The Isle Is Full Of Noises

Music: Chris Hutchings
Words: W. Shakespeare

The Tempest, Act III, Scene II
William Shakespeare, 1564-1616

Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises,
Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight, and hurt not.
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments
Will hum about mine ears; and sometime voices,
That, if I then had waked after long sleep,
Will make me sleep again: and then, in dreaming,
The clouds methought would open, and show riches
Ready to drop upon me; that, when I waked,
I cried to dream again.

Performance notes: please pronounce "voices" and "noises" with a soft "eh" vowel and "s" consonant at the ends of the words, rather than a hard "ee-z". (The "s" in the middle of "noises" can have a slight "z" sound to it but shouldn't be prominent.)

X noteheads indicate an unpitched whisper.

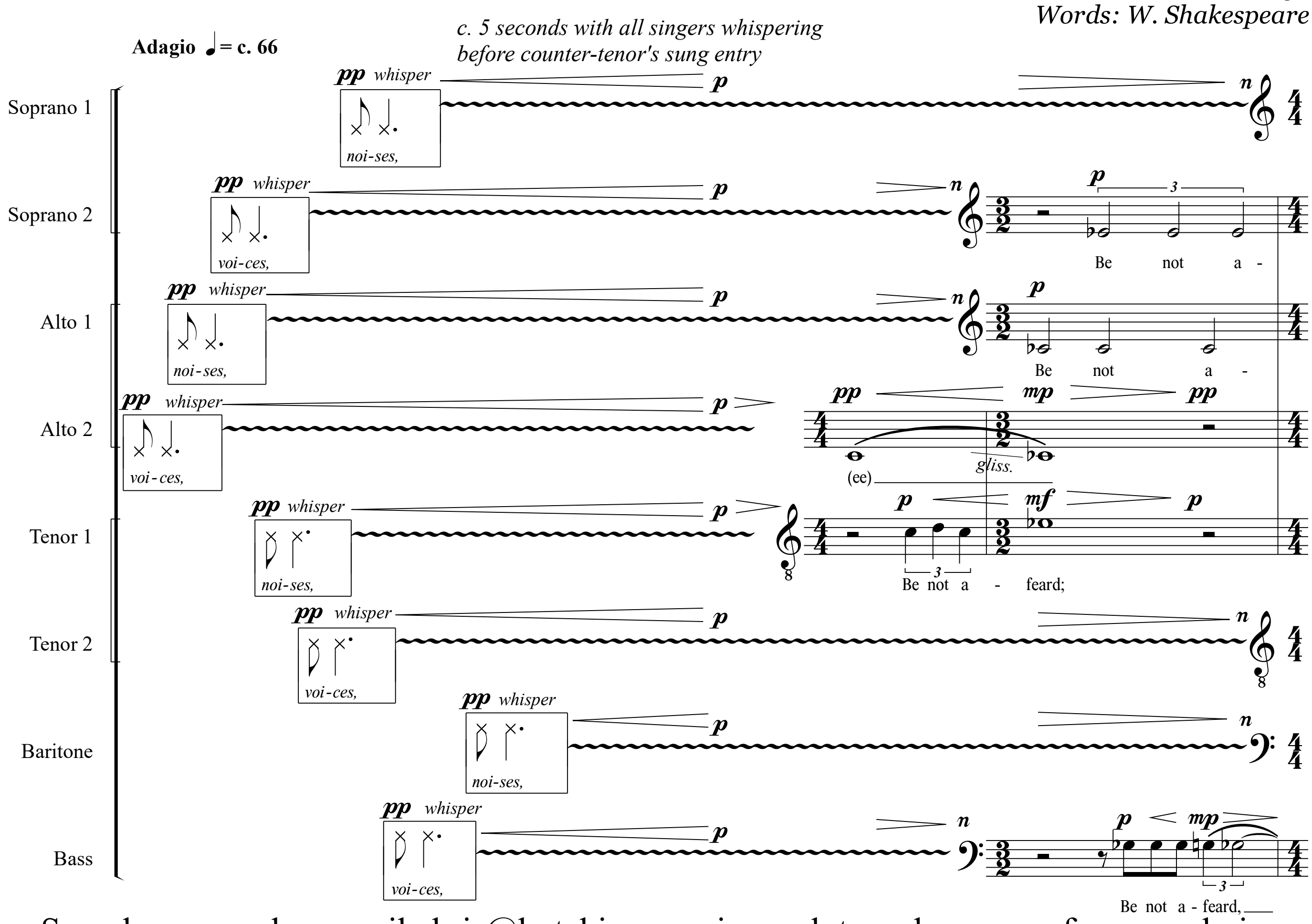
Figures in boxes, with a wavy line after them, should be repeated ad lib. for as long as the line lasts. These should not be in strict tempo or coordinated with other singers; the rhythm and tempo given are a rough guide to how fast to say them.

*Tempi throughout are *very* flexible, and could easily vary by 10-20% depending on acoustic or singers' lung capacity. Rubato is welcome!*
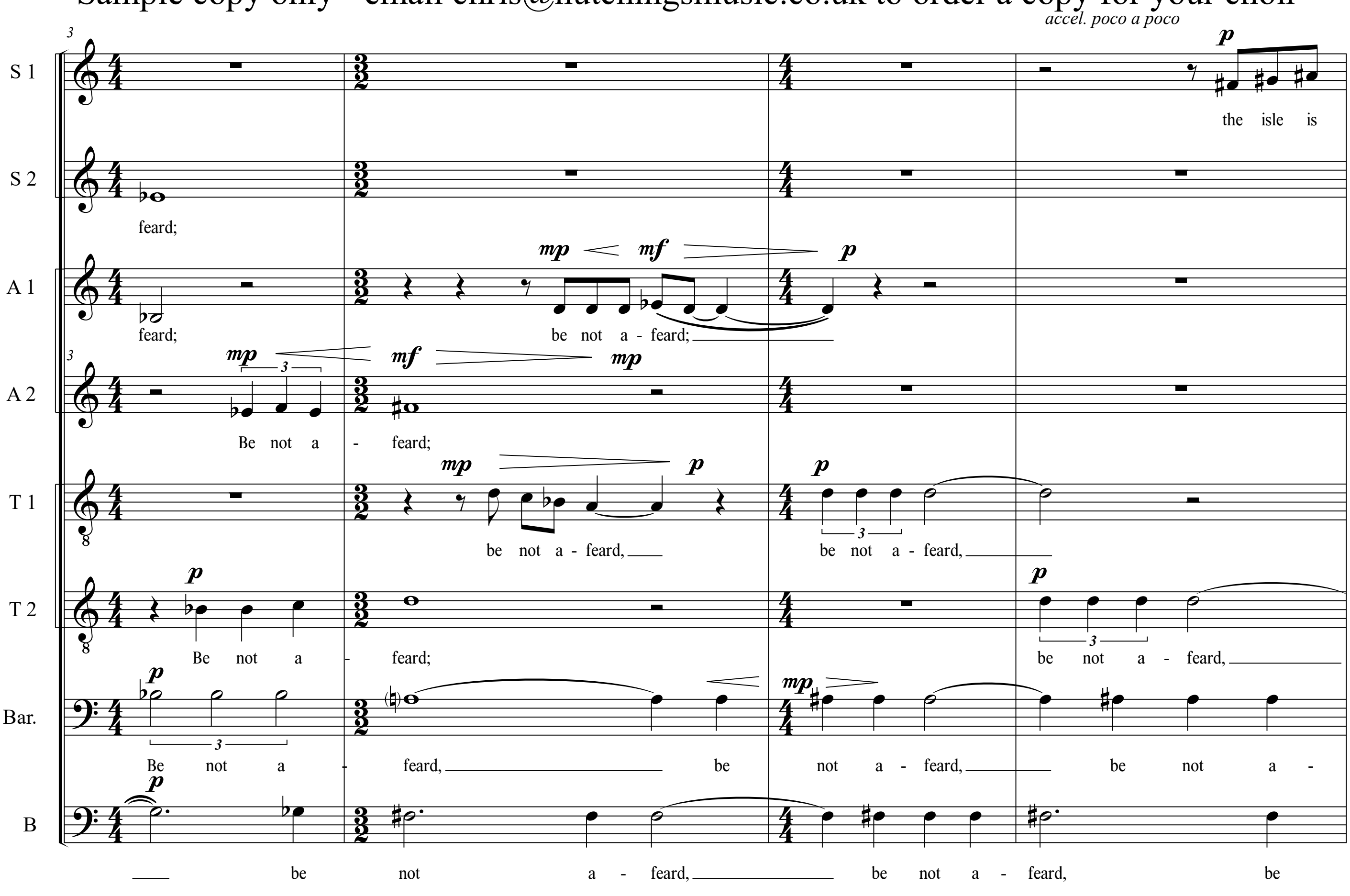
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repeat figures in boxes while wavy line lasts, independently, flexible tempi
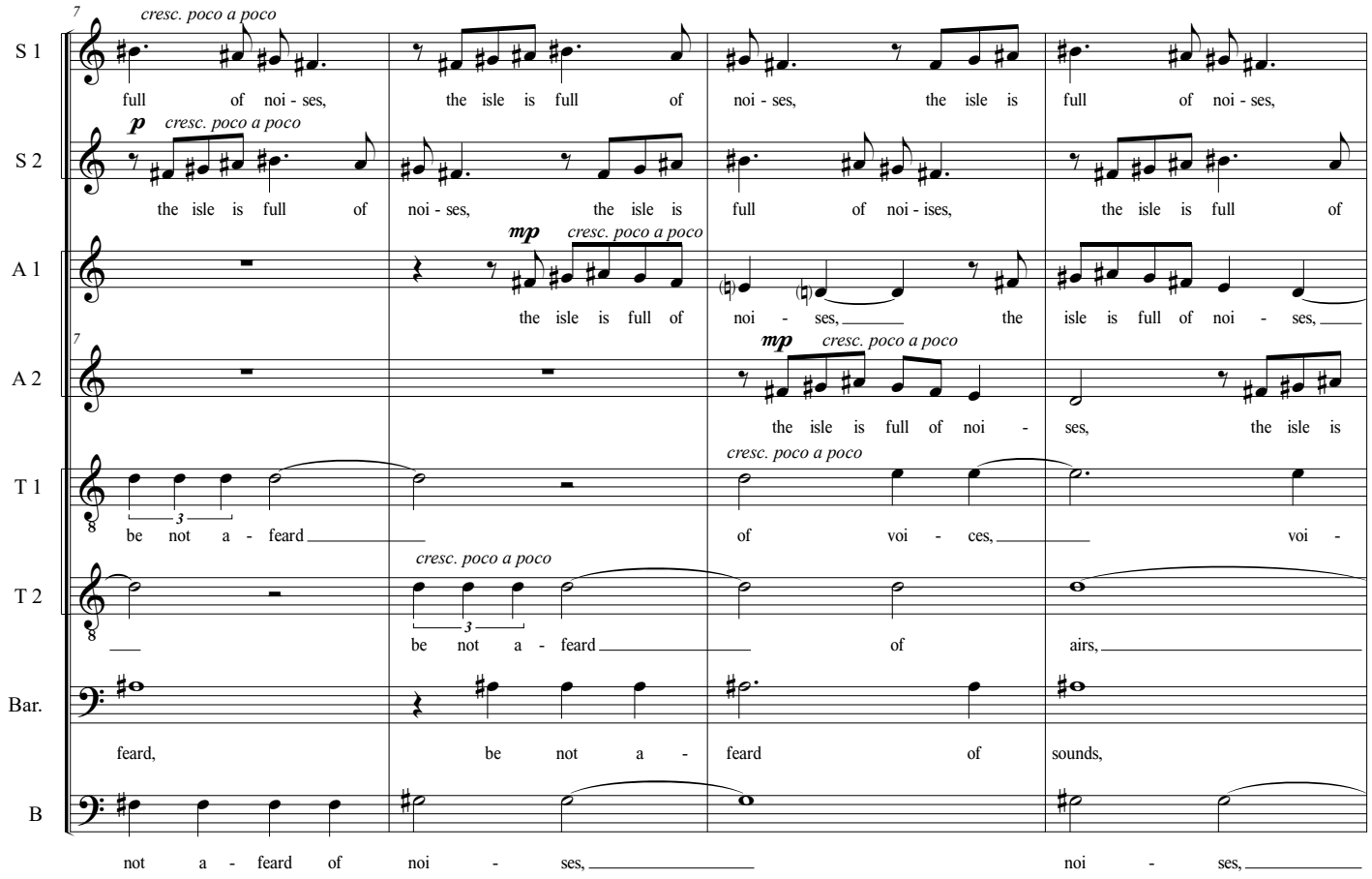
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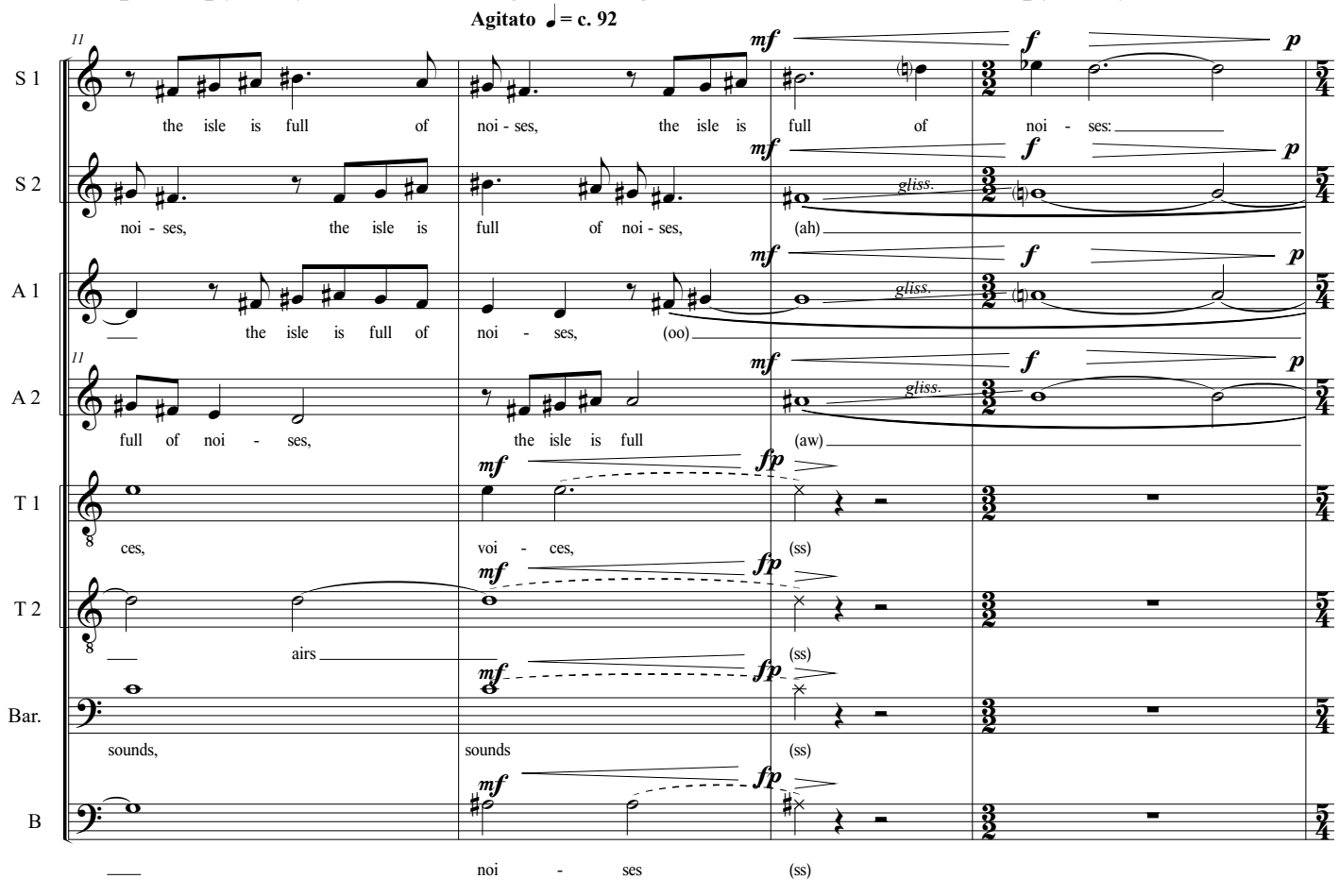


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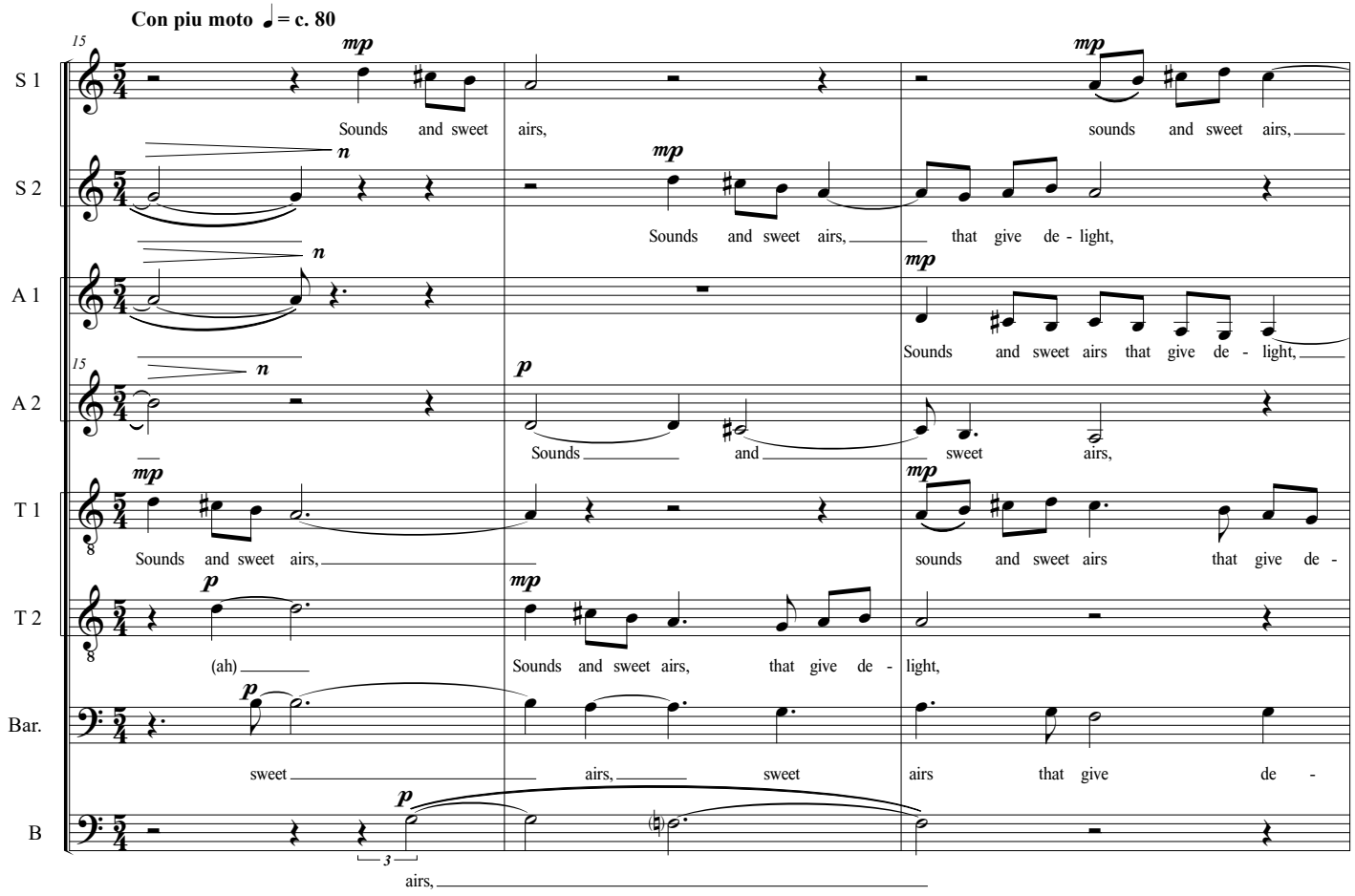


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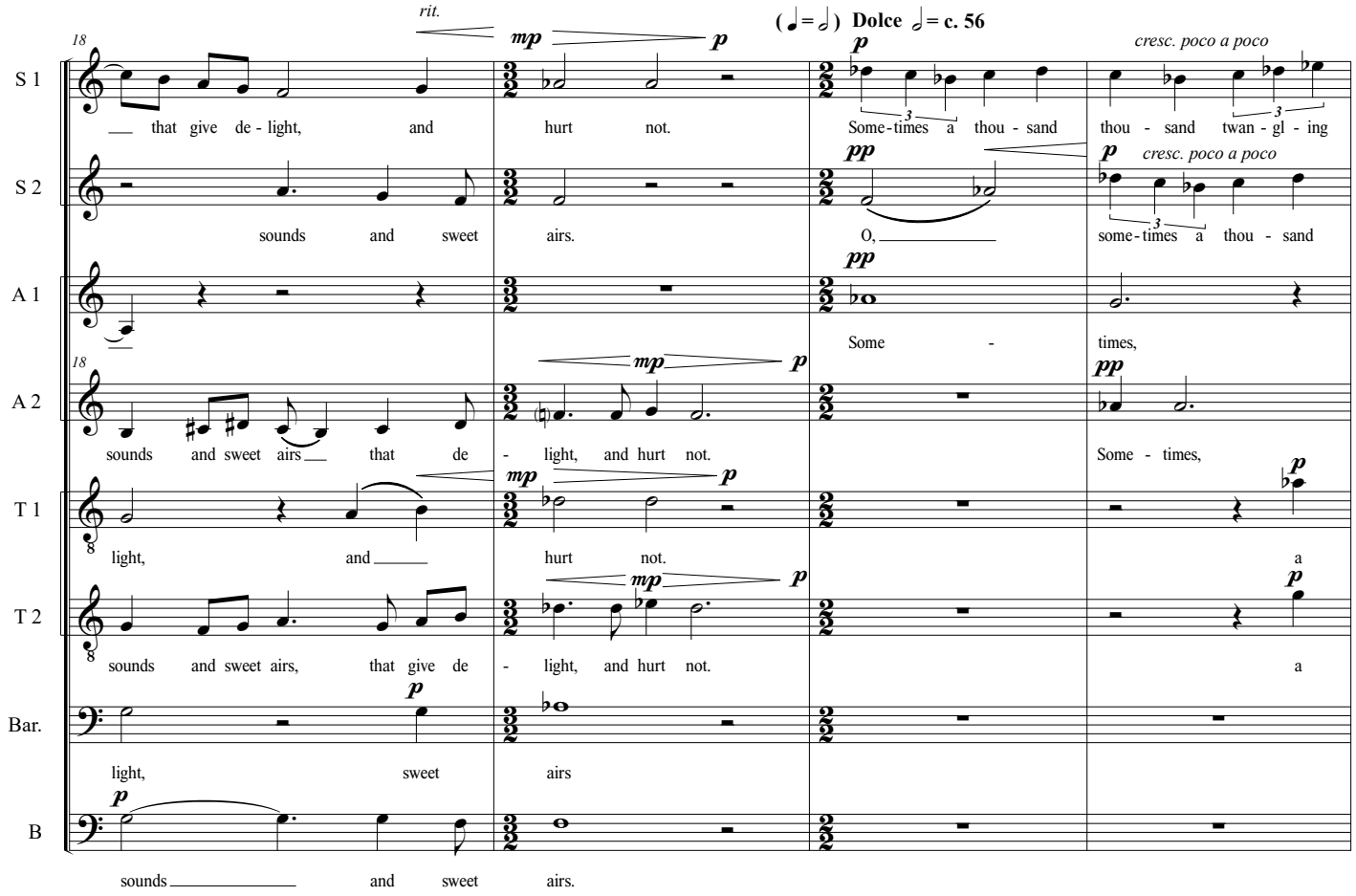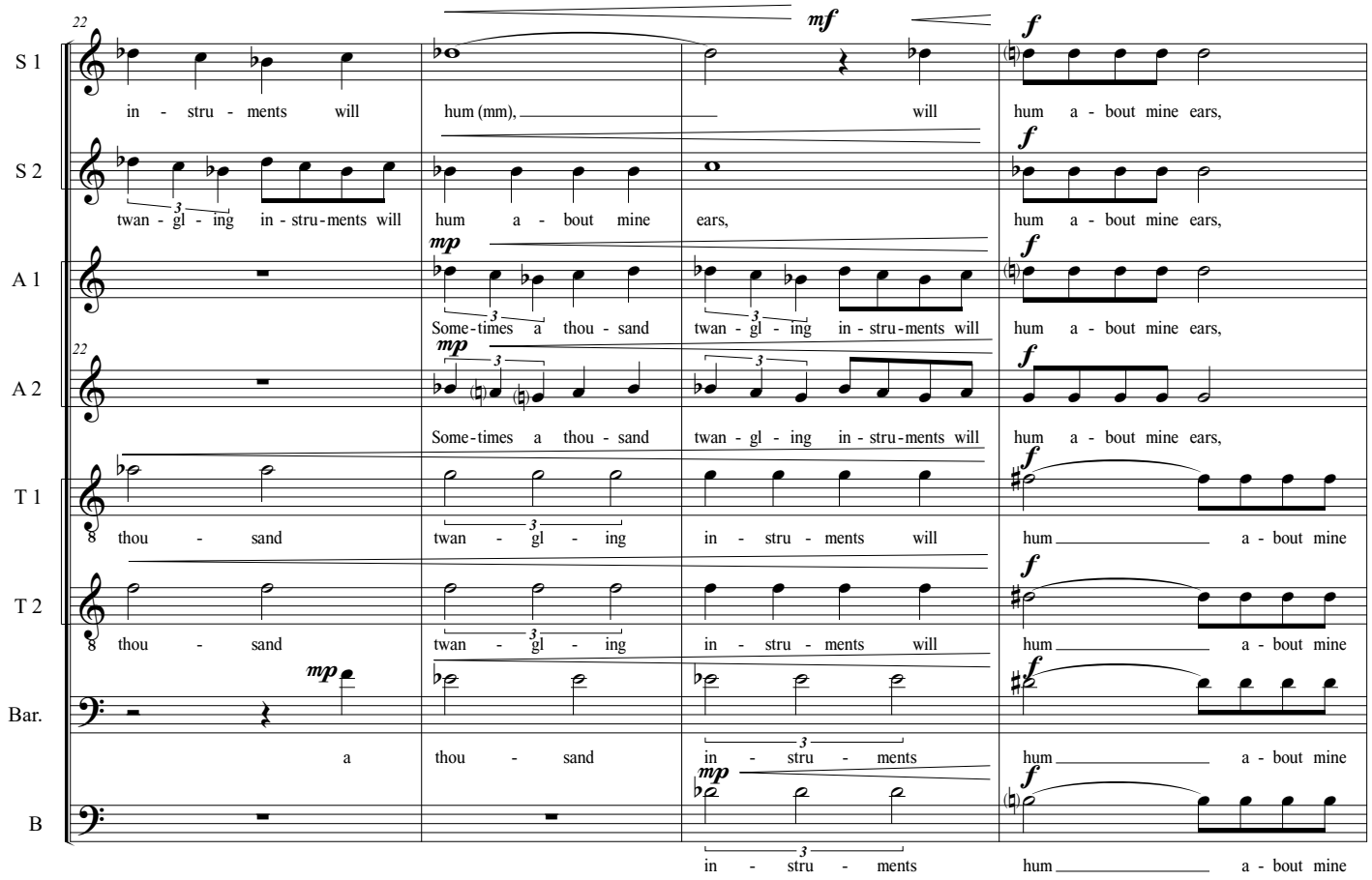


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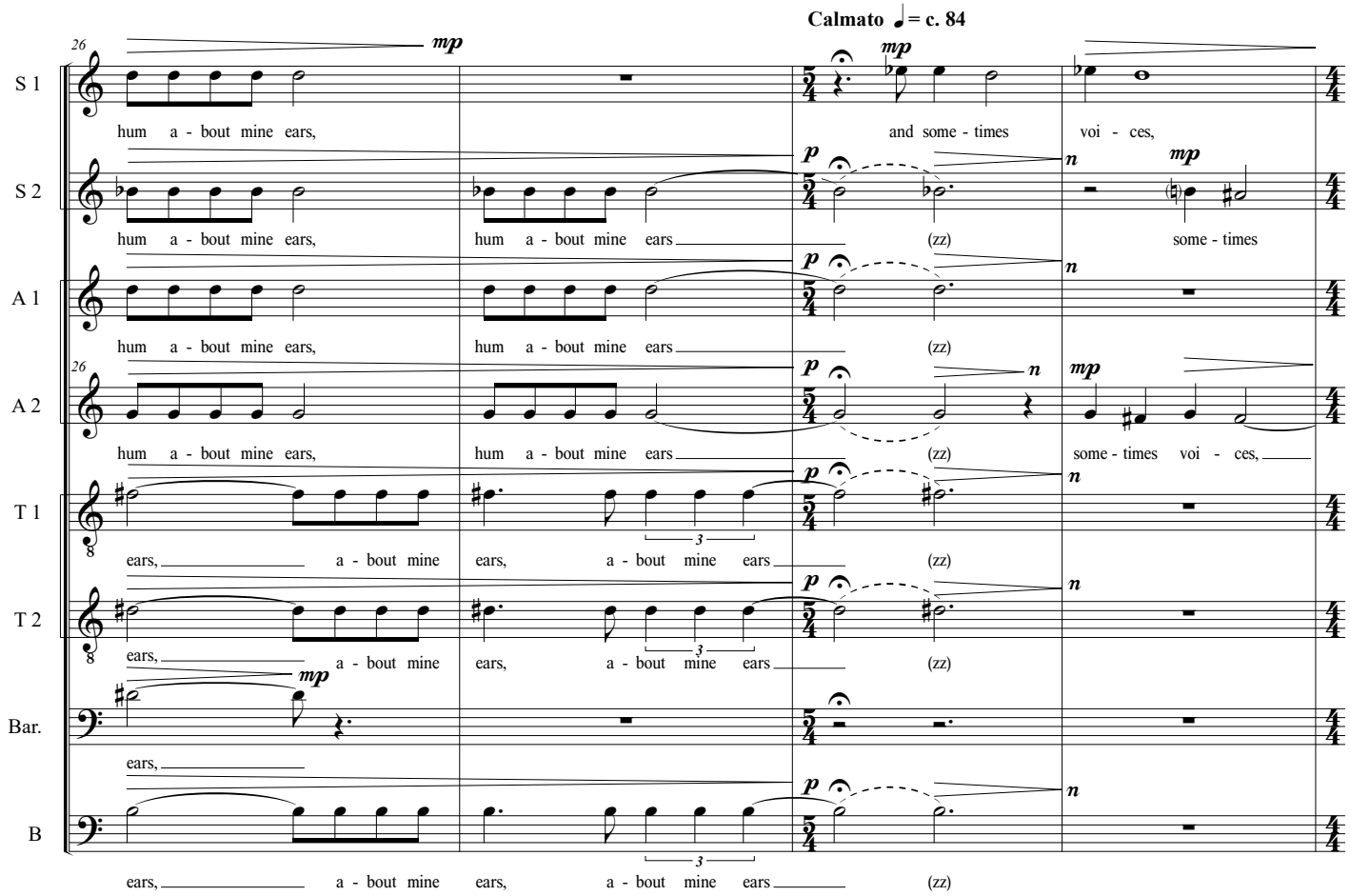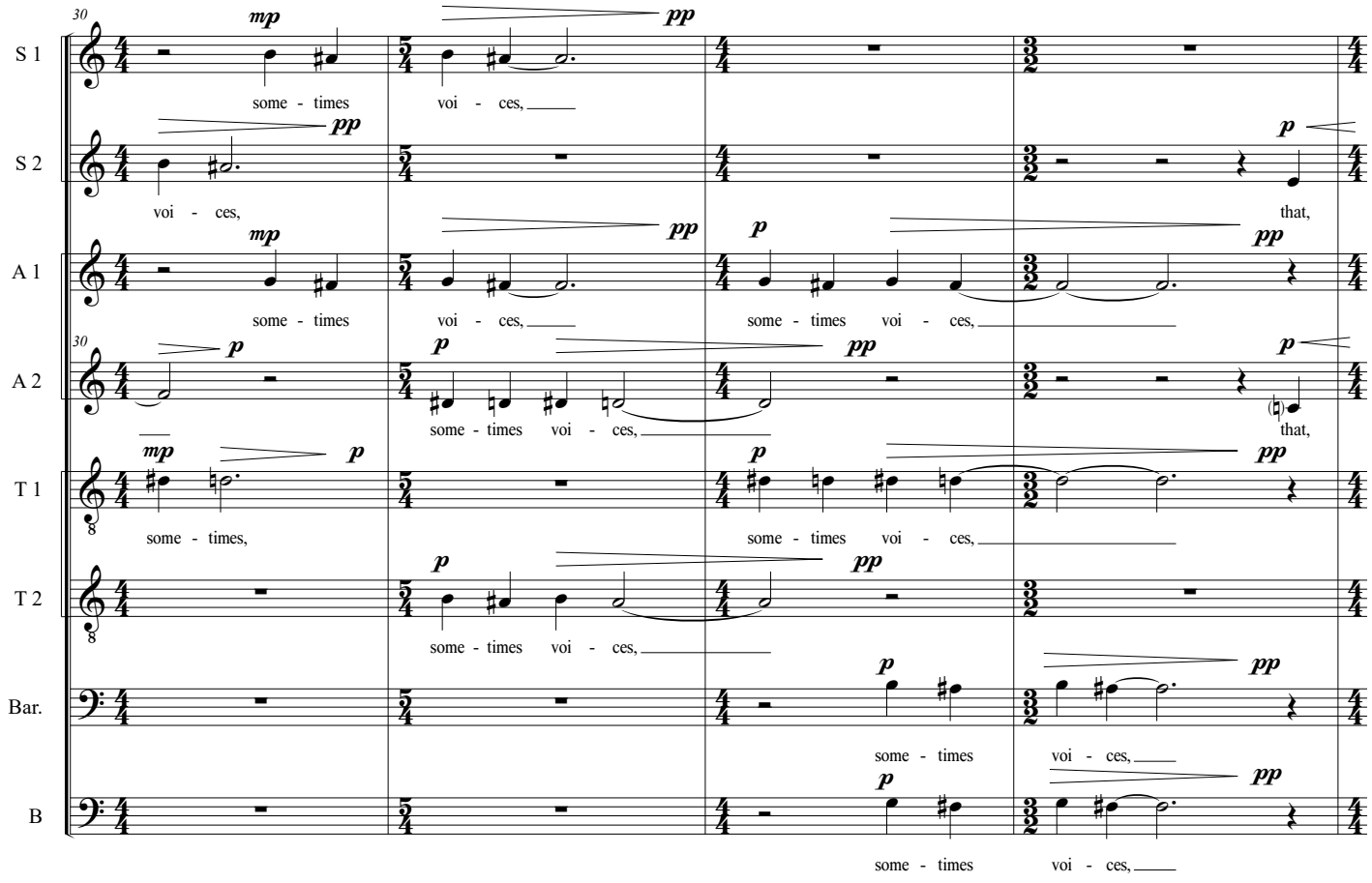




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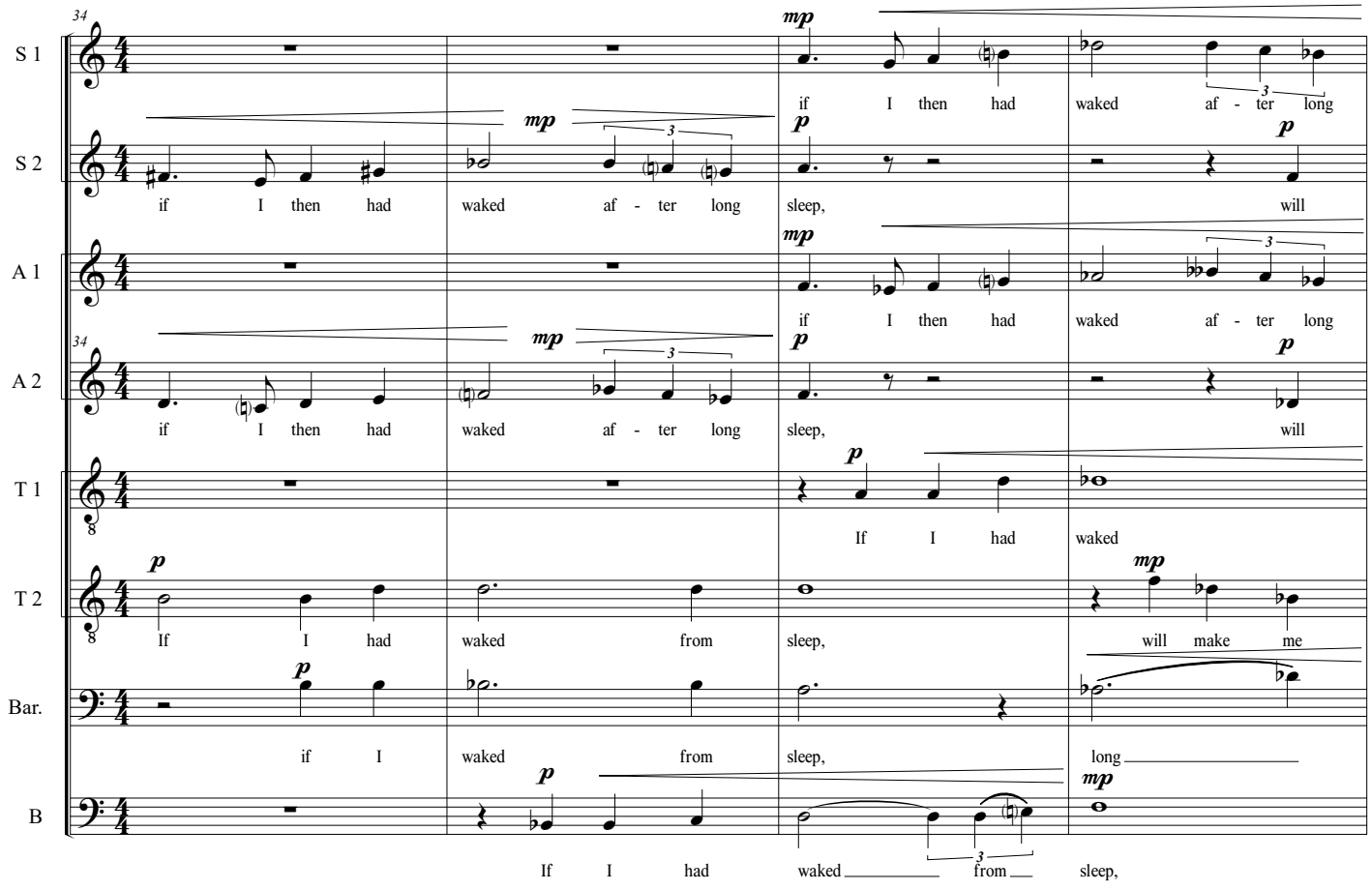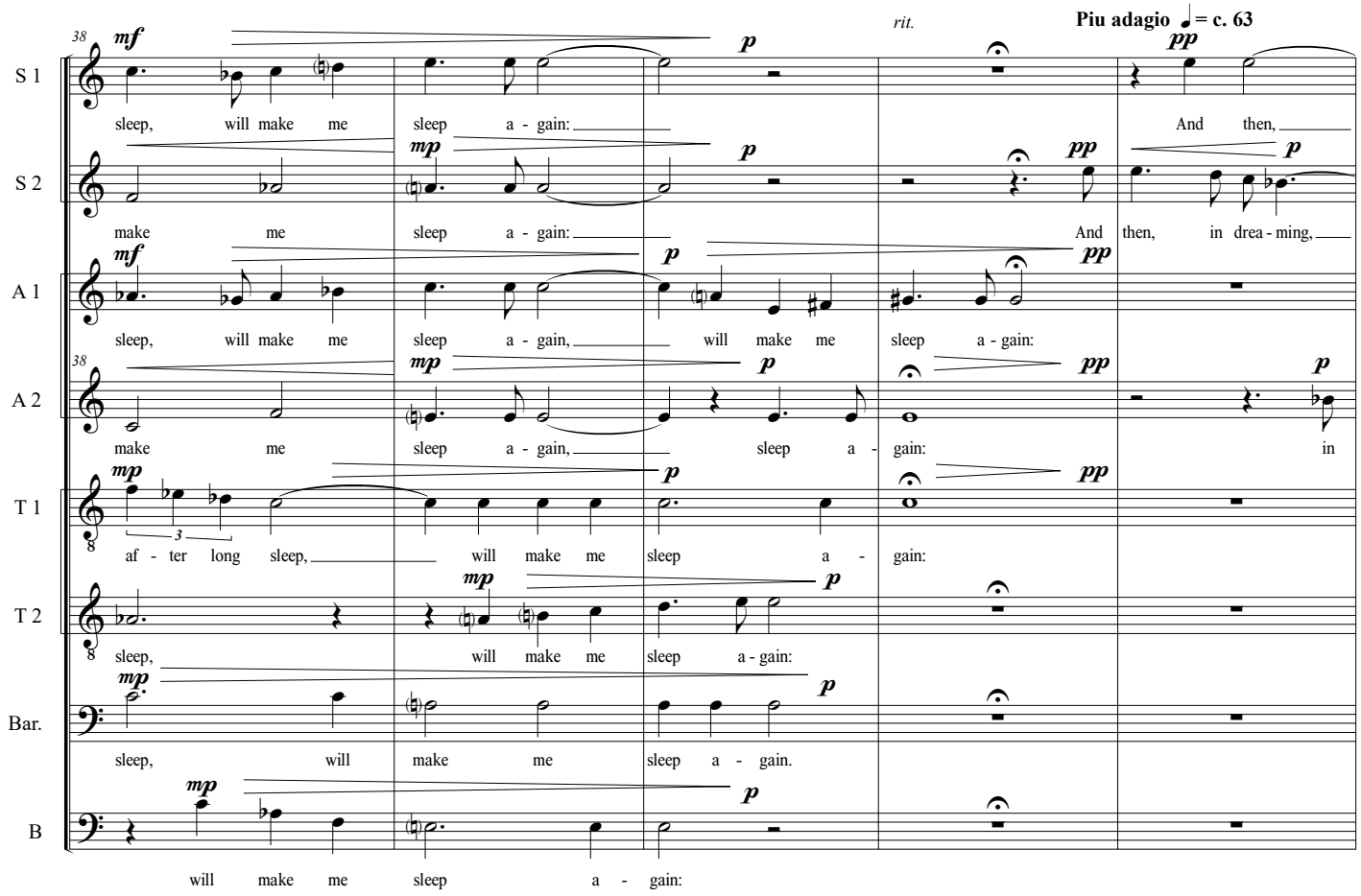




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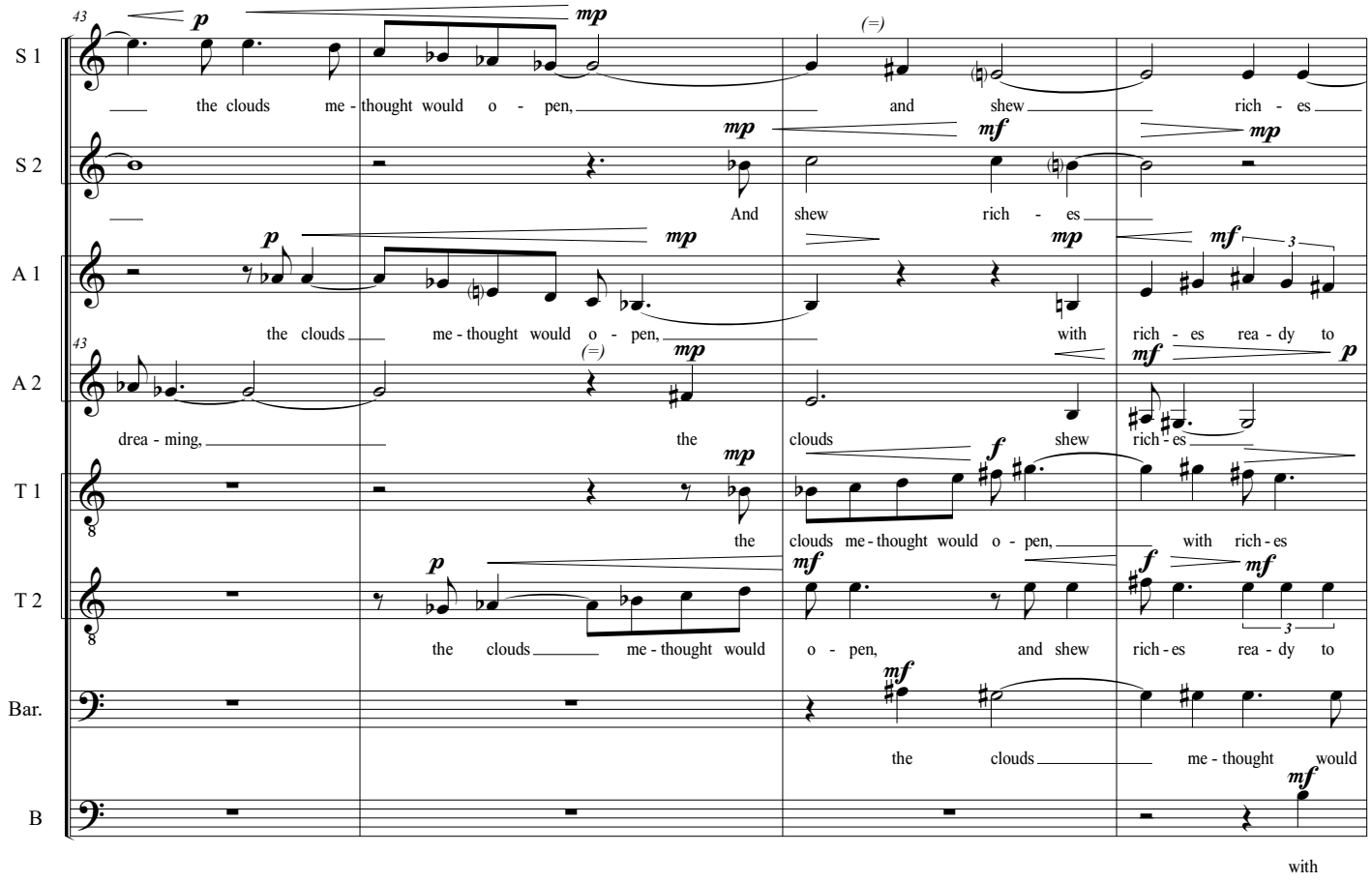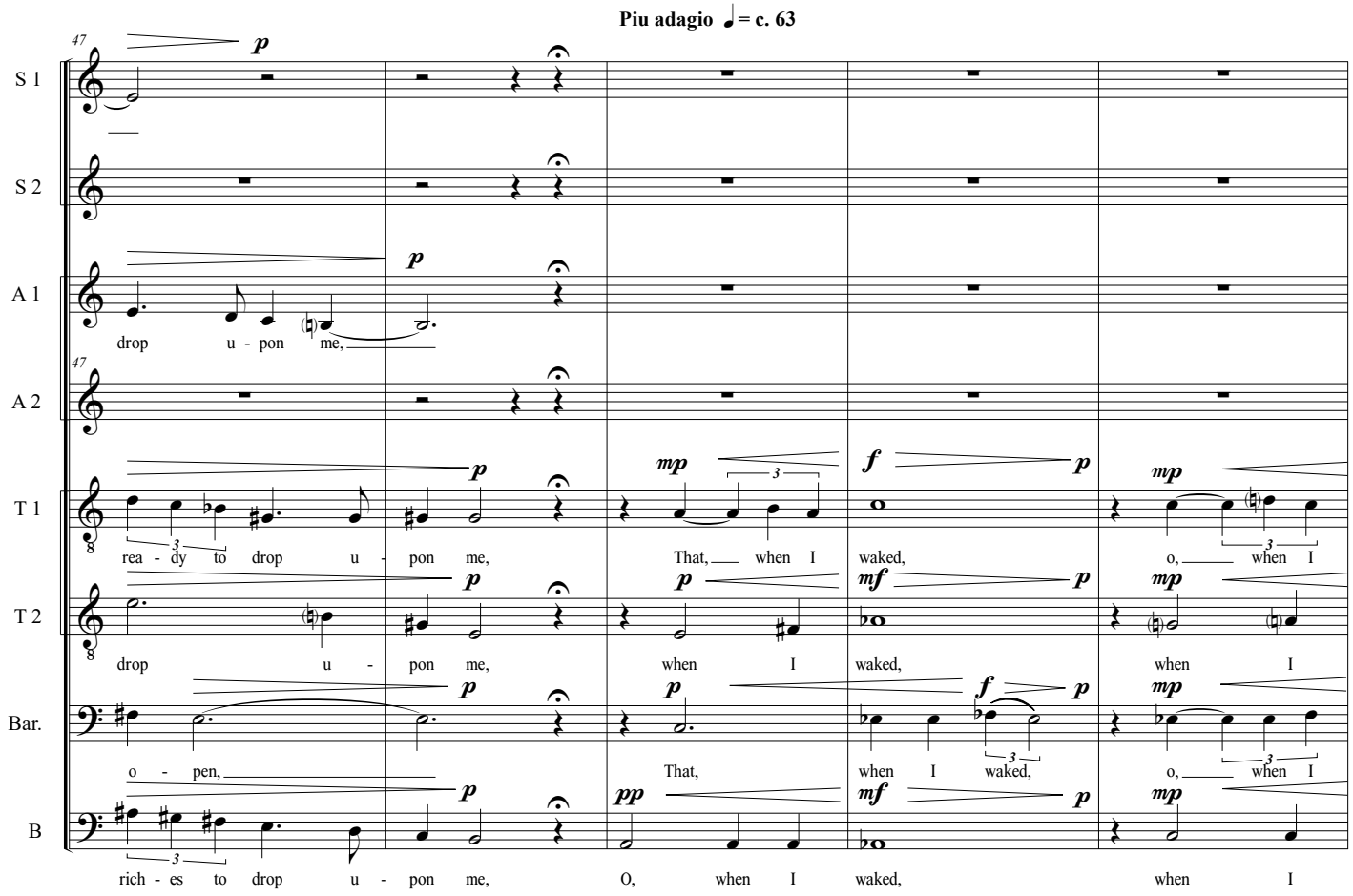




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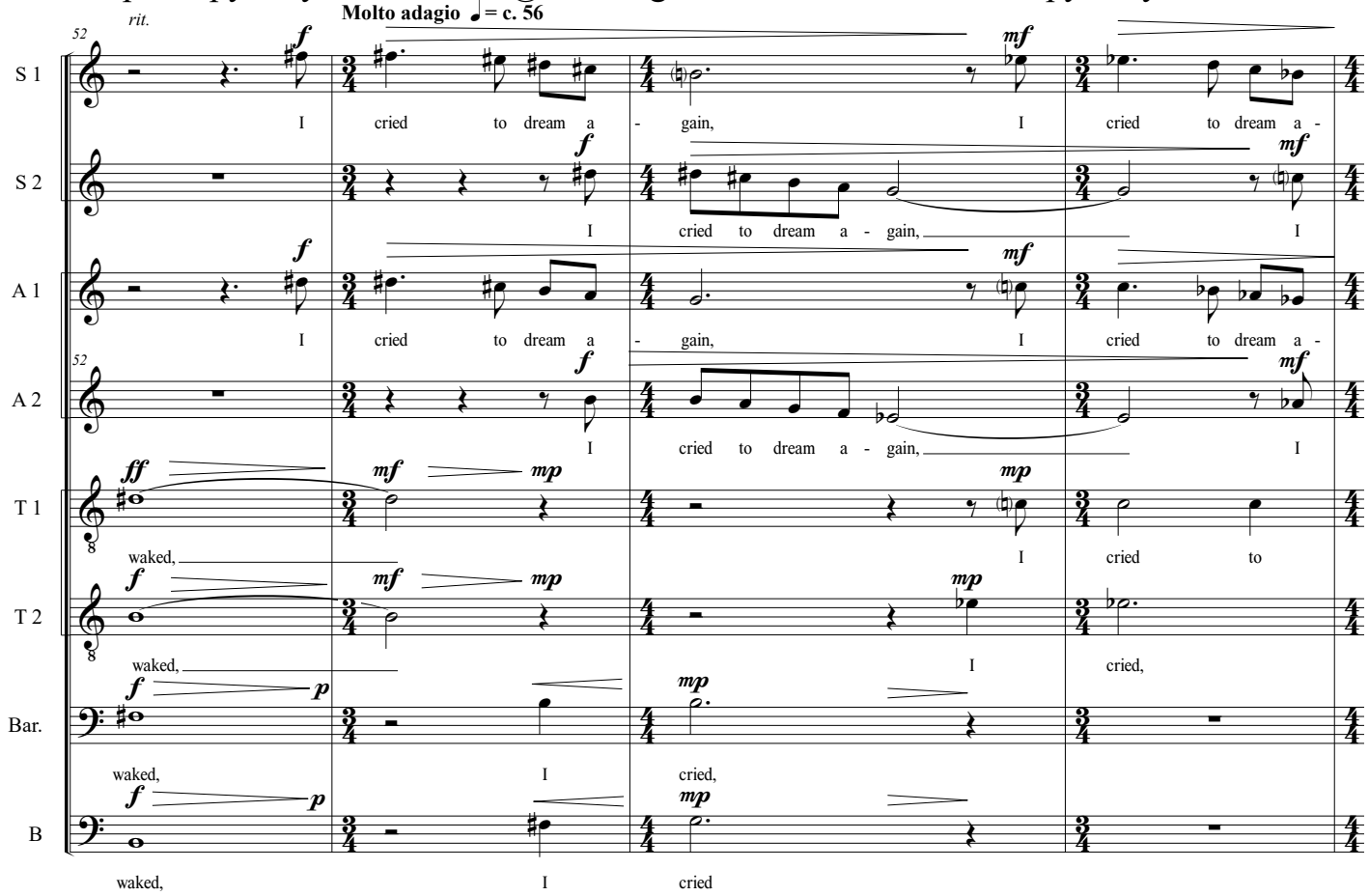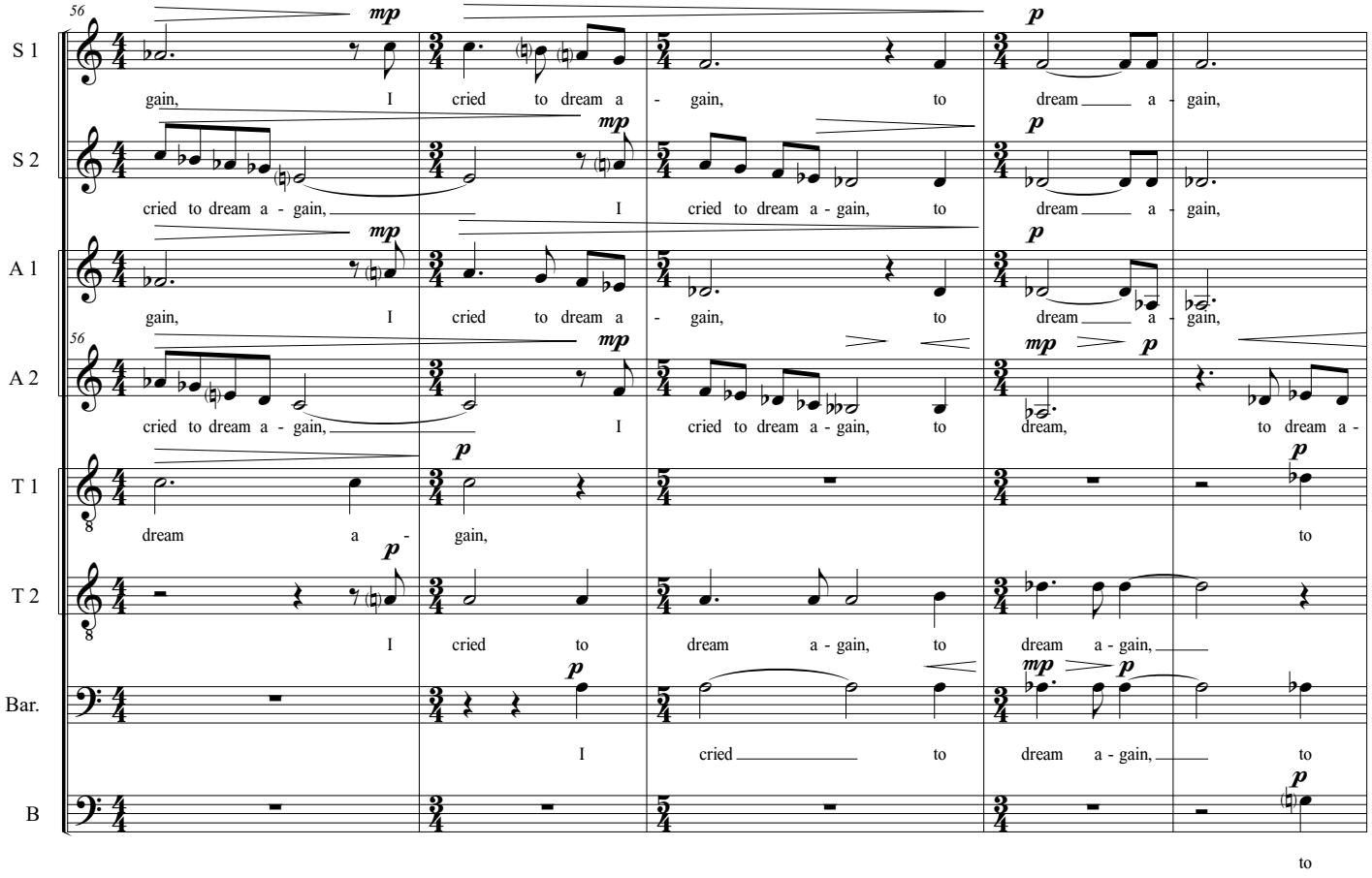




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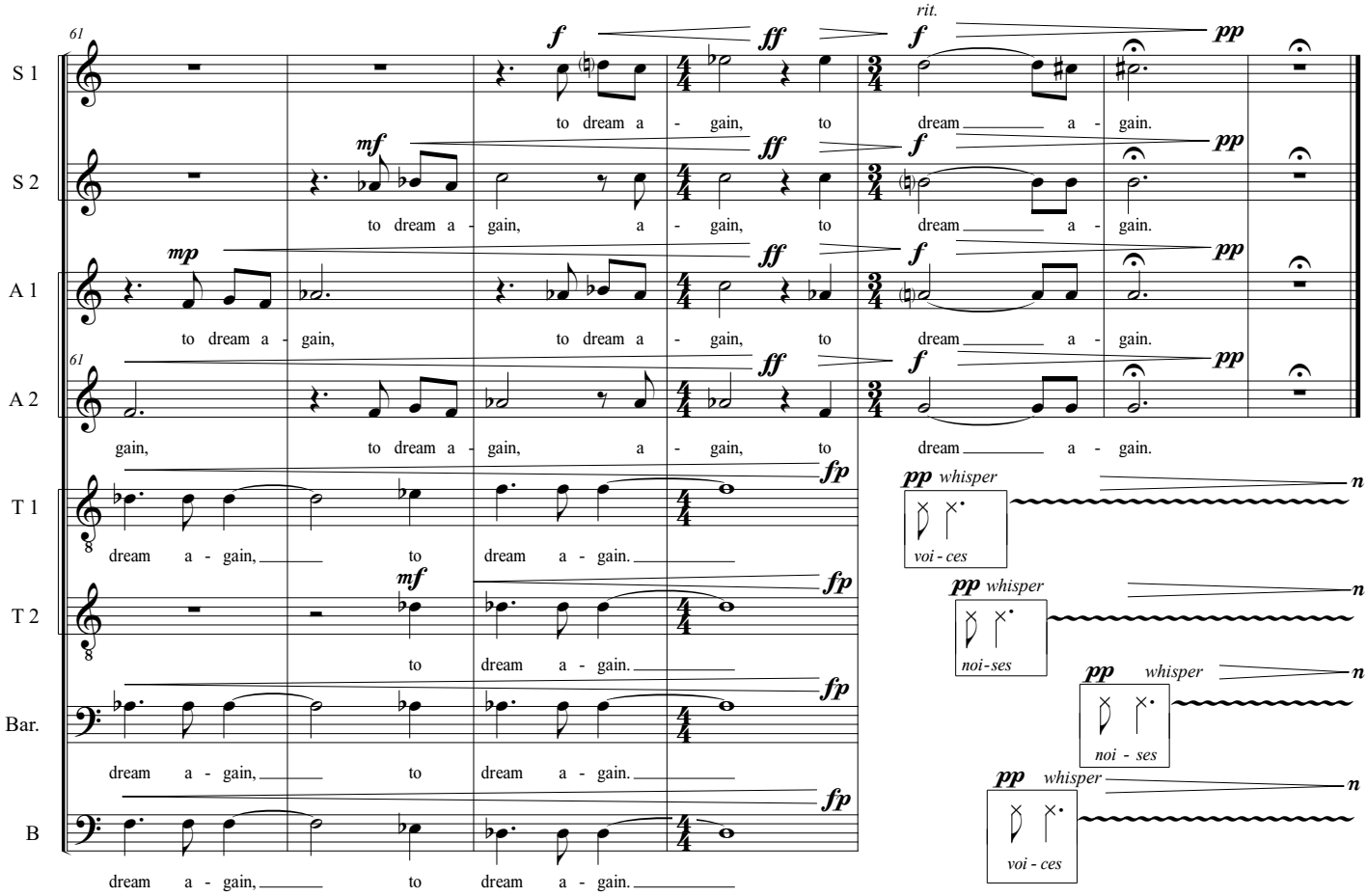
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