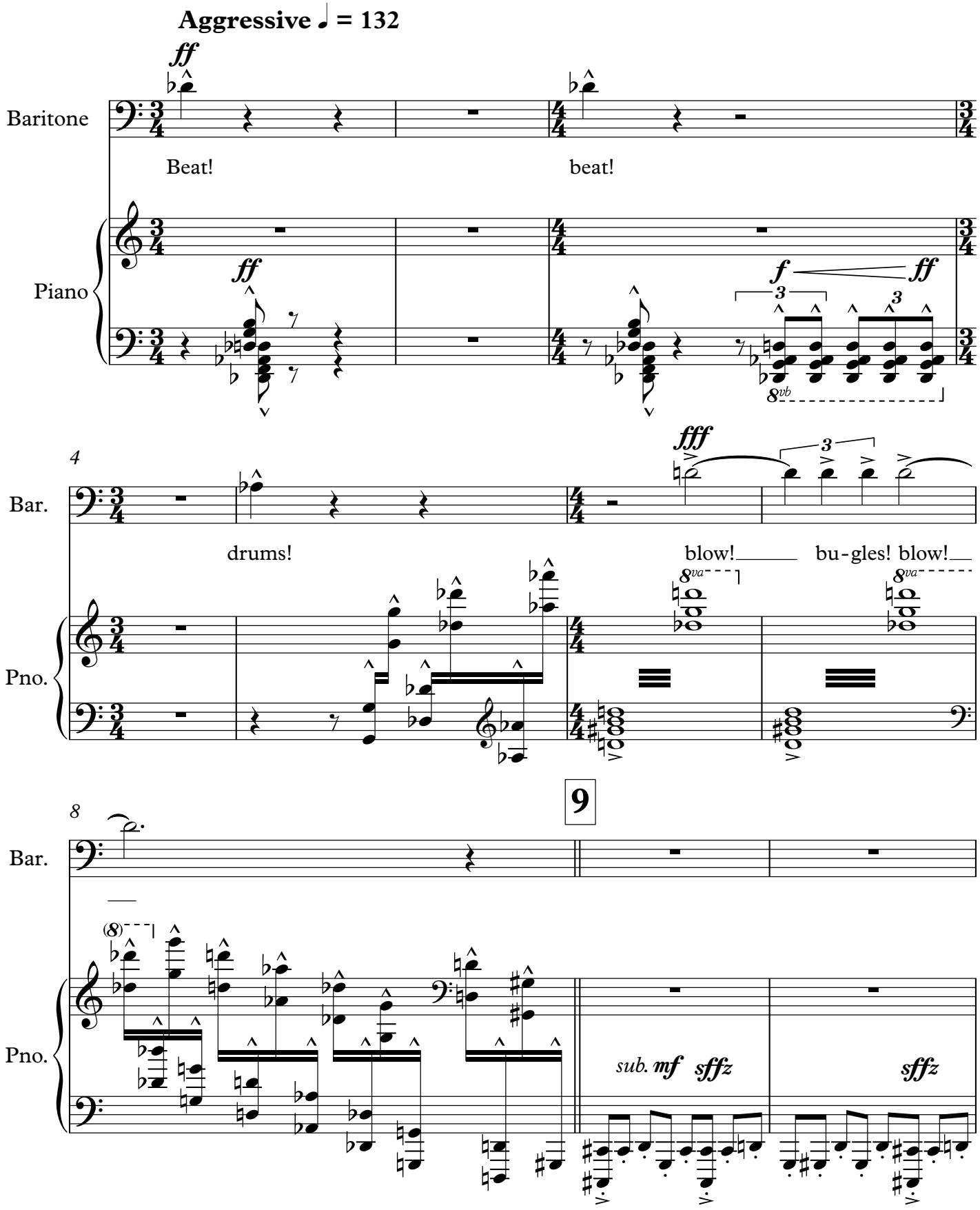
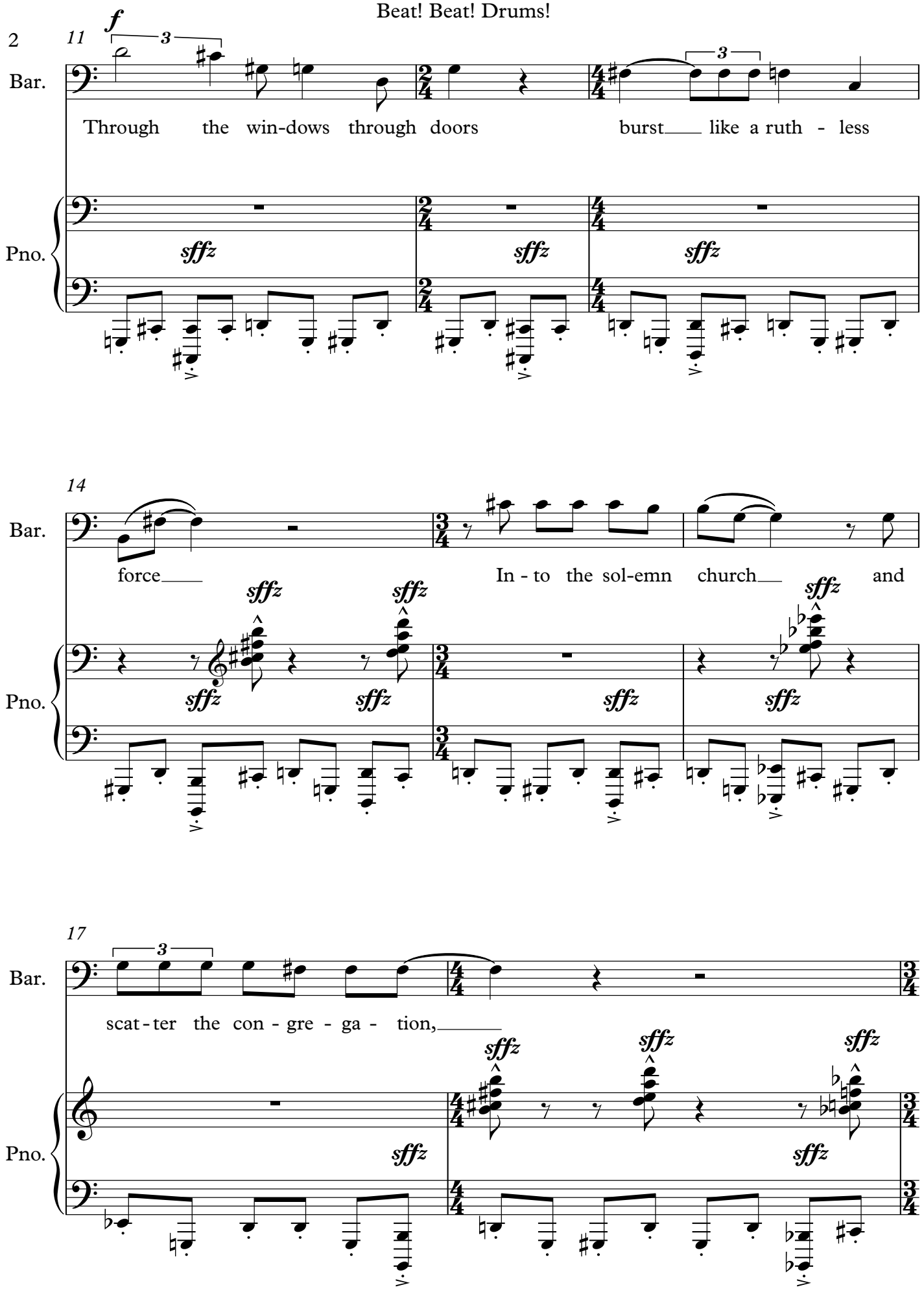
Beat! Beat! Drums!

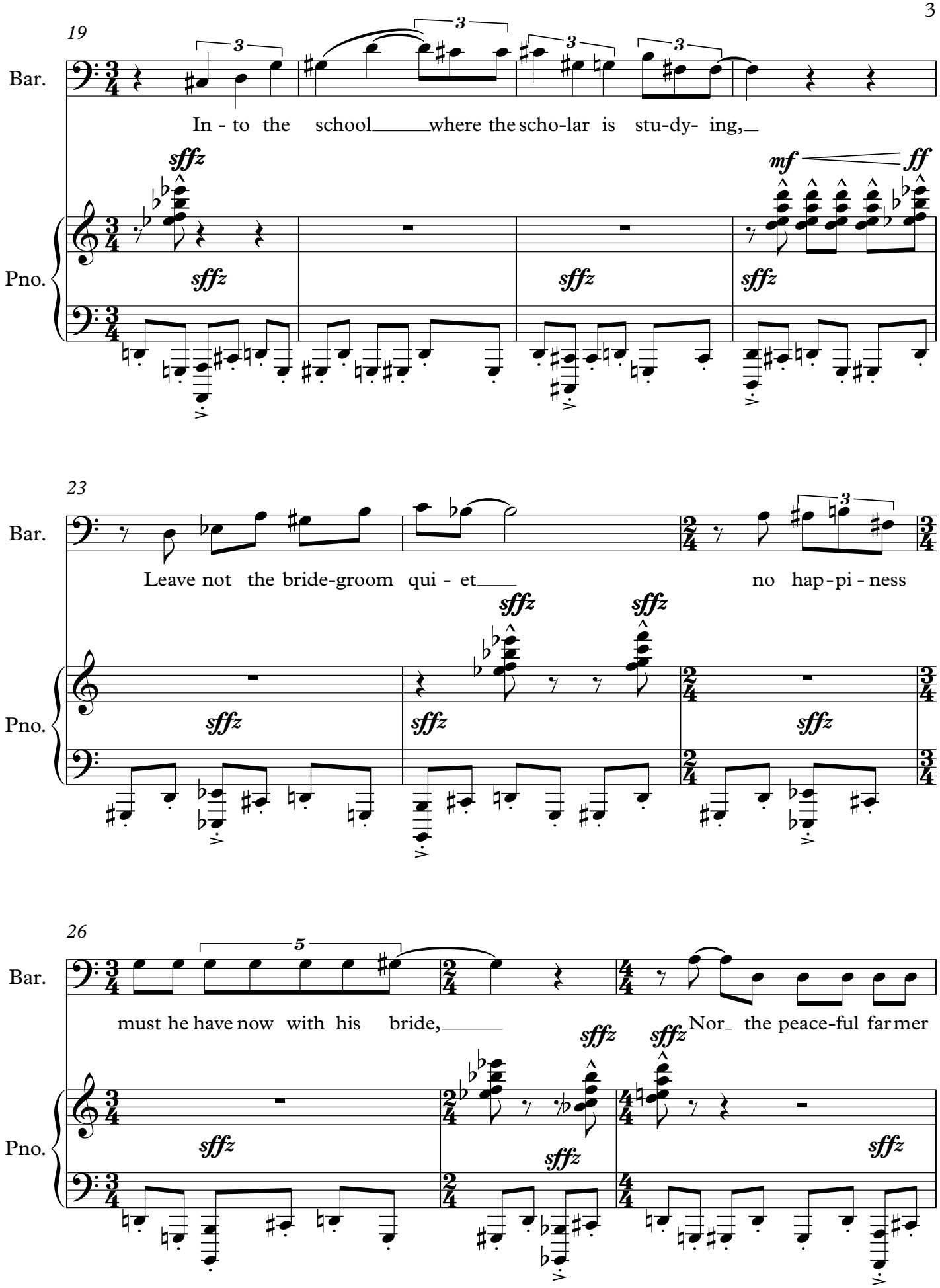
for Baritone and Piano

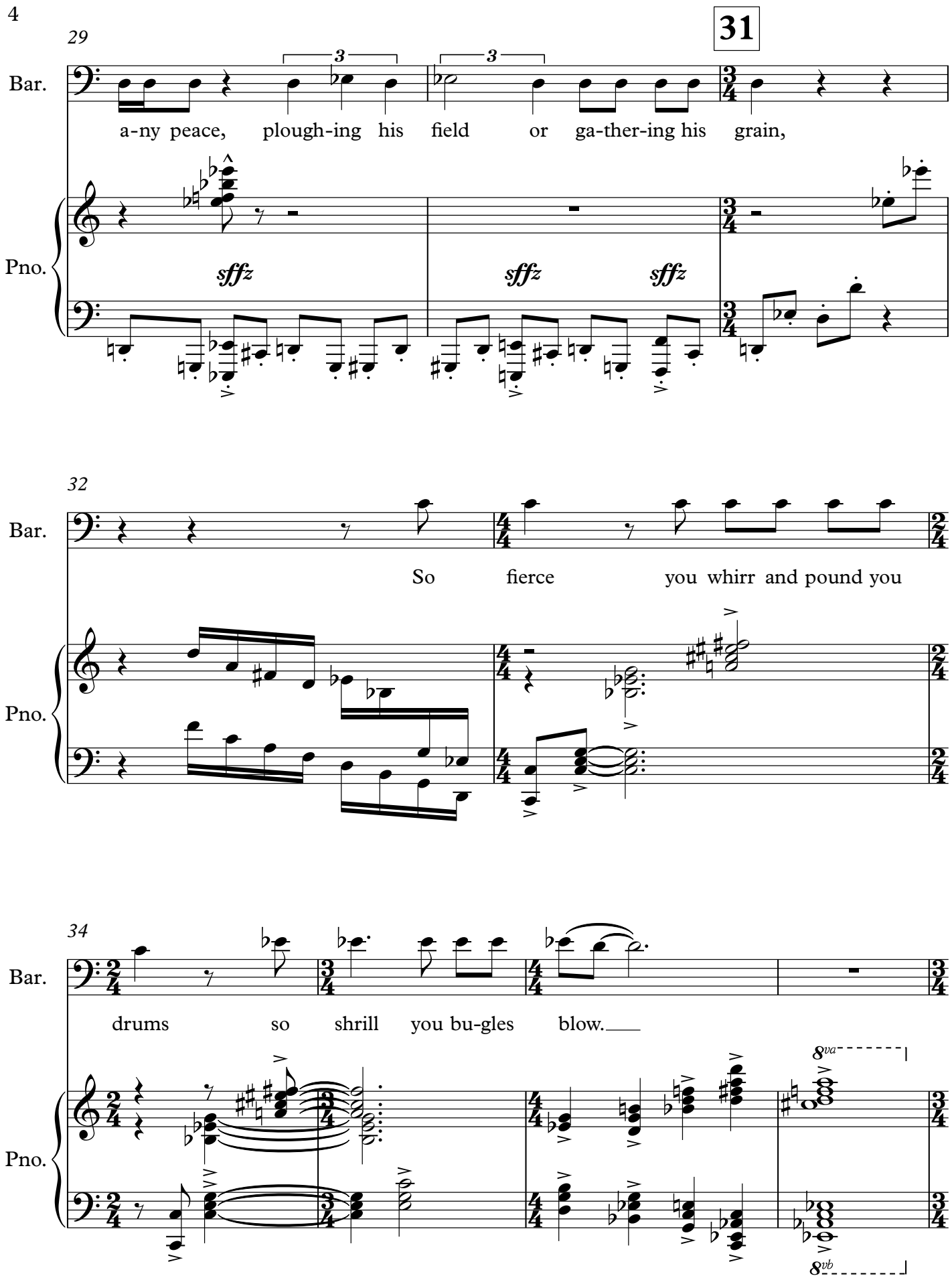
Walt Whitman

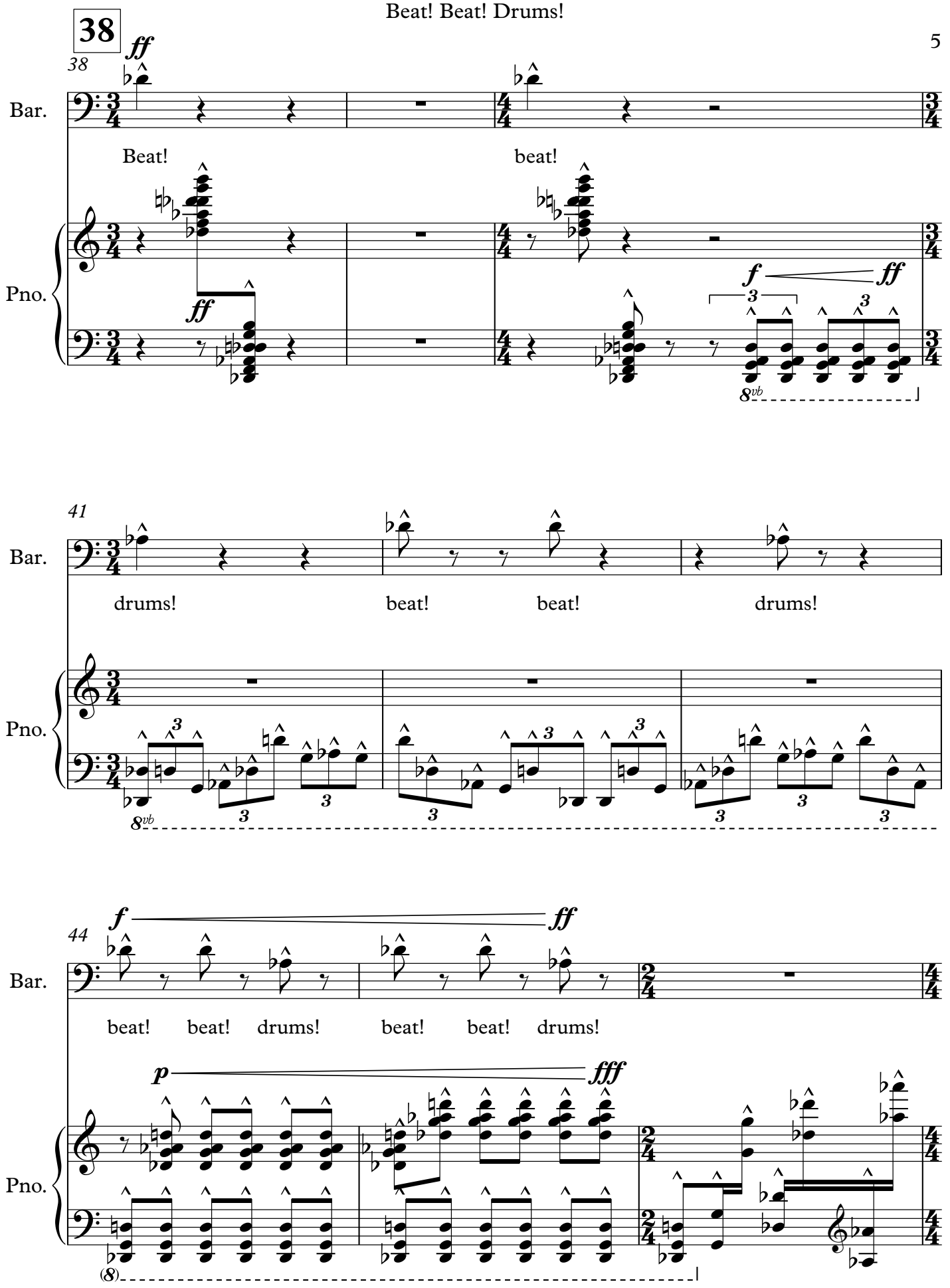
Matt Browne

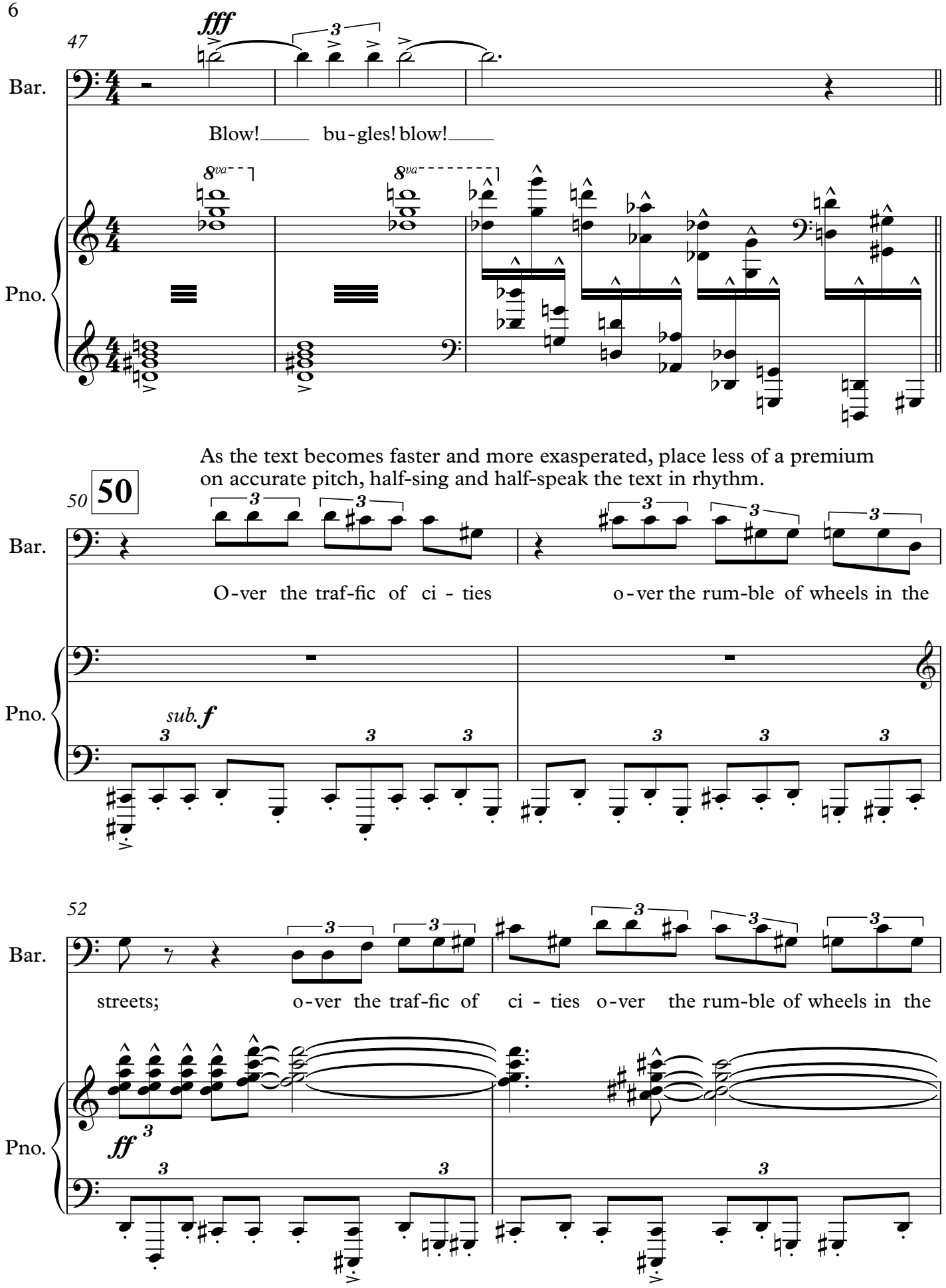


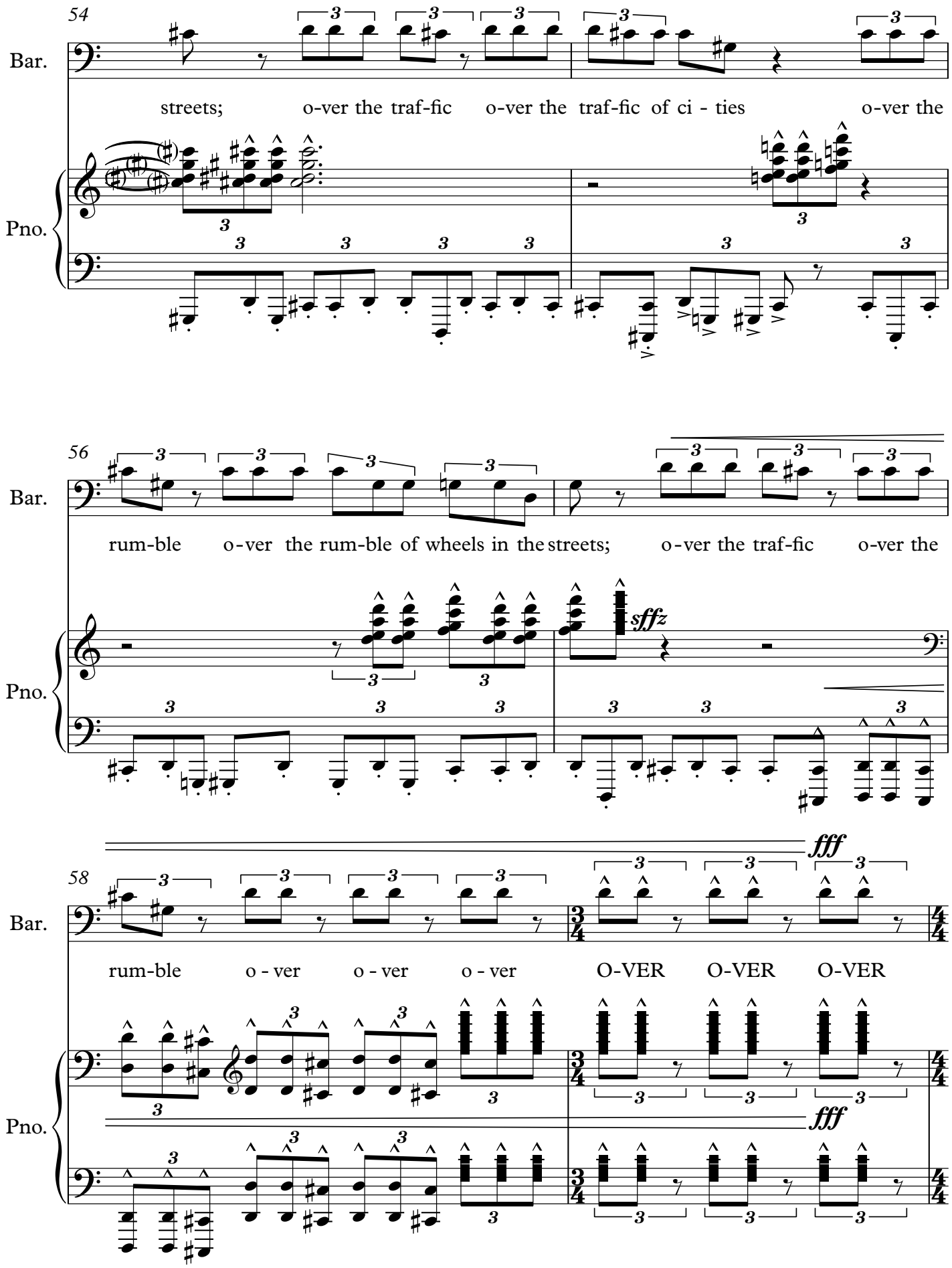

11
Bar.
Through the win-dows through doors burst like a ruth - less
Pno.
14
Bar.
force
In - to the sol-emn church and
Pno.
17
Bar.
scat - ter the con - gre - ga - tion,
Pno.

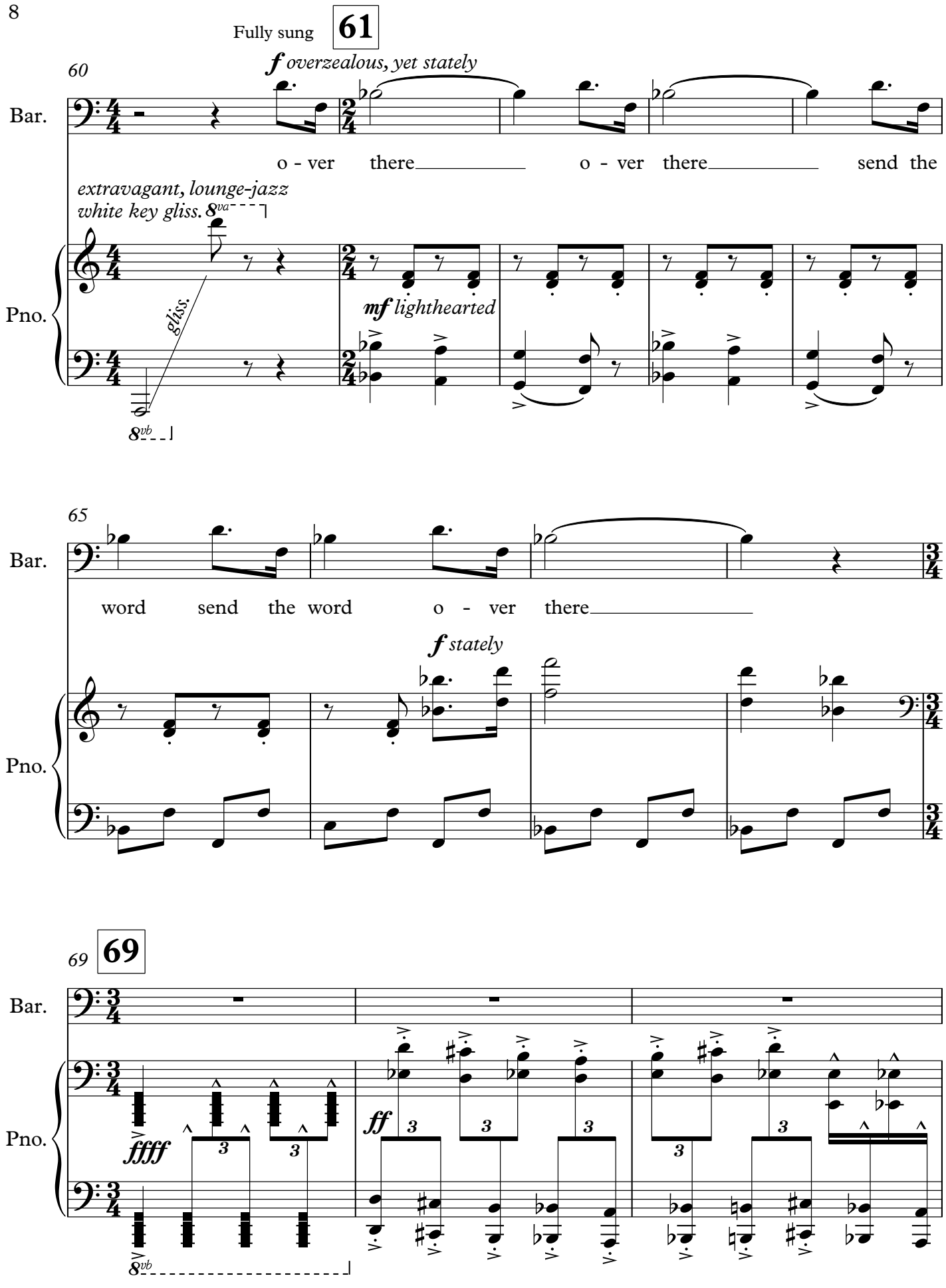

19
Bar.
In - to the school where the scho-lar is stu-dy- ing,
Pno.
sffz
mf
ff
23
Bar.
Leave not the bride-groom qui - et no hap - pi - ness
Pno.
26
Bar.
must he have now with his bride, Nor the peace-ful far mer
Pno.

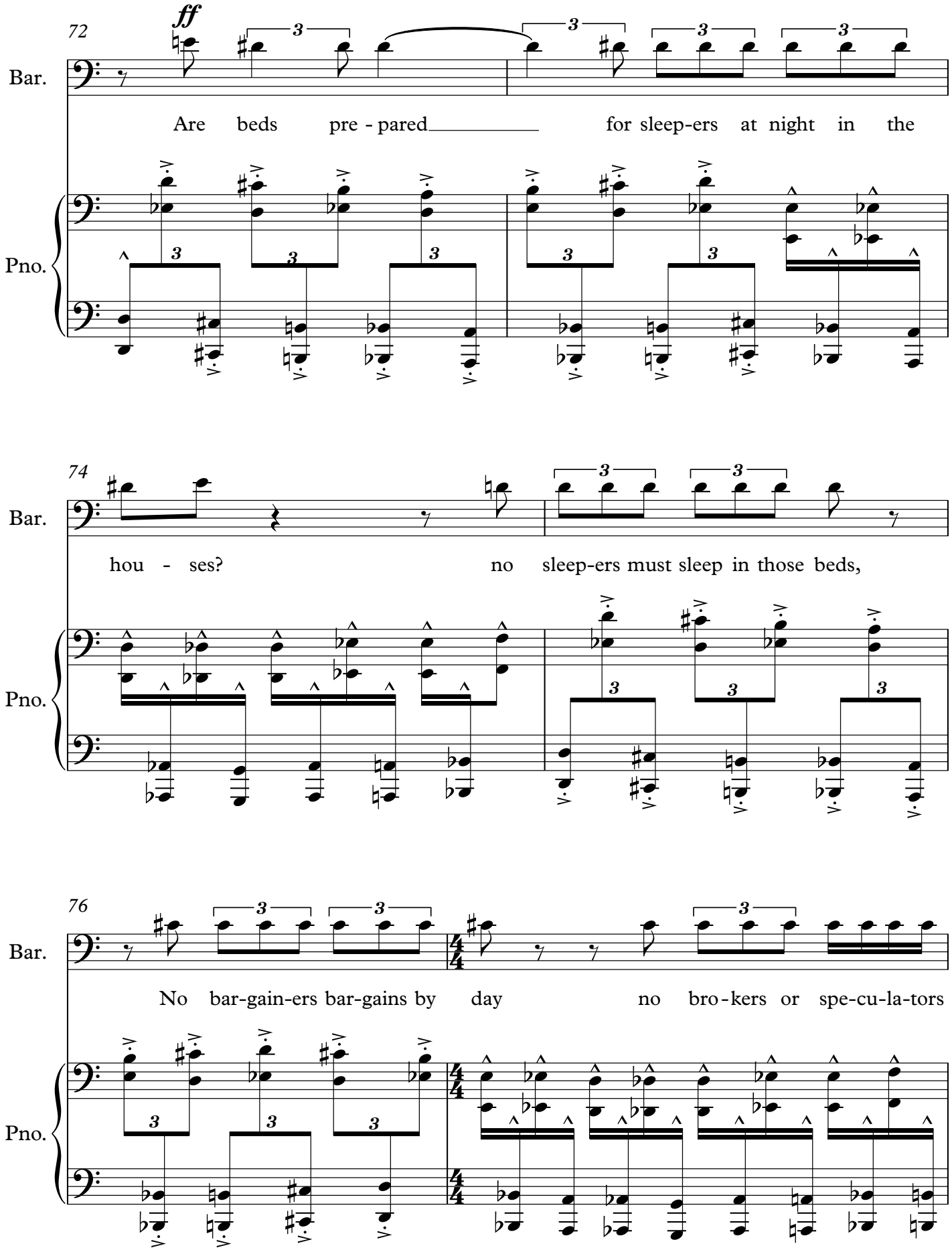

29
31
Bar.
a-ny peace, plough-ing his field or ga-ther-ing his grain,
Pno.
sffz
sffz
sffz
32
Bar.
So fierce you whirr and pound you
Pno.
34
Bar.
drums so shrill you bu-gles blow.
Pno.
8va
8vb

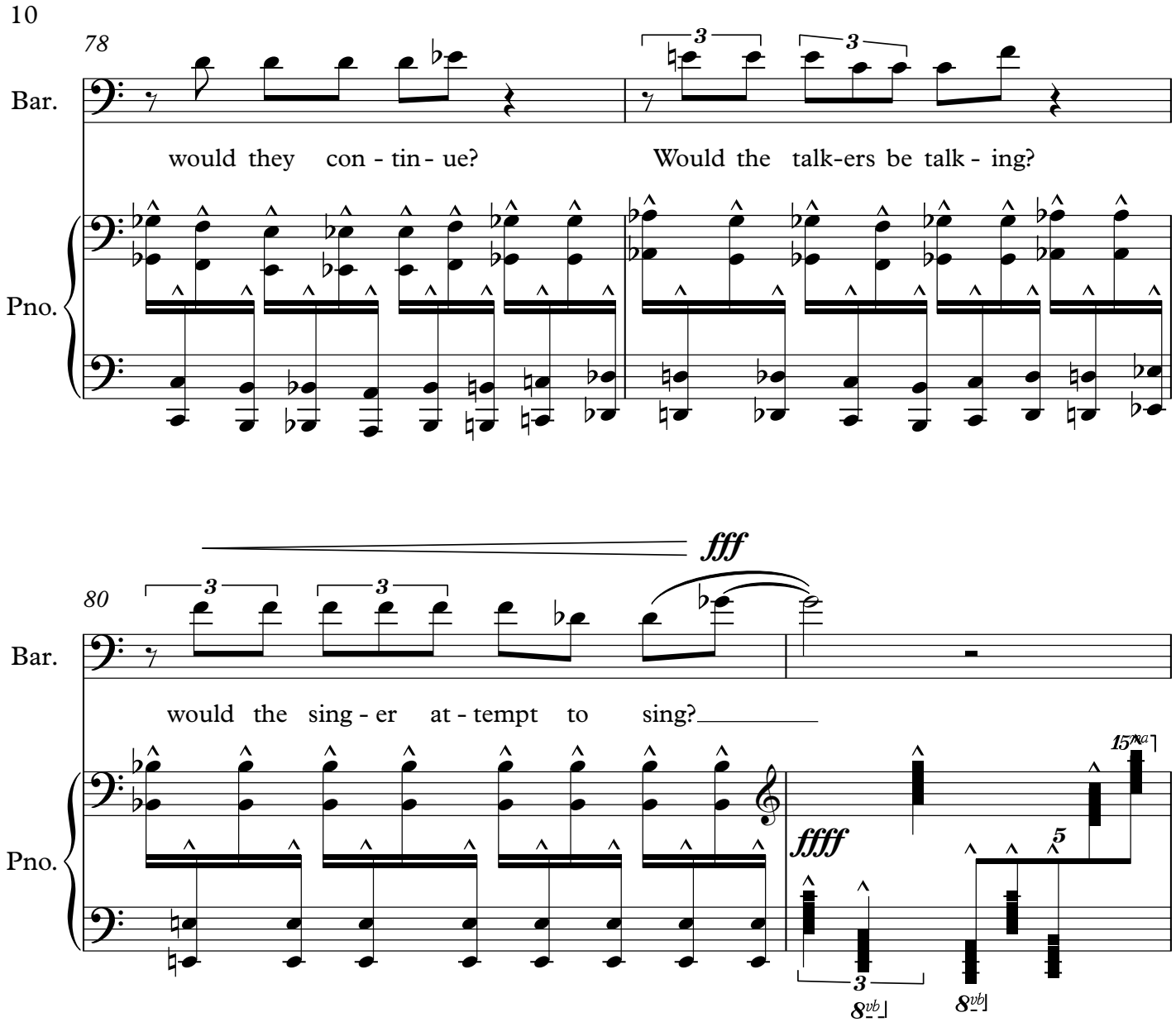

38
38
ff
Bar.
Beat!
beat!
Pno.
ff
f
ff
3
3
8vb
41
Bar.
drums!
beat!
beat!
drums!
Pno.
3
3
3
3
3
3
8vb
44
f
ff
Bar.
beat!
beat!
drums!
beat!
beat!
drums!
p
fff
Pno.
(8)


47
fff
Bar.
Blow! bu-gles! blow!
8va
8va
Pno.
As the text becomes faster and more exasperated, place less of a premium on accurate pitch, half-sing and half-speak the text in rhythm.
50
50
Bar.
O-ver the traf-fic of ci - ties
o-ver the rum-ble of wheels in the
Pno.
sub. f
52
Bar.
streets;
o-ver the traf-fic of
ci - ties
o-ver
the rum-ble of wheels in the
Pno.
ff


54
Bar.
streets; o-ver the traf-fic o-ver the traf-fic of ci - ties o-ver the
Pno.
56
Bar.
rum-ble o-ver the rum-ble of wheels in the streets; o-ver the traf-fic o-ver the
sffz
Pno.
fff
58
Bar.
rum-ble o - ver o - ver o - ver O-VER O-VER O-VER
Pno.
fff


Fully sung
61
60
f overzealous, yet stately
Bar.
o - ver there o - ver there send the
extravagant, lounge-jazz
white key gliss.
8va
Pno.
gliss.
mf lighthearted
8vb
65
Bar.
word send the word o - ver there
f stately
Pno.
69
69
Bar.
Pno.
ffff
ff
3
8vb


72
ff
Bar.
Are beds pre - pared for sleep-ers at night in the
Pno.
74
Bar.
hou - ses? no sleep-ers must sleep in those beds,
Pno.
76
Bar.
No bar-gain-ers bar-gains by day no bro-kers or spe-cu-la-tors
Pno.


78
Bar.
would they con - tin - ue?
Would the talk-ers be talk - ing?
Pno.
80
fff
Bar.
would the sing - er at - tempt to sing?
Pno.
ffff
15ma
5
8vb
8vb

82

82

Shout the following text loudly, aggressively and *very* quickly like an aggressive political pontificator. This should be very exasperated and hurried, don't pause at all in between lines or stanzas. When breath is needed, make it as short as possible. Read fast enough that you may potentially trip over some words or repeat lines or fragments in your exasperation. Fight with the pianist to see who can be loudest.

Bar.

Would the lawyer rise in the court to state his case before the judge?
Then rattle quicker, heavier drums--you bugles wilder blow.
Beat! beat! drums!--blow! bugles! blow!
Make no parley--stop for no expostulation,
Mind not the timid--mind not the weeper or prayer,
Mind not the old man beseeching the young man,
Let not the child's voice be heard, nor the mother's entreaties,

Pno.

Improvise a wild and chaotic accompaniment drawing on a combination of loud, crashing clusters all across the piano and material heard earlier in the piece. Become more hurried and chaotic as the singer approaches the end of their text. Fight with the singer to see who can be loudest.

wait for singer to finish text, then immediately crash-land on fermata in m. 84

83

very long

84 ♩ = 66

Spoken, *sinister*

Bar.

p

3 3 3

Make e-ven the tres-tles to shake the dead where they

wait for sound of cluster to mostly die out before beginning m. 84

Pno.

fffff

pp

8vb

86

Bar.

3 3

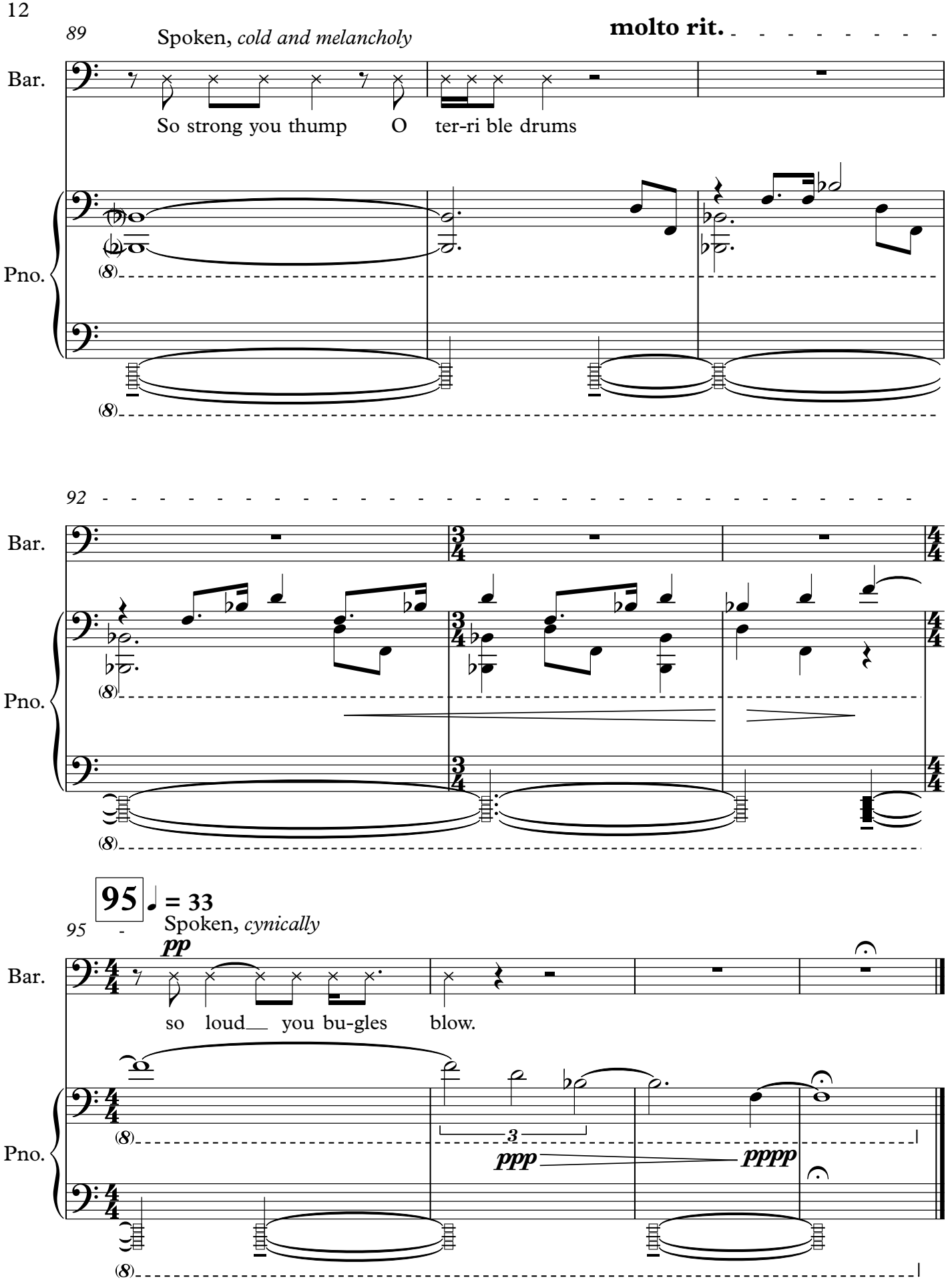
lie a-wait-ing the hears- es,

p sober

Pno.

8vb

(8)


89
Spoken, *cold and melancholy*
molto rit.
Bar.
So strong you thump O ter-ri ble drums
Pno.
92
Bar.
Pno.
95 = 33
95
Spoken, *cynically*
pp
Bar.
so loud you bu-gles blow.
Pno.
3
ppp
pppp