Mr Wolf & copy

2nd draft

Despite and Still

Song-cycle

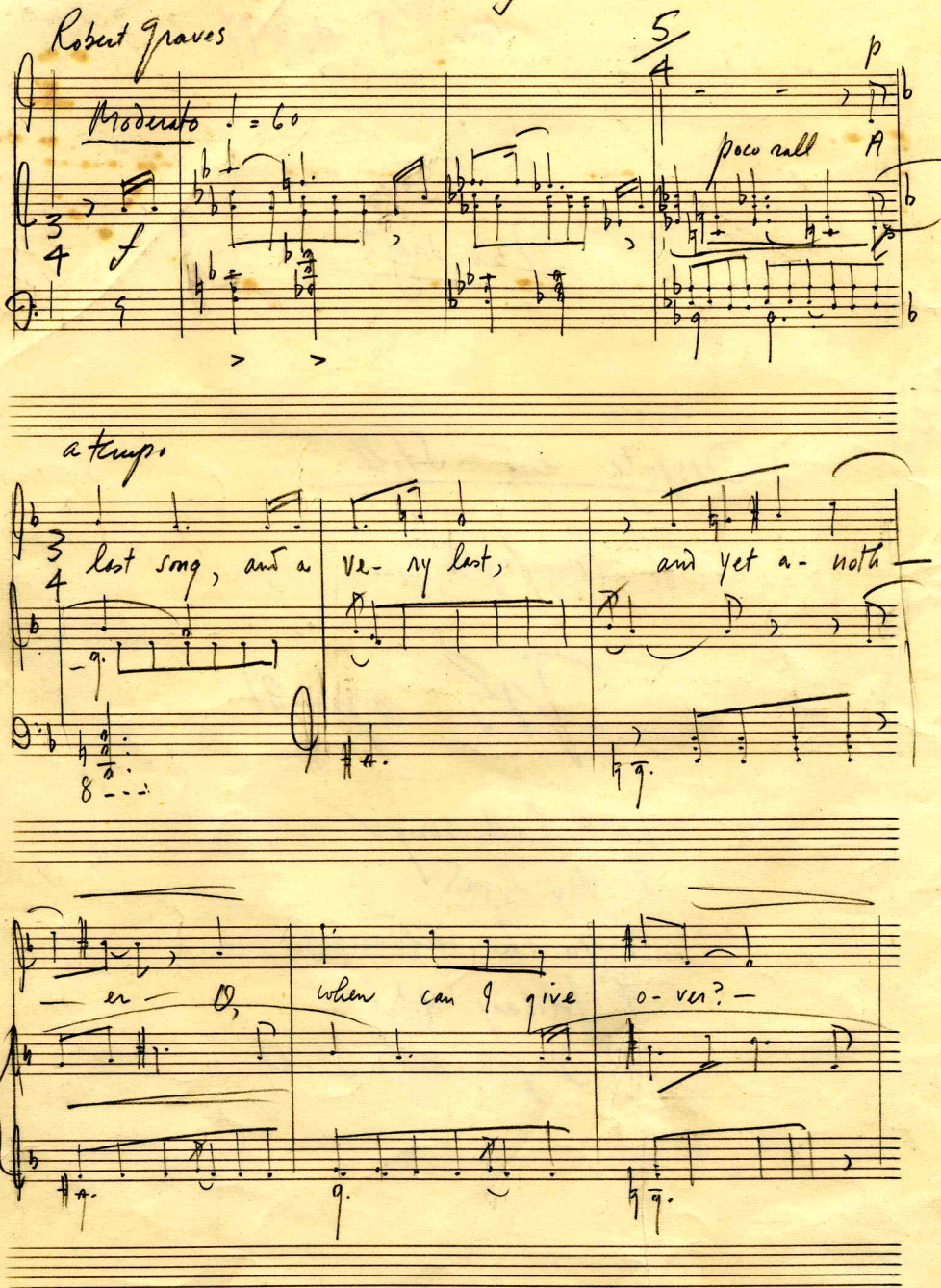
V.B. Opus 41

1. A Last Song
2. My Lizard
3. In the wilderness
4. Solitary Hotel
5. Despite and Still

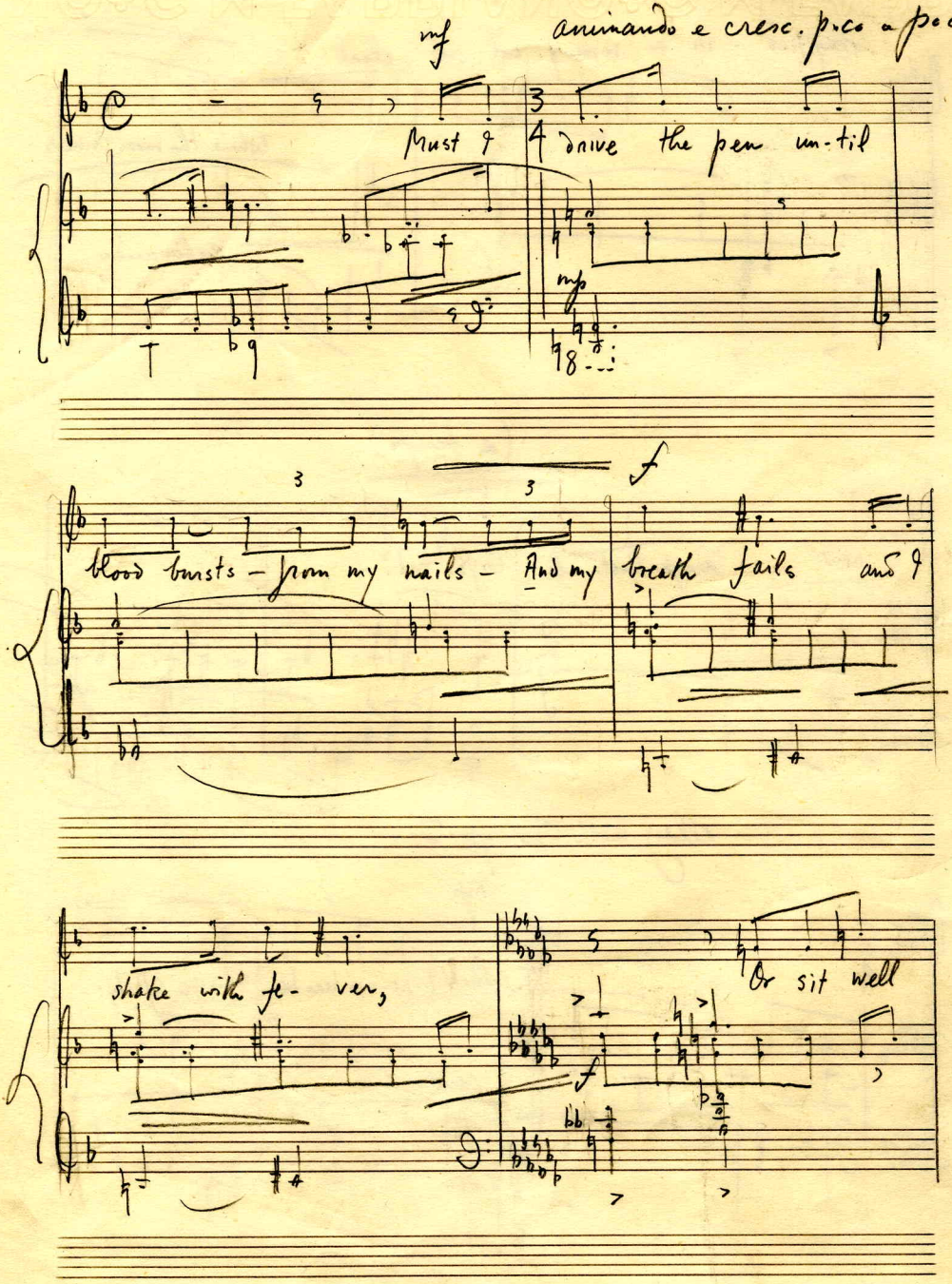
To my friend Leontyne Price

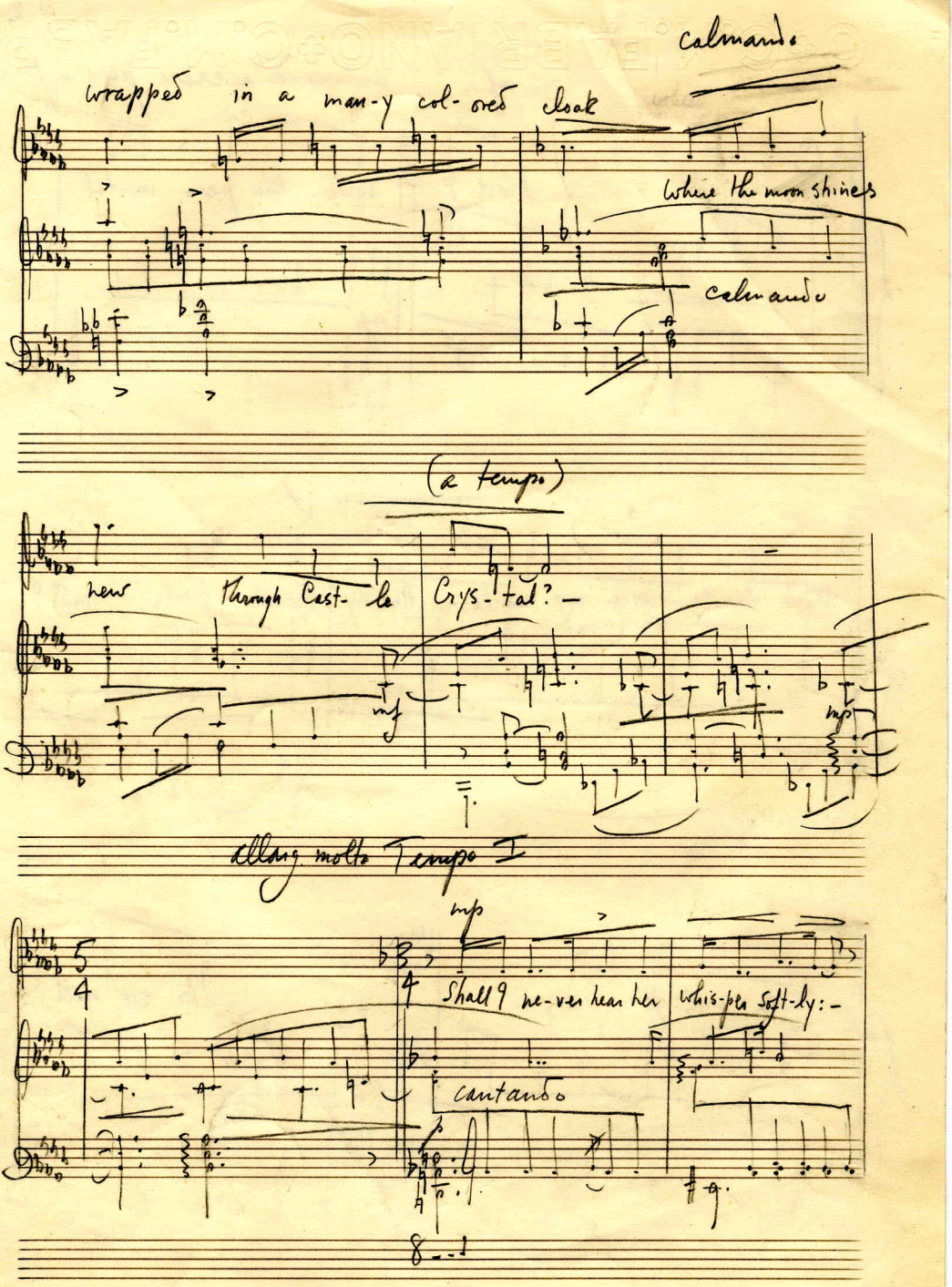
1. 1. A Last Song*

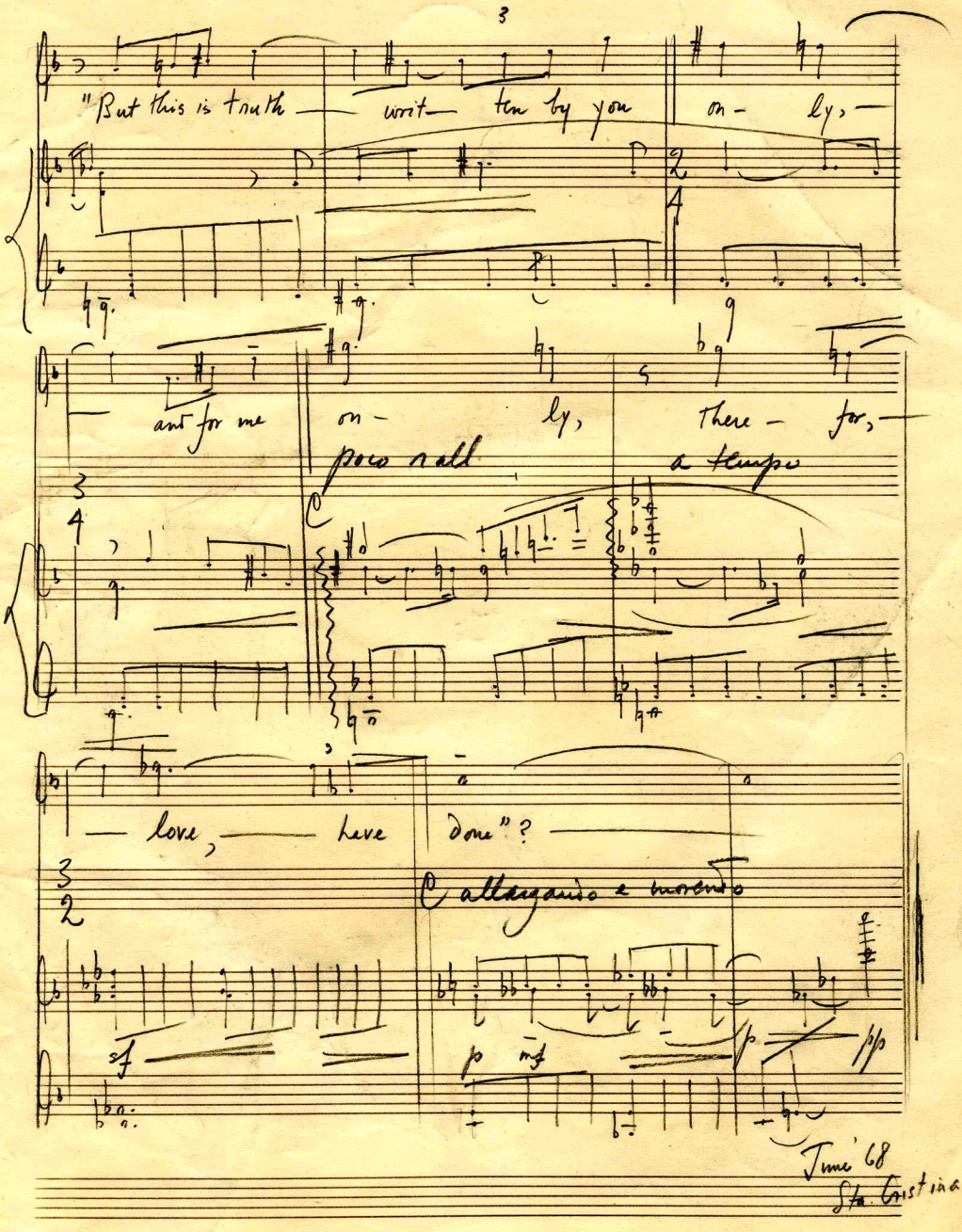
Robert Graves



* In the original "A Last Poem"


mf
animando e cresc. poco a poco
Must I drive the pen un-til
mp
blood bursts – from my nails – And my
f
breath fails and I
shake with fe- ver,
Or sit well
f

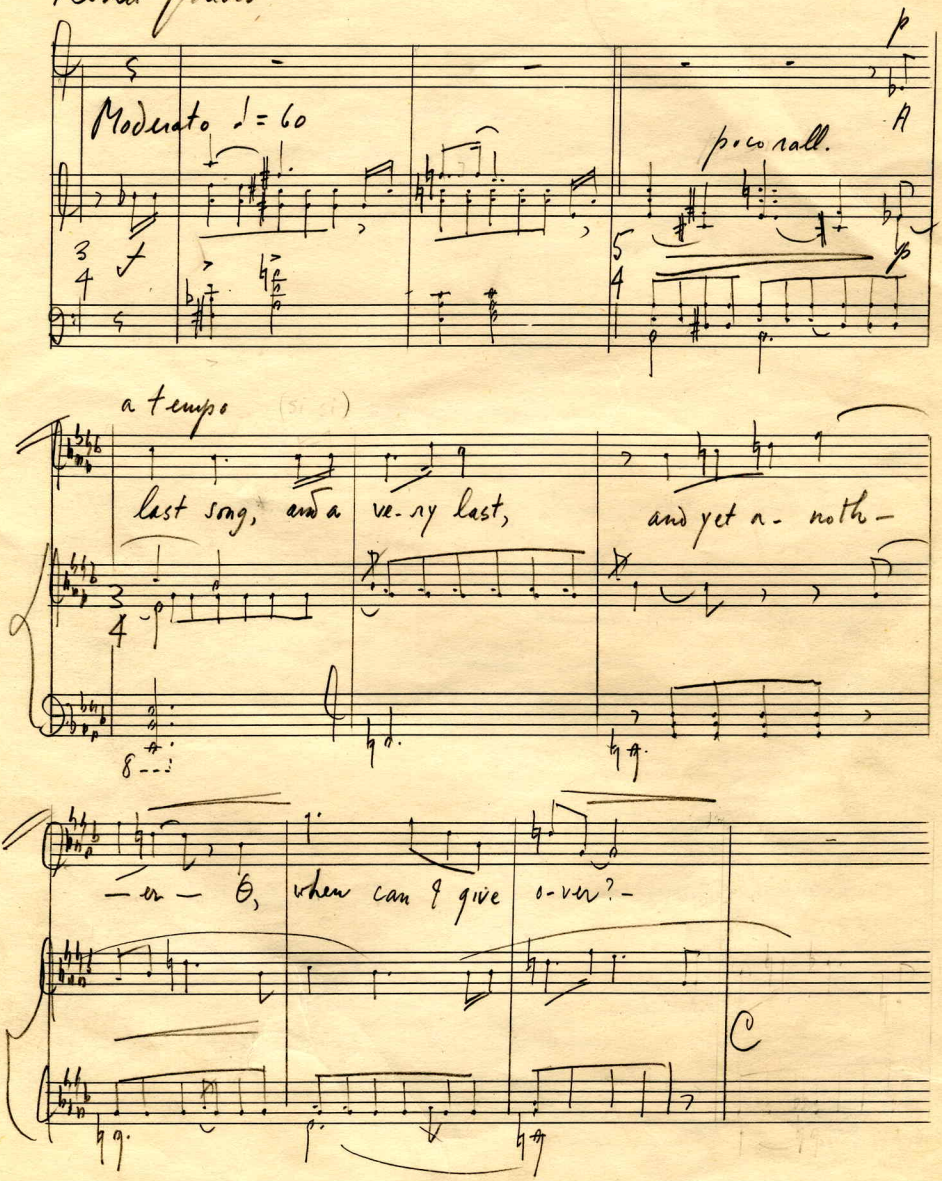

Calmando
wrapped in a man-y col-ored cloak
where the moon shines
Calmando
(a tempo)
new
Through Cast-le
Crys-tal? –
mf
mp
Allarg. molto
Tempo I
mp
Shall I ne-ver hear her
whis-per soft-ly: –
cantando



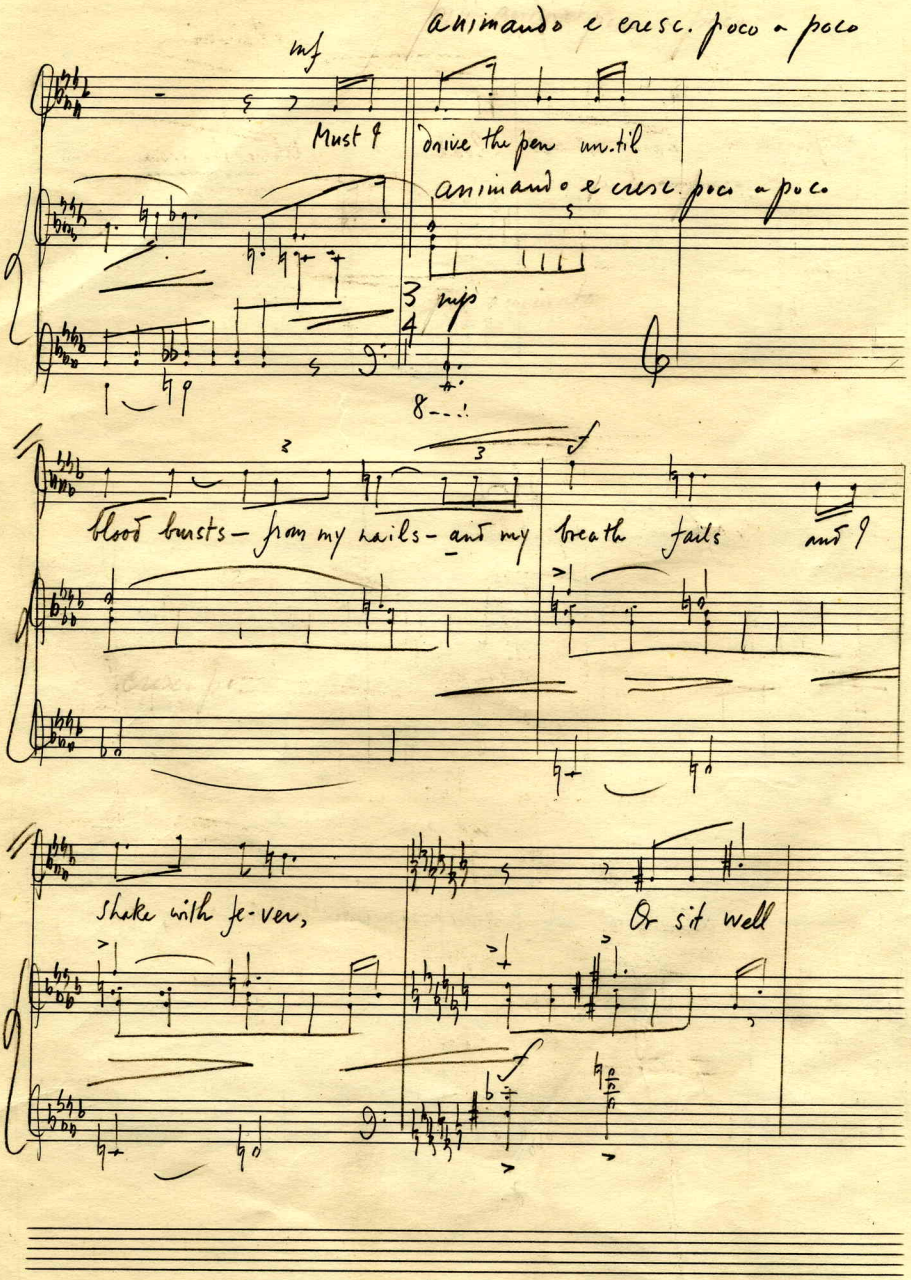
June '68
Sta. Cristina

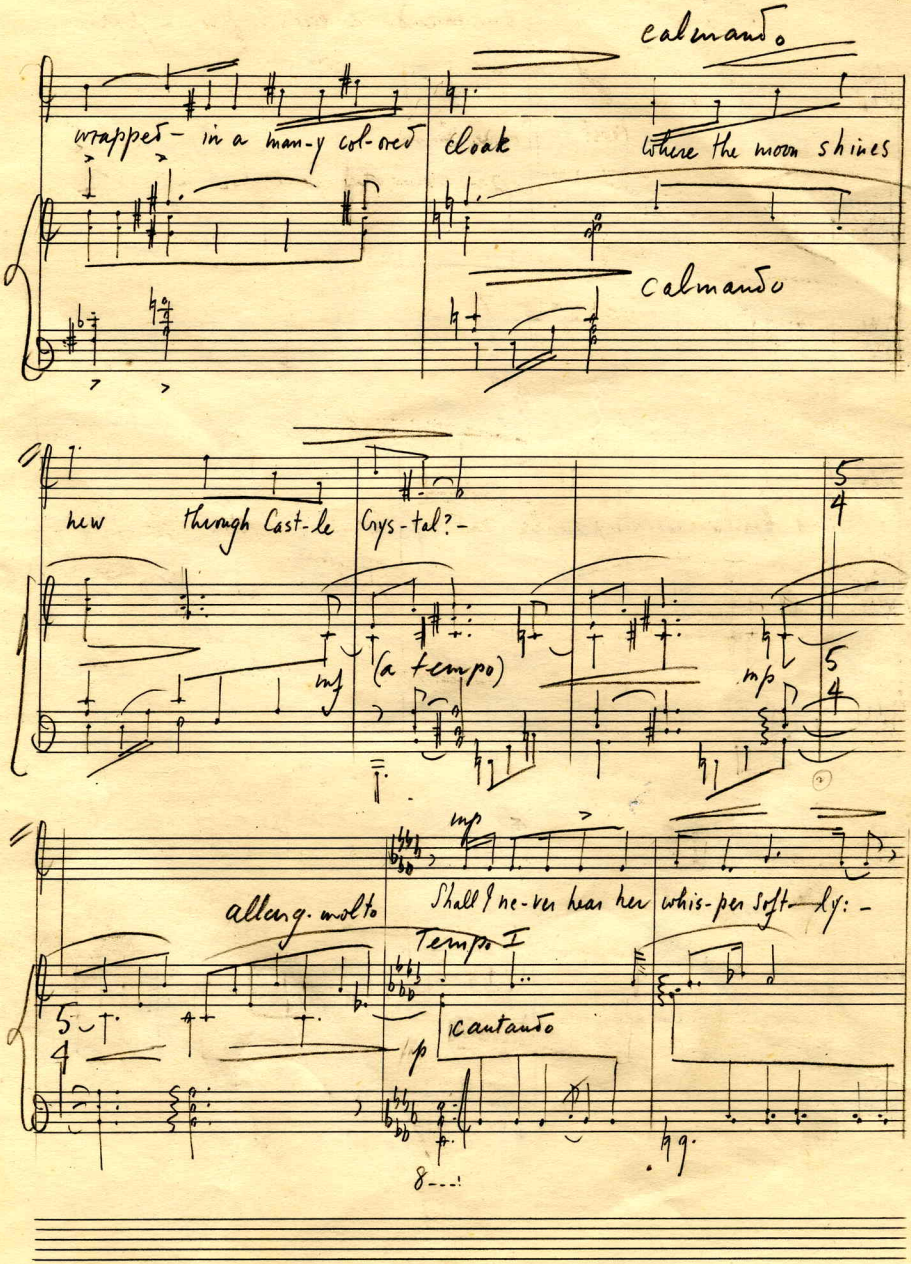
1. A Last Song *

Robert Graves



* In the original "A Last Poem"


animando e cresc. poco a poco
mf
Must I
drive the pen un.til
animando e cresc. poco a poco
3 sup
blood bursts — from my nails — and my
breath fails
and I
Shake with fe-ver,
Or sit well


calmando
wrapped - in a man-y col-ored cloak where the moon shines
calmando
new through Cast-le Crys-tal? -
mf
(a tempo)
mp
allarg. molto
Tempo I
cantando
p
mp
Shall I ne-ver hear her whis-per soft-ly: -
pp
8

"But this is truth — writ — ten by you on- ly, —

poco rall. a tempo

And for me on- ly, there- for, —

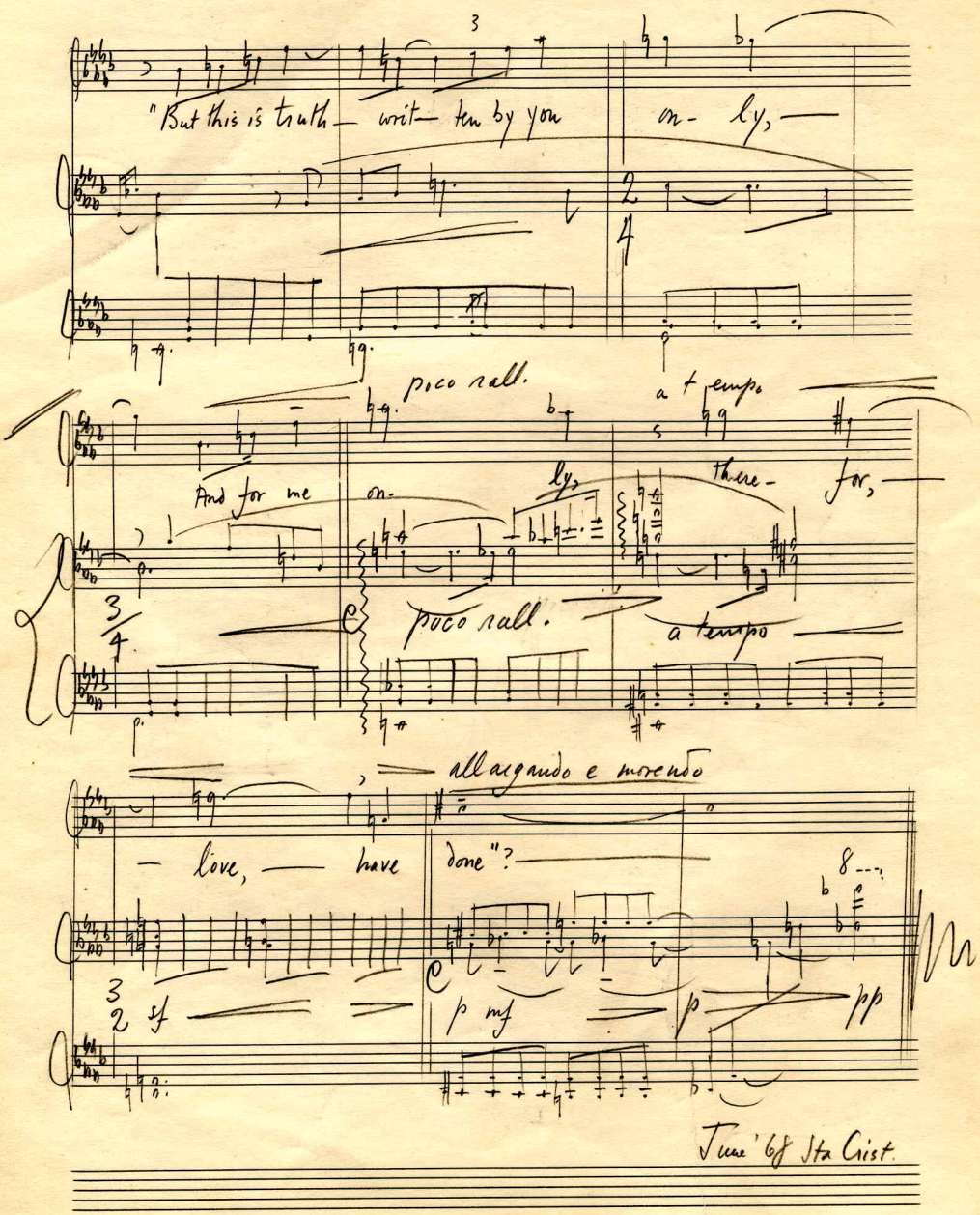
poco rall. a tempo

allargando e morendo

— love, — have done"? —

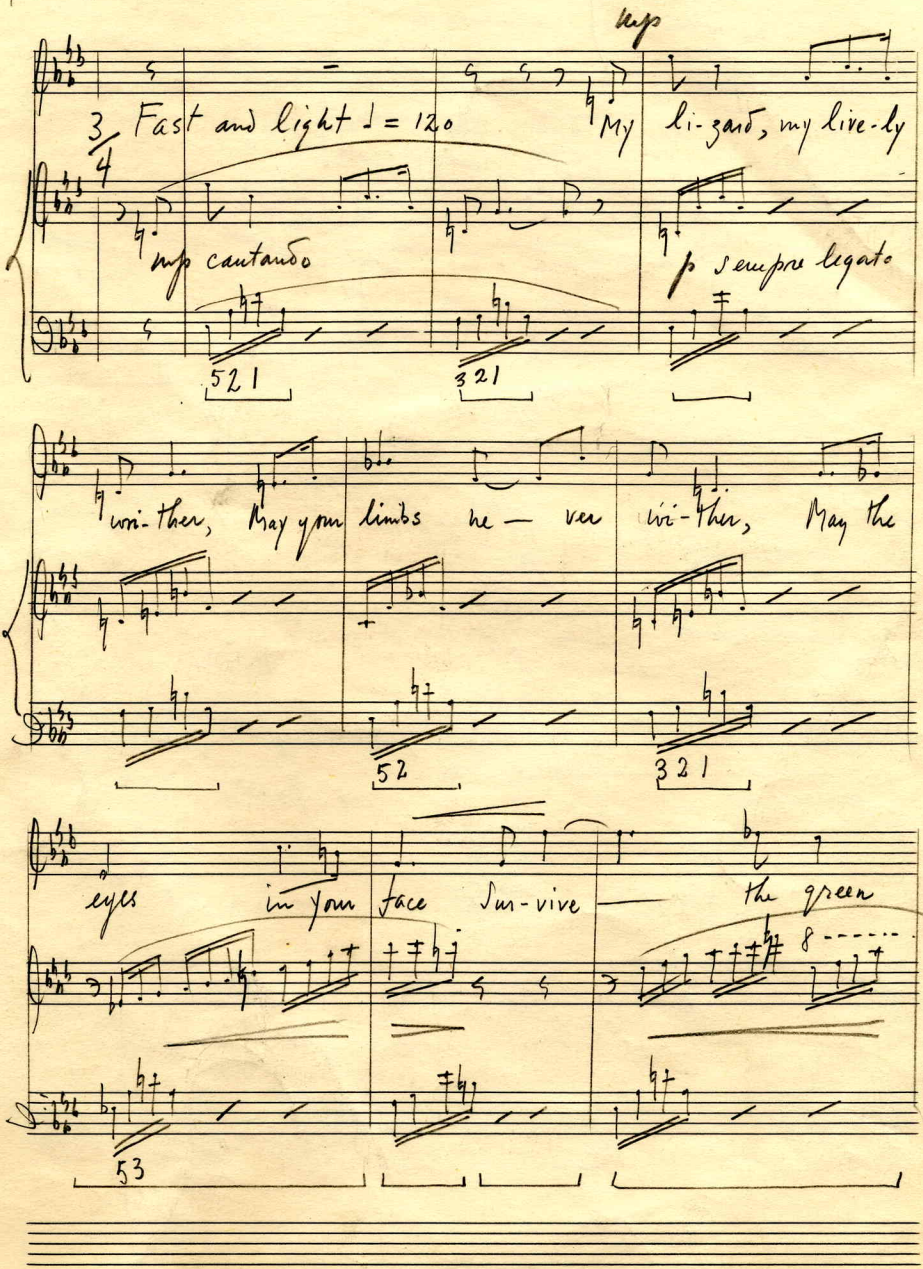
sf p mf p pp

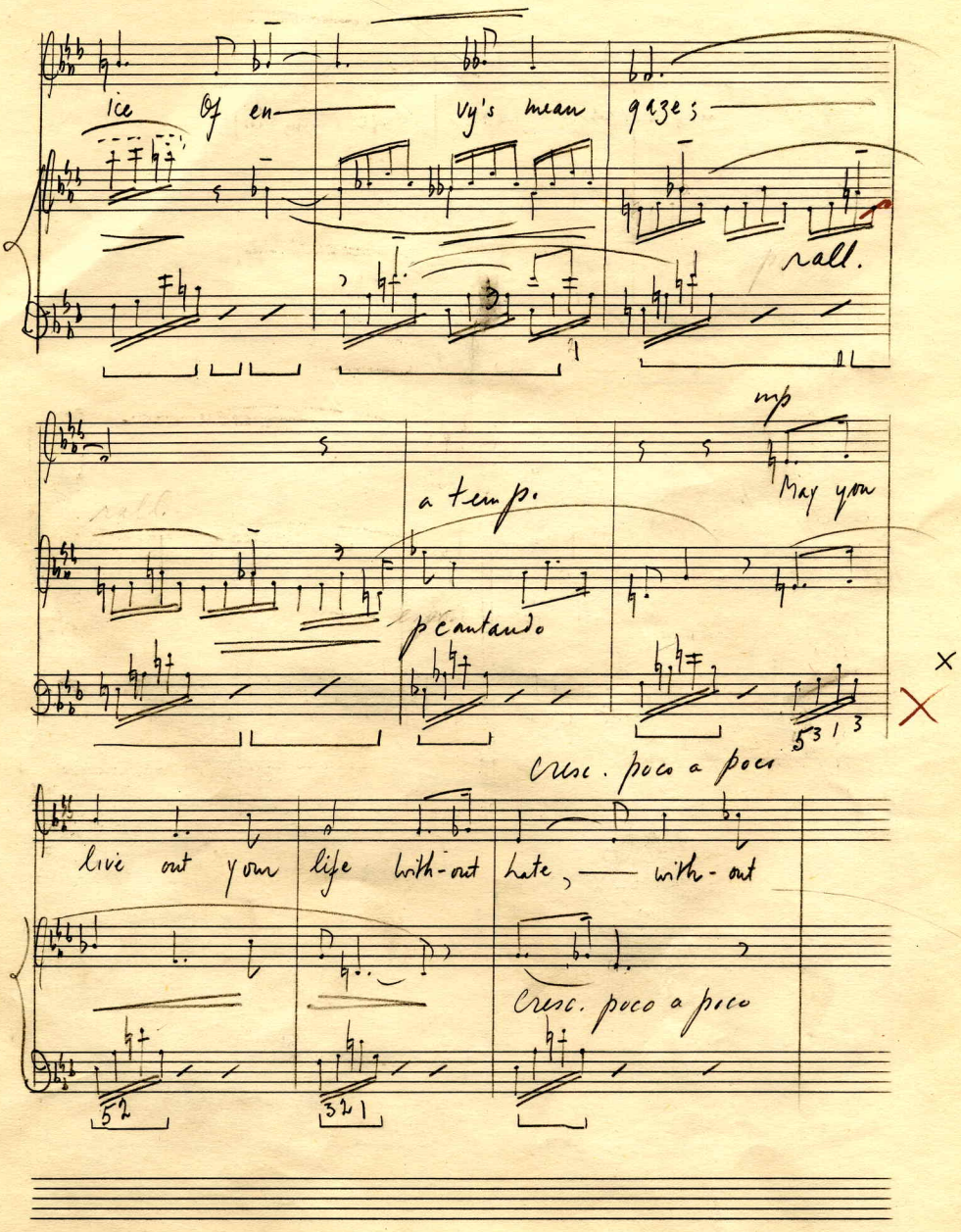
June '68 Sta Crist.

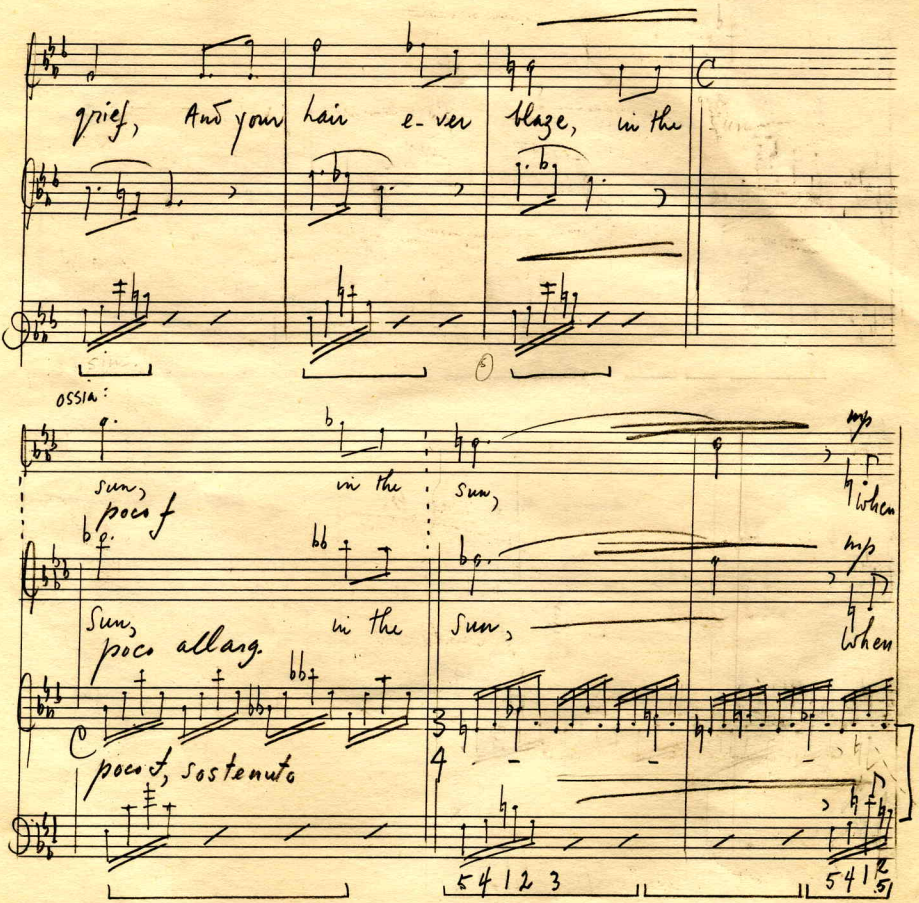


Theodore Roethke

2. My Lizard




ice of en- vy's mean gaze;
rall.
mp
a tempo.
May you
p cantando
cresc. poco a poco
live out your life with-out hate, with-out
cresc. poco a poco


grief, And your hair e-ver blaze, in the
OSSIA:
sun, poco f in the sun, mp When
Sun, poco allarg. in the sun, mp When
poco f, sostenuto
5 4 1 2 3
5 4 1 2 3

a tempo

am un- done, — when

p legatissimo

4 3 2 1

pp

am no- one.

C 3/4 pp

54

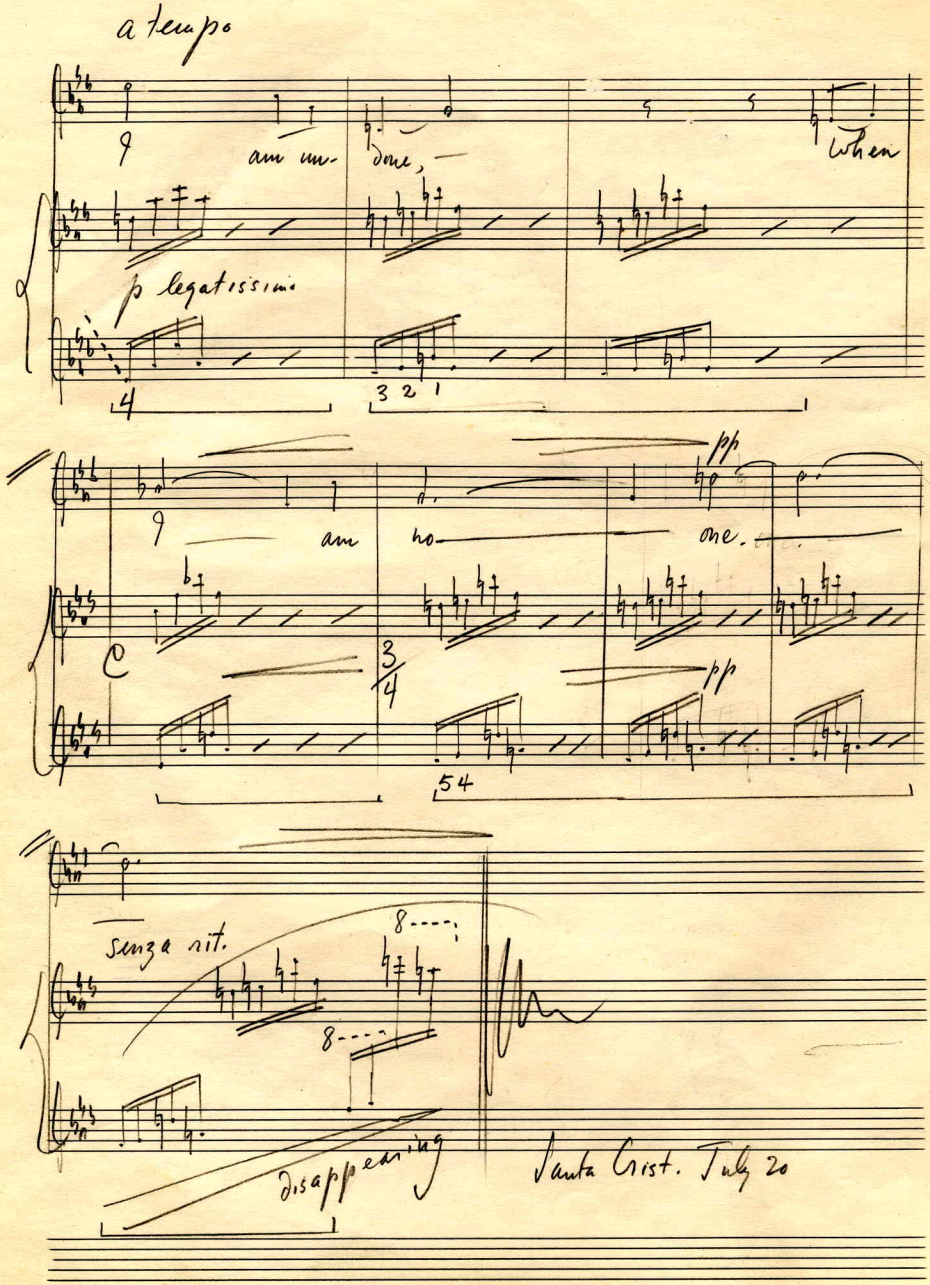
senza rit.

8

8

disappearing

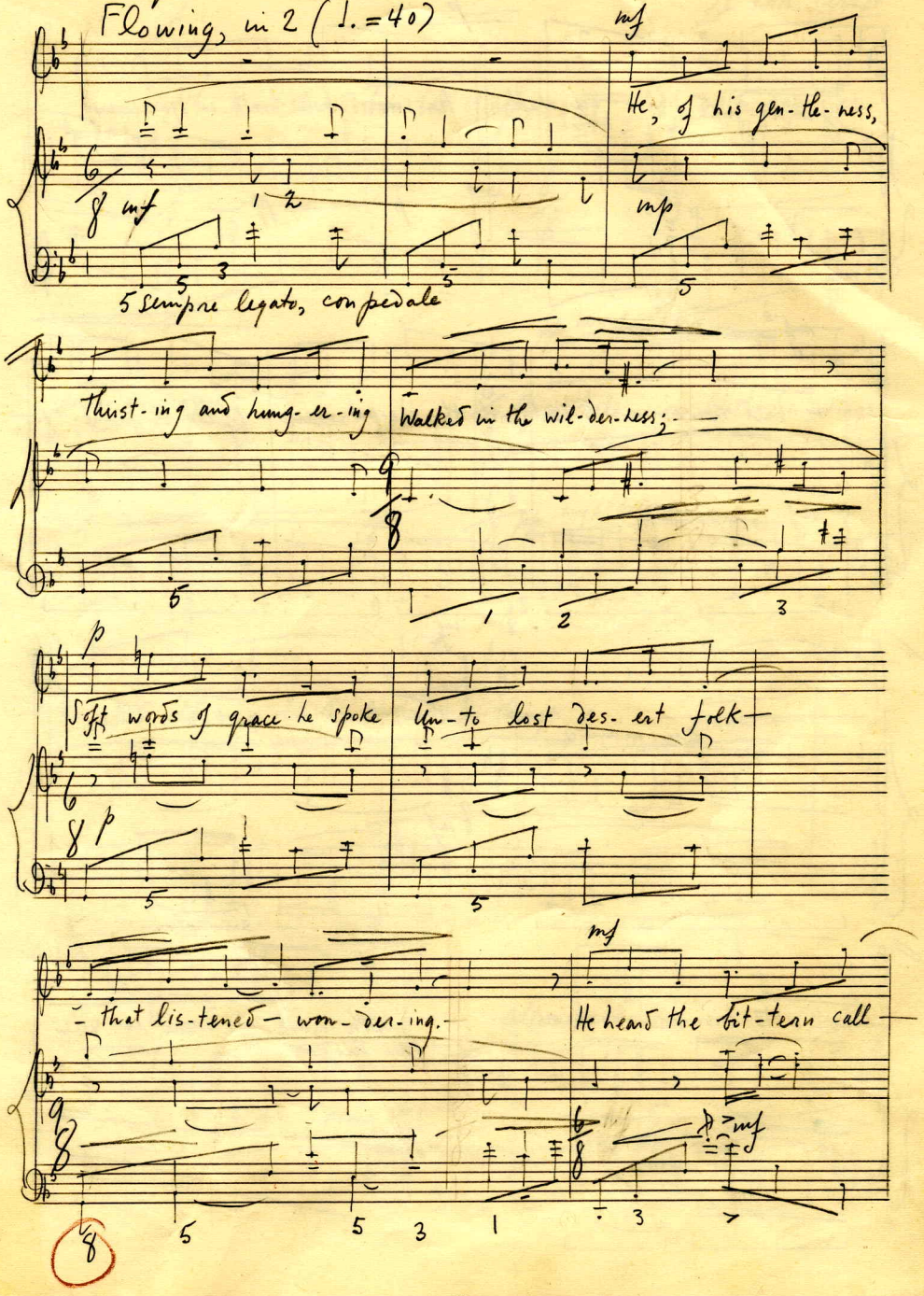
Santa Crist. July 20

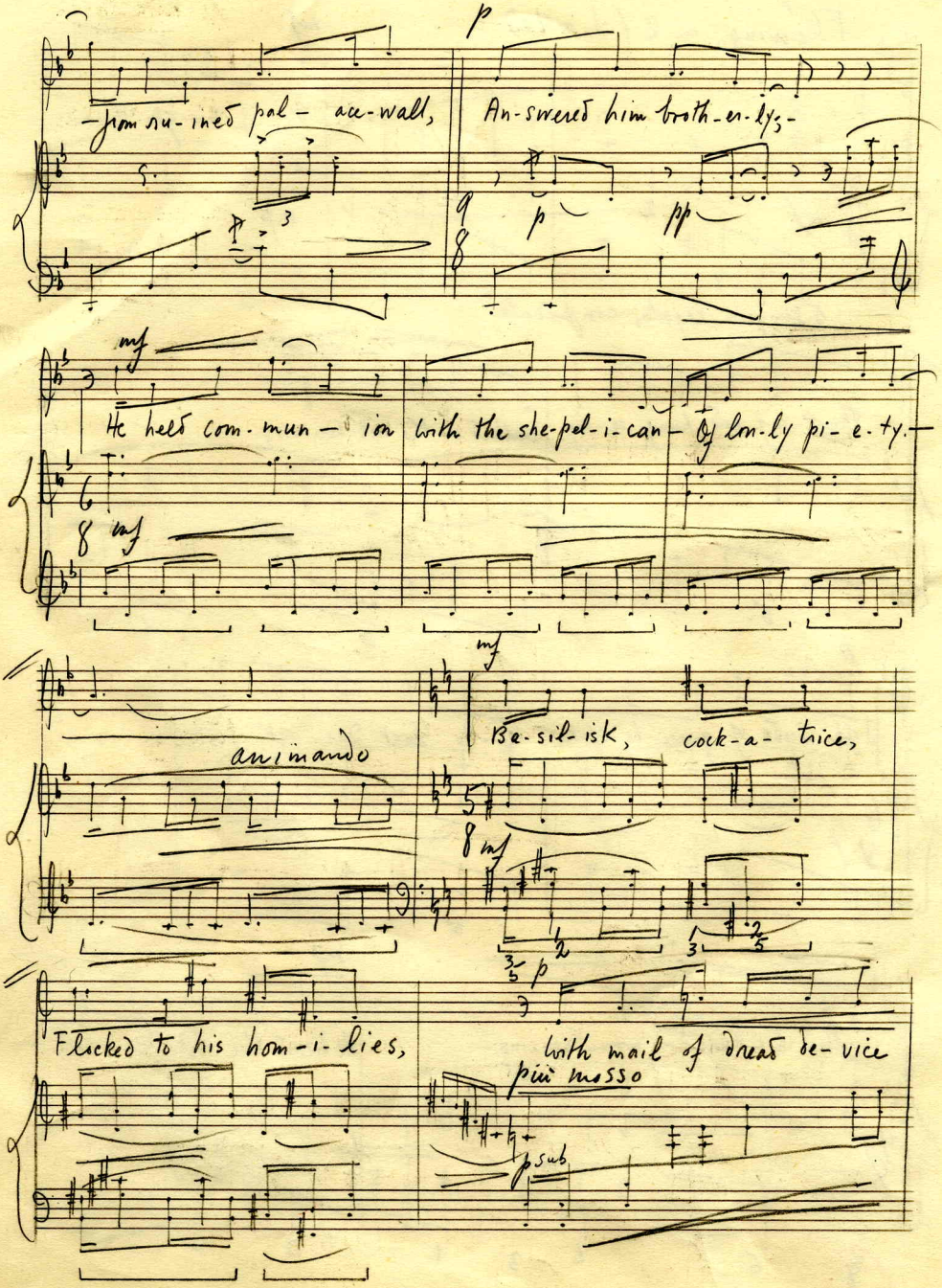


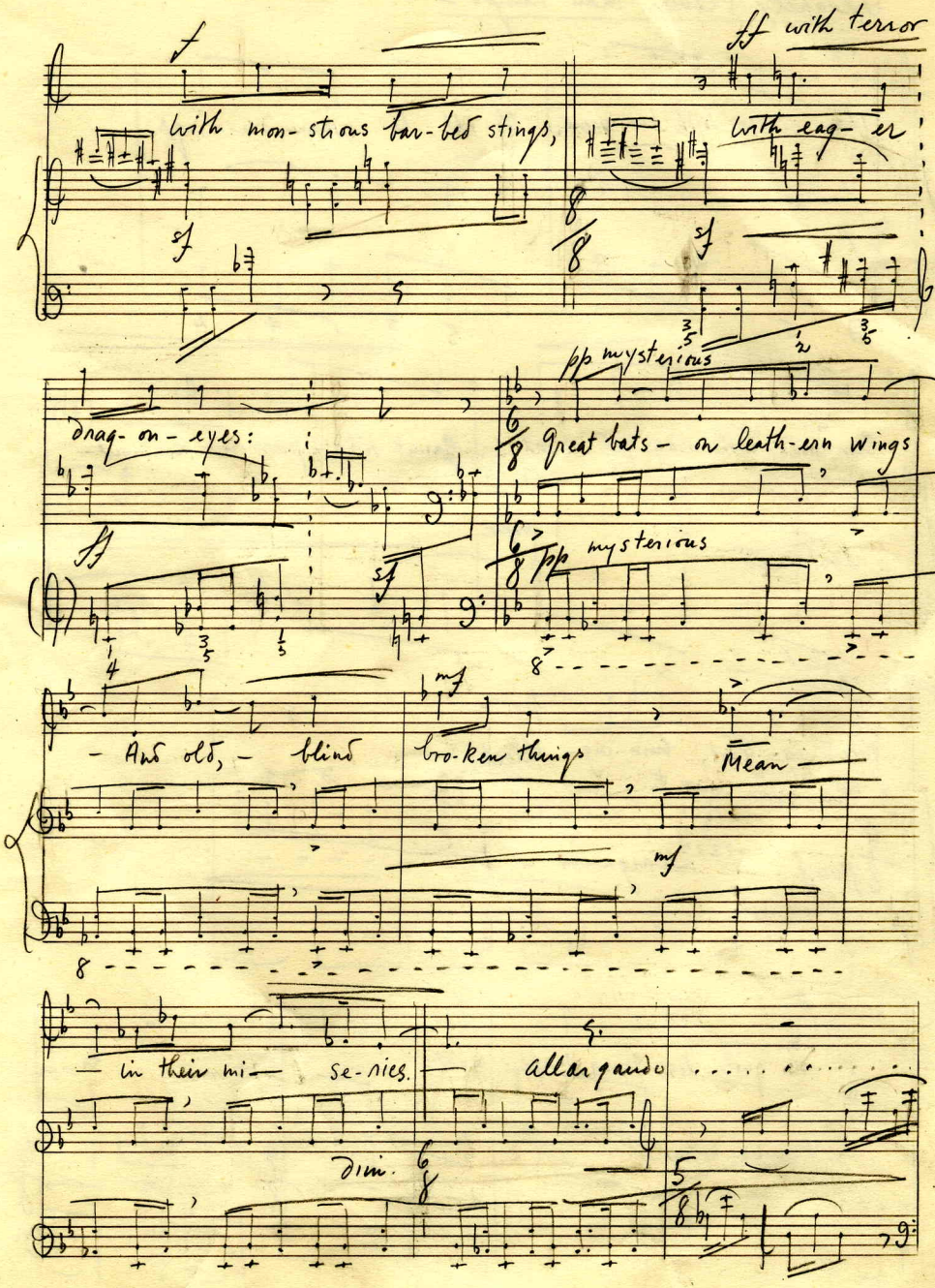
3. In the Wilderness

Robert Graves

Flowing, in 2 (♩.=40)




p
-jom su-ined pal- ace-wall,
An-swered him broth-er-ly;-
pp
mf
He held com-mun- ion with the she-pel-i-can- Of lon-ly pi- e-ty.-
animando
Be-sil-isk, cock-a- trice,
p
Flocked to his hom-i-lies,
with mail of dread de-vice
più mosso
p sub.


ff with terror
with mon- strous bar- bed stings,
with eag- er
drag- on- eyes:
pp mysterious
great bats - on leath- ern wings
pp mysterious
- And old, - blind
bro- ken things
Mean
- in their mi- se- ries.
allargando
dim.

Slightly slower than Tempo I

mp

Then e-ver with him went, Of all his wan-der-ings

p

5 5 3 1 4 2

Com-rade, with rag-ged coat, gaunt ribs, - poor in-no-cent -

sustained espr.

8 poco f

Bleed-ing-foot, burn-ing-throat,

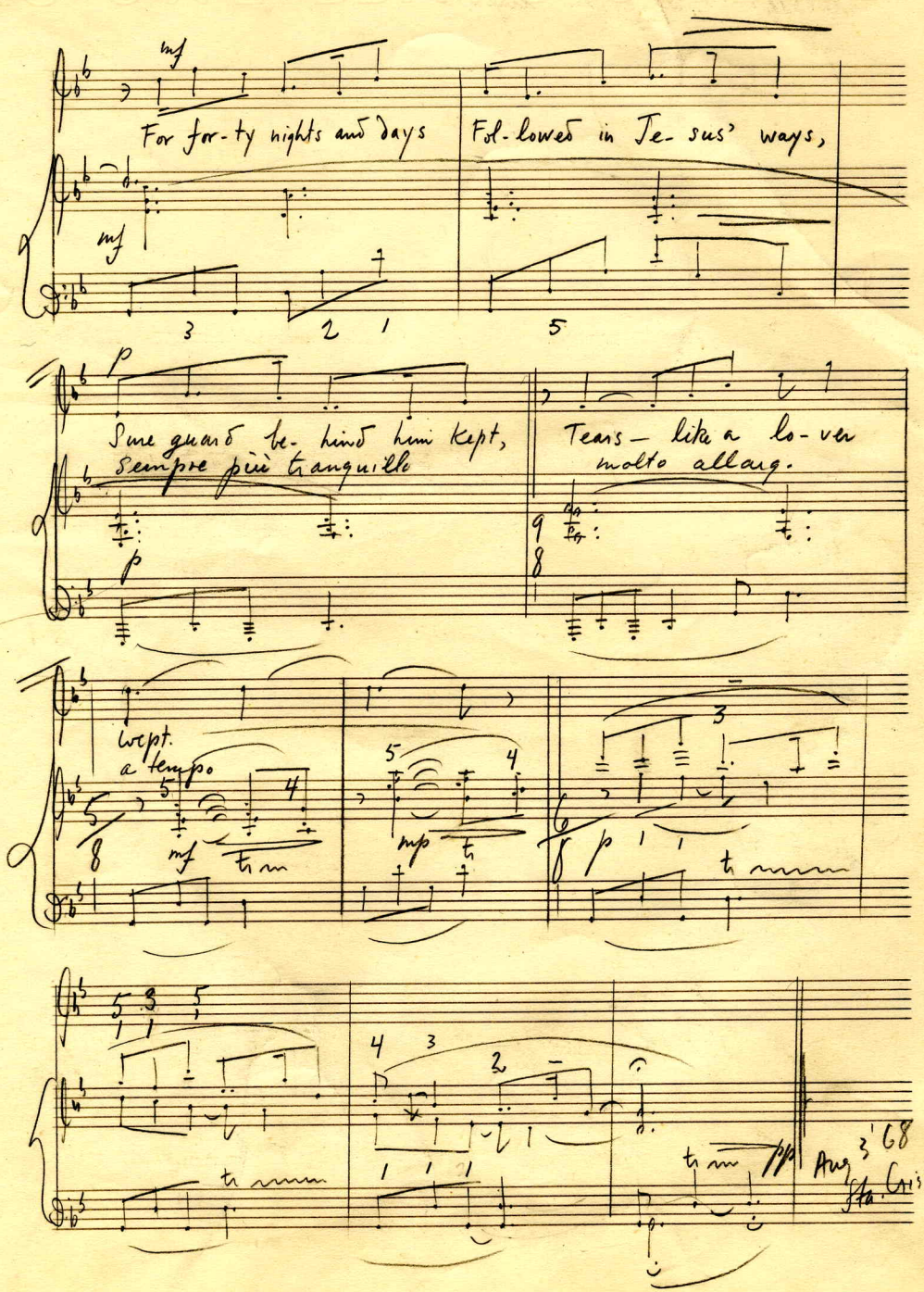
1 2 3 4 allargando -

8 poco f

the guile-less young scape-goat:

a tempo, dolce

p

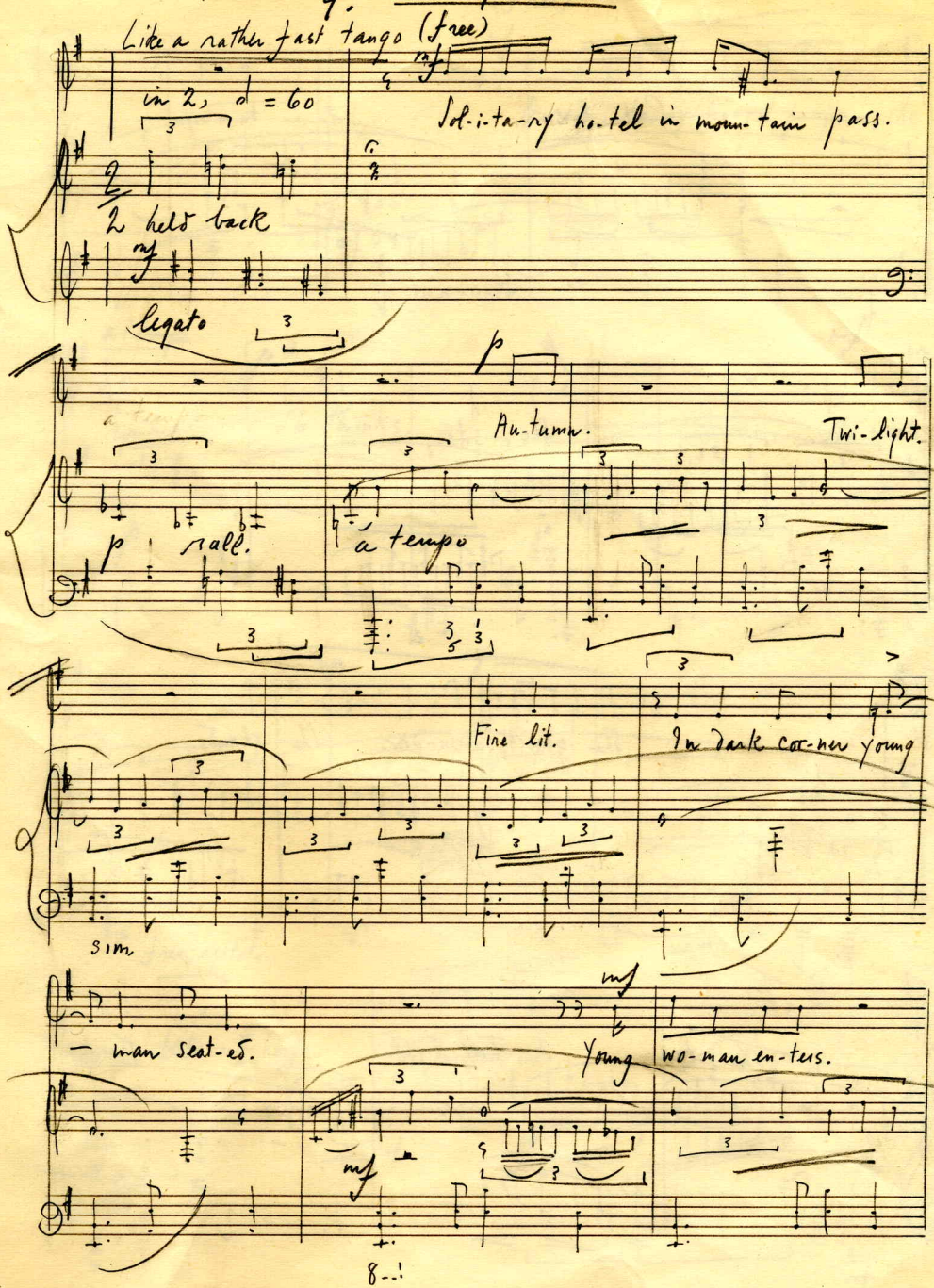

mf
For for-ty nights and days
Fol-lowed in Je-sus' ways,
mf
p
Sure guard be-hind him kept,
sempre più tranquillo
Tears — like a lo-ver
molto allarg.
p
wept.
a tempo
mf
mp
p
pp
Aug 3 '68
Sta. Crist.

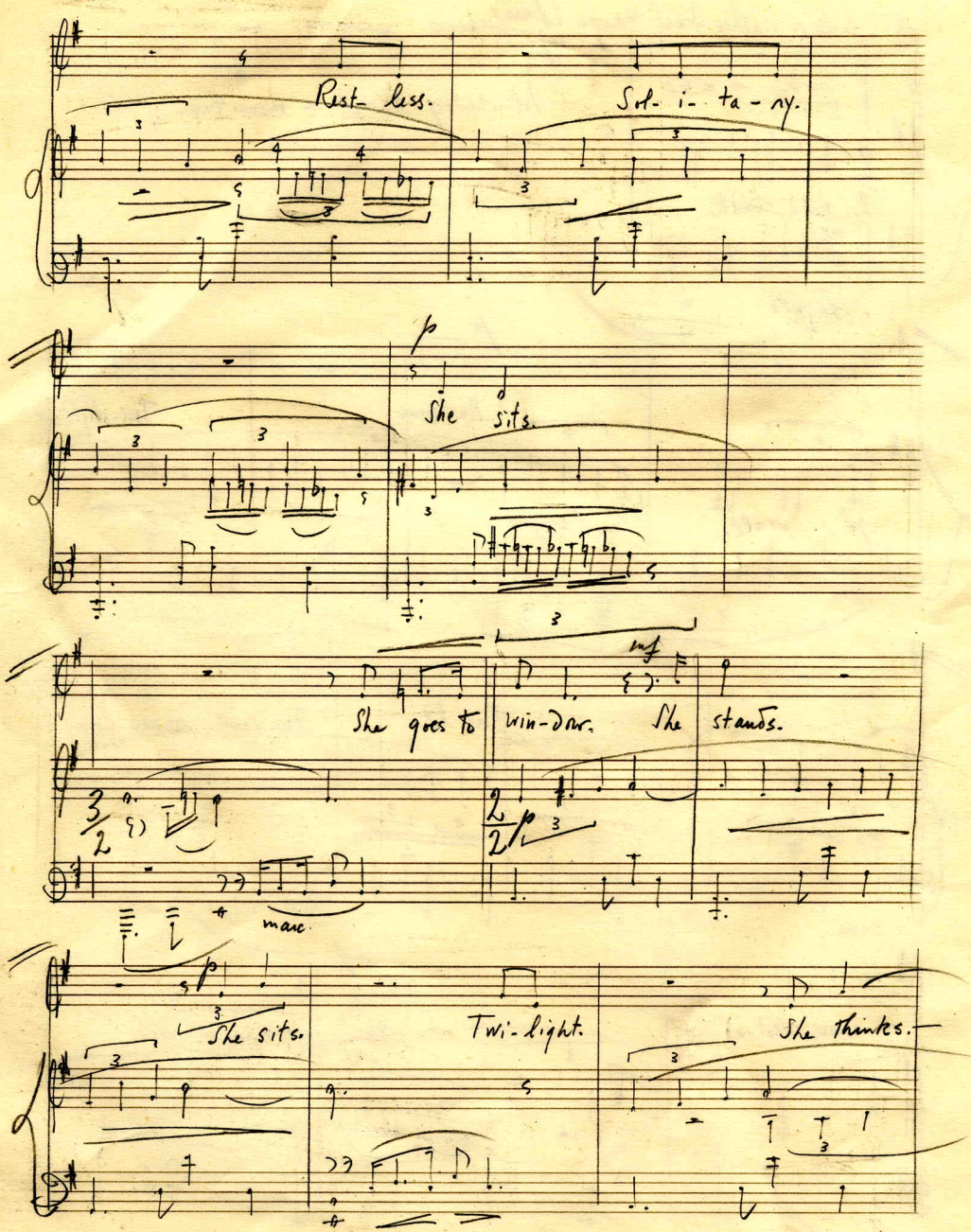
Do not
[illegible]

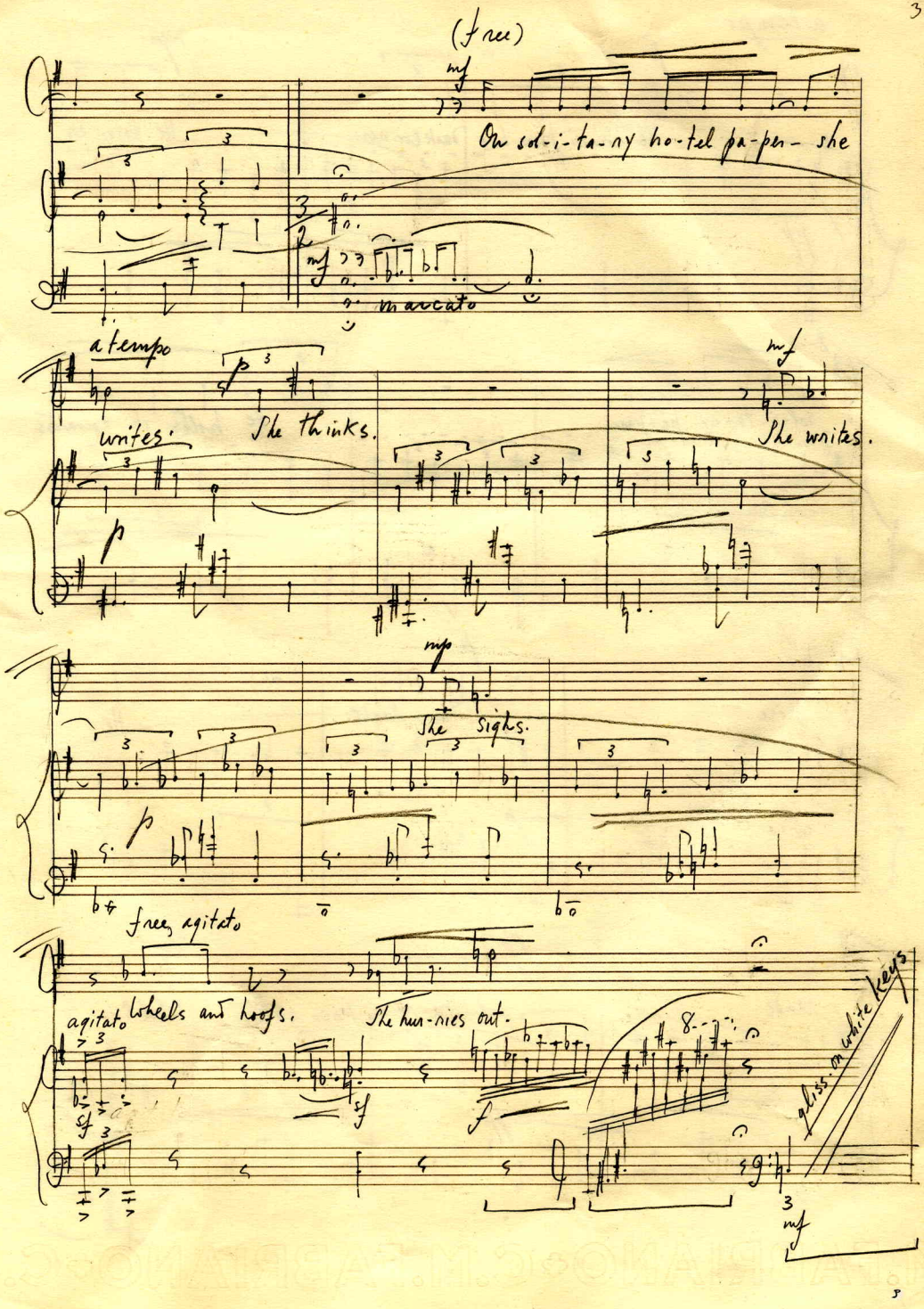
4. Solitary Hotel

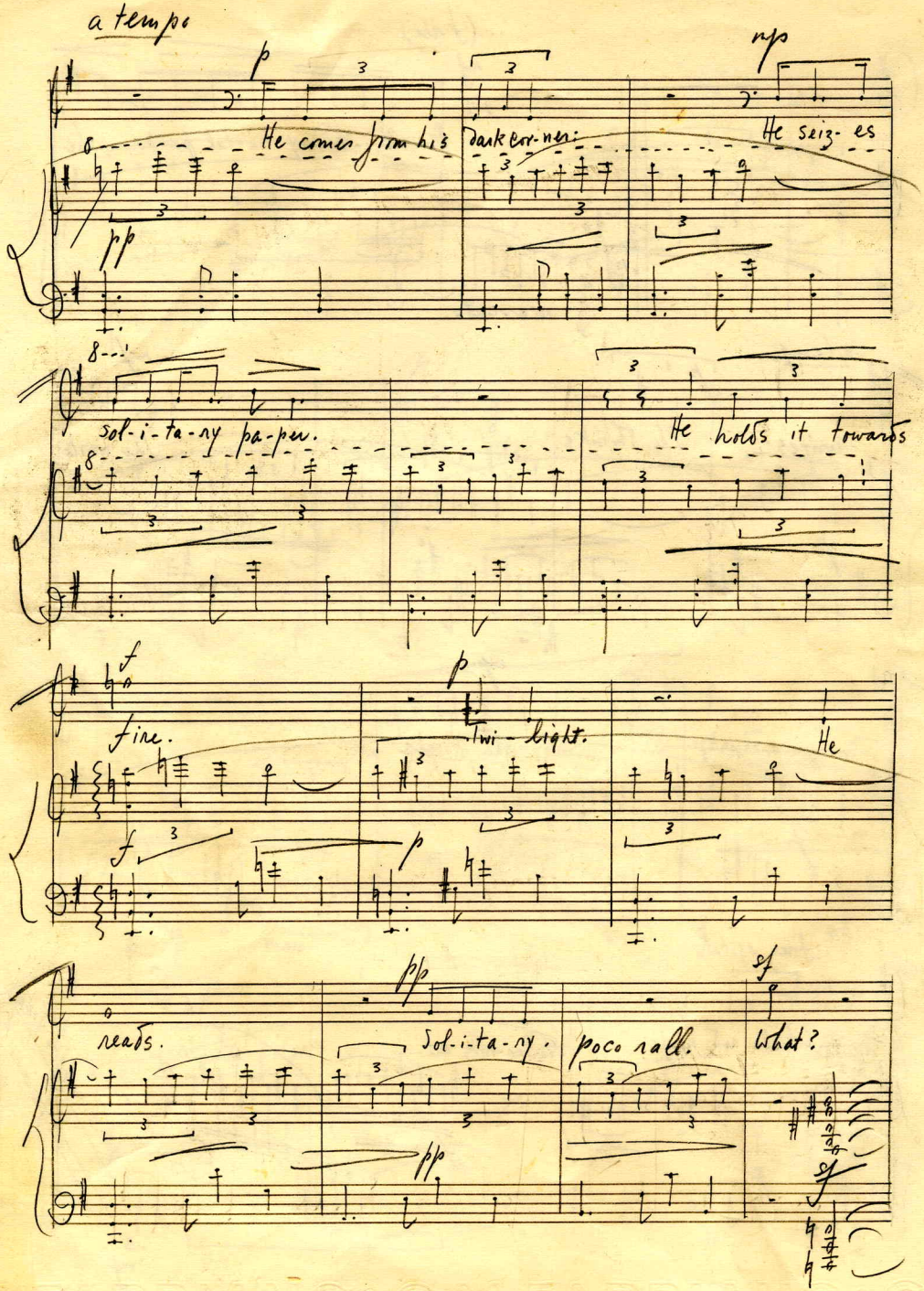
RIANO ✣ C.M.FABRIANO ✣ C.M.FABR

James Joyce ("Ulysses") 4. Solitary Hotel




Rest- less.
Sol- i- ta - ry.
She sits.
She goes to win-dow.
She stands.
marc.
She sits.
Twi-light.
She thinks.


(free)
mf
On sol-i-ta-ry ho-tel pa-per- she
mf
marcato
a tempo
p
She thinks.
mf
She writes.
writes.
p
mp
She sighs.
p
free, agitato
agitato
Wheels and hoofs.
She hur-ries out.
sf
sf
f
gliss. on white keys
mf


a tempo
p
mp
He comes from his dark cor-ner.
He seiz- es
pp
sol-i-ta-ry pa-per.
He holds it towards
f
fine.
p
twi-light.
He
reads.
pp
Sol-i-ta-ry.
poco rall.
sf
what?

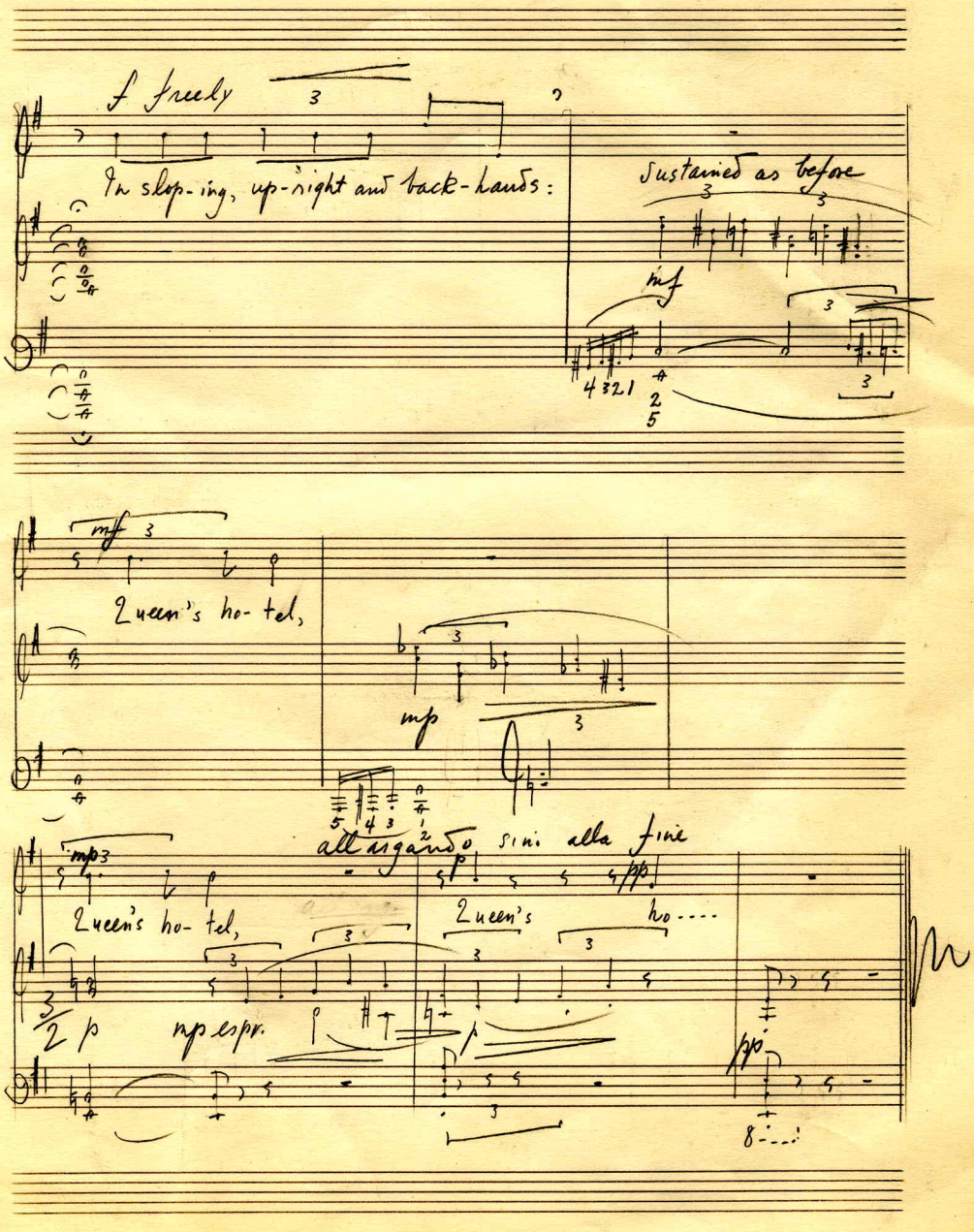
f freely

In slop-ing, up-right and back-hands:

Sustained as before

mf

mf



Queen's ho-tel,

mp

allargando sino alla fine

mp

Queen's ho-tel,

Queen's ho....

p

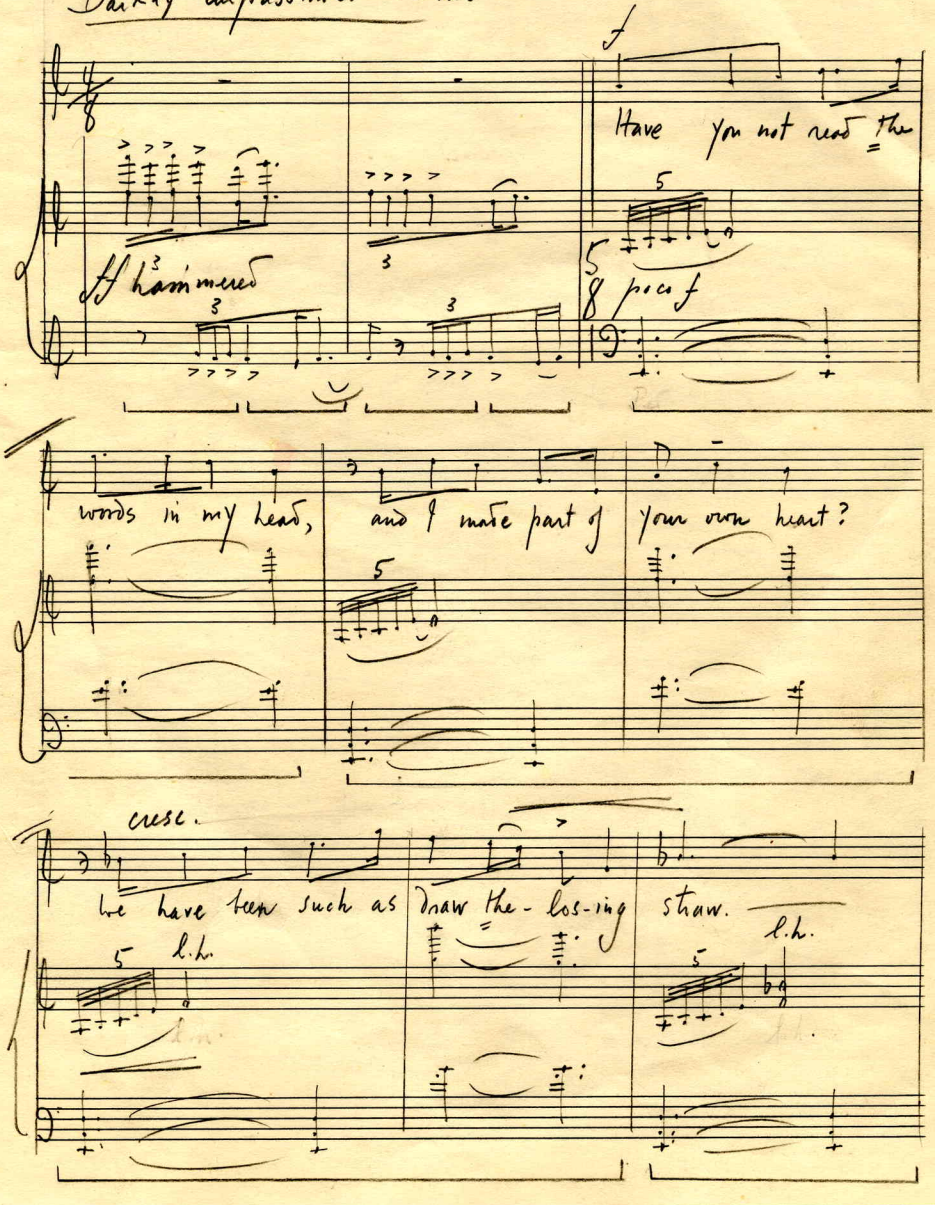
mp espr.

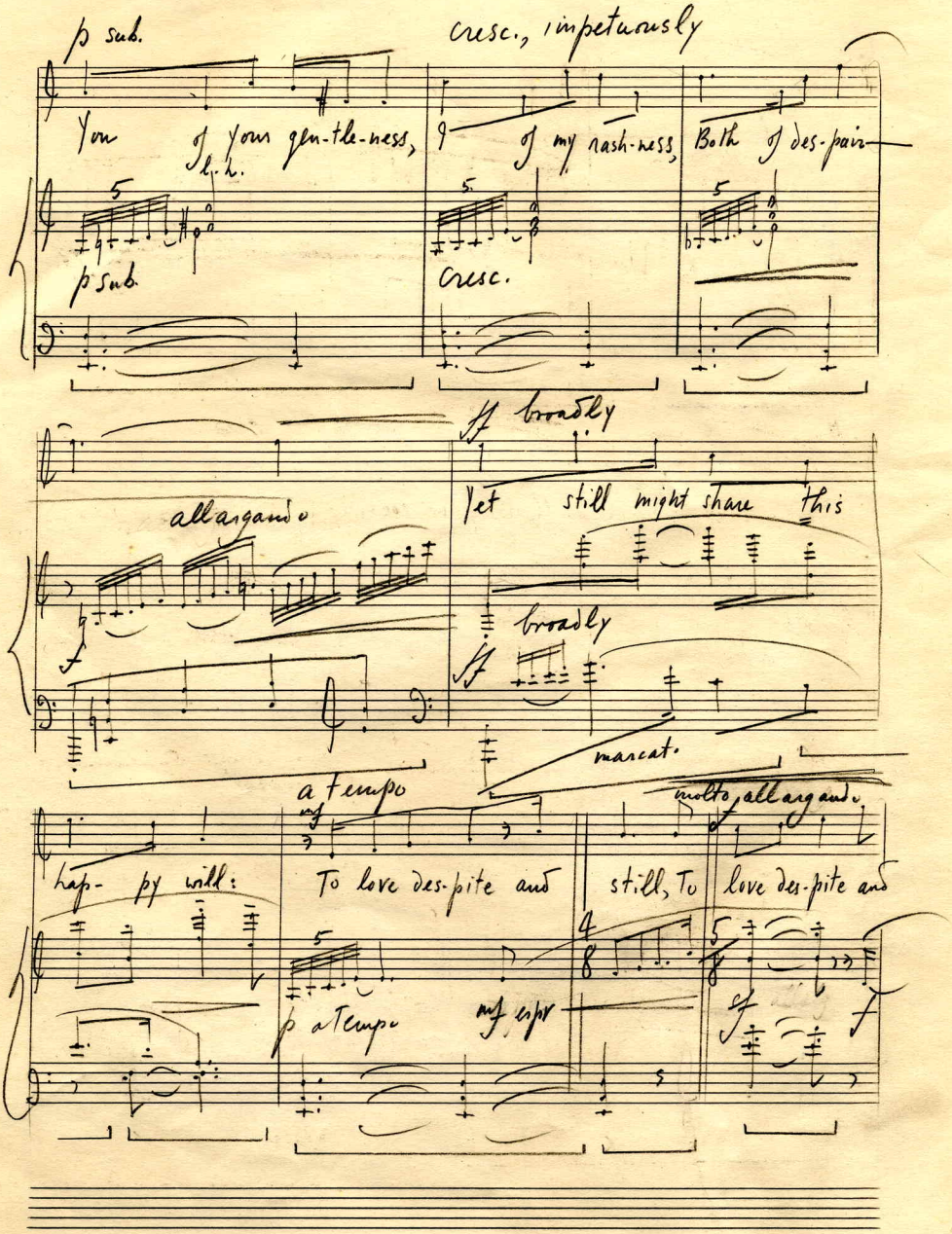
pp

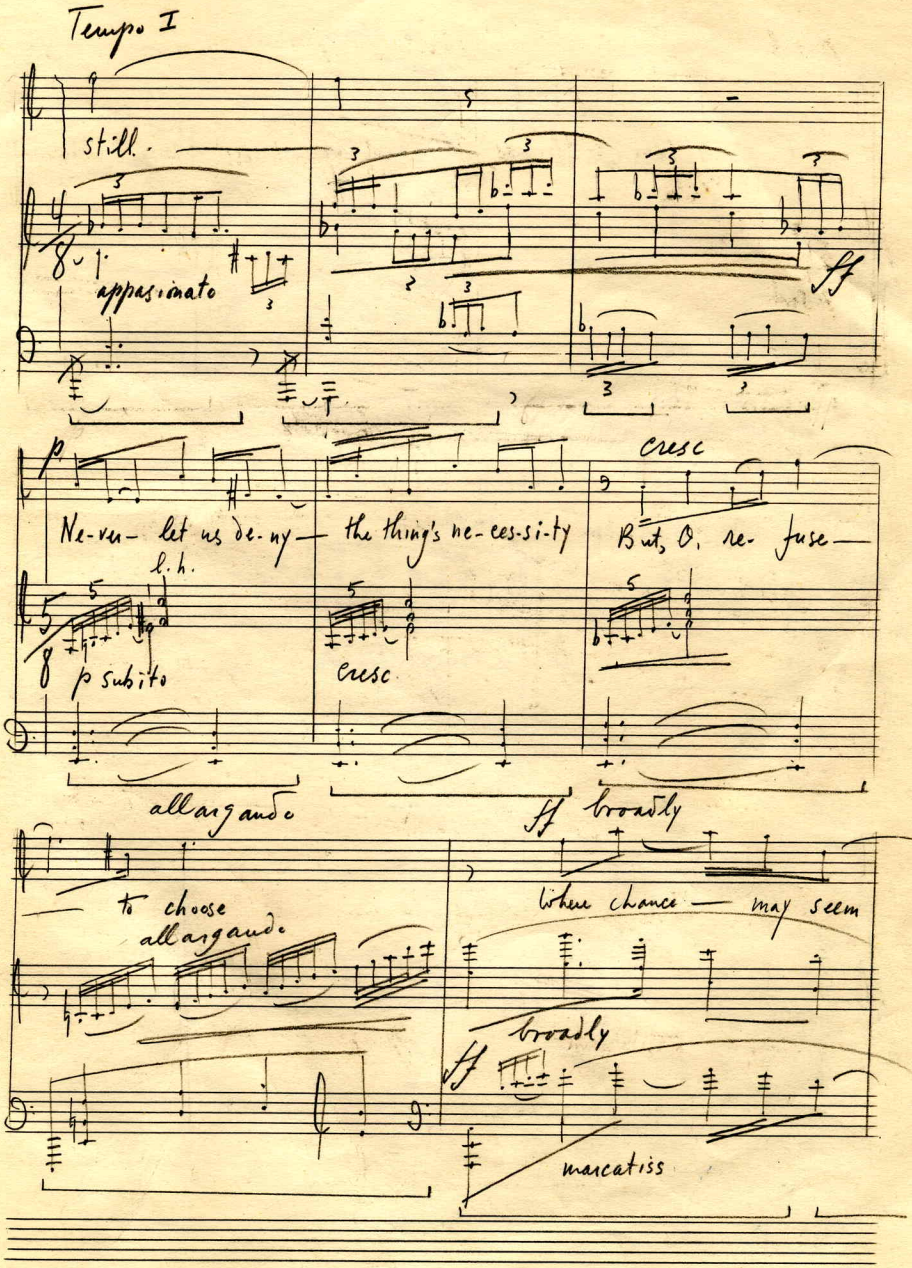
5. Despite and Still

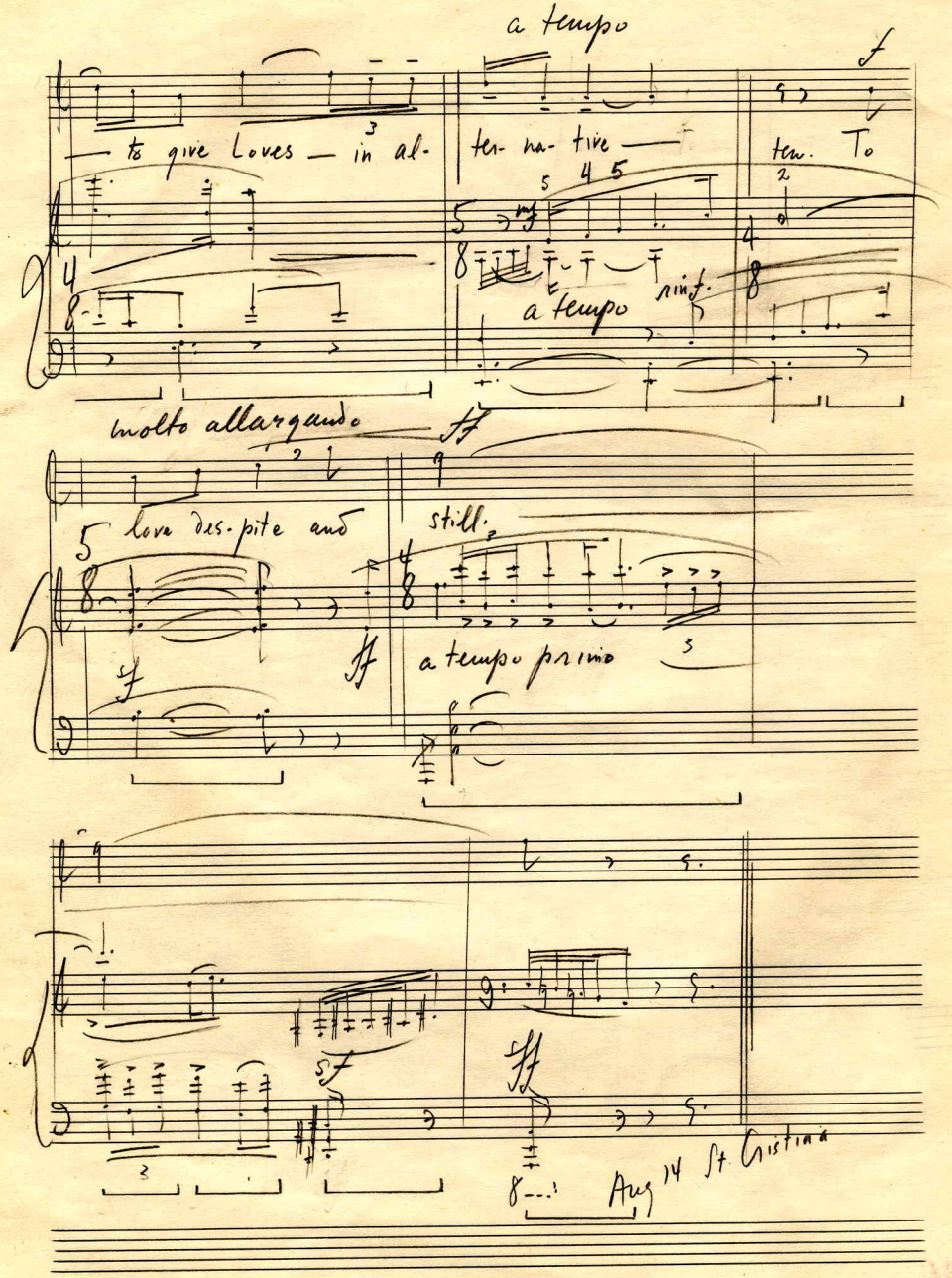
Robert Graves

Darkly impassioned ♩ = 120




p sub.
cresc., impetuously
You
of your gen-tle-ness,
l. h.
of my rash-ness,
Both
of des-pair
p sub.
cresc.
ff broadly
allargando
Yet still might share this
broadly
marcat.
a tempo
molto allargando
hap- py will:
To love des-pite and
still, To
love des-pite and
p a Tempo
mf espr
ff


Tempo I
still.
appassionato
ff
p
Ne-ver- let us de-ny— the thing's ne-ces-si-ty
l.h.
p subito
cresc
But, O, re- fuse—
cresc
allargando
ff broadly
to choose
allargando
When chance— may seem
broadly
ff
marcatiss


a tempo
— to give Loves — in al-
ter- na- tive —
ter. To
a tempo
molto allargando
love des- pite and
still.
a tempo primo
Aug 14 St. Cristina