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John Adam Hugo.

The Temple Dancer

Opera in One Act

LIBRETTO BY

JUTTA BELL-RANSKE

Music
by

JOHN ADAM HUGO

Vocal and Piano score

BY THE COMPOSER.

PRICE $3.00 NETTO

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MISHKIN N. Y.

JOHN ADAM HUGO

THE TEMPLE DANCER

CHARACTERS OF THE DRAMA:

Temple Dancer . . . . . Soprano
Guard . . . . . Tenor
Yoga . . . . . Bass

The scene is in the Mahadeos Temple, India.

CHORUS of NUNS, PRIESTS and PEASANTS.

SYNOPSIS

—OF—

THE TEMPLE DANCER

THE STORY UPON WHICH THE OPERA IS FOUNDED:

The leading dancer in the temple of Mahadeo, who has fallen in love with one who is not of her faith, she has through her lover's suffering realized the unjust and immoral demands made upon the dancers of the temple. In her awakening she decides to help her lover, who is in great want, by claiming from the great Mahadeo the jewels that were purchased with the money the temple received through the selling of her virtue; the custom of the temple being to obtain precious jewels for their gods through the beauty of the Temple-dancers who give themselves to the sacred service of the gods.

THE LIBRETTO

The opera opens with a service in the temple where the Great Mahadeo sits blazing in his jewels. After the service the Temple Dancer enters disguised; praying for courage to approach the God. She pleads for a token from him in answer to her prayers and receiving none she threatens the temple and decides to steal the jewels she considers belong to her. The Guard of the Temple hears her and returns; he threatens

her with death and to protect herself from him she takes the snake from Mahadeo circling it round herself; this making her "sakti" or sacred. She then pleads with the Guard to be permitted to pray before she is killed; and in her seductive dancing, which represents her prayer, she facinates the Guard whose passion is roused. He promises her his protection and she pretends to respond to his love. In the great love scene he loosens the bans of her outer robe, which falls off and occasions the discovery of a letter which tells of her plans to meet her lover with the stolen jewels. Furious at her treason he curses her, and plans to make her suffer ten-fold. Again she dances, as a last prayer, and pretends to swoon, pleading for a drop of water. This the Guard gives her; she pretends to drink and poisons the water. Then she pleads with the Guard to drink to her courage to meet death, and laughingly he empties the cup. Then follows the scene of the Guard's death struggles, and curses against her laughter and mocking dance.

As the Guard dies, the dancer defies him and the gods, calling curses upon the temple. A great thunder-storm peals out in answer; the lightning rends the temple walls, and as the Temple-dancer puts her hand on Mahadeo's Jewel, lightning strikes her and she falls dead by the Guard.

The nuns and priests come in terror, calling upon the protection of the gods, as they see the dancer and the Guard. They close the opera by the singing of the hymn of redemption, praying for the forgiveness of the erring spirit of the dead.

Jutta Bell-Ranske.

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PIANO-VOCAL SCORE

THE TEMPLE DANCER

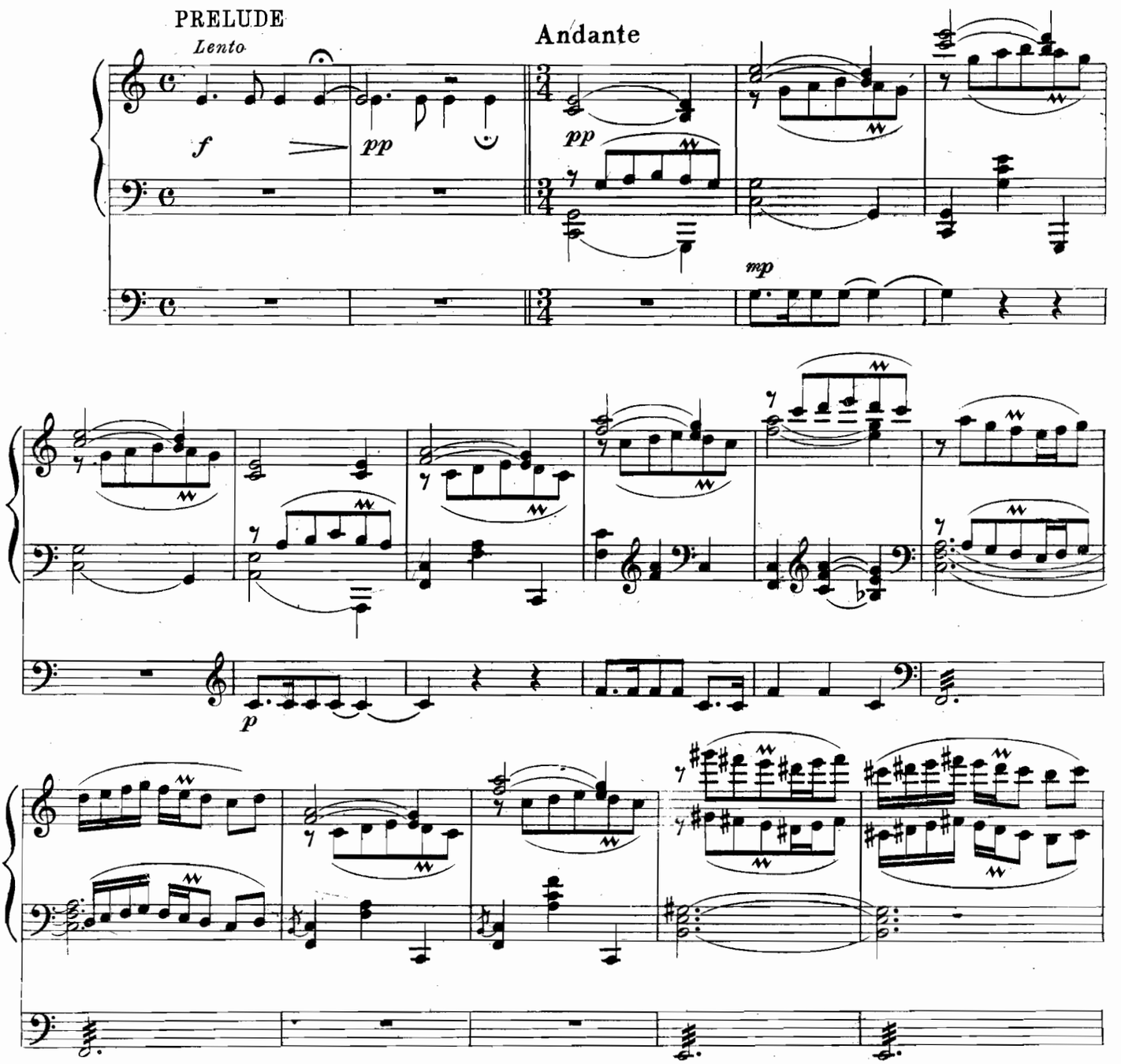
(Libretto by Jutta Bell-Ranske)

Opera in One Act

by

JOHN ADAM HUGO

Op.37



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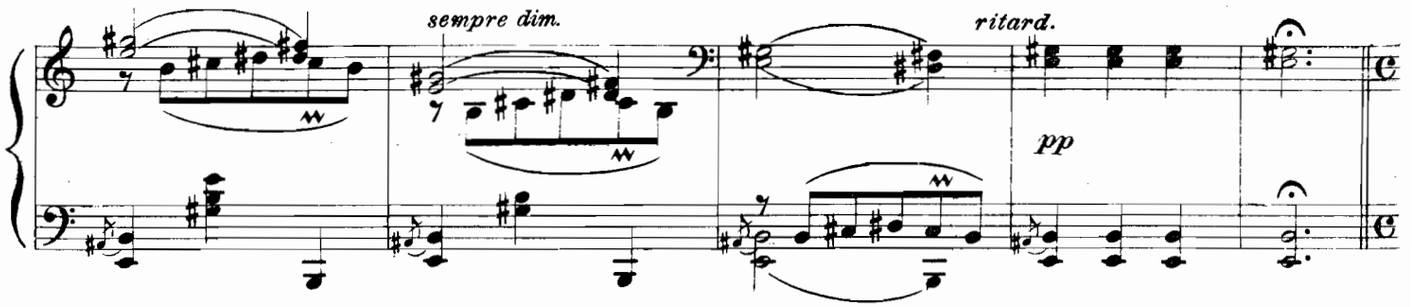
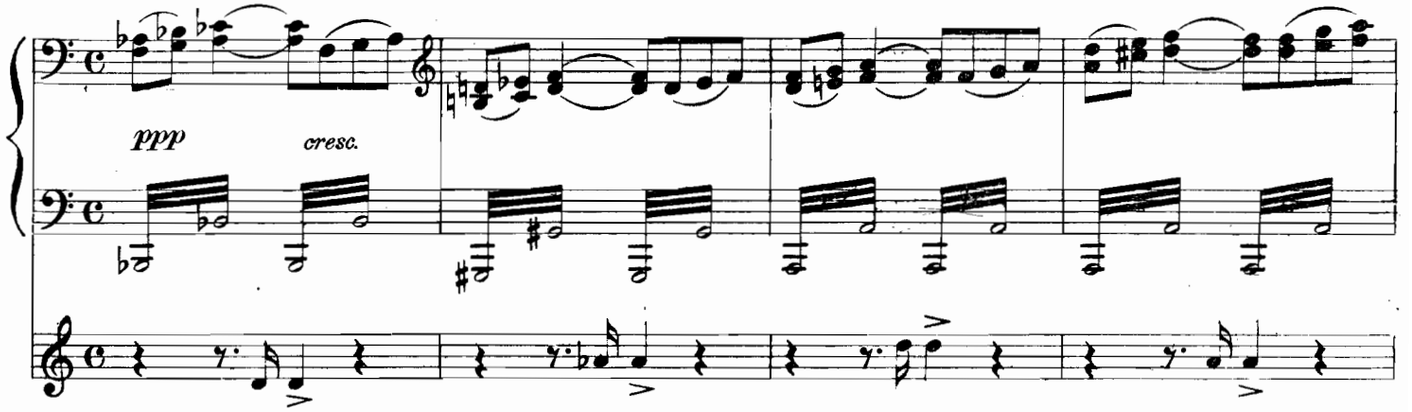
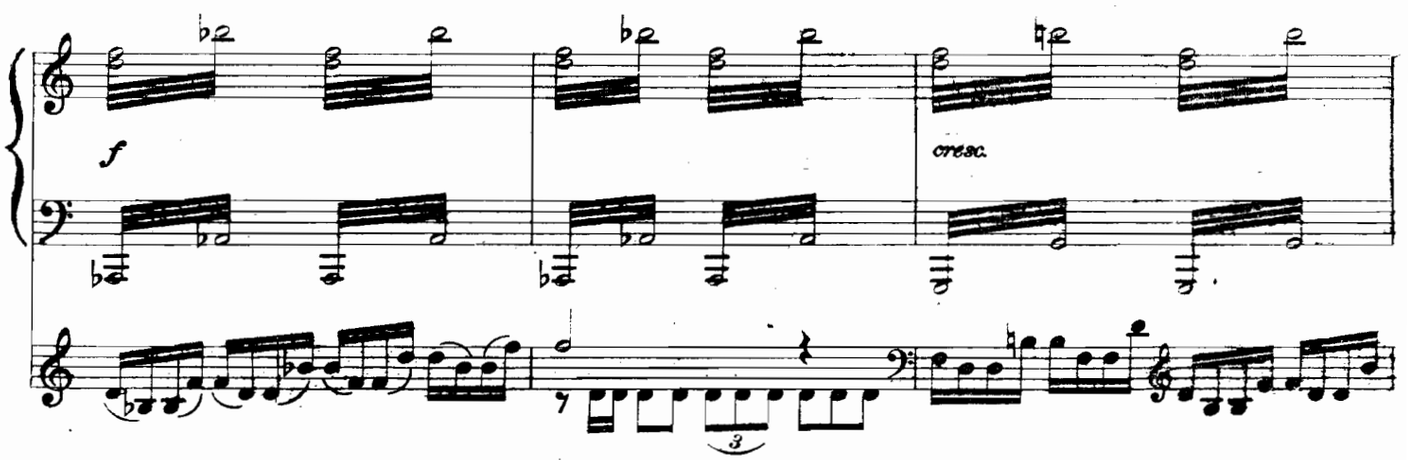
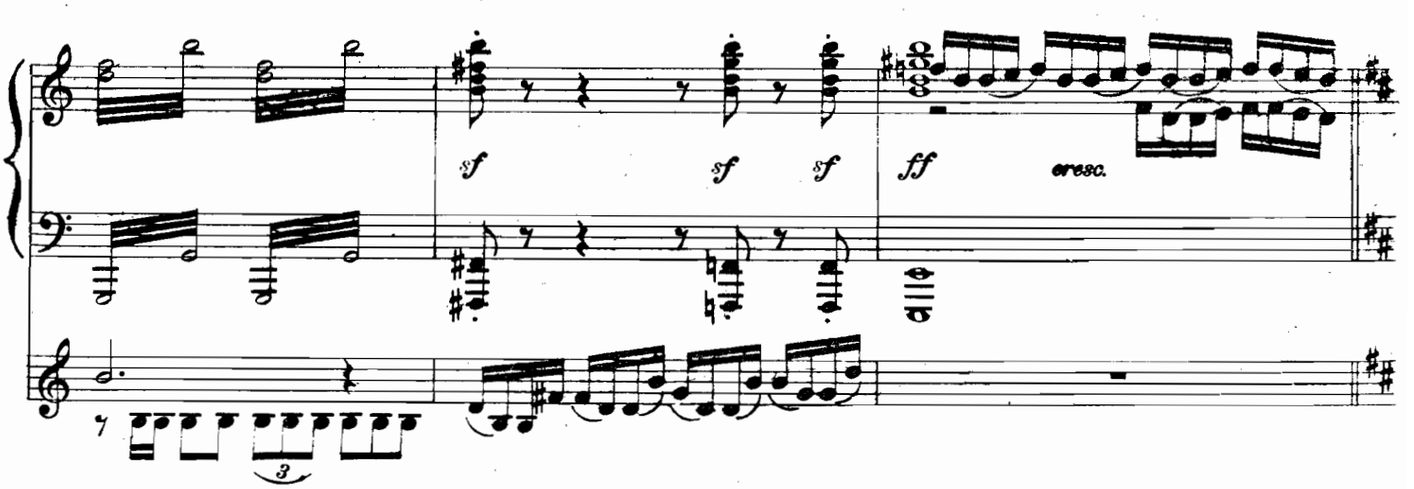
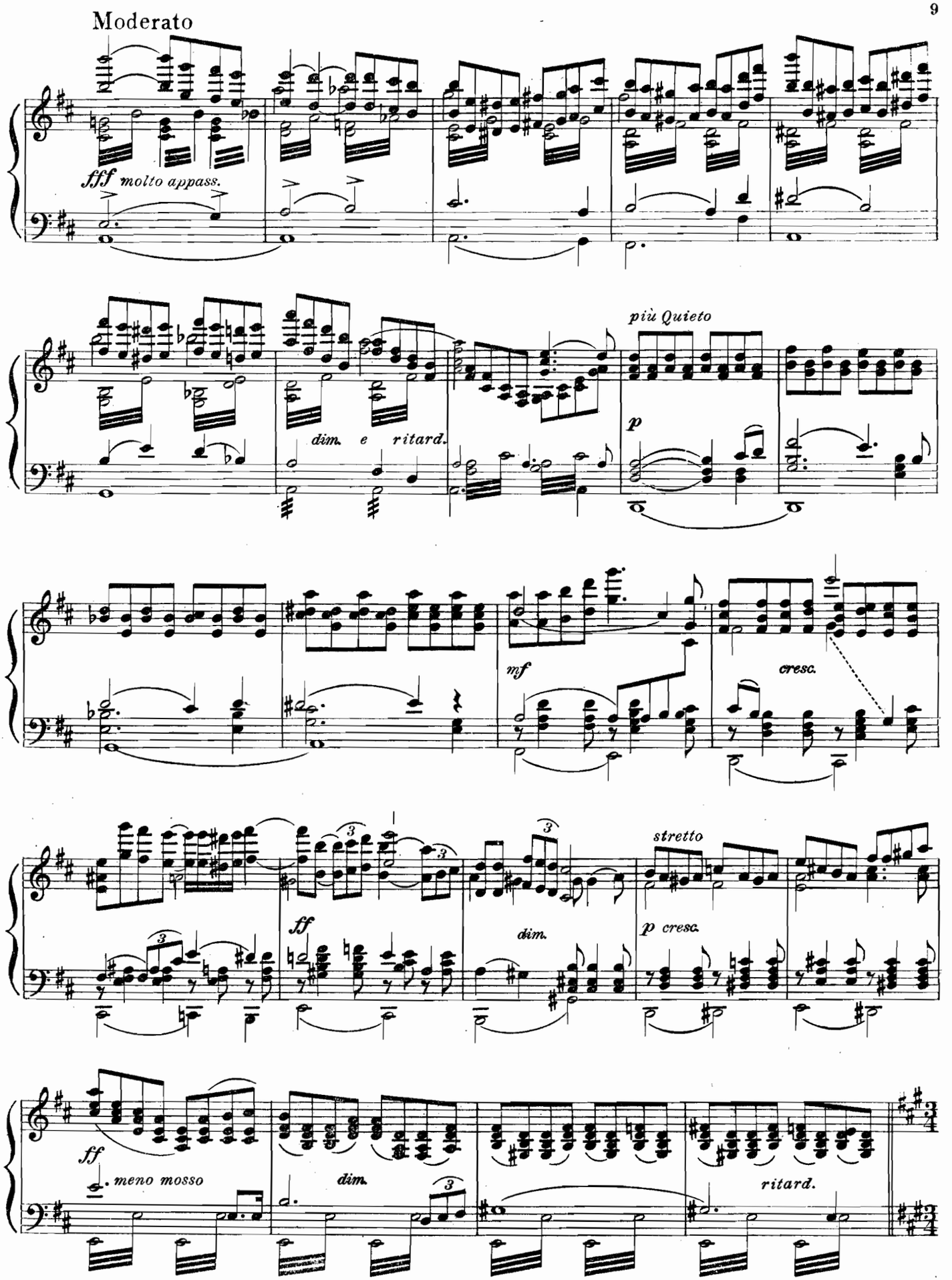


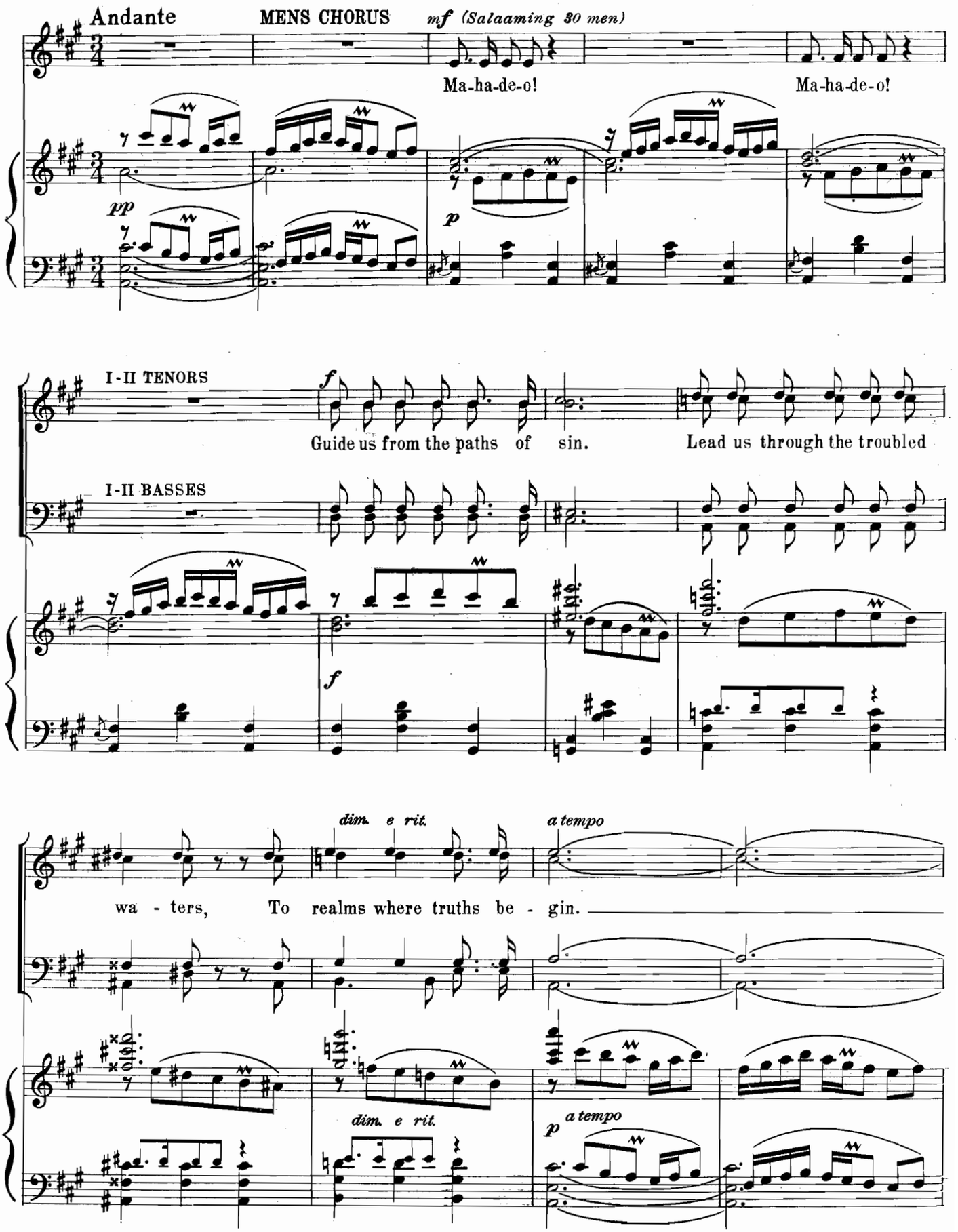
Allegro non troppo

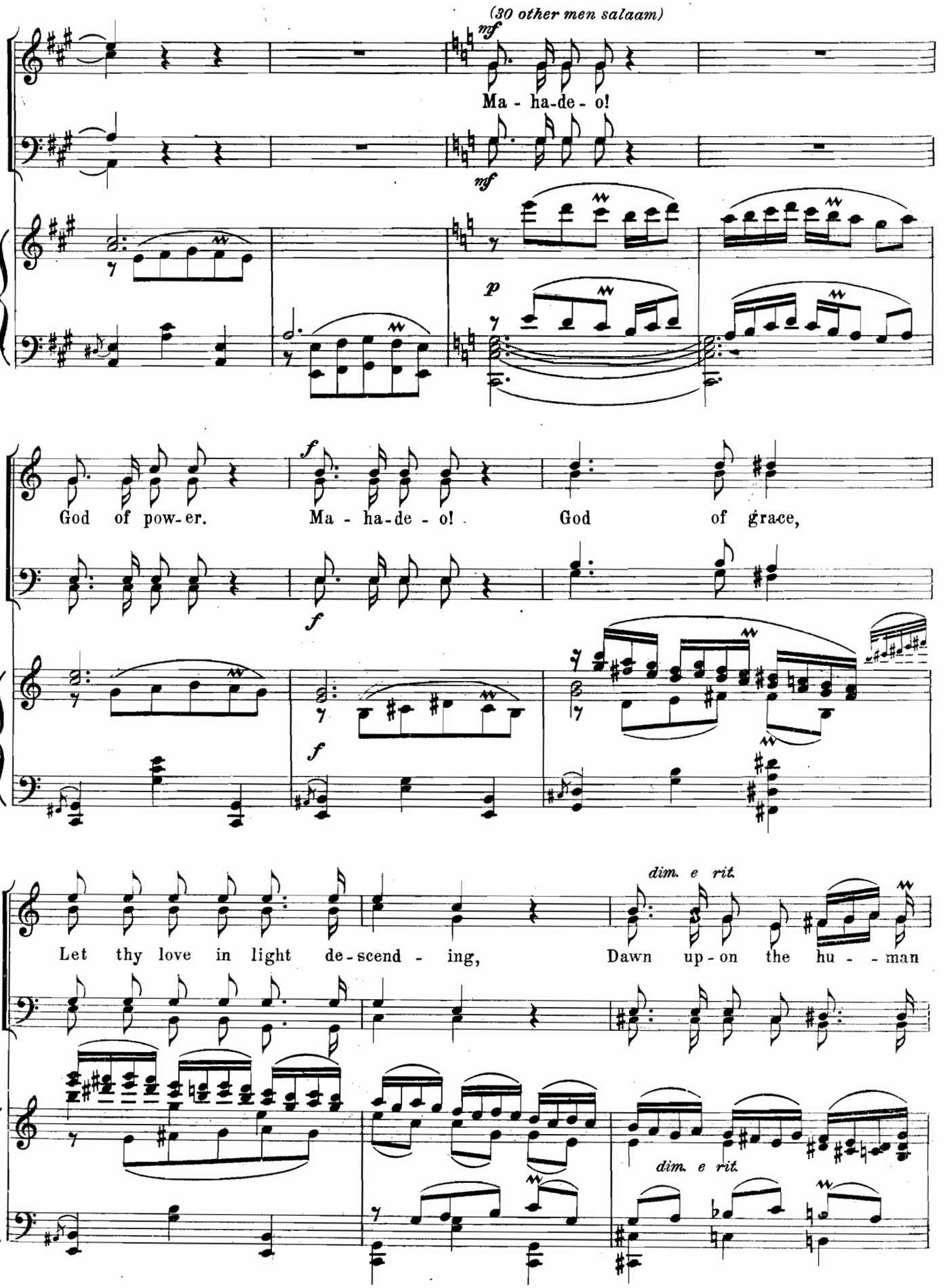







Moderato
fff molto appass.
più Quieto
dim. e ritard.
p
mf
cresc.
stretto
ff
dim.
p cresc.
ff
meno mosso
dim.
ritard.


Andante
MENS CHORUS
mf (Sataaming 30 men)
Ma-ha-de-o!
Ma-ha-de-o!
pp
p
I-II TENORS
I-II BASSES
f
Guide us from the paths of sin.
Lead us through the troubled
f
dim. e rit.
a tempo
wa - ters,
To realms where truths be - gin.
dim. e rit.
p
a tempo


(30 other men salaam)
mf
Ma - ha-de - o!
mf
p
God of pow-er.
f
Ma - ha-de - o!
God of grace,
f
f
Let thy love in light de-scend - ing,
dim. e rit.
Dawn up-on the hu - - man
dim. e rit.

Tutti

p a tempo *ff* *pp*

race. Ma - ha-de - o! Ma - ha-de - o!

p *pp*

a tempo

p *ff* *dim. molto* *pp*

(The Nuns go and salaam, the first Nun carries a snake which she places upon the steps of the Altar.)

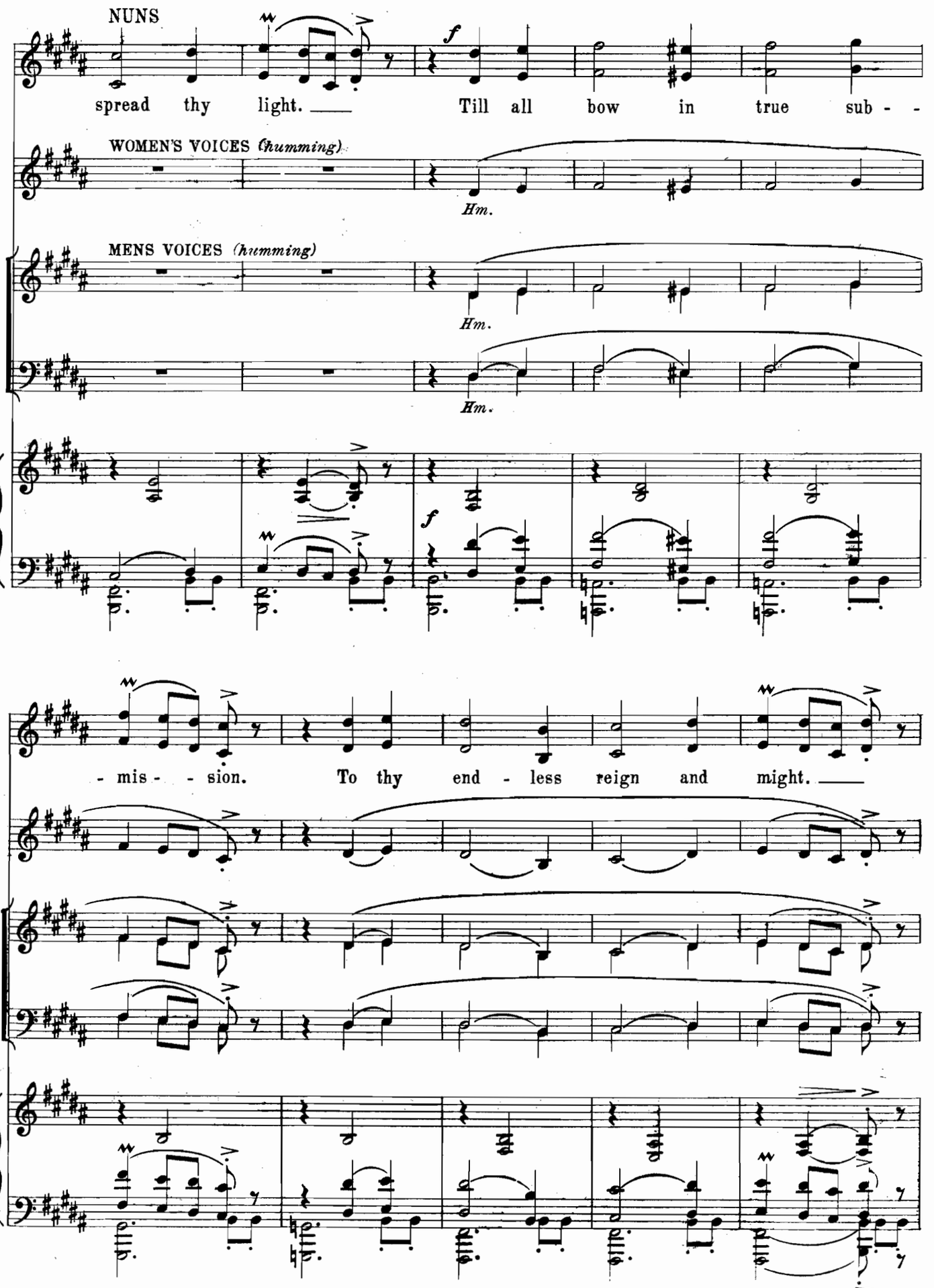
cresc.

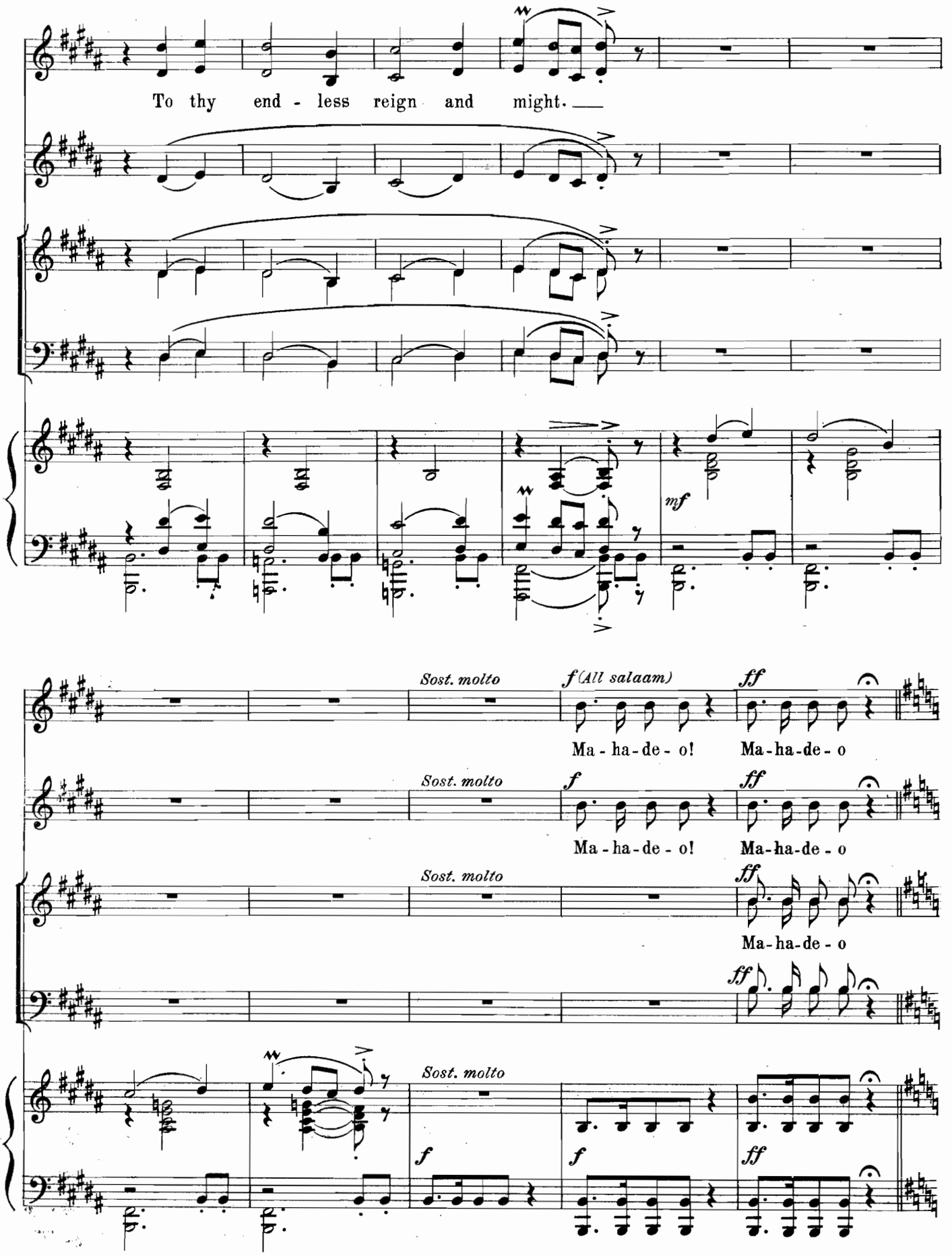
Moderato NUNS CHORUS *(25)* *f*

In the hour of temp - ta - - tion. U - shas,

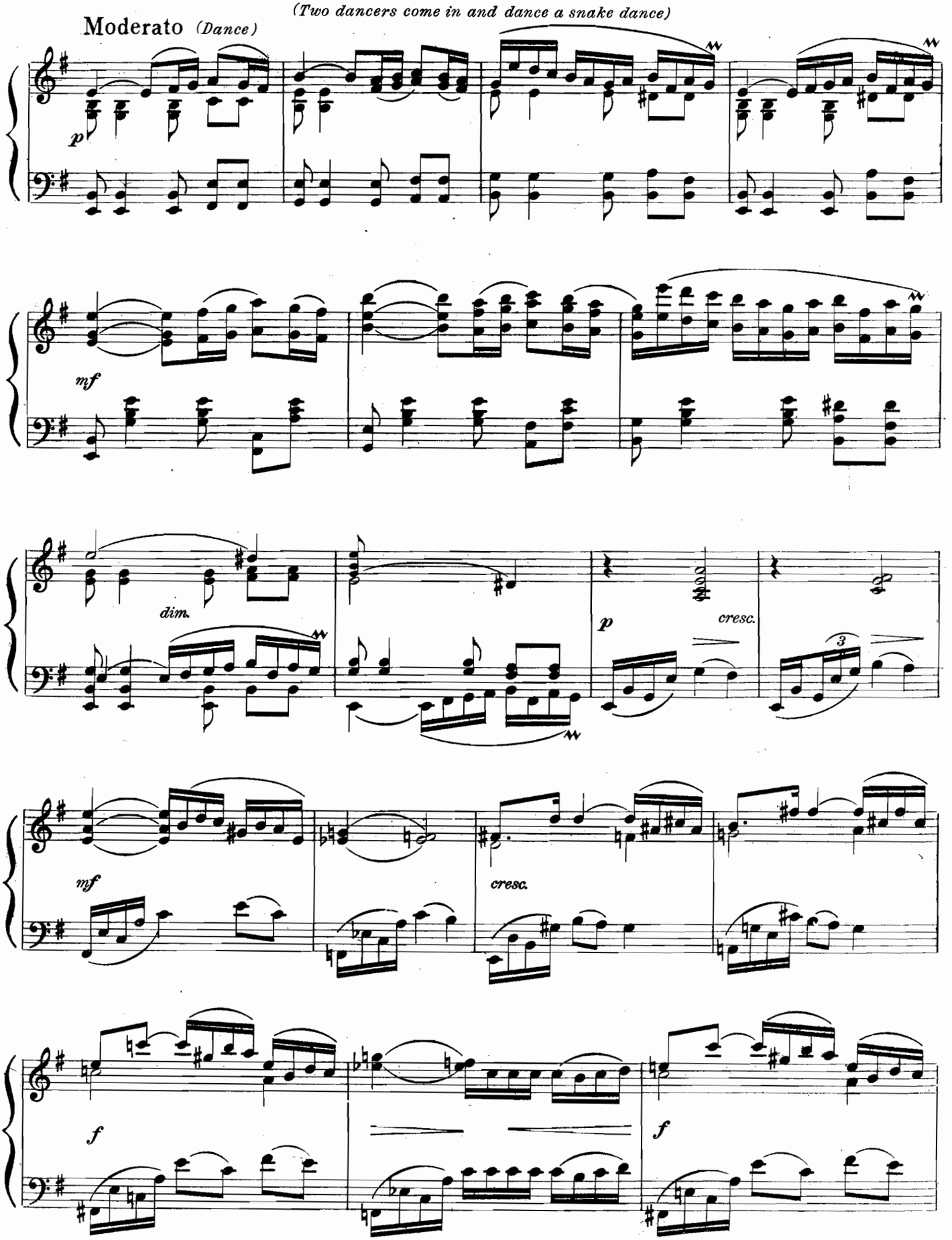
Moderato *mf*

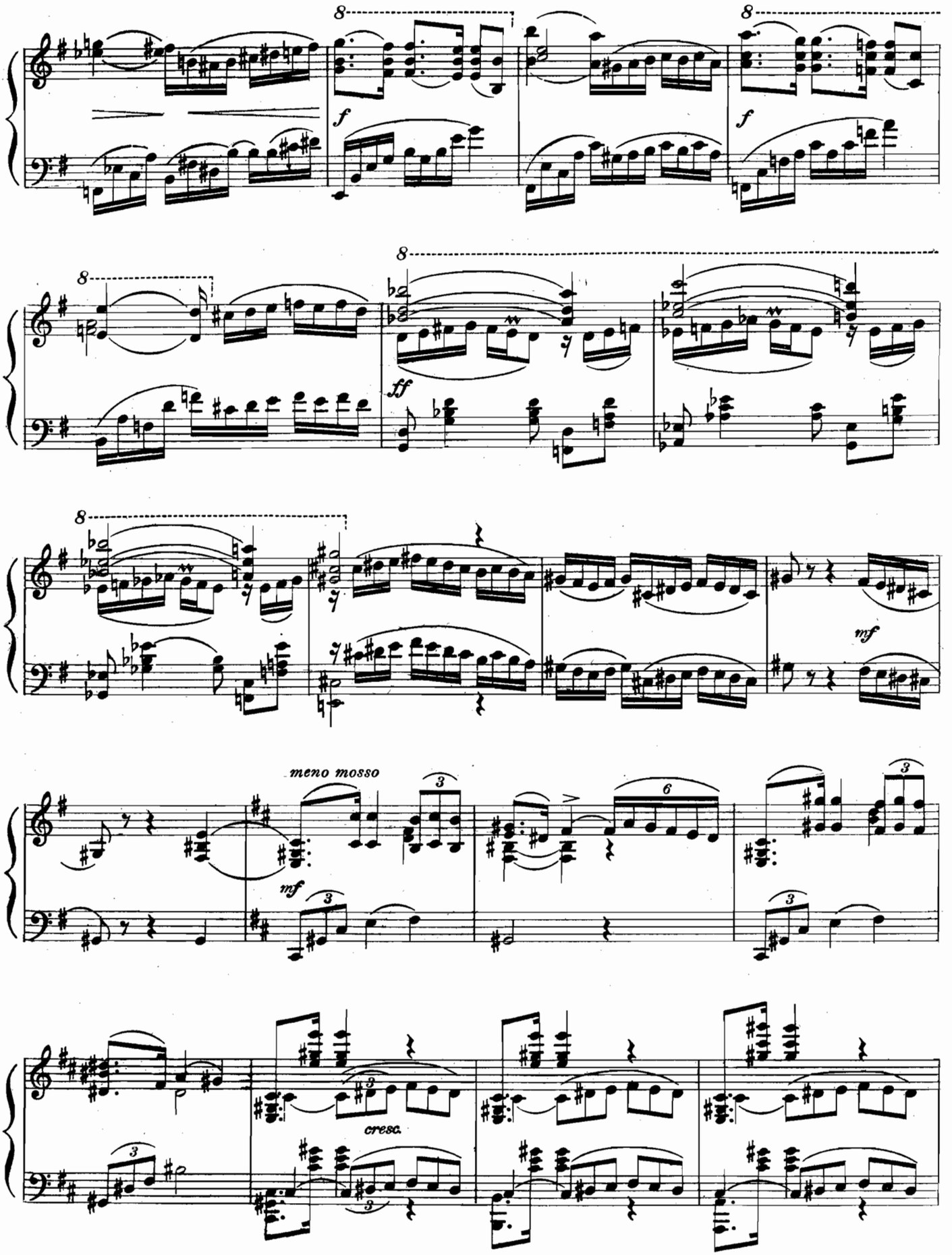
U - - shas spread thy light, U - shas, U - - shas


NUNS
spread thy light. Till all bow in true sub - -
WOMEN'S VOICES (humming)
Hm.
MENS VOICES (humming)
Hm.
Hm.
f
f
- mis - - sion. To thy end - less reign and might.


To thy end - less reign and might.
mf
Sost. molto
f (All salaam)
ff
Ma - ha-de - o!
Ma-ha-de - o
Sost. molto
f
ff
Ma - ha-de - o!
Ma-ha-de - o
Sost. molto
ff
Ma-ha-de - o
ff
Sost. molto
f
f
f
ff

(Two dancers come in and dance a snake dance)




8
f
8
f
8
ff
8
mf
meno mosso
mf
cresc.

(The two dancers and all in the temple exit, except the Yoga and the Guard)

sempre dim.

ff

p

(The Yoga takes the snake from the Altar)

dim.

ritard.

YOGA

Sost. molto

Ma - ha - - de - o! Ma - ha - de - o! Lead all sin-ners to thy goal,

Sost. molto

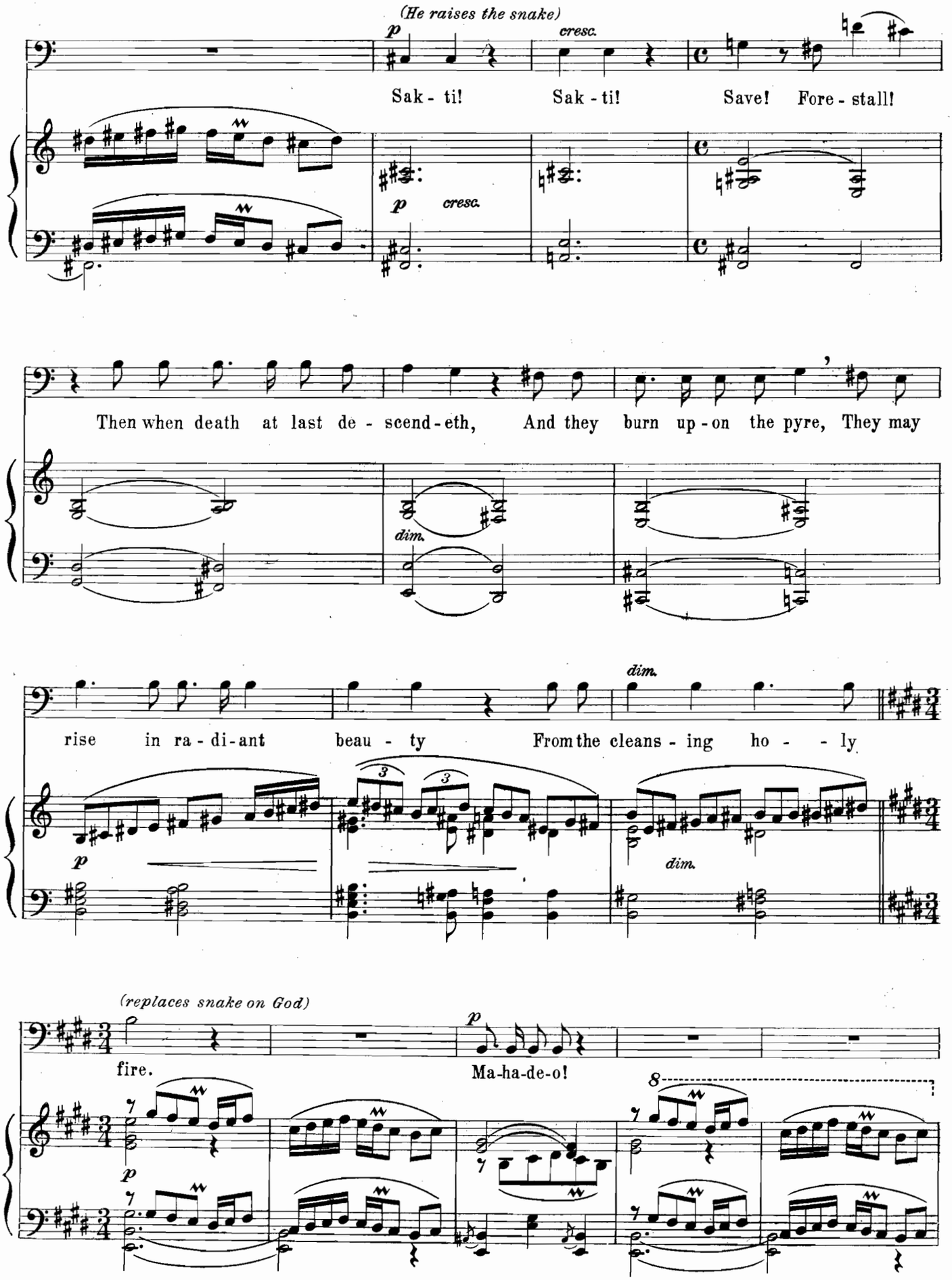
p

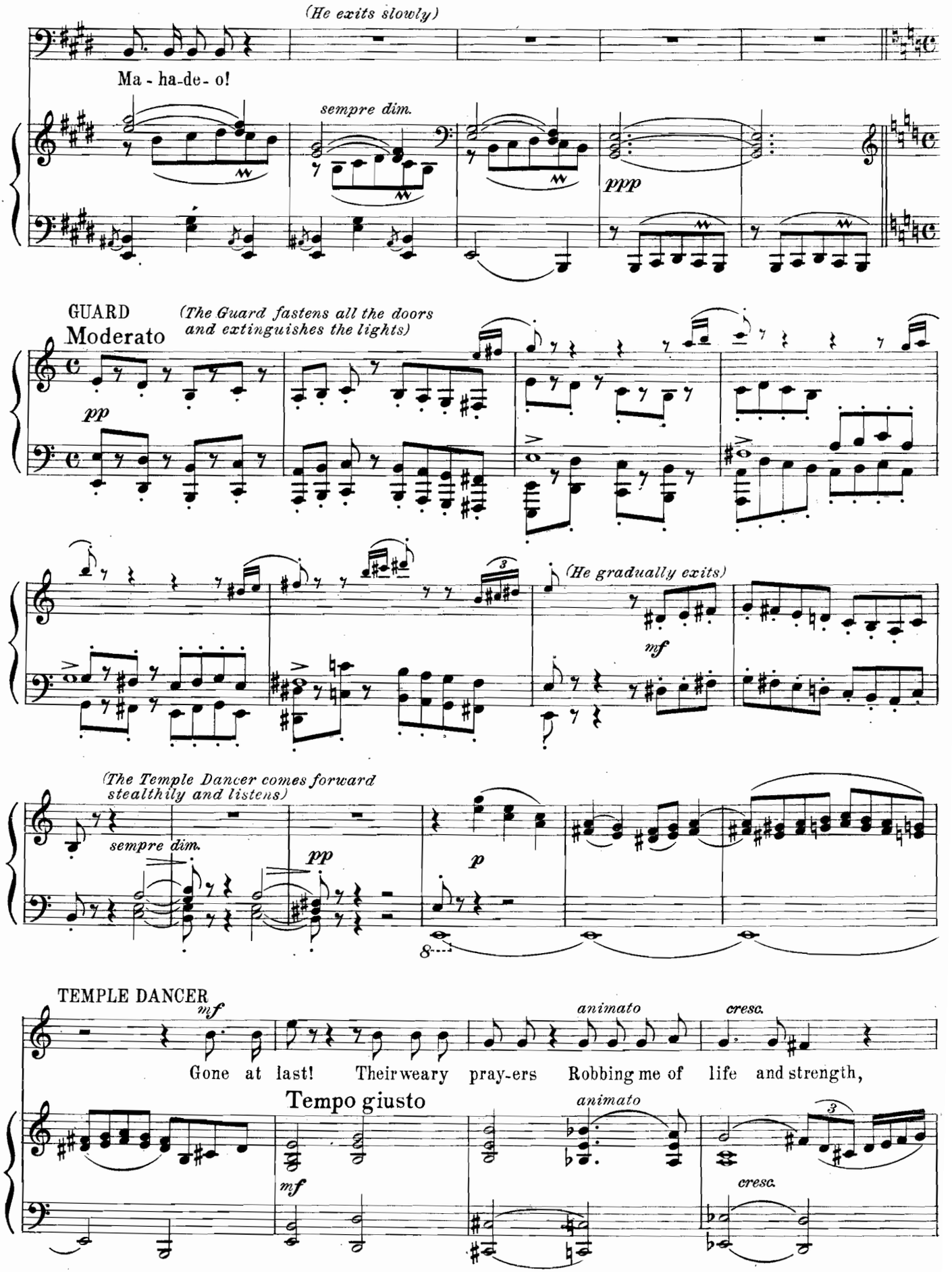
f

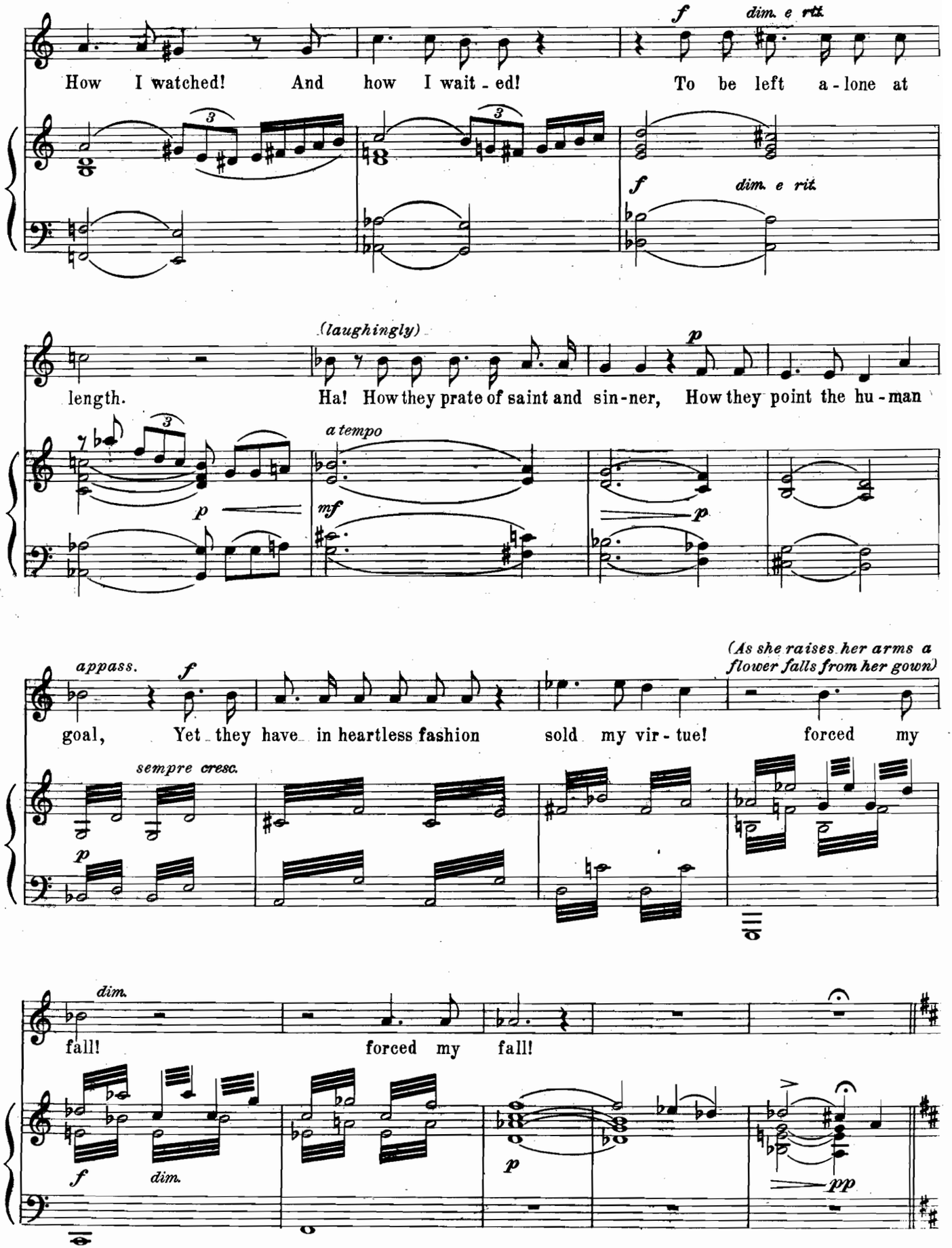
Tvashtar, Tvashtar, watching o-ver them.

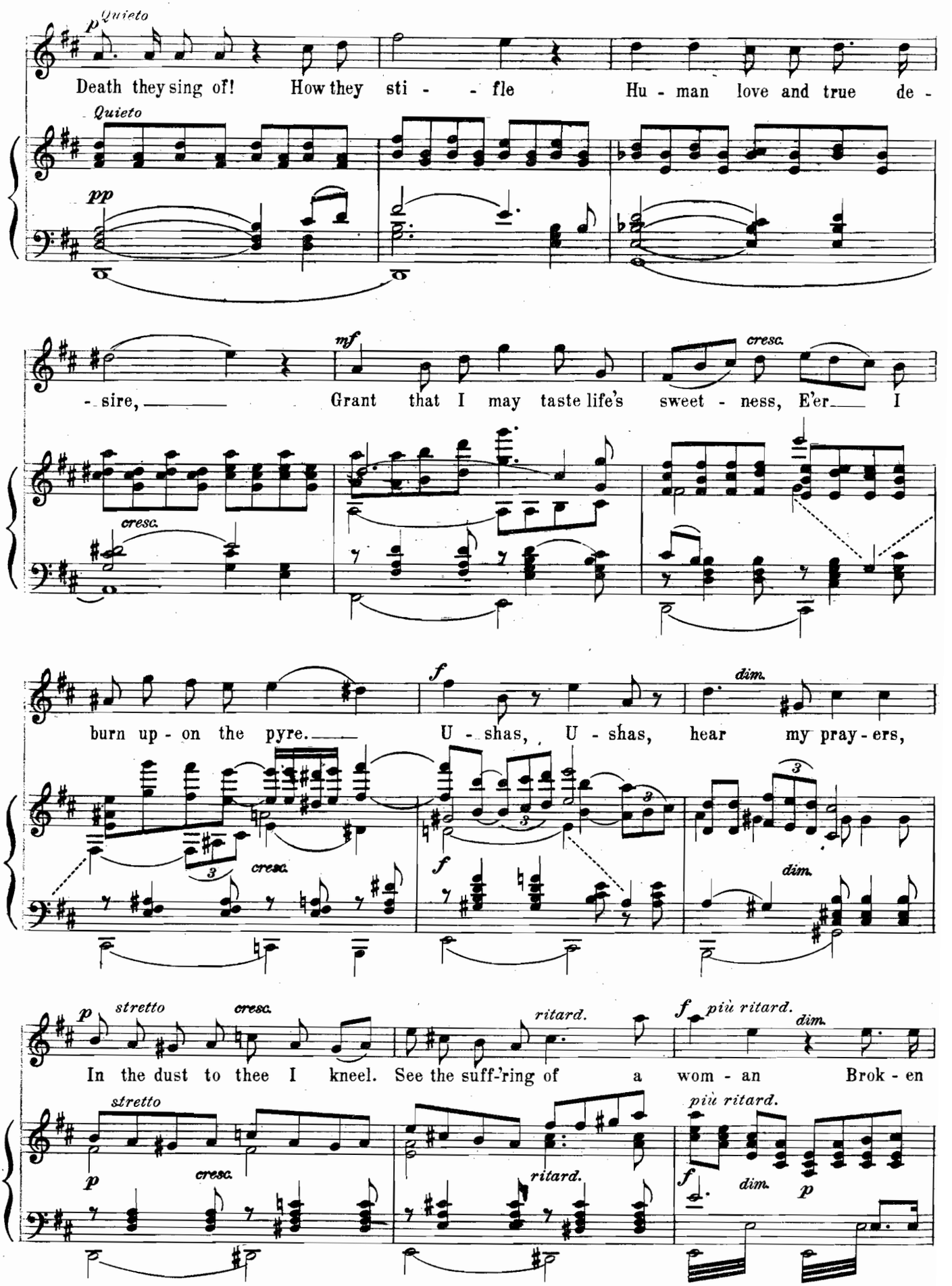
f

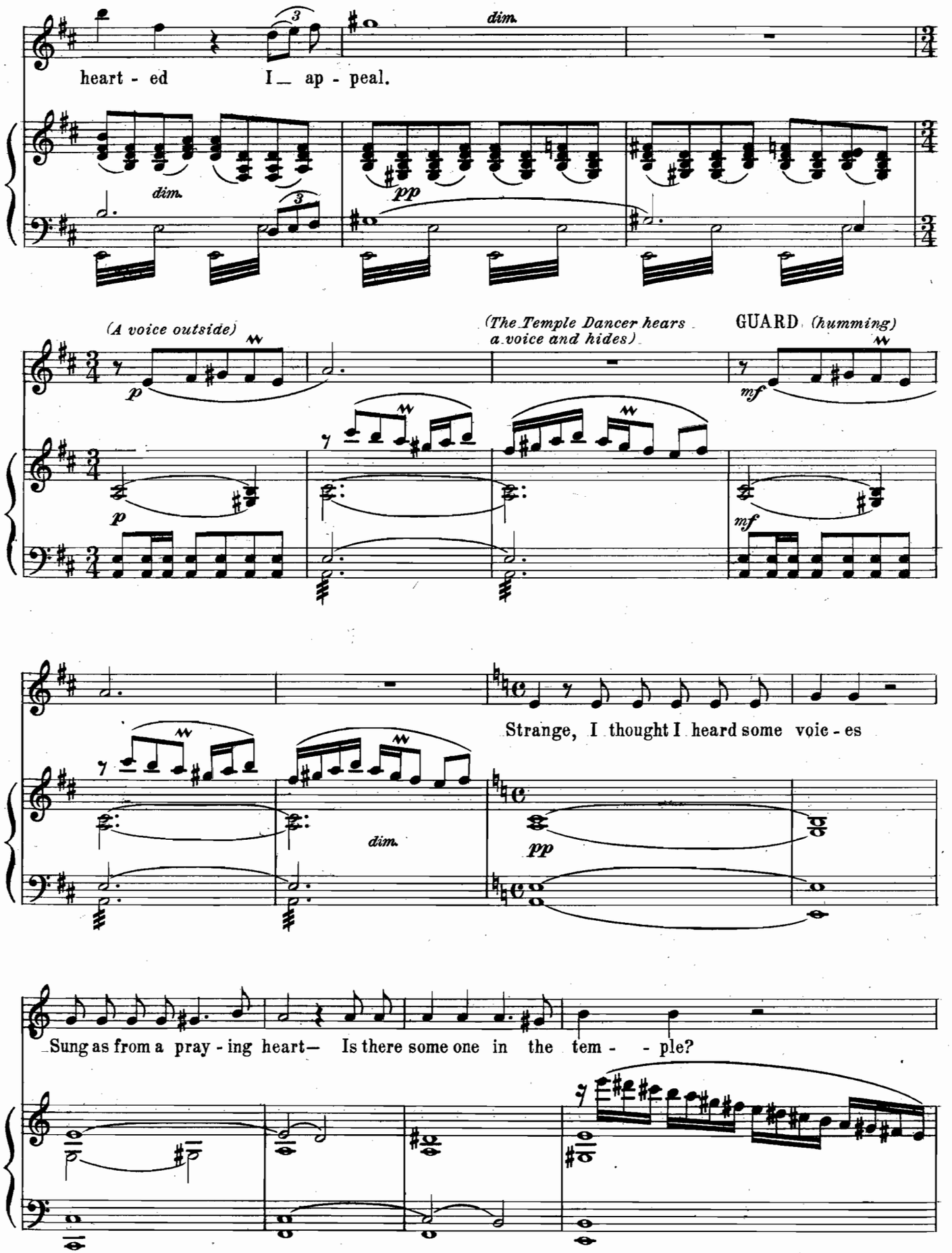
dim.

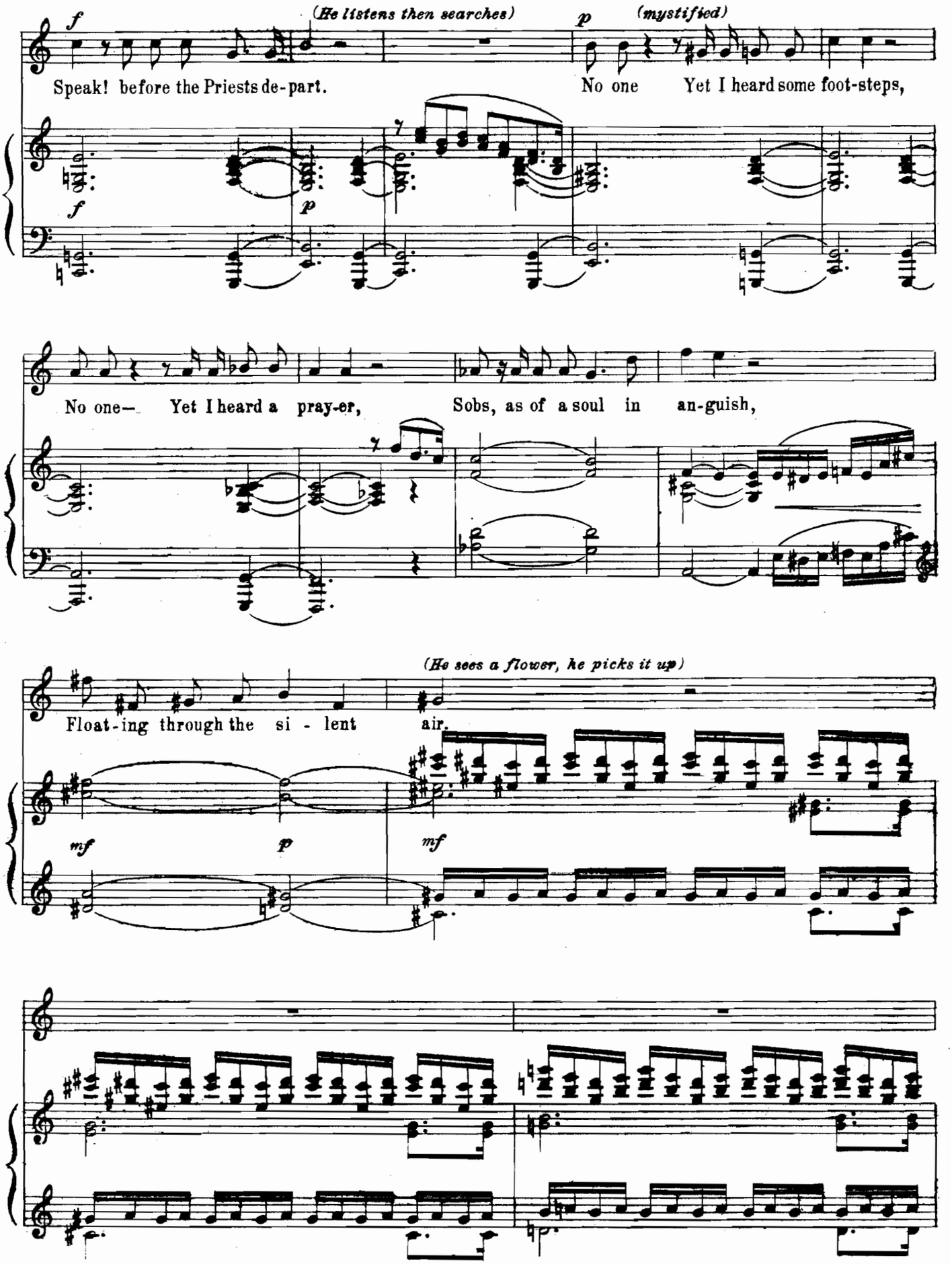

(He raises the snake)
p
cresc.
Sak - ti! Sak - ti! Save! Fore - stall!
p cresc.
Then when death at last de - scend - eth, And they burn up - on the pyre, They may
dim.
dim.
rise in ra - di - ant beau - ty From the cleans - ing ho - - ly
p
dim.
(replaces snake on God)
fire.
p
Ma-ha-de-o!
8
p

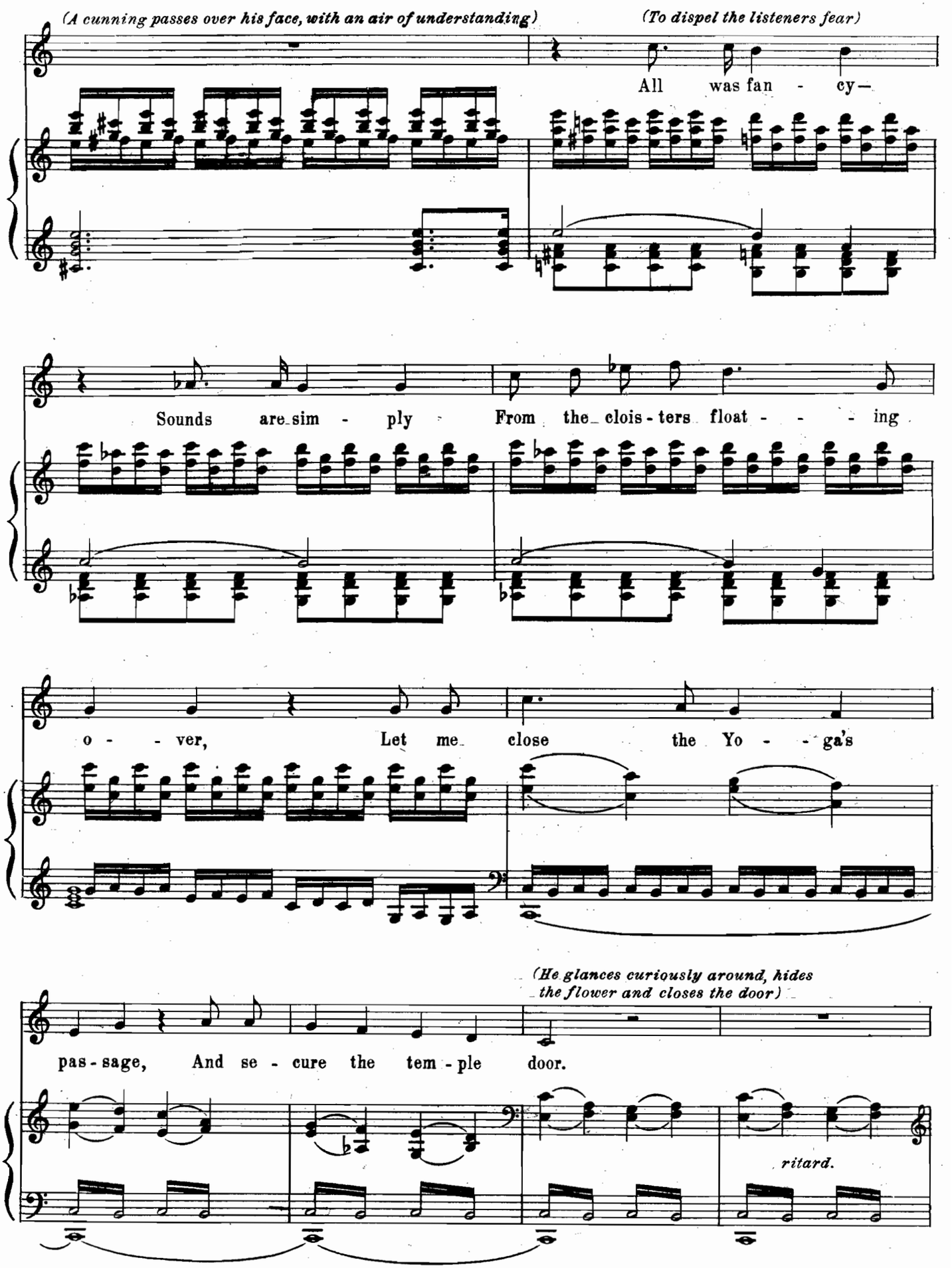

(He exits slowly)
Ma - ha-de- o!
sempre dim.
ppp
GUARD
Moderato
(The Guard fastens all the doors and extinguishes the lights)
pp
(He gradually exits)
mf
(The Temple Dancer comes forward stealthily and listens)
sempre dim.
pp
p
TEMPLE DANCER
mf
animato
cresc.
Gone at last! Their weary pray-ers Robbing me of life and strength,
Tempo giusto
animato
mf
cresc.


How I watched! And how I wait - ed! To be left a - lone at
f
dim. e rit.
f
dim. e rit.
(laughingly)
length. Ha! How they prate of saint and sin-ner, How they point the hu - man
p
a tempo
p
mf
p
appass.
f
(As she raises her arms a flower falls from her gown)
goal, Yet they have in heartless fashion sold my vir - tue! forced my
sempre cresc.
p
dim.
fall! forced my fall!
f
dim.
p
pp


p Quieto
Death they sing of! How they sti - - fle Hu - man love and true de -
Quieto
pp
mf
cresc.
- sire, Grant that I may taste life's sweet - ness, E'er I
cresc.
f
dim.
burn up - on the pyre. U - shas, U - shas, hear my pray - ers,
cresc.
f
dim.
p stretto cresc.
ritard.
f più ritard. dim.
In the dust to thee I kneel. See the suff-'ring of a wom - an Brok - en
stretto
più ritard.
p
cresc.
ritard.
f dim. p


heart - ed I_ ap - peal.
dim.
pp
(A voice outside)
(The Temple Dancer hears a voice and hides)
GUARD (humming)
p
mf
Strange, I thought I heard some voie - es
Sung as from a pray - ing heart— Is there some one in the tem - - ple?


(He listens then searches)
(mystified)
Speak! before the Priests de-part.
No one Yet I heard some foot-steps,
No one— Yet I heard a pray-er, Sobs, as of a soul in an-guish,
(He sees a flower, he picks it up)
Float-ing through the si - lent air.


(A cunning passes over his face, with an air of understanding)
(To dispel the listeners fear)
All was fan - cy—
Sounds are sim - ply From the clois - ters float - - - ing
o - - ver, Let me close the Yo - - ga's
(He glances curiously around, hides the flower and closes the door)
pas - sage, And se - cure the tem - ple door.
ritard.

(The Temple Dancer comes out of her hiding place)

TEMPLE DANCER

f

Now is my

Moderato *(poco agitato)*

fpp *cresc.* *f*

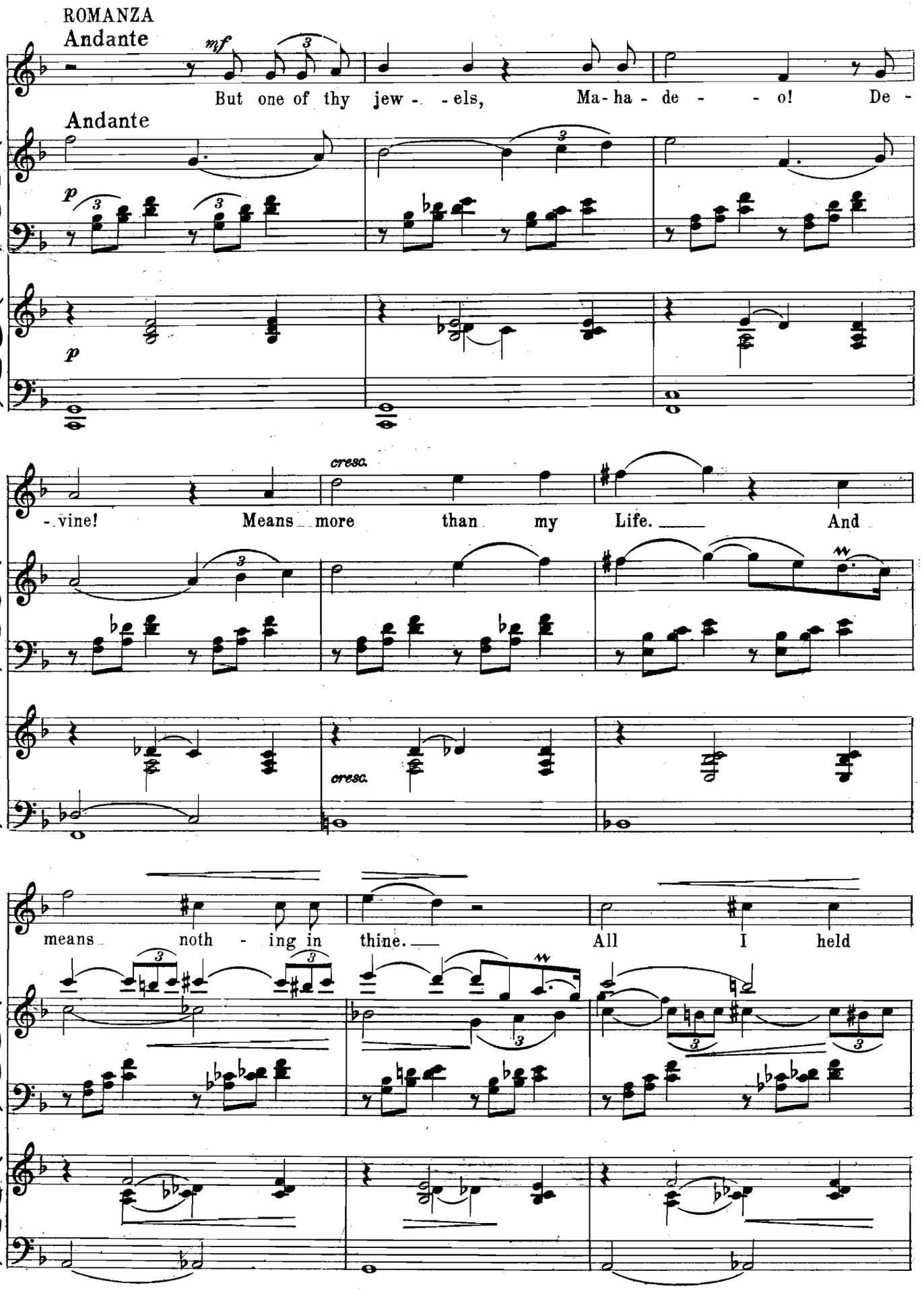
chance! Ma - ha - de - o! De - vine! Grant me one gem,

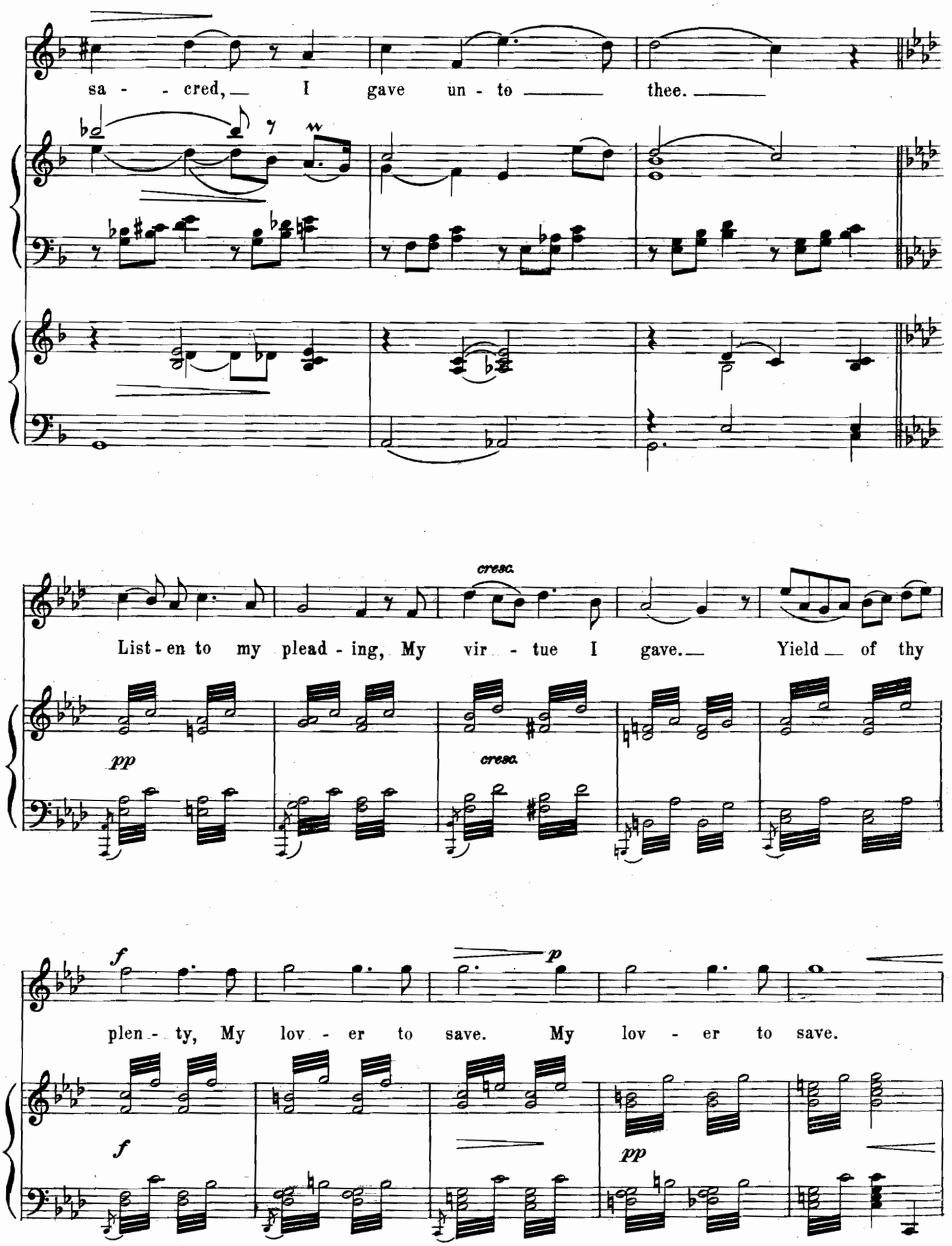
From the sa - cred shrine. My vir - tue was sold To en - rich thy great

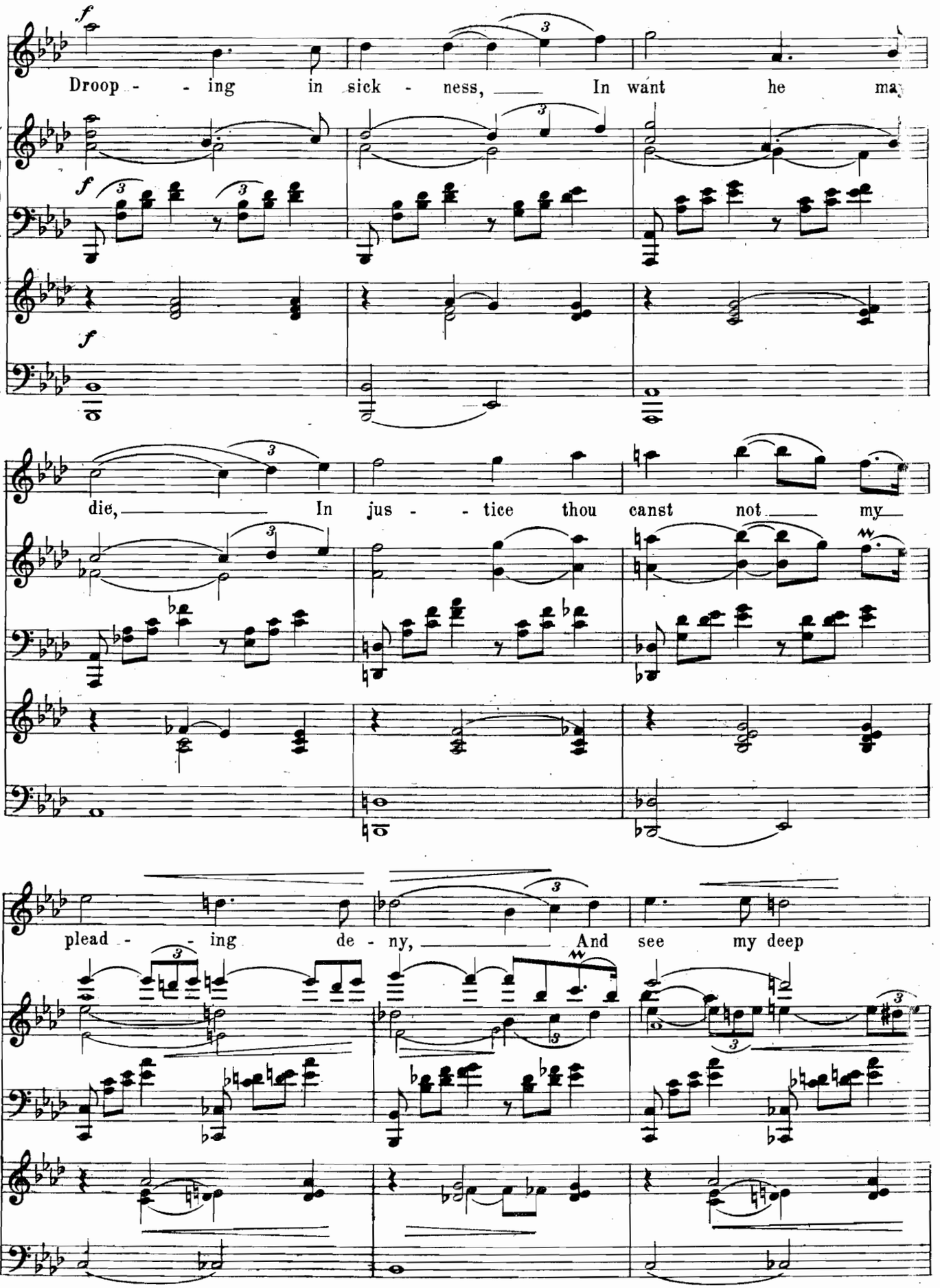
dim.

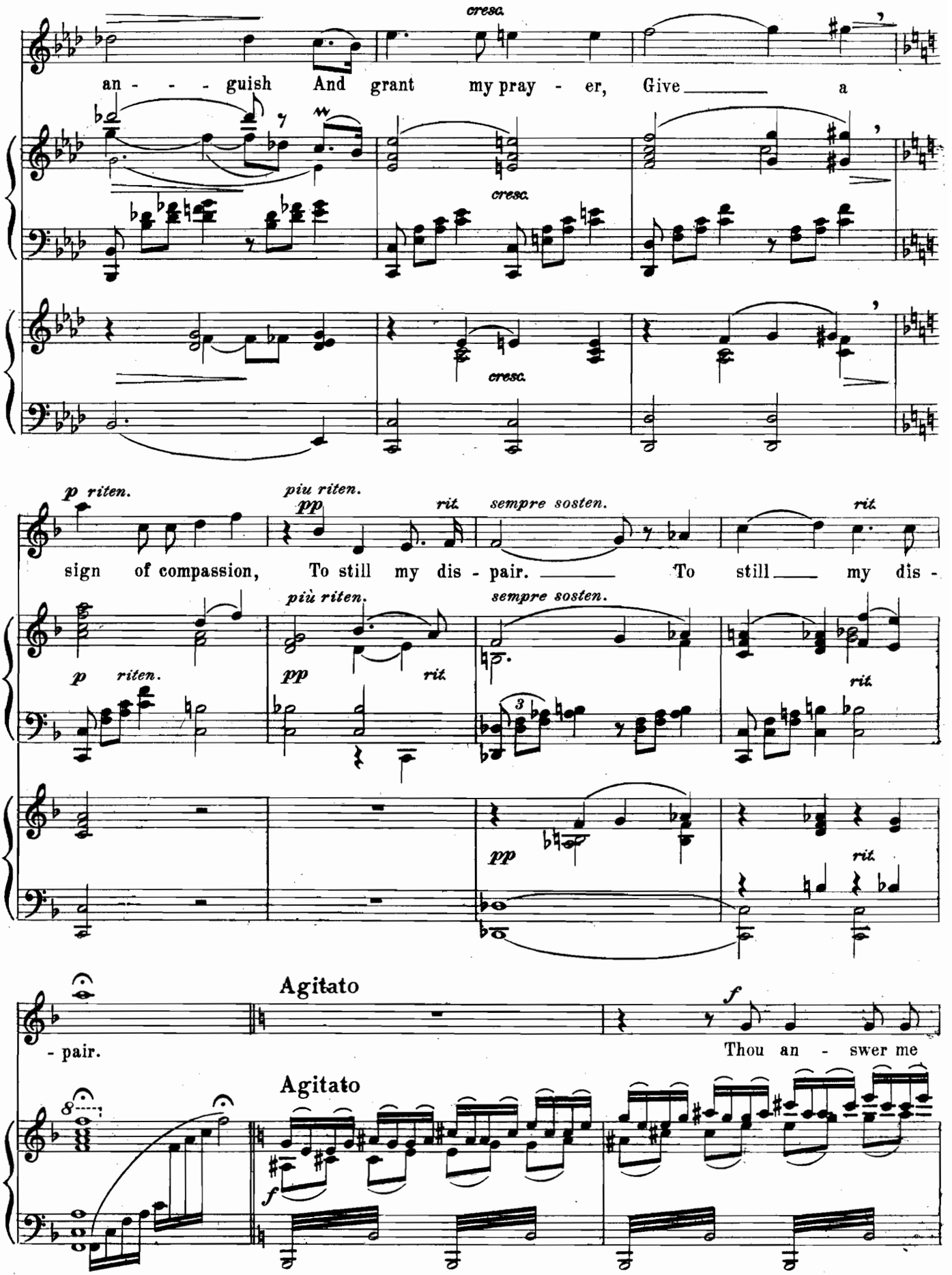
store, Give back but one stone I ask thee no more.

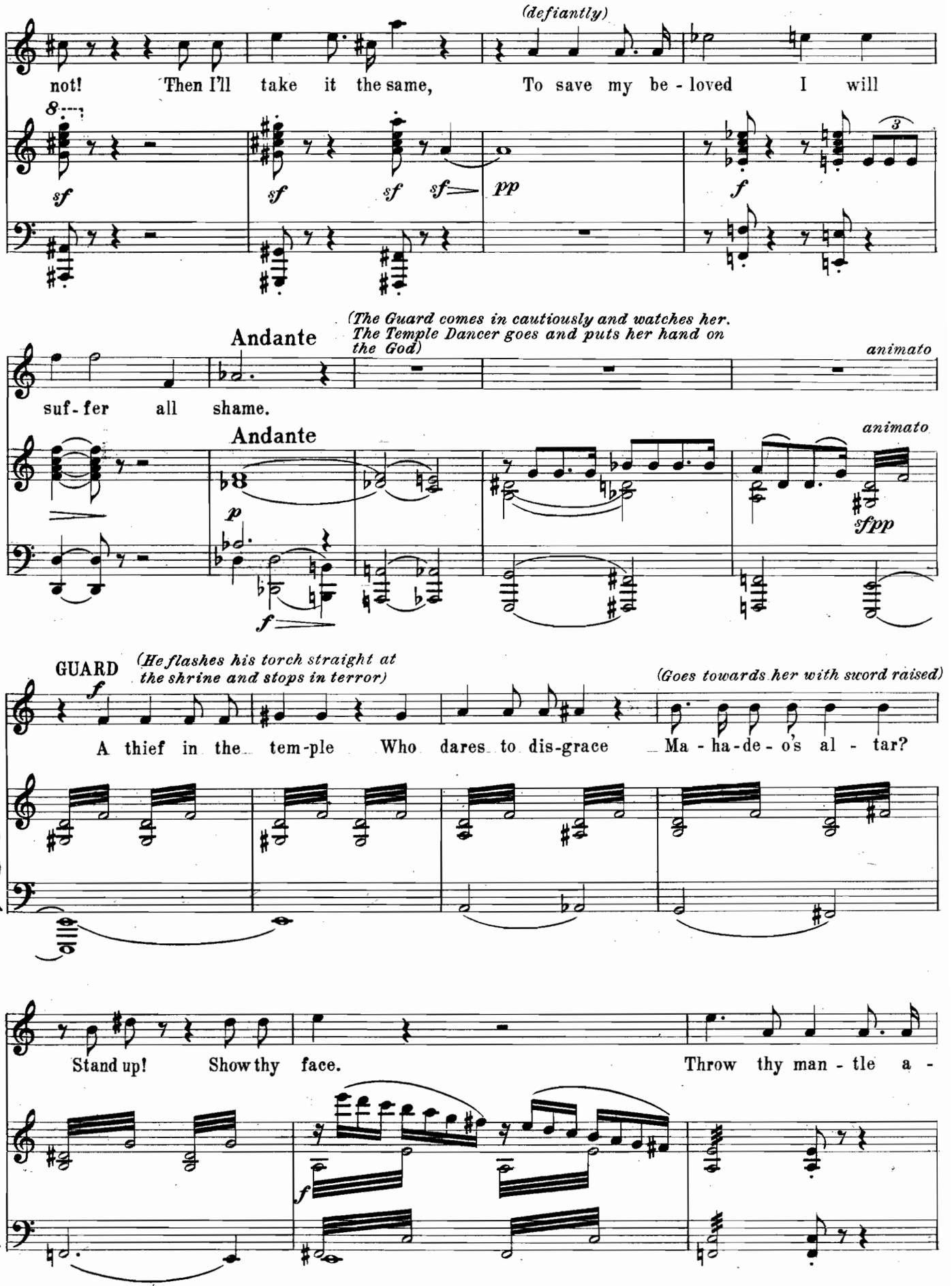
dim. *rit.*


ROMANZA
Andante
mf
But one of thy jew - - els, Ma - ha - de - - - o! De -
Andante
p
p
- vine! Means more than my Life. And
cresc.
cresc.
means noth - ing in thine. All I held


sa - - cred, I gave un - to thee.
cresc.
List - en to my plead - ing, My vir - tue I gave. Yield of thy
pp
cresc.
f
p
plen - ty, My lov - er to save. My lov - er to save.
f
pp


Droop - - ing in sick - ness, In want he ma
die, In jus - - tice thou canst not my
plead - - ing de - ny, And see my deep


cresc.
an - - - guish And grant my pray - er, Give a
cresc.
cresc.
p riten.
piu riten.
pp
rit.
sempre sosten.
rit.
sign of compassion, To still my dis - pair. To still my dis -
più riten.
sempre sosten.
p riten.
pp
rit.
rit.
pp
rit.
Agitato
- pair.
f
Thou an - swer me
Agitato
f


(defiantly)
not! Then I'll take it the same, To save my be - loved I will
suf - fer all shame.
Andante
(The Guard comes in cautiously and watches her. The Temple Dancer goes and puts her hand on the God)
animato
Andante
animato
GUARD
(He flashes his torch straight at the shrine and stops in terror)
(Goes towards her with sword raised)
A thief in the tem-ple Who dares to dis-grace Ma - ha-de - o's al - tar?
Stand up! Show thy face. Throw thy man - tle a -

(In an unguarded moment he seizes her)

(He tears the cloak from her shoulders, and steps back aghast, while she uses this opportunity to mount the Altar and take the snake from the God)

-side, Thy dis-guise is in vain.

sf *f*

GUARD

A

ff

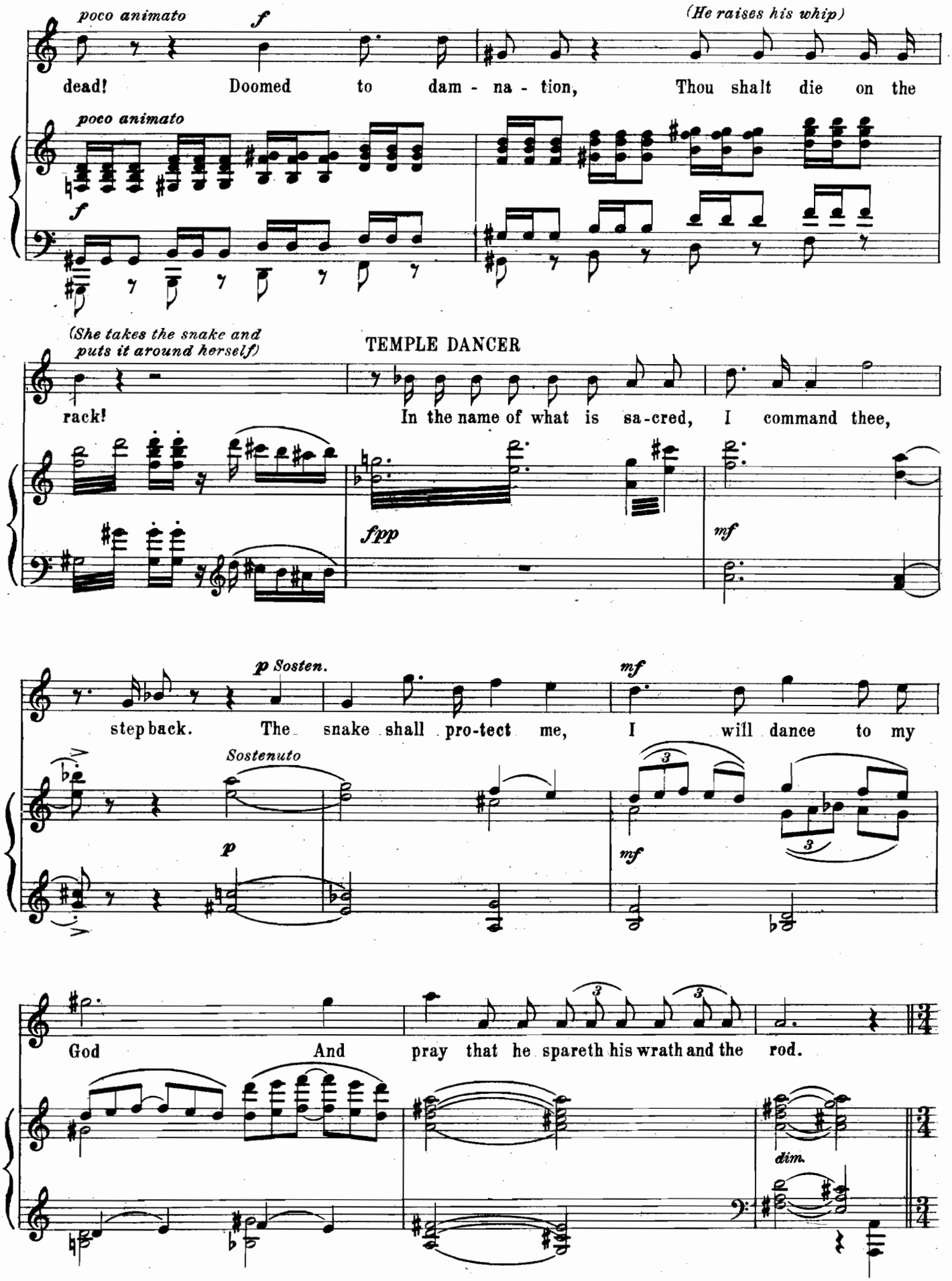
sf

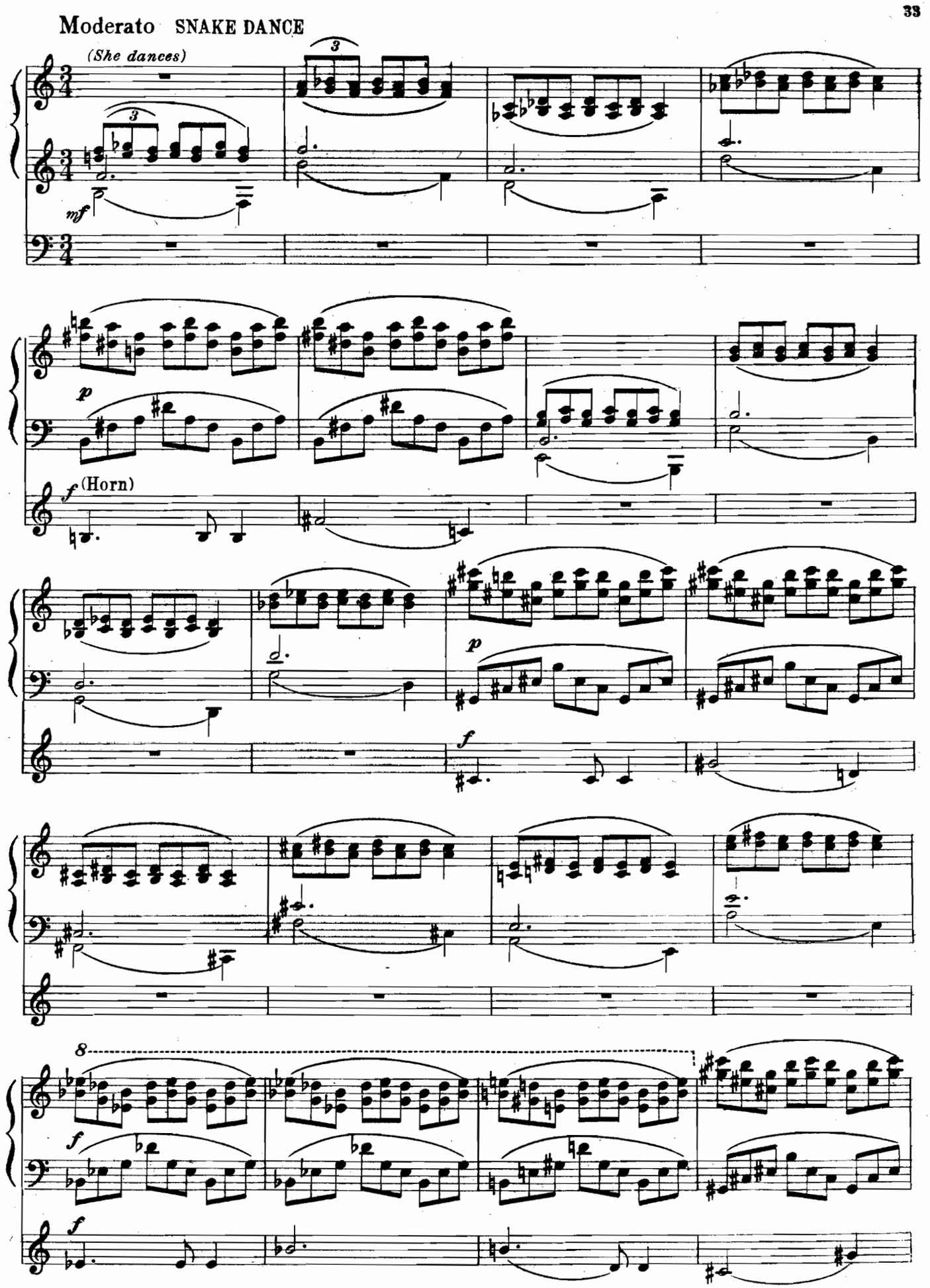
ritard. e dim.

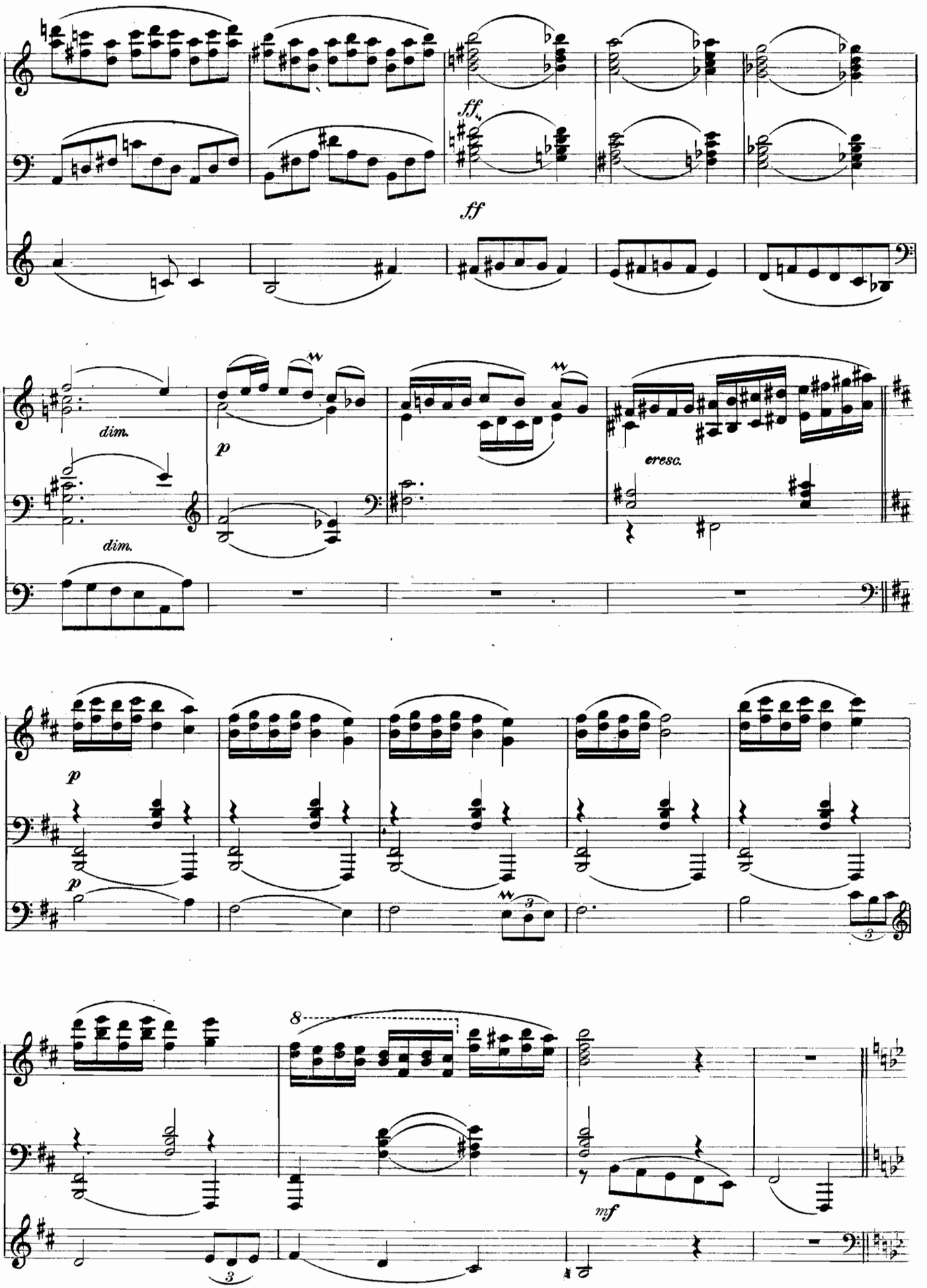
maid of the tem - ple, Her God didst pro - fane.— Know thou the curse that will

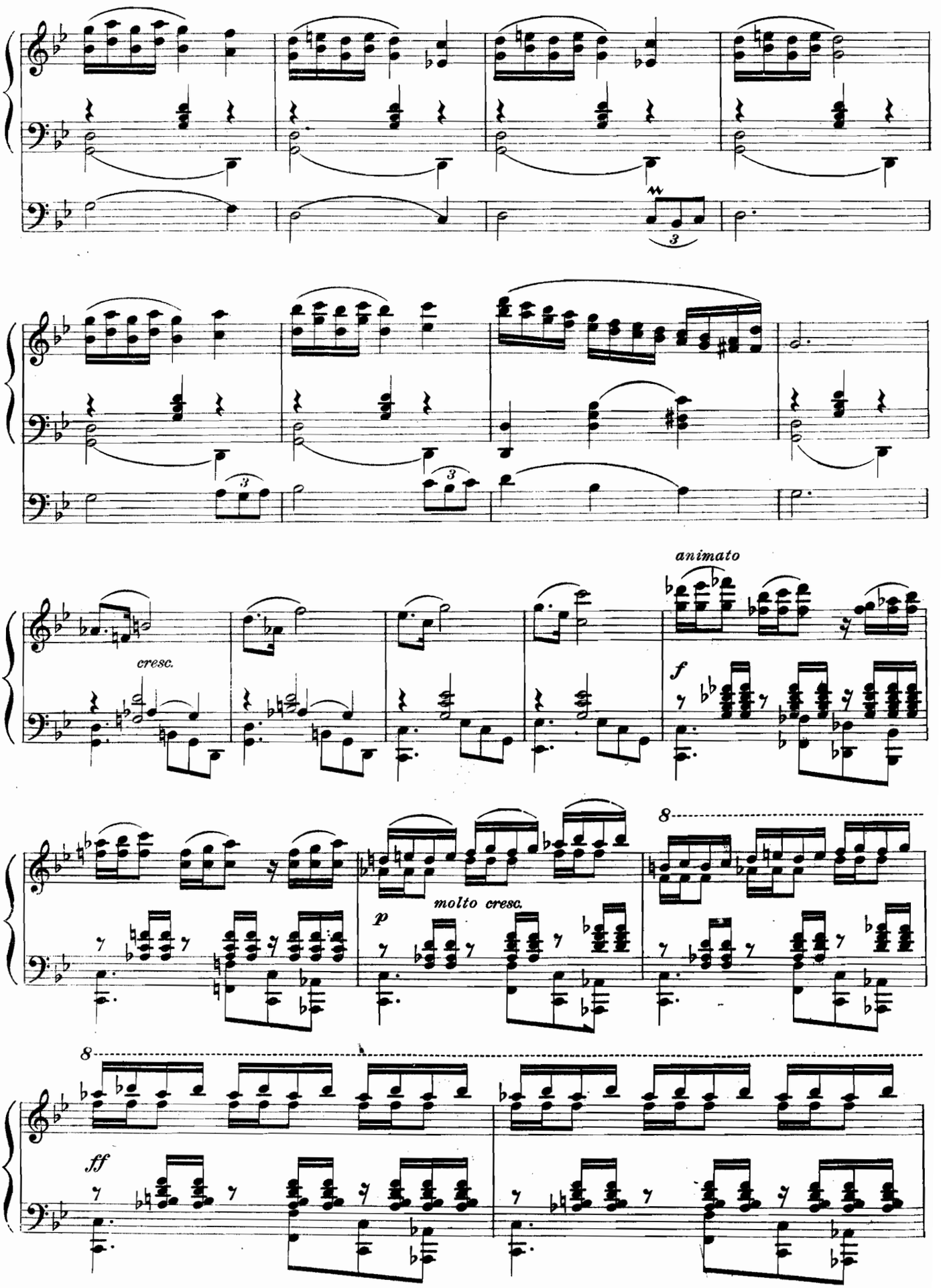
p

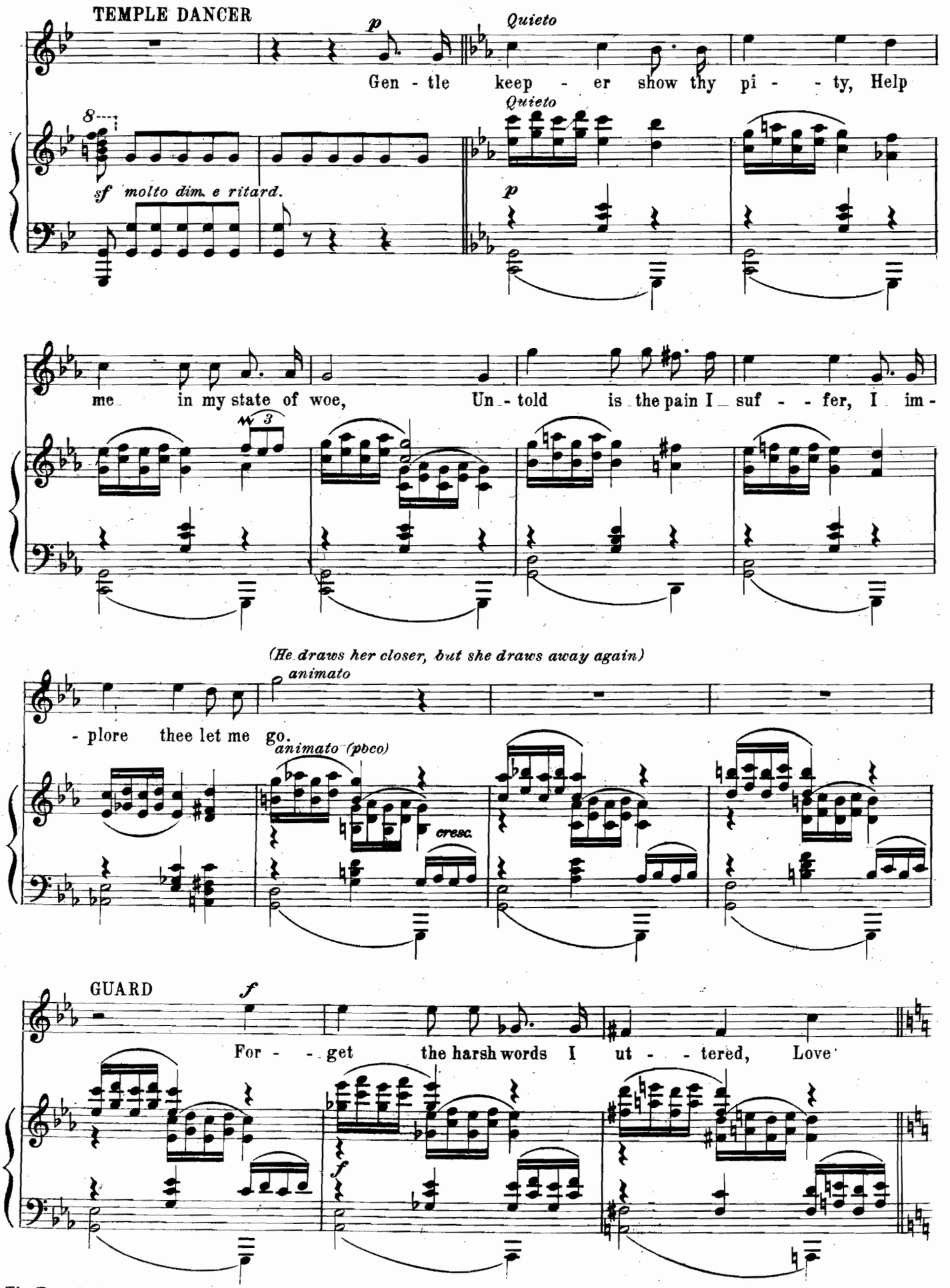
rest on thy head:— Thou art lost amongst the liv - ing, Thou art lost amongst the

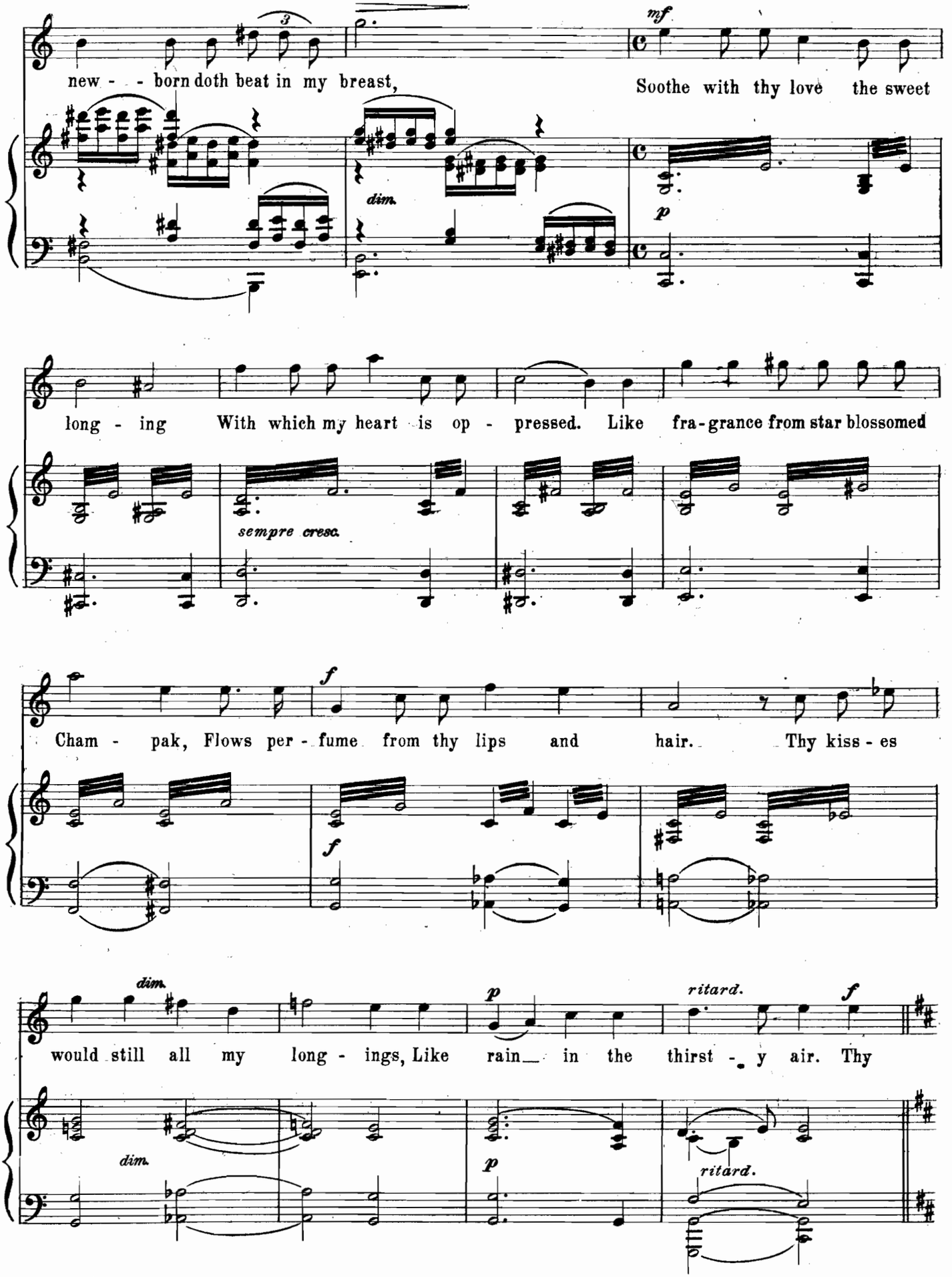

poco animato
f
(He raises his whip)
dead! Doomed to dam - na - tion, Thou shalt die on the
poco animato
f
(She takes the snake and puts it around herself)
TEMPLE DANCER
rack! In the name of what is sa-cred, I command thee,
fpp
mf
p Sosten.
mf
step back. The snake shall pro-tect me, I will dance to my
Sostenuto
p
mf
3
3
3
3
God And pray that he spareth his wrath and the rod.
dim.


Moderato SNAKE DANCE
(She dances)
mf
p
f (Horn)
p
f
8
f
f


ff.
ff
dim.
dim.
p
cresc.
p
p
mf


animato
cresc.
f
molto cresc.
p
ff


TEMPLE DANCER
p
Quieto
Gen - tle keep - er show thy pi - - ty, Help
Quieto
sf molto dim. e ritard.
p
me in my state of woe, Un - told is the pain I suf - - fer, I im -
3
(He draws her closer, but she draws away again)
animato
- plore thee let me go.
animato (pbco)
cresc.
GUARD
f
For - - get the harsh words I ut - - tered, Love
f


mf
new - - born doth beat in my breast,
Soothe with thy love the sweet
dim.
p
long - ing With which my heart is op - pressed. Like fra-grance from star blossomed
sempre cresc.
f
Cham - pak, Flows per - fume from thy lips and hair. Thy kiss - es
f
dim.
p
ritard.
f
would still all my long - ings, Like rain in the thirst - y air. Thy
dim.
p
ritard.

Duetto

TEMPLE DANCER

GUARD

breath like the wav-ing Lo - tus, Wafts in - cense that kin - dles my

mf

love, Come let us go, from the tem - ple and hide in the sweet scent-ed

cresc.

cresc.

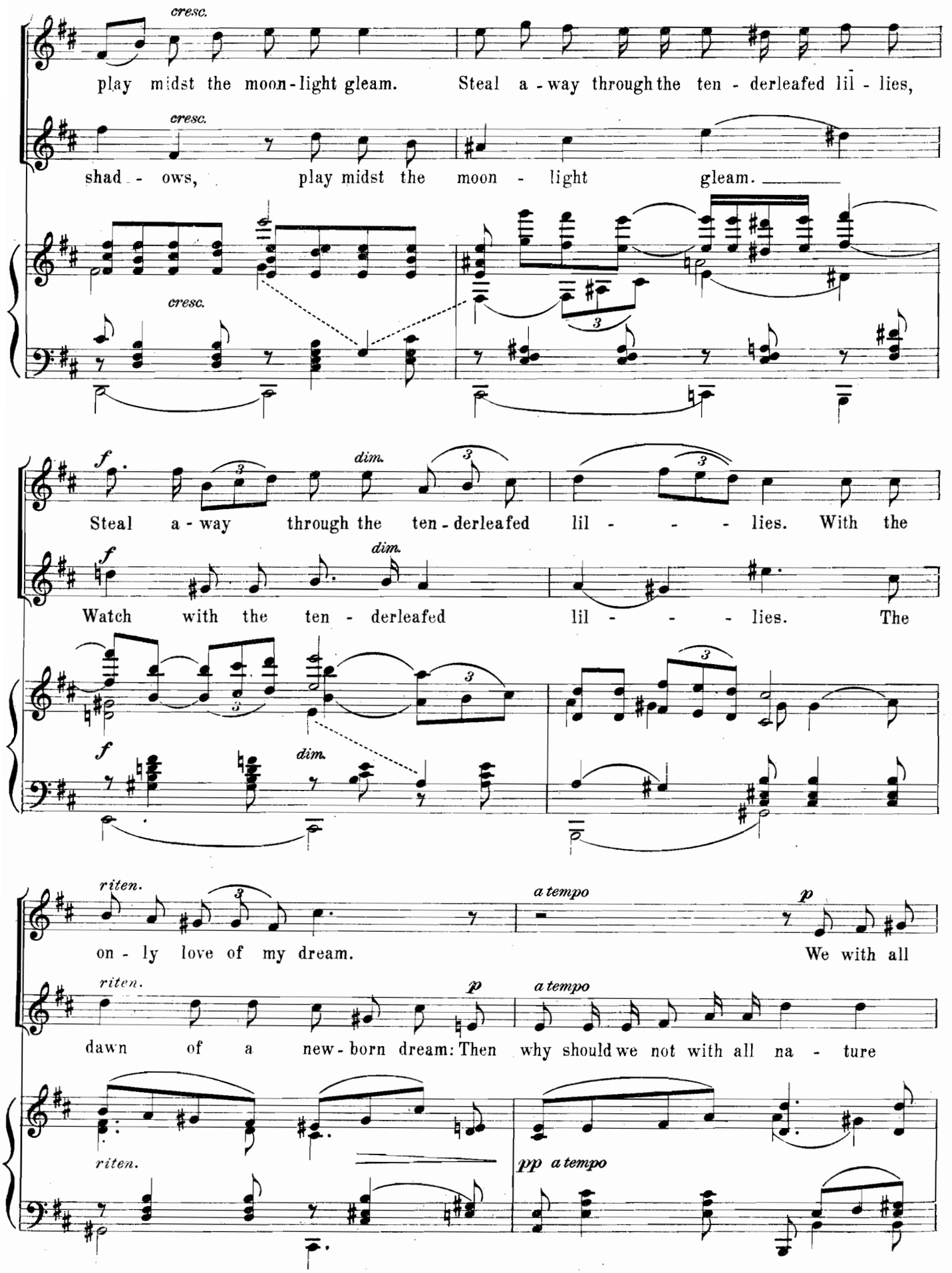
rit. *p* *a tempo*

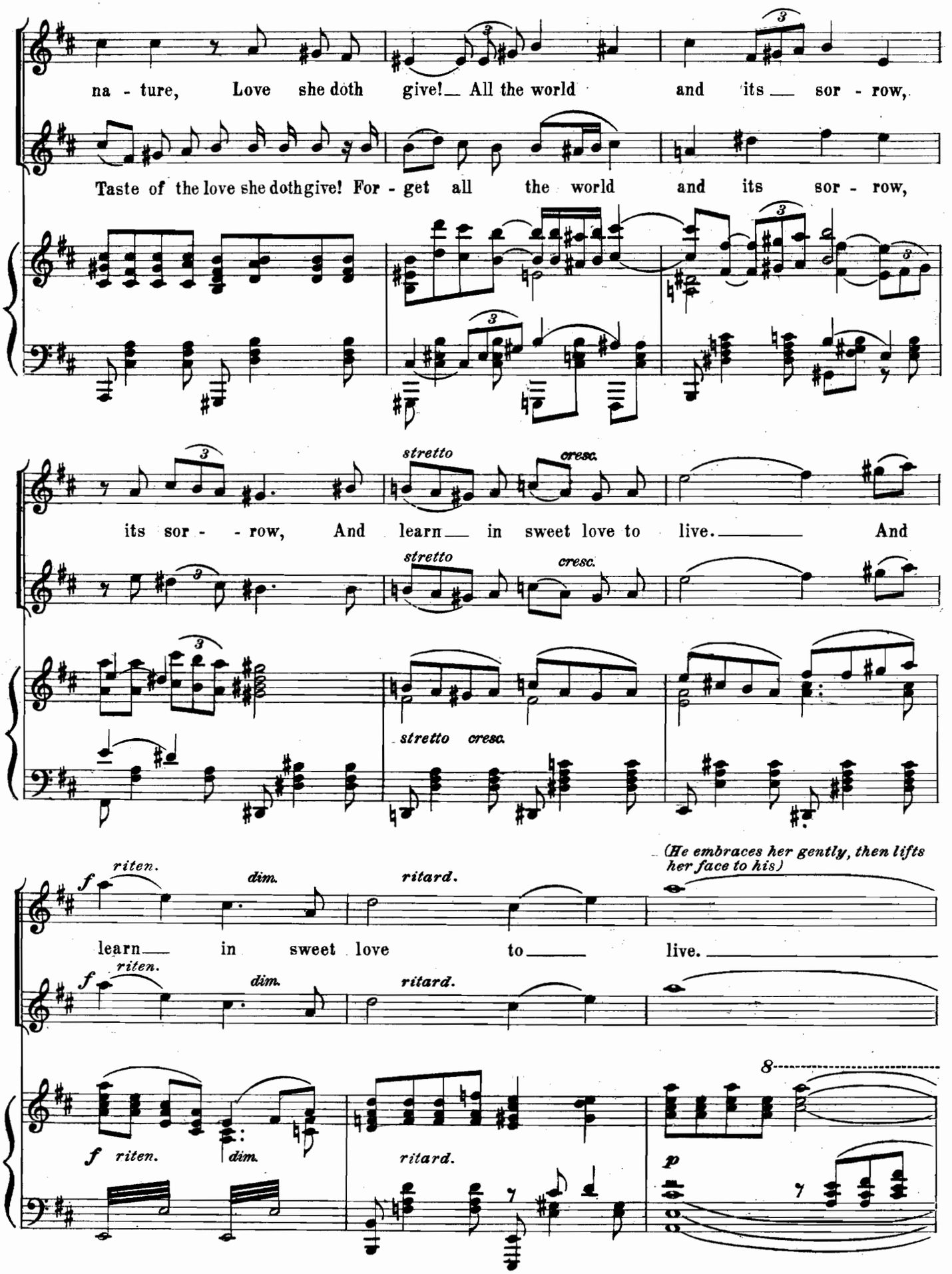
And there in the shad - ows, That

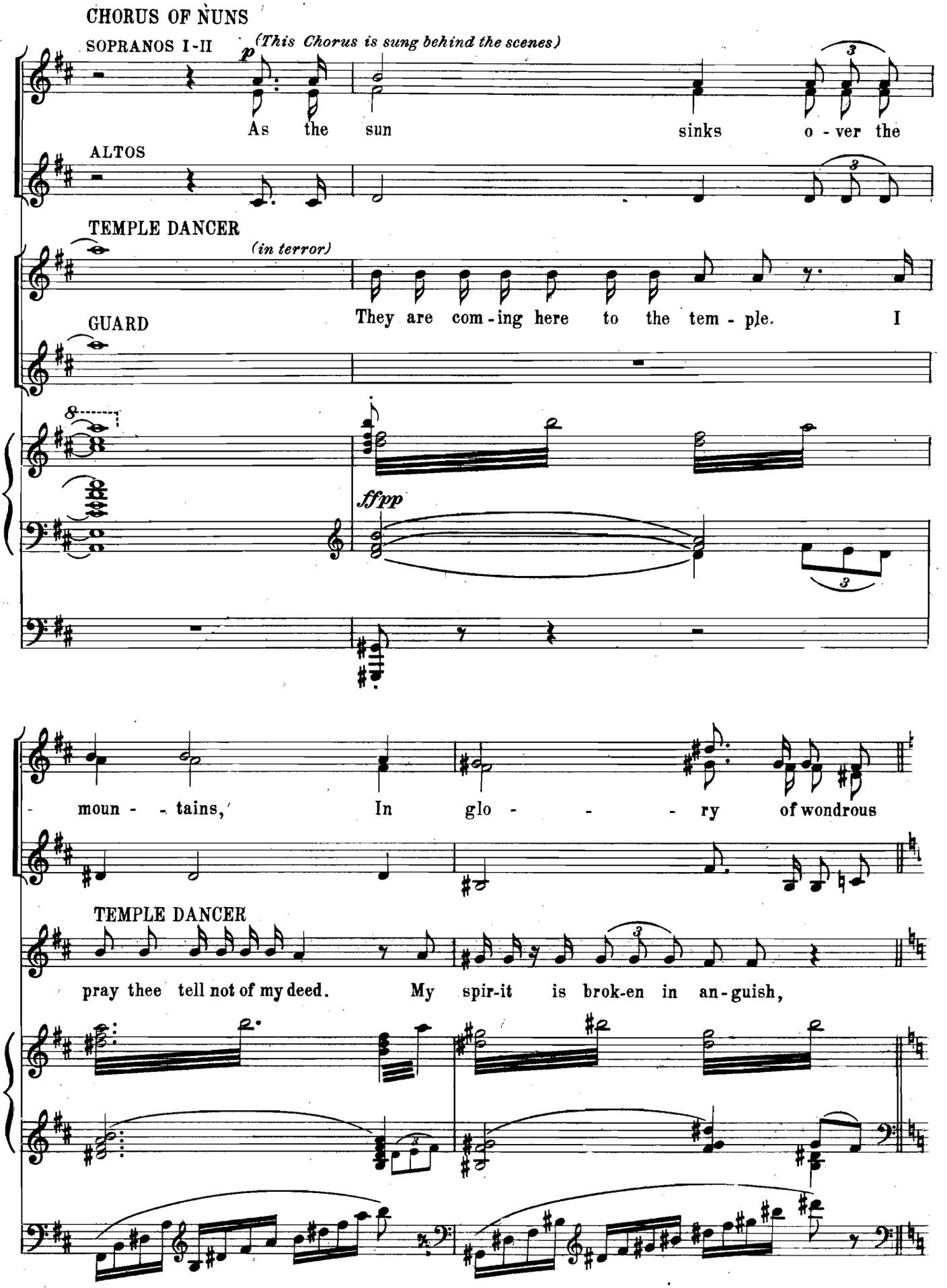
ff *dim.* *rit.* *p* *a tempo*

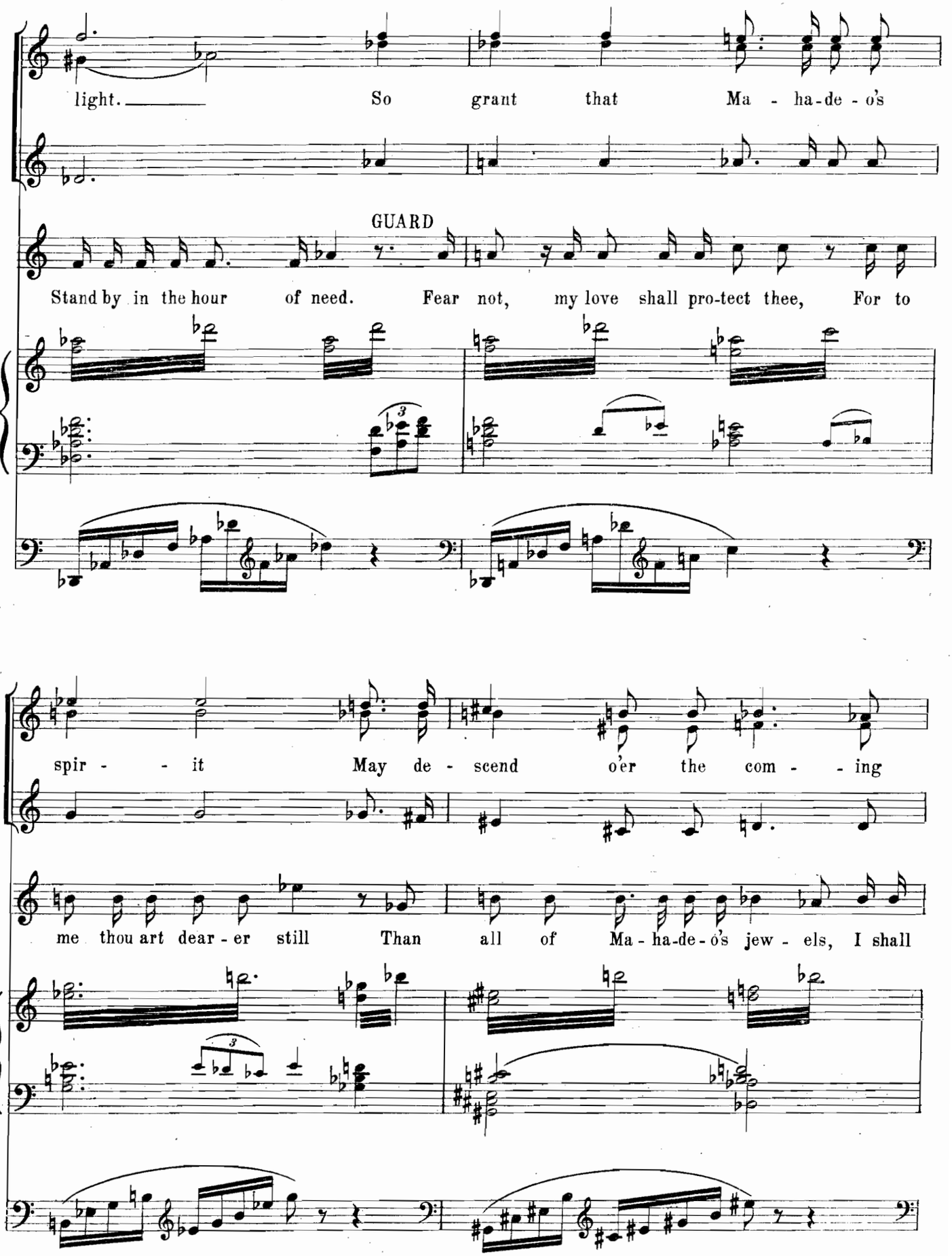
grove. And hide in the sweet scent-ed grove. There in the

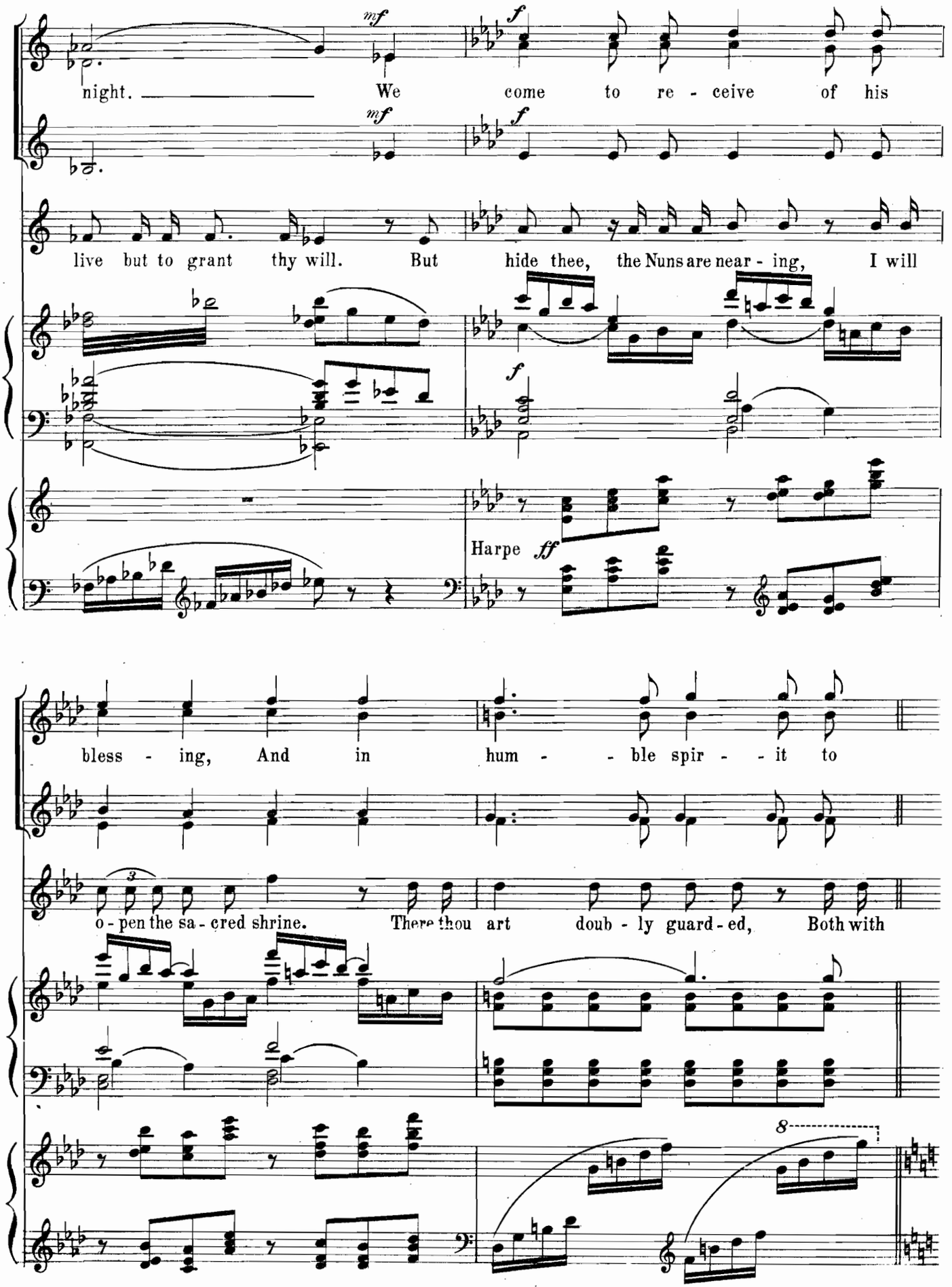
ff *dim.* *ritard.* *p* *a tempo*

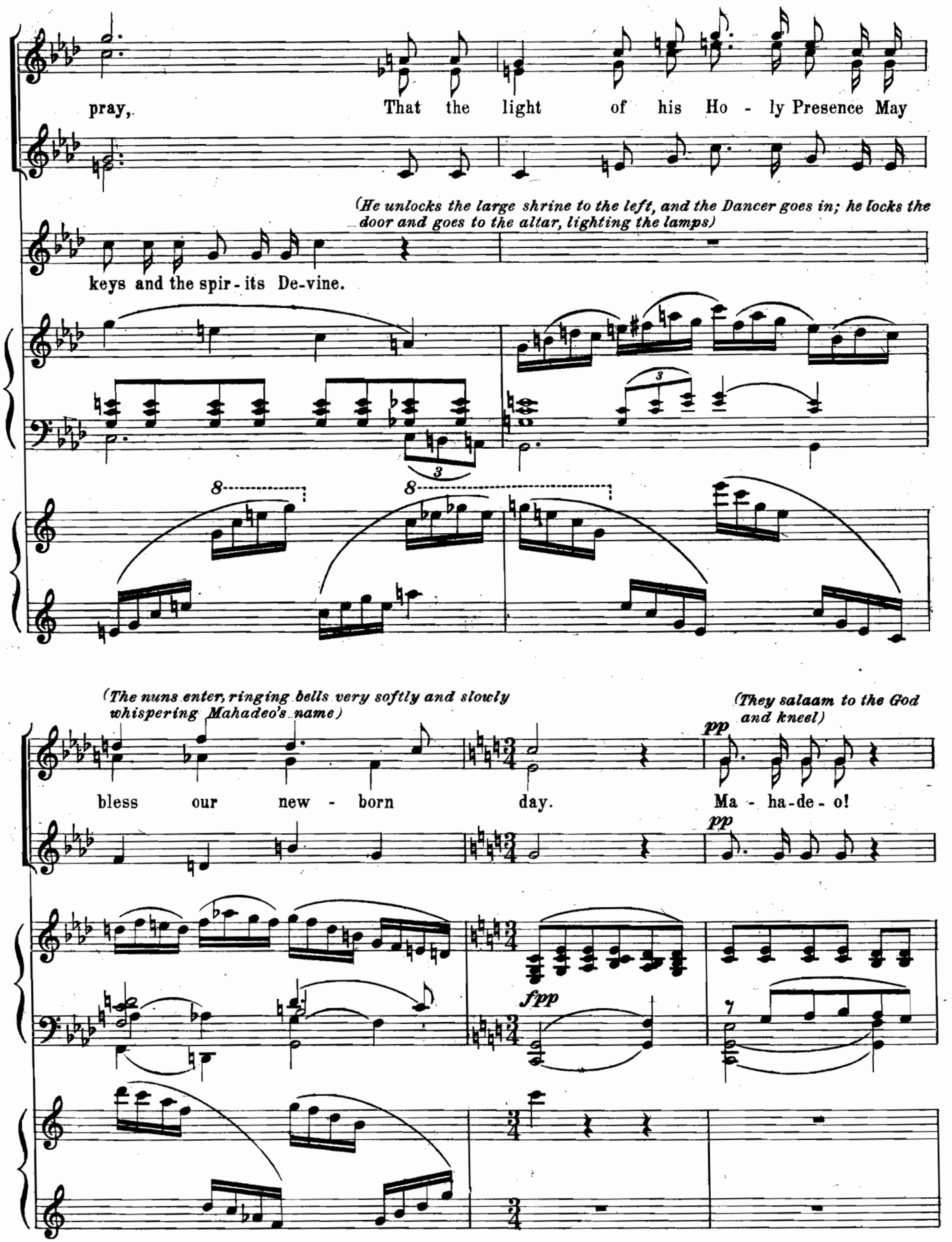

cresc.
play midst the moon-light gleam. Steal a-way through the ten-derleafed lil-lies,
cresc.
shad-ows, play midst the moon-light gleam.
cresc.
f
dim.
Steal a-way through the ten-derleafed lil- - - - lies. With the
f
dim.
Watch with the ten-derleafed lil- - - - lies. The
f
dim.
riten.
a tempo
p
on-ly love of my dream. We with all
riten.
p
a tempo
dawn of a new-born dream: Then why should we not with all na-ture
riten.
pp a tempo

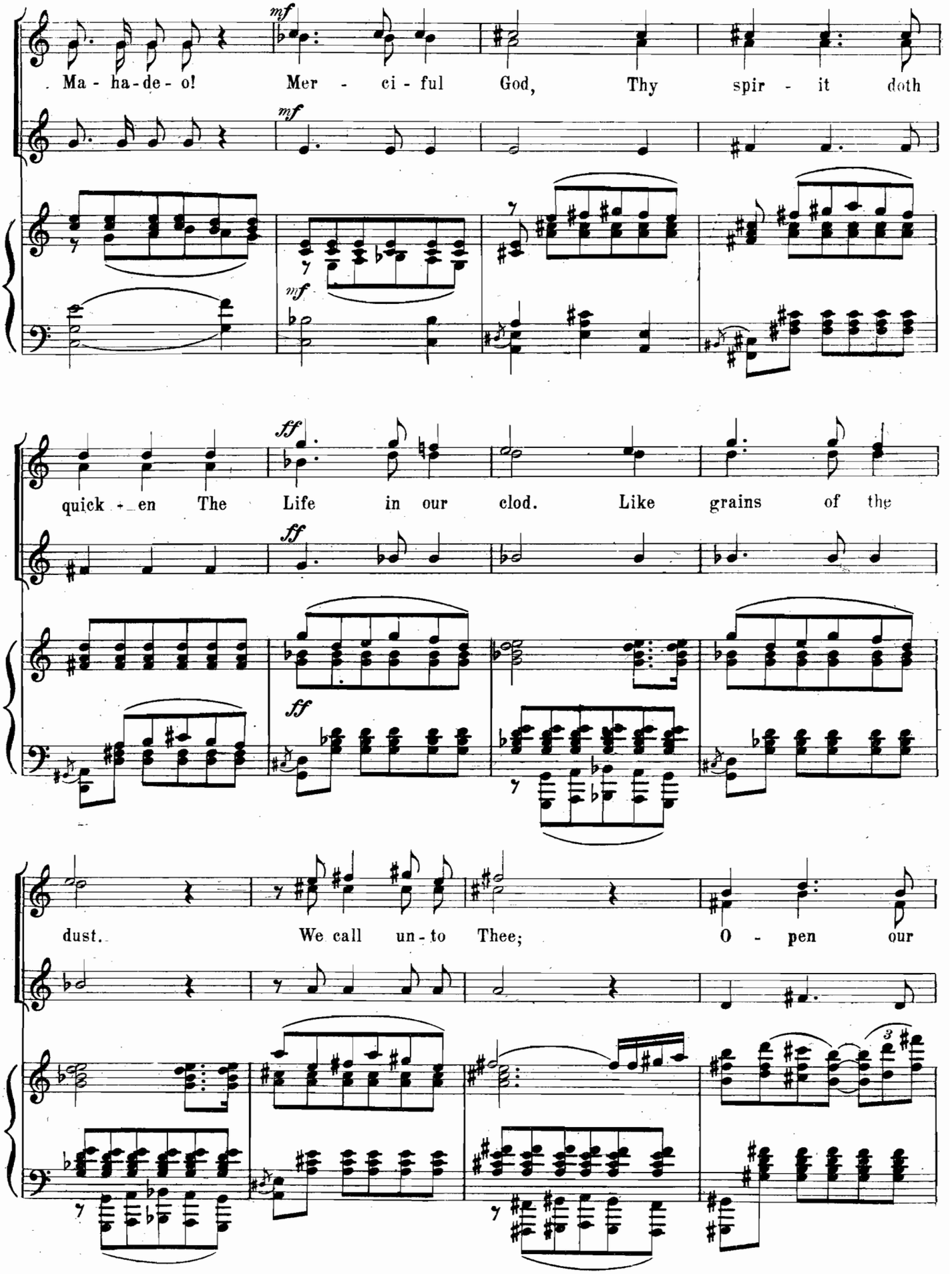

na - ture, Love she doth give! All the world and its sor - row,
Taste of the love she doth give! For - get all the world and its sor - row,
its sor - - row, And learn in sweet love to live. And
stretto
cresc.
stretto cresc.
riten.
dim.
ritard.
learn in sweet love to live.
(He embraces her gently, then lifts her face to his)
f
p

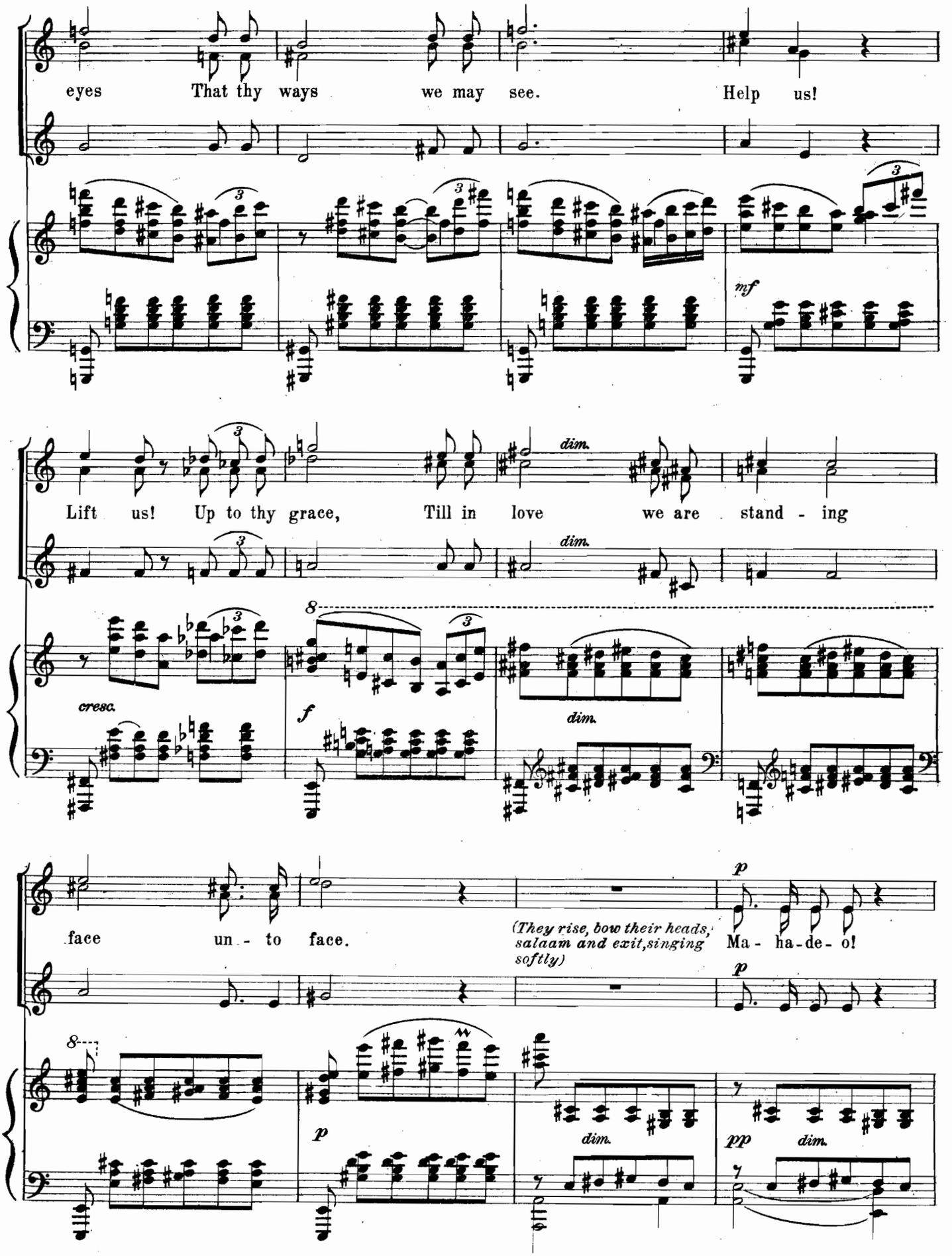

CHORUS OF NUNS
SOPRANOS I-II
(This Chorus is sung behind the scenes)
p
As the sun sinks o - ver the
ALTOS
TEMPLE DANCER
(in terror)
They are com - ing here to the tem - ple. I
GUARD
ff pp
- moun - - tains, In glo - - - - ry of wondrous
TEMPLE DANCER
pray thee tell not of my deed. My spir-it is brok-en in an-guish,

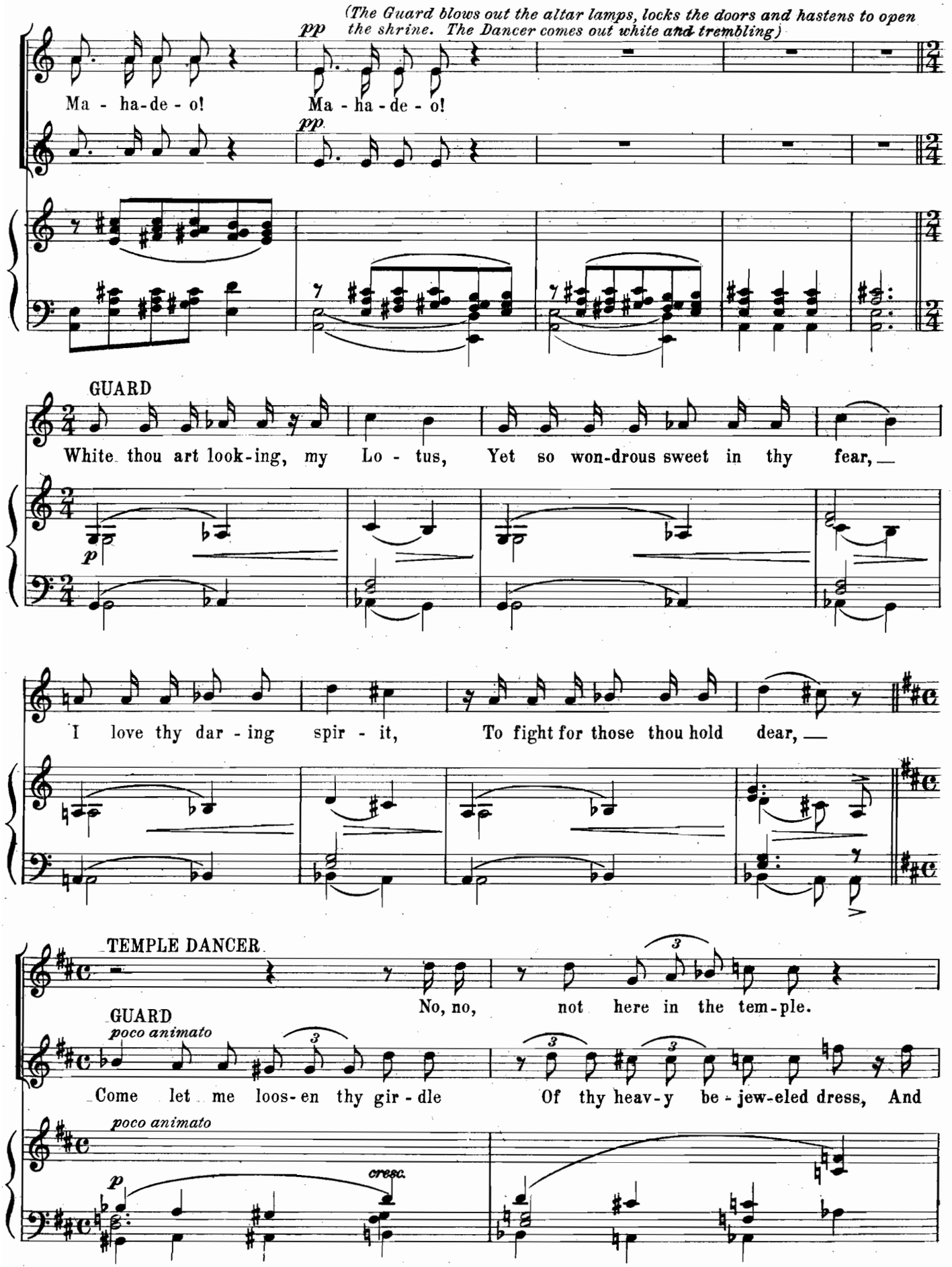

light. So grant that Ma - ha-de - o's
GUARD
Stand by in the hour of need. Fear not, my love shall pro-tect thee, For to
spir - - it May de - scend o'er the com - - ing
me thou art dear - er still Than all of Ma - ha-de - o's jew - els, I shall

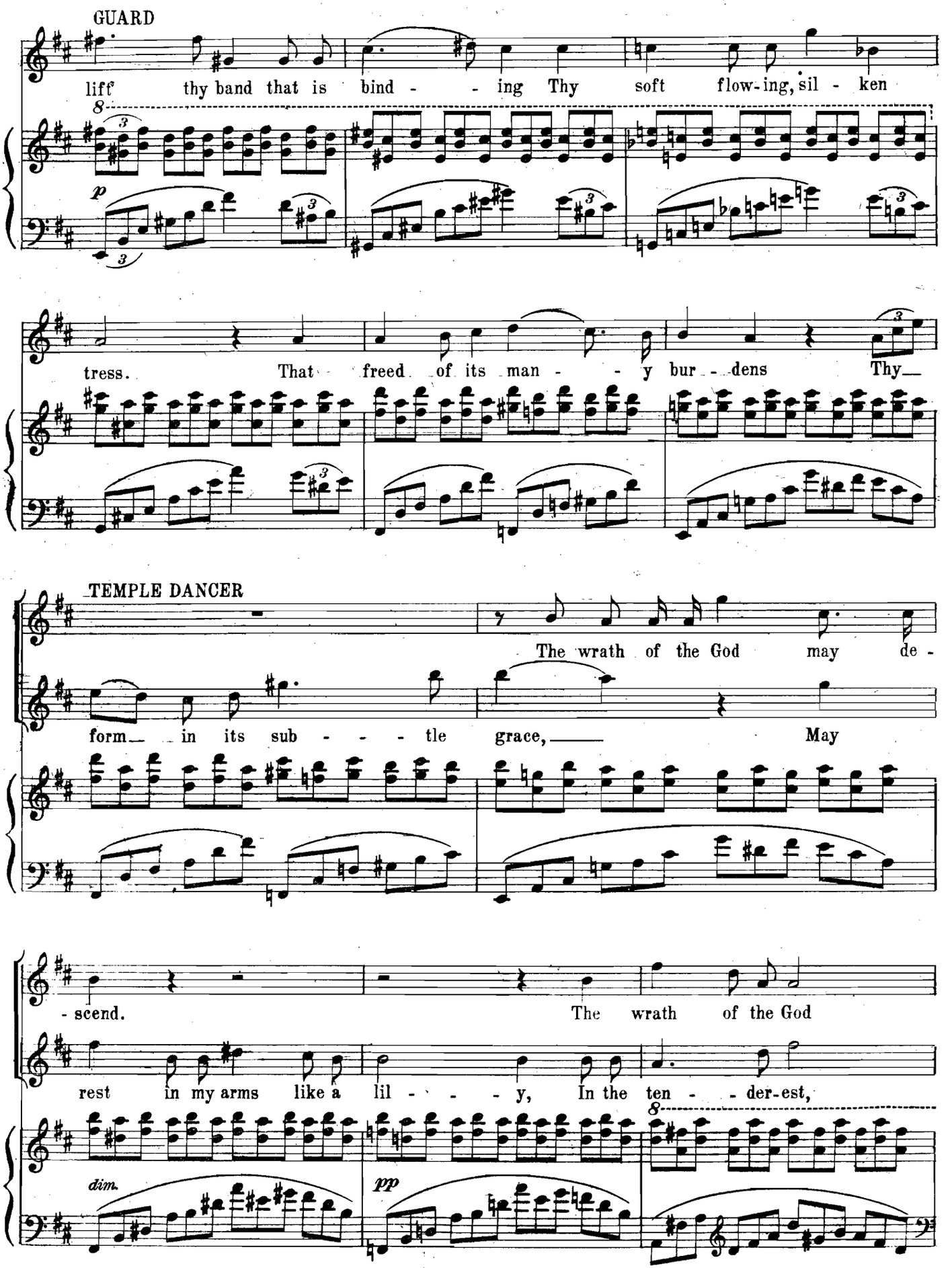

night. We come to re - ceive of his
live but to grant thy will. But hide thee, the Nuns are near - ing, I will
Harpe
bless - ing, And in hum - - ble spir - - it to
o - pen the sa - cred shrine. There thou art doub - ly guard - ed, Both with

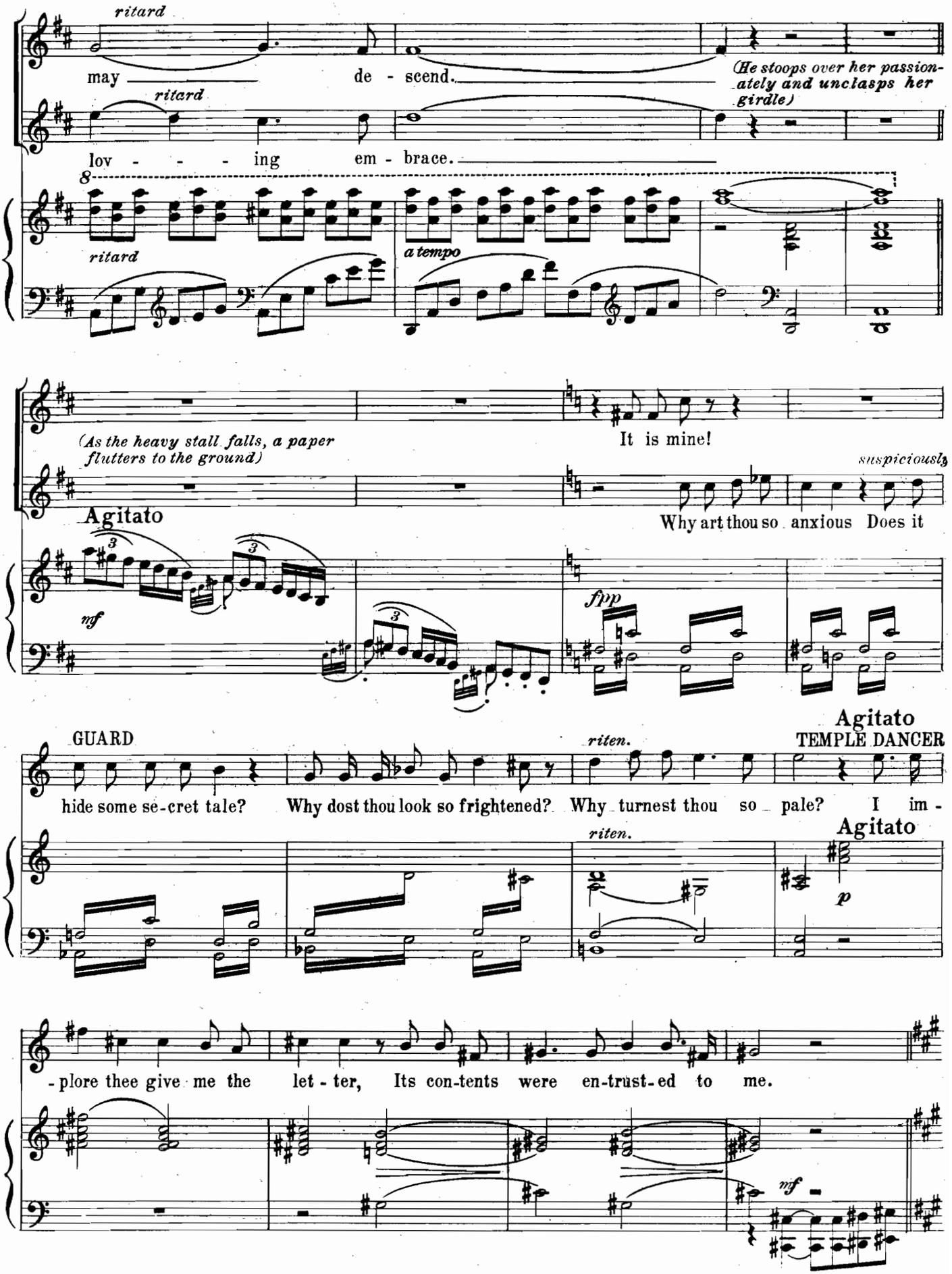

pray, That the light of his Ho - ly Presence May
(He unlocks the large shrine to the left, and the Dancer goes in; he locks the door and goes to the altar, lighting the lamps)
keys and the spir - its De-vine.
(The nuns enter, ringing bells very softly and slowly whispering Mahadeo's name)
(They salaam to the God and kneel)
pp
bless our new - born day.
Ma - ha-de - o!
pp
fpp

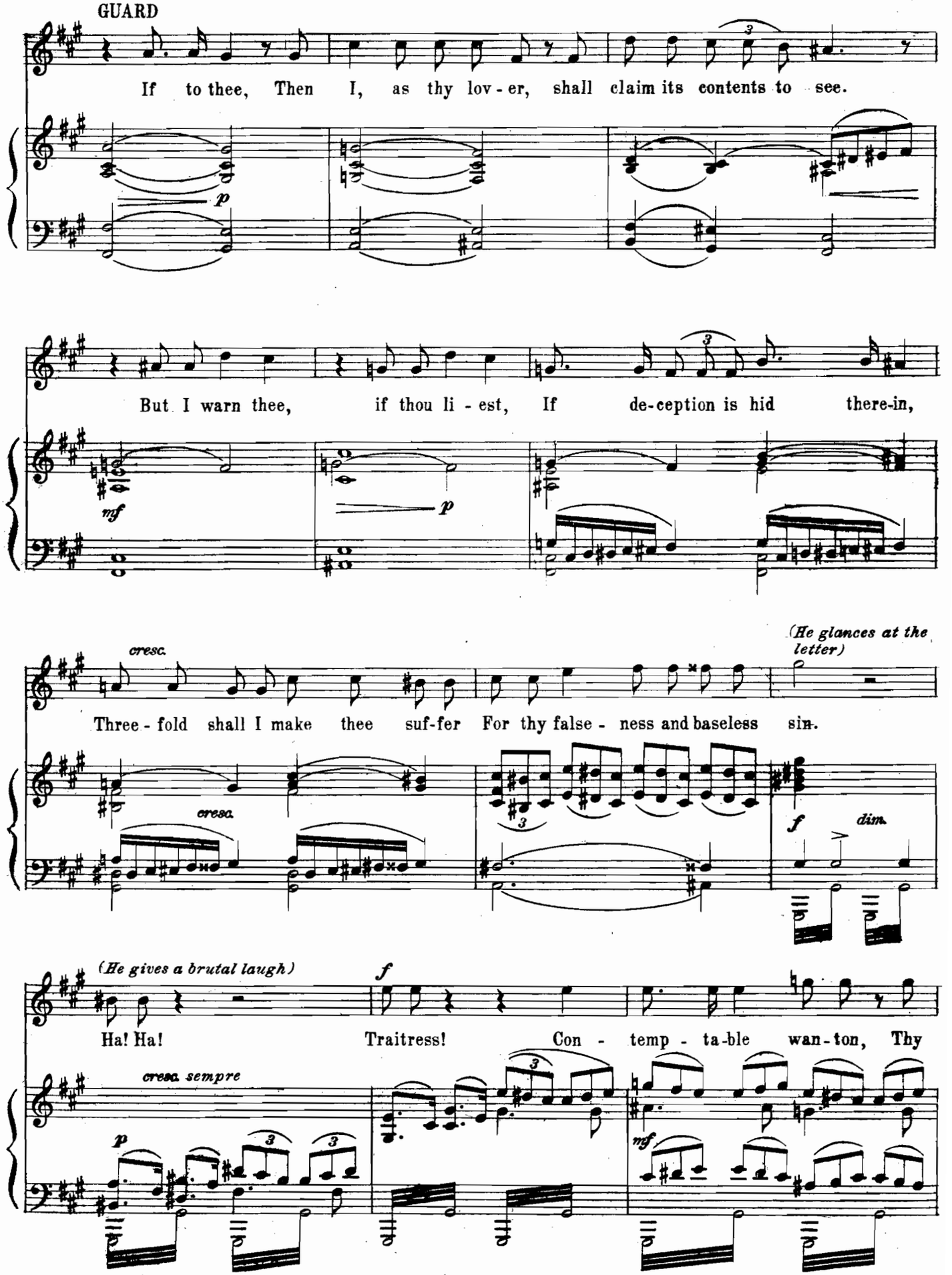

mf
Ma - ha-de - o! Mer - ci - ful God, Thy spir - it doth
ff
quick - en The Life in our clod. Like grains of the
dust. We call un - to Thee; O - pen our

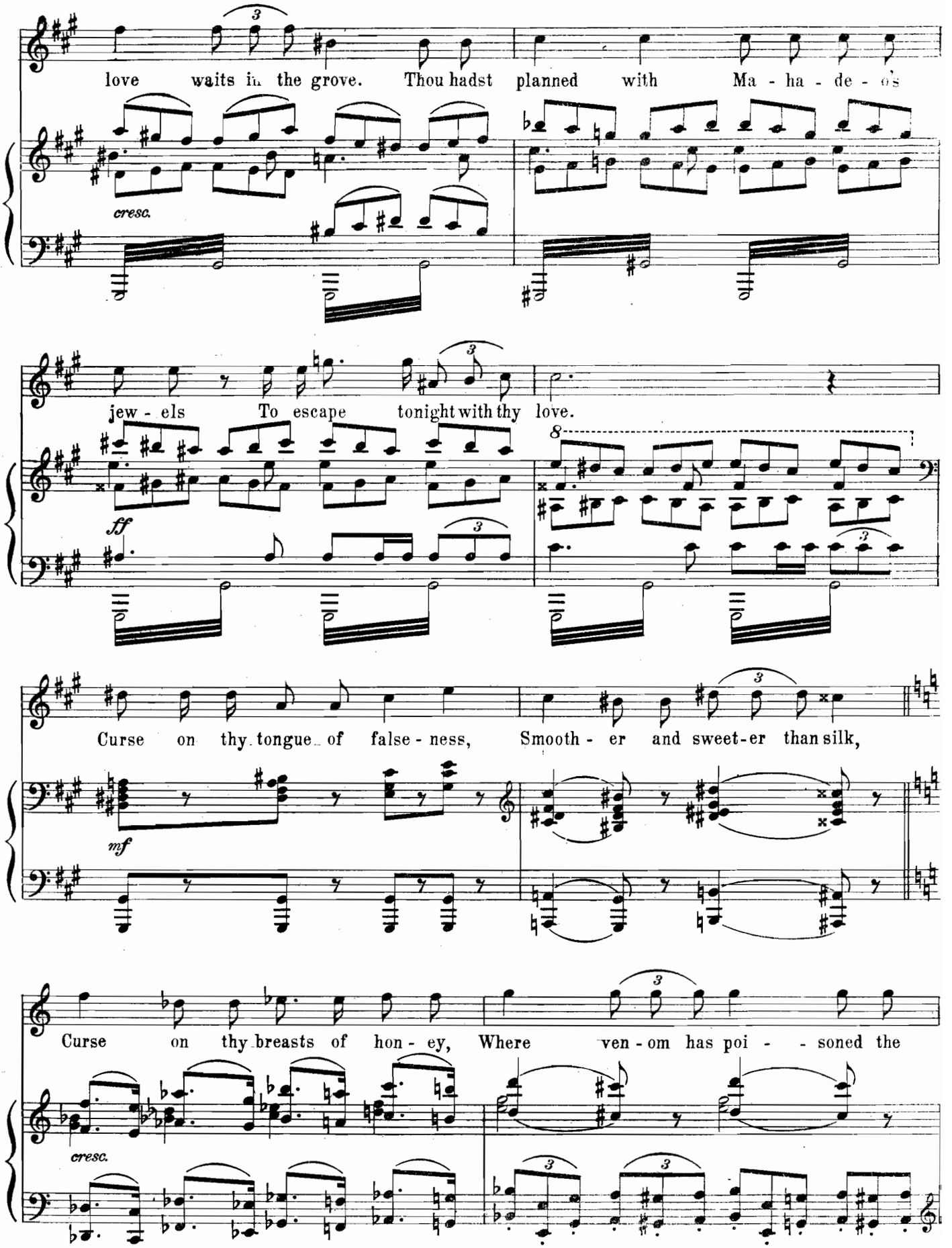

eyes That thy ways we may see. Help us!
mf
Lift us! Up to thy grace, Till in love we are stand - ing
dim.
cresc.
f
face un - to face.
(They rise, bow their heads, salaam and exit, singing softly)
p
Ma - ha-de- o!
pp


(The Guard blows out the altar lamps, locks the doors and hastens to open the shrine. The Dancer comes out white and trembling)
pp
Ma - ha-de - o!
Ma - ha-de - o!
GUARD
White thou art look-ing, my Lo - tus, Yet so won-drous sweet in thy fear, —
I love thy dar - ing spir - it, To fight for those thou hold dear, —
TEMPLE DANCER
No, no, not here in the tem-ple.
GUARD
poco animato
Come let me loos-en thy gir - dle Of thy heav-y be - jew-eled dress, And
cresc.

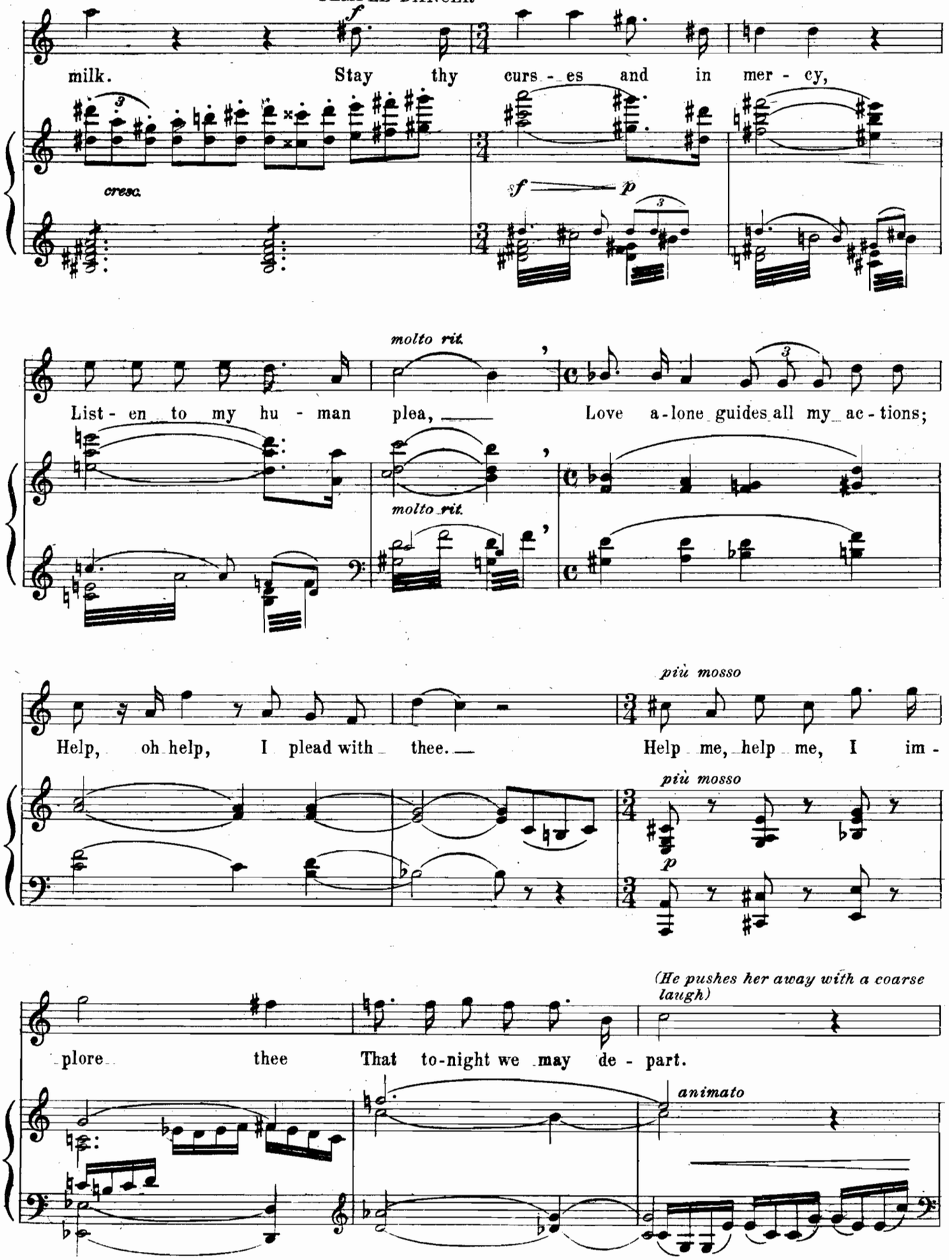

GUARD
liff' thy band that is bind - - ing Thy soft flow-ing, sil - ken
p
tress. That freed of its man - - y bur - dens Thy
TEMPLE DANCER
The wrath of the God may de -
form in its sub - - - tle grace, May
- scend. The wrath of the God
rest in my arms like a lil - - - y, In the ten - der-est,
dim.
pp

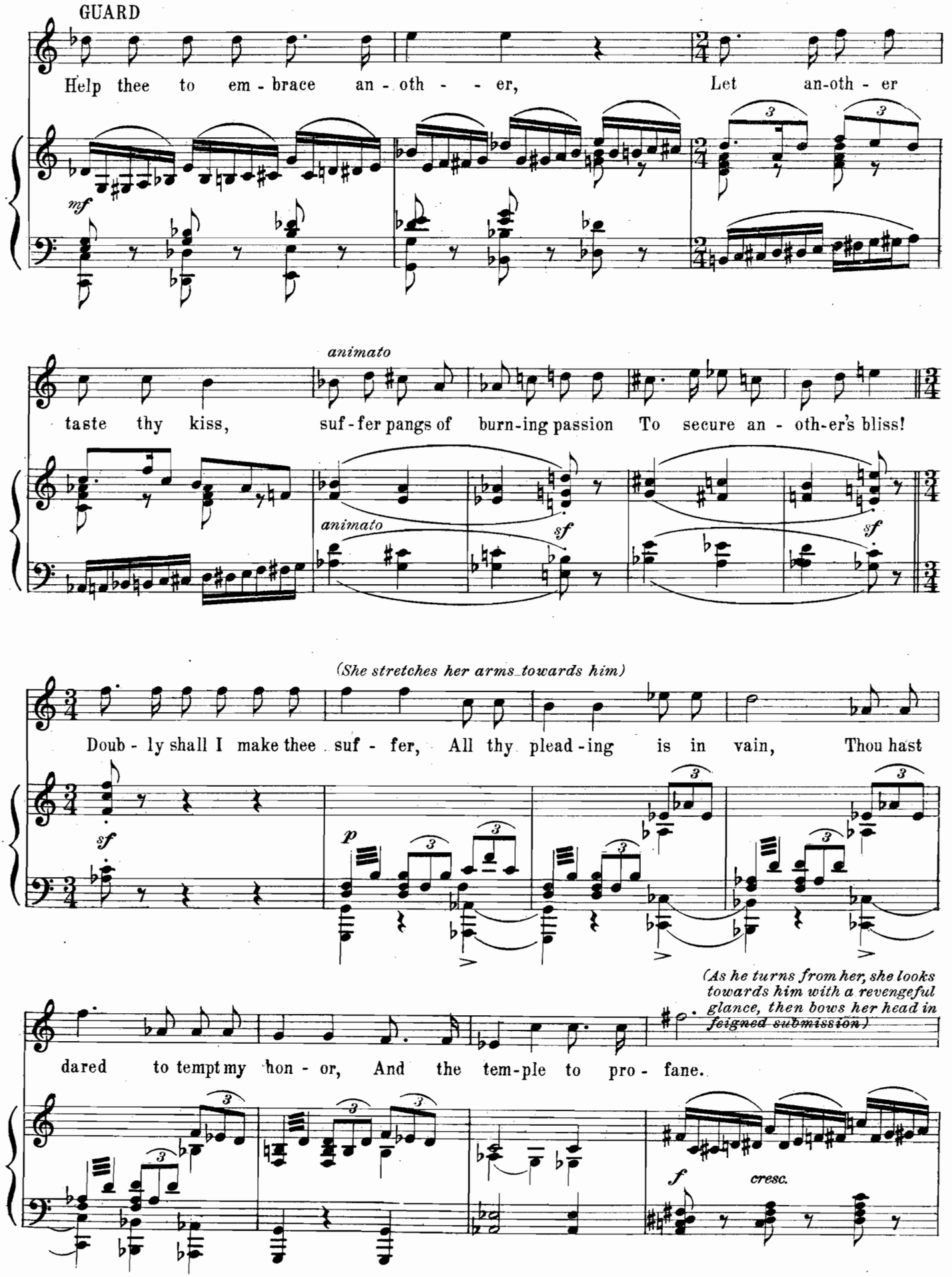

ritard
may de - scend.
(He stoops over her passionately and unclasps her girdle)
ritard
lov - - - ing em - brace.
8
ritard
a tempo
(As the heavy stall falls, a paper flutters to the ground)
It is mine!
suspiciously
Agitato
Why art thou so anxious Does it
mf
fpp
GUARD
Agitato
TEMPLE DANCER
hide some se-cret tale? Why dost thou look so frightened? Why turnest thou so pale? I im -
riten.
riten.
Agitato
p
- plore thee give me the let - ter, Its con-tents were en-trust-ed to me.
mf

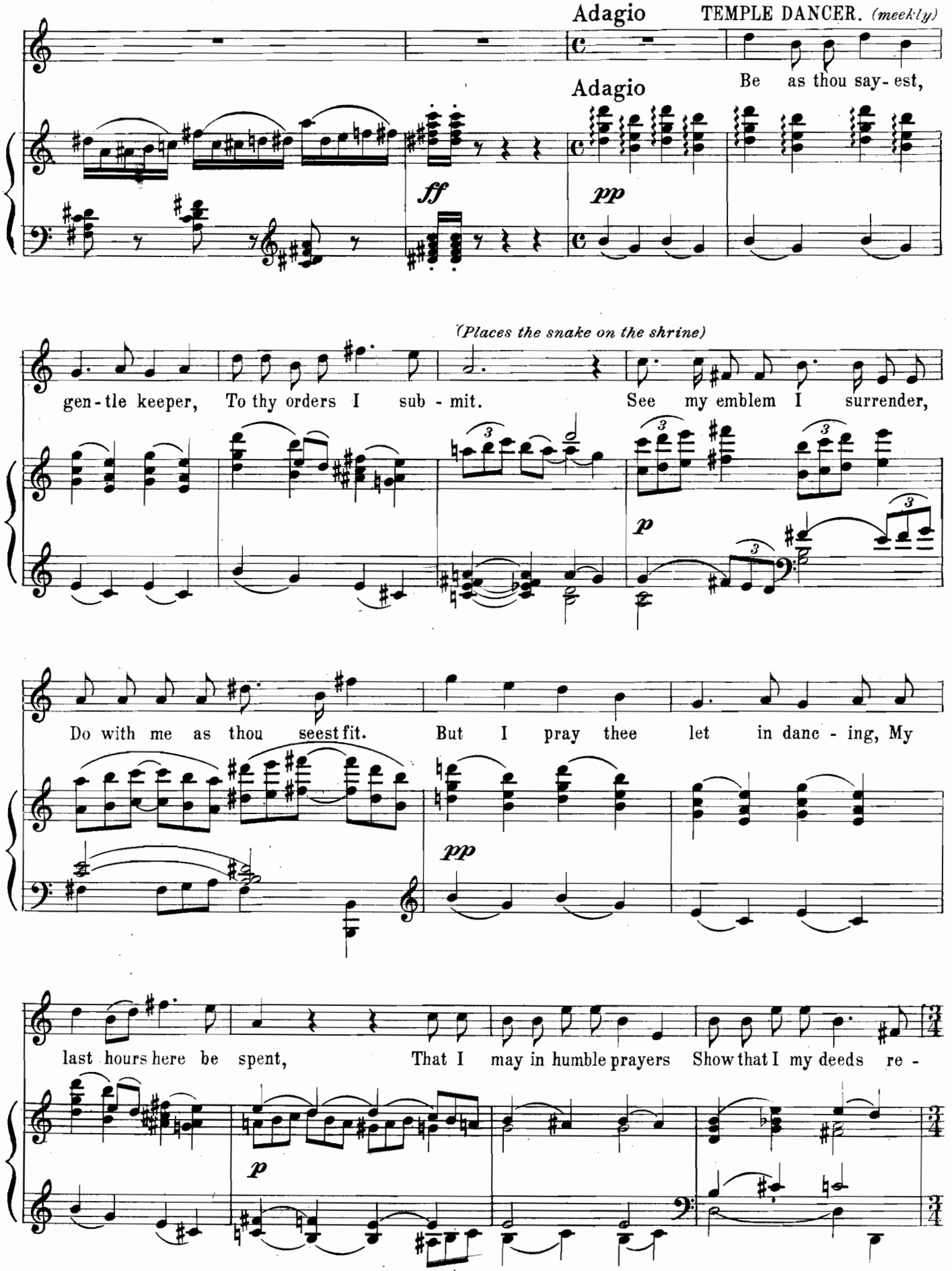

GUARD
If to thee, Then I, as thy lov - er, shall claim its contents to see.
p
But I warn thee, if thou li - est, If de-ception is hid there-in,
mf
p
cresc.
(He glances at the letter)
Three - fold shall I make thee suf-fer For thy false - ness and baseless sin.
cresc.
f
dim.
(He gives a brutal laugh)
f
Ha! Ha! Traitress! Con - temp - ta-ble wan-ton, Thy
cresc. sempre
p
mf


love waits in the grove. Thou hadst planned with Ma - ha - de - o's
cresc.
jew - els To escape tonight with thy love.
ff
Curse on thy tongue of false - ness, Smooth - er and sweet-er than silk,
mf
Curse on thy breasts of hon - ey, Where ven - om has poi - - soned the
cresc.

TEMPLE DANCER



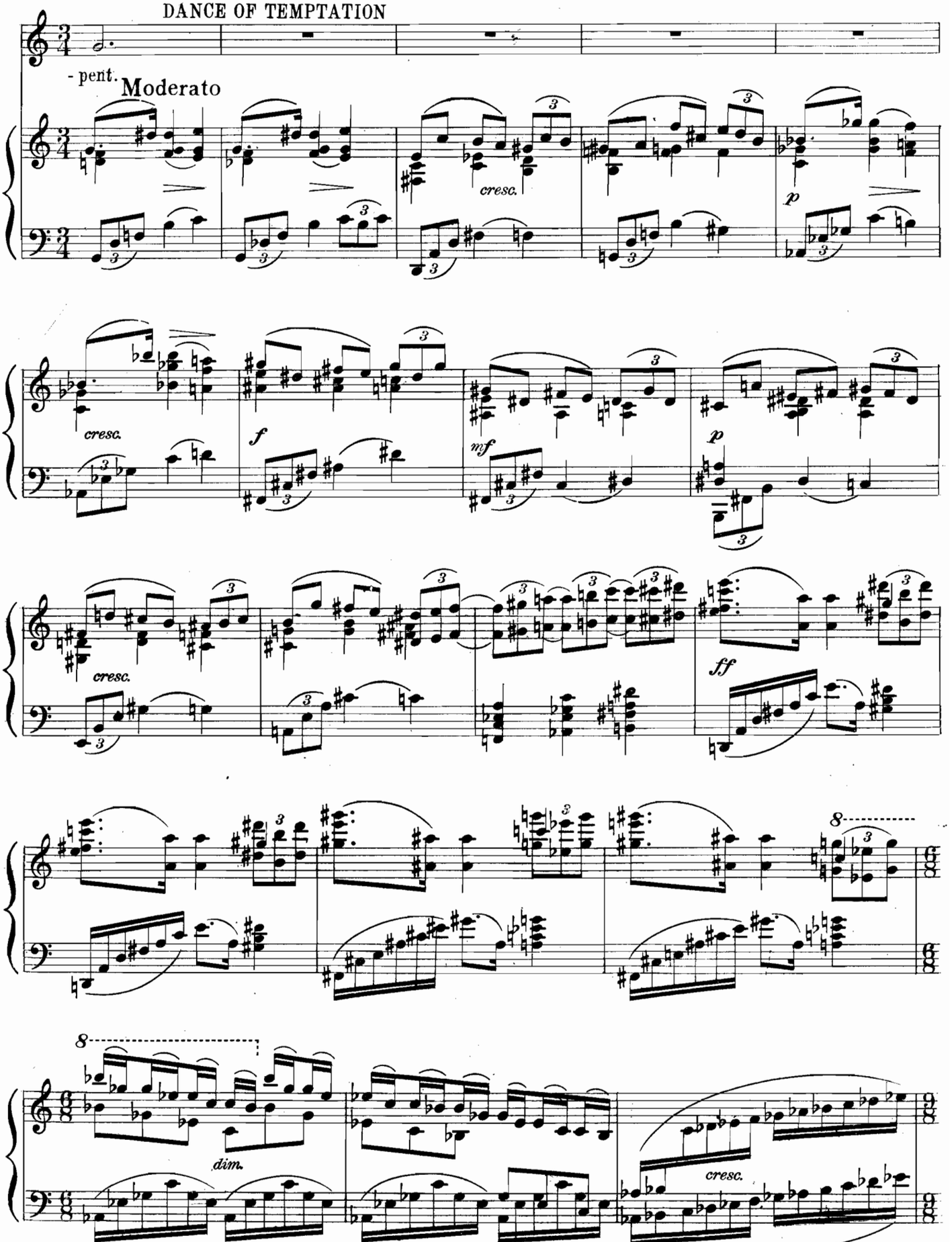

GUARD
Help thee to em - brace an - oth - - er, Let an-oth - er
mf
animato
taste thy kiss, suf - fer pangs of burn-ing passion To secure an - oth-er's bliss!
animato
sf
sf
(She stretches her arms towards him)
Doub - ly shall I make thee suf - fer, All thy plead - ing is in vain, Thou hast
sf
p
(As he turns from her, she looks towards him with a revengeful glance, then bows her head in feigned submission)
dared to tempt my hon - or, And the tem-ple to pro - fane.
f
cresc.

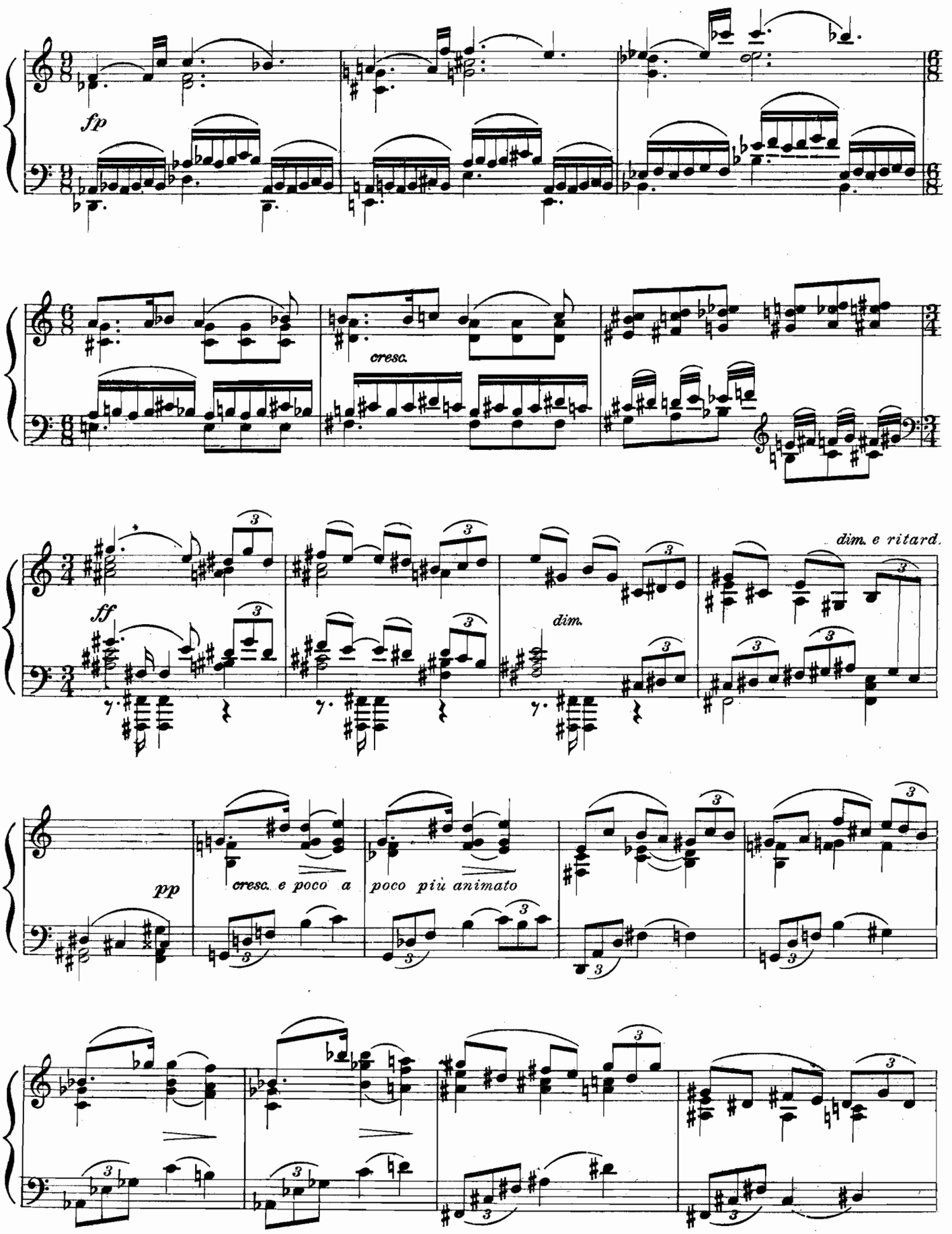

Adagio
TEMPLE DANCER. (meekly)
Adagio
Be as thou say- est,
ff
pp
(Places the snake on the shrine)
gen-tle keeper, To thy orders I sub - mit. See my emblem I surrender,
p
Do with me as thou seest fit. But I pray thee let in danc - ing, My
pp
last hours here be spent, That I may in humble prayers Show that I my deeds re -
p

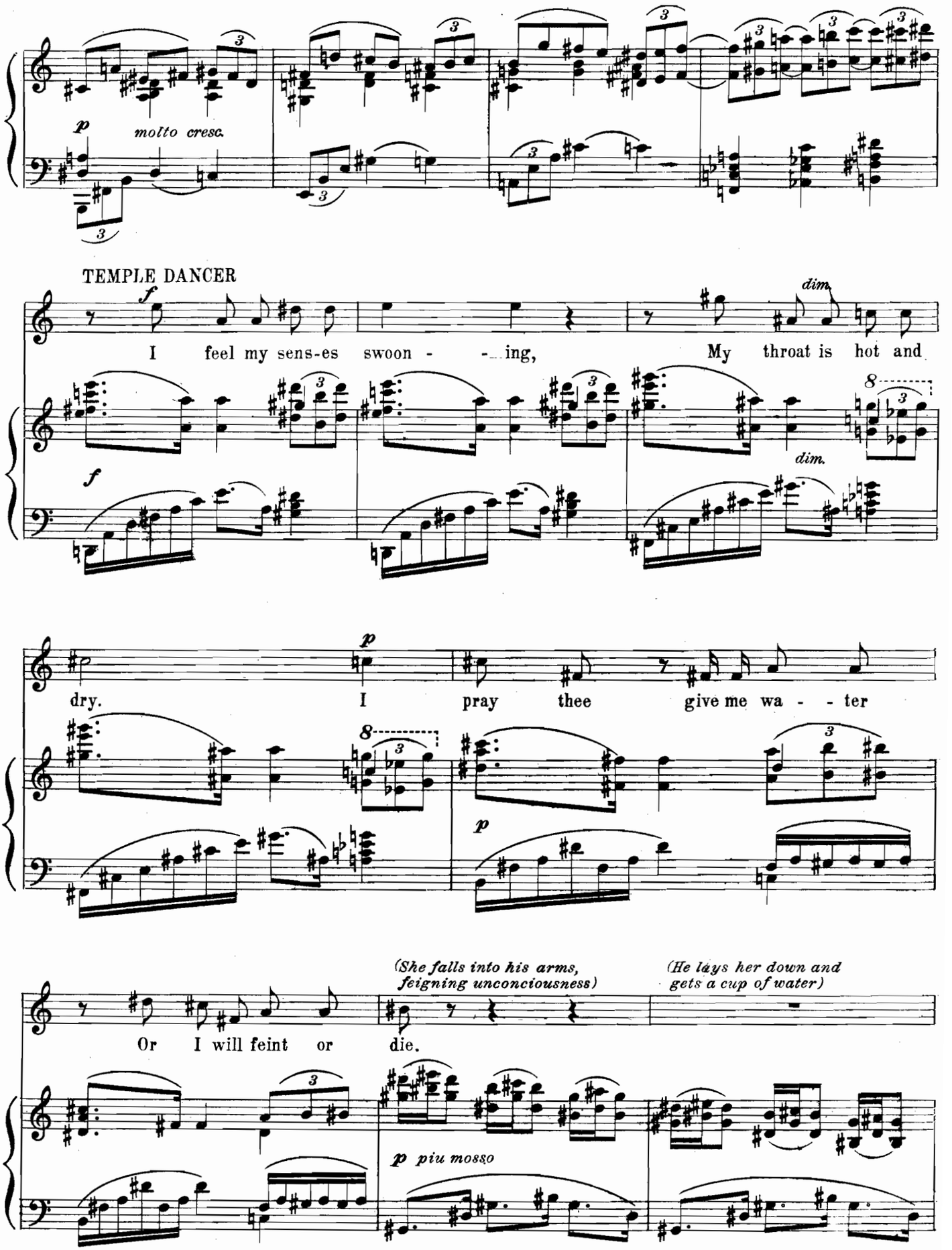
She dances the
DANCE OF TEMPTATION

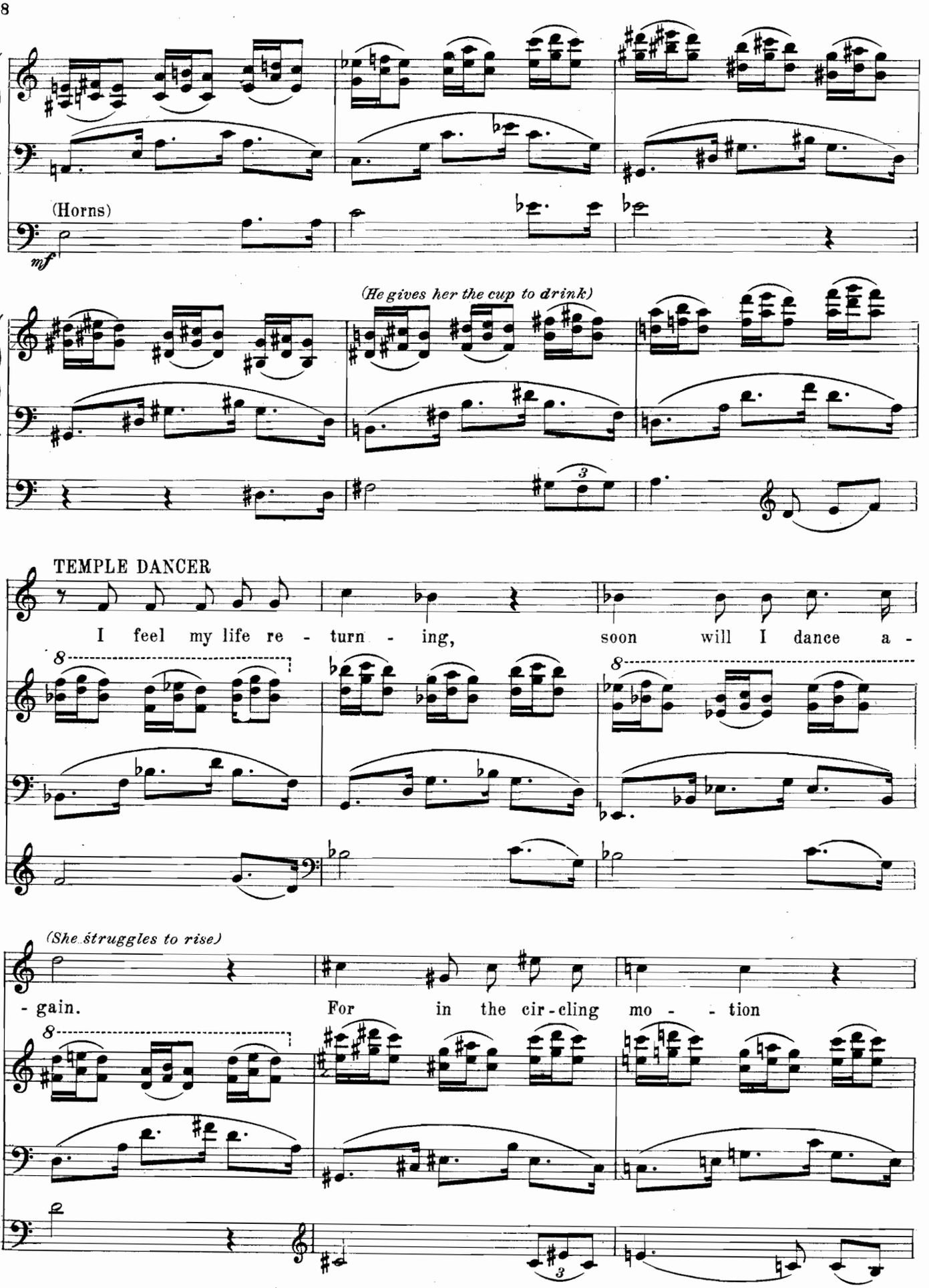
- pent.

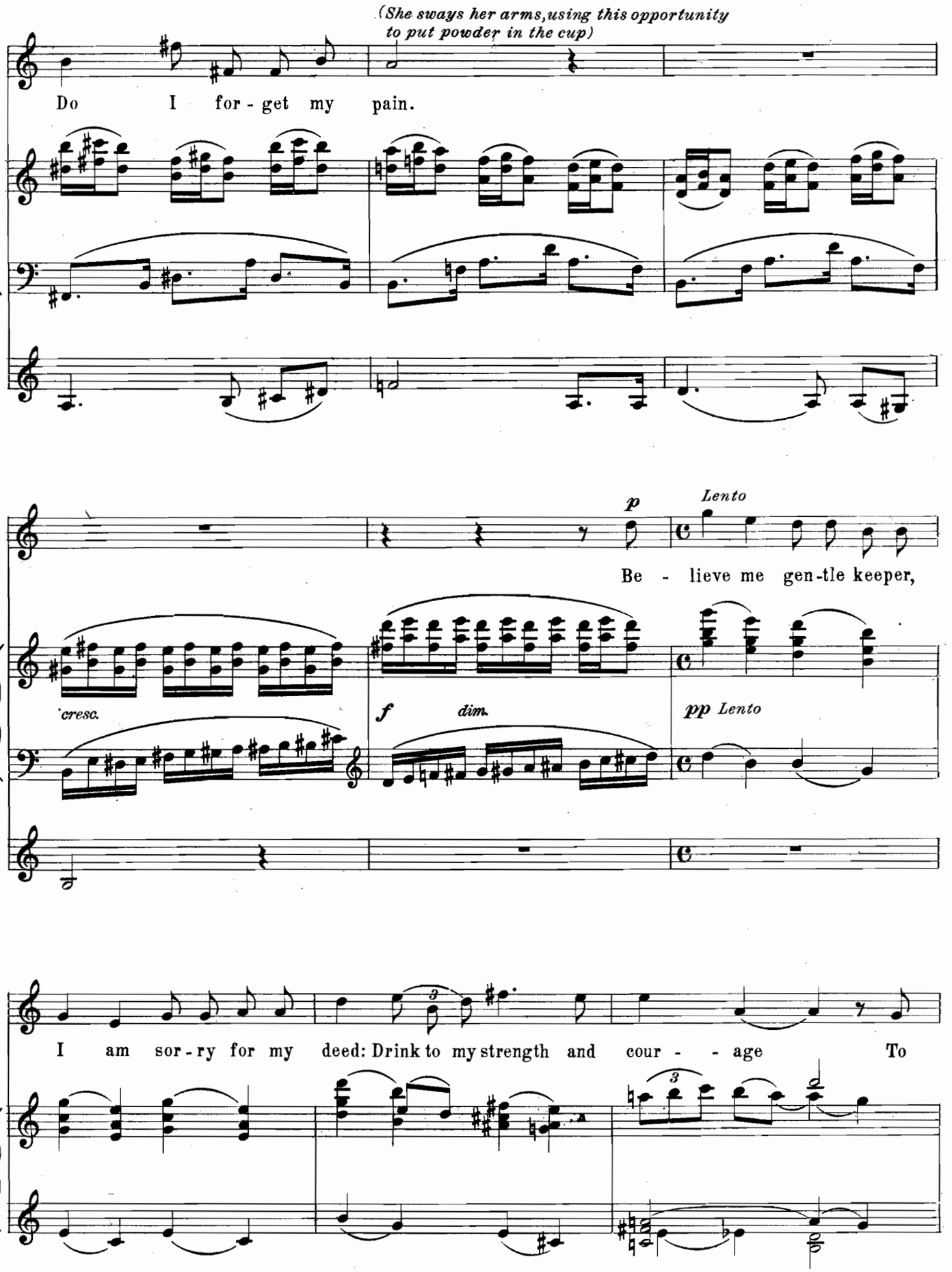
Moderato

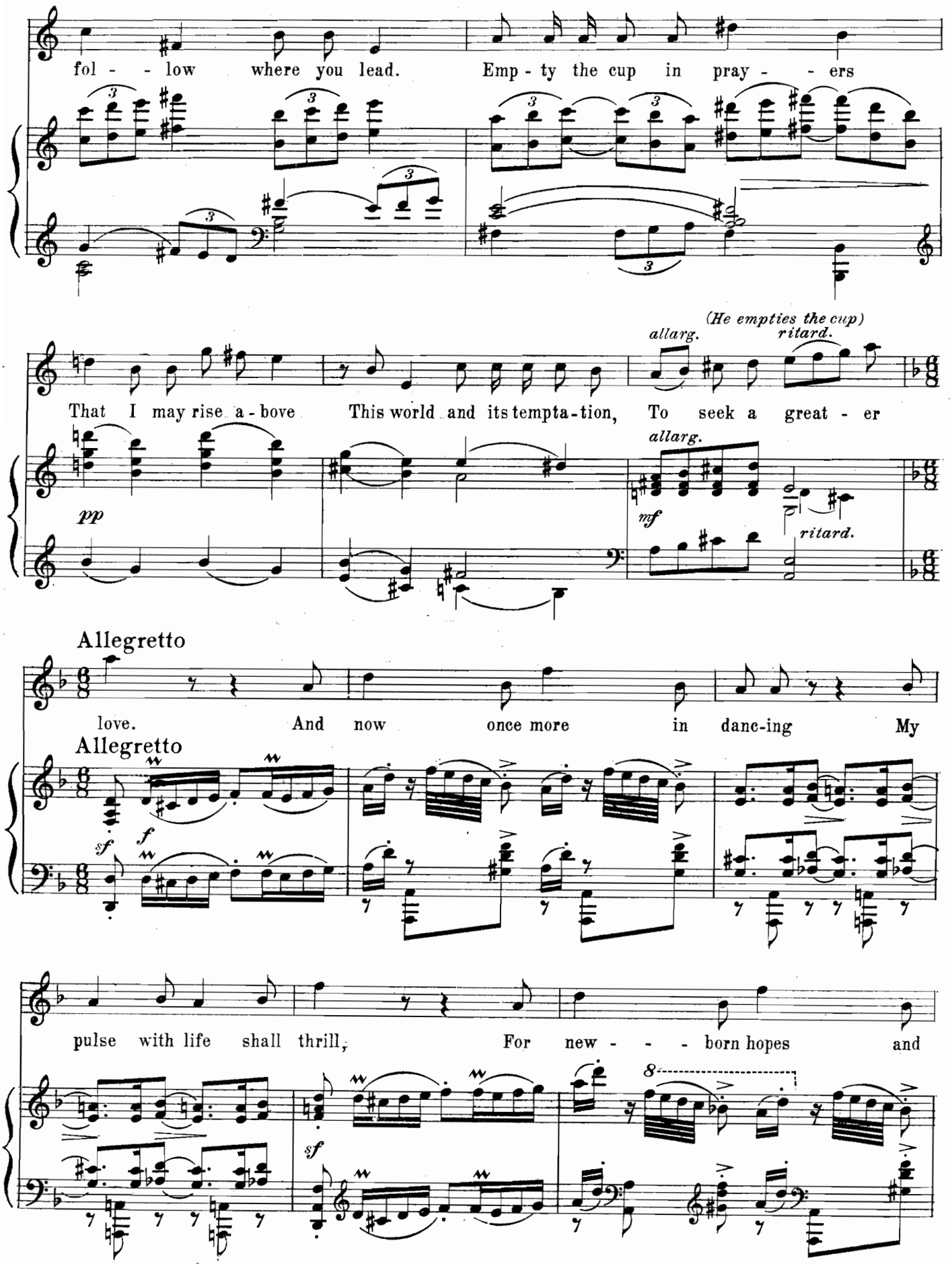



fp
cresc.
ff
dim.
dim. e ritard.
pp
cresc. e poco a
poco più animato


p
molto cresc.
TEMPLE DANCER
f
I feel my sens-es swoon - - ing,
dim.
My throat is hot and
dim.
dry.
I pray thee give me wa - - ter
(She falls into his arms, feigning unconciousness)
(He lays her down and gets a cup of water)
Or I will feint or die.
p piu mosso


(Horns)
mf
(He gives her the cup to drink)
TEMPLE DANCER
I feel my life re - turn - ing, soon will I dance a -
(She struggles to rise)
- gain. For in the cir - cling mo - - tion


(She sways her arms, using this opportunity to put powder in the cup)
Do I for - get my pain.
p
Lento
Be - lieve me gen-tle keeper,
cresc.
f
dim.
pp Lento
I am sor - ry for my deed: Drink to my strength and cour - - age To


fol - - low where you lead. Emp - ty the cup in pray - - ers
(He empties the cup)
allarg.
ritard.
That I may rise a - bove This world and its tempta - tion, To seek a great - er
pp
allarg.
mf
ritard.
Allegretto
love. And now once more in danc-ing My
Allegretto
sf
f
pulse with life shall thrill, For new - - - born hopes and
8
sf

(She dances triumphantly, mocking his longing gestures)

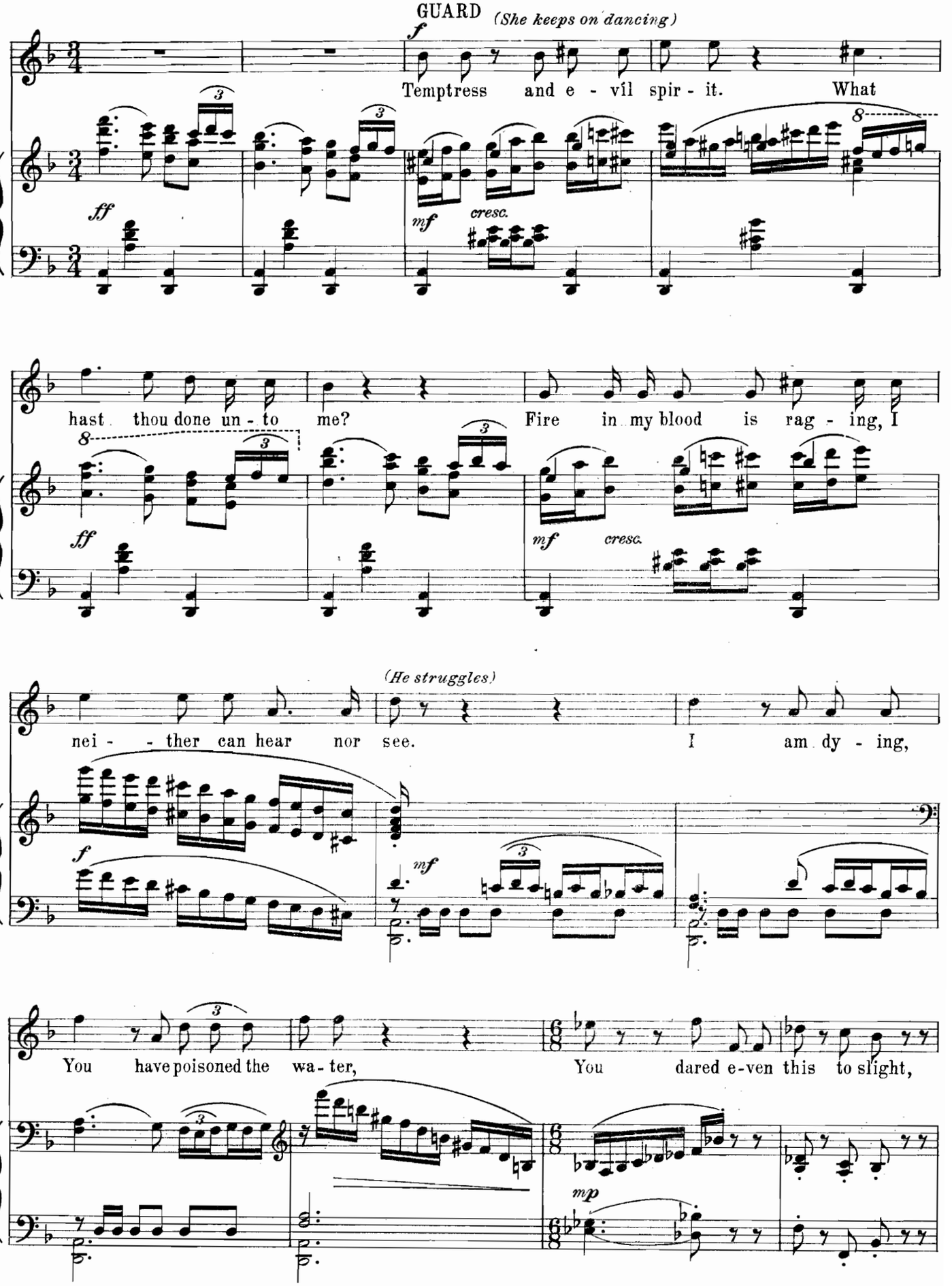
longings My soul and heart to fill.

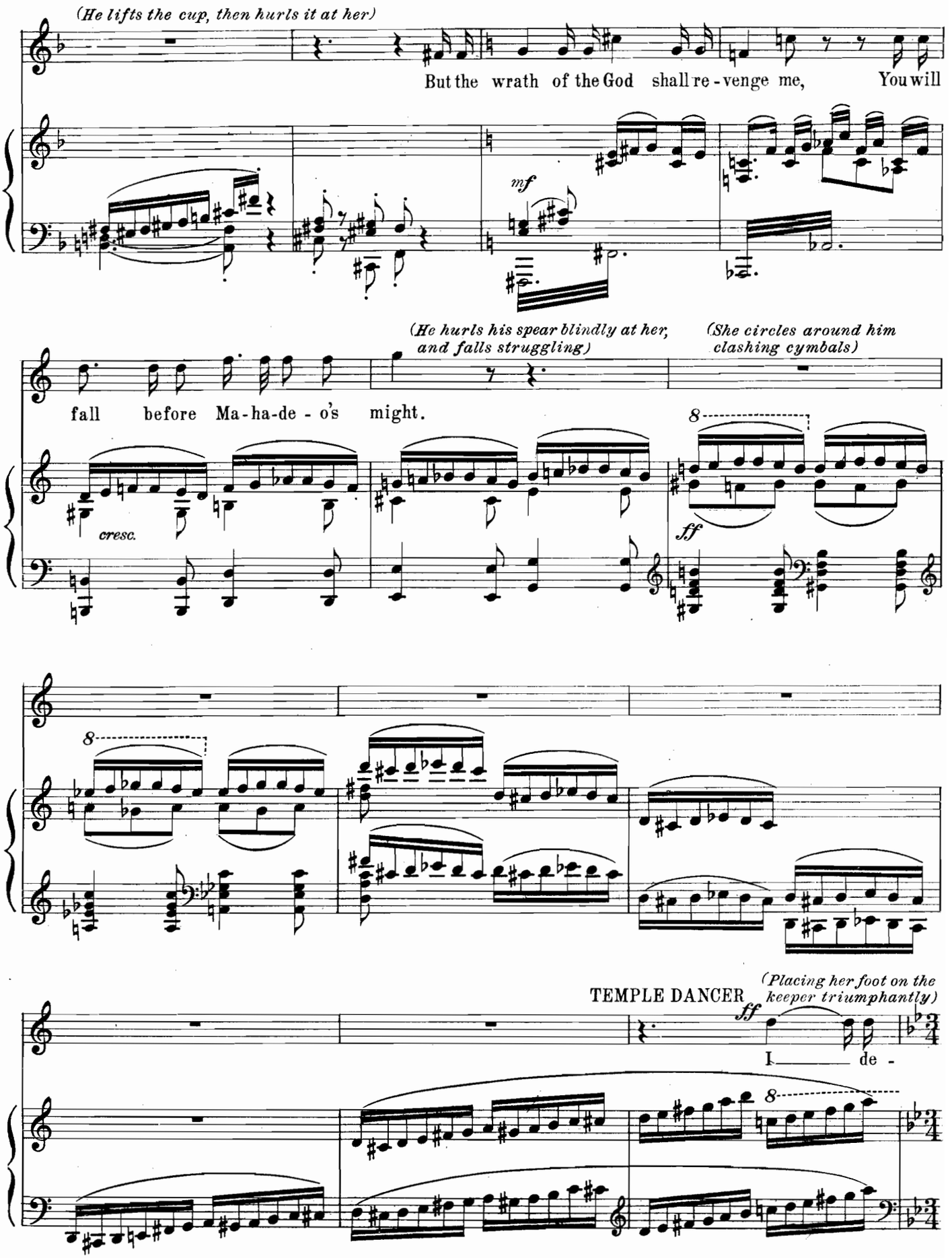
f

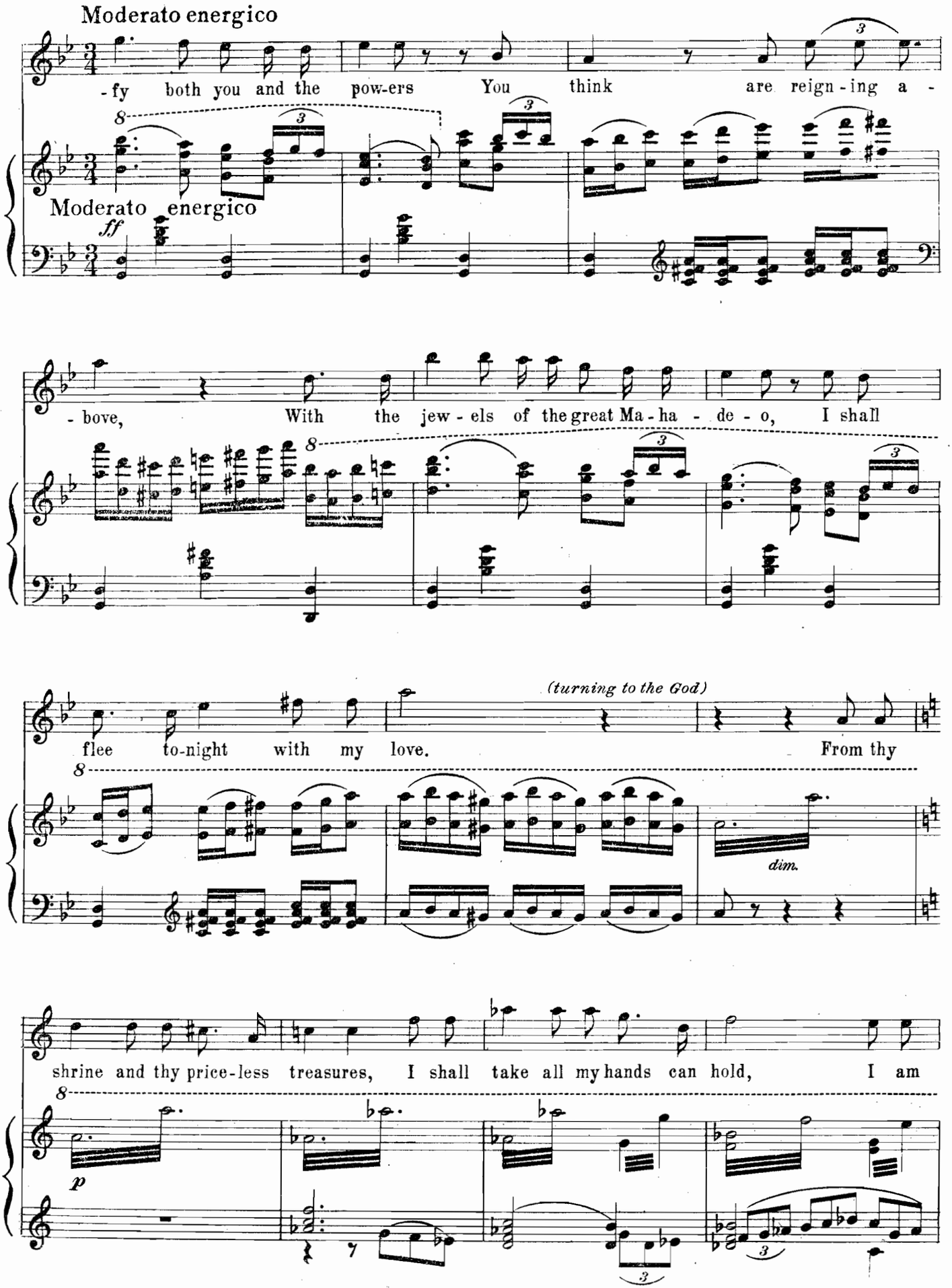
cresc.

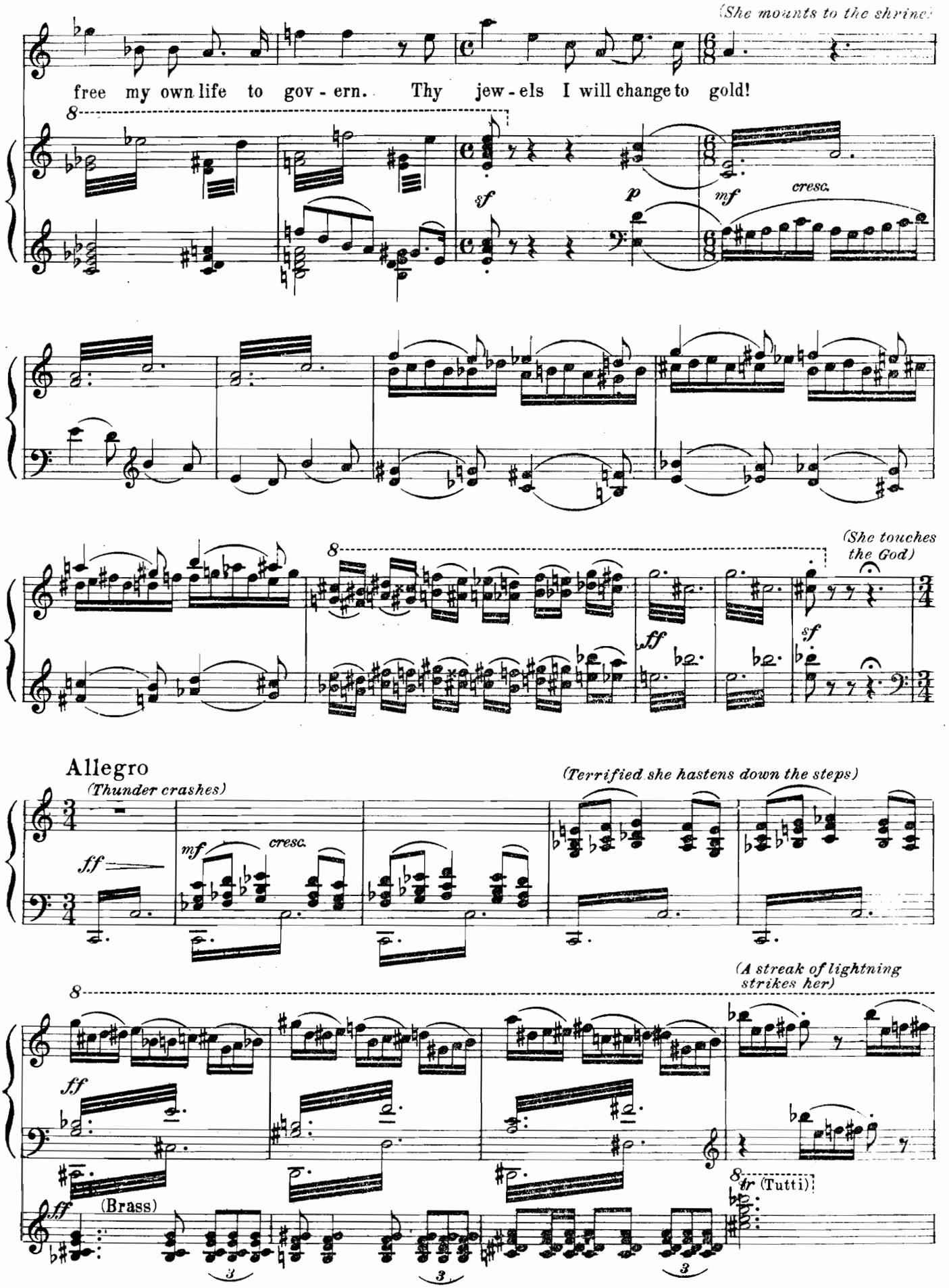
8

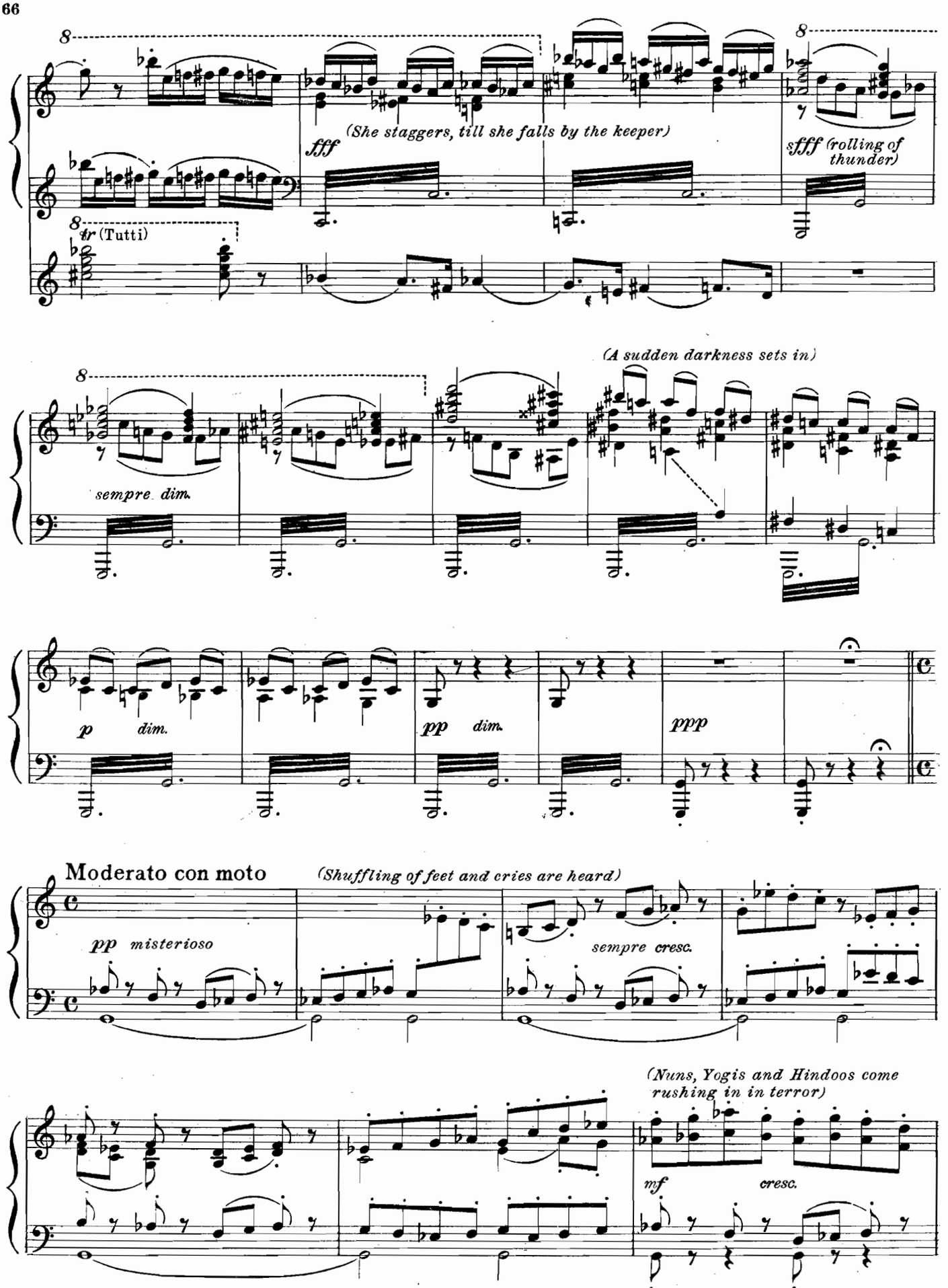
ff

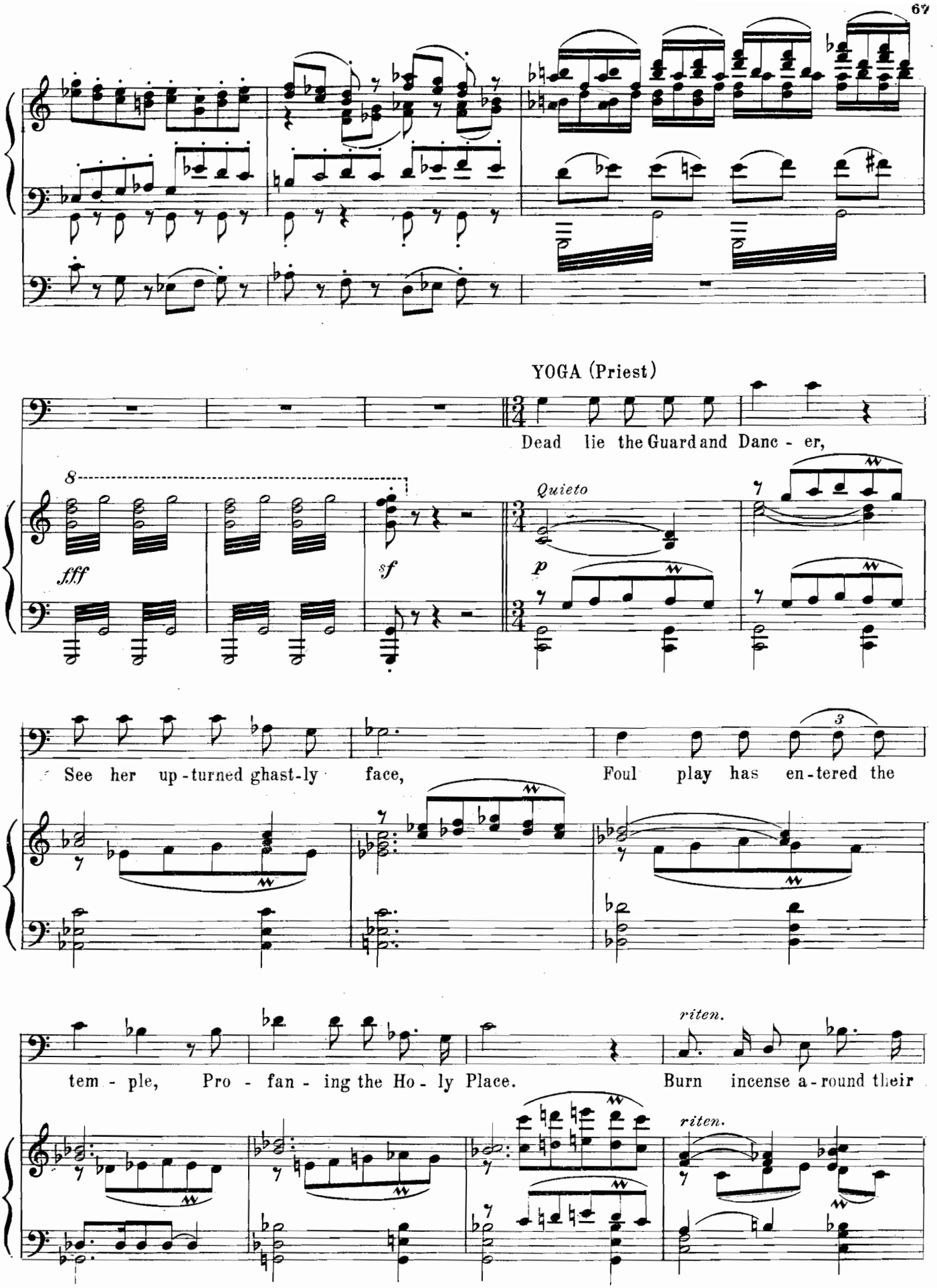

GUARD (She keeps on dancing)
Temptress and e - vil spir - it. What
hast thou done un - to me? Fire in my blood is rag - ing, I
(He struggles)
nei - - ther can hear nor see. I am dy - ing,
You have poisoned the wa - ter, You dared e-ven this to slight,


(He lifts the cup, then hurls it at her)
But the wrath of the God shall re - venge me, You will
mf
(He hurls his spear blindly at her, and falls struggling)
(She circles around him clashing cymbals)
fall before Ma - ha-de - o's might.
cresc.
ff
TEMPLE DANCER
(Placing her foot on the keeper triumphantly)
ff
I de -

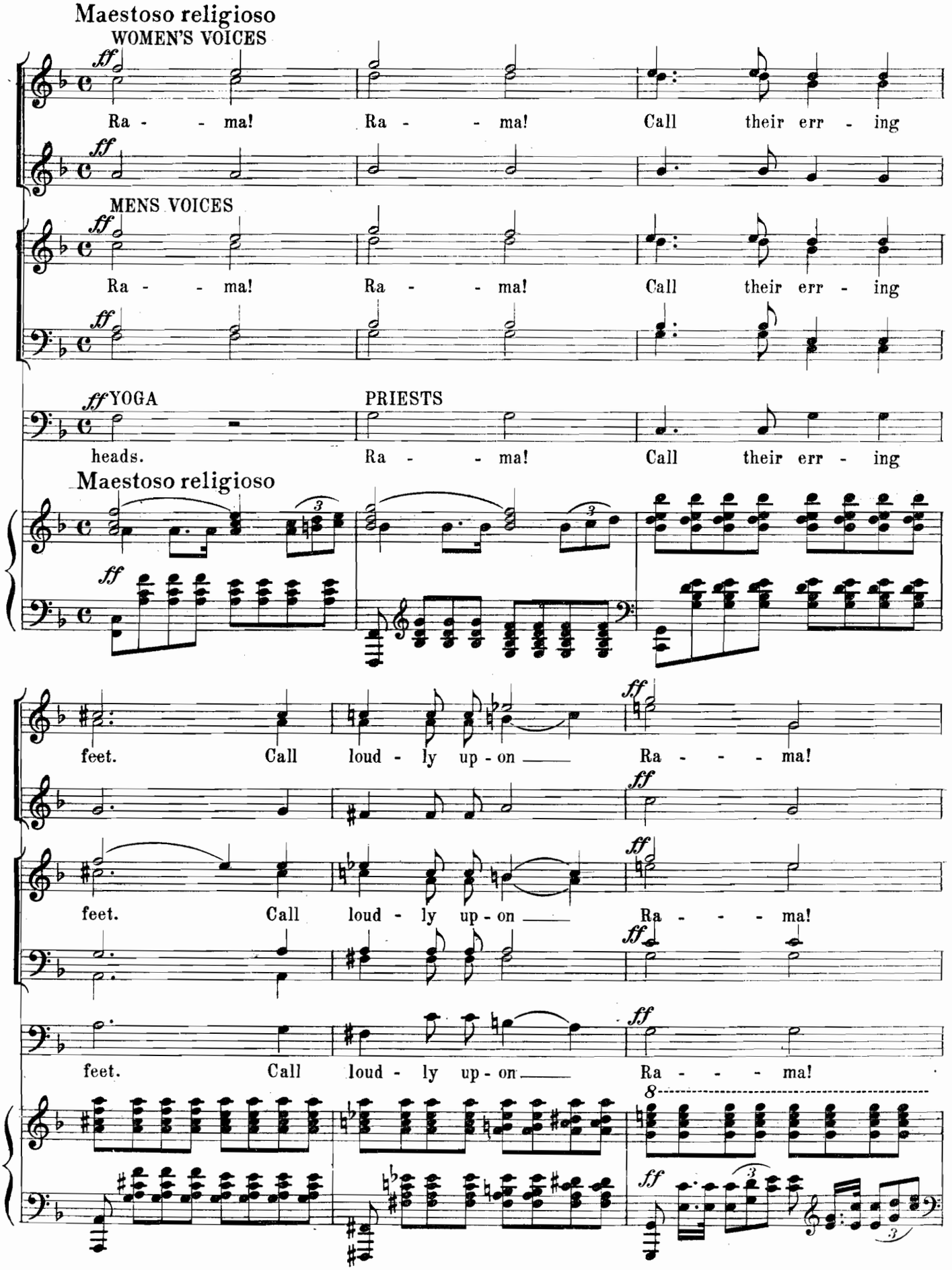

Moderato energico
-fy both you and the pow-ers You think are reign-ing a-
Moderato energico
ff
- bove, With the jew-els of the great Ma-ha-de-o, I shall
(turning to the God)
flee to-night with my love. From thy
dim.
shrine and thy price-less treasures, I shall take all my hands can hold, I am
p

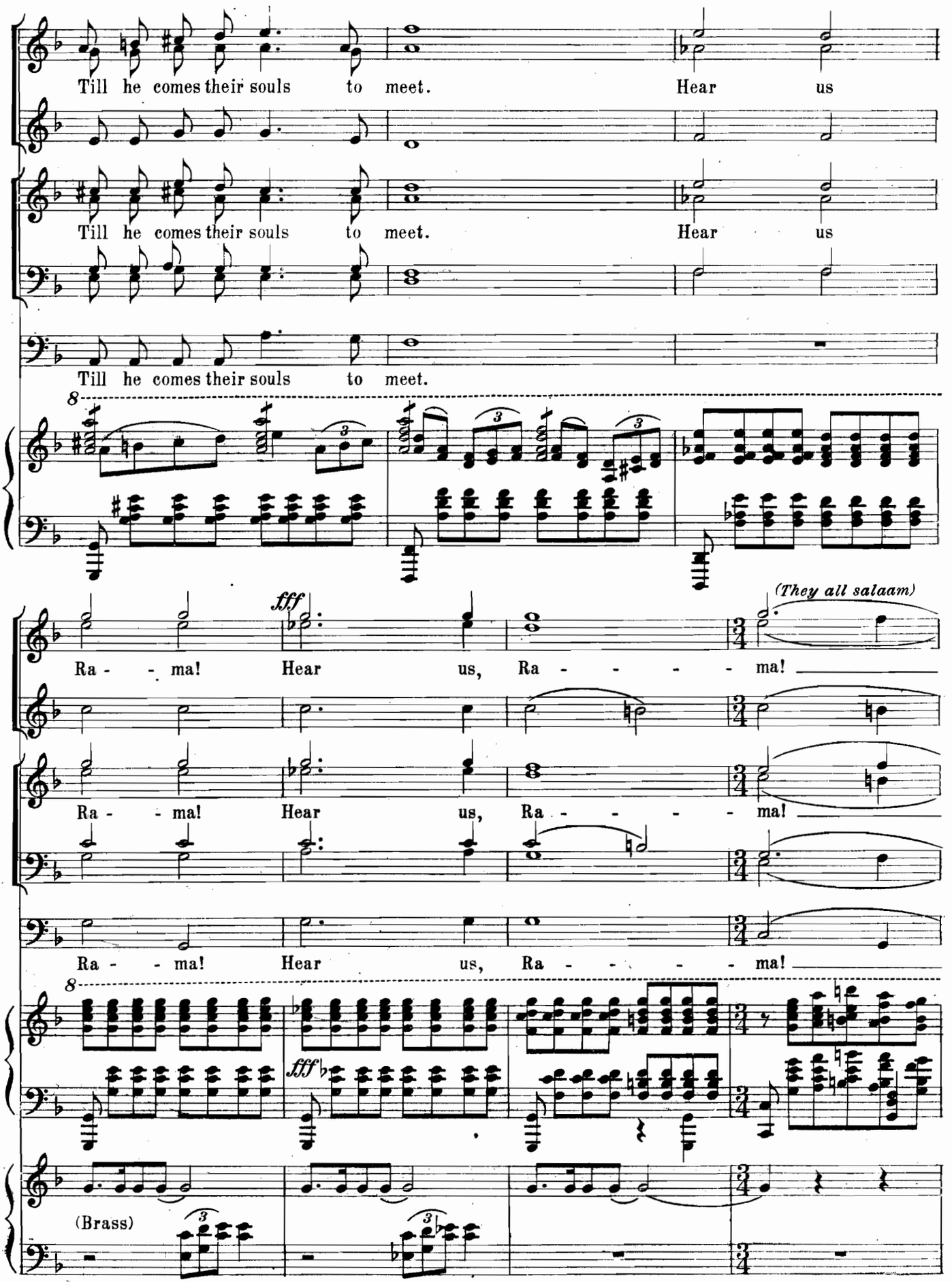

(She mounts to the shrine)
free my own life to gov - ern. Thy jew - els I will change to gold!
8
sf
p
mf
cresc.
(She touches the God)
ff
sf
Allegro
(Thunder crashes)
ff
mf
cresc.
(Terrified she hastens down the steps)
(A streak of lightning strikes her)
8
ff
8
tr (Tutti)
ff
(Brass)
3
3
3

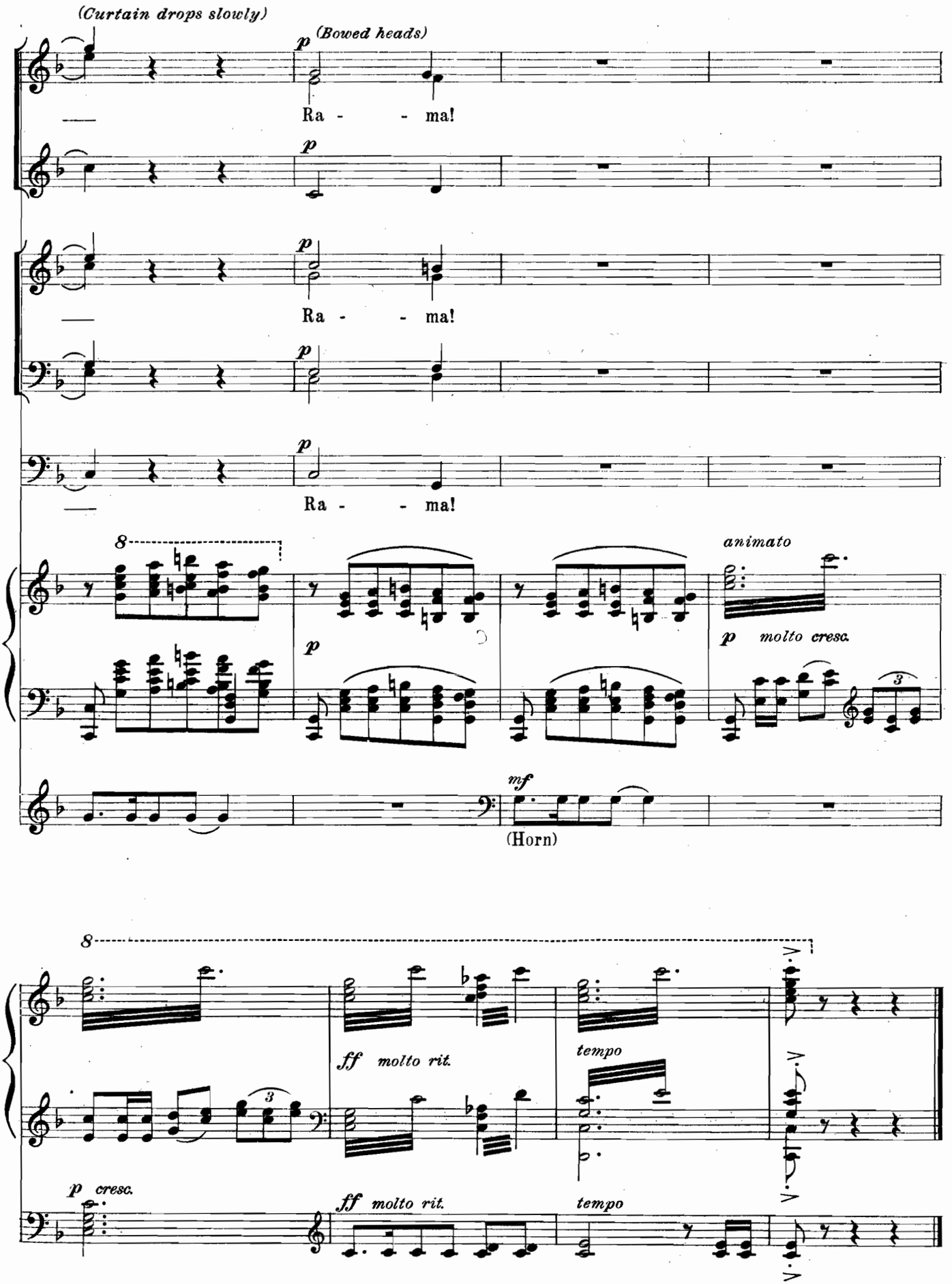

8
(She staggers, till she falls by the keeper)
fff
sfff (rolling of thunder)
8
tr (Tutti)
(A sudden darkness sets in)
8
sempre dim.
p dim.
pp dim.
ppp
Moderato con moto
(Shuffling of feet and cries are heard)
pp misterioso
sempre cresc.
(Nuns, Yogis and Hindoos come rushing in in terror)
mf
cresc.


YOGA (Priest)
Dead lie the Guard and Danc - er,
8
fff
sf
Quieto
p
See her up - turned ghast-ly face,
Foul play has en - tered the
tem - ple, Pro - fan - ing the Ho - ly Place.
Burn incense a - round their
riten.
riten.

Final Chorus




Till he comes their souls to meet. Hear us
Till he comes their souls to meet. Hear us
Till he comes their souls to meet.
8
fff
(They all salaam)
Ra - - ma! Hear us, Ra - - - - - ma!
Ra - - ma! Hear us, Ra - - - - - ma!
Ra - - ma! Hear us, Ra - - - - - ma!
8
fff
(Brass)


(Curtain drops slowly)
(Bowed heads)
p
Ra - - ma!
Ra - - ma!
Ra - - ma!
8
animato
p molto cresc.
mf
(Horn)
8
ff molto rit.
tempo
p cresc.
ff molto rit.
tempo