

Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle

a narrative for soprano, baritone, and flute

dédié à Catherine Issalys

music by Mark Warhol

words by Charles Darwin

Movement 1

Movement 2

Movement 3

Movement 4

Movement 5

Movement 6

Movement 7

STAGING INSTRUCTIONS

Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle is a work of music theater requiring a set, costumes, and props. Note the video of a performance on the composer's website.

ACCIDENTALS WITHIN A MEASURE

normal convention : an accidental affects all notes of the same pitch in the same octave

LICENSES AND FEES

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COMPOSER INFORMATION

web : www.markwarhol.net

Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle

Charles Darwin

Arrived from London. Went on board the Beagle. Everything was so new, the Coxswain's piping, the manning the yards, the men working at the hawsers to the sound of a fife; but nothing is so striking as the rapidity of the orders and the alertness with which they are obeyed.

We weighed anchors and sailed. I was soon sick. When a heavy gale came on, I suffered most dreadfully; such a whistling of the wind and roar of the sea, the hoarse screams of the officers and shouts of the men, made a concert that I shall not soon forget.

A wonderful shoal of porpoises crossed the bows of our vessel. The whole sea in places was furrowed by them; they proceeded by jumps, in which the whole body was exposed, and as hundreds thus cut the water it presented a most extraordinary spectacle.

It may sound strange, but it is necessary for a person to be some time in a ship, before he understands how to enjoy a favorable wind. During a fair breeze, nothing can be more delightful than the general cheerfulness which pervades the whole ship.

I find living on board a most excellent time for all sorts of study. I sit in my own corner, snug and quiet, and listen to the wind roaring through the rigging with the same sort of feeling that I often have when sitting round a Christmas fire.

The sea from its extreme luminousness presented a wonderful and most beautiful appearance; every part of the water which by day is seen as foam, glowed with a pale light. The vessel drove before her bows two billows of liquid phosphorus, and in her wake was a milky train. The crest of every wave was bright; and from the reflected light, the sky just above the horizon was not so utterly dark as the rest of the heavens.

When on board H.M.S. Beagle, as naturalist, I was much struck with certain facts in the distribution of the inhabitants of South America, and in the geological relations of the present to the past inhabitants of that continent. These facts seemed to me to throw some light on the origin of species. On my return home, it occurred to me, that something might perhaps be made out of this question by patiently accumulating and reflecting on all sorts of facts which could possibly have any bearing on it. After five years work, I allowed myself to speculate on the subject, and drew up some short notes; these I enlarged into a sketch of the conclusions, which then seemed to me probable.

A sealing vessel arrived commanded by Capt. Lowe; a notorious man, who has frequented these seas for many years and been the terror to all small vessels. I think these men strikingly resemble the old buccaneers.

In considering the Origin of Species, it is quite conceivable that a naturalist, reflecting on the mutual affinities of organic beings, on their embryological relations, their geographical distribution, geological succession, and other such facts, might come to the conclusion that each species had not been independently created, but had descended,

Muse

My time since the making of a net has been fully occupied with collecting numerous small animals from the sea. Many of these creatures, so low in the scale of nature, are most exquisite in their forms and rich colors. It creates a feeling of wonder that so much beauty should be apparently created for such little purpose.

I first saw the glory of tropical vegetation on the island of Saint Jago: if the eye attempts to follow the flight of a gaudy butterfly, it is arrested by some strange tree or fruit; if watching an insect one forgets it in the stranger flower it is crawling over; if turning to admire the splendor of the scenery, the individual character of the foreground fixes the attention. The mind is a chaos of delight.

I proceeded into the interior of the forest. A profound gloom reigns everywhere; it would be impossible to tell the sun was shining, if it was not for an occasional gleam of light, shooting as it were through a shutter, on the ground beneath; and that the tops of the more lofty trees are brightly illuminated. Whilst seated on the trunk of a decaying tree amidst such scenes, one feels an inexpressible delight. The rippling of some little brook, the tap of a woodpecker, or scream of some more distant bird, by the distinctness with which it is heard, brings the conviction how still the rest of nature is.

I walked on to Punta Alta to look after fossils; and to my great joy, I found the head of some large animal, imbedded in a soft rock. It took me nearly three hours to get it out. As far as I am able to judge, it is allied to the rhinoceros. I did not get it on board till some hours after it was dark.

like varieties, from other species. Nevertheless, such a conclusion, even if well founded, would be unsatisfactory, until it could be shown how the innumerable species inhabiting this world have been modified, so as to acquire that perfection of structure and co-adaptation which most justly excites our admiration.

I watched the progress of a squall; the black cloud with its rising arch, then the line of white breakers, which steadily approaches, till the ship heels over and the squall is heard whistling through the rigging.

As many more individuals of each species are born than can possibly survive; and as, consequently, there is a frequently recurring struggle for existence, it follows that any being, if it vary however slightly in any manner profitable to itself, under the complex and sometimes varying conditions of life, will have a better chance of surviving, and thus be naturally selected. From the strong principle of inheritance, any selected variety will tend to propagate its new and modified form.

Today Mr. Rowlett expired. On the following day the funeral service was read on the quarter deck, and his body lowered into the sea; it is an awful and solemn sound, that splash of the waters over the body of an old shipmate.

There was a curious spectacle of many sperm whales; some of which were jumping straight up out of the water; every part of the body was visible excepting the fin of the tail. As they fell sideways into the water, the noise was as loud as a distant great gun.

Although much remains obscure, and will long remain obscure, I can entertain no doubt, after the most deliberate study and dispassionate judgement of which I am capable, that the view which most naturalists entertain, and which I formerly entertained - namely, that each species has been independently created - is erroneous. I am fully convinced that species are not immutable; but that those belonging to what are called the same genera are lineal descendants of some other and generally extinct species, in the same manner as the acknowledged varieties of any one species are the descendants of that species. Furthermore, I am convinced that natural selection has been the main but not exclusive means of modification.

We came to an anchor at Falmouth. The H.M.S. Beagle had completed its commission in five years and one hundred and thirty six days.

I have found beds of recent shells at an elevation of thirteen hundred feet. It seems a probable conjecture that the want of animals in this region may be owing to none having been created since this country was raised from the sea.


I learned the terrible news of a great earthquake: that not a house in Concepcion was standing; that seventy villages were destroyed, and that a great wave had destroyed the port. The whole coast was strewn over with timber and furniture as if a thousand great ships had been wrecked. Many great cracks traversed the ground; some of these near the cliffs on the coast were a yard wide.

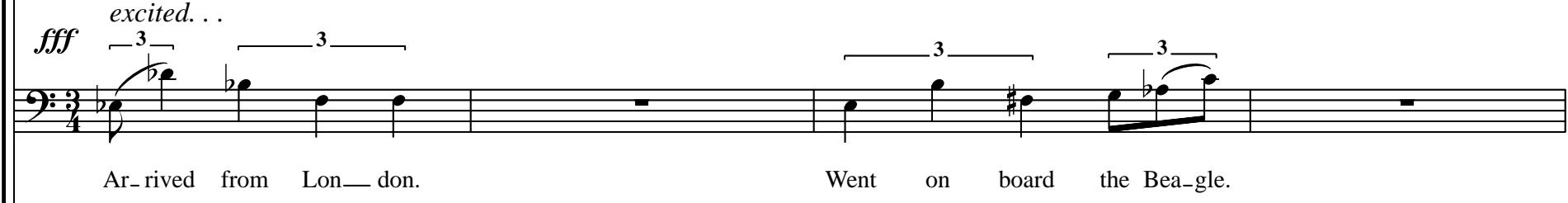
The full-grown tortoise is nearly a yard long in its back shell: they are so strong as easily to carry me, and too heavy to lift from the ground. The effect is very comical in seeing these huge creatures with outstretched neck so deliberately pacing onwards. When they arrive at the spring, they bury their heads above the eyes in the muddy water and greedily suck in great mouthfuls.


I walked to the Southwest extremity of the island: the day was clear and hot, and I saw the island not smiling with beauty, but staring with naked hideousness. The lava streams are rugged while intervening spaces are concealed with layers of pumice, ashes, and volcanic sandstone. Rounded volcanic bombs, which must have assumed this form when projected red hot from the crater, lie strewn on the surface. When passing this end of the island at sea, I could not imagine the cause of the white patches, with which the whole plain was mottled: I now found out it was owing to the number of sea-fowl, which sleep in such full confidence, to allow a man to walk up to and seize hold of them. On the beach a great sea, was tumbling over the broken lava rocks. The ocean is a raging monster, insult him a thousand miles distance, and his great carcass is stirred with anger through half an hemisphere.

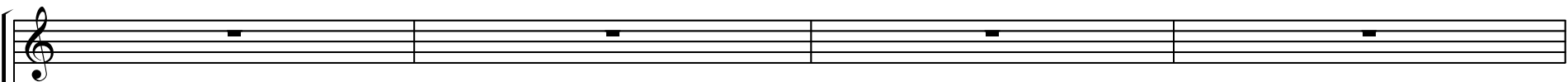
Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle

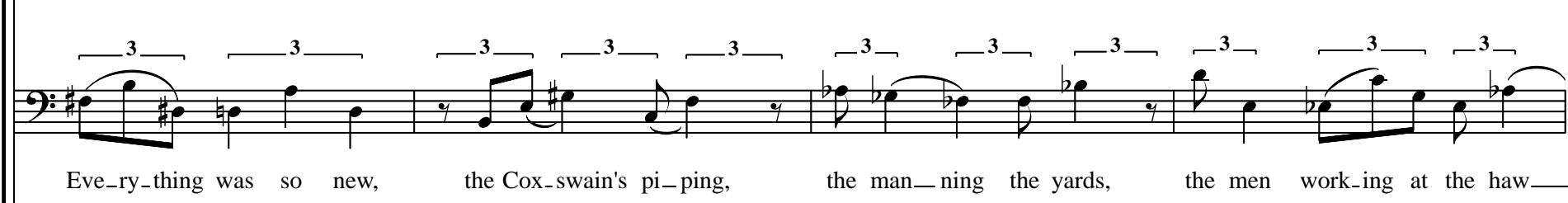
♩ = 100


S. 

B. *fff* *excited. . .*


Fl. *rippling waves on the sea. . .*
f


5
S. 

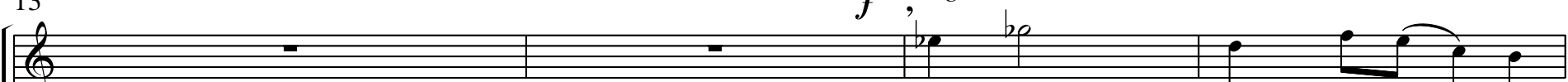
B. 

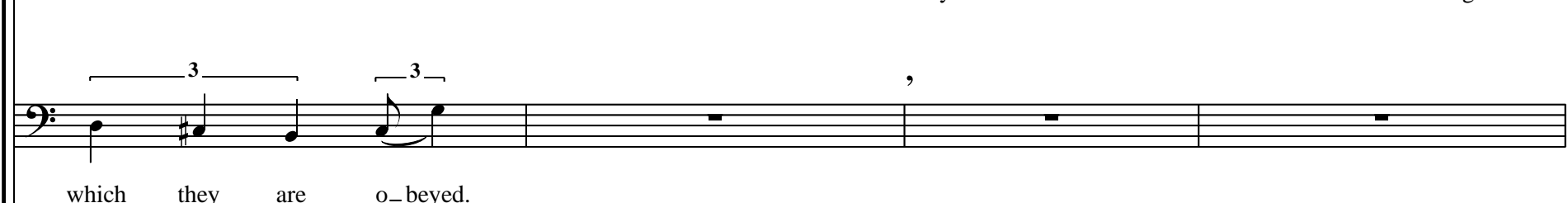
Fl. 

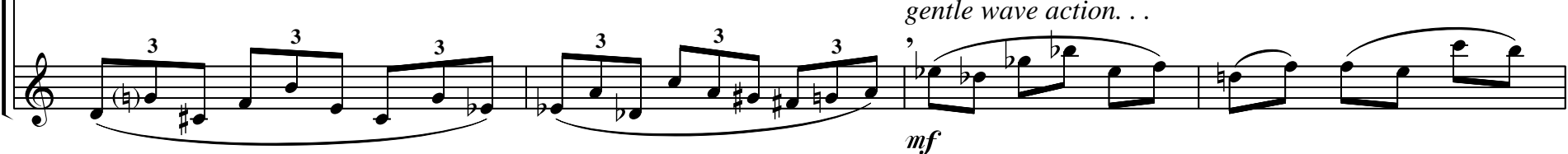
9
S. 

B. 

Fl. 

13
S. 
f *delighted. . .*
My time since the mak_ing of

B. 

Fl. *gentle wave action. . .*
mf


17

S. the net has been ful—ly oc—cu—pied with col—lect—ing nu—mer—ous small an—i—mals from

B.

Fl.

21

S. the sea. Man—y of these crea—tures, so low in

B.

Fl.

25

S. the scale of na—ture, are most ex—qui—site in their forms and rich col—ors.

B. *ff* *despairing...* We weighed an—chors and sailed. I was soon sick.

Fl.

29

S. It cre—ates a feel—ing of won—der that so much

B. When a heav—y gale came on, I suf—fered most dread—ful—ly; such a whis—tling of the wind and roar of the sea

Fl.

33

S. beau— ty should be ap— par— ent— ly cre— a— ted for such lit— tle pur— pose.

B. the hoarse screams of the of— fi— cers and shouts of the men made a con— cert that I shall not soon for— get.

Fl.

37

S.

B.

Fl. *calmly...*
mp

44

S.

B.

Fl. *Sya*

51 ♩ = 88

S.

B. *ff* *excited...*

Fl. *rippling waves on the sea...*
mf

A won— der— ful shoal of por— pois— es crossed the bows of our ves— sel.

55

S.

B.

Fl.

The whole sea in pla—ces was fur—rowed by them; they pro—ceed—ed

59

S.

B.

Fl.

by jumps, in which the whole bod—y was ex—posed, and as hun—dreds thus cut the wa—ter it pre—sent—ed a most

63

S.

B.

Fl.

mf, delighted... I first saw the glo—ry

ex—traor—di—nar—y spec—ta—cle.

mp gentle wave action...

67

S.

B.

Fl.

of trop—i—cal veg—e—ta—tion on the is—land of Saint Ja—go: if the

71

S. eye at-tempts to fol-low the flight of a gaud- y but-ter-fly, it is ar-rest-

B.

Fl.

75

S. ed by some strange tree or fruit; if watch-ing an in- sect one for- gets

B.

Fl.

79

S. it in the stran-ger flow-er it is crawl-ing o-ver; if turn-ing to ad-mire the

B. *f* cheerful...
It may sound strange,

Fl.

83

S. splen- dor of the scen-er-y, the in-di-vid-u-al char-ac-ter of the

B. but it is nec-es-sar-y for a per-son to be some time in a ship, be-fore he un-der-stands how to

Fl.

87

S. fore-ground fixes the at-ten-tion. The mind is a

B. en-joy a fa-vor-a-ble wind. Dur-ing a fair breeze, noth-ing can be more

Fl.

91

S. cha-os of de-light.

B. de-light-ful than the gen-er-al cheer-ful-ness which per-vades the whole ship.

Fl. *calmly...*
8va
p

95

S.

B.

Fl. 8va

101

S.

B.

Fl. 8va

108 $\text{♩} = 76$ *mf* *subdued...*

S. I pro—ceed—ed in—to the in—te—ri— or of

B. *f* *contented...* I find liv—ing on board a most ex—cel—lent time for all sorts of stud—y.

Fl. *broadly rising and falling waves...*
mp

112

S. the for—est. A pro— found gloom reigns

B. I sit in my own cor—ner, snug and qui—et, and lis—ten to the

Fl.

116

S. eve—ry where; it would be im—pos—si—ble to tell the sun was shin—

B. wind roar—ing through the rig—ging with the same sort of feel—ing that I of—ten have when sit—ting round

Fl.

120

S. ing, if it was not for an oc—ca—sion—al gleam of light, shoot—

B. a Christ—mas fire.

Fl.

124

S. ing as it were through a shut—ter, on the ground be—neath; and that

B.

Fl. *p*

128

S. the tops of the more loft—y trees are bright—ly il—lu—min—na—ted.

B.

Fl. *p*

132

S. Whilst seat—ed on the trunk of a de—cay—ing tree

enthrall'd. . .

mp B. The sea from its ex—treme lu—mi—nous—ness pre—sent—ed a won—der—ful and most beau—ti—ful ap—pear—ance; eve—

Fl. *p*

136

S. a—midst such scenes, one feels an in—ex—pli—ca—ble de—light.

B. ry part of the wa—ter which by day is seen as foam, glowed with a pale light.

Fl. *p*

140

S. The rip-pling of some lit-tle brook, the tap of a

B. The ves-sel drove be-fore her bows two bil-lows of liq-uid phos-pho-rus, and in her wake was

Fl.

144

S. wood-peck-er, or scream of some more dis-tant bird, by the dis-tinct-ness with

B. a milk-y train. The crest of eve-ry wave was bright; and from

Fl.

148

S. which it is heard, brings the con-vic-tion how still the rest of

B. the re-lect-ed light, the sky just a-bove the ho-ri-zon was not so ut-ter-ly dark as the rest

Fl.

152

S. na-ture is.

B. of the heav-ens.

Fl. *, calmly. . .*
pp

156

S.

B.

Fl.

164

S.

B.

Fl.

ppp

172

S.

B.

Fl.

179 ♩ = 66

S.

B.

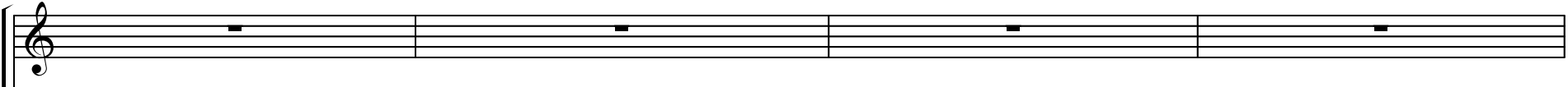
Fl.

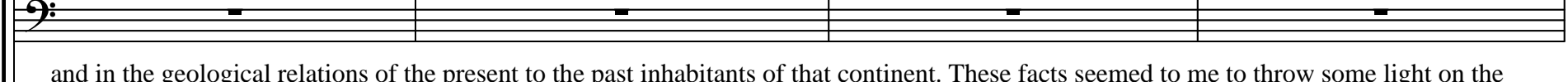
p (spoken)

When on board the H.M.S. Beagle, as naturalist, I was much struck with certain facts in the distribution of the inhabitants of South America,
mysteriously. . .

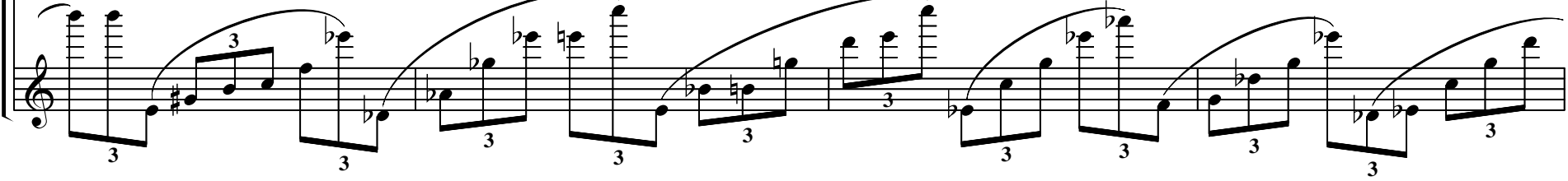
pp

183

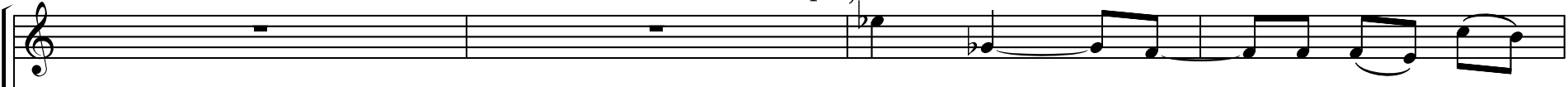
S. 

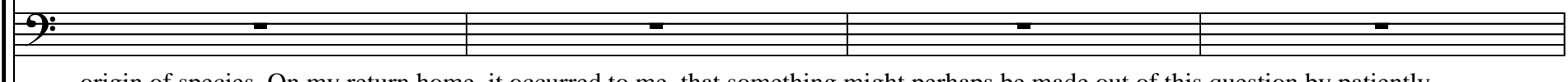
B. 

and in the geological relations of the present to the past inhabitants of that continent. These facts seemed to me to throw some light on the

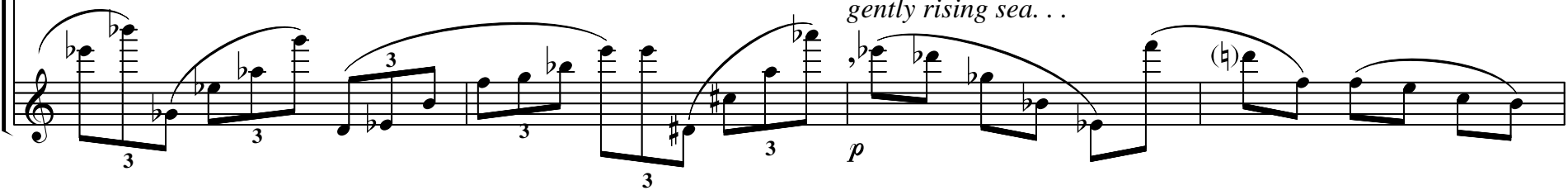
Fl. 

187


S.  *mp*, joyful...
I walked on to Pun—ta Al—ta

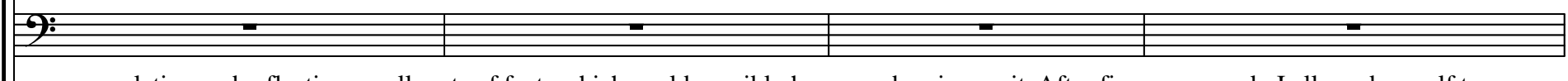
B. 

origin of species. On my return home, it occurred to me, that something might perhaps be made out of this question by patiently

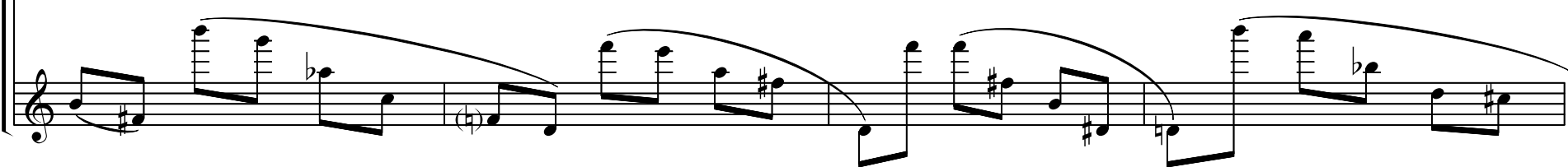
Fl.  *gently rising sea...*
p

191


S.  to look af—ter fos— sils; and to my great joy, I found the head

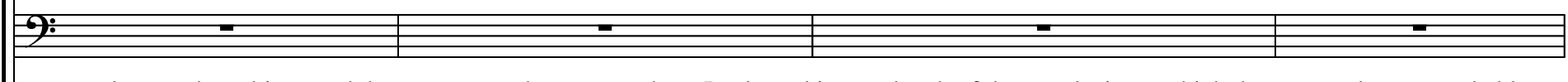
B. 

accumulating and reflecting on all sorts of facts which could possibly have any bearing on it. After five years work, I allowed myself to

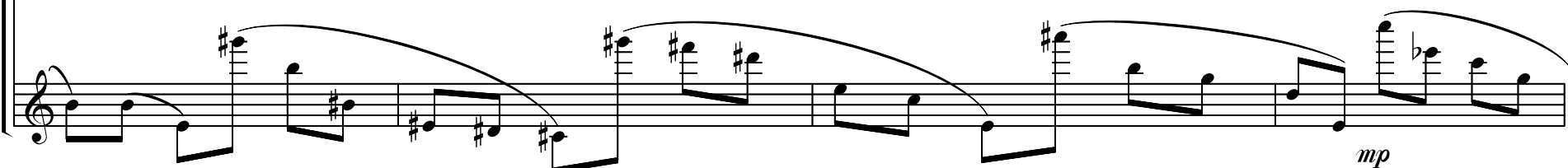
Fl. 

195

S.  of some large an— i— mal, im— bed— ded in a soft rock.

B. 

speculate on the subject, and drew up some short notes; these I enlarged into a sketch of the conclusions, which then seemed to me probable.

Fl.  *mp*

199 *mf*

S. It took me near—ly three hours to get it out.

B. *f excited...*
A seal—ing ves—sel ar—rived com—mand—ed by Cap—tain Lowe; a

Fl. *mf*

202 *f*

S. As far as I am a—ble to judge, it is al—lied

B. no—to—ri—ous man, who has fre—quent—ed these seas for man—y years and has been the ter—

Fl.

205 *ff*

S. to the rhi—noc—er—os. I did not get it on

B. *ff*
ror to all small ves—sels. I think these

Fl. *f*

208

S. board till some hours af—ter it was dark.

B. men strik—ing—ly re—sem—ble the old buc—ca—neers.

Fl. *powerfully rising sea...*
ff

211

S.

B.

Fl.

218

S.

B.

Fl.

224 ♩ = 58

S.

B.

Fl.

p (spoken)

In considering the Origin of Species, it is quite conceivable that a naturalist, reflecting on the mutual affinities of organic beings, on their mysteriously . . .

pp

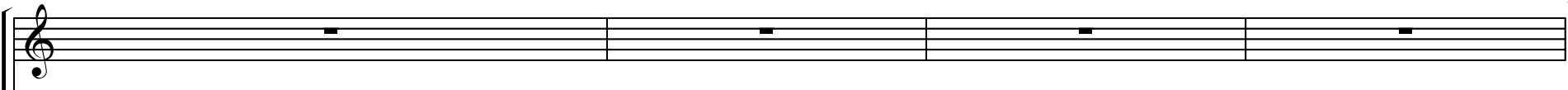
228

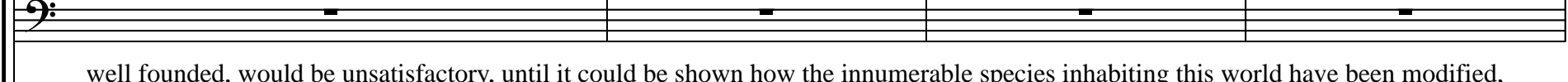
S.

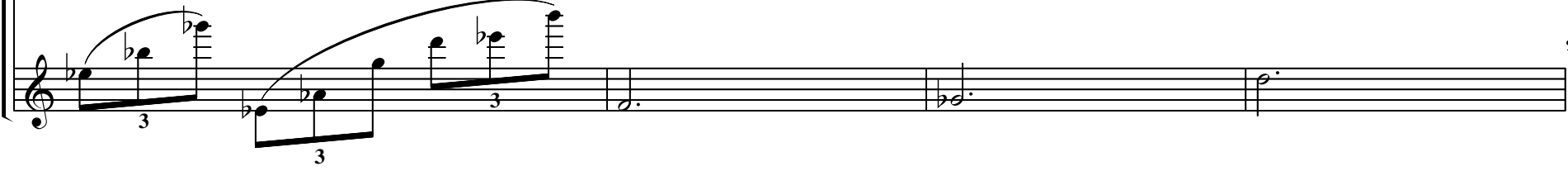
B.

Fl.


embryological relations, their geographical distribution, geological succession, and other such facts, might come to the conclusion that each species had not been independently created, but had descended, like varieties, from other species. Nevertheless, such a conclusion, even if

S. 

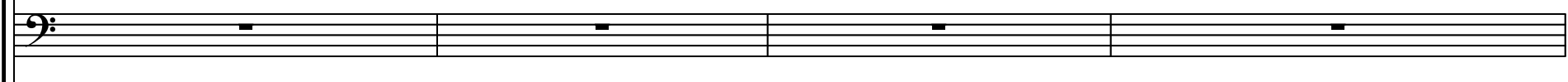
B. 

Fl. 


well founded, would be unsatisfactory, until it could be shown how the innumerable species inhabiting this world have been modified,

S. 

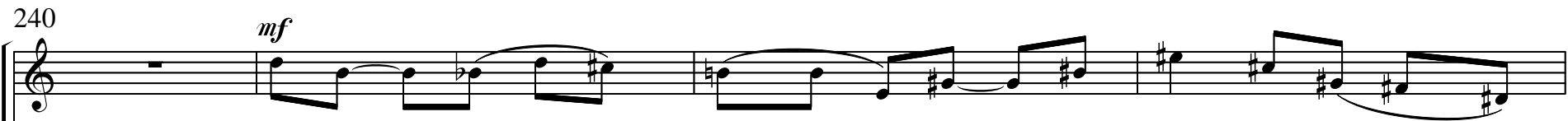
I have found beds of re-cent shells at an el-e-va-tion of thir-teen hun-dred feet.

B. 


so as to acquire that perfection of structure and co-adaptation which most justly excites our admiration.

Fl. 

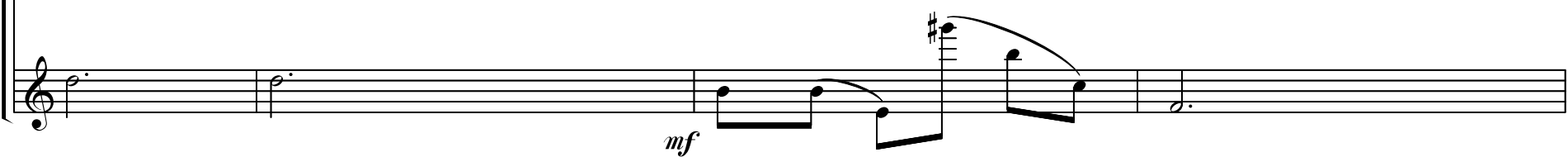
p steadily rising sea... *mp*

S. 


mf It seems prob-a-ble con-jec-ture that the want of an-i-mals

B. 

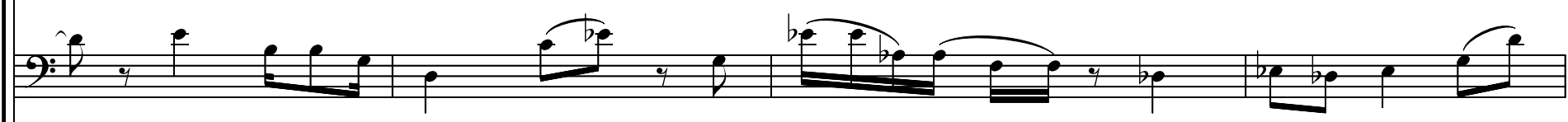
f excited... I watched the prog-ress of a squall; the black cloud with its ris-ing arch,

Fl. 


mf

S. 

in this re-gion may be ow-ing to none hav-ing been cre-a-ted since this

B. 

then the line of white break-ers, which stead-i-ly ap-proach-es, til the ship heels o-ver

Fl. 

f

248

S. coun— try was raised from the sea.

B. and the squall is heard whis— tling through the rig— ging. As many more

Fl. *ff* , *pp* mysteriously...

252

S.

B.

Fl. individuals of each species are born than can possibly survive; and as, consequently, there is a frequently recurring struggle for existence, it follows that any being, if it vary however slightly in any manner profitable to itself, under the complex and sometimes

258

S.

B.

Fl. varying conditions of life, will have a better chance of surviving, and thus be naturally selected. From the strong principle of inheritance, any selected variety will tend to propagate its new and modified form.

264 ♩ = 52 *ff* horrified... 3 3 3

S. I learned the ter— ri— ble news

B. *fff* upset... 3 3 3 To— day Mis— ter Row— lett ex— pired.

Fl. *f* 3 3 3 a turbulent sea...

267

S. of a great earth—quake: that not

B. *ff* On the fol—low—ing day the fu—ner—al serv—ice was

Fl.

269

S. a house in Con—cep—cion was stand—

B. read on the quar—ter deck, and his bod—y low—ered

Fl.

271

S. —ing; that sev—en—ty vil—la—ges

B. in—to the sea; it is an aw—ful and

Fl.

273

S. were de—stroyed, and that a great

B. sol—emn sound, the splash of the wa—ters o—ver

Fl.

275

S. wave had de—stroyed the port.

B. the bod—y of an old ship—mate.

Fl.

278 *f*

S. The whole coast was strewed o—ver with tim—ber and fur—

B.

Fl. *mf*

281

S. —ni—ture as if a thou—sand great ships had been wrecked.

B.

Fl.

284 *mf*

S. Man—y great cracks trav—ersed the ground;

B.

Fl. *mp*

287

S. some of these near the cliffs on the coast were

B.

Fl. *mp* delighted...

290

S. a yard wide. The full grown tor— toise

B. *mf*, intrigued...

Fl. *p* a subsiding sea...

There was a cu— ri— ous spec— ta— cle

293

S. is near— ly a yard long in its back— shell: they are so

B. of man— y sperm whales; some of which were jump— ing straight up out of the

Fl.

296

S. strong as eas— i— ly to car— ry me, and too heav— y to

B. wa— ter; eve— ry part of the bod— y was vis— i— ble ex— cept— ing the fin of the tail.

Fl.

299

S. lift from the ground. *p* The ef—fect is ver—y

B. *mp* As they fell side—ways in—to the wa—ter, the noise

Fl. *pp*

302

S. com—i—cal in see—ing these huge crea—tures with out—stretched

B. was as loud as a dis—tant great gun.

Fl.

305

S. neck so de—lib—er—ate—ly pac—ing on—wards.

B. *p* (spoken) Although much remains obscure,

Fl. *calmly...*

308 *ppp*

S. When they ar—rive at the spring, they bur—y their heads

B. and will long remain obscure, I can entertain no doubt, after the most deliberate study and dispassionate judgement of which I am capable,

Fl. *ppp*

311

S. a—bove the eyes in the mud—dy wa—ter and greed—i—ly suck

B. that the view which most naturalists entertain, and which I formerly entertained - namely, that each species has been independently created -

Fl.

314

S. in great mouth—fuls.

B. is erroneous. I am fully convinced that species are not immutable; but that those belonging to what are called the same genera are lineal descendants of some other and generally extinct species, in the same manner as the acknowledged varieties of any one species are the

Fl. , *calmly* . . .
pp

318

S.

B. descendants of that species. Furthermore, I am convinced that natural selection has been the main but not exclusive means of modification.

Fl.

324 $\text{♩} = 46$ *p* (spoken) *enthralled* . . .

S. I walked to the Southwest extremity of the island: the day was clear and hot, and I saw the island not smiling

B. *mp* *contented* . . . We came to an an—chor at Fal—mouth.

Fl. *mysteriously* . . .
pp

327

S. _____

with beauty, but staring with naked hideousness. The lava streams are rugged while intervening spaces are concealed with layers of pumice,

B. *pp* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

The H. M. S. Bea—gle had com—plet—ed its com—mis—sion in five years

Fl. *ppp* 3 _____

330

S. _____

ashes, and volcanic sandstone. Rounded volcanic bombs, which must have assumed this form when projected red hot from the crater, lie

B. 3 3 _____

and one hun—dred and thir—ty six days.

Fl. _____ *ppp* _____

333

S. _____

strewn on the surface. When passing this end of the island at sea, I could not imagine the cause of the white patches, with which the whole plain was mottled: I now found out it was owing to the number of seafowl, which sleep in such full confidence, to allow a man to walk up to and seize hold of them. On the beach a great sea, was tumbling over the broken lava rocks. The ocean is a raging monster, insult him a thousand

B. _____

Fl. *ppp* _____

337

S. _____

B. _____

miles distance, and his great carcass is stirred with anger through half an hemisphere.

(repeat measures 335-338 until text is finished)

Fl. *ppp* _____ *ppp* _____