Psalm 13

For soprano and piano

2019

Mary Montgomery Koppel

This setting of Psalm 13 was commissioned by Deus Ex Musica, an organization committed to the development of sacred art music. The psalm, a lament, opens by repeating the words "How long?" four times. This howling cry drew me deeper into the text and its raw emotion, and my setting aims to similarly convey the desperation of the speaker as they cry out to God, fearing they have been abandoned in their trials. Ultimately, though, the speaker regains faith and rejoices, trusting that God is with them even in their darkest hour. The text is adapted by the composer from the World English Bible translation.

MMK

Psalm 13

Text adapted from Psalm 13
World English Bible translation

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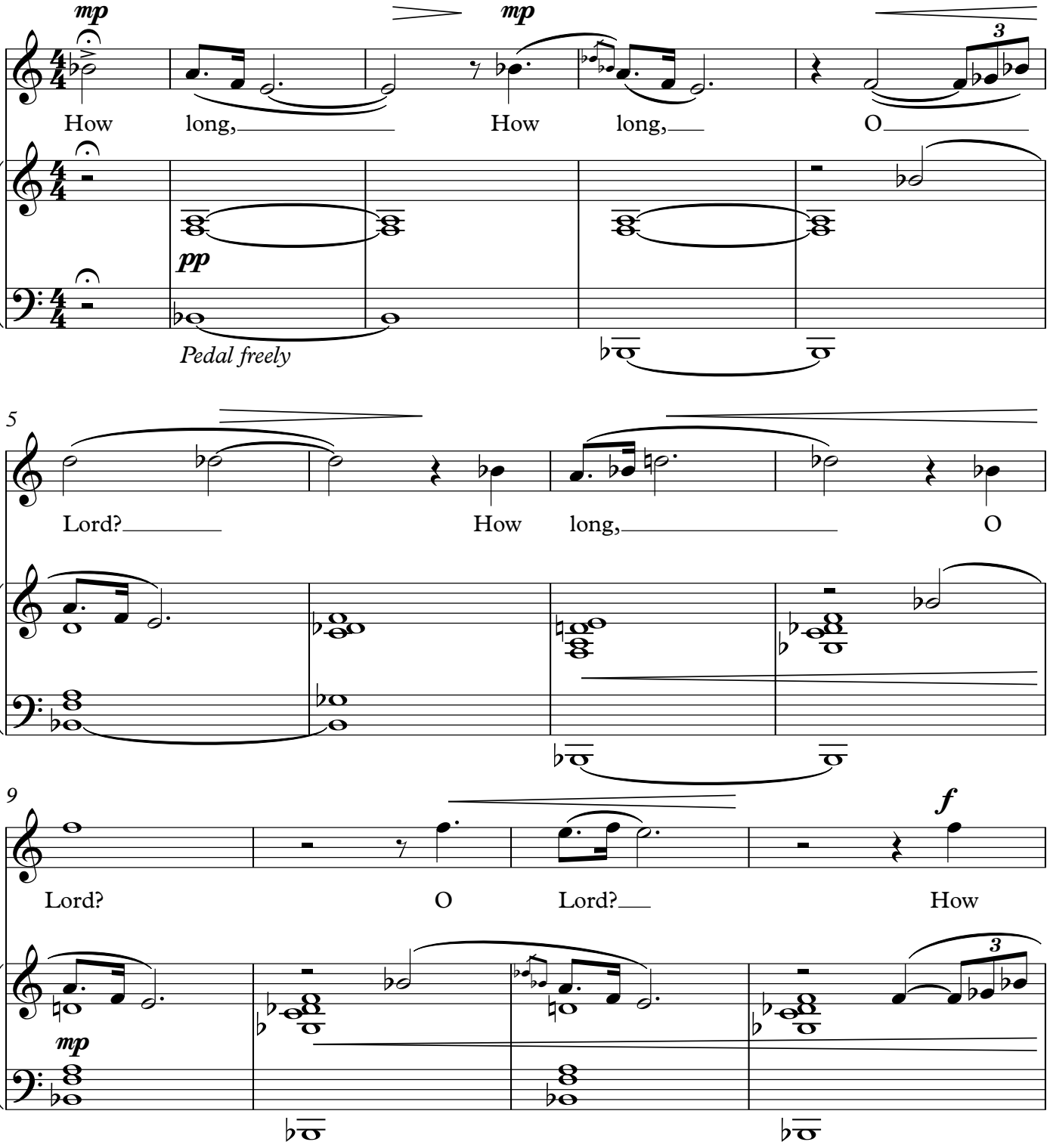
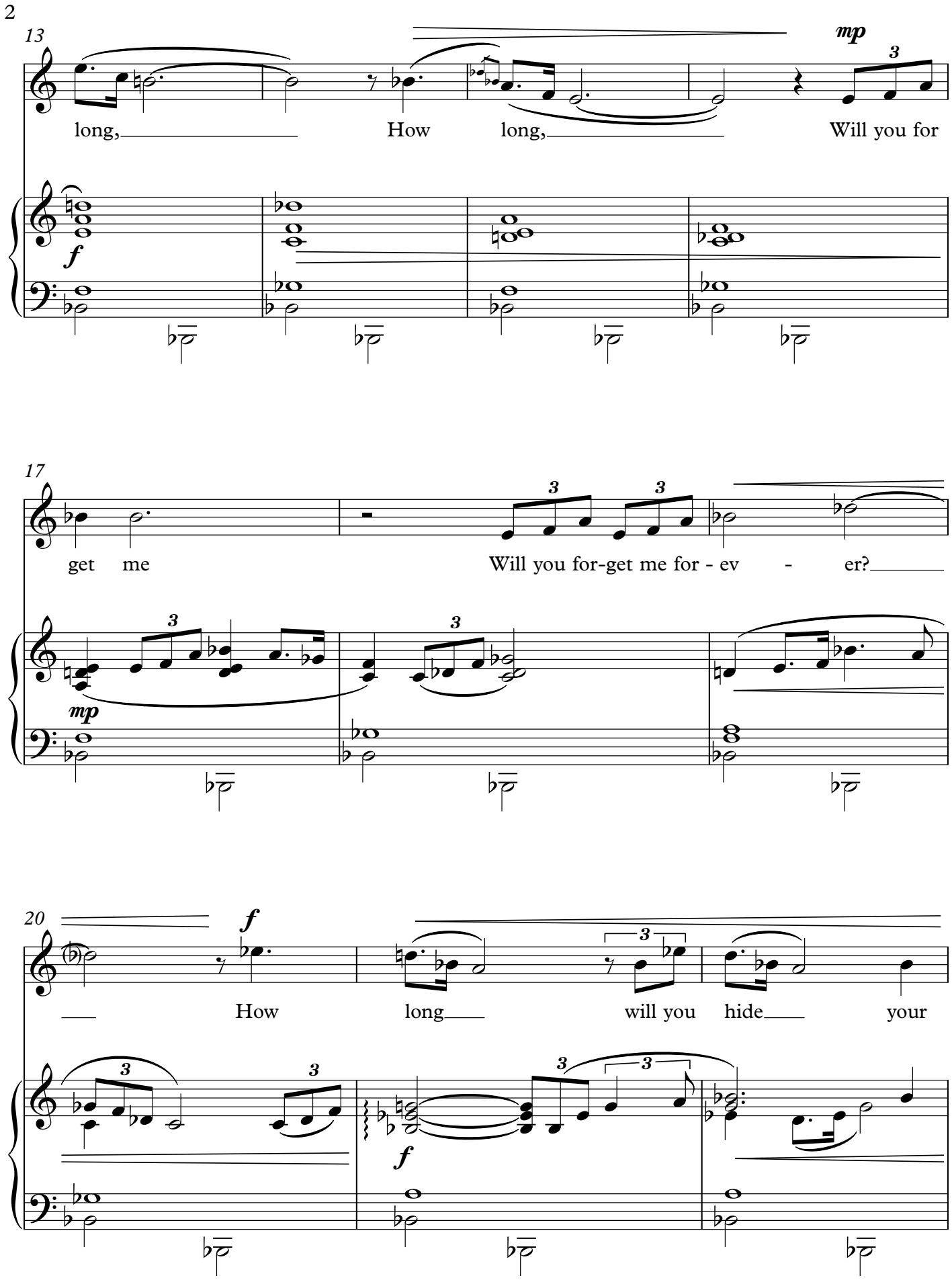
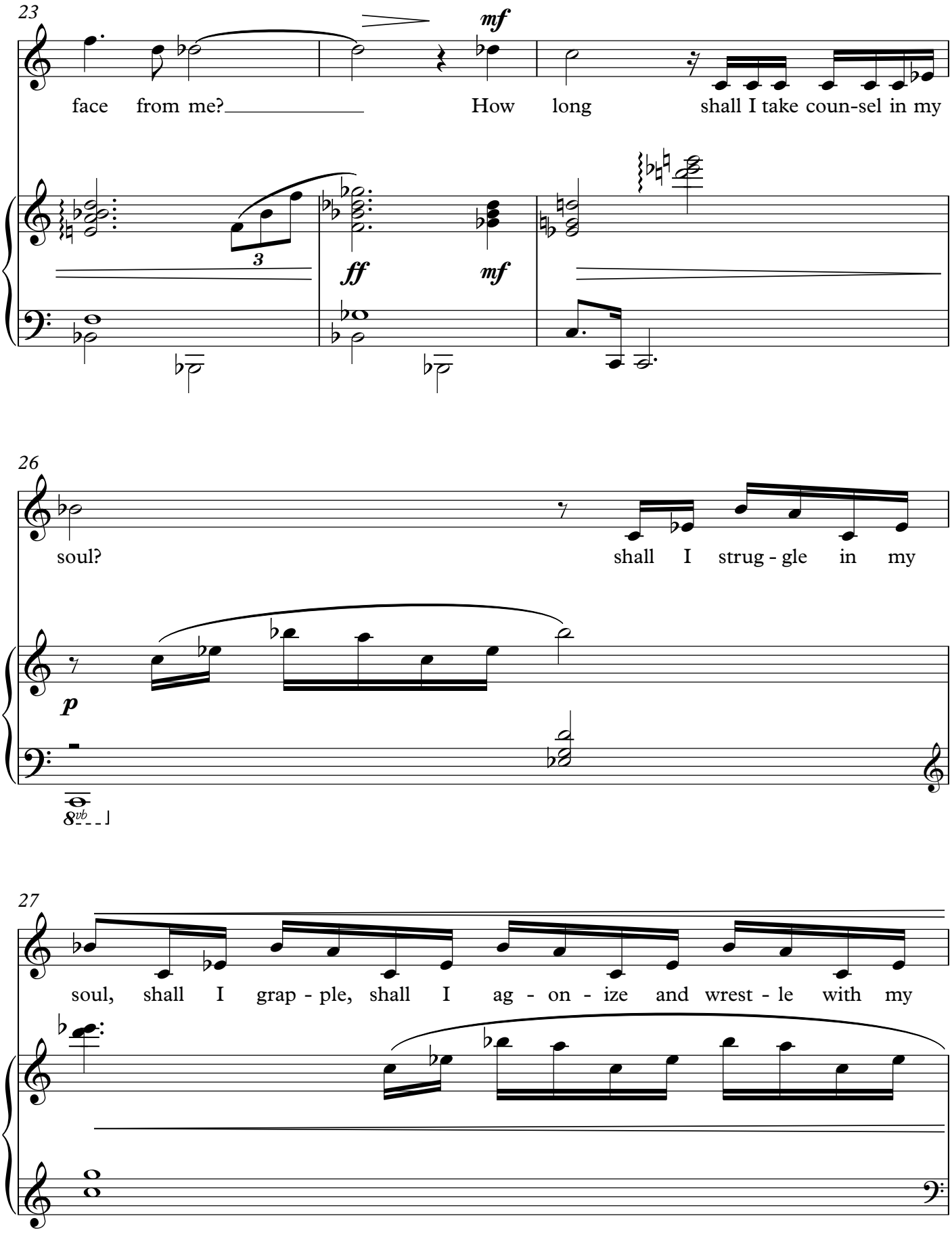
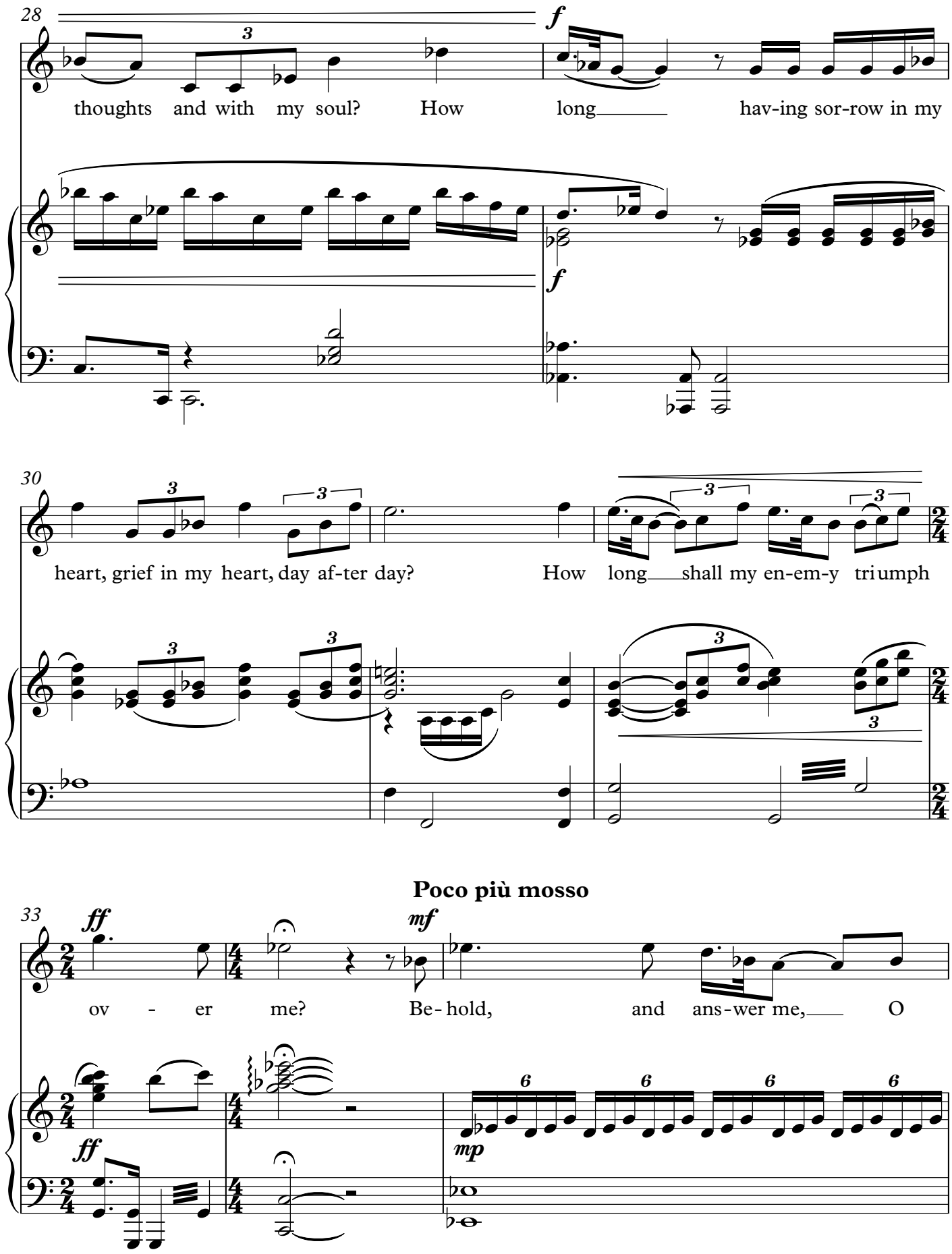
Largo ma non troppo

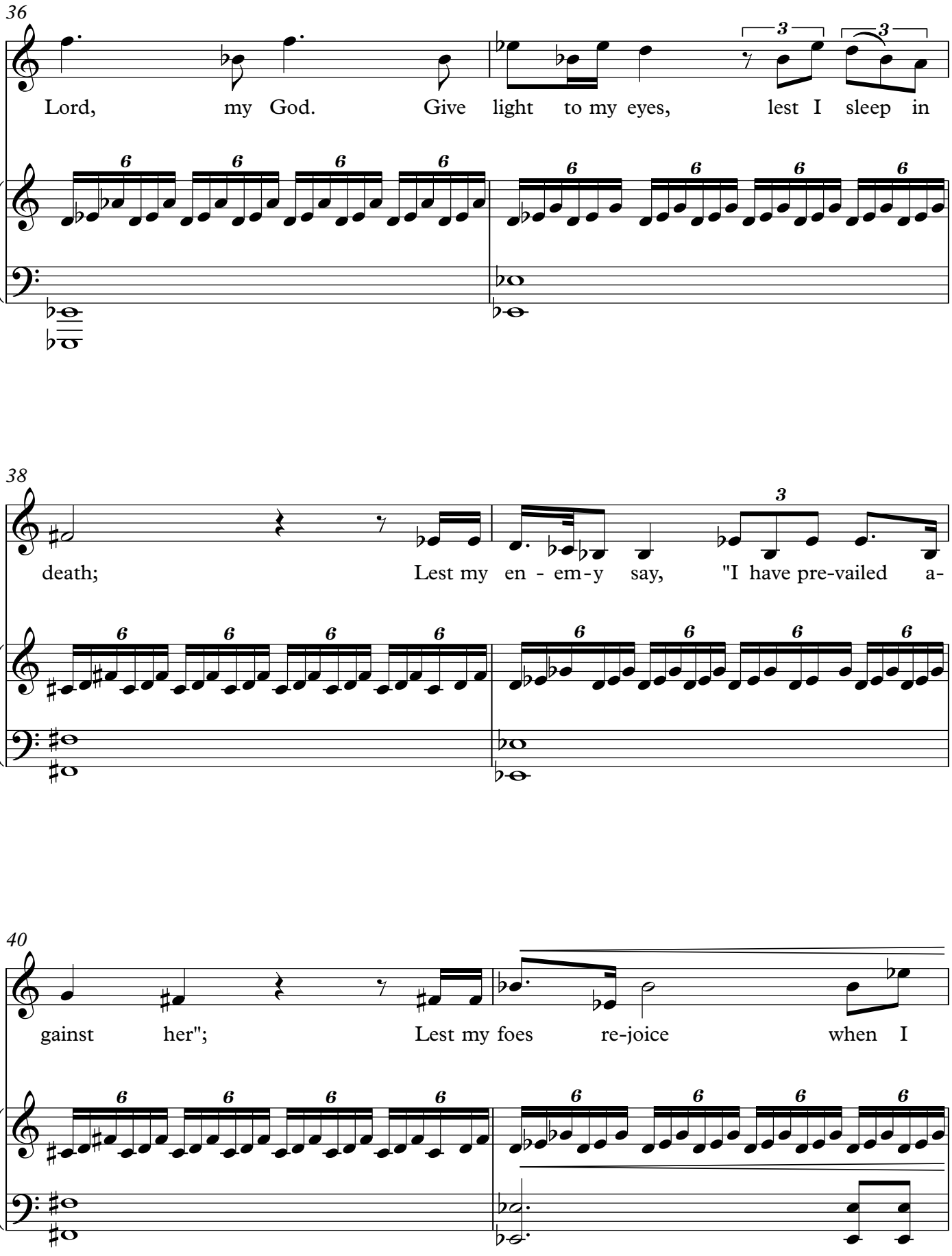
♩ = ca. 60

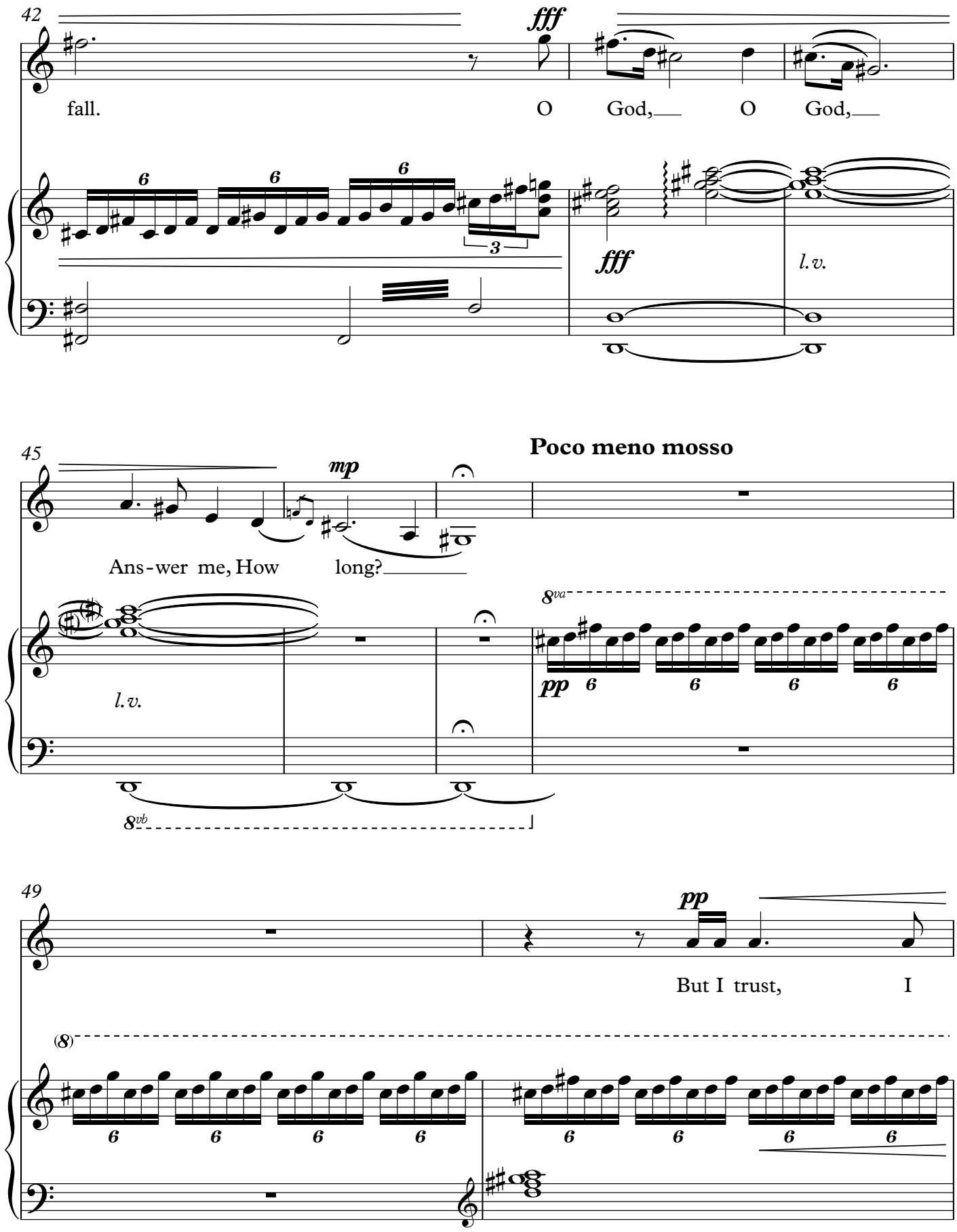


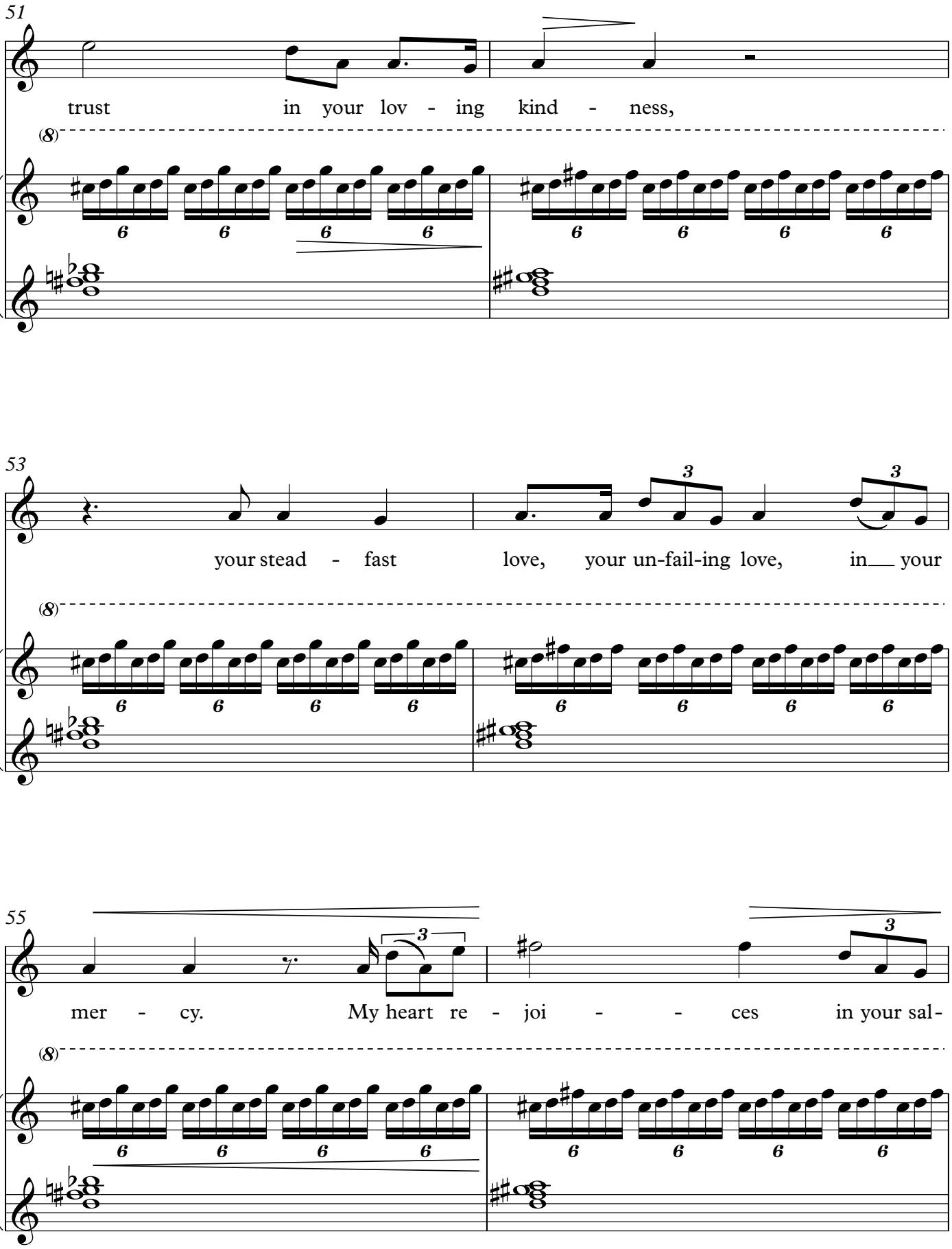

13
mp
long, How long, Will you for
f
17
get me Will you for-get me for - ev - er?
mp
20
f
How long will you hide your
f

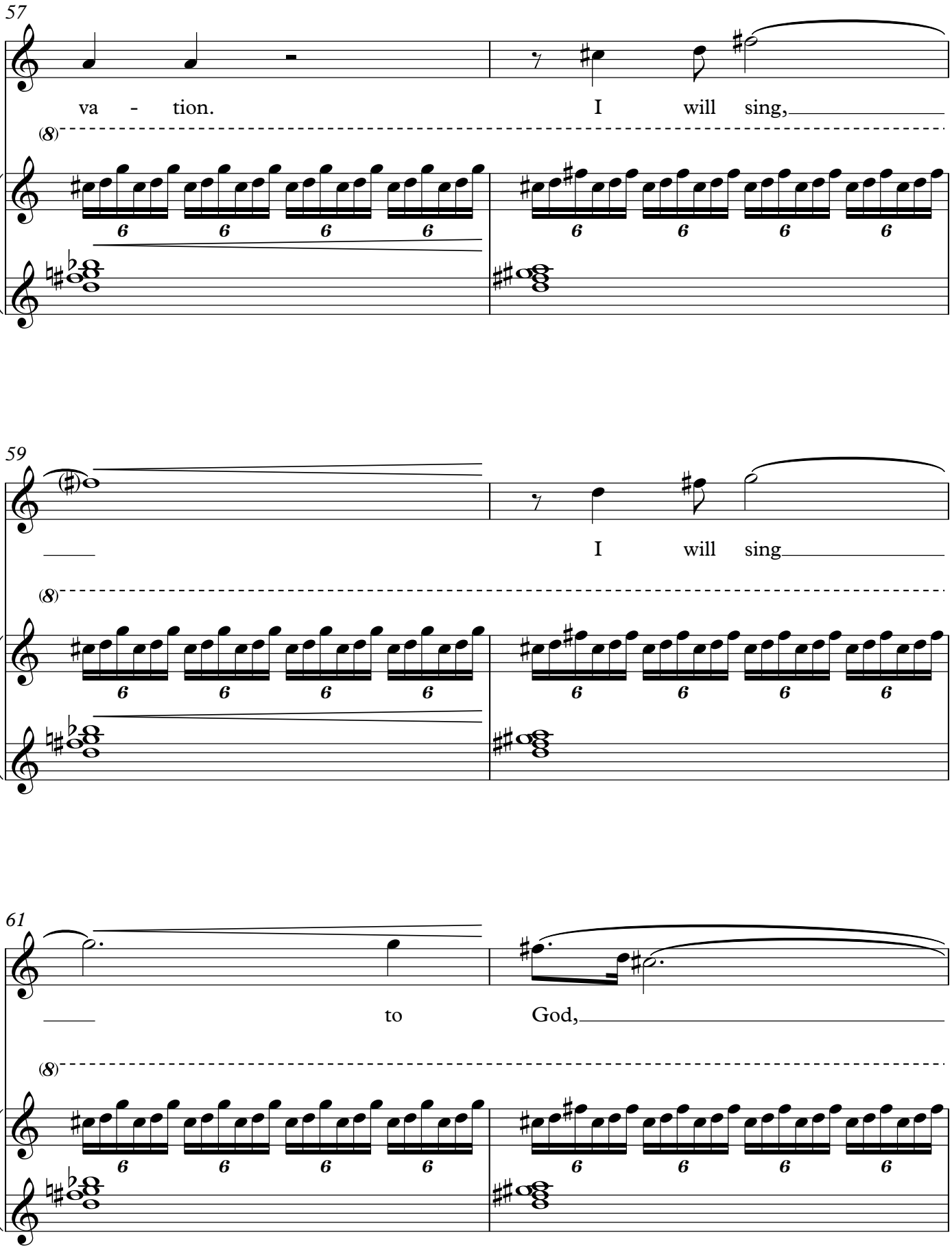

23
mf
face from me?
How long shall I take coun-sel in my
ff
mf
26
soul?
shall I strug - gle in my
p
8vb
27
soul, shall I grap - ple, shall I ag - on - ize and wrest - le with my

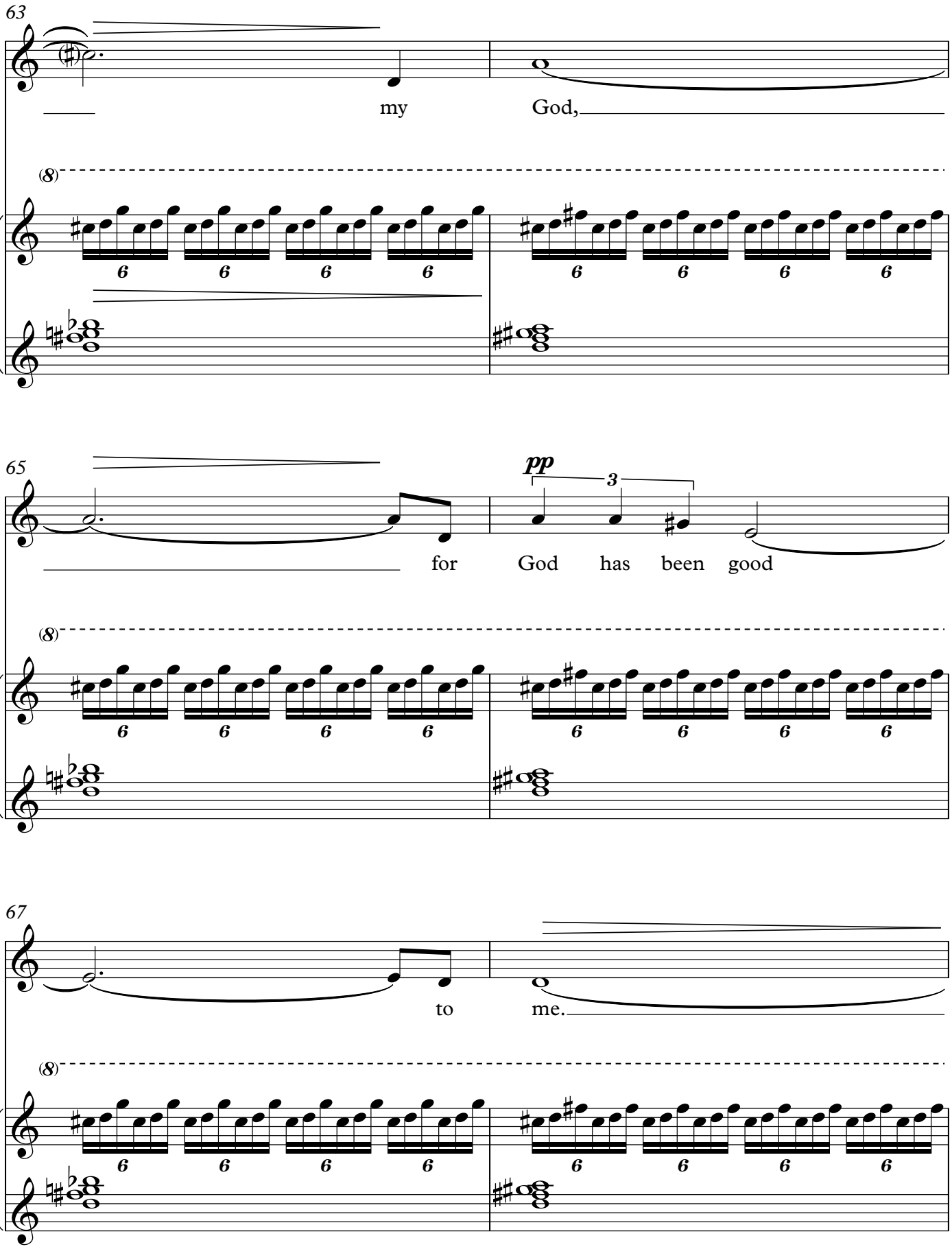

28
f
thoughts and with my soul? How long hav-ing sor-row in my
30
heart, grief in my heart, day af-ter day? How long shall my en-em-y tri umph
Poco più mosso
33
ff
mf
ov - er me? Be - hold, and ans - wer me, O
ff
mp

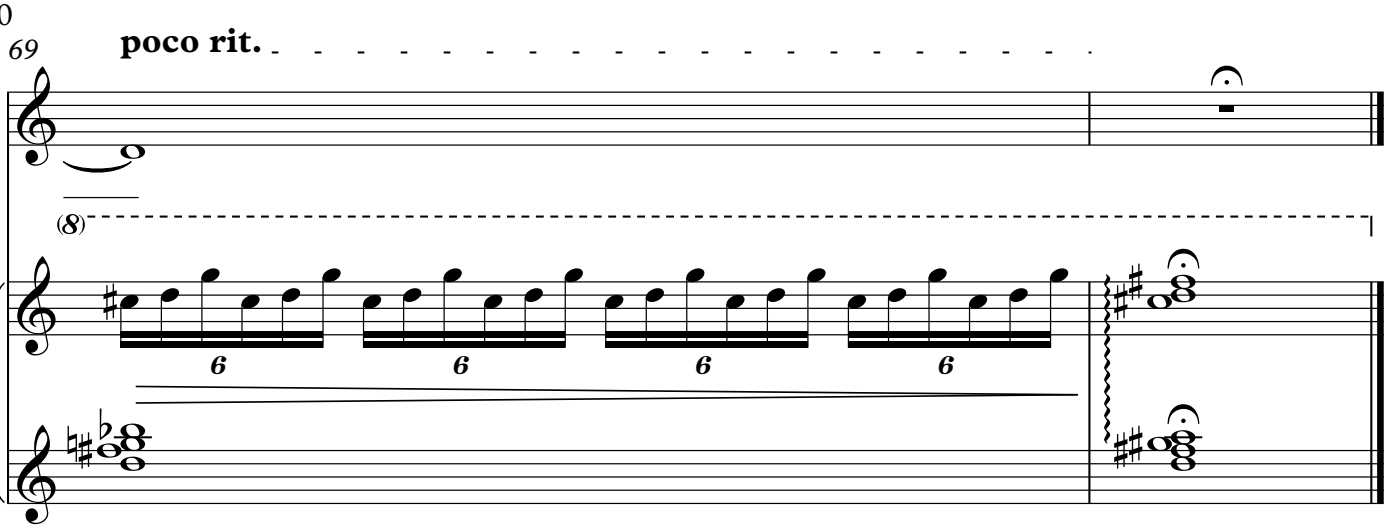

36
Lord, my God. Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in
38
death; Lest my en - em-y say, "I have pre-vailed a-
40
gainst her"; Lest my foes re-joice when I


42
fall.
fff
O God,
O God,
fff
l.v.
45
mp
Ans-wer me, How long?
Poco meno mosso
l.v.
8va
pp
8vb
49
pp
But I trust, I
(8)


51
trust in your lov - ing kind - ness,
53
your stead - fast love, your un-fail-ing love, in your
55
mer - cy. My heart re - joi - - ces in your sal-


57
va - tion.
I will sing,
59
I will sing
61
to
God,


63
my
God,
(8)
65
pp
3
for
God
has
been
good
(8)
67
to
me.
(8)


69
poco rit.
(8)
6
6
6
6