THE DONG

(with the luminous nose)

John Kilpatrick

words by Edward Lear

for unaccompanied singers
(or with piano)

SATB (div.)

print: 01/01/2025

for Gemma

The Dong

words: Edward Lear
music: John Kilpatrick

created January 2003
reset in Overture September 2008
reset in Musescore February 2022

This and other nonsense rhymes and stories by Edward Lear can by found in the Faber edition of the Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear, edited by Holbrook Jackson. Many can also be found on the Internet.

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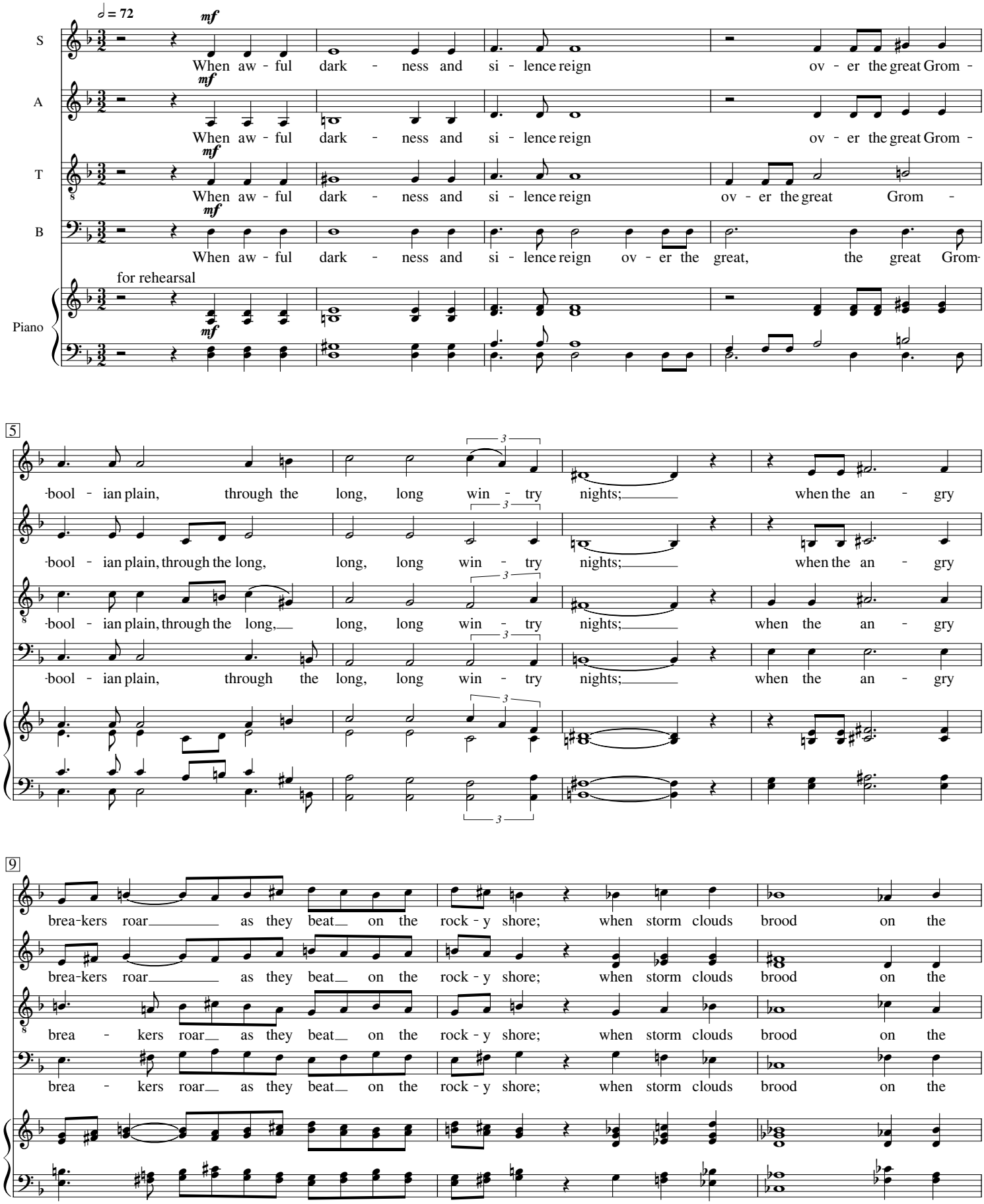
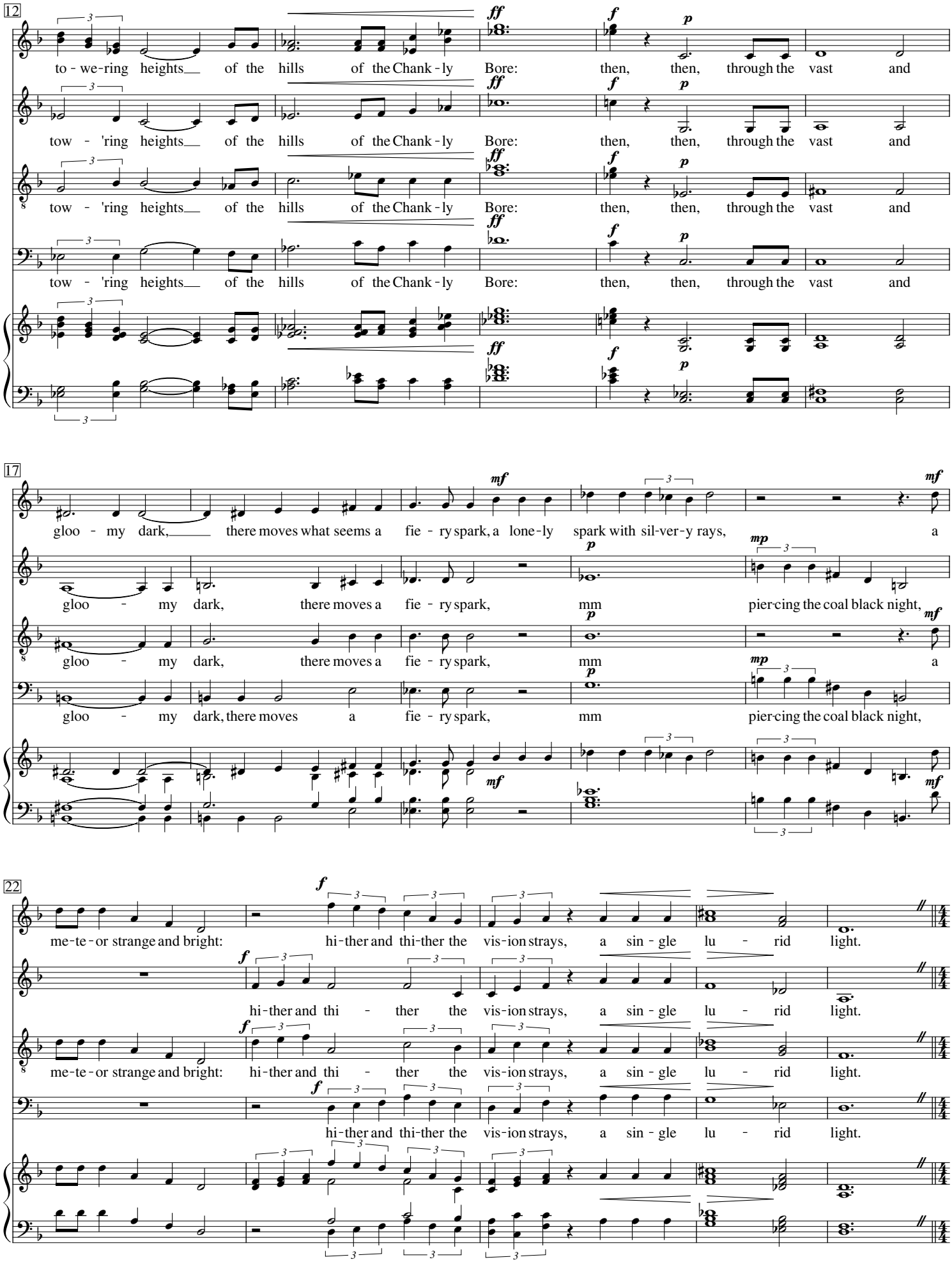
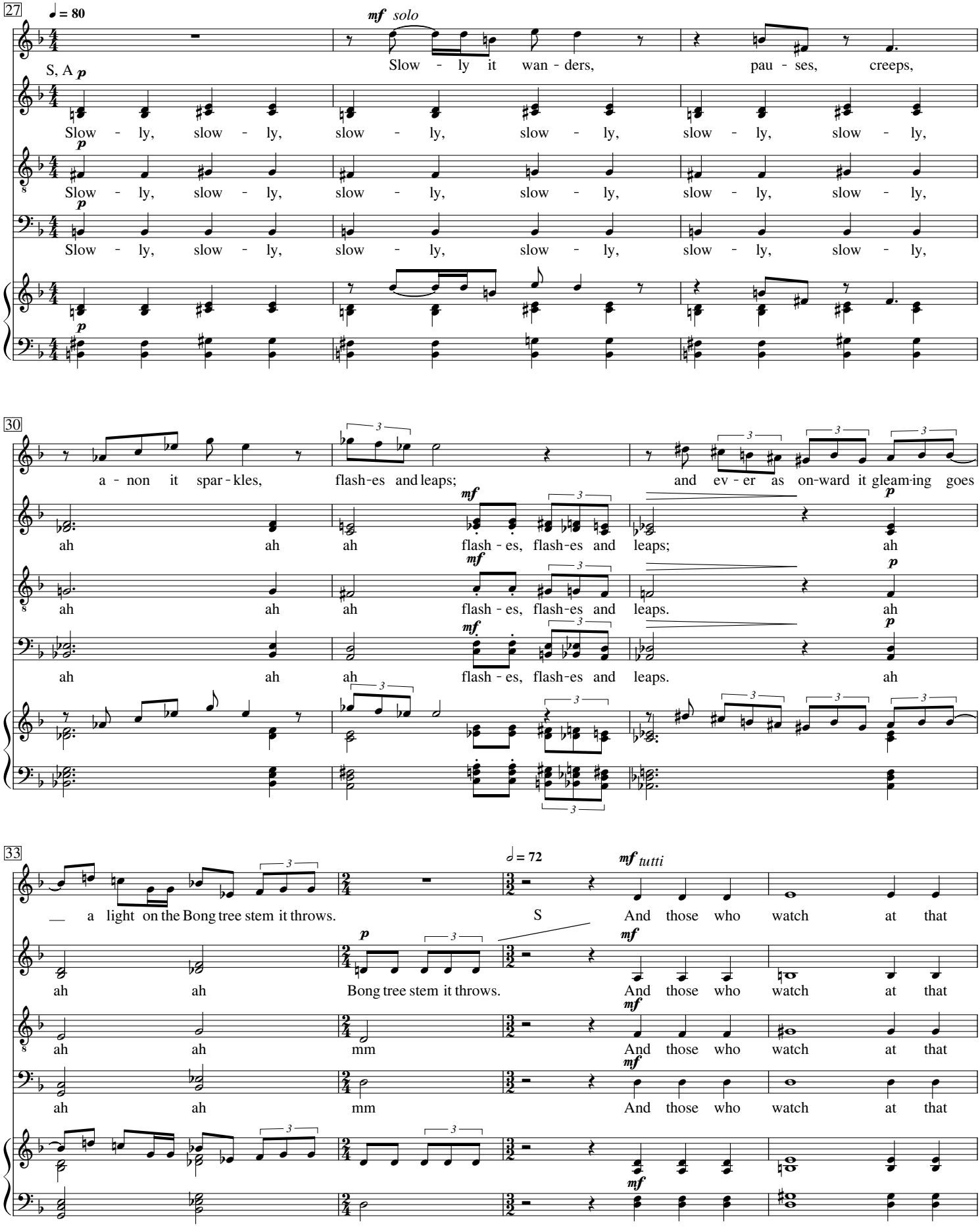
The Dong

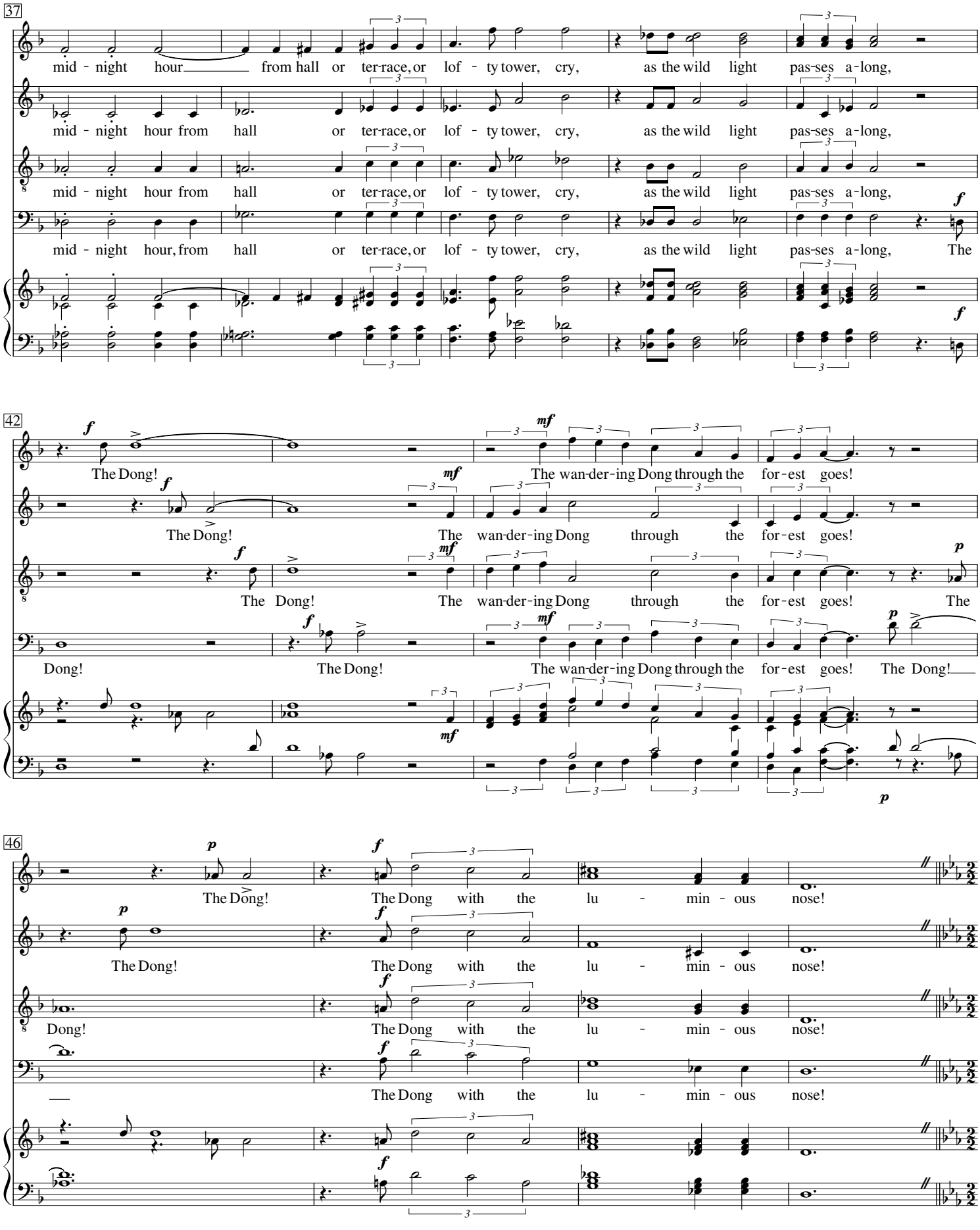
Edward Lear

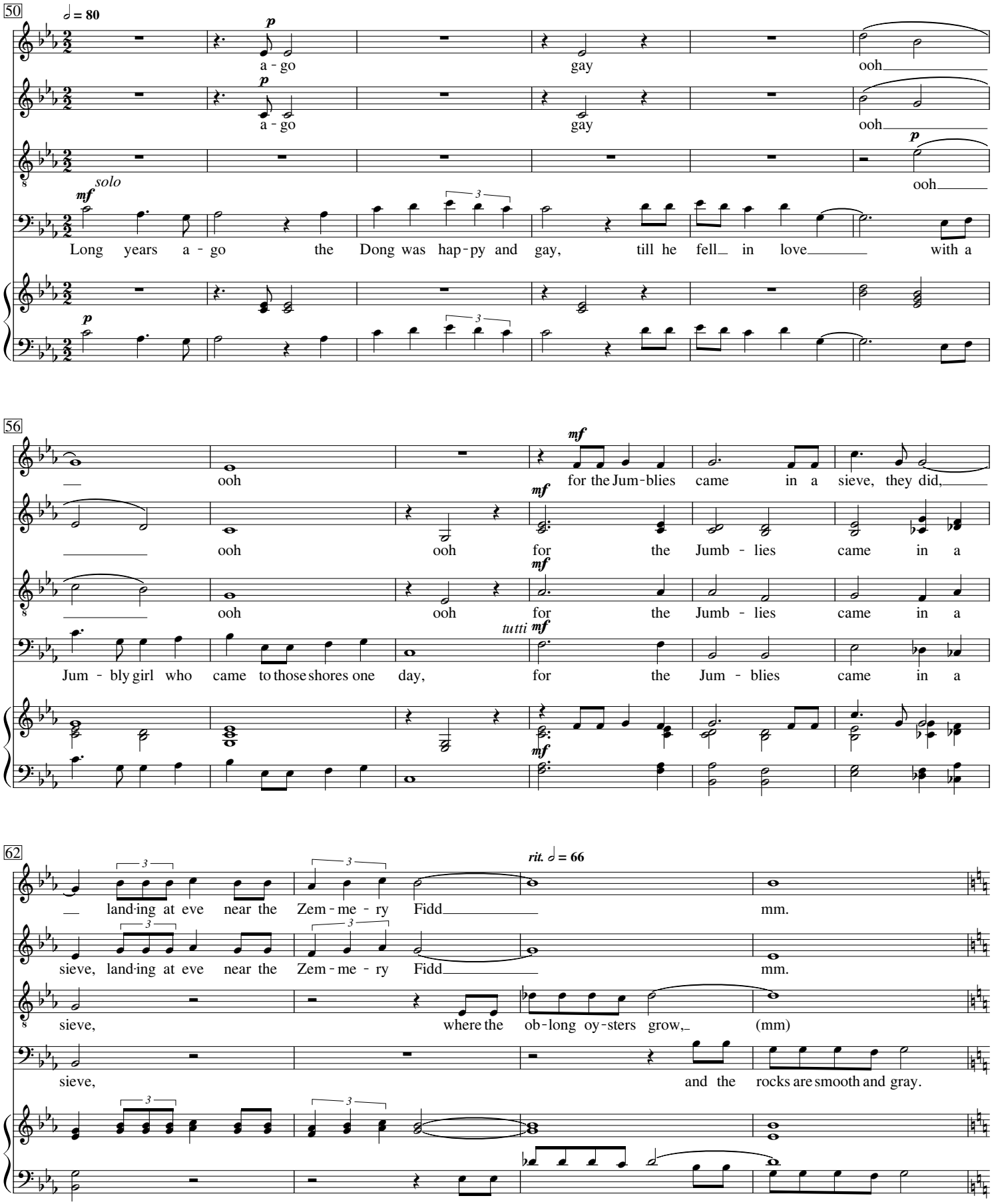
John Kilpatrick

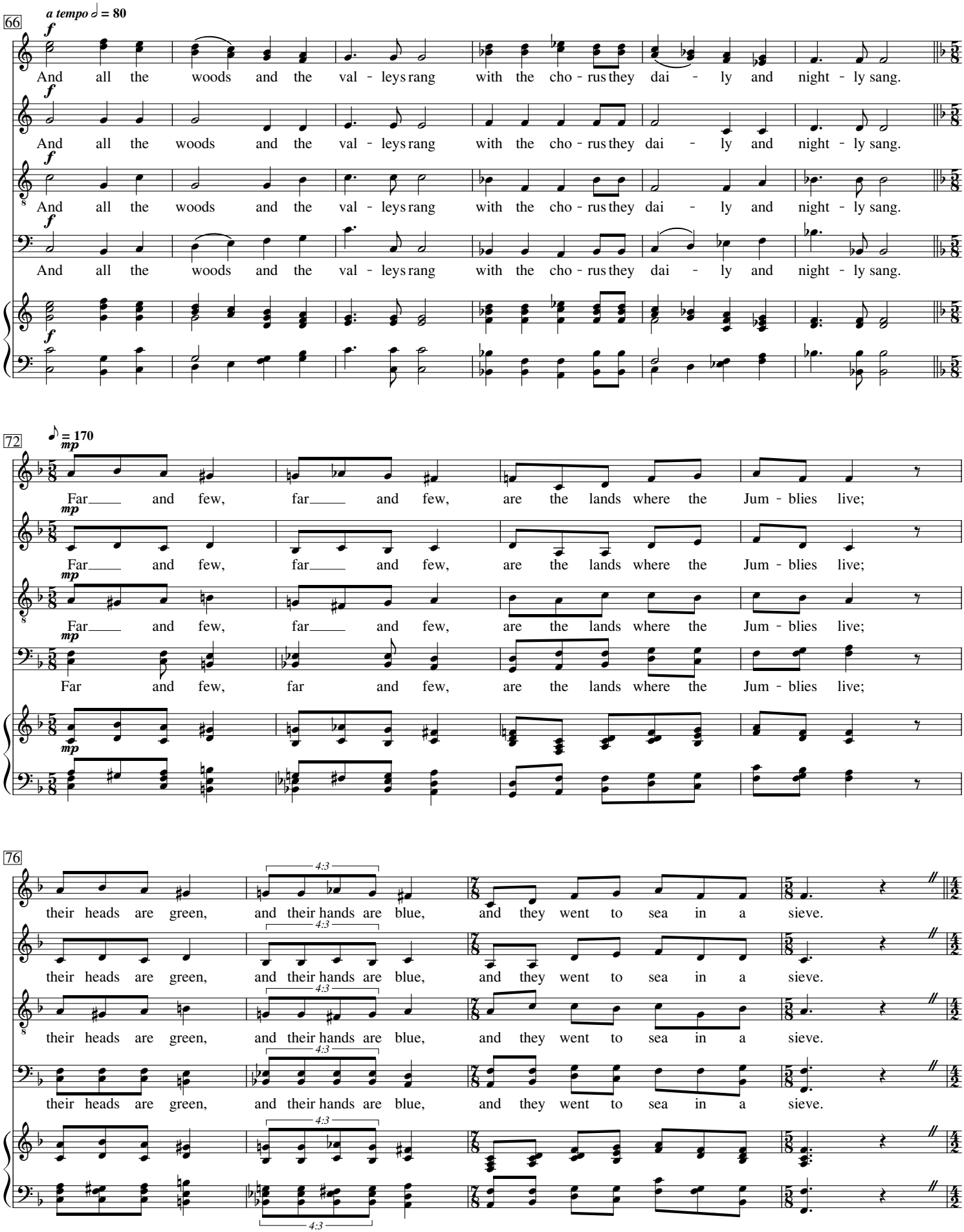


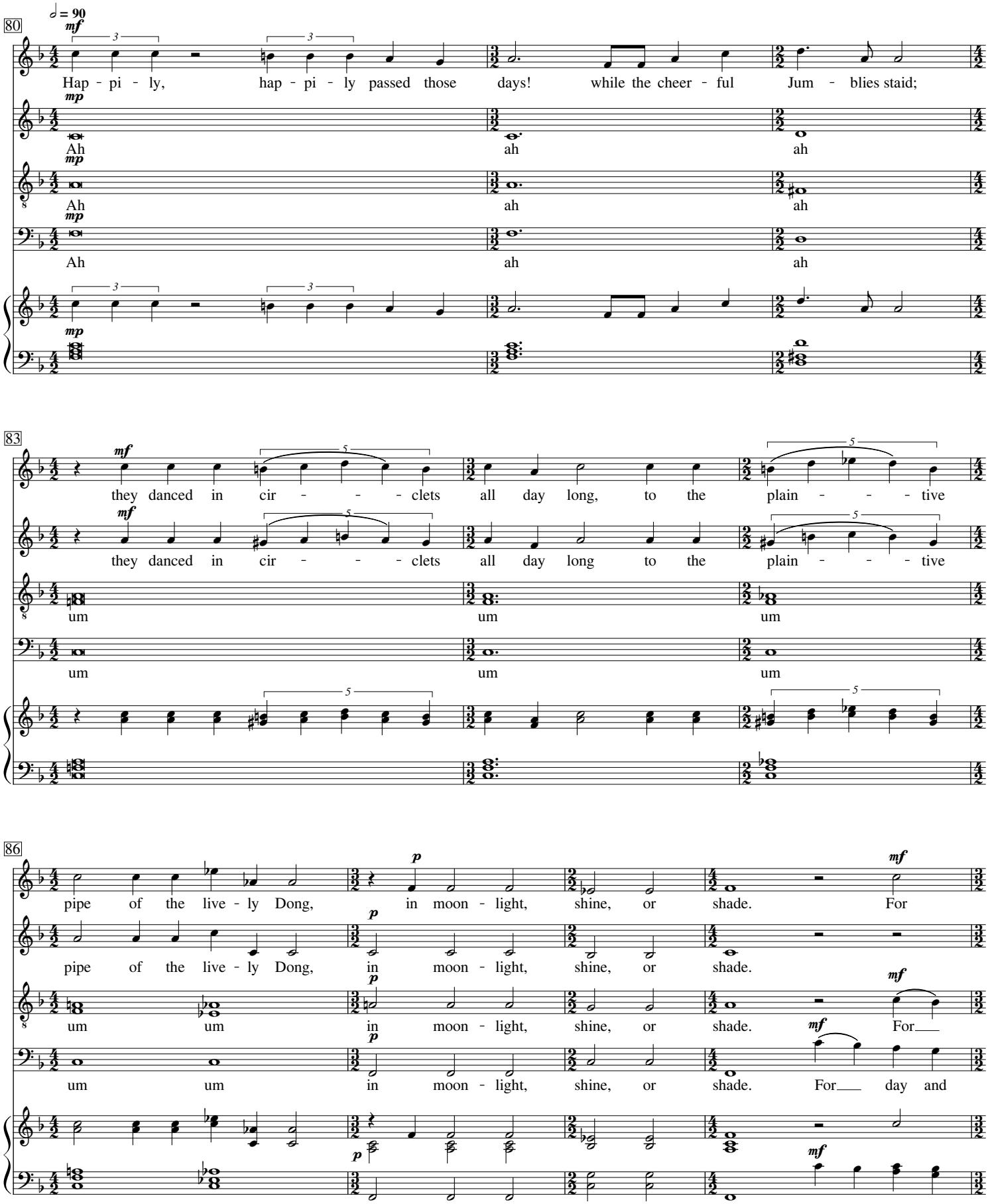

12
to - we-ring heights of the hills of the Chank - ly Bore: then, then, through the vast and
tow - 'ring heights of the hills of the Chank - ly Bore: then, then, through the vast and
tow - 'ring heights of the hills of the Chank - ly Bore: then, then, through the vast and
tow - 'ring heights of the hills of the Chank - ly Bore: then, then, through the vast and
17
gloo - my dark, there moves what seems a fie - ry spark, a lone-ly spark with sil-ver-y rays, a
gloo - my dark, there moves a fie - ry spark, mm pier-cing the coal black night,
gloo - my dark, there moves a fie - ry spark, mm a
gloo - my dark, there moves a fie - ry spark, mm pier-cing the coal black night,
22
me-te-or strange and bright: hi-ther and thi-ther the vis-ion strays, a sin - gle lu - rid light.
hi-ther and thi - ther the vis-ion strays, a sin - gle lu - rid light.
me-te-or strange and bright: hi-ther and thi - ther the vis-ion strays, a sin - gle lu - rid light.
hi-ther and thi-ther the vis-ion strays, a sin - gle lu - rid light.

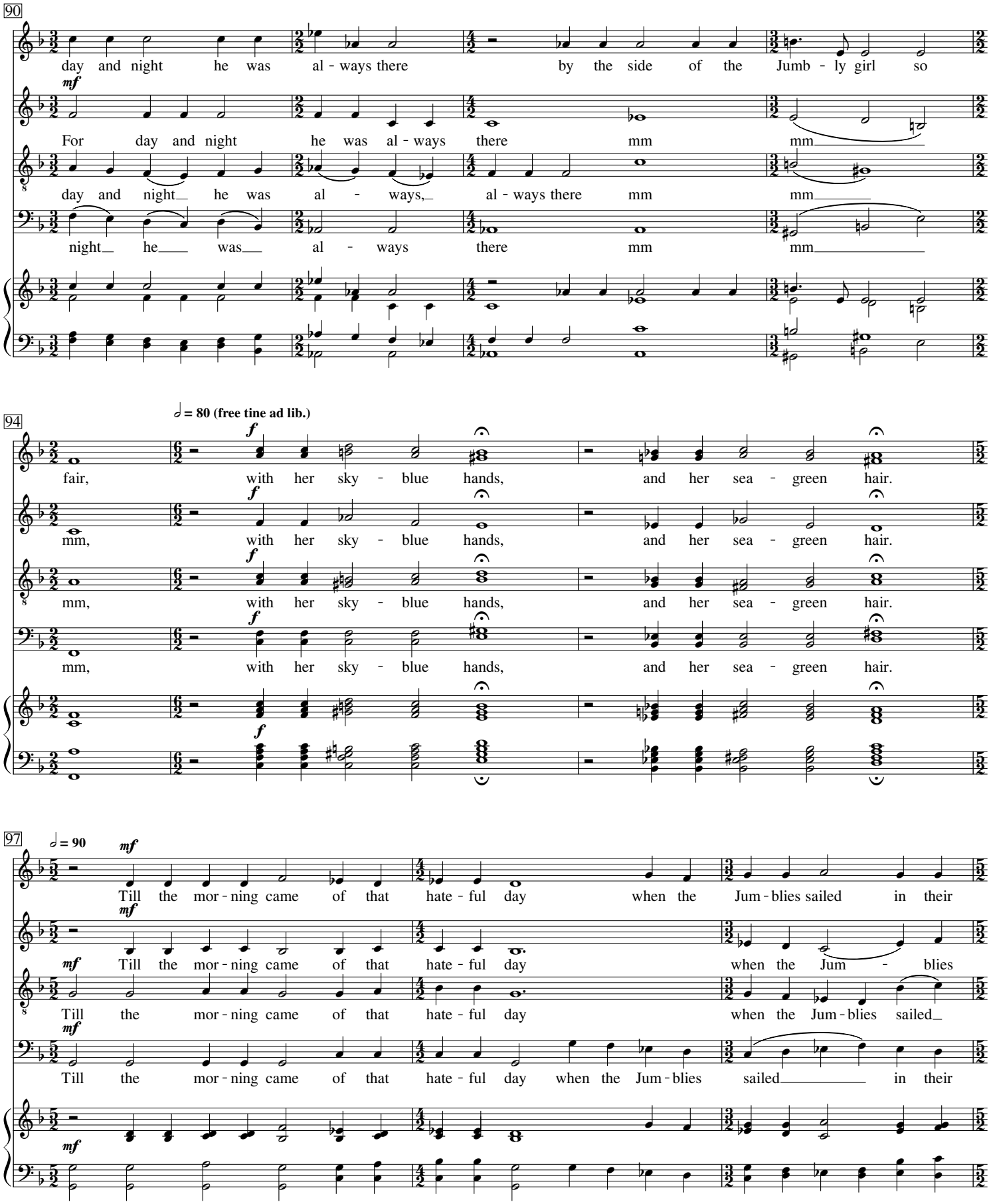

27
♩ = 80
mf solo
S, A p
Slow - ly it wan - ders, pau - ses, creeps,
Slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly,
p
Slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly,
p
Slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly, slow - ly,
p
30
a - non it spar - kles, flash-es and leaps; and ev - er as on-ward it gleam-ing goes
mf
ah ah ah flash - es, flash-es and leaps; ah
p
mf
ah ah ah flash - es, flash-es and leaps. ah
p
mf
ah ah ah flash - es, flash-es and leaps. ah
p
33
— a light on the Bong tree stem it throws.
♩ = 72
mf tutti
S And those who watch at that
p
ah ah Bong tree stem it throws.
mf
And those who watch at that
mf
ah ah mm And those who watch at that
mf
ah ah mm And those who watch at that
mf

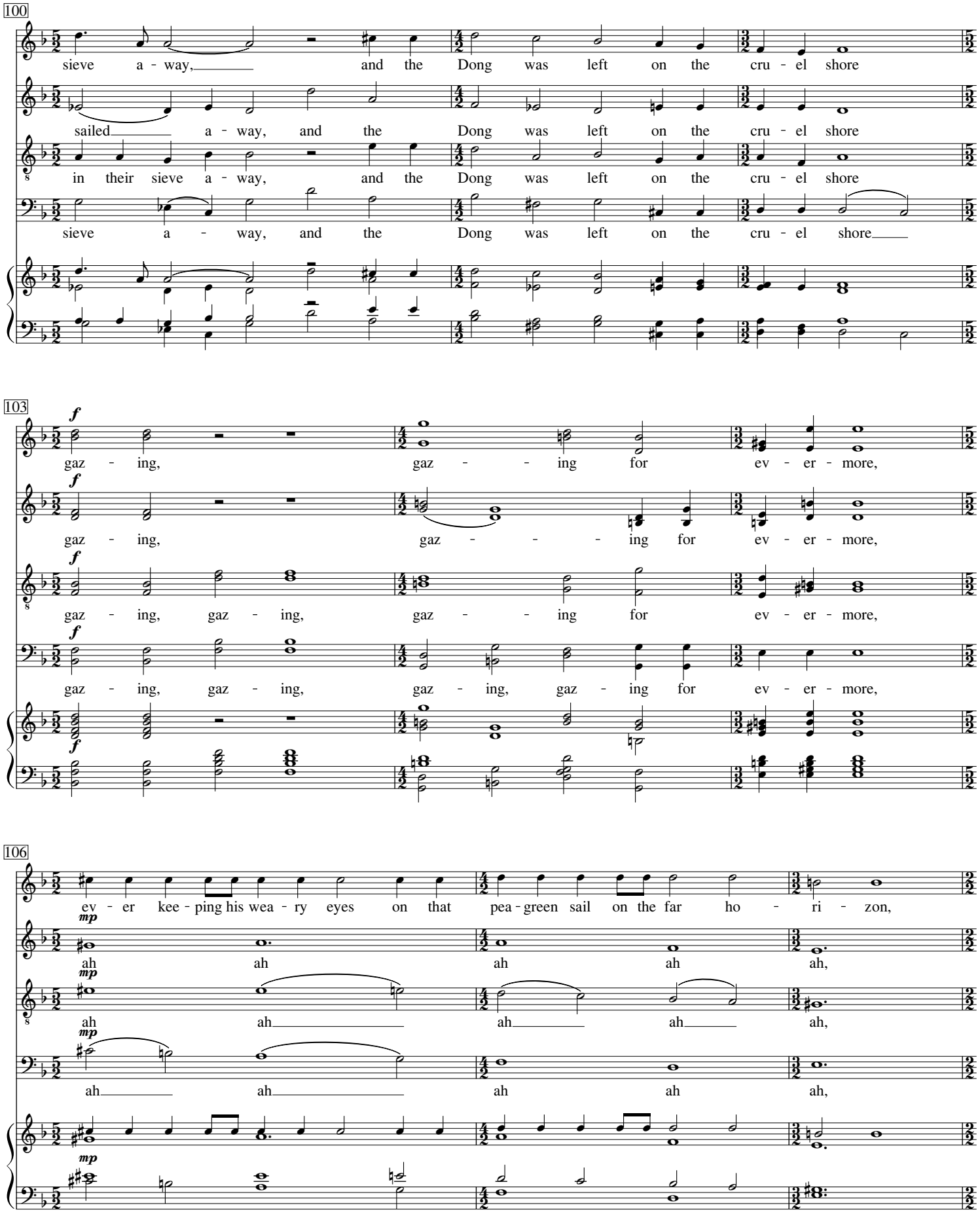

37
mid - night hour from hall or ter-race, or lof - ty tower, cry, as the wild light pas-ses a-long,
mid - night hour from hall or ter-race, or lof - ty tower, cry, as the wild light pas-ses a-long,
mid - night hour from hall or ter-race, or lof - ty tower, cry, as the wild light pas-ses a-long,
mid - night hour, from hall or ter-race, or lof - ty tower, cry, as the wild light pas-ses a-long, The
42
The Dong! The wan-der-ing Dong through the for-est goes!
The Dong! The wan-der-ing Dong through the for-est goes!
The Dong! The wan-der-ing Dong through the for-est goes! The
Dong! The Dong! The wan-der-ing Dong through the for-est goes! The Dong!
46
The Dong! The Dong with the lu - min - ous nose!
The Dong! The Dong with the lu - min - ous nose!
Dong! The Dong with the lu - min - ous nose!
The Dong with the lu - min - ous nose!

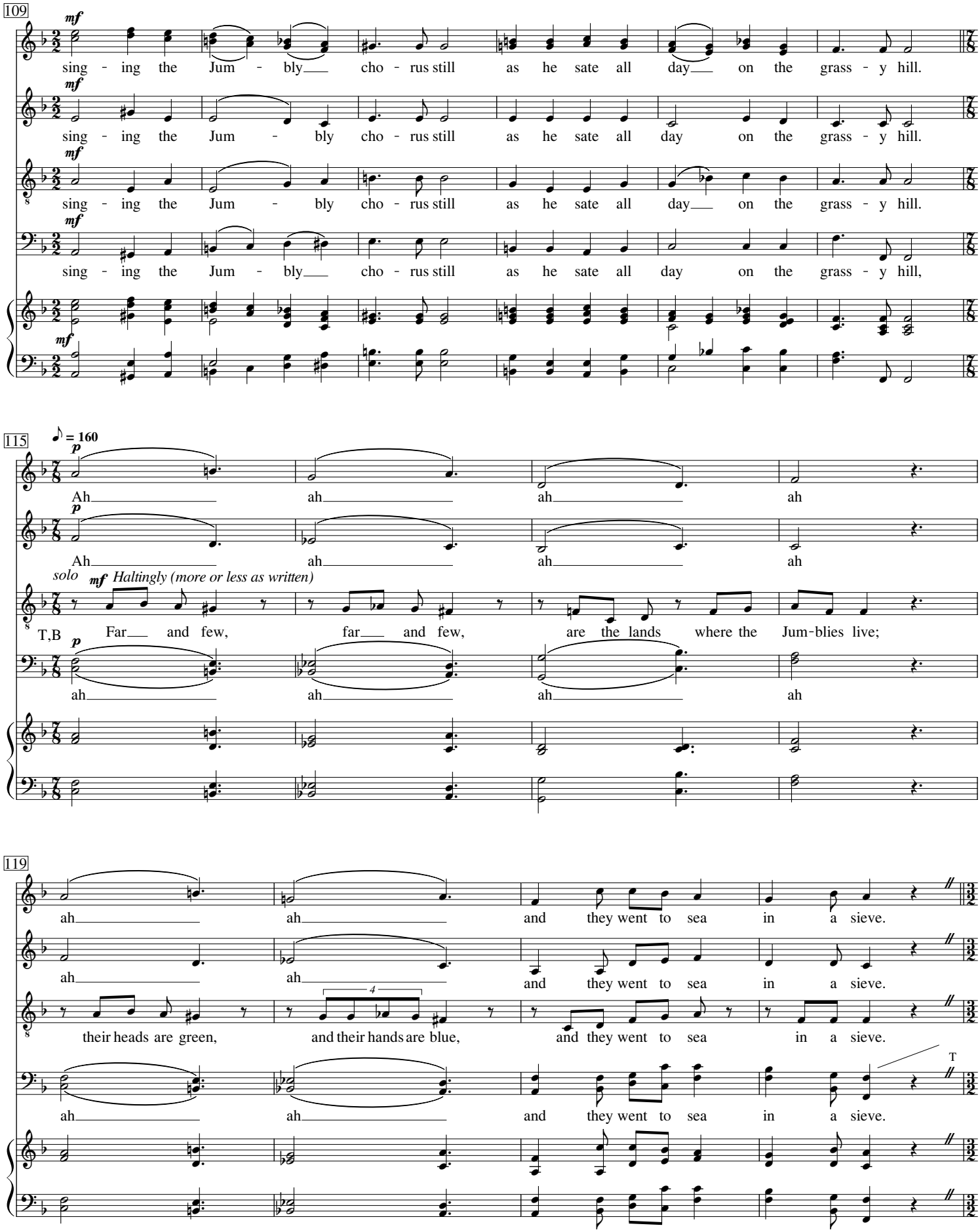

50
♩ = 80
p
a - go
gay
ooh
p
a - go
gay
ooh
p
ooh
solo
mf
Long years a - go the Dong was hap - py and gay, till he fell in love with a
p
56
ooh
mf
for the Jum - blies came in a sieve, they did,
ooh
ooh
mf
for the Jumb - lies came in a
ooh
ooh
mf
for the Jumb - lies came in a
tutti
mf
Jum - bly girl who came to those shores one day, for the Jum - blies came in a
mf
62
rit. ♩ = 66
land - ing at eve near the Zem - me - ry Fidd
mm.
sieve, land - ing at eve near the Zem - me - ry Fidd
mm.
sieve, where the ob - long oy - sters grow, (mm)
sieve, and the rocks are smooth and gray.

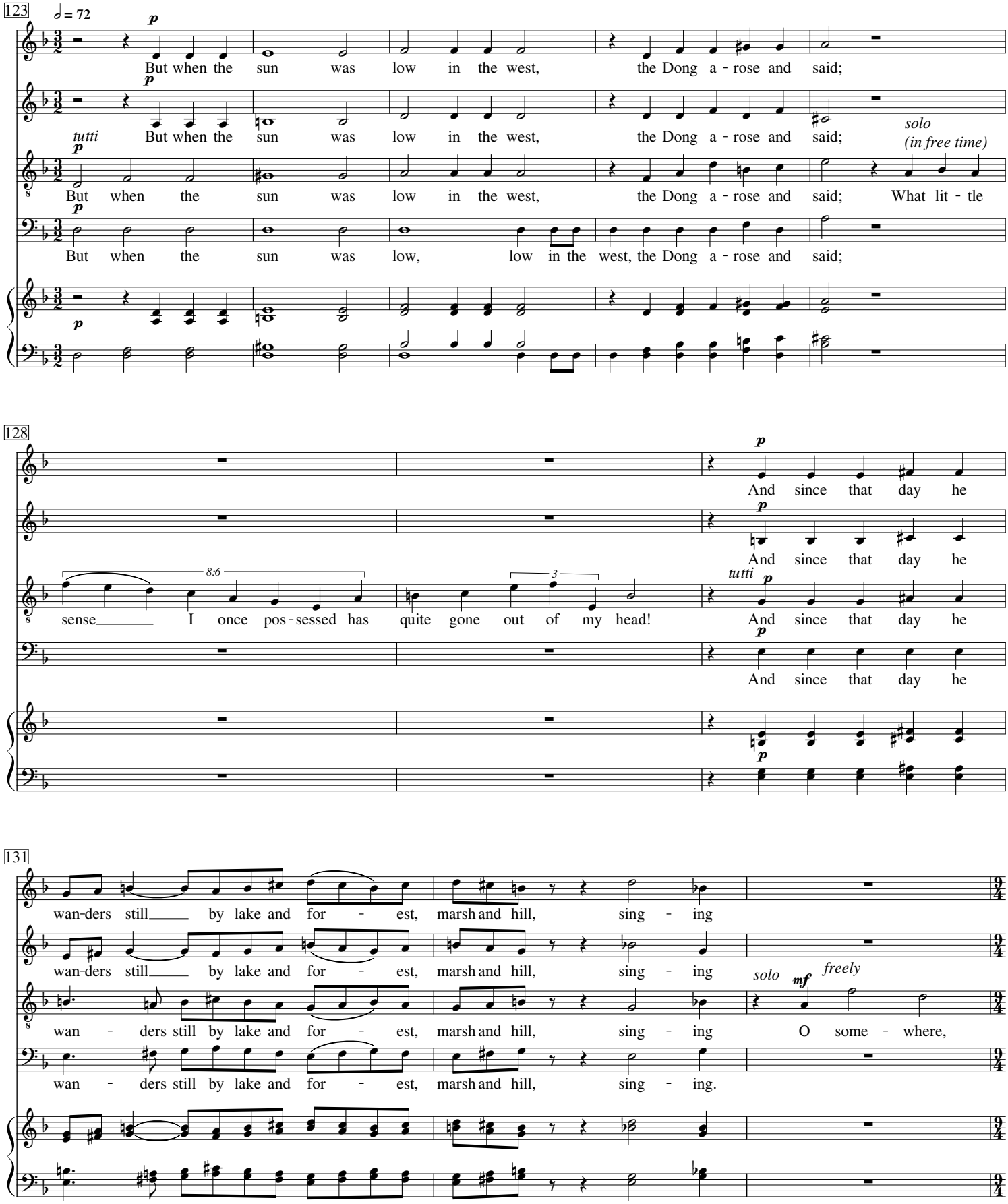

66
a tempo ♩ = 80
f
And all the woods and the val - leys rang with the cho - rus they dai - ly and night - ly sang.
72
♪ = 170
mp
Far and few, far and few, are the lands where the Jum - blies live;
76
4:3
their heads are green, and their hands are blue, and they went to sea in a sieve.

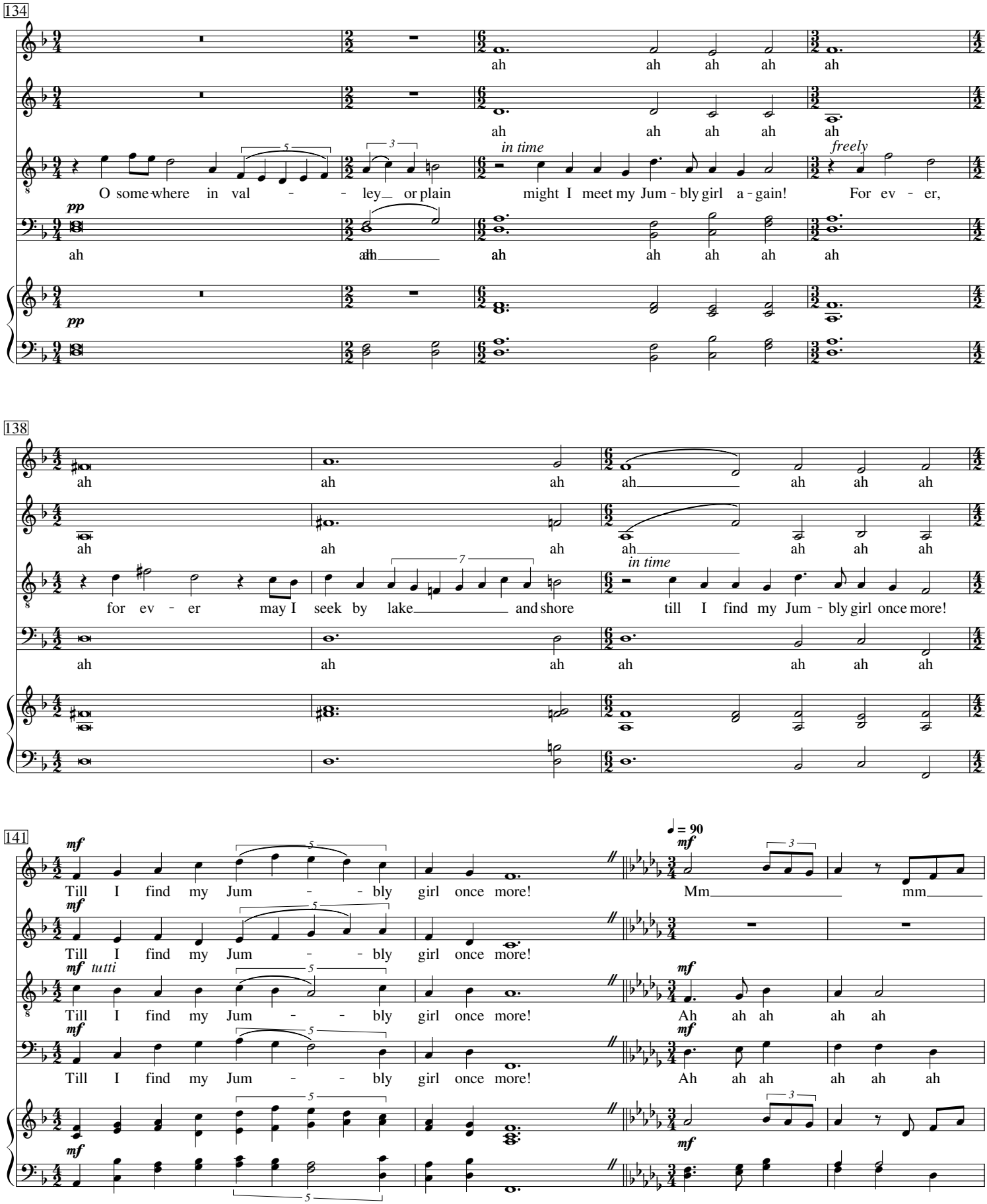

80
♩ = 90
mf
Hap - pi - ly, hap - pi - ly passed those days! while the cheer - ful Jum - blies staid;
mp
Ah ah ah
mp
Ah ah ah
mp
Ah ah ah
mp
83
mf
they danced in cir - - - - clets all day long, to the plain - - - - tive
mf
they danced in cir - - - - clets all day long to the plain - - - - tive
um um um
um um um
86
p
pipe of the live - ly Dong, in moon - light, shine, or shade. For
mf
p
pipe of the live - ly Dong, in moon - light, shine, or shade.
p
um um in moon - light, shine, or shade. For
mf
p
um um in moon - light, shine, or shade. For
mf
For day and

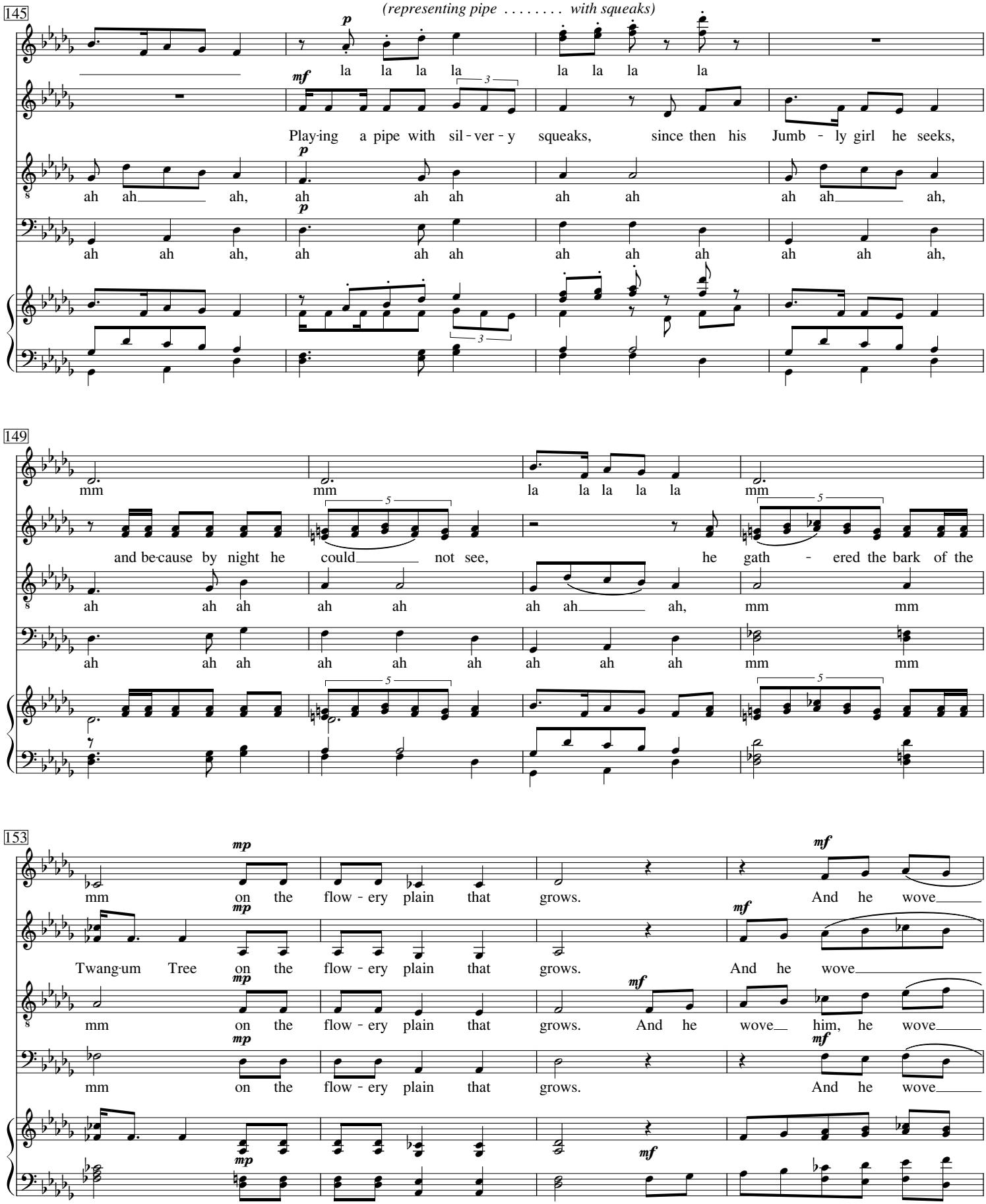

90
day and night he was al - ways there by the side of the Jumb - ly girl so
mf
For day and night he was al - ways there mm mm
day and night he was al - ways, al - ways there mm mm
night he was al - ways there mm mm
94
𝅗𝅥 = 80 (free tine ad lib.)
f
fair, with her sky - blue hands, and her sea - green hair.
mm, with her sky - blue hands, and her sea - green hair.
mm, with her sky - blue hands, and her sea - green hair.
mm, with her sky - blue hands, and her sea - green hair.
97
𝅗𝅥 = 90
mf
Till the mor - ning came of that hate - ful day when the Jum - blies sailed in their
Till the mor - ning came of that hate - ful day when the Jum - blies
Till the mor - ning came of that hate - ful day when the Jum - blies sailed
Till the mor - ning came of that hate - ful day when the Jum - blies sailed in their

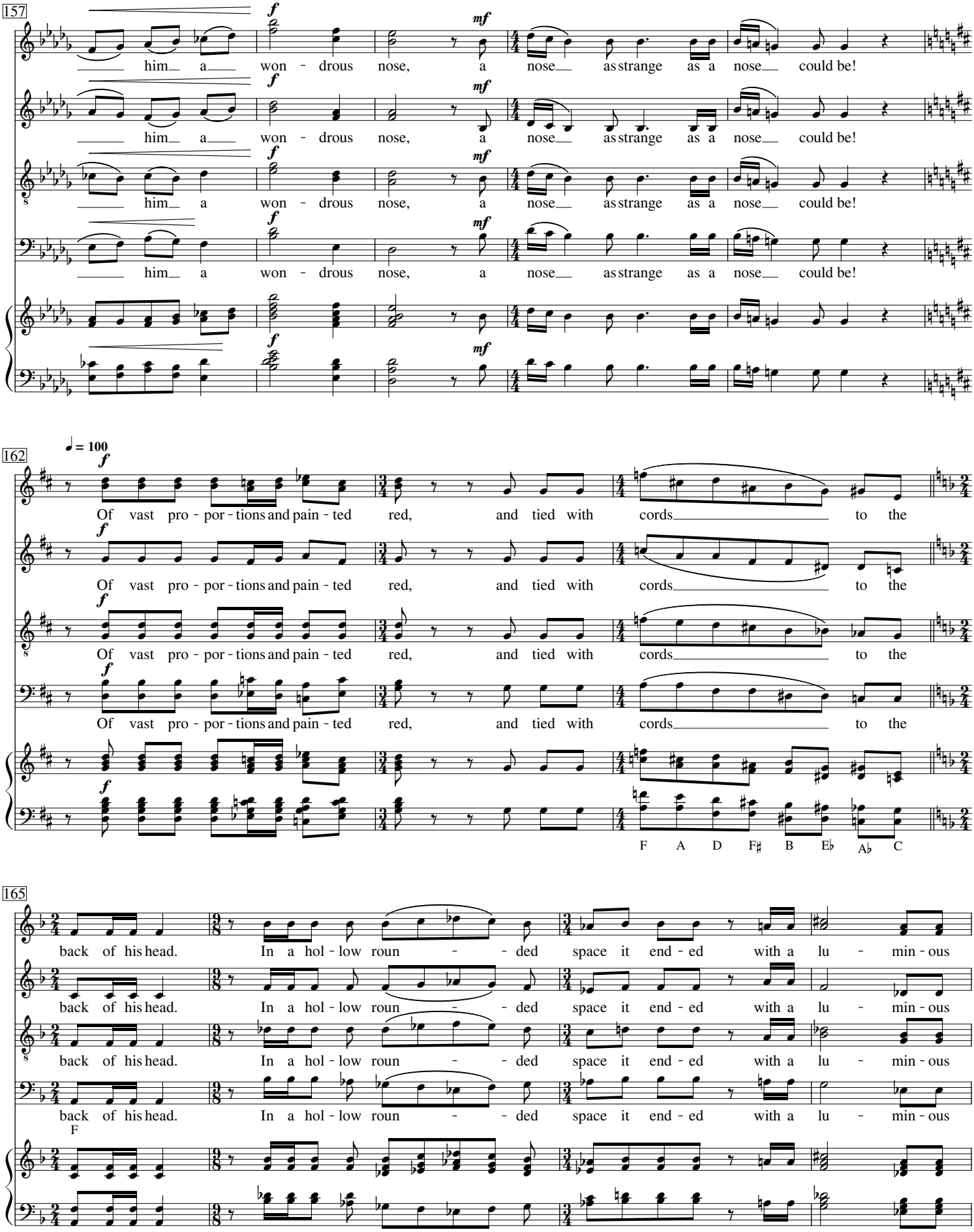

100
sieve a - way, and the Dong was left on the cru - el shore
sailed a - way, and the Dong was left on the cru - el shore
in their sieve a - way, and the Dong was left on the cru - el shore
sieve a - way, and the Dong was left on the cru - el shore
103
f
gaz - ing, gaz - - ing for ev - er - more,
gaz - ing, gaz - - - ing for ev - er - more,
gaz - ing, gaz - ing, gaz - - ing for ev - er - more,
gaz - ing, gaz - ing, gaz - ing, gaz - ing for ev - er - more,
106
mp
ev - er kee - ping his wea - ry eyes on that pea - green sail on the far ho - ri - zon,
ah ah ah ah ah,
ah ah ah ah ah,
ah ah ah ah ah,

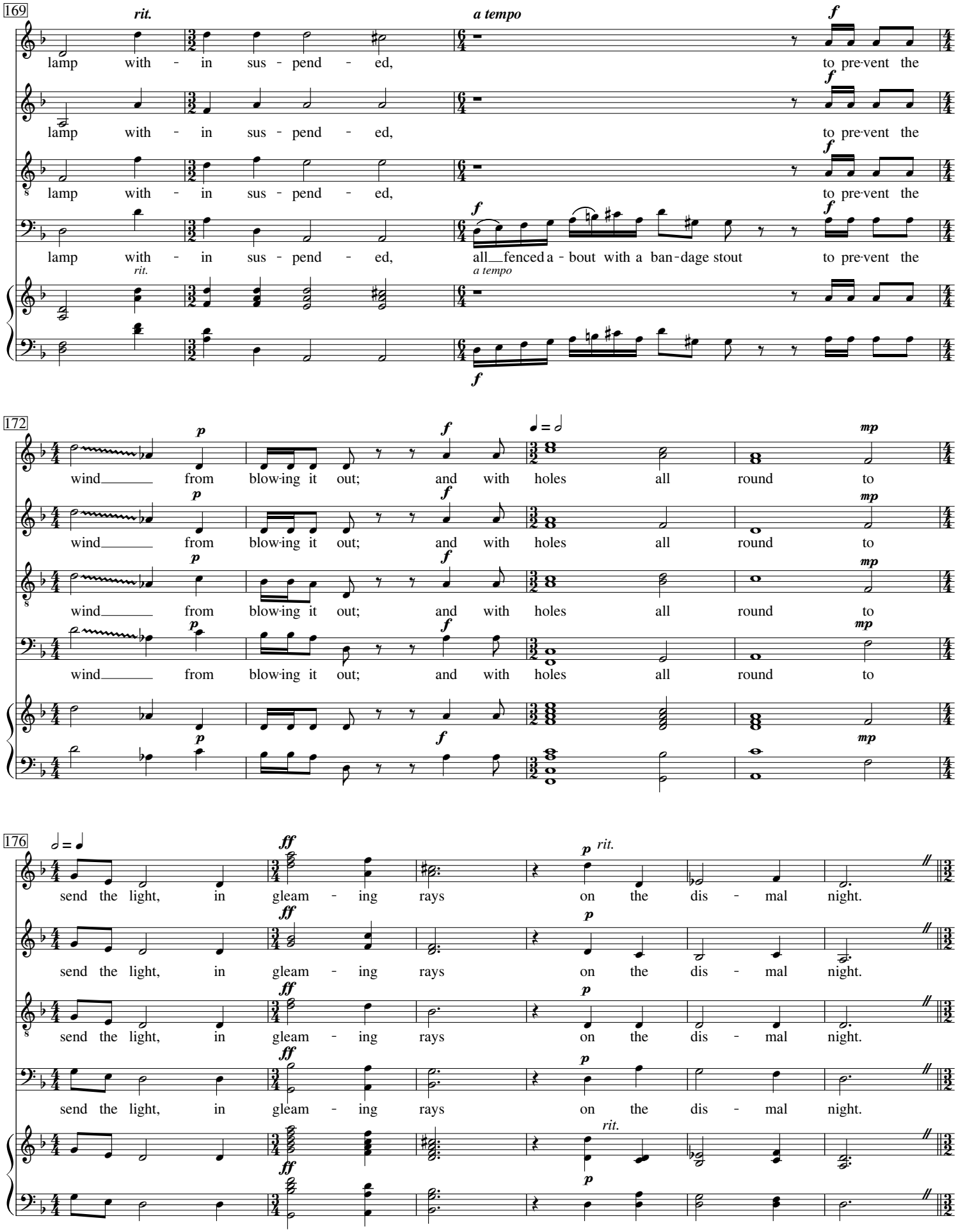

109
mf
sing - ing the Jum - bly cho - rus still as he sate all day on the grass - y hill.
sing - ing the Jum - bly cho - rus still as he sate all day on the grass - y hill.
sing - ing the Jum - bly cho - rus still as he sate all day on the grass - y hill.
sing - ing the Jum - bly cho - rus still as he sate all day on the grass - y hill,
115
♪ = 160
p
Ah ah ah ah
Ah ah ah ah
solo
mf Haltingly (more or less as written)
T,B Far and few, far and few, are the lands where the Jum-blies live;
ah ah ah ah
119
ah ah and they went to sea in a sieve.
ah ah and they went to sea in a sieve.
their heads are green, and their hands are blue, and they went to sea in a sieve.
ah ah and they went to sea in a sieve.
T

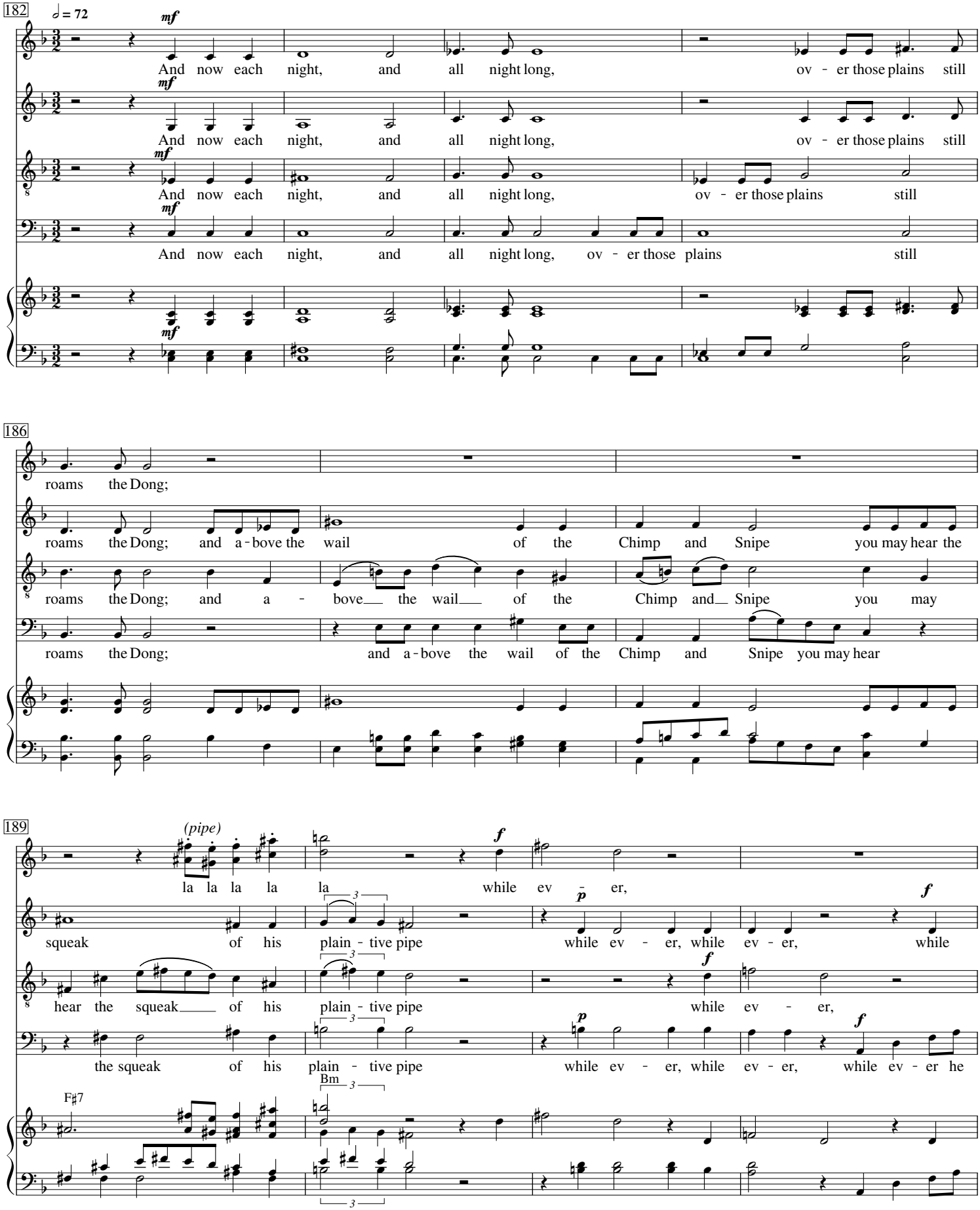

123
𝅗𝅥 = 72
p
But when the sun was low in the west, the Dong a - rose and said;
tutti
But when the sun was low in the west, the Dong a - rose and said;
solo
(in free time)
But when the sun was low in the west, the Dong a - rose and said; What lit - tle
But when the sun was low, low in the west, the Dong a - rose and said;
128
And since that day he
sense I once pos - sessed has quite gone out of my head!
131
wan-ders still by lake and for - est, marsh and hill, sing - ing
solo
mf
freely
wan - ders still by lake and for - est, marsh and hill, sing - ing O some - where,
wan - ders still by lake and for - est, marsh and hill, sing - ing.

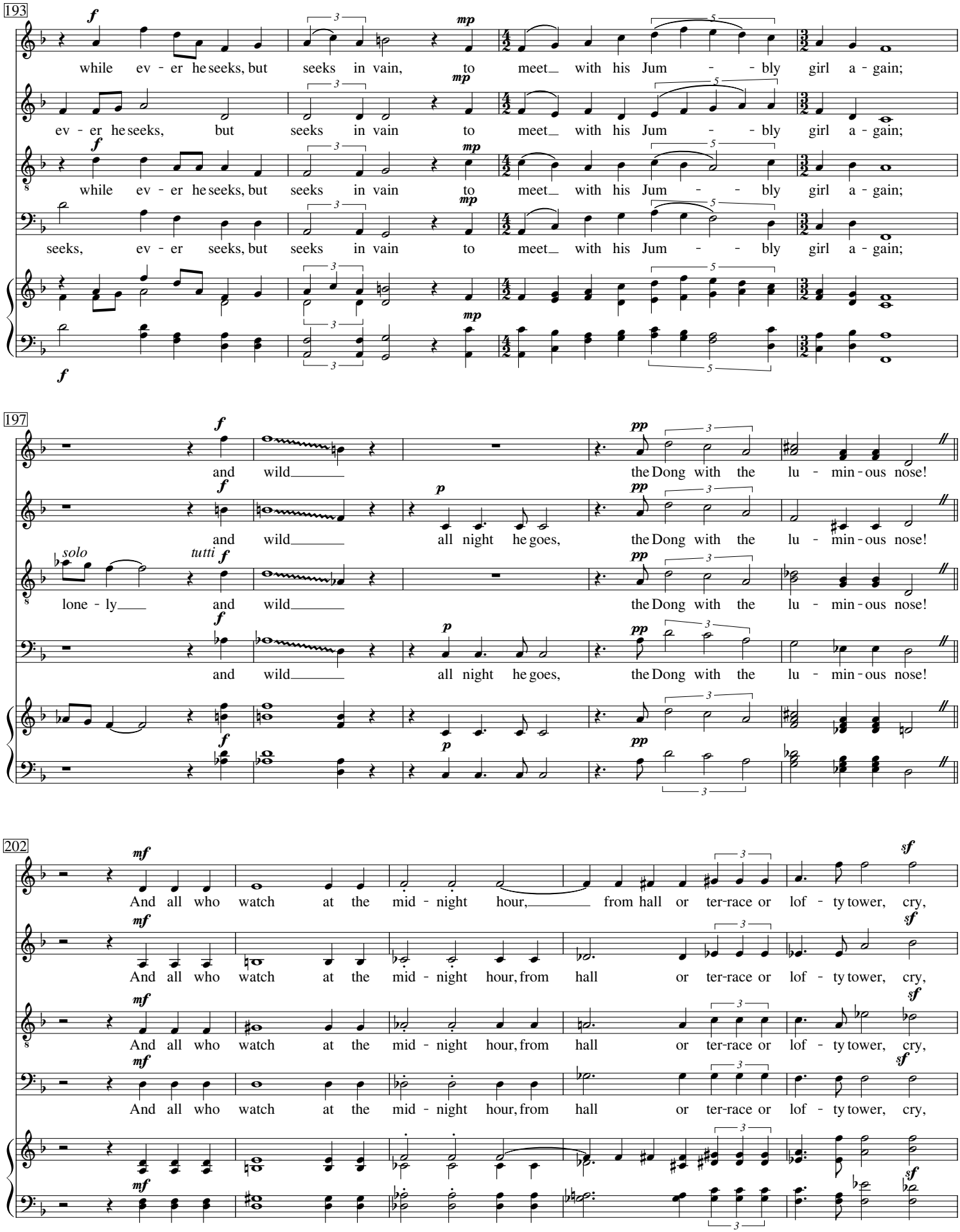

134
ah ah ah ah ah
ah ah ah ah ah
O some-where in val - - ley or plain
in time
might I meet my Jum - bly girl a - gain!
freely
For ev - er,
pp
ah ah ah ah ah ah
pp
138
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah
for ev - er may I seek by lake and shore
in time
till I find my Jum - bly girl once more!
ah ah ah ah ah ah
141
mf
Till I find my Jum - - bly girl once more!
♩ = 90
mf
Mm mm
mf
Till I find my Jum - - bly girl once more!
mf tutti
Till I find my Jum - - bly girl once more!
mf
Ah ah ah ah ah
mf
Till I find my Jum - - bly girl once more!
mf
Ah ah ah ah ah ah

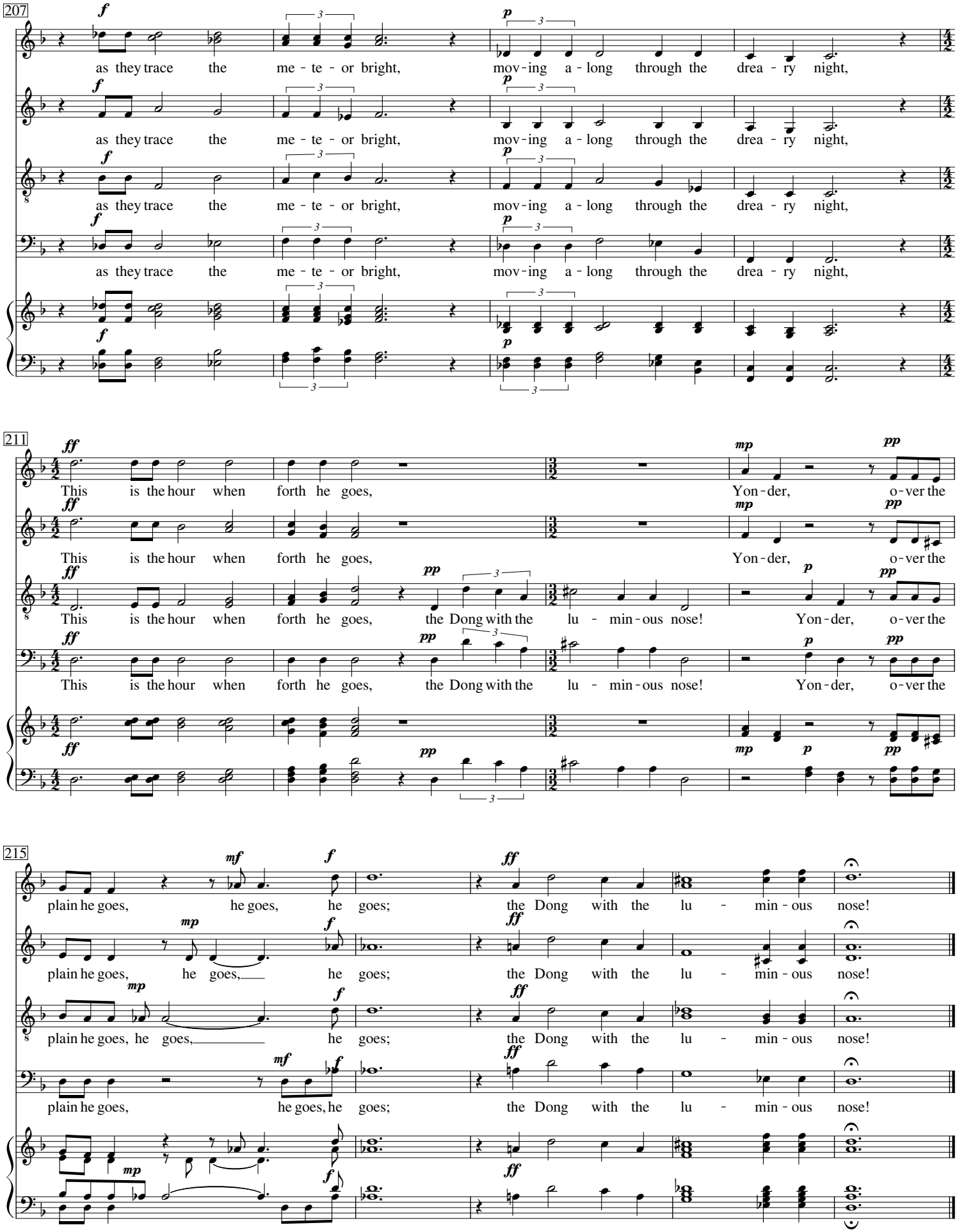

145
(representing pipe . . . . . with squeaks)
p
la la la la la la la la
mf
Play-ing a pipe with sil - ver - y squeaks, since then his Jumb - ly girl he seeks,
p
ah ah ah, ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah,
p
ah ah ah, ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah,
149
mm mm la la la la la mm
and be-cause by night he could not see, he gath - ered the bark of the
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah, mm mm
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah mm mm
153
mp
mm on the flow - ery plain that grows. And he wove
mf
mp
Twang-um Tree on the flow - ery plain that grows. And he wove
mf
mp
mm on the flow - ery plain that grows. And he wove him, he wove
mf
mp
mm on the flow - ery plain that grows. And he wove
mf
mp
mf


157
f
mf
him a won - drous nose, a nose as strange as a nose could be!
162
♩ = 100
Of vast pro - por - tions and pain - ted red, and tied with cords to the
F A D F♯ B E♭ A♭ C
165
back of his head. In a hol - low roun - - ded space it end - ed with a lu - min - ous
F


169
rit.
a tempo
lamp with - in sus - pend - ed,
all fenced a - bout with a ban - dage stout
to pre-vent the
172
wind from blow-ing it out; and with holes all round to
176
send the light, in gleam - ing rays on the dis - mal night.


182
𝅗𝅥 = 72
mf
And now each night, and all night long, ov - er those plains still
And now each night, and all night long, ov - er those plains still
And now each night, and all night long, ov - er those plains still
And now each night, and all night long, ov - er those plains still
186
roams the Dong;
roams the Dong; and a - bove the wail of the Chimp and Snipe you may hear the
roams the Dong; and a - bove the wail of the Chimp and Snipe you may
roams the Dong; and a - bove the wail of the Chimp and Snipe you may hear
189
(pipe)
la la la la la while ev er,
squeak of his plain - tive pipe while ev - er, while ev - er, while
hear the squeak of his plain - tive pipe while ev - er,
the squeak of his plain - tive pipe while ev - er, while ev - er, while ev - er he
F♯7
Bm


193
while ev - er he seeks, but seeks in vain, to meet_ with his Jum - - bly girl a - gain;
ev - er he seeks, but seeks in vain to meet_ with his Jum - - bly girl a - gain;
while ev - er he seeks, but seeks in vain to meet_ with his Jum - - bly girl a - gain;
seeks, ev - er seeks, but seeks in vain to meet_ with his Jum - - bly girl a - gain;
197
and wild_ the Dong with the lu - min - ous nose!
and wild_ all night he goes, the Dong with the lu - min - ous nose!
solo
tutti
lone - ly_ and wild_ the Dong with the lu - min - ous nose!
and wild_ all night he goes, the Dong with the lu - min - ous nose!
202
And all who watch at the mid - night hour,_ from hall or ter-race or lof - ty tower, cry,
And all who watch at the mid - night hour, from hall or ter-race or lof - ty tower, cry,
And all who watch at the mid - night hour, from hall or ter-race or lof - ty tower, cry,
And all who watch at the mid - night hour, from hall or ter-race or lof - ty tower, cry,


207
as they trace the me - te - or bright, mov - ing a - long through the drea - ry night,
211
This is the hour when forth he goes, Yon - der, o - ver the
the Dong with the lu - min - ous nose!
215
plain he goes, he goes, he goes; the Dong with the lu - min - ous nose!