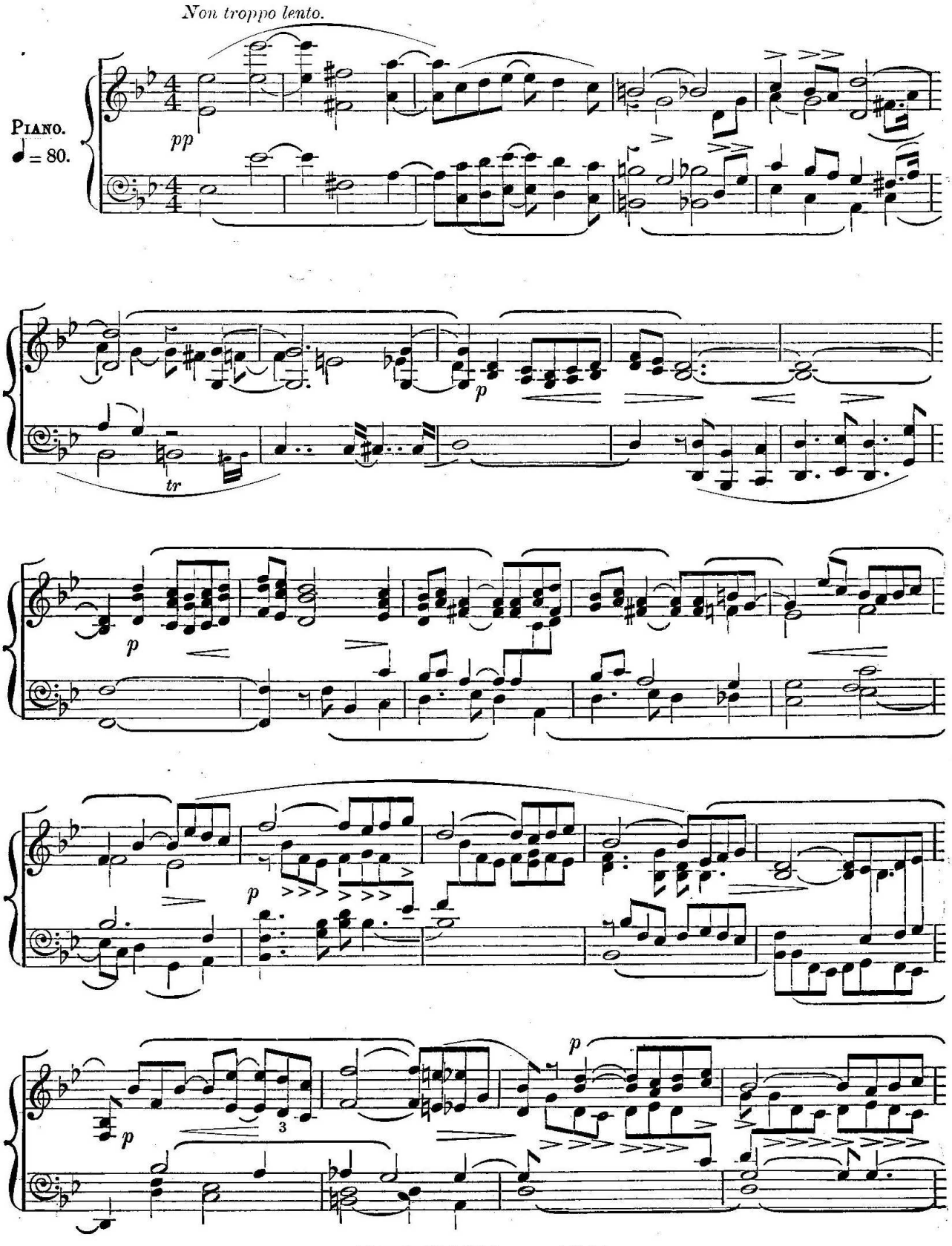
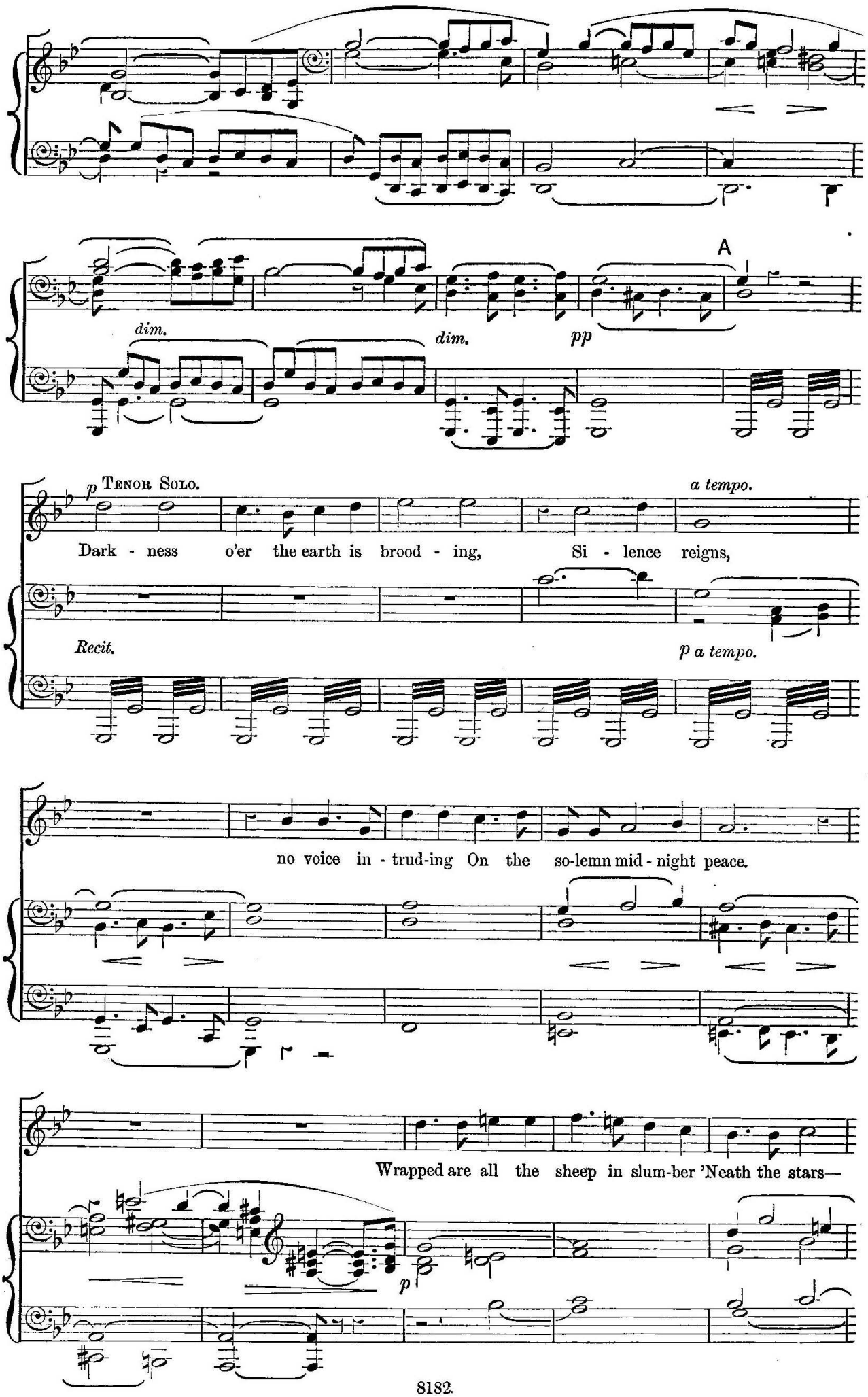
BETHLEHEM.

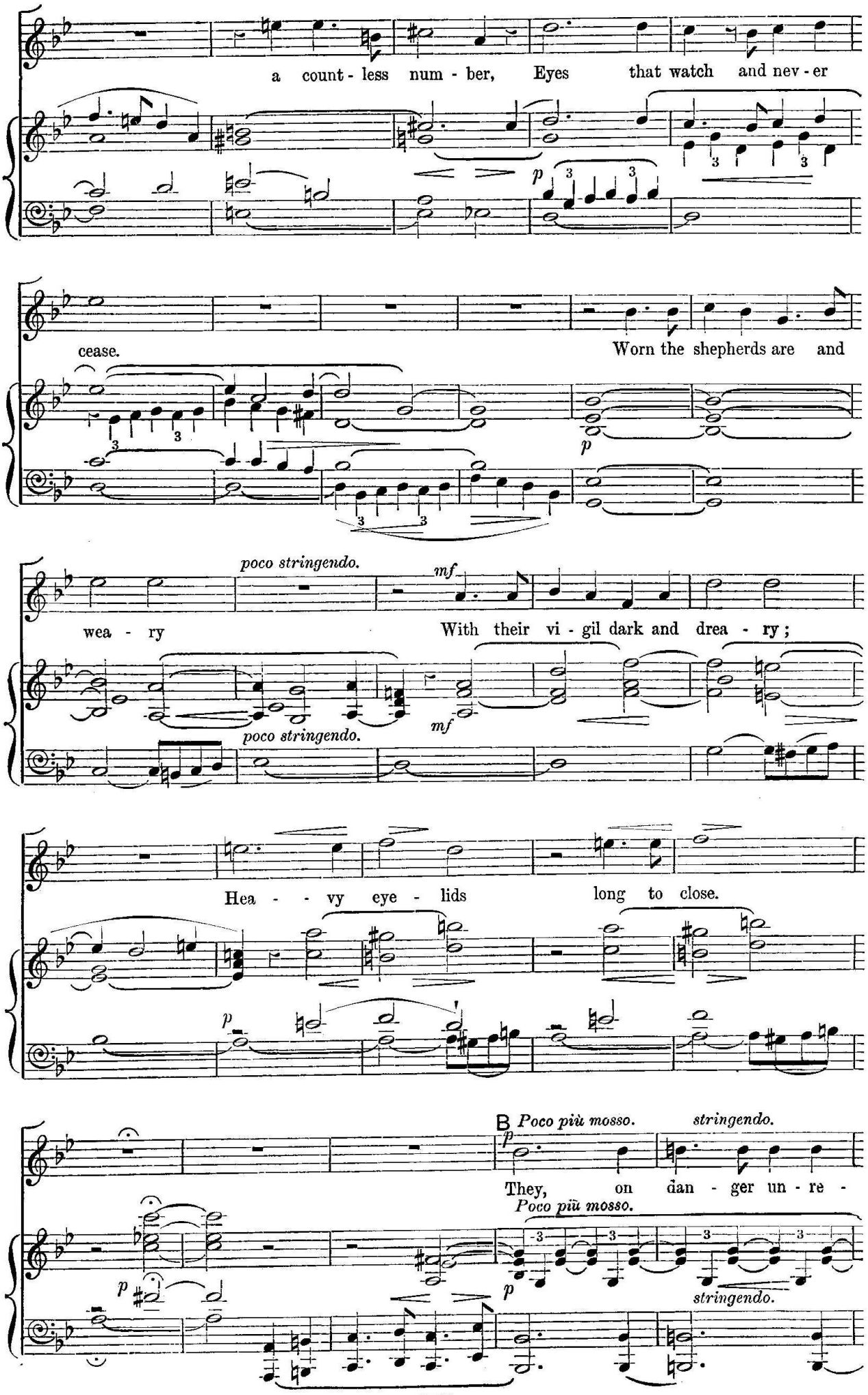
ACT I.

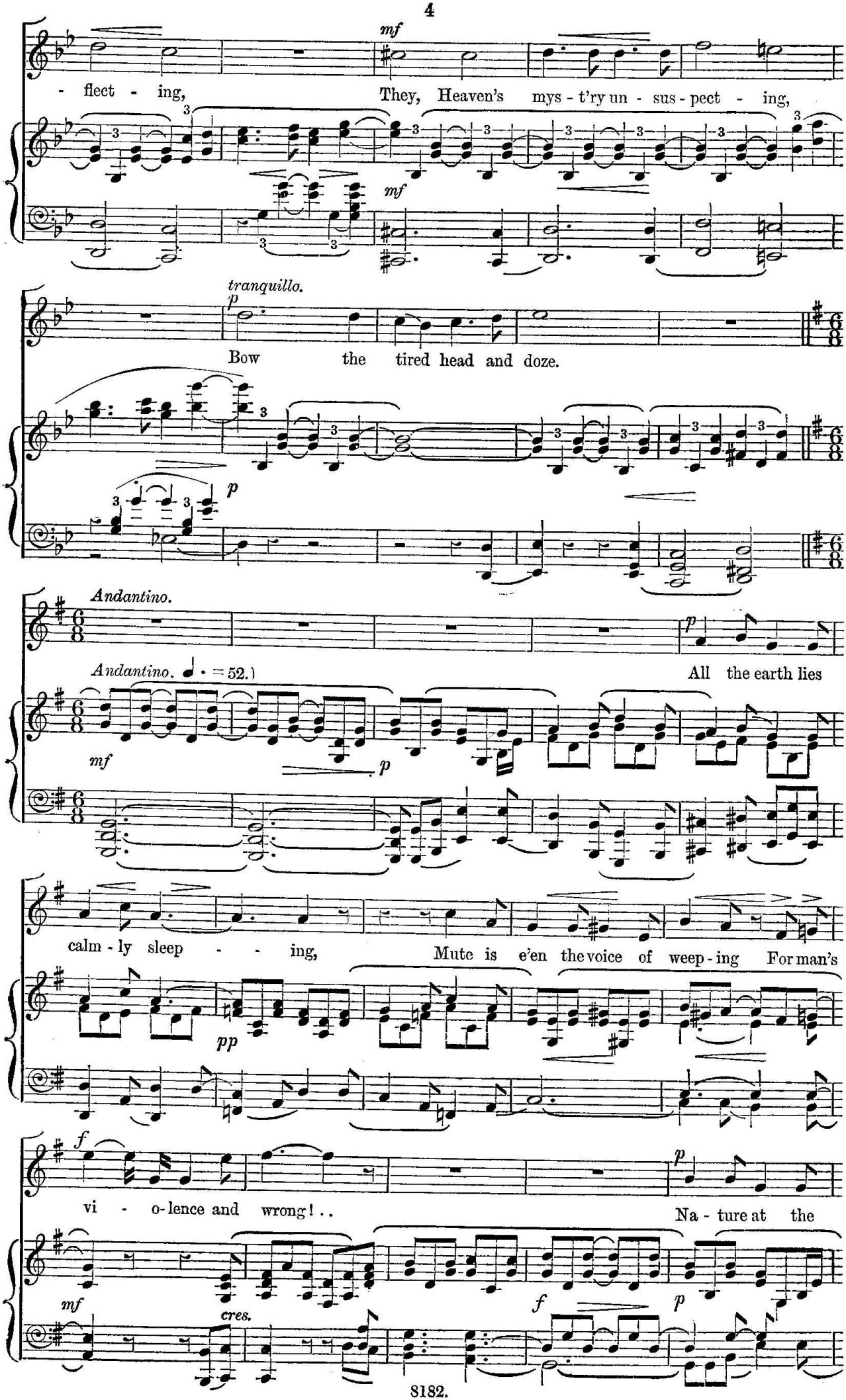
An Angel, descending from Heaven, appears to certain Shepherds of Bethlehem.

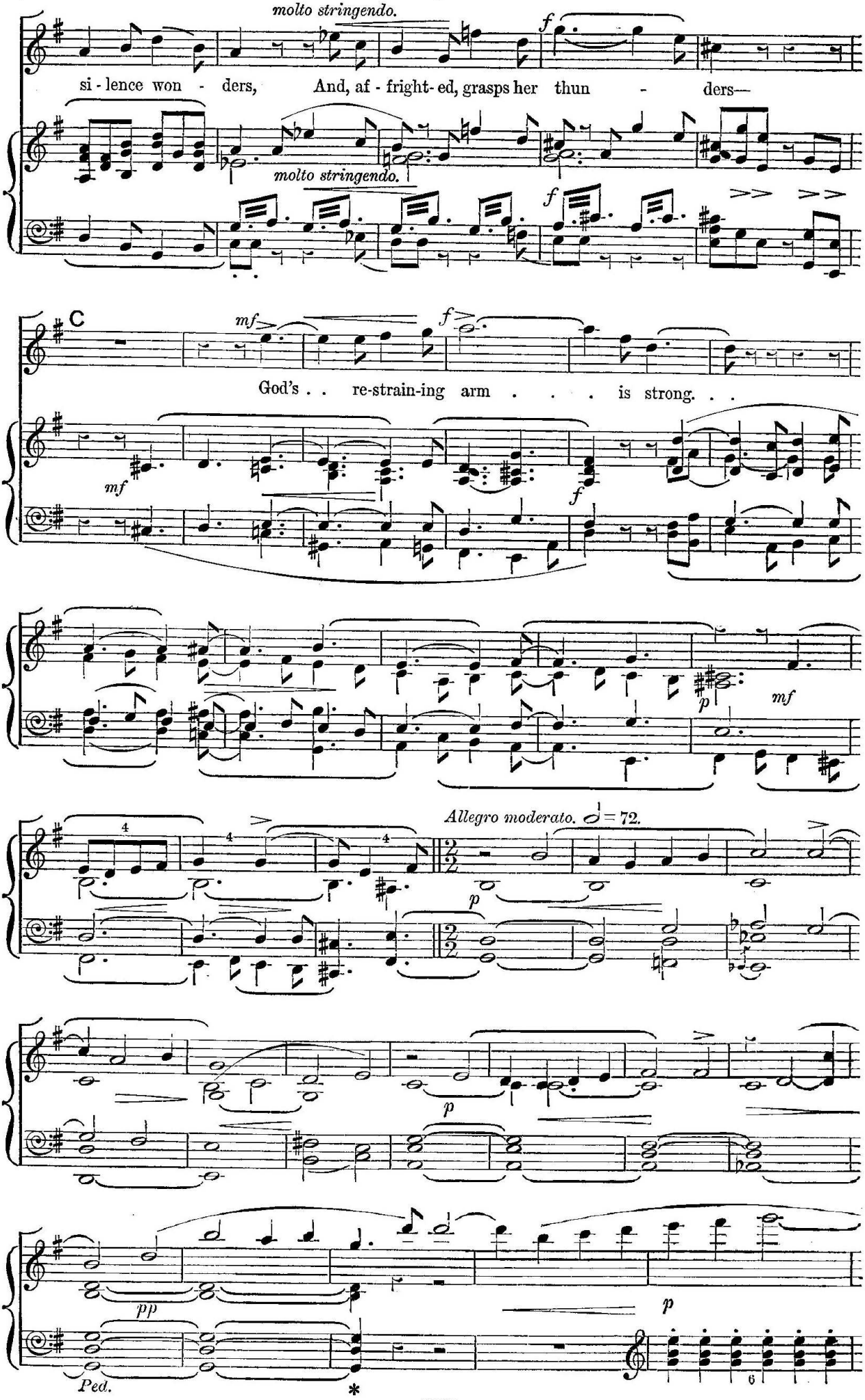


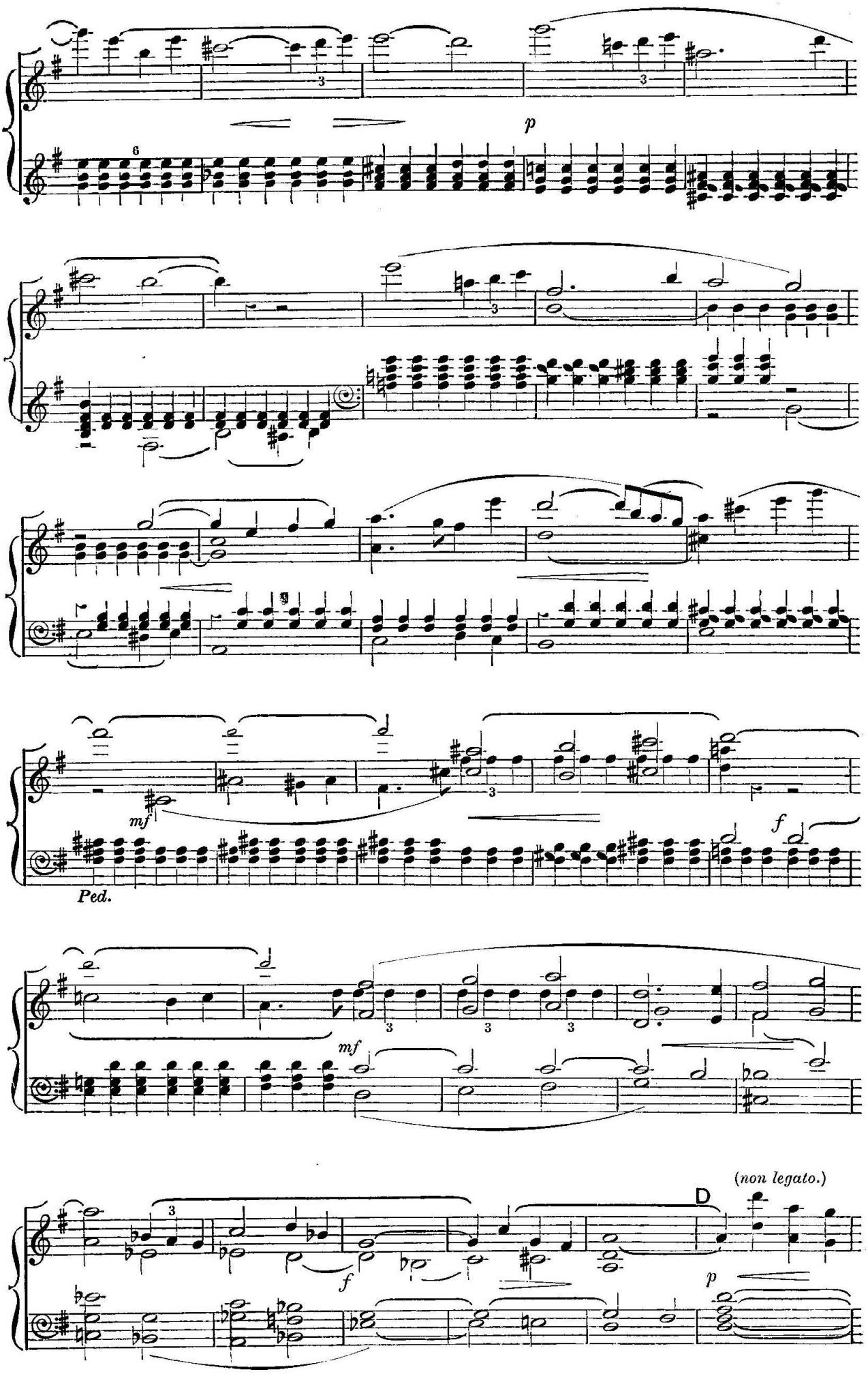
Copyright, 1894, *by Novello, Ewer and Co.*

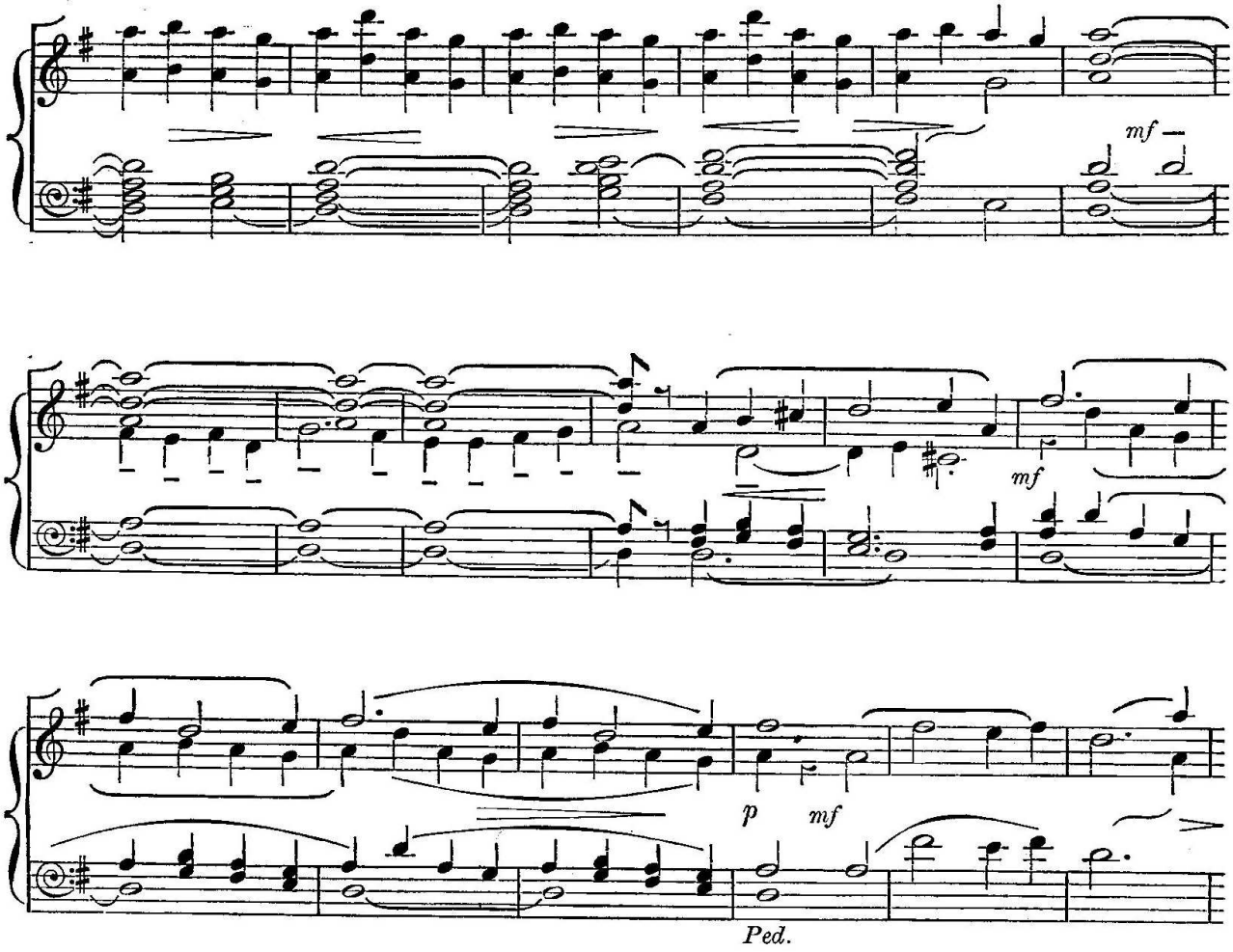

A
dim.
dim.
pp
p Tenor Solo.
a tempo.
Dark - ness o'er the earth is brood - ing, Si - lence reigns,
Recit.
p a tempo.
no voice in - trud-ing On the so-lemn mid - night peace.
Wrapped are all the sheep in slum-ber 'Neath the stars—
p

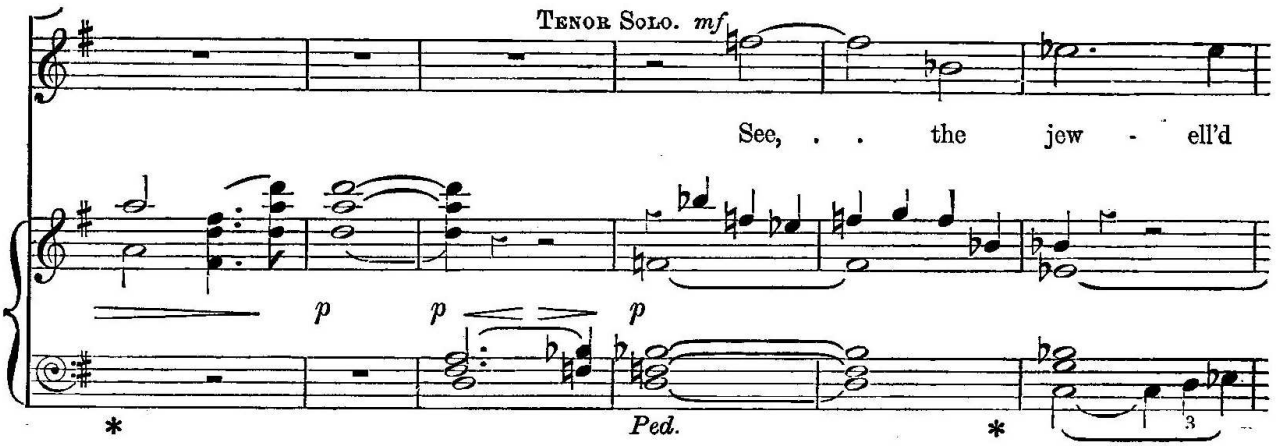

a count - less num - ber, Eyes that watch and nev - er
cease.
Worn the shepherds are and
poco stringendo.
mf
wea - ry
With their vi - gil dark and drea - ry;
poco stringendo.
Hea - - vy eye - lids long to close.
B Poco più mosso.
stringendo.
They, on dan - ger un - re -
Poco più mosso.
stringendo.

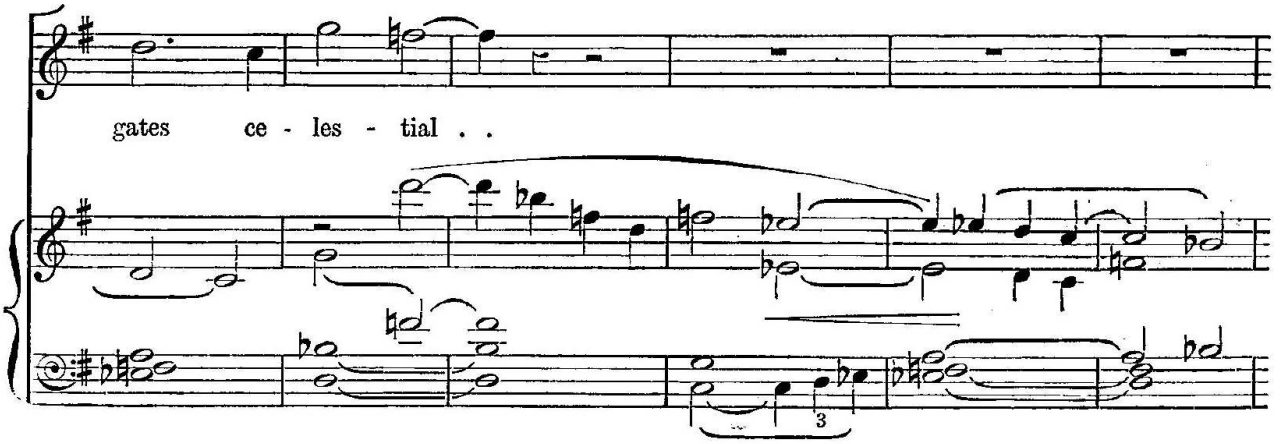

mf
- flect - ing,
They, Heaven's mys - t'ry un - sus - pect - ing,
mf
tranquillo.
p
Bow the tired head and doze.
p
Andantino.
p
Andantino. ♩. = 52.)
All the earth lies
mf
p
calm - ly sleep - - ing,
Mute is e'en the voice of weep - ing For man's
pp
f
vi - o - lence and wrong! . .
p
Na - ture at the
mf
cres.
f
p

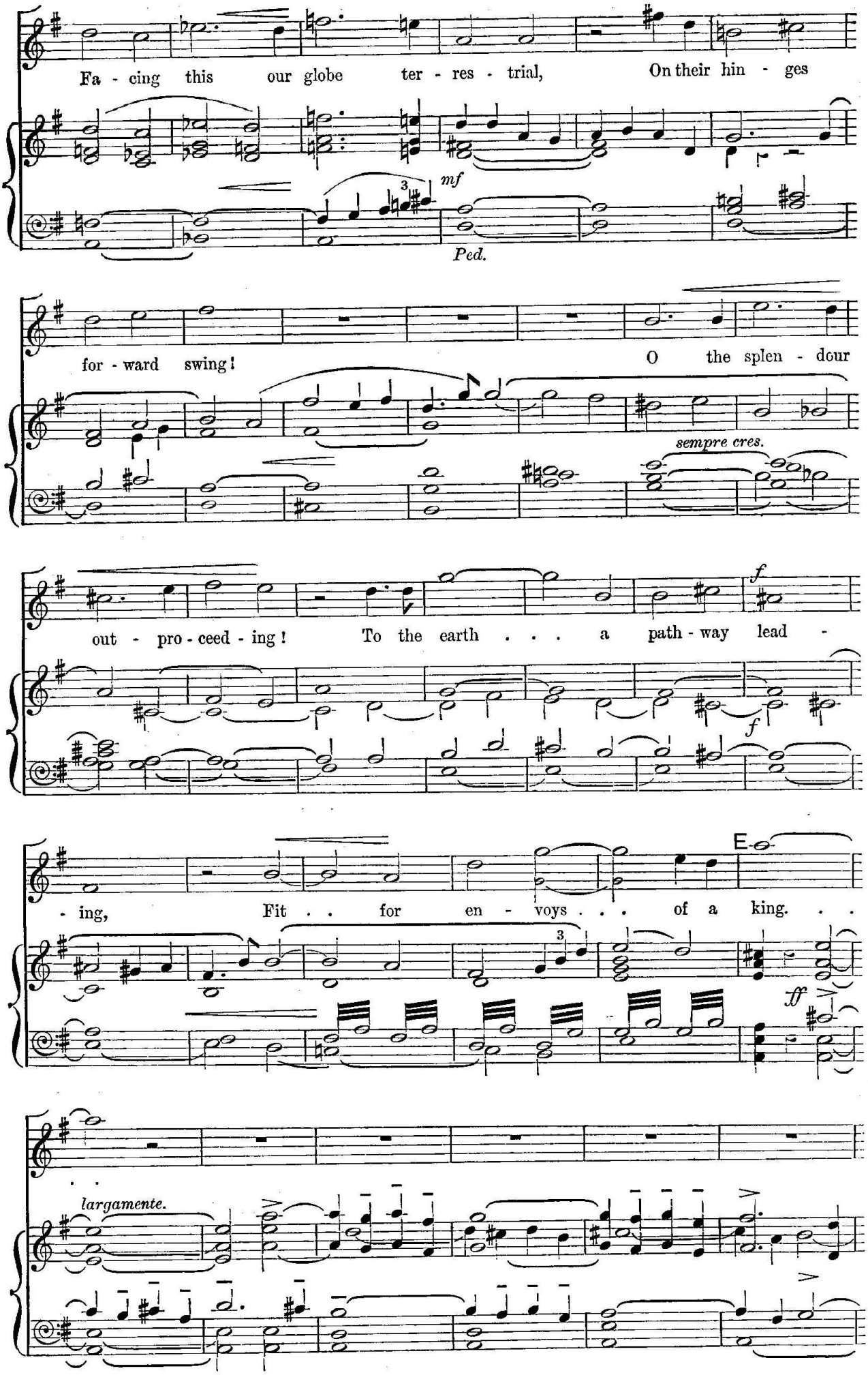

molto stringendo.
si - lence won - ders, And, af - fright- ed, grasps her thun - ders—
molto stringendo.
C
God's . . re-strain-ing arm . . . . is strong. . .
Allegro moderato. ♩ = 72.
Ped.
*

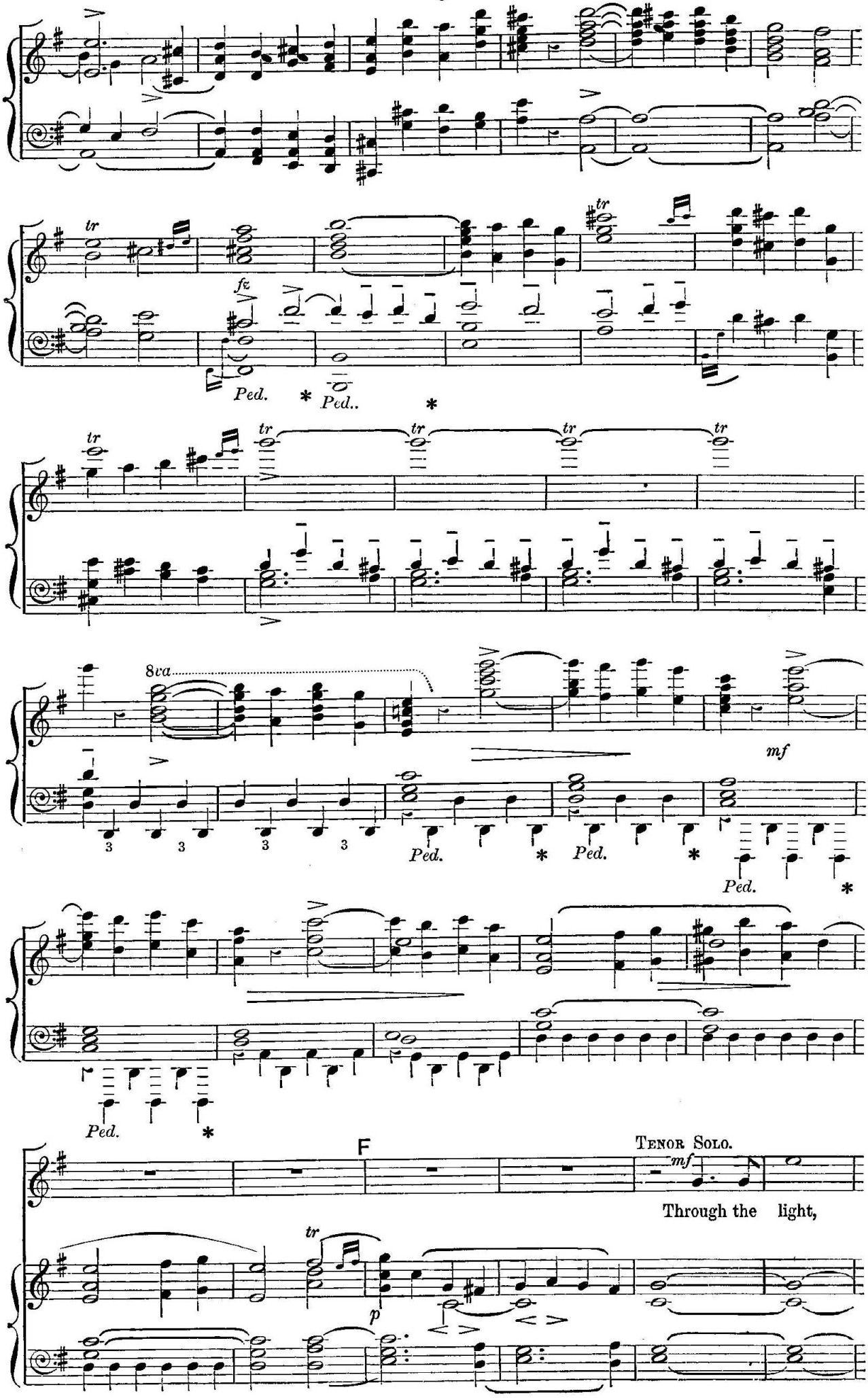

p
mf
Ped.
f
mf
(non legato.)
D
f
p

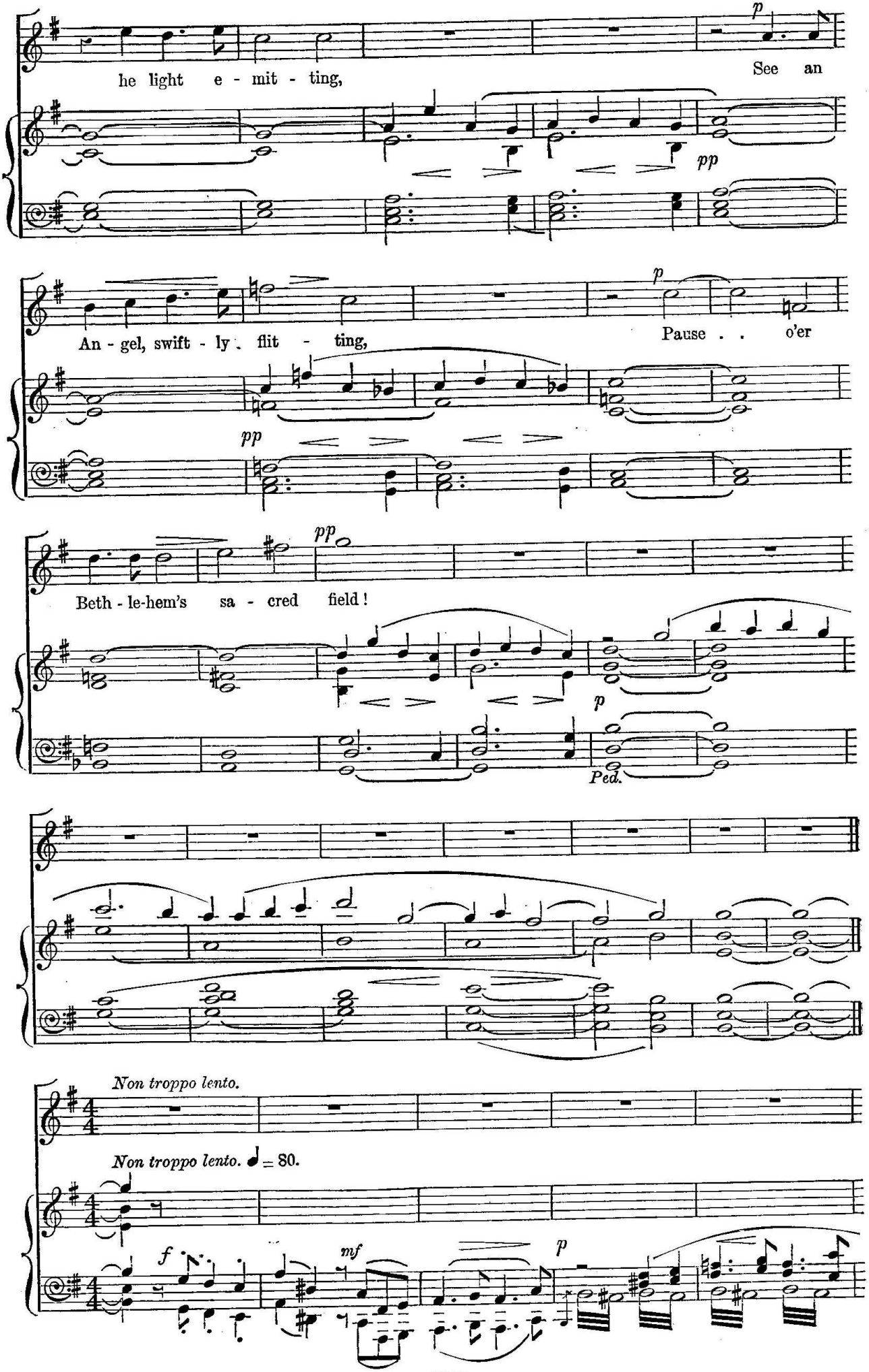

mf
mf
p
mf
Ped.

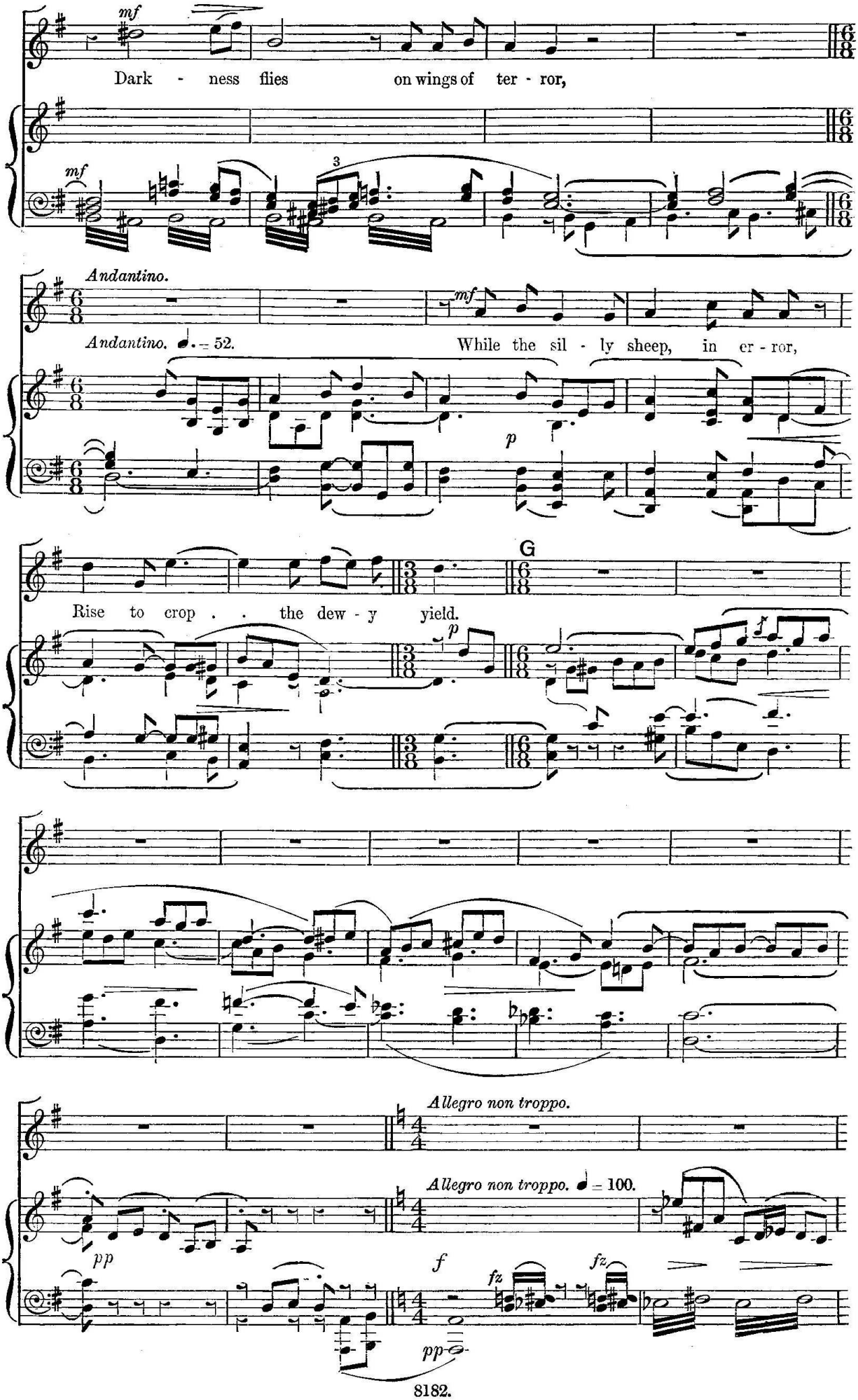

Tenor Solo. mf
See, . . the jew - ell'd
p
p
p
Ped.

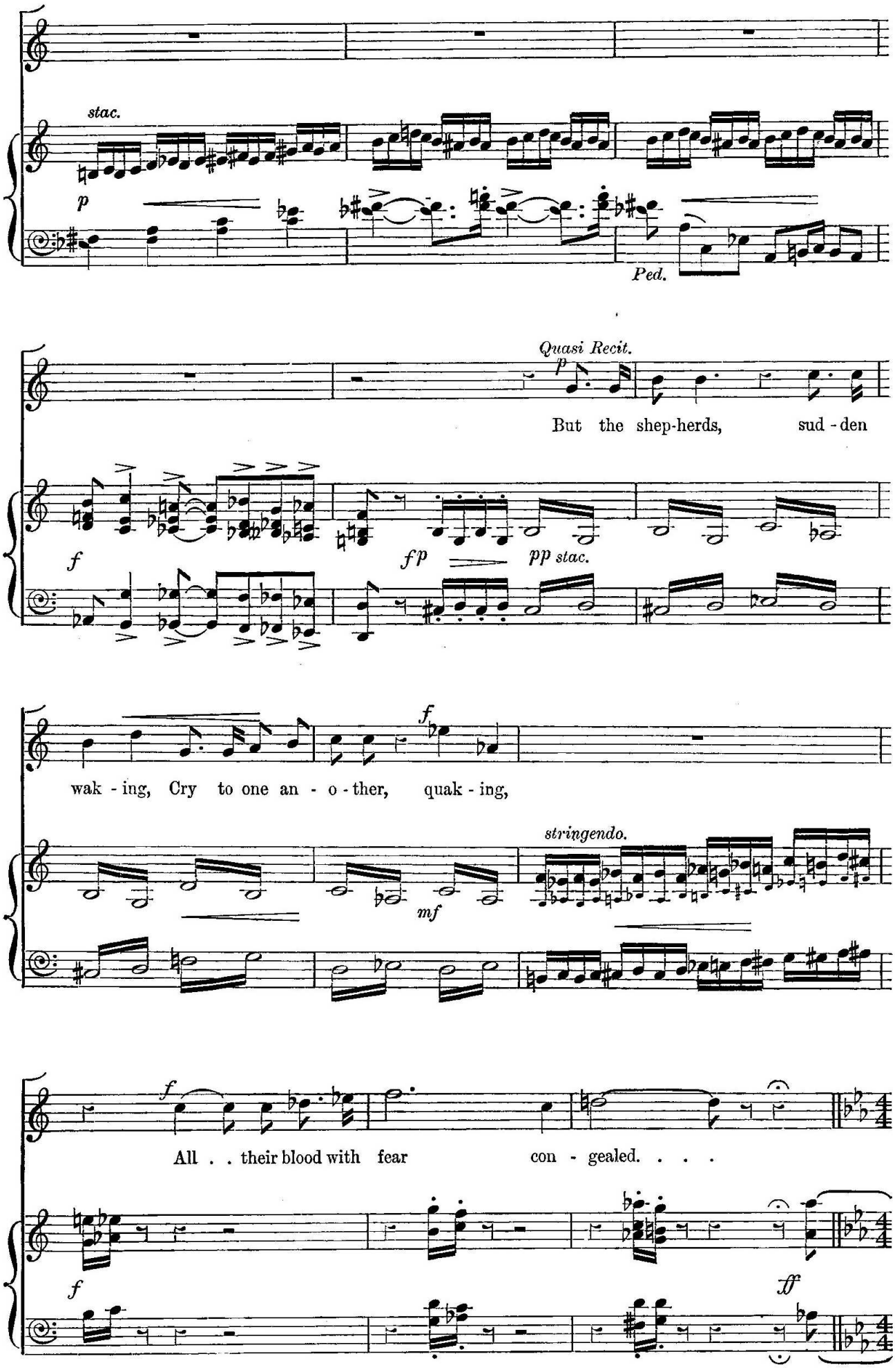

gates ce - les - tial . .


Fa - cing this our globe ter - res - trial, On their hin - ges
mf
Ped.
for - ward swing! O the splen - dour
sempre cres.
out - pro - ceed - ing! To the earth . . . a path - way lead -
f
f
- ing, Fit . . for en - voys . . . of a king. . .
E
ff
largamente.

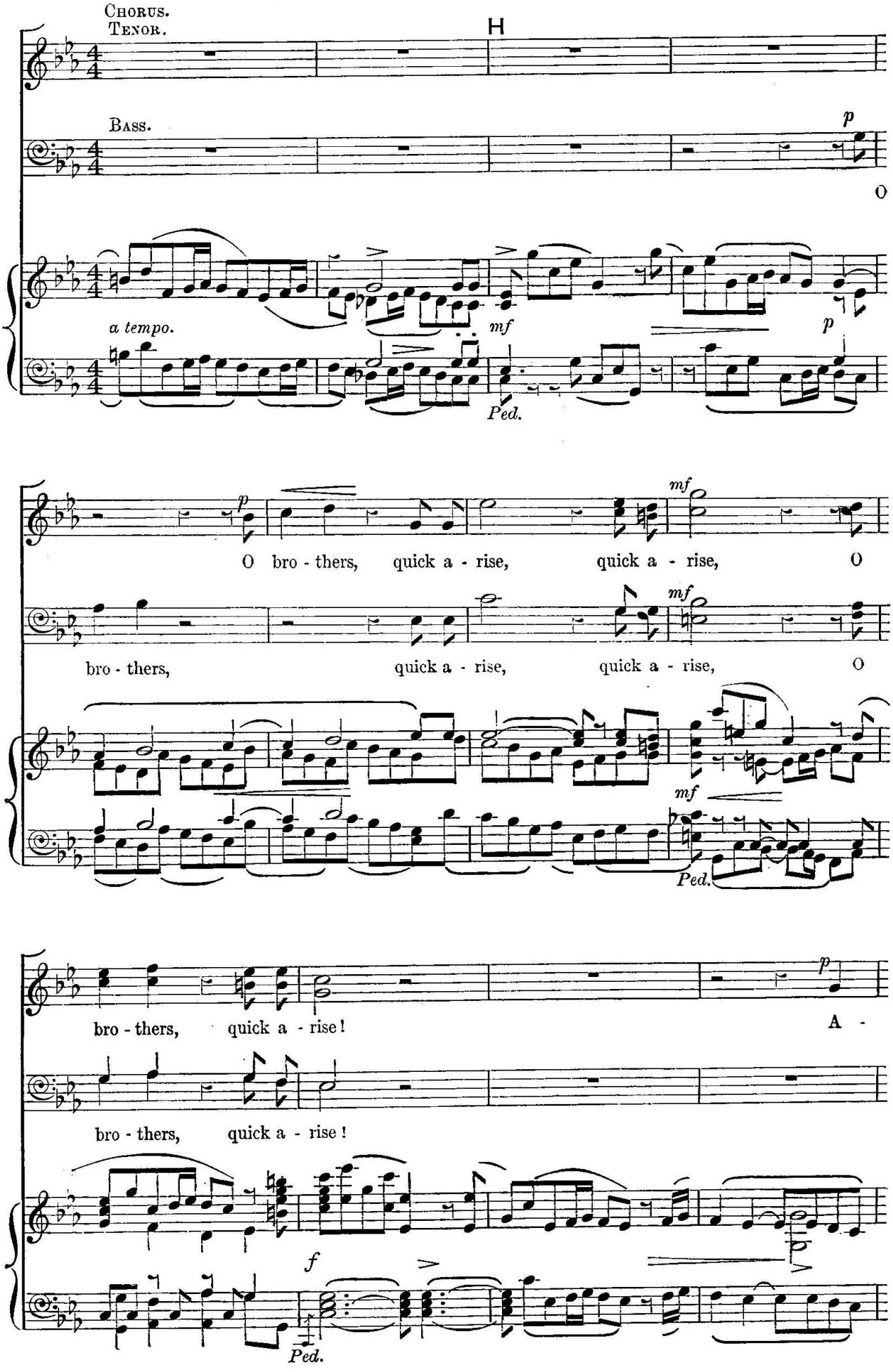

tr
fz
Ped.
Ped..
8va
mf
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
F
Tenor Solo.
mf
Through the light,
p

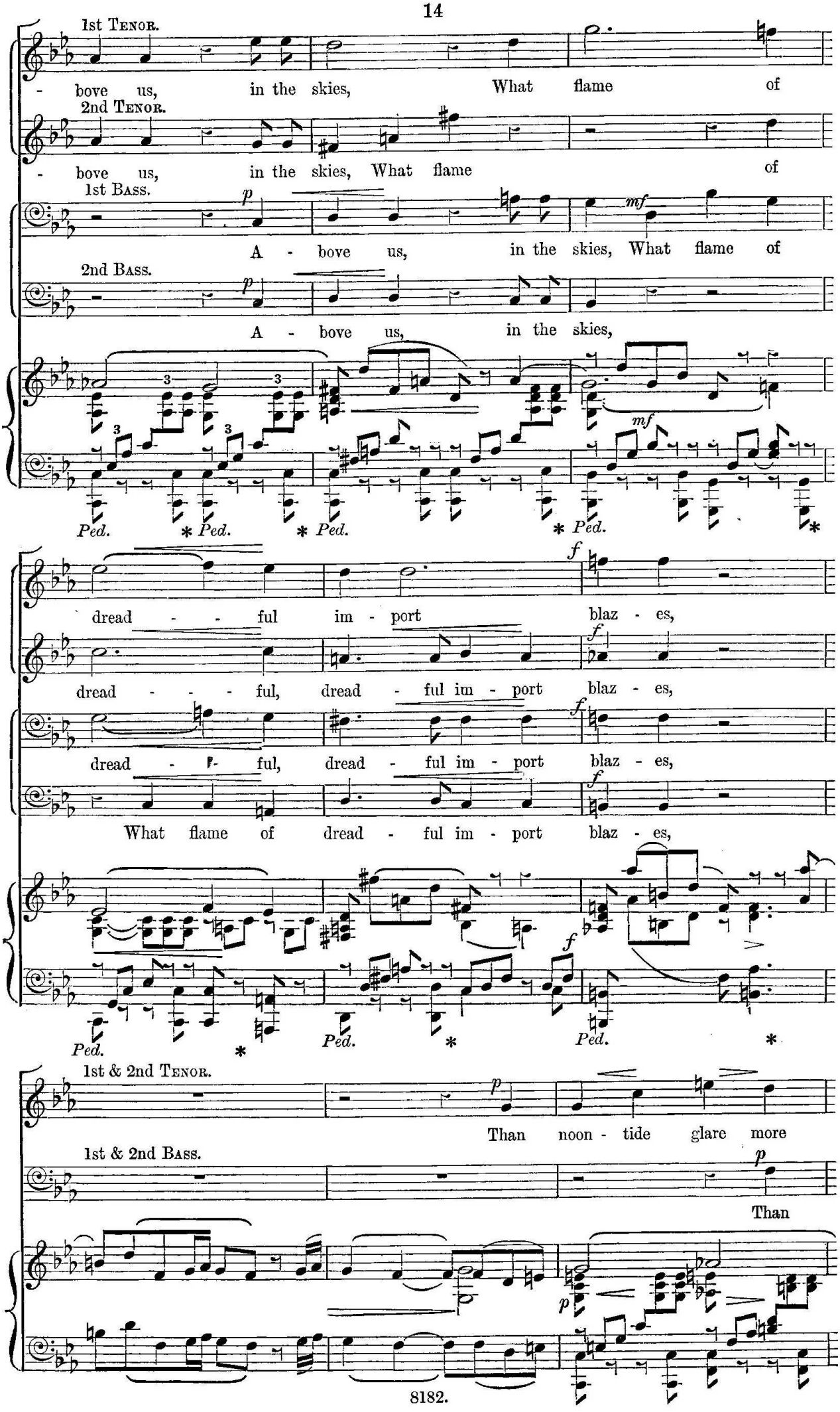

he light e - mit - ting,
See an
An - gel, swift - ly flit - ting,
Pause . . o'er
Beth - le-hem's sa - cred field!
Ped.
Non troppo lento.
Non troppo lento. ♩ = 80.

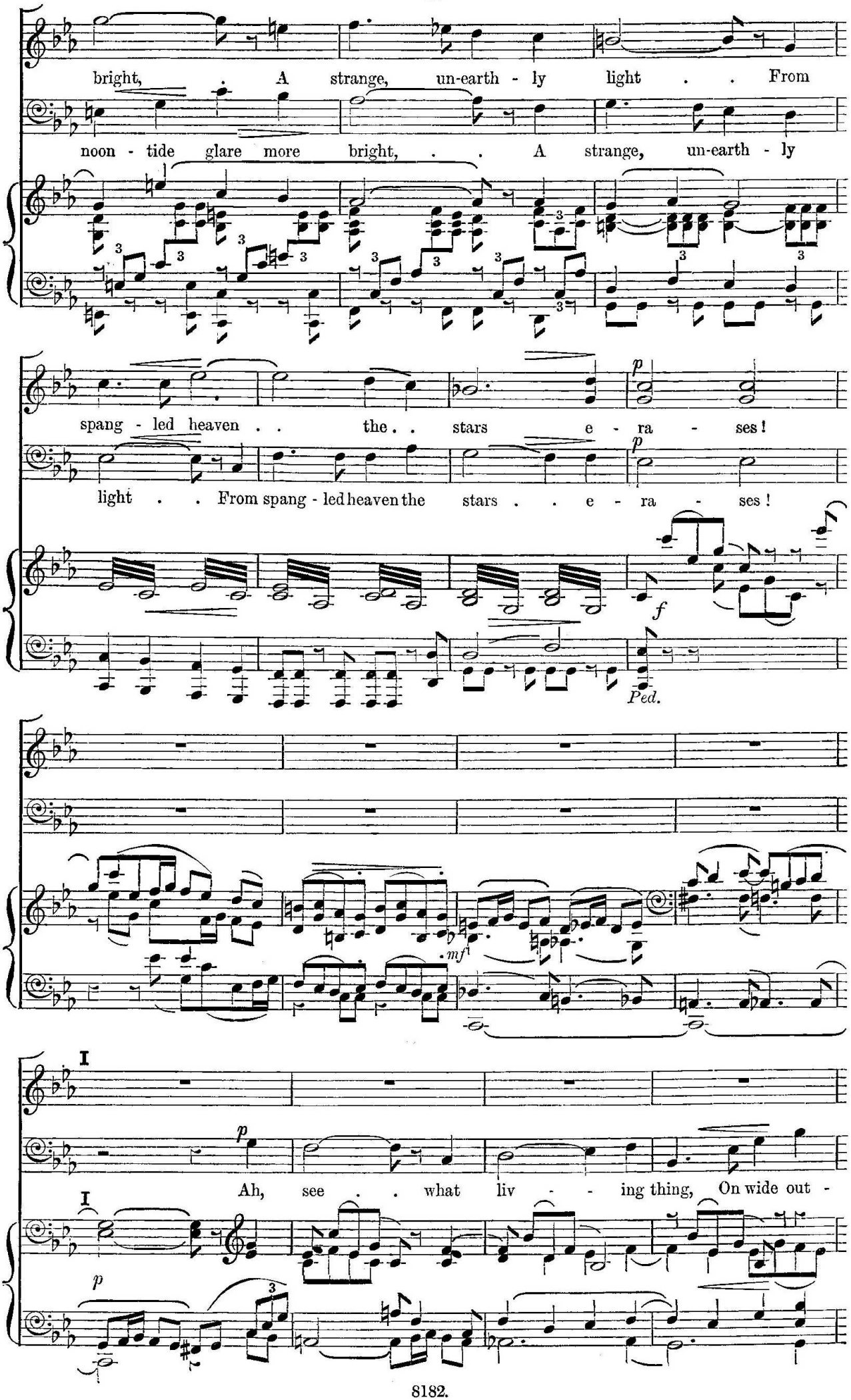

mf
Dark - ness flies on wings of ter - ror,
mf
3
Andantino.
Andantino. ♩. = 52.
mf
While the sil - ly sheep, in er - ror,
p
G
Rise to crop . . the dew - y yield.
p
Allegro non troppo.
Allegro non troppo. ♩ = 100.
pp
f
fz
fz
pp

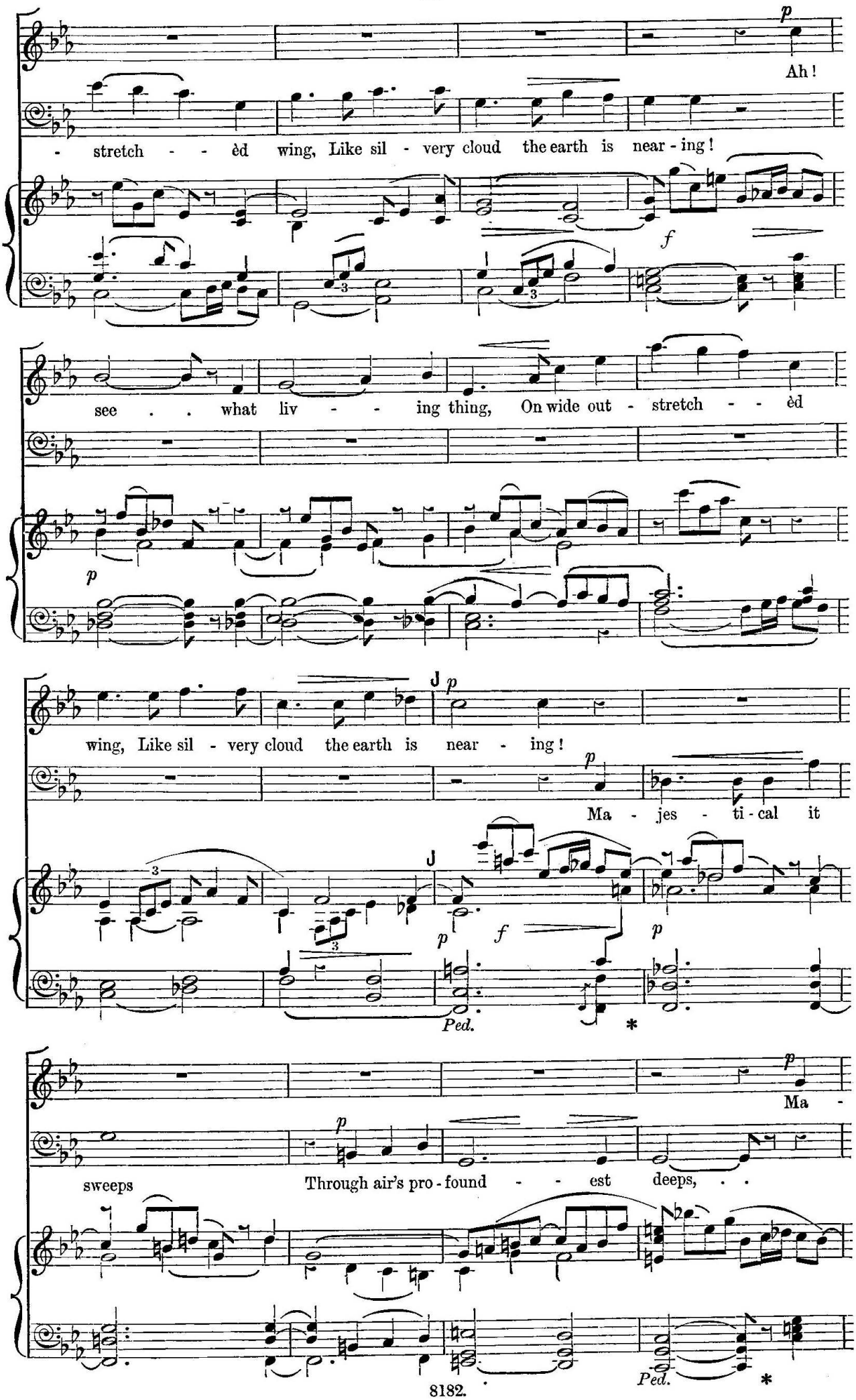

stac.
p
Ped.
Quasi Recit.
p
But the shep-herds, sud - den
f
fp
pp stac.
wak - ing, Cry to one an - o - ther, quak - ing,
f
stringendo.
mf
All . . their blood with fear con - gealed. . . .
f
ff

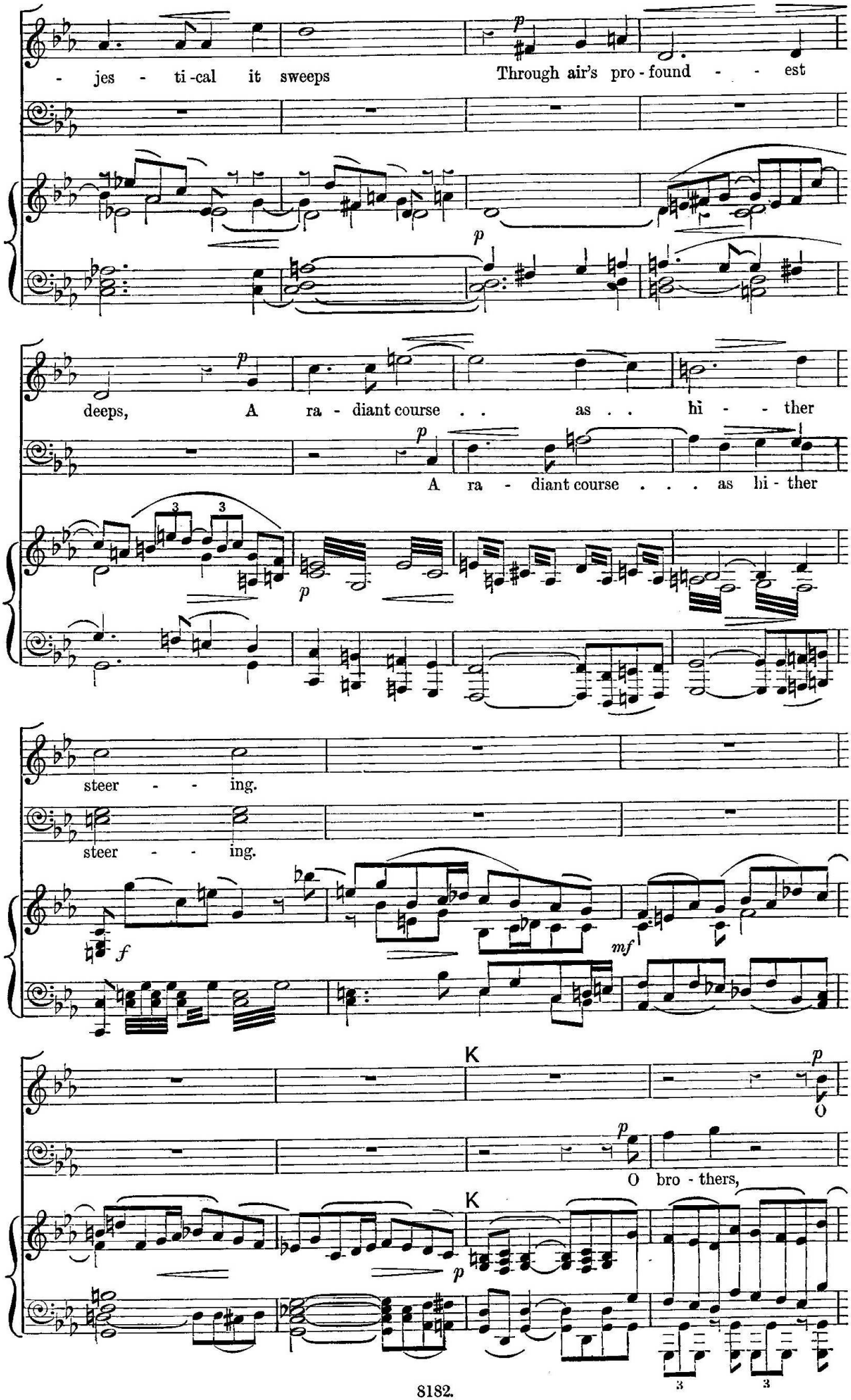
The Shepherds cry aloud in their terror.

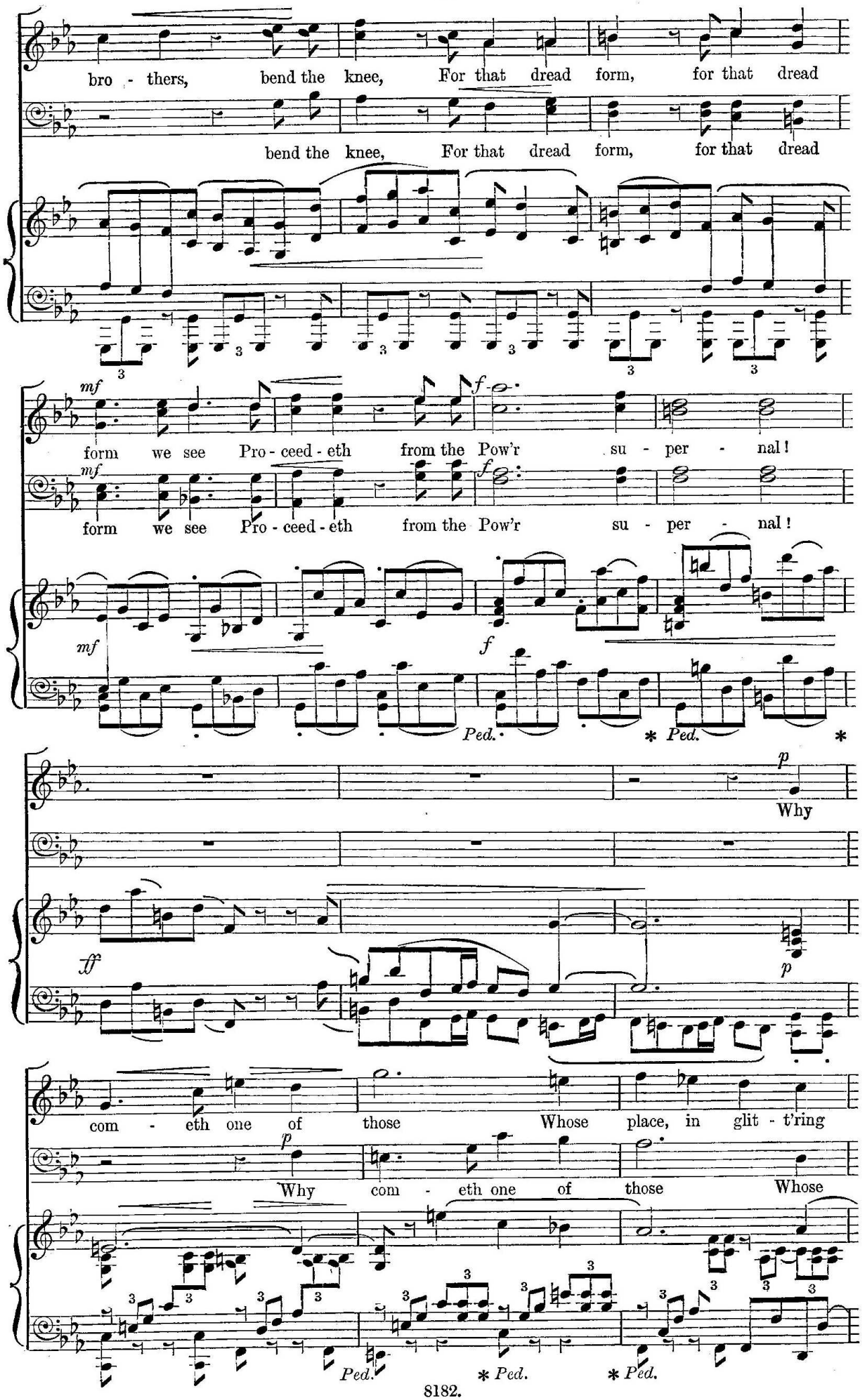


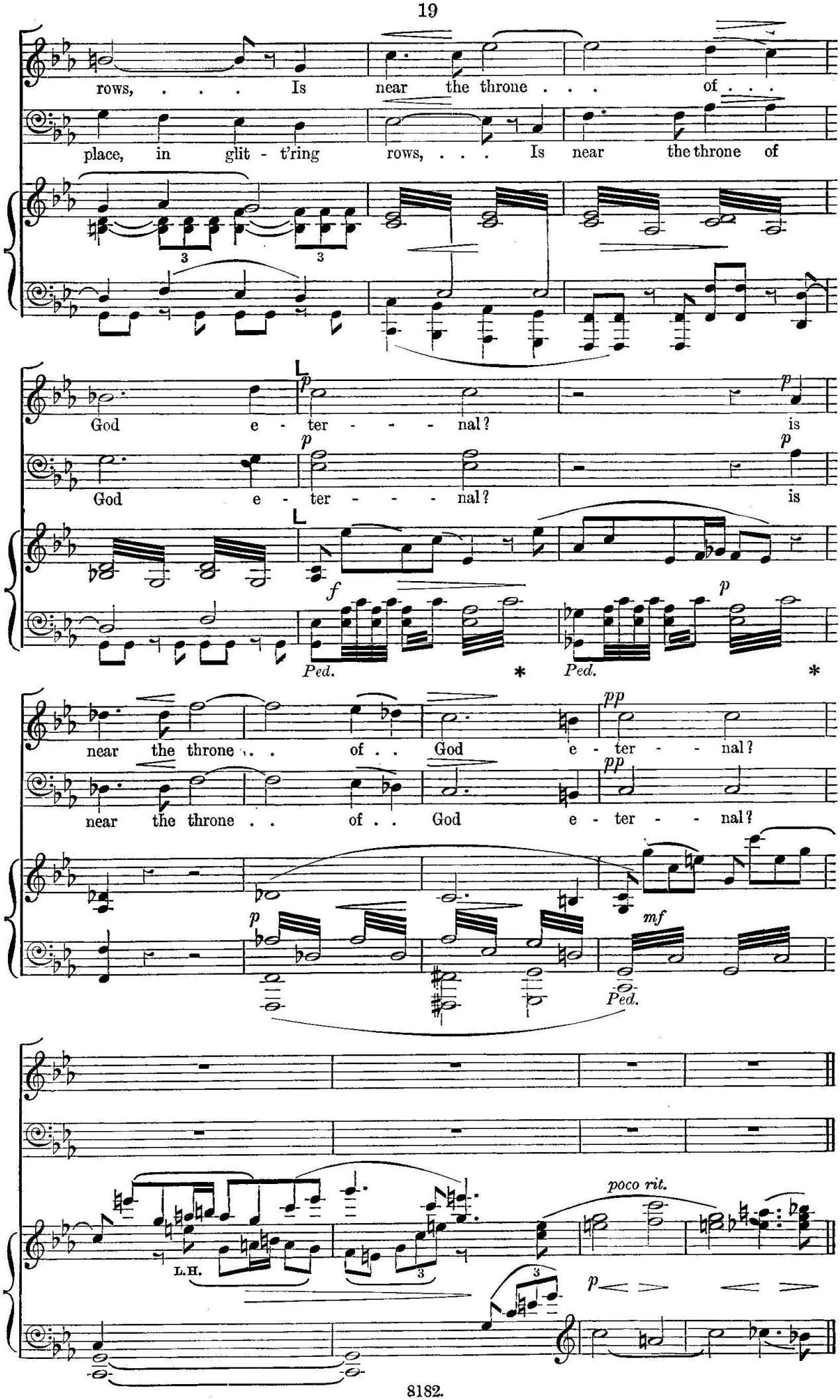

1st Tenor.
- bove us, in the skies, What flame of
2nd Tenor.
- bove us, in the skies, What flame of
1st Bass.
A - bove us, in the skies, What flame of
2nd Bass.
A - bove us, in the skies,
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *
dread - - ful im - port blaz - es,
dread - - - ful, dread - ful im - port blaz - es,
dread - - ful, dread - ful im - port blaz - es,
What flame of dread - ful im - port blaz - es,
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *
1st & 2nd Tenor.
Than noon - tide glare more
1st & 2nd Bass.
Than


bright, A strange, un-earth - ly light . . From
noon - tide glare more bright, . . A strange, un-earth - ly
spang - led heaven . . the . . stars e - ra - ses!
light . . From spang - led heaven the stars . . e - ra - ses!
Ped.
Ah, see . . what liv - - ing thing, On wide out -

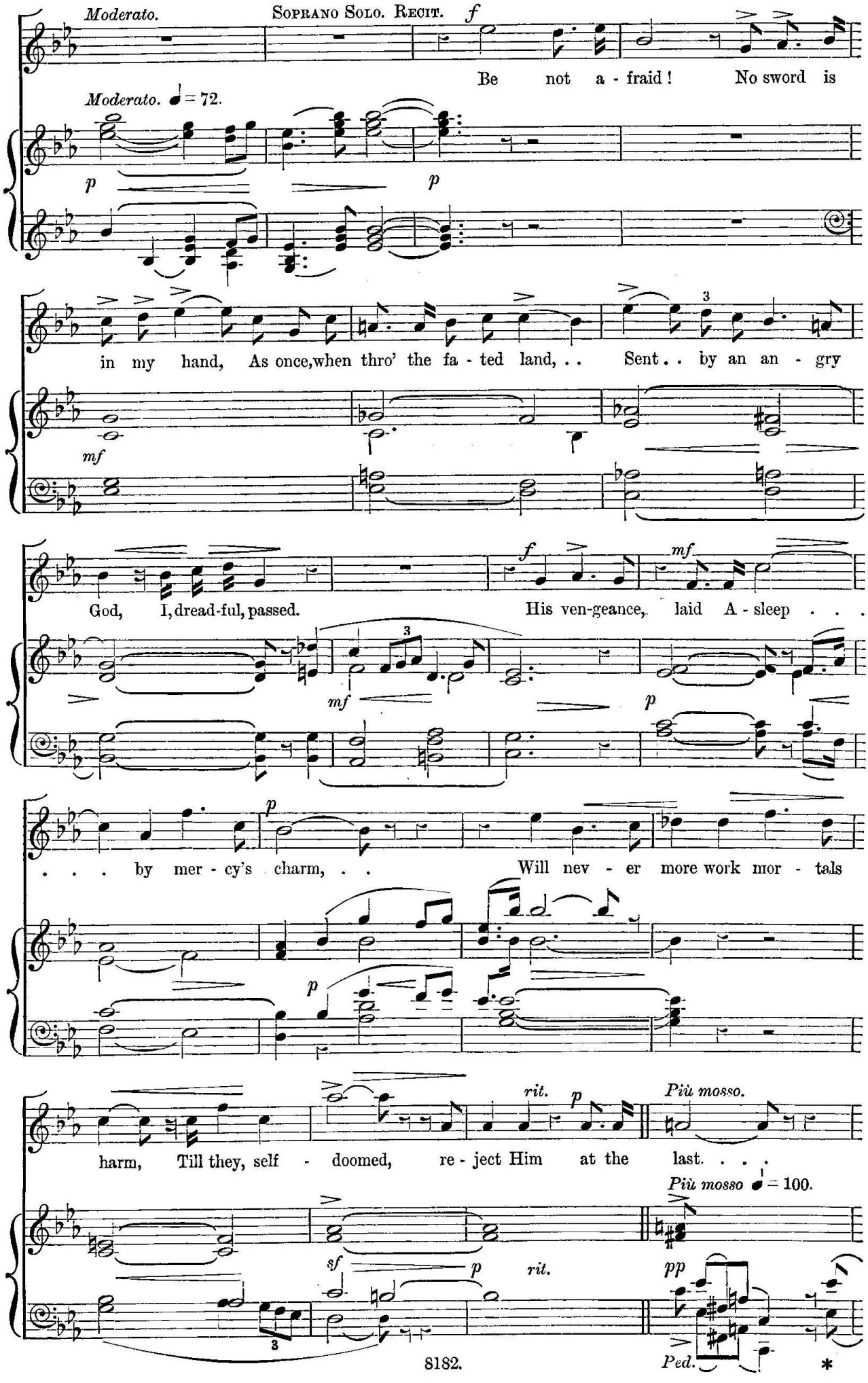

p
Ah!
- stretch - - èd wing, Like sil - very cloud the earth is near - ing!
f
see . . what liv - - ing thing, On wide out - stretch - - èd
p
wing, Like sil - very cloud the earth is near - ing!
p
Ma - jes - ti - cal it
p
f
p
Ped.
*
p
Ma -
sweeps
p
Through air's pro - found - - est deeps, . .
Ped.
*

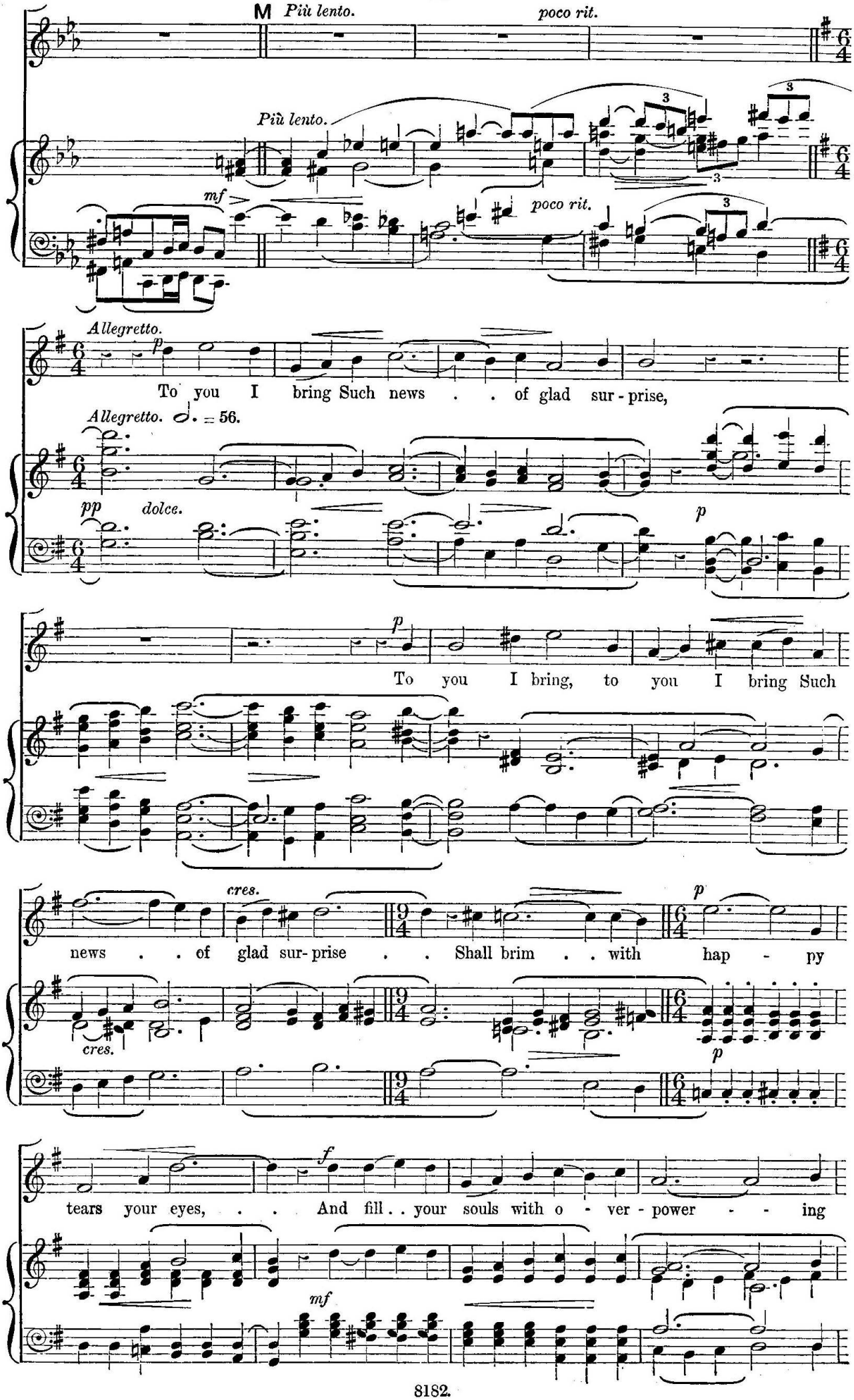

- jes - ti-cal it sweeps
Through air's pro-found - - est
deeps, A ra - diant course . . as . . hi - - ther
A ra - diant course . . . as hi - ther
steer - - ing.
steer - - ing.
K
O
O bro - thers,
K

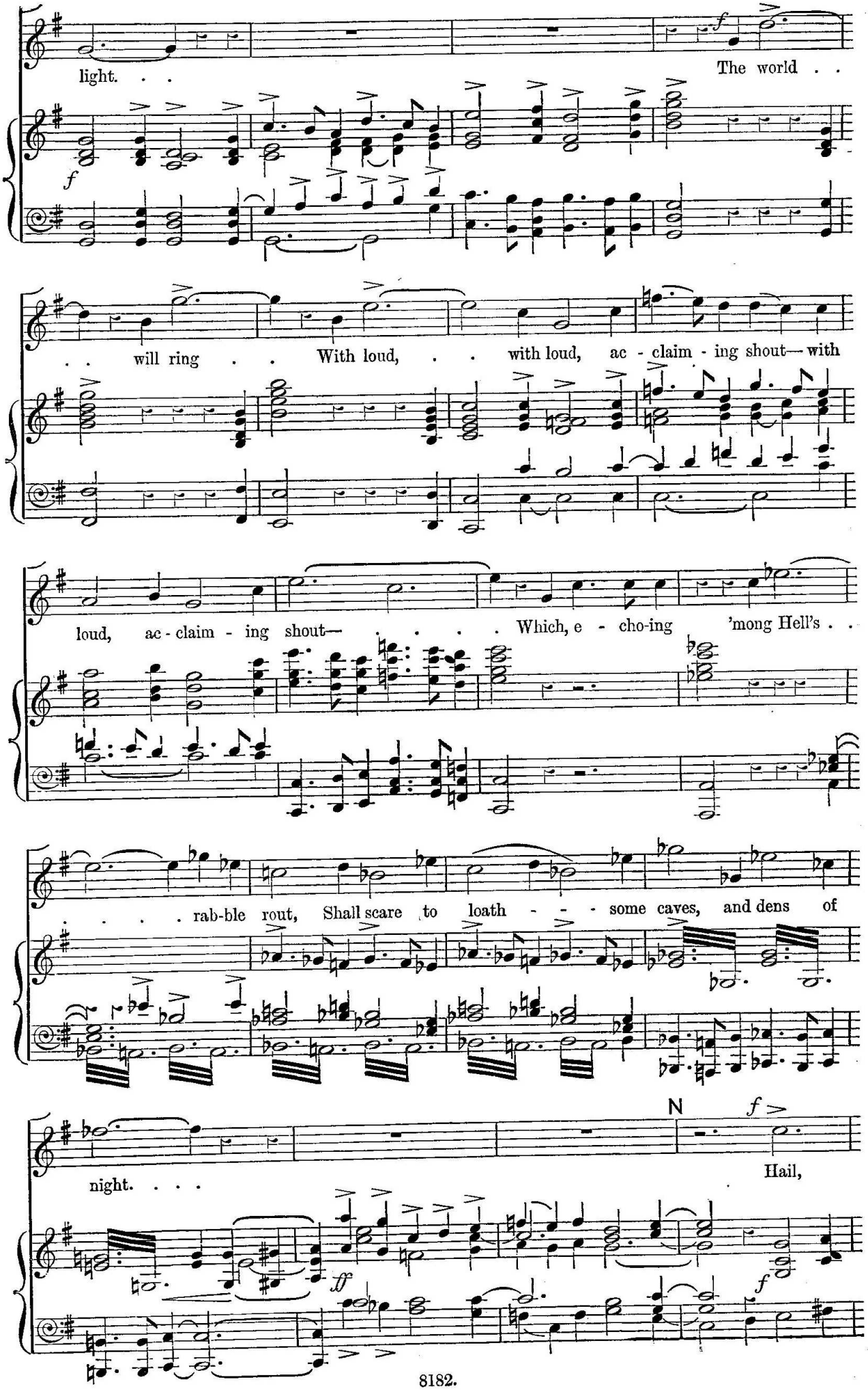

bro - thers, bend the knee, For that dread form, for that dread
bend the knee, For that dread form, for that dread
mf
form we see Pro - ceed - eth from the Pow'r su - per - nal!
f
mf
form we see Pro - ceed - eth from the Pow'r su - per - nal!
f
mf
Ped.
* Ped.
*
p
Why
ff
p
com - eth one of those Whose place, in glit - t'ring
p
Why com - eth one of those Whose
Ped.
* Ped.
* Ped.

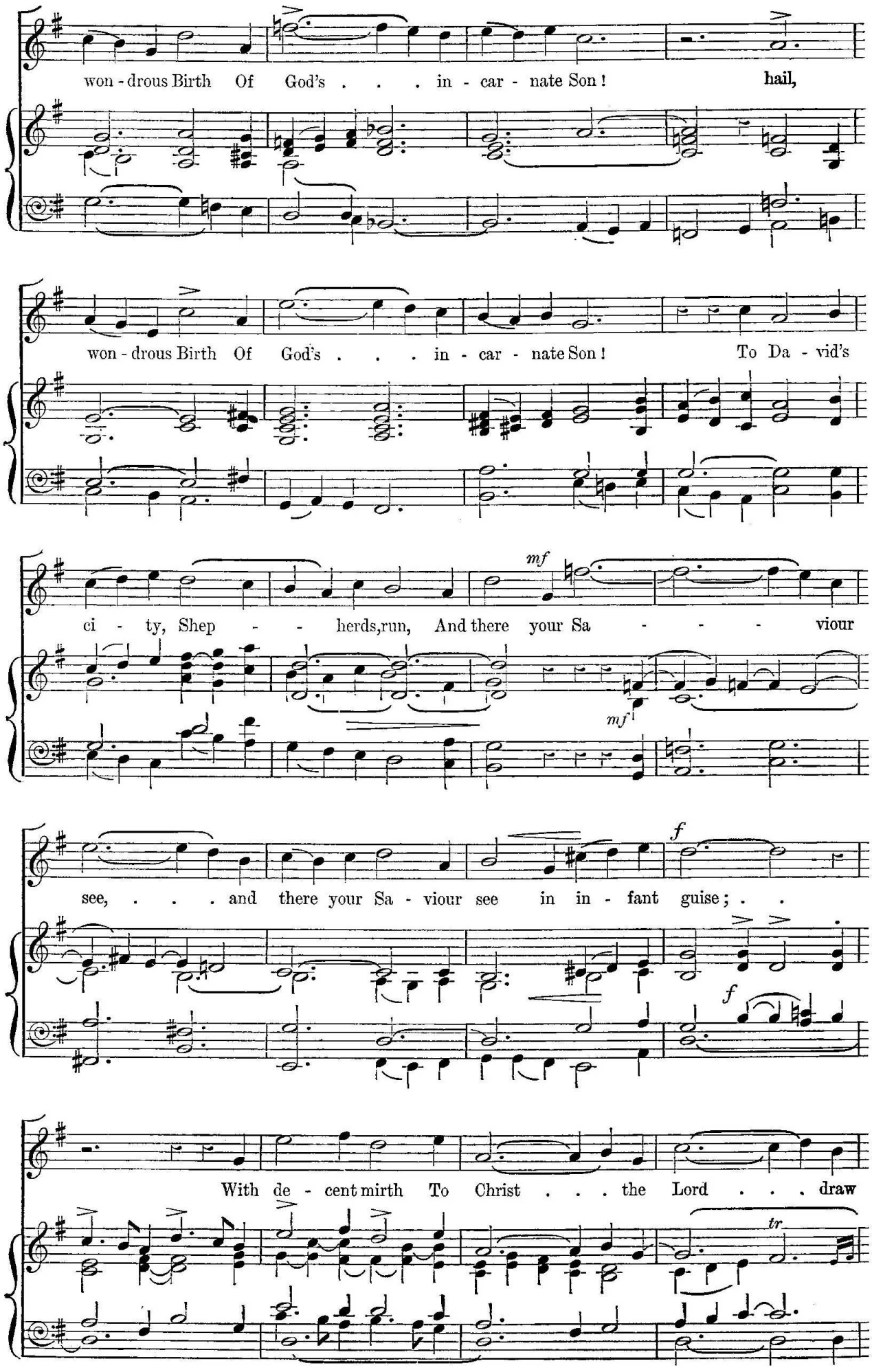

rows, . . . Is near the throne . . . of . . .
place, in glit - t'ring rows, . . . Is near the throne of
God e - ter - - - - nal? is
God e - ter - - - - nal? is
Ped.
Ped.
near the throne . . of . . God e - ter - - nal?
near the throne . . of . . God e - ter - - nal?
Ped.
L.H.
poco rit.

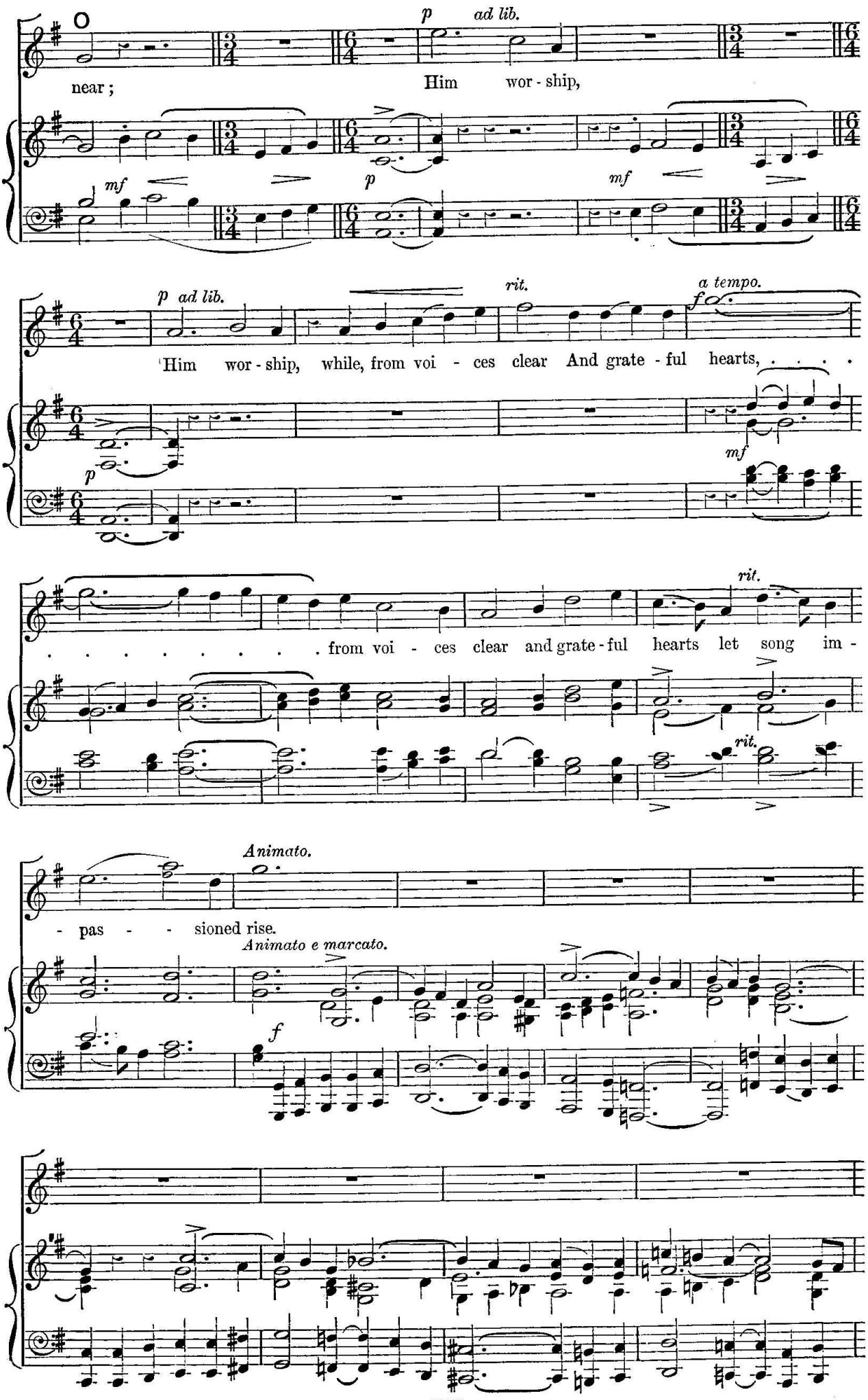
The Angel comforteth the Shepherds with good news.

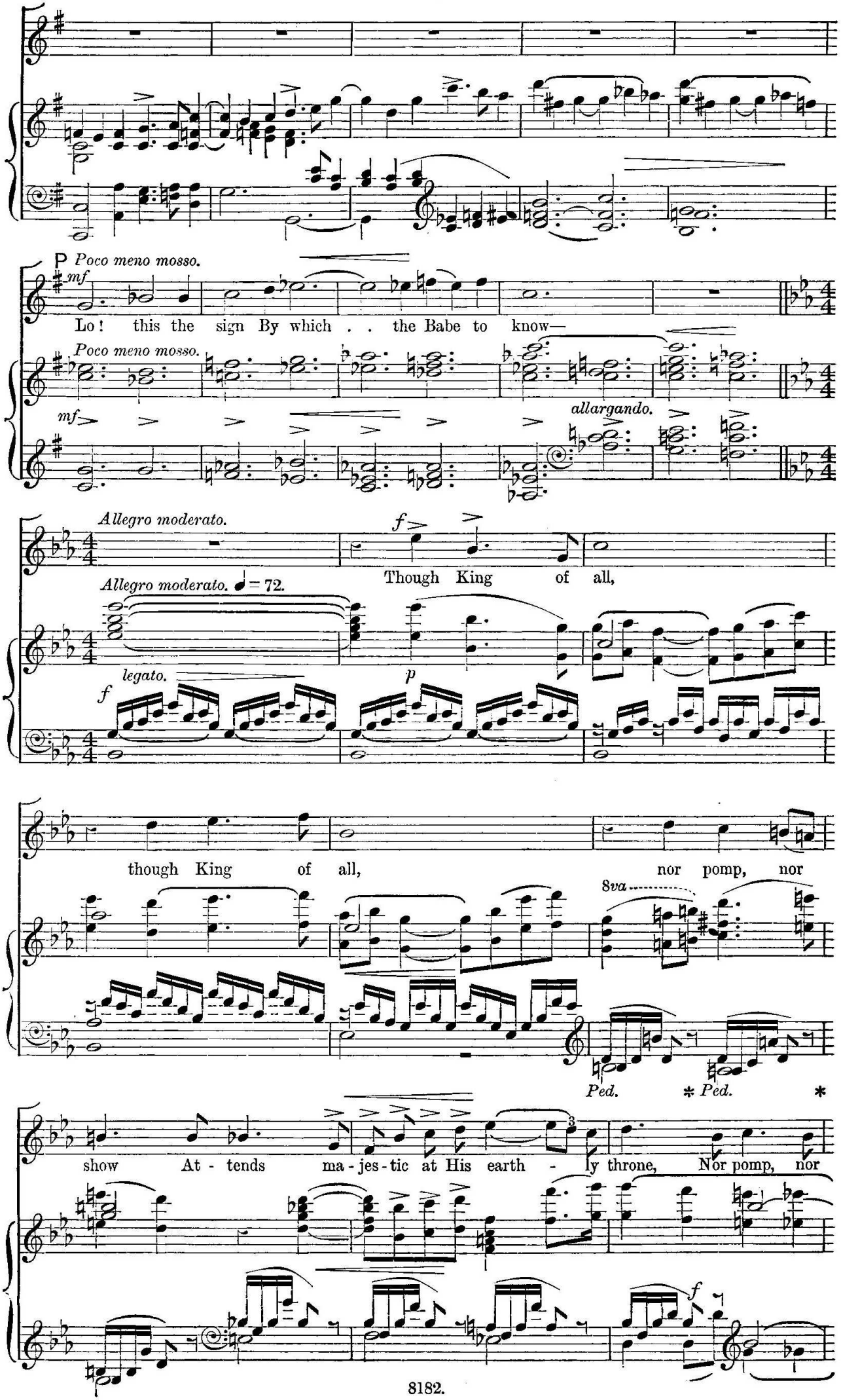


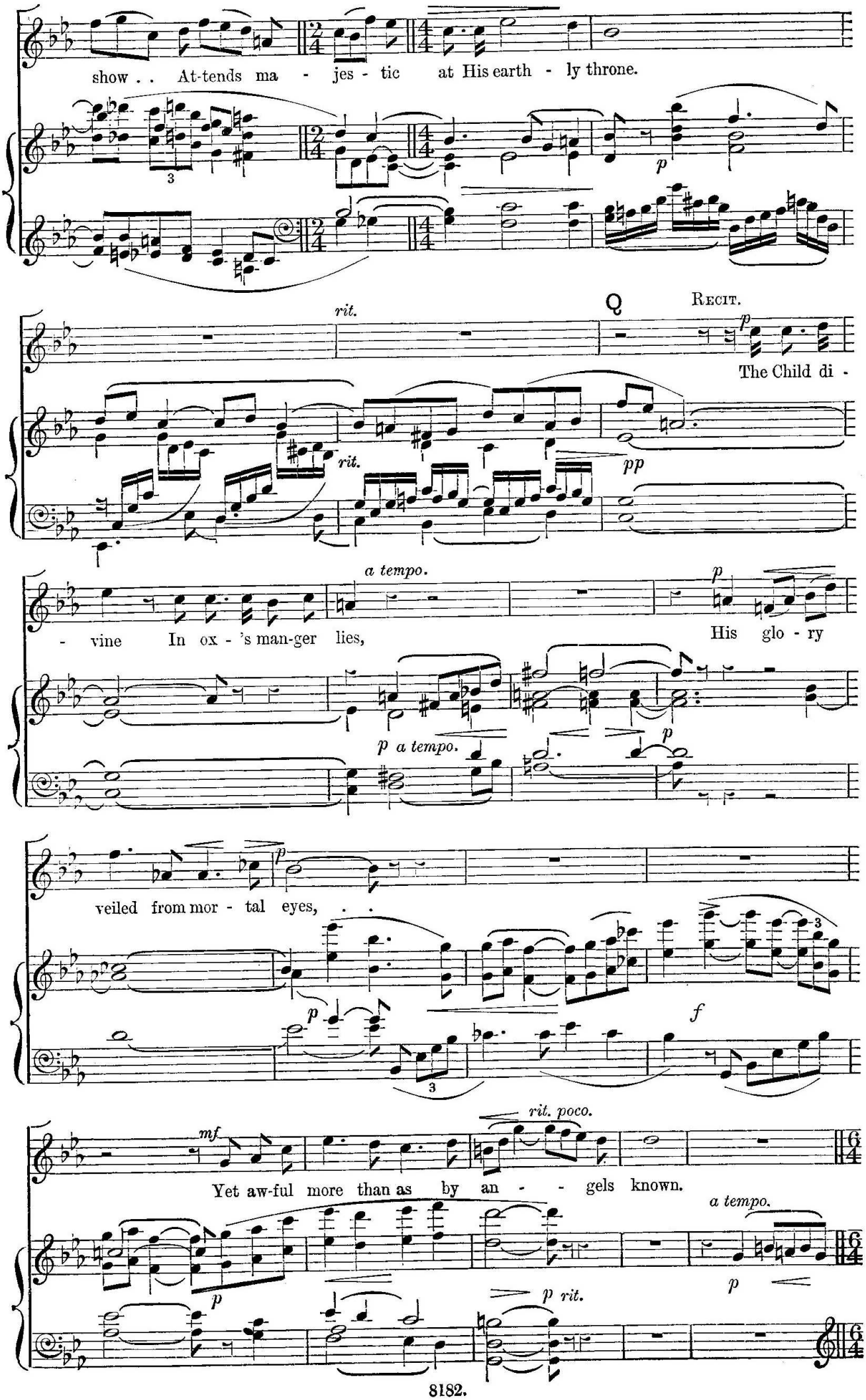

M Più lento.
poco rit.
Più lento.
mf
poco rit.
Allegretto.
p
To you I bring Such news . . of glad sur - prise,
Allegretto. ♩. = 56.
pp dolce.
p
To you I bring, to you I bring Such
cres.
p
news . . of glad sur - prise . . Shall brim . . with hap - py
cres.
p
f
tears your eyes, . . And fill . . your souls with o - ver - power - - ing
mf

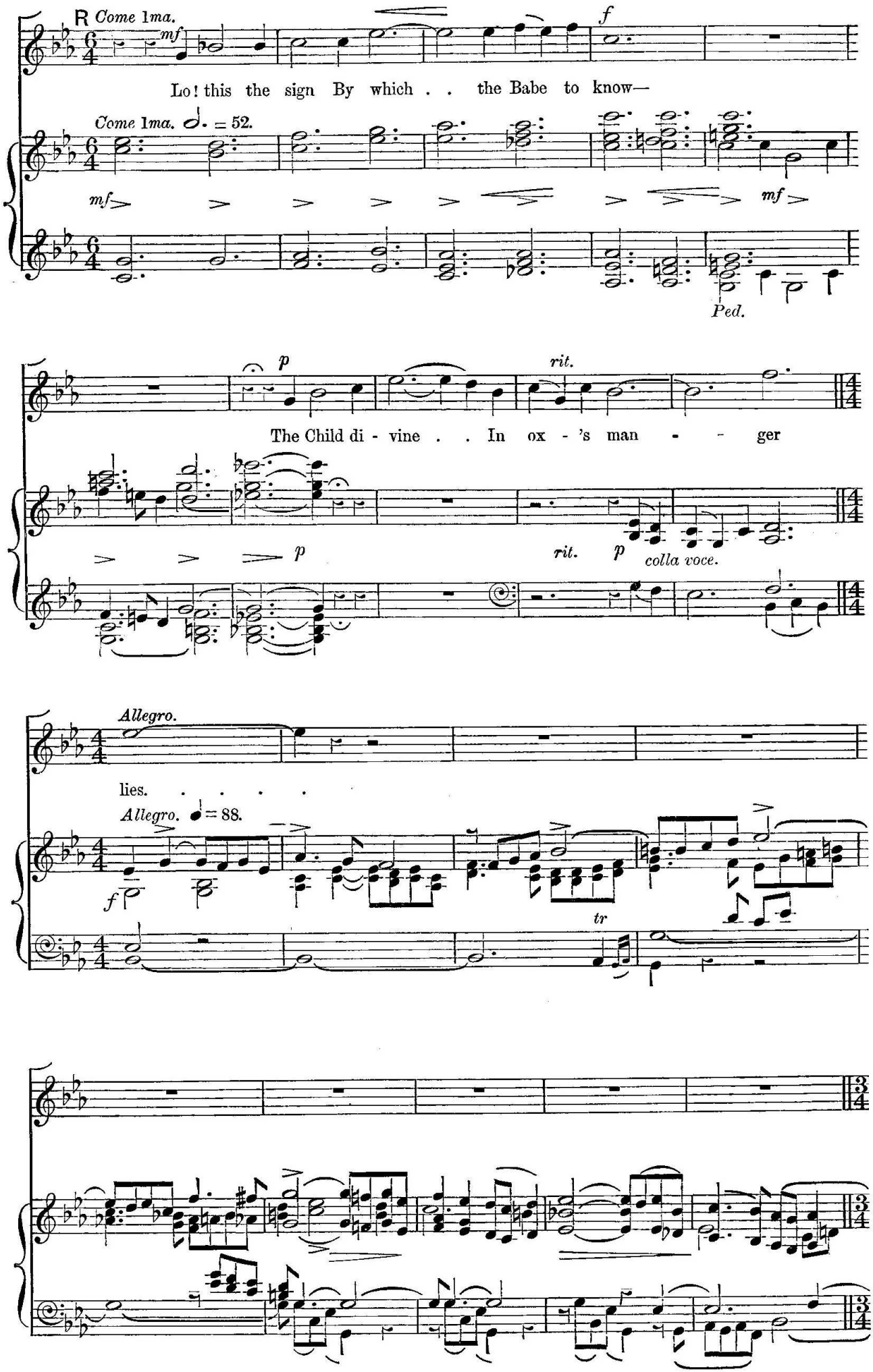

light. . .
The world . .
. . will ring . . With loud, . . with loud, ac - claim - ing shout— with
loud, ac - claim - ing shout— . . . . Which, e - cho-ing 'mong Hell's . .
. . . . rab-ble rout, Shall scare to loath - - - some caves, and dens of
night. . . .
Hail,


won - drous Birth Of God's . . . in - car - nate Son! hail,
won - drous Birth Of God's . . . in - car - nate Son! To Da - vid's
ci - ty, Shep - - herds,run, And there your Sa - - - - viour
mf
mf
see, . . . and there your Sa - viour see in in - fant guise; . .
f
f
With de - cent mirth To Christ . . . the Lord . . . draw
tr

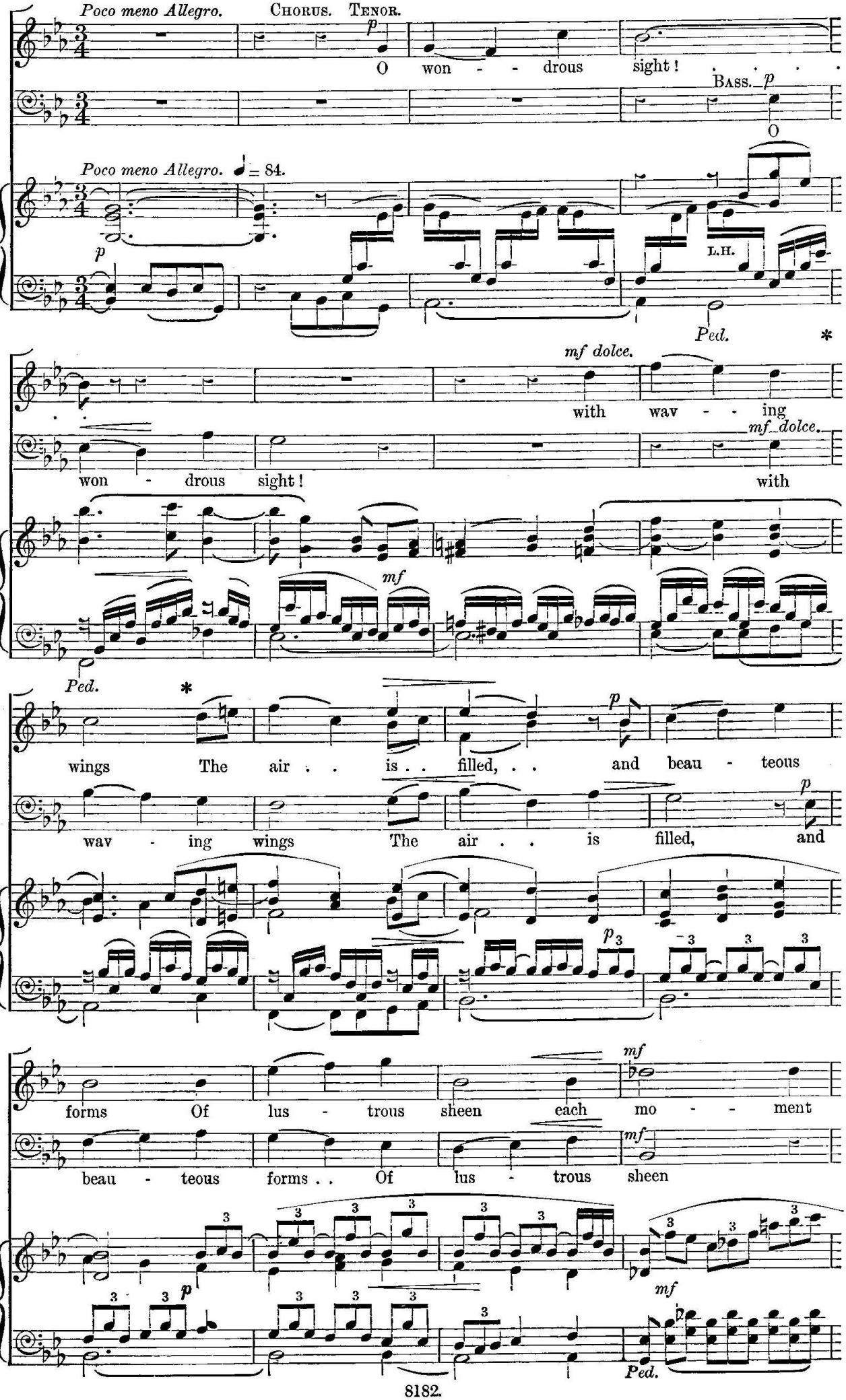

near ;
p ad lib.
Him wor - ship,
mf
p
mf
p ad lib.
rit.
a tempo.
Him wor - ship, while, from voi - ces clear And grate - ful hearts, ...
p
mf
. . . . . from voi - ces clear and grate - ful hearts let song im -
rit.
rit.
Animato.
- pas - - sioned rise.
Animato e marcato.
f

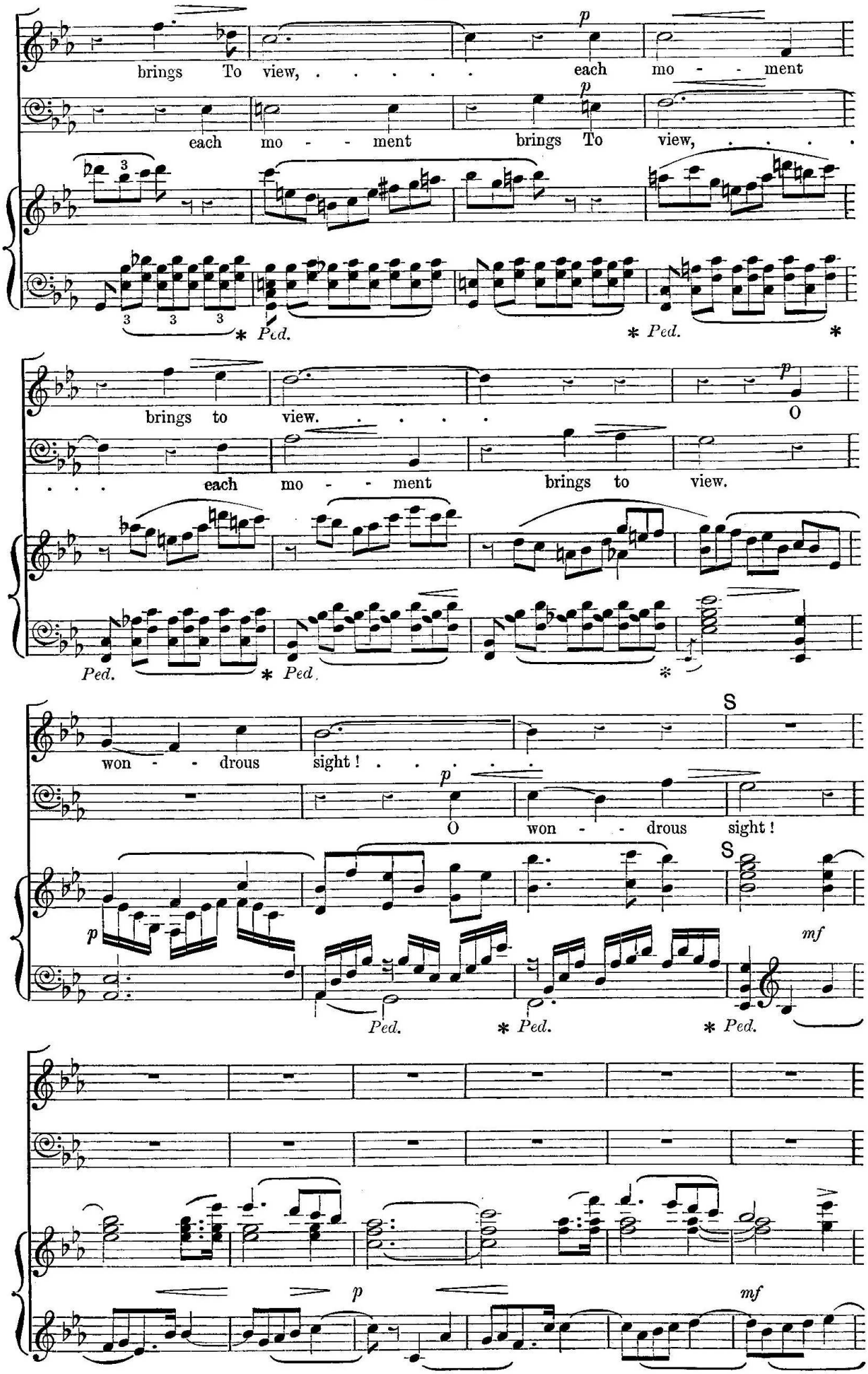

P Poco meno mosso.
mf
Lo! this the sign By which . . the Babe to know—
Poco meno mosso.
mf
allargando.
Allegro moderato.
f
Though King of all,
Allegro moderato. ♩ = 72.
legato.
f
p
though King of all,
nor pomp, nor
8va
Ped.
* Ped.
*
show At - tends ma - jes - tic at His earth - ly throne, Nor pomp, nor
f

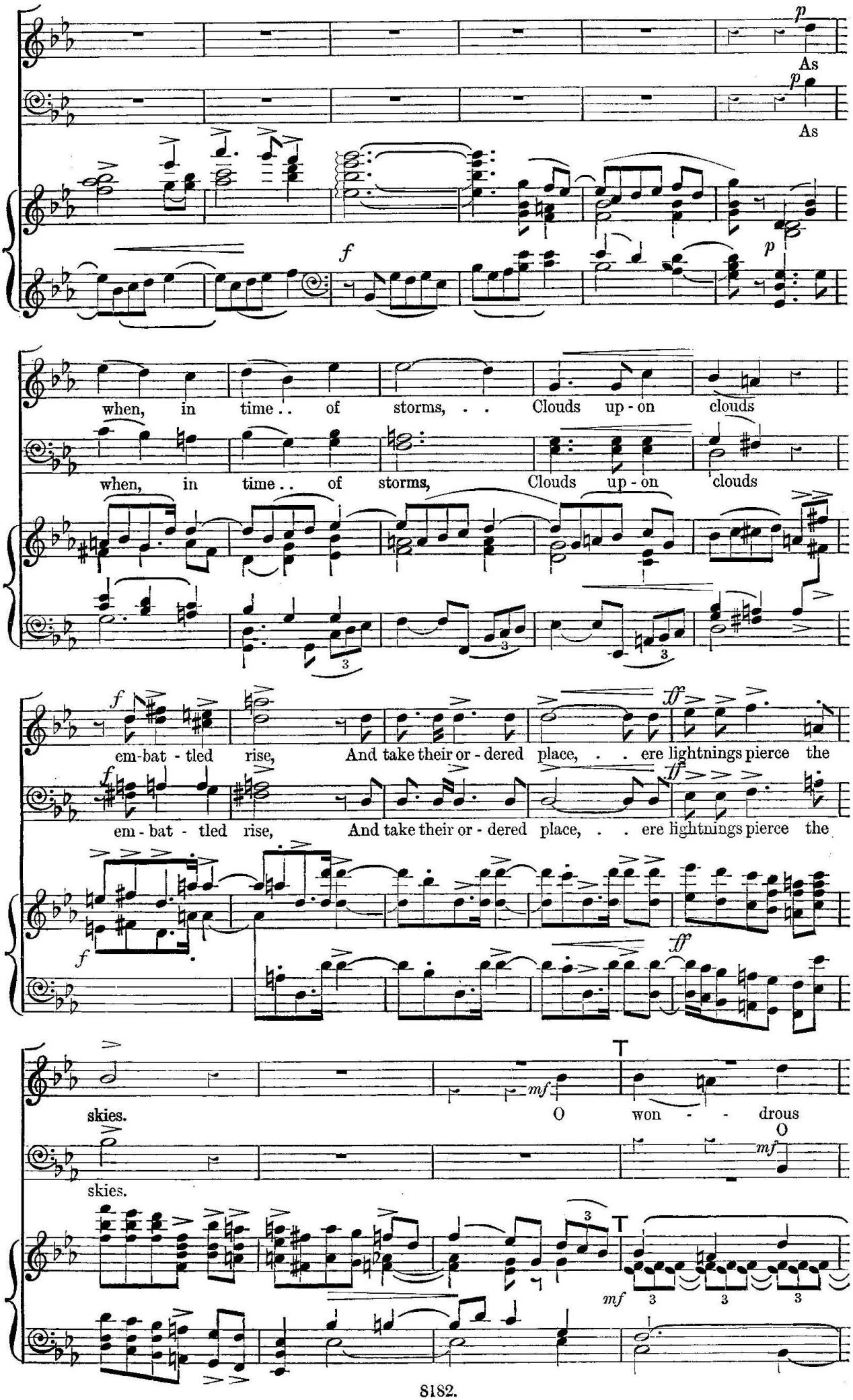

show . . At-tends ma - jes - tic at His earth - ly throne.
rit.
Q
Recit.
The Child di -
- vine In ox - 's man-ger lies,
His glo - ry
veiled from mor - tal eyes, . . .
Yet aw-ful more than as by an - - gels known.
a tempo.
p rit.

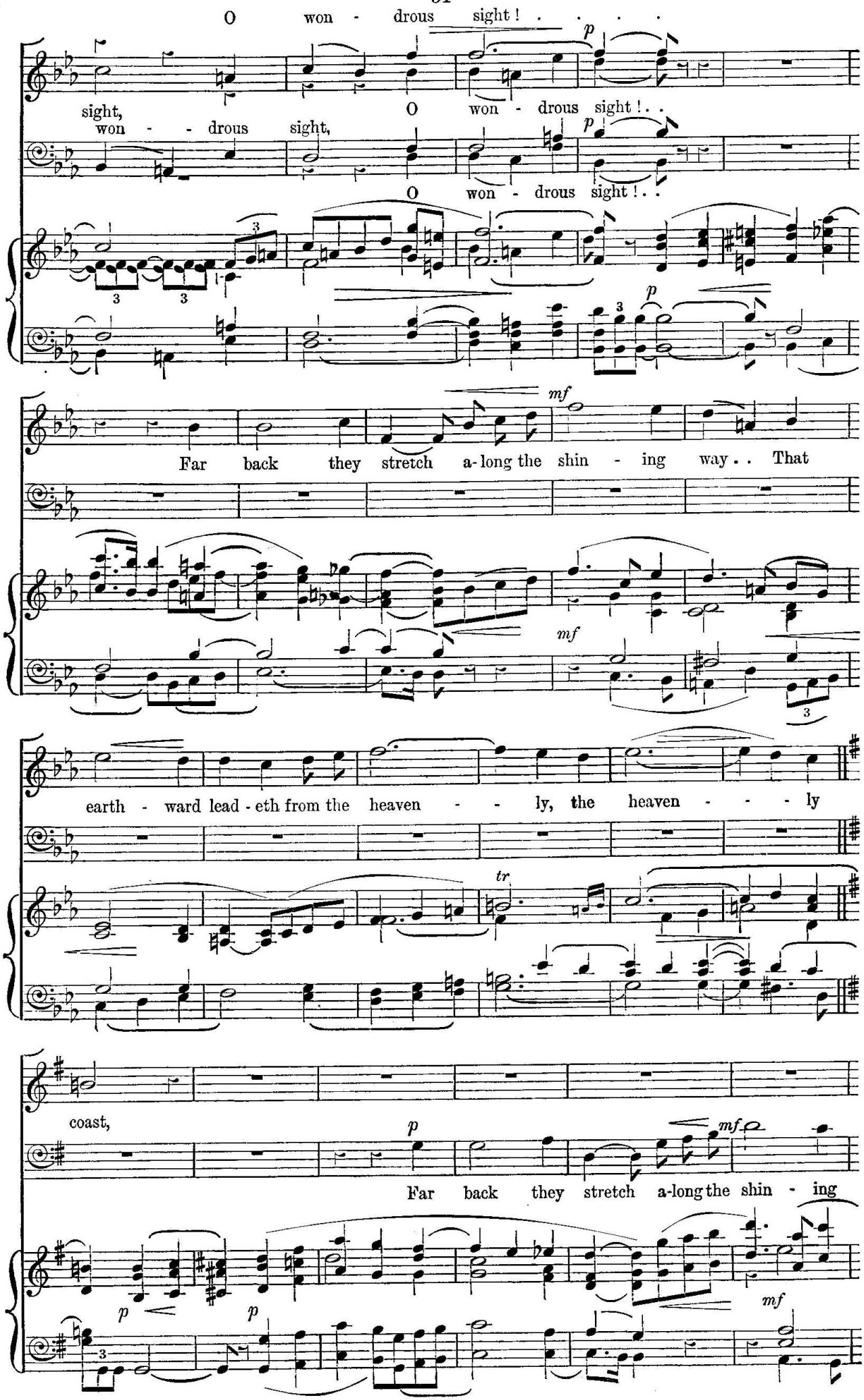

R Come 1ma.
mf
f
Lo! this the sign By which . . the Babe to know—
Come 1ma. ♩. = 52.
mf
mf
Ped.
p
rit.
The Child di - vine . . In ox - 's man - - ger
p
rit.
p
colla voce.
Allegro.
lies. . . . .
Allegro. ♩ = 88.
f
tr

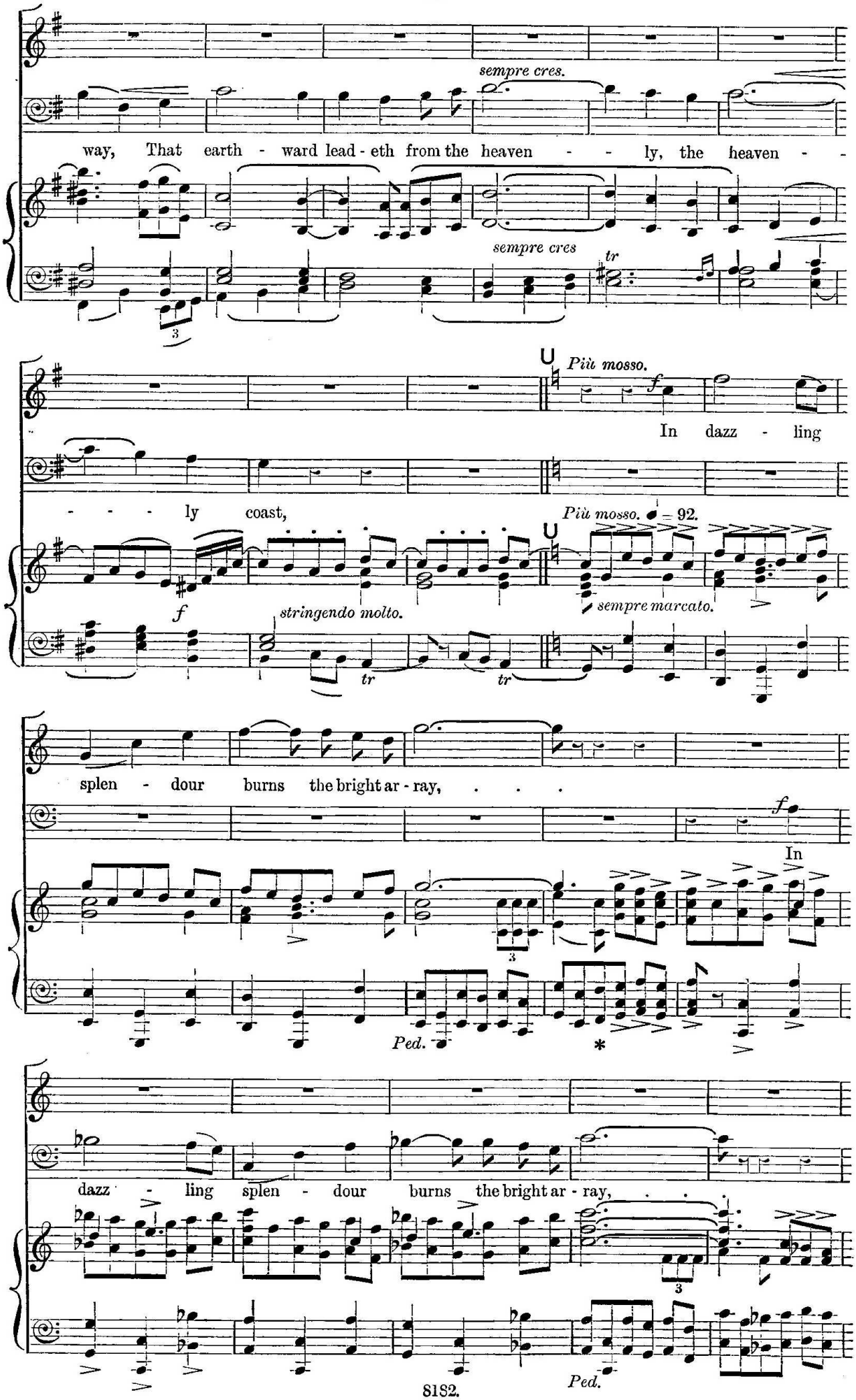
The Shepherds behold a multitude of the Heavenly Host.




brings To view, ... each mo - - ment
each mo - - ment brings To view, ...
brings to view. . . . . O
. . . each mo - - ment brings to view.
won - - drous sight! . . . . . .
O won - - drous sight!


As
As
when, in time . . of storms, . . Clouds up - on clouds
when, in time . . of storms, Clouds up - on clouds
em-bat - tled rise, And take their or - dered place, . . ere lightnings pierce the
em - bat - tled rise, And take their or - dered place, . . ere lightnings pierce the
skies.
O won - - drous
skies.
O


O won - drous sight! . . . .
sight, won - - drous sight,
O won - drous sight! . .
O won - drous sight! . .
Far back they stretch a-long the shin - ing way . . That
earth - ward lead - eth from the heaven - - ly, the heaven - - - ly
coast,
Far back they stretch a-long the shin - ing


sempre cres.
way, That earth - ward lead - eth from the heaven - - ly, the heaven - -
sempre cres
tr
Più mosso.
f
In dazz - ling
- - - ly coast,
Più mosso. ♩ = 92.
f
stringendo molto.
tr
tr
sempre marcato.
splen - dour burns the bright ar - ray, . . .
f
In
Ped.
*
dazz - ling splen - dour burns the bright ar - ray, . . .
Ped.