A Stratagem for Light

Vocal Trio and Recorder Quintet

Luke Styles

Instrumentation	**Movements**
Recorder Quintet Soprano 1 Soprano 2 Alto	**I.** 2xDescant rec. 2xTreble rec. 2xSop. Alt. **II.** 2xTreble rec. 2xSop. Alt. **III.** 5xSop rec. 2xSop. Alt. **IV.** Descant rec. 2xTreble rec. Tenor rec. Bass rec. **V.** 2xTenor rec. 2xSop. **VI.** 2xTenor rec. 2xSop. **VII.** 2xTenor rec. Sop. Alt. **VIII.** 2xDescant rec. 2xTenor rec. Bass rec. 2xSop. Alt. **!IX!.** 3xTenor rec. 2xBass rec. 2xSop. Alt. **X.** 2xTenor rec. 3xBass rec. **XI.** 2xSop. Alt. **XI.** 4xBass rec. Sub Bass rec. 2xSop. Alt.

A Stratagem for Light – text – Jacob Sam-La Rose

I

Breach-born,
feet first,
wild.

II

Gnashing teeth and not much else.
Awkward, raw or lame.

III

You live in a world in which light
has been tamed. Tethered, kind,
it coddles, shines and buffs
your skin; it knows how to dance
with the dark.

IV

[Recorder Quintet]

V

Too bright to live long,
too costly, they feared
your guzzling appetite.

VI

Feet first, wild, and hurling
fistfuls of feverish light
against their faces–
until emptied, plinked out, no longer
able
to beat back the dark.

VII

Capable only of cooling after-image,
of dying memory,
of being held in hot palms,
of singing
one soft, blind note.

VIII

You live in a world in which light
has been tamed. And still it remains–

that feverish light,
that appetite, unafraid
to brandish its teeth.

IX

Enforce the rules
with the palm of your hand.
Moonlight as death,
or a jealous god.

X
[Recorder Quintet]

XI

In darker hours,
there will be dust. A touch of grey,
a pressure. You will eschew
the regular talismans
of sadness,
and shine.

XII

All this, behind shuttered and fluttering
eyes
where everything moves like snowfall
and time itself

delicate as a snowflake,
melts on the tongue.

Glossary of Terms

Voices

Cross note head = spoken, half spoken/half sung (as indicated)

Down triangle note head = “Dung”, low resonant bass drum like sound.

Tremolo line = tongue tremolo or repeat fast.

Recorders

Up triangle note head = blowing air or speaking into instrument, slightly away from the mouth piece fingering the note indicated.

Down triangle note head = blowing air, speak or articulate into instrument

l, p, TiKa, dg, are all to be repeated as fast as possible unless indicated to move between
fast------slow

Ts should be used to produce a hissing sound.

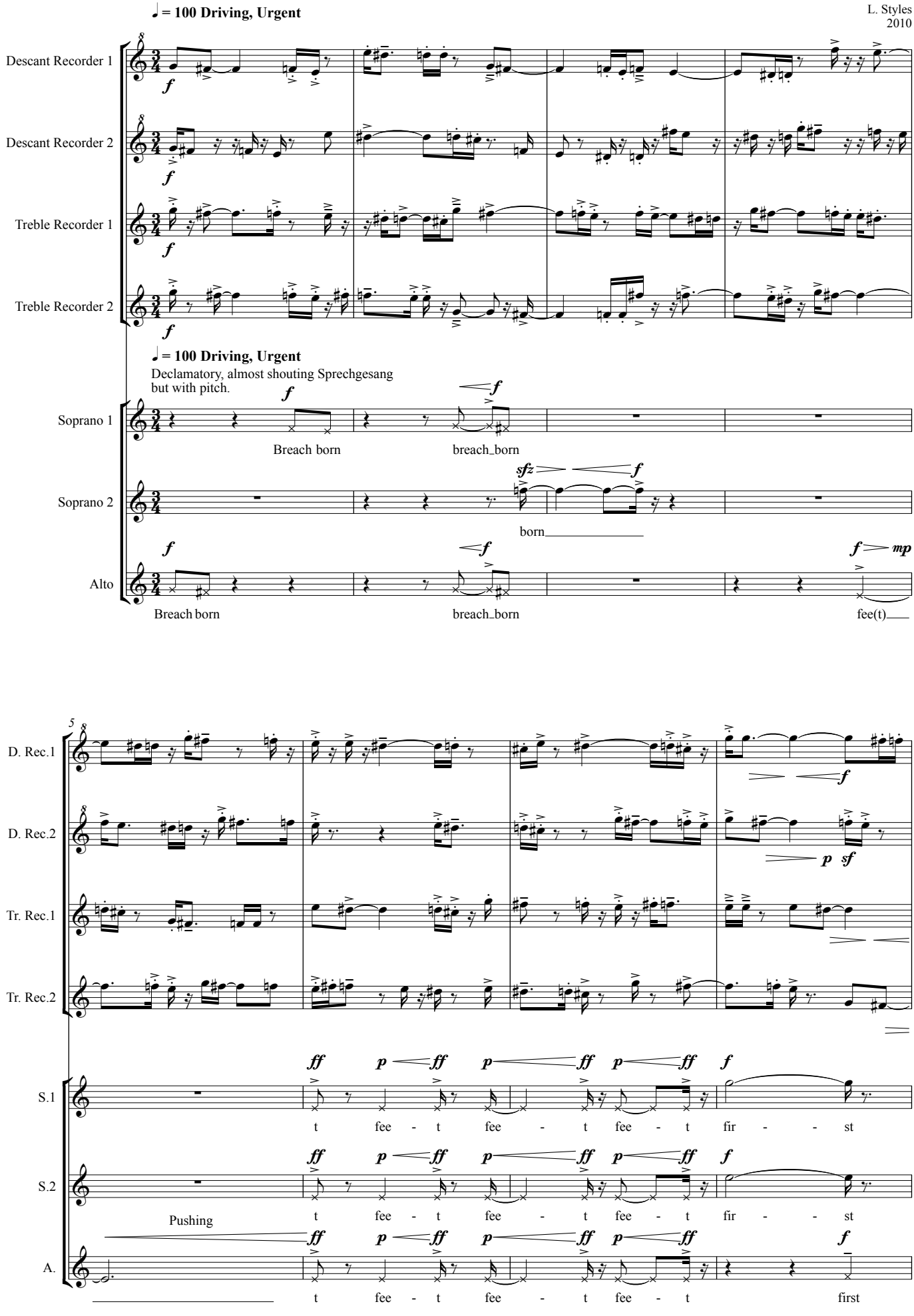
Tremolo = Flutter Tonguing

Cross note head = Key clicks

Little circle above a note = multiphonic. The note given is what the fundamental should be, the fingering is given in numbers next to the note.

A Stratagem for Light **was made possible thanks to the generous support of the PRS Foundation, The Britten-Pears Foundation and the RVW Trust.**

I



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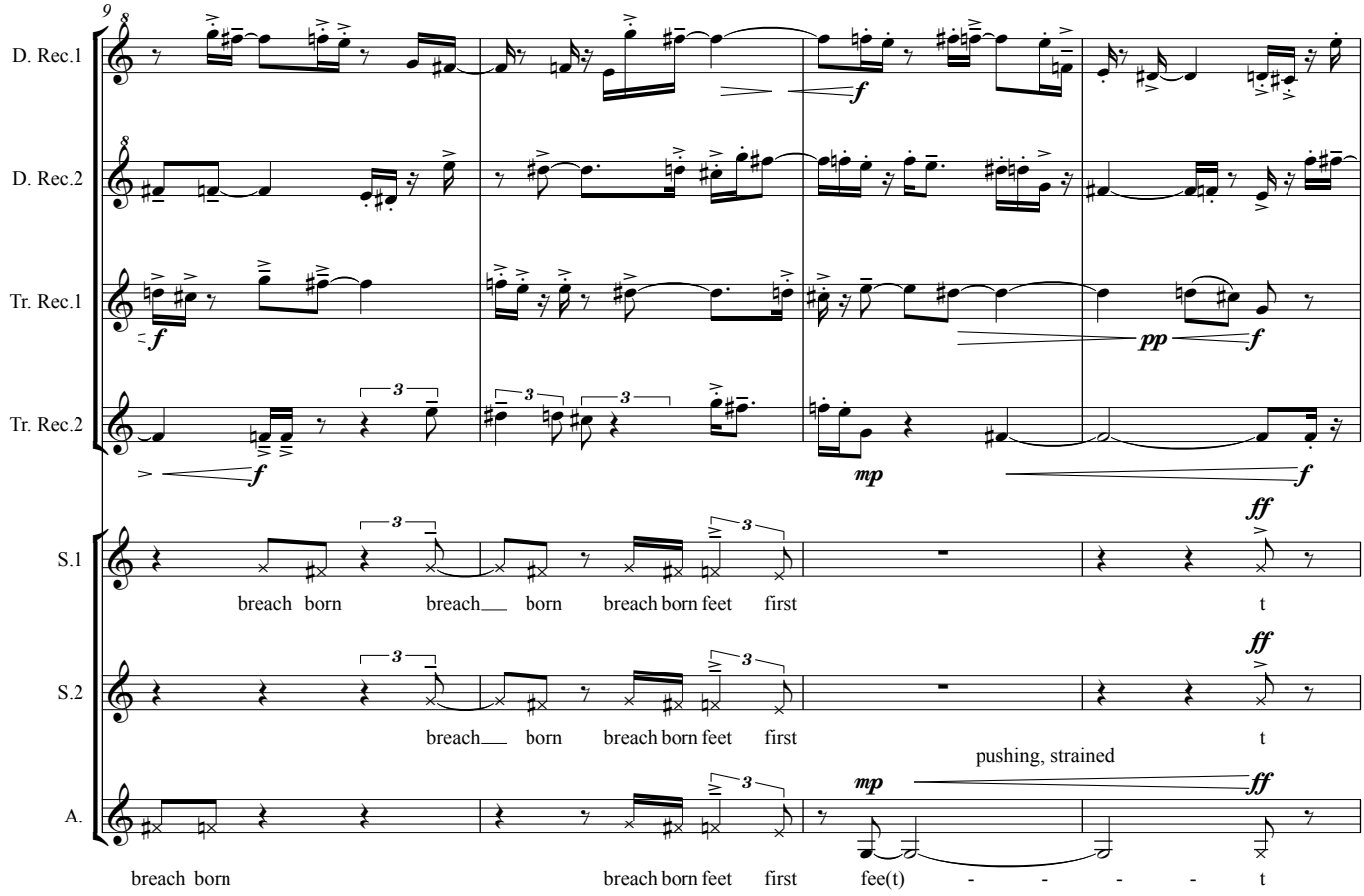
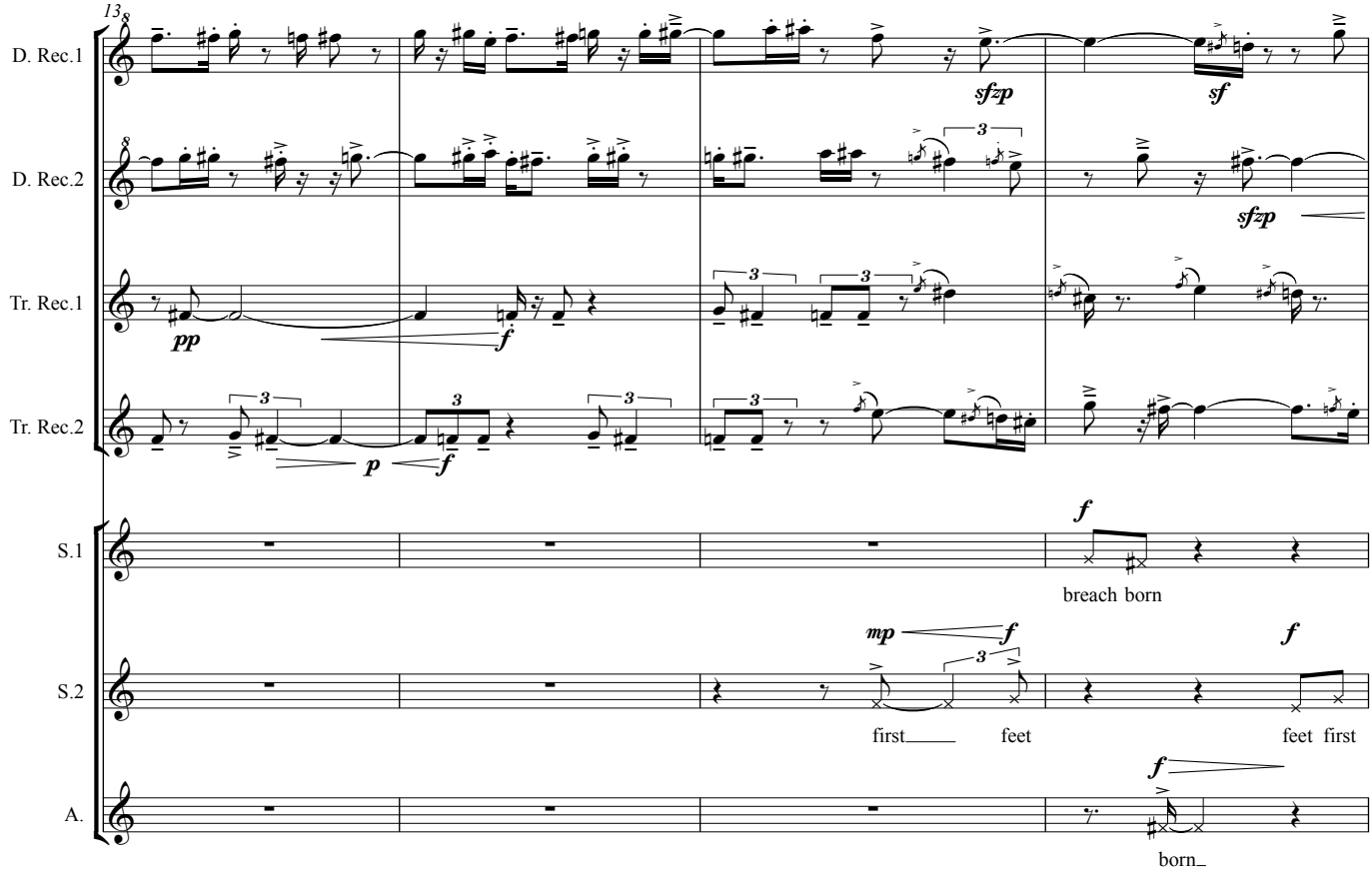
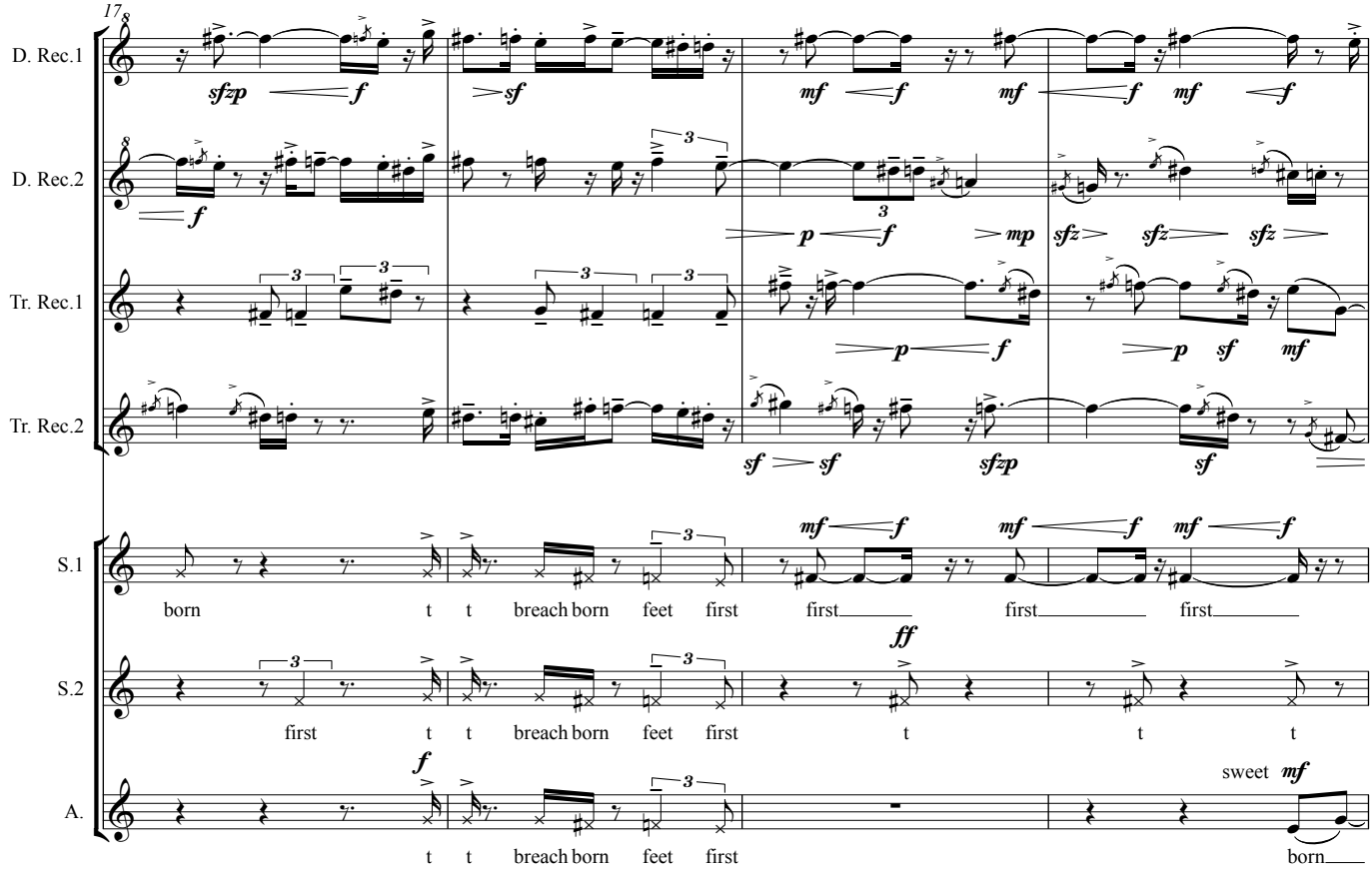
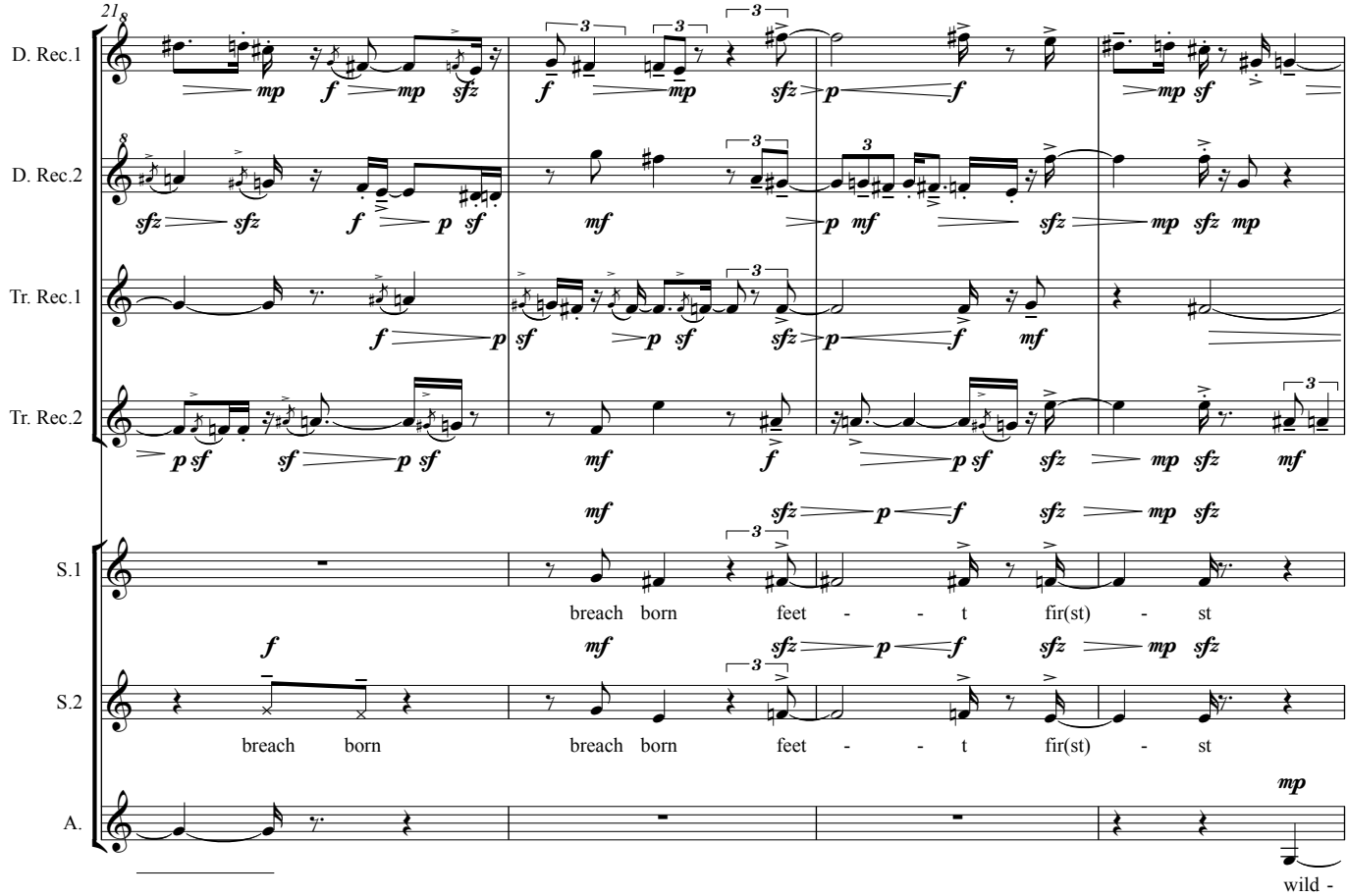
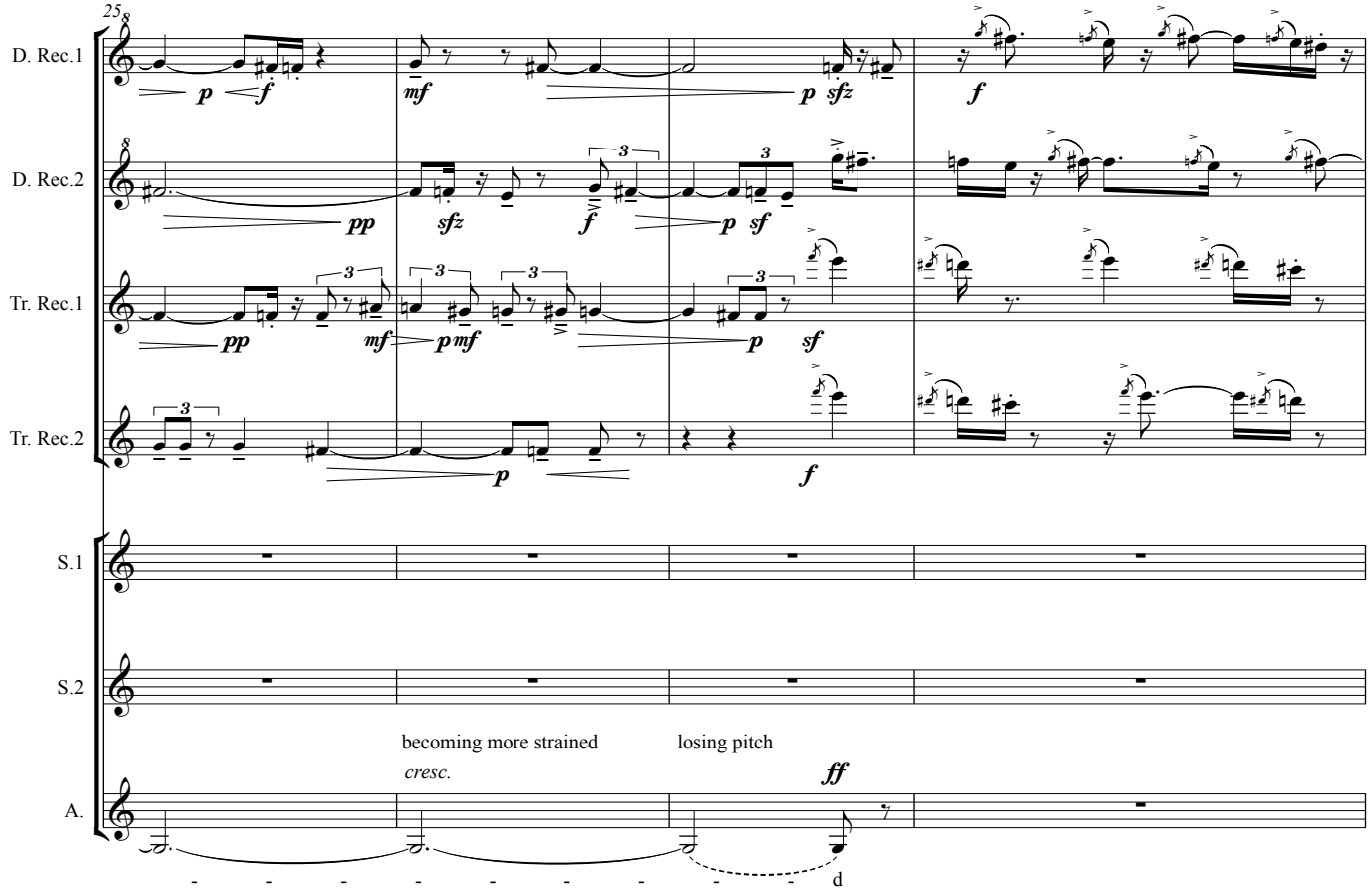
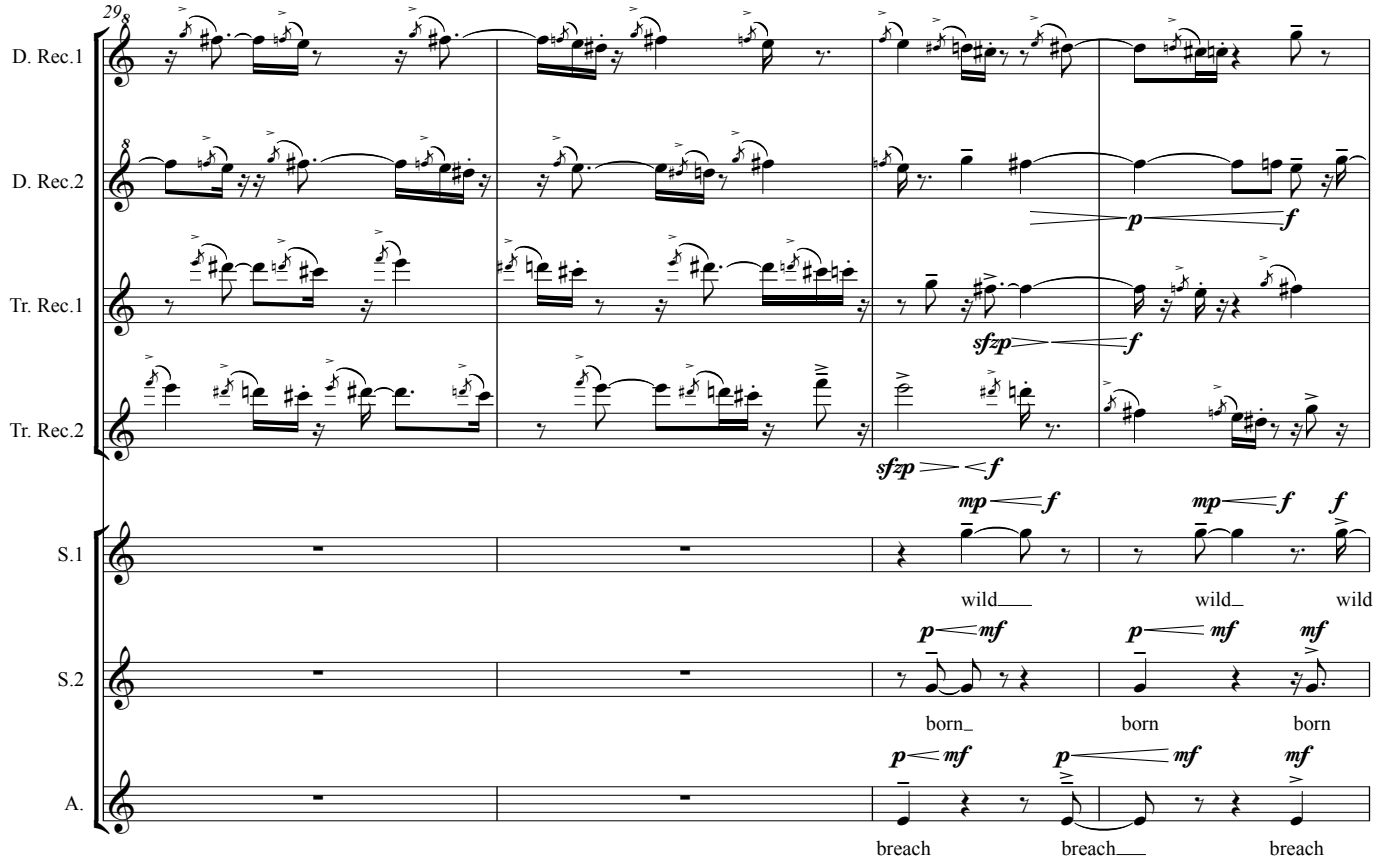

9
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
breach born breach born breach born feet first t
breach born breach born breach born feet first t
pushing, strained
breach born breach born feet first fee(t) - - - - t


13
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
breach born
first feet feet first
born


17
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
S.1
born t t breach born feet first first first first
S.2
first t t breach born feet first t t t
A.
t t breach born feet first
sweet
born


21
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
S.1
breach born feet - - t fir(st) - st
S.2
breach born
breach born feet - - t fir(st) - st
A.
wild -


25
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
becoming more strained
losing pitch
cresc.
d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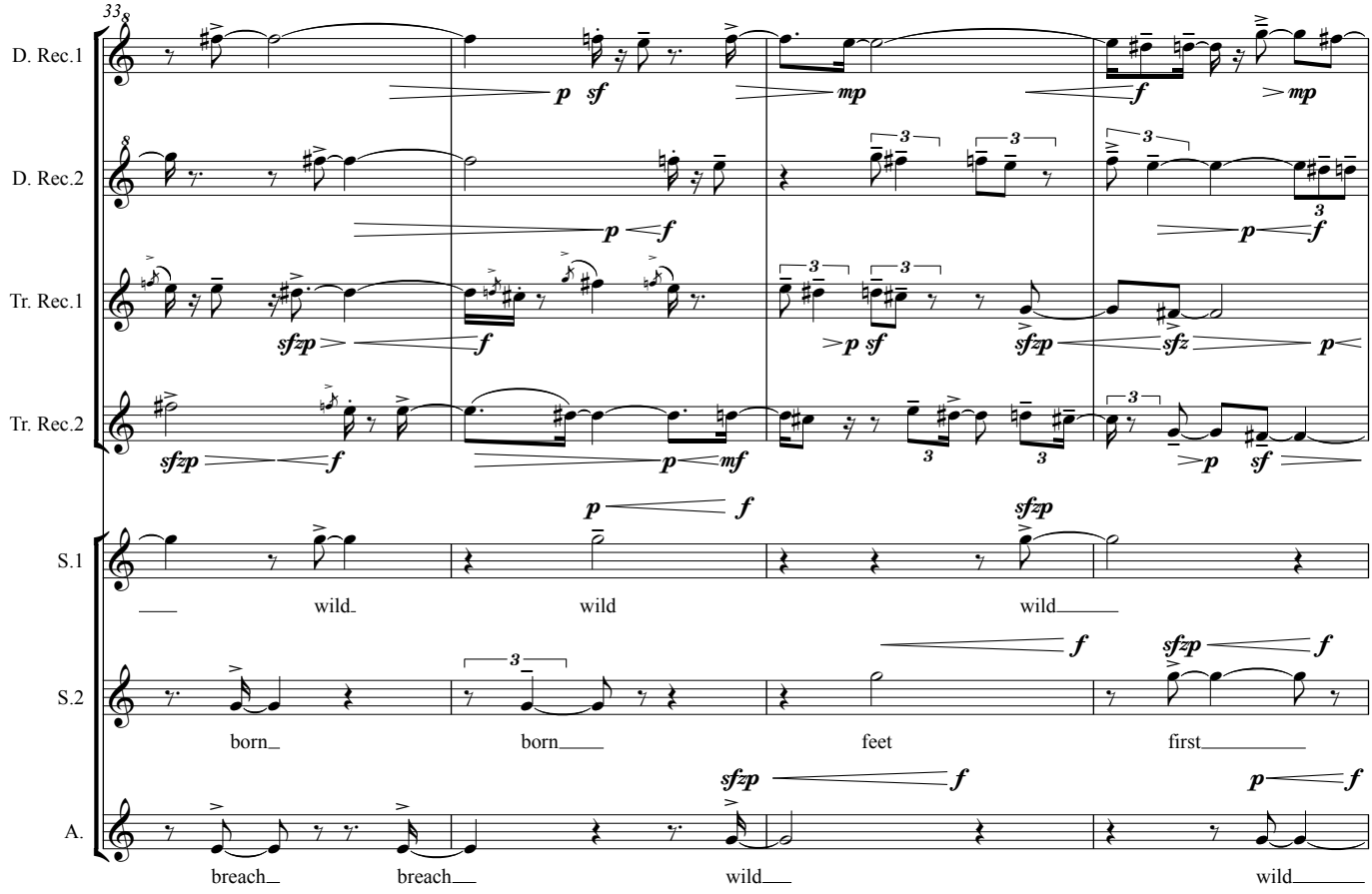
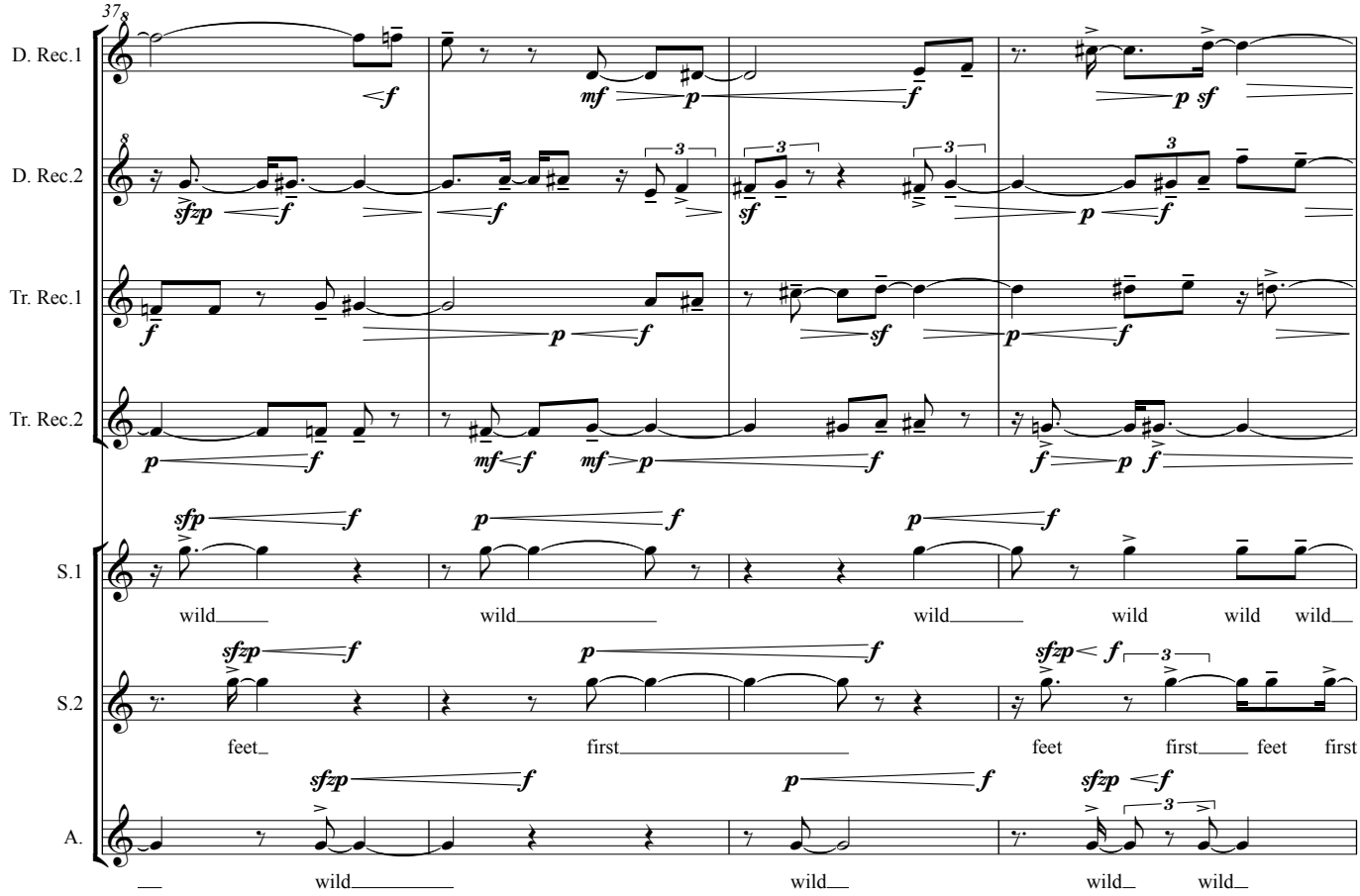
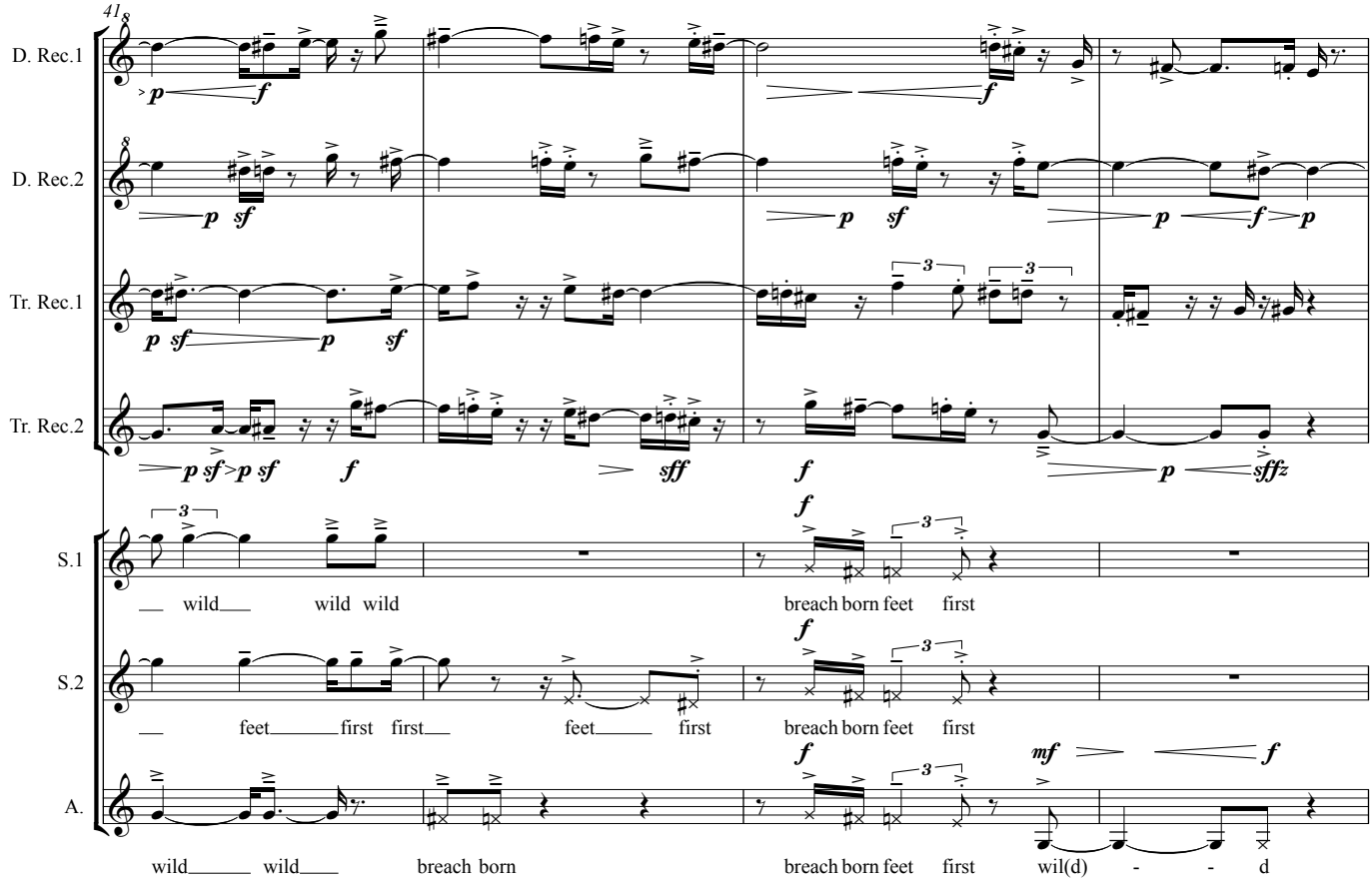
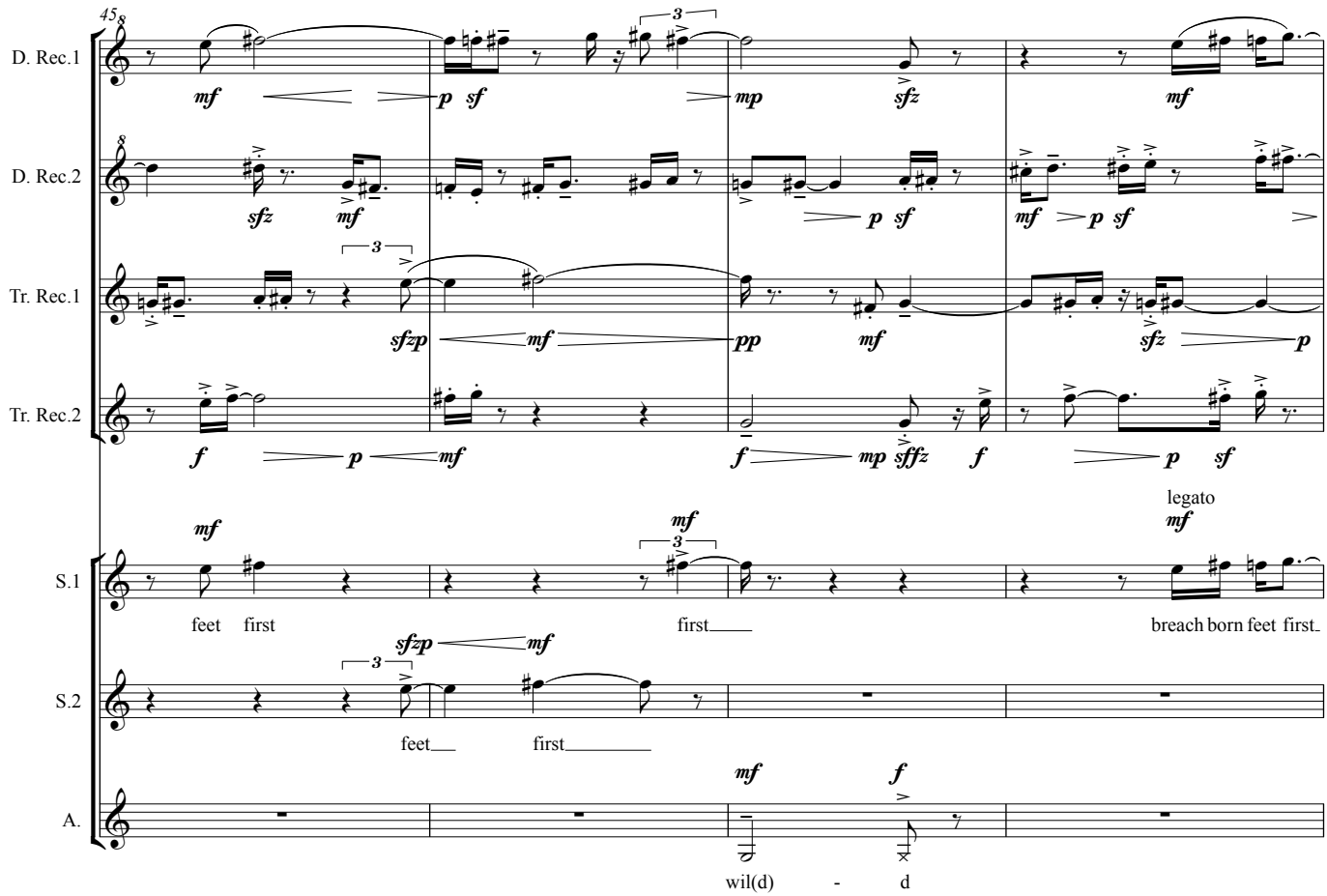
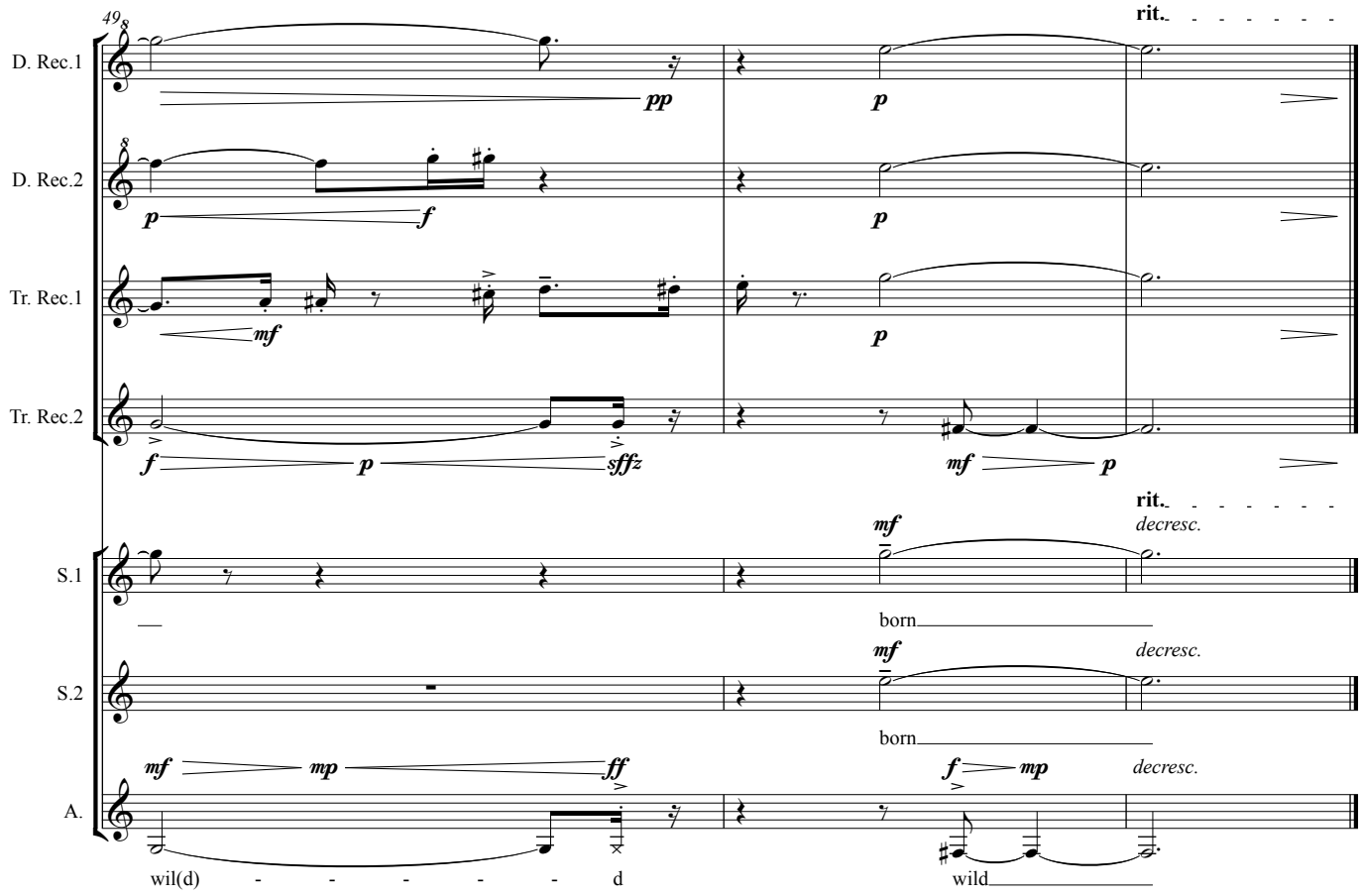
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
wild
born
breach


33
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
wild wild wild
born born feet first
breach breach wild wild


37
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
wild wild wild wild wild wild
feet first feet first feet first
wild wild wild wild

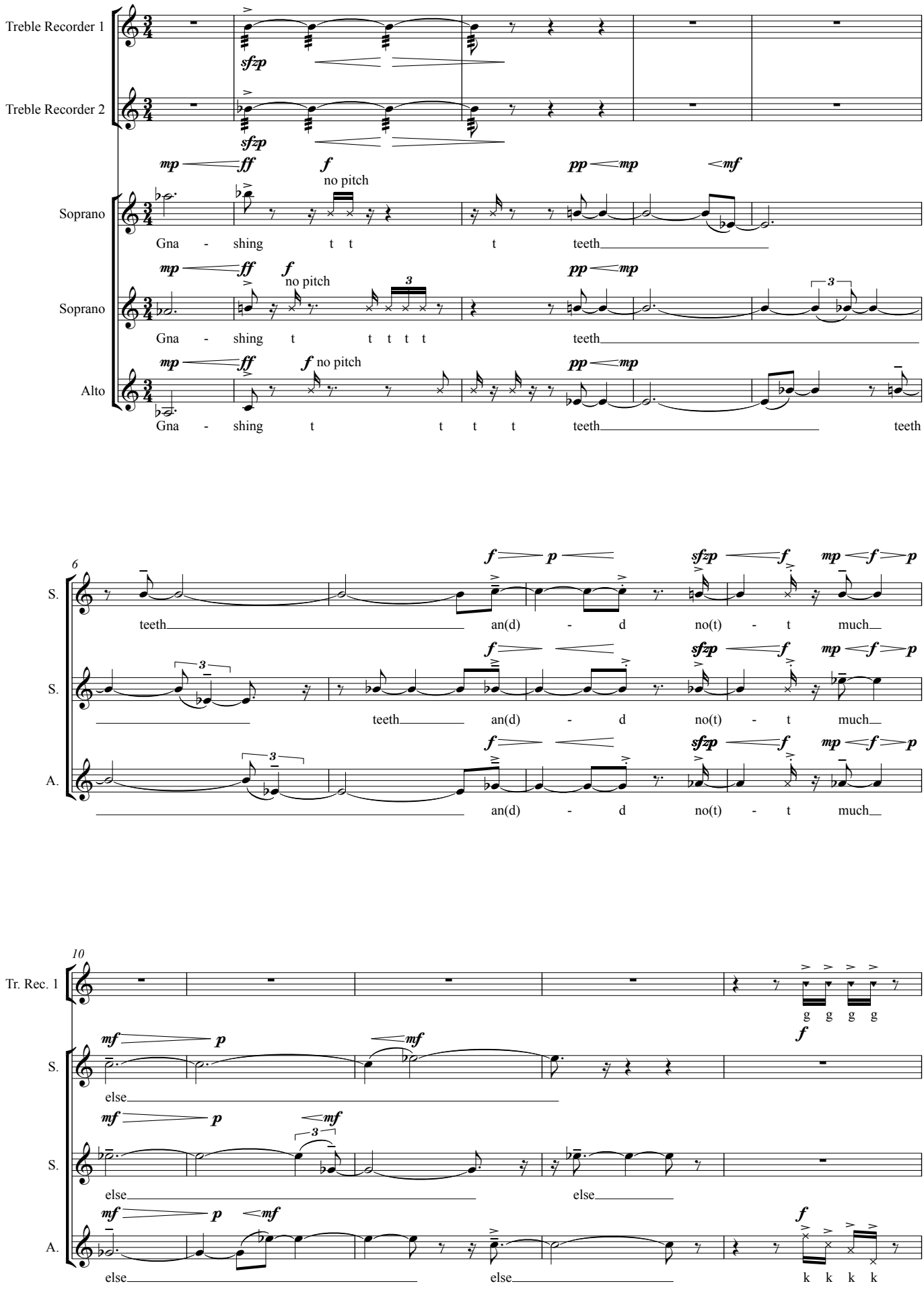

41
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
wild wild wild
breach born feet first
feet first first feet first
breach born feet first
wild wild breach born
breach born feet first wil(d) - - d

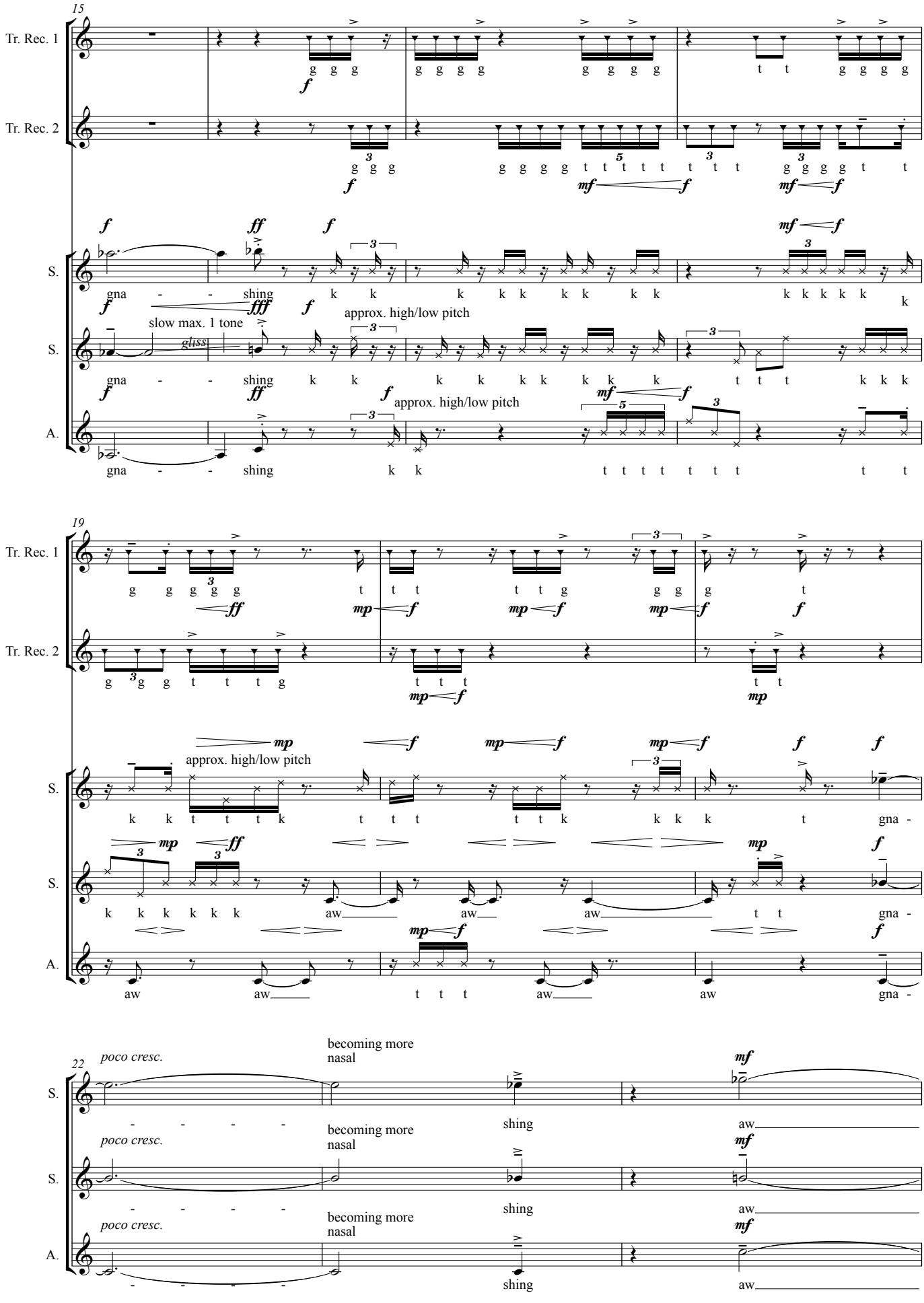

45
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
legato
feet first
first
breach born feet first
feet first
wil(d) - d

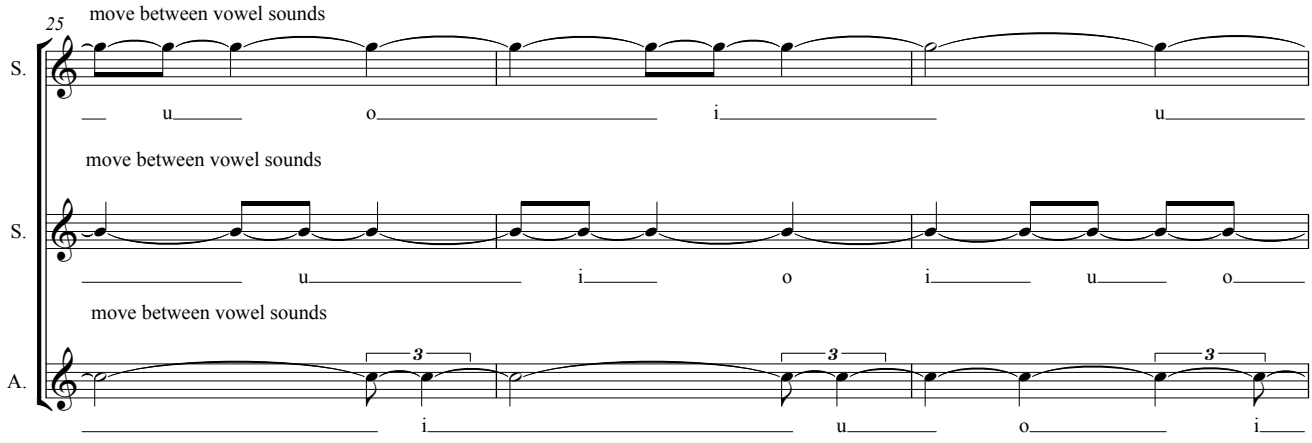

49
rit.
D. Rec.1
pp
p
D. Rec.2
p
f
p
Tr. Rec.1
mf
p
Tr. Rec.2
f
p
sffz
mf
p
rit.
decresc.
S.1
mf
born
S.2
mf
decresc.
born
mf
mp
ff
f
mp
decresc.
A.
wil(d) - - - - - d
wild

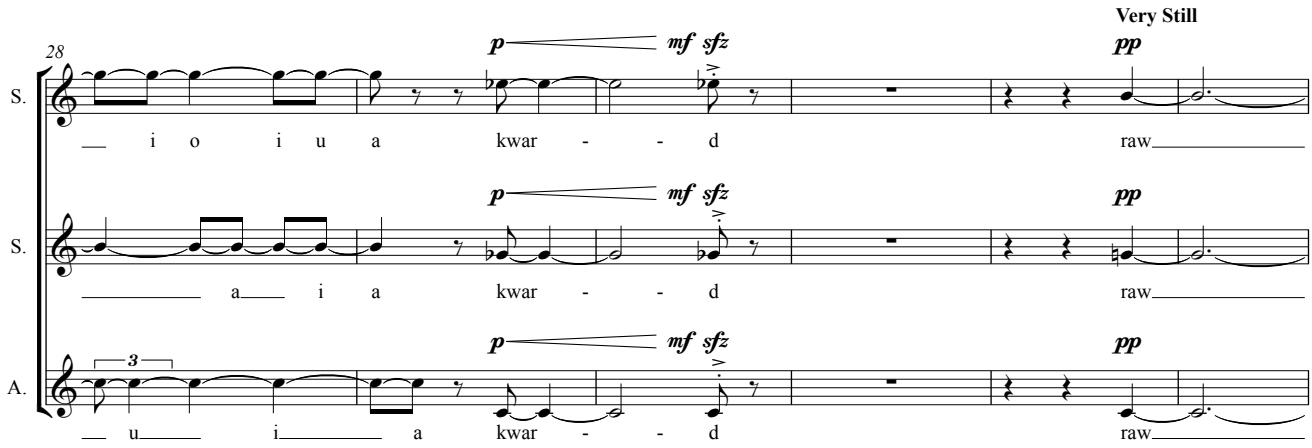
II

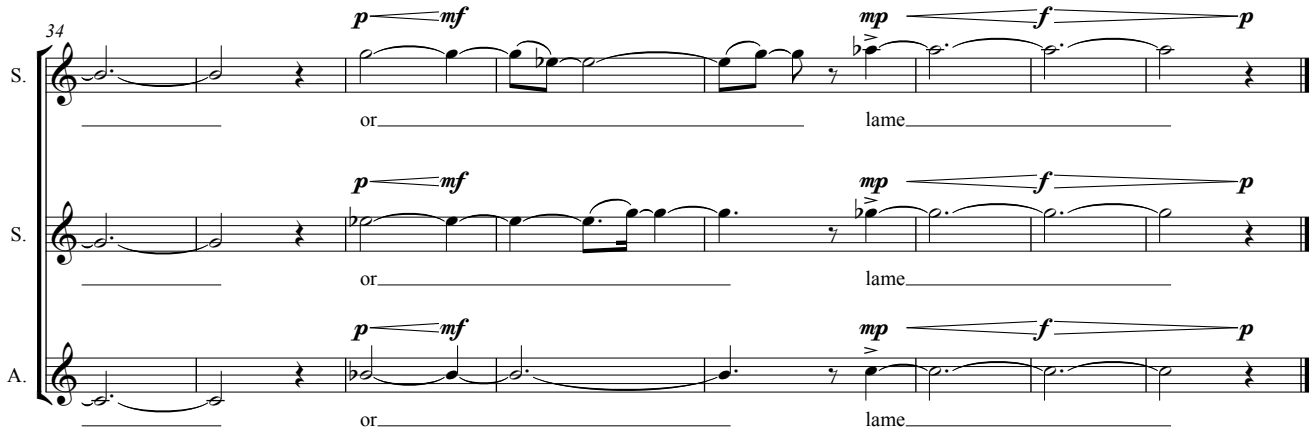
♩ = 86

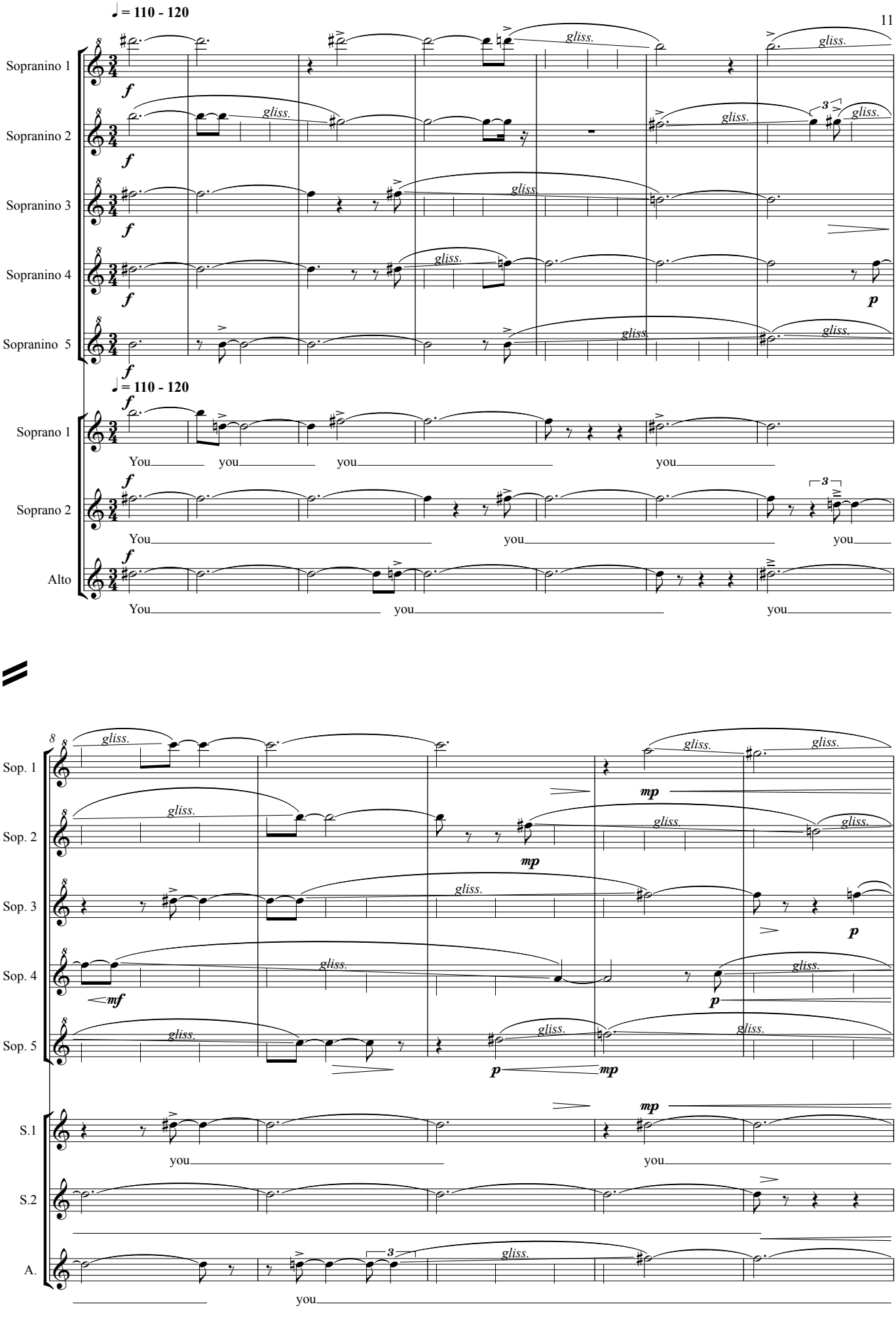

Treble Recorder 1
Treble Recorder 2
Soprano
Gna - shing t t t teeth
no pitch
Soprano
Gna - shing t t t t t teeth
no pitch
Alto
Gna - shing t t t t teeth teeth
6
S.
teeth an(d) - d no(t) - t much
S.
teeth an(d) - d no(t) - t much
A.
an(d) - d no(t) - t much
10
Tr. Rec. 1
g g g g
S.
else
S.
else else
A.
else else
k k k k

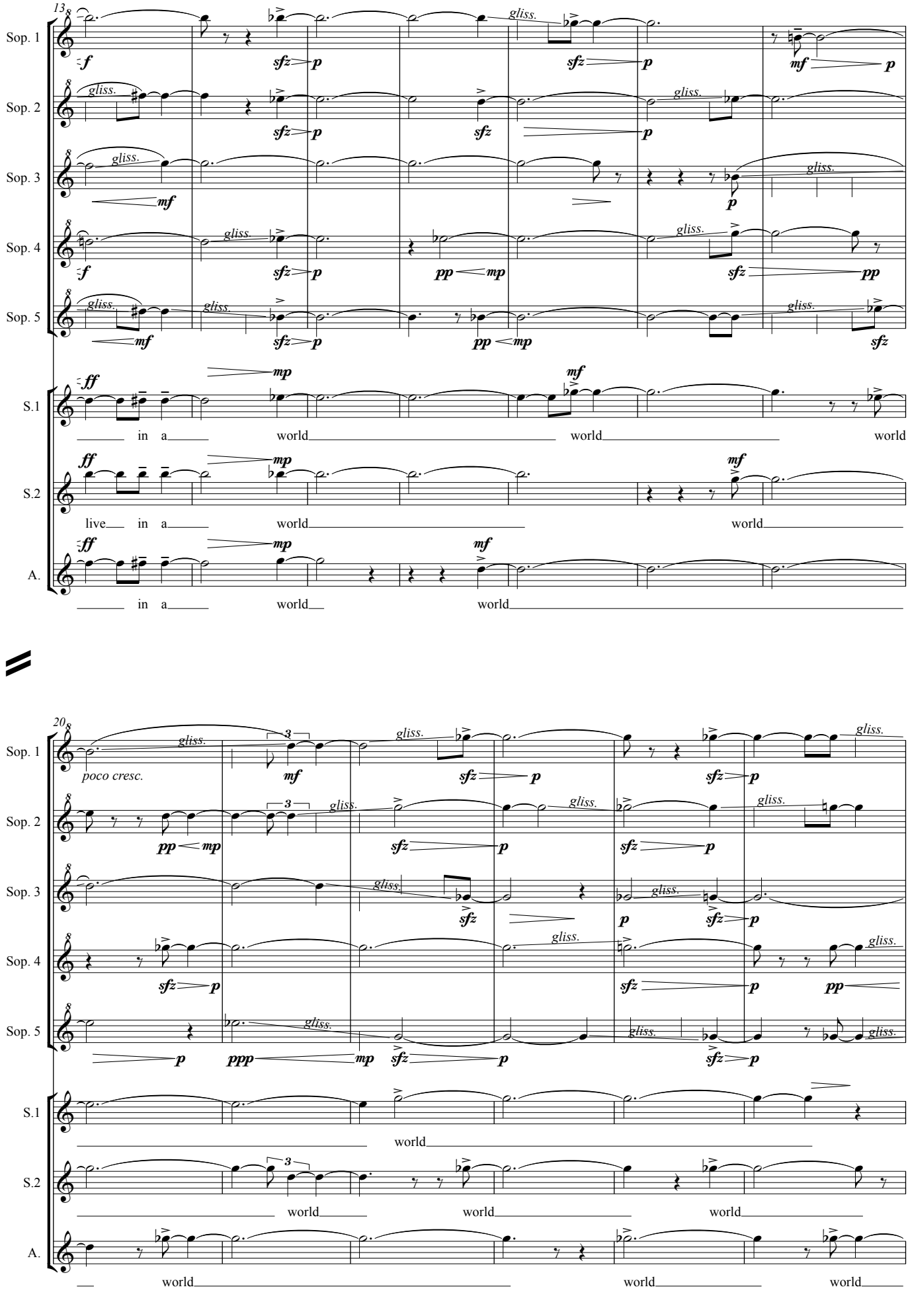

15
Tr. Rec. 1
Tr. Rec. 2
S.
A.
gna - - shing
slow max. 1 tone
gliss
approx. high/low pitch
19
aw
poco cresc.
becoming more nasal
shing

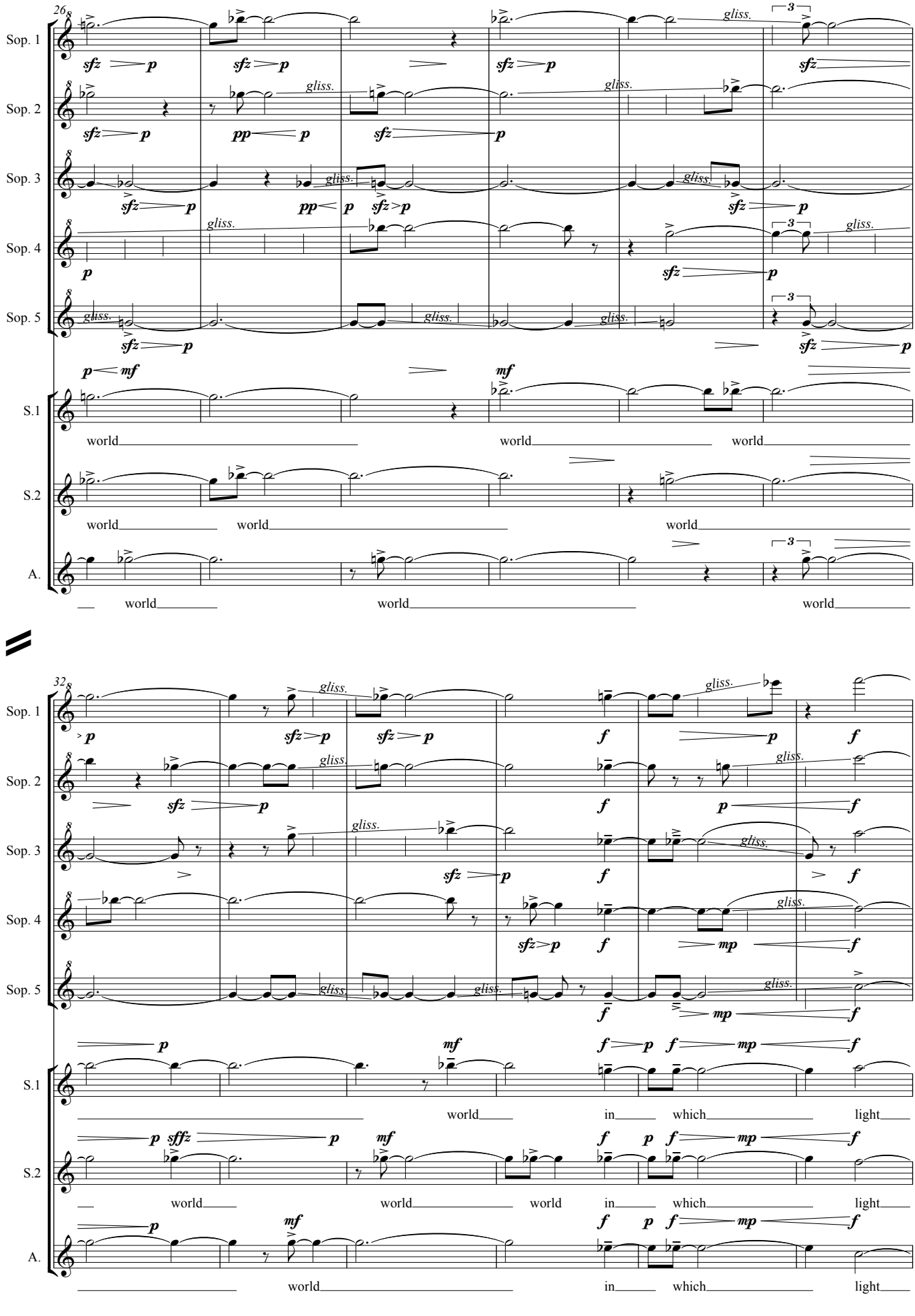

25
move between vowel sounds
S.
u o i u
move between vowel sounds
S.
u i o i u o
move between vowel sounds
A.
3
i u o i

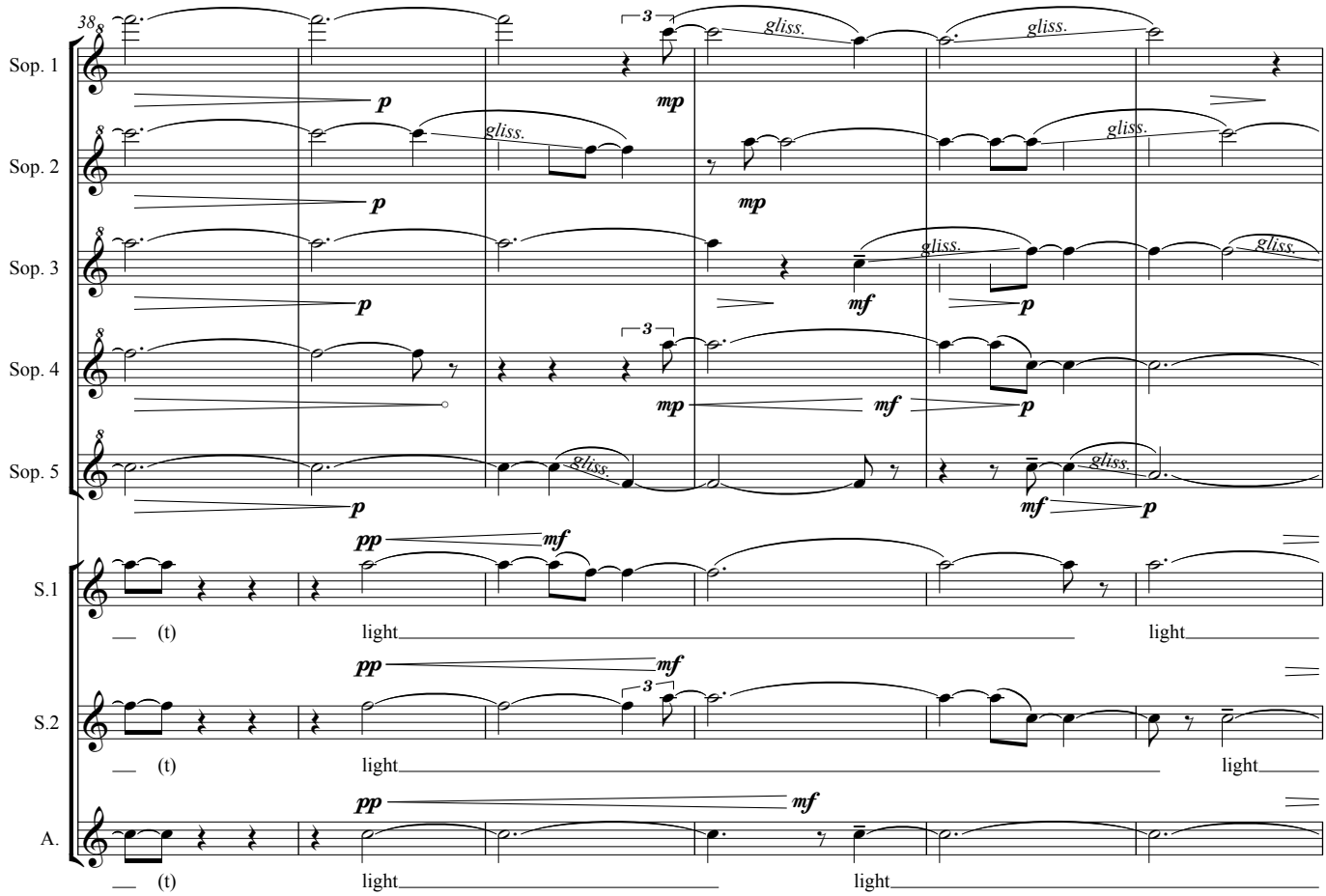

28
Very Still
S.
p mf sfz pp
i o i u a kwar - - d raw
S.
p mf sfz pp
a i a kwar - - d raw
A.
3
p mf sfz pp
u i a kwar - - d raw

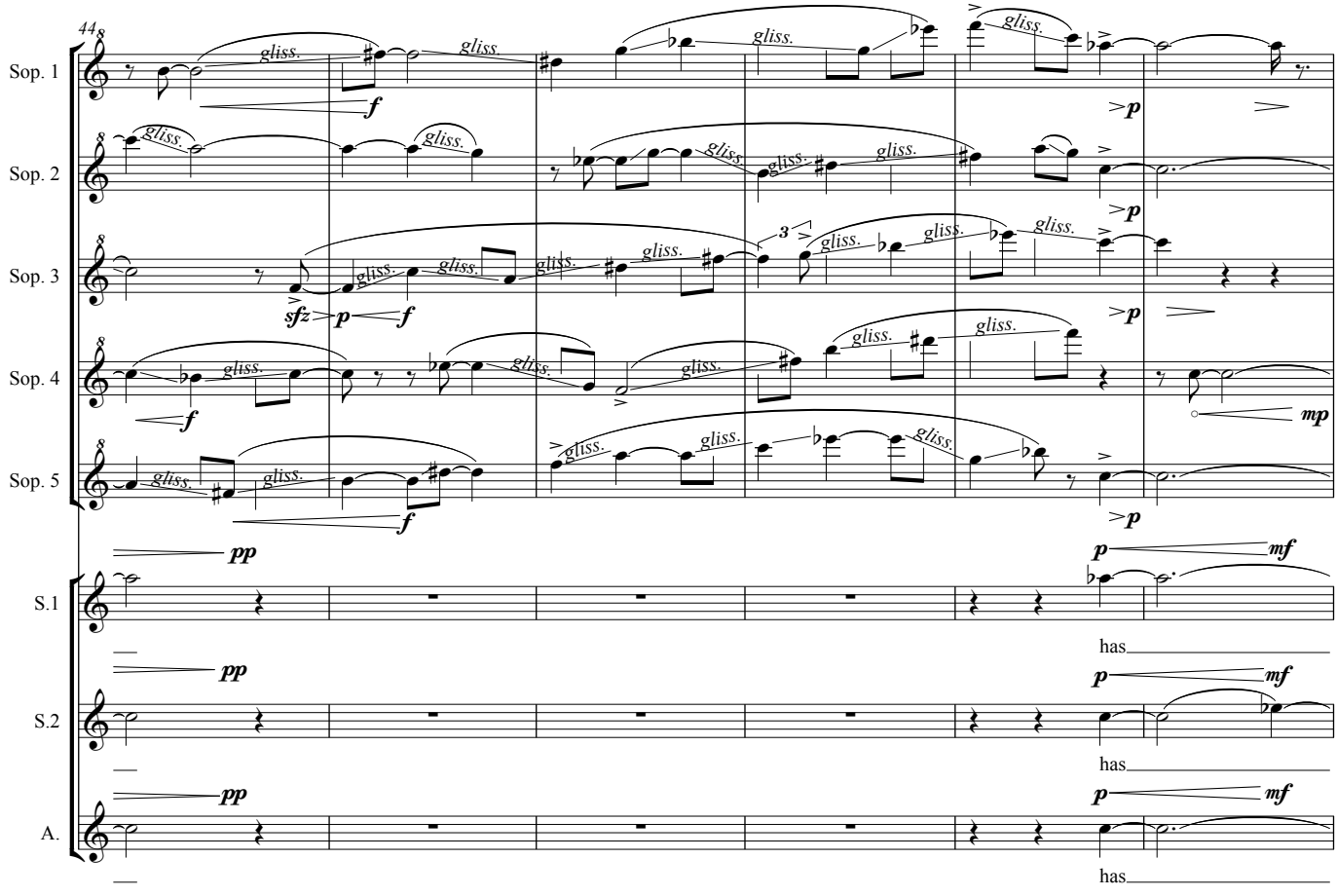

34
S.
p mf mp f p
or lame
S.
p mf mp f p
or lame
A.
p mf mp f p
or lame

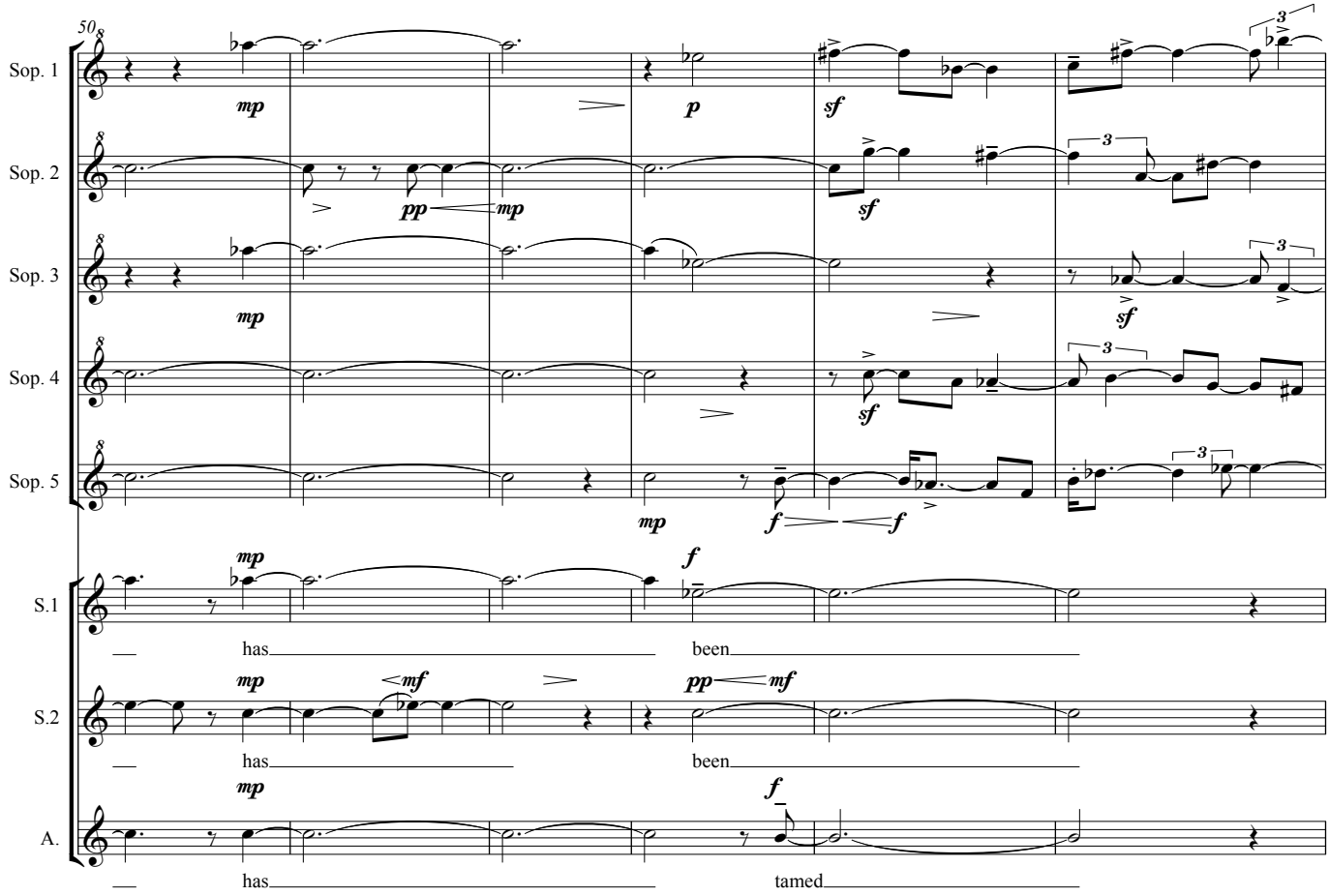

♩ = 110 - 120
Sopranino 1
Sopranino 2
Sopranino 3
Sopranino 4
Sopranino 5
Soprano 1
Soprano 2
Alto
gliss.
You
you
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Sop. 3
Sop. 4
Sop. 5
S.1
S.2
A.

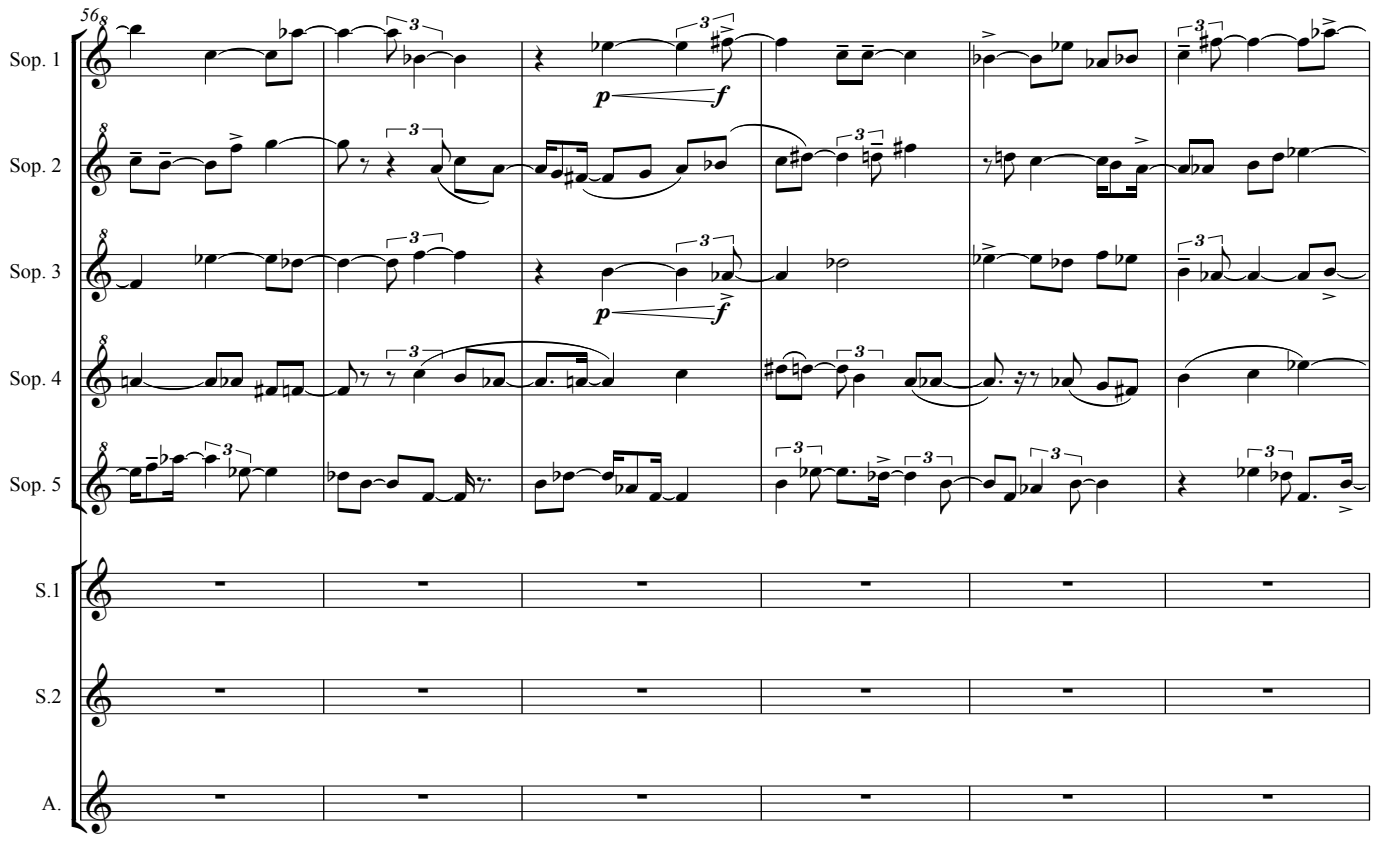

13
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Sop. 3
Sop. 4
Sop. 5
S.1
S.2
A.
in a world world world
live in a world world
in a world world
20
poco cresc.
world
world world world
world world world

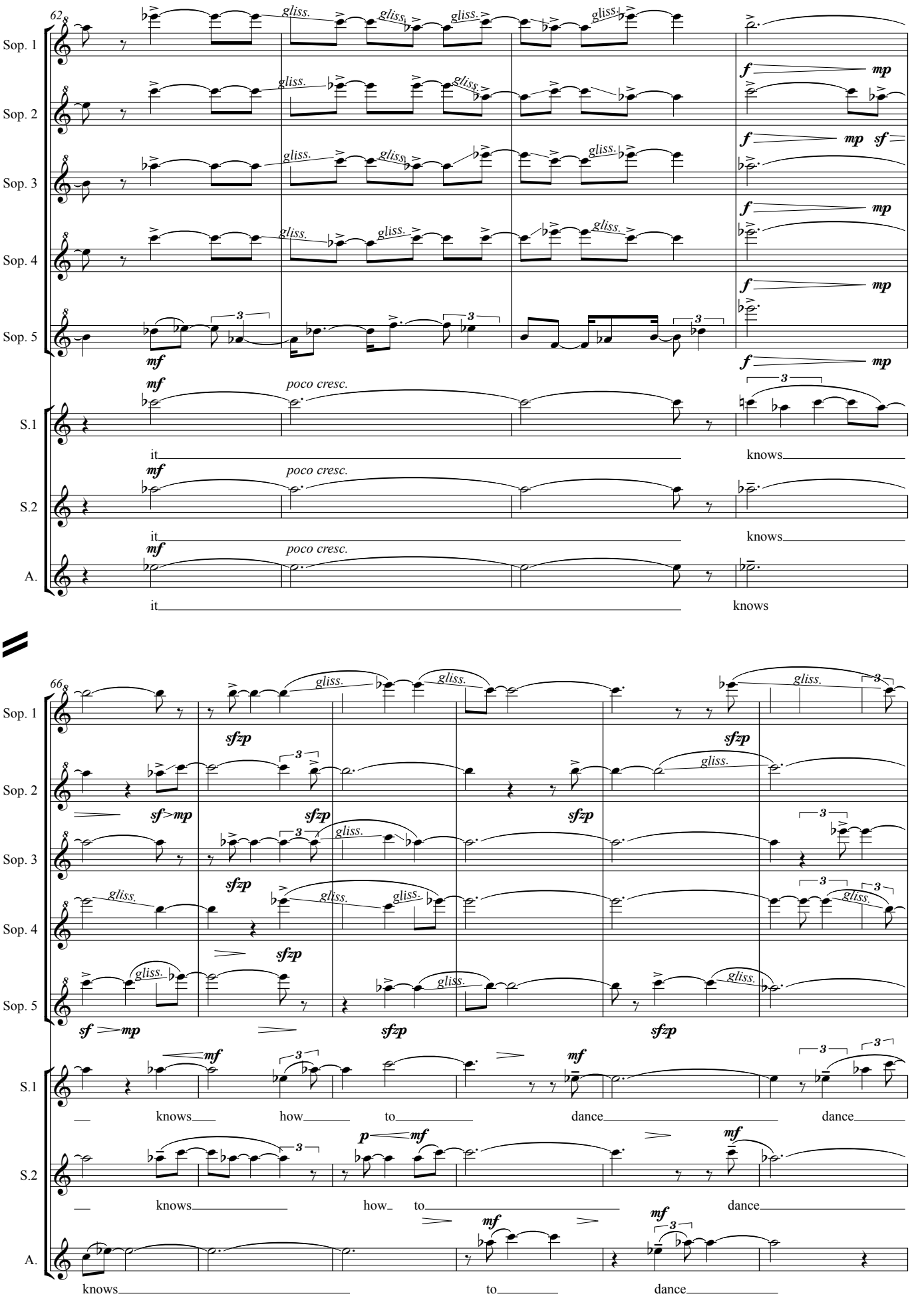

26
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Sop. 3
Sop. 4
Sop. 5
S.1
S.2
A.
gliss.
world
32
in
which
light

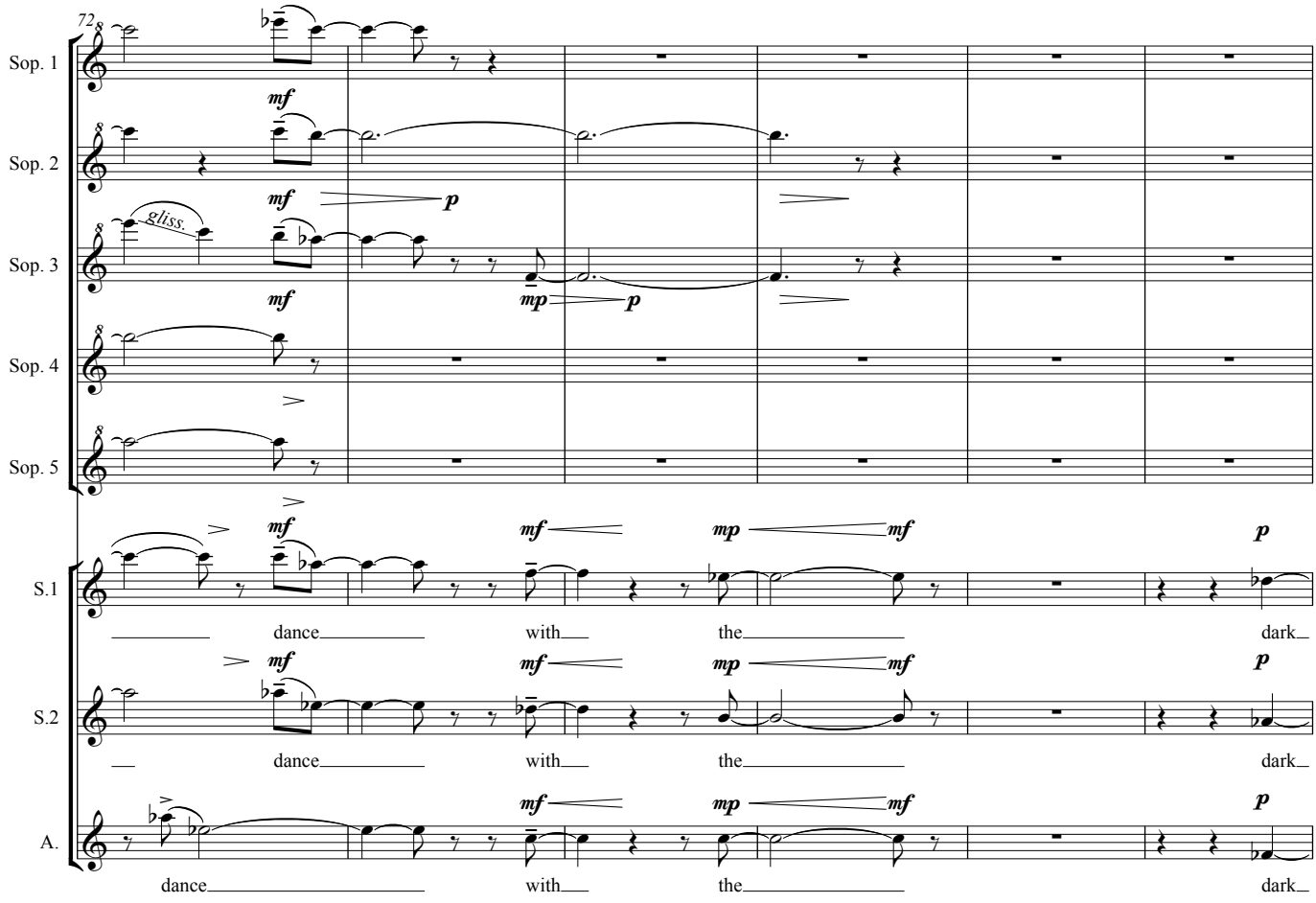

38
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Sop. 3
Sop. 4
Sop. 5
S.1
S.2
A.
gliss.
p
mp
mf
pp
(t)
light

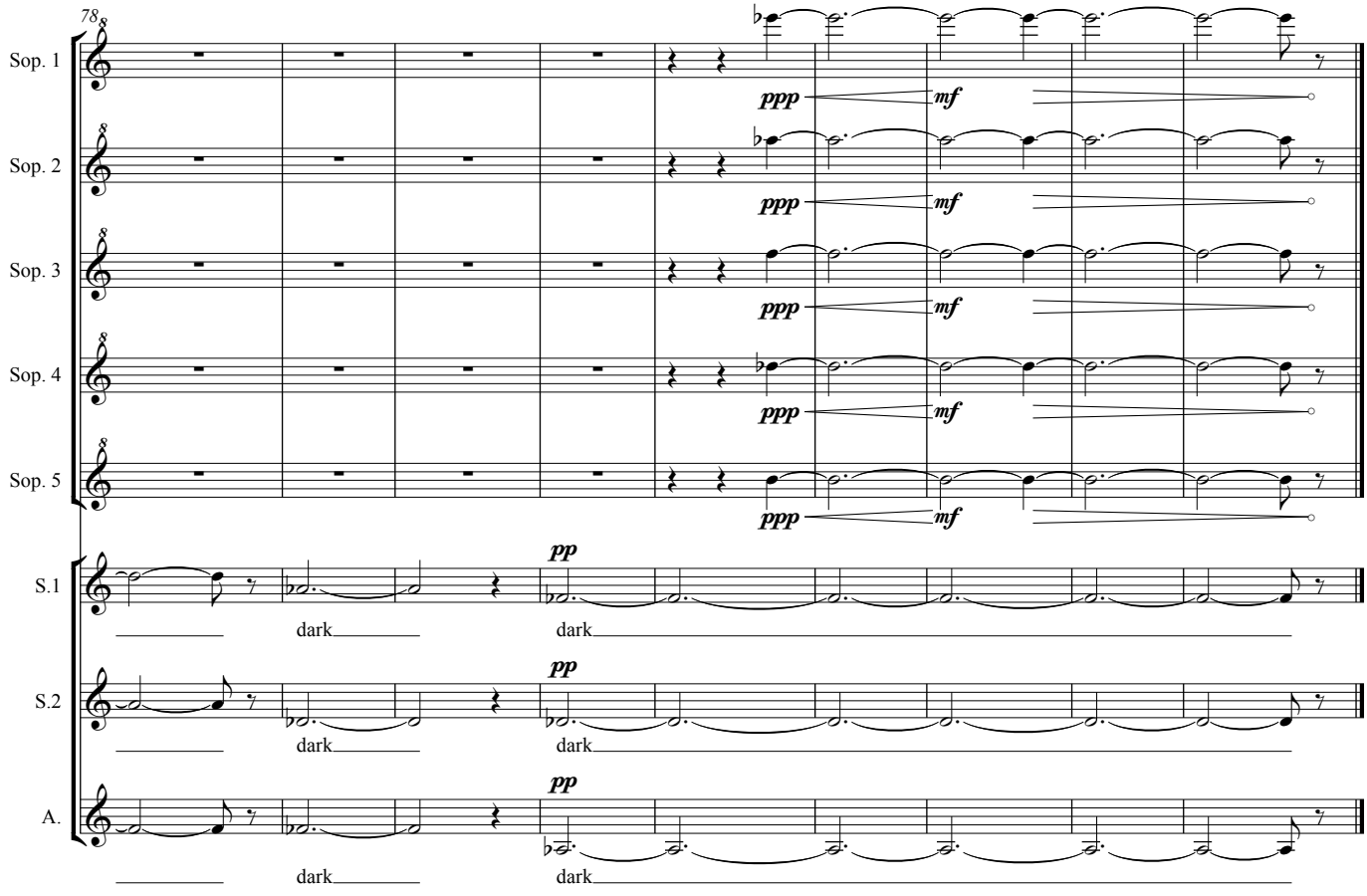

44
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Sop. 3
Sop. 4
Sop. 5
S.1
S.2
A.
gliss.
sfz
f
p
mp
mf
pp
has


50
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Sop. 3
Sop. 4
Sop. 5
S.1
S.2
A.
has
been
has
been
has
tamed


56
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Sop. 3
Sop. 4
Sop. 5
S.1
S.2
A.

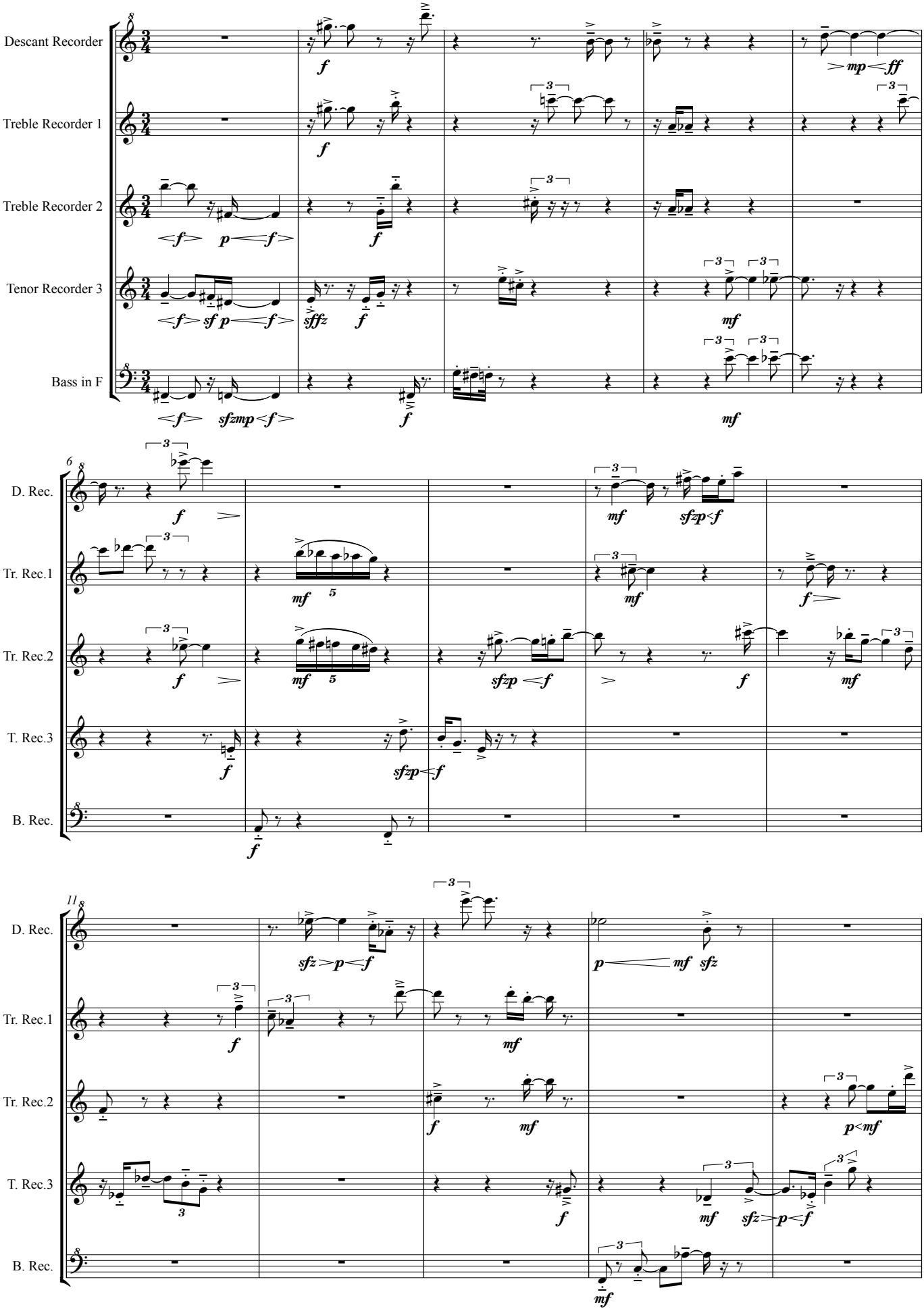

62
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Sop. 3
Sop. 4
Sop. 5
S.1
S.2
A.
gliss.
mf
poco cresc.
f
mp
sf
it
knows
66
sfzp
sf>mp
sf>mp
p
mf
how
to
dance

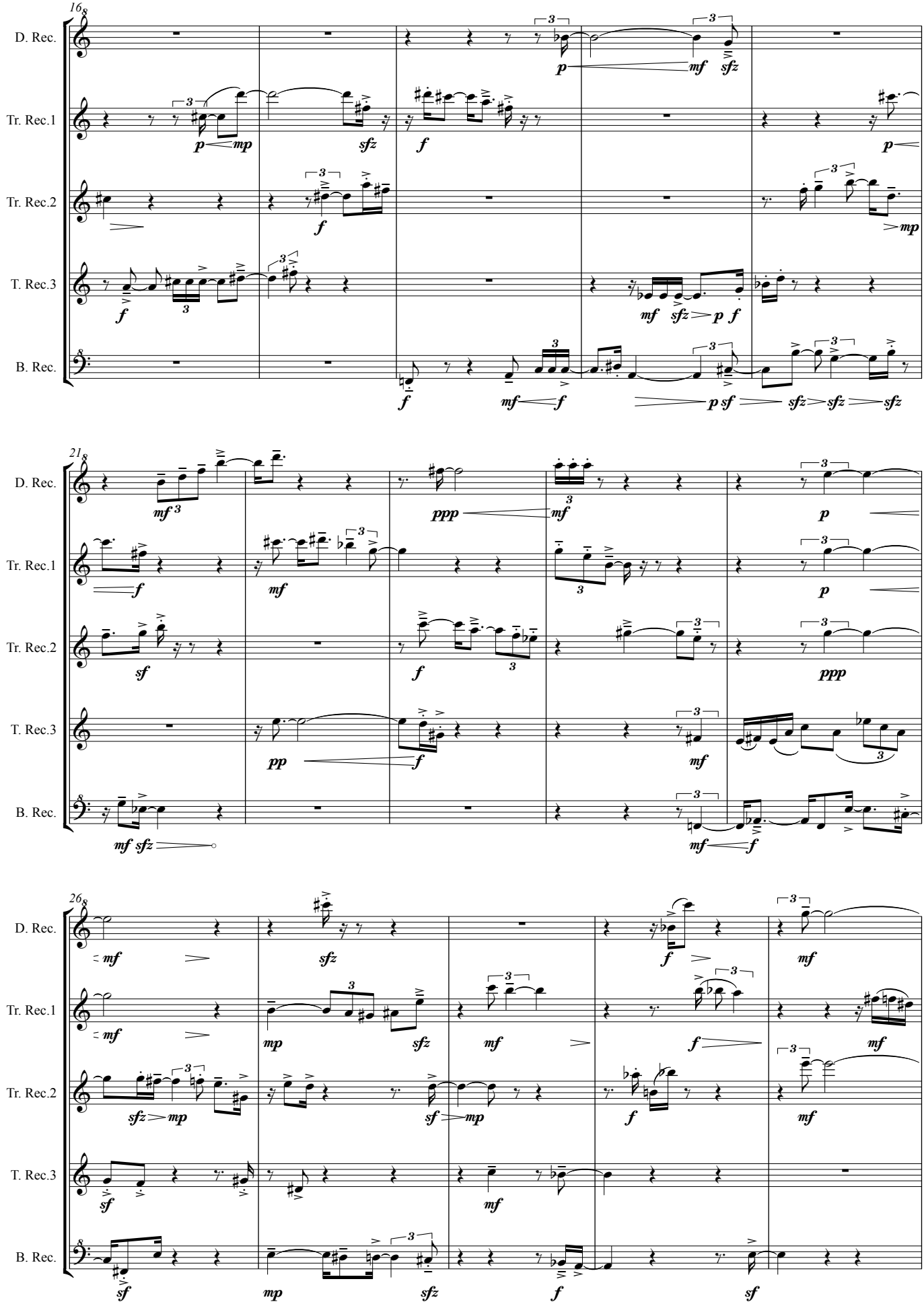

72
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Sop. 3
Sop. 4
Sop. 5
S.1
S.2
A.
gliss.
mf
p
mp
dance
with
the
dark

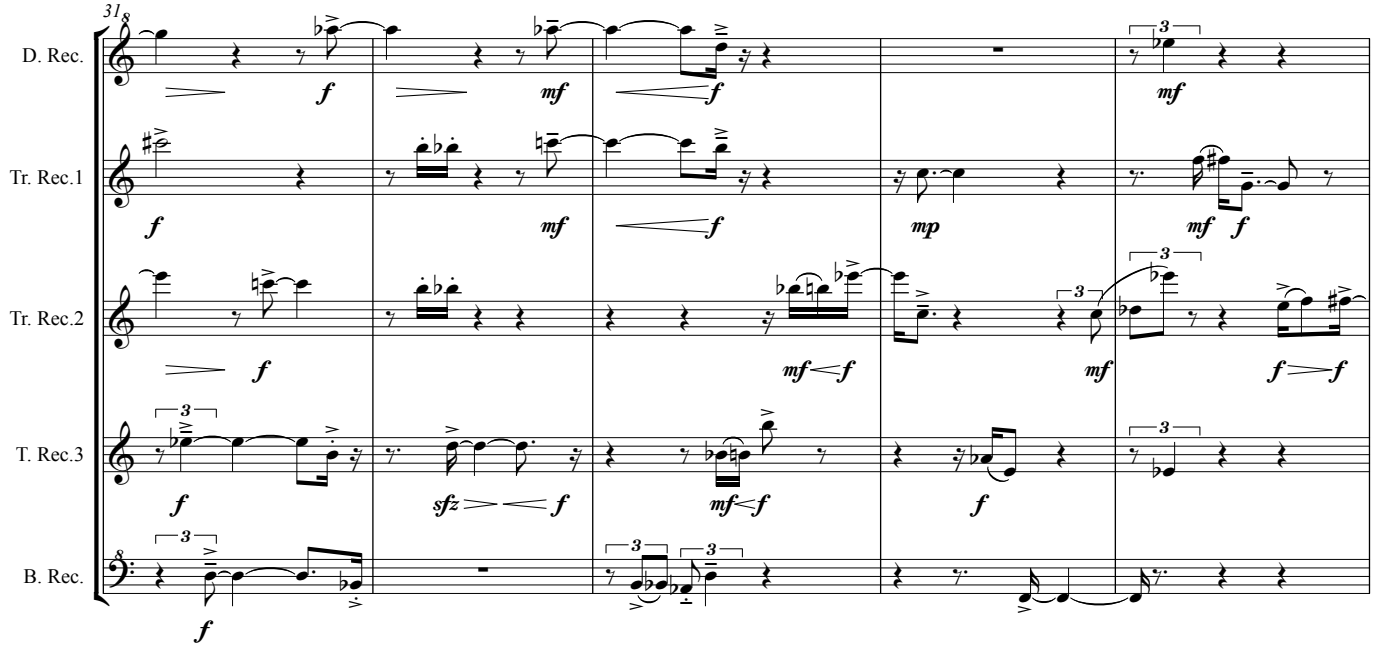

78
Sop. 1
Sop. 2
Sop. 3
Sop. 4
Sop. 5
S.1
S.2
A.
ppp
mf
pp
dark

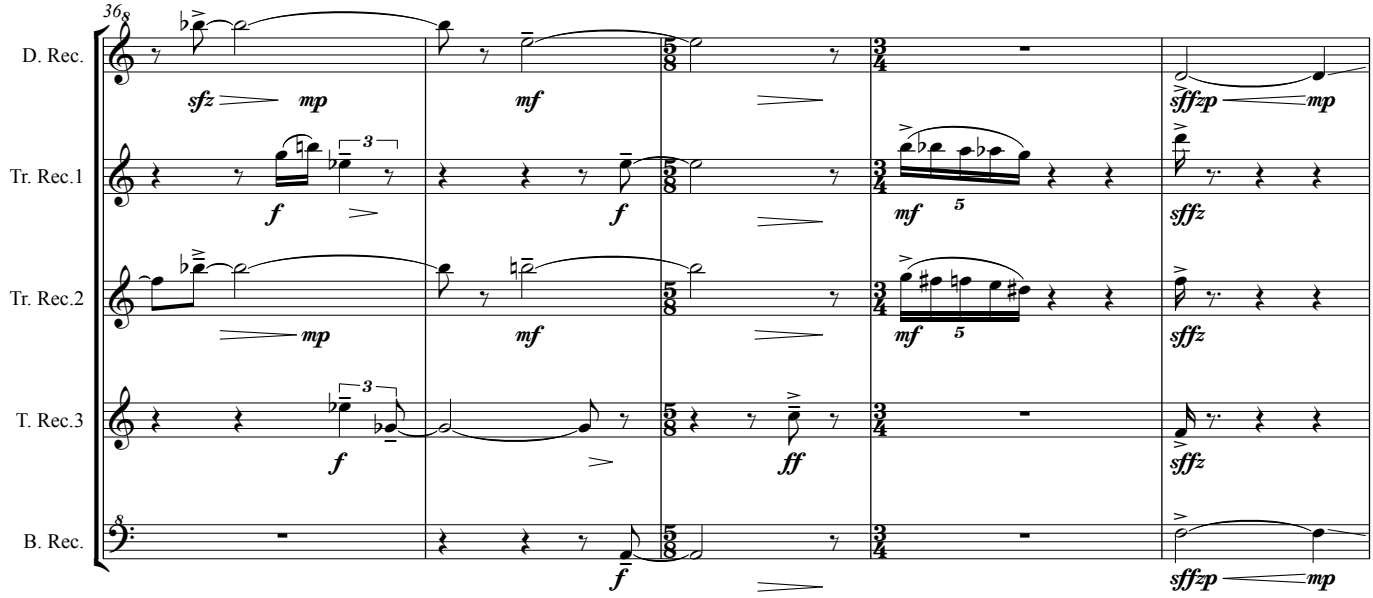
IV

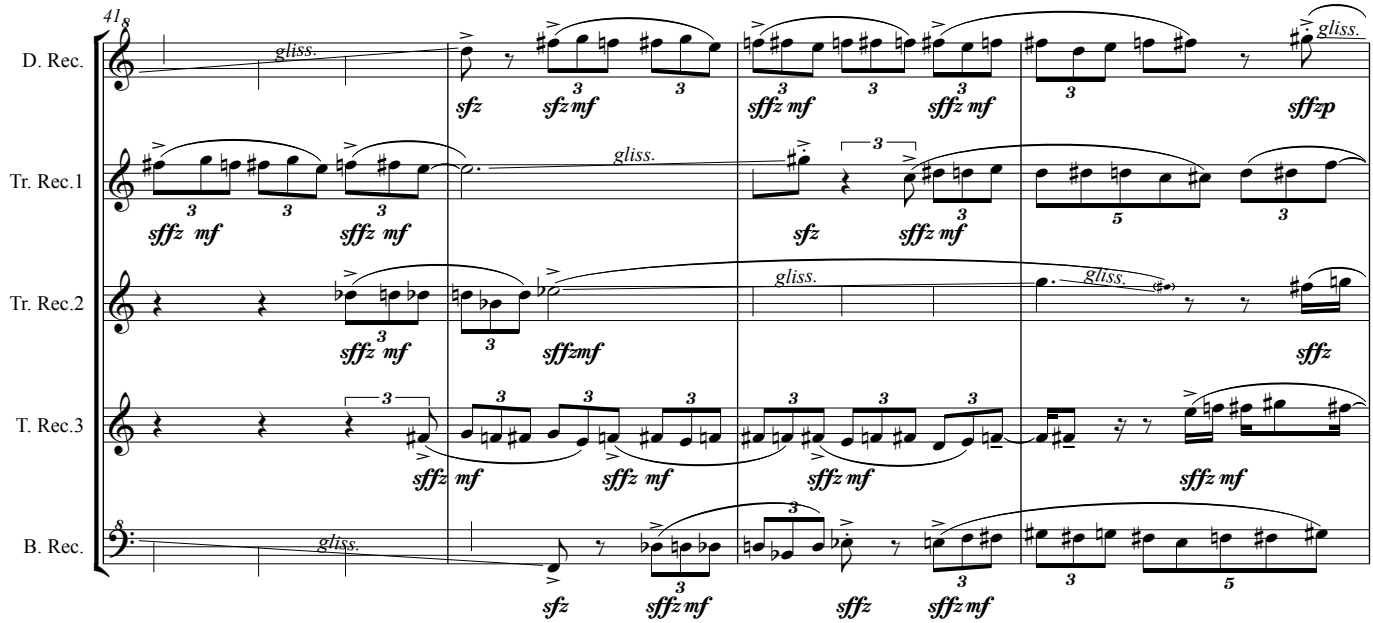
♩ = 90 Urgent

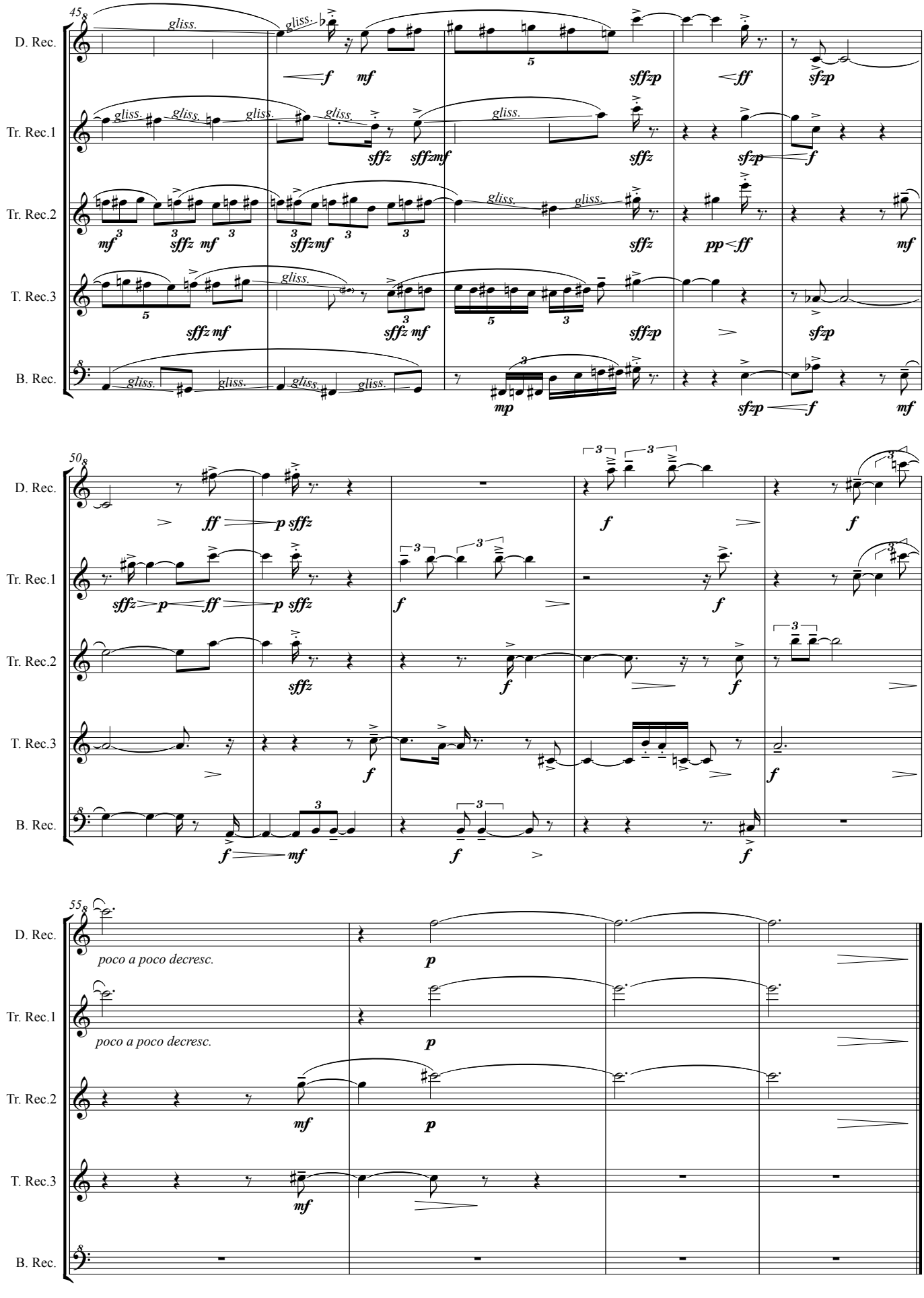

Descant Recorder
Treble Recorder 1
Treble Recorder 2
Tenor Recorder 3
Bass in F
D. Rec.
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
T. Rec.3
B. Rec.


16
D. Rec.
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
T. Rec.3
B. Rec.
21
26

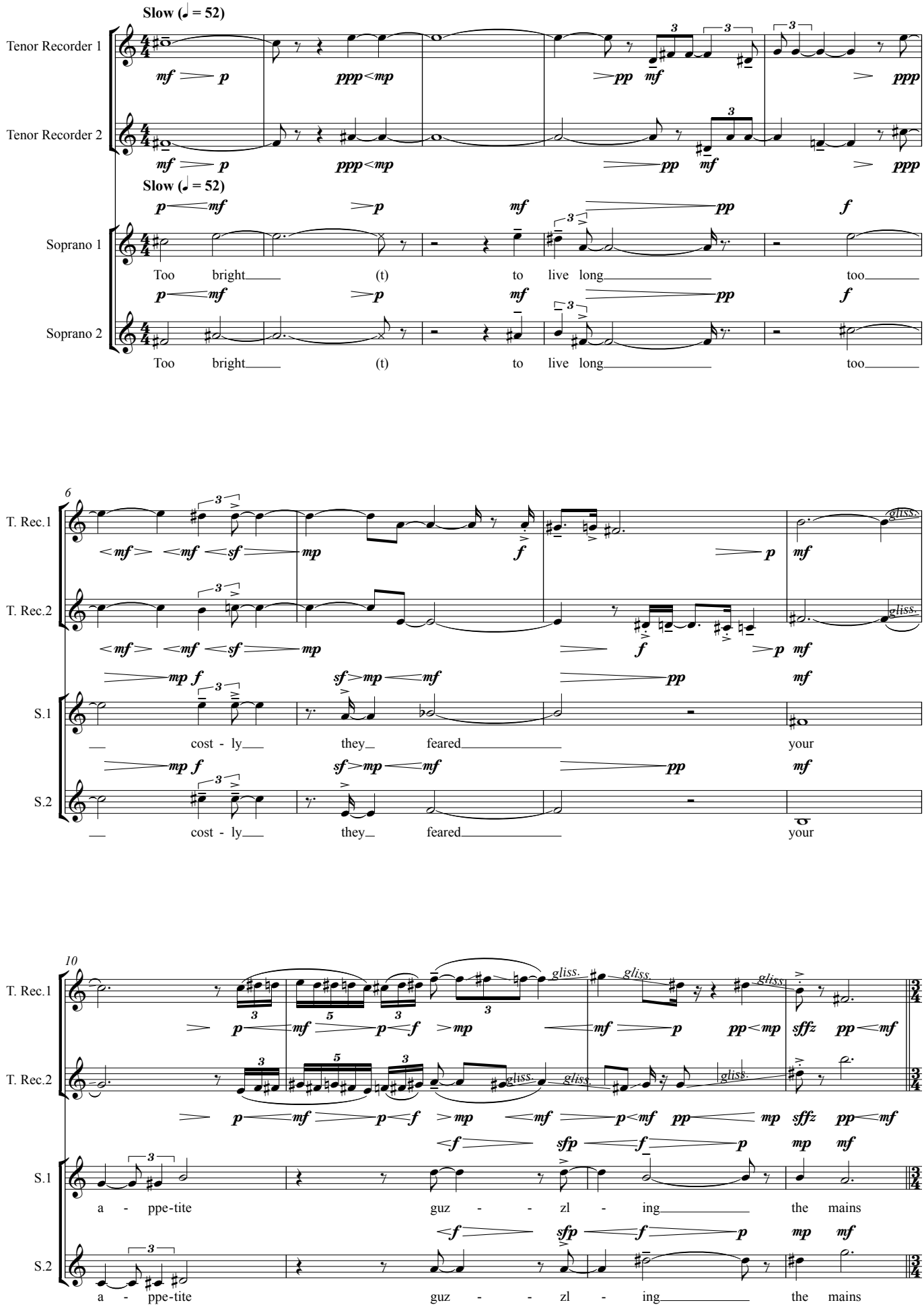

31
D. Rec.
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
T. Rec.3
B. Rec.


36
D. Rec.
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
T. Rec.3
B. Rec.


41
D. Rec.
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
T. Rec.3
B. Rec.
gliss.

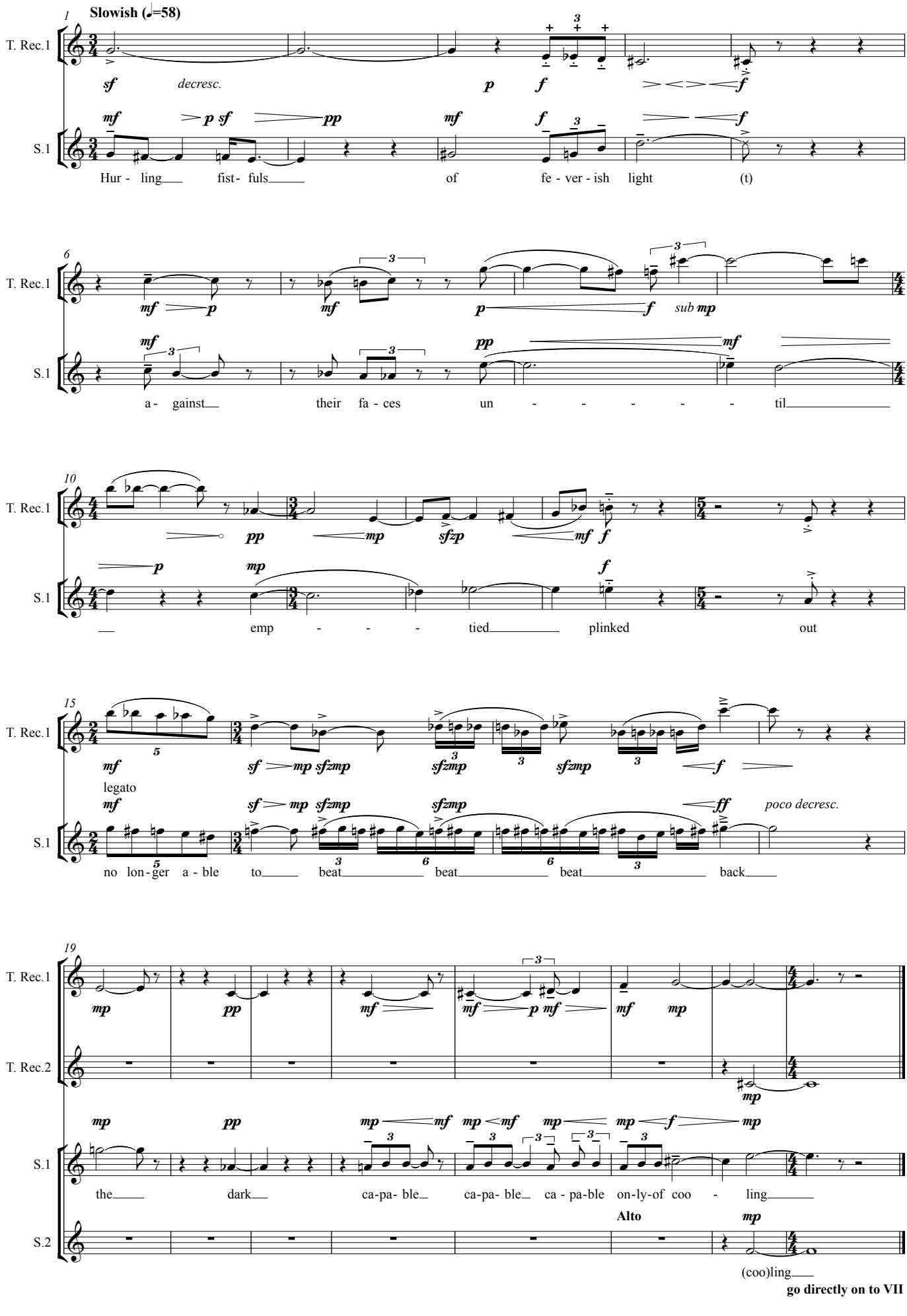

D. Rec.
Tr. Rec.1
Tr. Rec.2
T. Rec.3
B. Rec.
gliss.
poco a poco decresc.

V

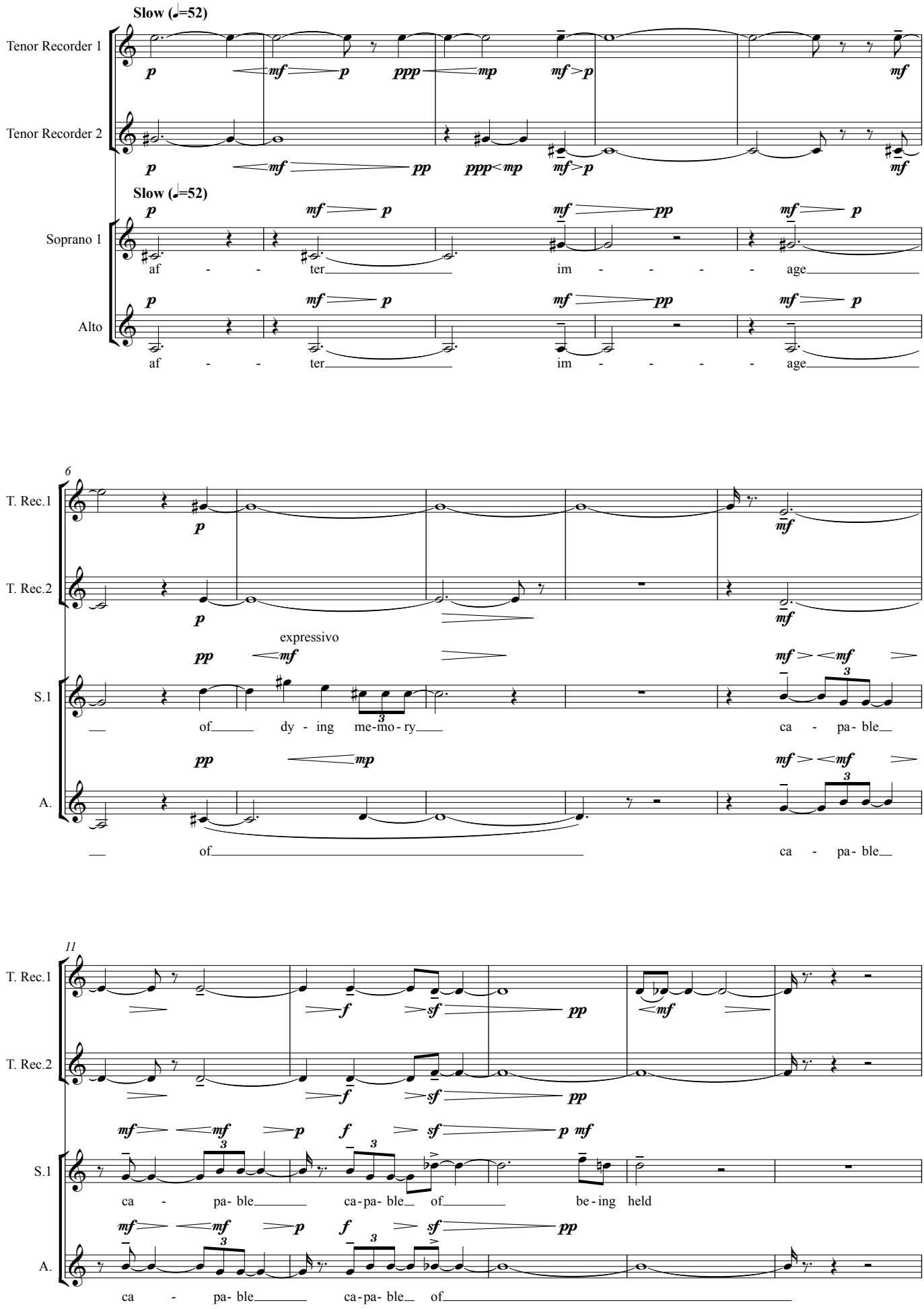


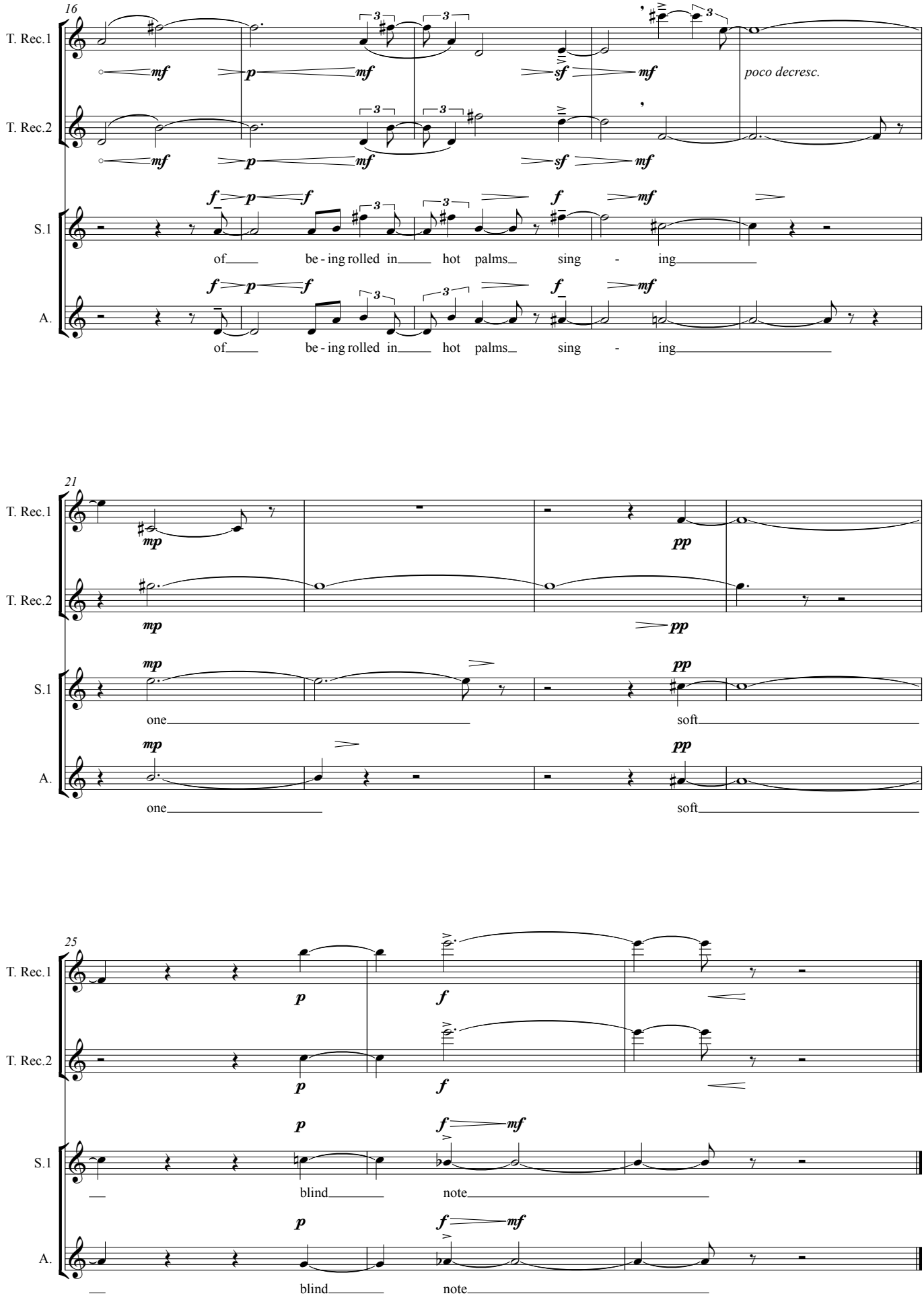
go directly on to VI

VI


1
Slowish (♩=58)
T. Rec.1
S.1
sf
decresc.
p
f
mf
p sf
pp
mf
f
f
Hur - ling
fist - fuls
of
fe - ver - ish
light
(t)
6
T. Rec.1
S.1
mf
p
mf
p
f
sub mp
mf
pp
mf
a - gainst
their
fa - ces
un - - - - - til
10
T. Rec.1
S.1
pp
mp
sfzp
mf
f
p
mp
f
emp - - - tied
plinked
out
15
T. Rec.1
S.1
mf
sf
mp
sfzmp
sfzmp
sfzmp
f
legato
mf
sf
mp
sfzmp
sfzmp
ff
poco decresc.
no lon - ger a - ble
to
beat
beat
beat
back
19
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
mp
pp
mf
mf
p
mf
mf
mp
mp
pp
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
f
mp
mp
the
dark
ca-pa- ble
ca-pa- ble
ca - pa-ble
on-ly-of coo - ling
Alto
mp
(coo)ling
go directly on to VII

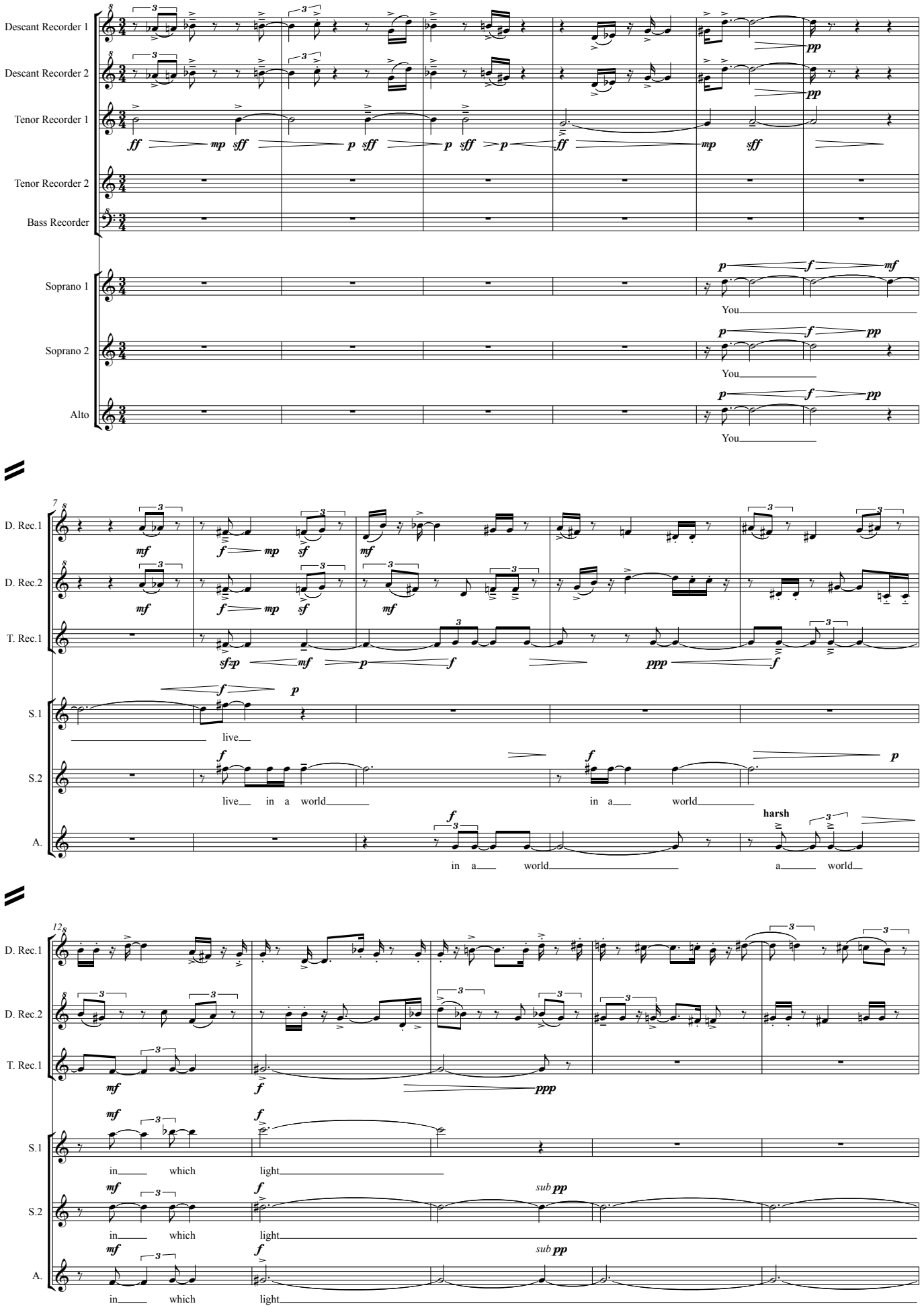
VII

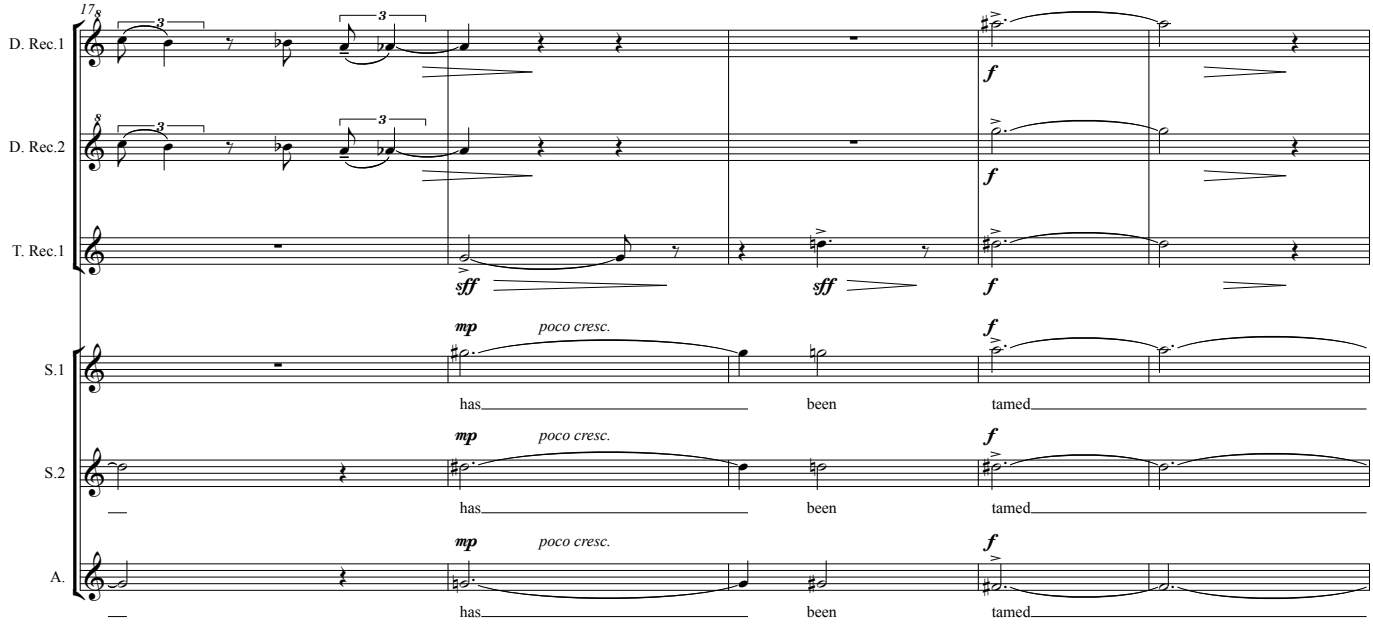

Slow (♩=52)
Tenor Recorder 1
Tenor Recorder 2
Slow (♩=52)
Soprano 1
af - - ter im - - - - age
Alto
af - - ter im - - - - age
6
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
expressivo
S.1
of dy - ing me-mo - ry ca - pa- ble
A.
of ca - pa- ble
11
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
S.1
ca - pa- ble ca-pa- ble of be-ing held
A.
ca - pa- ble ca-pa- ble of

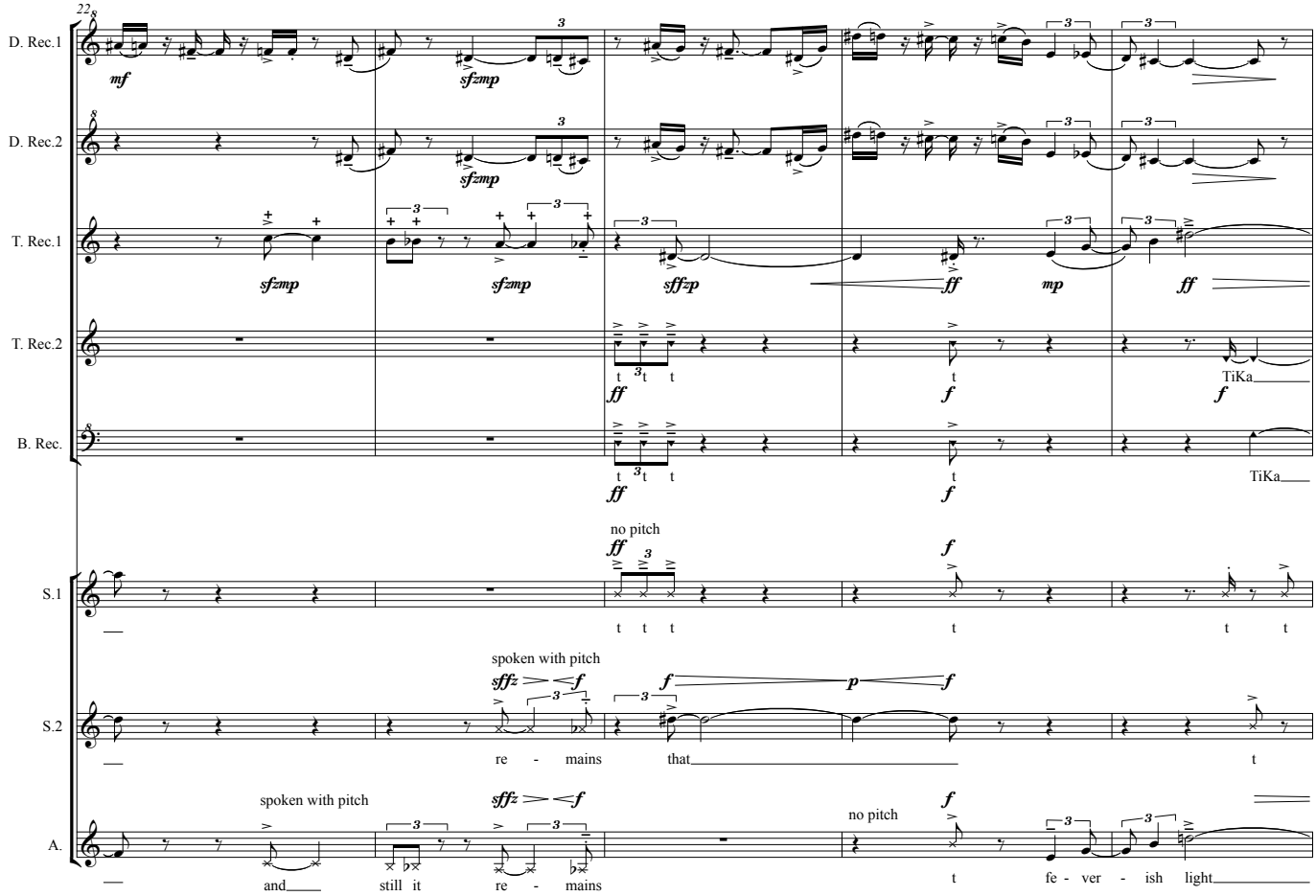

16
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
S.1
A.
mf p mf sf mf
poco decresc.
f p f mf
of be - ing rolled in hot palms sing - ing
21
mp pp
one soft
25
p f mf
blind note

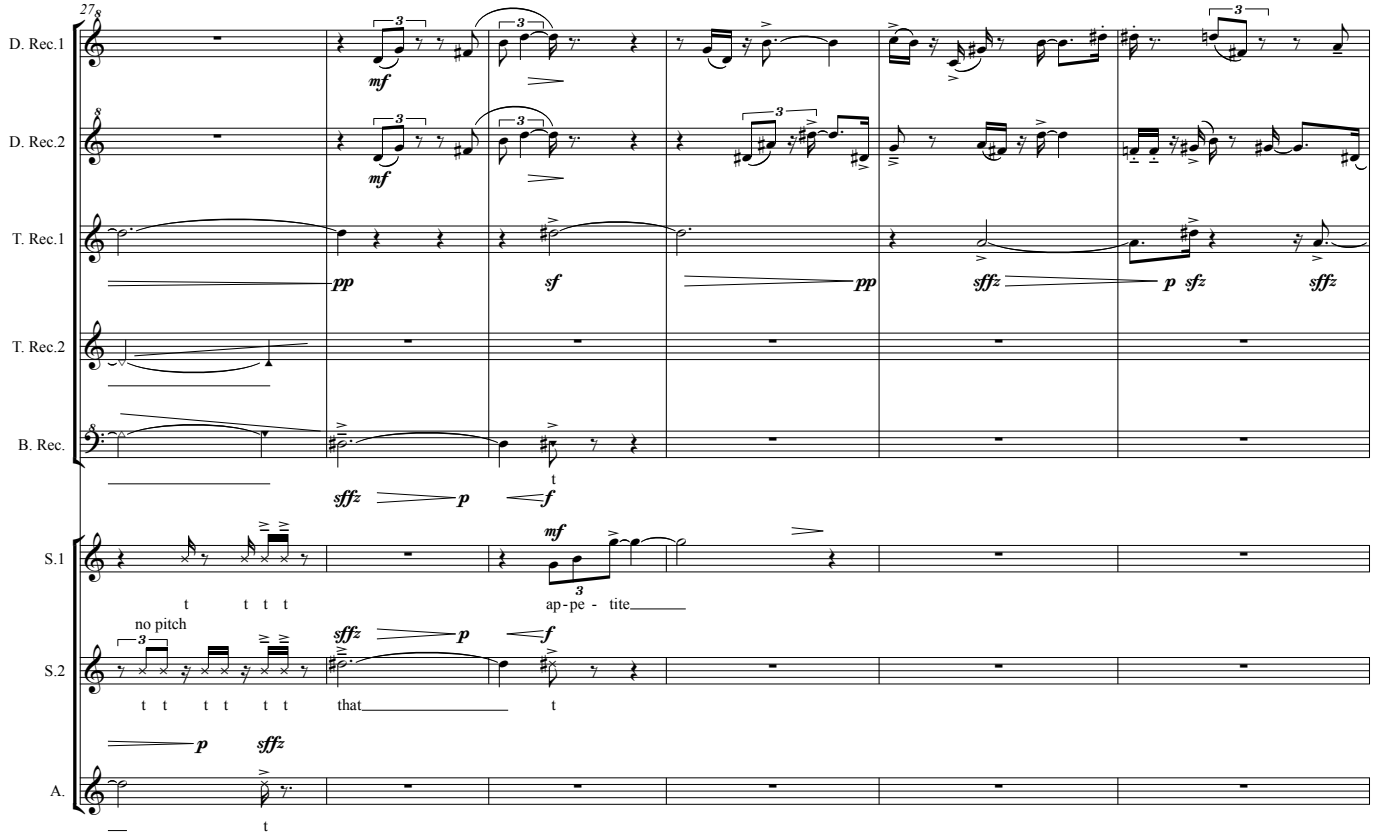
VIII

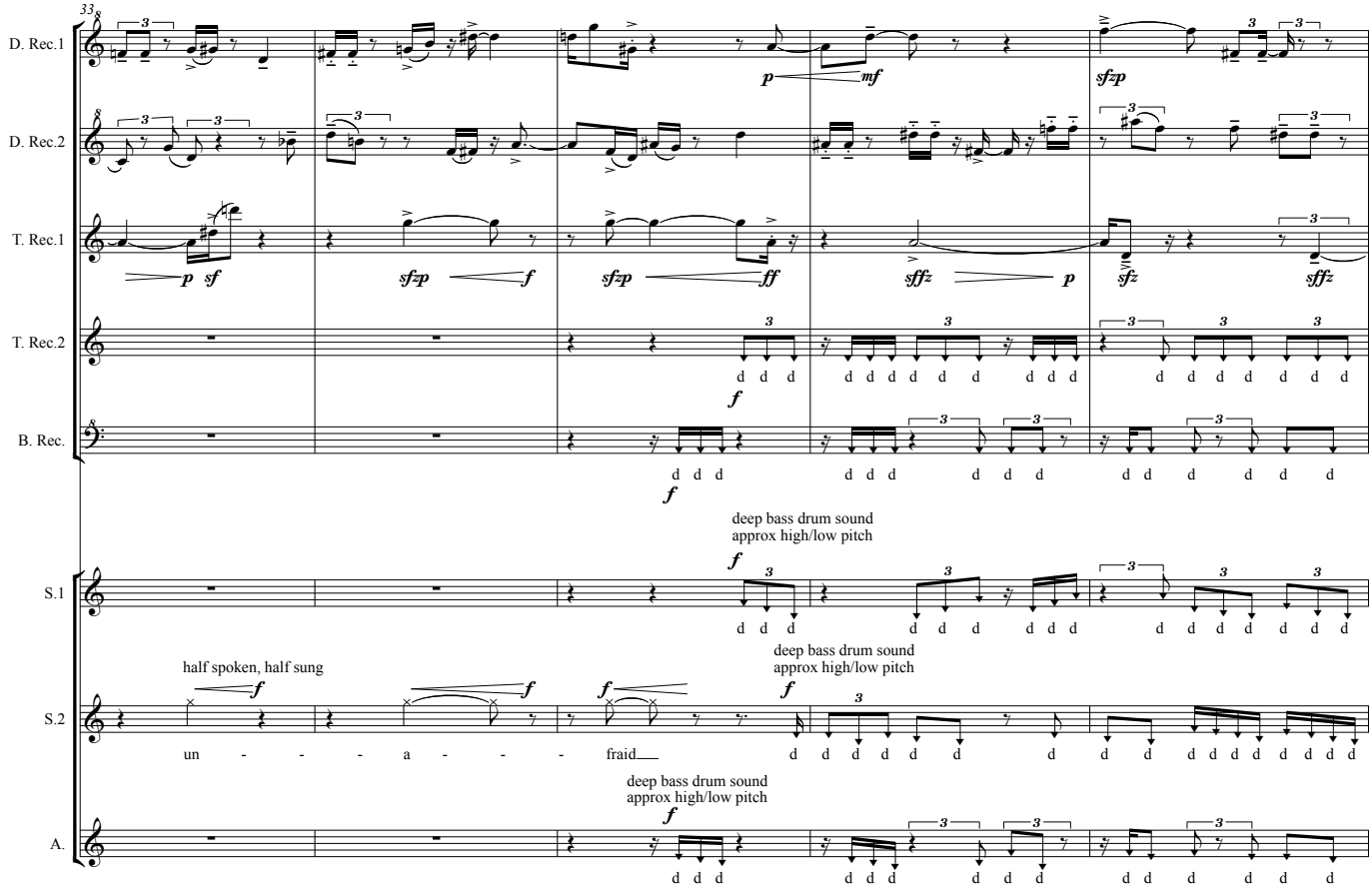
♩ = 100 Driving Urgent

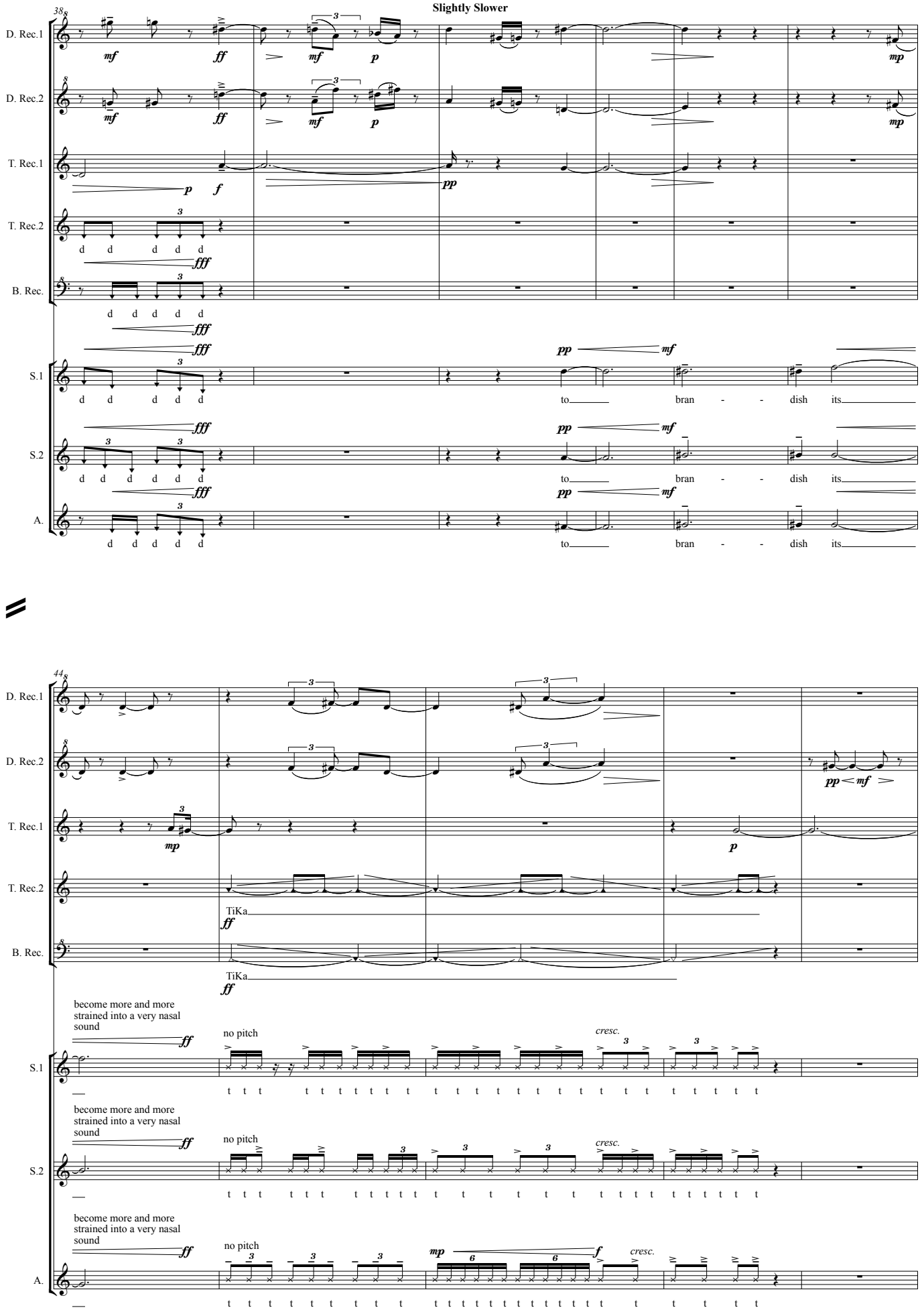


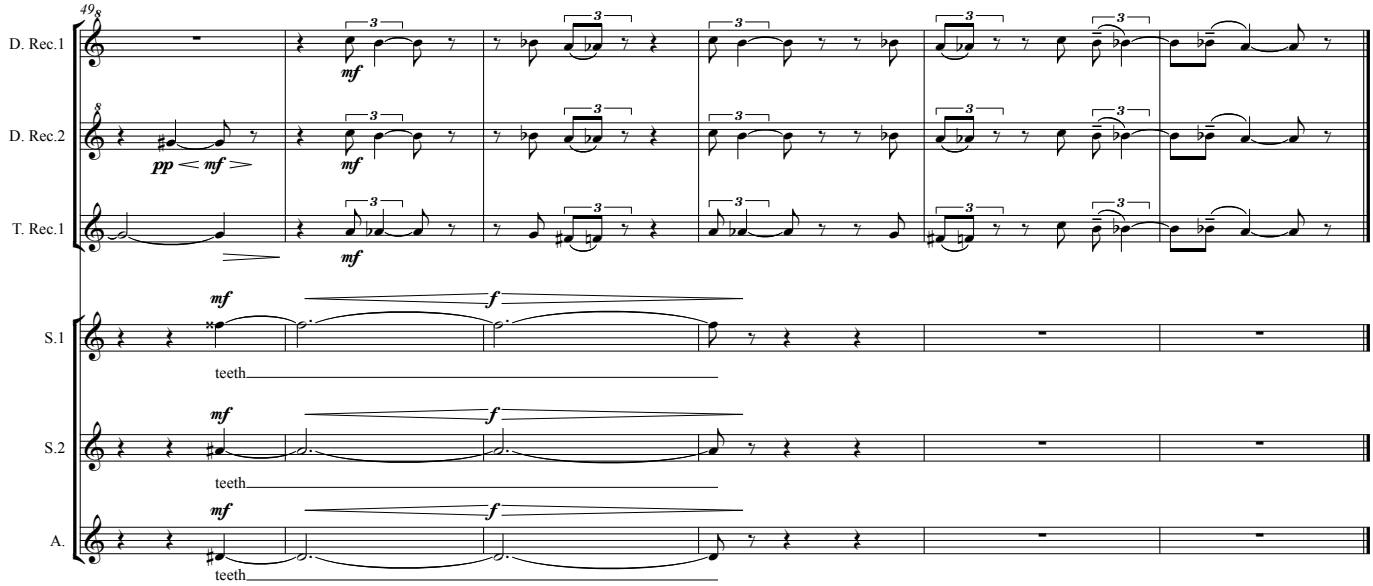

17
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
T. Rec.1
S.1
S.2
A.
sff
sff
f
mp
poco cresc.
has
been
tamed

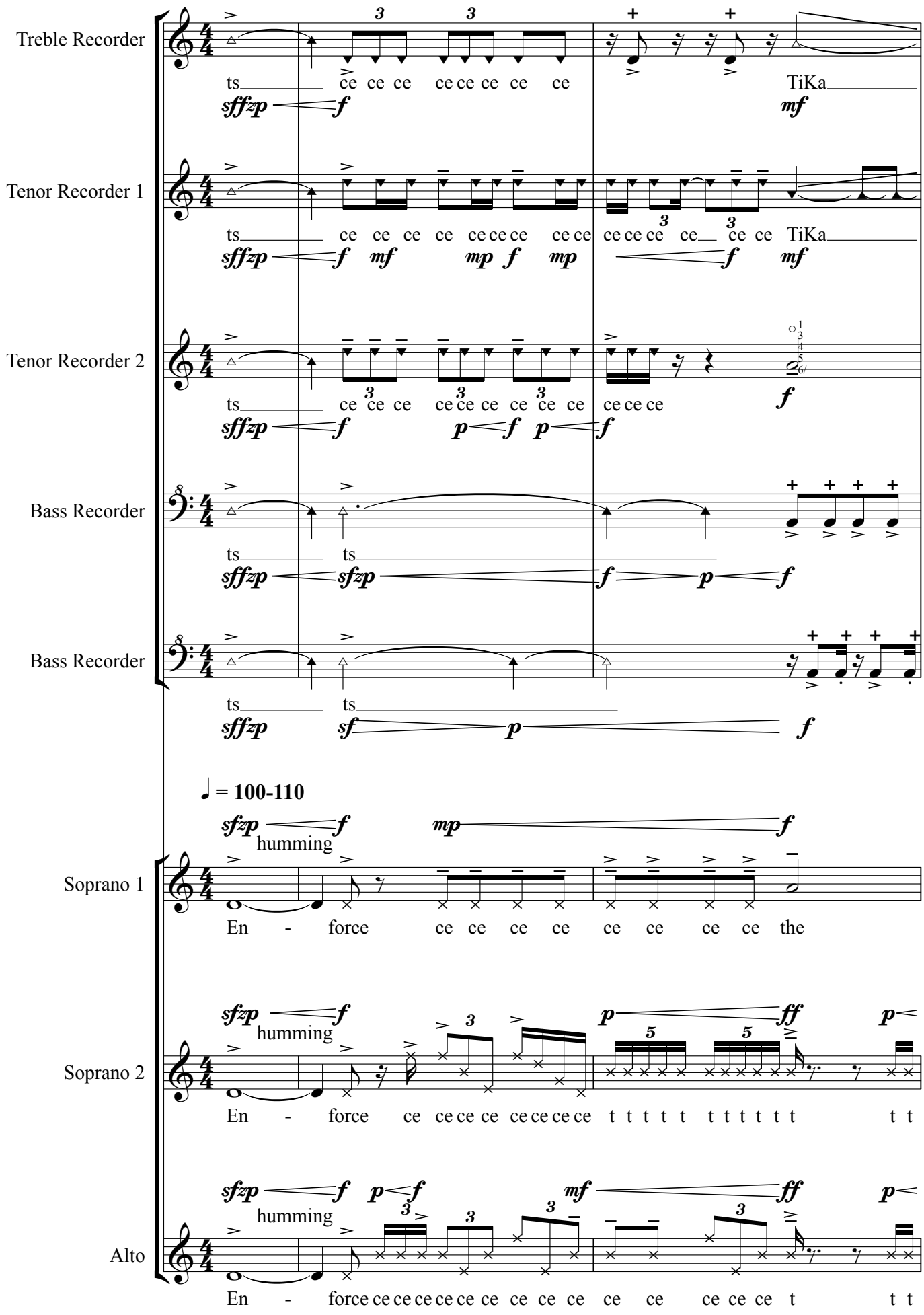

22
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
B. Rec.
S.1
S.2
A.
mf
sfzmp
sffzp
ff
mp
f
p
TiKa
no pitch
spoken with pitch
sffz
re - mains
that
and
still it
re - mains
t
fe - ver - ish light

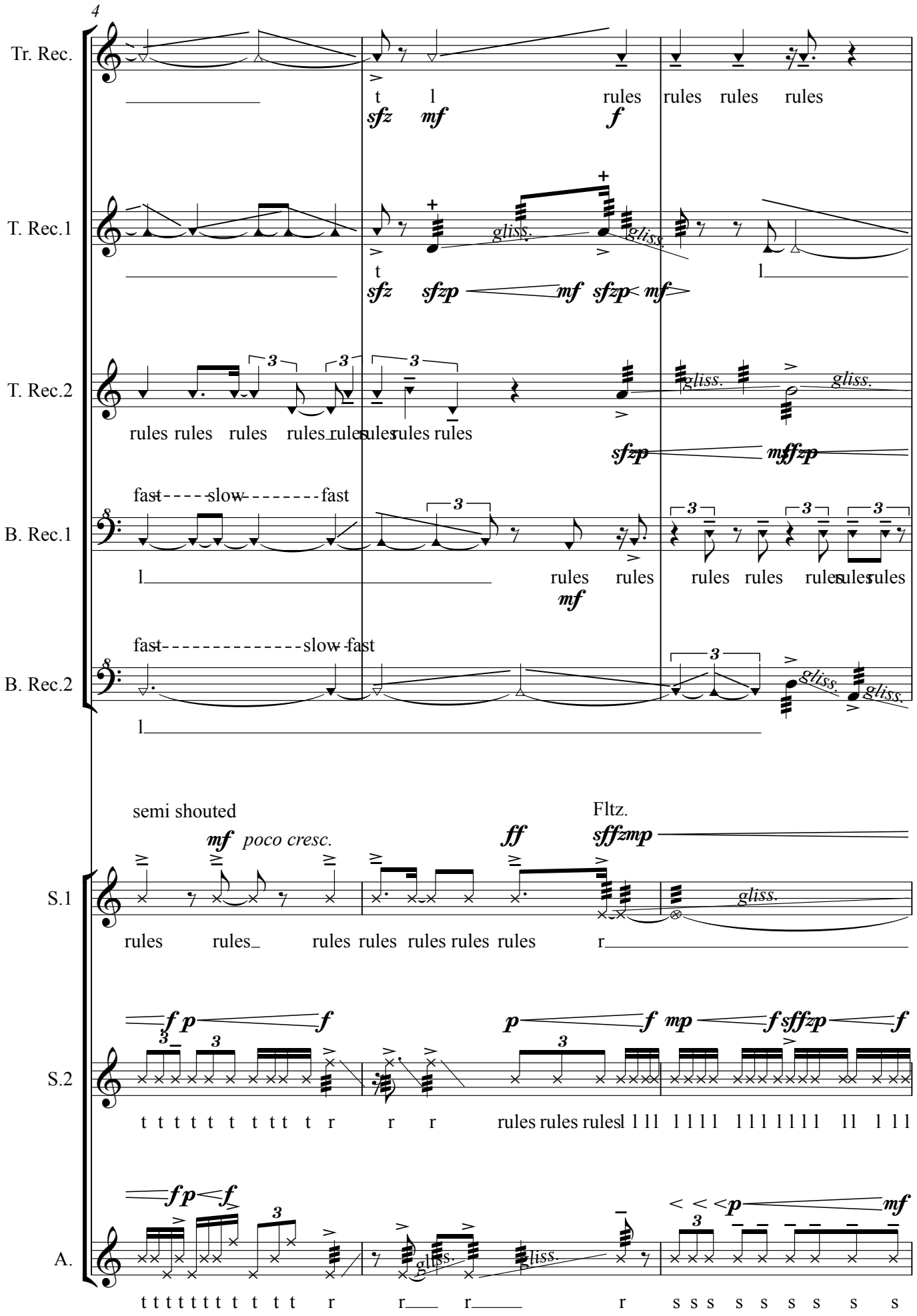

27
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
B. Rec.
S.1
S.2
A.
mf
pp
sf
sffz
p
sfz
t
ap-pe - tite
no pitch
that

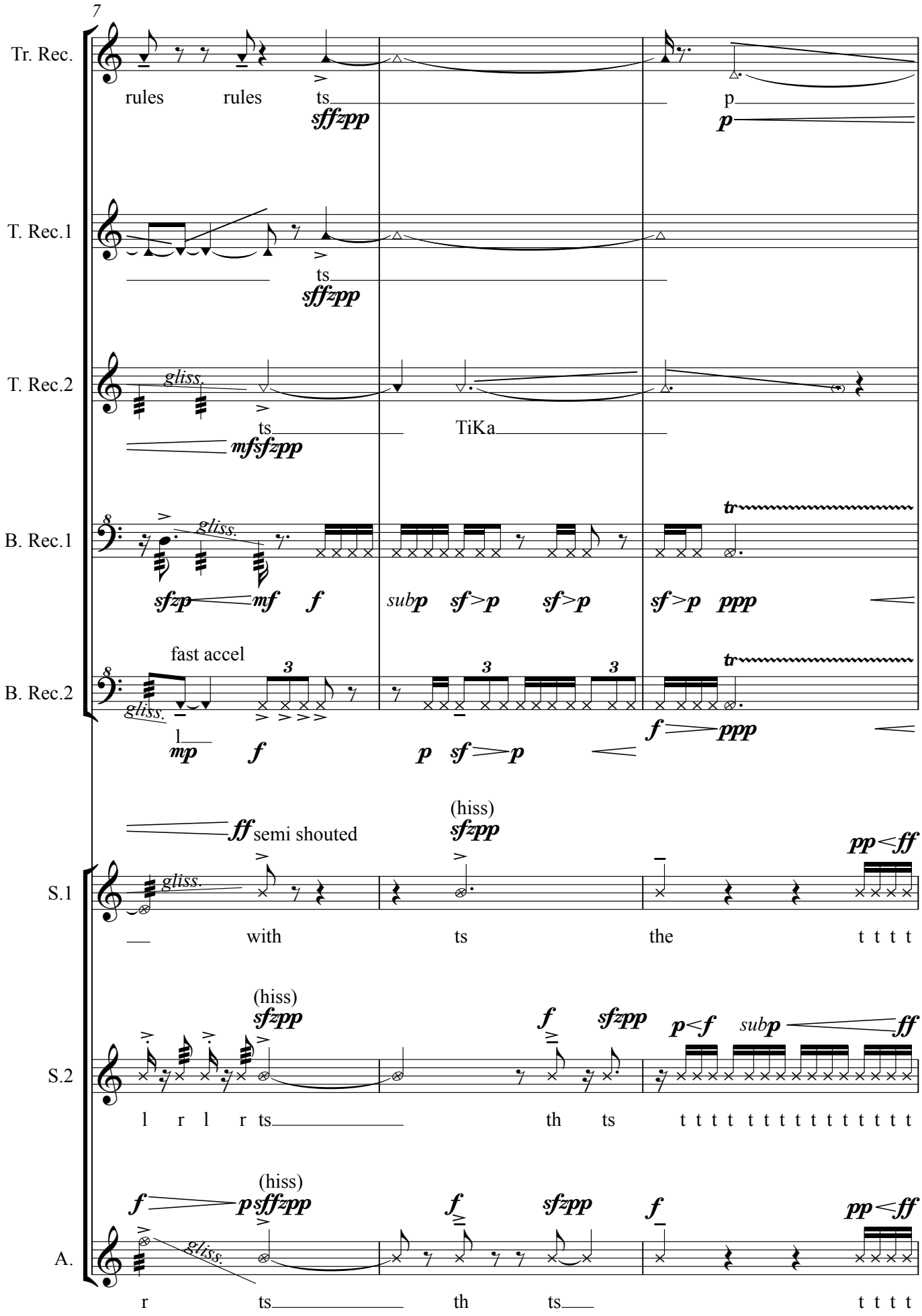

33
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
B. Rec.
S.1
S.2
A.
sfzp
ff
deep bass drum sound
approx high/low pitch
half spoken, half sung
un - - - a - - - fraid

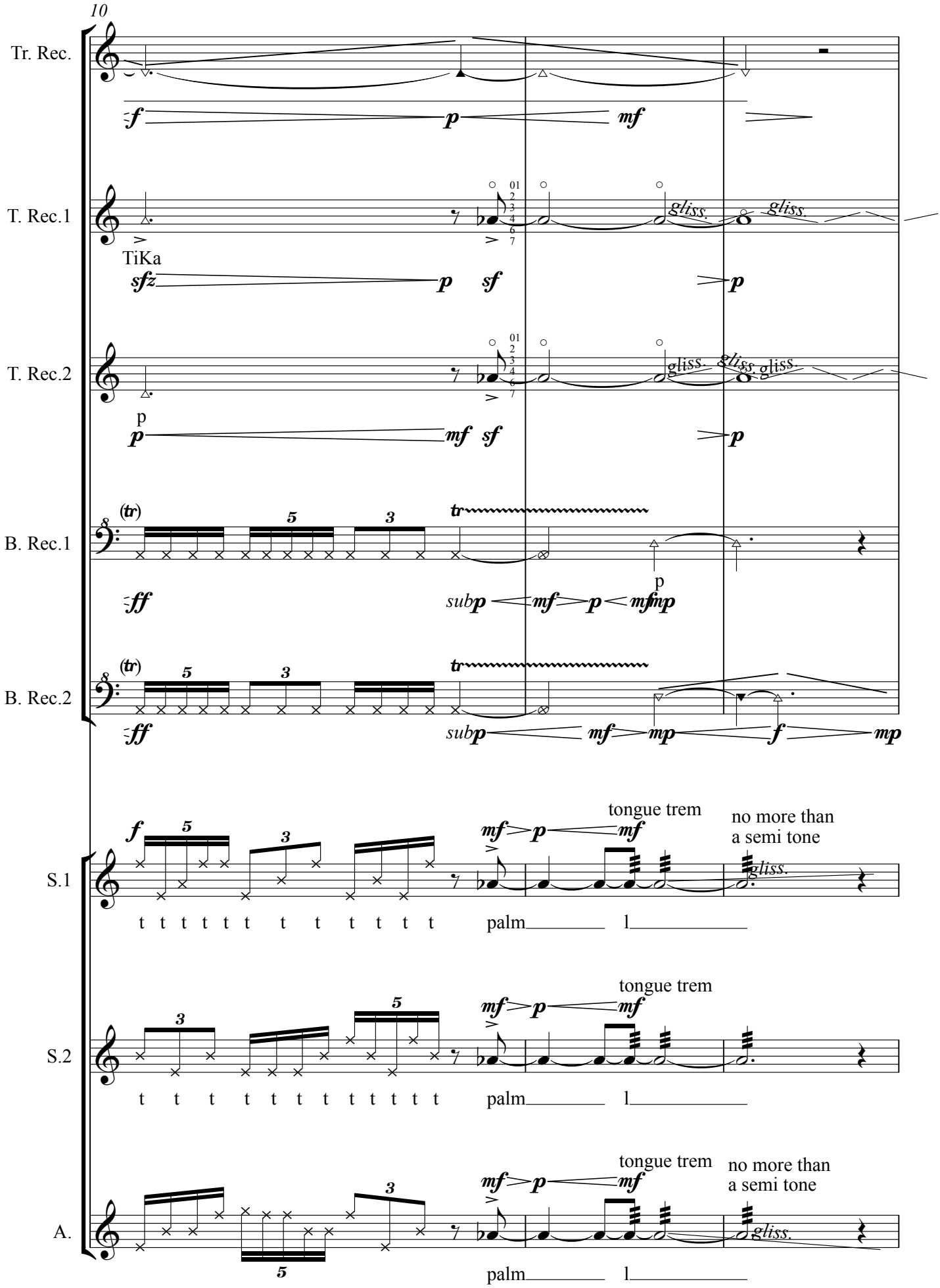

Slightly Slower
38
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
B. Rec.
S.1
S.2
A.
mf
ff
p
mp
pp
f
fff
d d d d d
to bran - - dish its
44
TiKa
become more and more strained into a very nasal sound
no pitch
cresc.
t t t

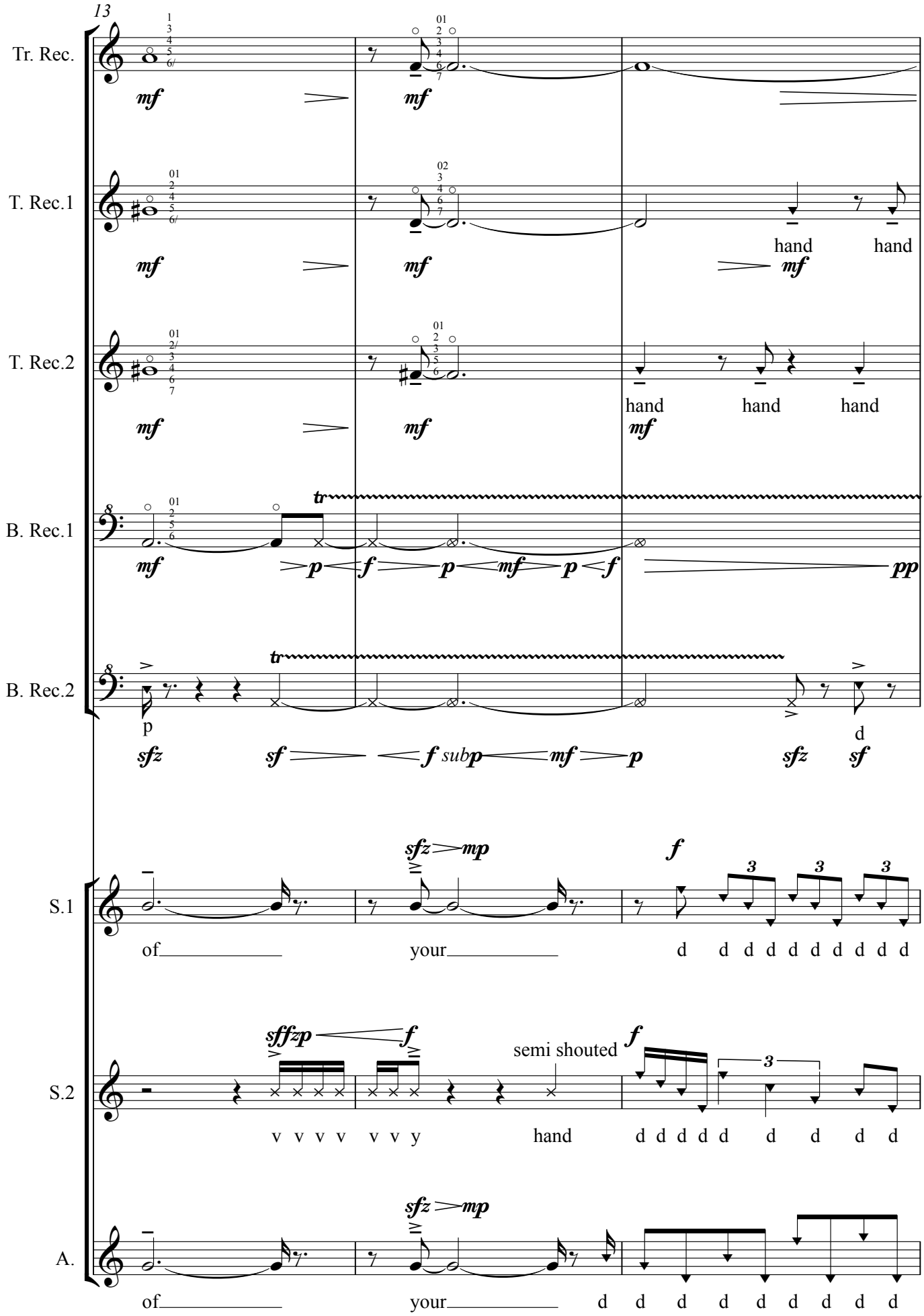

49
D. Rec.1
D. Rec.2
T. Rec.1
S.1
S.2
A.
pp < mf >
mf
f
teeth

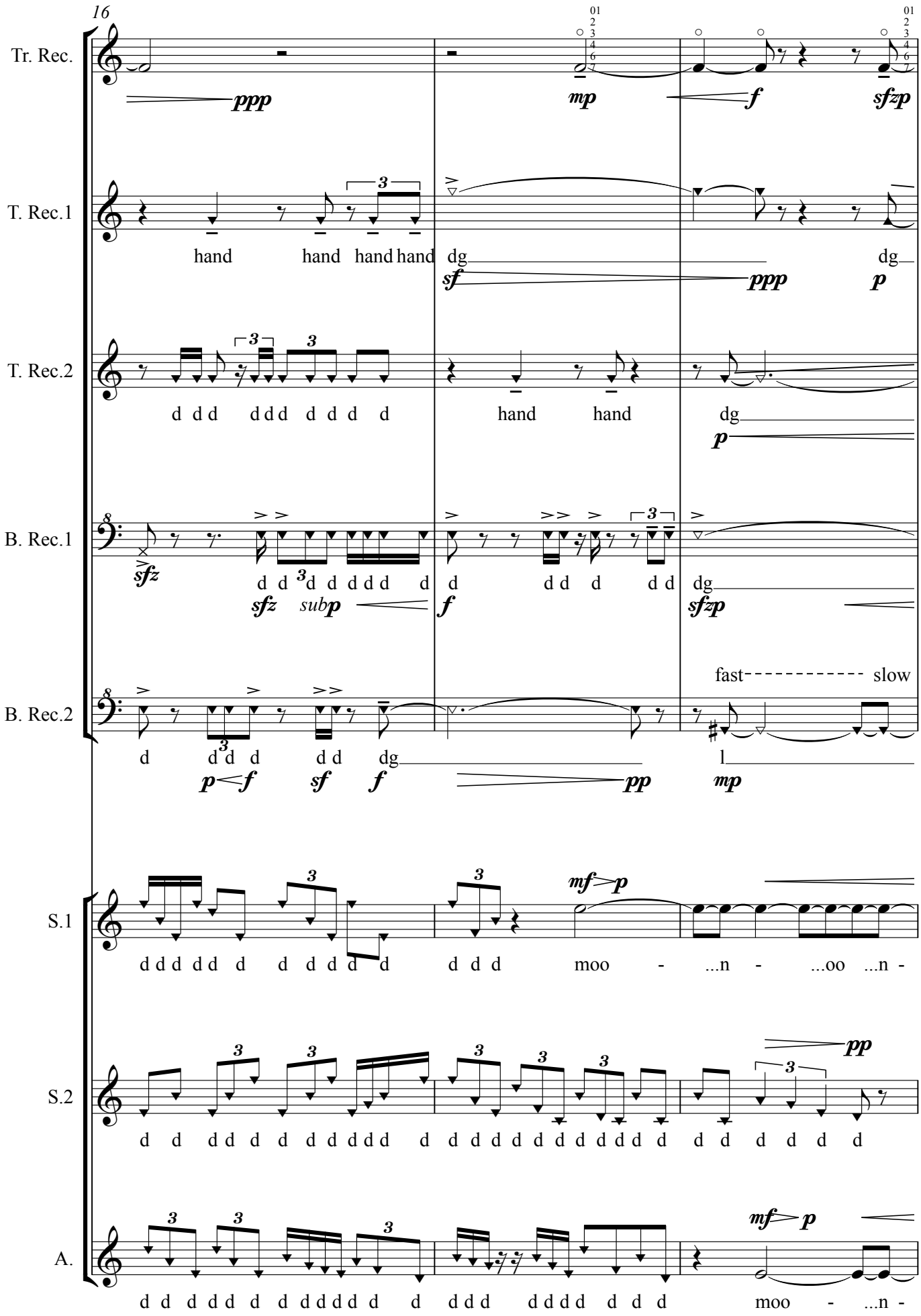

♩ = 100-110
Treble Recorder
Tenor Recorder 1
Tenor Recorder 2
Bass Recorder
Bass Recorder
ts ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce TiKa
sffzp f mf
ts ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce TiKa
sffzp f mf mp f mp f mf
ts ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce
sffzp f p f p f f
ts ts
sffzp sfzp f p f
ts ts
sffzp sf p f
♩ = 100-110
Soprano 1
Soprano 2
Alto
sfzp f humming mp f
En - force ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce the
sfzp f humming p ff p
En - force ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce t t t t t t t t t t t t t t
sfzp f humming p f mf ff p
En - force ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce ce t t t

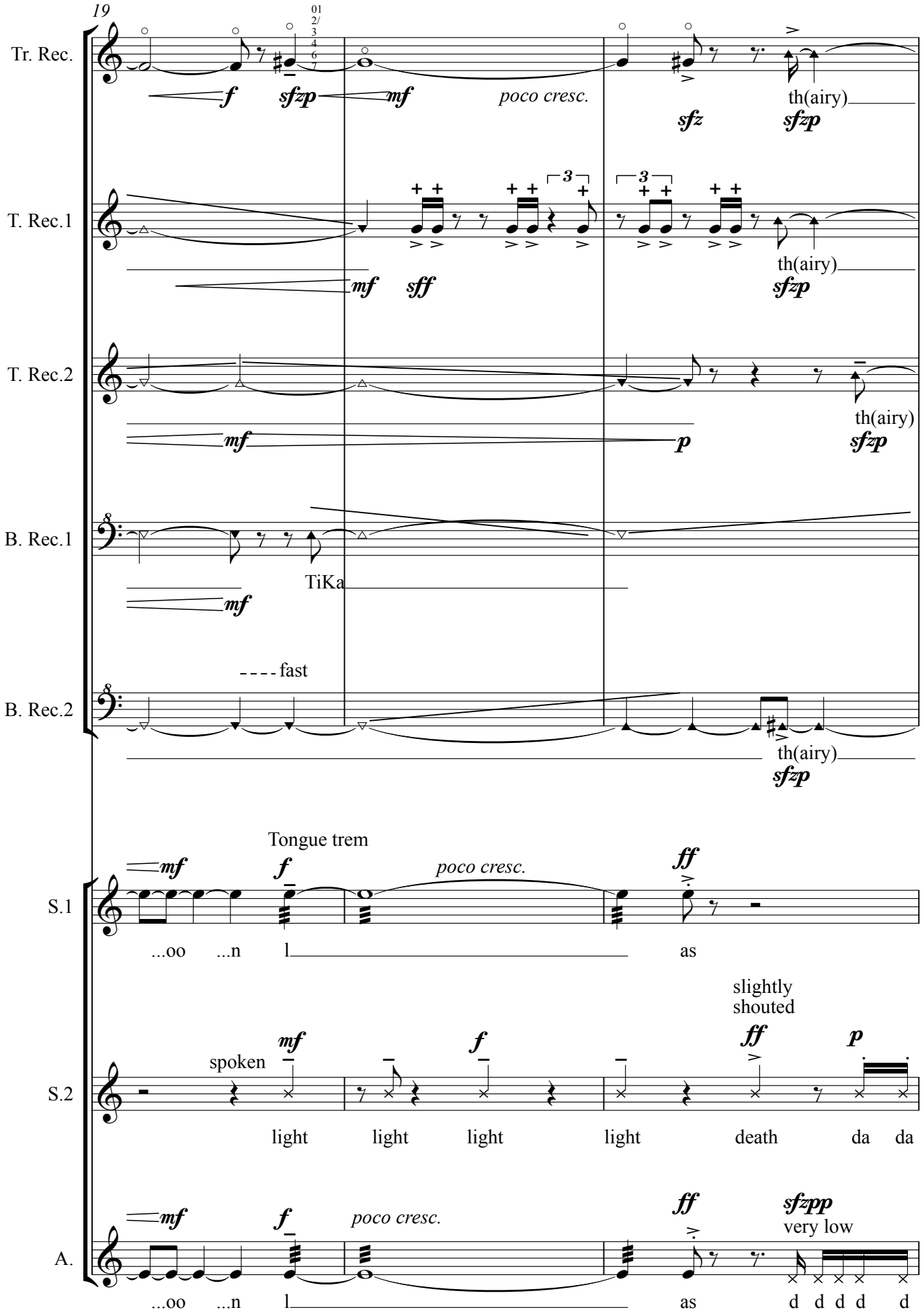

4
Tr. Rec.
t l rules rules rules rules
sfz mf f
T. Rec.1
gliss. gliss.
t l
sfz sfzp mf sfzp mf
T. Rec.2
3 3 3
gliss. gliss.
rules rules rules rules rules rules rules rules
sfzp mffzp
fast slow fast
B. Rec.1
3 3 3 3
l rules rules rules rules rules rules rules
mf
fast slow fast
B. Rec.2
3
gliss. gliss.
l
semi shouted
Fltz.
mf poco cresc. ff sffzmp
S.1
gliss.
rules rules rules rules rules rules rules r
f p f p f mp f sffzp f
S.2
3 3 3
t t t t t t t t t r r r rules rules rules l l ll l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l ll l l l
f p f p < < < p mf
A.
3 3
gliss. gliss.
t t t t t t t t t t r r r r s s s s s s s s s s

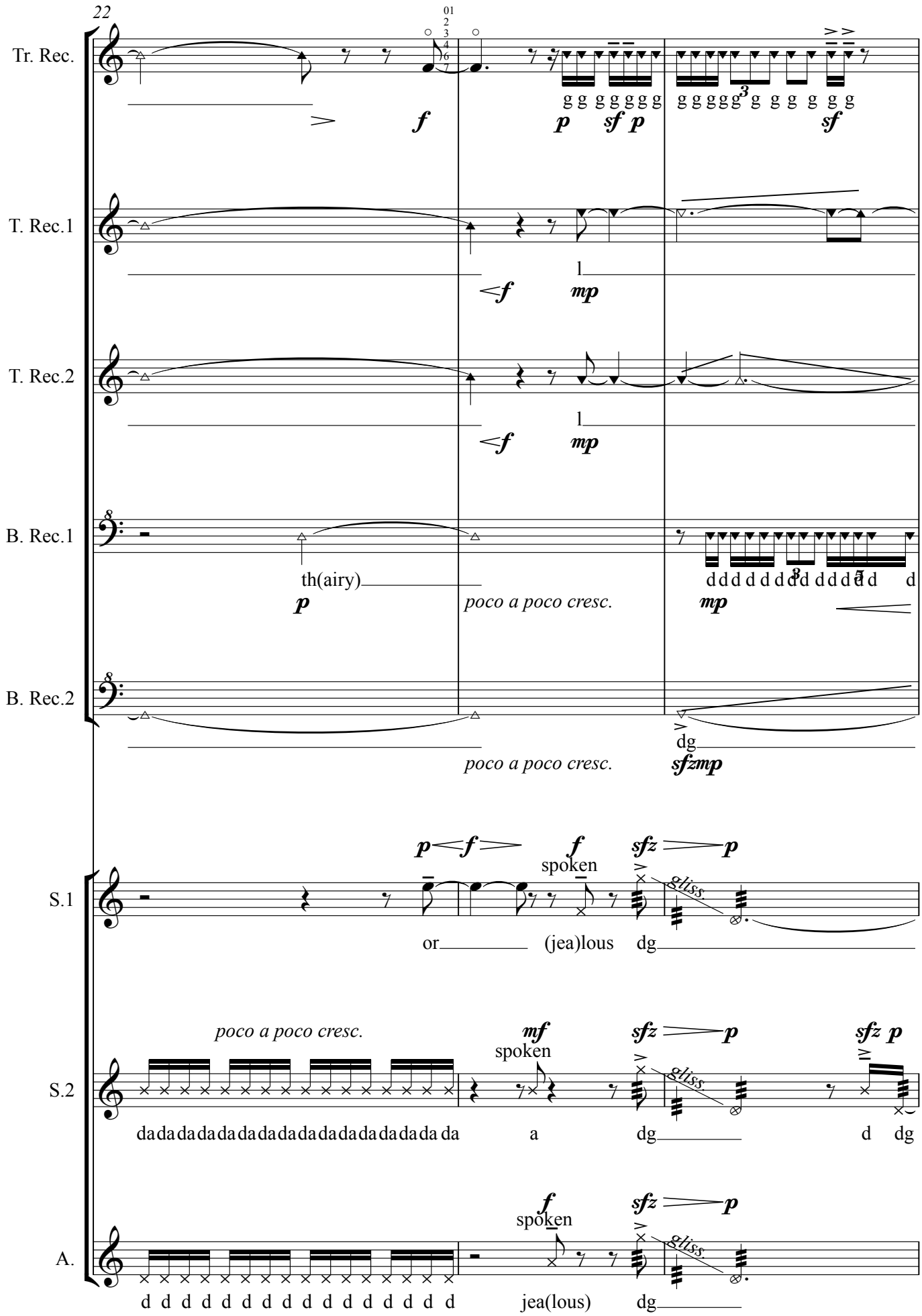

7
Tr. Rec.
rules rules ts
sffzpp
p
p
T. Rec.1
ts
sffzpp
T. Rec.2
gliss.
ts
TiKa
mfsfzpp
B. Rec.1
gliss.
sfzp mf f
subp sf>p sf>p
sf>p ppp
tr
fast accel
B. Rec.2
gliss.
mp f
p sf>p
f ppp
tr
(hiss)
ff semi shouted
sfzpp
pp<ff
S.1
gliss.
with ts the t t t t
(hiss)
sfzpp
f sfzpp
p<f subp ff
S.2
l r l r ts th ts t t t t t t t t t t t t t t t
(hiss)
f p sffzpp
f sfzpp
f
pp<ff
A.
gliss.
r ts th ts t t t t

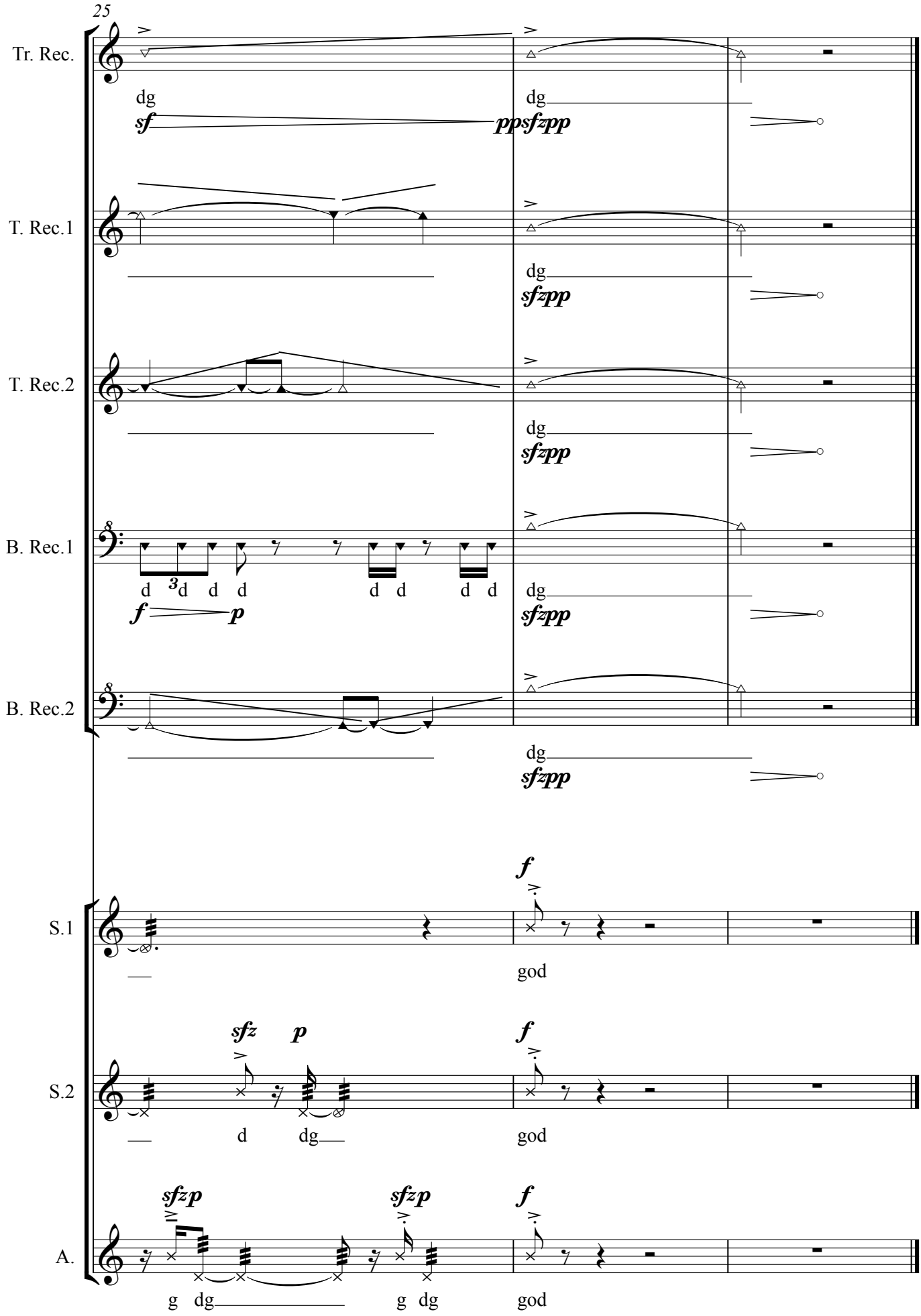

10
Tr. Rec.
T. Rec.1
TiKa
T. Rec.2
B. Rec.1
B. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
tongue trem
no more than
a semi tone
palm
l
gliss.


13
Tr. Rec.
T. Rec.1
hand hand
T. Rec.2
hand hand hand
B. Rec.1
B. Rec.2
p
d
S.1
of your d d d d d d d d d d
S.2
semi shouted
v v v v v v y hand d d d d d d d d d
A.
of your d d d d d d d d d

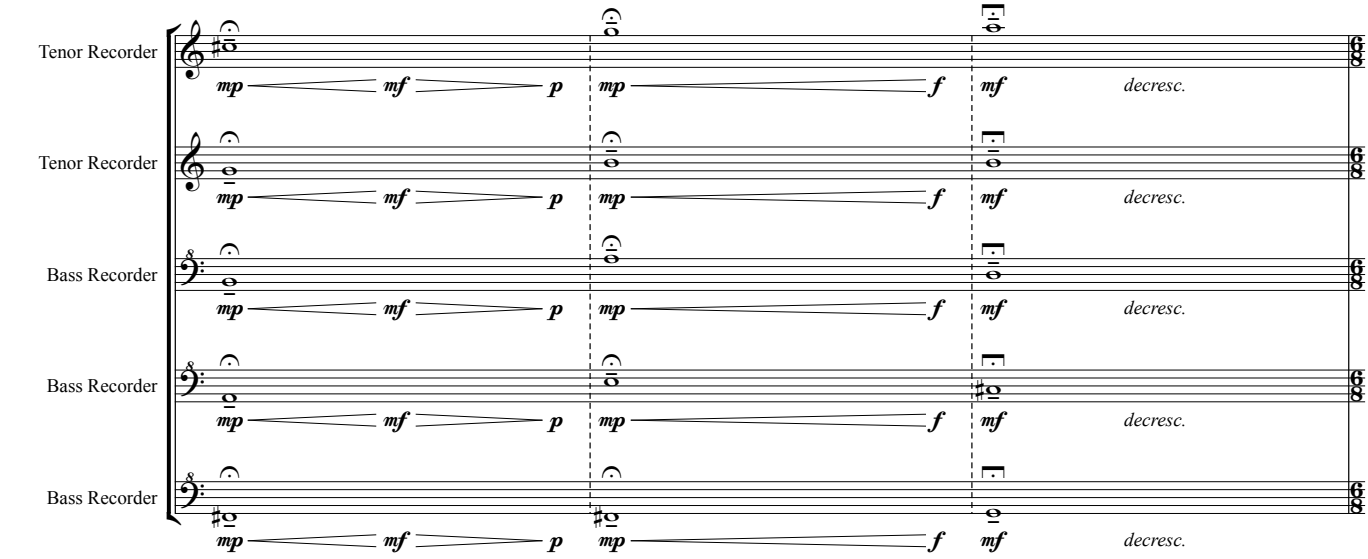

16
Tr. Rec.
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
B. Rec.1
B. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
fast
slow
hand hand hand hand dg
d d d d d d d d d d d d d
hand hand
d d d d d d d d d d d d d

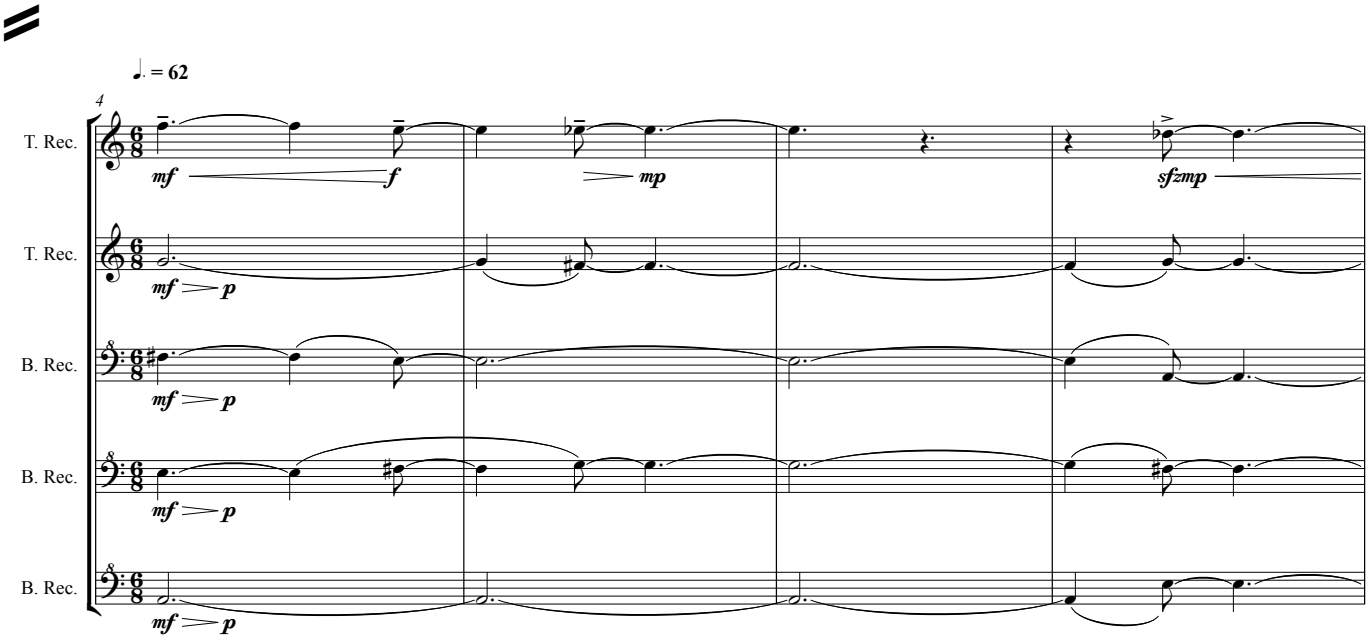

19
Tr. Rec.
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
B. Rec.1
B. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
f
sfzp
mf
poco cresc.
sfz
th(airy)
sff
p
TiKa
fast
Tongue trem
ff
...oo ...n l as
spoken
slightly shouted
light light light light death da da
sfzpp
very low
d d d d d

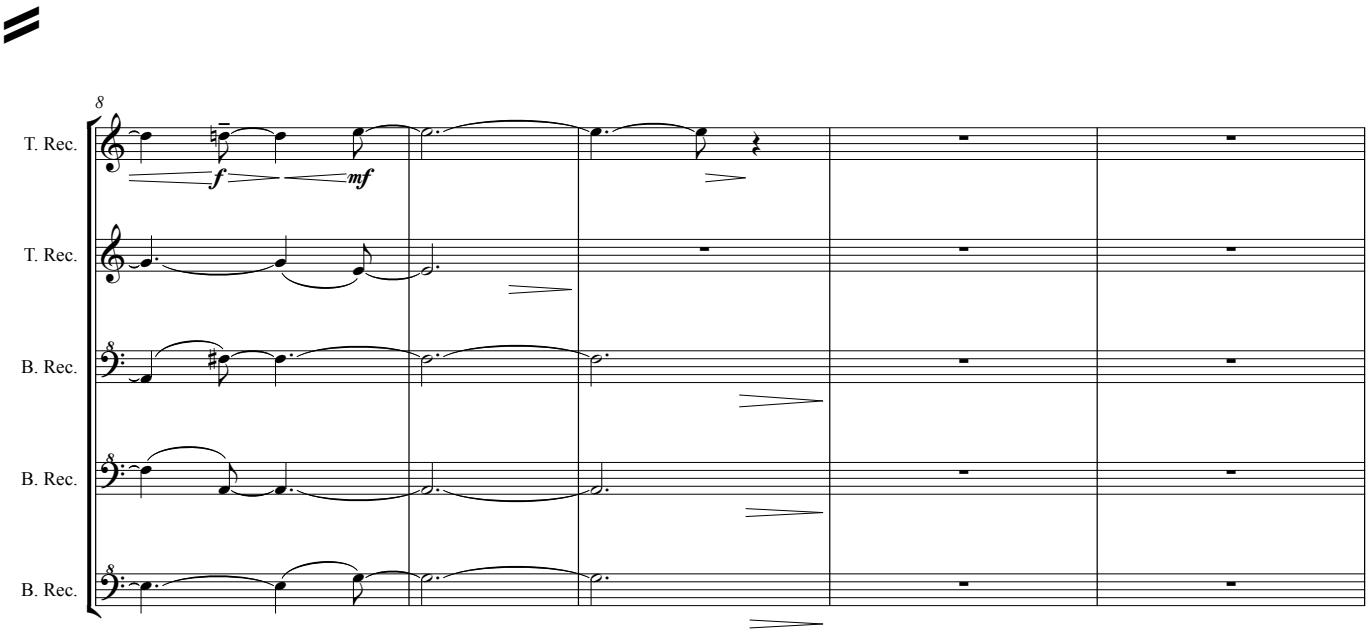

22
Tr. Rec.
T. Rec.1
T. Rec.2
B. Rec.1
B. Rec.2
S.1
S.2
A.
th(airy)
poco a poco cresc.
poco a poco cresc.
spoken
or (jea)lous dg
poco a poco cresc.
spoken
a dg
spoken
jea(lous) dg
gliss.

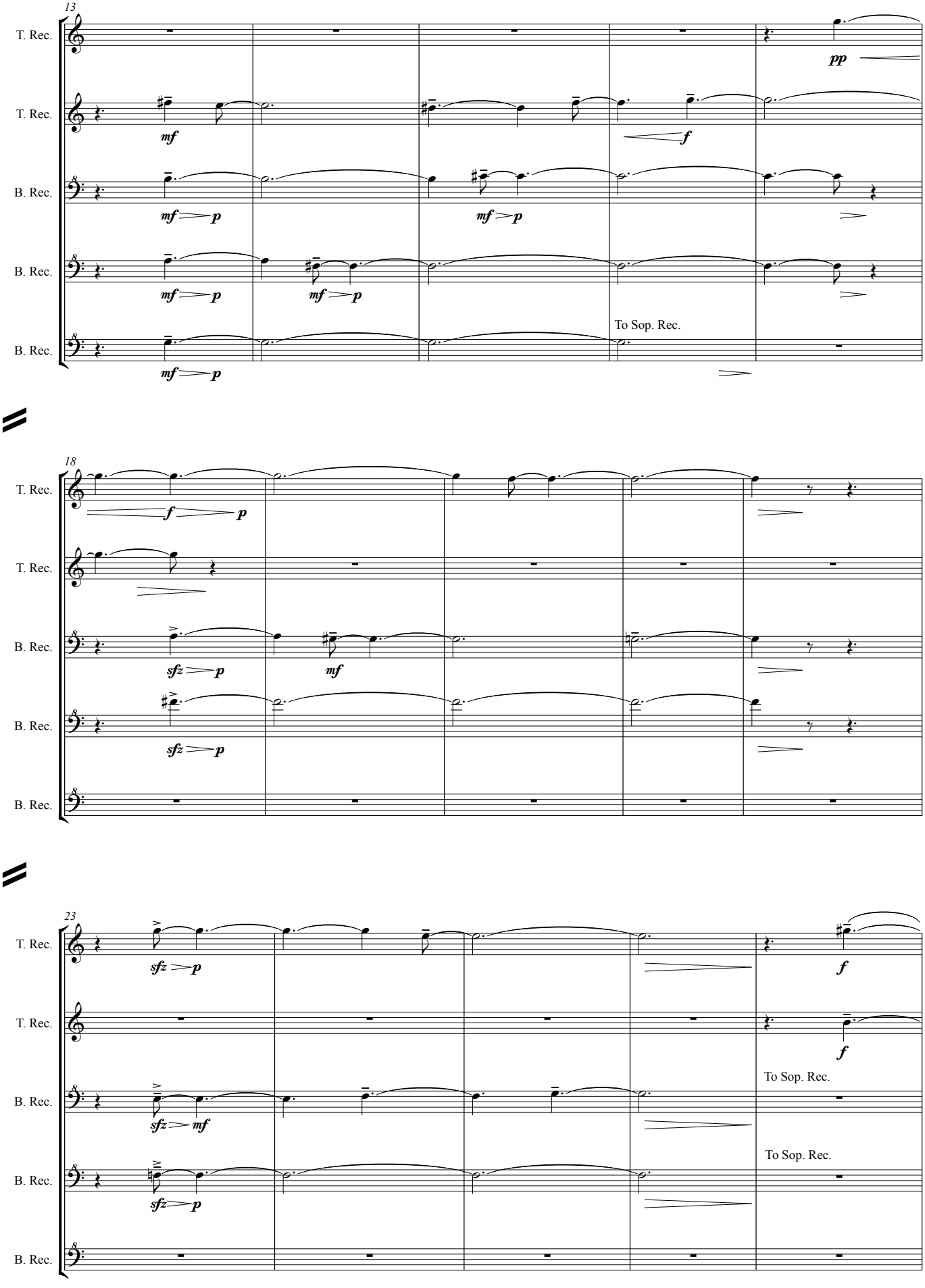

25
Tr. Rec.
dg
sf
ppsfzpp
T. Rec.1
dg
sfzpp
T. Rec.2
dg
sfzpp
B. Rec.1
d 3d d d d d d d
f p
dg
sfzpp
B. Rec.2
dg
sfzpp
S.1
f
god
S.2
sfz p
d dg
f
god
A.
sfzp sfzp
g dg g dg
f
god

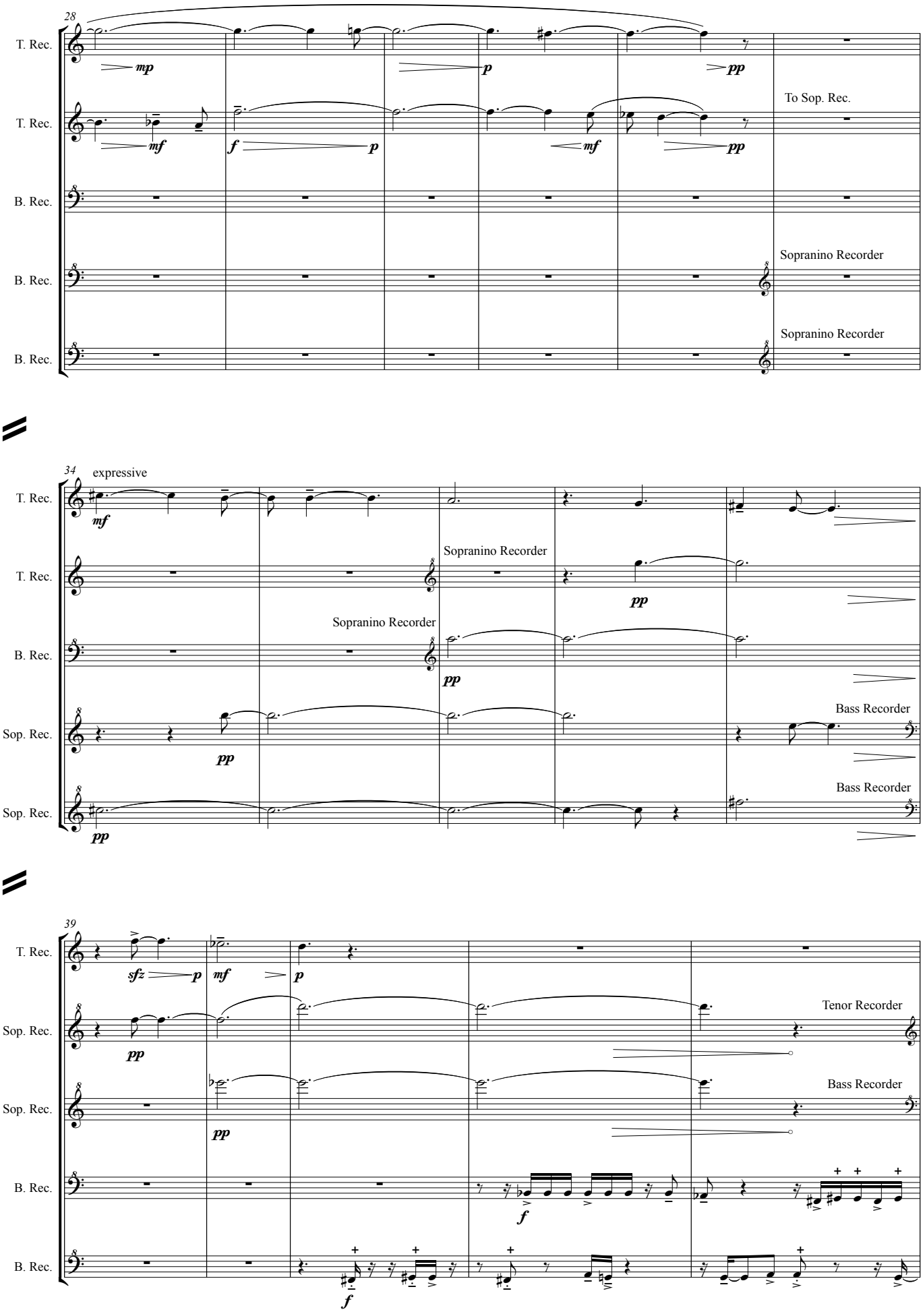
X

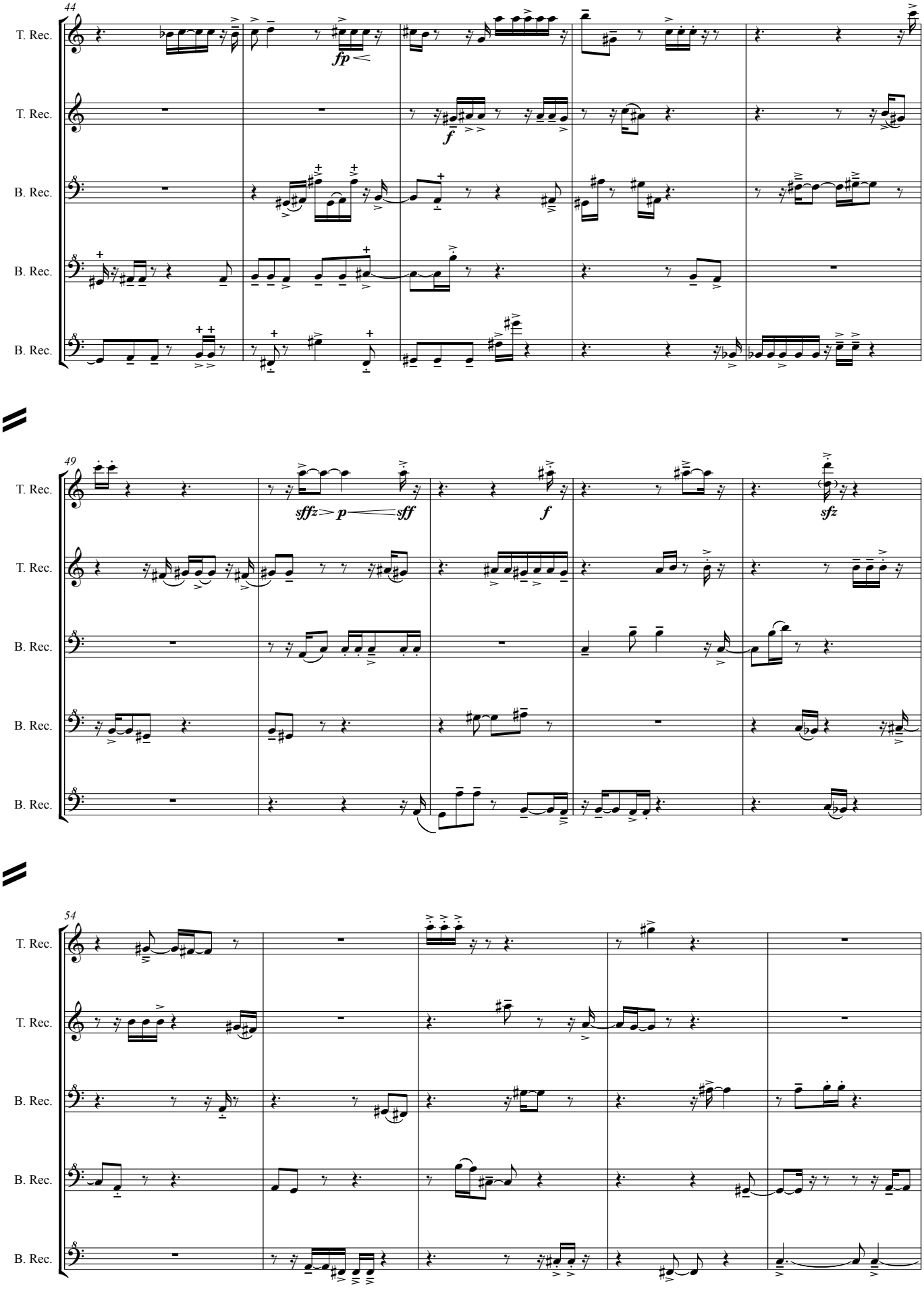

Tenor Recorder
Tenor Recorder
Bass Recorder
Bass Recorder
Bass Recorder
mp mf p mp f mf decresc.

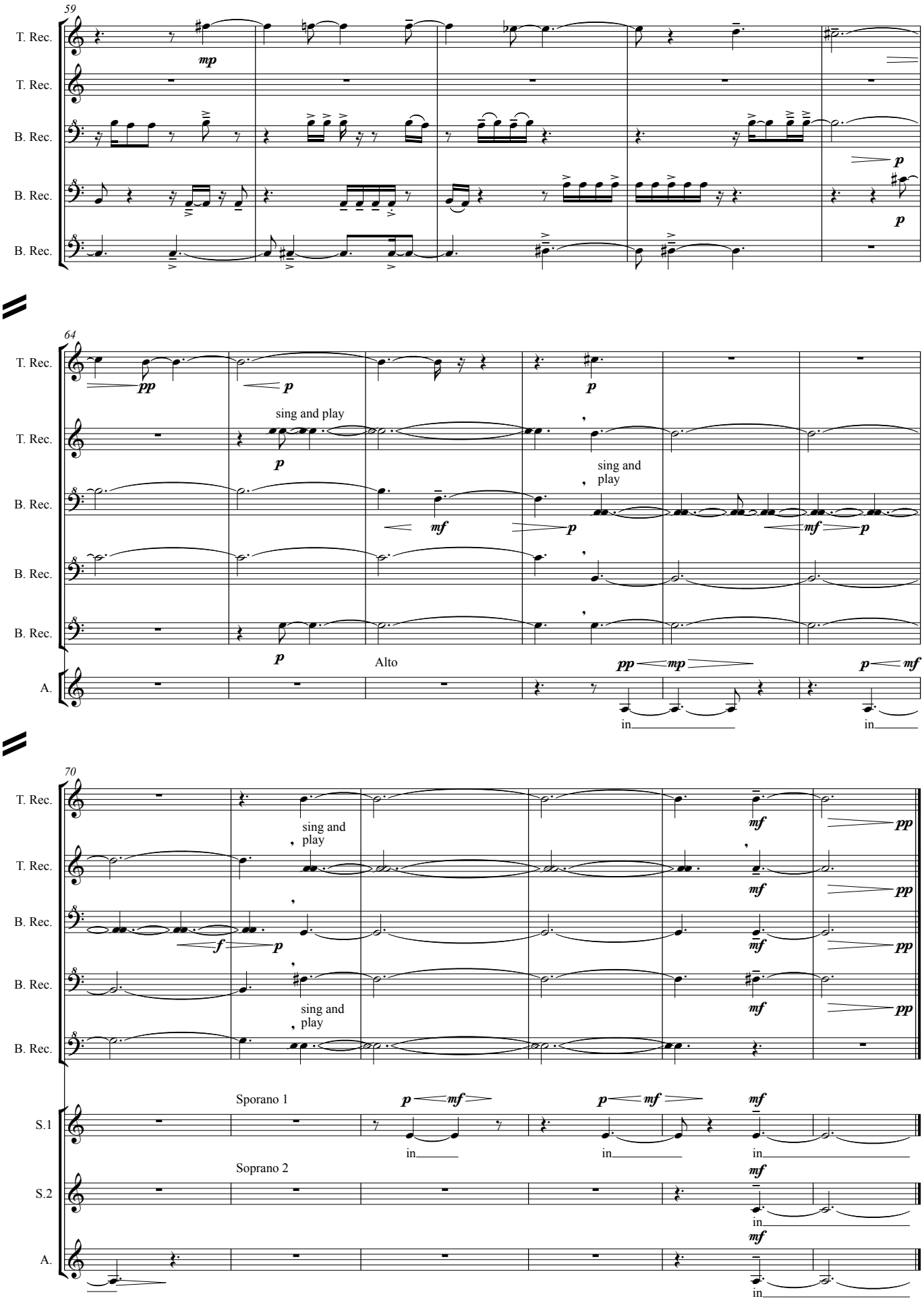

♩. = 62
4
T. Rec.
T. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
mf f mp sfzmp
mf p


8
T. Rec.
T. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
f mf

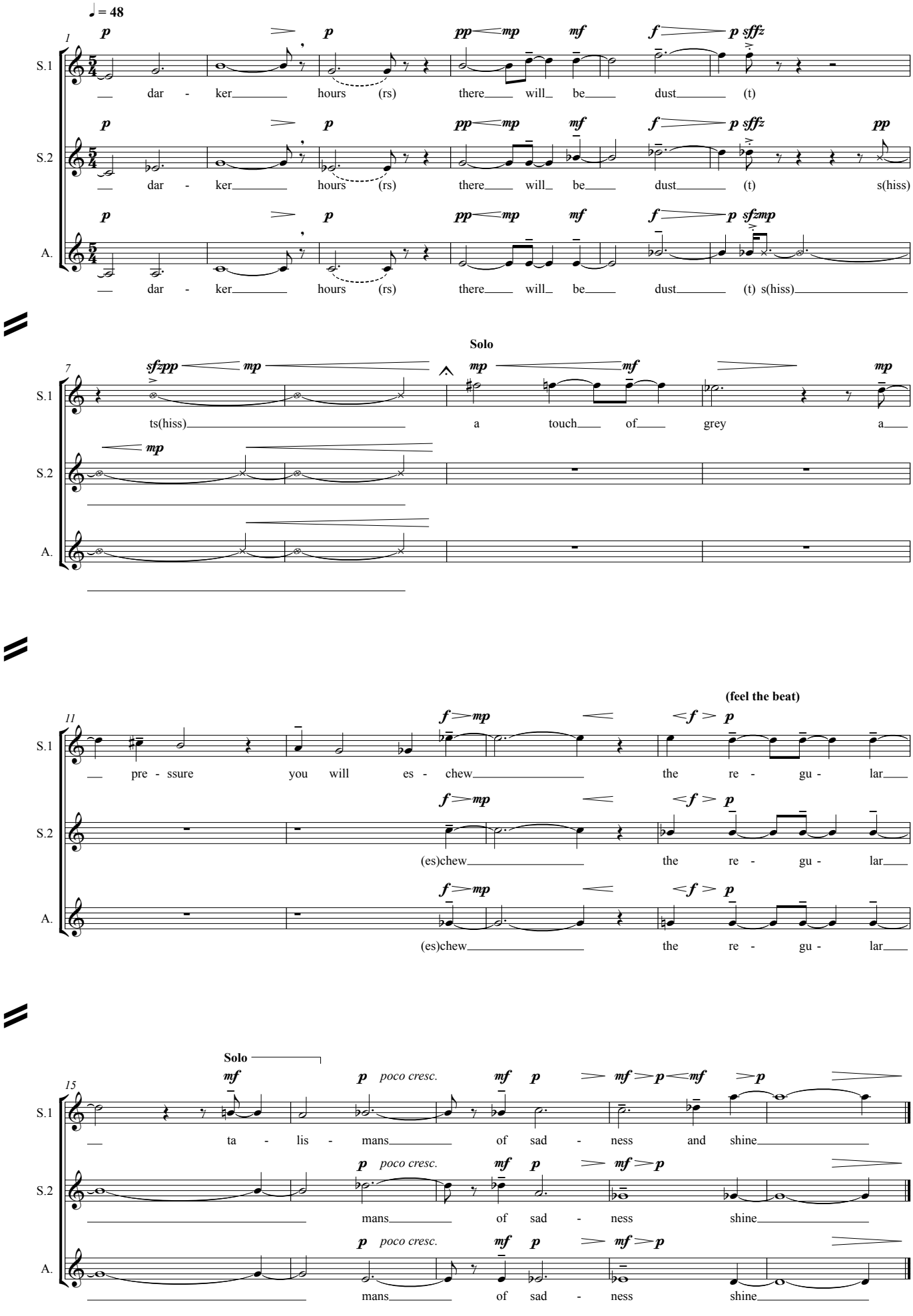

13
T. Rec.
T. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
pp
mf
f
mf p
mf p
mf p
mf p
mf p
To Sop. Rec.
18
T. Rec.
T. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
f p
sfz p
mf
sfz p
23
T. Rec.
T. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
sfz p
f
f
sfz mf
sfz p
To Sop. Rec.
To Sop. Rec.


28
T. Rec.
T. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
mp
p
pp
mf
f
p
mf
pp
To Sop. Rec.
Sopranino Recorder
Sopranino Recorder
34
expressive
T. Rec.
T. Rec.
B. Rec.
Sop. Rec.
Sop. Rec.
mf
Sopranino Recorder
pp
Sopranino Recorder
pp
pp
pp
Bass Recorder
Bass Recorder
39
T. Rec.
Sop. Rec.
Sop. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
sfz
p
mf
p
pp
pp
f
f
Tenor Recorder
Bass Recorder

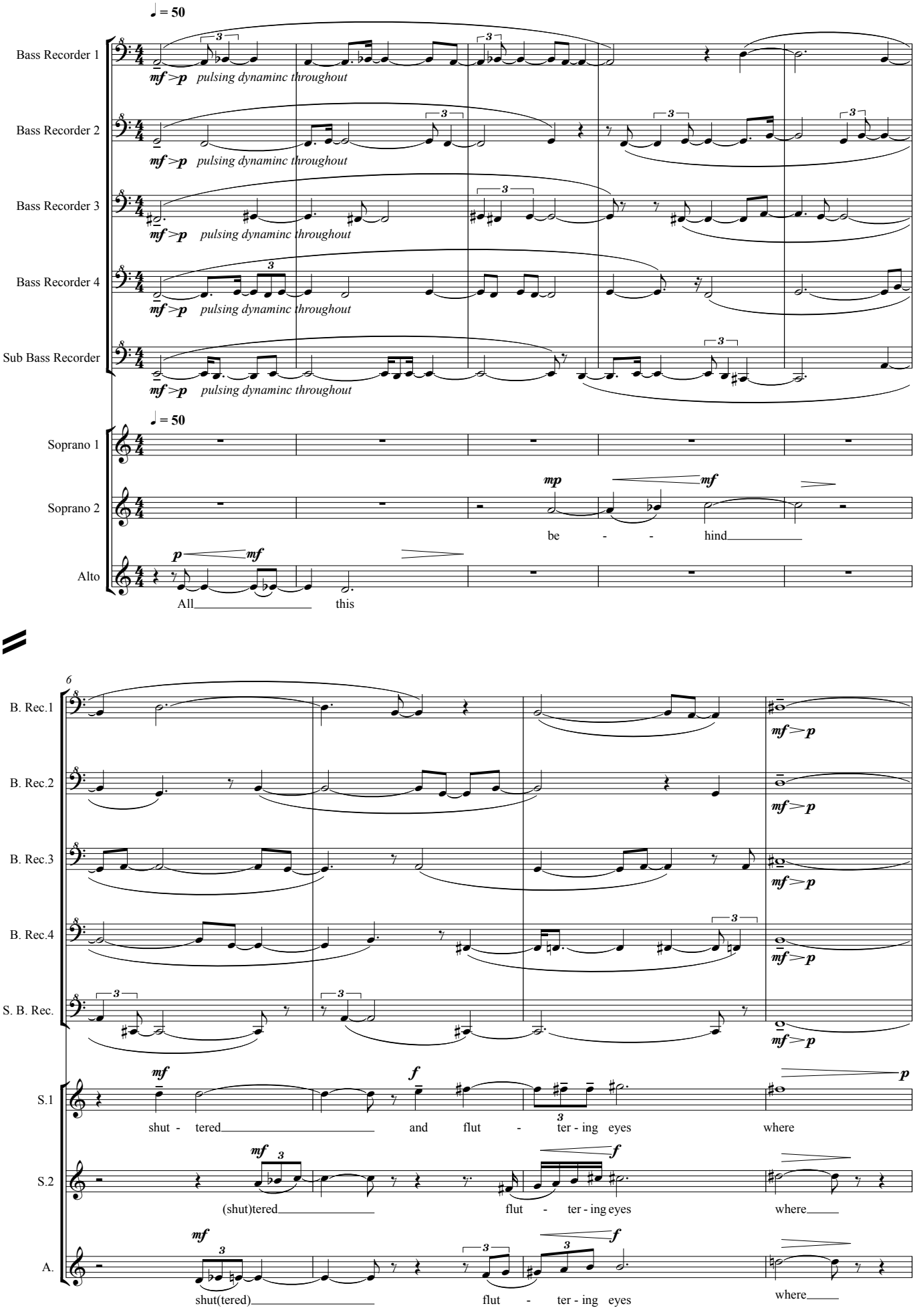

44
T. Rec.
T. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
fp
f
49
T. Rec.
T. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
sffz
p
sff
f
sfz
54
T. Rec.
T. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.
B. Rec.

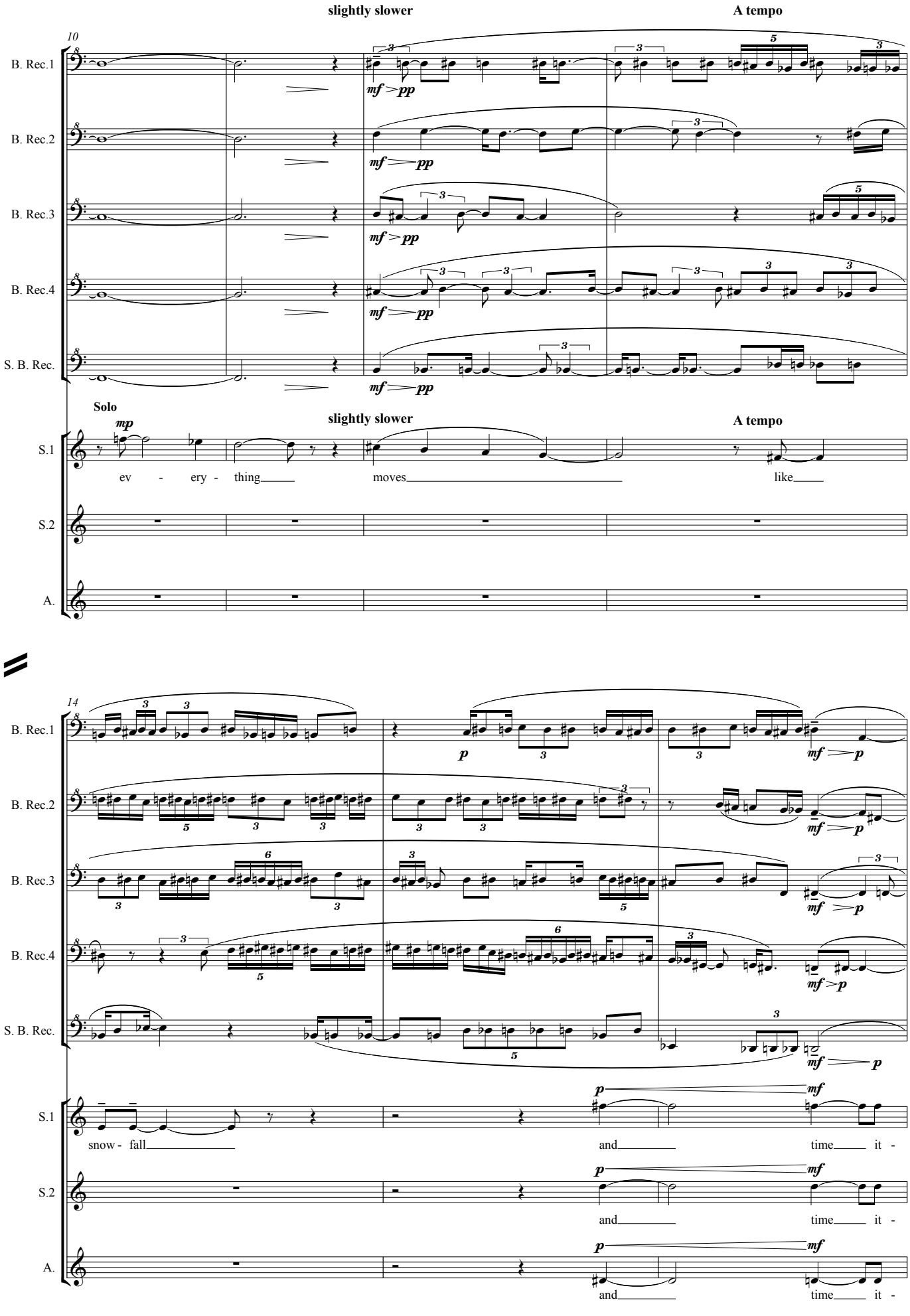


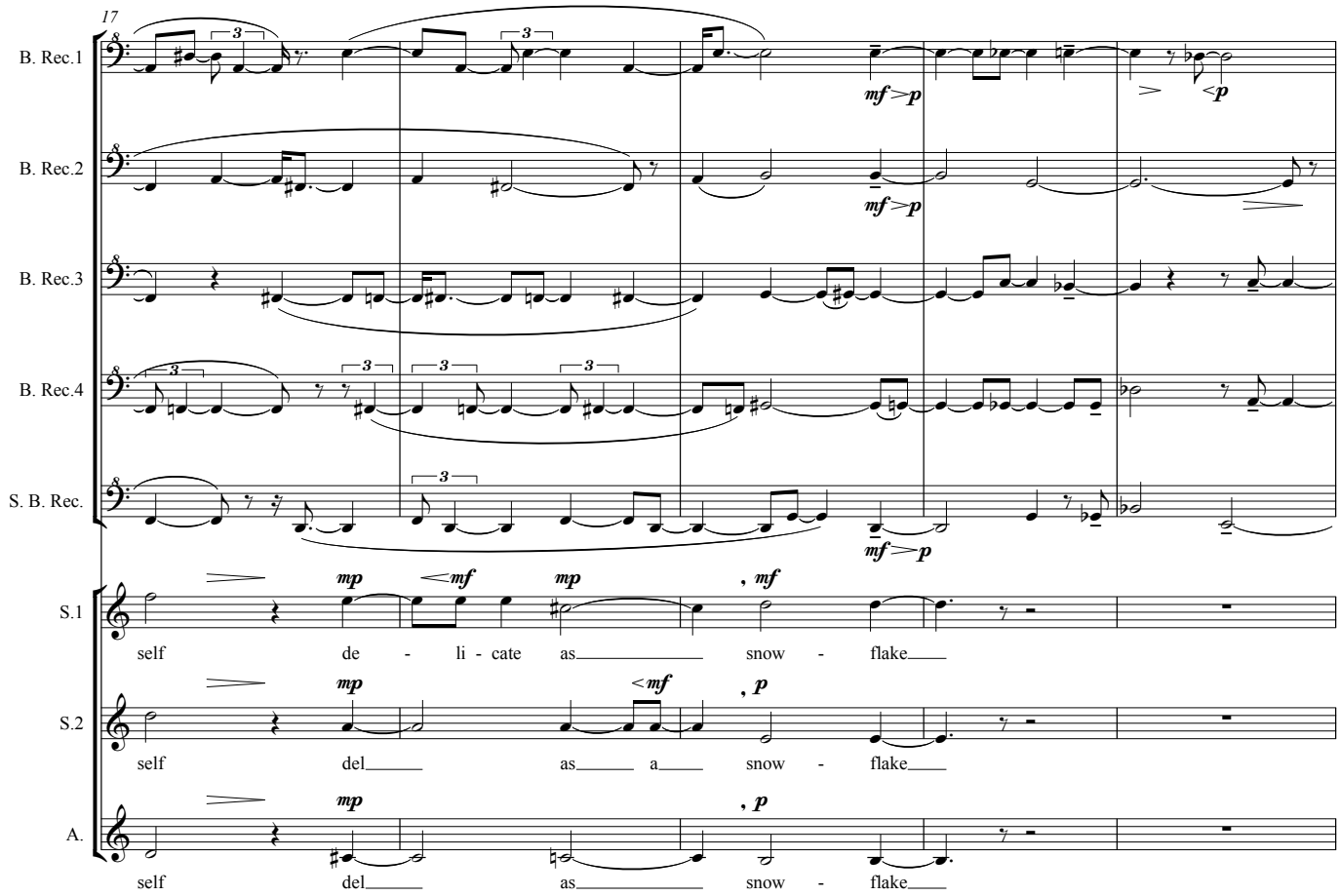
go straight on to XI

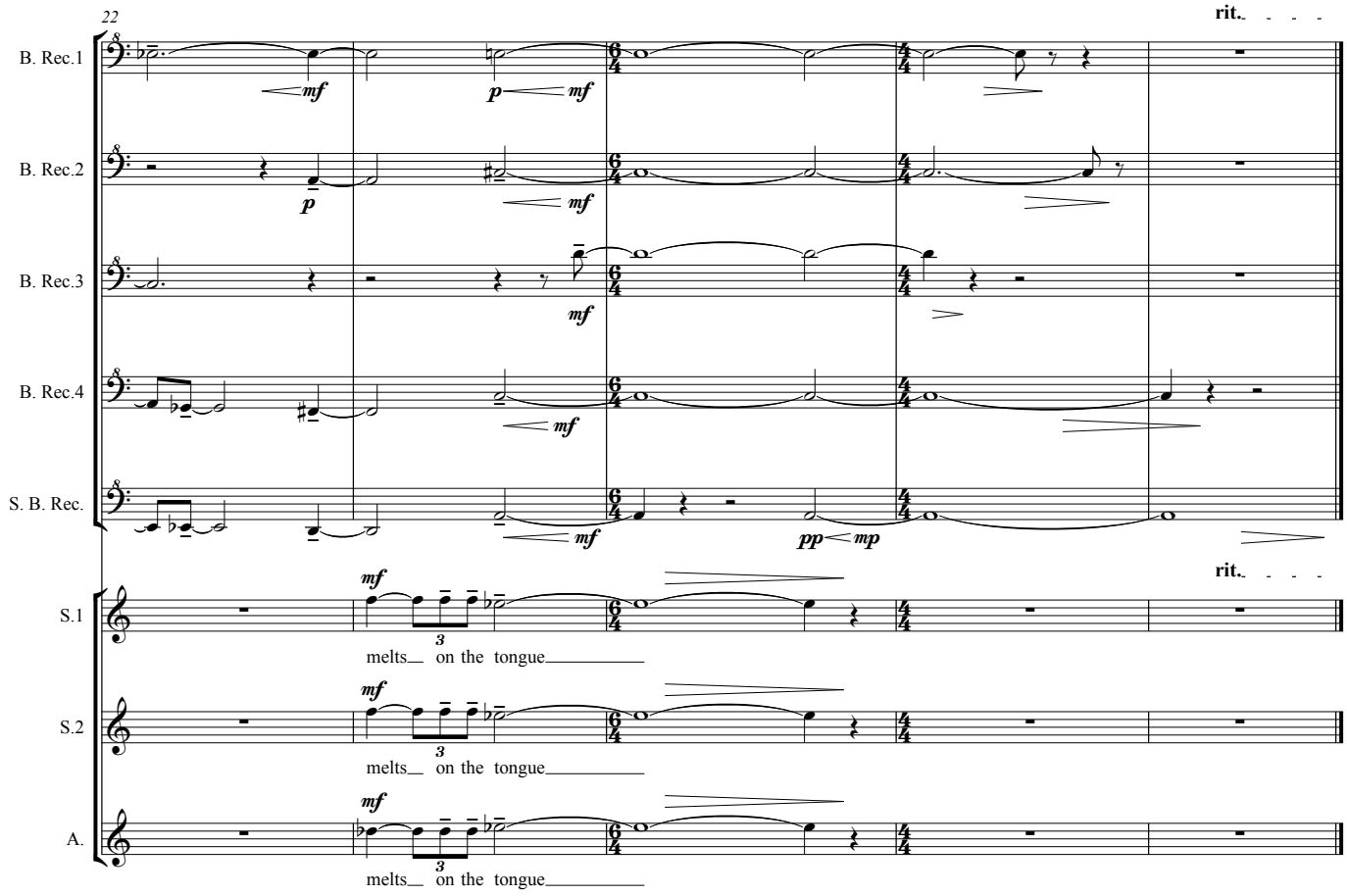

♩ = 48
1
S.1
S.2
A.
dar - ker hours (rs) there will be dust (t)
dar - ker hours (rs) there will be dust (t) s(hiss)
dar - ker hours (rs) there will be dust (t) s(hiss)
Solo
7
ts(hiss) a touch of grey a
11
(feel the beat)
pre - ssure you will es - chew the re - gu - lar
(es)chew the re - gu - lar
(es)chew the re - gu - lar
Solo
15
poco cresc.
ta - lis - mans of sad - ness and shine
mans of sad - ness shine
mans of sad - ness shine

XII


♩ = 50
Bass Recorder 1
mf > p pulsing dynaminc throughout
Bass Recorder 2
mf > p pulsing dynaminc throughout
Bass Recorder 3
mf > p pulsing dynaminc throughout
Bass Recorder 4
mf > p pulsing dynaminc throughout
Sub Bass Recorder
mf > p pulsing dynaminc throughout
♩ = 50
Soprano 1
Soprano 2
mp mf
be - - hind
Alto
p mf
All this
6
B. Rec.1
mf > p
B. Rec.2
mf > p
B. Rec.3
mf > p
B. Rec.4
mf > p
S. B. Rec.
mf > p
S.1
mf f p
shut - tered and flut - ter - ing eyes where
S.2
mf f
(shut)tered flut - ter - ing eyes where
A.
mf f
shut(tered) flut - ter - ing eyes where


slightly slower
A tempo
10
B. Rec.1
B. Rec.2
B. Rec.3
B. Rec.4
S. B. Rec.
mf > pp
Solo
mp
S.1
S.2
A.
ev - ery - thing
moves
like
14
p
mf > p
snow - fall
and
time
it -


17
B. Rec.1
B. Rec.2
B. Rec.3
B. Rec.4
S. B. Rec.
S.1
S.2
A.
mf > p
mp < mf mp , mf
self de - li - cate as snow - flake
mp < mf , p
self del as a snow - flake
mp , p
self del as snow - flake


22
rit.
B. Rec.1
B. Rec.2
B. Rec.3
B. Rec.4
S. B. Rec.
S.1
S.2
A.
mf
p < mf
pp < mp
melts on the tongue