SCORE

Blossoms

for soprano, flute, cello, and piano

Liam Elliot

This piece is a setting of Harry Thurston's poem "Blossoms" from his 2015 collection *Keeping Watch at the End of the World*. I was drawn to the poem's sparse language, and to its journey from the natural world to the inner self. I am deeply grateful to Harry for allowing me to set his words.

Blossoms was composed for Alondra Vega-Zaldivar.

BLOSSOMS

I.

Pin cherry, shadbush, chokecherry
are clouds arrested,
cumulus caught in low branches,
the sky brought near.

II.

In blossom the apple tree outside
the window seems to lean in
closer – whether listening more intently
or intending to speak, I'm unsure,
but closer its beauty becomes our own –
it leans in, a lover or confidant,
with a secret to share.

III.

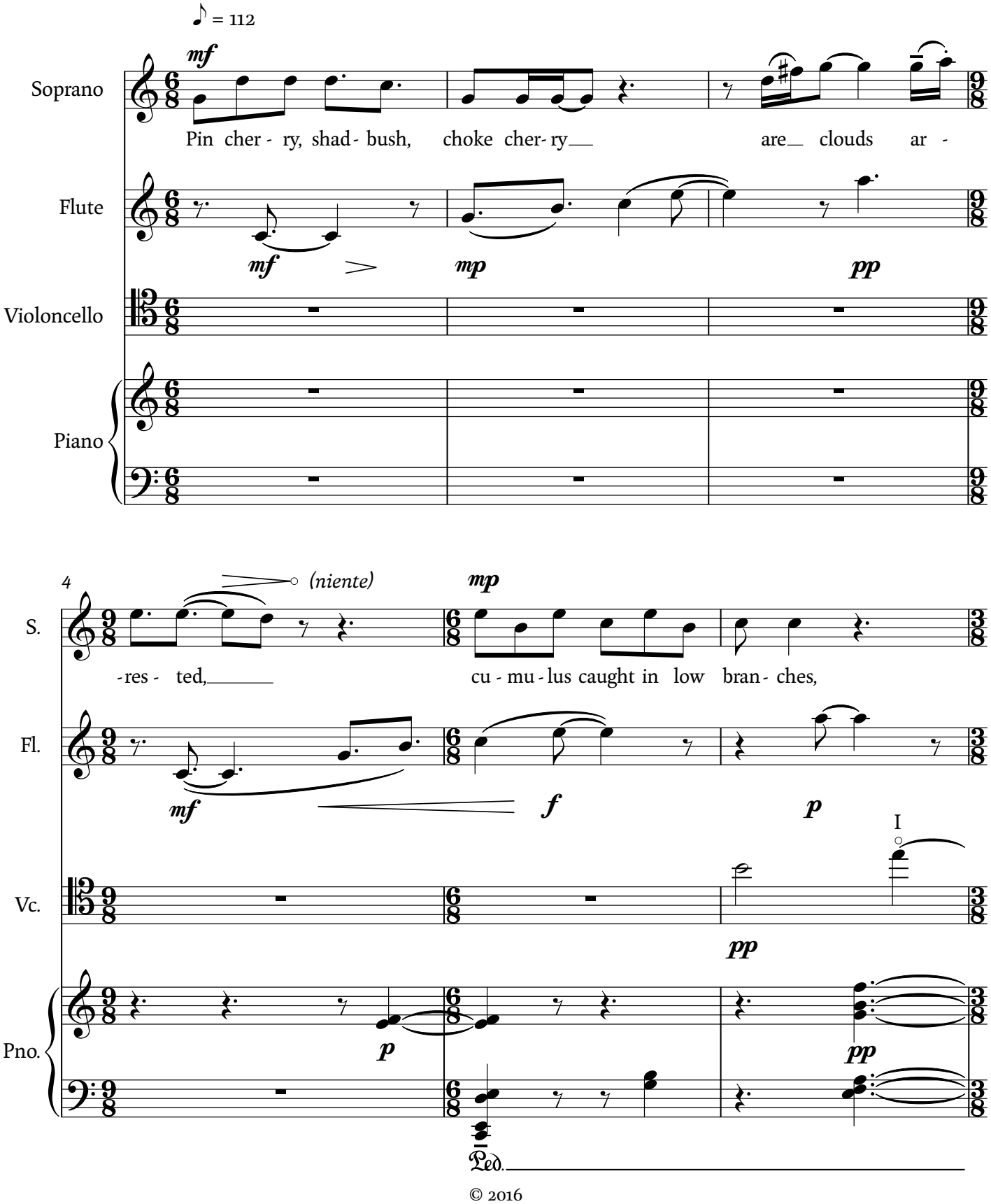
Despite all your sad ways,
beauty remains.

IV.

Let me in.

I

Liam Elliot



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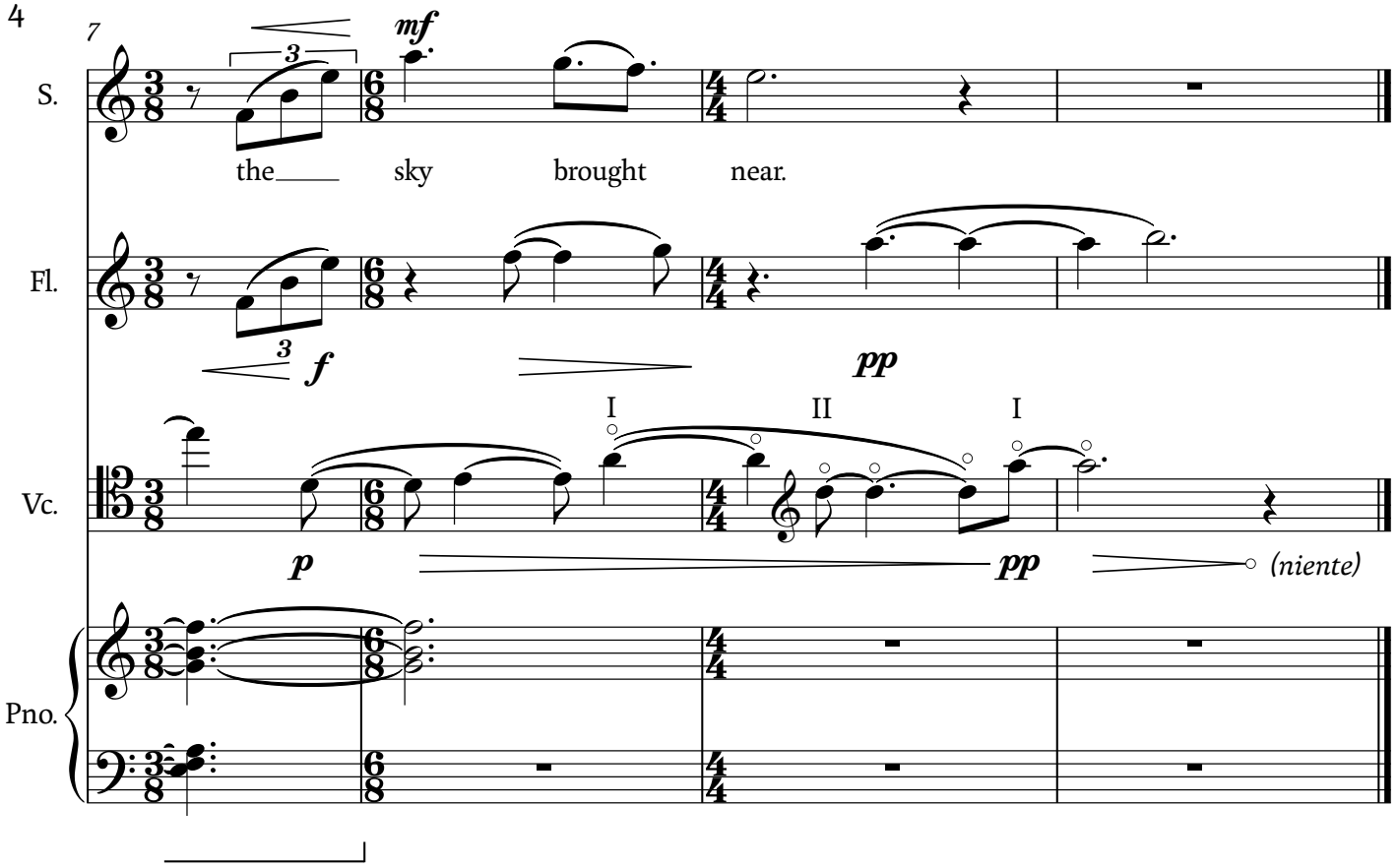
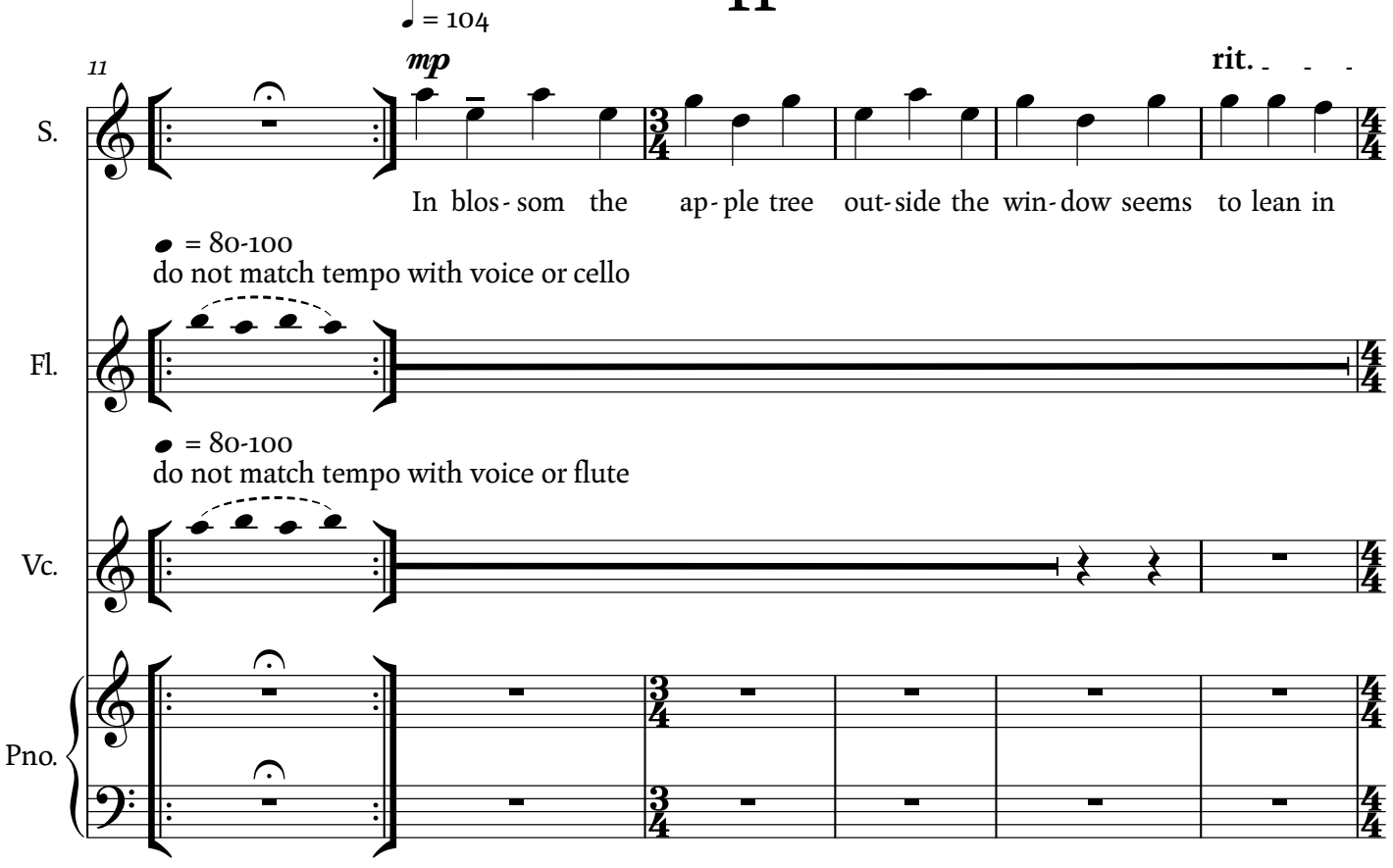

7
S.
3
mf
the sky brought near.
Fl.
3
f
pp
I
II
I
Vc.
p
pp
(niente)
Pno.

II


11
♩ = 104
mp
rit.
S.
In blos - som the ap - ple tree out - side the win - dow seems to lean in
♩ = 80-100
do not match tempo with voice or cello
Fl.
♩ = 80-100
do not match tempo with voice or flute
Vc.
Pno.

17 ♩ = 60

S. clo - ser — whe-ther lis-ten-ing more in-ten-tly or in-ten-ding to speak I'm

Fl. *mp* (niente) *pp*

Vc. fast unpitched bowing (mute strings with L.H.) normal I *mp* *pp*

Pno. 8va *pp* Ped. *sempre*

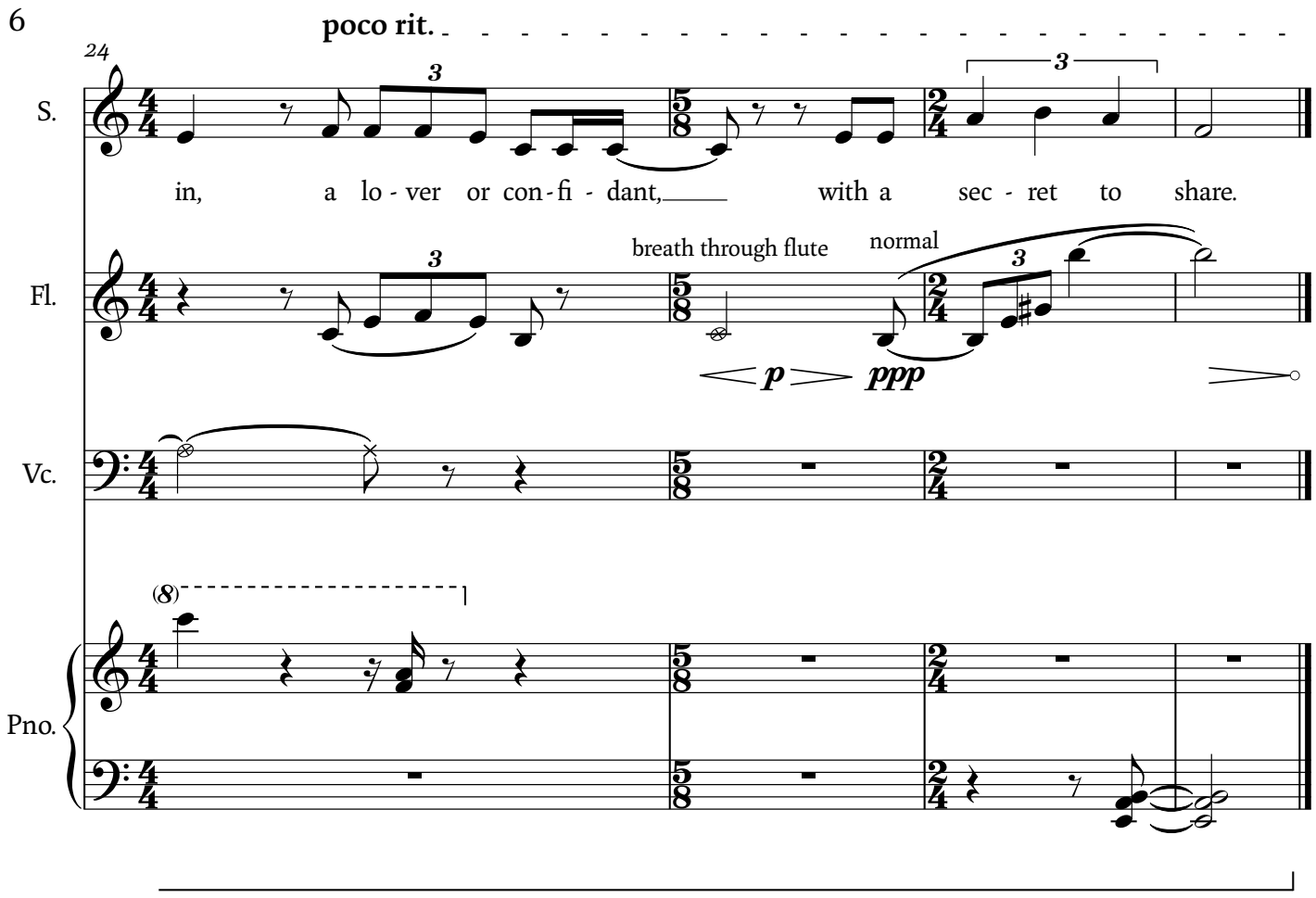
20

S. un - sure, but clo-ser its beau-ty be - comes our own — it leans

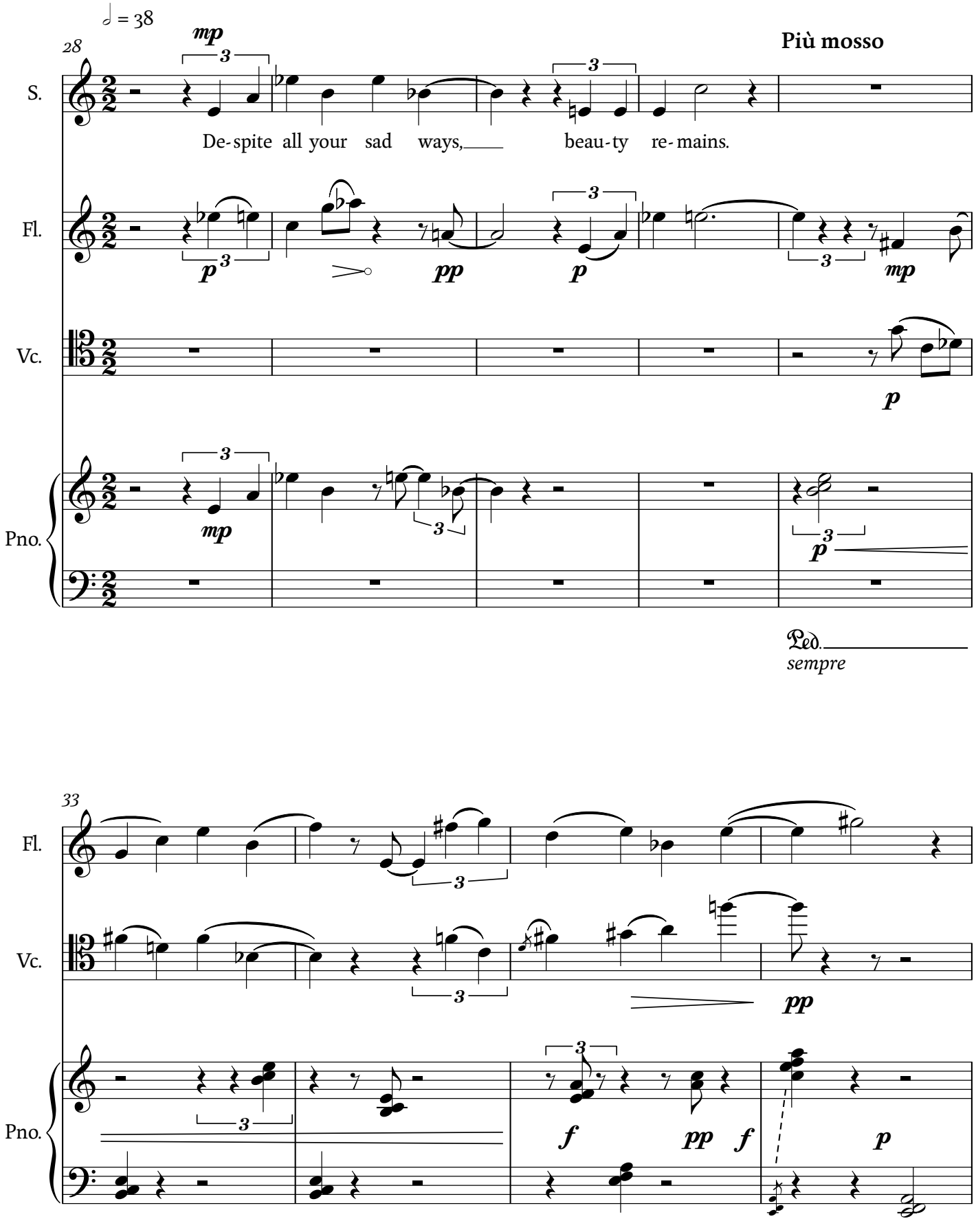
Fl. *pp*

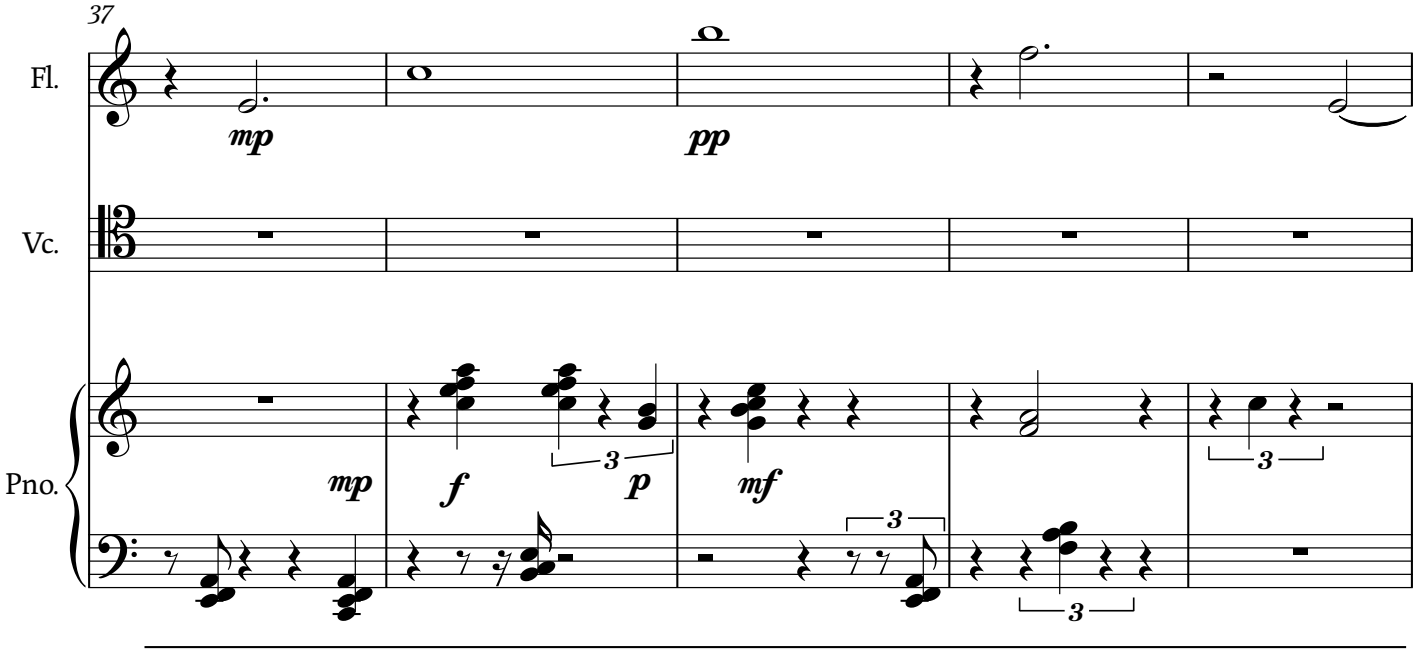
Vc. unpitched *p*

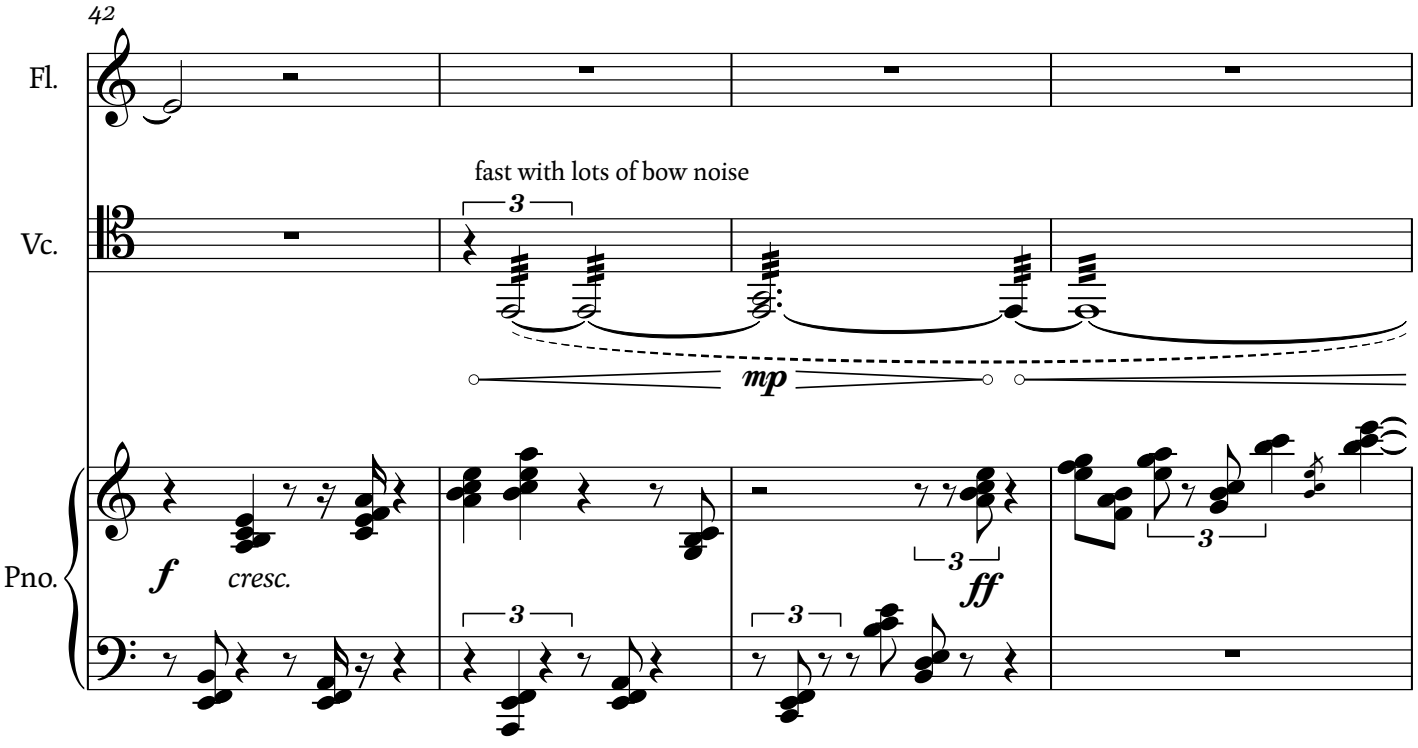
Pno. (8) *ppp*

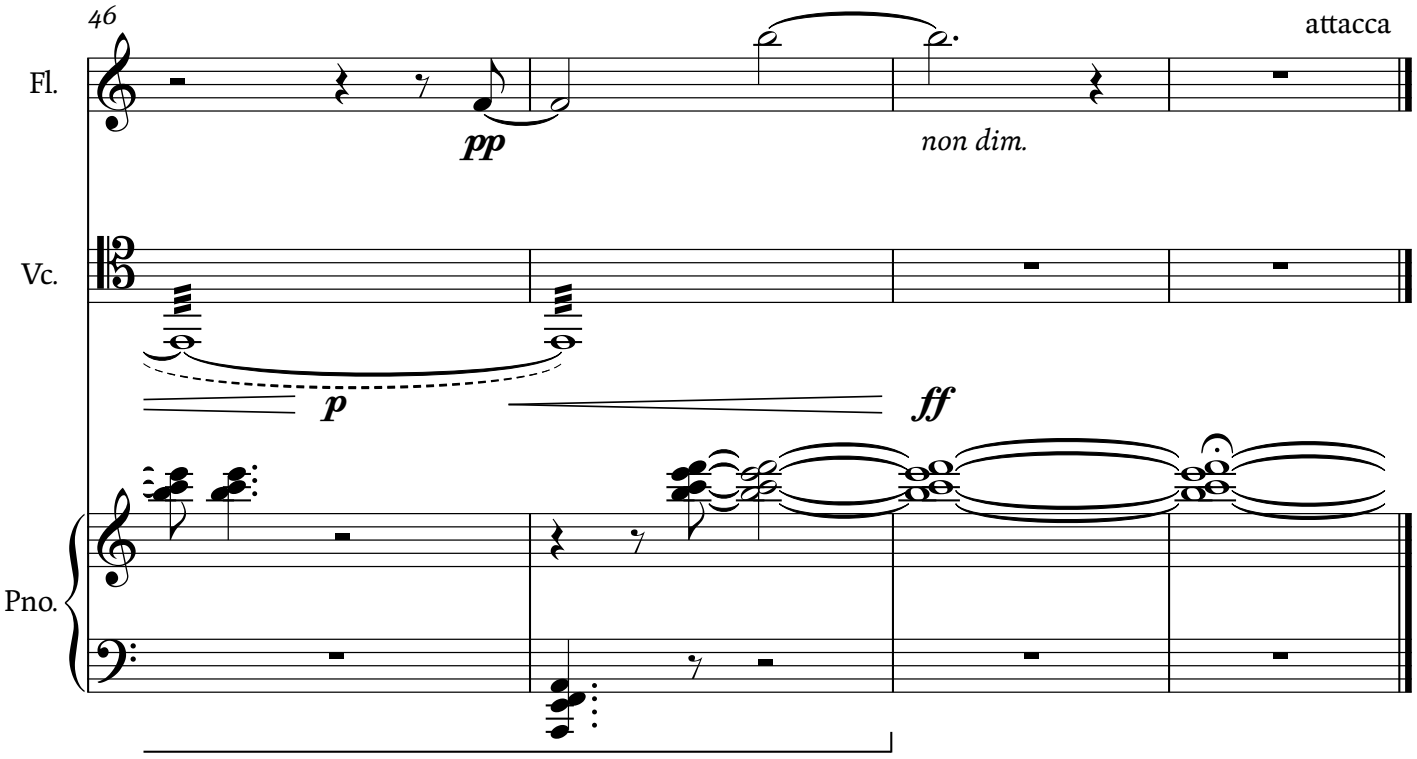
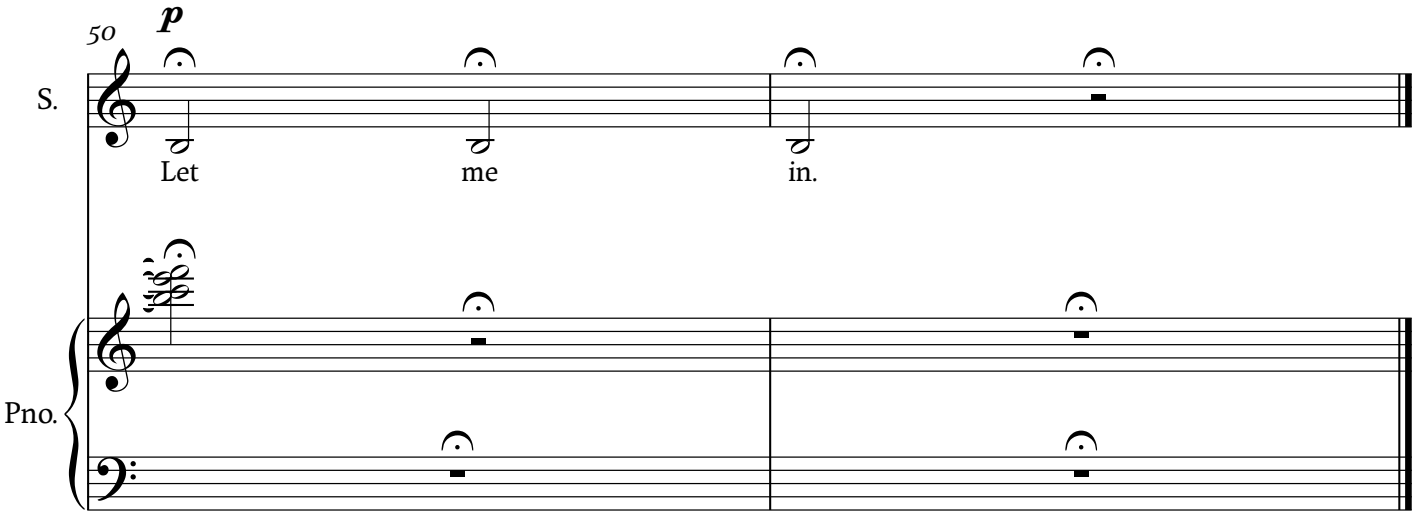

poco rit.
24
S.
in, a lo - ver or con - fi - dant, with a sec - ret to share.
Fl.
breath through flute
normal
p
ppp
Vc.
(8)
Pno.

III


♩ = 38
28
mp
Più mosso
S.
De-spite all your sad ways, beau-ty re-mains.
Fl.
p
pp
p
mp
Vc.
p
Pno.
mp
p
Ped.
sempre
33
Fl.
Vc.
pp
Pno.
f
pp
f
p


37
Fl.
Vc.
Pno.
mp
pp
mp
f
p
mf
3


42
Fl.
Vc.
Pno.
fast with lots of bow noise
3
mp
f
cresc.
ff



IV