Dedicated to the memory of Kurt Weill

Stackalee

an American Folk Opera with a Moral



Libretto and Music by Irving Schlein

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 48th Street New York 19, N.Y.

Cast

Stackalee - Baritone
Devil - Bass
Stack-O'-Dollars - Contralto
Billy Lyons - speaking rôle
Mixed Chorus

Solos:- Tenor
Mother - Contralto
Gypsy - Soprano

Narrator

Dancers

Orchestra

Two Clarinets
Two Trumpets
Piano
Percussion
Strings

Duration = 45 minutes

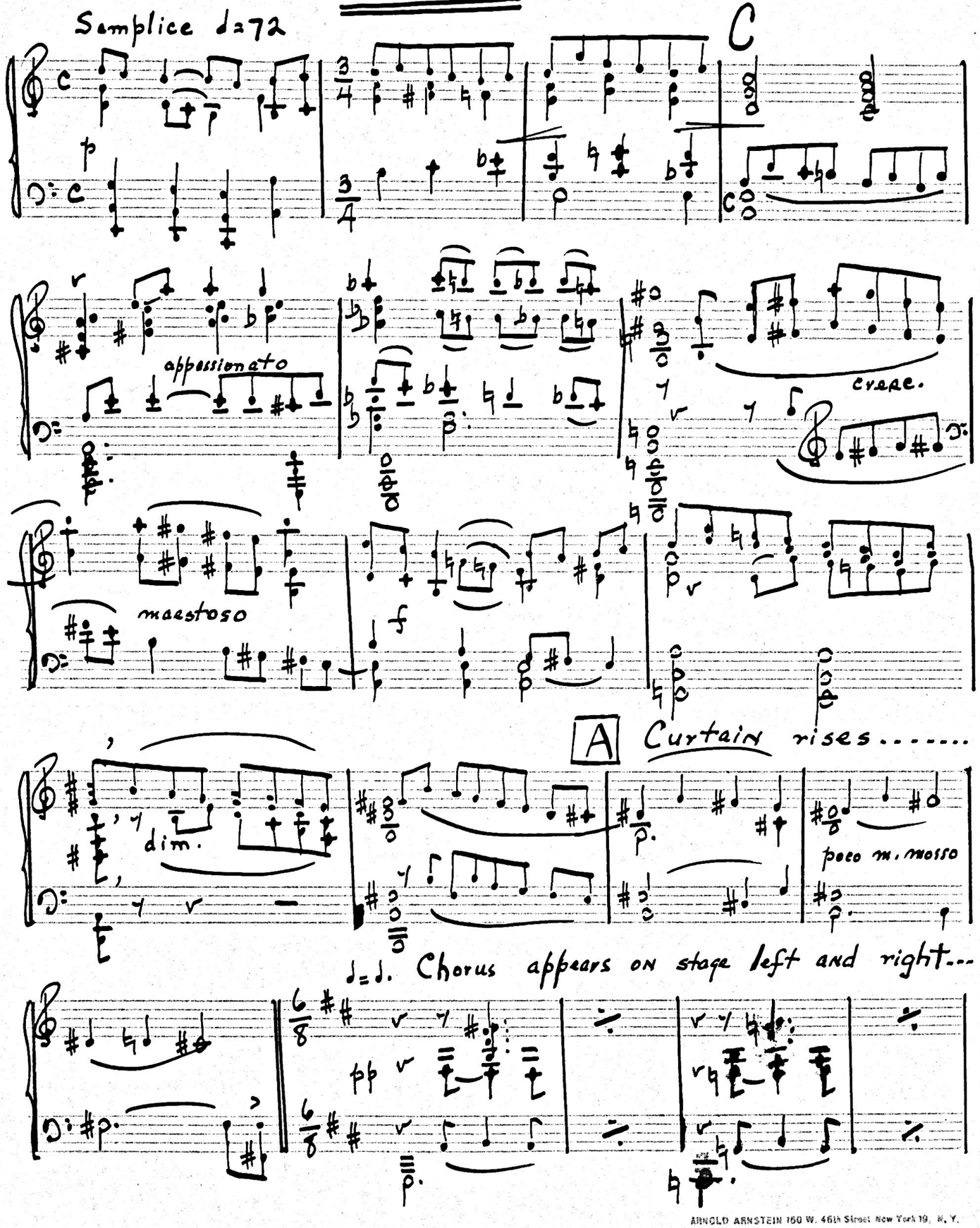
"Stackalee" is a typical American folk-operetta that may be produced with but the simplest of cardboard scenery and spots. The stage directions are merely suggestions. The back-drop may have painted on it all varieties of hats (ten-gallon, Western type). The props may consist of tables and chairs for the cabaret scene with a platform in the rear for the dancing; the importance lies in the handling of the lighting: the fading-in and fading-out from one scene to the other smoothly and imperceptibly.

The chorus may be shifted around to suit the nature of the scene. They may enter the action of the cabaret scene.

"Stackalee" may be done with either Piano or Orchestra.

Irving Schlein

Overture



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 160 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

B

Sop. We've gon-na tell you — 'bout Stack-a-lee —

Alto We've gon-na tell you — 'bout Stack-a-lee —

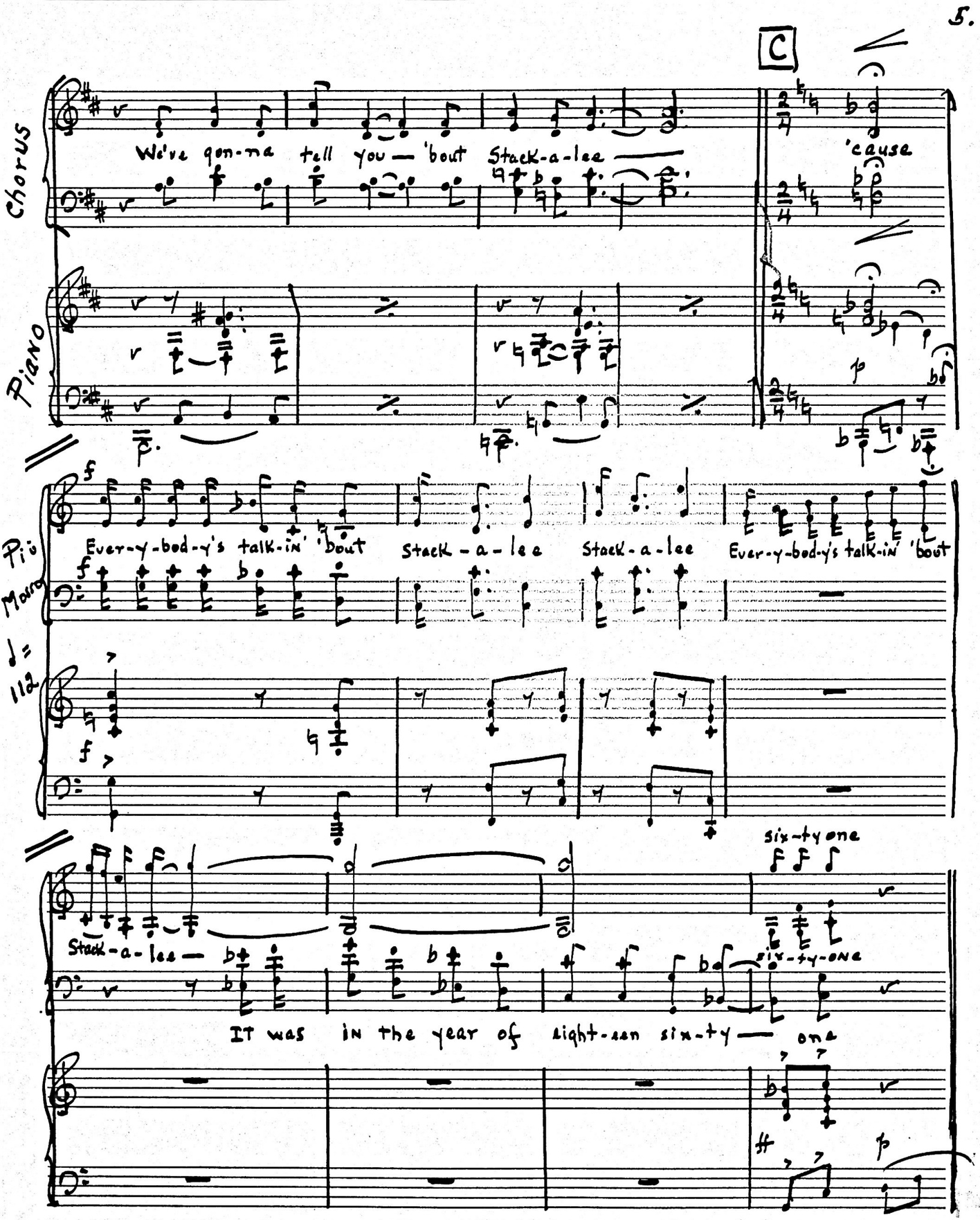
Ten. We've gon-na tell you — 'bout Stack-a-lee

Bass We've gon-na tell you — 'bout Stack-a-lee

Piano

We've gon-na tell you — 'bout Stack-a-lee —

We've gon-na tell you — 'bout Stack-a-lee


C
Chorus
We've gon-na tell you — 'bout Stack-a-lee —
'cause
Piano
Ever-y-bod-y's talk-in' 'bout Stack - a - lee Stack - a - lee Ever-y-bod-y's talk-in' 'bout
Stack-a-lee —
six-ty one
six-ty-one
IT was in the year of eight-een six-ty — one

D

Sop. p Stack was born

Alto p cresc. Where Stack-a-lee was born

(spoken) In St. Louis on Market St.

Ten. p cresc. Where Stack-a-lee was born

Bass p cresc. Where Stack-a-lee was born — was born

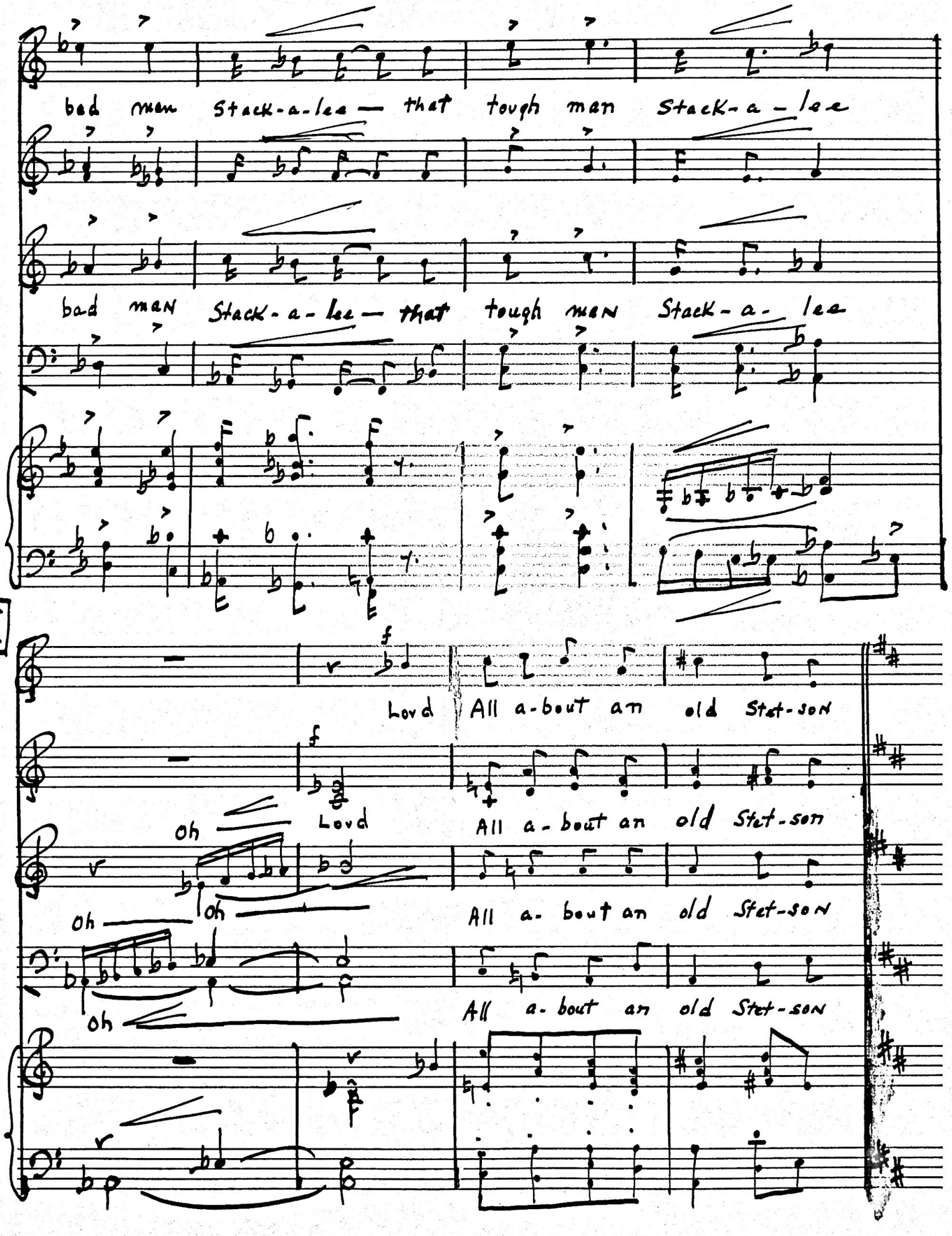
cresc.

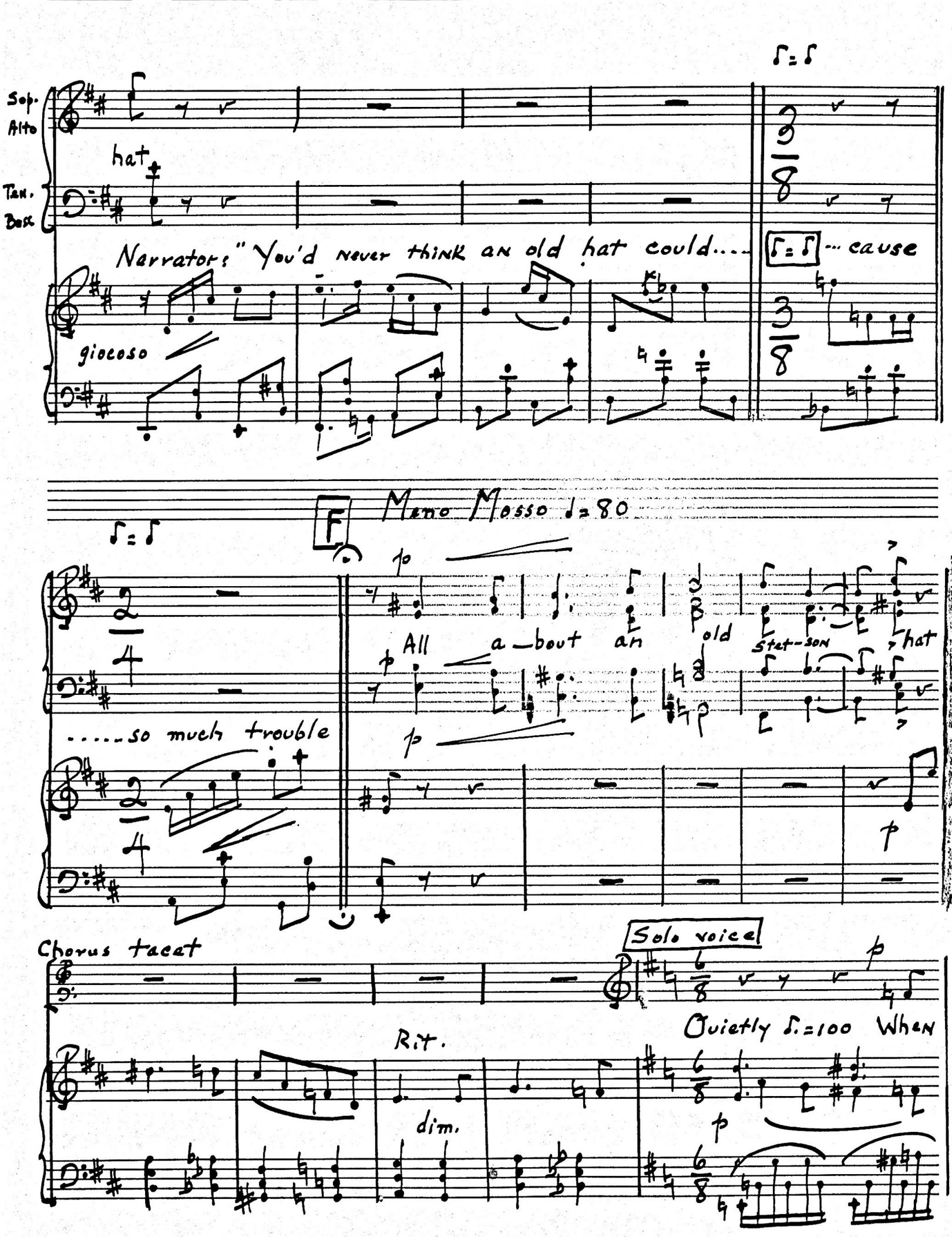
f

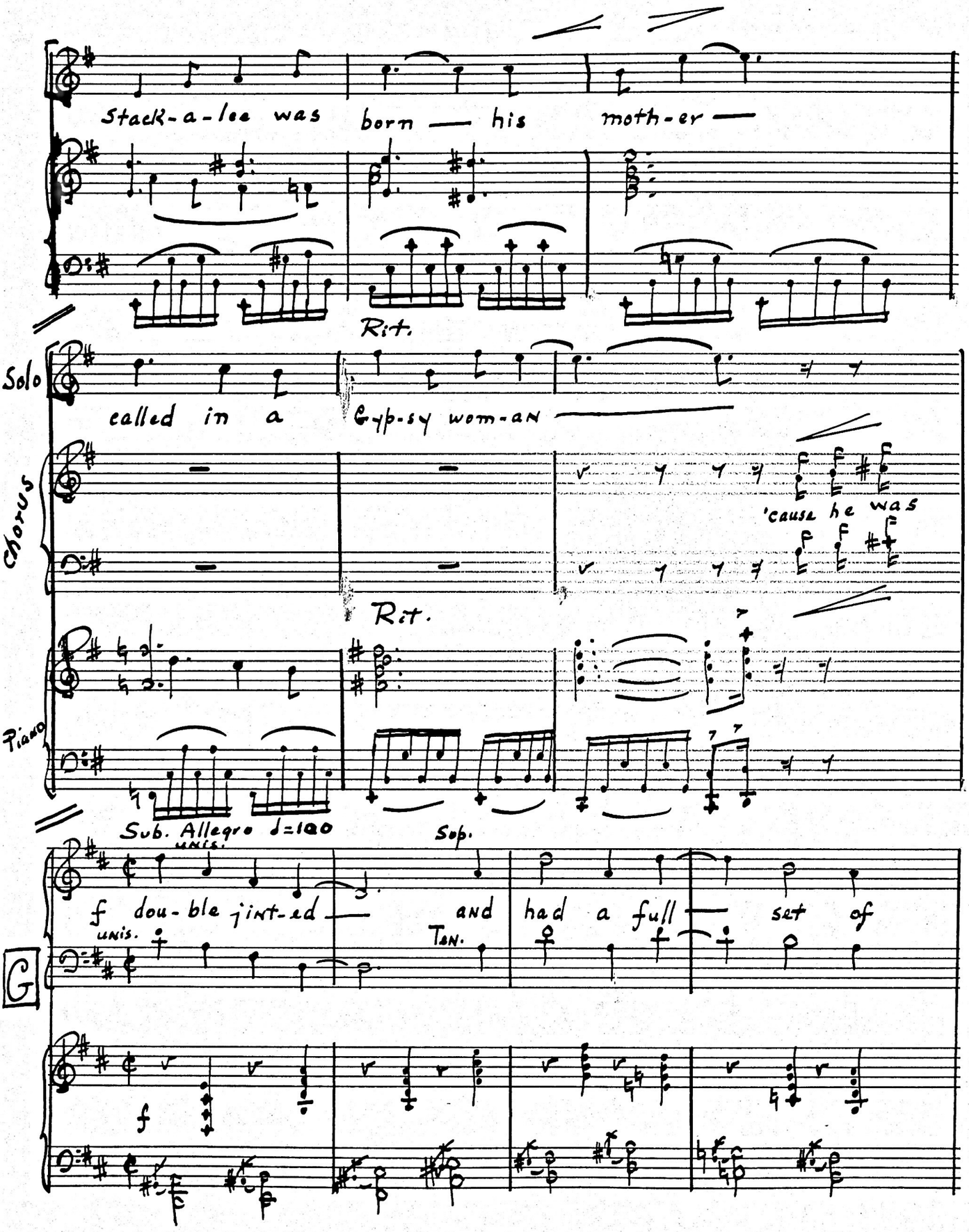
Sop. Alto Ever-y-bod-y's talk-in' 'bout Ever-y-bod-y's talk-in' 'bout Stack-a-lee that

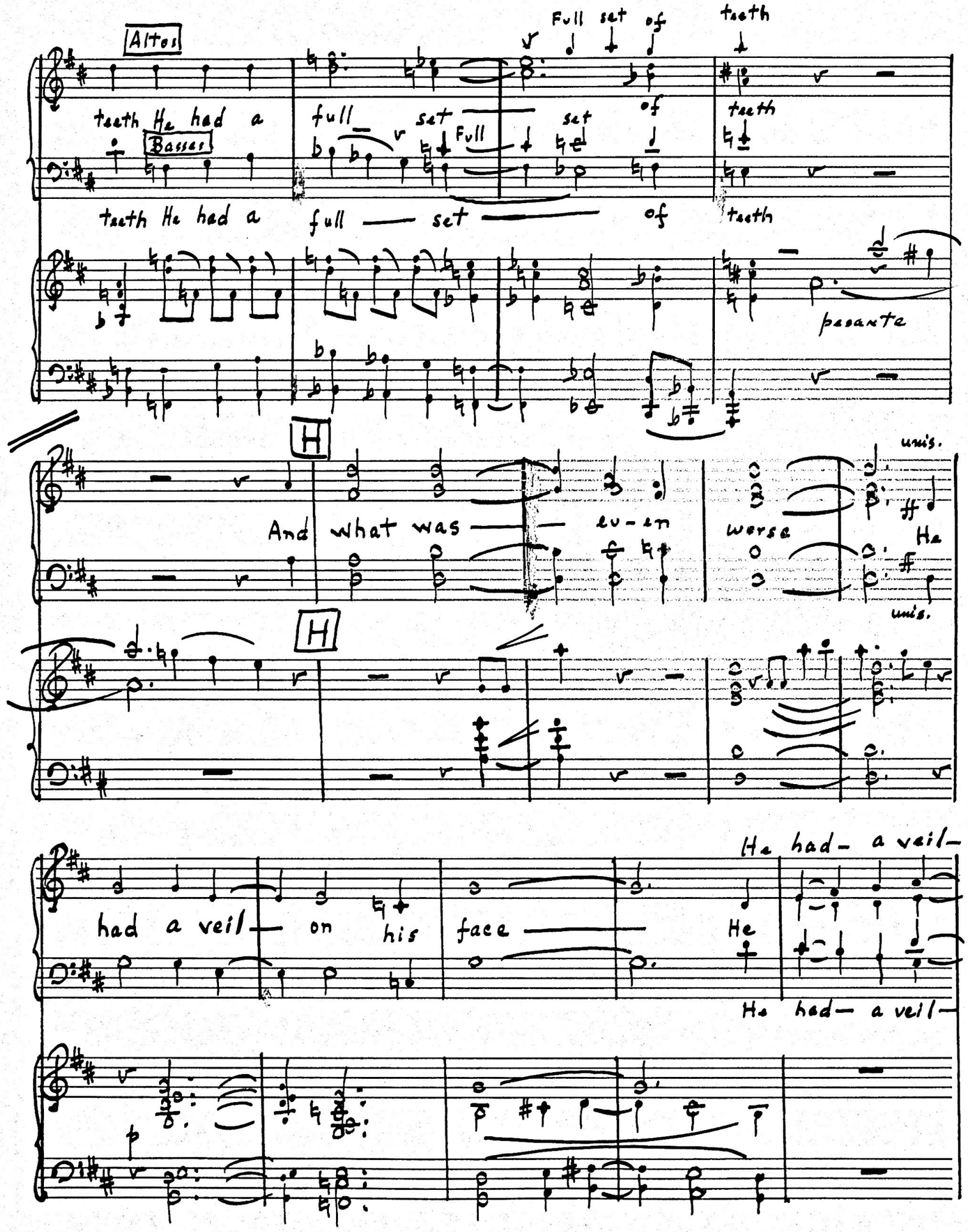
Ten. Ever-y-bod-y's talk-in' 'bout Ever-y-bod-y's talk-in' 'bout Stack-a-lee that

Bass f


bad men Stack-a-lee — that tough man Stack-a-lee
bad man Stack-a-lee — that tough men Stack-a-lee
E
Lord All a-bout an old Stet-son
Lord All a-bout an old Stet-son
oh oh
All a-bout an old Stet-son
oh
All a-bout an old Stet-son
oh


Sop.
Alto
Ten.
Bass
hat
Narrator: "You'd never think an old hat could....
... cause
giocoso
Meno Mosso ♩=80
All a-bout an old Stet-son hat
.....so much trouble
Chorus tacet
Solo voice
Quietly ♪.=100 When
Rit.
dim.

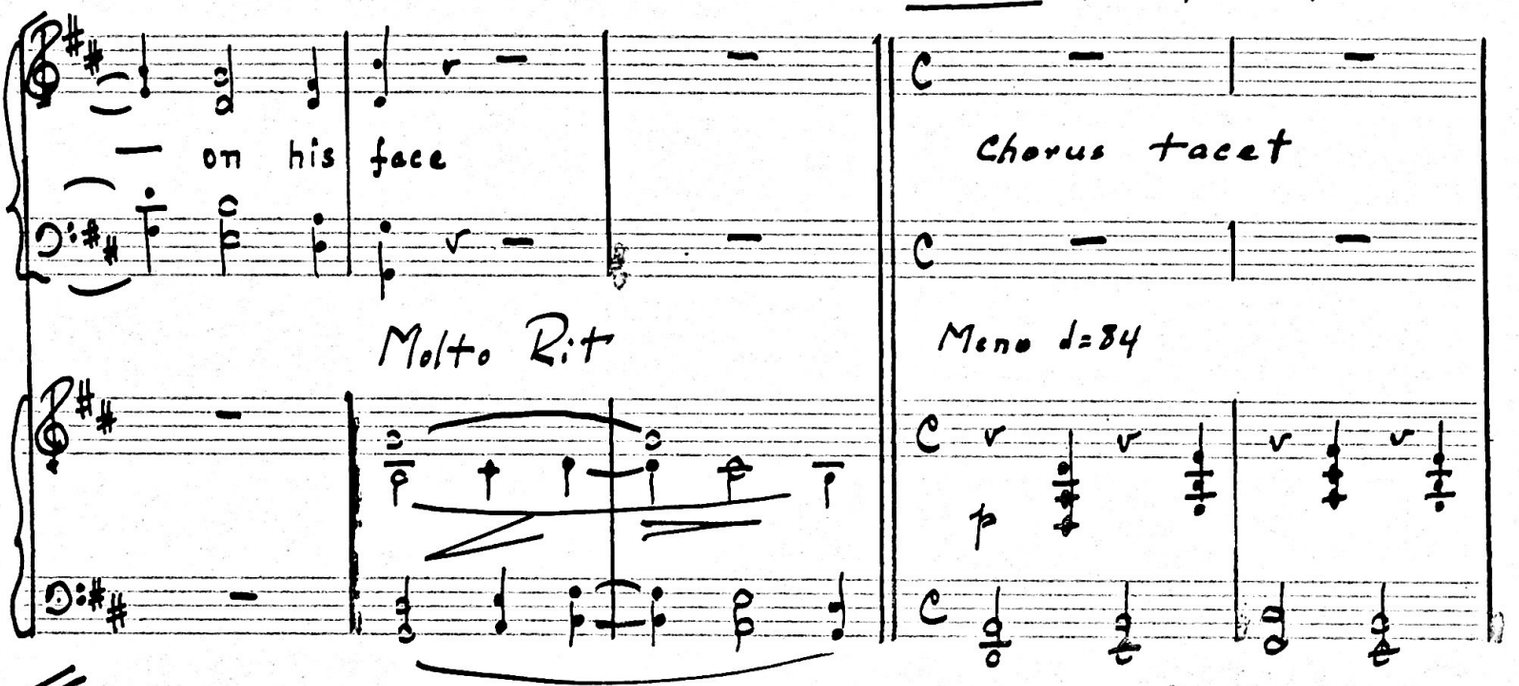

Stack-a-lee was born — his moth-er —
Rit.
Solo
called in a Gyp-sy wom-an —
Chorus
'cause he was
Rit.
Piano
Sub. Allegro ♩=120
Sop.
UNIS.
f dou-ble jint-ed — and had a full — set of
UNIS.
TEN.
G
f

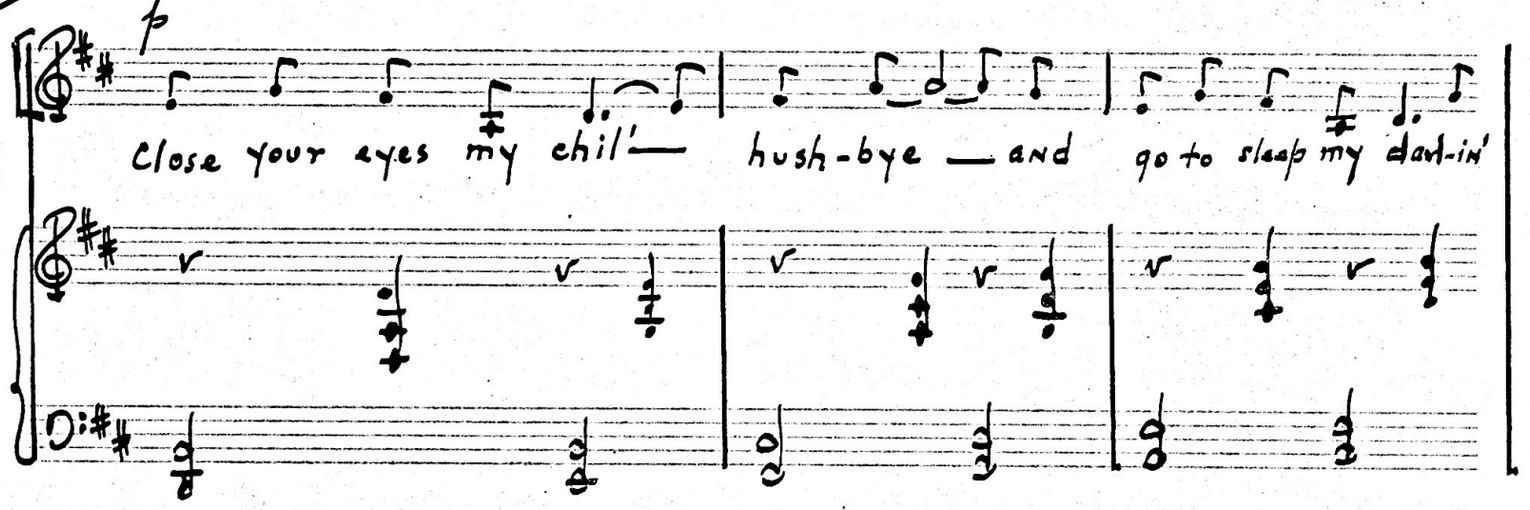

Altos
teeth He had a
Basses
teeth He had a
full set
Full set of
teeth
full — set — of
teeth
pesante
H
And what was
ev-en
worse
He
uni's.
uni's.
H
had a veil — on his
face —
He
He had- a veil-
He had— a veil-

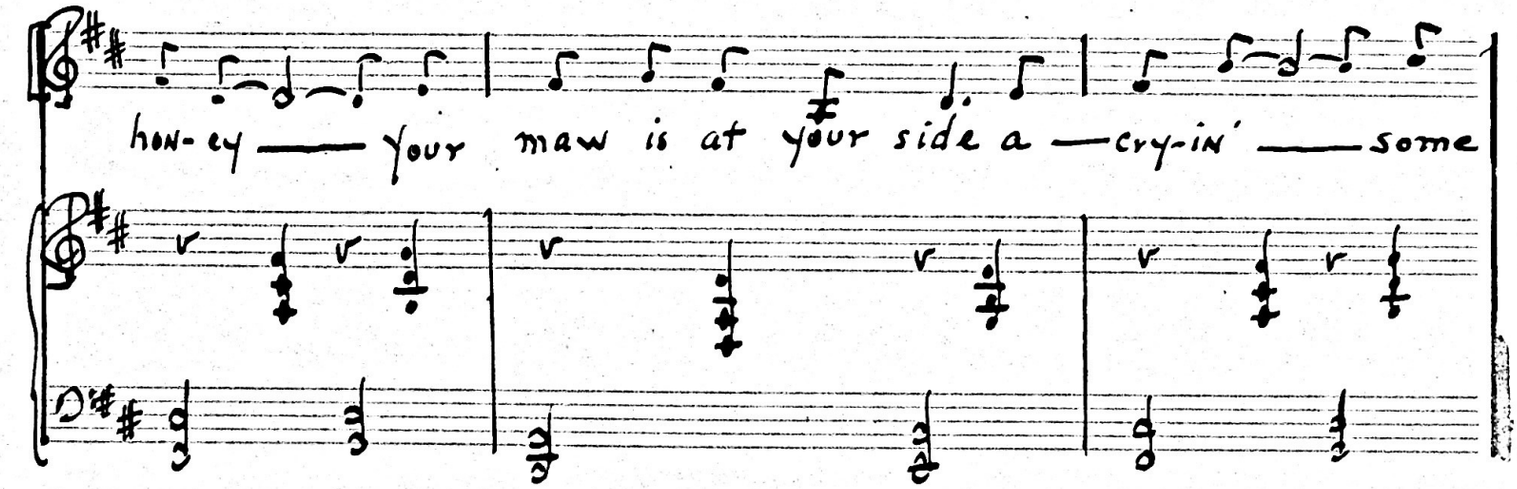
Molto Rit

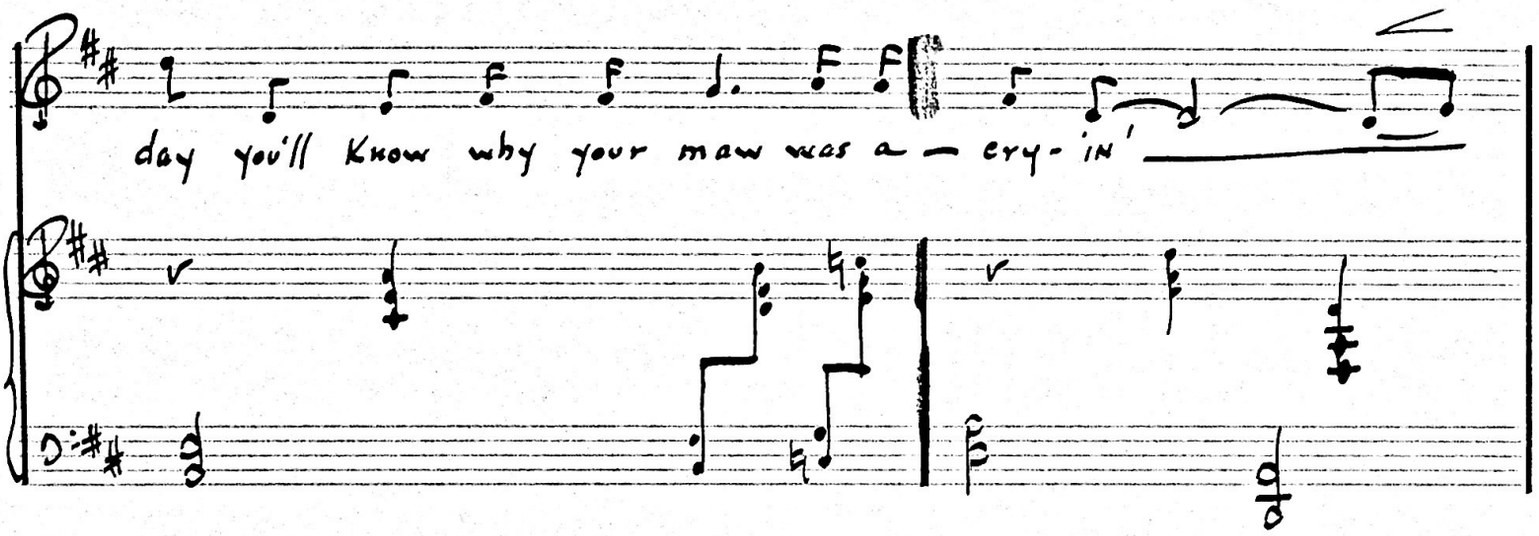
Meno d=84

Mother: (holding a baby in her arms)

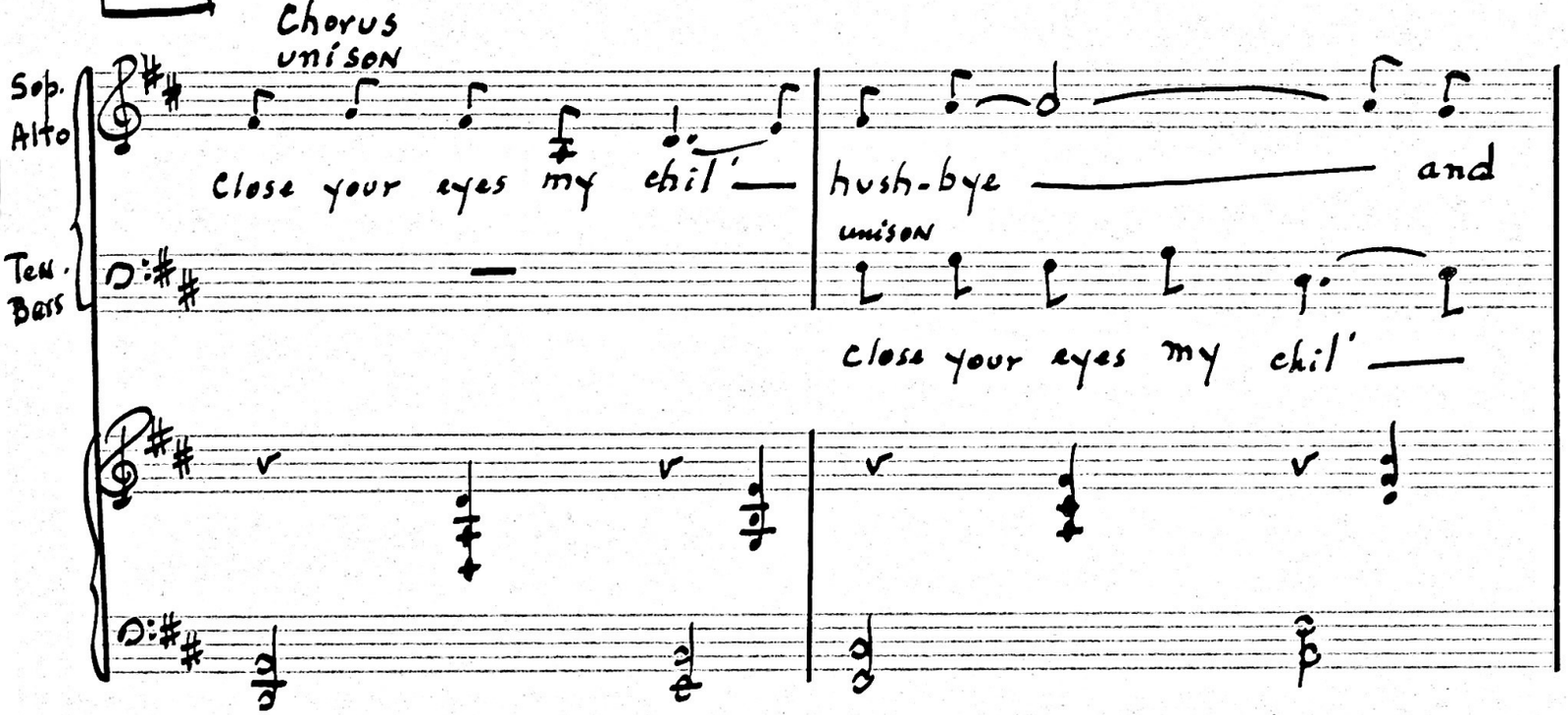


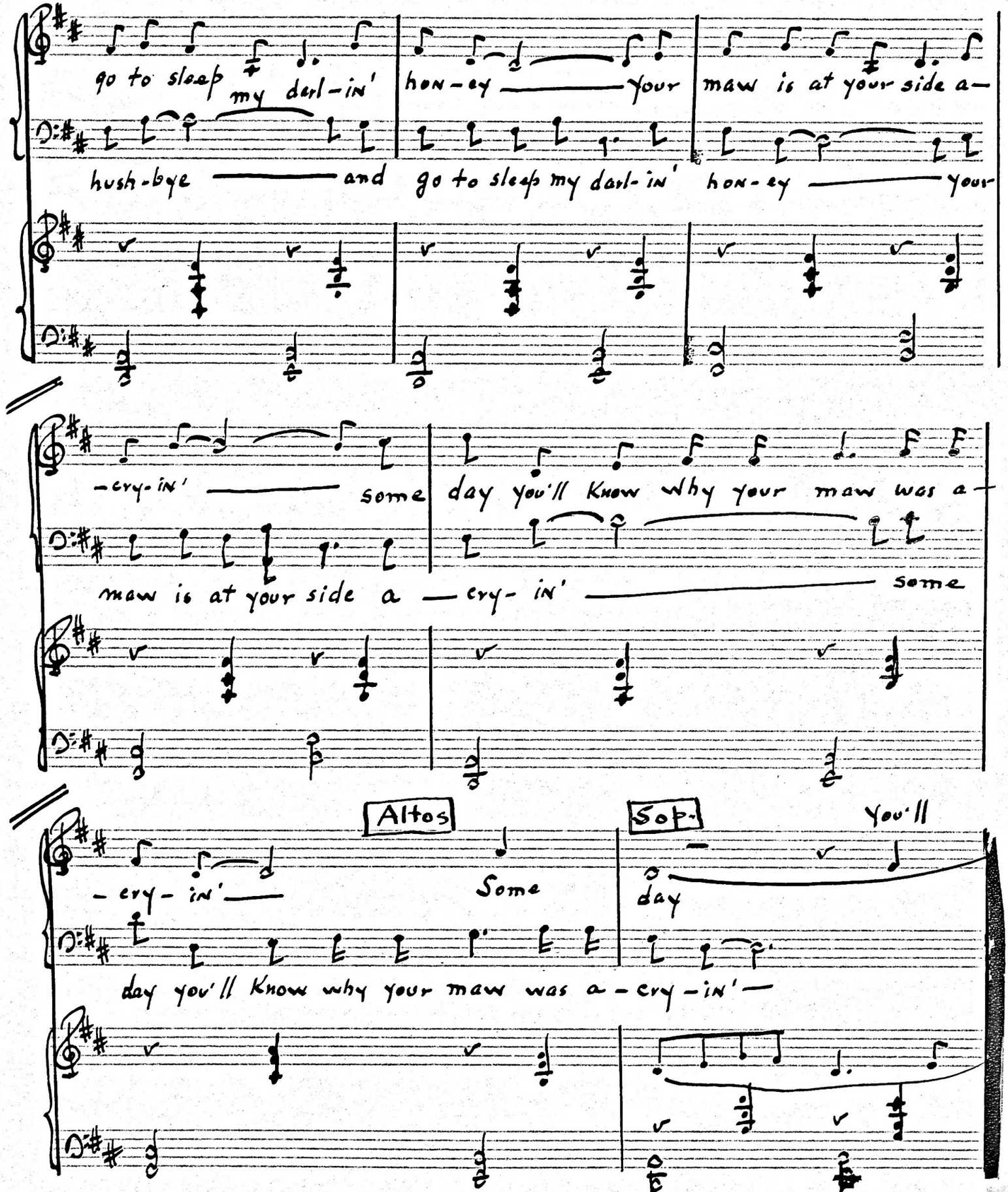





day you'll Know why your maw was a — cry- in'

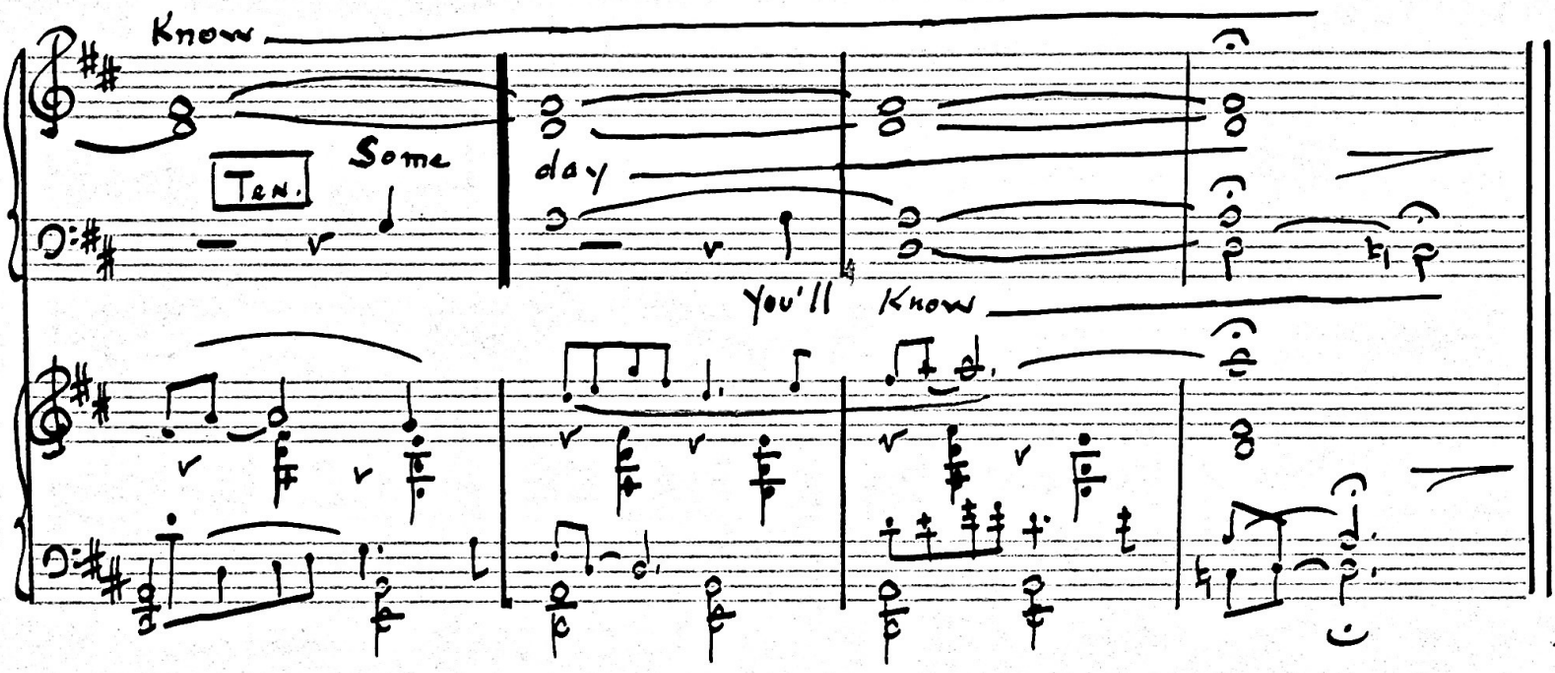
J


Chorus
unison
Sop.
Alto
Ten.
Bass
Close your eyes my chil' —
hush-bye — and
unison
close your eyes my chil' —

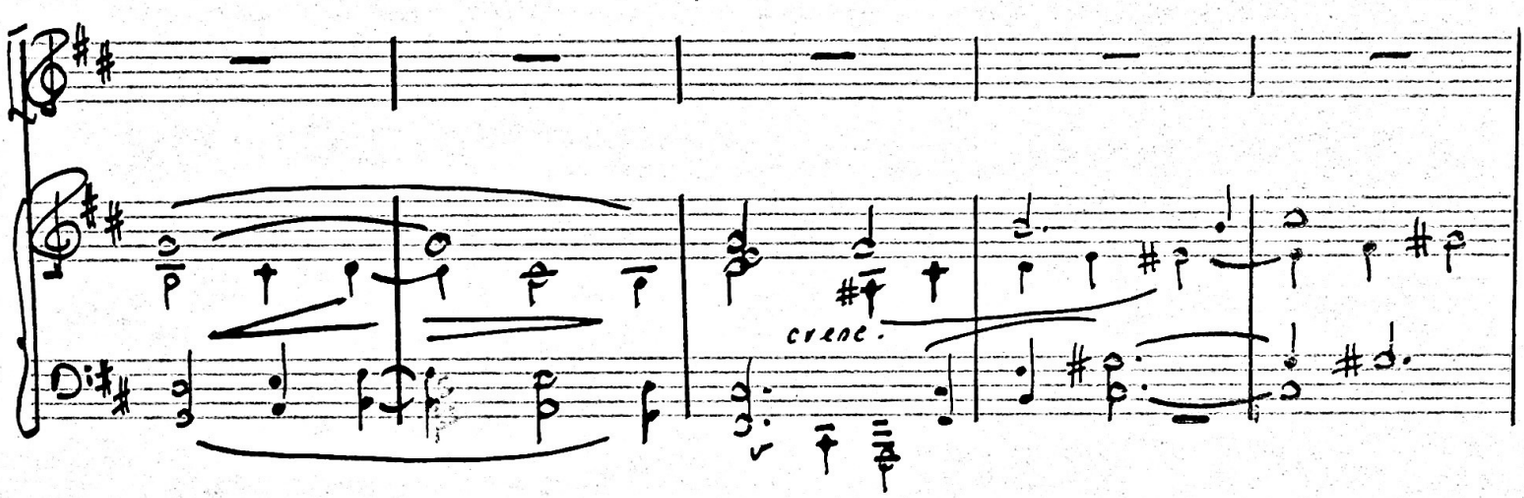


ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

"HALDANENE" No. 1051 KAECO, N.Y.

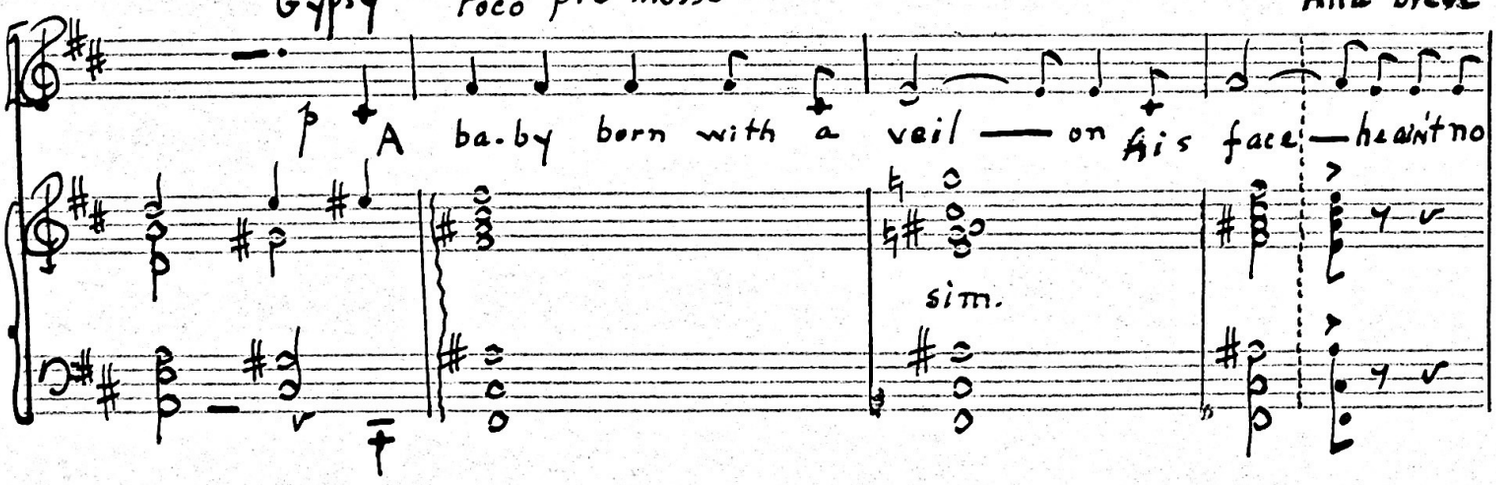


A gypsy woman joins
the mother - the chorus groups around them.



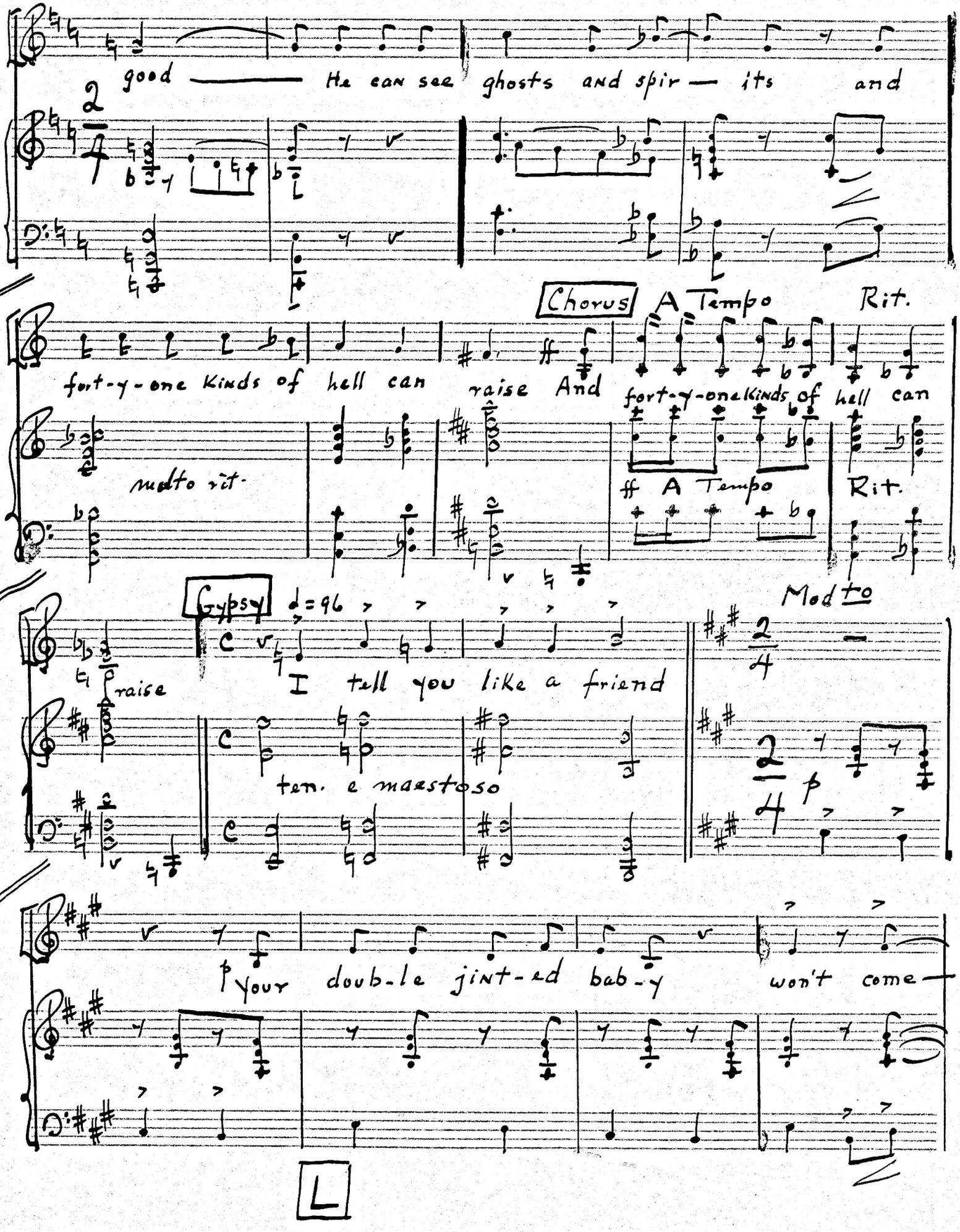
K

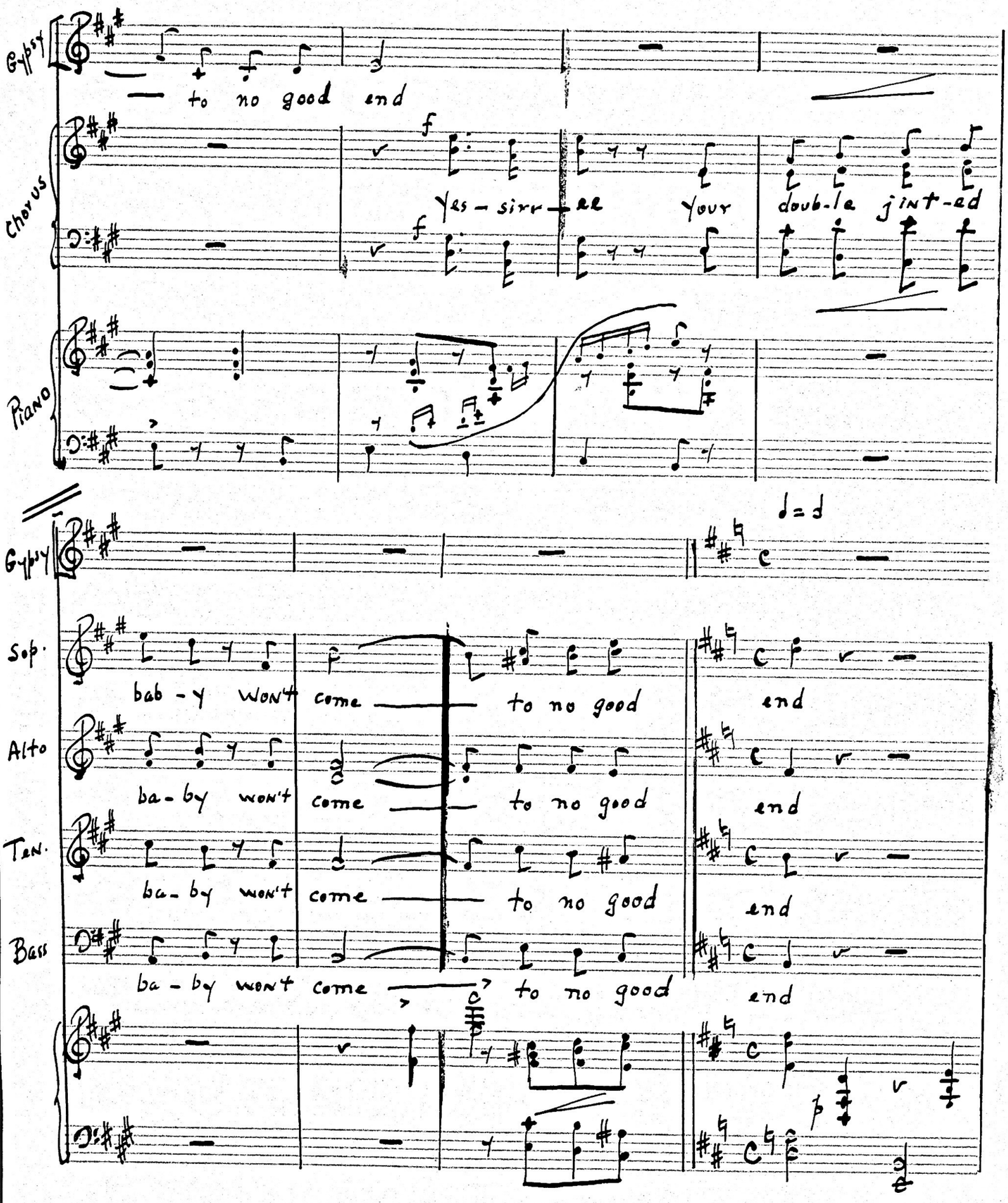
Gypsy Poco più mosso Alla breve



HALDANENE No. 1961 K & E CO., N.Y. ®
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

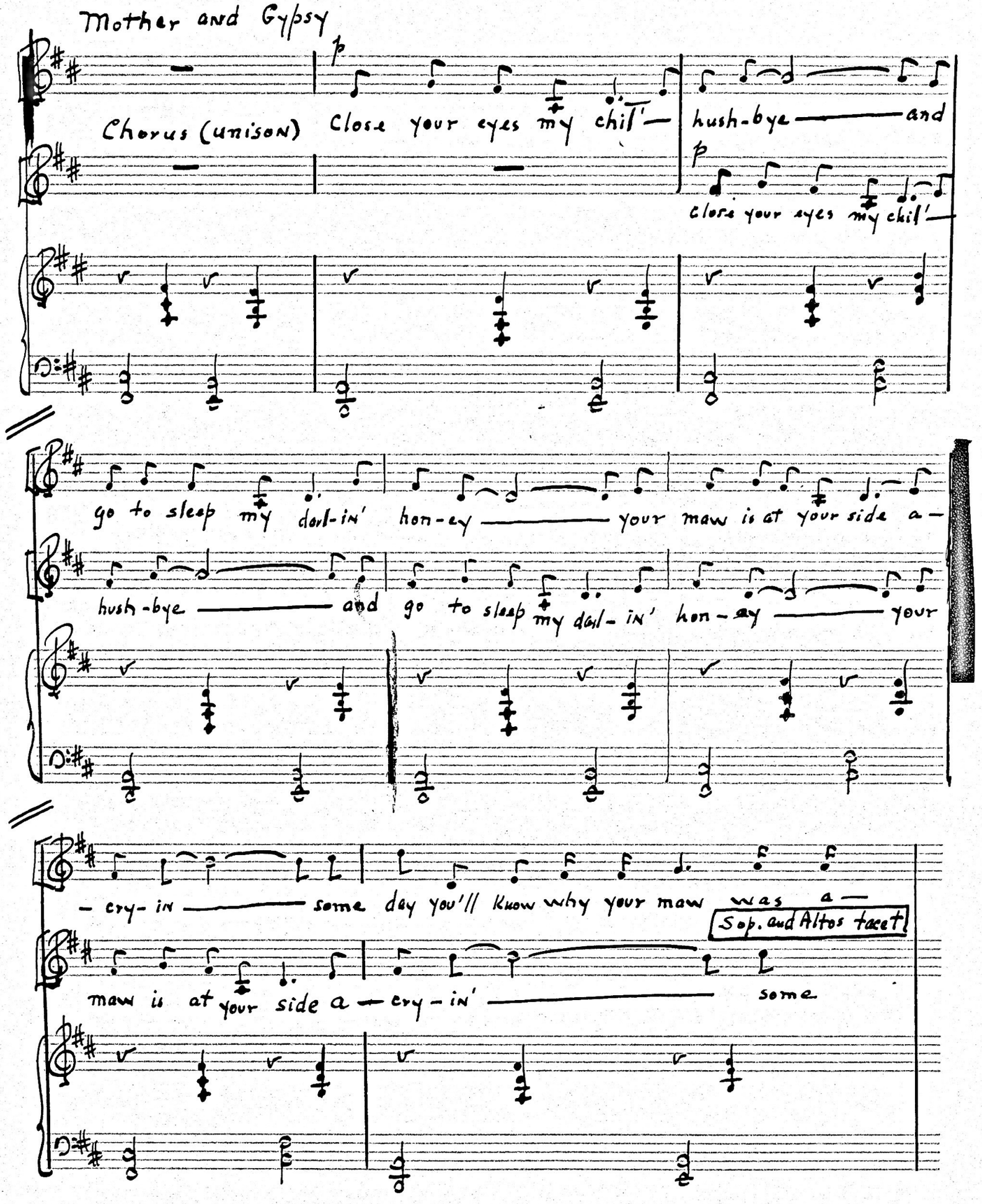
Mod^to d=l


good — He can see ghosts and spir — its and
Chorus
A Tempo
Rit.
fort-y-one Kinds of hell can raise And
fort-y-one Kinds of hell can
molto rit.
ff
A Tempo
Rit.
Mod^to
Gypsy
raise
I tell you like a friend
ten. e maestoso
p
your doub-le jint-ed bab-y won't come



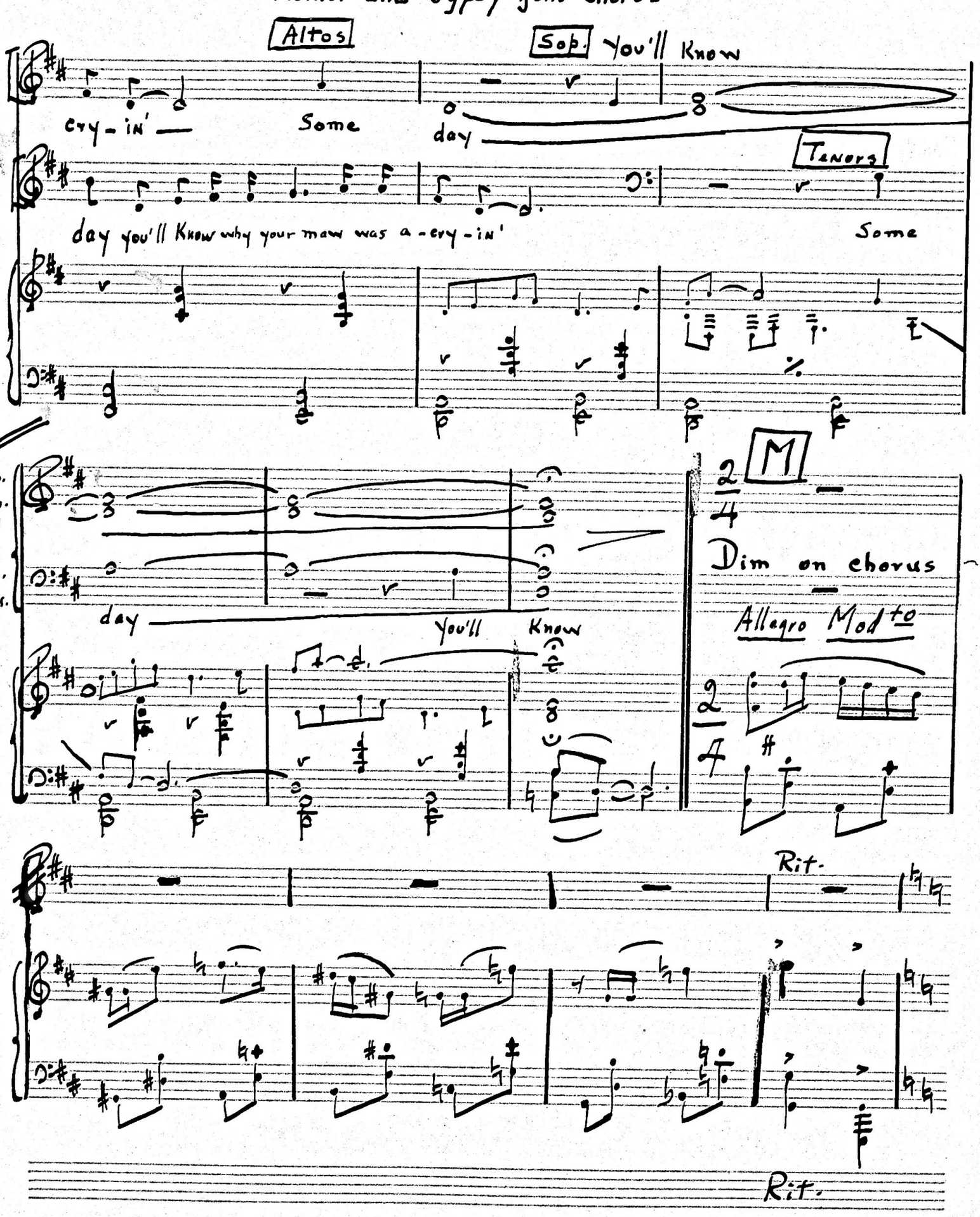
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 48th Street New York 19, N. Y.

HALSBANEN No. 1051 K & E CO., N. Y.

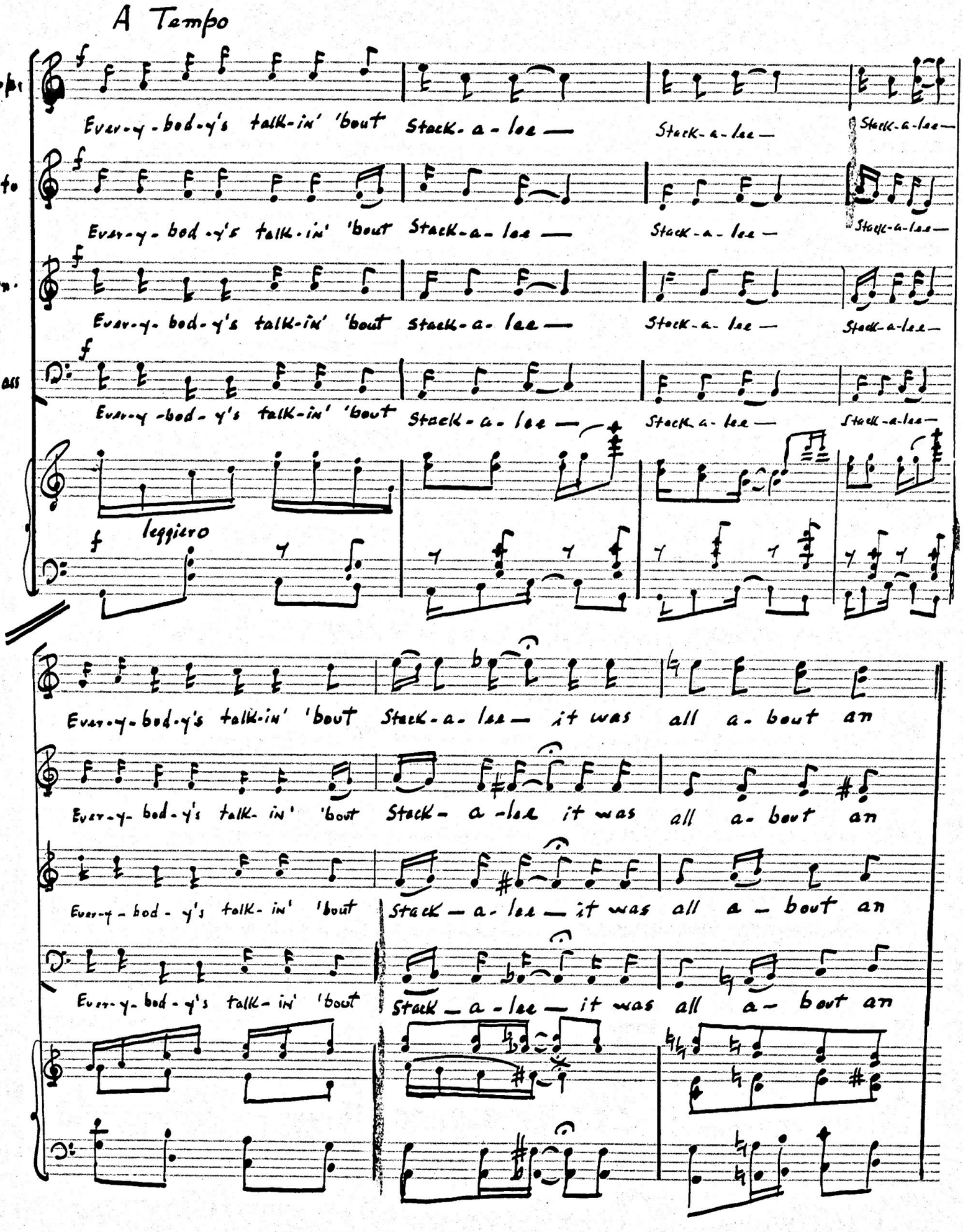


ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" No. 1951 K & CO., N.Y.
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

N

old — Stets — on hat

Old — Stets — on hat

old — Stets — on hat

Dim on chorus

tacet

CLARC.

Meno Mosso

dim

Narrator:- "And Stack growed up just like the Gypsy told- In trouble with the law all the time. He was on awful rascal

Con spirito

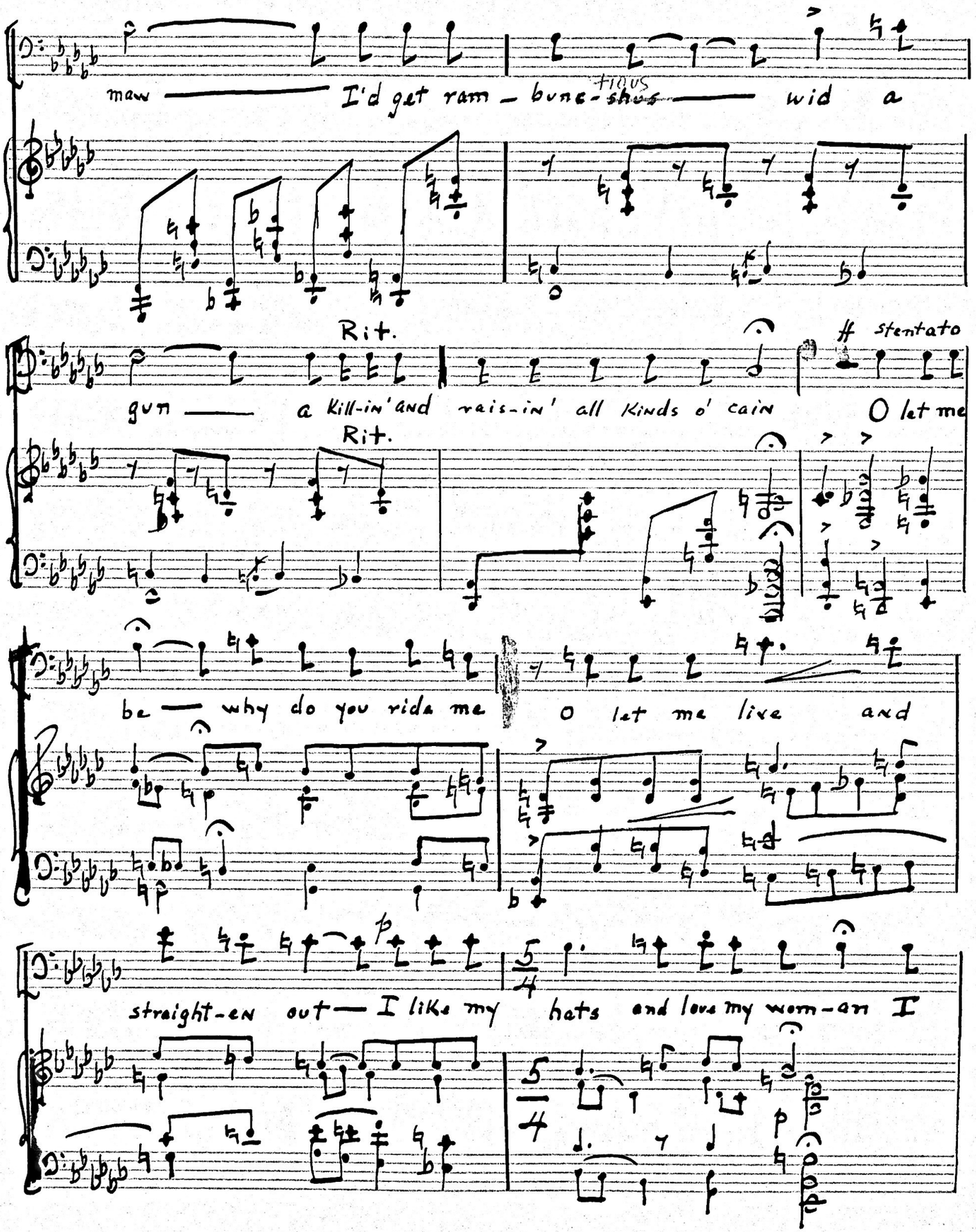
Scene II:

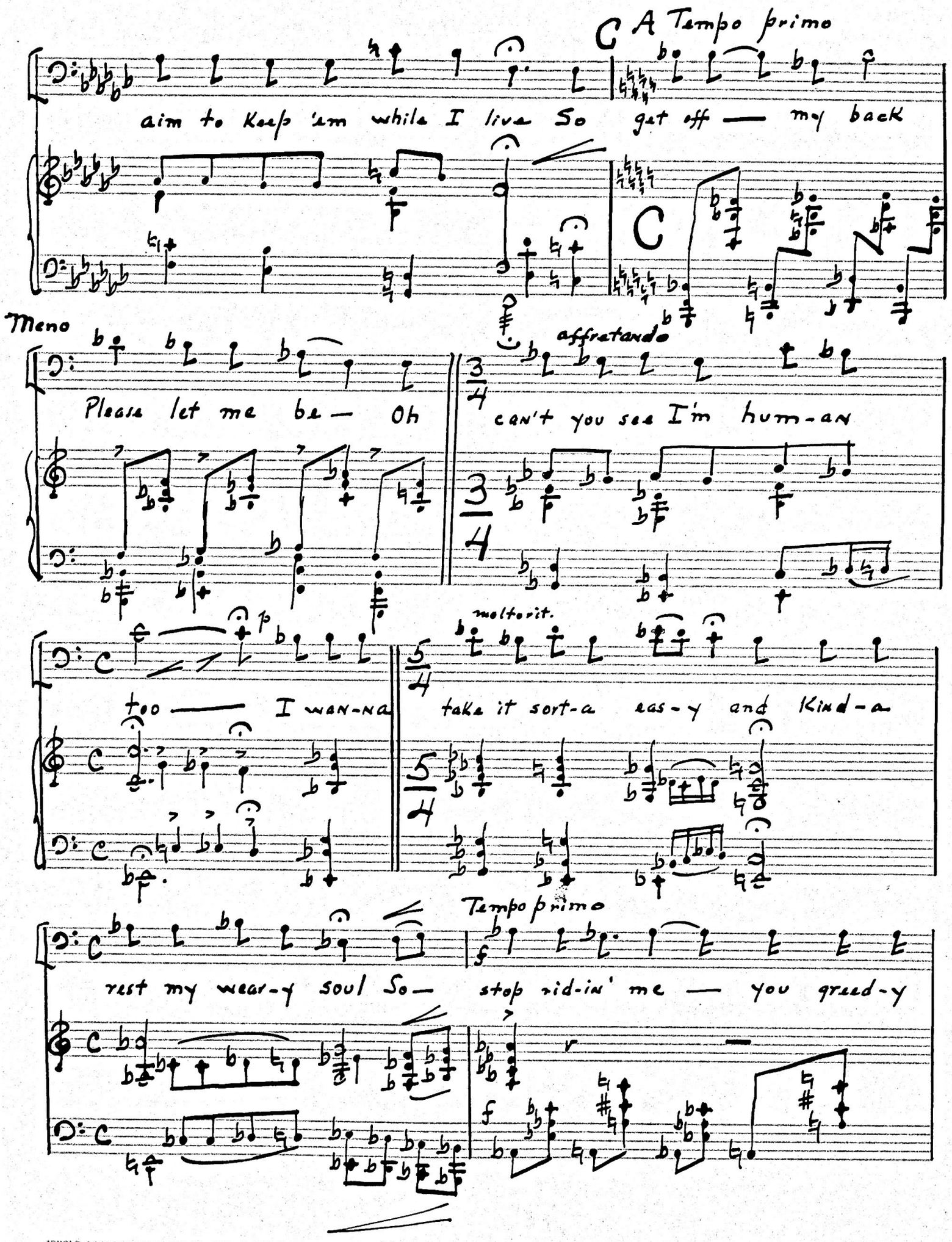
Stackalee appears under spot

Stackalee: f

When I was

lit-le — a Gyps-y woman — a for-tune tell-er — tol' my


maw — I'd get ram - bunc-tious — wid a
Rit.
gun — a kill-in' and rais-in' all kinds o' cain
ff stentato
O let me
Rit.
be — why do you ride me
O let me live and
straight-en out — I like my hats and love my wom-an I



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

molto stentato

allargando

dev-ils —— don't-cha know my name is Stack —— Stay off my

A

back ——

Tempo

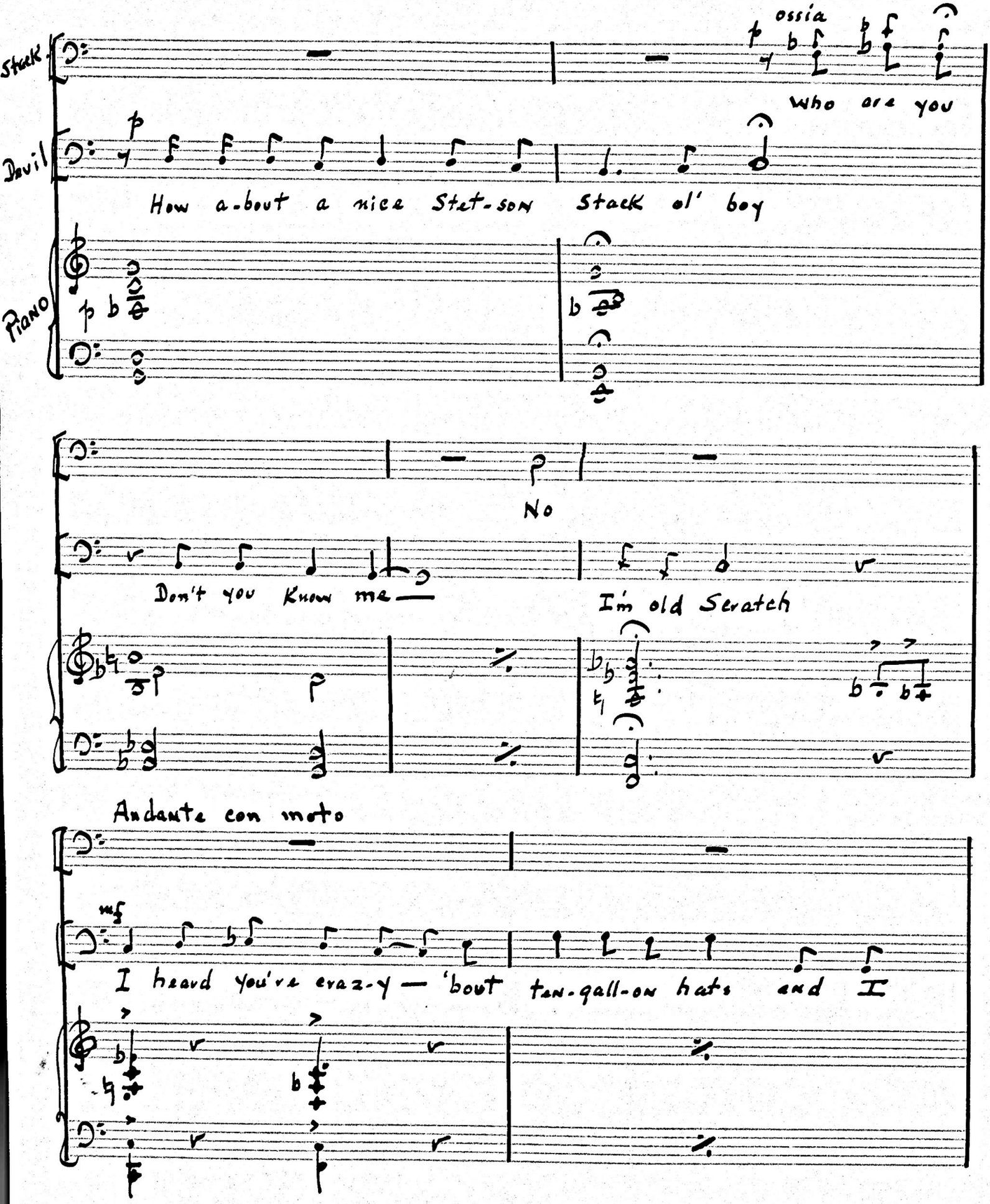
Broadly ♩=76

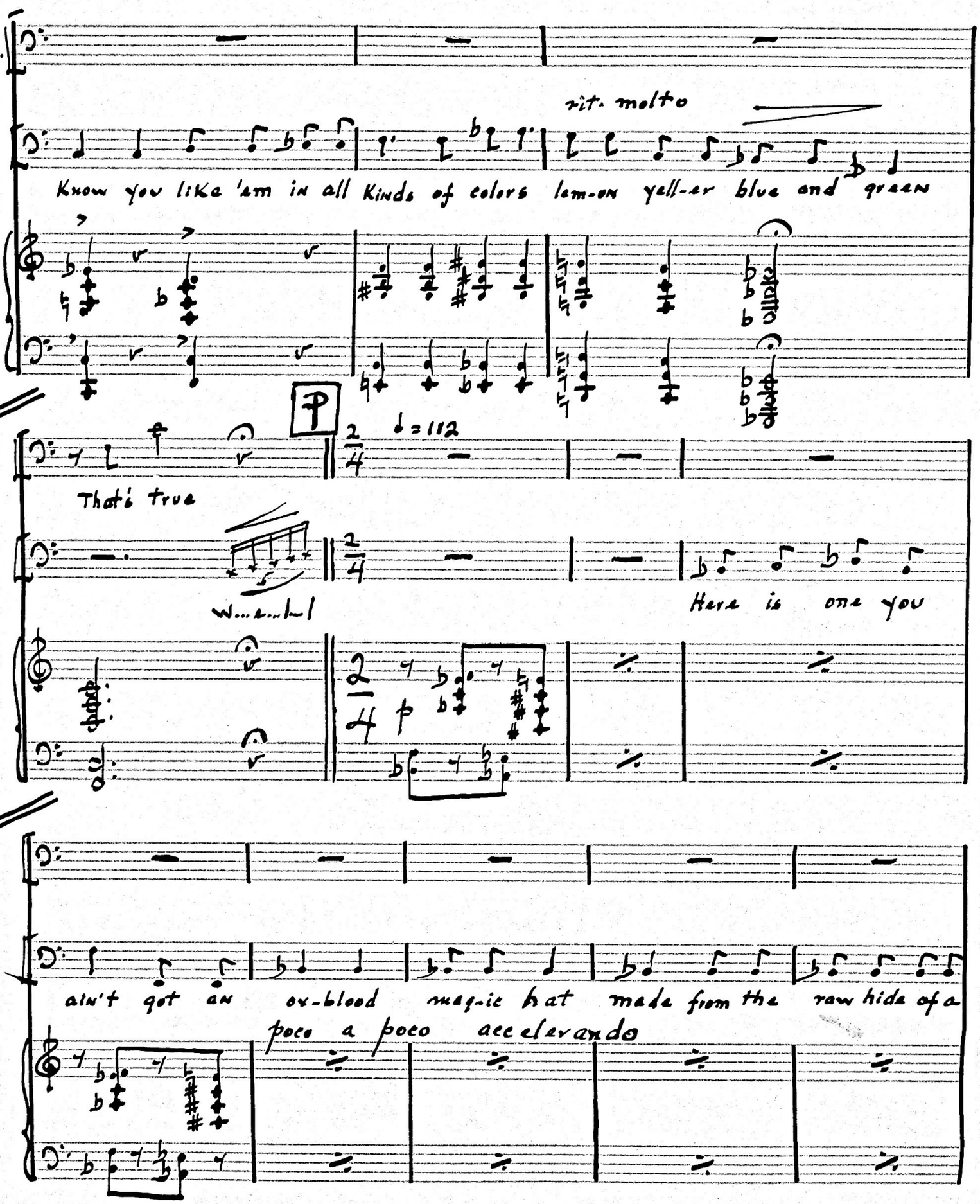
lunga

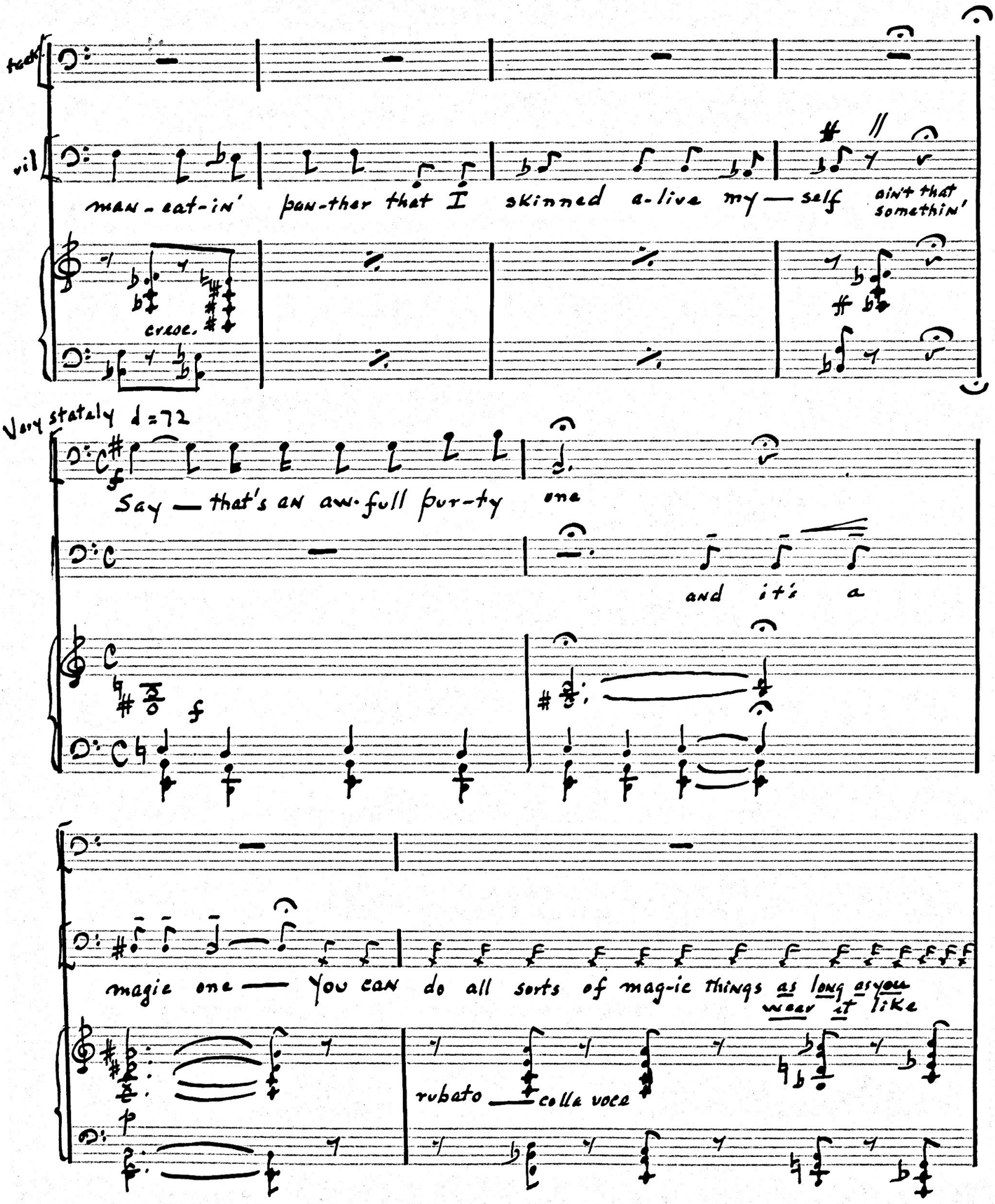
Stay off

Devil appears on other side of stage

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.


Stack
ossia
Who are you
Devil
How a-bout a nice Stet-son Stack ol' boy
Piano
No
Don't you Know me—
I'm old Scratch
Andante con moto
I heard you're craz-y — 'bout tan-gall-on hats and I


Stack.
Devil
rit. molto
Know you like 'em in all kinds of colors lem-on yell-er blue and green
f
♩=112
2/4
That's true
W...e...l—l
Here is one you
ain't got an ox-blood mag-ic hat made from the raw hide of a
poco a poco accelerando



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

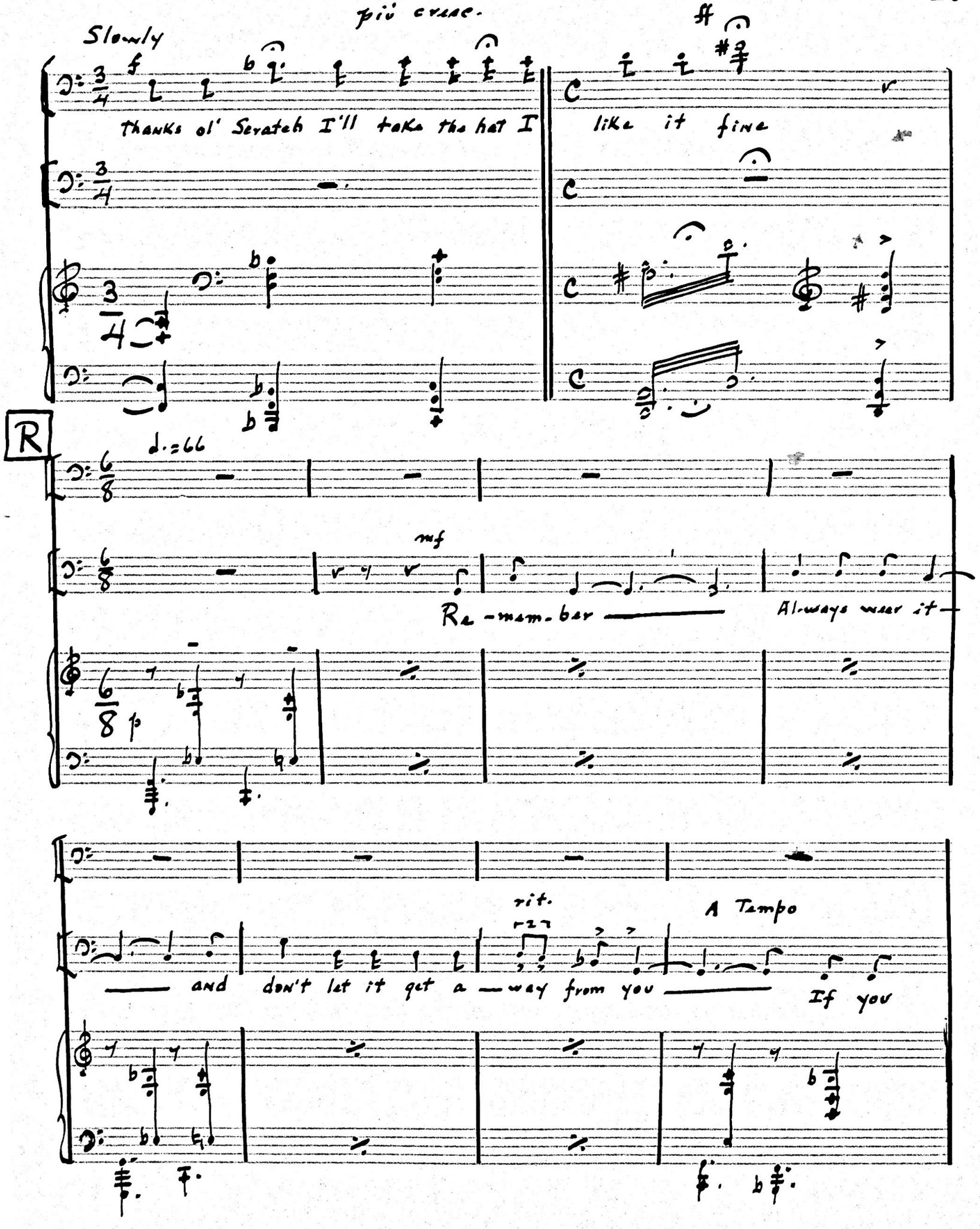
getting faster

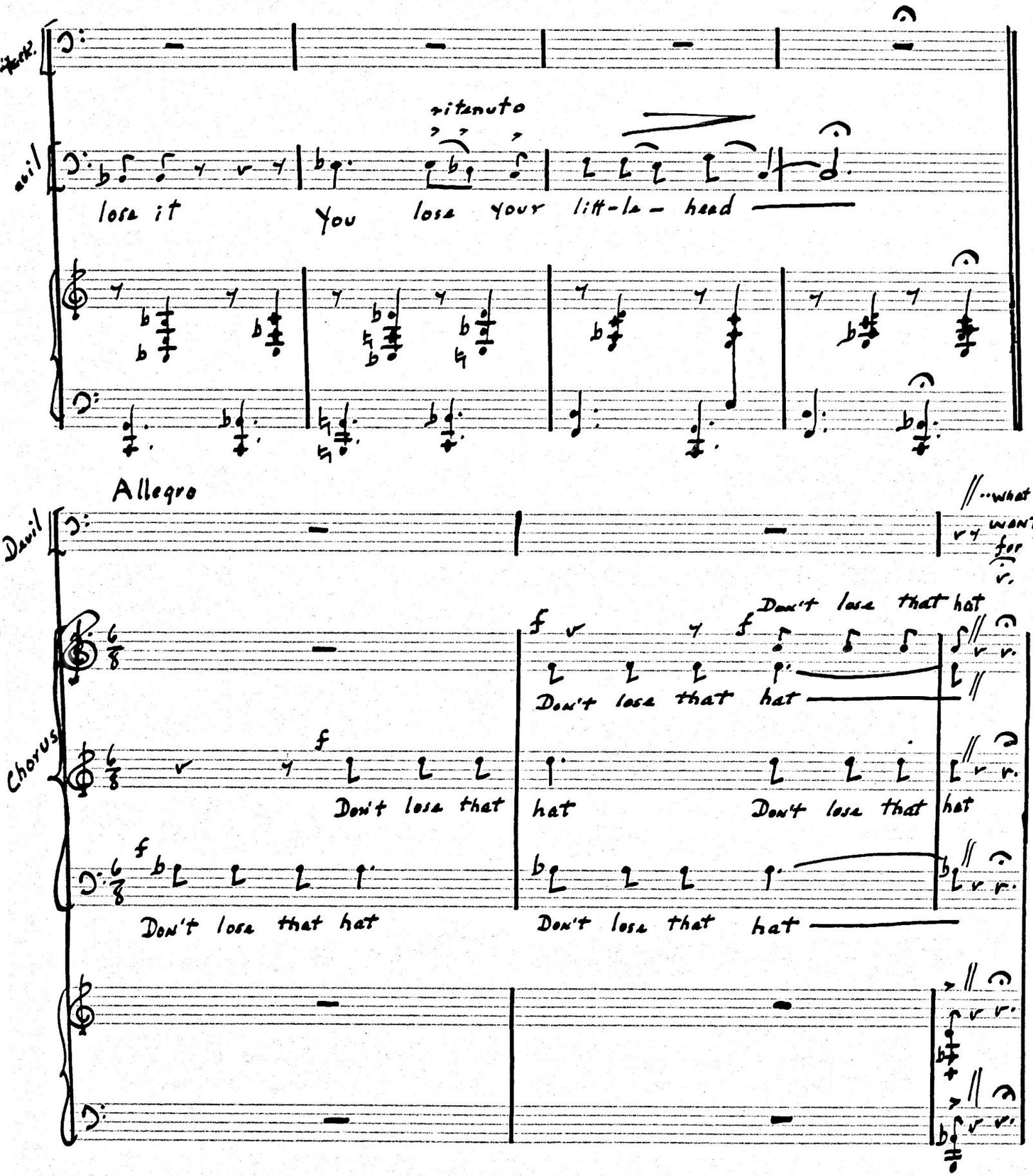
mak-ing yourself so little you could get into a bottle and walking barefoot

on that hot slag without getting burned and eat hot fire and change yourself

Stack walks cautiously to the Devil, takes the hat, scrutinizes it...

into a mountain or a wolf or anything like it?


più cresc.
Slowly
f
Thanks ol' Scratch I'll take the hat I
ff
like it fine
R
♩.=66
mf
Re-mem-ber
Al-ways wear it
p
rit.
A Tempo
and don't let it get a-way from you
If you


ritenuto
lose it
You lose your litt-le- head
Allegro
Don't lose that hat
Don't lose that
hat
Don't lose that hat
Don't lose that hat
Don't lose that hat
Don't lose that hat

Mod^te d = 80

Stack

Just my

Devil

f

Noth-in' ab-solut-ely noth-in' Just your soul

Quietly d. = 66

Stack

soul Just my soul —

Devil

Stack ol' boy — Just your soul —

Chorus

f Just his soul

Just his soul

Just his soul

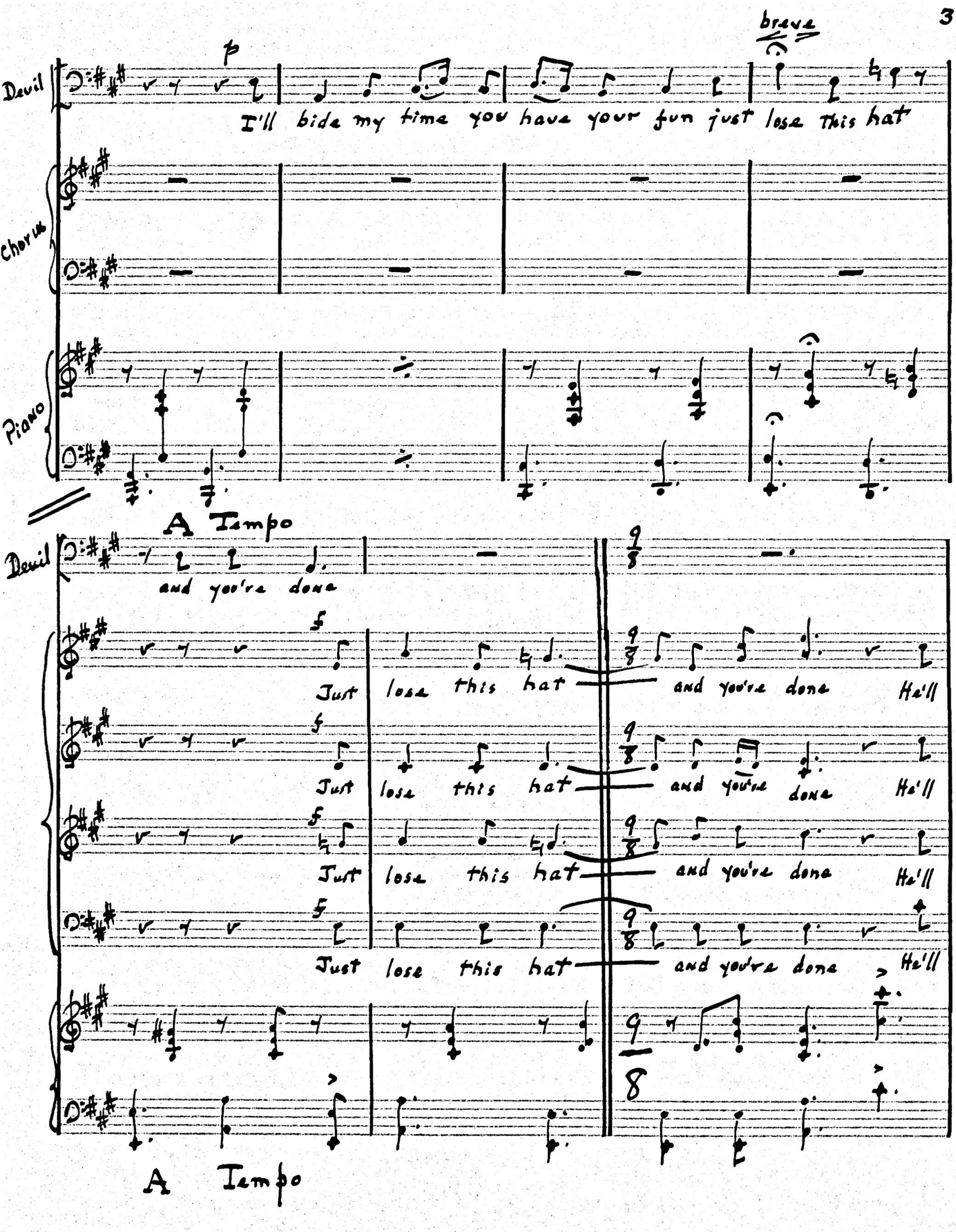
Just his soul

Piano

p

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"MALBARENE" NO. 1951 M & E CO., N.Y.



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" No. 1951 K & E CO., N. Y. ®
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

The Devil dances off stage...

(unison)

Chorus

p bide his time— and Stack will have fun But if he loses that

hat he'll be done The barg-ain is made now Stack will have fun But

Rit.

Pesante

if that hat is lost then he's done

Rit.

pp

Puts on the hat... S

Stackalee

Bosh The old Devil Got me a hat — a won-der-ful

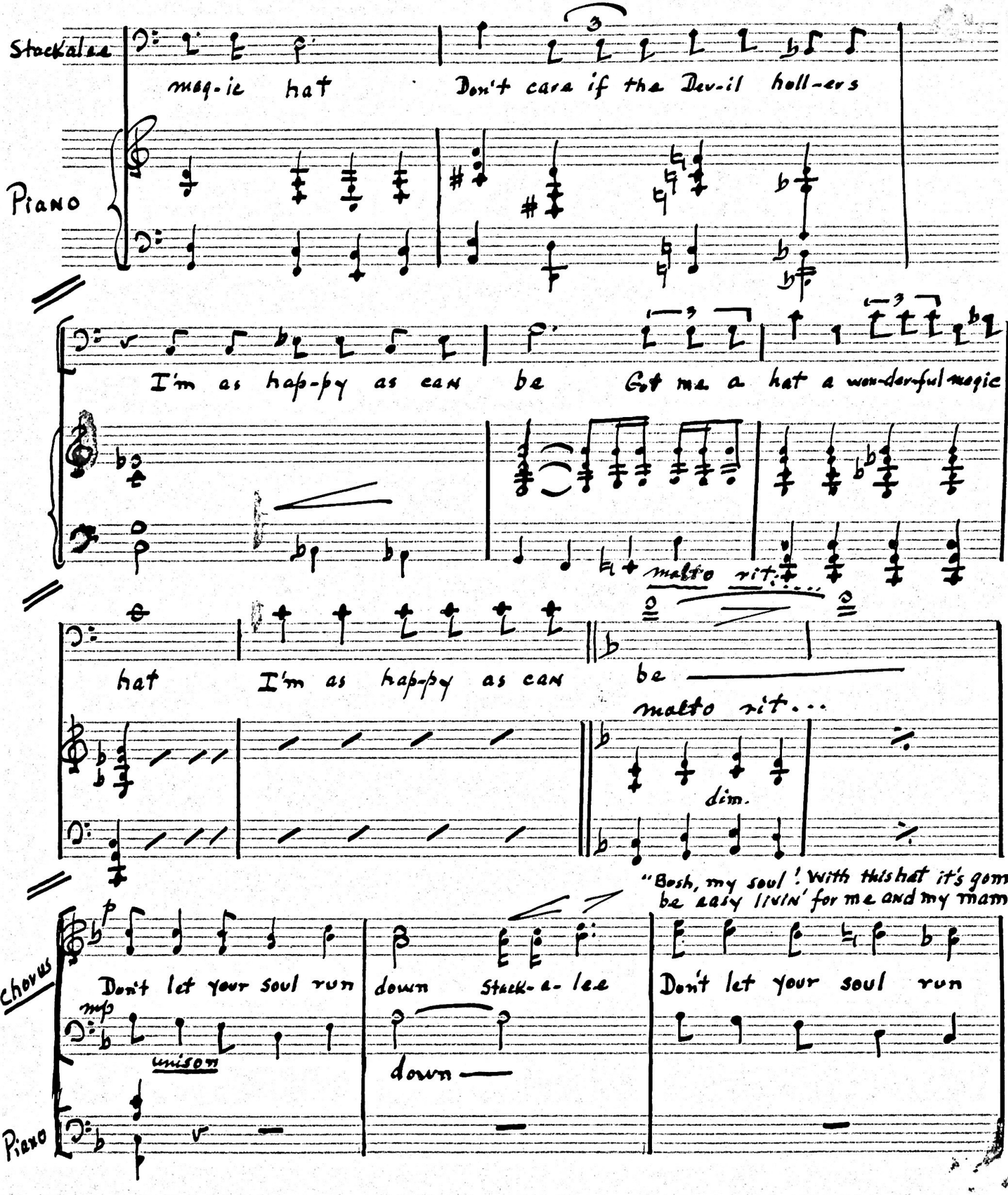
Piano

stace.

p

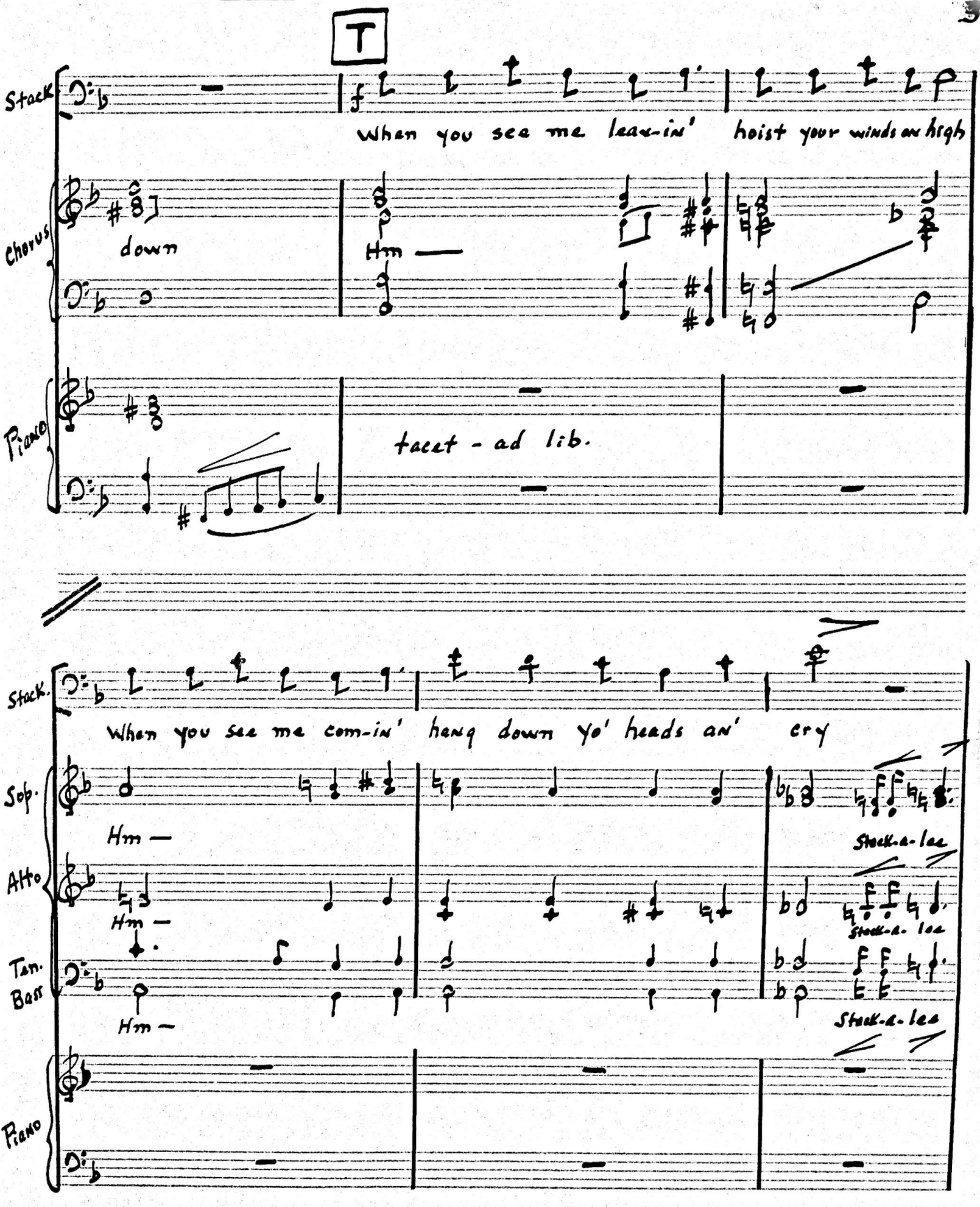
Con spirito ♩=112

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.



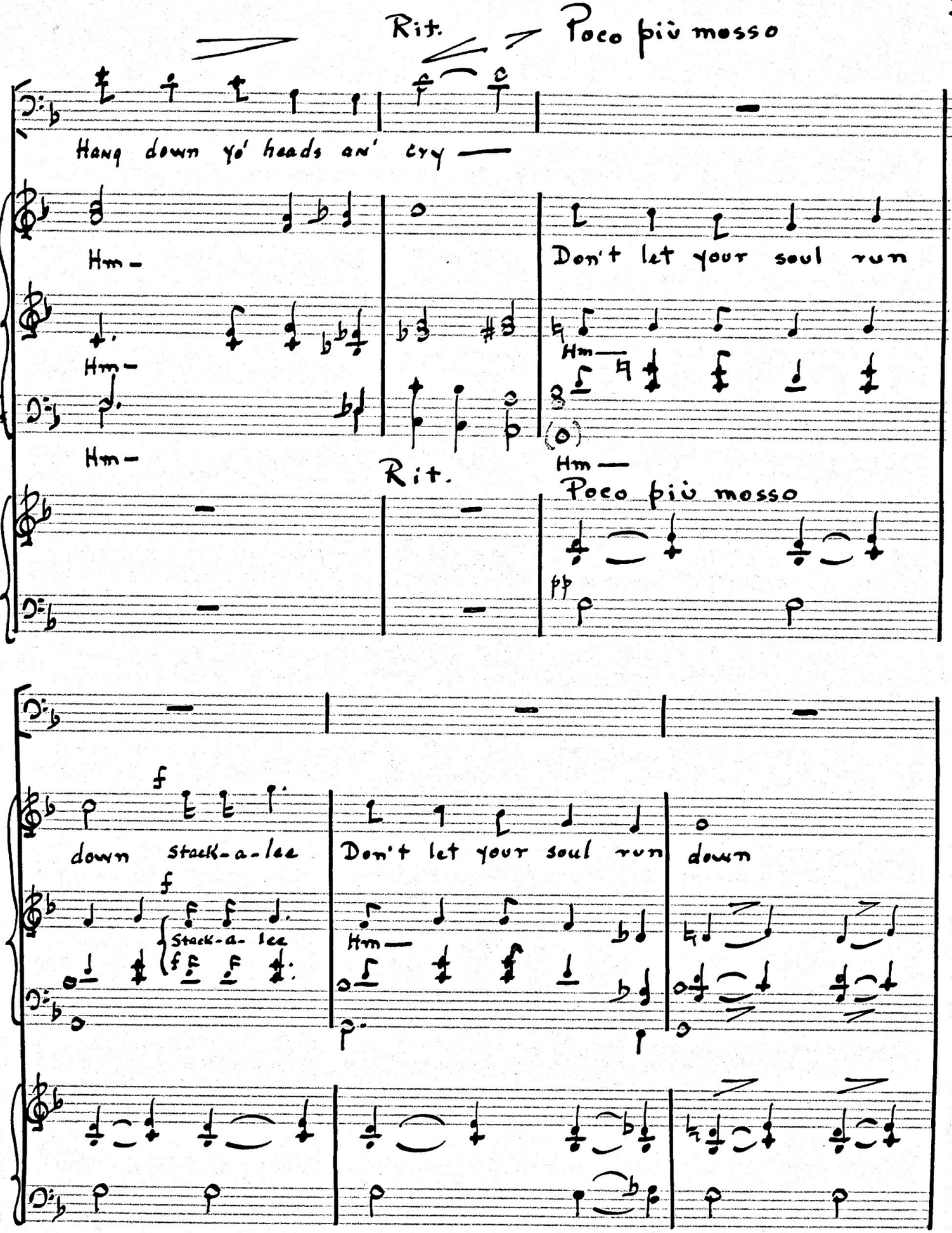
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

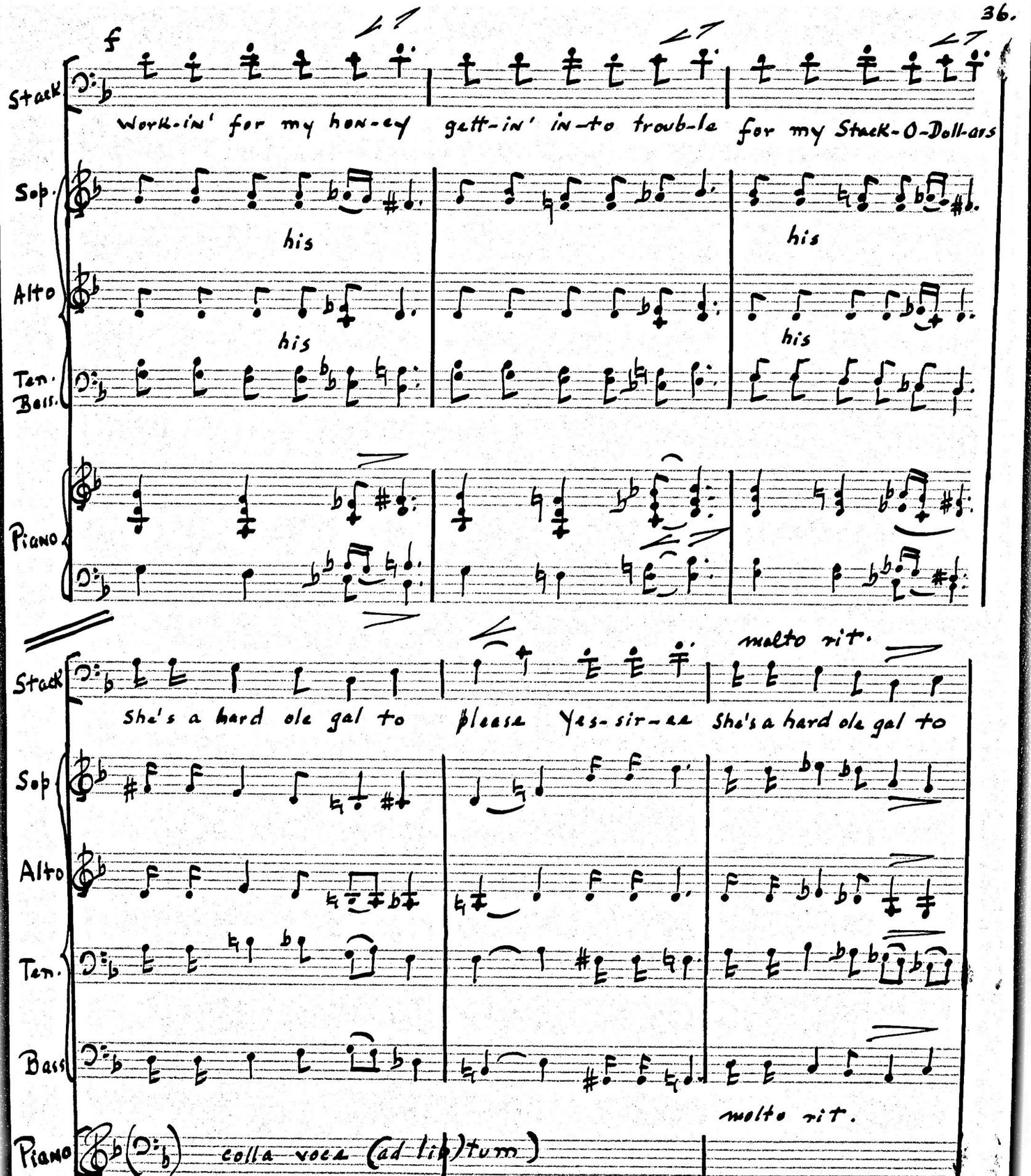
"HALSANENE" No. 1951 H & CO., N.Y.



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" NO. 1061 MASCO, N.Y. ®
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.


Rit.
Poco più mosso
Hang down yo' heads an' cry —
Sop.
Alto
Ten.
Bass
Hm —
Don't let your soul run
Rit.
Poco più mosso
down
Stack-a-lee
Don't let your soul run
down
Stack-a-lee



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" No. 1961 M & CO., N.Y. U.S.A. PAT. OFF.

U

A Tempo primo ♩=112

Stack

please Got me a hat — a won-der-ful mag-ic hat

Sop

a won-der-ful mag-ic hat

Alto

Ten.
Bass.

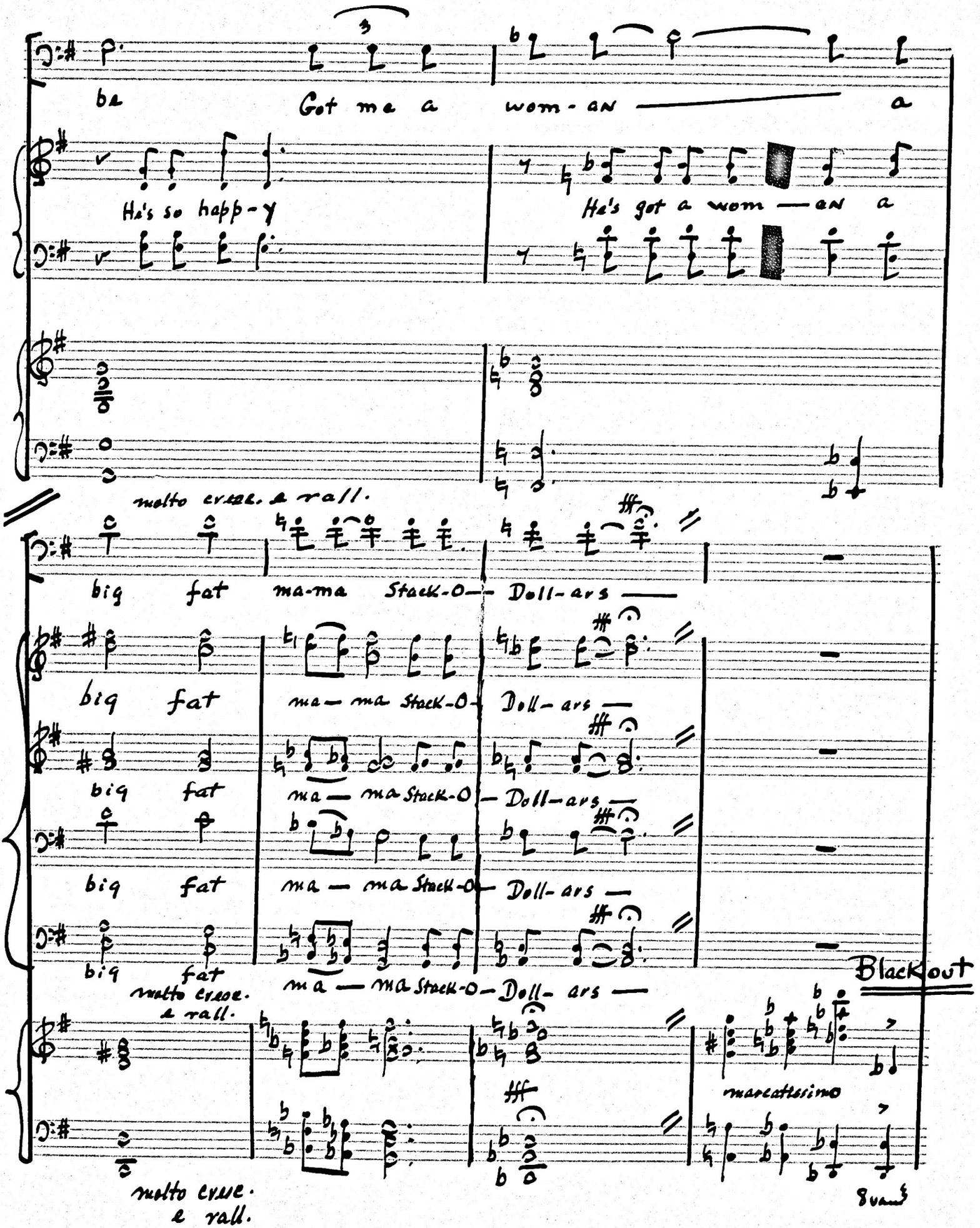
A Tempo primo

Piano

p

f secco

Don't care if the Dev-il hol-lers I'm as hap-py as can



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

Stack-O-Dollars appears under spot

Stack-O-Dollars: mf stridently

Blues Tempo

They call me — Stack-O-

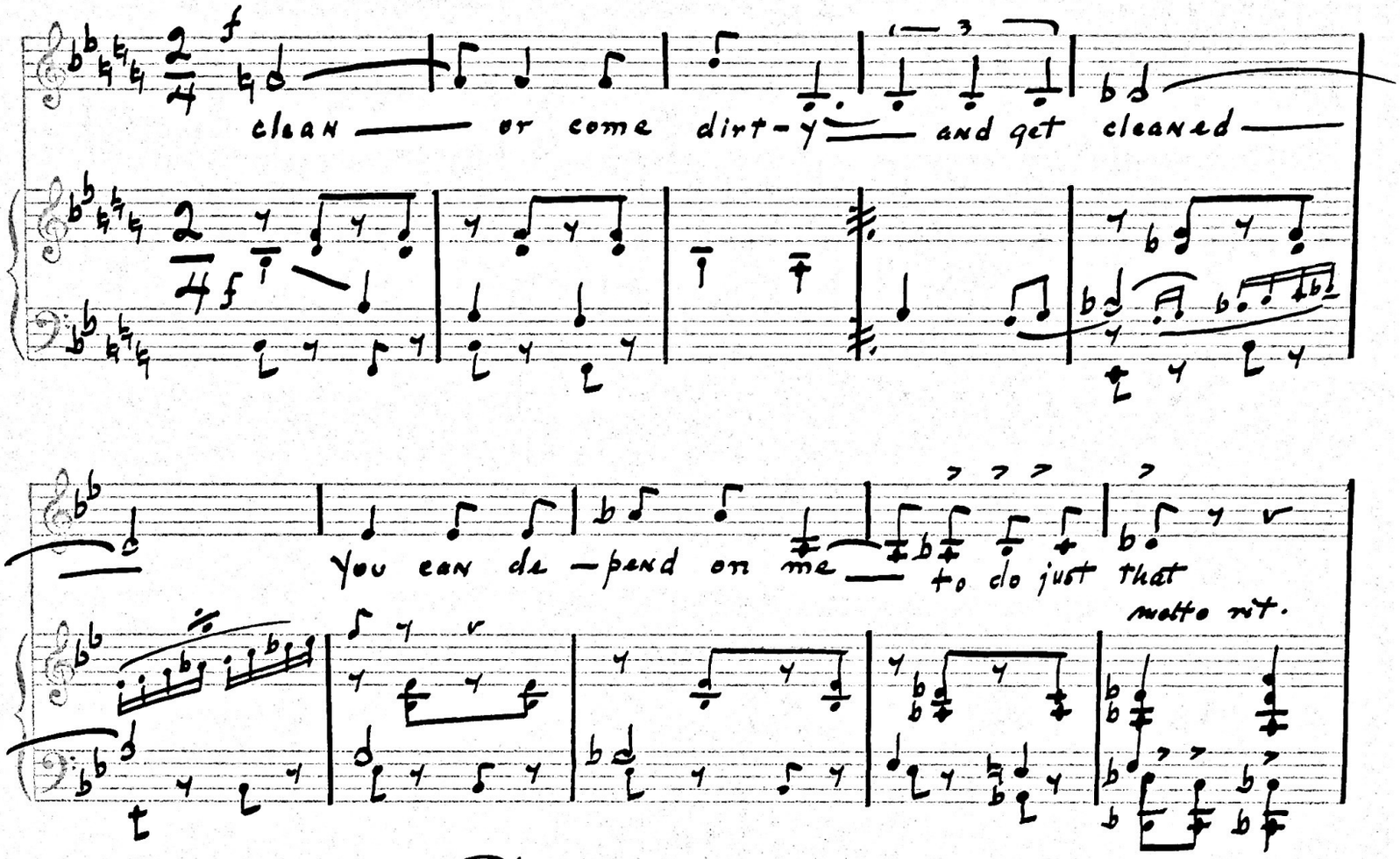
p

-Doll-ars — 'cause my lim-it — is the sky I walk in-to a gamb-lin'

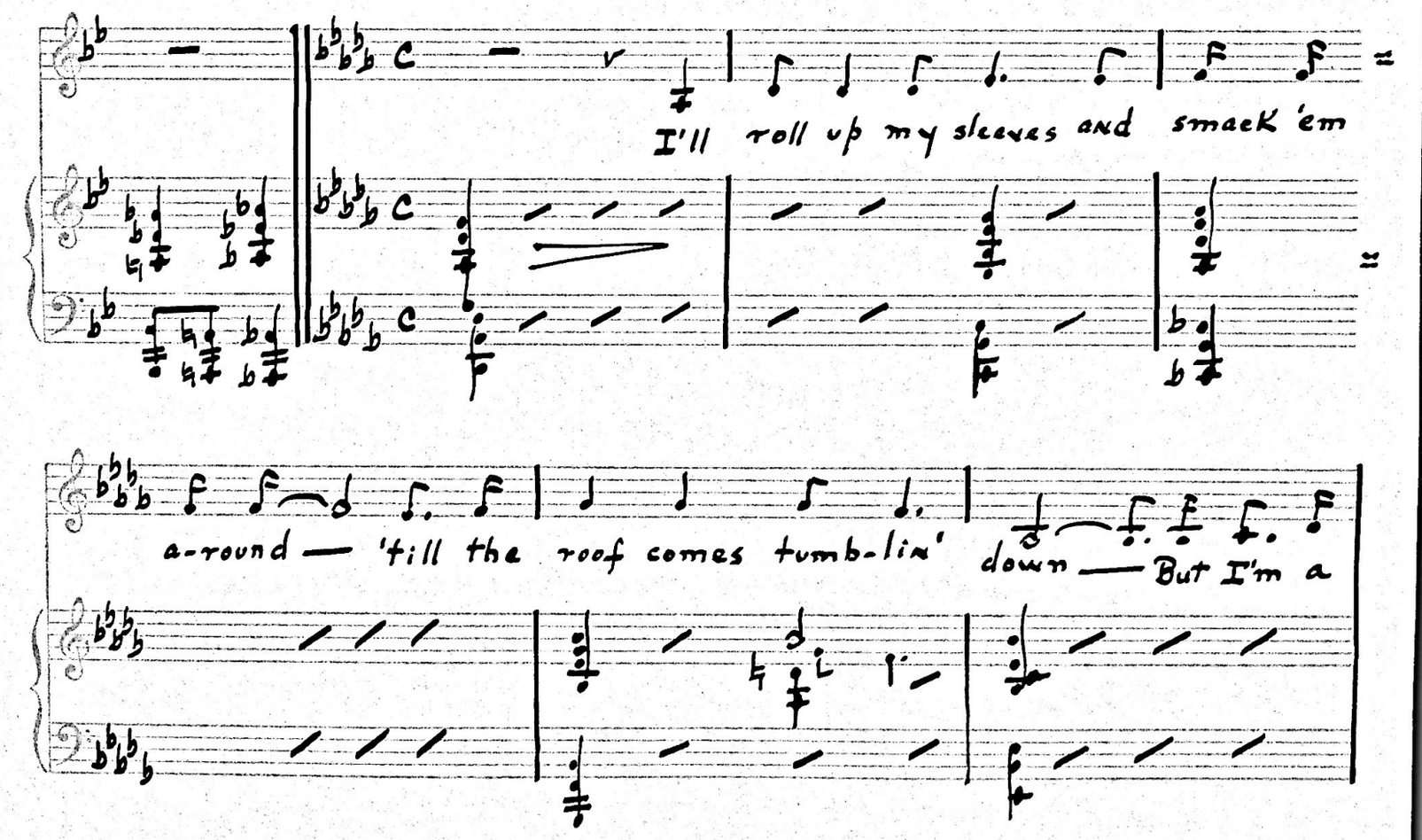
joint and Stack my doll-ars moun-tain high 'cause lim-it

is the sky — and re-mem-ber my mott-o — come

Allegro Mod^to



Slow Blues



poco a poco cresc.

good wom-an — Heart big as a whale Stack likes me fine cause when we

fight I can whip 'em right That's why they

Dollars

call me call me call me Stack - O —

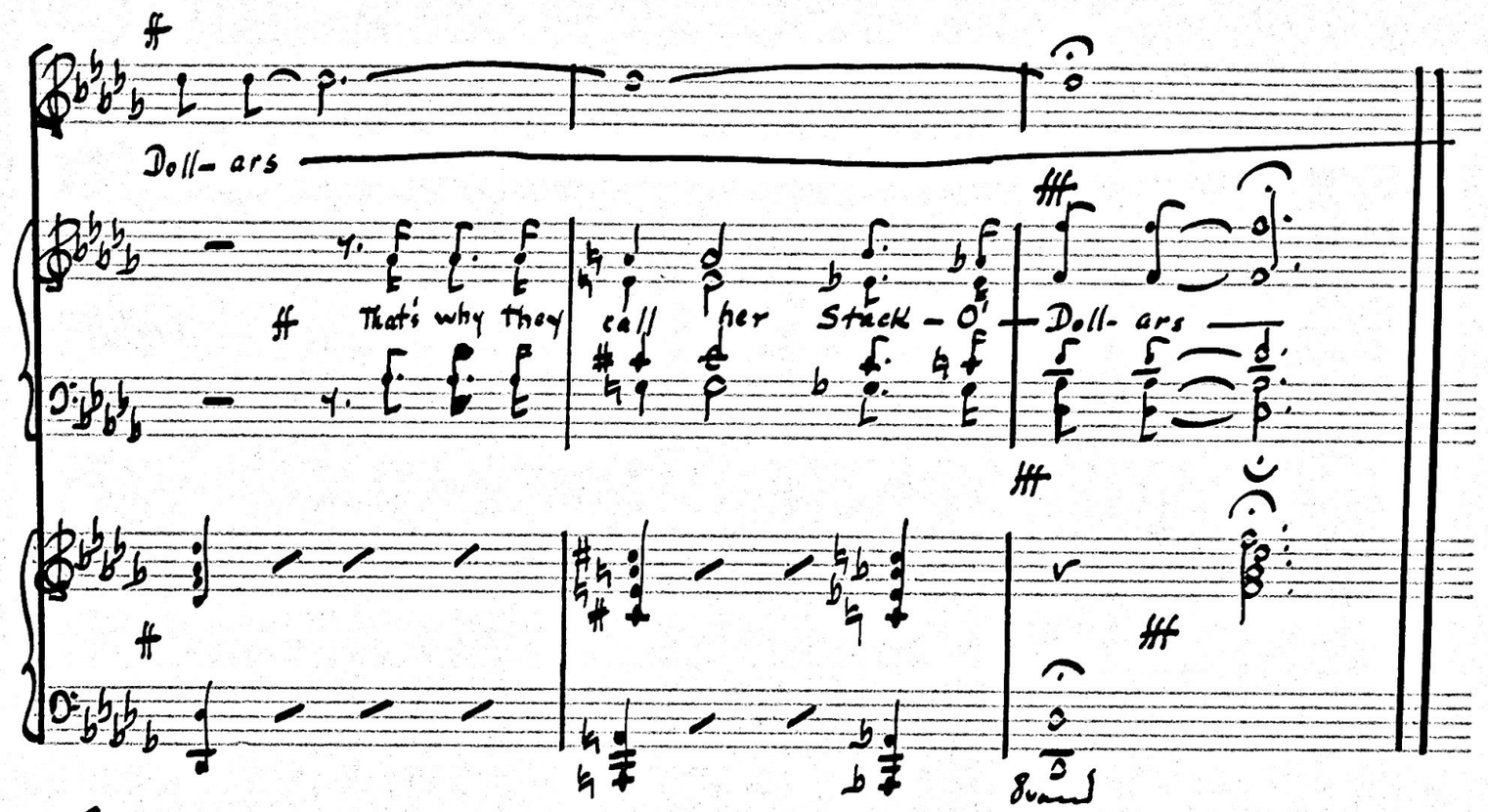
Chorus

f

call her

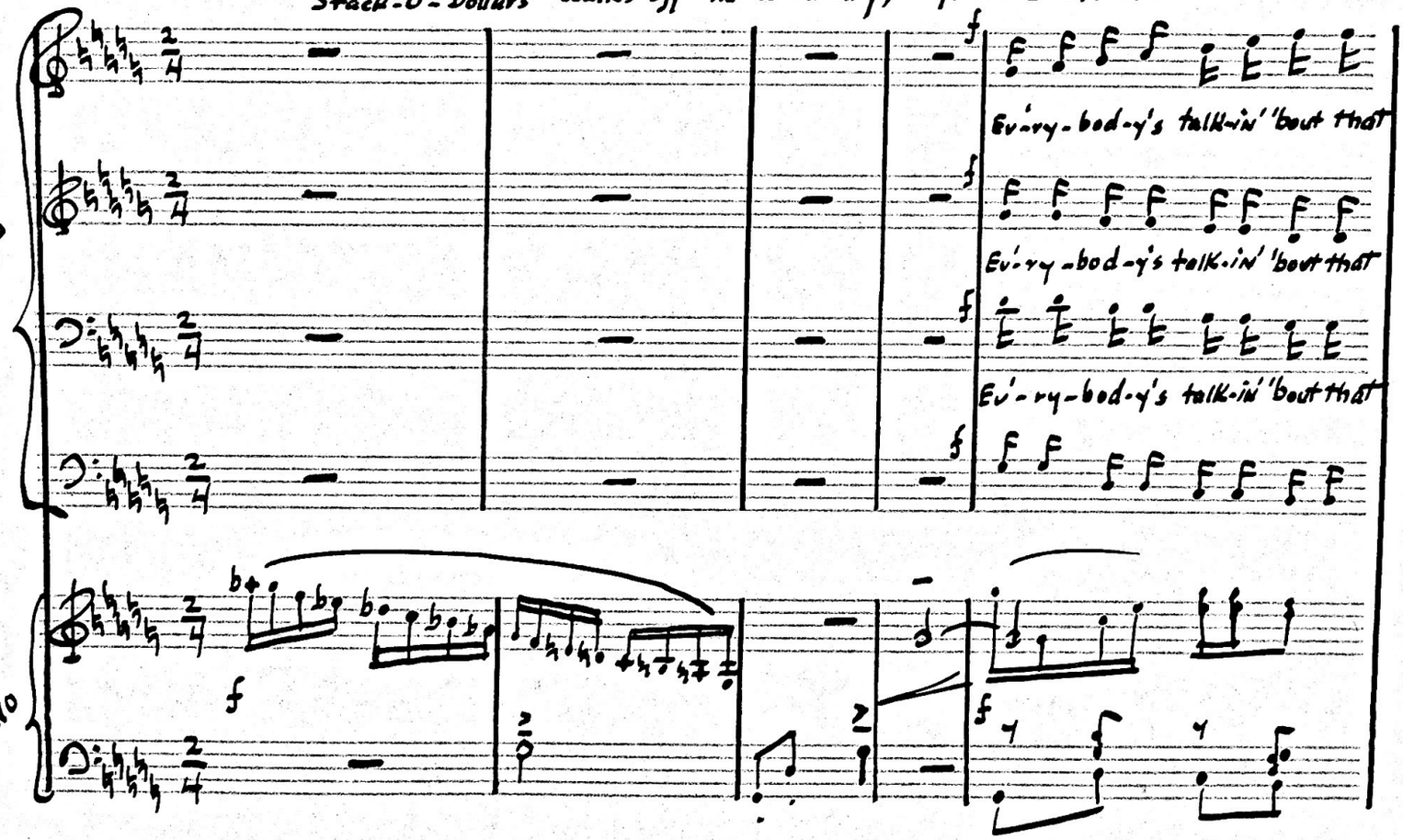
call her

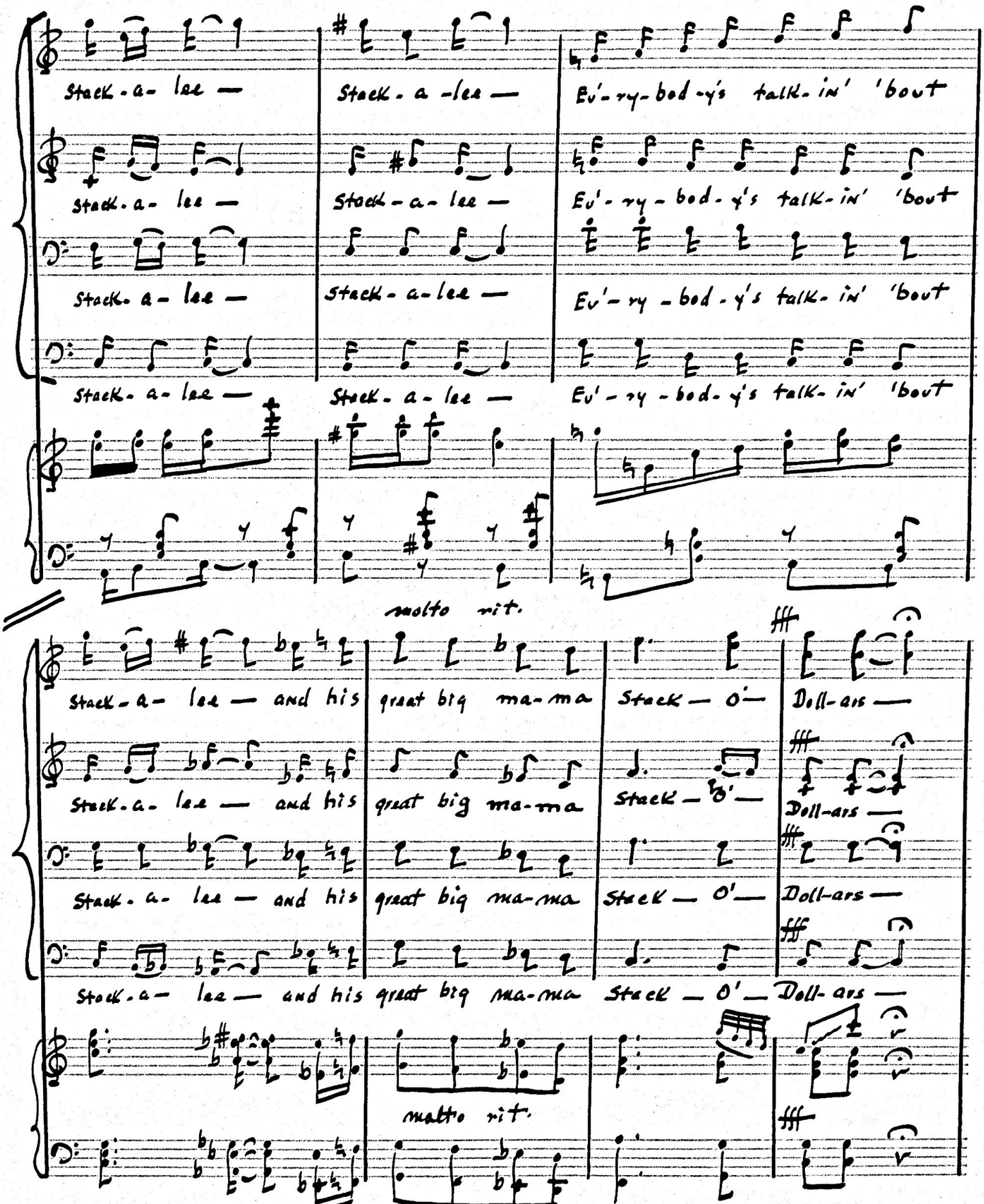
Piano



V Allegro Mod^to ♩=112

Stack-O'-Dollars walks off in a steady, rhythmic stride...





ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

All Exit... Blackout

Narrator:- "Now Stack was always in trouble with the law. That magic hat made him the darndest schemer, and he could get out of any fix...

Scene III

Pantomime

♩=76

Allegro Mod^to

"One day he was headin' west 'cause

W

the law was hot after him... on the way over the mountains...

...he ran into two deputies waitin' to nab him...

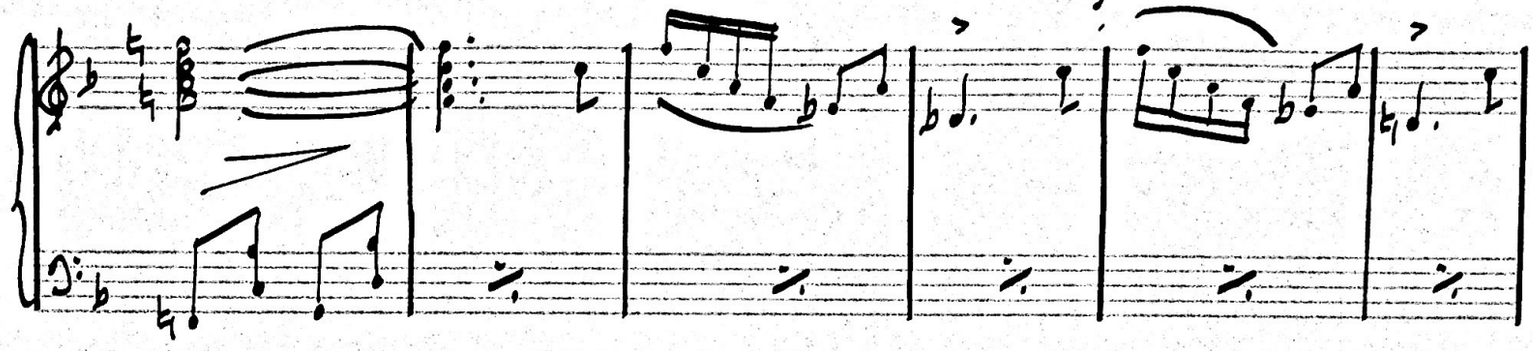
1.

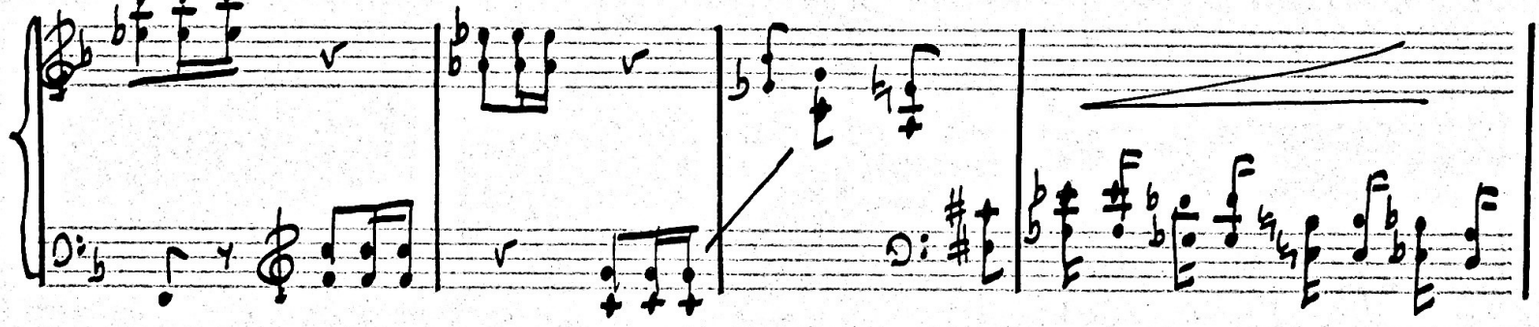
2.

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
315 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

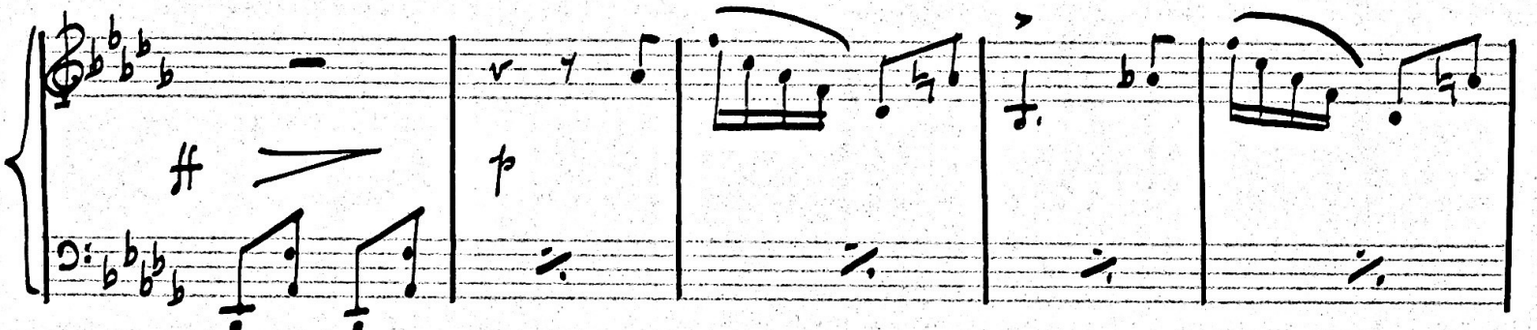
"ALBANENE" No. 1952 K & E CO., N. Y.
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

... and to collect the reward for his arrest...

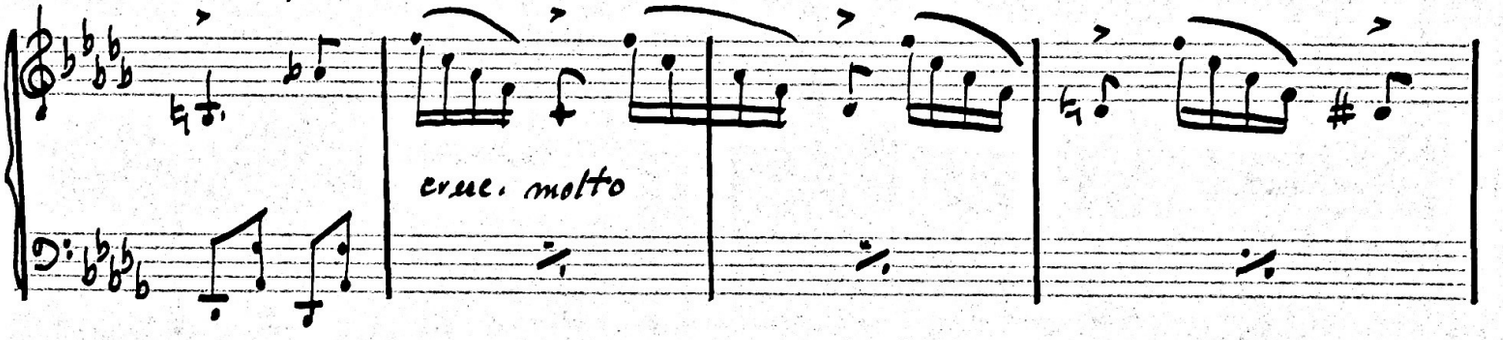




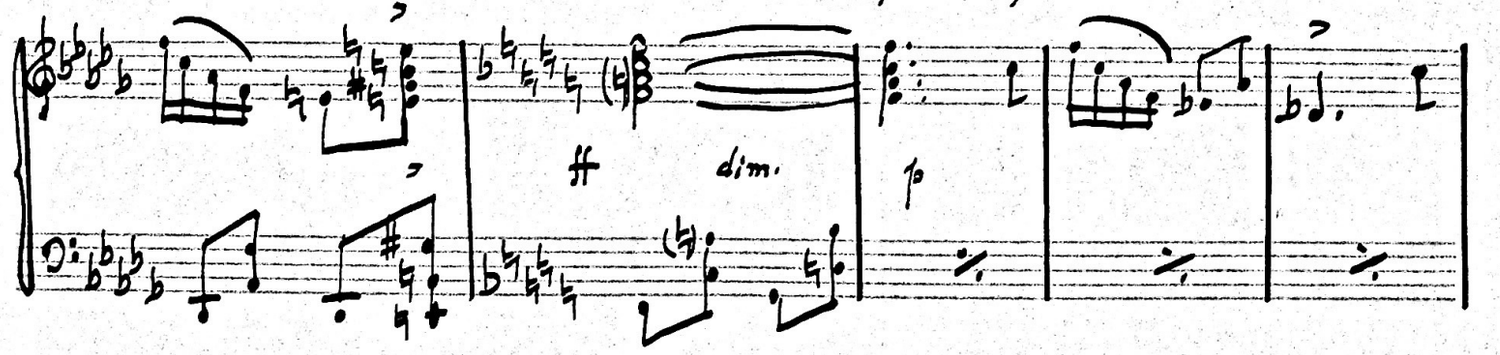
He had to use his wits...



... by God ... asked them what their names



... was ... and with his forty-five-rod ...



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" No. 1951 X & FOO., N.Y.

... shot their initials in their hats ... changed

... himself into a horse and galloped away ...

cresc.

ff

...and it's a fact... little devils rode on his back, and the deputies were no

L'istesso Tempo ad d

unison

Chorus

... longer waitin' — they ran the other way 'cause they knew it was the work of Satan

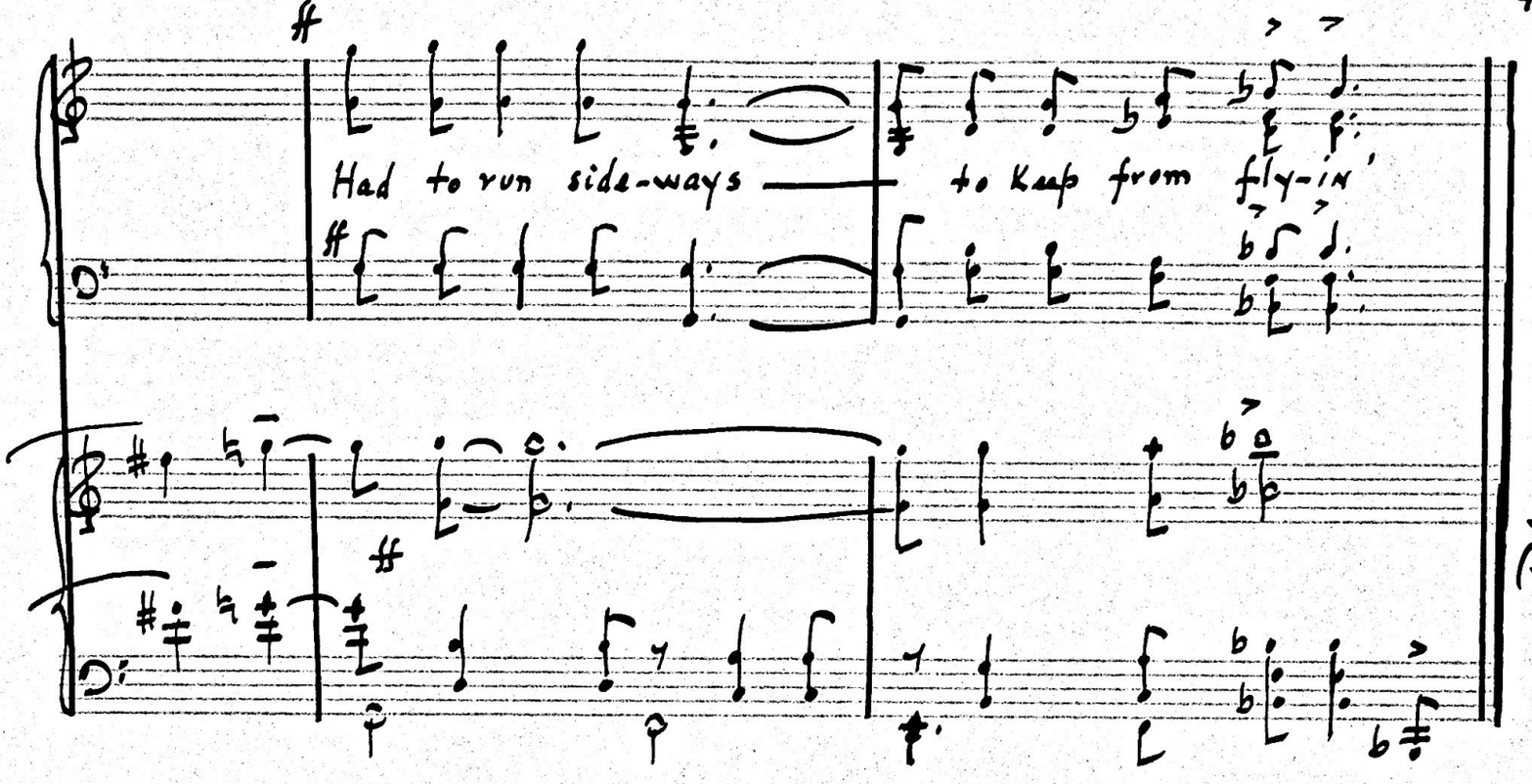
ff to tell — you the truth think we're ly-ing

unison

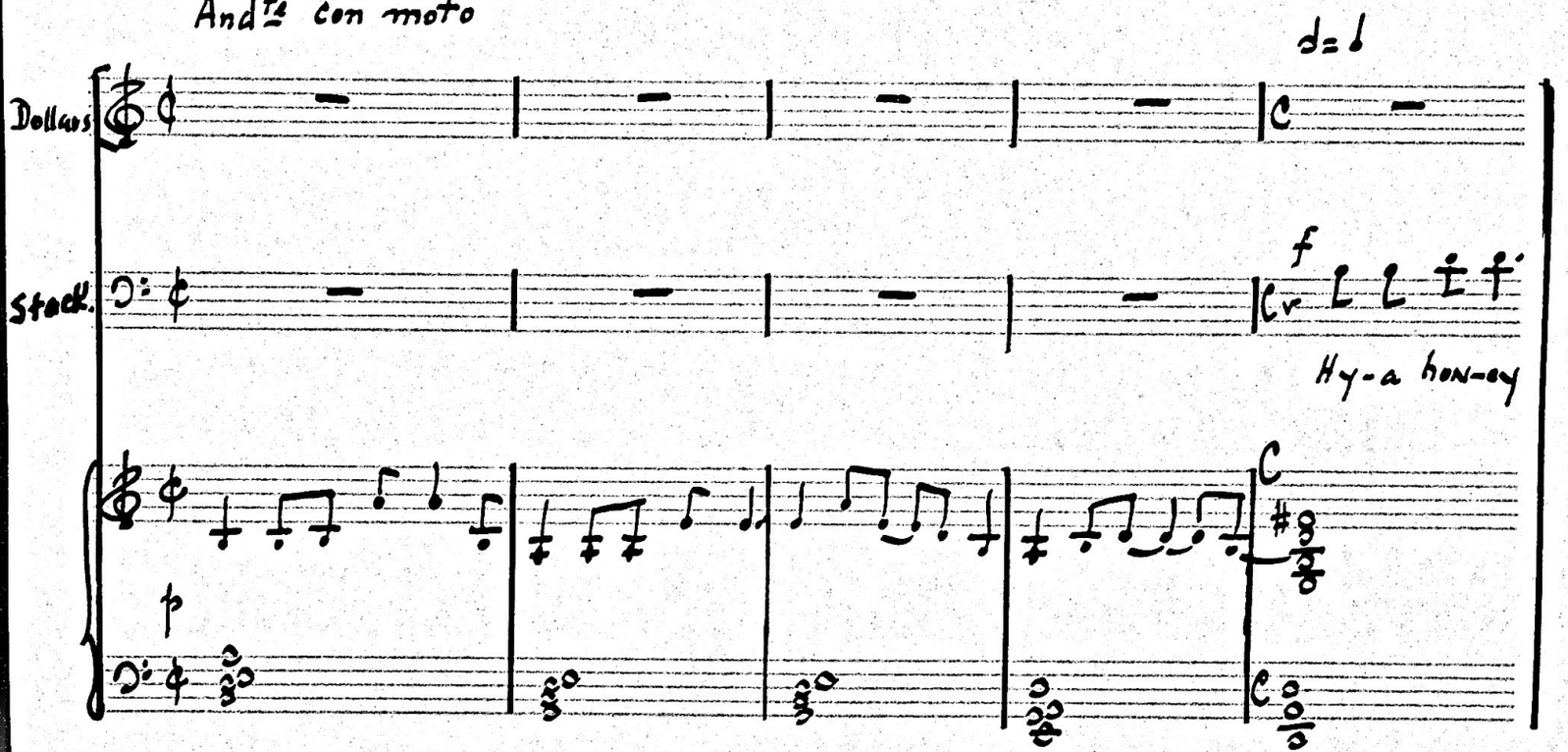
f

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

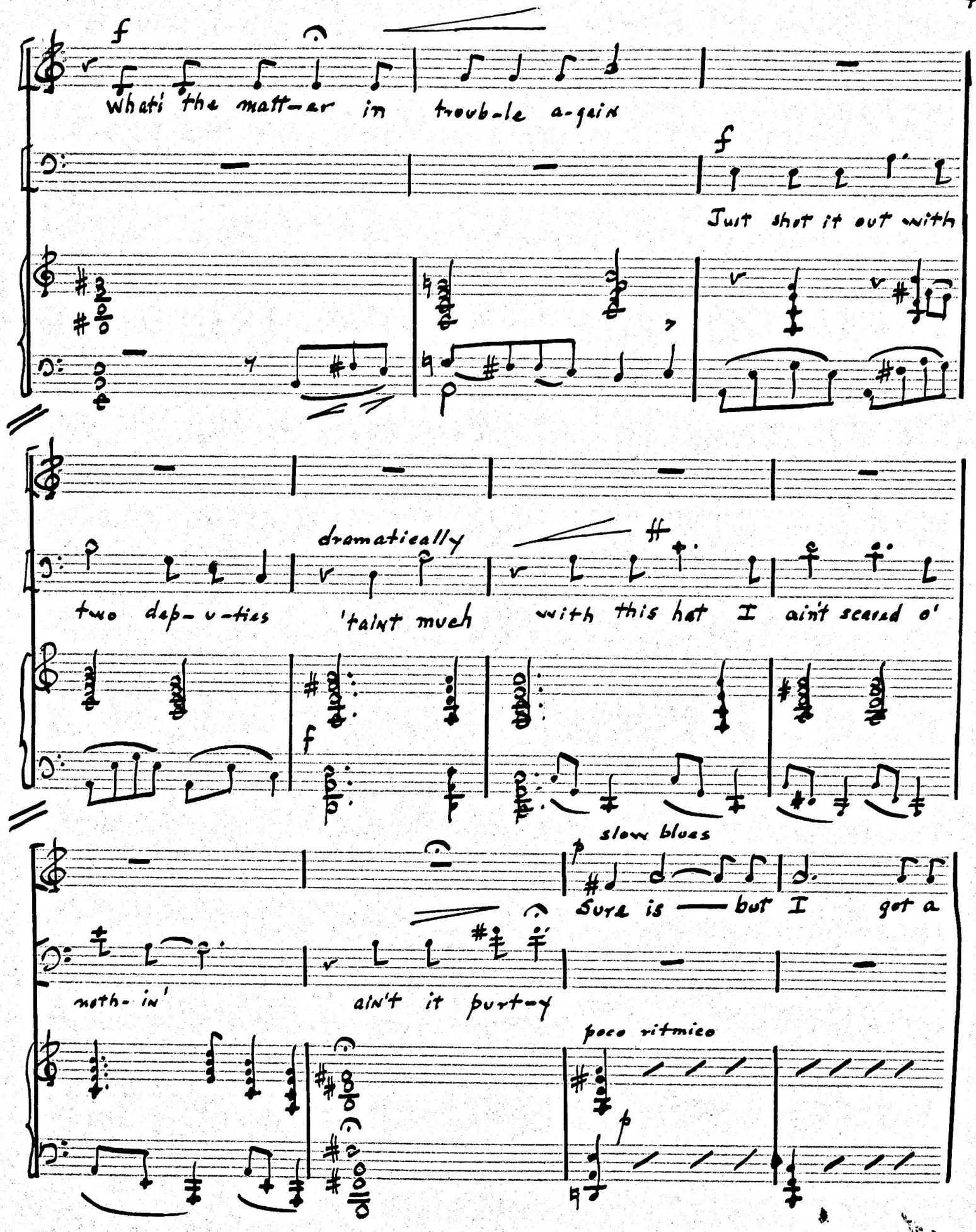
"ALBANENE" No. 1951 K&E CO., N.Y. ®
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



Scene IV — Stackalee is seen rushing into 'Dollars' place...

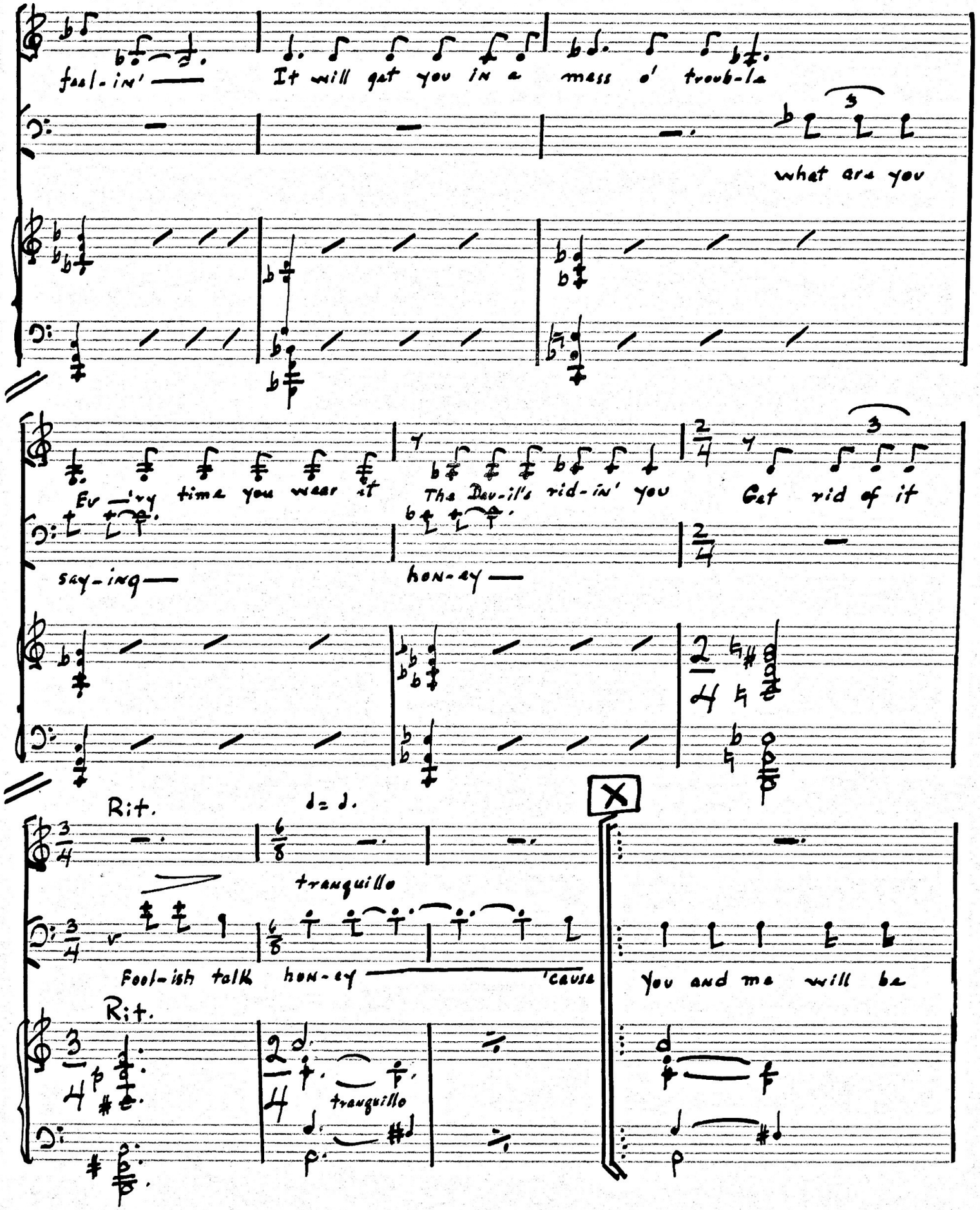


ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.



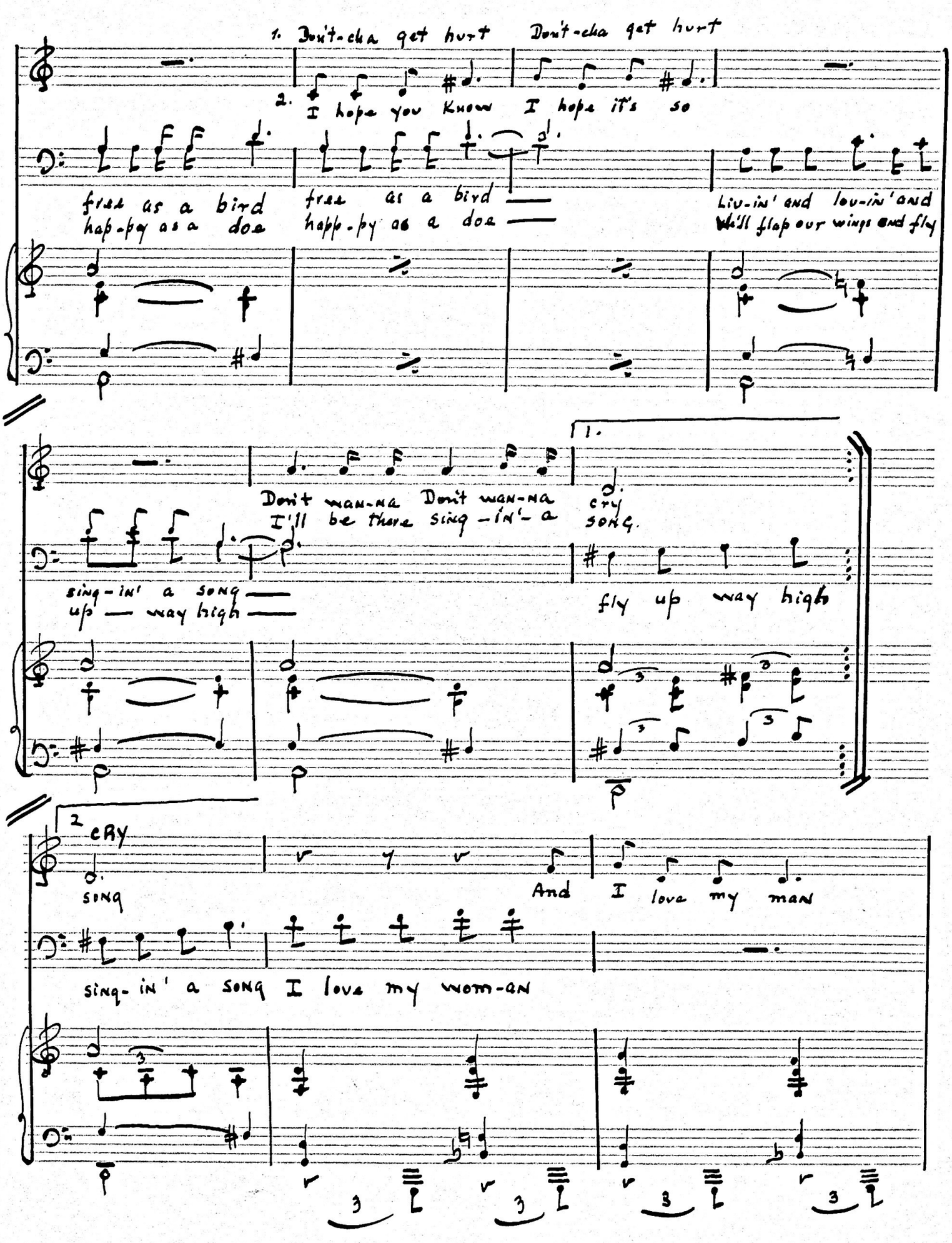
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

PALMANENE" NO. 1951 M.P.CO., N.Y. ©
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

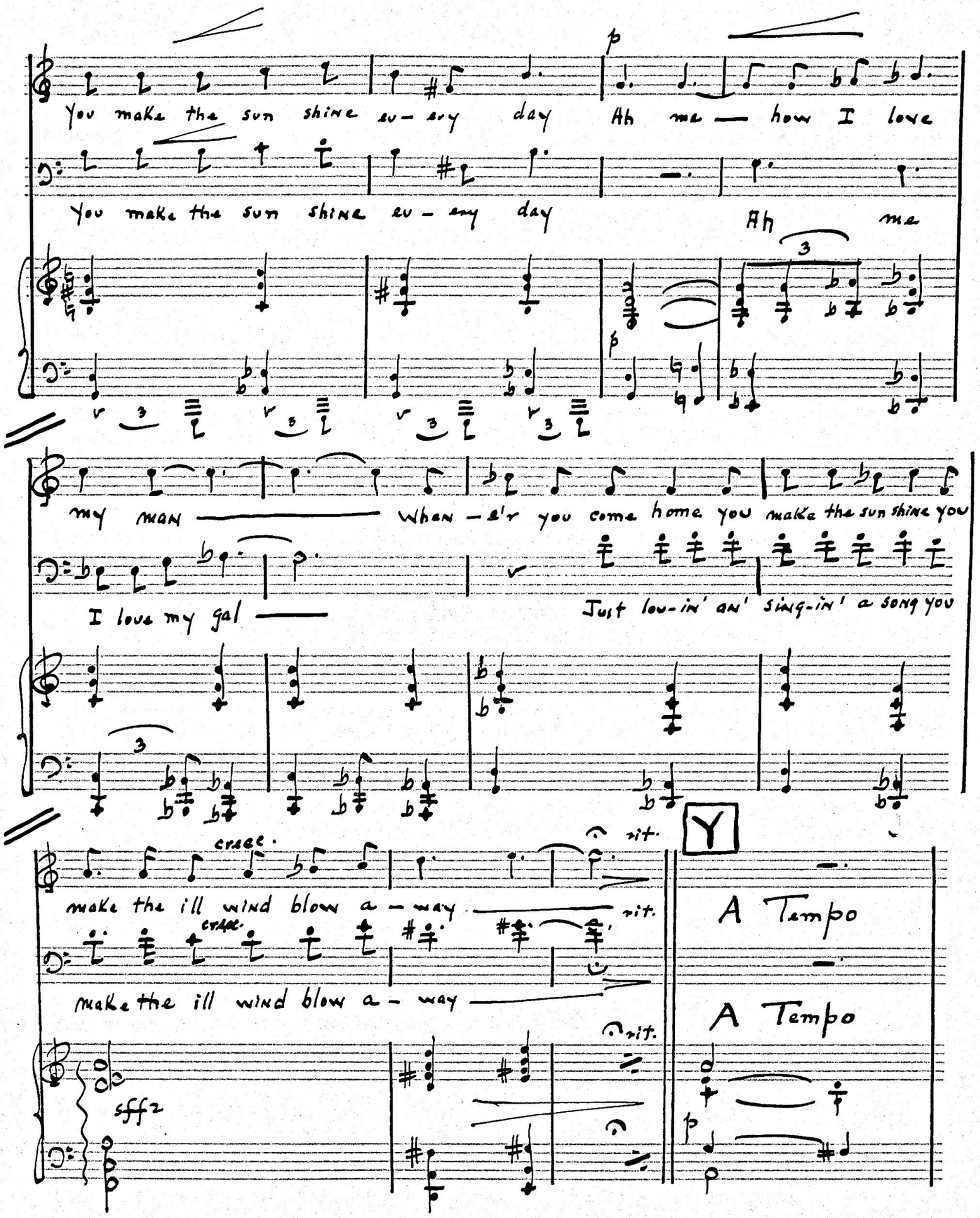


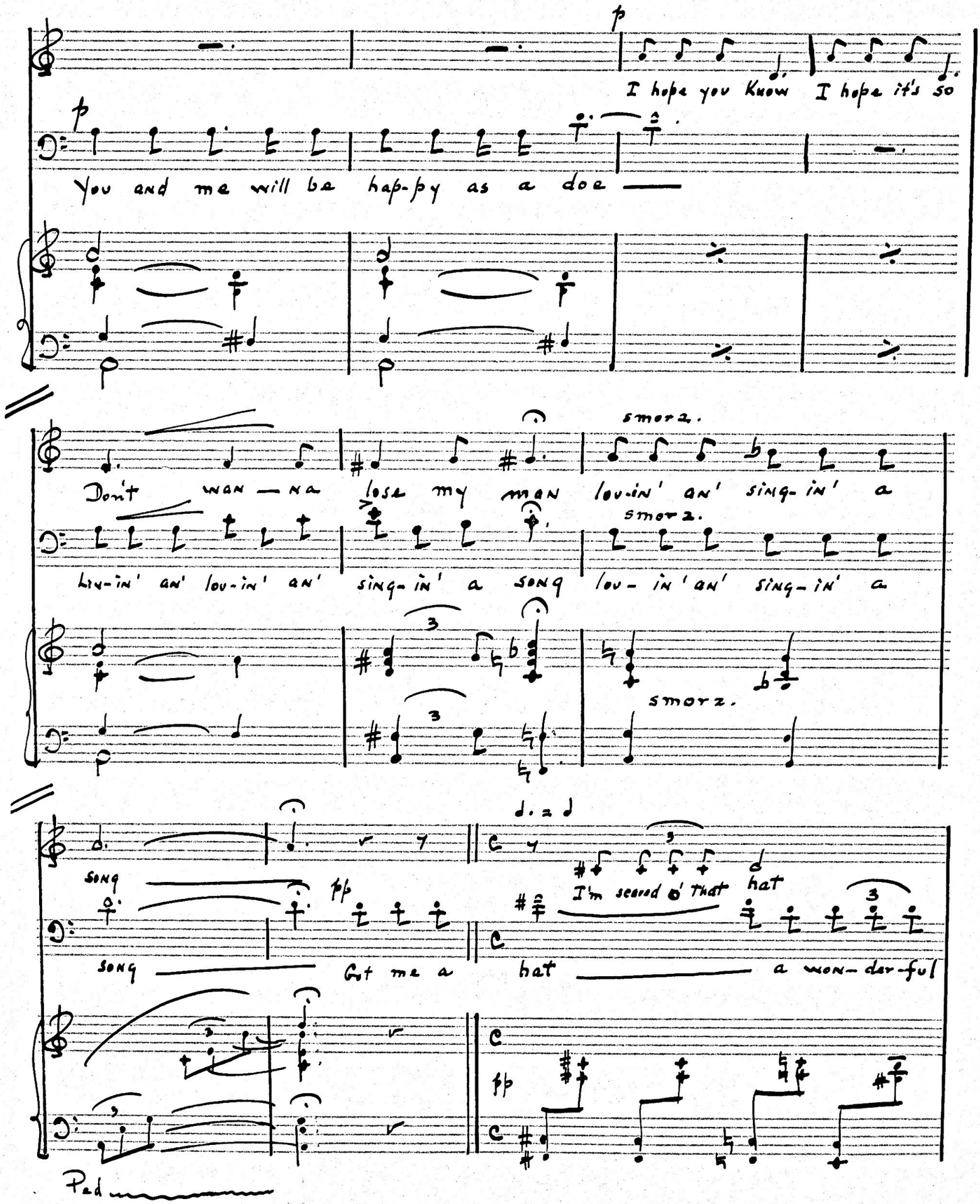
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

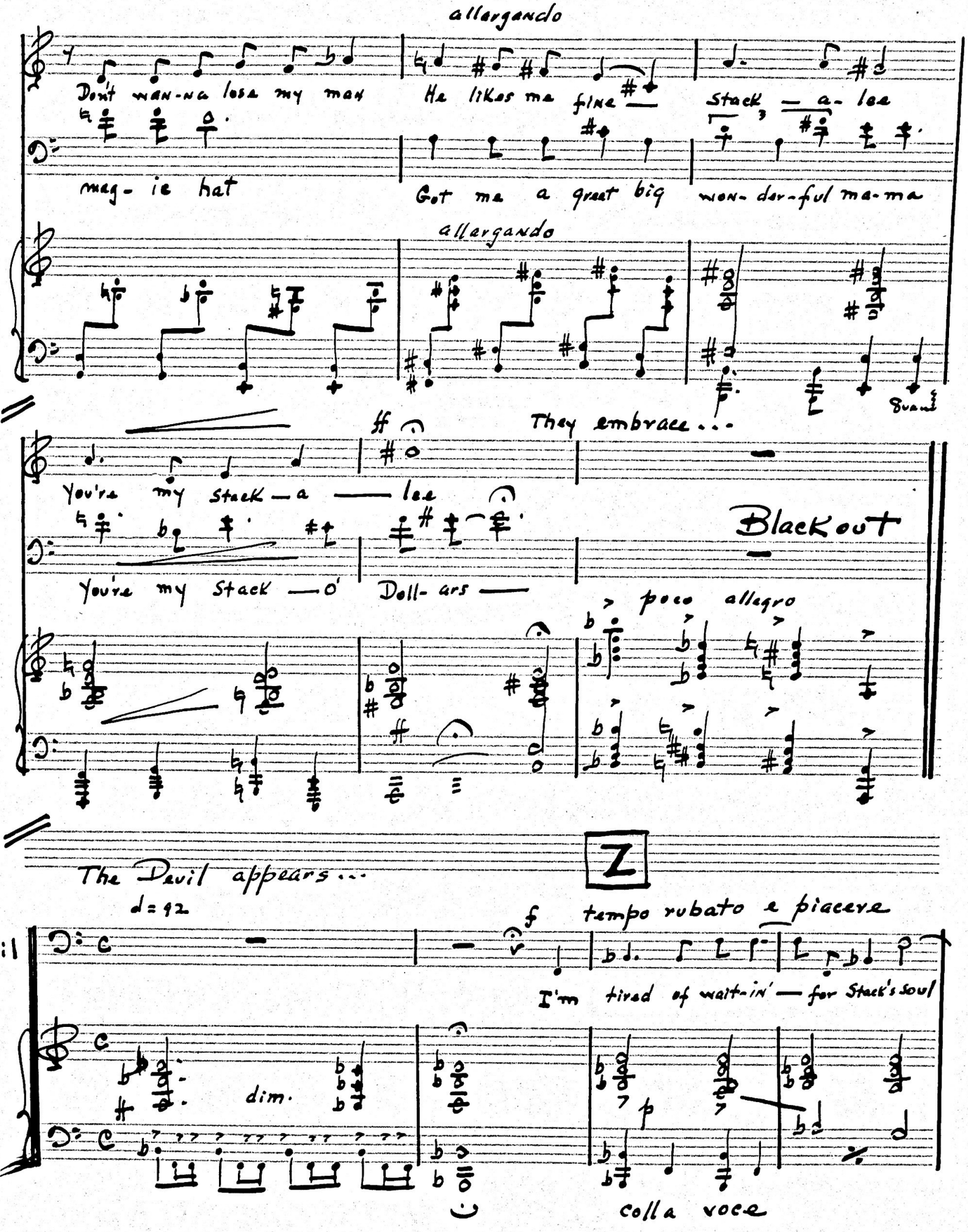
"ALBARENE" No. 1961 KAELCO., N.Y.

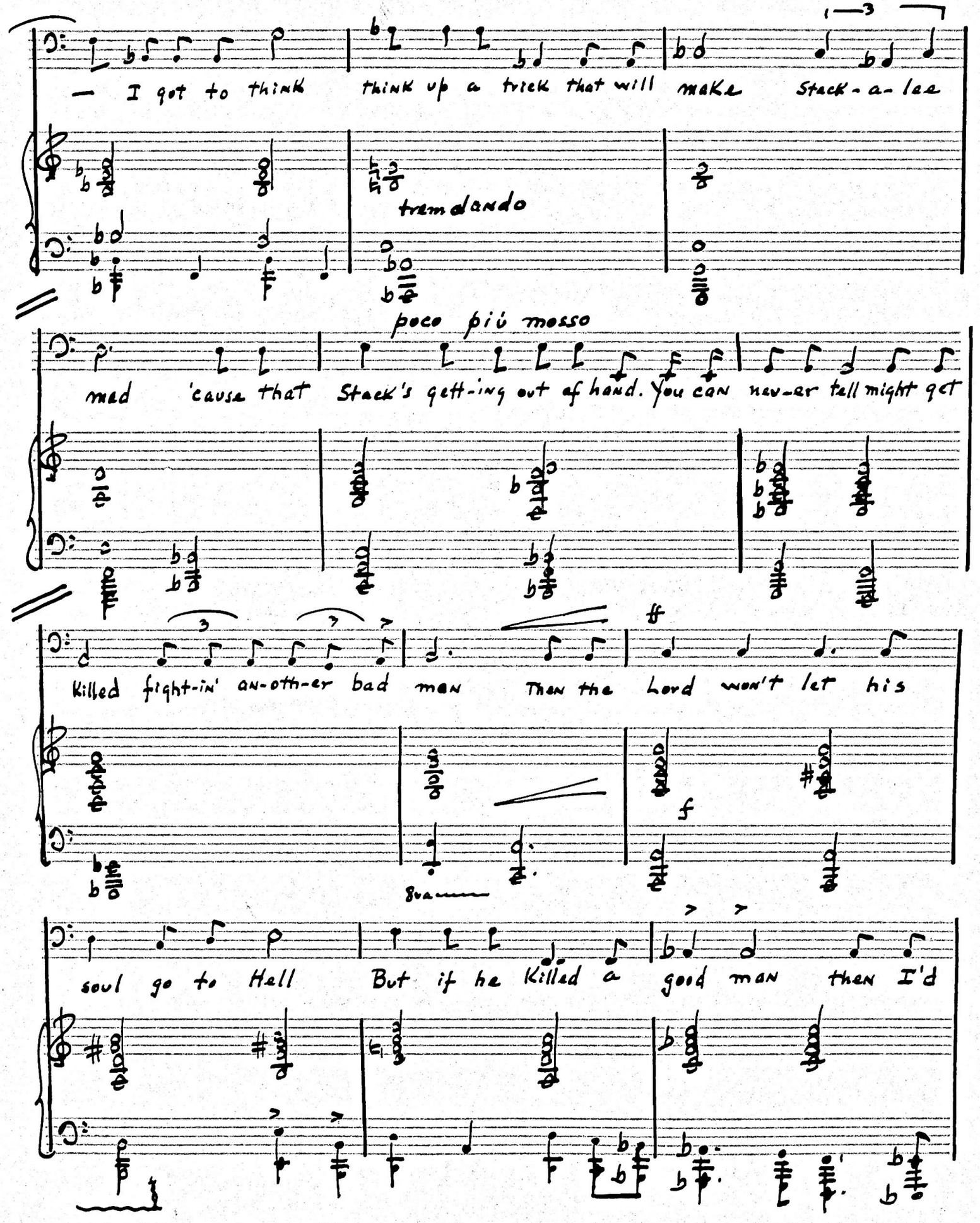


"ALBANENE" No. 1951 KASCO., N.Y.

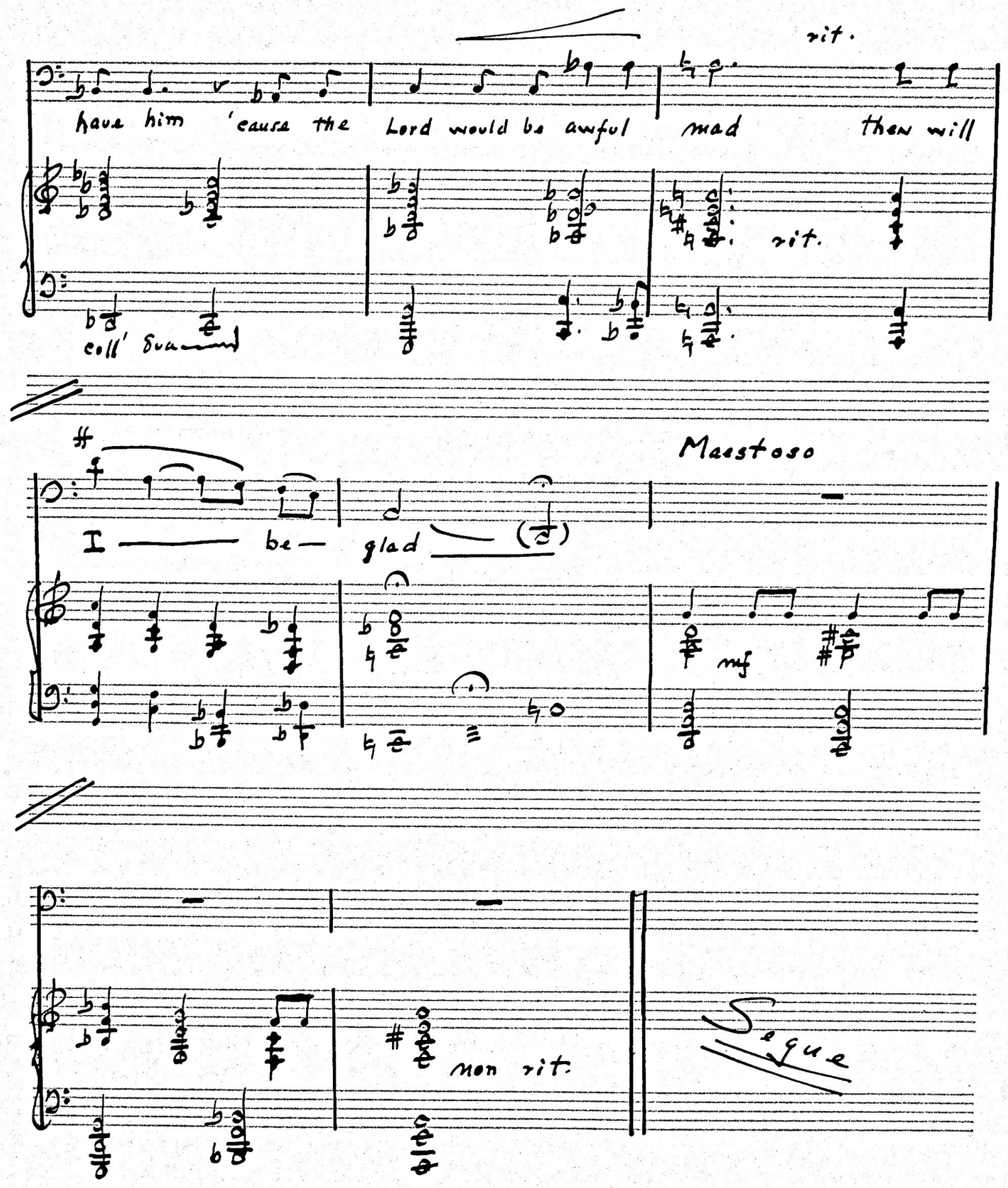

You make the sun shine ev-ery day
Ah me — how I love
You make the sun shine ev-ery day
Ah me
my man — When-e'r you come home you make the sun shine you
I love my gal —
Just lov-in' an' sing-in' a song you
cresc.
make the ill wind blow a-way —
rit.
cresc.
make the ill wind blow a-way —
rit.
rit.
A Tempo
A Tempo
sff 2


I hope you Know I hope it's so
You and me will be hap-py as a doe
Don't WAN — NA lose my MAN lov-in' an' sing-in' a
smorz.
Liv-in' an' lov-in' an' sing-in' a song lov- in' an' sing- in' a
smorz.
smorz.
song
song
Got me a
I'm scared o' that hat
hat a won-der-ful
Ped

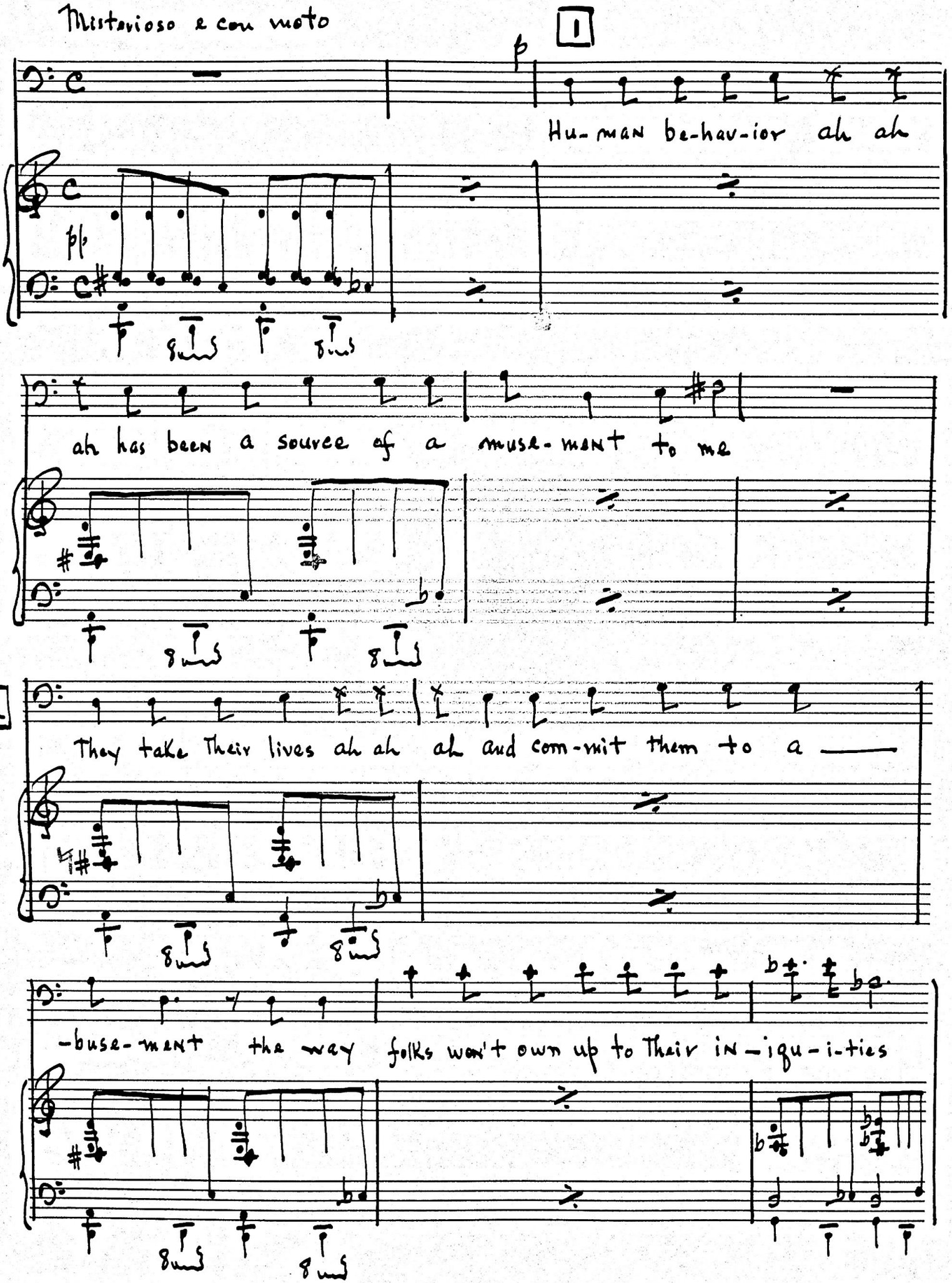

allargando
Don't wan-na lose my man
He likes me fine
Stack, — a- lee
mag- ic hat
Got me a great big
won- der-ful ma-ma
allargando
ff
They embrace...
You're my Stack — a — lee
You're my Stack — o'
Doll- ars —
Blackout
poco allegro
The Devil appears...
d = 92
Devil
f
tempo rubato e piacere
I'm tired of wait-in' — for Stack's soul
dim.
p
colla voce



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.


rit.
have him 'cause the Lord would be awful mad then will
coll' Sua
rit.
Maestoso
I be— glad
mf
non rit.
Segue

Mistorioso e con moto



3

They go a-bout wall-ow-ing in their mis-chiev-ous deeds

(spoken)

4 poco a poco string. e cresc.

rel-ish-ing their sins When their day of reck-on-ing arrives they

f

Più Mosso

whine and ex-plain ex-plain and whine wail and tor-ment com-

f

plain and be-moan inn-o-cent-like That they were not to

5

blame

It's all the fault of Sa-tan who

rules this wick-ed world and they search in vain for pro-

tec-tion

In their hearts those maligning sinners know it's a libel on me — the hypocrites.

pp

Lis-tan you who trade your

Souls for eas-y liv-ing and pow-er —

Your ac-count will

very rhythmic

8va 8va

7

A Tempo

ritenuto

And then I'll get you my dear

some-day be due So Don't blame the

Più Mosso

Du-il — When to Had-es you must trav-el —

Rit.

— He on-ly paves the way for you —

Rit.

Maestoso

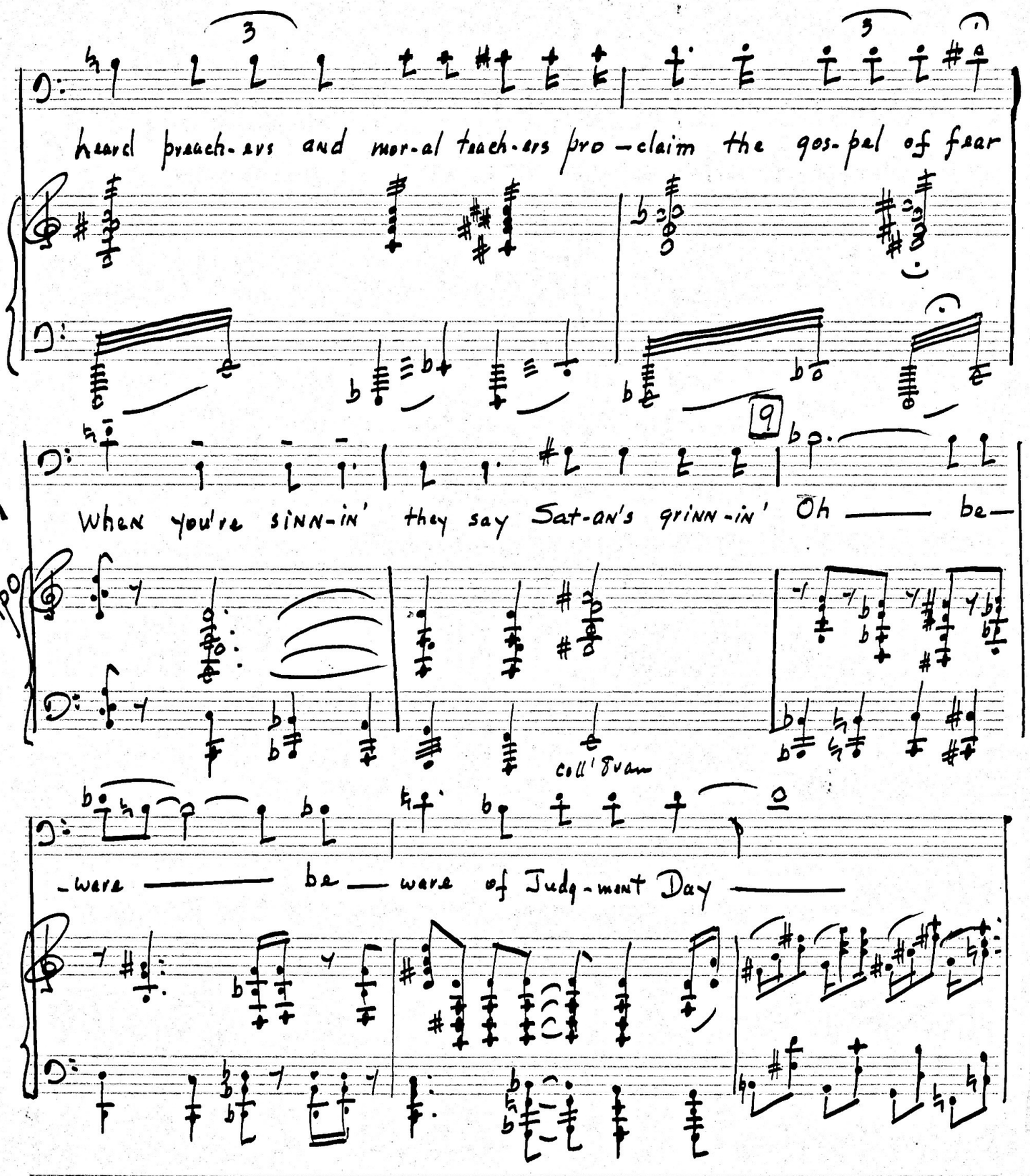
8

cresc.

I've been roam-ing the earth for man-y a year — and

pp cresc.

5.


heard preach-ers and mor-al teach-ers pro-claim the gos-pel of fear
A
Tempo
When you're sinn-in' they say Sat-an's grinn-in' Oh ——— be—
coll'8va
-ware ——— be — ware of Judg-ment Day ———

10

molto allarg. al Fine

Roll Roll Roll — in-to the arms of the Dev-il Roll Roll

sim.

Roll till the Dev-il gets you Roll in-to the arms of the Dev-il be-

-ware Be-ware — of Judg-ment — Day

ff poco allegro — allarg.

maestissimo

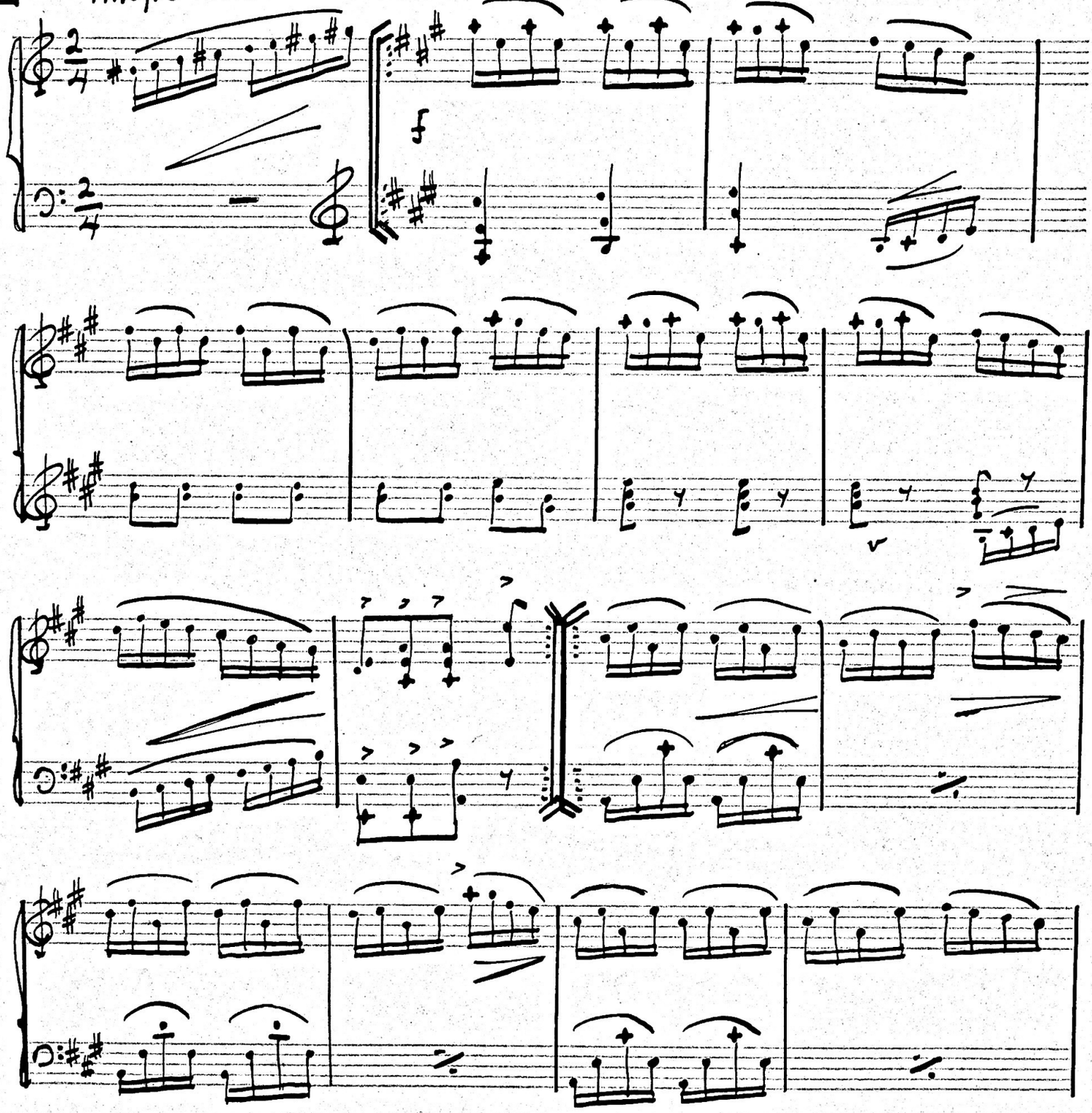
Blackout

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

Scene V is a typical Western cabaret. To the left front Stackalee is engaged in a card game with three other men. Billy Lyons enters, walks across stage, leans against the bar, watching the girls. One of the men greets him. Girls are dancing on a rear platform.

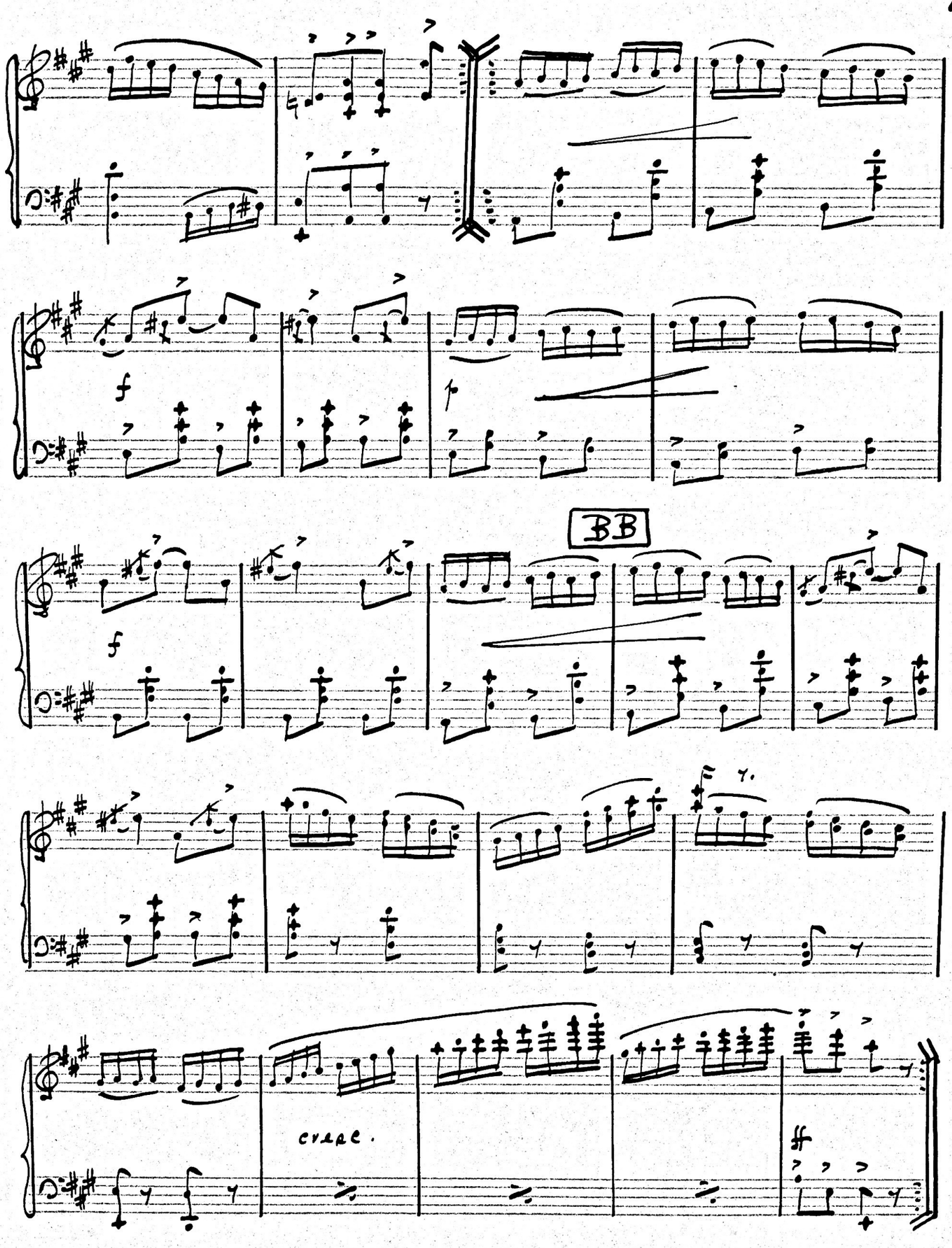
AA

Allegro vivace



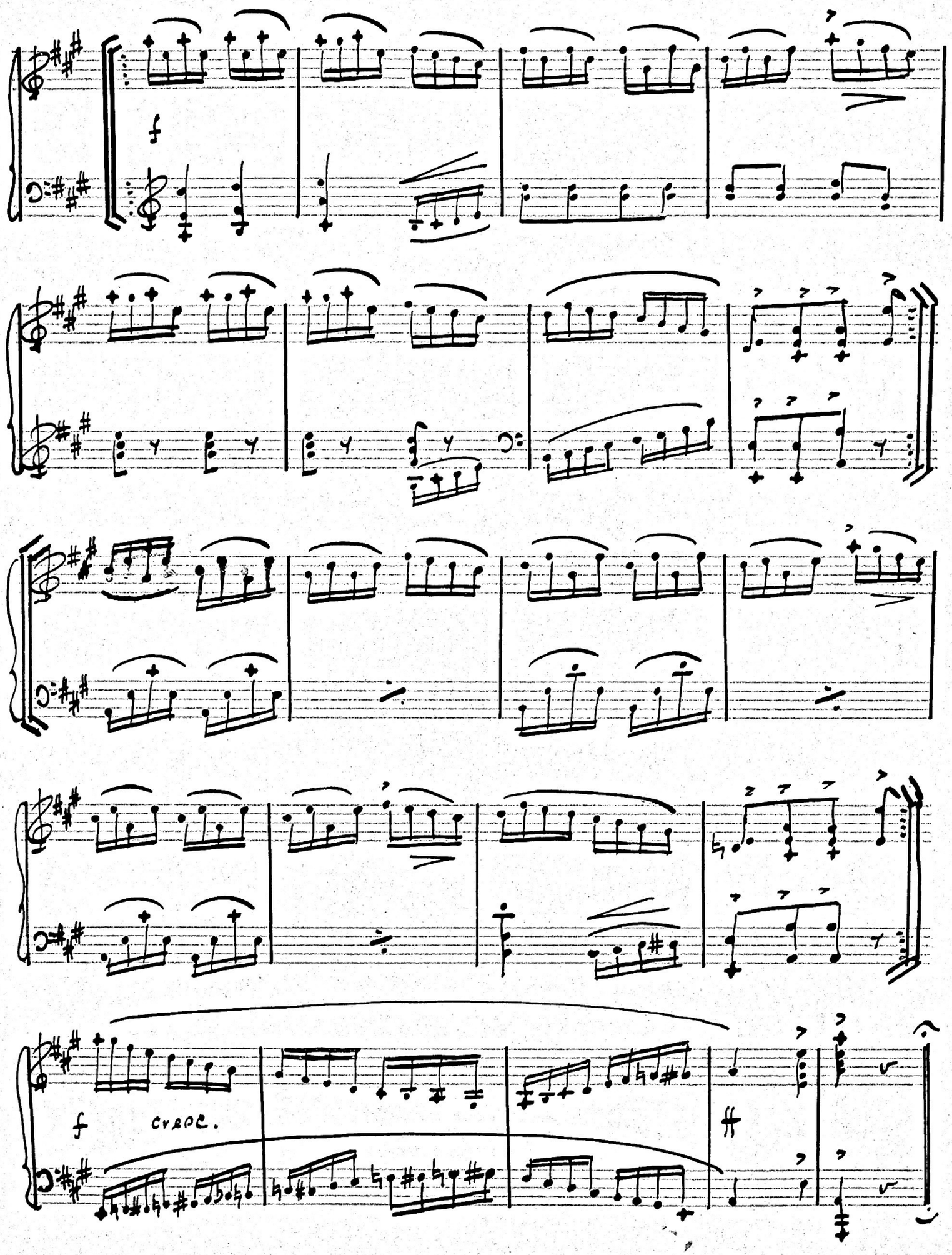
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" No. 1951 K & E CO., N. Y.
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
315 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" No. 1951 K & E CO., N.Y. ®
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



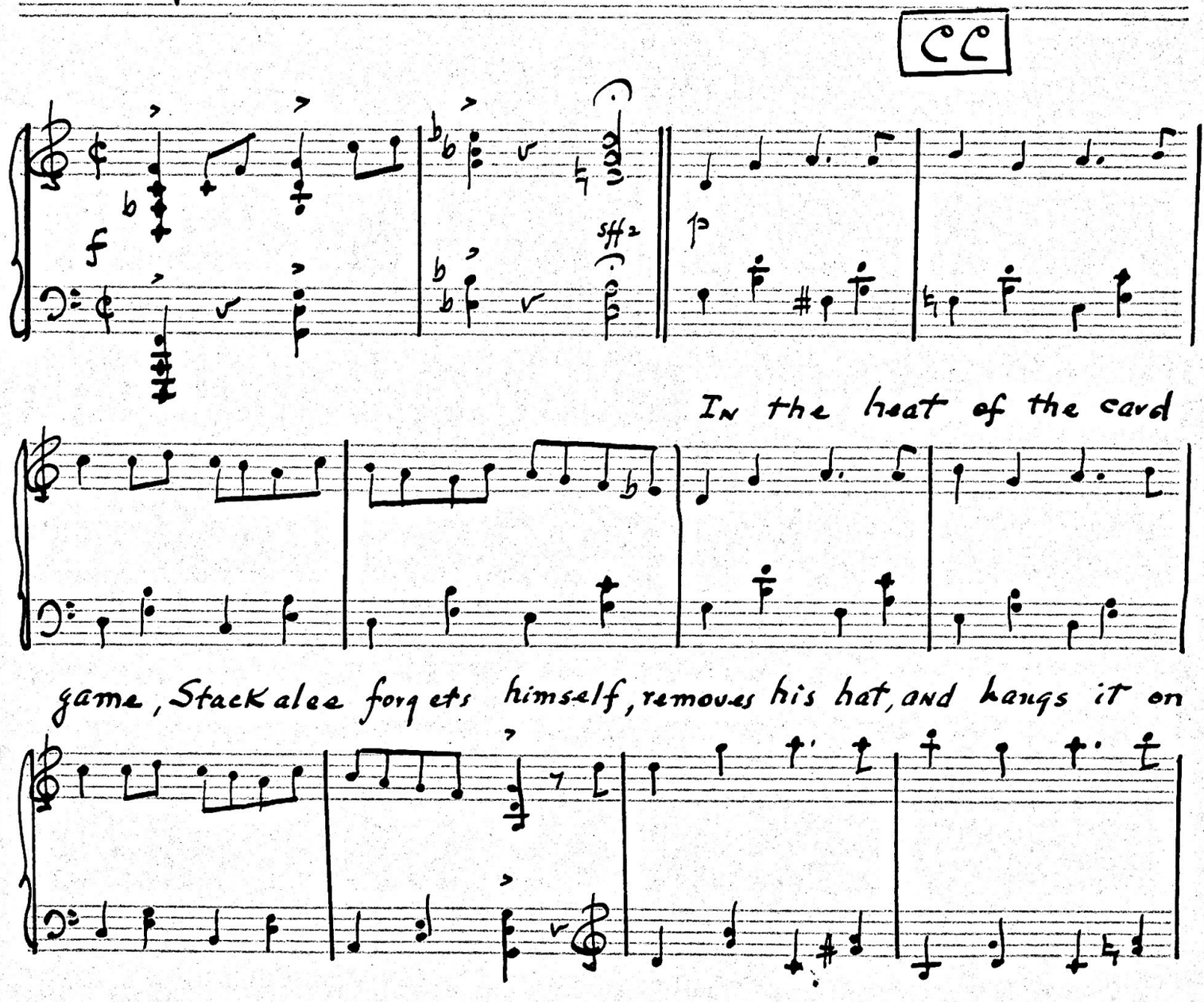
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" No. 1851 A&E CO., N.Y.

General applause and gayety... Billy Lyons walks in...
One of the men says:- "Howdy, Mr. Lyons, ain't seen you in church last Sunday."
Billy Lyons:" Well, the missus ain't been feelin' so good... in a kind o' delicate condition, you know..."

General gayety ensues...
Another man calls out:- "Let's have another dance..."
All join:- "Yes, Yes, another dance..."

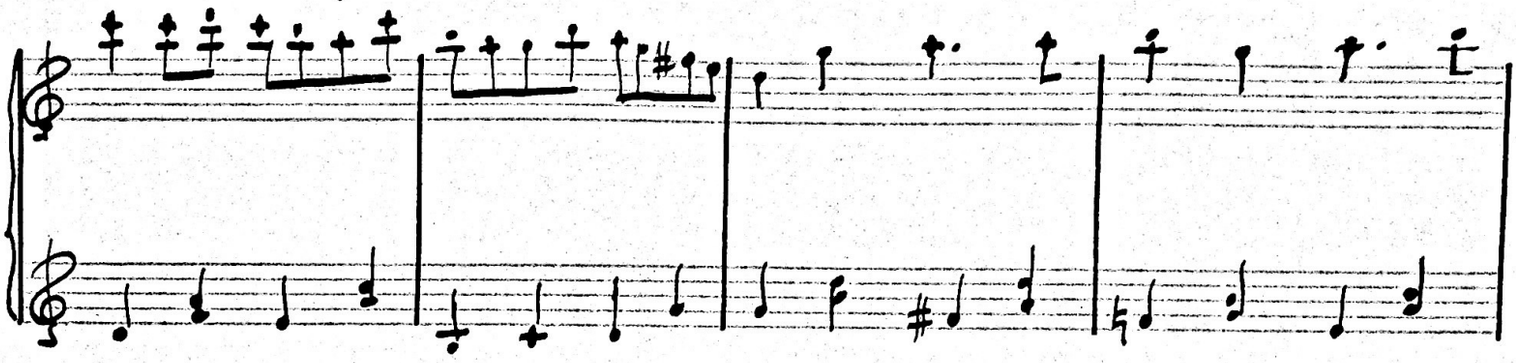
Tempo giusto ♩=132



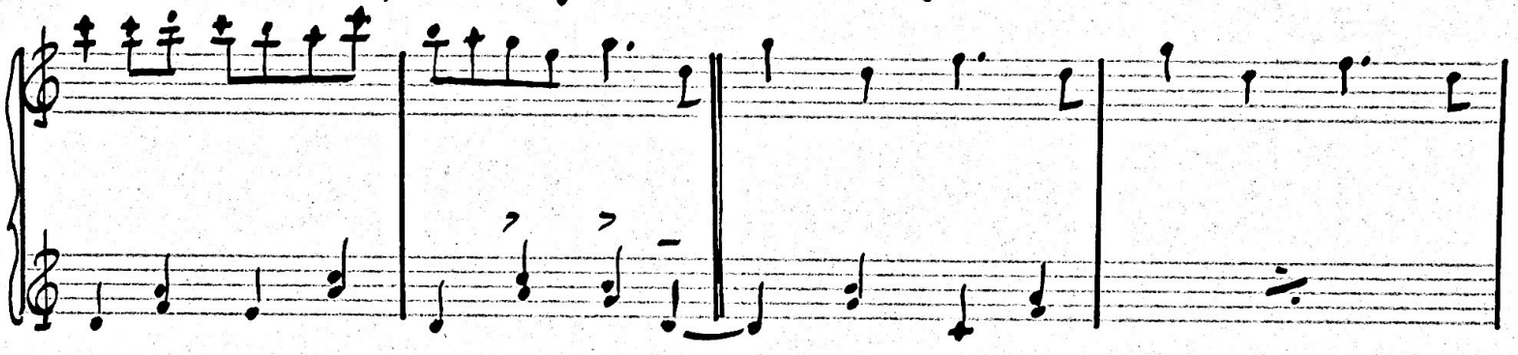
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" No. 1951 A&E CO., N.Y. 9

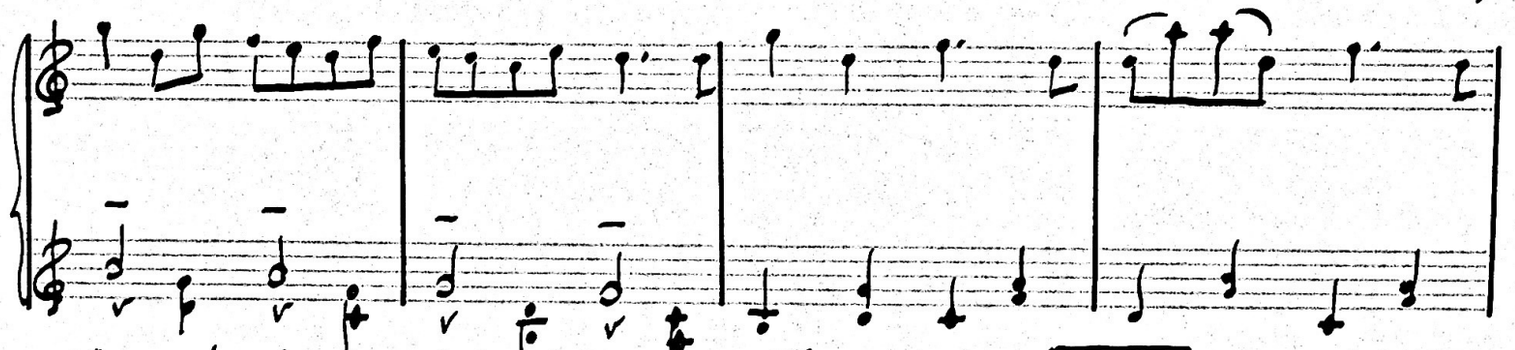
the back of the chair, The Devil enters, looks over Stack's



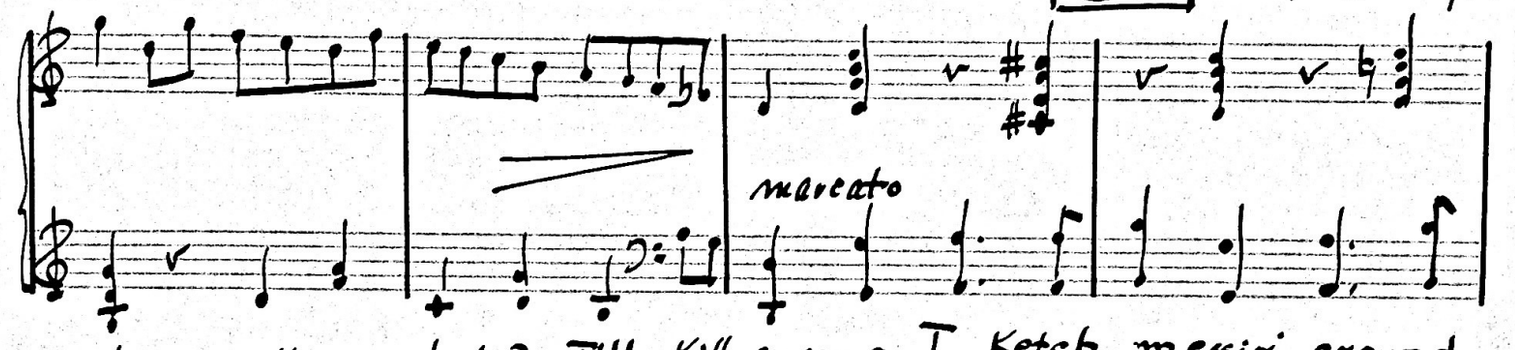
shoulder on the pretext of watching the game, snatches the hat



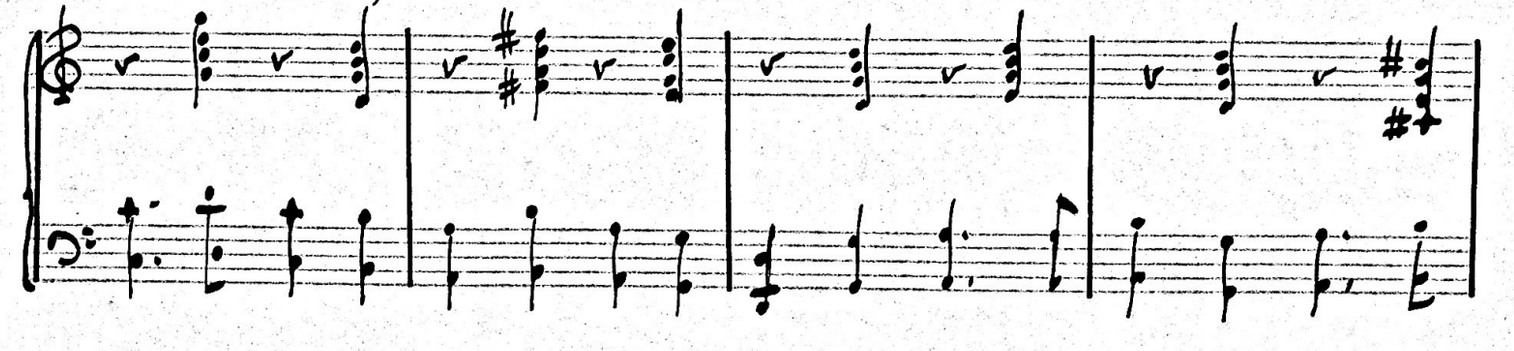
and walks off. Stack discovers that his hat is missing, jumps



up and shouts to the crowd: "No tricks DD now, what you

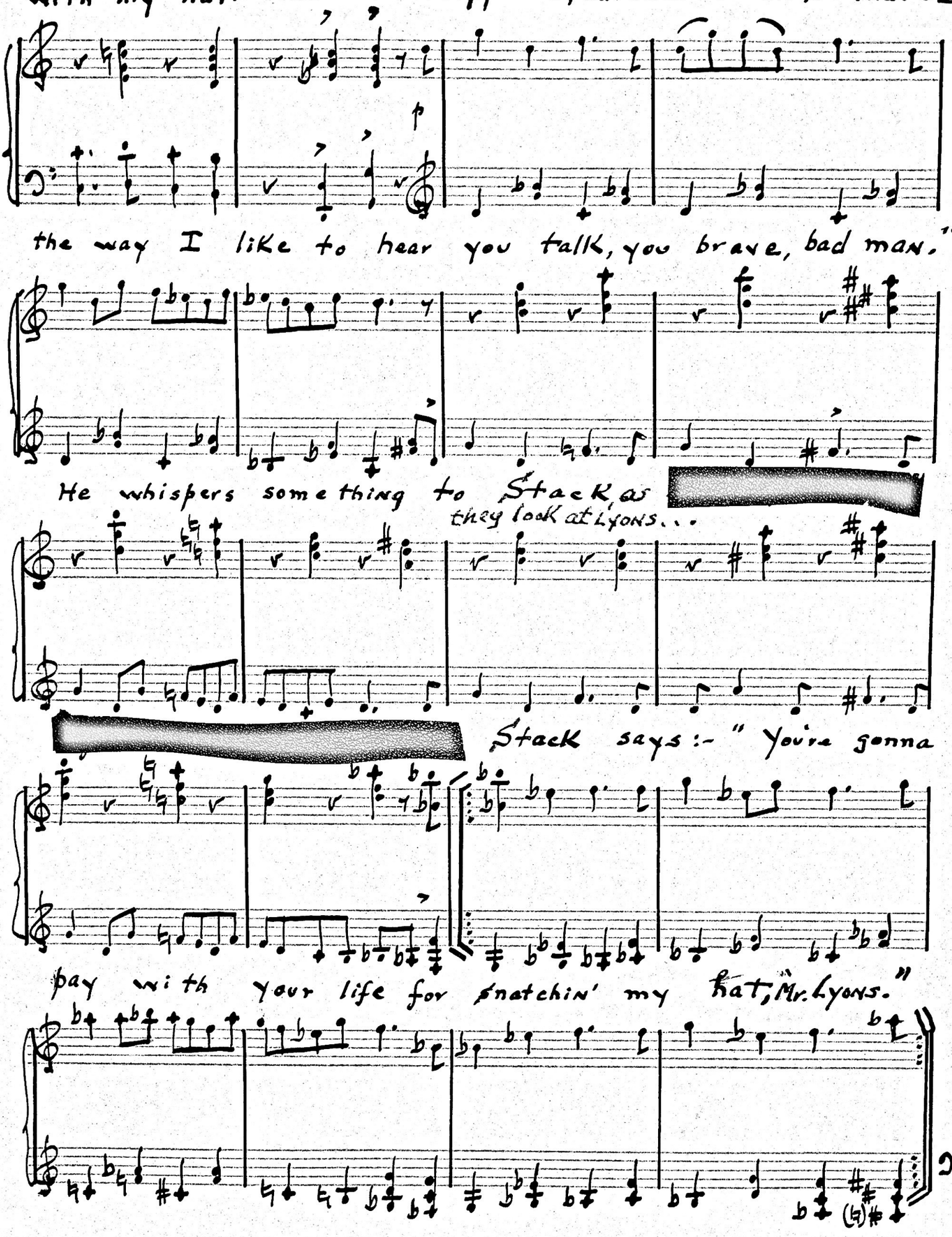


done with my hat? I'll kill anyone I ketch messin' around



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

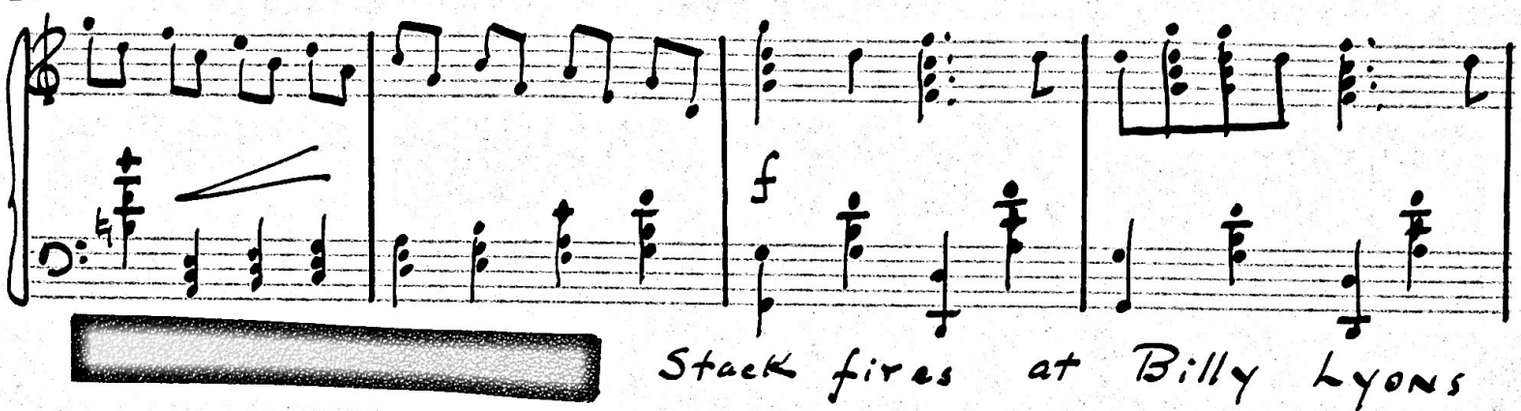
HALL-HENRY No. 1951 KAY CO., N. Y.



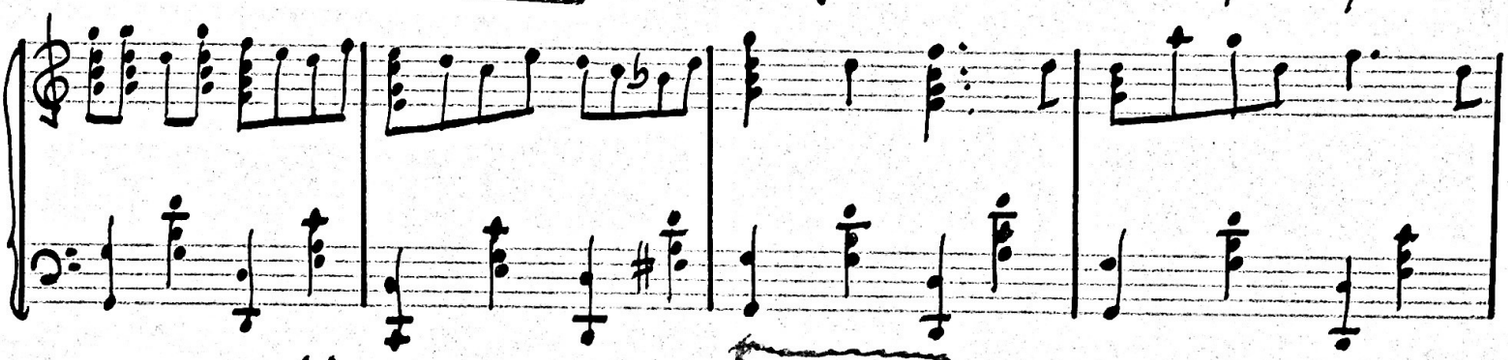
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"HALBANENE" No. 1951, K & E CO., N.Y. ®
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

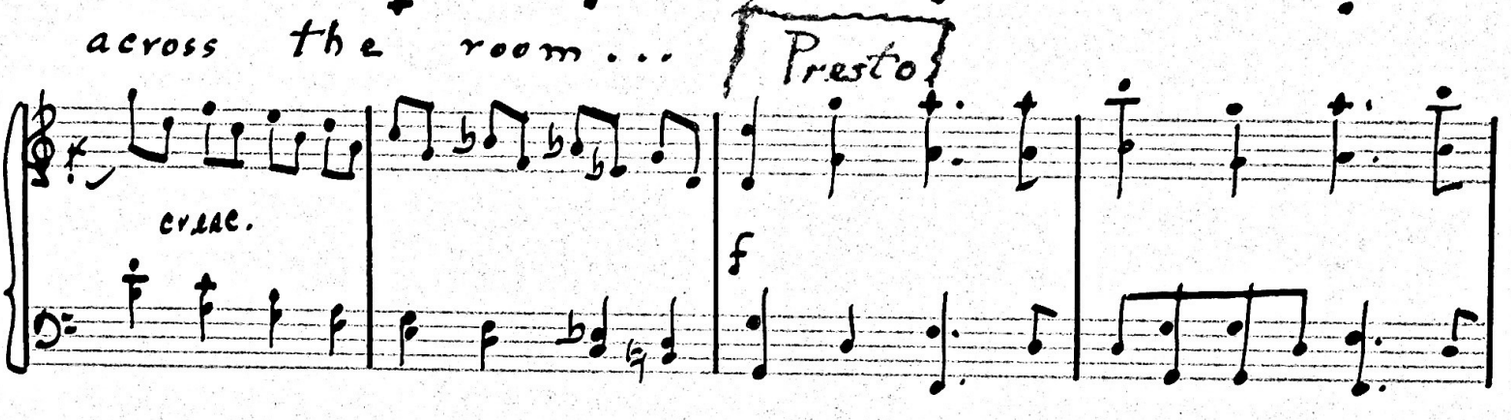
EE He draws his gun - but - the Devil leaves...

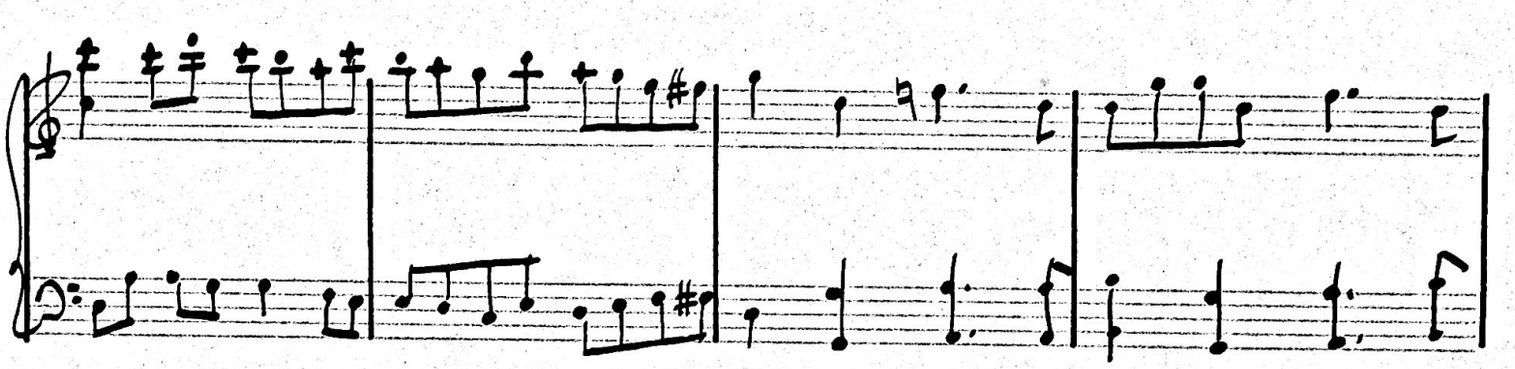


Stack fires at Billy Lyons

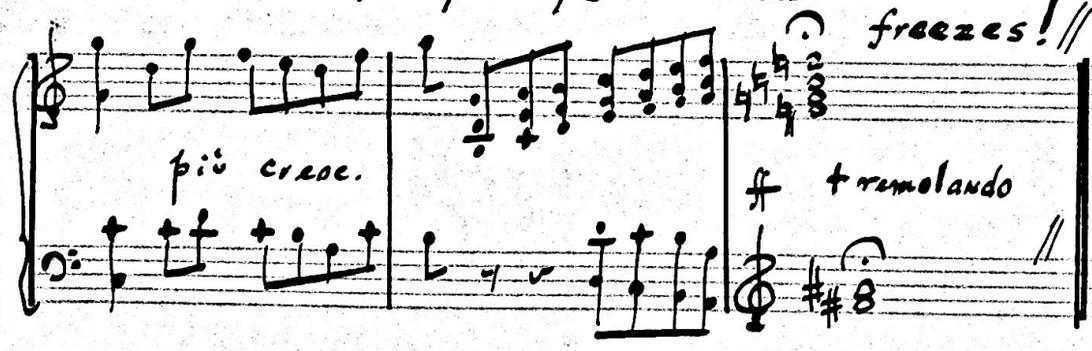


across the room...





The music suddenly stops ..... All action freezes! //



Lyons:- "Oh, Stack, don't shoot no more. Spare my life. I've got two little kids and an innocent wife".

Stack:- "God bless your wife and kids."

Lyons:- "I always treated you like a man. 'Taint nothin' to that old hat but the greasy band. Please go tell my wife."

(Dies).

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"HALDANE" No. 1981 K & S CO., N.Y. ®
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

FF

The sheriff enters, arrests Stack - - - they walks off while the Devil stands off stage, leering. Dance closes scene.

ff

molto crese.

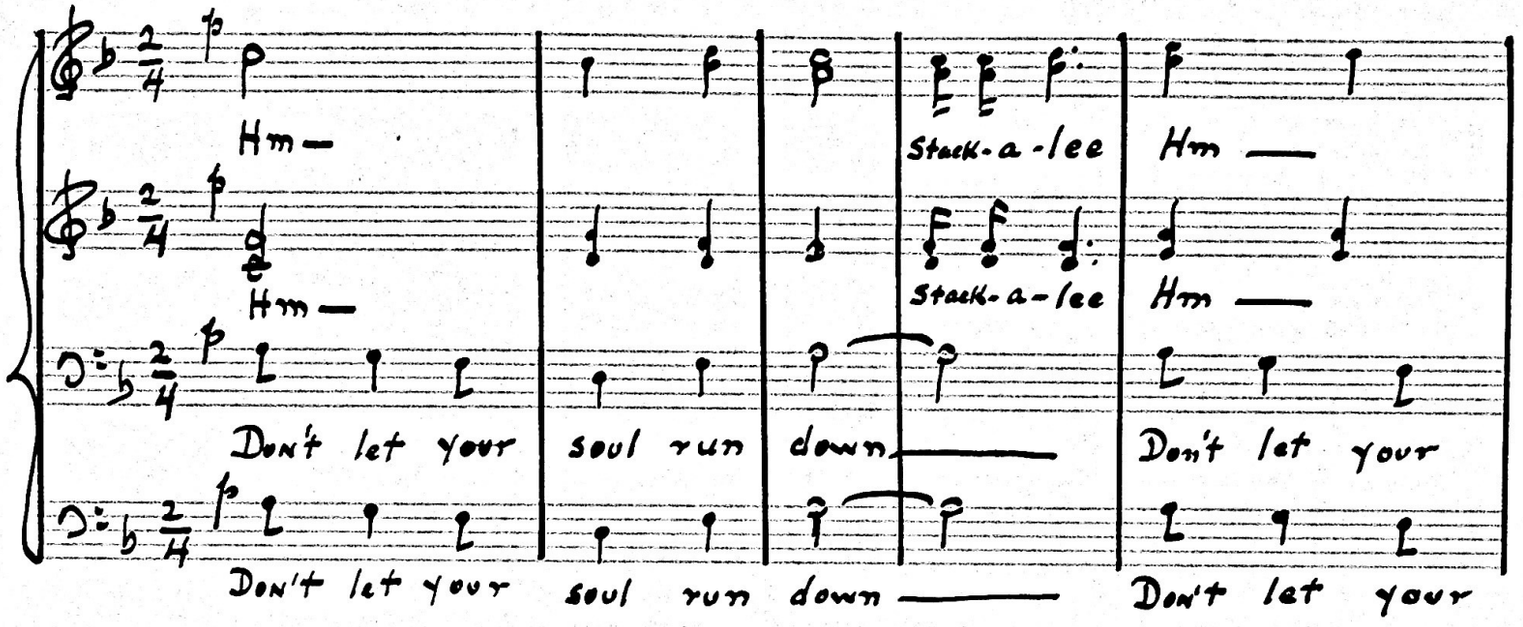
Blackout

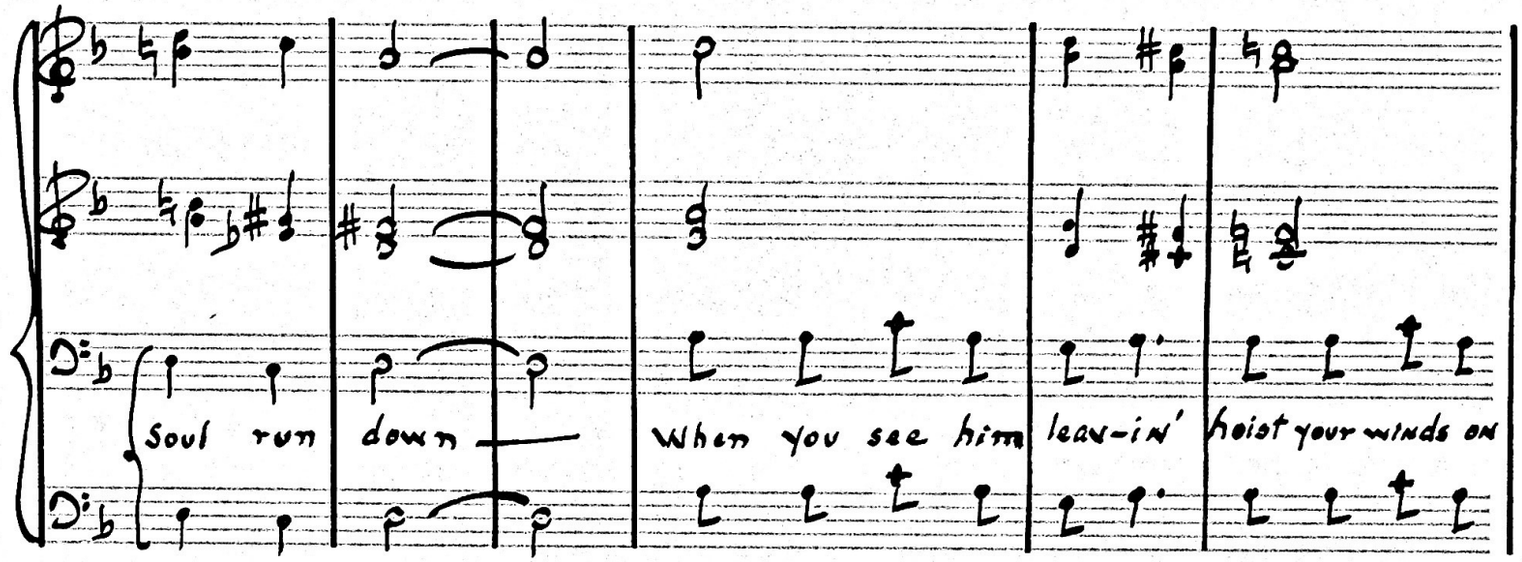
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

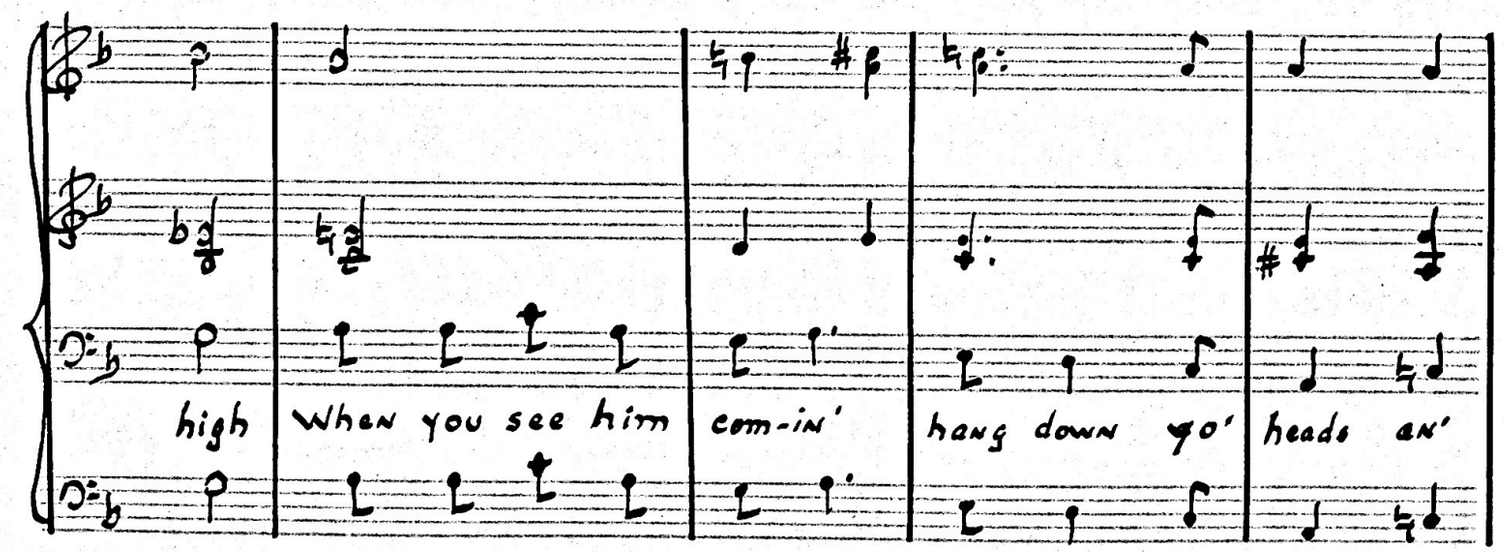
"ALBANENE" No. 1951 KALCO., N.Y.

Choral Interlude *

Andante

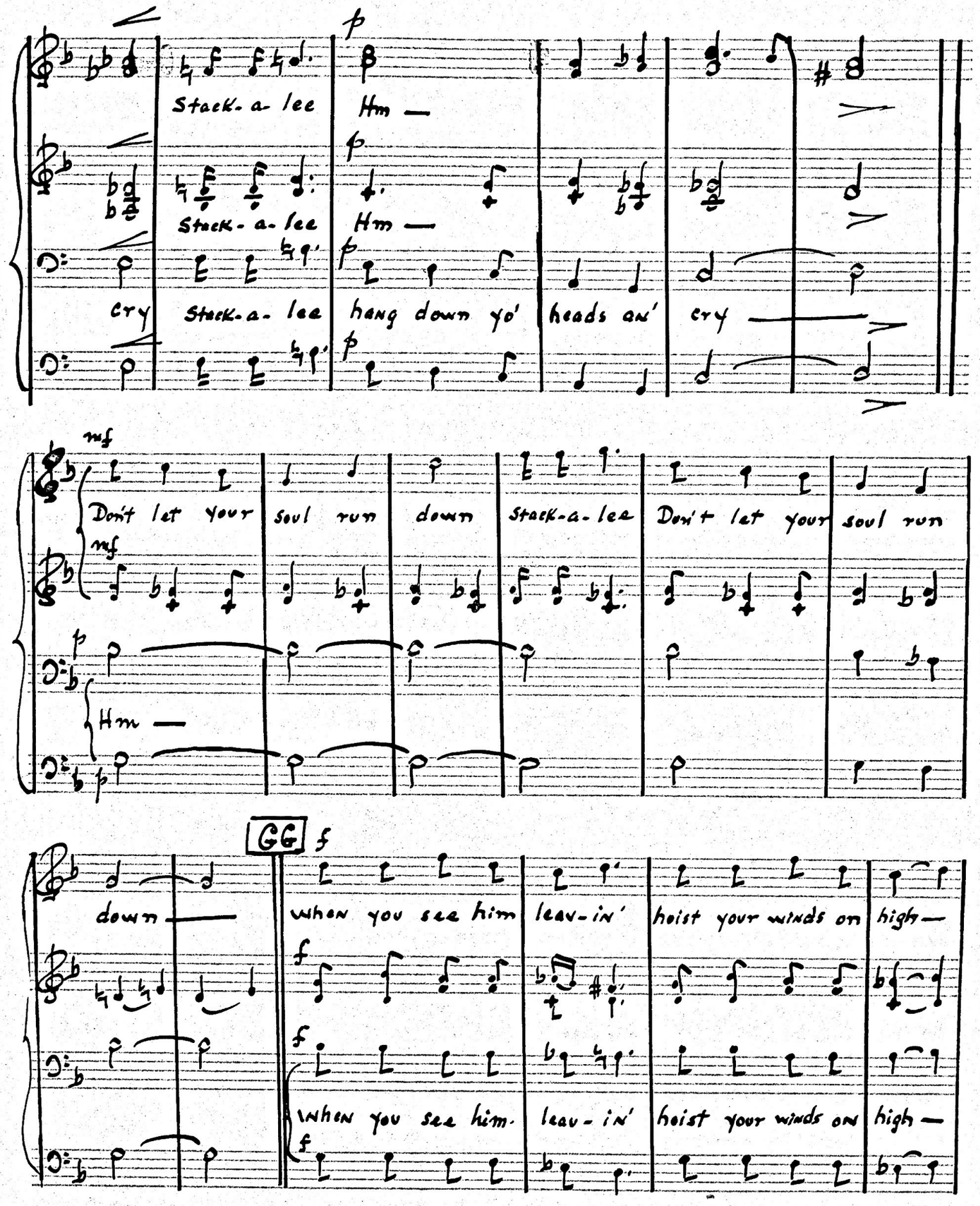






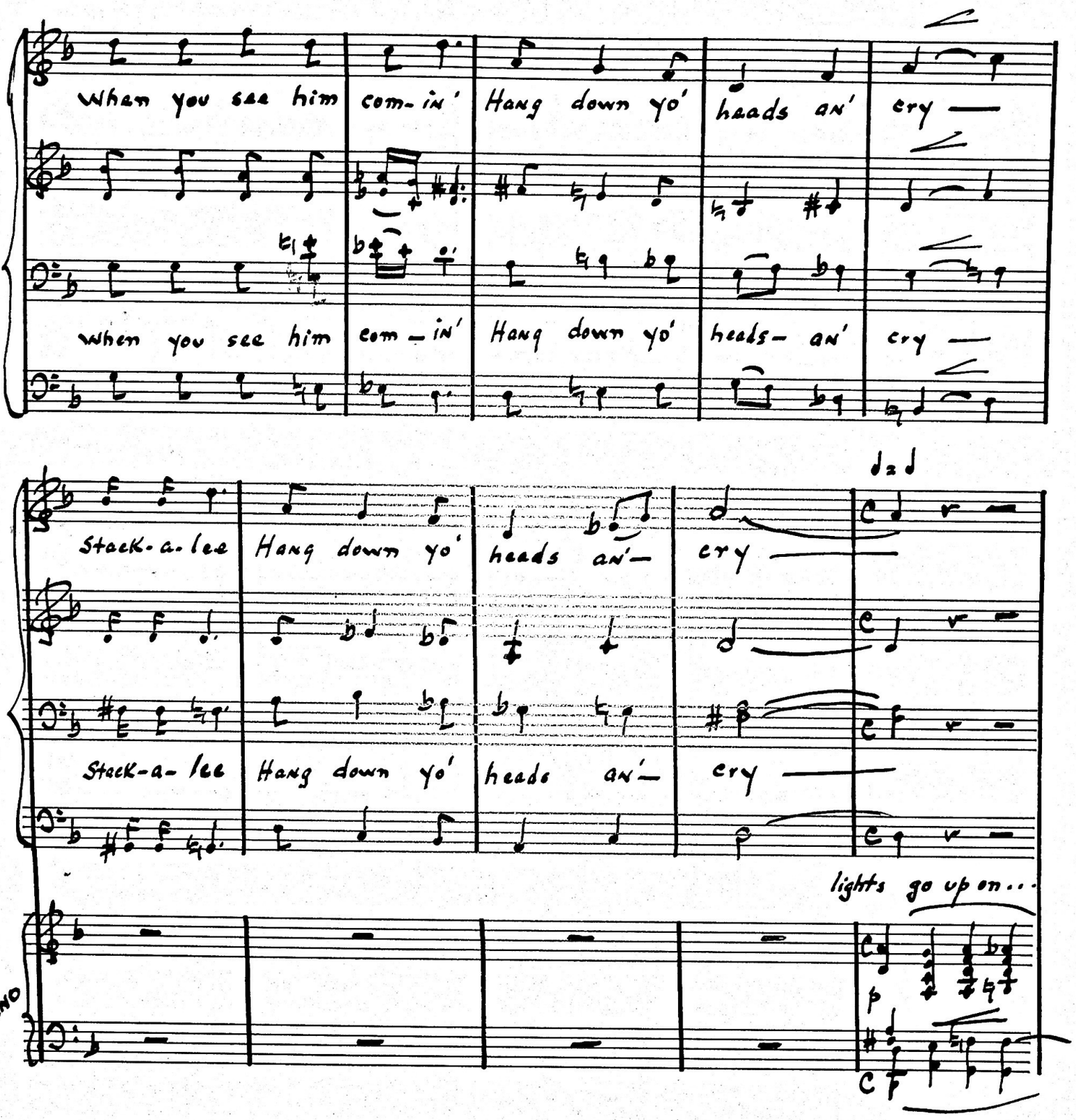
* The soprano and alto parts may be omitted. The entire interluda may be done in unison with the tenors and basses.

"MALBANEX" No. 1081 KING BRAND MUSIC PAPERS CO. 1595 Broadway N. Y., N. Y.



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" No. 1951 M & E CO., N.Y.



"ALBANENE" No. 1951 K&E CO., N.Y. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

Scene VII - Prison Cell

HH

Dollars

Stackalee

a la recitative

Jail-or Jail-or — I cant sleep for a—

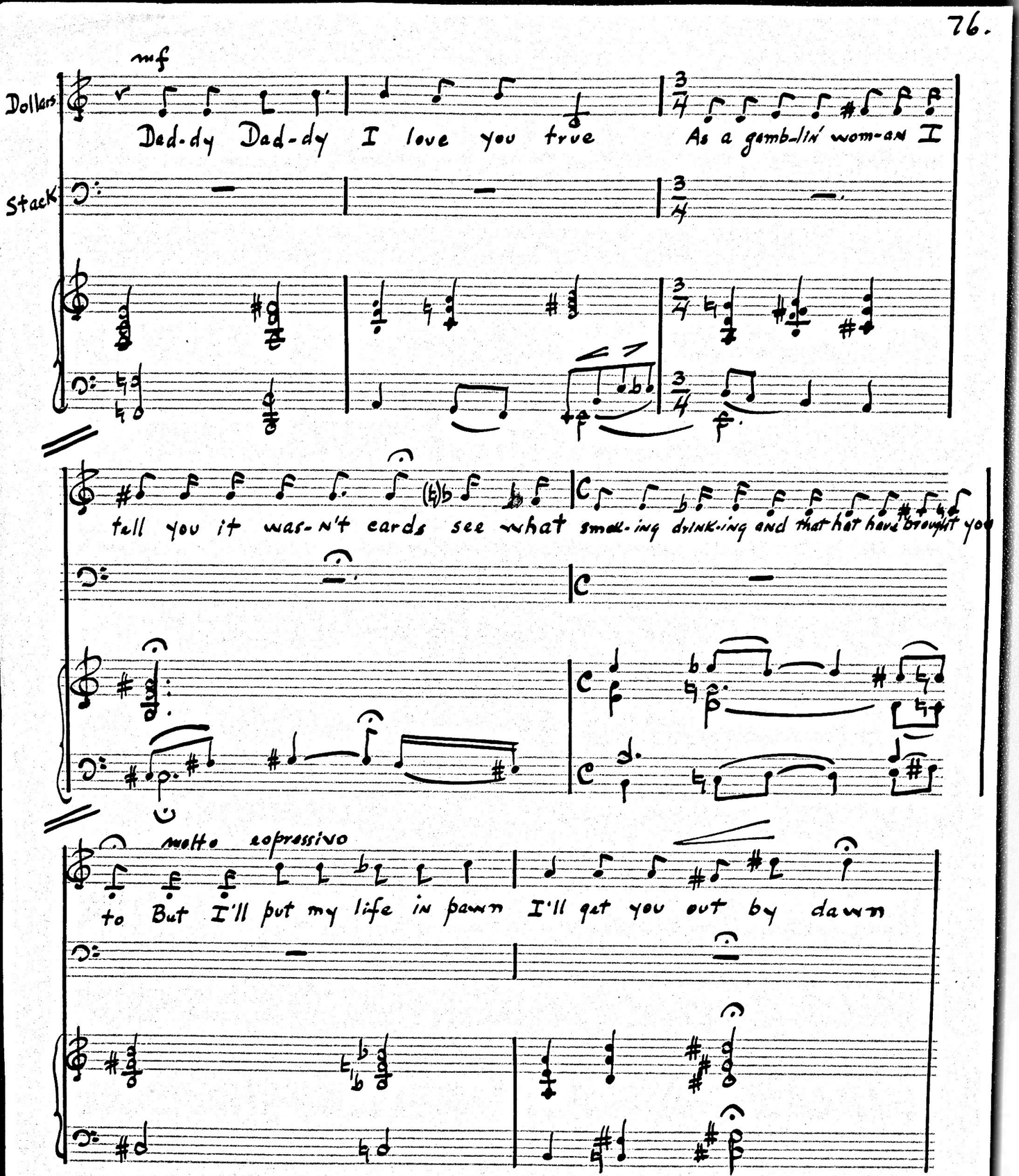
Dollars

Stack

—round my bed-side poor Bill-y Ly-ons still creeps —

"ALBANENE" No. 1951 K & E CO., N.Y. ®
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

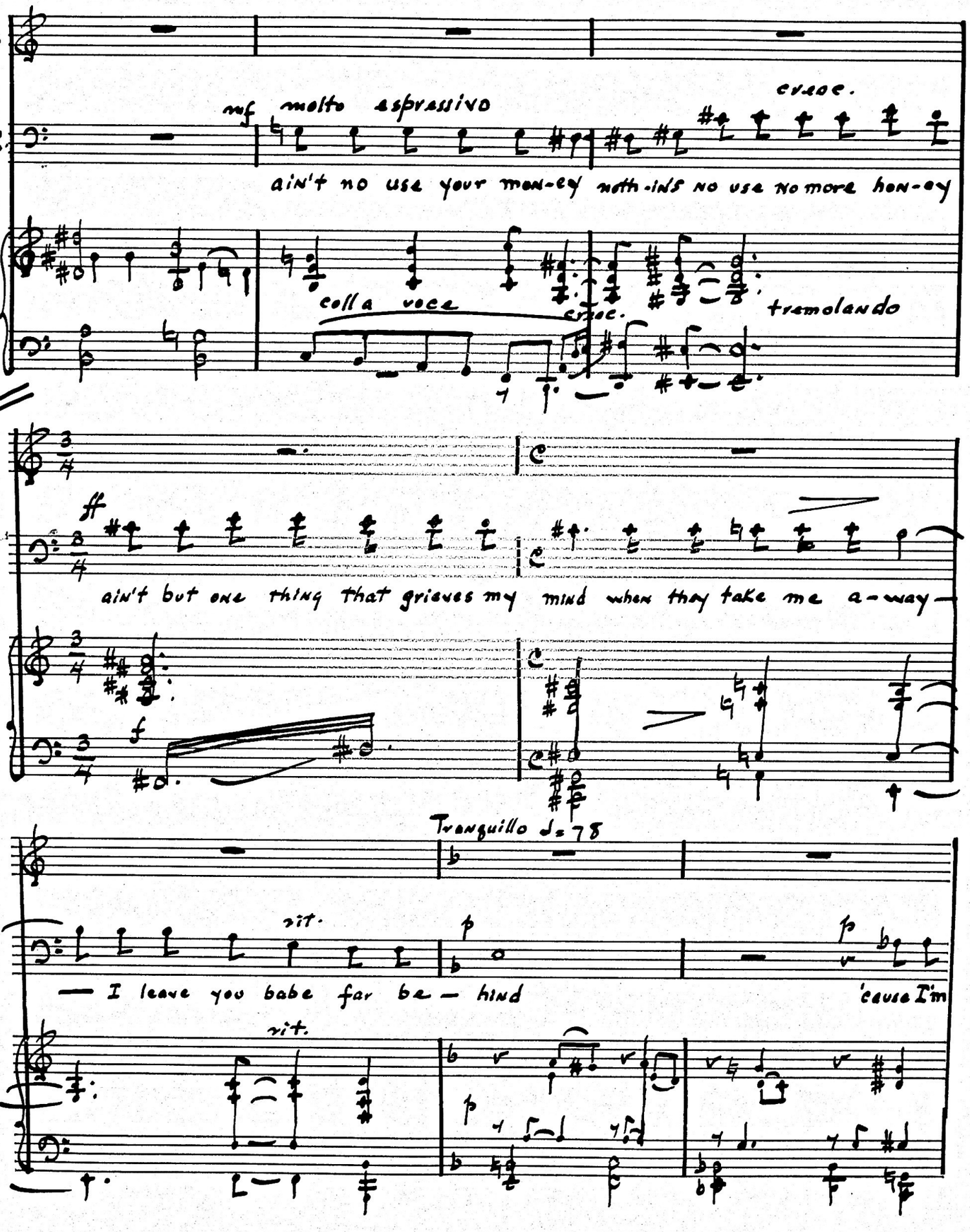
KING BRAND MUSIC PAPERS CO. 1595 Broadway N. Y., N. Y.



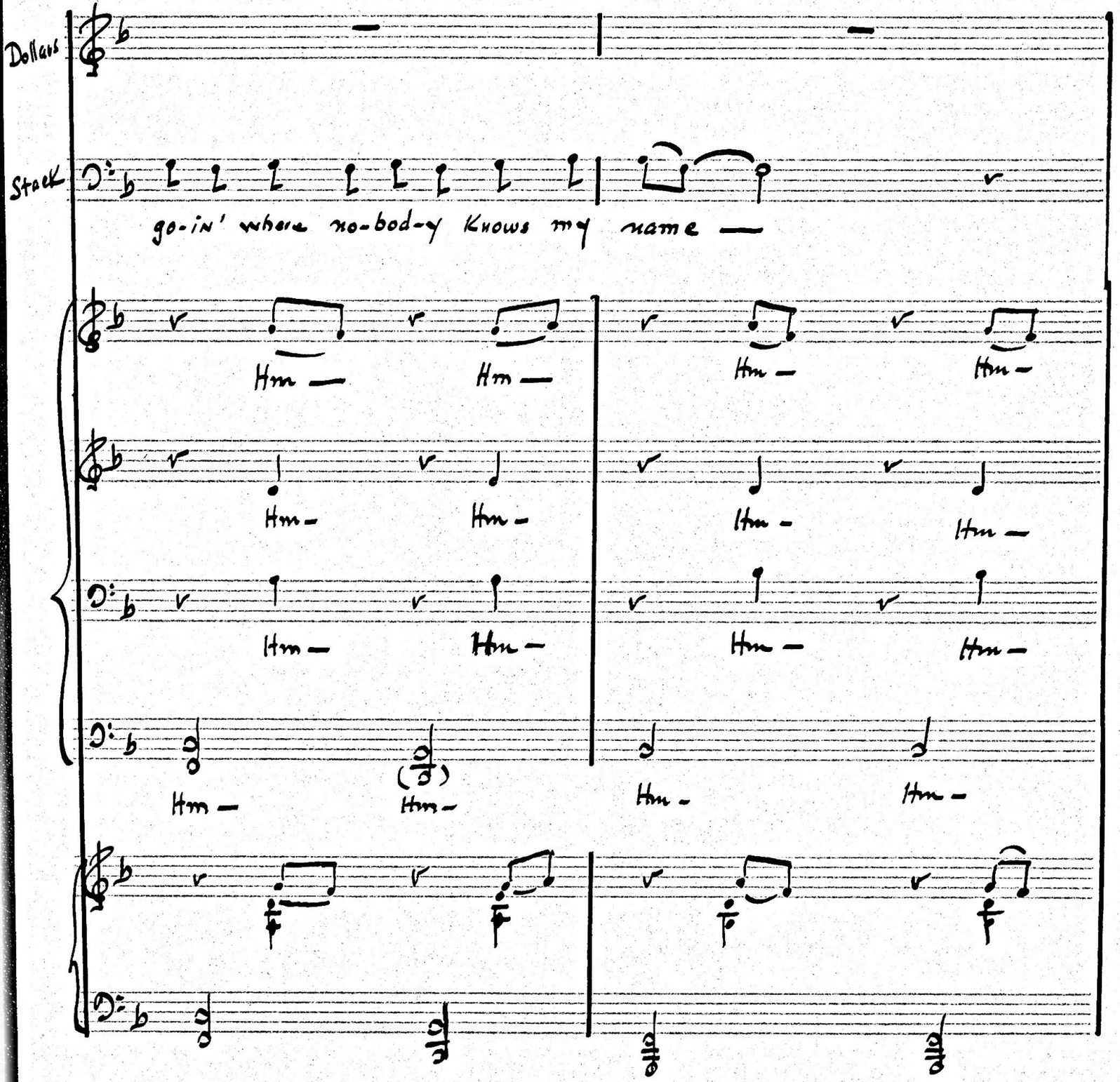
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" NO. 195L A&E CO., N.Y.

JJ

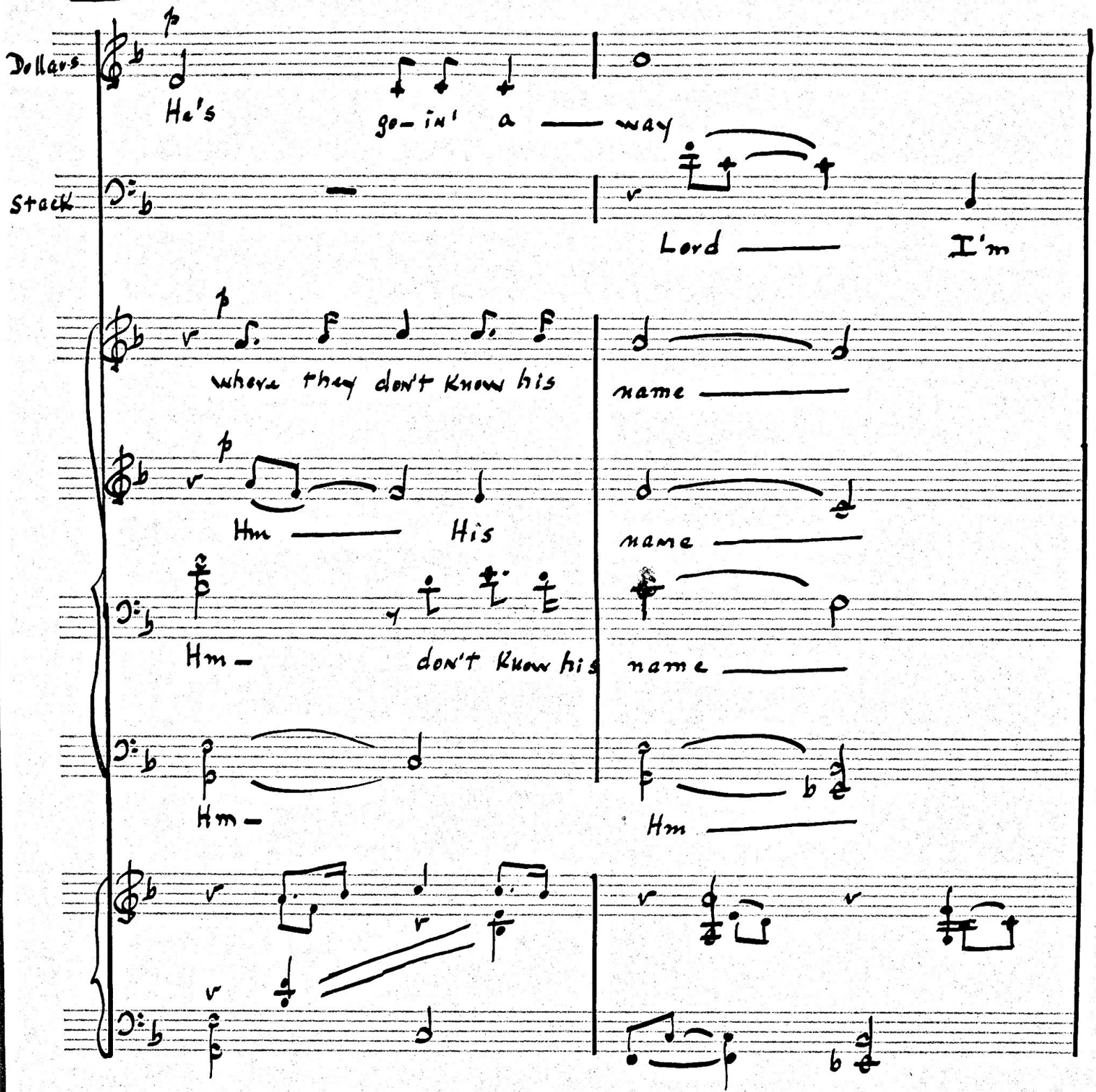


"ALBANENE" No. 195L-K&E CO., N.Y.
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



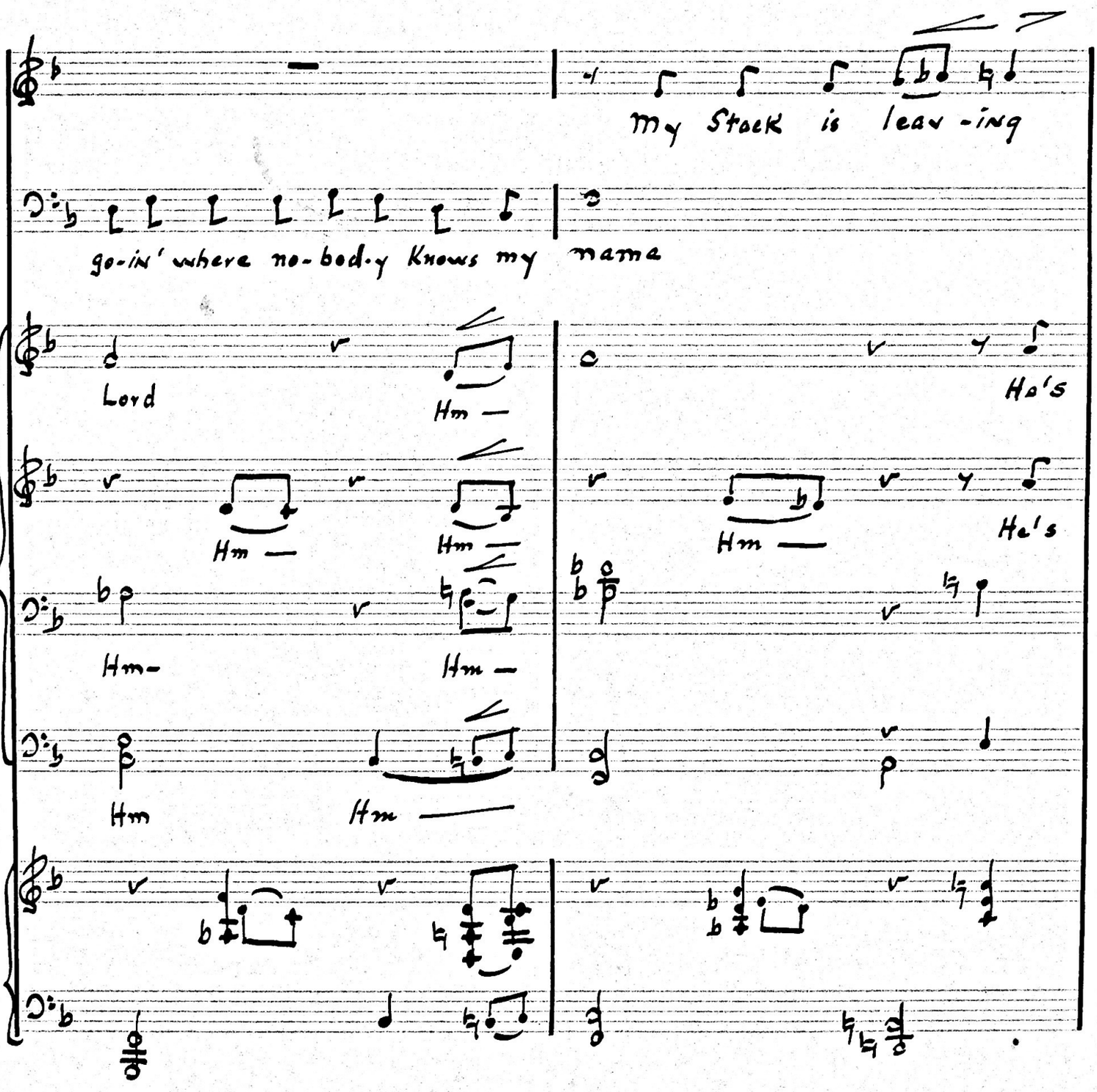
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"HALBANENE" No. 1961 MADE IN U.S.A.



ARNOLD ABNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"HALBANENE" No. 1065 KAEco., N.Y.


My Stock is leav-ing
go-in' where no-bod-y Knows my mama
Lord
Hm —
Ho's
Hm —
Hm —
Hm —
Hm —
Hm —
Hm —
Hm —
Hm —

p

My Stack is leav-ing me —

go-in' where no-bod-y Knows his

name Hm —

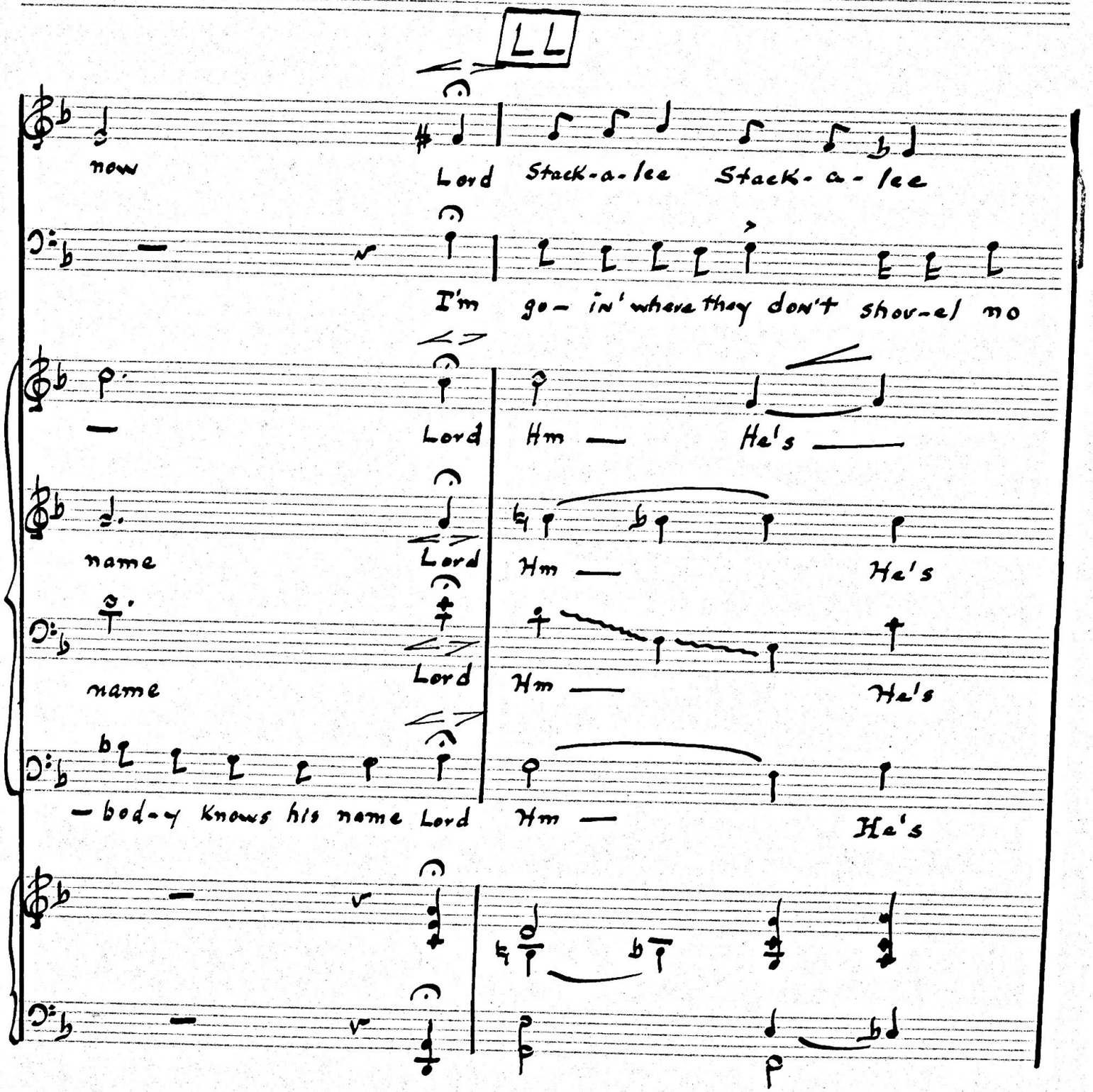
go - in' where no-bod-y Knows his

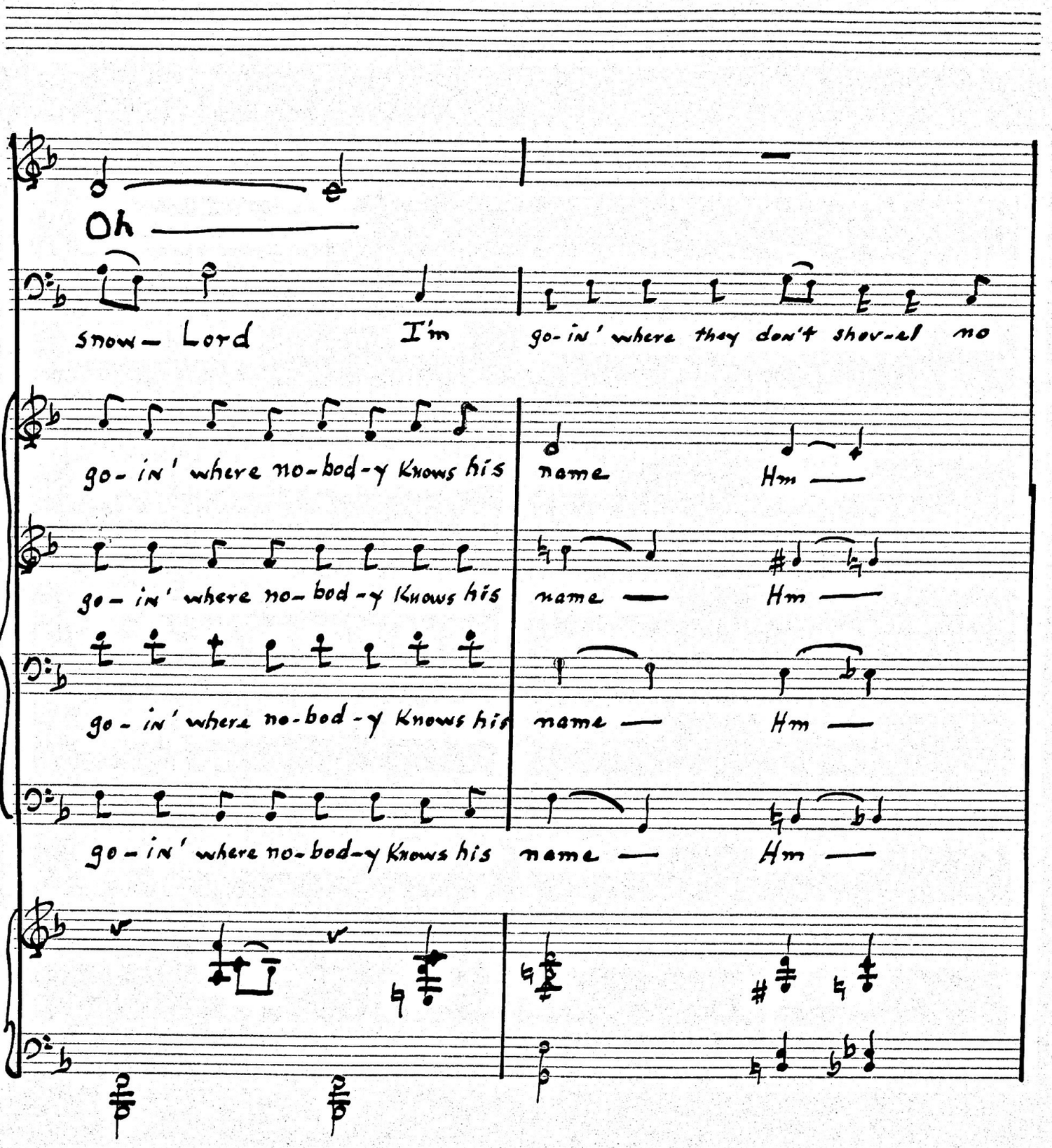
name no one Knows his

He's go-in' where no-bod-y Knows his

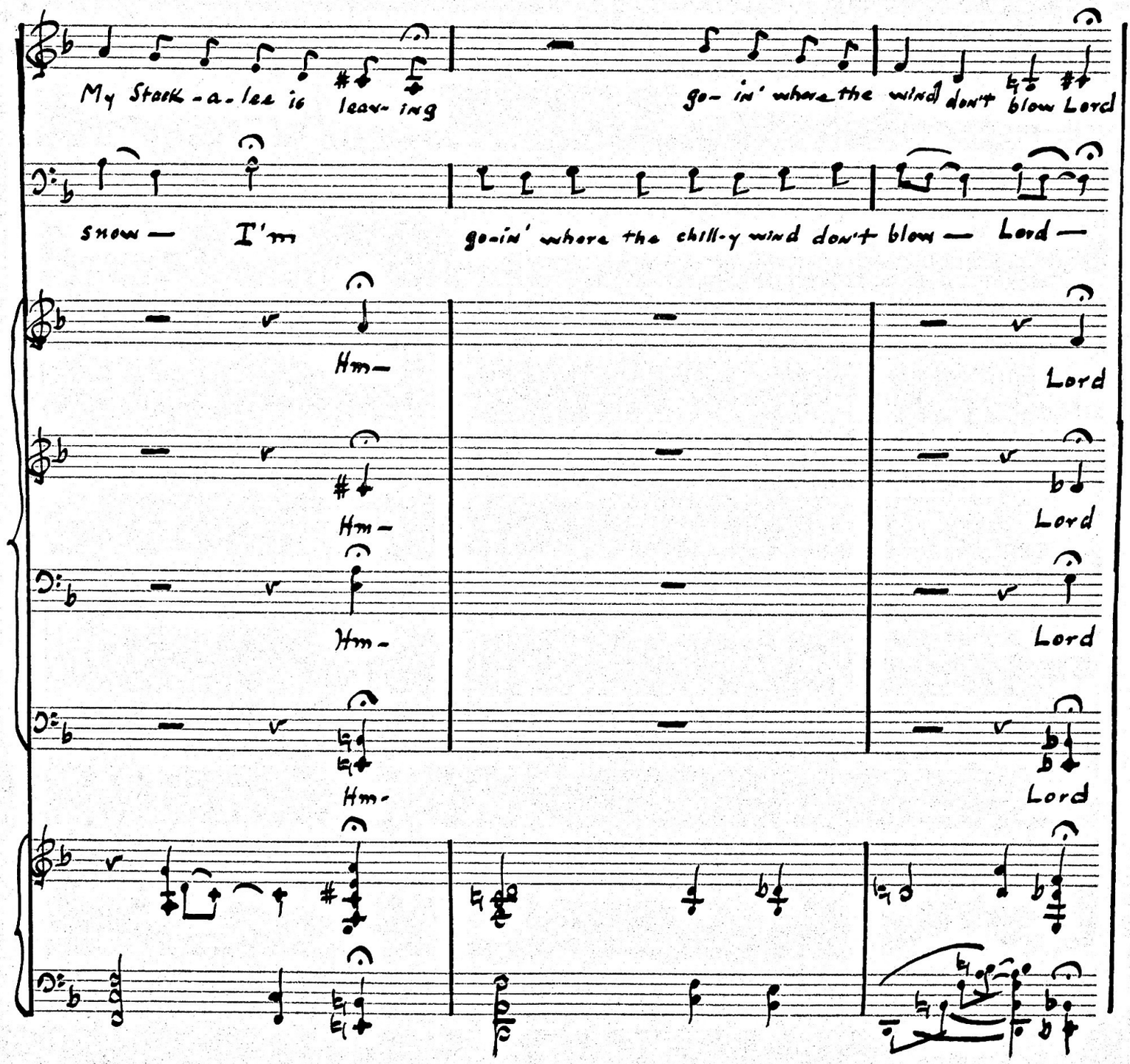
Go - ing where no—

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

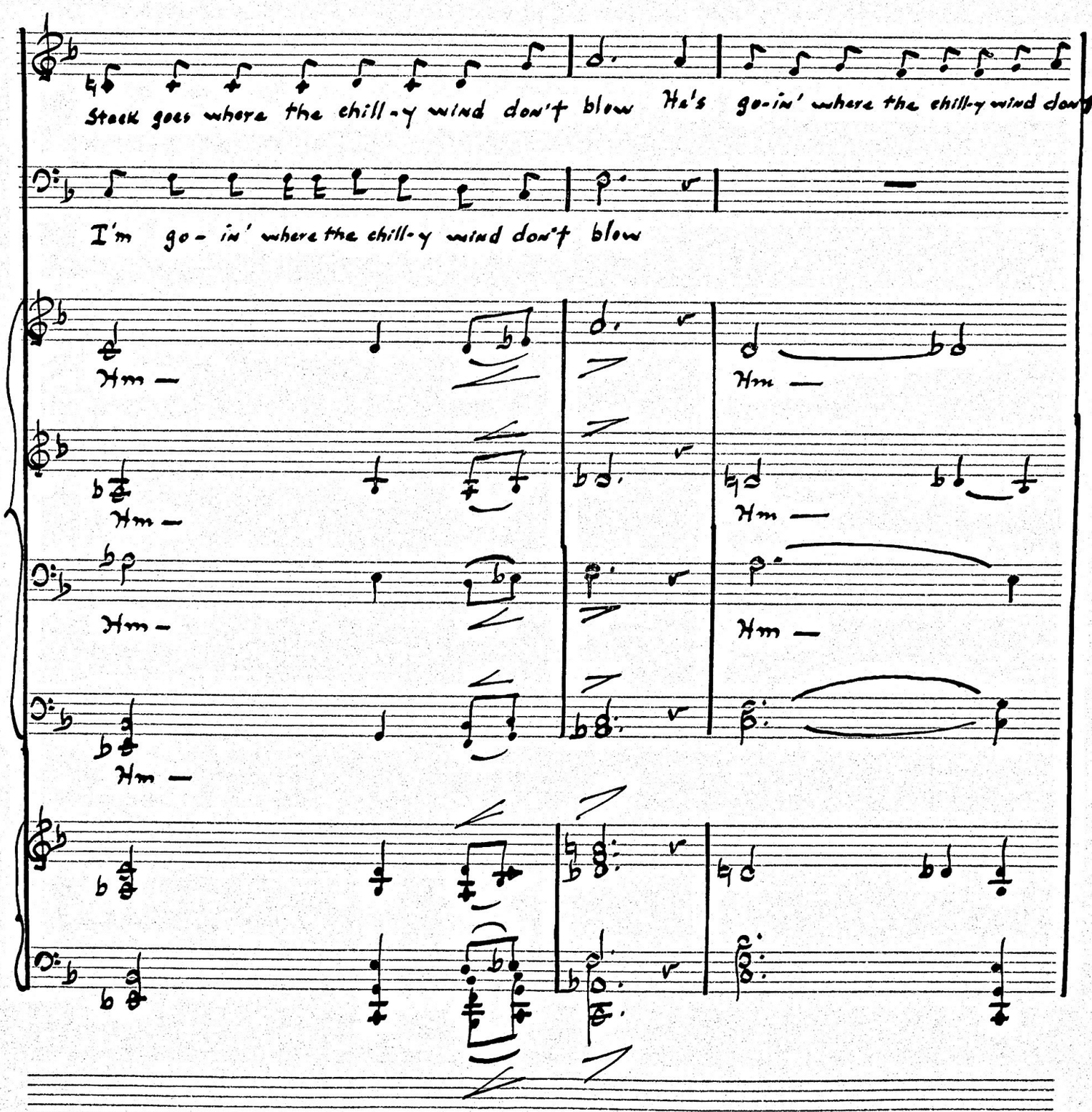

LL
now
Lord Stack-a-lee Stack-a-lee
I'm go- in' where they don't shov-el no
Lord Hm — He's —
name
Lord Hm — He's
name
Lord Hm — He's
-bod-y knows his name Lord Hm — He's



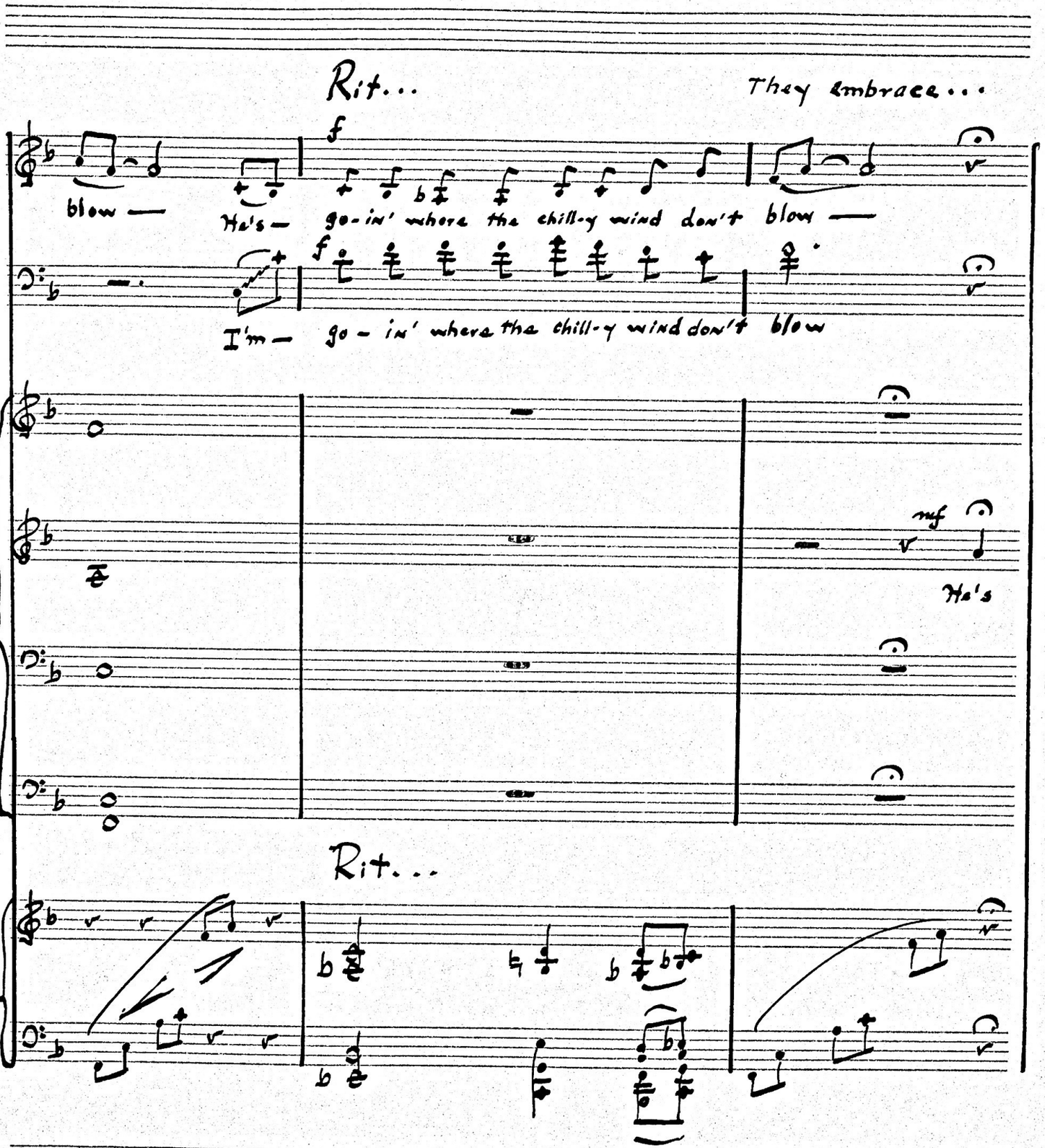
ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19. N..Y



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N..Y



ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.

MM

As the lights fade on the jail scene, the chorus slowly comes downstage

mf

He's go-in' where the chill-y wind don't blow — He's go-in' where the chill-y wind don't

mf

He's go-in' where the chill-y wind don't blow — He's go-in' where the chill-y wind don't

Hm —

mf

blow — the chill-y wind don't blow —

Sop. Alto

go-in' where the chill-y wind don't blow — He's go-in' where the chill-y wind don't

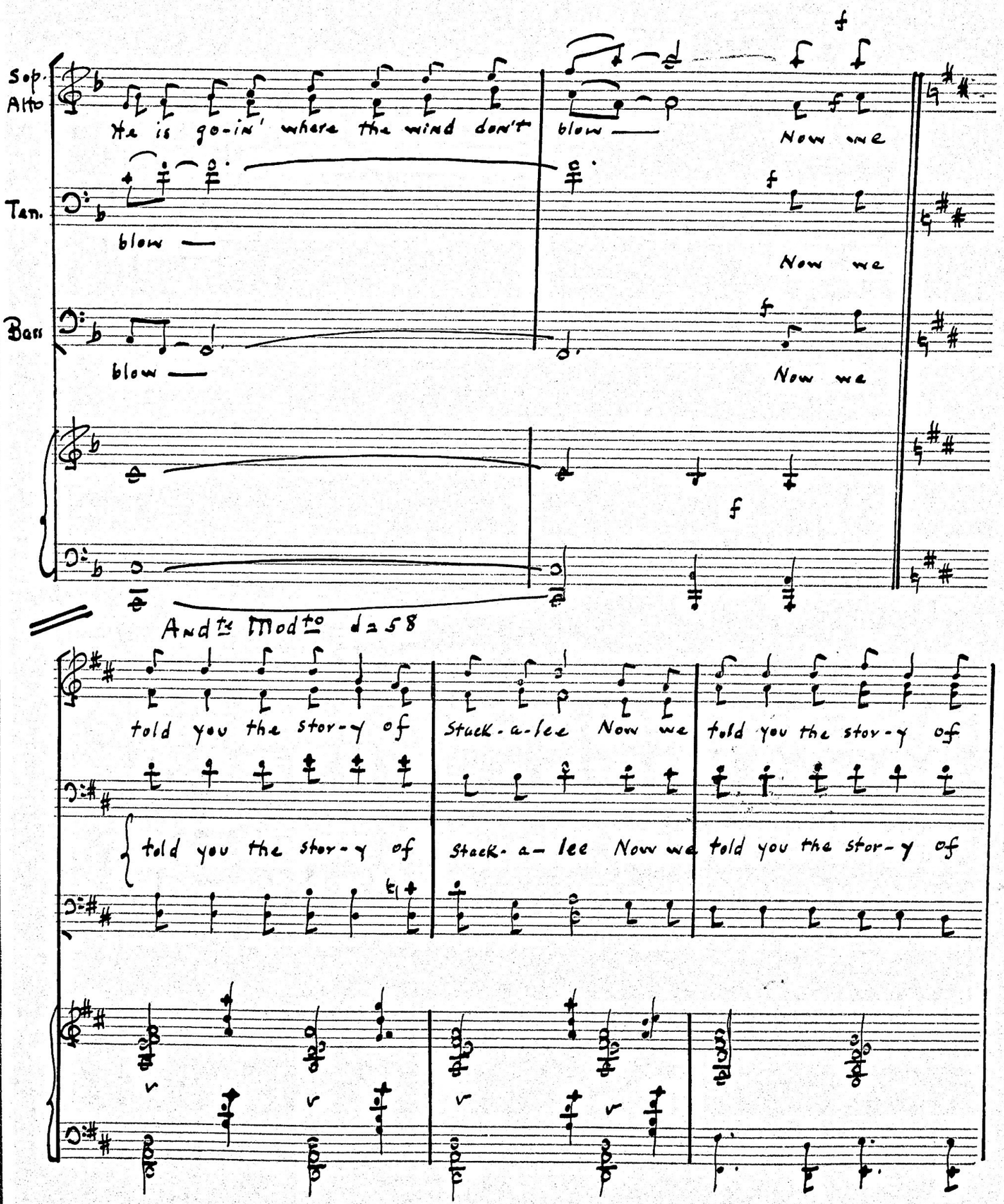
Lord Lord

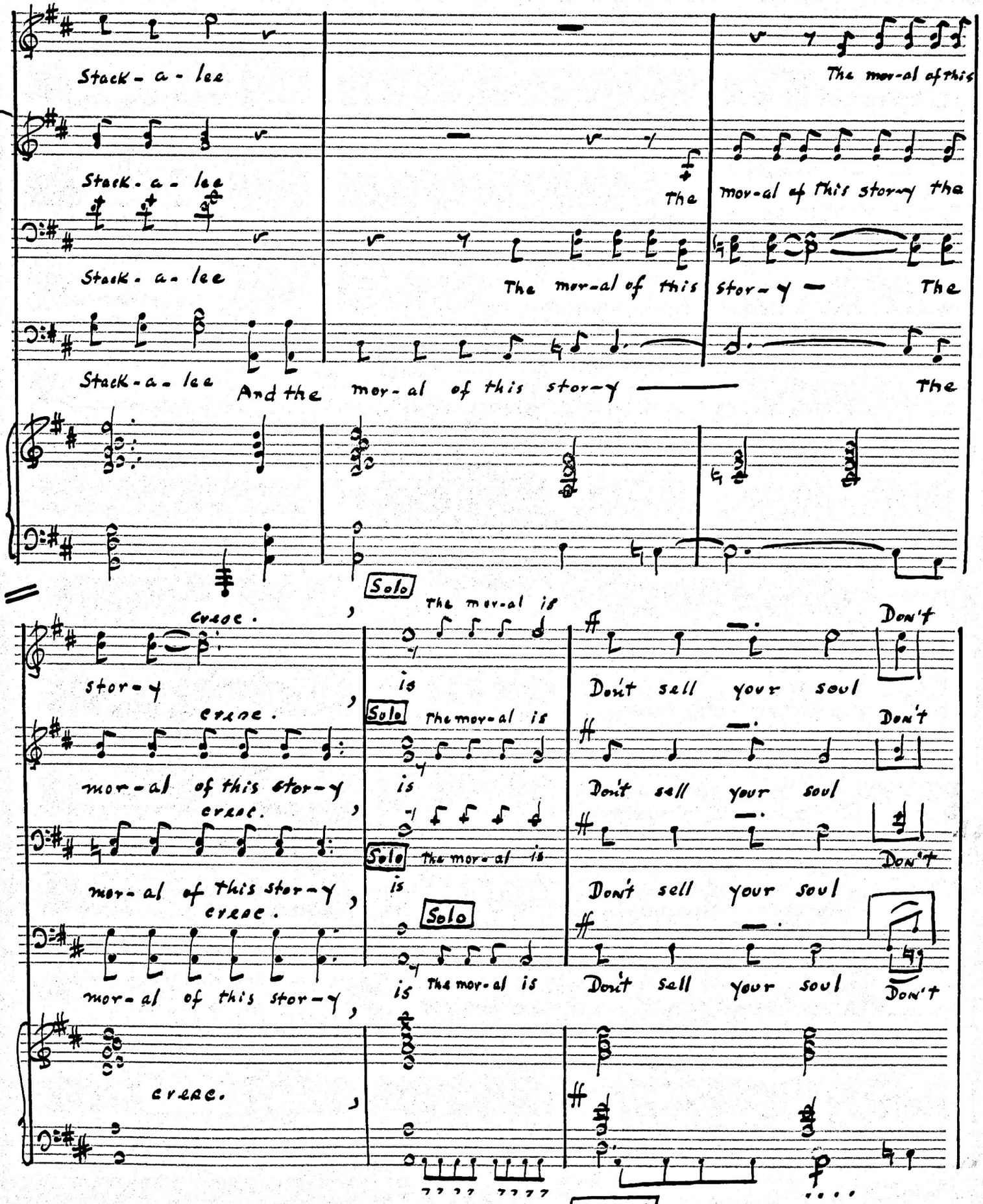
Ten. Bass

blow — He's go-in' where the chill-y wind don't-

He's go-in' where the chill-y wind don't

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN 150 W. 46th Street New York 19, N. Y.


Sop.
Alto
He is go-in' where the wind don't blow —
Now we
Ten.
blow —
Now we
Bass
blow —
Now we
And the Mod to d = 58
told you the stor-y of
Stack-a-lee Now we
told you the stor-y of
told you the stor-y of
Stack-a-lee Now we
told you the stor-y of



ARNOLD ARMSTEIN, 515 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

HALBANENE" NO. 1951 K&E CO., N.Y. *
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

molto rall. e rinforz.

Sop. Solo — sell — Don't sell your soul

Alto Solo — sell — Don't sell your soul

Ten. Solo — sell — Don't sell your soul

Bass Solo — sell — Don't sell your soul

Sop. — Don't sell your soul — Don't sell your soul

Alto — Don't sell your soul — Don't sell your soul

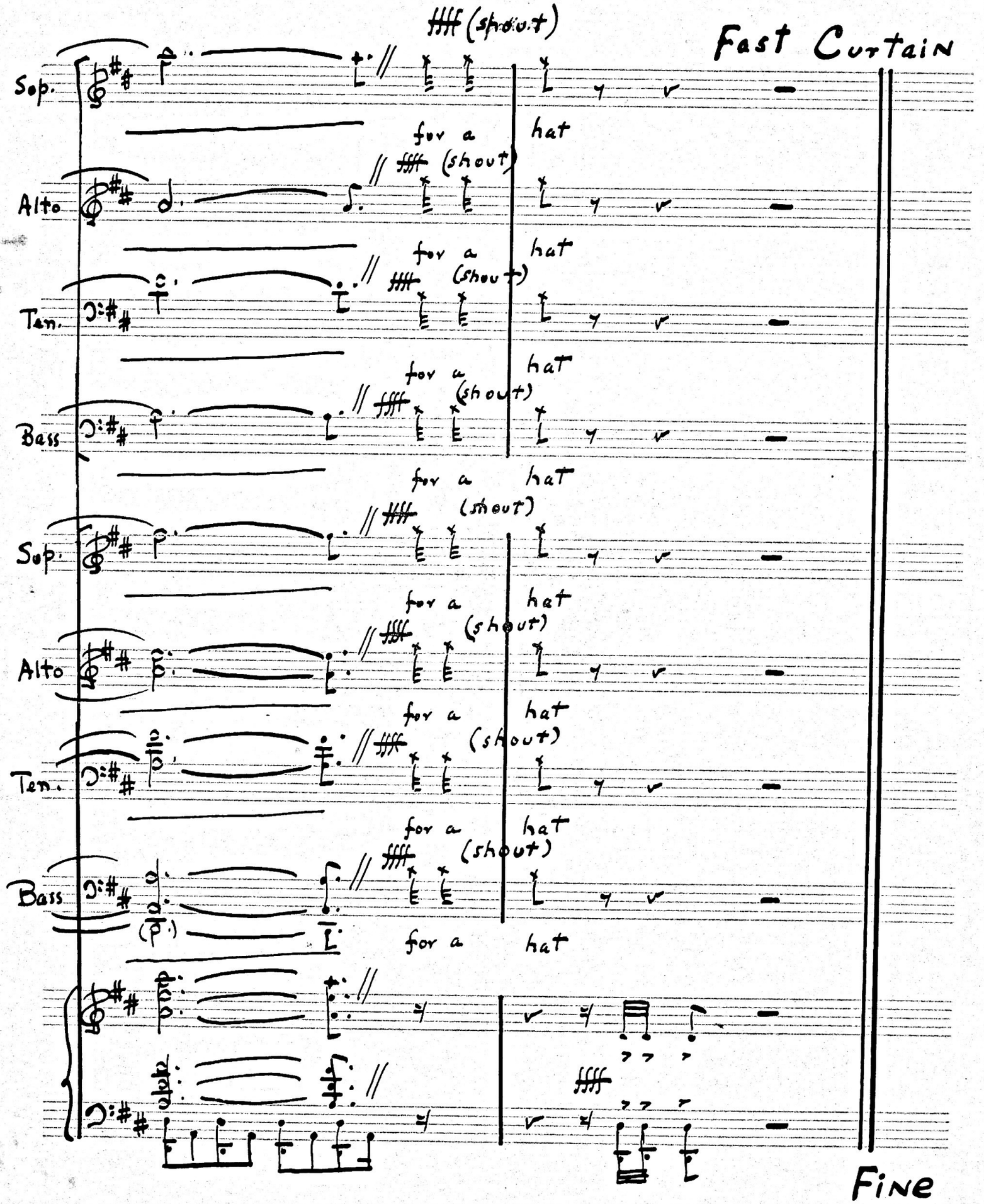
Ten. — Don't sell your soul — Don't sell your soul

Bass — Don't sell your soul — Don't sell your soul

molto rall. e rinforz

ARNOLD ARNSTEIN
515 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

"ALBANENE" No. 1951 KAZOO, N.Y. U.S.A.


Fast Curtain
(shout)
for a hat
Sop.
Alto
Ten.
Bass
Sop.
Alto
Ten.
Bass
Fine