THE BURNING OF TROY

Nero is singing at an orgiastic banquet given in honor of the triumphant Marcus.

In this song which Nero has secretly prepared ahead but which he pretends is impromptu, we see a fore-shadowing of the pyromania that will later burn Rome. The theme of the song, set in burning Troy, is in praise of the destructive power of fire.

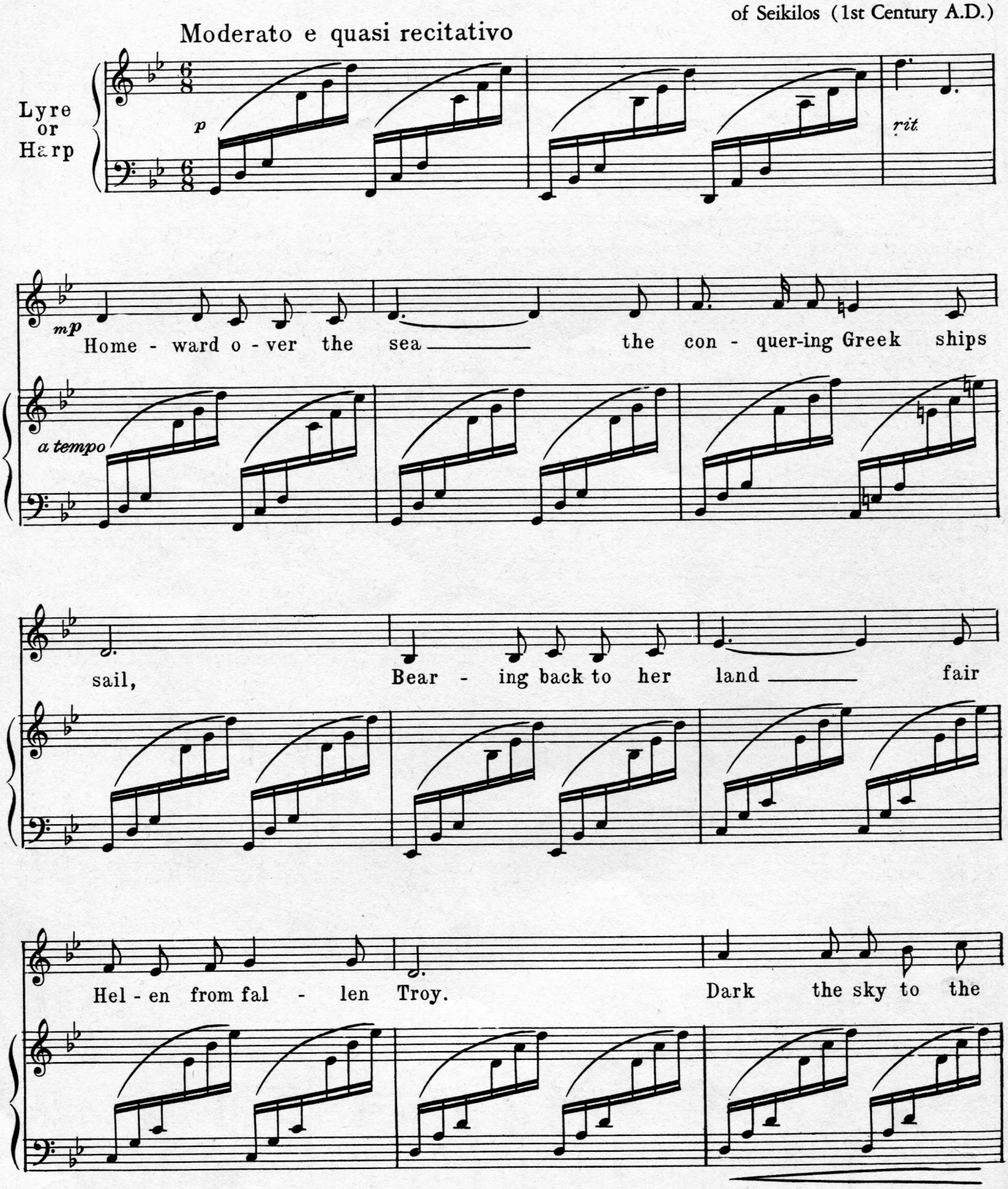
The music is based on a Greek drinking song, the Skolion of Seikilos of the 1st century A.D., discovered in Asia Minor. It found its way at an early date to Rome and was incorporated into the Roman liturgy for Palm Sunday. It is one of the first melodies in the modern sense of melody, as a study of its phrasing reveals.

Nero accompanies himself on the lyre, the chief instrument of the Romans and the forerunner of our modern plucked instruments such as the harp, the guitar and the mandolin.

THE BURNING OF TROY

Words by
HUGH GRAY

Music by
MIKLOS ROZSA
Based on the Skolion
of Seikilos (1st Century A.D.)



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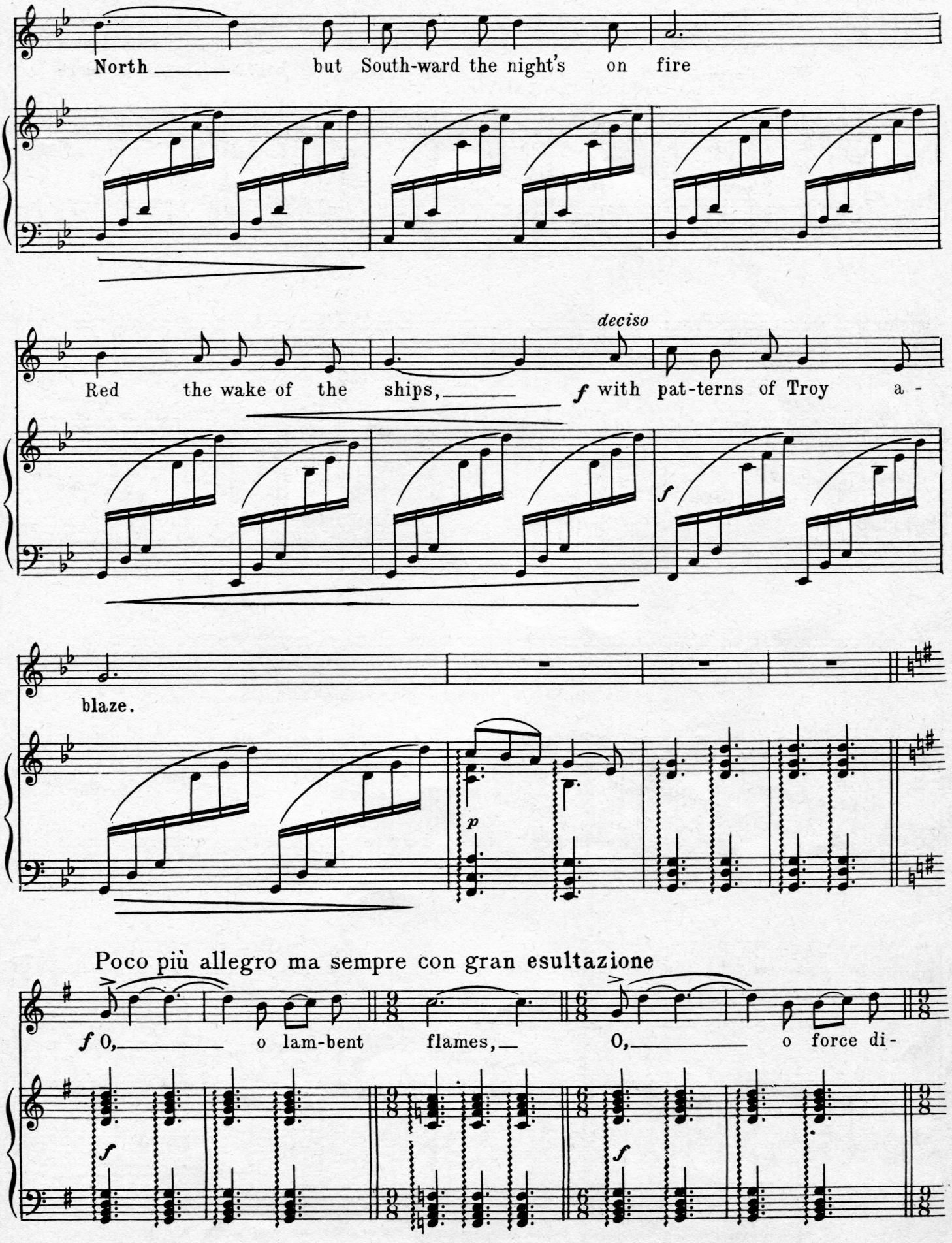
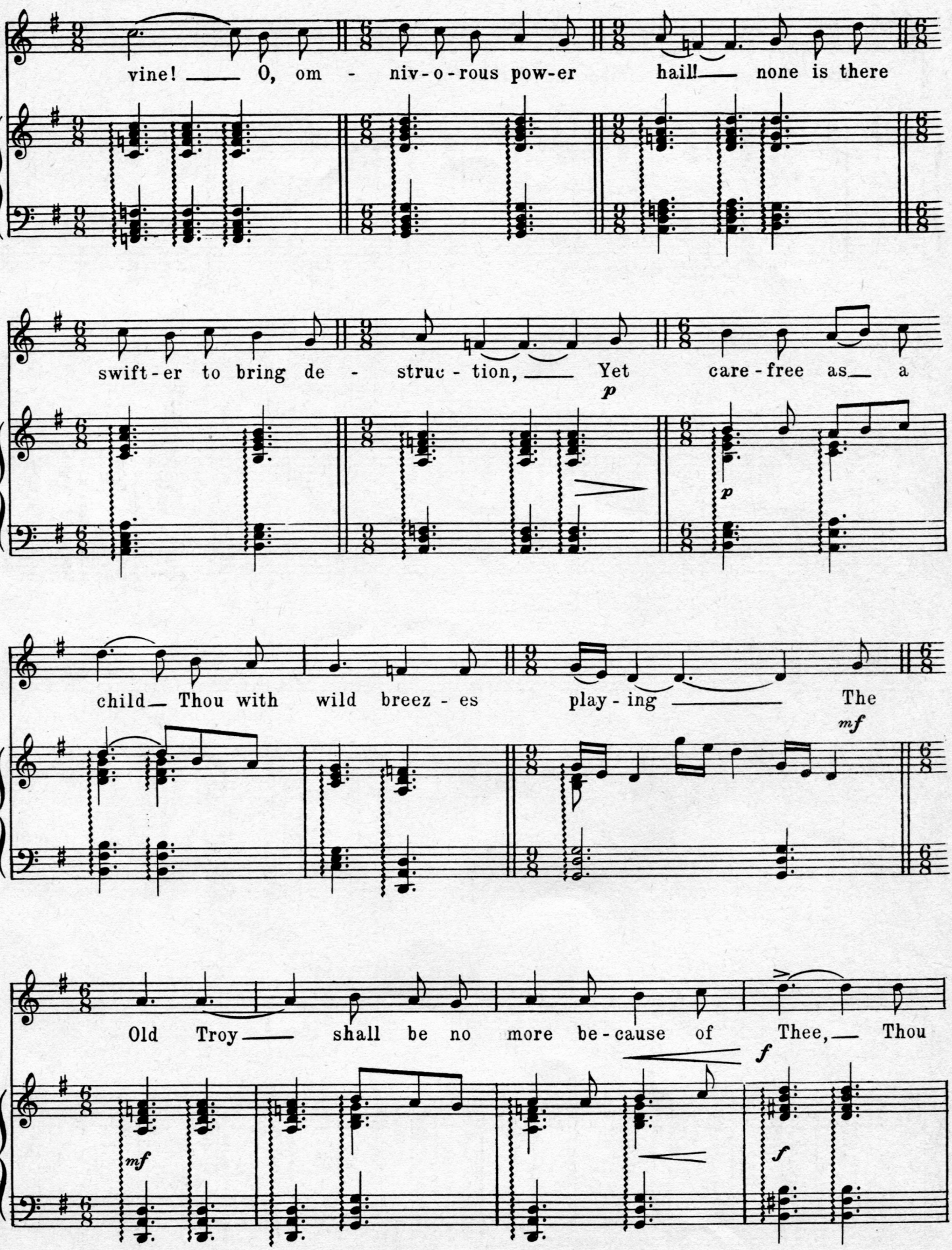
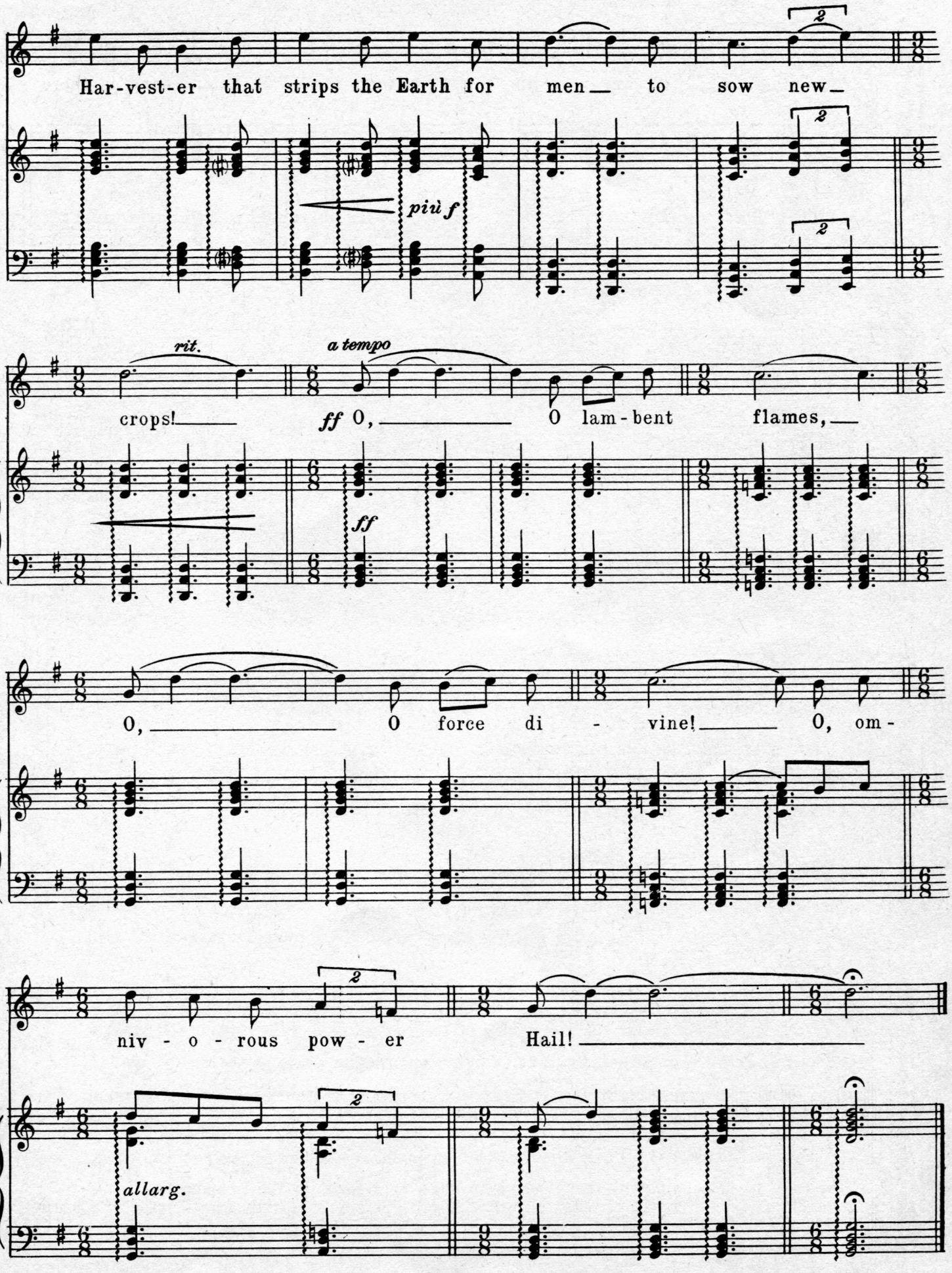

North ___ but South-ward the night's on fire
deciso
Red the wake of the ships, ___ f with pat-terns of Troy a -
f
blaze.
p
Poco più allegro ma sempre con gran esultazione
f O, ___ o lam-bent flames, ___ O, ___ o force di-
f
f


vine! O, om - niv-o-rous pow-er hail! none is there
swift-er to bring de - struc - tion, Yet care-free as a
p
p
child Thou with wild breez - es play - ing The
mf
Old Troy shall be no more be-cause of Thee, Thou
mf
f
f


Har-vest-er that strips the Earth for men to sow new
più f
rit.
a tempo
crops!
ff O, O lam-bent flames,
ff
O, O force di - vine! O, om-
niv - o - rous pow - er
Hail!
allarg.