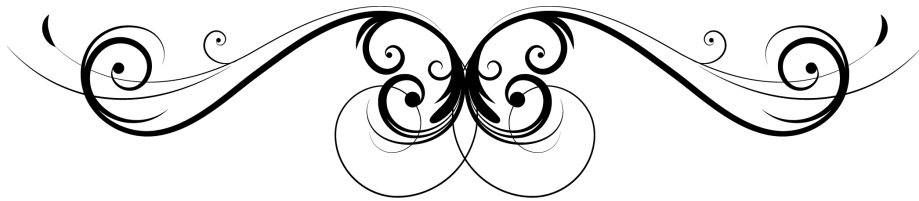


eric p. nichols

it may not always be so

for pri



It may not always be so; and I say
That if your lips, which I have loved, should touch
Another's, and your dear strong fingers clutch
His heart, as mine in time not far away;
If on another's face your sweet hair lay
In such a silence as I know, or such
Great writhing words as, uttering overmuch,
Stand helplessly before the spirit at bay;

If this should be, I say if this should be —
You of my heart, send me a little word;
That I may go unto him, and take his hands,
Saying, Accept all happiness from me.
[Then shall I turn my face, and hear one bird
Sing terribly afar in the lost lands.]*

— E.E. Cummings

* text in brackets not set to music

for pri
it may not always be so

e.e. cummings

e.p. nichols

Moderato ♩ = 112

Voice

Piano

mp

7 *mp*

it may not al - ways be so it

12

may not al - ways be so; and I say

mf

17 *mf* *f* *mp*

that if your lips, _____ which I have loved,

sf *sf*

23 *rit.* *mf* *f* *subito p*

which I have loved, should touch a - no - ther's, a - no - ther's,

rit. *f* *subito p*

28 **Faster** *p*

and your dear strong fin - gers clutch his

Faster *p*

32

heart, as mine in time not far a -

*rall.**rit.*
*subito p**subito p**poco rit.*

36

way; if on a - no - ther's face yoursweet hair lay in such a si-lence as I

rall. *rit.* *poco rit.*

40

*mp**slightly slower**doloroso**mf*

know, as I know, or such great wri-thing words as,

mp *mf* *f*

slightly slower

44

ut-ter ing, ut-ter ing o-ver much, stand help - less - ly be -

mf

poco rit. - - - - -

47

fore the spi - rit at bay; if this should be, if this should be, if

f *molto appassionato*

ff *poco rit.* - - - - -

51

this, if this should be?

ff *A tempo*

8va *8va* *A tempo*

mf thoughtful

56 *sotto voce*
mp

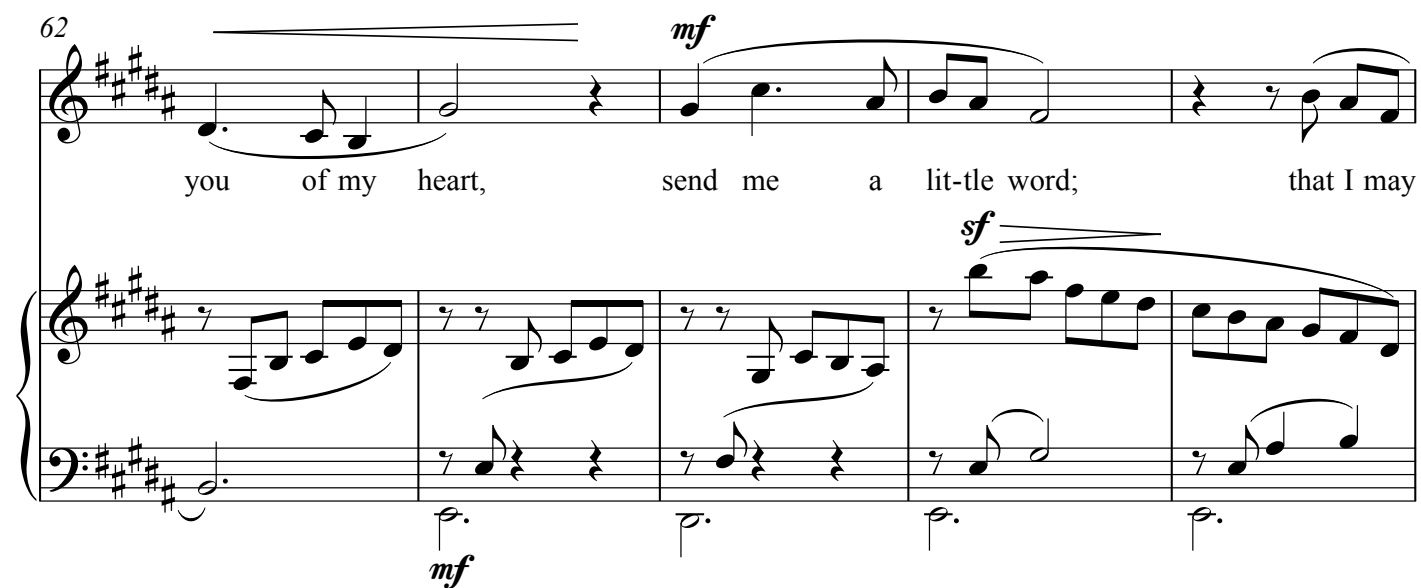
If this should be, I say if this should be,



62 *mf*

you of my heart, send me a lit-tle word; that I may

sf

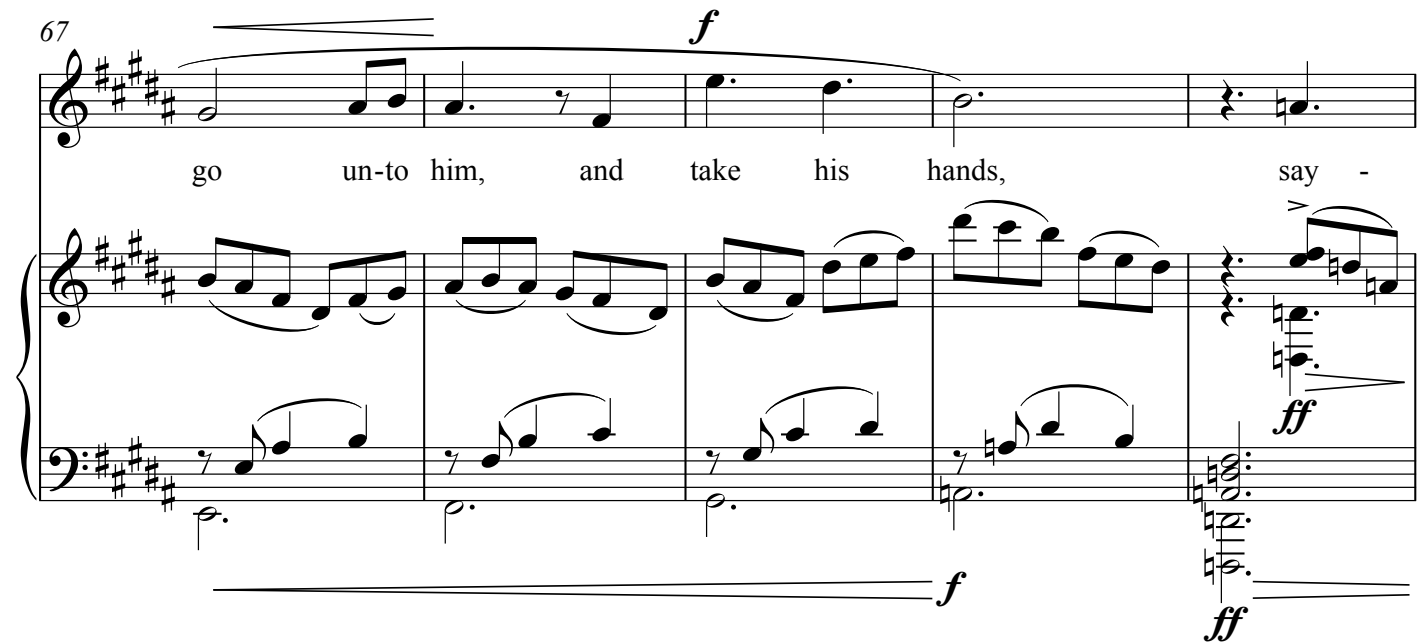


67 *f*

go un-to him, and take his hands, say -

ff

f *ff*



72 *mf* *f* *mf* ⁷

ing, Ac - cept all hap - pi - ness, ac -

f *mp* *f*

mp *rall.* *f*

77 *f* *A tempo*

cept all hap - pi - ness from me. *A tempo*

rall. *f* *p*

mp *f* *p*

83 *mp* *ff*

Ac - cept hap - pi - ness

88 *p* *mp*

Hap - py hap - pi - ness Ac -

pp *p*

pp *p*

rall. *f* *Meno mosso* *mp* rit.

93

cept hap - pi - ness from me.

rall. *Meno mosso* *p* rit.

f *p*

100

rall.

rall. *8va* *15ma*