Serenade to Music

Composed for and dedicated to Sir Henry J. Wood on the occasion of his Jubilee, in grateful recognition of his services to music, by R. Vaughan Williams.

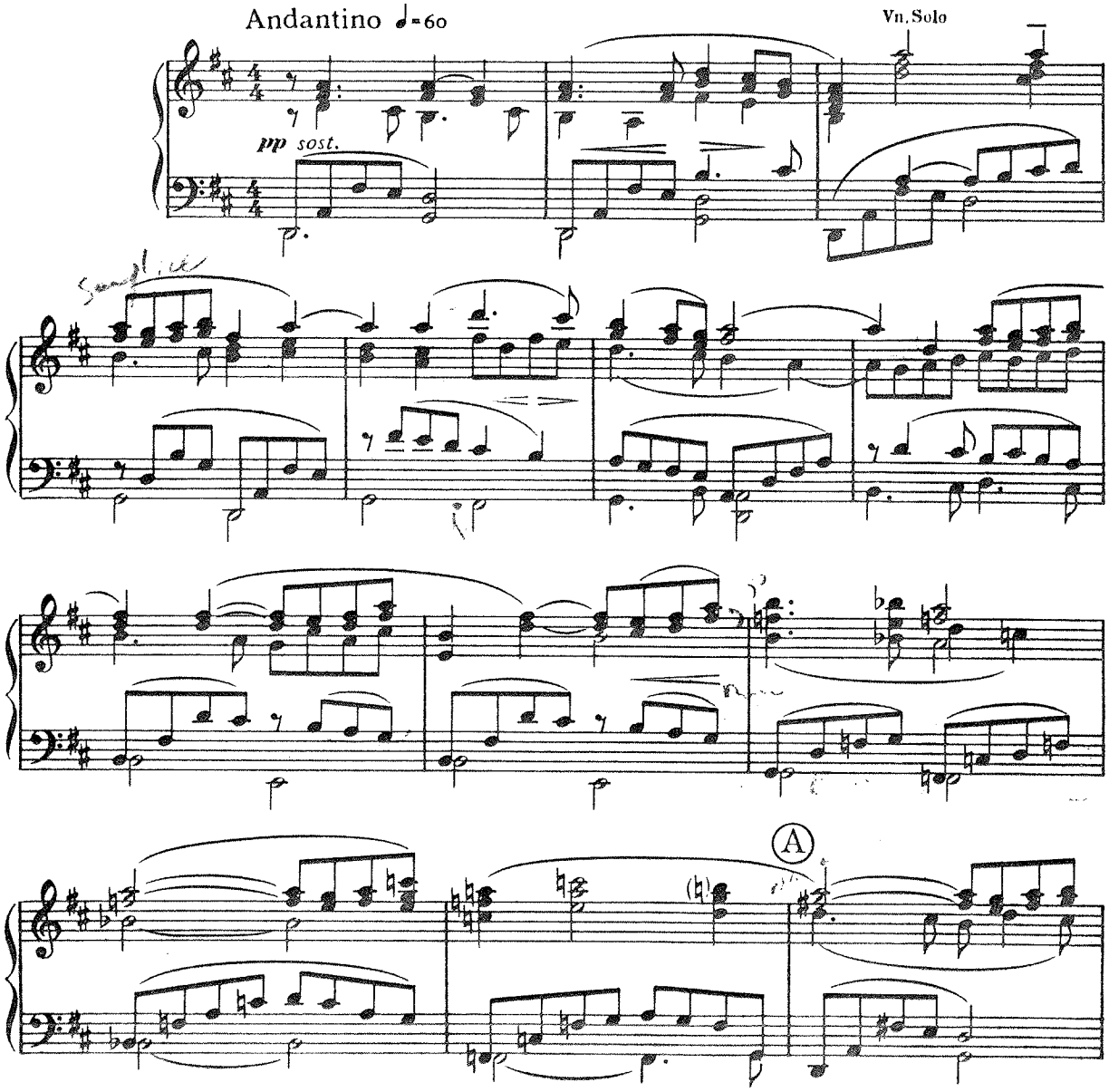
This Serenade was performed for the first time on October 5, 1938, when the singers were: Isobel Baillie, Stiles Allen, Elsie Suddaby, Eva Turner, Margaret Balfour, Muriel Brunskill, Astra Desmond, Mary Jarred, Parry Jones, Heddle Nash, Frank Titterton, Walter Widdop, Norman Allin, Robert Easton, Roy Henderson, and Harold Williams.

For subsequent performances of this work, when the above singers (indicated by their initials in the score) may not be available, other singers will have to take their places. Four soloists will be sufficient, or all the solo parts may be sung in chorus.

R.V.W.

The words from
SHAKESPEARE
(The Merchant of Venice
Act V, Scene I)

Music by
R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS



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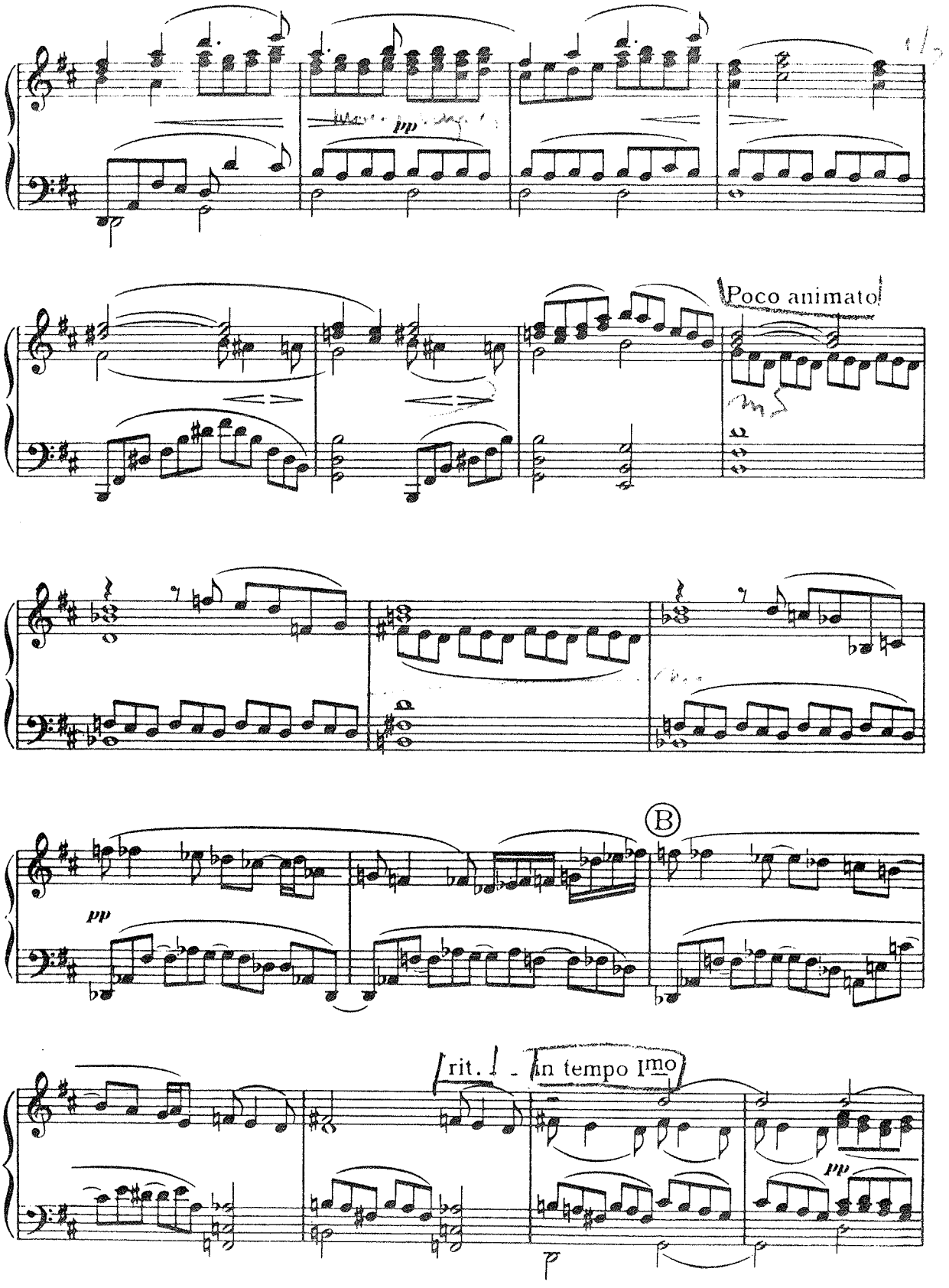
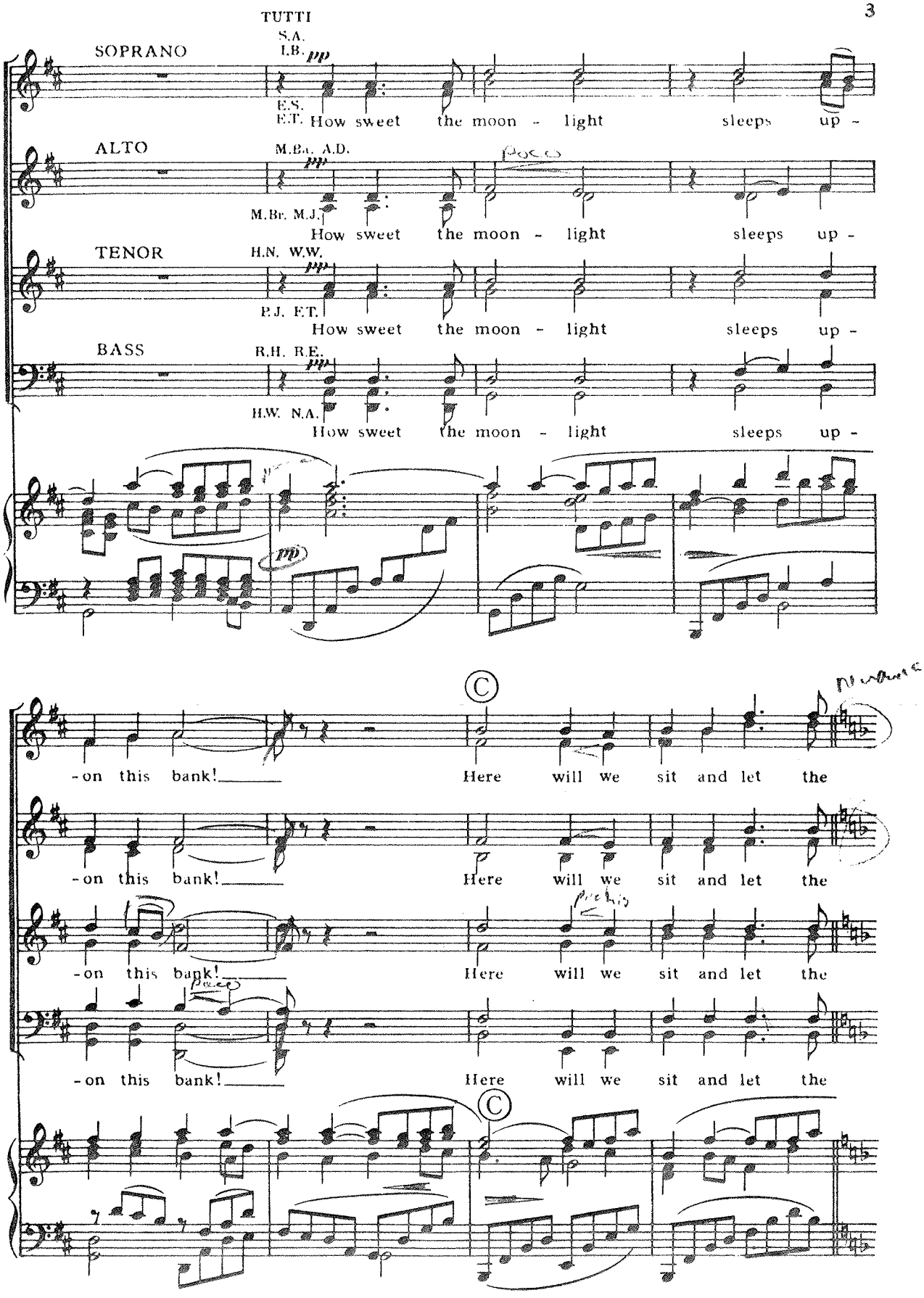
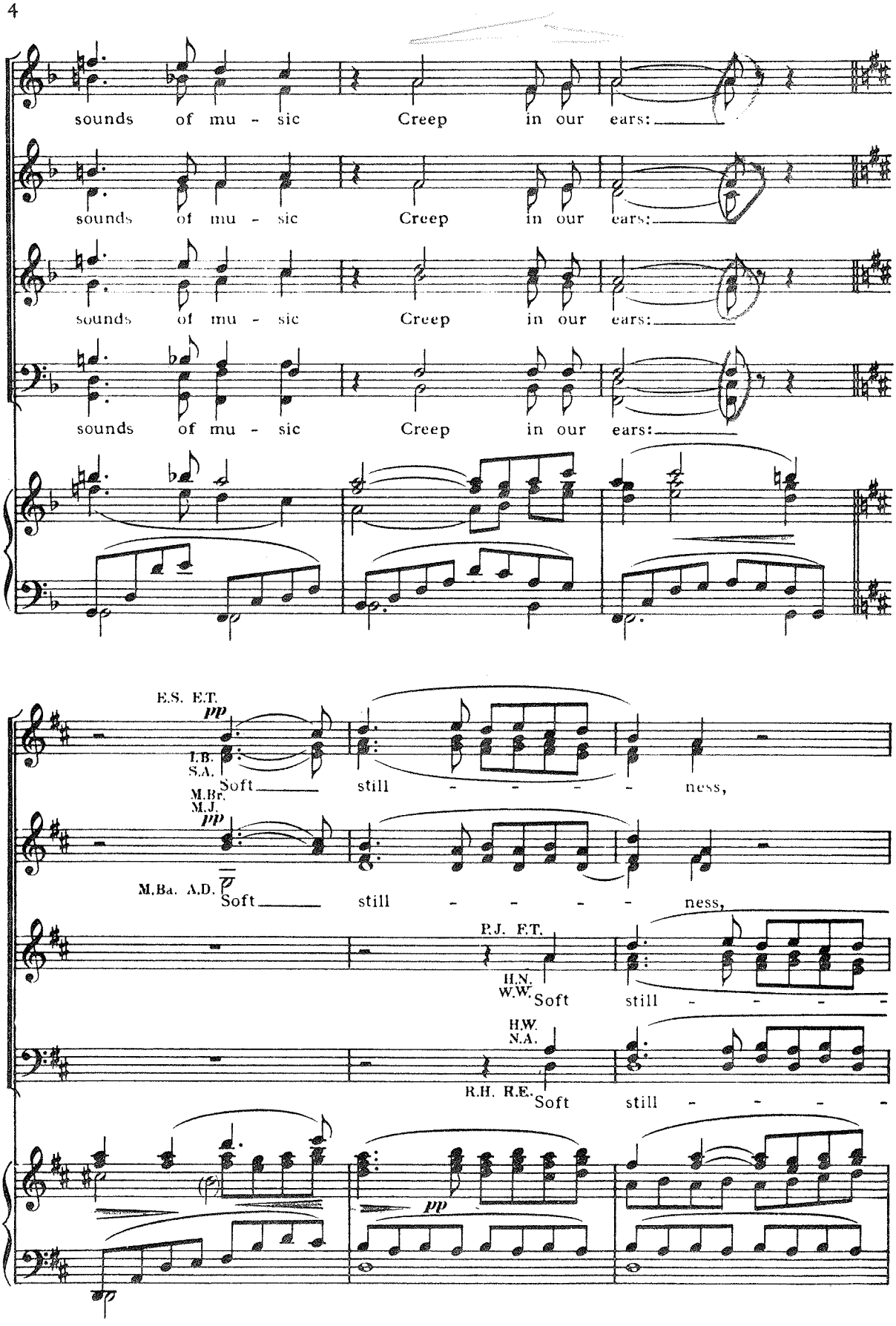
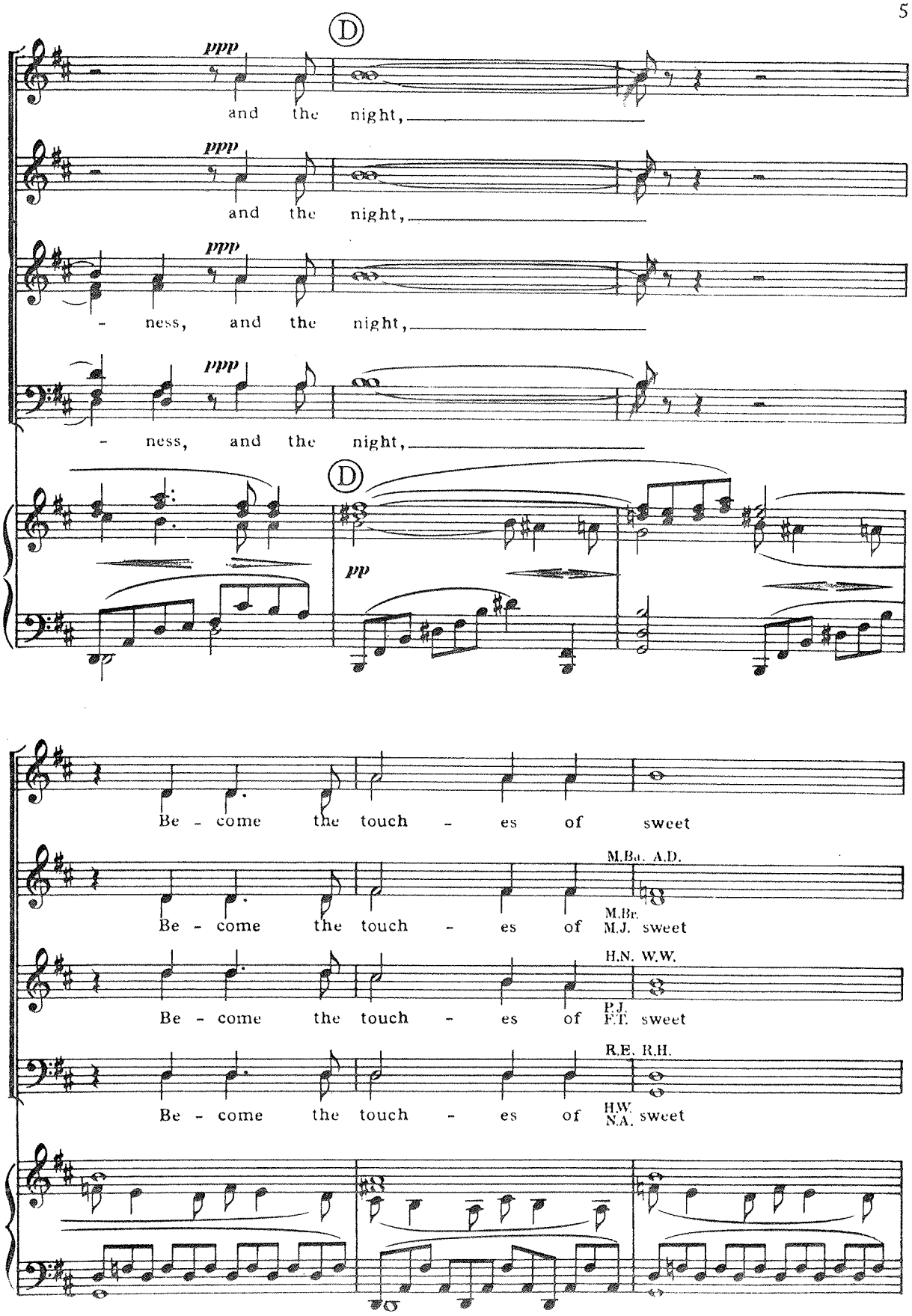
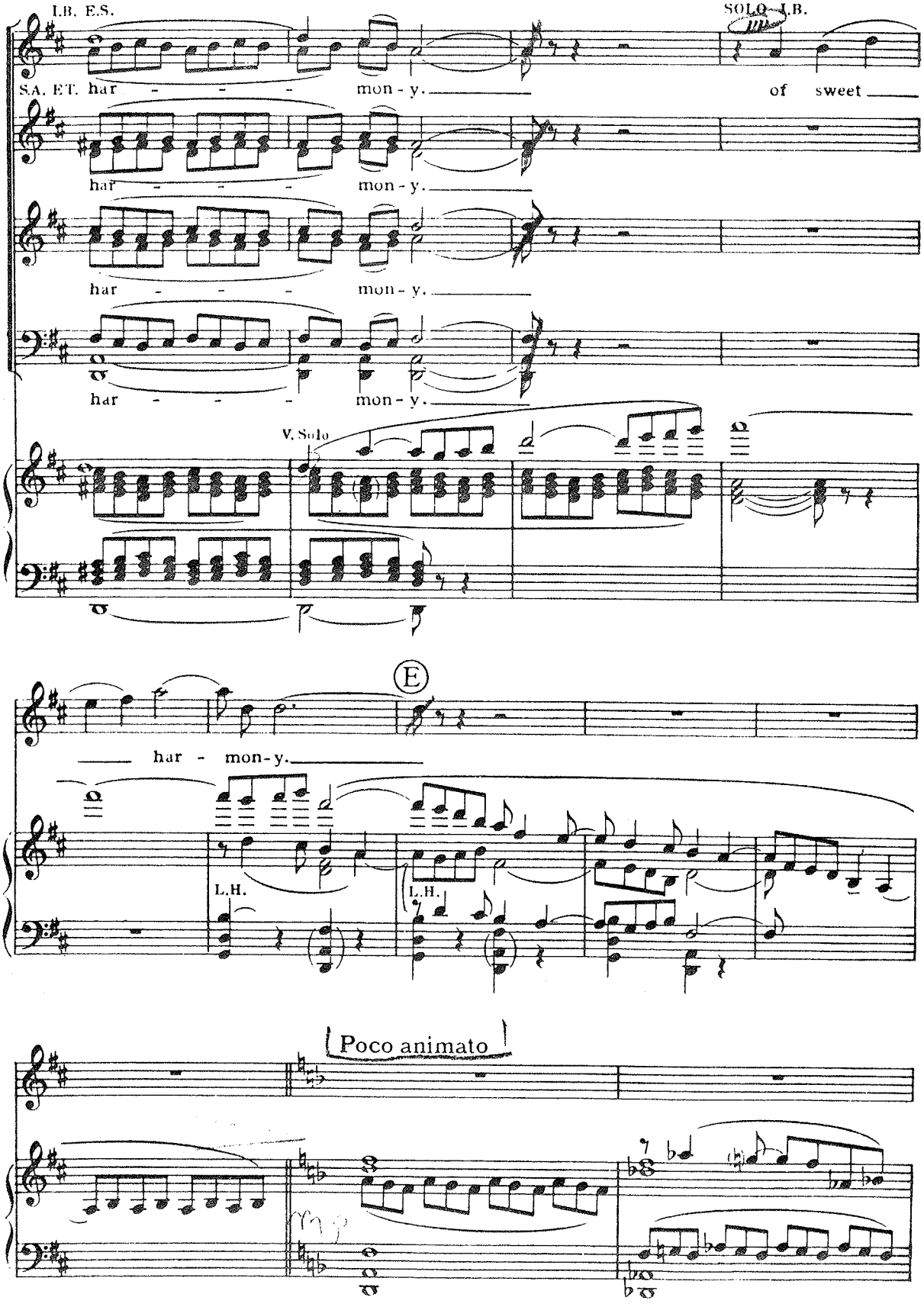
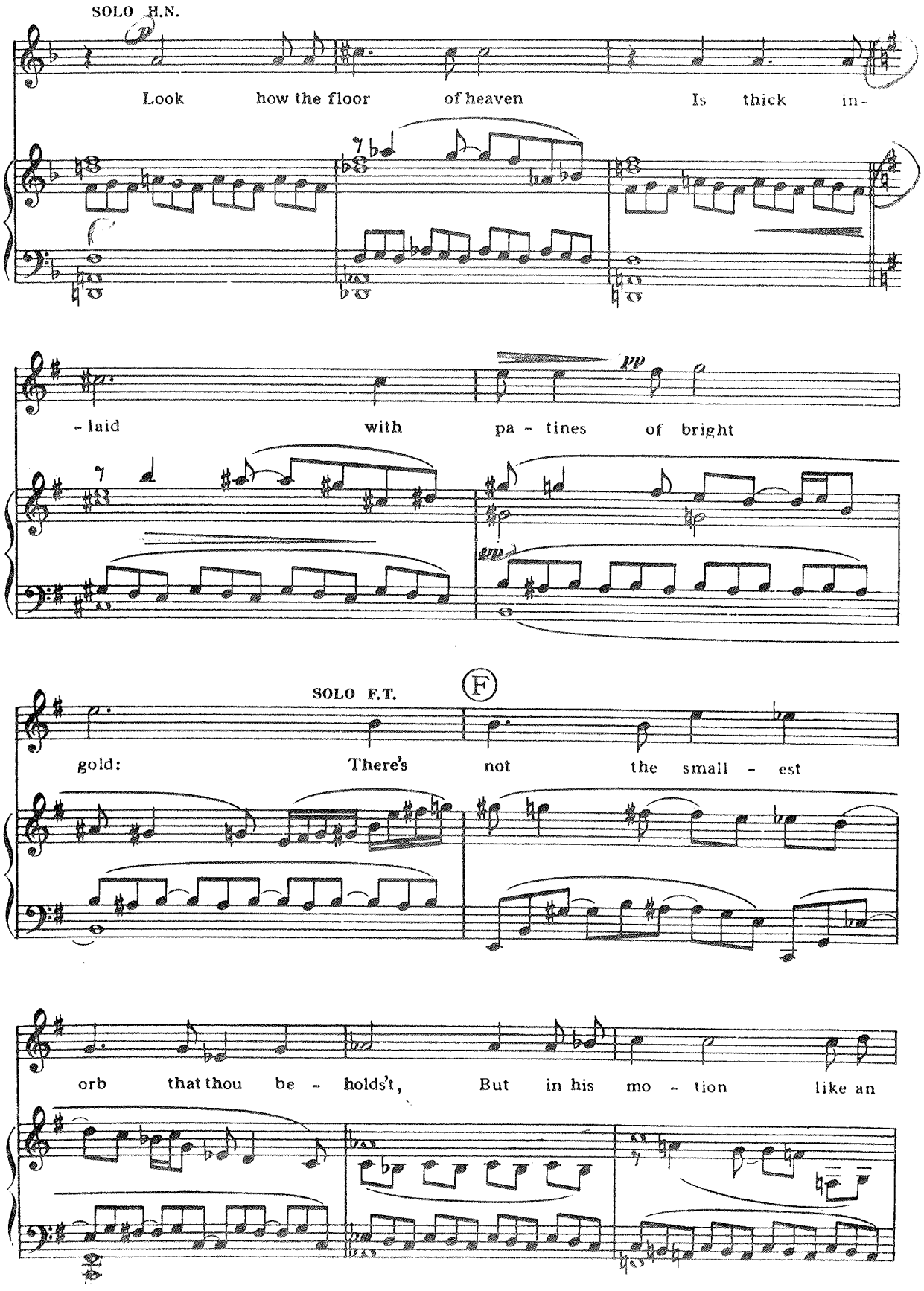

pp
Poco animato
B
pp
rit.
In tempo Imo
pp

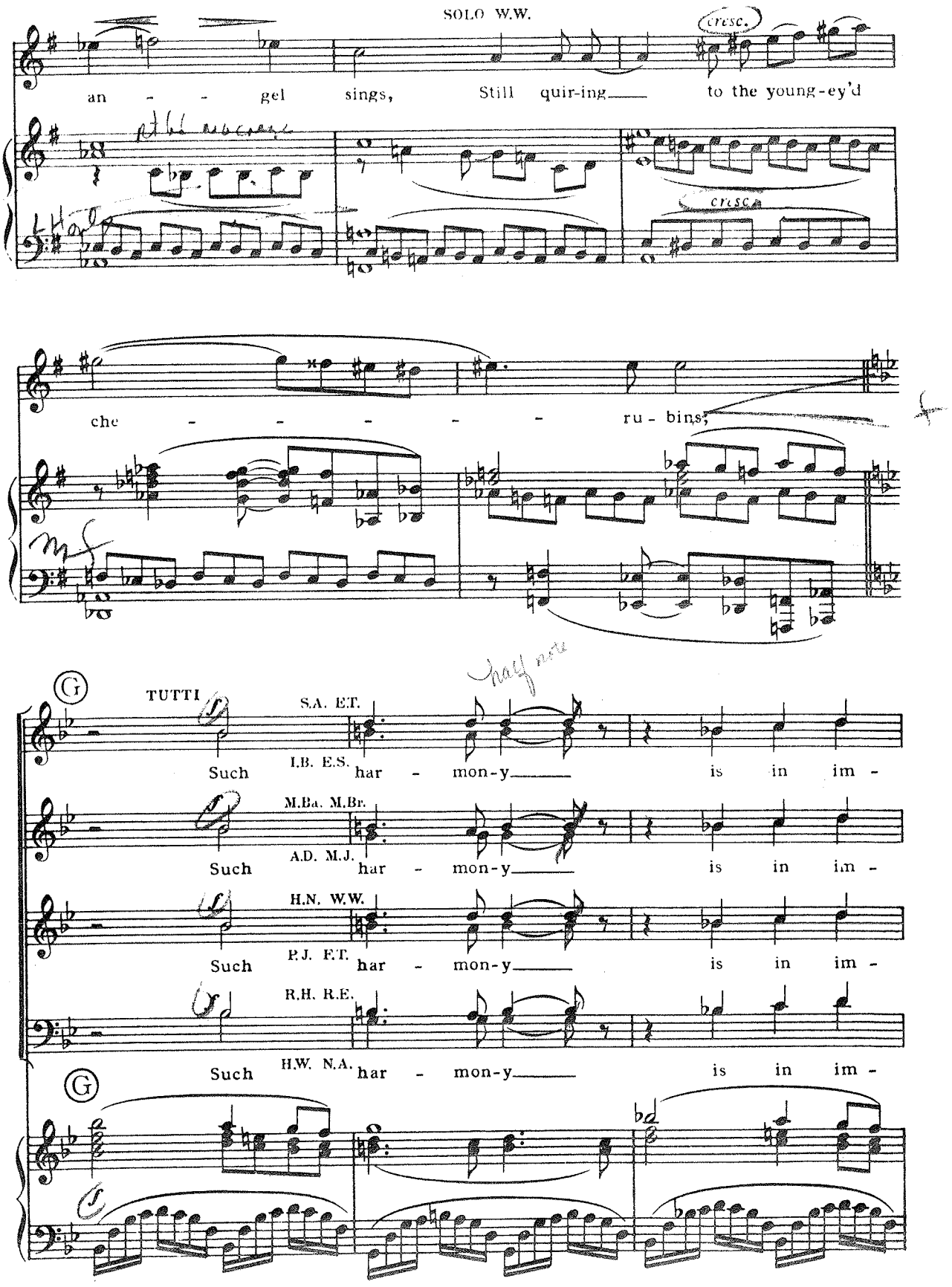

TUTTI
SOPRANO
S.A.
I.B.
E.S.
E.T. How sweet the moon - light sleeps up -
ALTO
M.Br. A.D.
M.Br. M.J.
How sweet the moon - light sleeps up -
TENOR
H.N. W.W.
P.J. E.T.
How sweet the moon - light sleeps up -
BASS
R.H. R.E.
H.W. N.A.
How sweet the moon - light sleeps up -
-on this bank! Here will we sit and let the
-on this bank! Here will we sit and let the
-on this bank! Here will we sit and let the
-on this bank! Here will we sit and let the

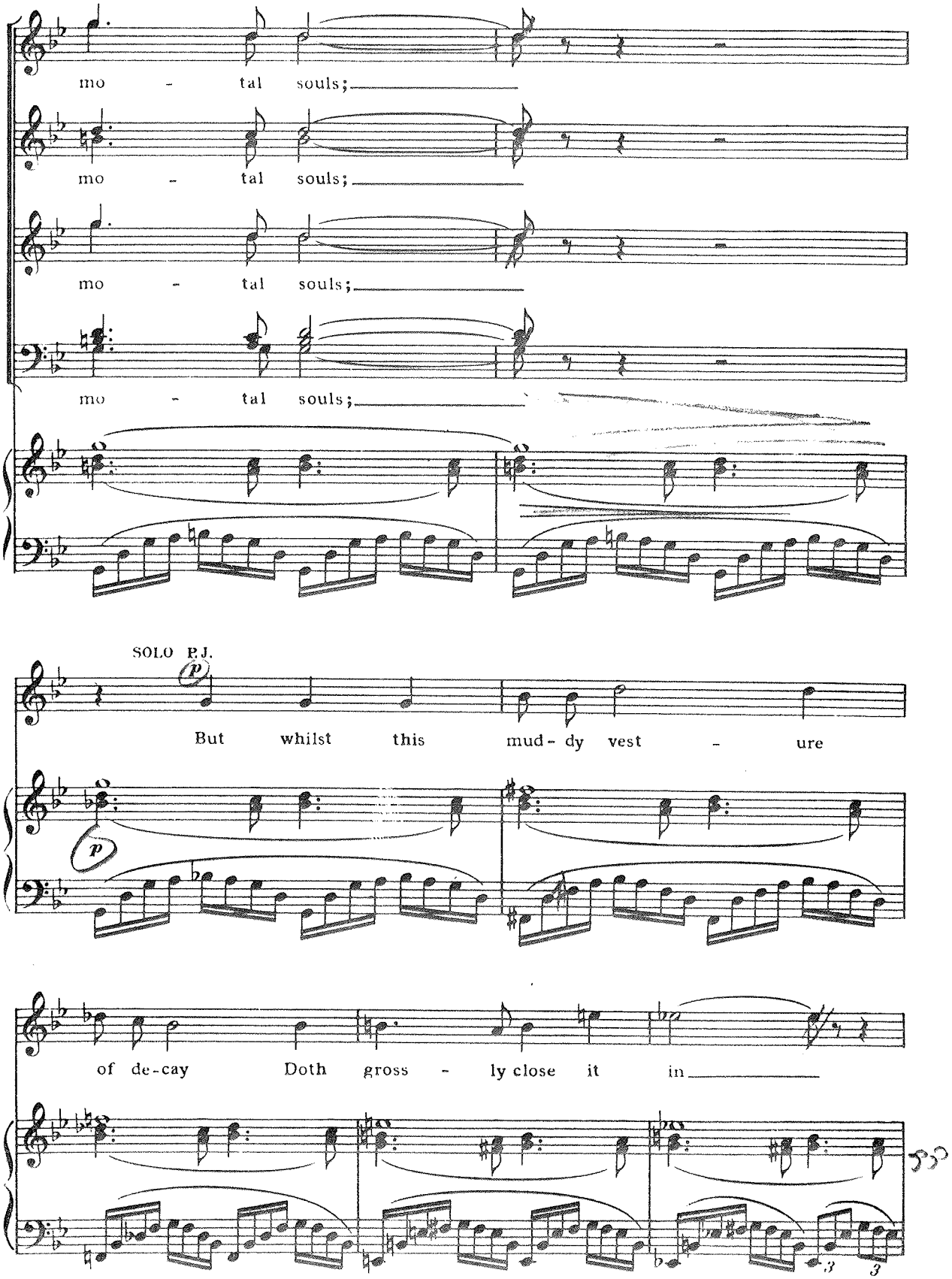

sounds of mu - sic Creep in our ears:
sounds of mu - sic Creep in our ears:
sounds of mu - sic Creep in our ears:
sounds of mu - sic Creep in our ears:
E.S. E.T.
pp
I.B.
S.A.
Soft
still - - - - - ness,
M.Br.
M.J.
pp
M.Ba. A.D.
Soft
still - - - - - ness,
P.J. F.T.
H.N.
W.W.
Soft
still - - - - -
H.W.
N.A.
R.H. R.E.
Soft
still - - - - -
pp

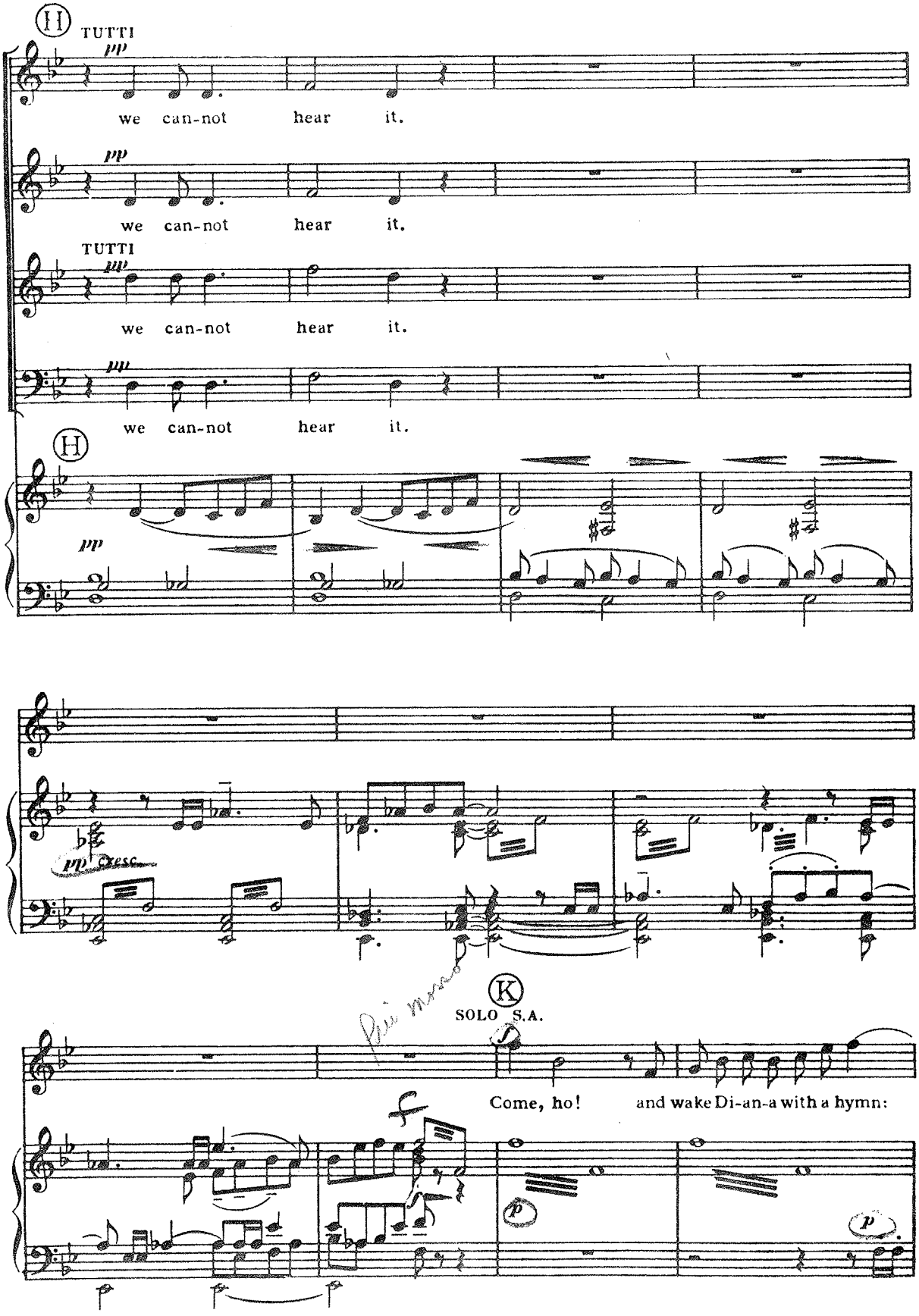

D
ppp
and the night,
ppp
and the night,
ppp
- ness, and the night,
ppp
- ness, and the night,
D
pp
Be - come the touch - es of sweet
M.Ba. A.D.
Be - come the touch - es of M.Br. M.J. sweet
H.N. W.W.
Be - come the touch - es of P.J. F.T. sweet
R.E. R.H.
Be - come the touch - es of H.W. N.A. sweet

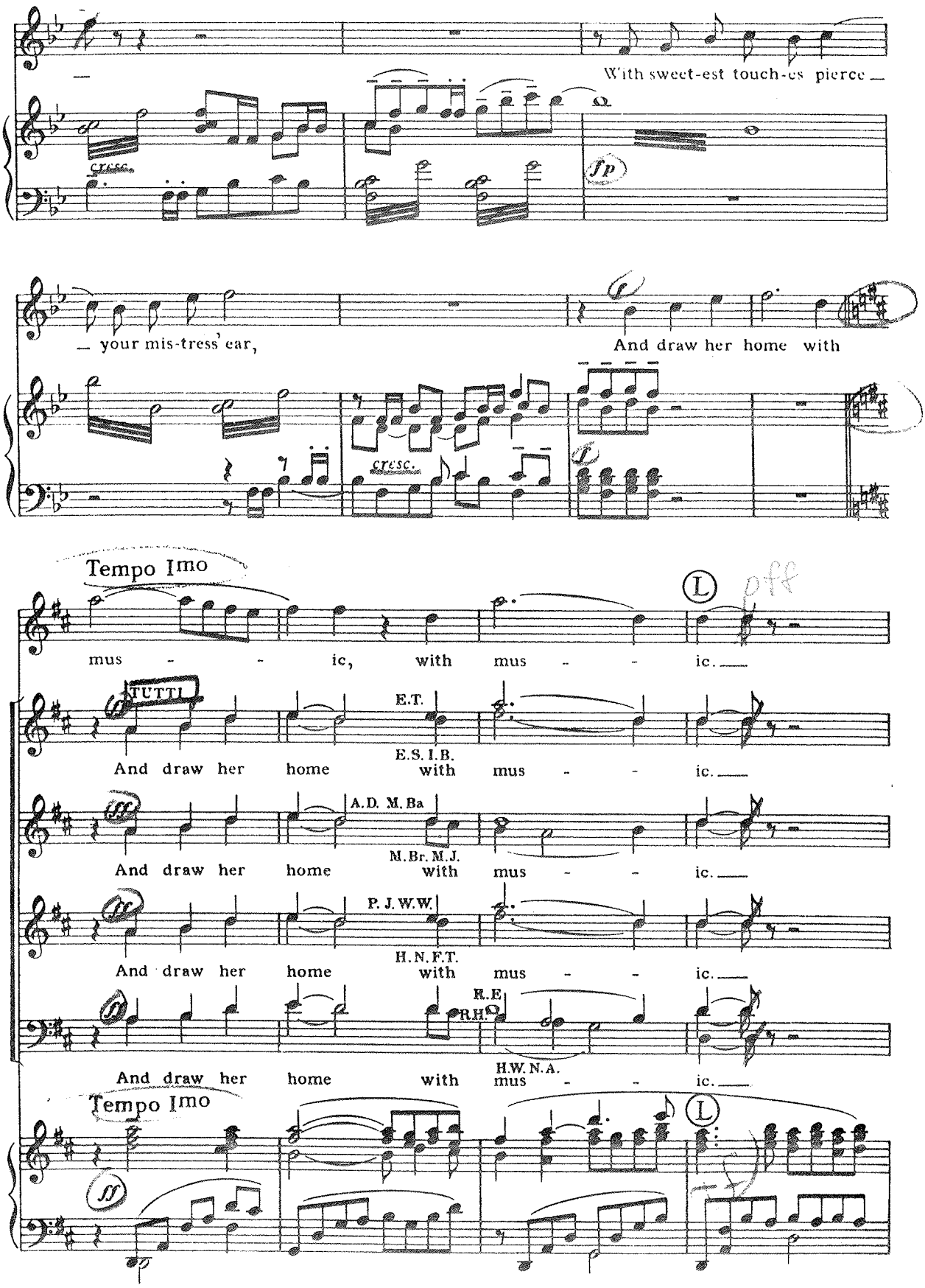

I.B. E.S.
SOLO I.B.
S.A. ET. har - - - mon - y.
of sweet
har - - - mon - y.
har - - - mon - y.
har - - - mon - y.
V. Solo
E
har - mon - y.
L.H.
L.H.
Poco animato

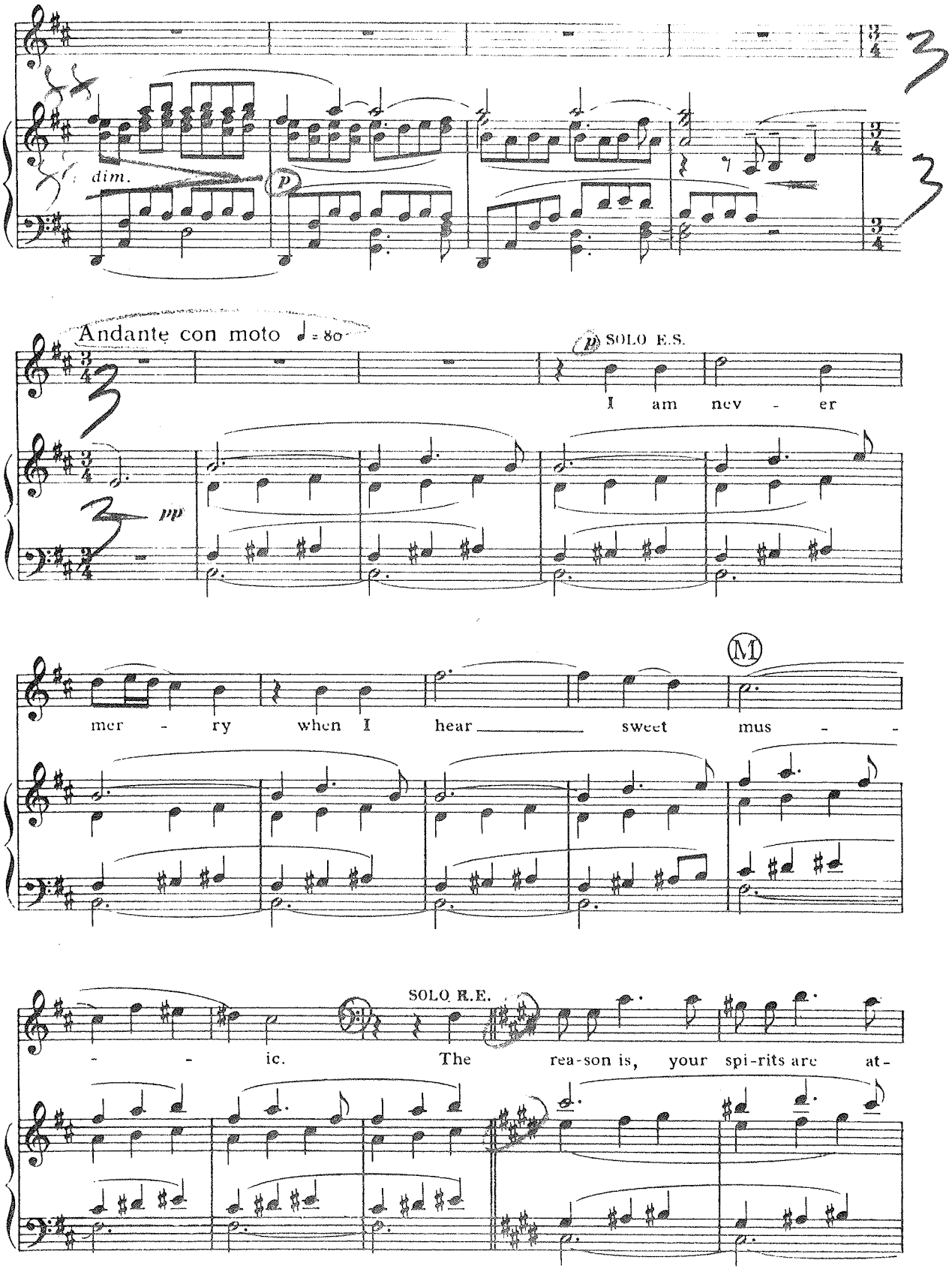

SOLO H.N.
Look how the floor of heaven Is thick in-
-laid with pa - tines of bright
pp
SOLO F.T.
F
gold: There's not the small - est
orb that thou be - holds't, But in his mo - tion like an

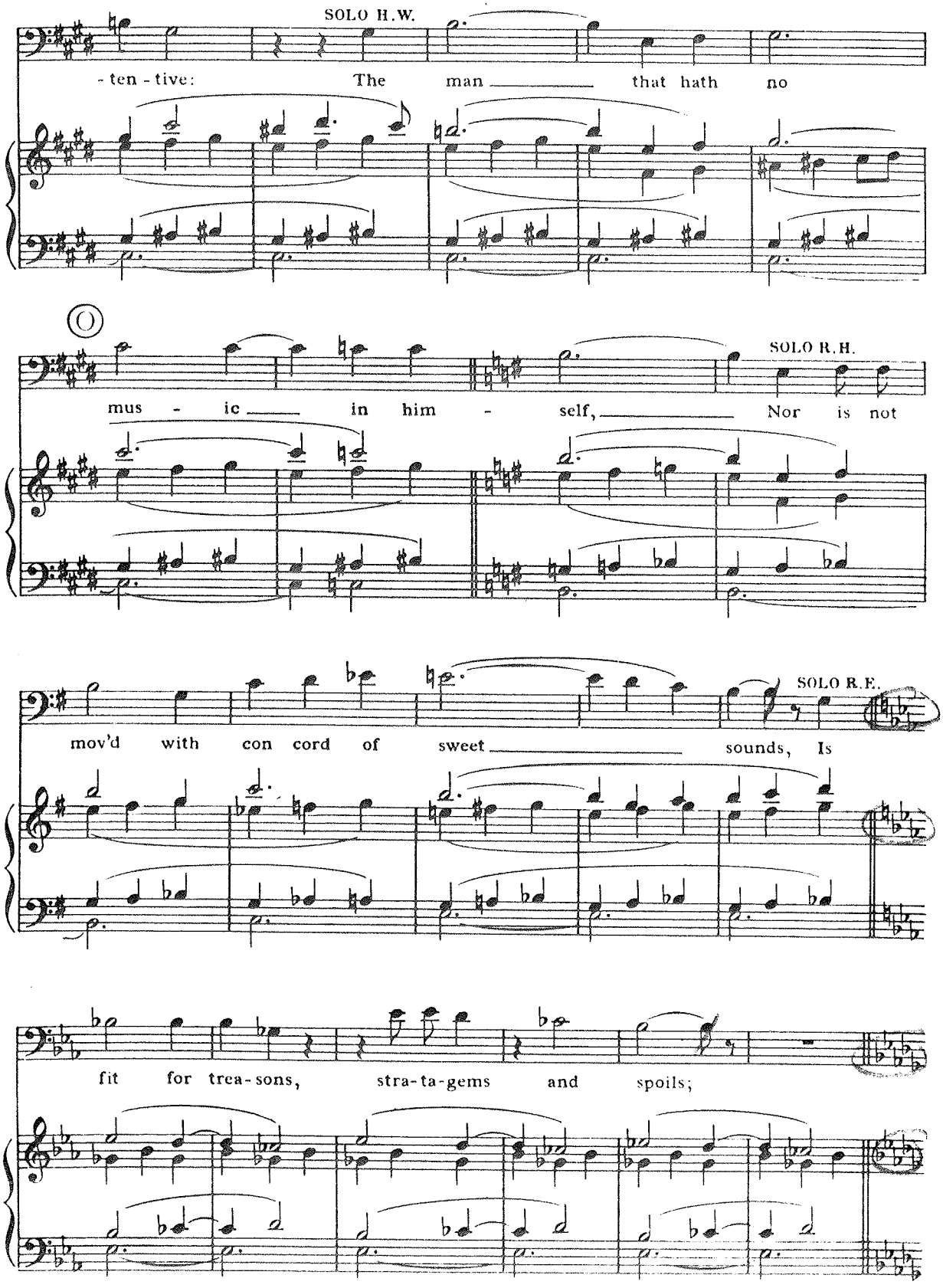

SOLO W.W.
cresc.
an - - gel sings, Still quir-ing to the young-ey'd
cresc.
che - - - - - - ru - bins;
TUTTI
S.A. E.T.
Such har - mon-y is in im -
I.B. E.S.
M.Ba. M.Br.
Such har - mon-y is in im -
A.D. M.J.
H.N. W.W.
Such har - mon-y is in im -
P.J. F.T.
R.H. R.E.
Such har - mon-y is in im -
H.W. N.A.

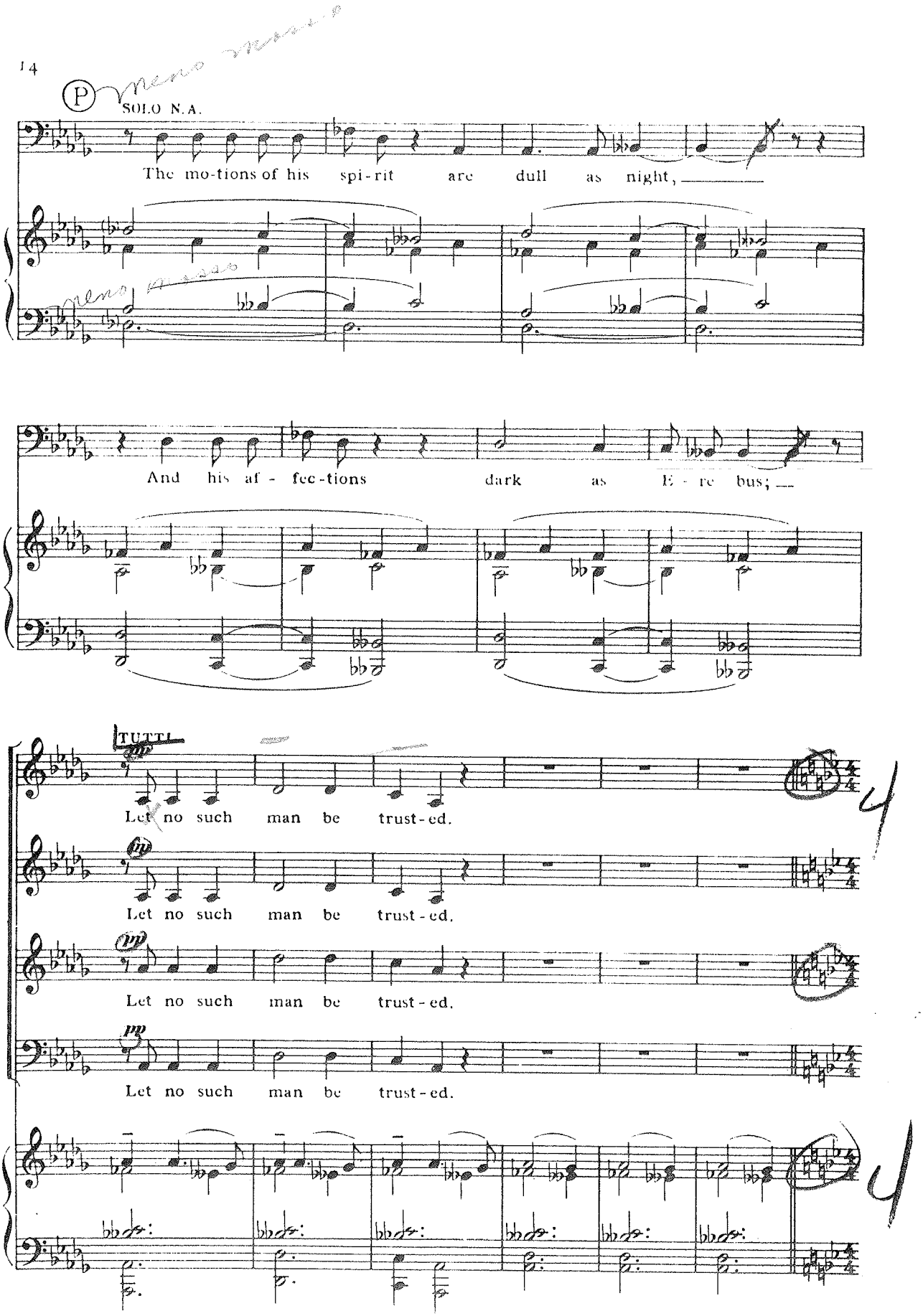

mo - tal souls;
mo - tal souls;
mo - tal souls;
mo - tal souls;
SOLO P.J.
p
But whilst this mud - dy vest - ure
p
of de-cay Doth gross - ly close it in

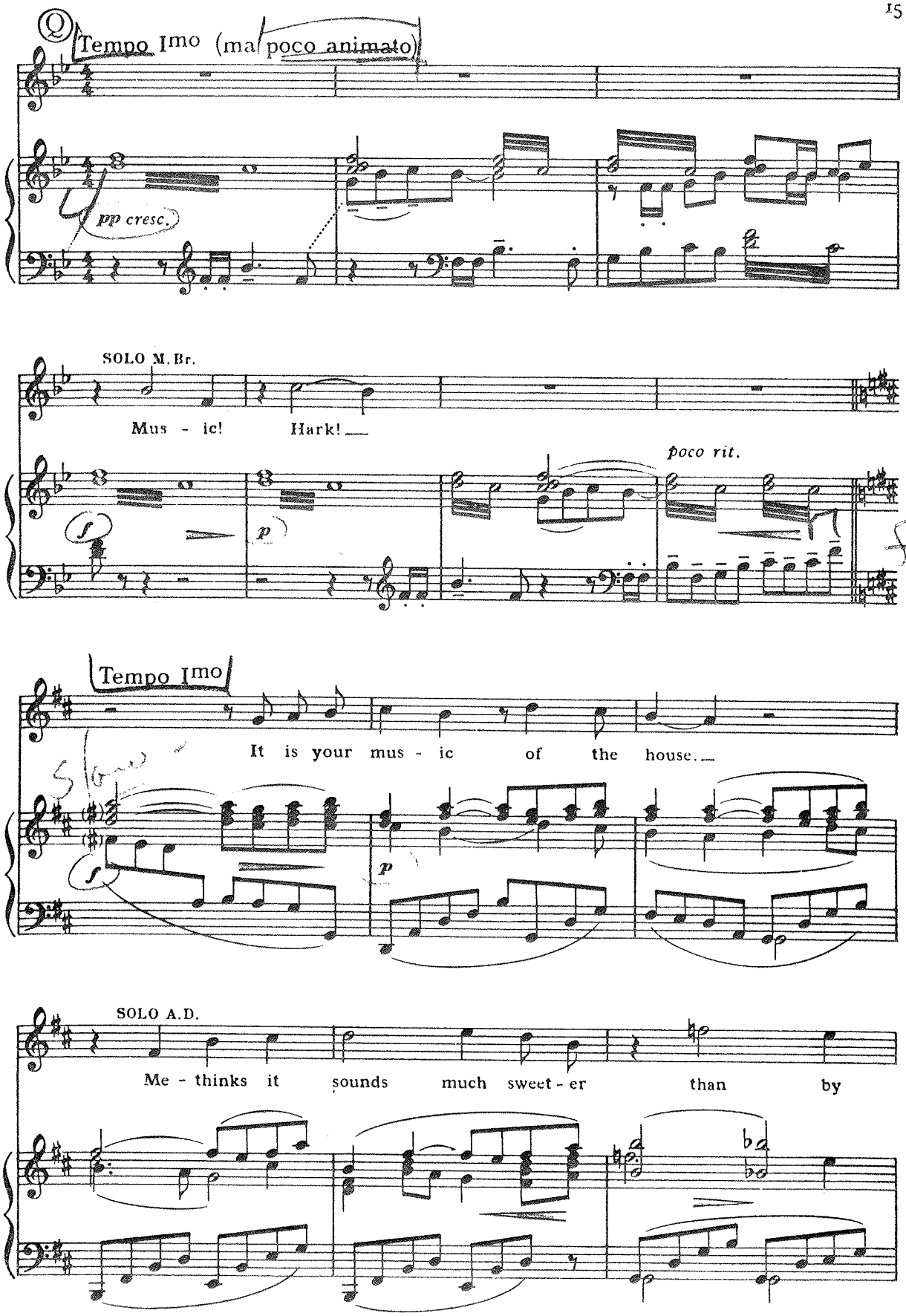

H
TUTTI
pp
we can-not hear it.
pp
we can-not hear it.
TUTTI
pp
we can-not hear it.
pp
we can-not hear it.
H
pp
pp cresc.
Più mosso
K
SOLO S.A.
f
Come, ho! and wake Di-an-a with a hymn:
f
p
p

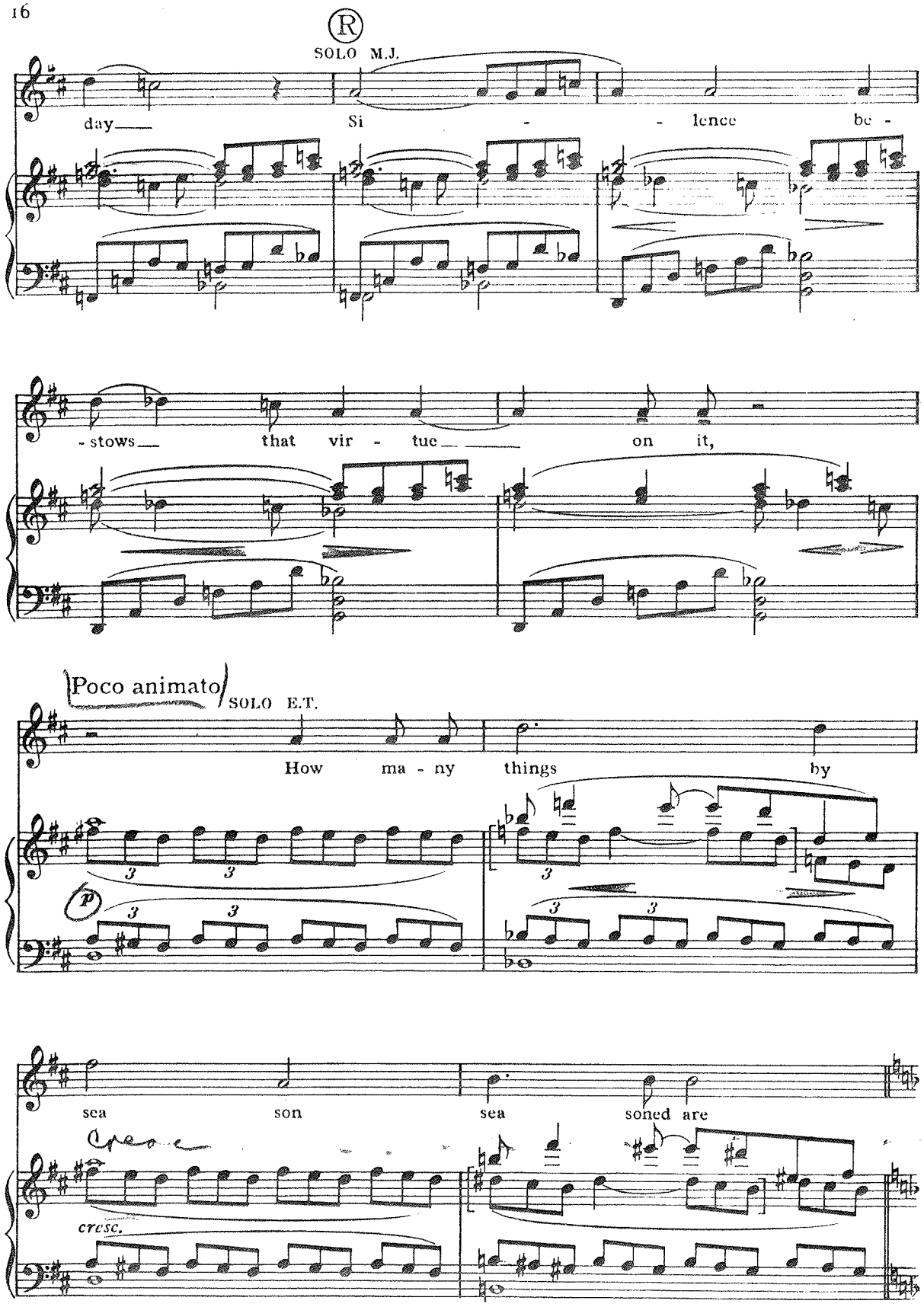

With sweet-est touch-es pierce
cresc.
fp
your mis-tress' ear,
And draw her home with
cresc.
Tempo Imo
mus - - ic, with mus - - ic.
TUTTI
E.T.
E.S.I.B.
And draw her home with mus - - ic.
A.D. M.Ba
M.Br. M.J.
And draw her home with mus - - ic.
P. J.W.W.
H.N.F.T.
And draw her home with mus - - ic.
R.E
R.H.
H.W.N.A.
And draw her home with mus - - ic.
Tempo Imo

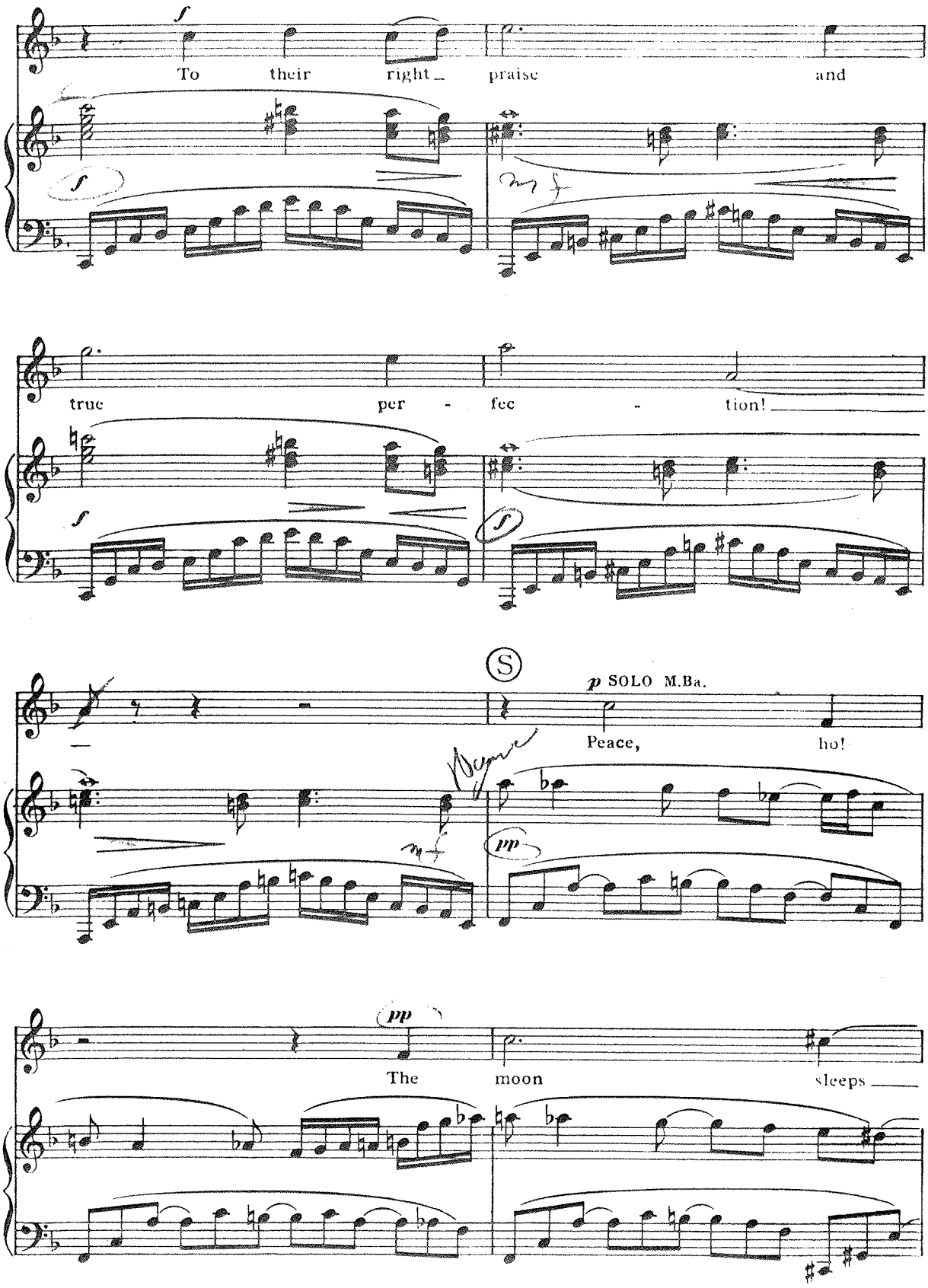

dim.
p
Andante con moto ♩= 80
pp
SOLO E.S.
I am nev - er
mer - ry when I hear sweet mus -
M
SOLO R.E.
- - ic. The rea-son is, your spi-rits are at-

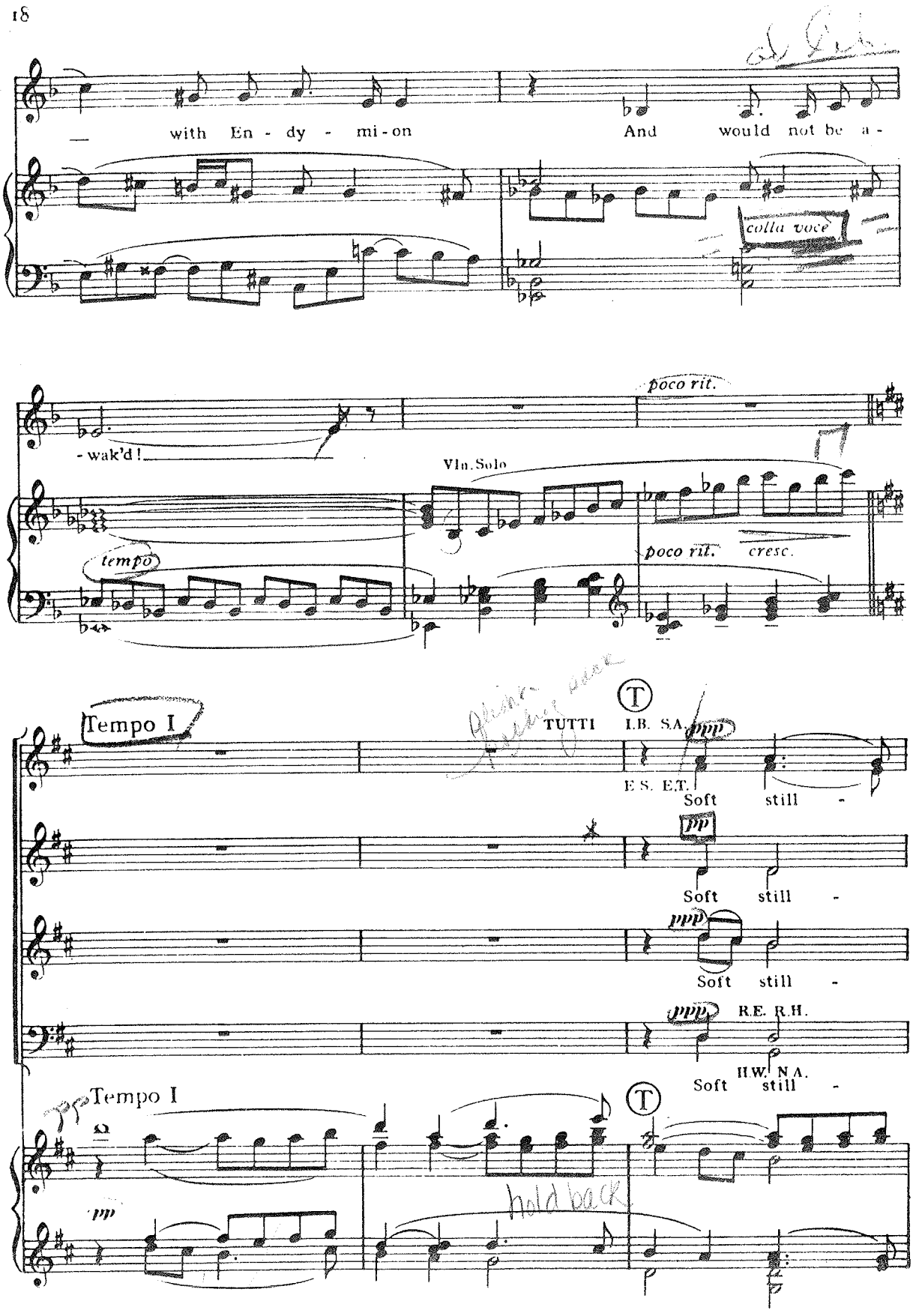

SOLO H.W.
-ten-tive: The man that hath no
SOLO R.H.
mus - ic in him - self, Nor is not
SOLO R.E.
mov'd with con cord of sweet sounds, Is
fit for trea-sons, stra-ta-gems and spoils;

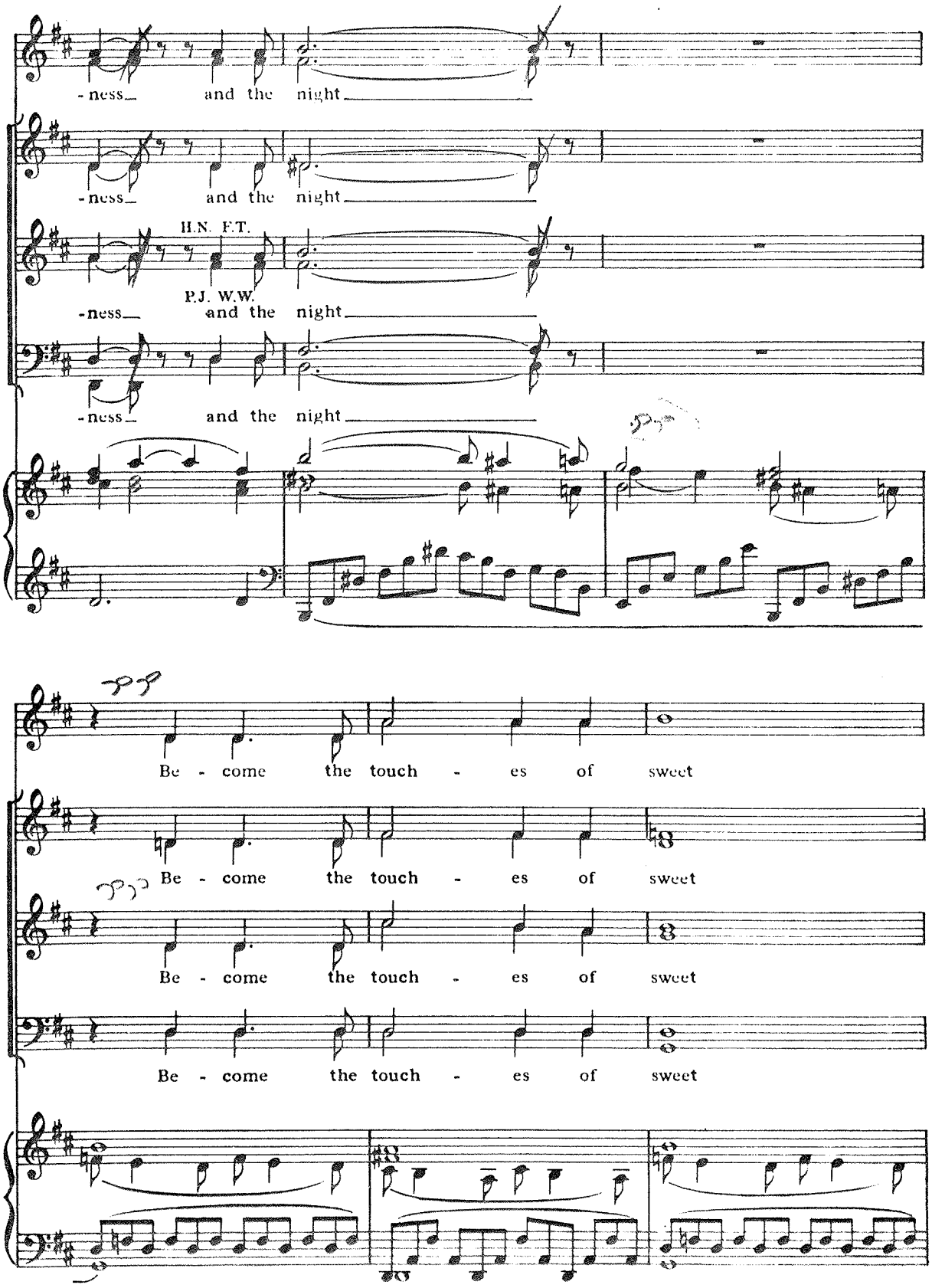

meno mosso
P
SOLO N.A.
The mo-tions of his spi-rit are dull as night,
meno mosso
And his af - fec-tions dark as E - re bus;
TUTTI
mp
Let no such man be trust-ed.
Let no such man be trust-ed.
Let no such man be trust-ed.
Let no such man be trust-ed.

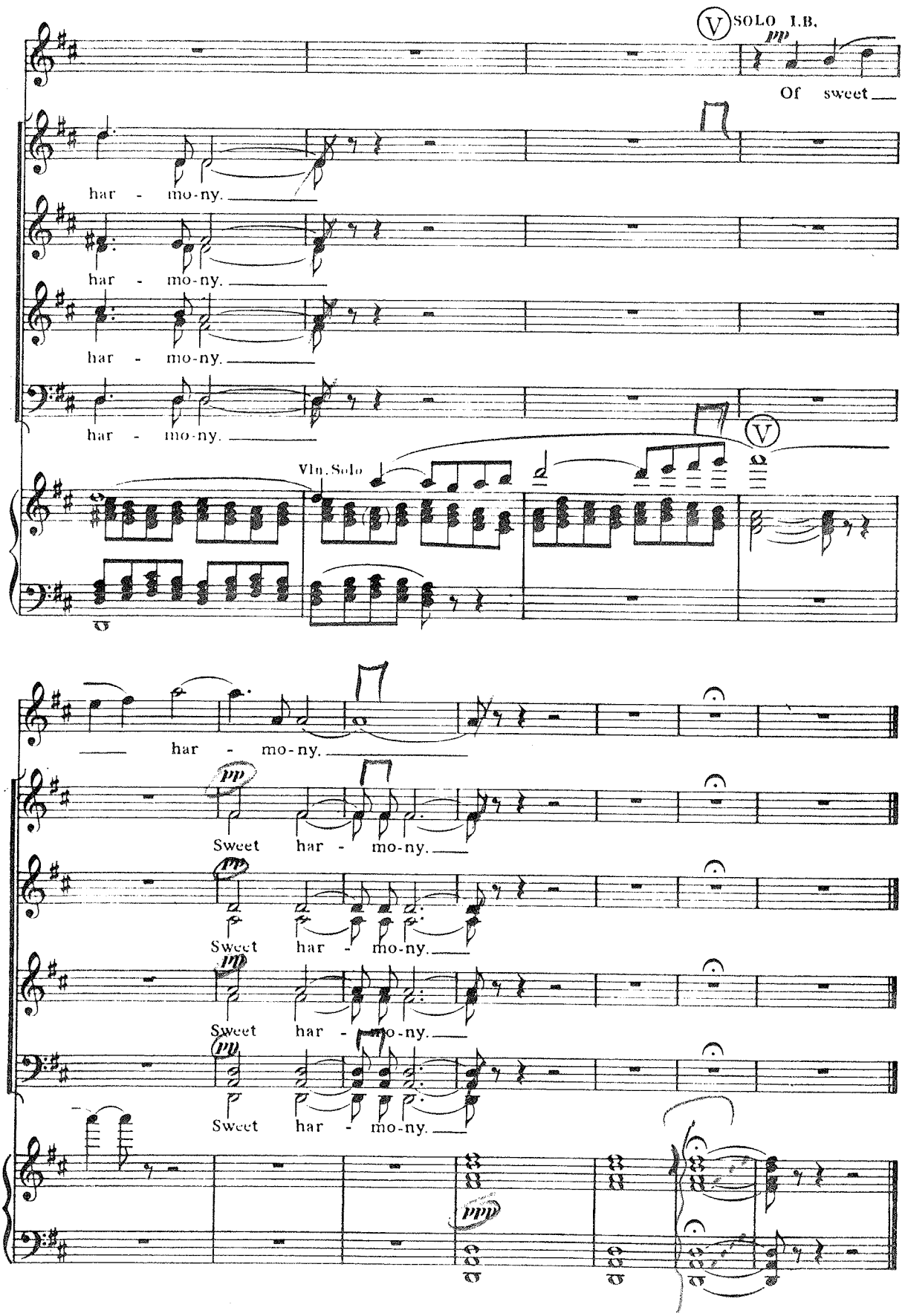

Tempo Imo (ma poco animato)
pp cresc.
SOLO M. Br.
Mus - ic! Hark!
poco rit.
Tempo Imo
It is your mus - ic of the house.
SOLO A.D.
Me - thinks it sounds much sweet - er than by


SOLO M.J.
day
Si - - lence be -
- stows
that vir - tue
on it,
Poco animato
SOLO E.T.
How ma - ny things by
sea son sea soned are
cresc.


f
To their right praise and
f
mf
true per - fec - tion!
f
f
S
p SOLO M.Ba.
Peace, ho!
mf
pp
pp
The moon sleeps


with En - dy - mi - on
And would not be a -
colla voce
- wak'd!
poco rit.
Vln. Solo
tempo
poco rit.
cresc.
Tempo I
TUTTI
I.B. S.A.
E.S. E.T.
Soft still -
Soft still -
Soft still -
R.E. R.H.
H.W. N.A.
Soft still -
Tempo I
hold back


-ness and the night
-ness and the night
H.N. F.T.
P.J. W.W.
-ness and the night
-ness and the night
pp
Be - come the touch - es of sweet
pp
Be - come the touch - es of sweet
Be - come the touch - es of sweet
Be - come the touch - es of sweet


V SOLO T.B.
pp
Of sweet
har - mo-ny.
har - mo-ny.
har - mo-ny.
har - mo-ny.
Vln. Solo
V
har - mo-ny.
pp
Sweet har - mo-ny.
Sweet har - mo-ny.
Sweet har - mo-ny.
Sweet har - mo-ny.
ppp