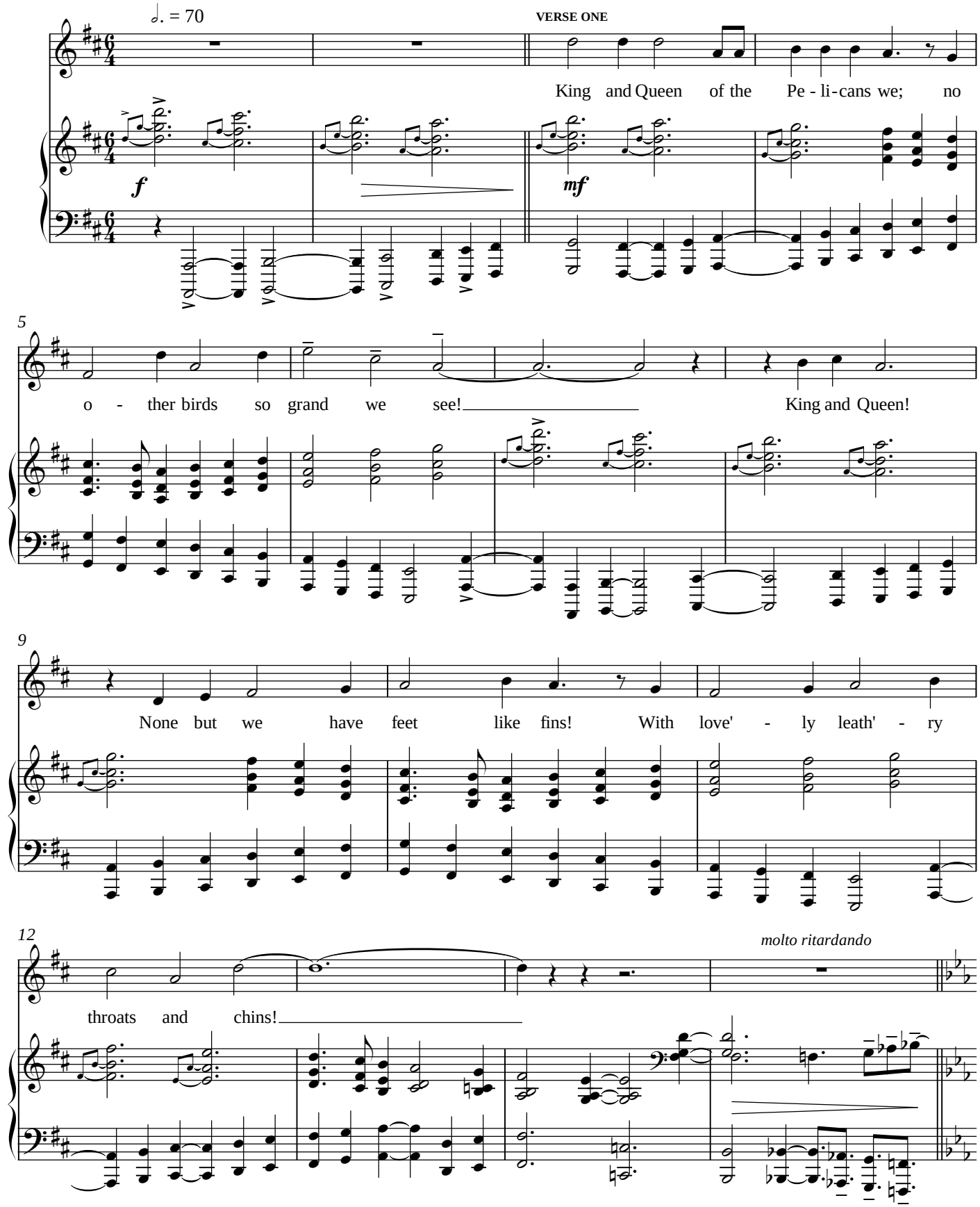
The Pelican Chorus

Edward Lear (1812-1888)

Gary Bachlund



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16 ♩. = 50 **CHORUS**

Ploff-skin, Pluff-skin, Pe - li-can jee! We think no Birds so hap - py as we!

mp

20

Plump - skin, Plosh-kin, Pe - li-can jill! We think so then, and we

23

thought so still! We live on the Nile. The

ten.

ten.

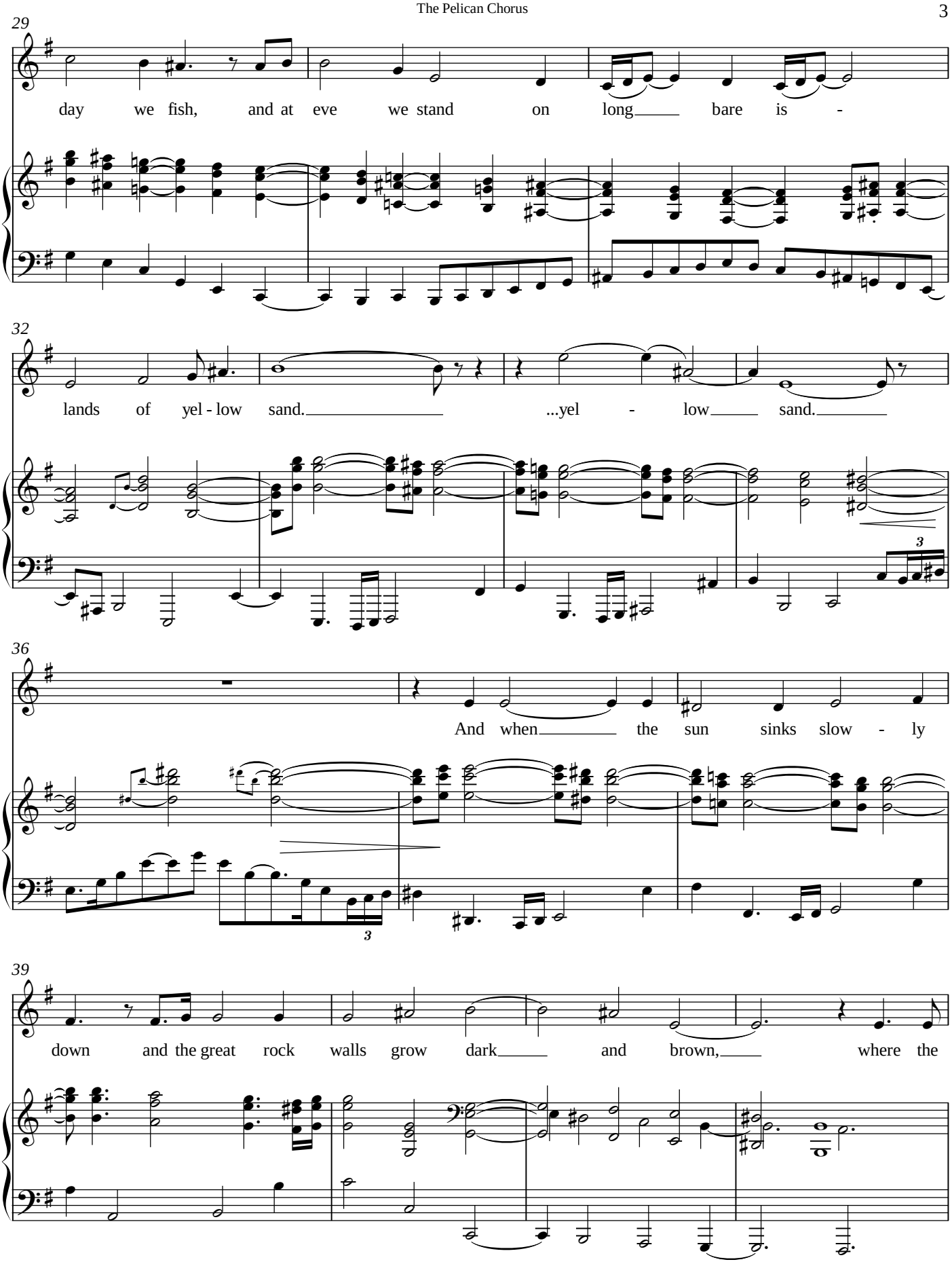
♩. = 45 **VERSE TWO**

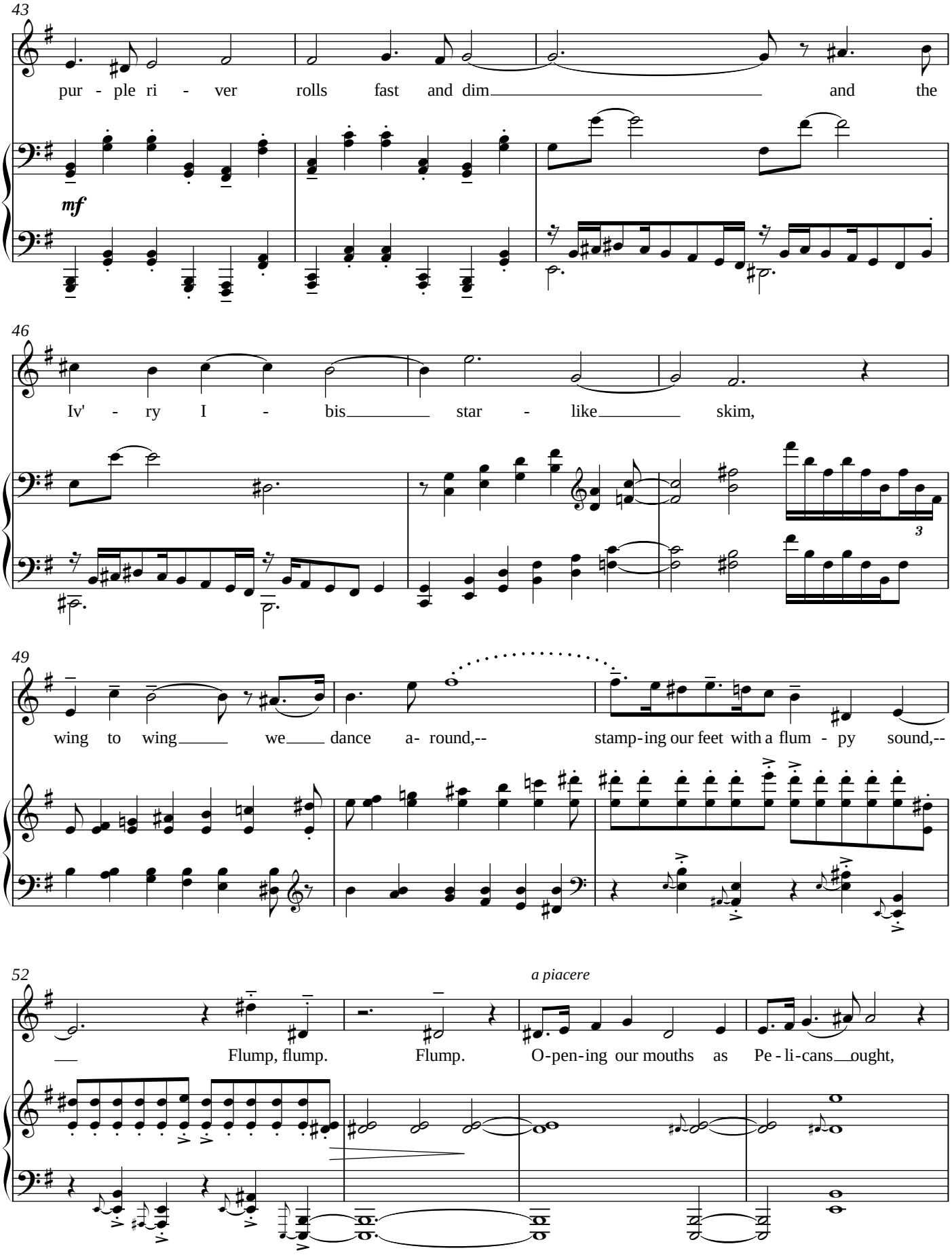
mp *col canto*

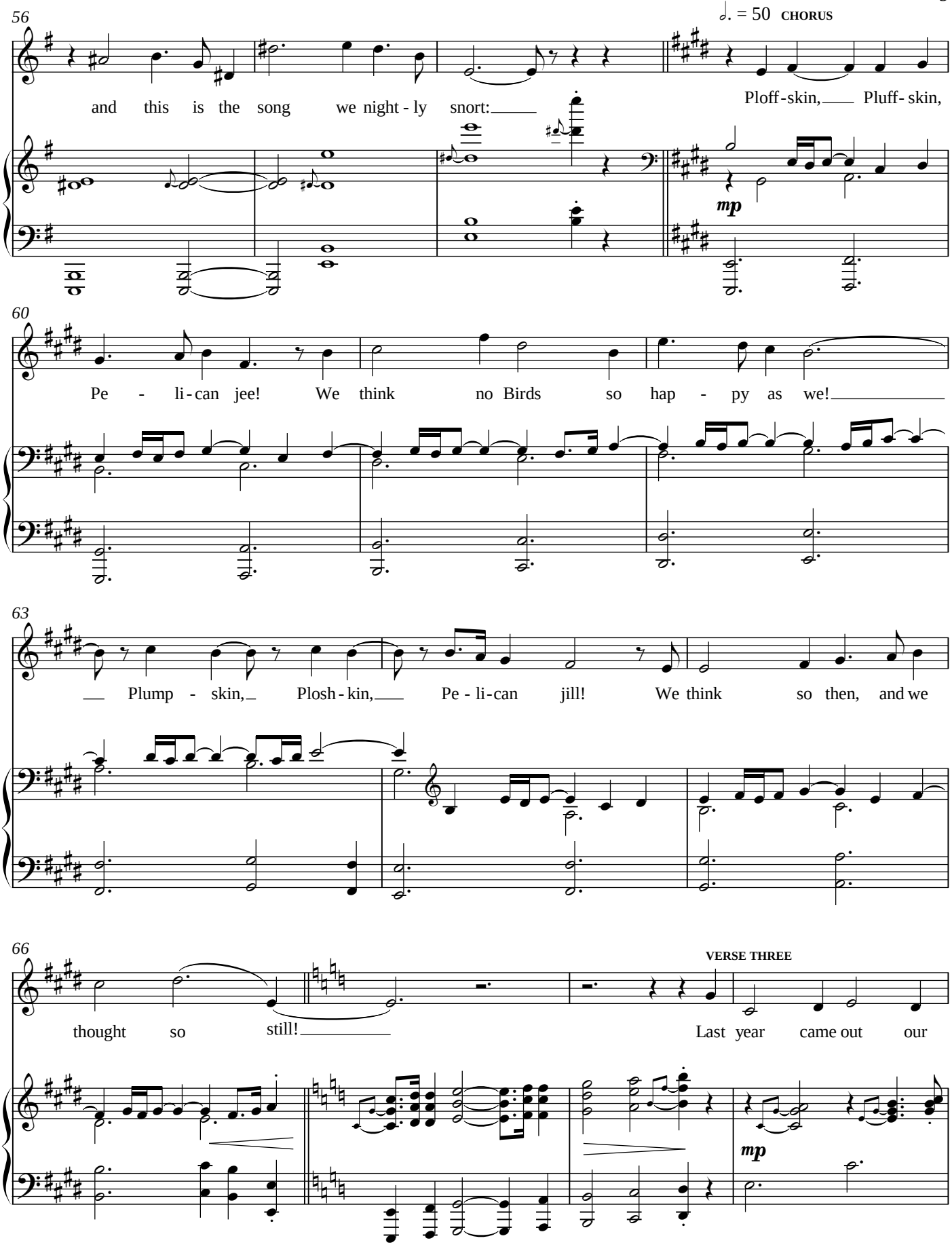
ten.

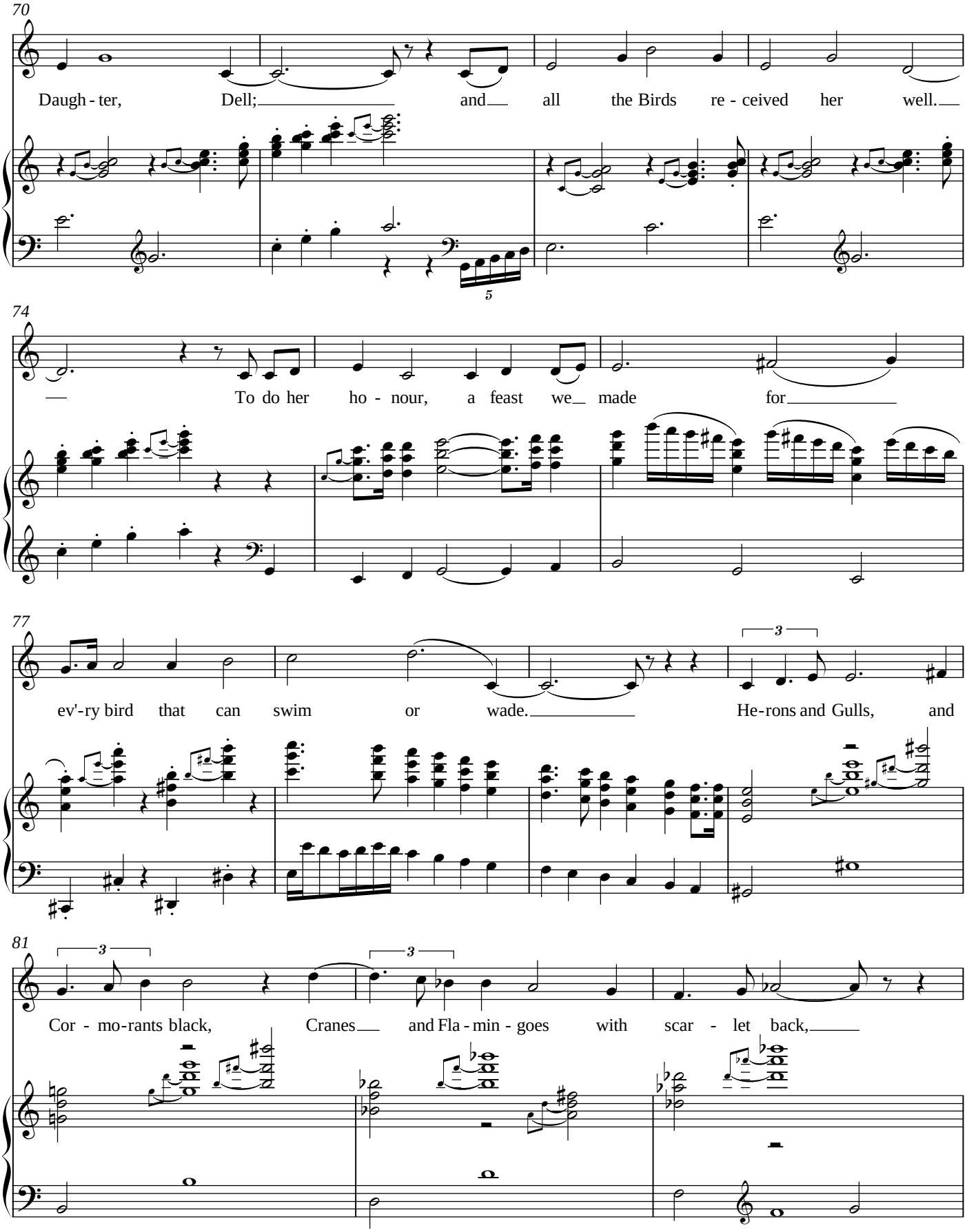
26

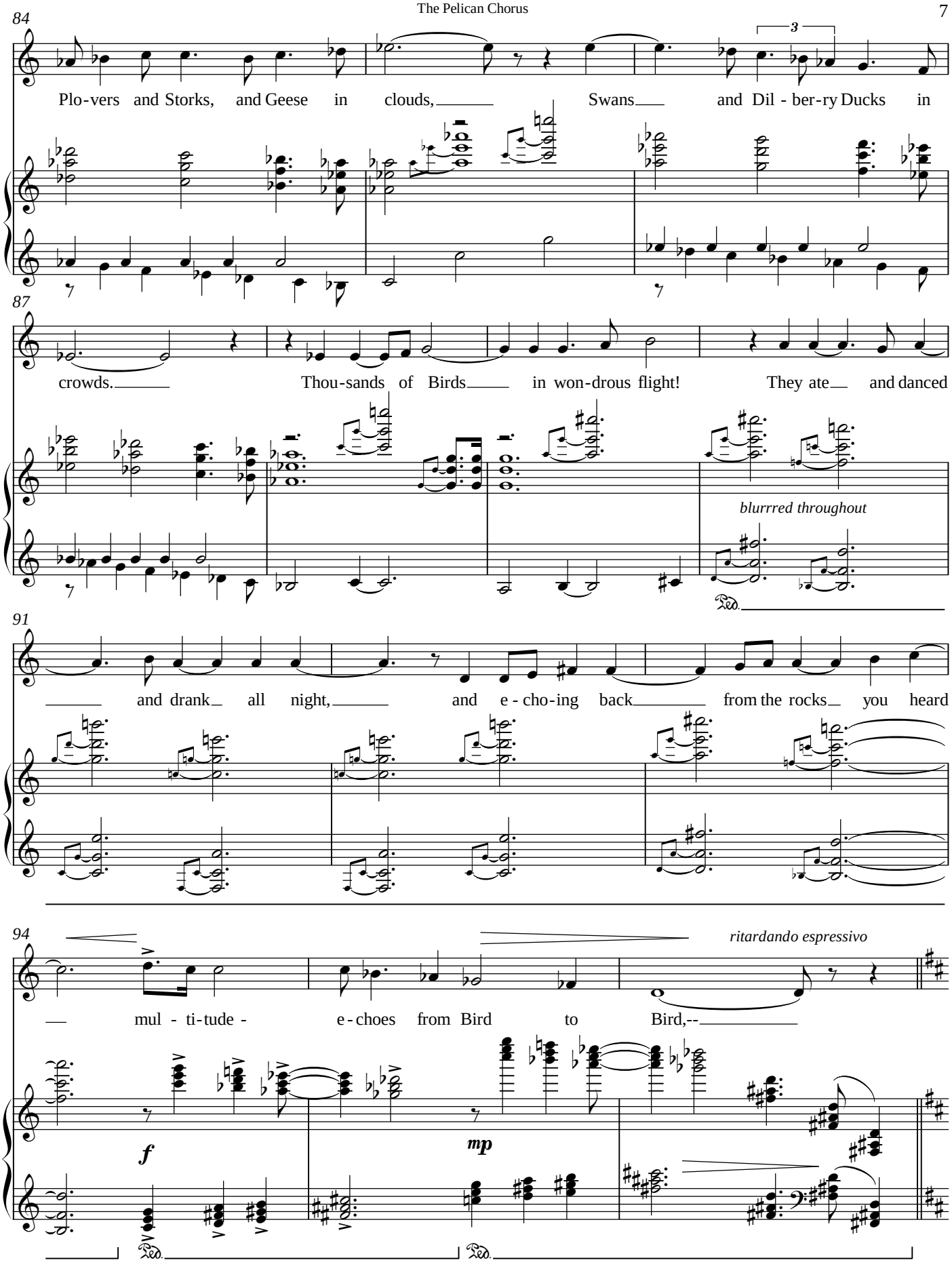
Nile we love. By night we sleep on the cliffs a - bove; by

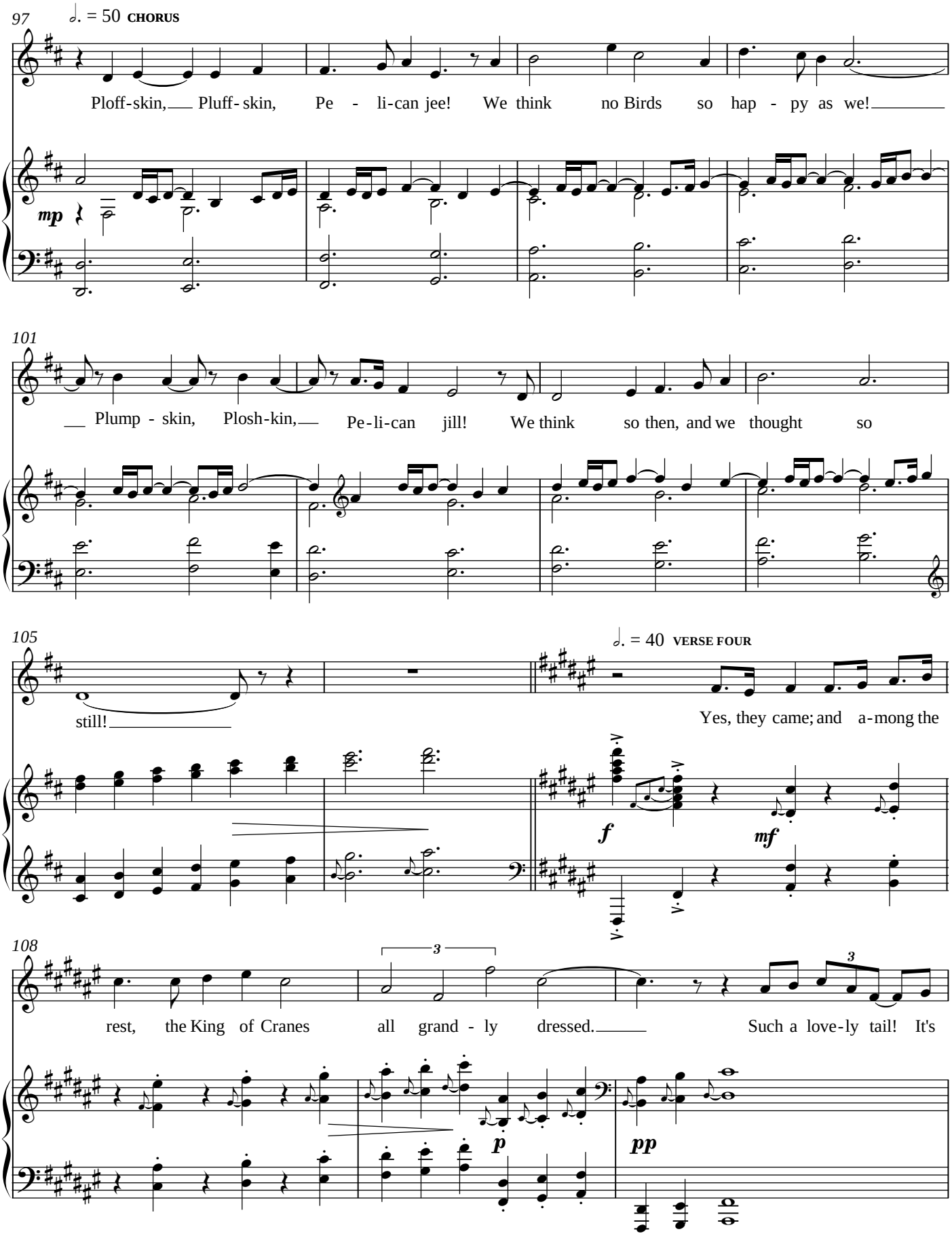

29
day we fish, and at eve we stand on long bare is -
32
lands of yel - low sand. ...yel - low sand.
3
36
And when the sun sinks slow - ly
3
39
down and the great rock walls grow dark and brown, where the

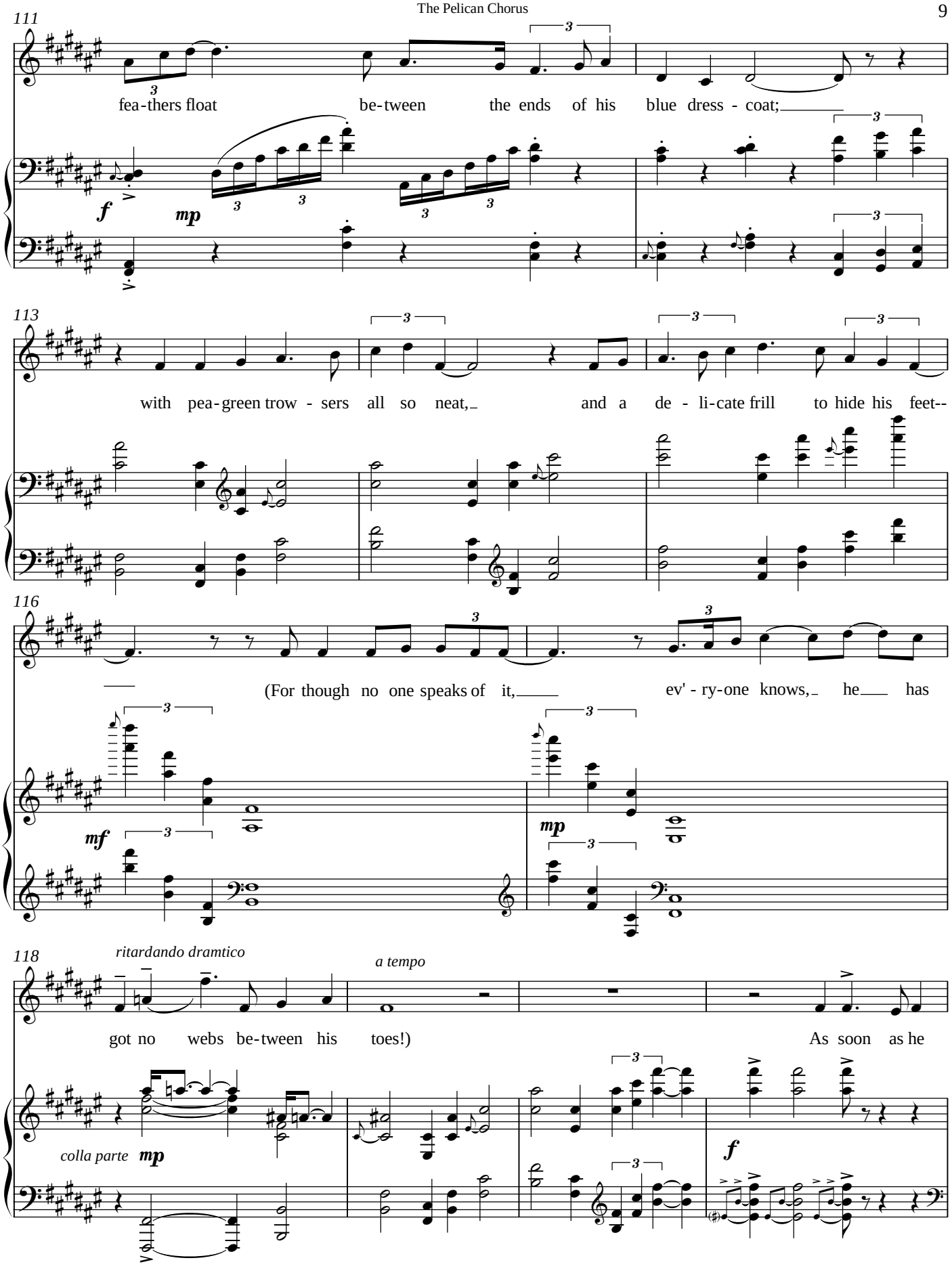

43
pur - ple ri - ver rolls fast and dim and the
mf
46
Iv' - ry I - bis star - like skim,
3
49
wing to wing we dance a- round,-- stamp-ing our feet with a flum - py sound,--
52
a piacere
Flump, flump. Flump. O-pen-ing our mouths as Pe - li-cans ought,

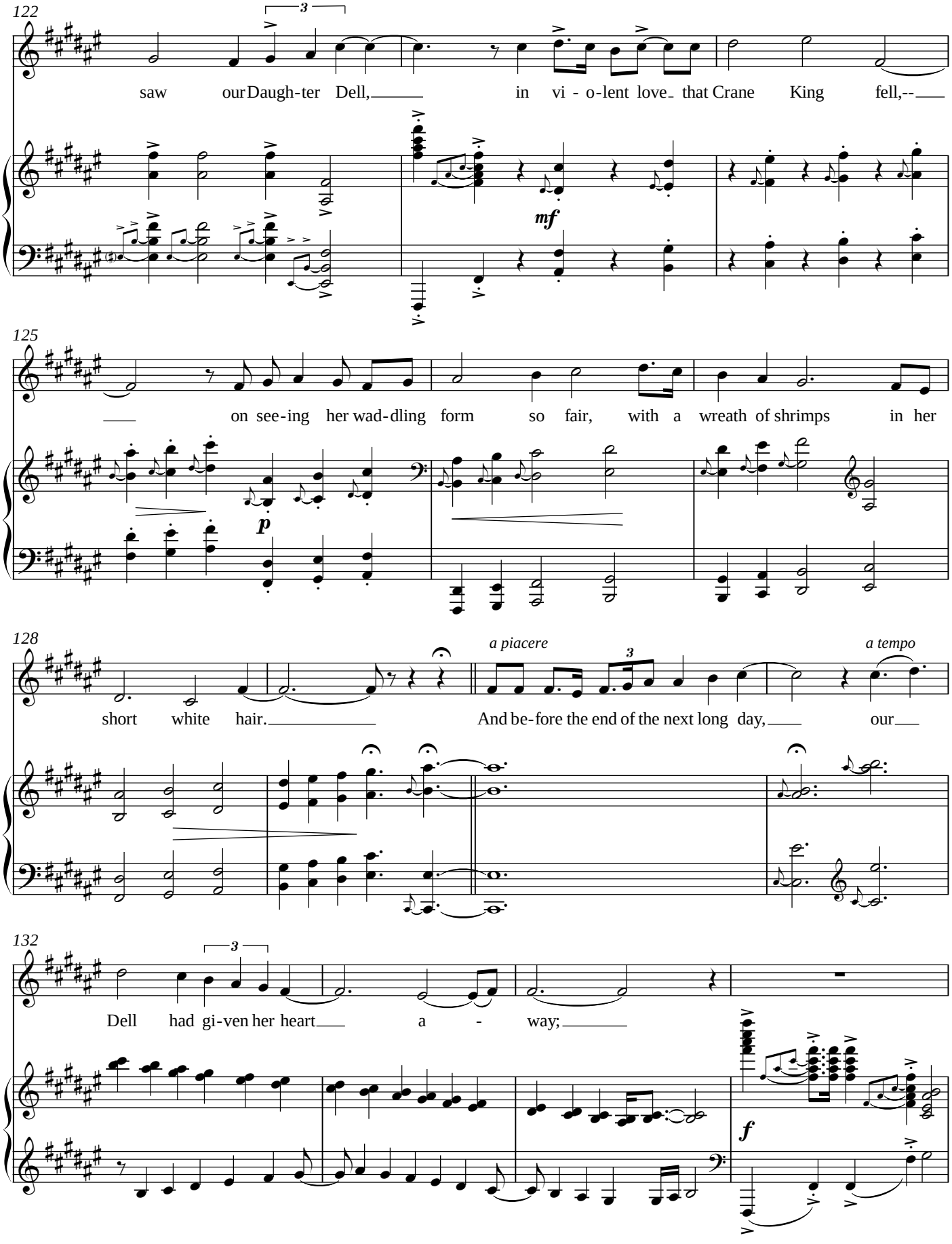

56
♩. = 50 CHORUS
and this is the song we night - ly snort:
Ploff - skin, Pluff - skin,
mp
60
Pe - li - can jee! We think no Birds so hap - py as we!
63
Plump - skin, Plosh - kin, Pe - li - can jill! We think so then, and we
66
VERSE THREE
thought so still!
Last year came out our
mp

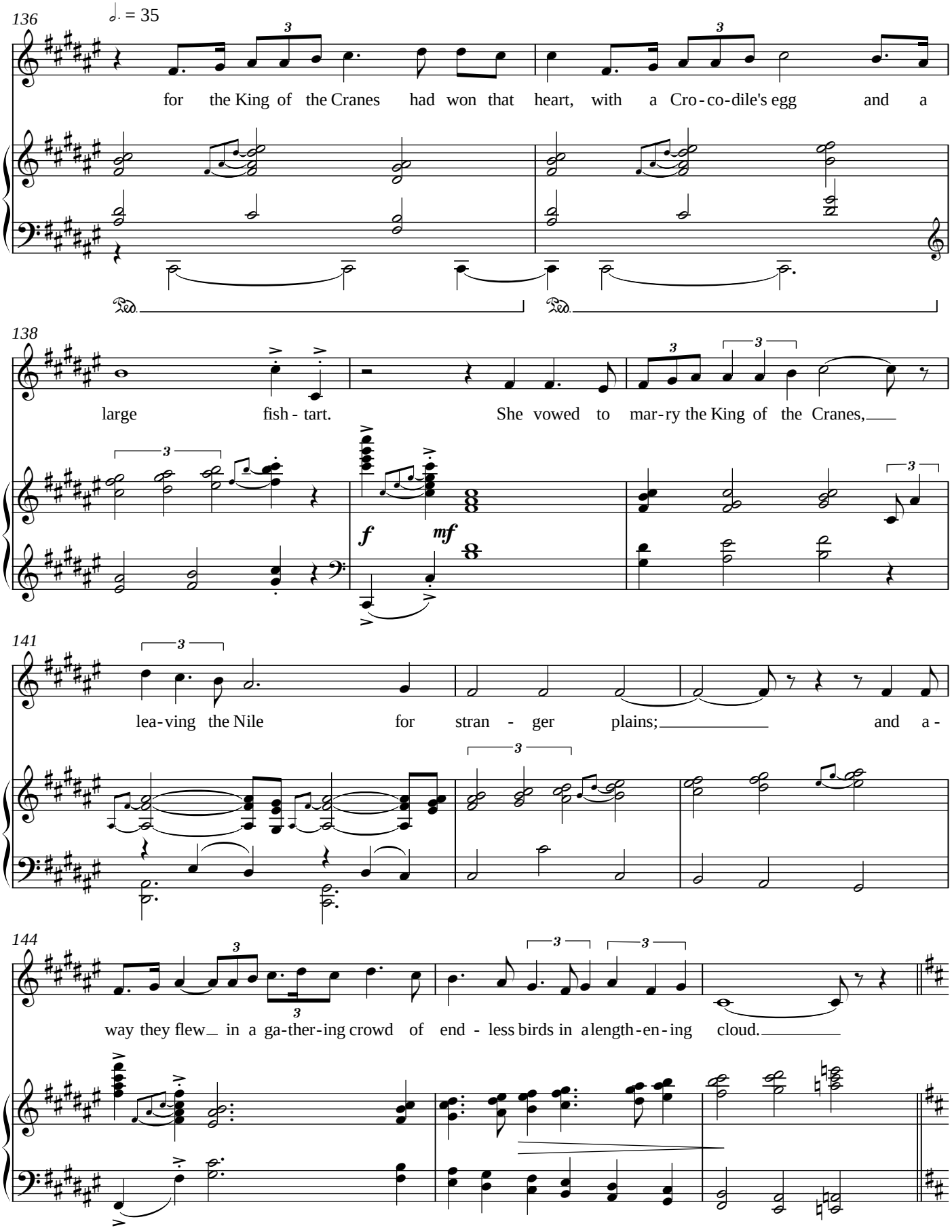

70
Daugh - ter, Dell; and all the Birds re - ceived her well.
74
To do her ho - nour, a feast we made for
77
ev'-ry bird that can swim or wade. He-rons and Gulls, and
81
Cor - mo-rants black, Cranes and Fla - min - goes with scar - let back,

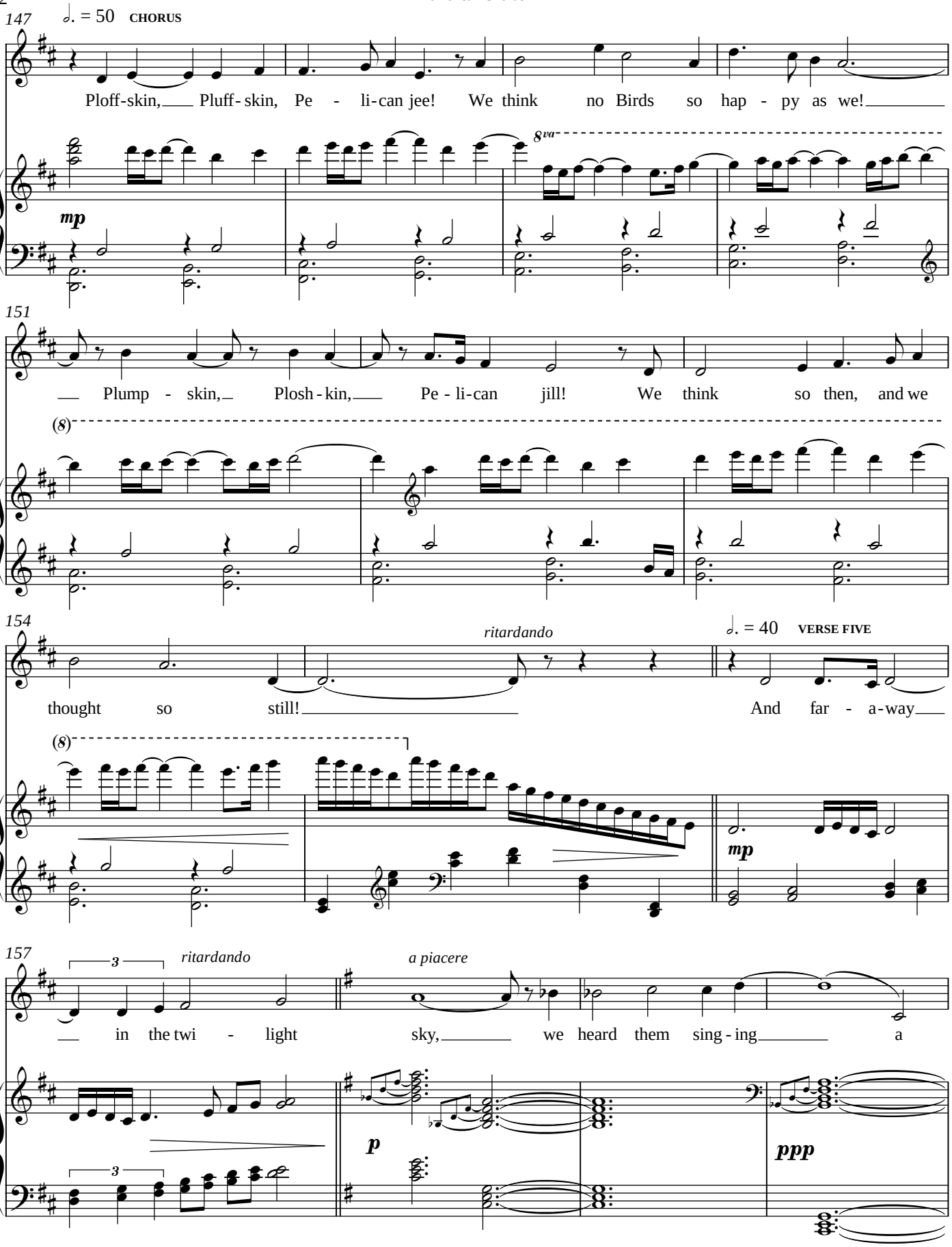

84
Plo-vers and Storks, and Geese in clouds, Swans and Dil - ber-ry Ducks in
87
crowds. Thou-sands of Birds in won-drous flight! They ate and danced
blurrred throughout
91
and drank all night, and e - cho-ing back from the rocks you heard
94
ritardando espressivo
mul - ti-tude - e-choes from Bird to Bird,--
f
mp

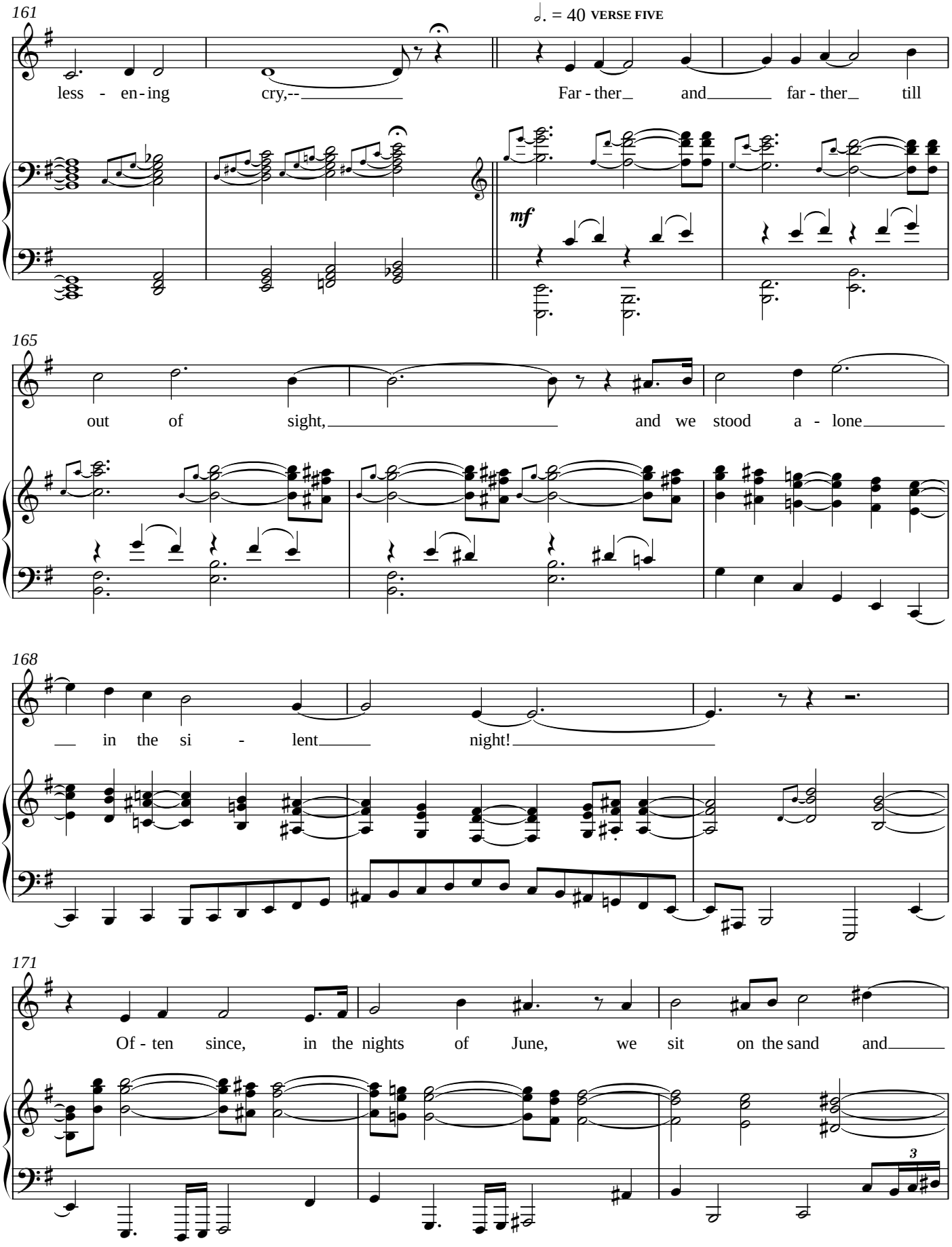

97
♩. = 50 CHORUS
Ploff-skin, Pluff-skin, Pe - li-can jee! We think no Birds so hap - py as we!
mp
101
Plump - skin, Plosh-kin, Pe-li-can jill! We think so then, and we thought so
105
still!
♩. = 40 VERSE FOUR
Yes, they came; and a-mong the
f
mf
108
rest, the King of Cranes all grand - ly dressed. Such a love-ly tail! It's
3
3
p
pp

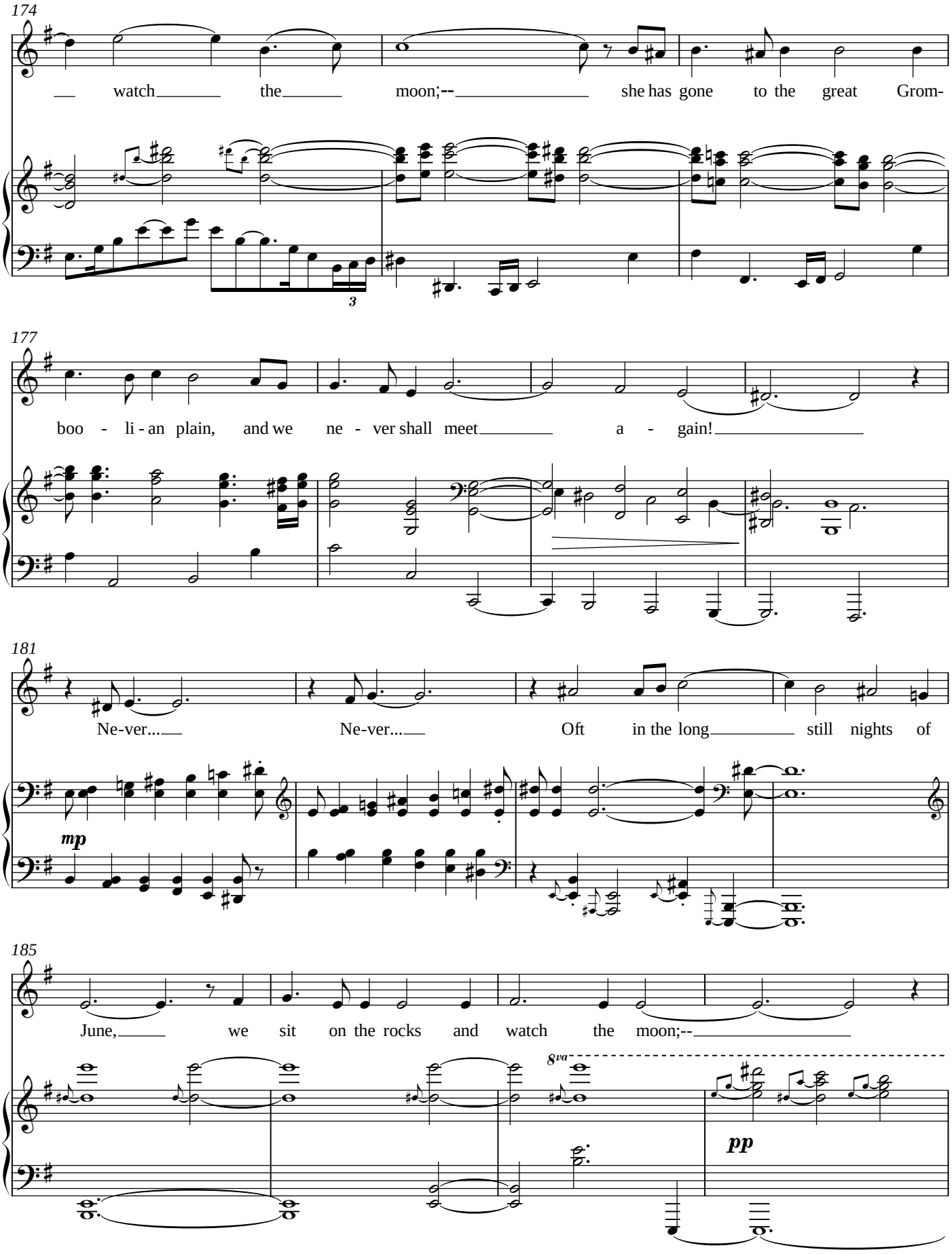

111
fea-thers float be-tween the ends of his blue dress - coat;
f
mp
113
with pea-green trow - sers all so neat, and a de - li-cate frill to hide his feet--
116
(For though no one speaks of it, ev' - ry-one knows, he has
mf
mp
118
ritardando dramtico
a tempo
got no webs be-tween his toes!) As soon as he
colla parte
mp
f

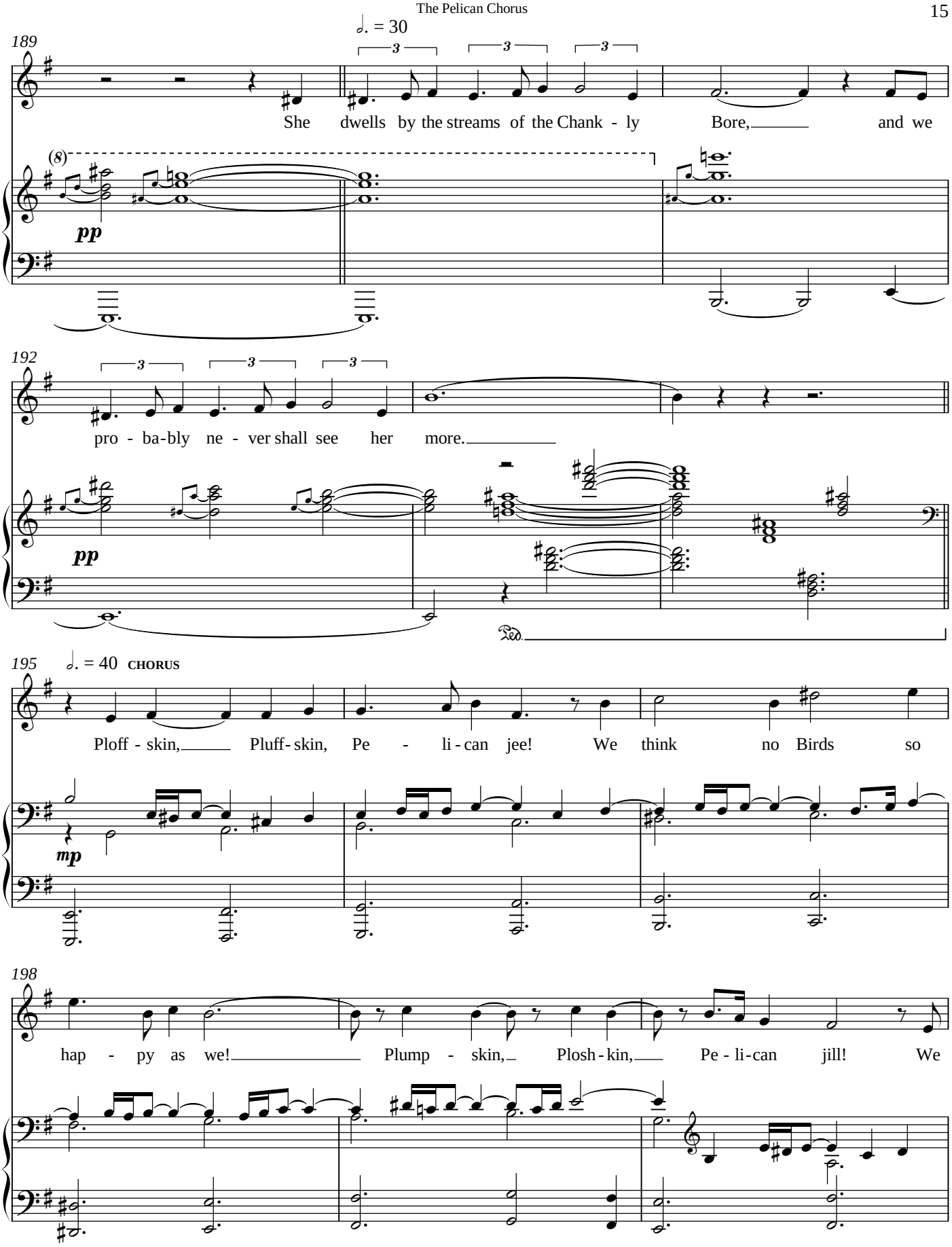

122
saw our Daugh-ter Dell, in vi - o-lent love that Crane King fell,--
mf
125
on see-ing her wad-dling form so fair, with a wreath of shrimps in her
p
128
short white hair.
a piacere
And be-fore the end of the next long day, our
a tempo
132
Dell had gi-ven her heart a - way;
f

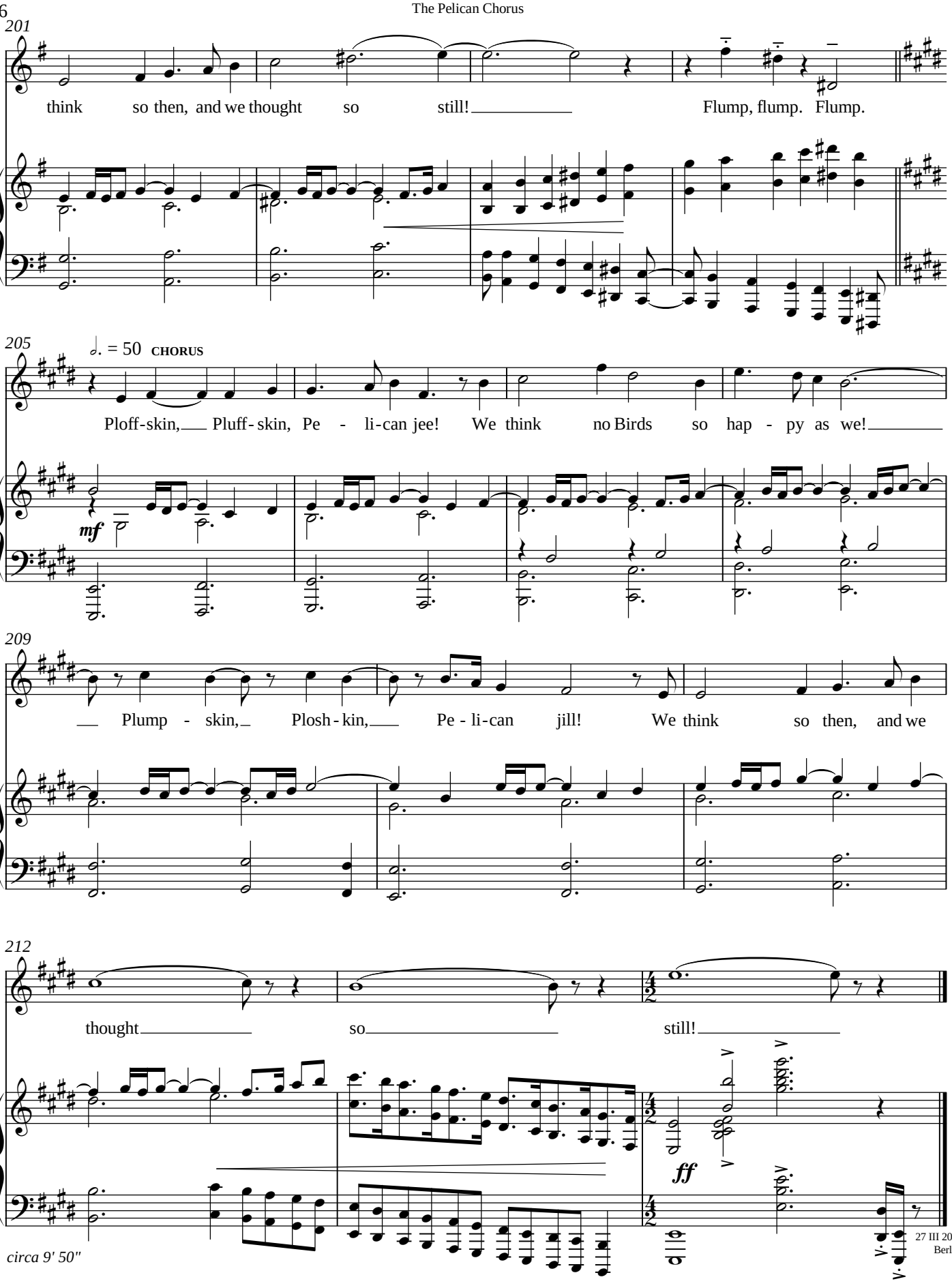

136
♩. = 35
for the King of the Cranes had won that heart, with a Cro-co-dile's egg and a
138
large fish-tart. She vowed to mar-ry the King of the Cranes,
f
mf
141
lea-ving the Nile for stran-ger plains; and a-
144
way they flew in a ga-ther-ing crowd of end-less birds in a length-en-ing cloud.


147
𝅗𝅥. = 50 CHORUS
Ploff-skin, Pluff-skin, Pe - li-can jee! We think no Birds so hap - py as we!
8va
mp
151
Plump - skin, Plosh-kin, Pe - li-can jill! We think so then, and we
(8)
154
ritardando
thought so still!
𝅗𝅥. = 40 VERSE FIVE
And far - a-way
(8)
mp
157
3
ritardando
a piacere
in the twi - light sky, we heard them sing-ing a
3
p
ppp


161
♩. = 40 VERSE FIVE
less - en - ing cry,-- Far - ther and far - ther till
mf
165
out of sight, and we stood a - lone
168
in the si - lent night!
171
Of - ten since, in the nights of June, we sit on the sand and
3


174
watch the moon;-- she has gone to the great Grom-
177
boo - li - an plain, and we ne - ver shall meet a - gain!
181
Ne-ver... Ne-ver... Oft in the long still nights of
mp
185
June, we sit on the rocks and watch the moon;--
8va
pp


189
♩. = 30
She dwells by the streams of the Chank - ly Bore, and we
pp
192
pro - ba-bly ne - ver shall see her more.
pp
195
♩. = 40 CHORUS
Ploff - skin, Pluff-skin, Pe - li-can jee! We think no Birds so
mp
198
hap - py as we! Plump - skin, Plosh-kin, Pe - li-can jill! We


201
think so then, and we thought so still! Flump, flump. Flump.
205
♩. = 50 CHORUS
Ploff-skin, Pluff-skin, Pe - li-can jee! We think no Birds so hap - py as we!
mf
209
Plump - skin, Plosh-kin, Pe - li-can jill! We think so then, and we
212
thought so still!
ff
circa 9' 50"
27 III 2008
Berlin