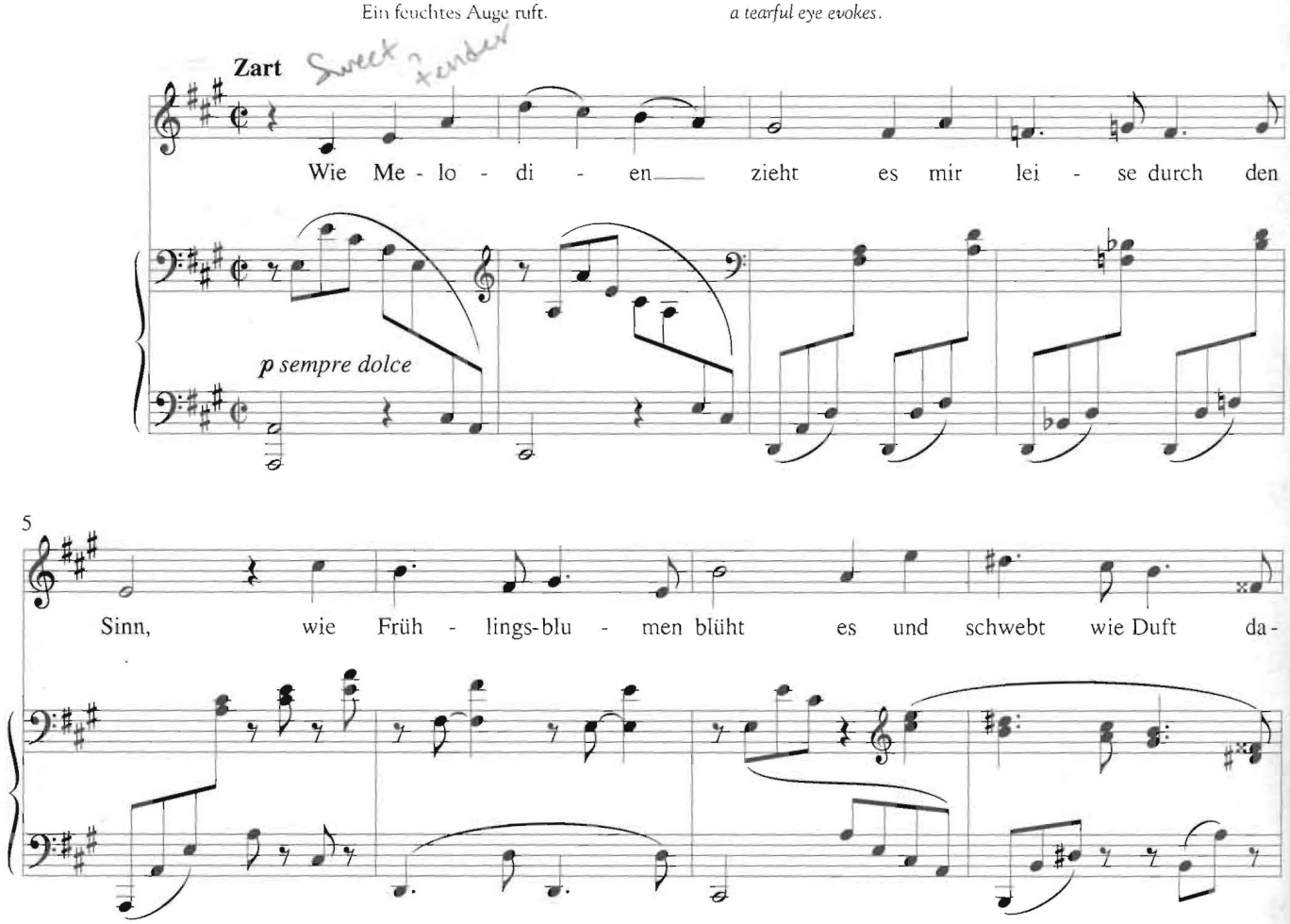
Wie Melodien zieht es mir

poem by Klaus Johann Groth

Opus 105, No. 1. Original key. Composed 1886. First published 1889, N. Simrock, Berlin. The 5 *Lieder* of Opus 5 were inspired by Brahms' romantic friendship with Hermine Spies, a young singer. Frau Elisabet von Herzogenberg called them the "Spies songs." The beginning of "Wie Melodien zieht es mir" is also heard in the first movement of Brahms' *Violin Sonata* in A major. The text is found in Groth's *Hundert Blätter, Paralipomena zum Quickborn* (1854). Much of Groth's (1819–99) fame came from the use of his native Plattdeutsch, or Low German, dialect of Northern Germany. Groth's Low German poetry brought a new level of respect to speakers of the dialect. Brahms, also a native of Northern Germany, set only Groth's High German poetry to music, calling his Low German pieces "all too personal." Low German was Brahms' native dialect and the language spoken by his father. Brahms and Groth were good friends.

Wie Melodien zieht es	*Like melodies it pervades*
Mir leise durch den Sinn,	*my senses softly.*
Wie Frühlingsblumen blüht es	*Like spring flowers it blooms*
Und schwebt wie Duft dahin.	*and drifts along like fragrance.*
Doch kommt das Wort und faßt es	*But when a word comes and grasps it*
Und führt es vor das Aug,	*and brings it before the eye,*
Wie Nebelgrau erblaßt es	*like gray mist it fades*
Und schwindet wie ein Hauch.	*and vanishes like a breath.*
Und dennoch ruht im Reime	*And yet there remains in the rhyme*
Verborgen wohl ein Duft,	*a certain hidden fragrance,*
Den mild aus stillem Keime	*which, gently from the dormant bud,*
Ein feuchtes Auge ruft.	*a tearful eye evokes.*



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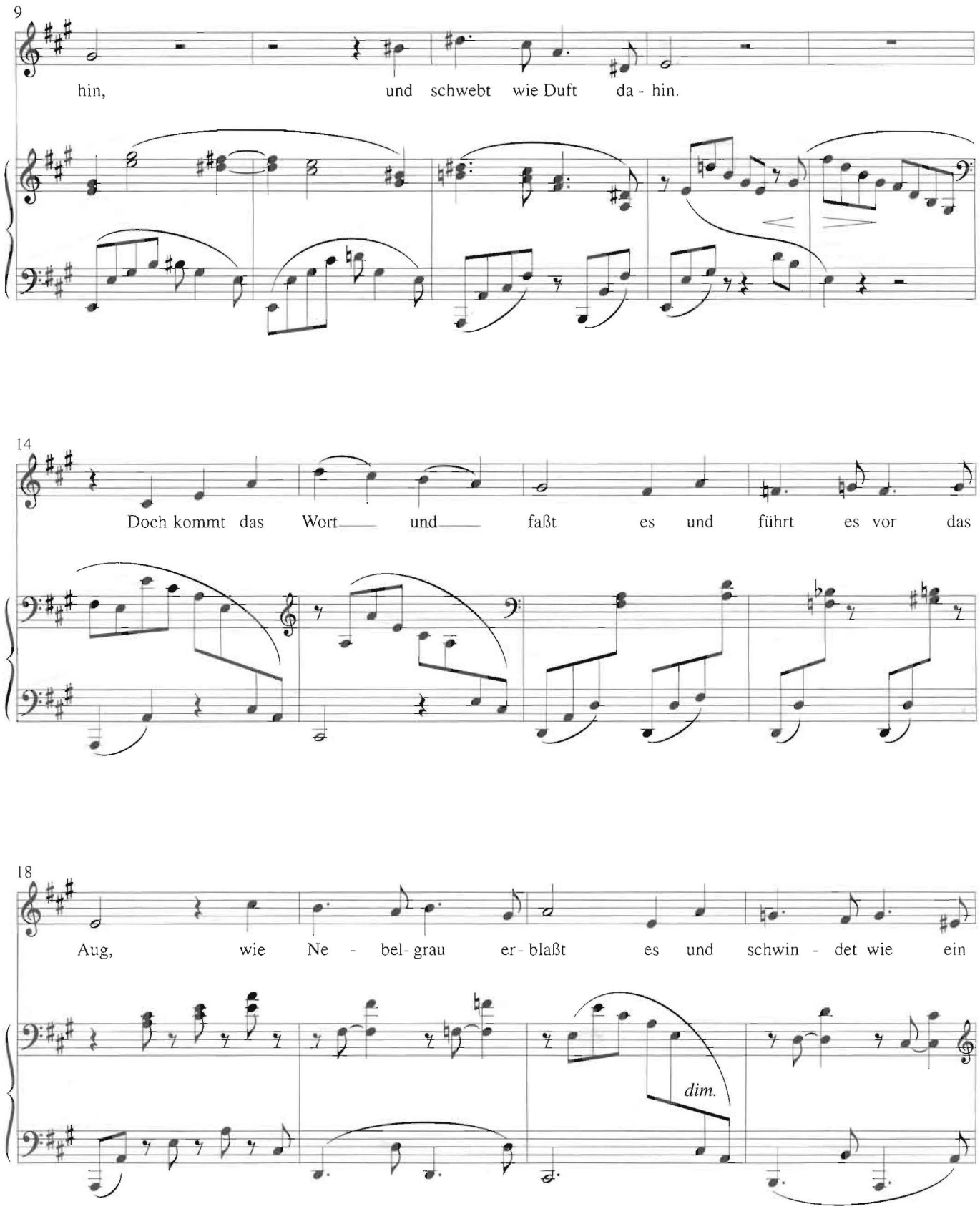
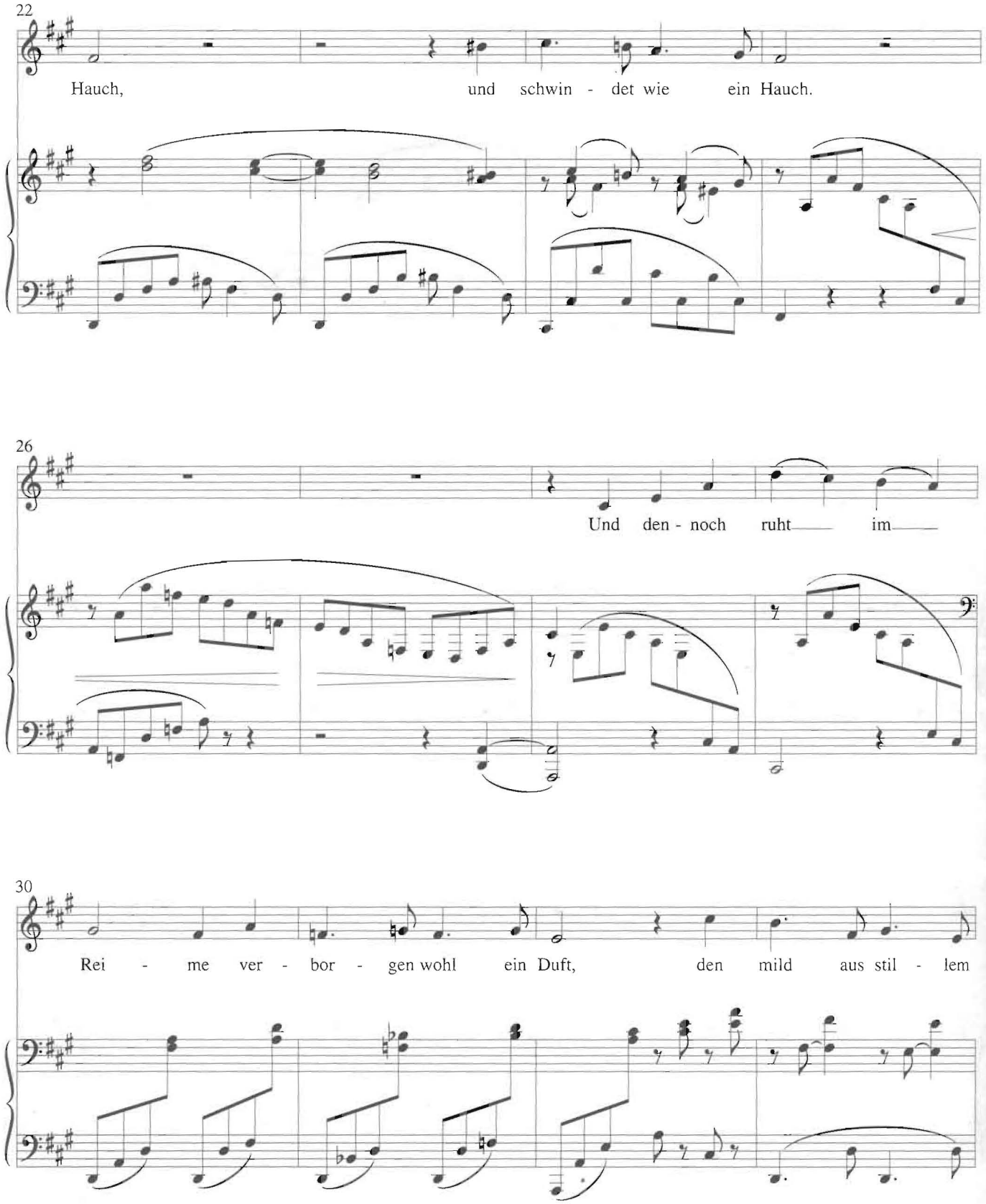
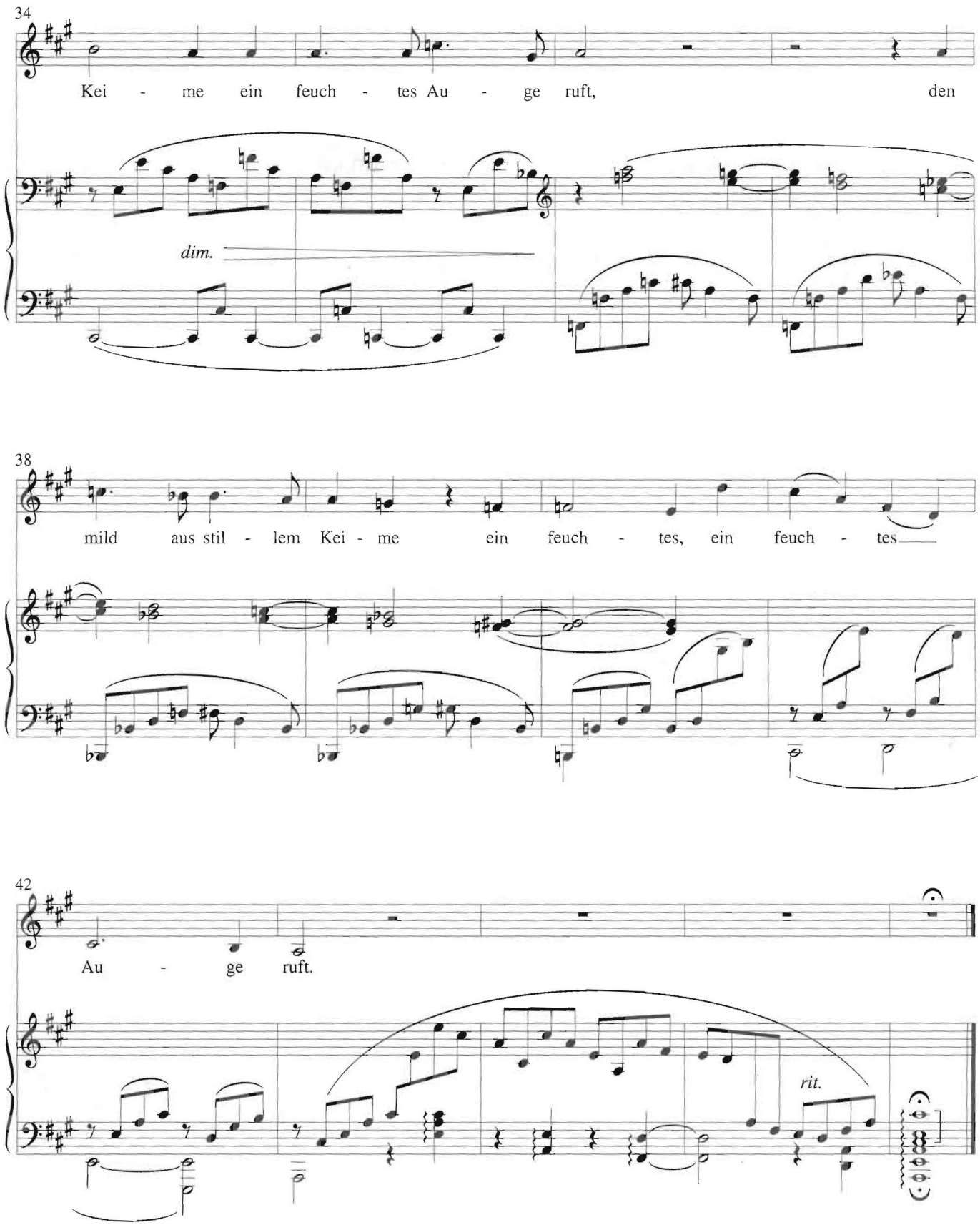

9
hin, und schwebt wie Duft da - hin.
14
Doch kommt das Wort und faßt es und führt es vor das
18
Aug, wie Ne - bel- grau er- blaßt es und schwin - det wie ein
dim.


22
Hauch, und schwin - det wie ein Hauch.
26
Und den - noch ruht im
30
Rei - me ver - bor - gen wohl ein Duft, den mild aus stil - lem


34
Kei - me ein feuch - tes Au - ge ruft, den
dim.
38
mild aus stil - lem Kei - me ein feuch - tes, ein feuch - tes
42
Au - ge ruft.
rit.