To Frederic Rzewski, for having said so

1. Rap

for a speaker pianist

James Baldwin — Jean-Luc Fafchamps

♩ = ca 100

Spoken: smooth and groovy

mf

Take no one's word for a-ny-thing, in clu-ding mine, but trust your ex pe-rience.

(Take a wooden pencil)

f

Ped.

6

Know whence you came. If you know whence you came there is real-ly no li-mit to where you can go.

(Beat the edge of the lid with the pencil)

non legato

mf non troppo

8vb

11

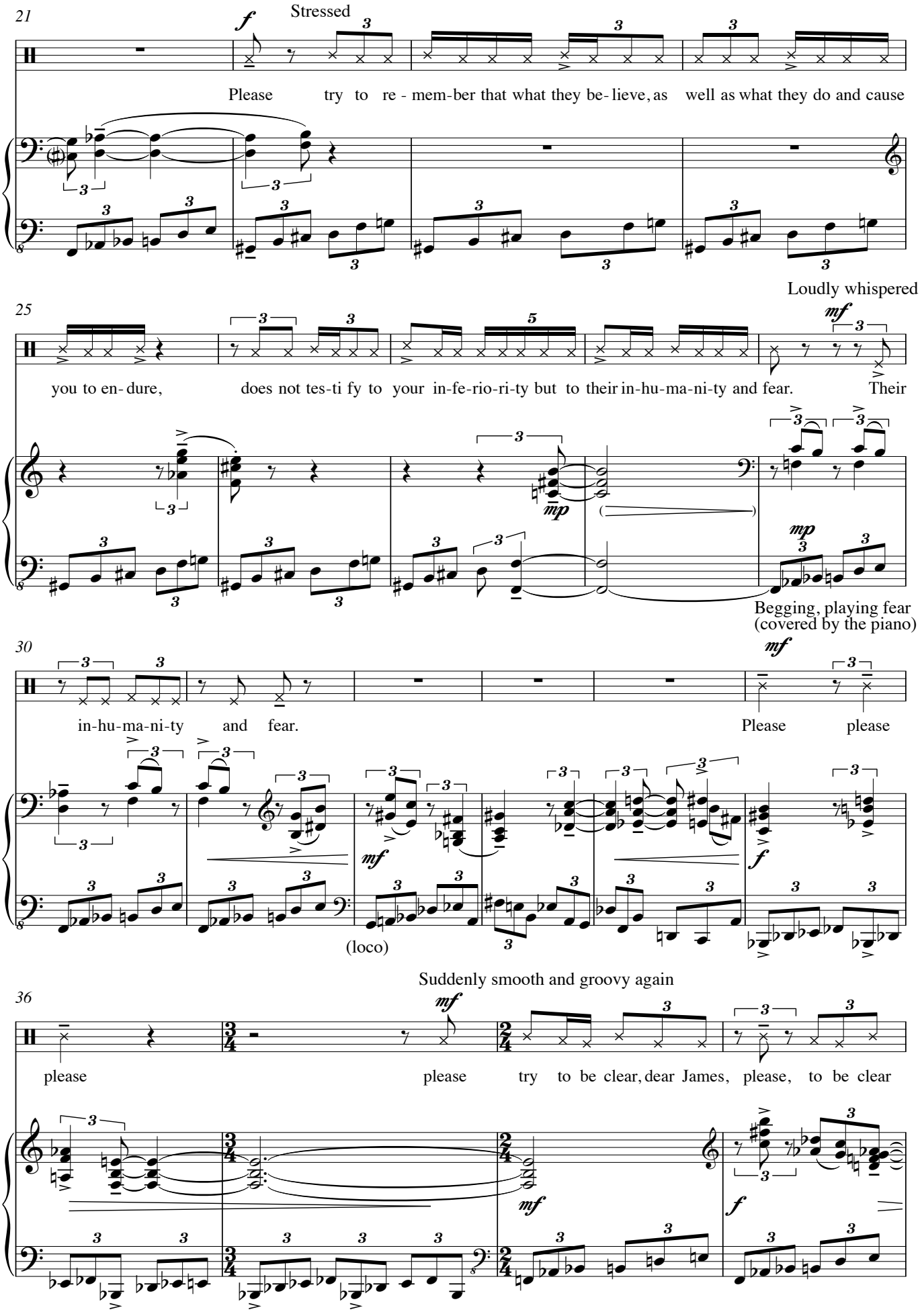
Clearly declaimed, a bit singing

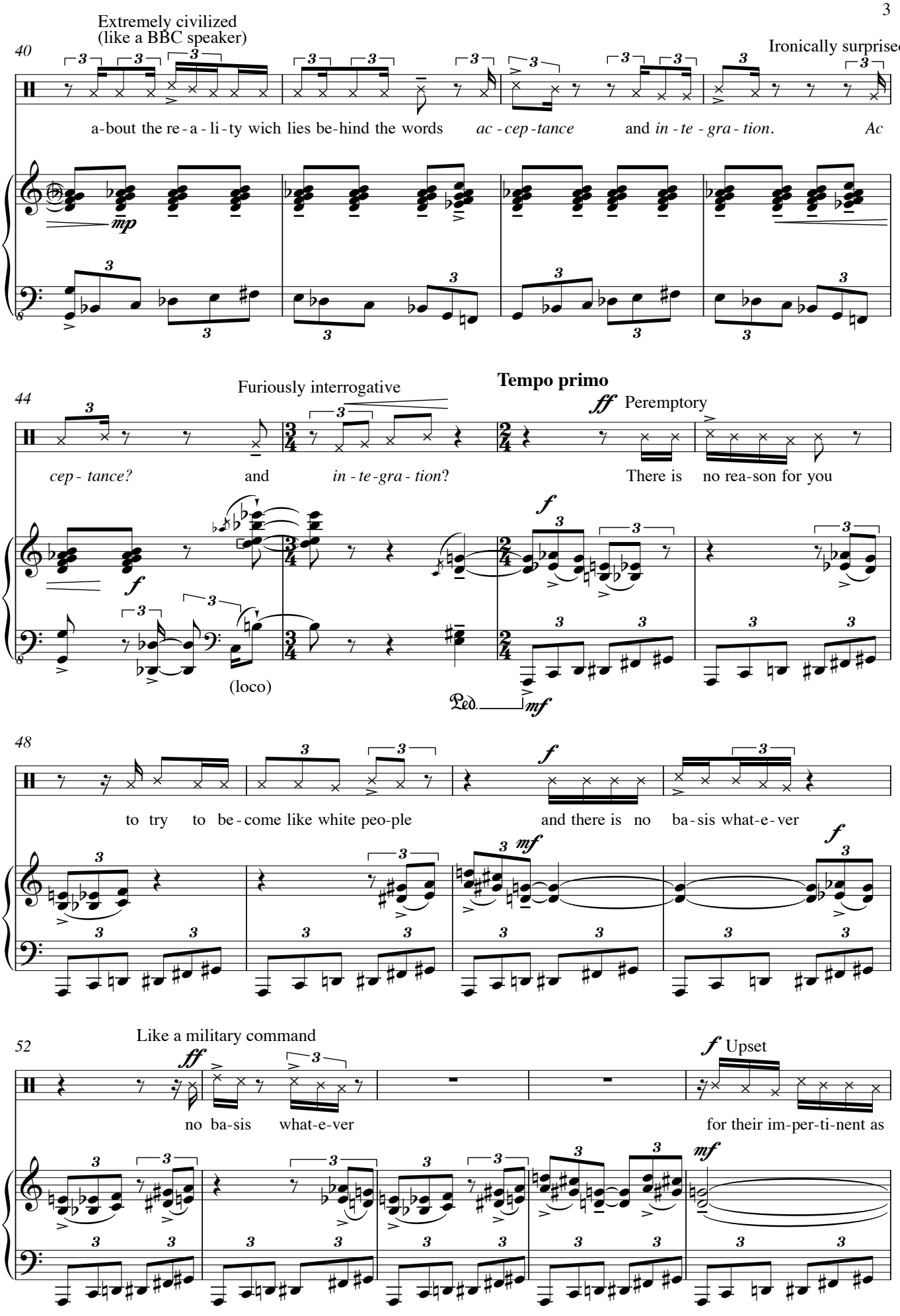
The de-tails and sym-bols of your life have been de-li-berate-ly cons-truc-ted to make

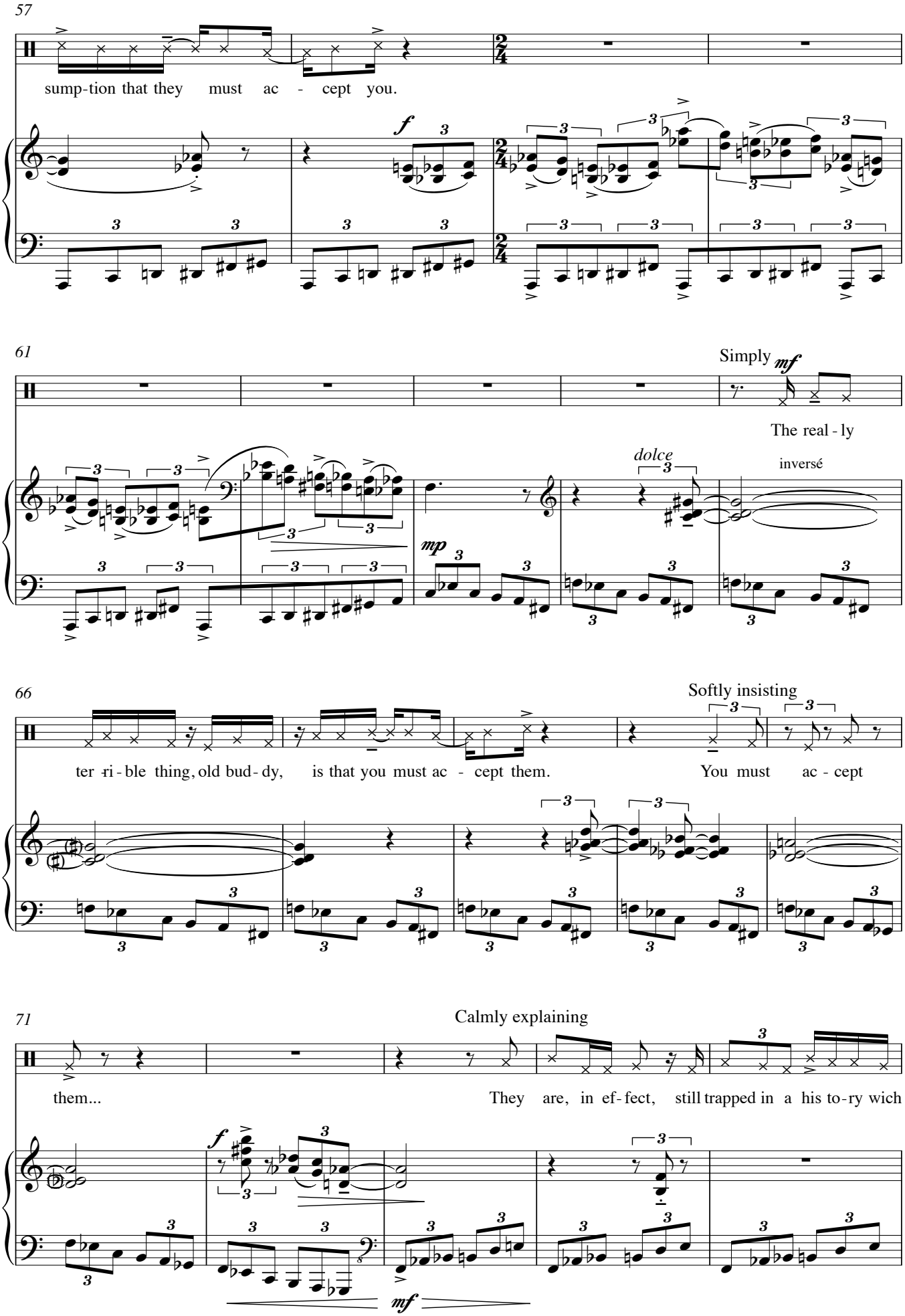
(Put down the pencil)

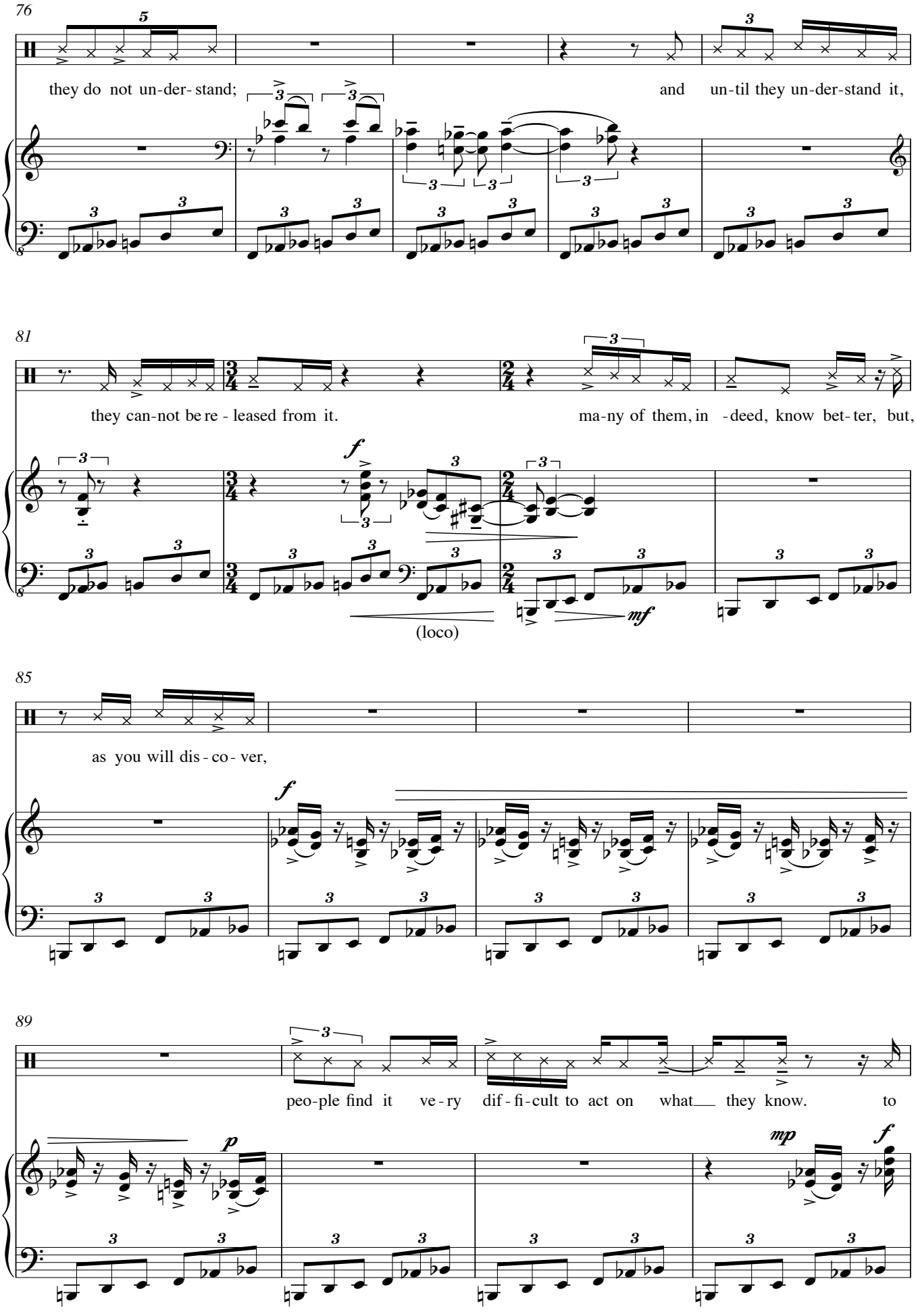
15

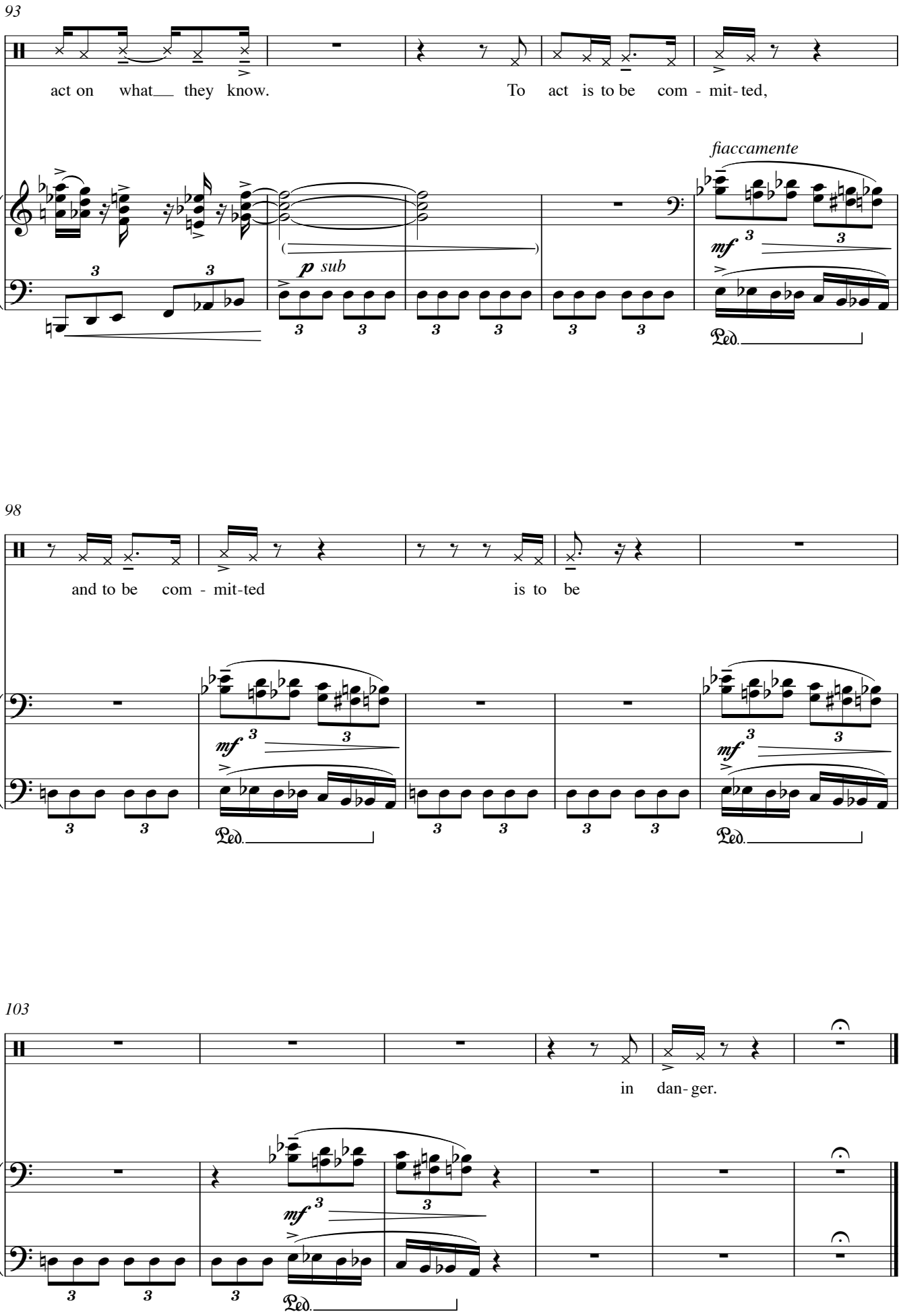
you be-lieve what white peo-ple say a-bout you.


21
Stressed
Please try to re - mem-ber that what they be- lieve, as well as what they do and cause
25
Loudly whispered
you to en- dure, does not tes-ti fy to your in-fe-rio-ri-ty but to their in-hu-ma-ni-ty and fear. Their
Begging, playing fear
(covered by the piano)
30
in-hu-ma-ni-ty and fear.
Please please
(loco)
Suddenly smooth and groovy again
36
please please try to be clear, dear James, please, to be clear


Extremely civilized
(like a BBC speaker)
40
Ironically surprised
a-bout the re-a-li-ty wich lies be-hind the words ac-cep-tance and in-te-gra-tion. Ac
mp
Furiously interrogative
Tempo primo
44
ff Peremptory
cep-tance? and in-te-gra-tion? There is no rea-son for you
f
(loco)
Ped.
mf
48
to try to be-come like white peo-ple and there is no ba-sis what-e-ver
mf
52
Like a military command
ff
no ba-sis what-e-ver
f Upset
for their im-per-ti-nent as
mf


57
sump-tion that they must ac - cept you.
f
61
Simply
mf
The real - ly
dolce
inversé
mp
66
Softly insisting
ter - ri - ble thing, old bud - dy, is that you must ac - cept them.
You must ac - cept
71
Calmly explaining
them...
They are, in ef - fect, still trapped in a his to - ry wich
f
mf


76
they do not un-der- stand;
and un-til they un-der-stand it,
81
they can-not be re - leased from it.
ma-ny of them, in -deed, know bet-ter, but,
(loco)
85
as you will dis - co - ver,
89
peo-ple find it ve - ry dif - fi - cult to act on what they know. to


93
act on what they know.
To act is to be com - mit- ted,
fiaccamente
p sub
mf
Ped.
98
and to be com - mit-ted
is to be
mf
Ped.
103
in dan- ger.
mf
Ped.