Piano/Choral Score

Gwyneth Walker

Love Flows from God

a cantata for Choir, Treble Voices,
Brass Quintet, Percussion & Organ

based on the writings of Mechtild of Magdeburg

Commissioned by the First Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo, MI
in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary
of the dedication of the Gothic Sanctuary: 1930-2005

Premiered by the Choirs of the First Presbyterian Church
Thomas Kasdorf, Music Director
April 24, 2005 – Kalamazoo, MI

duration: 14 minutes

Love Flows from God *is a celebratory cantata based on the spiritual writings of Mechtild of Magdeburg (1210-1280). In the words of the author, "I saw all things in God, and God in all things."*

The cantata comprises seven sections, each a musical celebration: ***energy*** *("All Things in God");* ***the light of the sun*** *("God in All Places");* ***the song of the birds*** *("God in All Creatures");* ***the dance*** *("To Leap for Love");* ***the rose*** *("O Lovely Rose");* ***the spark of life*** *("Love, Like a Living Spark"); and* ***God's love*** *("Eternal Love").*

As the texts explore diverse imagery, the music moves through a range of tonalities and rhythmic patterns associated with the lyrics. The birds, the dance and the many other manifestations of divine love flow through the musical language. Finally, the traditional hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy..." appears at the conclusion, perhaps as a summation of the sentiments of praise expressed in Mechtild's writings.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty.
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth and sky above.
Guardian of Light. Eternal Love!

About the Composer

Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. Degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council.

Walker's catalog includes over 150 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published E.C. Schirmer of Boston (choral/vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (symphonic/chamber works).

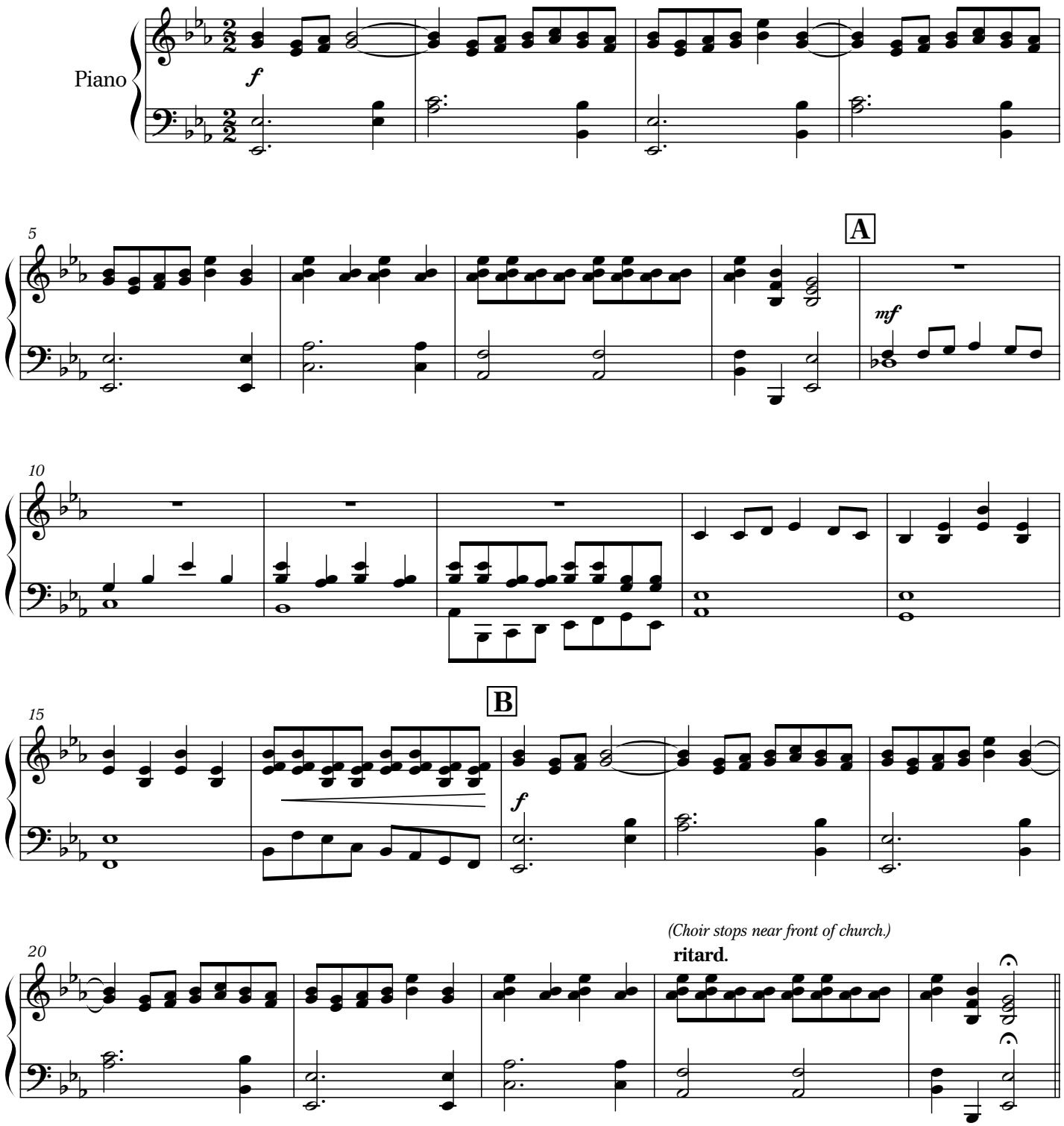
Love Flows from God

1. Introit **All Things in God**

Gwyneth Walker

(Choir may process down the aisles of the church.)

Crisply, as a processional ♩ = 72



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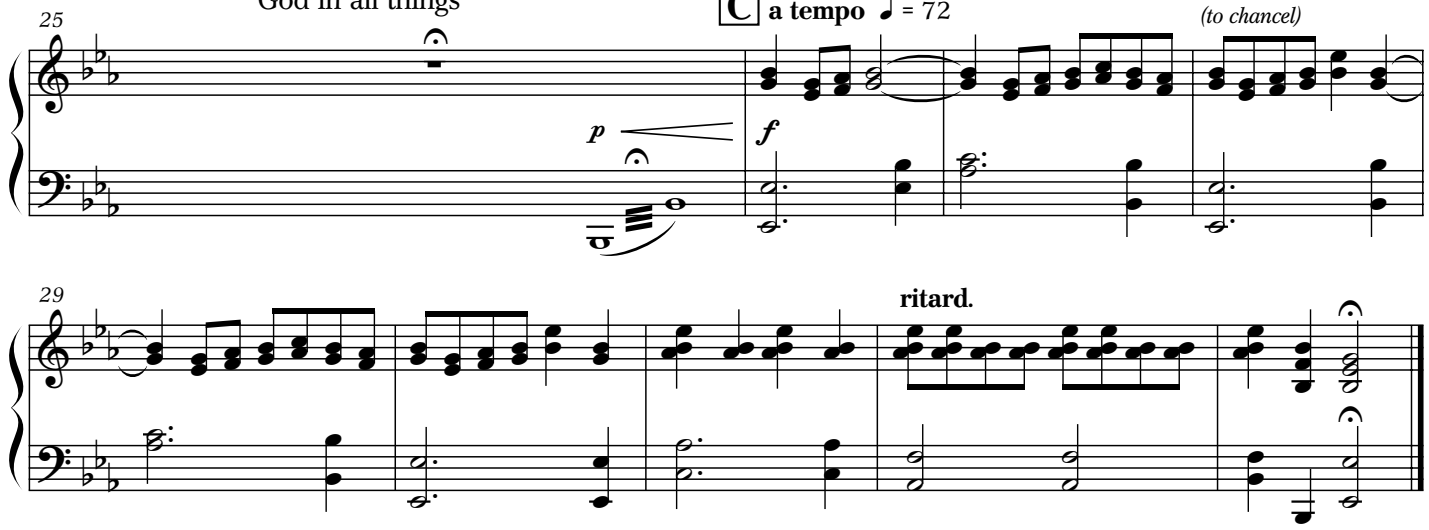
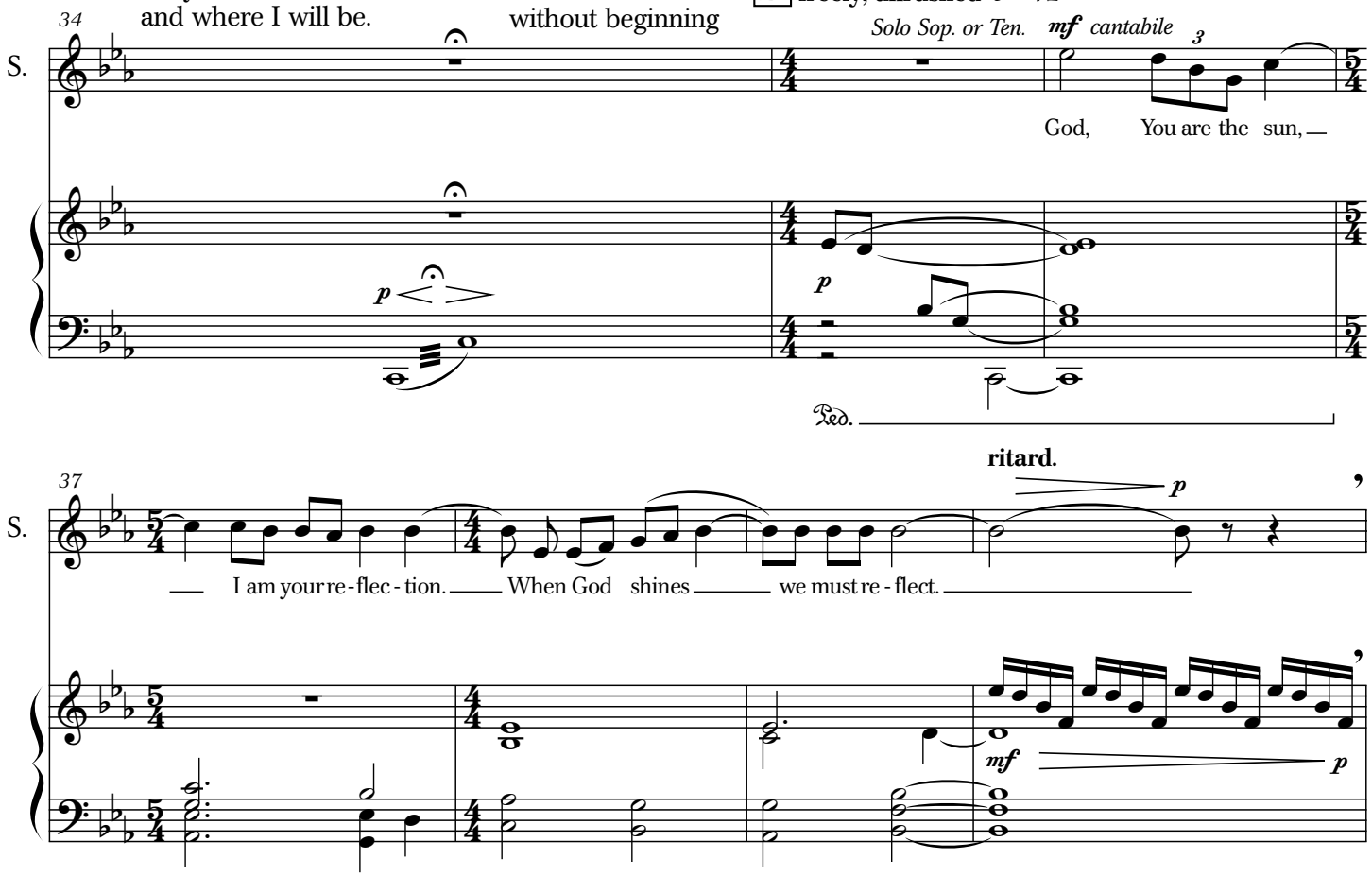
Reader: The day of my spiritual
awakening was the day
I saw and knew I saw
all things in God and
God in all things



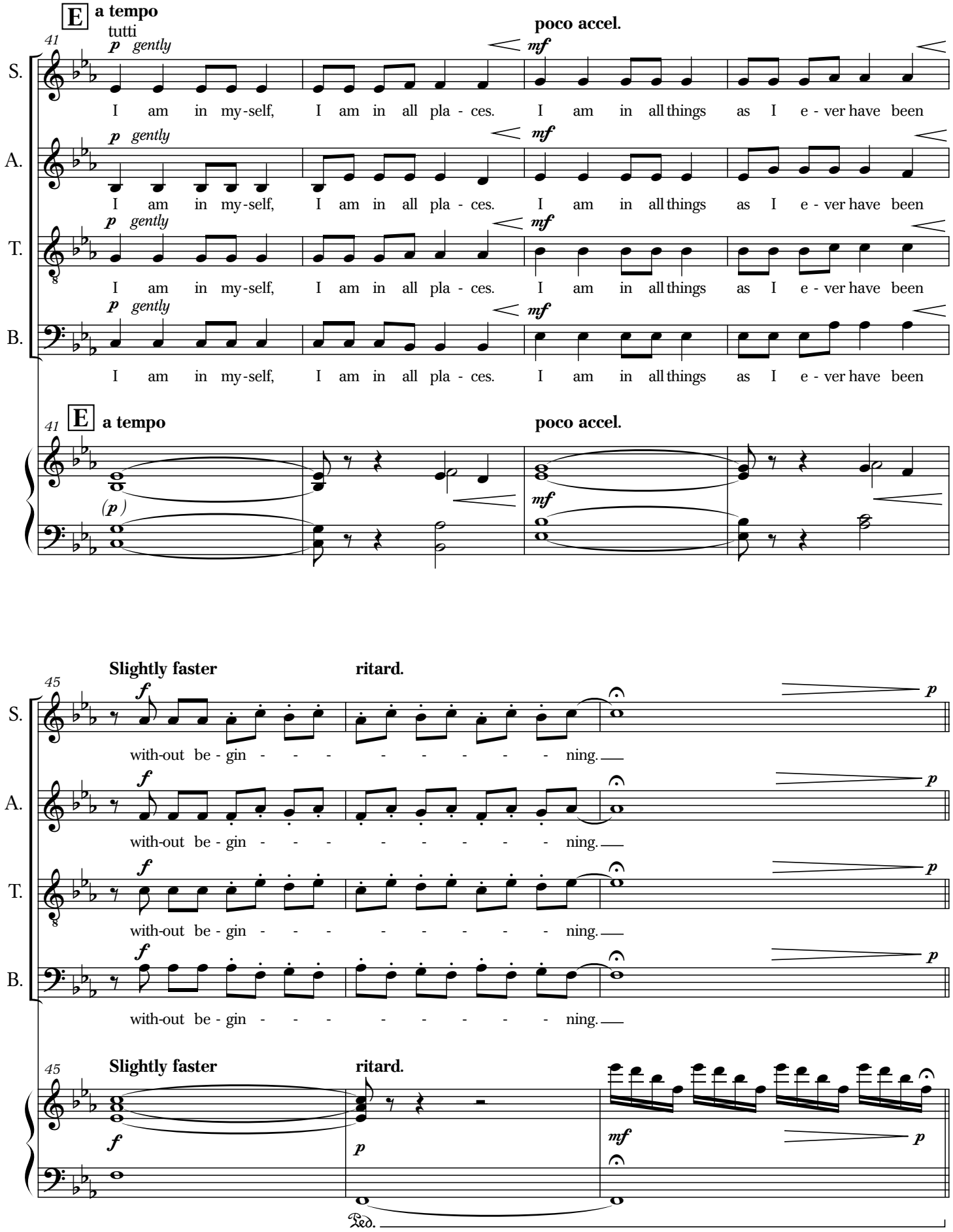
2. God in All Places

Reader:
God says:
Now is the time to
tell you where I am
and where I will be.

* I am
in Myself
in all places
in all things
as I ever have been
without beginning



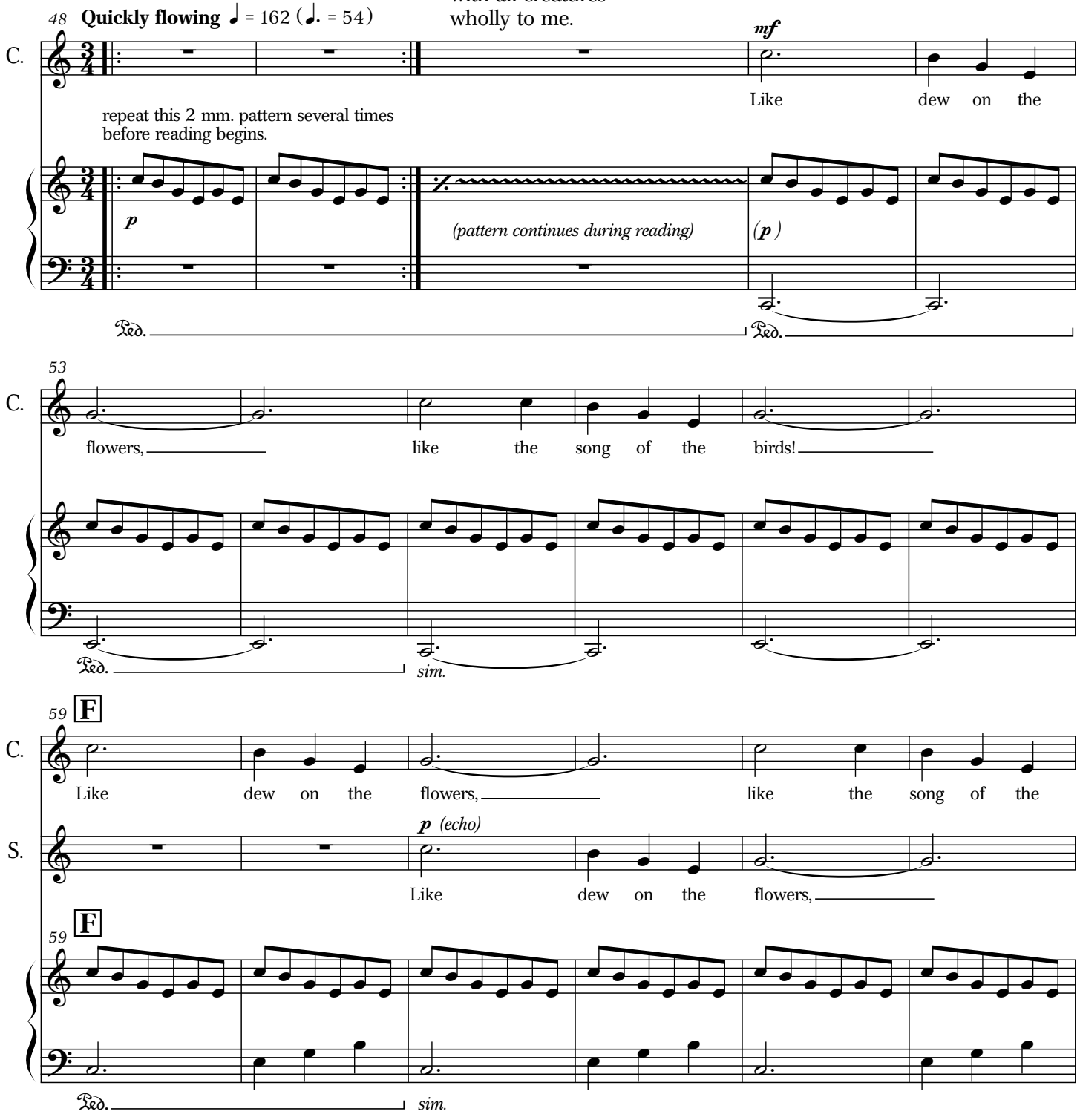
* Read by various members of the choir in alternation, from their places in the chancel


E
a tempo
tutti
41
p gently
poco accel.
mf
S.
A.
T.
B.
I am in my-self, I am in all pla - ces. I am in all things as I e - ver have been
(p)
Slightly faster
ritard.
45
f
p
with-out be - gin - - - - - - - - - ning.
Ped.

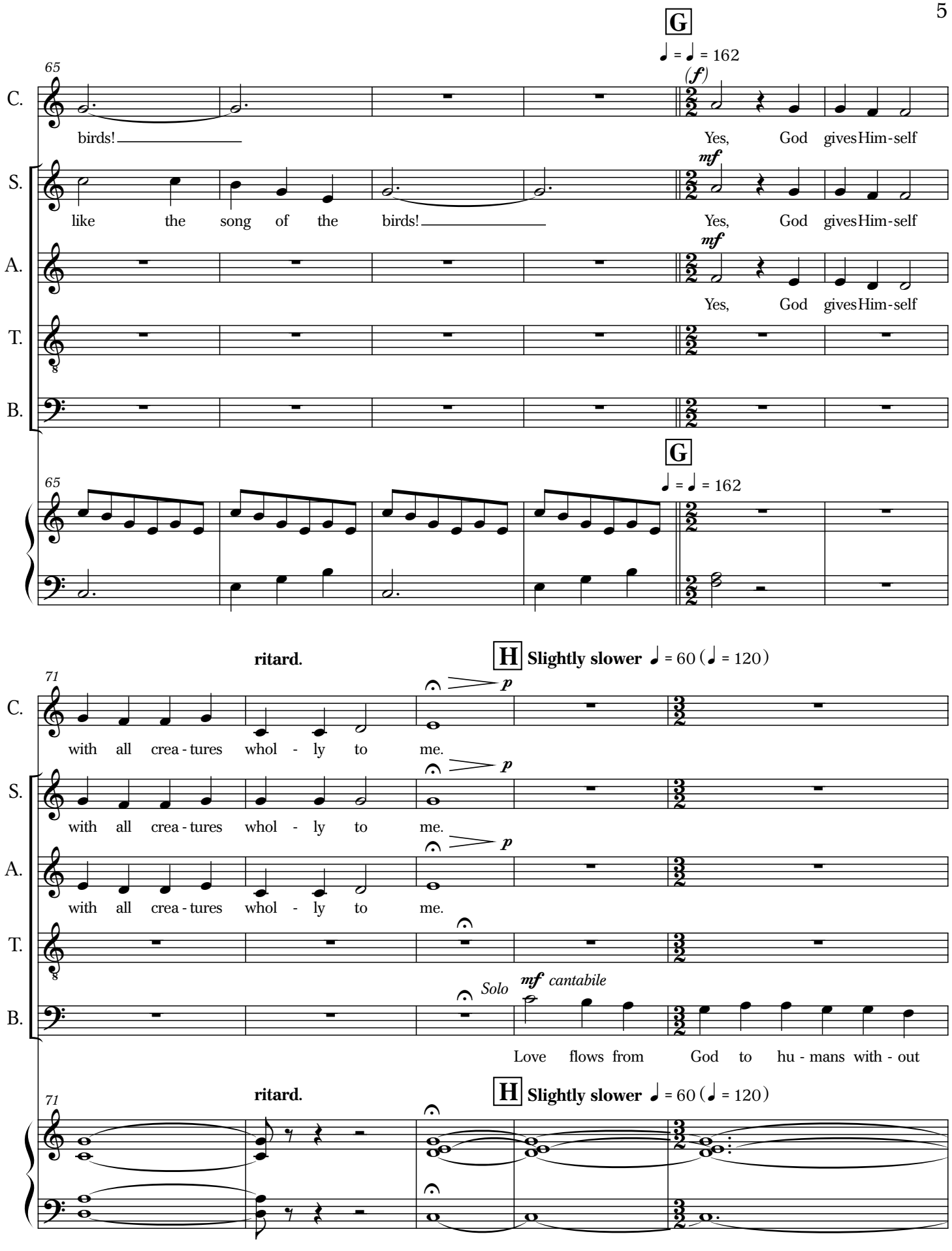
3. God in All Creatures

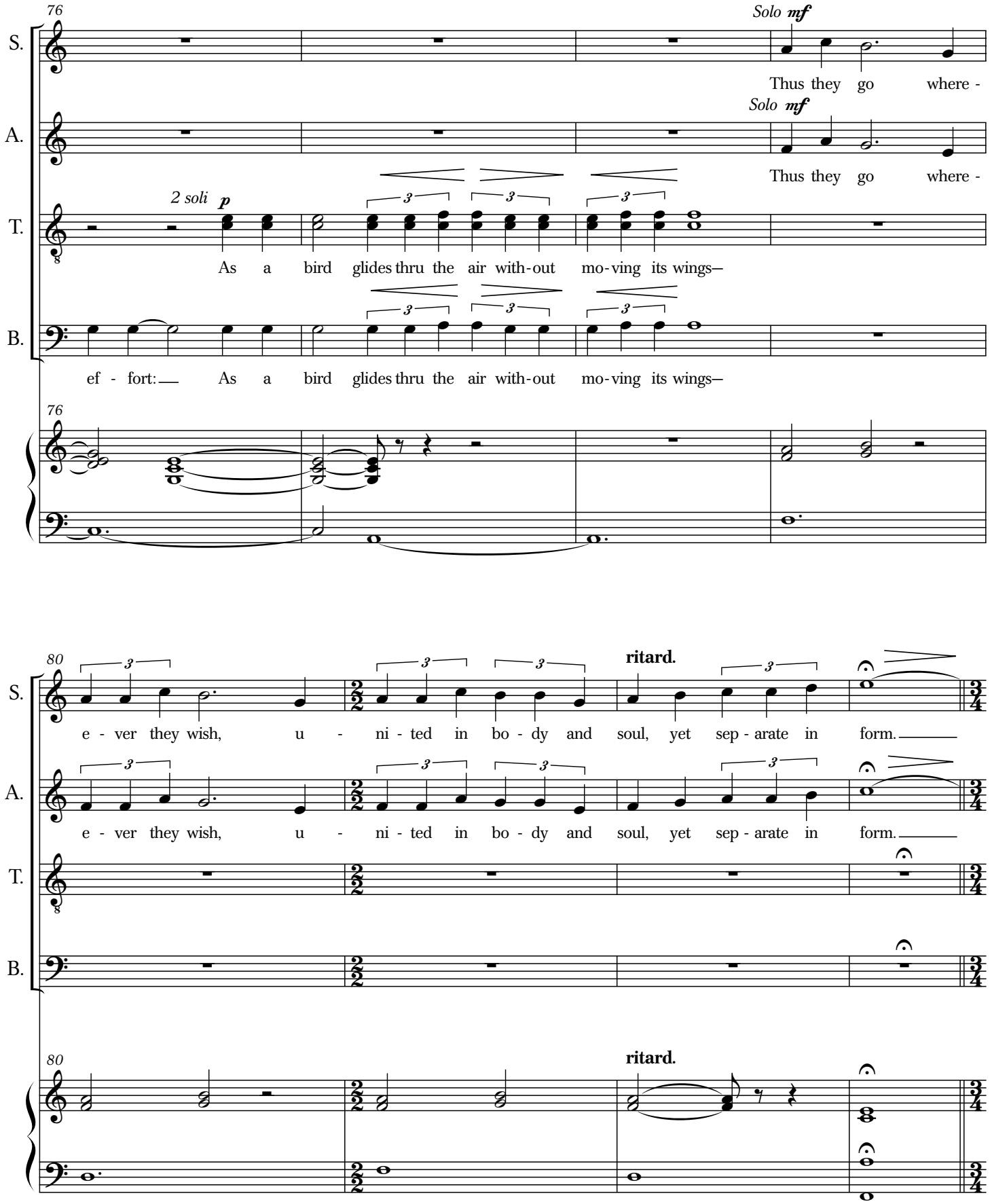
Reader: How does God come to us?

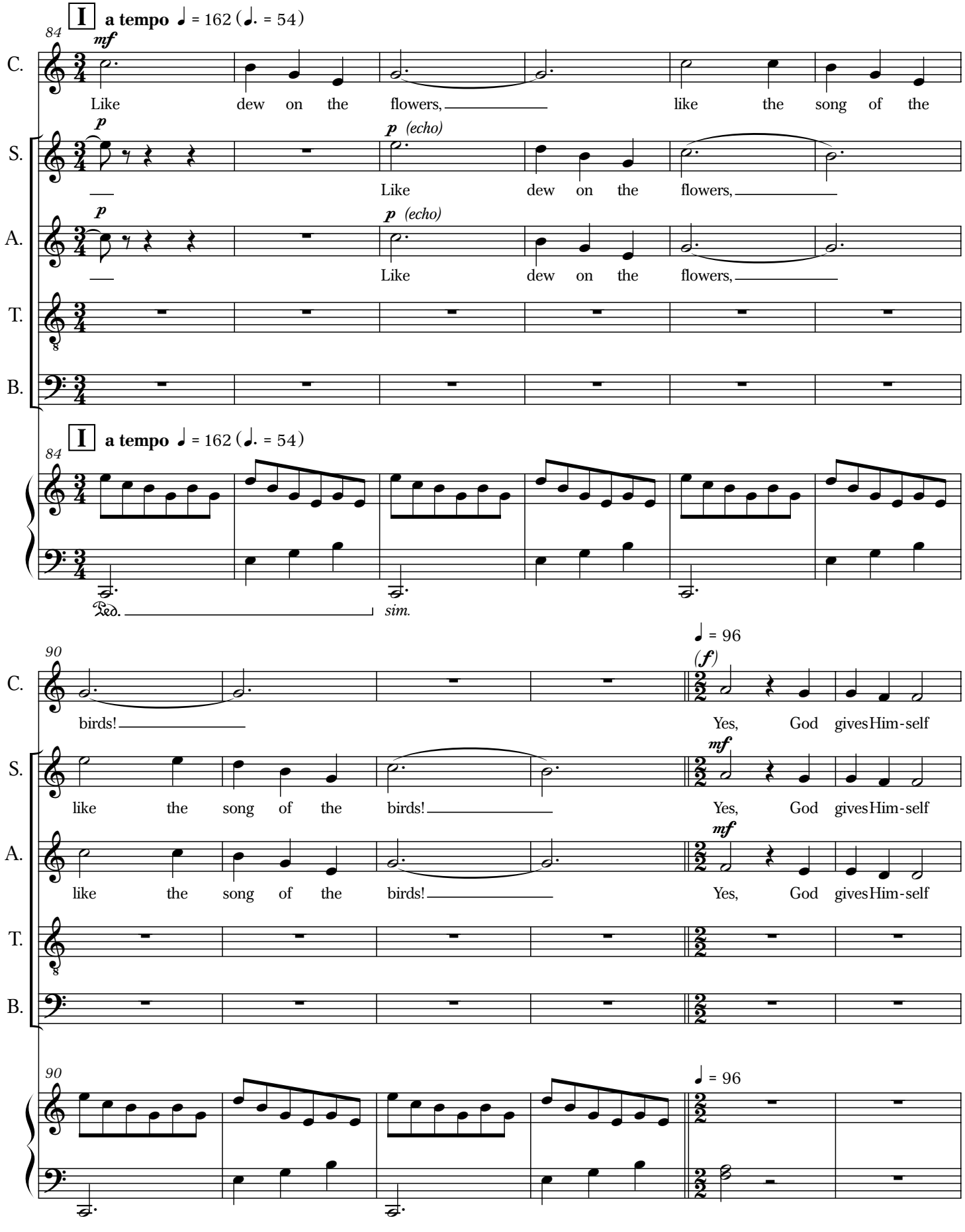
*Like
dew on the flowers
Like
the song of the birds!
Yes, God gives Himself
with all creatures
wholly to me.

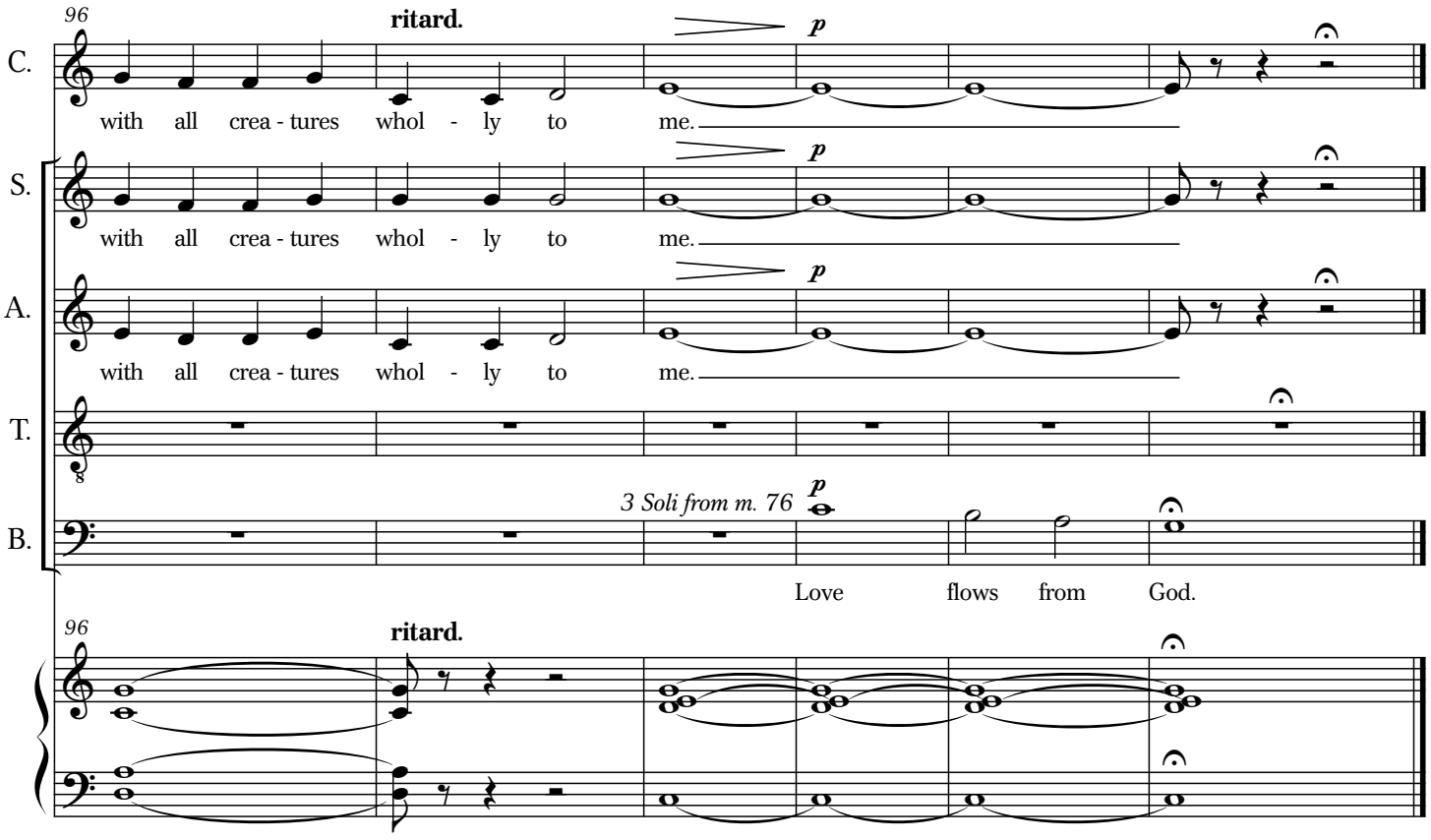


* Members of the choir in alternation: (perhaps children)


G
♩ = ♩ = 162
65
C.
S.
A.
T.
B.
(f)
mf
mf
birds!
like the song of the birds!
Yes, God gives Him-self
Yes, God gives Him-self
Yes, God gives Him-self
G
♩ = ♩ = 162
65
ritard.
H Slightly slower ♩ = 60 (♩ = 120)
71
p
p
p
with all crea - tures whol - ly to me.
with all crea - tures whol - ly to me.
with all crea - tures whol - ly to me.
Solo
mf cantabile
Love flows from God to hu - mans with - out
ritard.
H Slightly slower ♩ = 60 (♩ = 120)
71


76
S.
A.
T.
B.
Solo mf
Thus they go where -
Solo mf
Thus they go where -
2 soli p
As a bird glides thru the air with-out mo-ving its wings—
ef - fort: As a bird glides thru the air with-out mo-ving its wings—
80
ritard.
e - ver they wish, u - ni - ted in bo - dy and soul, yet sep - arate in form.
e - ver they wish, u - ni - ted in bo - dy and soul, yet sep - arate in form.
ritard.


I a tempo ♩ = 162 (♩. = 54)
84
mf
C.
Like dew on the flowers, like the song of the
S.
p
p (echo)
Like dew on the flowers,
A.
p
p (echo)
Like dew on the flowers,
T.
B.
I a tempo ♩ = 162 (♩. = 54)
84
Ped.
sim.
90
♩ = 96
(f)
C.
birds! Yes, God gives Him-self
S.
mf
like the song of the birds! Yes, God gives Him-self
A.
mf
like the song of the birds! Yes, God gives Him-self
T.
B.
90
♩ = 96



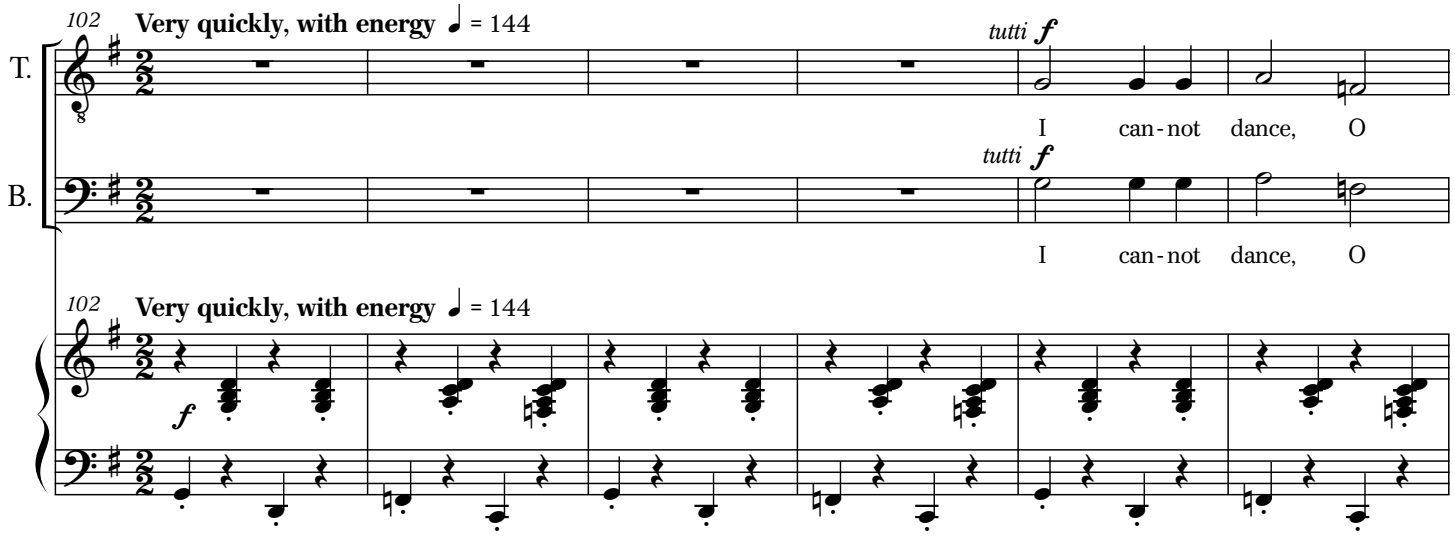
4. To Leap for Love

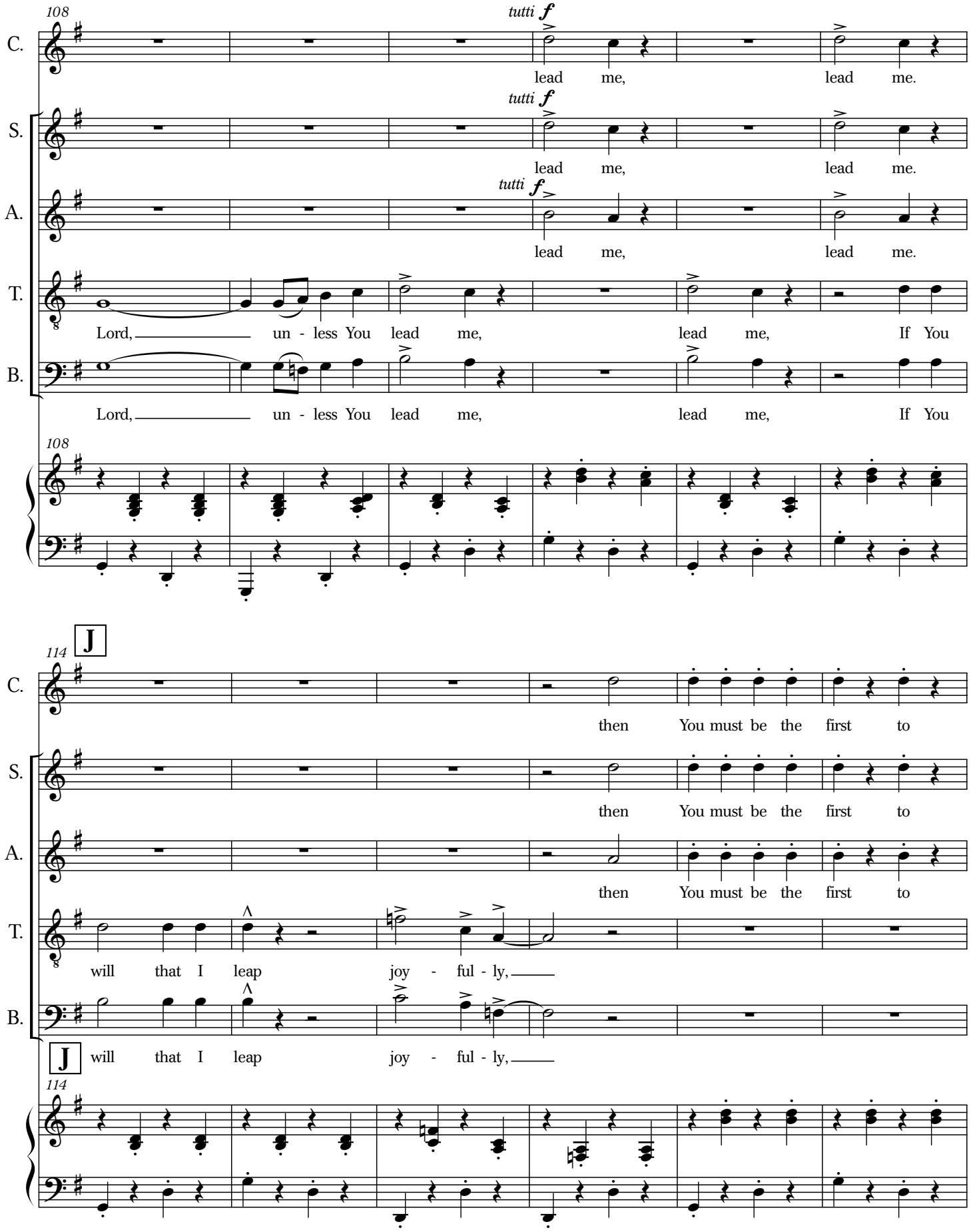
Reader:

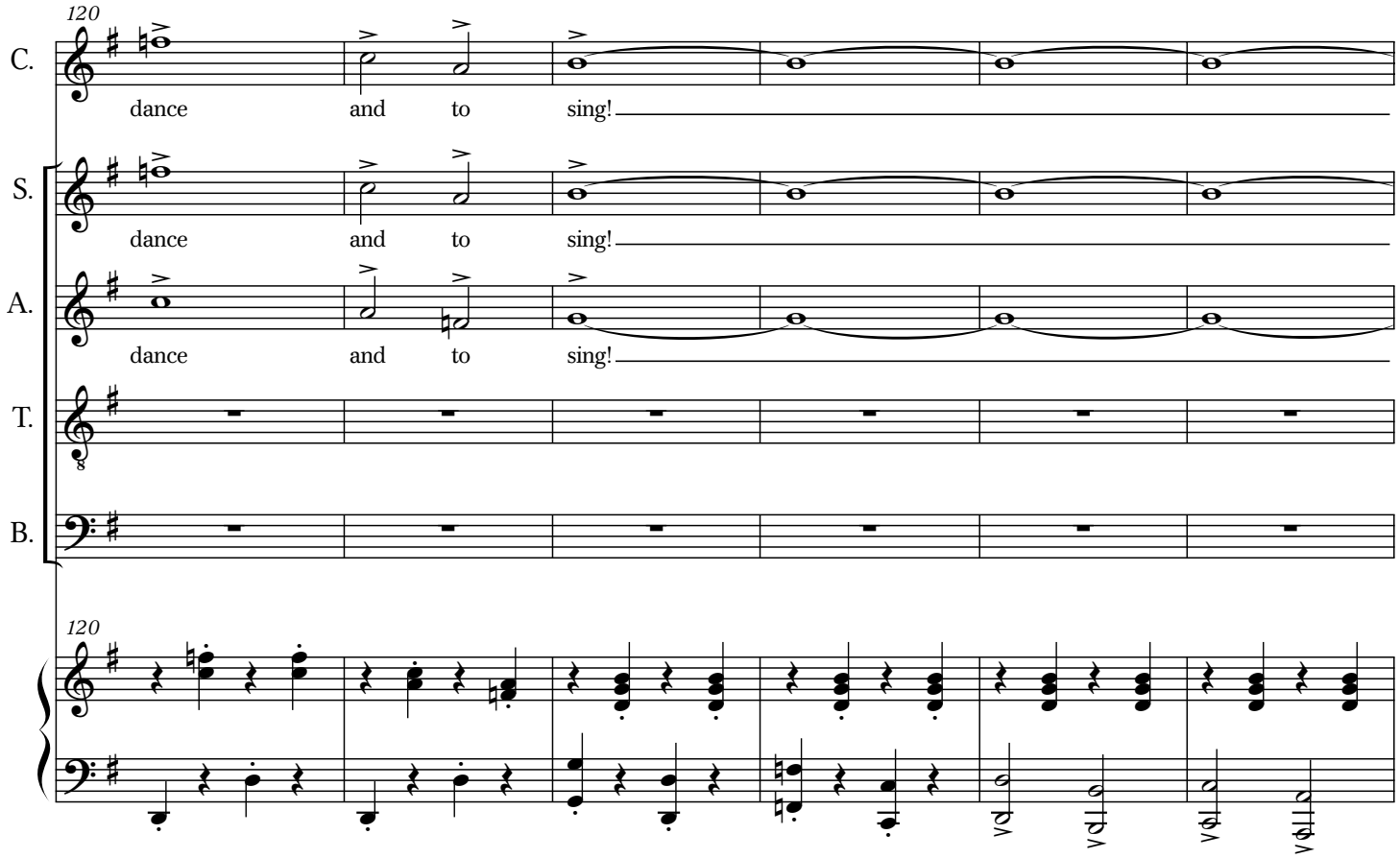
I cannot dance, O Lord,
unless you lead me.
If you will
that I leap joyfully
then you must be the first to dance
and to sing!

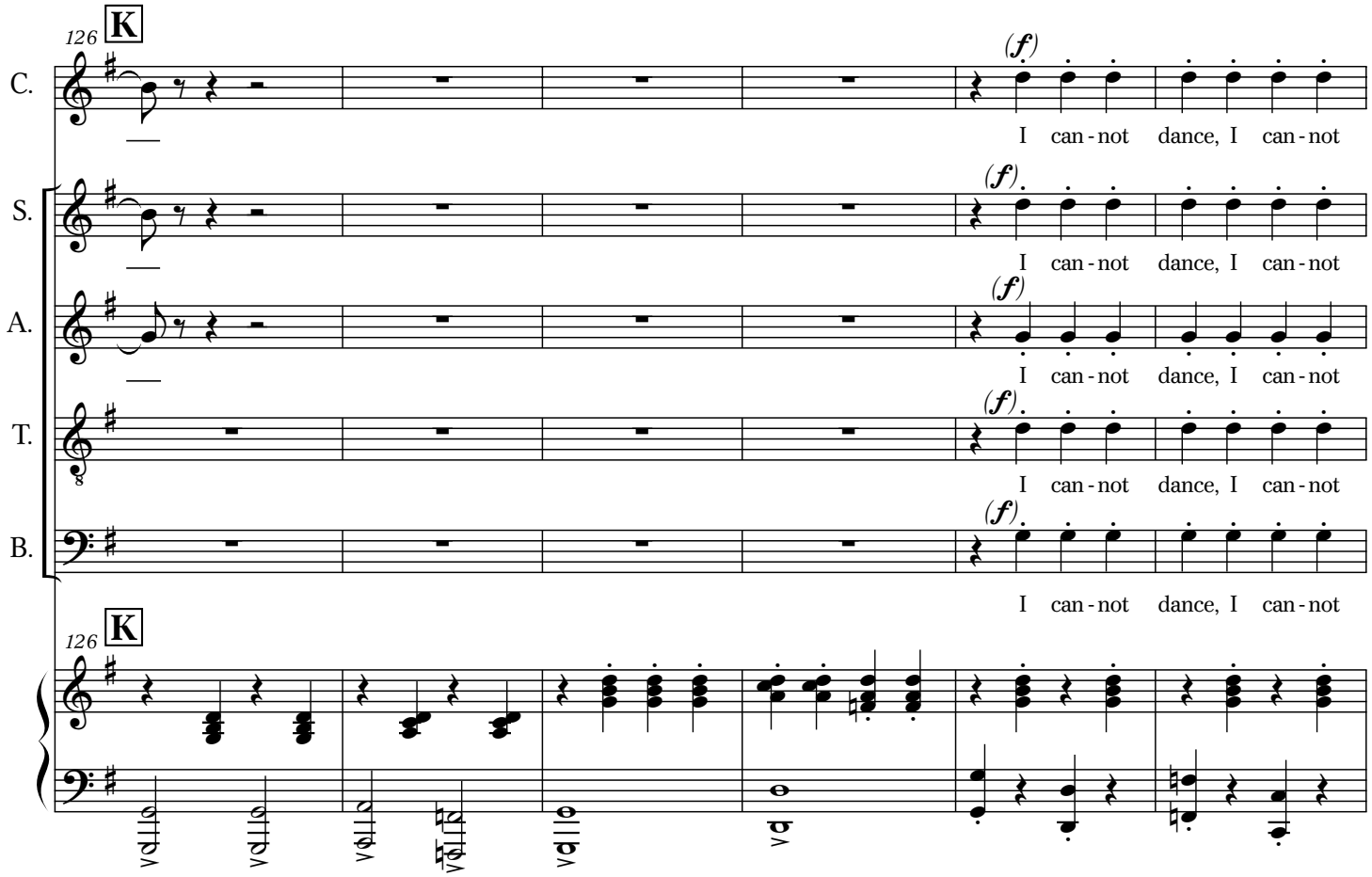
Then, and only then,
will I leap for love.
Then will I soar
from love to knowledge,
from knowledge to fruition
from fruition to beyond
all human sense.

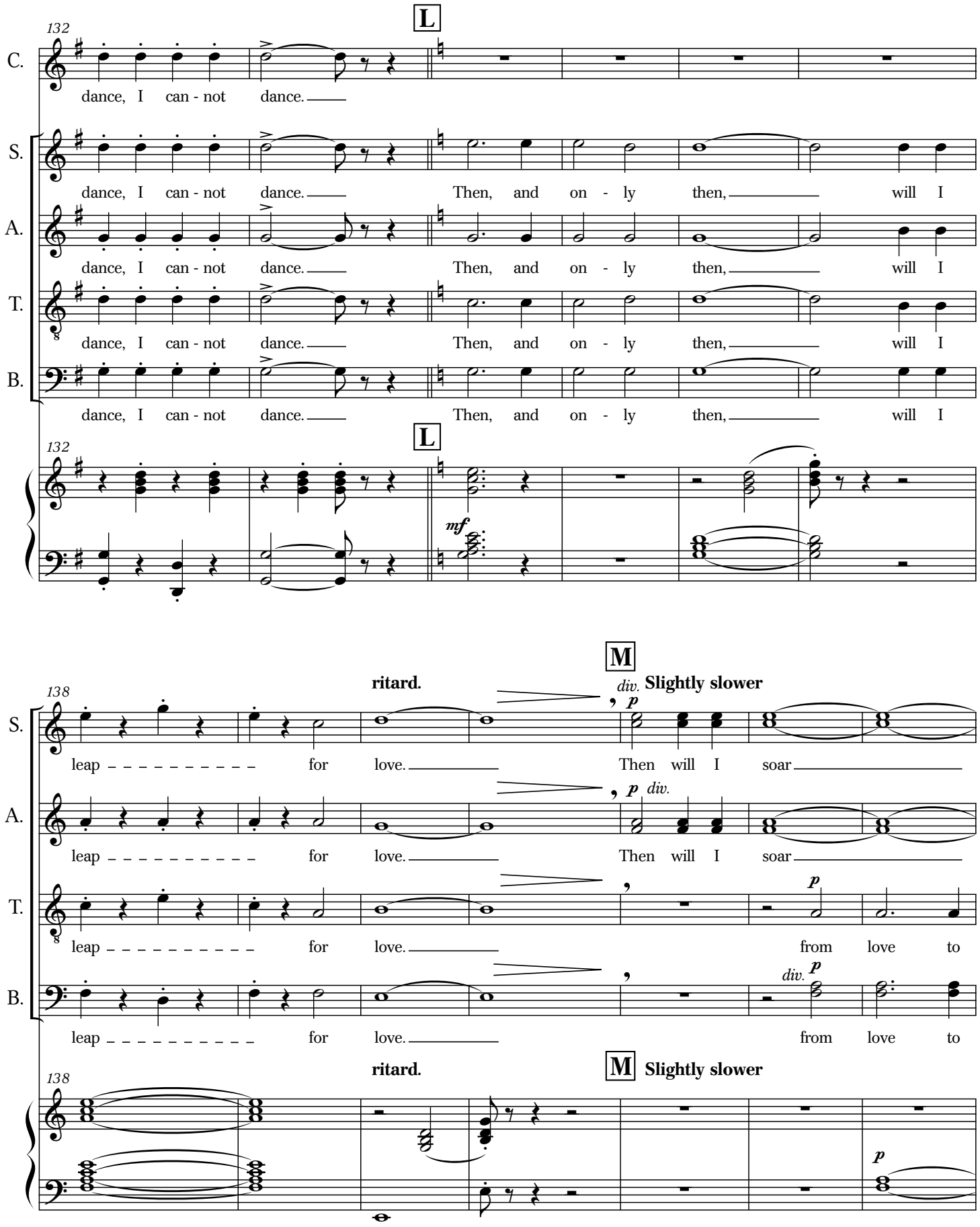
And there
I will remain
and circle for evermore.

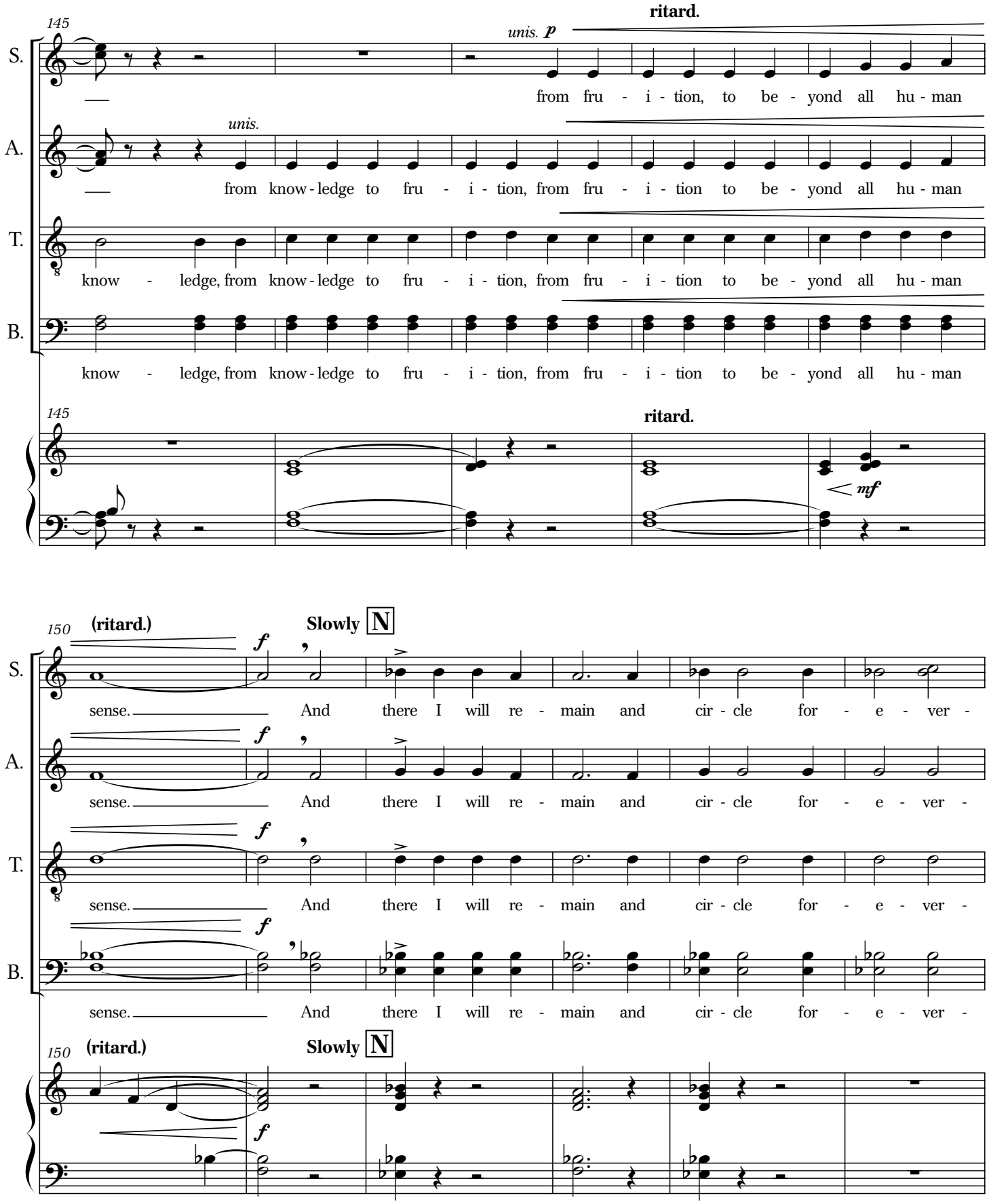


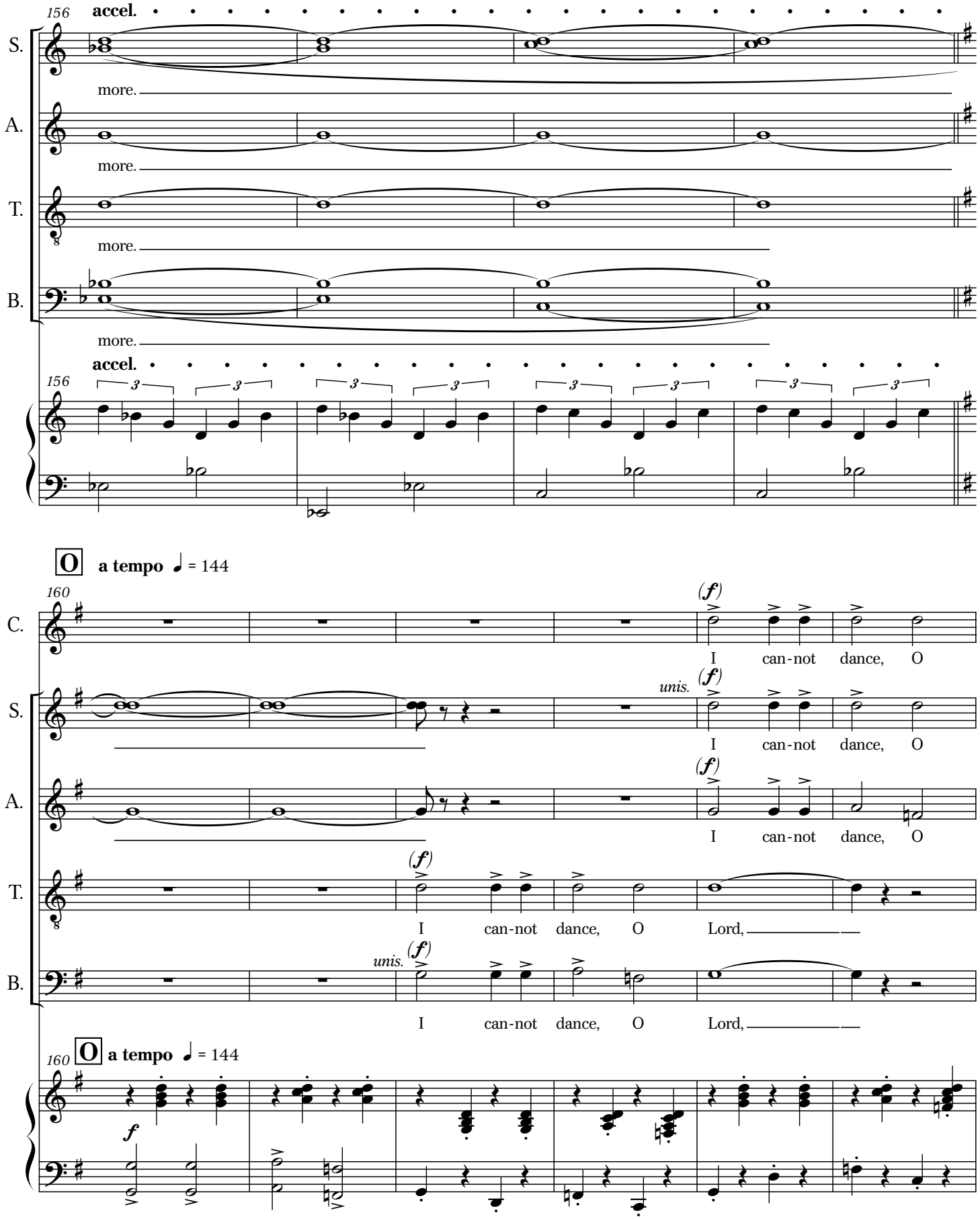

108
tutti f
C.
lead me, lead me.
S.
tutti f
lead me, lead me.
A.
tutti f
lead me, lead me.
T.
Lord, un - less You lead me, lead me, If You
B.
Lord, un - less You lead me, lead me, If You
108
114
J
C.
then You must be the first to
S.
then You must be the first to
A.
then You must be the first to
T.
will that I leap joy - ful - ly,
B.
J
will that I leap joy - ful - ly,
114

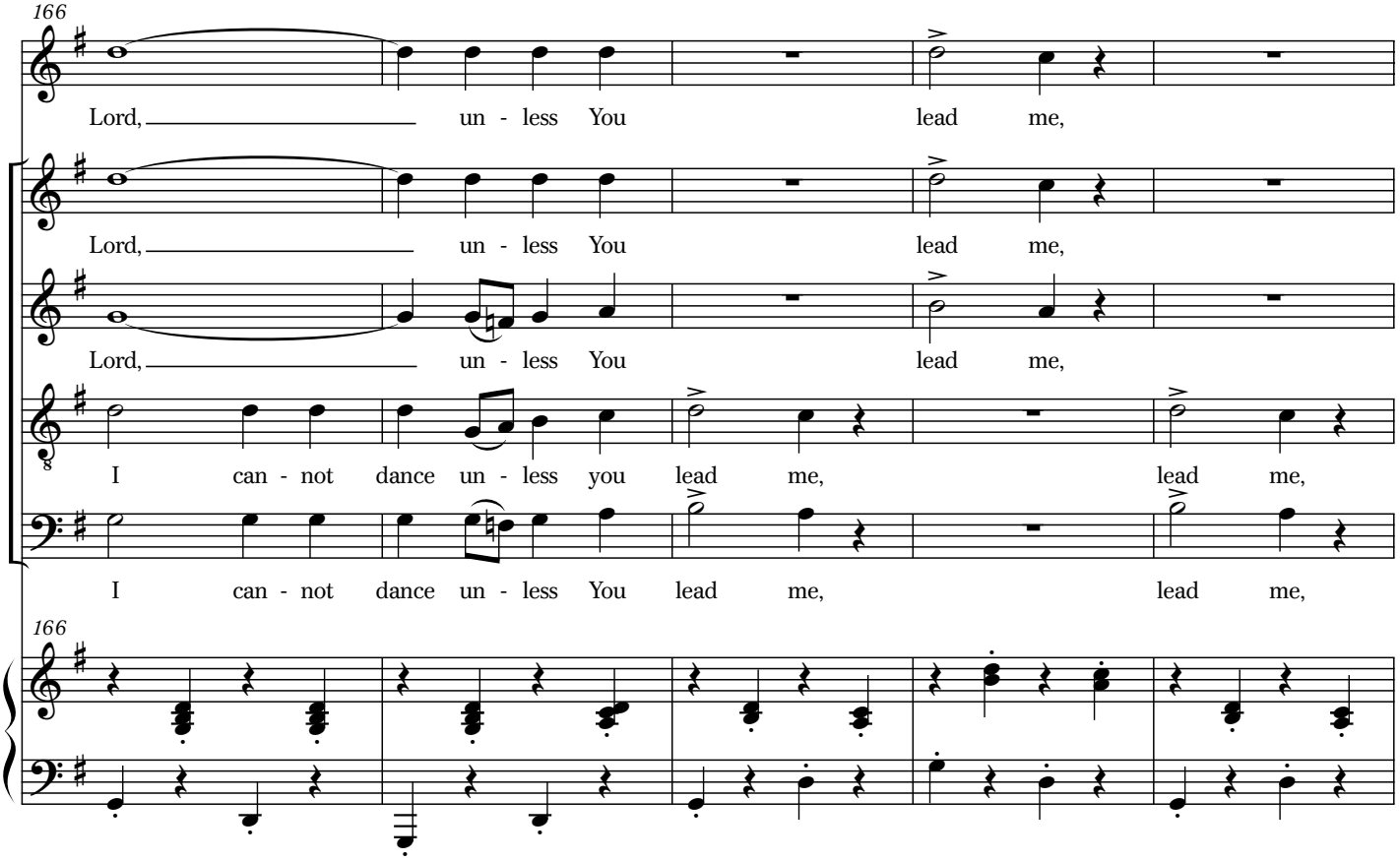

120
C.
dance and to sing!
S.
dance and to sing!
A.
dance and to sing!
T.
B.
120

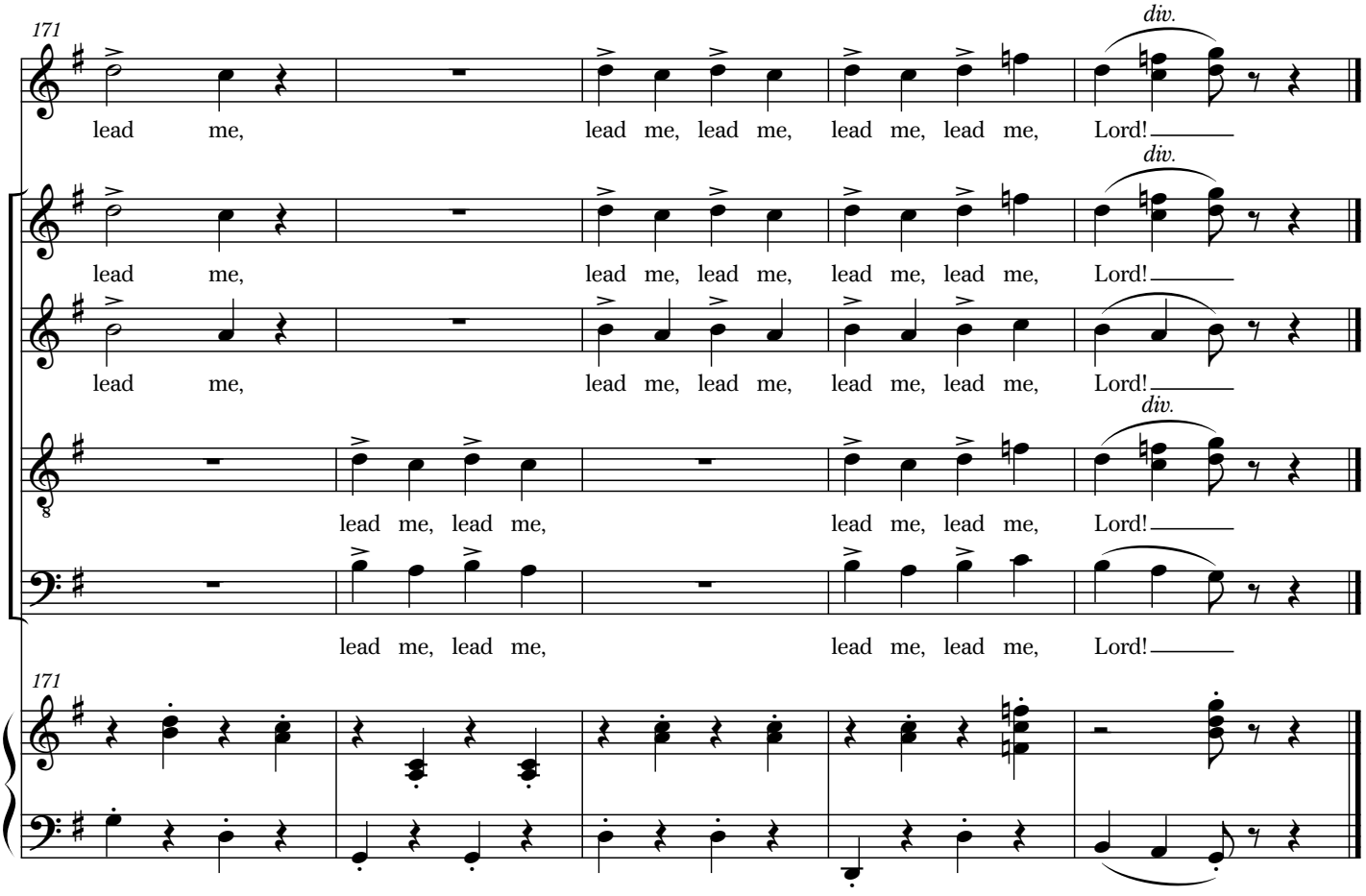

126
K
C.
(f)
I can-not dance, I can-not
S.
(f)
I can-not dance, I can-not
A.
(f)
I can-not dance, I can-not
T.
(f)
I can-not dance, I can-not
B.
(f)
I can-not dance, I can-not
126
K


L
132
C.
dance, I can - not dance.
S.
dance, I can - not dance. Then, and on - ly then, will I
A.
dance, I can - not dance. Then, and on - ly then, will I
T.
dance, I can - not dance. Then, and on - ly then, will I
B.
dance, I can - not dance. Then, and on - ly then, will I
L
132
mf
M
138
ritard.
div.
Slightly slower
p
S.
leap for love. Then will I soar
A.
leap for love. Then will I soar
T.
leap for love. from love to
B.
leap for love. from love to
ritard.
M
Slightly slower
138
p


145
ritard.
unis. p
S.
from fru - i - tion, to be - yond all hu - man
A.
unis.
from know - ledge to fru - i - tion, from fru - i - tion to be - yond all hu - man
T.
know - ledge, from know - ledge to fru - i - tion, from fru - i - tion to be - yond all hu - man
B.
know - ledge, from know - ledge to fru - i - tion, from fru - i - tion to be - yond all hu - man
145
ritard.
mf
150
(ritard.)
Slowly N
f
S.
sense. And there I will re - main and cir - cle for - e - ver -
A.
sense. And there I will re - main and cir - cle for - e - ver -
T.
sense. And there I will re - main and cir - cle for - e - ver -
B.
sense. And there I will re - main and cir - cle for - e - ver -
150
(ritard.)
Slowly N
f


156
accel.
S.
more.
A.
more.
T.
more.
B.
more.
accel.
156
O
a tempo ♩ = 144
160
C.
(f)
I can-not dance, O
S.
unis.
(f)
I can-not dance, O
A.
(f)
I can-not dance, O
T.
(f)
I can-not dance, O Lord,
B.
unis.
(f)
I can-not dance, O Lord,
160
O
a tempo ♩ = 144
f

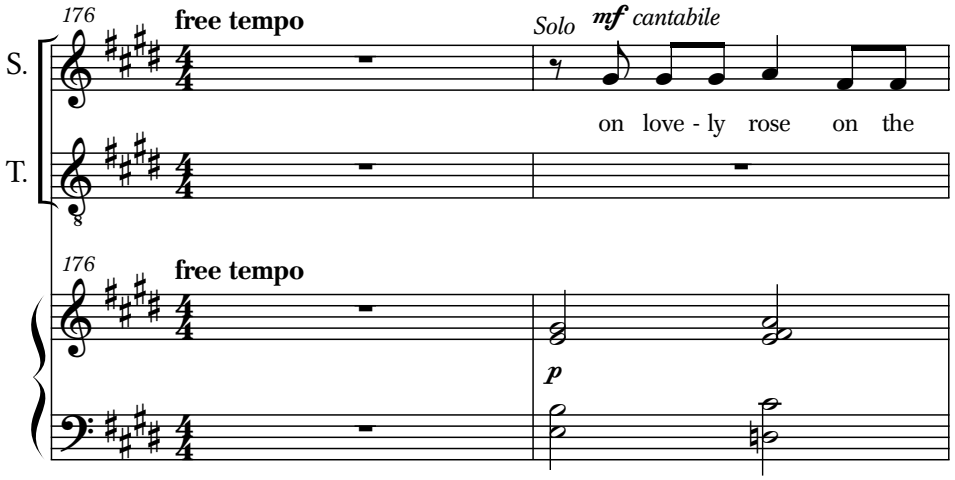

166
C.
Lord, un - less You lead me,
S.
Lord, un - less You lead me,
A.
Lord, un - less You lead me,
T.
I can - not dance un - less you lead me, lead me,
B.
I can - not dance un - less You lead me, lead me,
166

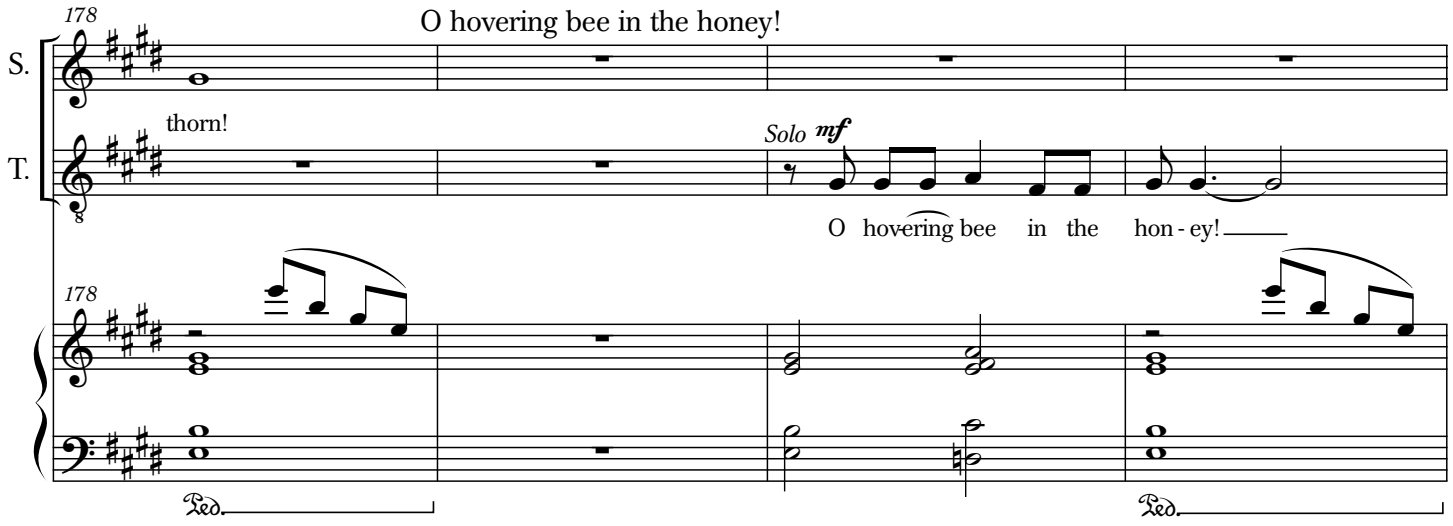

171
C.
lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, Lord!
div.
S.
lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, Lord!
A.
lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, Lord!
T.
lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, Lord!
B.
lead me, lead me, lead me, lead me, Lord!
171

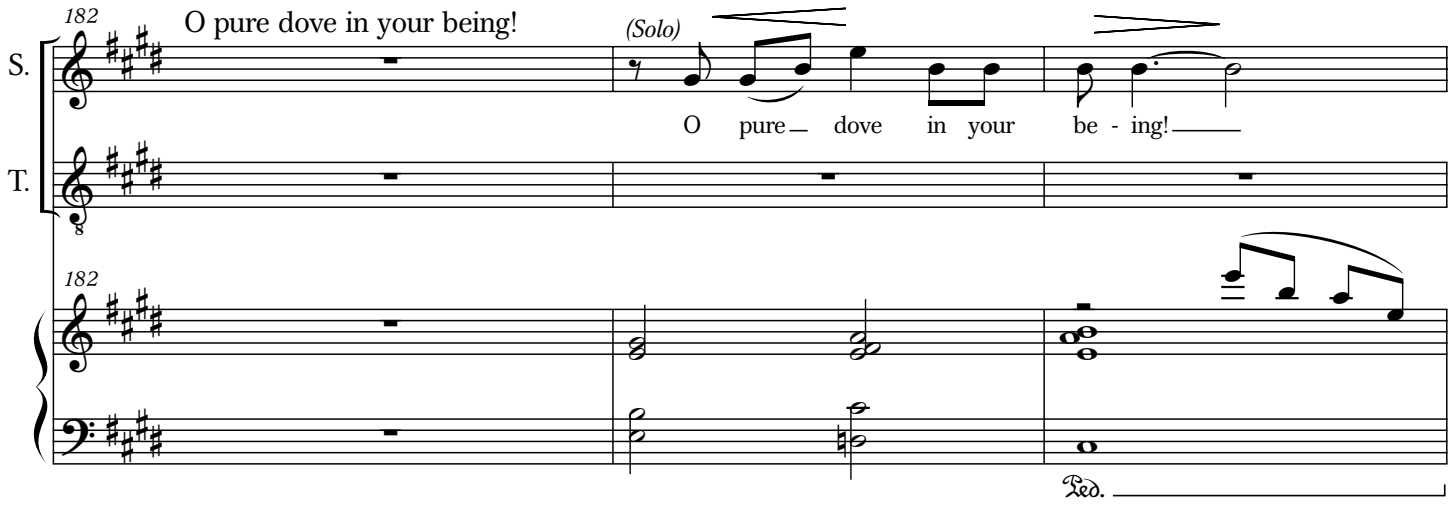
5. O Lovely Rose

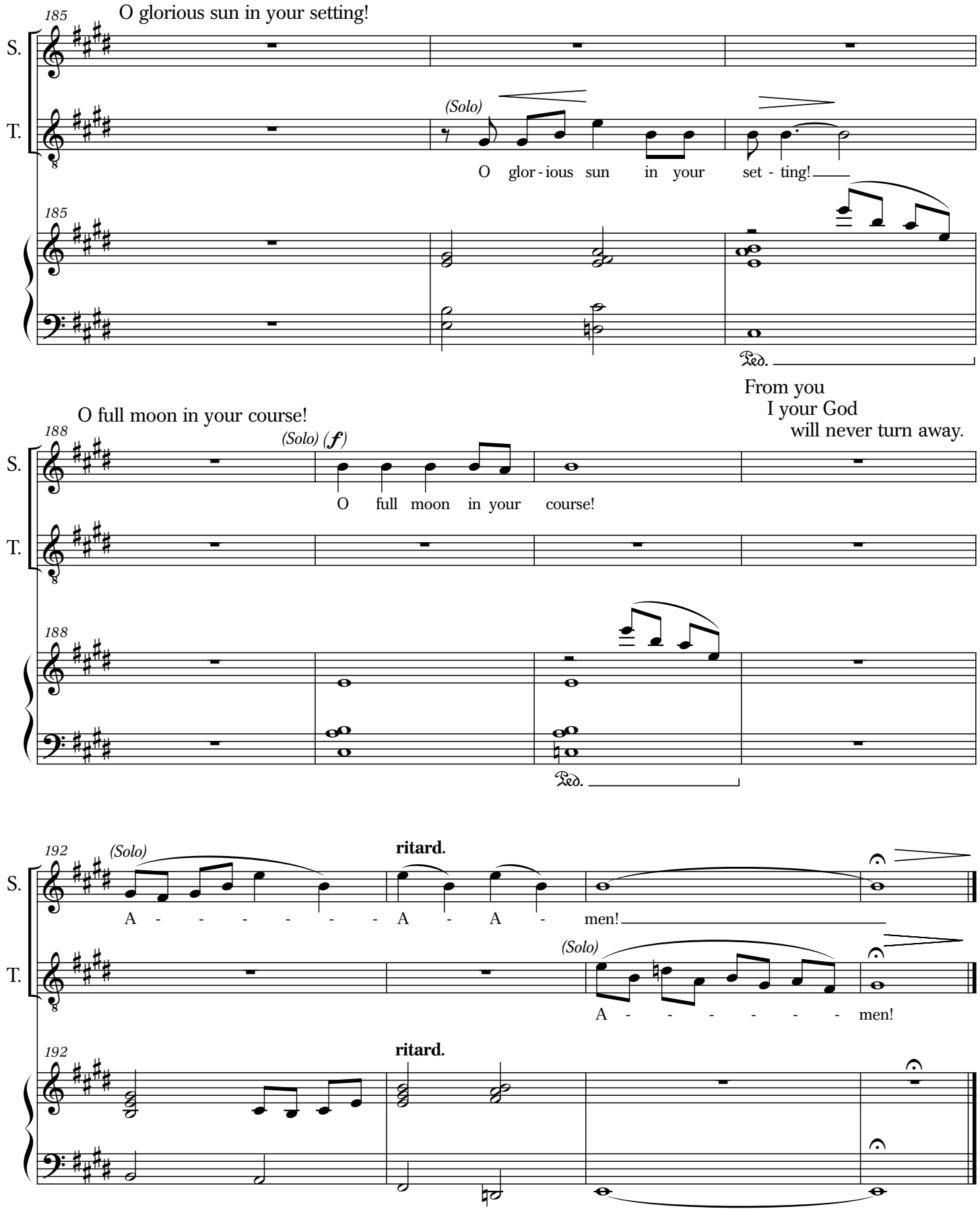
Reader:
From the very beginning
God loved us.
The Holy Trinity
gave itself
in the creation of all things
and made us,
body and soul,
in infinite love.
We were fashioned most nobly.

Reader: God takes such delight in
the human person that
Divinity sings this song to
our soul:
O Lovely rose on the thorn!







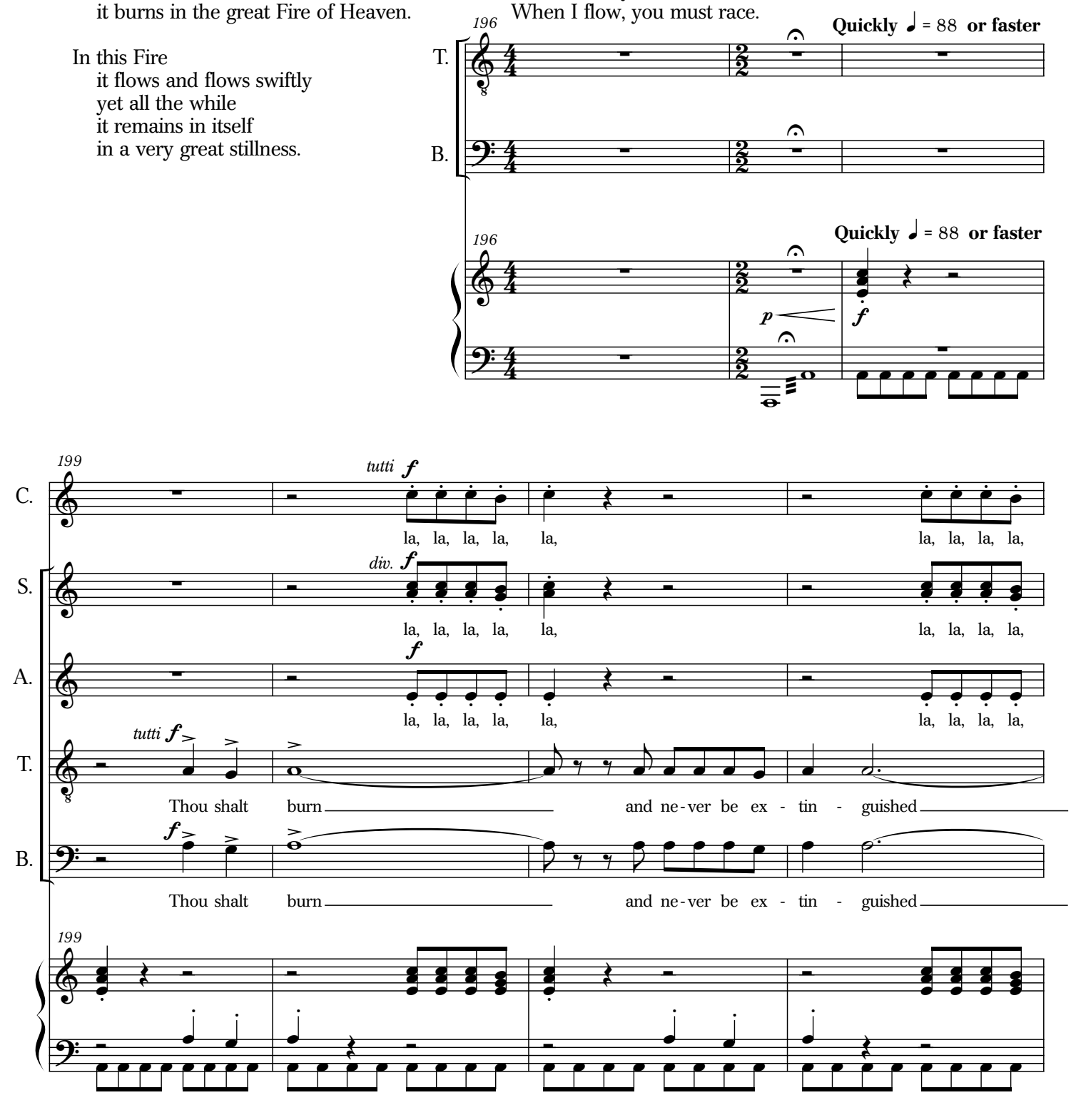

185
O glorious sun in your setting!
S.
T.
(Solo)
O glor - ious sun in your set - ting!
Ped.
188
O full moon in your course!
From you
I your God
will never turn away.
(Solo) (f)
O full moon in your course!
192
(Solo)
ritard.
A - - - - - - - A - A - men!
(Solo)
A - - - - - - - men!

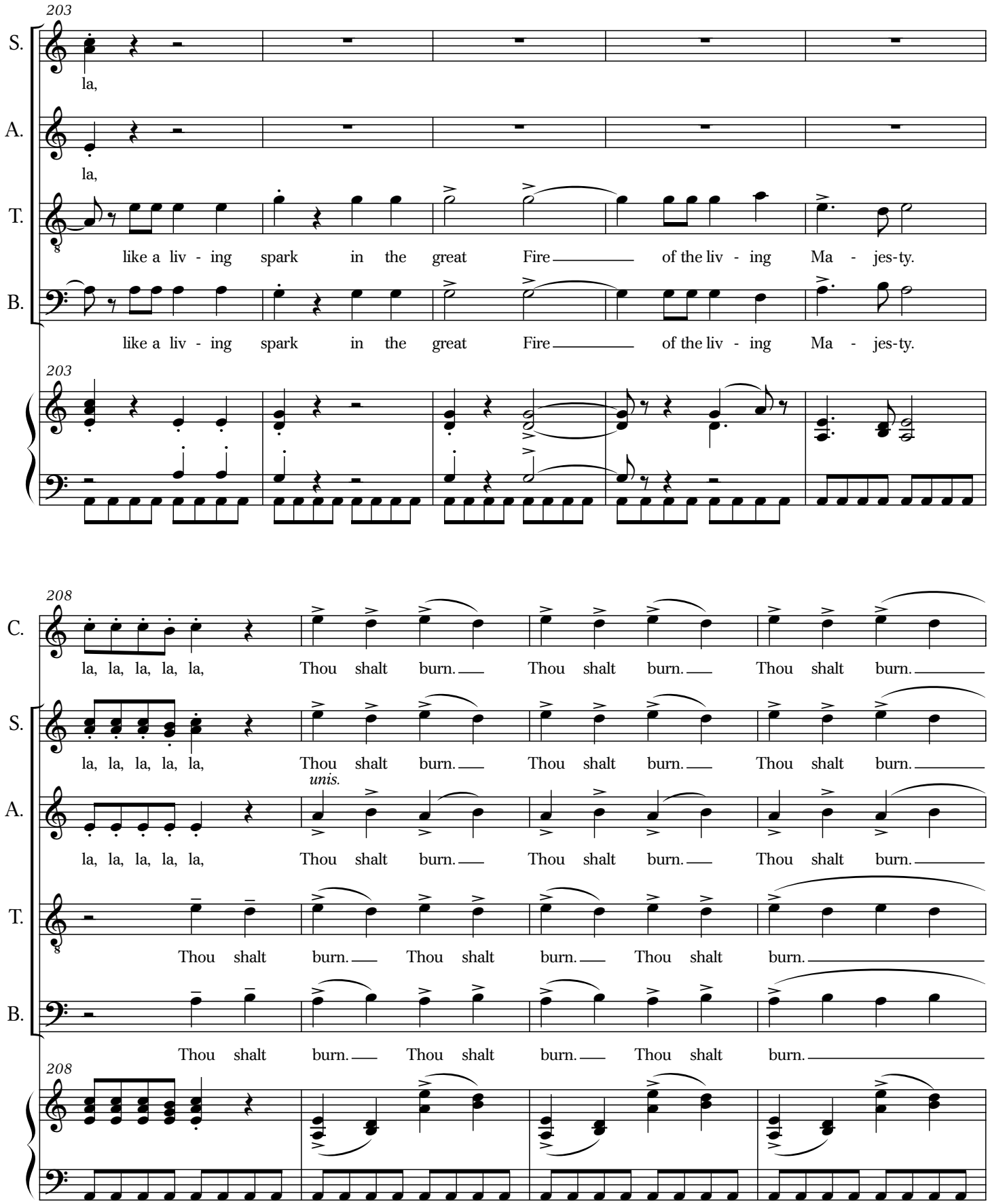
6. Love, Like a Living Spark

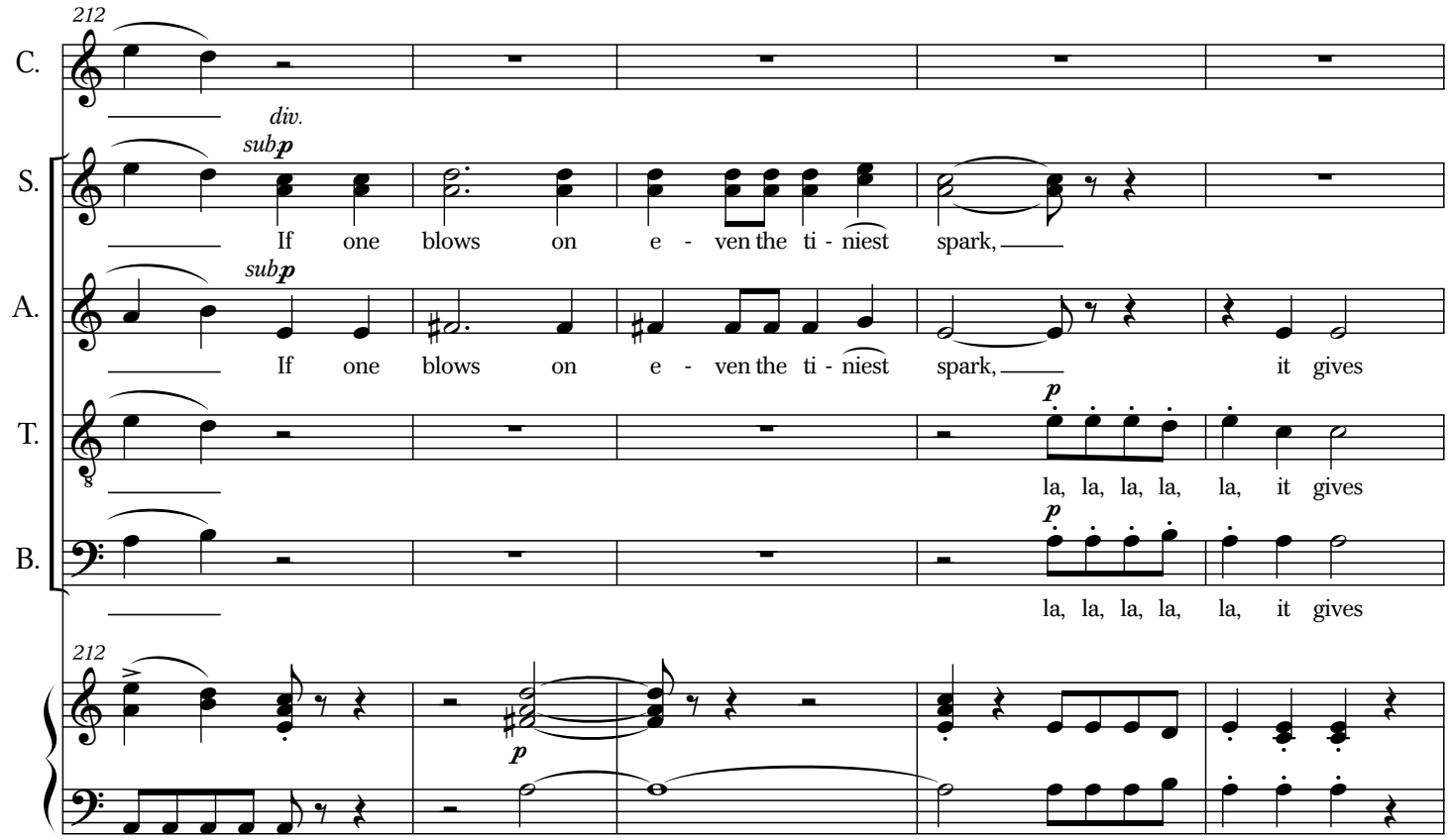
Reader:
What is the greatest kind of love?
Great love
does not flow with tears.
Rather,
it burns in the great Fire of Heaven.

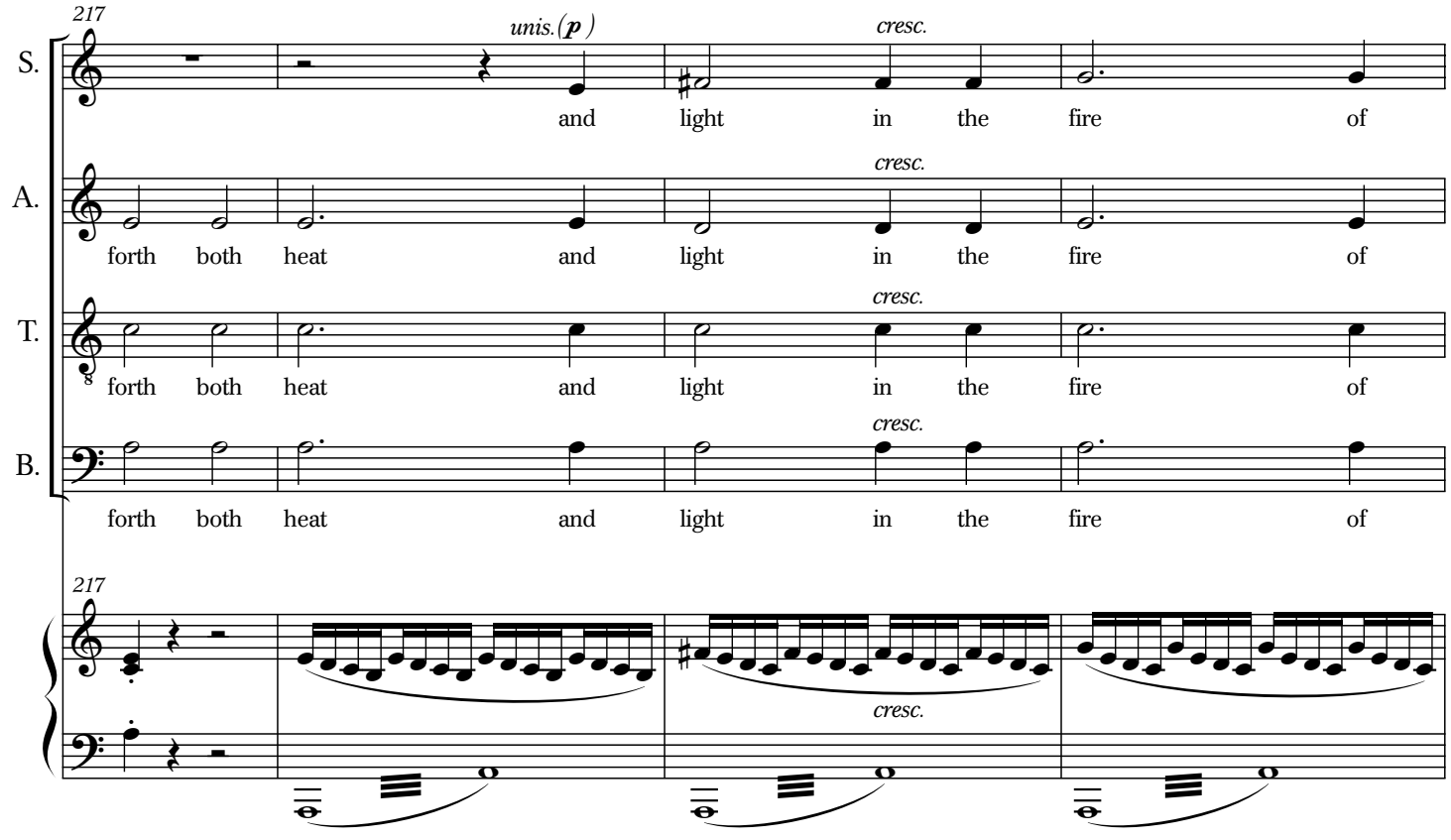
In this Fire
it flows and flows swiftly
yet all the while
it remains in itself
in a very great stillness.

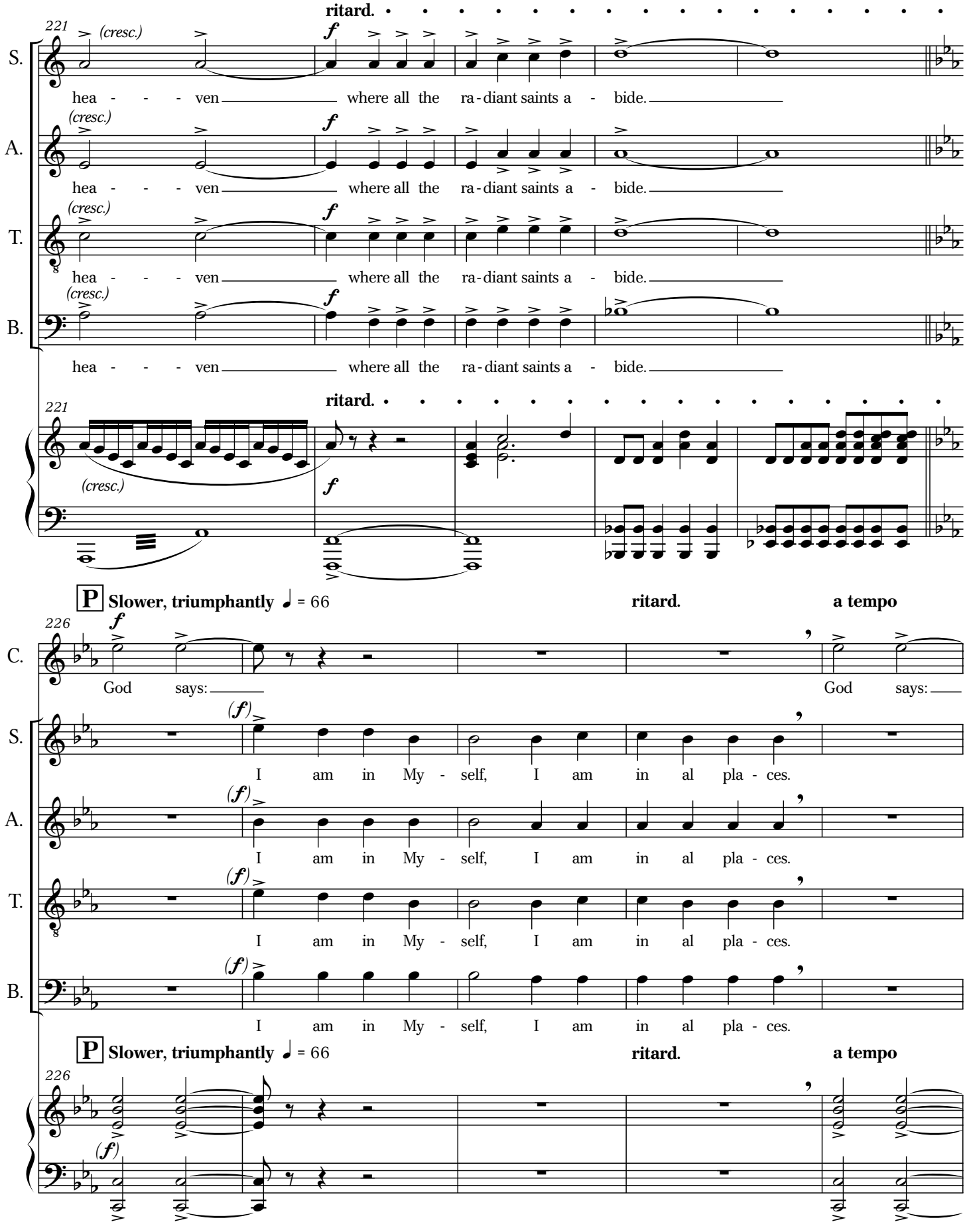
Reader:
God says:
My glorious Divinity
flows from hour
to hour into your soul.
When I flow, you must race.

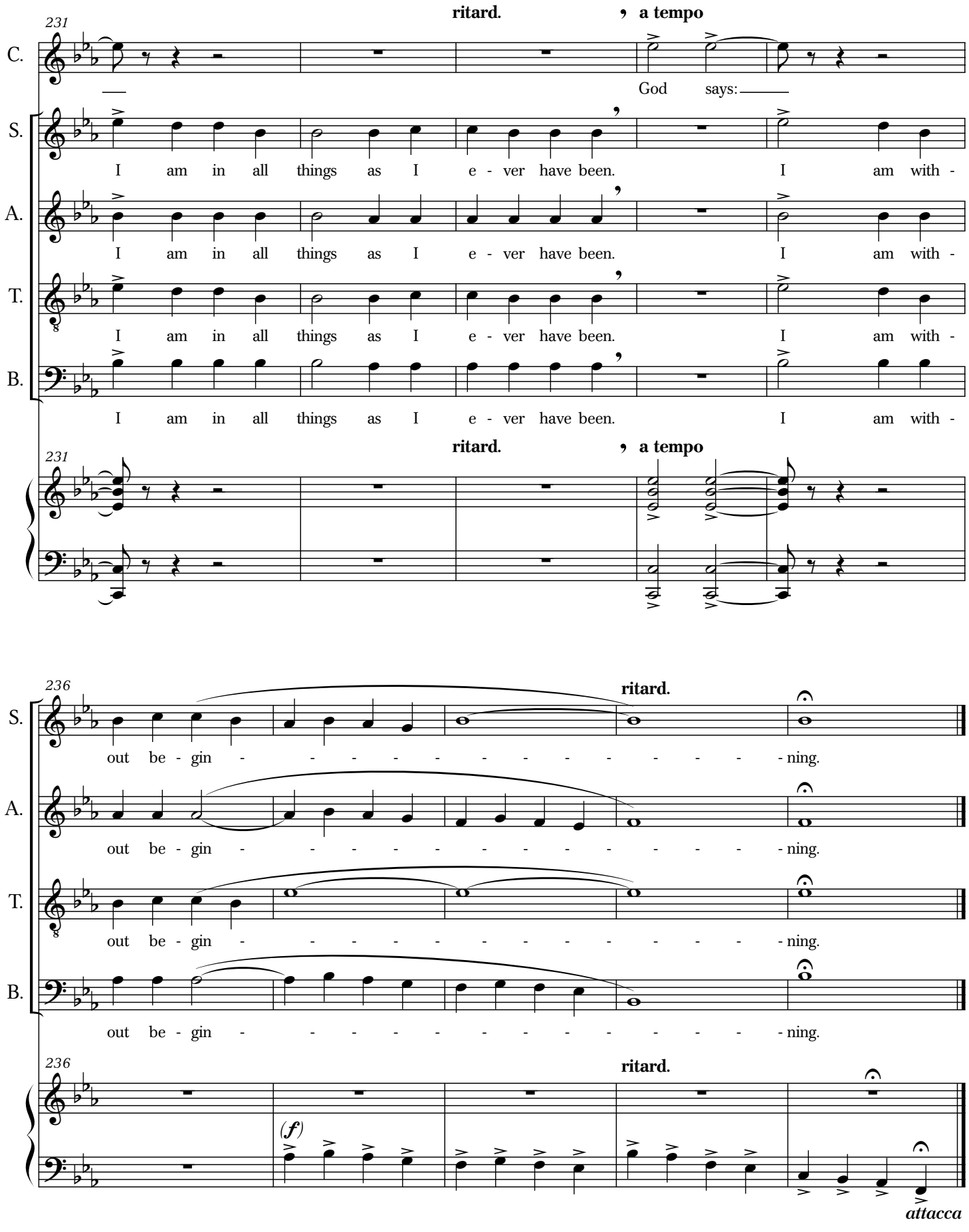



203
S.
la,
A.
la,
T.
like a liv - ing spark in the great Fire of the liv - ing Ma - jes-ty.
B.
like a liv - ing spark in the great Fire of the liv - ing Ma - jes-ty.
203
208
C.
la, la, la, la, la, Thou shalt burn. Thou shalt burn. Thou shalt burn.
S.
la, la, la, la, la, Thou shalt burn. Thou shalt burn. Thou shalt burn.
A.
unis.
la, la, la, la, la, Thou shalt burn. Thou shalt burn. Thou shalt burn.
T.
Thou shalt burn. Thou shalt burn. Thou shalt burn.
B.
Thou shalt burn. Thou shalt burn. Thou shalt burn.
208

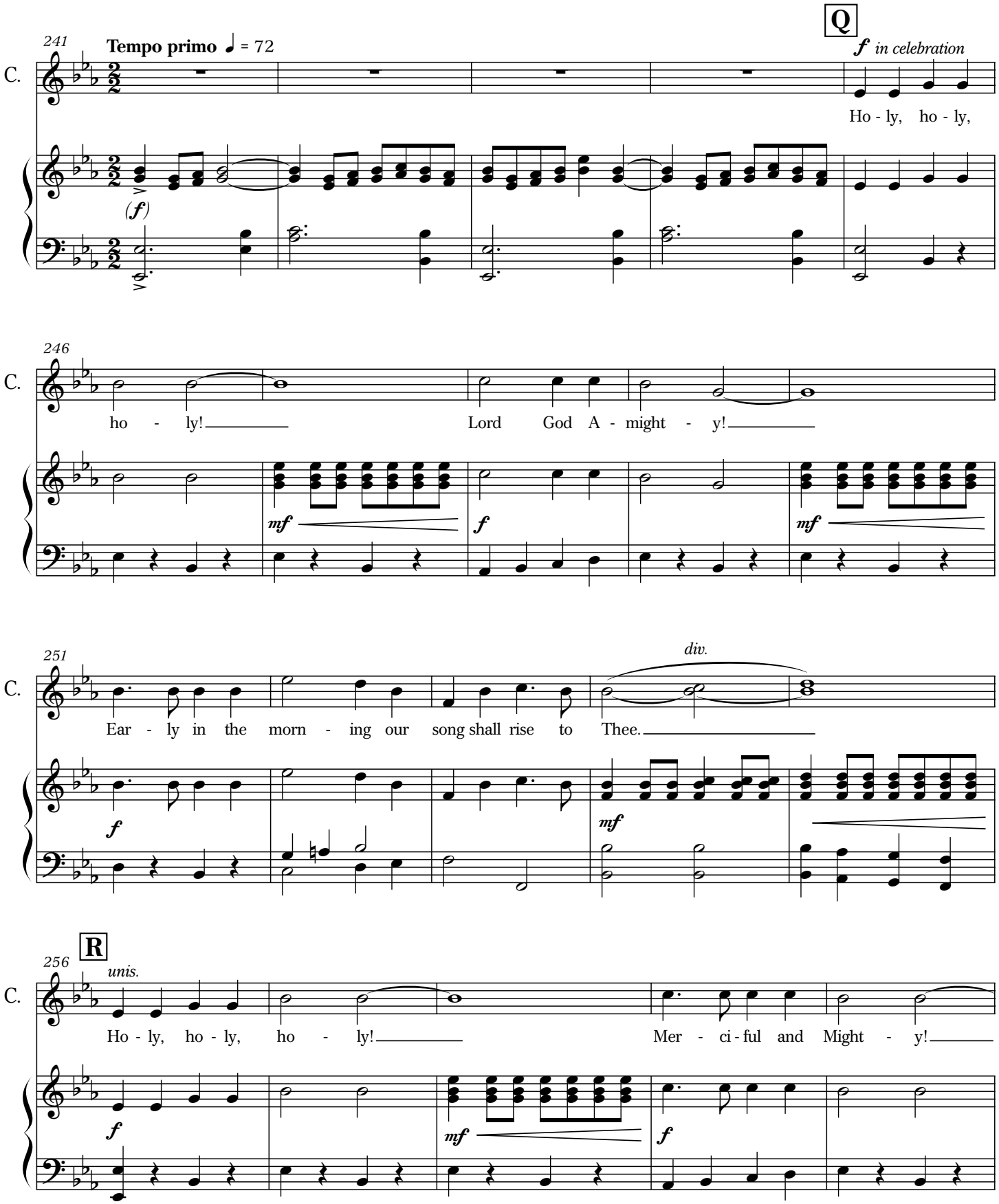

212
C.
div.
sub p
S.
If one blows on e - ven the ti - niest spark,
sub p
A.
If one blows on e - ven the ti - niest spark, it gives
T.
p
la, la, la, la, la, it gives
B.
p
la, la, la, la, la, it gives
212
p

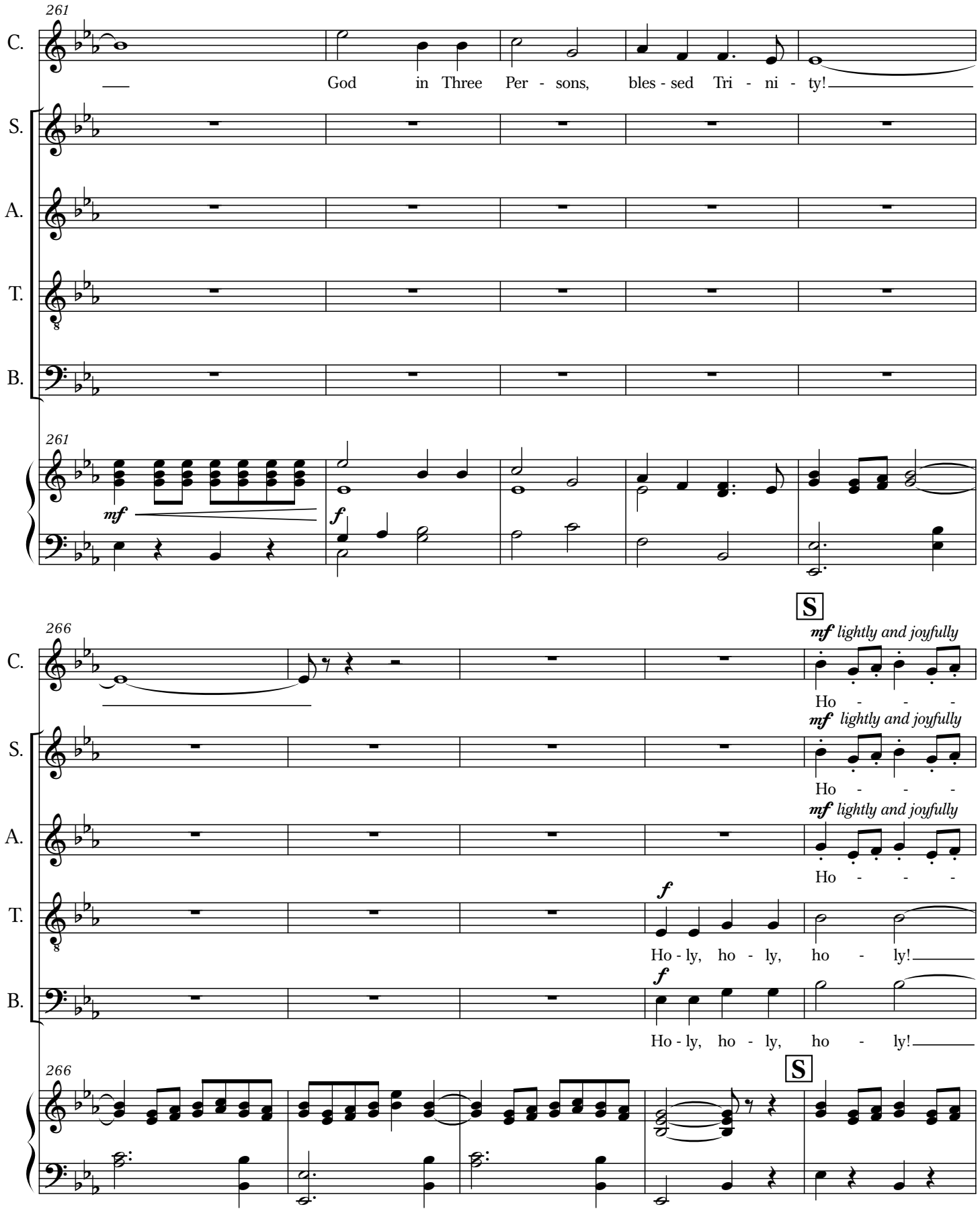

217
S.
unis. (p)
cresc.
and light in the fire of
A.
cresc.
forth both heat and light in the fire of
T.
cresc.
forth both heat and light in the fire of
B.
cresc.
forth both heat and light in the fire of
217
cresc.

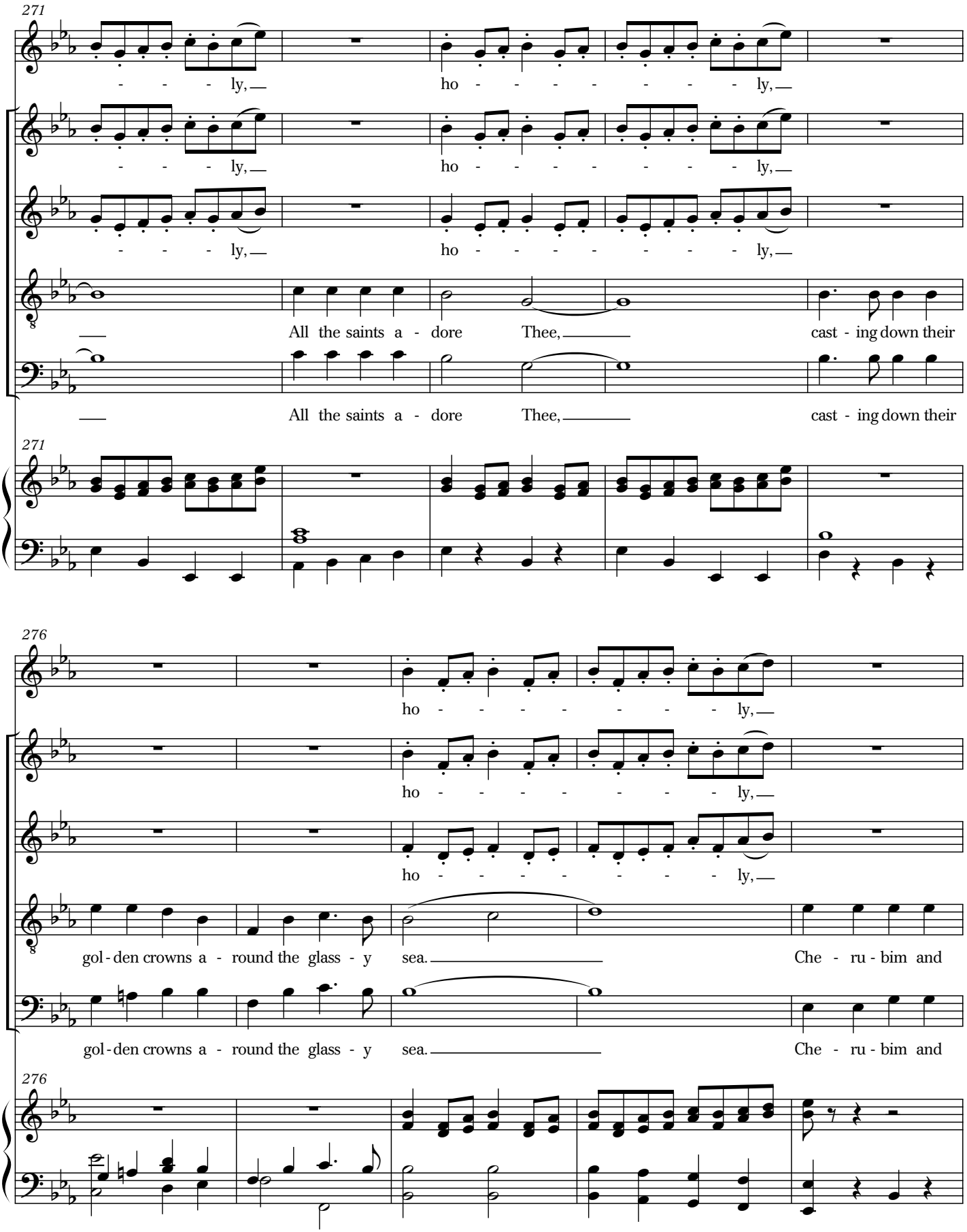

ritard.
221
(cresc.)
S.
hea - - - ven where all the ra-diant saints a - bide.
A.
hea - - - ven where all the ra-diant saints a - bide.
T.
hea - - - ven where all the ra-diant saints a - bide.
B.
hea - - - ven where all the ra-diant saints a - bide.
ritard.
221
(cresc.)
P Slower, triumphantly ♩ = 66
ritard.
a tempo
226
C.
God says:
God says:
S.
I am in My - self, I am in al pla - ces.
A.
I am in My - self, I am in al pla - ces.
T.
I am in My - self, I am in al pla - ces.
B.
I am in My - self, I am in al pla - ces.
P Slower, triumphantly ♩ = 66
ritard.
a tempo
226

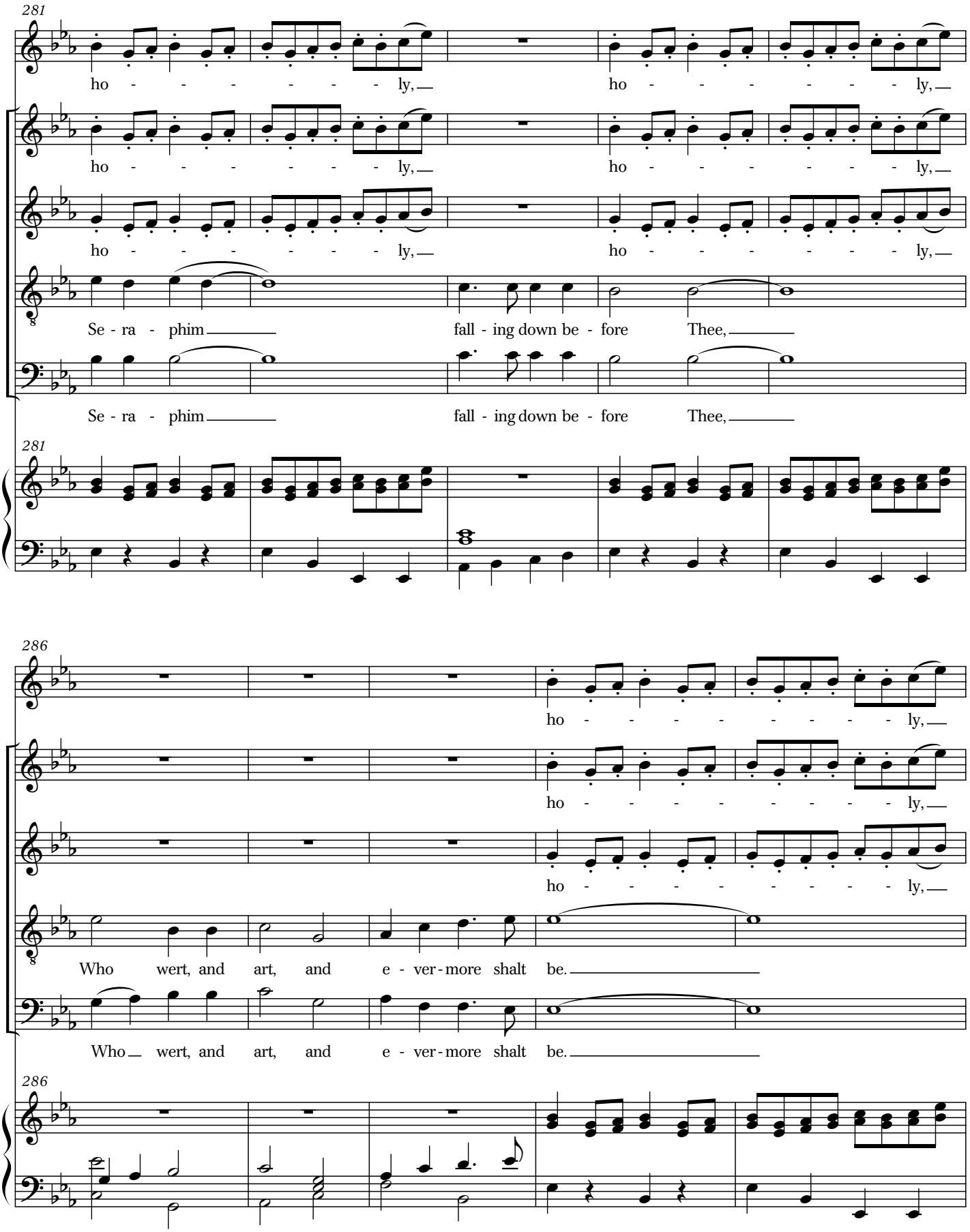

231
ritard.
a tempo
C.
God says:
S.
I am in all things as I e - ver have been. I am with -
A.
I am in all things as I e - ver have been. I am with -
T.
I am in all things as I e - ver have been. I am with -
B.
I am in all things as I e - ver have been. I am with -
231
ritard.
a tempo
236
ritard.
S.
out be - gin - - - - - - - - - - - - ning.
A.
out be - gin - - - - - - - - - - - - ning.
T.
out be - gin - - - - - - - - - - - - ning.
B.
out be - gin - - - - - - - - - - - - ning.
236
ritard.
(f)
attacca

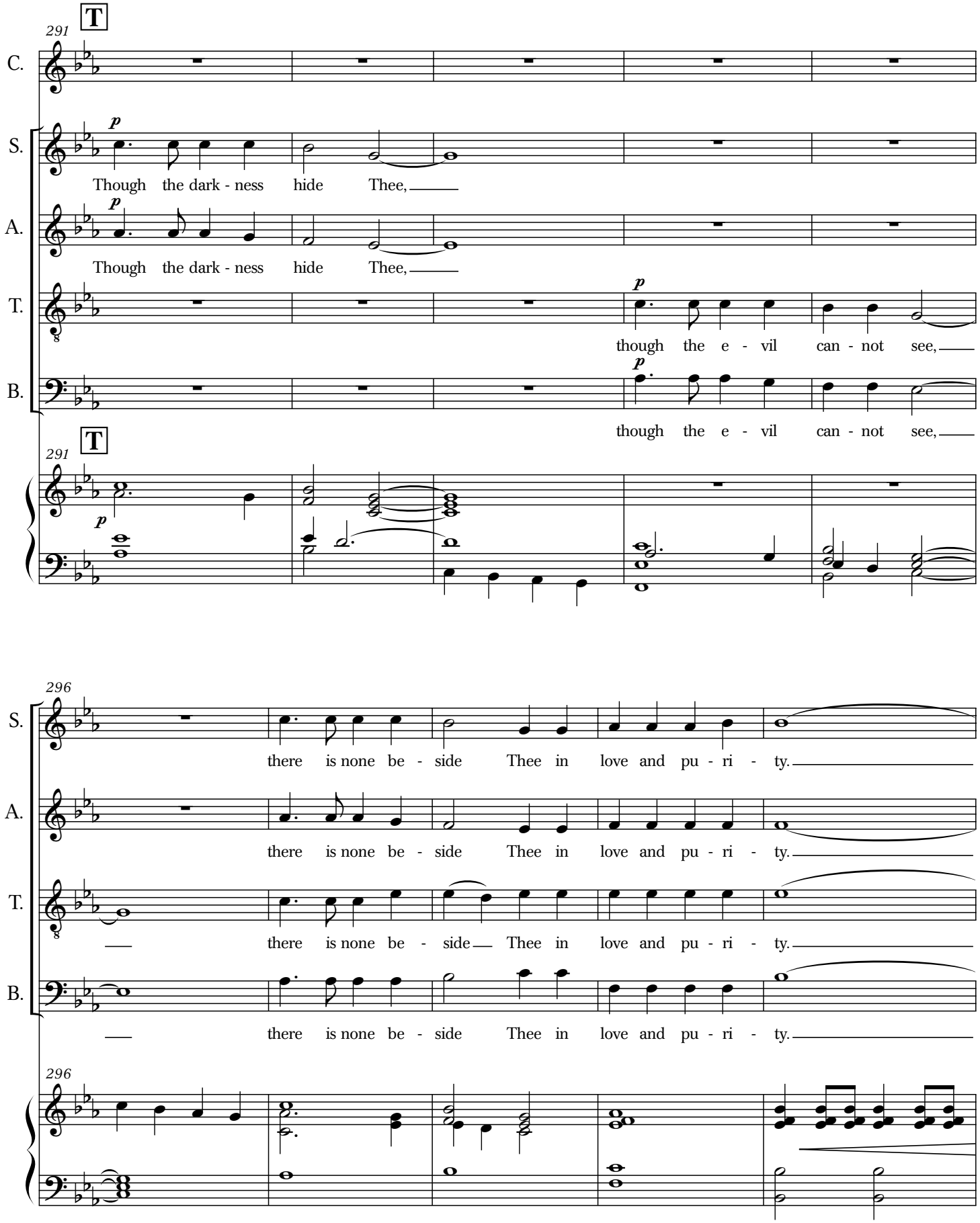
7. Hymn – Eternal Love

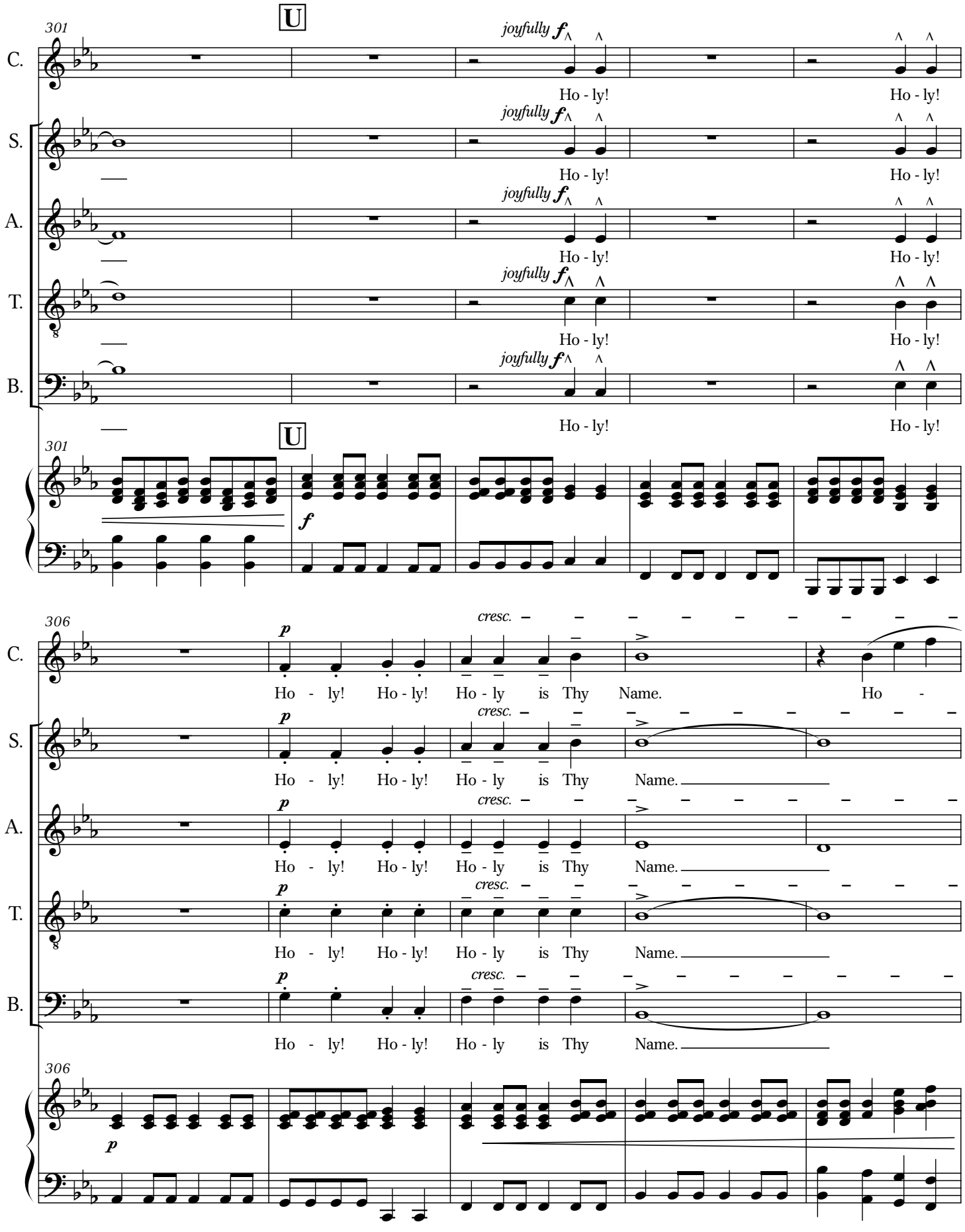


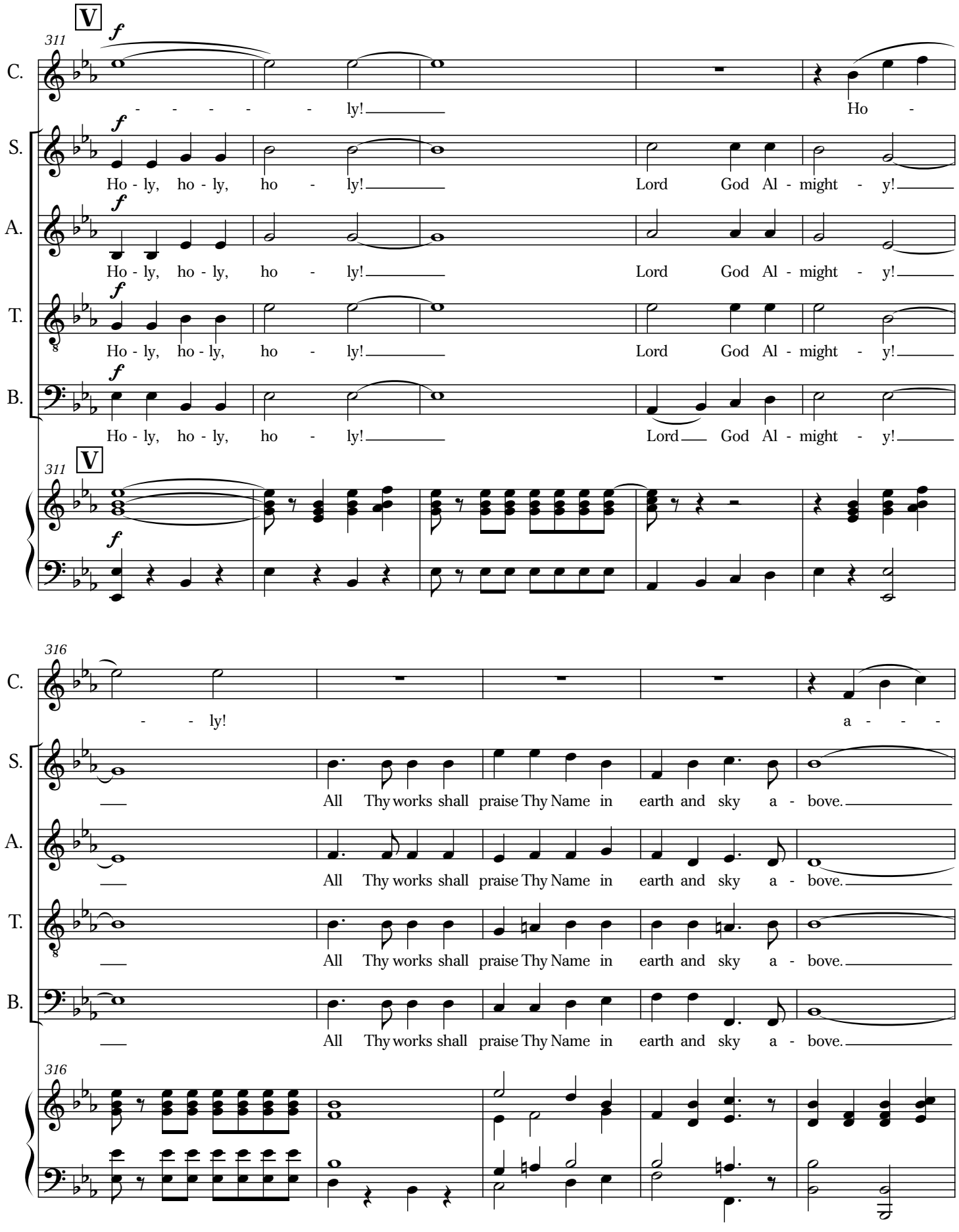

261
C.
God in Three Per - sons, bles - sed Tri - ni - ty!
S.
A.
T.
B.
261
mf
f
266
S
mf lightly and joyfully
C.
Ho - - -
mf lightly and joyfully
S.
Ho - - -
mf lightly and joyfully
A.
Ho - - -
f
T.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
f
B.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
266
S

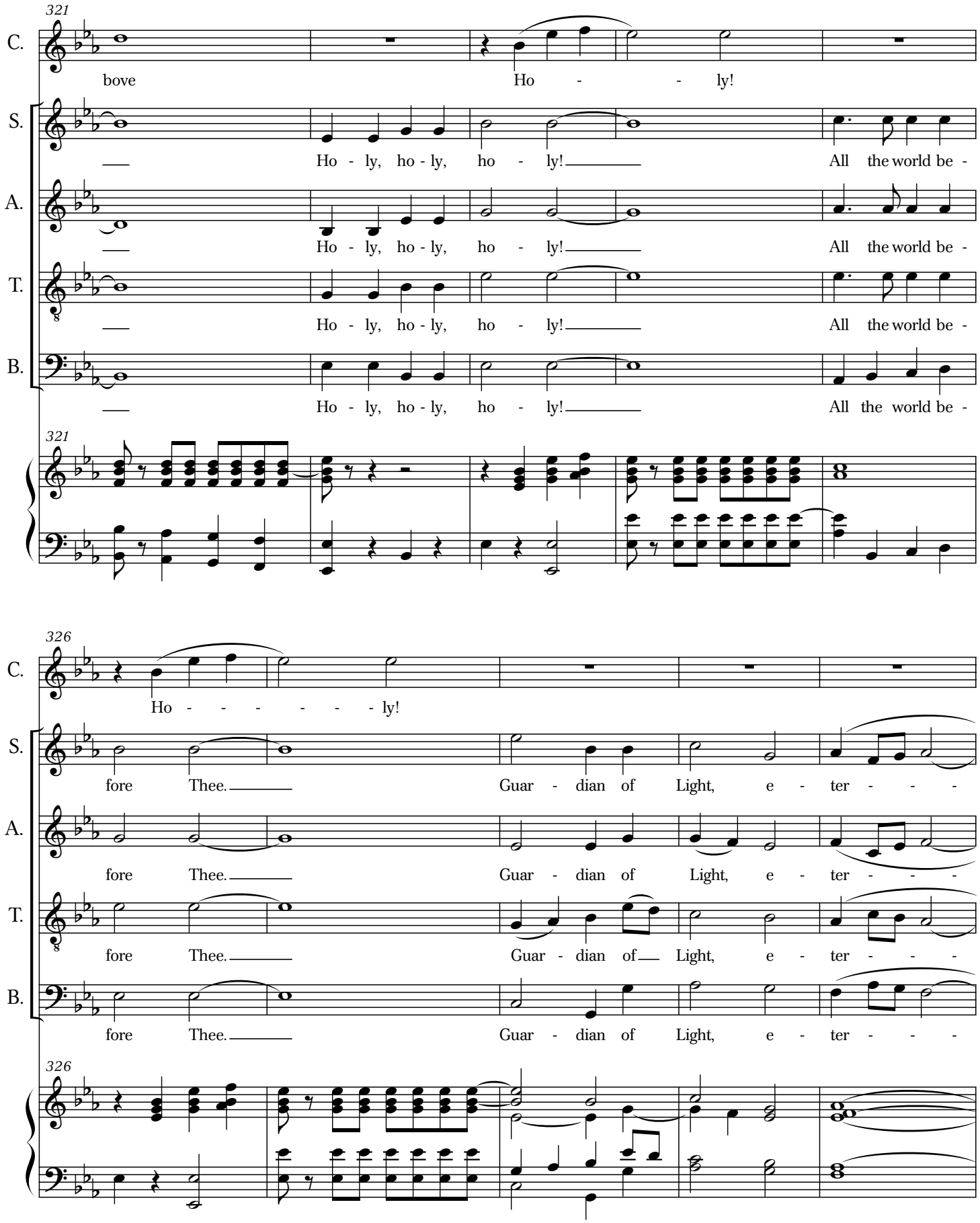

271
C.
S.
A.
T.
B.
ly,
ho - - - - - - - - ly,
All the saints a - dore Thee,
cast - ing down their
276
gol - den crowns a - round the glass - y sea.
Che - ru - bim and

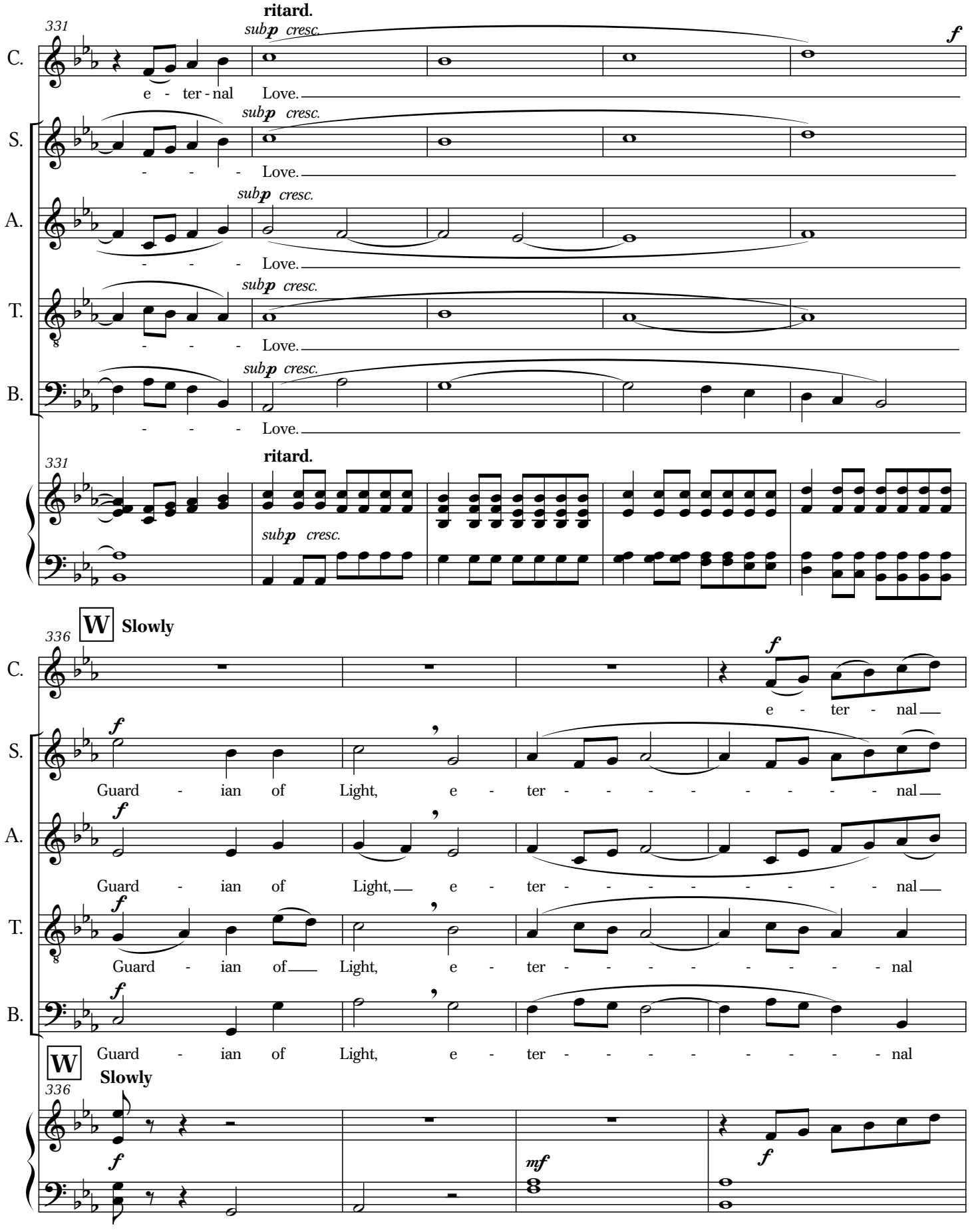

281
C.
ho - - - - - - - ly,
ho - - - - - - - ly,
S.
ho - - - - - - - ly,
ho - - - - - - - ly,
A.
ho - - - - - - - ly,
ho - - - - - - - ly,
T.
Se - ra - phim
fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
B.
Se - ra - phim
fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
281
286
C.
ho - - - - - - - ly,
S.
ho - - - - - - - ly,
A.
ho - - - - - - - ly,
T.
Who wert, and art, and e - ver - more shalt be.
B.
Who wert, and art, and e - ver - more shalt be.
286

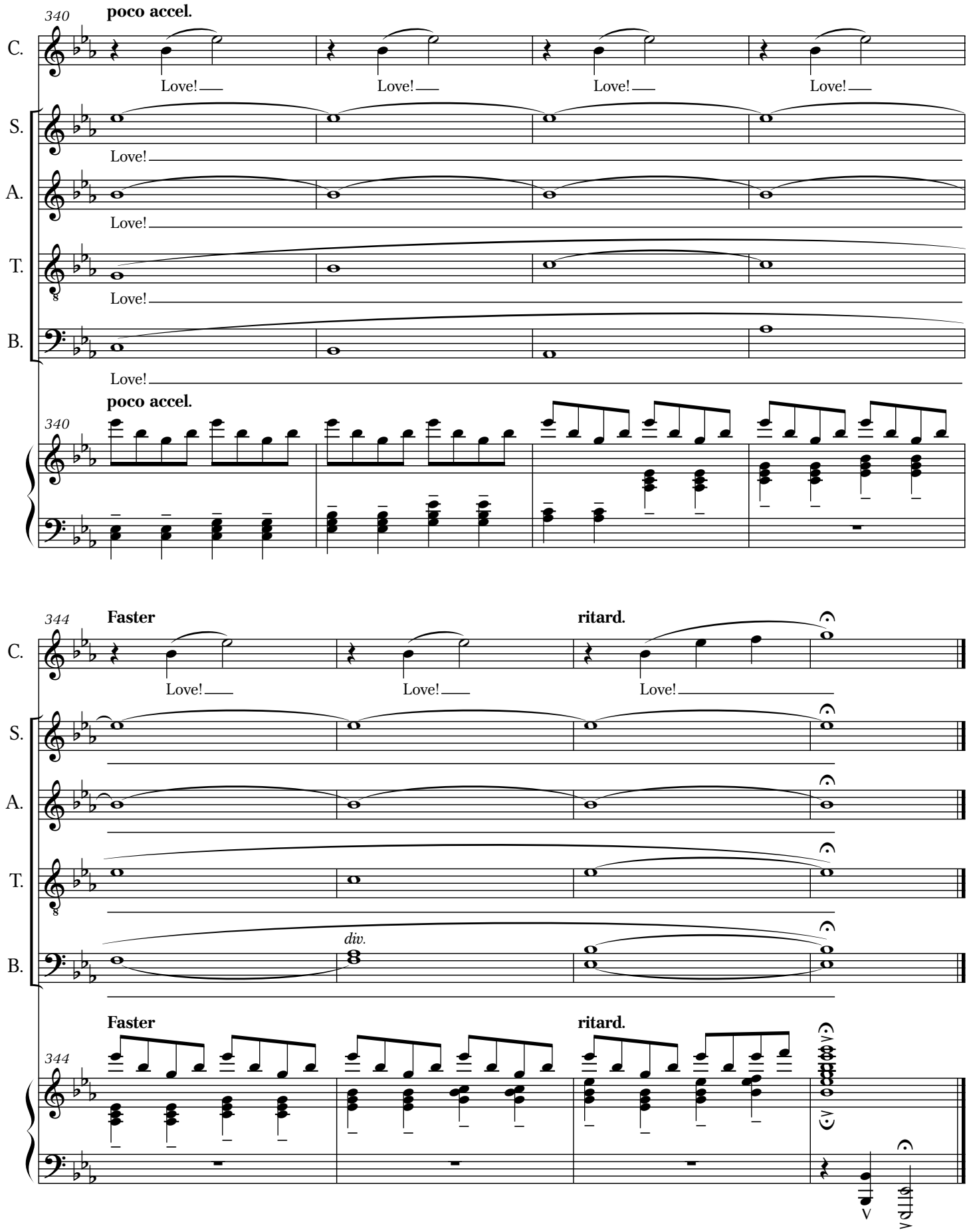

T
291
C.
S.
Though the dark - ness hide Thee,
A.
Though the dark - ness hide Thee,
T.
though the e - vil can - not see,
B.
though the e - vil can - not see,
T
291
296
S.
there is none be - side Thee in love and pu - ri - ty.
A.
there is none be - side Thee in love and pu - ri - ty.
T.
there is none be - side Thee in love and pu - ri - ty.
B.
there is none be - side Thee in love and pu - ri - ty.
296


U
301
C.
S.
A.
T.
B.
joyfully f
Ho - ly!
Ho - ly!
306
p
cresc.
Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly is Thy Name.
Ho -


V
311
C.
S.
A.
T.
B.
- - - - - - ly!
Ho -
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
Lord God Al - might - y!
316
- - ly!
a - - -
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name in earth and sky a - bove.


321
C.
bove
Ho - - ly!
S.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
All the world be -
A.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
All the world be -
T.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
All the world be -
B.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
All the world be -
326
C.
Ho - - - - - - ly!
S.
fore Thee.
Guar - dian of Light, e - ter - - -
A.
fore Thee.
Guar - dian of Light, e - ter - - -
T.
fore Thee.
Guar - dian of Light, e - ter - - -
B.
fore Thee.
Guar - dian of Light, e - ter - - -


ritard.
331
sub p cresc.
f
C.
e - ter - nal Love.
S.
- - - - Love.
A.
- - - - Love.
T.
- - - - Love.
B.
- - - - Love.
ritard.
331
sub p cresc.
W Slowly
336
f
e - ter - nal
Guard - ian of Light, e - ter - - - - - - - - nal
Guard - ian of Light, e - ter - - - - - - - - nal
Guard - ian of Light, e - ter - - - - - - - - nal
Guard - ian of Light, e - ter - - - - - - - - nal
W Slowly
336
mf



Total Duration: approx. 14' August 1, 2004 Braintree Vermont