When The Snow Came

score with piano reduction - for rehearsal only

Music: Chris Hutchings

Text: by the composer

Duration: c. 6 minutes

Performance instructions

Sections of music between large square brackets are to be repeated ad lib, with each singer independent of the others unless stated, for as long as the dotted arrows last. The duration of any unbarred sections is up to the choir and conductor: bar length in the current tempo can be used as an approximate guide.

Empty bars without dotted arrows are always silent.

The part labelled "vocals" (V) is to be performed by a group of speakers, about half the size of the main choir.
This part is intended for performers who may include non-singers - e.g. a beginning children's choir could perform the spoken part (perhaps with a separate conductor holding up cue sheets), with a more advanced choir singing the rest of the parts.
They speak (unpitched where possible) the sounds given, freely, in any order, repeating for as long as their arrows last, except for the *[excited gasps]* and "look! snow!" on pages 10 and 11, which should be spoken only 1-2 times per performer.
Length and speed of repetition of sounds are left to the performers, but should be sensitive to the singers and the context.
Most of the sounds are consonants taken from the text and used to evoke the meteorological effect being mentioned.

The *[breath sounds with mouth in "oo" shape]* are the same sound as at the end of the word "snow" - intended to evoke cold wind sounds, or the sound that we make when breathing out clouds of water vapour in cold weather.

The ***n*** dynamic stands for niente/nothing, i.e. fade out to silence.

Adding physical movement or choreography to this piece is very welcome, especially during the "snowball fight" section, where there is scope for throwing the musical phrases to each other like snowballs! It's a dramatic piece and should definitely include some (over)acting from the singers. I also encourage the donning of coats, hats, scarves, gloves and boots on stage at the appropriate section (at least for the speaking parts) - if so, remove them during pages 18-19.

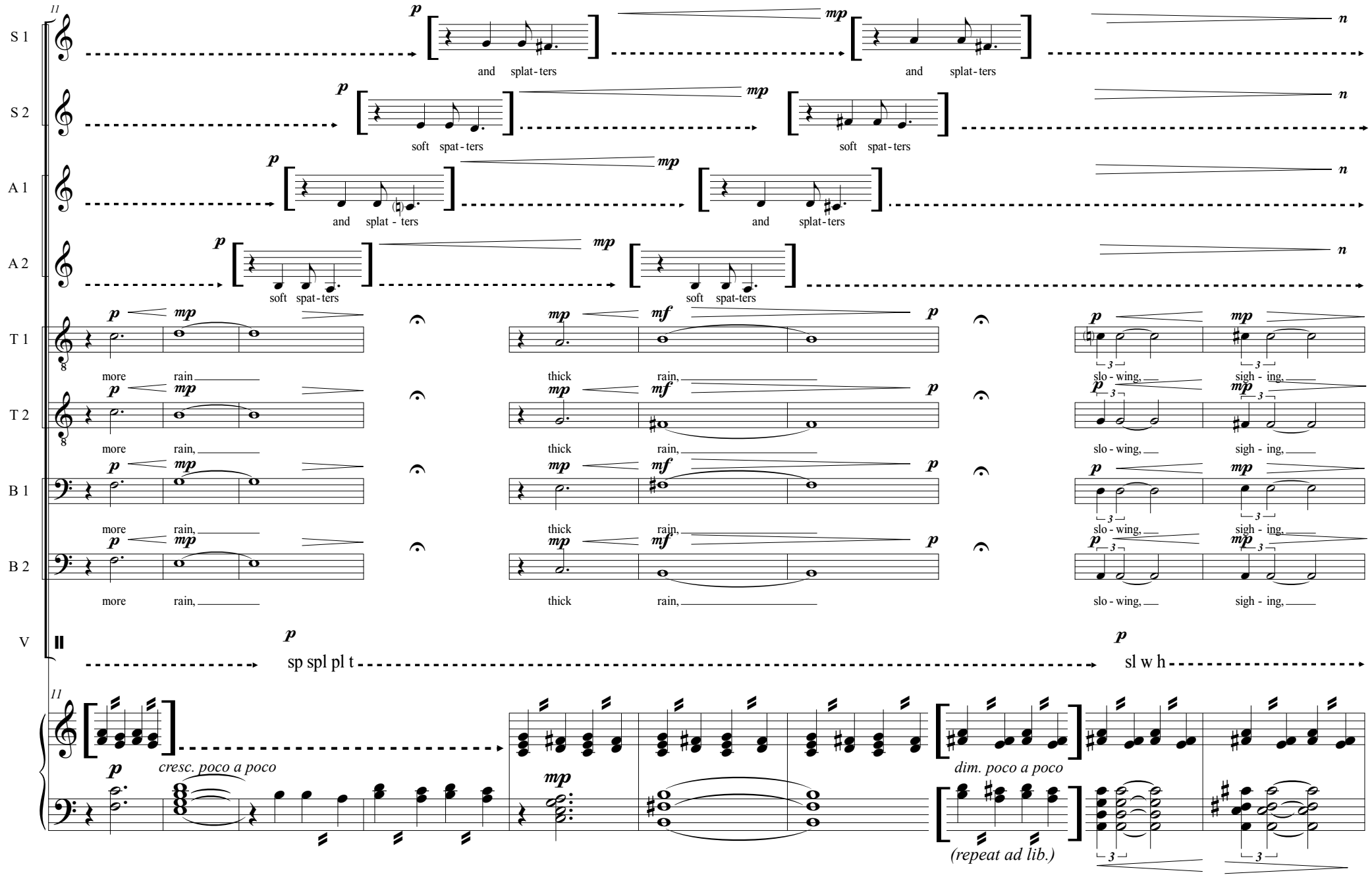
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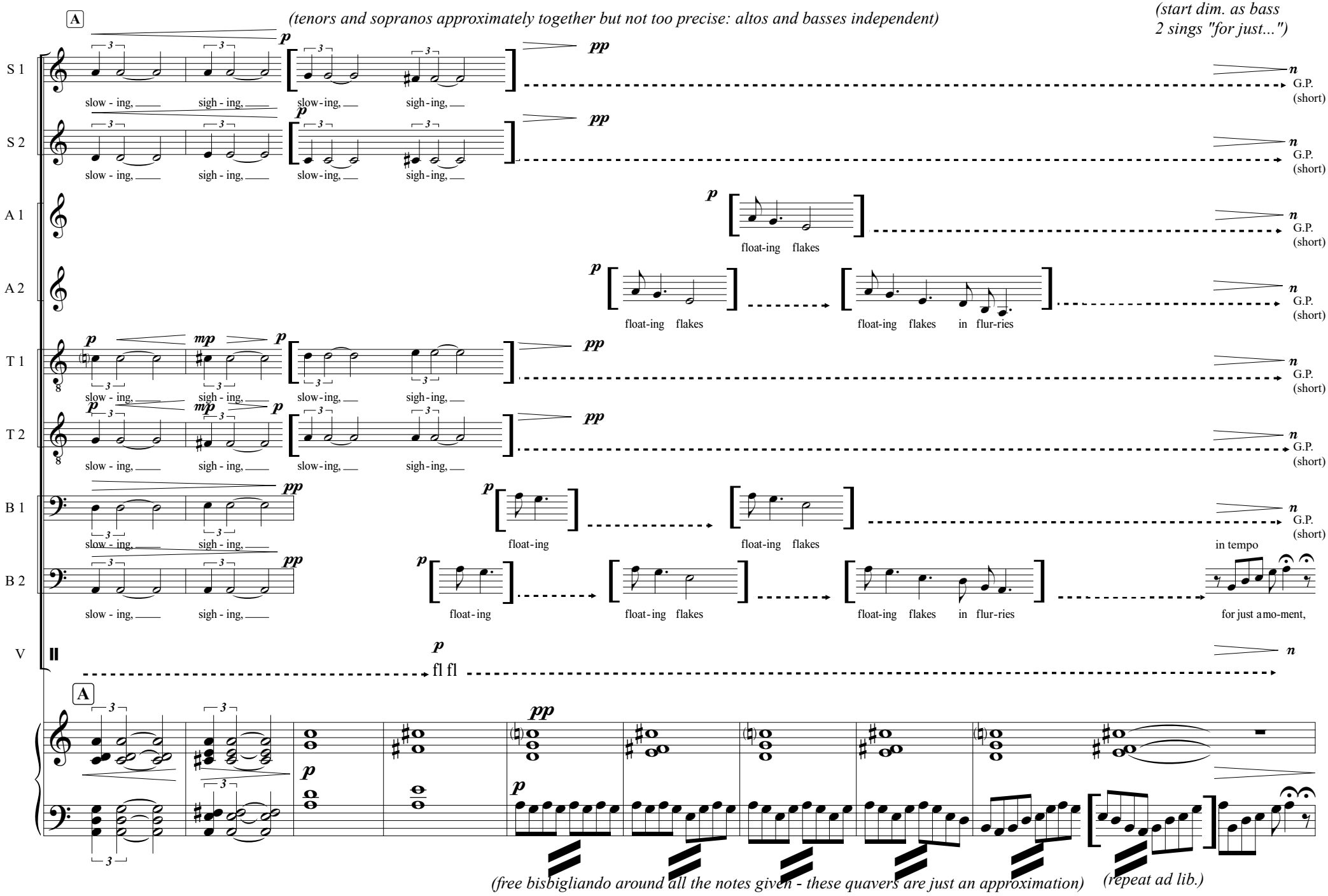
When The Snow Came

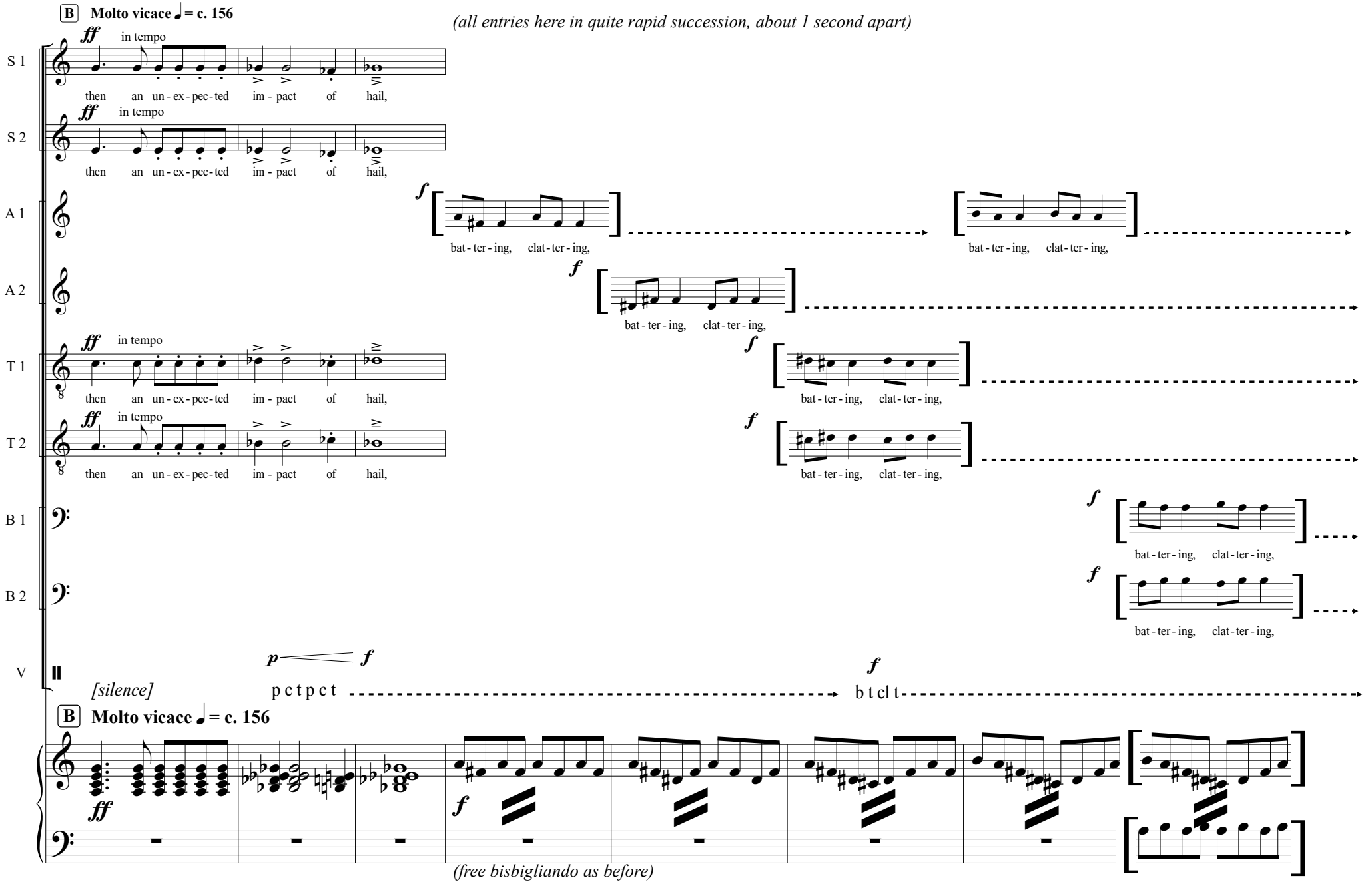
Chris Hutchings

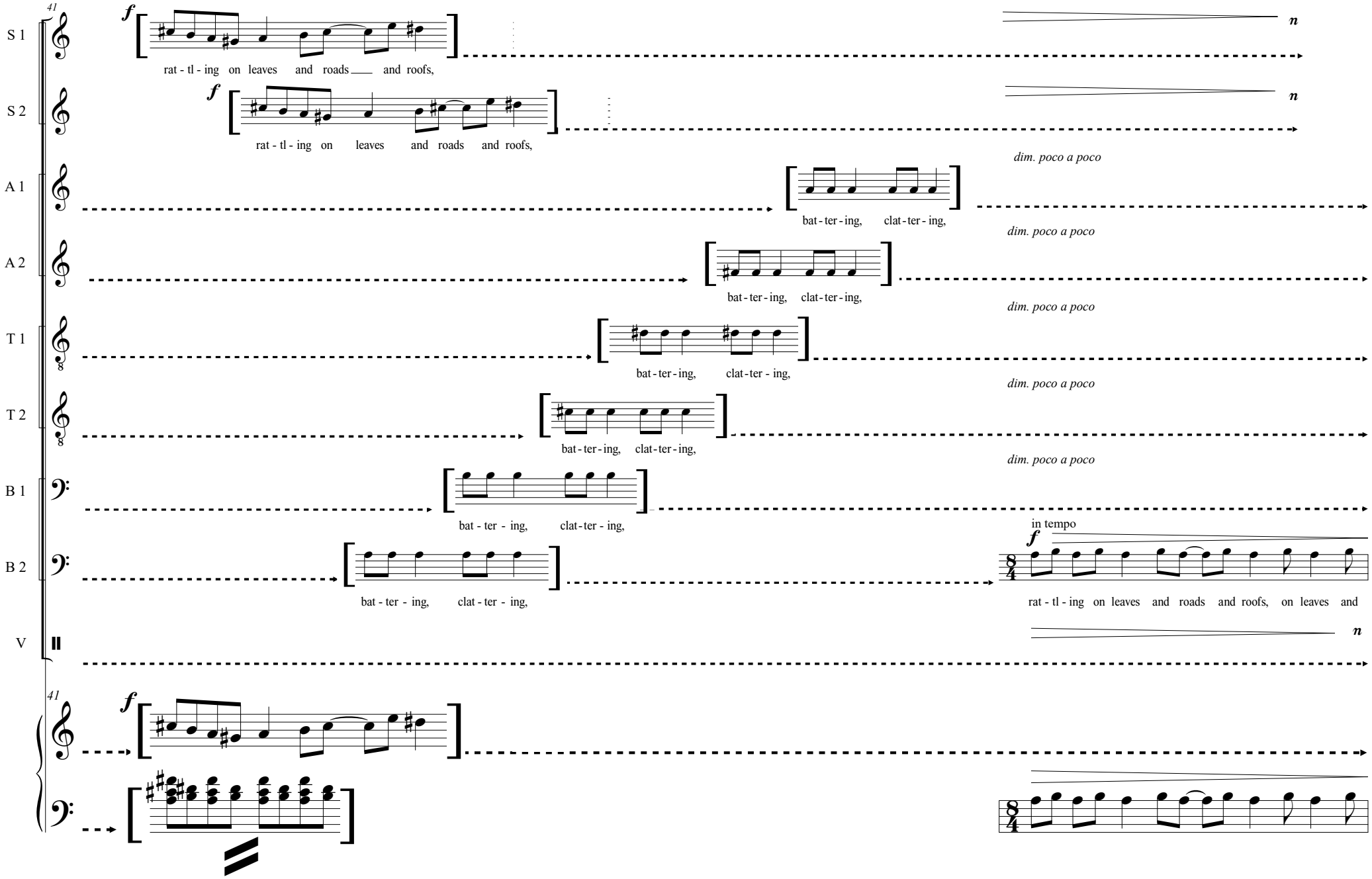


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11
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
p
mp
mf
n
and splat-ters
soft spat-ters
more rain,
thick rain,
slo - wing,
sigh - ing,
sp spl pl t
sl w h
cresc. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
(repeat ad lib.)

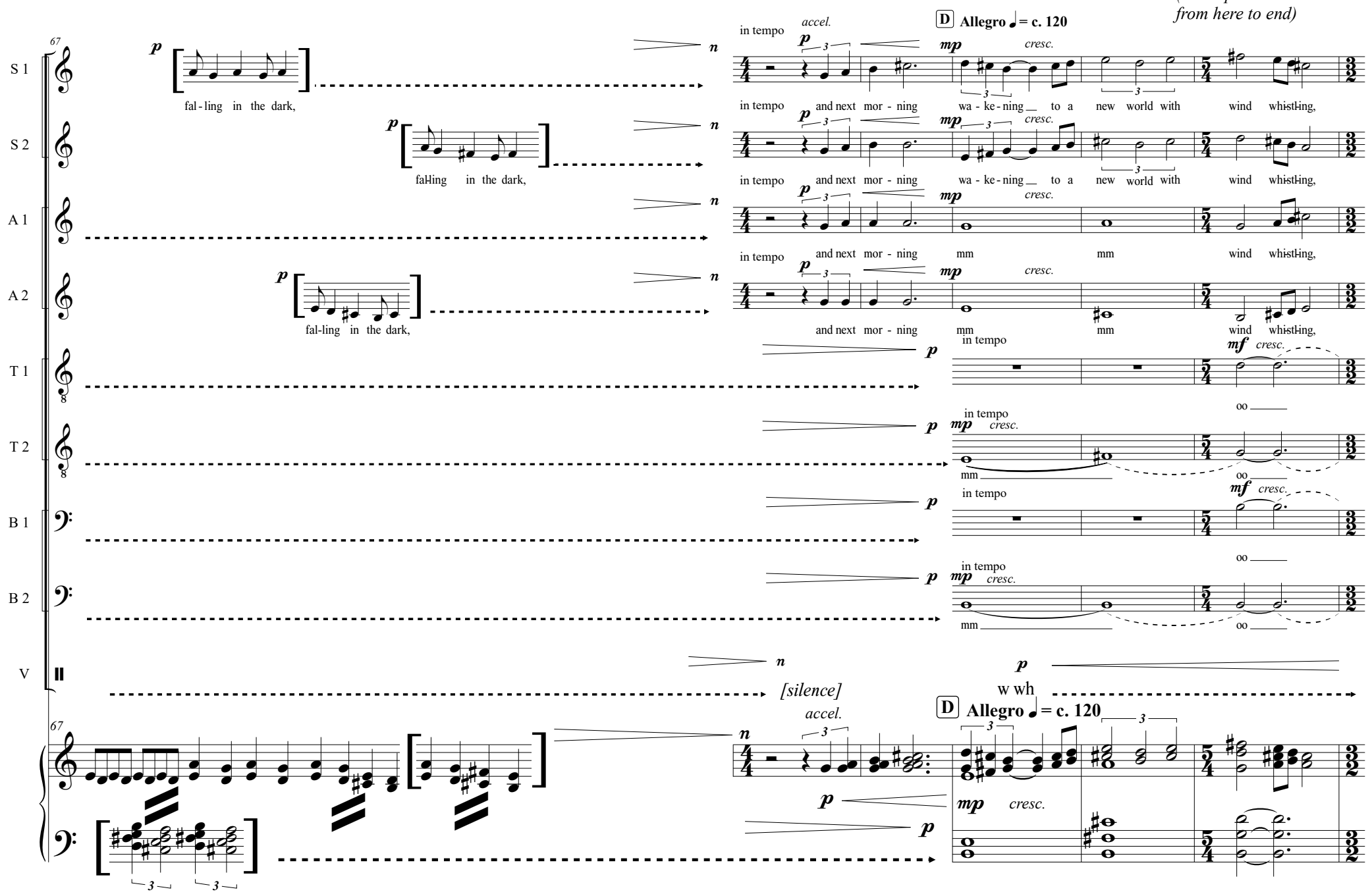

A
(tenors and sopranos approximately together but not too precise: altos and basses independent)
(start dim. as bass 2 sings "for just...")
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
slow - ing, sigh - ing, slow-ing, sigh-ing,
float-ing flakes
float-ing flakes in flur-ries
float-ing
in tempo
for just a mo-ment,
fl fl
G.P. (short)
(free bisbigliando around all the notes given - these quavers are just an approximation)
(repeat ad lib.)


B Molto vicace ♩= c. 156
(all entries here in quite rapid succession, about 1 second apart)
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
ff in tempo
then an un-ex-pec-ted im-pact of hail,
f
bat-ter-ing, clat-ter-ing,
p f
p c t p c t
f
b t cl t
[silence]
B Molto vicace ♩= c. 156
ff
f
(free bisbigliando as before)

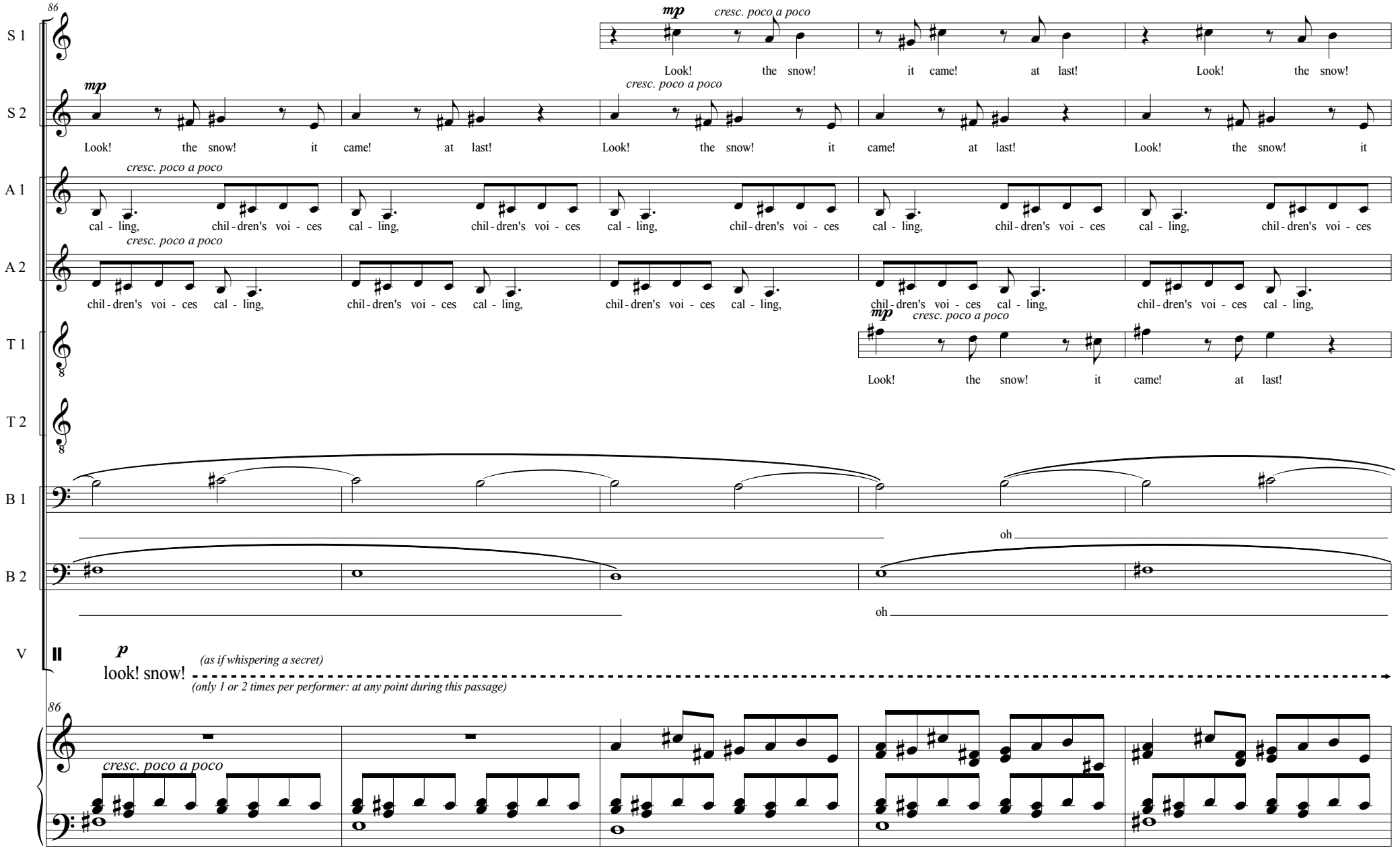

41
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
f
n
rat - tl - ing on leaves and roads and roofs,
rat - tl - ing on leaves and roads and roofs,
dim. poco a poco
bat - ter - ing, clat - ter - ing,
bat - ter - ing, clat - ter - ing,
bat - ter - ing, clat - ter - ing,
bat - ter - ing, clat - ter - ing,
bat - ter - ing, clat - ter - ing,
bat - ter - ing, clat - ter - ing,
in tempo
rat - tl - ing on leaves and roads and roofs, on leaves and


48
rit.
Moderato ♩= c. 108
in tempo
p
3
C
S 1
gone as fast as it came.
S 2
mp
More rain for weeks af - ter,
A 1
gone
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
roads and roofs, on roads and roofs and gone
V
[silence]
ppp
mp
p t p t


Andante ♩ = c. 78
59
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
but in De - cem - ber, a flut - ter of fea - thers in the dusk,
a flut - ter of white fea - thers in the dusk,
De - cem - ber, mm
but in De - cem - ber, mm
in De - cem - ber, mm
but in De - cem - ber, mm
De - cem - ber, a soft mur - mur
in De - cem - ber, a soft mur - mur
p t fl
s f s f
(all parts independent)
fal - ling in the dark,
mur - mur
mur - mur


(in tempo as written from here to end)
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
67
fal - ling in the dark,
fal-ling in the dark,
D Allegro ♩= c. 120
in tempo
accel.
and next mor - ning
wa - ke - ning to a
new world with
wind whist-ling,
mm
oo
[silence]
w wh


78
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
wind whi-stl - ing and snow! fal - len for miles a - round,
oh snow! fal - len for miles a - round,
oh and snow! fal - len for miles a - round,
chil-dren's voi-ces cal - ling, cal - ling, chil-dren's voi-ces
chil-dren's voi-ces cal - ling,
chil-dren's voi-ces cal-ling,
oo
ff
dim.
mf
p
f
[excited gasps]
(only 1 or 2 per performer: any time in these 2 bars)
pp
[breathe in with audible anticipation]
(leaving out some middle notes is fine)


86
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
mp
cresc. poco a poco
Look! the snow! it came! at last!
Look! the snow! it came! at last! Look! the snow! it
cal - ling, chil - dren's voi - ces
chil - dren's voi - ces cal - ling,
oh
p
look! snow!
(as if whispering a secret)
(only 1 or 2 times per performer: at any point during this passage)


91
accel.
mf
E
Vicace ♩= c. 144
subito p
cresc. poco a poco
S 1
it came! at last! an ec - sta - sy of coats and hats and gloves and scarves and coats hats gloves scarves coats hats gloves boots
S 2
came! at last! oh, coats and hats and gloves and scarves and coats hats gloves scarves coats hats gloves boots
A 1
cal - ling, chil-dren's voi - ces cal-ling, chil-dren's voi - ces cal-ling, cal - ling, cal-ling, cal - ling, coats hats gloves scarves coats hats gloves and
A 2
chil-dren's voi - ces cal - ling, an ec - sta - sy of coats, hats, gloves, scarves, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, coats, hats, gloves, boots and
T 1
Look! the snow! it came! at last! coats, hats, gloves, scarves, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, coats, boots and
T 2
an ec - sta - sy of coats, hats, gloves, scarves, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, coats, hats, gloves, boots and
B 1
gloves, scarves, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, coats, boots and
B 2
ah coats and hats and gloves and scarves and boots, and
V
coats! hats! gloves! boots! scarves!
(with repetitions as previously)


99
F
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
and run - ning, shout - ing, run - ning, shout - ing, run - ning, shout - ing, scrunch! un - der wel - lies, crunch! in hand - fuls,
run - ning, shou - ting, run - ning, shout - ing, run - ning, shout - ing, run - ning, shout - ing, scrunch! un - der wel - lies, crunch! in hand - fuls,
run - ning, shou - ting, run - ning, shout - ing, run - ning, shout - ing, run - ning, shout - ing, scrunch! crunch!
run - ning, shou - ting, run - ning, shout - ing, run - ning, shout - ing, run - ning, shout - ing, scrunch! crunch!
run - ning, shou - ting, run - ning, shout - ing, run - ning, shout - ing, run - ning, shout - ing, scrunch! crunch!
mp
ha! ho!
scrunch! crunch!
(leaving out some middle notes is still fine)


105
G
rit.
Allegro ♩= c. 120
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
mf
p
subito p
scrunch! un - der wel - lies, crunch! in hand - fuls,
the si - lent gaze of snow - men,
scrunch! crunch!
mm
snow wo-men (nn)
snowchil-dren
[breath sounds with mouth in 'oo' shape]

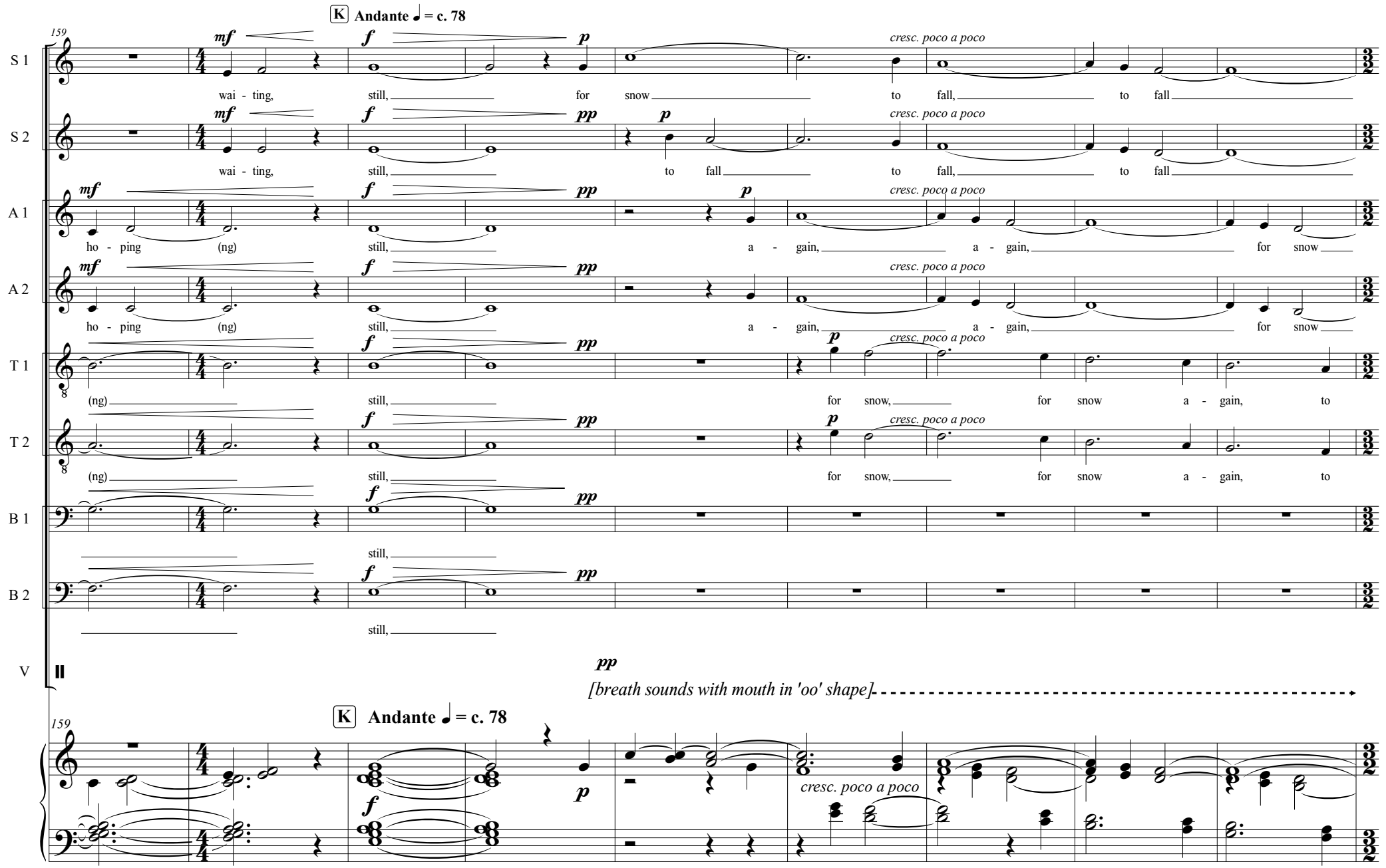

H Vicace ♩= c. 144
113
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
the first snow - ball, whap! on a coat, whomp! on a hat, thump! on a wall, splat! on a win - dow,
the si - lent flight of the first snow - ball, whap! on a coat, whomp! on a hat, thump! on a wall, splat! on a win - dow,
[breathe in]
whap!
whap! whomp!
H Vicace ♩= c. 144


121
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
splat! on a win - dow, whomp! on a hat, splat! on a win-dow,
thump! on a wall, whap! on a coat, thump on a wall,
whomp! on a hat, thump! on a wall, whomp! on a hat, thump on a wall,
whomp! on a hat, splat! on a win - dow, whap! on a coat, splat! on a win-dow,
whap! on a coat, thump! on a wall, splat! on a win - dow, whap! on a coat, thump on a wall, splat! on a win-dow,
whap! on a coat, thump! on a wall, splat! on a win - dow, whomp! on a hat, splat! on a win-dow,
whap! on a coat, whomp! on a hat, whap! on a coat, thump on a wall,
whap! on a coat, whomp! on a hat, whomp! on a hat,
whap! whomp! thump!
whap! whomp! thump! splat!
121


I Andante ♩ = c. 78
(exhausted sigh)
(as if getting tired)
rit.
dim. molto
129
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
whap! thump! whap! thump! whap! thump! whap whomp thump splat whoo A truce at bed - time,
whomp! splat! whomp! splat! whomp! splat! whap whomp thump splat whoo a truce at bed - time,
whomp! splat! whomp! splat! whomp! splat! whap whomp thump splat whoo
oo oh
whap whop splat whop splat whop whoo
whap thump whap thump whap thump whoo
[breath sounds with mouth in 'oo' shape]
I Andante ♩ = c. 78
(it's all a whole tone scale, sorry about the double flats)


138
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
mp con portamento
slip - ping, sli - ding, squi - shing, squel - ching,
p
and the next day on - ly slush left,
mm
slip-ping, sli - ding, slip-ping, sli - ding, slip - ping, sli - ding, squi - shing, squel - ching, slip - ping, sli - ding, squi - shing, squel - ching,
pp
slip - ping, squi - shing, squel - ching, slip - ping, sli - ding, squi - shing, squel - ching,
sl sh
sl sq sh
138


147
poco accel.
J Moderato ♩= c. 108
rit.
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
mel - ted and gone,
wai - ting (ng)
ho - ping (ng)
slip-ping, sli-ding, gone
squishing, squelching, gone
left
and all (ll)
[silence]
cresc. poco a poco


K Andante ♩ = c. 78
159
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T 1
T 2
B 1
B 2
V
mf
f
pp
p
cresc. poco a poco
wai - ting, still, for snow to fall, to fall
wai - ting, still, to fall to fall, to fall
ho - ping (ng) still, a - gain, a - gain, for snow
(ng) still, for snow, for snow a - gain, to
[breath sounds with mouth in 'oo' shape]
K Andante ♩ = c. 78
159
cresc. poco a poco

After each section fades out, they join the 'vocals' group in "oo" breath sounds until the end.

