Two Songs on E.E. Cummings

I. the moon looked into my window
II. night

(2006)

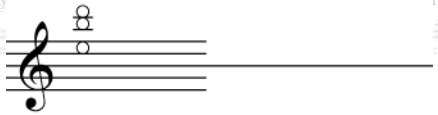
Mike McFerron

Duration ca. 13 minutes

SAMPLE

Recipient of the Chicago Composers Forum 2005 Abelson Vocal Music Commission Program supported by the Katherine A. Abelson Fund of the Lester S. Abelson Foundation.

Performance Notes



At a rapid speed, randomly play any of the notes given. Continue until a new direction is given. In this example, the pianist is not to play E5, B5 and D6 as a simultaneity, but simply the pianist should try to play only one note at a time. The speed of the notes should be rapid, but not as fast as possible. Moreover, the speed does not need to be static and may fluctuate slightly.

At a rapid speed, randomly play any any note *within* the given range. Continue until a new direction is given. In this example, the pianist is not to play Eb5 and D6 as a simultaneity, but simply the pianist should try to play *any* note between Eb5 and D6 - one note at a time. The speed of the notes should be rapid, but not as fast as possible. Moreover, the speed does not need to be static and may fluctuate slightly.

Over time, slightly increase the speed of notes played. When gesture is completed, the pianist should return to the original speed.

Over time, slightly decrease the speed of notes played. When gesture completed, the pianist should return to the original speed.

Over time, slightly increase and then decrease the speed of notes played back to original speed.

Suddenly increase the speed slightly of notes played. When gesture is completed, the pianist should return to the original speed.

Generally occurring on a syncopated notes, this symbol indicates that the singer should take care not to stress or accent the note.

Program Notes

***The moon looked into my window* by E.E. Cummings**

the moon looked into my window
it touched me with its small hands
and with curling infantile
fingers it understood my eyes cheeks mouth
its hands(slipping)felt of my necktie wandered
against my shirt and into my body the
sharp things fingered tinily my heart life

the little hands withdrew,jerkily,themselves

quietly they began playing with a button
the moon smiled she
let go my vest and crept
through the window
she did not fall
she went creeping along the air
over houses
roofs

And out of the east toward
her fragile light bent gatheringly

***NIGHT* by E.E. Cummings**

Night, with sunset hauntings;
A red cloud under the moon.
Here will I meet my love
Beneath hushed trees.

Over the silver meadows
Of flower-folded grass,
Shall come unto me
Her feet like arrows of moonlight.

Under the magic forest
Mute with shadow,
I will utterly greet
The blown star of her face.

By white waters
Sheathed in rippling silence,
Shall I behold her hands
Hurting the dark with lilies.

Hush thee to worship, soul!
Now is thy movement of love.
Night; and a red cloud
Under the moon.

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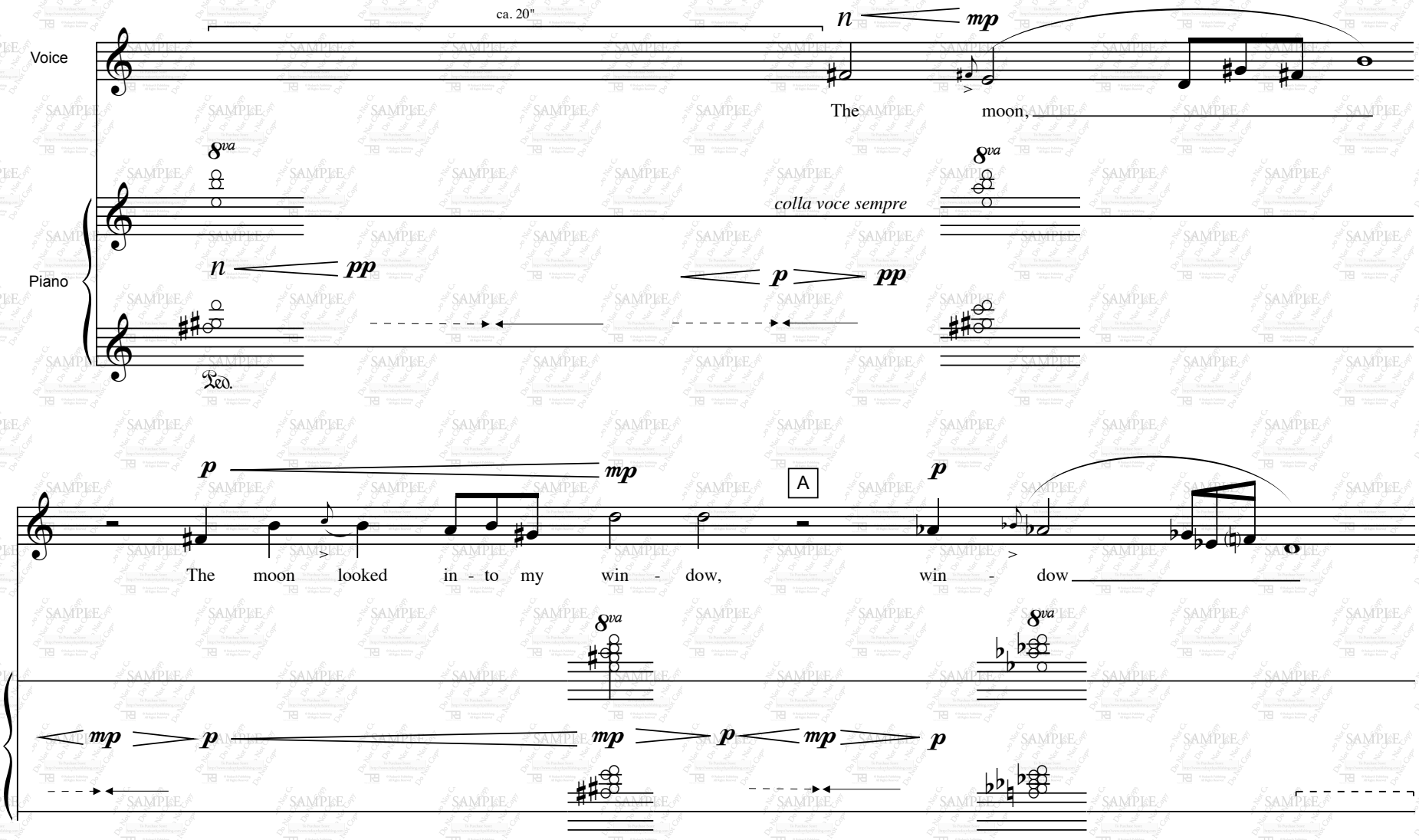
the moon looked into my window

E.E. Cummings

Voice Tempo ♩ = c. 48

Mike McFerron



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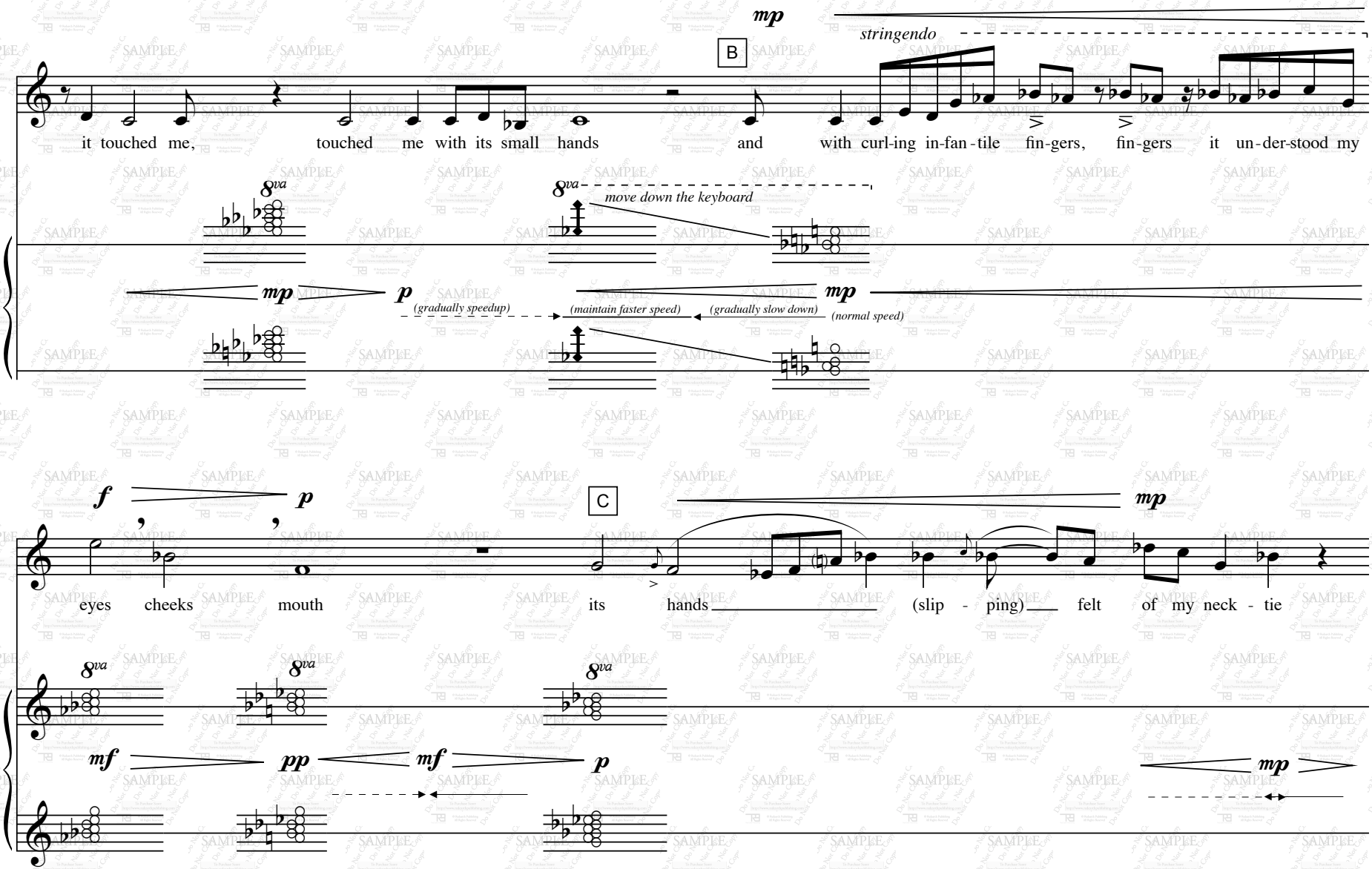
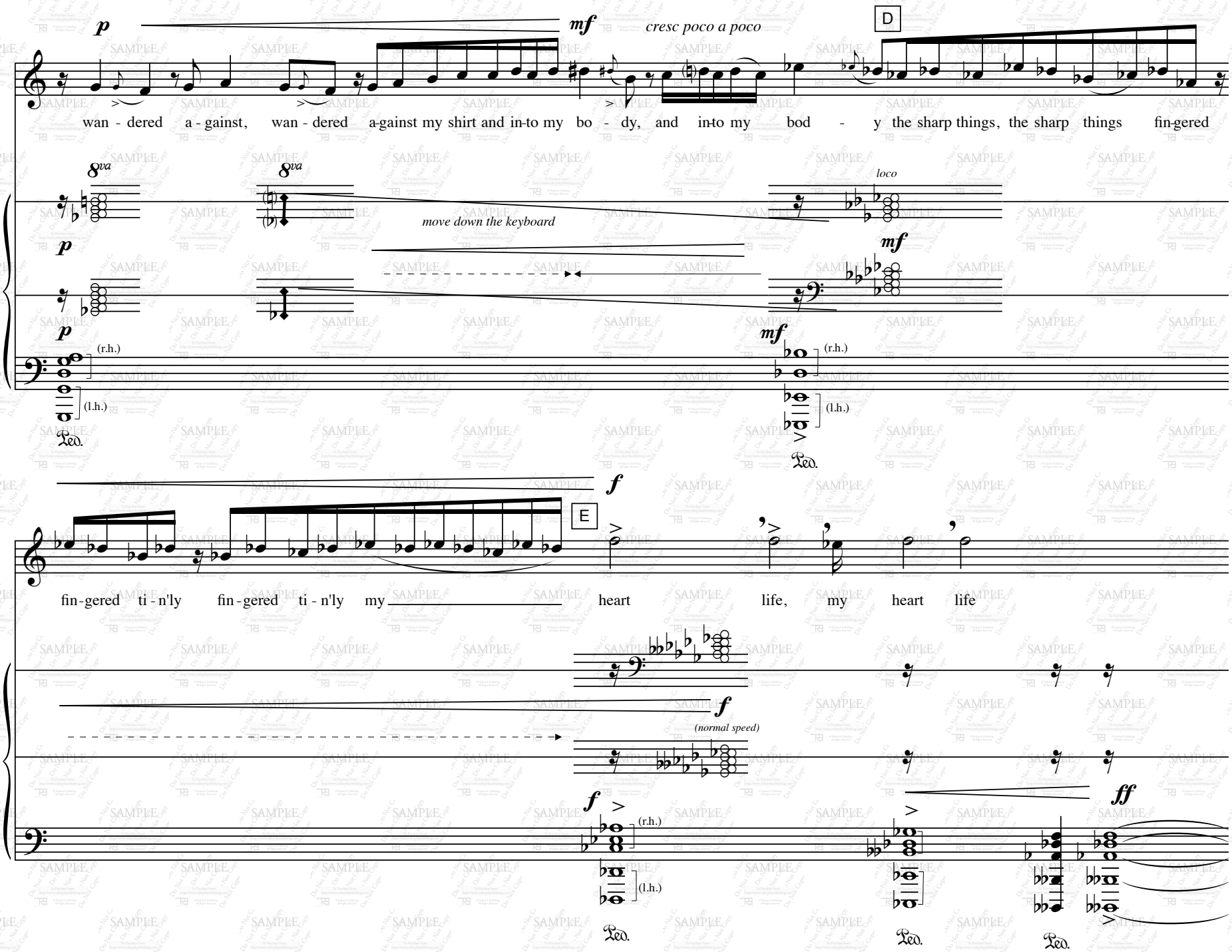
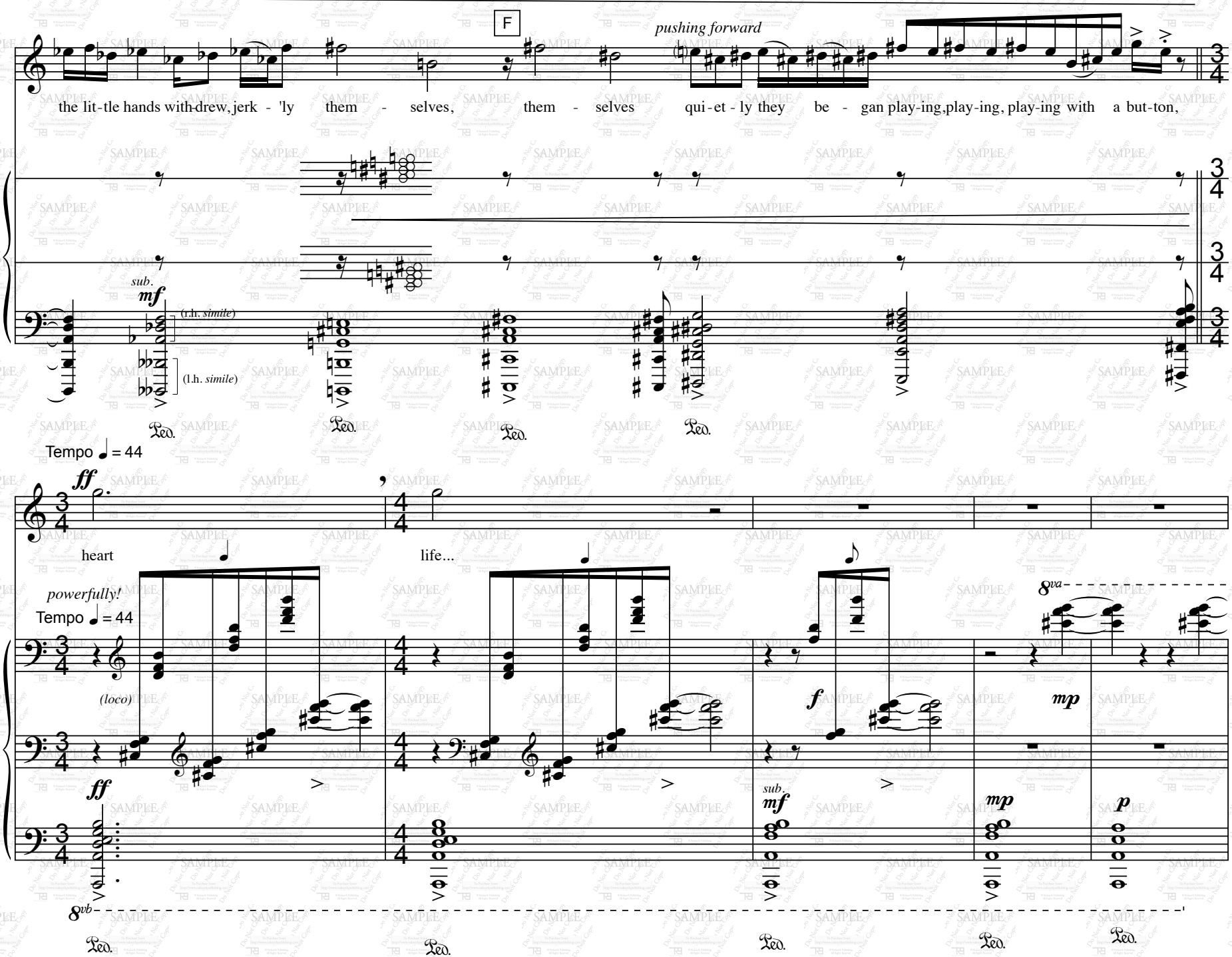
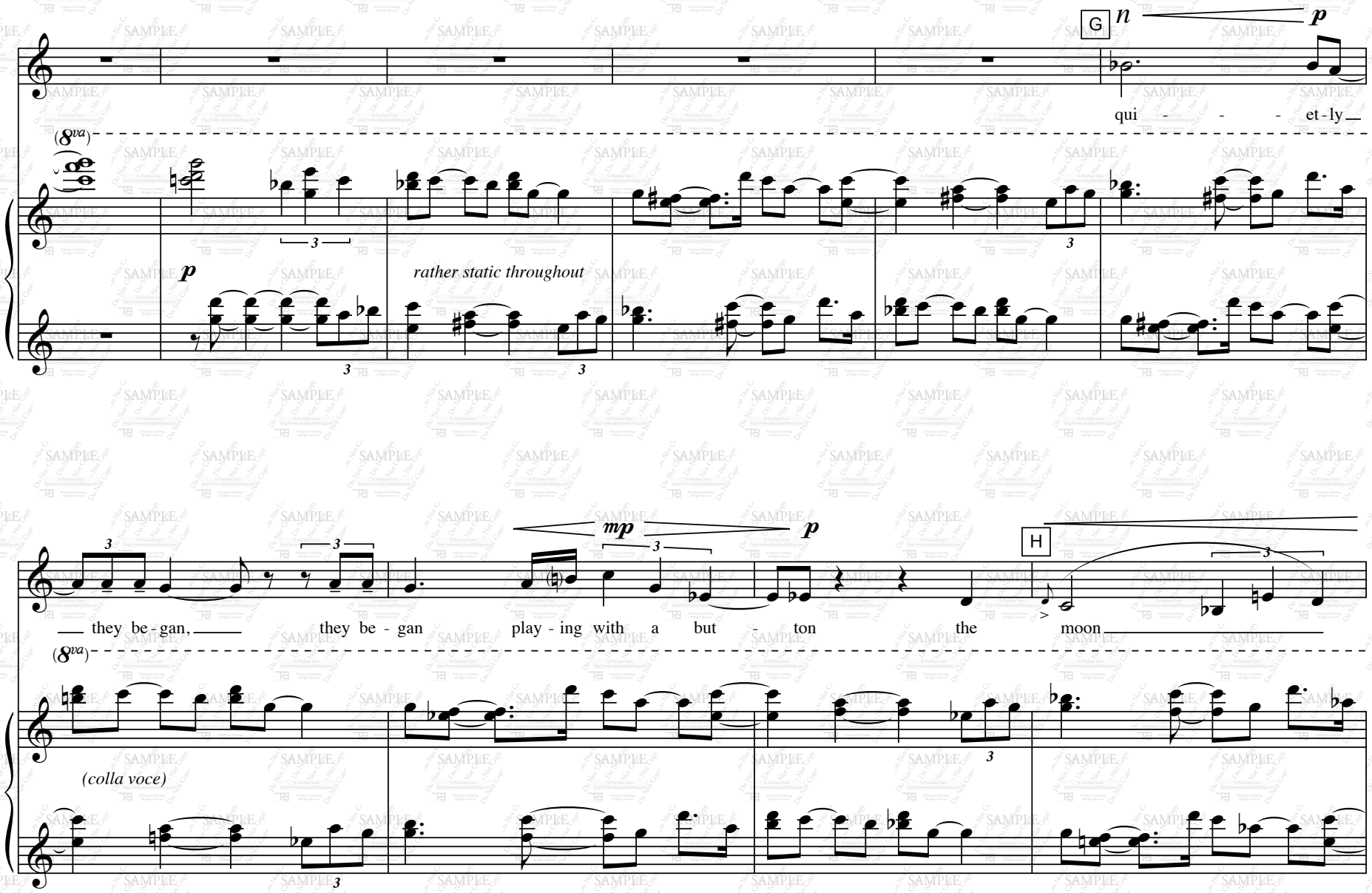
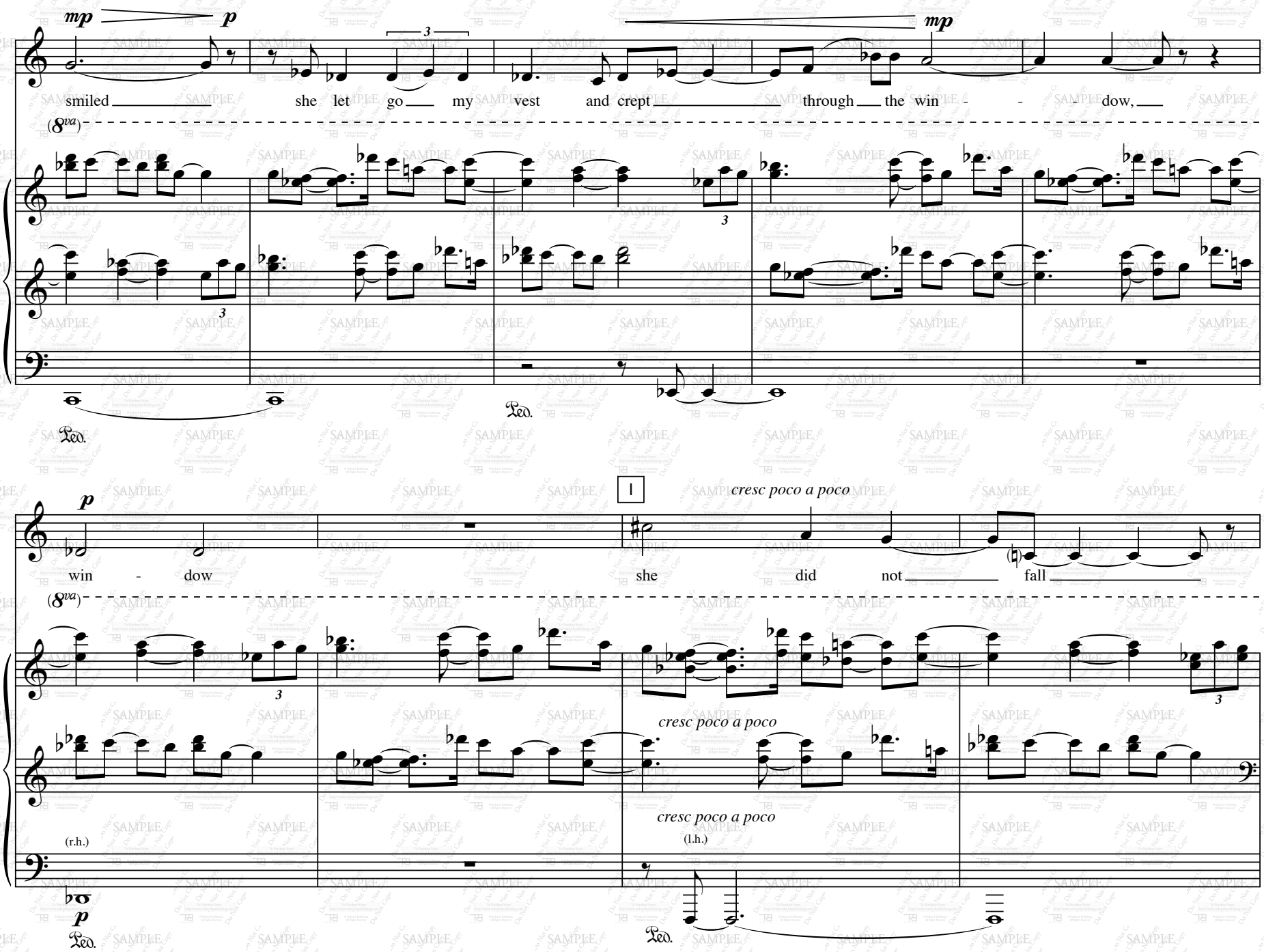
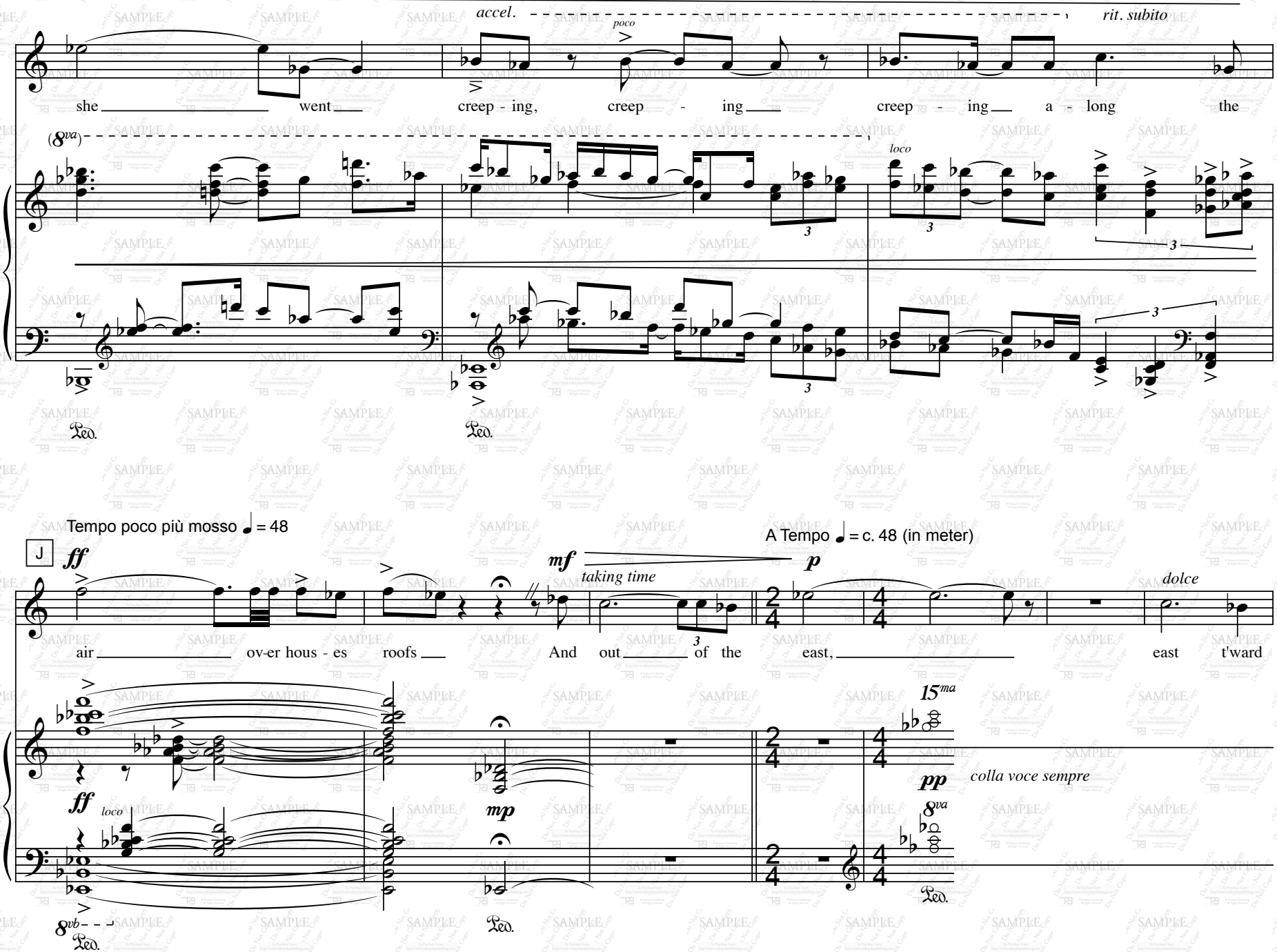

mp
stringendo
B
it touched me, touched me with its small hands and with curl-ing in-fan-tile fin-gers, fin-gers it un-der-stood my
8va
move down the keyboard
mp
p
(gradually speedup)
(maintain faster speed)
(gradually slow down)
mp
(normal speed)
f
p
C
mp
eyes cheeks mouth its hands (slip - ping) felt of my neck - tie
mf
pp
mf
p
mp

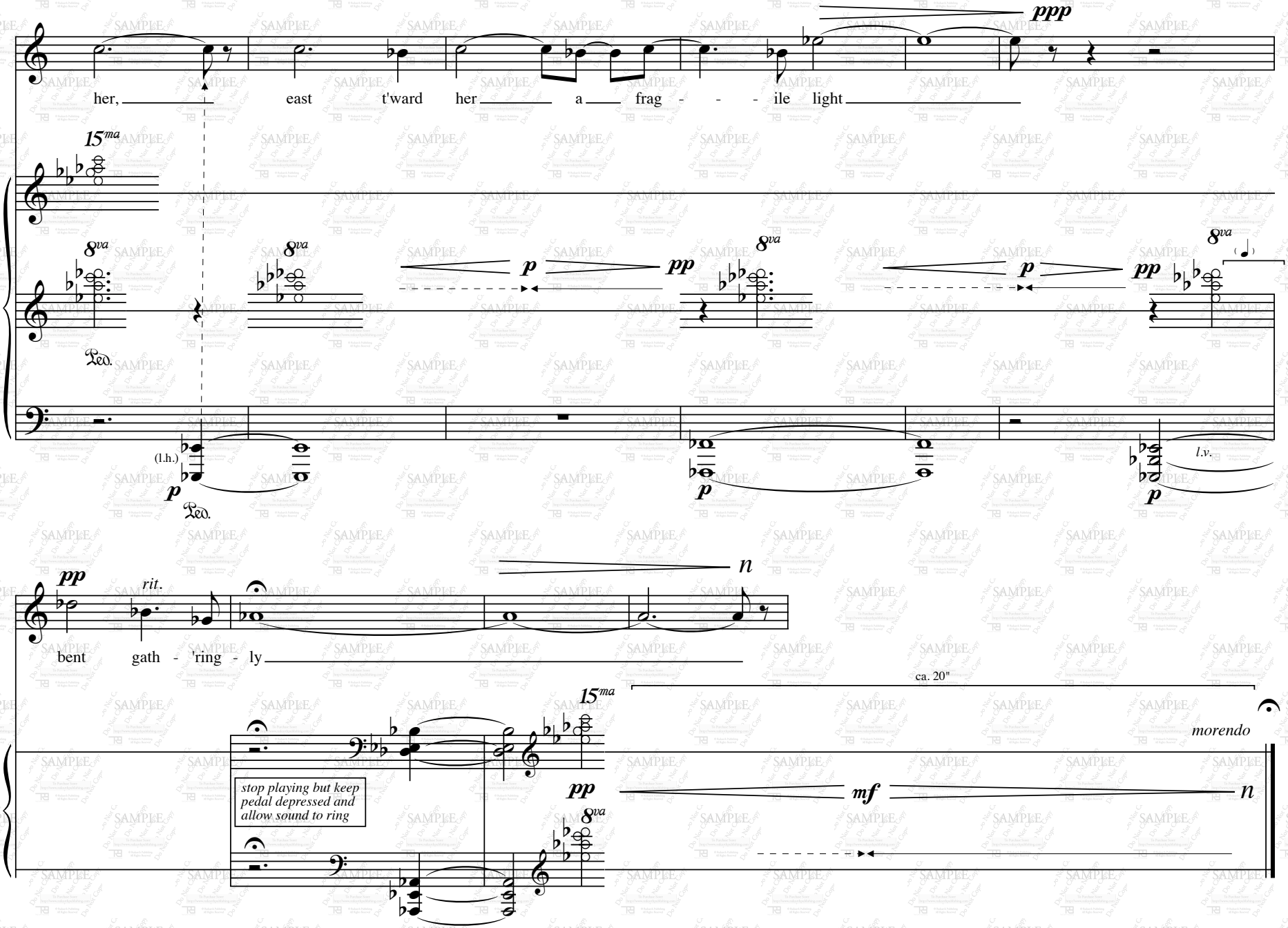

p
mf
cresc poco a poco
D
wan - dered a - gainst, wan - dered a-gainst my shirt and in-to my bo - dy, and in-to my bod - y the sharp things, the sharp things fin-gered
8va
8va
move down the keyboard
loco
mf
p
p
mf
(r.h.)
(l.h.)
(r.h.)
(l.h.)
Ped.
Ped.
f
E
fin-gered ti - n'ly fin-gered ti - n'ly my heart life, my heart life
f
(normal speed)
f
ff
(r.h.)
(l.h.)
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


F
pushing forward
the lit-tle hands with-drew, jerk - 'ly them - selves, them - selves qui-et - ly they be - gan play-ing, play-ing, play-ing with a but-ton,
sub.
mf
(r.h. simile)
(l.h. simile)
Ped.
Tempo ♩ = 44
ff
heart
life...
powerfully!
Tempo ♩ = 44
(loco)
8va
8vb
f
mp
p


G
n
p
qui - - - - et - ly
(8va)
p
rather static throughout
3
3
3
3
3
mp
p
H
they be - gan, they be - gan play - ing with a but - ton the moon
(8va)
(colla voce)
3
3

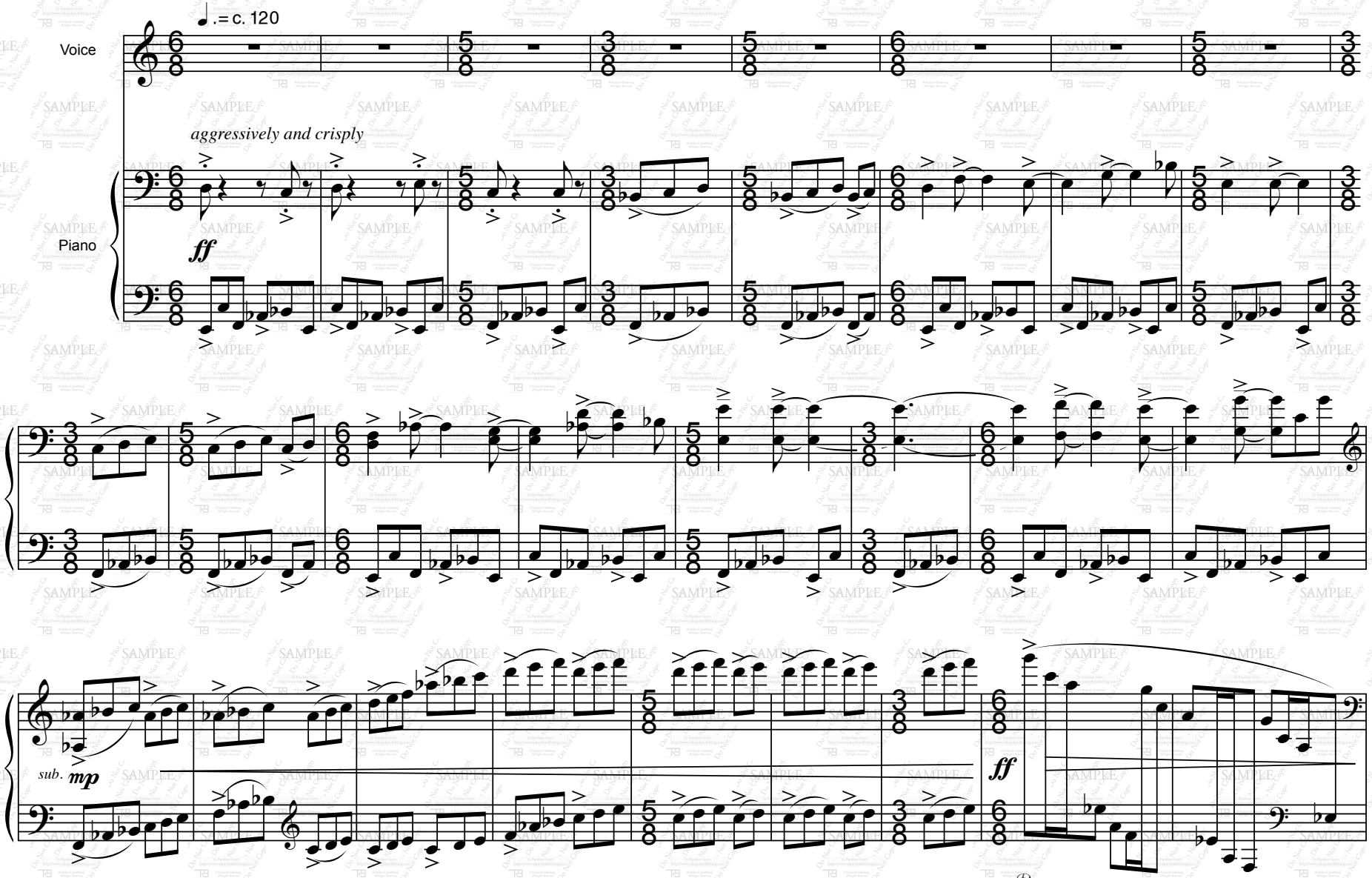

mp
p
mp
smiled she let go my vest and crept through the win - - - dow,
(8va)
Ped.
Ped.
p
win - dow
I
cresc poco a poco
she did not fall
(8va)
cresc poco a poco
cresc poco a poco
(r.h.)
(l.h.)
p
Ped.
Ped.


accel.
poco
rit. subito
she went creep - ing, creep - ing creep - ing a - long the
(8va)
loco
Ped.
Tempo poco più mosso ♩ = 48
J
ff
mf
taking time
p
A Tempo ♩ = c. 48 (in meter)
dolce
air over hous - es roofs And out of the east, east t'ward
15ma
pp
colla voce sempre
8va
8vb
mp


ppp
her, east t'ward her a frag - - - ile light
15ma
8va
8va
8va
8va
p
pp
p
pp
Ped.
(l.h.)
p
Ped.
p
p
l.v.
pp
rit.
n
bent gath - 'ring - ly
15ma
ca. 20"
morendo
stop playing but keep pedal depressed and allow sound to ring
pp
8va
mf
n

night

E.E. Cummings **Mike McFerron**



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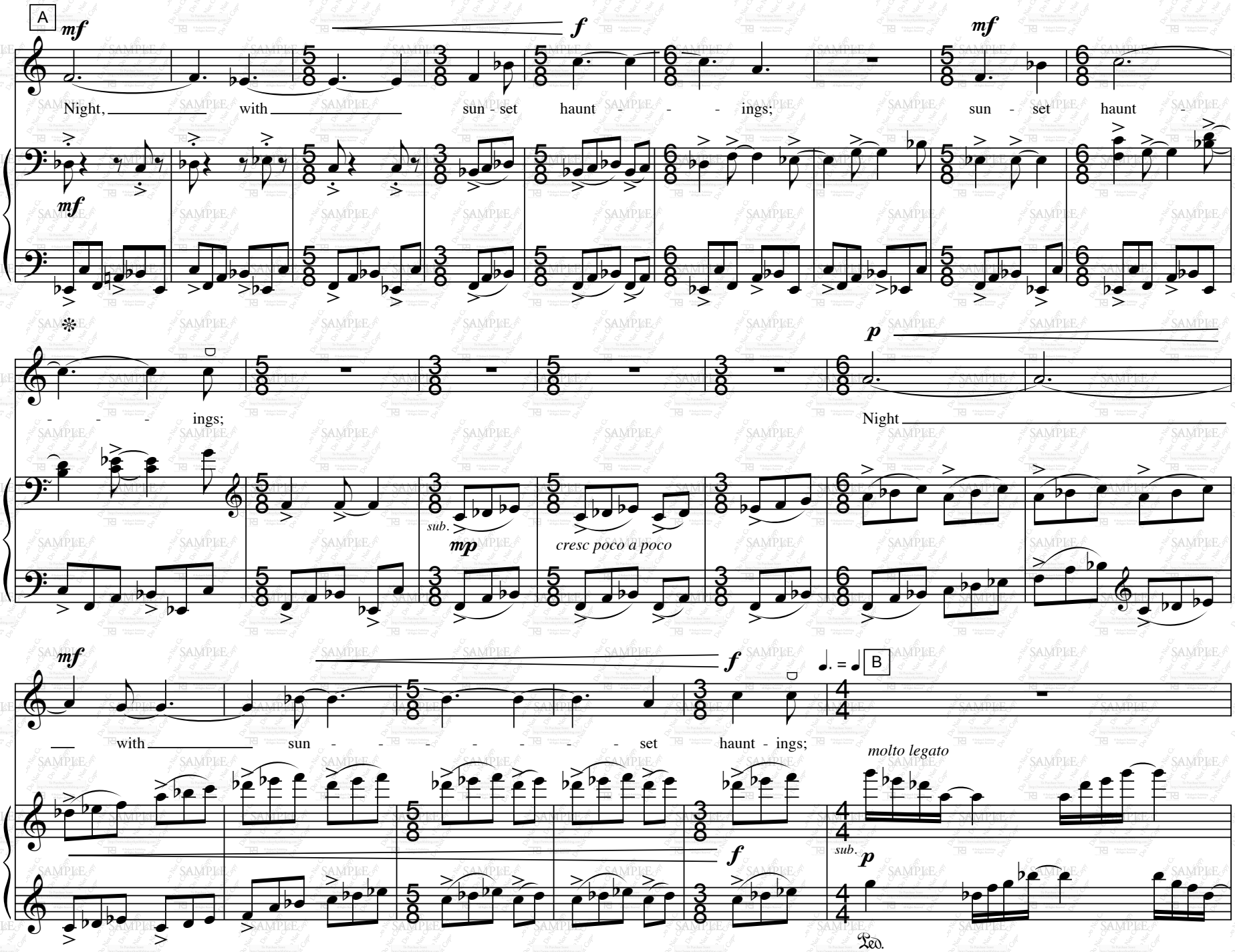
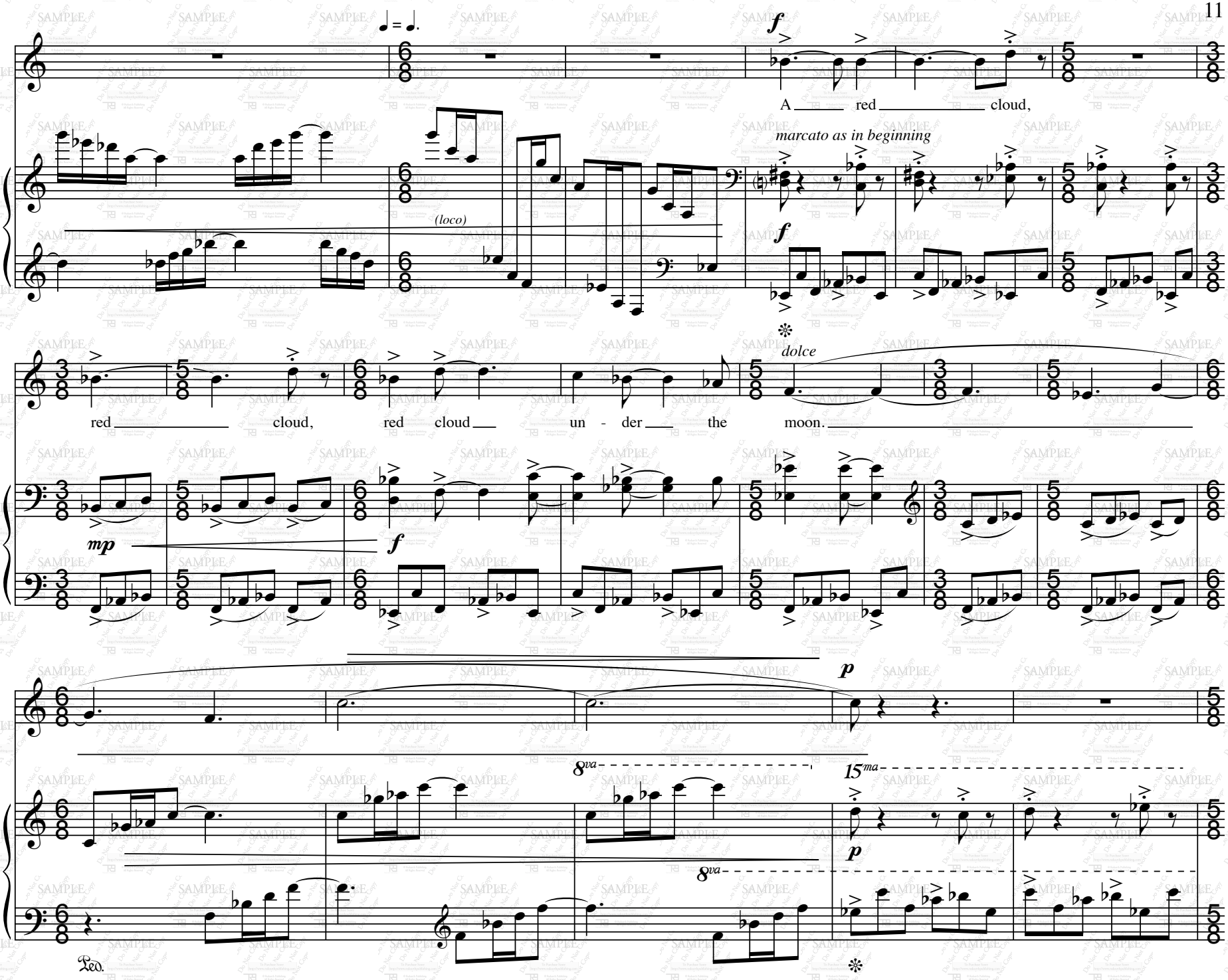
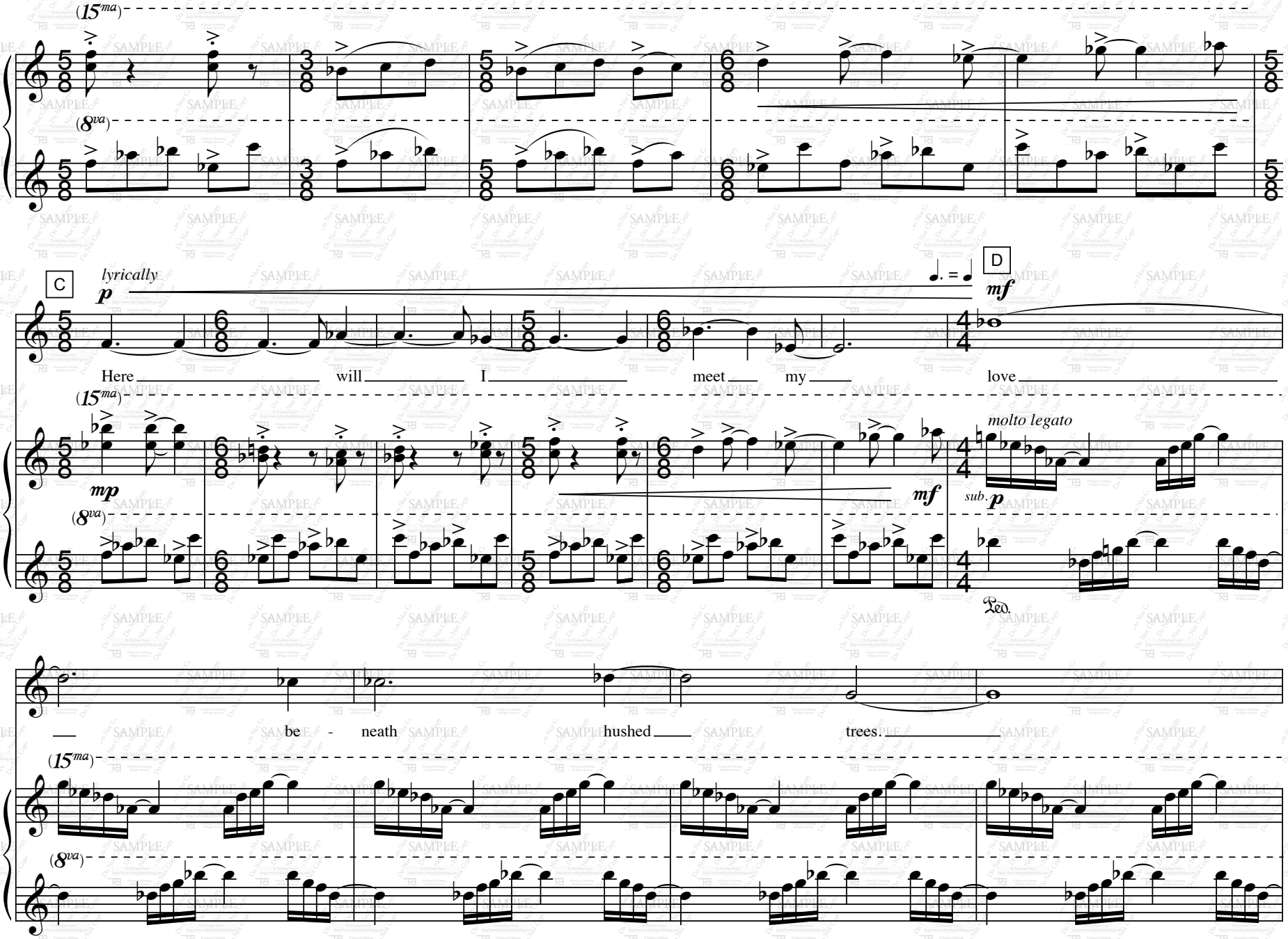
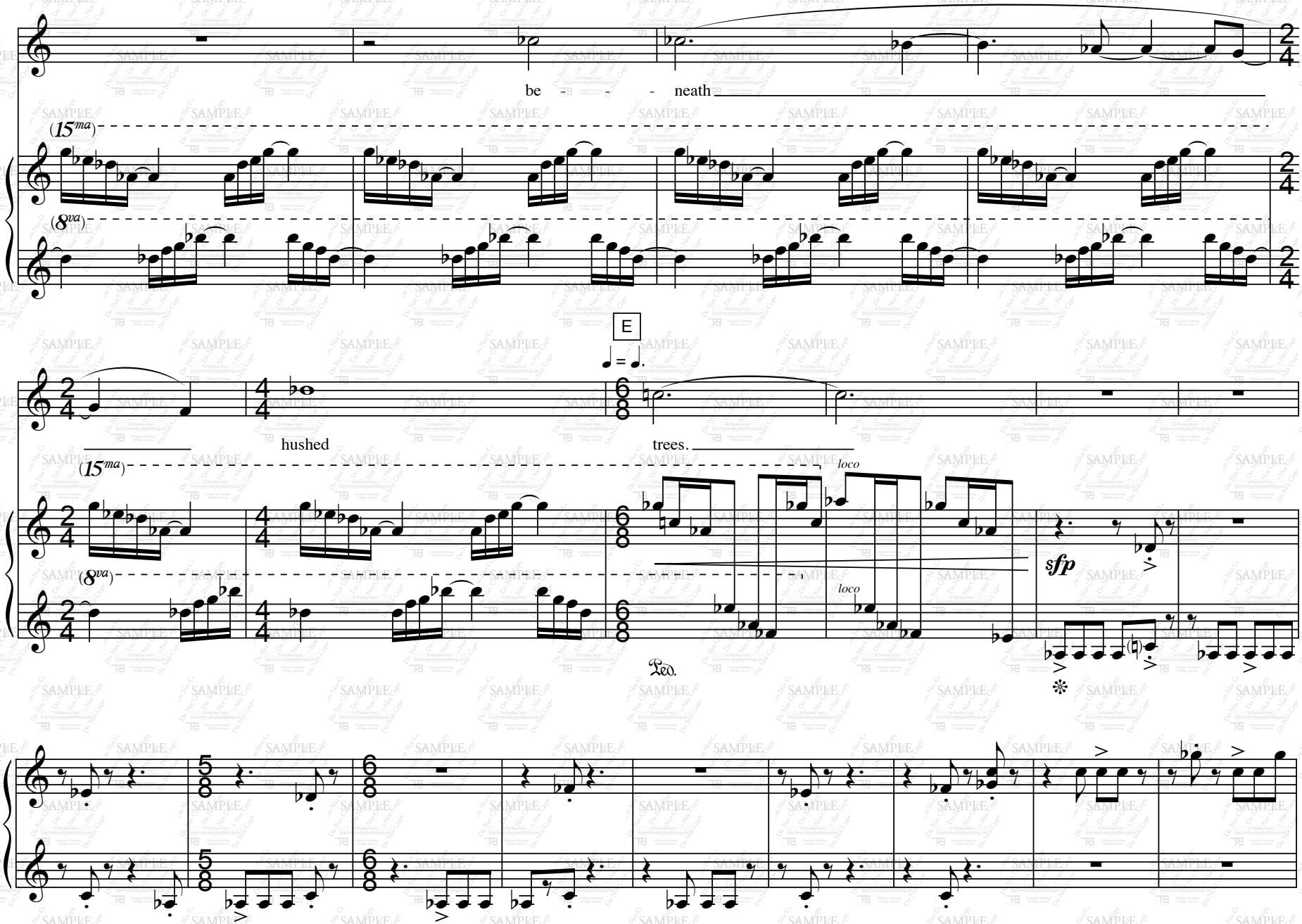
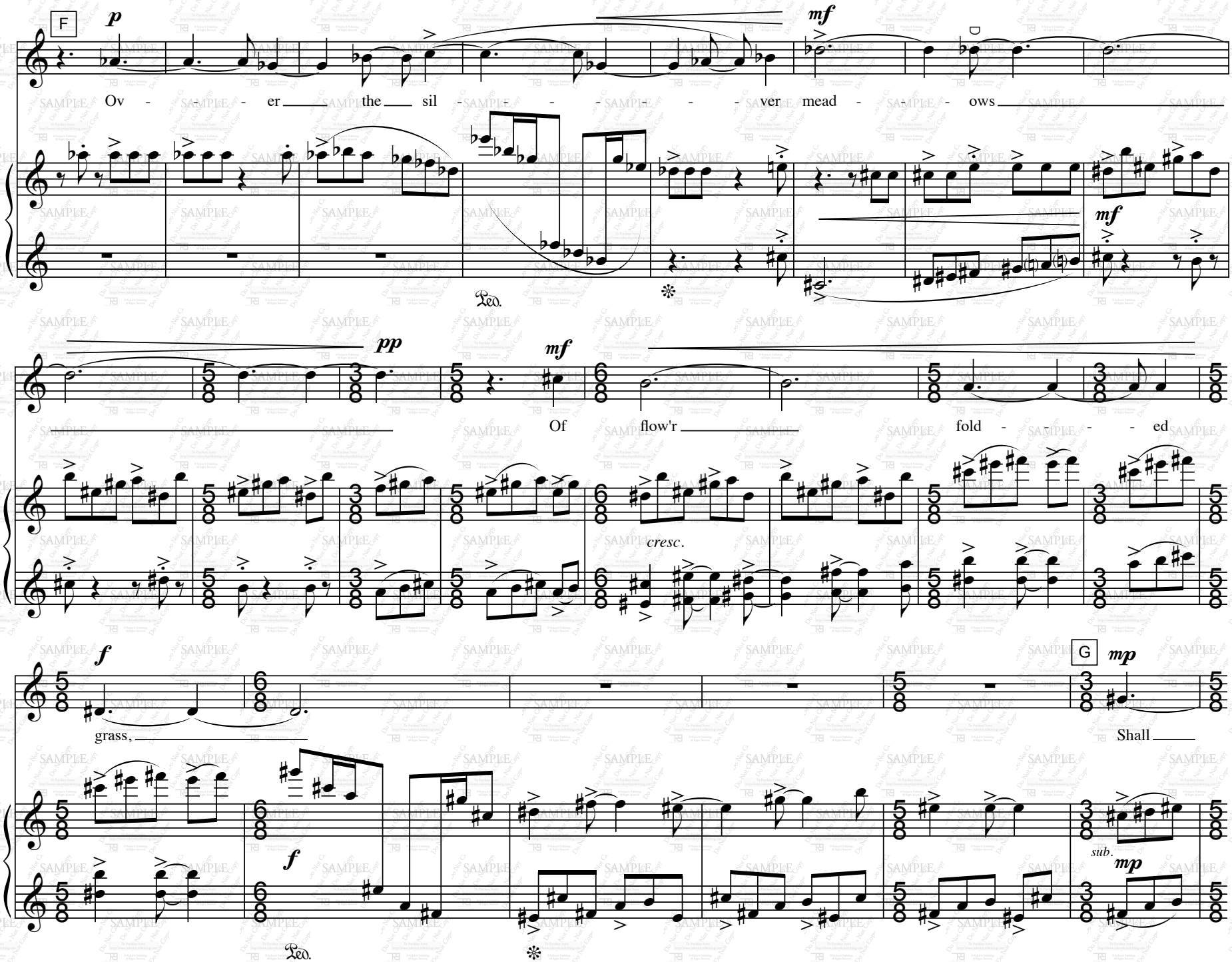
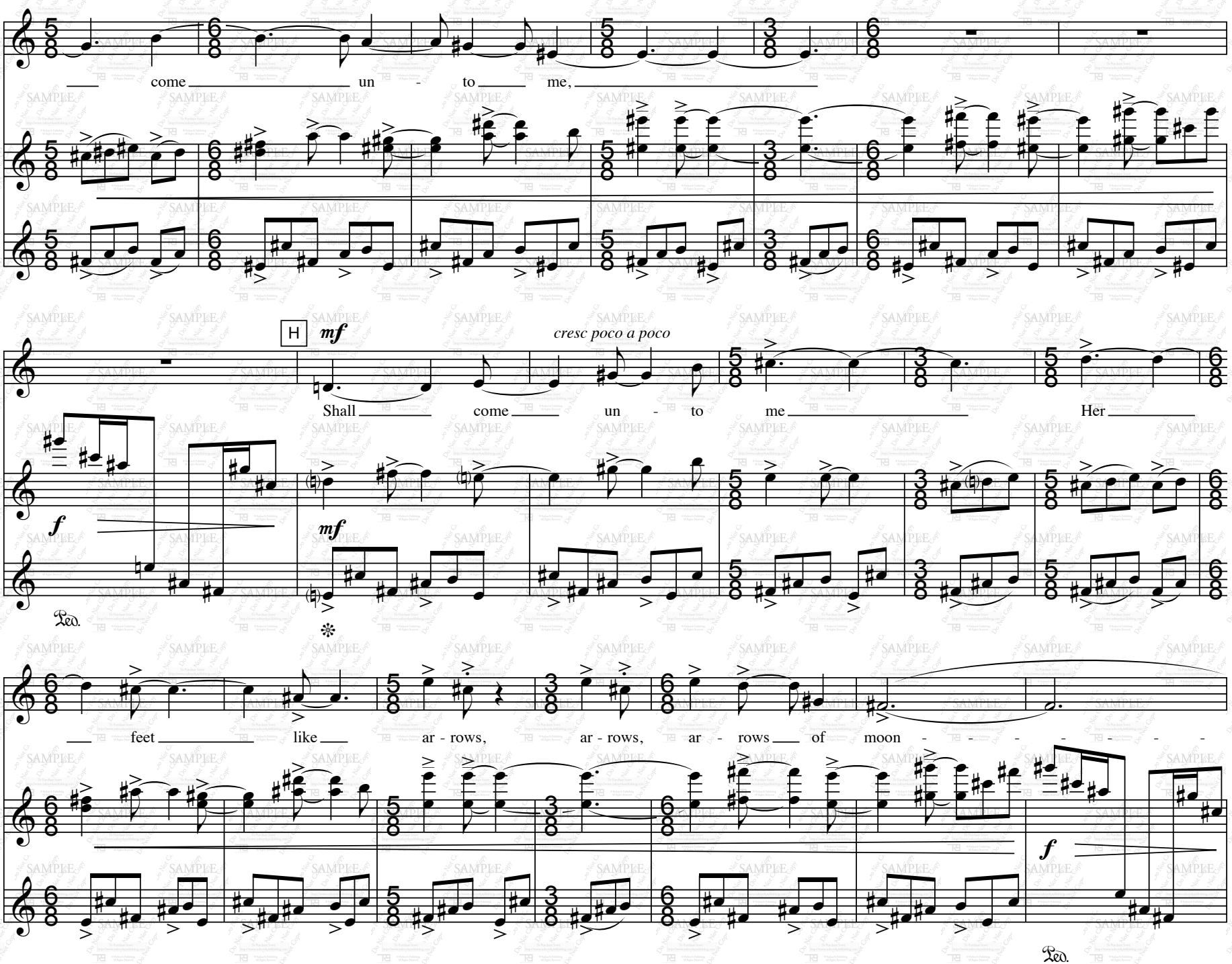

A
mf
f
mf
Night, with sun - set haunt - - - ings; sun - set haunt -
mf
- - - ings;
p
Night
sub.
mp
cresc poco a poco
mf
f
B
with sun - - - - - - - set haunt - ings;
molto legato
f
sub.
p
Ped.

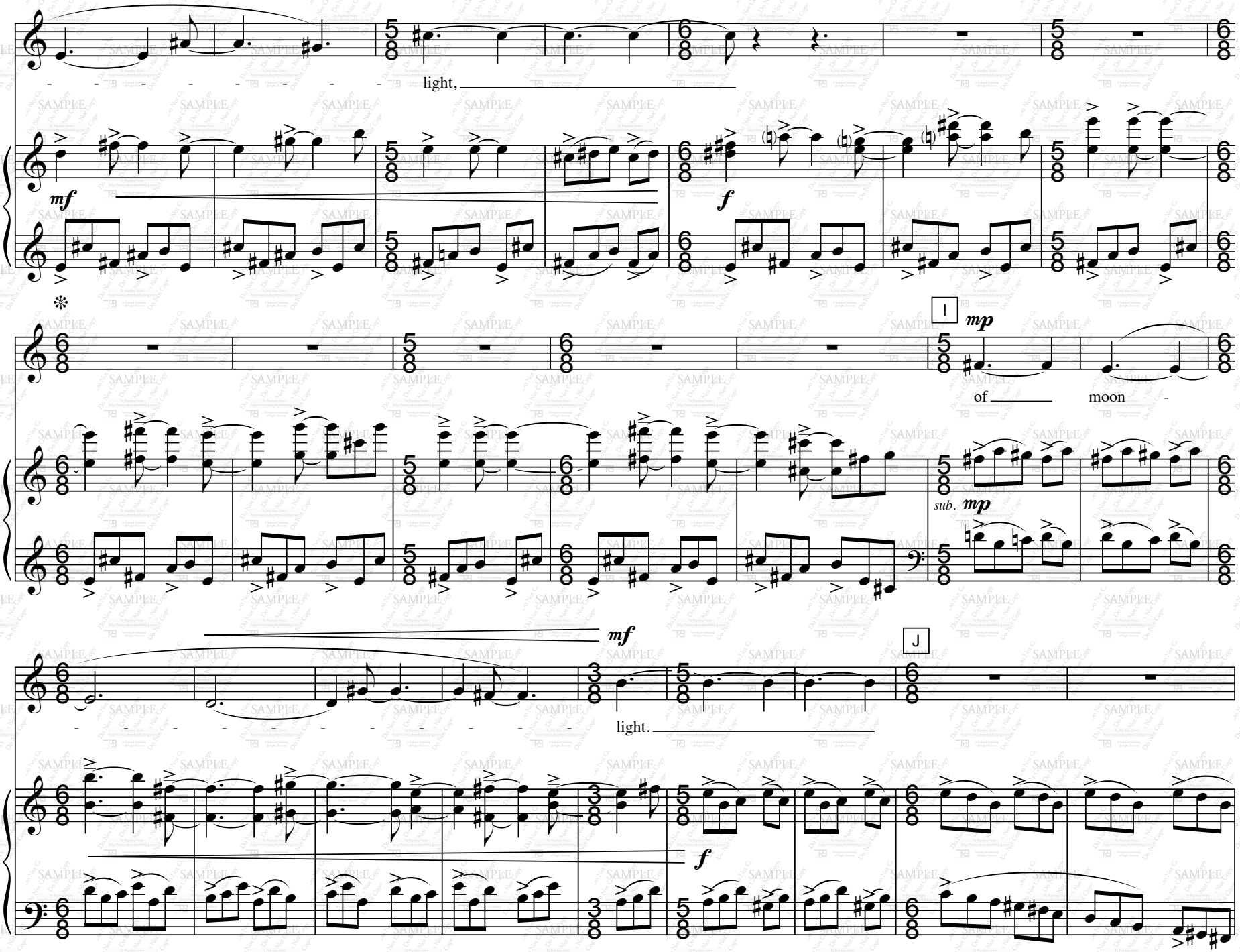

A red cloud,
marcato as in beginning
(loco)
dolce
red cloud, red cloud un - der the moon.
8va
15ma
Ped.

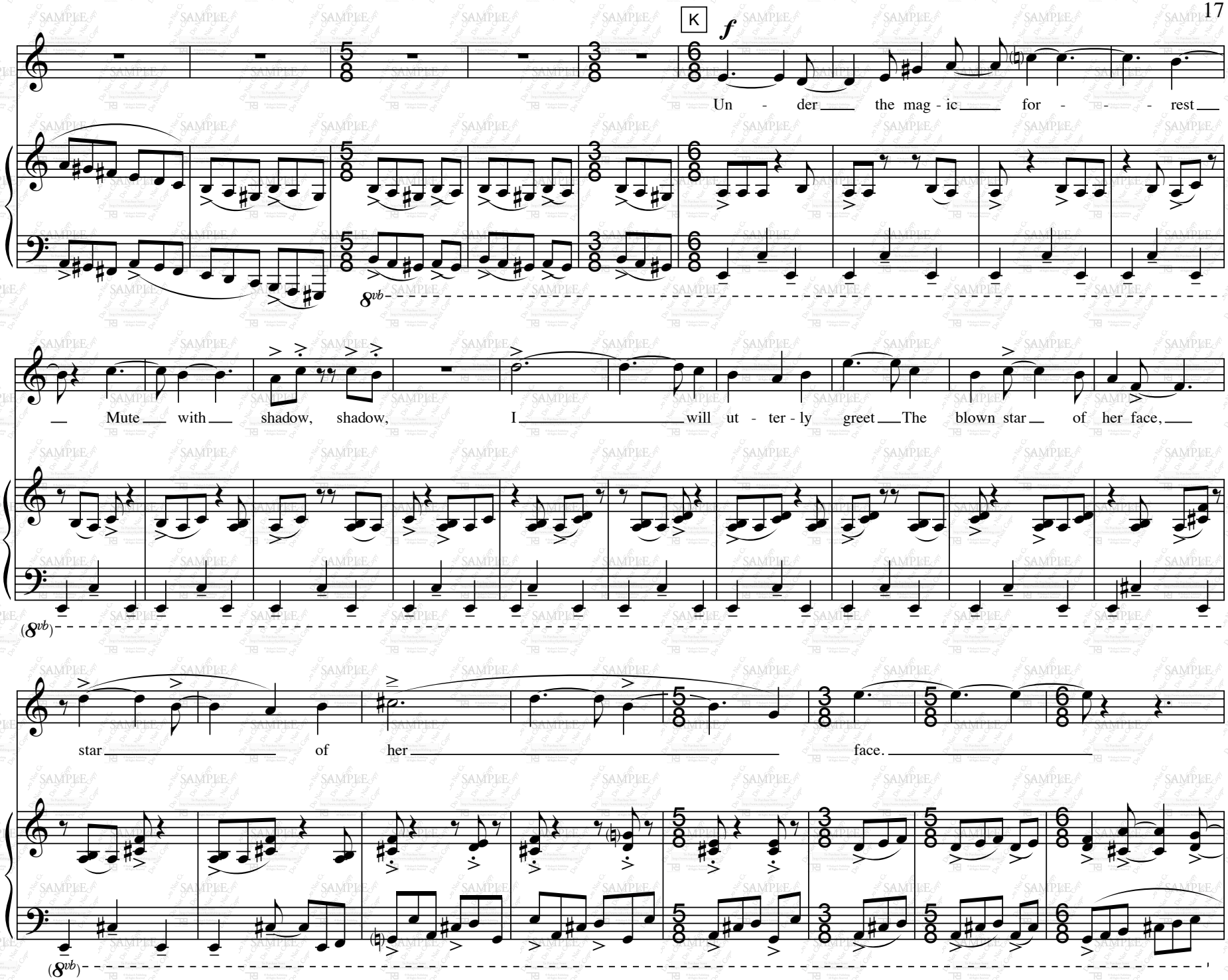

(15ma)
(8va)
C
lyrically
p
D
mf
Here will I meet my love
(15ma)
(8va)
mp
mf
molto legato
sub. p
Ped.
be - neath hushed trees.
(15ma)
(8va)

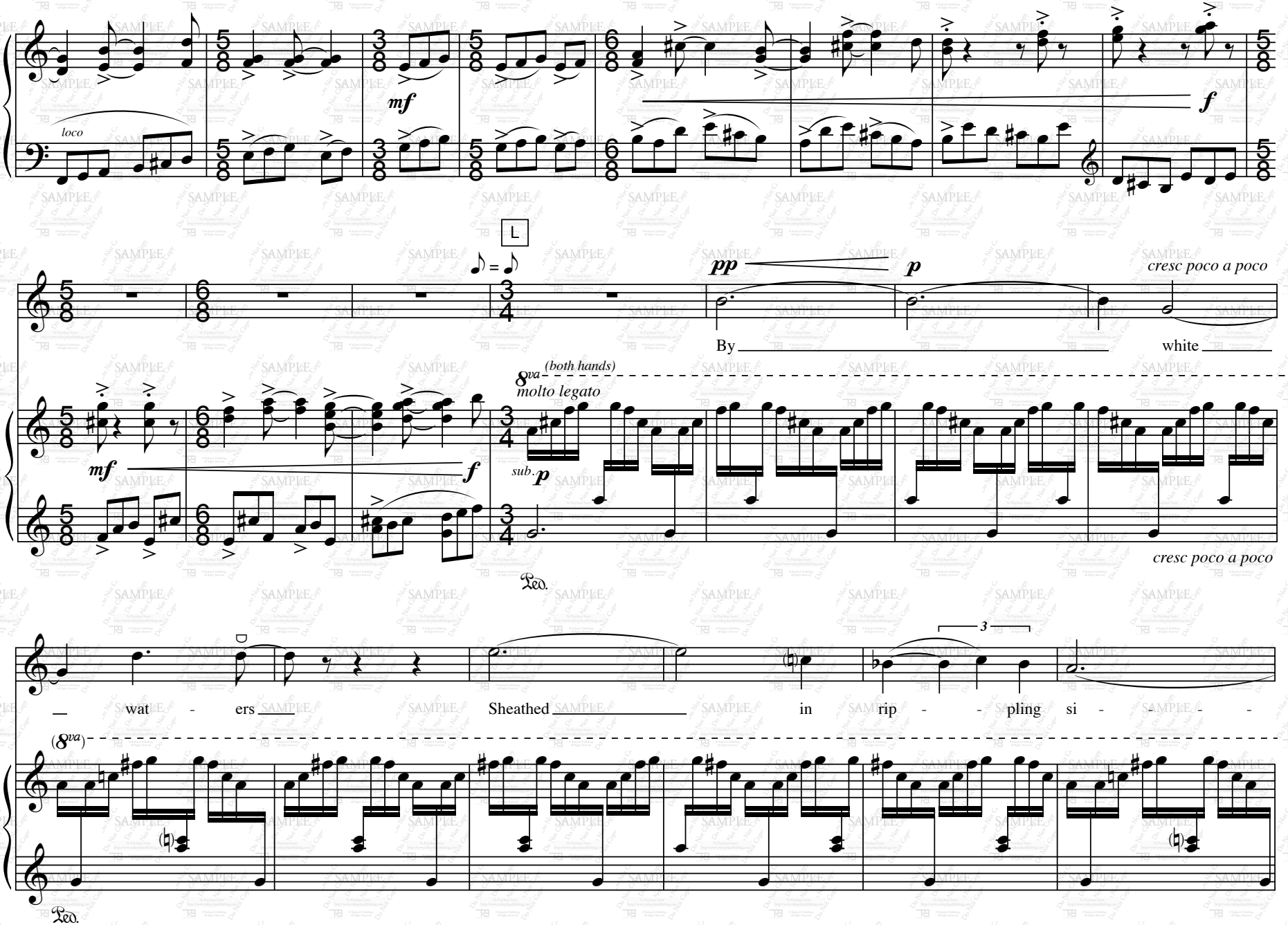

be - - - neath
(15ma)
(8va)
E
hushed
trees.
loco
sfp
Ped.

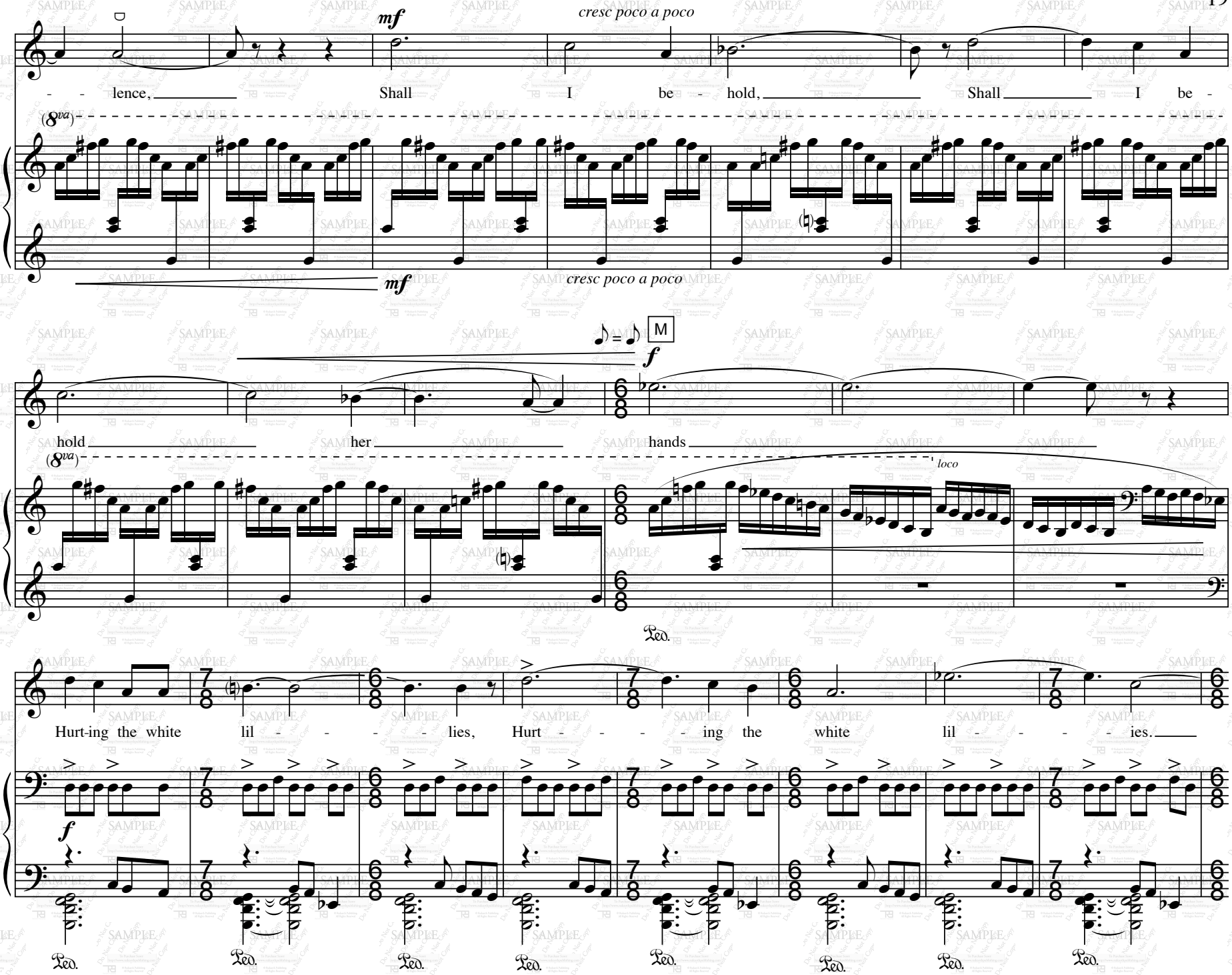

F
p
mf
Ov - - - - er the sil - - - - - - - - ver mead - - - - ows
Ped.
mf
pp
mf
Of flow'r fold - - - - ed
cresc.
f
grass,
G
mp
Shall
f
Ped.
sub.
mp

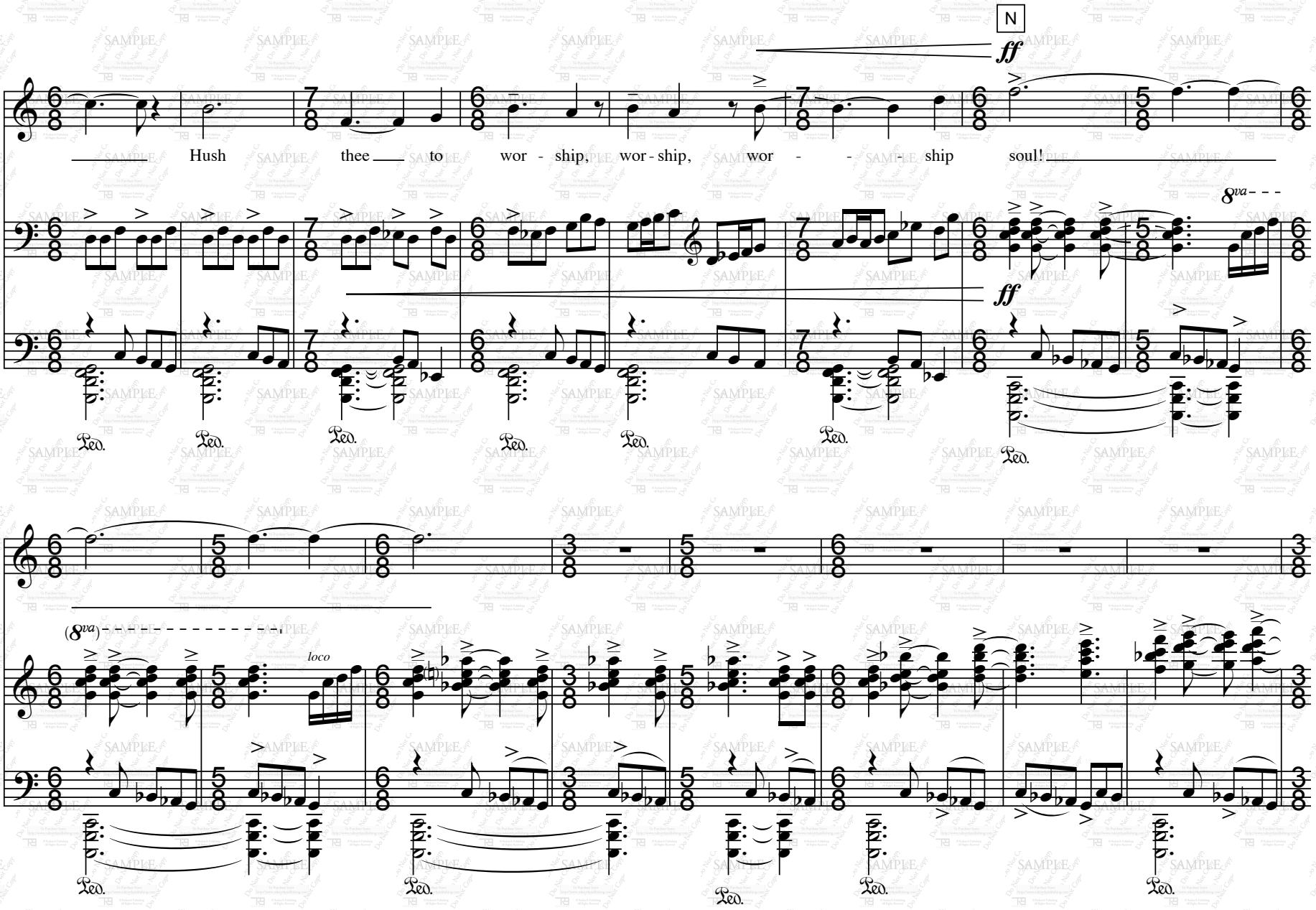

come un - to me,
H
mf
cresc poco a poco
Shall come un - to me Her
f
mf
Ped.
feet like ar - rows, ar - rows, ar - rows of moon
f
Ped.

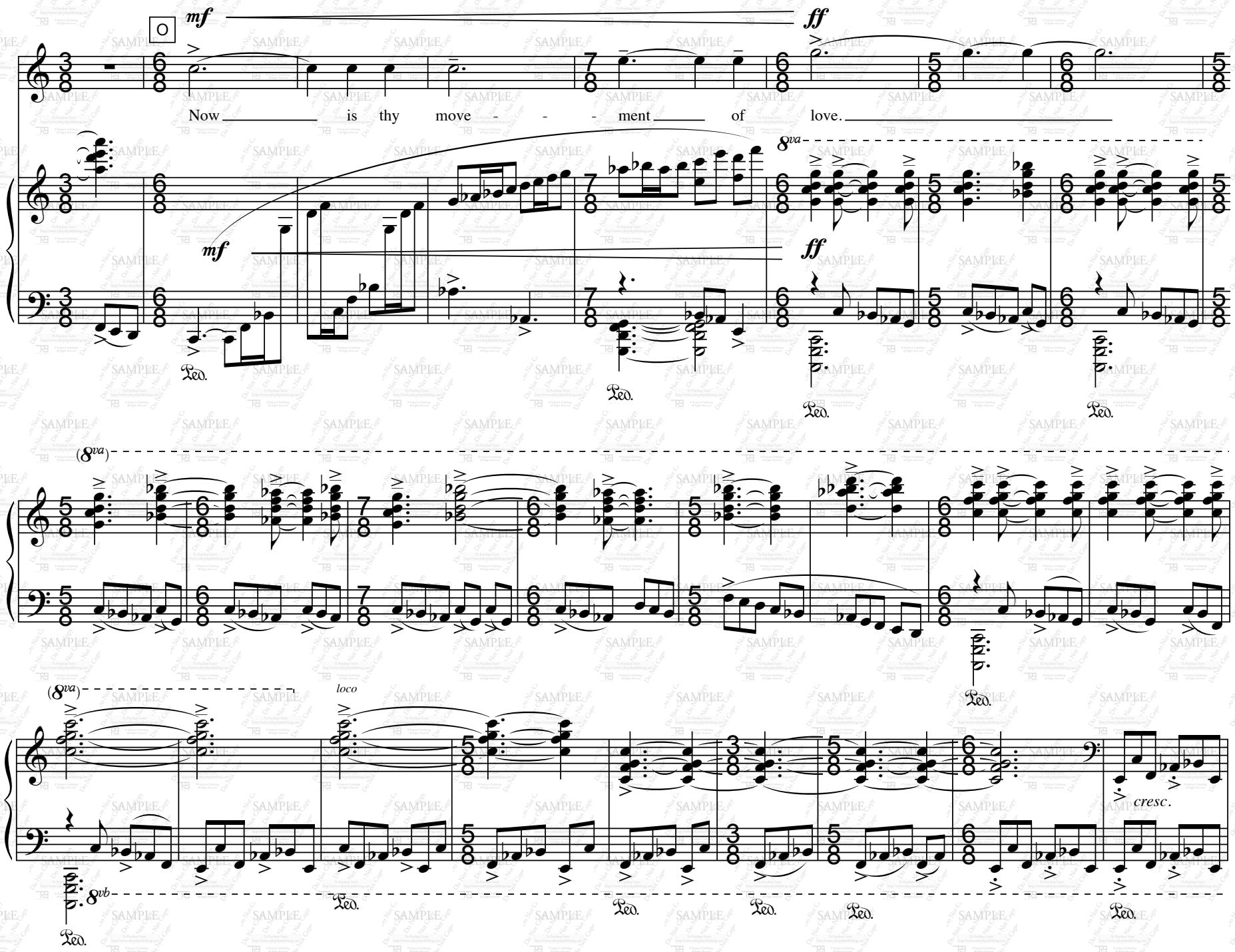

light,
mf
f
I
mp
of
moon
sub. mp
mf
J
light.
f

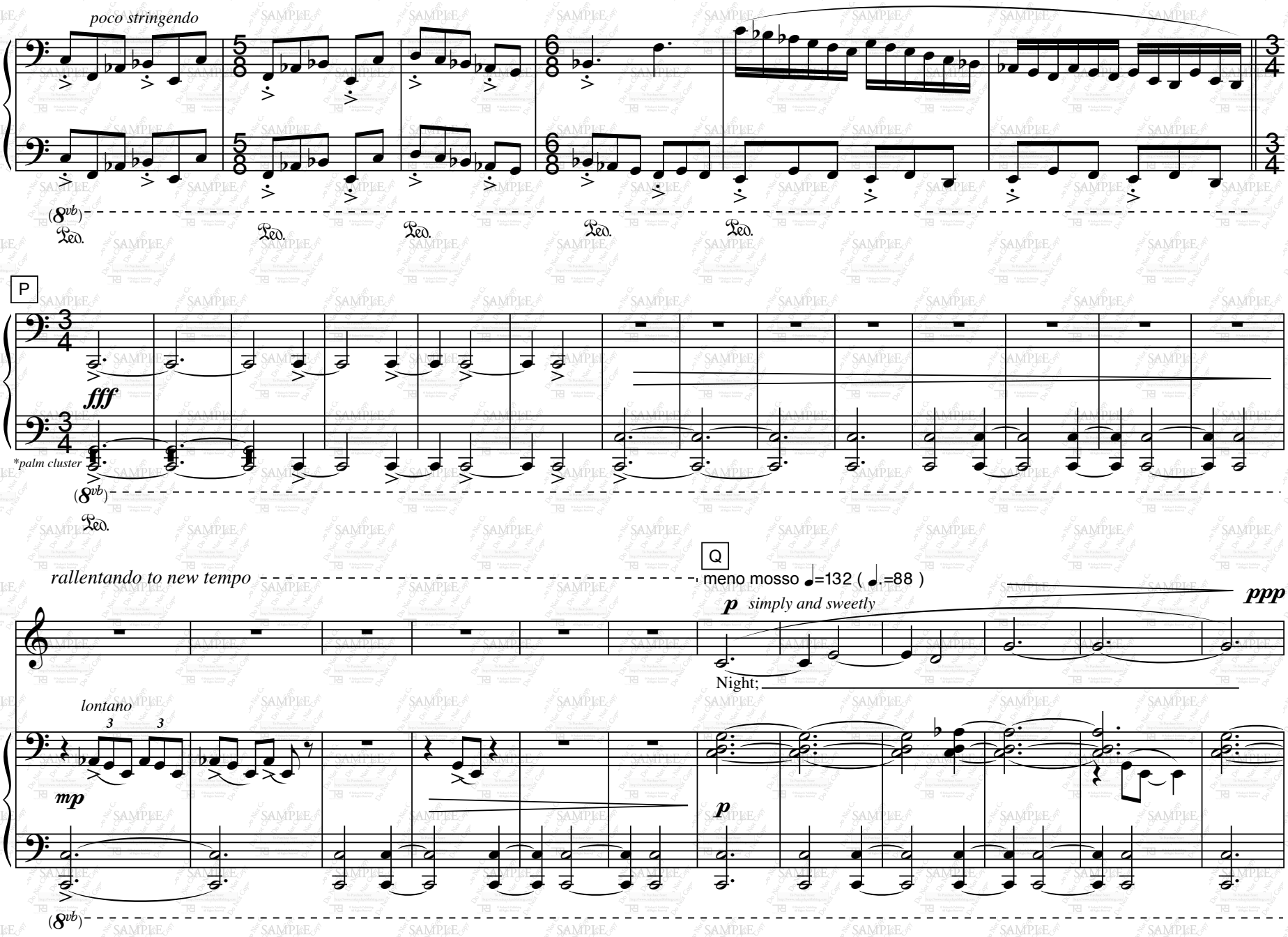

K
f
Un - der the mag - ic for - - - rest
8vb
Mute with shadow, shadow, I will ut - ter - ly greet The blown star of her face,
(8vb)
star of her face.
(8vb)

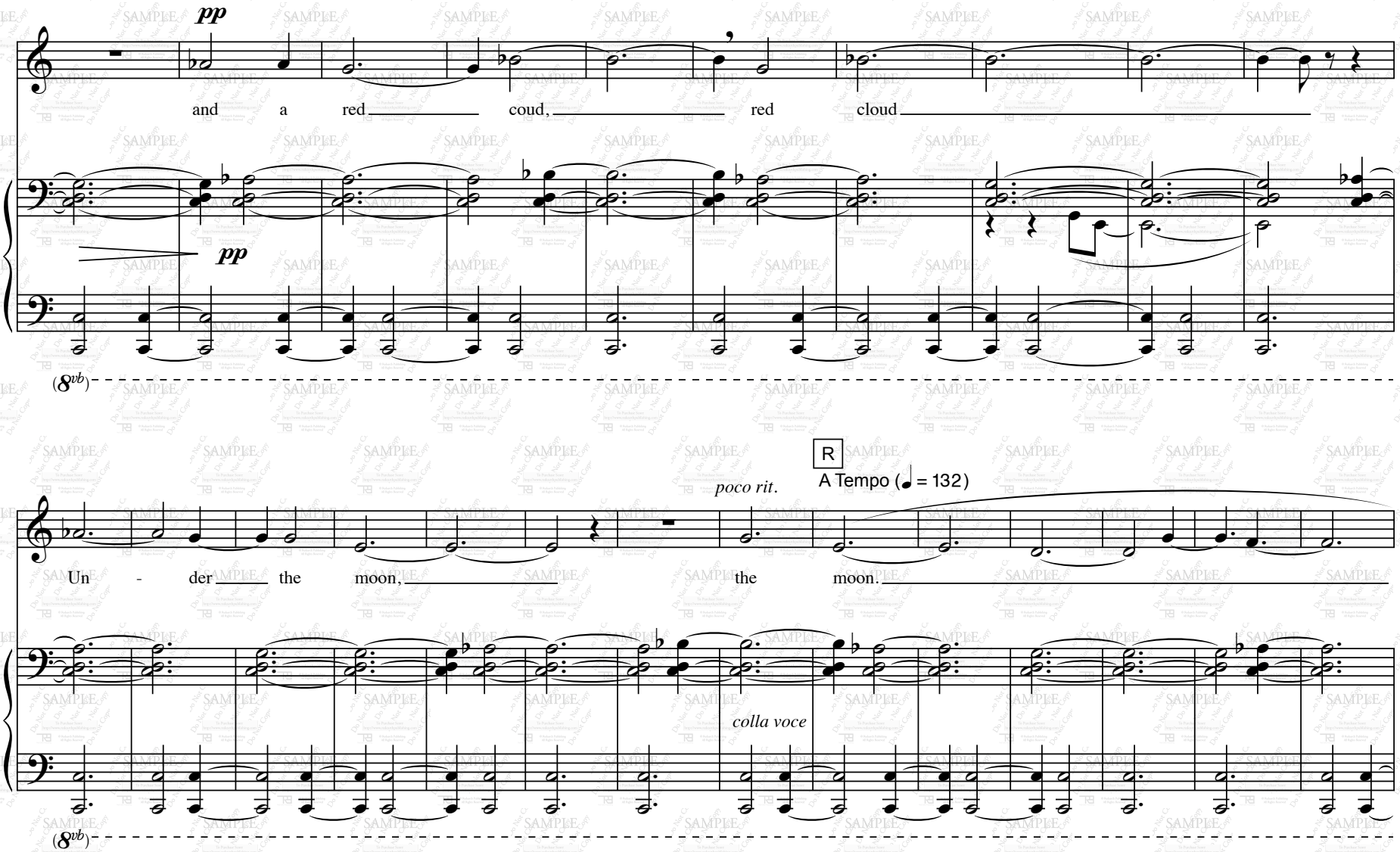

loco
mf
f
L
pp
p
cresc poco a poco
By
white
(both hands)
8va
molto legato
mf
f
sub. p
cresc poco a poco
Ped.
wat - ers
Sheathed
in
rip - - pling si - - - -
3
(8va)
Ped.

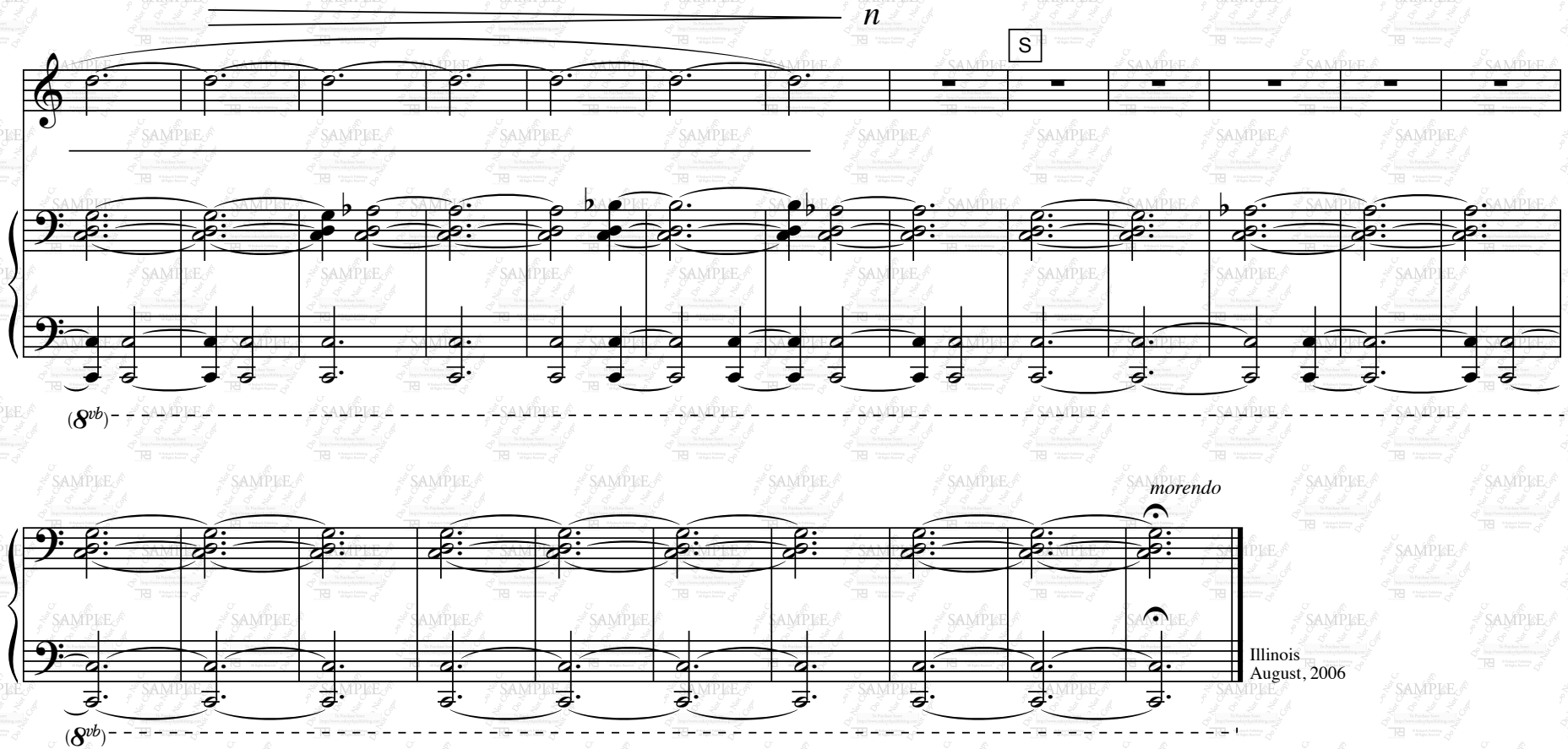

mf
cresc poco a poco
- - lence, Shall I be - hold, Shall I be -
(8va)
mf
cresc poco a poco
M
f
hold her hands
(8va)
loco
Ped.
Hurt-ing the white lil - - - - - lies, Hurt - - - - - ing the white lil - - - - - ies.
f
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


N
ff
Hush thee to wor - ship, wor - ship, wor - - - ship soul!
8va
ff
Ped.
(8va)
loco


mf
ff
Now is thy move - - - ment of love.
8va
(8va)
loco
(8va)
8vb
cresc.
Ped.


poco stringendo
(8vb)
Ped.
P
fff
*palm cluster
rallentando to new tempo
Q
meno mosso ♩=132 (♩.=88)
p simply and sweetly
ppp
Night;
lontano
mp
p


pp
and a red coud, red cloud
pp
(8vb)
poco rit.
R
A Tempo (♩= 132)
Un - der the moon, the moon.
colla voce
(8vb)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