to Harriet

three songs

soprano and piano

c. 6’

PERFORMANCE COPY
CORRECT AS OF 02-06-2025

May 2025

Darius Paymai

I. *“I”* (c. 1’30”)

II. *long hum* (duration open)

III. *under the july sun* (c. 1’40”)

Performance Notes

The pianist requires a standard E-Bow. Before the second song, the E-Bow should be switched on (normal mode) and placed on the strings for the A above middle C. The note will begin to sound when the sustain pedal is depressed.

Where barlines are not used (in unmeasured or uncoordinated music), accidentals modify only the note they directly precede. Where there are standard bars and barlines, normal accidental rules apply.

Programme note

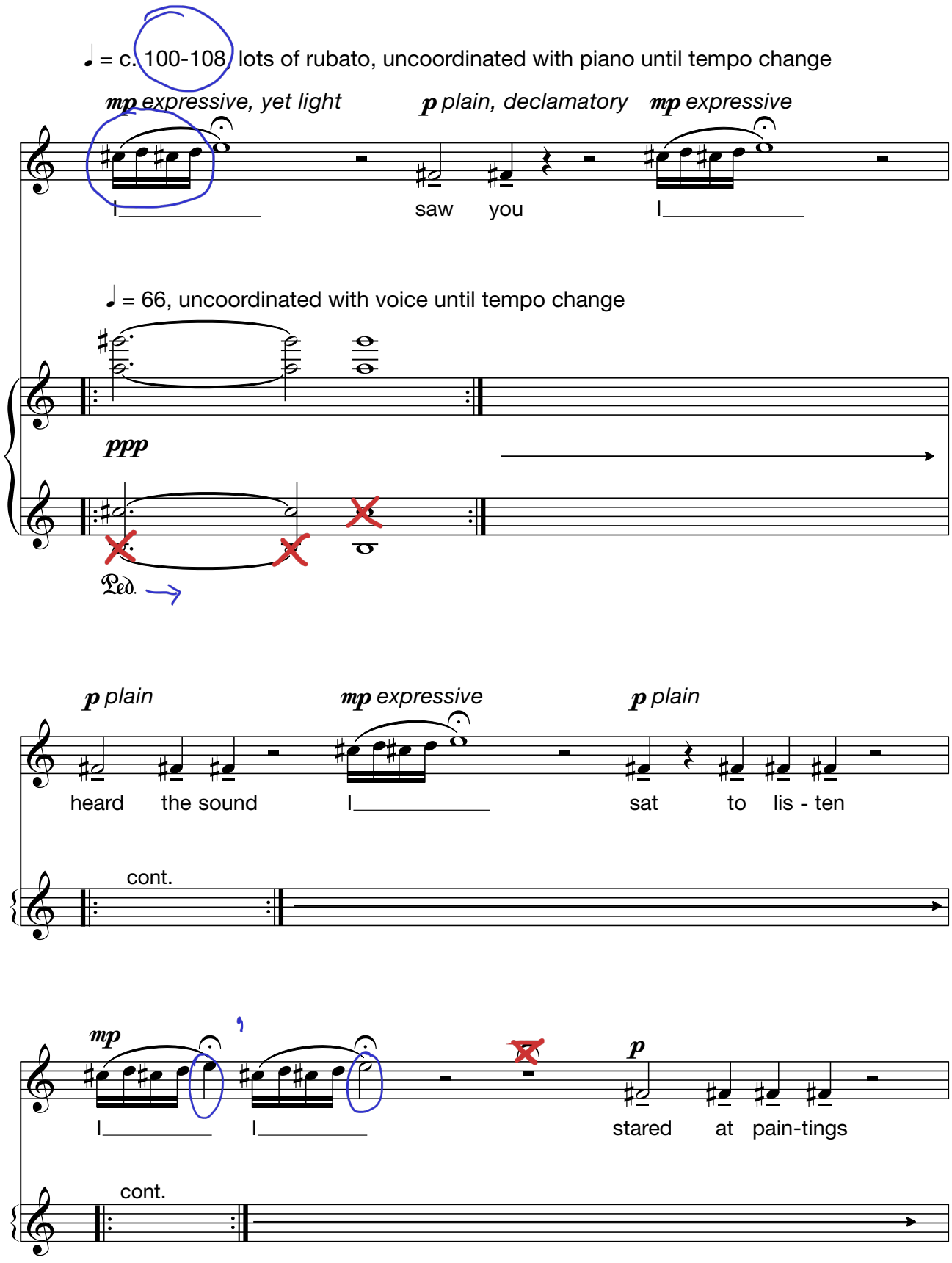
three songs is written using a text by Harriet Cameron entitled ‘I heard you before I saw you’. The text, about summers spent with music and family, is, in essence, about memory. I decided to break Harriet’s text down, then re-assemble it in the way that memories are broken down and re-assembled through time, hazy and unreliable. This process is also very similar to the way in which I work with musical material. In the piano part I wanted to try kinds of “non-accompaniment” – eschewing more conventional piano-voice relationships in favour of non-coordination, drone, and unison writing.

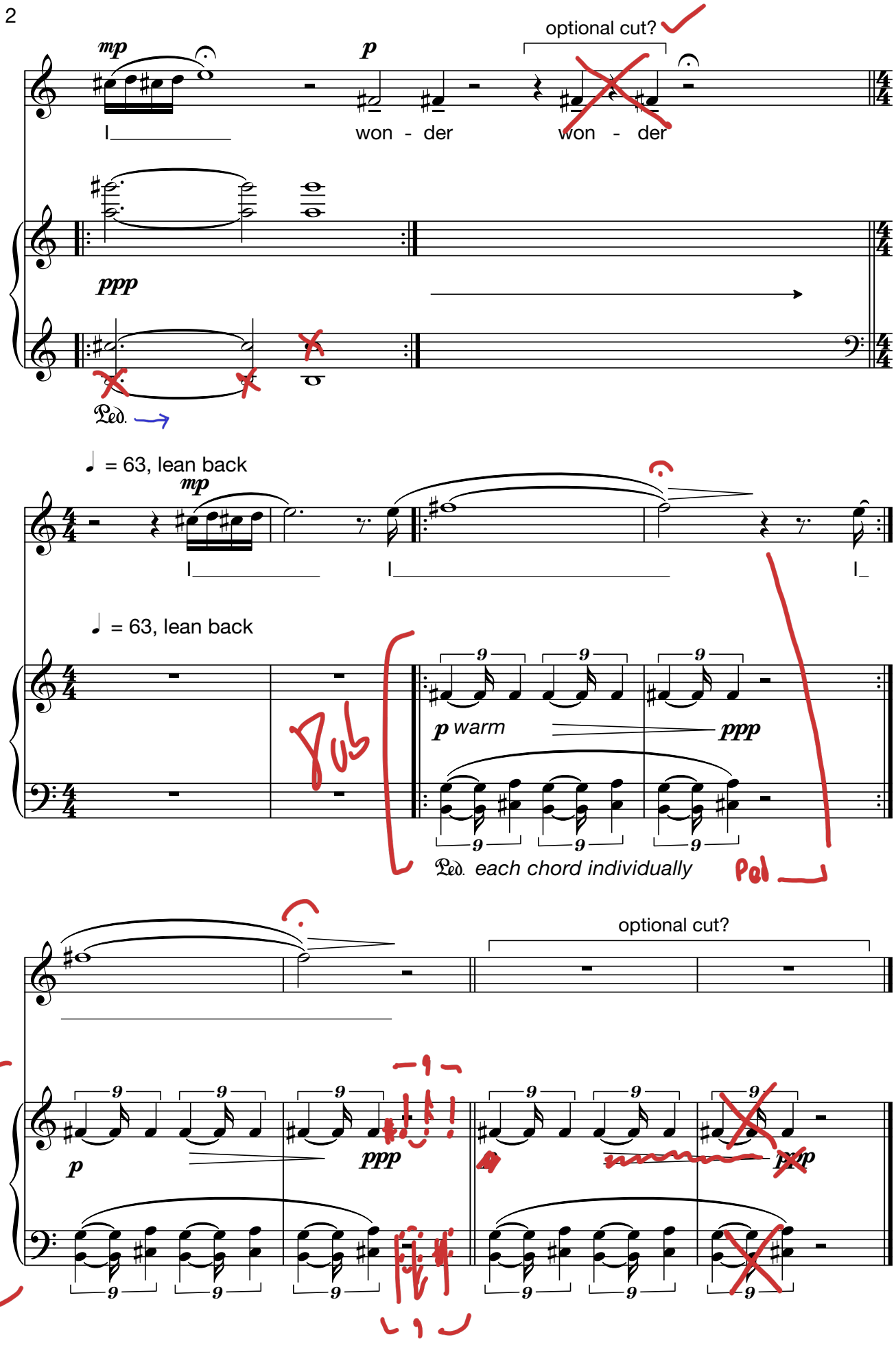
three songs

I. "I"

Harriet Cameron

Darius Paymai



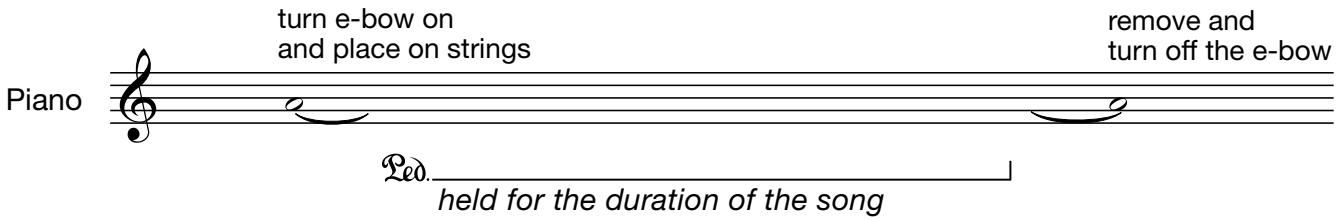

optional cut?
mp
p
I won - der won - der
ppp
Ped.
♩ = 63, lean back
mp
I I I
♩ = 63, lean back
p warm
ppp
Ped. each chord individually
optional cut?
p
ppp
ppp

three songs

II. long hum

Harriet Cameron

Darius Paymai



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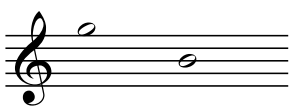
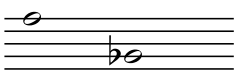
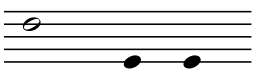
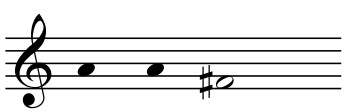
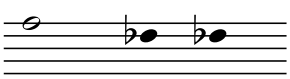
in any order/combination, with limited repetition
not too fast. short pauses between phrases
generally ***p***

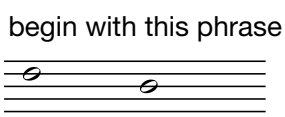


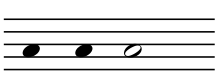


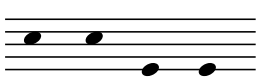


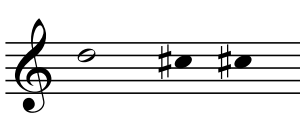


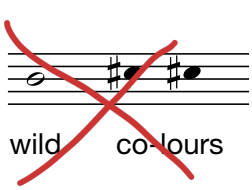


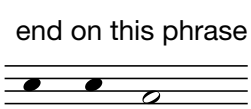


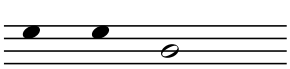


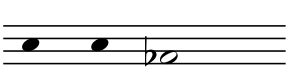










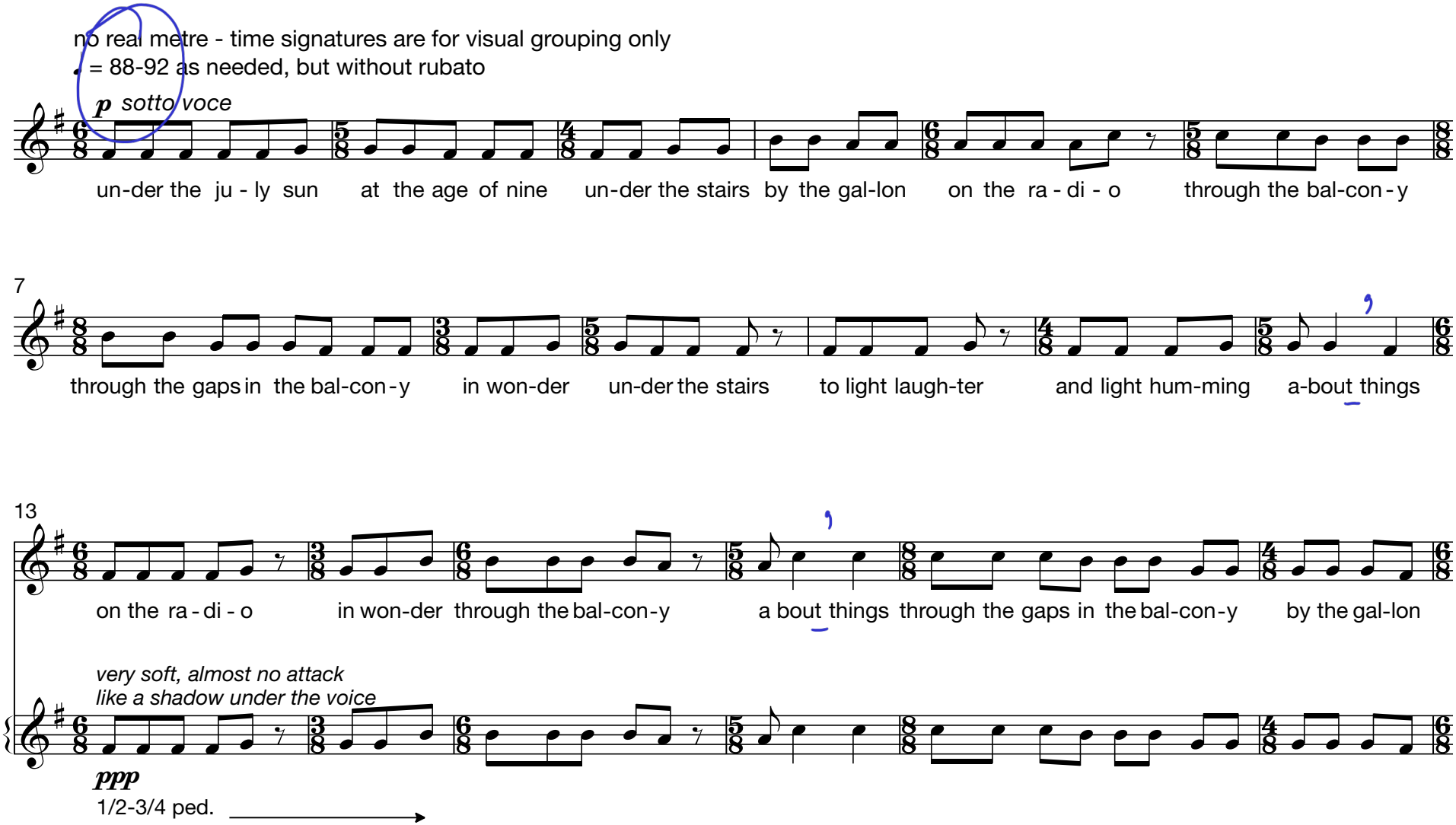


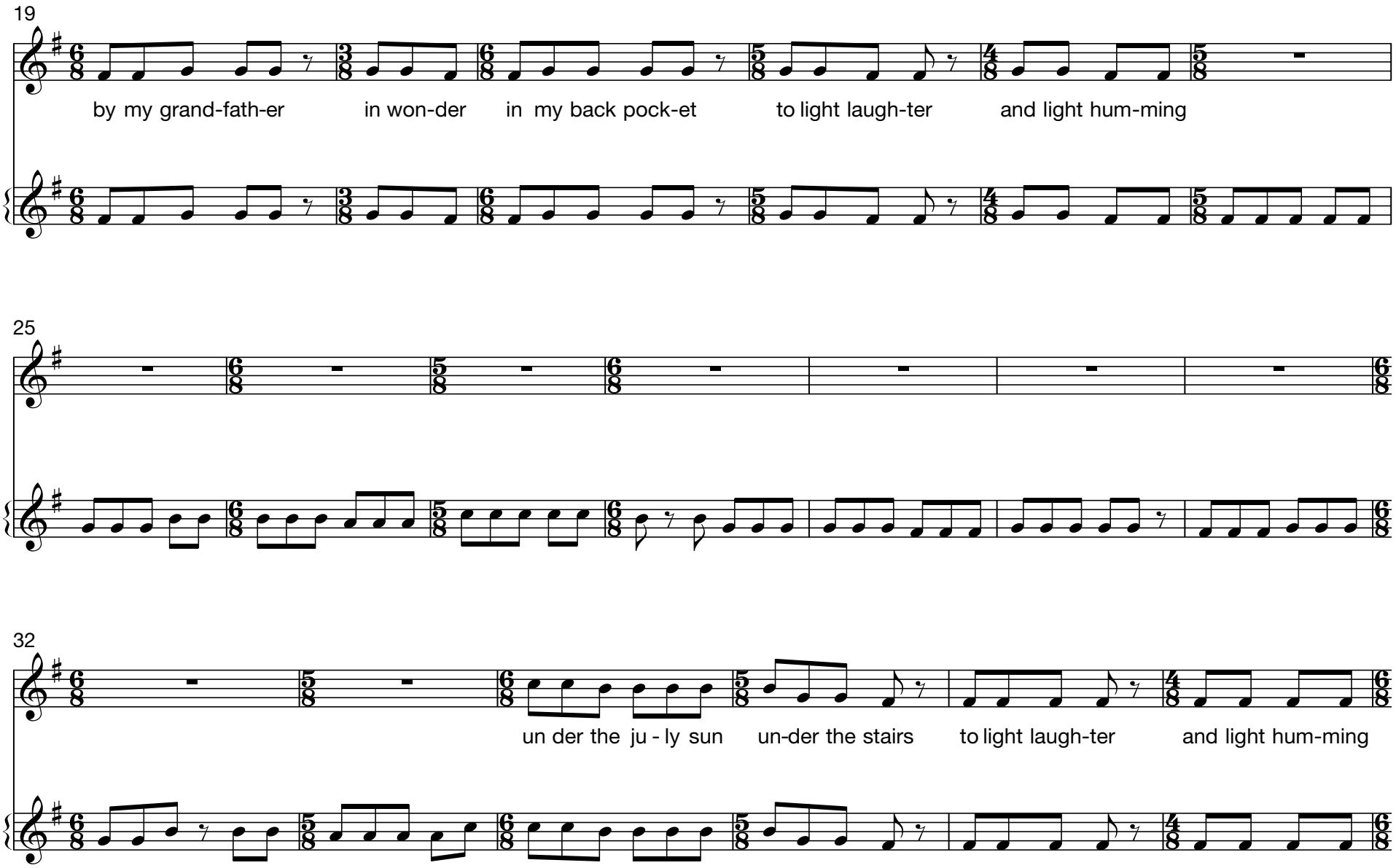
three songs

Harriet Cameron

III. under the july sun

Darius Paymai




19
by my grand-fath-er
in won-der
in my back pock-et
to light laugh-ter
and light hum-ming
25
32
un der the ju - ly sun
un-der the stairs
to light laugh-ter
and light hum-ming

38

through the bal-con - y through the gaps at the age of nine in won-der a - bout_things to light laugh-ter

44

and light hum-ming from one of us a - bout things in won-der a - bout things

52

by the gal-lon by my grand-fath-er to light laugh-ter and light hum-ming