SOUNDkiosk Piano Edition

Sample pages and titles

Vol 4: Recitations with piano accompaniment (Melodramas) published in A4 format

Music by Franz Liszt, Felix Draeseke and Josef B. Foerster in new editions

Editor: Jamie Crofts

SOUNDkiosk Editions

The Monk in Sorrow

RECITATION WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

(MELODRAMA)

music by Franz Liszt
text by Nicolaus Lenau trans. Jim Simm

An unsuspecting rider finds himself in a terrible storm. Taking cover in an old tower he and his horse encounter and fall victim to the ghost of a monk. An encounter which spells their doom as the mere sight of this monk causes anyone to seek their own death.

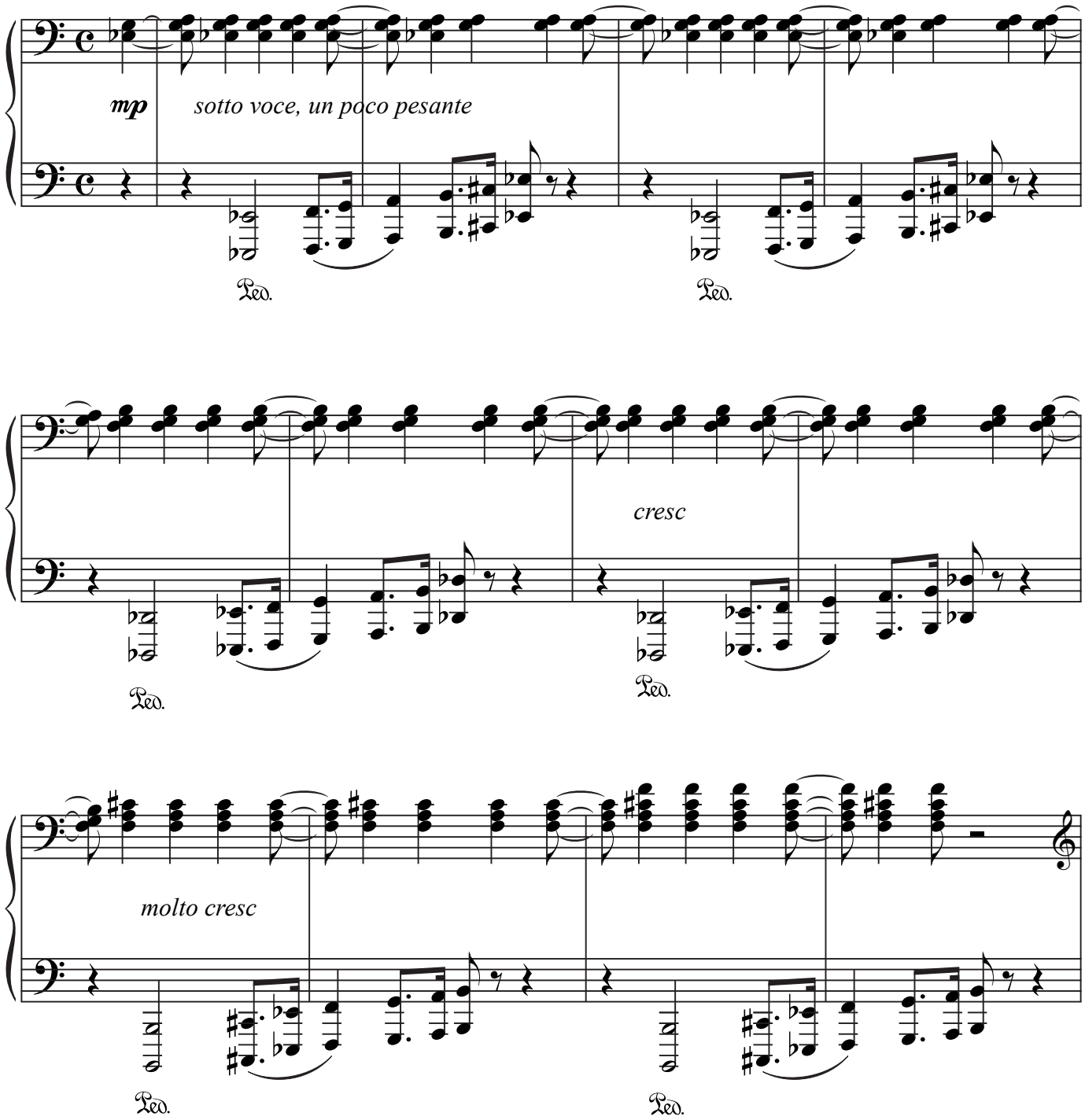
SOUNDkiosk Piano Edition
SKPE 02

The Monk In Sorrow

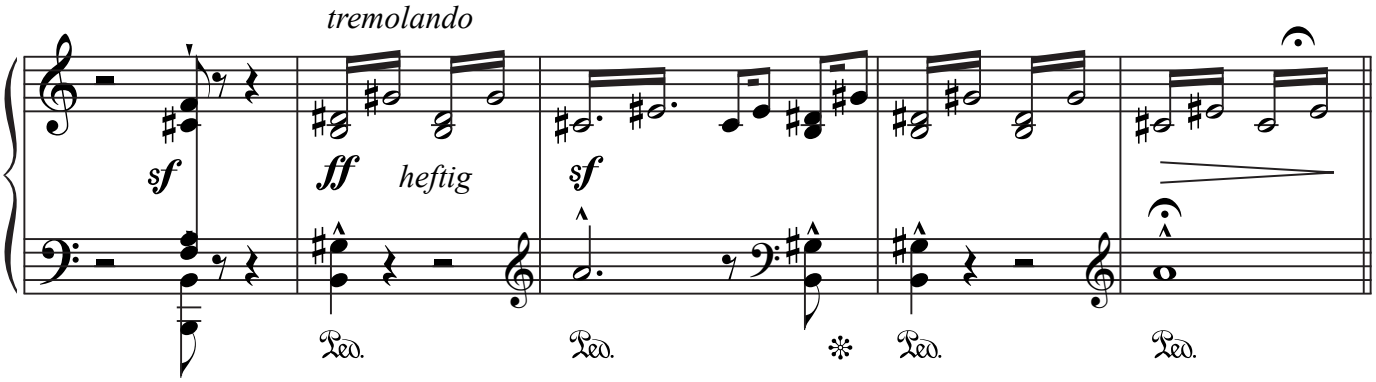
Franz Liszt

Recit: According to legend...

Mässig bewegt



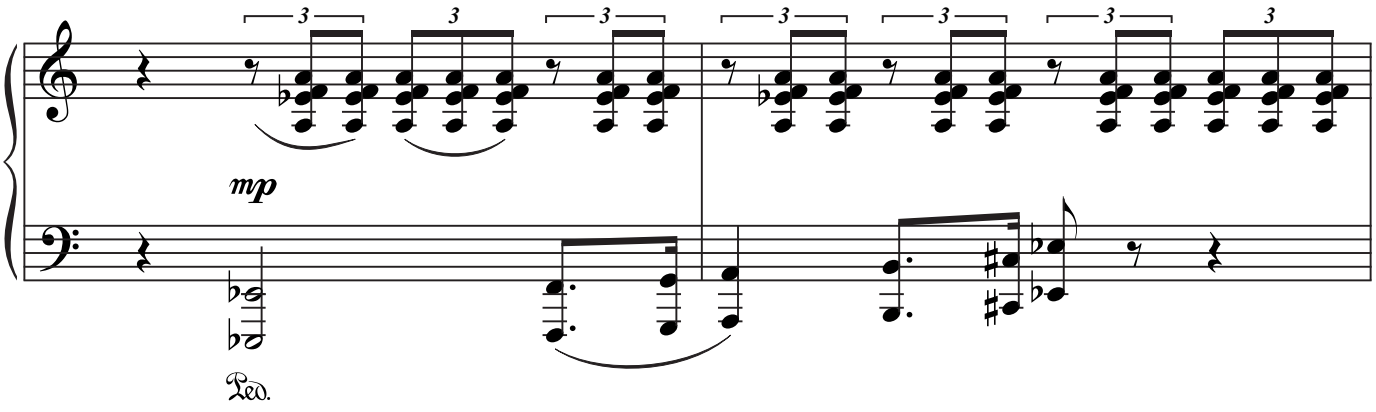
Score and text © Jamie Crofts 2009



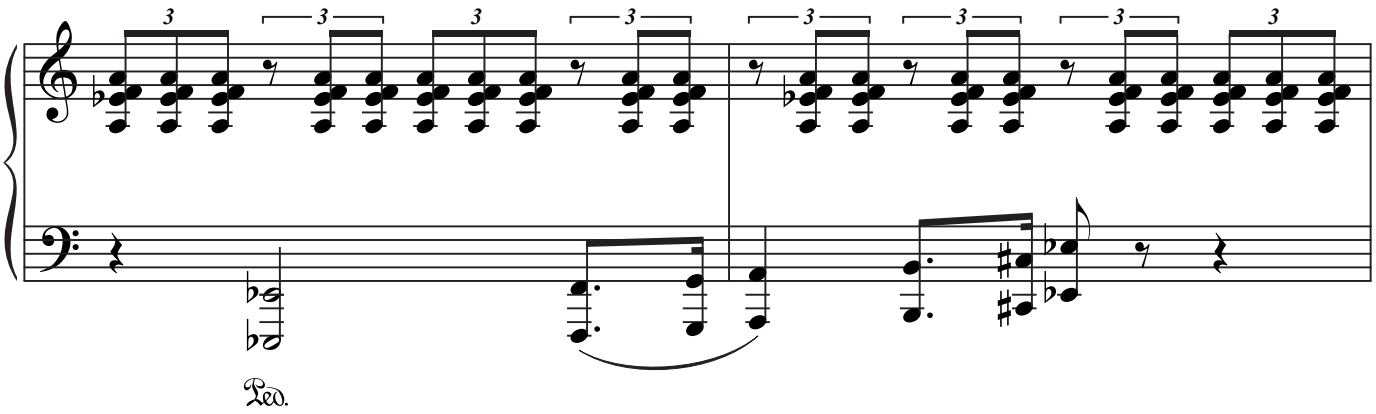
In Sweden stands a grey tower,
a shelter for eagles; owls.
For 900 years
lightning, thunder, rain and storm have toyed with it.
Any humanity which was once there,
joy or sadness,
is long gone

Bewegter

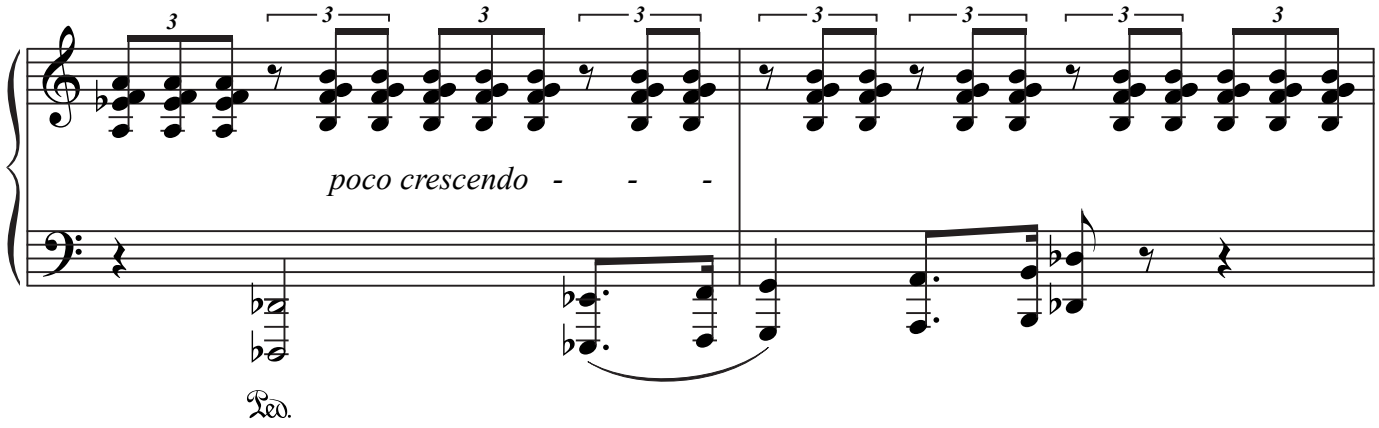
The rain pours



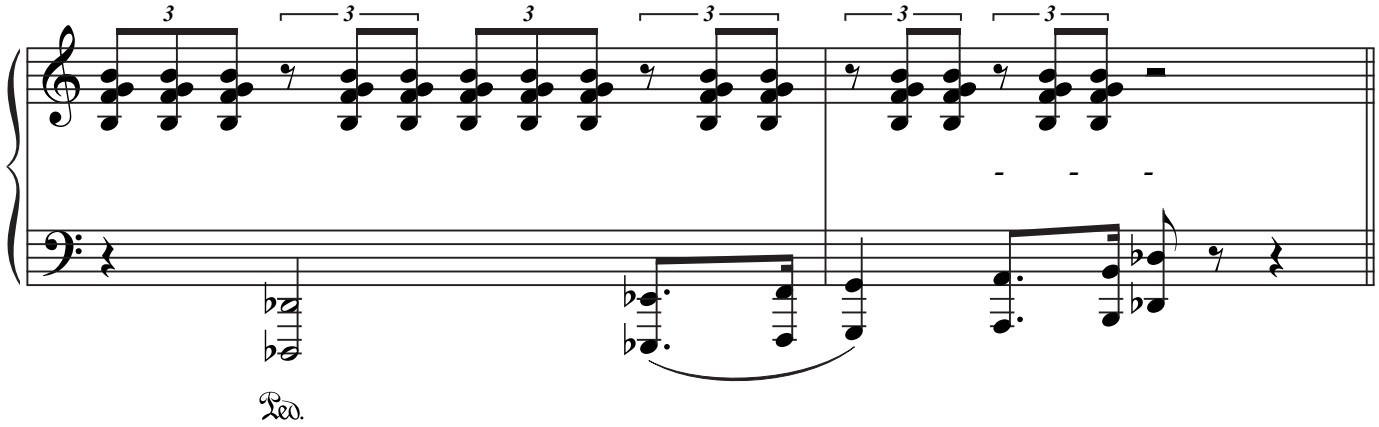
and a rider approaches, spurring-on his horse.



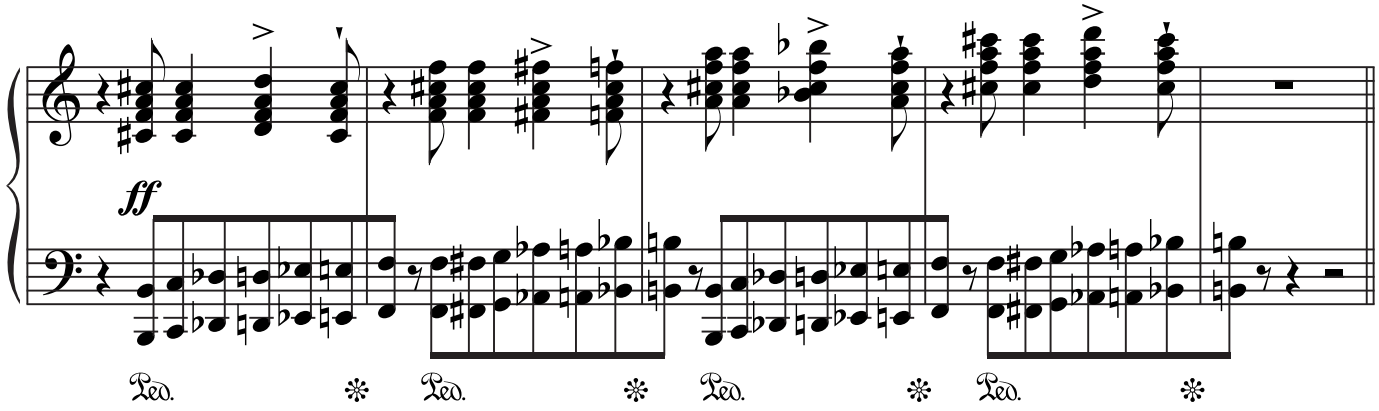
He has lost his path due to the twilight, and due to thought.



The forest writhes, howling in the wind



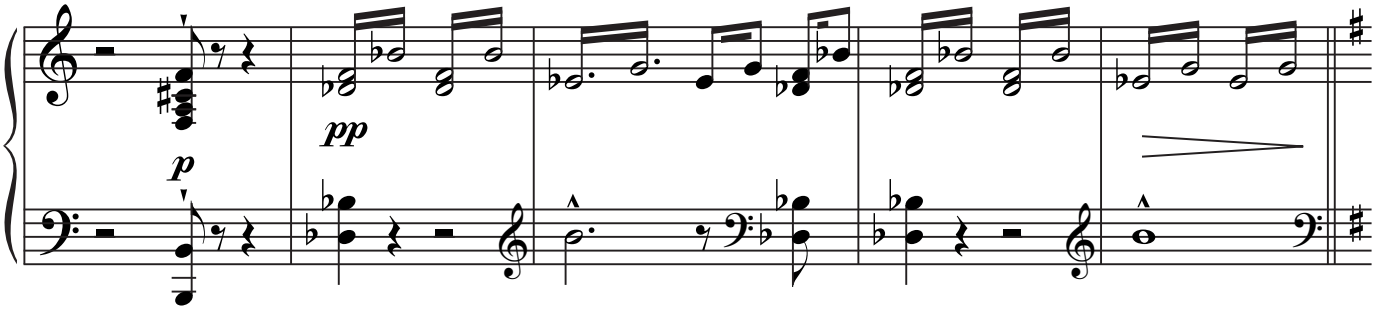
like a child flogged.



The tower is notorious in this land for,
at night, by the bright moonlight,

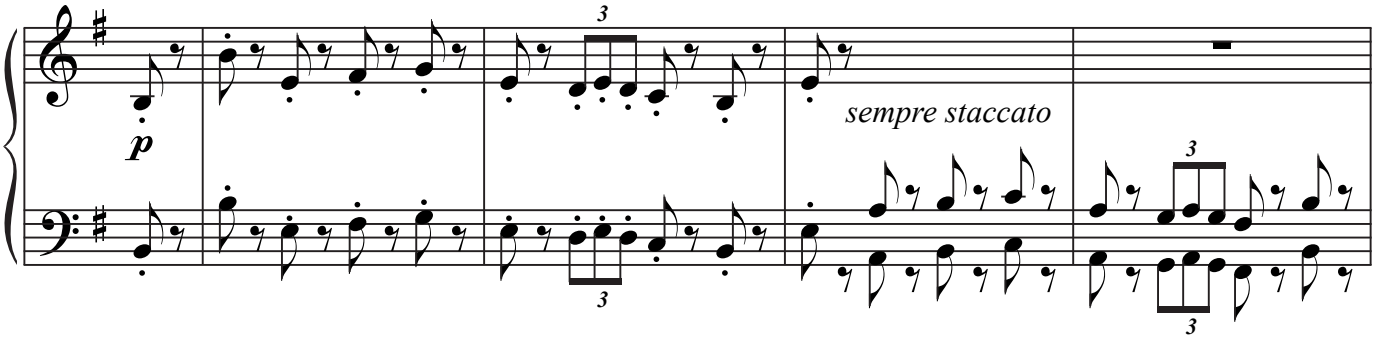
END OF SAMPLE

a ghost haunts in monk's robes whose face is intensely sorrowful;

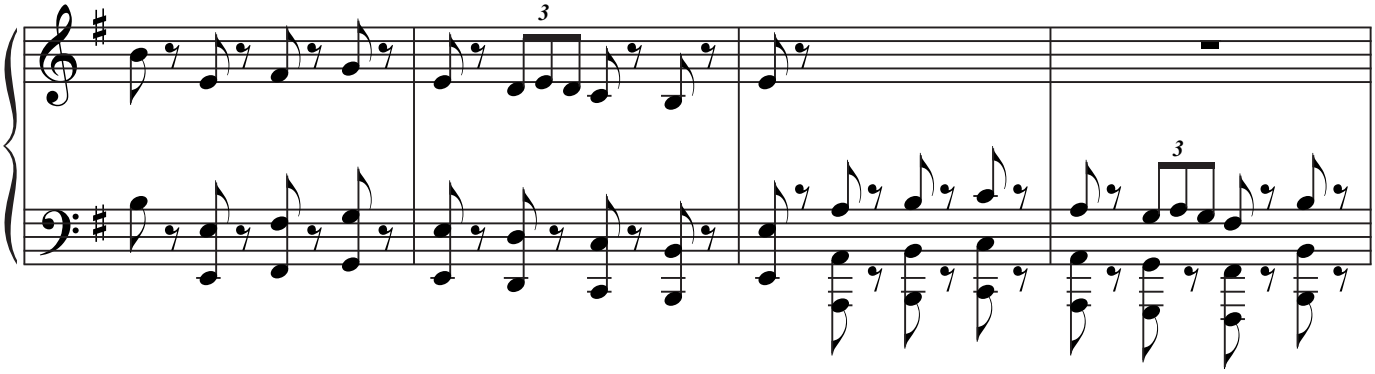


and whosoever should look the monk in the eye
will be taken with a melancholy such that they would wish to die.

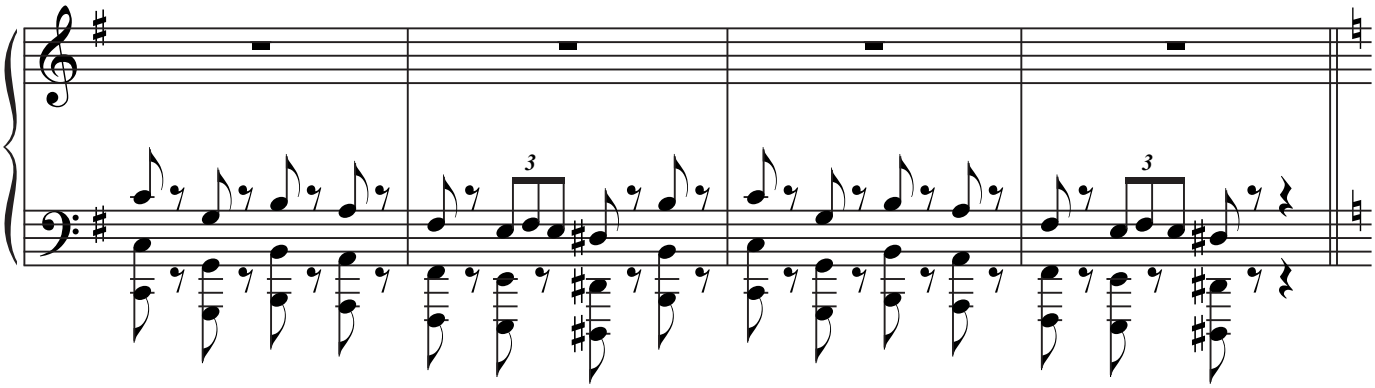
But without fear or horror the rider steps into



the castle vaults. He leads the stallion within, joking:



"Do we not prefer the company of ghosts to that of wind and rain?"



LENORA

RECITATION WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

(MELODRAMA)

music by Franz Liszt
text by Gottfried August Bürger trans. Jim Simm

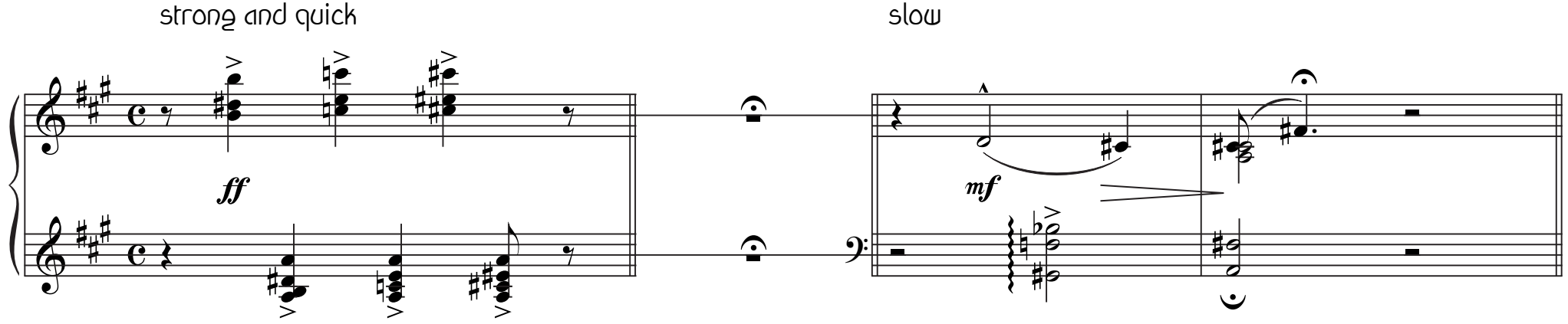
For more than 100 years Bürger's Lenore (often named in English translations as Lenora) was Europe's most popular poem. Lenora's lover Wilhelm (Vilhelm) has not returned from war. The ultimate gothic horror story tells of her appeal for his return. Her appeal by prayer leads to her rejection of God as her prayers go unanswered. At this point he does return, on horseback, and takes her to the "bridal bed". A ride which takes her to the grave.

SOUNDkiosk Piano Edition
SKPE 05

Lenora

ballad by Gottfried August Bürger trans. Jamie Crofts

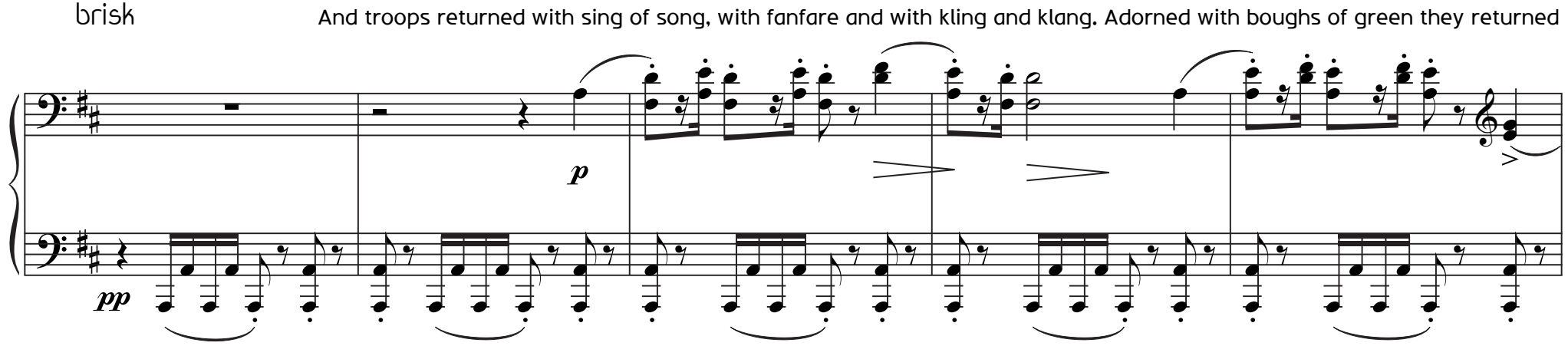
Franz Liszt



1. Lenora arose at rose of dawn;
aroused from nightmared sleep.
"Vilhelm, are you a rat, or dead?
Why so long, so long?"

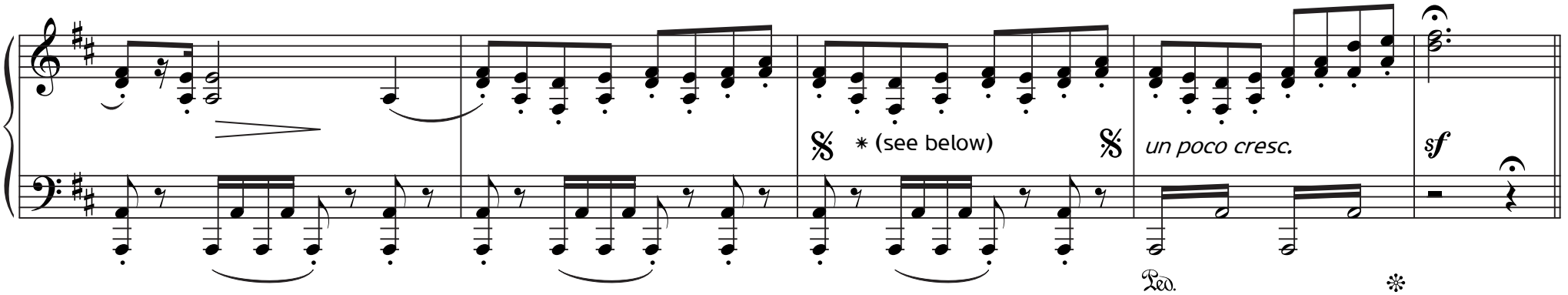
Vilhelm was, with King Friederick's might,
drawn to Prague in battle.
And he had written not
of his health, nor his wealth.

2. The King and his consort,
tired, battle-weary,
softened their resolve
and at last made peace.

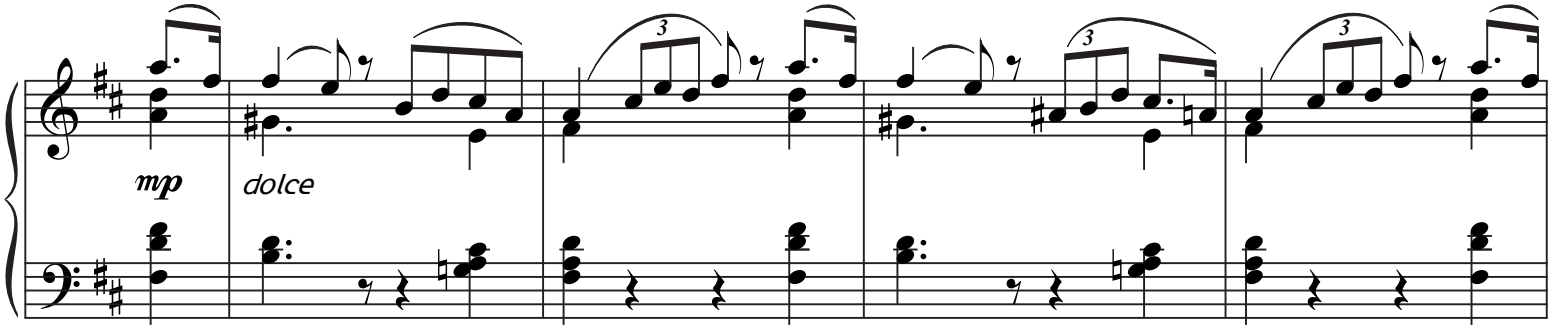


© 2010 text and score, Jamie Crofts

at last to their homes. 3. From all around and all around to every highway and byway came young and old to cheer aloud the homeward bound.

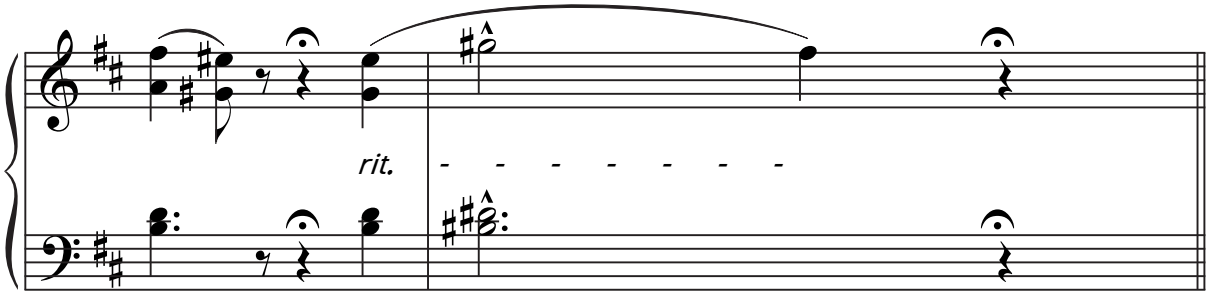


slower "Thank God!" the women and children cried. "Welcome!" cried a joyful bride.



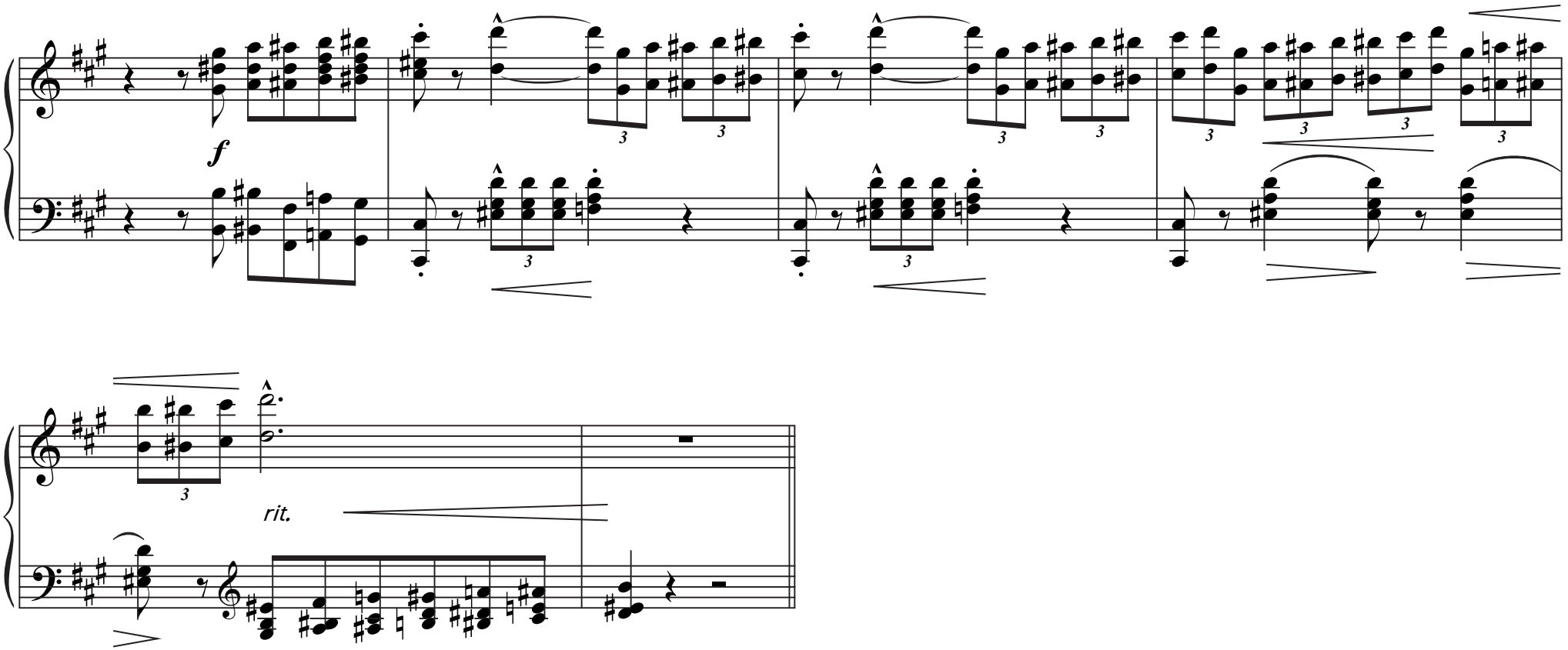
∗ Sections within the symbols 𝄋 and 𝄋 may be repeated as appropriate in agreement with the recitation.

Ah! But for Lenora there was no greeting: Any hope of a kiss was lost.



4. She quizzed the procession, both up and down,
she asked for every name;
but there was no-one who knew her Vilhelm,
not at all, but still they came.
And when the army'd passed
she tore at her raven hair,
threw herself to the ground
in utter despair, despair.

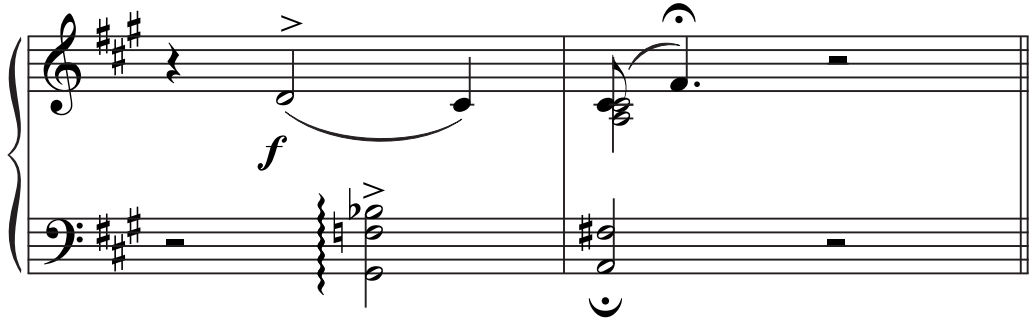
quick and clamourous



5. Her mother promptly ran to her:
"Oh, God have mercy!
You poor sweet child, what is it?
She held her in her arms.
"Oh mother, mother, all is gone!
The world is gone and all is lost!
With God there is no mercy.

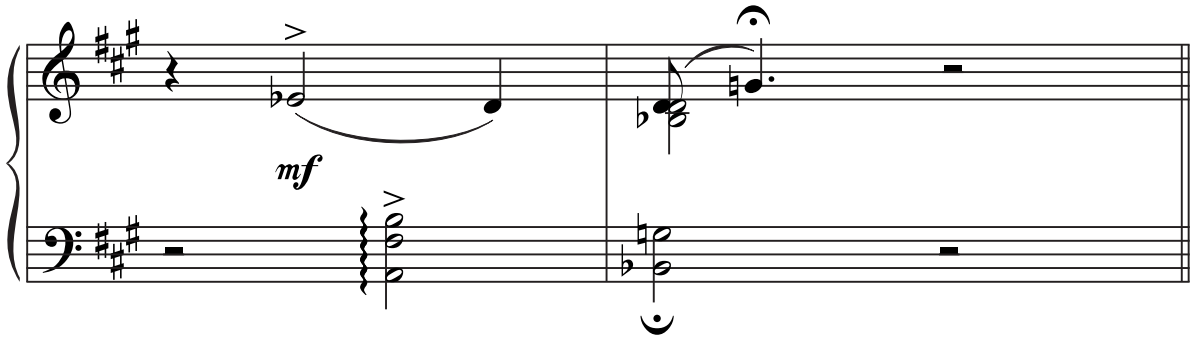
slow

Alas, alas for me!"



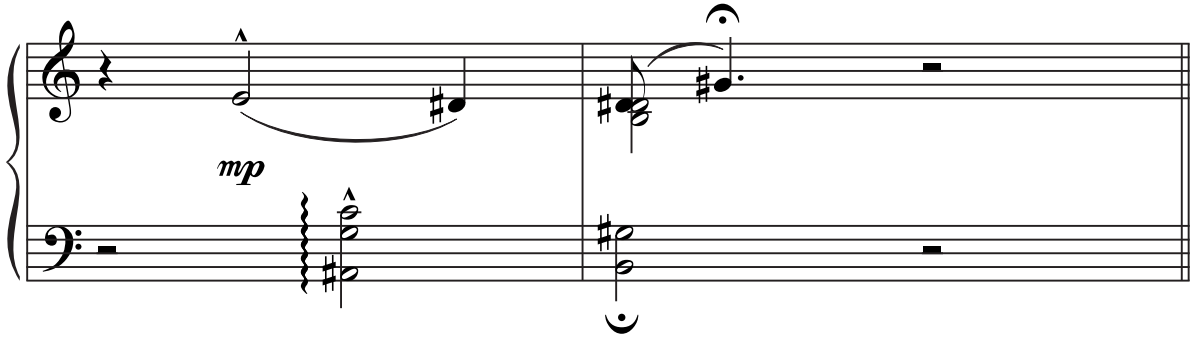
6. "Help, God help us! Have mercy!
Child, say the Lord's Prayer!
What *God* has done, that is *well* done
but God have mercy, have mercy on us!"
"Oh mother, mother! Disillusion!
God has not done well for me!
What point, what point was my prayer?

And now, and now he fails us!"



7. "Help, God help us! He who knows the Father
knows he helps his children.
The blessed sacrament;
now *that* will aid your grief!"
"Oh mother, mother! That which burns me
no sacrament can relieve.
No bread and wine can bring

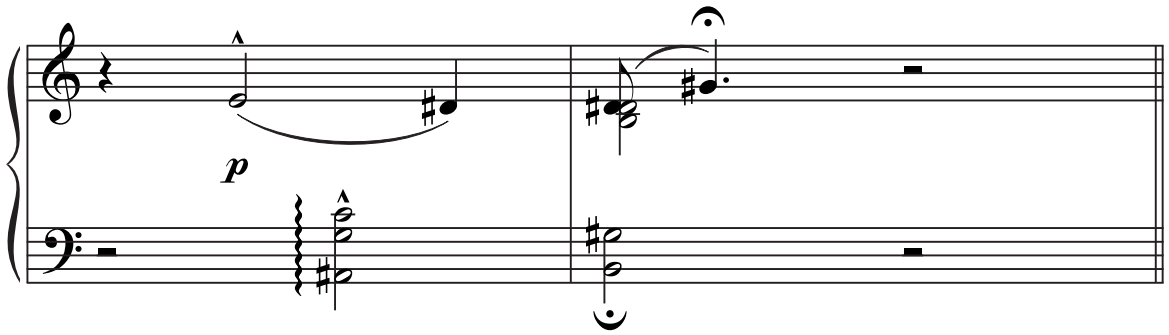
the dead to life again."



8. "Listen child! What if your Vilhelm
in distant Hungary
has betrayed your troth
for a new and constant bride?
Let go, my child, release his heart,
for he will never win!
For body and soul are pulled apart -
and this will burn his perjured heart."

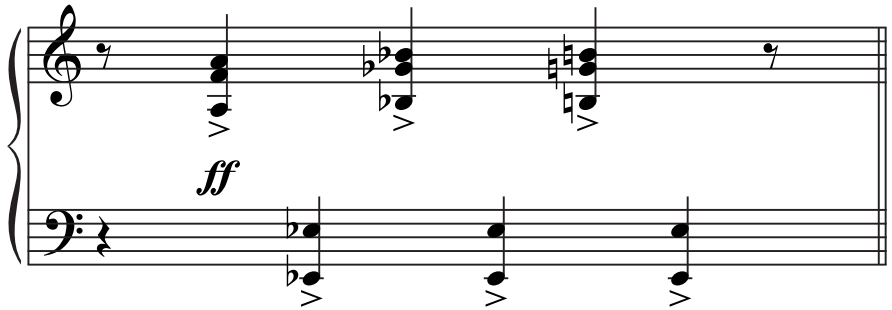
9. "Oh mother, mother! All is gone!
All is lost!
And death, and death my only gain!
Oh, that I had never been born!
Snuff out my light - out forever!
Die out in darkness; dark and horror!
With God there is no mercy.

Alas, alas for me!"



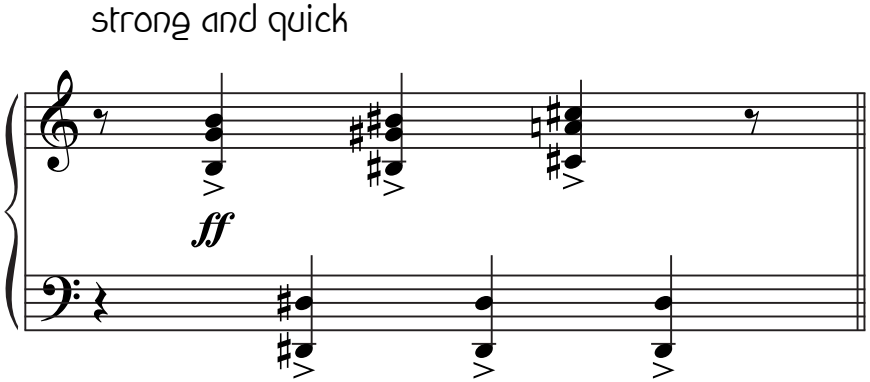
10. "Go help us, help! Judge not
this your poor child!
She does not know what she is saying,
so judge this not as sin."
"Ah, my child, forget this earthly strife,
and think of God and salvation!
Thus it is your soul
the bridegroom has not failed."

strong and quick



11. "Oh mother! What is bliss?
Oh mother! What is hell?
With him, with him is bliss,
and without Vilhelm, hell!

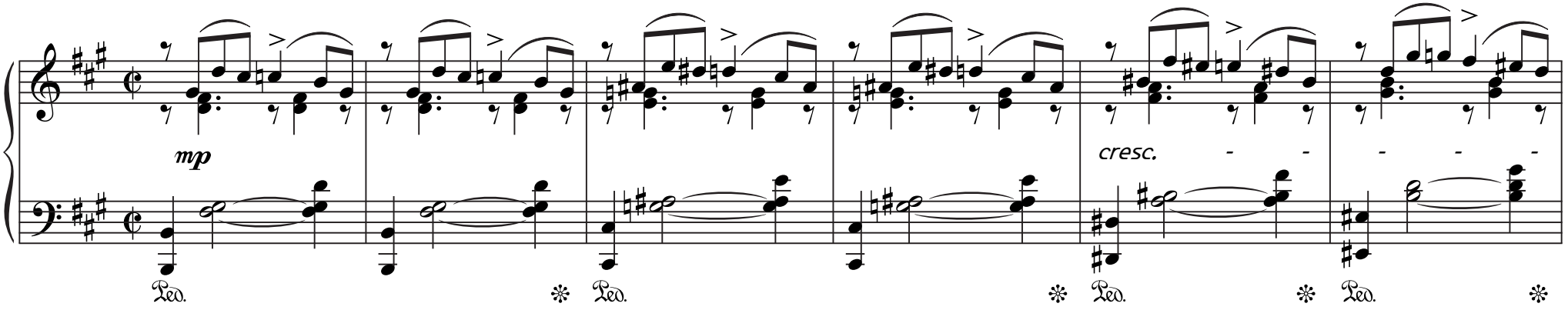
strong and quick



Snuff out my light - out forever!
Die out in darkness; dark and horror!
My life without him, here on earth;
in this there would be no bliss."

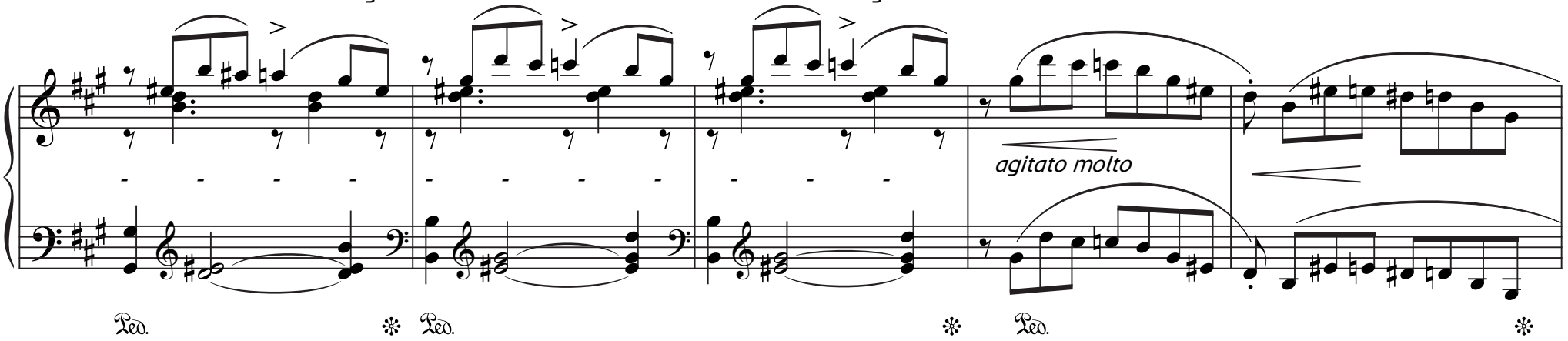
very quick – restless

12. And so despair raged through brain and veins. With God's destiny

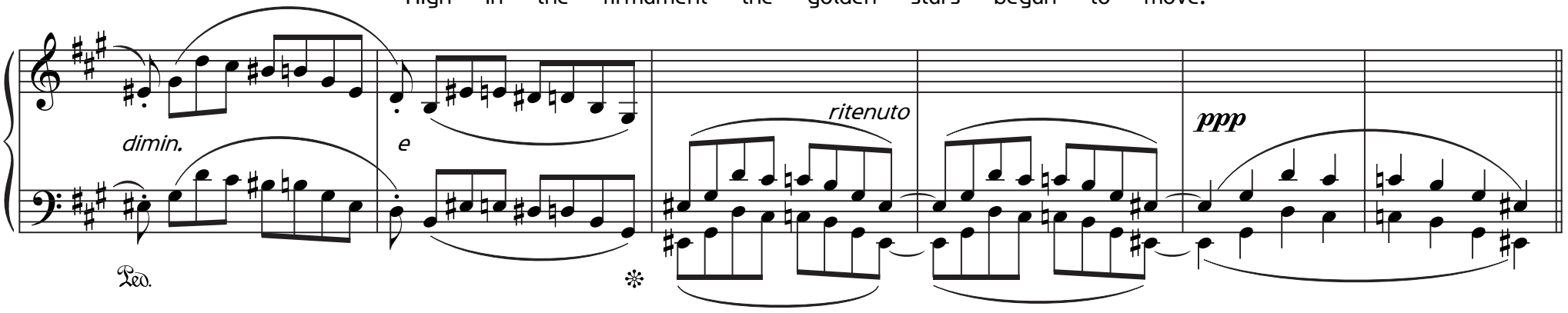


she continued to wrangle.

She beat her breast and wrung her hands 'til the sun had set.



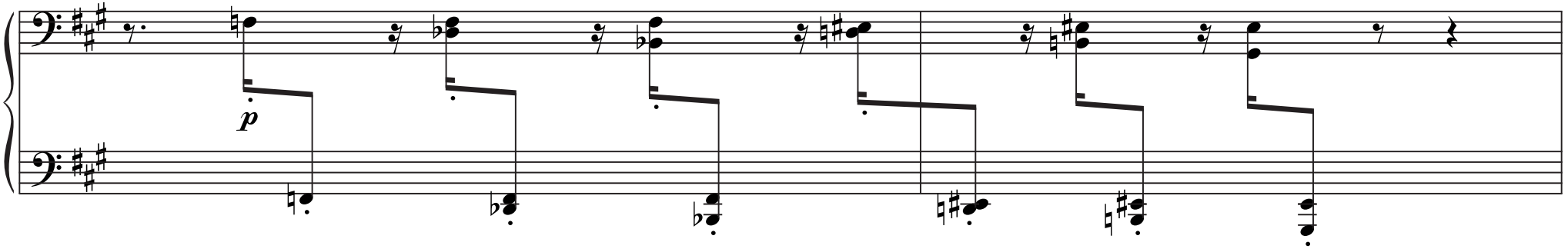
High in the firmament the golden stars began to move.



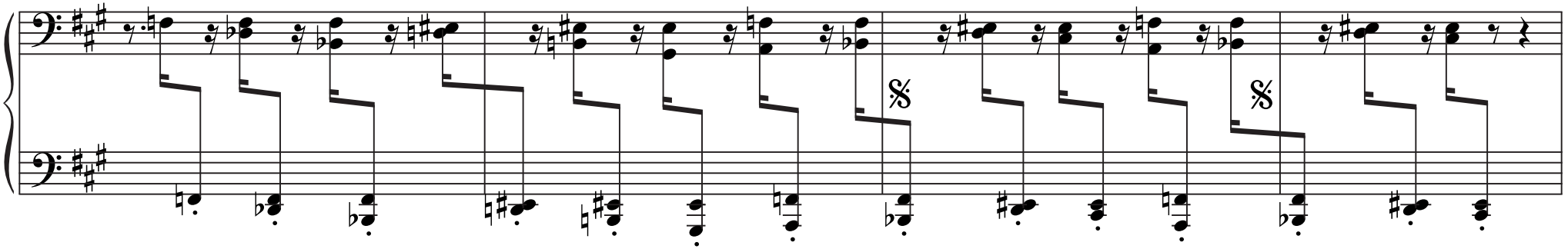
very short staccato and the rhythm clearly marked

13. And hearken, outside,

(sempre staccatissi,mo)



trot trot trot, as of a horse's hooves; And with a clank a rider dismounts at the mounting block; And hark and hark! The gate bell, softly, gently,



during repeat: dim. smorzando

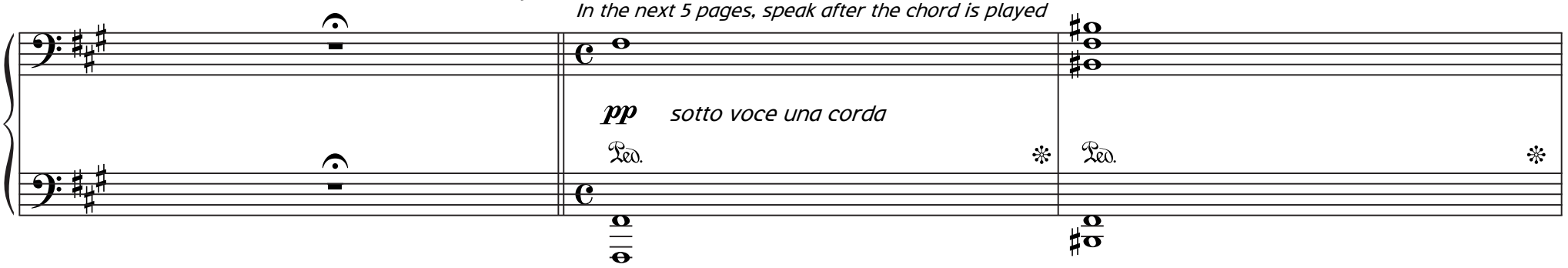
kling-ling-ling! Then through the gate came these words, as clear as day:

slow

14. "Holla, holla! Open up my child!

Sweetness, are you awake or do you sleep?

In the next 5 pages, speak after the chord is played



THE MONK OF BONIFACIO

RECITATION WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

(MELODRAMA)

music by Felix Draeseke
text by Conrad Ferdinand Meyer trans. Jim Simm

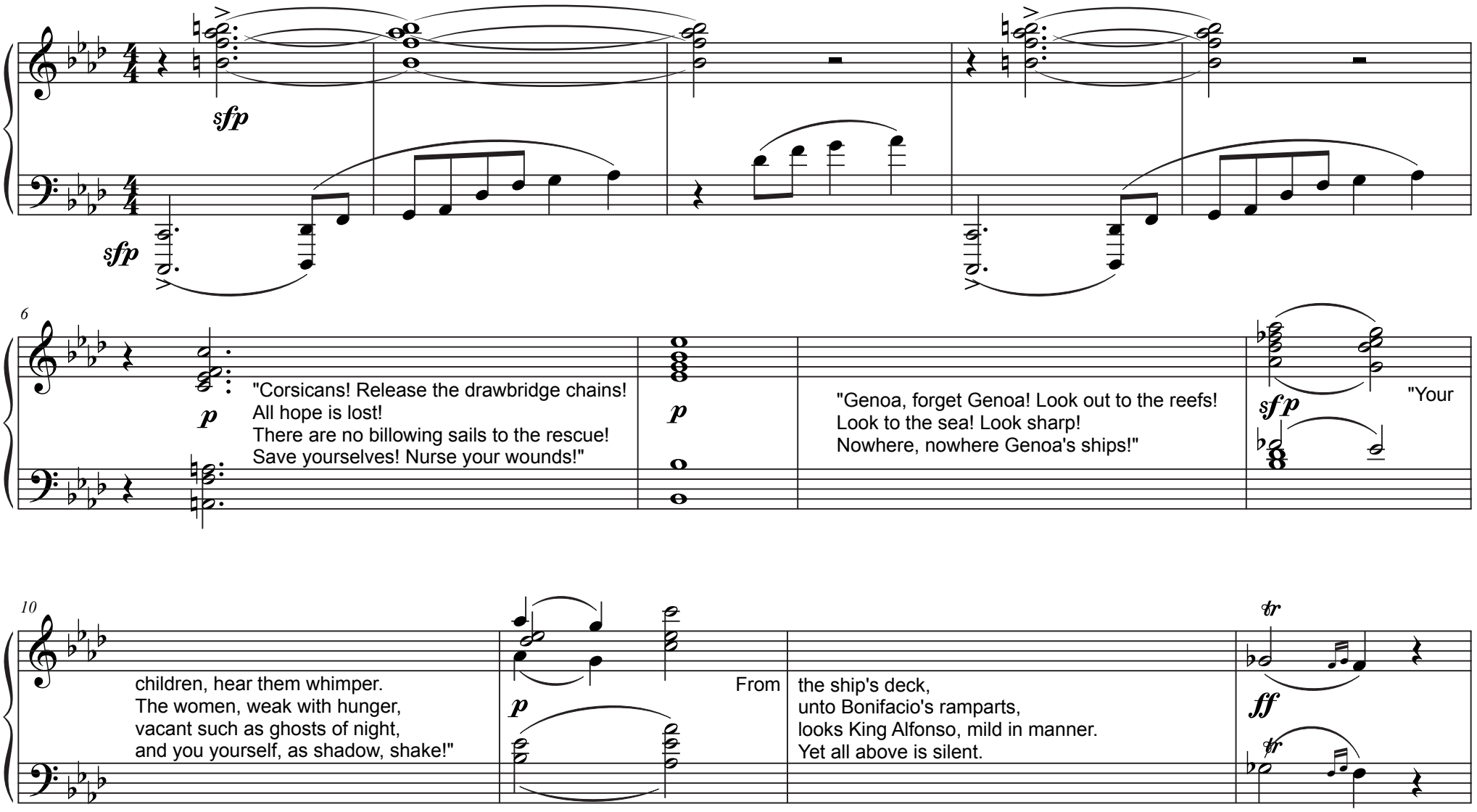
By supernatural means, a monk saves the town of
Bonifacio on the southern tip of Corsica from the threat of invasion.

SOUNDkiosk Piano Edition
SKPE 04

The Monk of Bonifacio

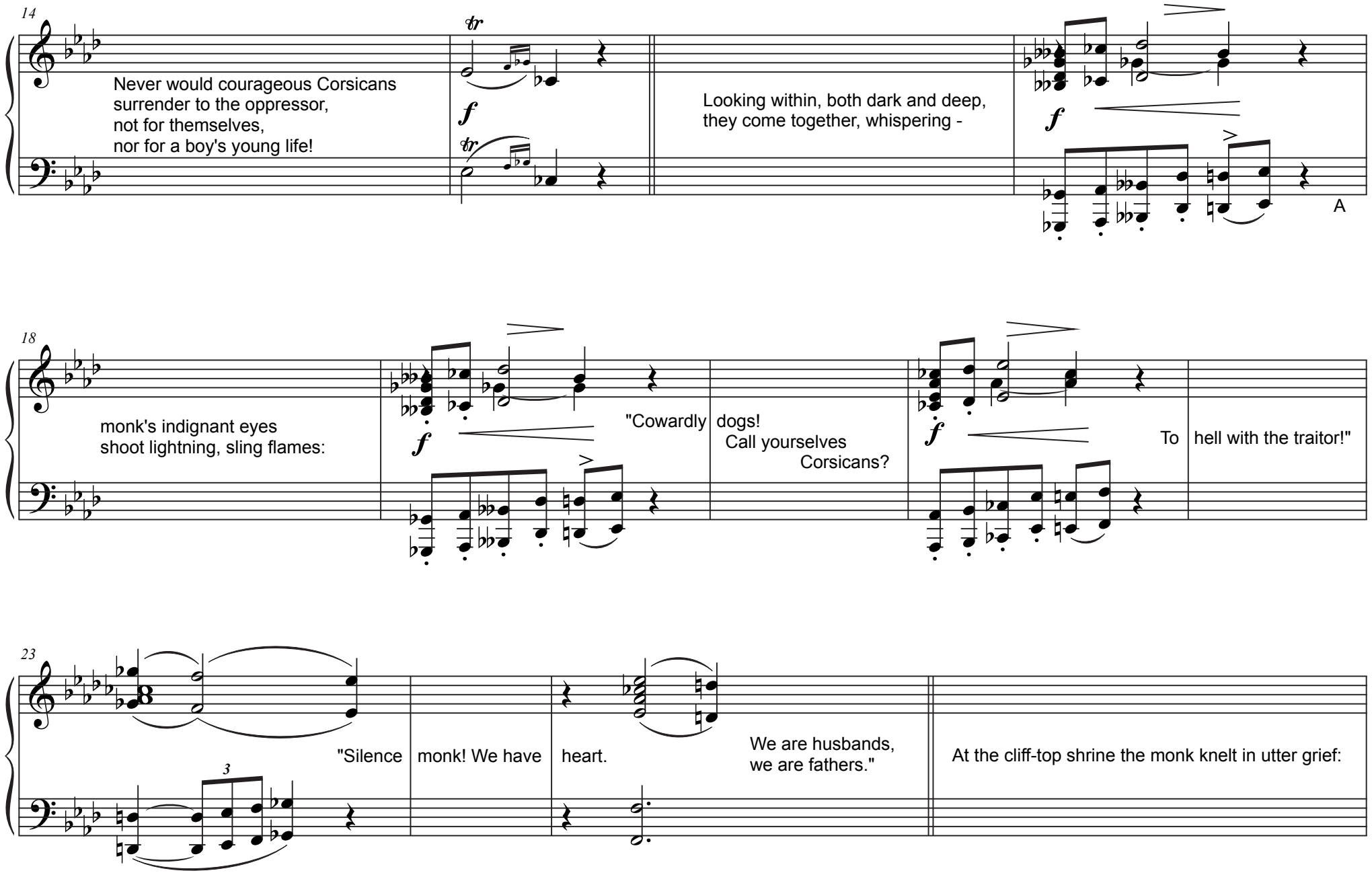
Felix Draeseke, op. 74

Mässig bewegt.

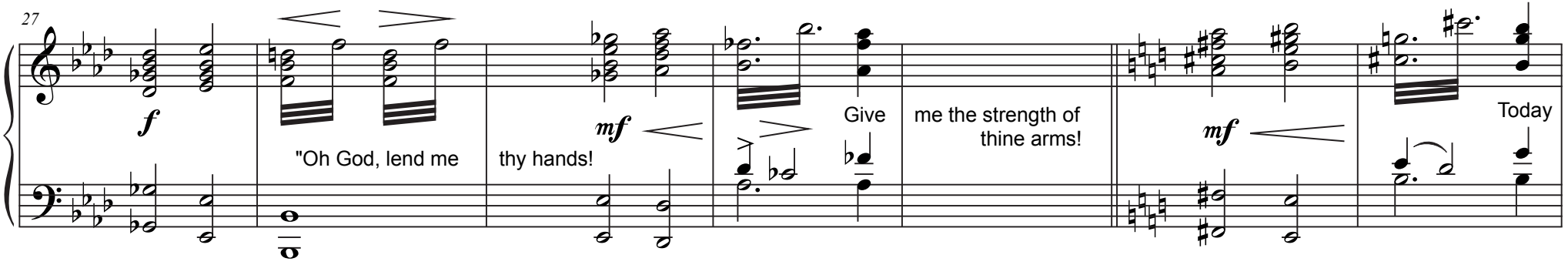


© 2010

Heftig.

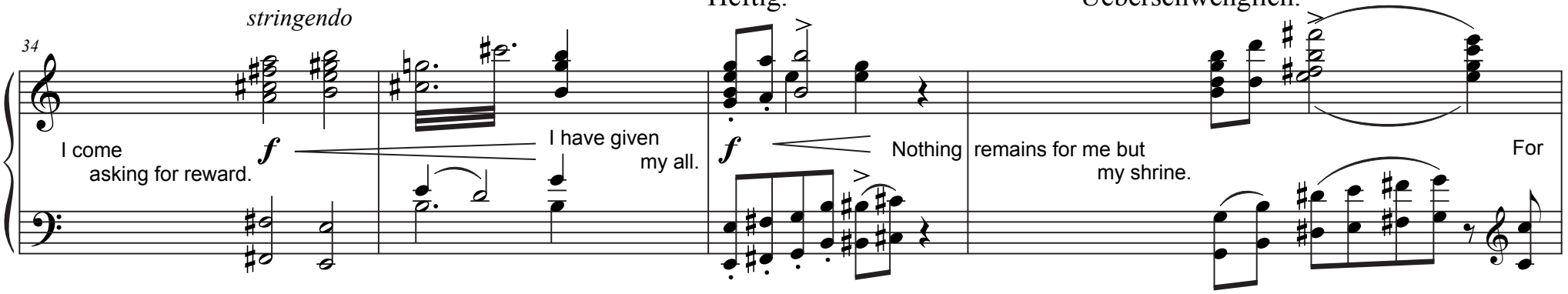

14
Never would courageous Corsicans
surrender to the oppressor,
not for themselves,
nor for a boy's young life!
Looking within, both dark and deep,
they come together, whispering -
A
18
monk's indignant eyes
shoot lightning, sling flames:
"Cowardly
dogs!
Call yourselves
Corsicans?
To
hell with the traitor!"
23
"Silence
monk! We have
heart.
We are husbands,
we are fathers."
At the cliff-top shrine the monk knelt in utter grief:

Breit.

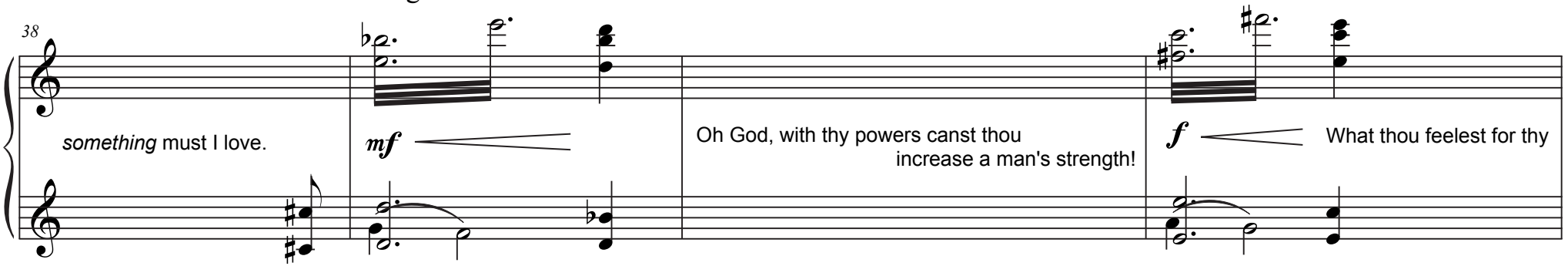


Heftig.

Ueberschwenglich.



Drängender.



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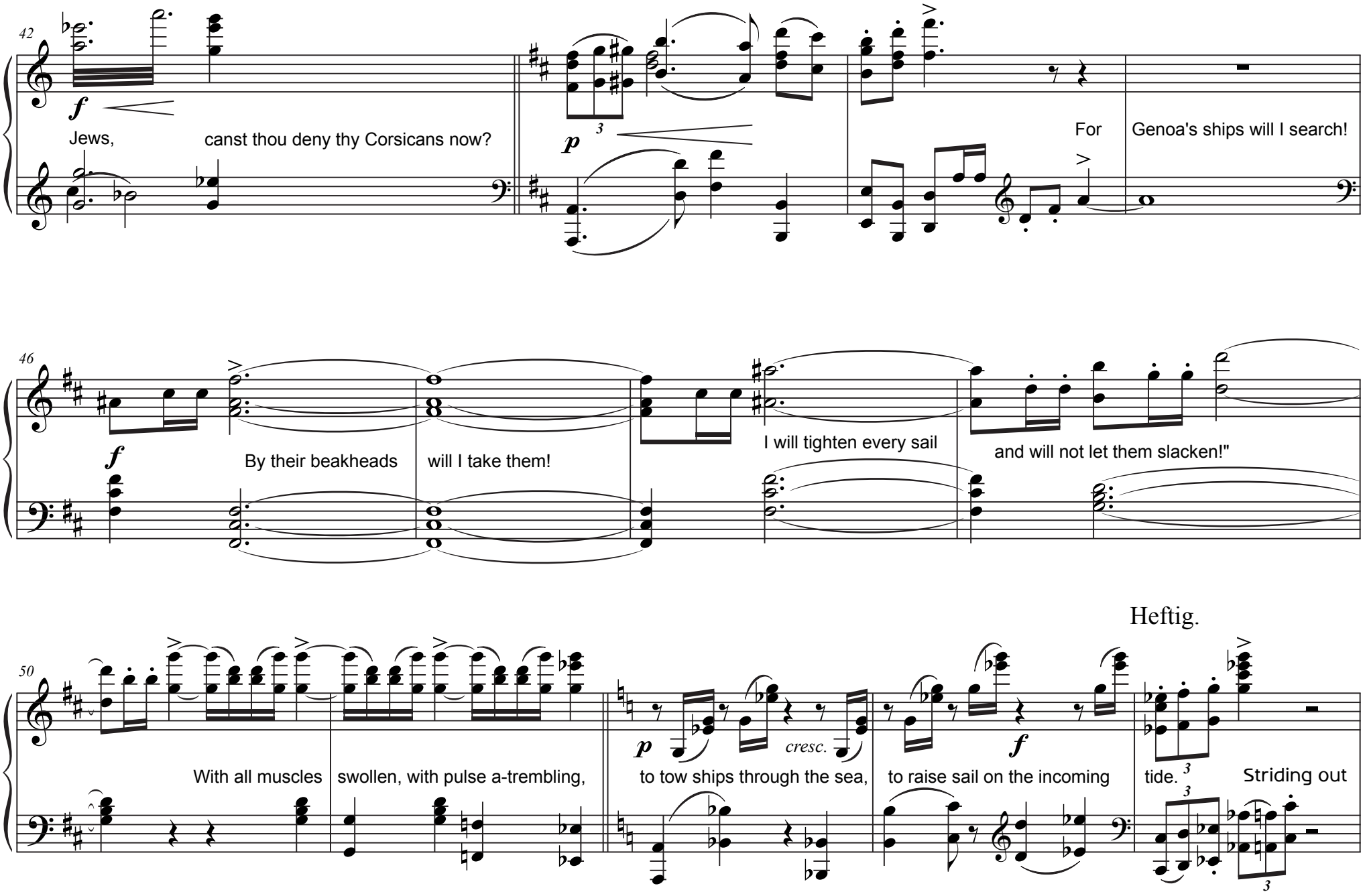


AMARUS

RECITATION WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

(MELODRAMA)

music by Josef B. Foerster
text by Jaroslav Vrchlichký trans. Jim Simm

Amarus was abandoned in a monastery at birth. As he approaches adulthood he prays to know the time of his death. An angel tells him that this will be the day when he forgets to fill the altar lamp with oil. One day he encounters two lovers in the church and follows them to the cemetery. His preoccupation leads him to forget the lamp. He expires, quite beautifully, on a grave.
A beautiful irony - it is the grave of his mother.

SOUNDkiosk Piano Edition
SKPE 06

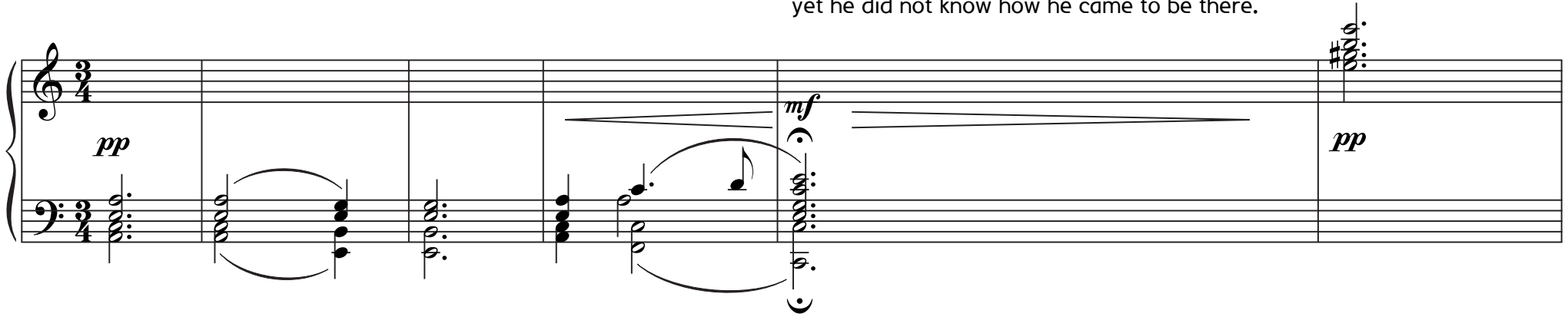
Amarus

Music: Jos. B. Foerster
Text: J. Vrchlický trans. Jamie Crofts

Lento

He had lived at the monastery since childhood,
yet he did not know how he came to be there.

He did not know



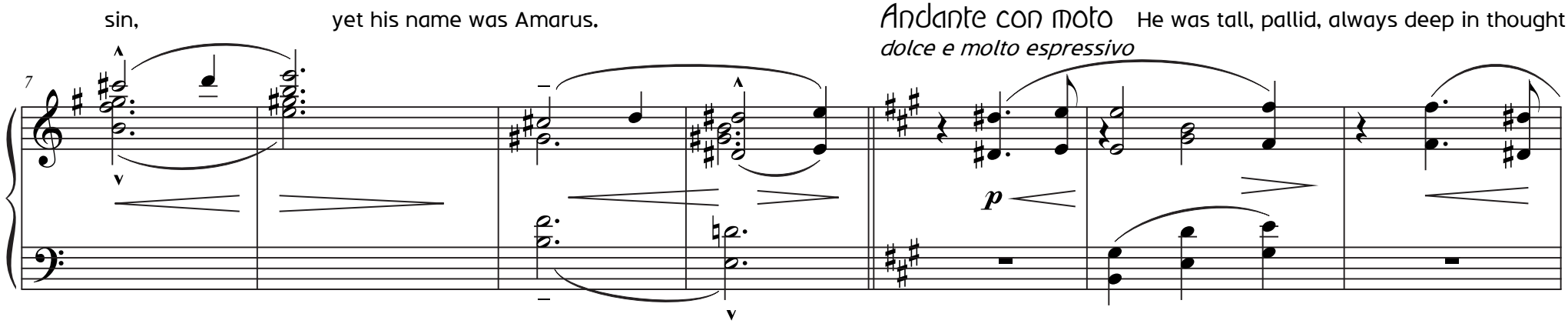
sin,

yet his name was Amarus.

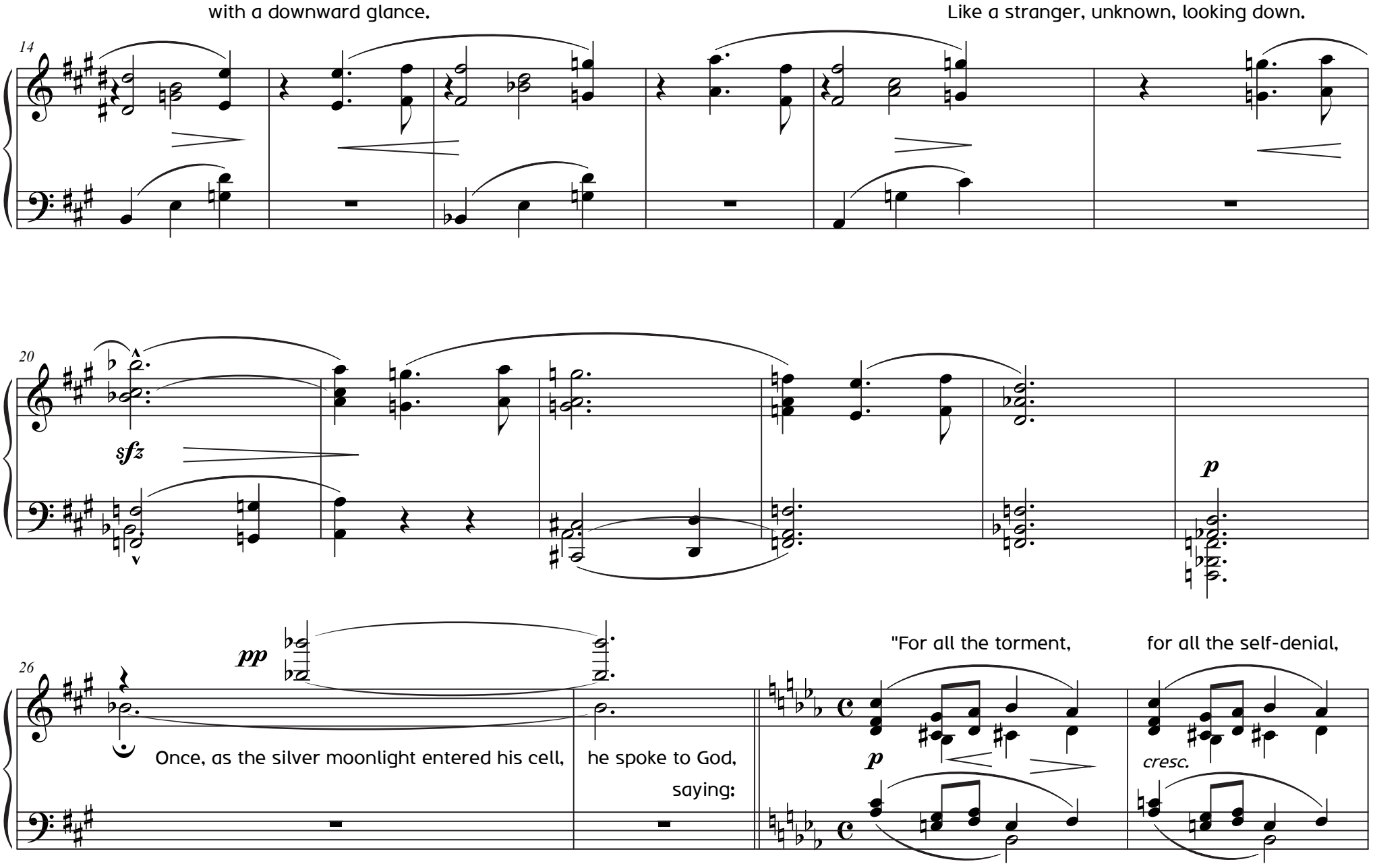
Andante con moto

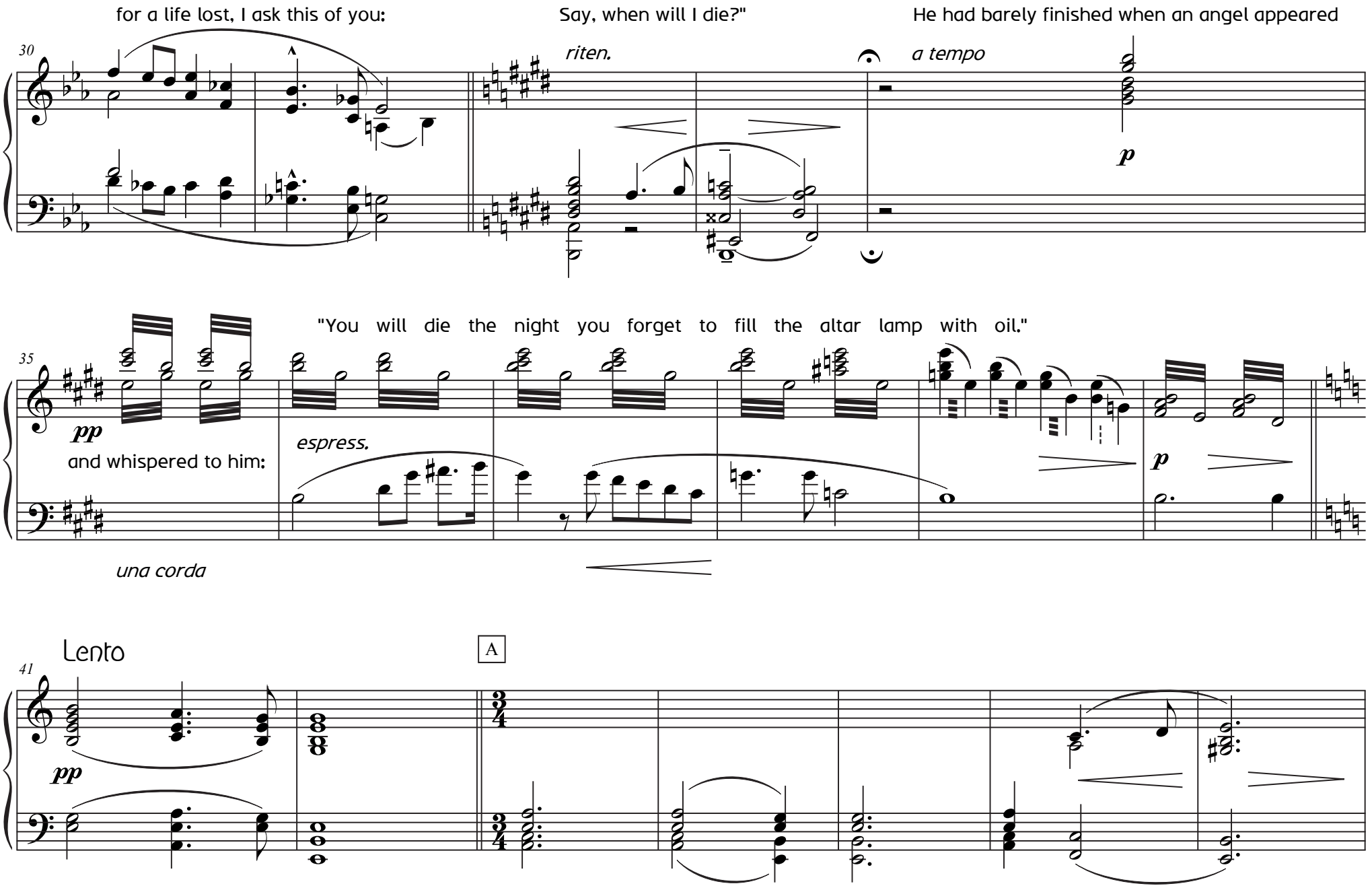
He was tall, pallid, always deep in thought

dolce e molto espressivo

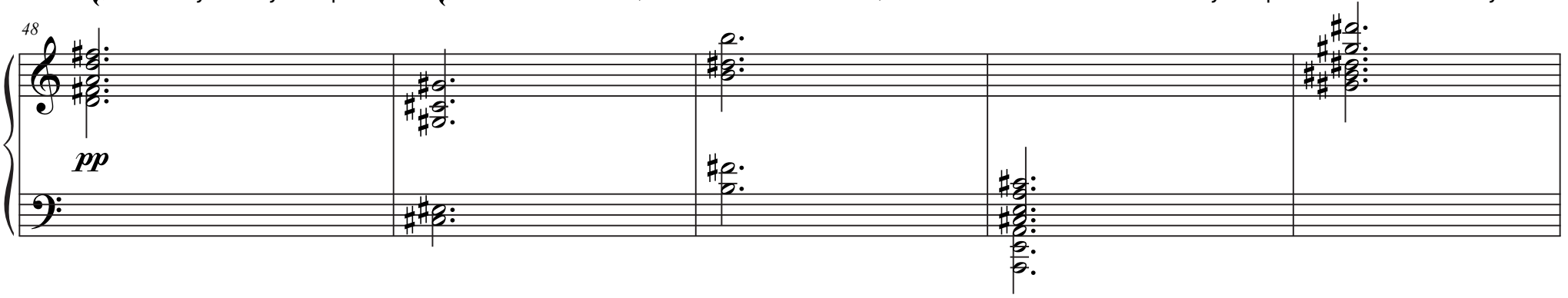


Score and Text © Jamie Crofts 2010


with a downward glance.
Like a stranger, unknown, looking down.
14
20
sfz
p
26
pp
Once, as the silver moonlight entered his cell,
he spoke to God,
saying:
"For all the torment,
for all the self-denial,
p
cresc.


for a life lost, I ask this of you:
Say, when will I die?"
He had barely finished when an angel appeared
30
riten.
a tempo
p
"You will die the night you forget to fill the altar lamp with oil."
35
pp
and whispered to him:
espress.
p
una corda
Lento
41
A
pp

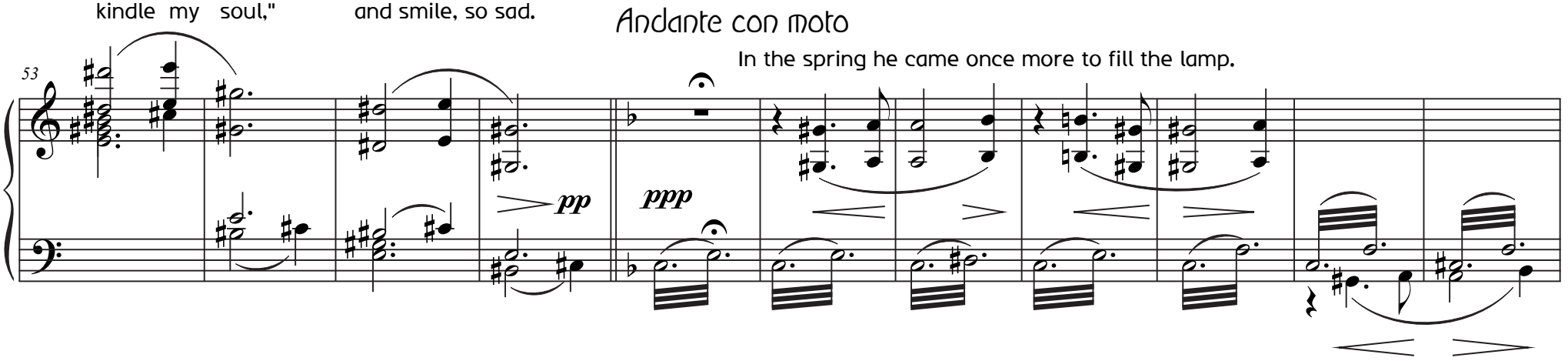
And days and years passed. Amarus lived on, silent and melancholic, and when he filled the sanctuary lamp with oil he would say: "I



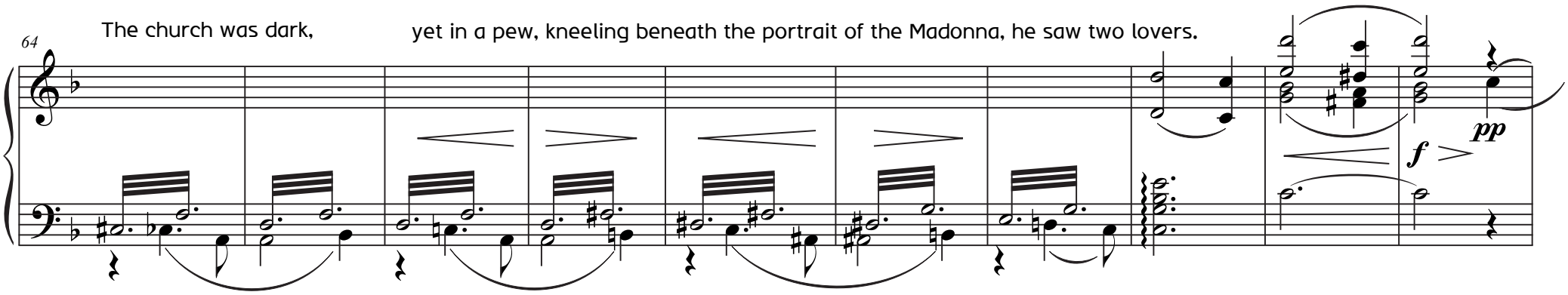
kindle my soul," and smile, so sad.

Andante con moto

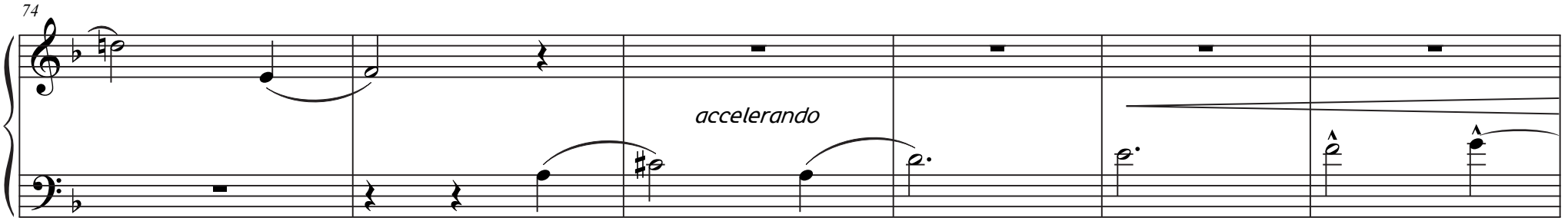
In the spring he came once more to fill the lamp.



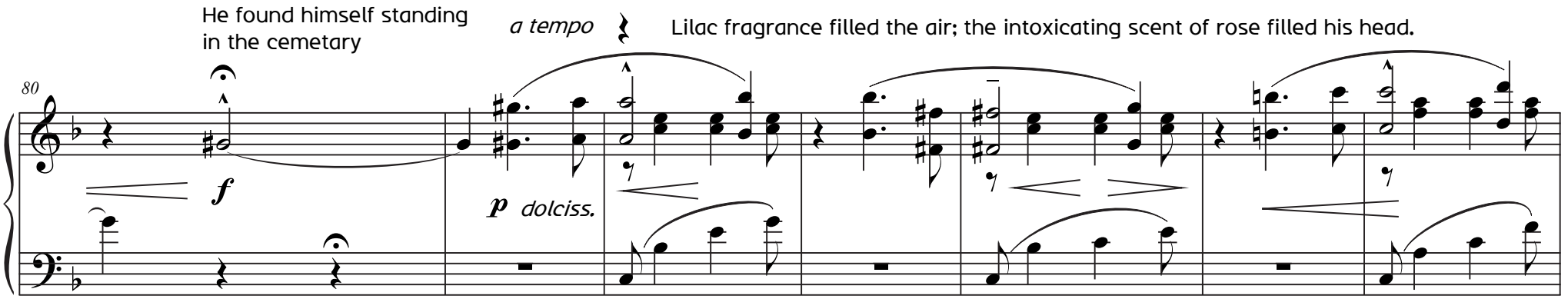
The church was dark, yet in a pew, kneeling beneath the portrait of the Madonna, he saw two lovers.



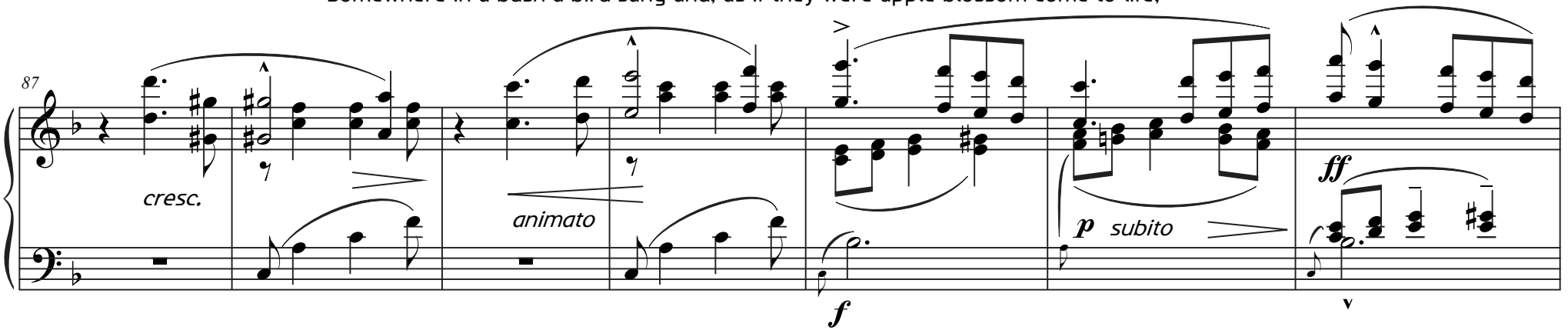
He held his breath. Suddenly a strange longing came over him. As they finished their prayers he followed them, quick on his toes.



He found himself standing
in the cemetary



Somewhere in a bush a bird sang and, as if they were apple blossom come to life,



TITLES WITH NOTES

CATALOGUE NUMBERS AND

PRICES

The Monk in Sorrow (1860) - Franz Liszt
SKPE 02 £10

(text by Nicolaus Lenau)
An unsuspecting rider finds himself in a terrible storm. Taking cover in an old tower he and his horse encounter and fall victim to the ghost of a monk.
An encounter which spells their doom as the mere sight of this monk causes anyone to seek their own death.

Lenora (1858/1860) - Franz Liszt
SKPE 05 £15

(text by Gottfried August Bürger)
For more than 100 years Bürger's Lenore (often named in English translations as Lenora) was Europe's most popular poem. Lenora's lover Wilhelm (Vilhelm) has not returned from war. The ultimate gothic horror story tells of her appeal for his return. Her appeal by prayer leads to her rejection of God as her prayers go unanswered. At this point he does return, on horseback, and takes her to the "bridal bed". A ride which takes her to the grave.

The Monk of Bonifacio (1901) - Felix Draeseke
SKPE 04 £10

(text by Conrad Ferdinand Meyer)
By supernatural means, a monk saves the town of Bonifacio on the southern tip of Corsica from the threat of invasion.

Amarus (1897)
SKPE 06 £10

(text by Jaroslav Vrchlichký)
Amarus was abandoned in a monastery at birth. As he approaches adulthood he prays to know the time of his death. An angel tells him that this will be the day when he forgets to fill the altar lamp with oil.
One day he encounters two lovers in the church and follows them to the cemetery. His preoccupation leads him to forget the lamp. He expires, quite beautifully, on a grave. A beautiful irony - it is the grave of his mother.