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Seven Very Short Songs

Alan Stringer

Mabel Kelley

Reinhold Niebuhr

R. (Richard) George-Murray

Imamu Amiri Baraka

See next page for additional authors

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7a2
Stringer, A.
Box III
No. 22

Seven Very Short Songs

I.

Many good things come of mistakes.
Wisely I have decided to preserve myself.

II.

When she was dying, Gertrude Stein asked, "What is the answer?"
After a short silence she laughed and added, "What is the question?"

III.

How odd of God to choose the Jews.
But not so odd as those who choose a Jewish God but spurn the Jews.
(W. N. Ewer and Cecil Browne)

IV.

Most of the evil in this world does not come from evil people.
Most of the evil comes from people who consider themselves good.
(Reinhold Neibuhr)

V.

I marvel at what tact, what force,
what wisdom from some hidden source,
what superhuman understanding,
what genius for adroit commanding,
what sympathy, what wit, what prayer,
what saintly patience, selfless care
it takes to bring up, fair and mild,
a wholly ordinary child. (Mabel Kelley)

VI.

A cat spends long hours studying corners.
Any day now I expect a new book, Corners--Theory and Practice,
maybe only a couple of volumes, but thorough,
very thorough. (Richard George-Murray)

VII.

First, feel, then feel, then read,
or read, then feel
then fall or stand where you already are.
Think of your self, and the other selves...
think of your parents, your mothers, and sisters, your bentslick fathers,
then feel, or fall on your knees if nothing else will move you,
then read and look deeply into all matters,
come close to your city boys--country men.
Make some muscle in you head, but use the muscle in your heart.
(Le Roi Jones)

[redacted]

4 A L
Stringer, A.
Box III
no. 22

I. Anti-Suicide Note

Wryly.

Piano

pp

Voice

ma-ny good things

come of mis-takes.

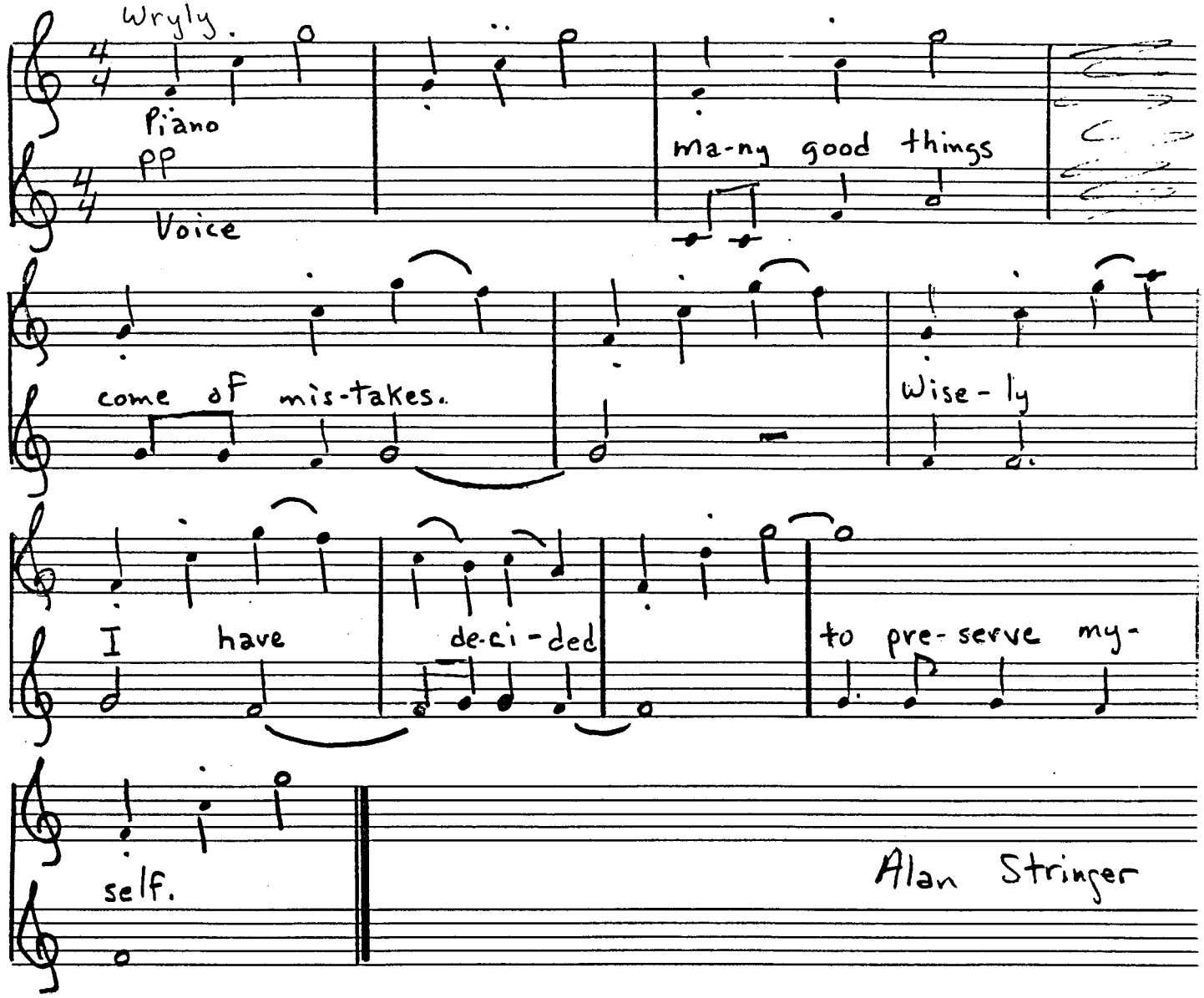
Wise-ly

I have de-ci-ded

to pre-serve my-

self.

Alan Stringer



7a2
Stringer, A.
Box III
No. 22

II. Last Words

Moderato

3

when she was dy-ing

Ger-trude Stein asked,

ped 3

"what is the

ped.

ans- wer?"

Af-ter a short si-lence

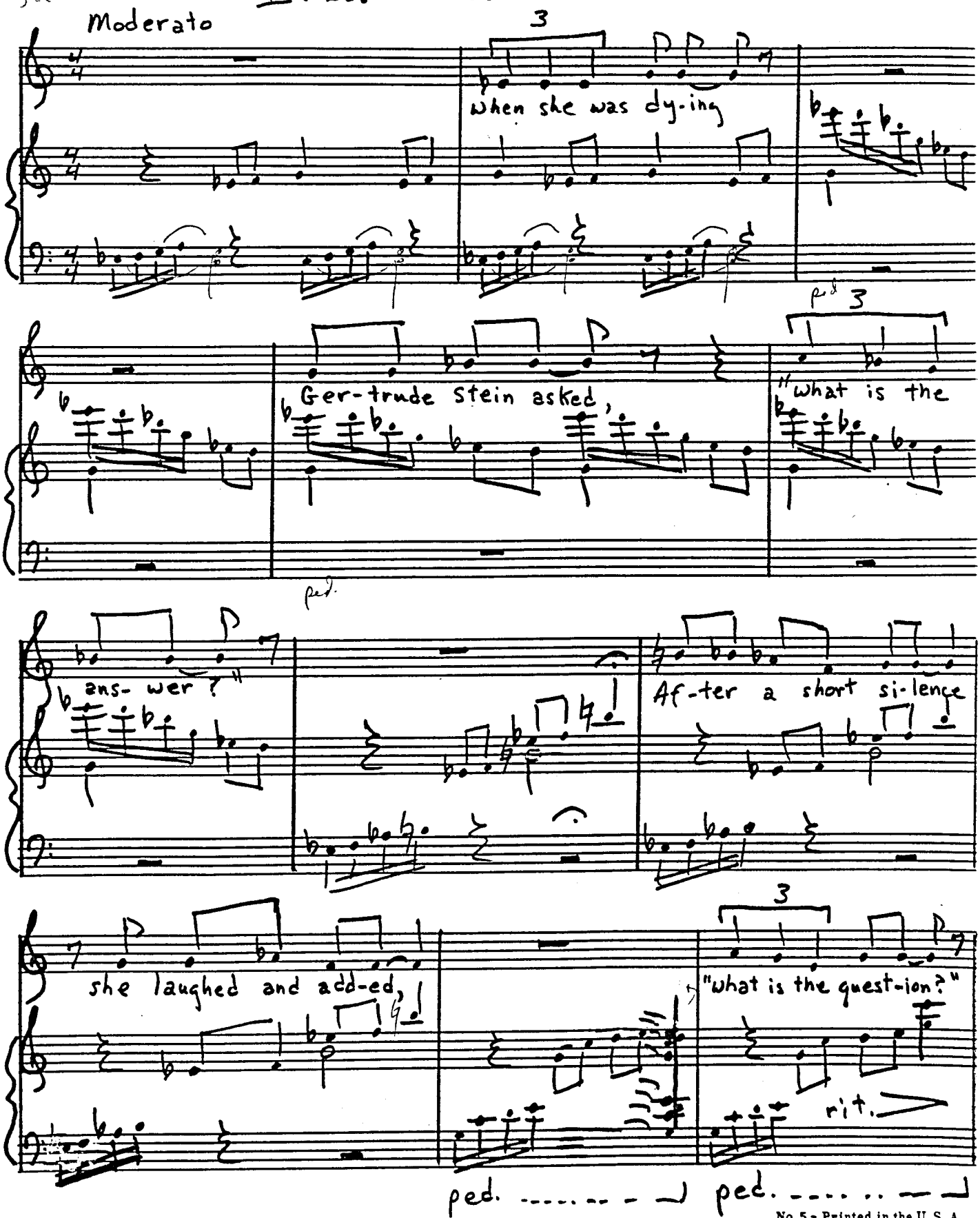
she laughed and add-ed,

3

"what is the quest-ion?"

rit.

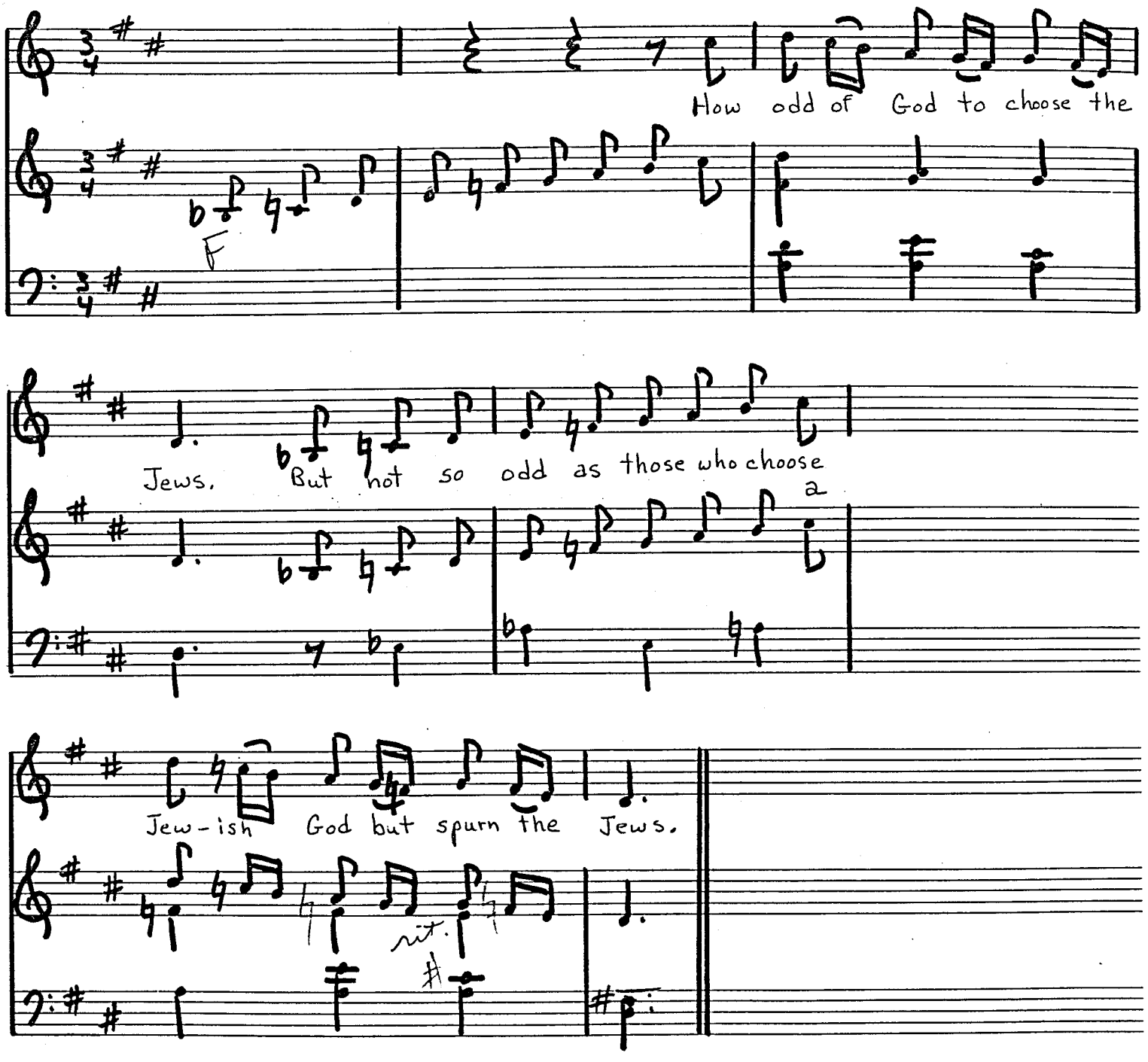
ped. ped.



III. A Congregational Meditation

W. N. Ewer & Cecil Browne

Alan Stringer



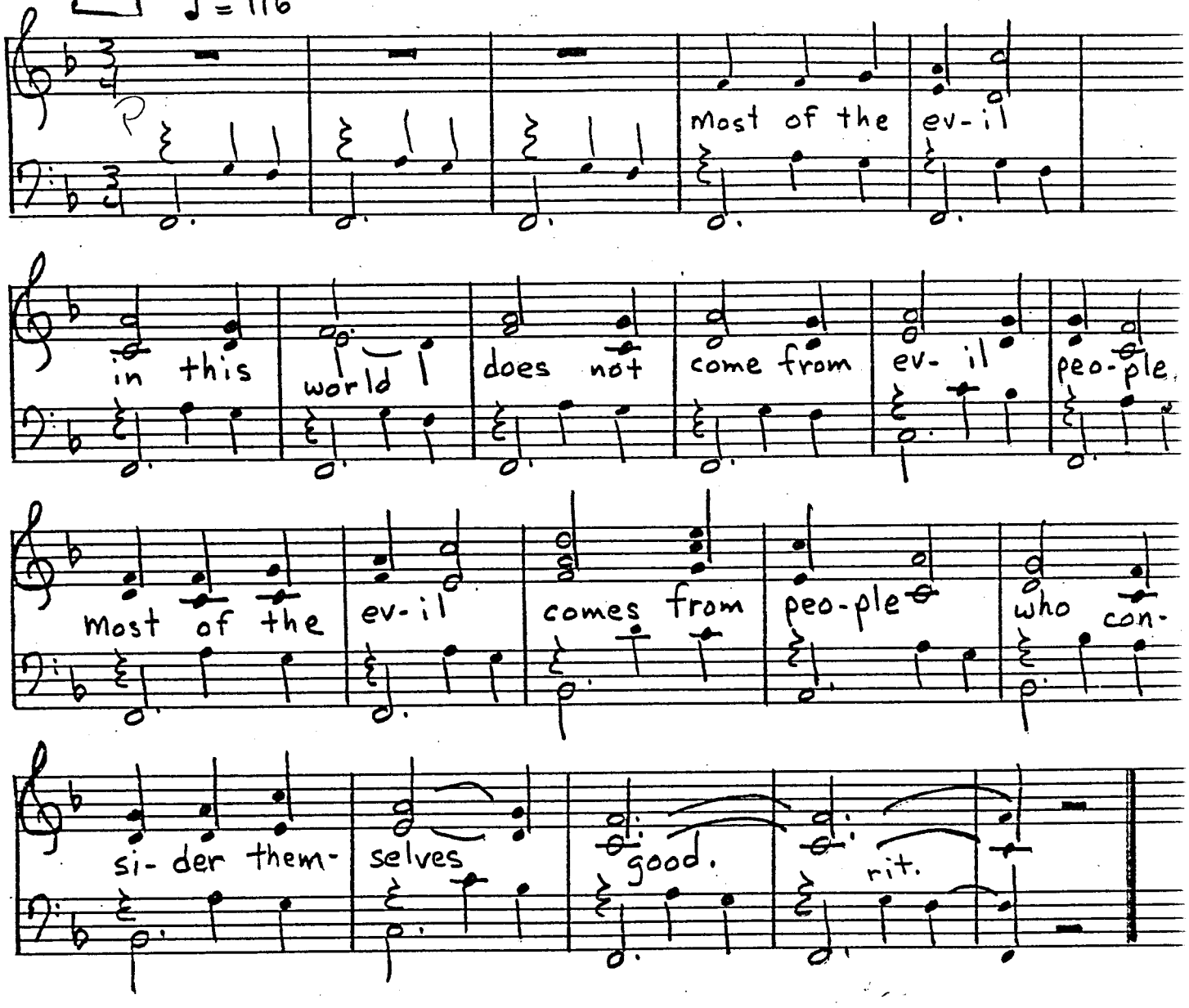
FAL
X
Dreiner, A.
Box III
No. 22

Reinhold Neibuhr

III

♩ = 116

Most of the ev-il in this world does not come from ev-il peo-ple. Most of the ev-il comes from peo-ple who con-si-der them-selves good. rit.



FAL
Stringer, A.
Box III
No. 22

Mabel Kelley

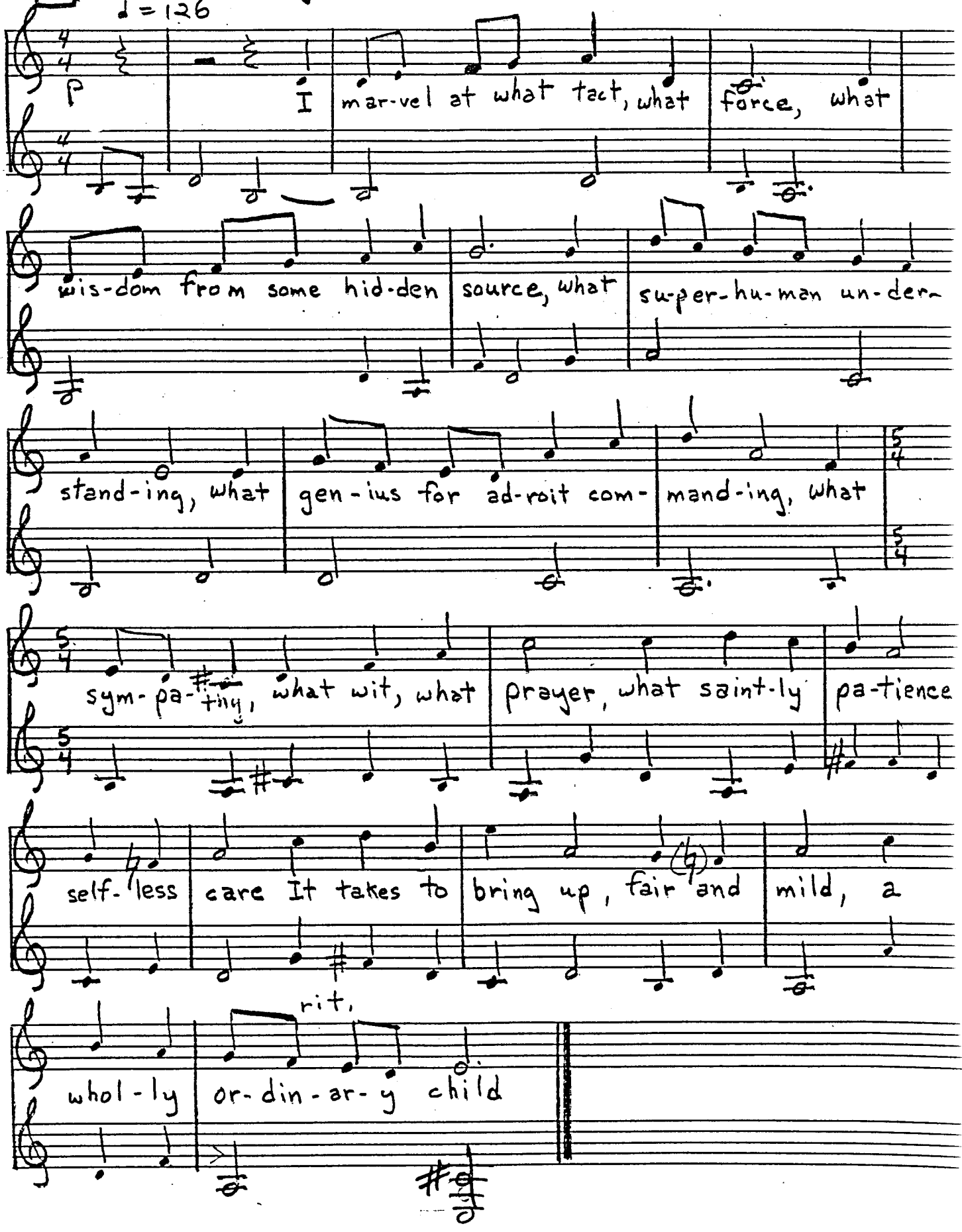
♩ = 126

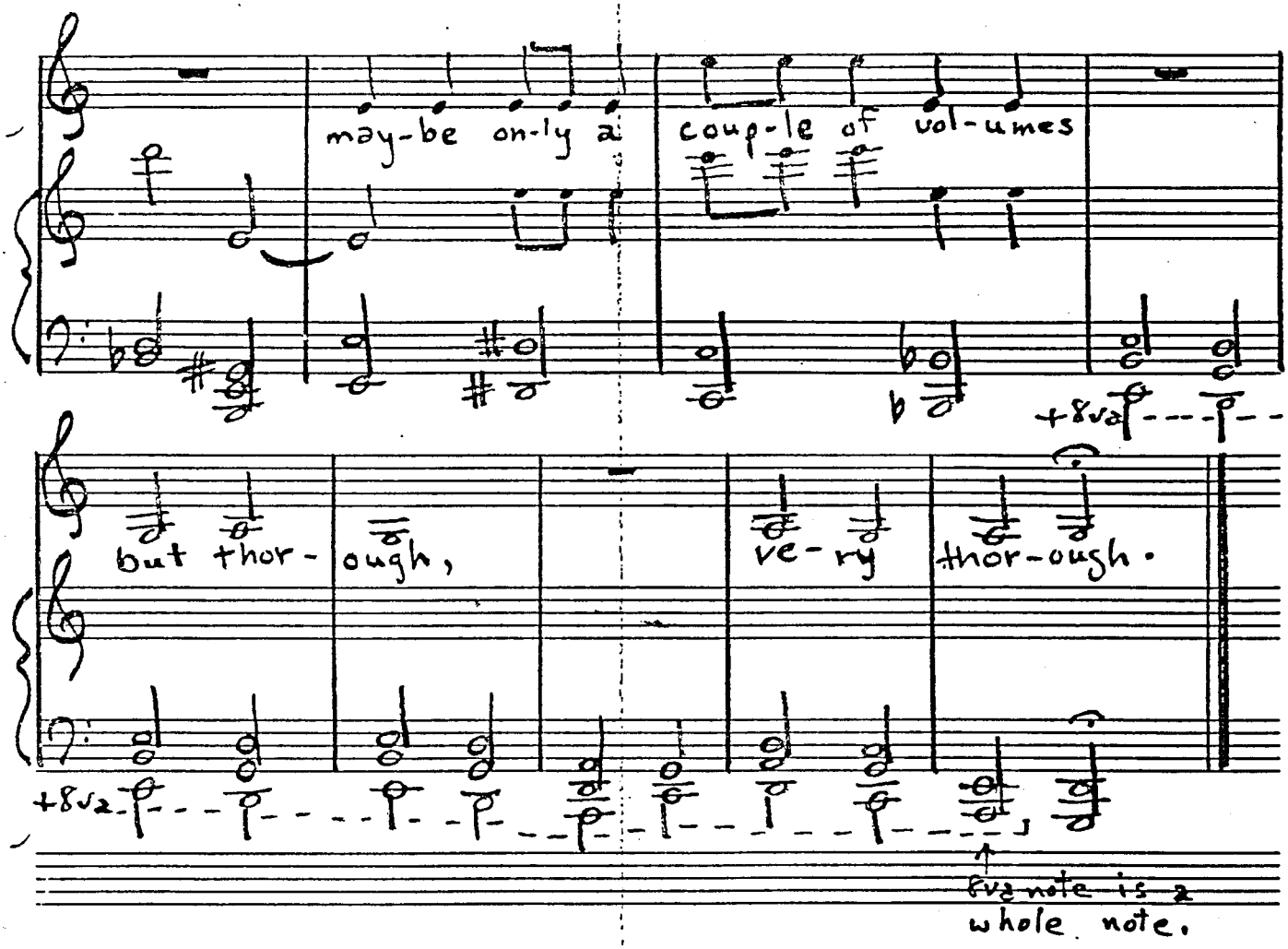
IV.

p

I mar-vel at what tact, what force, what wis-dom from some hid-den source, what su-per-hu-man un-der-stand-ing, what gen-ius for ad-roit com-mand-ing, what sym-pa-thy, what wit, what prayer, what saint-ly pa-tience self-less care It takes to bring up, fair and mild, a whol-ly or-din-ar-y child

rit.




may-be on-ly a
cou-ple of vol-umes
+8va
but thor-
ough,
ve-ry
thor-ough.
+8va
8va note is a
whole note.

FAL
X
Stringer, A
Box III
no. 22

Richard George-Murray

VI.

Alan Stringer

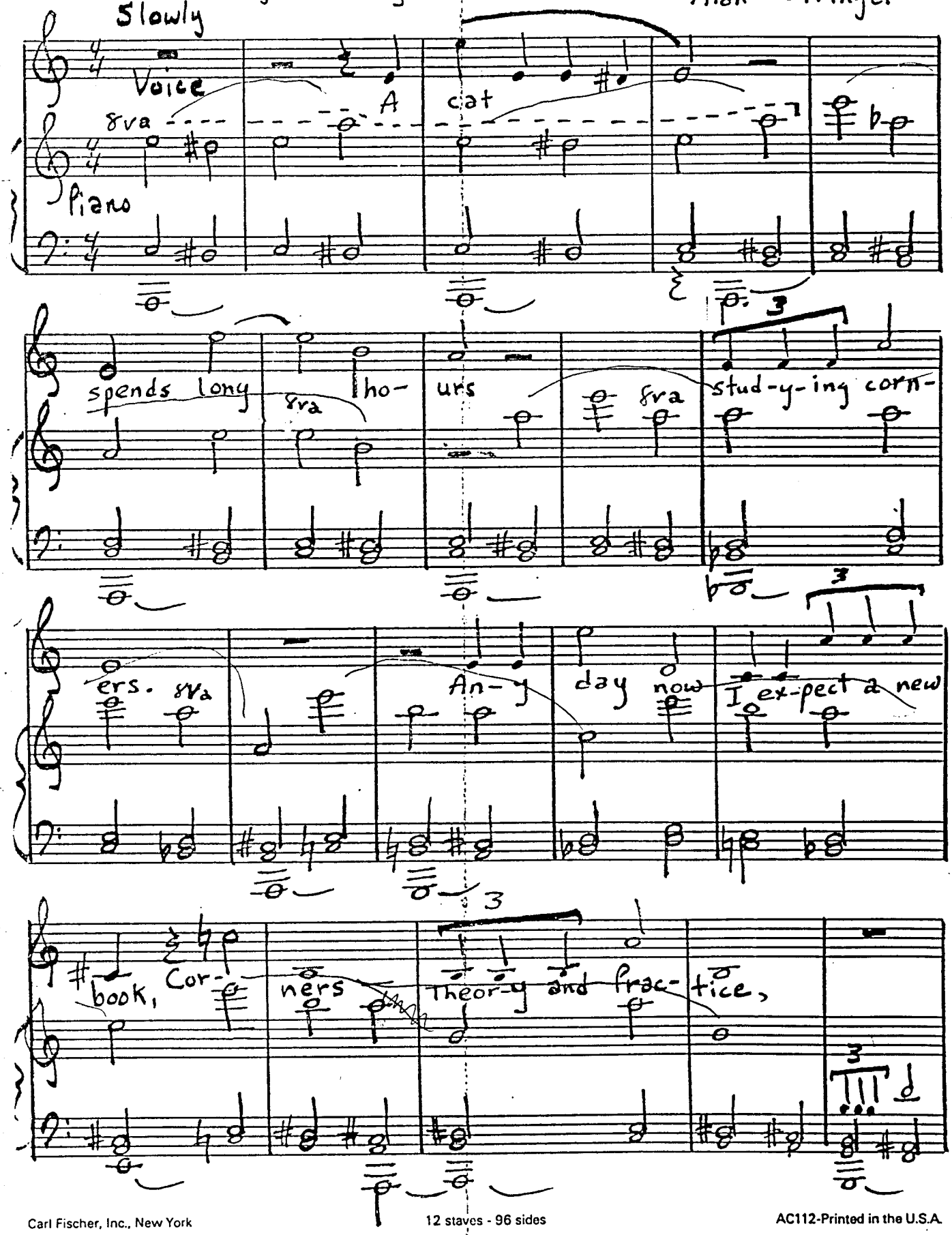
Slowly

Voice

8va

Piano

A cat spends long ho- urs stud-y-ing corn- ers. An- y day now I ex-pect a new book, Cor- ners Theor-y and Prac- tice,

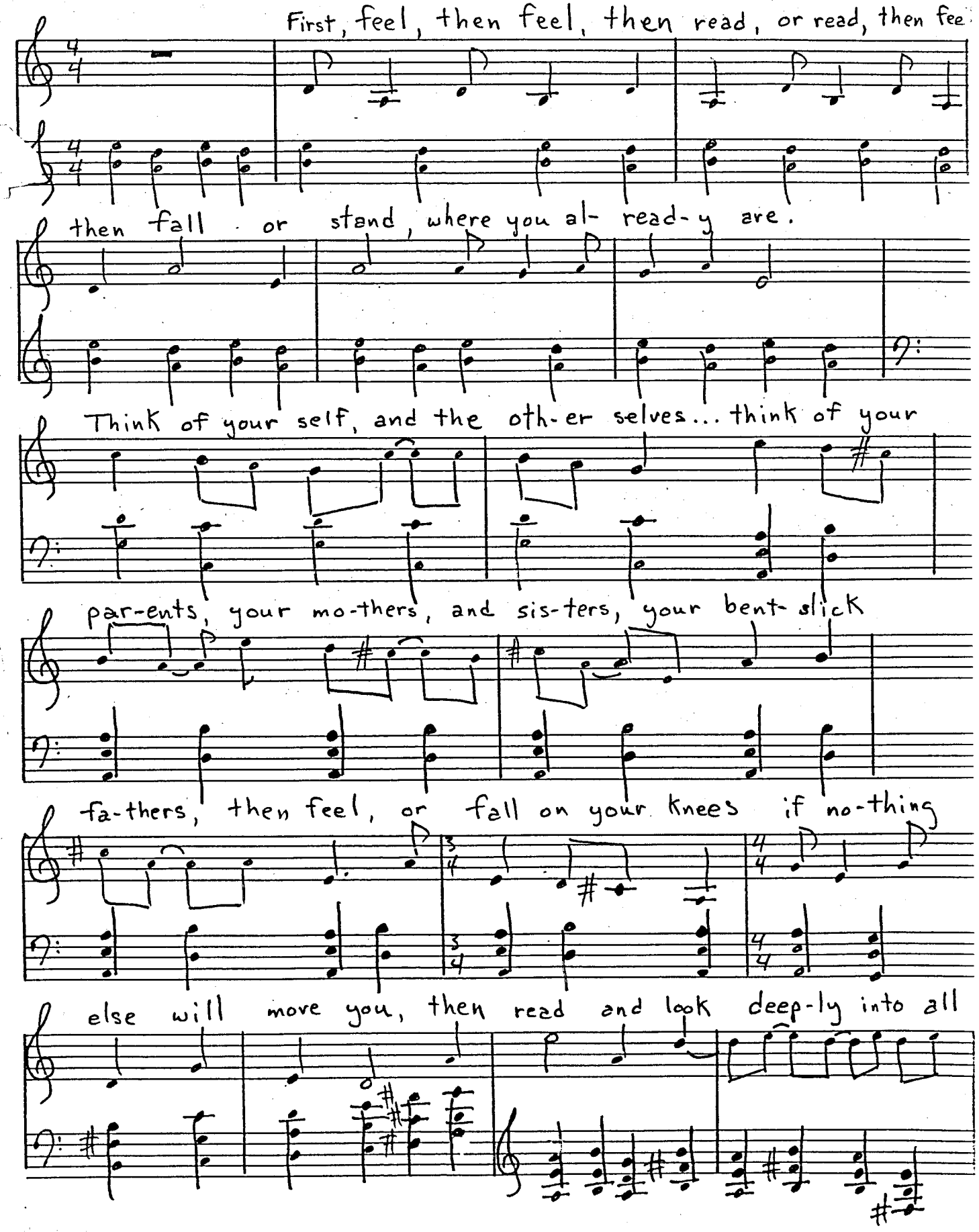


Carl Fischer, Inc., New York 12 staves - 96 sides AC112-Printed in the U.S.A.

Le Roi Jones

VII.

Alan Stringer



First, feel, then feel, then read, or read, then fee

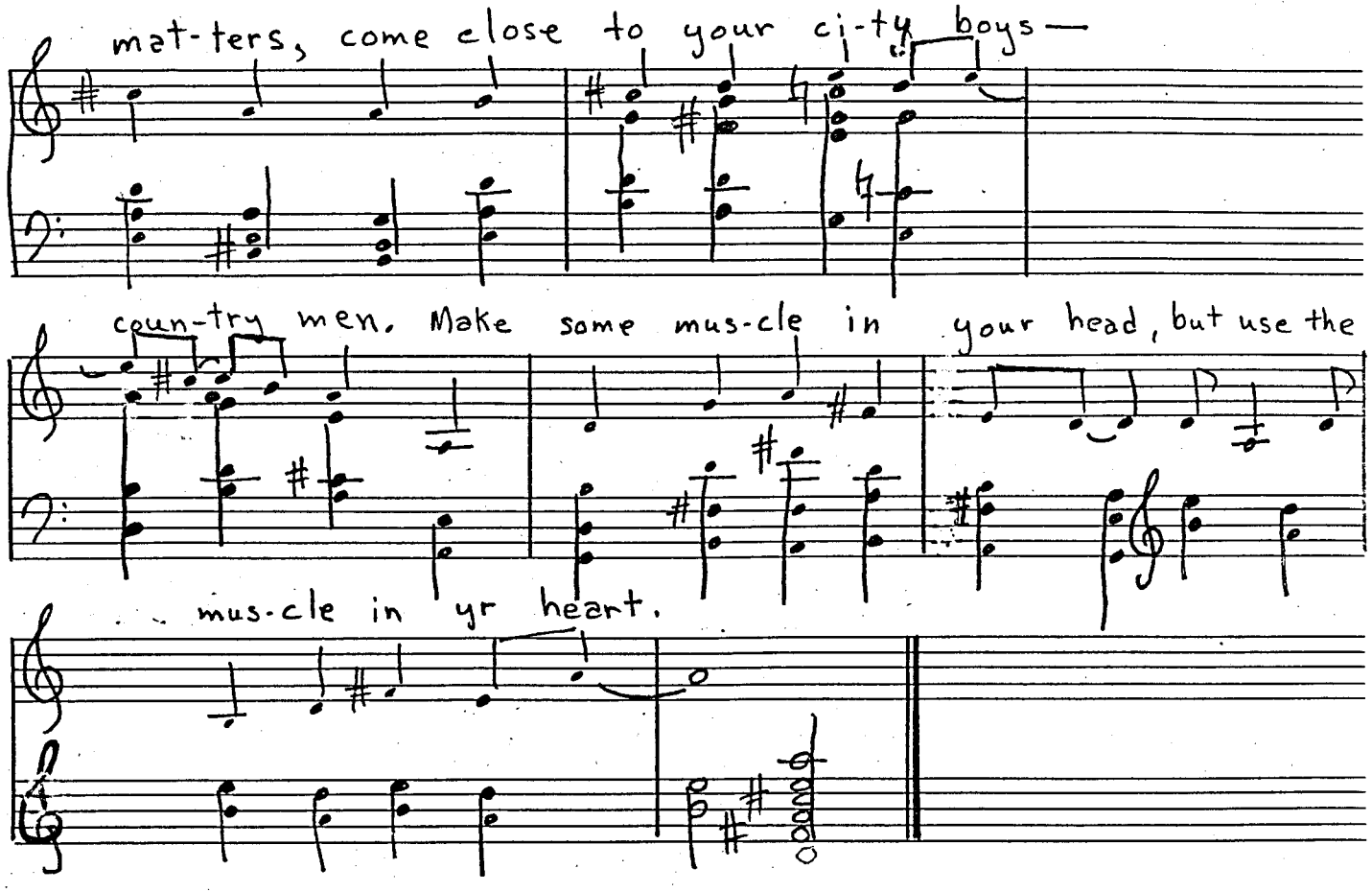
then fall or stand, where you al- read-y are.

Think of your self, and the oth-er selves... think of your

par-ents, your mo-thers, and sis-ters, your bent-slick

fa-thers, then feel, or fall on your knees if no-thing

else will move you, then read and look deep-ly into all


mat-ters, come close to your ci-ty boys—
coun-try men. Make some mus-cle in your head, but use the
mus-cle in yr heart.