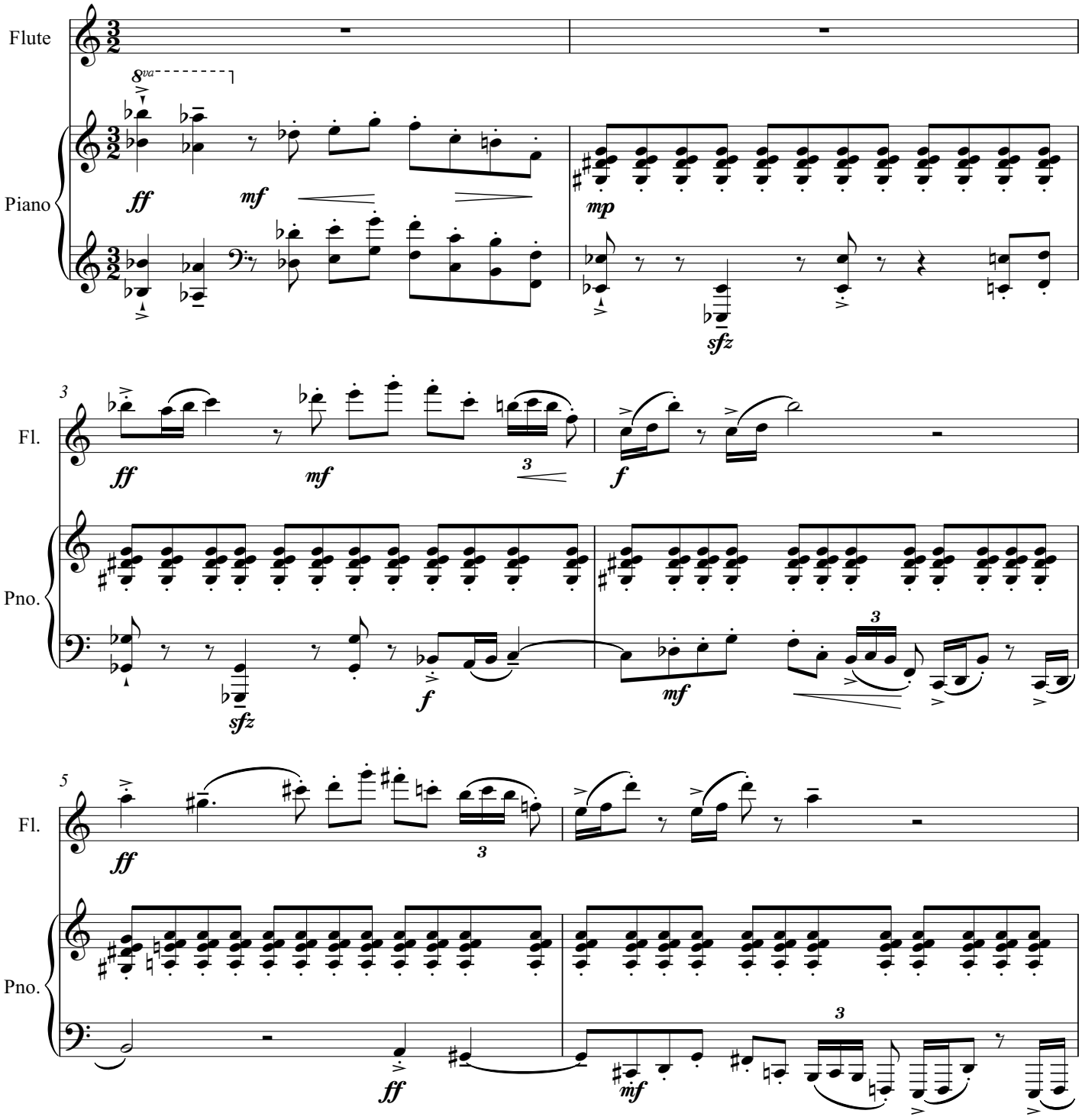
All the World's A Stage

Prologue

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time playes many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

Shakespeare (*As You Like It*)

Read the text and perform this prologue with drama - you have a story to tell (𝅗𝅥 = 66) Janet Jennings



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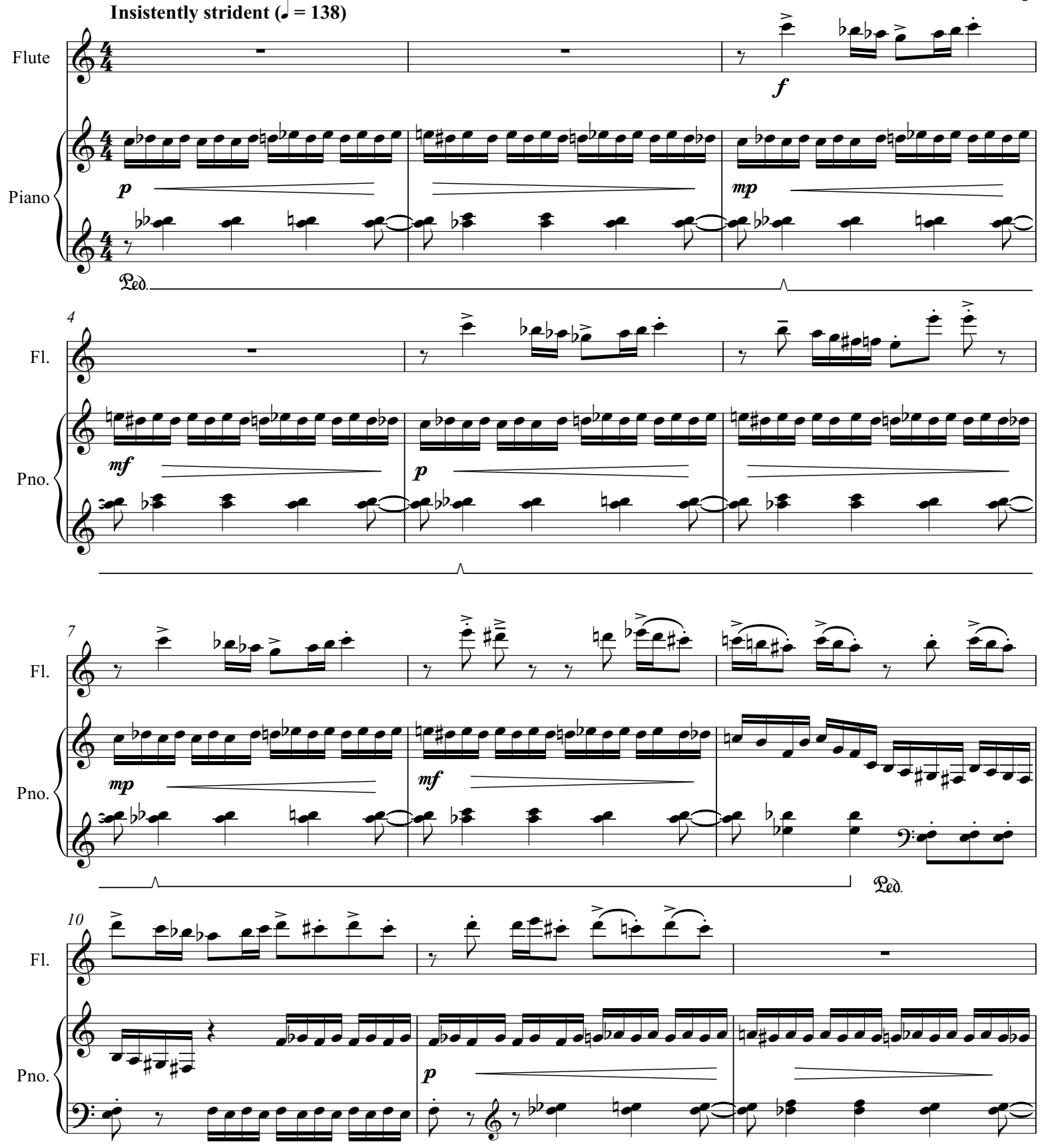
1. The Infant

At first the infant,
mewling and puking in the nurse's arms

Shakespeare (As You Like It)

Janet Jennings

Insistently strident (♩ = 138)



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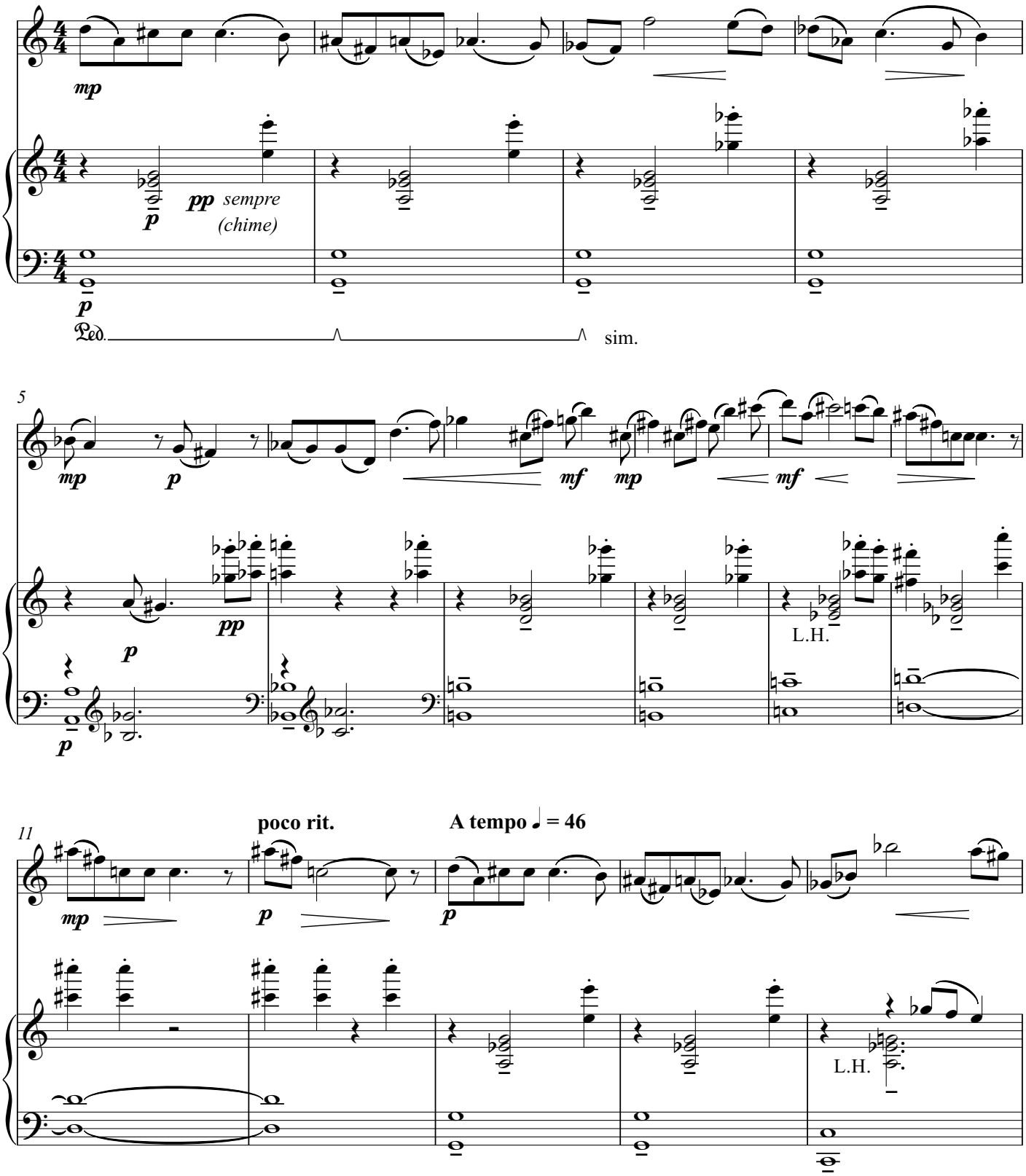
Scene 2: The Whining School-boy

And then the whining school-boy, with his satchel,
And shining morning face, creeping like snail,
Unwilling to school.

He is not a happy boy - note the school bell ringing ♩ = 46

Janet Jennings



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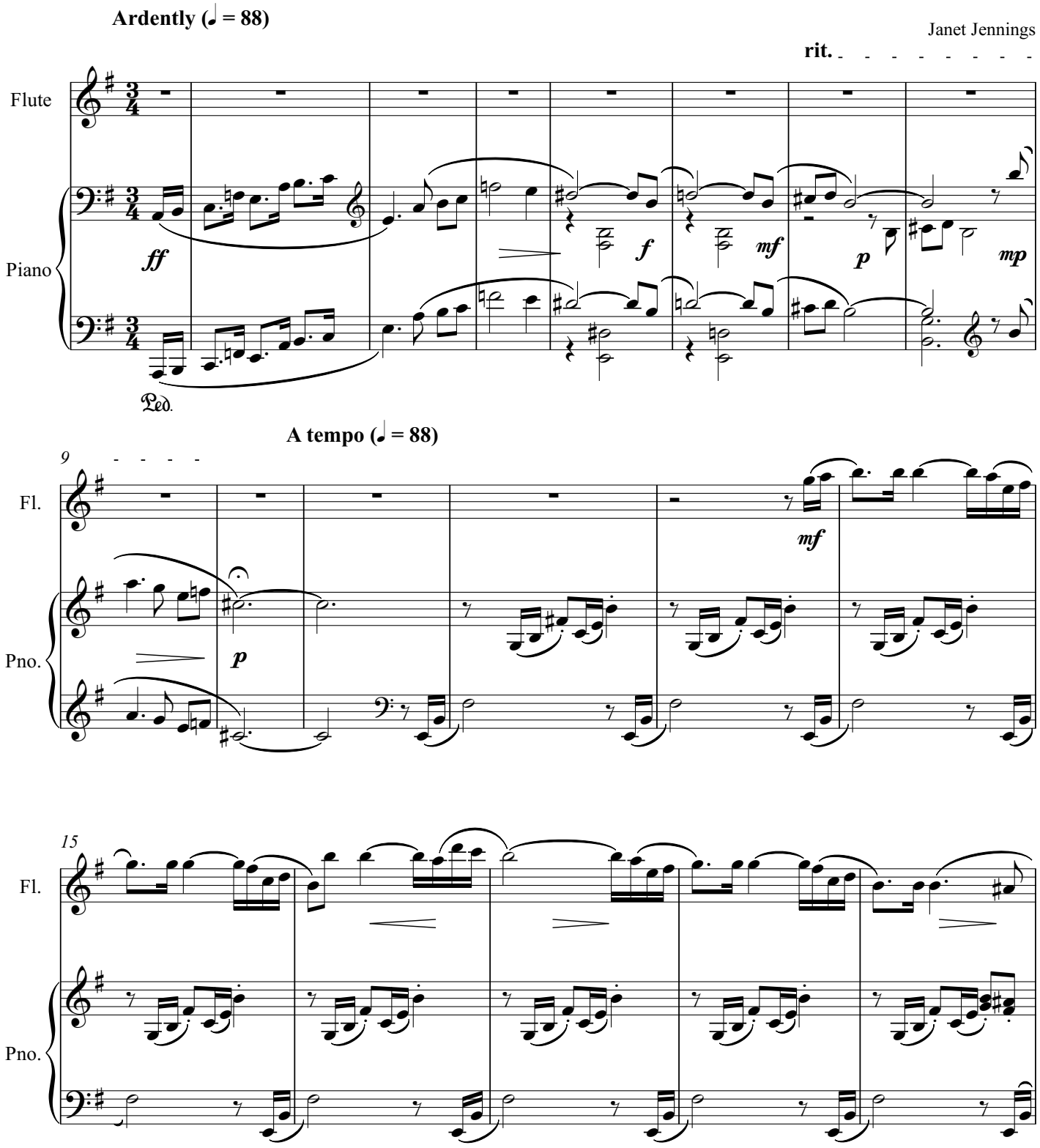
Scene 3: The Lover

And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a
woeful ballad, Made to his
mistress' eyebrow.



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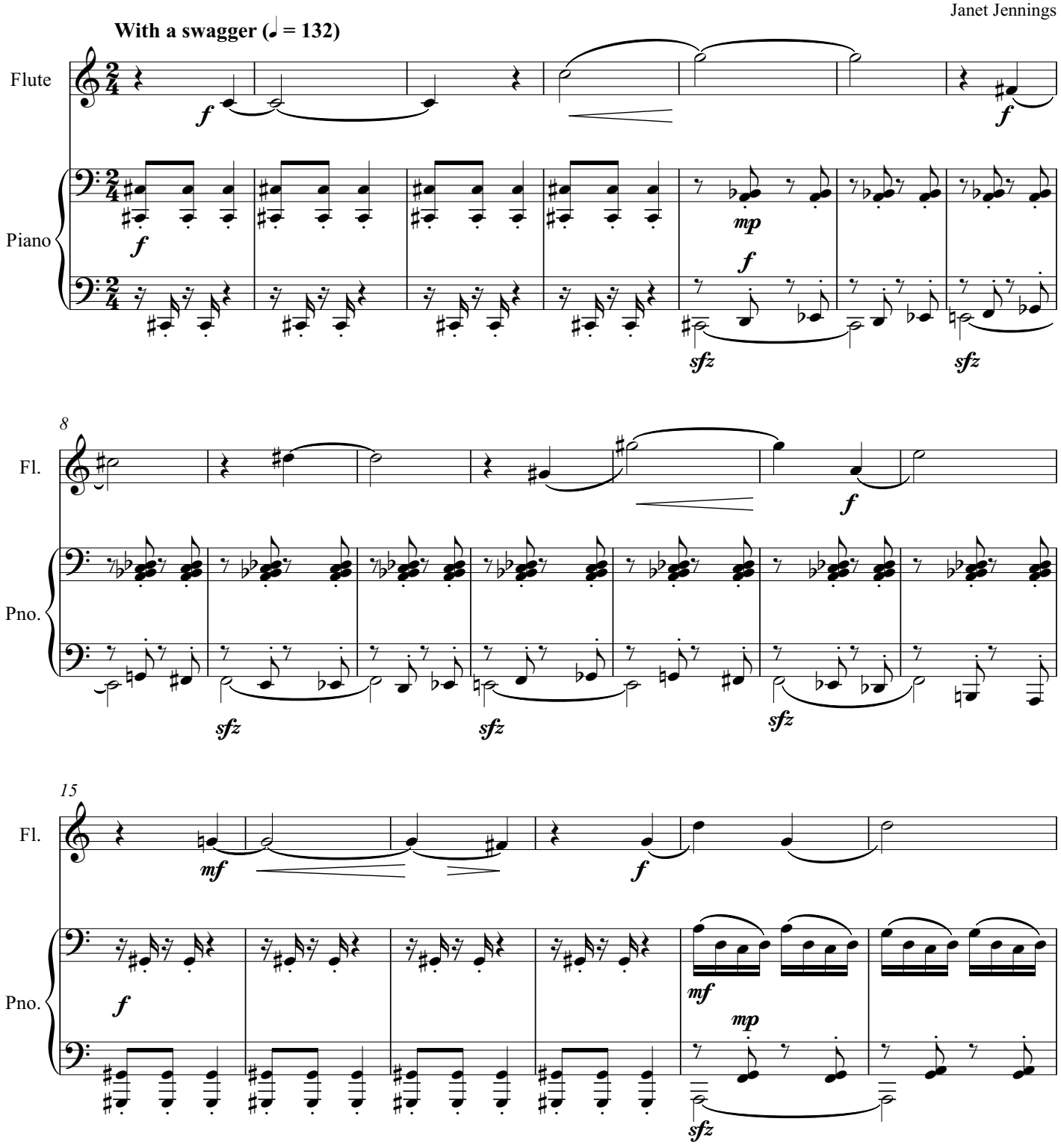
Scene 4: A Soldier

Then a soldier, Full of strange oaths,
and bearded like the leopard, Jealous in
honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon's mouth.

Janet Jennings



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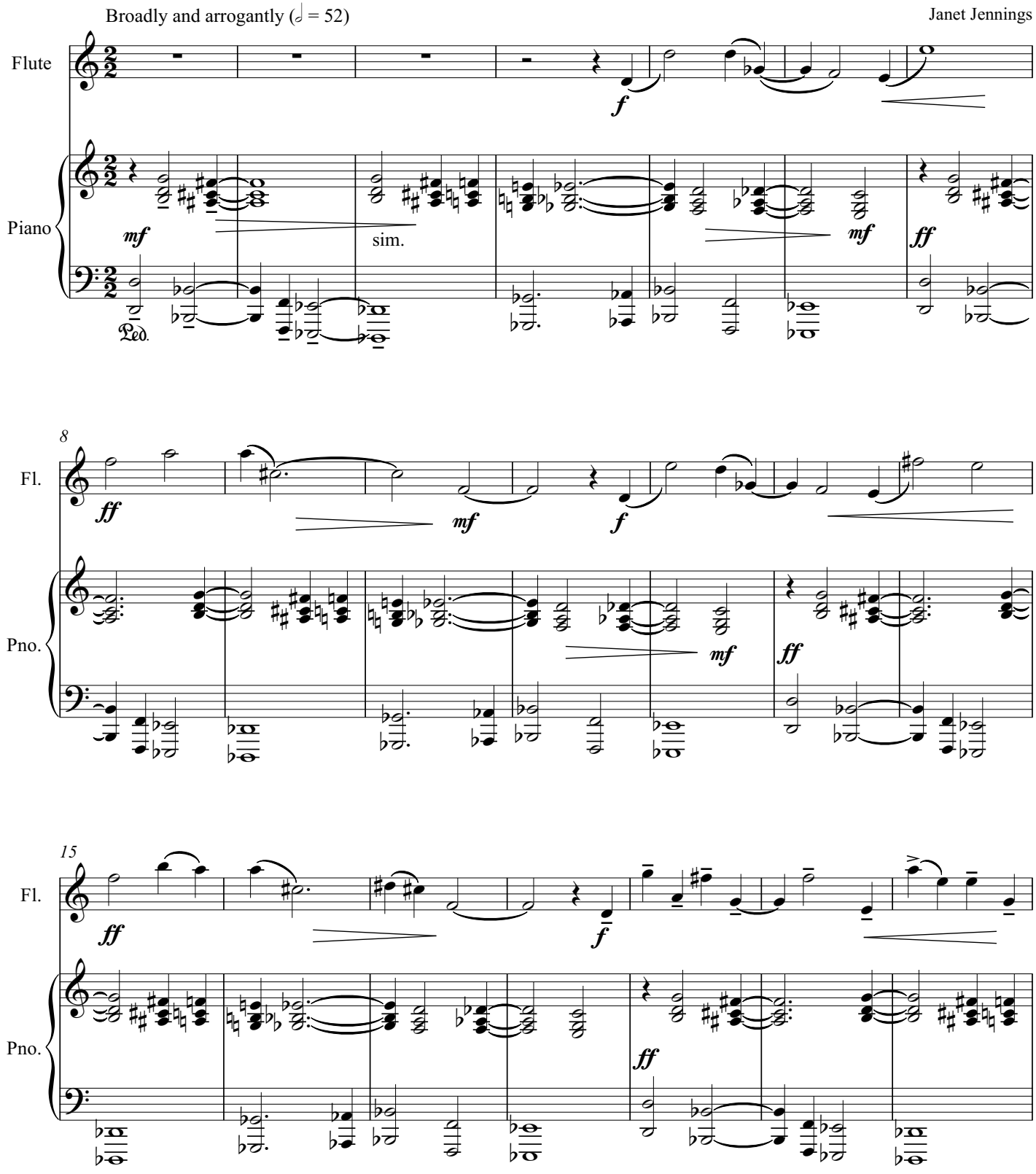
Scene 5: The Justice

And then the justice, In fair round belly with good capon lined,
With eyes severe, and beard of formal cut, Full of wise saws,
and modern instances; and so, he plays his part.



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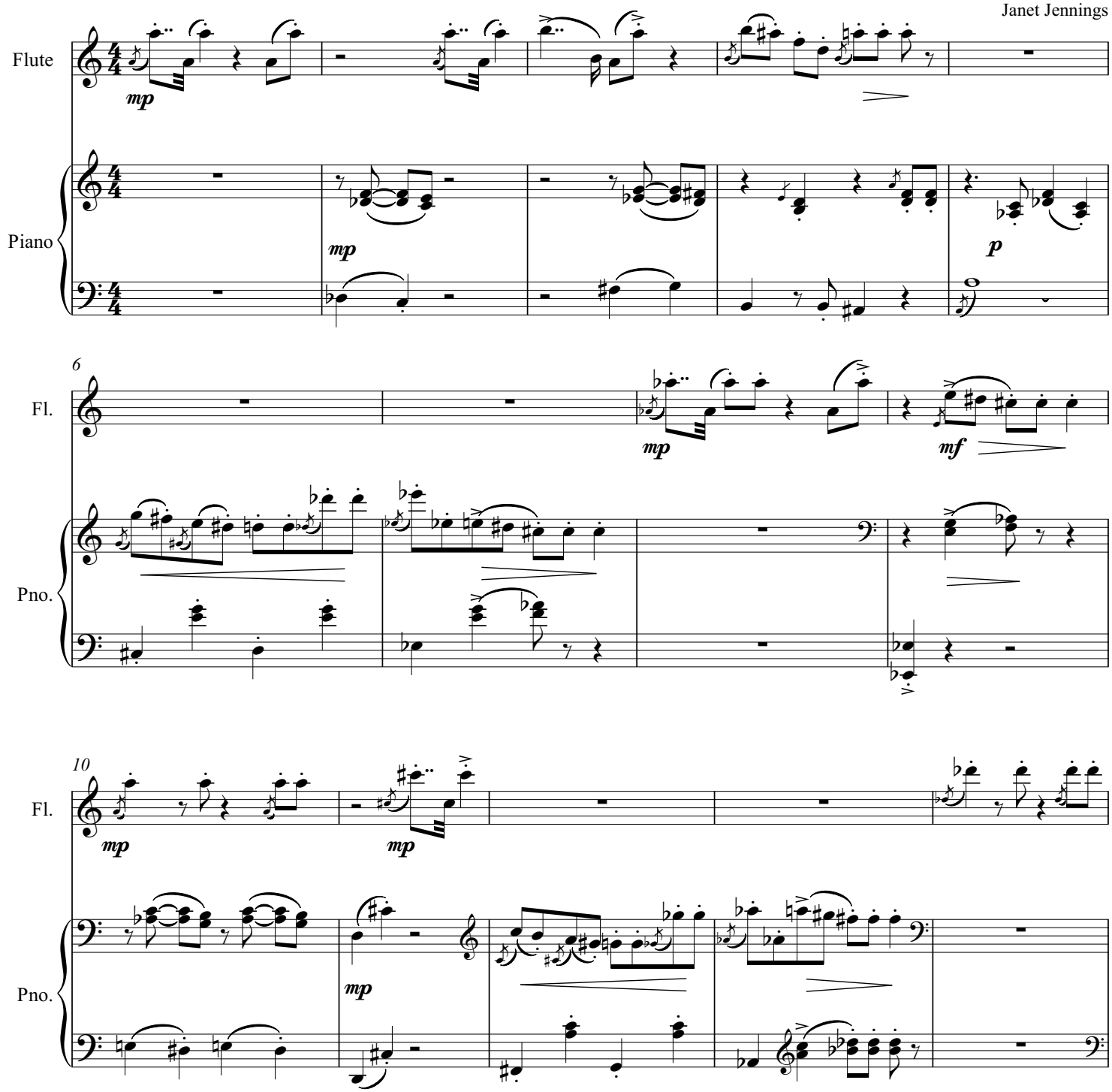
Scene 6: The Lean and Slipper'd Pantaloon

The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side,
His youthful hose well saved, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank; And his big, manly voice,
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound.

Tottering, quavery, but still self-opinionated (♩ = 120)

Janet Jennings



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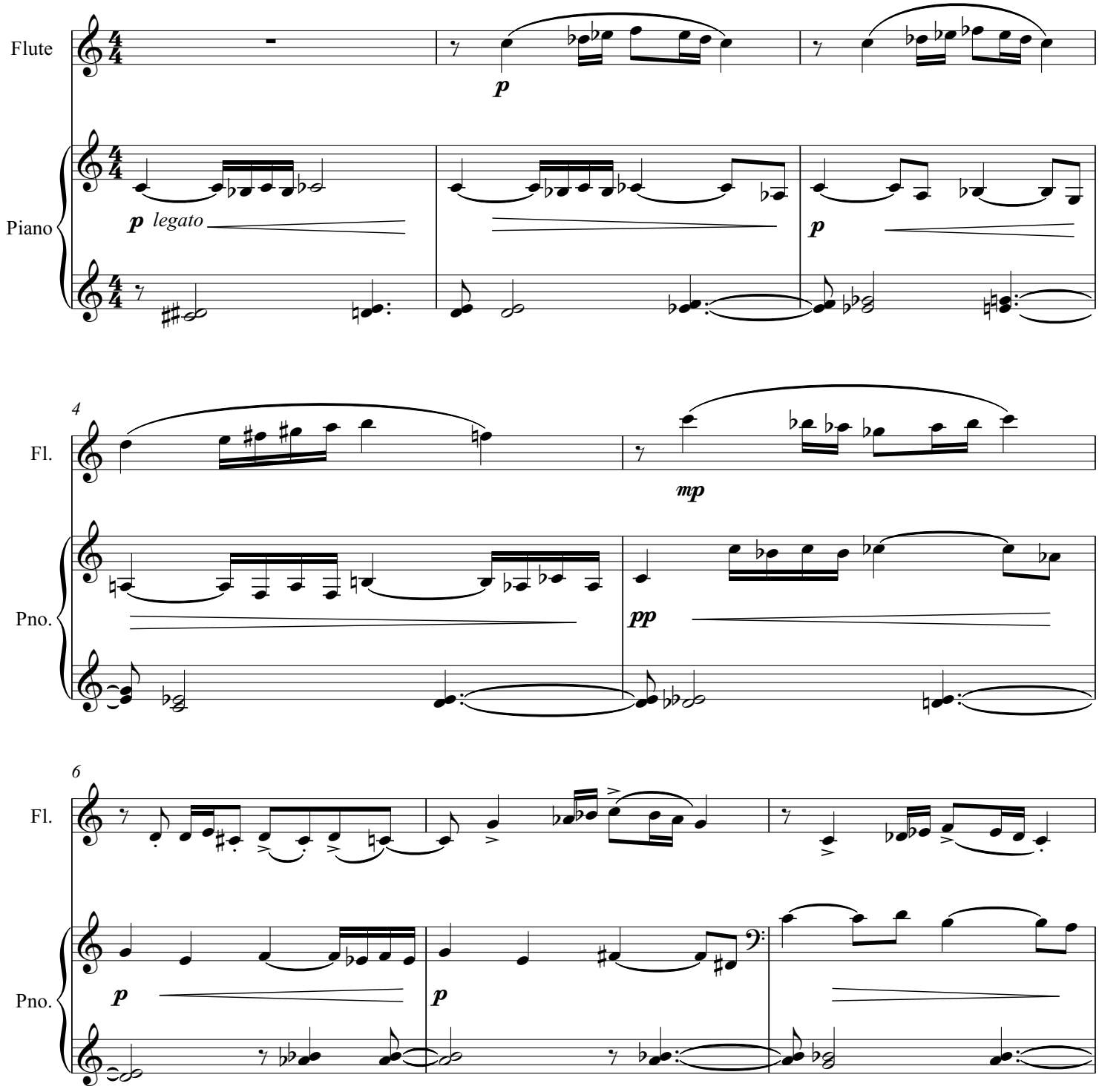
Scene 7: Second Childishness

Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

Janet Jennings

Read the text and use it to interpret the music with all your subtlety and skill (♩ = 40)



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