ON! OPENING NIGHT THEATER

Disney NEWSIES JR.

About The Show:

Disney's Newsies JR. is a 60-minute version of the 2012 Broadway musical, based on the 1992 film. Inspired by the rousing true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City, Newsies JR. features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein.

When powerful newspaper publishers raise prices at the newsboys' expense, the charismatic Jack Kelly rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions. Together, the newsies learn that they are stronger united and create a movement to fight for what's right.

Including the now-classic songs "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," and "Santa Fe," Newsies JR. is a timeless story full of spirit and heart.

We encourage all of our performers to familiarize themselves with the spirit of this (more or less) true historical story by watching the below video or taking a look at the brief historical summary included in this packet.

Characters:

Jack Kelly
The charismatic leader of the Manhattan newsies, an orphaned dreamer and artist who yearns to get out of the crowded streets of New York and make a better life for himself out West. Fiercely protective of his best friend, Crutchie, and very loyal, Jack isn't afraid to use his voice to attain better conditions for the working kids of New York City.

Katherine Plumber
An ambitious young reporter, works hard to make a name for herself as a legitimate journalist in a time when women aren't taken seriously. Quick, funny, and resourceful.

Crutchie/Casey
Jack's best friend and a dedicated newsie with a "bum leg" from polio that causes pain, but helps sell more papes. Walking with the assistance of a crutch doesn't define the ever-positive newsie. Goofy with a sweet sense of humor and optimistic resilience.

Davey
Les's straight-laced, bright big brother, starts selling newspapers to help his family earn a living but becomes swept up in the fervor of the strike. A leader in his own right, who is learning to use his voice to uplift others.

Les
Davey's cheeky younger sibling, is excited by the newsies' freedom and loves their independent lifestyle. This pint-sized charmer is younger than the other newsies

Medda Larkin
Inspired by the African- American vaudeville performer, Aida Overton-Walker, A big-voiced singer and star of the Bowery (see the "Dramaturgy" document in Downloadable Resources). A proud supporter of the newsies, she offers her theater as a safe haven for their revolution. An astute entertainer with great comic delivery, while standing firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice.

Joseph Pulitzer
A pompous businessman through and through, owns the World and is concerned solely with the bottom line. Katherine's no-nonsense father, Pulitzer doesn't sympathize with the strikers, but he does eventually – and grudgingly – respect Jack.

Wiesel
Aka "Weasel". A disgruntled paper-pusher who uses the Delancey brothers as his muscle, runs distribution for the World and has little sympathy for the newsies.

Newsies
The hard-working kids of New York City who go on strike for a livable wage. These include the following roles: Race, Albert, Muriel, Nancy, Specs, Pigtails, Hazel, Buttons, Tommy Boy, Romeo, Jo Jo, Scabs, Brooklyn Newsies, Spot Conlon.

Darcy
A photographer who works with Katherine.

Dorothy
Katherine's upperclass friend whose parents own the *New York Tribune* and help the newsies print the Newsies Banner.

Bill
Katherine's upperclass friend whose parents own the *New York Journal* and help the newsies print the Newsies Banner.

Working Children
Featured in "Once and For All," they represent all of the other child laborers who receive the Newsies Banner and ultimately become a part of the children's crusade.

Seitz
The editor of the *World* who advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the Newsies.

Bunsen
Pulitzer's bookkeeper who helps Pulitzer come up with the idea to raise the newsies' price per paper.

Hannah
Pulitzer's secretary who is a clever advocate for the newsies.

Snyder
The crooked warden of The Refuge. A filthy and horrible juvenile reformatory, is concerned only with catching enough kids to keep their government checks coming.

Governor Teddy Roosevelt
A well-respected lifelong public servant who inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

Bowery Brigade
Includes the roles of the upbeat and charming Ada, Olive, and Ethel. A group of vaudeville performers in Medda's act.

Police Officers
Includes the role of the Police Chief. They intimidate the newsies and arrest Crutchie.

Pat
An efficient stage manager who introduces Medda's act.

Woman
A newspaper customer.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesdays from 1:45pm-4pm: *4/2 (auditions), 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4*

Tech Rehearsal on Friday, 6/7 until 6:00pm.
**Additional rehearsals may be scheduled on show week (potentially Wednesday 6/5 or Thursday 6/6)*

Final performances will be held on Saturday, June 8th at 1pm and 5pm in the school auditorium. Students will remain with us from call time (10:30am) through the end of the second performance. We will provide them with pizza between the two performances.

*Please note: All email communications will be coming from **ontheaterla@gmail.com**. Be sure to check your spam folder to be sure you haven't missed anything!*

WHAT TO BRING EACH WEEK

- Water
- Extra snacks
- Closed-toe-shoes
- Your script (once you receive it) & pen/pencil, highlighter

WHAT TO BRING BY APRIL 23RD

SHOES

Here are the recommendations for shoes for this year's production of Newsies Jr.

Please order ASAP as we would like the cast to bring them for rehearsal days beginning April 23rd. It will be incredibly helpful for the students to start rehearsing and practicing the choreography in the shoes. We would like the majority of the cast to wear **black jazz boots.**

Here are links to some options on Amazon just as reference (you do not need to get these exact ones).

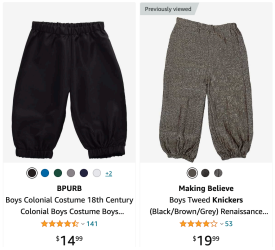
EXAMPLE 1

EXAMPLE 2

If you cannot find jazz boots in the correct size....an alternative would be Black jazz shoes like **THESE**.

KNCIKERS

Knickers OR a similar pant style are required for all *Newsies* with the exception of DAVEY and LES. Example:



Earth-tone colors are best (brown, grey, olive green, dark khaki). Ideally no black. Solid color, plaid or simple striped pants in earth tones (nothing too bright or modern).

Please note that khaki or corduroy pants may also be accepted.

Most knickers that you can buy are pretty voluminous (better for colonial costumes). It's easiest to find pants and cut them below the knee at the desired length and add a quick hem. For girls - possibly finding capri pants and then adding some elastic around the bottom cuff to make them knickers could work too.

SOCKS

Long white, brown, or Argyle socks for all *Newsies*.

AUDITION MATERIALS

Auditions for all participants will be held on our first program day. Performers will have time on the first day to review and practice the materials before auditioning.

Please prepare (ONE) of the included monologues OR scenes AND (ONE) of the included song excerpts. All materials are included in this packet. Audition songs should be sung acapella (without music). Memorization is *not* required, but encouraged. Being off-book frees up your hands to express yourself, and frees up your face and eyes so we can connect to you emotionally (instead of you looking at a paper). Performers should be prepared to perform their songs and scenes with confidence and personality.

We want this process to be as fun and stress free as possible. Every single role matters. If you know you don't want a big singing part, or aren't quite comfortable being in the spotlight, just let us know! Do what works best for *you.*

Our first program day will also consist of a cast team-building activity and choreography workshop, both of which will factor into our casting decisions.

Please complete the cast contract and tell us a bit about yourself prior to auditioning at **openingnighttheater.com/castcontract.**

SONG SELECTIONS

"Carrying The Banner"
"Just a Pretty Face"
"King of New York"
"Letter From The Refuge"
"Santa Fe"
"Seize The Day"
"Watch What Happens"

NEWSIES is a dance-heavy production, so if dance is a strength of yours - tap, ballet, jazz, etc - please let us know!

Did You Know? The full, filmed Broadway production of NEWSIES is available on Disney Plus! Check it out!

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE AUDITION MUSIC TRACKS.

THESE TRACKS ARE FOR PRACTICING ONLY. AUDITIONS SHOULD BE SUNG ACAPELLA (WITHOUT MUSIC).

MONOLOGUE SELECTIONS

Jack Kelly 1:
"It ain't just about us. All across this city there are boys and girls who ought to be out playin' or going to school. Instead they're slavin' to support themselves and their folks. Ain't no crime to bein' poor, and not a one of us complains if the work we do is hard. All we ask is a square deal. Fellas ... for the sake of all the kids in every sweatshop, factory, and slaughter house in this town, I beg you ... throw down your papers and join the strike."

Jack Kelly 2:
"Want to see a place I seen? How about this?" (he displays a large political cartoon he has drawn of the newsies being crushed by Pulitzer in Newsie Square) "Newsie Square, thanks to my big mouth, filled to overflowing with failure. Kids hurt, others arrested - Is that what you're aiming for? Go on and call me a quitter, call me a coward. No way I'm puttin' them kids back in danger."

Katherine Plumber:
"Really, Jack? Really? Only you can have a good idea? Or is it because I'm a girl? This would be a good time to shut up. Being boss doesn't mean you have all the answers. Just the brains to recognize the right one when you hear it. The strike was your idea. The rally was Davey's. And now my plan will take us to the finish line. Think, Jack, if we publish this - my words with one of your drawings - and if every worker under twenty-one read it and stayed home from work ... or better yet, came to Newsie Square - a general city-wide strike! Even my father couldn't ignore that."

Davey:
“They got us this time. I'll grant you that. But we took round one. And with press like this, our fight is far from over. Every newsie who could walk showed up this morning to sell papes like the strike never happened.-- And I was there with them. If I don't sell papes, my folks don't eat. But then -I saw this look on Weasel's face; he was actually nervous. And I realized this isn't over. We got them worried. Really worried. And I walked away. Lots of other kids did, too. And that is what you call a beginning.

Les:
“What's the hold up? I need to let my girl know. We've got a date. Yeah, you heard me. Fame is one intoxicatin' potion. And this here girl, Sally, she's a plum. So can we table the palaver* and get back to business? Will Medda let us have the theater or not?”

Crutchie:
“I wanna beat the other fellas to the street. I don't want anyone should see; I ain't been walkin' so good. Someone gets the idea I can't make it on my own, they'll lock me up in The Refuge for good. Be a pal, Jack. Help me down. Let’s get our papers and hit the streets while we still can.”

Race:
“You won't be shooin' us off when we get our mugs in the papes! Lemme see. Lookit! Would you lookit? Dat's me! For jumping Jack's sake. Can you stow the seriosity long enough to drink in the moment? I'm famous! Are you stupid or what? You're famous, the world is your erster. Your erster! Your fancy clam with a pearl inside. You don't need money when you're famous. They gives you whatever you want- gratis!”

Pulitzer:
“Mark my words, boy. Defy me, and I will have you and every one of your friends locked up in The Refuge. I know you're Mr. Tough Guy, but it's not right to condemn that little crippled boy to conditions like that. And what about your pal Davey and his baby brother, ripped from their loving family and tossed to the rats? Will they ever be able to thank you enough?”

Medda Larkin:
“Here's everything I owe you for the first backdrop, plus this one, and even a little something extra just account'a because I'm gonna miss you so. Just tell me that you're going somewhere and not running away. When you go somewhere and it turns out not to be the right place, you can always go somewhere else. But if you're running away, nowhere's ever the right place.”

SCENE THREE: STREET

(NEWSIES criss-cross the stage selling papers to CUSTOMERS. JACK watches DAVEY's pathetic attempt at selling.)

DAVEY

Paper. Paper. Evenin' pape here.

JACK

Sing 'em to sleep, why don'tcha?

(snatches a paper from DAVEY and hawks it)

Extra! Extra! Terrified flight from burnin' inferno. You heard the story right here!

(A CUSTOMER snatches the paper from JACK, hands him a coin, and exits.)

Thanks!

DAVEY

You just made that up.

JACK

Did not. I said he heard it right here, and he did.

DAVEY

My father taught us not to lie.

JACK

And mine taught me not to starve.

(LES comes up empty-handed, along with CRUTCHIE.)

LES

Hey! Just sold my last paper.

CRUTCHIE

Kid's a natural, Jack.

DAVEY

I got one more.

JACK

Sell it or pay for it.

(LES takes the paper, goes to a WOMAN passing by, and makes a sad face.)

LES

Buy a pape from a poor orphan?

(LES coughs gently.)

~~WOMAN~~

~~Oh, you dear thing. Of course I'll take a newspaper. Here's a dime.~~

(The WOMAN exits with her paper.)

CRUTCHIE

Born to the breed.

LES

This is so much better than school!

DAVEY

Don't even think it. When Pop goes back to work, we go back to school.
(to JACK)
Our father tangled with a delivery truck on the job. Messed his leg up bad, so they fired him. That's how come we had to find work.

JACK

Yeah, sure, that makes sense. Too bad about your dad.

*(WARDEN SNYDER and the POLICE OFFICER stealthily approach JACK. **#7 – CHASE**.)*

CRUTCHIE

Jack, it's Snyder! Am-scray!

~~SNYDER~~

~~Jack Kelly!~~

JACK

Run for it!

(JACK helps CRUTCHIE as they run off with DAVEY and LES.)

~~SNYDER~~

~~Stop! Officer, grab him. Jack Kelly, you come back here! Get him!~~

~~*(The POLICE OFFICER and SNYDER exit in pursuit.)*~~

AUDITION SIDE – Jack, Crutchie
from *Newsies JR.*

AUDITION SCENE 2

JACK

Hey, Crutchie, where you going? Morning bell ain't rung yet. Get back to sleep.

CRUTCHIE

I wanna get there before everybody. Ever since I got the polio, it takes me extra time to warm up my leg.

JACK

That bum pin of yours is a gold mine! You know how many newsies fake a limp for sympathy? That's why they calls you "Crutchie," 'cause they wish they had one too!

CRUTCHIE

Yeah, "pretend" is one thing, but Snyder gets the idea I can't make it on my own for real, they'll lock me up in The Refuge for good.

JACK

Don't worry about nuthin', I got your back. What d'ya think of my latest creation?

(JACK reveals his drawing. CRUTCHIE is impressed.)

CRUTCHIE

Jack, you're a regular Nickelangelo Dervinci! But how come you always drawing pictures of mountains and stuff?

JACK

(rolls up drawing and tucks it away)

These streets sucked the life right outta my old man. Well, they ain't doin' that to me. You can keep your small life in the big city. Give me a big life in a small town way out west where a fella can breathe!

AUDITION SIDE – Jack, Katherine
from *Newsies JR.*

AUDITION SCENE 3

JACK

I ain't gonna see no more of my pals beat up and tossed into jail. No matter how many days we strike, your father ain't givin' up. I don't know what else we can do.

KATHERINE

Ah. But I do.

JACK

No, I'm through. No way.

KATHERINE

Really, Jack? Really? Being boss doesn't mean you have all the answers – just the brains to recognize the right one when you hear it.

(JACK is at a loss for words.)

JACK

Okay, I'm listening.

KATHERINE

The strike was your idea. The rally was Davey's. And now my plan will take us to the finish line.

(KATHERINE takes a piece of paper from her pocket and hands it to him.)

JACK

(reading)
"The Children's Crusade"? Now, there's a headline!

KATHERINE

(snatches it back and reads)
"For the sake of all the kids in every sweatshop, factory, and slaughterhouse in New York, I beg you… join us." With those words, you challenged our whole generation to help each other!

JACK

I can't believe it, I mean people like you would never give me the time of day, and here you are, taking up the banner. Why?

KATHERINE

We all need something to believe in, Jack. I believe in this story. I believe in you. And so do the newsies.

AUDITION SIDE – Jack, Medda, Les, Crutchie, Davey, Pat
from *Newsies JR.*

AUDITION SCENE 4

JACK
Miss Medda, I got a little situation out on the street. Mind if I hide out here a while?

MEDDA
Is Snyder the Spider after you again? Make yourself at home.

LES
Hey Jack, did you really escape jail on the back of Teddy Roosevelt's carriage?

CRUTCHIE
He sure did!

DAVEY
What would the Governor be doing at a juvenile jail?

JACK
So happens he was runnin' for office and wanted to show he cared about orphans and such. So while he got his mug in the paper, I got my butt in the back seat and off we rode together.

LES
You really know Governor Roosevelt?

MEDDA
He don't, but I do. Teddy's a regular patron of the arts, been a big fan of mine for years. By the way, Jack, can you paint me some more of these backdrops? Things have been going so well that I can actually pay you soon.

JACK
I couldn't take your money, Miss Medda.

LES
You pictured that?

DAVEY
It's really good!

MEDDA
Your friend is quite an artist.

JACK
Don't get carried away. It's a bunch of trees.

MEDDA
The boy's got natural aptitude.

LES

Geez. I never knew no one with a aptitude!

PAT

Miss Medda, you're on!

MEDDA

Kids, stay as long as you like. You're with Medda now!

PAT

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the magnificent Medda Larkin and her Bowery Brigade!

MEDDA

Well, hi-dee-ho, everybody! Welcome to my theater. Yessiree, it's a brand new century with a brand new set of rules for women, and the Brigade and I are gonna tell you all about them. Maestro, if you please!

AUDITION SIDE – Pullitzer, Bunsen, Seitz, Hannah
from *Newsies JR.*

AUDITION SCENE 5

PULITZER

(looking up from a report)
The *World* is in trouble. Our circulation is down for the third quarter in a row.

BUNSEN

We could use an exciting headline, Mr. Pulitzer.

PULITZER

What have we got today?

SEITZ

The trolley strike.

PULITZER

That's not exciting? It's epic!

HANNAH

It's boring. Folks just wanna know, "Is the trolley comin' or ain't it?"

SEITZ

Big photos attract readers, sir.

PULITZER

Do you know what big photos cost?

BUNSEN

But without flashy photos or headlines, how are we supposed to sell more papers?

HANNAH

We don't sell papers – <u>newsies</u> sell papers.

BUNSEN

That's ridiculous.

PULITZER

We don't sell papers, newsies sell papers!

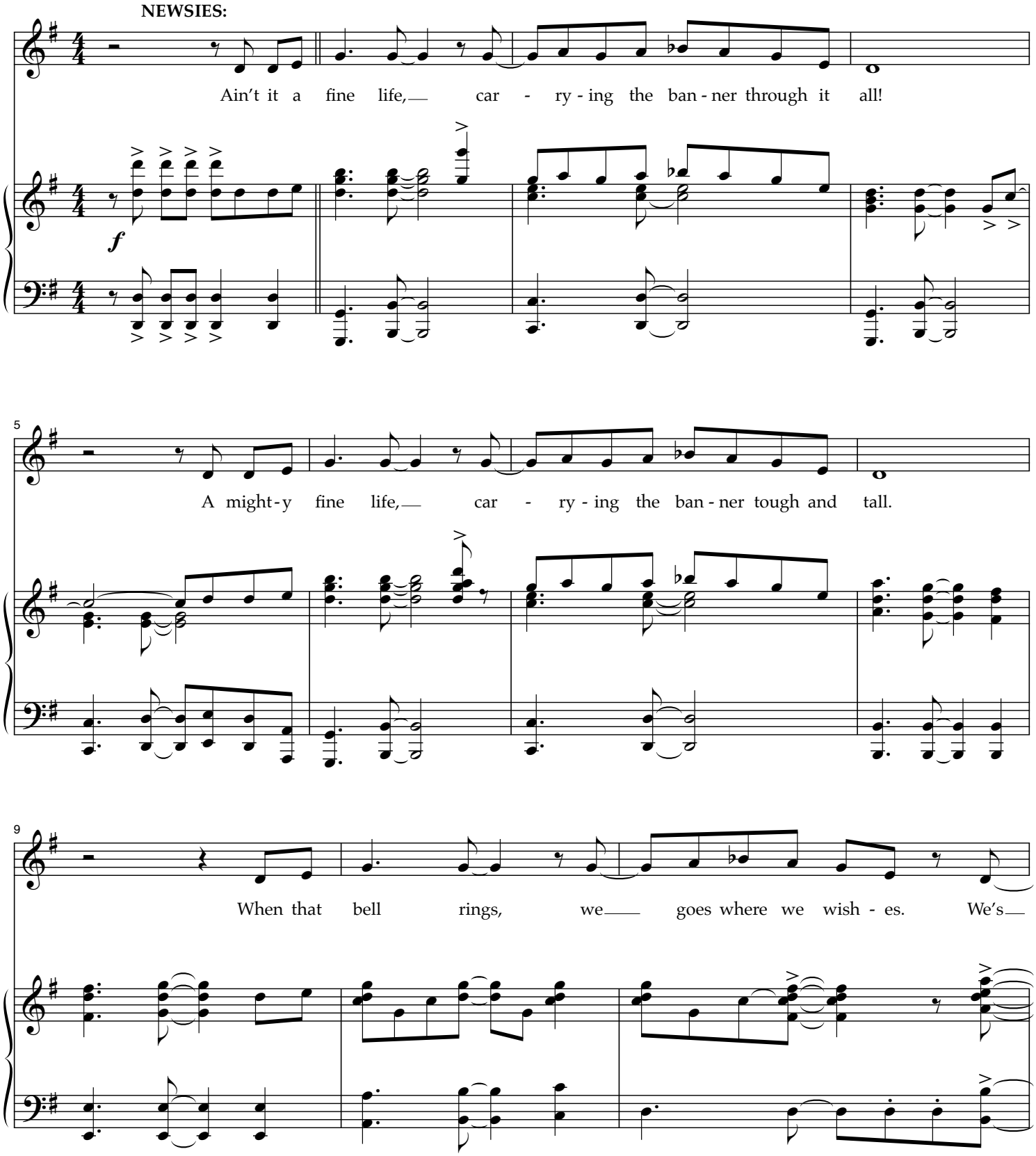
BUNSEN

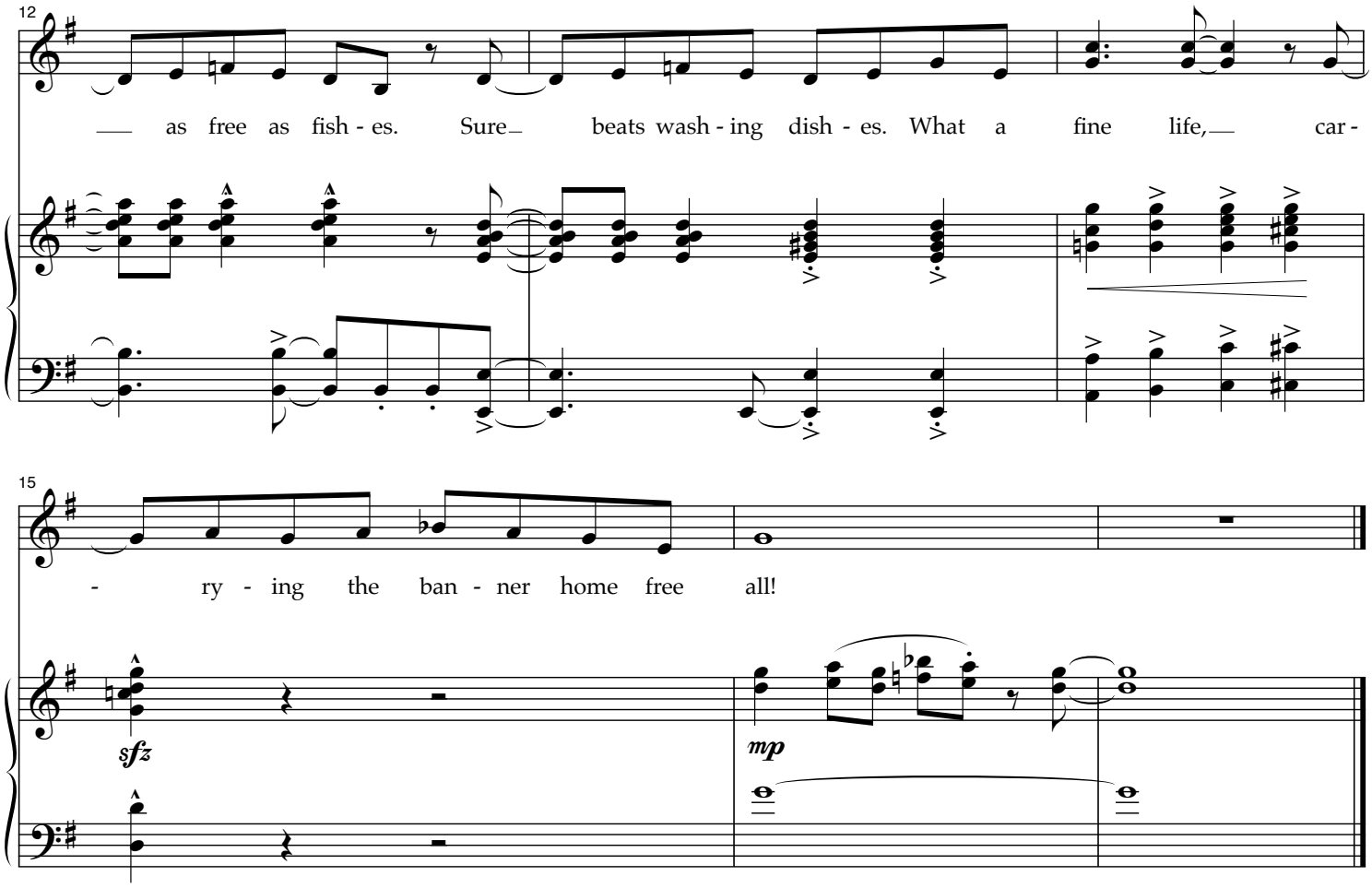
That's brilliant!

HANNAH

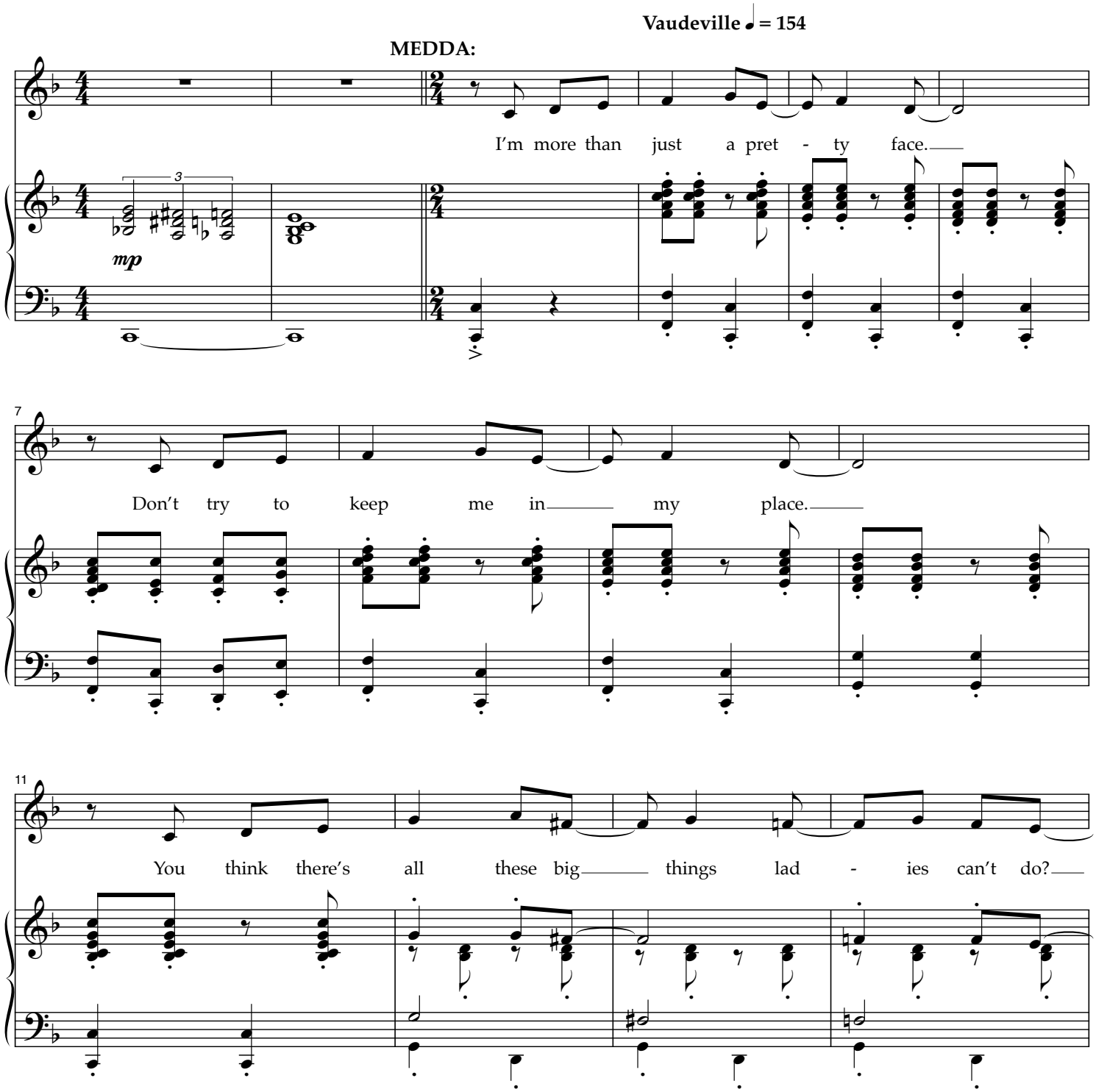
Thank you.

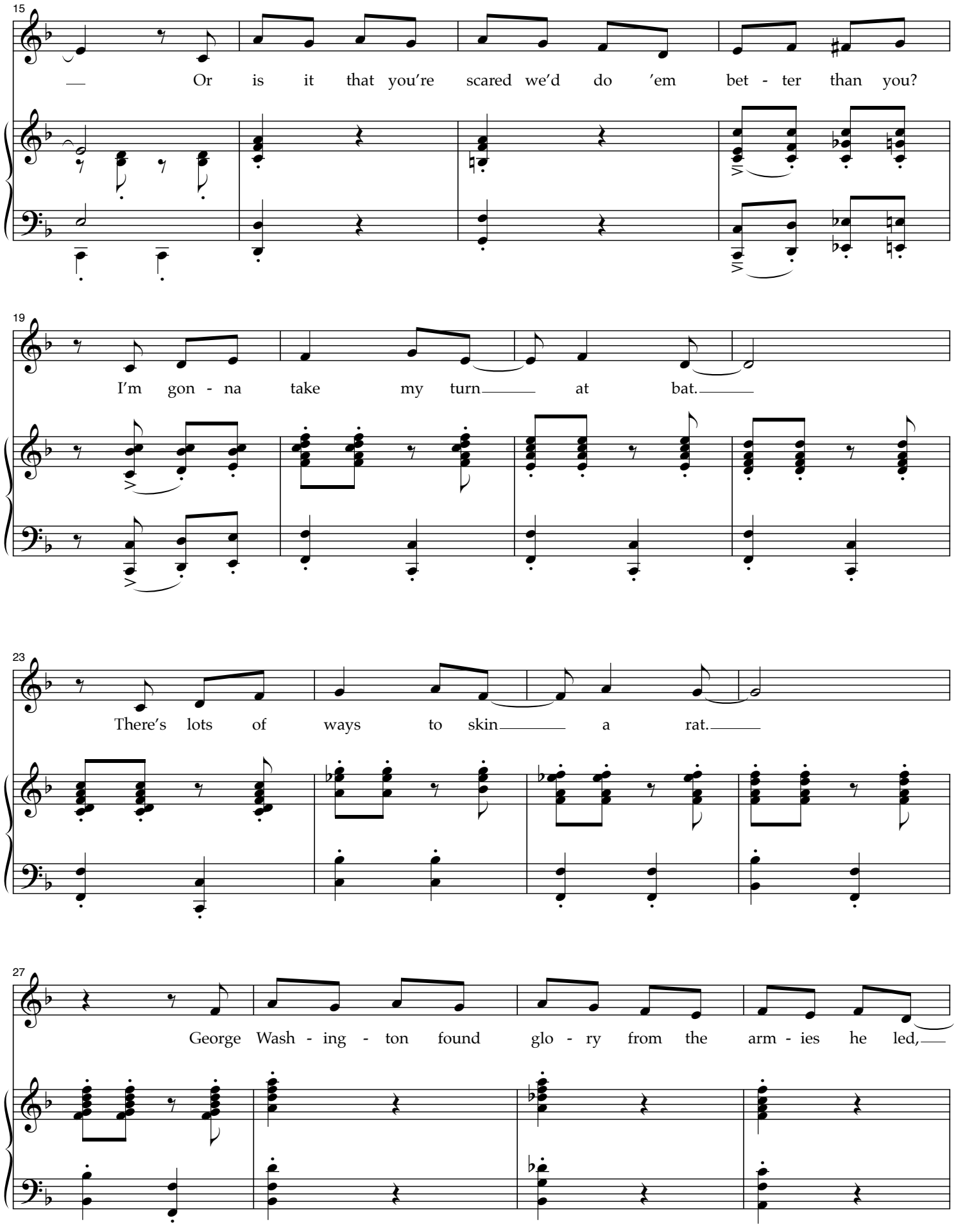
Carrying the Banner

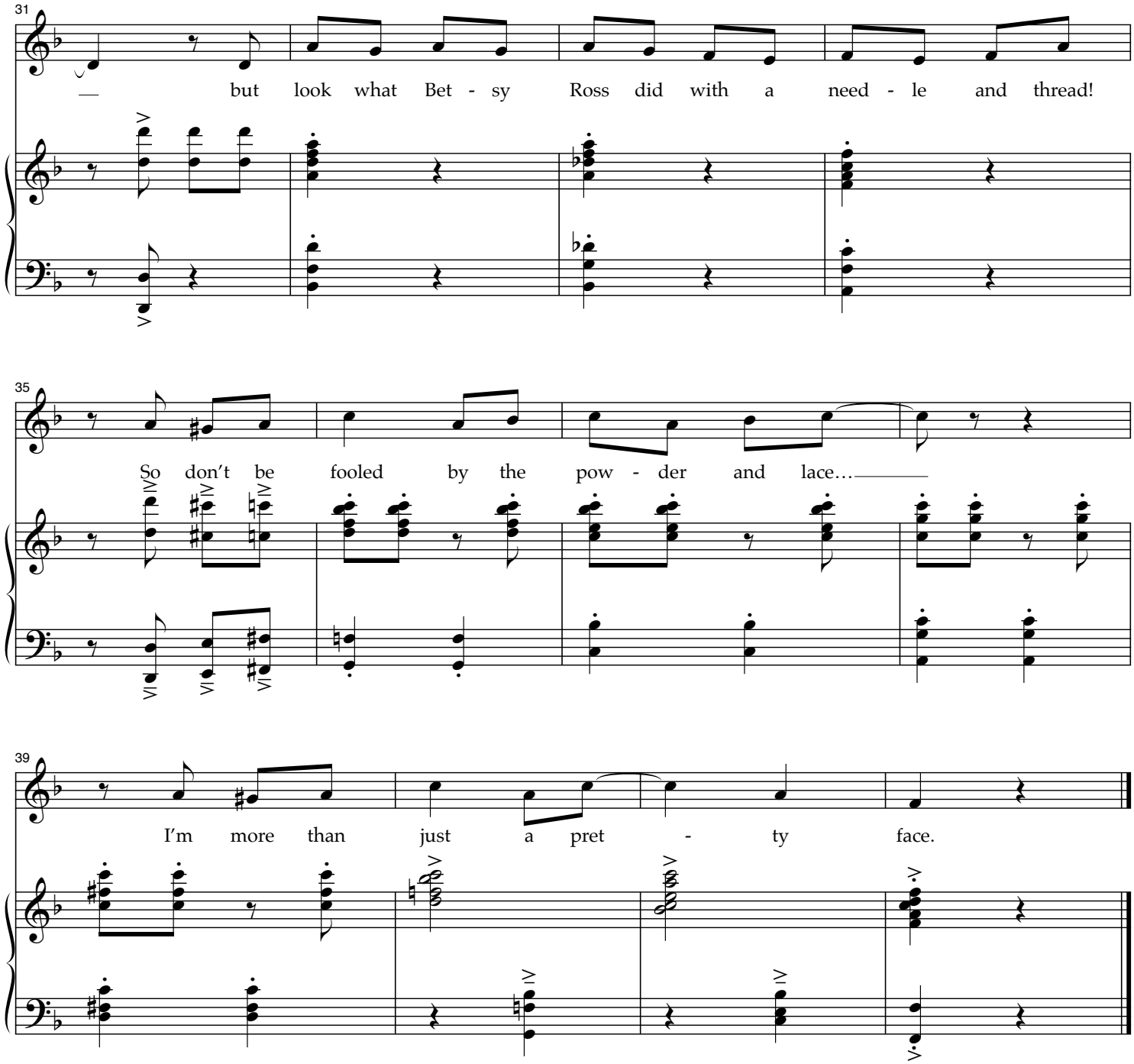



12
as free as fish - es. Sure beats wash - ing dish - es. What a fine life, car -
15
- ry - ing the ban - ner home free all!
sfz
mp

Just a Pretty Face




15
Or is it that you're scared we'd do 'em bet - ter than you?
19
I'm gon - na take my turn at bat.
23
There's lots of ways to skin a rat.
27
George Wash - ing - ton found glo - ry from the arm - ies he led,


31
— but look what Bet - sy Ross did with a need - le and thread!
35
So don't be fooled by the pow - der and lace…
39
I'm more than just a pret - ty face.

Those reading for Race should sing this whole excerpt, not just the “Race” lines.

KING OF NEW YORK

(RACE): They gives ya whatever ya want *gratis!*

3

PIGTAILS: Such as...?

4 **RACE:**

A pair of new shoes with

6 **ROMEO:**

match-in' la - ces... A per-ma-nent box at the

8 **PIGTAILS:**

Sheeps-head ra - ces... Pas - tra-mi on rye with a

10 **MURIEL:**

so - ur pic - kle... My per-son-al mug on a

12 **RACE:**

wood-en nic - kel... Look at me: I'm—

14

— the king— of New York!——

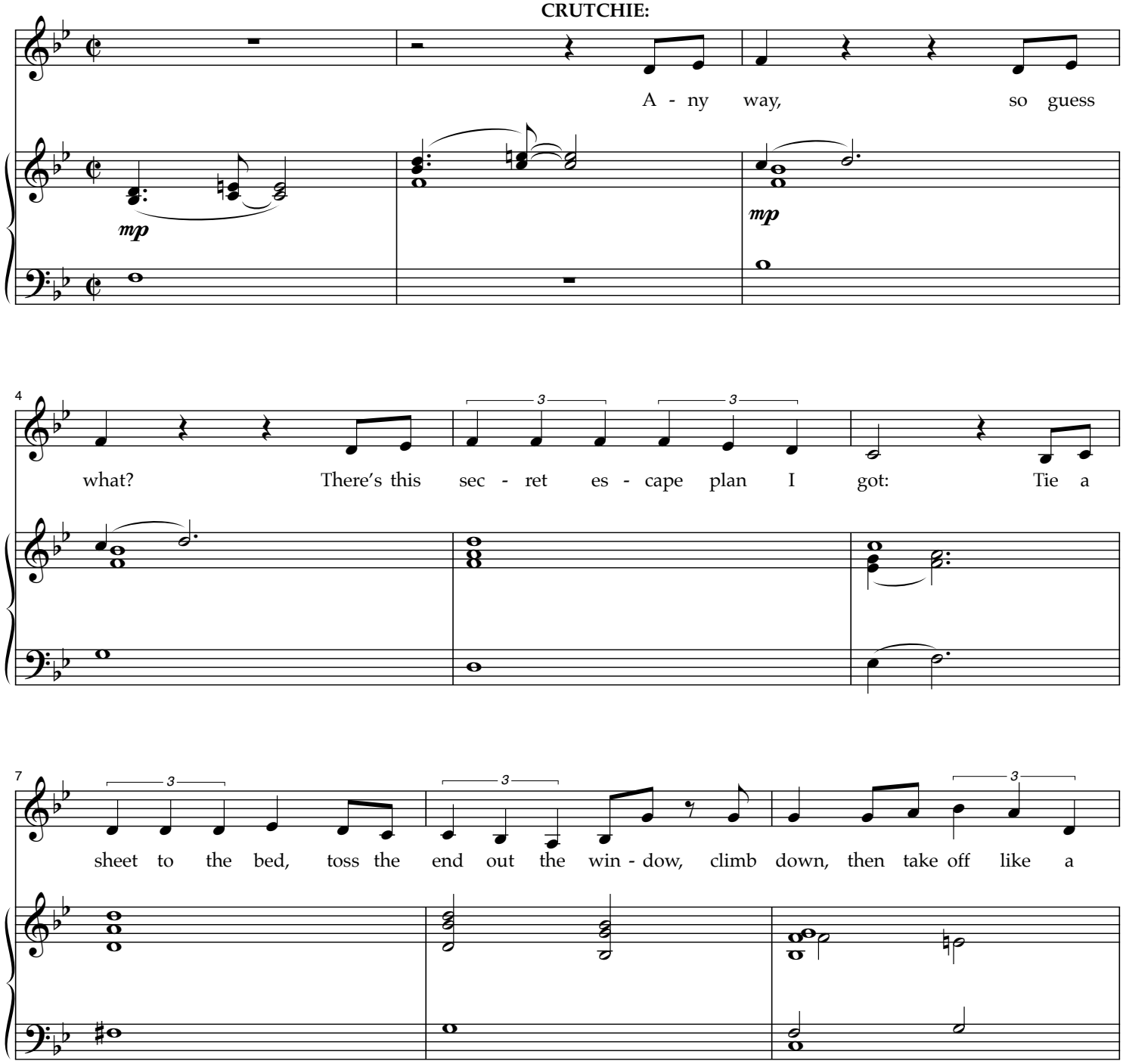
16

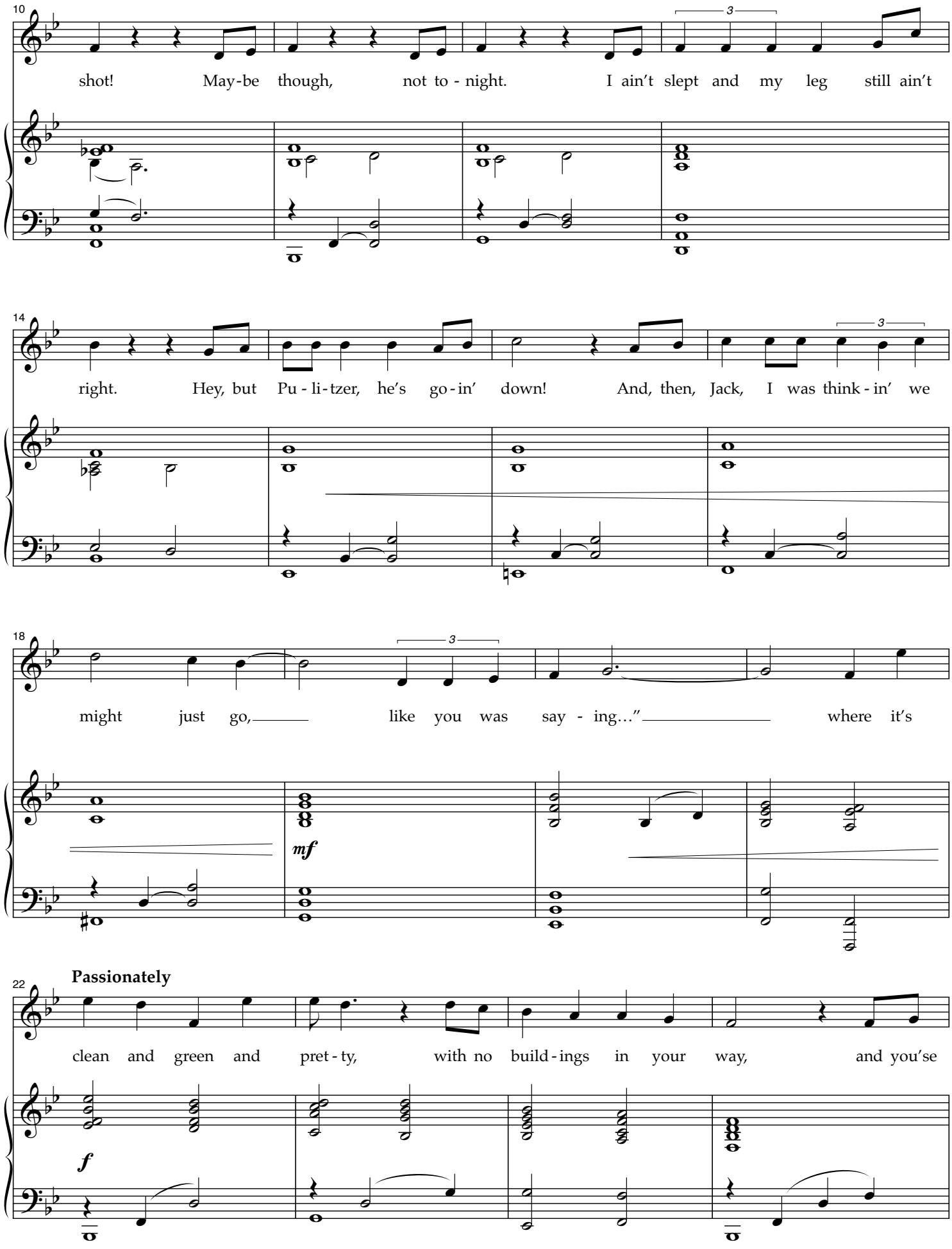
Sud-den-ly, I'm—— res-pec-ta-ble, star-

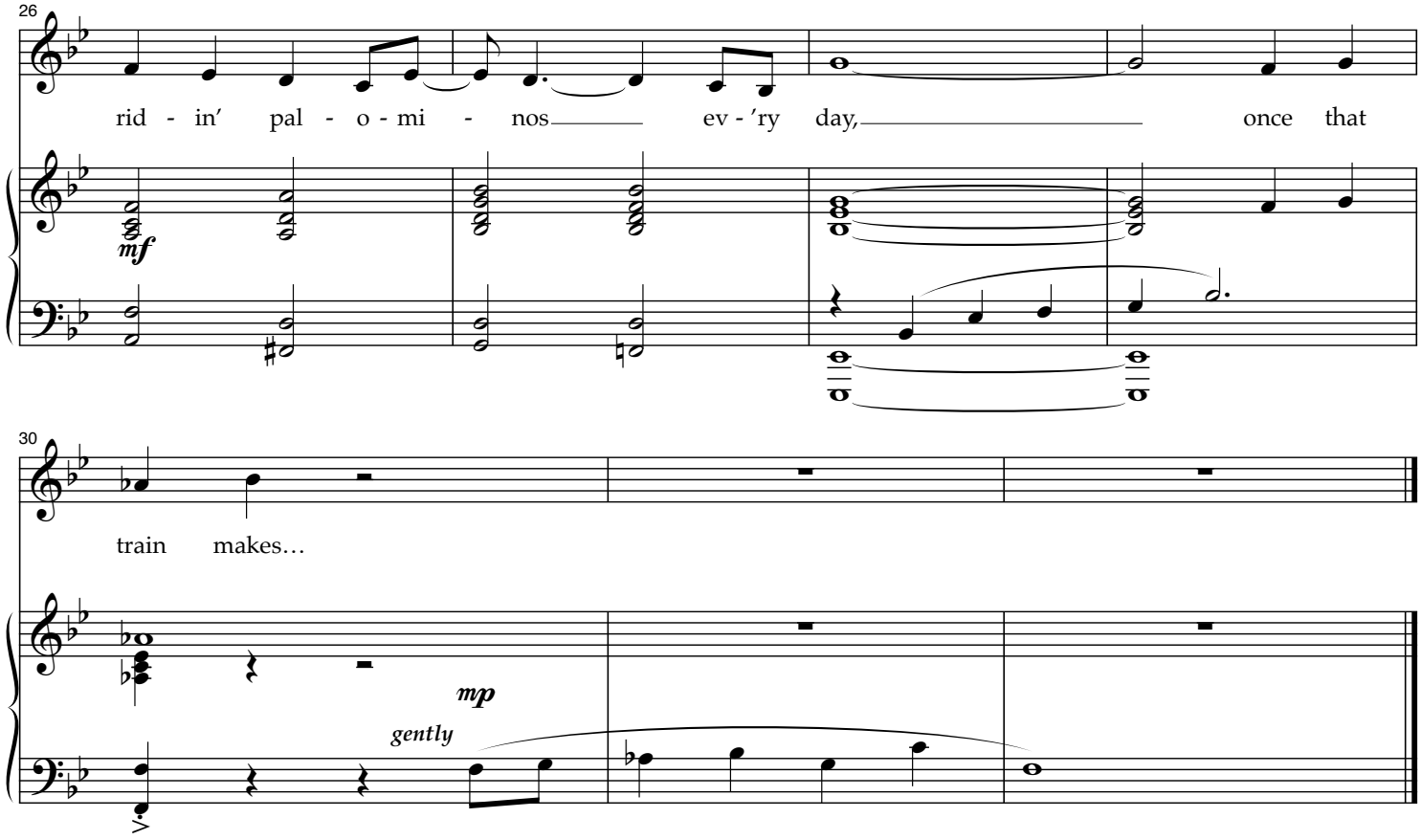
19

- in' right at'-cha, lous - y with sta-'tcha.

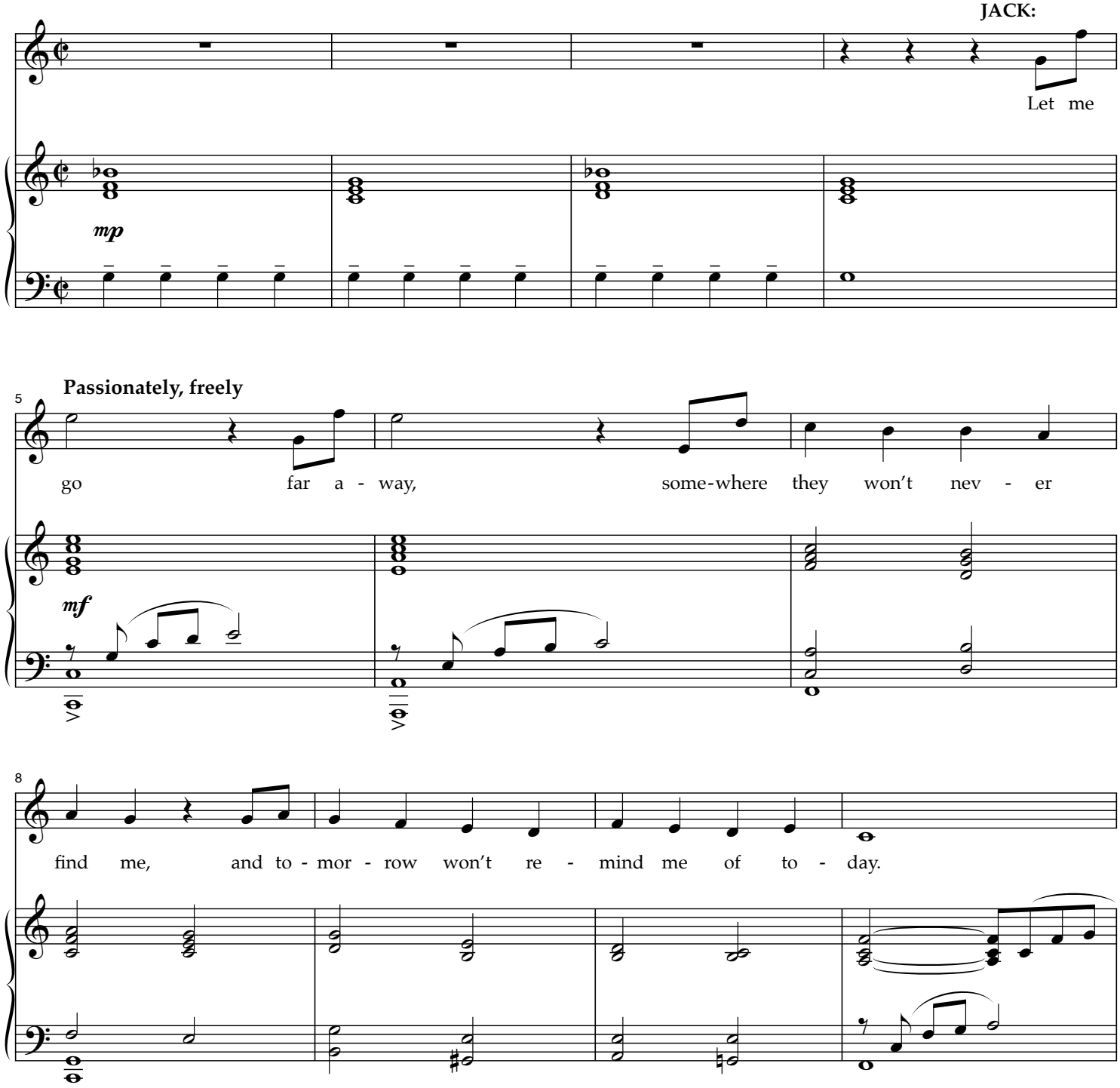
Letter from The Refuge

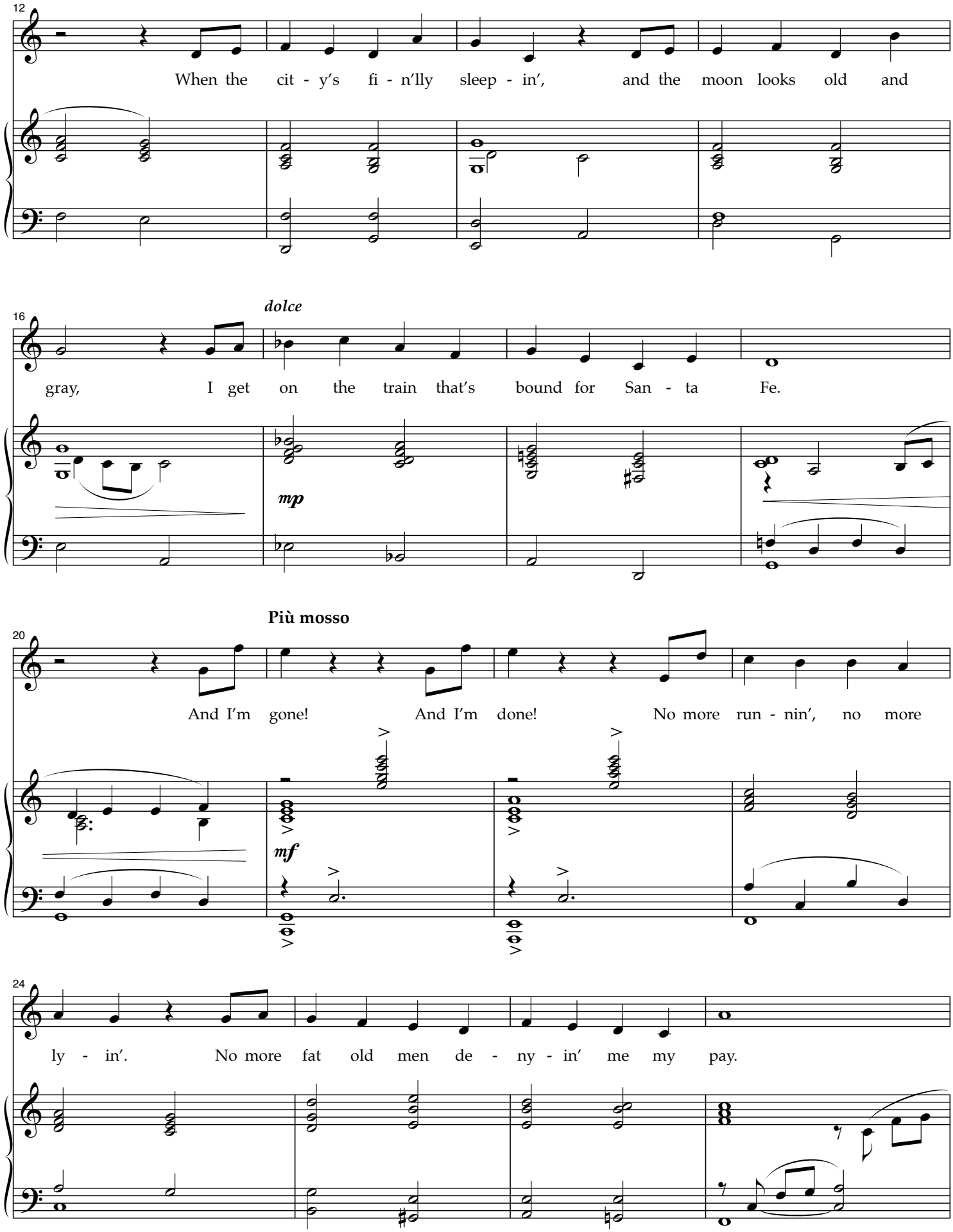


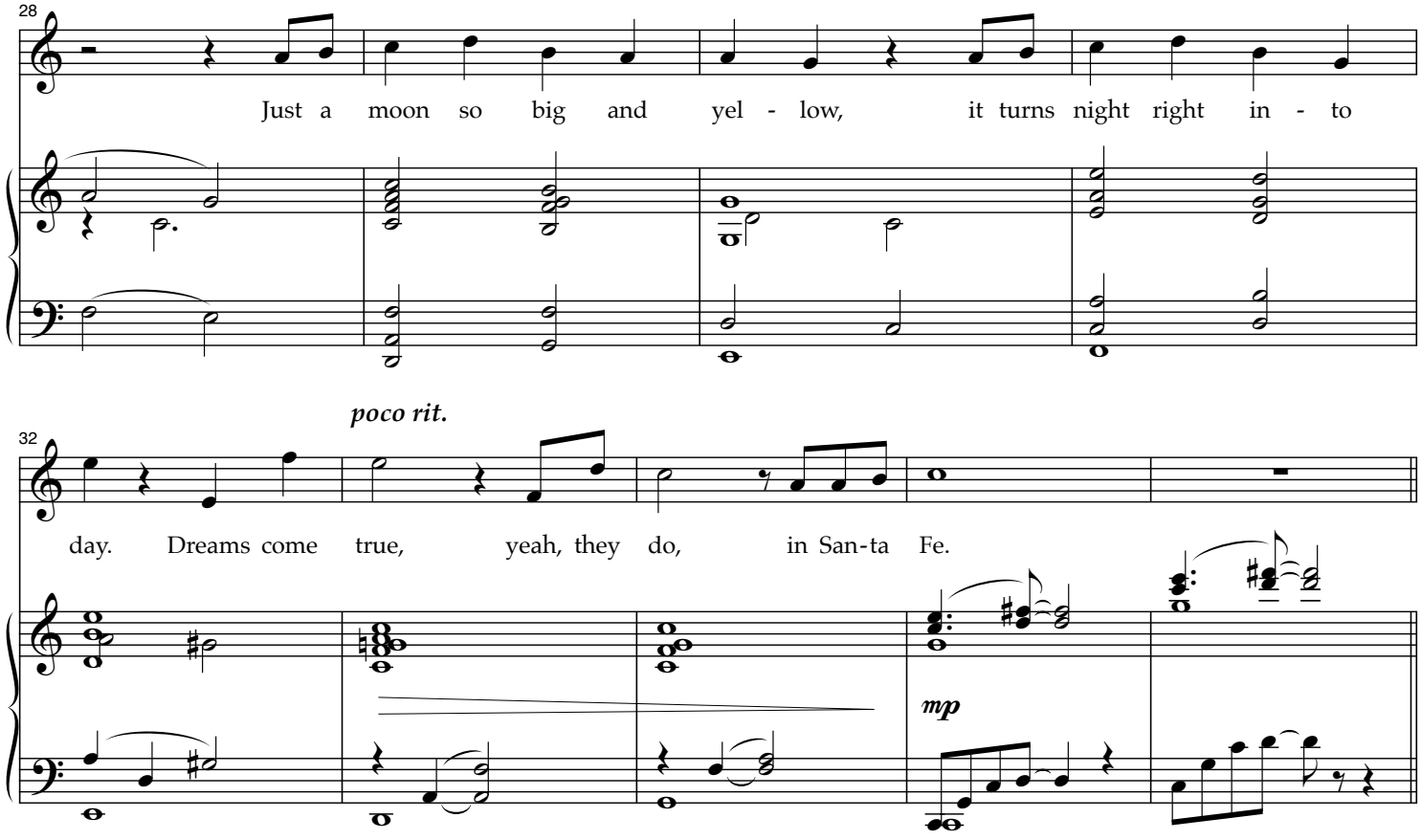

10
shot! May-be though, not to - night. I ain't slept and my leg still ain't
3
14
right. Hey, but Pu - li - tzer, he's go - in' down! And, then, Jack, I was think - in' we
3
18
might just go, like you was say - ing..." where it's
3
mf
22
Passionately
clean and green and pret - ty, with no build - ings in your way, and you'se
f


26
rid - in' pal - o - mi - nos ev - 'ry day, once that
mf
30
train makes…
mp
gently

Santa Fe

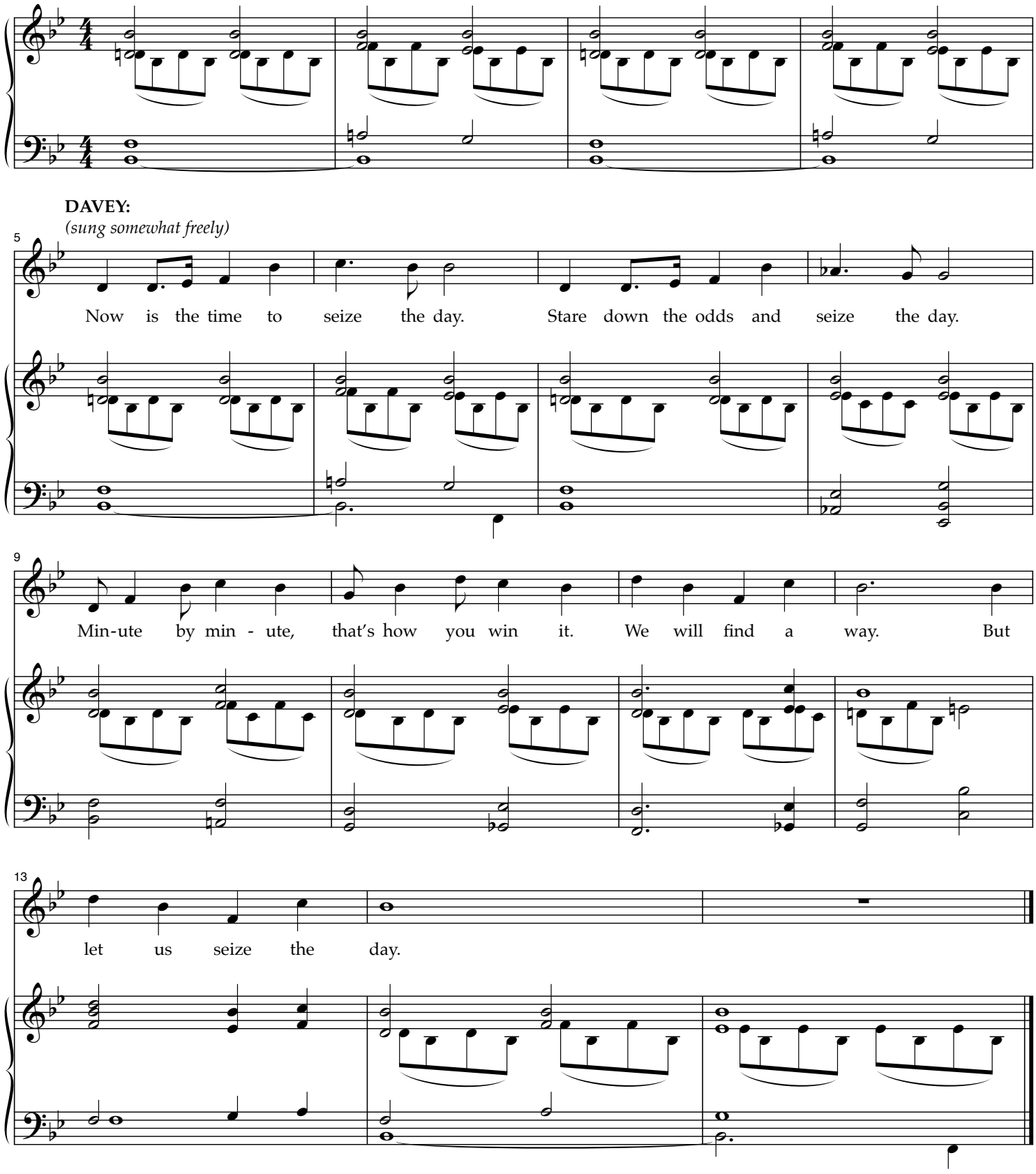

JACK:
Let me
mp
5
Passionately, freely
go far a - way, some-where they won't nev - er
mf
8
find me, and to - mor - row won't re - mind me of to - day.


12
When the cit - y's fi - n'lly sleep - in', and the moon looks old and
16
dolce
gray, I get on the train that's bound for San - ta Fe.
mp
20
Più mosso
And I'm gone! And I'm done! No more run - nin', no more
mf
24
ly - in'. No more fat old men de - ny - in' me my pay.

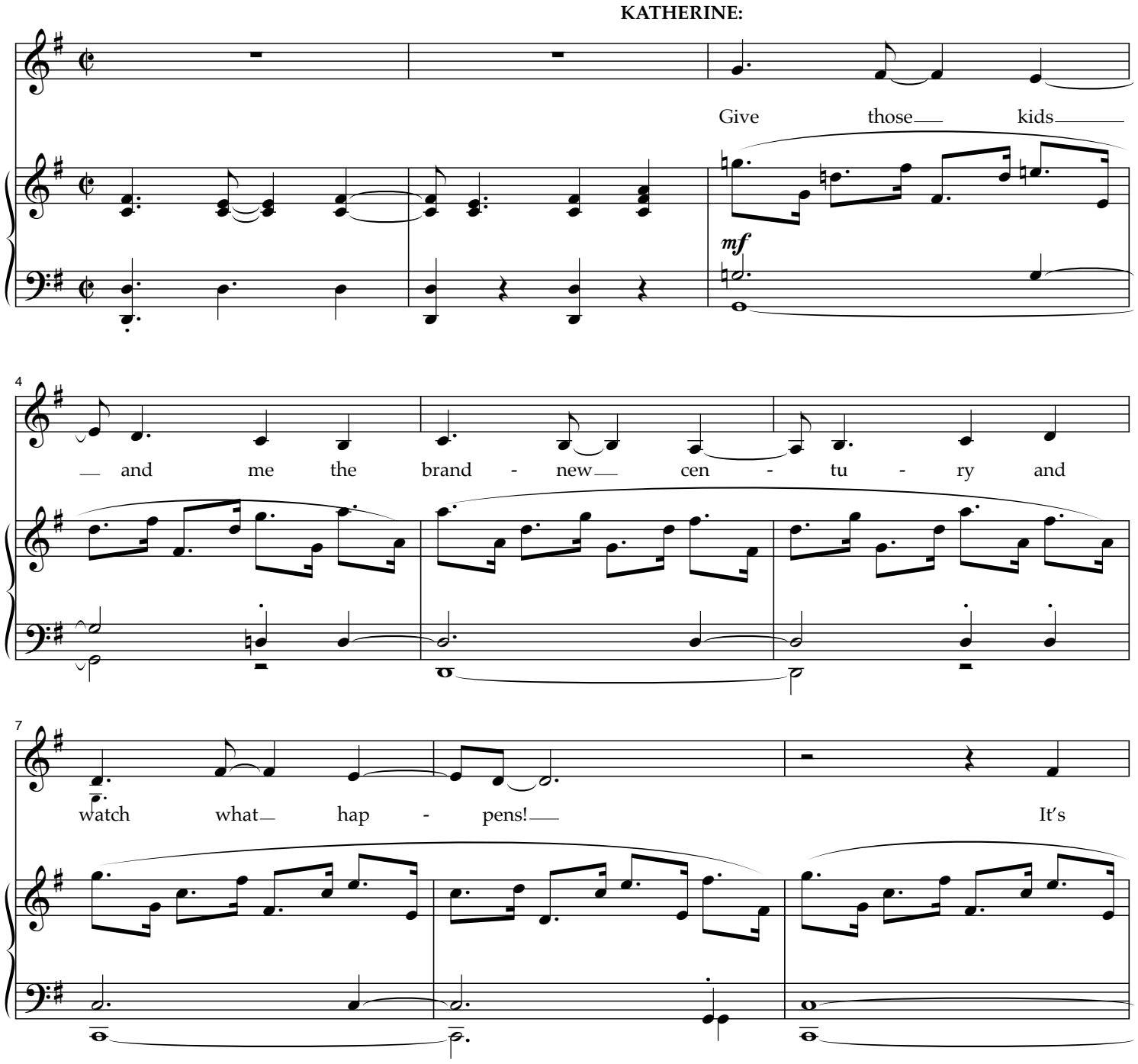

28
Just a moon so big and yel - low, it turns night right in - to
poco rit.
32
day. Dreams come true, yeah, they do, in San-ta Fe.
mp

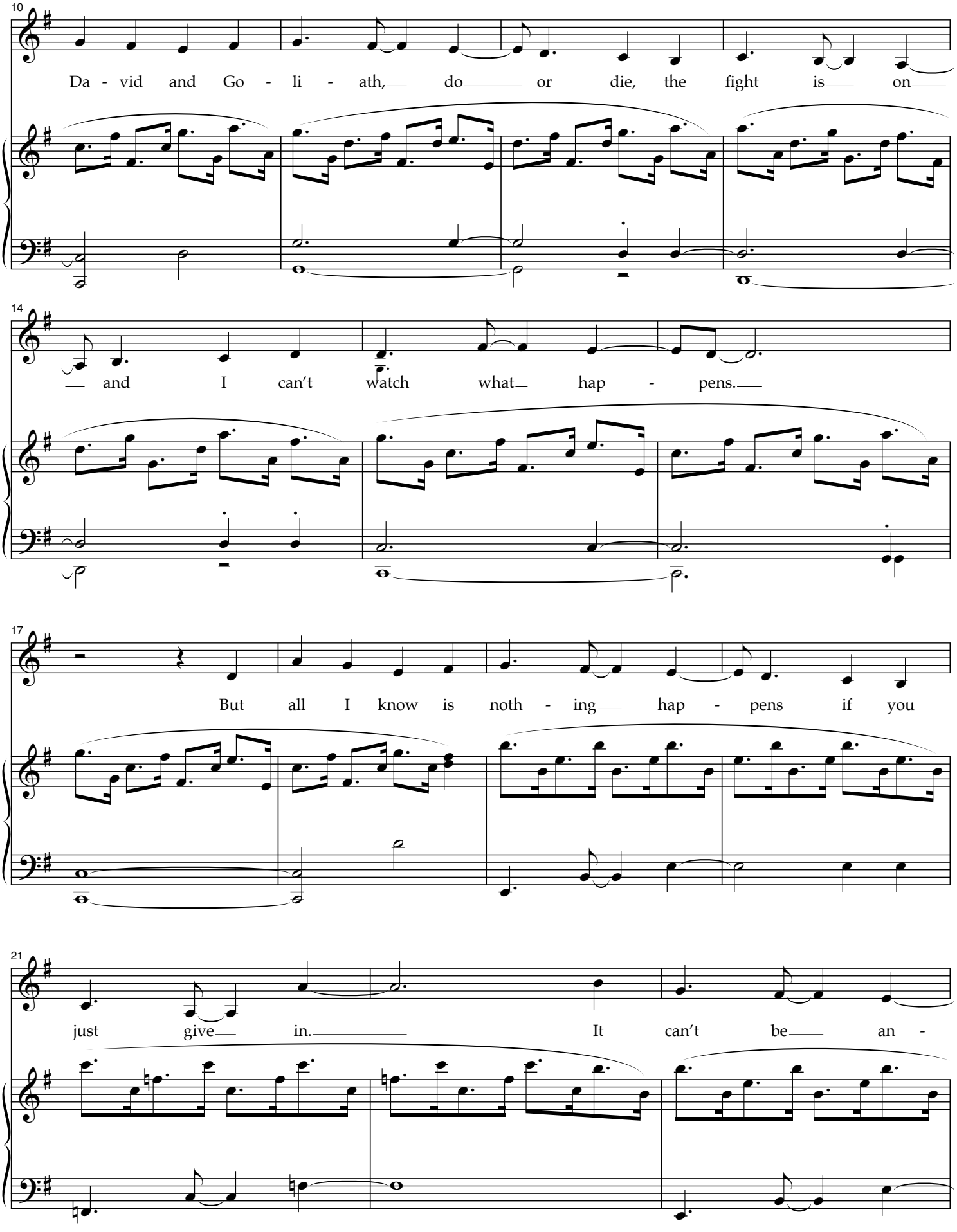
Seize the Day

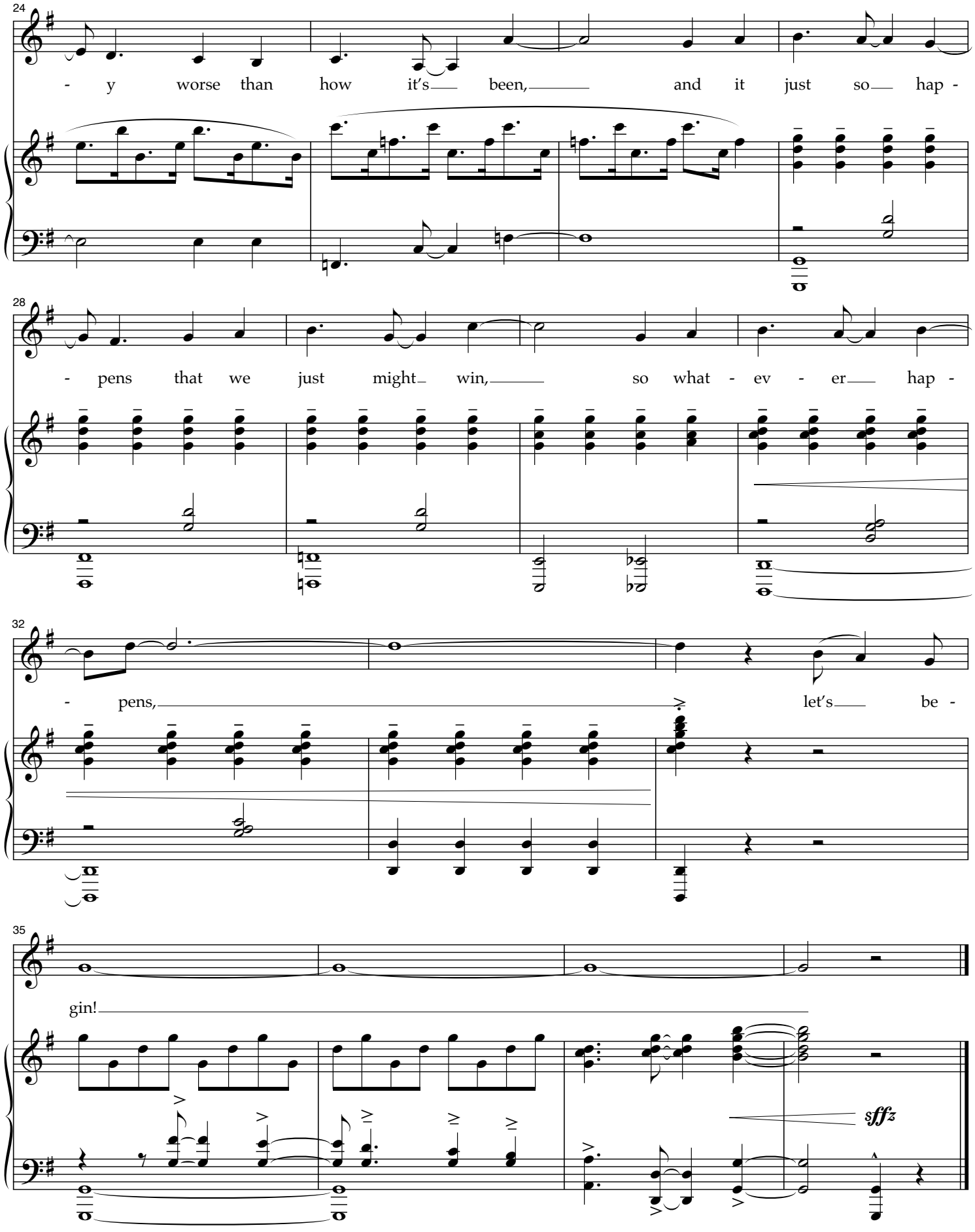
Gentle hymn, ca. ♩ **= 92**



Watch What Happens




10
Da - vid and Go - li - ath, do or die, the fight is on
14
and I can't watch what hap - pens.
17
But all I know is noth - ing hap - pens if you
21
just give in. It can't be an -


24
- y worse than how it's been, and it just so hap -
28
- pens that we just might win, so what - ev - er hap -
32
- pens, let's be -
35
gin!
sffz