Commissioned by The Really Big Chorus and its founder Don Monro,
first peformed in his memory on 13th July 2014 in the Royal Albert Hall, London

In praise of singing

1

Jonathan Willcocks

With expression ♩ = c. 74

Orchestral reduction

mp

S. God sent his Sing - ers up-on earth

A. God sent his Sing - ers up-on earth

T. God sent his Sing - ers up-on earth

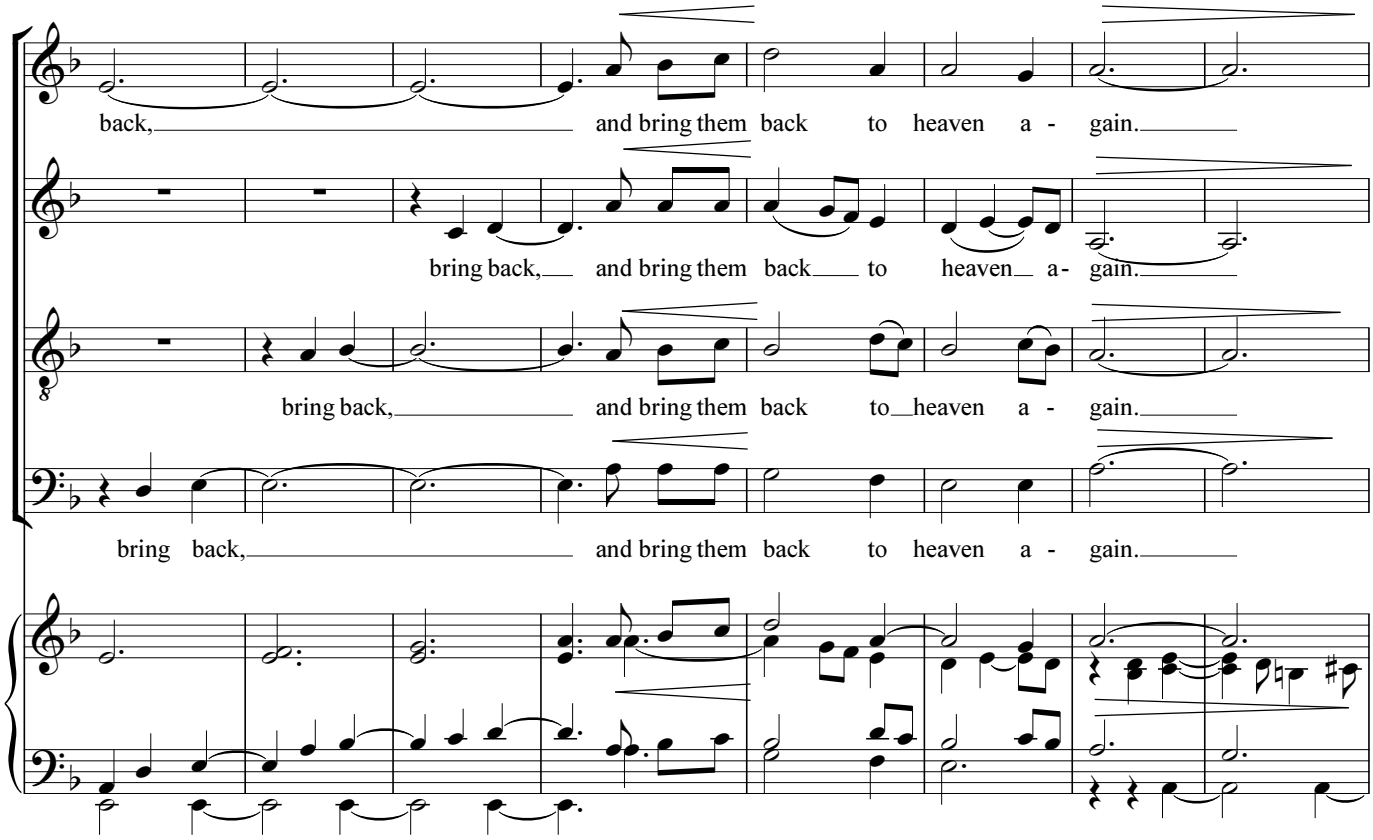
B. God sent his Sing - ers up-on earth

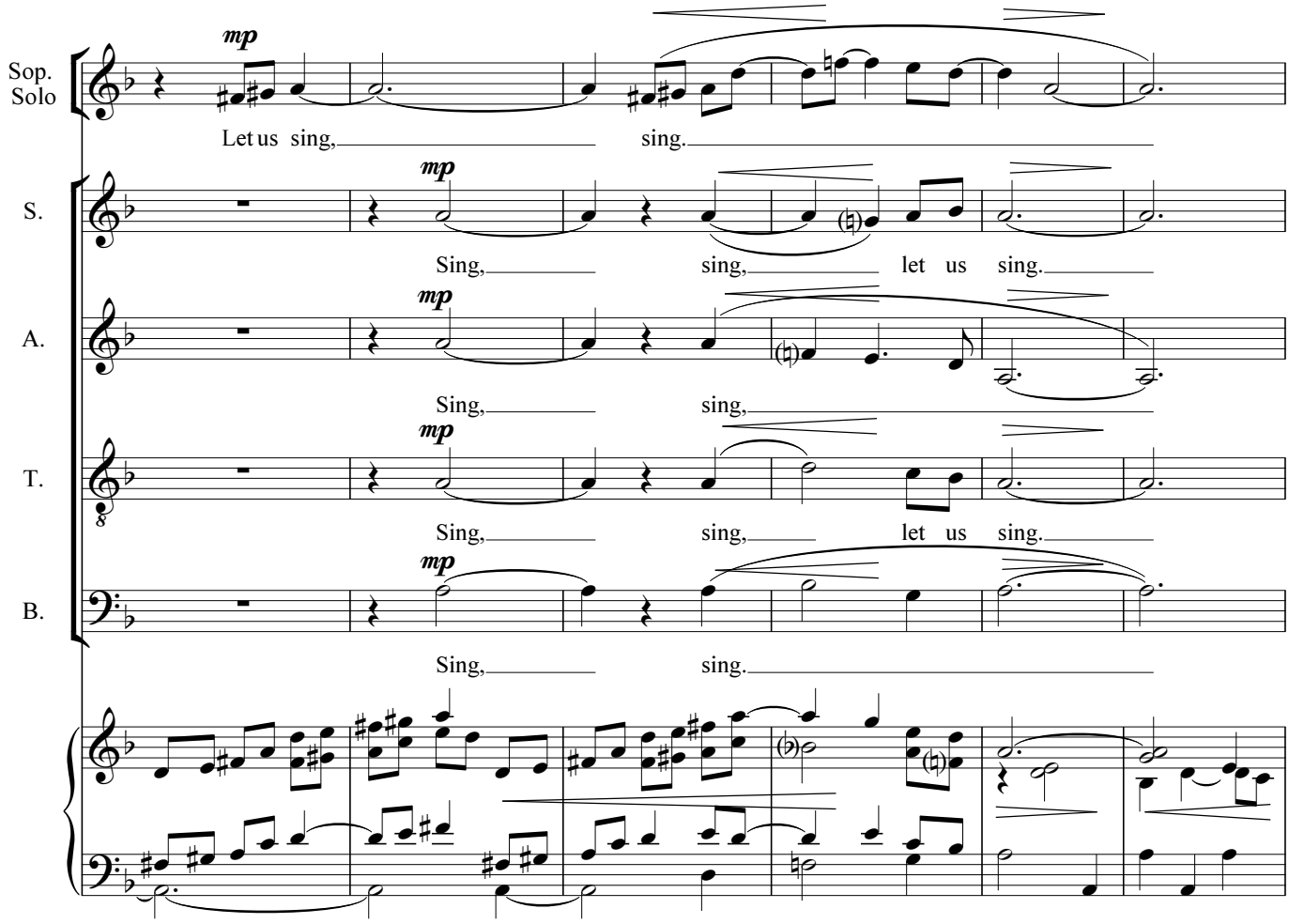
S. with songs of sad - ness and of mirth, that they might touch the hearts of men, and bring them

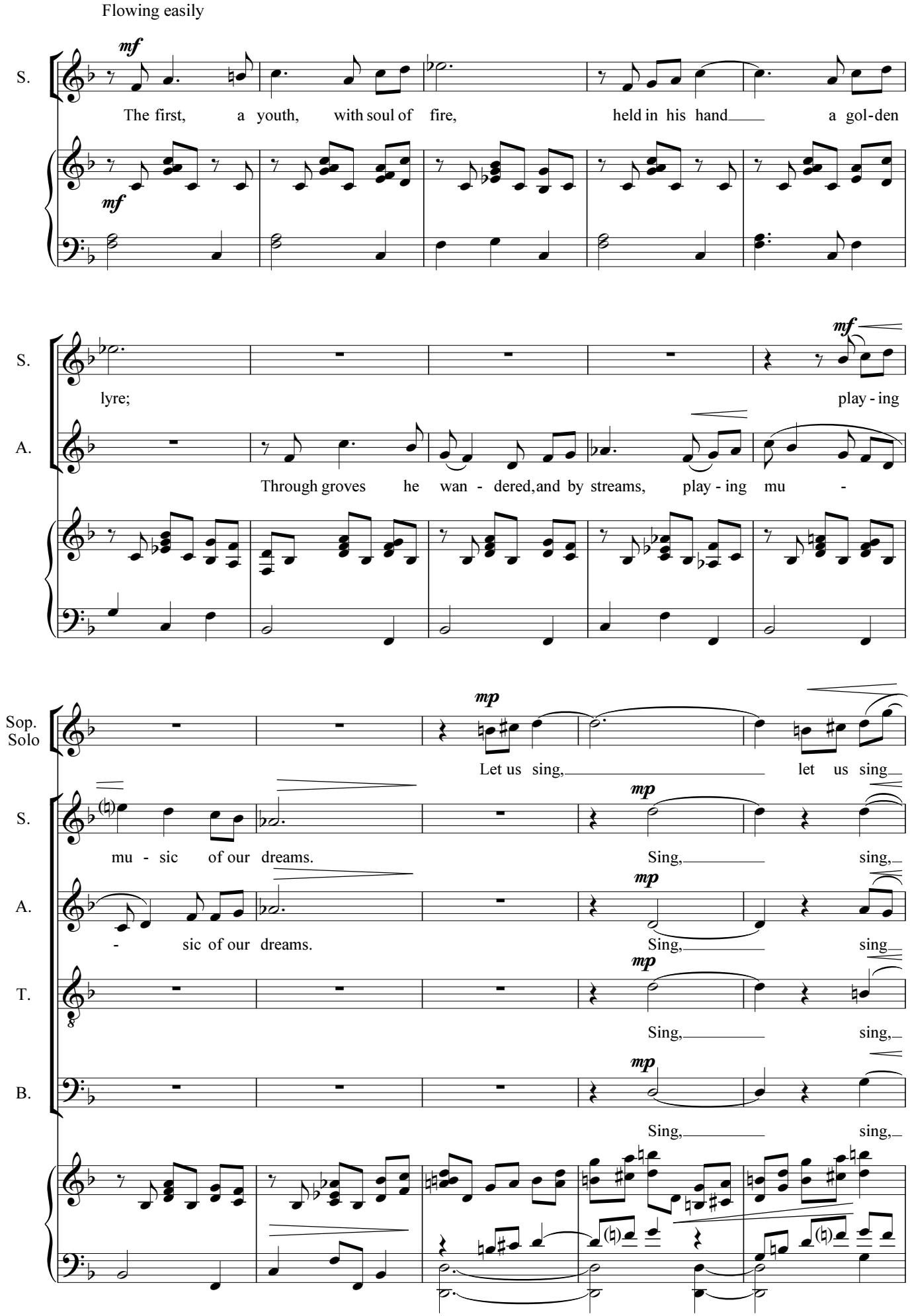
A. with songs of sad - ness and of mirth, that they might touch the hearts of men,

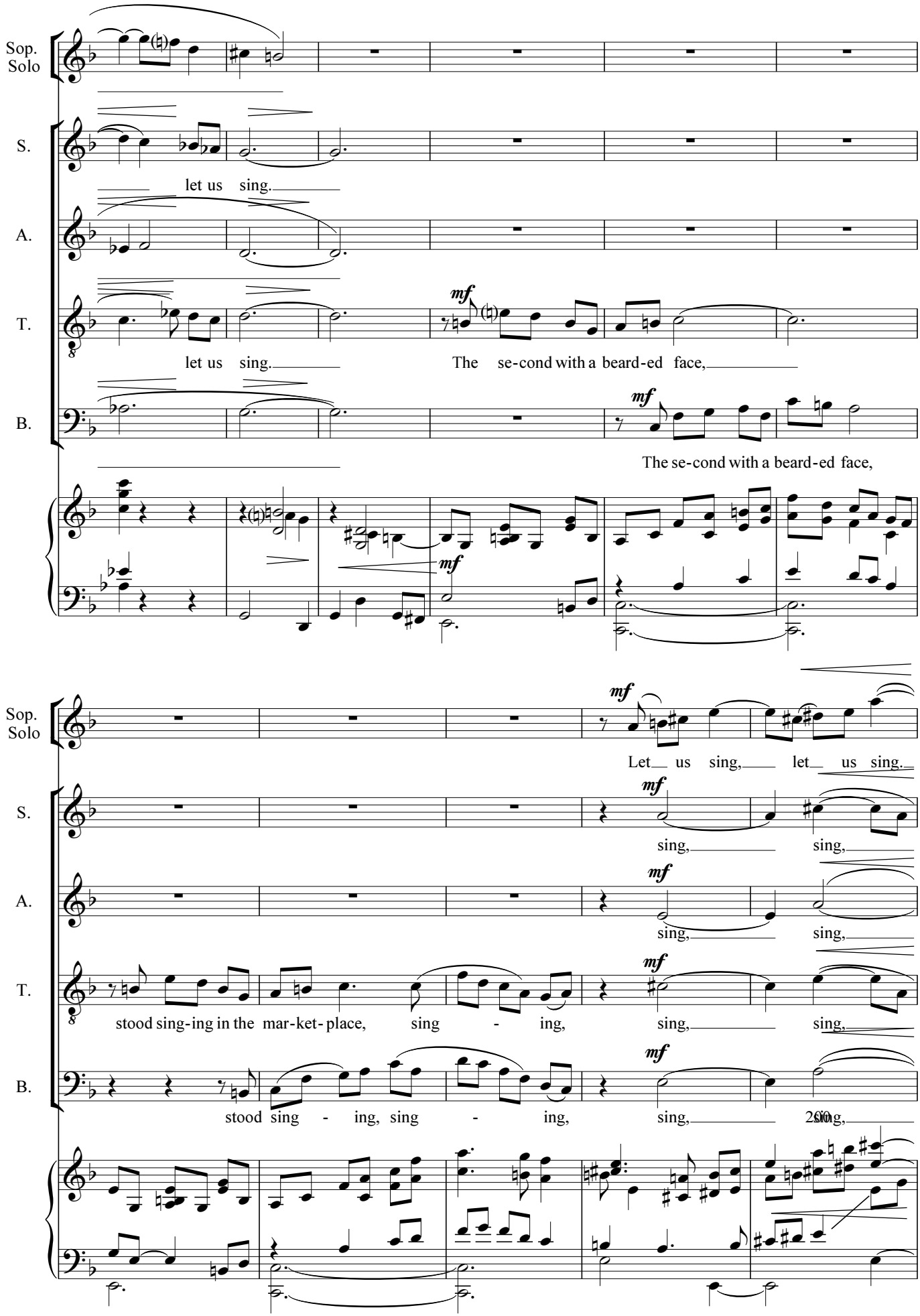
T. with songs of sad - ness and of mirth, that they might touch the hearts of men,

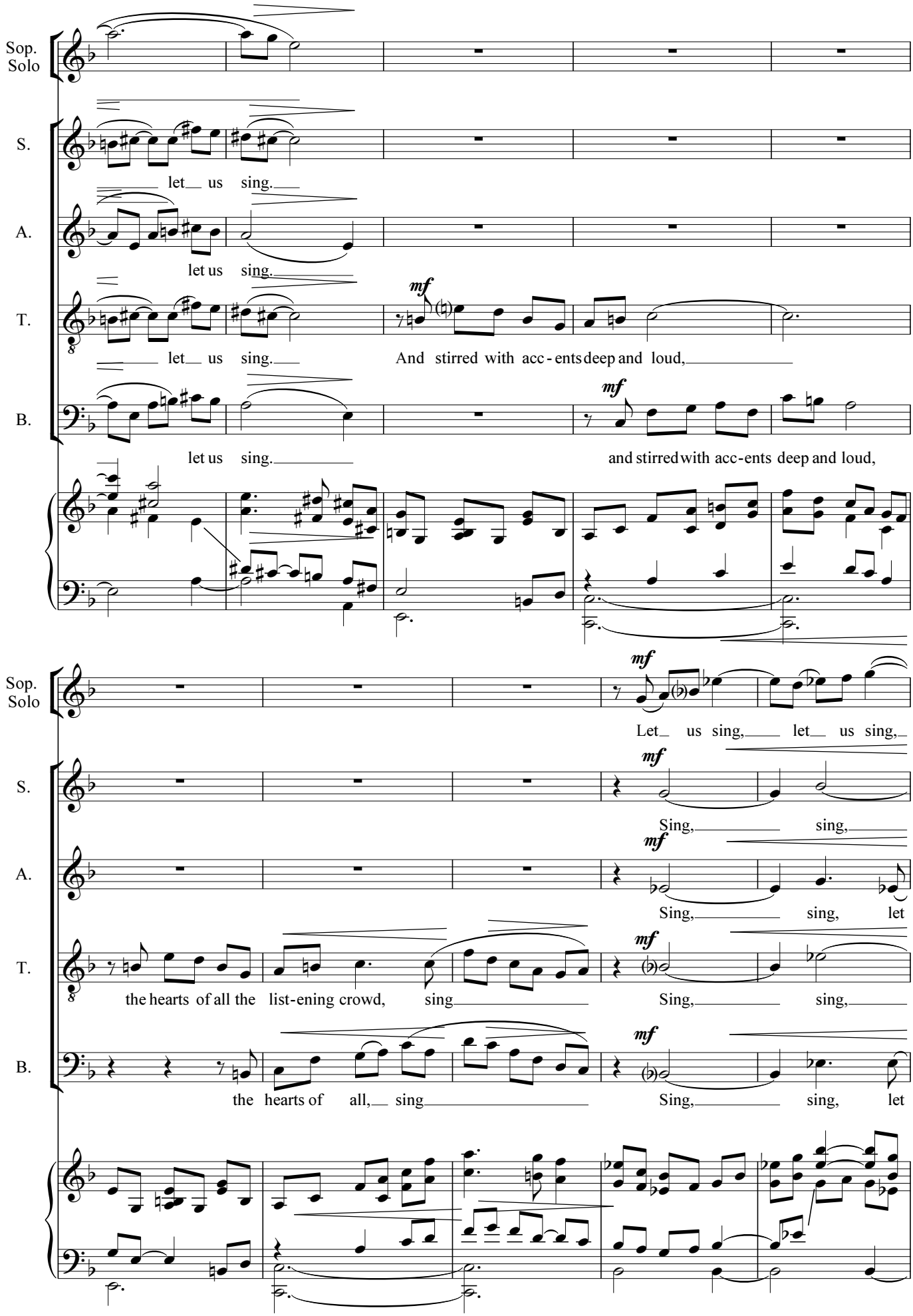
B. with songs of sad - ness and of mirth, that they might touch the hearts of men,

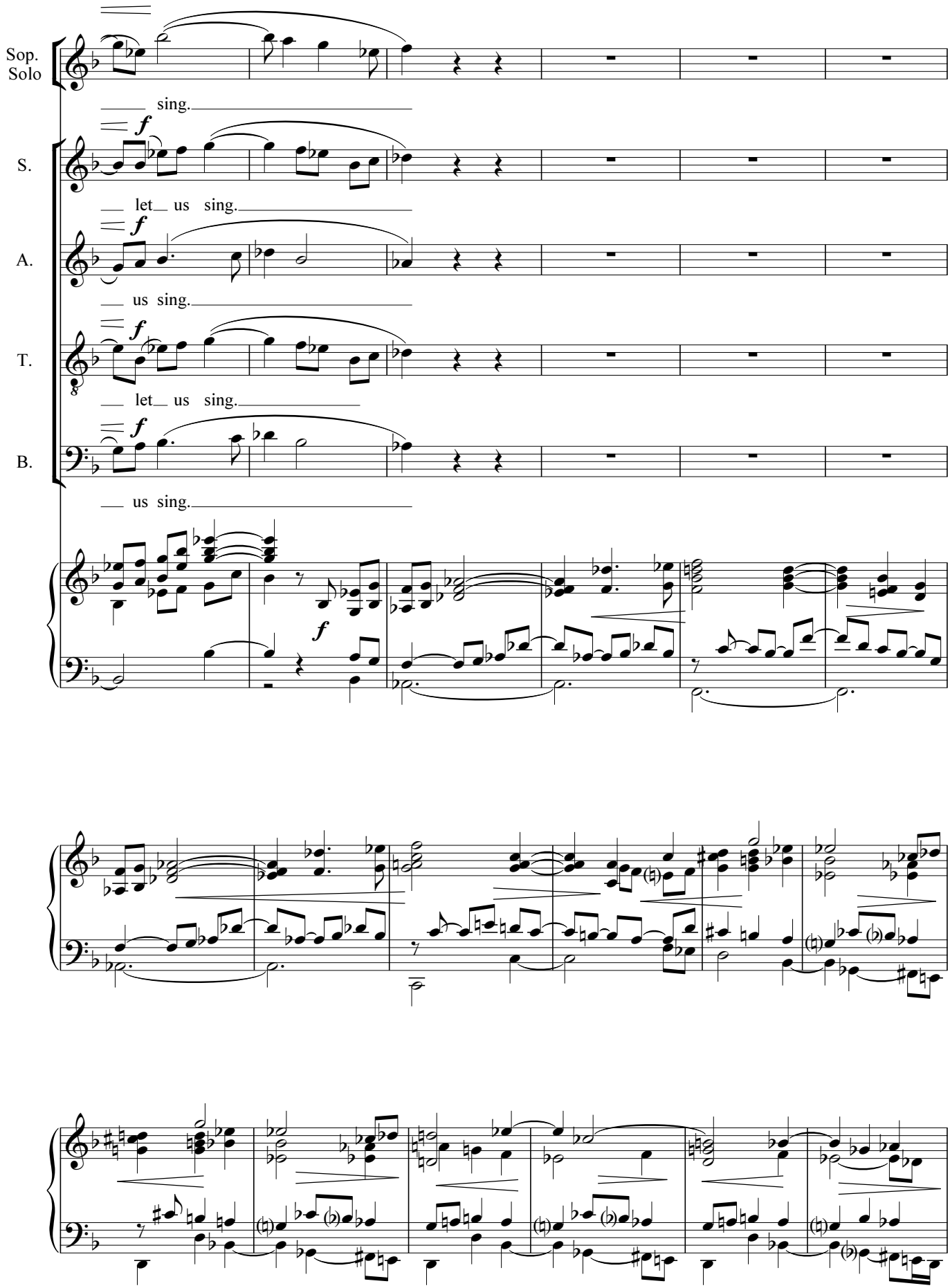

S.
back, and bring them back to heaven a - gain.
A.
bring back, and bring them back to heaven a - gain.
T.
bring back, and bring them back to heaven a - gain.
B.
bring back, and bring them back to heaven a - gain.

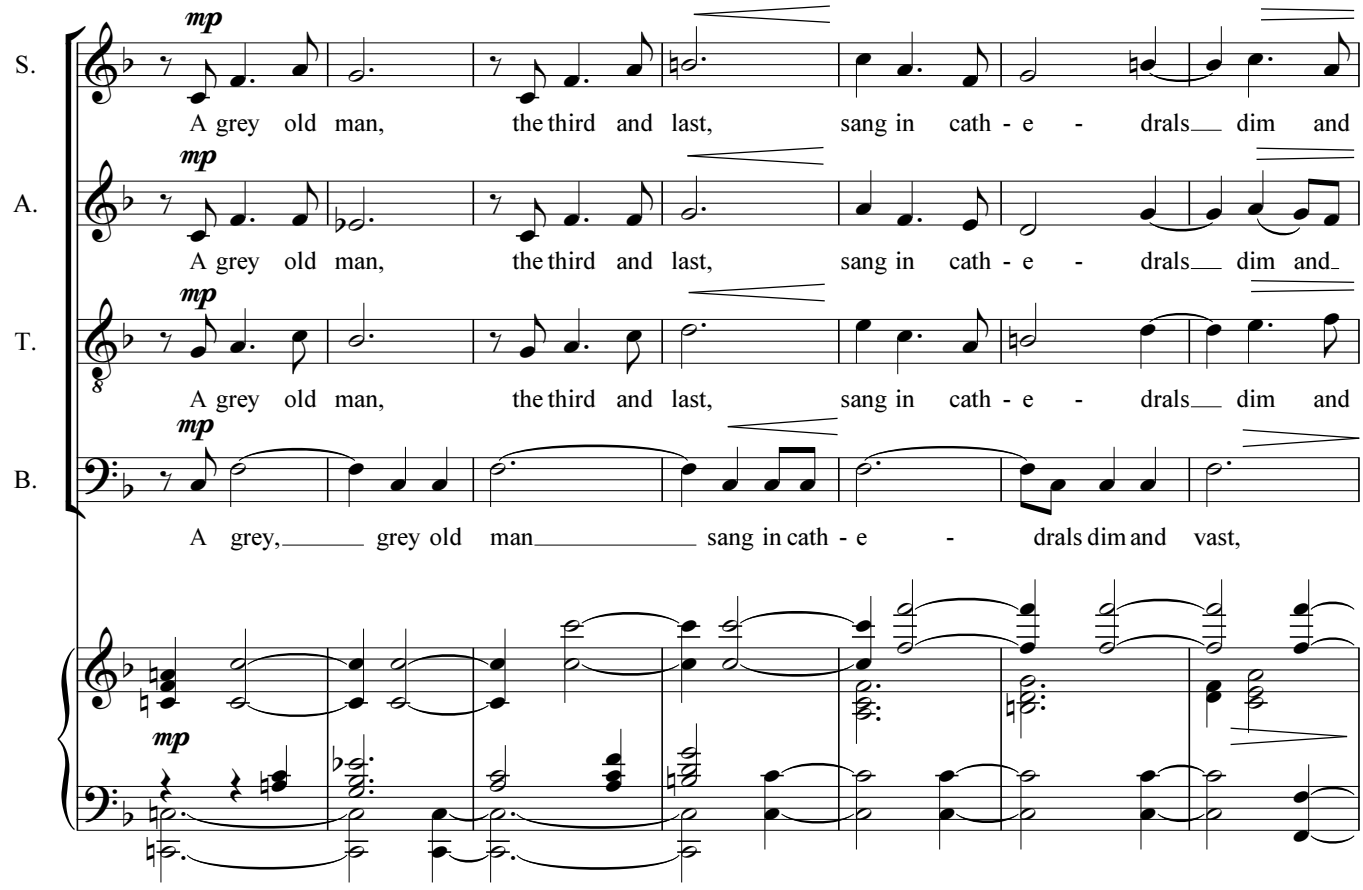

Sop. Solo
mp
Let us sing, sing.
S.
mp
Sing, sing, let us sing.
A.
mp
Sing, sing,
T.
mp
Sing, sing, let us sing.
B.
mp
Sing, sing.

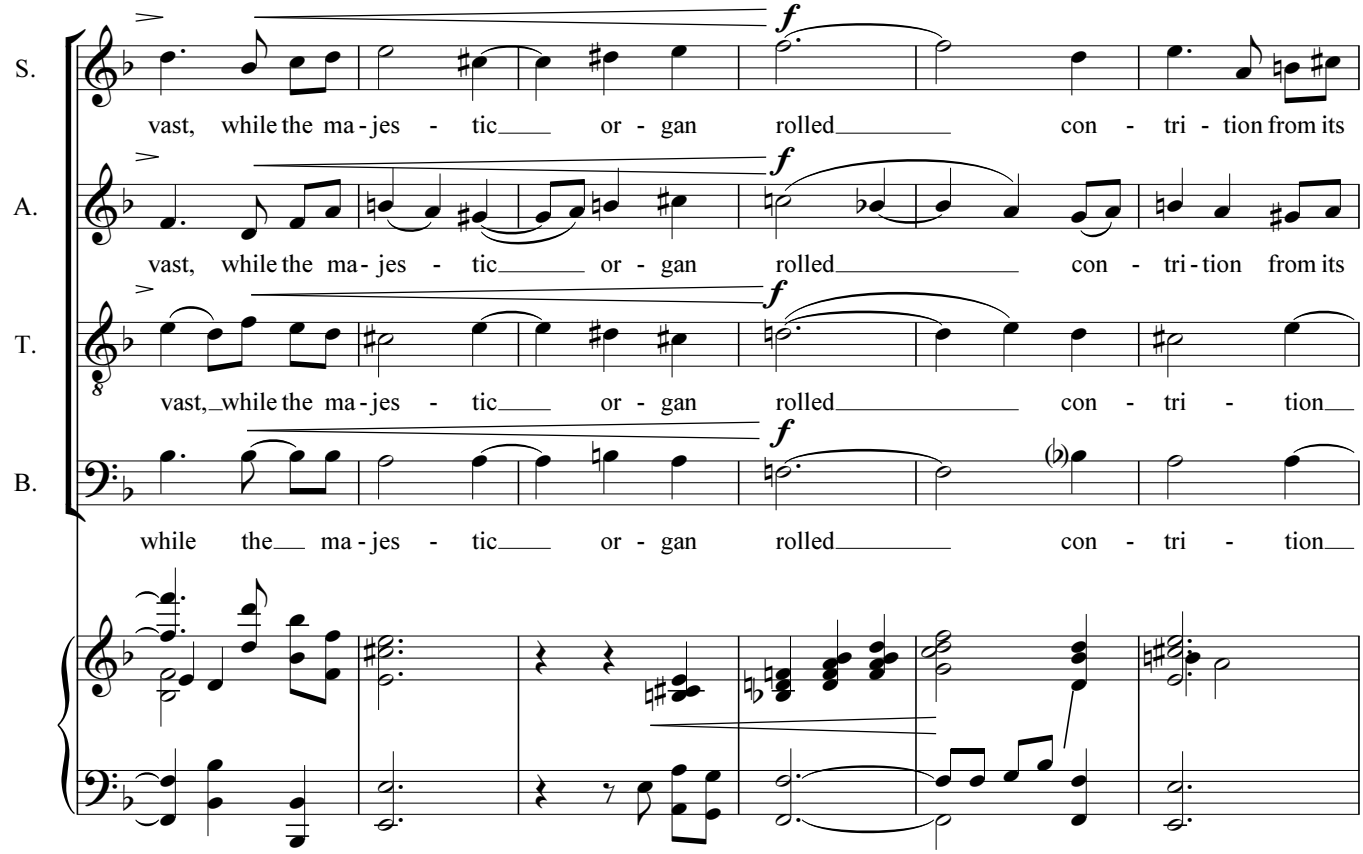

Flowing easily
S.
mf
The first, a youth, with soul of fire, held in his hand a gol-den
mf
S.
lyre;
mf
play - ing
A.
Through groves he wan - dered, and by streams, play - ing mu -
Sop. Solo
mp
Let us sing, let us sing
S.
mu - sic of our dreams.
mp
Sing, sing,
A.
- sic of our dreams.
mp
Sing, sing
T.
mp
Sing, sing,
B.
mp
Sing, sing,


Sop. Solo
S.
let us sing.
A.
T.
let us sing.
mf
The se-cond with a beard-ed face,
B.
mf
The se-cond with a beard-ed face,
mf
Sop. Solo
mf
Let us sing, let us sing.
S.
mf
sing, sing,
A.
mf
sing, sing,
T.
mf
stood sing-ing in the mar-ket-place, sing - ing, sing, sing,
B.
mf
stood sing - ing, sing - ing, sing, sing,

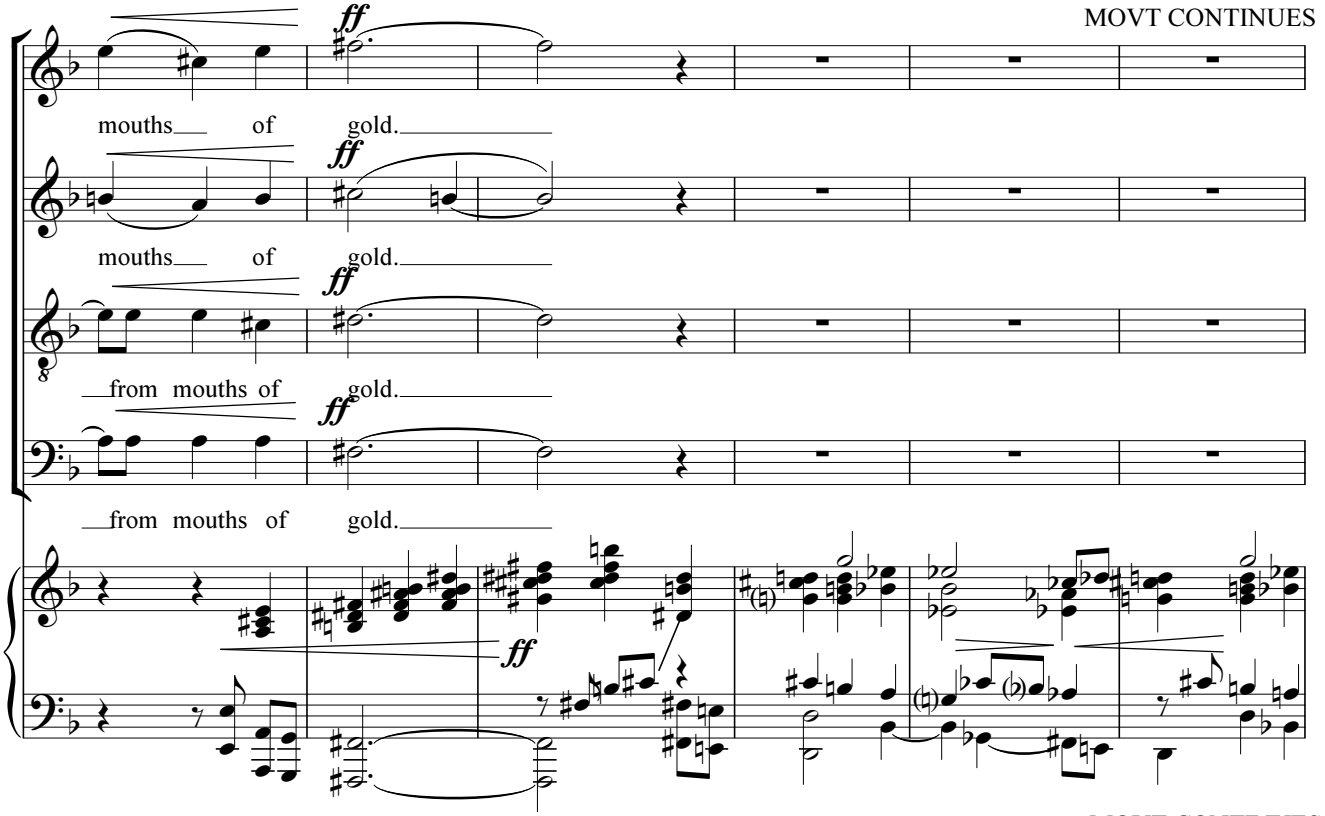

Sop. Solo
S.
A.
T.
B.
let us sing.
let us sing.
let us sing.
mf
And stirred with acc-ents deep and loud,
let us sing.
mf
and stirred with acc-ents deep and loud,
Sop. Solo
mf
Let us sing, let us sing,
S.
mf
Sing, sing,
A.
mf
Sing, sing, let
T.
the hearts of all the list-ening crowd, sing
mf
Sing, sing,
B.
the hearts of all, sing
mf
Sing, sing, let


Sop. Solo
sing.
S.
let us sing.
A.
us sing.
T.
let us sing.
B.
us sing.


S.
A.
T.
B.
mp
A grey old man, the third and last, sang in cath - e - drals dim and
A grey old man, the third and last, sang in cath - e - drals dim and
A grey old man, the third and last, sang in cath - e - drals dim and
A grey, grey old man sang in cath - e - drals dim and vast,


S.
A.
T.
B.
f
vast, while the ma - jes - tic or - gan rolled con - tri - tion from its
vast, while the ma - jes - tic or - gan rolled con - tri - tion from its
vast, while the ma - jes - tic or - gan rolled con - tri - tion
while the ma - jes - tic or - gan rolled con - tri - tion

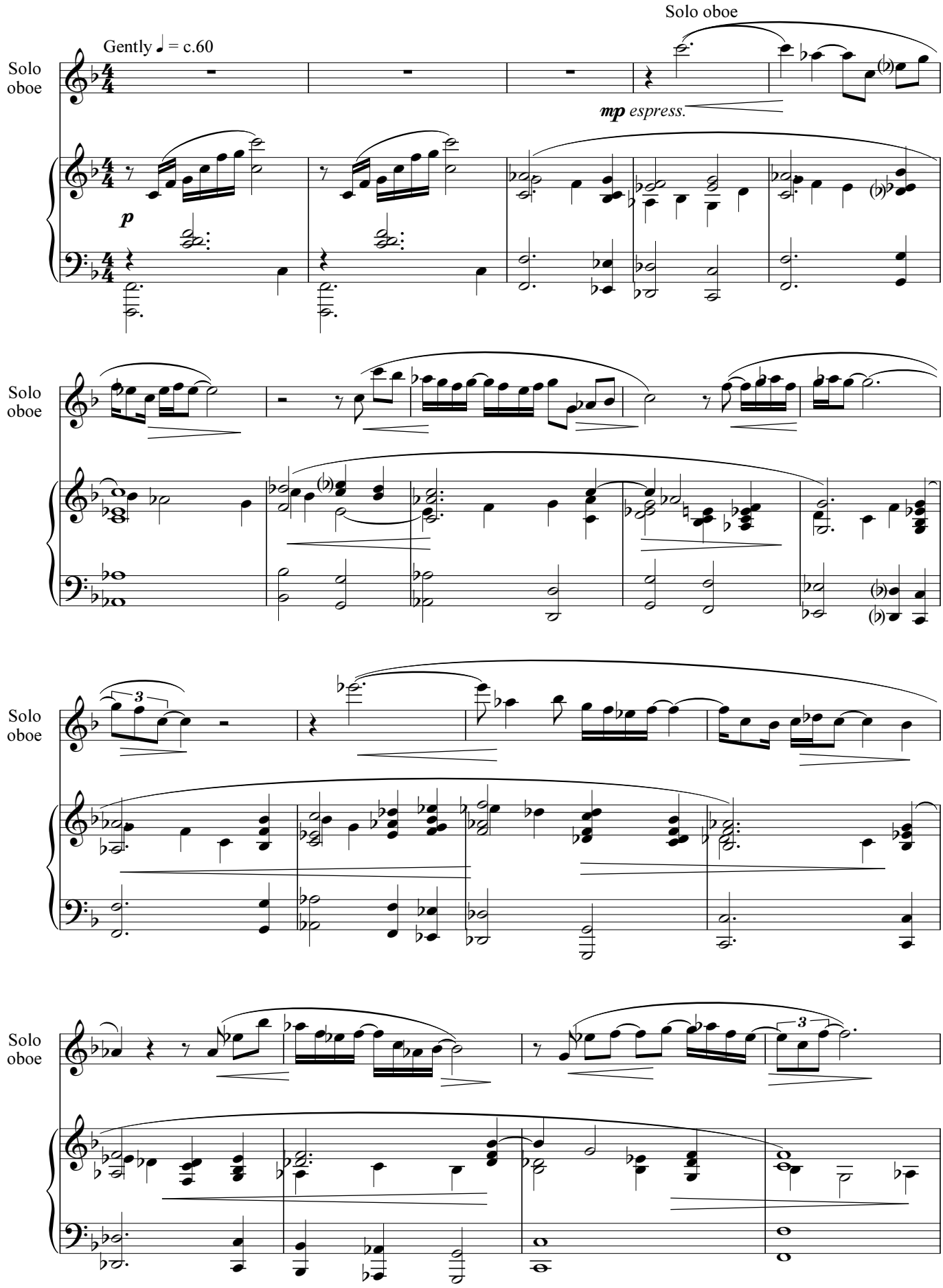
MOVT CONTINUES

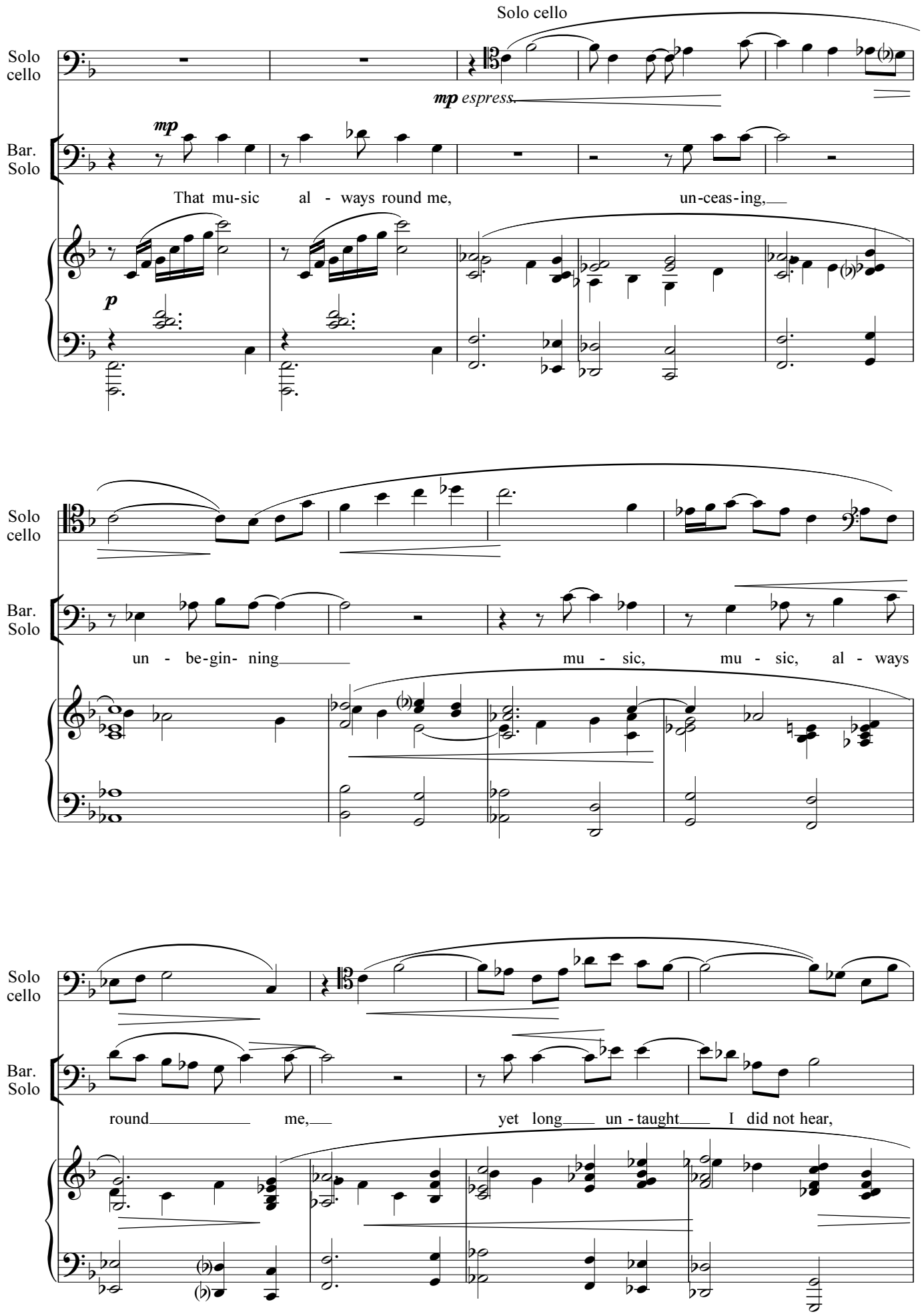


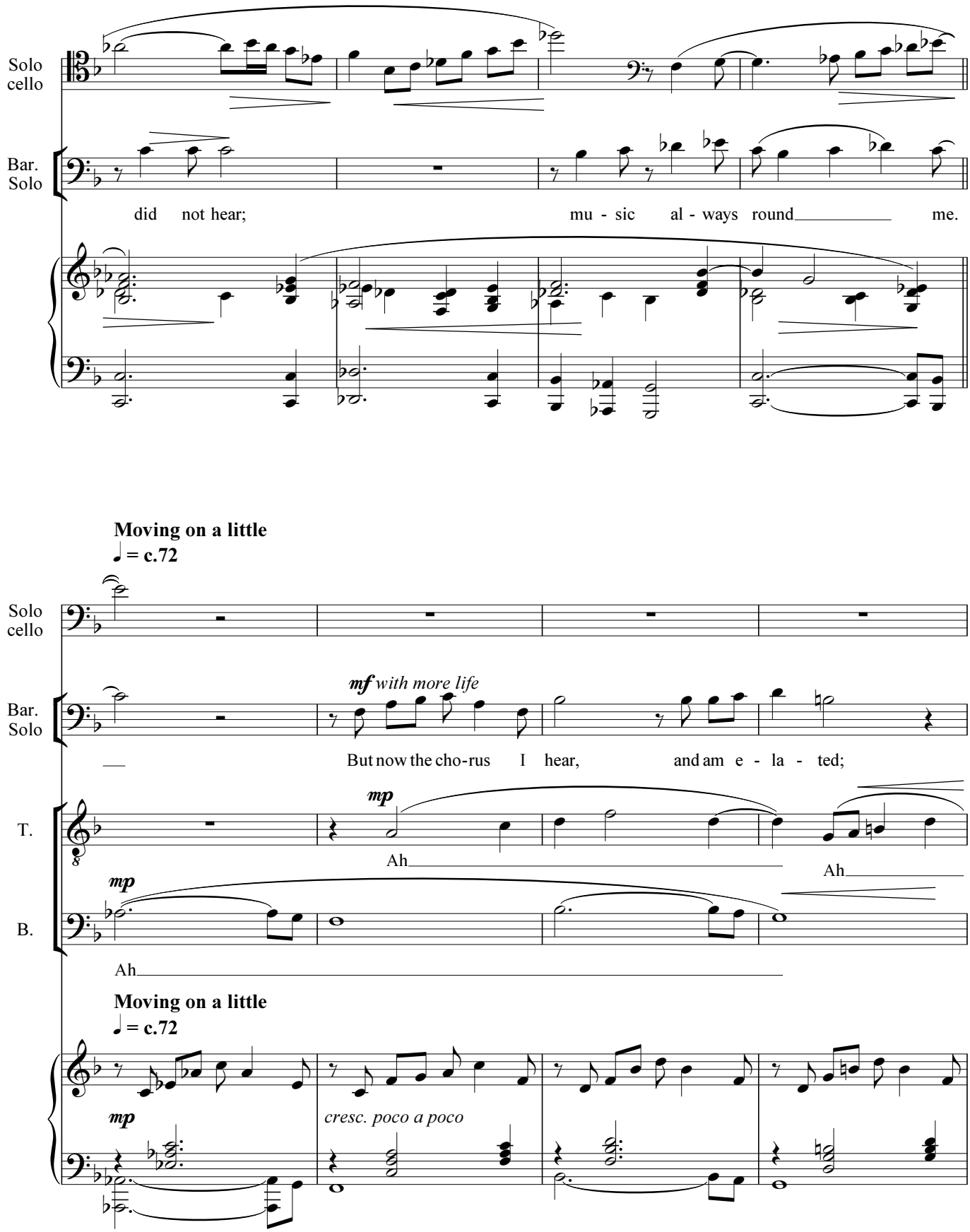
MOVT CONTINUES

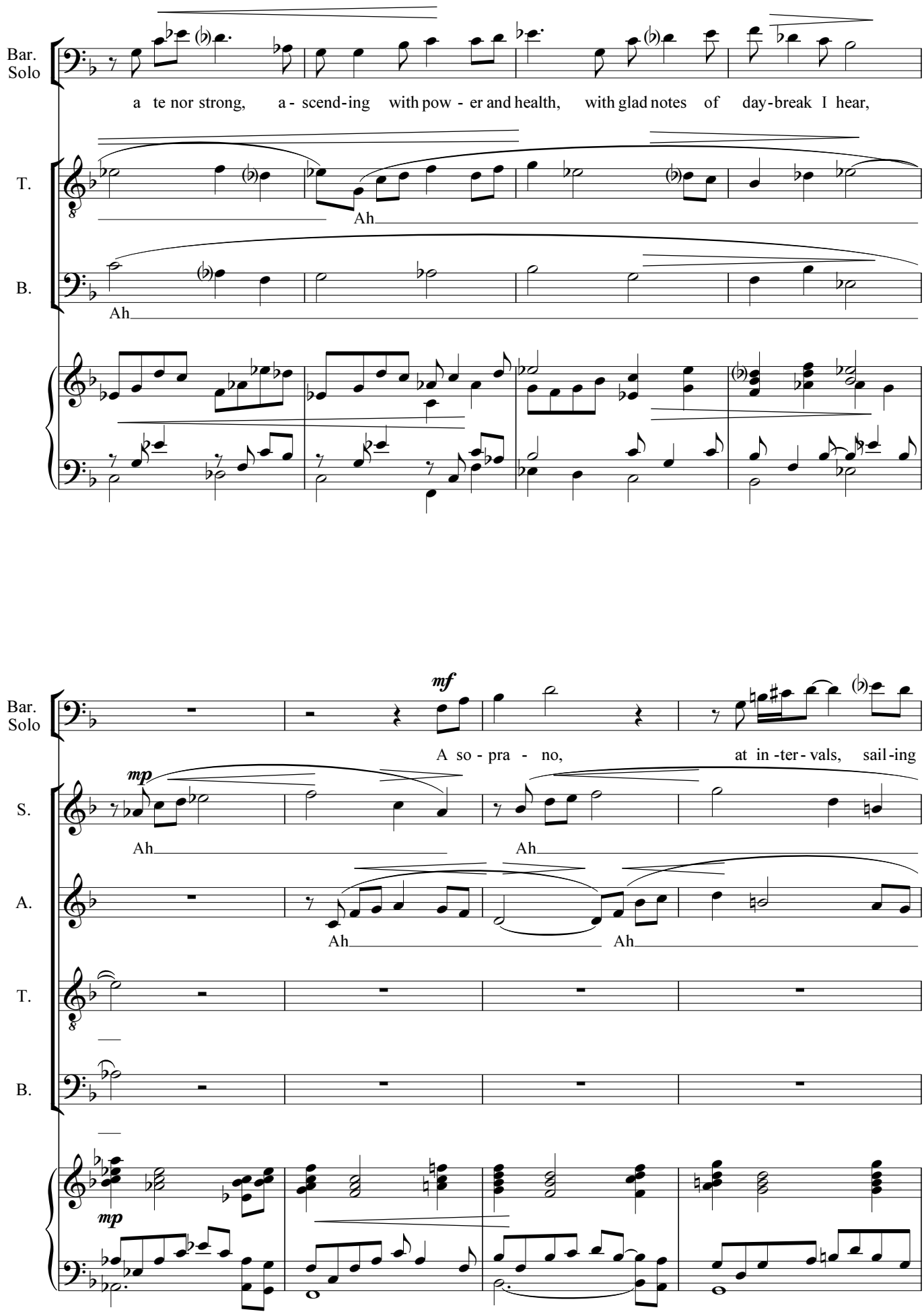
2.

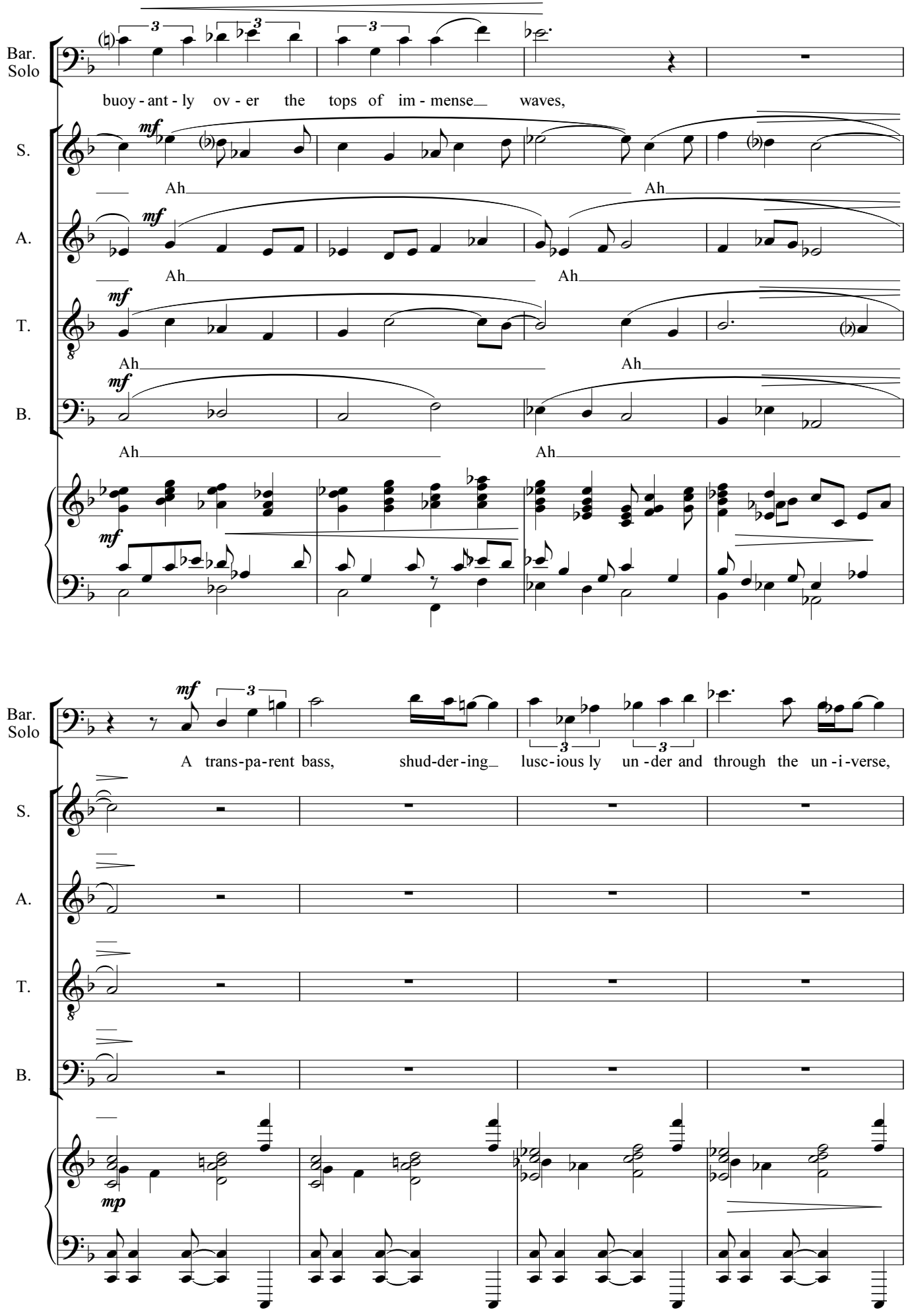
Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

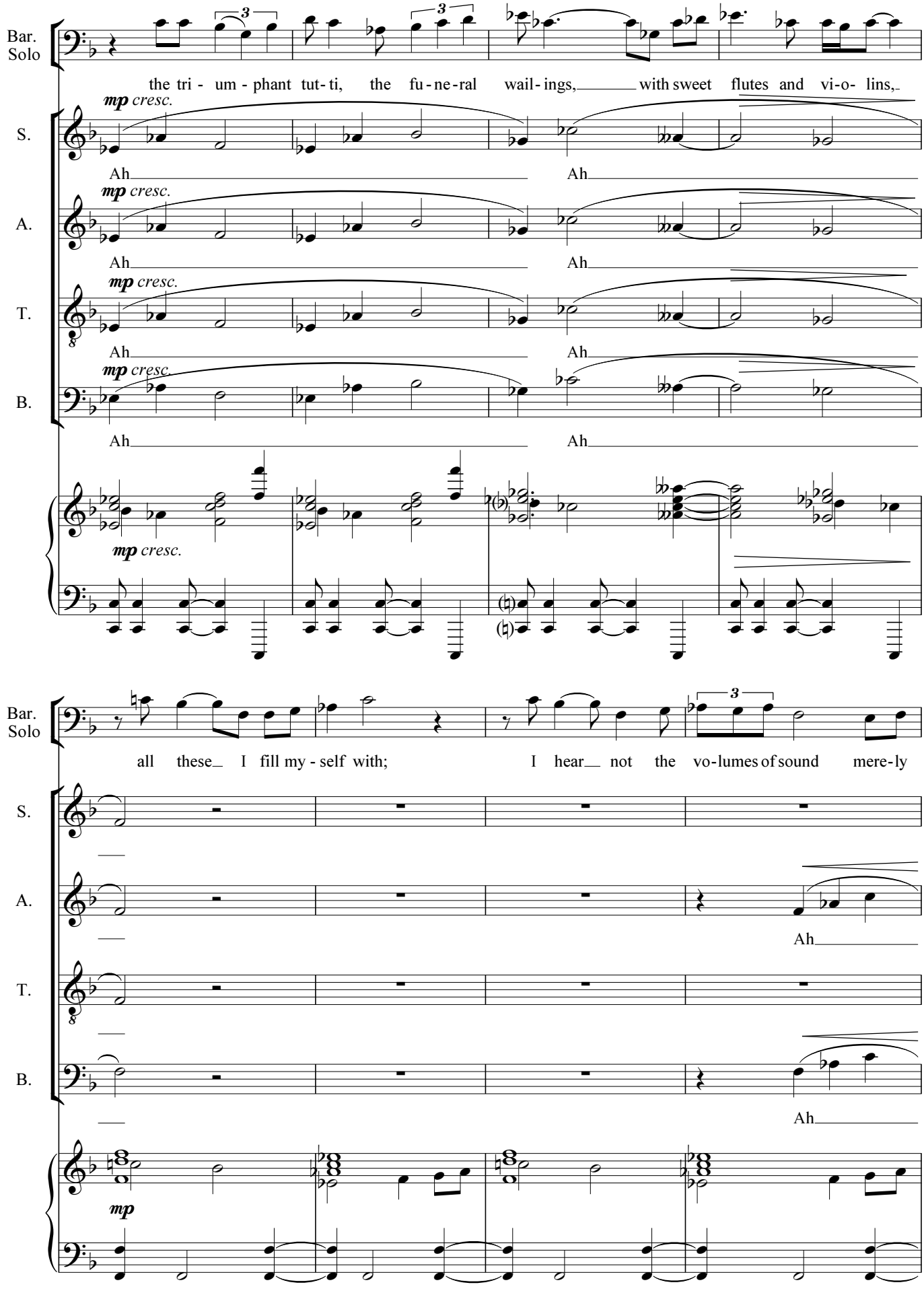


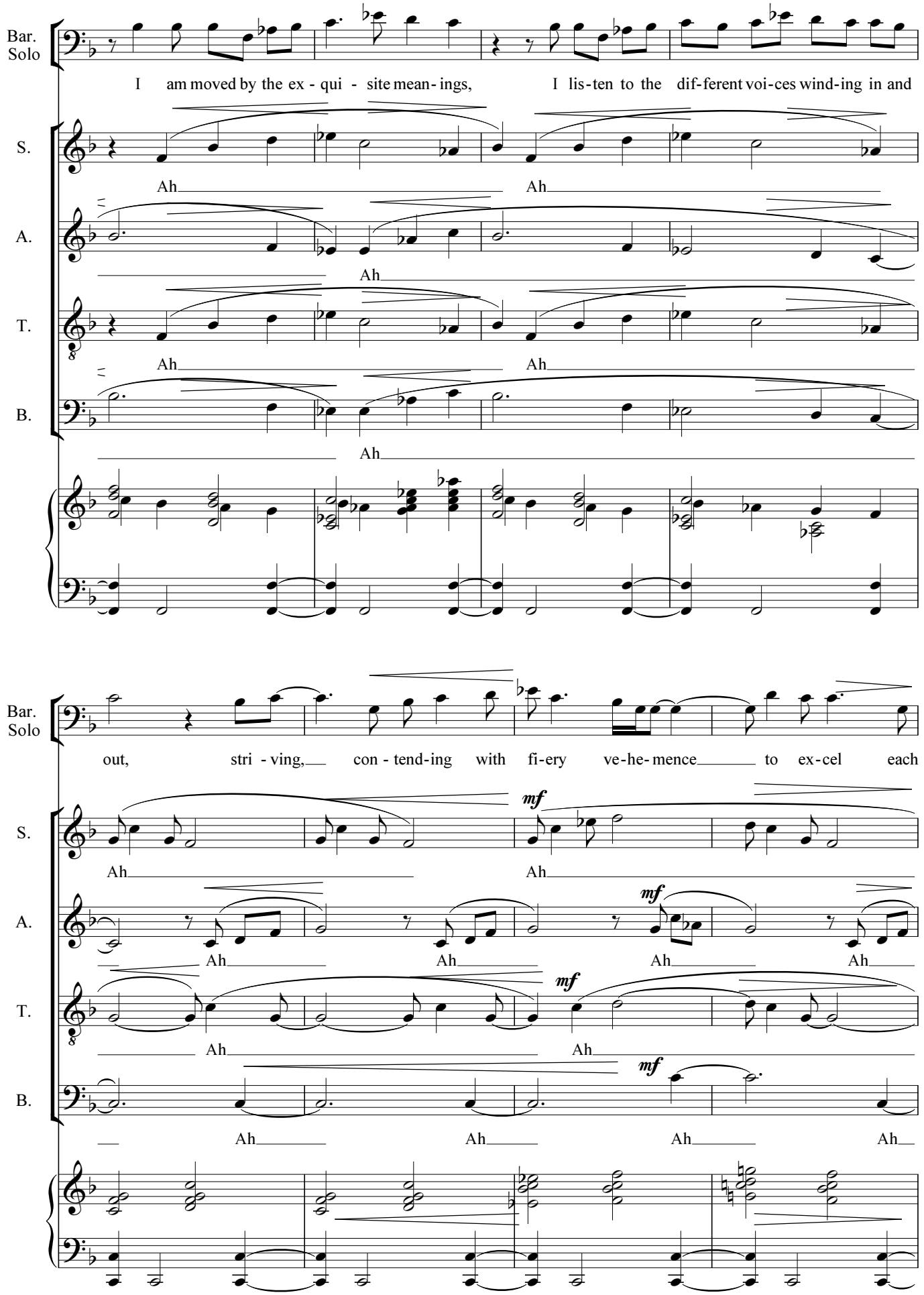

Solo cello
Solo cello
mp espress.
Bar. Solo
mp
That mu-sic al - ways round me, un-ceas-ing,
p
Solo cello
Bar. Solo
un - be-gin- ning mu - sic, mu - sic, al - ways
Solo cello
Bar. Solo
round me, yet long un - taught I did not hear,

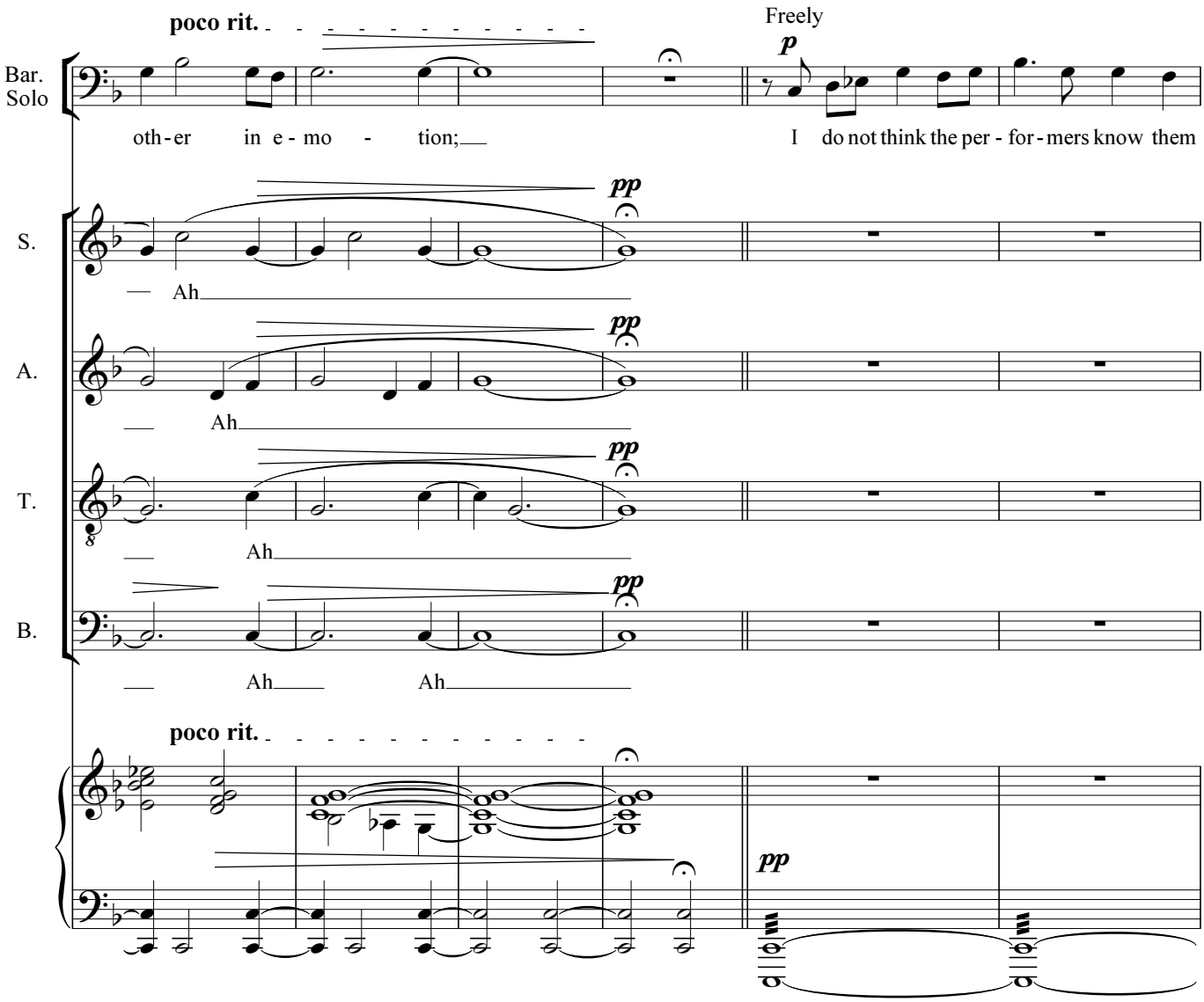

Solo cello
Bar. Solo
did not hear;
mu - sic al - ways round me.
Moving on a little
♩ = c.72
Solo cello
Bar. Solo
mf with more life
But now the cho-rus I hear, and am e - la - ted;
T.
mp
Ah
Ah
B.
mp
Ah
Moving on a little
♩ = c.72
mp
cresc. poco a poco

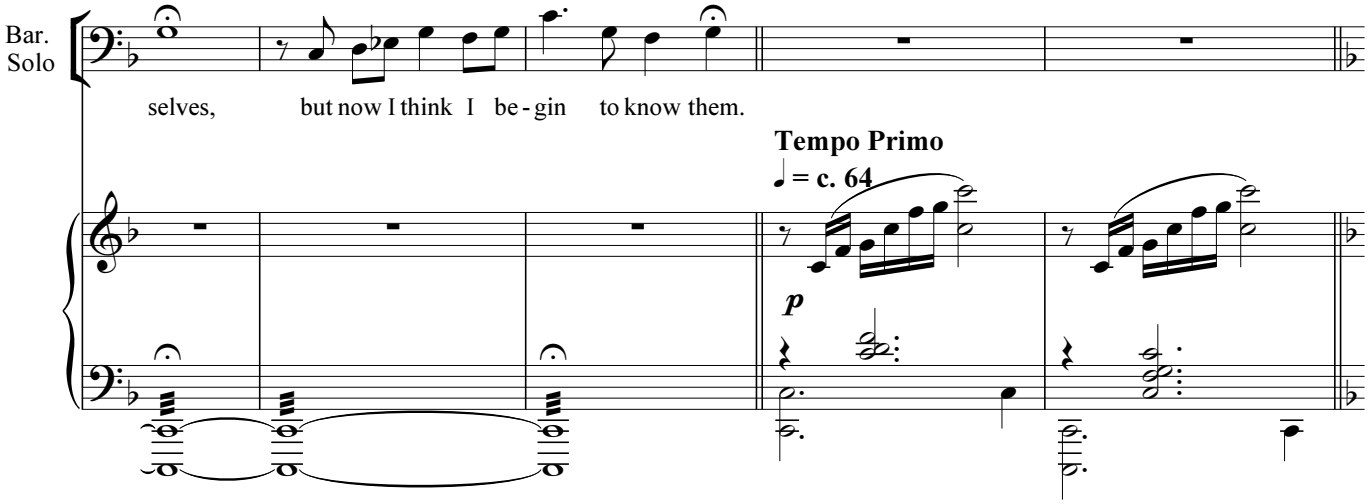

Bar. Solo
a te nor strong, a - scend-ing with pow - er and health, with glad notes of day-break I hear,
T.
Ah
B.
Ah
mf
Bar. Solo
A so - pra - no, at in - ter - vals, sail-ing
mp
S.
Ah
Ah
A.
Ah
Ah
T.
B.
mp

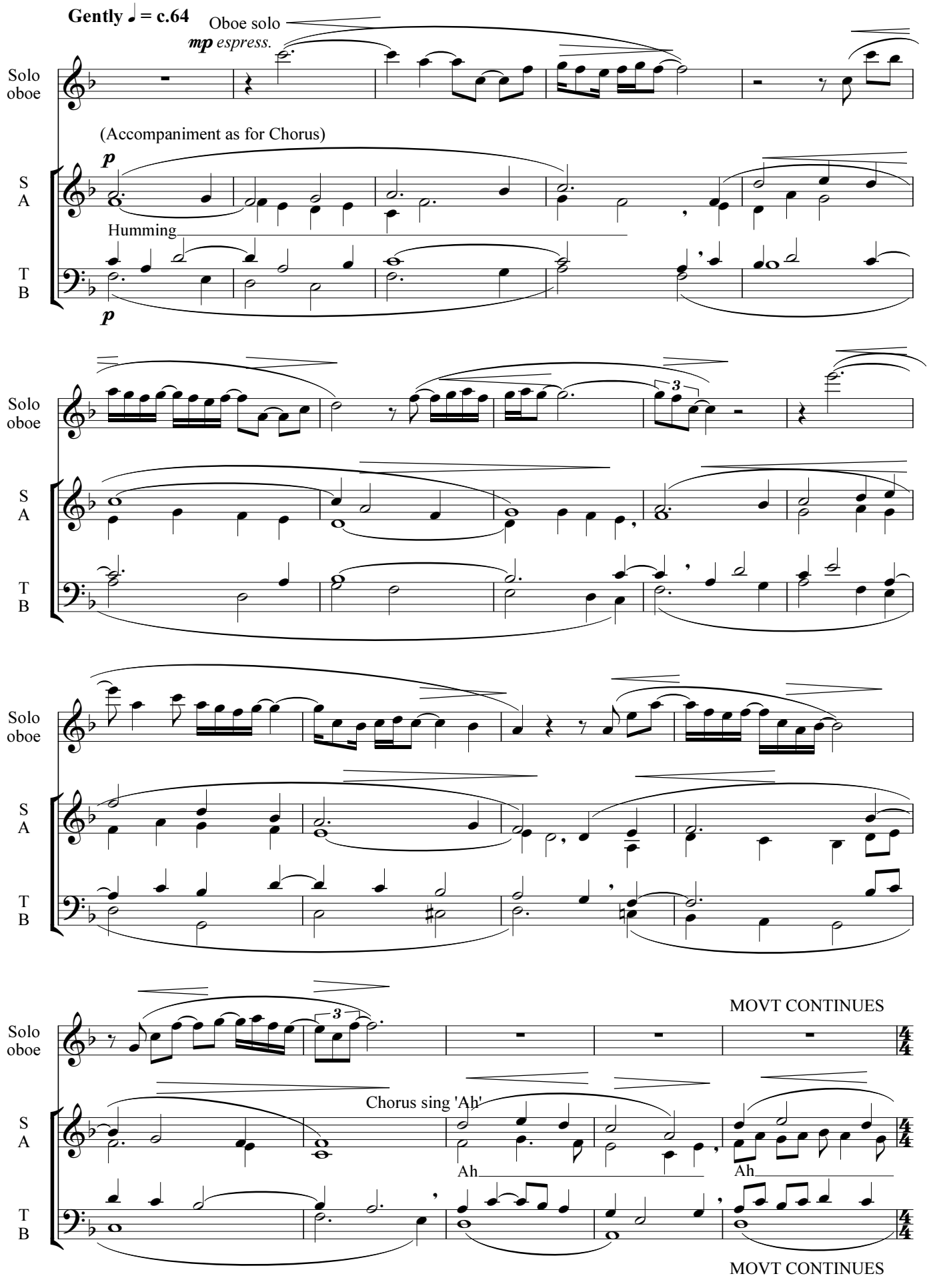

Bar. Solo
buoy - ant - ly ov - er the tops of im - mense waves,
S.
A.
T.
B.
Ah
mf
Bar. Solo
A trans-pa-rent bass, shud-der-ing lusc-ious ly un -der and through the un -i -verse,
S.
A.
T.
B.
mp

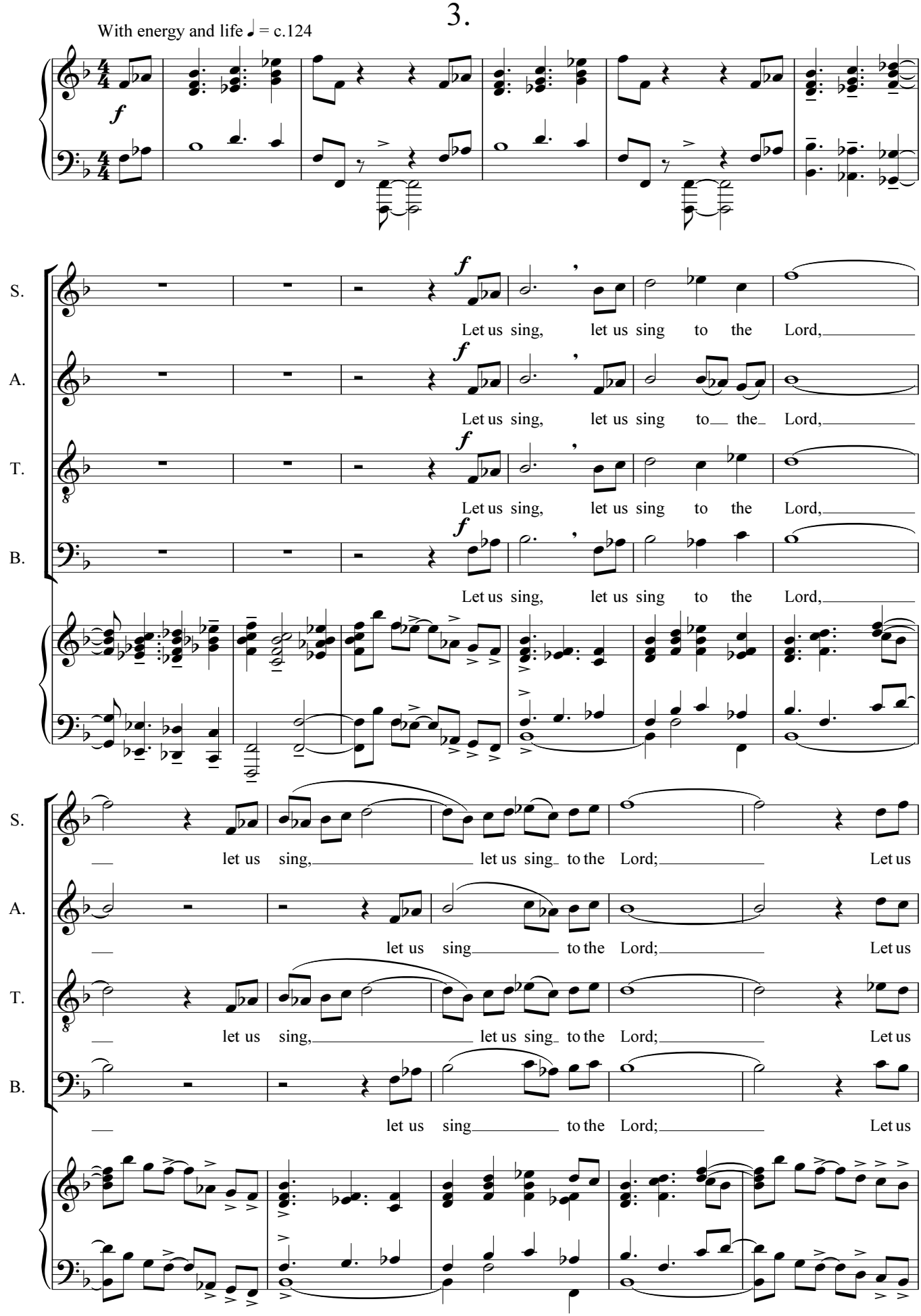

Bar. Solo
the tri - um - phant tut - ti, the fu - ne - ral wail - ings, with sweet flutes and vi - o - lins,
S.
A.
T.
B.
mp cresc.
Ah
Bar. Solo
all these I fill my - self with; I hear not the vo - lumes of sound mere - ly
mp

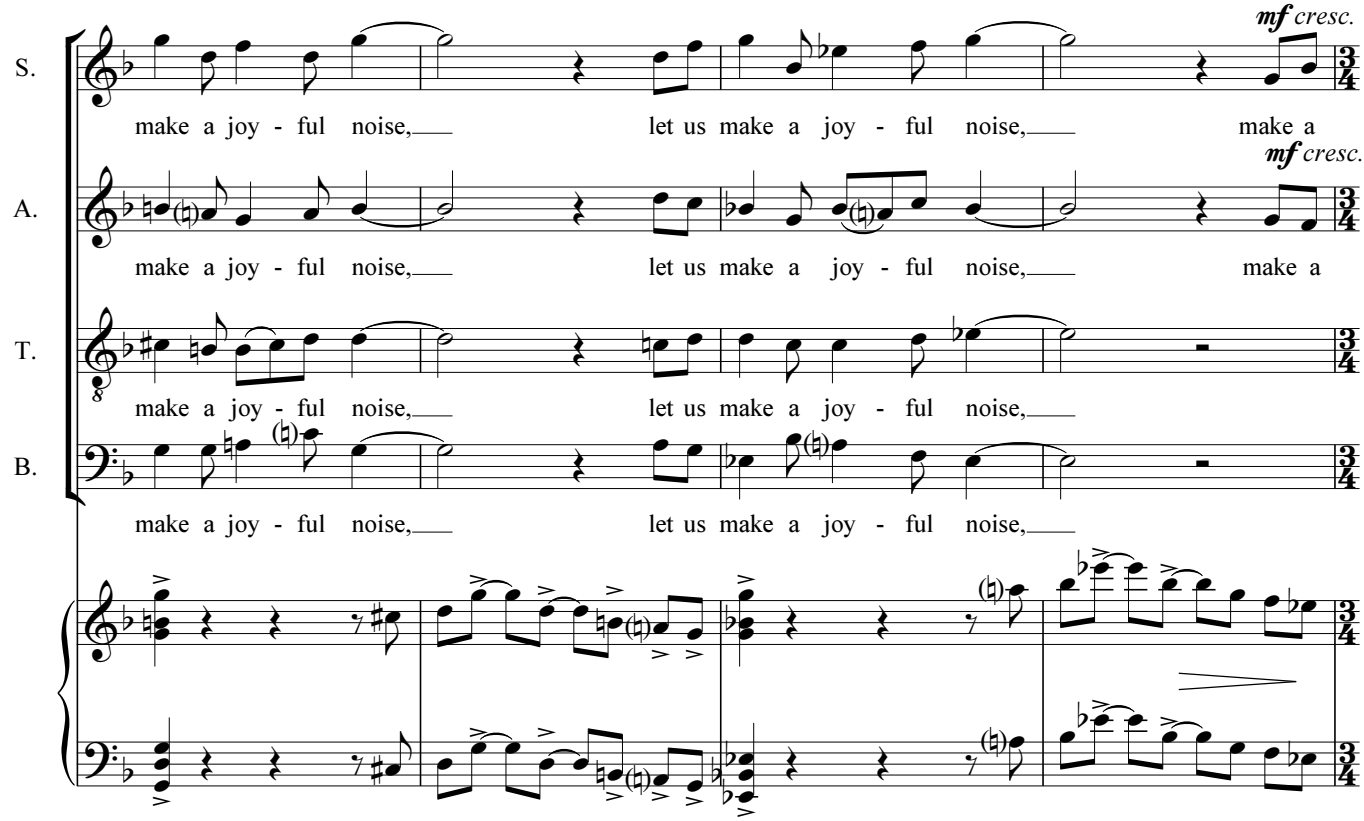

Bar. Solo
I am moved by the ex - qui - site mean - ings, I lis - ten to the dif - ferent voi - ces wind - ing in and
S.
A.
T.
B.
Ah
Bar. Solo
out, stri - ving, con - tend - ing with fi - ery ve - he - mence to ex - cel each
mf

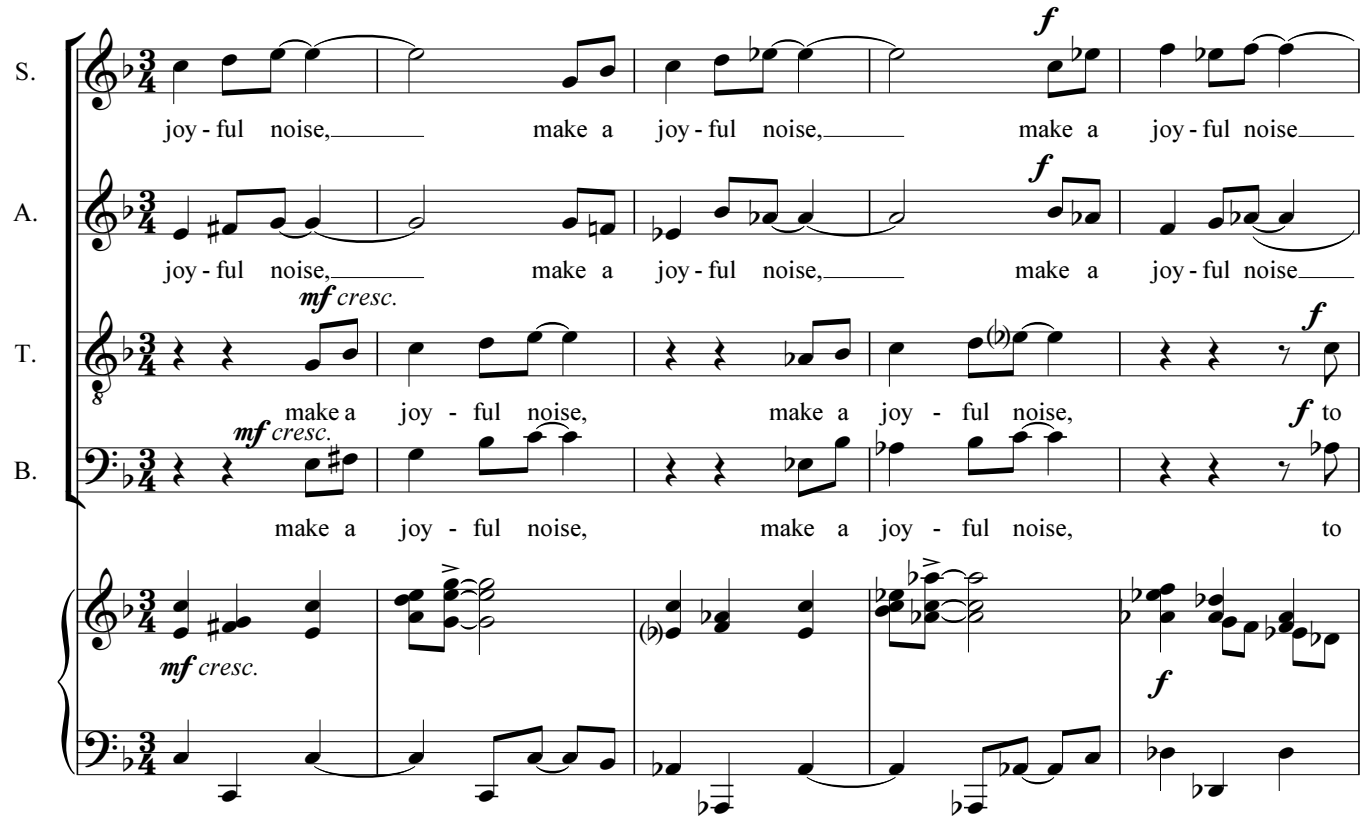

poco rit.
Freely
Bar. Solo
oth - er in e - mo - tion;
I do not think the per - for - mers know them
S.
A.
T.
B.
Ah
poco rit.
pp
p

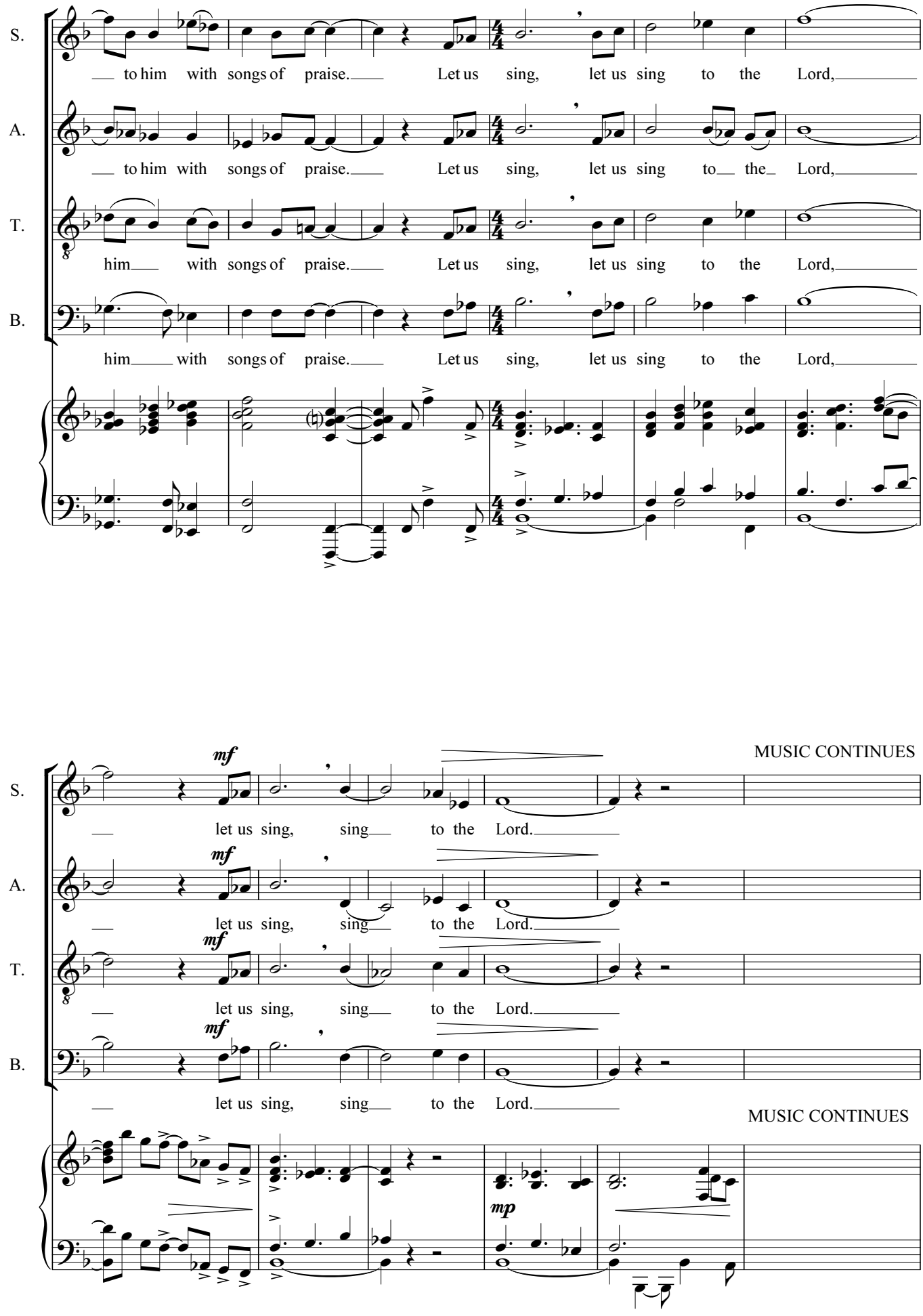

Bar. Solo
selves, but now I think I be - gin to know them.
Tempo Primo
♩ = c. 64
p

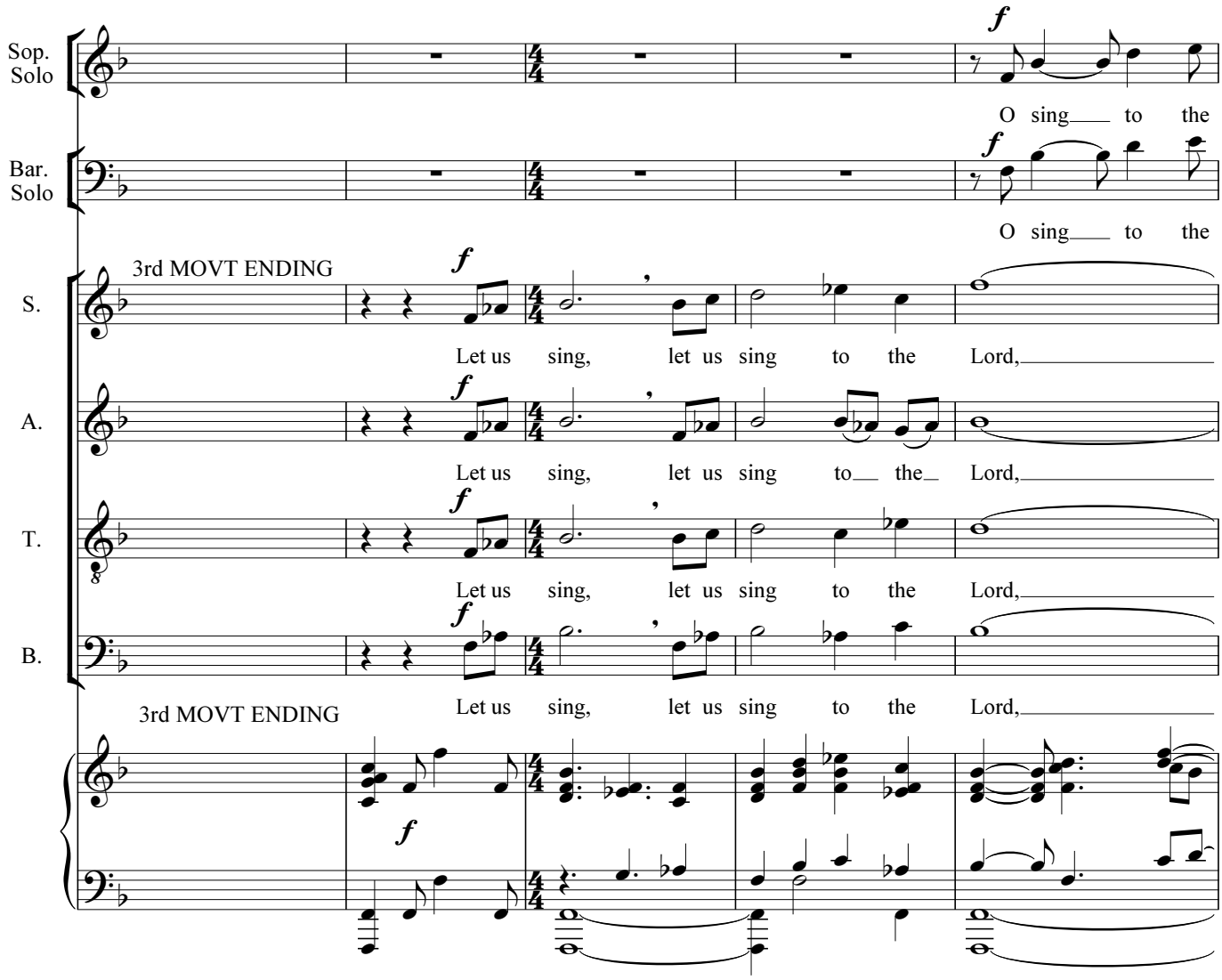

Gently ♩ = c.64
Oboe solo
mp espress.
Solo oboe
(Accompaniment as for Chorus)
p
S
A
Humming
T
B
p
Solo oboe
S
A
T
B
3
Solo oboe
S
A
T
B
Solo oboe
3
MOVT CONTINUES
S
A
Chorus sing 'Ah'
Ah
Ah
T
B
MOVT CONTINUES

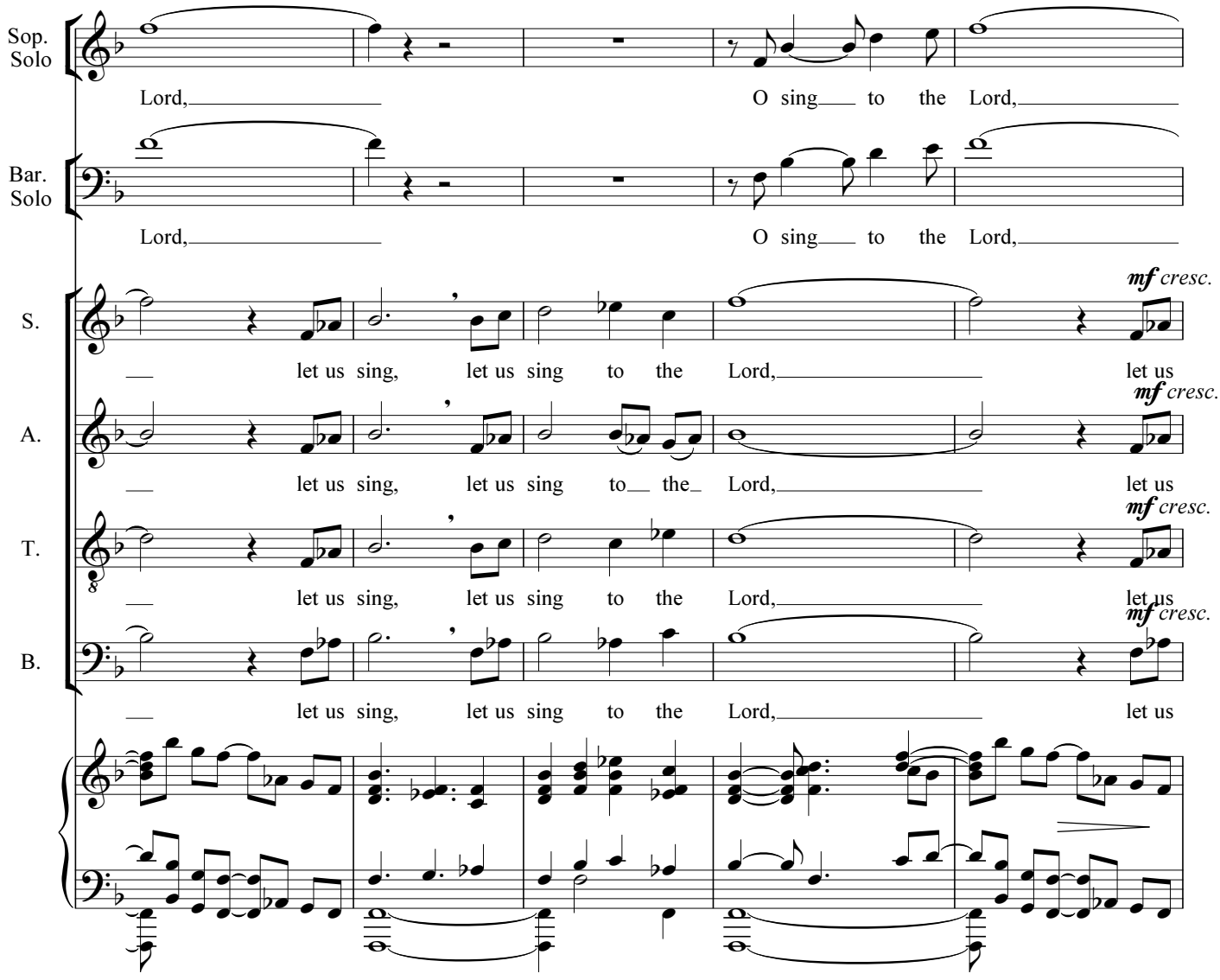

With energy and life ♩ = c.124
S.
A.
T.
B.
Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
let us sing, let us sing to the Lord; Let us
let us sing to the Lord; Let us
let us sing, let us sing to the Lord; Let us
let us sing to the Lord; Let us

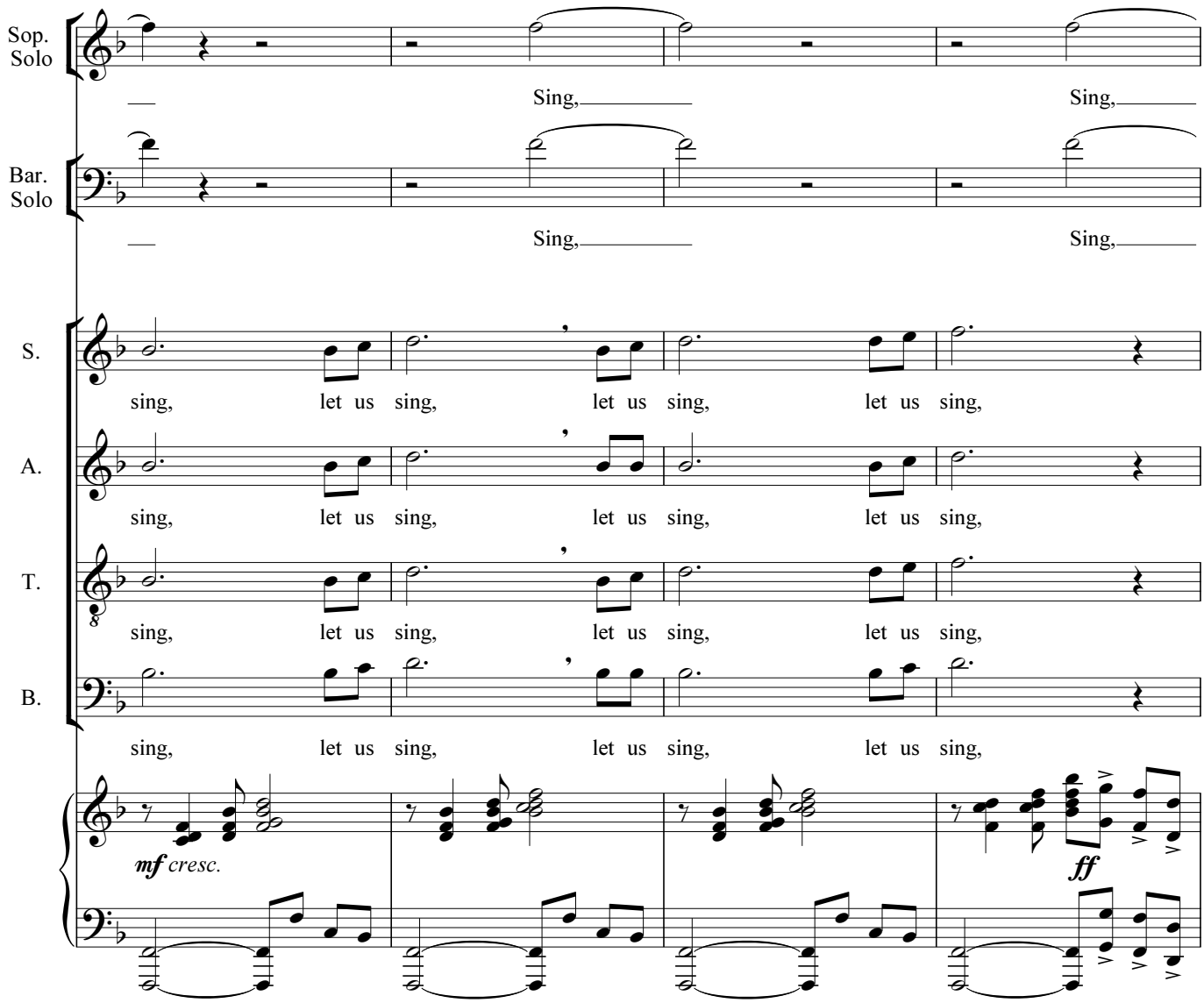

S.
A.
T.
B.
mf cresc.
make a joy - ful noise,
let us make a joy - ful noise,
make a

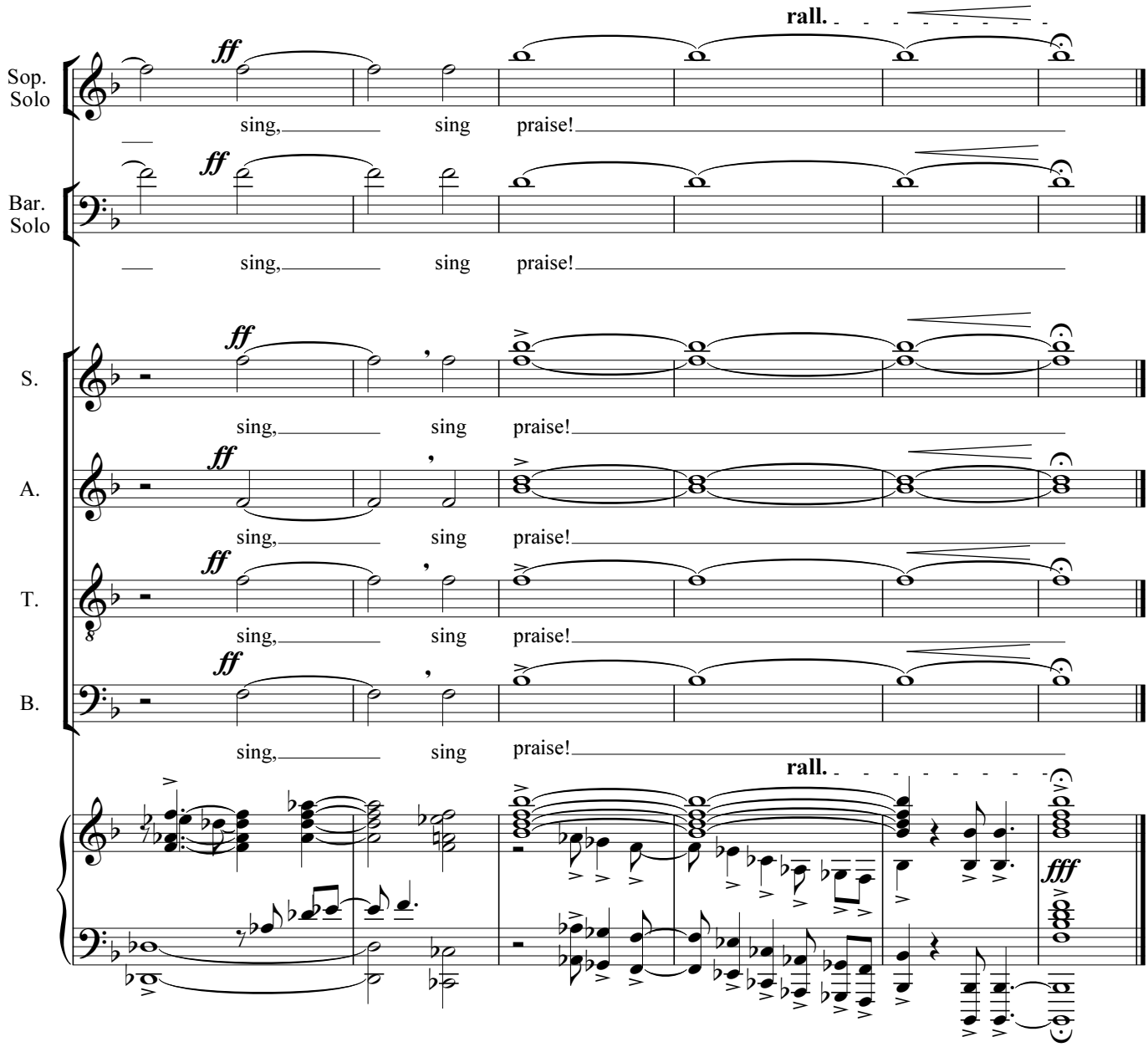

S.
A.
T.
B.
f
mf cresc.
joy - ful noise,
make a joy - ful noise,
make a joy - ful noise
to


S.
A.
T.
B.
to him with songs of praise. Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
to him with songs of praise. Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
him with songs of praise. Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
him with songs of praise. Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
mf
let us sing, sing to the Lord.
let us sing, sing to the Lord.
let us sing, sing to the Lord.
let us sing, sing to the Lord.
MUSIC CONTINUES
MUSIC CONTINUES
mp


Sop. Solo
Bar. Solo
S.
A.
T.
B.
f
O sing to the
O sing to the
3rd MOVT ENDING
Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
Let us sing, let us sing to the Lord,
3rd MOVT ENDING


Sop. Solo
Lord, O sing to the Lord,
Bar. Solo
Lord, O sing to the Lord,
S.
let us sing, let us sing to the Lord, let us
mf cresc.
A.
let us sing, let us sing to the Lord, let us
mf cresc.
T.
let us sing, let us sing to the Lord, let us
mf cresc.
B.
let us sing, let us sing to the Lord, let us
mf cresc.


Sop. Solo
Sing,
Sing,
Bar. Solo
Sing,
Sing,
S.
A.
T.
B.
sing, let us sing, let us sing, let us sing,
mf cresc.
ff


rall.
Sop. Solo
ff
sing, sing praise!
Bar. Solo
ff
sing, sing praise!
S.
ff
sing, sing praise!
A.
ff
sing, sing praise!
T.
ff
sing, sing praise!
B.
ff
sing, sing praise!
rall.
fff