Bells of Change

for SATB chorus with viola

Jeremy Gill

Bells of Change

for SATB chorus with viola
text by Charles Dickens, adapted by Jeremy Gill

Commission

commissioned by the Chamber Singers of Harrisburg

Premiere

18 May 1996, Harrisburg, PA
by the Chamber Singers of Harrisburg with Julius Wirth, Thomas Gallup, conductor

Instrumentation

viola
SATB chorus

Duration

approximately 6 minutes

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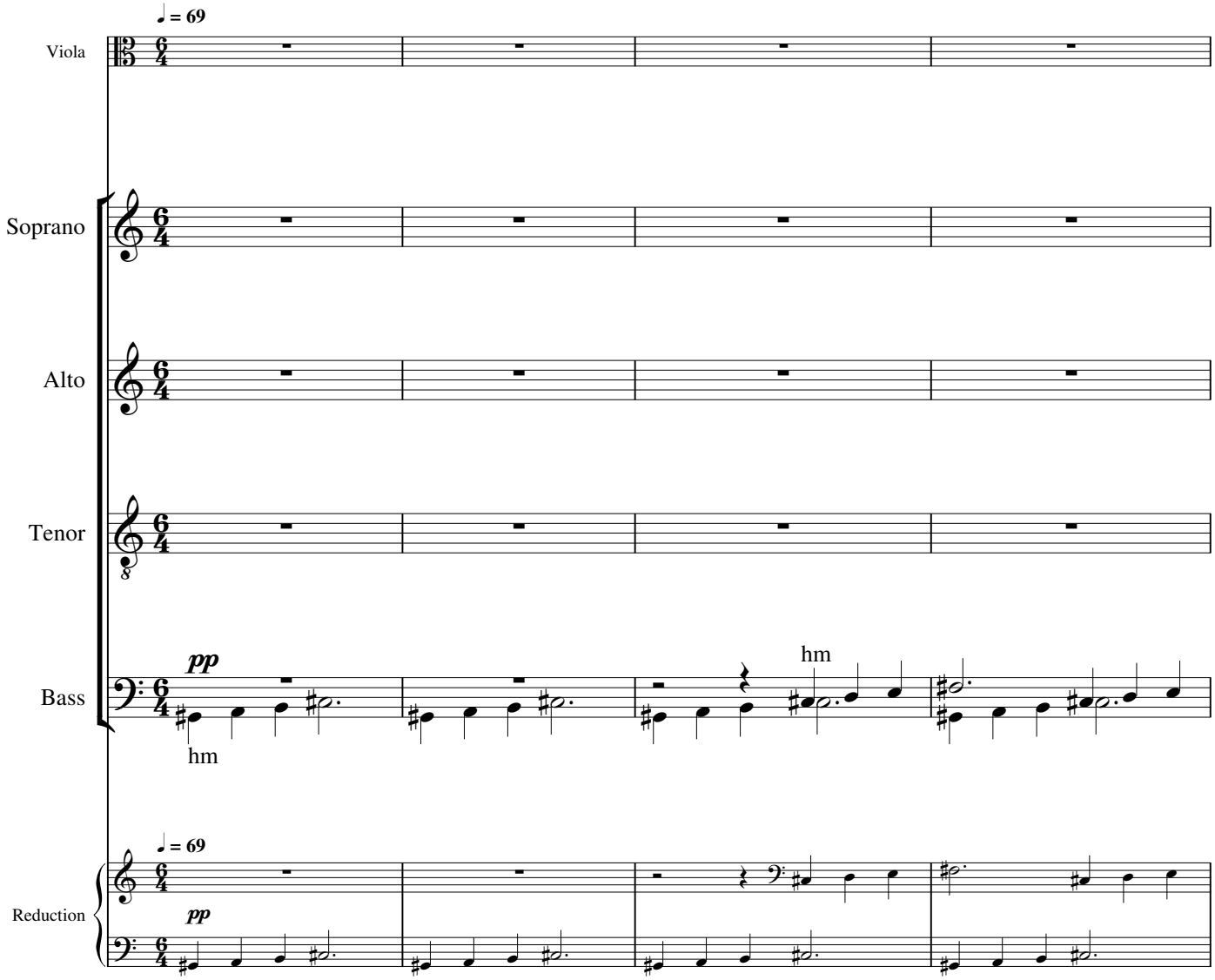
for Thomas Gallup and the Chamber Singers of Harrisburg

Bells of Change

Early in the morning, I saunter through the tranquil streets
and mingle with the shadows of gateways and churches.
The rooks sail about the cathedral towers,
and the towers cut the air, as if there were no such thing as change on earth.
Yet the bells when they sound tell me of change in everything,
tell me of their own, old age, and the youth of my darling,
and the many, still to come, who will live and love
while the reverberations of the bells echo through their iron hulls.
And, motes upon the deep of Time, lose themselves in air,
as circles do in water.

from David Copperfield

Charles Dickens (adapted by J. Gill) J.Gill (1995)



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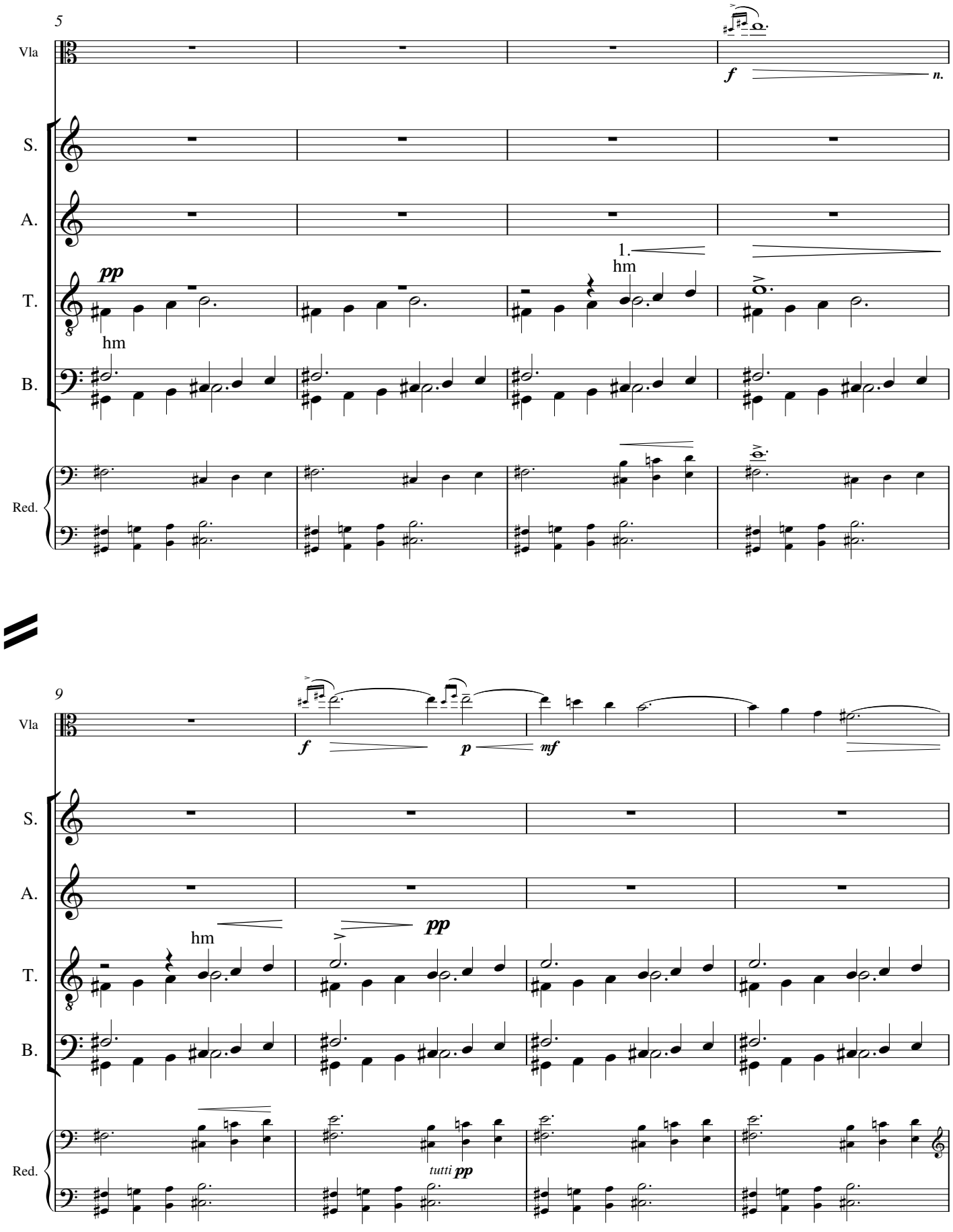
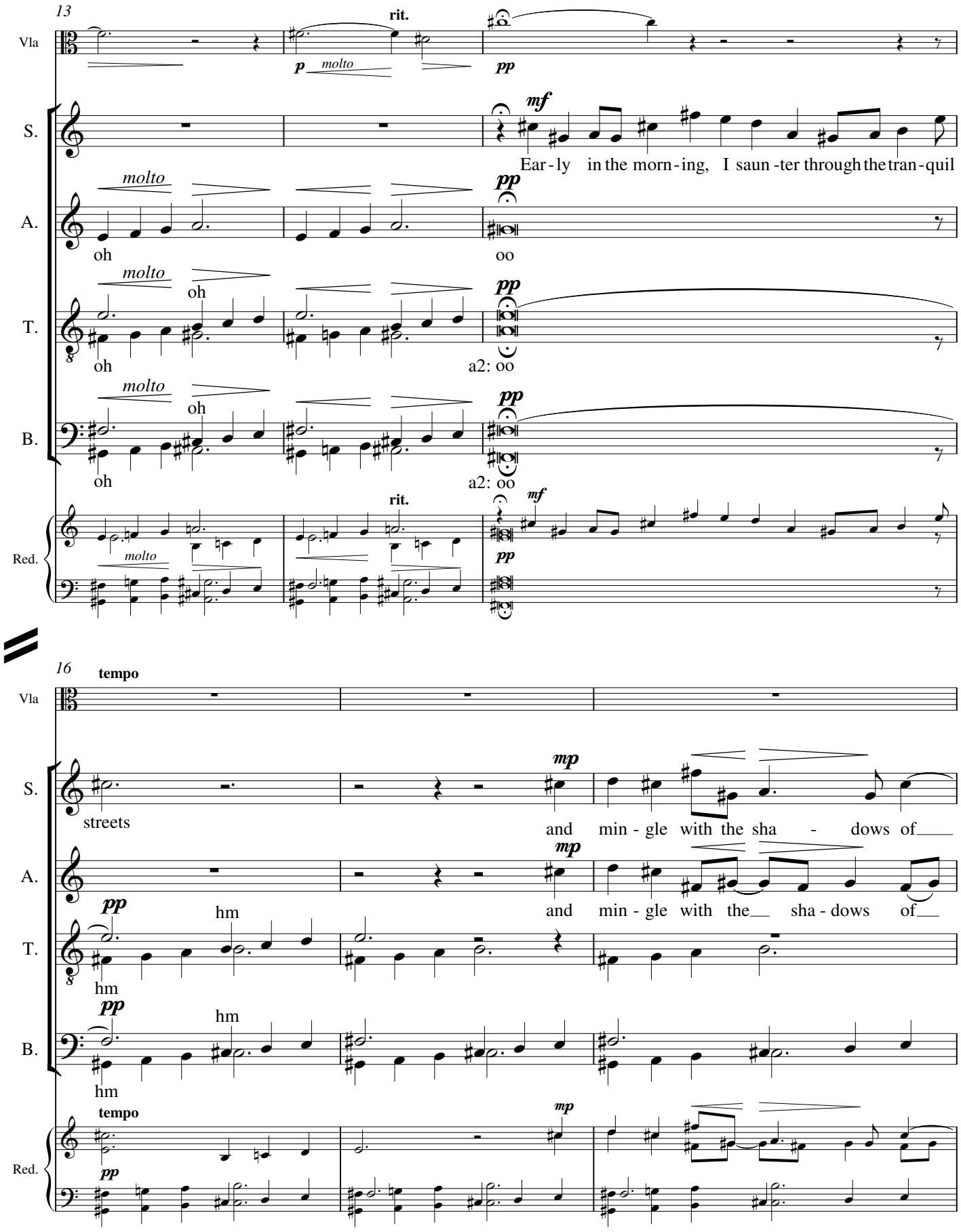
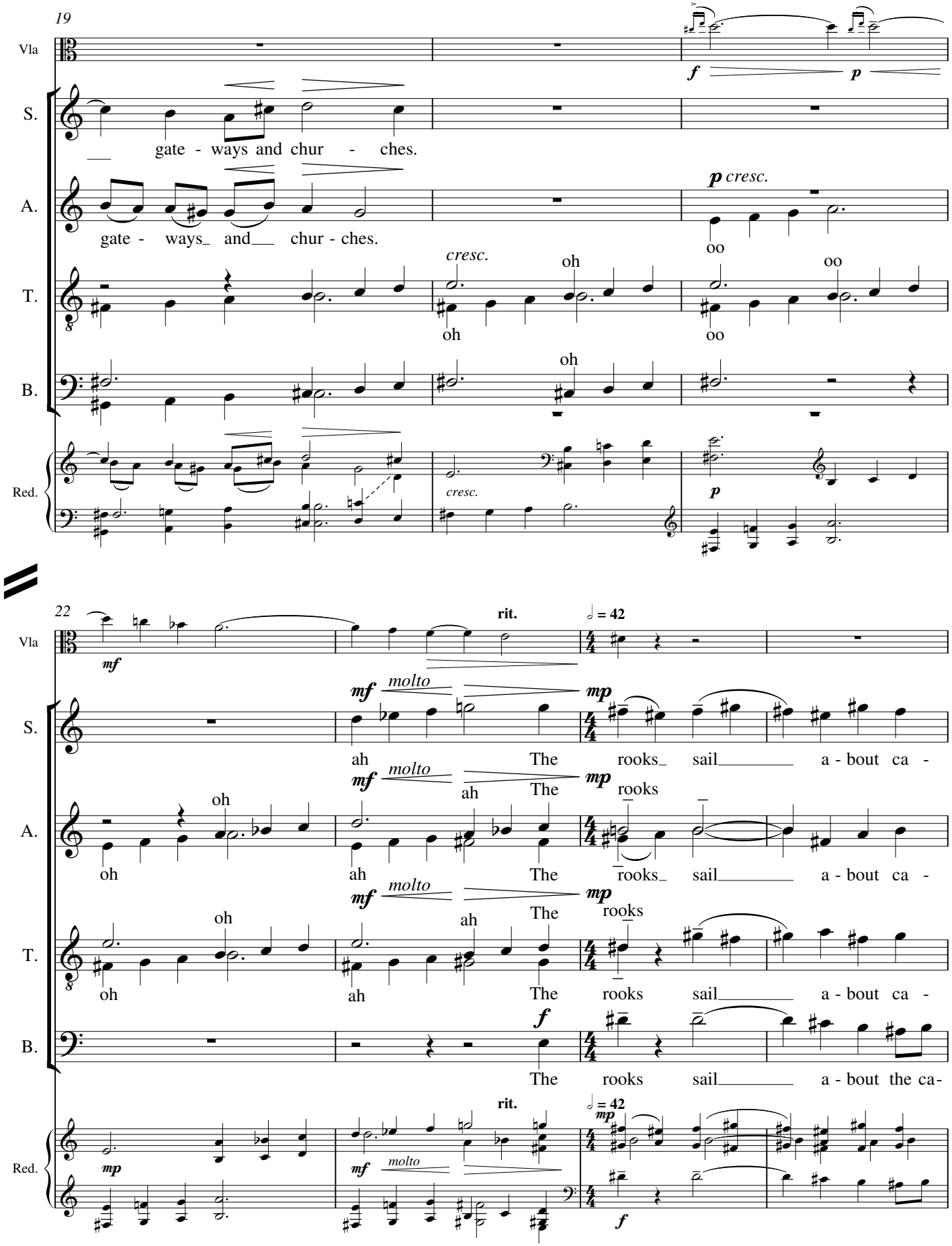
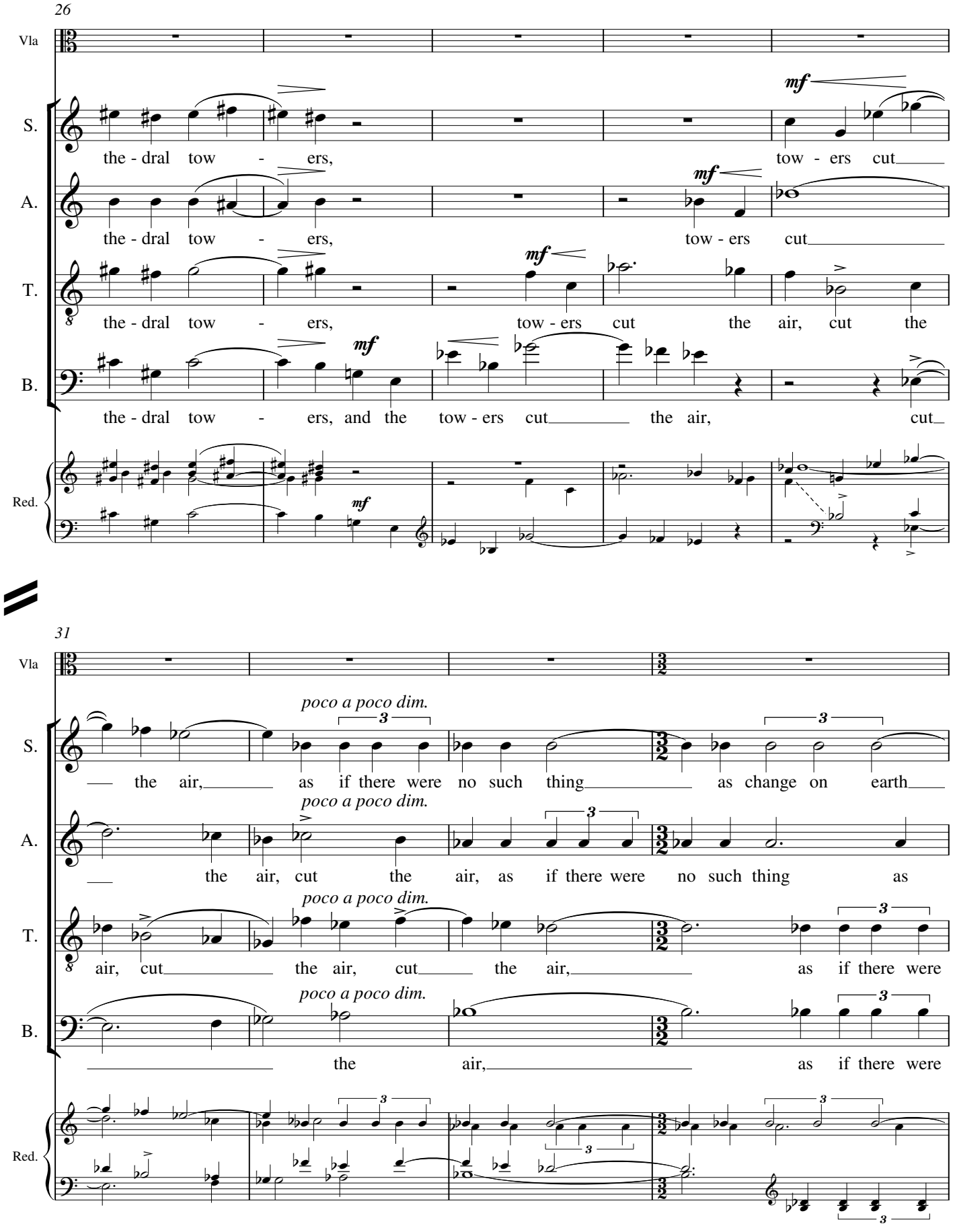
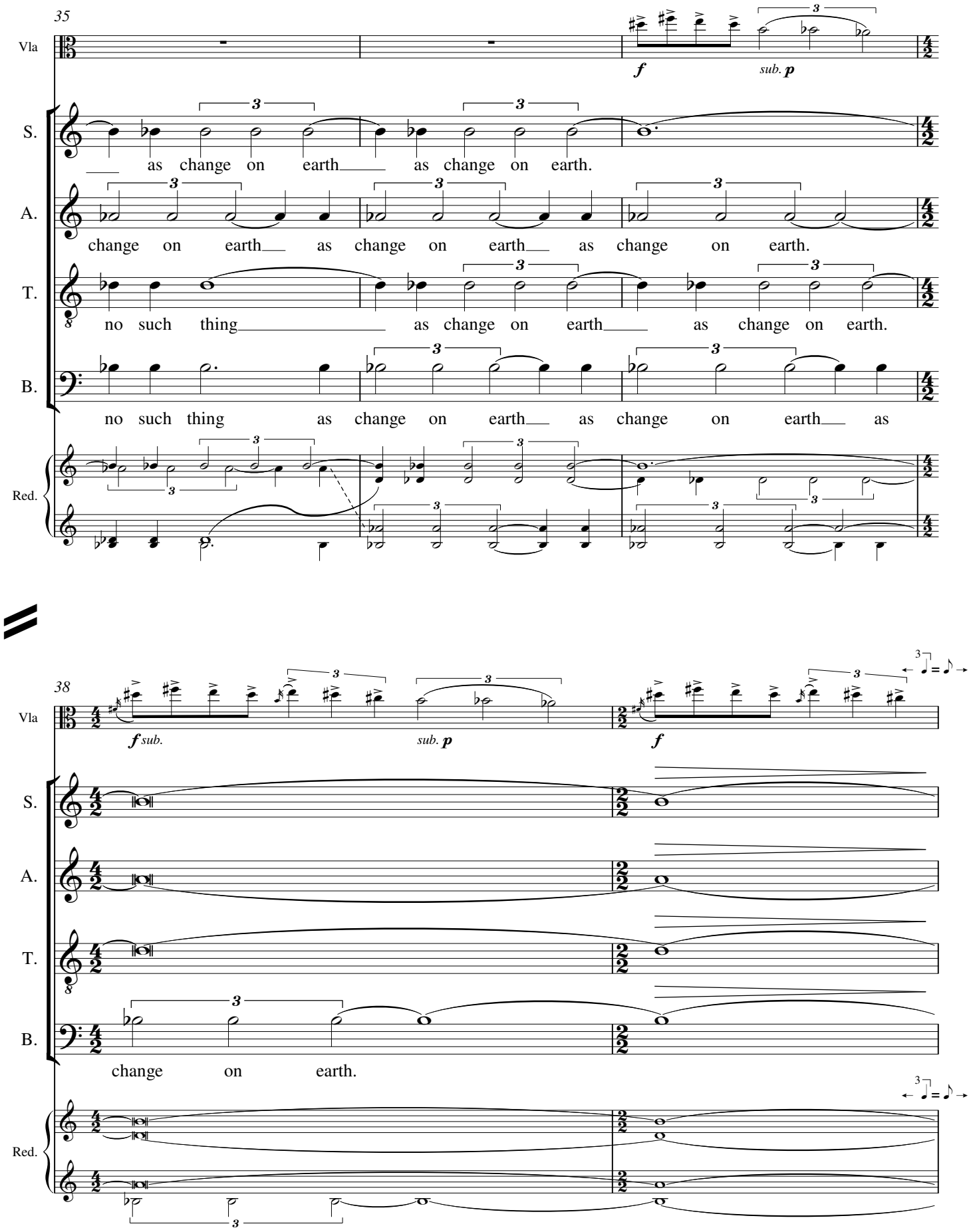
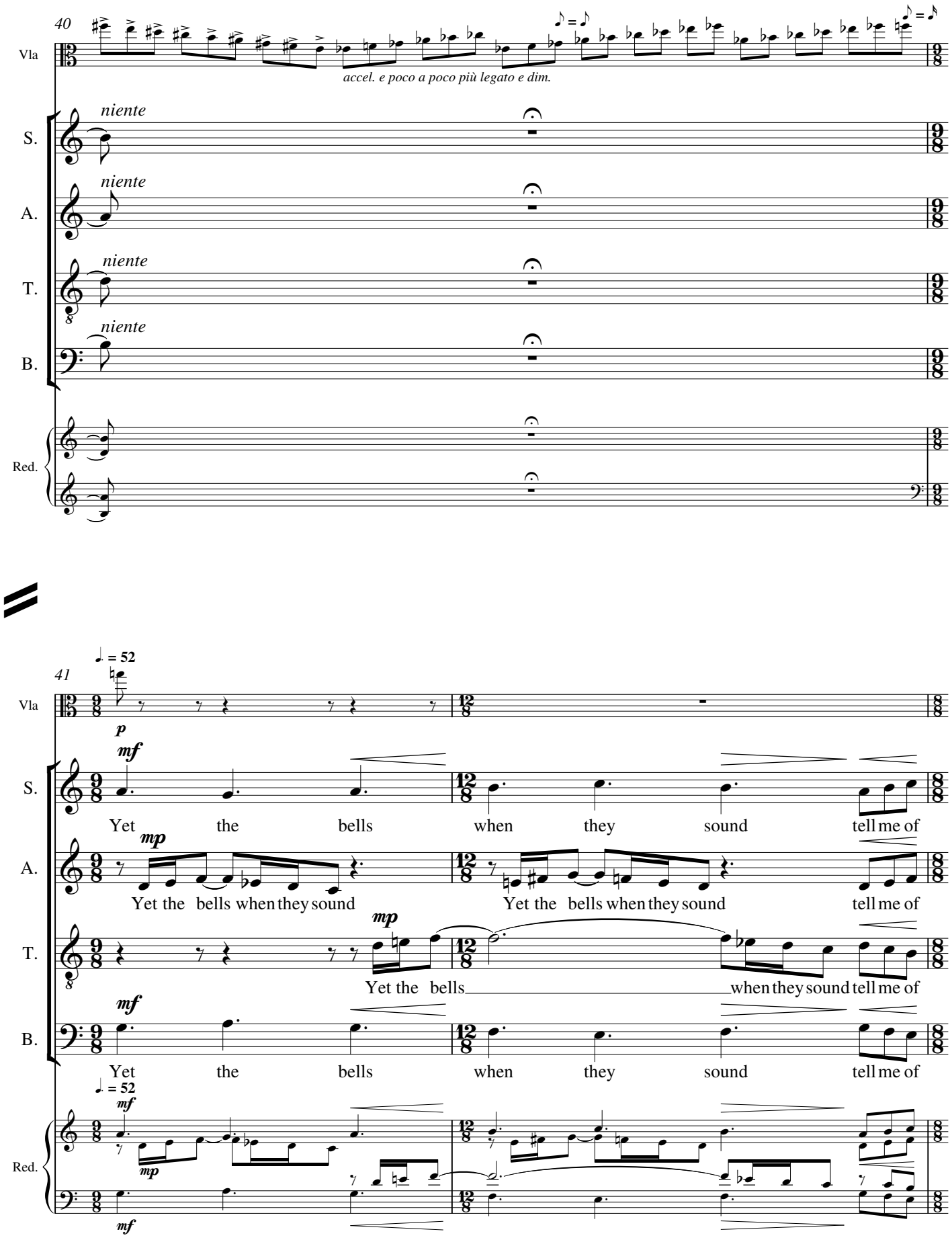

5
Vla
f
n.
S.
A.
T.
pp
1.
hm
B.
hm
Red.
9
Vla
f
p
mf
S.
A.
T.
hm
pp
B.
Red.
tutti pp

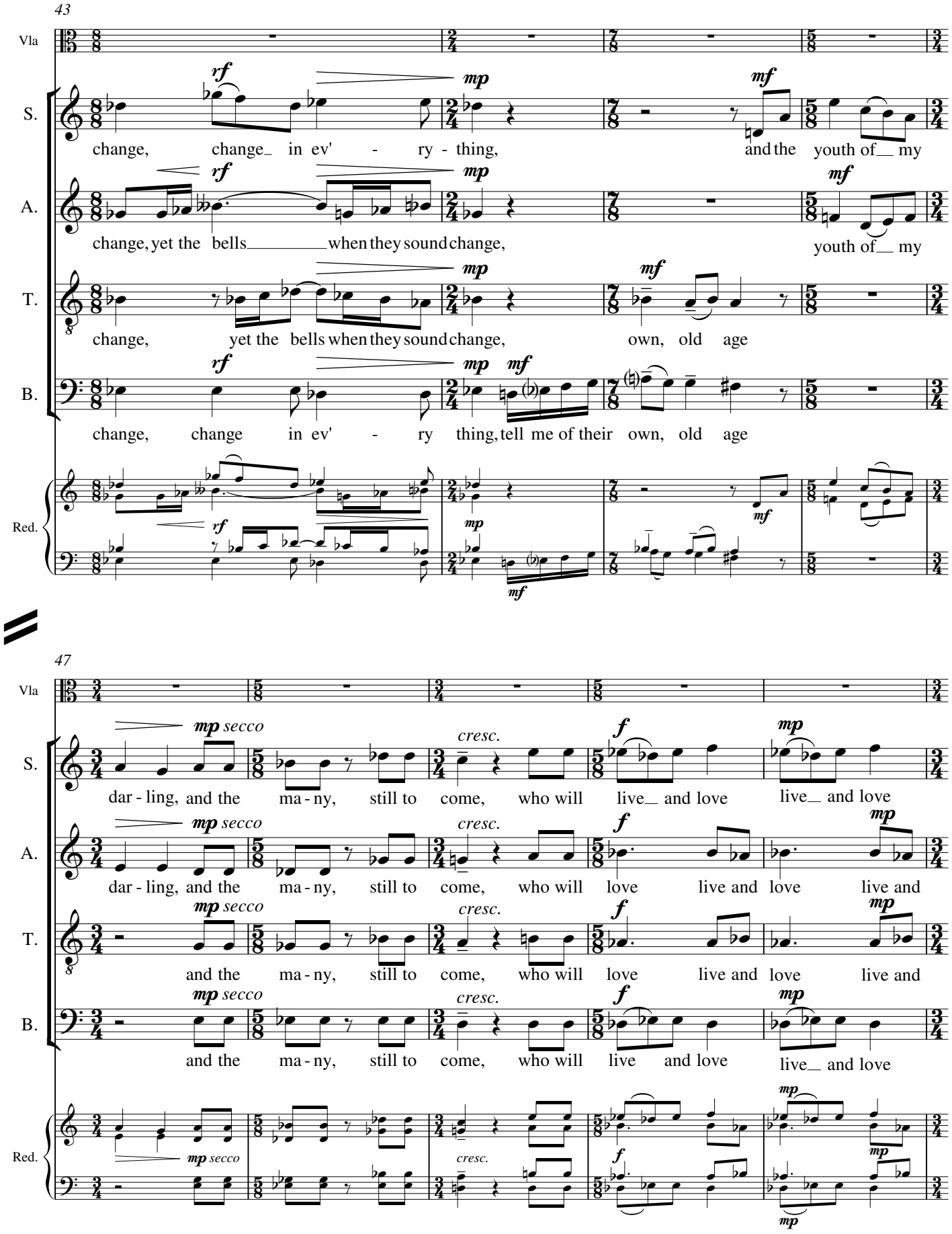

13
Vla
rit.
p molto
pp
S.
mf
Ear - ly in the morn - ing, I saun - ter through the tran - quil
A.
molto
pp
oh
oo
T.
molto
oh
pp
oh
a2: oo
B.
molto
oh
pp
oh
a2: oo
Red.
rit.
mf
molto
pp
16
tempo
Vla
S.
mp
streets
and min - gle with the sha - dows of
A.
mp
pp
hm
and min - gle with the sha - dows of
T.
pp
hm
hm
B.
pp
hm
hm
Red.
tempo
mp
pp

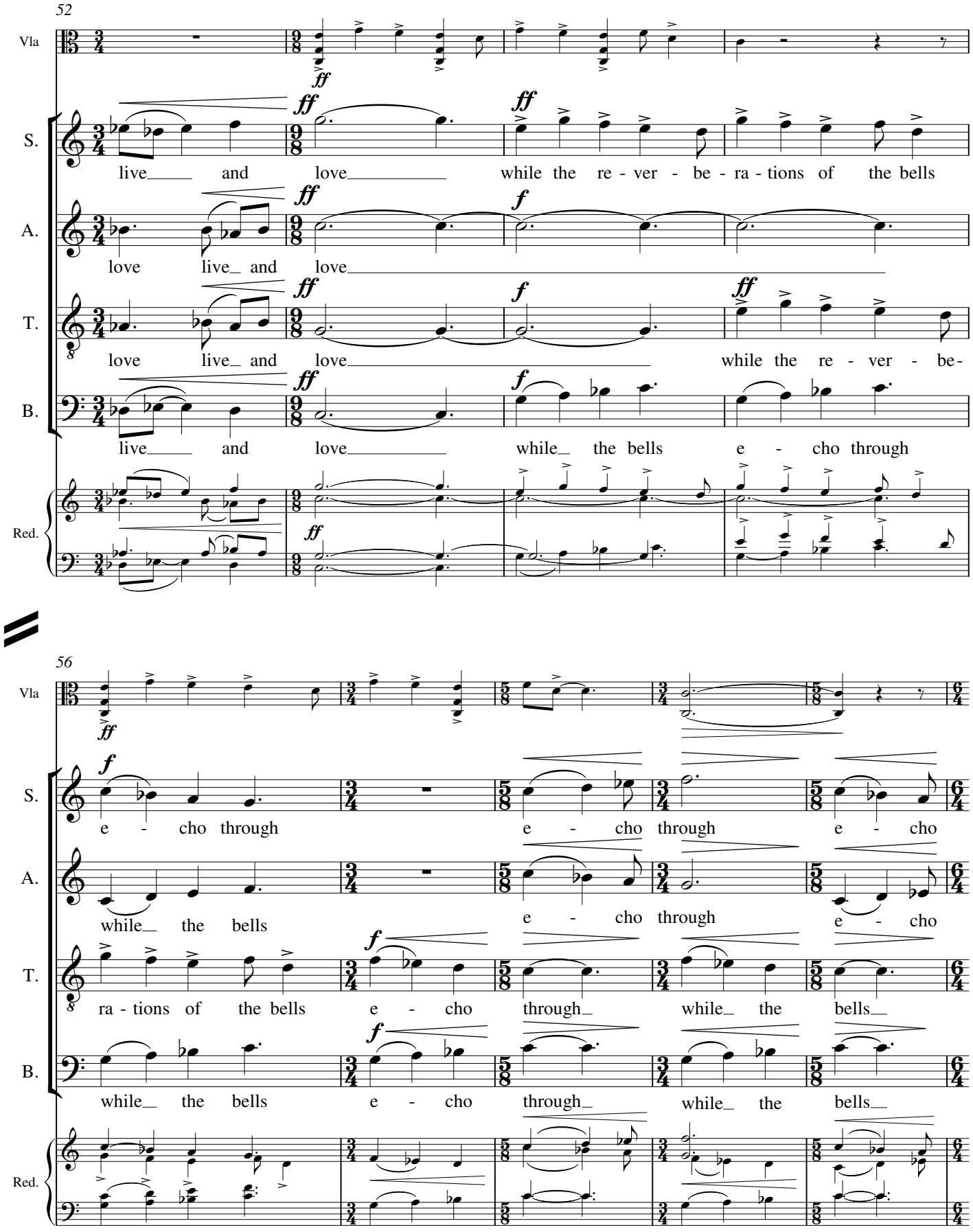

19
Vla
S.
gate - ways and chur - ches.
A.
gate - ways_ and__ chur - ches.
p cresc.
oo
T.
cresc.
oh
oh
oo
oo
B.
oh
Red.
cresc.
p
22
Vla
mf
rit.
= 42
S.
mf molto
mp
ah The rooks_ sail a - bout ca -
A.
oh
mf molto
mp
ah The rooks
oh ah The rooks_ sail a - bout ca -
T.
oh
ah
mf molto
mp
The rooks
oh ah The rooks sail a - bout ca -
B.
f
The rooks sail a - bout the ca-
Red.
mp
rit.
= 42
mp
mf molto
f

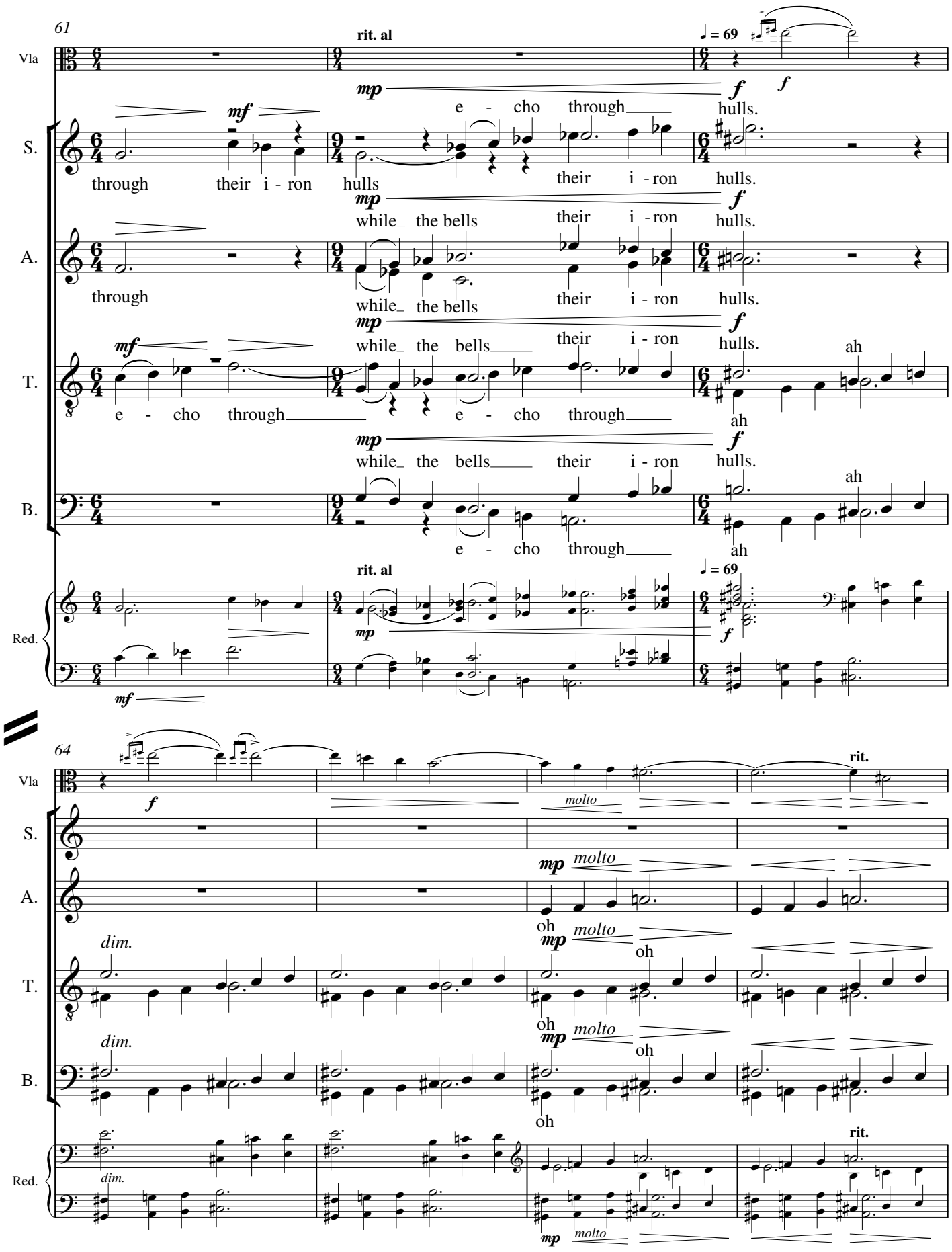

26
Vla
S.
A.
T.
B.
Red.
mf
the - dral tow - ers,
tow - ers cut
the - dral tow - ers,
tow - ers cut
the - dral tow - ers,
tow - ers cut the air, cut the
the - dral tow - ers, and the tow - ers cut
the air, cut
31
poco a poco dim.
the air,
as if there were no such thing
as change on earth
the air, cut the air, as if there were no such thing as
air, cut
the air, cut
the air,
as if there were
the
air,
as if there were

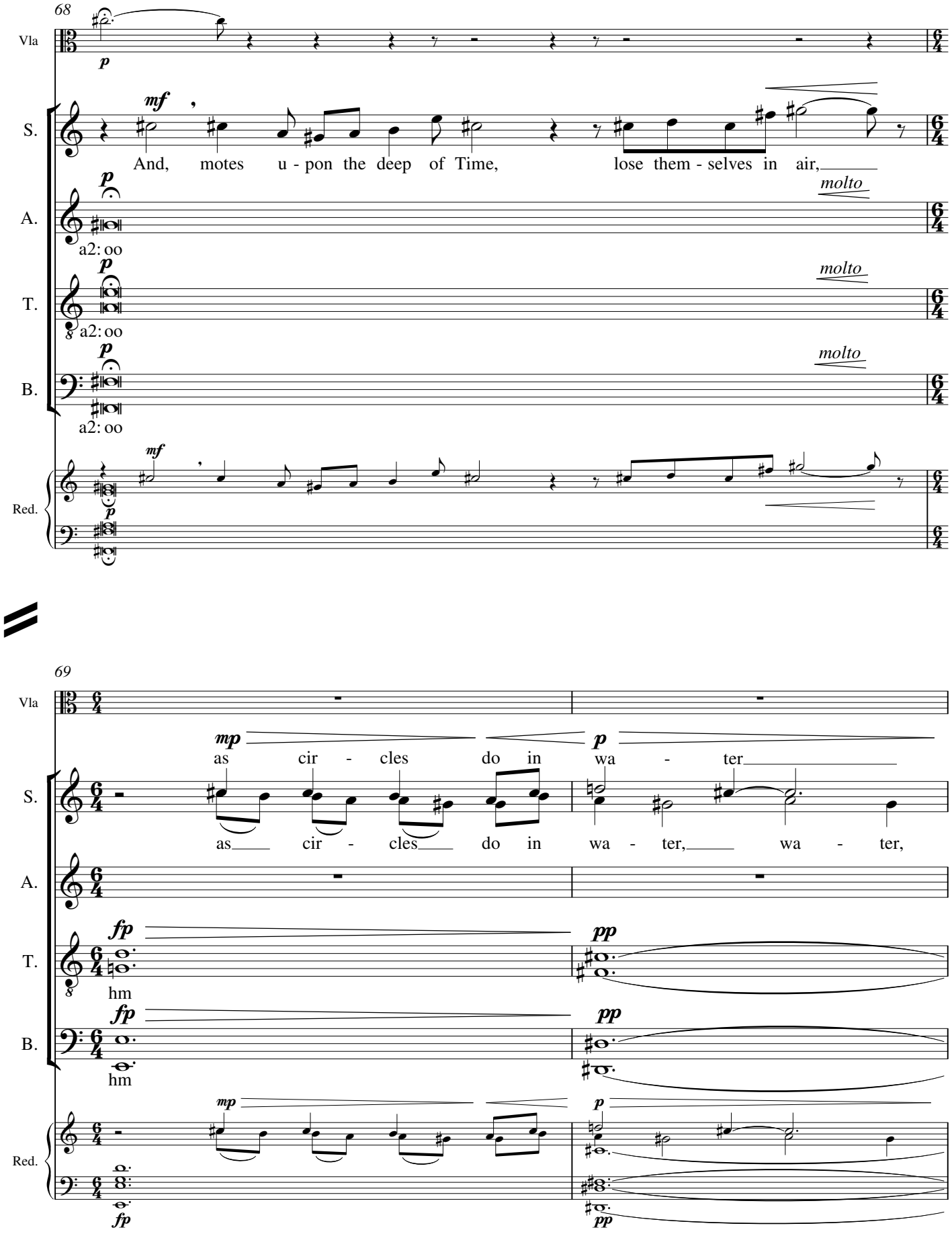

35
Vla
S.
A.
T.
B.
Red.
f
sub. p
as change on earth as change on earth.
change on earth as change on earth as change on earth.
no such thing as change on earth as change on earth.
no such thing as change on earth as change on earth as
38
f sub.
sub. p
f
change on earth.

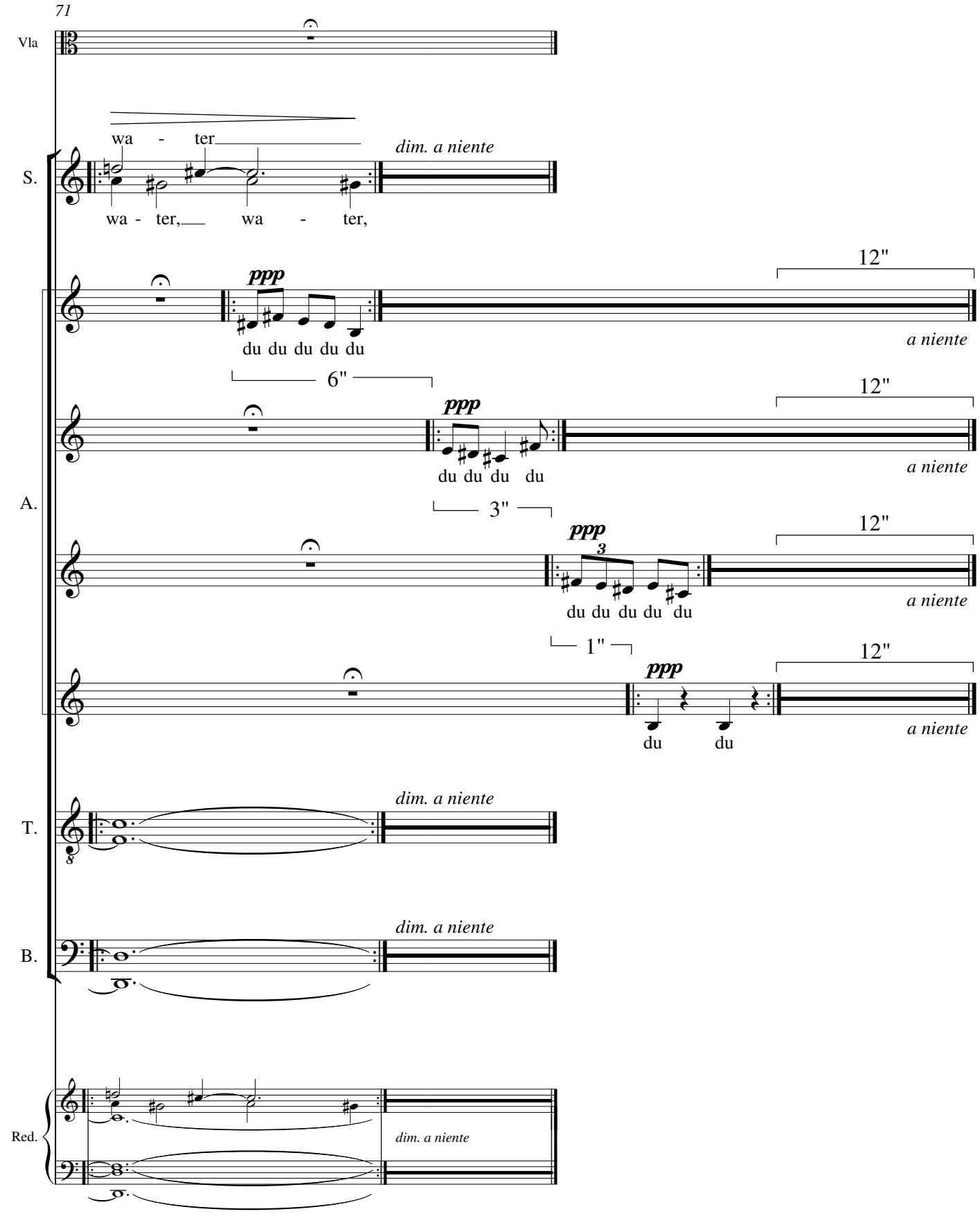

40
Vla
accel. e poco a poco più legato e dim.
S.
niente
A.
niente
T.
niente
B.
niente
Red.
41
♩. = 52
p
mf
Yet the bells when they sound tell me of
mp
Yet the bells when they sound
Yet the bells when they sound
tell me of
Yet the bells
when they sound tell me of
Yet the bells when they sound tell me of
mf
mp
mf


43
Vla
S.
change, change_ in ev' - ry - thing, and the youth of__ my
A.
change, yet the bells_____when they sound change, youth of__ my
T.
change, yet the bells when they sound change, own, old age
B.
change, change in ev' - ry thing, tell me of their own, old age
Red.
47
Vla
S.
dar - ling, and the ma - ny, still to come, who will live__ and love live__ and love
A.
dar - ling, and the ma - ny, still to come, who will love live and love live and
T.
and the ma - ny, still to come, who will love live and love live and
B.
and the ma - ny, still to come, who will live and love live__ and love
Red.


52
Vla
S.
live and love while the re - ver - be - ra - tions of the bells
A.
love live and love
T.
love live and love while the re - ver - be-
B.
live and love while the bells e - cho through
Red.
56
Vla
S.
e - cho through e - cho through e - cho
A.
while the bells e - cho through e - cho
T.
ra - tions of the bells e - cho through while the bells
B.
while the bells e - cho through while the bells
Red.


61
Vla
S.
A.
T.
B.
Red.
rit. al
♩ = 69
mf
mp
f
e - cho through
hulls.
through their i - ron hulls
their i - ron
while the bells
ah
64
molto
rit.
dim.
oh


68
Vla
S.
A.
T.
B.
Red.
mf
And, motes u - pon the deep of Time, lose them - selves in air,
molto
p
a2: oo
69
mp
as cir - cles do in wa - ter
as cir - cles do in wa - ter, wa - ter,
fp
pp
hm


71
Vla
S.
wa - ter
dim. a niente
wa - ter, wa - ter,
A.
ppp
du du du du du
12"
a niente
6"
ppp
du du du du
12"
a niente
3"
ppp
3
du du du du du
12"
a niente
1"
ppp
du du
12"
a niente
T.
dim. a niente
B.
dim. a niente
Red.
dim. a niente