CHRISTOPHER LEEDHAM

Strange Voices

for choir

(2009)

FULL SCORE

The first performance was given on 22 June 2010 by The 24,
conducted by Graham Bier, at the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall.

Duration: *c.* 8′ 30″

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PERFORMANCE NOTES

Each voice type is *divisi a 2* or *3* throughout; all singers should sing at all times, changing between the various divisions as necessary. For this reason, a choir of 24 is suggested – 6 singers per voice type.

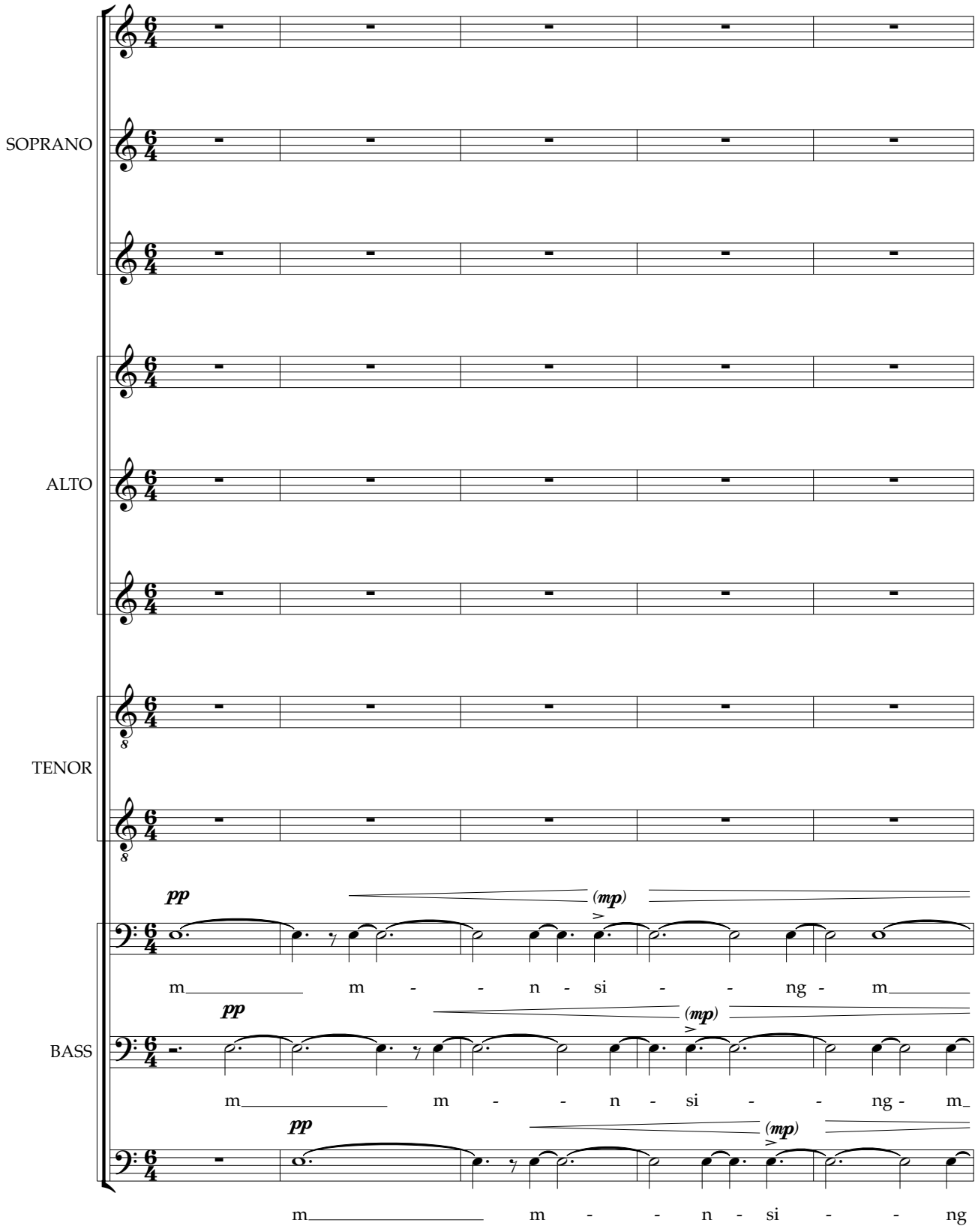
- 'm' indicates the note should be hummed with a closed mouth;
- 'n' indicates the notes should be hummed with lips apart;
- the transition between humming and singing should always be accomplished as smoothly as possible.

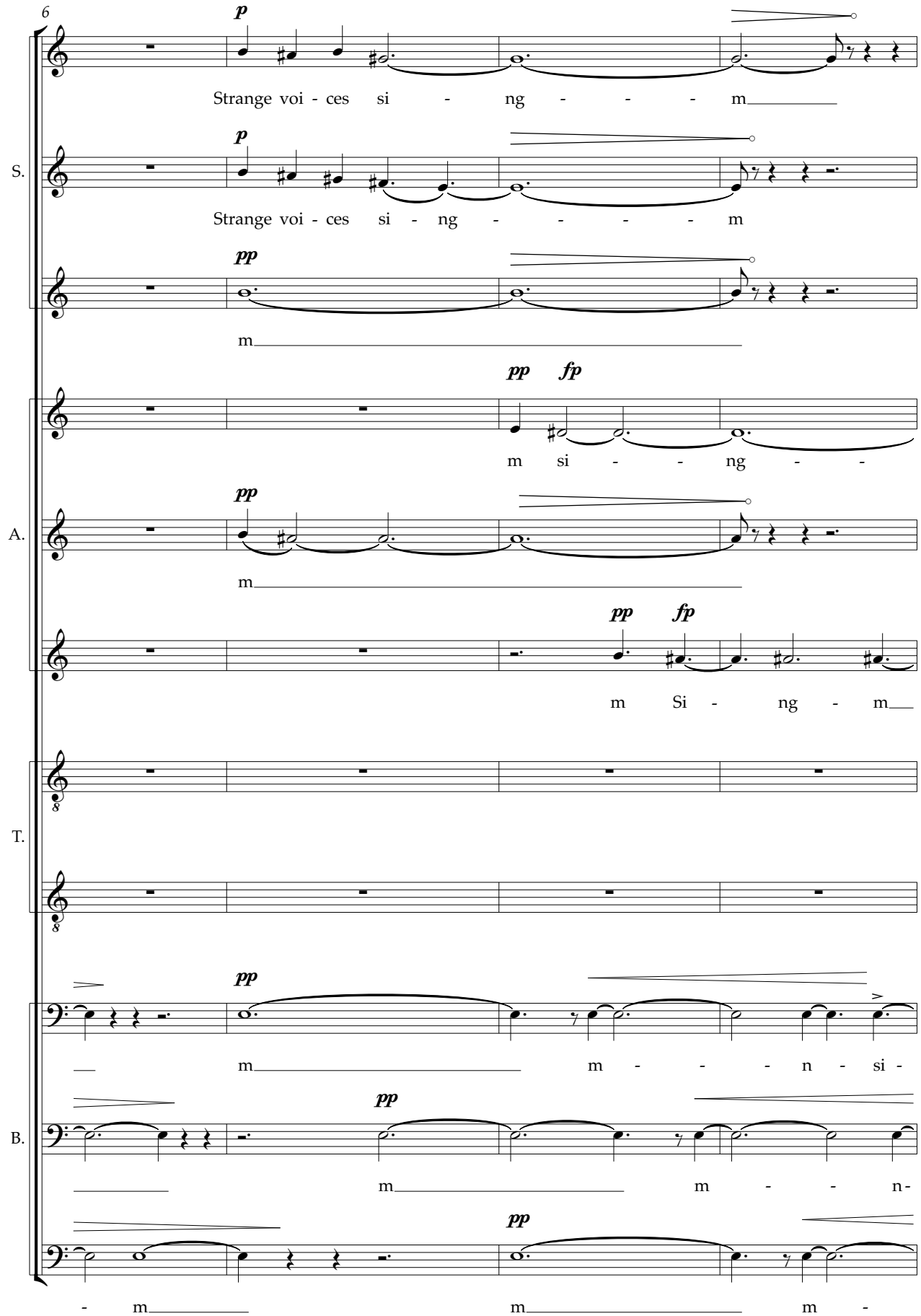
Strange Voices

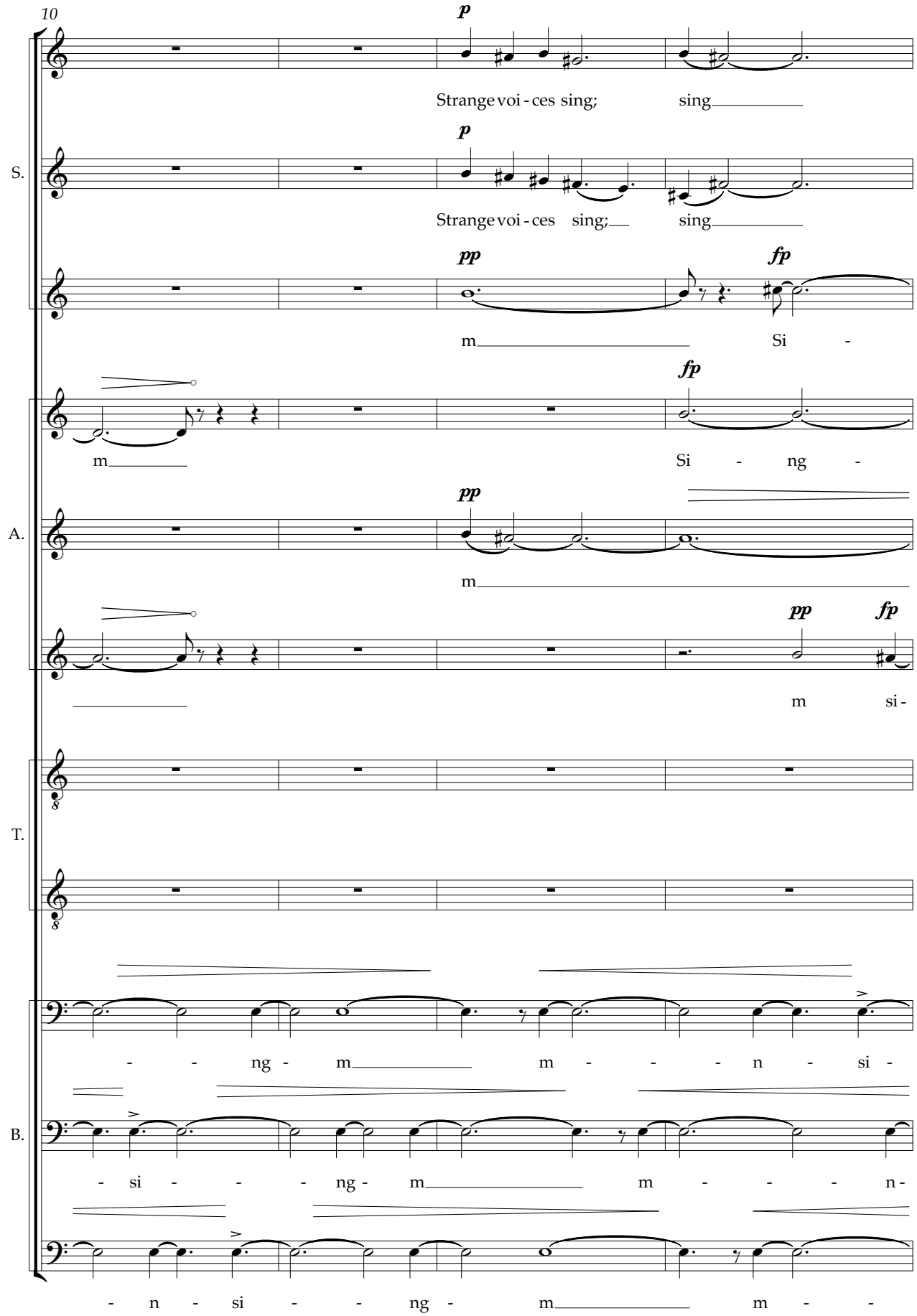
WORDS BY Christina Rossetti

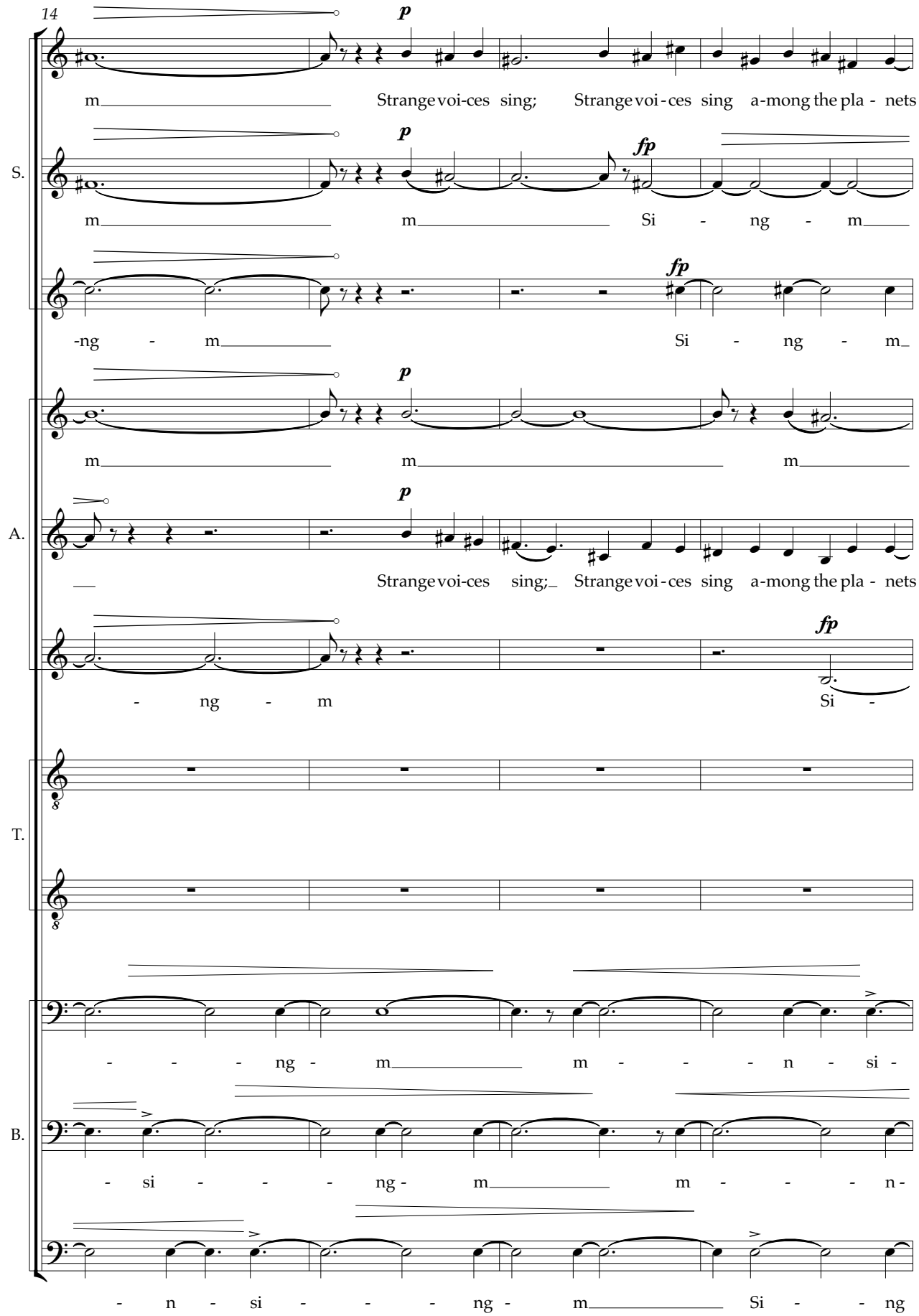
Christopher Leedham

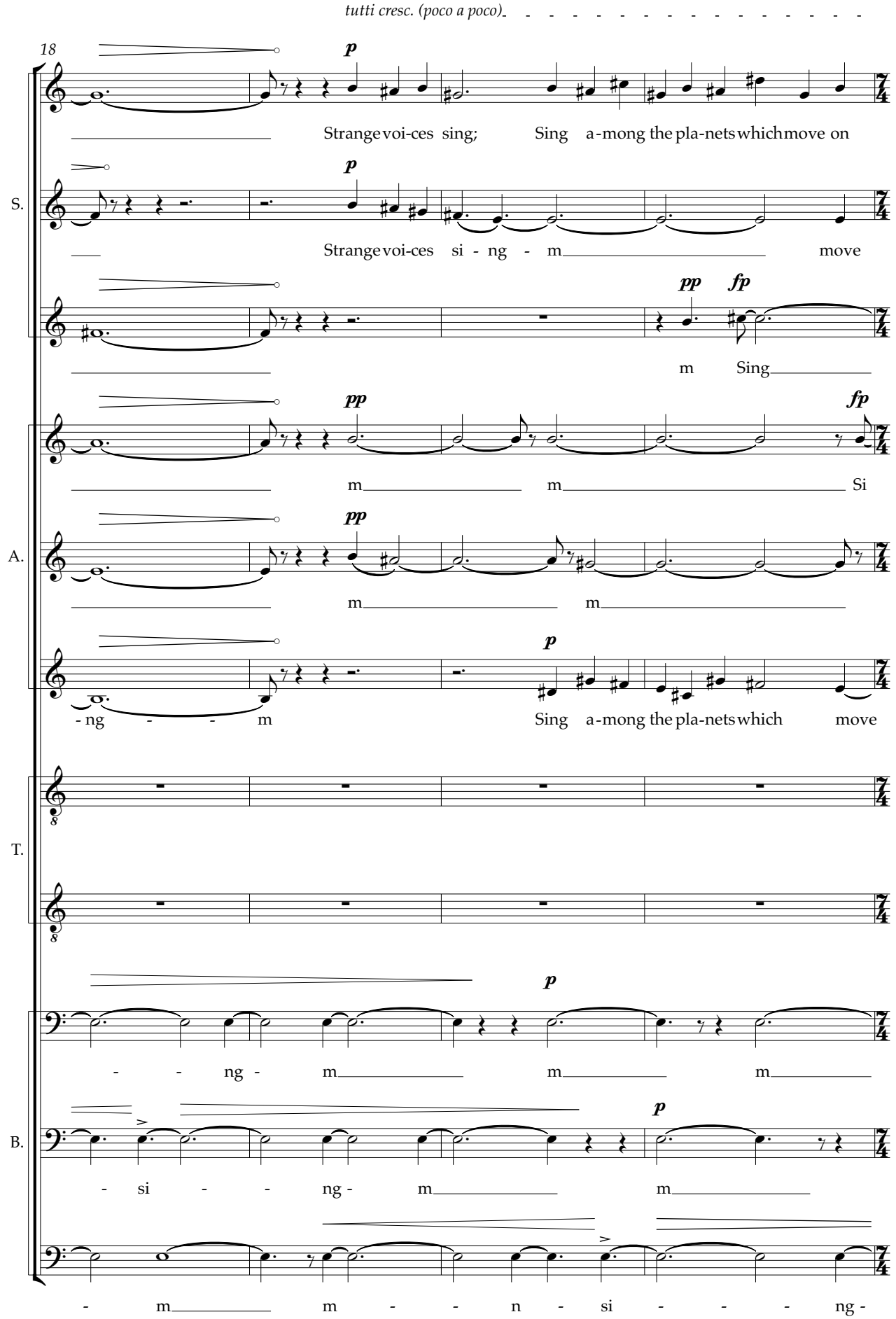
Fluid: ethereal and mysterious (𝅗𝅥=100)

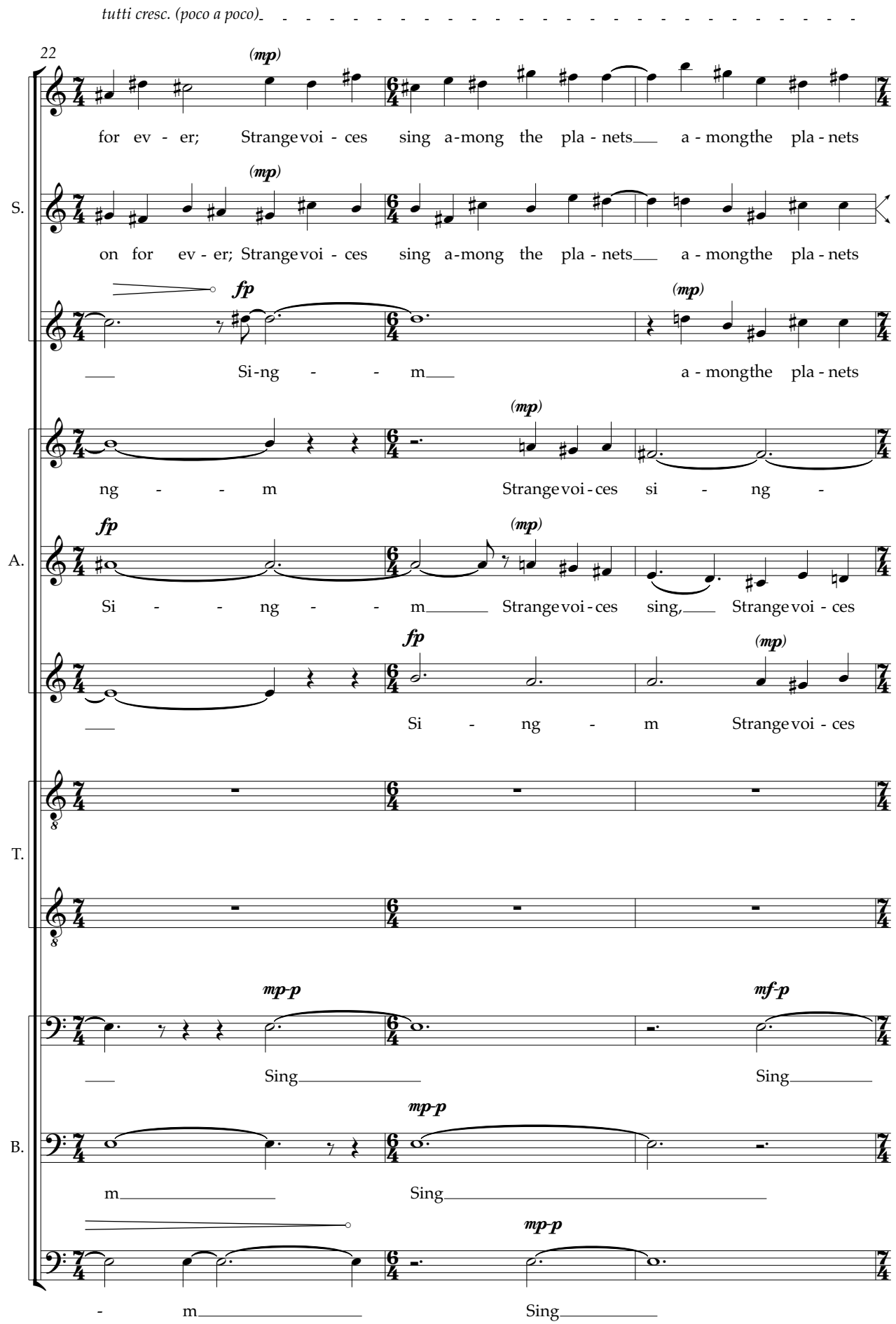


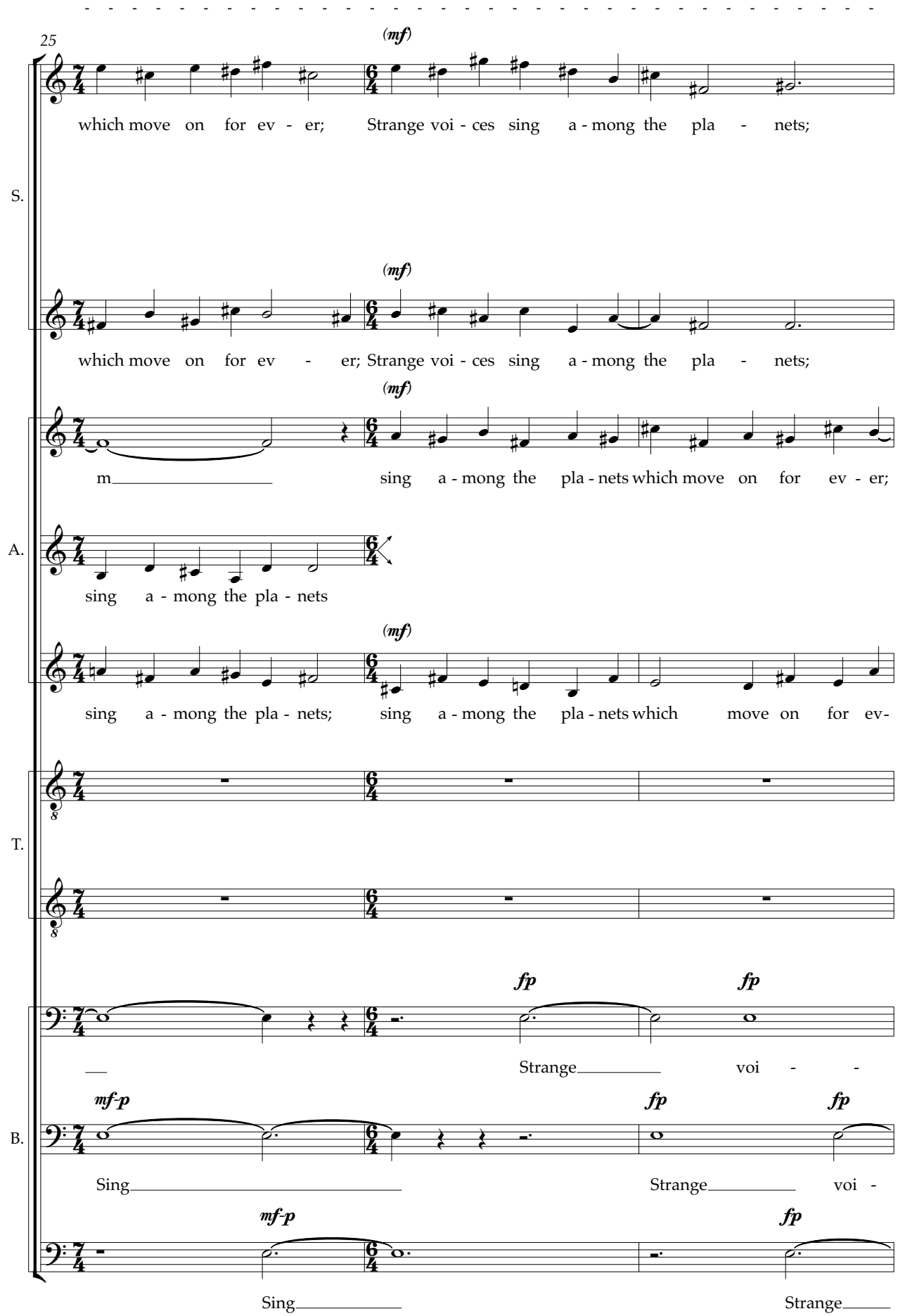

6
p
Strange voi - ces si - ng - - - - m
S.
p
Strange voi - ces si - ng - - - - m
pp
m
pp fp
m si - - ng - -
A.
pp
m
pp fp
m Si - ng - m
T.
pp
m m - - - n - si -
B.
pp
m m - - n -
pp
- m m m -

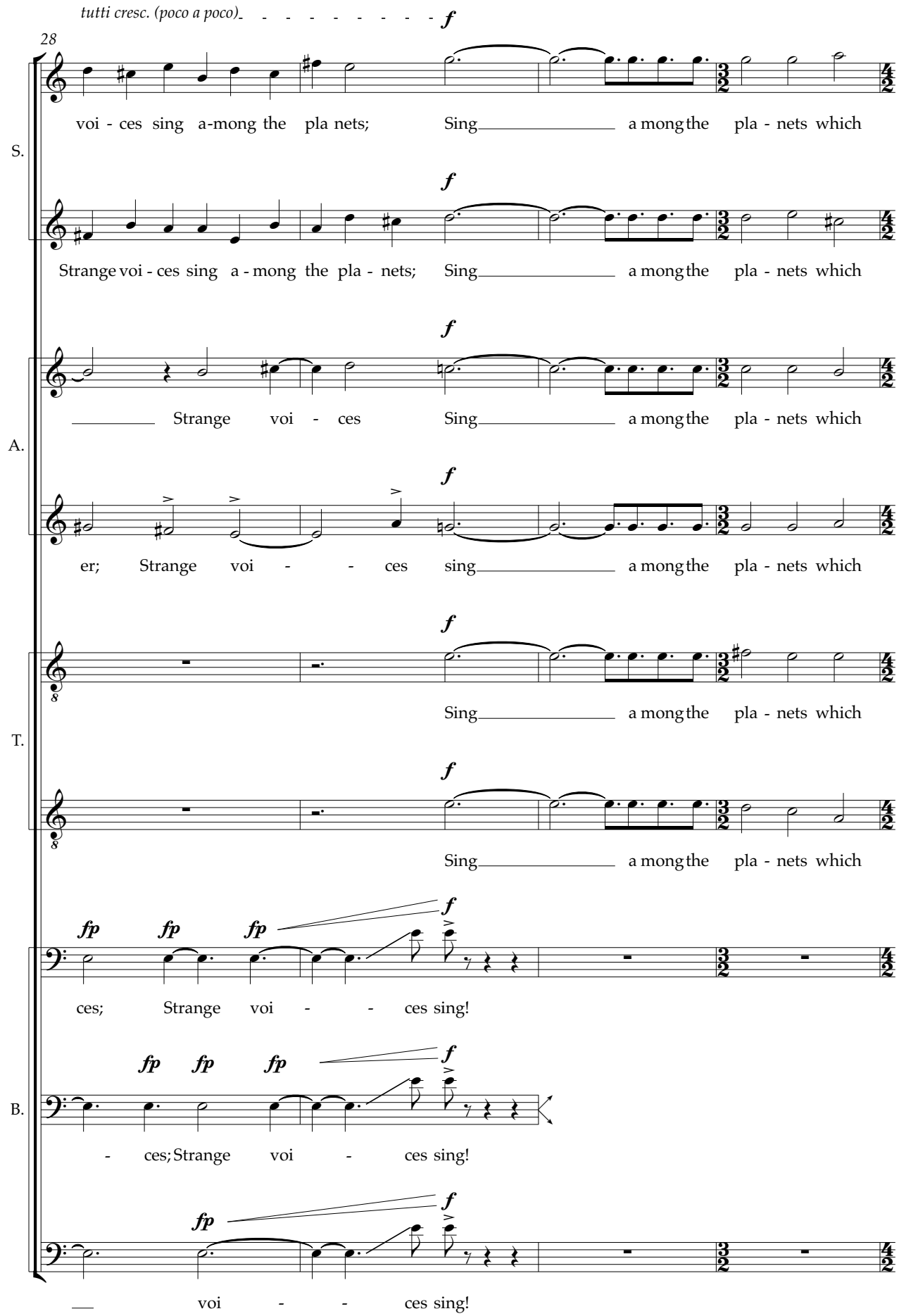

10
S.
A.
T.
B.
p
Strange voi - ces sing; sing
p
Strange voi - ces sing; sing
pp
fp
m Si -
fp
m Si - ng -
pp
m
pp
fp
m si -
- - ng - m m - - - n - si -
- si - - - ng - m m - - - n -
- n - si - - ng - m m -

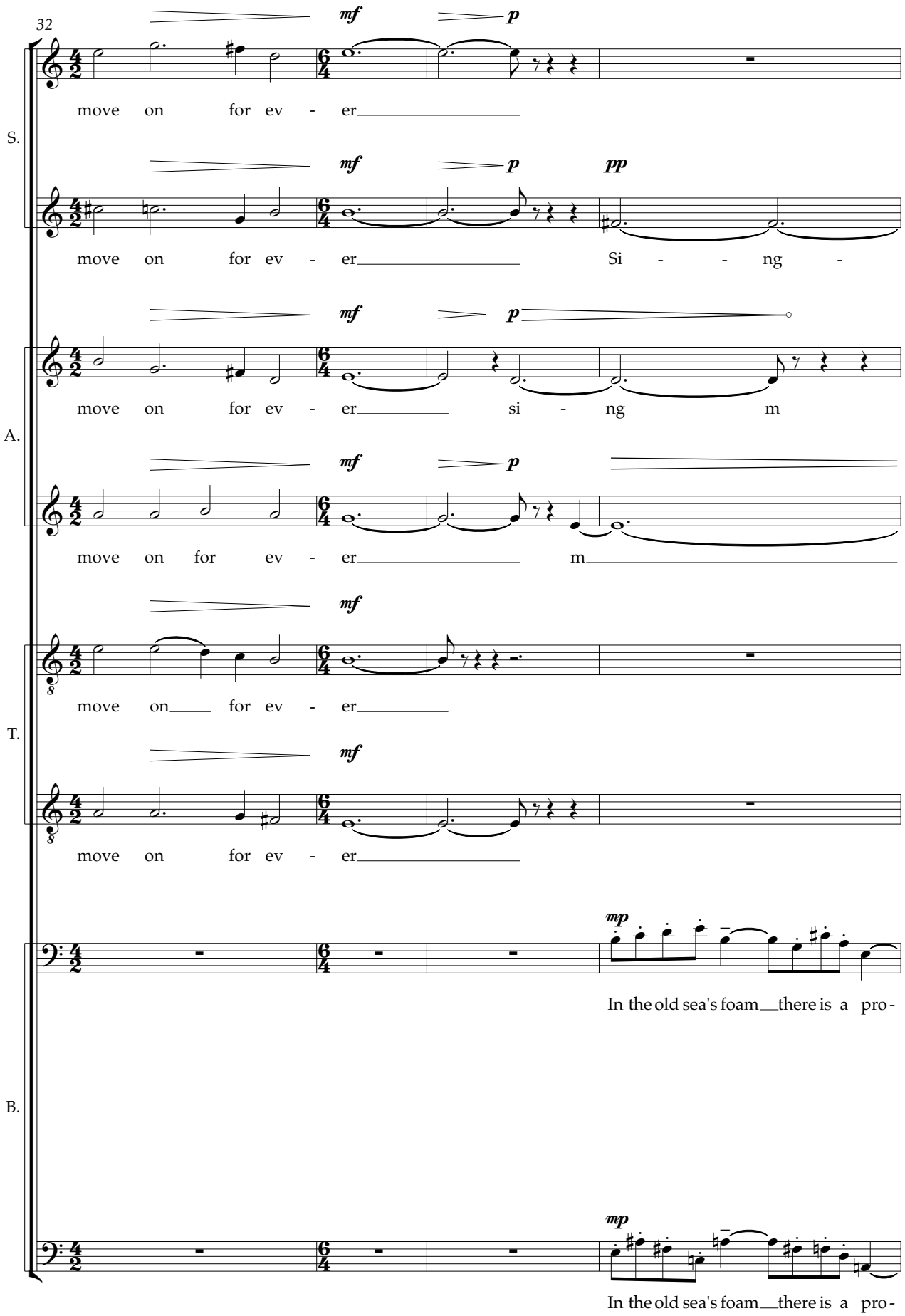

14
S.
A.
T.
B.
m Strange voi-ces sing; Strange voi-ces sing a-mong the pla - nets
m m Si - ng - m
-ng - m Si - ng - m
m m m
Strange voi-ces sing; Strange voi-ces sing a-mong the pla - nets
- ng - m Si -
- - - ng - m m - - - n - si -
- si - - - ng - m m - - - n -
- n - si - - - ng - m Si - - ng

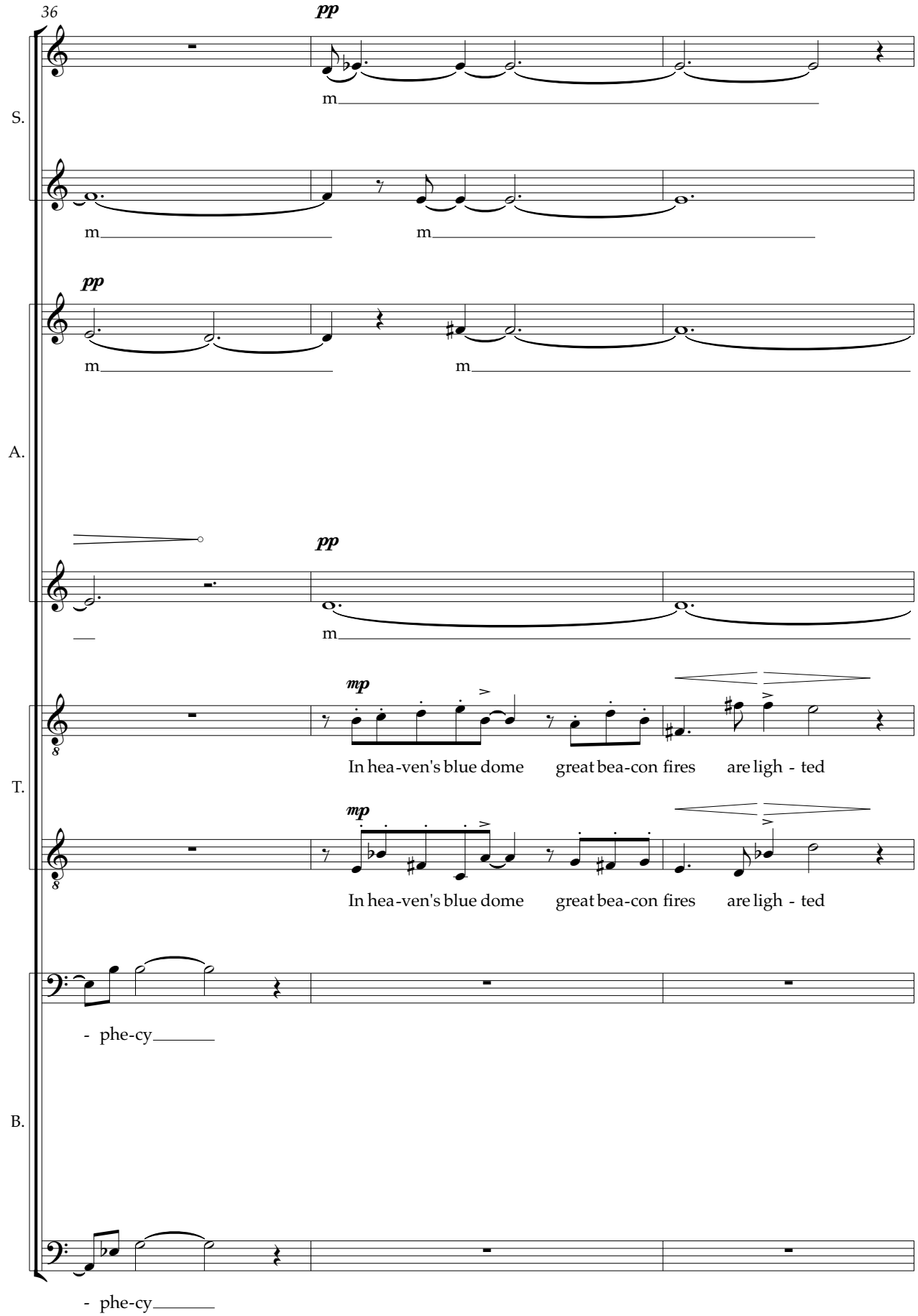

tutti cresc. (poco a poco)
18
p
Strange voi-ces sing; Sing a-mong the pla-nets which move on
S.
p
Strange voi-ces si - ng - m move
pp fp
m Sing
pp fp
m m Si
A.
pp
m m
p
- ng - - - m Sing a-mong the pla-nets which move
T.
p
- - - ng - m m m
B.
p
- si - - ng - m m
- m m - - n - si - - - - ng -

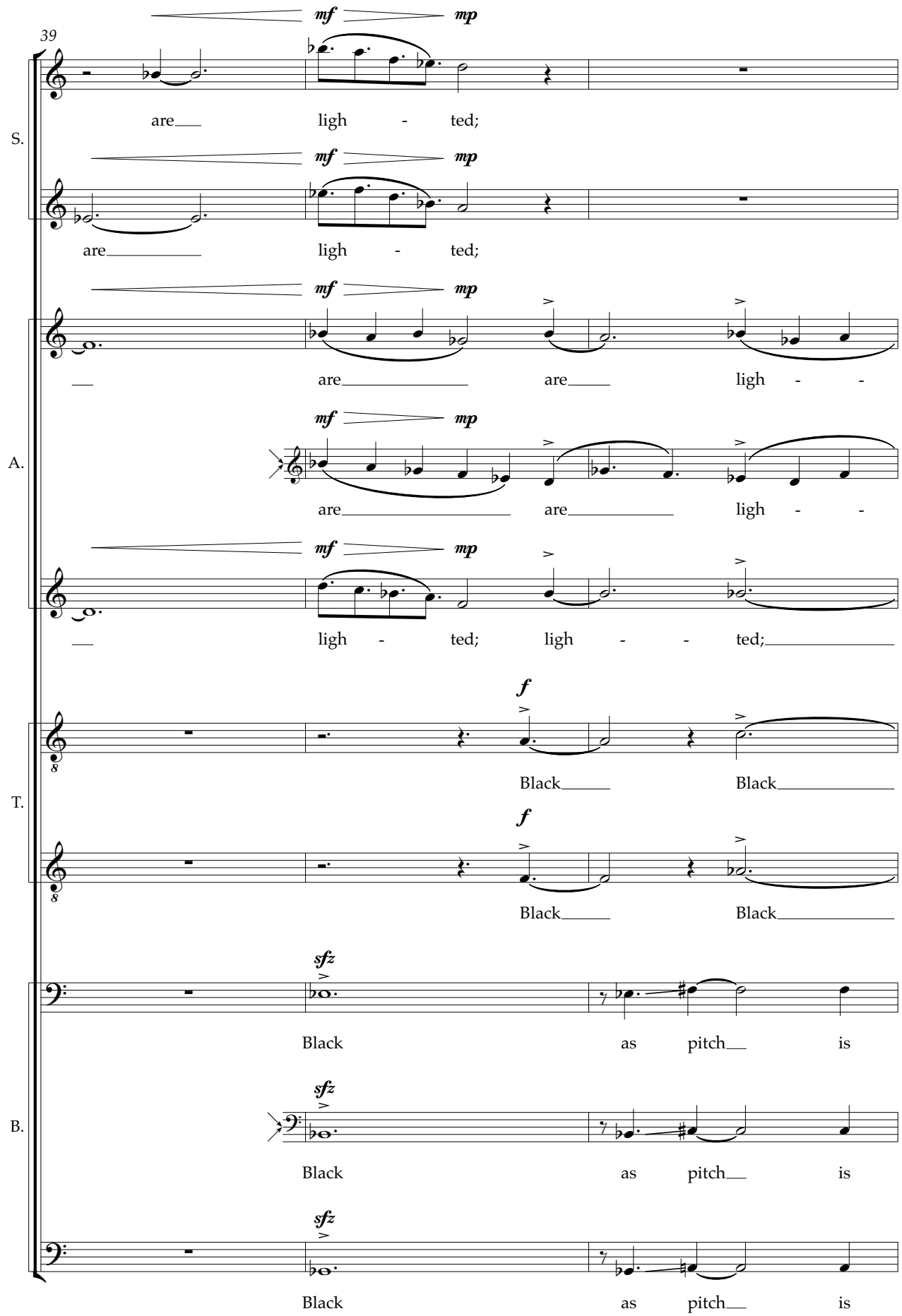

tutti cresc. (poco a poco)
22
(mp)
for ev - er; Strange voi - ces sing a-mong the pla - nets a - mong the pla - nets
S.
(mp)
on for ev - er; Strange voi - ces sing a-mong the pla - nets a - mong the pla - nets
fp
(mp)
Si-ng - - m a - mong the pla - nets
(mp)
ng - - m Strange voi - ces si - ng -
A.
fp
(mp)
Si - - ng - - m Strange voi - ces sing, Strange voi - ces
fp
(mp)
Si - ng - m Strange voi - ces
T.
mp-p
mf-p
Sing Sing
B.
mp-p
m Sing
mp-p
- m Sing

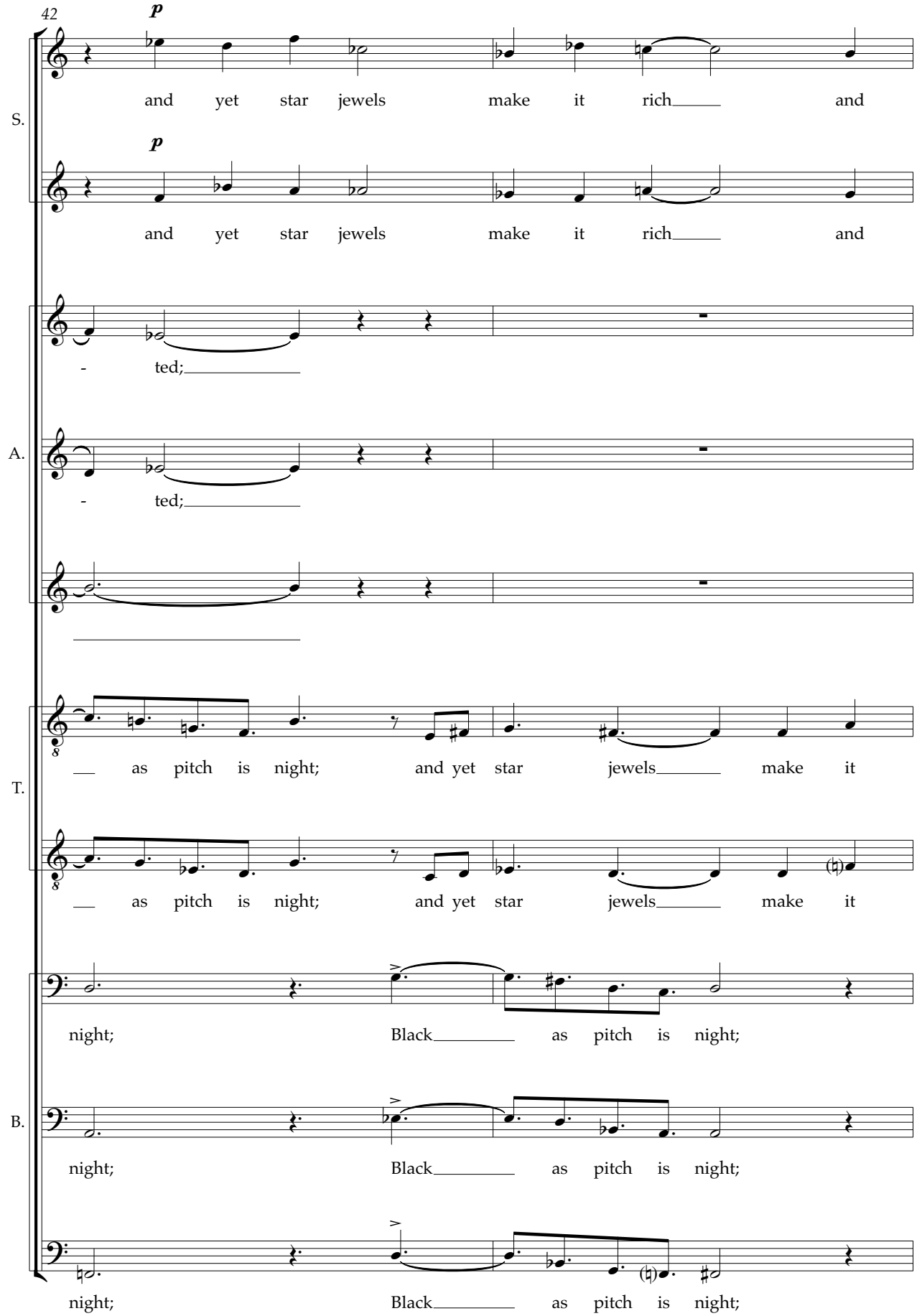

25
(mf)
which move on for ev - er; Strange voi - ces sing a - mong the pla - nets;
S.
(mf)
which move on for ev - er; Strange voi - ces sing a - mong the pla - nets;
(mf)
m sing a - mong the pla - nets which move on for ev - er;
A.
sing a - mong the pla - nets
(mf)
sing a - mong the pla - nets; sing a - mong the pla - nets which move on for ev-
T.
fp
fp
Strange voi - -
mf-p
fp
fp
Sing Strange voi -
B.
mf-p
fp
Sing Strange

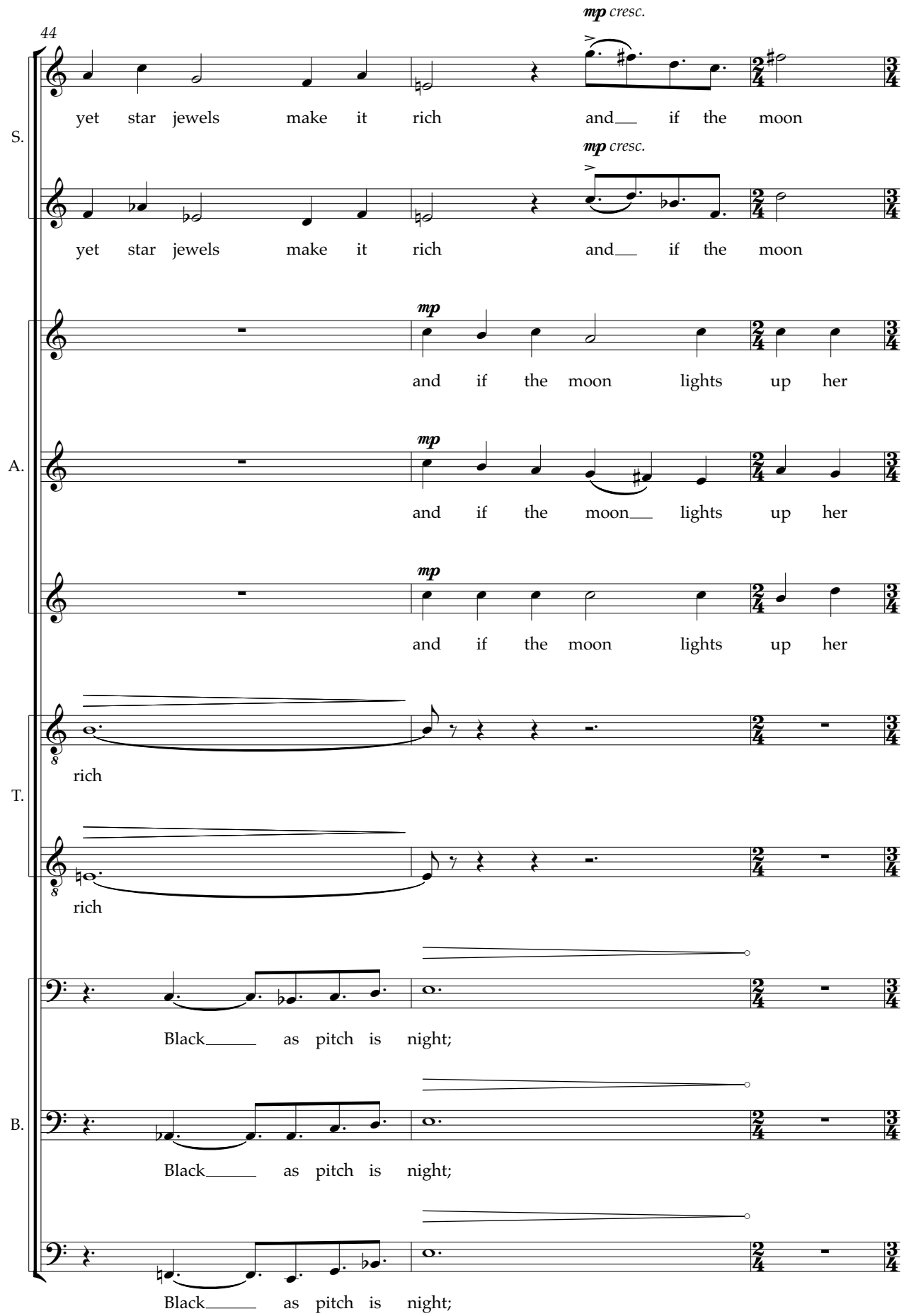

tutti cresc. (poco a poco)
f
28
S.
voi - ces sing a-mong the pla nets; Sing a mong the pla - nets which
f
Strange voi - ces sing a - mong the pla - nets; Sing a mong the pla - nets which
A.
f
Strange voi - ces Sing a mong the pla - nets which
f
er; Strange voi - - ces sing a mong the pla - nets which
T.
f
Sing a mong the pla - nets which
f
Sing a mong the pla - nets which
fp fp fp
f
ces; Strange voi - - ces sing!
B.
fp fp fp
f
- ces; Strange voi - ces sing!
fp
f
voi - - ces sing!

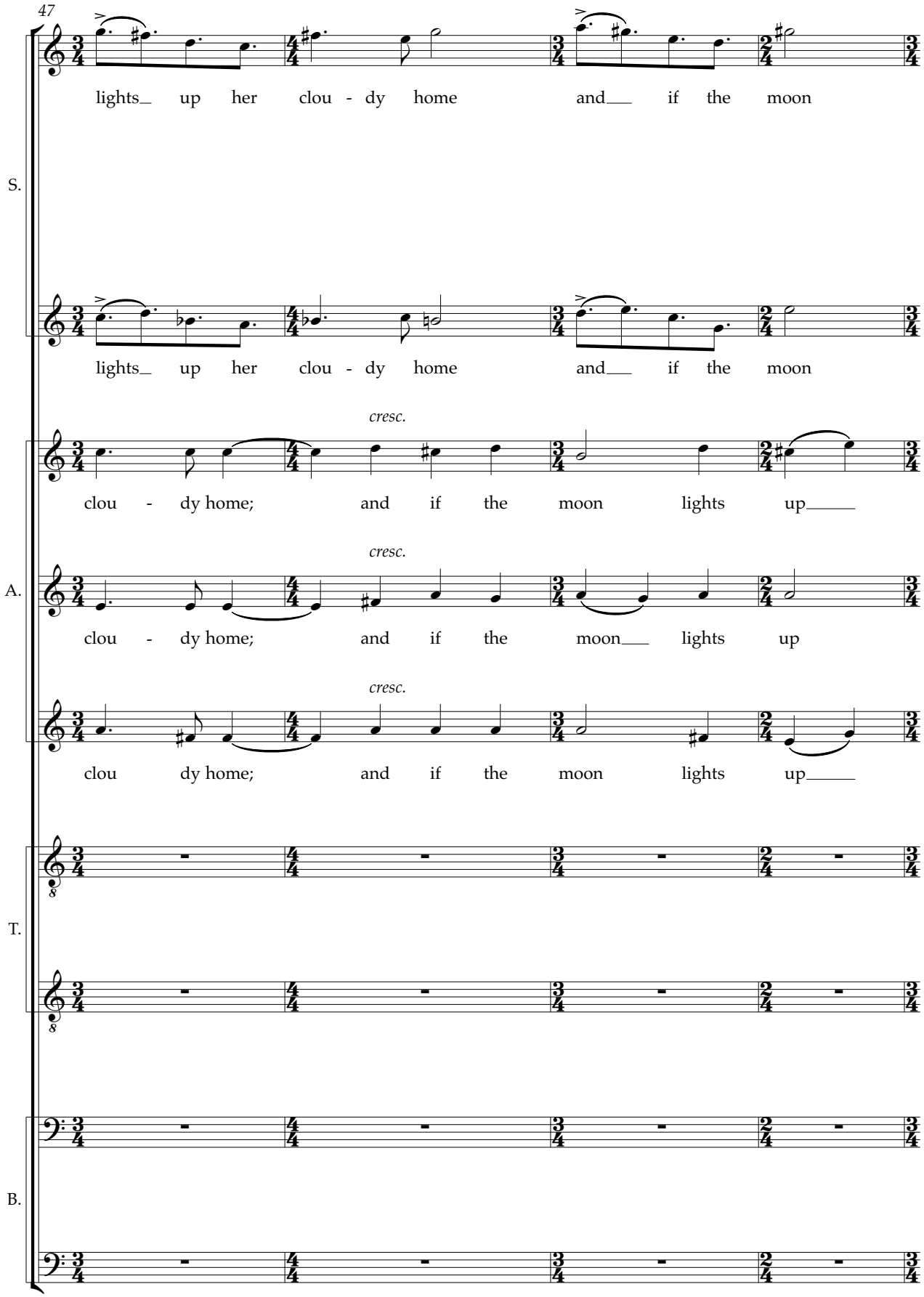

32
S.
mf
p
move on for ev - er
mf
p
pp
move on for ev - er Si - - ng -
A.
mf
p
move on for ev - er si - ng m
mf
p
move on for ev - er m
T.
mf
move on for ev - er
mf
move on for ev - er
B.
mp
In the old sea's foam there is a pro -
mp
In the old sea's foam there is a pro -

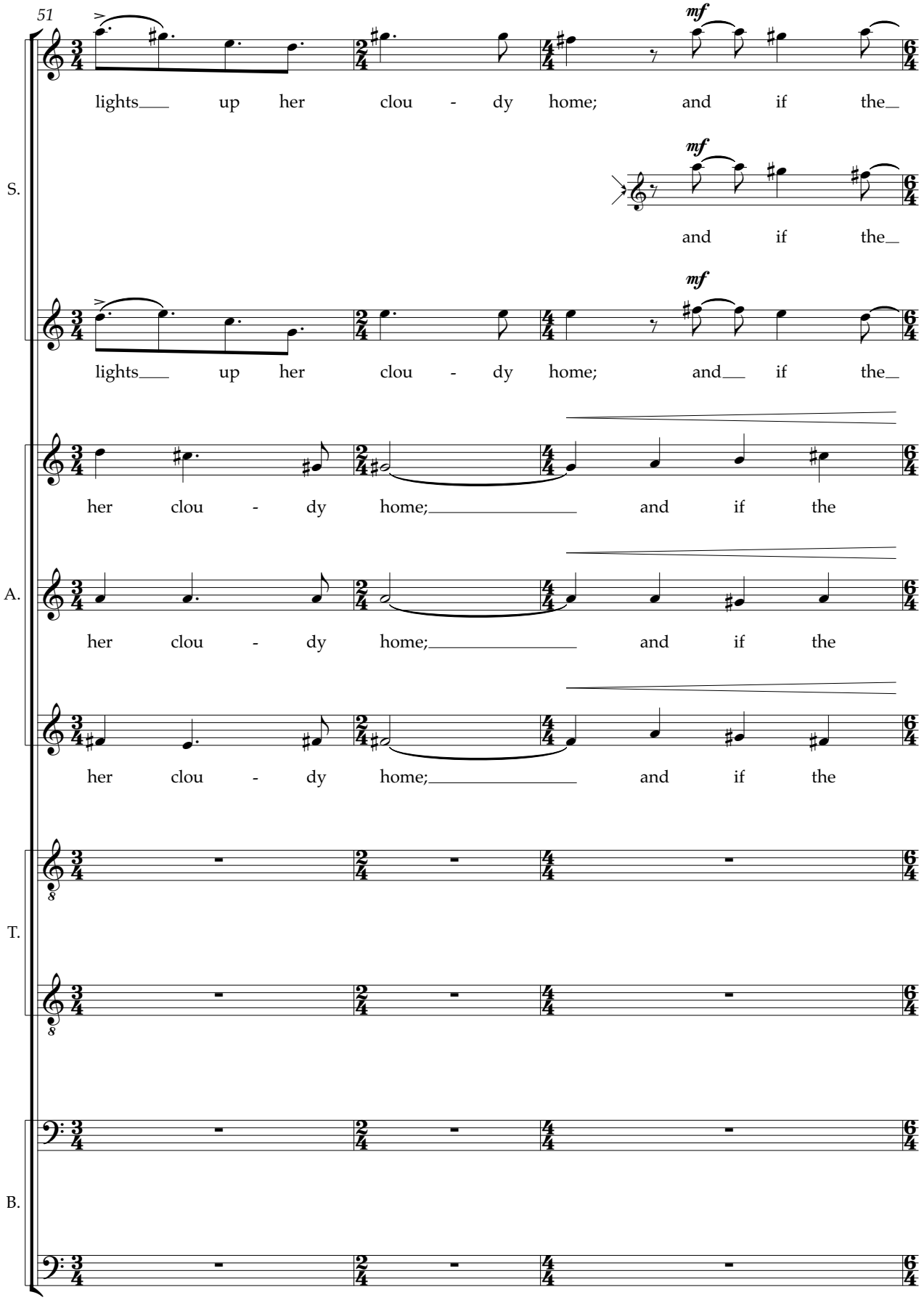

36
pp
S.
m
m
m
pp
m
m
A.
pp
m
mp
In hea-ven's blue dome great bea-con fires are ligh - ted
T.
mp
In hea-ven's blue dome great bea-con fires are ligh - ted
- phe-cy
B.
- phe-cy

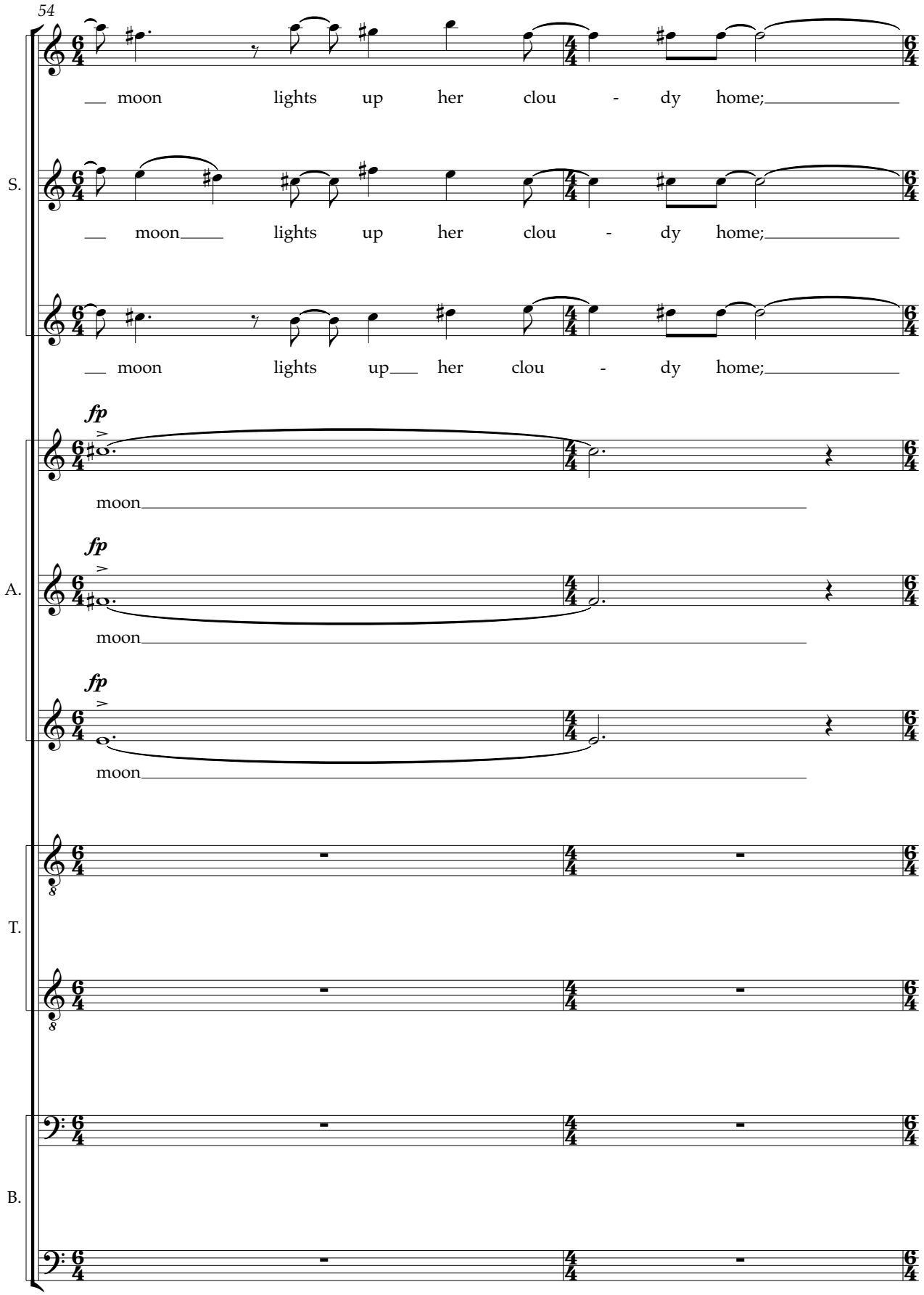

39
S.
mf mp
are ligh - ted;
mf mp
are ligh - ted;
A.
mf mp
are are ligh - -
mf mp
are are ligh - -
mf mp
ligh - ted; ligh - - ted;
T.
f
Black Black
f
Black Black
B.
sfz
Black as pitch is
sfz
Black as pitch is
sfz
Black as pitch is

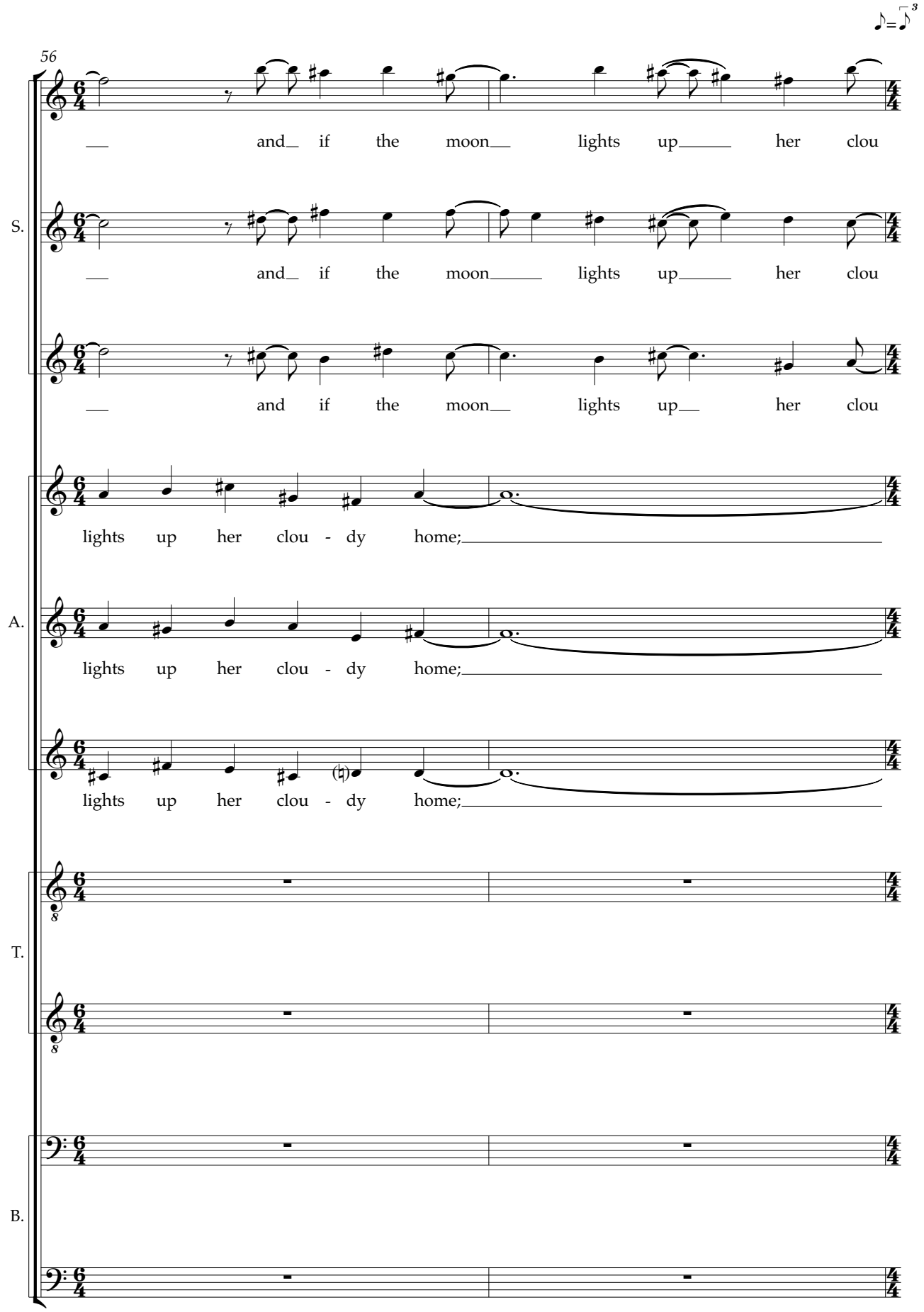

42
p
S.
and yet star jewels make it rich and
p
and yet star jewels make it rich and
- ted;
A.
- ted;
T.
as pitch is night; and yet star jewels make it
as pitch is night; and yet star jewels make it
B.
night; Black as pitch is night;
night; Black as pitch is night;
night; Black as pitch is night;

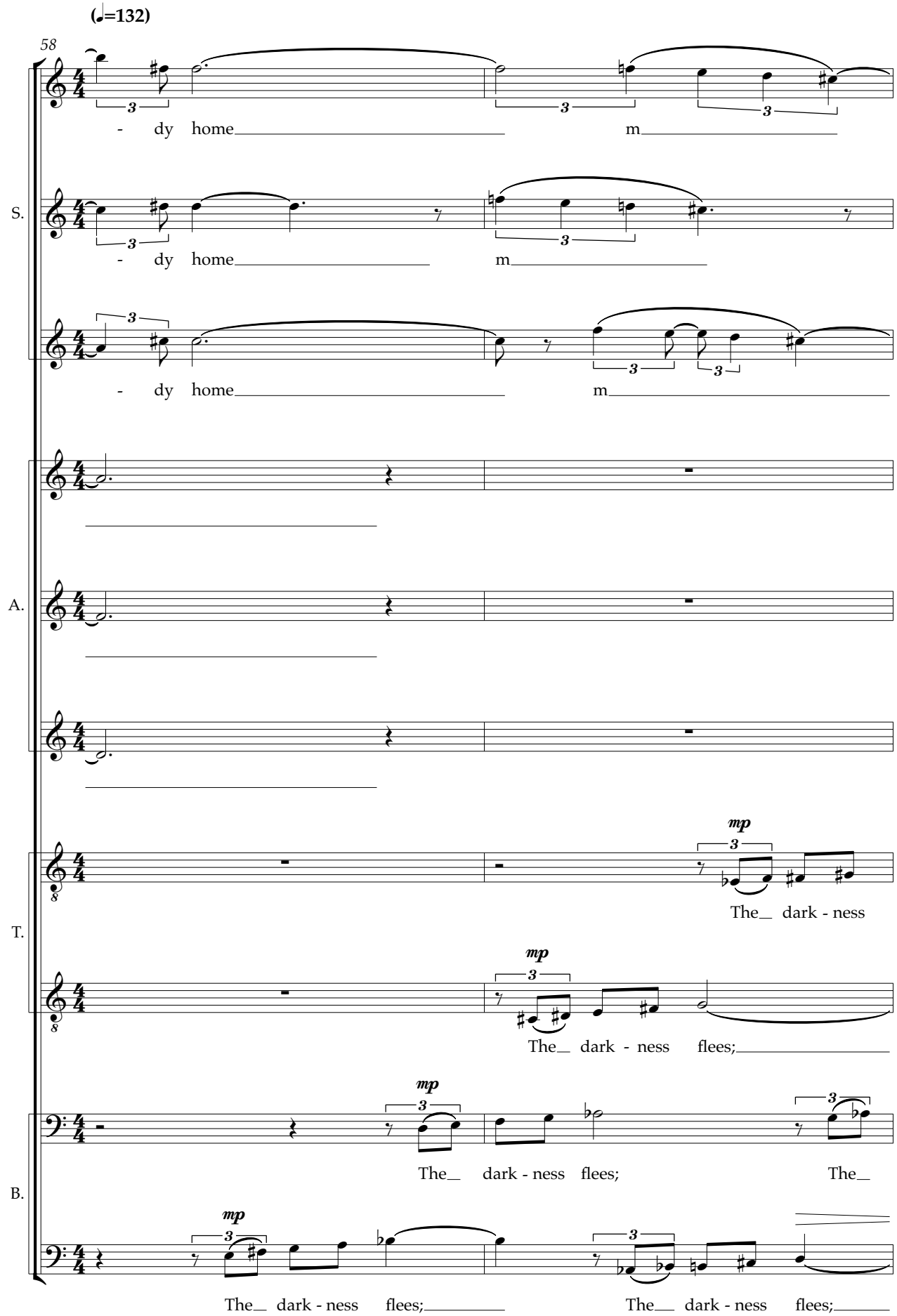

44
S.
mp cresc.
yet star jewels make it rich and if the moon
mp cresc.
yet star jewels make it rich and if the moon
A.
mp
and if the moon lights up her
mp
and if the moon lights up her
T.
mp
and if the moon lights up her
rich
rich
B.
Black as pitch is night;
Black as pitch is night;
Black as pitch is night;

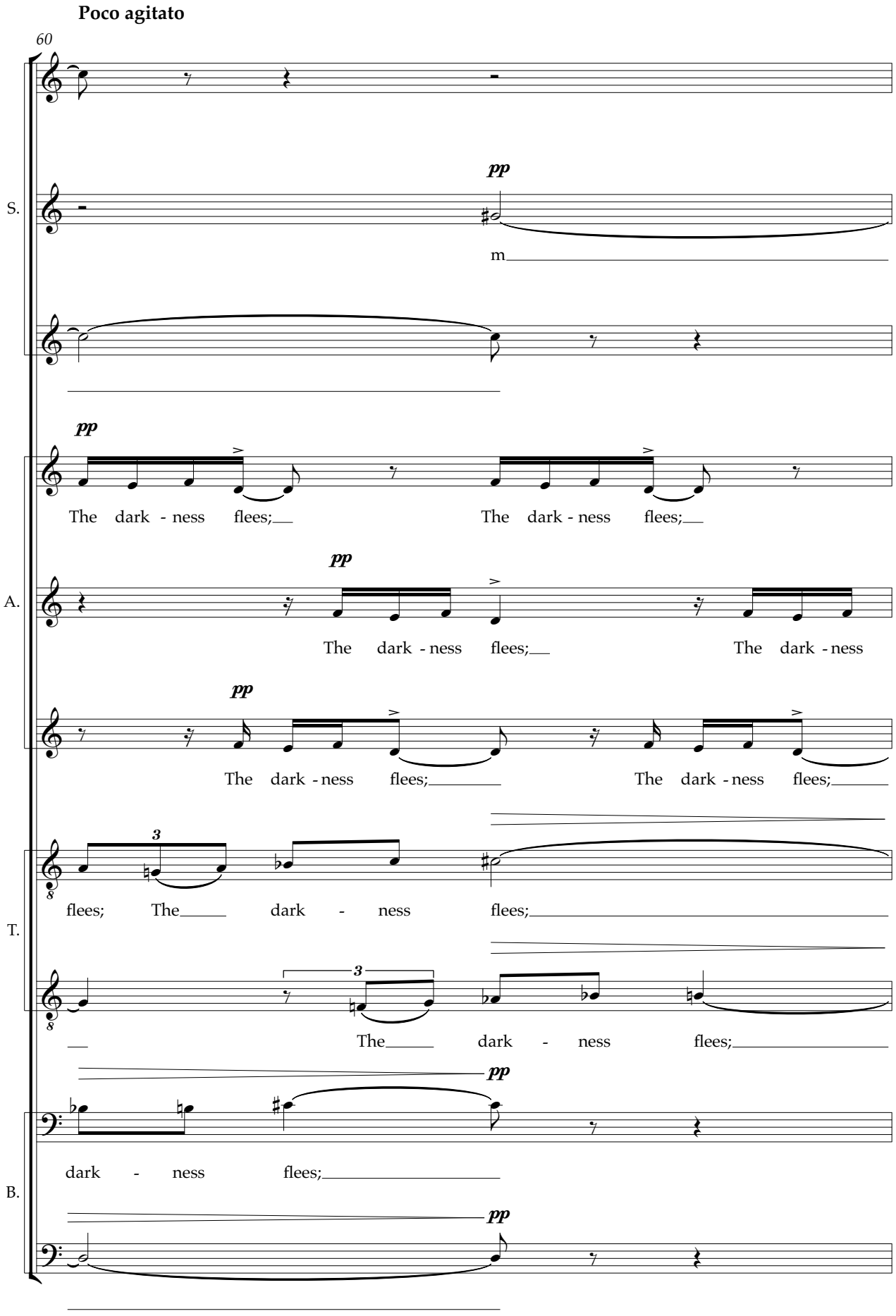

47
S.
lights_ up her clou - dy home and___ if the moon
lights_ up her clou - dy home and___ if the moon
A.
cresc.
clou - dy home; and if the moon lights up_____
cresc.
clou - dy home; and if the moon___ lights up
cresc.
clou dy home; and if the moon lights up_____
T.
B.

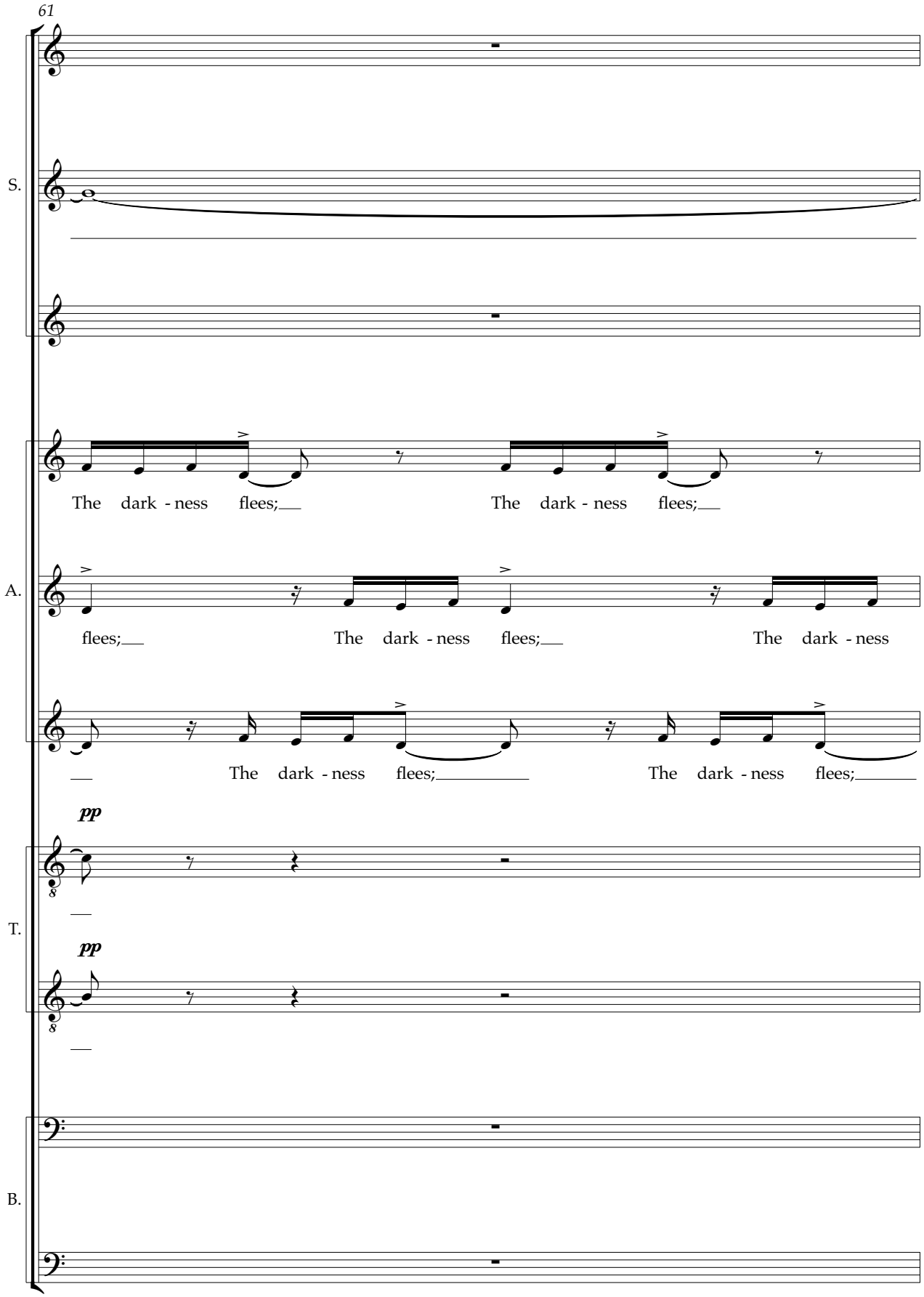

51
S.
A.
T.
B.
mf
lights up her clou - dy home; and if the
and if the
lights up her clou - dy home; and if the
her clou - dy home; and if the
her clou - dy home; and if the
her clou - dy home; and if the

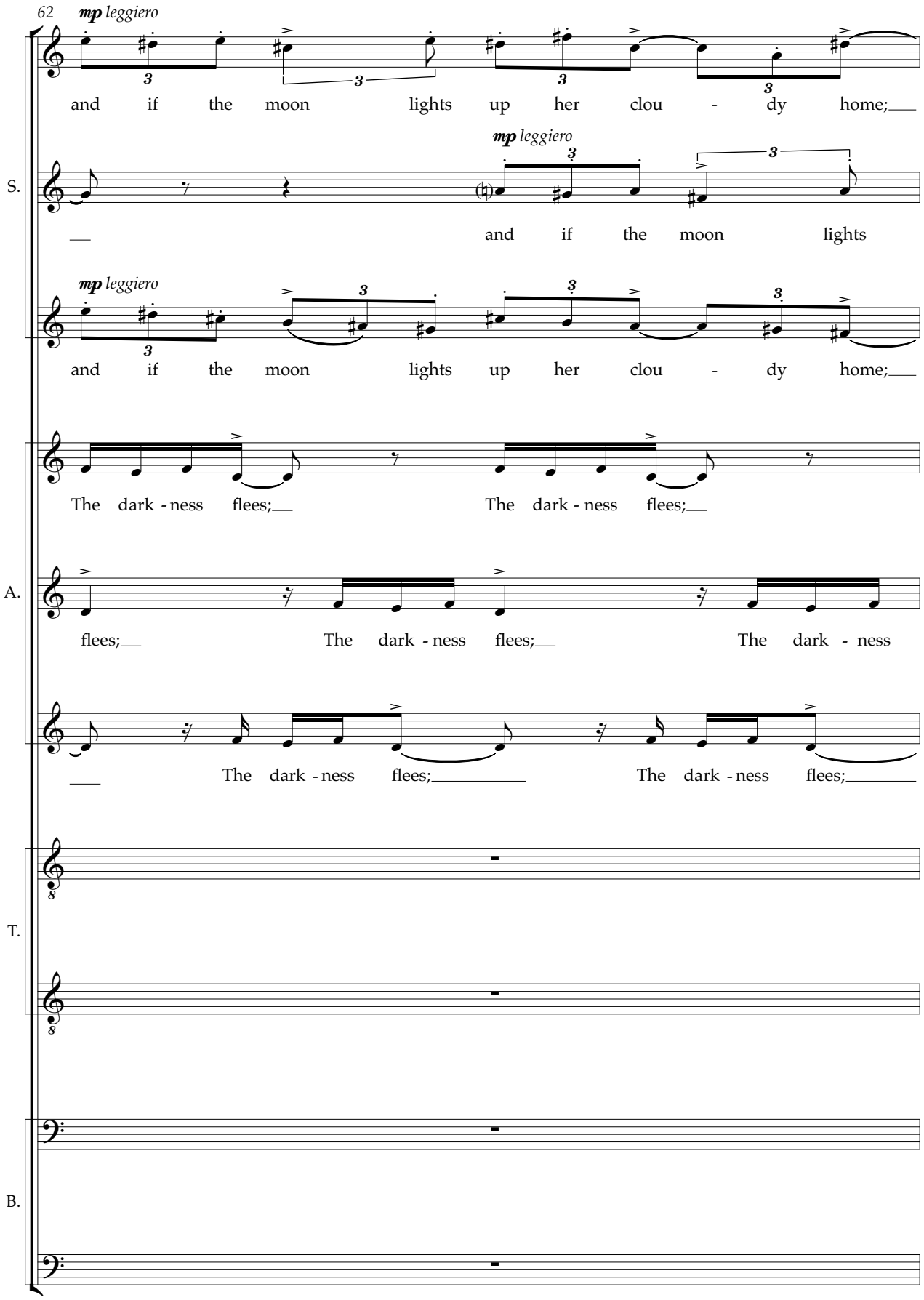

54
moon lights up her clou - dy home;
S.
moon lights up her clou - dy home;
moon lights up her clou - dy home;
fp
moon
A.
fp
moon
fp
moon
T.
B.

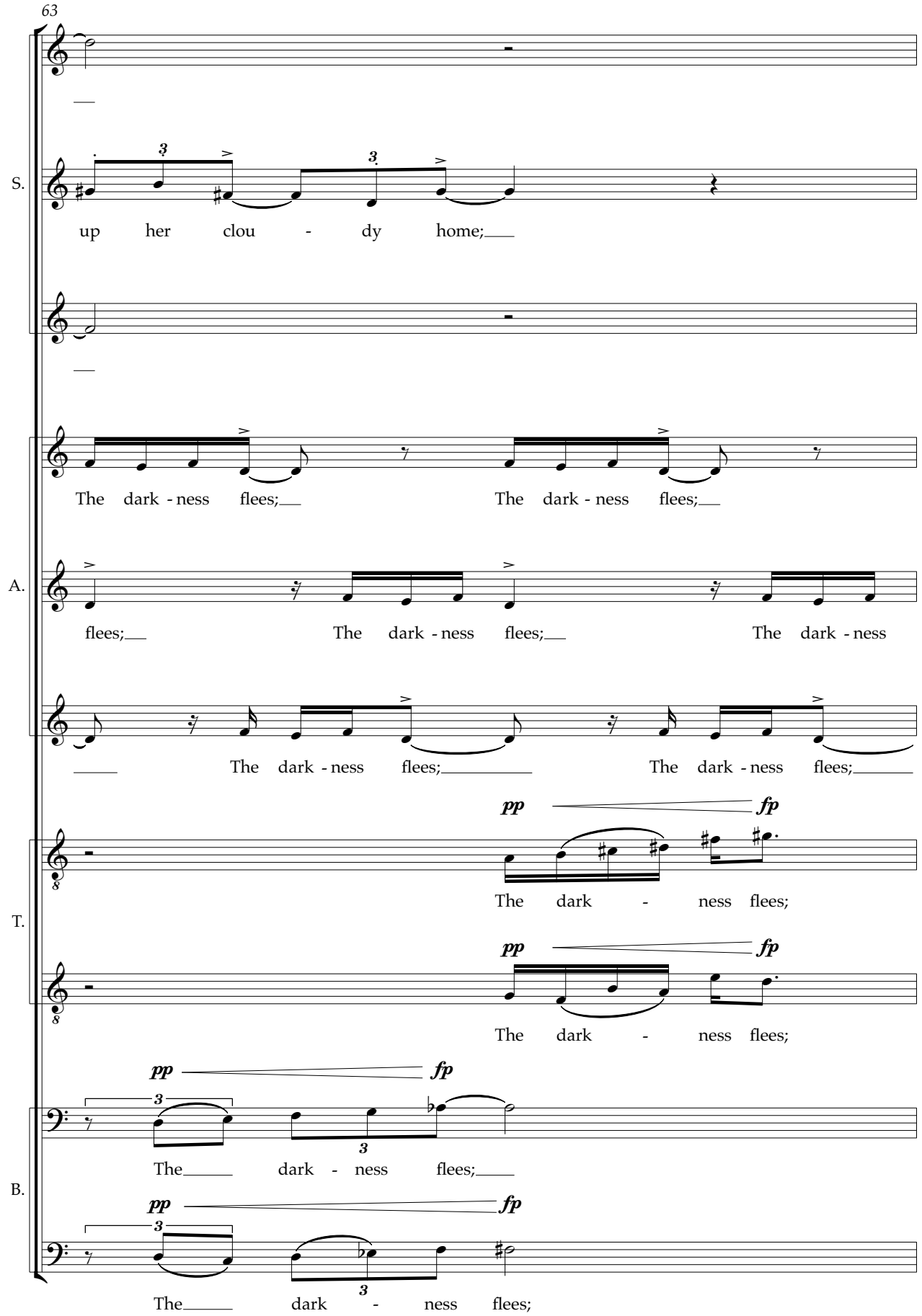

56
S.
A.
T.
B.
and if the moon lights up her clou
and if the moon lights up her clou
and if the moon lights up her clou
lights up her clou - dy home;
lights up her clou - dy home;
lights up her clou - dy home;

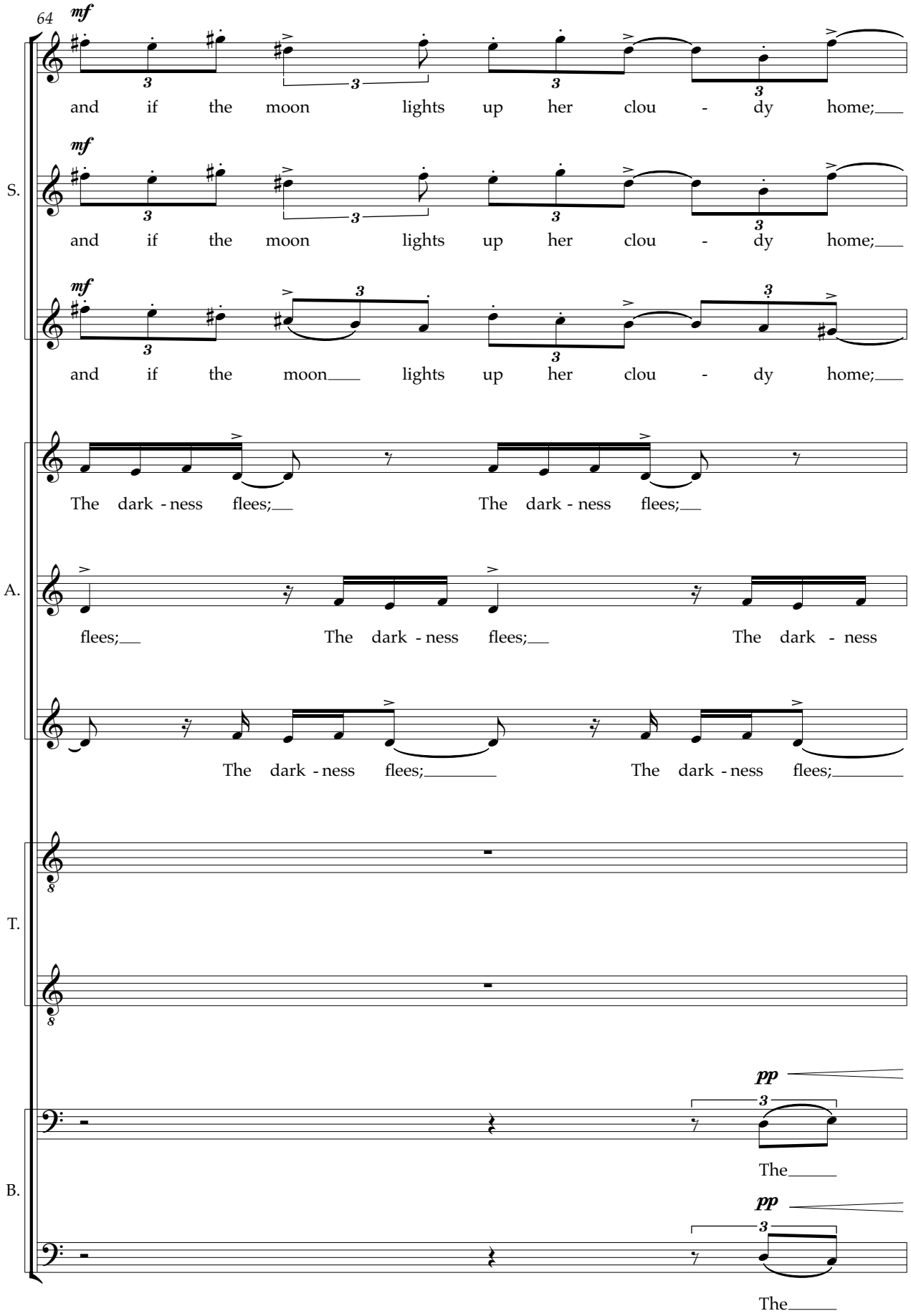

(♩=132)
58
S.
- dy home
m
- dy home
m
- dy home
m
A.
T.
mp
The dark - ness
mp
The dark - ness flees;
B.
mp
The dark - ness flees;
The
mp
The dark - ness flees;
The dark - ness flees;

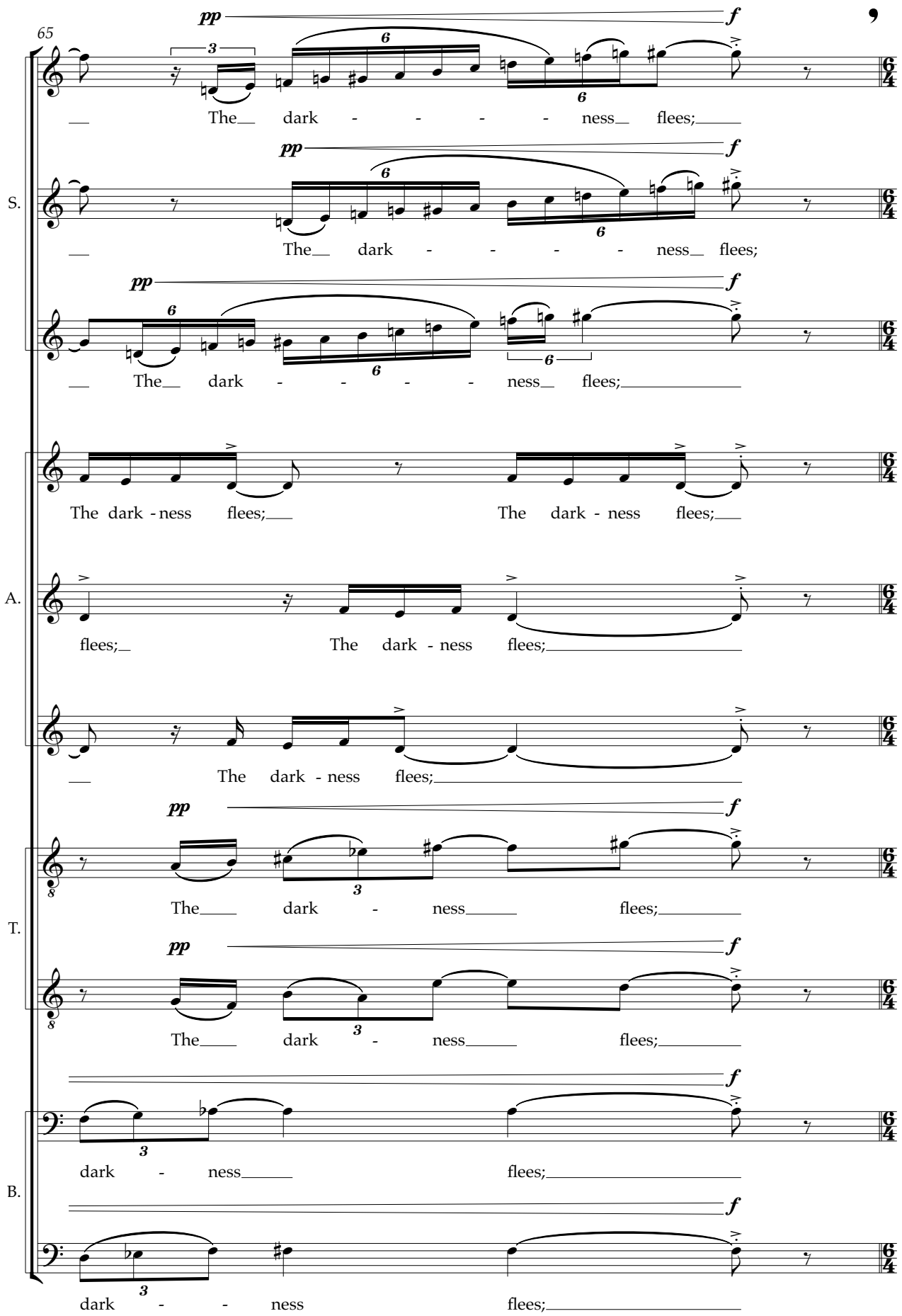

Poco agitato
60
S.
pp
m
pp
The dark - ness flees;
The dark - ness flees;
A.
pp
The dark - ness flees;
The dark - ness
pp
The dark - ness flees;
The dark - ness flees;
T.
3
flees; The dark - ness flees;
3
The dark - ness flees;
B.
pp
dark - ness flees;
pp


61
S.
The dark - ness flees; The dark - ness flees;
A.
flees; The dark - ness flees; The dark - ness
The dark - ness flees; The dark - ness flees;
pp
T.
pp
B.

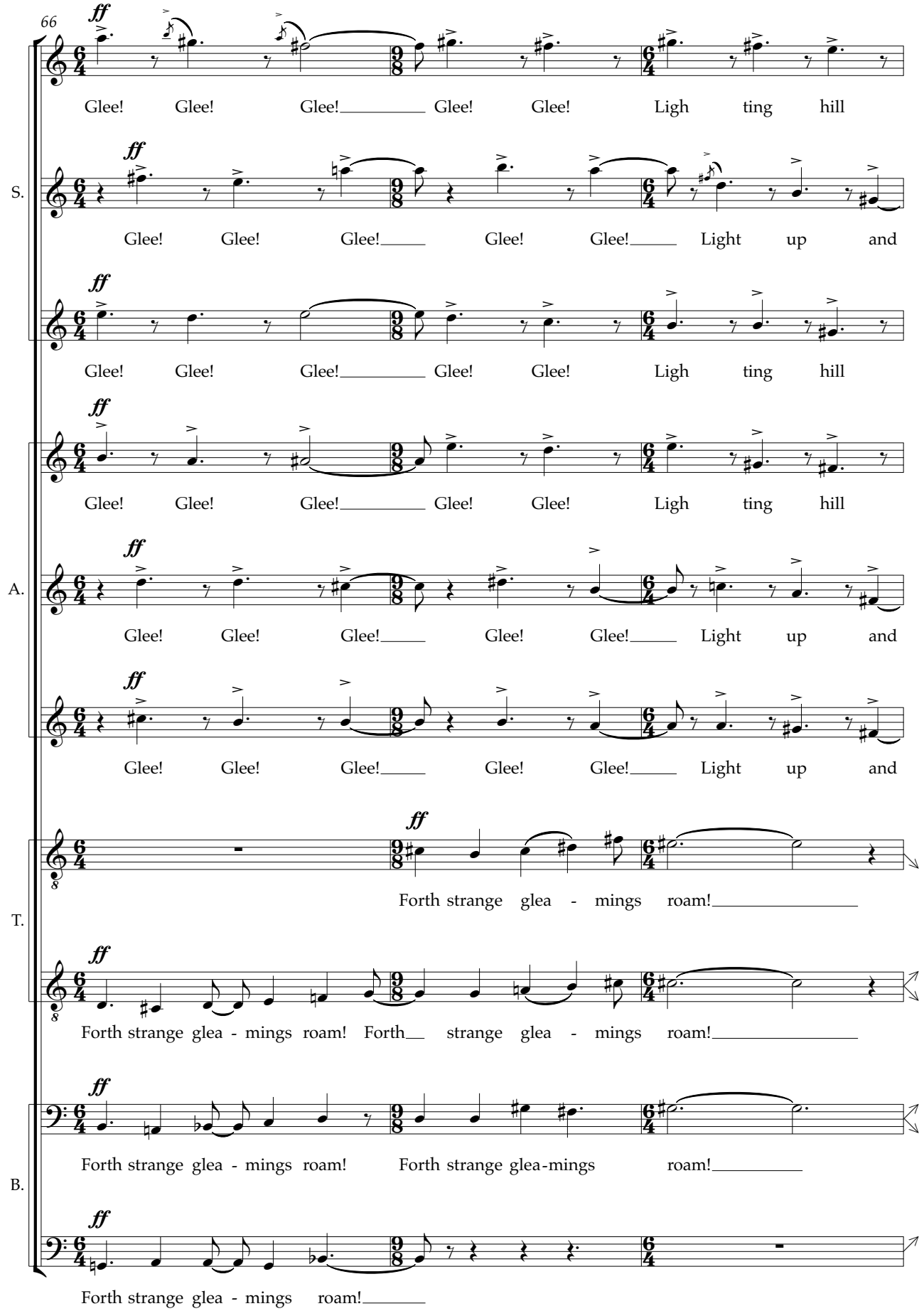

62
mp leggiero
and if the moon lights up her clou - dy home;
S.
mp leggiero
and if the moon lights
mp leggiero
and if the moon lights up her clou - dy home;
The dark - ness flees;
The dark - ness flees;
A.
flees;
The dark - ness flees;
The dark - ness
The dark - ness flees;
The dark - ness flees;
T.
B.

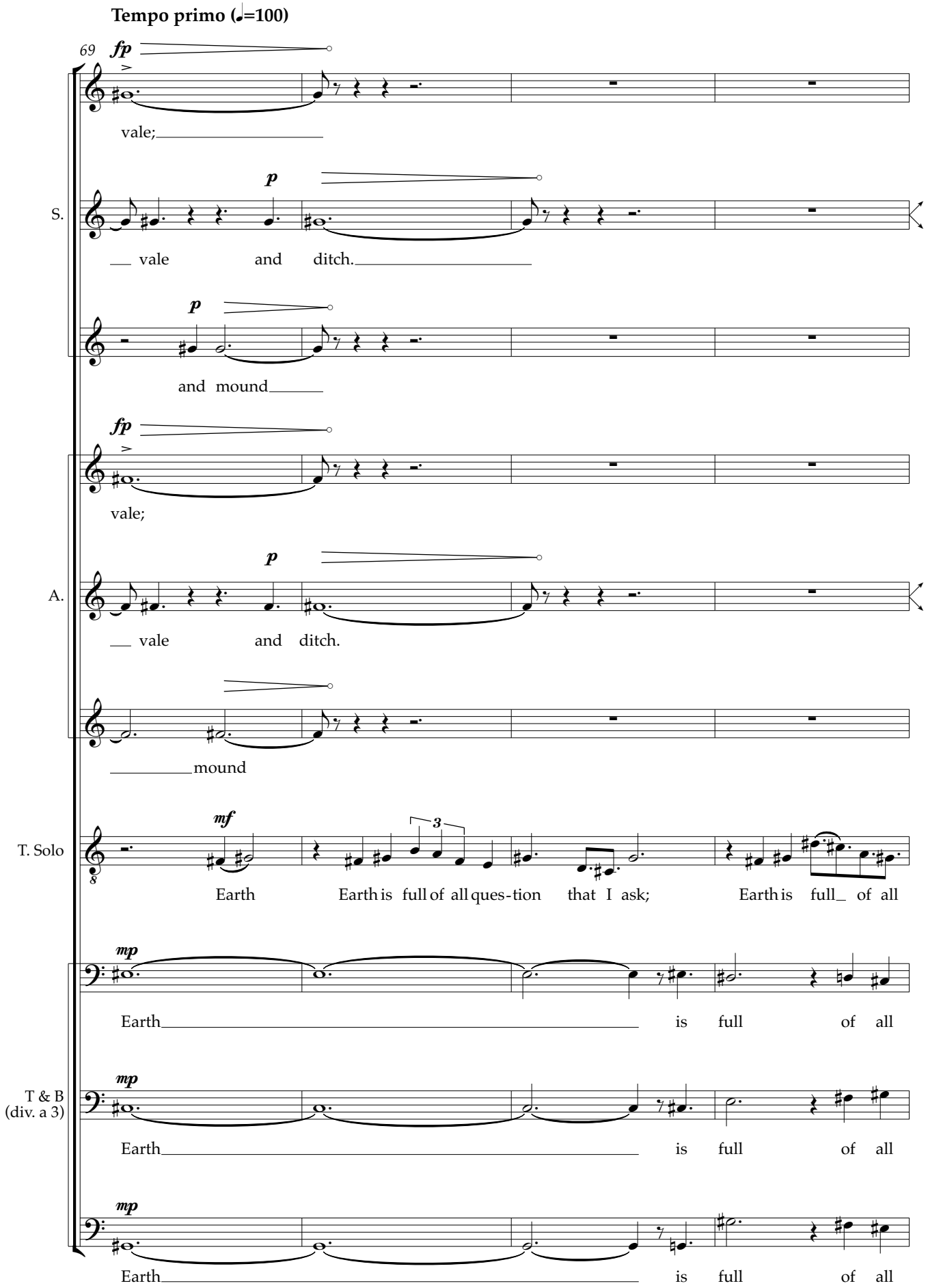

63
S.
up her clou - dy home;
The dark - ness flees; The dark - ness flees;
A.
flees; The dark - ness flees; The dark - ness
The dark - ness flees; The dark - ness flees;
T.
pp fp
The dark - ness flees;
pp fp
The dark - ness flees;
B.
pp fp
The dark - ness flees;
pp fp
The dark - ness flees;

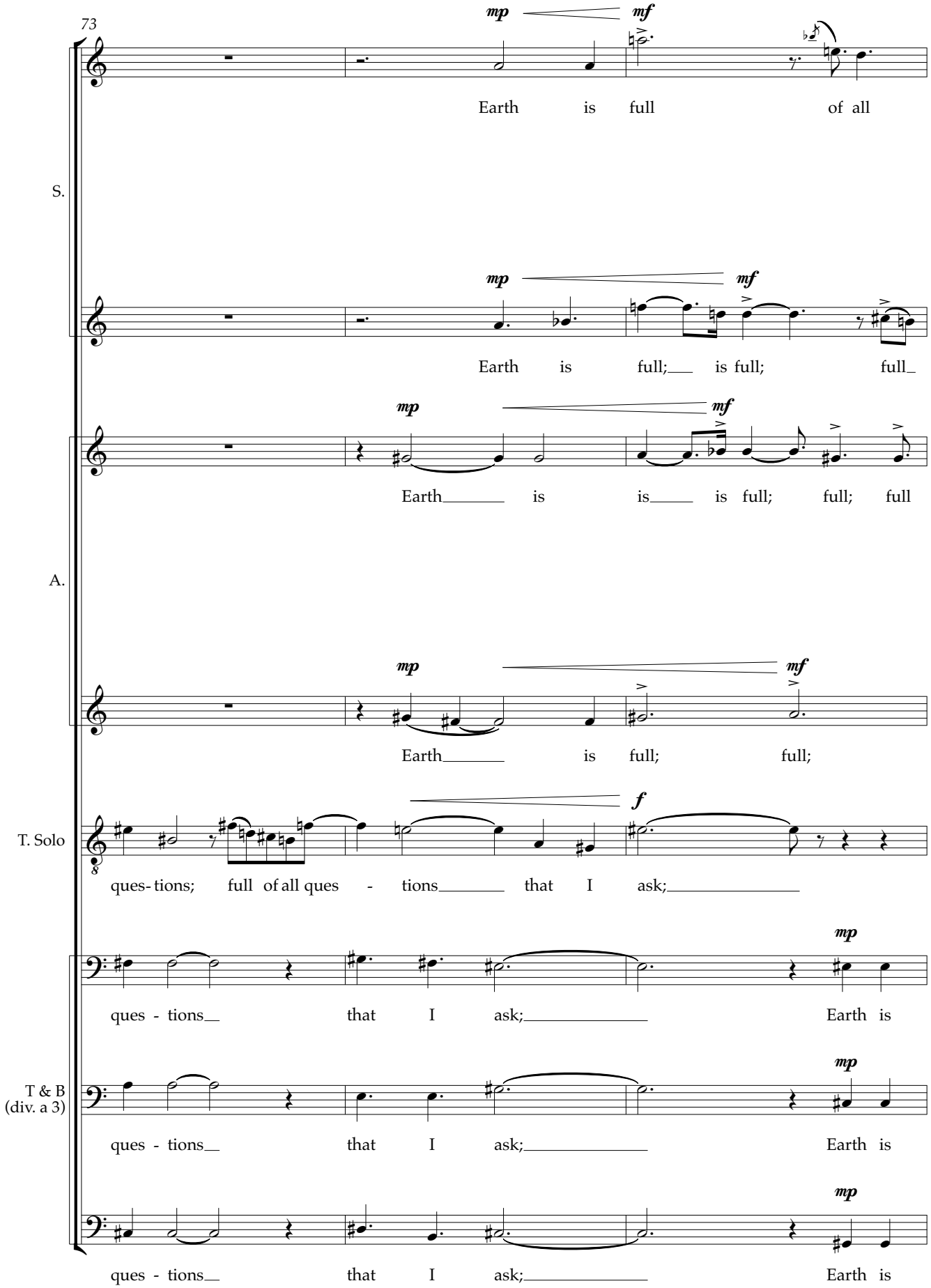

64
mf
and if the moon lights up her clou - dy home;
S.
mf
and if the moon lights up her clou - dy home;
mf
and if the moon lights up her clou - dy home;
The dark - ness flees; The dark - ness flees;
A.
flees; The dark - ness flees; The dark - ness
The dark - ness flees; The dark - ness flees;
T.
pp
The
B.
pp
The

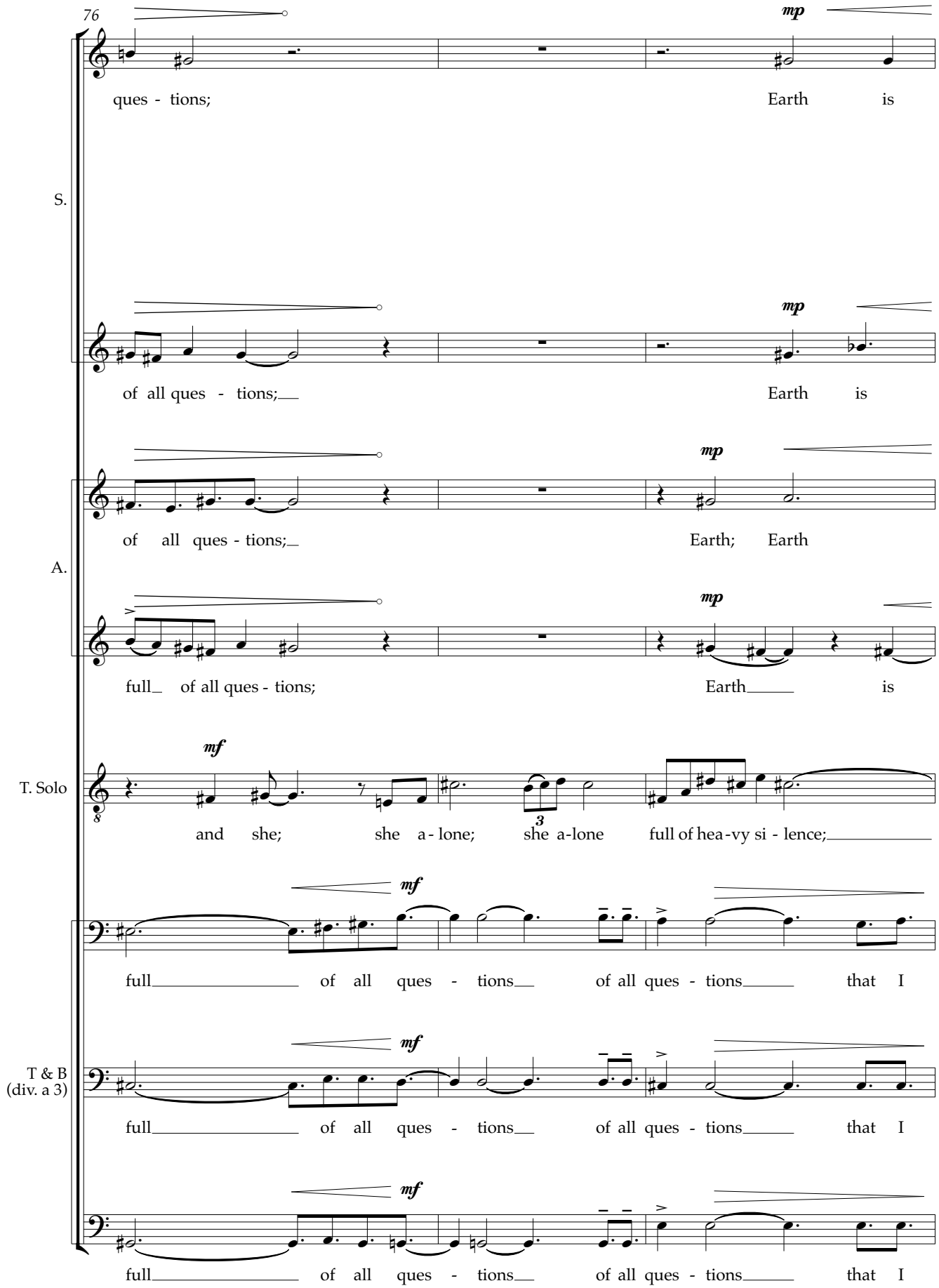

65
pp
f
The dark - - - - ness flees;
S.
The dark - - - - ness flees;
The dark - - - - ness flees;
The dark - ness flees;
The dark - ness flees;
A.
flees;
The dark - ness flees;
The dark - ness flees;
T.
The dark - ness flees;
The dark - ness flees;
B.
dark - ness flees;
dark - - ness flees;

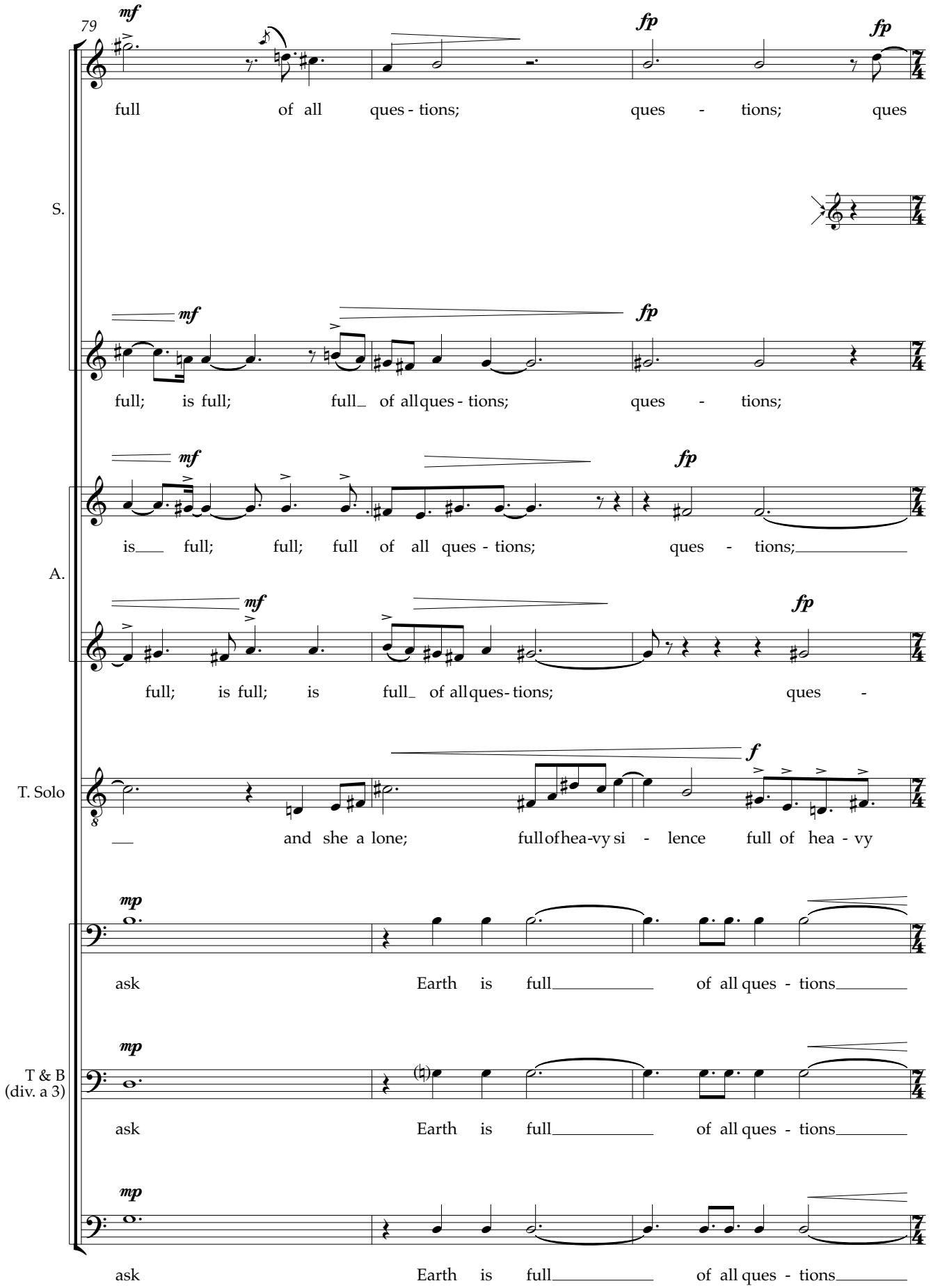
Molto meno mosso (♩=66) ... poco a poco accel. ...

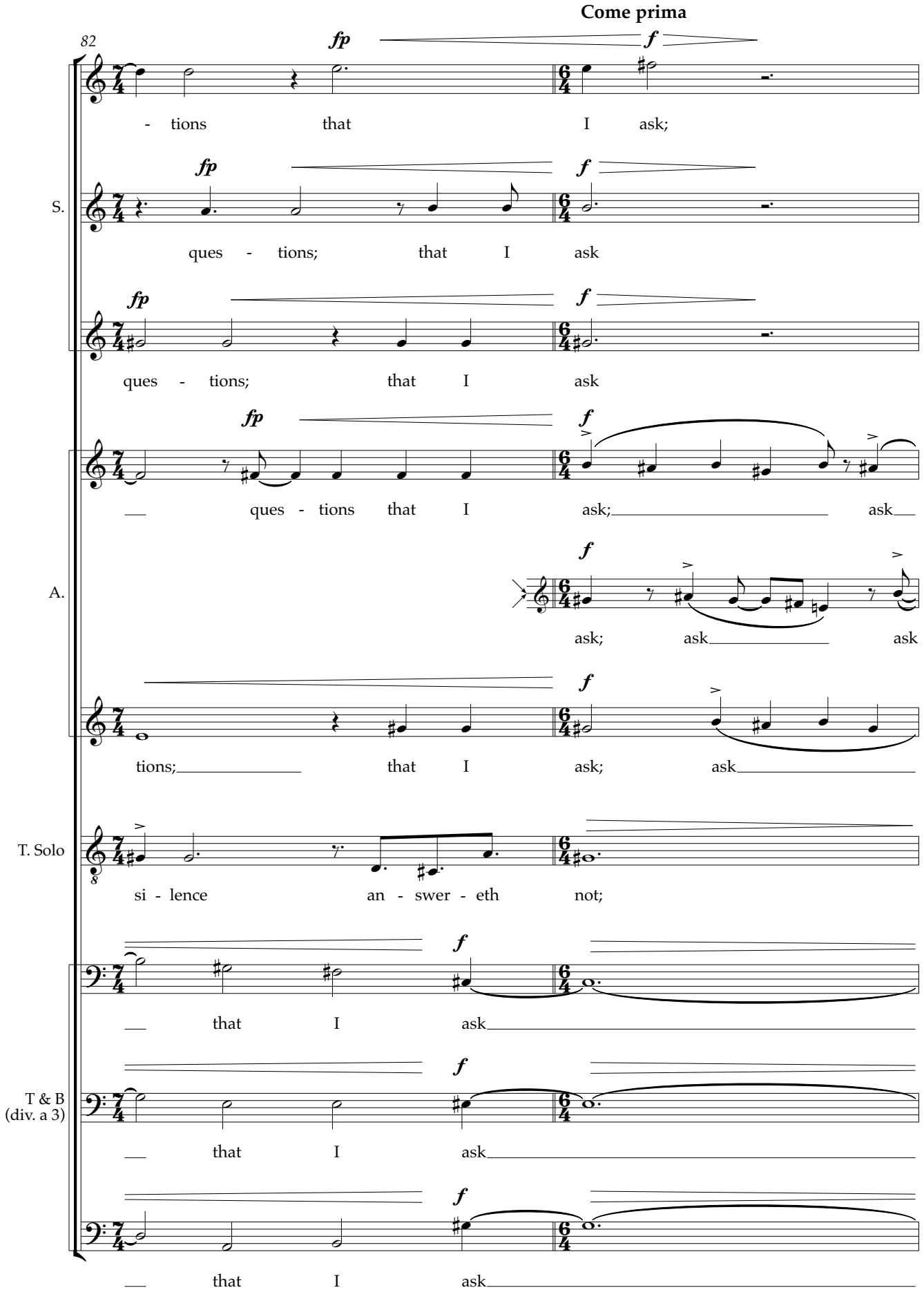


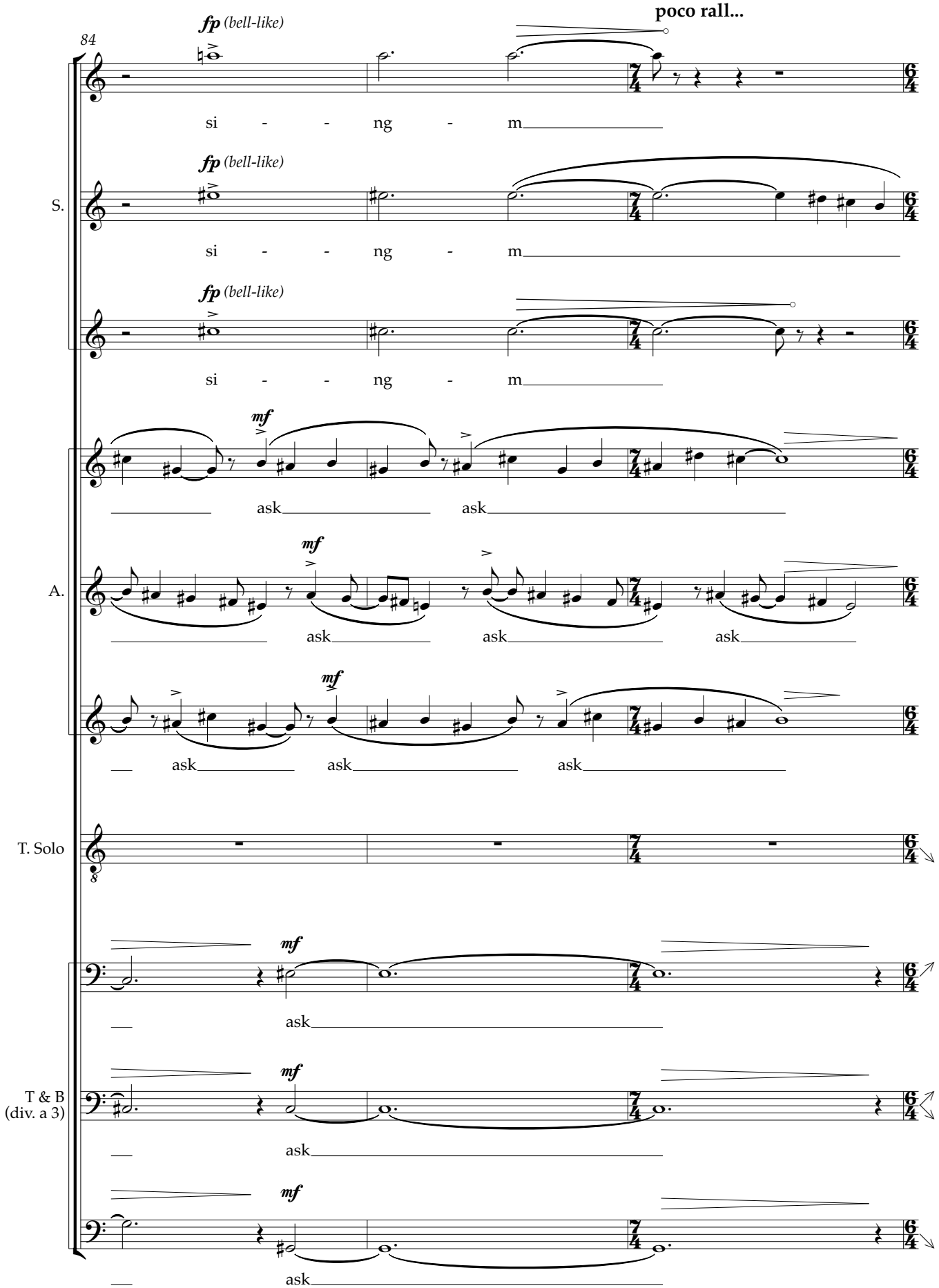

Tempo primo (♩=100)
69
fp
vale;
S.
p
vale and ditch.
p
and mound
fp
vale;
A.
p
vale and ditch.
mound
T. Solo
mf
3
Earth Earth is full of all ques-tion that I ask; Earth is full of all
mp
Earth is full of all
T & B
(div. a 3)
mp
Earth is full of all
mp
Earth is full of all

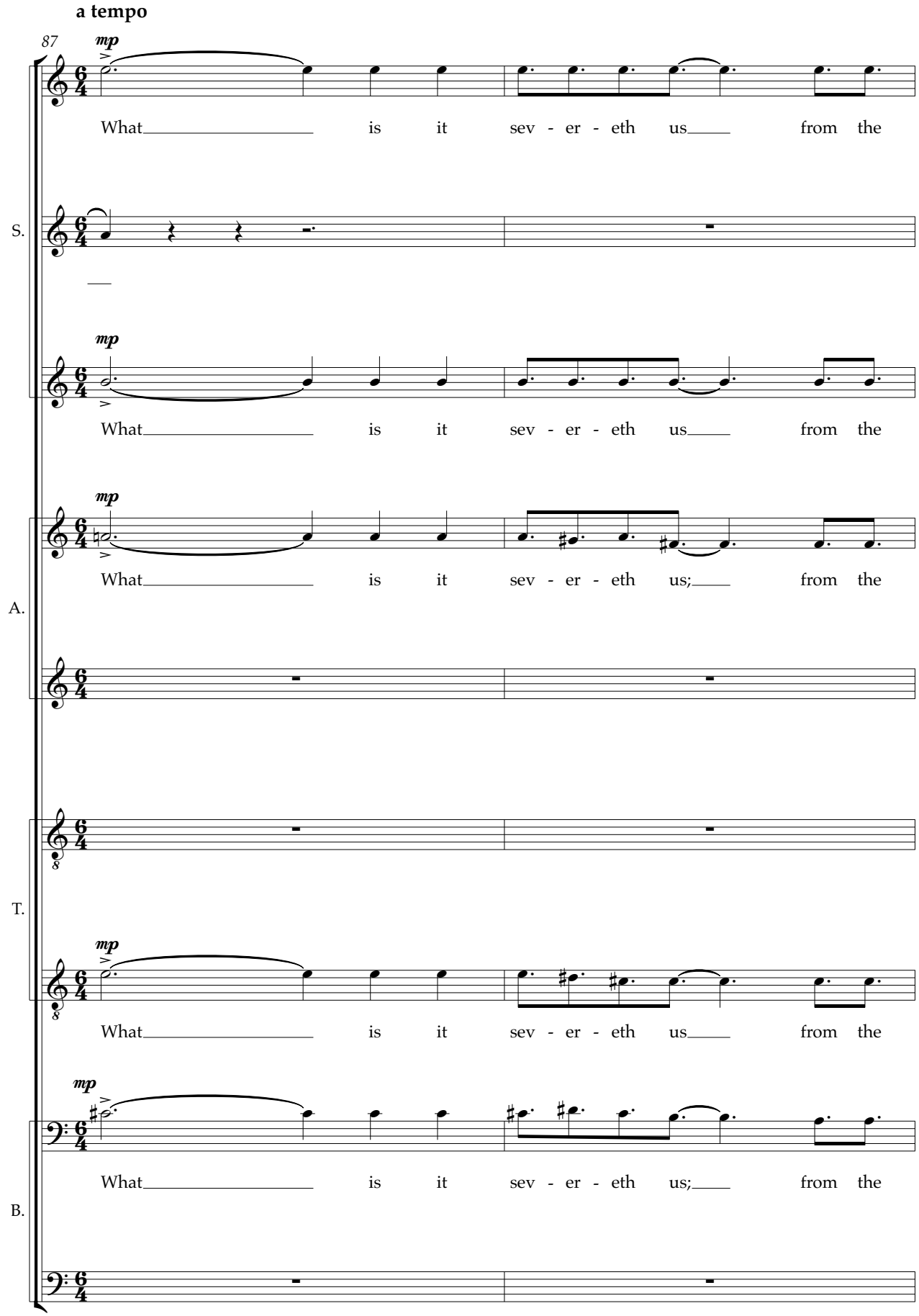

73
mp
mf
Earth is full of all
S.
mp
mf
Earth is full; is full; full
mp
mf
Earth is is is full; full; full
A.
mp
mf
Earth is full; full;
f
T. Solo
ques- tions; full of all ques - tions that I ask;
mp
ques - tions that I ask; Earth is
mp
T & B
(div. a 3)
ques - tions that I ask; Earth is
mp
ques - tions that I ask; Earth is

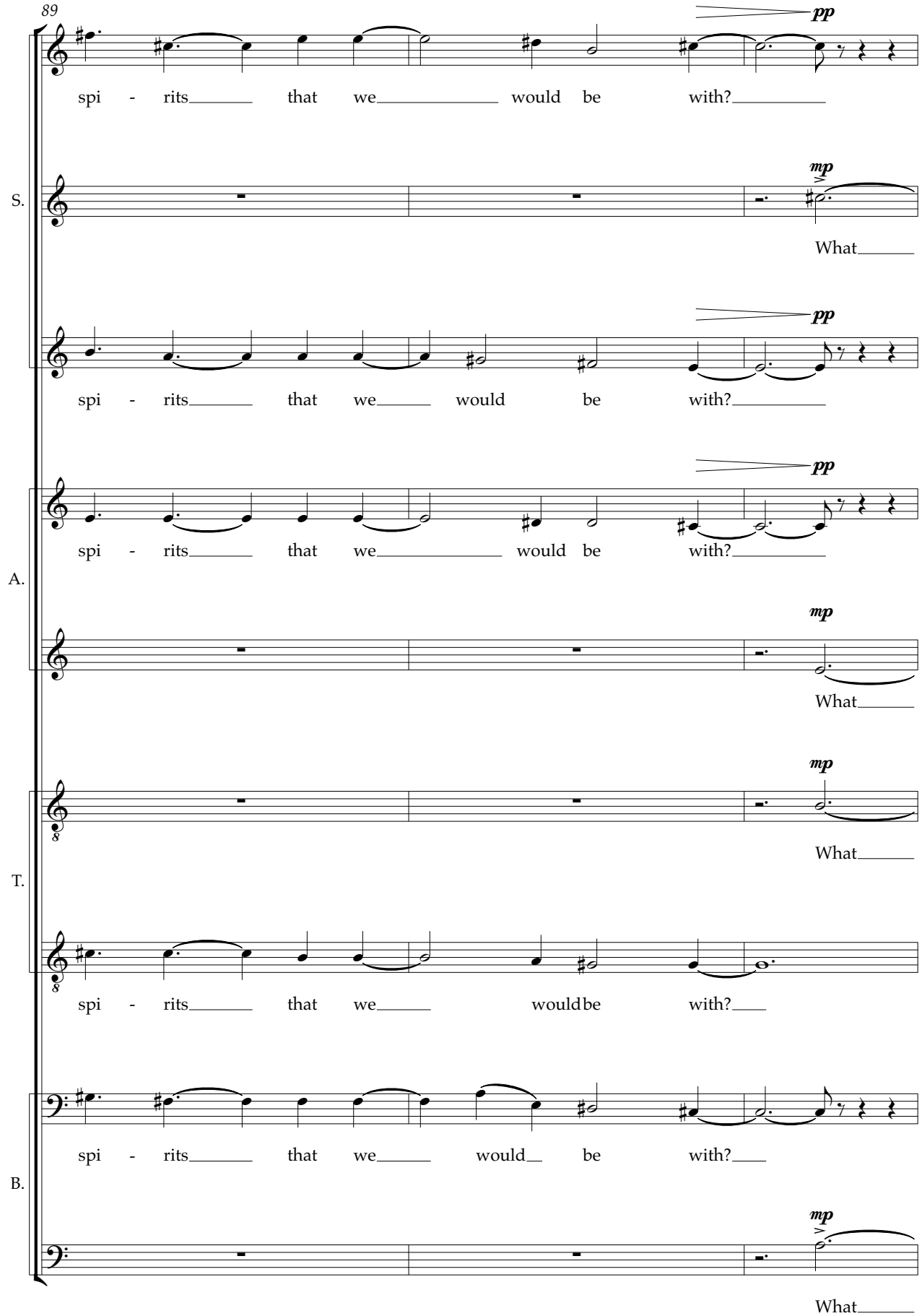

76
mp
ques - tions; Earth is
S.
mp
of all ques - tions; Earth is
mp
of all ques - tions; Earth; Earth
A.
mp
full of all ques - tions; Earth is
mf
T. Solo
and she; she a - lone; she a-lone full of hea-vy si - lence;
mf
full of all ques - tions of all ques - tions that I
mf
T & B
(div. a 3)
full of all ques - tions of all ques - tions that I
mf
full of all ques - tions of all ques - tions that I

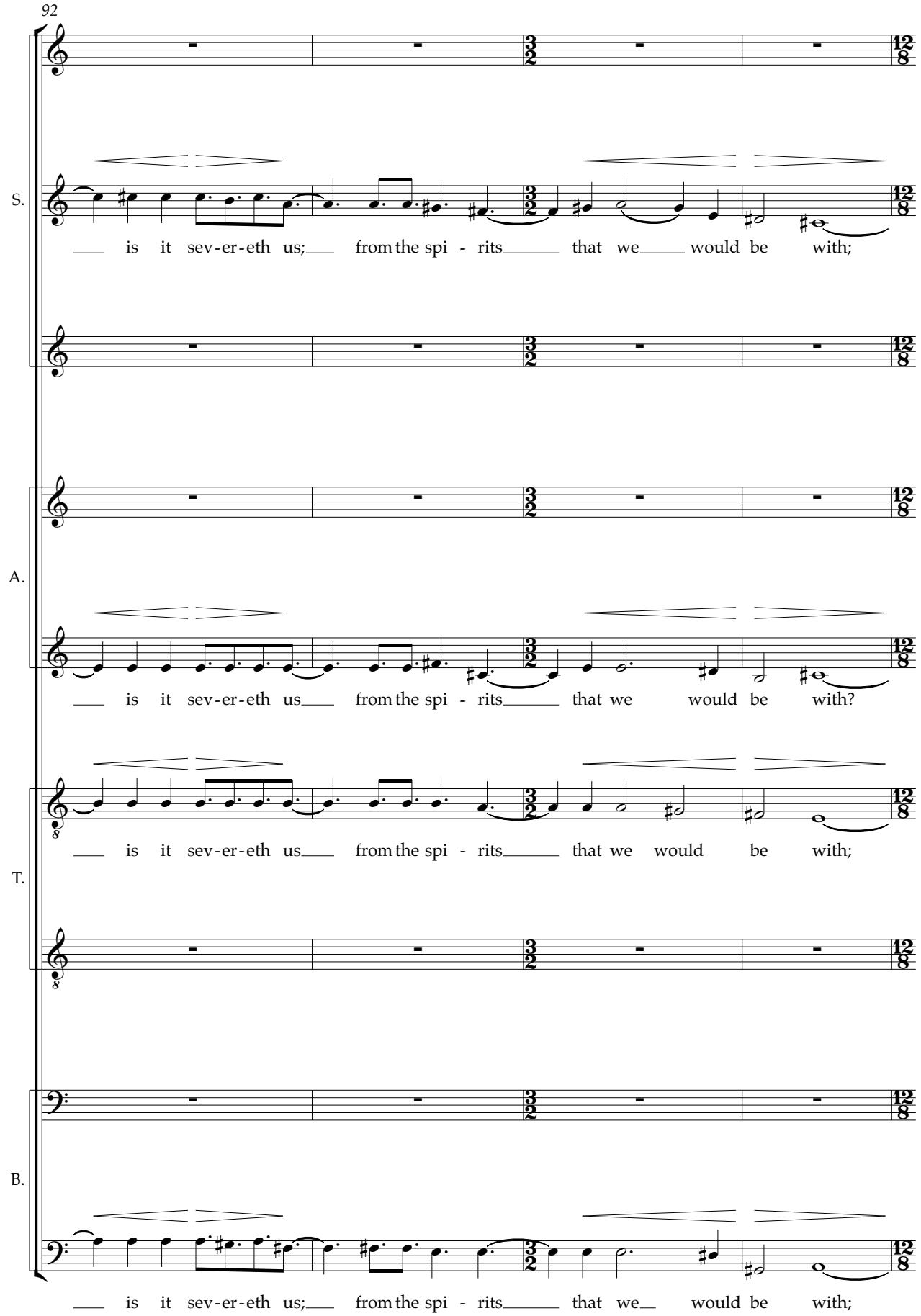

79
S.
A.
T. Solo
T & B
(div. a 3)
mf
fp
f
mp
full of all ques - tions; ques - tions; ques
full; is full; full_ of all ques - tions; ques - tions;
is_ full; full; full of all ques - tions; ques - tions;_
full; is full; is full_ of all ques - tions; ques -
_ and she a lone; full of hea-vy si - lence full of hea - vy
ask Earth is full_ of all ques - tions_

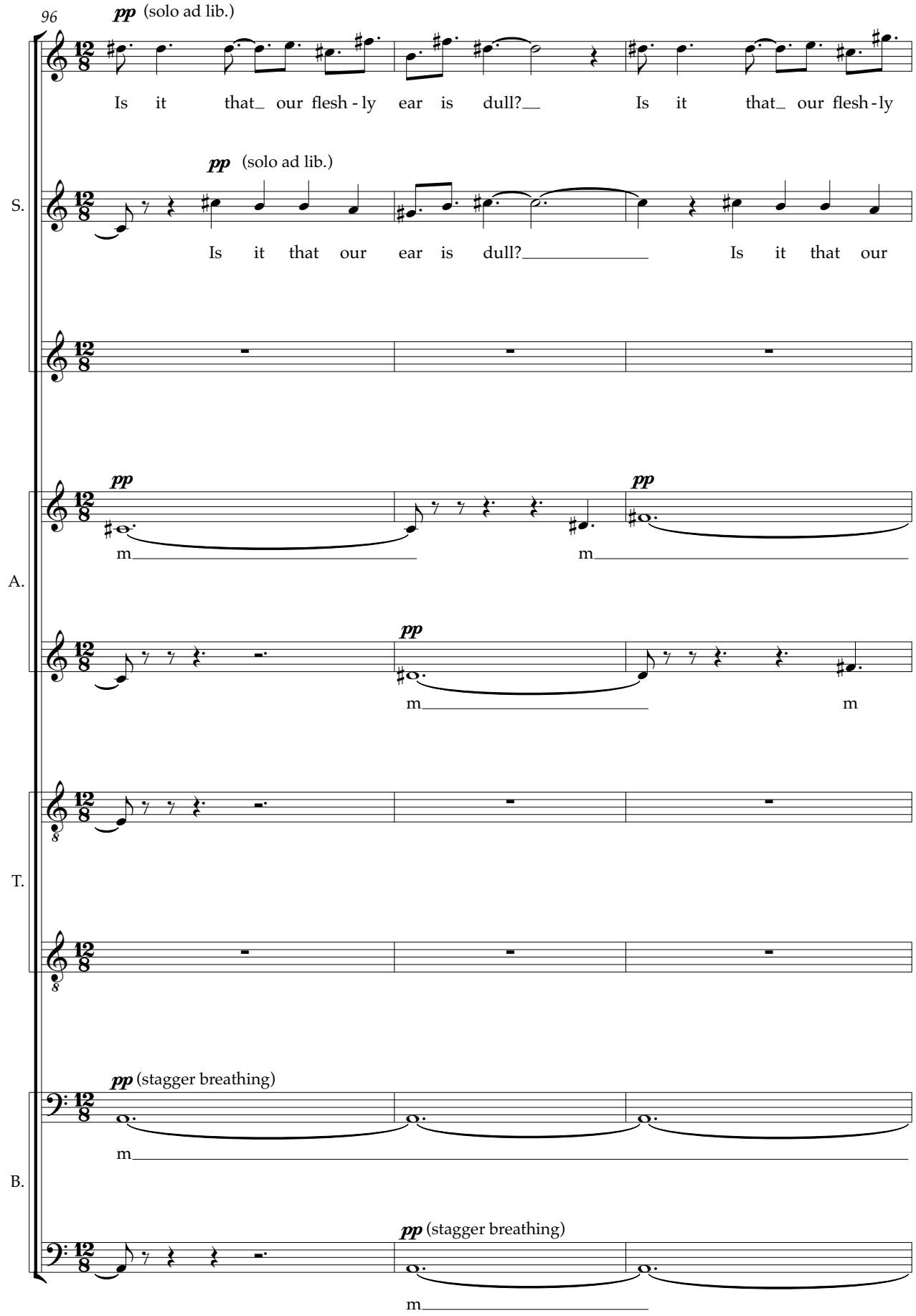

Come prima
82
fp
f
- tions that I ask;
S.
ques - tions; that I ask
ques - tions; that I ask
ques - tions that I ask; ask
A.
ask; ask ask
tions; that I ask; ask
T. Solo
si - lence an - swer - eth not;
that I ask
T & B
(div. a 3)
that I ask
that I ask

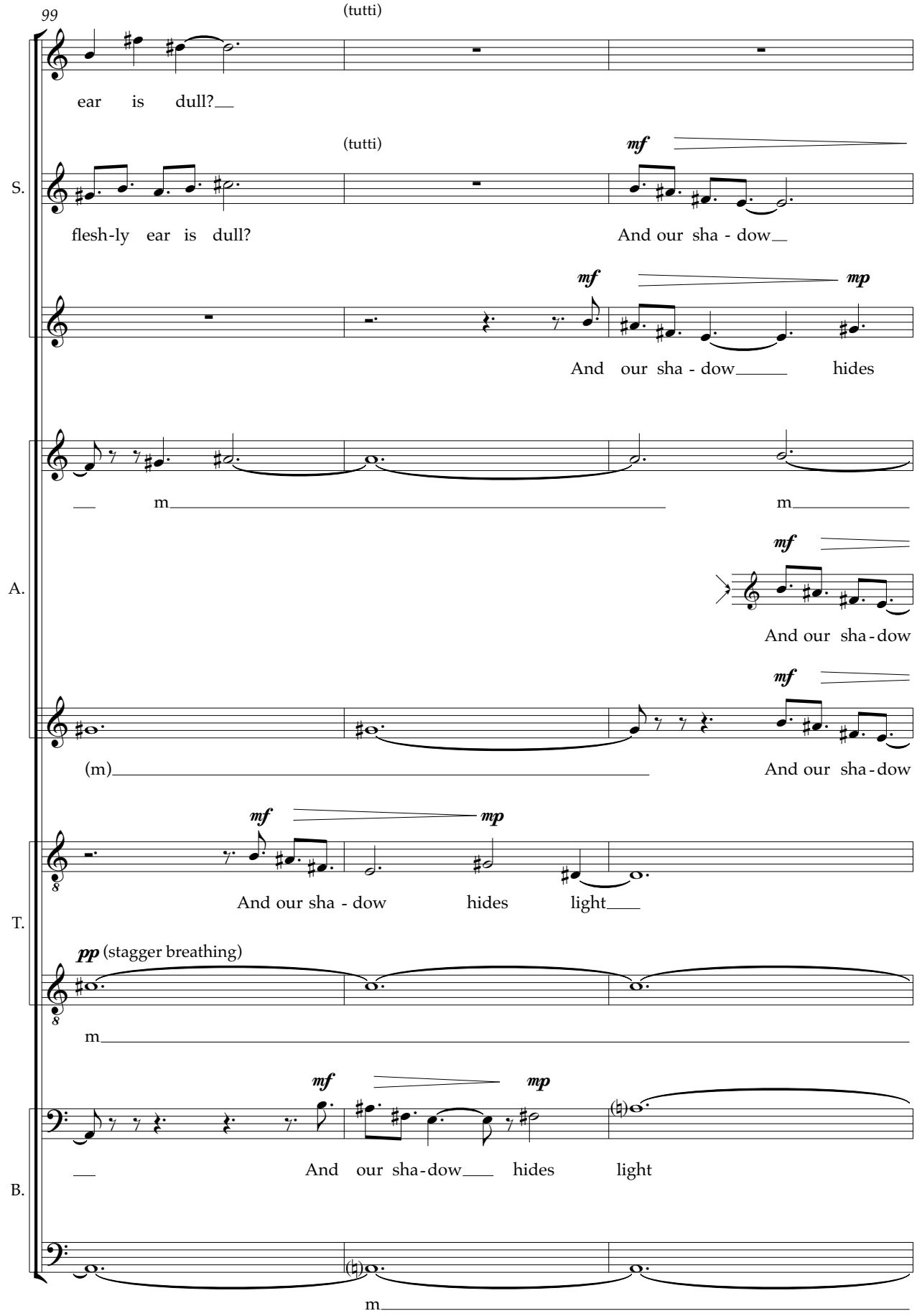

84
fp (bell-like)
poco rall...
si - - ng - m
S.
fp (bell-like)
si - - ng - m
fp (bell-like)
si - - ng - m
mf
ask ask
A.
mf
ask ask ask
mf
ask ask ask
T. Solo
mf
ask
T & B
(div. a 3)
mf
ask
mf
ask

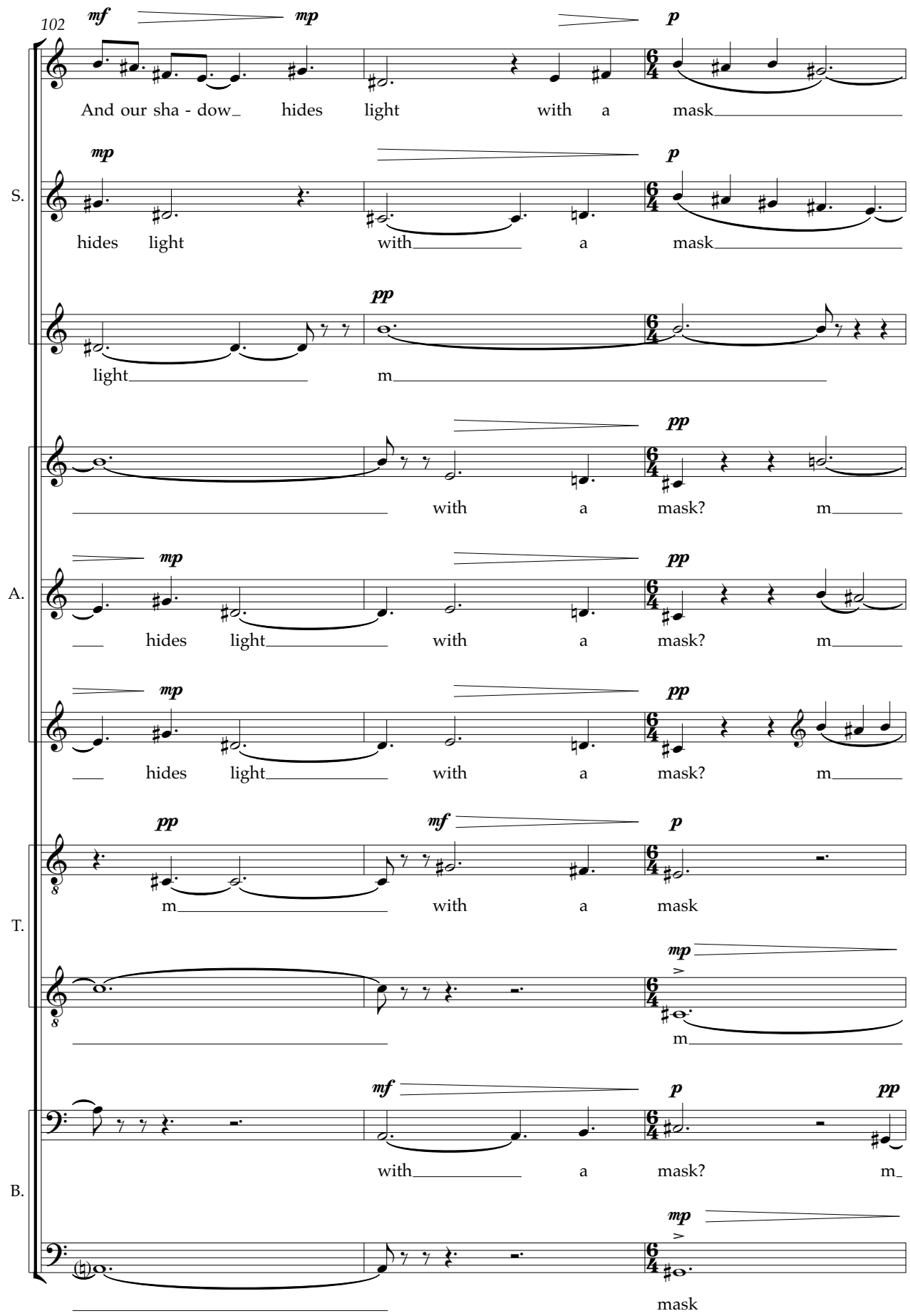

a tempo
87
mp
What is it sev - er - eth us from the
S.
mp
What is it sev - er - eth us from the
mp
What is it sev - er - eth us; from the
A.
T.
mp
What is it sev - er - eth us from the
mp
What is it sev - er - eth us; from the
B.

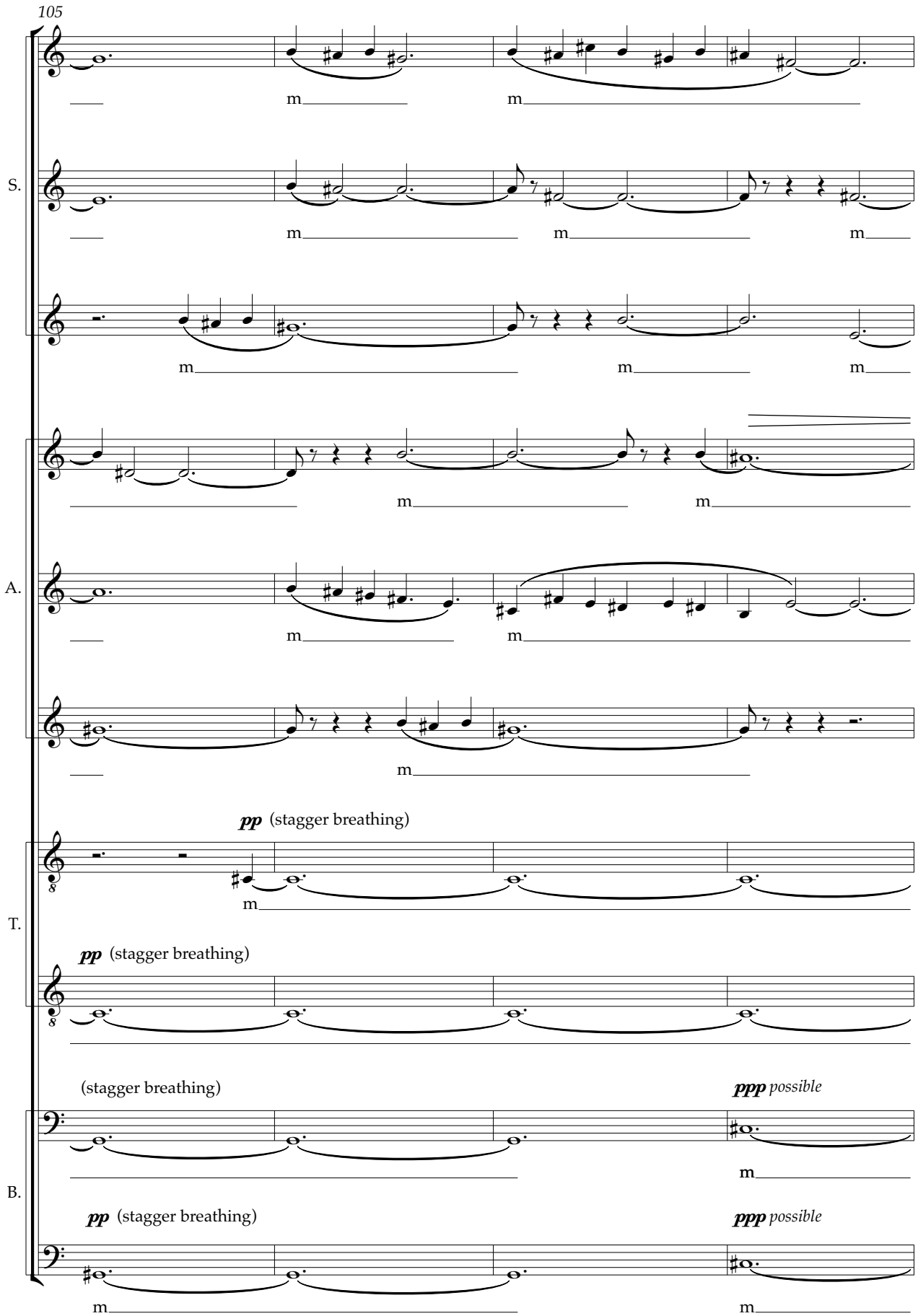

89
pp
spi - rits that we would be with?
S.
mp
What
pp
spi - rits that we would be with?
pp
spi - rits that we would be with?
A.
mp
What
mp
What
T.
spi - rits that we would be with?
spi - rits that we would be with?
B.
mp
What

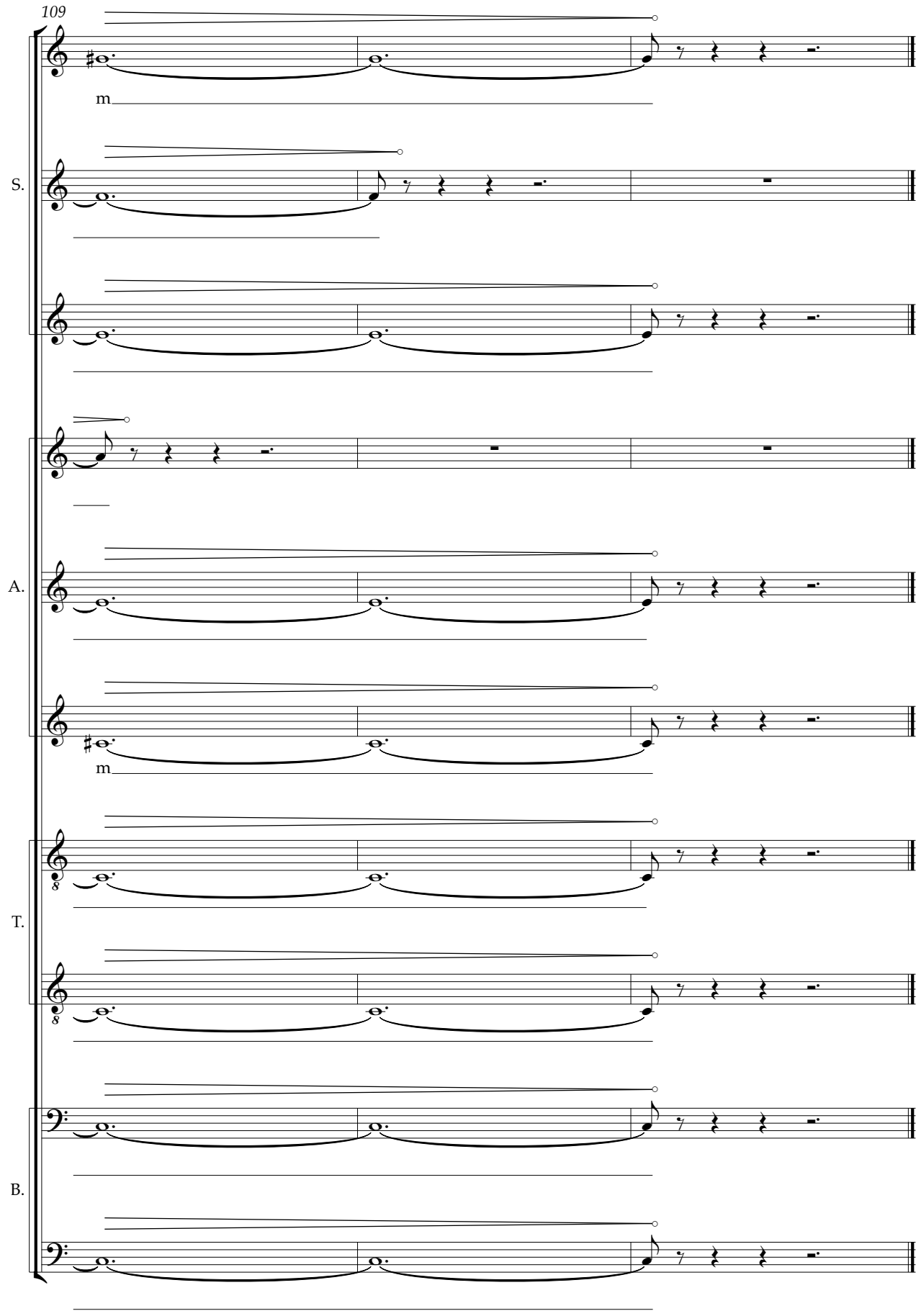

92
S.
is it sev-er-eth us; from the spi - rits that we would be with;
A.
is it sev-er-eth us from the spi - rits that we would be with?
T.
is it sev-er-eth us from the spi - rits that we would be with;
B.
is it sev-er-eth us; from the spi - rits that we would be with;


96
pp (solo ad lib.)
Is it that our flesh - ly ear is dull? Is it that our flesh - ly
S.
pp (solo ad lib.)
Is it that our ear is dull? Is it that our
A.
pp
m
pp
m
T.
pp
m
m
B.
pp (stagger breathing)
m
pp (stagger breathing)
m


99
(tutti)
ear is dull?
S.
(tutti)
mf
flesh-ly ear is dull?
And our sha - dow
mf
mp
And our sha - dow hides
m
m
A.
mf
And our sha-dow
mf
(m)
And our sha-dow
T.
mf
mp
And our sha - dow hides light
pp (stagger breathing)
m
B.
mf
mp
And our sha-dow hides light
m


102
mf
mp
p
And our sha - dow_ hides light with a mask
S.
mp
p
hides light with a mask
pp
light m
pp
with a mask? m
A.
mp
pp
hides light with a mask? m
mp
pp
hides light with a mask? m
T.
pp
mf
p
m with a mask
mp
m
B.
mf
p
pp
with a mask? m
mp
mask


105
S.
A.
T.
B.
m
pp (stagger breathing)
(stagger breathing)
ppp possible


109
m
S.
A.
m
T.
B.