CHANTS FOR THE CHURCH OF NAUGHT

~ "CREDO IN DEUM NULLA" ~

FOR CHAMBER CHOIR

JORDAN ALEXANDER KEY

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~ CHANTS FOR THE CHURCH OF NAUGHT ~

WRITTEN FOR
THE MASTER CHORALE OF TAMPA BAY

Text inspired by
the *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam
& translations of the *Dies Irae*

Chants for the Church of Naught

Day shall dawn without tomorrow.
Sky and Earth so full of sorrow.
No more time for us to borrow.

There was a door to which I found no key;
There is a veil through which some might come to see:
There is and was - and then no more of thee and me.

Upon what instrument are we all spanned?
And what musicians hold us in their hand?
How equipped are we to hear and understand?

Into this space we came, and why not knowing.
Nor whence, like cosmic gas willy-nilly flowing;
So soon puffed out, we know not whither blowing.

Oh what fear of doom impending
When our fate is seen descending.
Upon the rule of fools depending.

Perplext no more with Human or Divine,
To-morrow's tangle to the winds resign,
knowing both are selfish and asinine.

A hair perhaps divides False and True-
Protect that sacred hair, else we'll rue
The thousand years of folly that will ensue.

All the buried dust of ages –
Monarchs, poor men, rich men, sages –
Will stand as equals for death's wages.

The cosmos makes no question of ayes and noes,
but they that judge you and your sins disclose,
they know their lies - they know - they know!

Lo! The Book, exactly worded,
Wherein all hath been recorded.
Thence has persecution been afforded.

The moving finger wrote; and, having writ,
Moved on, but don't waste your virtue or your wit
to cancel half a line written by that hypocrite.

Yesterday, this day's madness did prepare;
To-morrow's silence, triumph, or despair:
Rejoice! for you know not why you go, nor where.

What if weighed and found deficient,
Standing 'fore some Judge omniscient?
Think, "Has He righteousness sufficient?"

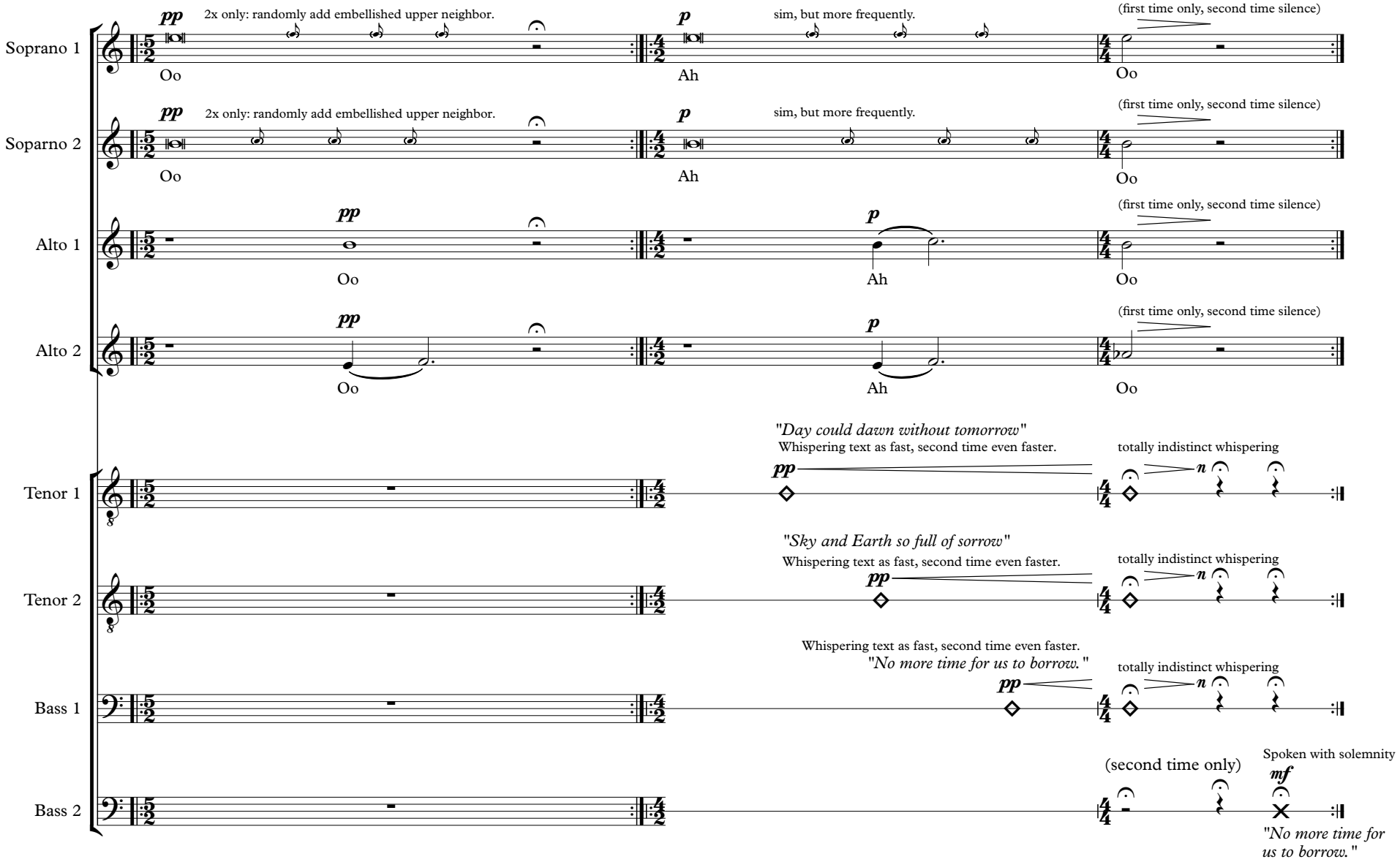
Sing! for you know not whence you came, nor why.
Sing! for you no more must live life as a lie.
Sing! You yourself are Heaven and Hell, the stars and sky.

Chants for the Church of Nought

"Credo in deum nulla"

Jordan Alexander Key
Winter 2019

Freely and Flowing
(♩ = c.a. 50 bpm)



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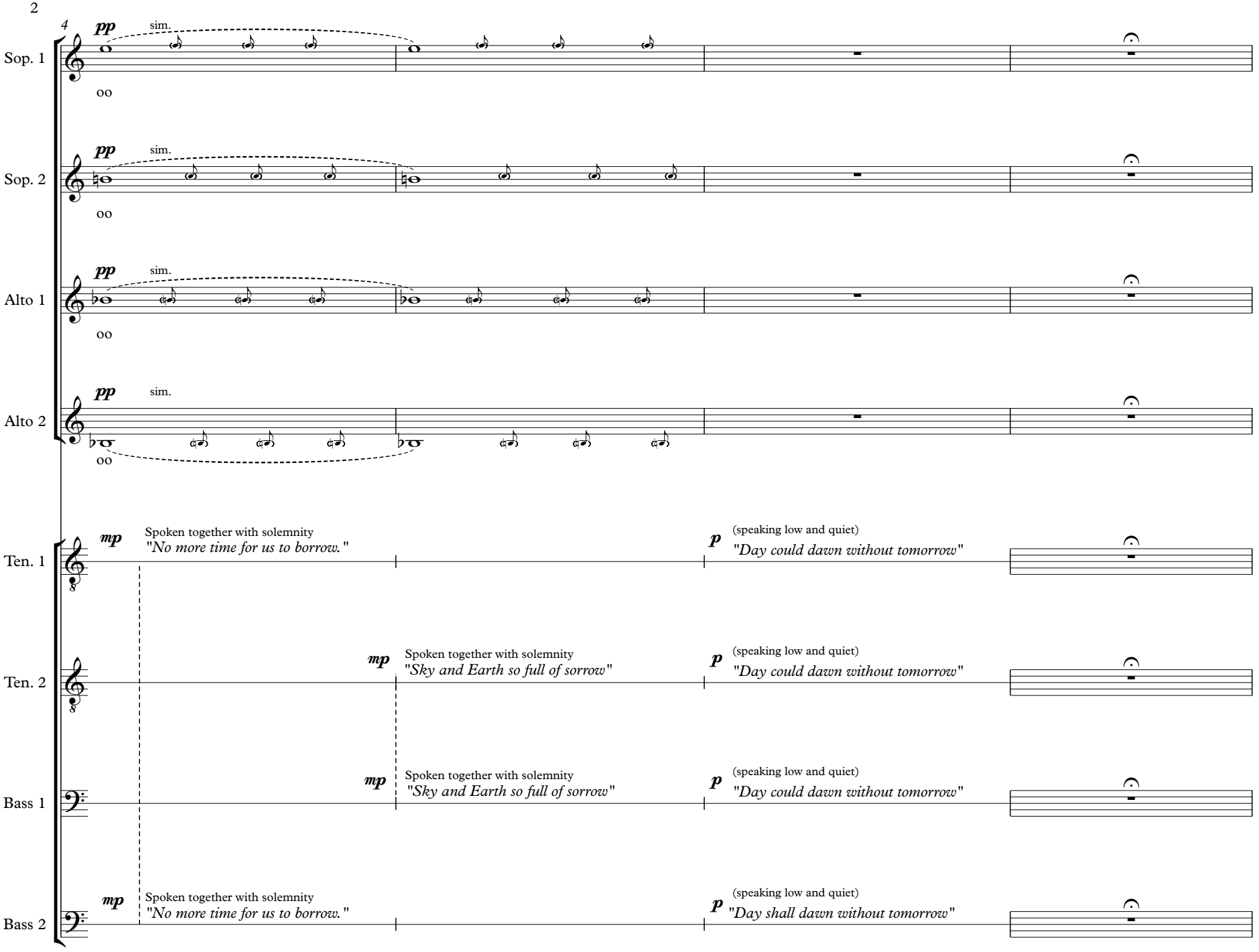
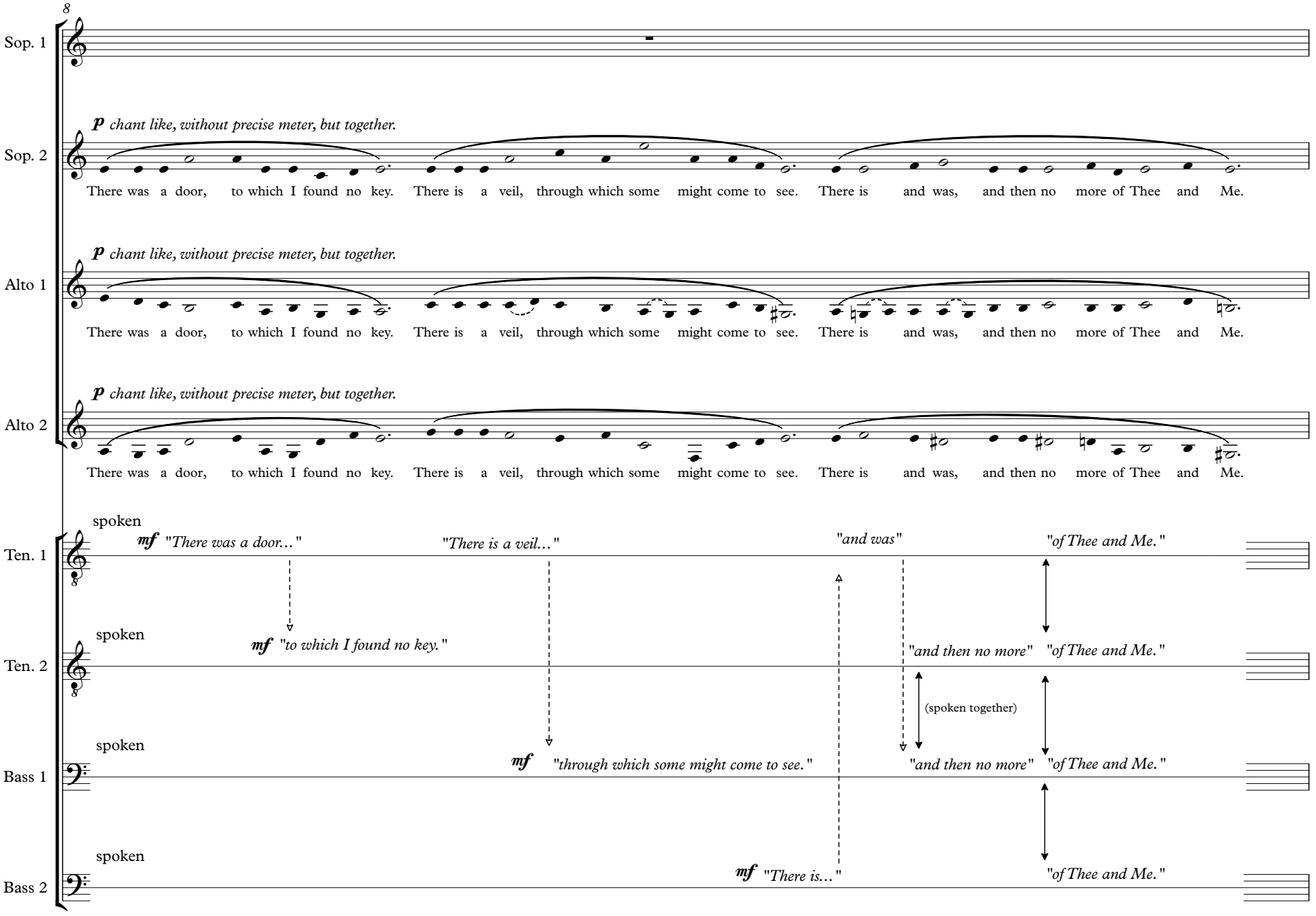
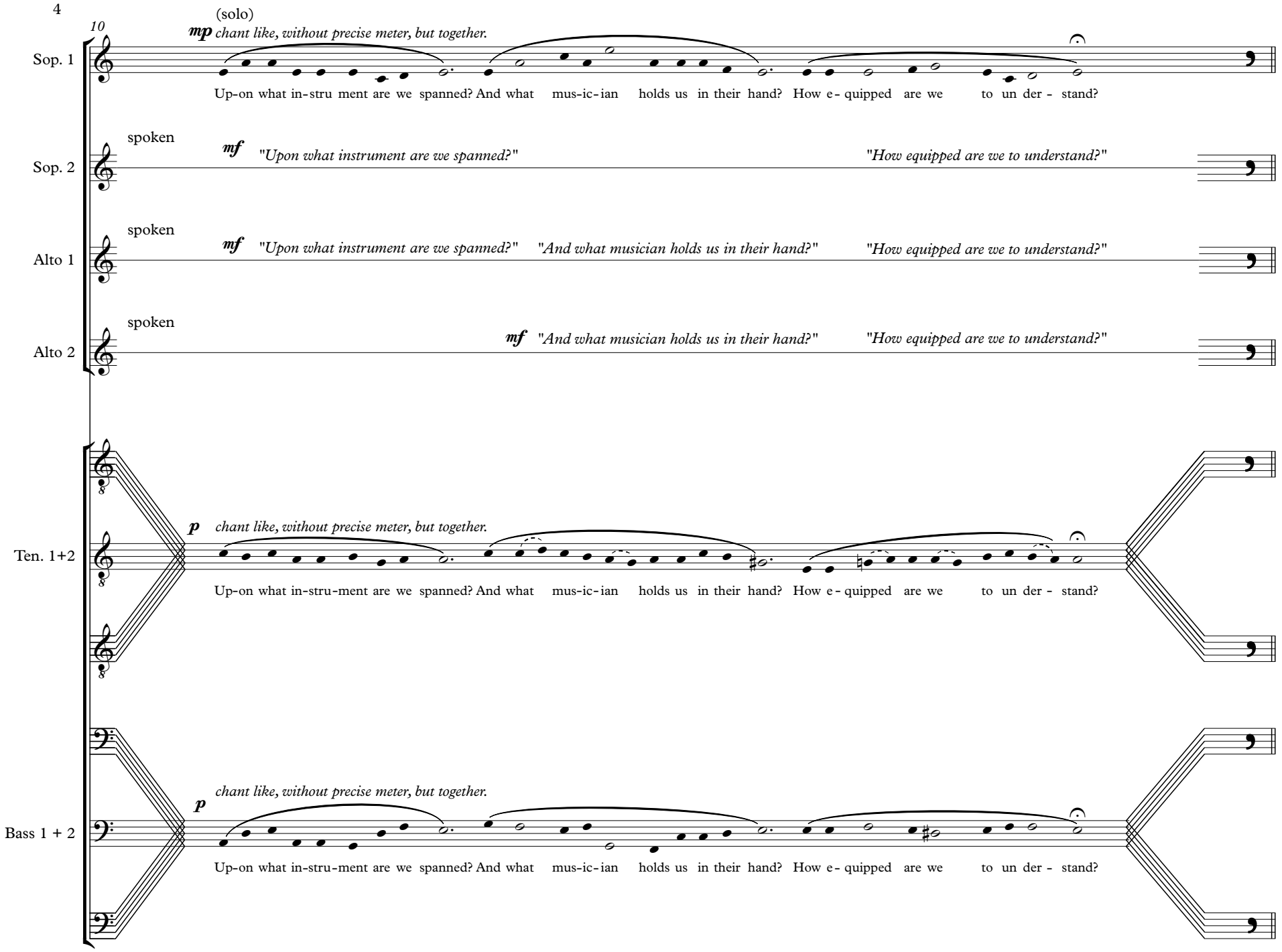
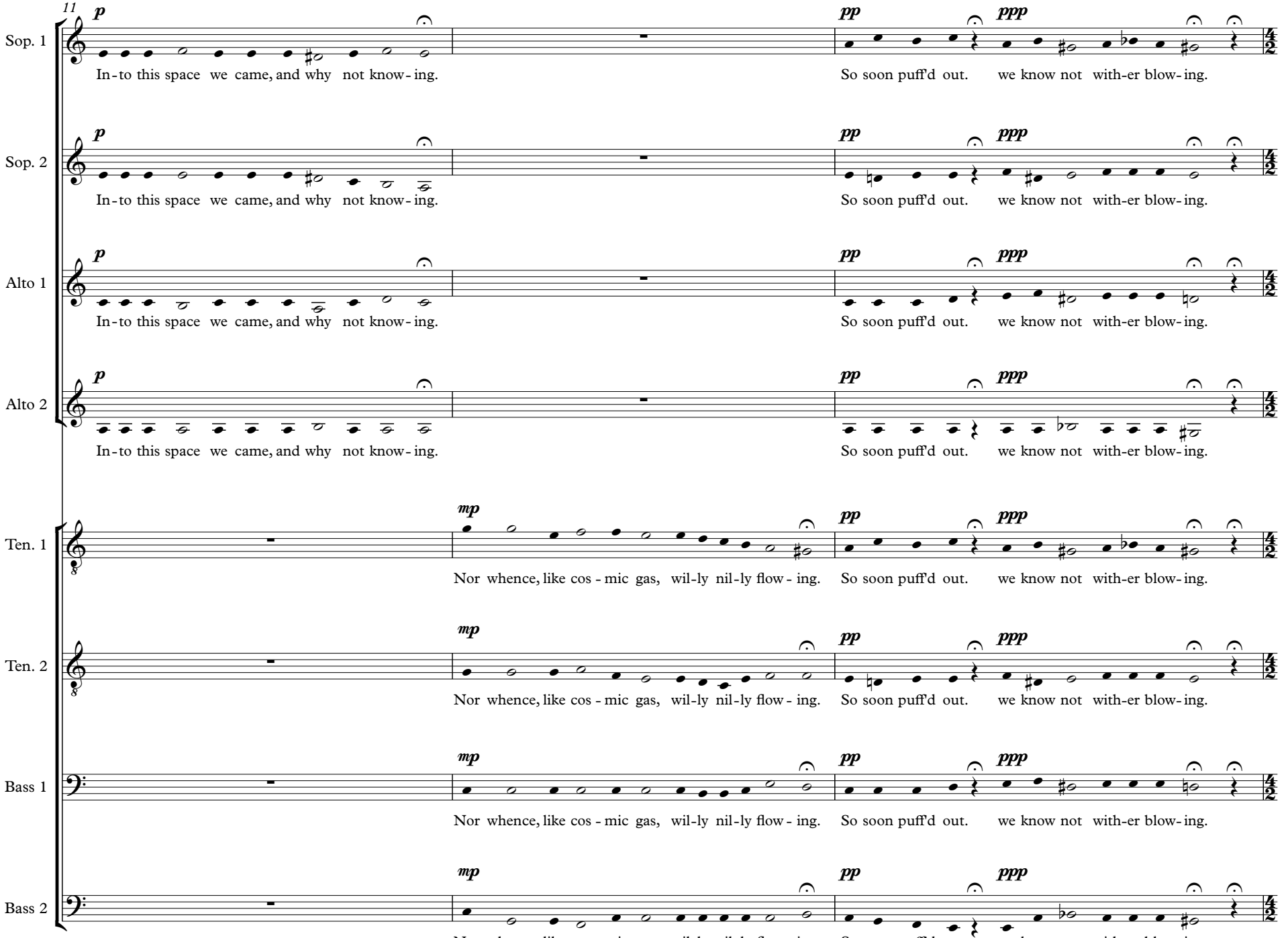

4
pp
sim.
Sop. 1
oo
pp
sim.
Sop. 2
oo
pp
sim.
Alto 1
oo
pp
sim.
Alto 2
oo
mp
Spoken together with solemnity
"No more time for us to borrow."
p
(speaking low and quiet)
"Day could dawn without tomorrow"
Ten. 1
mp
Spoken together with solemnity
"Sky and Earth so full of sorrow"
p
(speaking low and quiet)
"Day could dawn without tomorrow"
Ten. 2
mp
Spoken together with solemnity
"Sky and Earth so full of sorrow"
p
(speaking low and quiet)
"Day could dawn without tomorrow"
Bass 1
mp
Spoken together with solemnity
"No more time for us to borrow."
p
(speaking low and quiet)
"Day shall dawn without tomorrow"
Bass 2

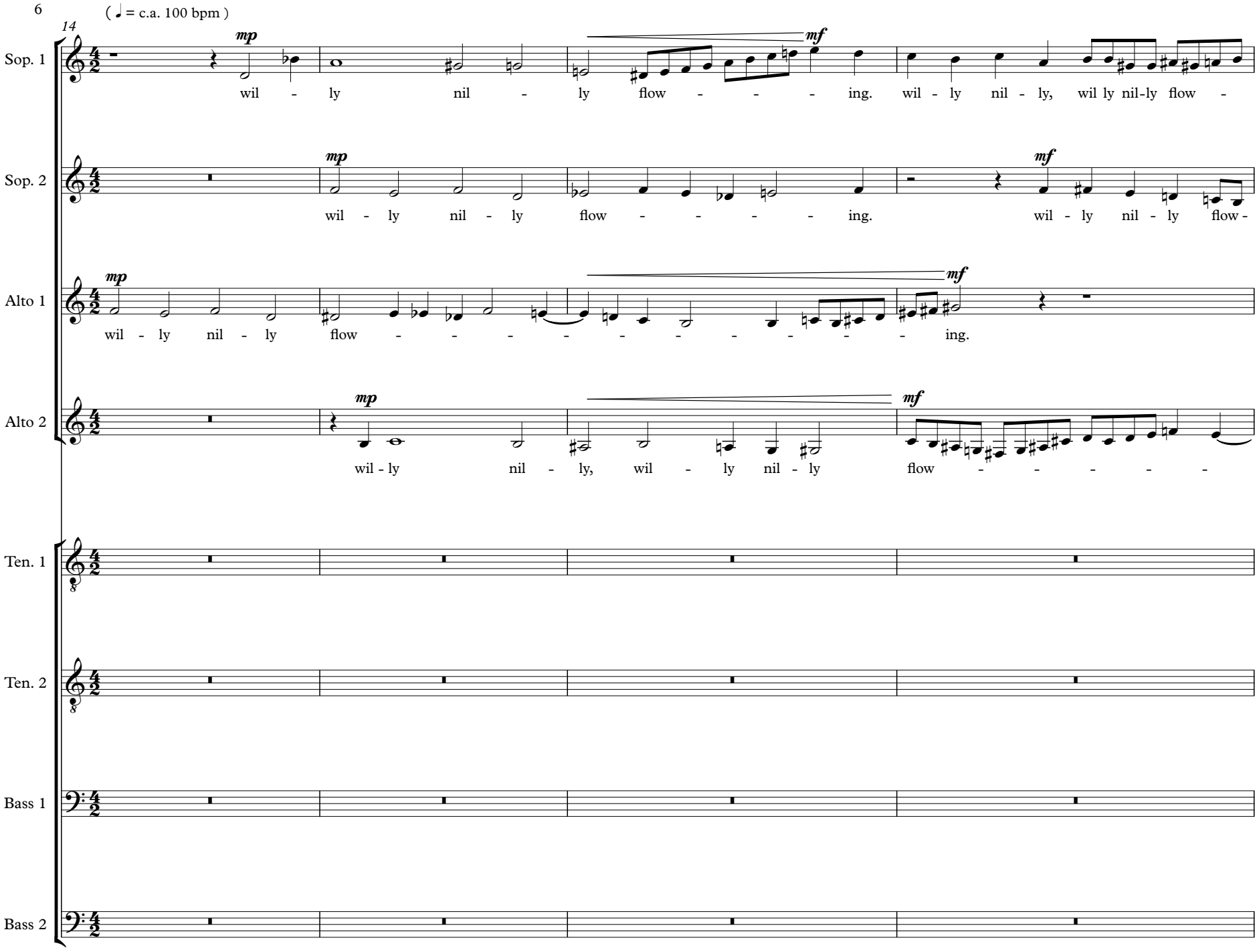
Freely and Flowing

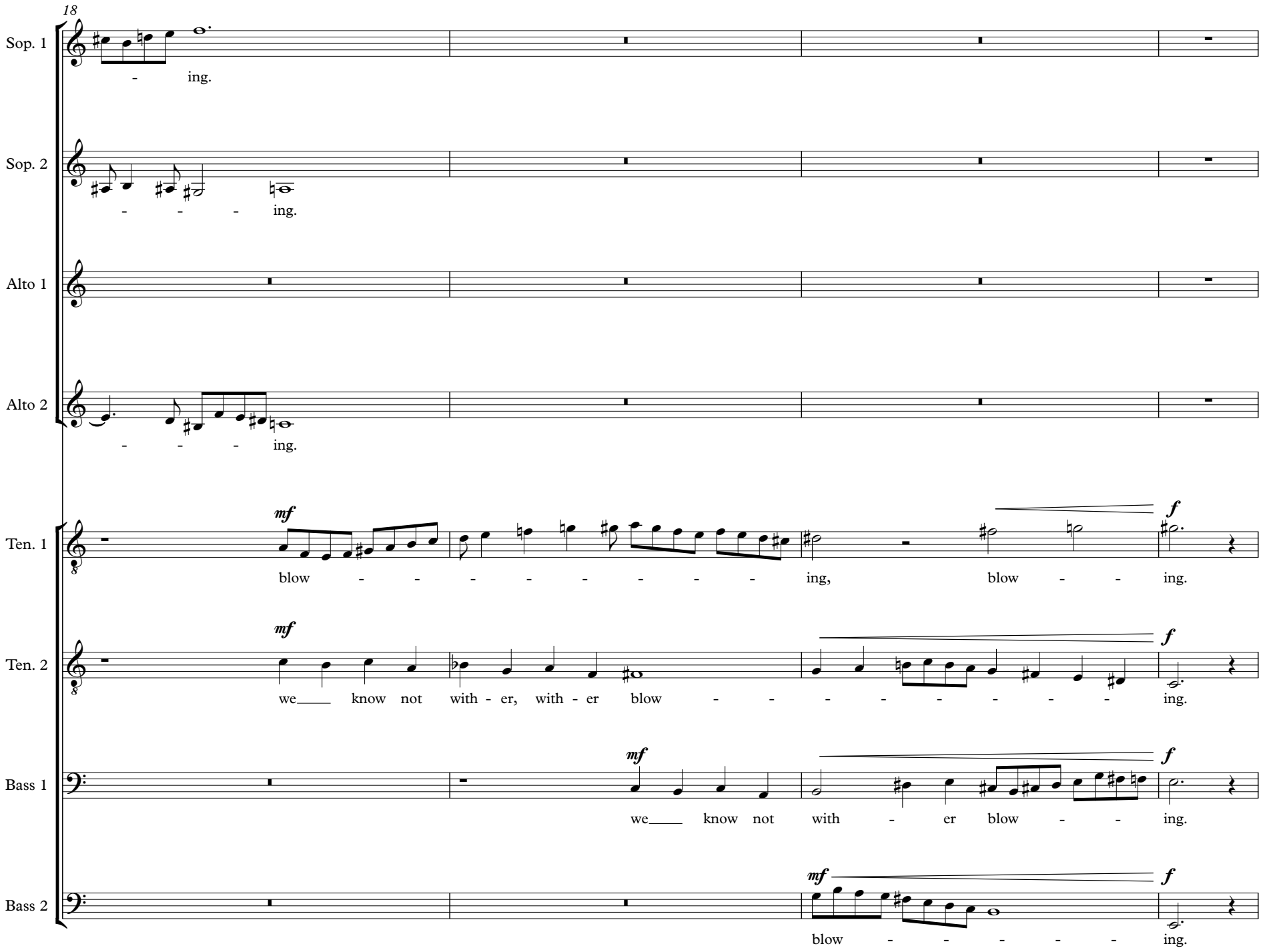
(♩ = c.a. 100 bpm)

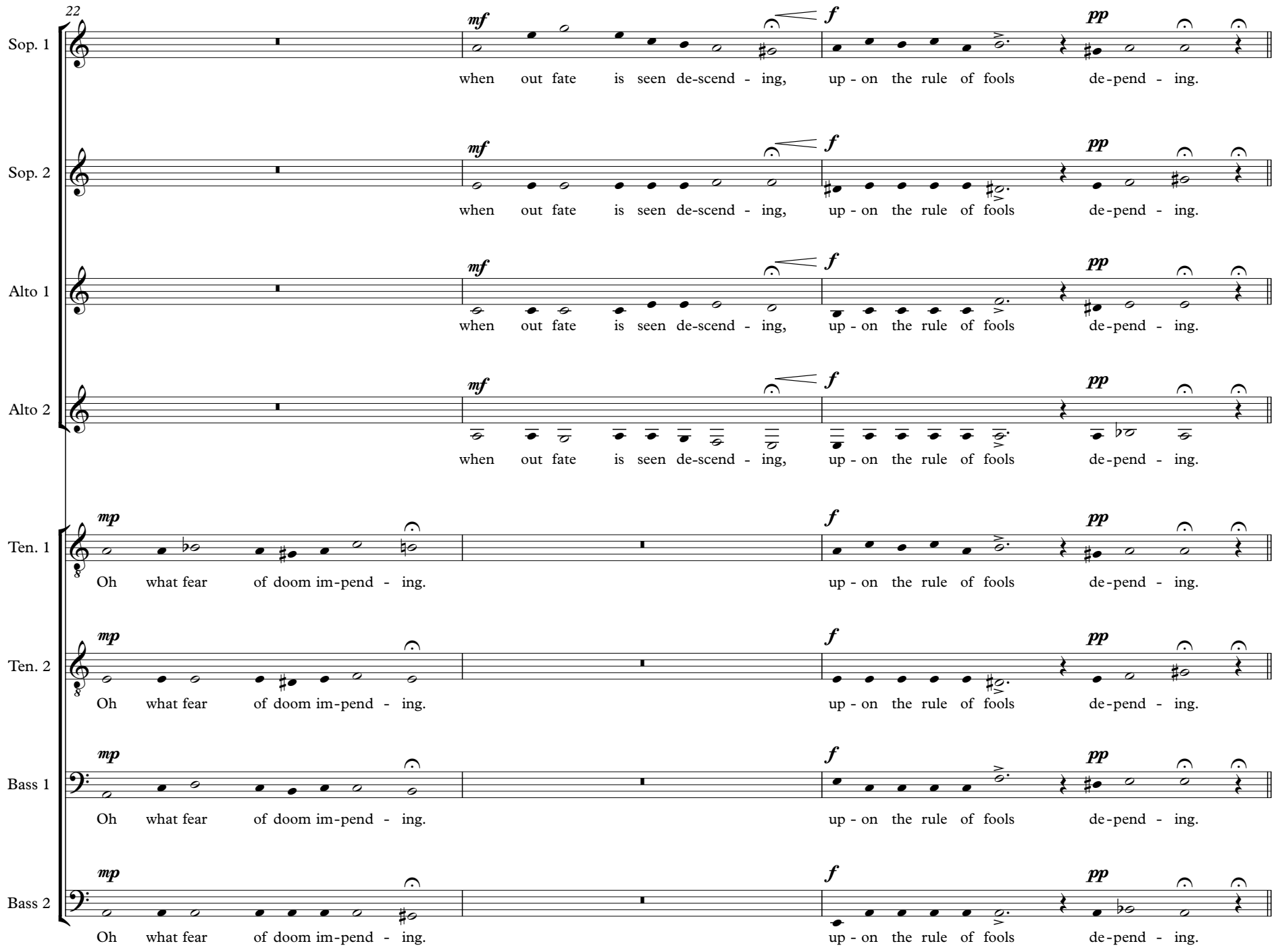



10
(solo)
mp chant like, without precise meter, but together.
Sop. 1
Up-on what in-stru ment are we spanned? And what mus-ic-ian holds us in their hand? How e-quipped are we to un der - stand?
spoken
mf "Upon what instrument are we spanned?" "How equipped are we to understand?"
Sop. 2
spoken
mf "Upon what instrument are we spanned?" "And what musician holds us in their hand?" "How equipped are we to understand?"
Alto 1
spoken
mf "And what musician holds us in their hand?" "How equipped are we to understand?"
Alto 2
p chant like, without precise meter, but together.
Ten. 1+2
Up-on what in-stru-ment are we spanned? And what mus-ic-ian holds us in their hand? How e-quipped are we to un der - stand?
p chant like, without precise meter, but together.
Bass 1 + 2
Up-on what in-stru-ment are we spanned? And what mus-ic-ian holds us in their hand? How e-quipped are we to un der - stand?

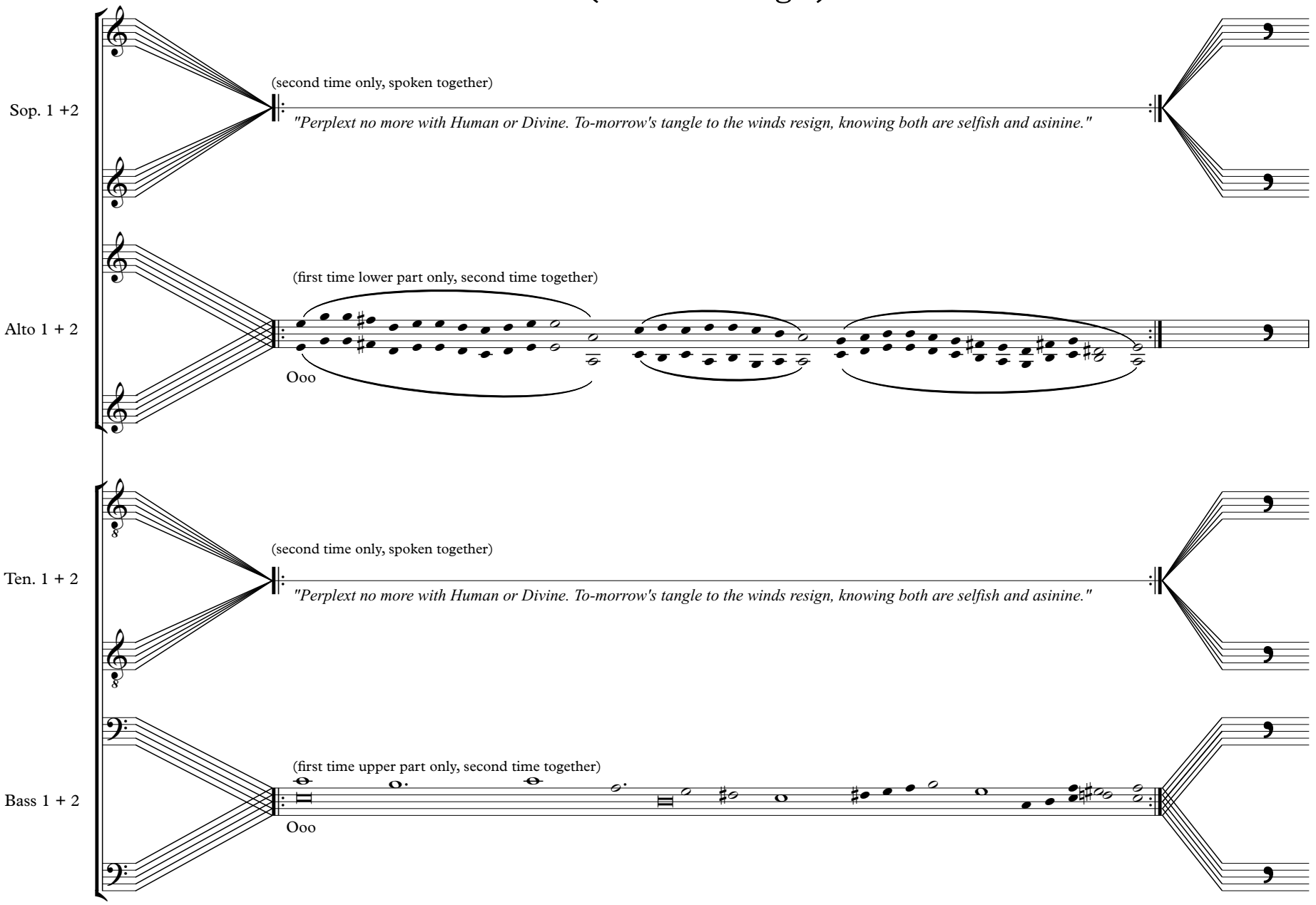

11
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass 2
p
mp
pp
ppp
In-to this space we came, and why not know-ing.
Nor whence, like cos-mic gas, wil-ly nil-ly flow-ing.
So soon puff'd out. we know not with-er blow-ing.

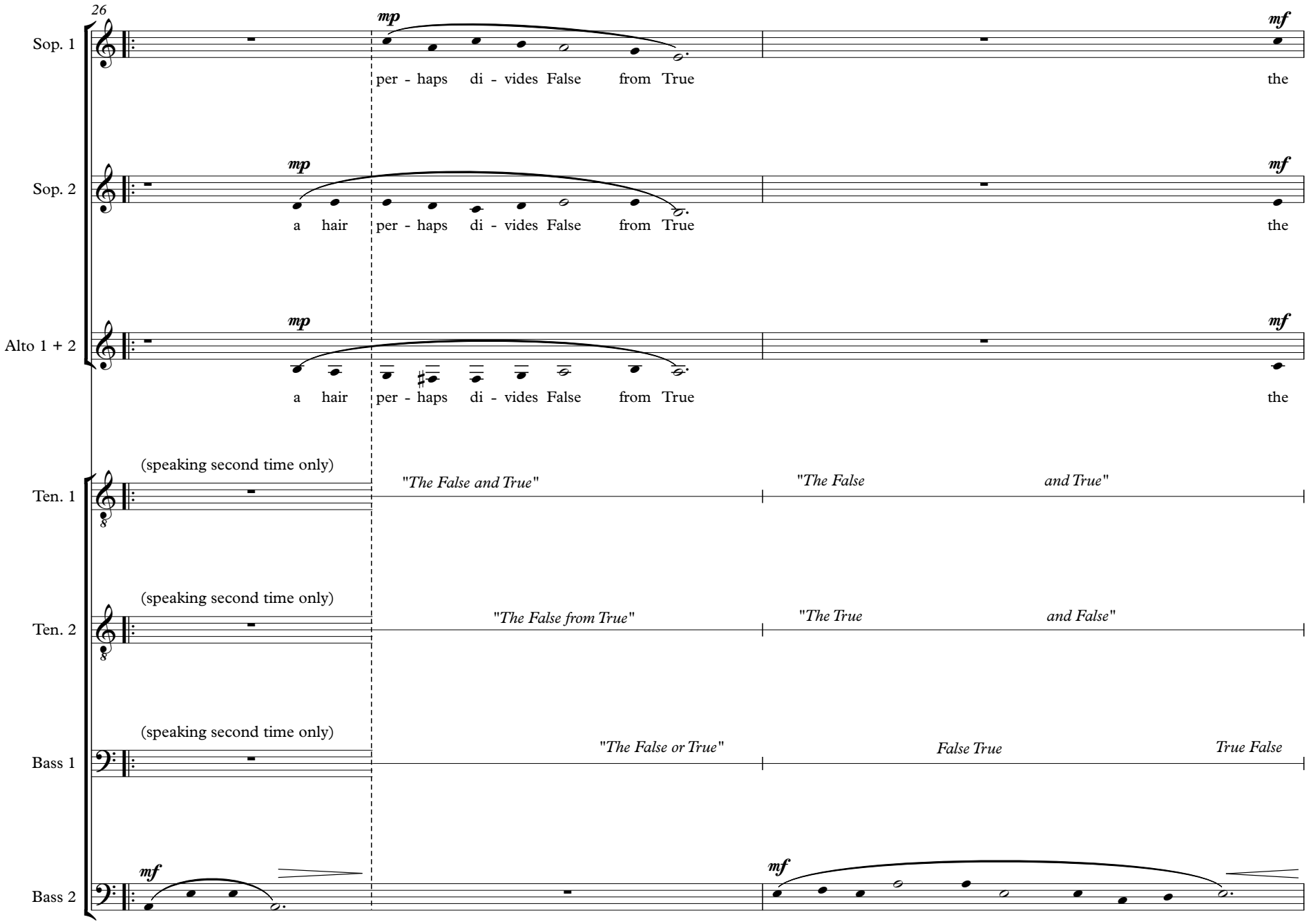

(♩ = c.a. 100 bpm)
14
Sop. 1
mp
wil - ly nil - ly flow - - - ing.
mf
wil - ly nil - ly, wil ly nil-ly flow -
Sop. 2
mp
wil - ly nil - ly flow - - - - ing.
mf
wil - ly nil - ly flow -
Alto 1
mp
wil - ly nil - ly flow - - - - - - - - - - ing.
mf
Alto 2
mp
wil - ly nil - ly, wil - ly nil - ly
mf
flow - - - - -
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass 2

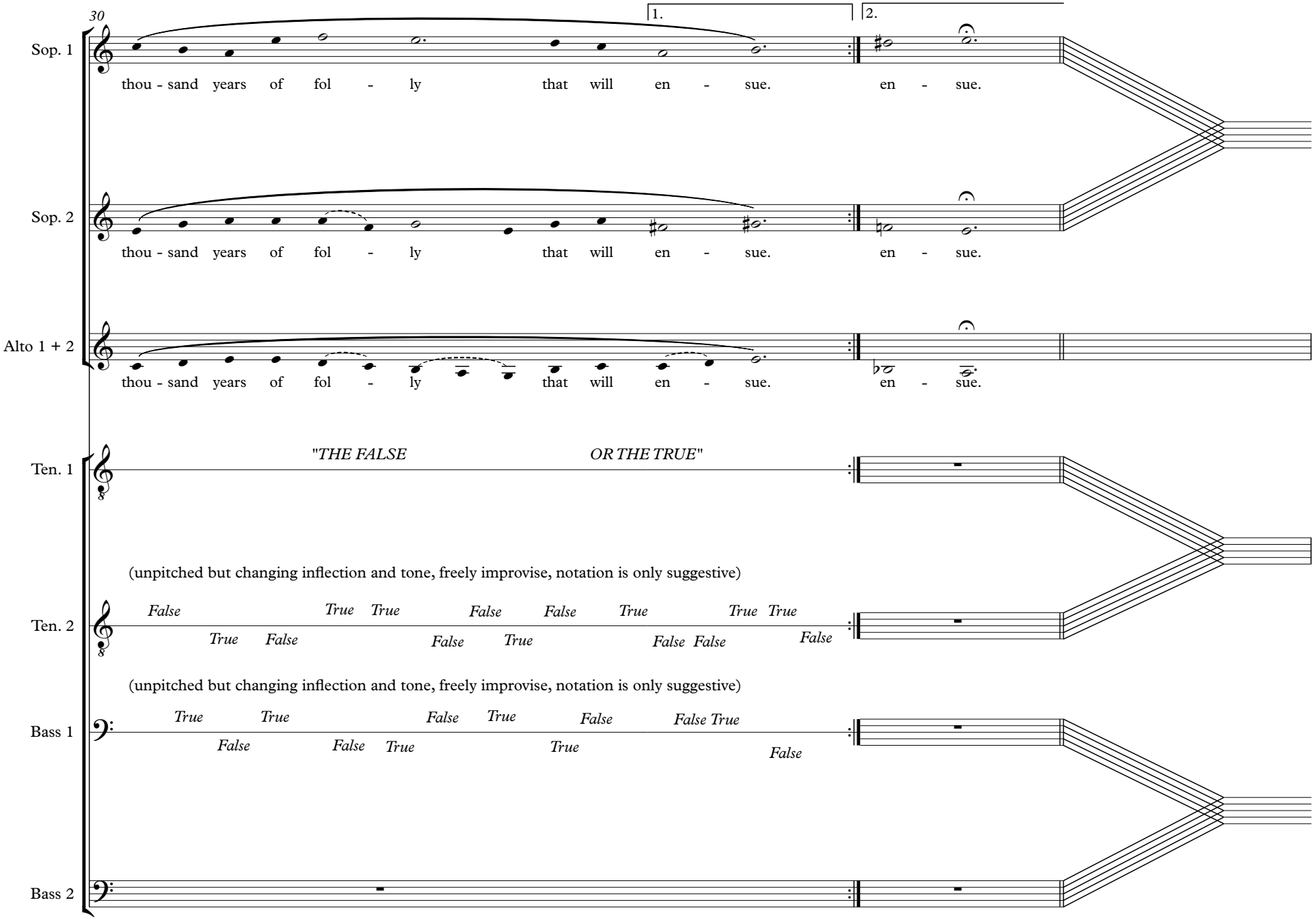

18
Sop. 1
- ing.
Sop. 2
- - - - ing.
Alto 1
Alto 2
- - - - ing.
Ten. 1
mf
blow - - - - - - - - - ing, blow - - ing.
f
Ten. 2
mf
we____ know not with - er, with - er blow - - - - - - - - ing.
f
Bass 1
mf
we____ know not with - er blow - - ing.
f
Bass 2
mf
blow - - - - - ing.
f

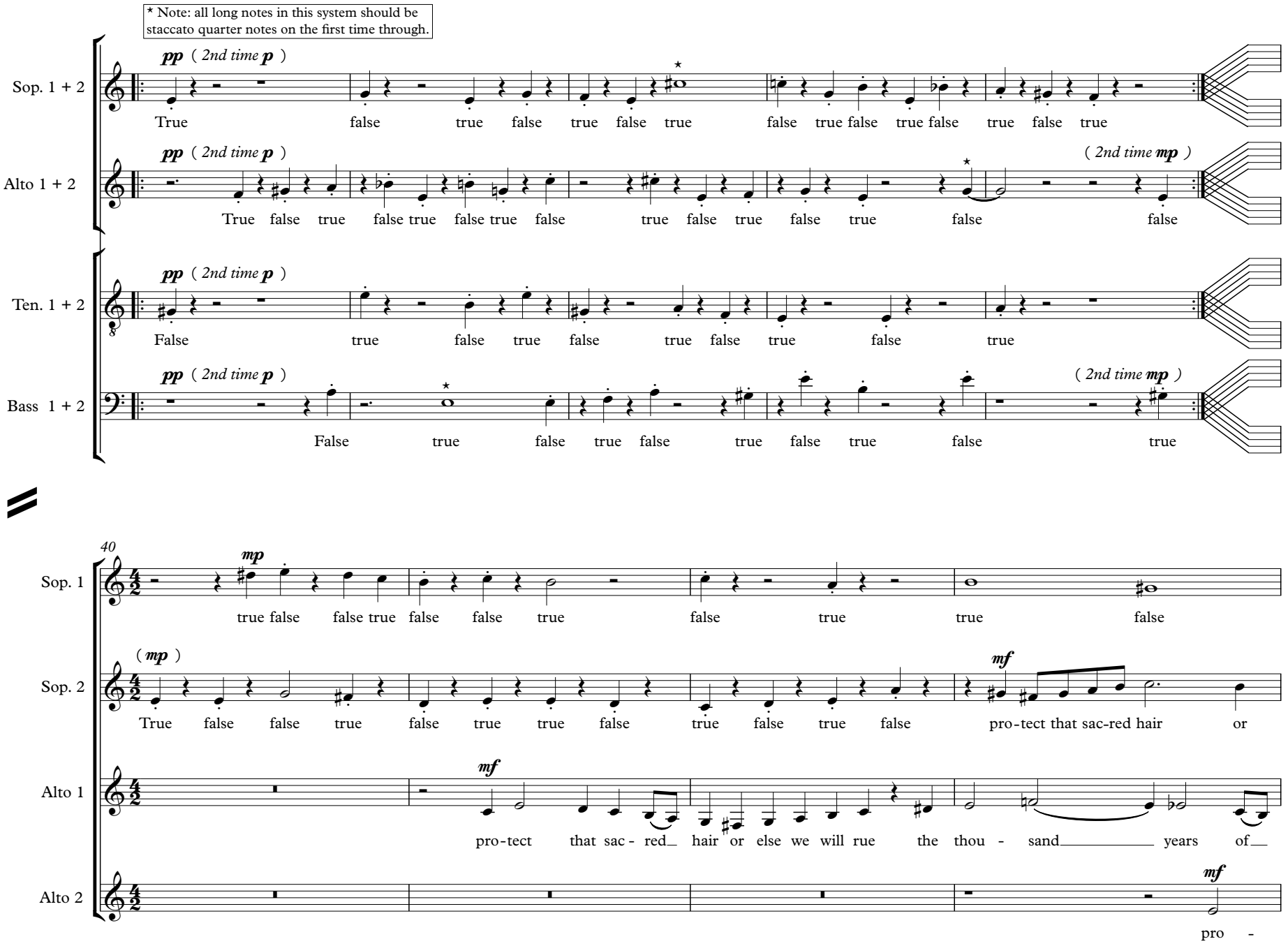

22
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass 2
mf
f
pp
mp
when out fate is seen de-scend - ing, up - on the rule of fools de-pend - ing.
Oh what fear of doom im-pend - ing. up - on the rule of fools de-pend - ing.

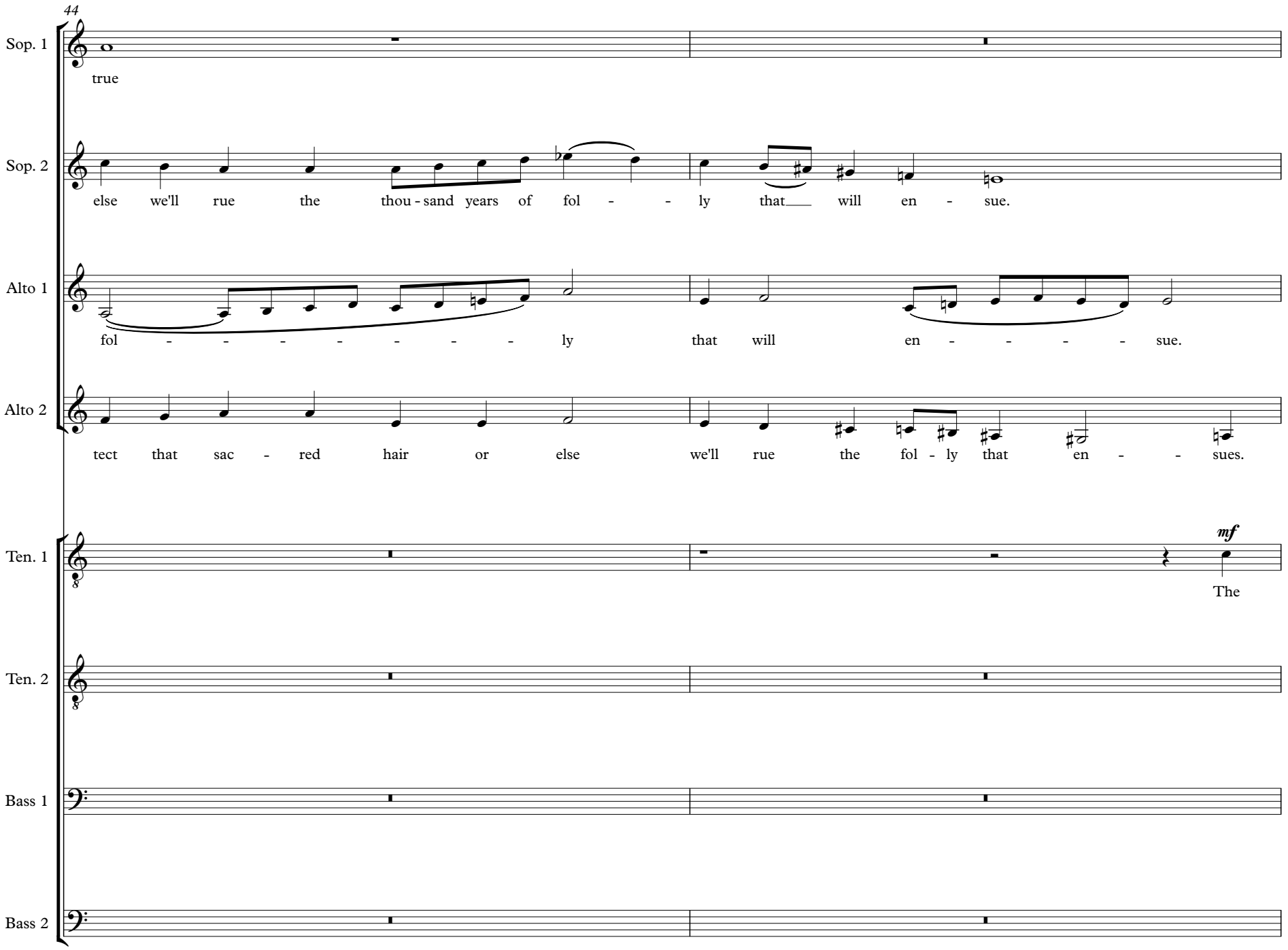
(*twice through*)

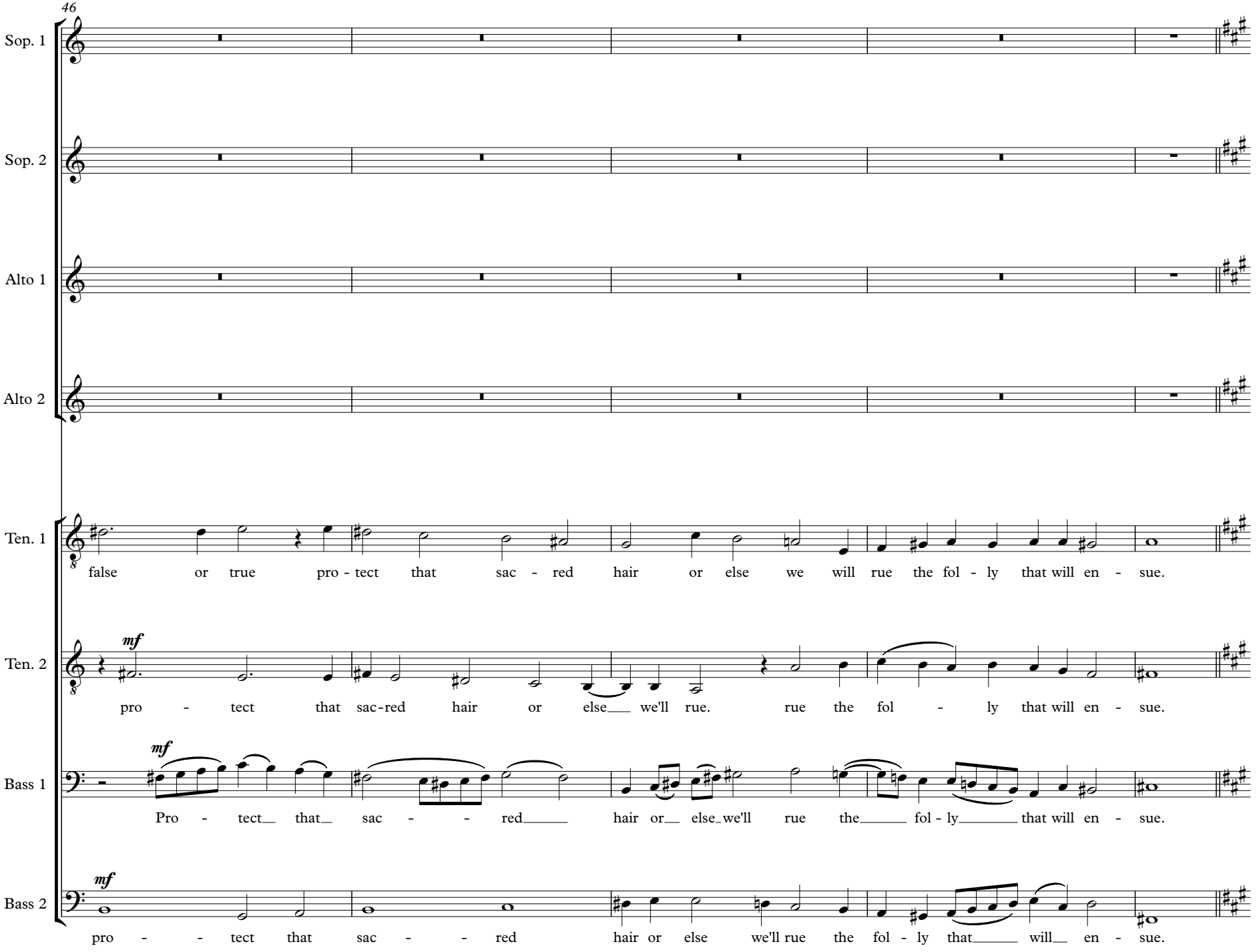


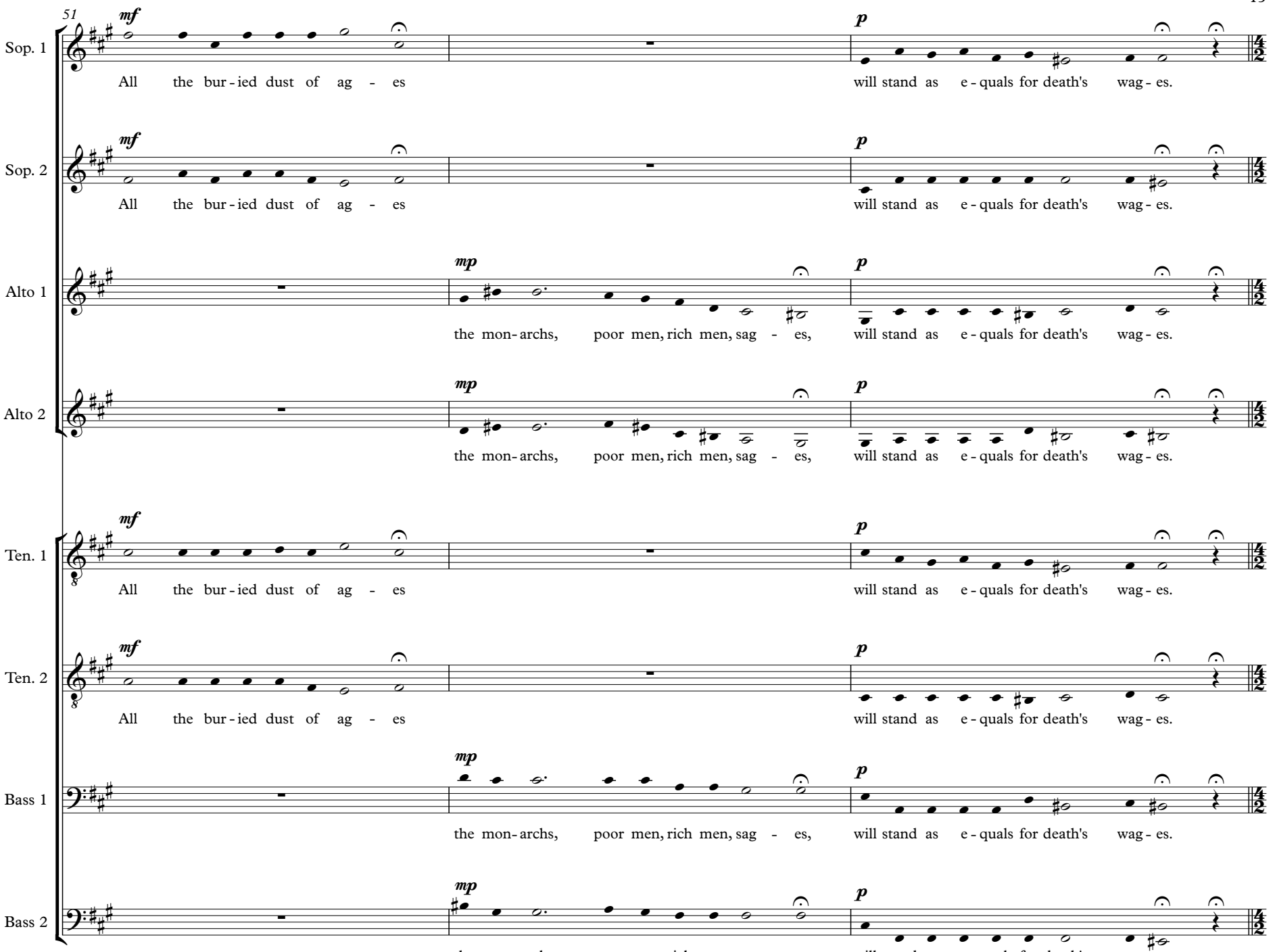

26
Sop. 1
mp
per - haps di - vides False from True
mf
the
Sop. 2
mp
a hair per - haps di - vides False from True
mf
the
Alto 1 + 2
mp
a hair per - haps di - vides False from True
mf
the
Ten. 1
(speaking second time only)
"The False and True"
"The False and True"
Ten. 2
(speaking second time only)
"The False from True"
"The True and False"
Bass 1
(speaking second time only)
"The False or True"
False True
True False
Bass 2
mf
The False and True
mf
Pro - tect that sac - red hair or else we'll rue

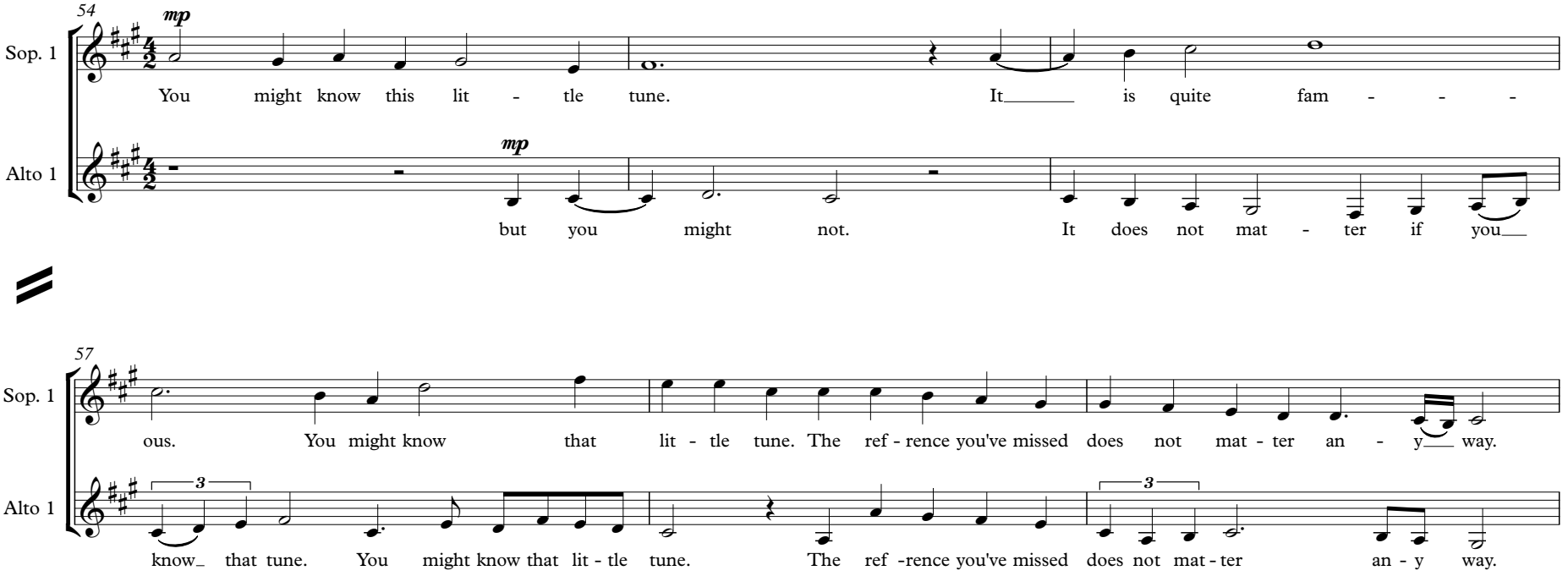

30
1.
2.
Sop. 1
thou - sand years of fol - ly that will en - sue. en - sue.
Sop. 2
thou - sand years of fol - ly that will en - sue. en - sue.
Alto 1 + 2
thou - sand years of fol - ly that will en - sue. en - sue.
Ten. 1
"THE FALSE OR THE TRUE"
(unpitched but changing inflection and tone, freely improvise, notation is only suggestive)
Ten. 2
False True False True True False False True False True True False False
(unpitched but changing inflection and tone, freely improvise, notation is only suggestive)
Bass 1
True True False True False False True False True False True
Bass 2

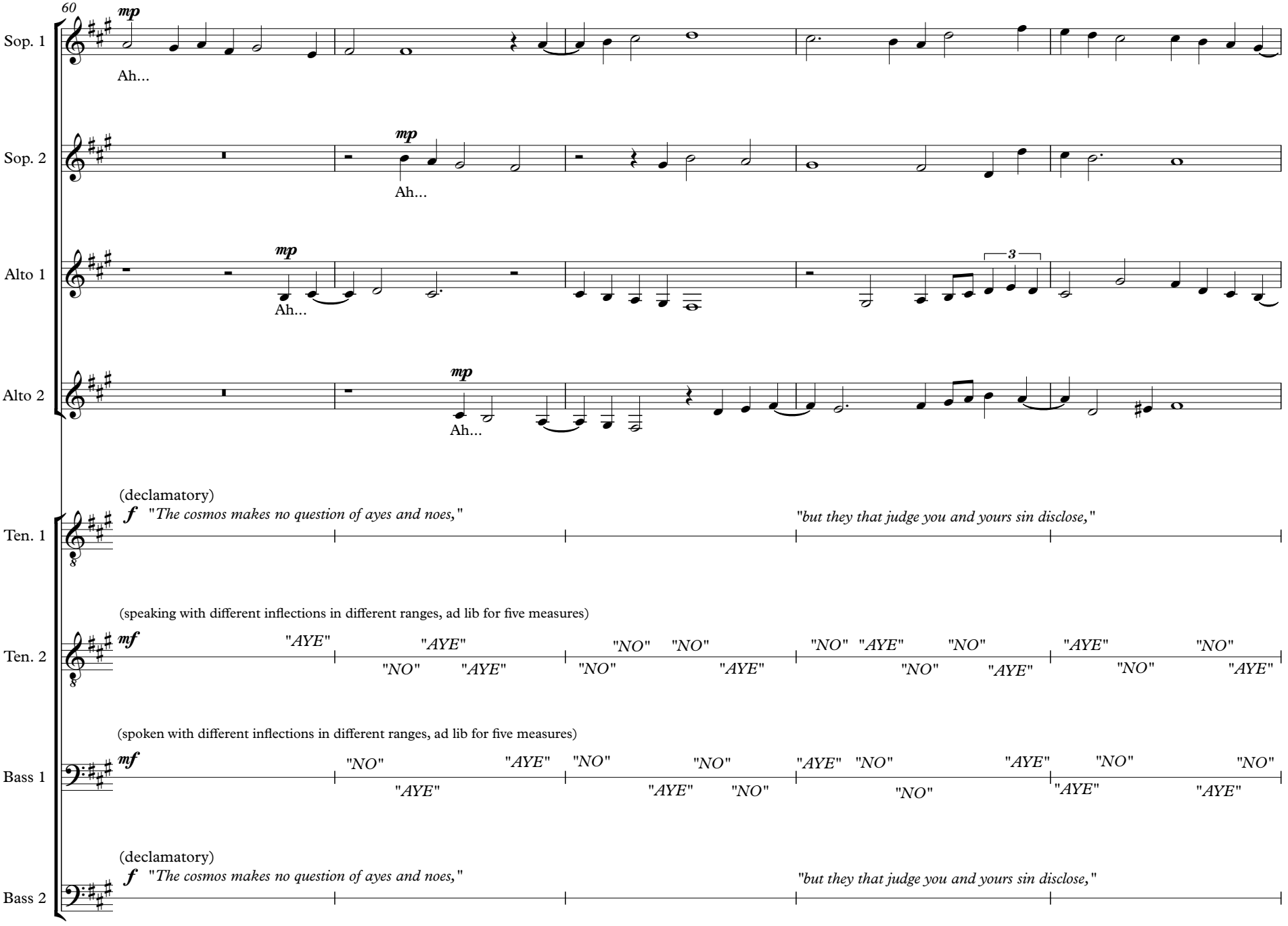

* Note: all long notes in this system should be staccato quarter notes on the first time through.
Sop. 1 + 2
Alto 1 + 2
Ten. 1 + 2
Bass 1 + 2
pp (2nd time p)
(2nd time mp)
True false true false true false true false true false true false true false true
True false true false true false true false true false true false false
False true false true false true false true false true
False true false true false true false true false true
40
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
mp
(mp)
mf
true false false true false false true false true true false
True false false true false true true false true false true false
pro-tect that sac-red hair or
pro-tect that sac- red hair or else we will rue the thou - sand years of
pro -

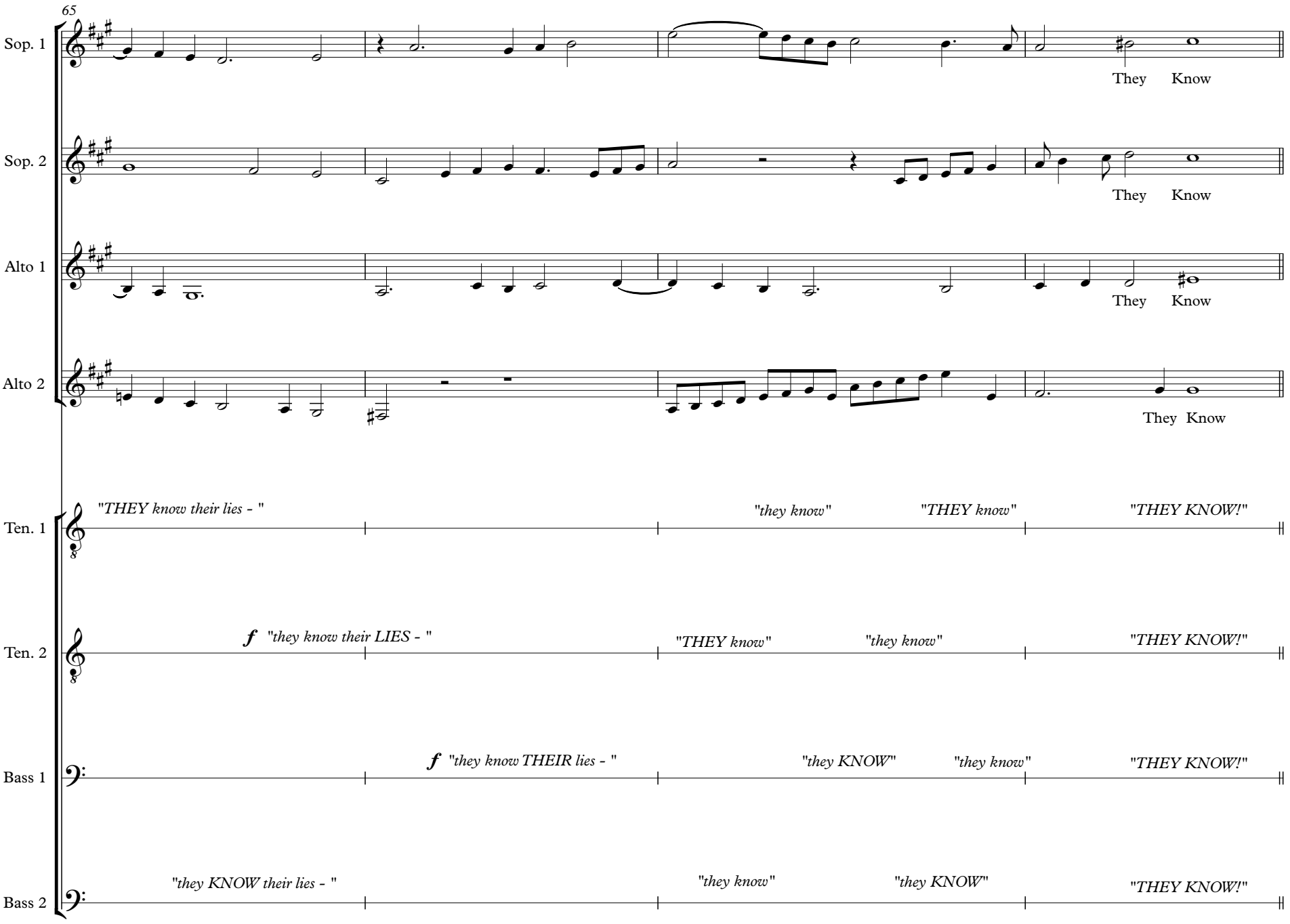

44
Sop. 1
true
Sop. 2
else we'll rue the thou - sand years of fol - - ly that will en - sue.
Alto 1
fol - - - - - - - - ly that will en - - - - - sue.
Alto 2
tect that sac - red hair or else we'll rue the fol - ly that en - - sues.
Ten. 1
mf
The
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass 2

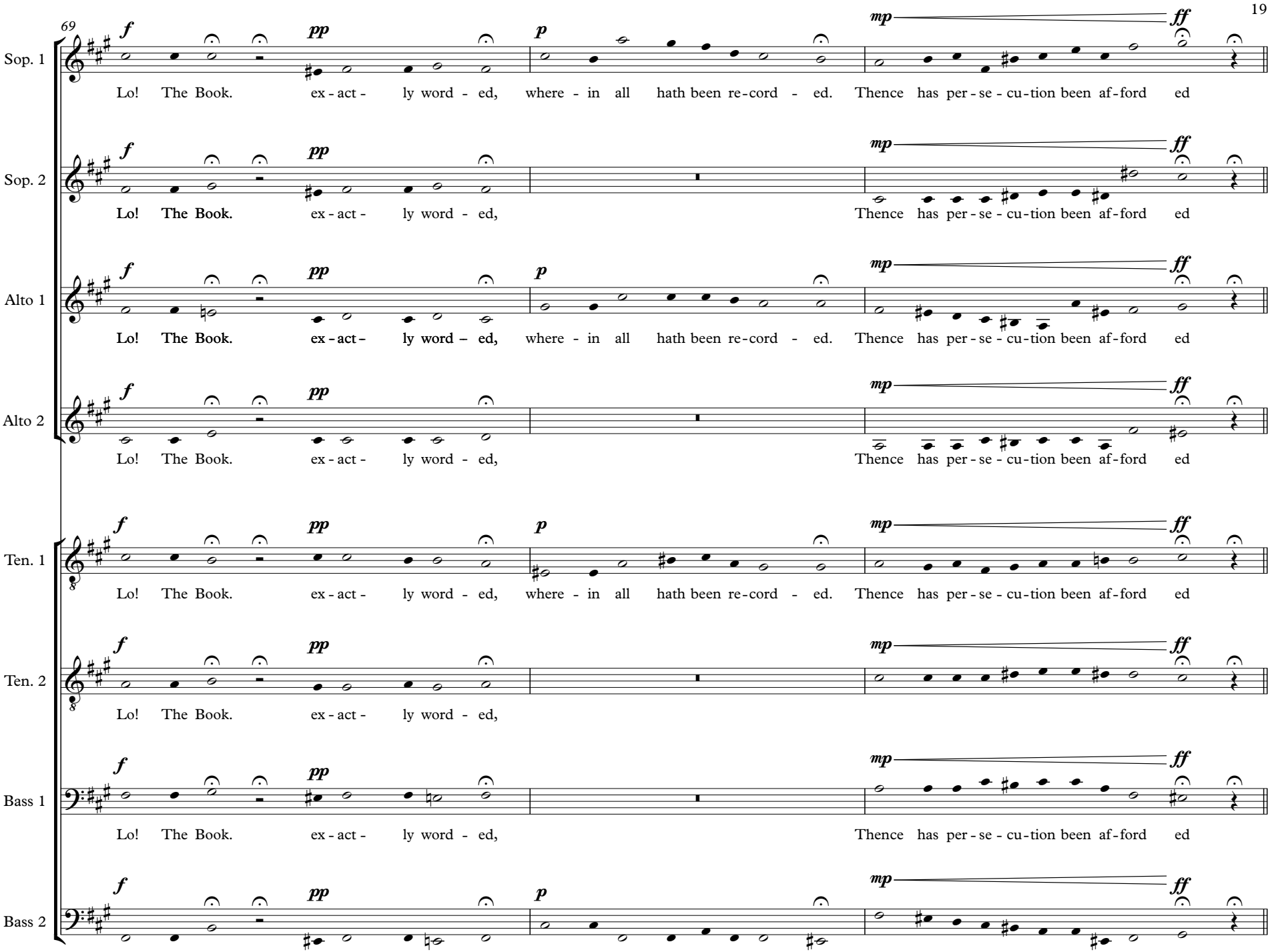

46
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
false or true pro - tect that sac - red hair or else we will rue the fol - ly that will en - sue.
Ten. 2
mf
pro - tect that sac-red hair or else we'll rue. rue the fol - ly that will en - sue.
Bass 1
mf
Pro - tect that sac - - red hair or else we'll rue the fol - ly that will en - sue.
Bass 2
mf
pro - - tect that sac - - red hair or else we'll rue the fol - ly that will en - sue.

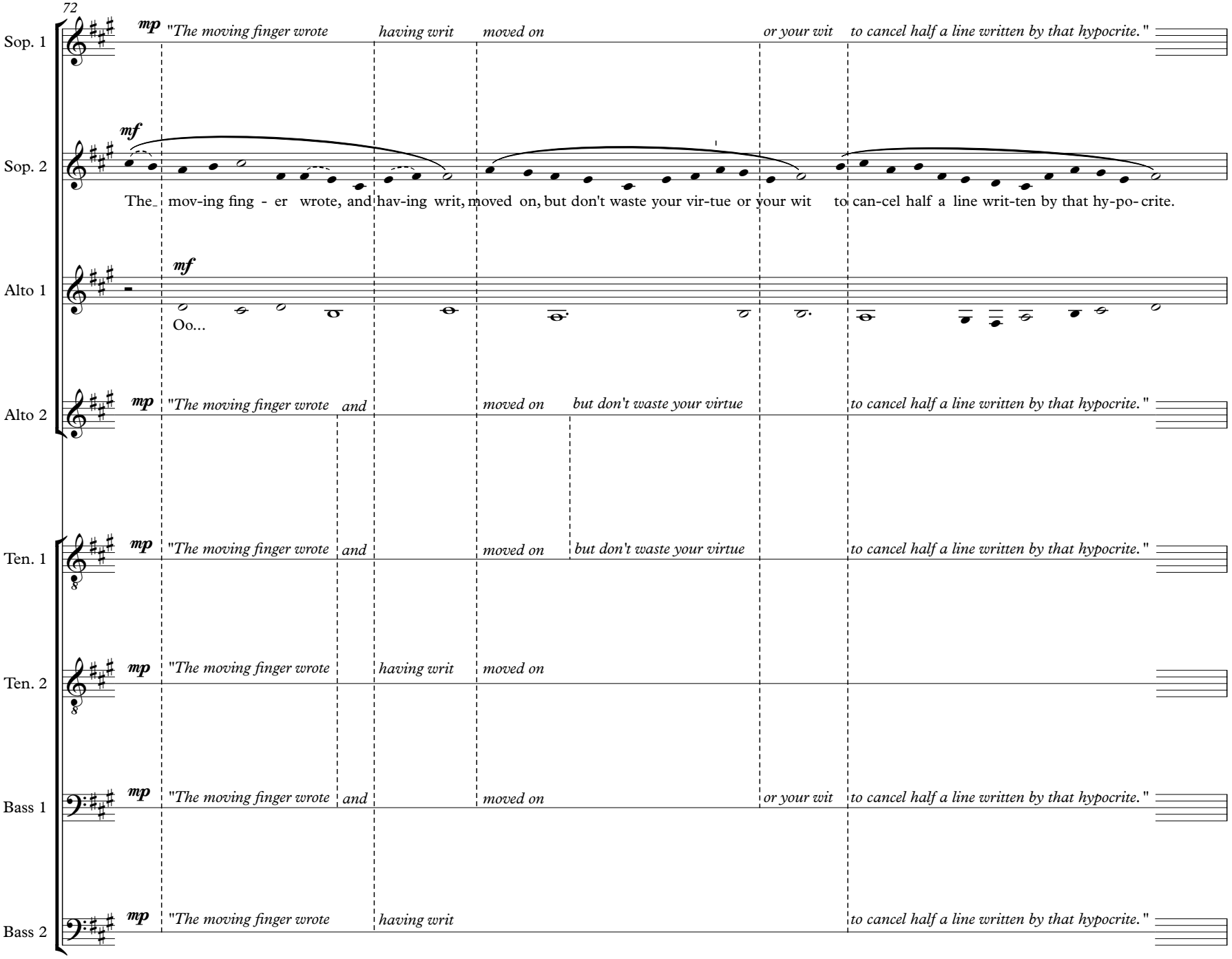

51
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass 2
mf
mp
p
All the bur - ied dust of ag - es
the mon - archs, poor men, rich men, sag - es,
will stand as e - quals for death's wag - es.

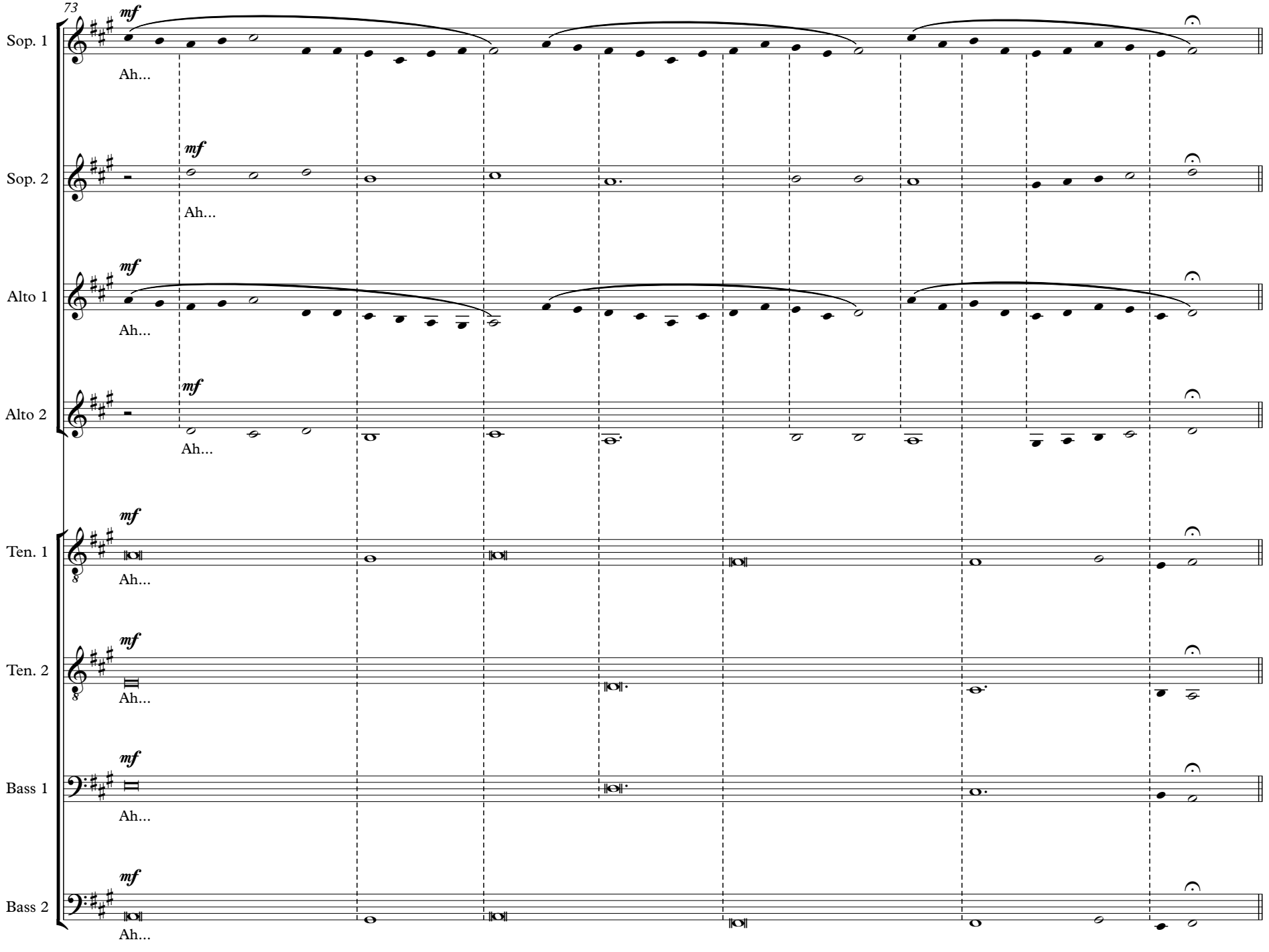

54
mp
Sop. 1
You might know this lit - tle tune. It is quite fam - - -
Alto 1
mp
but you might not. It does not mat - ter if you
57
Sop. 1
ous. You might know that lit - tle tune. The ref - rence you've missed does not mat - ter an - y way.
Alto 1
3
know that tune. You might know that lit - tle tune. The ref -rence you've missed does not mat - ter an - y way.

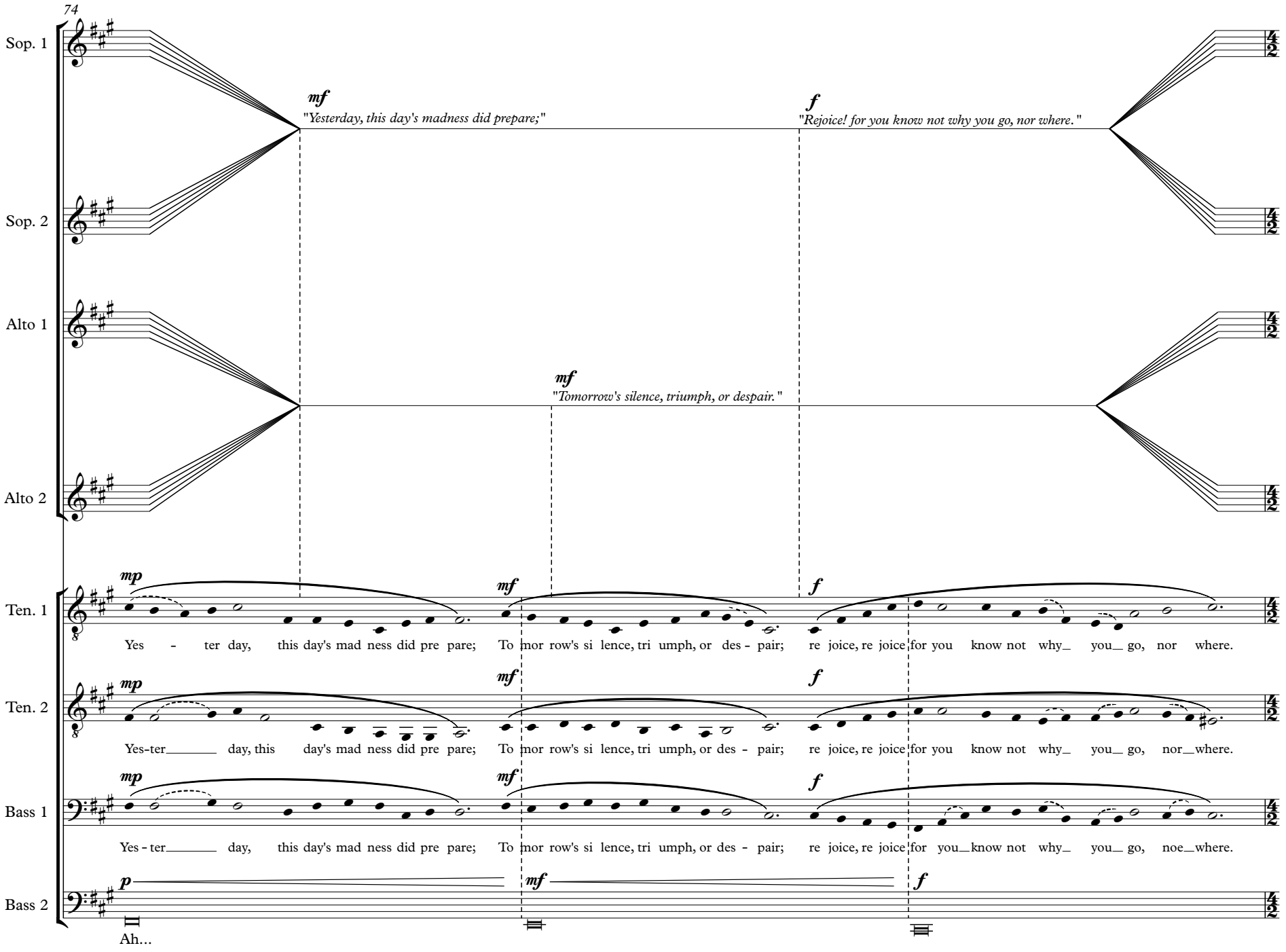

60
Sop. 1
mp
Ah...
Sop. 2
mp
Ah...
Alto 1
mp
Ah...
3
Alto 2
mp
Ah...
Ten. 1
(declamatory)
f
"The cosmos makes no question of ayes and noes,"
"but they that judge you and yours sin disclose,"
Ten. 2
(speaking with different inflections in different ranges, ad lib for five measures)
mf
"AYE"
"NO"
Bass 1
(spoken with different inflections in different ranges, ad lib for five measures)
mf
"NO"
"AYE"
Bass 2
(declamatory)
f
"The cosmos makes no question of ayes and noes,"
"but they that judge you and yours sin disclose,"

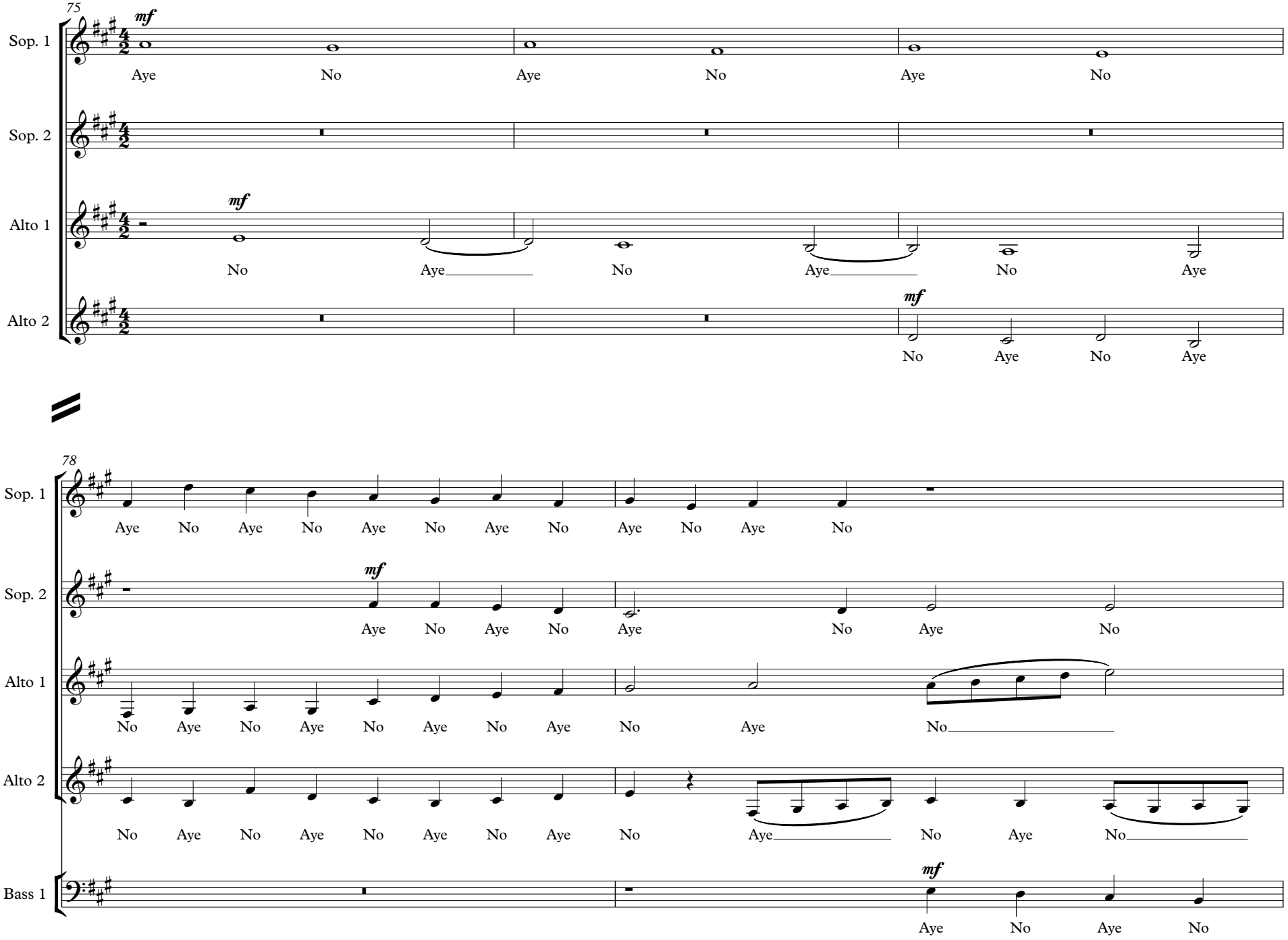

65
Sop. 1
They Know
Sop. 2
They Know
Alto 1
They Know
Alto 2
They Know
Ten. 1
"THEY know their lies - "
"they know"
"THEY know"
"THEY KNOW!"
Ten. 2
f "they know their LIES - "
"THEY know"
"they know"
"THEY KNOW!"
Bass 1
f "they know THEIR lies - "
"they KNOW"
"they know"
"THEY KNOW!"
Bass 2
"they KNOW their lies - "
"they know"
"they KNOW"
"THEY KNOW!"

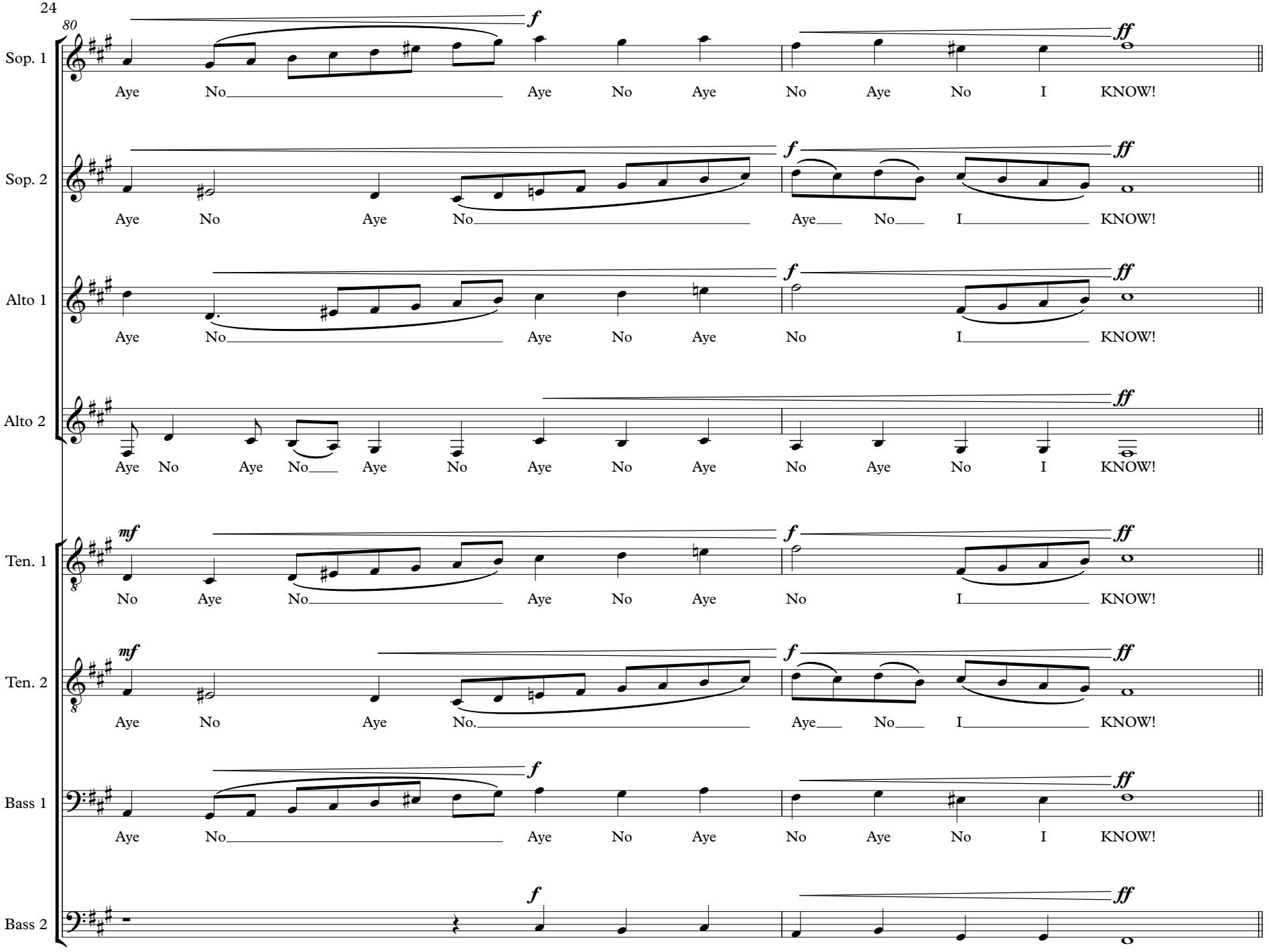

69
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass 2
f pp p mp ff
Lo! The Book. ex - act - ly word - ed, where - in all hath been re - cord - ed. Thence has per - se - cu - tion been af - ford ed

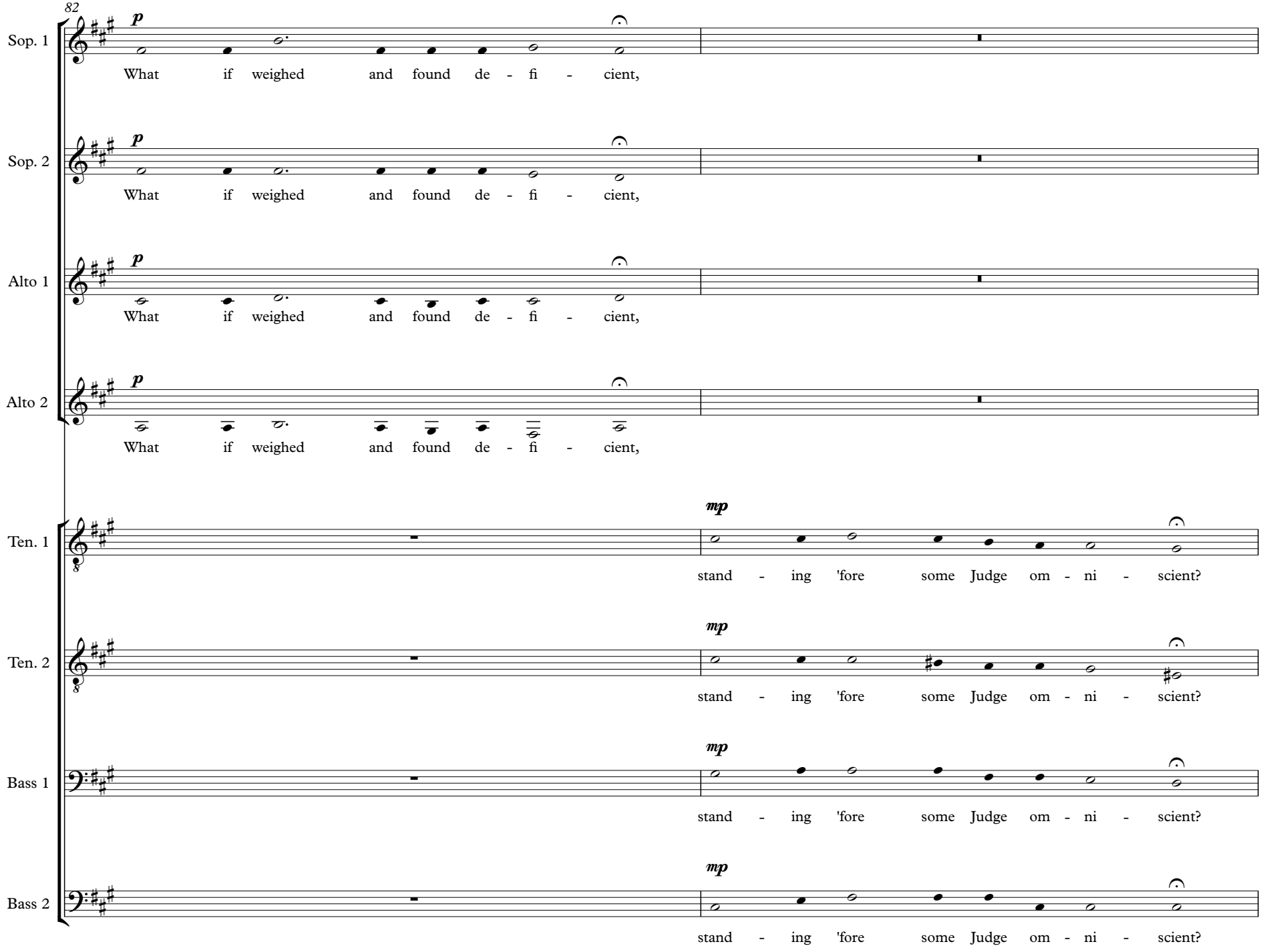

72
Sop. 1
mp "The moving finger wrote having writ moved on or your wit to cancel half a line written by that hypocrite."
Sop. 2
mf
The_ mov-ing fing - er wrote, and hav-ing writ, moved on, but don't waste your vir-tue or your wit to can-cel half a line writ-ten by that hy-po- crite.
Alto 1
mf
Oo...
Alto 2
mp "The moving finger wrote and moved on but don't waste your virtue to cancel half a line written by that hypocrite."
Ten. 1
mp "The moving finger wrote and moved on but don't waste your virtue to cancel half a line written by that hypocrite."
Ten. 2
mp "The moving finger wrote having writ moved on
Bass 1
mp "The moving finger wrote and moved on or your wit to cancel half a line written by that hypocrite."
Bass 2
mp "The moving finger wrote having writ to cancel half a line written by that hypocrite."

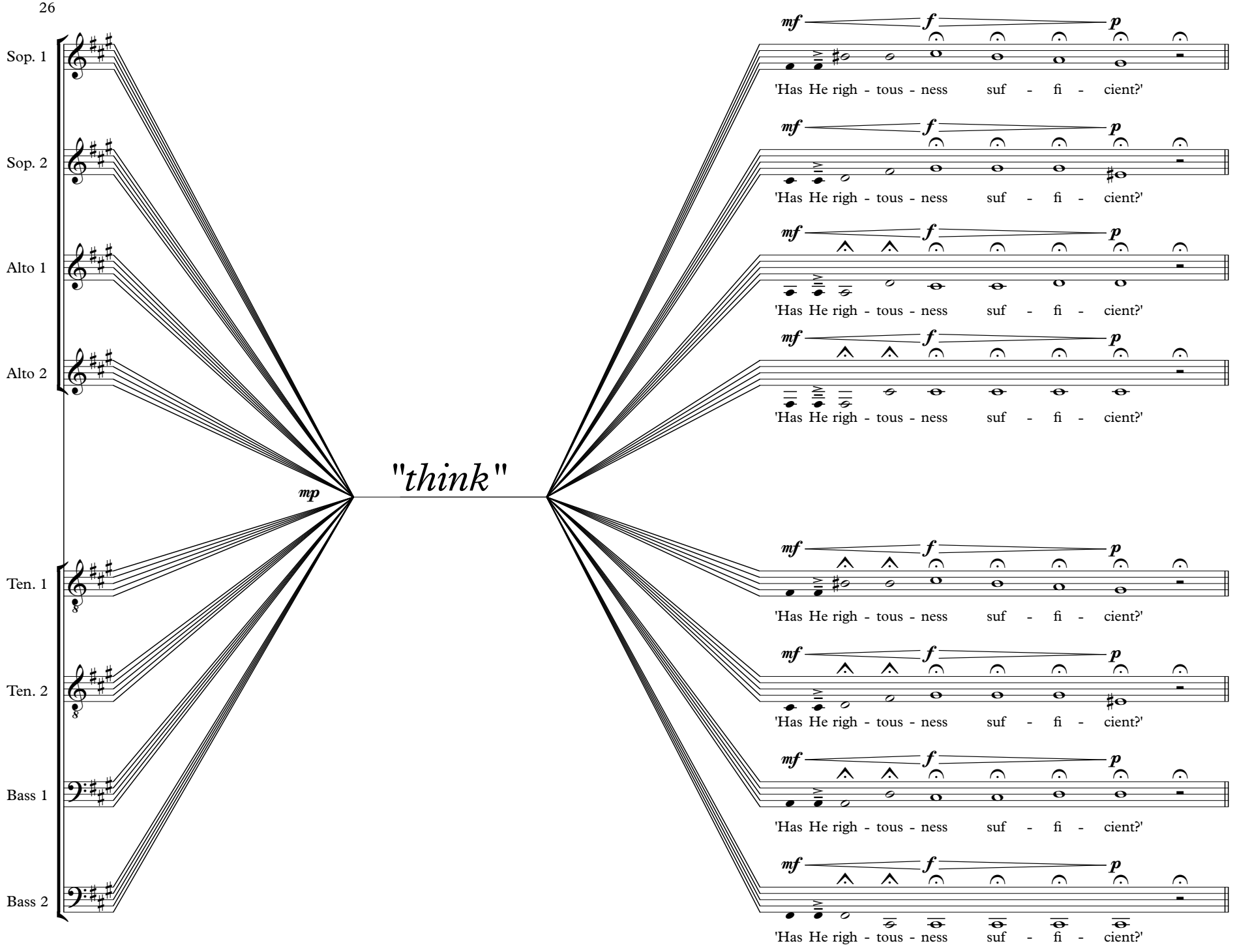

73
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass 2
mf
Ah...


74
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass 2
mf
"Yesterday, this day's madness did prepare;"
f
"Rejoice! for you know not why you go, nor where."
mf
"Tomorrow's silence, triumph, or despair."
mp
mf
f
Yes - ter day, this day's mad ness did pre pare; To mor row's si lence, tri umph, or des - pair; re joice, re joice for you know not why_ you_ go, nor where.
Yes-ter_____ day, this day's mad ness did pre pare; To mor row's si lence, tri umph, or des - pair; re joice, re joice for you know not why_ you_ go, nor_where.
Yes - ter_____ day, this day's mad ness did pre pare; To mor row's si lence, tri umph, or des - pair; re joice, re joice for you_know not why_ you_ go, noe_where.
p
Ah...


75
mf
Sop. 1
Aye No Aye No Aye No
Sop. 2
mf
Alto 1
No Aye No Aye No Aye
mf
Alto 2
No Aye No Aye
78
Sop. 1
Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No
mf
Sop. 2
Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye
Alto 1
No Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No
Alto 2
No Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye
Bass 1
mf
Aye No Aye No


80
Sop. 1
Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No I KNOW!
Sop. 2
Aye No Aye No Aye No I KNOW!
Alto 1
Aye No Aye No Aye No I KNOW!
Alto 2
Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No I KNOW!
Ten. 1
No Aye No Aye No Aye No I KNOW!
Ten. 2
Aye No Aye No. Aye No I KNOW!
Bass 1
Aye No Aye No Aye No Aye No I KNOW!
Bass 2
Aye No Aye No Aye No I KNOW!


82
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass 2
p
mp
What if weighed and found de - fi - cient,
stand - ing 'fore some Judge om - ni - scient?


Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass 2
mp
"think"
mf
f
p
'Has He righ - tous - ness suf - fi - cient?'

Slower and Freely

(♩ = c.a. 80 bpm)

87

Sop. 1 — *p*

Sing! for you know not whence you came, Sing! for you no more must live life as a lie.

Sop. 2 — *p*

Sing! for you know not whence you came, Sing! for you no more must live life as a lie.

Alto 1 — *p*

Sing! for you know not whence you came, Sing! for you no more must live life as a lie.

Alto 2 — *p*

"or why"

Sing! for you know not whence you came, Sing! for you no more must live life as a lie.

Ten. 1 — *p*

Sing! for you know not whence you came, Sing! for you no more must live life as a lie.

Ten. 2 — *p*

Sing! for you know not whence you came, Sing! for you no more must live life as a lie.

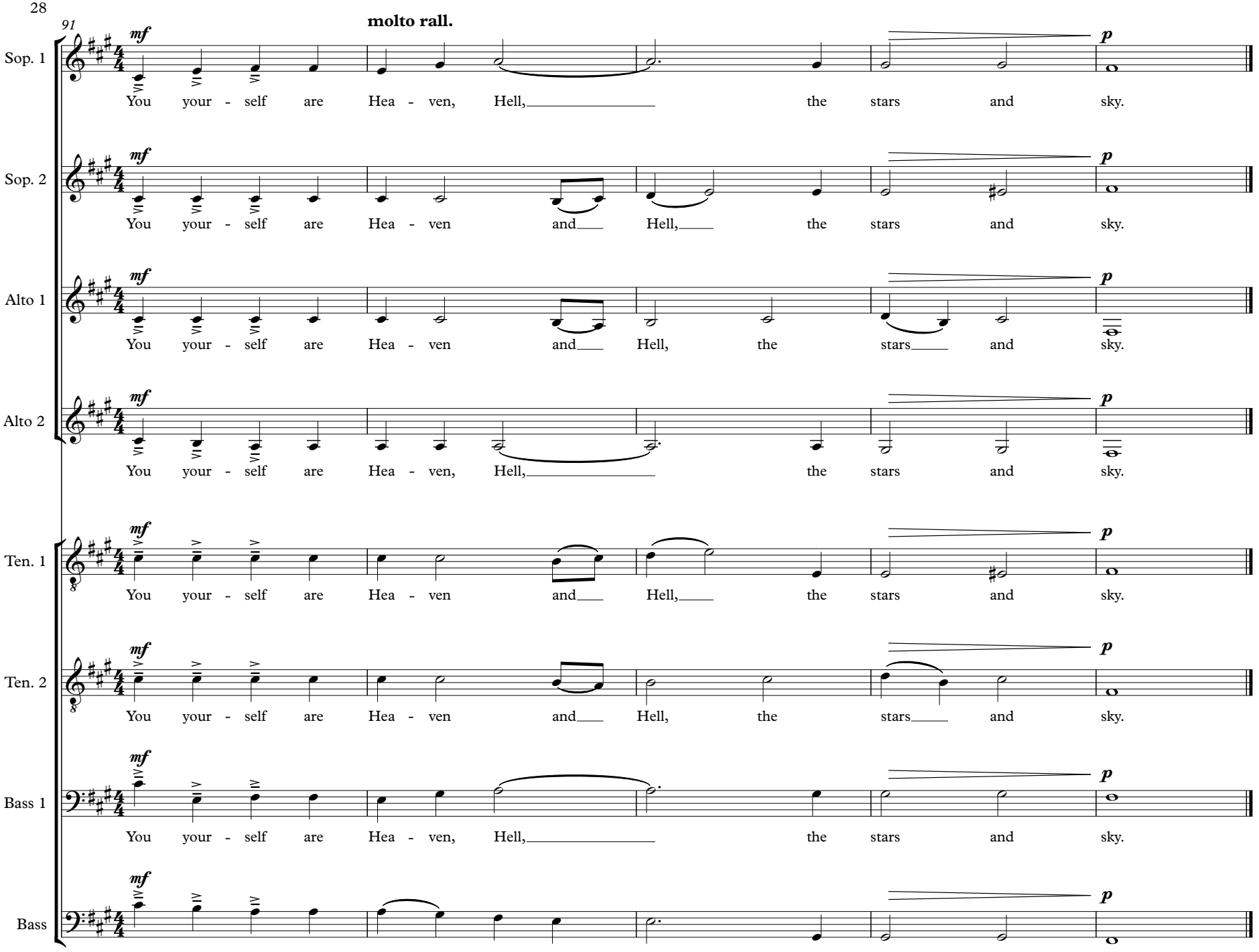
Bass 1 — *p*

Sing! for you know not whence you came, Sing! for you no more must live life as a lie.

Bass 2 — *p*

"SING!"

Sing! for you know not whence you came, Sing! for you no more must live life as a lie.


91
molto rall.
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bass 1
Bass
mf
p
You your - self are Hea - ven, Hell, the stars and sky.
You your - self are Hea - ven and Hell, the stars and sky.
You your - self are Hea - ven and Hell, the stars and sky.
You your - self are Hea - ven, Hell, the stars and sky.
You your - self are Hea - ven and Hell, the stars and sky.
You your - self are Hea - ven and Hell, the stars and sky.
You your - self are Hea - ven, Hell, the stars and sky.
You your - self are Hea - ven and Hell, the stars and sky.