"Già il sole dal Gange"

from *L'Honestà negli amori,*
lonestà neʎ:ʎi amori

Alessandro Scarlatti
ales:sandro skarlat:ti

Poetic idea

"How happy the whole world is at sunrise!" The person singing is Saldino, a pageboy, in the opera *Honesty in Love Affairs*. He is alone onstage, admiring the sunrise. The scene is Algeria in North Africa. (*"Dal Gange"* is merely a figure of speech meaning the east.)

Background

Scarlatti was born in Palermo, Sicily, but he was sent to Rome at age 12 to study music. When he wrote this, his second opera, in 1680, he was 19 years old. He was already married and a father, and he had been appointed the music director to Queen Christina of Sweden, who lived in Rome.

The unique character of Roman society in the 1600s affected the creation of music there. The popes were the rulers of the Papal States; as guardians of public morality, some of them permitted theaters to operate, but others did not. Women almost never sang in public in Rome. Women could perform at private opera theaters maintained by wealthy persons, most of whom were relatives of popes and had received noble titles and important church posts.

This opera was sung for the first time in the palace of an exceptionally wealthy person who had no noble title, Giovanni Bernini (1598-1680). Bernini rose through his artistic talent and long service to many popes as a sculptor and architect. It is said that in his private theater Bernini designed the scenery, and he may have written the libretto of this opera. The preface to the libretto hints that the name, Felice Parnasso, which means "happy-one-who-has-reached-the-heights," was the pen name of someone famous.

dʒail	sole	dal	gandʒe
Già	**il sole**	**dal**	**Gange**
Already	the sun	from-the	Ganges (the East)

pju	kjaro	sfavil:la
Più	**chiaro**	**sfavilla**
more	brightly	sparkles

e	terdʒeon:ɲi	stil:la	
E	**terge**	**ogni**	**stilla**
and	dries	every	drop

del:lalba	ke	pjandʒe	
Dell'alba	**che**	**piange.**	
of-the-dawn,	which	weeps.	

kol	radʒ:ʒo	dorato
Col	**raggio**	**dorato**
With-the	ray	gilded

indʒem:maon:ɲi	stelo		
Ingemma	**ogni**	**stelo**	
it-adorns	every	blade	

e	ʎ:ʎastri	del	tʃelo
E	**gli astri**	**del**	**cielo**
and	the stars	of-the	sky

dipindʒe	nel	prato	
Dipinge	**nel**	**prato.**	
it-paints	in-the	field.	

Sources

(1) *L'Honestà negl'Amori*, manuscript score of the opera in Biblioteca Estense, Modena, F.1057 (a 10-measure ritornello for string orchestra precedes each stanza); (2) *Arie*, manuscript collection, Biblioteca musicale governativa del Conservatorio di musica "S. Cecilia," Rome, A Ms 249. Both sources appear to be in the same handwriting. For voice (soprano clef) and continuo. Original key: A major.

The familiar edition was made by Parisotti in *Arie Antiche*, vol. 2 (Milan: Ricordi, 1890), when the singing of long runs was somewhat out of fashion with singers and audiences. In order to modernize Scarlatti's music, Parisotti used repeated words to break up the runs, a practice that others also used into the early 1900s. This destroyed the symbolism of the word "sun" rising on a scale, and emphasized the insignificant word "Ganges." The aria became popular, but in a false and inferior form.

Già il sole dal Gange

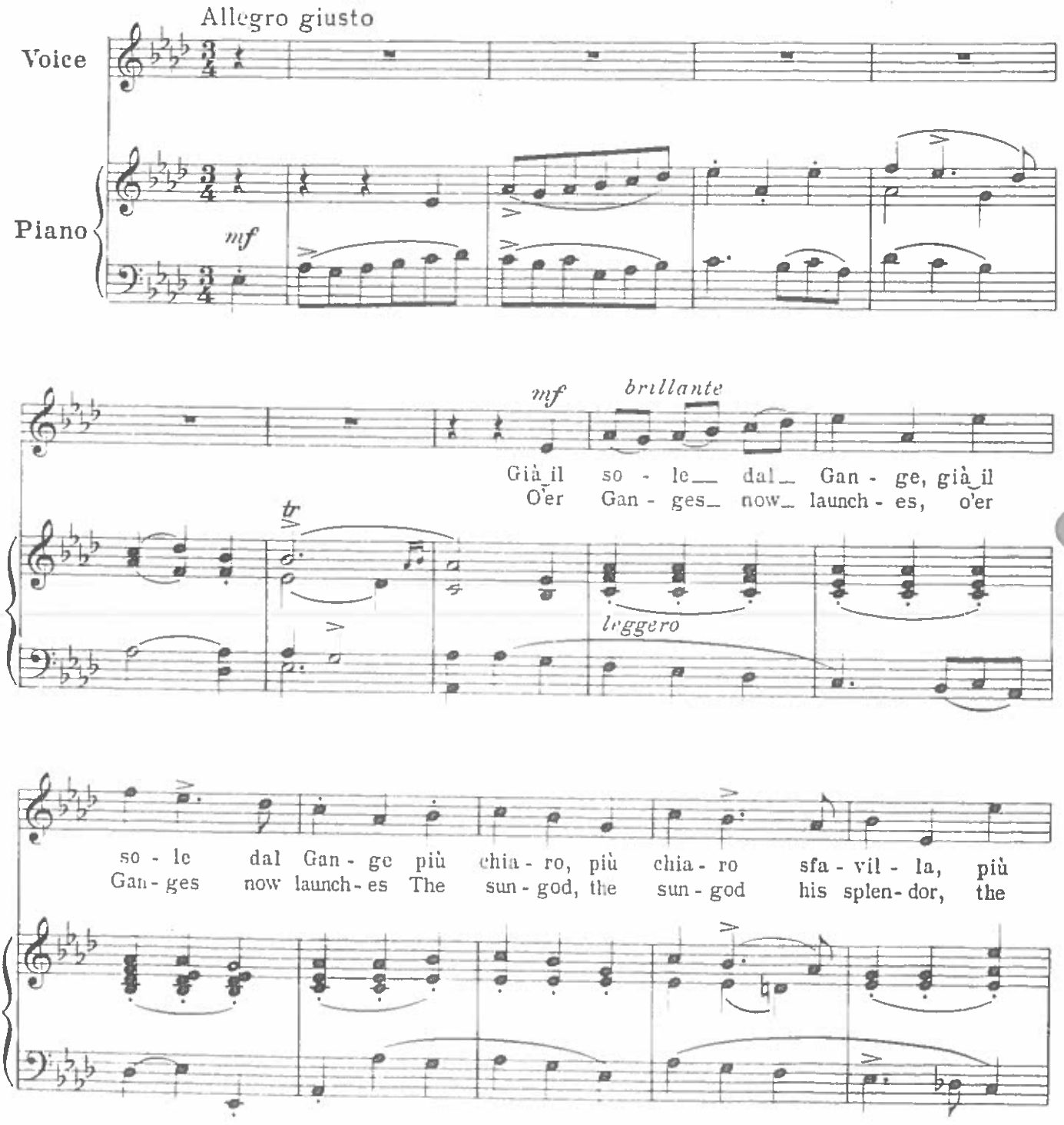
O'er Ganges now launches

Canzonetta

high voice

English version by
Dr. Theodore Baker

Alessandro Scarlatti
(1659 - 1725)



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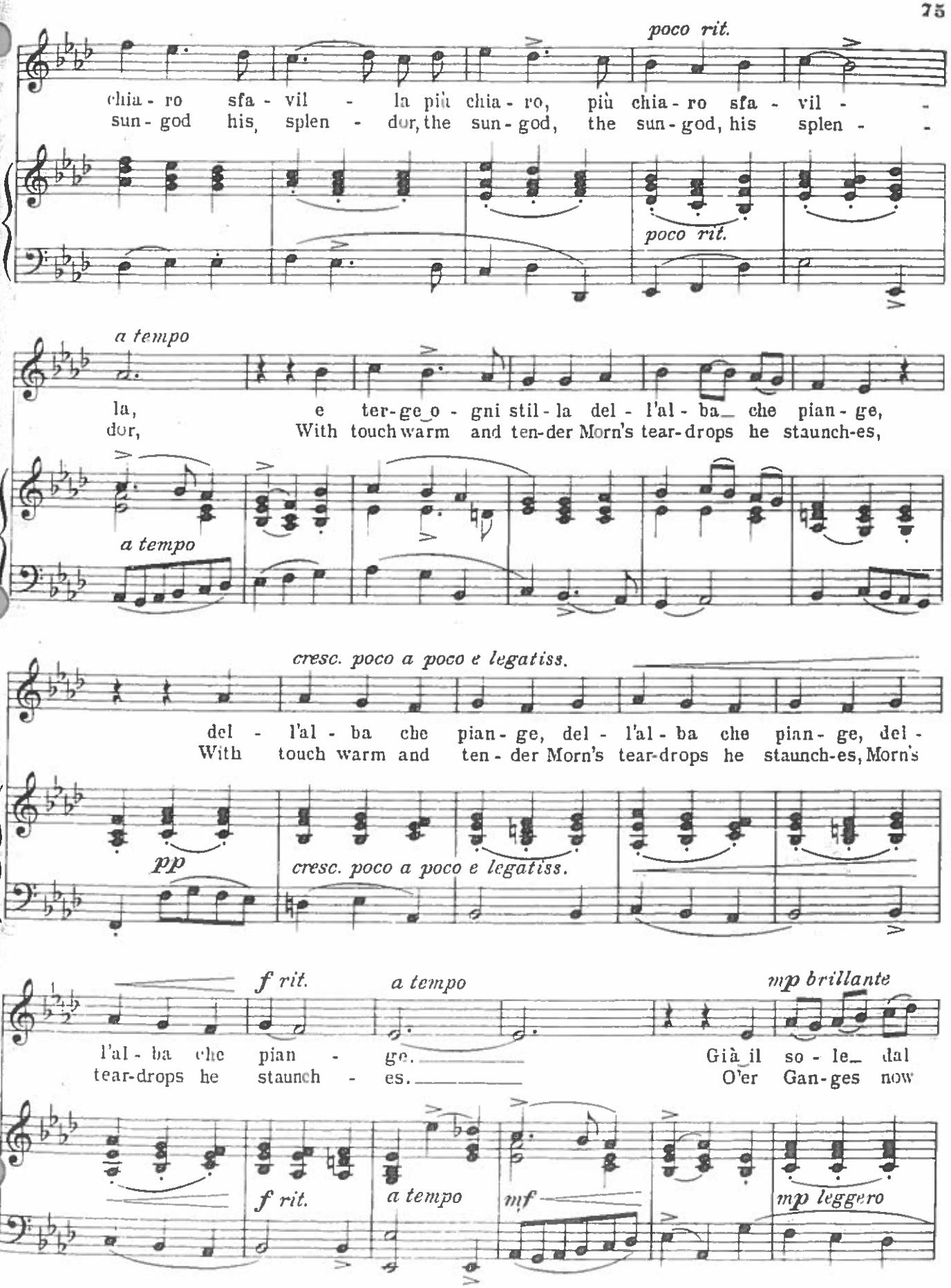
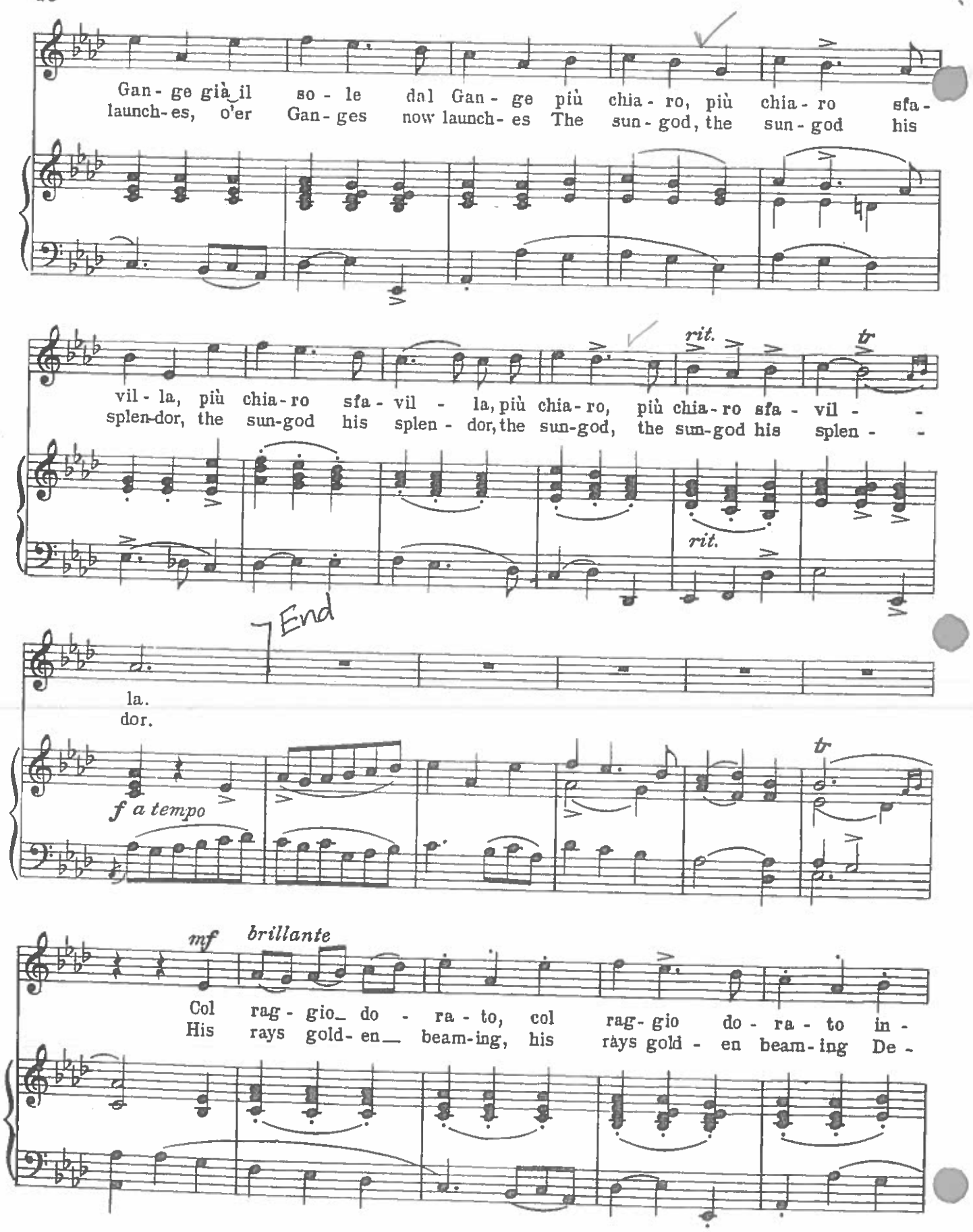

poco rit.
chia - ro sfa - vil - la più chia - ro, più chia - ro sfa - vil -
sun - god his splen - dor, the sun - god, the sun - god, his splen -
poco rit.
a tempo
la, e ter-ge_o - gni stil - la del - l'al - ba_ che pian - ge,
dor, With touch warm and ten-der Morn's tear-drops he staunch-es,
a tempo
cresc. poco a poco e legatiss.
del - l'al - ba che pian - ge, del - l'al - ba che pian - ge, del -
With touch warm and ten - der Morn's tear-drops he staunch-es, Morn's
pp
cresc. poco a poco e legatiss.
f rit.
a tempo
mp brillante
l'al - ba che pian - ge.
tear-drops he staunch - es.
Già il so - le_ dal
O'er Gan-ges now
f rit.
a tempo
mf
mp leggero


Gan - ge già il so - le dal Gan - ge più chia - ro, più chia - ro sfa -
launch-es, o'er Gan-ges now launch-es The sun-god, the sun-god his
vil - la, più chia-ro sfa - vil - la, più chia-ro, più chia-ro sfa - vil - -
splen-dor, the sun-god his splen - dor, the sun-god, the sun-god his splen - -
rit.
tr
End
la.
dor.
f a tempo
mf brillante
Col rag - gio_ do - ra - to, col rag - gio do - ra - to in -
His rays gold - en_ beam-ing, his rays gold - en beam-ing De -

low voice

Già il sole dal Gange

O'er Ganges now launches

Canzonetta

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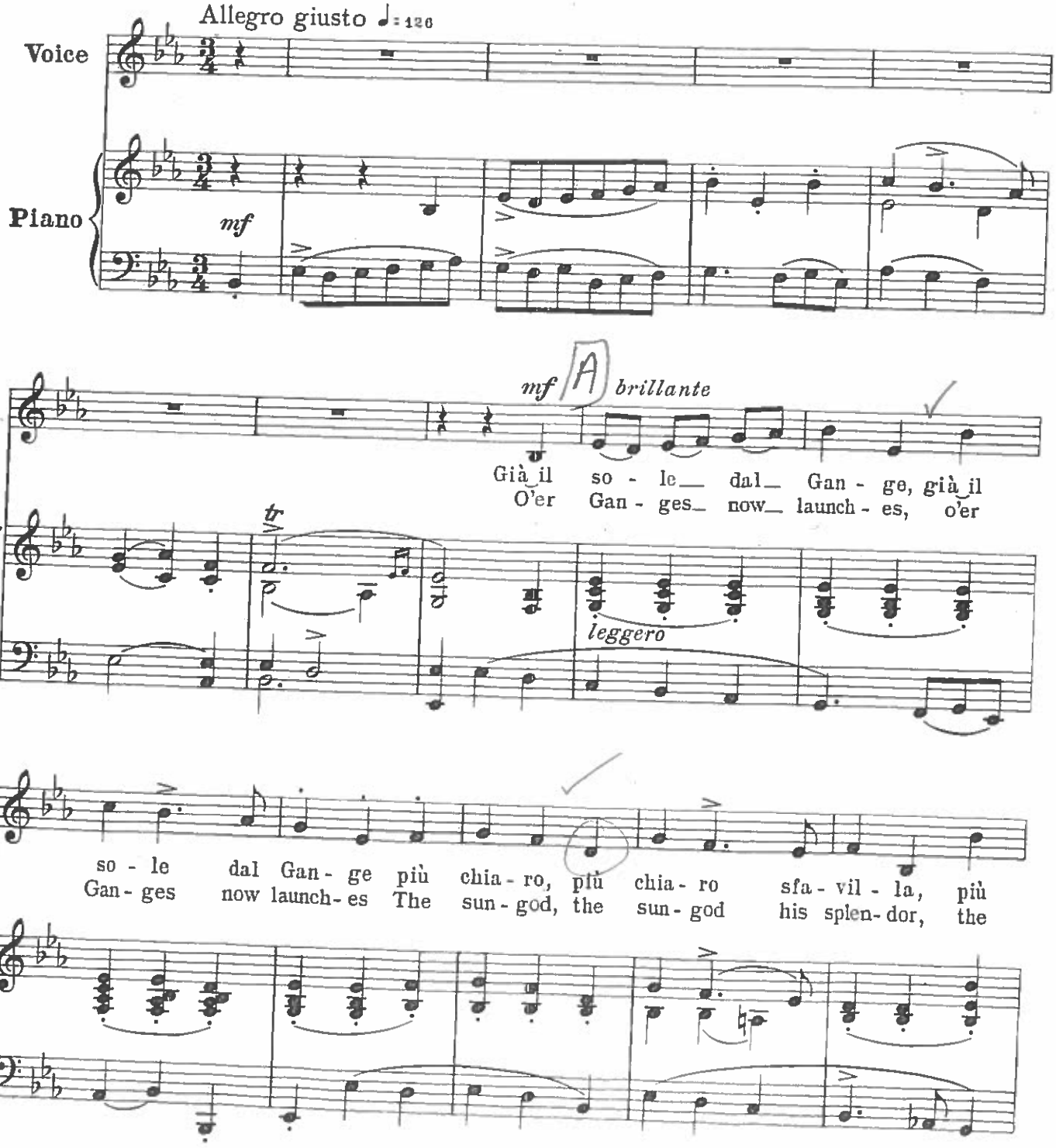

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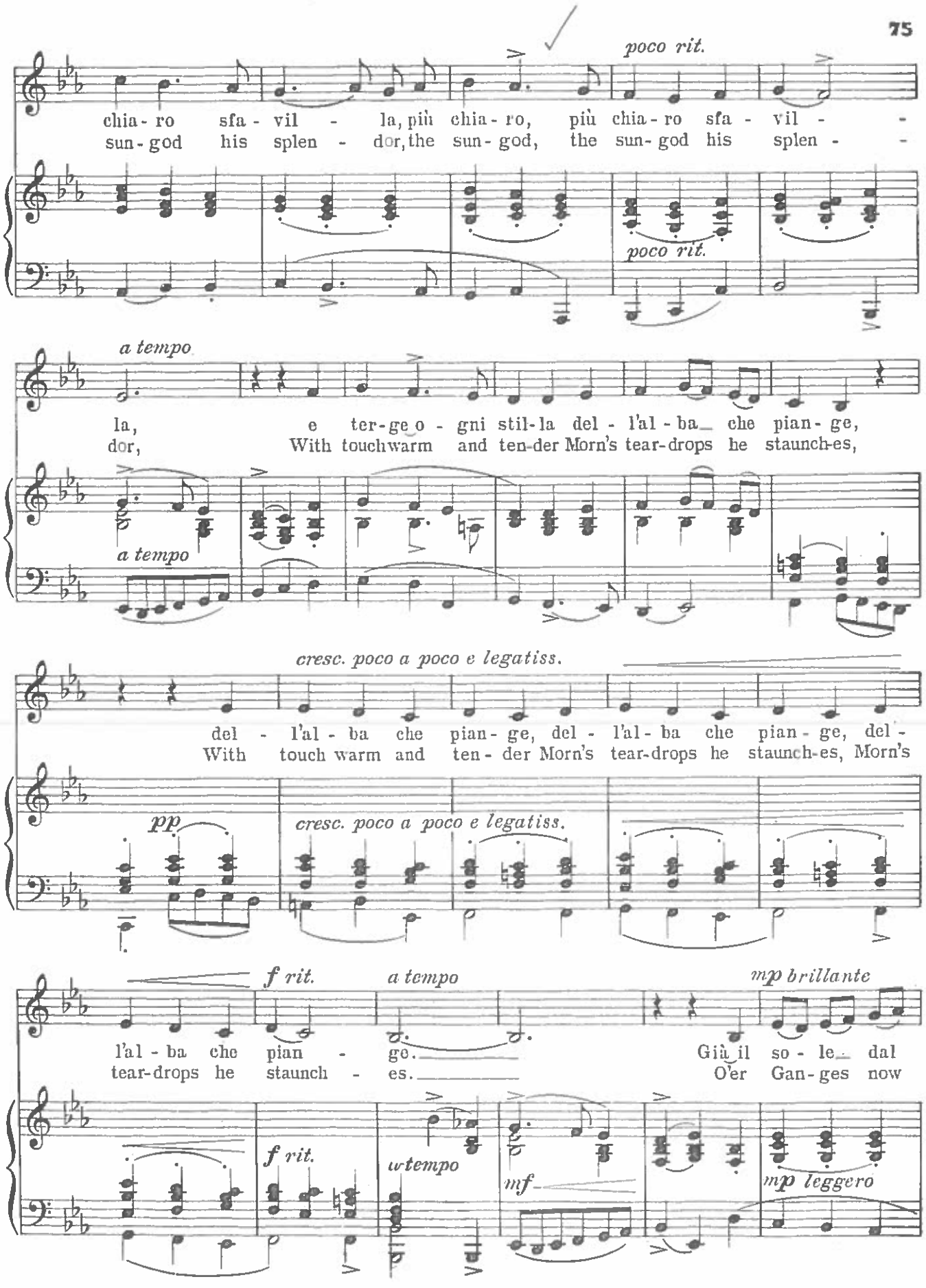
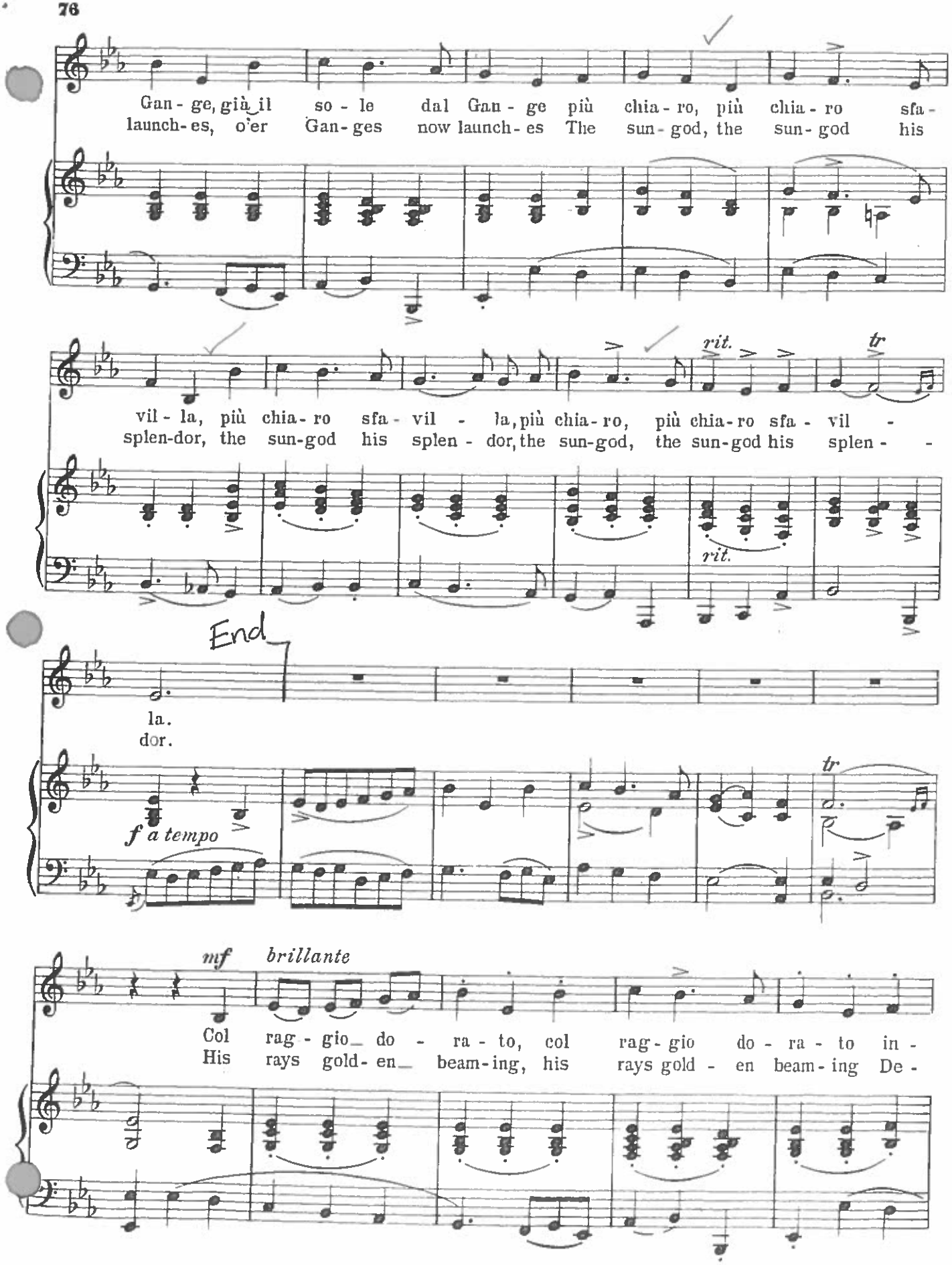

poco rit.
chia - ro sfa - vil - la, più chia - ro, più chia - ro sfa - vil -
sun - god his splen - dor, the sun - god, the sun - god his splen -
poco rit.
a tempo
la, e ter - ge o - gni stil - la del - l'al - ba che pian - ge,
dor, With touch warm and ten - der Morn's tear - drops he staunch - es,
a tempo
cresc. poco a poco e legatiss.
del - l'al - ba che pian - ge, del - l'al - ba che pian - ge, del -
With touch warm and ten - der Morn's tear - drops he staunch - es, Morn's
pp
cresc. poco a poco e legatiss.
f rit.
a tempo
mp brillante
l'al - ba che pian - ge.
tear - drops he staunch - es.
Già il so - le dal
O'er Gan - ges now
f rit.
a tempo
mf
mp leggero


Gan - ge, già il so - le dal Gan - ge più chia - ro, più chia - ro sfa -
launch-es, o'er Gan-ges now launch-es The sun-god, the sun-god his
rit.
tr
vil - la, più chia - ro sfa - vil - la, più chia-ro, più chia-ro sfa - vil -
splen-dor, the sun-god his splen - dor, the sun-god, the sun-god his splen - -
rit.
End
la.
dor.
f a tempo
tr
mf brillante
Col rag - gio_ do - ra - to, col rag - gio do - ra - to in -
His rays gold - en_ beam-ing, his rays gold - en beam - ing De -