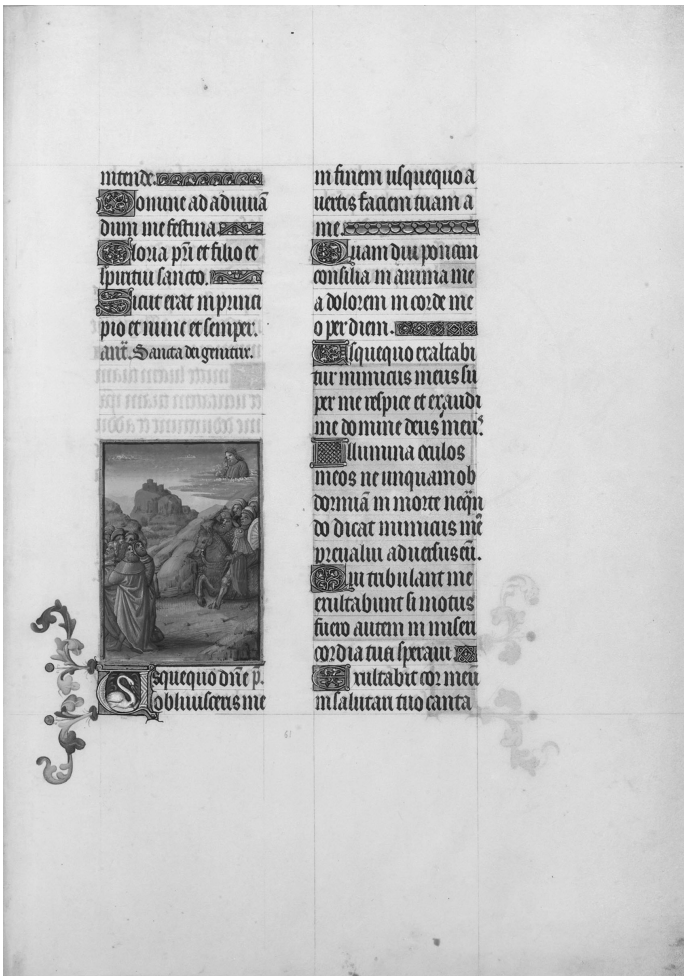
Wong Foo Jeng

Psalm 13

For SATB Chorus, a cappella

Vocal Score



Psalm 13

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?
  How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
  and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Look on me and answer, Lord my God.
  Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
  and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

But I trust in your unfailing love;
  my heart rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing the Lord's praise,
  for he has been good to me.

Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NIV)
are from The Holy Bible: New International Version®

Program Notes

Psalm 13 is a depiction of David's struggles with his inner thoughts and how it interferes with his religious experience. This negativity is circular, as demonstrated through the repetitive structure of the first stanza, and his escape is seemingly unattainable. David is later freed through his "trust" in the "light", and he celebrates the Lord's "unfailing love" through "praise" and worship.

I've illustrated this story by having the canonic vowels eventually progress into a melodic chorale, thus juxtaposing the depths of David's anguish and euphoria. A sense of structure is also reflected through the pacing of the words.

The use of the word "Amen" after recitations is one that is common practice among many Christians today. I saw this as an opportunity to synthesize a traditional IV – I cadence with the rhythms of the canonic vowels, thus creating a metaphor for David's spiritual growth within the Psalm.

I composed Psalm 13 in search of a middle ground between my Mother's musical taste and religious stridence with my own, and I found great joy in discovering her appreciation for my pursuit of religious insight. It is my Mother who first sparked my love for music; and all that I hope to be, is because of her.

To my mother, Yin Lai Moh

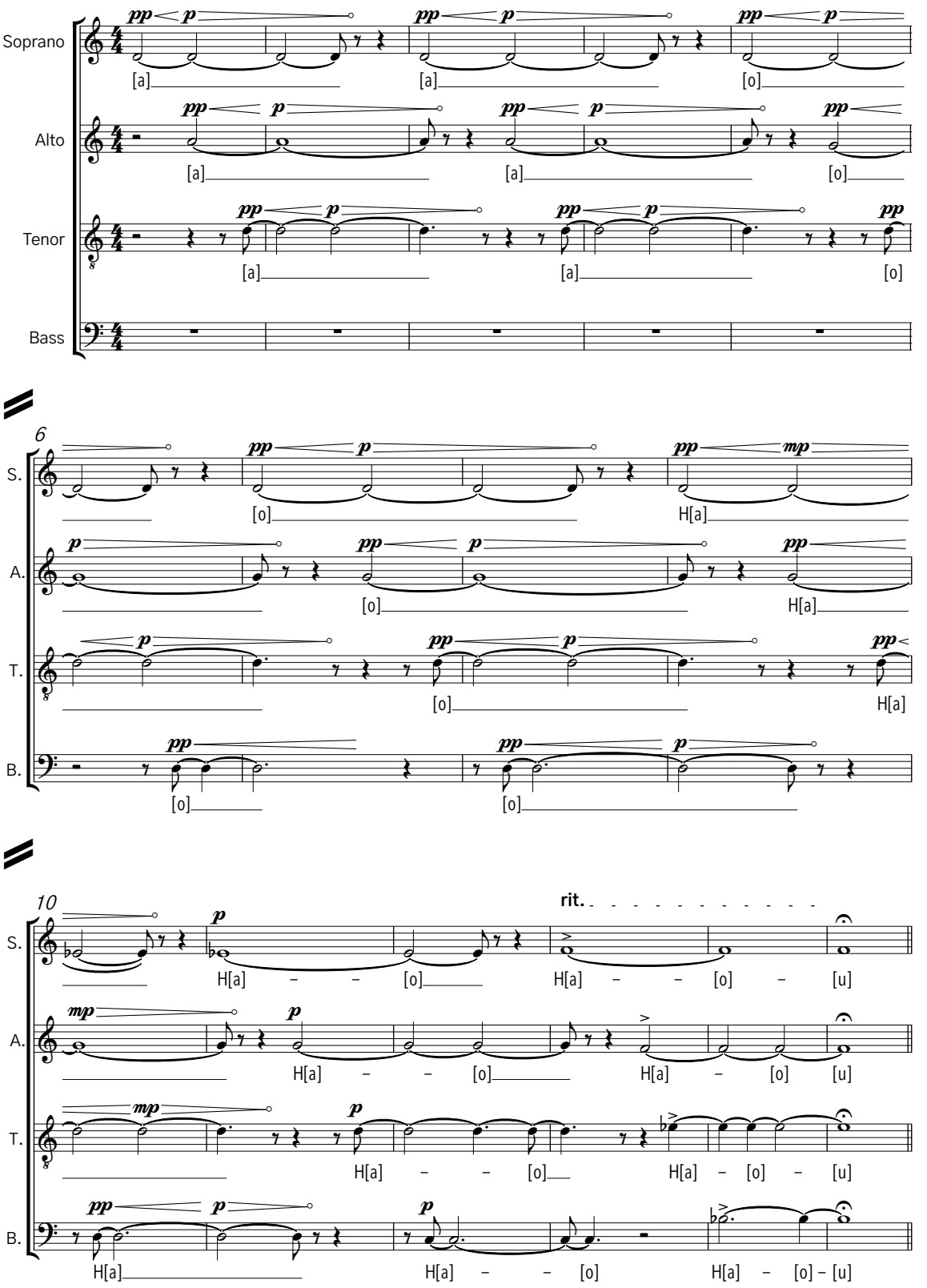
Psalm 13

For SATB Chorus, a cappella

Wong Foo Jeng

♩= 55 **Calm**

all voices must enter as gently as possible



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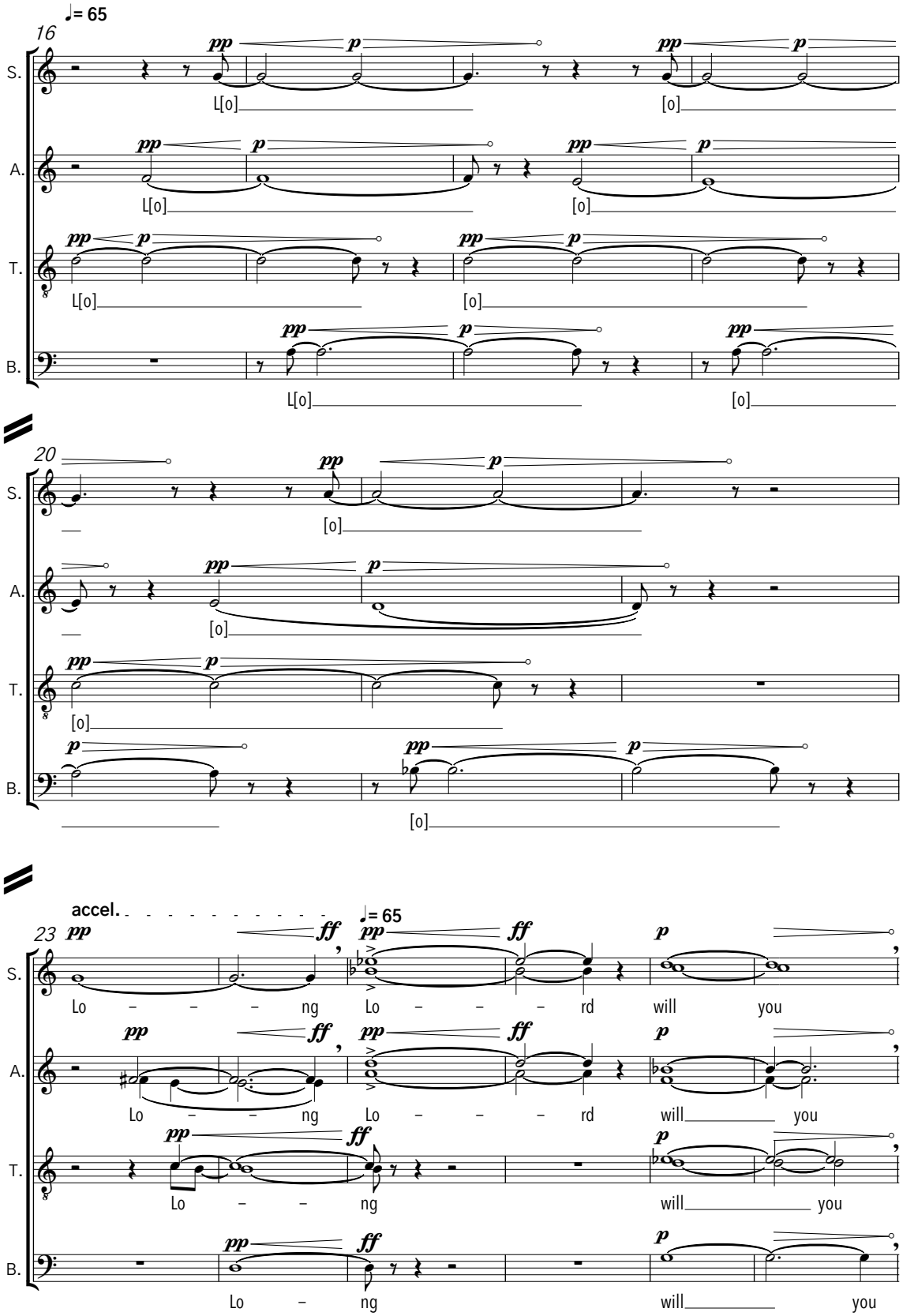
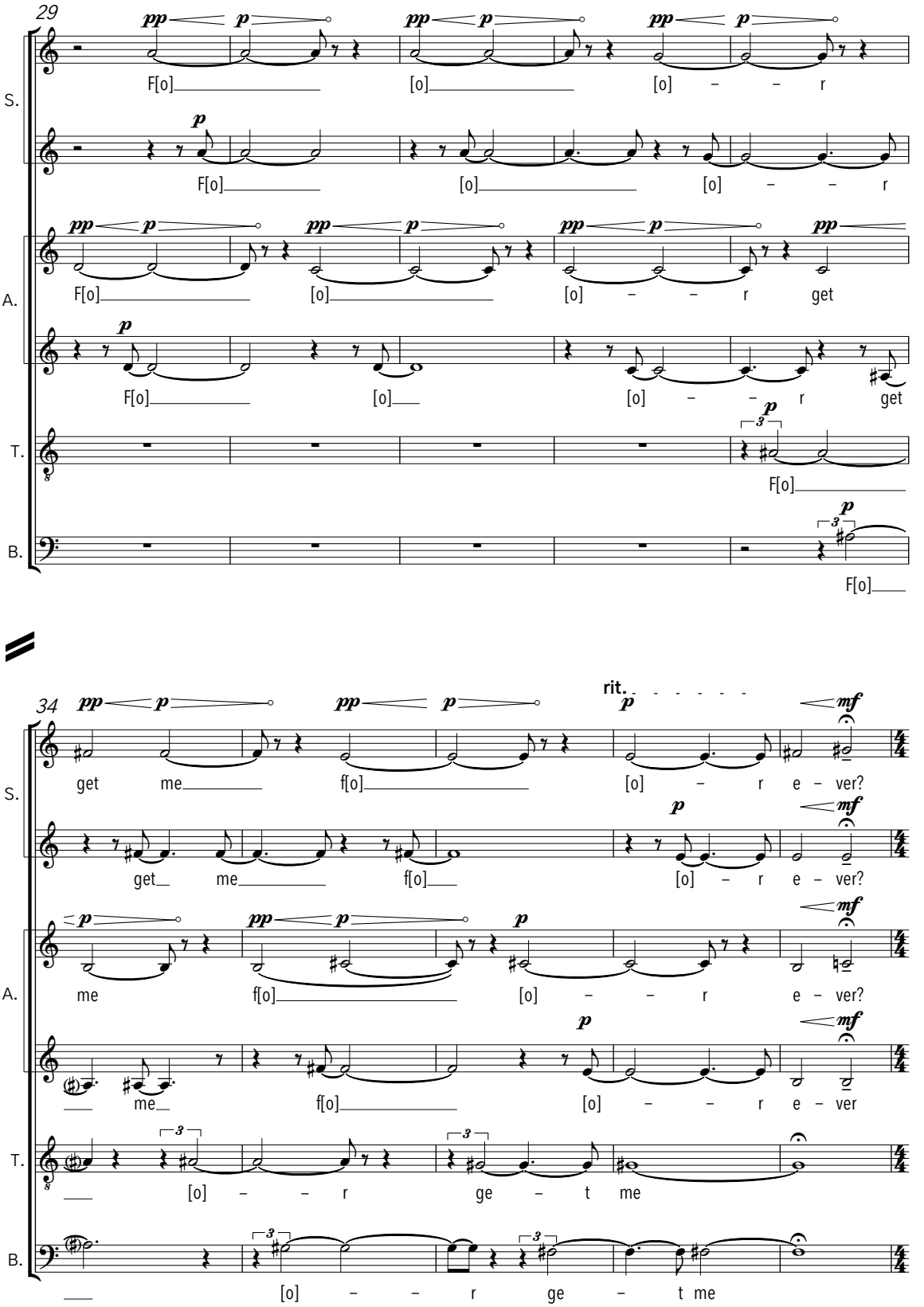
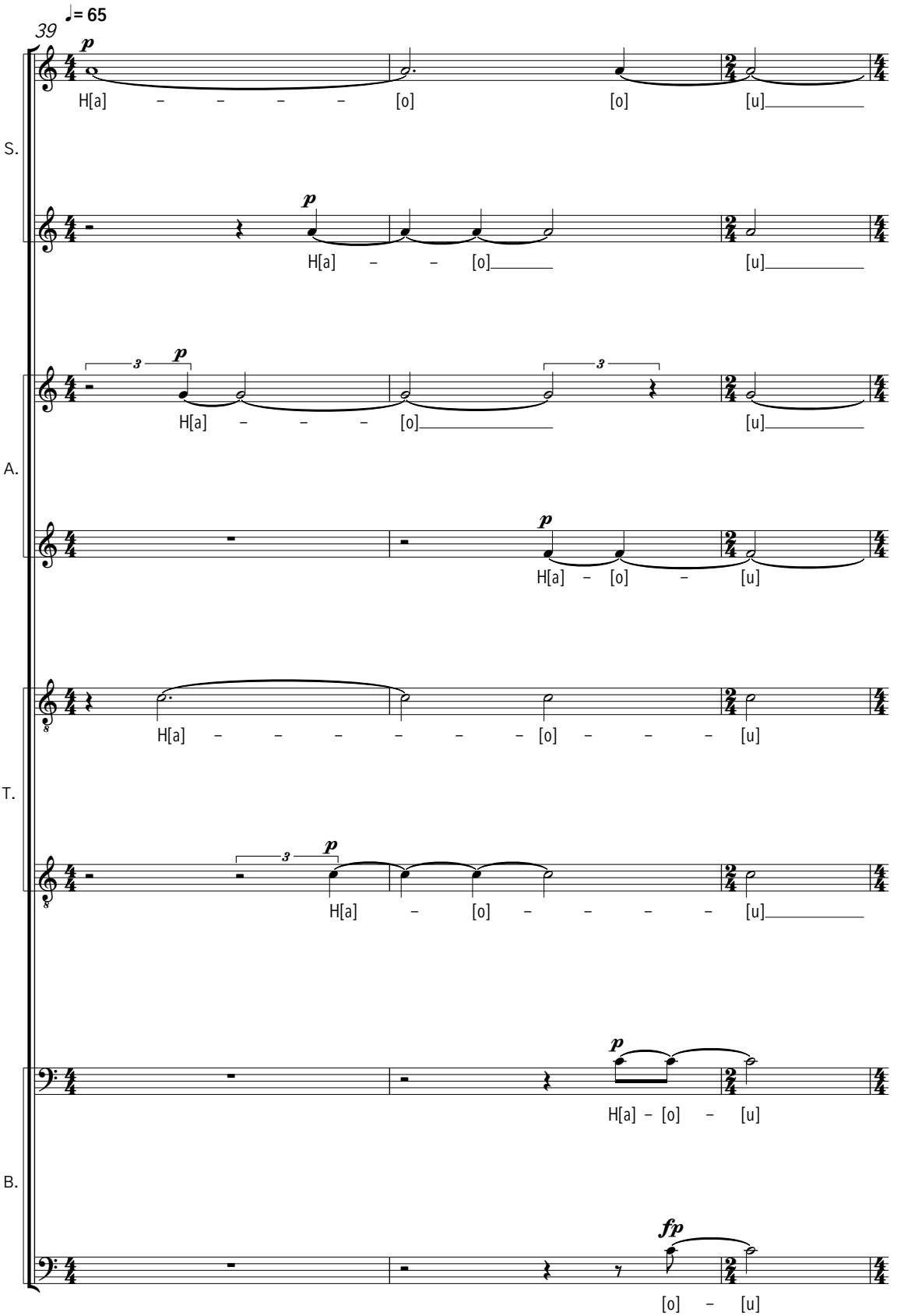
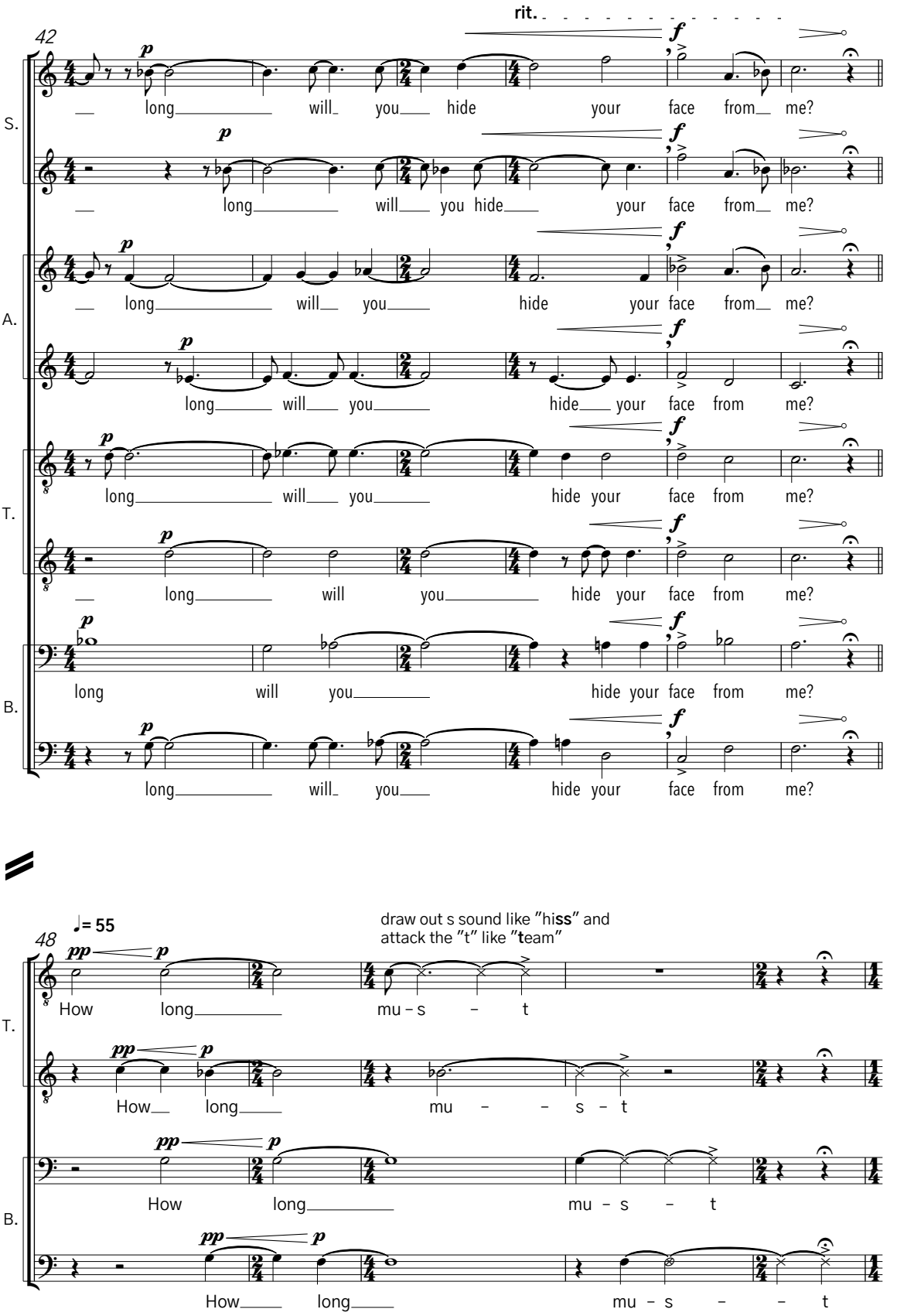
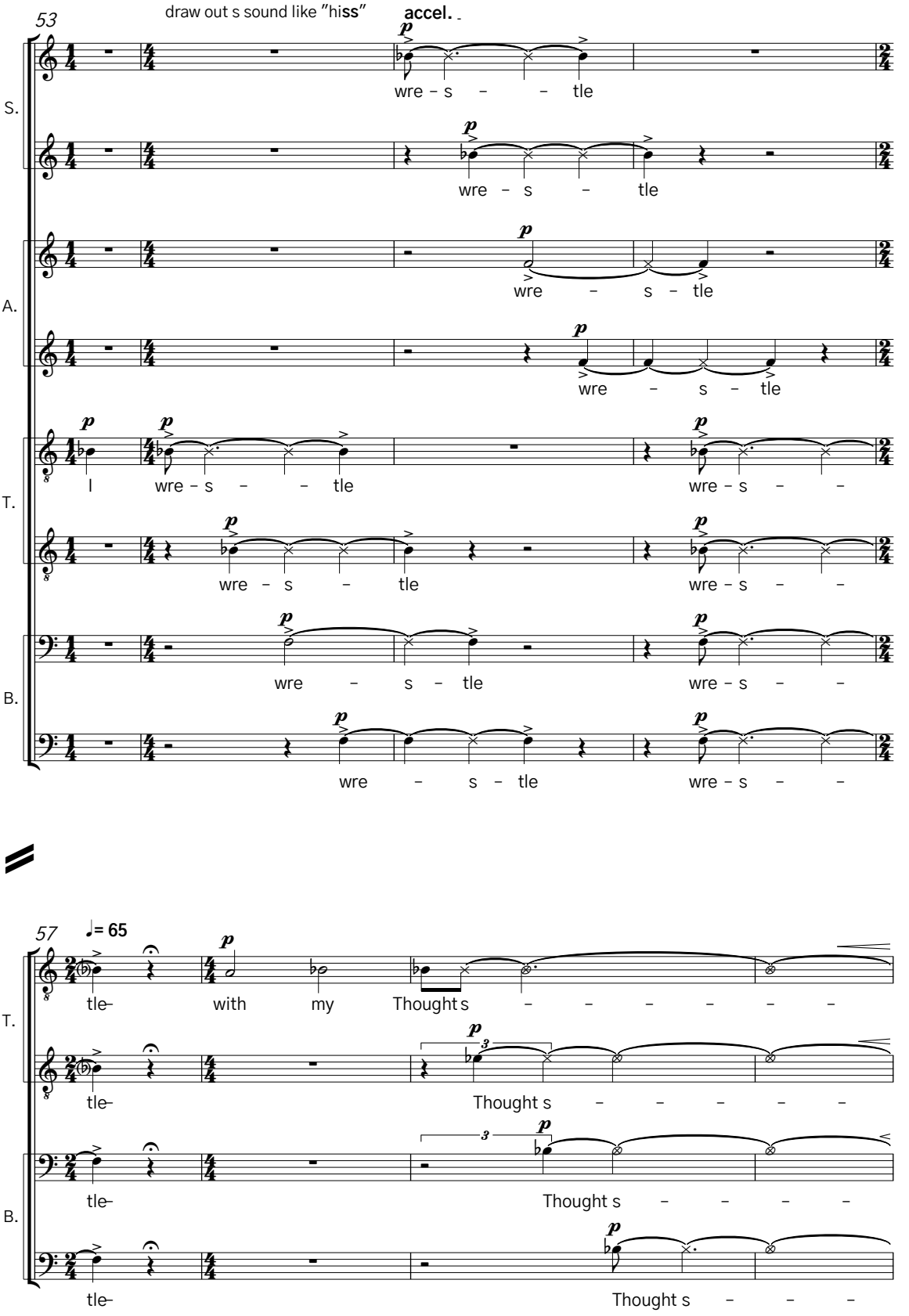

♩= 65
16
S.
A.
T.
B.
L[o]
[o]
20
accel.
23
Lo – – – ng
Lo – – – rd
will
you

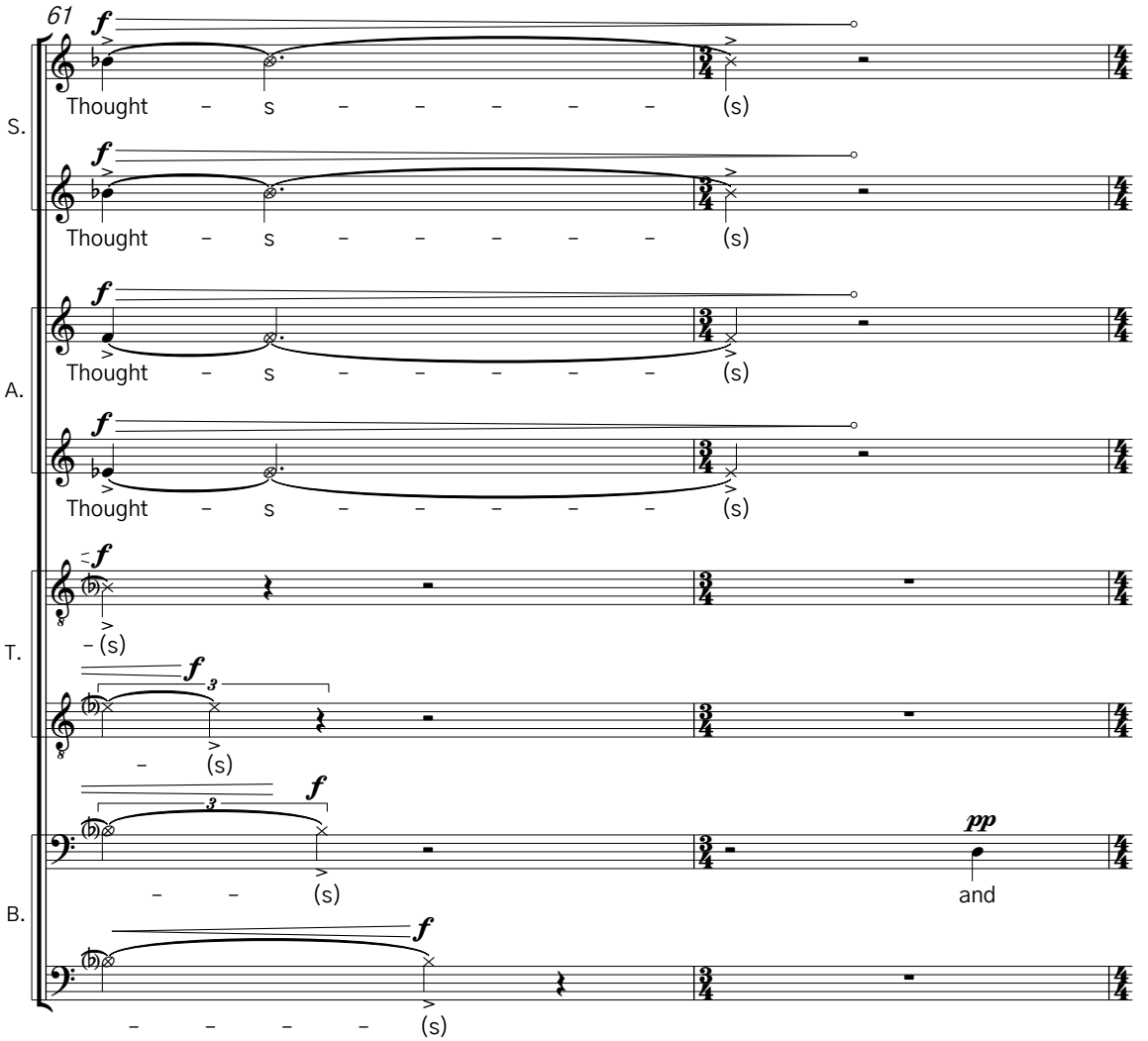

29
S.
A.
T.
B.
F[o] [o] [o] – – r
F[o] [o] [o] – – r
F[o] [o] [o] – – r get
F[o] [o] [o] – – r get
F[o]
F[o]
34
rit.
get me f[o] [o] – r e – ver?
get me f[o] [o] – r e – ver?
me f[o] [o] – – r e – ver?
me f[o] [o] – – r e – ver
[o] – – r ge – t me
[o] – – r ge – t me

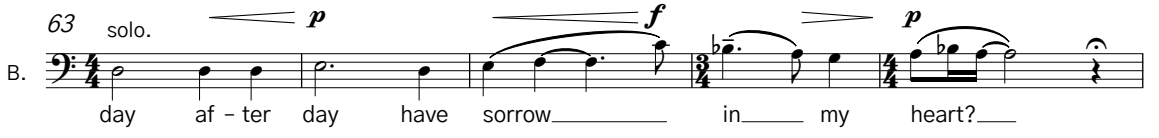

39
♩= 65
S.
A.
T.
B.
H[a] – – – – [o] [o] [u]
H[a] – – [o] [u]
H[a] – – – [o] [u]
H[a] – [o] – [u]
H[a] – – – – – – [o] – – – [u]
H[a] – [o] – – – – [u]
H[a] – [o] – [u]
[o] – [u]

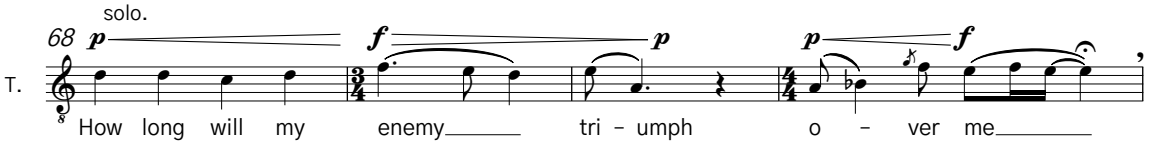

rit.
42
S.
A.
T.
B.
long will you hide your face from me?
48
♩= 55
draw out s sound like "hiss" and
attack the "t" like "team"
How long mu – s – t
How long mu – s – t
How long mu – s – t
How long mu – s – t

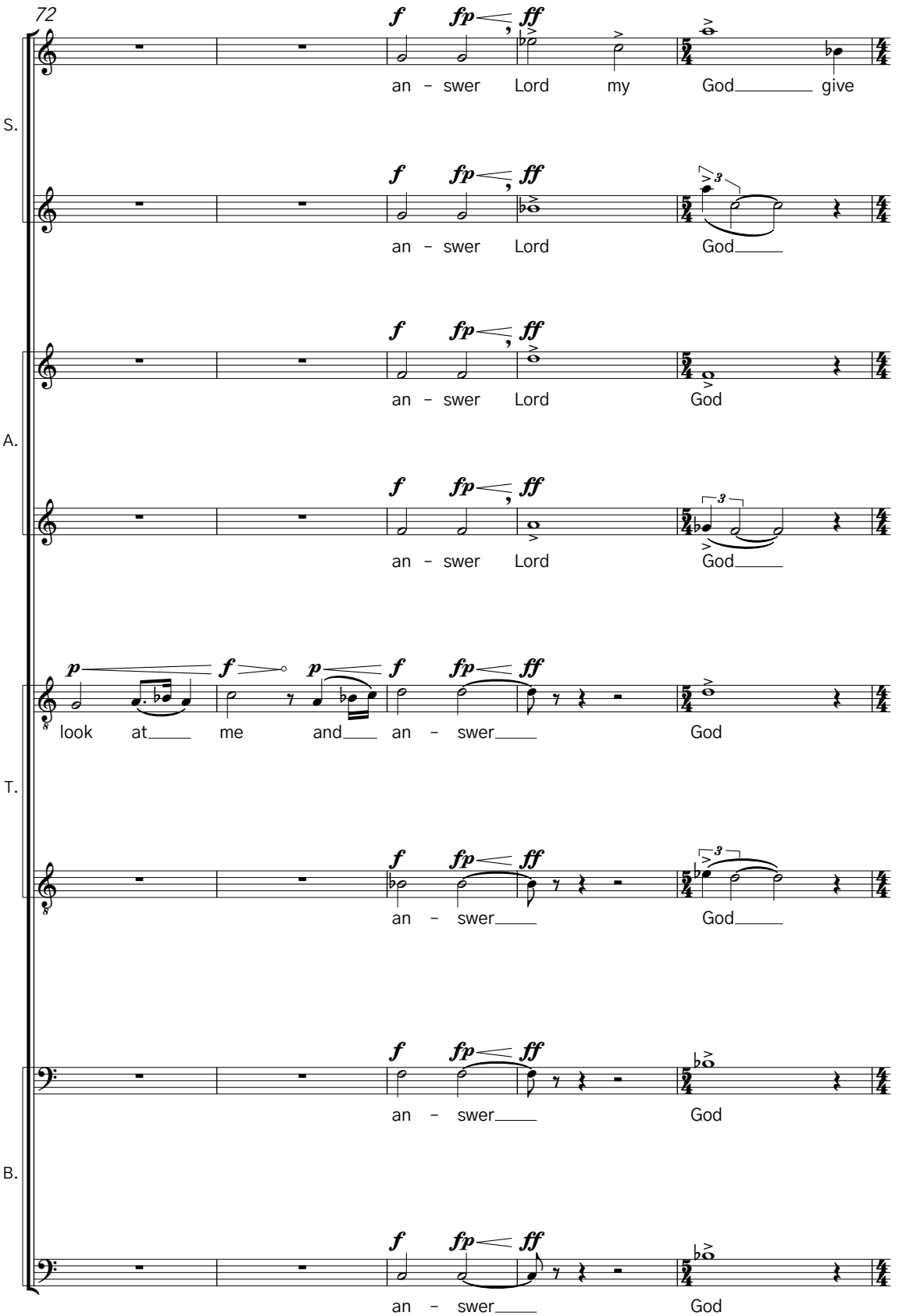

53
draw out s sound like "hiss"
accel.
S.
wre – s – – tle
wre – s – tle
A.
wre – s – tle
wre – s – tle
T.
I wre – s – – tle
wre – s – – tle
wre – s – –
B.
wre – s – tle
wre – s – –
wre – s – tle
wre – s – –
57
♩= 65
T.
tle– with my Thought s – – – – – –
tle– Thought s – – – – –
B.
tle– Thought s – – – –
tle– Thought s – – –

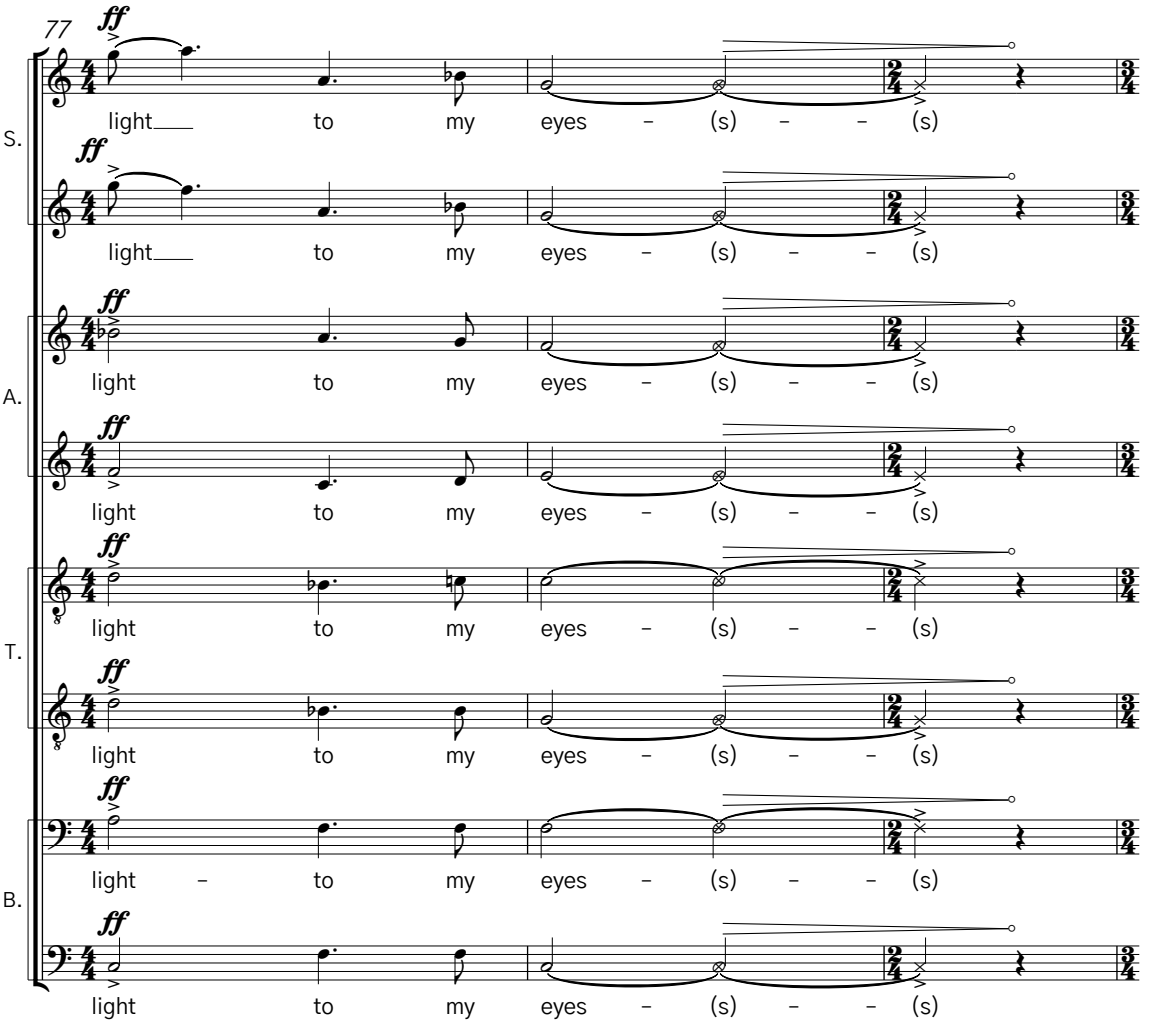
attack the (s) accent like "**s**end"

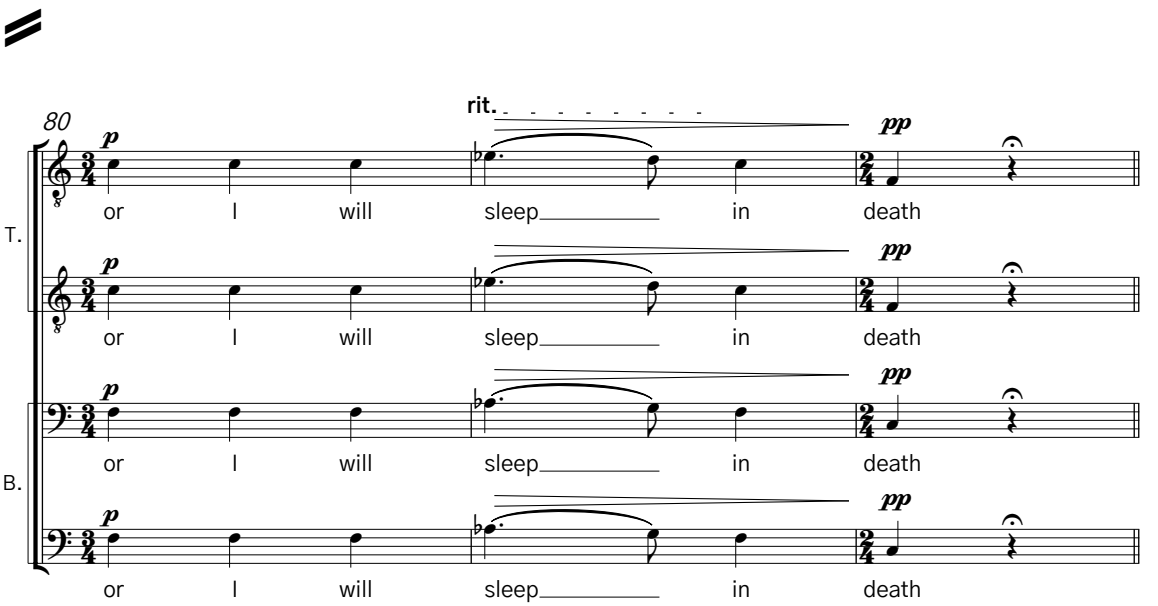


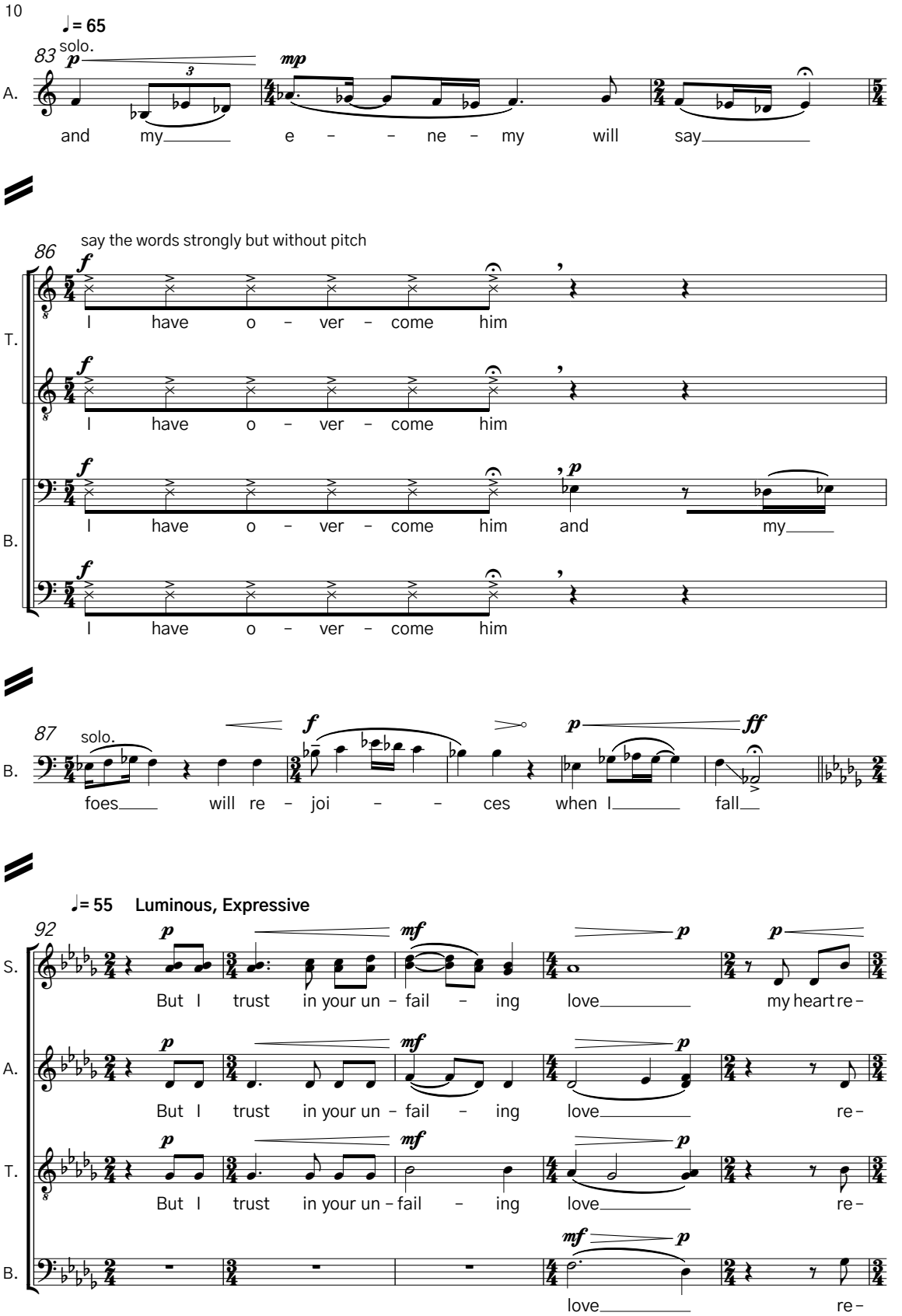


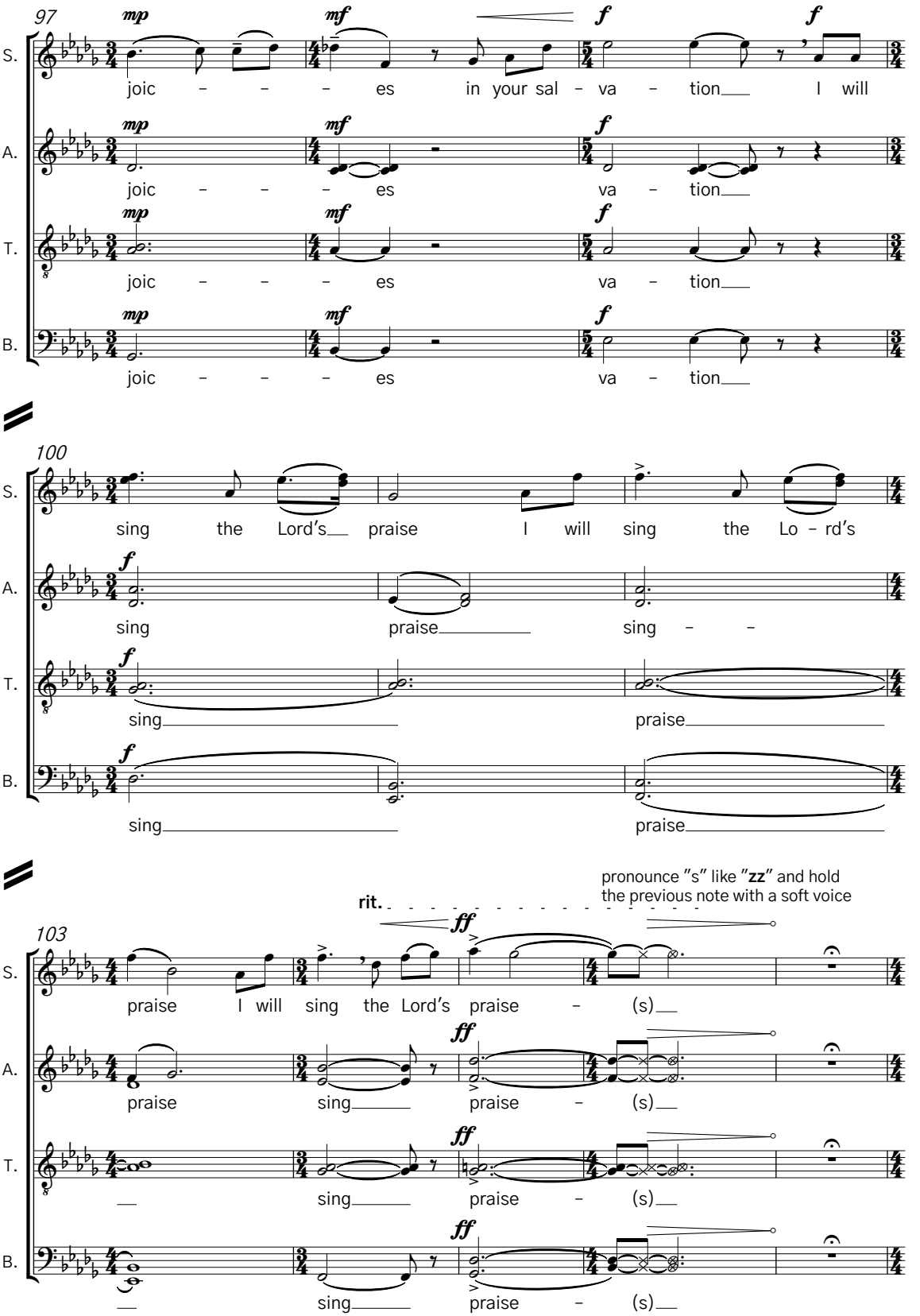


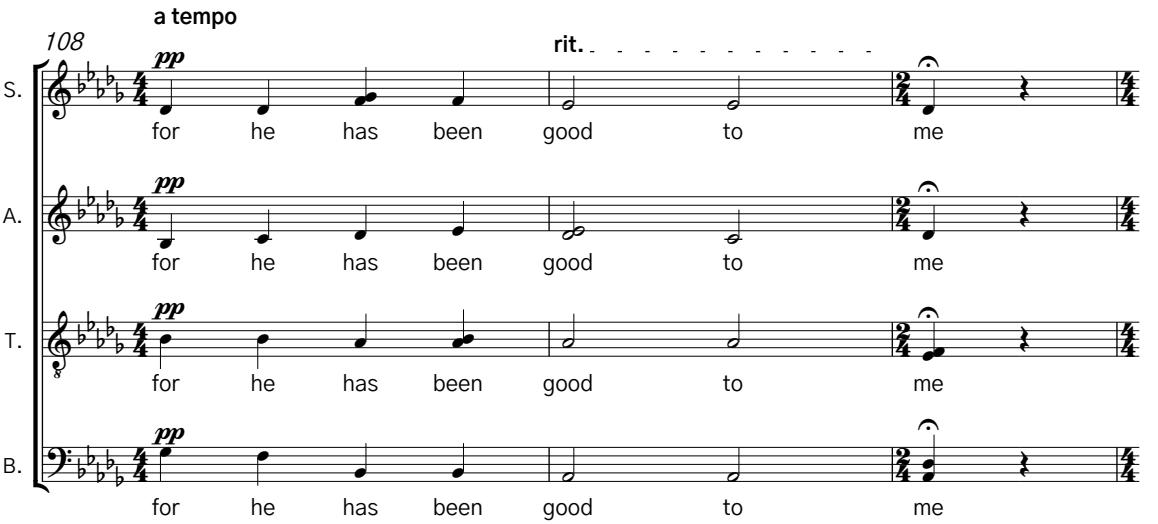

72
S.
A.
T.
B.
f fp ff
an - swer Lord my God give
an - swer Lord God
an - swer Lord God
an - swer Lord God
p f p f fp ff
look at me and an - swer God
an - swer God
an - swer God
an - swer God

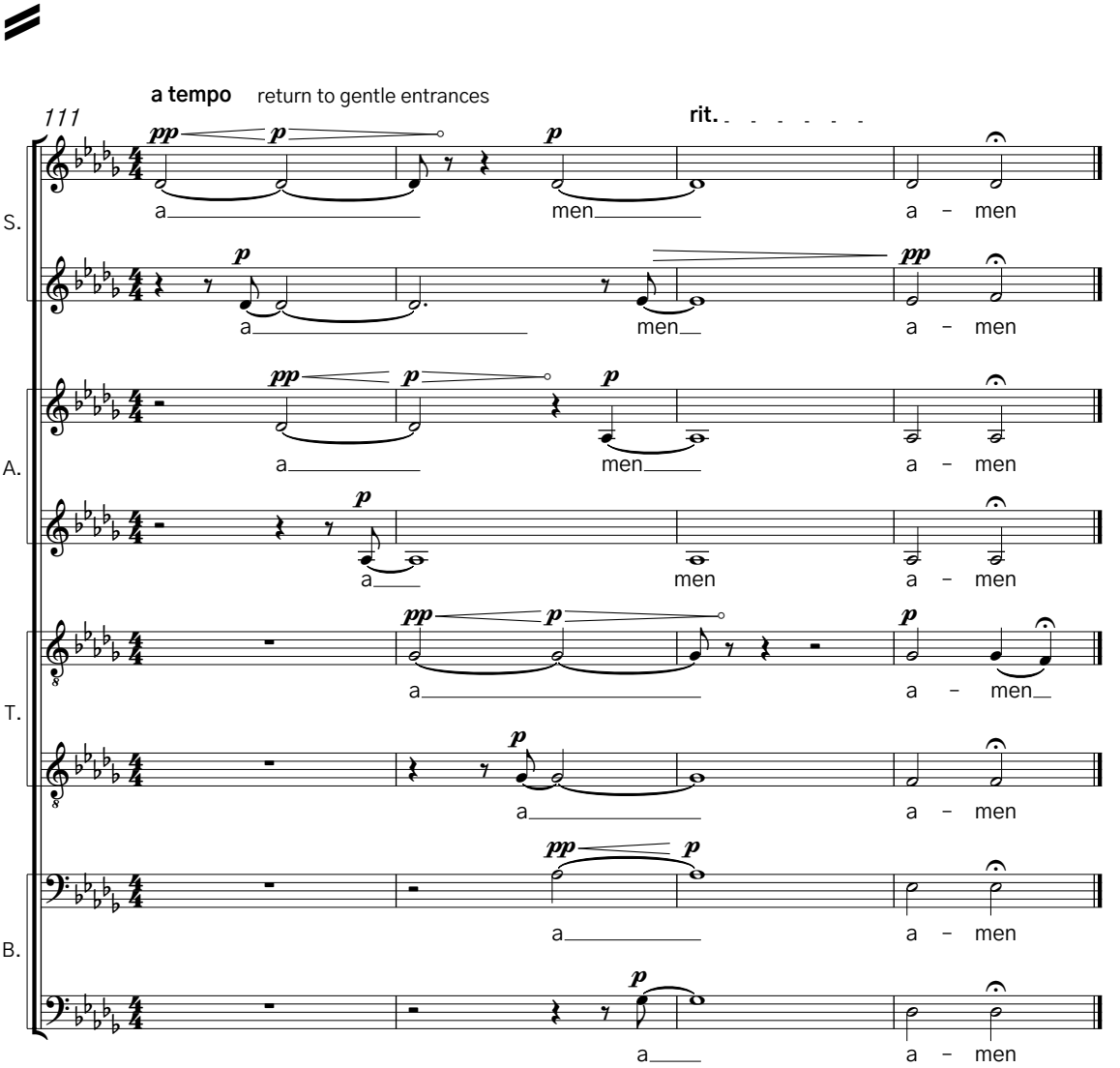

77
ff
S.
light to my eyes – (s) – – (s)
A.
T.
B.


80
p
rit.
pp
T.
or I will sleep in death
B.


♩= 65
solo.
83
p
mp
A.
and my e – – ne – my will say
say the words strongly but without pitch
86
f
T.
I have o – ver – come him
B.
I have o – ver – come him and my
87
solo.
foes will re – joi – – ces when I fall
♩= 55 Luminous, Expressive
92
mf
ff
S.
But I trust in your un – fail – ing love my heart re –
re –


97
S.
A.
T.
B.
mp
mf
f
joic – – – es in your sal – va – tion I will
joic – – – es va – tion
100
sing the Lord's praise I will sing the Lo – rd's
sing praise sing – –
sing praise
pronounce "s" like "zz" and hold
the previous note with a soft voice
rit.
ff
103
praise I will sing the Lord's praise – (s)
praise sing praise – (s)
sing praise – (s)
sing praise – (s)


a tempo
108
rit.
S.
A.
T.
B.
pp
for he has been good to me


a tempo return to gentle entrances
111
rit.
S.
A.
T.
B.
pp
p
a men
a - men