ANDREW LOVETT

O ABSALOM

2015

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O ABSALOM

for

countertenor and computer

text from the Book of

Samuel in the Hebrew Bible.

SCORE

2015

O Absalom was composed for Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen who gave the first performance in Taplin Auditorium, Princeton University, on April 12th, 2015.

And the King was much moved, and went up to the chamber ove the gate and wept: and as he went, thus he said:

O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!
Would I had died for thee,
O Absalom, my son, my son!

Hebrew Bible: 2 Samuel Chapter 19, verse 1

Duration: 7 minutes.

Music : © Andrew Lovett 2015
(version 1.1 - 25.2.15)

Performance Instructions:

The pre-composed computer part is available in 4-channel or stereo formats.

The computer-part is played continuously, with no pauses or breaks.

A simplified version of the computer part is indicated in the score.

Depending on the acoustics and the nature of the venue, the vocal part may be amplified with the electronic part. If amplification is used, discreet use of reverberation may be added to the voice (only).

The vocal part emphasises the vowel-sounds A (Ah) and O (Oh) - from the text **A**-bs**A**-l**O**m. Occasionally, where indicated, the singer should "morph" between them, creating a filter-like effect. The voiced consonant *mmm* (hummed) is also used extensively - and a similar morph is used between closed lips and open vowel. These transitions should be as smooth and continuous as possible.

Precise rhythmic accuracy is not required. Once the performer is familar with the computer part, an expressive rubato is appropriate.

MV = Monteverdi trill.

Program Note:

The death and mourning of Absalom is one of the most poignant moments in the life of King David. Absalom was David's son, his golden-boy. But Absalom led a revolt against the aging King and when this was ruthlessly thwarted, he paid the inevitable price. David's mourning seems deep, sincere and very moving. And yet, there is a touch of theatre about his behaviour. The words of David's lament are taken from the King James translation:

O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!
Would I had died for thee,
O Absalom, my son, my son!

Andrew Lovett moved from the UK to live in Princeton (joining the Music Department at Princeton University as a Professional Specialist)in September 2009. He composes chamber-opera, chamber music and electroacoustic music. His work has been performed in Germany, France, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Japan, Canada, Cuba, the USA and throughout the UK.
Lonely Sits the City (2009), for solo voice and surround-sound electronics, was premiered at the Junction, Cambridge by The Electric Voice Theatre. *Abraham On Trial* (2005), an opera for five singers, electroacoustic music and digital video, was performed at the Junction Theatre, Cambridge by The Electric Voice Theatre, directed by Patrick Morris. *The Colour of Sadness* (2003) for soprano saxophone and electronics, was premiered by Damien Royannais and recorded by for AMPublishing. *Unknown Terrors* (2000) for cello, keyboard and electronics was premiered by Judith Mitchell and Clive Williamson and broadcast onRadio 3. *Voyage* (1997) for ensemble and electroacoustic music was performed by the London Sinfonietta at the South Bank Centre, London in April 1999, conducted by Martyn Brabbins.

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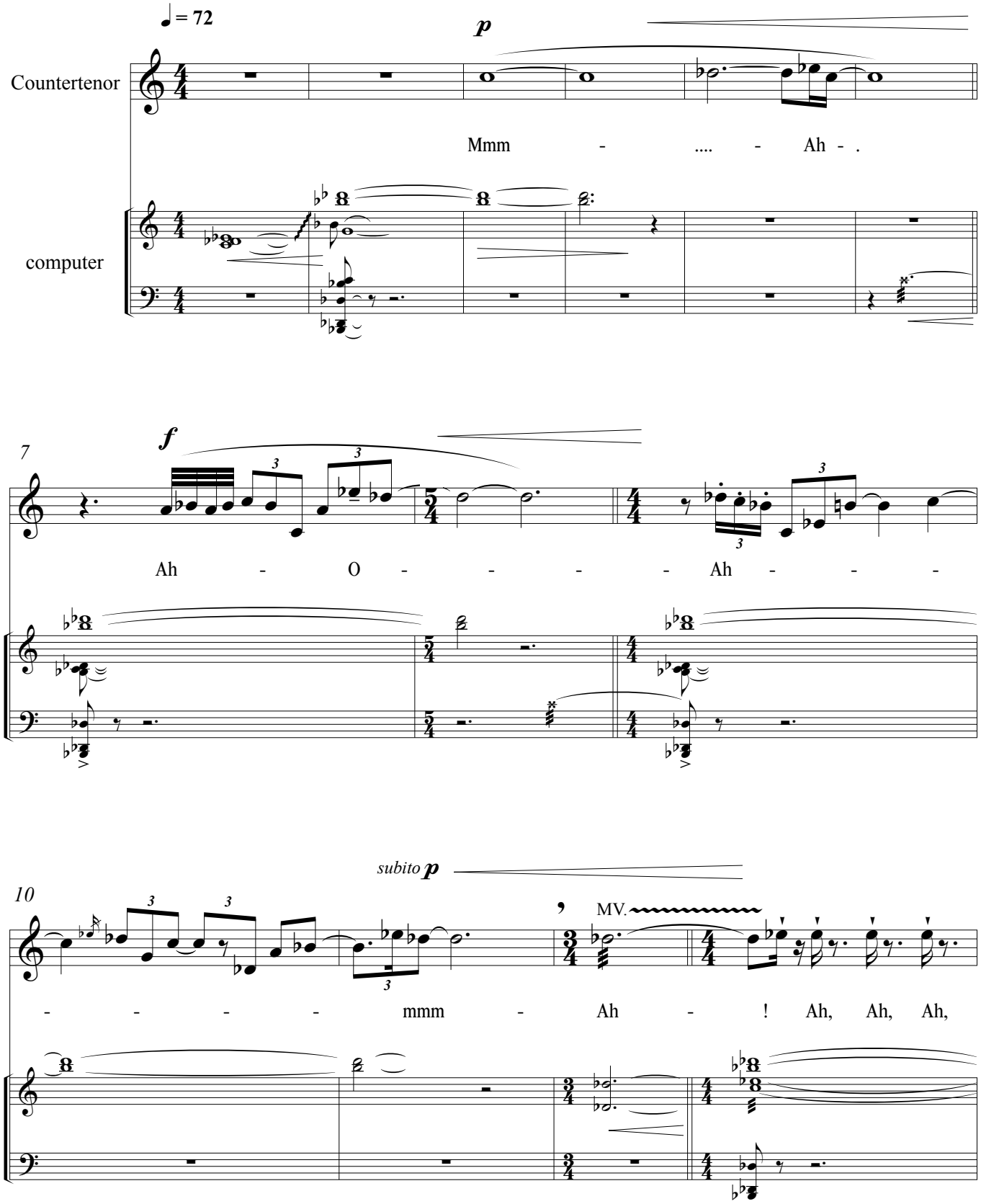

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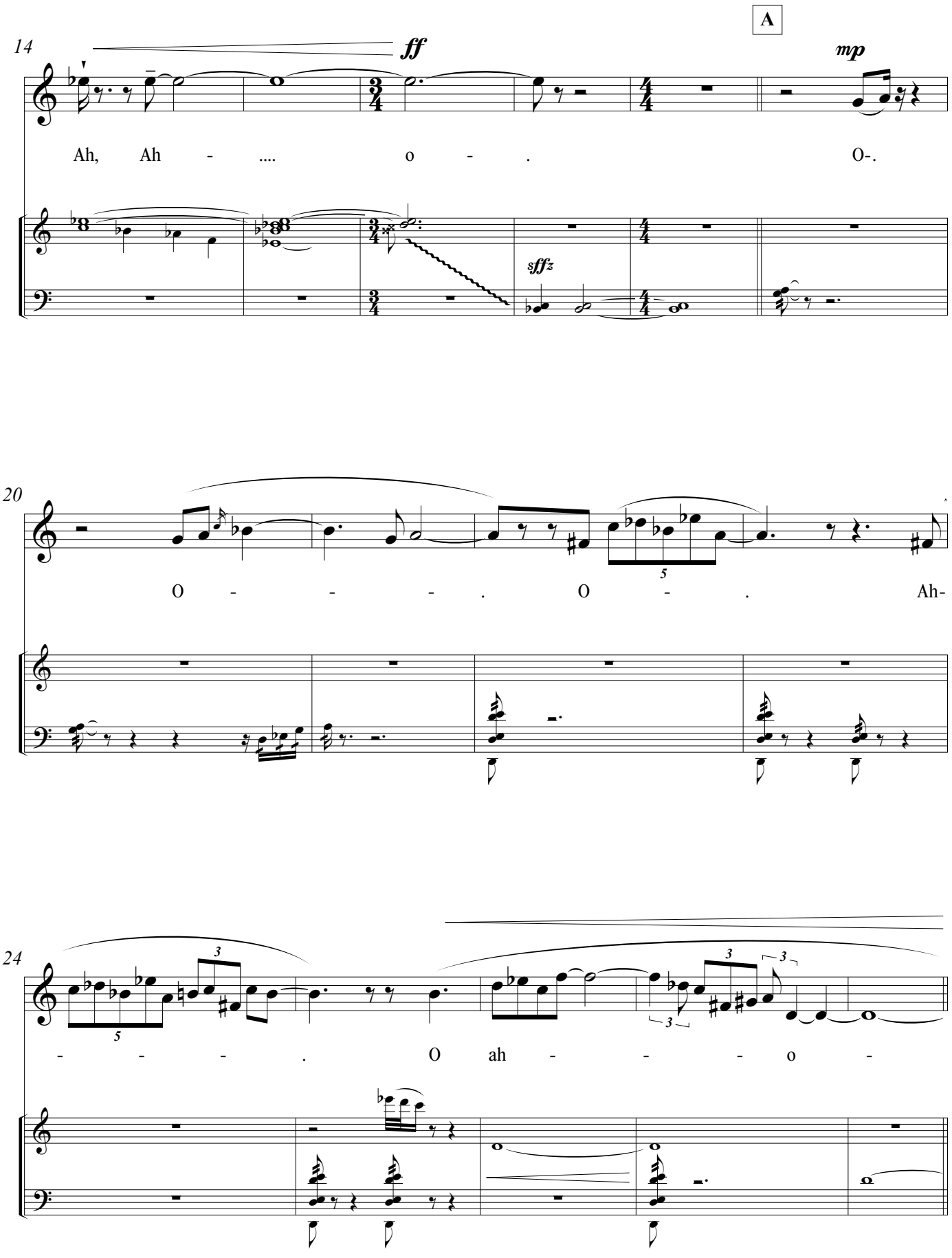
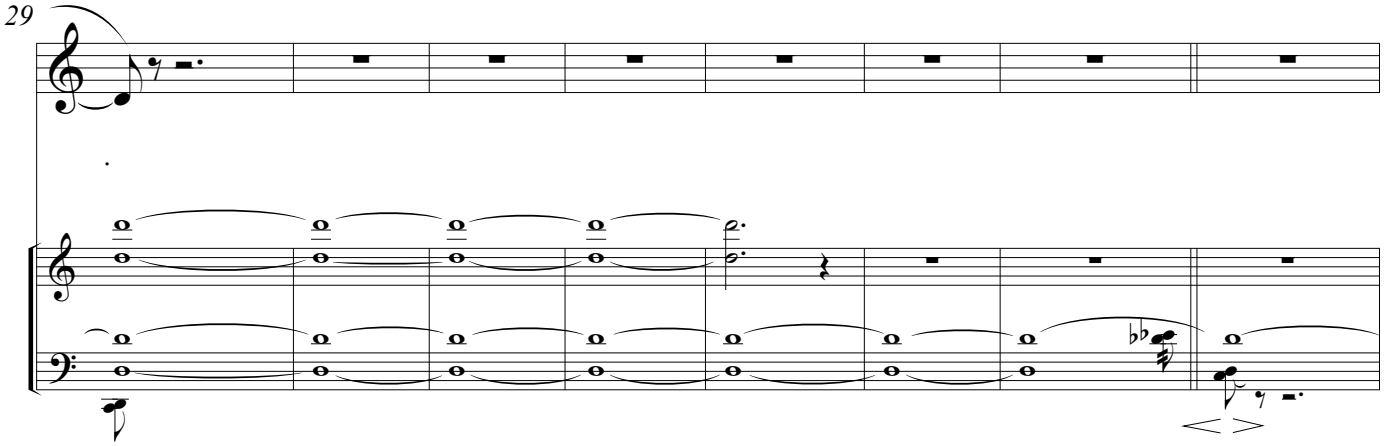

14
A
ff
mp
Ah, Ah - .... o - . O-.
sffz
20
O - - - . O - . Ah-
5
24
3
5
- - - . O ah - - - o -

B

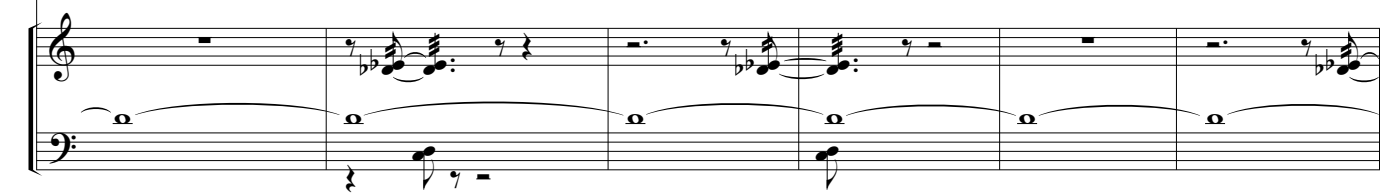
29



37

pp *mp*

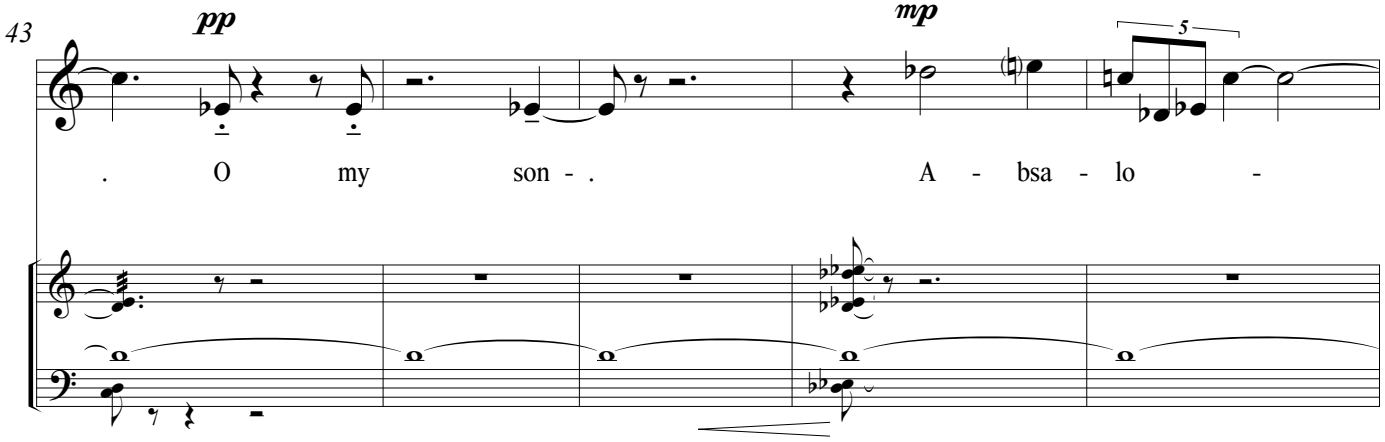
O my son - ... A - bsa - lom -

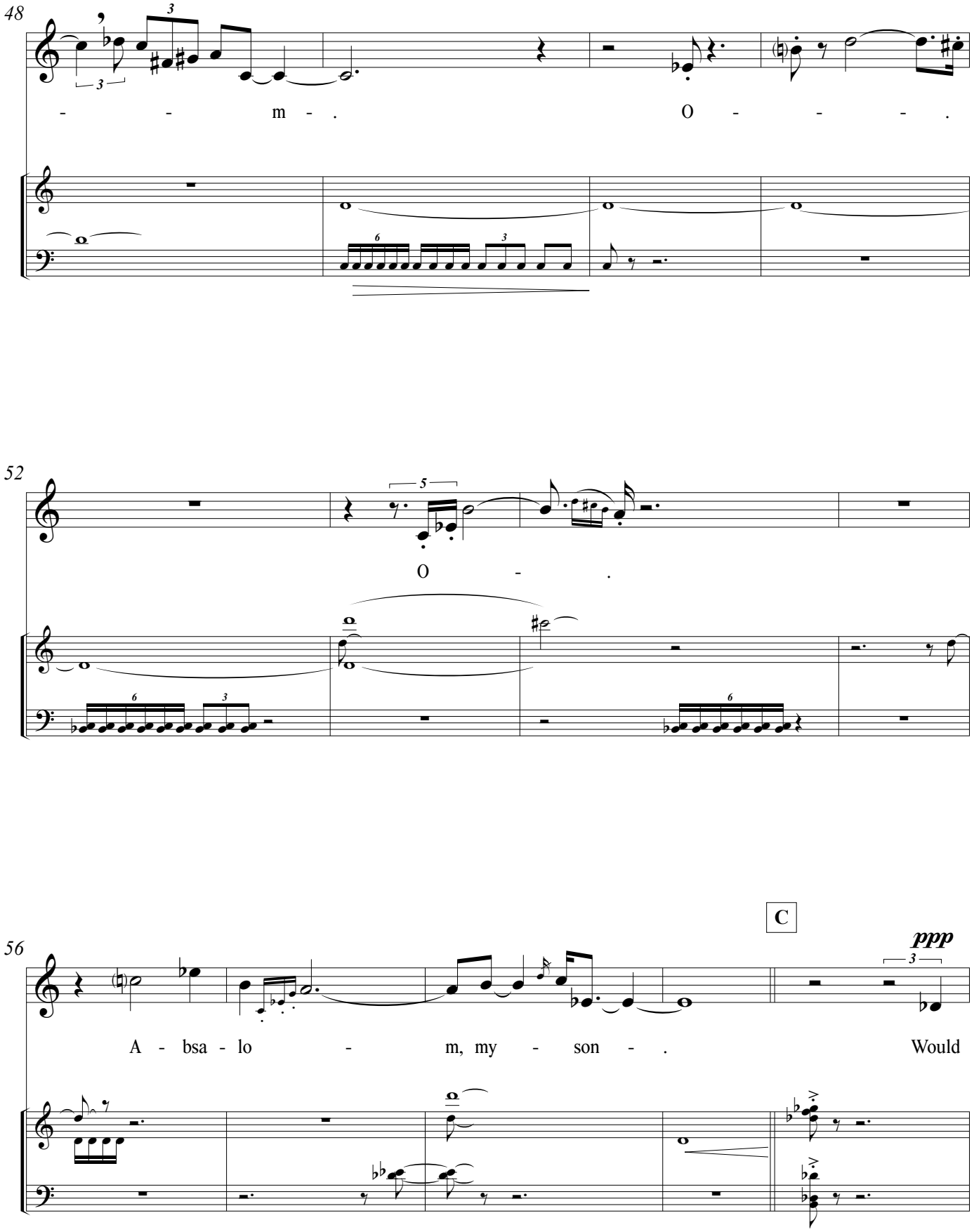


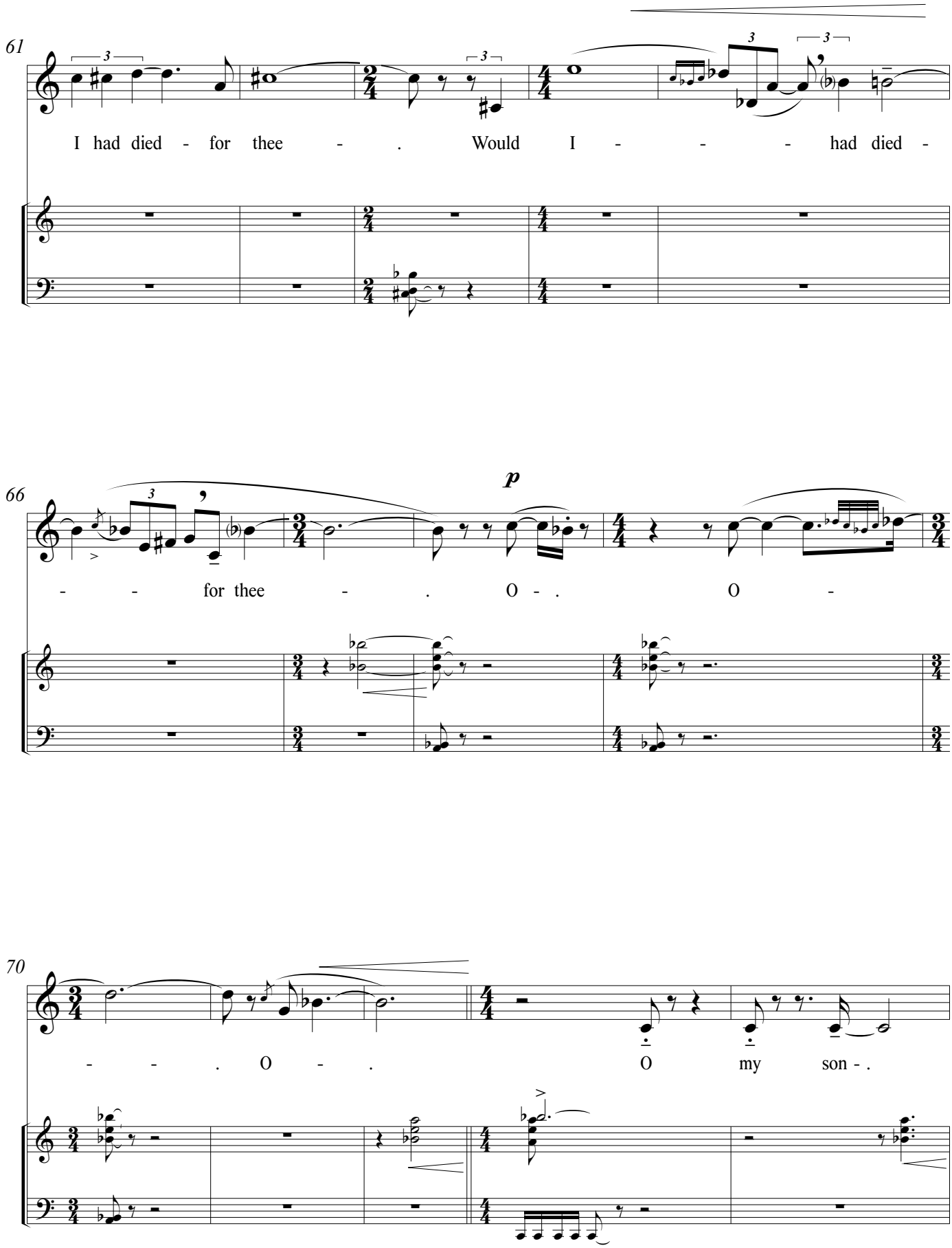
43

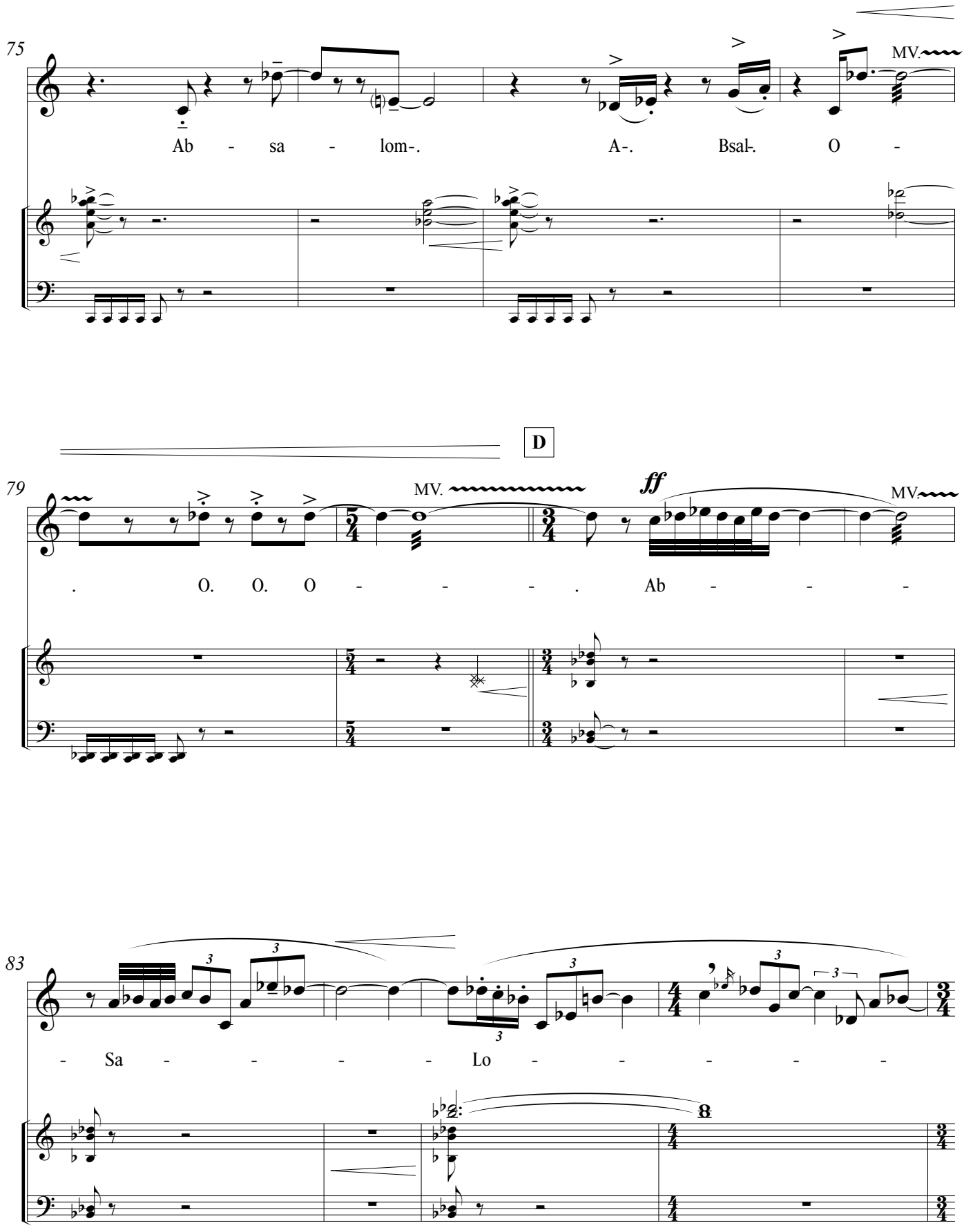
pp *mp*

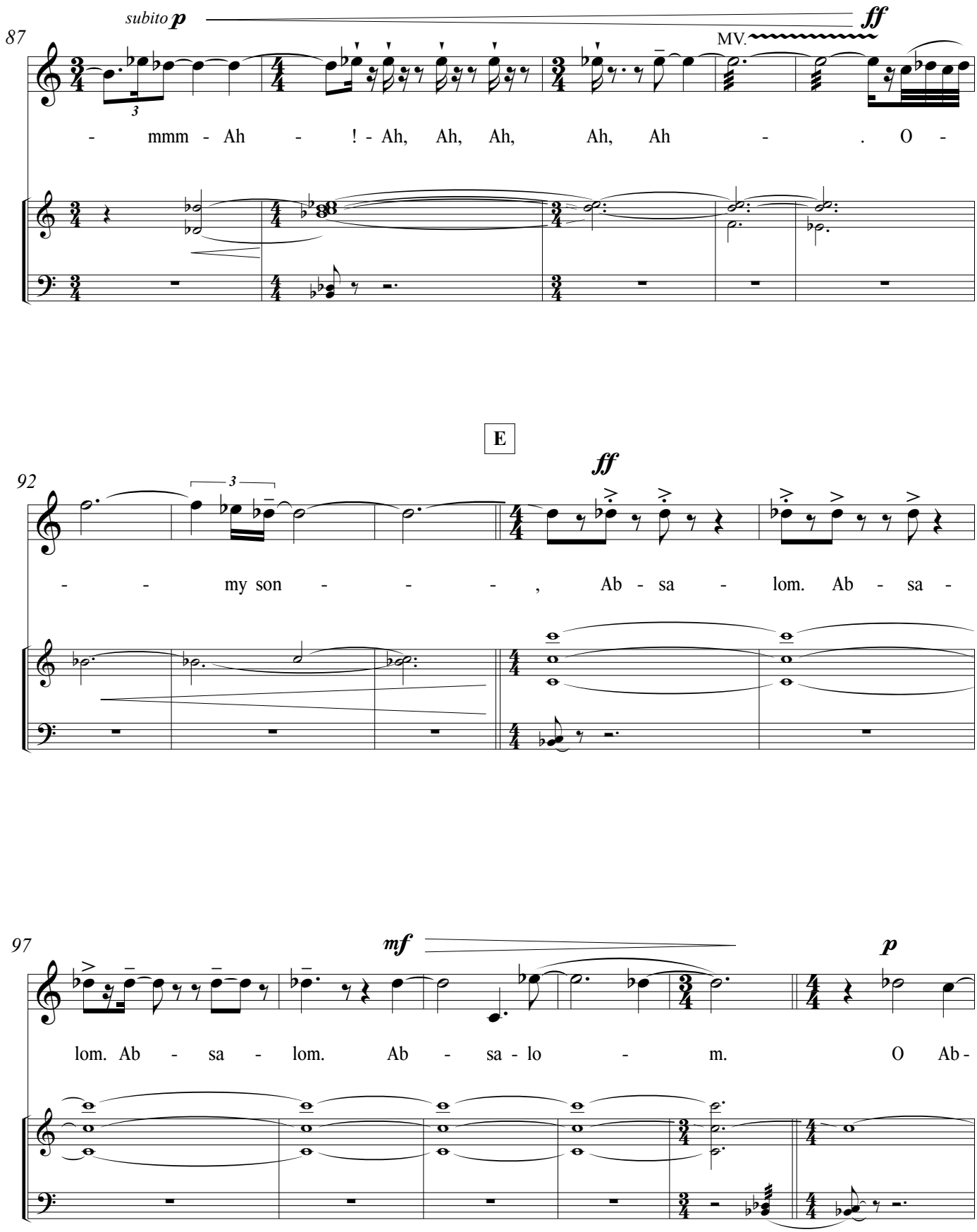
. O my son - . A - bsa - lo -

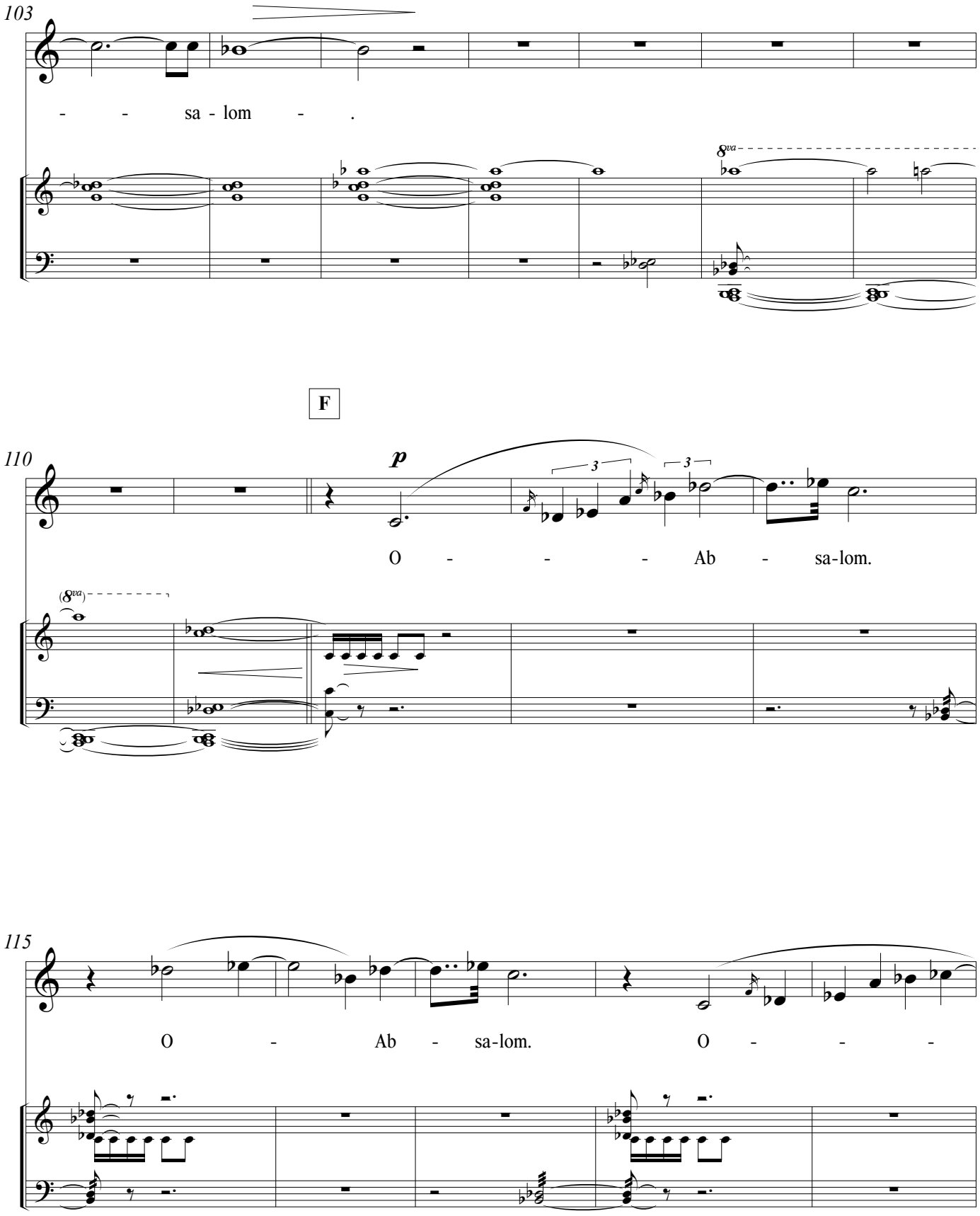


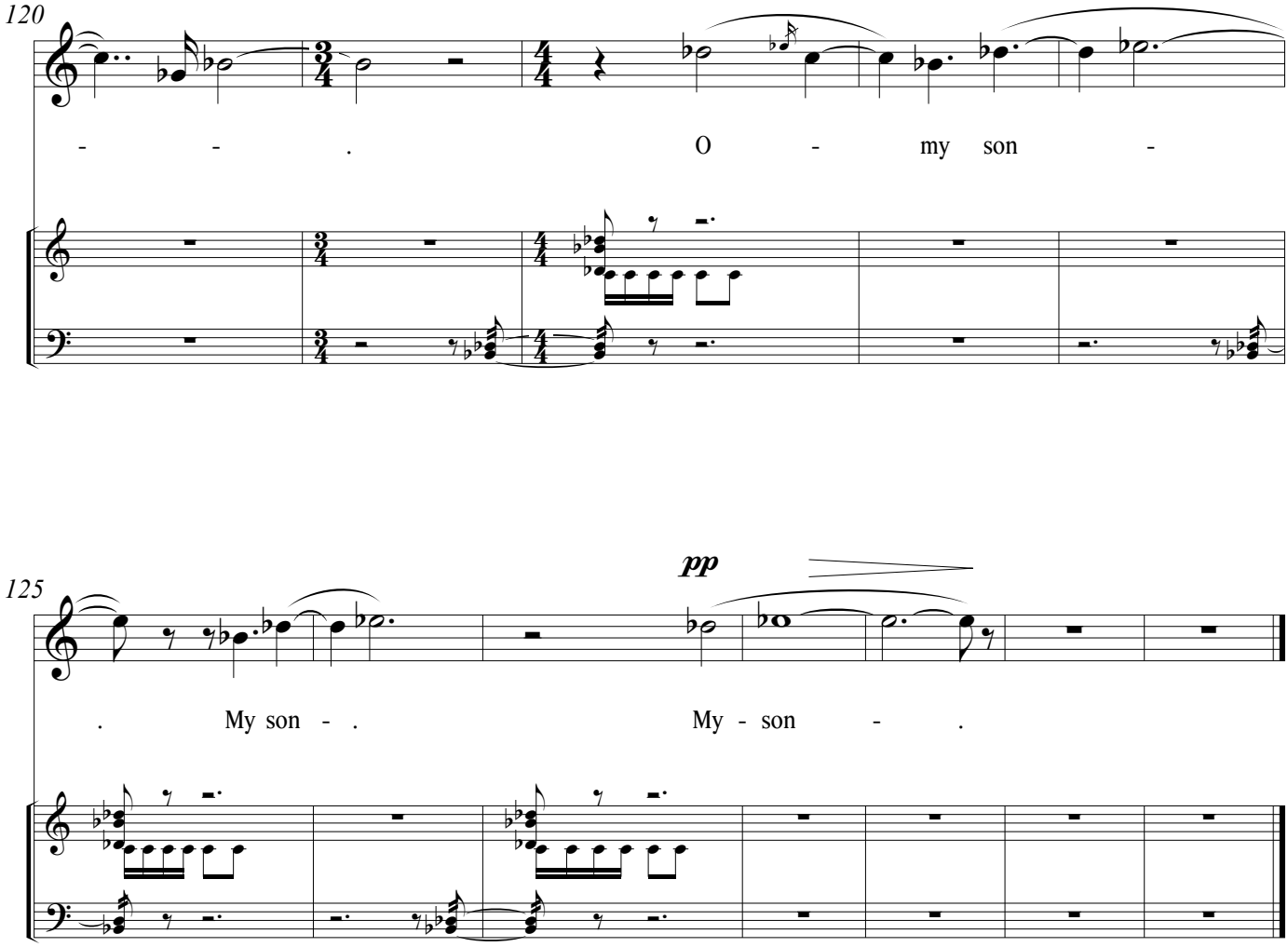

48
- - m - .
O - - - .
52
O - .
56
C
ppp
A - bsa - lo - m, my - son - .
Would


61
I had died - for thee - . Would I - - - had died -
66
p
- - for thee - . O - . O -
70
- - . O - . O my son - .


75
MV.
Ab - sa - lom-. A-. Bsal-. O -
D
79
MV.
ff
MV.
. O. O. O - - - - . Ab - - -
83
- Sa - - - - Lo - - - - -


87
subito p
ff
MV.
- mmm - Ah - ! - Ah, Ah, Ah, Ah, Ah - . O -
E
92
ff
- - my son - - - - , Ab - sa - lom. Ab - sa -
97
mf
p
lom. Ab - sa - lom. Ab - sa - lo - m. O Ab -


103
- - sa - lom - .
8va
F
110
p
3
3
O - - - Ab - sa-lom.
(8va)
115
O - Ab - sa-lom. O - - -



February 4th, 2015, Princeton

(edited 17th Feb 2015)