Epistle to be Left in the Earth

A Setting for Mixed Chorus with Piano

by

Caroline Arnold

Typeset by the SCORE Music Typography System

For Carol Becker

and

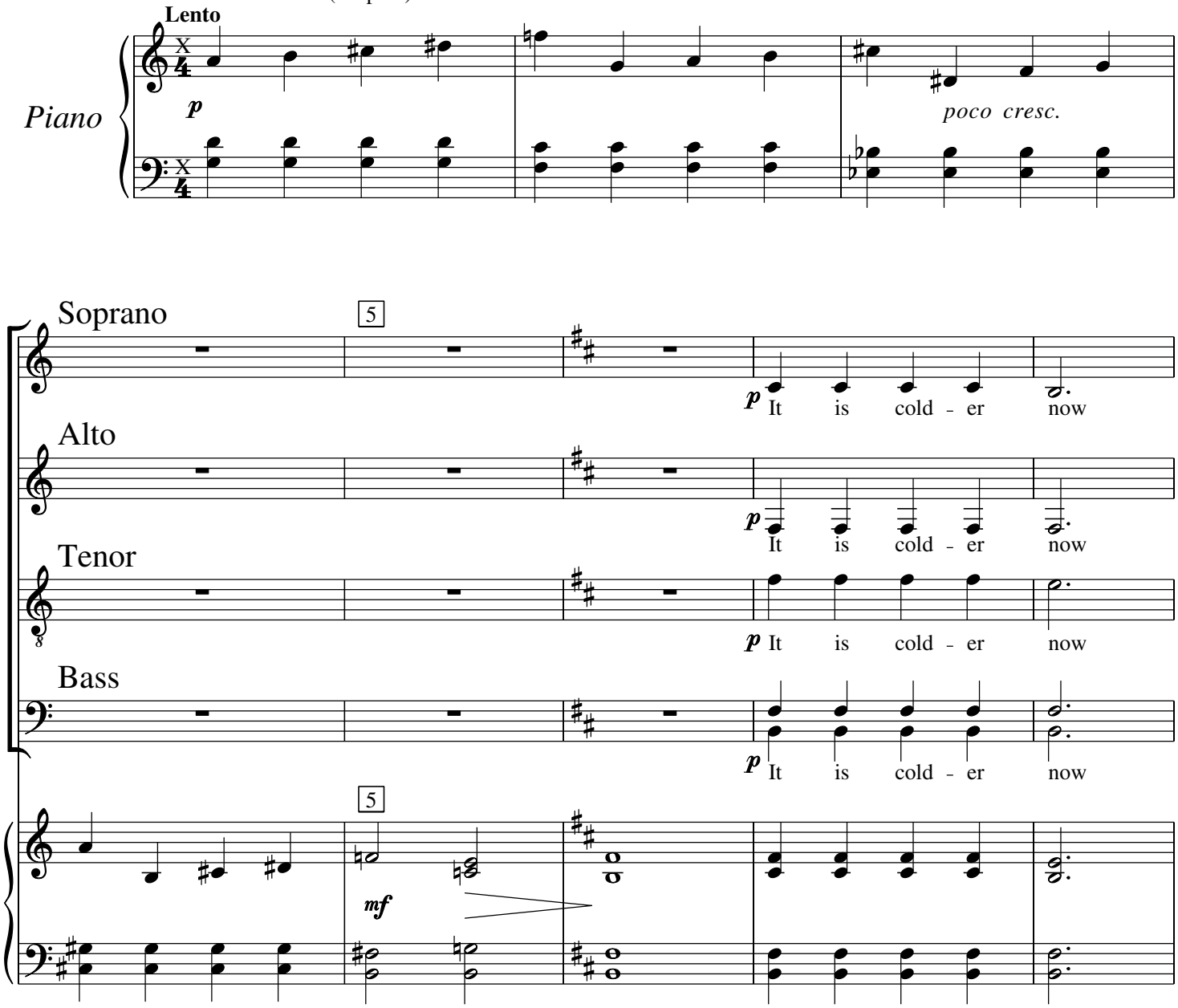
The Choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church

of

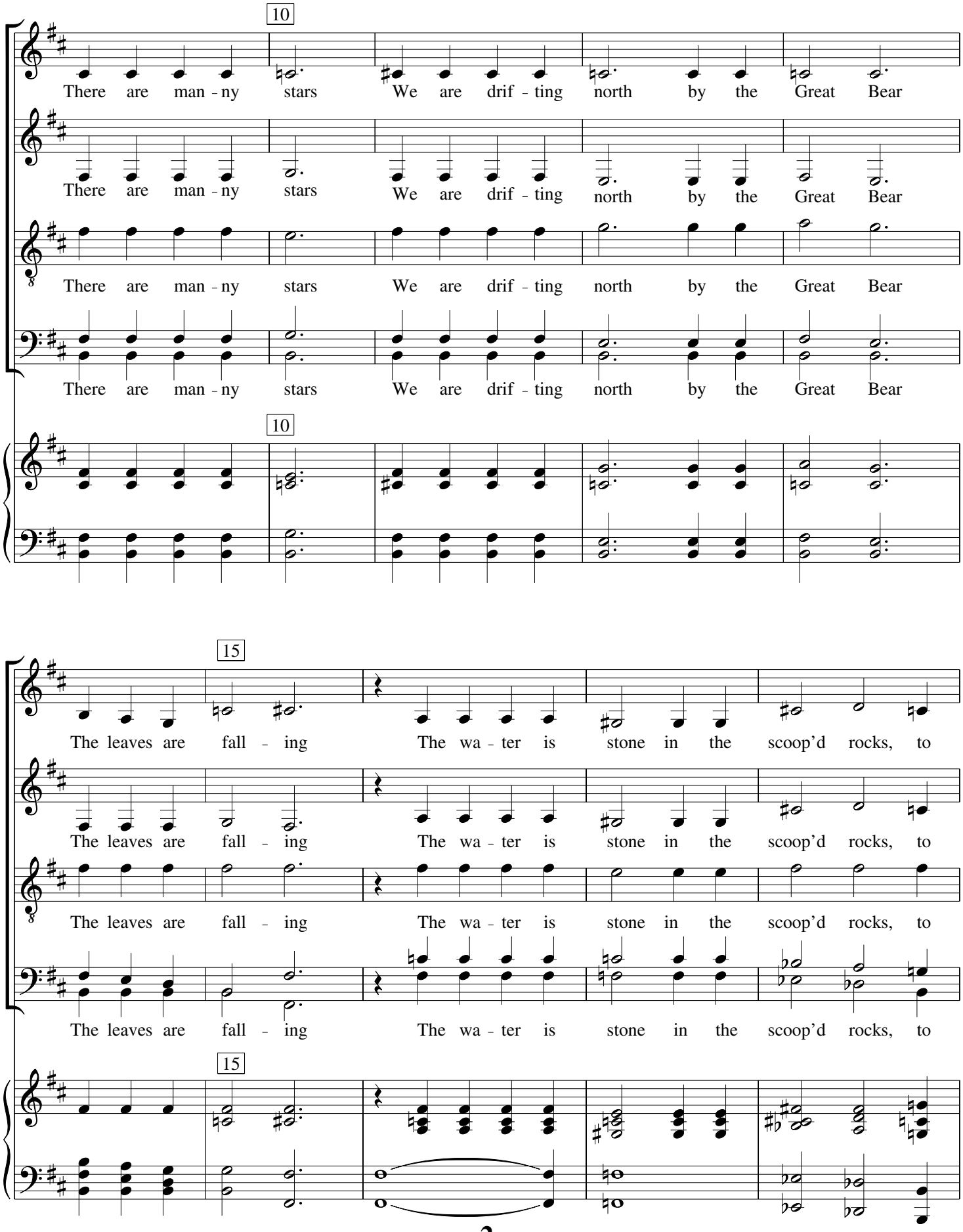
Kent, Ohio

Epistle to be Left in the Earth

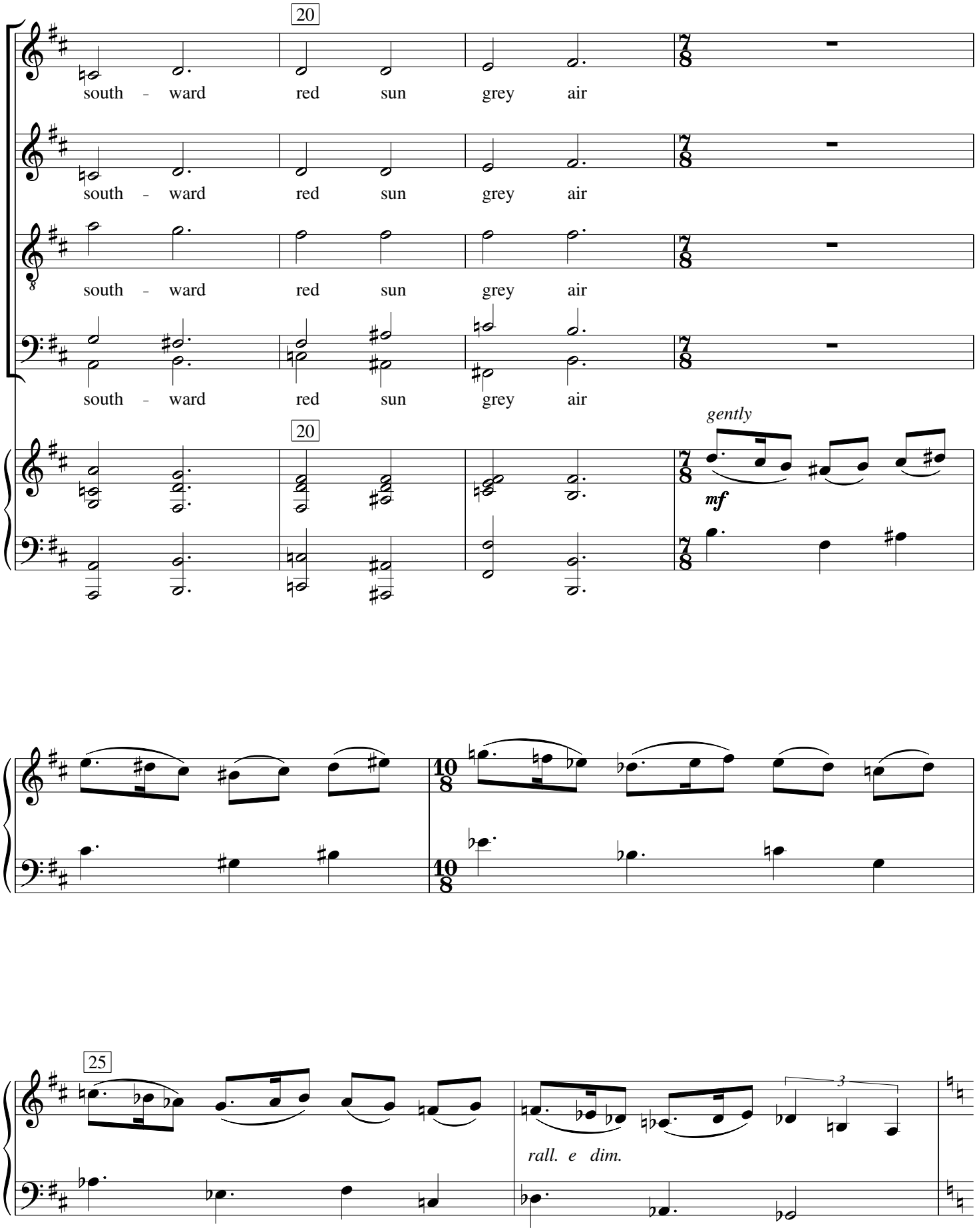
Archibald MacLeish (adapted) Caroline Arnold

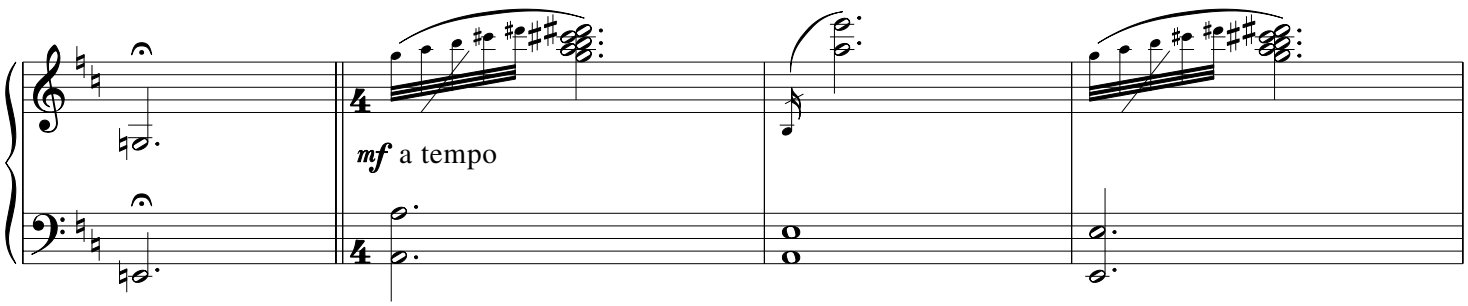


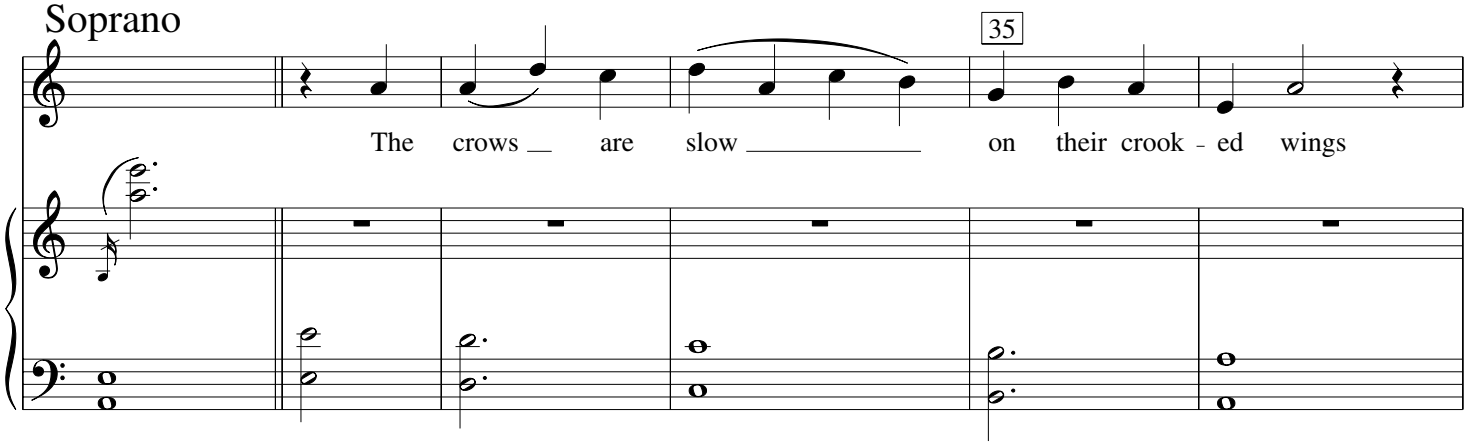
Music © 1982 Caroline Arnold

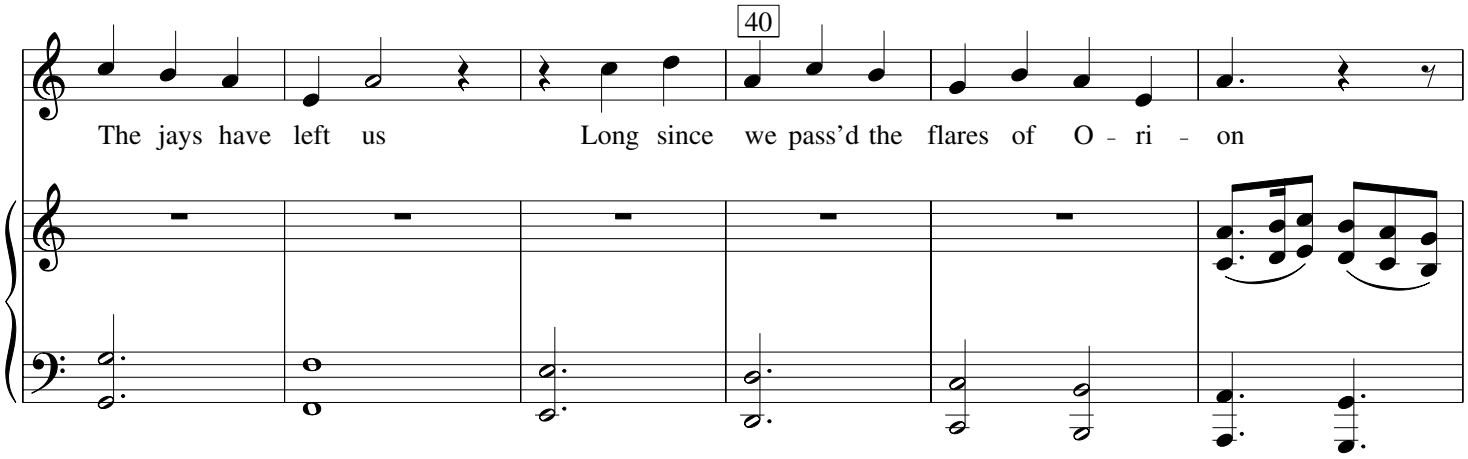

10
There are man - ny stars We are drif - ting north by the Great Bear
There are man - ny stars We are drif - ting north by the Great Bear
There are man - ny stars We are drif - ting north by the Great Bear
There are man - ny stars We are drif - ting north by the Great Bear
10
15
The leaves are fall - ing The wa - ter is stone in the scoop'd rocks, to
The leaves are fall - ing The wa - ter is stone in the scoop'd rocks, to
The leaves are fall - ing The wa - ter is stone in the scoop'd rocks, to
The leaves are fall - ing The wa - ter is stone in the scoop'd rocks, to
15

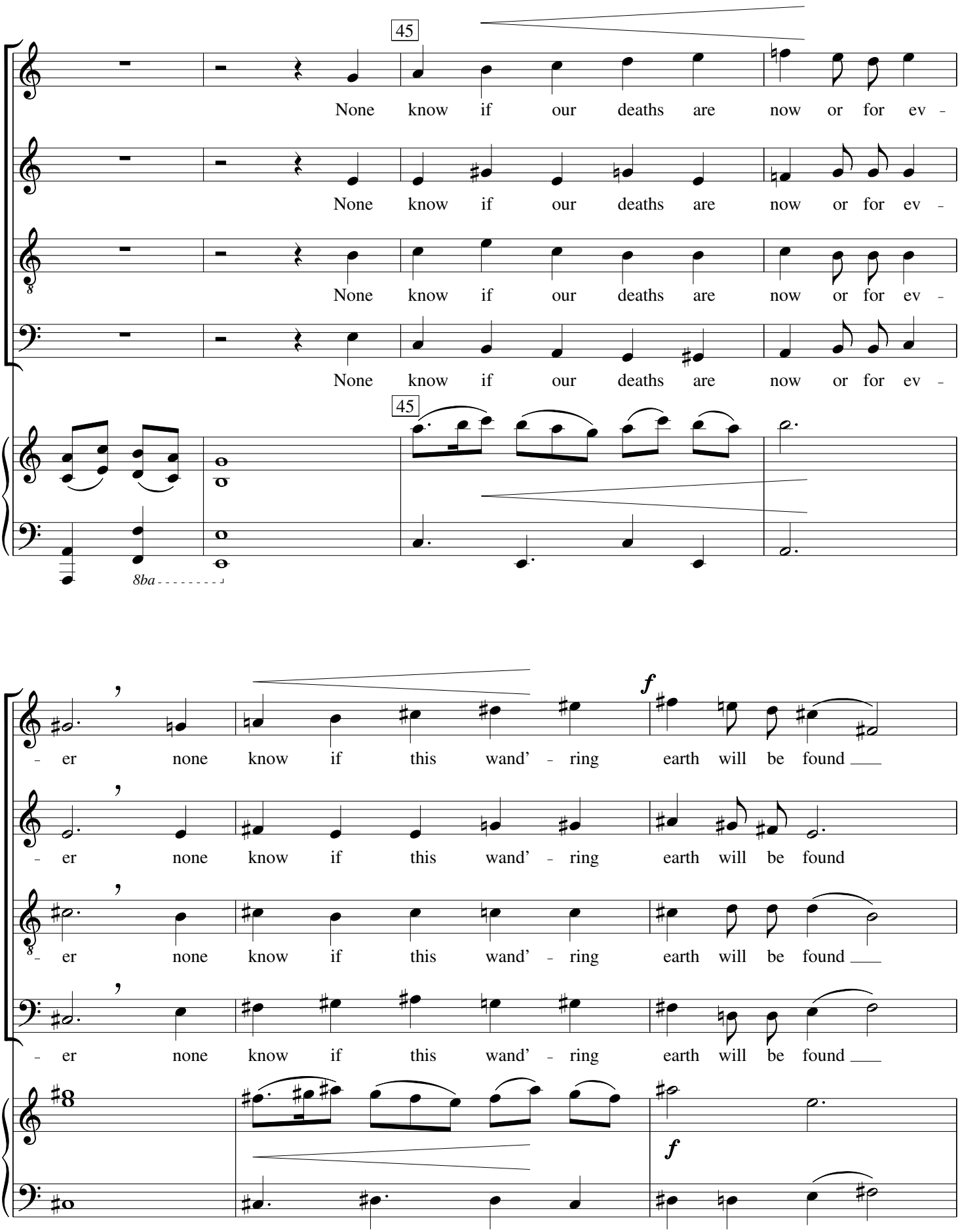
2.

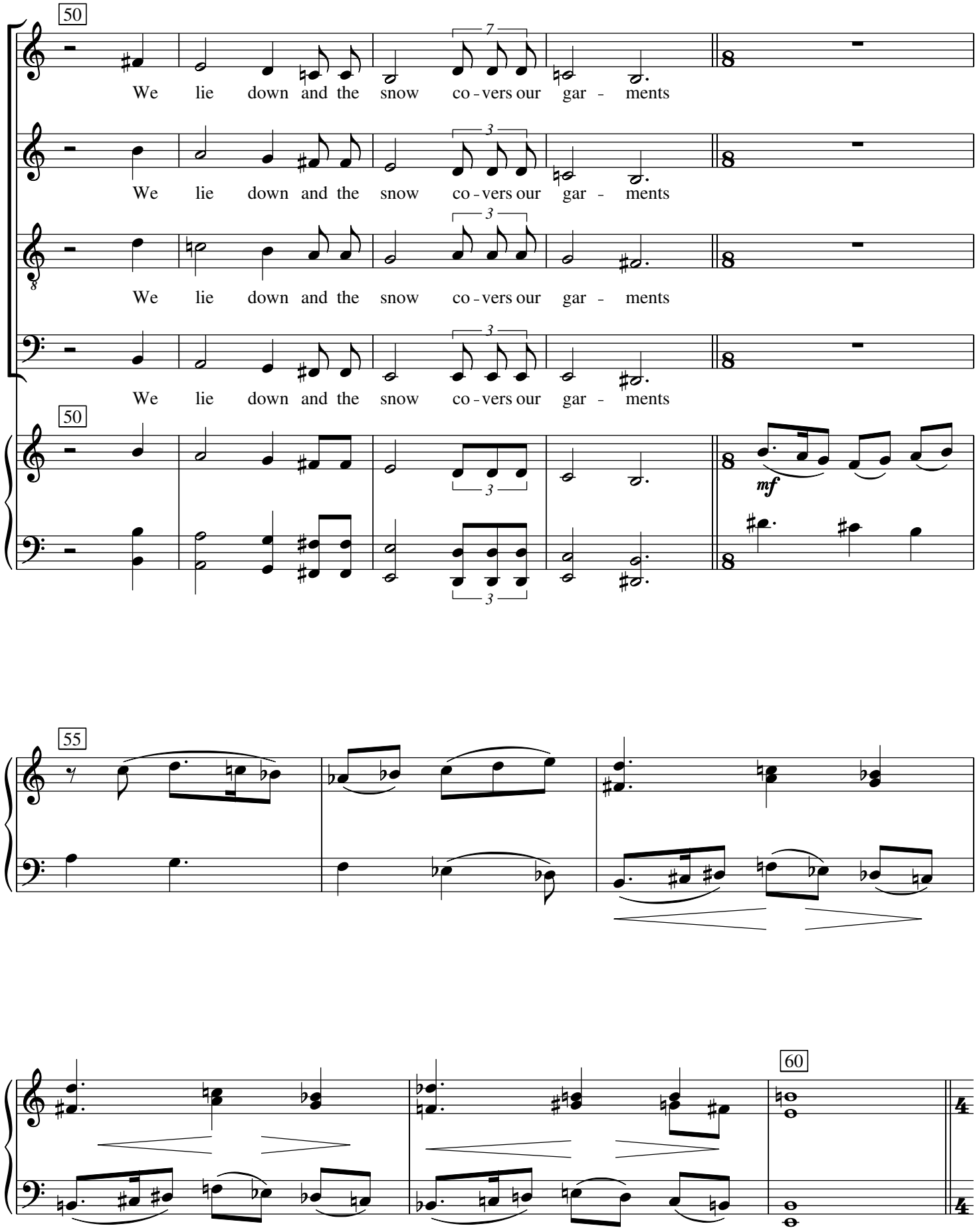

20
south - ward red sun grey air
south - ward red sun grey air
south - ward red sun grey air
south - ward red sun grey air
20
gently
mf
25
rall. e dim.
3

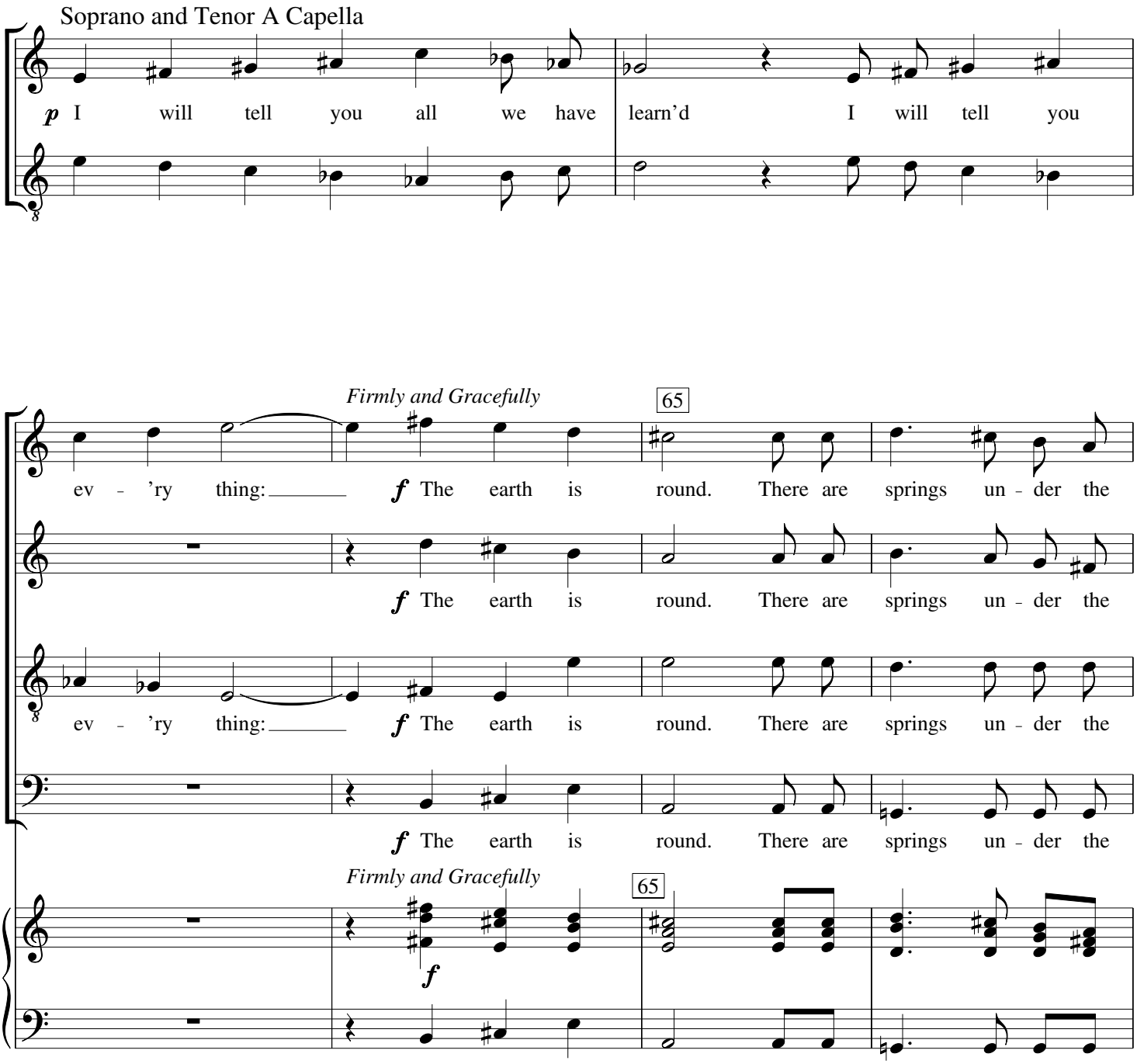

mf a tempo

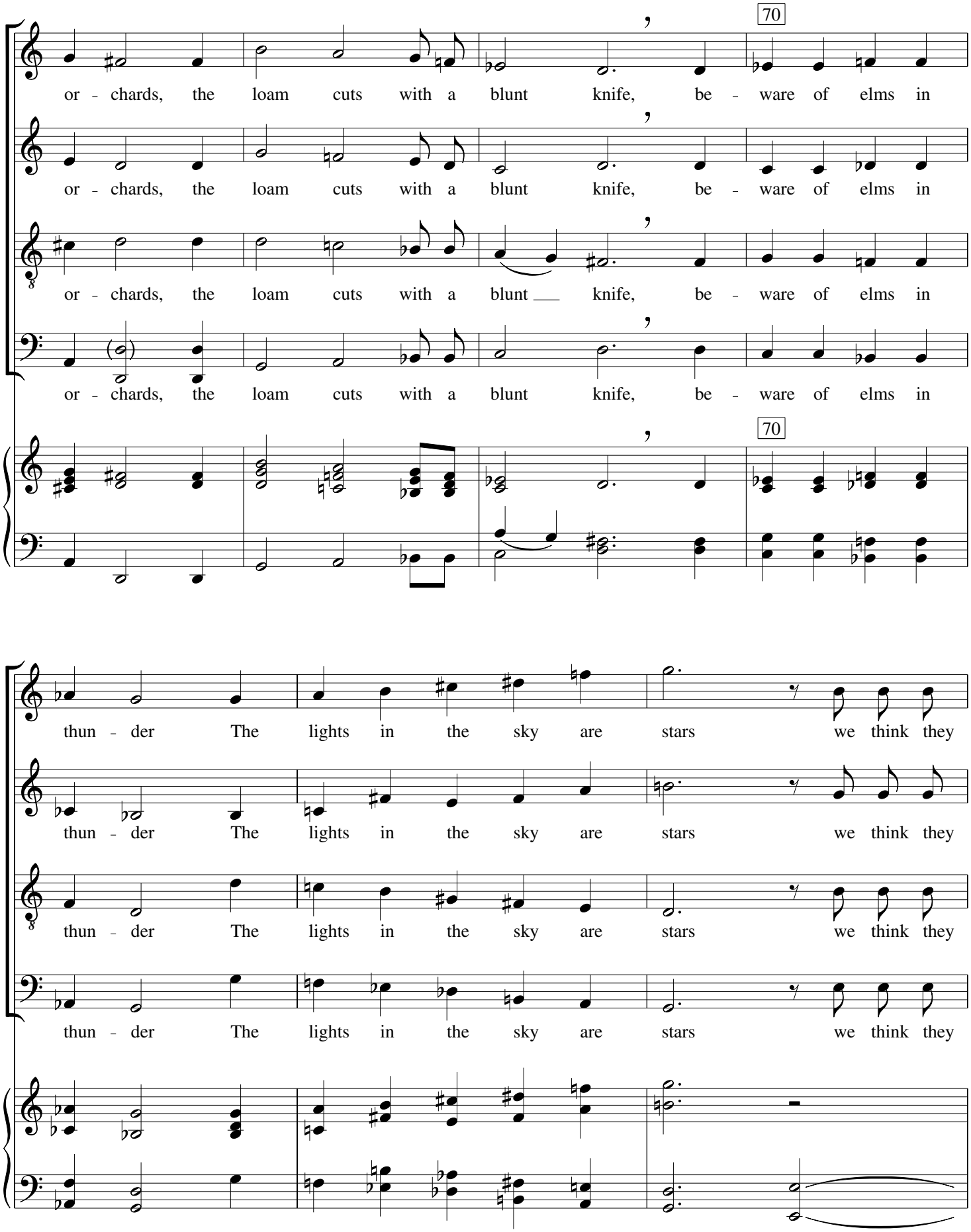

Soprano
35
The crows _ are slow _____ on their crook - ed wings

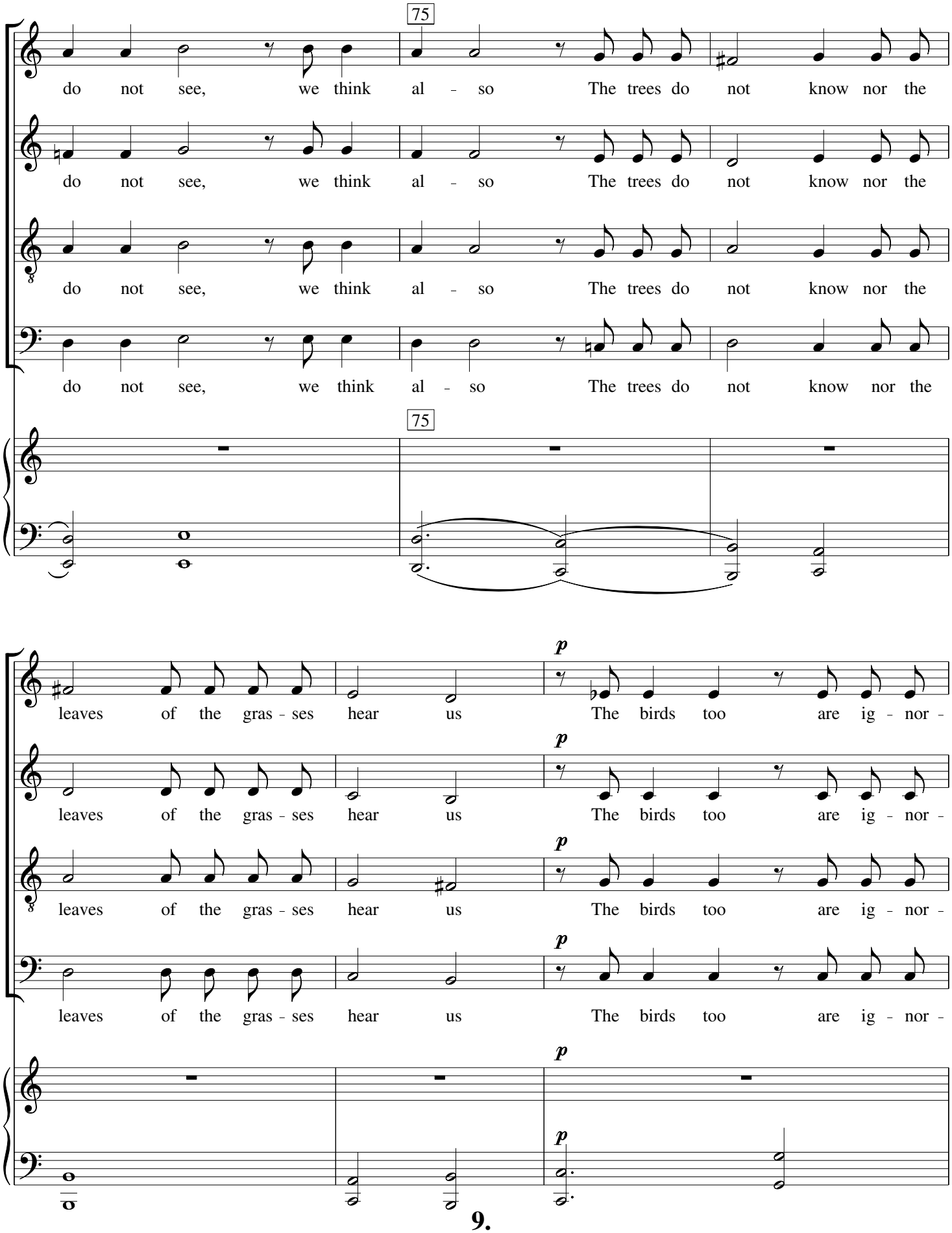

40
The jays have left us Long since we pass'd the flares of O - ri - on

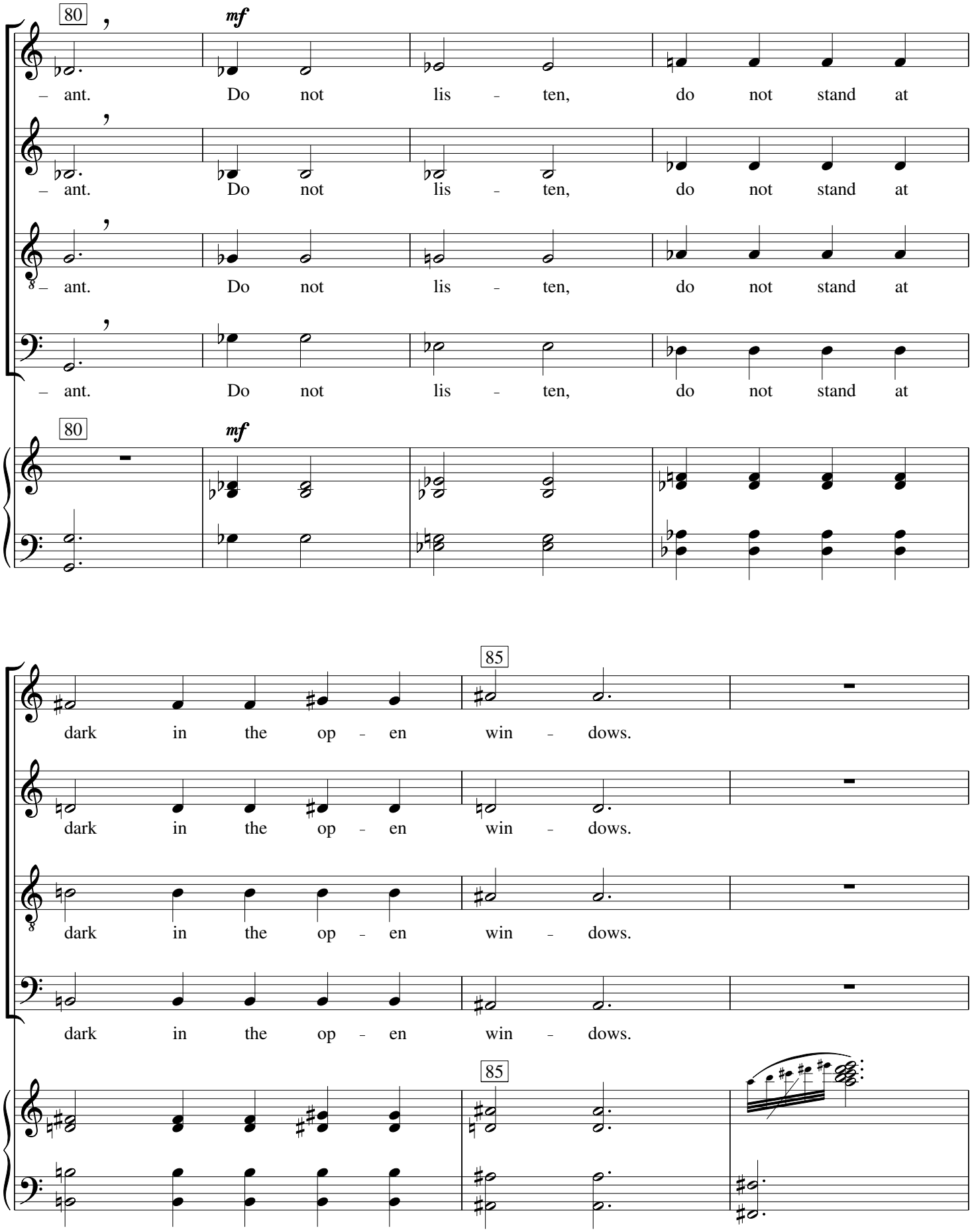

45
None know if our deaths are now or for ev -
None know if our deaths are now or for ev -
None know if our deaths are now or for ev -
None know if our deaths are now or for ev -
45
8ba
- er none know if this wand' - ring earth will be found
- er none know if this wand' - ring earth will be found
- er none know if this wand' - ring earth will be found
- er none know if this wand' - ring earth will be found
f
f

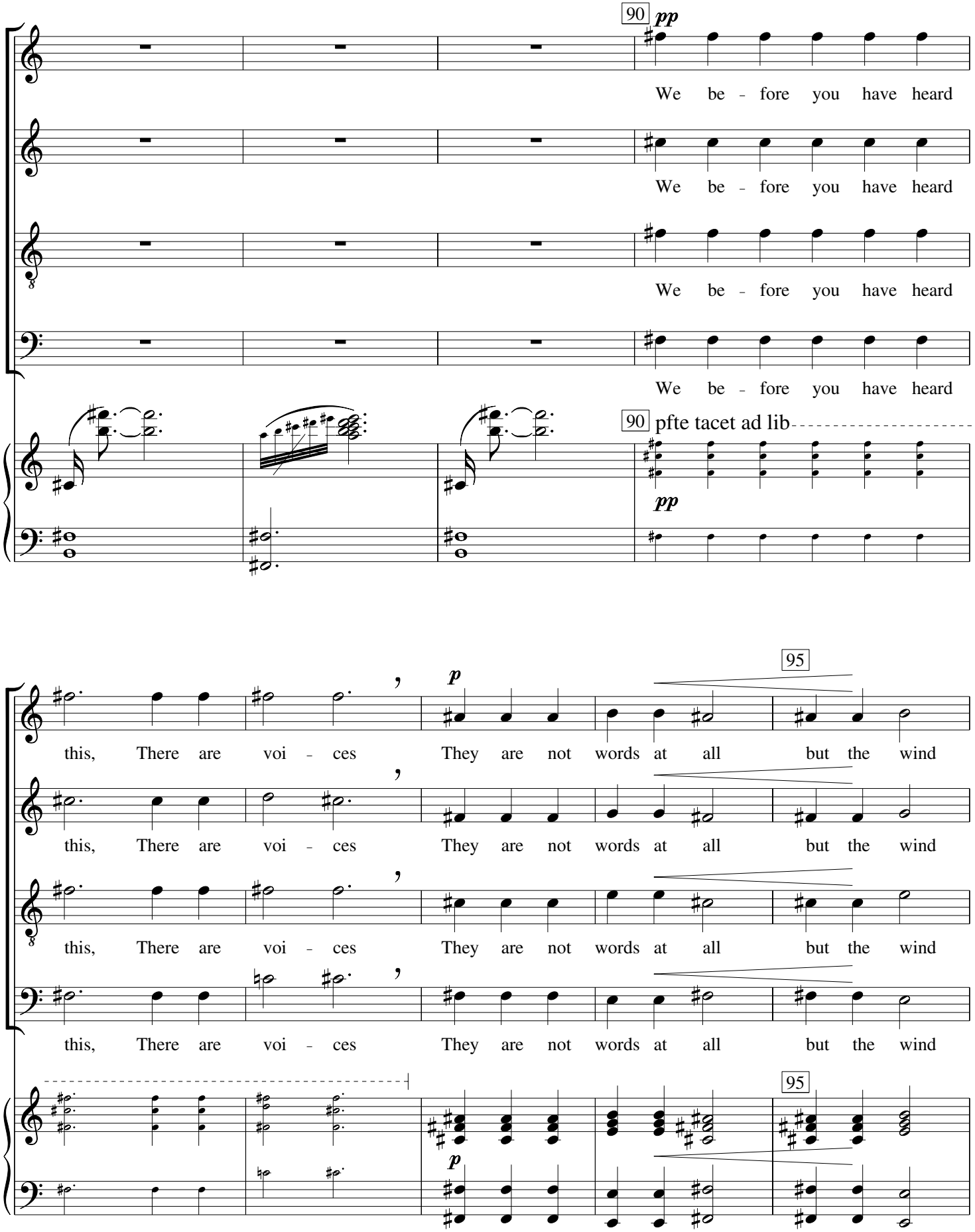

50
We lie down and the snow co-vers our gar - ments
We lie down and the snow co-vers our gar - ments
We lie down and the snow co-vers our gar - ments
We lie down and the snow co-vers our gar - ments
50
mf
55
60

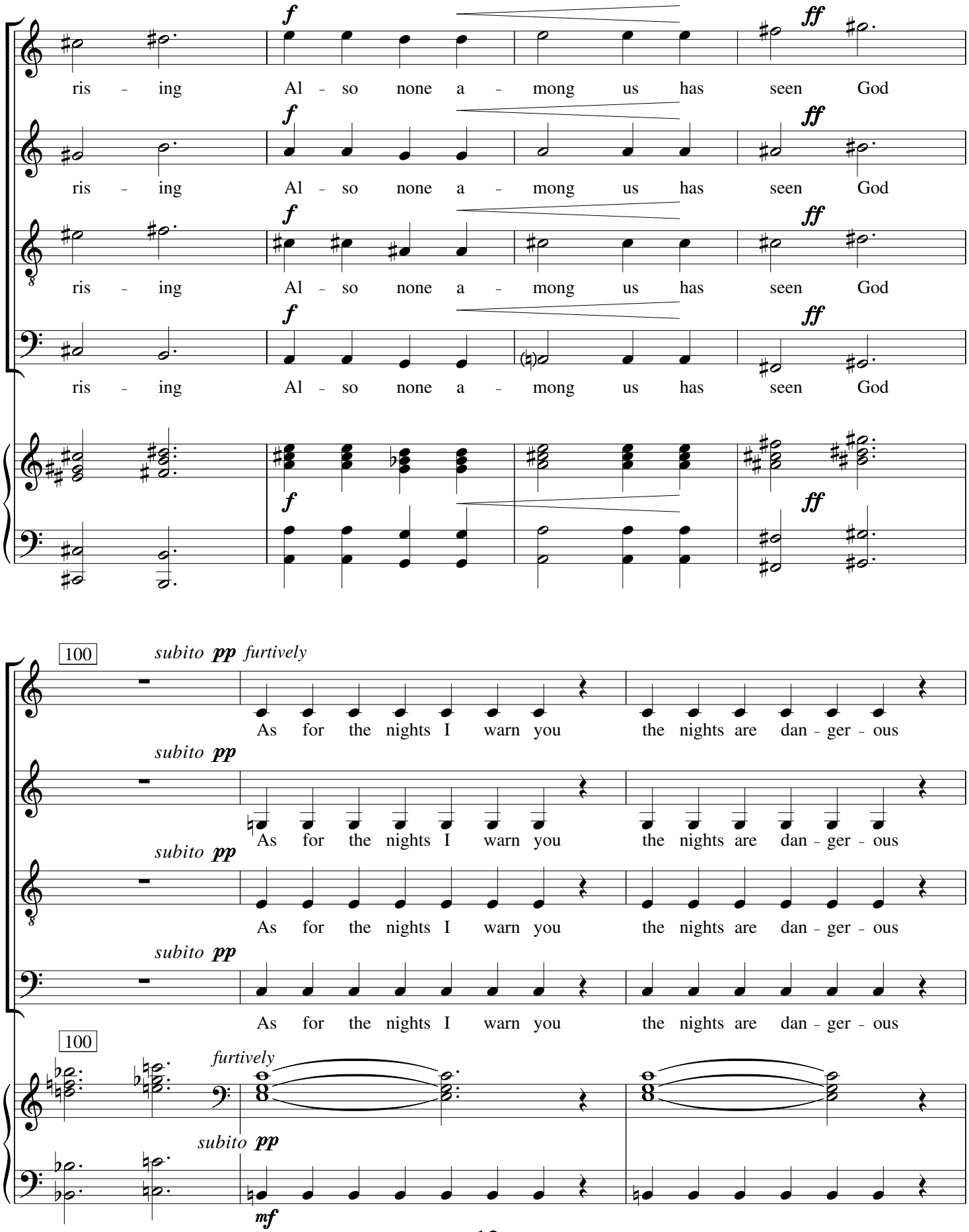

Soprano and Tenor A Capella
p I will tell you all we have learn'd I will tell you
Firmly and Gracefully
65
ev - 'ry thing:
f The earth is round. There are springs un - der the
ev - 'ry thing:
f The earth is round. There are springs un - der the
ev - 'ry thing:
f The earth is round. There are springs un - der the
f The earth is round. There are springs un - der the
Firmly and Gracefully
65
f

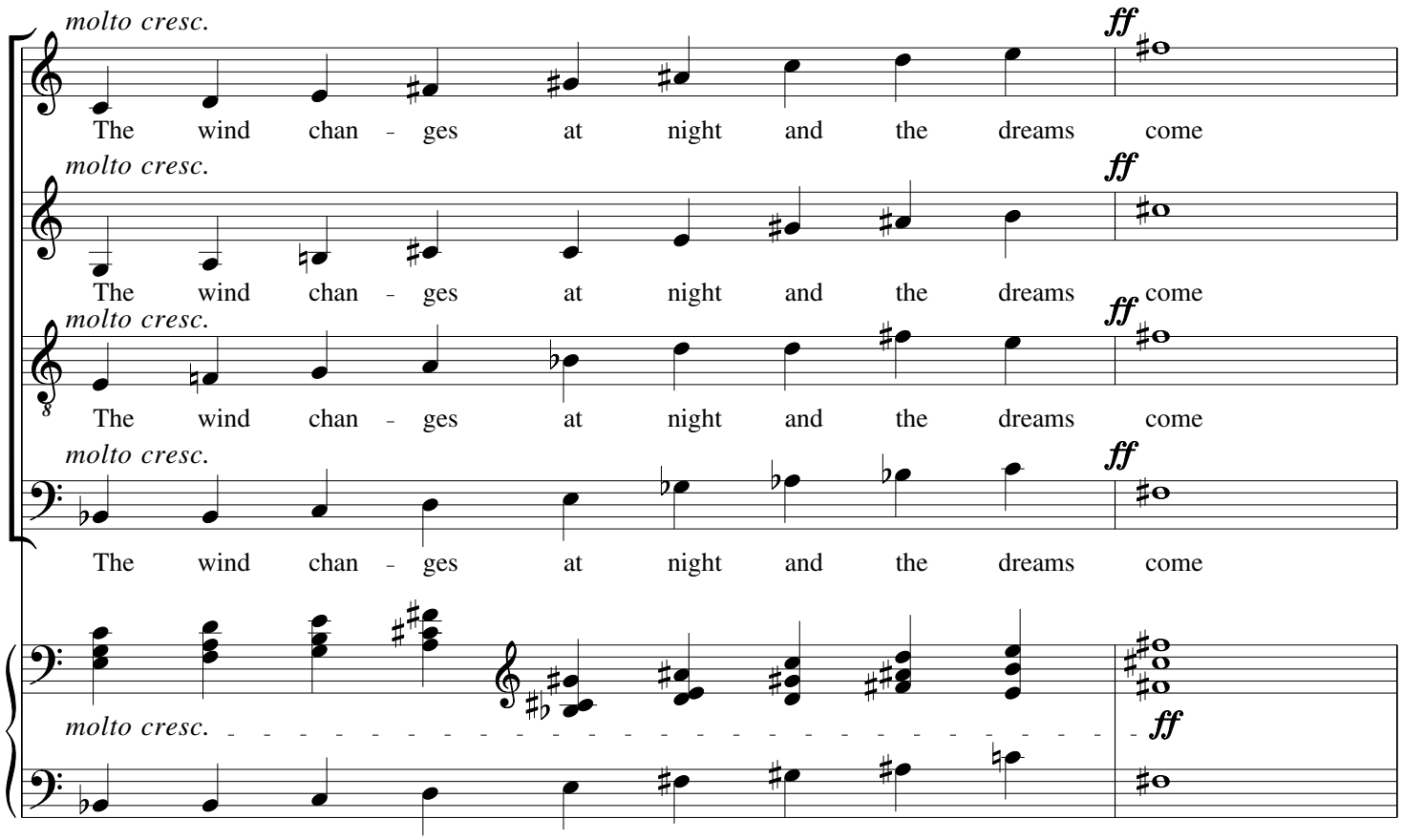

70
or - chards, the loam cuts with a blunt knife, be - ware of elms in
or - chards, the loam cuts with a blunt knife, be - ware of elms in
or - chards, the loam cuts with a blunt knife, be - ware of elms in
or - chards, the loam cuts with a blunt knife, be - ware of elms in
70
thun - der The lights in the sky are stars we think they
thun - der The lights in the sky are stars we think they
thun - der The lights in the sky are stars we think they
thun - der The lights in the sky are stars we think they

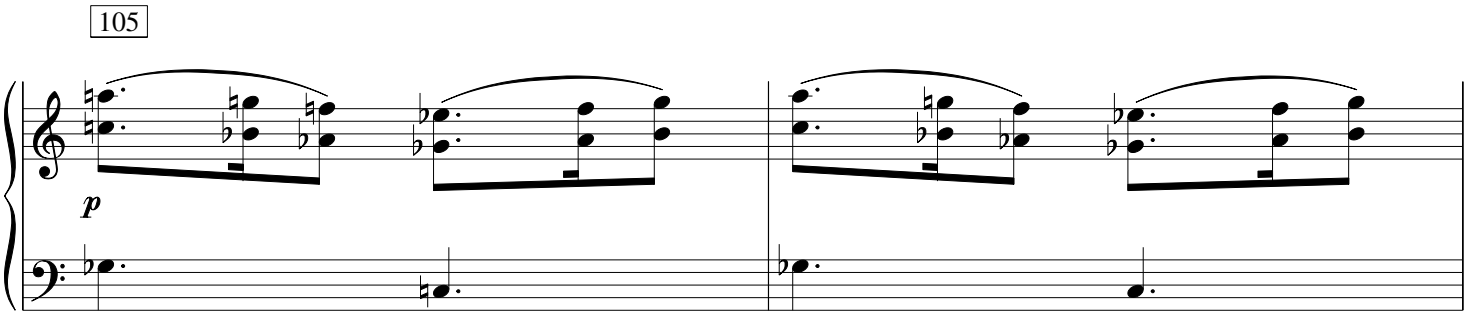

75
do not see, we think al - so The trees do not know nor the
do not see, we think al - so The trees do not know nor the
do not see, we think al - so The trees do not know nor the
do not see, we think al - so The trees do not know nor the
75
p
leaves of the gras - ses hear us The birds too are ig - nor -
p
leaves of the gras - ses hear us The birds too are ig - nor -
p
leaves of the gras - ses hear us The birds too are ig - nor -
p
leaves of the gras - ses hear us The birds too are ig - nor -
p
p

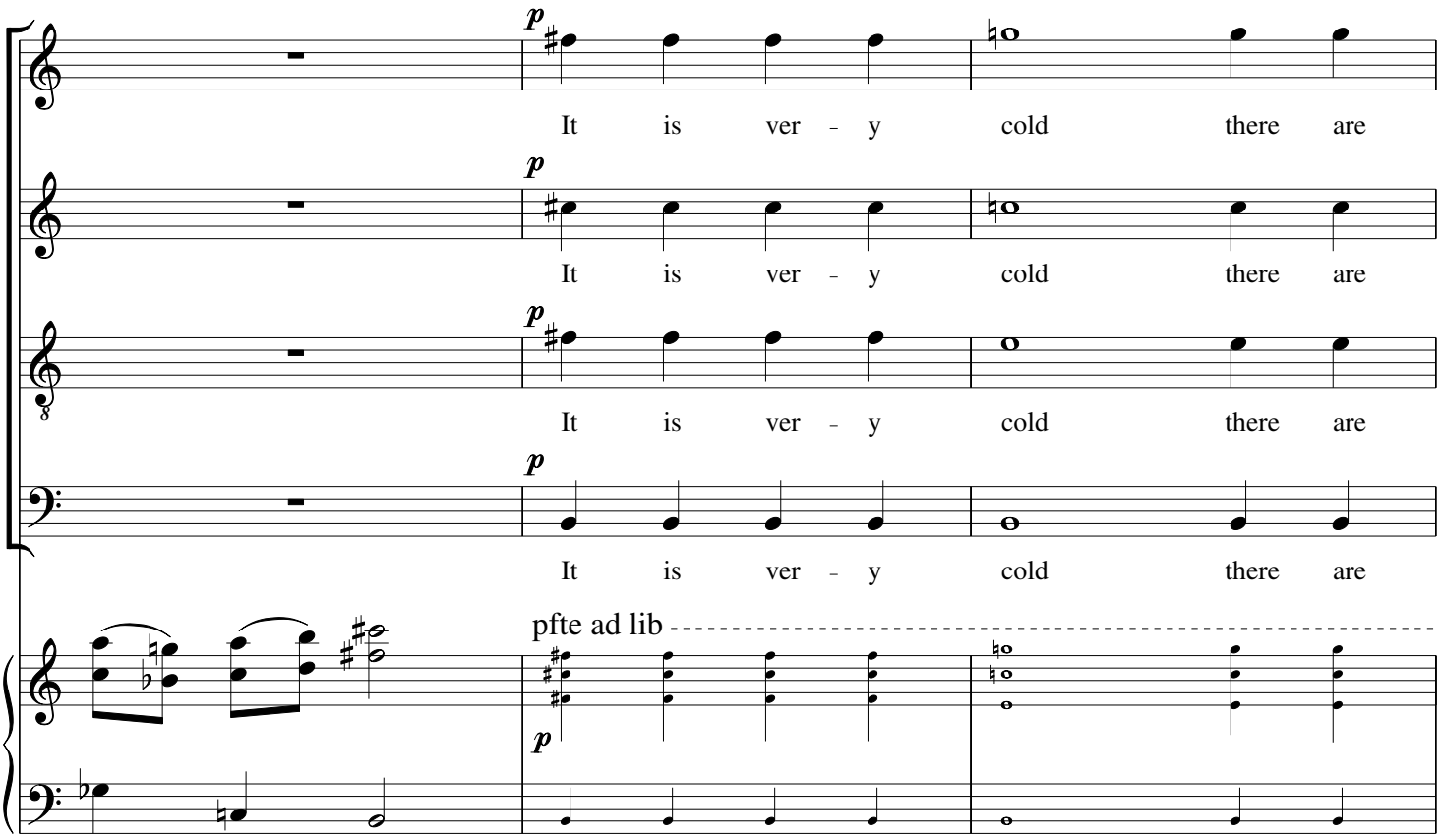

80
mf
– ant. Do not lis - ten, do not stand at
– ant. Do not lis - ten, do not stand at
– ant. Do not lis - ten, do not stand at
– ant. Do not lis - ten, do not stand at
80
mf
85
dark in the op - en win - dows.
dark in the op - en win - dows.
dark in the op - en win - dows.
dark in the op - en win - dows.
85

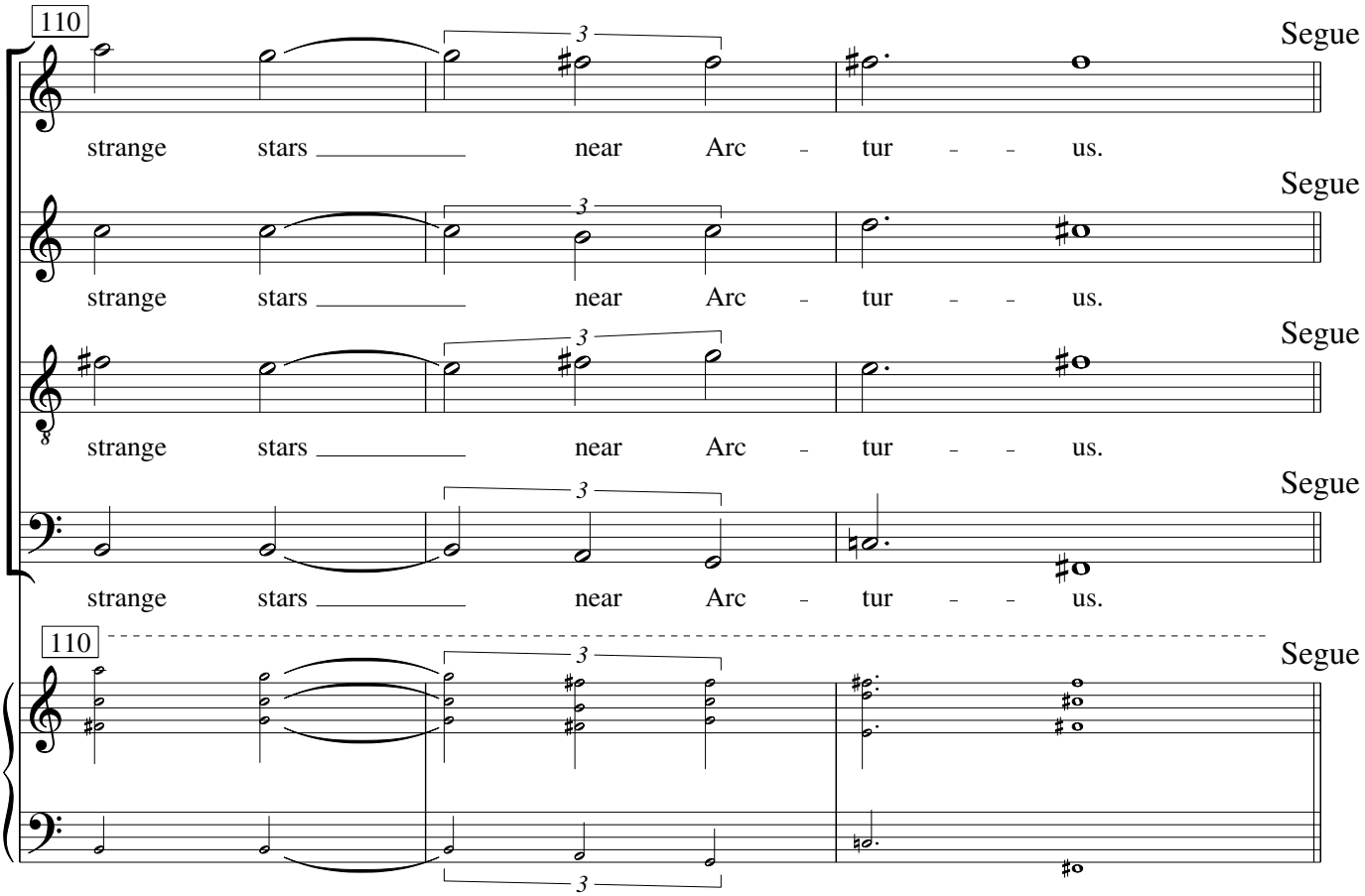

90
pp
We be - fore you have heard
We be - fore you have heard
We be - fore you have heard
We be - fore you have heard
90
pfte tacet ad lib
pp
95
p
this, There are voi - ces They are not words at all but the wind
this, There are voi - ces They are not words at all but the wind
this, There are voi - ces They are not words at all but the wind
this, There are voi - ces They are not words at all but the wind
95
p

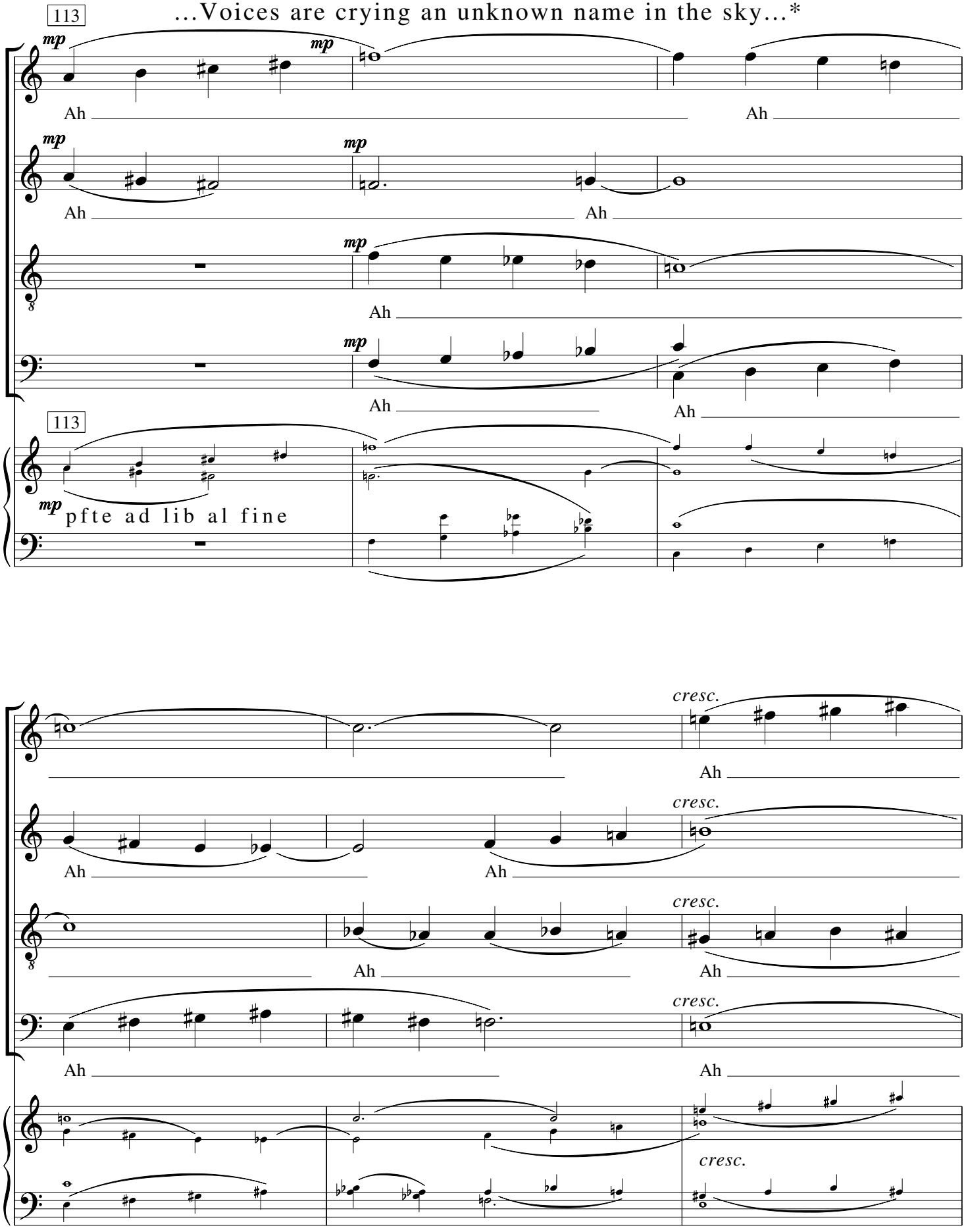

f
ff
ris - ing Al - so none a - mong us has seen God
100
subito pp furtively
As for the nights I warn you the nights are dan - ger - ous
subito pp
furtively
mf


molto cresc.
ff
The wind chan - ges at night and the dreams come
molto cresc.
ff
The wind chan - ges at night and the dreams come
molto cresc.
ff
The wind chan - ges at night and the dreams come
molto cresc.
ff
The wind chan - ges at night and the dreams come
molto cresc.
ff

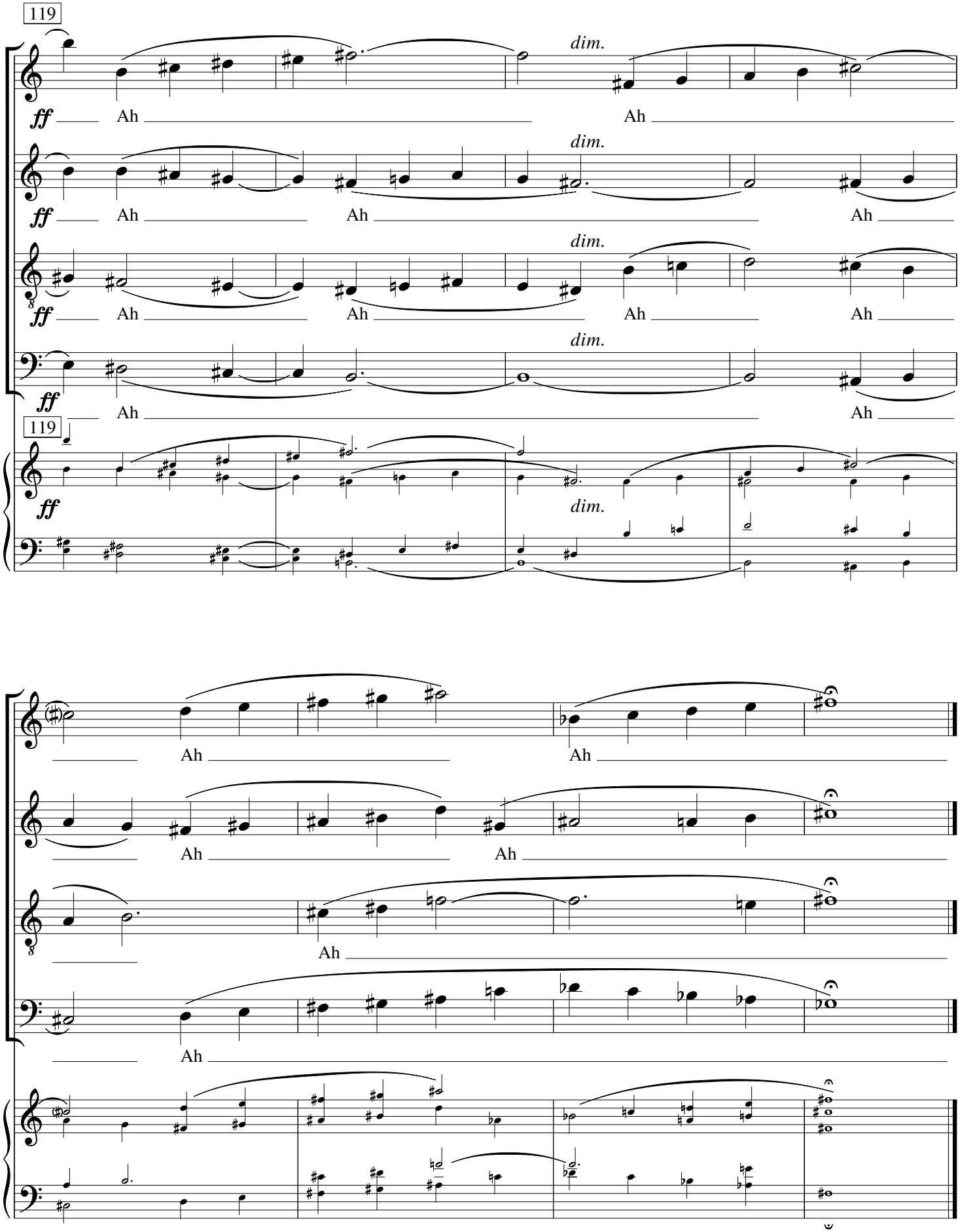

105
p


p
It is ver - y cold there are
p
It is ver - y cold there are
p
It is ver - y cold there are
p
It is ver - y cold there are
pfte ad lib
p


110
3
strange stars near Arc - tur - - us.
Segue
strange stars near Arc - tur - - us.
Segue
strange stars near Arc - tur - - us.
Segue
strange stars near Arc - tur - - us.
Segue
110
3
Segue



*These word are neither spoken nor sung. They are the last line of the poem.



C. S. Arnold - Summer 1973