Hayley Jenkins

Gwyneth

The beginning of a long voyage

Written for the Albany Trio (2015):
Violin,
Cello,
Piano

For the family. A rememberance.

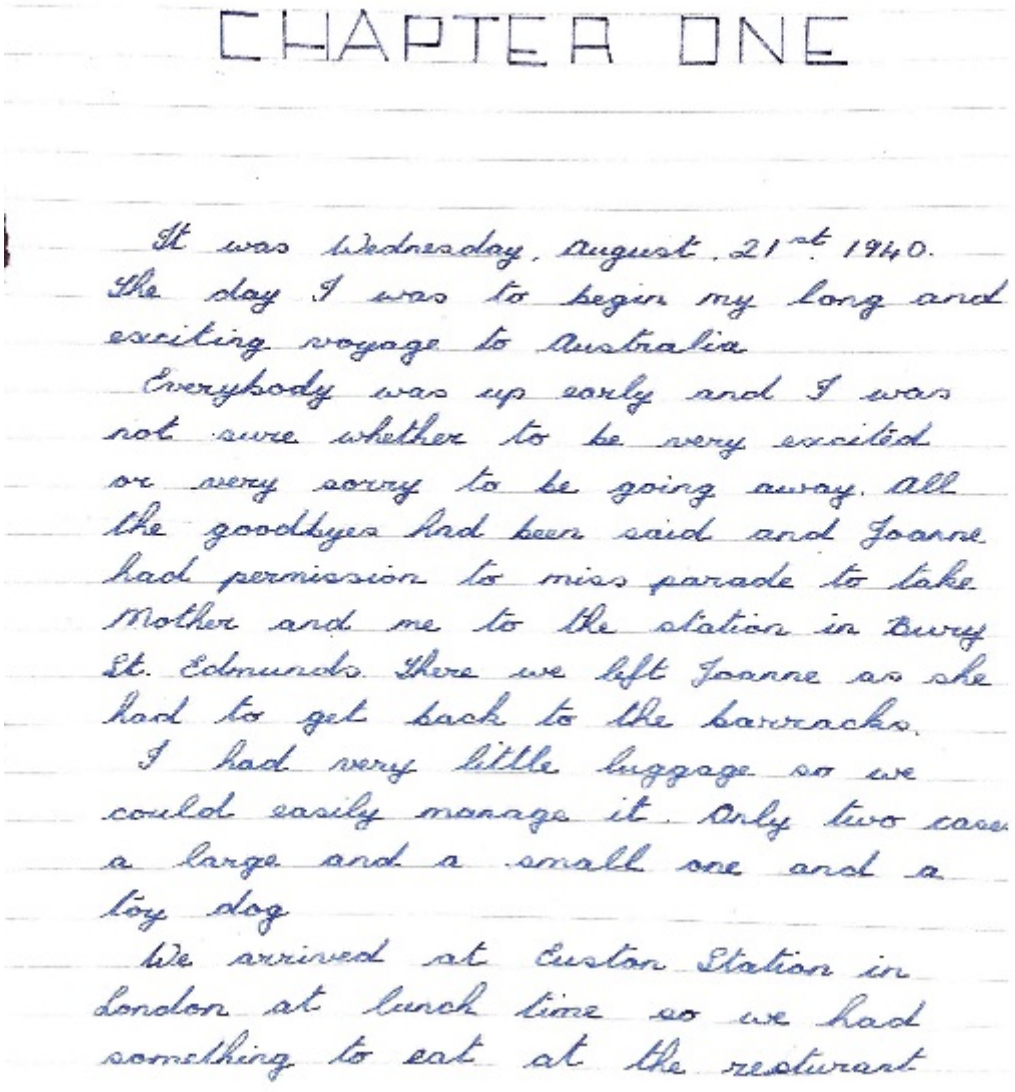
Forward

This single diary entry was found by Joanne, Gwyneth's elder sister in December 2014. Joanne, who is now 96years old (b.1919), says she can remember the day she said goodby to her younger sister the day she was evacuated to Australia at the beginning of the Second World War.

As a child, I never truly understood the relationship that my great Aunt's had with Australia but used to enjoy the stories and gifts they brought back after trips to see the "Australian family". To find this short diary excerpt from the start of an exciting life-changing journey of a young girl made me wish that I had had the chance to ask Gwyneth about her journey. Unfortunately I missed that chance as Gwyneth passed away in 2008.

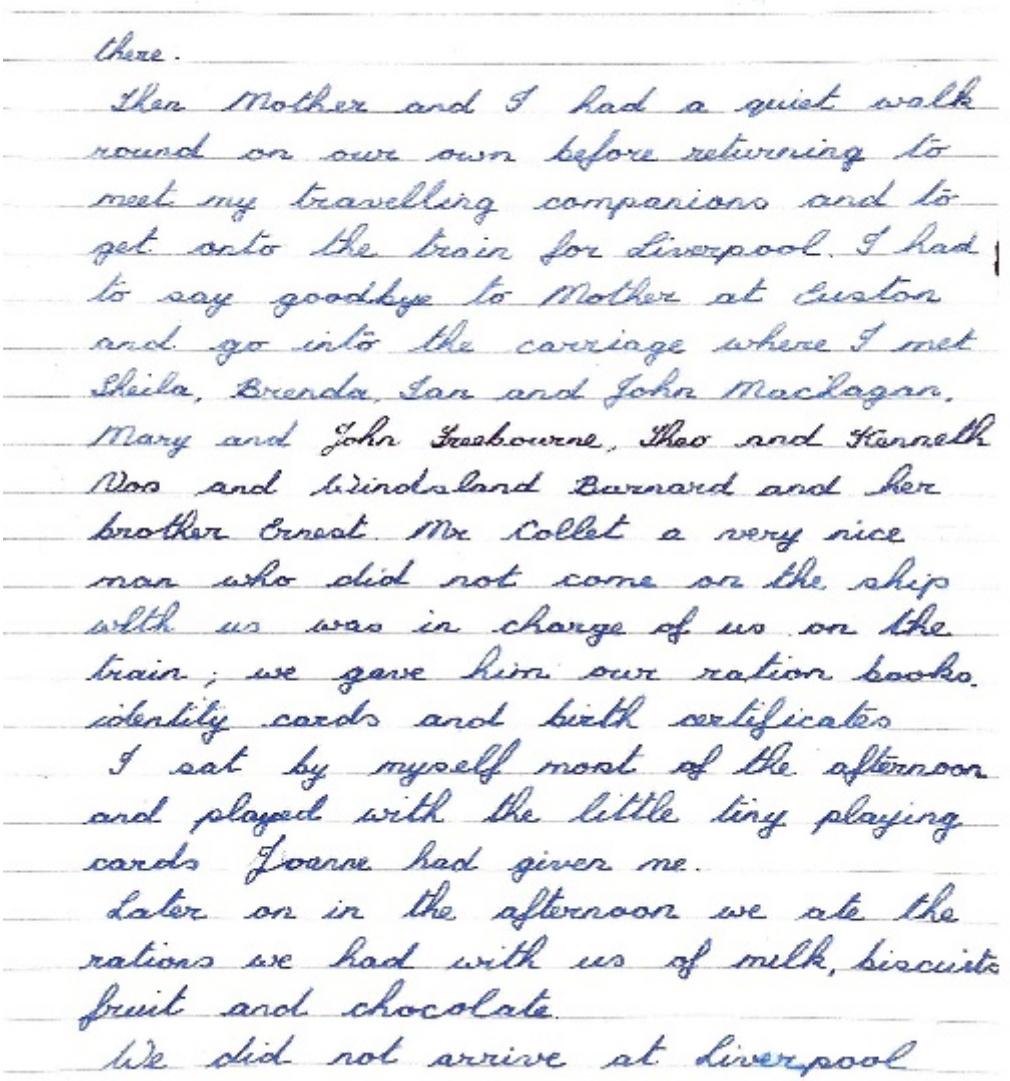
This short piece of music is my way of imagining what Gwyneth as a young girl of 11yrs might have felt as she embarked on such a long, exciting but ultimately lonely journey to the other side of the world.

Below is the full extract from the diary:

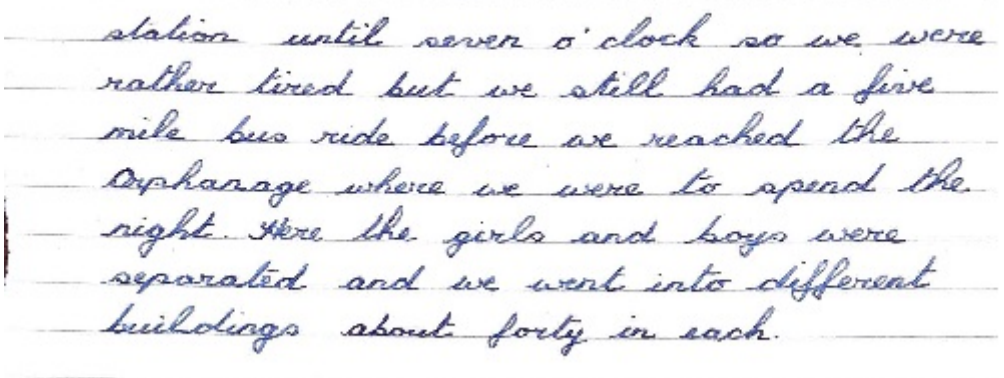


CHAPTER ONE

It was Wednesday, August 21st 1940.
The day I was to begin my long and exciting voyage to Australia.
Everybody was up early and I was not sure whether to be very excited or very sorry to be going away. All the goodbyes had been said and Joanne had permission to miss parade to take Mother and me to the station in Bury St. Edmunds. There we left Joanne as she had to get back to the barracks.
I had very little luggage so we could easily manage it. Only two cases a large and a small one and a toy dog.
We arrived at Euston Station in London at lunch time so we had something to eat at the restaurant



there.
Then Mother and I had a quiet walk round on our own before returning to meet my travelling companions and to get onto the train for Liverpool. I had to say goodbye to Mother at Euston and go into the carriage where I met Sheila, Brenda, Ian and John Maclagan, Mary and John Freebourne, Theo and Kenneth Ross and Windsland Barnard and her brother Ernest. Mr Collet a very nice man who did not come on the ship with us was in charge of us on the train; we gave him our ration books, identity cards and birth certificates.
I sat by myself most of the afternoon and played with the little tiny playing cards Joanne had given me.
Later on in the afternoon we ate the rations we had with us of milk, biscuits fruit and chocolate.
We did not arrive at Liverpool



station until seven o'clock so we were rather tired but we still had a five mile bus ride before we reached the Orphanage where we were to spend the night. Here the girls and boys were separated and we went into different buildings about forty in each.

Note to performers:

Performers are asked to select and read out diary excerpts at the pauses (some have been suggested in the score, but do not have to be followed). At each pause there should be an instrumentalist with a sustained note (on the pause) which is to be held whilst a quotation is read before the piece resumes.
It is up to the perfomers who reads, this can include all performers or just one.

Gwyneth

The beginning of a long voyage

Hayley Jenkins

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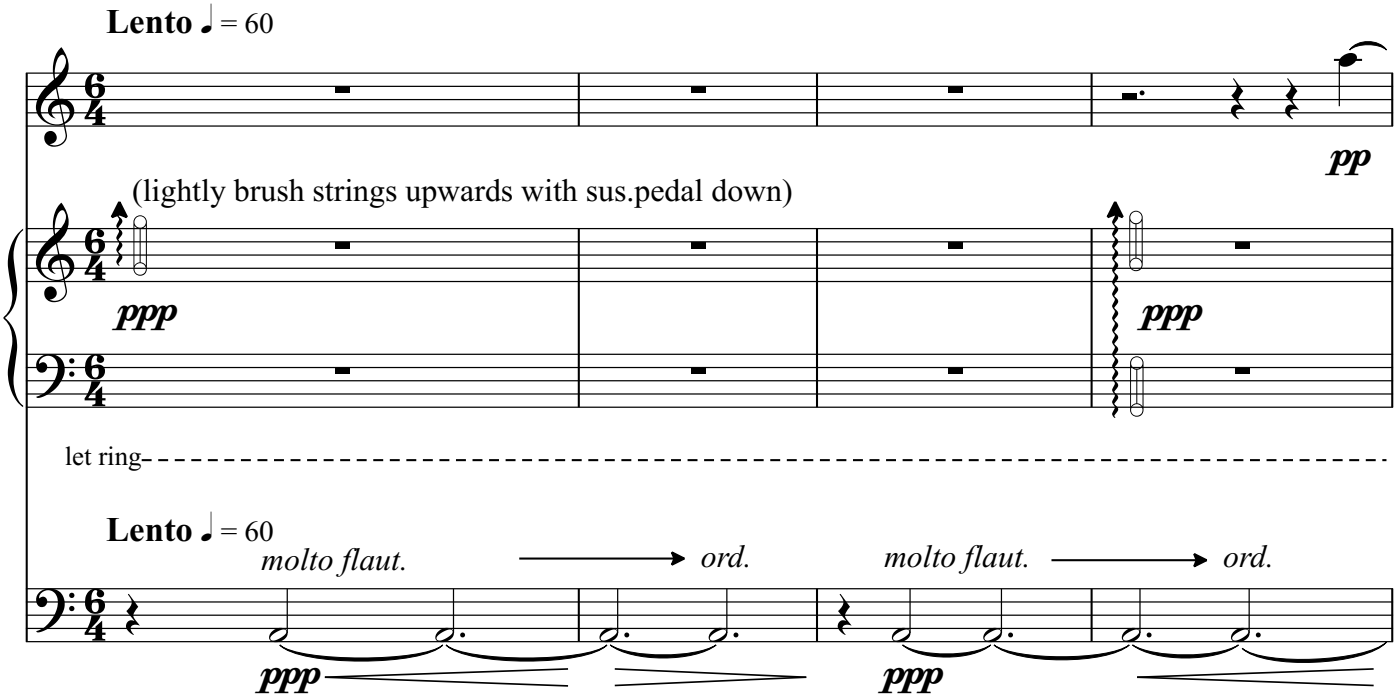

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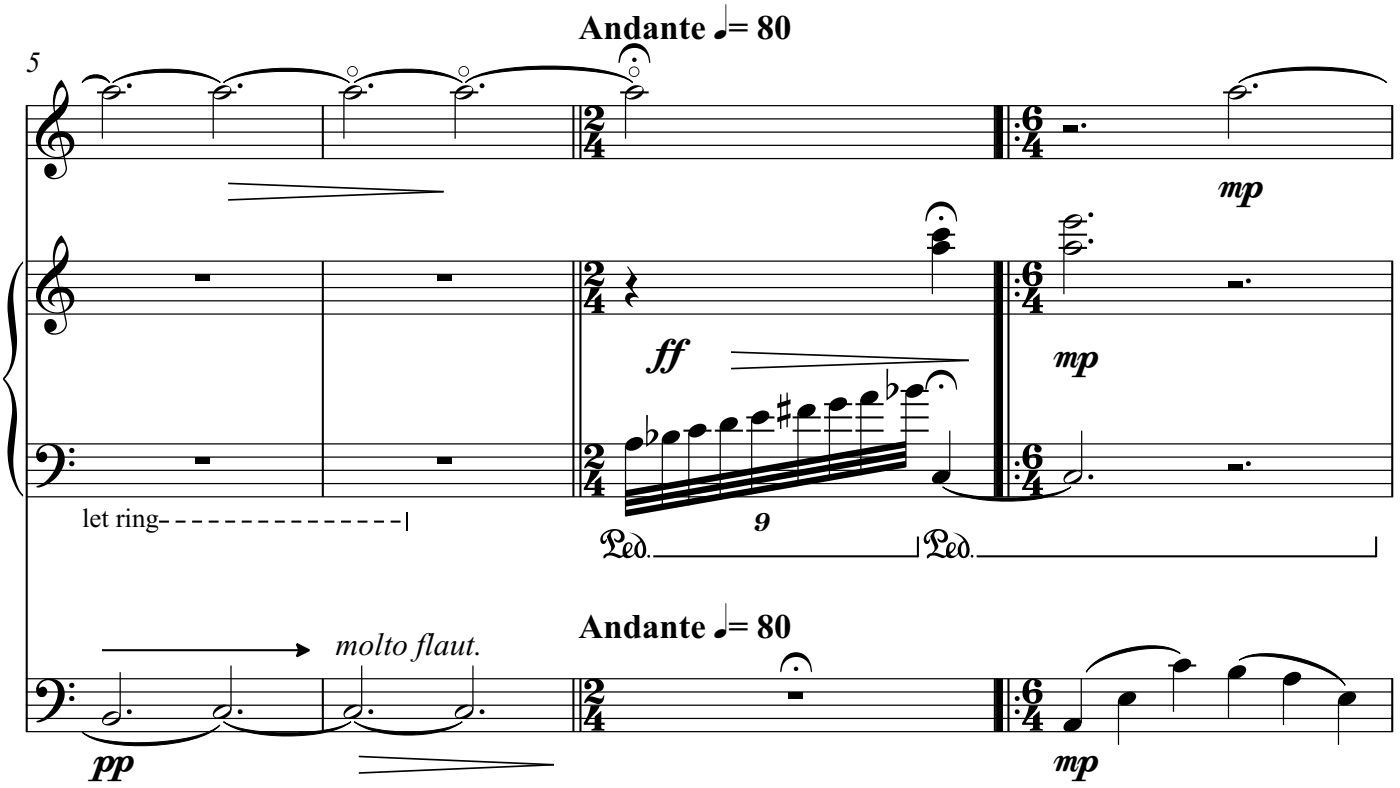

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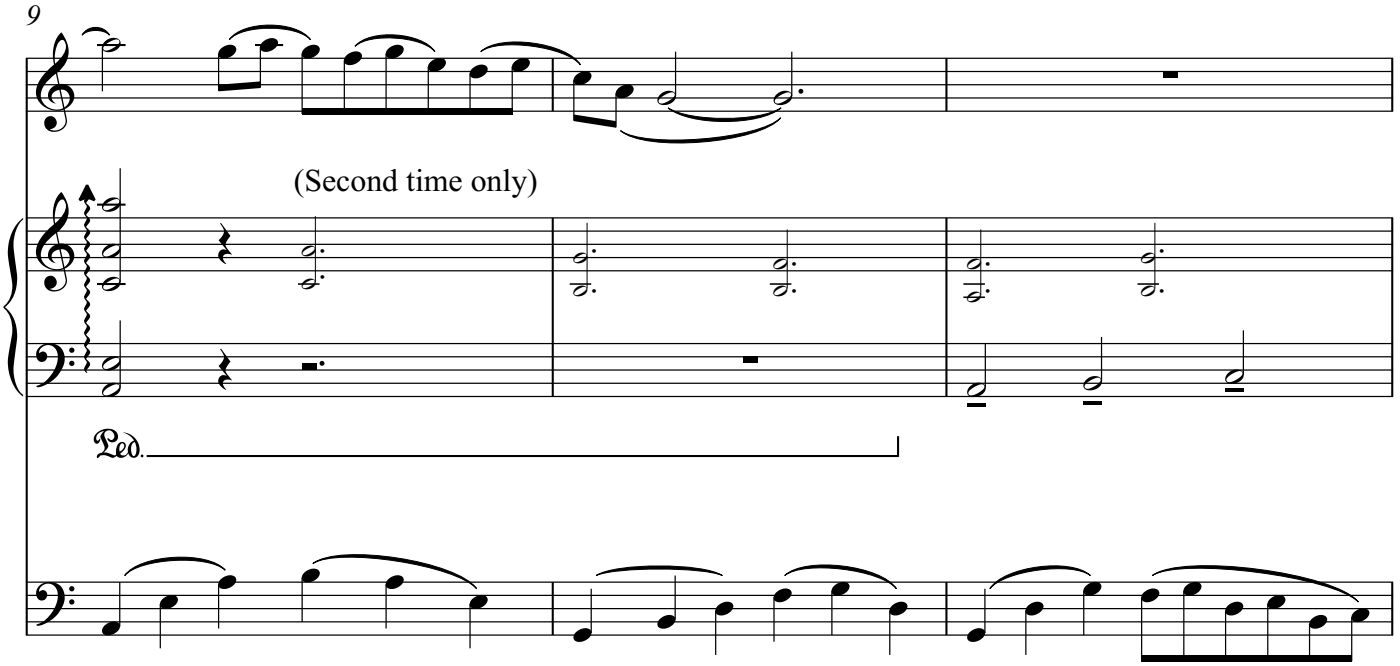

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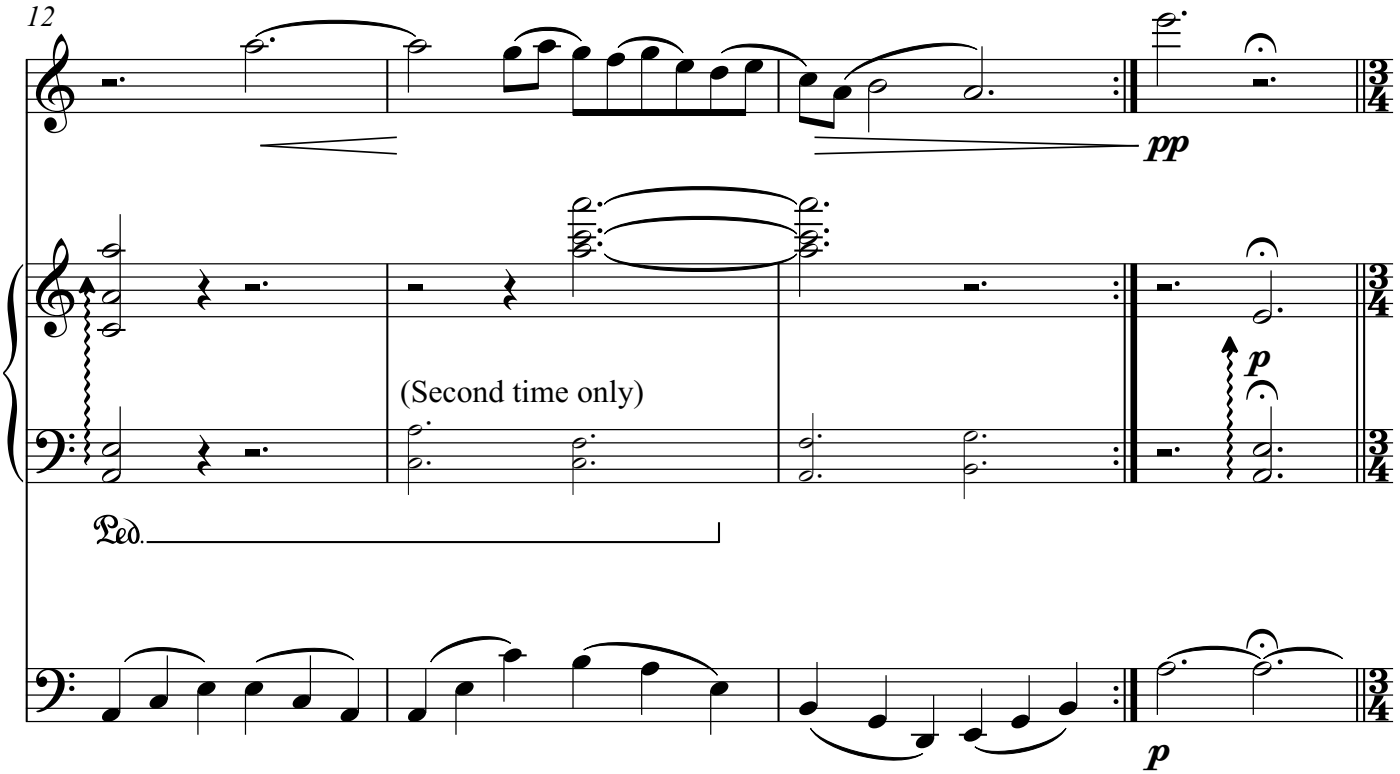

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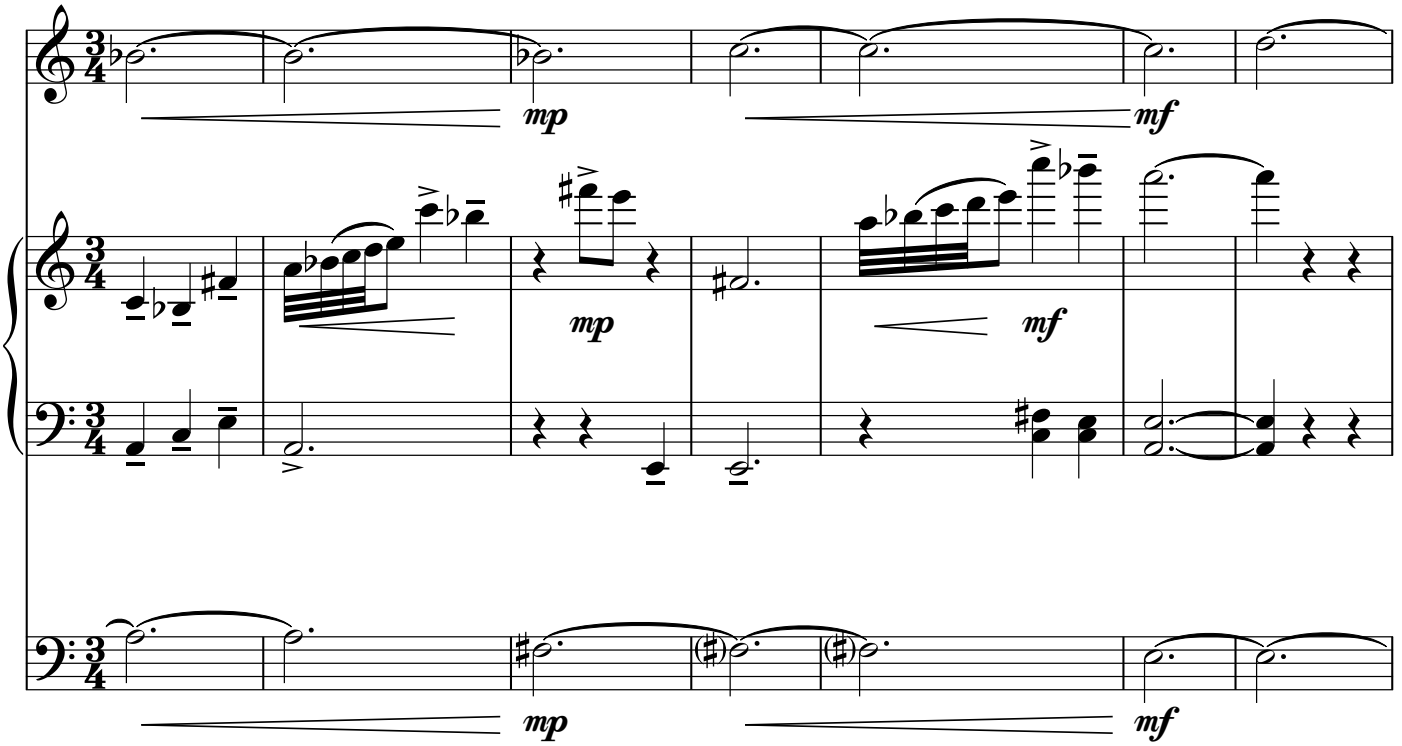
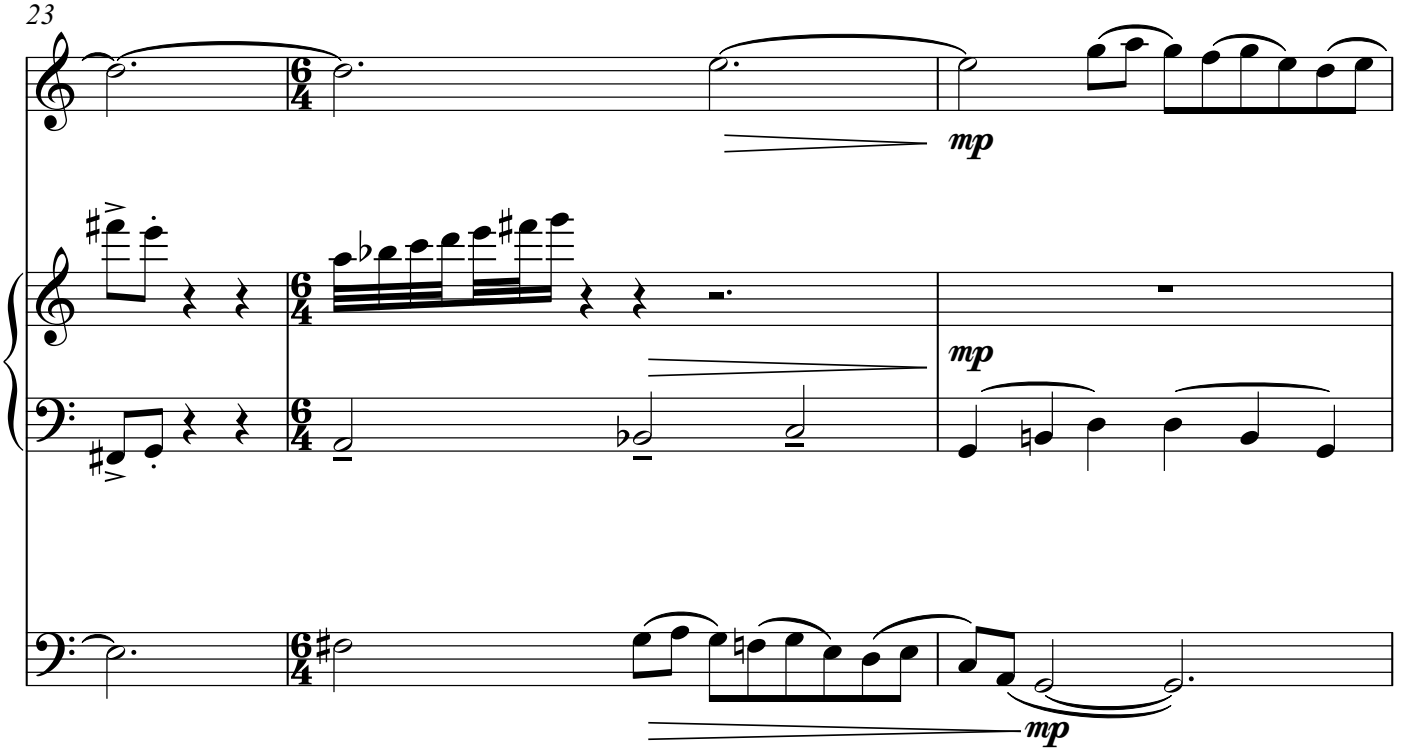


23



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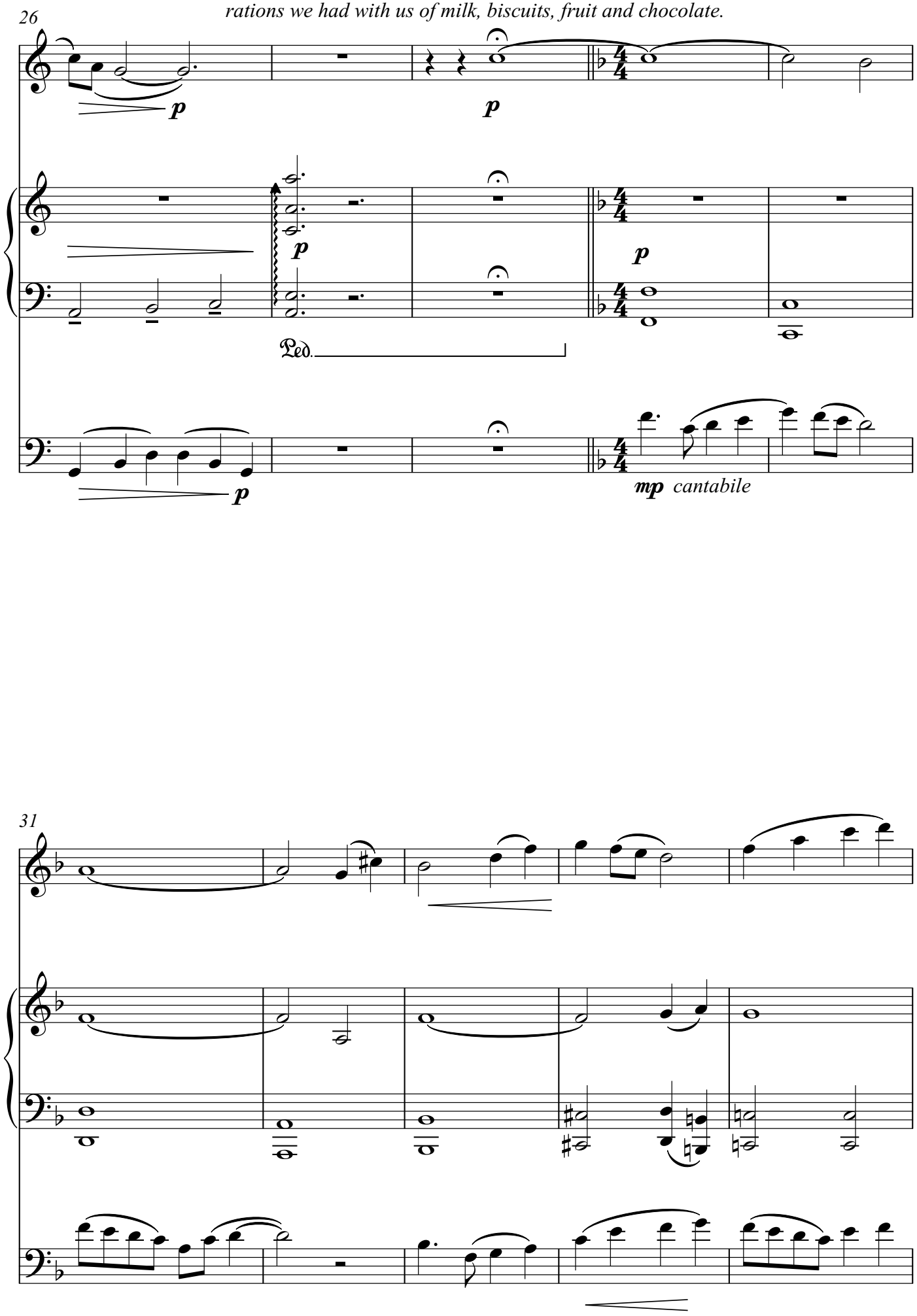
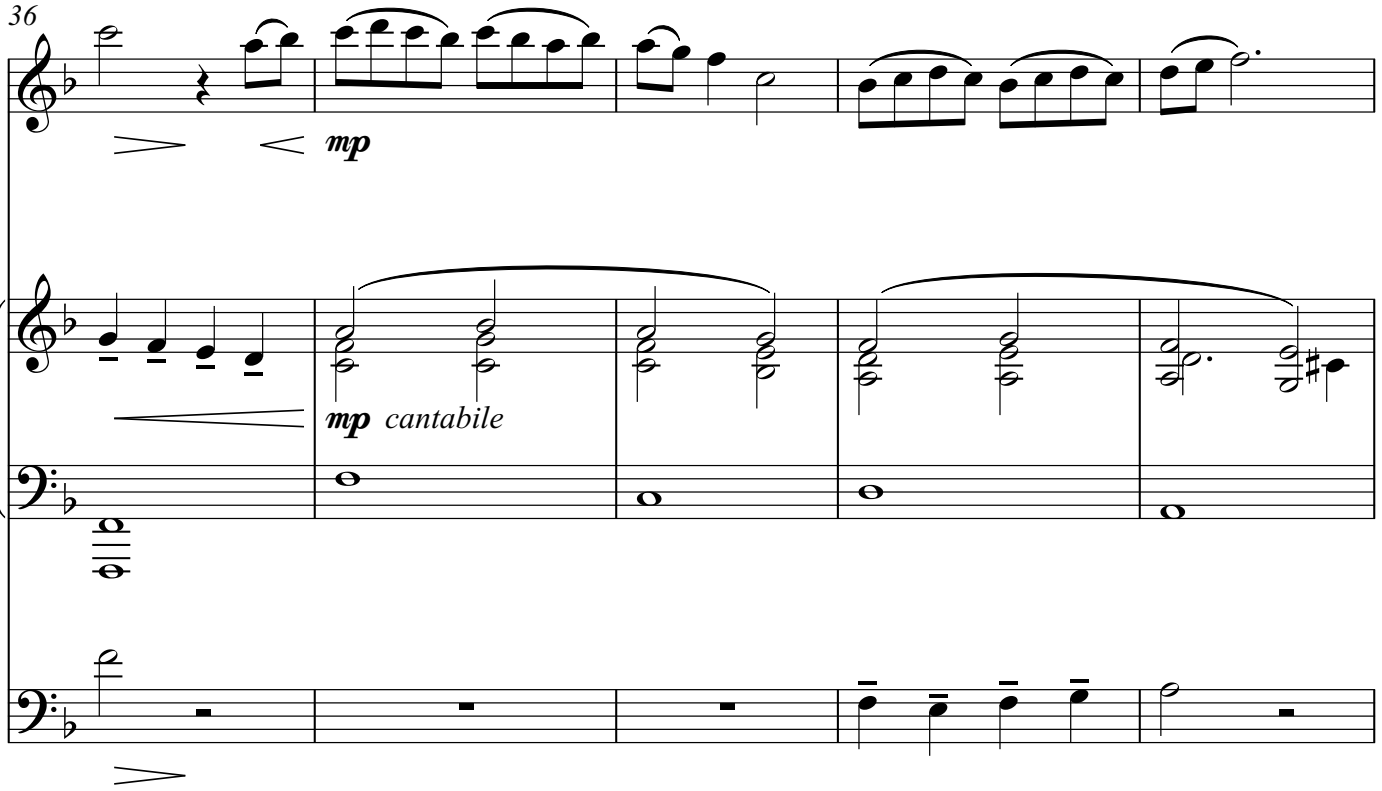
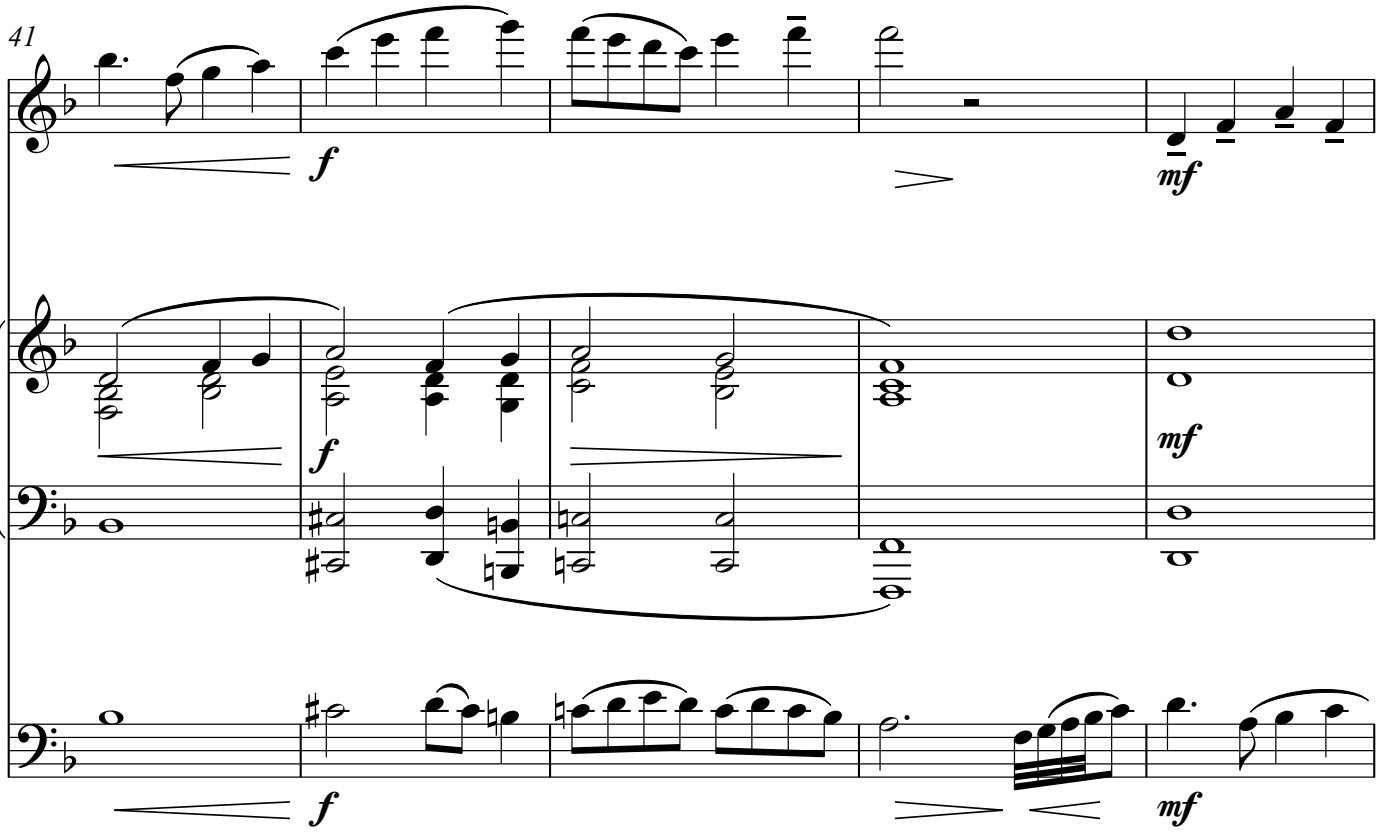



36
mp
mp cantabile


41
f
mf
f
mf
f
mf

46

mp

mp

mp

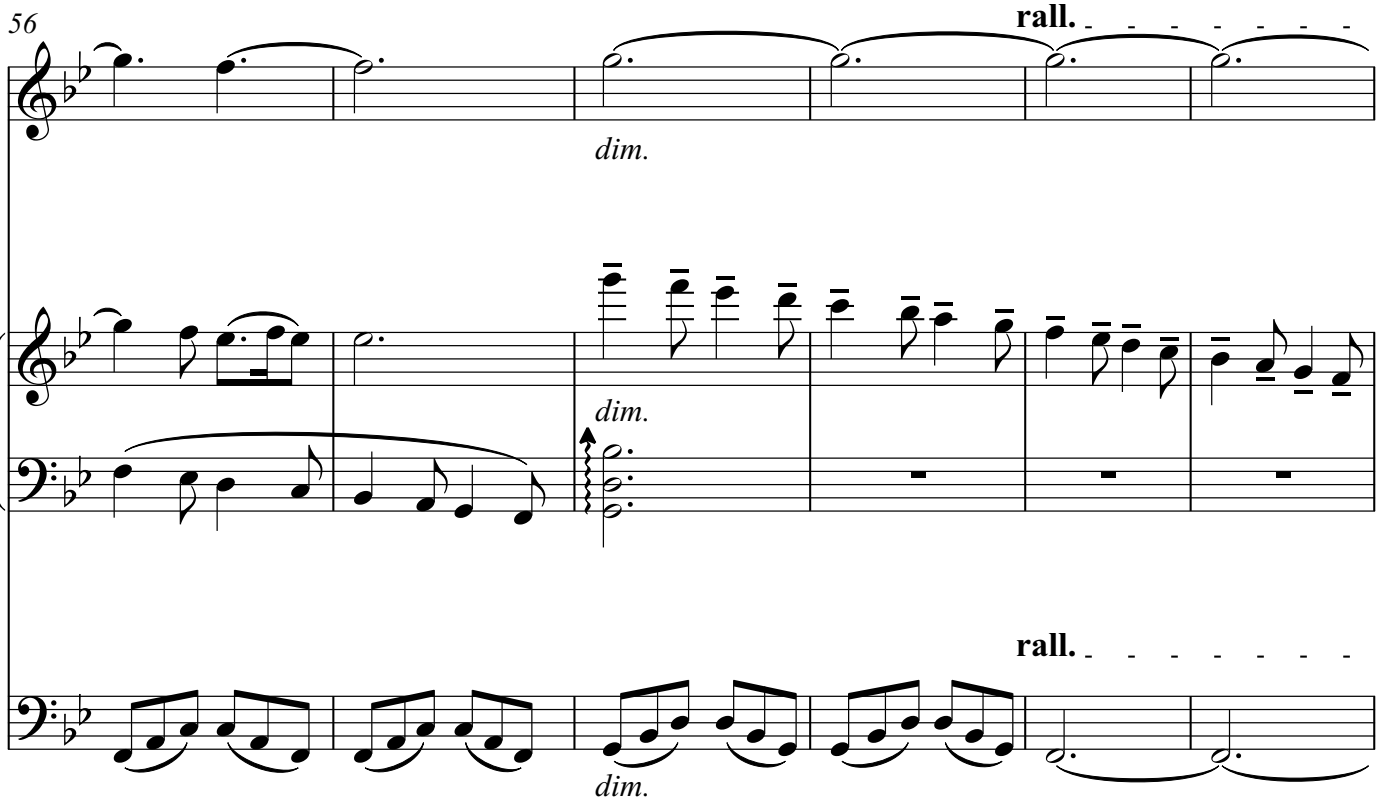
We were rather tired but we still had a five mile bus ride before we reached the orphanage were we were to spend the night.

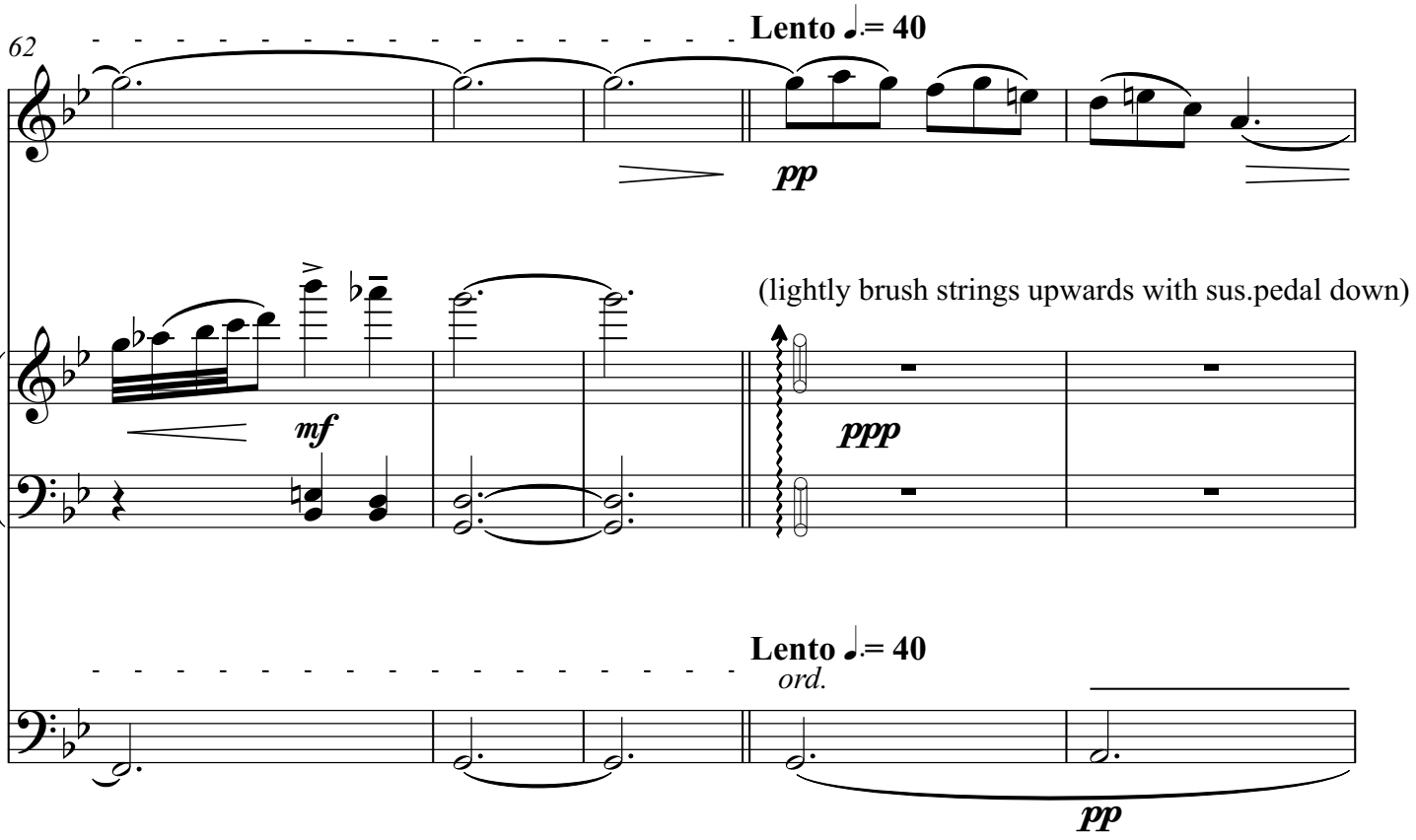
51

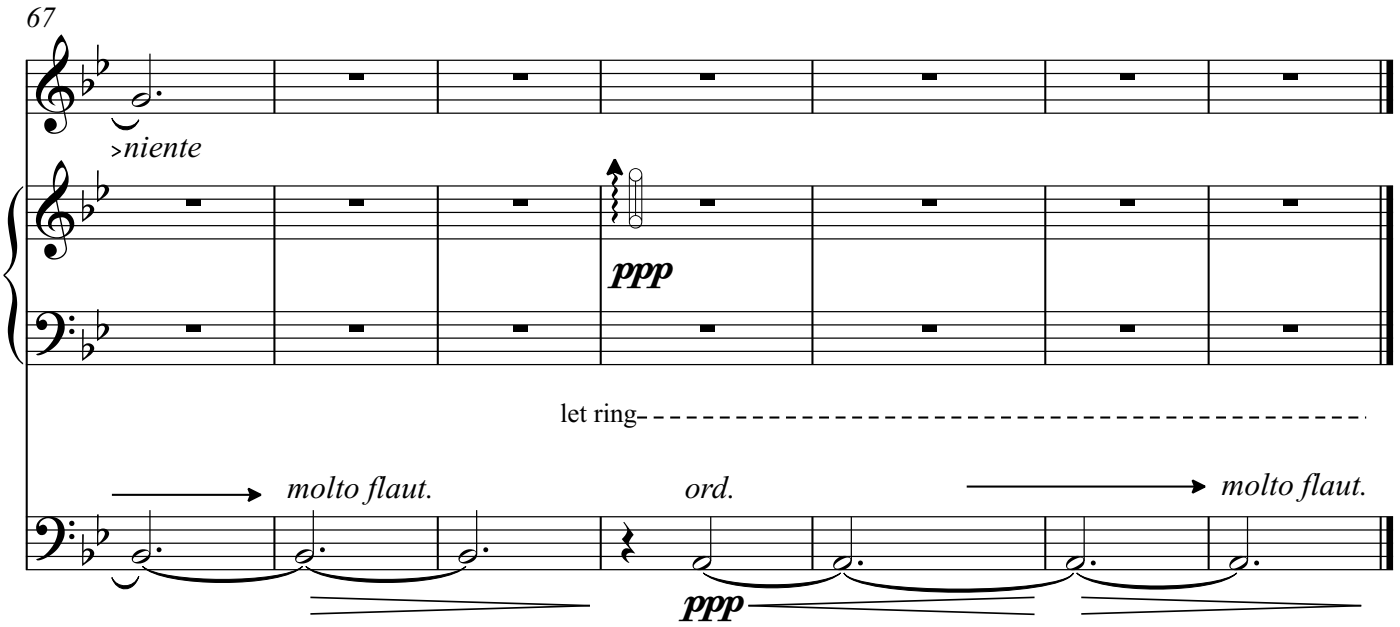
p

mf

p


56
rall.
dim.
dim.
rall.
dim.


62
Lento ♩.= 40
pp
(lightly brush strings upwards with sus.pedal down)
mf
ppp
Lento ♩.= 40
ord.
pp


67
>niente
ppp
let ring
molto flaut.
ord.
molto flaut.
ppp