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## V. The Thirty-eighth Year

At a moderate tempo ♩ = 80

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*p reflectively*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

*poco accel.**rit.**a tempo*

*poco accel.*

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*mf*

*p*

The

9 **A** *reflectively**quasi recitative, free tempo*

thir-ty-eighth year of my life, plain as bread, as round as a cake an

*quasi recitative, free tempo*

13

*rit.*

ord - in - ar - y wo - man, an ord - in - ar - y wo - man —

*rit.*

*Leo.*

16 **B** *a tempo**rit.**mf quasi recitative*

I had ex - pect - ed to be

**B** *a tempo*

*mf*

*rit.*

*Leo.*

18

small - er than this, more beau - ti - ful, — wi - ser in Af - ri - can

*p*

*Leo.*

21

ways, more con - fi - dent, more con - fi - dent, I had ex - pect - ed

45

And they blos - som and prom - ise

47

*f* fruit like Af - - ri - can trees.

50

I am a wom - an now, an ord - in - ar - y

53

*rit.* **F** ♩ = 92 *(f)* wom an. In the

*rit.* **F** ♩ = 92 *(f)*

69 *p*

If in the mid - dle of my life I am

72 *cresc.*

turn - ing the fi - nal turn in - to the shin - ing dark,

75 *(cresc.)* **H** *f*

let me come to it whole and ho - ly. Let me

78

come to it un - a - fraid, out of my moth - er's

81 *accel.*

life, out of my moth - er's

*accel.*

83 (*accel.*) *cresc.*

life, in - - - to my

(*accel.*) *cresc.*

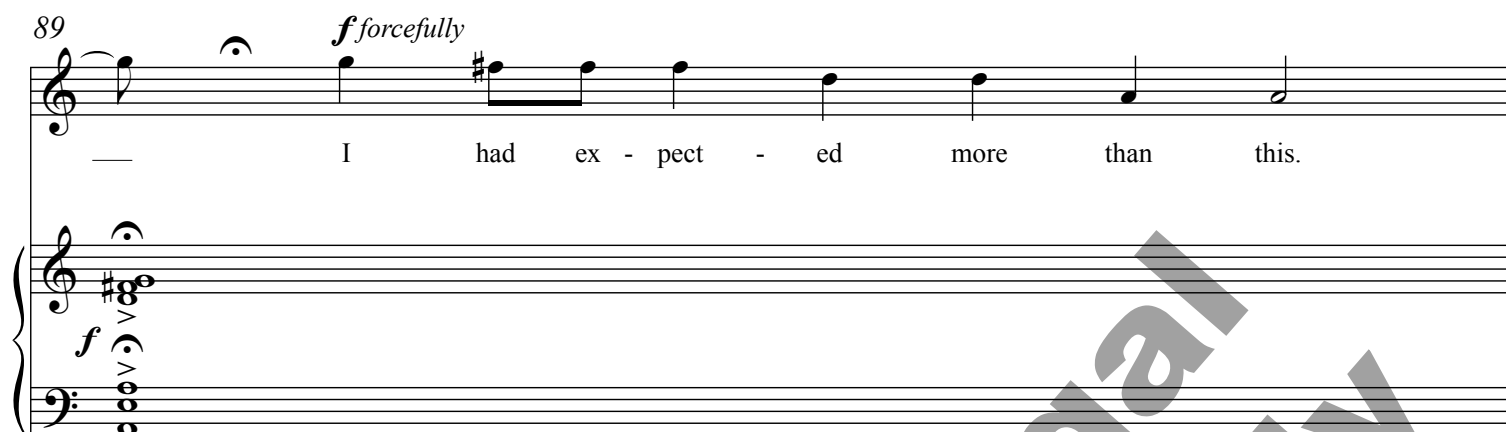
I ♩ = 132 *ff*

85 *rit.*

own.

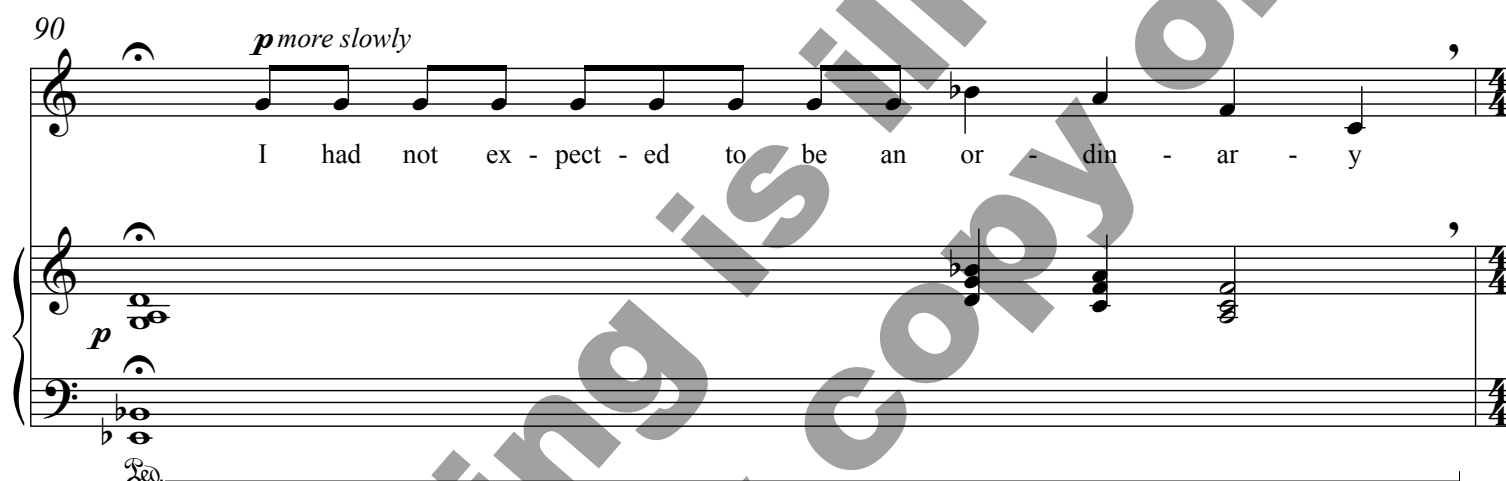
I ♩ = 132 *rit.*

89 *f* *forcefully*



I had ex - pect - ed more than this.

90 *p* *more slowly*



I had not ex - pect - ed to be an or - din - ar - y

91 **Tempo primo** ♩ = 80 *rit.*



wom - an.

4'15" | Total: 14 minutes  
September 10, 1997  
New Canaan, Connecticut