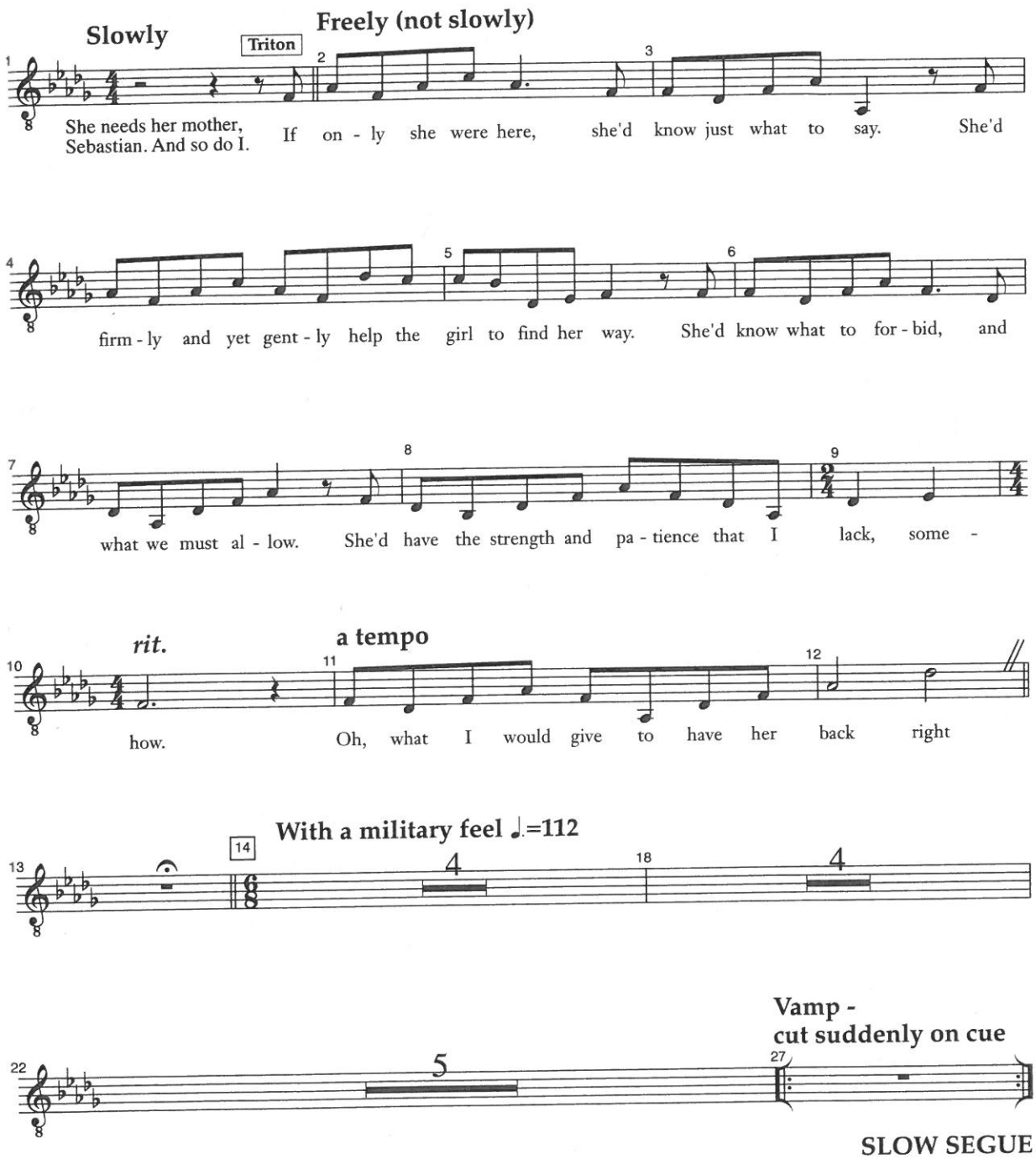
Triton

TRITON - "If Only (Triton's Lament)"



SCENE NINE: ARIEL'S GROTTO

(Ariel sits beside the heroic bust. As she speaks, she almost seems to be confiding in it. In her hands she holds Prince Eric's spyglass.)

ARIEL

To think this belonged to him once; he held this in his own two hands.

KING TRITON

(offstage, enraged)

ARIEL—!

(When Ariel hears her father's voice piercing the tranquil waters, her whole body stiffens with fear. King Triton appears with Aquata, Andrina, Sebastian and Flounder.)

Ariel! Tell the truth! Did you save a human from drowning?

ARIEL

Who told—? Which one of you—?

(Flounder and Aquata trip over themselves in response:)

FLOUNDER

I'm sorry, Ariel! I'm nothing but a guppy, just a lousy guppy—

AQUATA

You get every single solo, and it's not fair—

KING TRITON

THAT'S ENOUGH! Leave us alone.

(Andrina takes Flounder by one fin, Aquata takes him by the other, and they swim off.)

You too, Sebastian.

(With a regretful look in Ariel's direction, Sebastian exits, too. Father and daughter are alone now.)

So did you?

ARIEL

I had to rescue the Prince—

KING TRITON

You had to?

ARIEL

Without me, he would've perished!

KING TRITON

He's a human—you're a mermaid.

ARIEL

I can't hate him just because he's different. Perhaps you can, but it's just not in me—

KING TRITON

"Different"? They catch us with their hooks, they spear us with their blades—

ARIEL

They're not all like that!

KING TRITON

Have you forgotten what they did to your mother?

ARIEL

We don't know that for certain—

KING TRITON

Can there be any doubt? She slips out one morning for an innocent swim and never returns—!

ARIEL

You can't *prove*—

KING TRITON

I know it in my heart, and that's enough. Murderers, all of them!

ARIEL

You can't blame all humans for a few wicked ones—

#12C – *Grotto Destruction*

KING TRITON

I won't have you build a shrine to them! Worshipping their rubbish! The debris that sullies our waters—

(King Triton raises his trident menacingly.)

ARIEL

Daddy, no—

KING TRITON

The totems of their decadence!

ARIEL

Don't! Please!

KING TRITON

NEVER AGAIN, ARIEL! NEVER AGAIN!

TRITON / SEBASTIAN / FLOUNDER

SCENE NINE: KING TRITON'S COURT

(King Triton enters with Sebastian and Flounder.)

Start /

SEBASTIAN

Most merciful Triton, I pray that you'll keep calm–

KING TRITON

Where is she? Where is Ariel?

SEBASTIAN

She'd be so angry if she knew I was here!

KING TRITON

I entrust my youngest daughter to you! And what happens? I ought to have you cracked! I ought to have you shelled–

FLOUNDER

He almost was, Your Greatness. And all for Ariel–

KING TRITON

You ought to be ashamed of yourself, too! What kind of tragedy will it take–

SEBASTIAN

A tragedy involving the Sea Witch, to be exact.

KING TRITON

(his alarm growing)

What did you say?

FLOUNDER

(chiming in, unable to stop truth-telling)

These two eels came and they took her straight to Ursula, and she traded her voice for a pair of legs, and if the Prince doesn't kiss her–

KING TRITON

Her voice? She bartered away her voice to become human?!?

SEBASTIAN

By sunset tomorrow, that child could be giving up her very soul–

KING TRITON

Her soul?

SEBASTIAN

– and all to that wicked sister of yours.

(The full gravity of the situation dawns on King Triton.)

KING TRITON

It's time I settled things with her once and for all. / End

(King Triton, Sebastian and Flounder exit.)