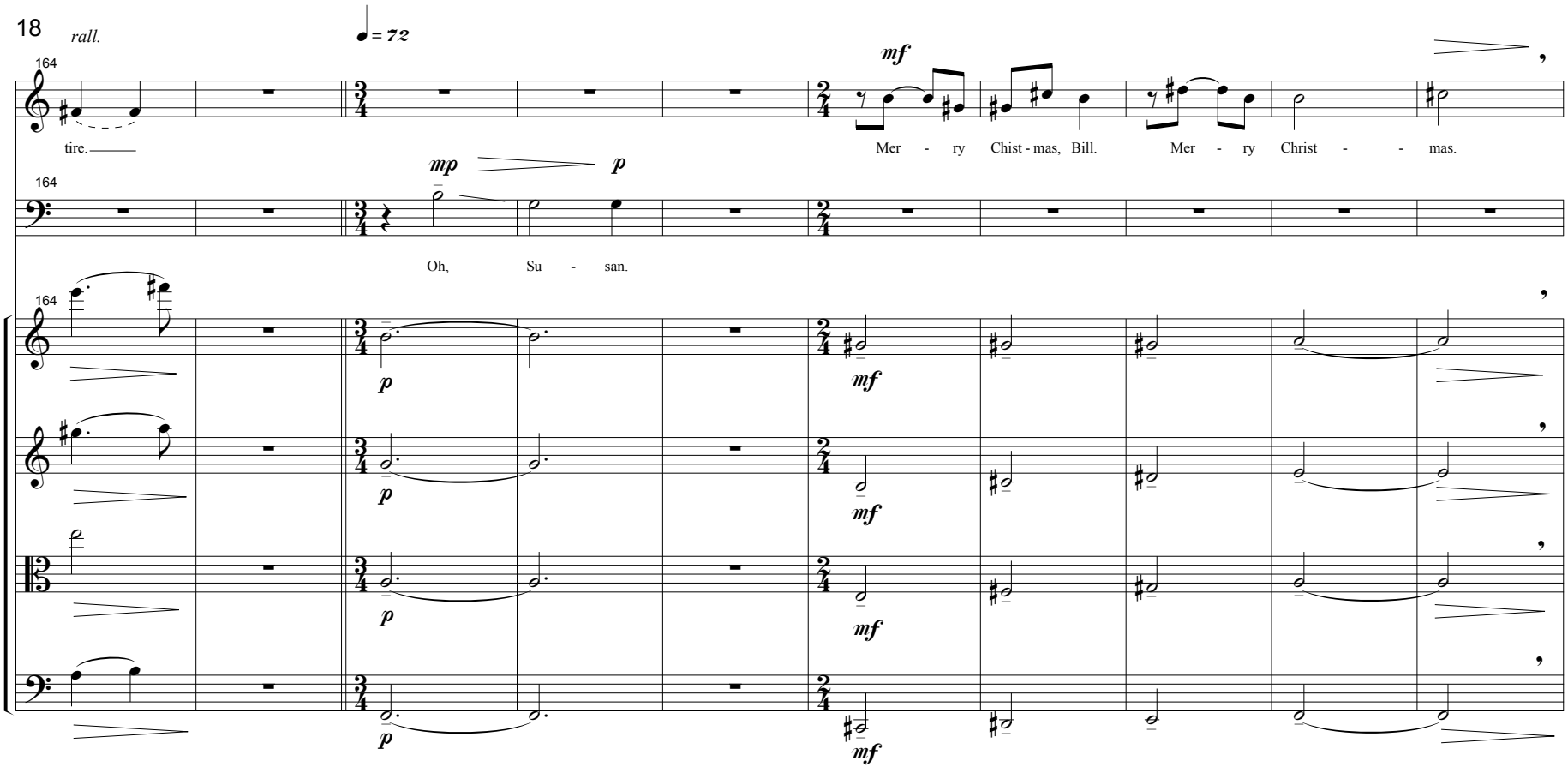

106
S.
pp
mf
ty small, free at last, to - last, and last and last and last.
106
B.
mf
Et - ce - te - ra, et -
106
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
pp
mf

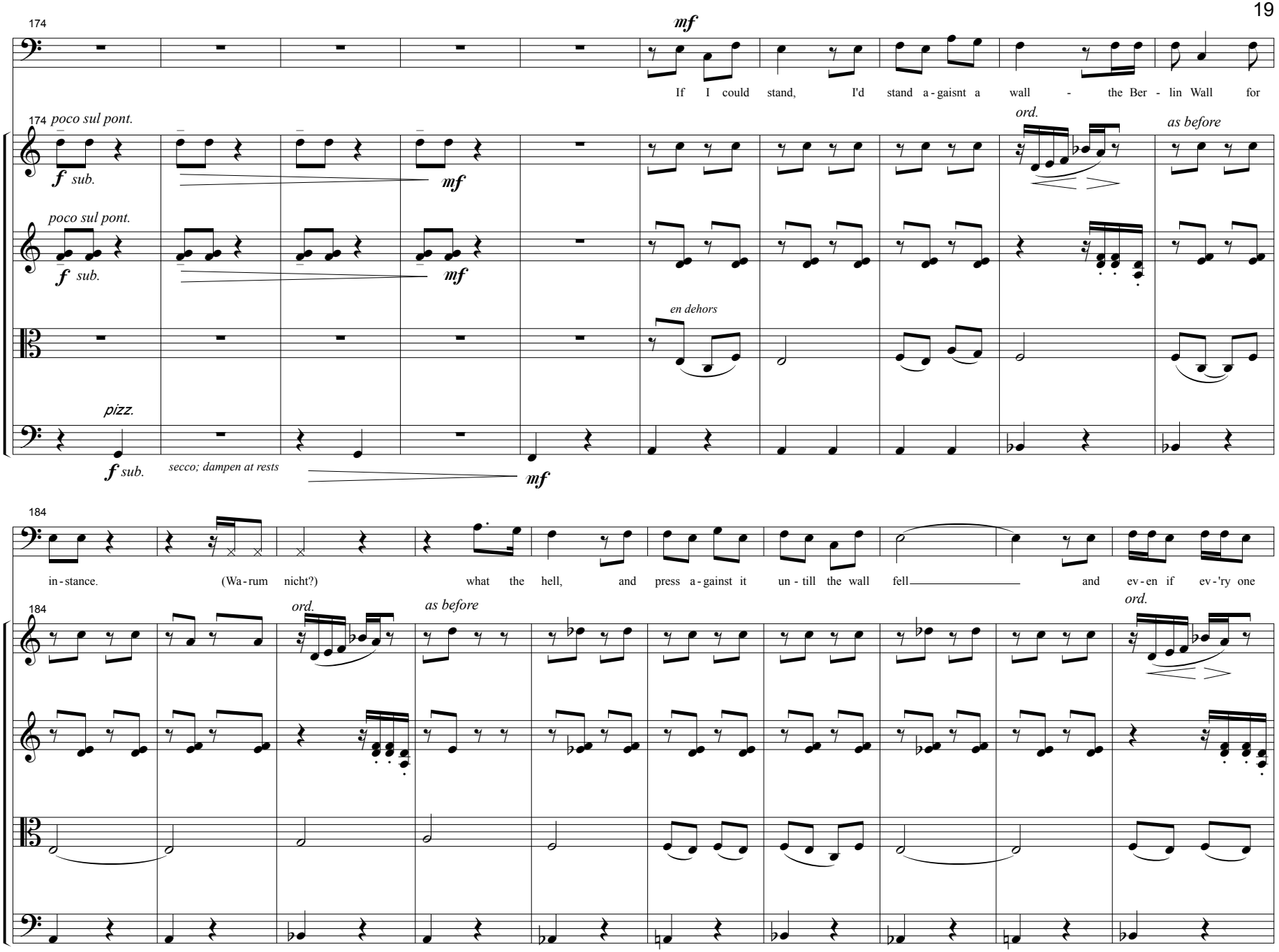

115
S.
piu f
mf
f
No, last and last and last
If I'd want-ed to say "et - ce - te - ra," I would have. "et -
B.
ce - te - ra, et - ce - te - ra,
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
mf
poco
f

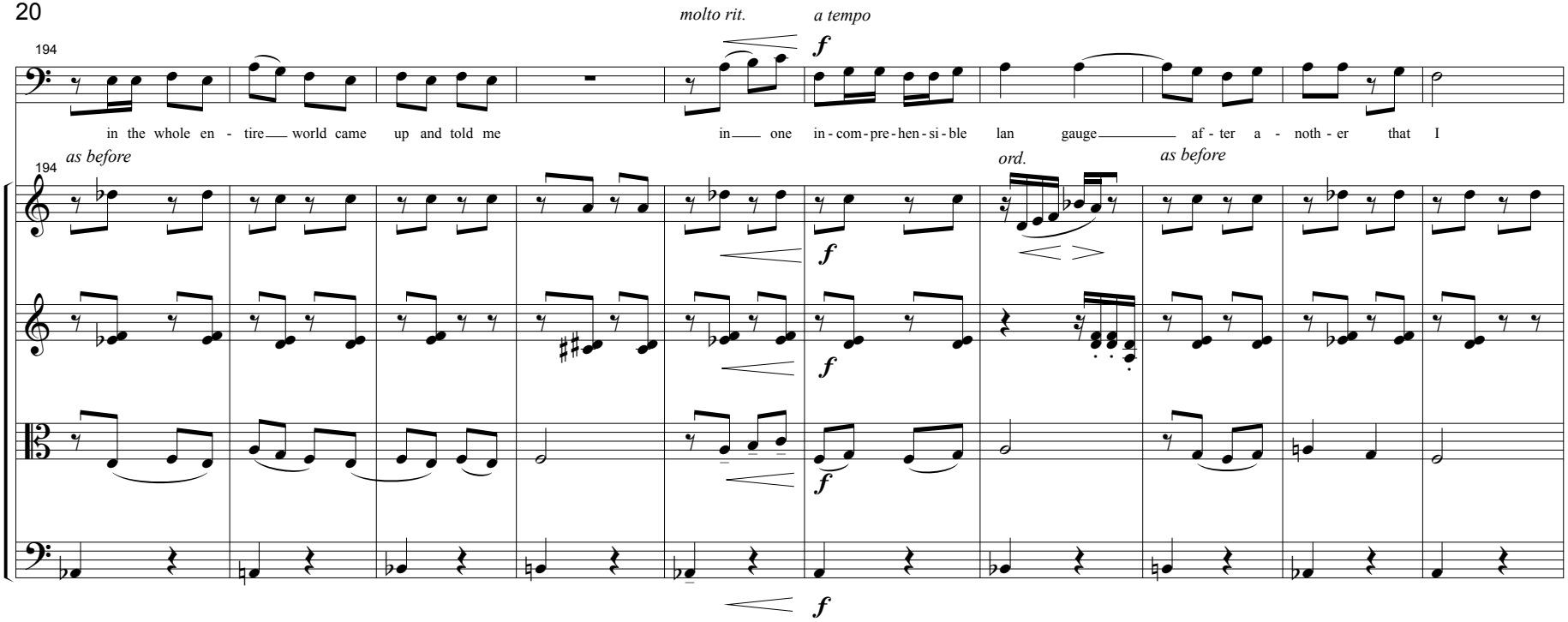

124
mp
mp
mf
S.
ce - te - ra"s your word.
Un - til at
B.
poco
Ex - cuse me, I mis - un - der - stood. There's a slight flush - ing sound in both my ears, but it won't last, et - ce - te - ra.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.

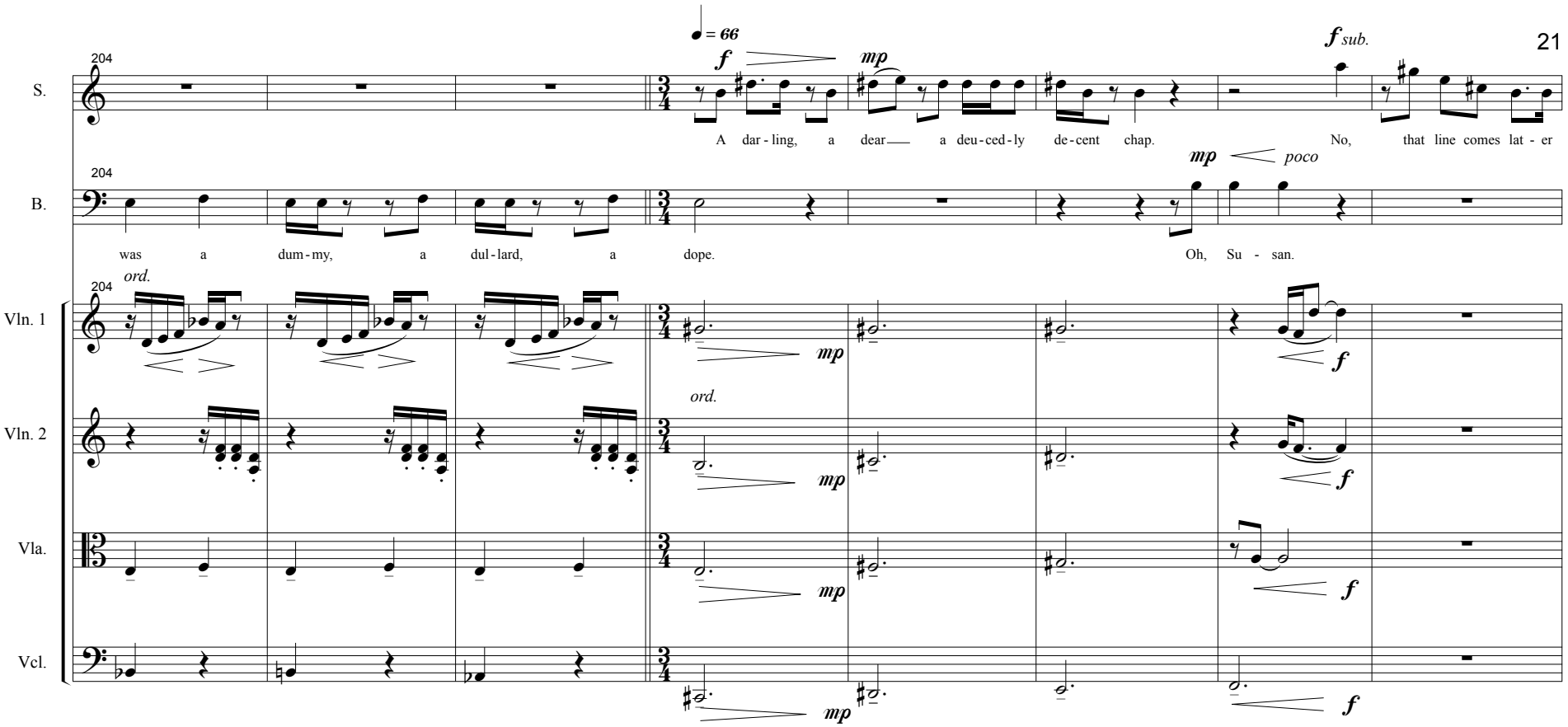

♩ = 88
16
piu mosso
132
mf
f
S.
last, you e - merge from the la - va - to - ry (hav - ing wached your hand with ex - qui - site care in - stead of soap and wa - ter and then,
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
mp
mf sub.
simile
pizz.
mf
140
waltz - ing down the aisle † in four four time a feat on - ly your feet can ma - nage but on - ly just
f
en dehors
mp sub.

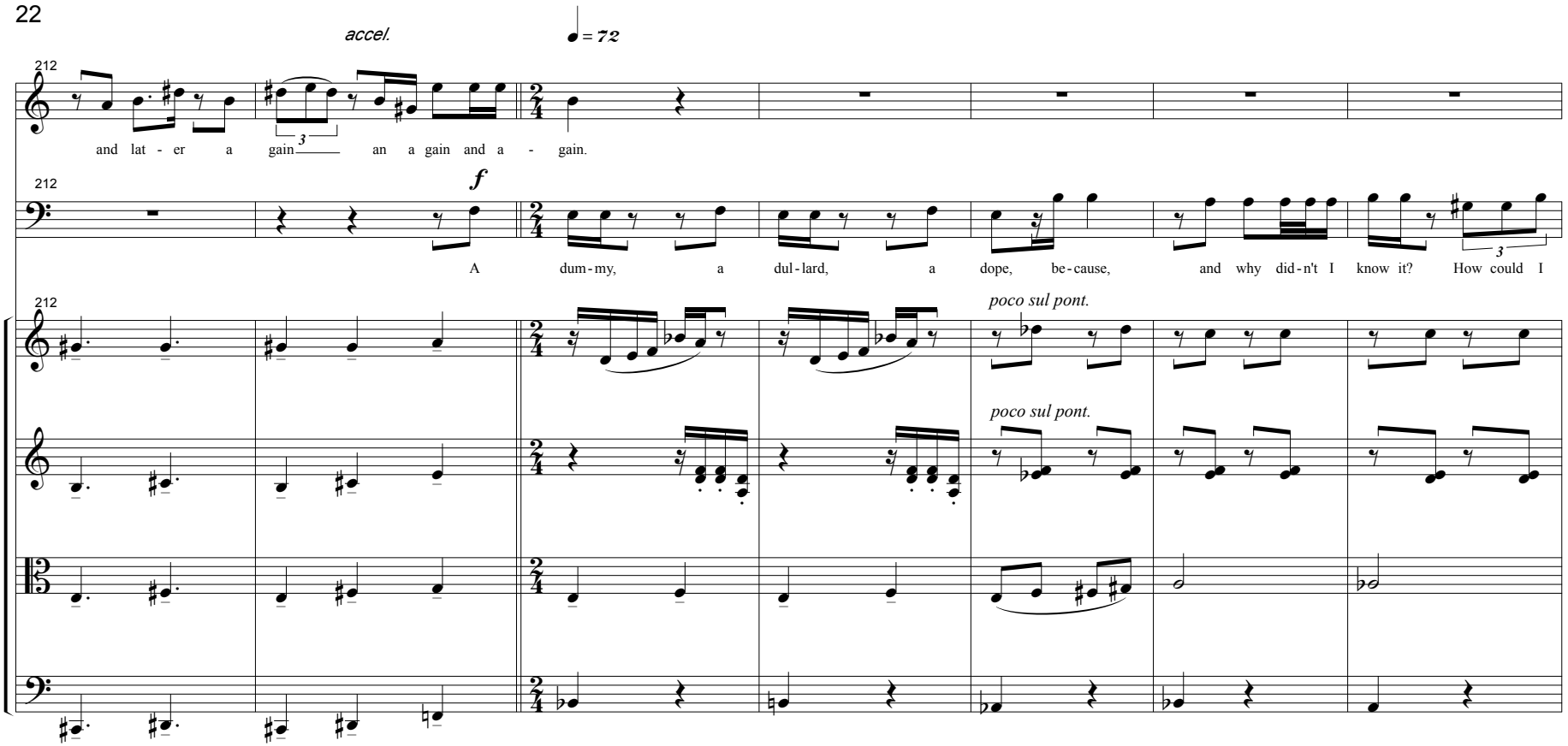

147
S.
in time you lean o - ver to my left ear de - li - cate - ly ex -
p
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
arco
pizz.
mp
155
tract the whole en - tire ker - nal of still un - popped pop - corn, and re - place it with these words, whole and en -


18
rall.
♩= 72
164
S.
tire.
mf
Mer - ry Chist - mas, Bill. Mer - ry Christ - - mas.
mp
p
B.
Oh, Su - san.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
p
mf


174
B.
mf
If I could stand, I'd stand a-gaisnt a wall - the Ber-lin Wall for
174 poco sul pont.
Vln. 1
f sub.
mf
ord.
as before
poco sul pont.
Vln. 2
f sub.
mf
en dehors
Vla.
pizz.
Vcl.
f sub.
secco; dampen at rests
mf
184
B.
in-stance. (Wa-rum nicht?) what the hell, and press a-gainst it un-till the wall fell and ev-en if ev-'ry one
184
ord.
as before
ord.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.


194
molto rit.
a tempo
f
B.
in the whole en - tire world came up and told me in one in - com - pre - hen - si - ble lan gauge af - ter a - noth - er that I
194
as before
ord.
as before
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
f


♩ = 66
f
mp
f sub.
204
S.
A dar - ling, a dear a deu - ced - ly de - cent chap.
No, that line comes lat - er
mp poco
B.
was a dum - my, a dul - lard, a dope.
Oh, Su - san.
ord.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.


accel.
♩ = 72
212
S.
and lat - er a gain an a gain and a - gain.
3
212
B.
f
A dum - my, a dul - lard, a dope, be - cause, and why did - n't I know it? How could I
3
212
Vln. 1
poco sul pont.
Vln. 2
poco sul pont.
Vla.
Vcl.