The Woman Driven

A comic opera in one act by Seumas Gagne

Libretto by Seumas Gagne

Original premier November 1987

Third edition © June 2023

For soprano, mezzo-soprano, baritone, mixed chorus, violin I, violin II, and basso continuo

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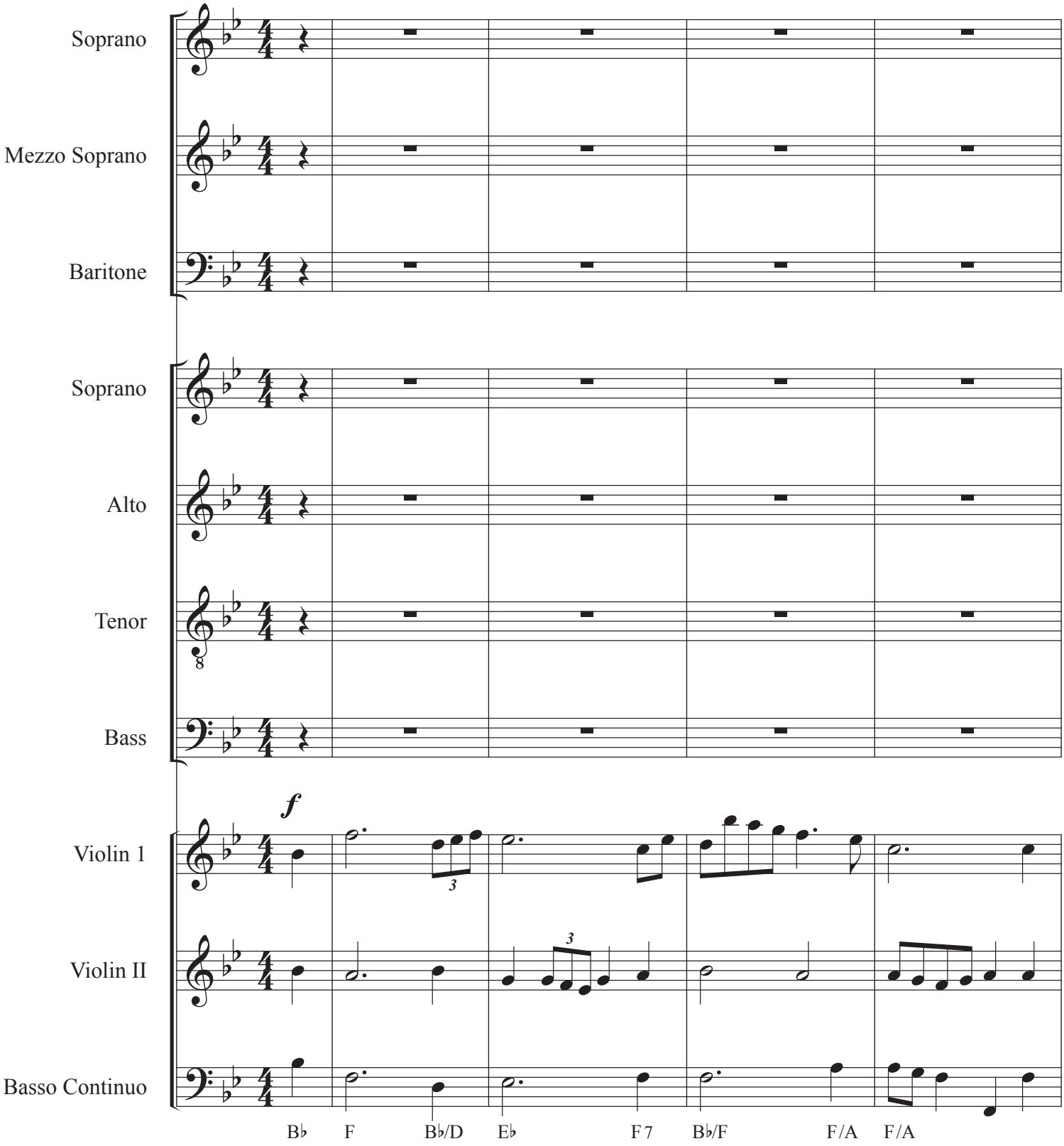
The Woman Driven

1. Overture

Allegro (♩ = ca. 126)

Seumas Gagne



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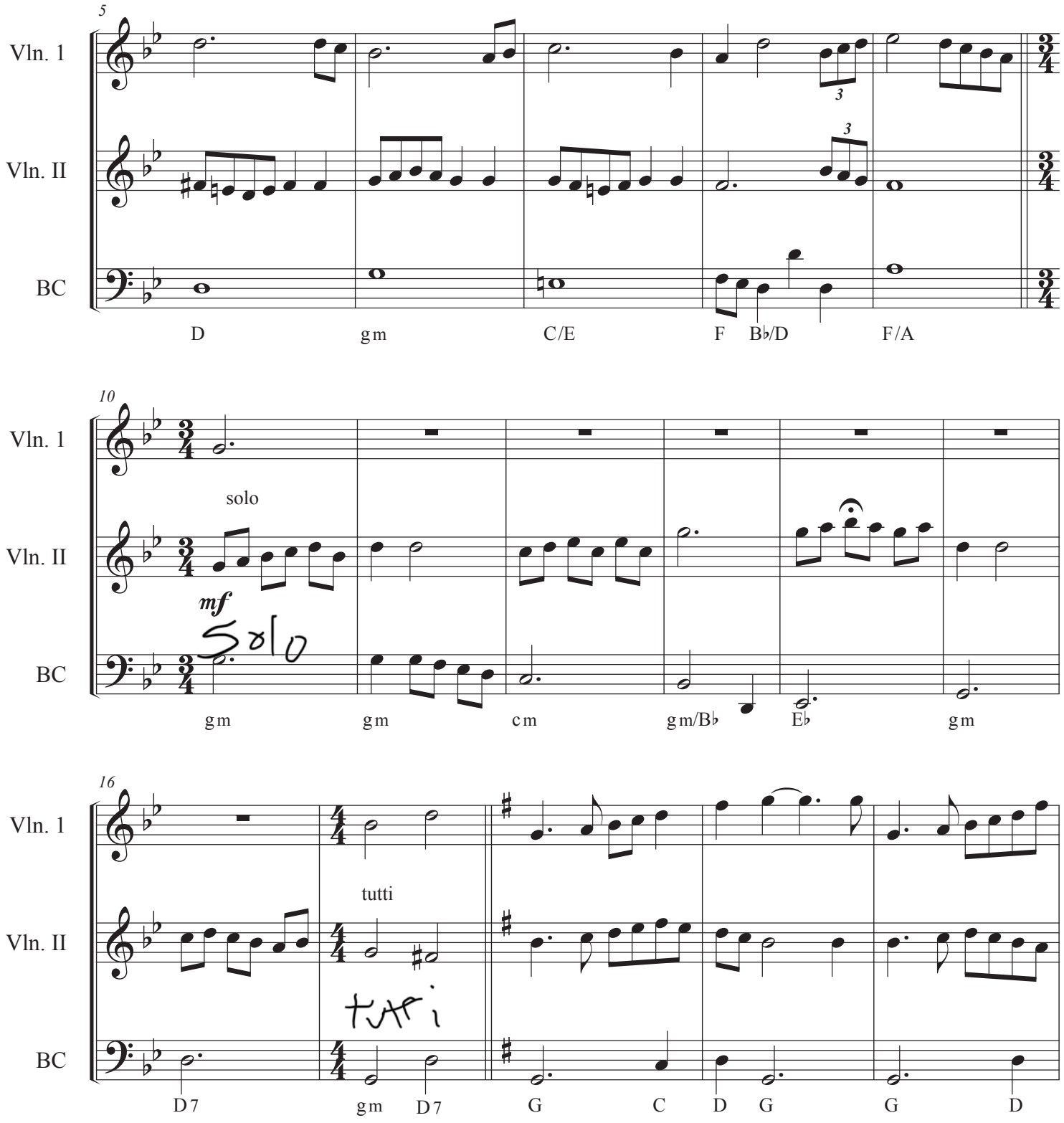
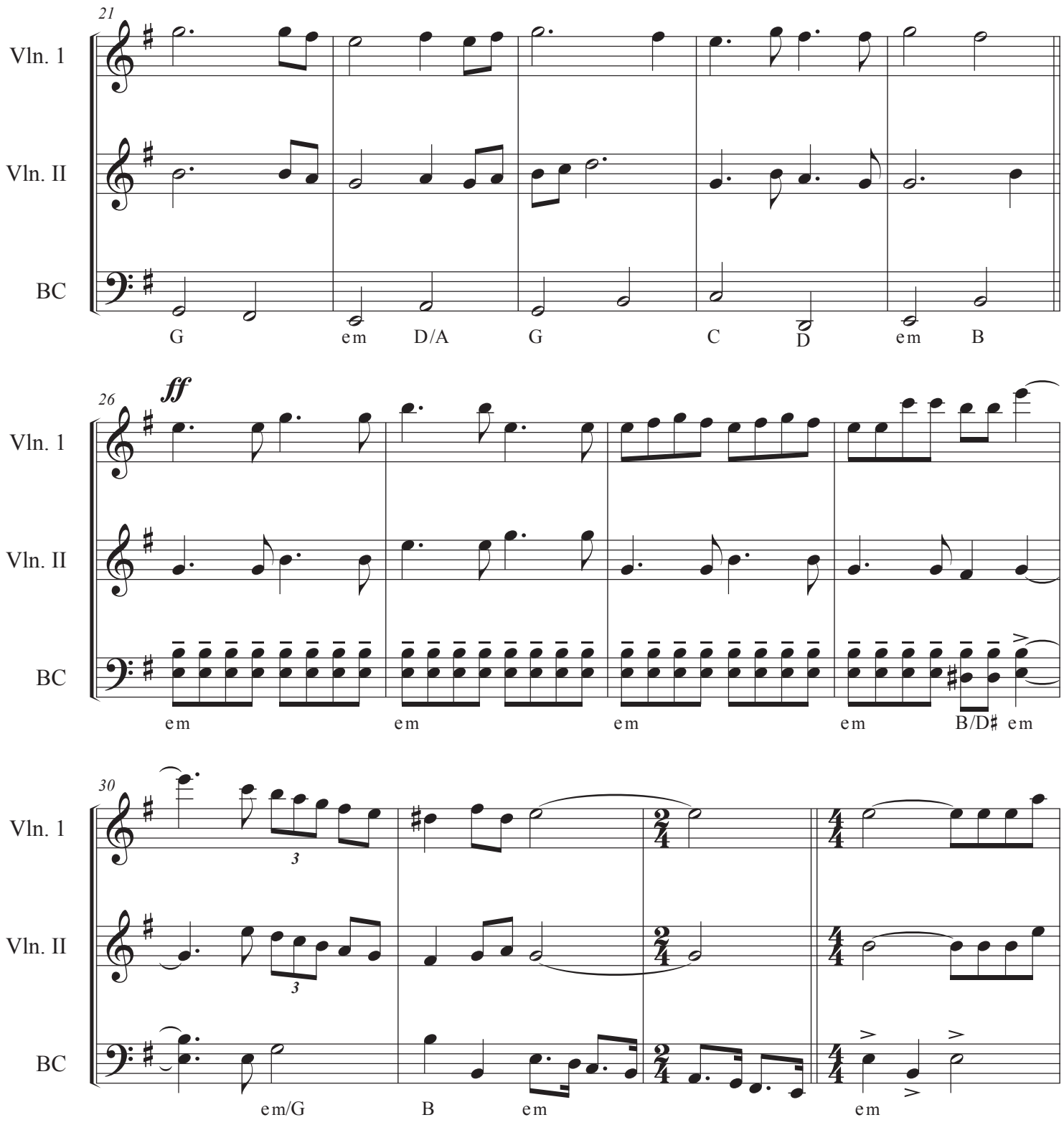
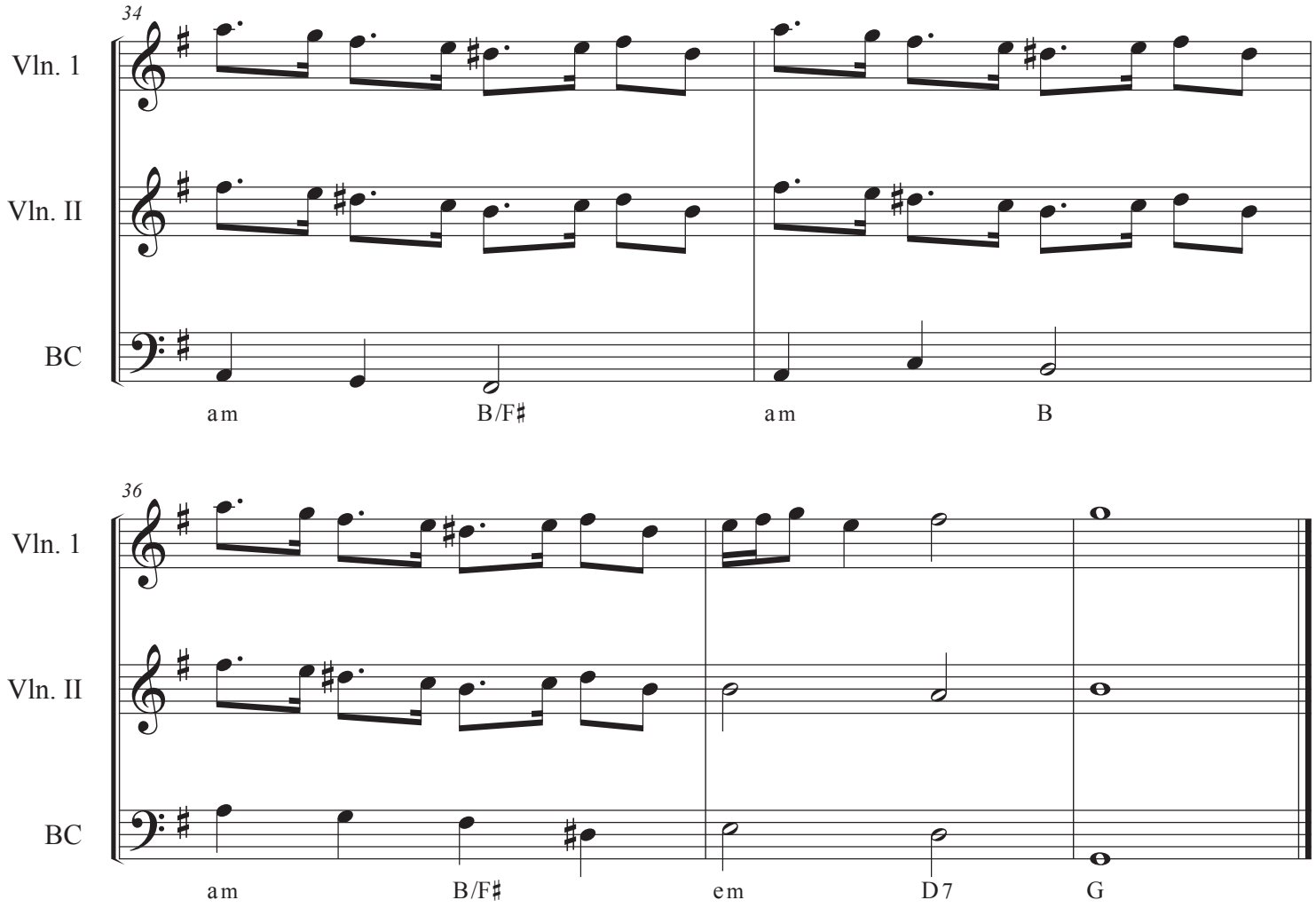

5
Vln. 1
Vln. II
BC
3
3
D
gm
C/E
F
B♭/D
F/A
10
Vln. 1
Vln. II
BC
solo
mf
Solo
gm
gm
cm
gm/B♭
E♭
gm
16
Vln. 1
Vln. II
BC
tutti
tutti
D7
gm
D7
G
C
D
G
G
D

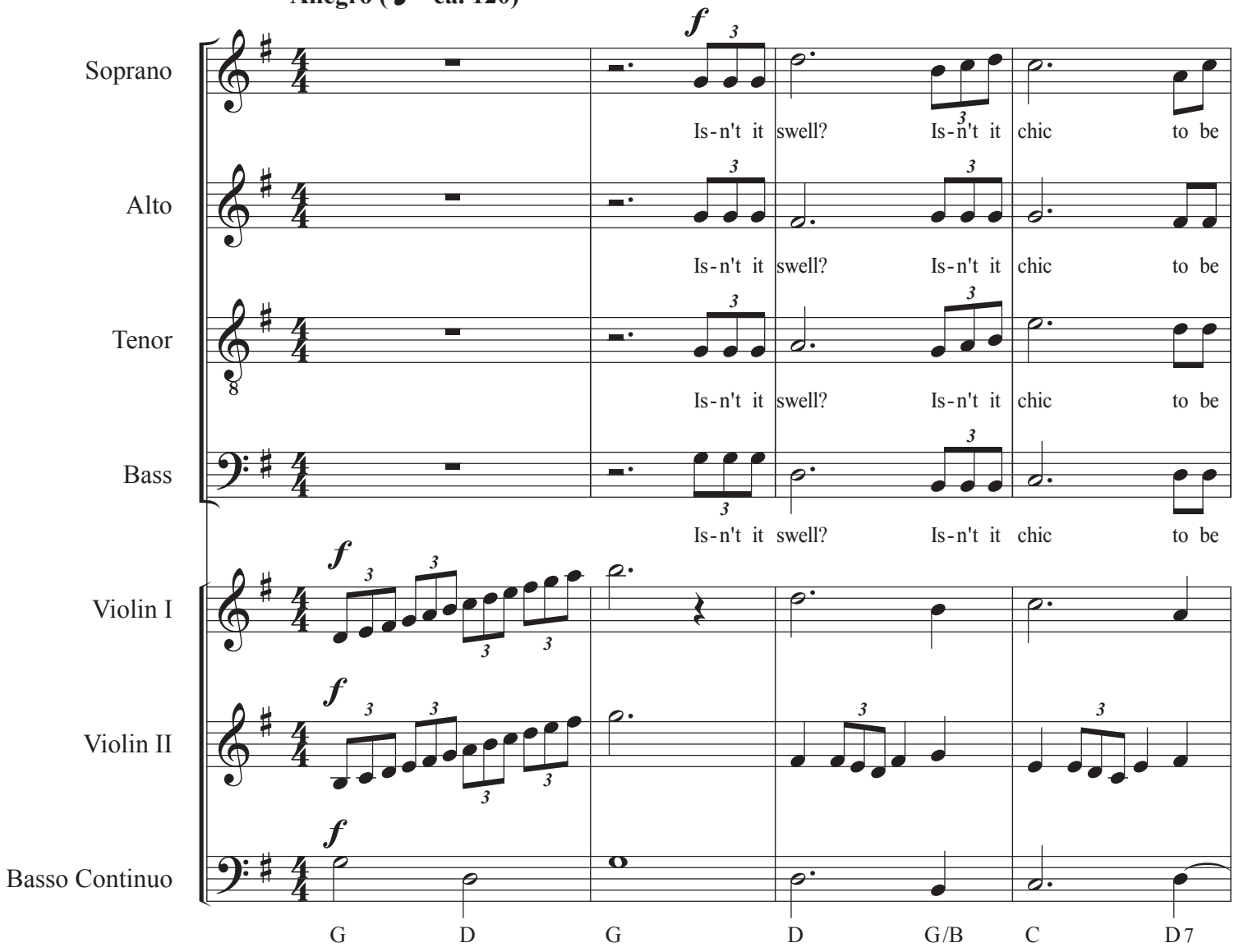

21
Vln. 1
Vln. II
BC
G
em
D/A
G
C
D
em
B
26
ff
Vln. 1
Vln. II
BC
em
em
em
em
B/D♯
em
30
Vln. 1
Vln. II
BC
3
3
em/G
B
em
em

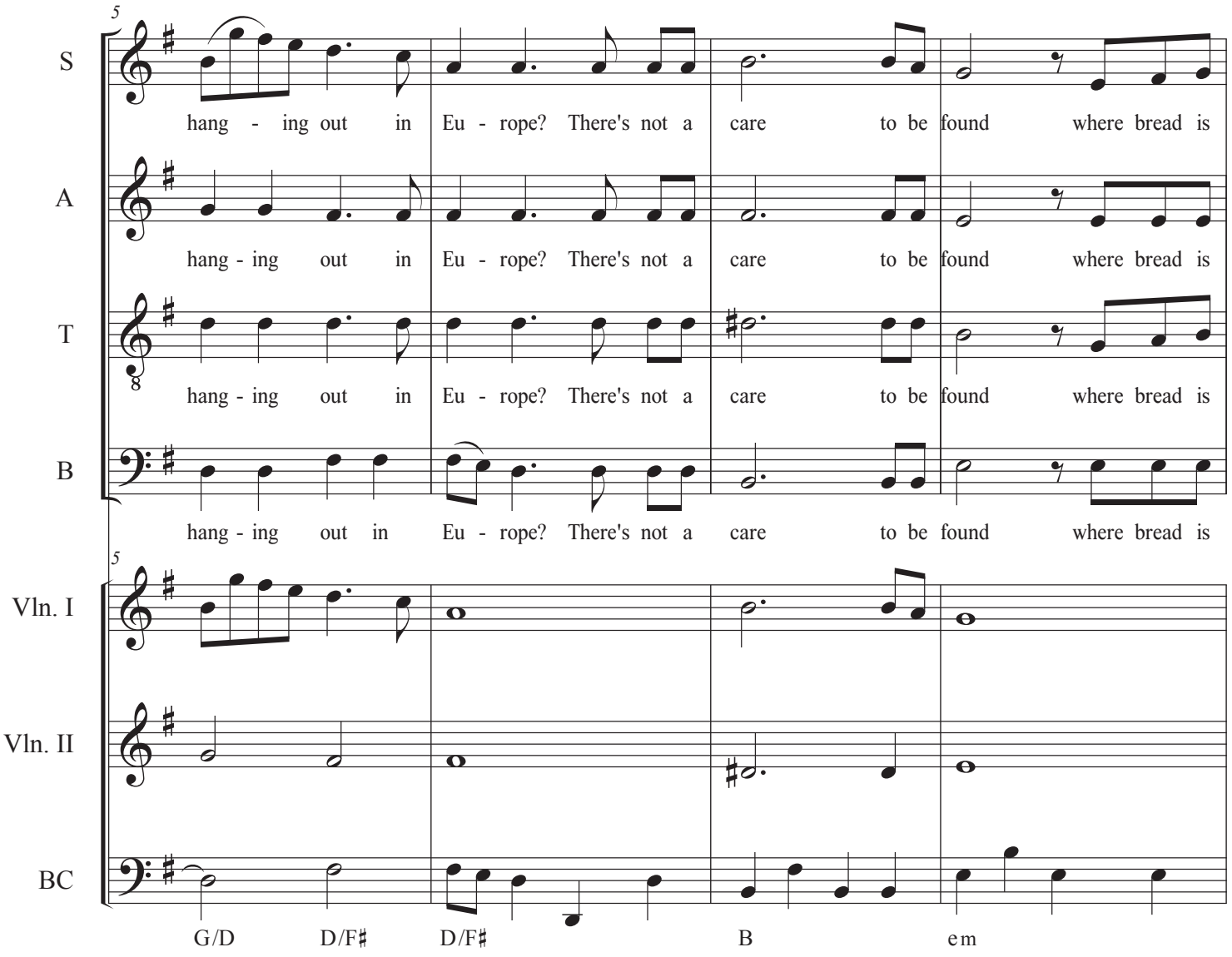

34
Vln. 1
Vln. II
BC
am
B/F♯
am
B
36
Vln. 1
Vln. II
BC
am
B/F♯
em
D7
G

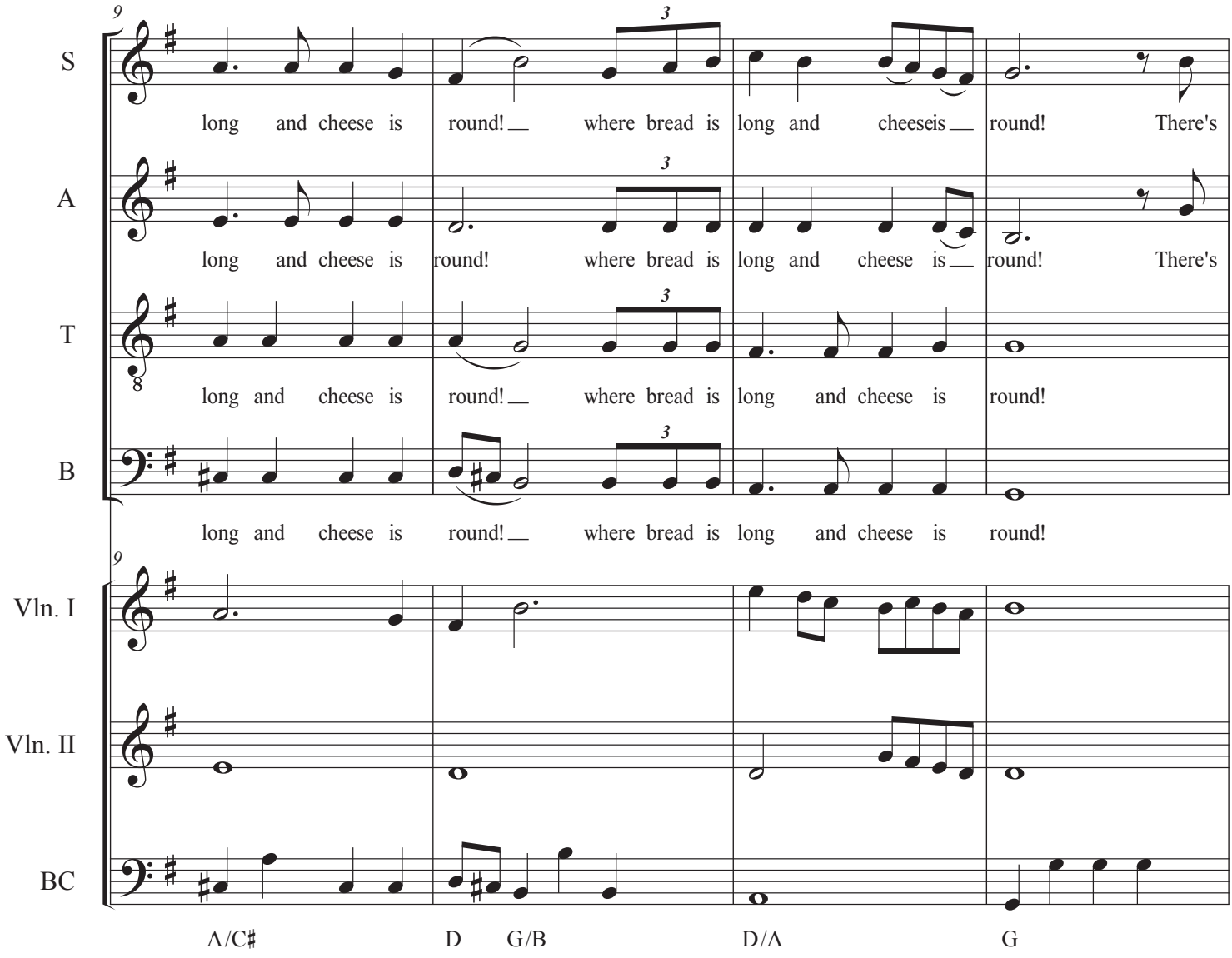
2. Chorus: Hanging Out in Europe

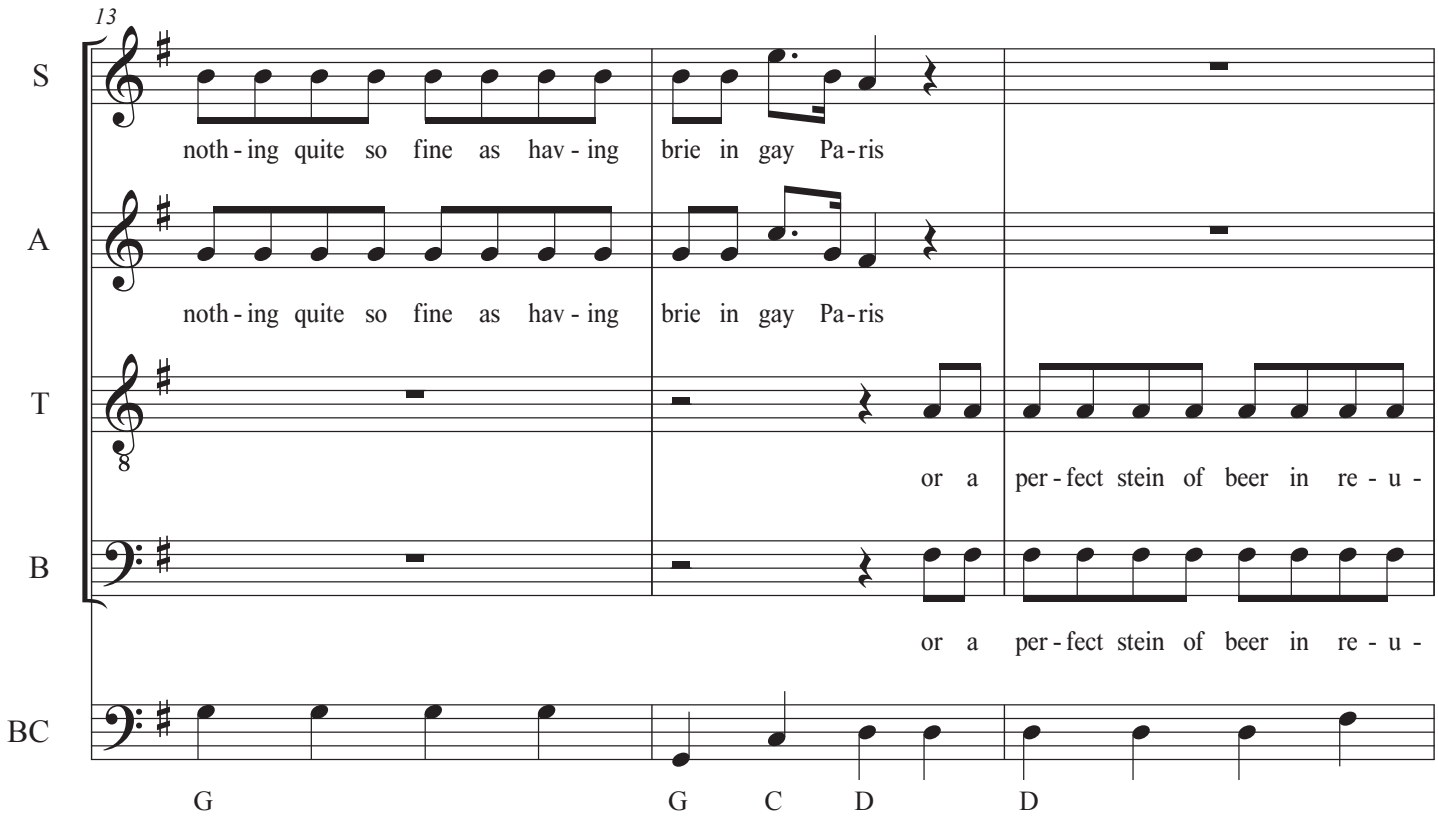
Enter Chorus

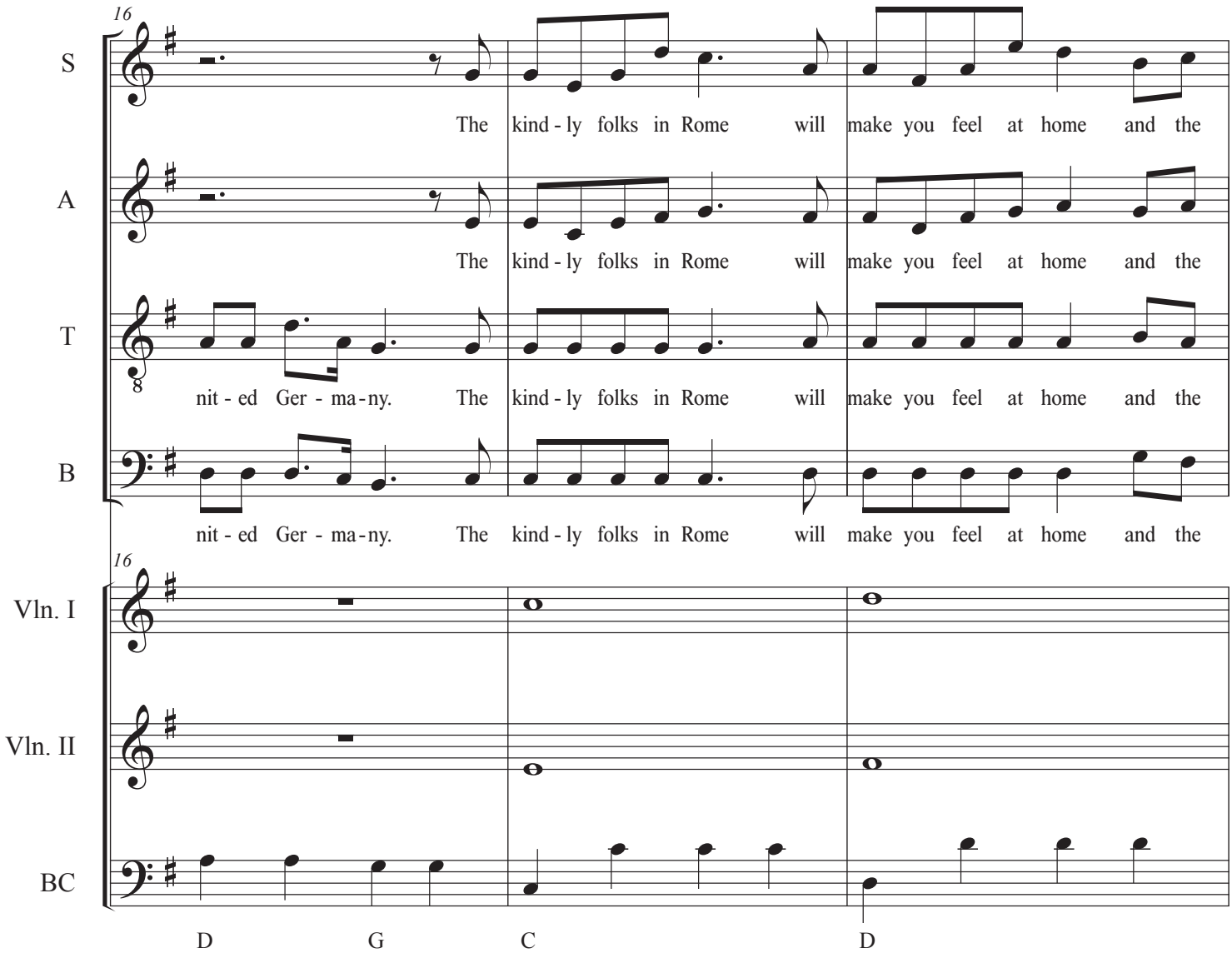
Allegro (♩ = ca. 120)

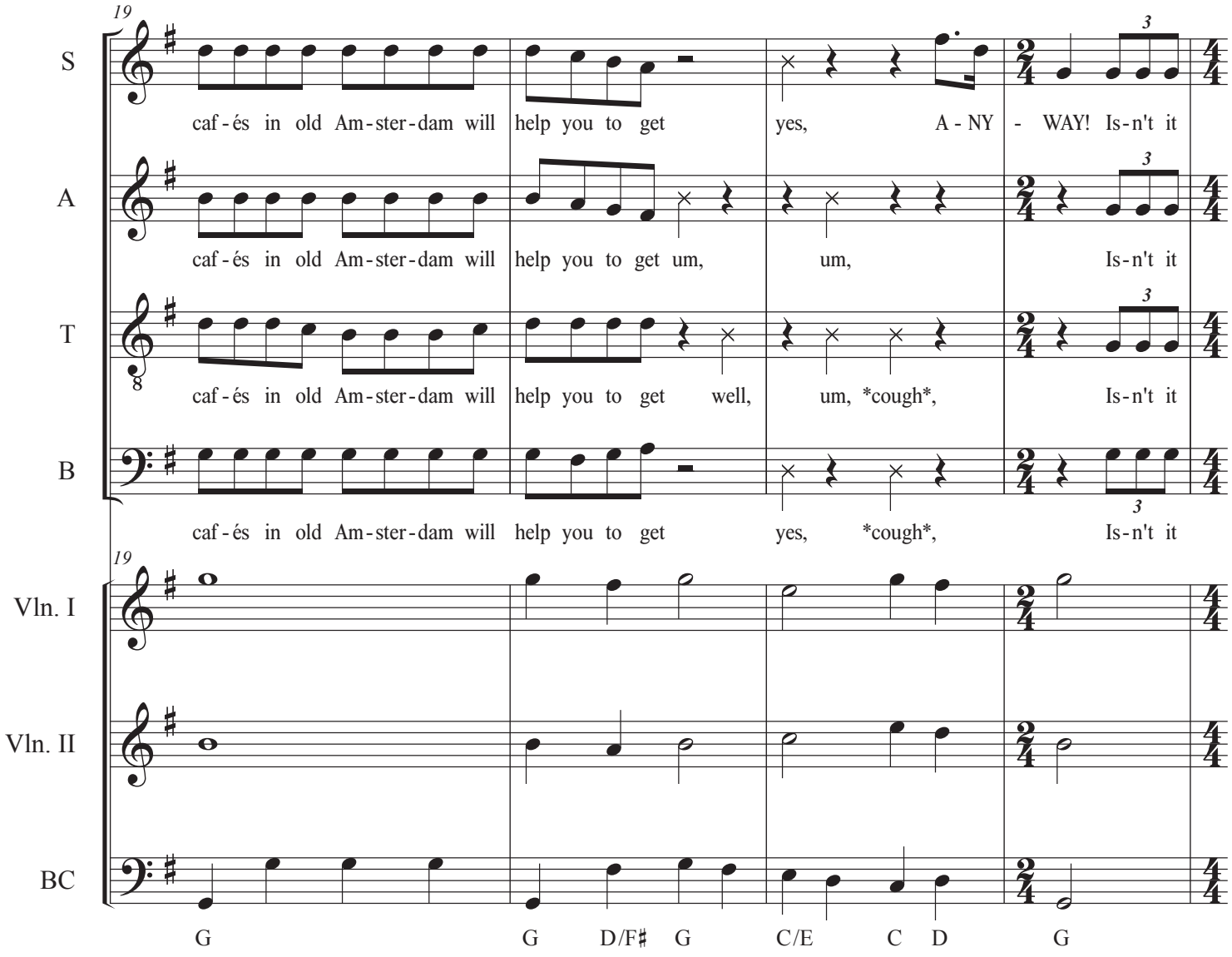


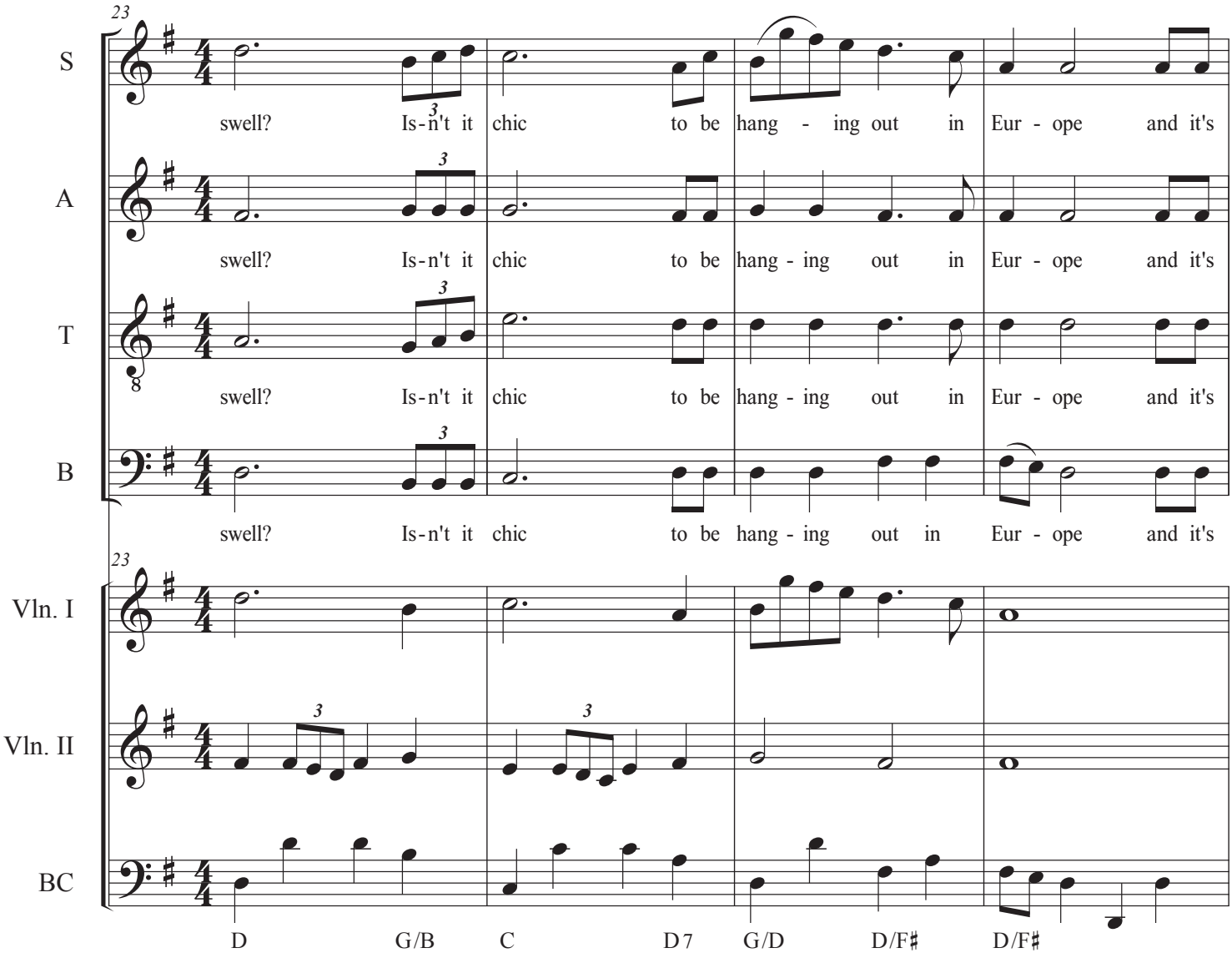

5
S
hang - ing out in Eu - rope? There's not a care to be found where bread is
A
hang - ing out in Eu - rope? There's not a care to be found where bread is
T
hang - ing out in Eu - rope? There's not a care to be found where bread is
B
hang - ing out in Eu - rope? There's not a care to be found where bread is
5
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
G/D D/F♯ D/F♯ B em

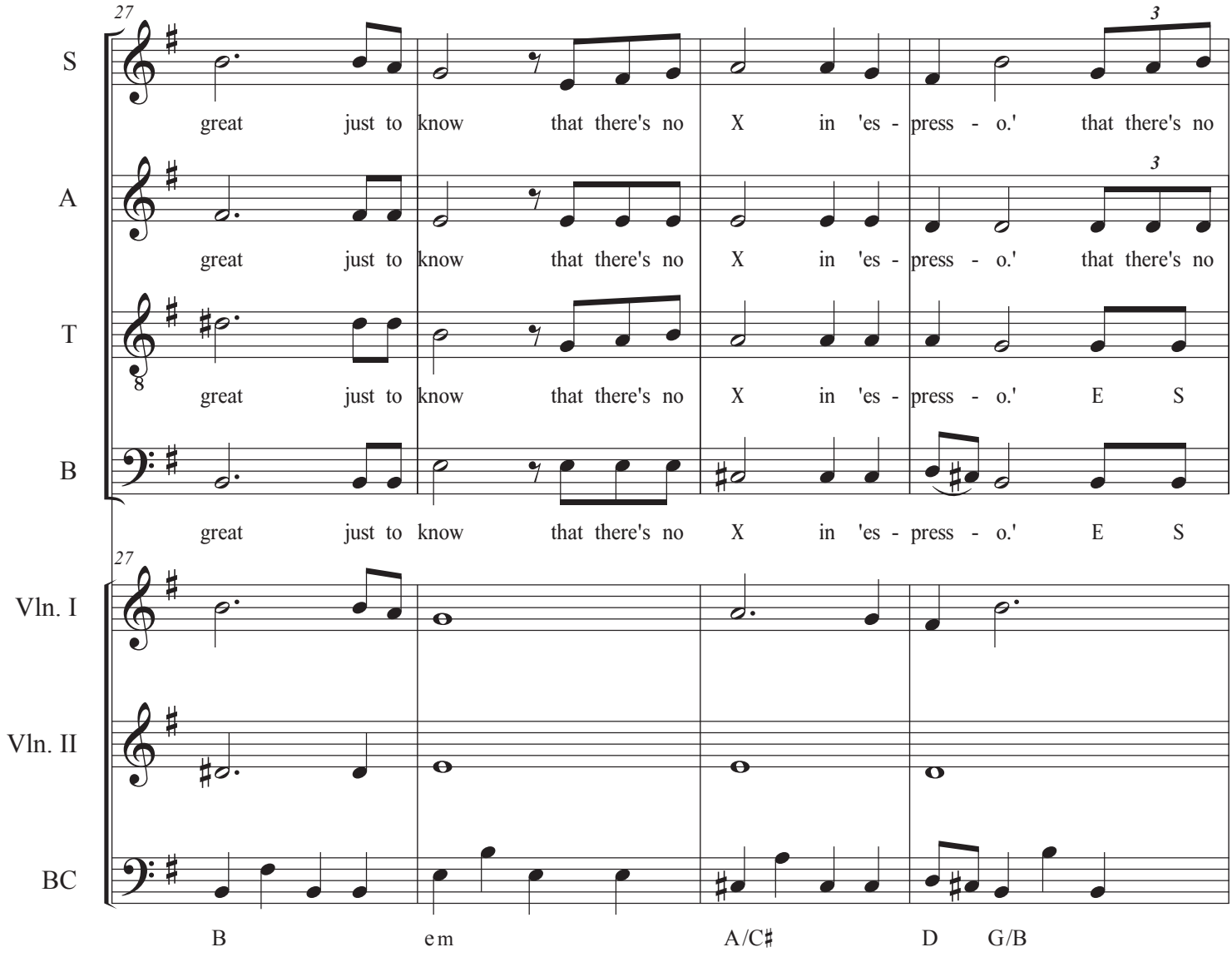

9
S
long and cheese is round! where bread is long and cheeseis round! There's
A
long and cheese is round! where bread is long and cheese is round! There's
T
long and cheese is round! where bread is long and cheese is round!
B
long and cheese is round! where bread is long and cheese is round!
9
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
A/C♯ D G/B D/A G

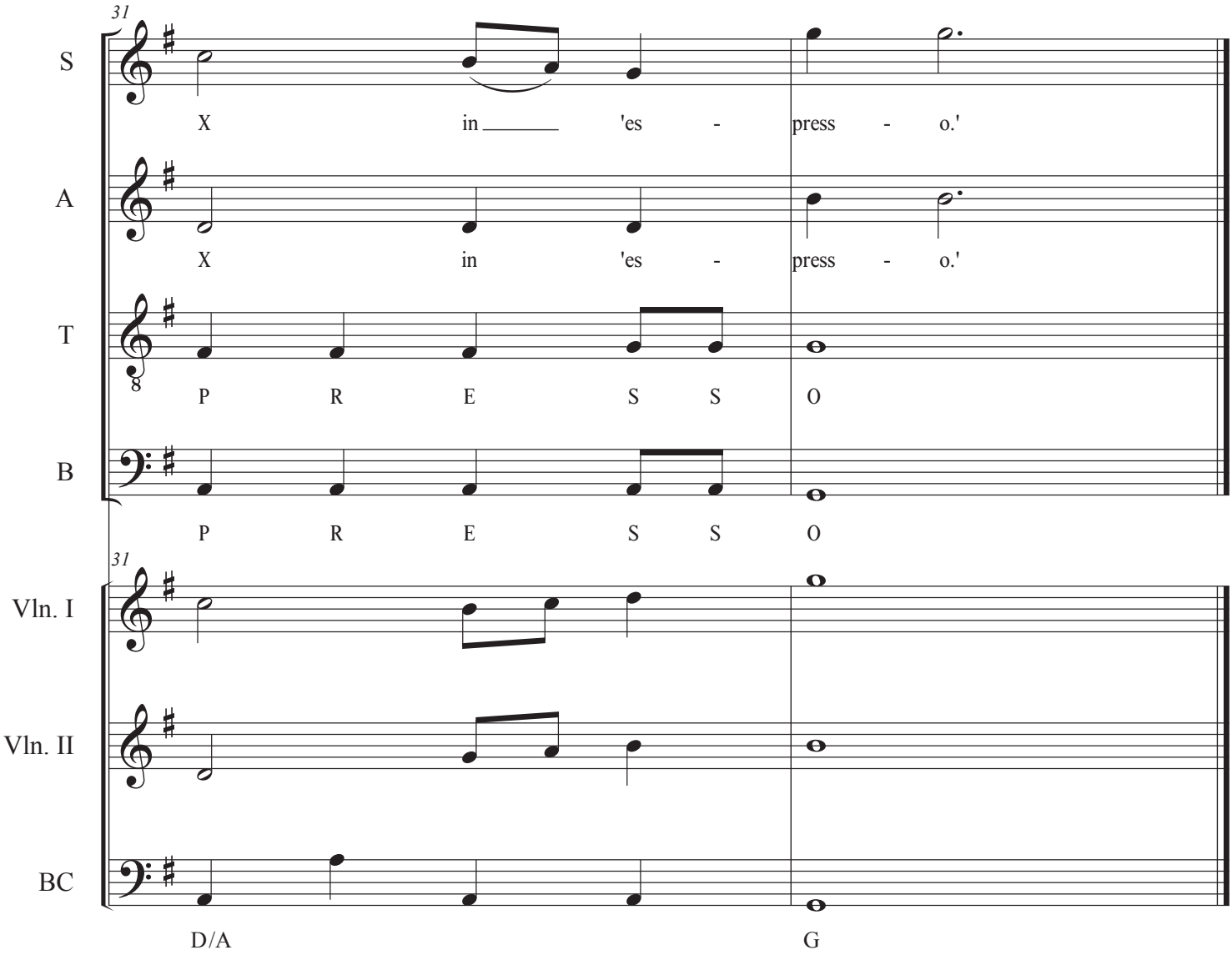

13
S
noth - ing quite so fine as hav - ing brie in gay Pa - ris
A
noth - ing quite so fine as hav - ing brie in gay Pa - ris
T
or a per - fect stein of beer in re - u -
B
or a per - fect stein of beer in re - u -
BC
G G C D D


16
S
The kind - ly folks in Rome will make you feel at home and the
A
The kind - ly folks in Rome will make you feel at home and the
T
nit - ed Ger - ma - ny. The kind - ly folks in Rome will make you feel at home and the
B
nit - ed Ger - ma - ny. The kind - ly folks in Rome will make you feel at home and the
16
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
D G C D

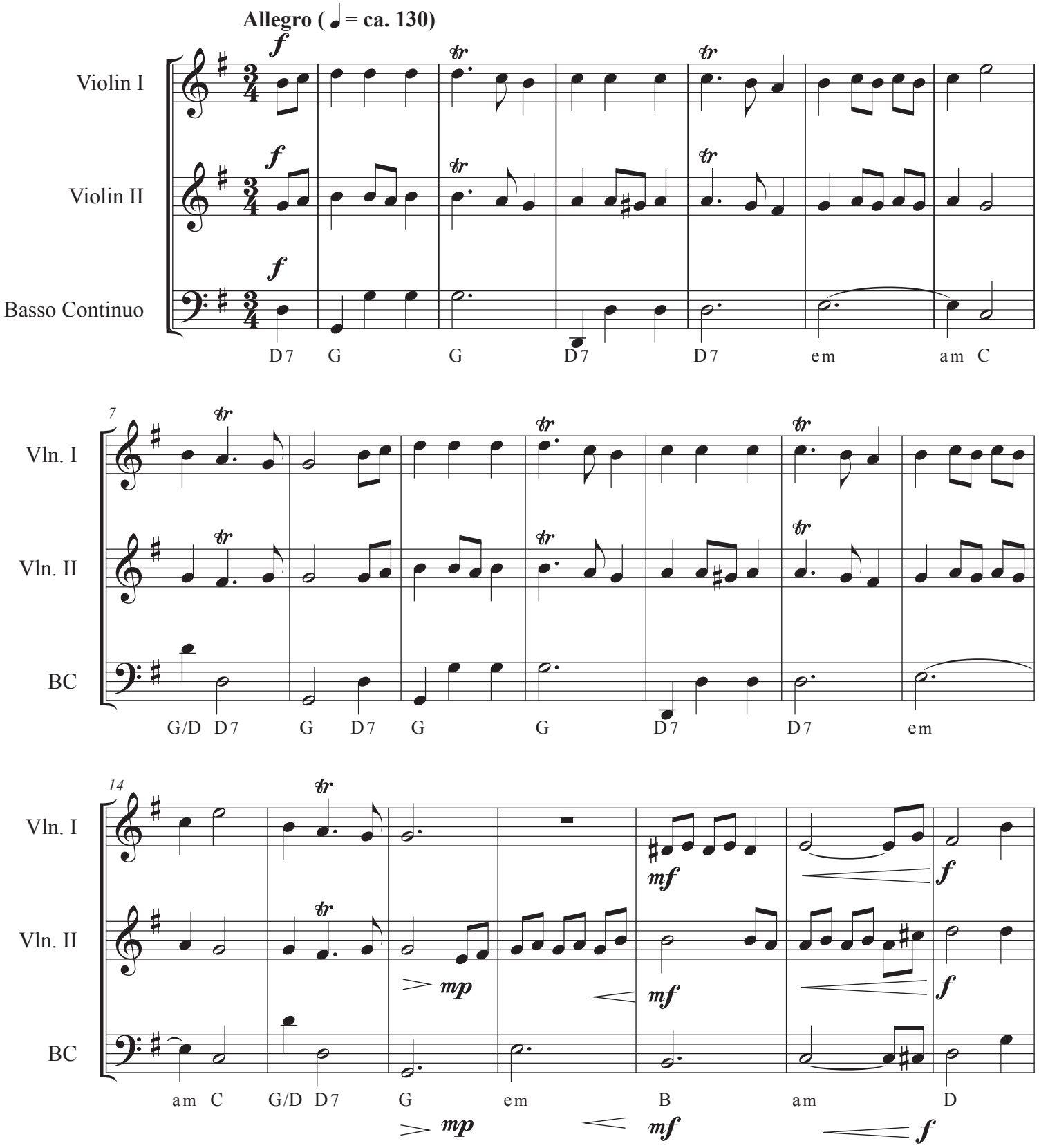

19
S
caf - és in old Am - ster - dam will help you to get yes, A - NY - WAY! Is - n't it
A
caf - és in old Am - ster - dam will help you to get um, um, Is - n't it
T
caf - és in old Am - ster - dam will help you to get well, um, *cough*, Is - n't it
B
caf - és in old Am - ster - dam will help you to get yes, *cough*, Is - n't it
19
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
G G D/F♯ G C/E C D G

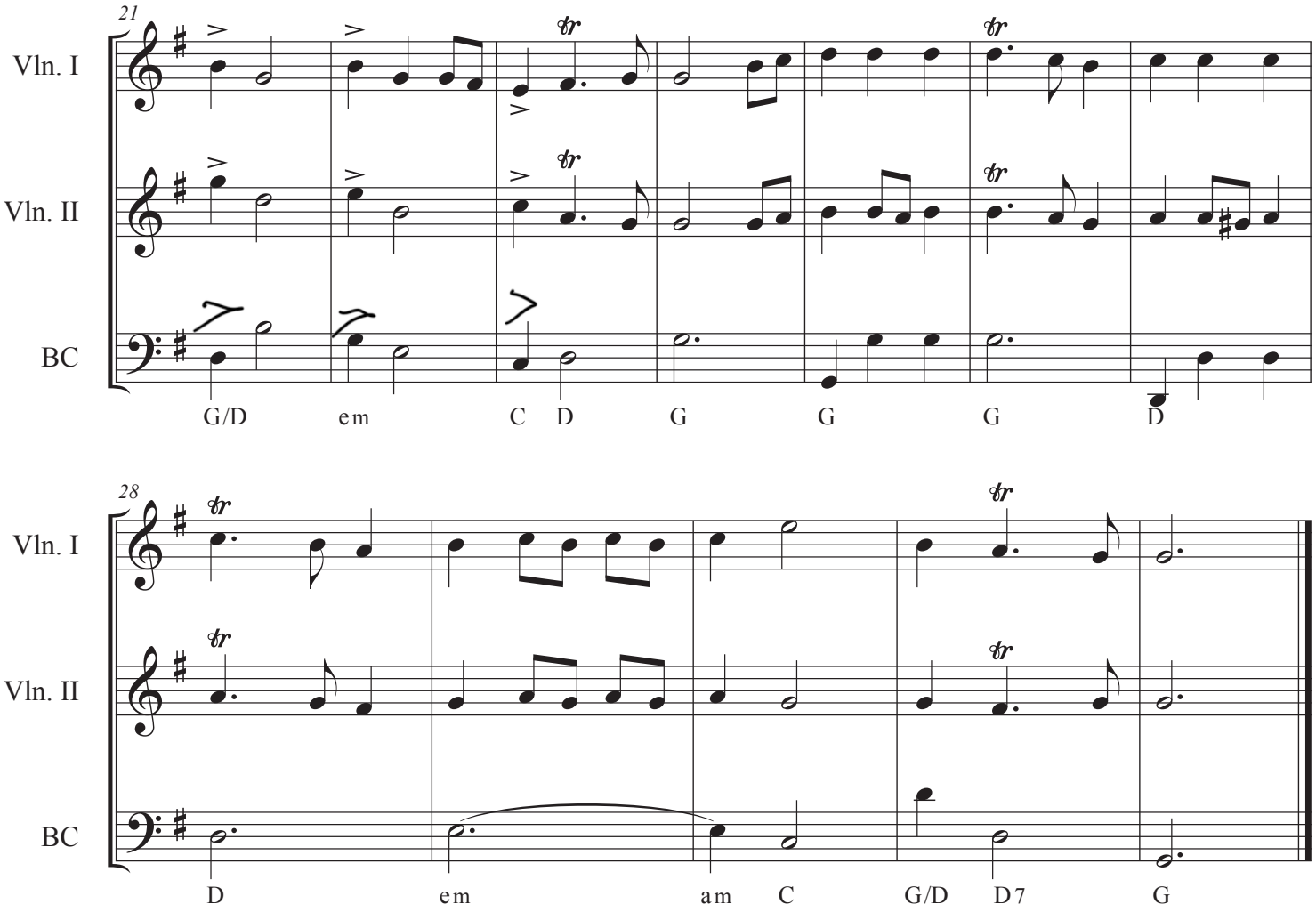

23
S
A
T
B
swell? Is-n't it chic to be hang - ing out in Eur - ope and it's
swell? Is-n't it chic to be hang - ing out in Eur - ope and it's
swell? Is-n't it chic to be hang - ing out in Eur - ope and it's
swell? Is-n't it chic to be hang - ing out in Eur - ope and it's
23
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
D G/B C D7 G/D D/F♯ D/F♯


27
S
great just to know that there's no X in 'es - press - o.' that there's no
A
great just to know that there's no X in 'es - press - o.' that there's no
T
great just to know that there's no X in 'es - press - o.' E S
B
great just to know that there's no X in 'es - press - o.' E S
27
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
B em A/C♯ D G/B

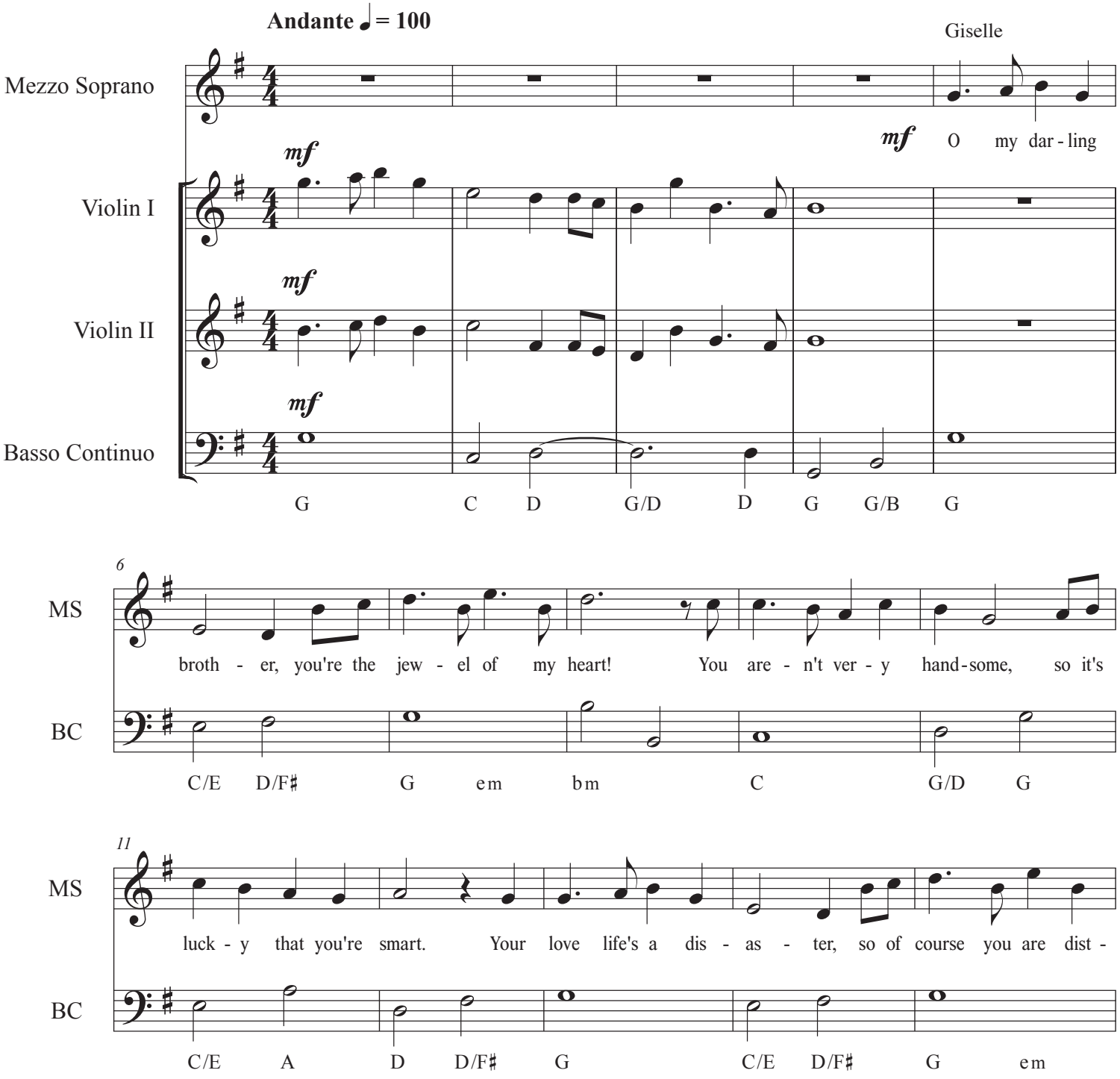

31
S
X in 'es - press - o.'
A
X in 'es - press - o.'
T
P R E S S O
B
P R E S S O
31
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
D/A
G

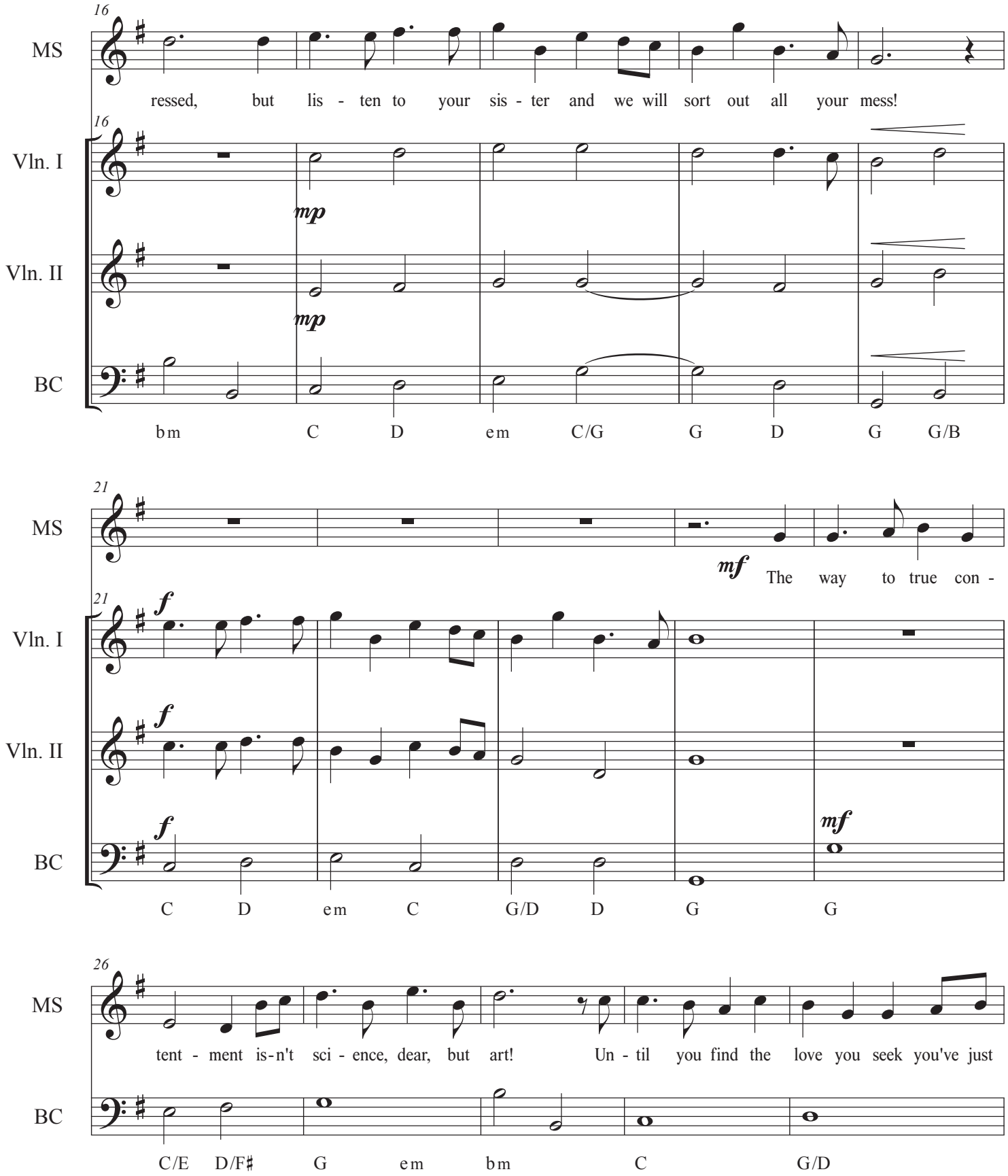
3. Dance: Piazza Waltz

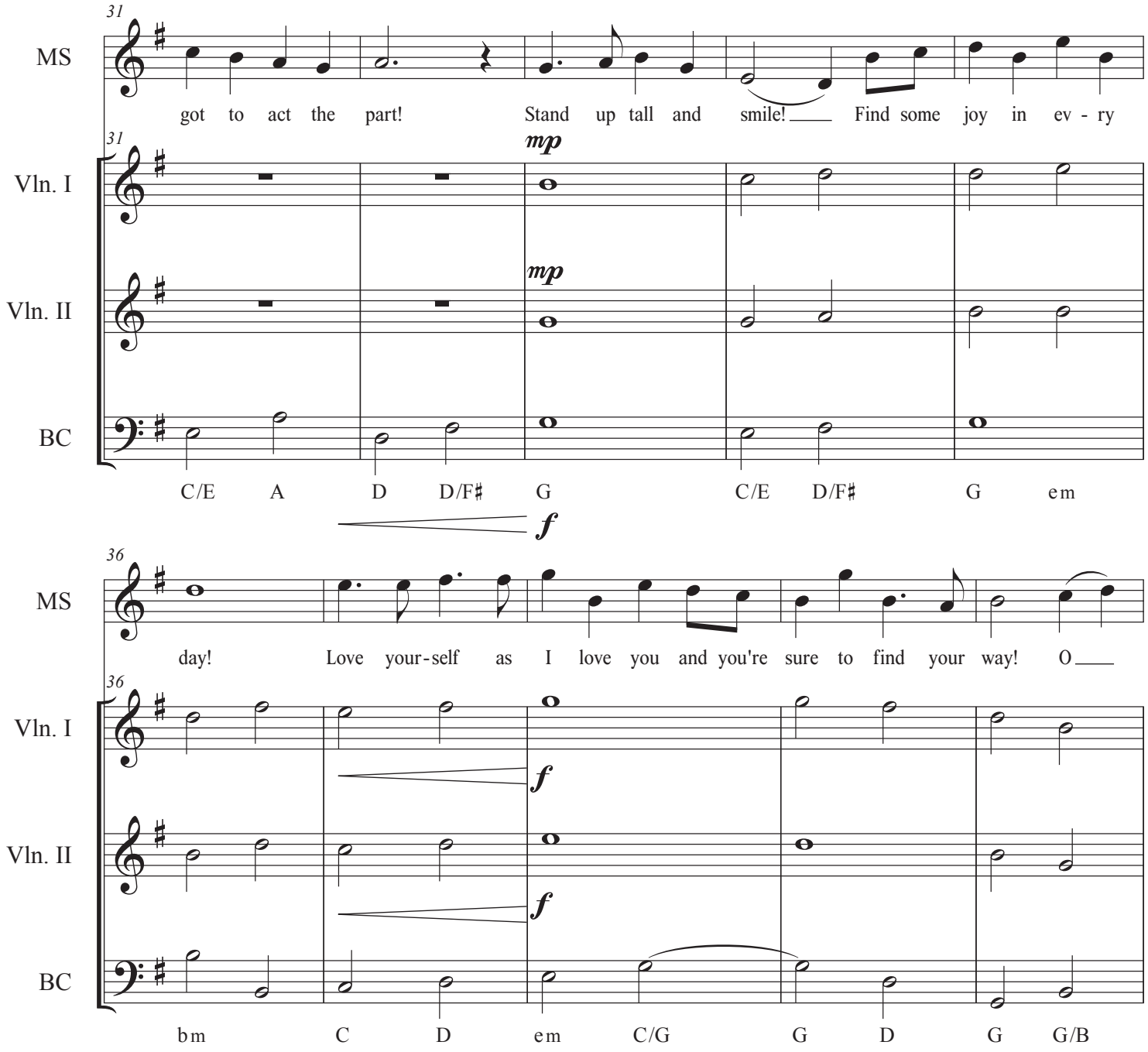


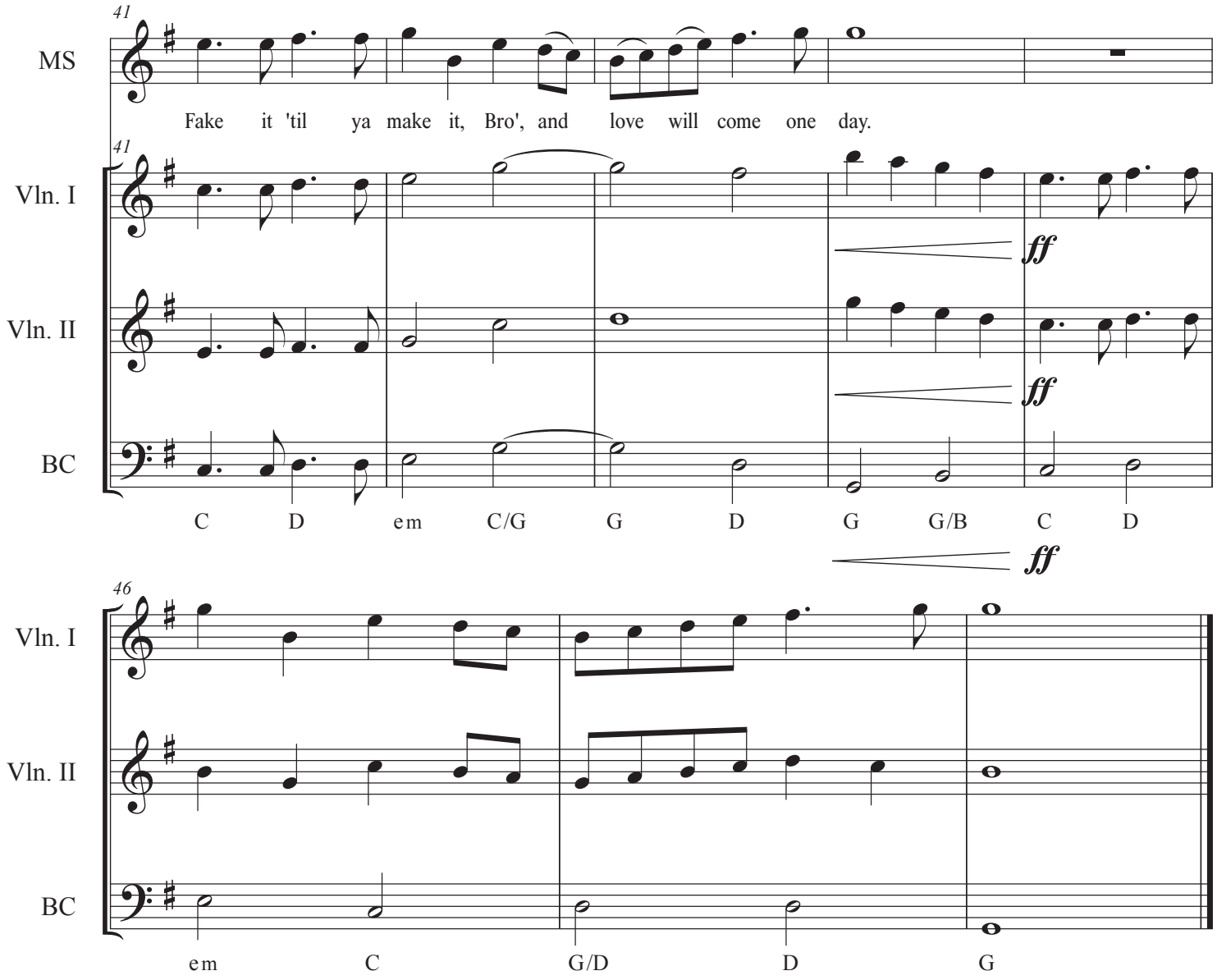

21
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
G/D
em
C
D
G
G
G
D
28
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
D
em
am
C
G/D
D7
G

4. Aria: My Darling Brother



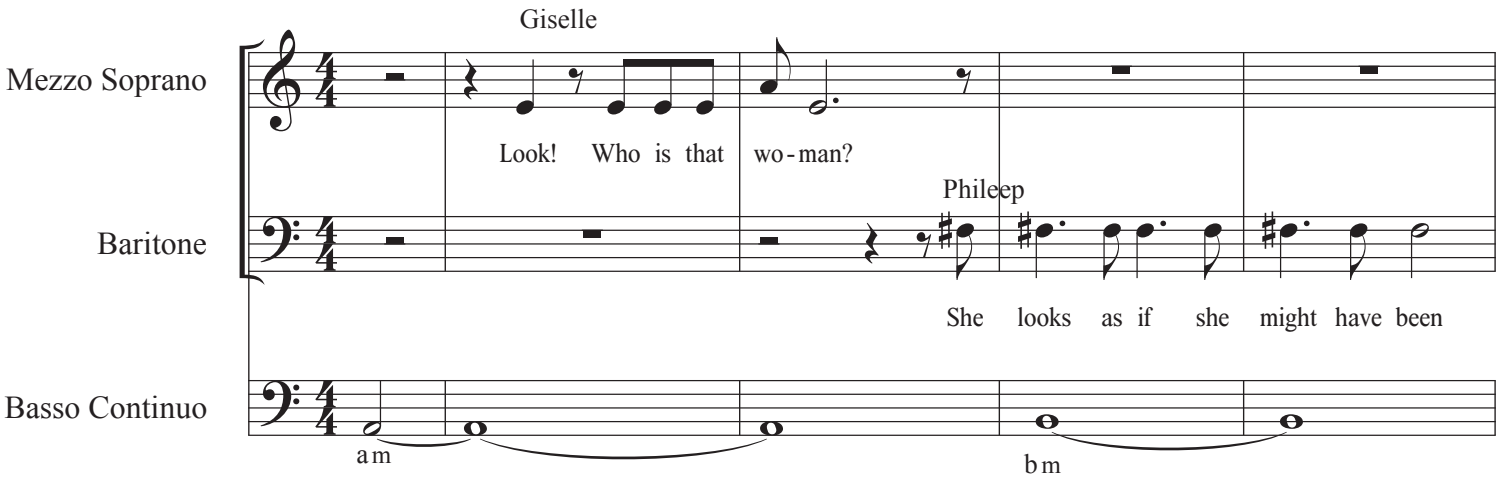

16
MS
ressed, but lis - ten to your sis - ter and we will sort out all your mess!
16
Vln. I
mp
Vln. II
mp
BC
bm C D em C/G G D G G/B
21
MS
mf
The way to true con -
21
Vln. I
f
Vln. II
f
BC
f
mf
C D em C G/D D G G
26
MS
tent - ment is-n't sci - ence, dear, but art! Un - til you find the love you seek you've just
BC
C/E D/F♯ G em bm C G/D

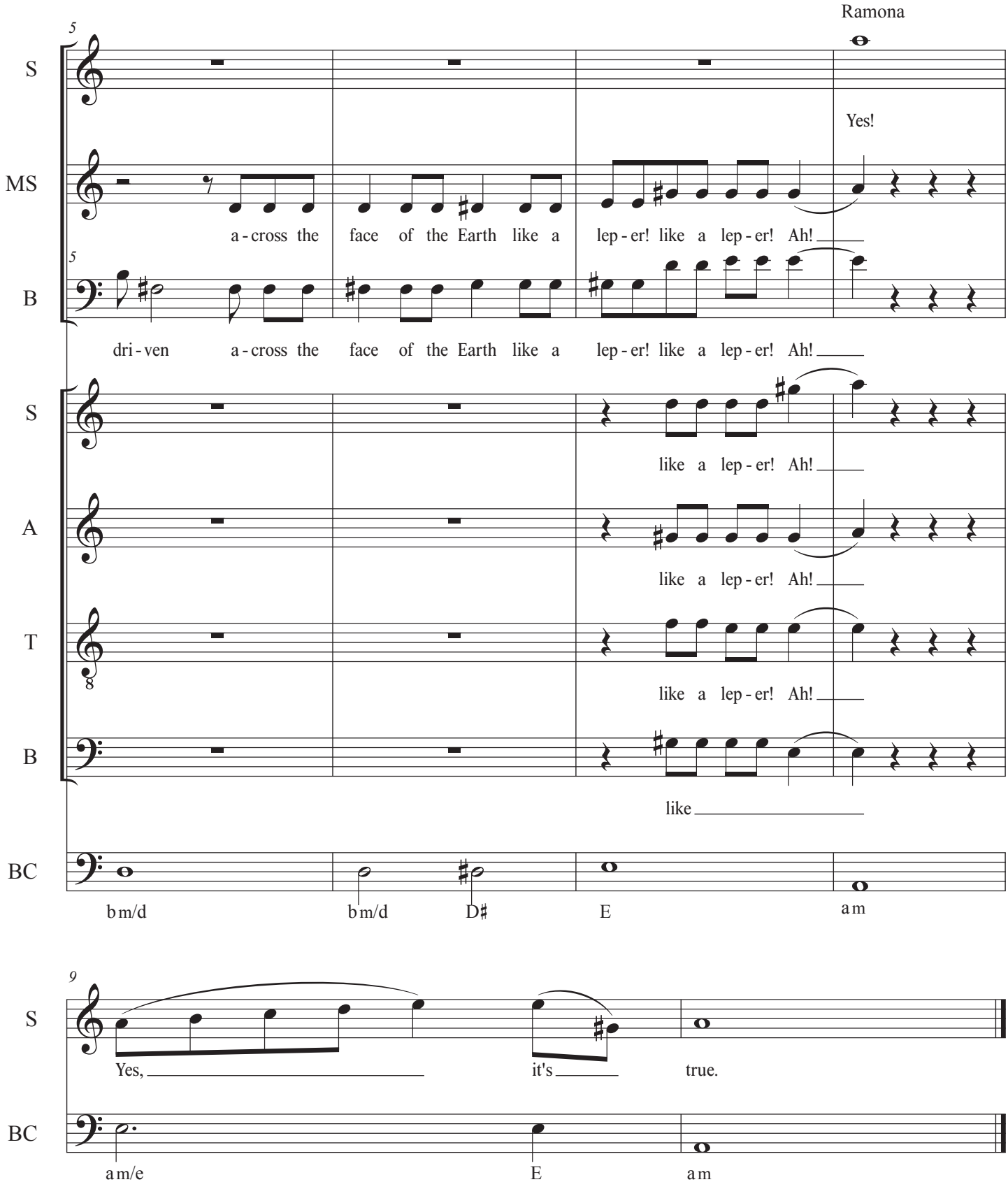

31
MS
got to act the part! Stand up tall and smile! Find some joy in ev - ry
31
Vln. I
mp
Vln. II
mp
BC
C/E A D D/F♯ G C/E D/F♯ G e m
f
36
MS
day! Love your-self as I love you and you're sure to find your way! O
36
Vln. I
f
Vln. II
f
BC
b m C D e m C/G G D G G/B


41
MS
Fake it 'til ya make it, Bro', and love will come one day.
41
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
ff
ff
C D em C/G G D G G/B C D
ff
46
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
em C G/D D G

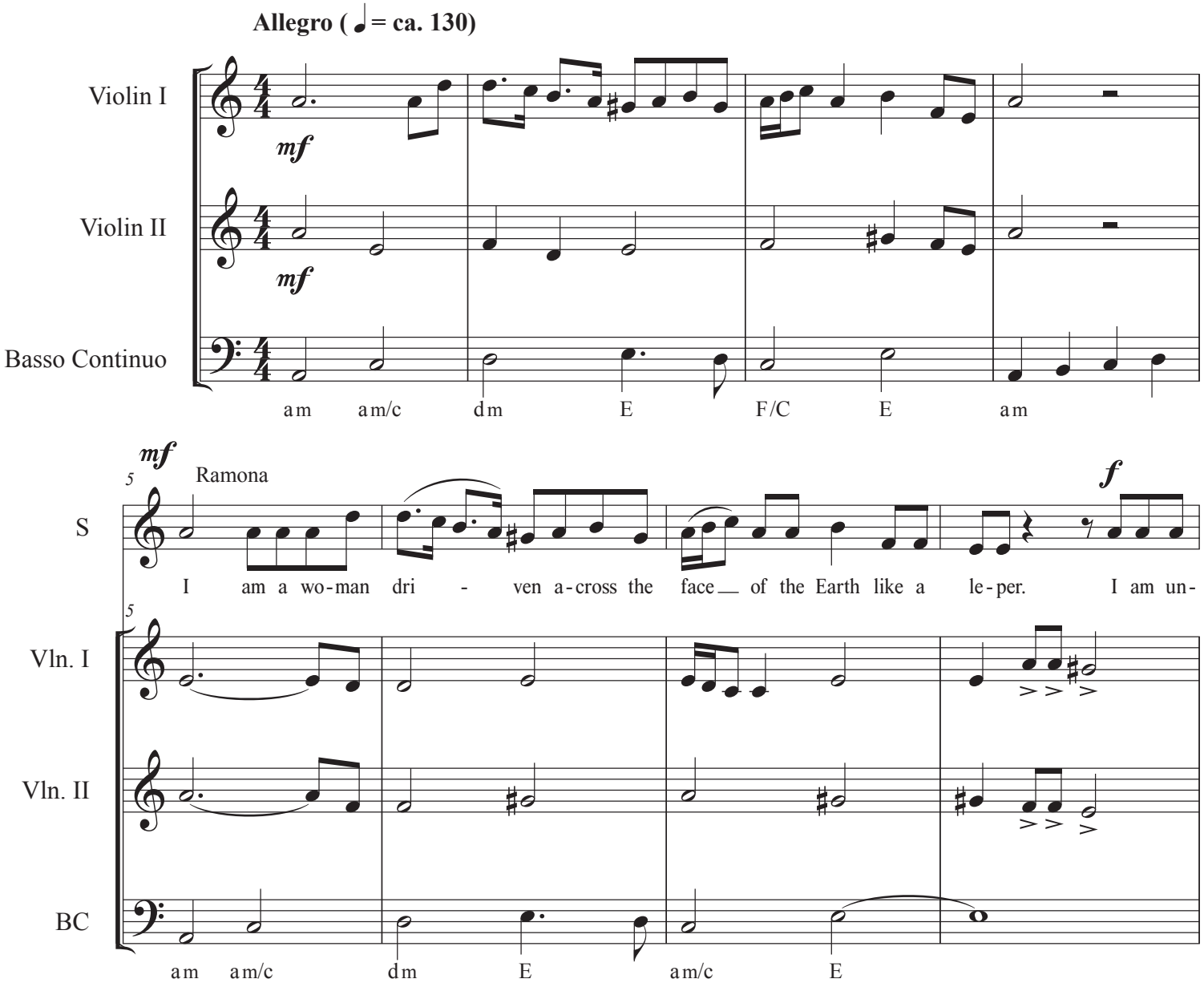
5. Recitative: Who Is That Woman?

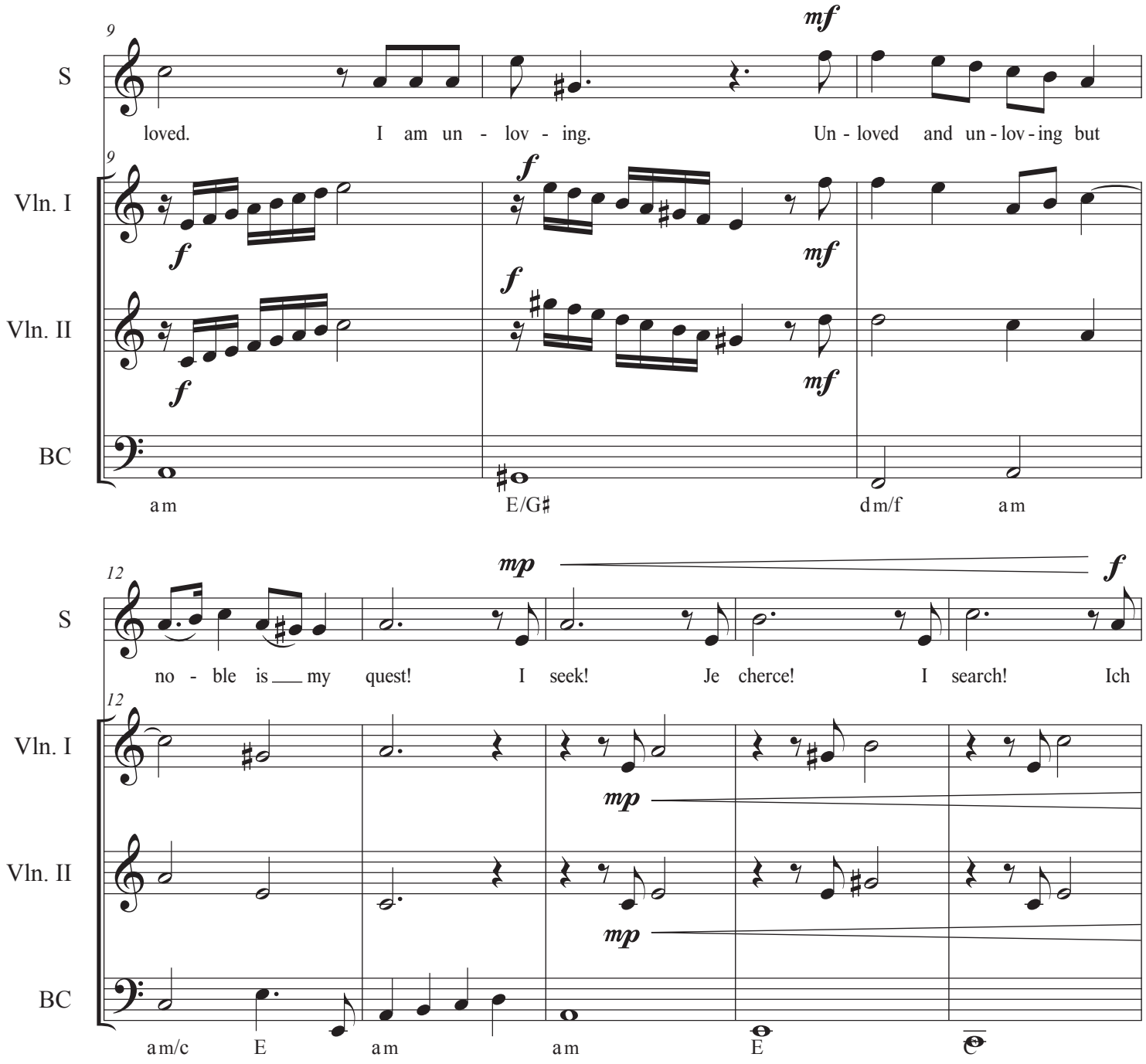
Enter Ramona

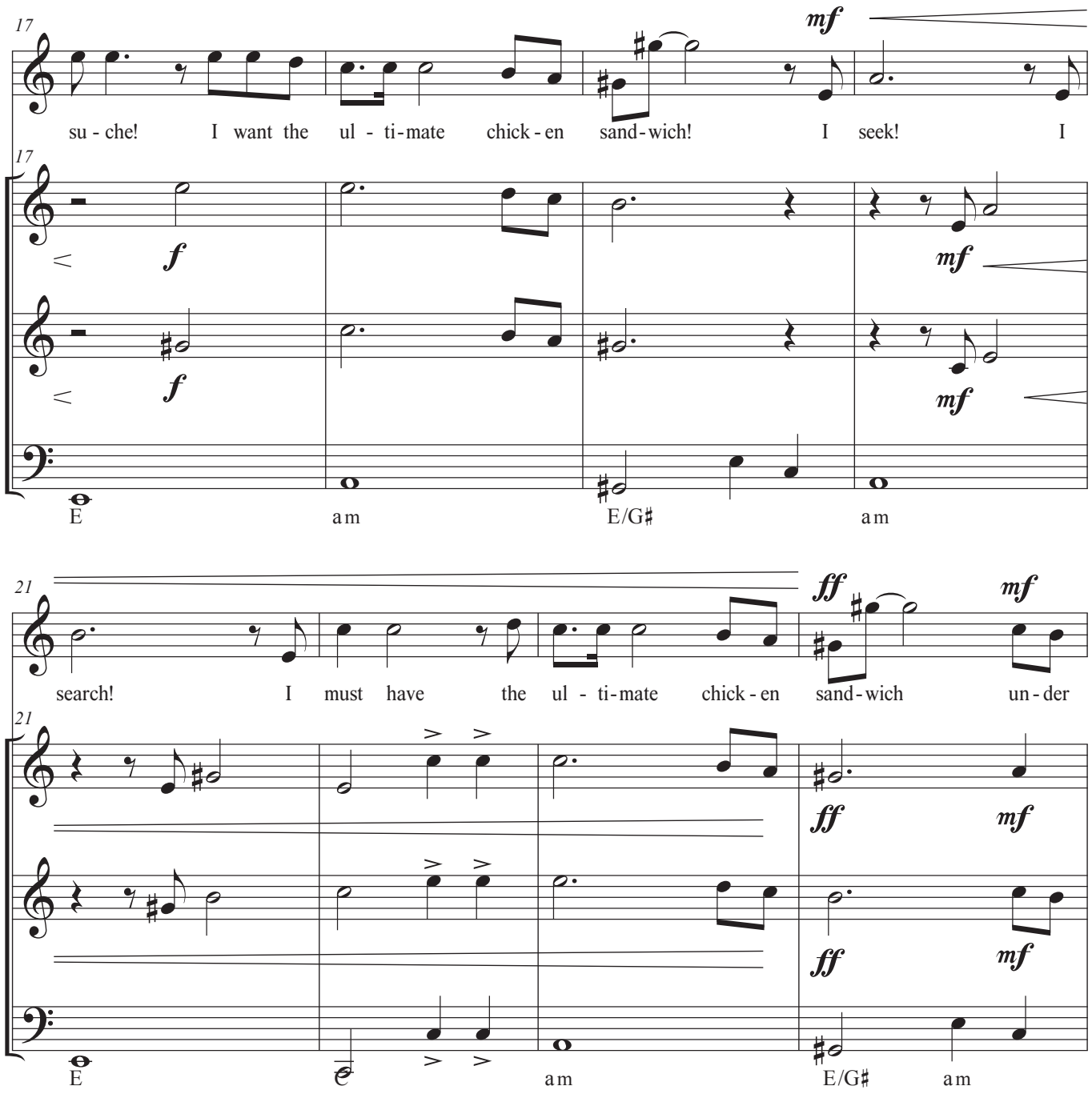


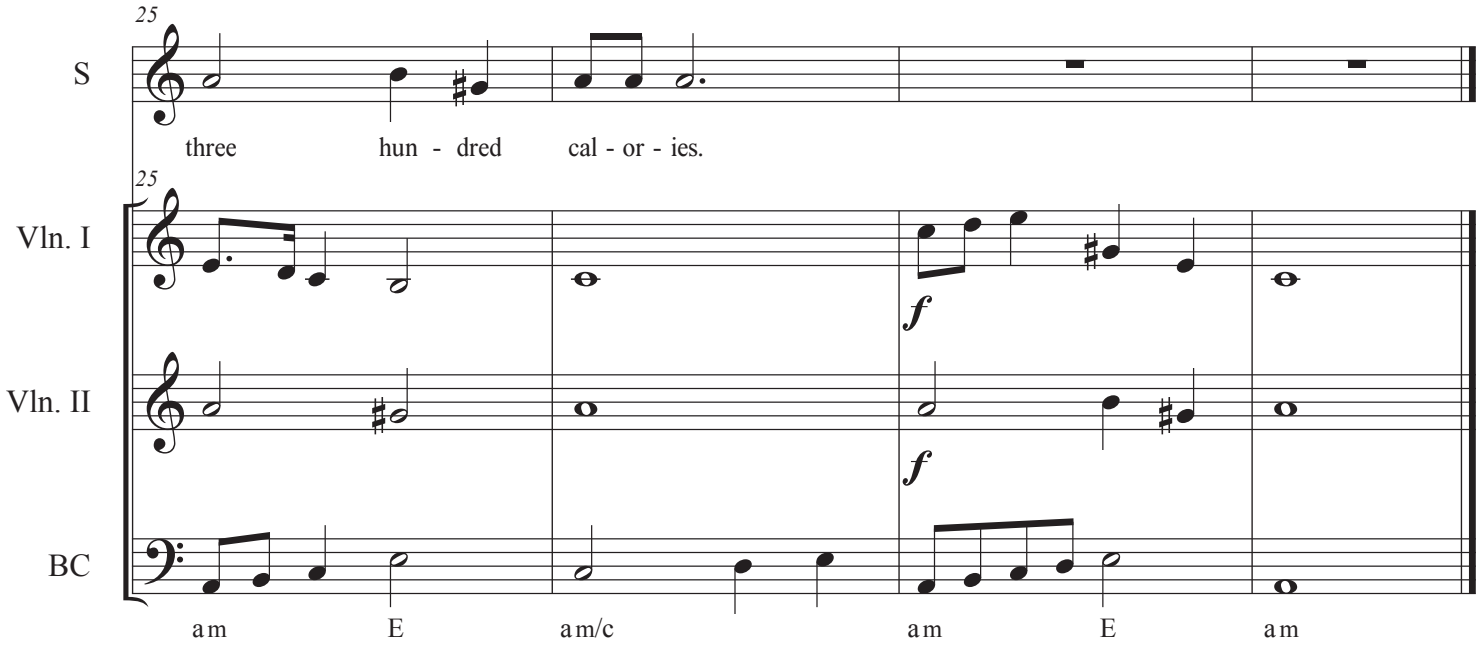

Ramona
5
S
MS
B
Yes!
a - cross the face of the Earth like a lep - er! like a lep - er! Ah!
dri - ven a - cross the face of the Earth like a lep - er! like a lep - er! Ah!
S
A
T
B
like a lep - er! Ah!
like a lep - er! Ah!
like a lep - er! Ah!
like
BC
b m/d
b m/d
D♯
E
a m
9
S
BC
Yes,
it's
true.
a m/e
E
a m

6. Aria: A Woman Driven

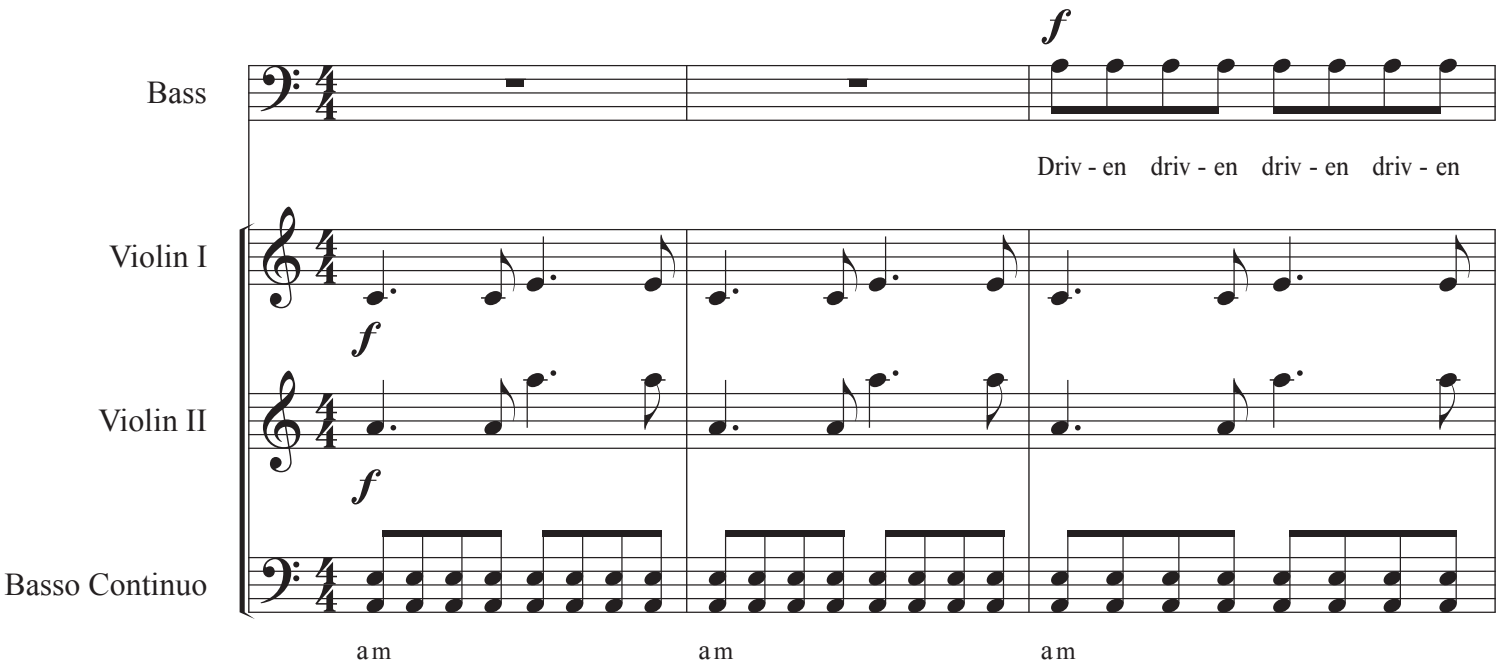


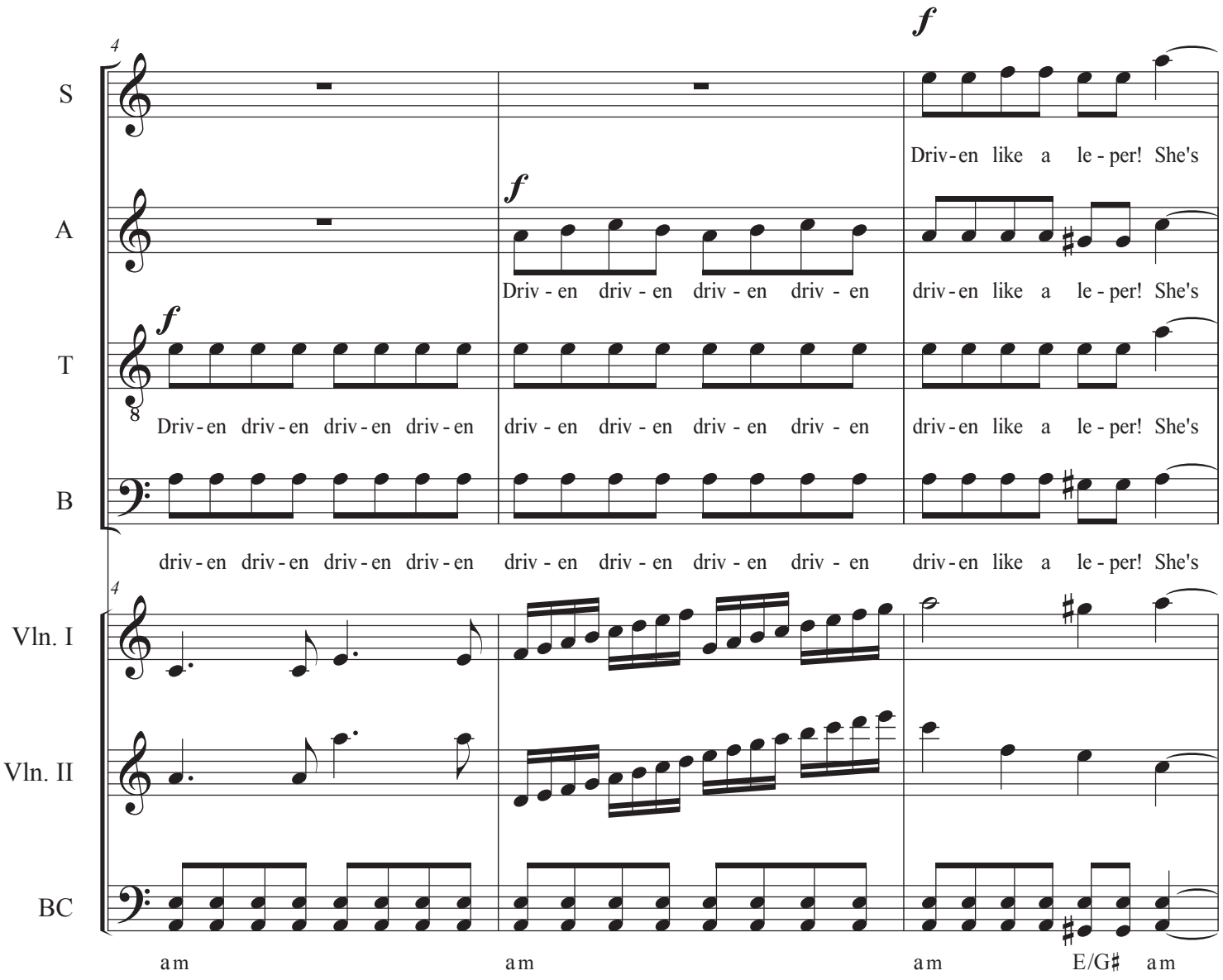

9
S
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
mf
f
loved. I am un - lov - ing. Un - loved and un - lov - ing but
am E/G♯ dm/f am
12
mp
f
no - ble is my quest! I seek! Je cherce! I search! Ich
am/c E am am E

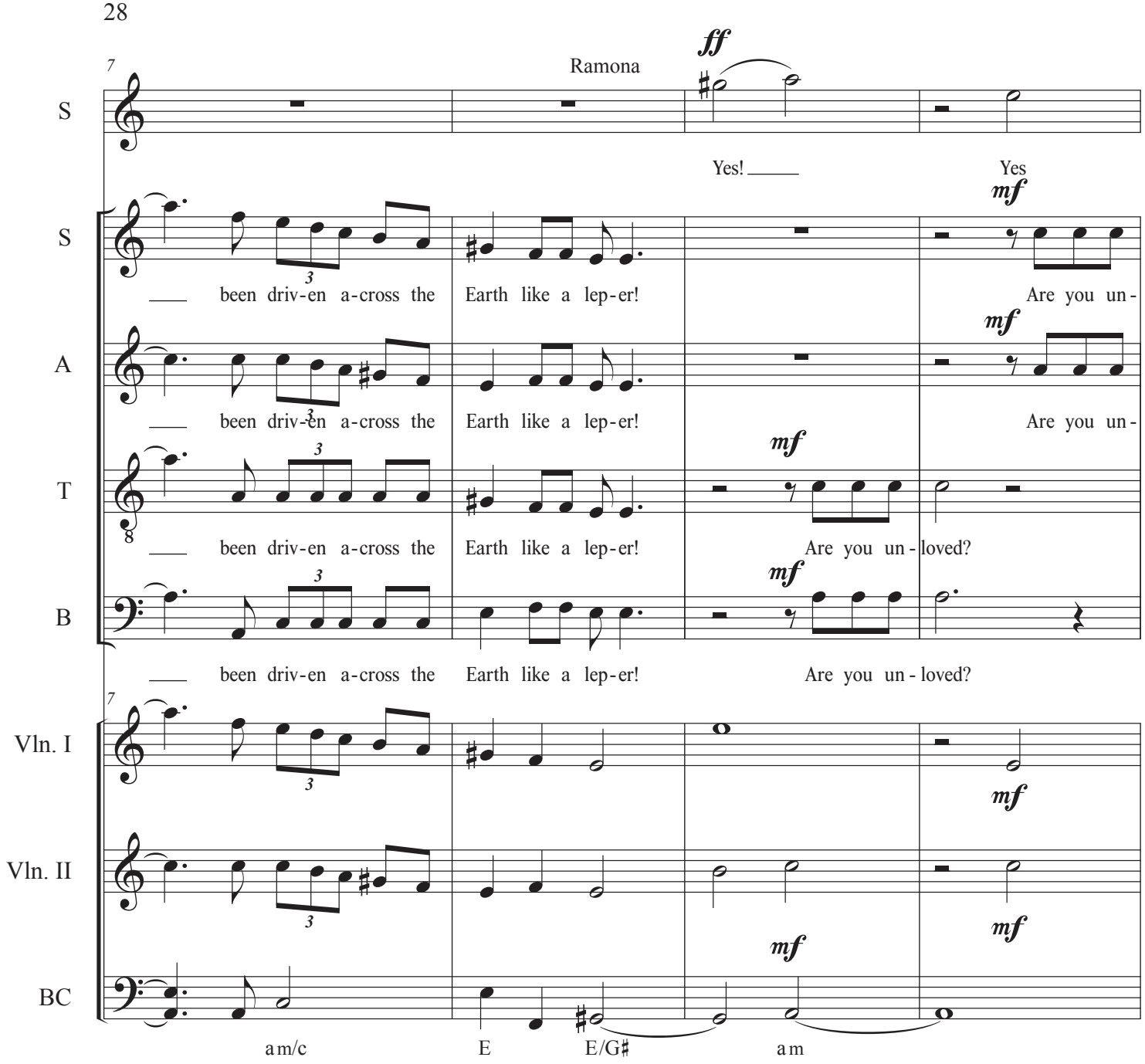

17
S
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
su - che! I want the ul - ti-mate chick - en sand - wich! I seek! I
mf
f
mf
f
mf
E
am
E/G♯
am
21
S
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
search! I must have the ul - ti-mate chick - en sand - wich un - der
ff
mf
ff
mf
ff
mf
E
am
E/G♯
am

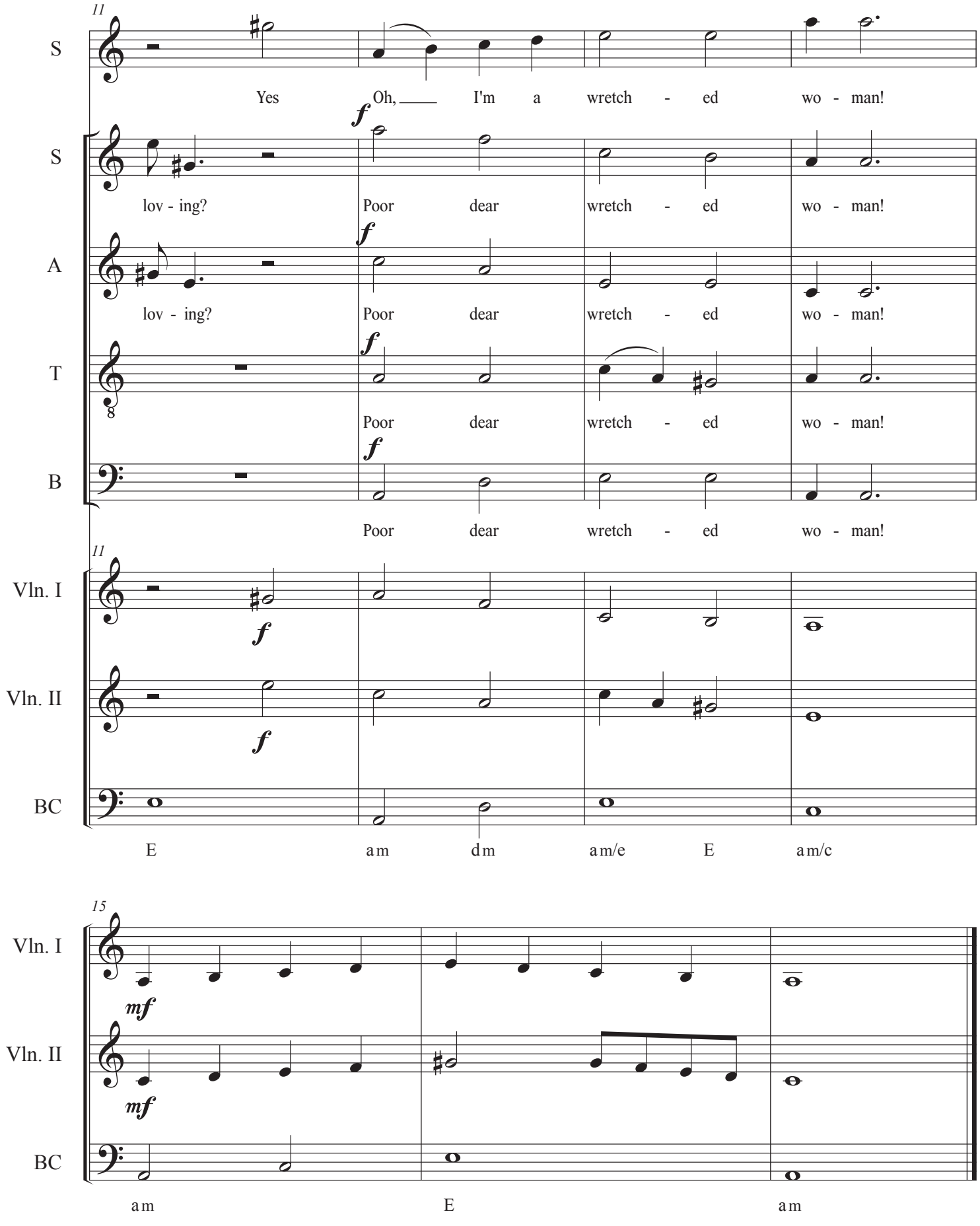

25
S
three hun - dred cal - or - ies.
25
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
f
f
am E am/c am E am

6. Chorus: Driven Like a Leper

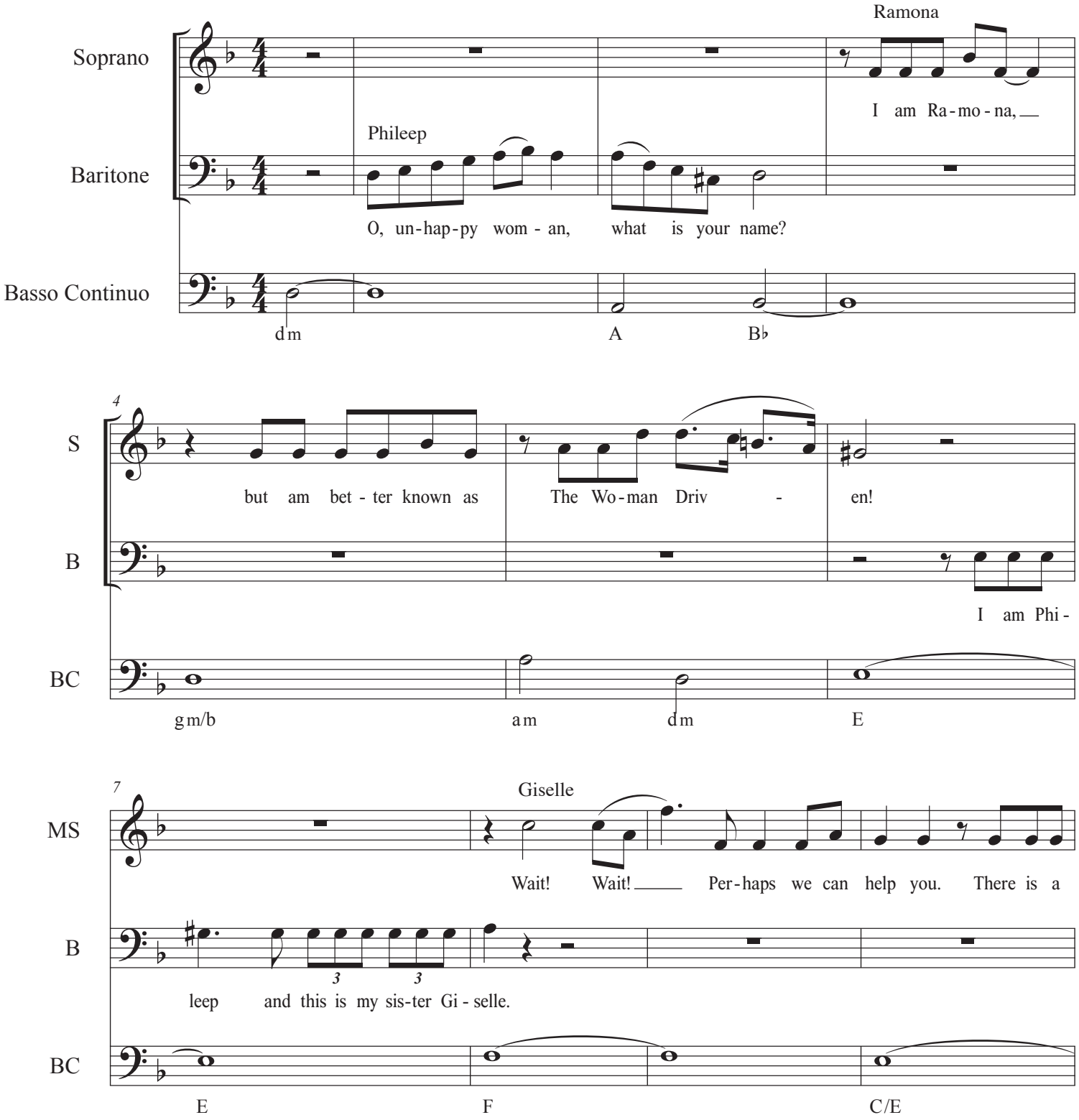


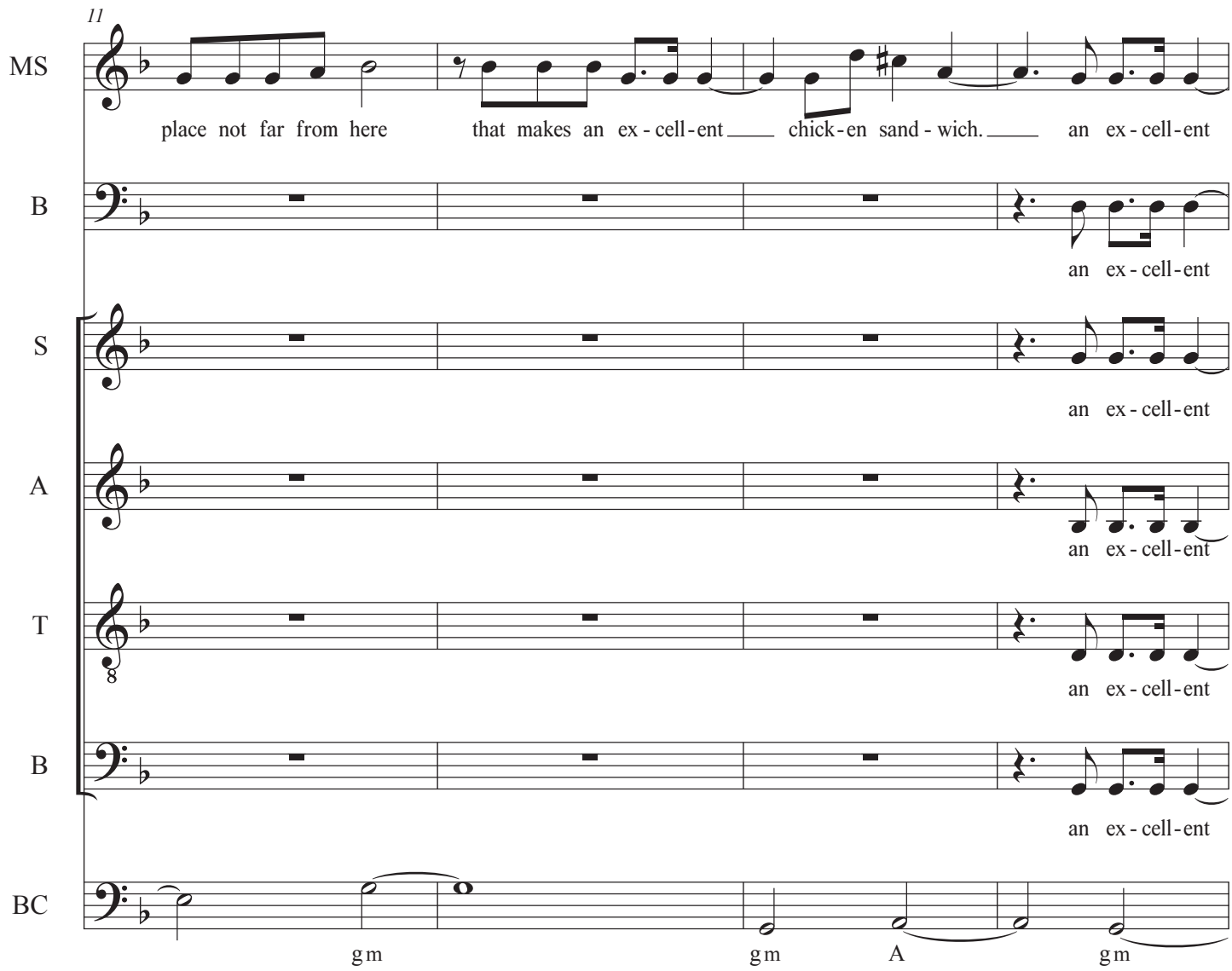

S
A
T
B
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
Driv-en like a le-per! She's
Driv - en driv - en driv - en driv - en
Driv-en driv-en driv-en driv-en
driv - en driv - en driv - en driv - en
driv-en like a le-per! She's
am
am
am
E/G♯
am

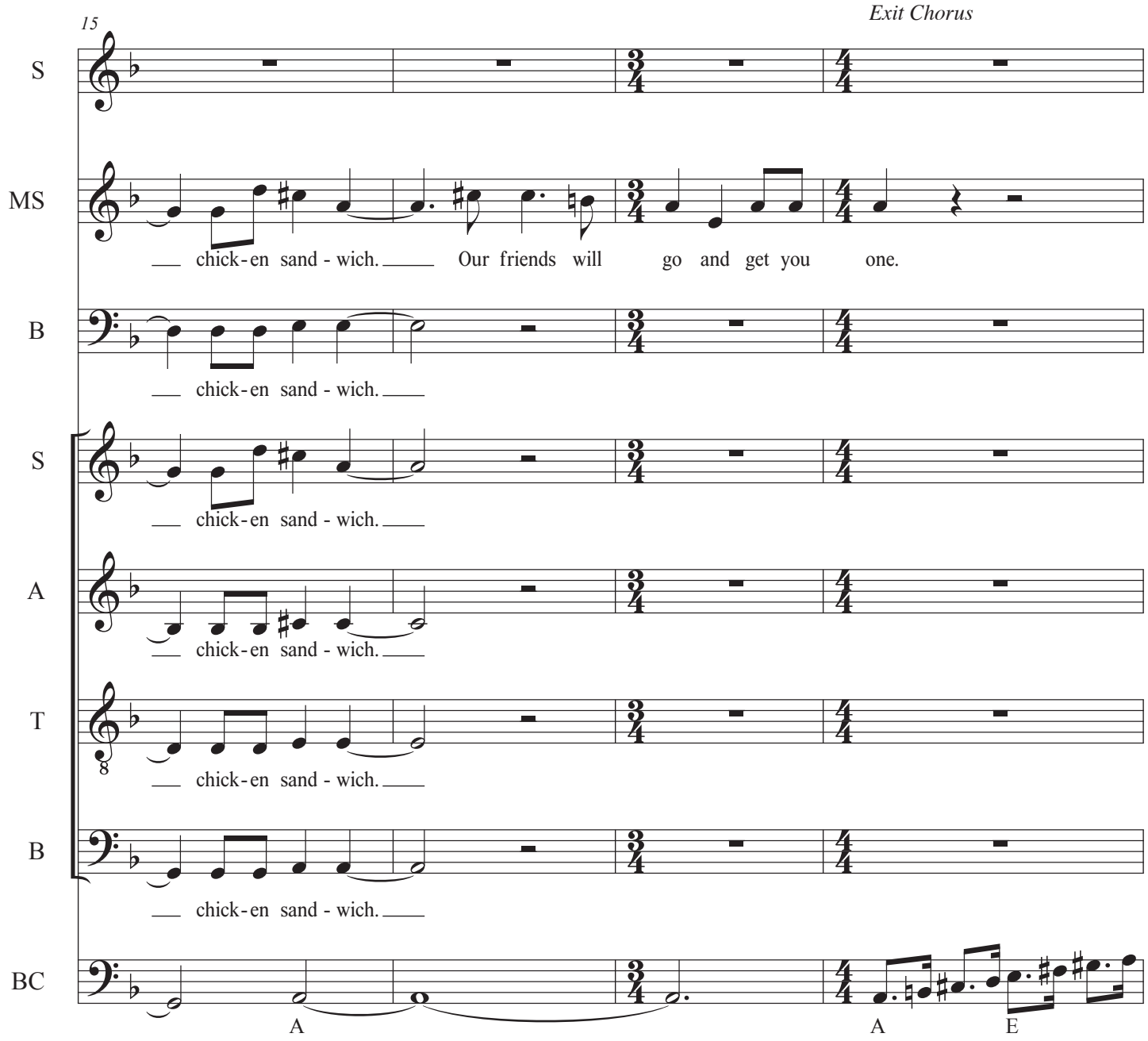

Ramona
ff
S
Yes! Yes
mf
S
been driv-en a-cross the Earth like a lep-er! Are you un-
A
been driv-en a-cross the Earth like a lep-er! Are you un-
T
been driv-en a-cross the Earth like a lep-er! Are you un-loved?
B
been driv-en a-cross the Earth like a lep-er! Are you un-loved?
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
am/c E E/G♯ am

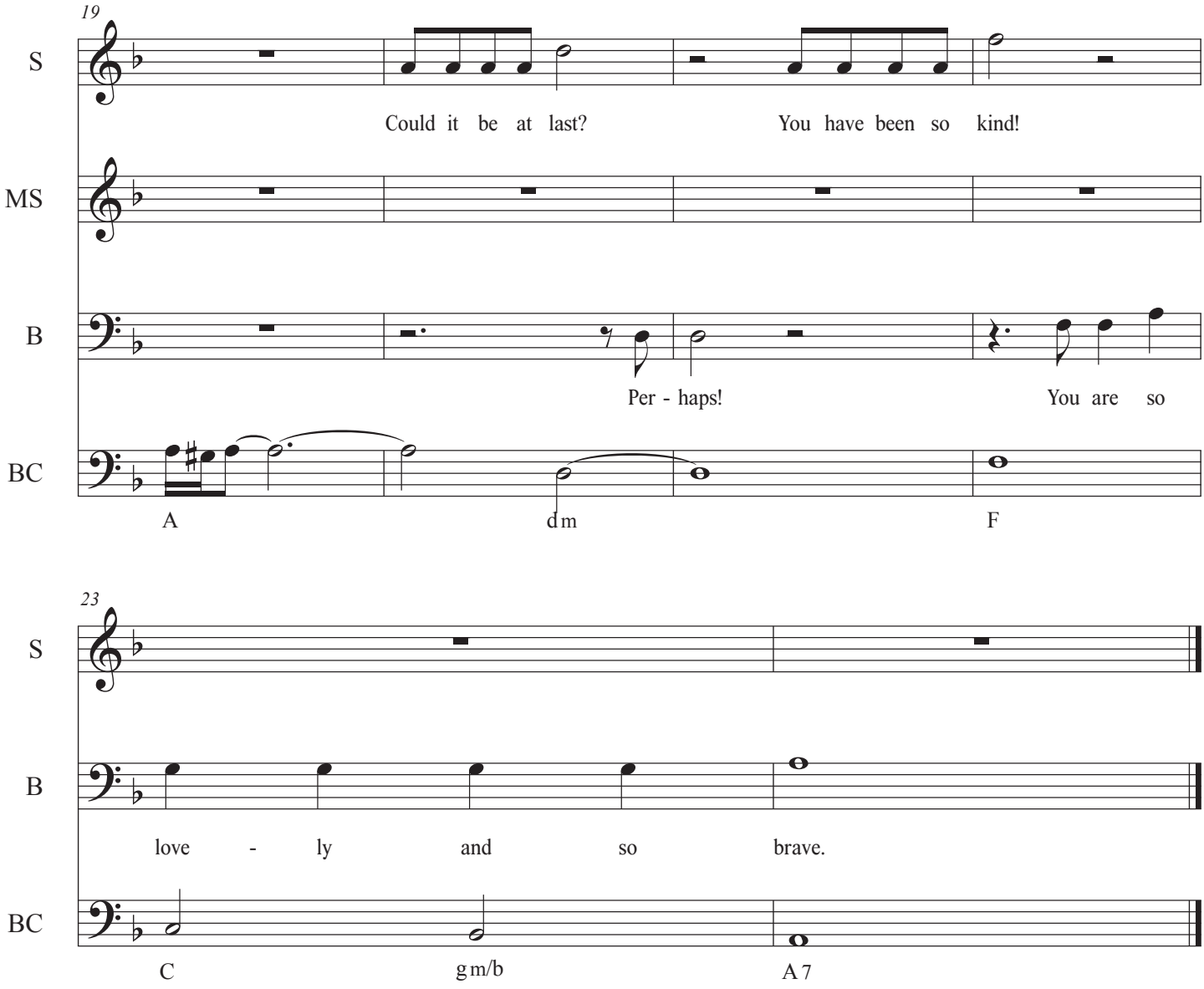

11
S
Yes
Oh, ___
I'm a wretch - ed wo - man!
S
lov - ing?
Poor dear wretch - ed wo - man!
A
lov - ing?
Poor dear wretch - ed wo - man!
T
Poor dear wretch - ed wo - man!
B
Poor dear wretch - ed wo - man!
11
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
E am dm am/e E am/c
15
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
am E am

8. Recitative: Unhappy Woman

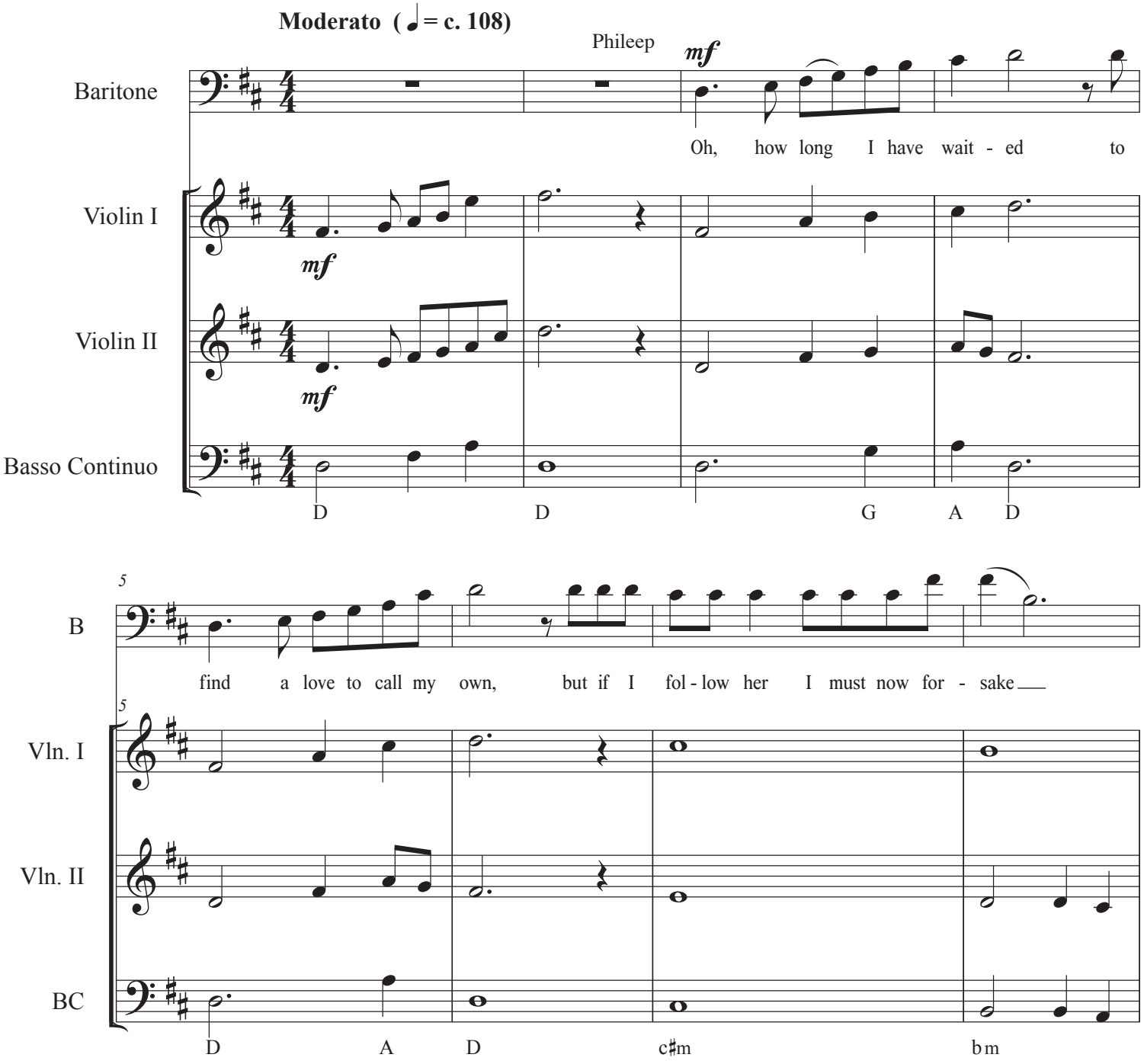


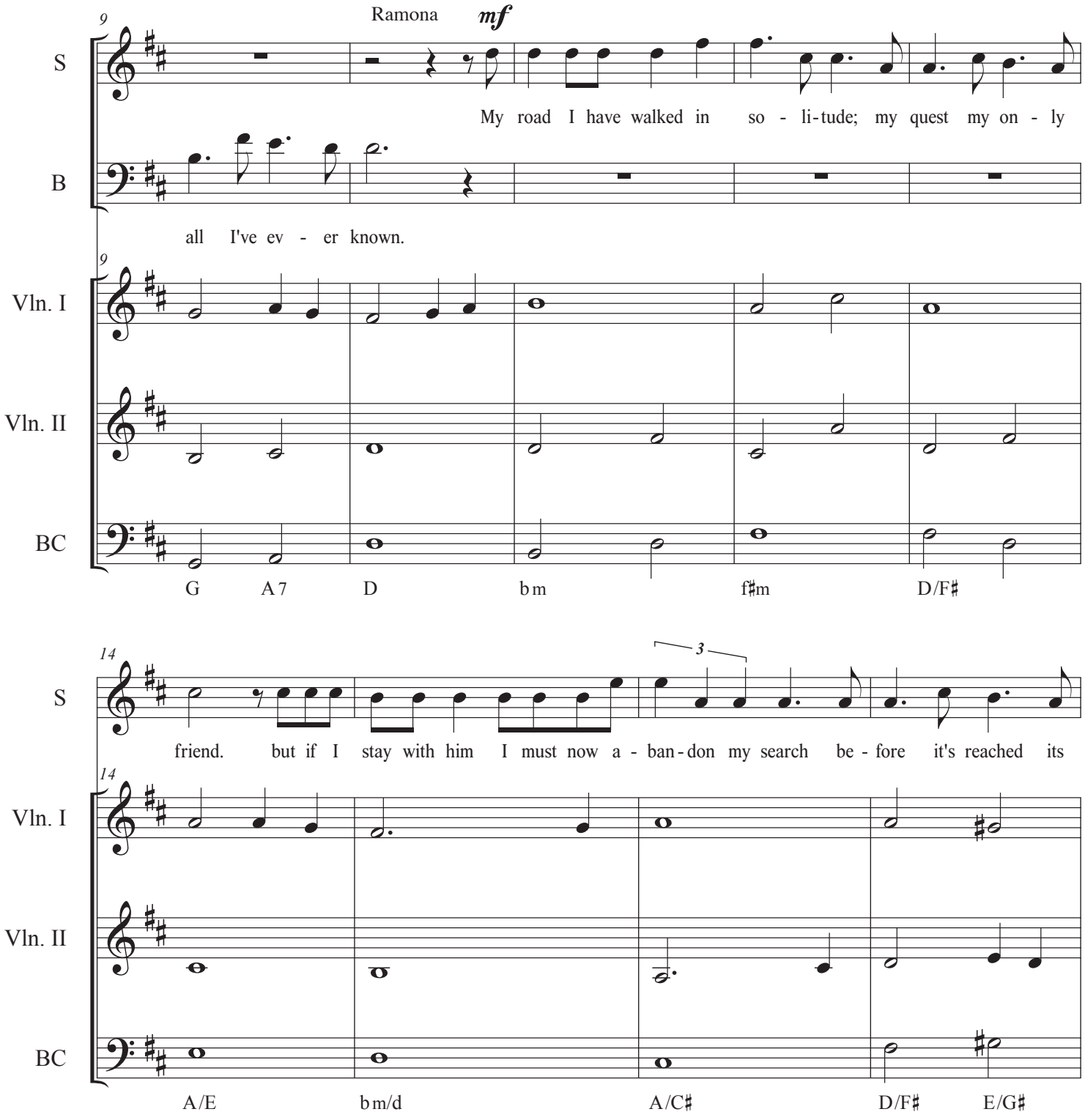

11
MS
place not far from here
that makes an ex - cell - ent
chick - en sand - wich.
an ex - cell - ent
B
an ex - cell - ent
S
an ex - cell - ent
A
an ex - cell - ent
T
an ex - cell - ent
B
an ex - cell - ent
BC
gm
gm
A
gm

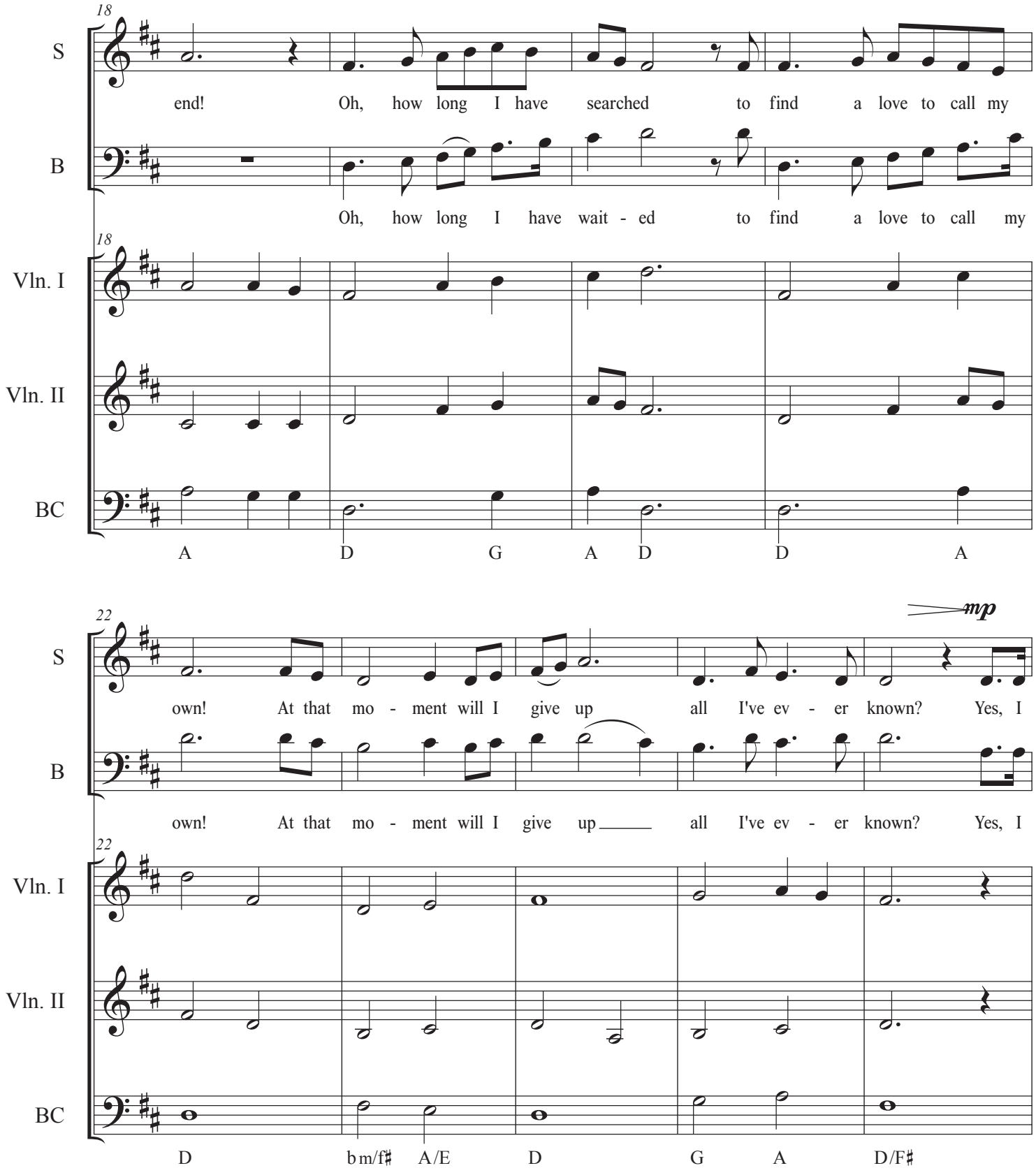

15
Exit Chorus
S
MS
chick-en sand - wich. Our friends will go and get you one.
B
chick-en sand - wich.
S
chick-en sand - wich.
A
chick-en sand - wich.
T
chick-en sand - wich.
B
chick-en sand - wich.
BC
A
A
E

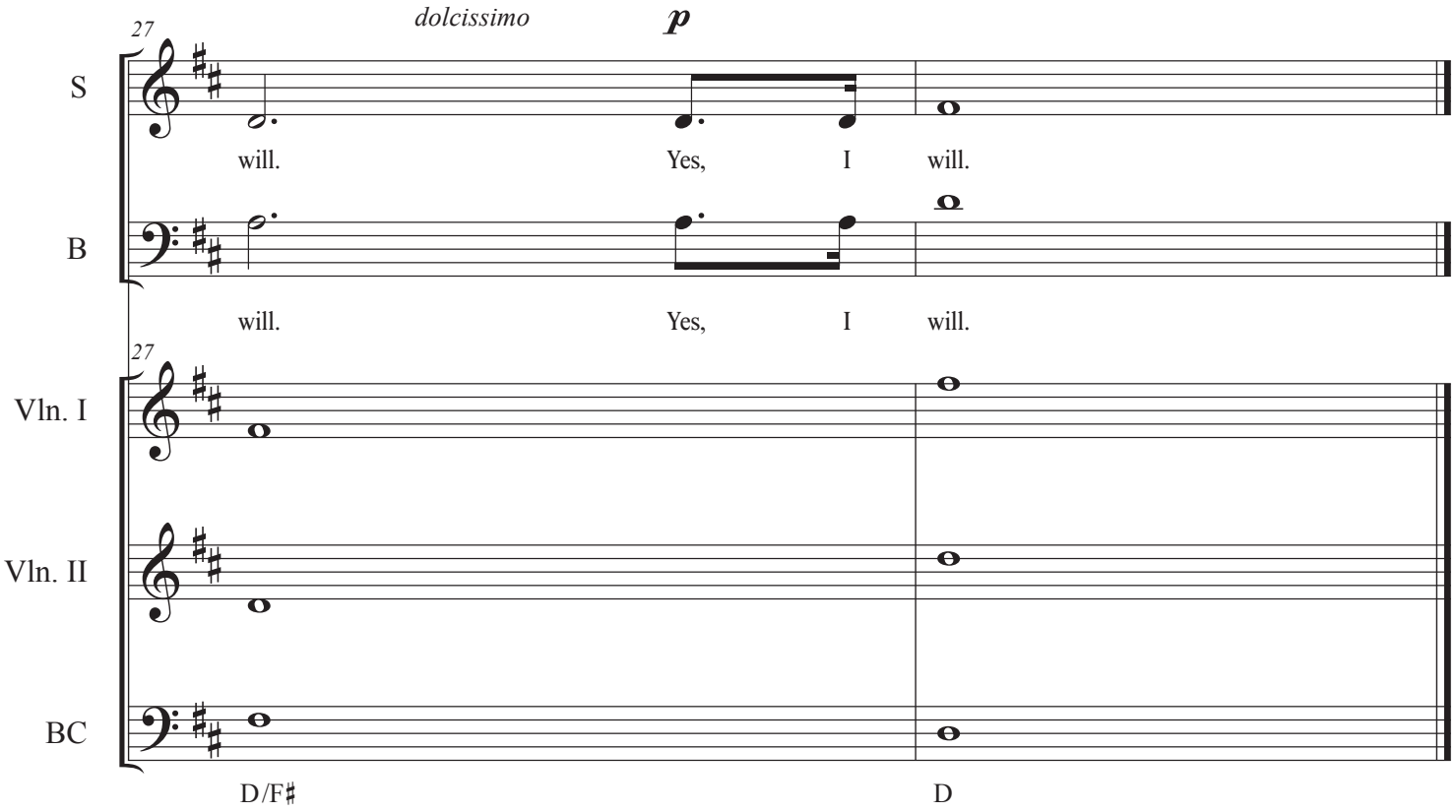

19
S
Could it be at last?
You have been so kind!
MS
B
Per - haps!
You are so
BC
A
d m
F
23
S
B
love - ly and so brave.
BC
C
g m/b
A 7

9. Duet: How Long I Have Waited

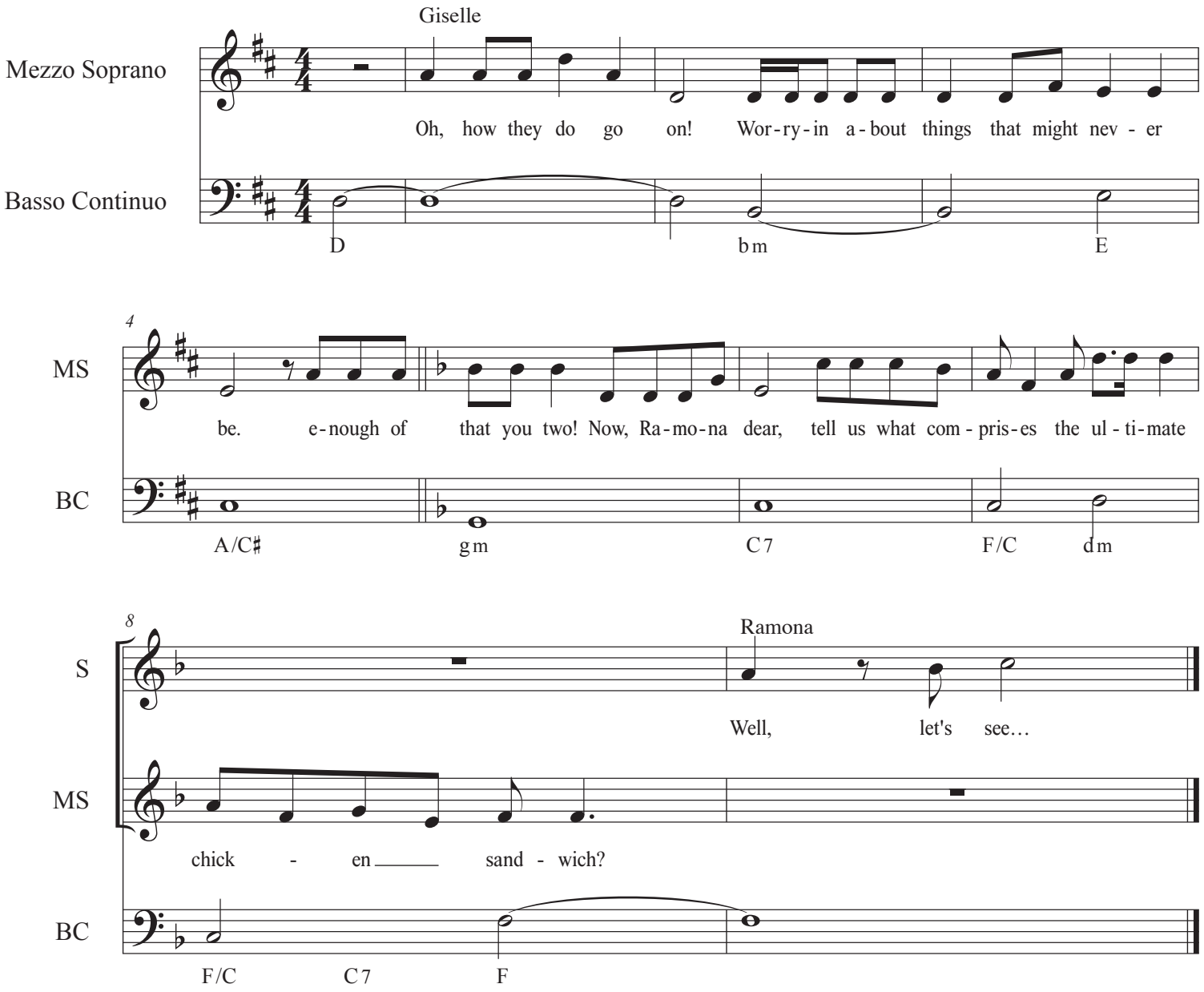



9
Ramona
mf
S
My road I have walked in so - li-tude; my quest my on - ly
B
all I've ev - er known.
9
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
G A7 D bm f♯m D/F♯
14
3
S
friend. but if I stay with him I must now a - ban-don my search be - fore it's reached its
14
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
A/E bm/d A/C♯ D/F♯ E/G♯

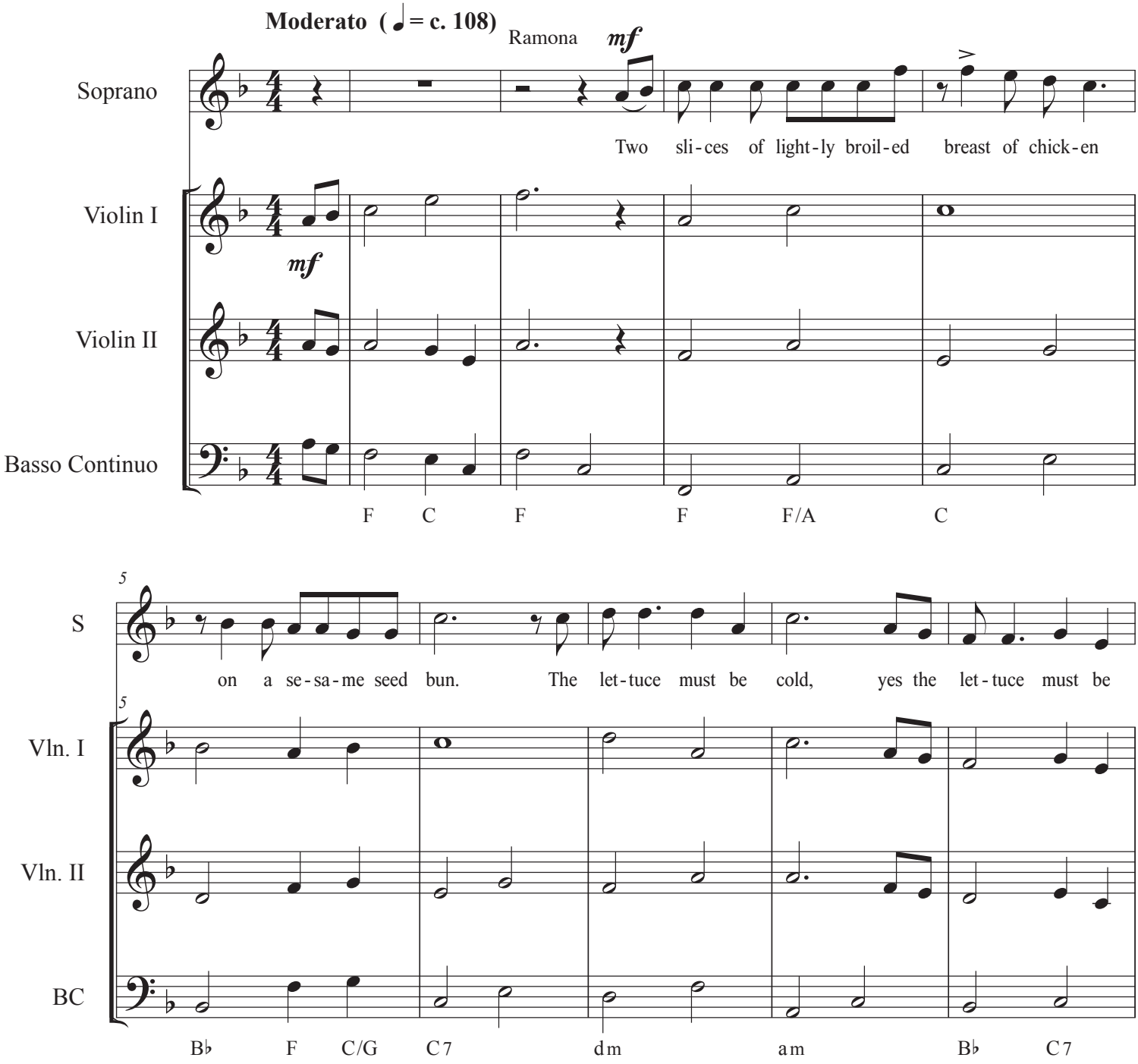

18
S
end! Oh, how long I have searched to find a love to call my
B
Oh, how long I have wait - ed to find a love to call my
18
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
A D G A D D A
22
mp
S
own! At that mo - ment will I give up all I've ev - er known? Yes, I
B
own! At that mo - ment will I give up all I've ev - er known? Yes, I
22
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
D bm/f♯ A/E D G A D/F♯

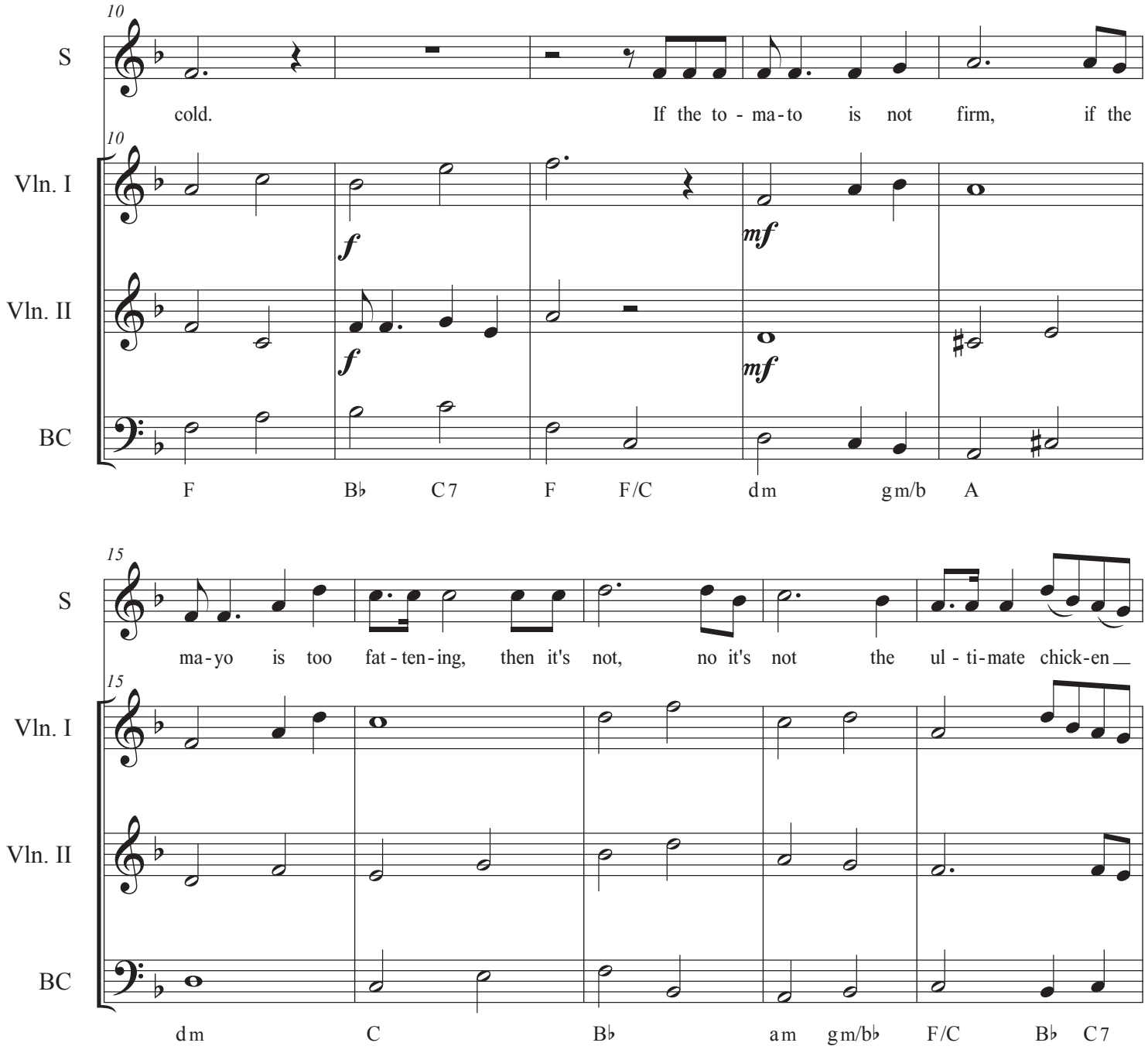

27
dolcissimo
p
S
will.
Yes,
I
will.
B
will.
Yes,
I
will.
27
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
D/F♯
D

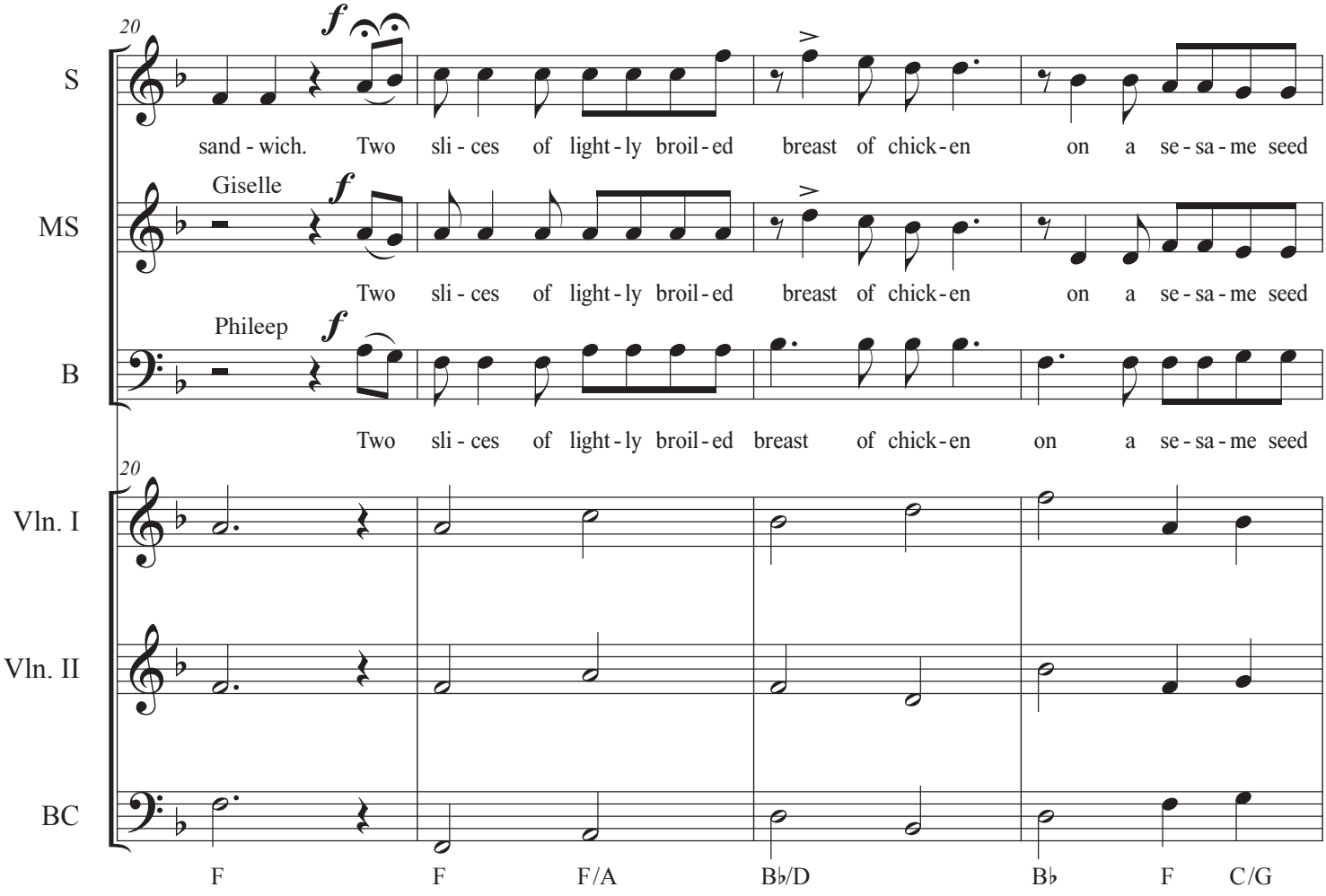
10. Recitative: How They Do Go On

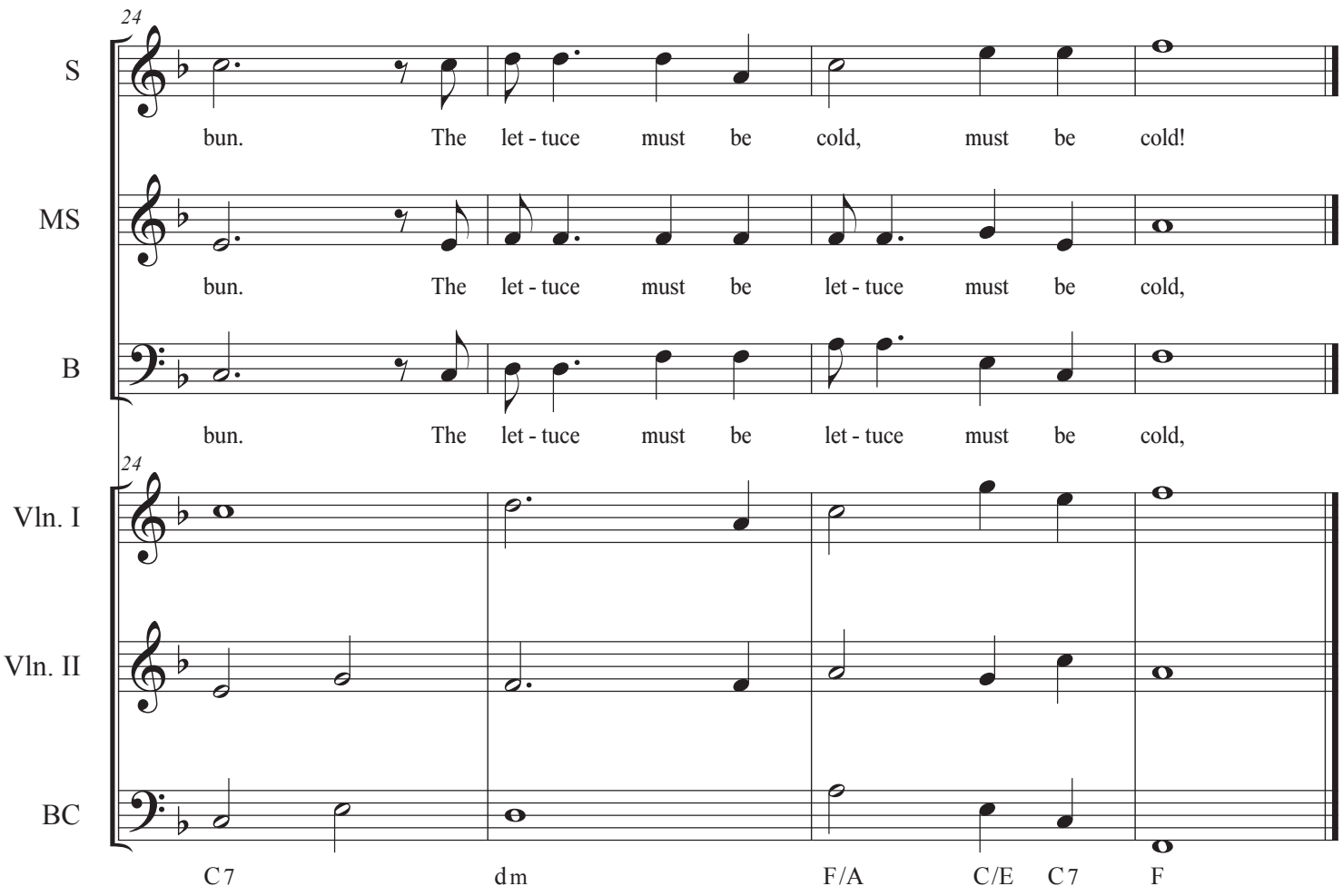


11. Aria and Trio: Two Slices

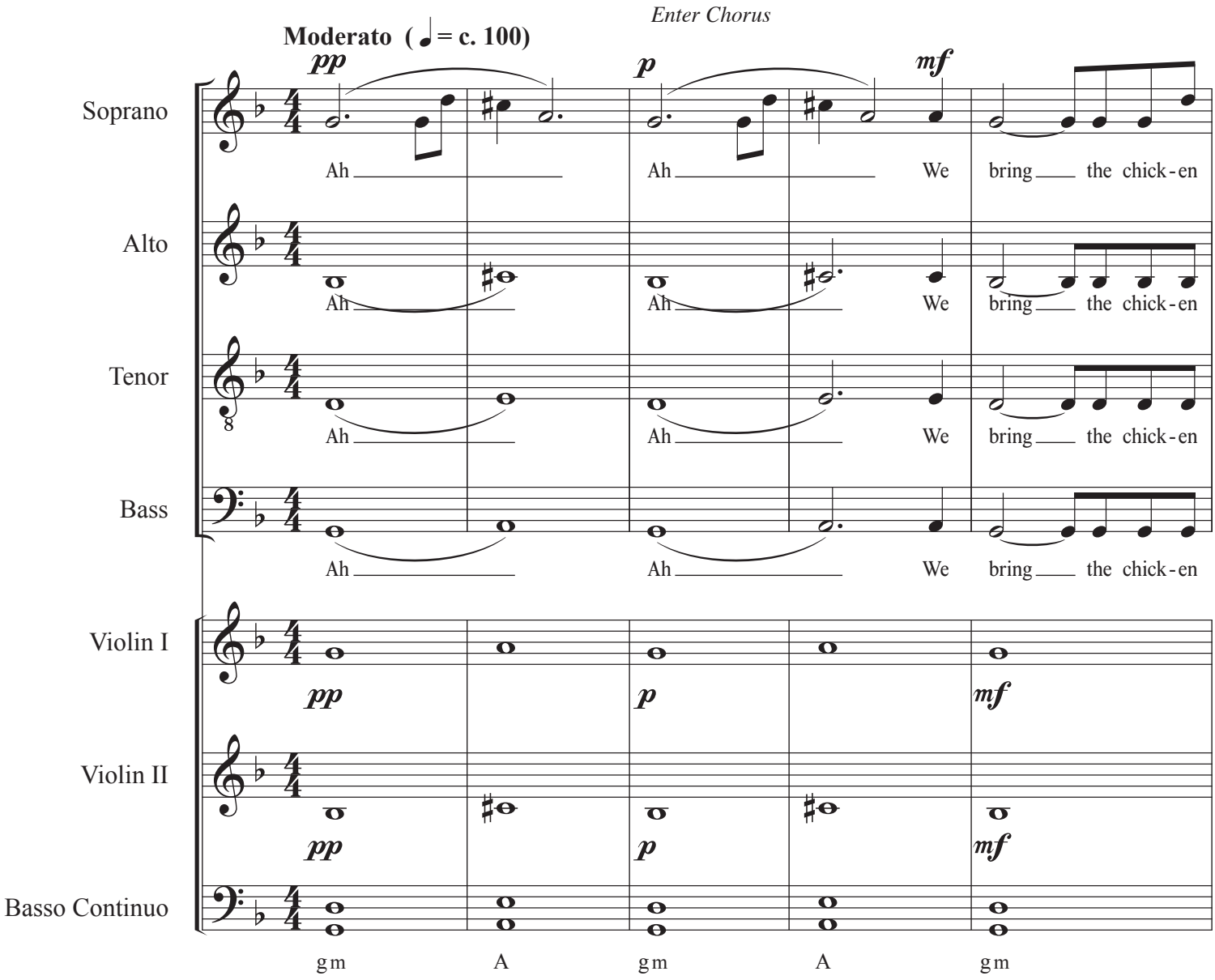


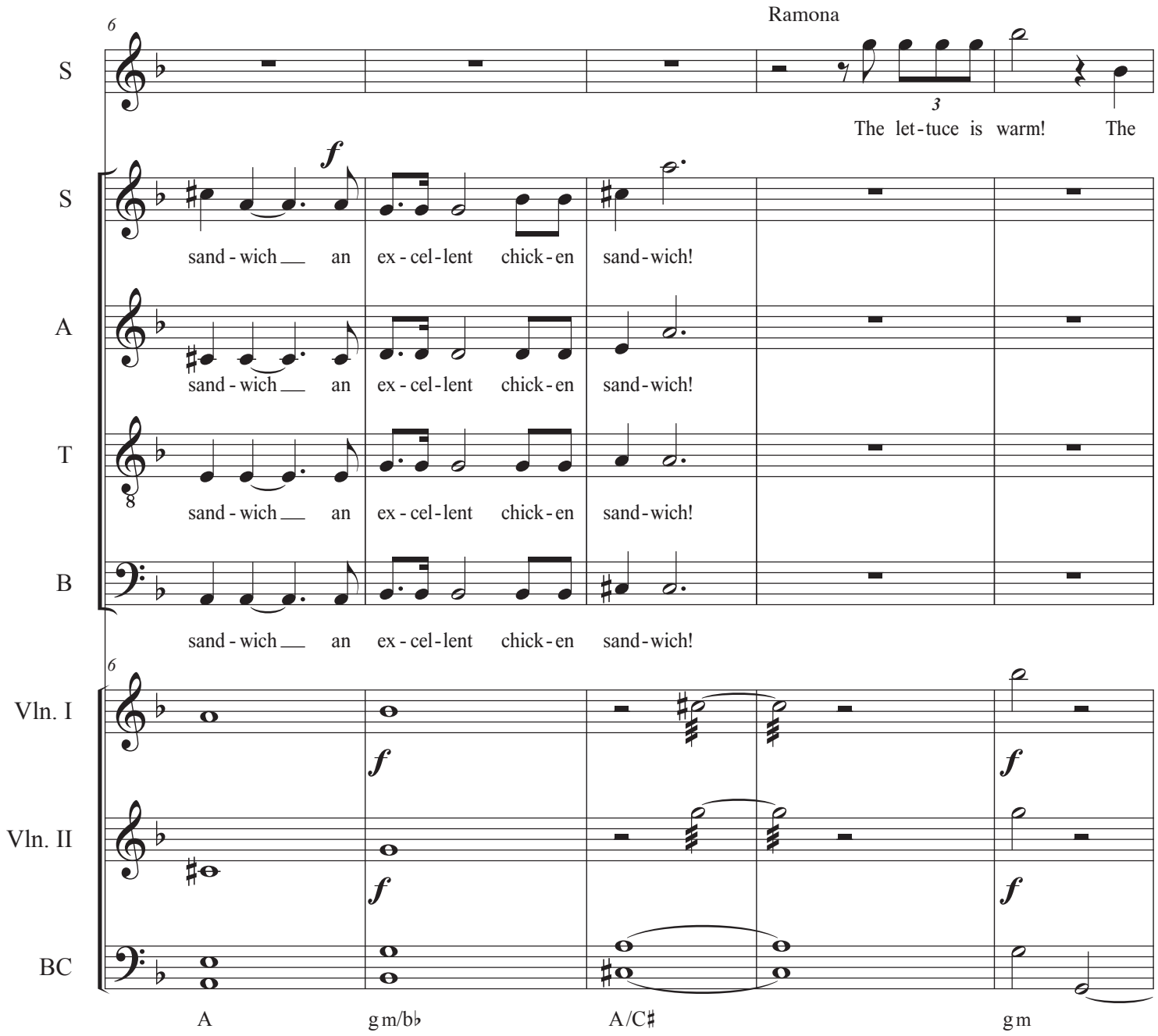

10
S
cold.
If the to - ma - to is not firm, if the
10
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
f
mf
f
mf
F
B♭
C7
F
F/C
dm
gm/b
A
15
S
ma - yo is too fat - ten - ing, then it's not, no it's not the ul - ti - mate chick-en
15
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
dm
C
B♭
am
gm/b♭
F/C
B♭
C7

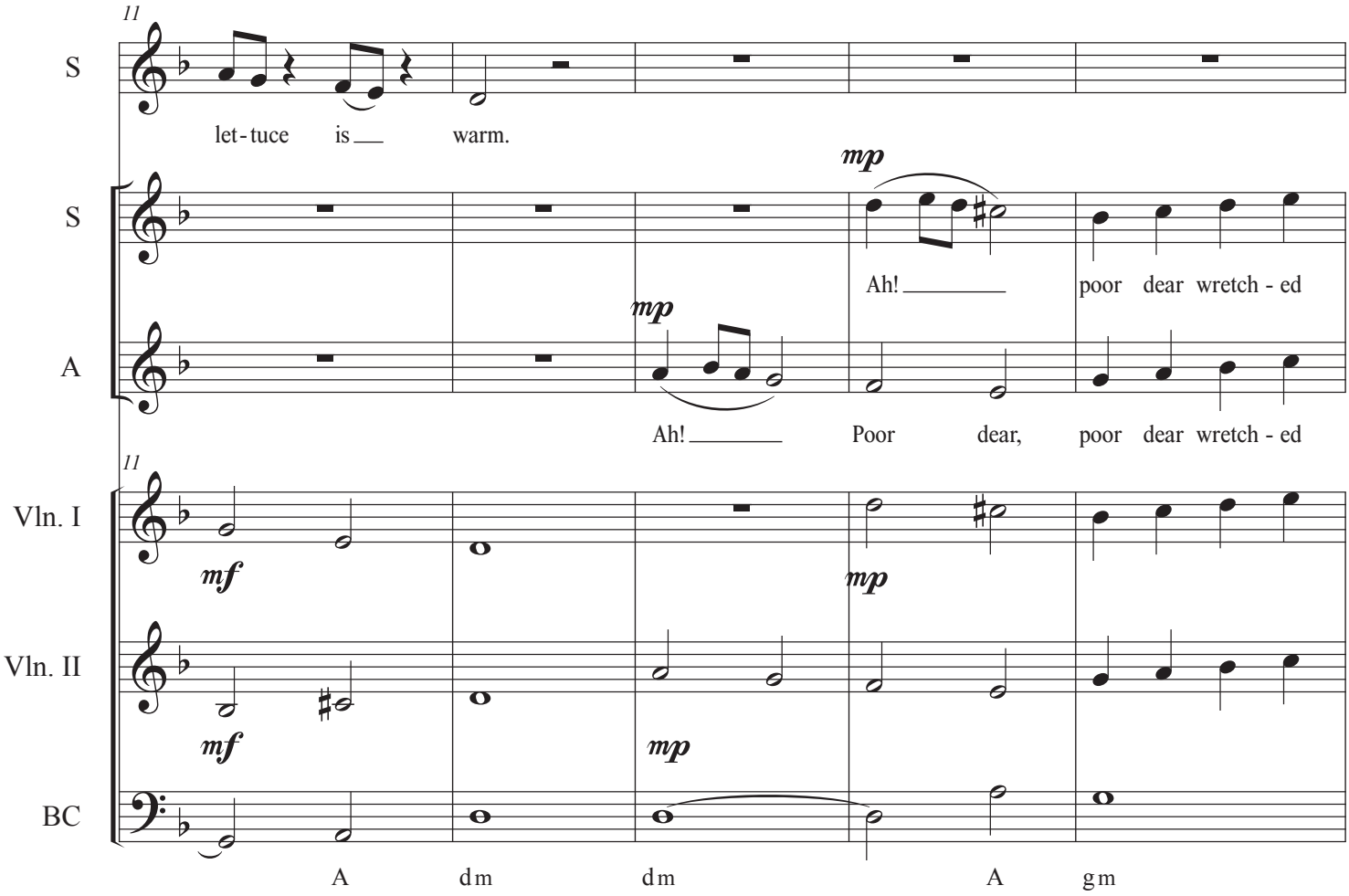

20
S
sand - wich. Two sli - ces of light - ly broil - ed breast of chick - en on a se - sa - me seed
Giselle
MS
Two sli - ces of light - ly broil - ed breast of chick - en on a se - sa - me seed
Phileep
B
Two sli - ces of light - ly broil - ed breast of chick - en on a se - sa - me seed
20
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
F F F/A B♭/D B♭ F C/G

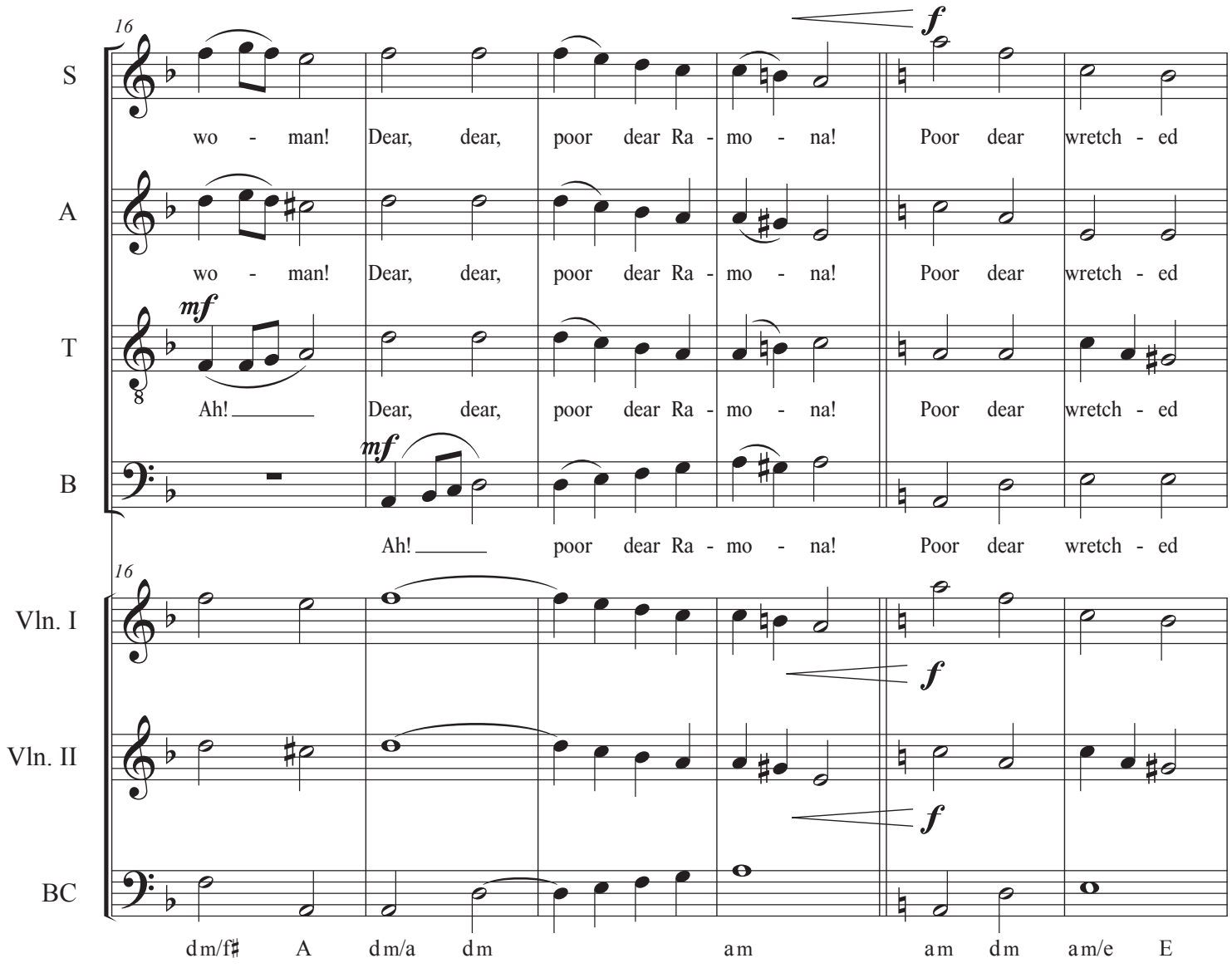

24
S
bun. The let - tuce must be cold, must be cold!
MS
bun. The let - tuce must be let - tuce must be cold,
B
bun. The let - tuce must be let - tuce must be cold,
24
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
C7 dm F/A C/E C7 F

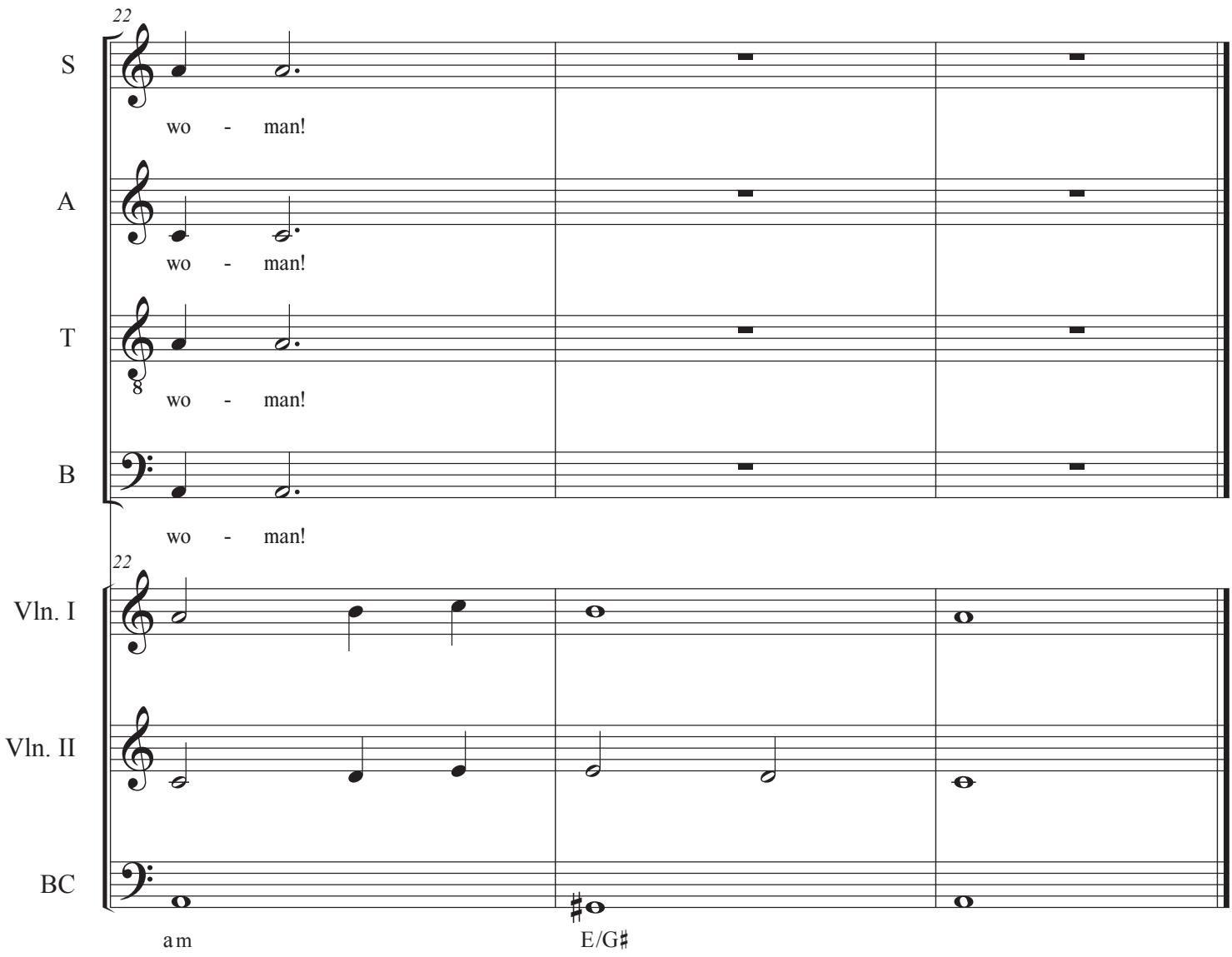
12. Chorus and Recitative: The Chicken Sandwich



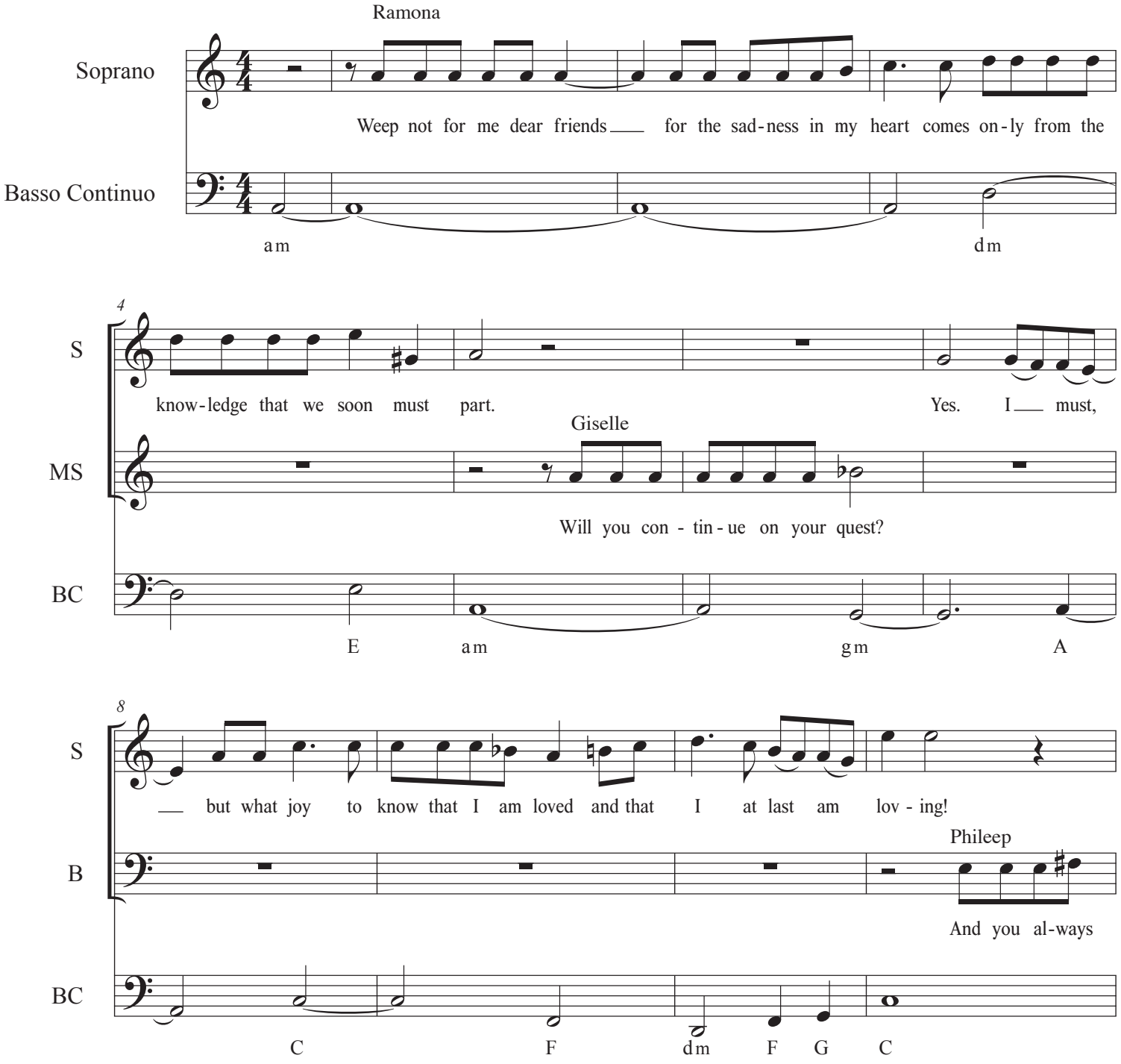

Ramona
S
The let-tuce is warm! The
S
sand-wich an ex-cel-lent chick-en sand-wich!
A
sand-wich an ex-cel-lent chick-en sand-wich!
T
sand-wich an ex-cel-lent chick-en sand-wich!
B
sand-wich an ex-cel-lent chick-en sand-wich!
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
A
g m/b♭
A/C♯
g m

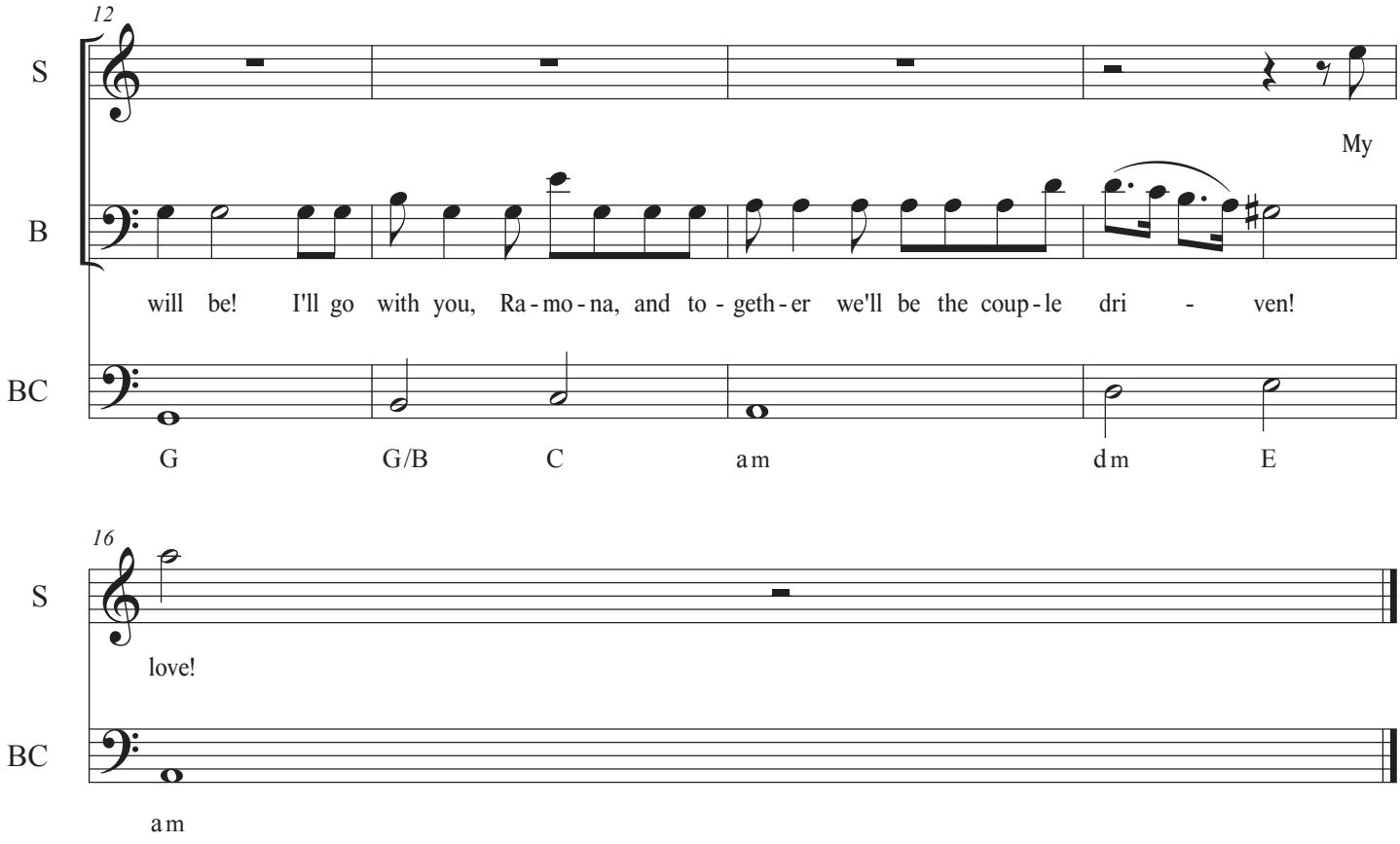

11
S
let - tuce is warm.
S
mp
Ah! poor dear wretch - ed
A
mp
Ah! Poor dear, poor dear wretch - ed
11
Vln. I
mf
mp
Vln. II
mf
mp
BC
A dm dm A gm


16
S
wo - man! Dear, dear, poor dear Ra - mo - na! Poor dear wretch - ed
A
wo - man! Dear, dear, poor dear Ra - mo - na! Poor dear wretch - ed
T
mf
Ah! Dear, dear, poor dear Ra - mo - na! Poor dear wretch - ed
B
mf
Ah! poor dear Ra - mo - na! Poor dear wretch - ed
16
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
f
dm/f♯ A dm/a dm am am dm am/e E

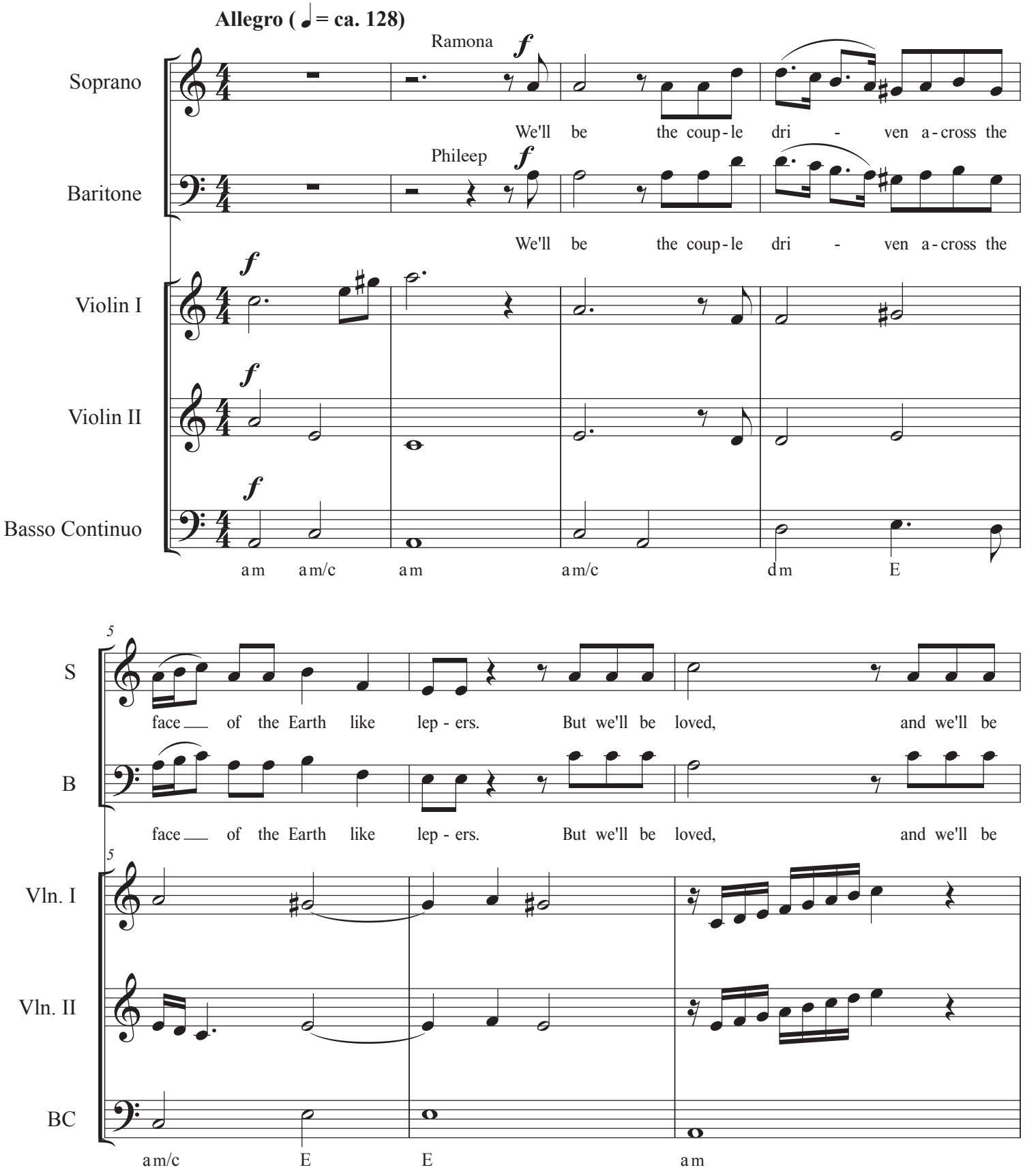

22
S
wo - man!
A
wo - man!
T
wo - man!
B
wo - man!
22
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
a m
E/G♯

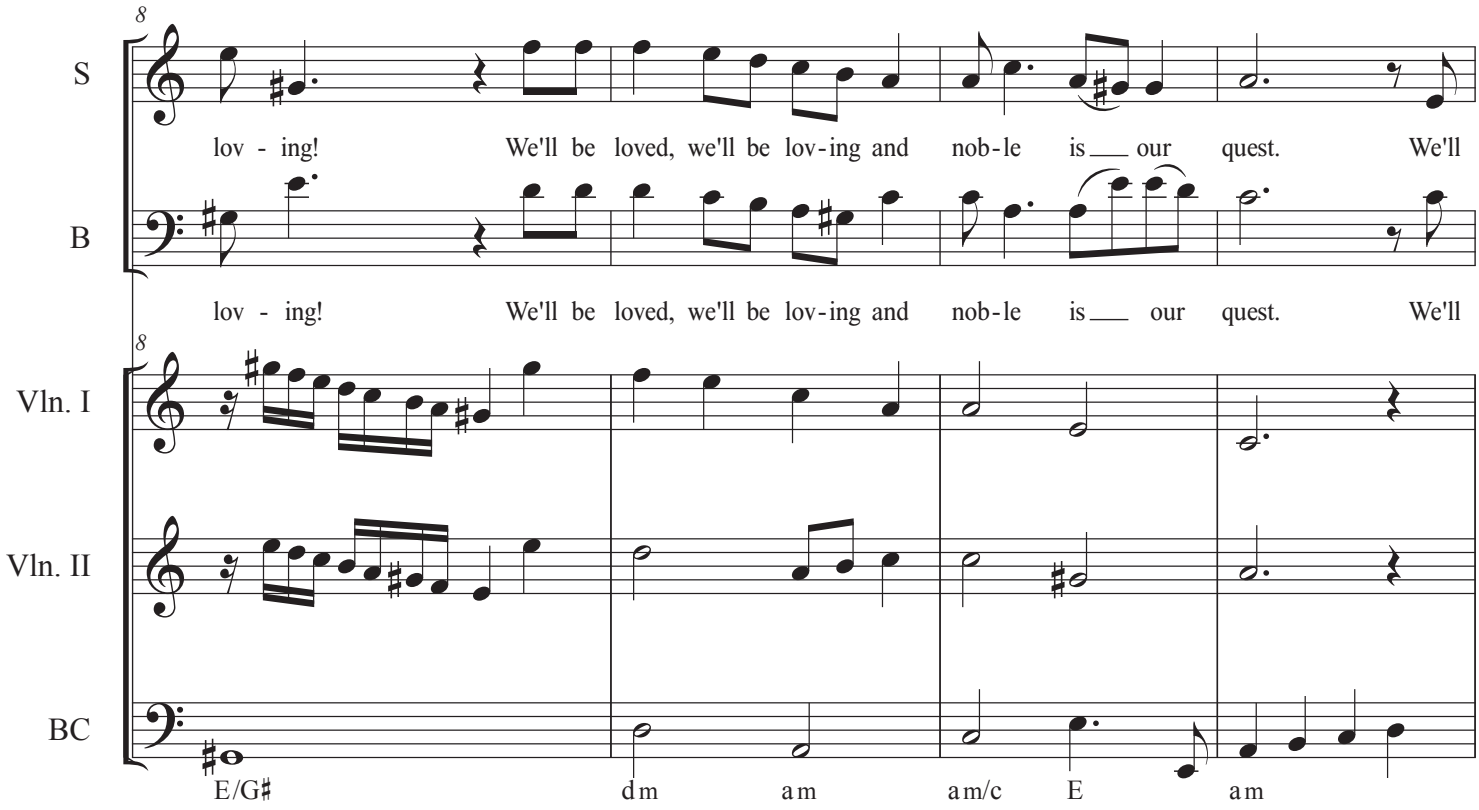
13. Recitative: Weep Not For Me

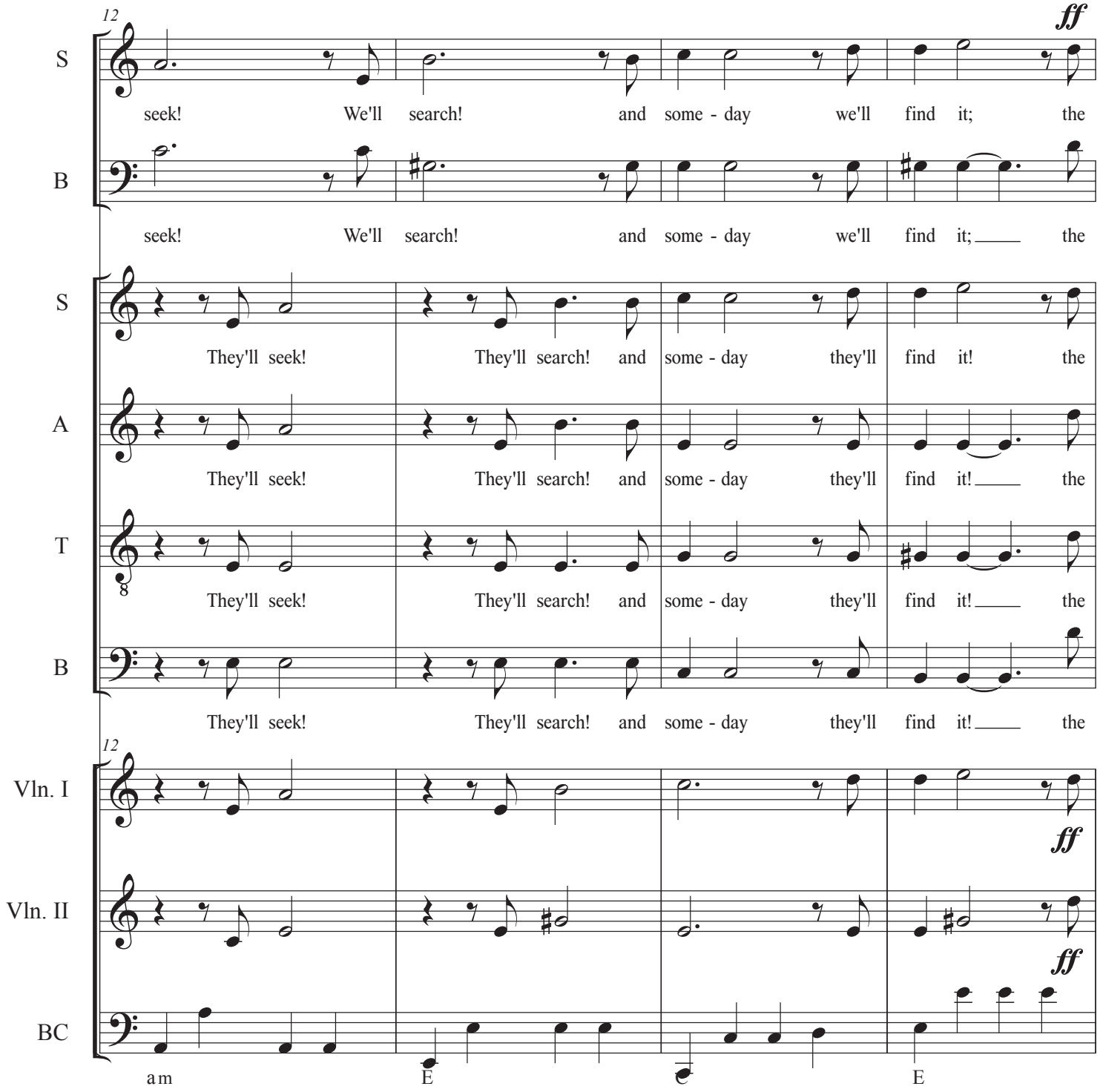


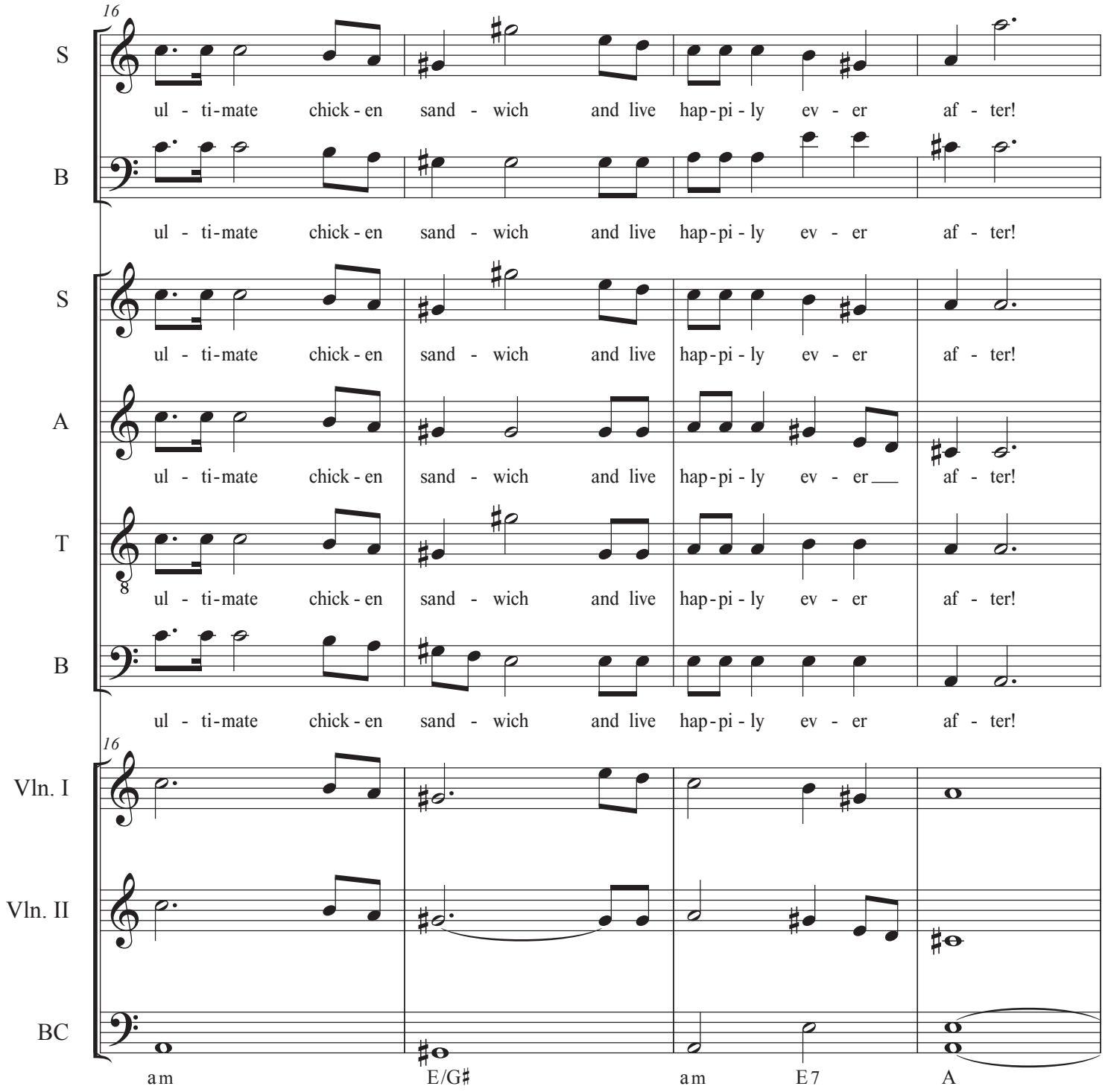

12
S
My
B
will be! I'll go with you, Ra - mo - na, and to - geth - er we'll be the coup - le dri - ven!
BC
G G/B C am dm E
16
S
love!
BC
am

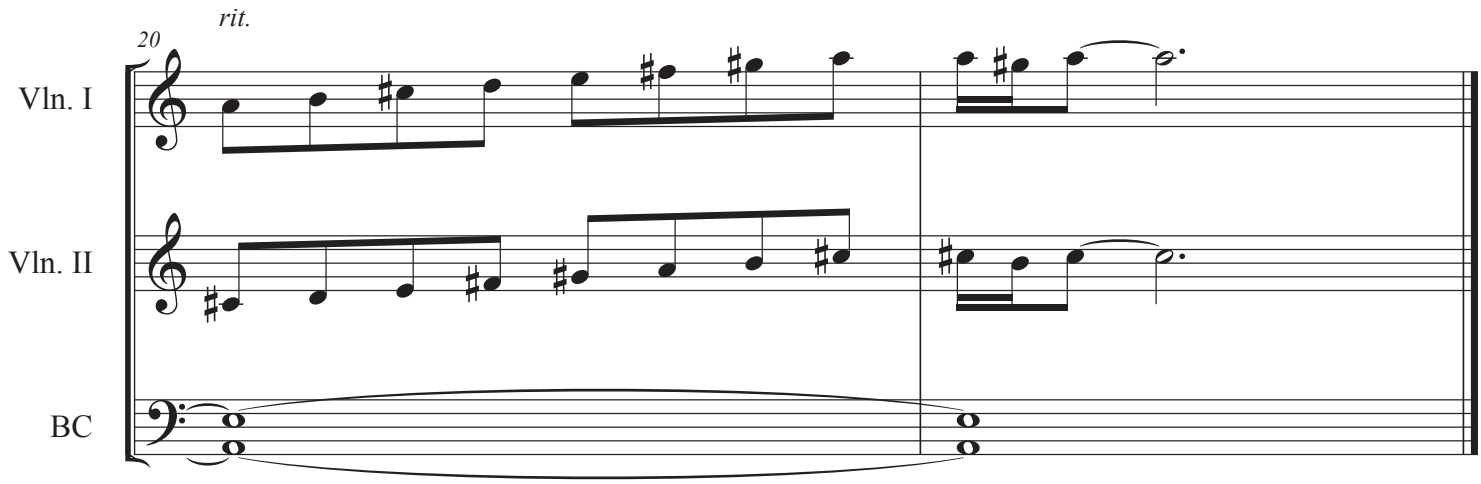
14. Finale: The Couple Driven




S
lov - ing! We'll be loved, we'll be lov-ing and nob-le is our quest. We'll
B
lov - ing! We'll be loved, we'll be lov-ing and nob-le is our quest. We'll
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
E/G♯ dm am am/c E am


12
ff
S
seek! We'll search! and some - day we'll find it; the
B
seek! We'll search! and some - day we'll find it; the
S
They'll seek! They'll search! and some - day they'll find it! the
A
They'll seek! They'll search! and some - day they'll find it! the
T
They'll seek! They'll search! and some - day they'll find it! the
B
They'll seek! They'll search! and some - day they'll find it! the
12
Vln. I
ff
Vln. II
ff
BC
am
E
E


16
S
ul - ti-mate chick - en sand - wich and live hap-pi - ly ev - er af - ter!
B
ul - ti-mate chick - en sand - wich and live hap-pi - ly ev - er af - ter!
S
ul - ti-mate chick - en sand - wich and live hap-pi - ly ev - er af - ter!
A
ul - ti-mate chick - en sand - wich and live hap-pi - ly ev - er af - ter!
T
ul - ti-mate chick - en sand - wich and live hap-pi - ly ev - er af - ter!
B
ul - ti-mate chick - en sand - wich and live hap-pi - ly ev - er af - ter!
16
Vln. I
Vln. II
BC
am
E/G♯
am
E7
A



End of the opera

Roles

Ramona | soprano
Phileep | baritone
Giselle | mezzo-soprano
Their friends | mixed chorus

Libretto

Chorus:

Isn't it swell? Isn't it chic to be hanging out in Europe?
There's not a care to be found where bread is long and cheese is round!

There's nothing quite so fine as having brie in gay Paris
or a perfect stein of beer in reunited Germany.
The kindly folks in Rome will make you feel at home
and the cafés in old Amsterdam will help you to get… anyway!

Isn't it swell? Isn't it chic to be hanging out in Europe?
And it's great just to know that there's no 'x' in 'espresso'

Giselle:

O my darling brother, you're the jewel of my heart.
You aren't very handsome so it's lucky that you're smart.
Your love life's a disaster so of course you are distressed
but listen to your sister and we'll sort out all your mess.

The way to true contentment isn't science, Dear, but art.
Until you find the love you seek you've just got to act the part!
Stand up tall and smile. Fine some joy in every day.
Love yourself and I love you and you're sure to find your way!
Fake it 'til you make it, Bro, and love will come one day!

Look! Who is that woman?

Phileep:

She looks as if she might have been driven across the face of the Earth like a leper!

Ramona:

Yes, it's true.

I am a woman driven across the face of the Earth like a leper.
I am unloved. I am unloving. Unloved and unloving but noble is my quest!

I seek! Je cherce! I search! Ich suche! I want the ultimate chicken sandwich!
I seek, I search! I must have the ultimate chicken sandwich under three hundred calories.

CHORUS:

Driven like a leper! She's been driven across the Earth like a leper!

RAMONA:

Yes!

CHORUS:

Are you unloved?

RAMONA:

Yes!

CHORUS:

Are you unloving?

RAMONA:

Yes!

CHORUS:

Poor dear wretched woman!

PHILEEP:

O, unhappy woman, what is your name?

RAMONA:

I am Ramona, but am better known as The Woman Driven!

PHILEEP:

I am Phileep, and this is my sister Giselle.

GISELLE:

Wait! Wait! Perhaps we can help you. There is a place not far from here that sells an excellent chicken sandwich. Our friends will go and get you one.

RAMONA:

Could it be at last?

PHILEEP:

Perhaps!

RAMONA:

You have been so kind!

PHILEEP:

You are so lovely and so brave!

O, how long I have waited to find a love to call my own,
but if I follow her I must now forsake all I've ever known.

RAMONA:

My road I have walked in solitude; my quest my only friend,
but if I stay with him I must now abandon my search before it's reached its end.

PHILEEP AND RAMONA:

O, how long I have waited (searched) to find a love to call my own.
At that moment, will I give up all I've ever known?
Yes, I will.

GISELLE:

O, how they do go on! Worrying about things that might never be.
Enough of that, you two!
Now, Ramona, dear; tell us what comprises
the ultimate chicken sandwich.

RAMONA:

Well, let's see…

Two slices of lightly broiled breast of chicken on a sesame seed bun.
The lettuce must be cold. If the tomato is not firm,
if the mayo is too fattening,
then it's not, no it's not the ultimate chicken sandwich.

RAMONA, GISELLE, AND PHILEEP:

Two slices of lightly broiled breast of chicken
on a sesame seed bun. The lettuce must be cold!

CHORUS:

We bring the chicken sandwich; an excellent chicken sandwich!

RAMONA:

The lettuce is warm!

CHORUS:

Poor dear wretched woman!
Poor dear Ramona!
Poor dear wretched woman!

RAMONA:

Weep not for me dear friends for the sadness in my heart
comes only from the knowledge that we soon must part.

GISELLE:

Will you continue on your quest?

RAMONA:

Yes. I must. But what joy to know that I am loved, and that I at last am loving!

PHILEEP:

And you always will be! I'll go with you, Ramona, and together we'll be The Couple Driven!

RAMONA:

My love!

RAMONA, PHILEEP, GISELLE, AND CHORUS:

We'll be The Couple Driven across the face of the Earth like lepers,
But we'll be loved, and we'll be loving.
We'll be loved; we'll be loving and noble is our quest.

We'll seek! We'll search, and someday we'll find it; the ultimate chicken sandwich
and live happily every after!