"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"
Audition Packet

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for "…Spelling Bee" at Central Kentucky Theatre! Whether you are a seasoned thespian or this is your first audition I want to encourage you and let you know you have someone behind the table rooting for your success (hint: it's me!). Please read over the audition guidelines in preparation for your audition. Break a leg!

-Daniel Bannister; Executive Artistic Director,
Director: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Auditions will consist of 3 parts:

- 30 second to 1 minute Comedic Memorized Monologue Perform a monologue that showcases your comedic sensibilities. It can be from anything, I have no preference. I will not have a stopwatch, but it needs to be at least 30 seconds long, no more than a minute "ish"
- Audition Song Cut Choose and Sing a cut for a character you are interested in **from our music packet below**- if you are interested in multiple characters you will be able to note that on your audition form Note: You may be asked to sing the cut from your other listed characters if needed.
- Improv Exercises This show contains lots of improvised comedy moments. We will play some games to get a sense of your comfort improvising. It is a great opportunity to demonstrate your ability to work with direction, with others, and to make strong choices

Audition Logistics:

Auditions will be held at CKT's Performing Arts Academy Studio Dec. 2nd/3rd at 7:00 PM (114 South Dr. Street Springfield, KY) Please arrive prior to 7:00 to sign in and complete the audition form. If you have an acting resume, please bring it with you. You need to only attend 1 night of auditions. Please come with your a schedule ready to give your "conflicts" (dates during the rehearsal process where you have prior engagements/work schedule/anything that we need to take into consideration when creating our rehearsal schedule) Please fill out the audition registration/video submission form on our website prior to your audition if possible (Not filling this out before auditions does not disqualify you - it just saves you a step on the audition night)

Virtual Auditions

If you are unable to attend in person - please submit a video submission by no later than December 3rd at 8pm via the audition registration link on our website. Take your video with a stable setup with adequate lighting. In your video, please tell us your name, age, a little bit about yourself, and perform your monologue and song cut.

Rehearsal Schedule

We aim to begin rehearsals on or around January 4th 2027. Tech week is February 28th - March 4th 2027. Show Dates are March 5/6/7/12/13/14 2027. A rehearsal schedule will be made based on availability that best fits the production's needs - this is why it is very important that you provide your conflicts to the best of your knowledge when registering to audition.

The Following Pages Contain Character descriptions and Audition song selections. If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me via email at daniel.bannister@springfieldky.org

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

The Spellers

(Note: The Spellers are all portrayed by adults playing children)

Olive Ostrovsky: (Female, Age: 11, Vocal Range: Mezzo/Belt B3-F5) A young newcomer to competitive spelling. Her mother is in an ashram in India, and her father is working late, as usual, but he is trying to come sometime during the bee. Having found comfort in its words and vastness, Olive made friends with her dictionary at a very young age, helping her to make it to the competition. She starts off enormously shy, but slowly blossoms. Olive is generous, optimistic and full of love for everyone she meets.

William Barfée: (Male, Age: 12, Vocal Range: Tenor E2-B4) A finalist in last year's Putnam County Spelling Bee, he was eliminated due to an allergic reaction to peanuts and is back for vindication. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has propelled him to spelling glory, despite having only one working nostril and a touchy, bullying personality. Barfée is pompous and determined to win but has a soft heart.

Chip Tolentino: (Male, Age: 13, Vocal Range: Tenor C3-B4) An athletic, social, boy scout and champion of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title but finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment. Chip is practical and resourceful but can be easily distracted—often at the worst times.

Logainne "Schwartzy" SchwartzandGrubenniere: (Female, Age: 10, Vocal Range: Mezzo/Belt A3-F5) Logainne is the youngest and most politically aware speller, frequently making comments about current political figures. She is driven by both internal and external pressure, but above all, by her desire to win and make her two fathers proud. A bit of a neat freak, she speaks with a lisp and is determined to return next year. Logainne is enthusiastic, hard-working, and prone to overthinking.

Leaf Coneybear: (Male, Age: 11, Vocal Range: Tenor A2-A4) The second runner-up in his district, Leaf enters the competition on a whim and finds everything about the bee incredibly amusing. He is home-schooled and comes from a large family of former hippies. Leaf has severe Attention Deficit Disorder and often spells words correctly while in a trance. He is imaginative, passionate about spelling, and simply happy to be there.

Marcy Park: (Female, Age: 13, Vocal Range: Mezzo/Belt C4-E5) The ultimate overachiever, Marcy has never been given another option. Coming from a family where excellence is expected, she produces it effortlessly. A parochial school student, she assumes God also expects perfection. Though she sees herself as a bundle of problems, she keeps them to herself. Having moved frequently due to her parents' work, Marcy knows she can outshine the local competition. Her many talents include piano, dance, martial arts, and baton twirling. Marcy is ambitious, intellectual, and determined to win.

The Adults
(Age Ranges are flexible)

Rona Lisa Peretti: (Female, Age: mid 30s, Vocal Range: Mezzo/Belt B3-F5) The number-one realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee champion herself, and the returning moderator, she is a sweet woman who loves children. However, she can be stern when dealing with Vice Principal Panch and his feelings for her. Her unflagging interest in the competition keeps it moving forward. Rona is a warm and loving presence in an otherwise cold, stiff competition. She will also double as Olive's mom.

Mitch Mahoney: (Male Age: flexible, Vocal Range: Tenor E3-A4) The official Comfort Counselor, Mitch is an ex-convict performing his community service with the Bee, handing out juice boxes to losing students. Though he has no idea how to offer comfort, he often wishes he could find a way to make the kids feel better. While Mitch may have a tough exterior, he is soft and kind-hearted underneath. He will also double as Olive's dad.

Douglas Panch: (Male Age: mid 30s to early 40s, Non-singing)
The vice principal, frustrated with his life, finds the drive of the young spellers alien to him. After a five-year absence from the Bee, Panch returns as a judge. There was an "incident" at the Twentieth Annual Bee, but he claims to be in "a better place" now, thanks to a high-fiber diet and Jungian analysis. He is infatuated with Rona Lisa Peretti, though she does not return his affections.

Others/Ensemble: *These roles are traditionally played by the spellers and adults, however all roles are open for consideration to being cast by additional actors who would also double as swings.
Carl Dad: (Gender: Male presenting, Age: 40 - 50, Vocal Range: B2-G5) Schwartzy's main trainer, the more intense and competitive of Schwarzy's fathers.
Dan Dad: (Gender: Male presenting, Age: 40 - 50, Vocal Range: B2-G5) The more laid back and ineffectual of Schwarzy's fathers.
Olive's Dad: (Gender: Male presenting, Age: 40 - 50, Vocal Range: E4-B5) A fantasy version of Olive's dad coming to the bee from work. Doubles as Mitch.
Olive's Mom: (Gender: Female presenting, Age: 40 - 50, Vocal Range: D4-E5) A fantasy version of Olive's mom at her Ashram in India. Doubles as Rona.

Synopsis

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box. A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a delightful hive of comedic genius and a fast-paced audience favorite.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Music Audition Cuts

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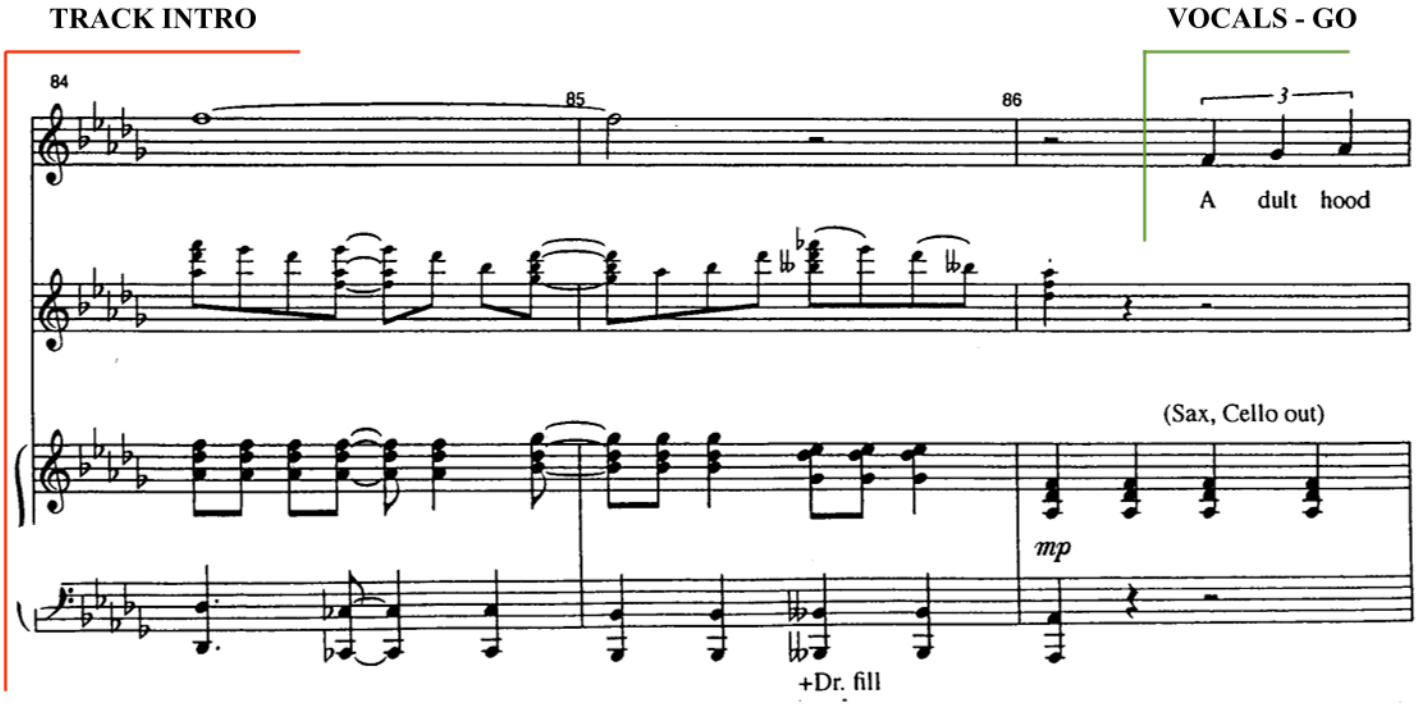
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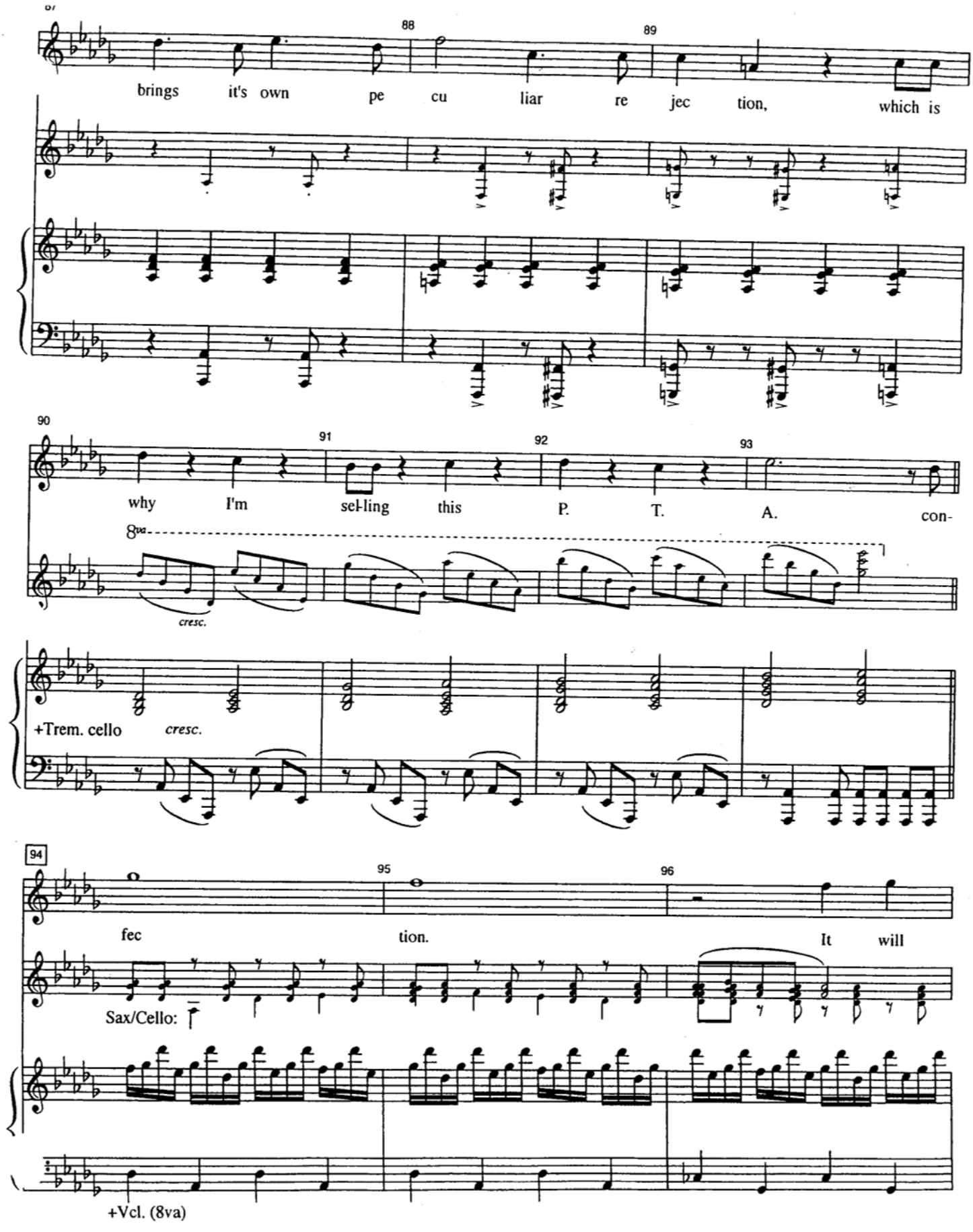
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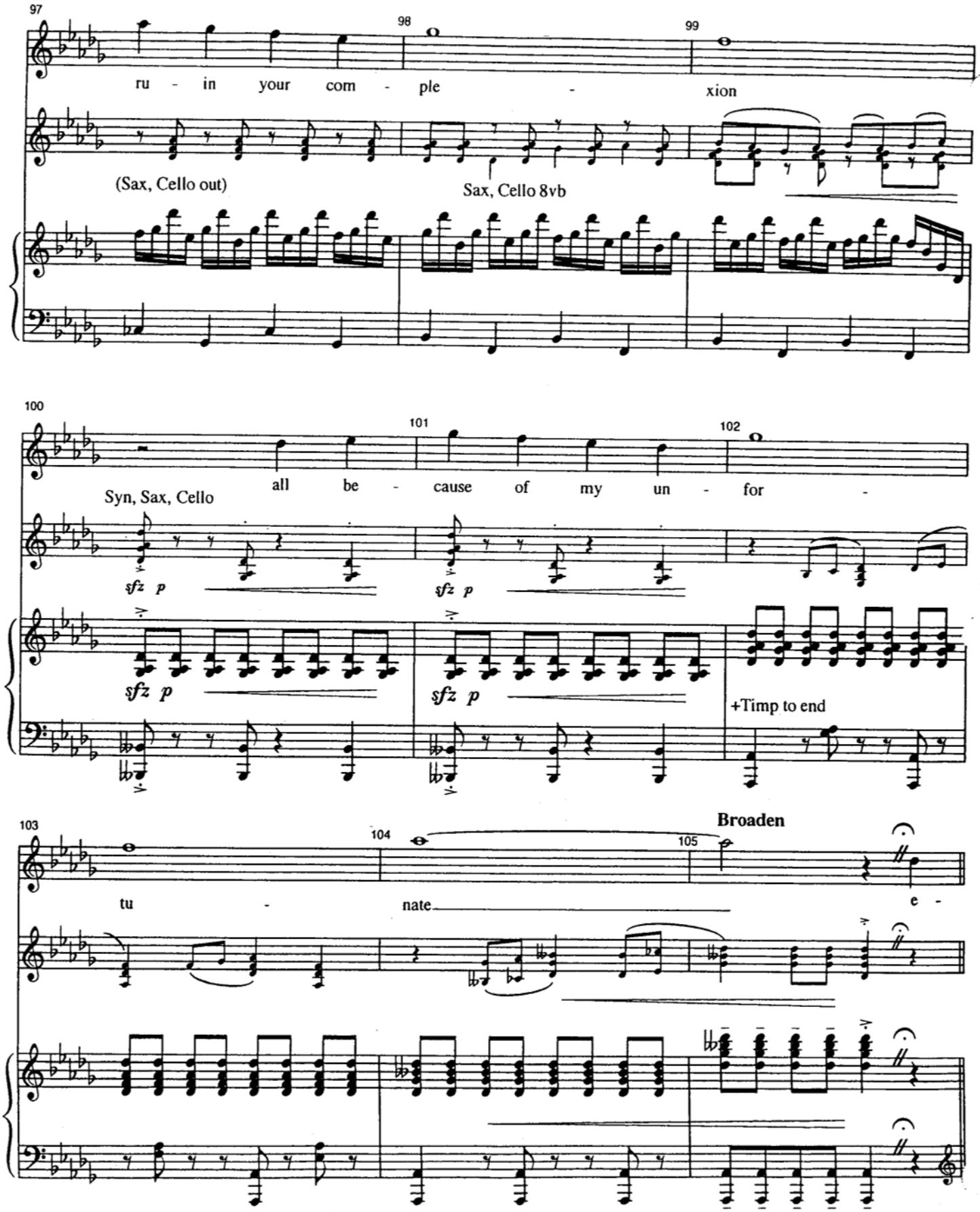
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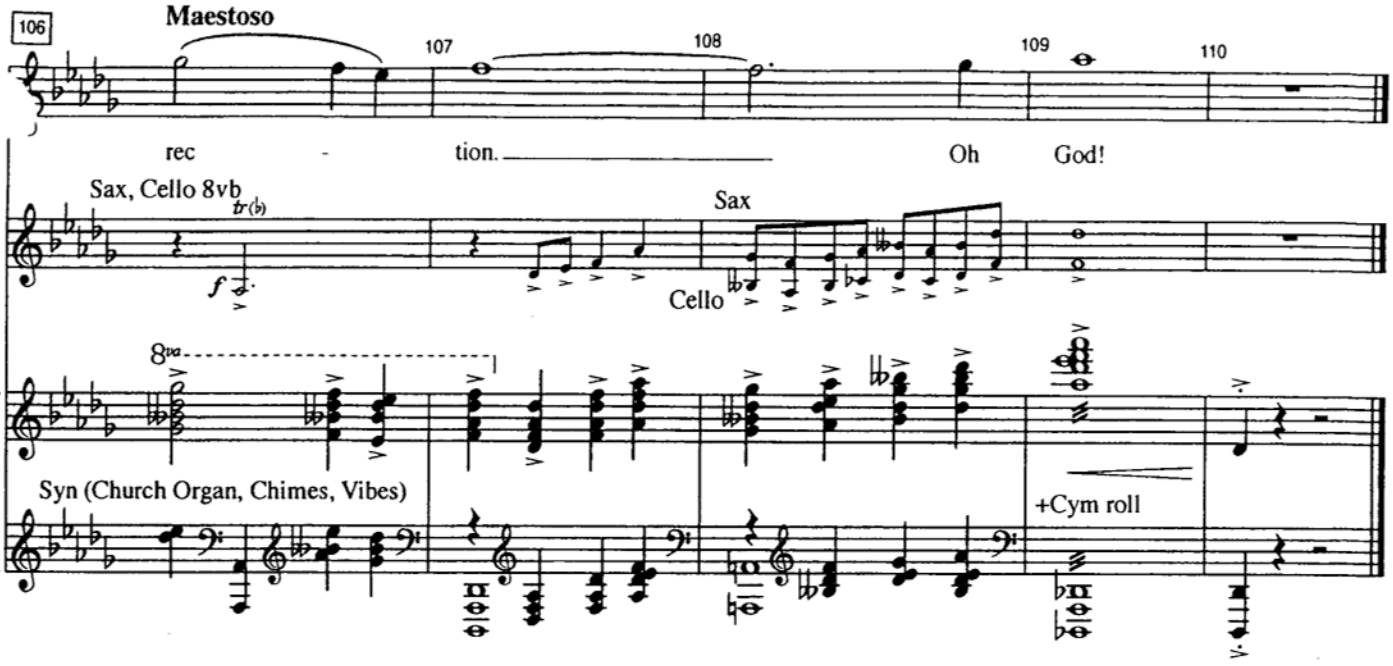
Director: Daniel Bannister, Executive Artistic Director

Chip Audition Cut
“My Unfortunate Erection”



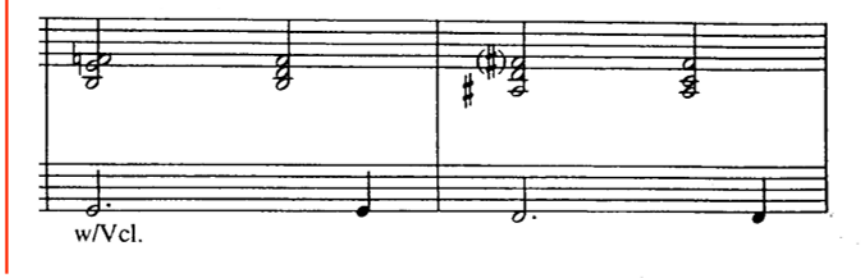

87
88
89
brings it's own pe cu liar re jec tion, which is
90
91
92
93
why I'm sel-ling this P. T. A. con-
8va
cresc.
+Trem. cello
cresc.
94
95
96
fec tion. It will
Sax/Cello:
+Vcl. (8va)
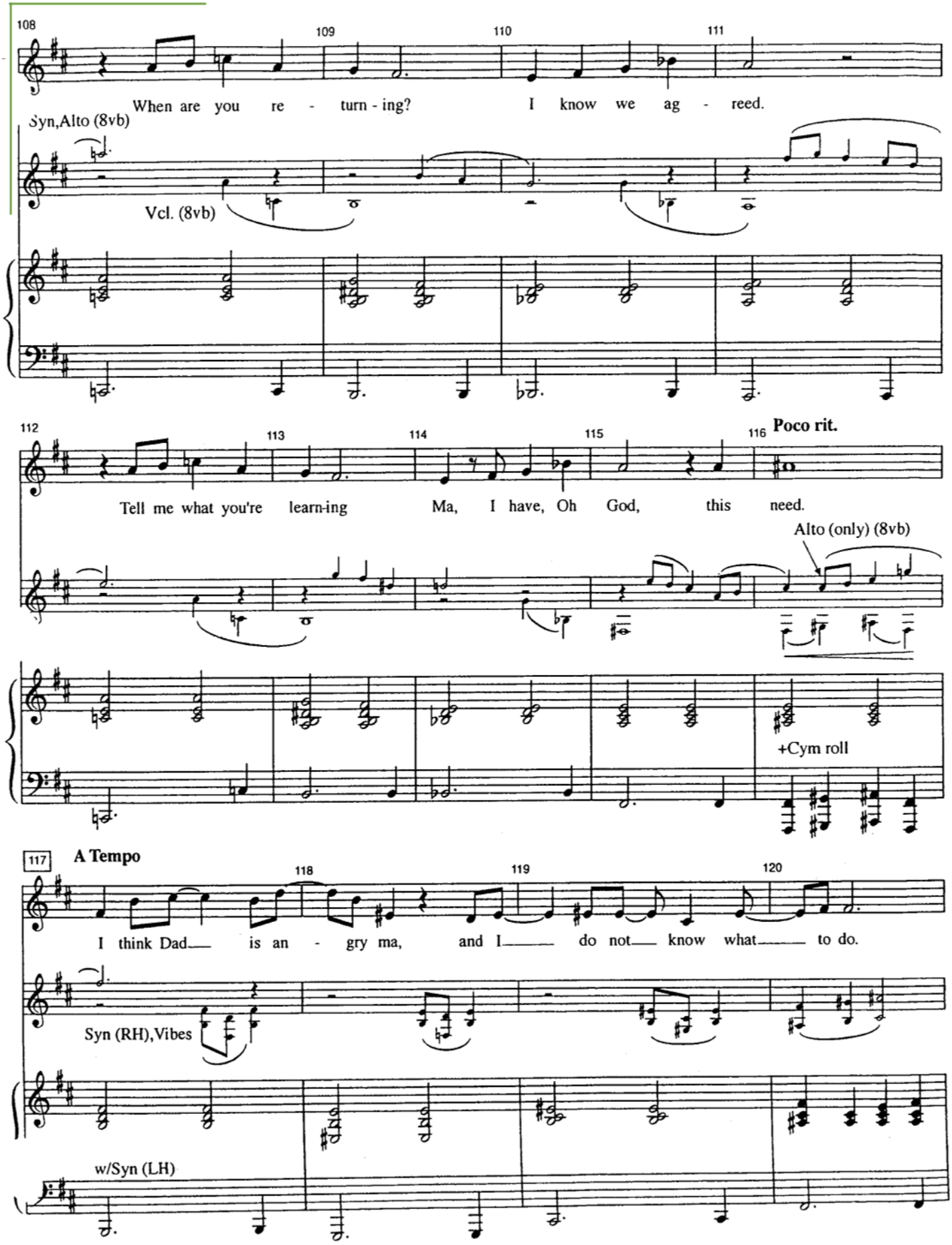

97
98
99
ru - in your com - ple - xion
(Sax, Cello out)
Sax, Cello 8vb
100
101
102
all be - cause of my un - for -
Syn, Sax, Cello
sfz p
sfz p
sfz p
sfz p
+Timp to end
103
104
105
Broaden
tu - nate
e -
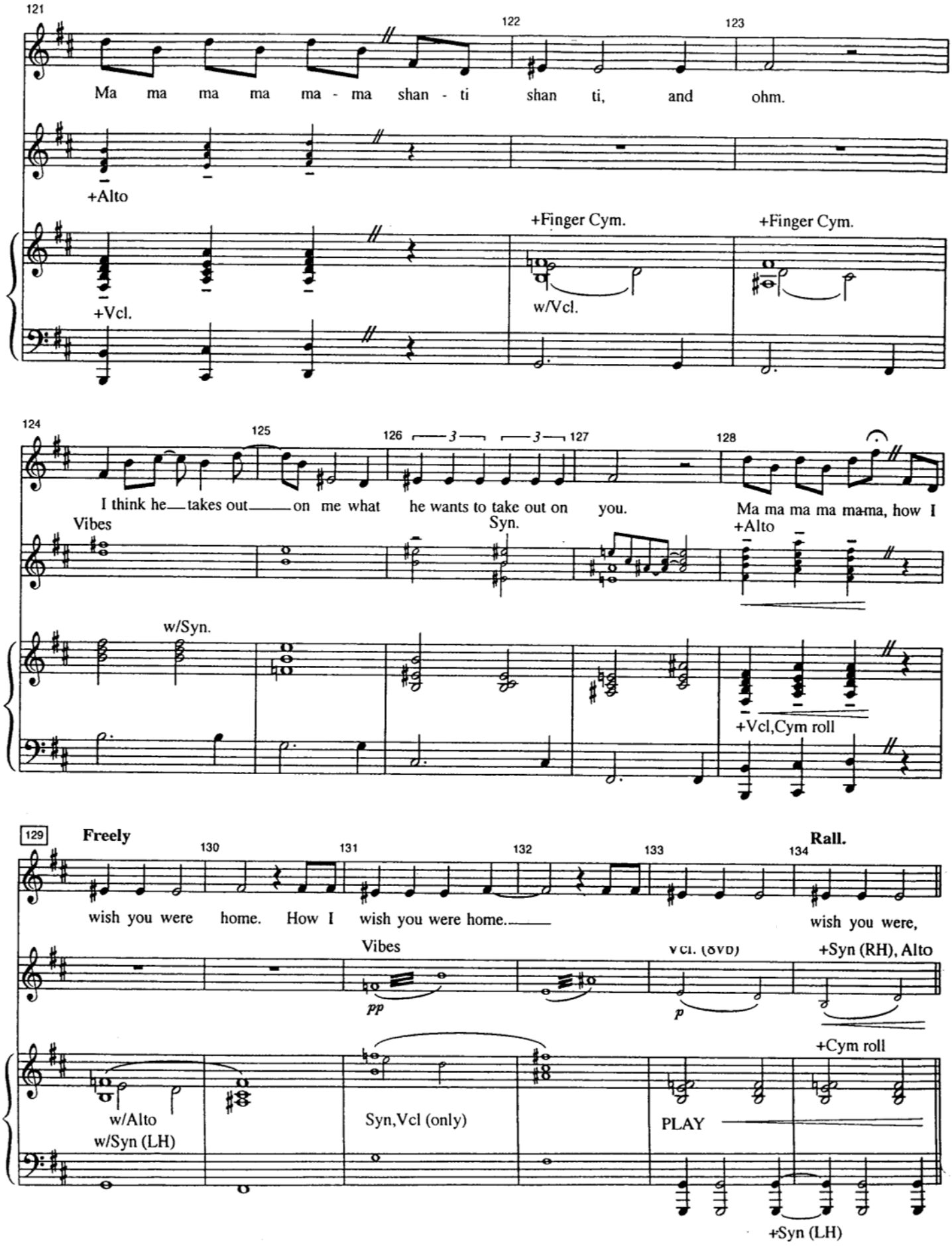

106
Maestoso
107
108
109
110
rec - tion. Oh God!
Sax, Cello 8vb
Sax
Cello
8va
Syn (Church Organ, Chimes, Vibes)
+Cym roll

Olive Audition Cut
“The I Love You Song”

TRACK INTRO

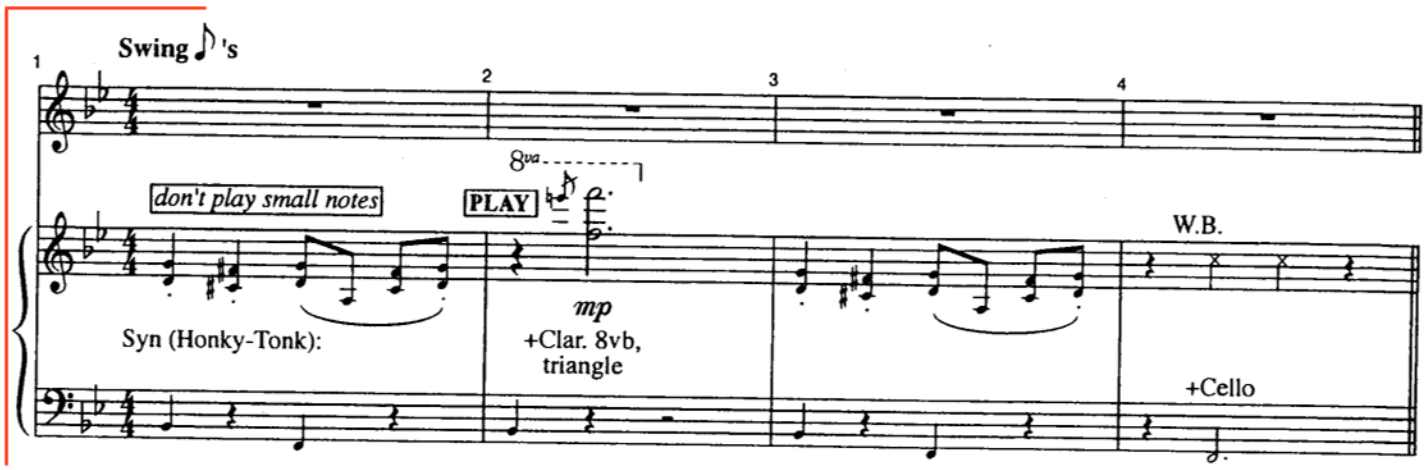



108
109
110
111
When are you re - turn - ing?
I know we ag - reed.
Syn,Alto (8vb)
Vcl. (8vb)
112
113
114
115
116
Poco rit.
Tell me what you're learn-ing
Ma, I have, Oh God, this need.
Alto (only) (8vb)
+Cym roll
117
A Tempo
118
119
120
I think Dad is an - gry ma, and I do not know what to do.
Syn (RH),Vibes
w/Syn (LH)

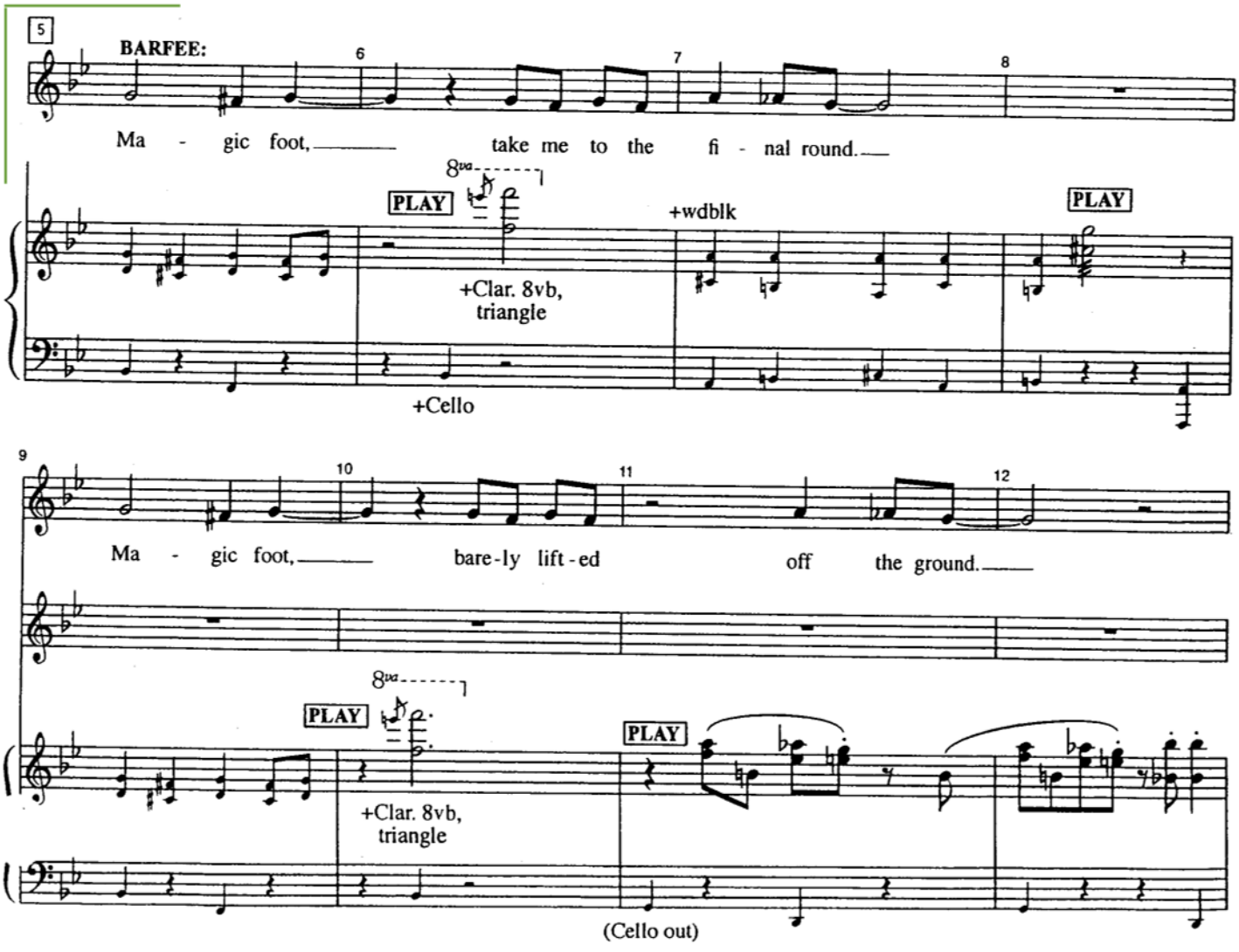

121
122
123
Ma ma ma ma ma - ma shan - ti shan ti, and ohm.
+Alto
+Finger Cym.
+Finger Cym.
+Vcl.
w/Vcl.
124
125
126
127
128
I think he takes out on me what he wants to take out on you.
Ma ma ma ma ma-ma, how I
Vibes
Syn.
+Alto
w/Syn.
+Vcl,Cym roll
129
Freely
130
131
132
133
134
Rall.
wish you were home. How I wish you were home.
wish you were,
Vibes
Vcl. (8vb)
+Syn (RH), Alto
pp
p
+Cym roll
w/Alto
w/Syn (LH)
Syn,Vcl (only)
PLAY
+Syn (LH)
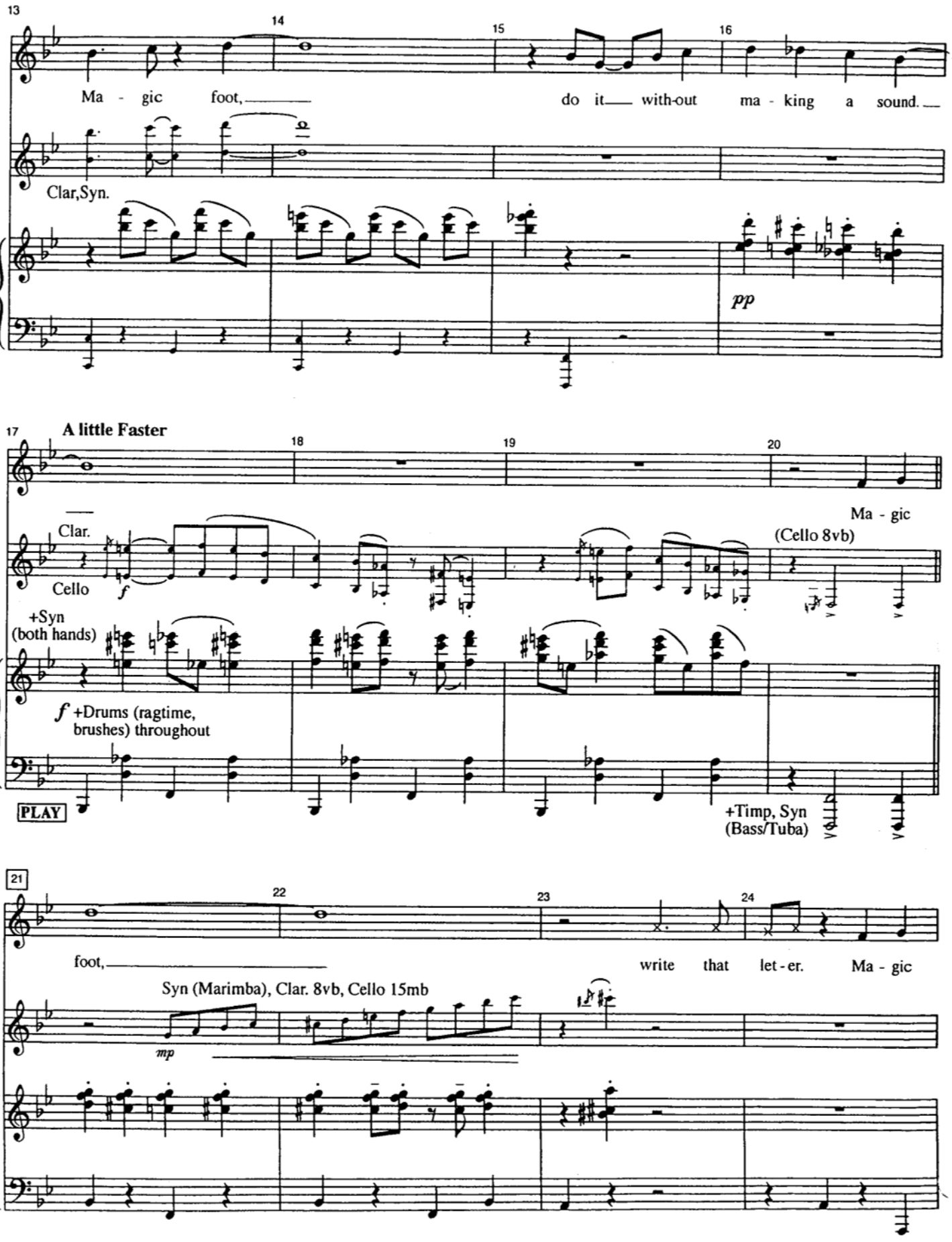
Barfee Audition Cut
"Magic Foot"
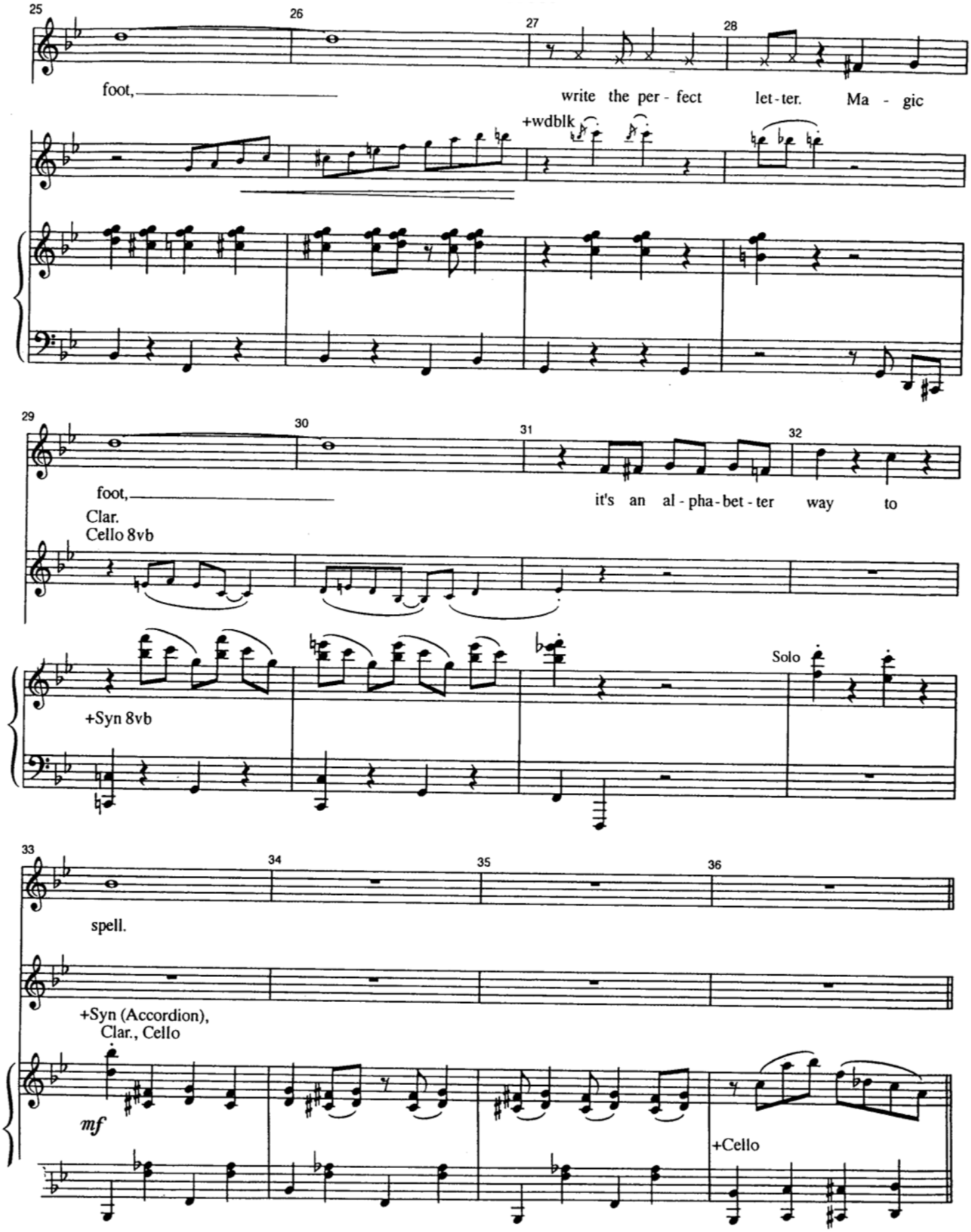
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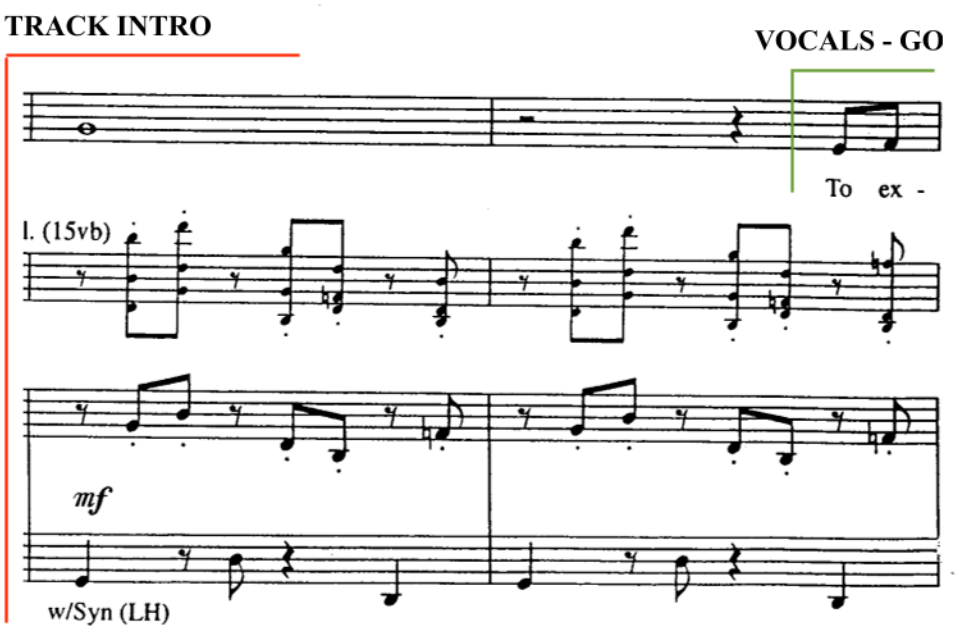


VOCALS - GO
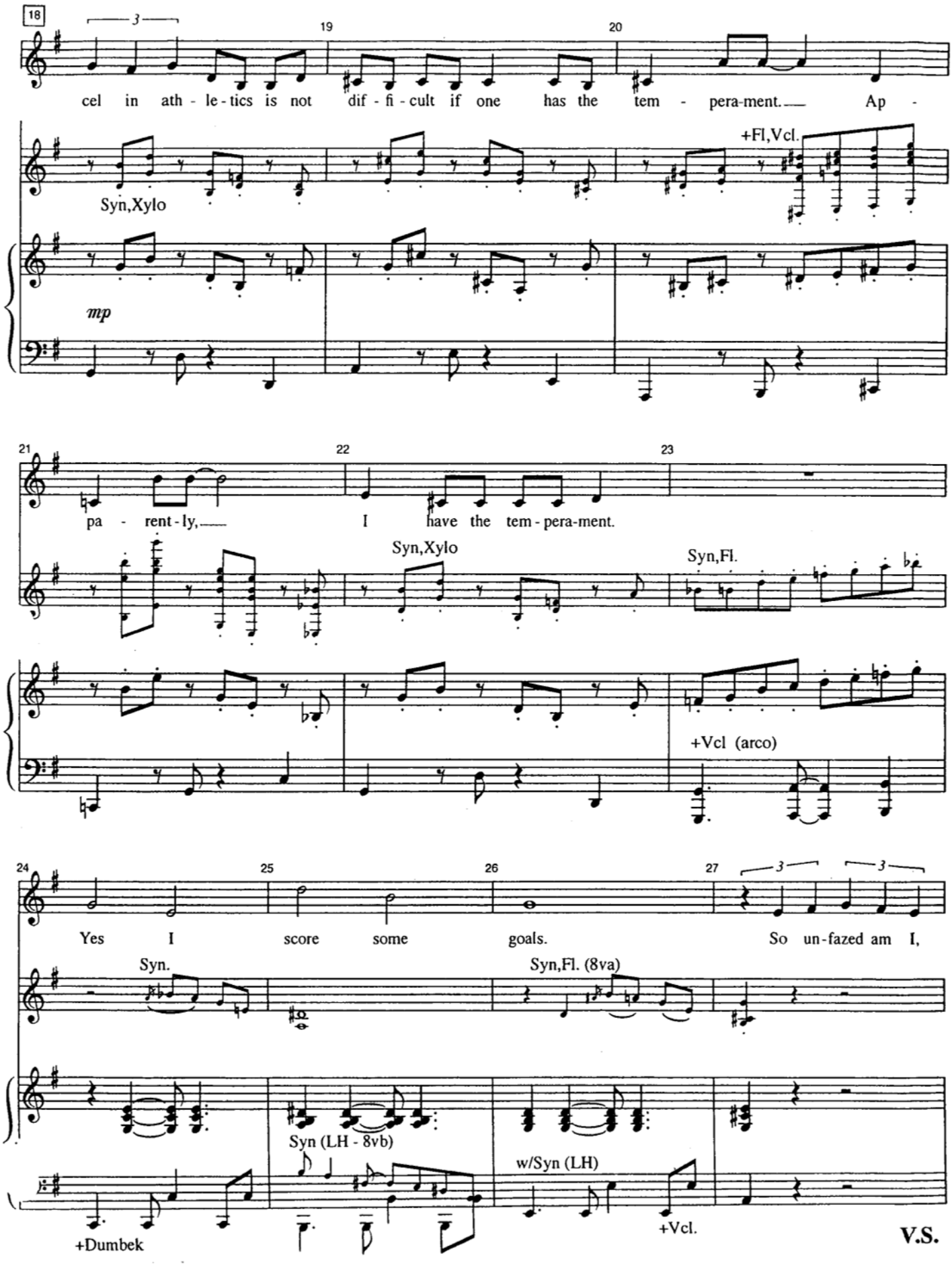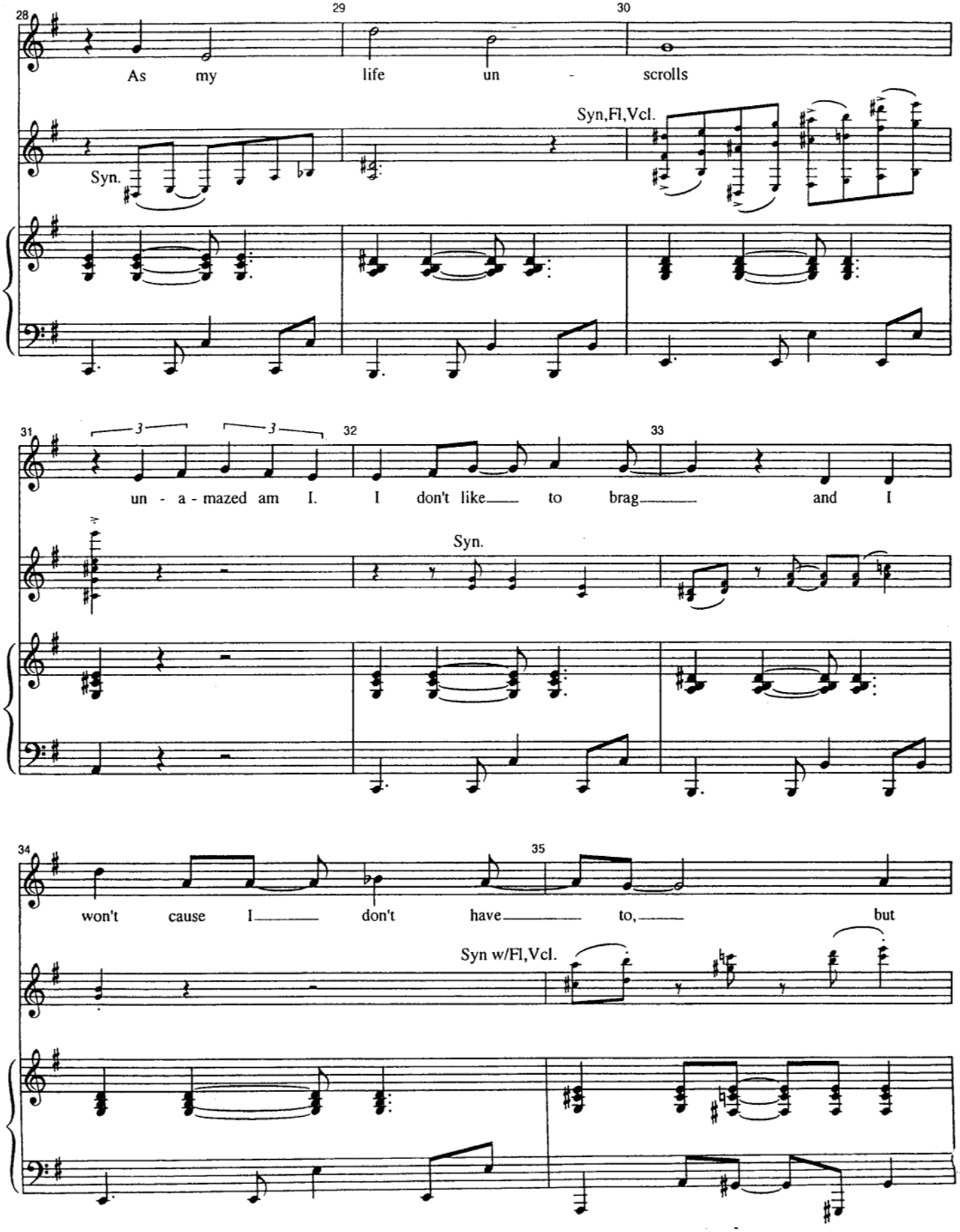



13
14
15
16
Ma - gic foot,
do it with-out ma - king a sound.
Clar,Syn.
pp
17
A little Faster
18
19
20
Ma - gic
Clar.
(Cello 8vb)
Cello
f
+Syn
(both hands)
f +Drums (ragtime,
brushes) throughout
PLAY
+Timp, Syn
(Bass/Tuba)
21
22
23
24
foot,
write that let - er. Ma - gic
Syn (Marimba), Clar. 8vb, Cello 15mb
mp
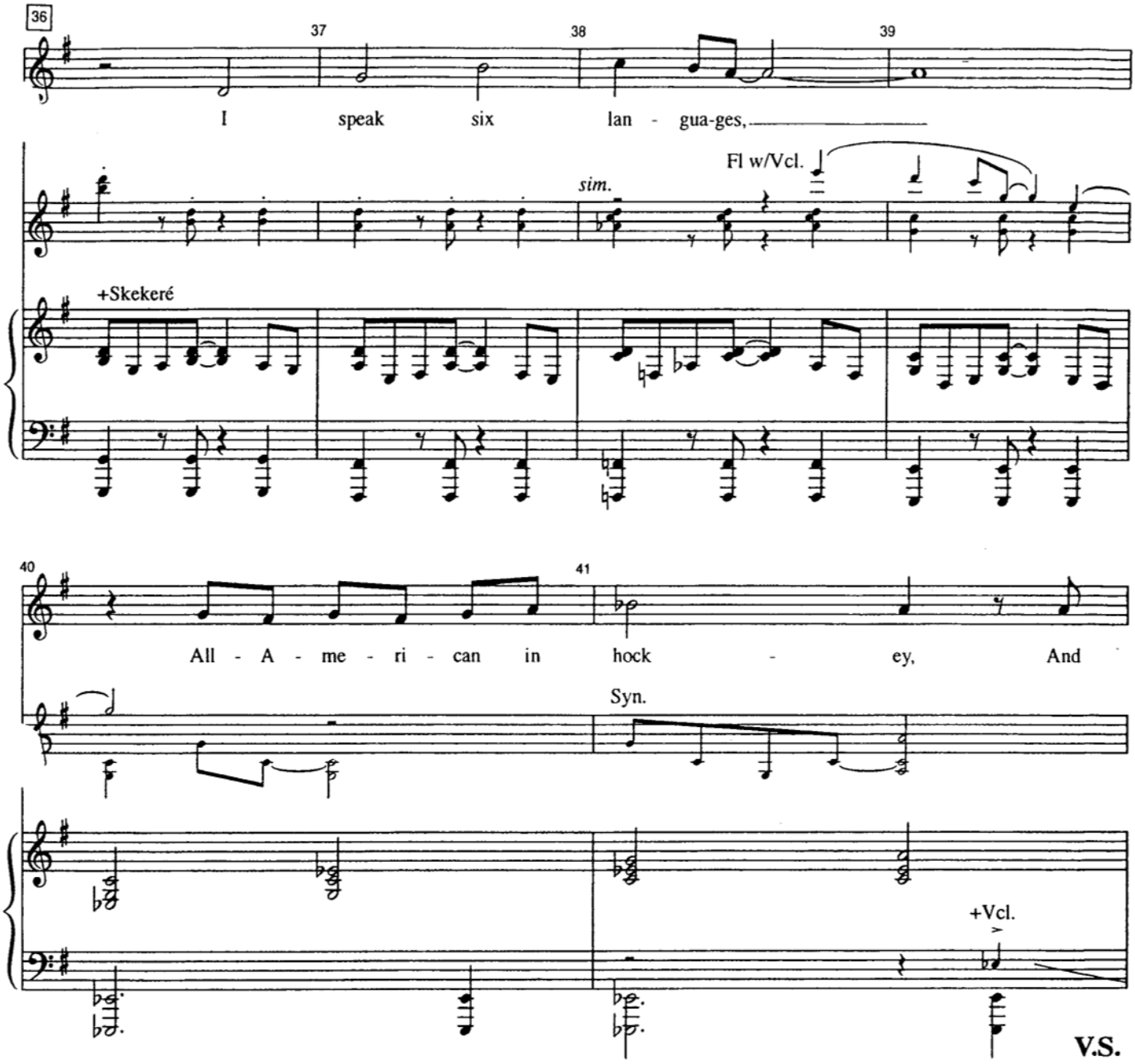

25
26
27
28
foot,
write the per - fect let - ter. Ma - gic
+wdblk
29
30
31
32
foot,
it's an al - pha - bet - ter way to
Clar.
Cello 8vb
+Syn 8vb
Solo
33
34
35
36
spell.
+Syn (Accordion),
Clar., Cello
mf
+Cello
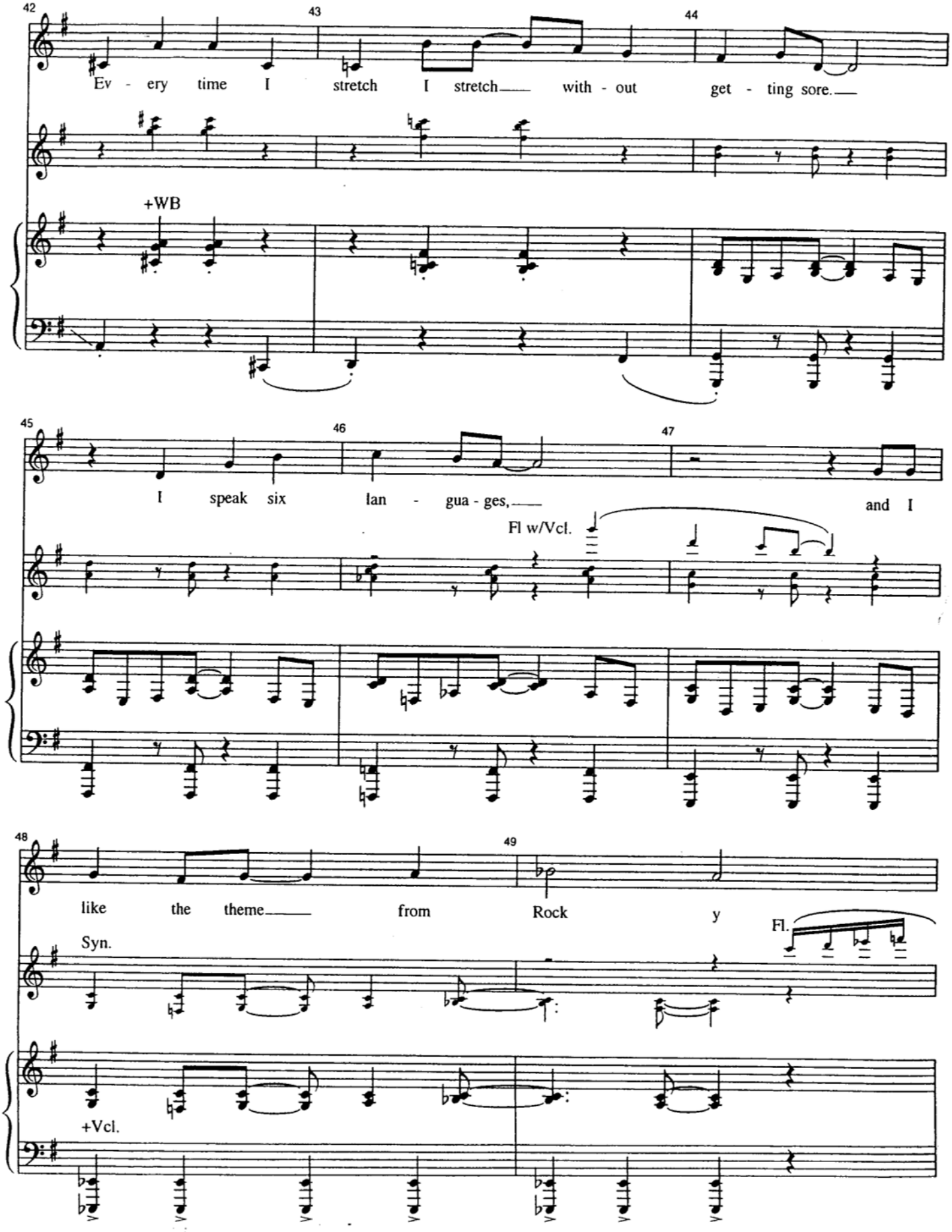
Marcy Audition Cut
“I Speak Six Languages”

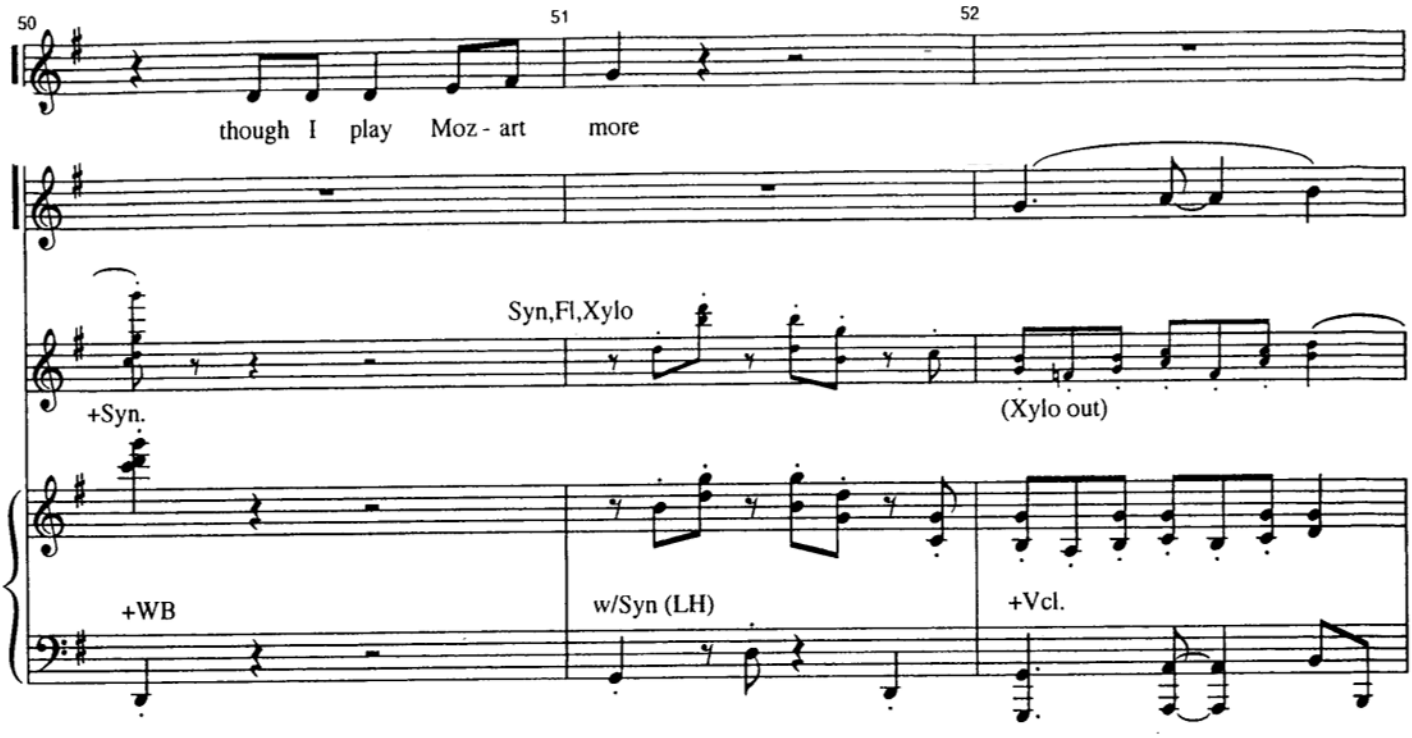



18
19
20
cel in ath - le - tics is not dif - fi - cult if one has the tem - pera-ment. Ap -
Syn,Xylo
+Fl,Vcl.
mp
21
22
23
pa - rent - ly, I have the tem - pera-ment.
Syn,Xylo
Syn,Fl.
+Vcl (arco)
24
25
26
27
Yes I score some goals. So un-fazed am I,
Syn.
Syn,Fl. (8va)
Syn (LH - 8vb)
w/Syn (LH)
+Dumbek
+Vcl.
V.S.
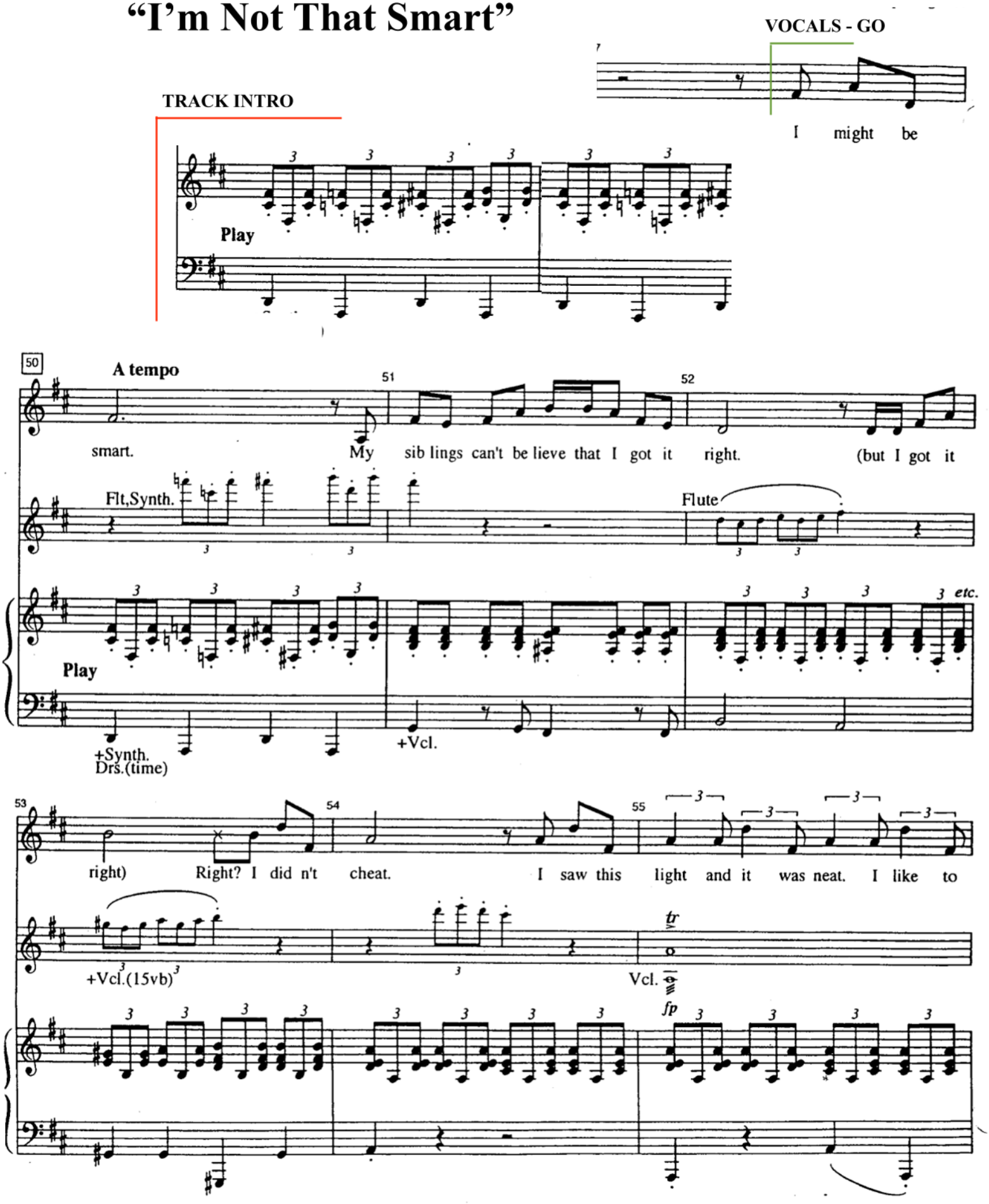

28
29
30
As my life un - scrolls
Syn.
Syn,Fl,Vcl.
31
32
33
un - a - mazed am I. I don't like to brag and I
Syn.
34
35
won't cause I don't have to, but
Syn w/Fl,Vcl.
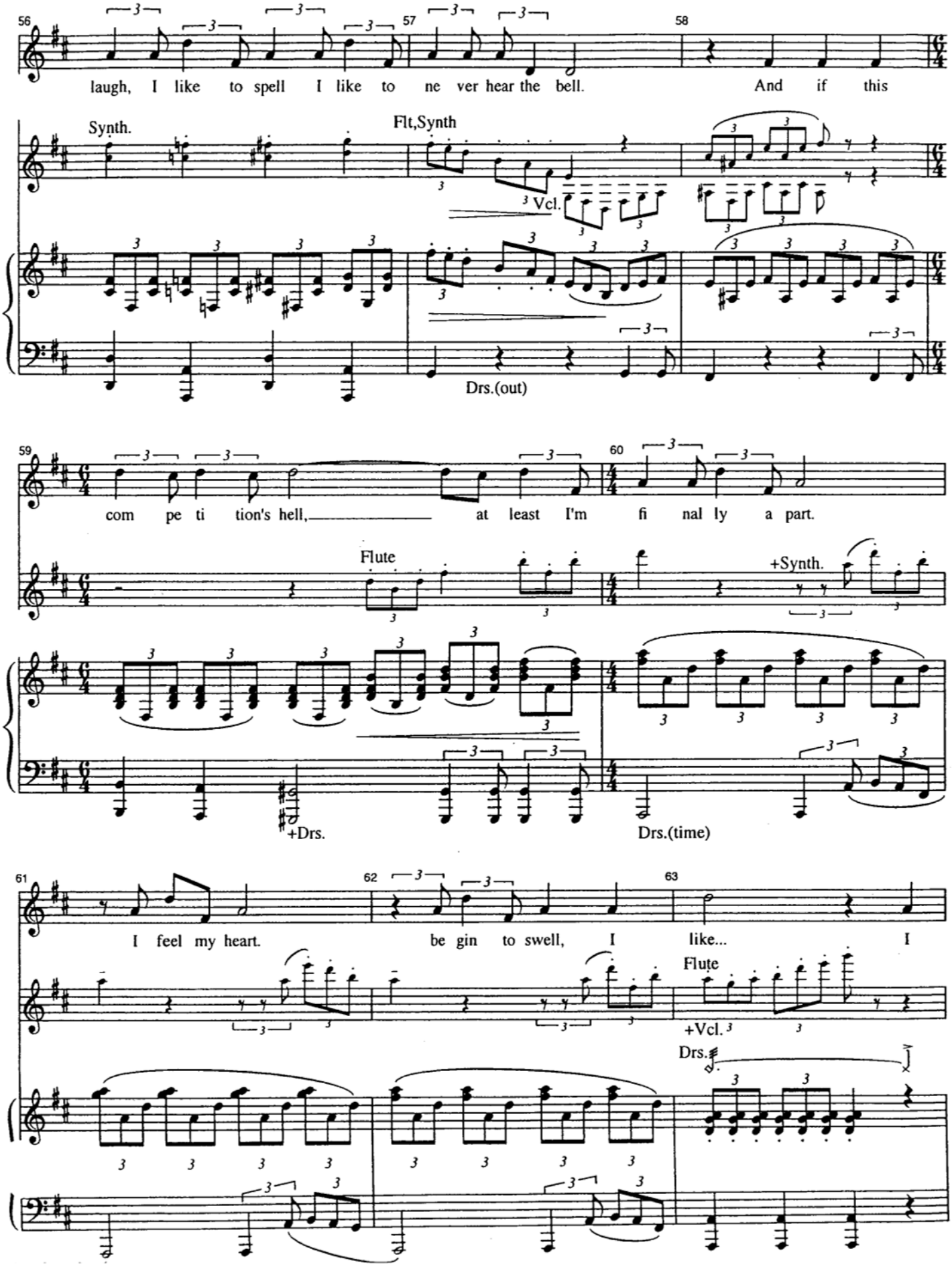

36
37
38
39
I speak six lan - gua-ges,
Fl w/Vcl.
sim.
+Skekeré
40
41
All - A - me - ri - can in hock - ey, And
Syn.
+Vcl.
V.S.
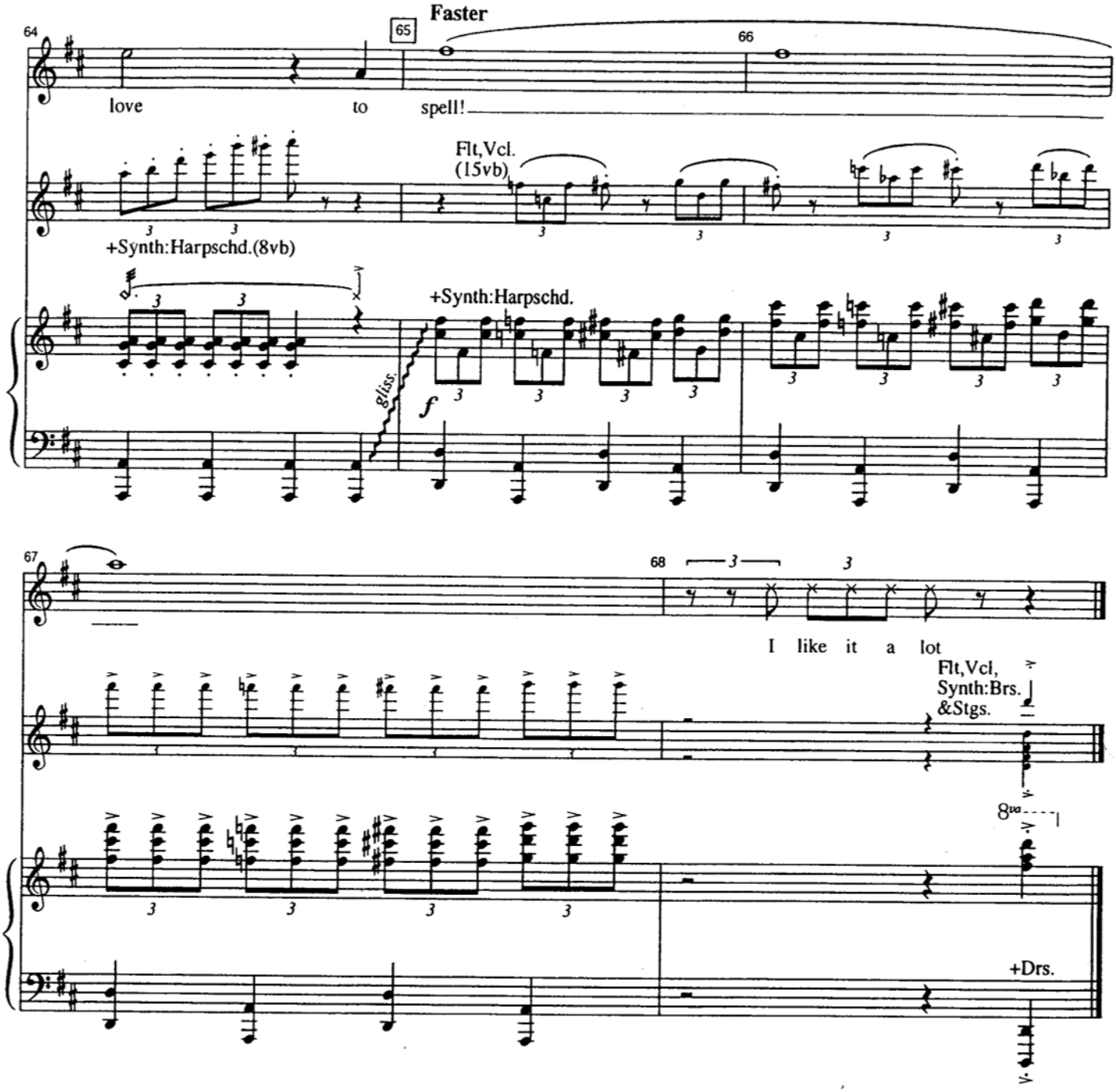

42
43
44
Ev - ery time I stretch I stretch with - out get - ting sore.
+WB
45
46
47
I speak six lan - gua - ges, and I
Fl w/Vcl.
48
49
like the theme from Rock y
Fl.
Syn.
+Vcl.


50
51
52
though I play Moz - art more
Syn,Fl,Xylo
+Syn.
(Xylo out)
+WB
w/Syn (LH)
+Vcl.

Leaf Audition Cut
"I'm Not That Smart"
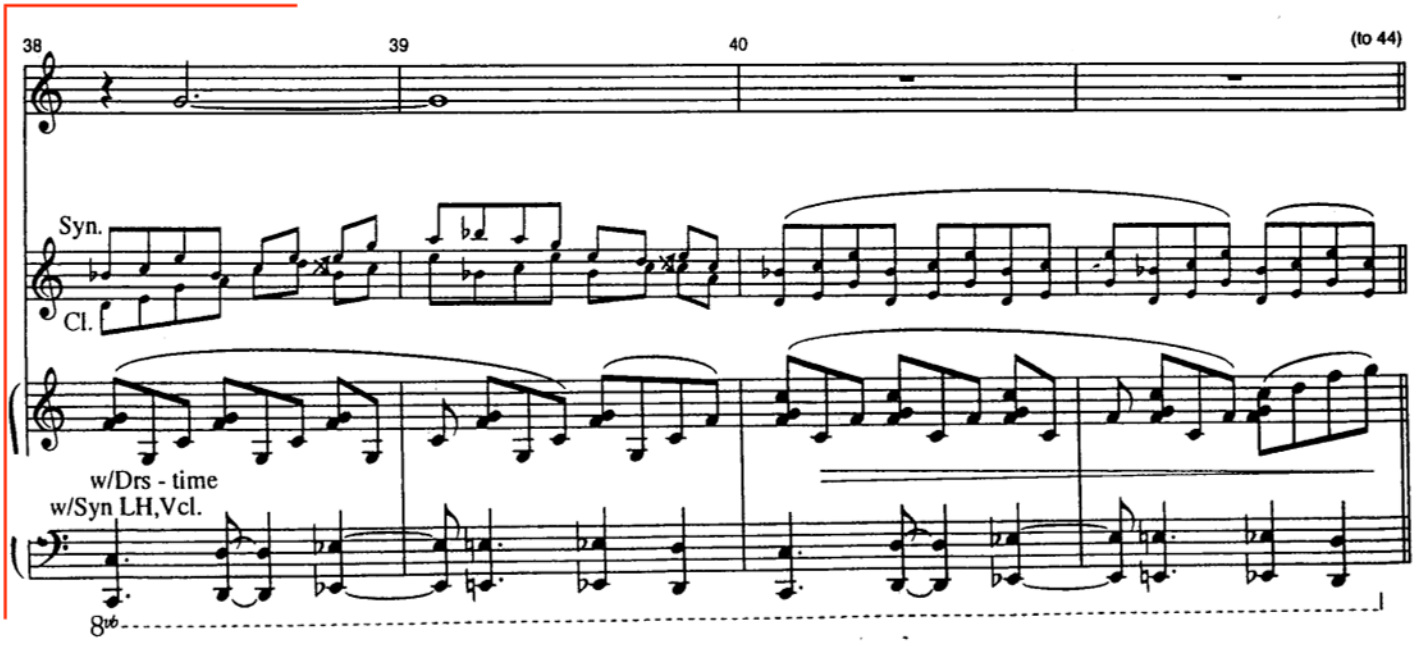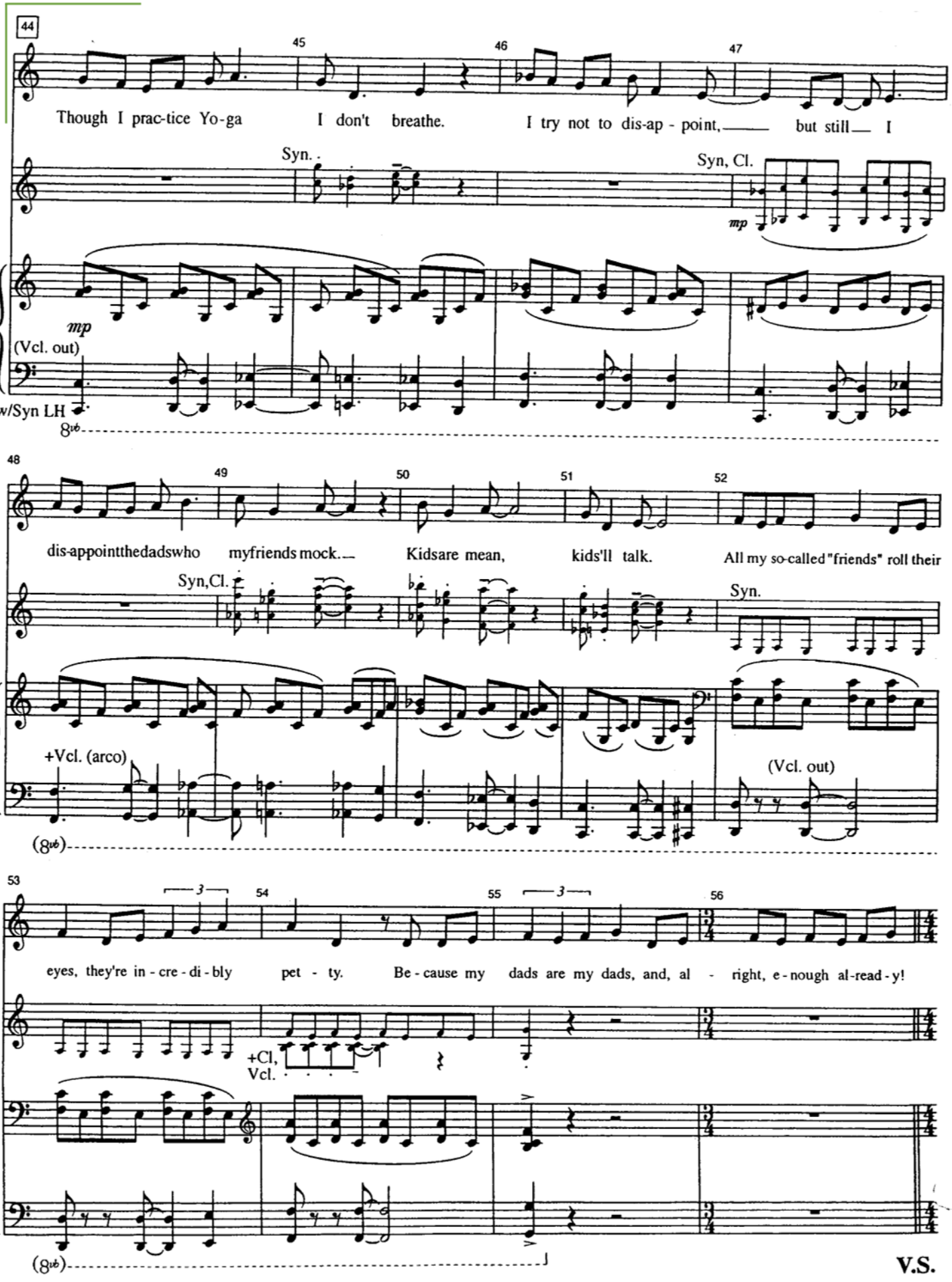



56
laugh, I like to spell I like to
57
ne ver hear the bell.
58
And if this
Synth.
Flt,Synth
Vcl.
Drs.(out)
59
com pe ti tion's hell,
at least I'm fi nal ly a part.
60
Flute
+Synth.
+Drs.
Drs.(time)
61
I feel my heart.
62
be gin to swell, I
63
like... I
Flute
+Vcl.
Drs.
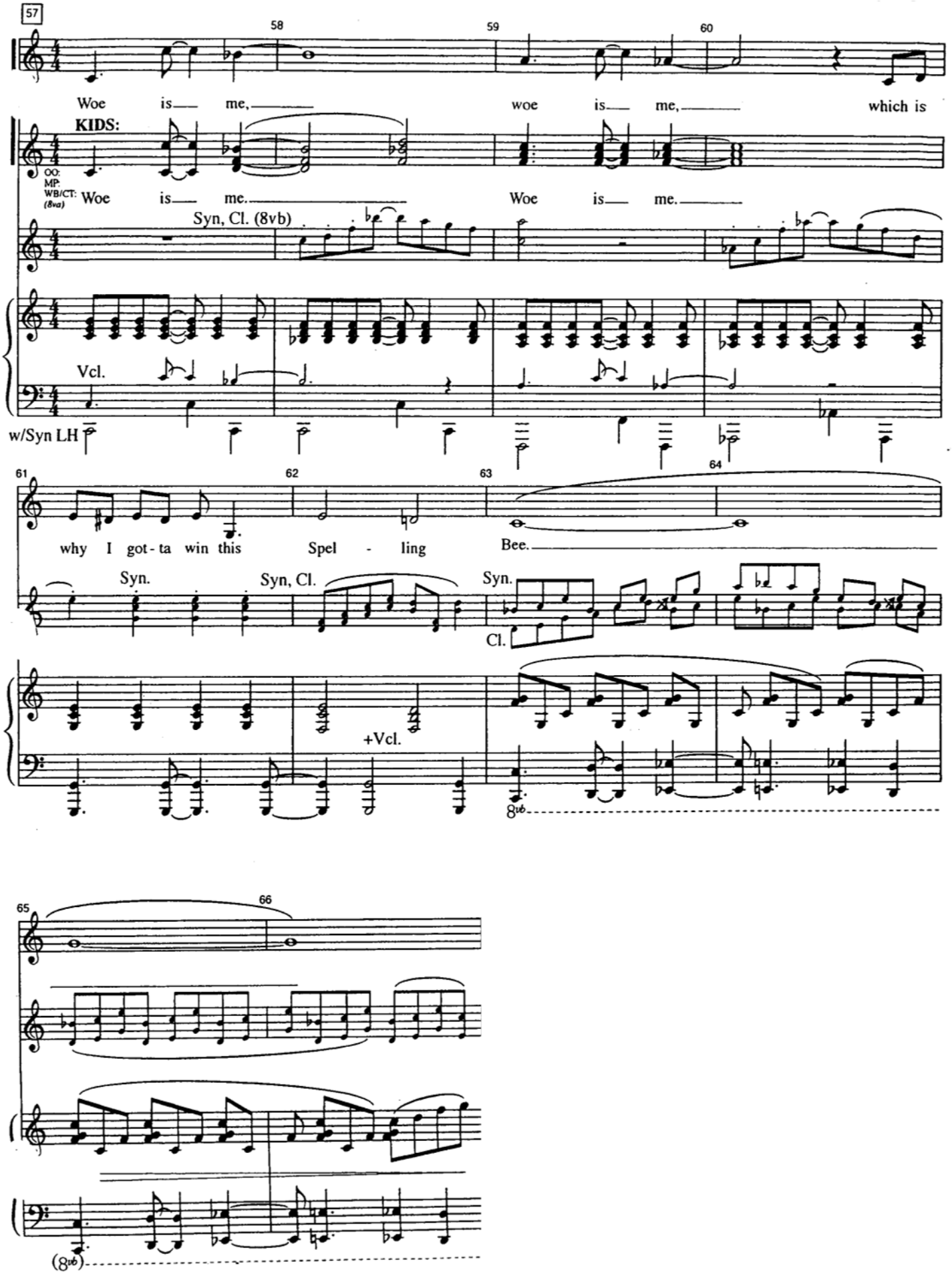

Faster
64
65
66
love to spell!
Flt,Vcl.
(15vb)
+Synth:Harpschd.(8vb)
+Synth:Harpschd.
gliss.
f
67
68
I like it a lot
Flt,Vcl,
Synth:Brs.
&Stgs.
8va
+Drs.

Schwartzy Audition Cut
“Woe is Me”
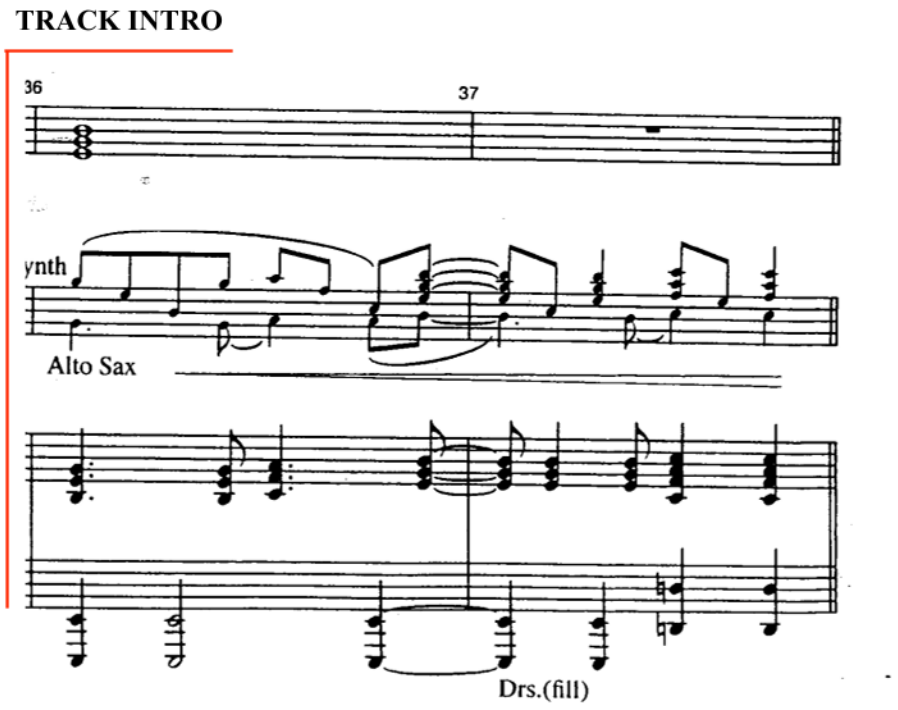
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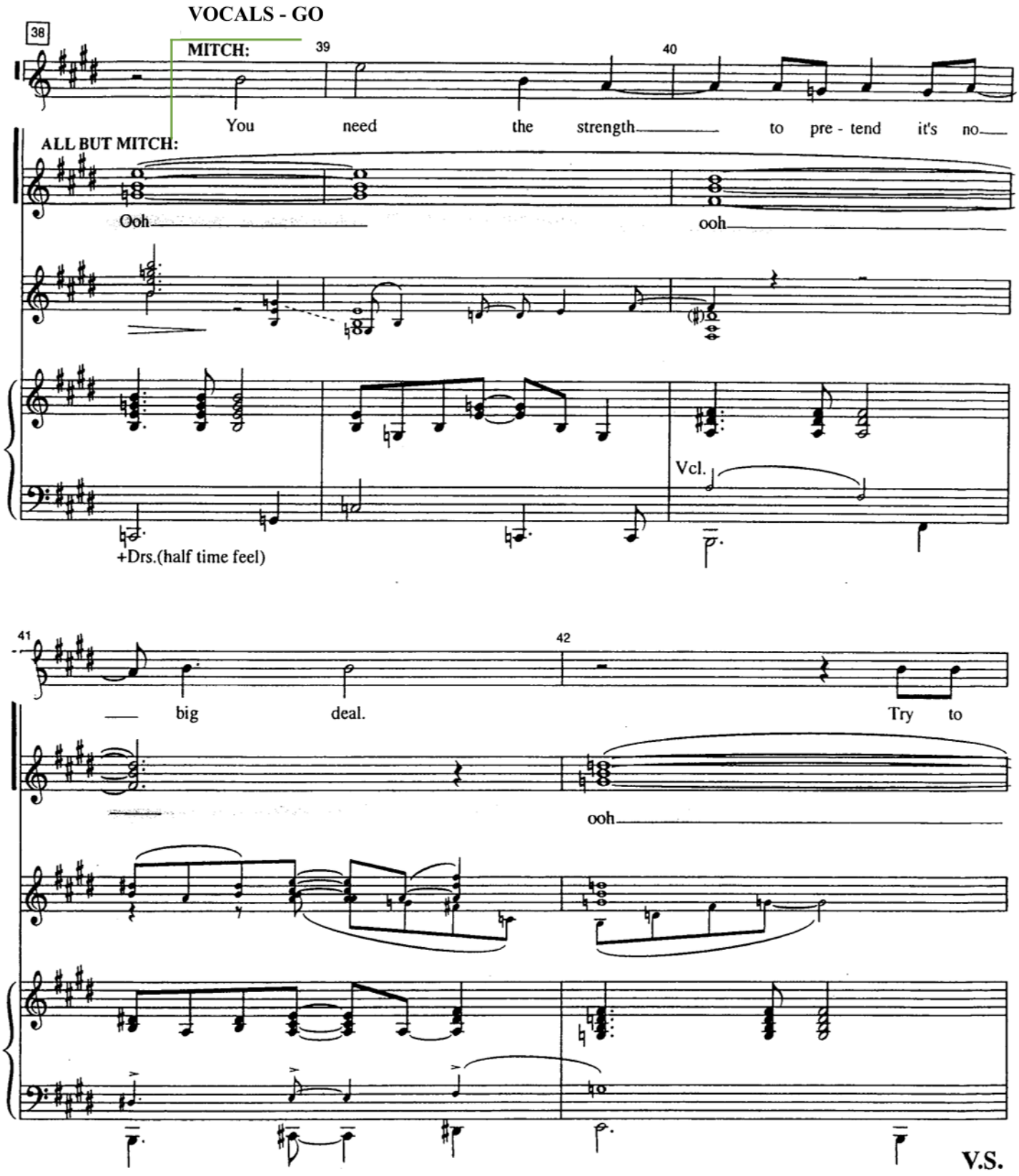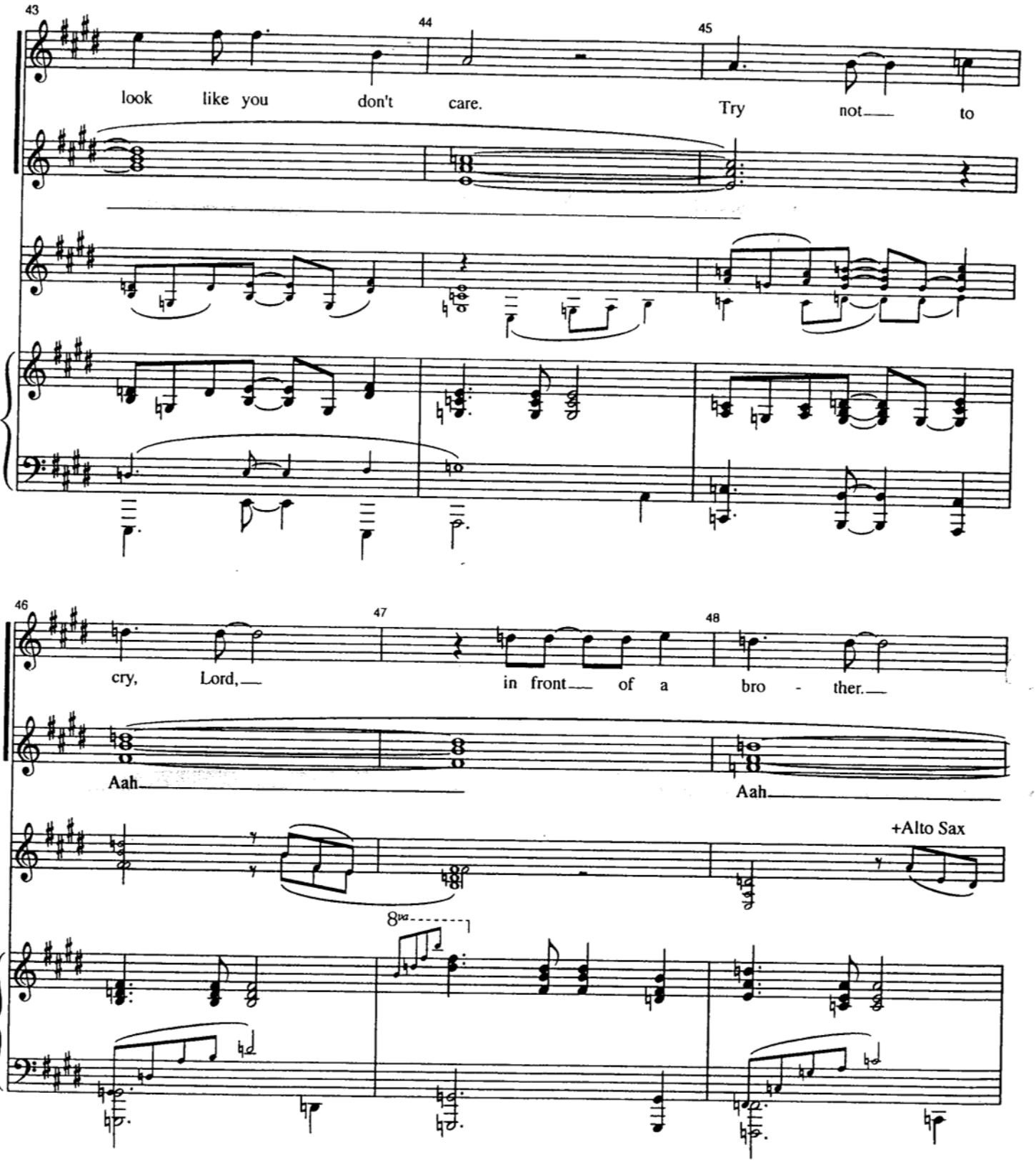



44
45
46
47
Though I prac-tice Yo-ga I don't breathe. I try not to dis-ap - point, but still I
Syn.
Syn, Cl.
mp
mp
(Vcl. out)
w/Syn LH
8vb
48
49
50
51
52
dis-appointthedadswho myfriends mock. Kidsare mean, kids'll talk. All my so-called "friends" roll their
Syn,Cl.
Syn.
+Vcl. (arco)
(Vcl. out)
(8vb)
53
54
55
56
3
3
eyes, they're in - cre - di - bly pet - ty. Be - cause my dads are my dads, and, al - right, e - nough al-read - y!
+Cl, Vcl.
(8vb)
V.S.
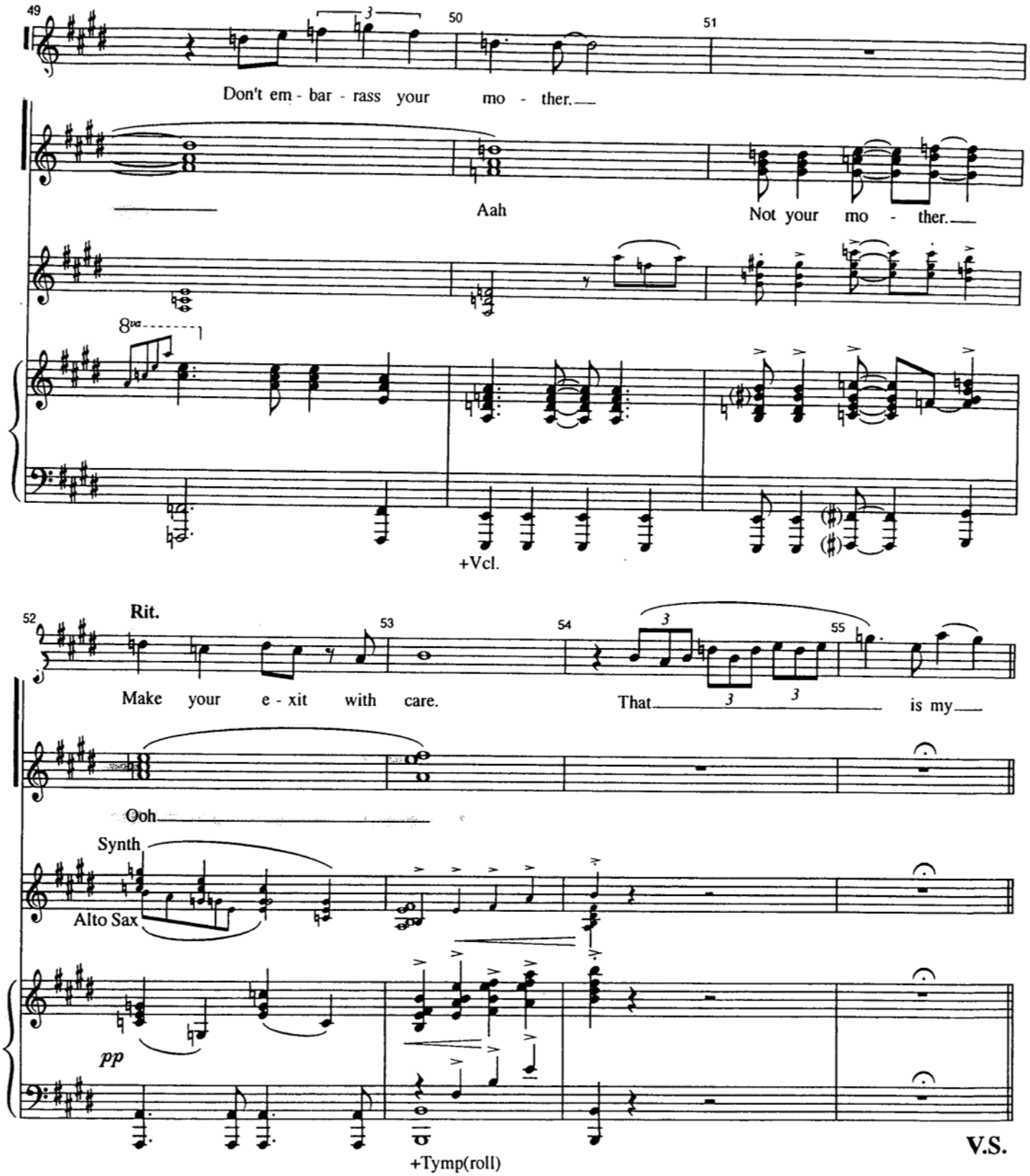

57
58
59
60
Woe is me, woe is me, which is
KIDS:
OO:
MP:
WB/CT:
(8va)
Woe is me. Woe is me.
Syn, Cl. (8vb)
Vcl.
w/Syn LH
61
62
63
64
why I got-ta win this Spel - ling Bee.
Syn.
Syn, Cl.
Syn.
Cl.
+Vcl.
8vb
65
66
(8vb)
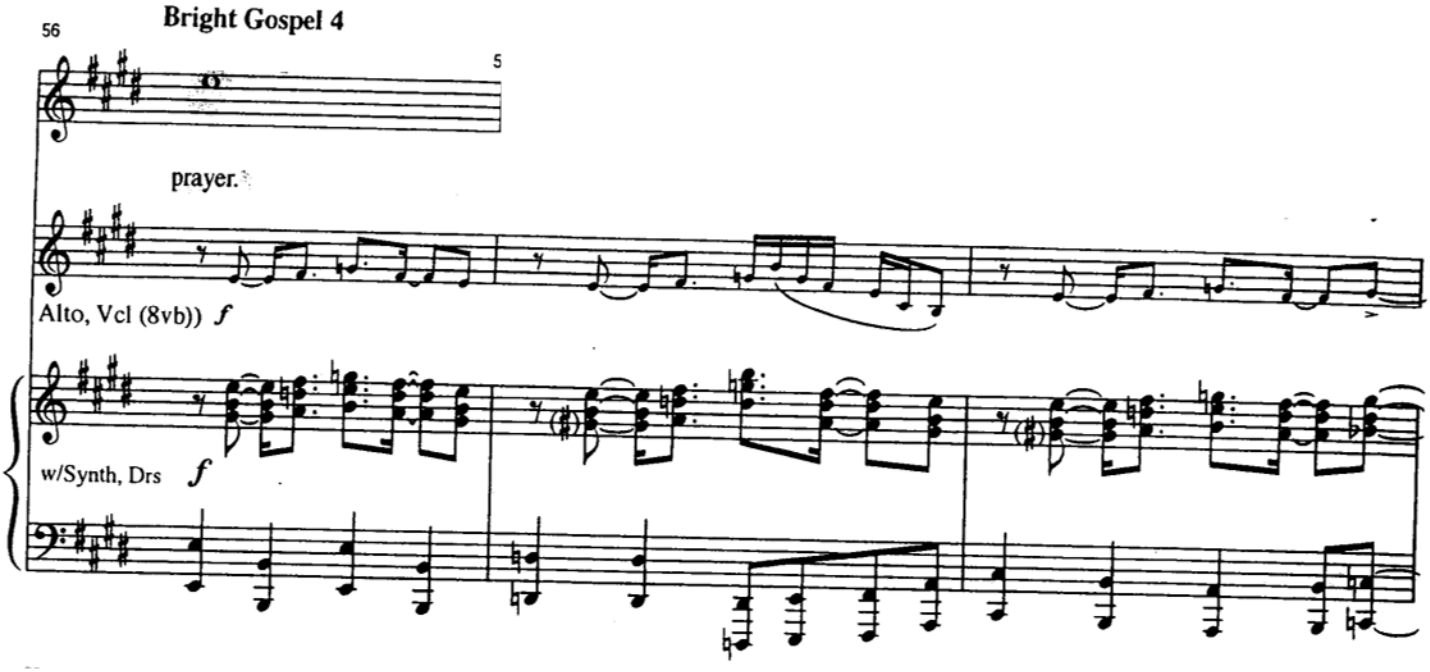
Mitch Audition Cut
“Prayer of the Comfort Counselor”
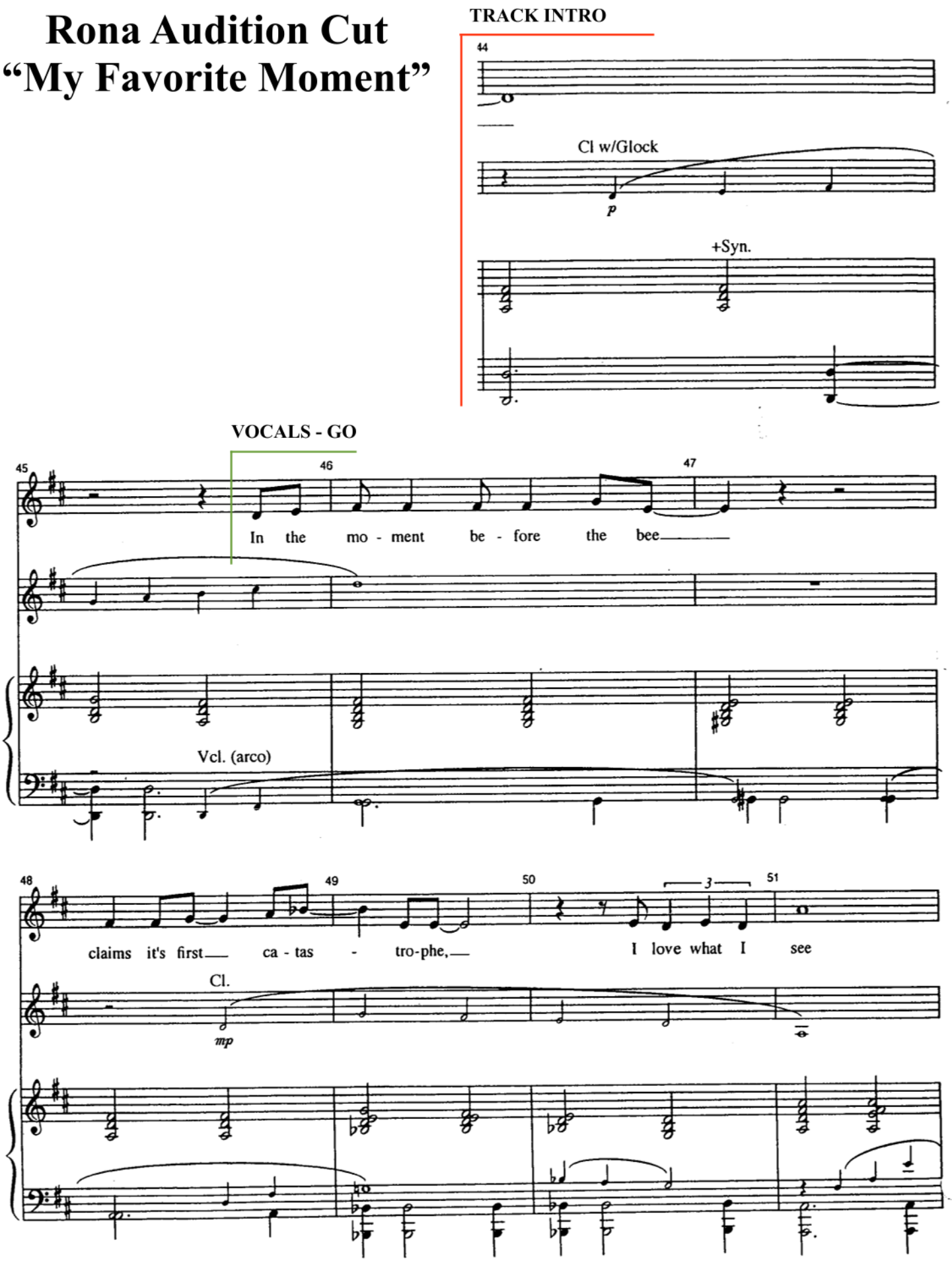



VOCALS - GO
38
MITCH:
39
40
You need the strength to pre - tend it's no
ALL BUT MITCH:
Ooh
ooh
Vcl.
+Drs.(half time feel)
41
42
big deal.
Try to
ooh
V.S.
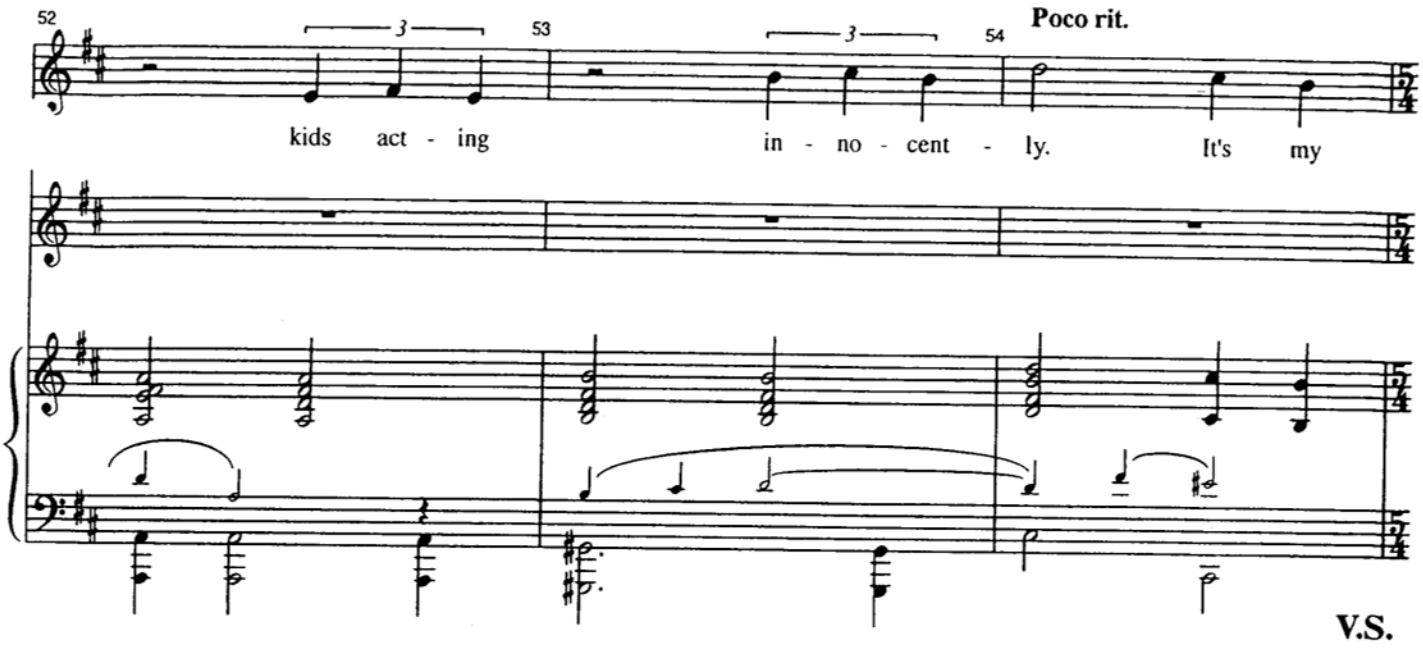

43
44
45
look like you don't care.
Try not to
46
47
48
cry, Lord,
in front of a bro - ther.
Aah
Aah
+Alto Sax
8va


49
50
51
Don't em - bar - rass your mo - ther.
Aah
Not your mo - ther.
8va
+Vcl.
52
Rit.
53
54
55
Make your e - xit with care.
That
is my
Ooh
Synth
Alto Sax
pp
+Tymp(roll)
V.S.
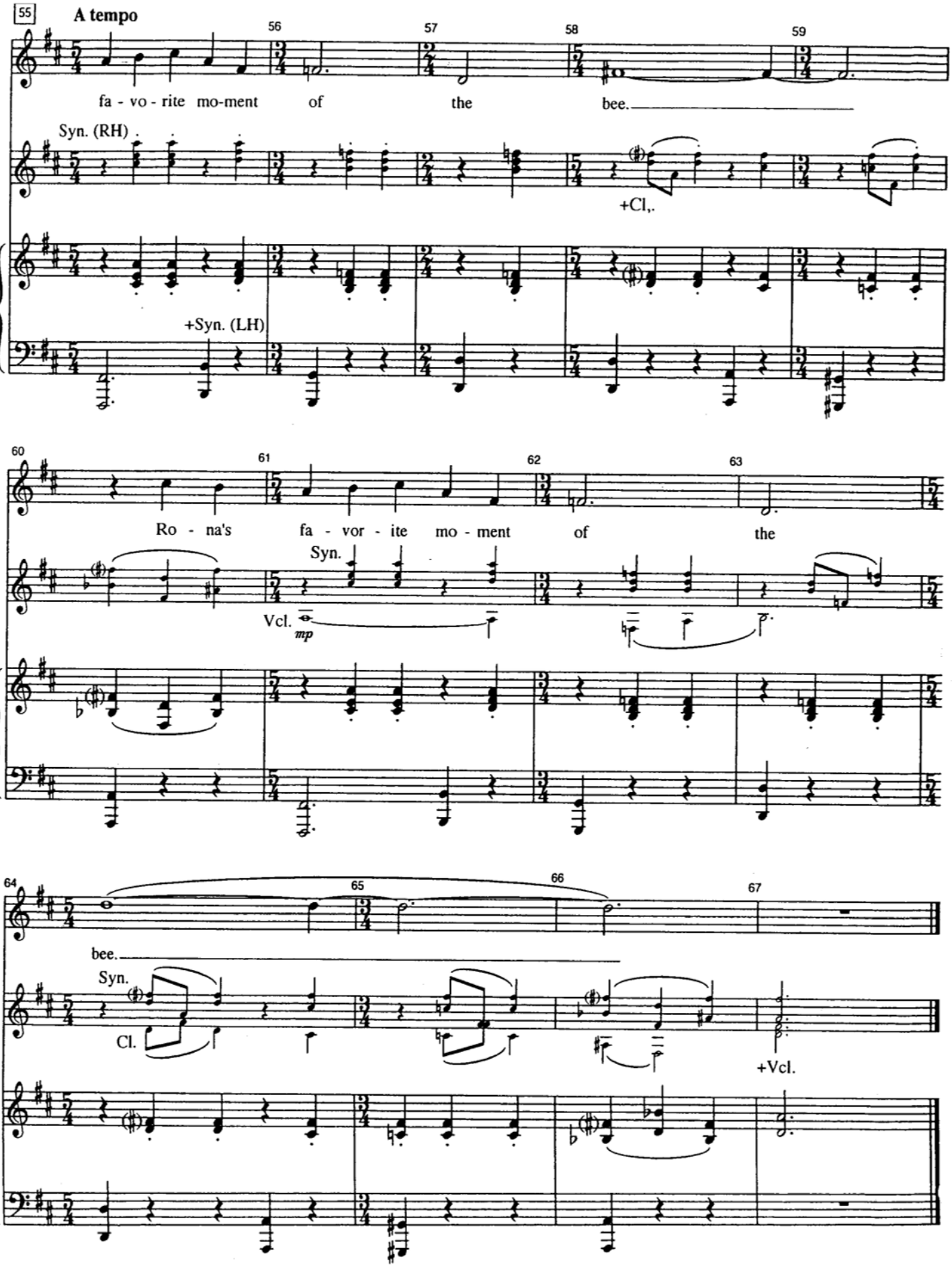

56
Bright Gospel 4
5
prayer.
Alto, Vcl (8vb)
f
w/Synth, Drs
f

Rona Audition Cut
"My Favorite Moment"





V.S.


55
A tempo
56
57
58
59
fa - vo - rite mo-ment of the bee.
Syn. (RH)
+Cl,.
+Syn. (LH)
60
61
62
63
Ro - na's fa - vor - ite mo - ment of the
Syn.
Vcl.
mp
64
65
66
67
bee.
Syn.
Cl.
+Vcl.