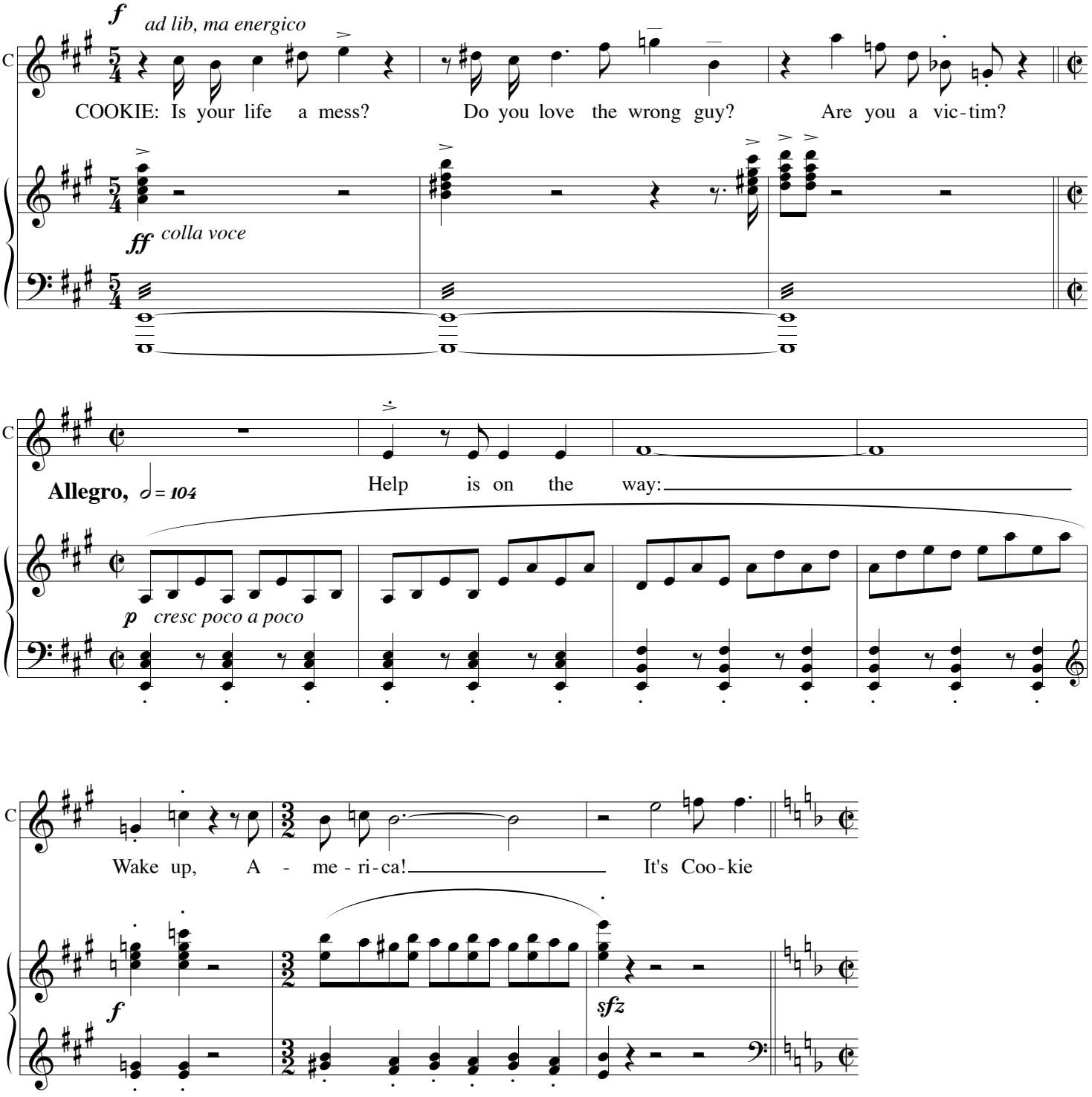
Talk Opera
(excerpt)

Special light up on COOKIE, alone with mike in hand.



All lights up to reveal a TV studio set: plush chair for the guests, chair for COOKIE, and folding chairs on stage right for STUDIO and AUDIENCE, who at this moment are jumping up and down.

(spoken)
Thank you, thank you.

C: Time!

S: *f* STUDIO: Yay! Yay! Coo - kie!

A: *f* AUDIENCE: Yay! Yay! Coo - kie!

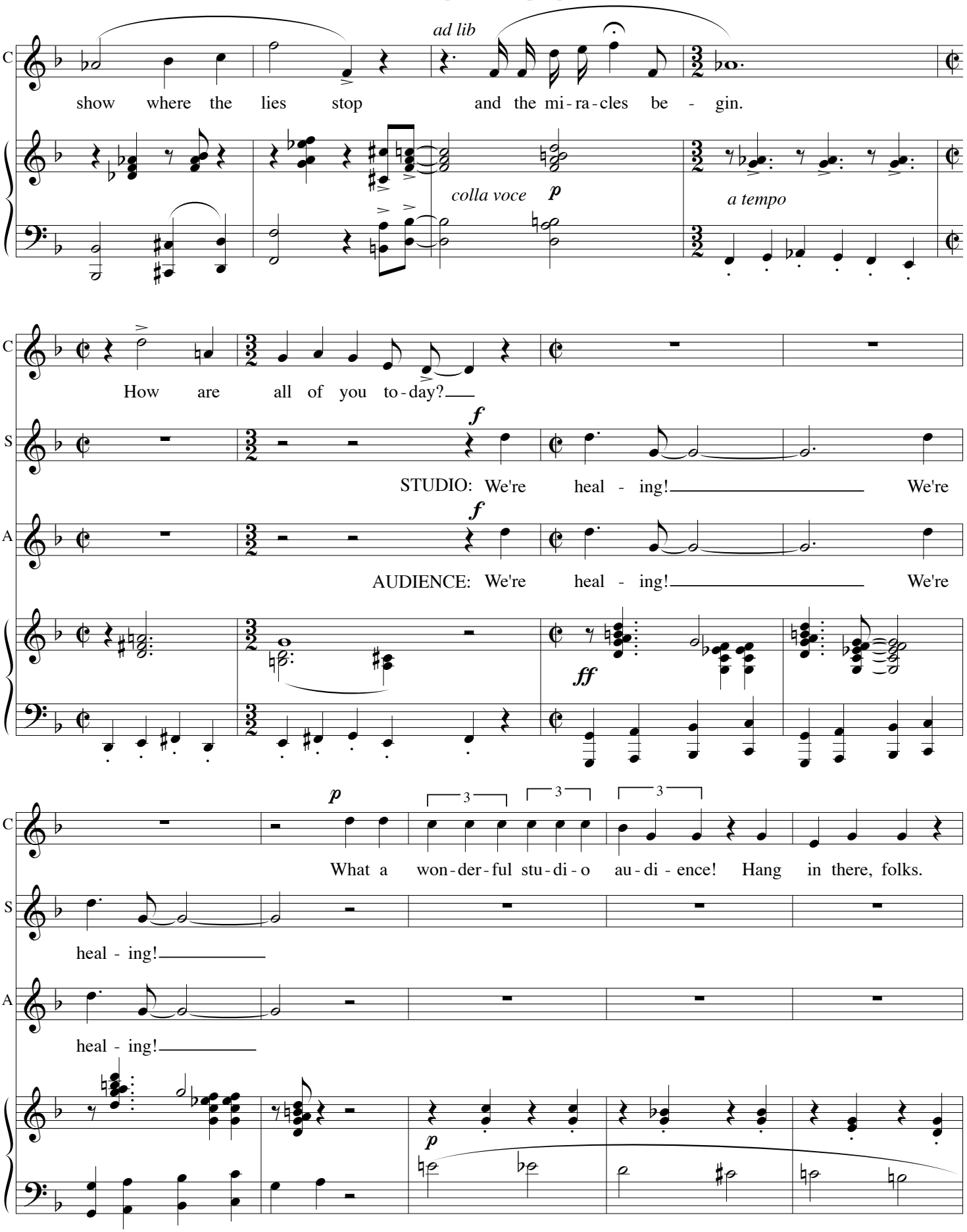
ff 8va

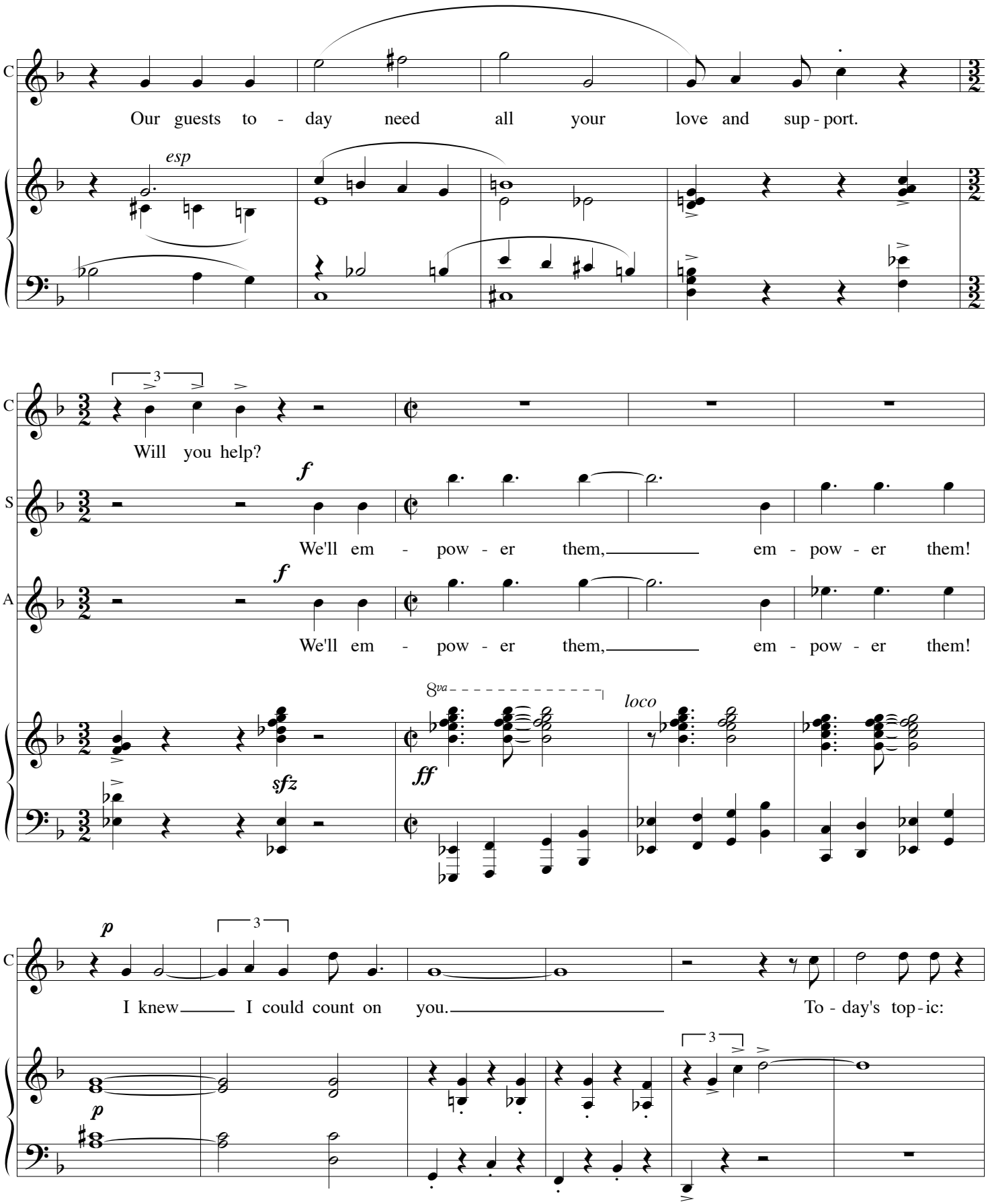
mf
C: I'm Cookie. And this is Coo-kie Time, the

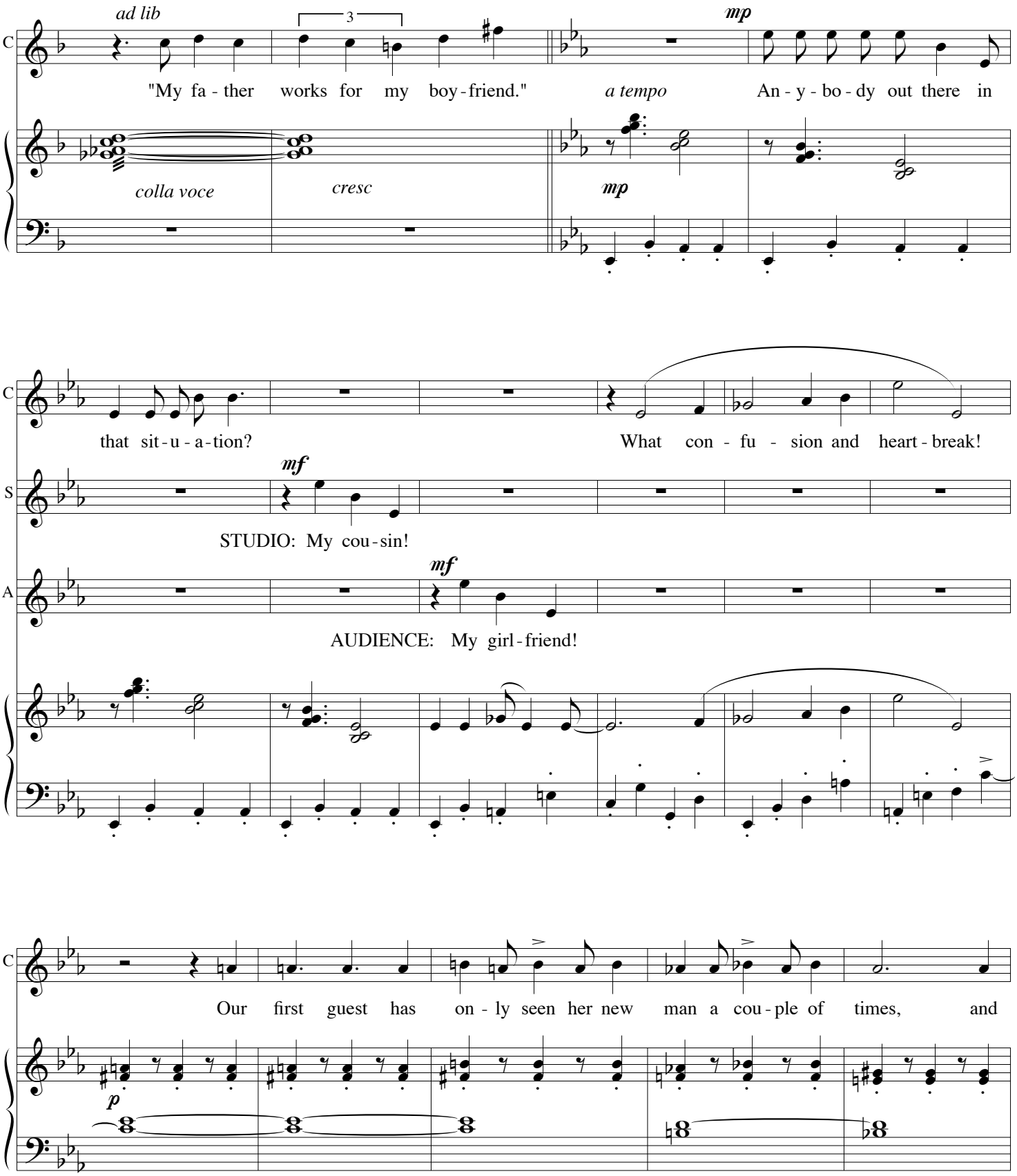
S: Coo - kie! Coo - kie! Coo - kie!

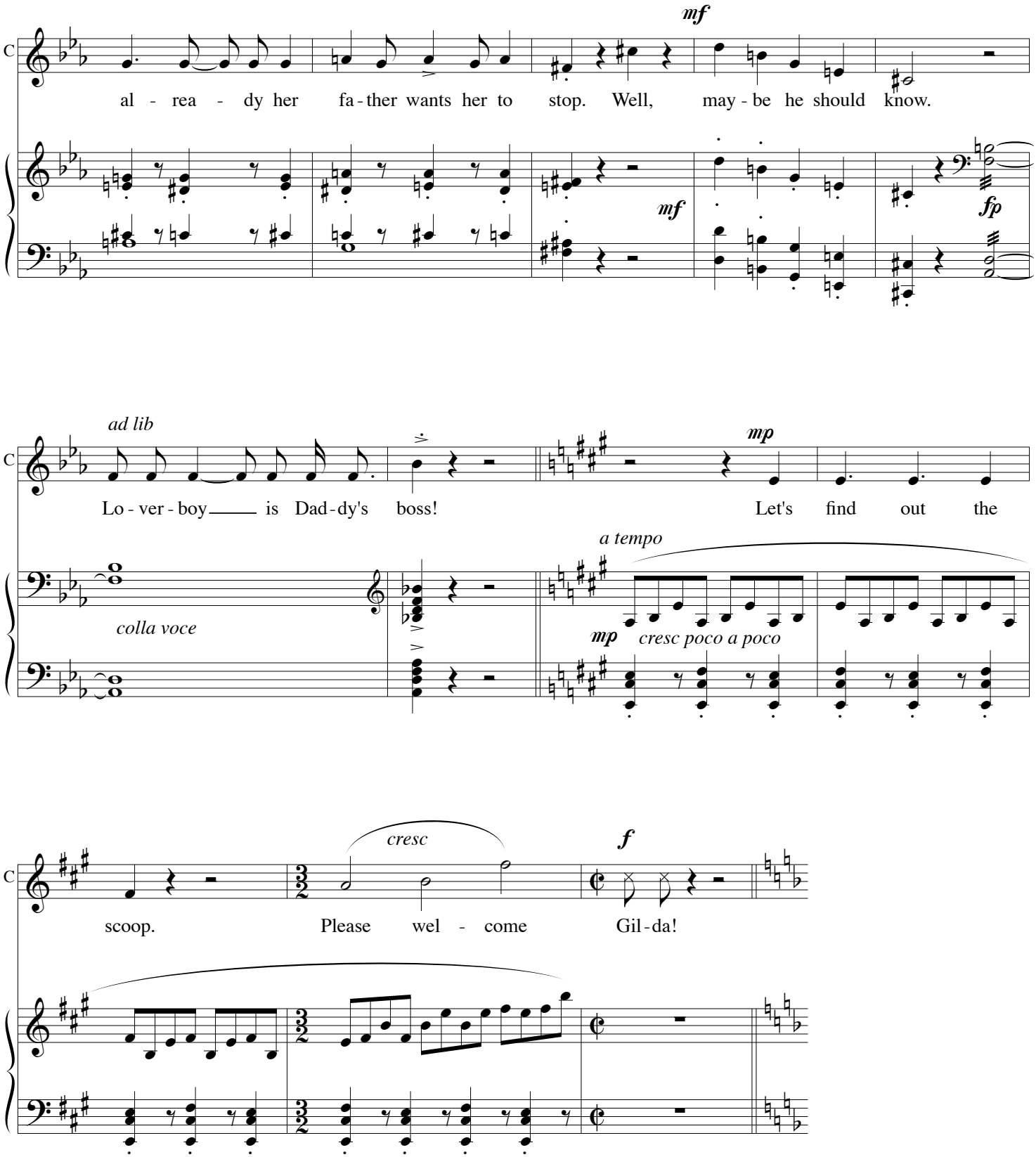
A: Coo - kie! Coo - kie! Coo - kie!

dim *mf*

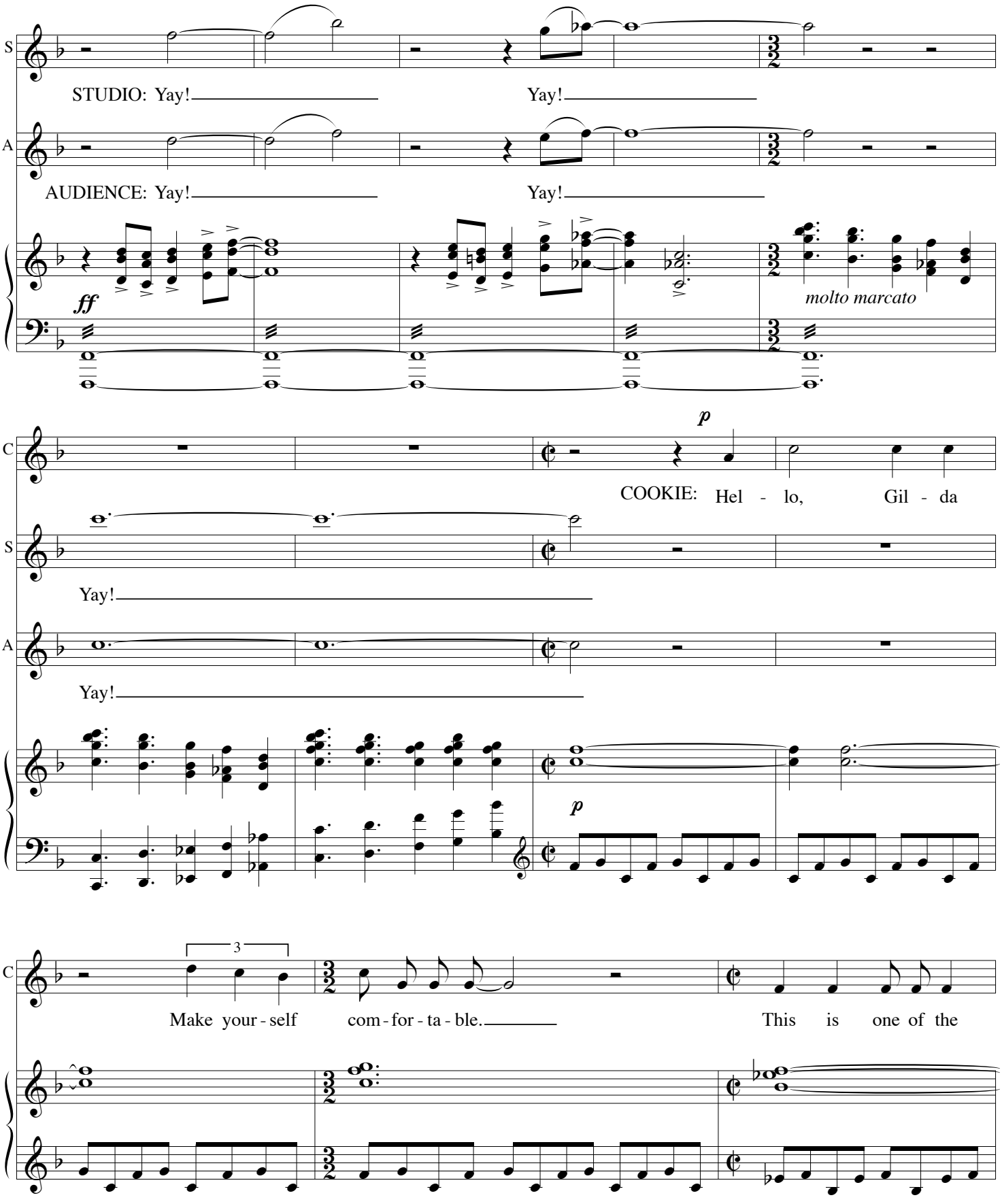

ad lib
show where the lies stop and the mi-ra-cles be - gin.
colla voce
p
a tempo
How are all of you to-day?
f
STUDIO: We're heal - ing! We're
AUDIENCE: We're heal - ing! We're
ff
p
What a won-der-ful stu-di-o au-di - ence! Hang in there, folks.
heal - ing!
heal - ing!
p

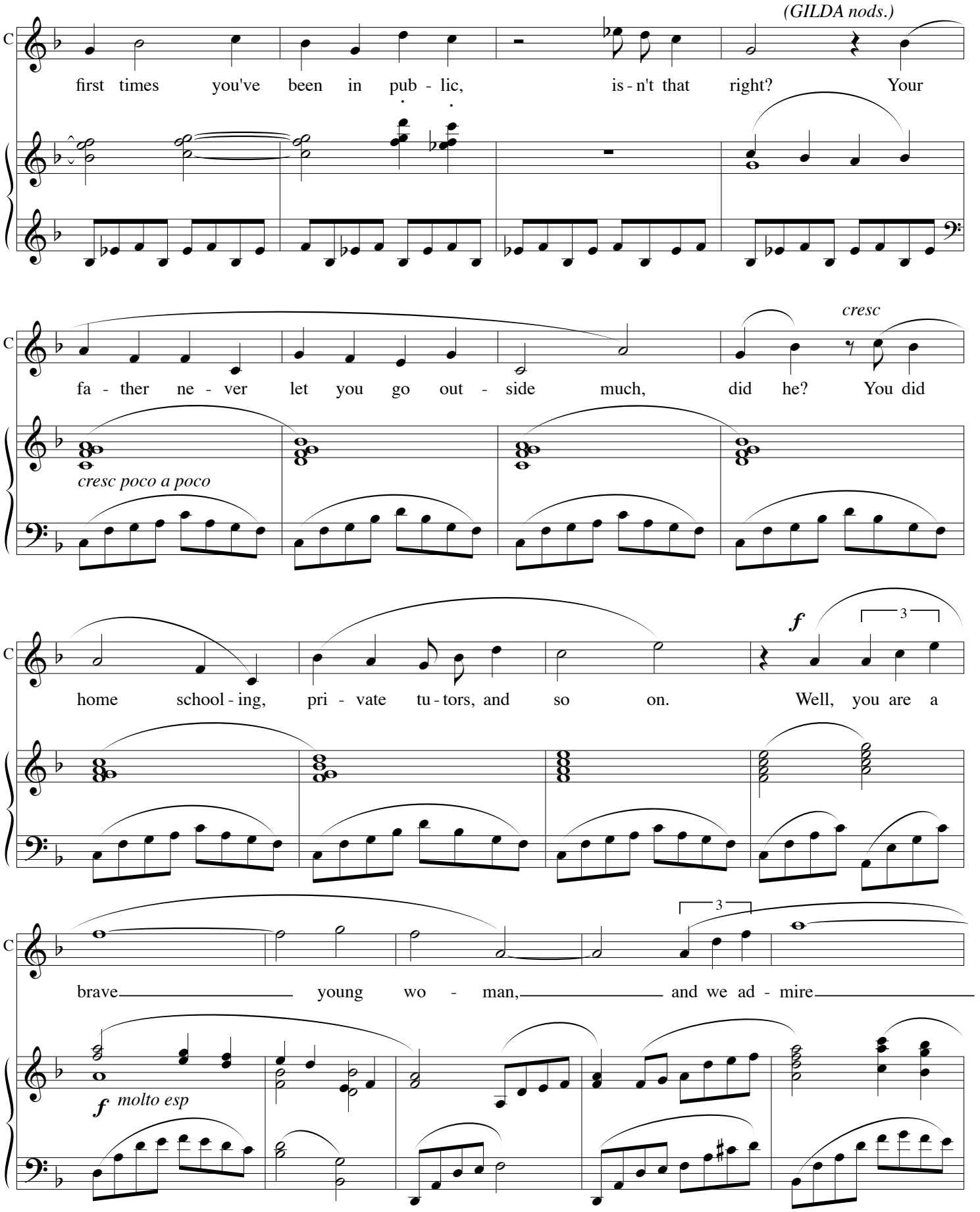

C
Our guests to - day need all your love and sup - port.
esp
C
Will you help?
S
We'll em - pow - er them, em - pow - er them!
A
We'll em - pow - er them, em - pow - er them!
8va
loco
sfz
ff
C
I knew I could count on you. To - day's top - ic:

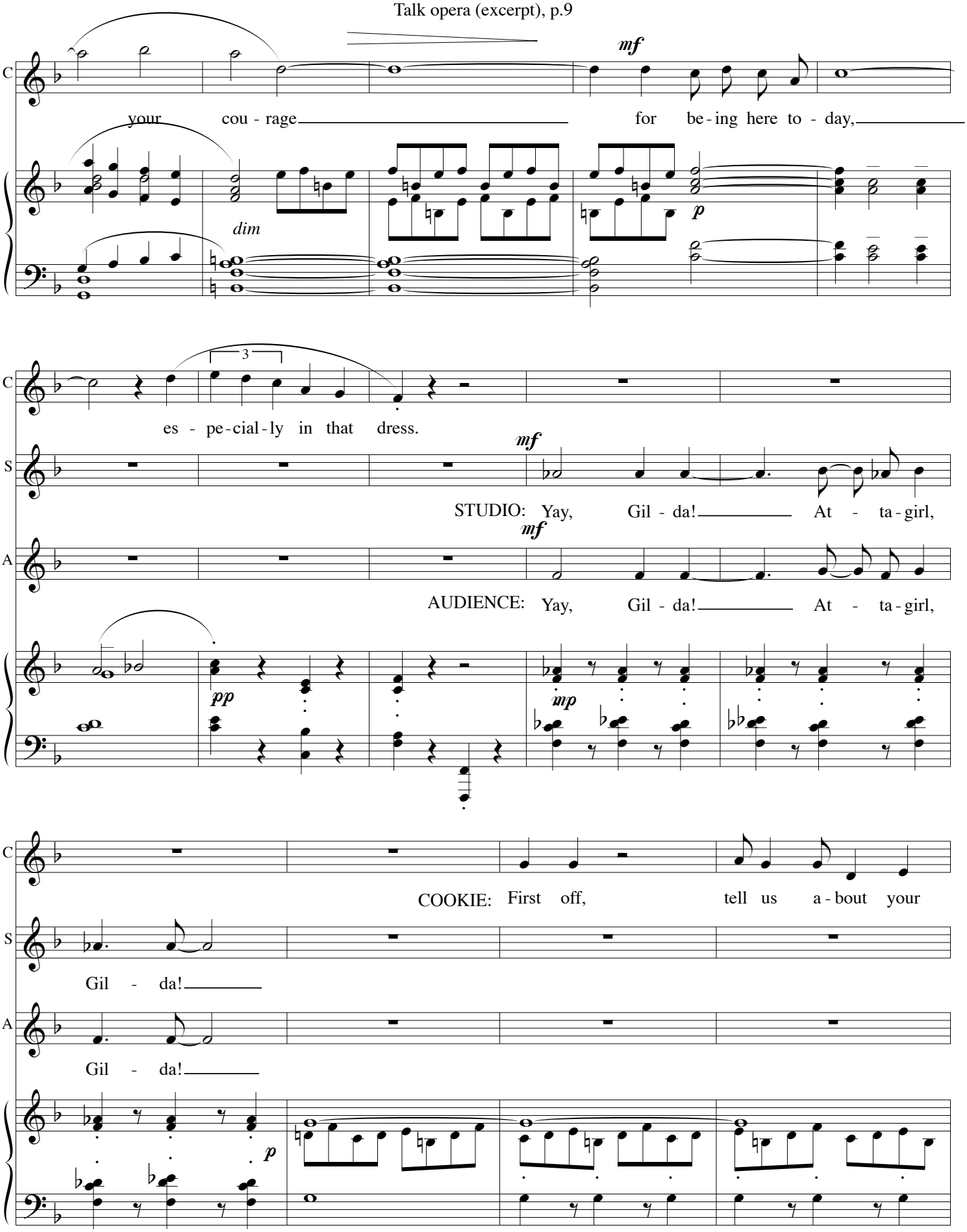

ad lib
3
mp
C
"My fa - ther works for my boy - friend."
a tempo
An - y - bo - dy out there in
colla voce
cresc
mp
C
that sit - u - a - tion?
What con - fu - sion and heart - break!
mf
S
STUDIO: My cou - sin!
mf
A
AUDIENCE: My girl - friend!
C
Our first guest has on - ly seen her new man a cou - ple of times, and
p

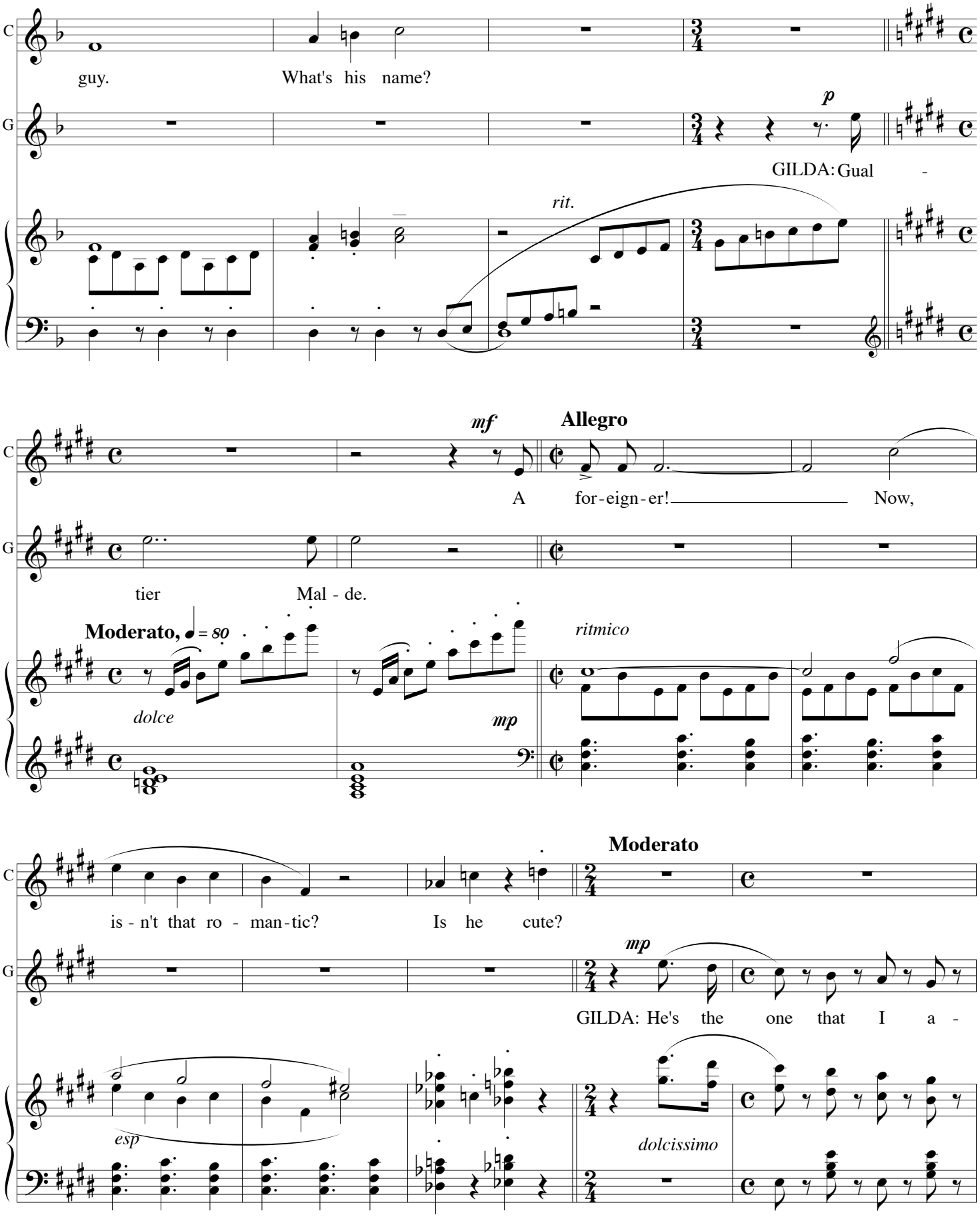

mf
al - rea - dy her fa - ther wants her to stop. Well, may - be he should know.
mf
fp
ad lib
Lo - ver - boy is Dad - dy's boss!
mp
Let's find out the
colla voce
a tempo
mp
cresc poco a poco
cresc
f
scoop. Please wel - come Gil - da!

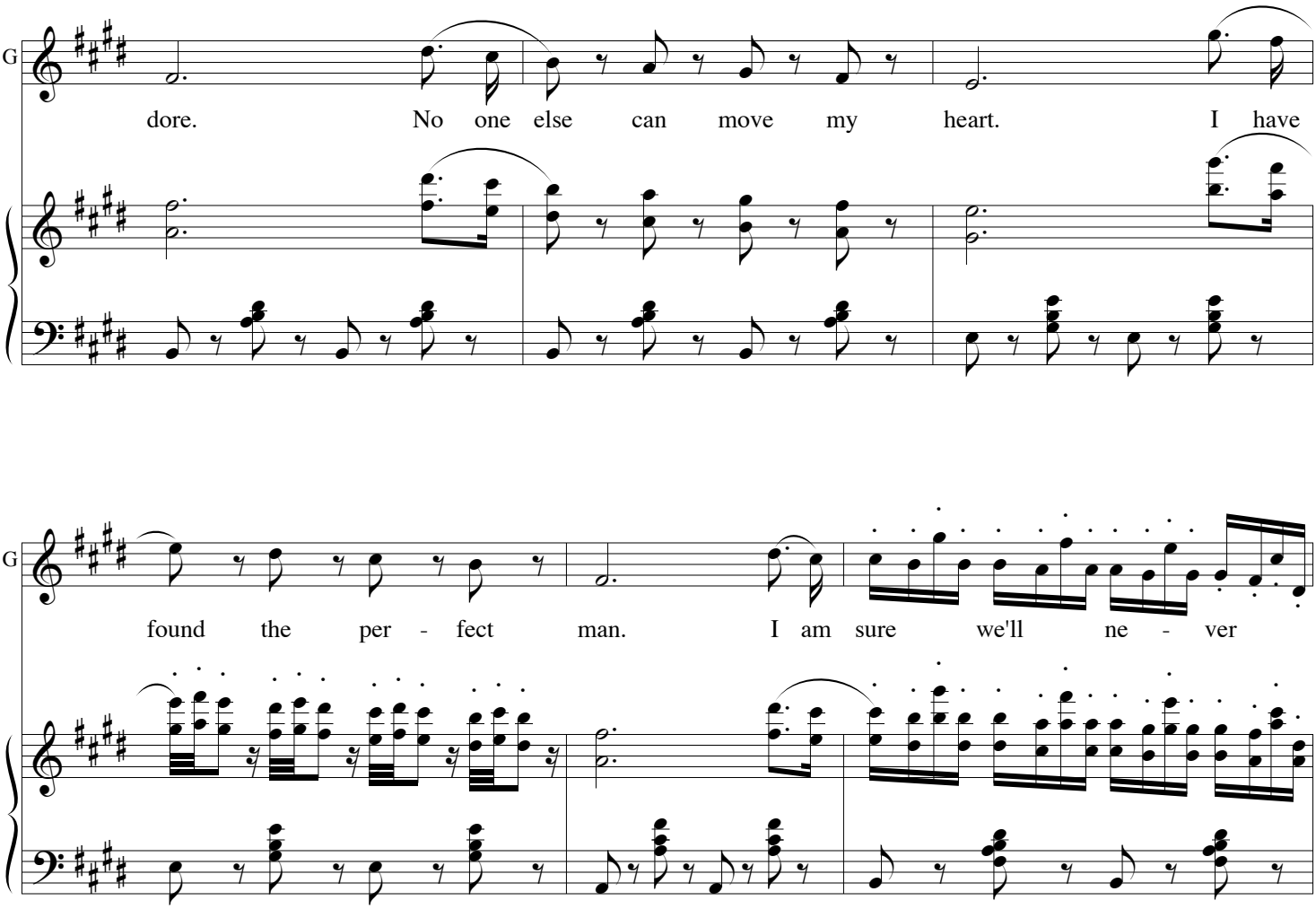
Enter GILDA in full sixteenth-century costume and wig. She is distracted and a little frightened by the antics of STUDIO AUDIENCE.




(GILDA nods.)
first times you've been in pub - lic, is - n't that right? Your
fa - ther ne - ver let you go out - side much, did he? You did
cresc
cresc poco a poco
home school - ing, pri - vate tu - tors, and so on. Well, you are a
f
3
brave young wo - man, and we ad - mire
3
f molto esp

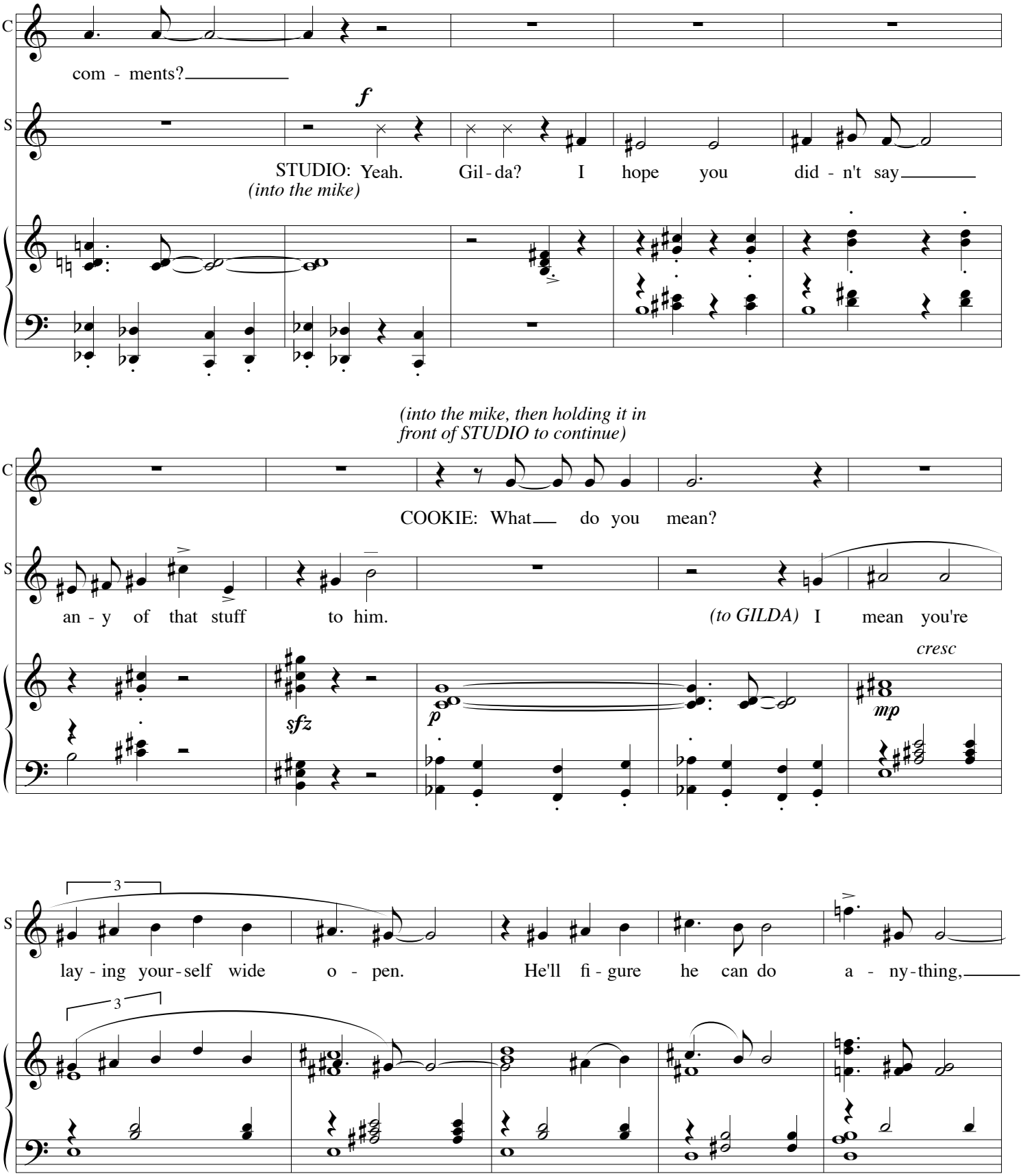

C
mf
your cou - rage for be - ing here to - day,
dim
p
C
3
es - pe - cial - ly in that dress.
S
mf
STUDIO: Yay, Gil - da! At - ta - girl,
A
mf
AUDIENCE: Yay, Gil - da! At - ta - girl,
pp
mp
C
COOKIE: First off, tell us a - bout your
S
Gil - da!
A
Gil - da!
p

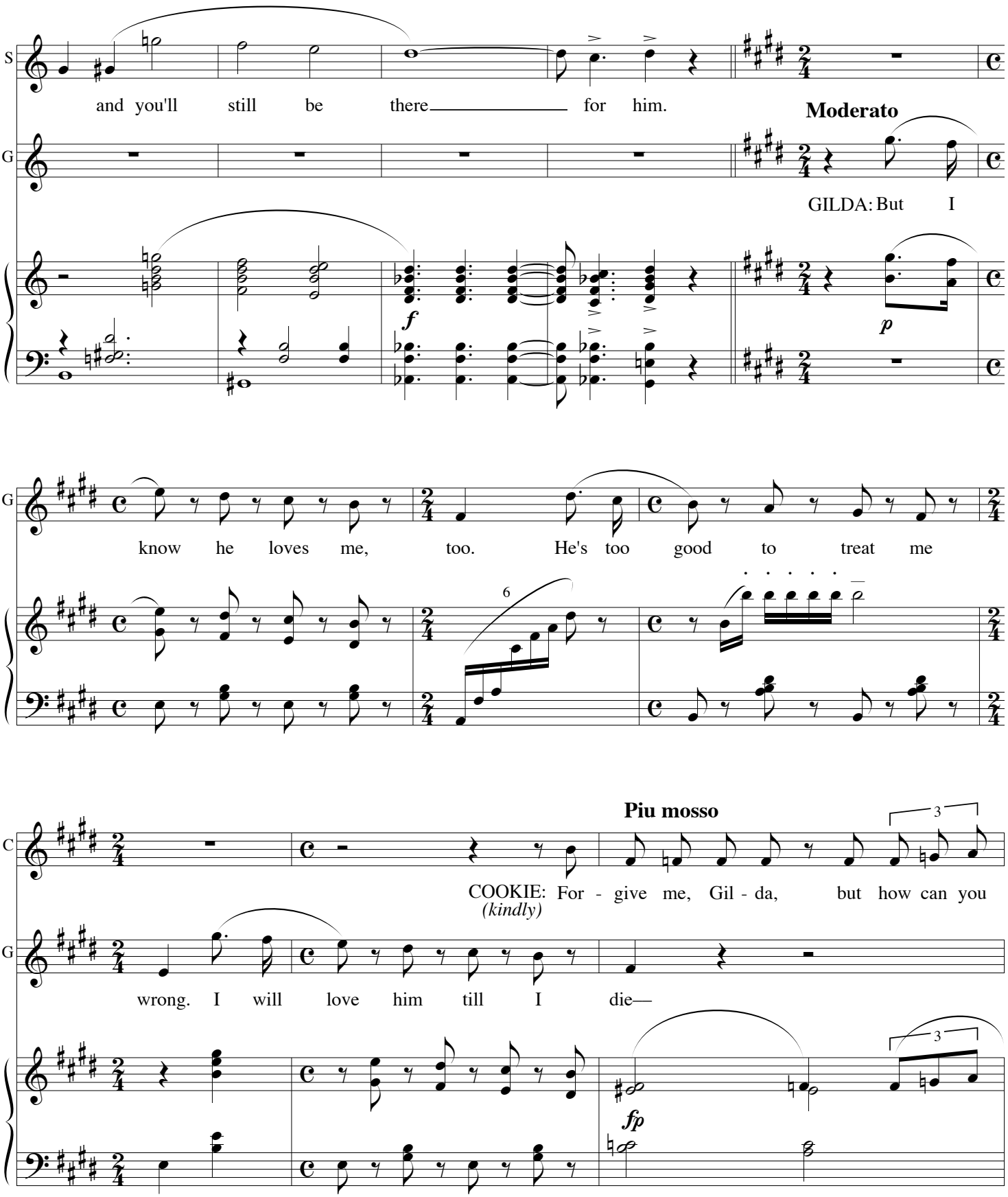

C
guy.
What's his name?
G
p
GILDA: Gual -
rit.
mf
Allegro
A for-eign-er! Now,
tier Mal - de.
Moderato, ♩ = so
dolce
mp
ritmico
Moderato
is - n't that ro - man-tic?
Is he cute?
mp
GILDA: He's the one that I a -
esp
dolcissimo

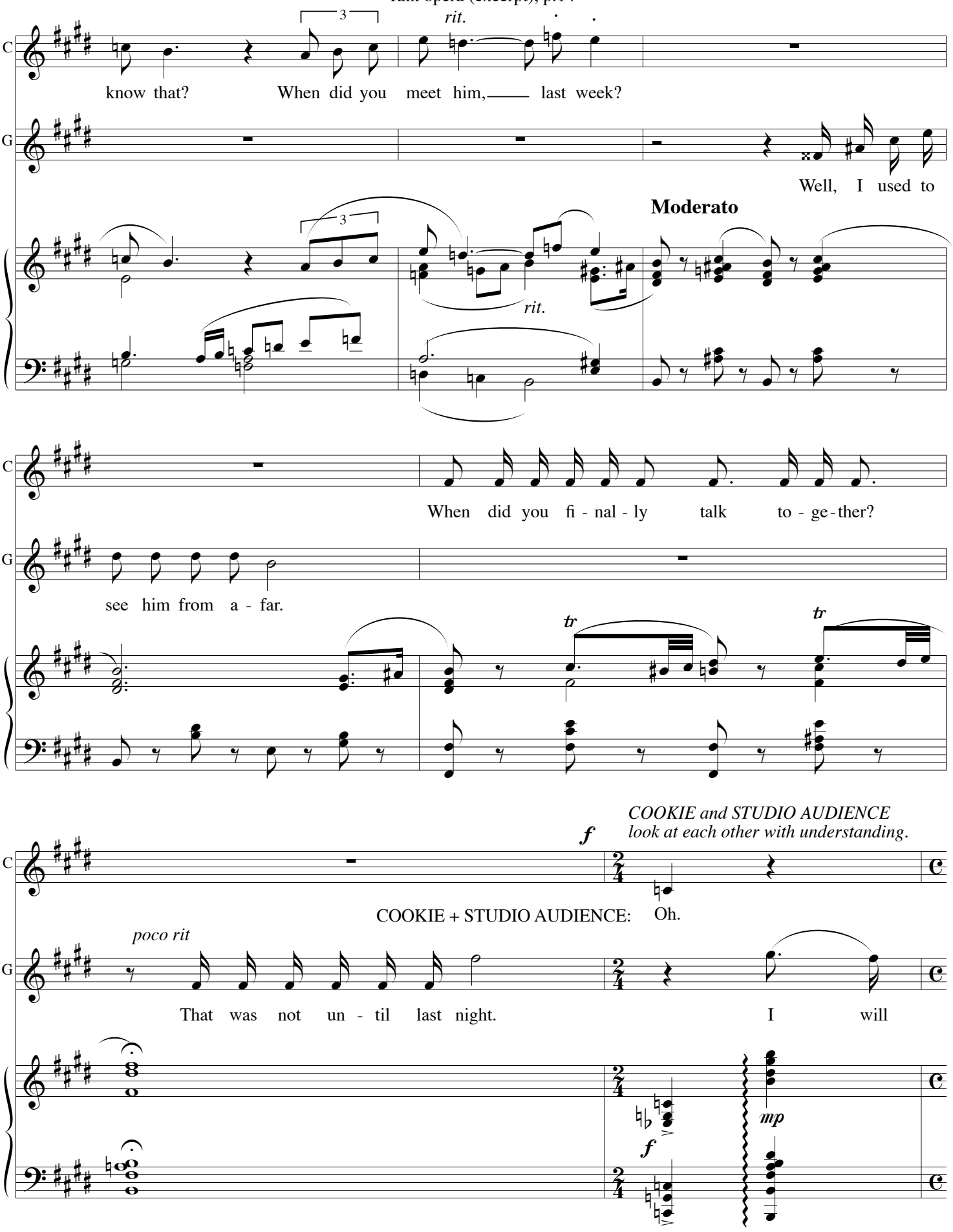


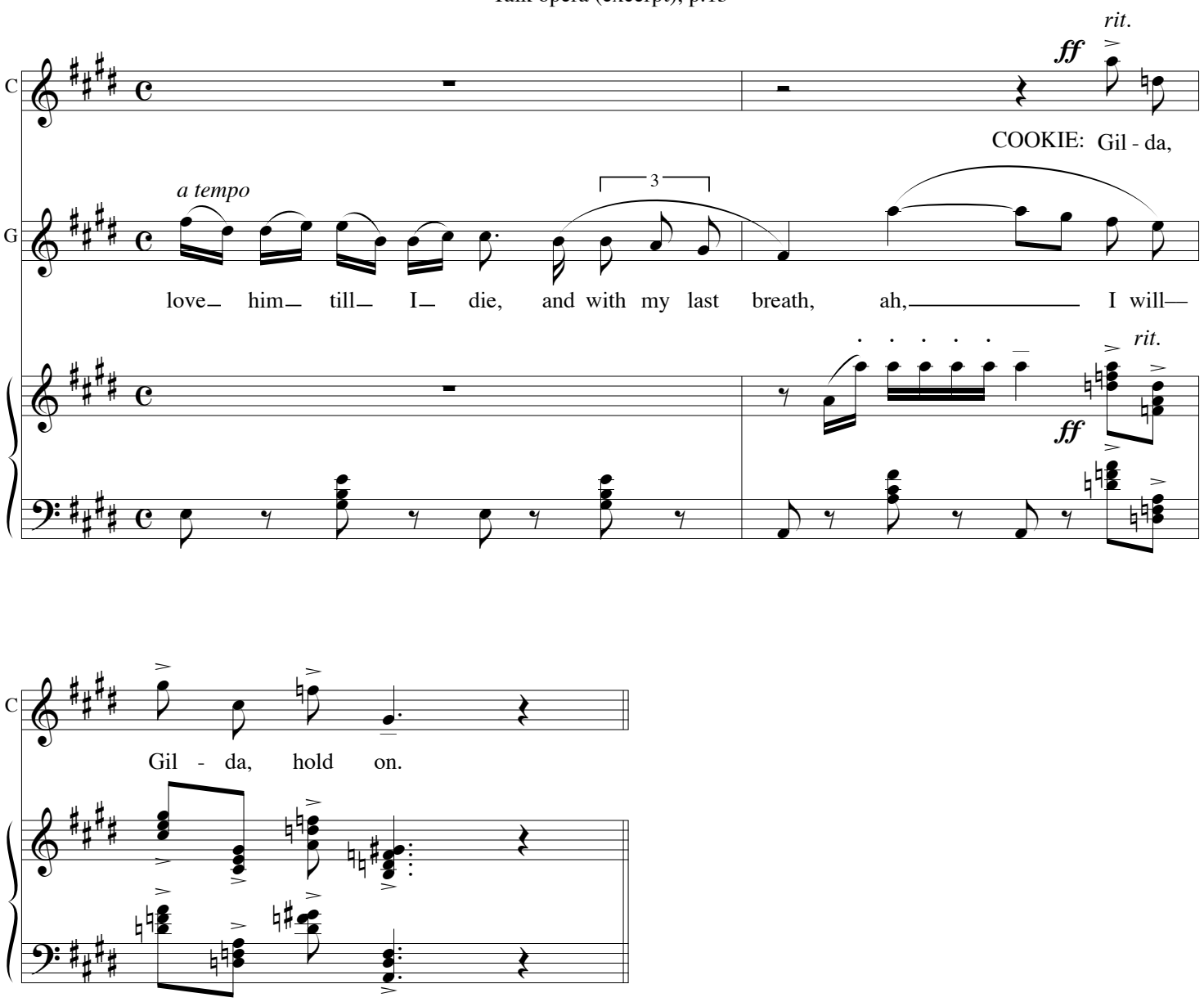
She walks with the mike toward STUDIO AUDIENCE.

COOKIE is a little disturbed by GILDA's solo.


C
com - ments?
S
f
STUDIO: Yeah. Gil - da? I hope you did - n't say
(into the mike)
(into the mike, then holding it in front of STUDIO to continue)
C
COOKIE: What do you mean?
S
an - y of that stuff to him. (to GILDA) I mean you're
sfz
p
cresc
mp
3
S
lay - ing your - self wide o - pen. He'll fi - gure he can do a - ny - thing,
3


S
and you'll still be there for him.
Moderato
G
GILDA: But I
f
p
know he loves me, too. He's too good to treat me
6
Piu mosso
3
C
COOKIE: For - give me, Gil - da, but how can you
(kindly)
wrong. I will love him till I die—
fp


C
know that?
When did you meet him,
rit.
last week?
G
Well, I used to
Moderato
rit.
C
When did you fi - nal - ly talk to - ge - ther?
G
see him from a - far.
tr
tr
f
COOKIE and STUDIO AUDIENCE
look at each other with understanding.
C
COOKIE + STUDIO AUDIENCE:
Oh.
poco rit
G
That was not un - til last night.
I will
f
mp


rit.
ff
C
COOKIE: Gil - da,
a tempo
3
G
love him till I die, and with my last breath, ah, I will
rit.
ff
C
Gil - da, hold on.