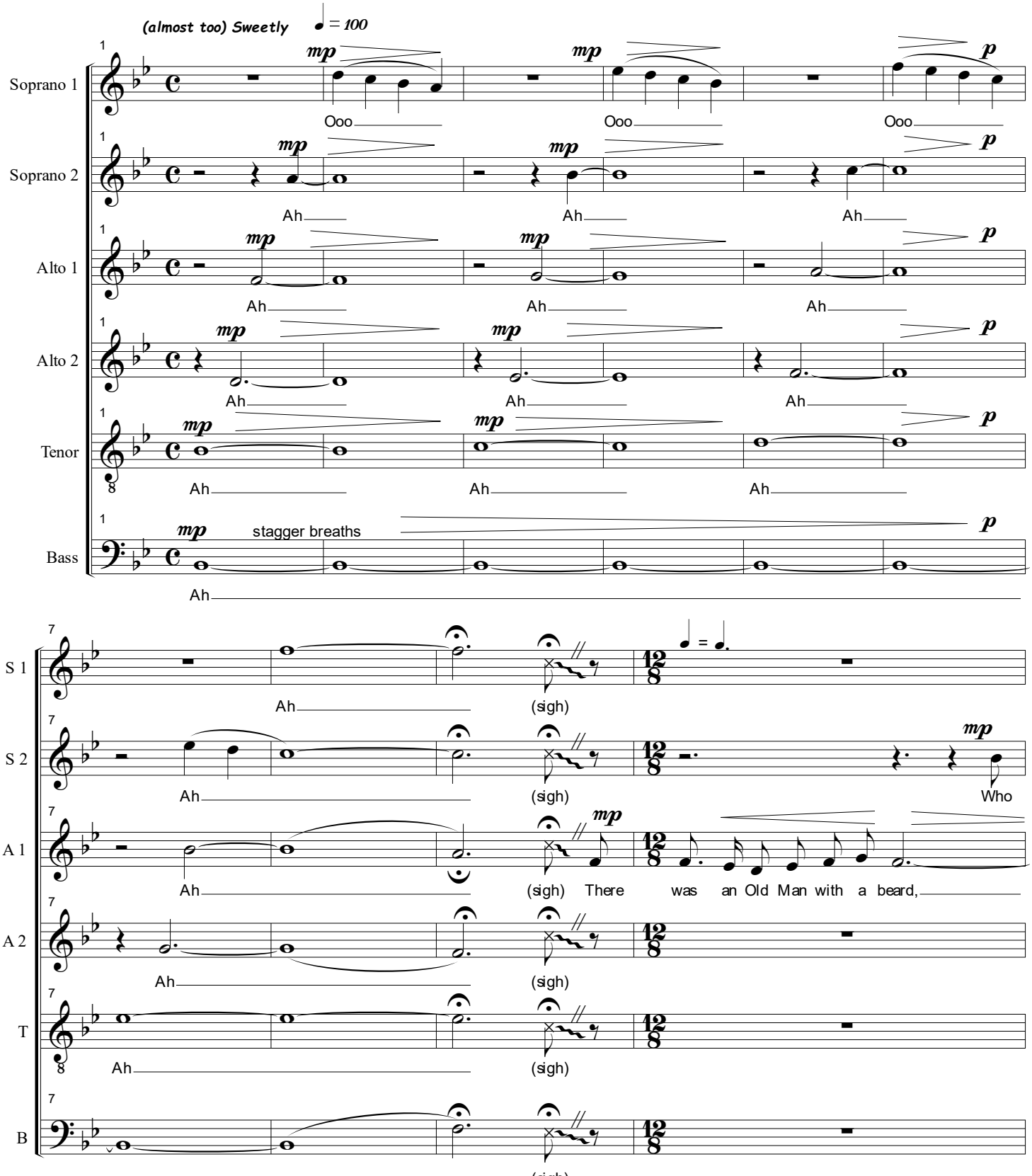
An Old Man

(SSAATB version)

Edward Lear (1812-1888)

Cheryl Lynn Helm



Note: This is a whimsical son. Much fun should be had in the first two onomotopaeic sections (mm. 14-19 and mm. 29-34). Measures 19 and 34 may be repeated ad nauseum; individual singers may alter their own tempos and/or pitches—if desired—for a cacaphonous, disorderly effect. HOWEVER: the last such section (mm. 52-57) should be sung as written, without improvisation. The sounds made in the onomotopaeic measures are imitations of chickens, owls (and other birds), bees buzzing, and finally soft la-las as one would use to soothe a baby (thank you Joh. Brahms).

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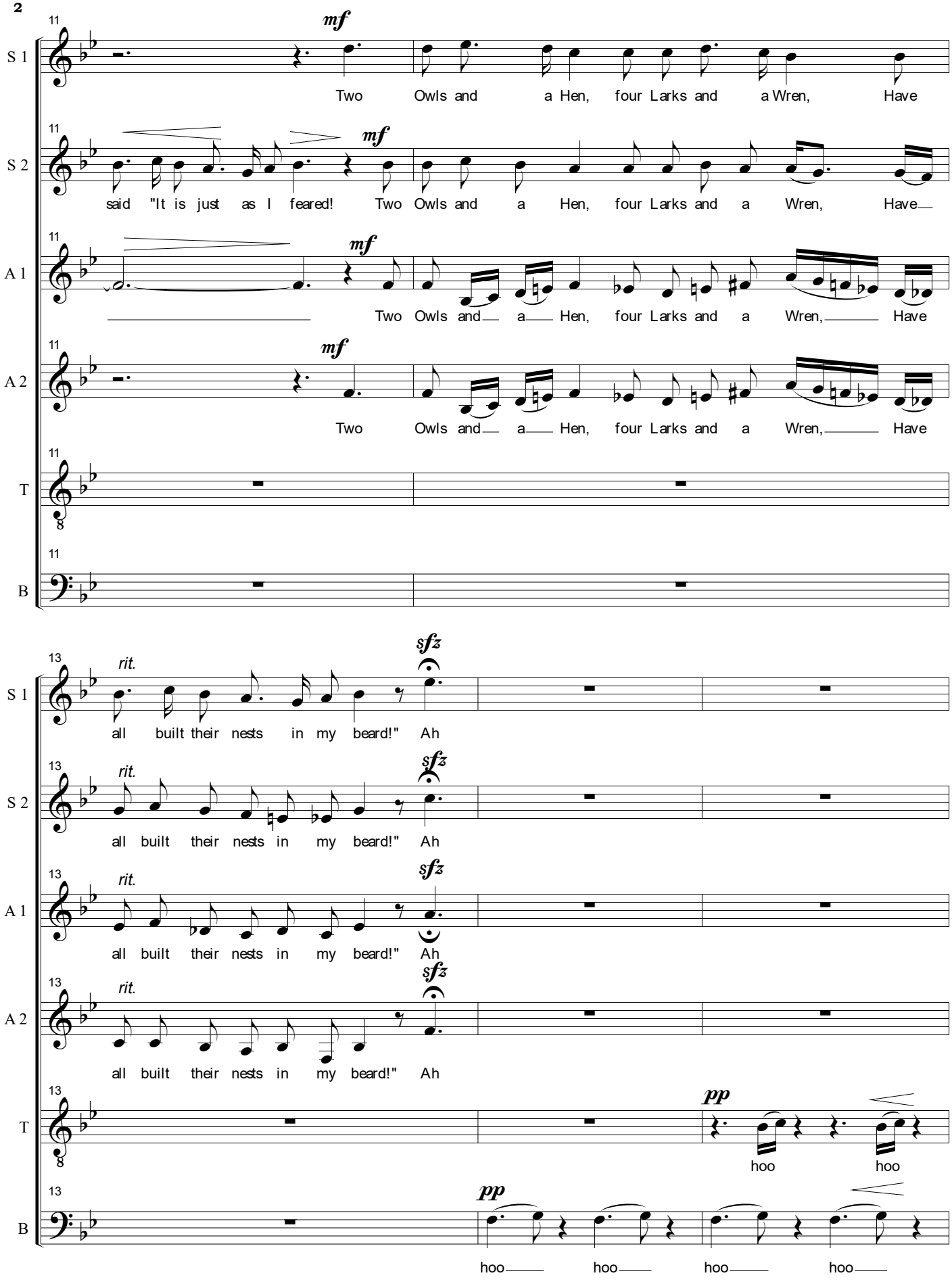
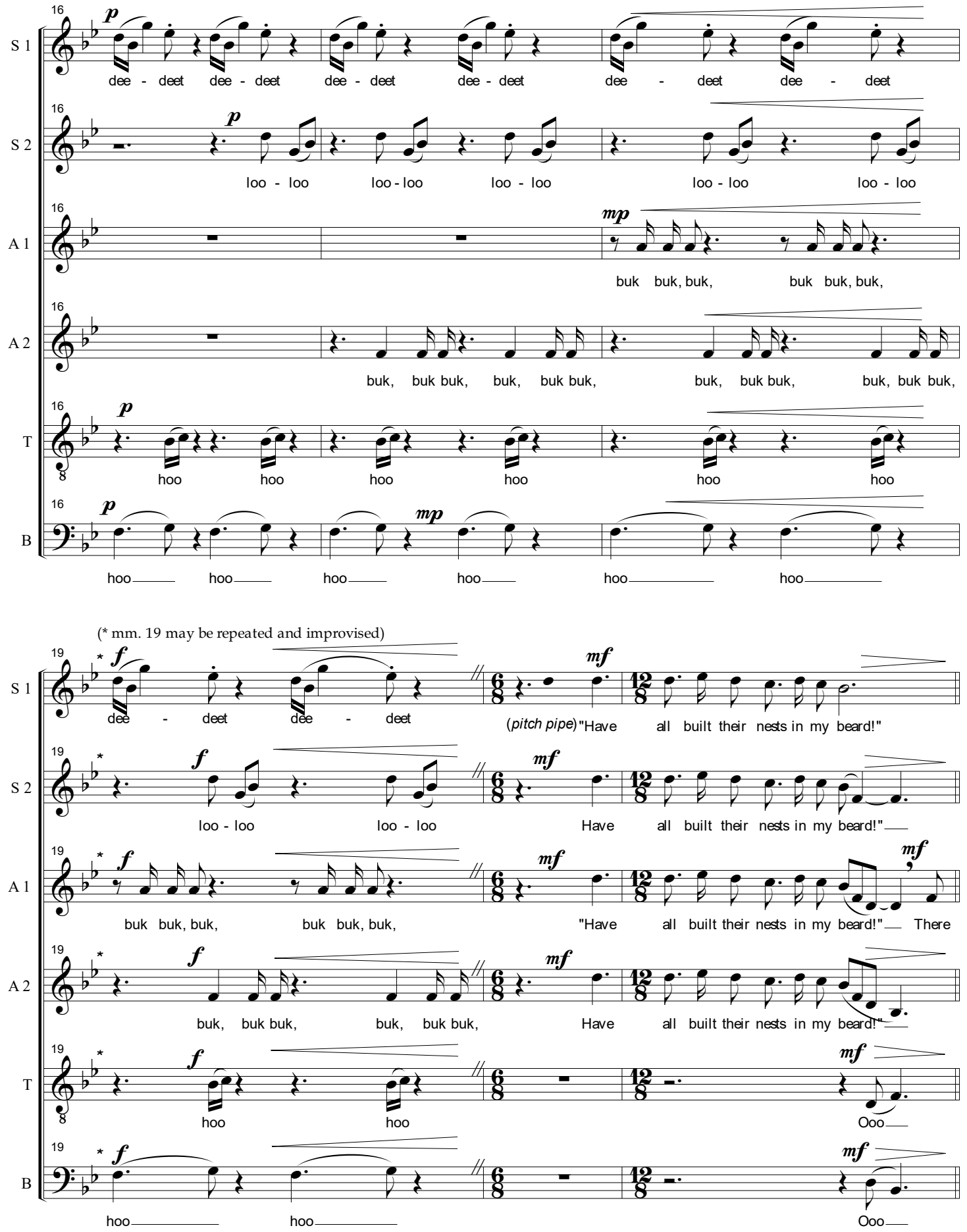
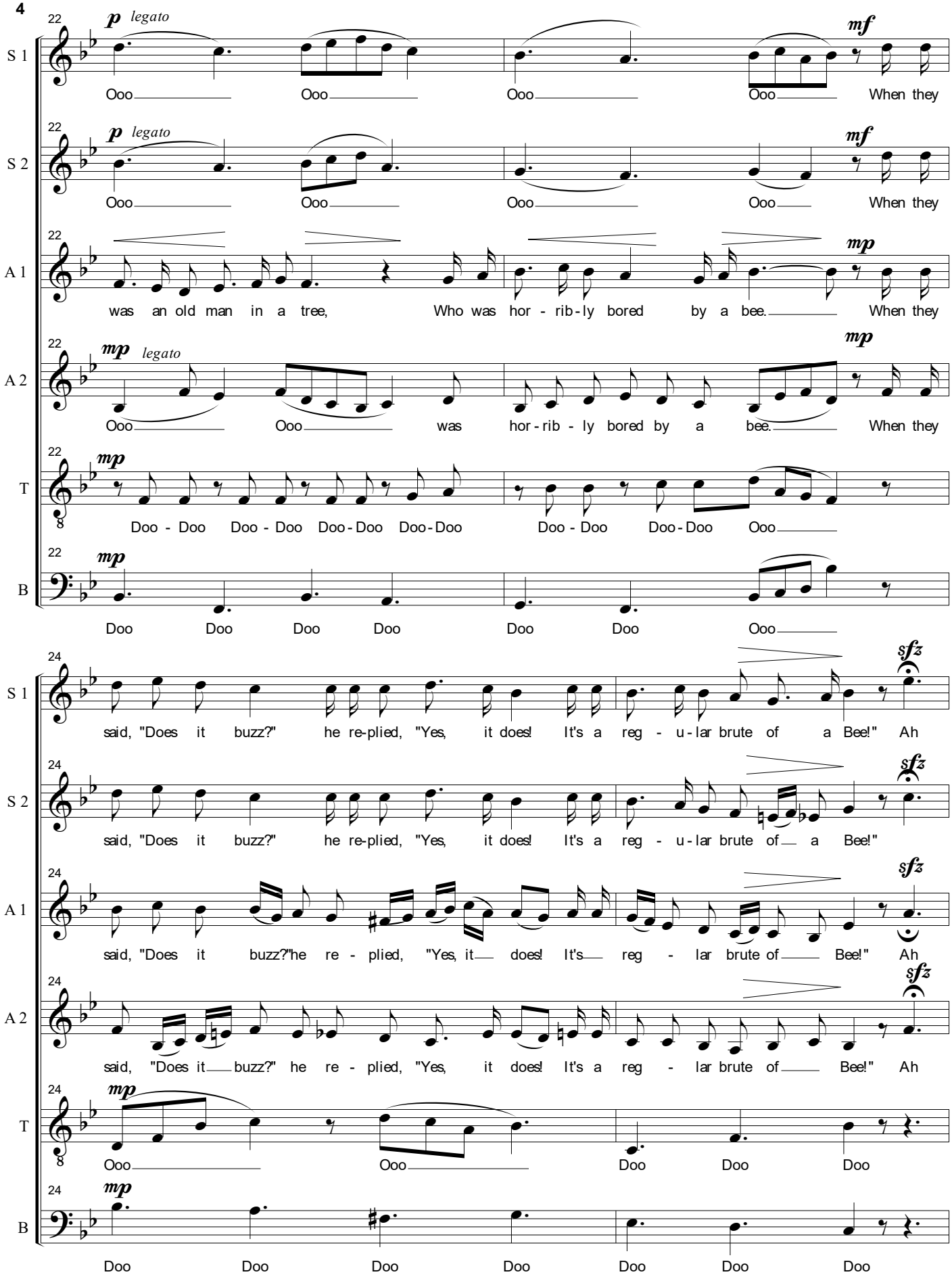
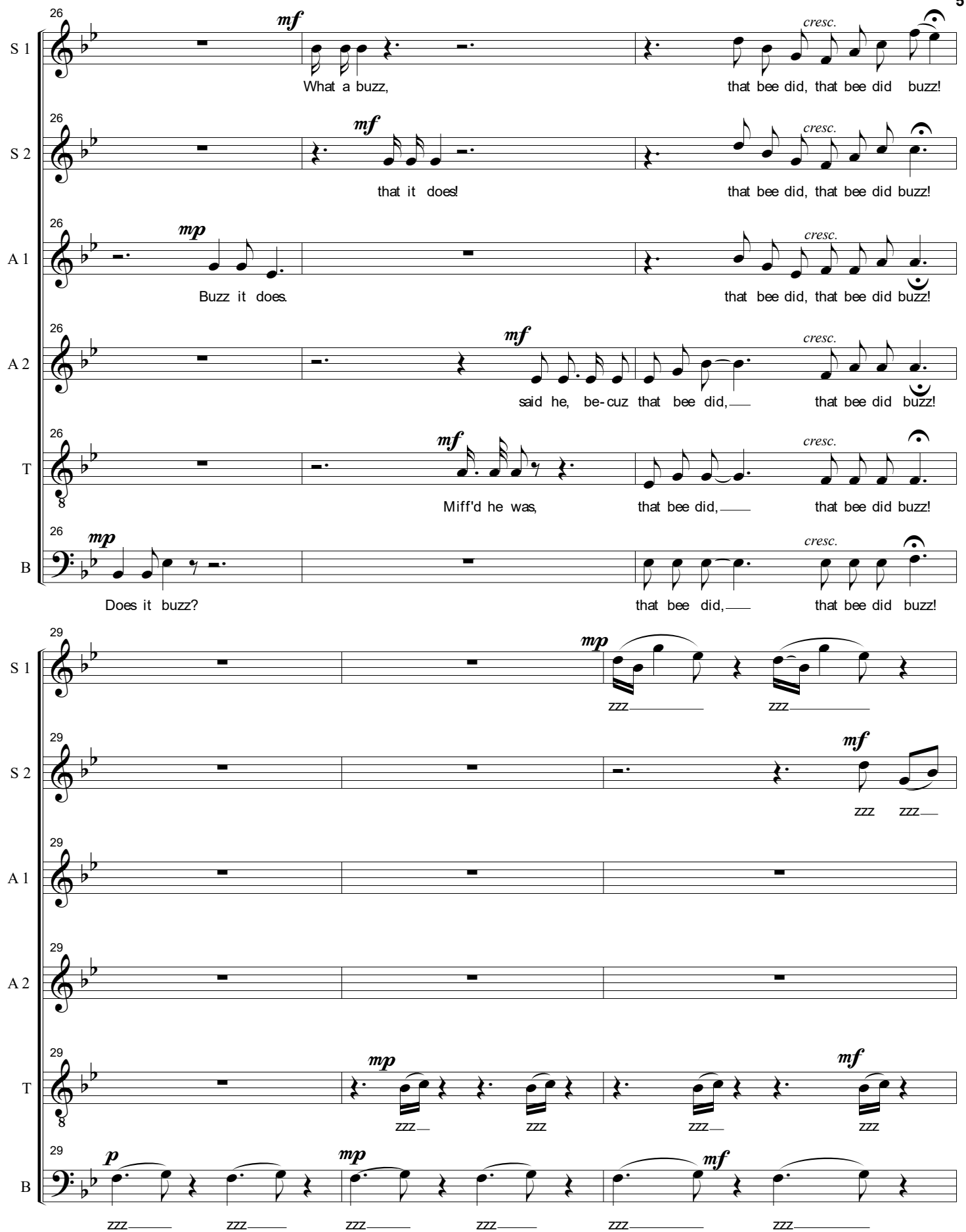
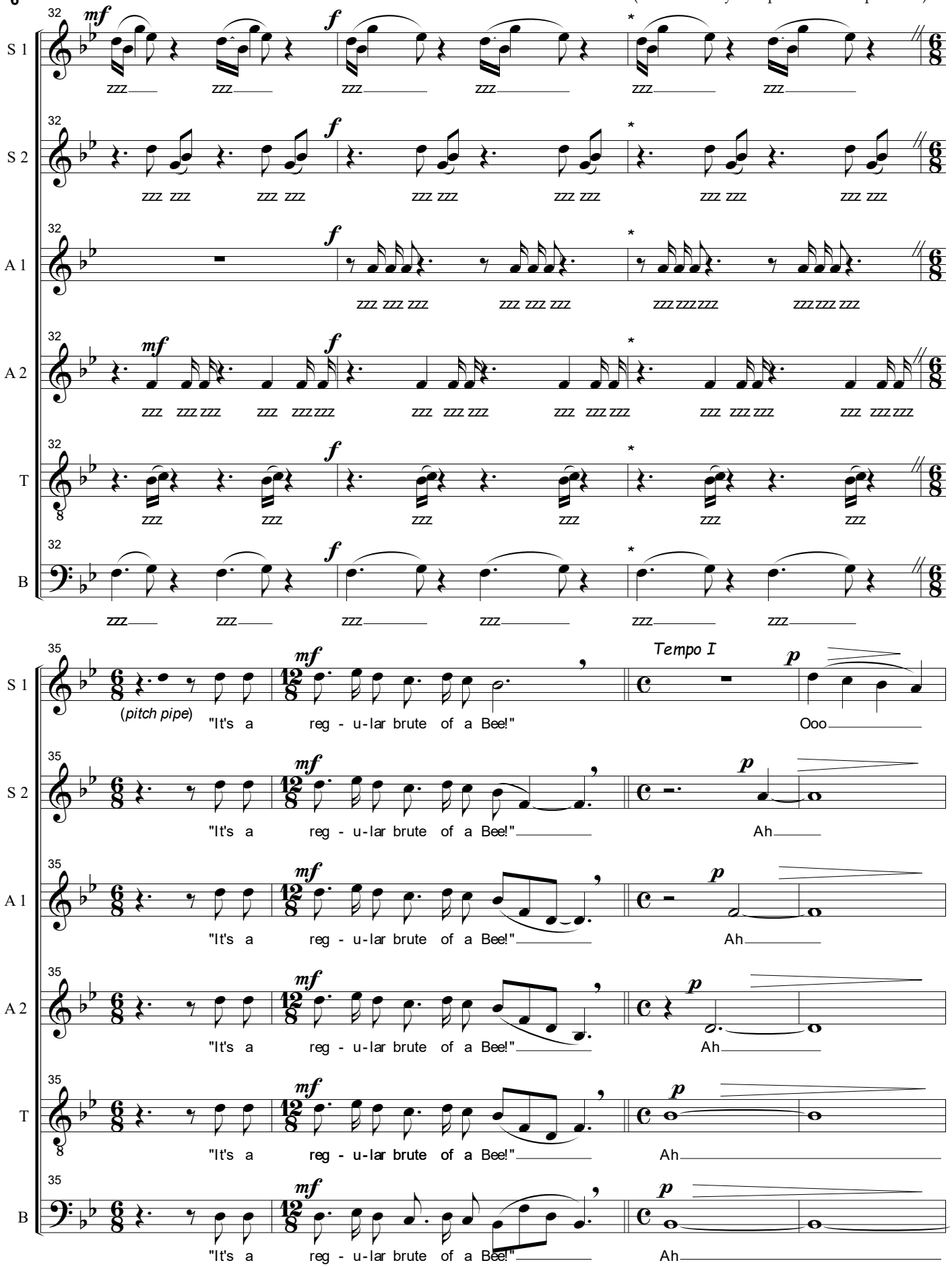

11
mf
S 1
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have
S 2
said "It is just as I feared! Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have
A 1
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have
A 2
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have
T
B
13
rit.
sfz
all built their nests in my beard!" Ah
pp
hoo hoo
hoo hoo hoo hoo

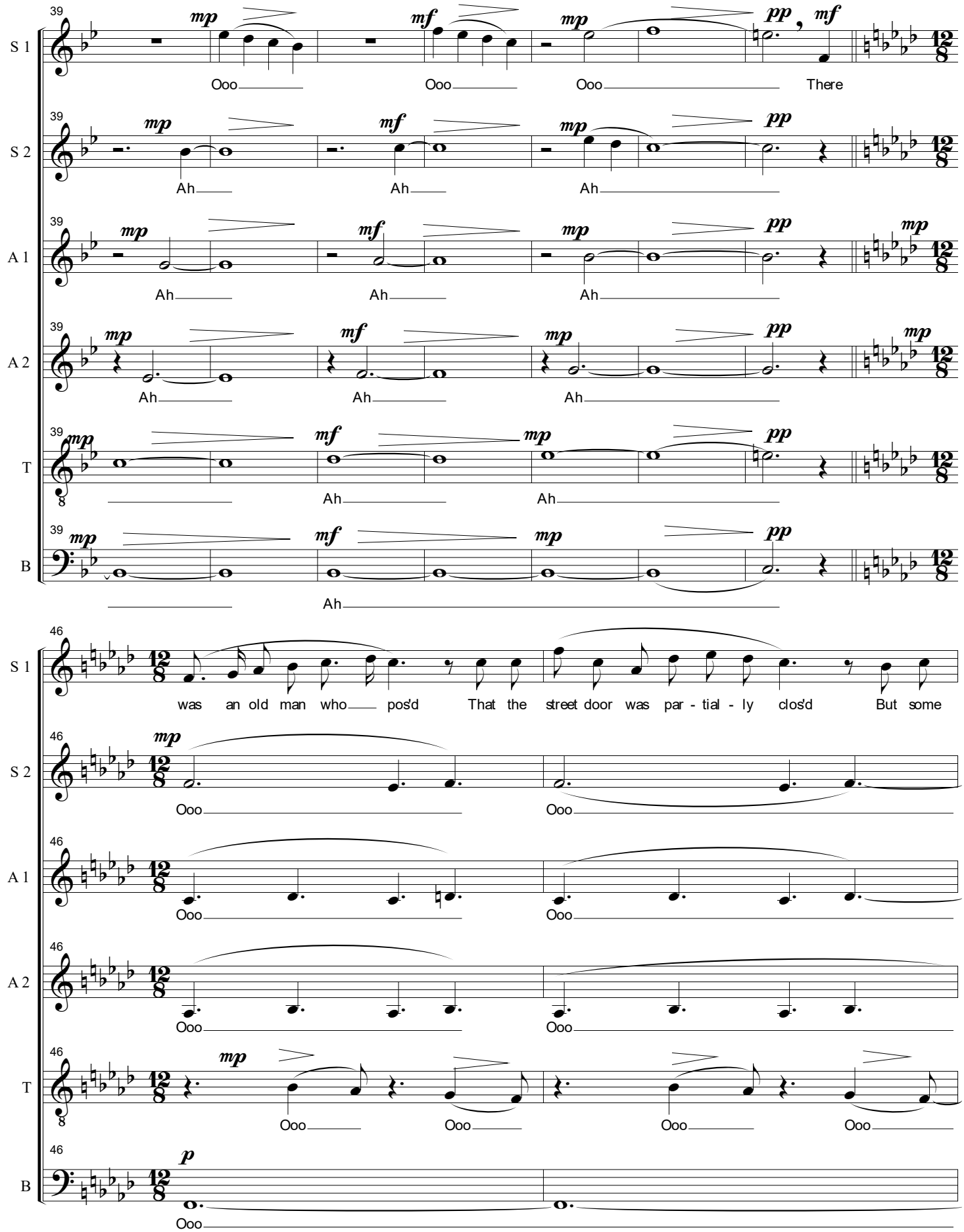

16
S 1
dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet
S 2
loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo
A 1
buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk,
A 2
buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk,
T
hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo
B
hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo
(* mm. 19 may be repeated and improvised)
19
dee - deet dee - deet
(pitch pipe) "Have all built their nests in my beard!"
loo - loo loo - loo Have all built their nests in my beard!"
buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk, "Have all built their nests in my beard!" There
buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk, Have all built their nests in my beard!"
hoo hoo Ooo
hoo hoo Ooo

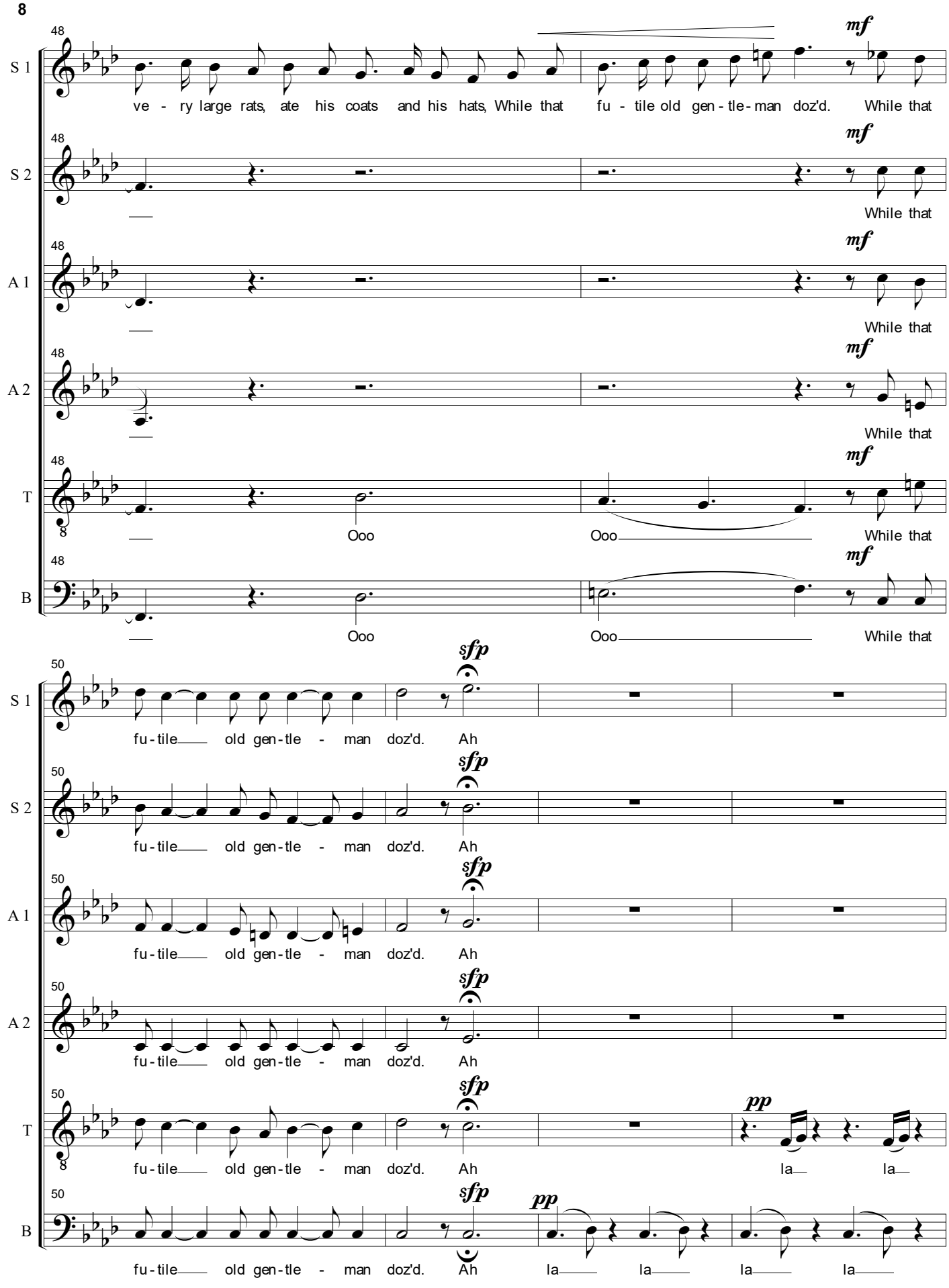

22
p legato
mf
S 1
Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo When they
S 2
Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo When they
A 1
mp
was an old man in a tree, Who was hor - rib-ly bored by a bee. When they
A 2
mp legato
Ooo Ooo was hor-rib - ly bored by a bee. When they
T
Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo-Doo Doo-Doo Doo - Doo Doo-Doo Ooo
B
Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Ooo
24
sfz
said, "Does it buzz?" he re-plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Bee!" Ah
said, "Does it buzz?" he re-plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Bee!"
said, "Does it buzz?"he re - plied, "Yes, it does! It's reg - lar brute of Bee!" Ah
said, "Does it buzz?" he re - plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - lar brute of Bee!" Ah
Ooo Ooo Doo Doo Doo
Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo

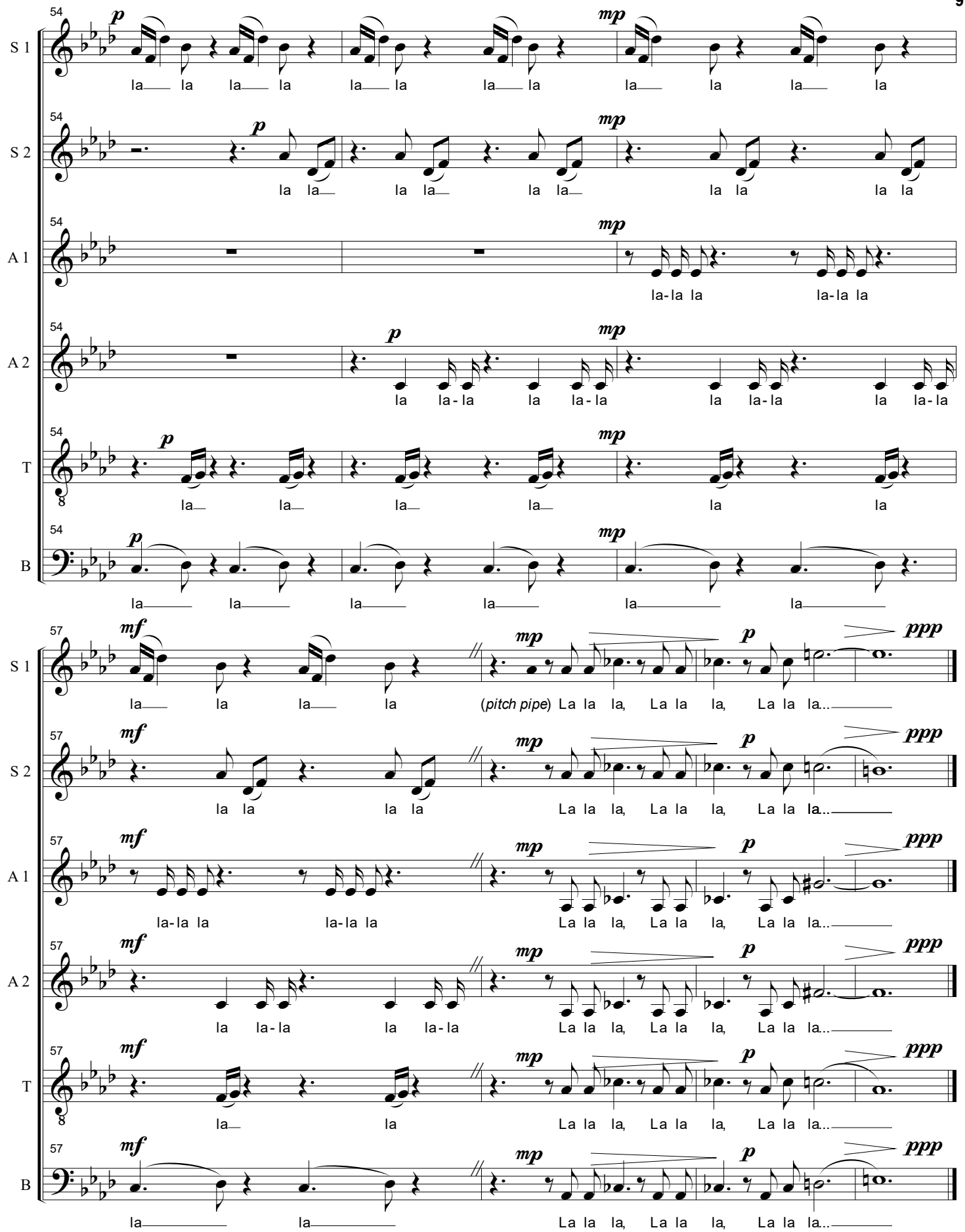

26
S 1
mf
What a buzz,
cresc.
that bee did, that bee did buzz!
S 2
mf
that it does!
cresc.
that bee did, that bee did buzz!
A 1
mp
Buzz it does.
cresc.
that bee did, that bee did buzz!
A 2
mf
said he, be-cuz that bee did,
cresc.
that bee did buzz!
T
mf
Miff'd he was,
that bee did,
cresc.
that bee did buzz!
B
mp
Does it buzz?
that bee did,
cresc.
that bee did buzz!
29
S 1
mp
zzz
zzz
S 2
mf
zzz
zzz
A 1
A 2
T
mp
zzz
zzz
zzz
mf
zzz
B
p
zzz
zzz
mp
zzz
zzz
mf
zzz
zzz

(* mm. 34 may be repeated and improvised)




39
S 1
mp
mf
mp
pp
mf
Ooo
Ooo
Ooo
There
S 2
Ah
Ah
Ah
A 1
Ah
Ah
Ah
A 2
Ah
Ah
Ah
T
Ah
Ah
B
Ah
46
was an old man who pos'd That the street door was par - tial - ly clos'd But some
Ooo
Ooo
p


48
S 1
ve - ry large rats, ate his coats and his hats, While that fu - tile old gen - tle - man doz'd. While that
mf
48
S 2
While that
mf
48
A 1
While that
mf
48
A 2
While that
mf
48
T
Ooo
Ooo
While that
mf
48
B
Ooo
Ooo
While that
mf
50
S 1
fu - tile old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah
sfp
50
S 2
fu - tile old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah
sfp
50
A 1
fu - tile old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah
sfp
50
A 2
fu - tile old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah
sfp
50
T
fu - tile old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah
sfp
pp
la la
50
B
fu - tile old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah
sfp
pp
la la la la


S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T
B
54
p
mp
la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la
la-la la la-la la
la la-la la la-la la la la-la la
la la la la la la
57
mf
mp
p
ppp
la la la la (pitch pipe) La la la, La la la, La la la...
la la la la La la la, La la la, La la la...
la-la la la-la la La la la, La la la, La la la...
la la-la la la-la la La la la, La la la, La la la...
la la La la la, La la la, La la la...
la la La la la, La la la, La la la...