John Webber

UMILISSIMO

three humble poems

by O.B. Hardison

for flute, clarinet/bass clarinet, guitar,
soprano,
violin/viola, and double bass

198701
webbermusic

I
If feeding swans is what you want, feed swans.
Admire the articulation of their bones.
Bury your hands in sixty thousand feathers.
Watch while they live; Watch while they live; set your clock by their heedless snorts.
For their part, they will take whatever you give to them.

Be careful; they they are not your friends
They are old, have looked the world in the face
Have watched cities burn, heroes pour their lives in the mud.
Floating on black pools
They are wild, not emblems of peace.

Forget friendship.
Ask the old gods why you are here.
Do not feed swans: hunt them.
There are reasons for being you may have forgotten.

II
Most high: all things are emblems of you.
Most high: all things are emblems of you.
Greet you when you rise, caress you before you sleep.
At dawn the sky is huge with desire.
At noon each bush burns to embrace.
At night At night the darkness whispers
the darkness whispers
whispers
Of good works accomplished in darkness. Most high:

III
O moon
O moon
O moon
Call me a root among flowers
O moon
O moon
Call me a root among flowers
Dark amid iridescence,
A swine among leopards, antelopes, lambs
(such sleek and fleet and soft as you desire),
A crow among swans.

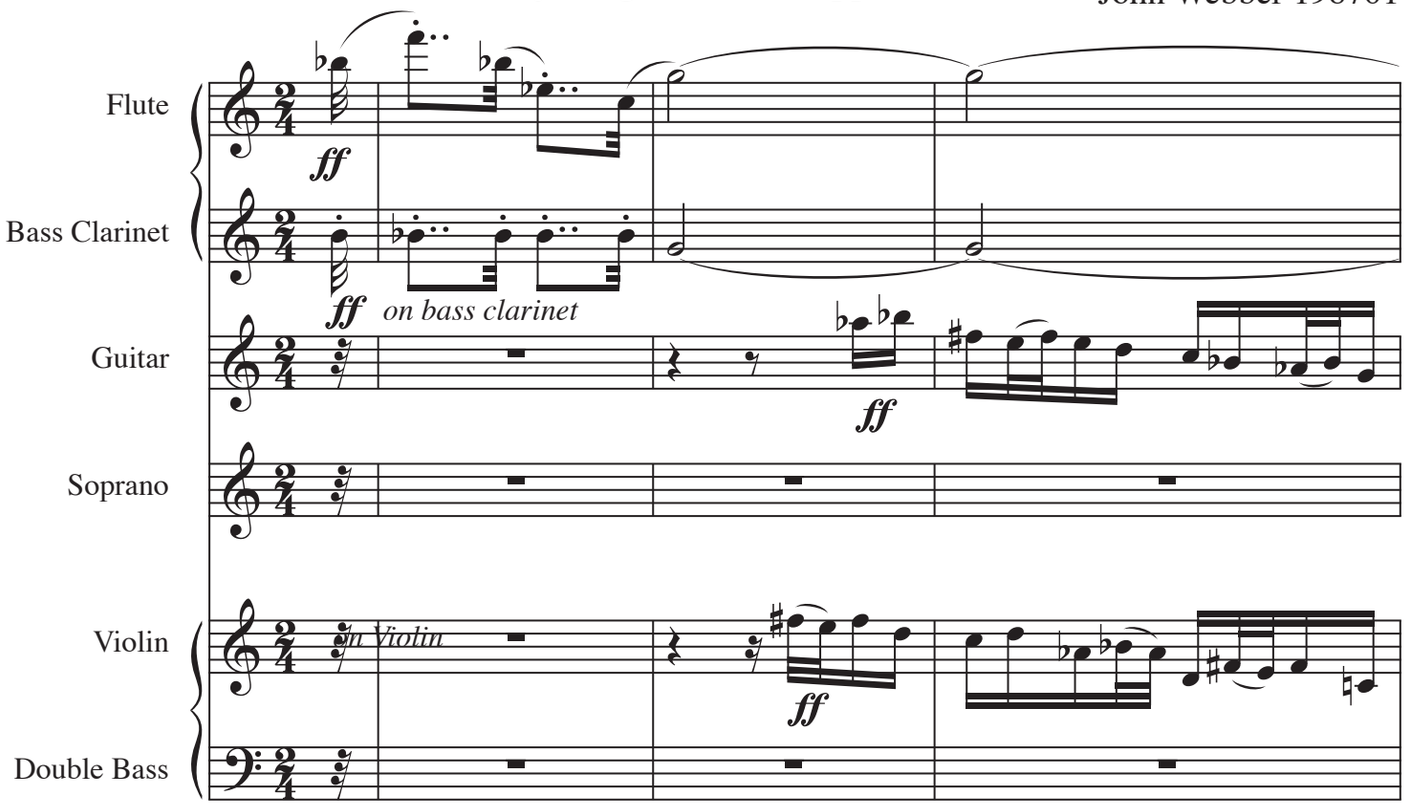
But crow (and black as night)
My wings will lift me as no swan's
Up to your silver light,
Or swine, I can lurch through brambles,
Snorting, Snorting, until I touch your sphere
Where it just touches the great circle of the earth,
Or root, as root endures,
Sends out more roots, is life
Is gathered by moonlight,
Is moved inwardly by that light,
Is stirred to rise,
Powerful, sends out its thick black shoots upwards
Until nothing at all nothing at all can resist its its motion
Toward you
O moon.

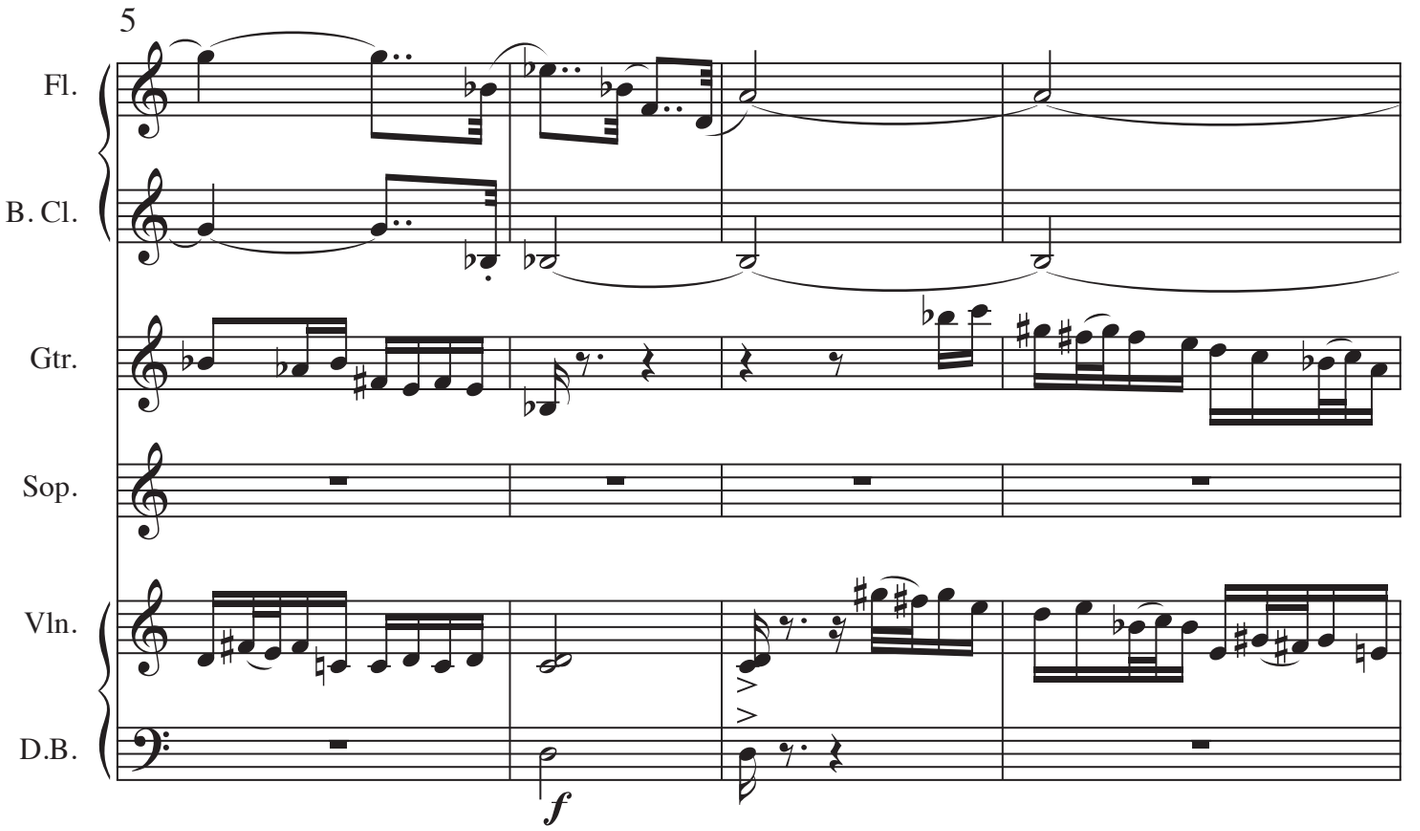
Umilissimo

Three Umilissimo poems by O.B. Hardison Jr.

I Whimsically, Allgretto non troppo

John Webber 198701





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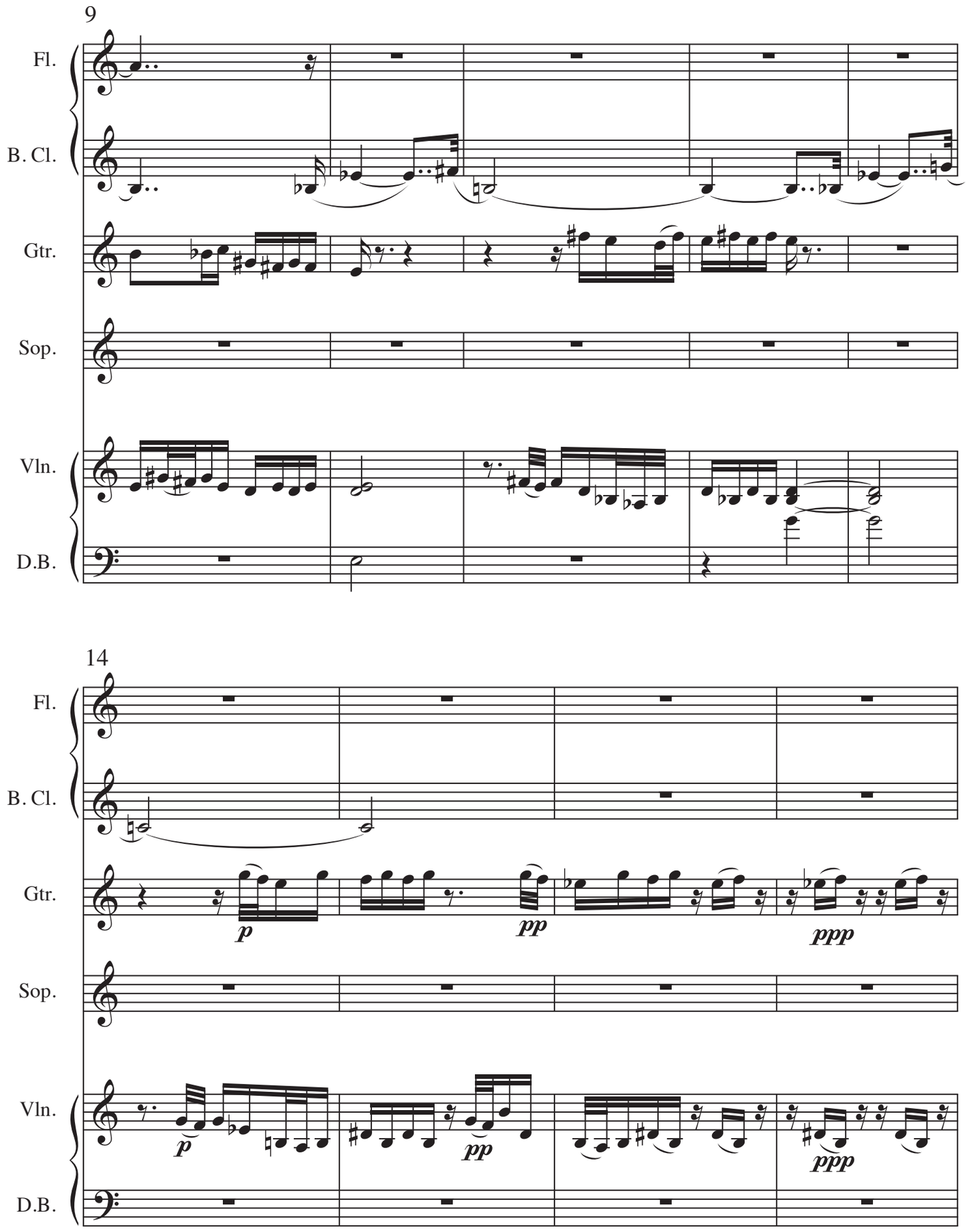
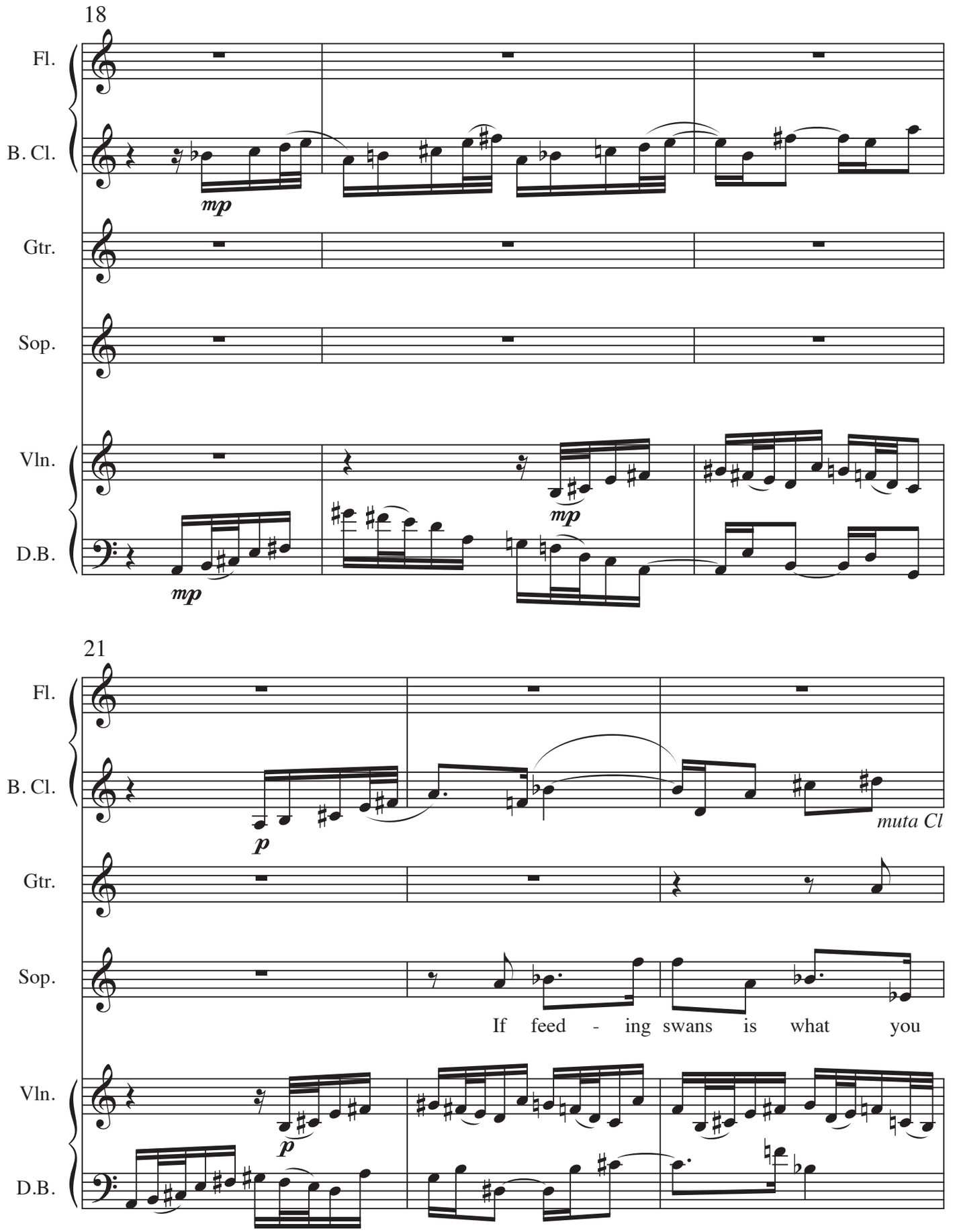
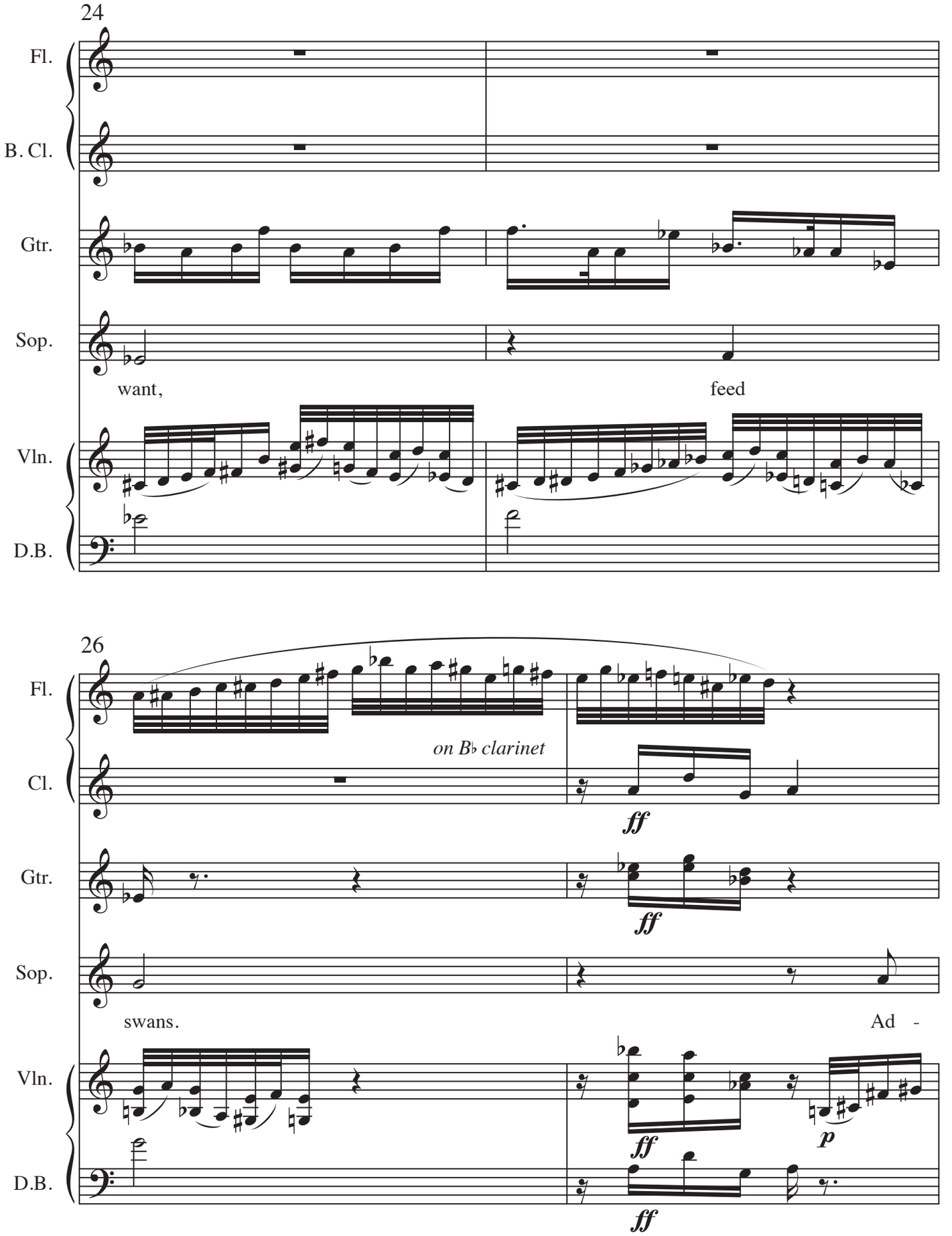
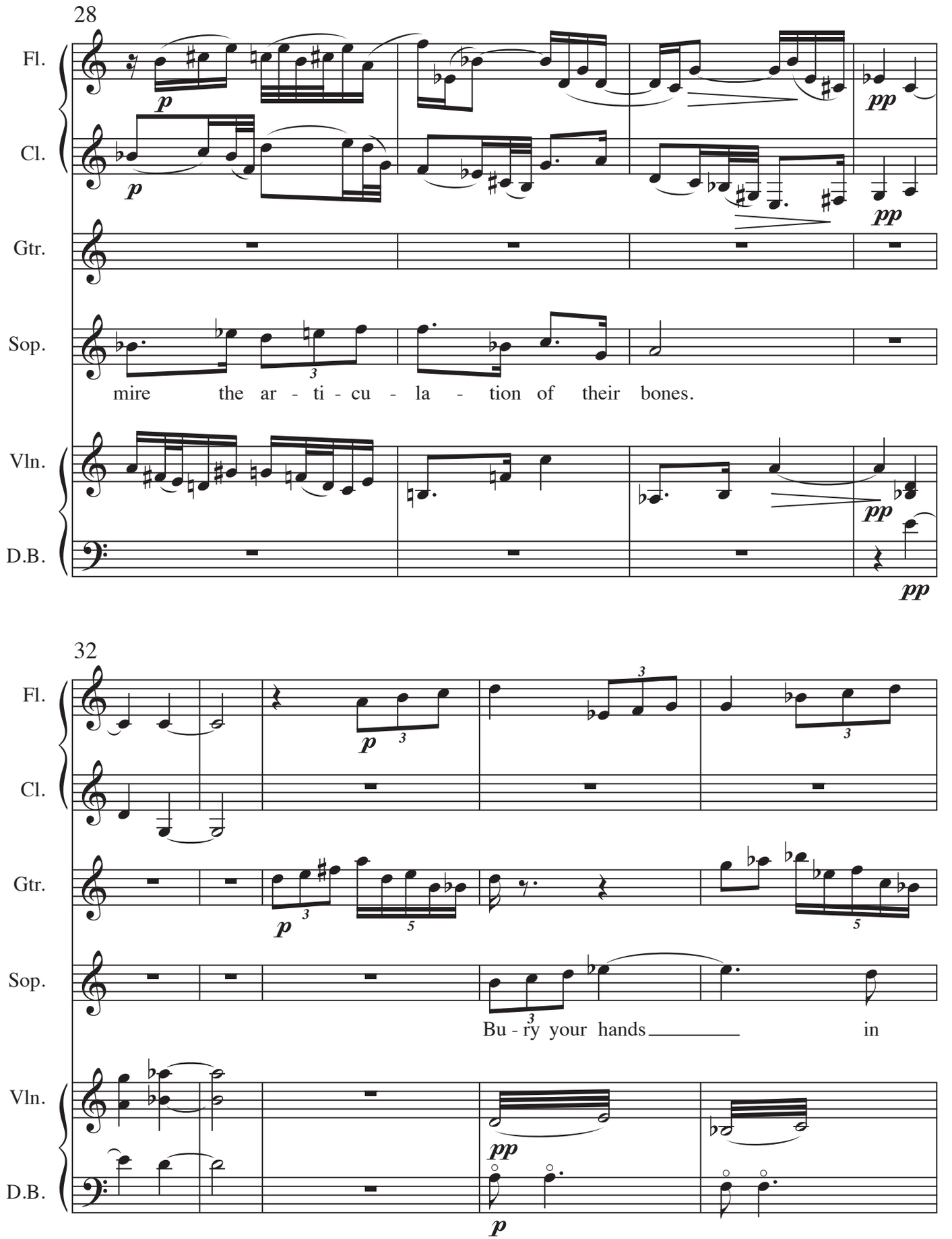
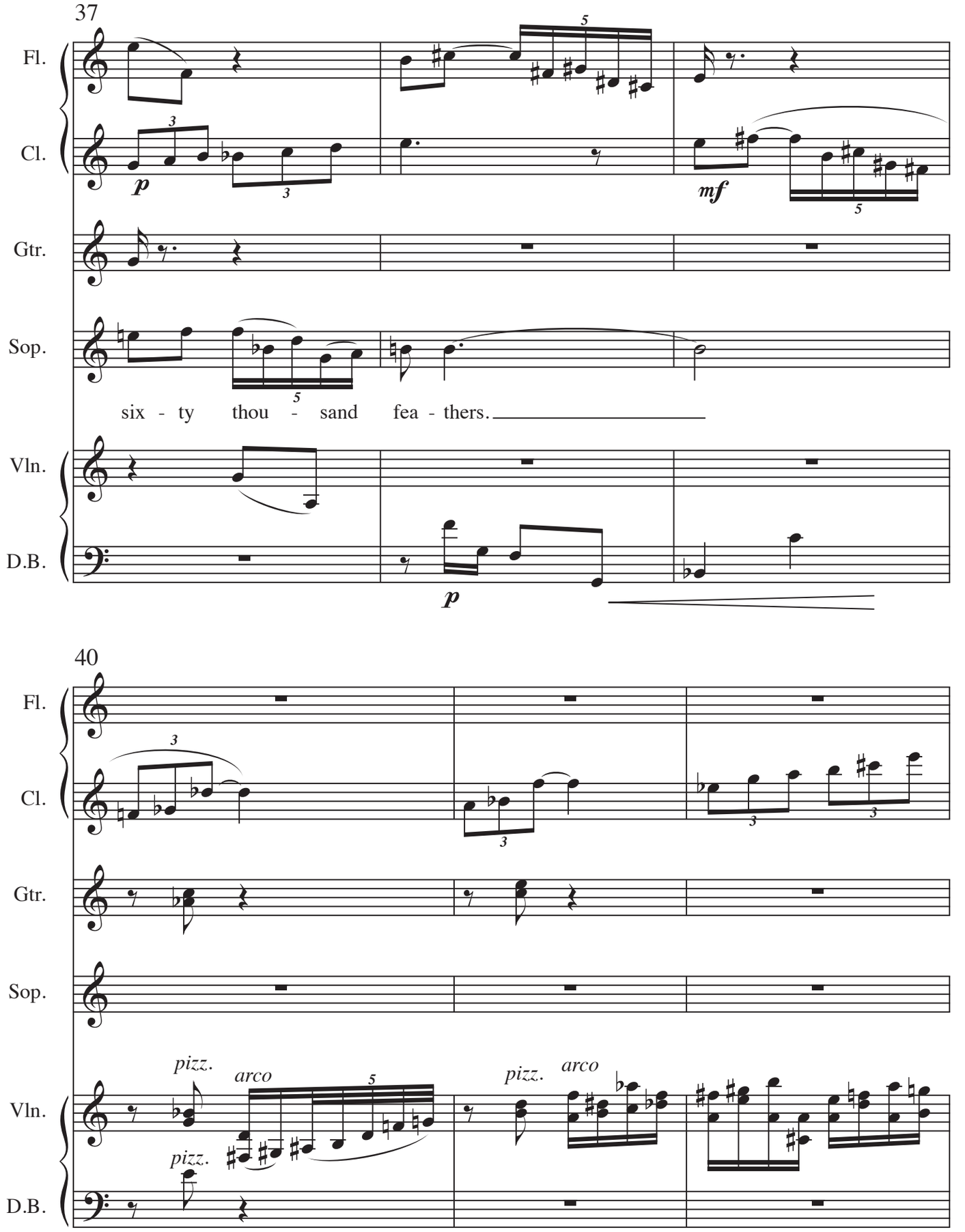
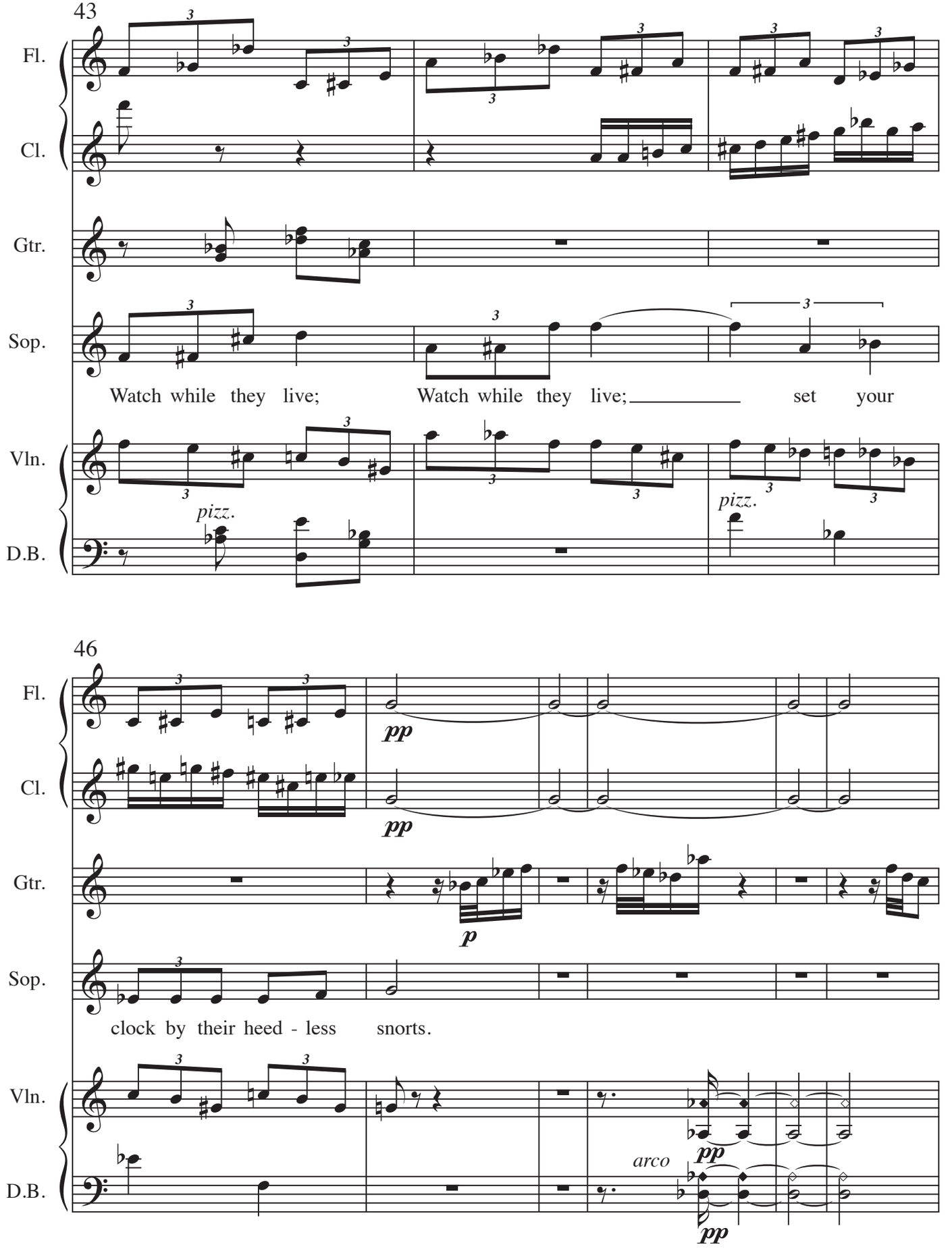

9
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.
14
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.
p
pp
ppp
p
pp
ppp

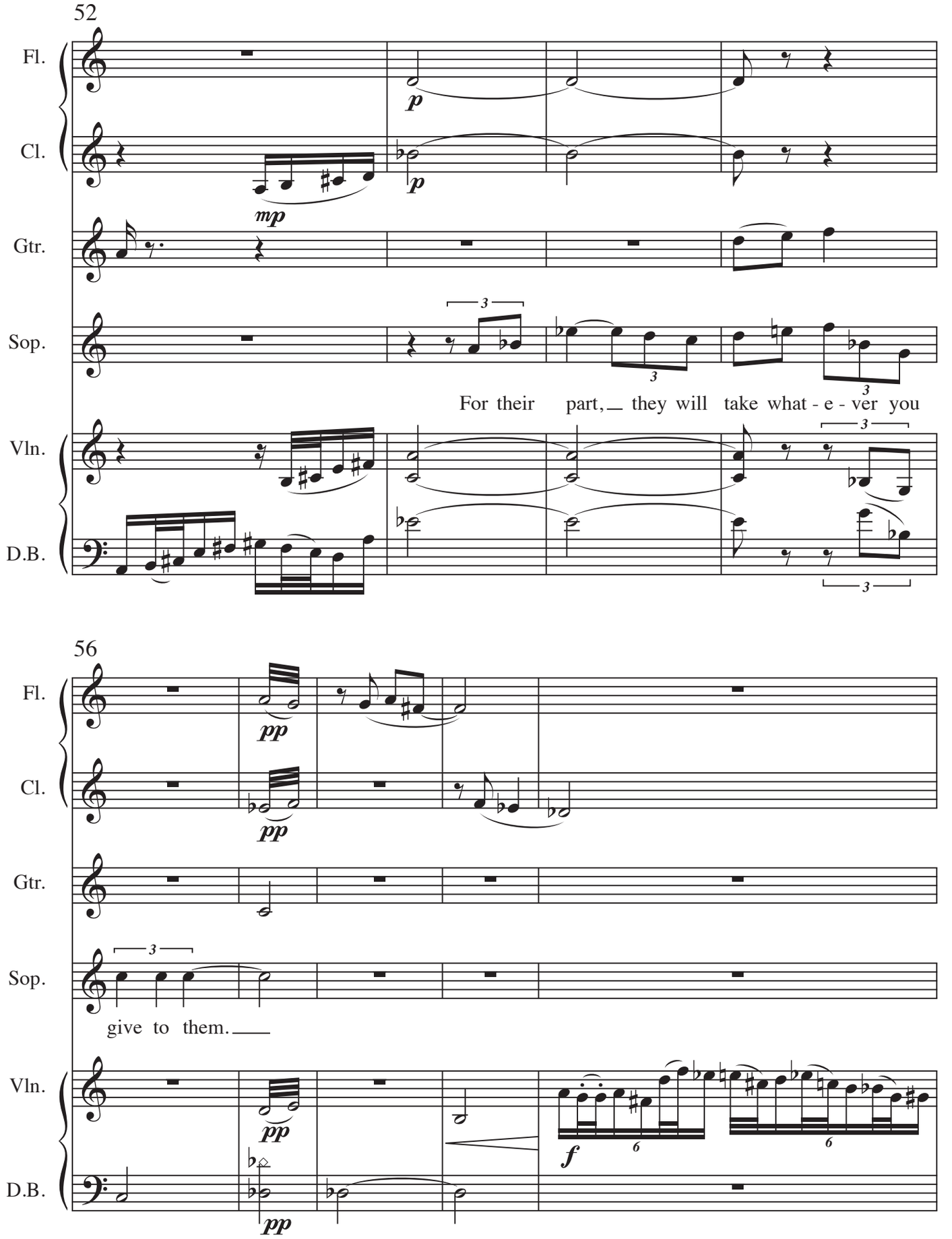

18
Fl.
B. Cl.
mp
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
mp
D.B.
mp
21
Fl.
B. Cl.
p
muta Cl
Gtr.
Sop.
If feed - ing swans is what you
Vln.
p
D.B.

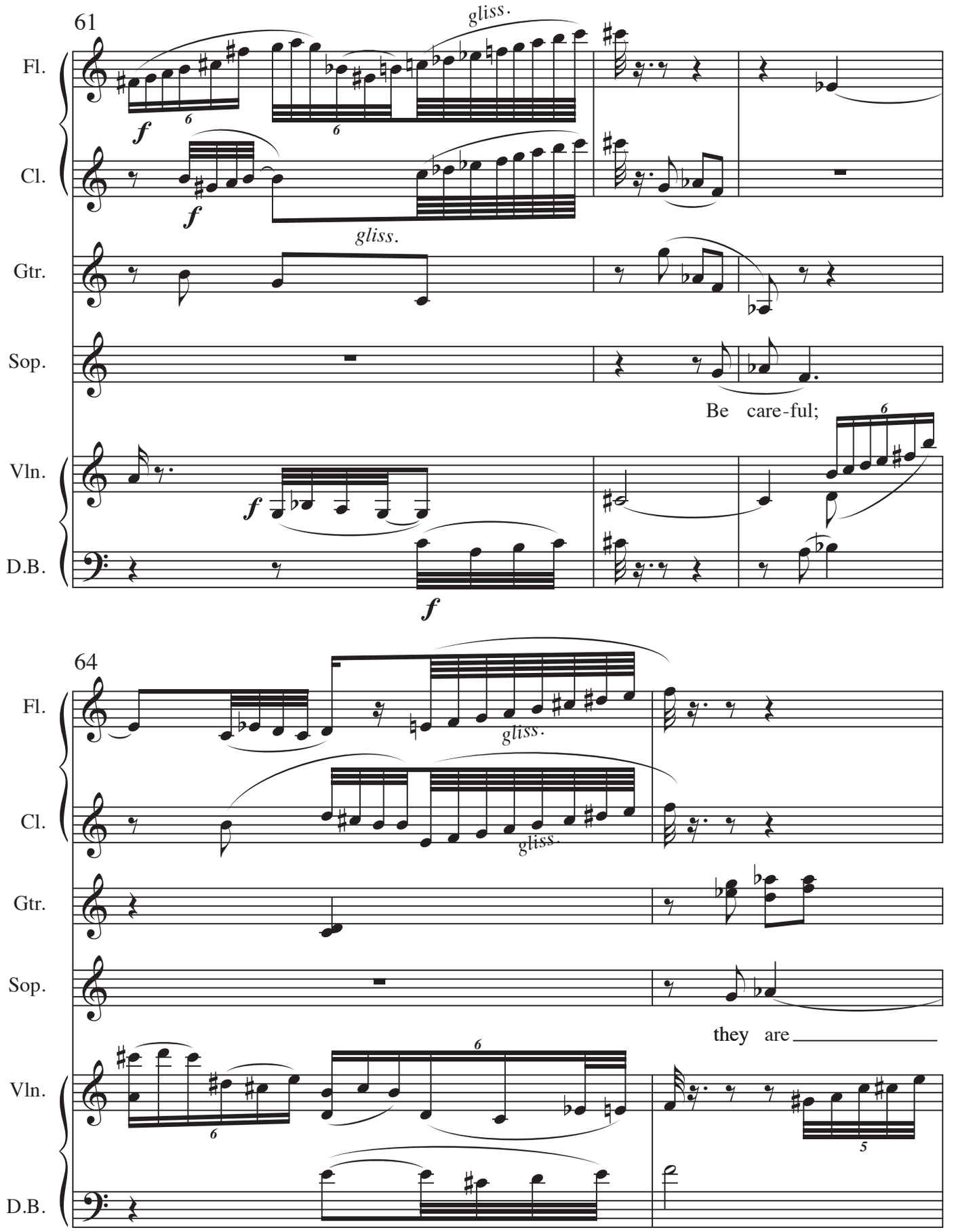

24
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
want,
feed
Vln.
D.B.
26
Fl.
on B♭ clarinet
Cl.
ff
Gtr.
ff
Sop.
swans.
Ad -
Vln.
ff
p
D.B.
ff

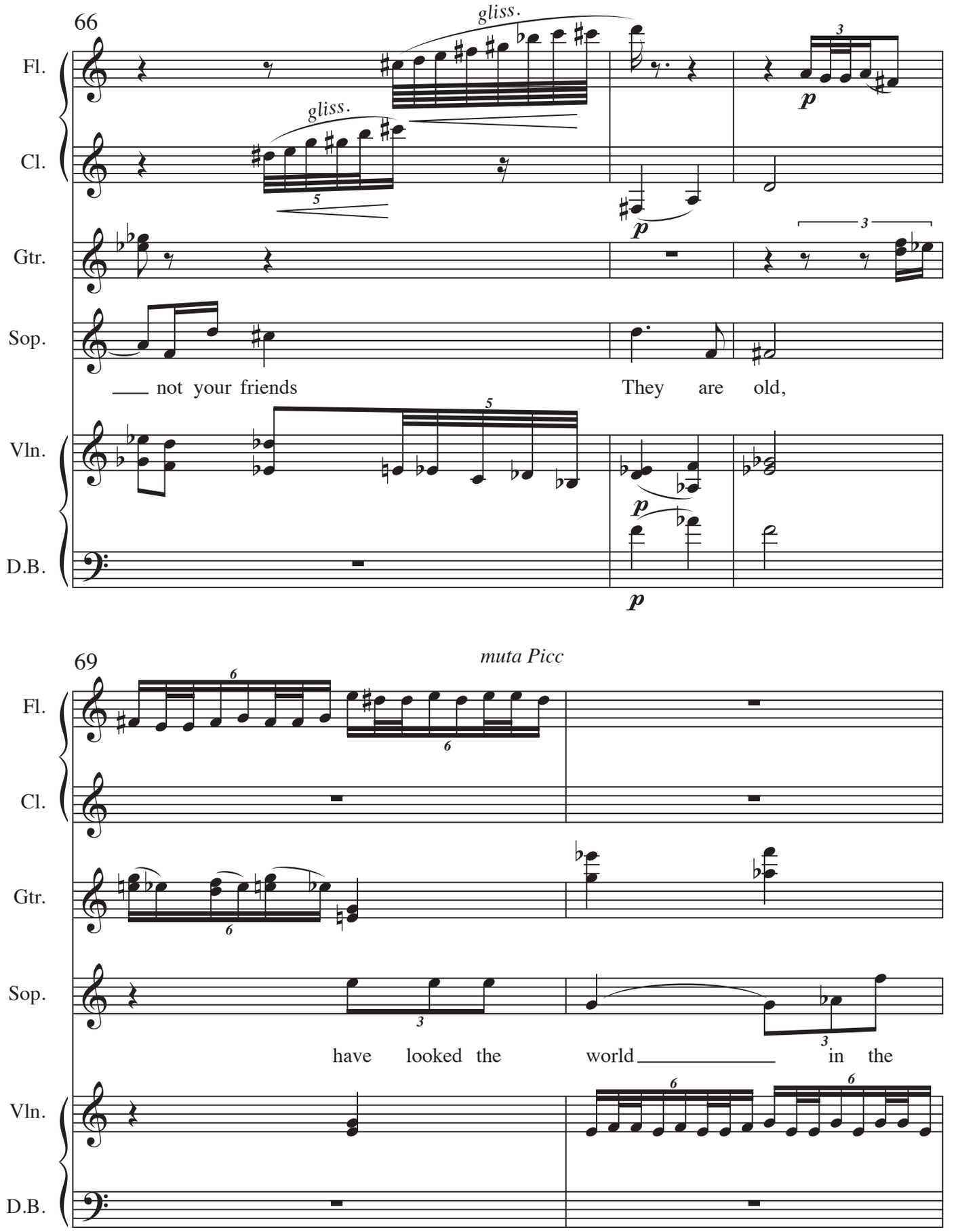

28
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
mire the ar - ti - cu - la - tion of their bones.
Vln.
D.B.
32
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Bu - ry your hands in
Vln.
D.B.

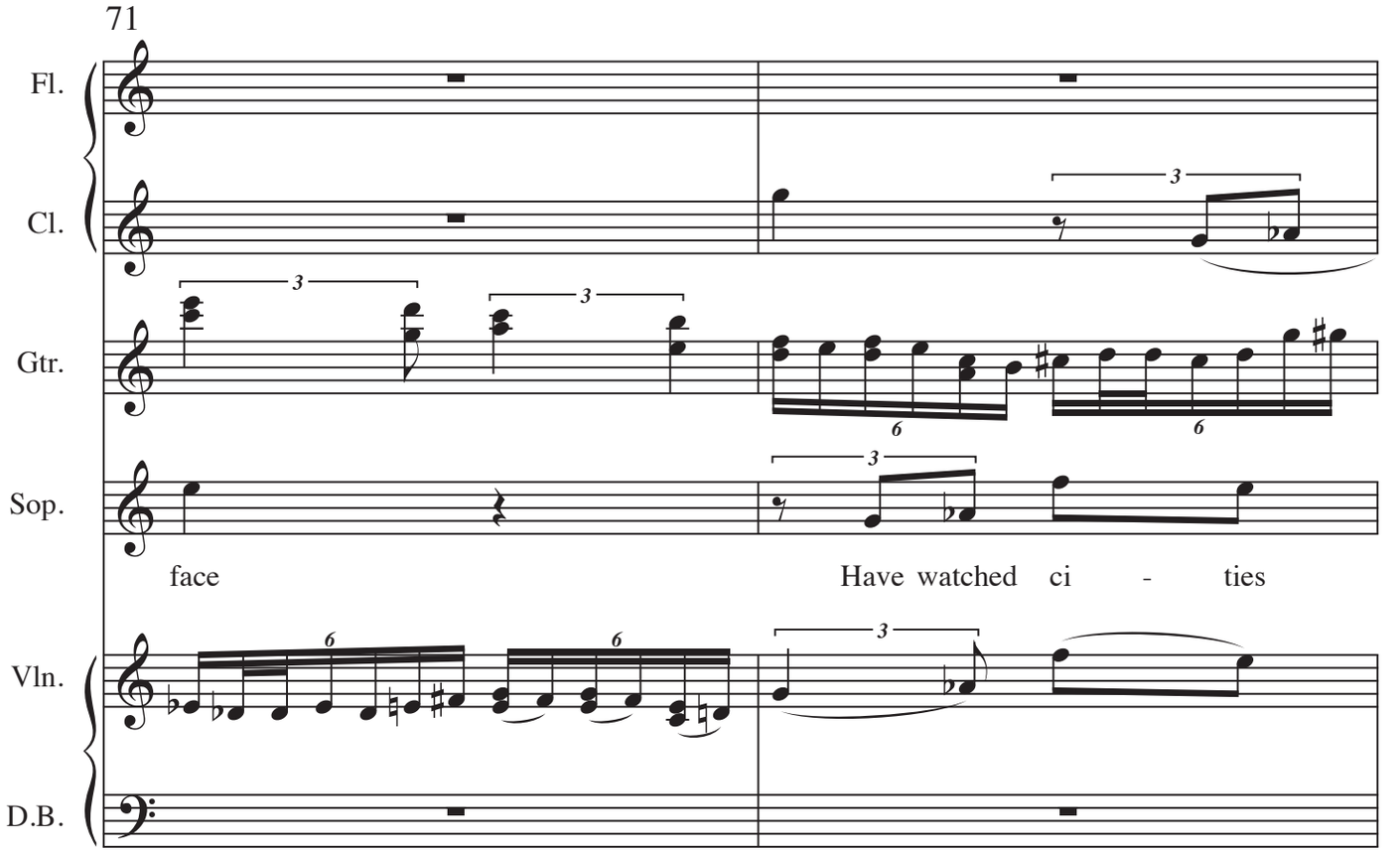

37
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
six - ty thou - sand fea - thers.
Vln.
D.B.
p
mf
p
40
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
pizz.
arco
pizz.
Vln.
pizz.
arco
D.B.

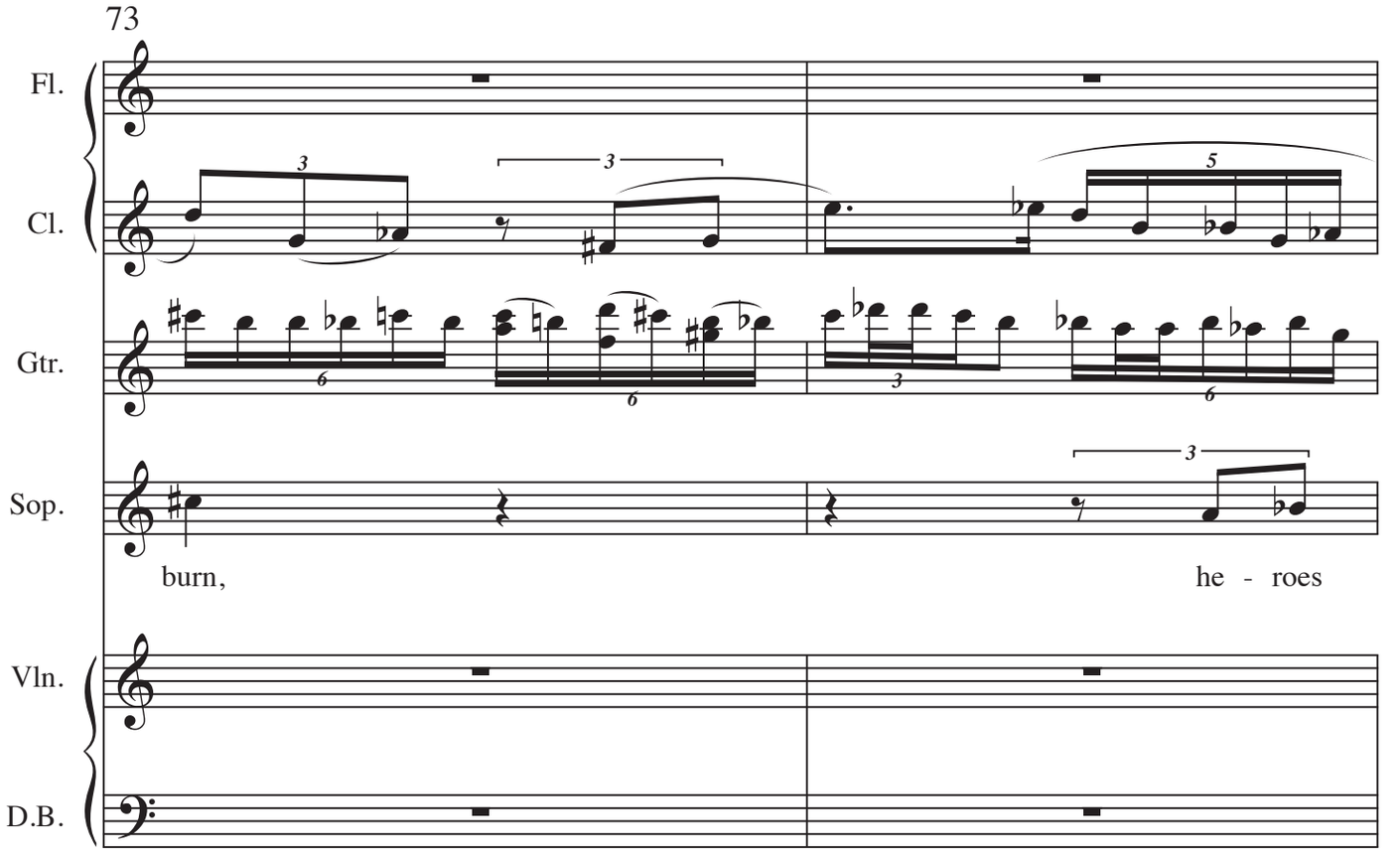

43
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Watch while they live; Watch while they live; set your
Vln.
pizz.
pizz.
D.B.
46
Fl.
pp
Cl.
pp
Gtr.
p
Sop.
clock by their heed - less snorts.
Vln.
pp
arco
D.B.
pp

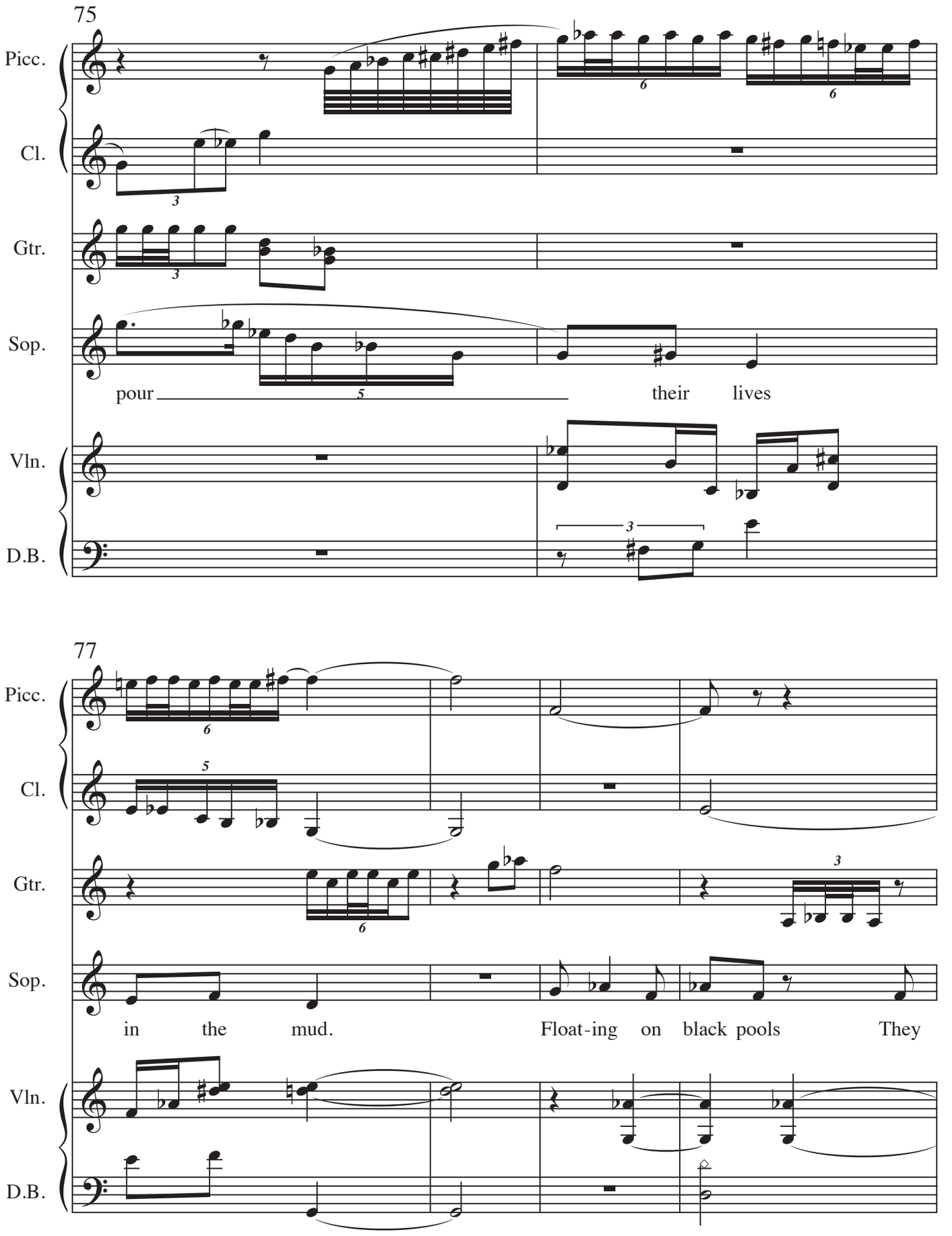

52
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.
p
mp
For their part, they will take what - e - ver you
56
pp
give to them.
f

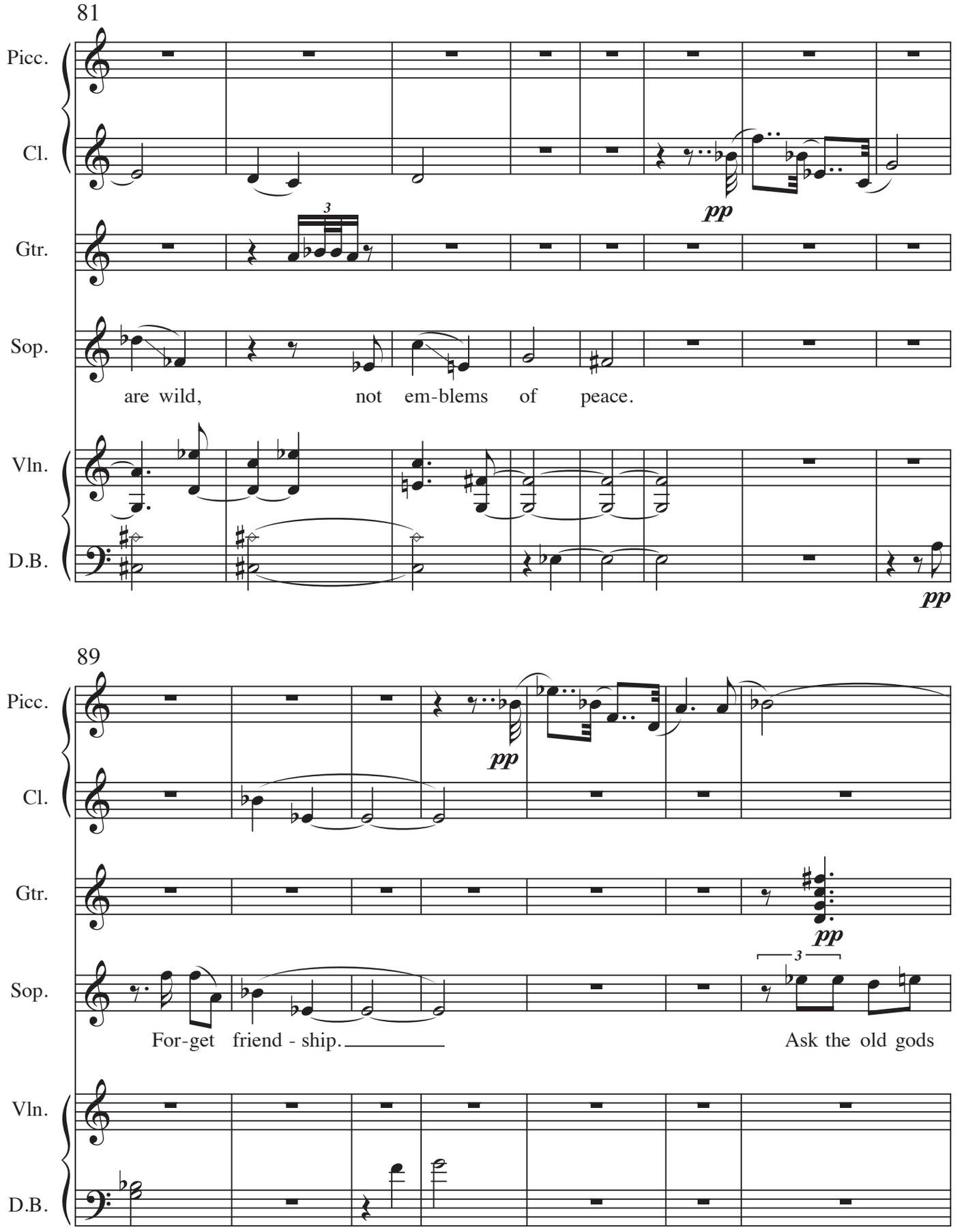

61
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.
gliss.
gliss.
Be care-ful;
64
they are

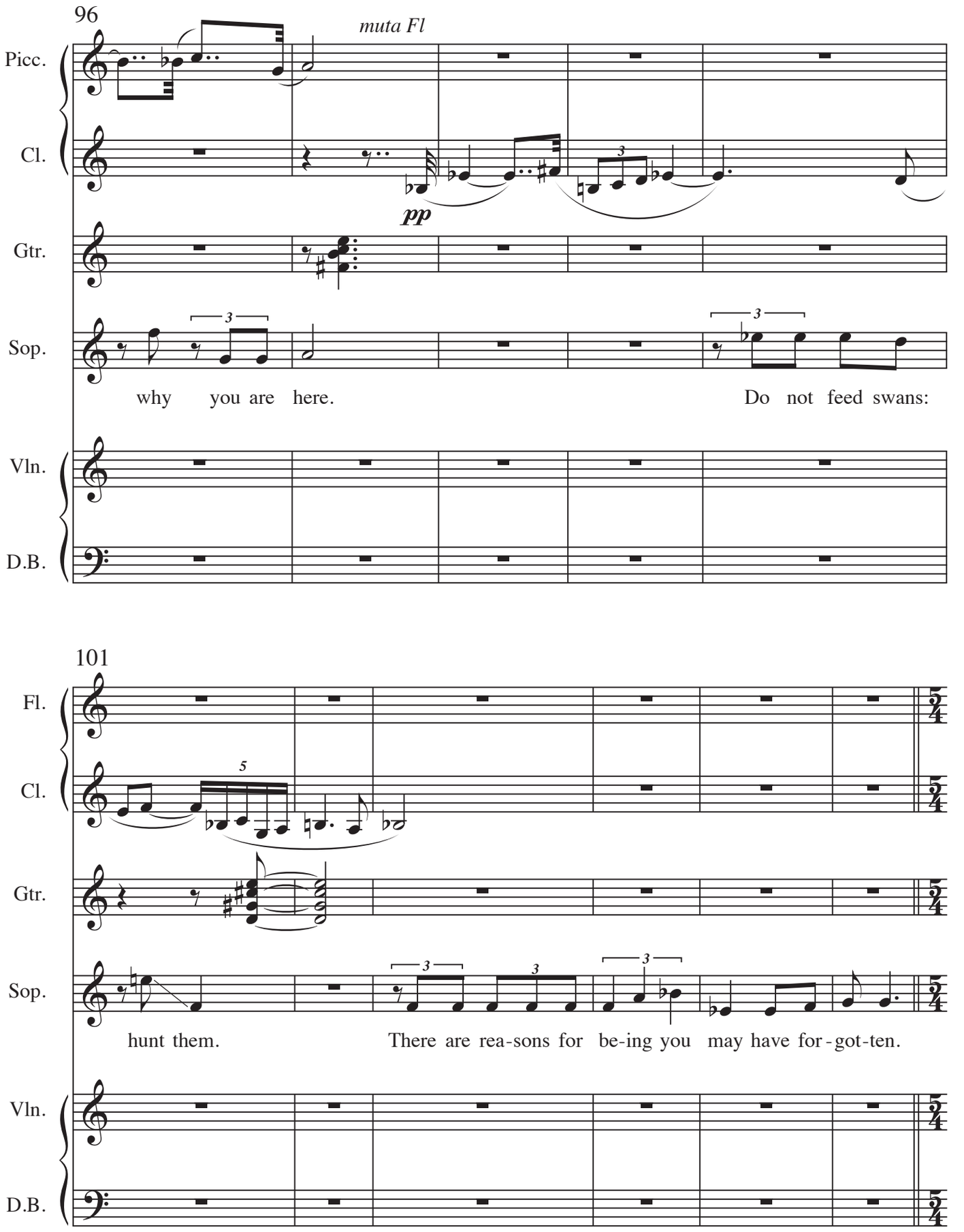

66
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.
gliss.
gliss.
not your friends
They are old,
69
muta Picc
have looked the world in the

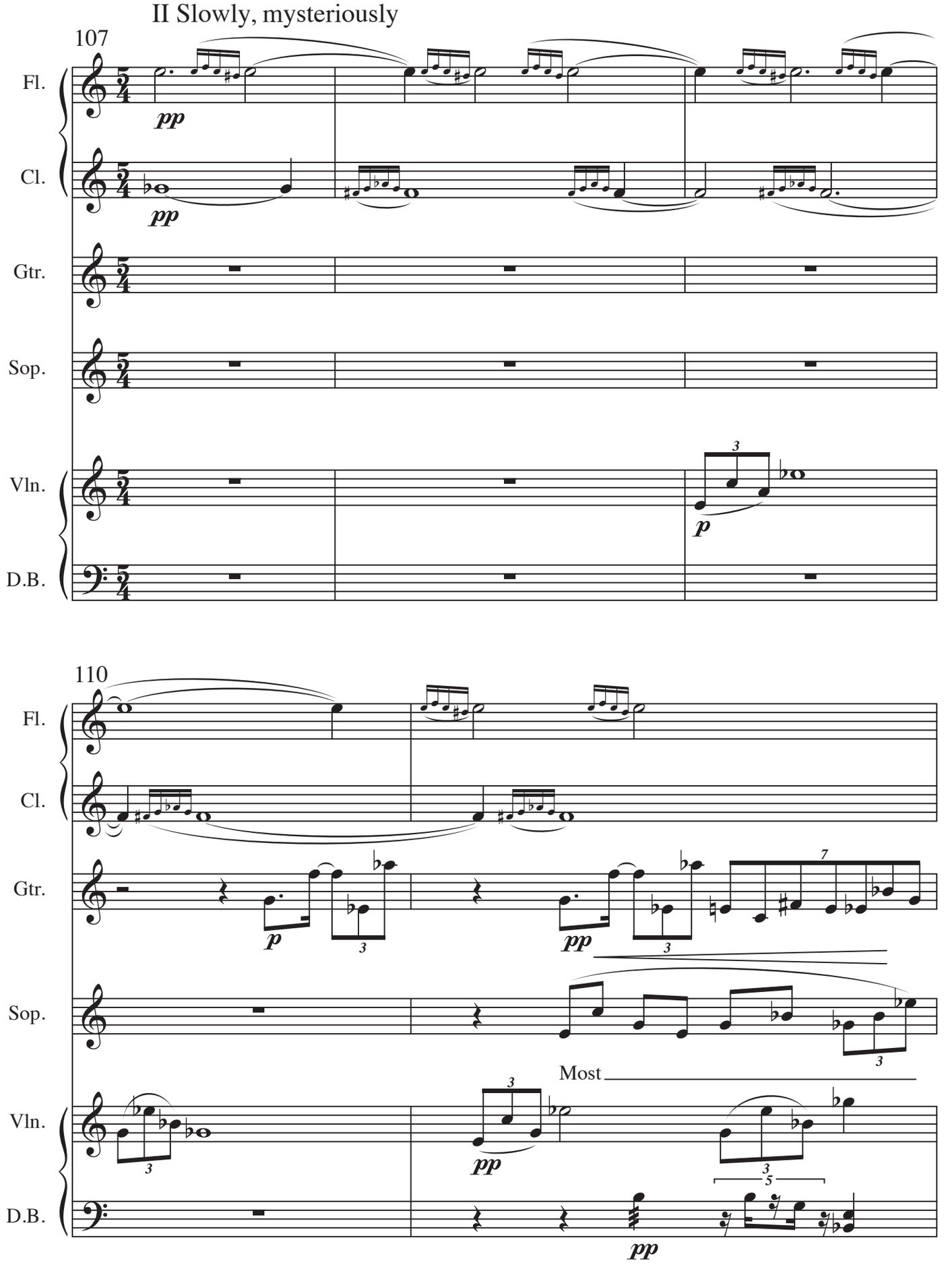

71
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
face
Have watched ci - ties
Vln.
D.B.

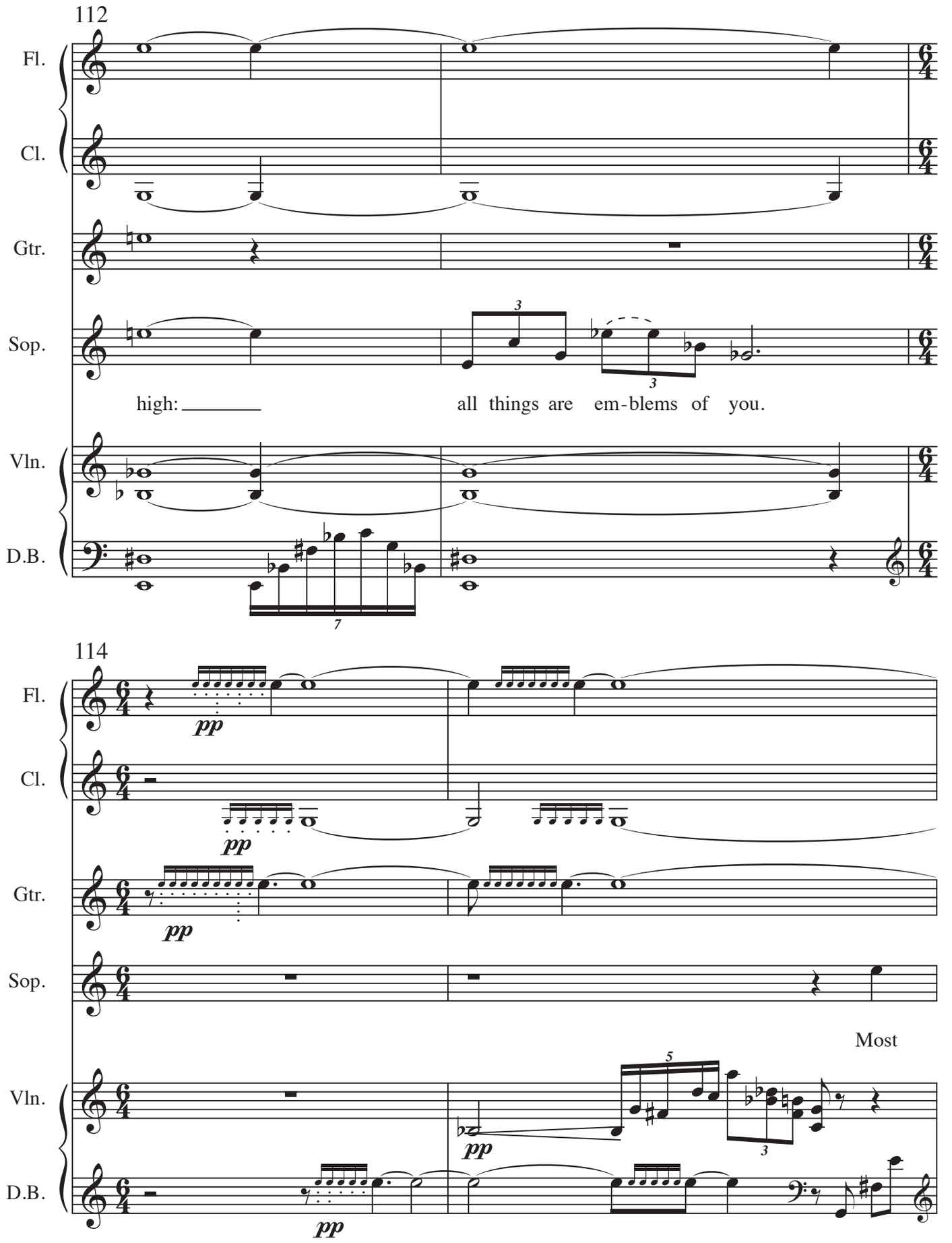

73
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
burn,
he - roes
Vln.
D.B.

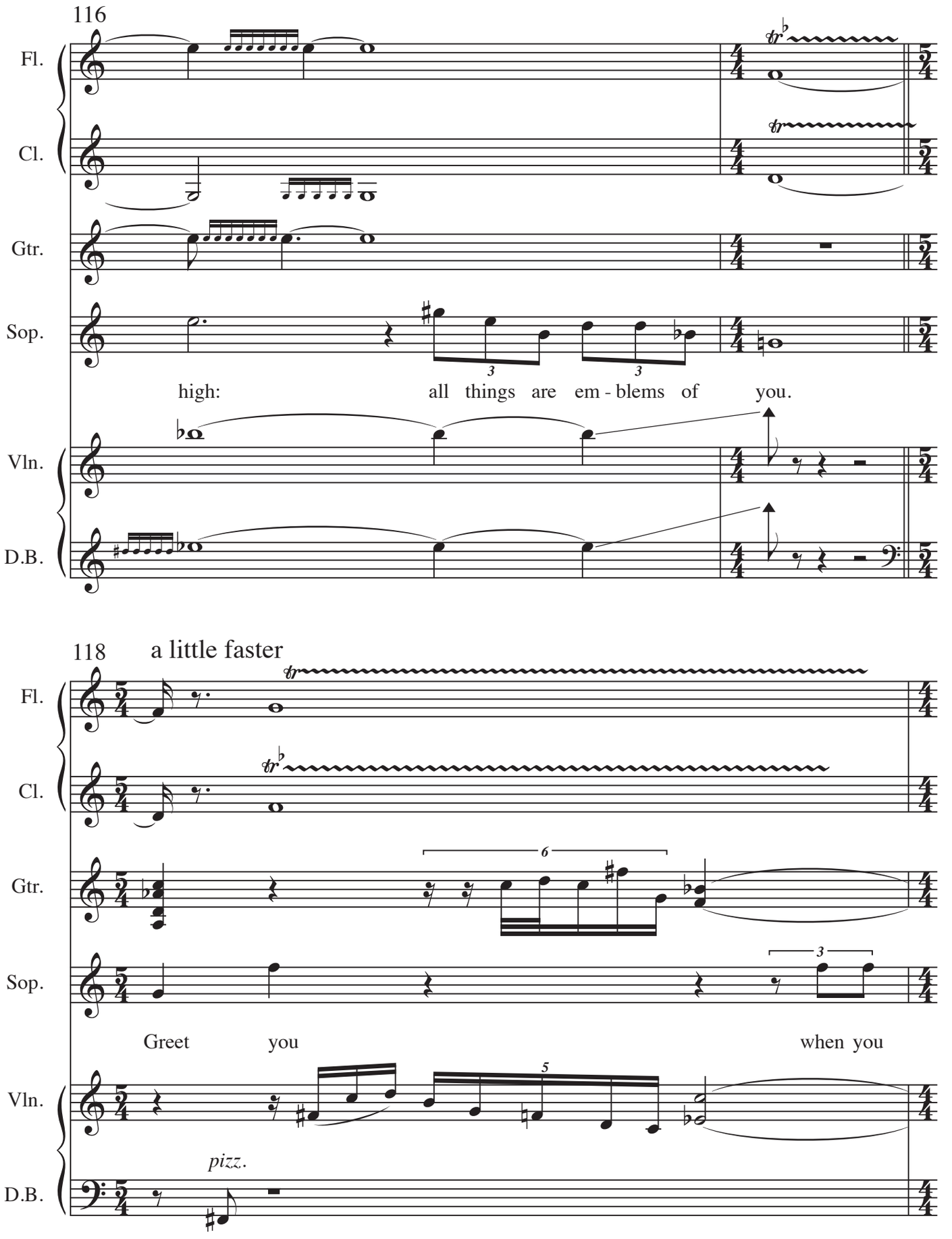

75
Picc.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
pour
their lives
Vln.
D.B.
77
Picc.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
in the mud.
Float-ing on black pools
They
Vln.
D.B.

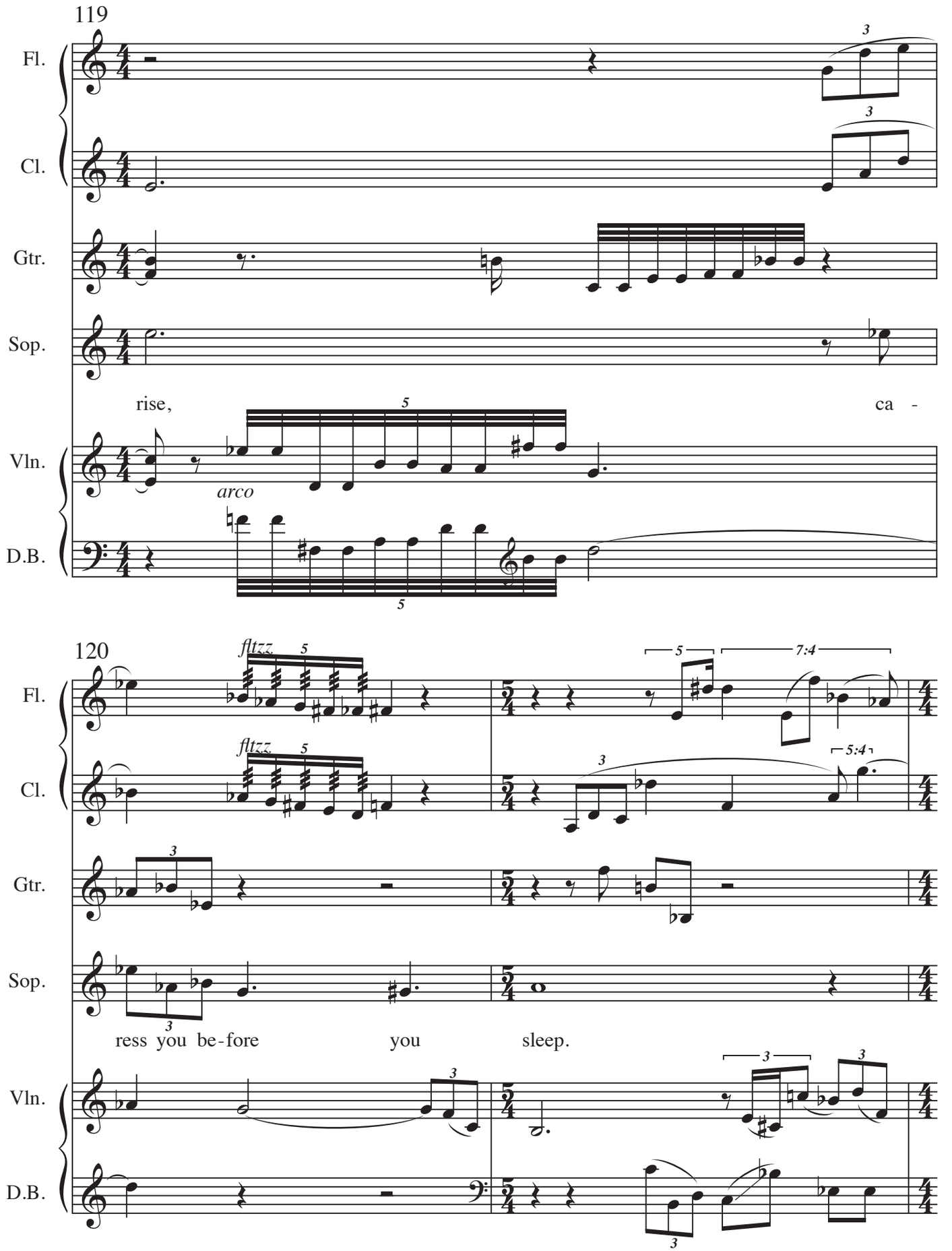

81
Picc.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.
pp
3
are wild, not em-blems of peace.
89
pp
pp
3
For-get friend - ship.
Ask the old gods

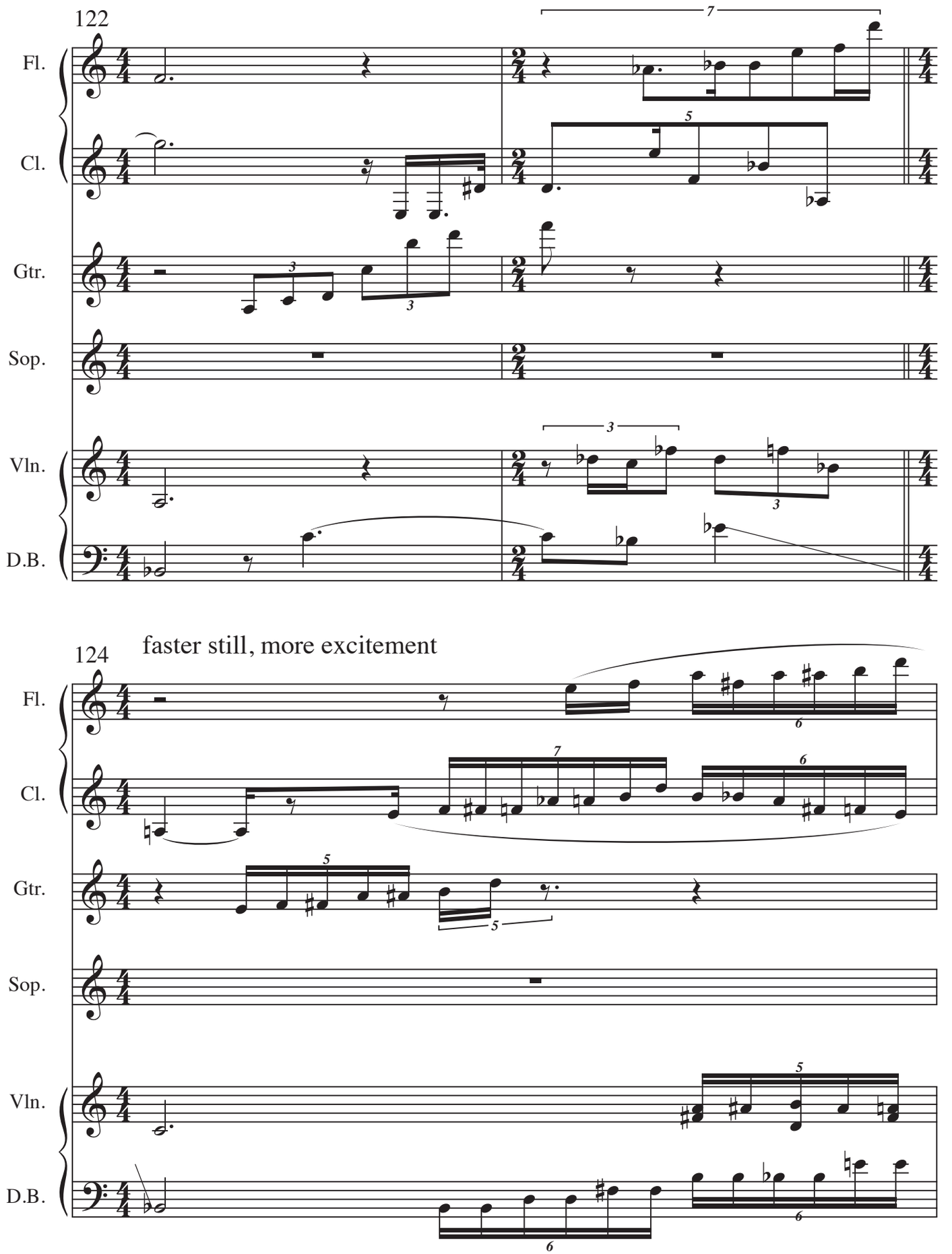

96
muta Fl
Picc.
Cl.
pp
Gtr.
Sop.
why you are here.
Do not feed swans:
Vln.
D.B.
101
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
hunt them.
There are rea-sons for be-ing you may have for-got-ten.
Vln.
D.B.

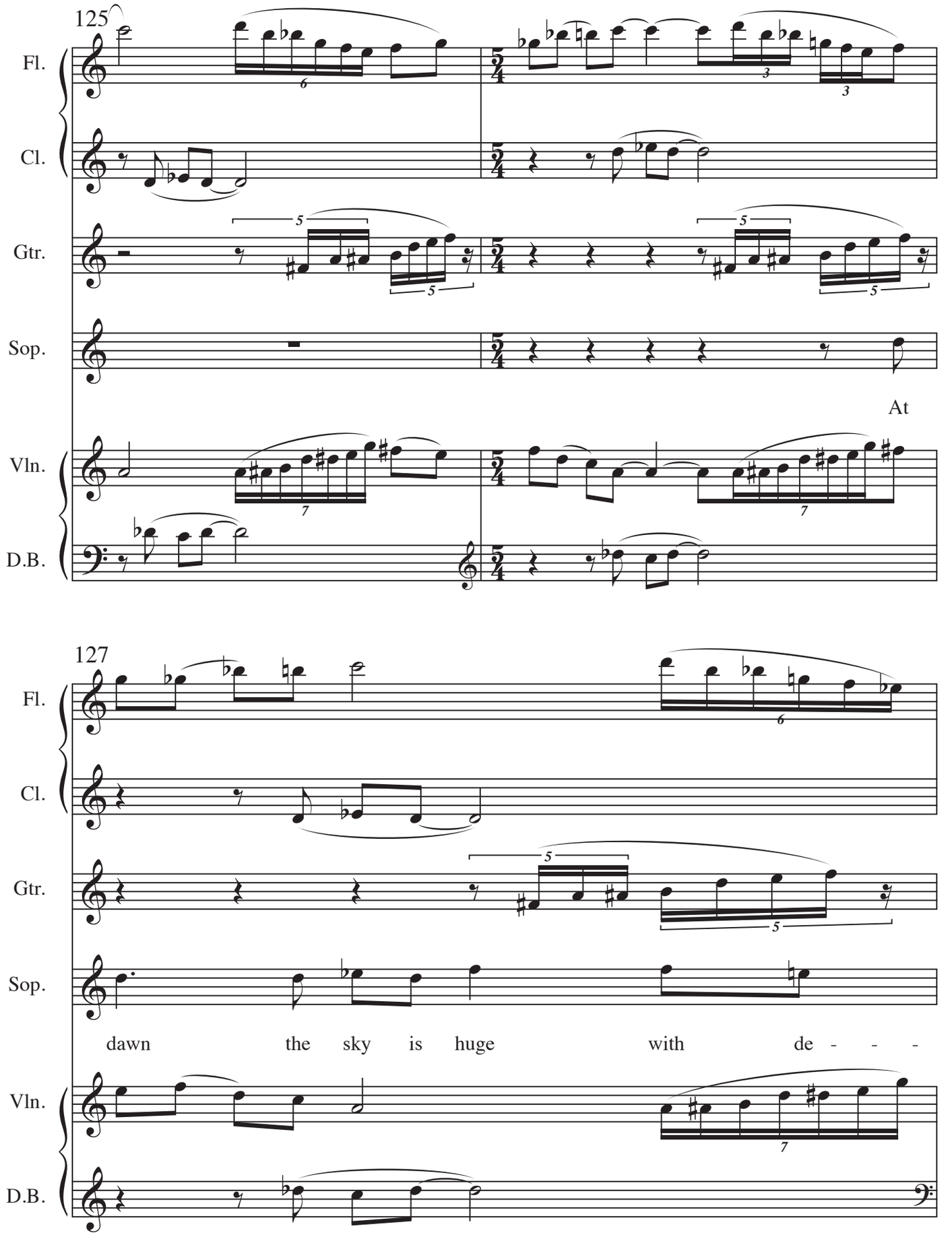

II Slowly, mysteriously
107
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.
pp
pp
p
110
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.
p
pp
pp
Most
pp
pp

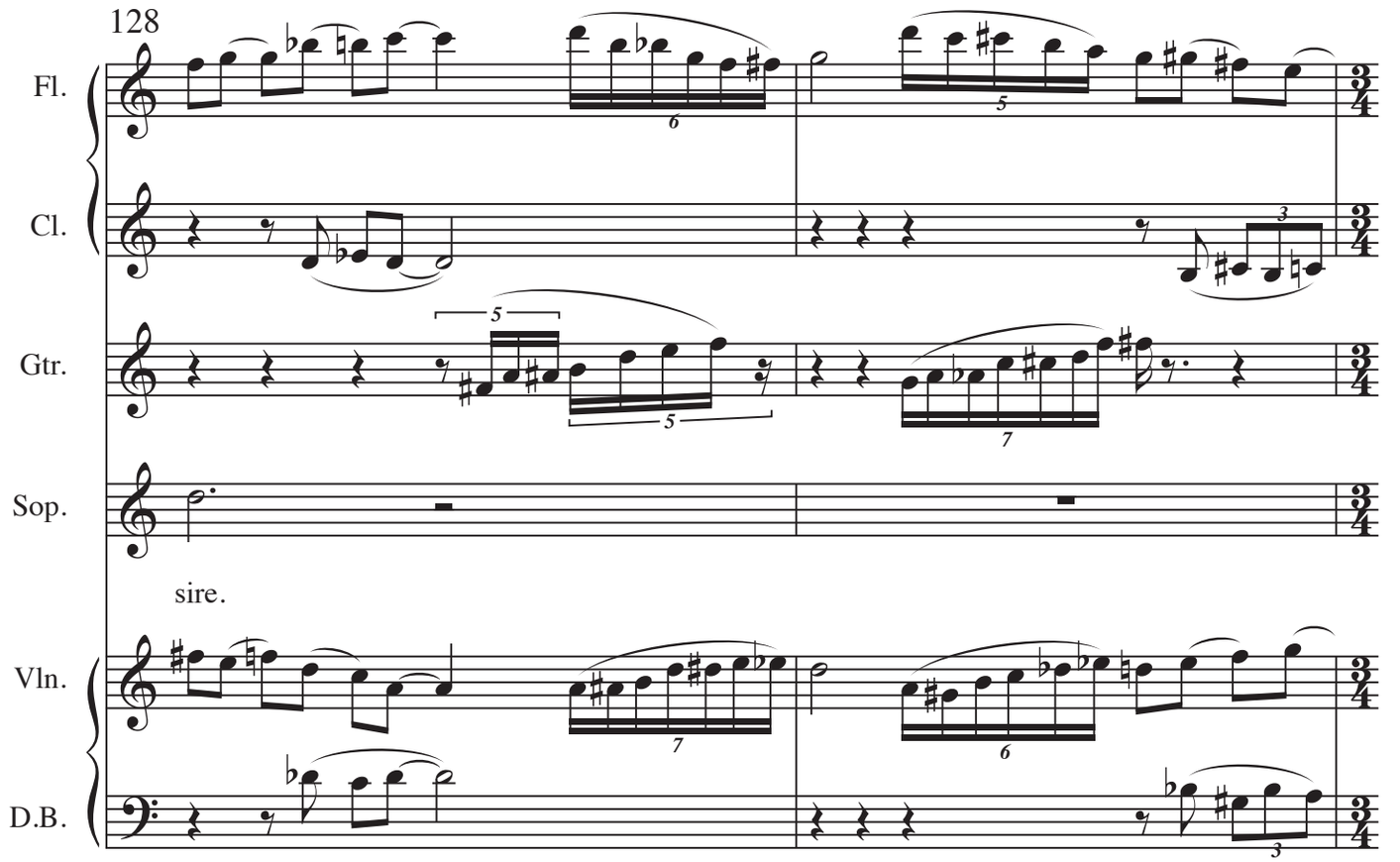

112
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
high:
all things are em-blems of you.
Vln.
D.B.
114
pp
Most

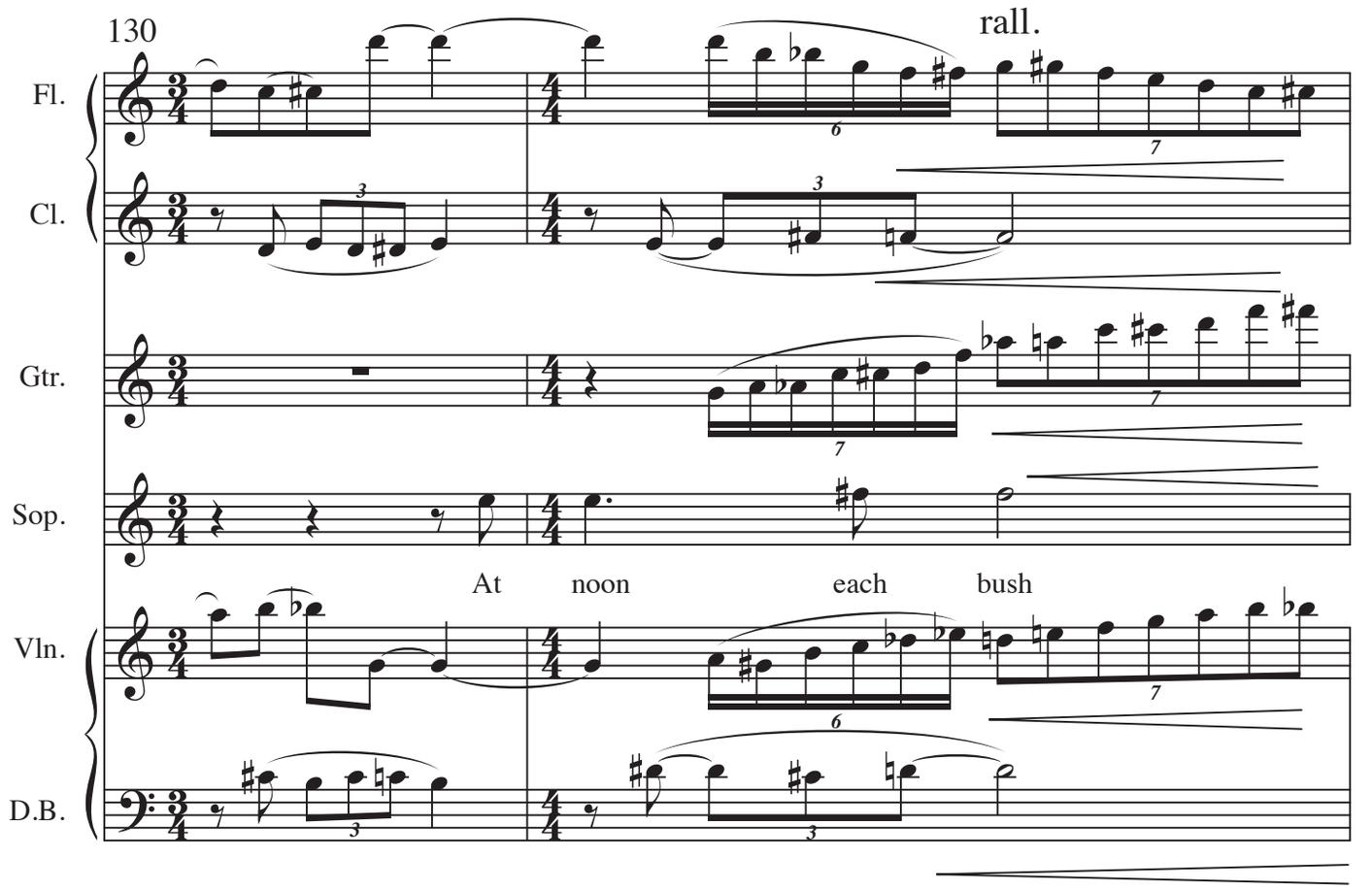

116
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
high:
all things are em - blems of you.
Vln.
D.B.
118
a little faster
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Greet you when you
Vln.
pizz.
D.B.

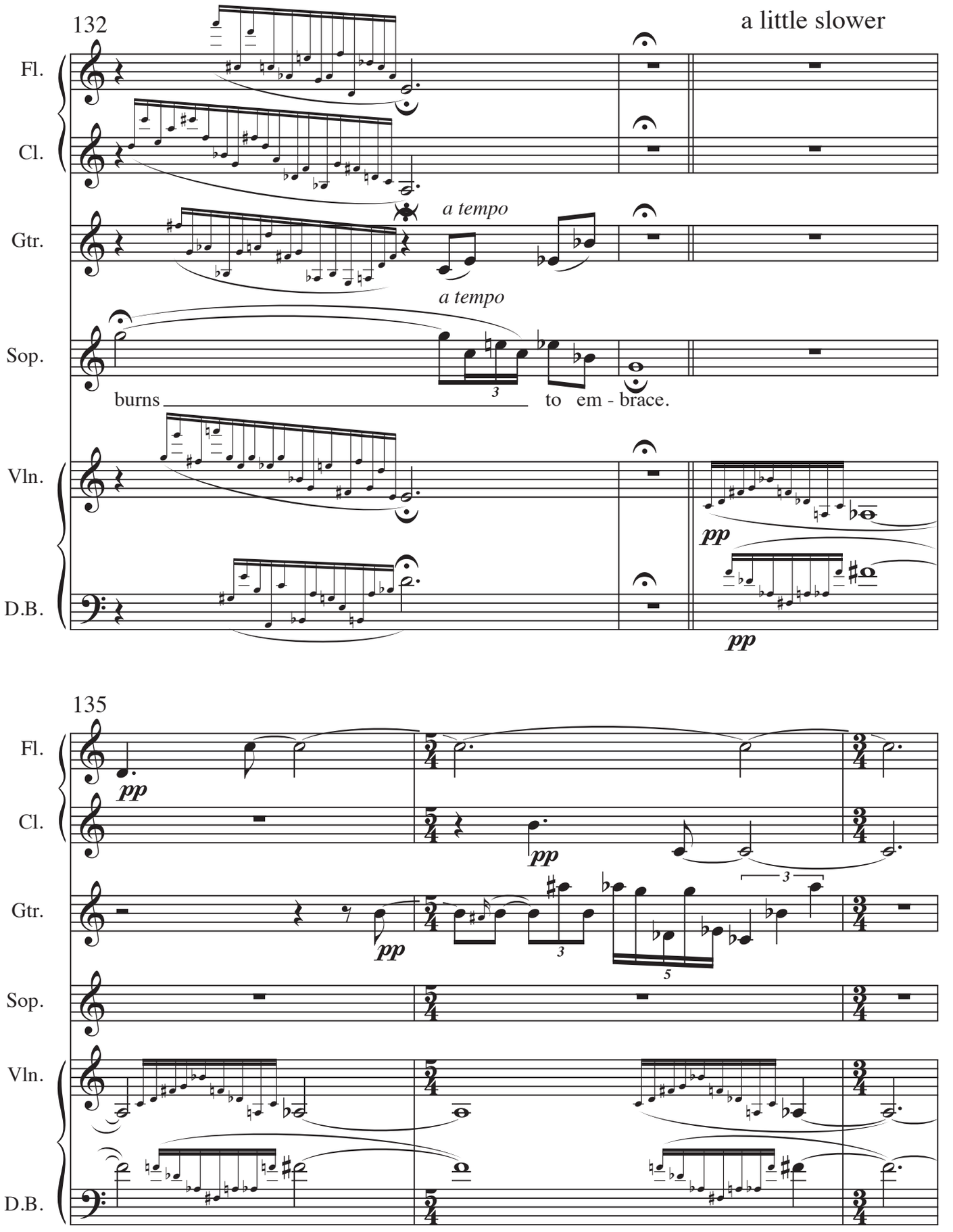

119
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
rise,
ca -
Vln.
arco
D.B.
120
fltzz.
fltzz.
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
ress you be-fore
you
sleep.
Vln.
D.B.

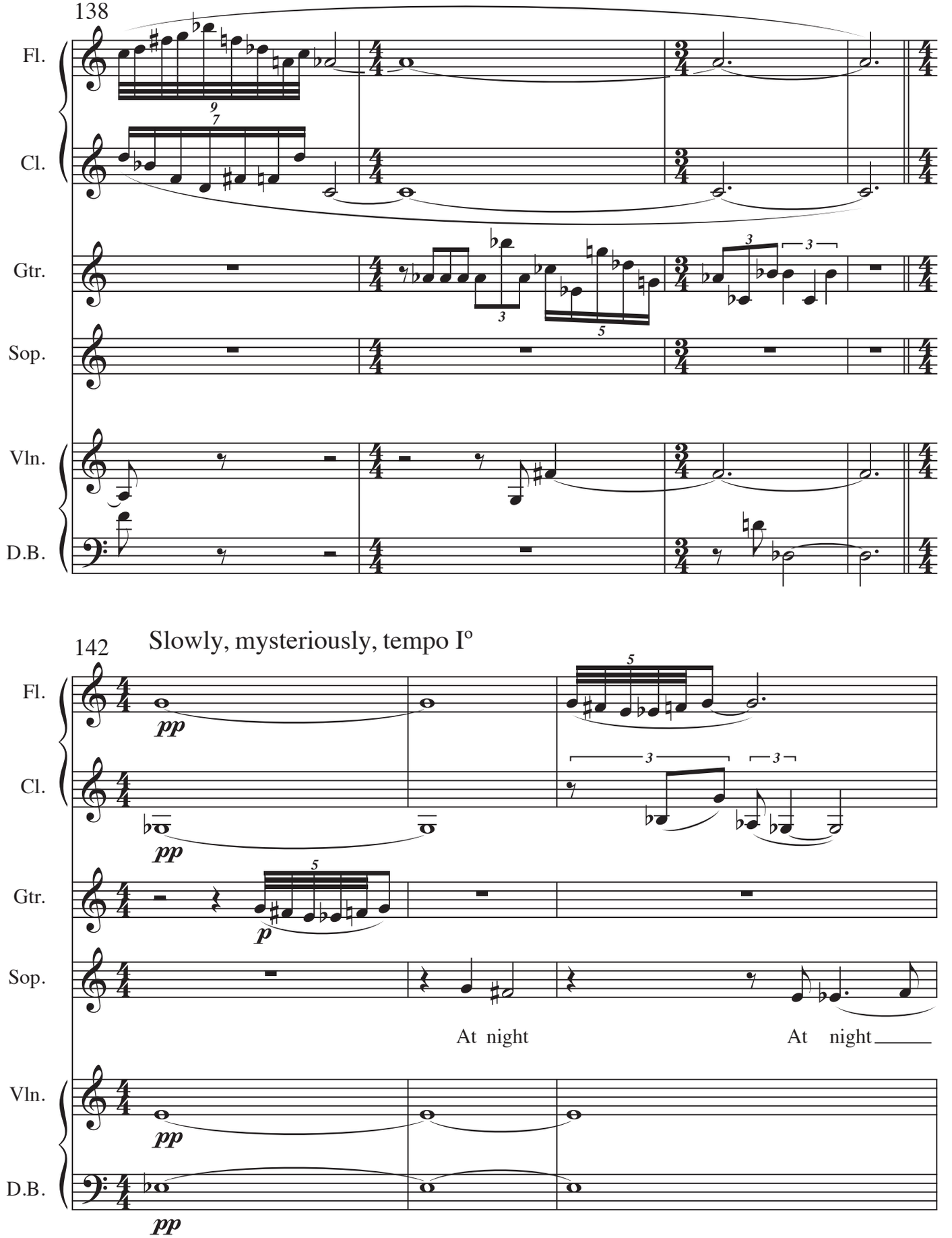

122
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.
124
faster still, more excitement
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.

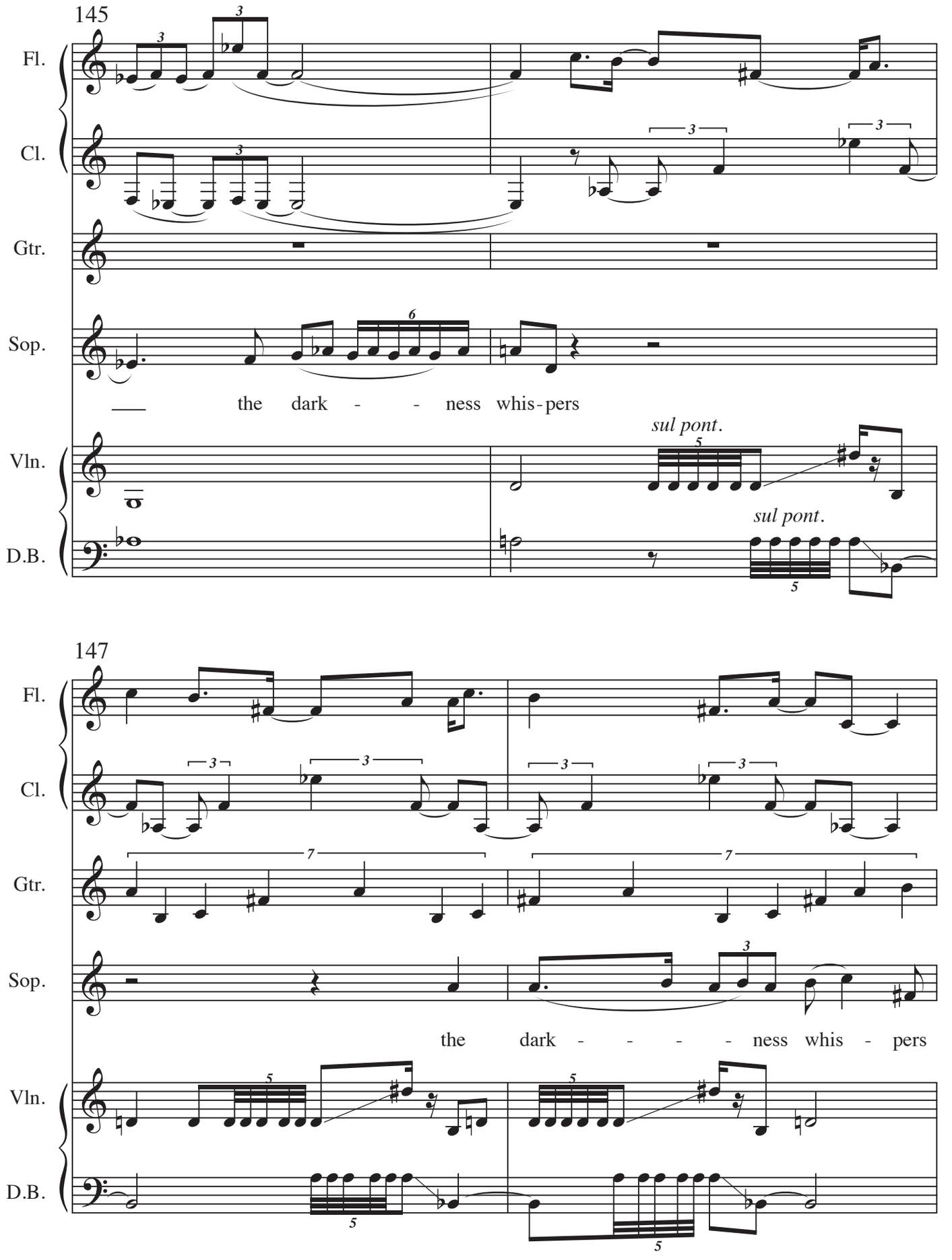

125
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
At
Vln.
D.B.
127
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
dawn the sky is huge with de - - -
Vln.
D.B.

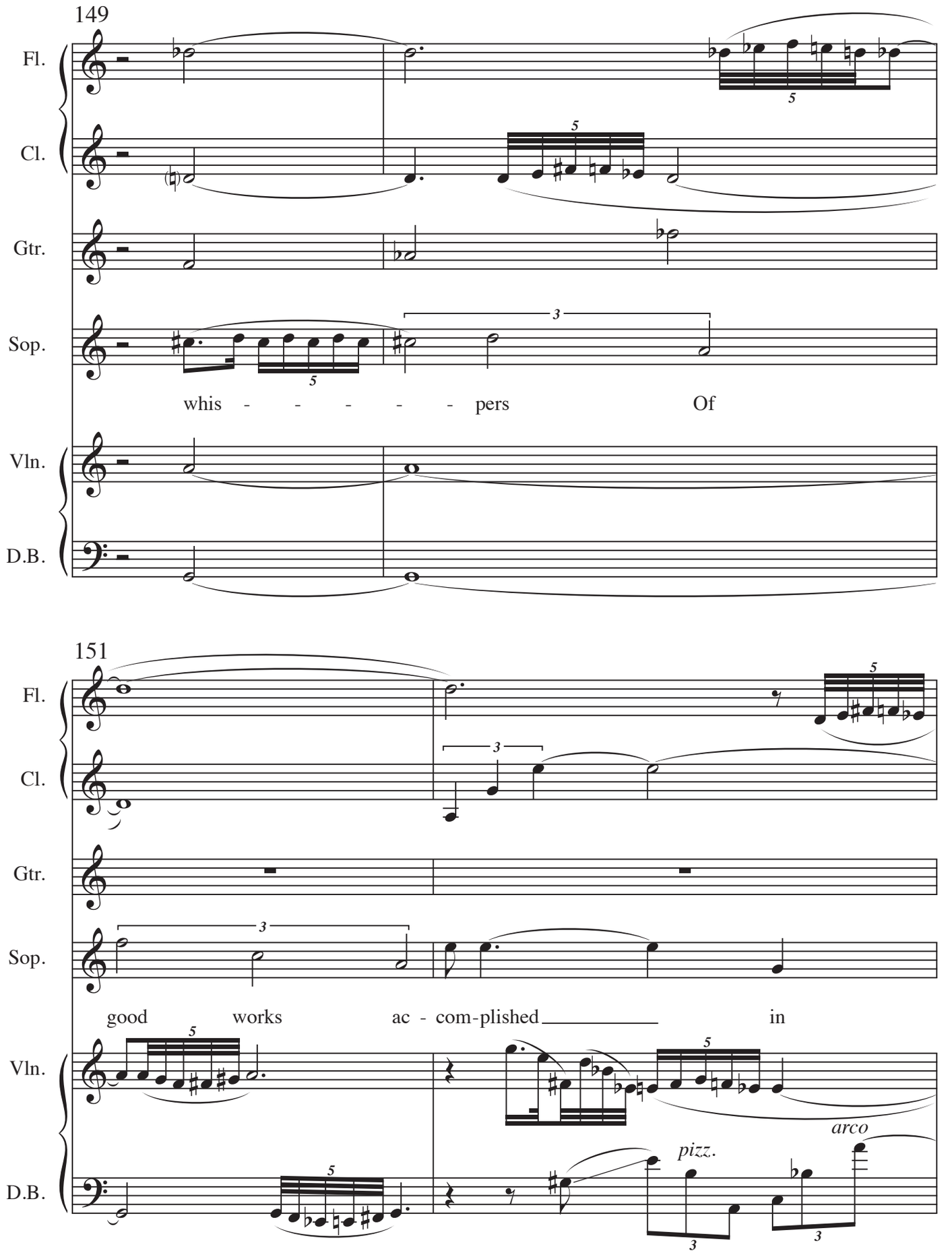

128
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
sire.
Vln.
D.B.

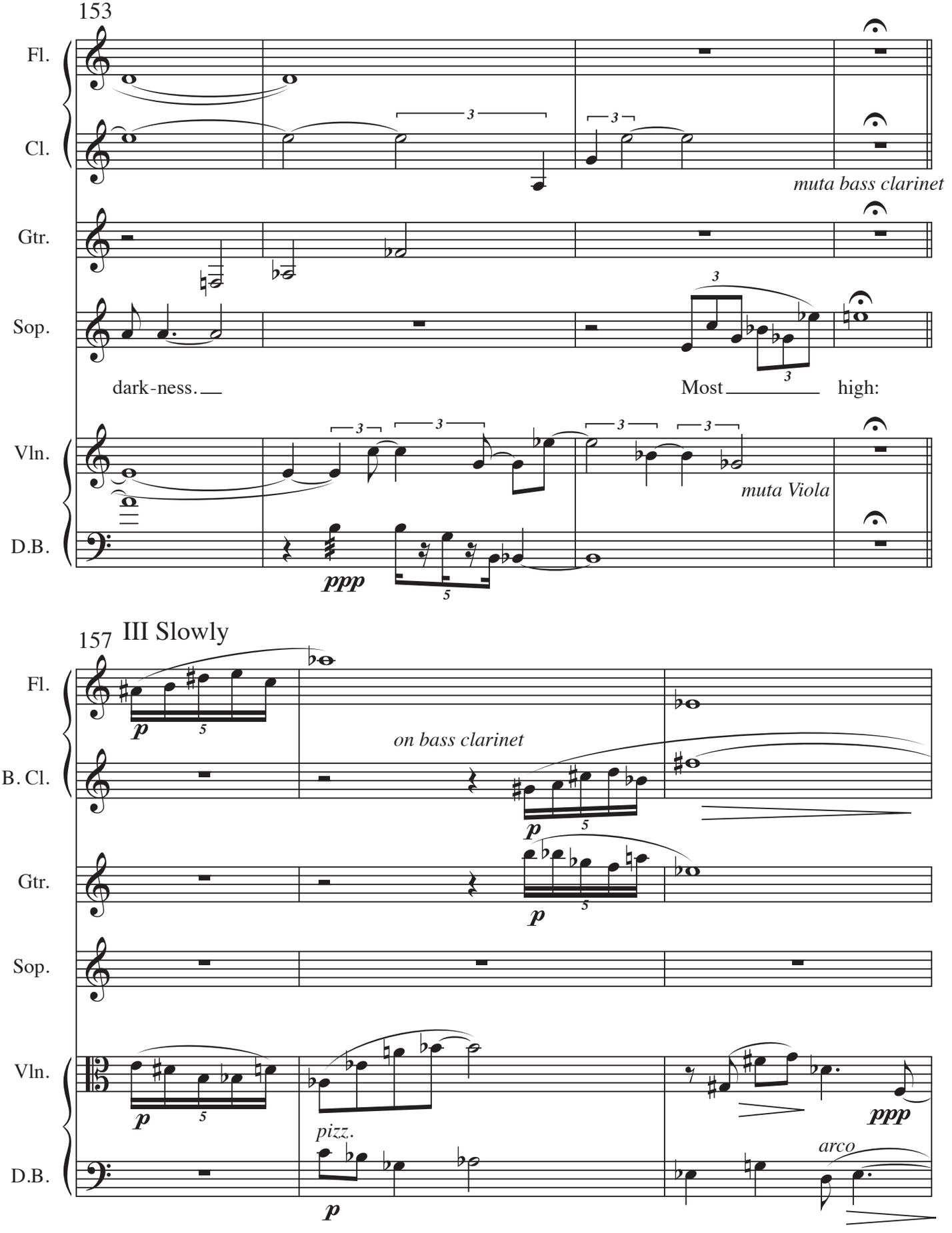

130
rall.
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
At noon each bush
Vln.
D.B.

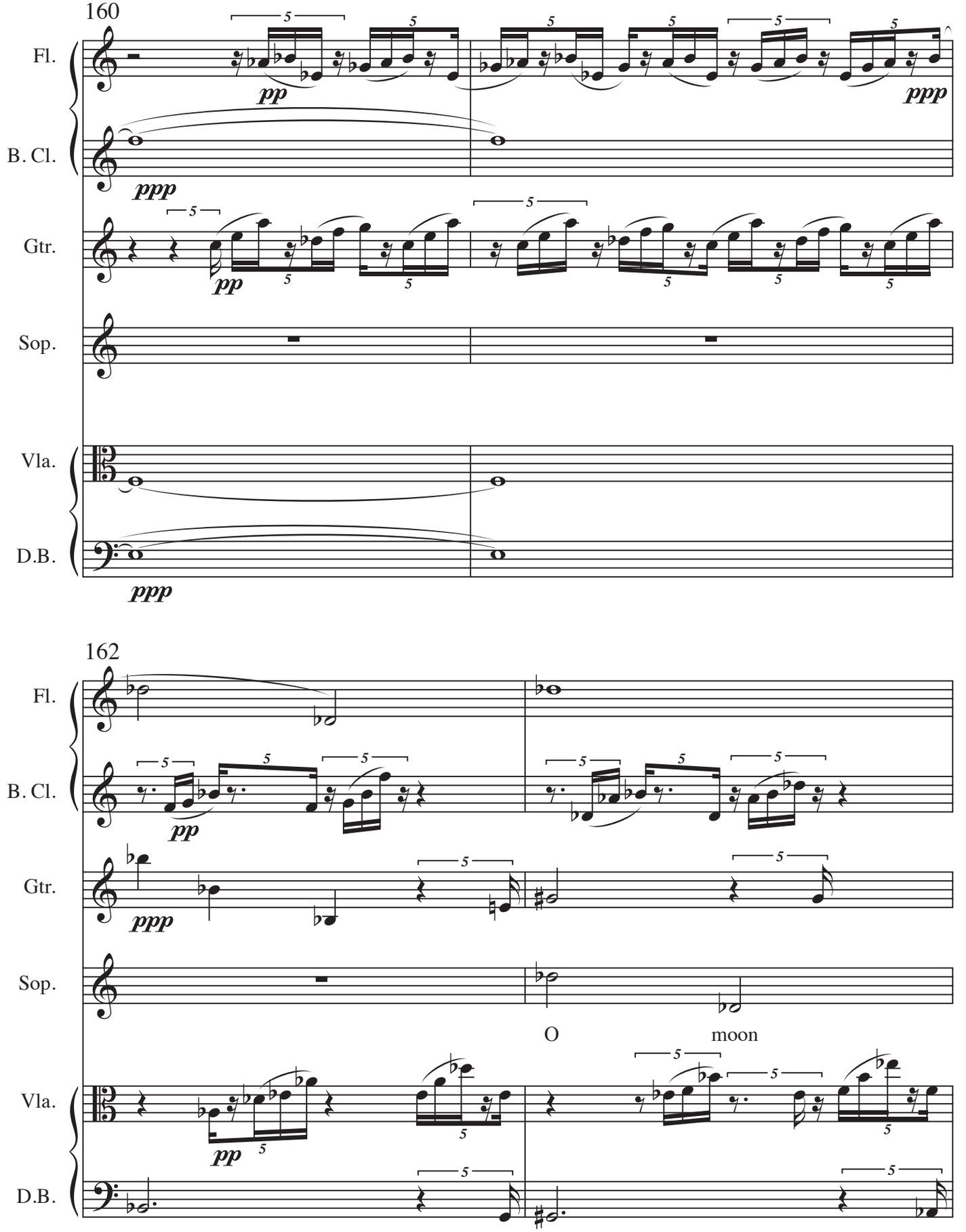

132
a little slower
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
a tempo
Sop.
a tempo
burns
to em - brace.
Vln.
pp
D.B.
pp
135
Fl.
pp
Cl.
pp
Gtr.
pp
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.

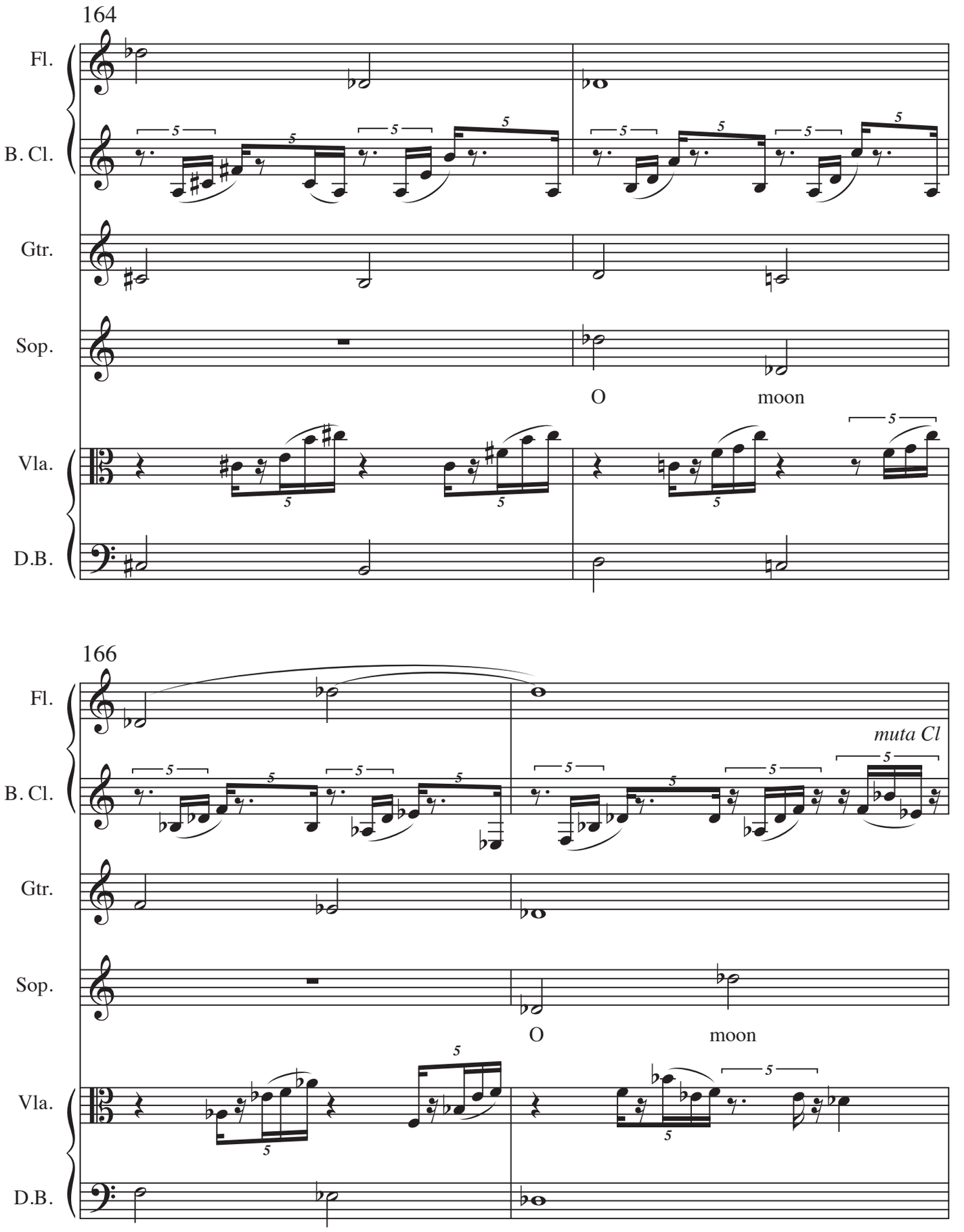

138
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
D.B.
142
Slowly, mysteriously, tempo I°
pp
p
At night
At night

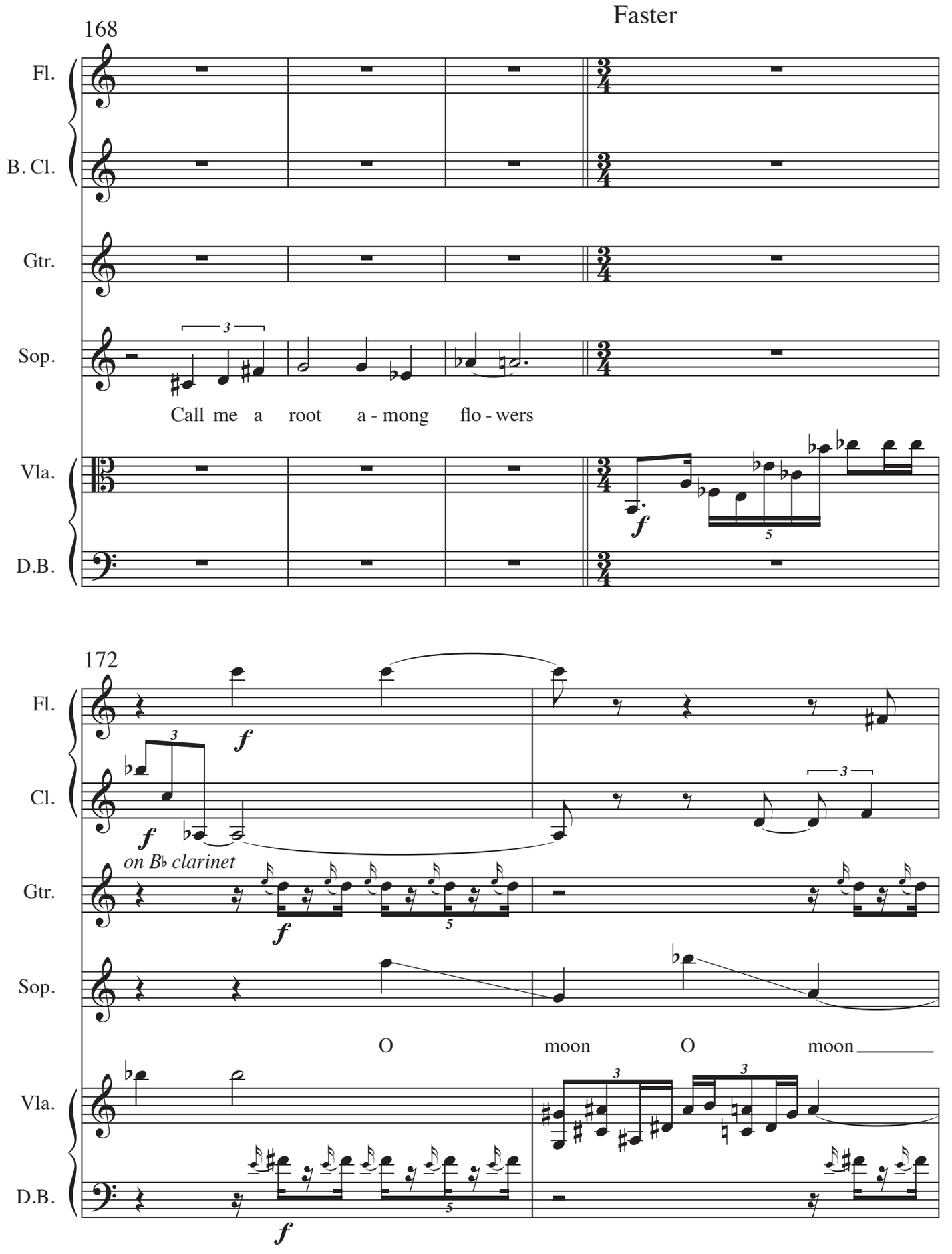

145
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
the dark - - ness whis-pers
Vln.
sul pont.
sul pont.
D.B.
147
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
the dark - - - - ness whis - pers
Vln.
D.B.

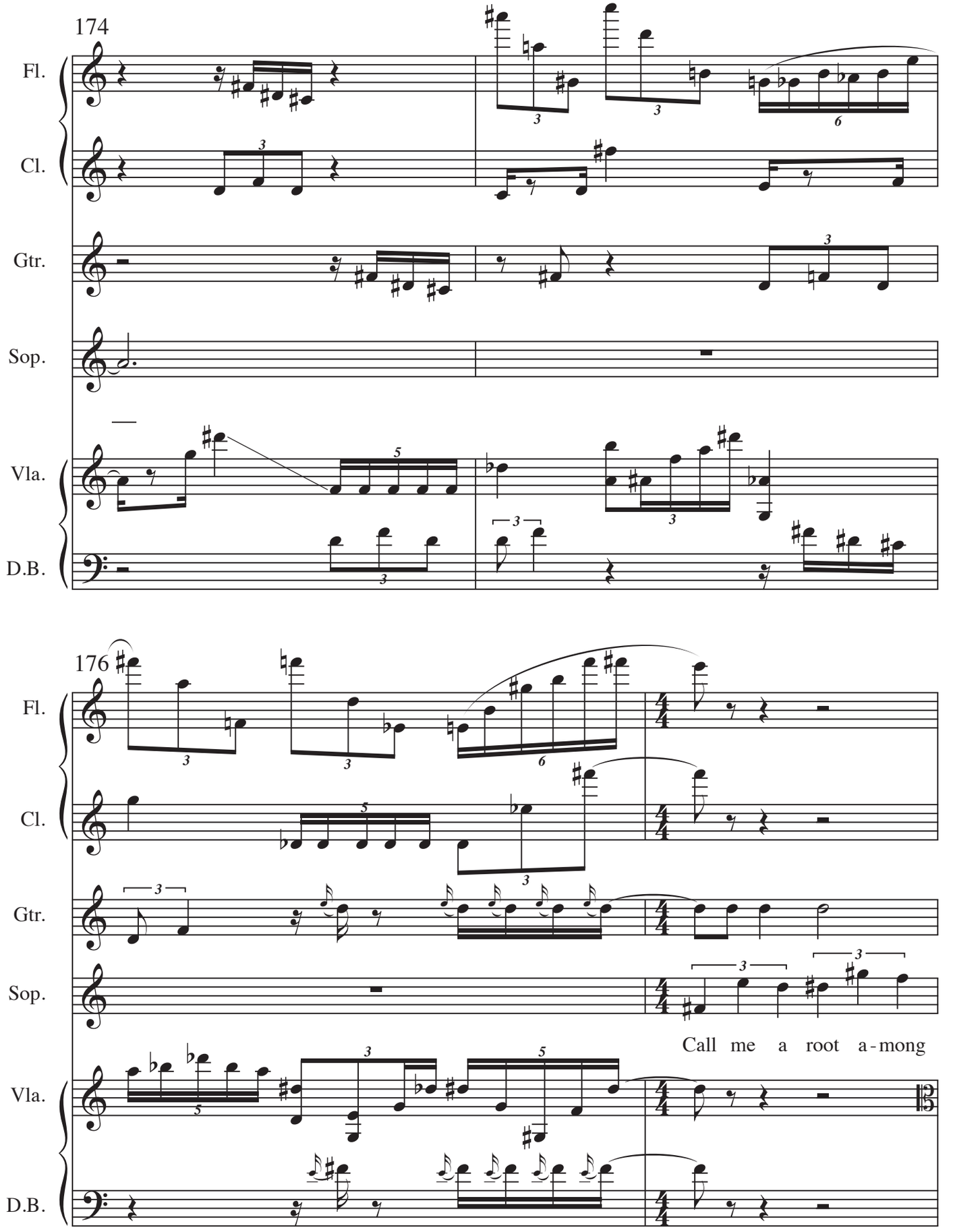

149
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
whis - - - - - - pers Of
Vln.
D.B.
151
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
good works ac - com-plished in
Vln.
arco
pizz.
D.B.

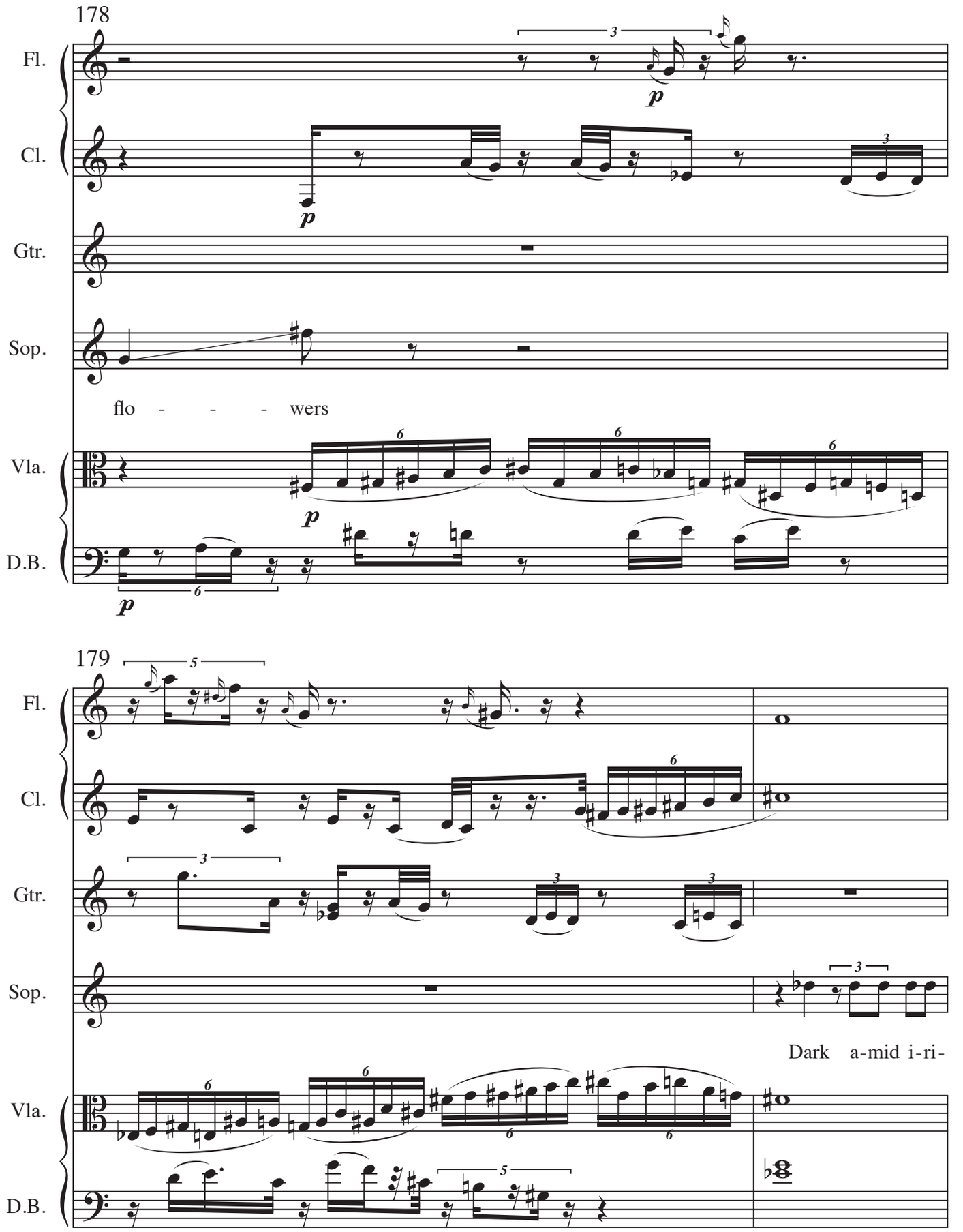

153
Fl.
Cl.
muta bass clarinet
Gtr.
Sop.
dark-ness.
Most
high:
Vln.
muta Viola
D.B.
ppp
157
III Slowly
Fl.
B. Cl.
on bass clarinet
Gtr.
Sop.
Vln.
pizz.
arco
ppp
D.B.

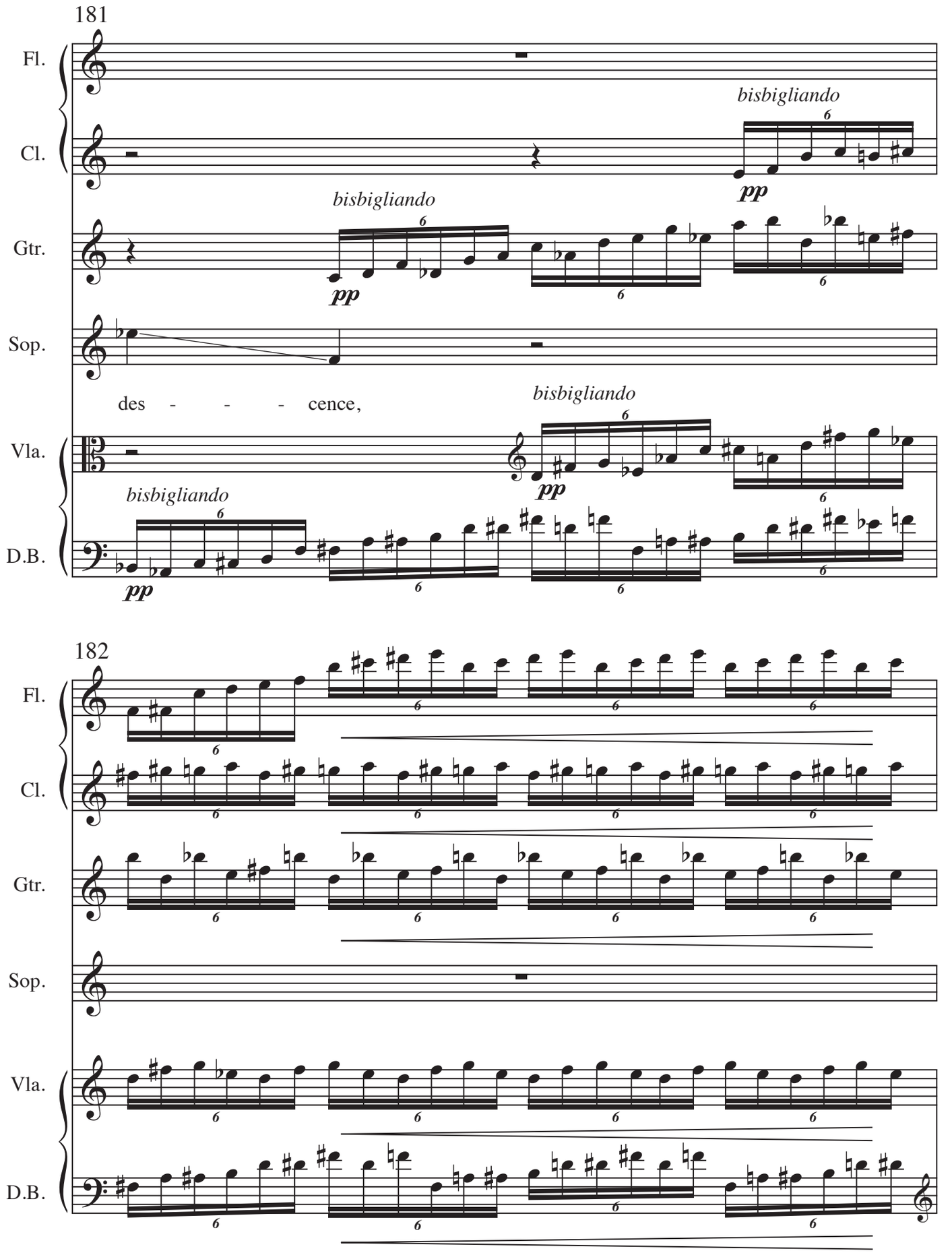

160
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vla.
D.B.
pp
ppp
162
O
moon

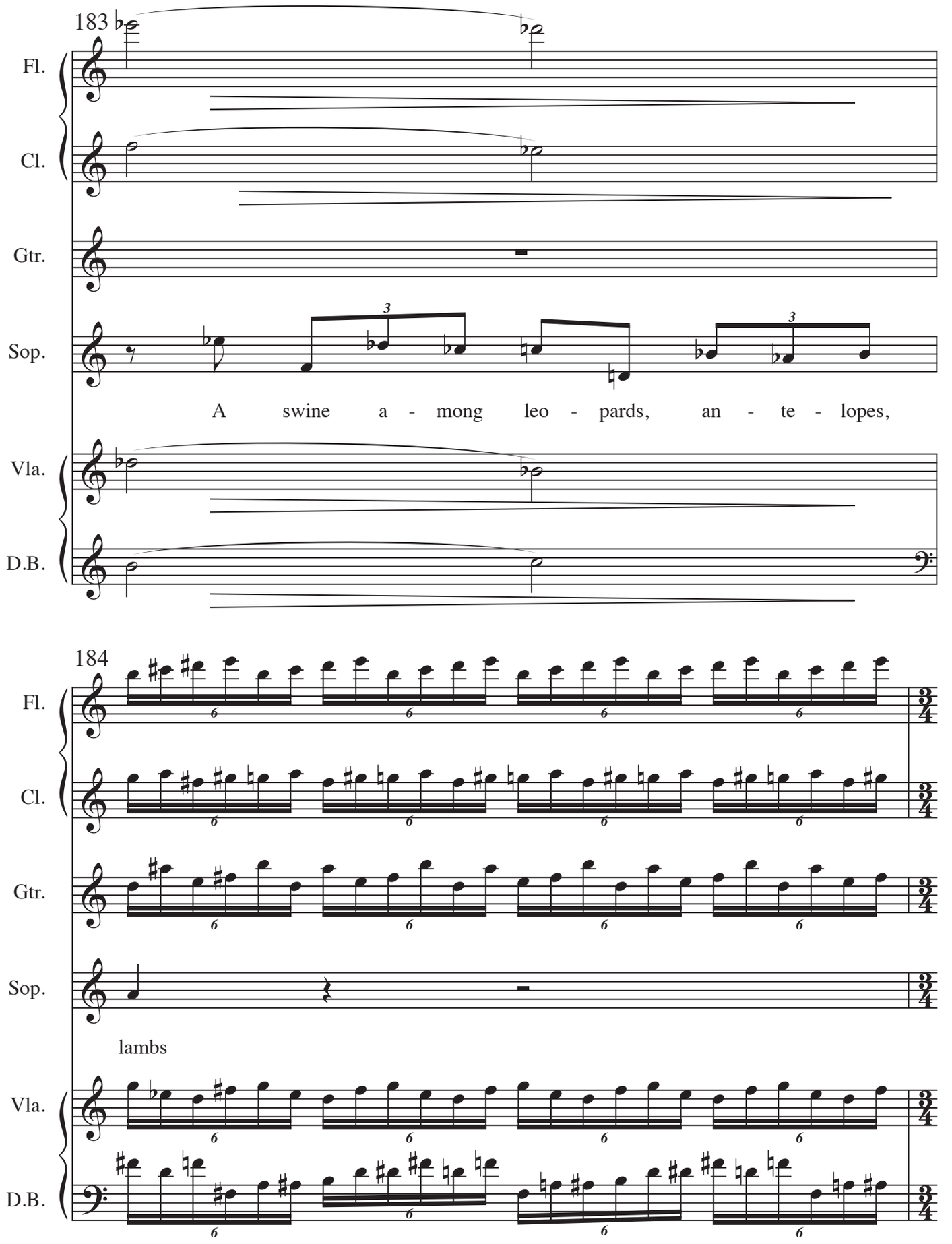

164
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
O
moon
Vla.
D.B.
166
Fl.
muta Cl
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
O
moon
Vla.
D.B.

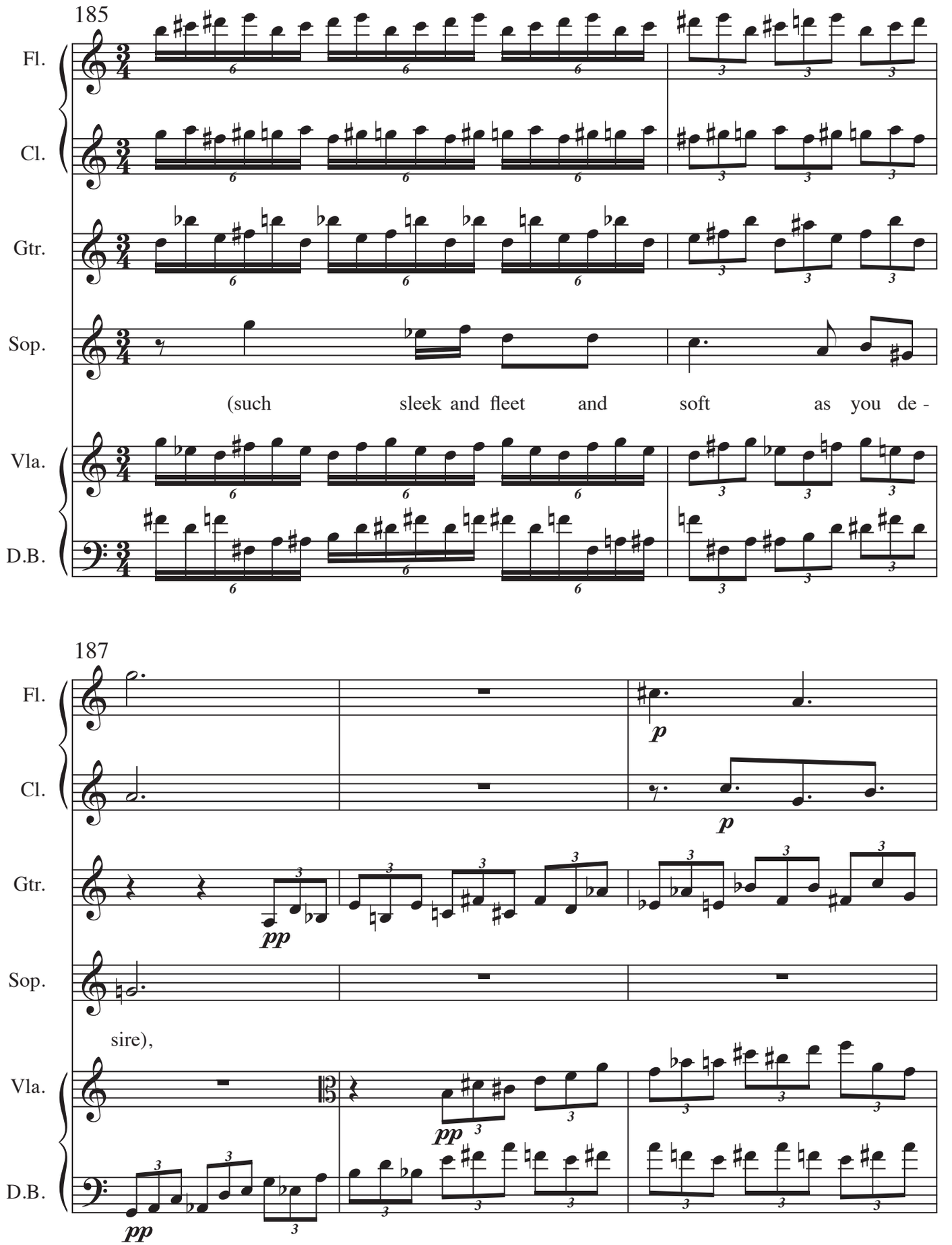

Faster
168
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Call me a root a - mong flo - wers
Vla.
D.B.
172
Fl.
Cl.
on B♭ clarinet
Gtr.
Sop.
O moon O moon
Vla.
D.B.

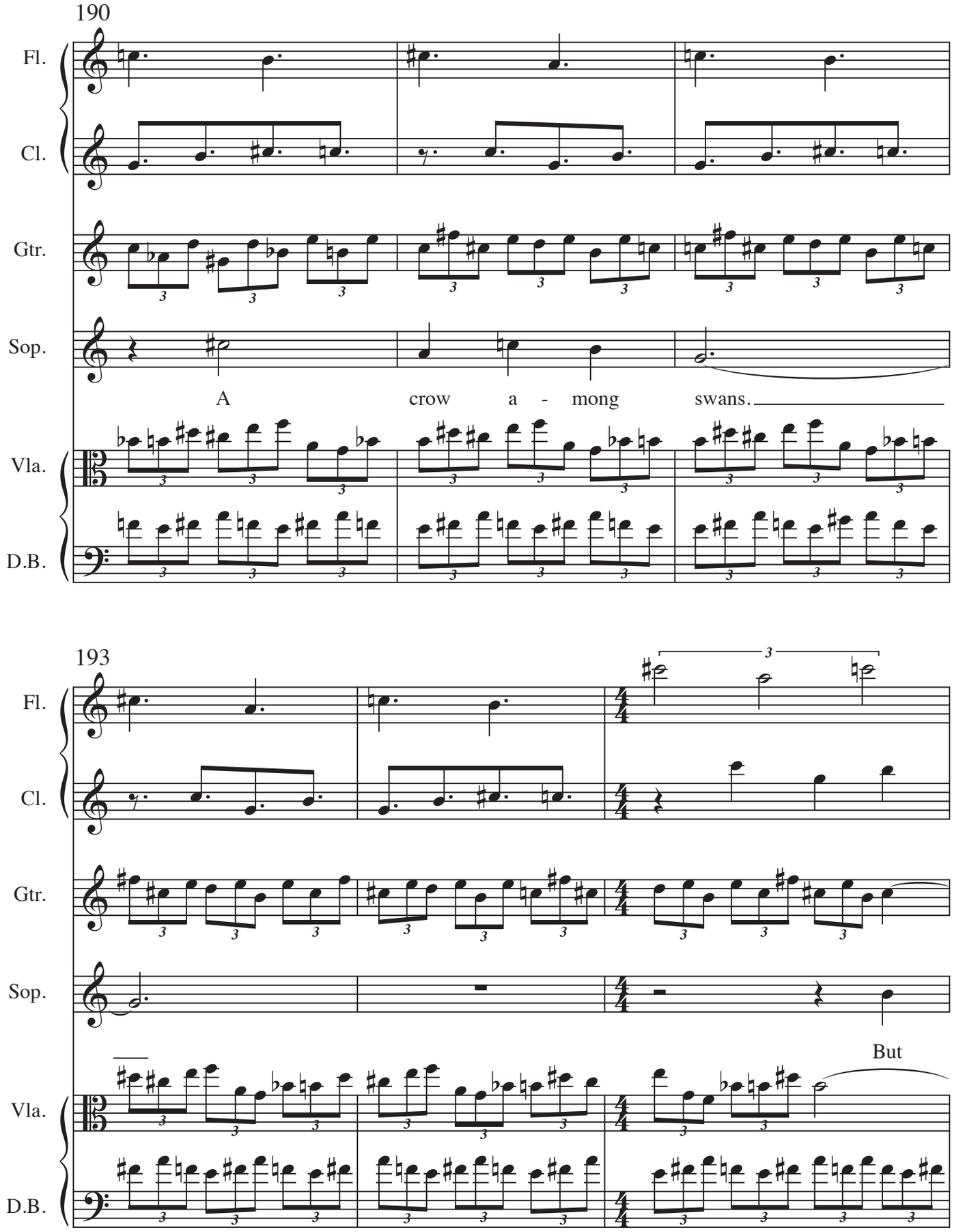

174
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vla.
D.B.
176
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Call me a root a-mong
Vla.
D.B.

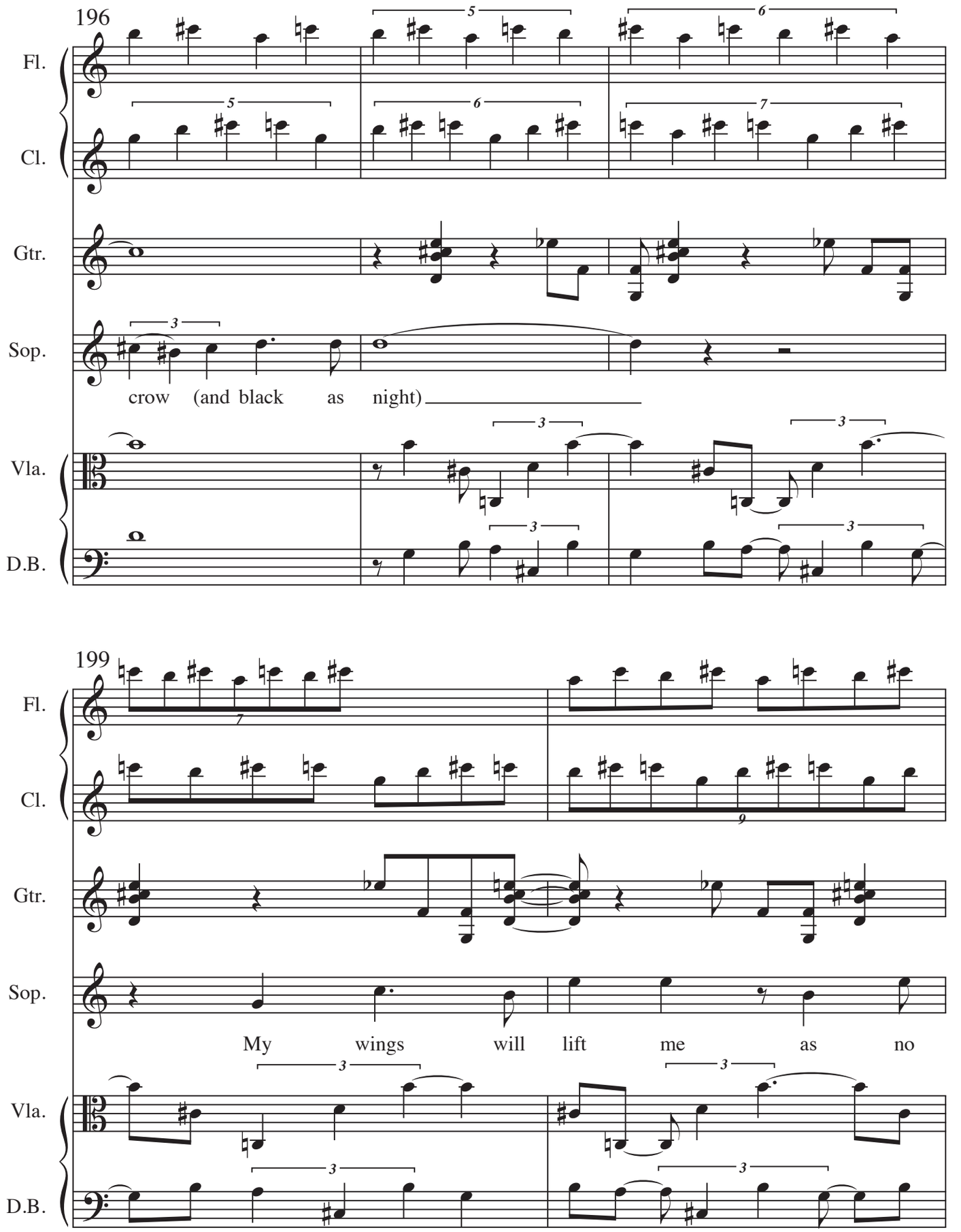

178
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
flo - - - - wers
Vla.
D.B.
179
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Dark a-mid i-ri-
Vla.
D.B.

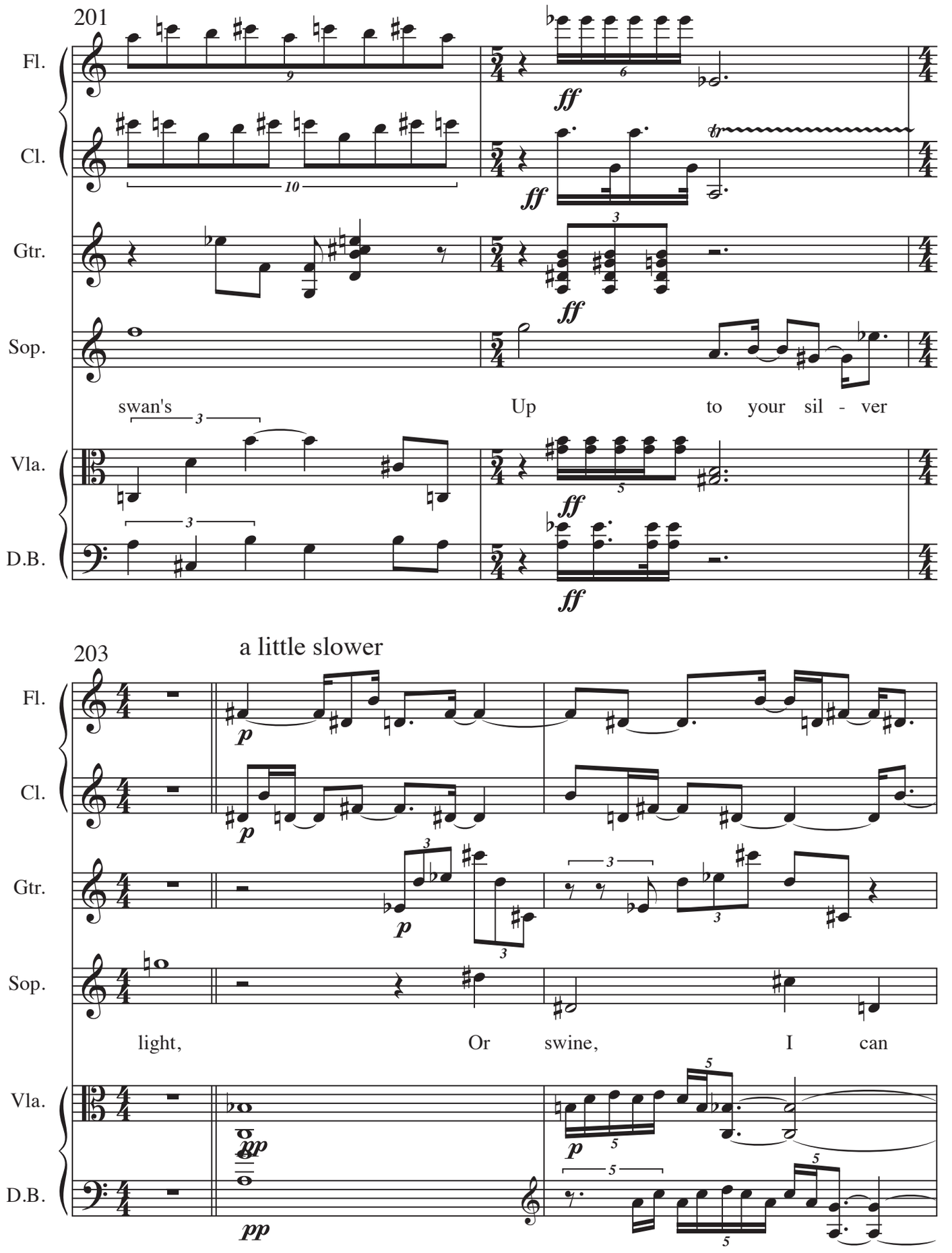

181
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vla.
D.B.
bisbigliando
pp
des - - - cence,
182

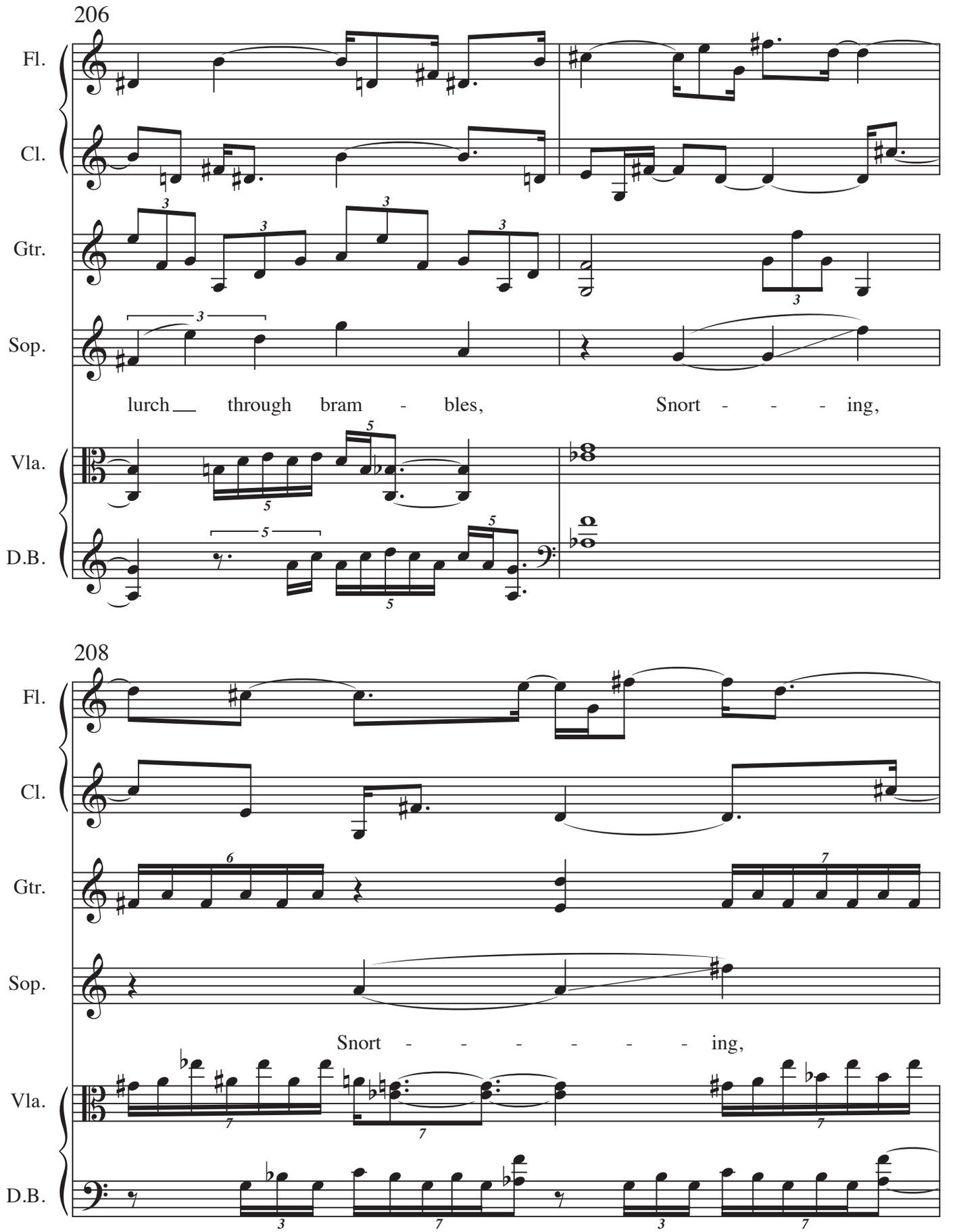

183
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
A swine a - mong leo - pards, an - te - lopes,
Vla.
D.B.
184
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
lambs
Vla.
D.B.

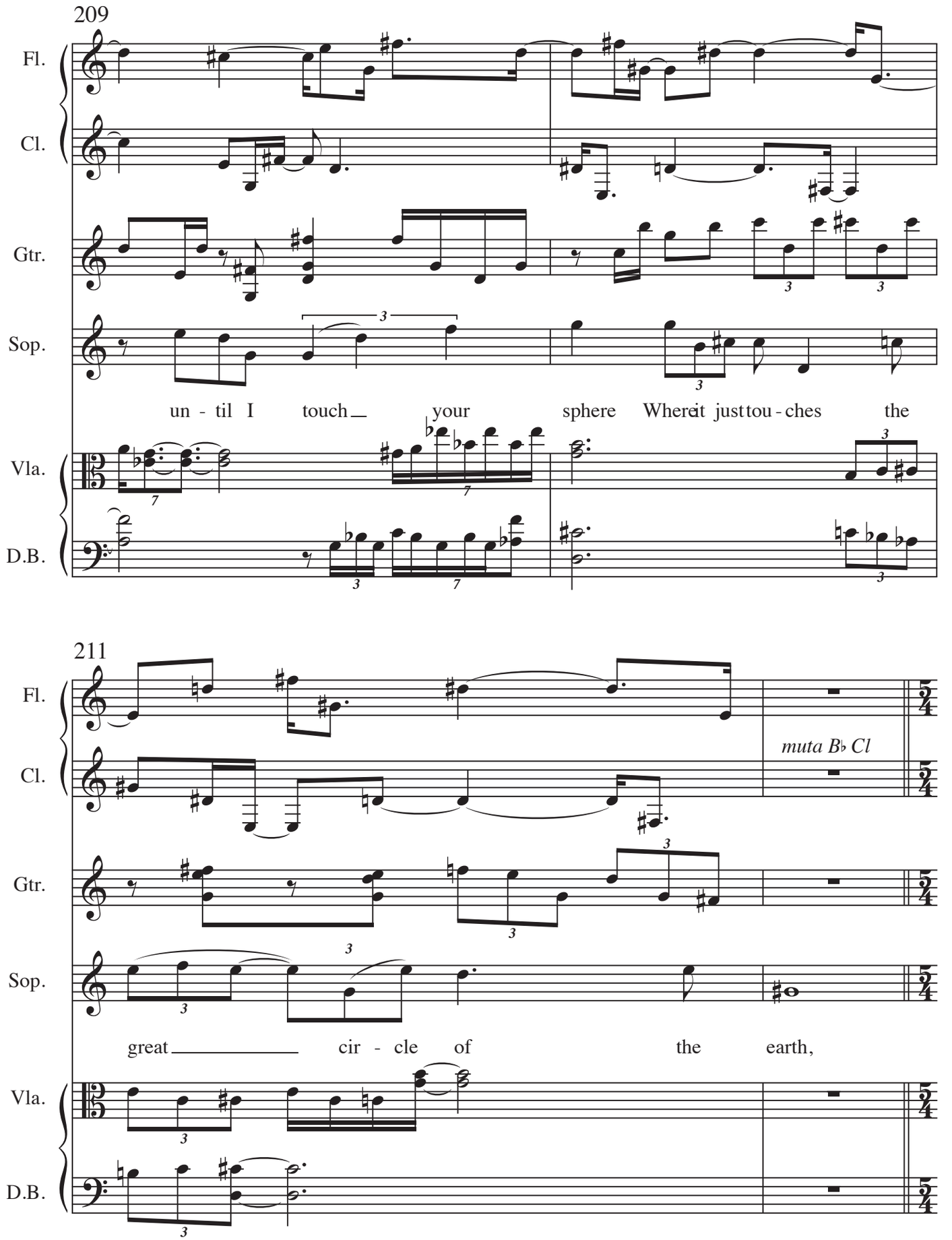

185
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
(such sleek and fleet and soft as you de -
Vla.
D.B.
187
Fl.
p
Cl.
p
Gtr.
pp
Sop.
sire),
Vla.
pp
D.B.
pp

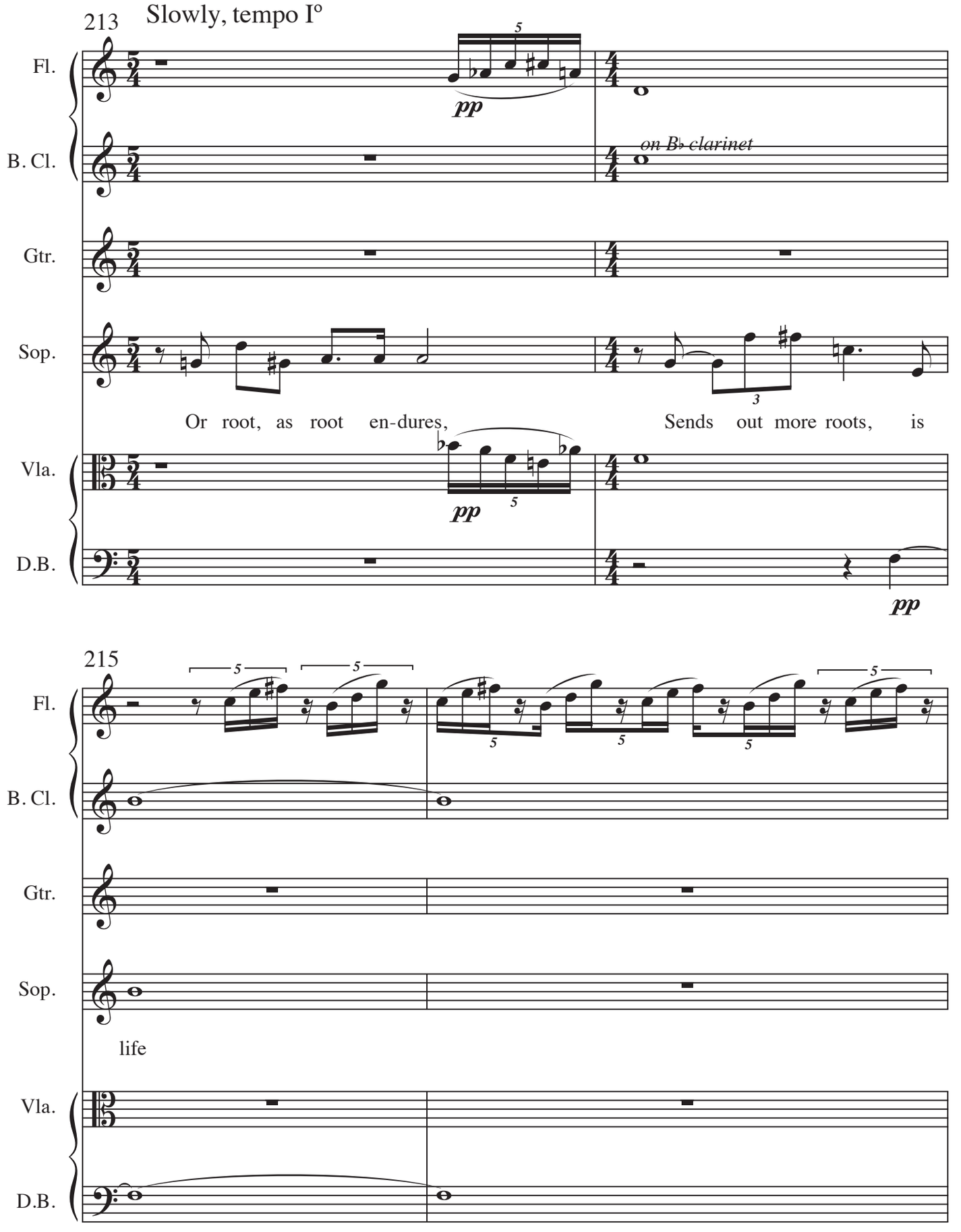

190
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
A crow a - mong swans.
Vla.
D.B.
193
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
But
Vla.
D.B.

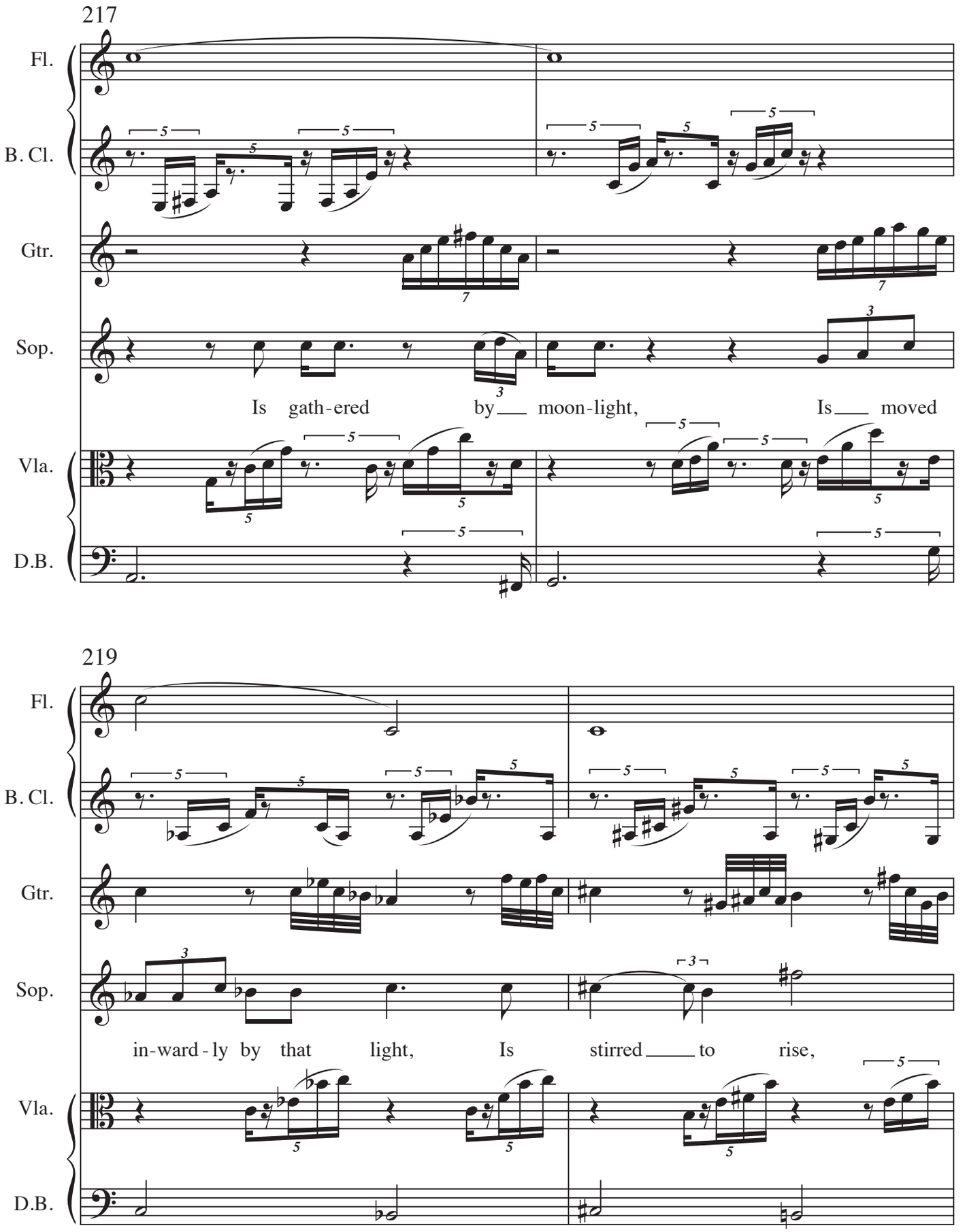

196
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
crow (and black as night)
Vla.
D.B.
199
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
My wings will lift me as no
Vla.
D.B.

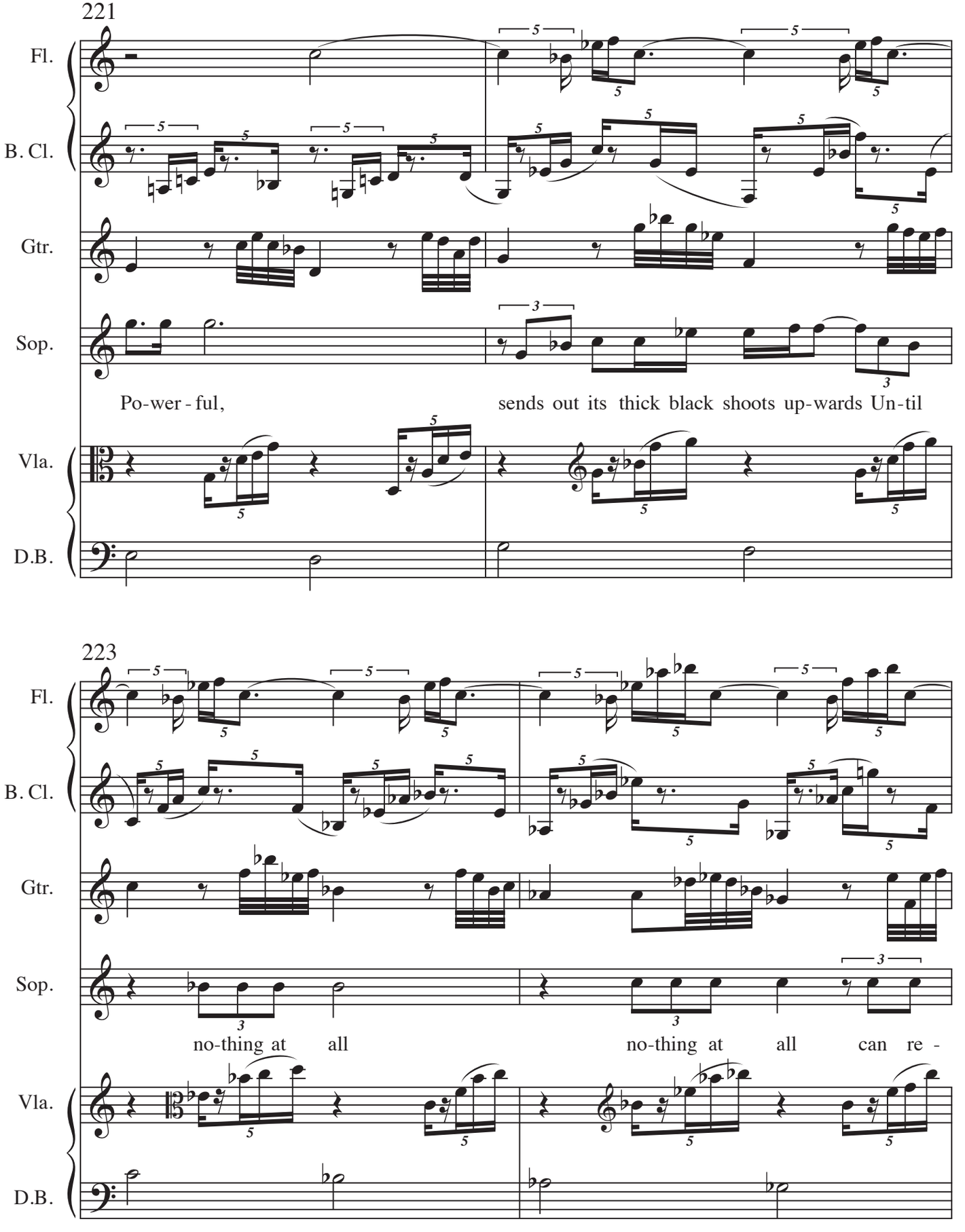

201
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
swan's
Up to your sil - ver
Vla.
D.B.
203
a little slower
light,
Or swine,
I can

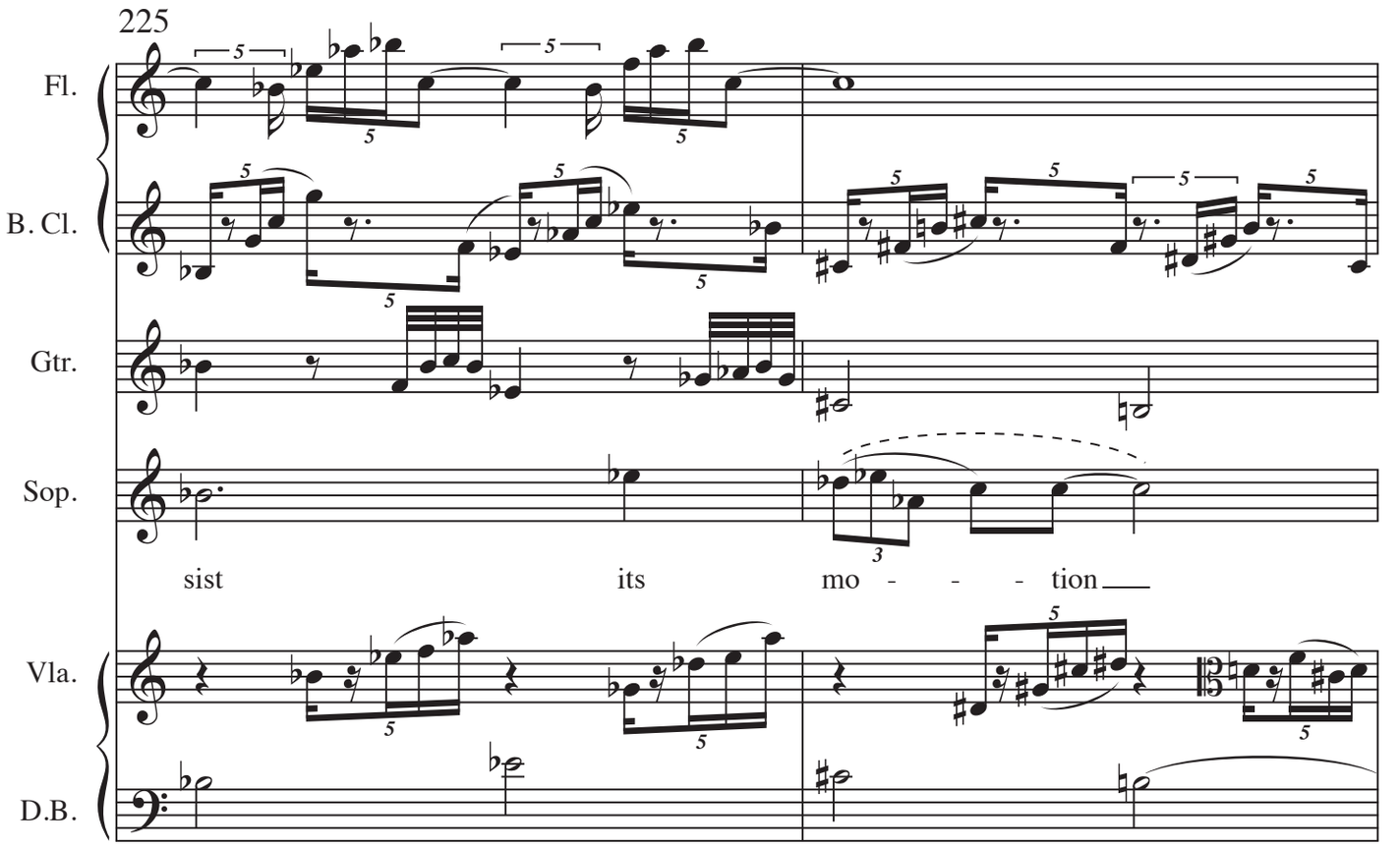

206
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
lurch through bram - bles, Snort - - - ing,
Vla.
D.B.
208
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Snort - - - - - - ing,
Vla.
D.B.

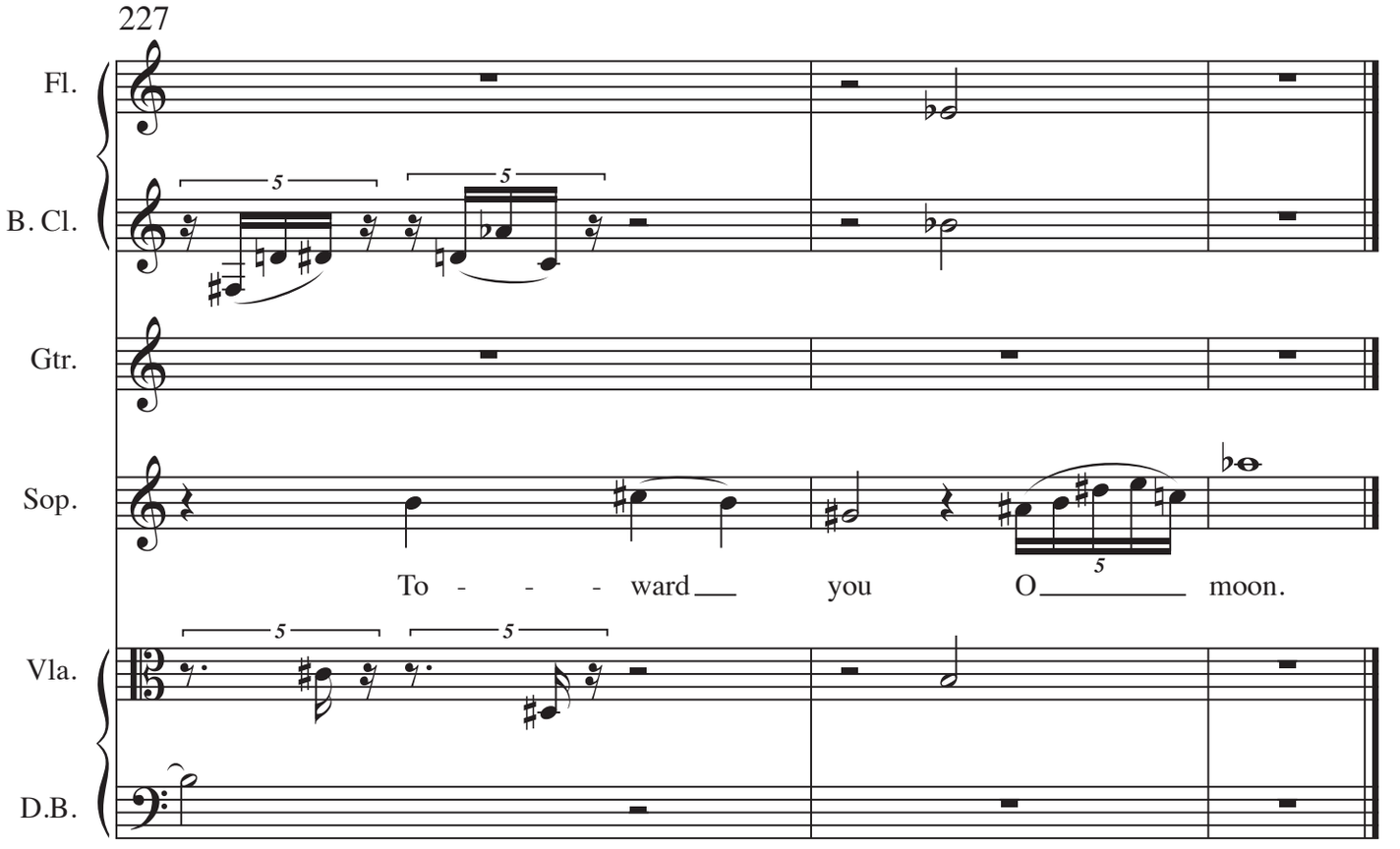

209
Fl.
Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
un - til I touch your sphere Where it just tou - ches the
Vla.
D.B.
211
Fl.
Cl.
muta B♭ Cl
Gtr.
Sop.
great cir - cle of the earth,
Vla.
D.B.


213
Slowly, tempo Iº
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Vla.
D.B.
pp
on B♭ clarinet
Or root, as root en-dures,
Sends out more roots, is
215
life


217
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Is gath-ered by moon-light, Is moved
Vla.
D.B.
219
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
in-ward-ly by that light, Is stirred to rise,
Vla.
D.B.


221
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
Po-wer - ful,
sends out its thick black shoots up-wards Un-til
Vla.
D.B.
223
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
no-thing at all
no-thing at all can re -
Vla.
D.B.


225
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
sist its mo - - - tion
Vla.
D.B.


227
Fl.
B. Cl.
Gtr.
Sop.
To - - - ward you O moon.
Vla.
D.B.