The Voice for Composers

A small guide by Georgi Sztojanov

Vocal vs Instrumental - limitations

- Breathing (phrasing)
- Range
- Intonation (reference points)
- Sustaining (tessitura)

Vocal vs Instrumental – ‘privileges’ (Sanda)

- Text
- Unique color
- Personal
- Subtext
- Character
- Theatre element
- SUBCONSCIOUS ELEMENT (animalistic communication)

The voice – as an instrument

- Breath
- Inner hearing (Imagination)
- Phrase in advance
- Executing plan – Singing
- Vocal chords (in Larynx)
- Resonators
- Articulation (tongue, teeth, pallets in Pharynx)
- INTENTION!!!

Terminus technicus

- Support
- Range
- Tessitura
- Passaggio
- Vowels, jaw, tongue, lips
- Larynx position
- ‘Mask’ - projection
- Vibrato

Registers (gears)

- Chest
- Head
- Falsetto
- Mixed (Voix mixte)

- Undertones (Overtones)
- Whistle range

- Male/female register changes, Passagi

Passagio

- Change between registers
- Limited: dynamics, endurance, text (clear vowels)
- Tension (high position, new string)
- Connecting is sensitive (smooth change of gears)
- Separating (skipping)

Voice types

- Range, tessitura, passagi
- Color
- Flexibility
- Repertoire

- Style, genre
- Language
- 'Dialect'

Voice types

- Sopranos: soubrette, lyric, spinto, dramatic, jugendlische dramatische soprano, coloratura, Falcon (french)
- Mezzo-soprano: lyric, coloratura, dramatic
- Contralto: coloratura, lyric, dramatic
- Counter-tenor: sopranist, counter-tenor, haute-contre
- Tenor: leggero (character), lyric, spinto, dramatic, heldentenor, baritenor
- Baritone: Baryton-martin, lyir, bel canto, kavalier, helden, Verdi, dramatic, bariton noble, bass-baritone
- Bass: Profondo, bel canto, dramatic, bass-baritone

Mapping a voice

- Range
- Favorite octave
- Favorite fifth
- Passaggi
- Colors
- Coloraturas
- Genres, extended techniques
- Languages

Mapping a voice – Georgi (T, Ct, Bulgarian)

- Range: Bb2-bb4, Bb3-G5, A3-A4
- Favorite octave: G3-G4, E4-E5
- Favorite fifth: Bb3-F4, A5-E5
- Passaggi: 1.C#4 (d-f) 2.G4 , 1.C4 2. E5
- Colors: Darker chest, mixed voice, pure head, chesty head, falsetto
- Coloraturas: in chest not that fast, in Ct yes
- Genres, extended techniques: Bulgarian, multiphonics in mix
- Languages: Bg, Hu, En, Nl, 3basics (It, De, Fr)

Voice maps

Name	Voice type	Range		Fav 8ve		Fav 5th		Pass1	Pass2	Comment
Dalma	High Lyric Soprano	a,	d"'	g'	g"	bb'	f"			
Sanda	Soprano	f,	h"	e'	e"	a'	e"			
Enikő	Lyric Mezzosoprano	*bb (c)*	*f#" (g")*	*e'*	*e"*	*a'*	*e"*	e	F#	
Georgi	High Countertenor (sopranist)	Bb (c)	a' (bb')	g'	g"	bb'	f"	d		
	Lyric Tenor	Bb (c)	a' (bb')	g'	g"	bb'	f"			
Hessel	Baritone	G	g	D	d	G	d	e	eb	

Singing - Sports

- Physical
- Muscle training
- Habits (languages)
- Specialist & Multi talent
- Triathlon – Heavy weight lifting

- Everyone can sing <> ‘sing your piece yourself’

Singing ’modern’ - DON’T SING!

- No vibrato
- No resonance
- No projection
- No diction
- No color
- No intention
- Yes to … ?
- Voice like instrument – body that makes sound

Singing – Communicating

- Text, poetry
- Subtext, message
- Acting
- Music theater, Gesamtkunstwerk
- Opera
- Operatic world, money, divas
- Machinery, Institute <> Artistic ideas
- Strong traditions
- Human (Mirror, Self – awareness, Reflecting on others, Social!)

Singing <>Thinking

- ‘Observe your breathing’
- Lifting (closing larynx)
- ANALOGY: Bunji jumping (preparation)
- During singing not busy with thinking
- **INTENTION**

Stupid body, genius body

- **Simple instructions, complex processes**
- Intention
- Example: ‘lugubre’
- “The Method” – bullets (strategies>actions)

NOTATION – instruction or result?

- Dynamics (relative or absolute)
- Expression marks (reason or consequence)

NOTATION - Thinking in parameters

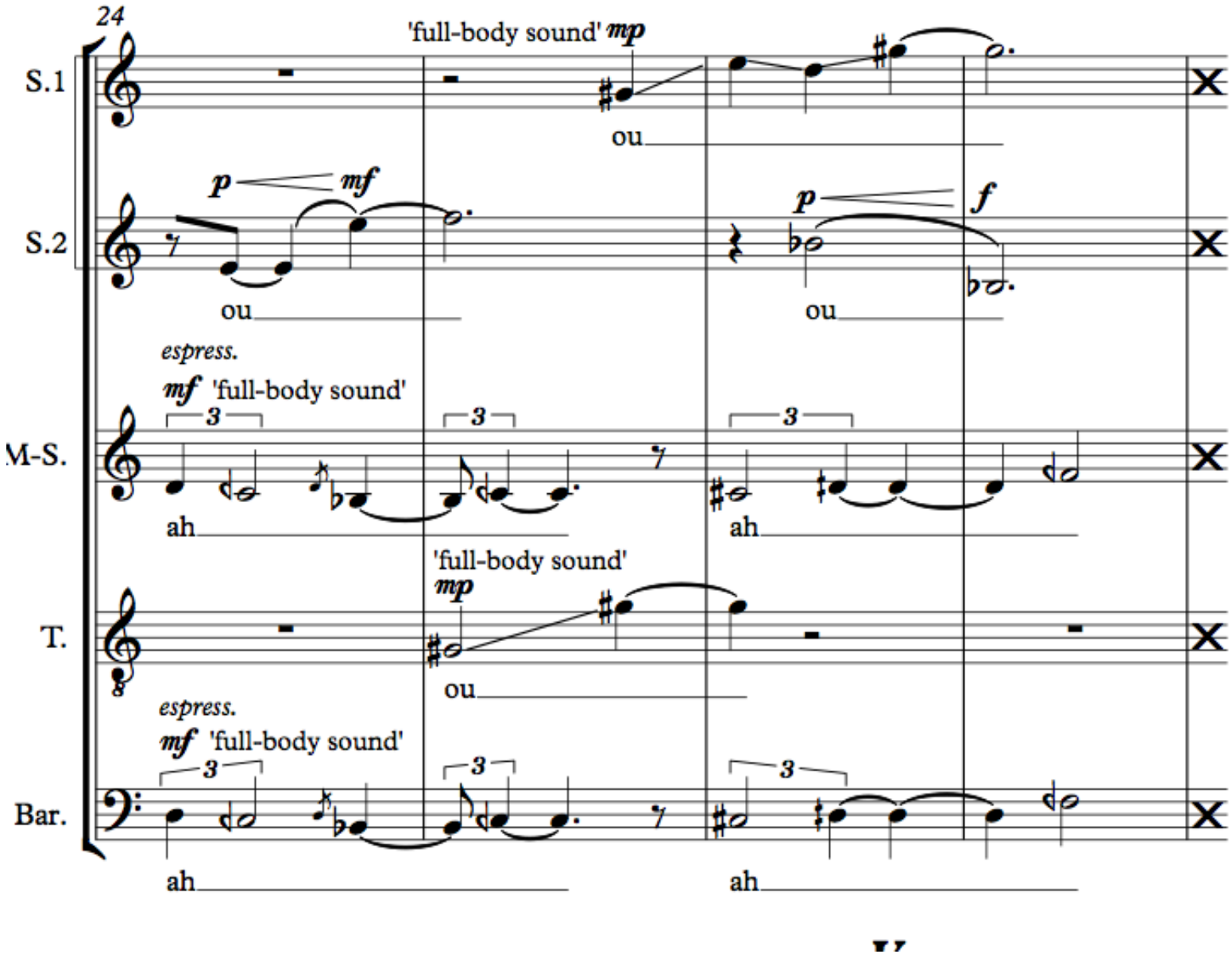
- Exciting rhythms, changing meter, fast tempo
- Reference notes for intonation
- Quartertones
- Harmonic thinking (the acoustic rules)
- Special effects, extended techniques
- Difficult text – no text
- No color / text / character – NO INTENTION

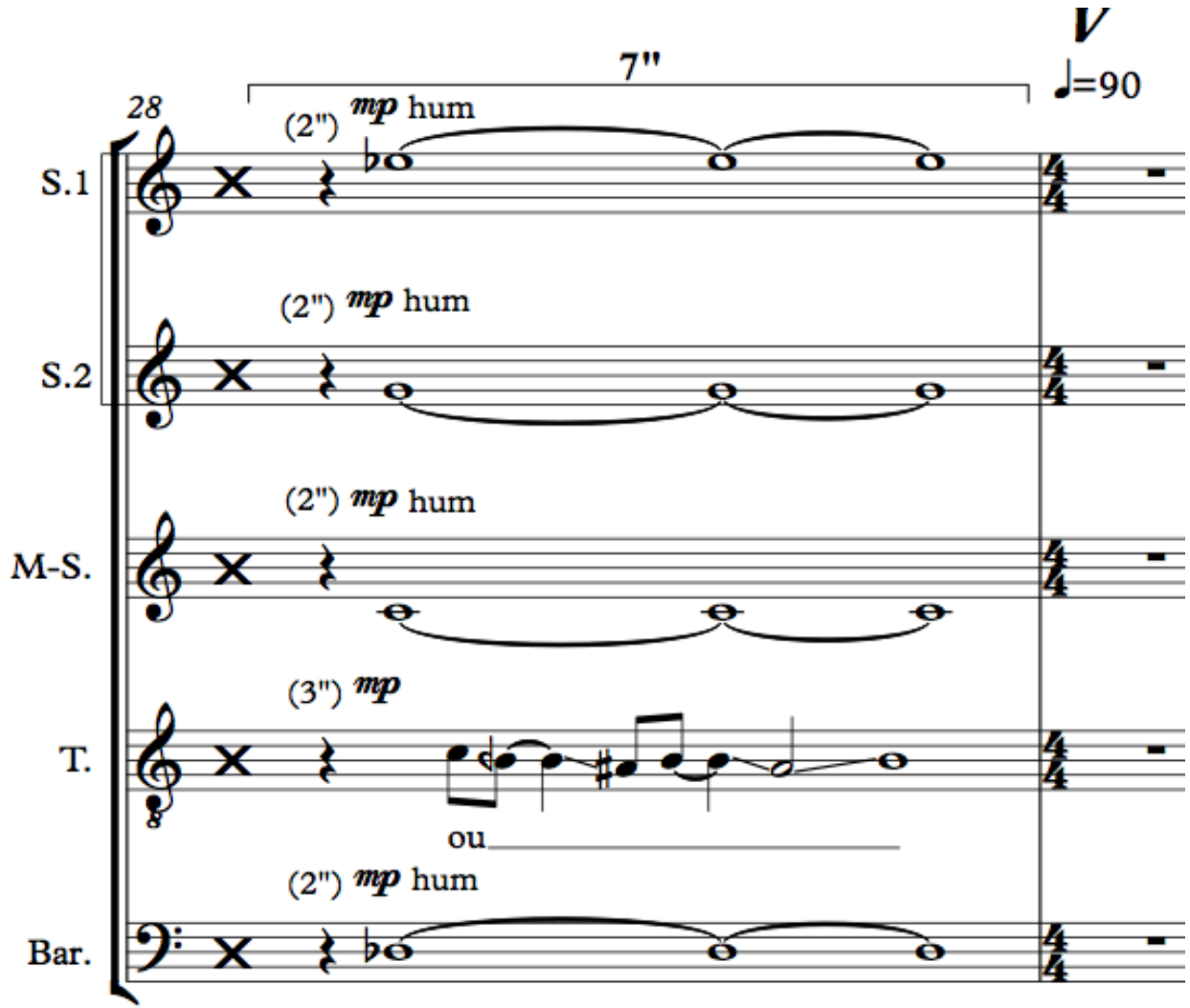
NOTATION - Some practical thoughts

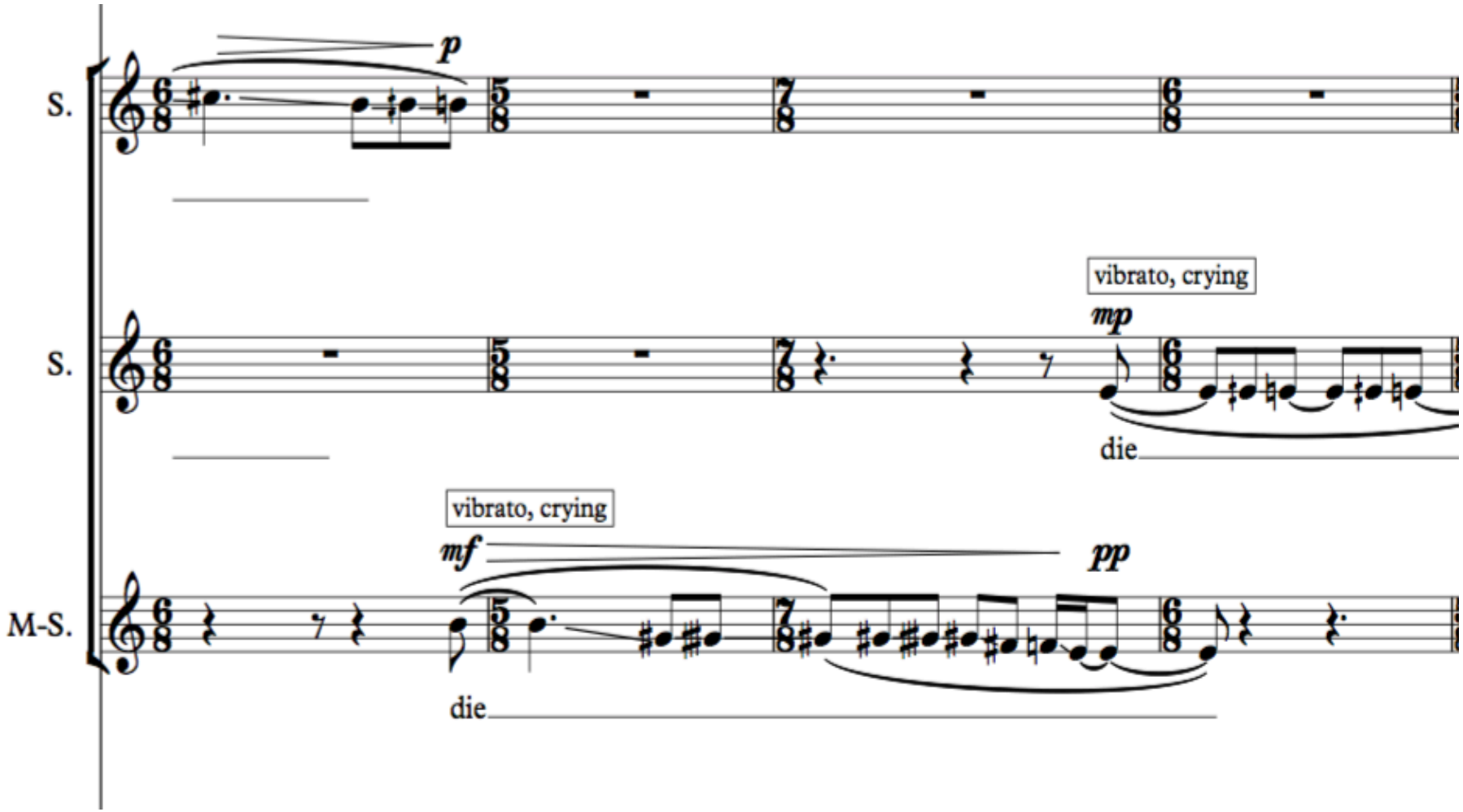
- Vocal score (piano reduction, or queue notes – only existing sounds)
- Helping notes
- Thinking in character – intention/ instruction
- Contacting singer
- Tension – natural color and dynamic (delay)
- 1 / 4 does exist! No 2/8
- Instrument like-things = instrument-like limitations (staccato<>intonation)
- Random (improvisation – personal choices)

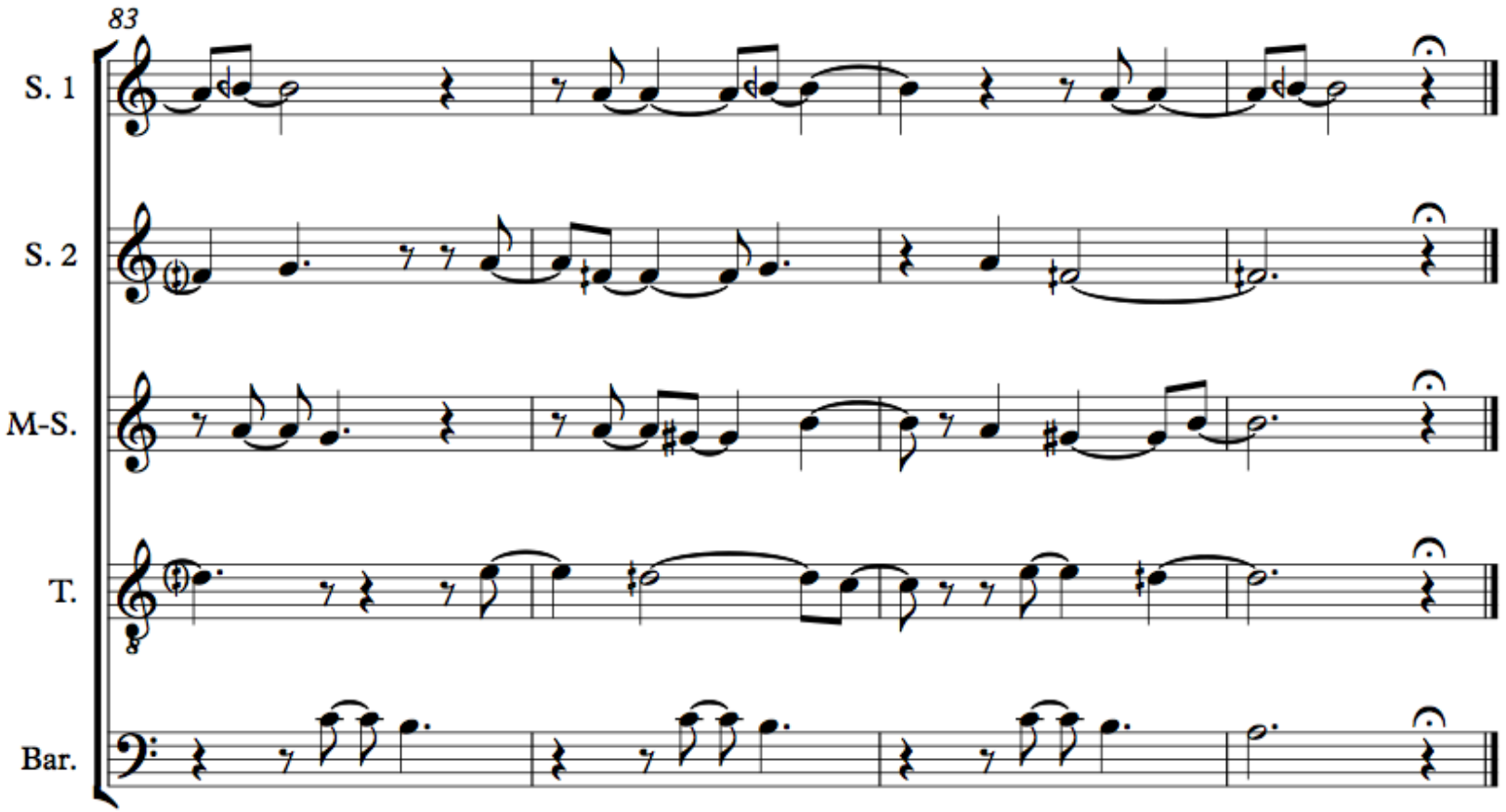
Examples

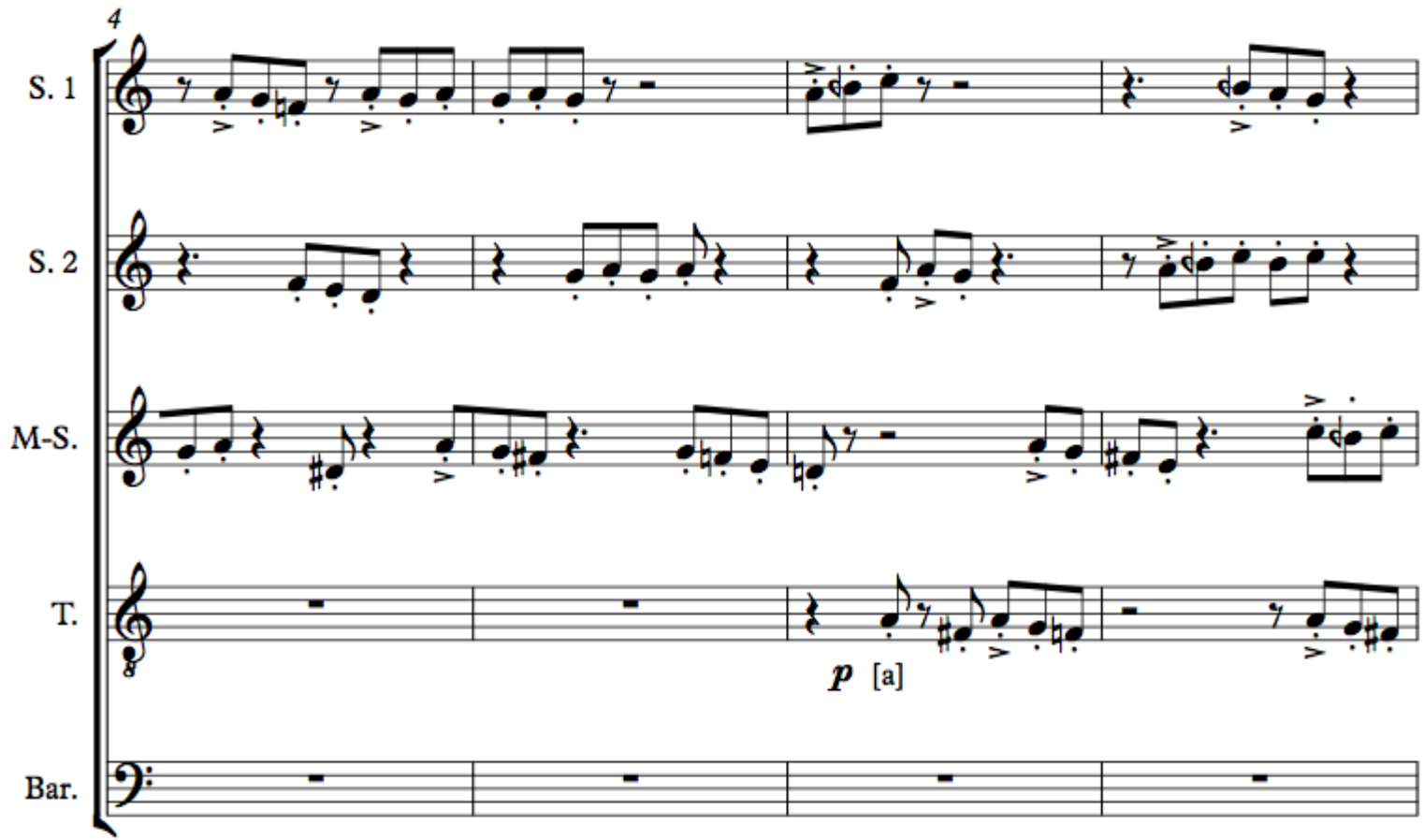
vocal score

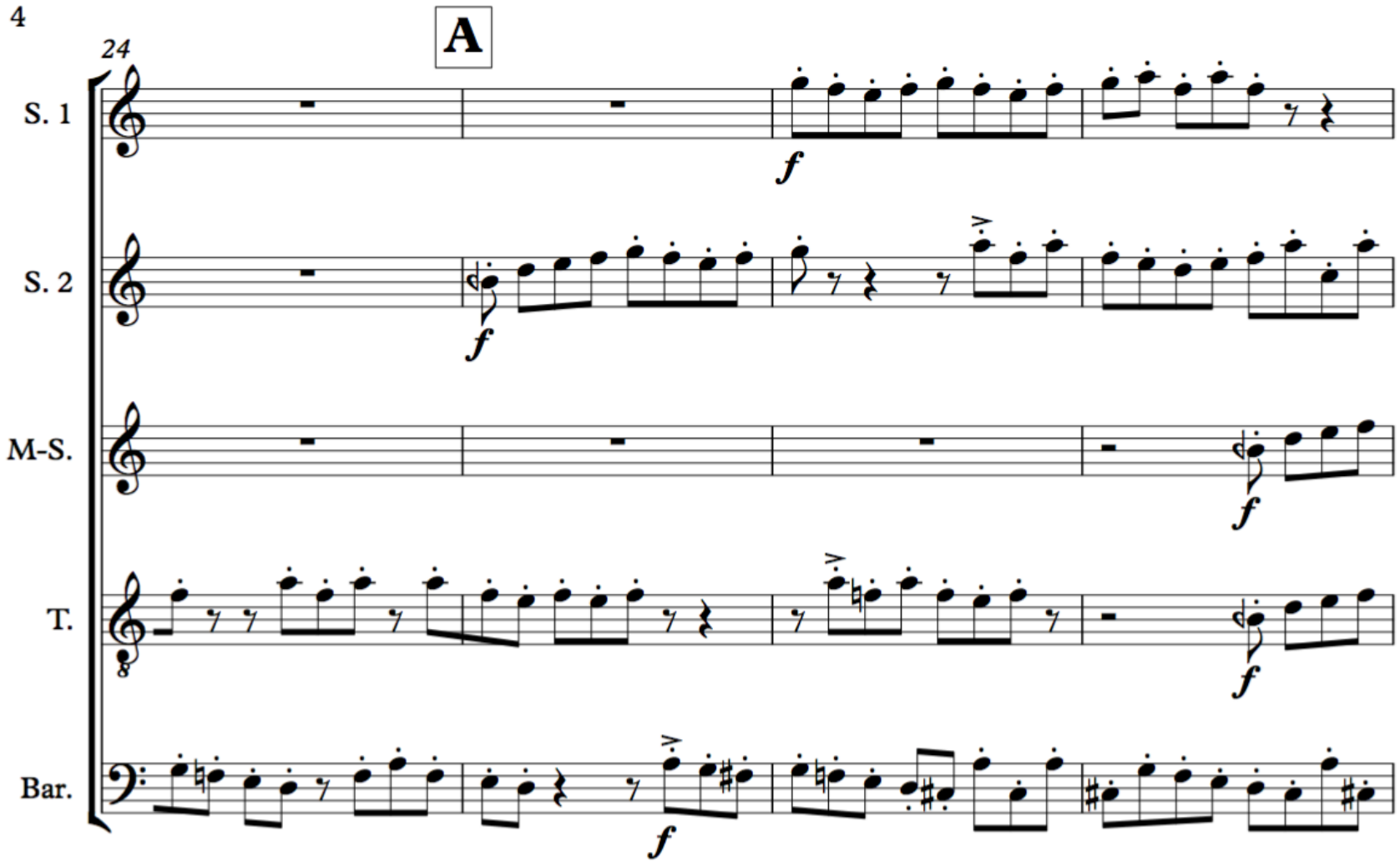

24
S.1
S.2
M-S.
T.
Bar.
'full-body sound' mp
ou
p mf
ou
p f
ou
espress.
mf 'full-body sound'
3
ah
'full-body sound'
mp
ou
espress.
mf 'full-body sound'
ah

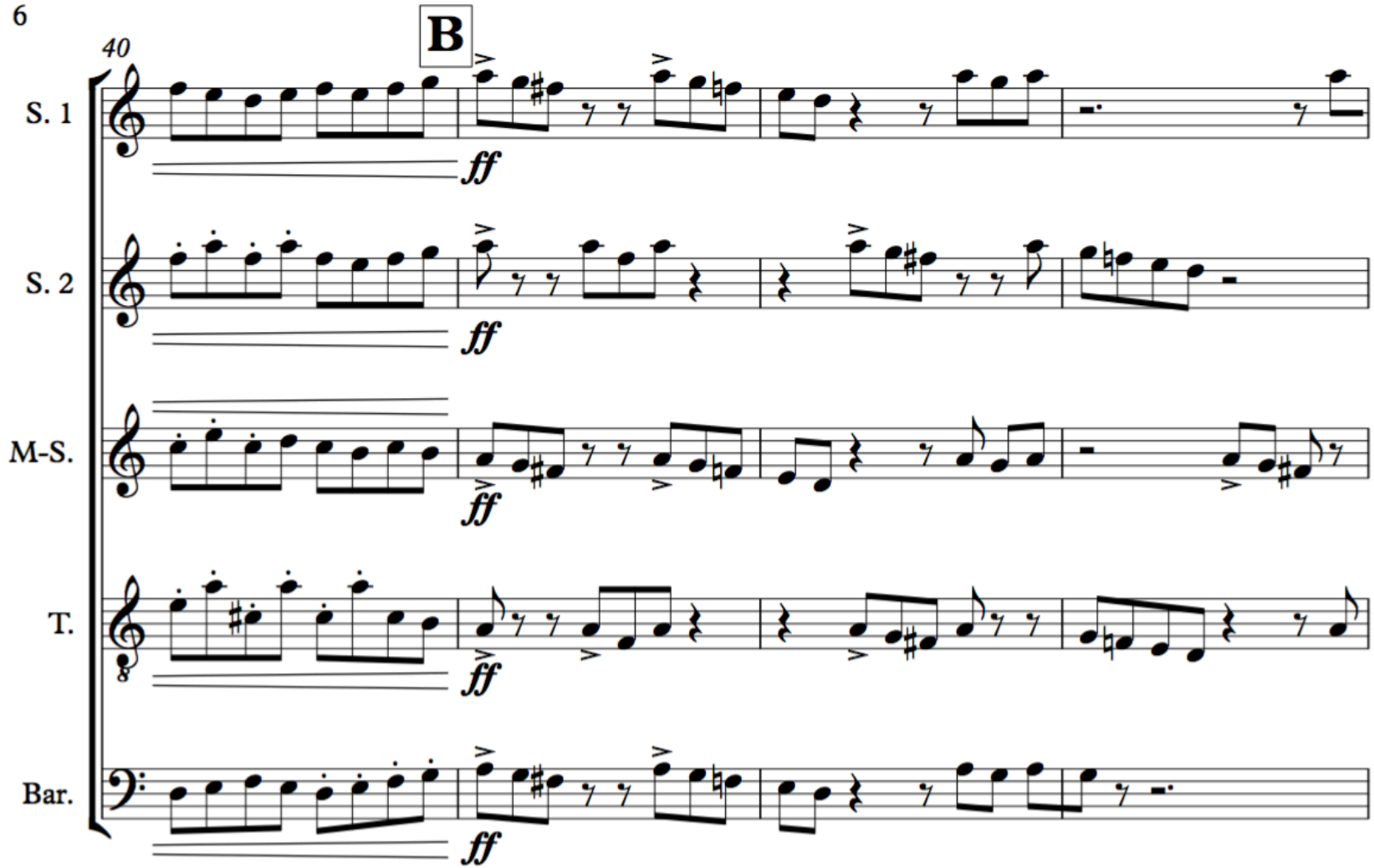

V
7"
♩=90
28
S.1
(2") mp hum
S.2
(2") mp hum
M-S.
(2") mp hum
T.
(3") mp
ou
Bar.
(2") mp hum


S.
p
S.
vibrato, crying
mp
die
M-S.
vibrato, crying
mf
pp
die


83
S. 1
S. 2
M-S.
T.
Bar.


4
S. 1
S. 2
M-S.
T.
Bar.
p
[a]


A
24
S. 1
S. 2
M-S.
T.
Bar.
f


40
B
S. 1
S. 2
M-S.
T.
Bar.
ff

Five Broken Pieces

Prelude

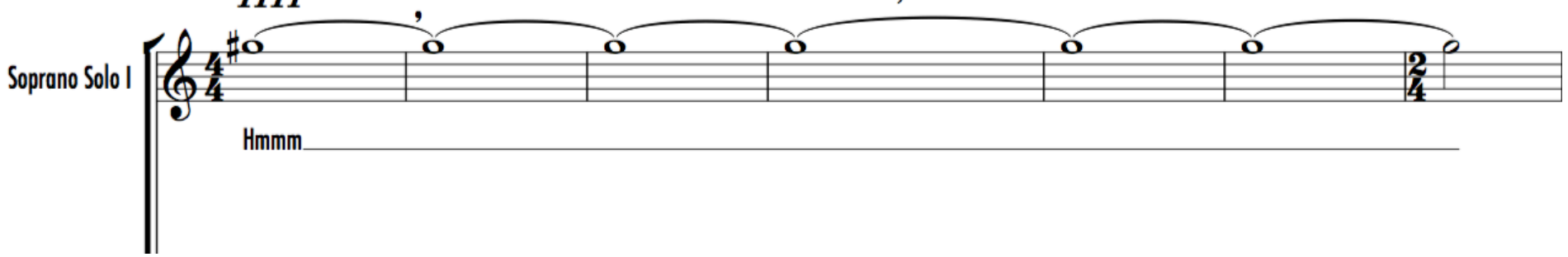
For Paul Zaba

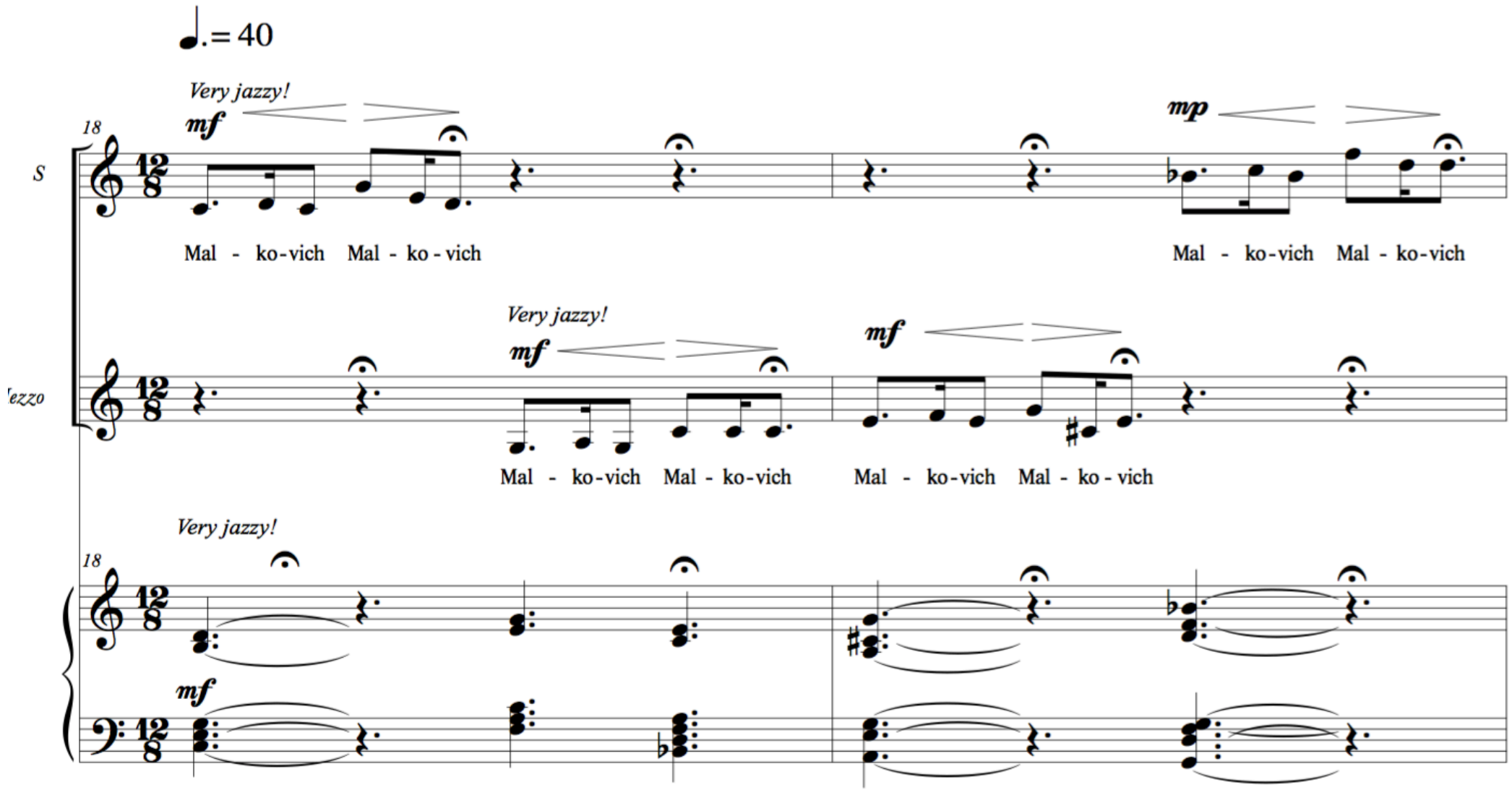
Static, swelling ♩=52 (Duration: ca 26 seconds)

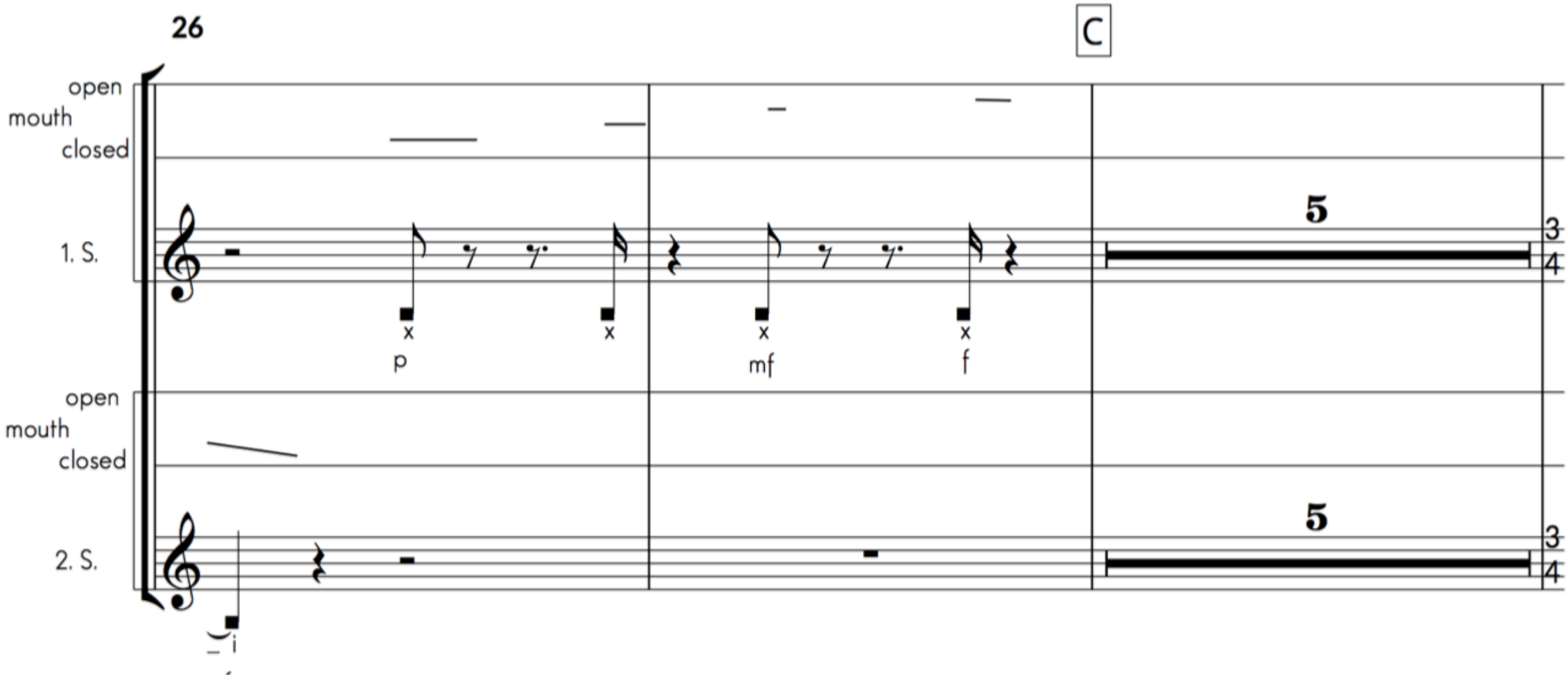
without amplication, breathe as unobtrusively as possible

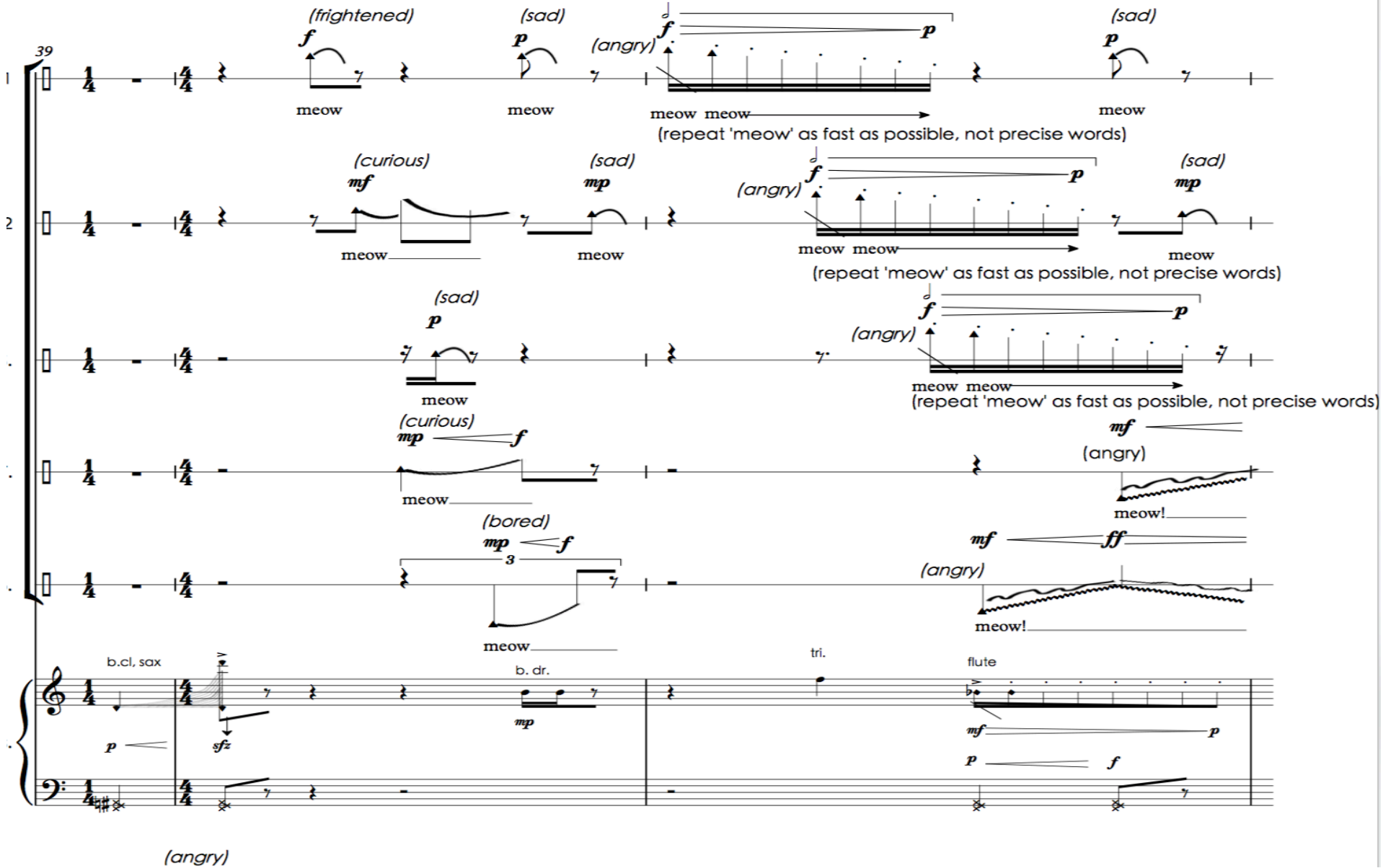
poco vib.

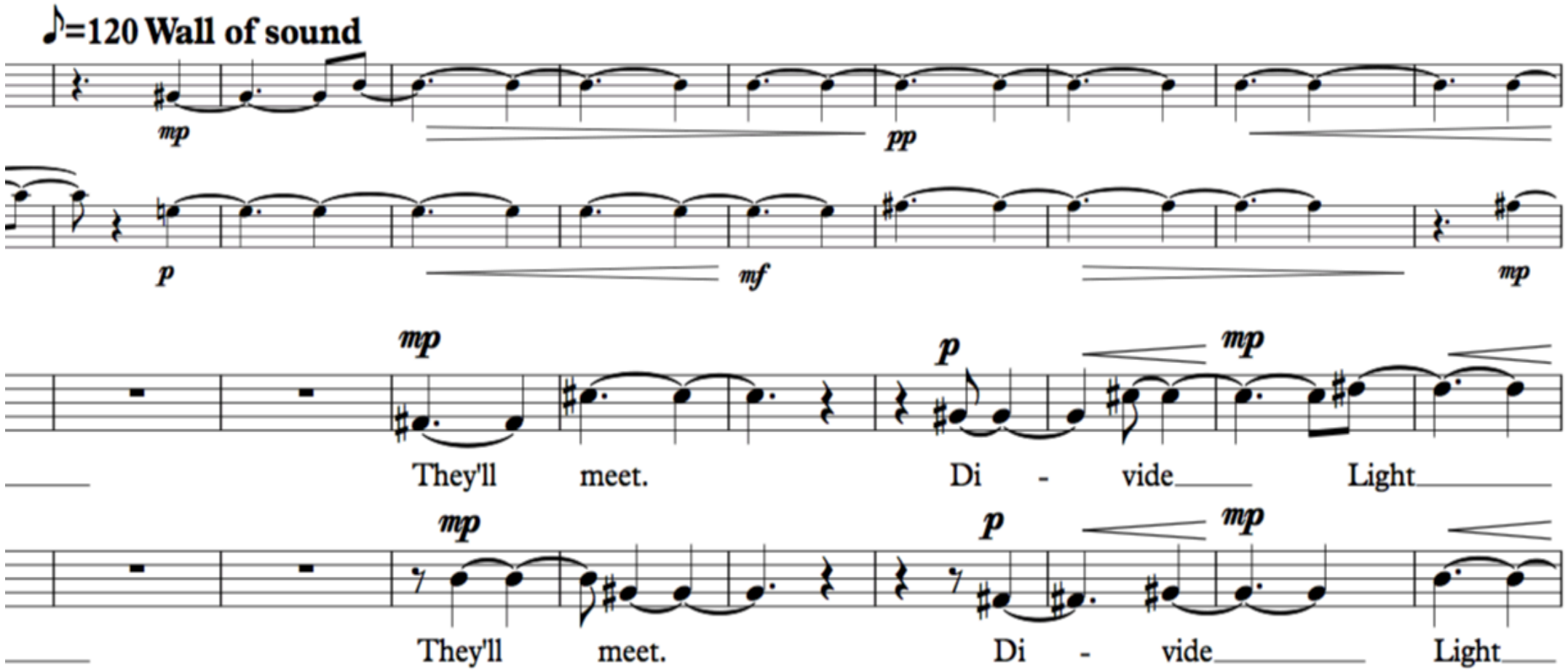
pppp




♩.= 40
Very jazzy!
mf
18
S
Mal - ko-vich Mal - ko - vich
mp
Mal - ko-vich Mal - ko-vich
Very jazzy!
mf
ezzo
Mal - ko-vich Mal - ko-vich
mf
Mal - ko-vich Mal - ko - vich
Very jazzy!
18
mf

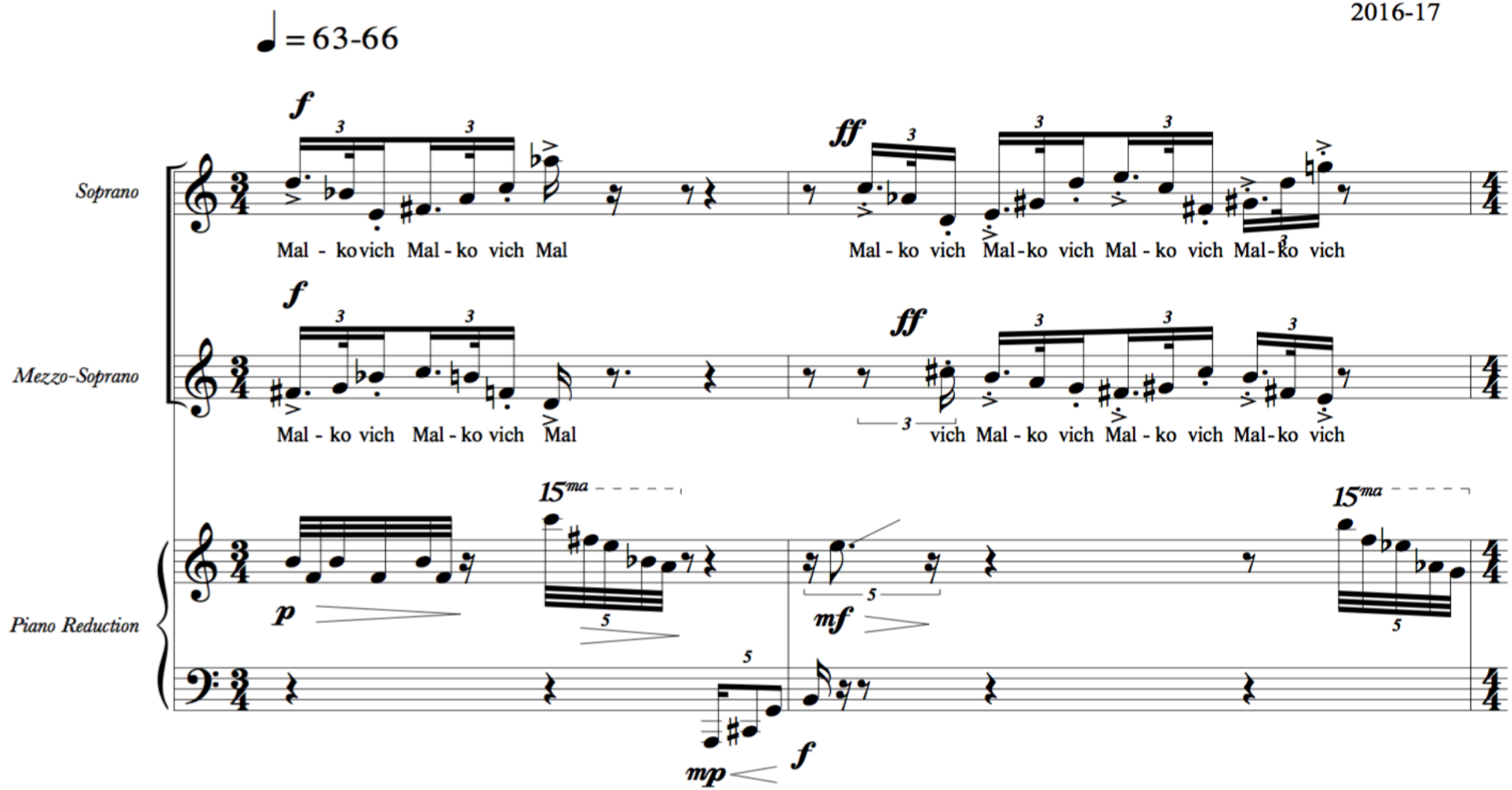

26
C
open
mouth
closed
1. S.
p
mf
f
5
3
4
open
mouth
closed
2. S.
5
3
4

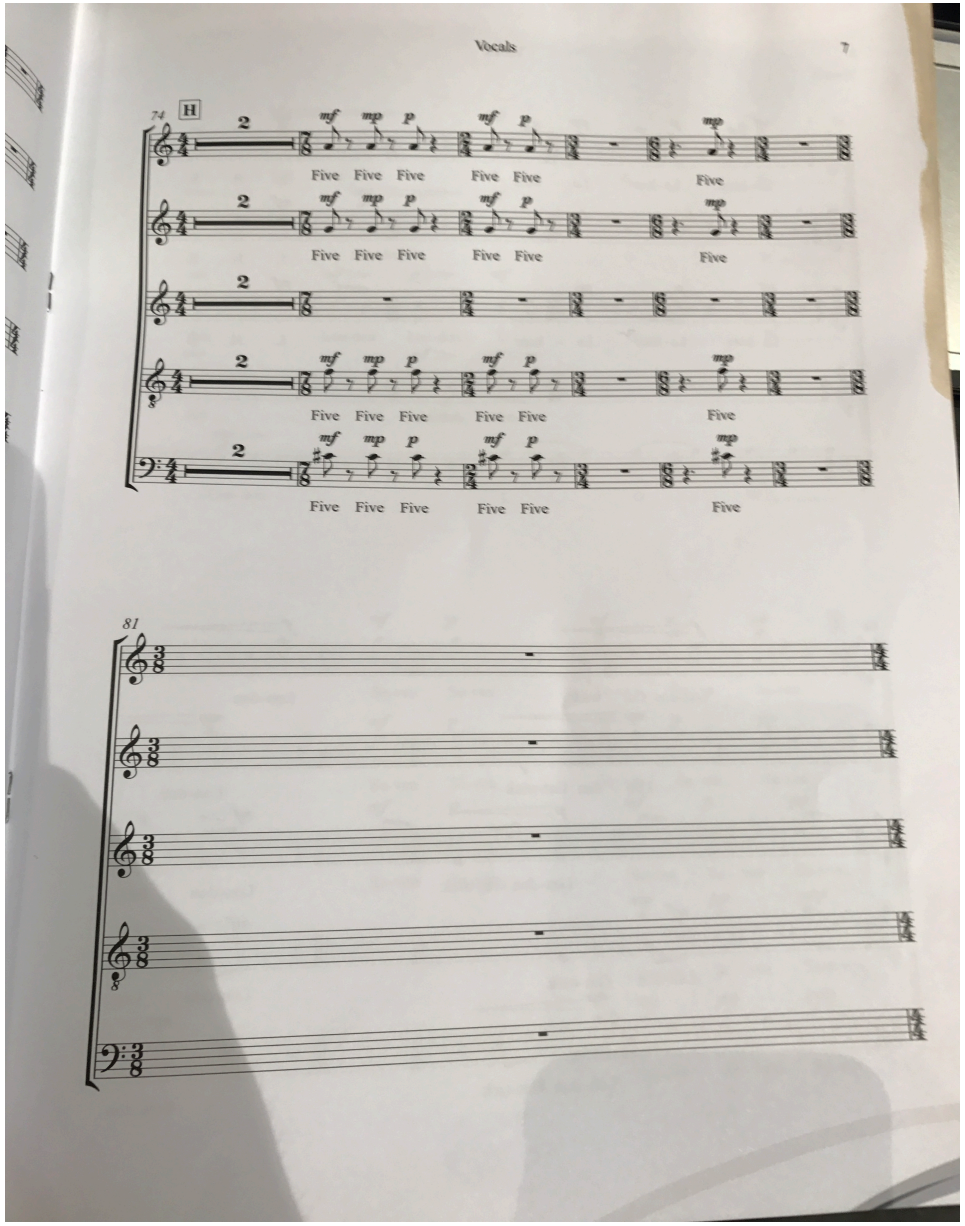

39
(frightened)
(sad)
(angry)
(sad)
meow
meow
meow meow
meow
(repeat 'meow' as fast as possible, not precise words)
(curious)
(sad)
(angry)
(sad)
meow
meow
meow meow
meow
(repeat 'meow' as fast as possible, not precise words)
(sad)
(angry)
meow
meow meow
(repeat 'meow' as fast as possible, not precise words)
(curious)
(angry)
meow
meow!
(bored)
(angry)
meow
meow!
b.cl, sax
b. dr.
tri.
flute
(angry)


♪=120 Wall of sound
mp
pp
p
mf
mp
mp
p
mp
They'll meet. Di - vide Light
mp
p
mp
They'll meet. Di - vide Light

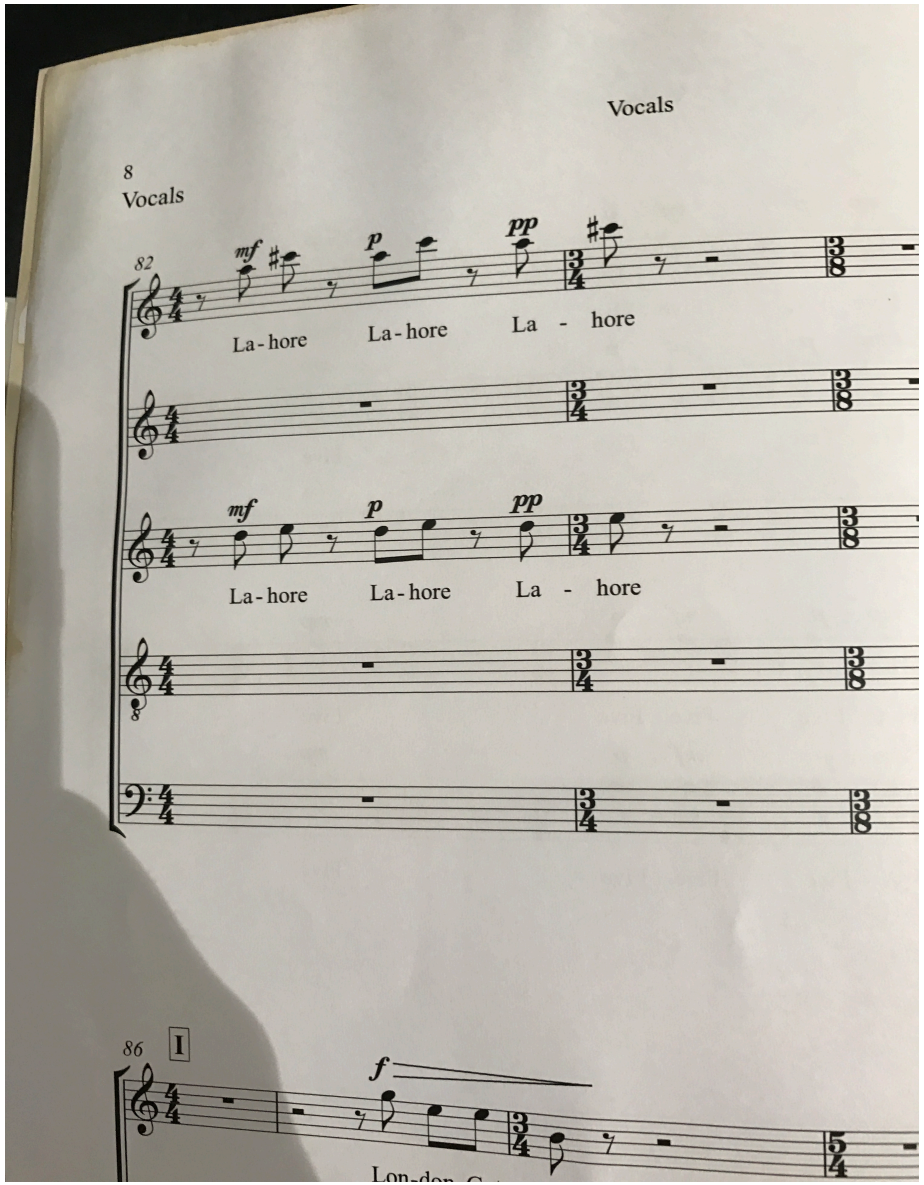
Malkovich

Ali Can Puskulcu
2016-17




74
H
2
mf mp p mf p mp
Five Five Five Five Five Five
81

8
Vocals


82
mf
p
pp
La - hore
La - hore
La - hore
mf
p
pp
La - hore
La - hore
La - hore
8
86
I
f

FEEDBACK TIME!

FEEDBACK TIME!

- Please, roast each other! Thank you!

SINGING TOGETHER

- Shall we try? ☺