A Home in *The Golden Gate*

Music by Conrad Cummings

Lyrics by Vikram Seth
from the novel in verse
The Golden Gate

Commissioned by *OPERA America*
for the *OPERA America Songbook*
in celebration of the opening of
The National Opera Center

Lyrics by Vikram Seth from the novel
in verse *The Golden Gate*

Last night I saw a Buster Keaton.
(I think he's great. He never smiles.)
Then home, to catch up on my files.
A can of chili. When I've eaten,
The late night news, and so to bed."
John looks forlorn as this is said.

Liz, sweet Liz, a little lonely,
Sequestered in her city flat with only
The trusty Charlemagne, her cat,
A fearsome tabby, as companion,
As she swims the rapid canyon
Of her career. . .

John sighs, looks up. An ad describes
The Roach Motel's compelling merit:
"Roaches check in – but they don't check out!"
John thinks, "That's what my life's about."

Daybreak. John wakes to sunlight streaming
Across an unfamiliar bed.
"A cream duvet? I must be dreaming –
With lilac hexagons – instead
Of my plain blanket – and the ceiling:
An open glass skylight revealing
Clear sky – and what's this at my feet?
A cat! My God!" – With swift heartbeat
He starts as, through the door he's facing,
Liz enters with a coffee tray
In negligible negligee.

How wonderful it is, returning
To the retreat of a friend's smile
And a shared meal; to know, if only
For this one night, one won't be lonely.

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version 7/27/12

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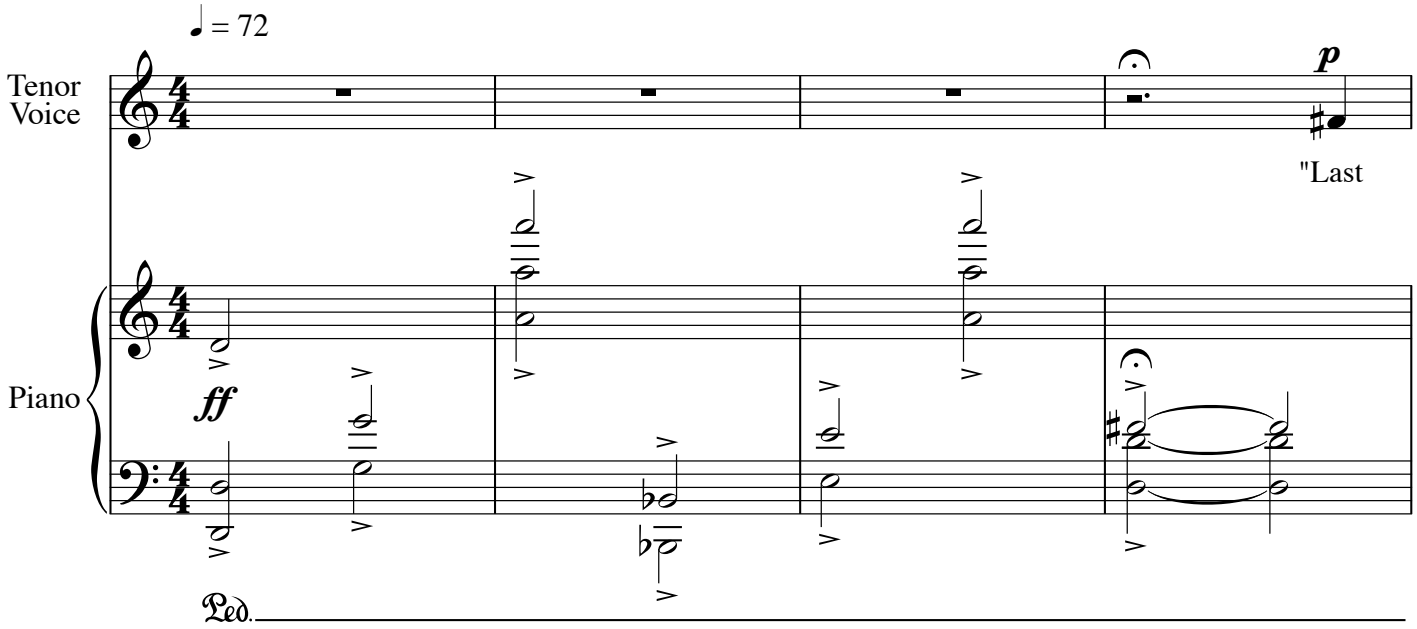

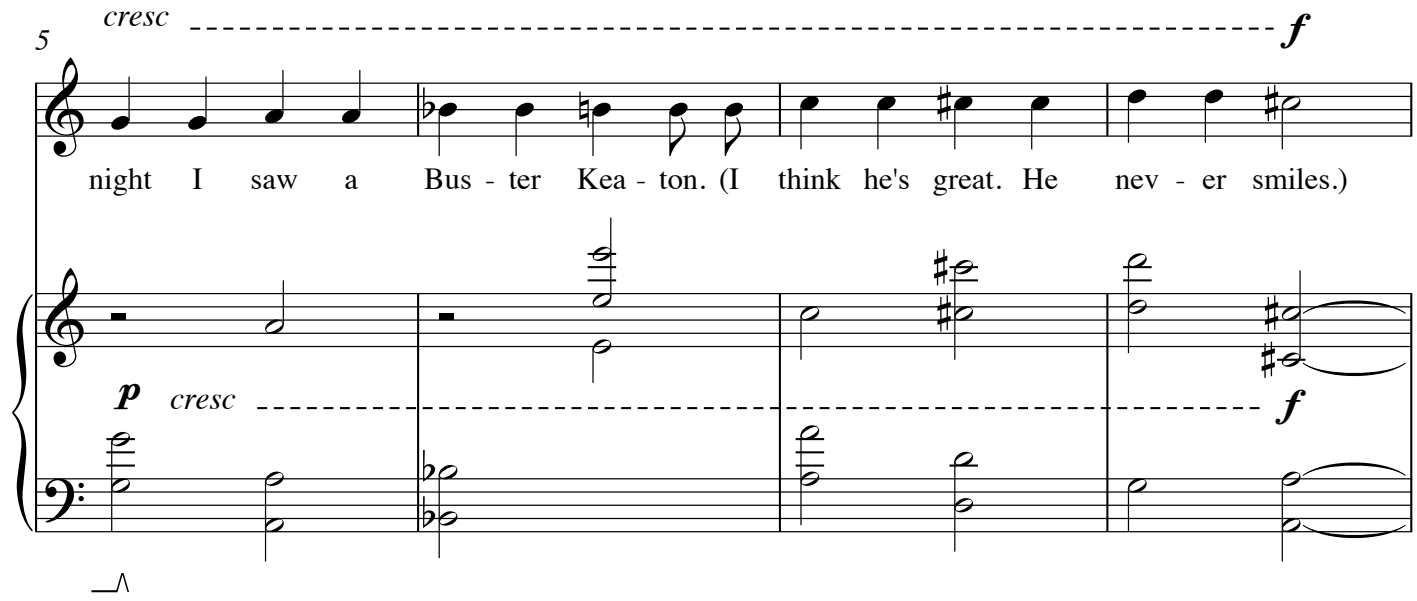

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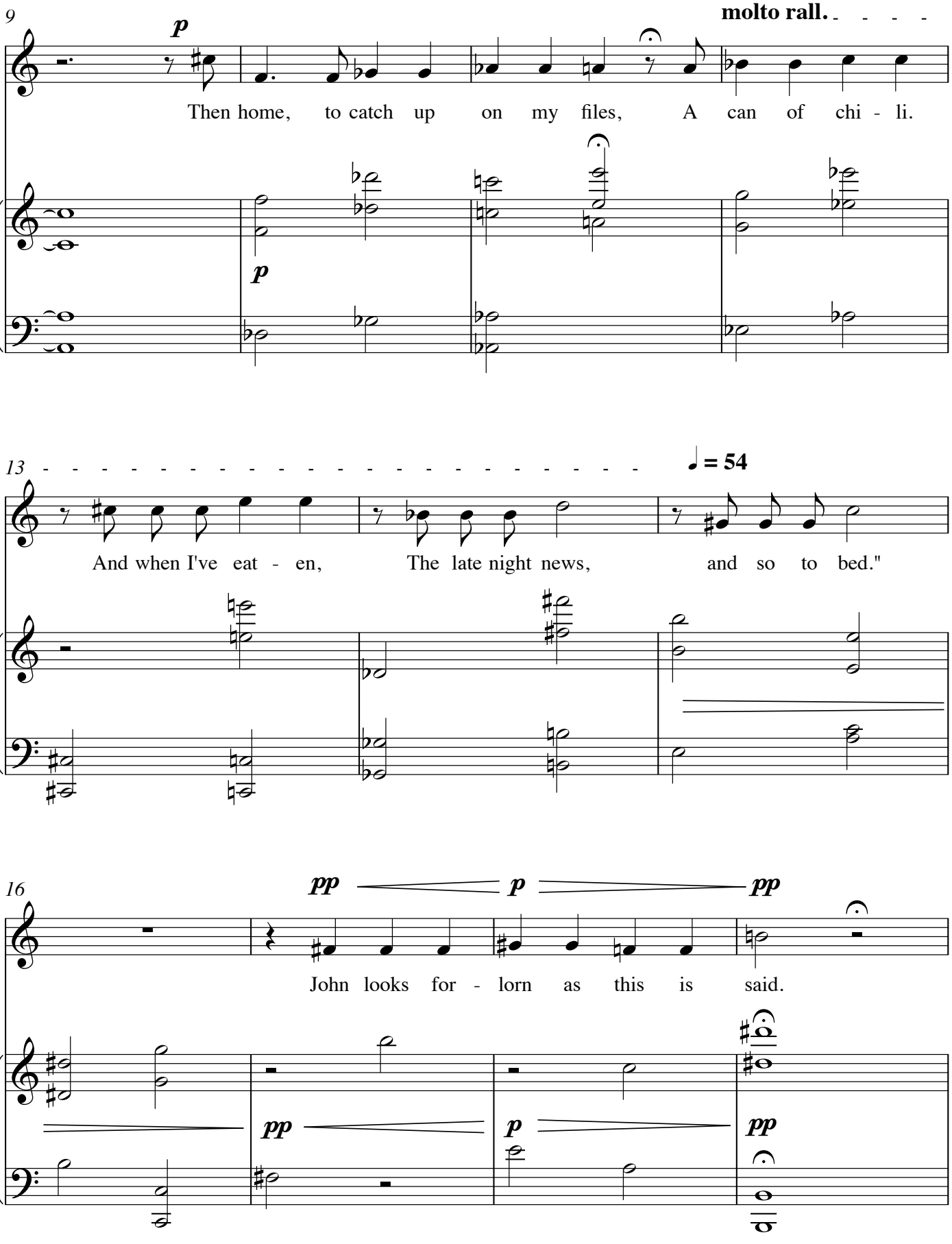
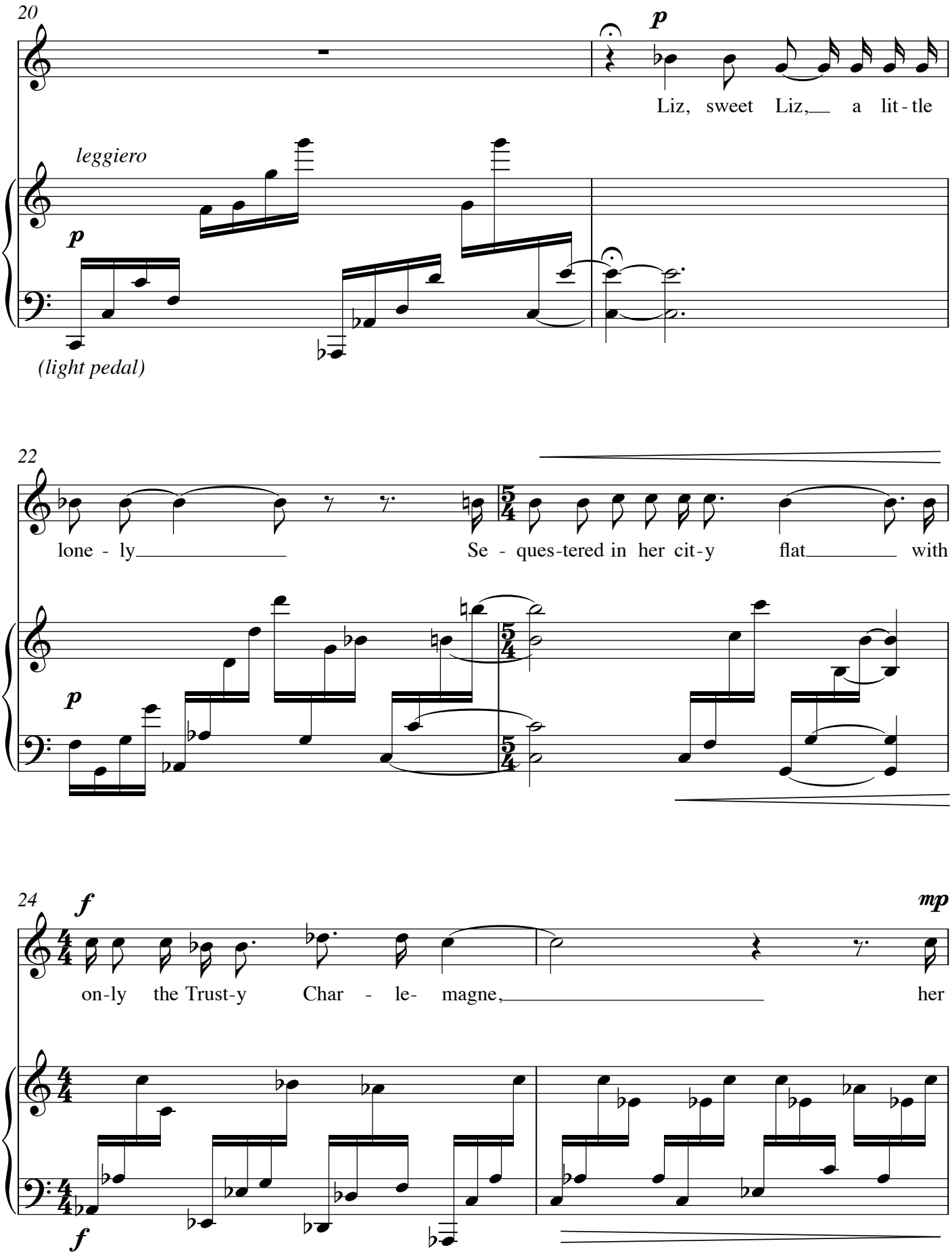
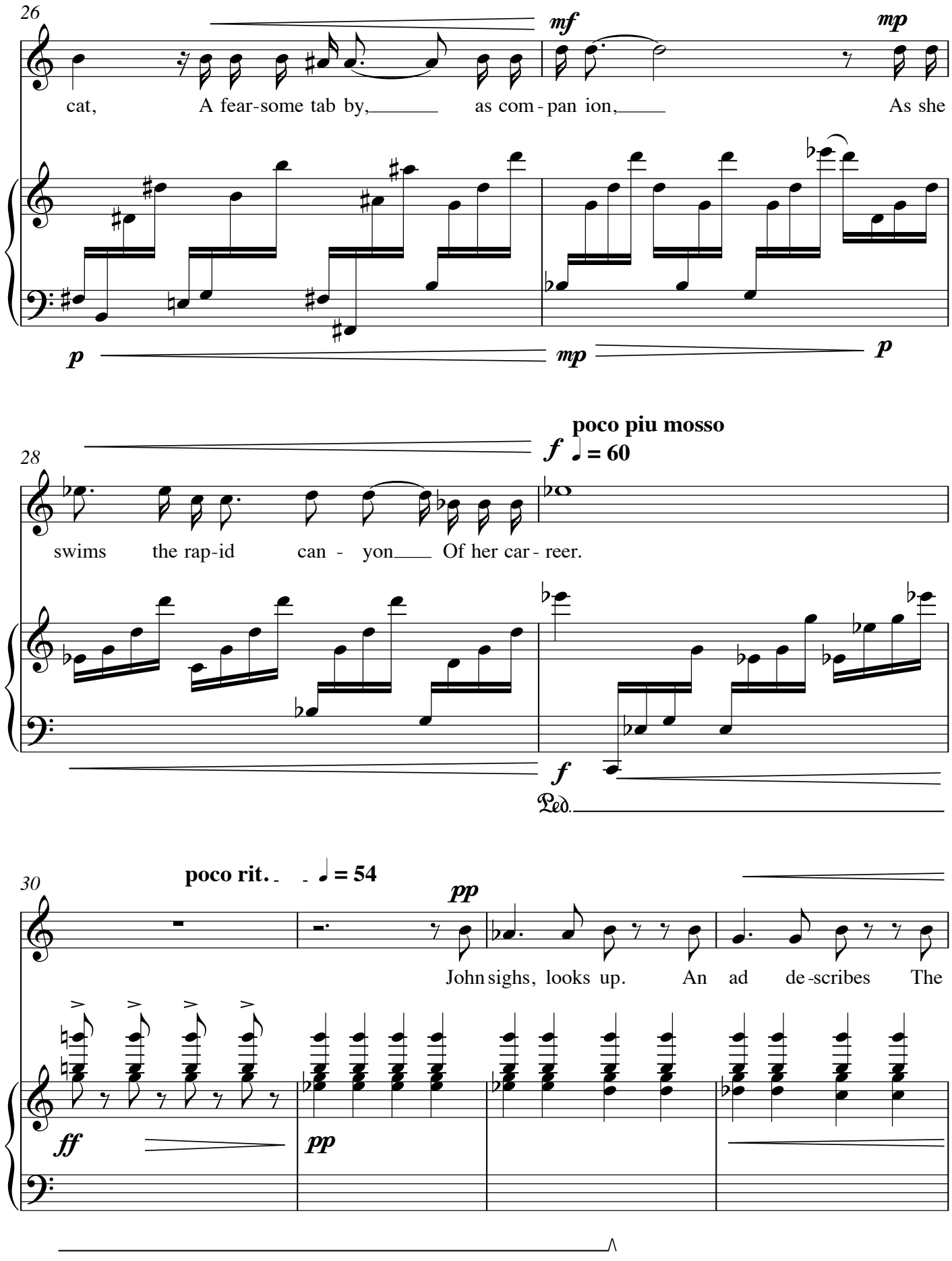
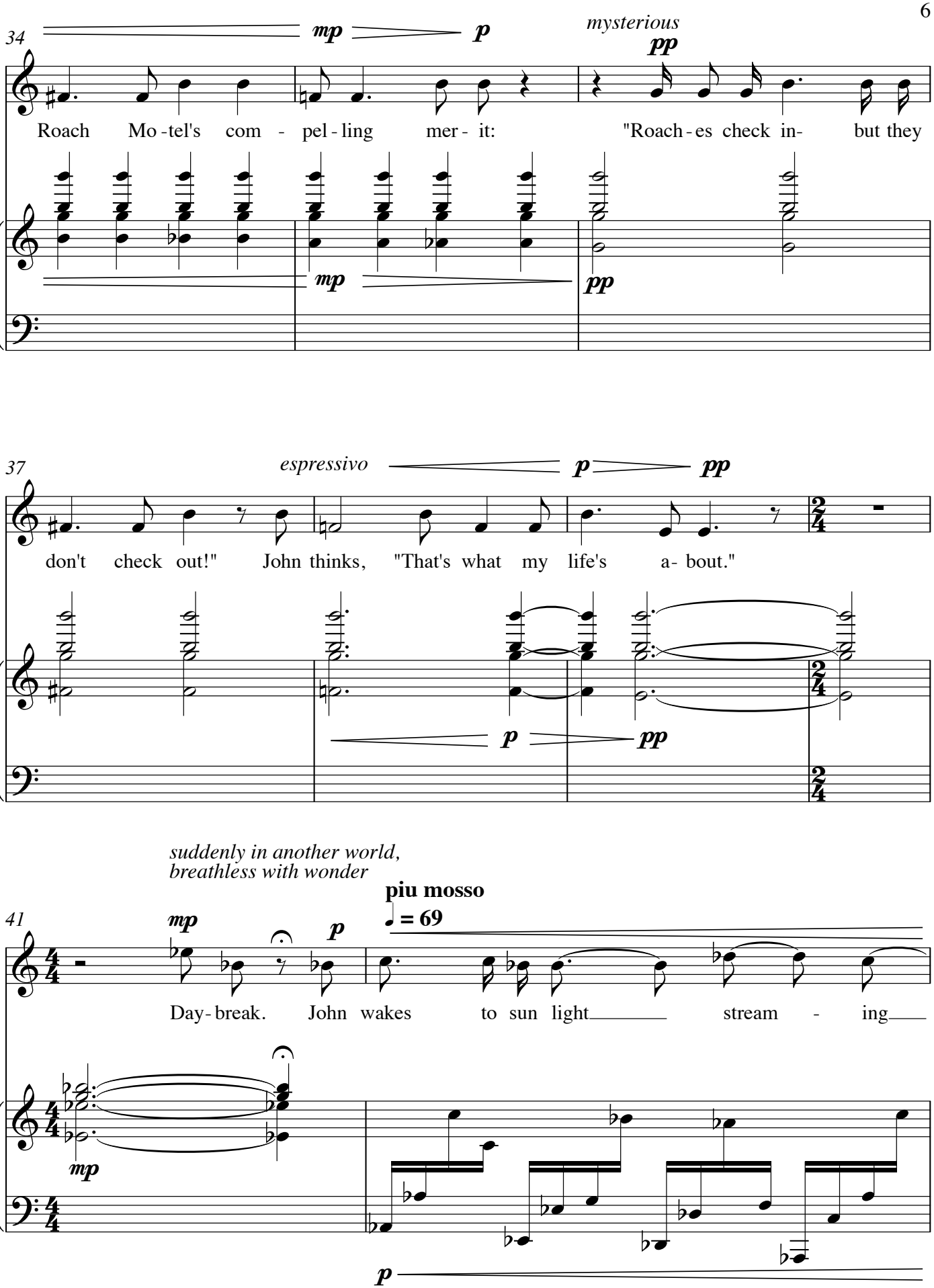
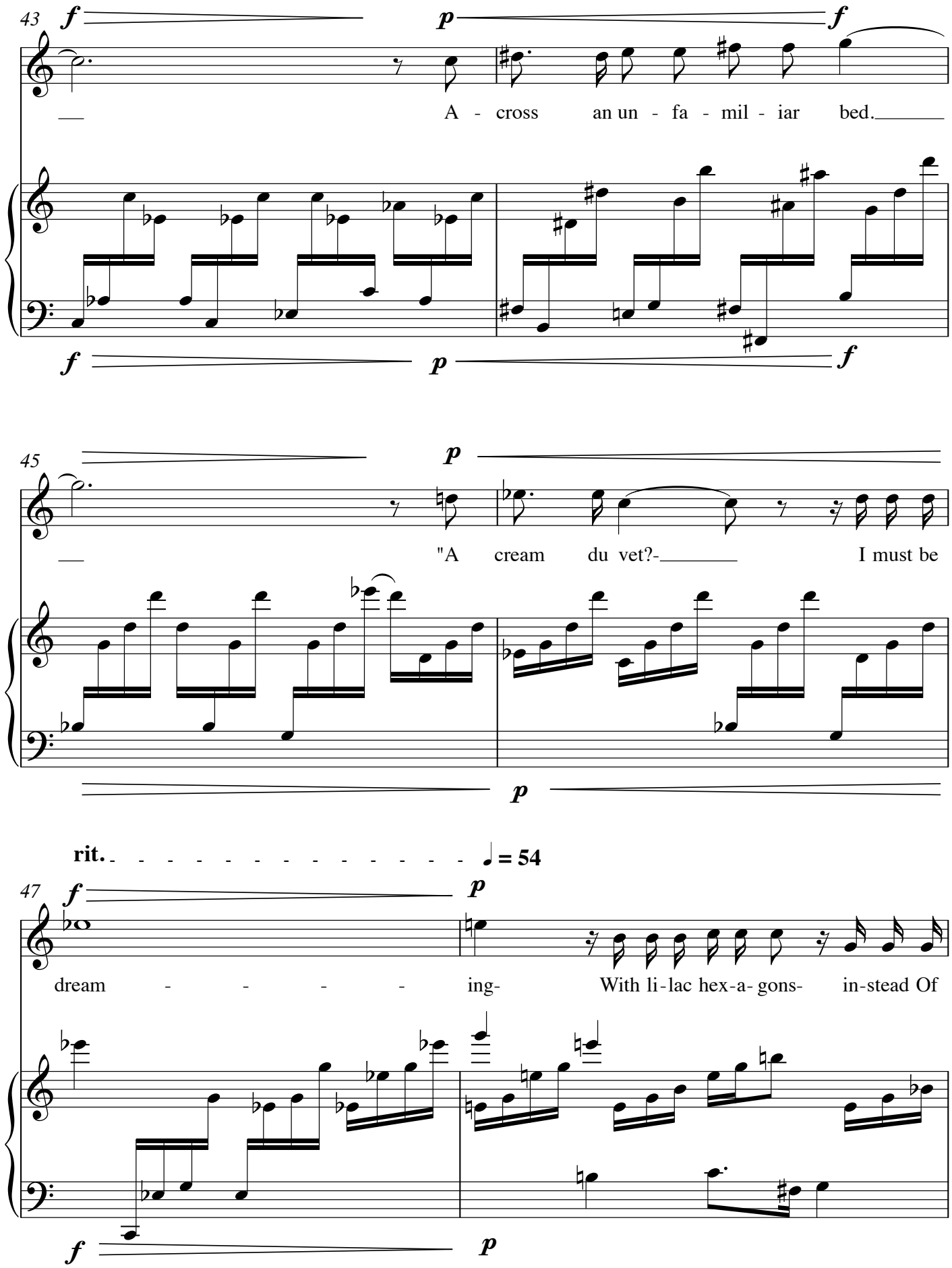

9
molto rall.
p
Then home, to catch up on my files, A can of chi - li.
p
13
♩ = 54
And when I've eat - en, The late night news, and so to bed."
16
pp
p
pp
John looks for - lorn as this is said.
pp
p
pp


20
p
Liz, sweet Liz, a lit - tle
leggiero
p
(light pedal)
22
lone - ly
Se - ques-tered in her cit-y flat with
p
24
f
mp
on-ly the Trust-y Char - le- magne, her
f


26
mf
mp
cat, A fear-some tab by, as com-pan ion, As she
p
mp
p
poco piu mosso
28
f ♩ = 60
swims the rap-id can - yon Of her car-reer.
f
Ped.
30
poco rit.
♩ = 54
pp
John sighs, looks up. An ad de-scribes The
ff
pp


34
mp
p
mysterious
pp
Roach Mo - tel's com - pel - ling mer - it: "Roach - es check in- but they
mp
pp
37
espressivo
p
pp
don't check out!" John thinks, "That's what my life's a- bout."
p
pp
suddenly in another world,
breathless with wonder
piu mosso
41
mp
p
♩ = 69
Day - break. John wakes to sun light stream - ing
mp
p


43
f
p
f
A - cross an un - fa - mil - iar bed.
f
p
f
45
p
"A cream du vet?- I must be
p
rit.
= 54
47
f
p
dream - - - - - ing- With li - lac hex - a - gons- in - stead Of
f
p

poco rallent a tempo

49

pp mf

my plain blan - ket- and the ceil - ing: An

pp

piu mosso

♩ = 69

51

f p

o - pen glass sky - light re - veal - ing Clear sky -

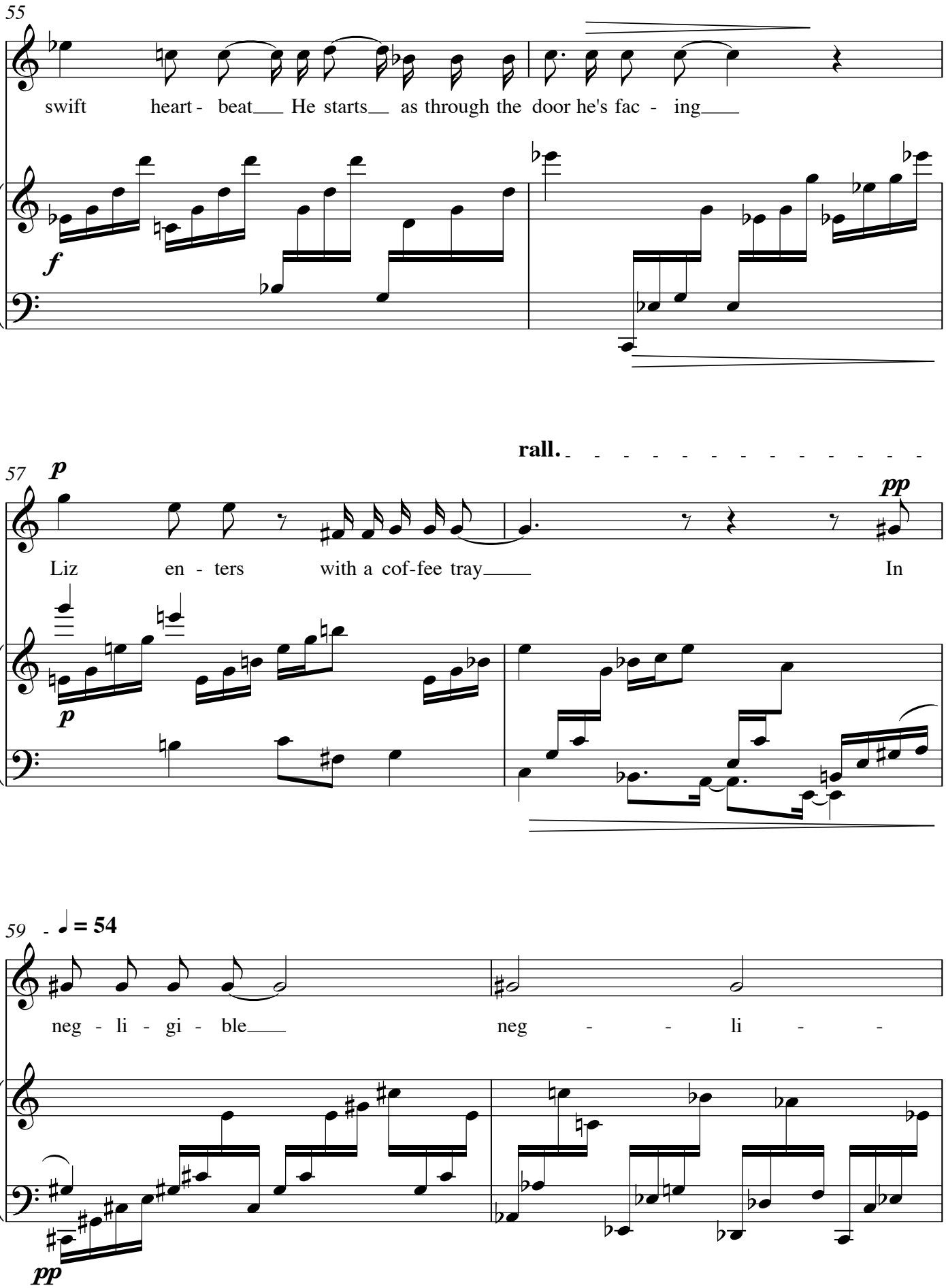
f p

53

ff f

and what's this at my feet? A cat! My God!" With

ff


55
swift heart - beat He starts as through the door he's fac - ing
f
rall.
57
p
pp
Liz en - ters with a cof-fee tray In
p
59
♩ = 54
neg - li - gi - ble neg - - li - -
pp

piu mosso

♩ = 69

hushed, in awe

61

p

gee. How won-der-ful it is, re-

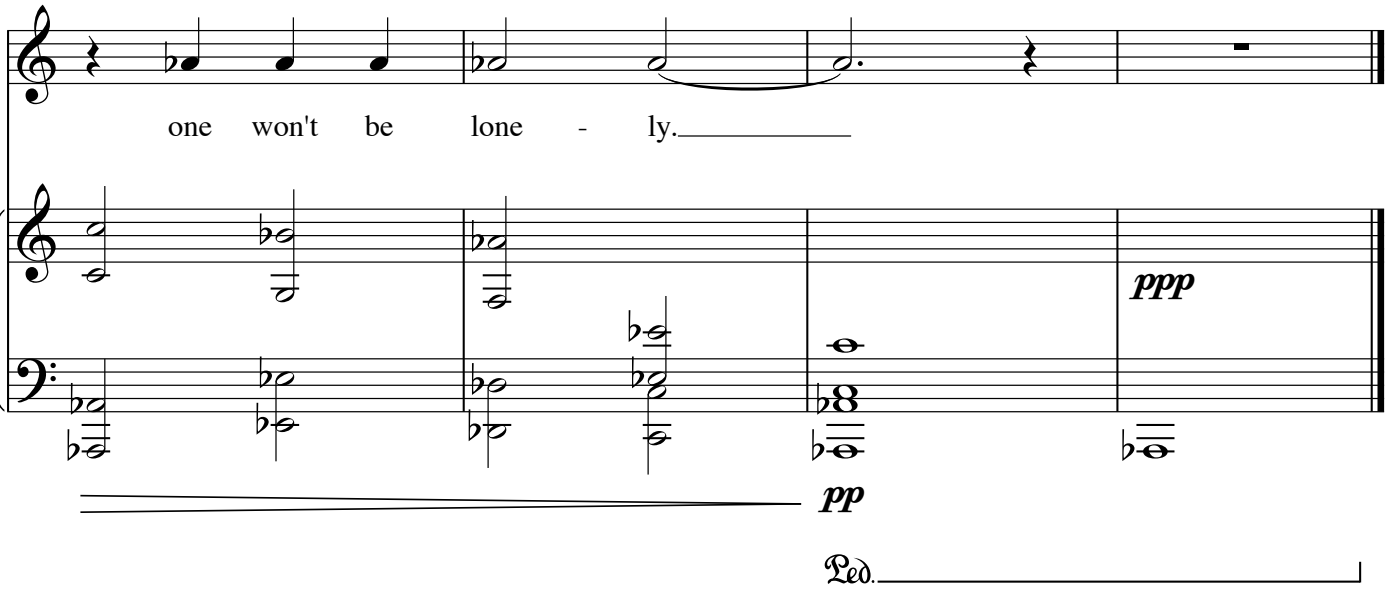
Ped.

64

turn - ing To the re- treat of a friend's smile

67

And a shared meal; To know, if on - ly For this one night,

71

Broaden slightly