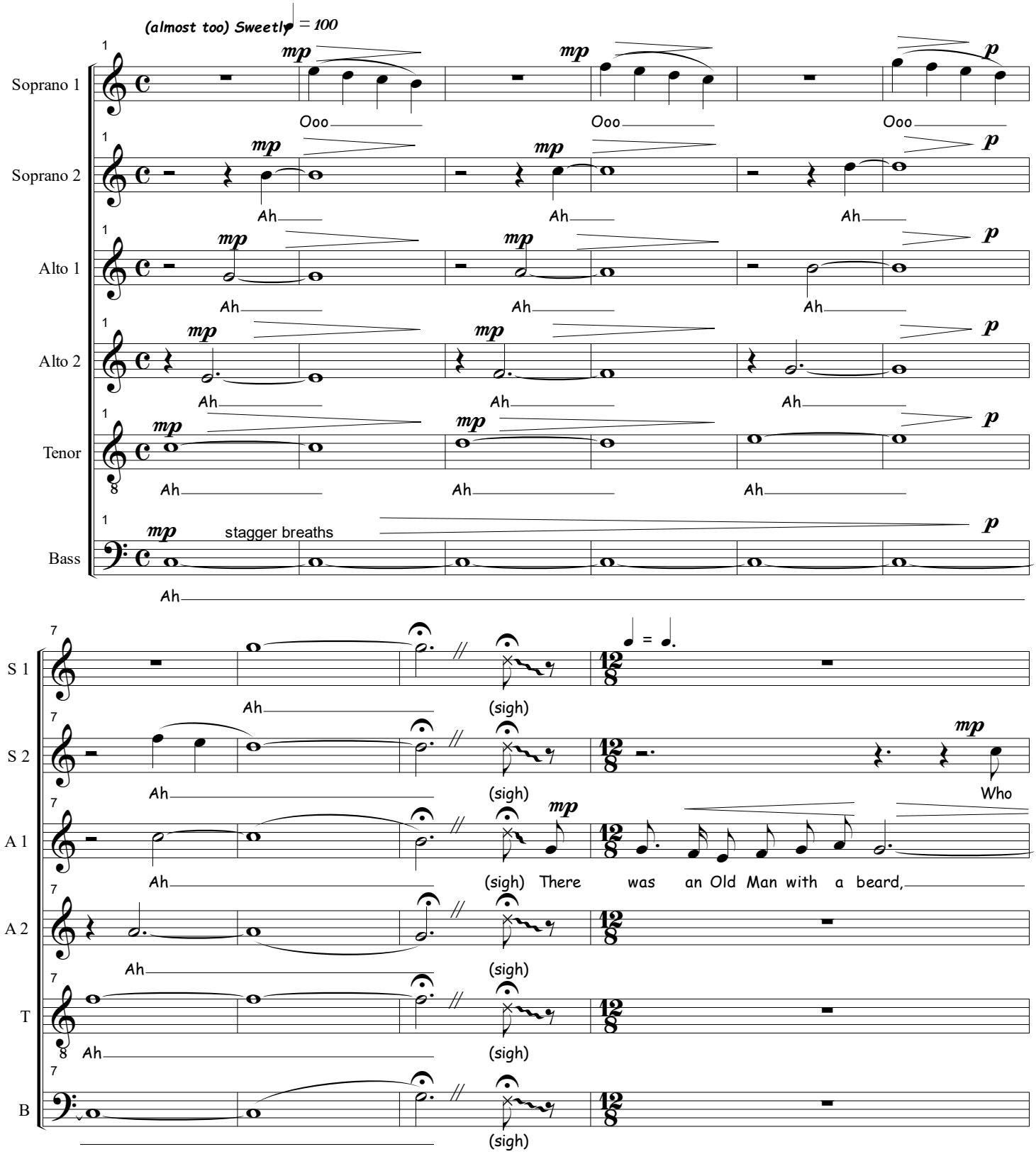
An Old Man

(SSAATB version)

Edward Lear (1812-1888)

Cheryl Lynn Helm



Note: This is a whimsical song. 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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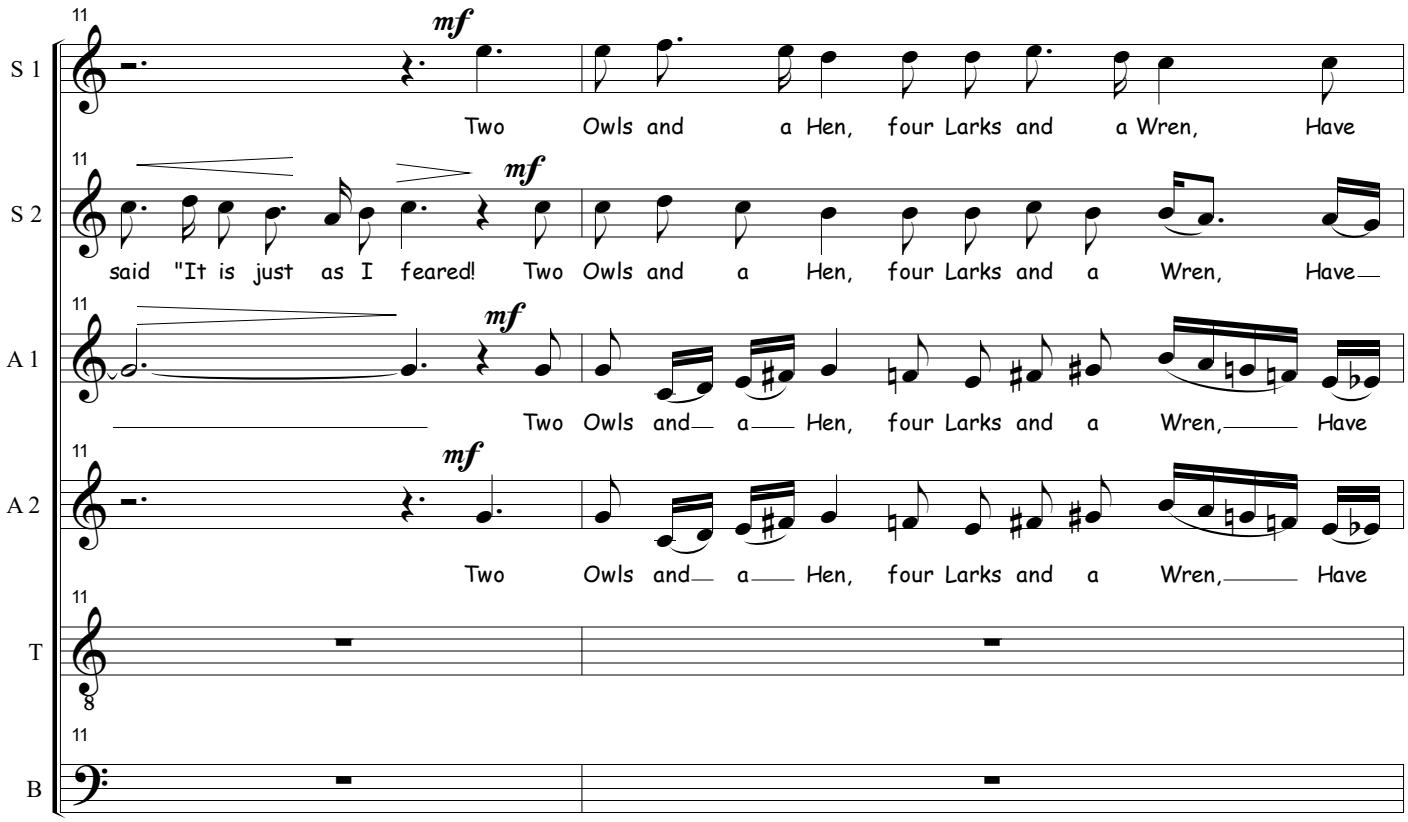
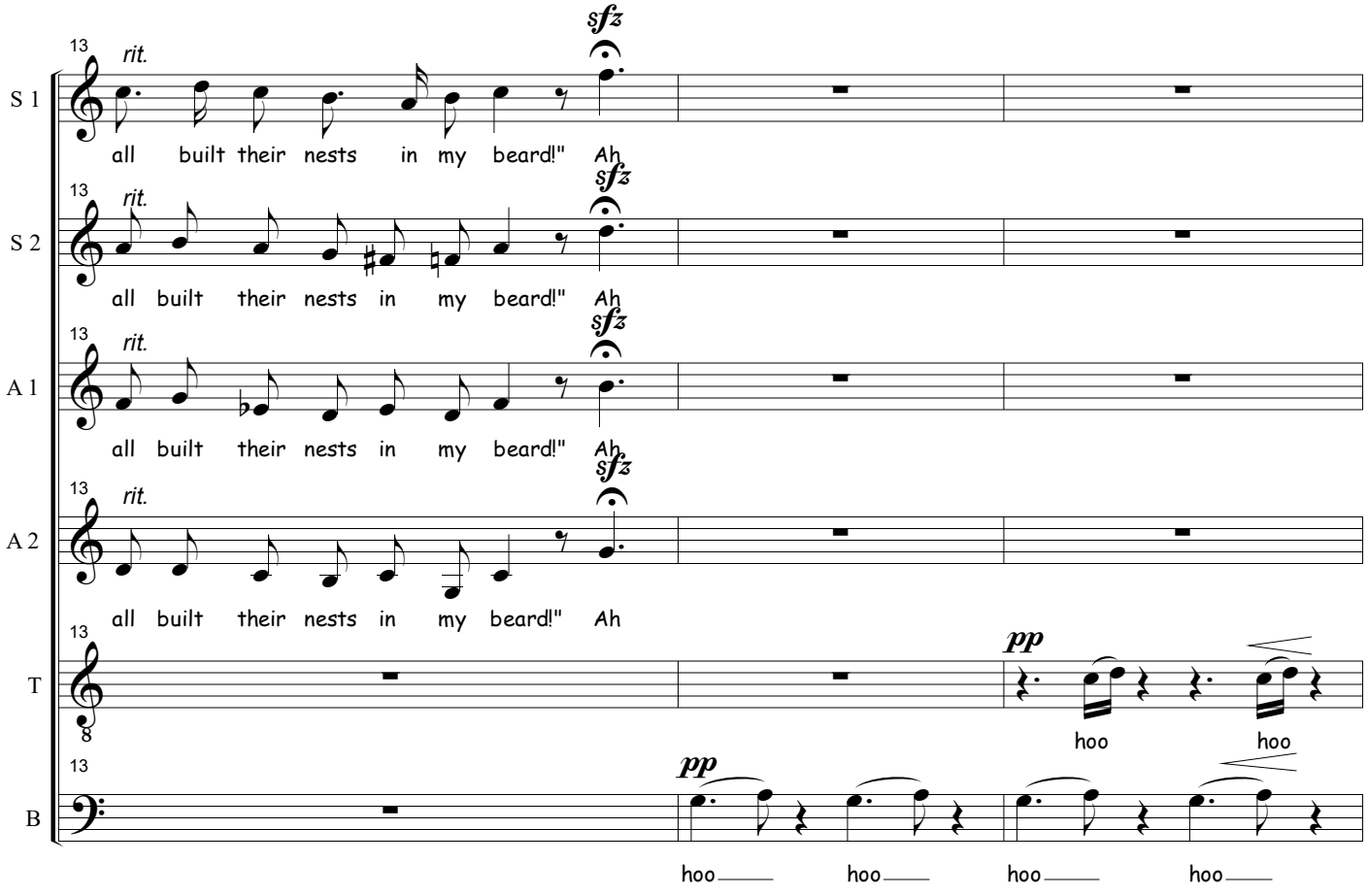
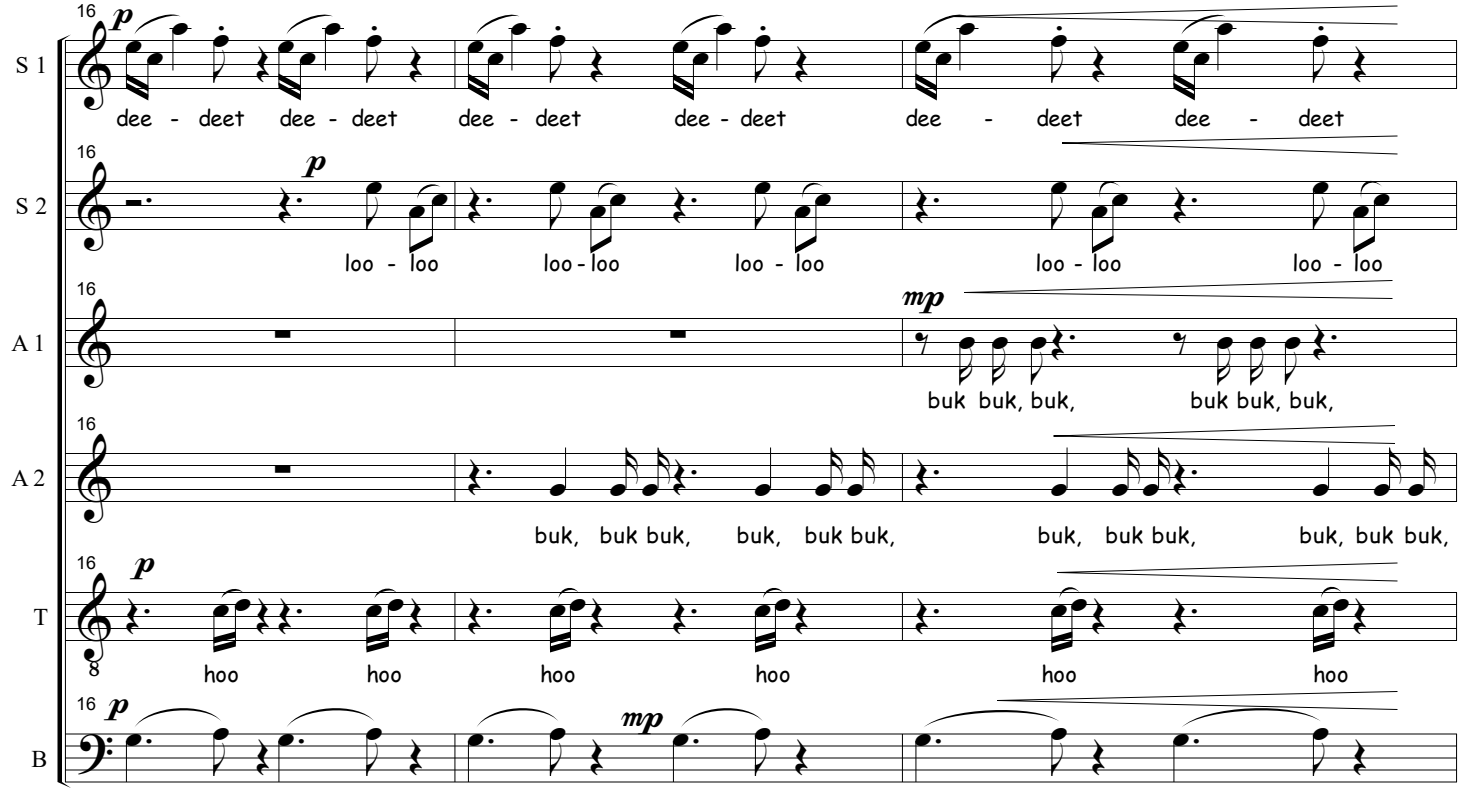
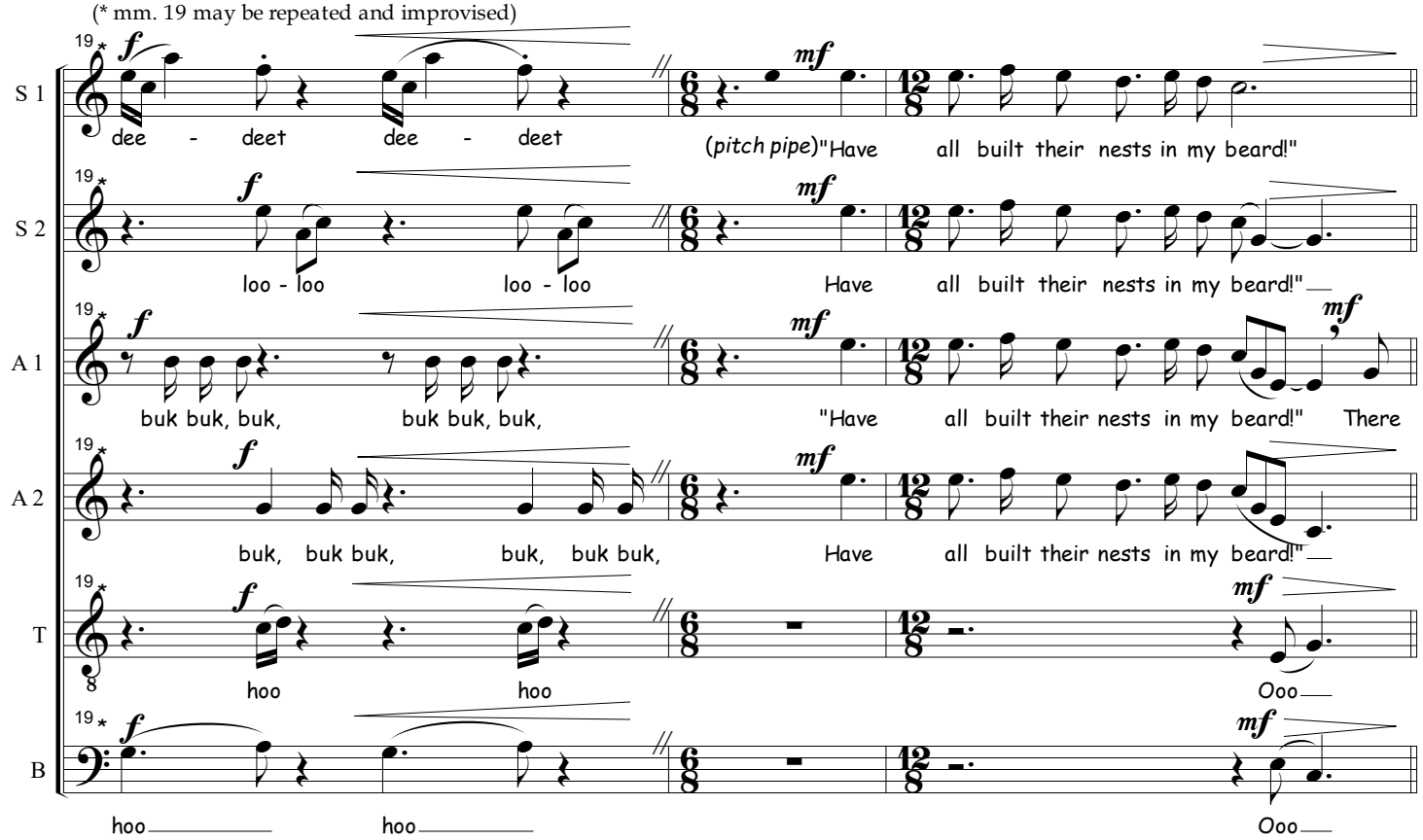
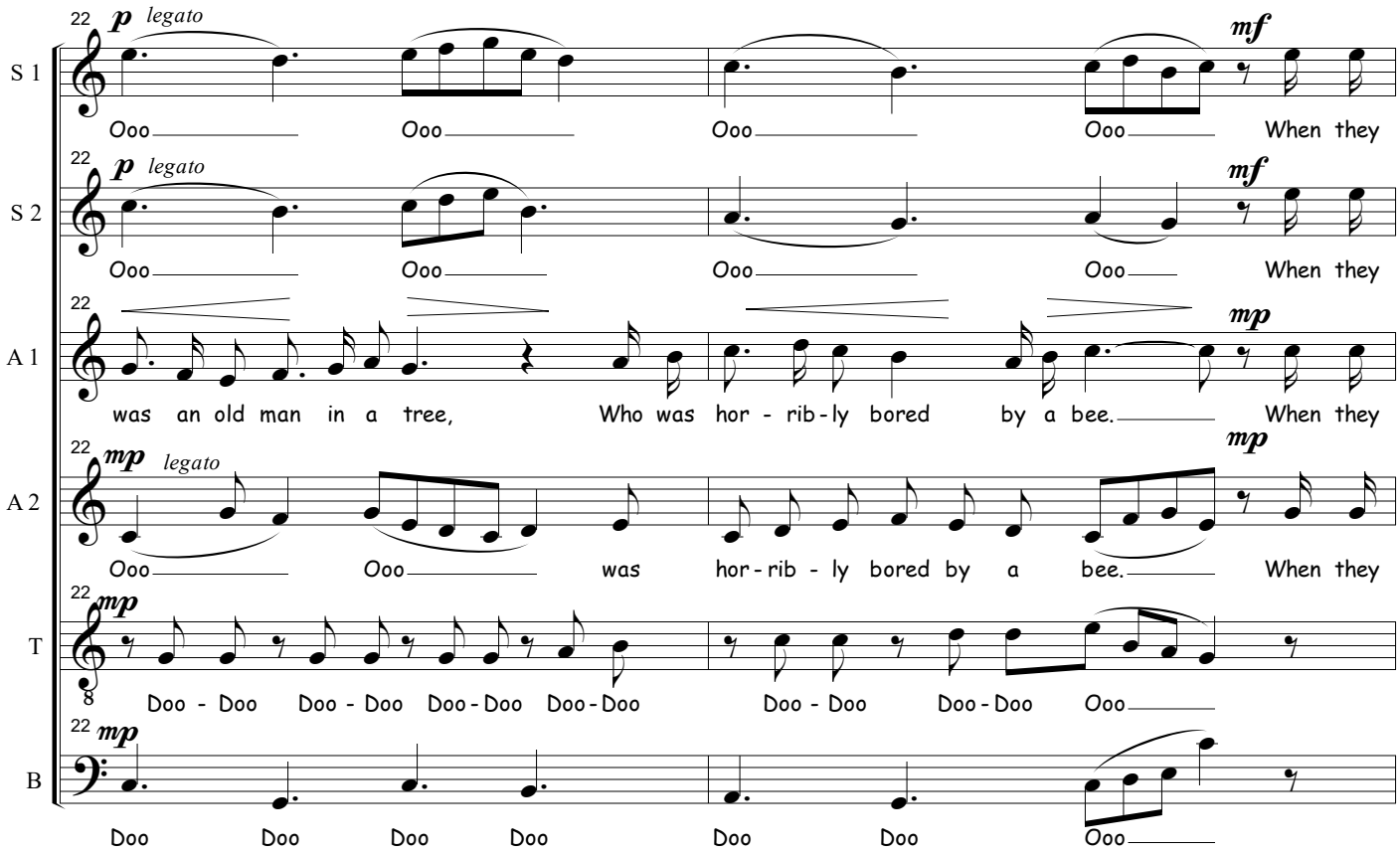

11
S 1
mf
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have
S 2
mf
said "It is just as I feared! Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have
A 1
mf
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have
A 2
mf
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have
T
B

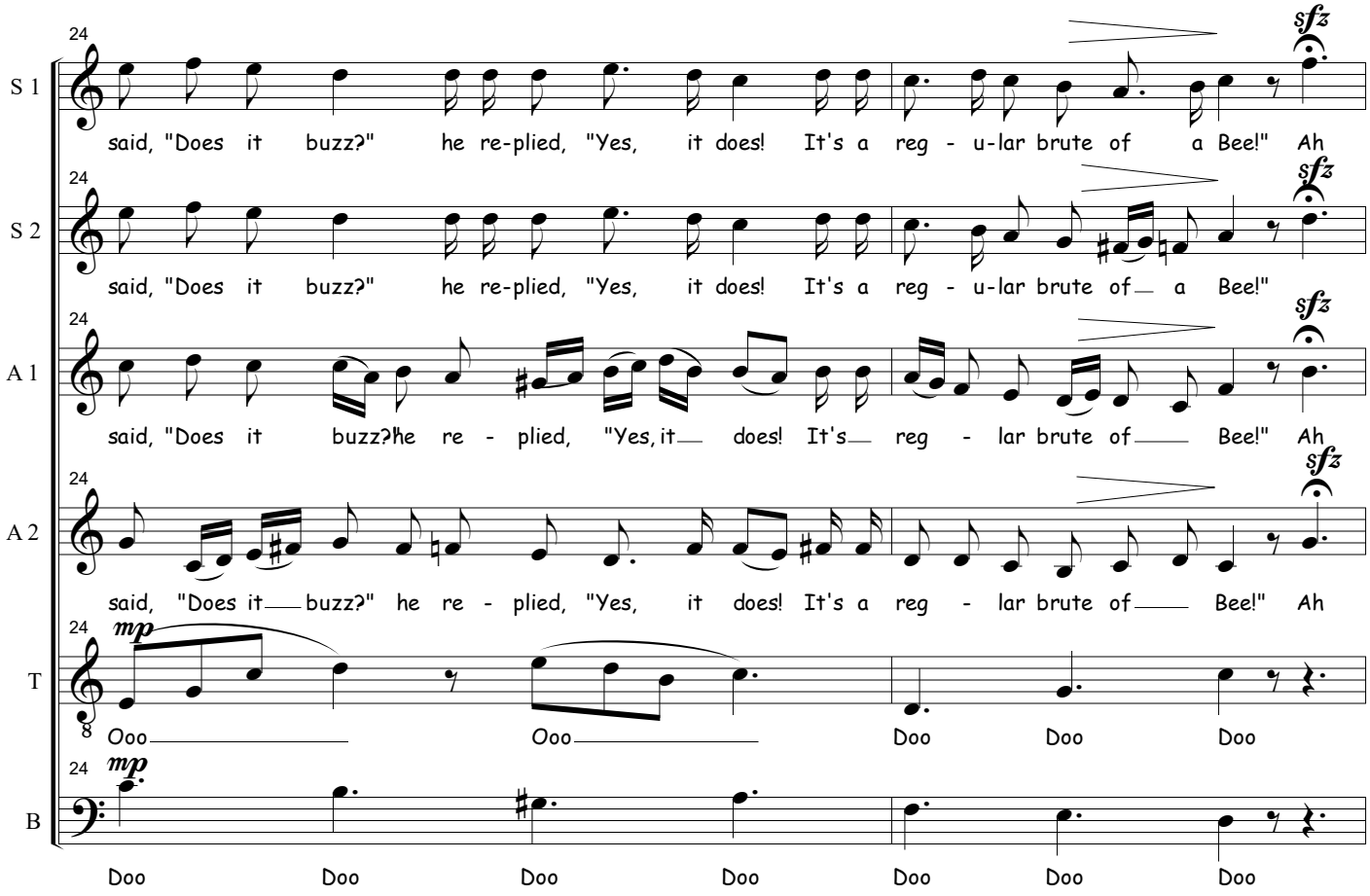

13
rit.
sfz
all built their nests in my beard!" Ah
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T
pp
hoo hoo
B
hoo hoo hoo hoo

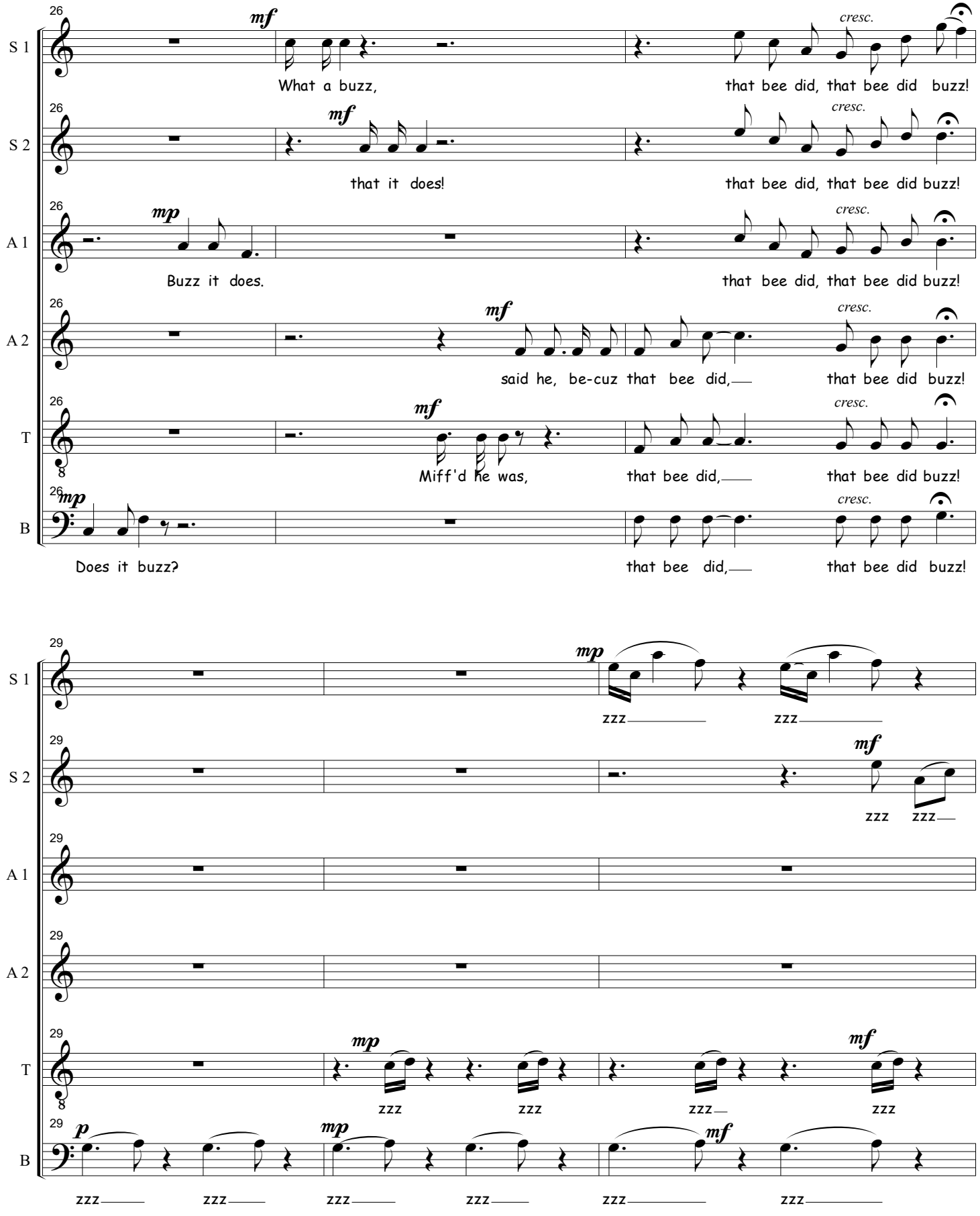


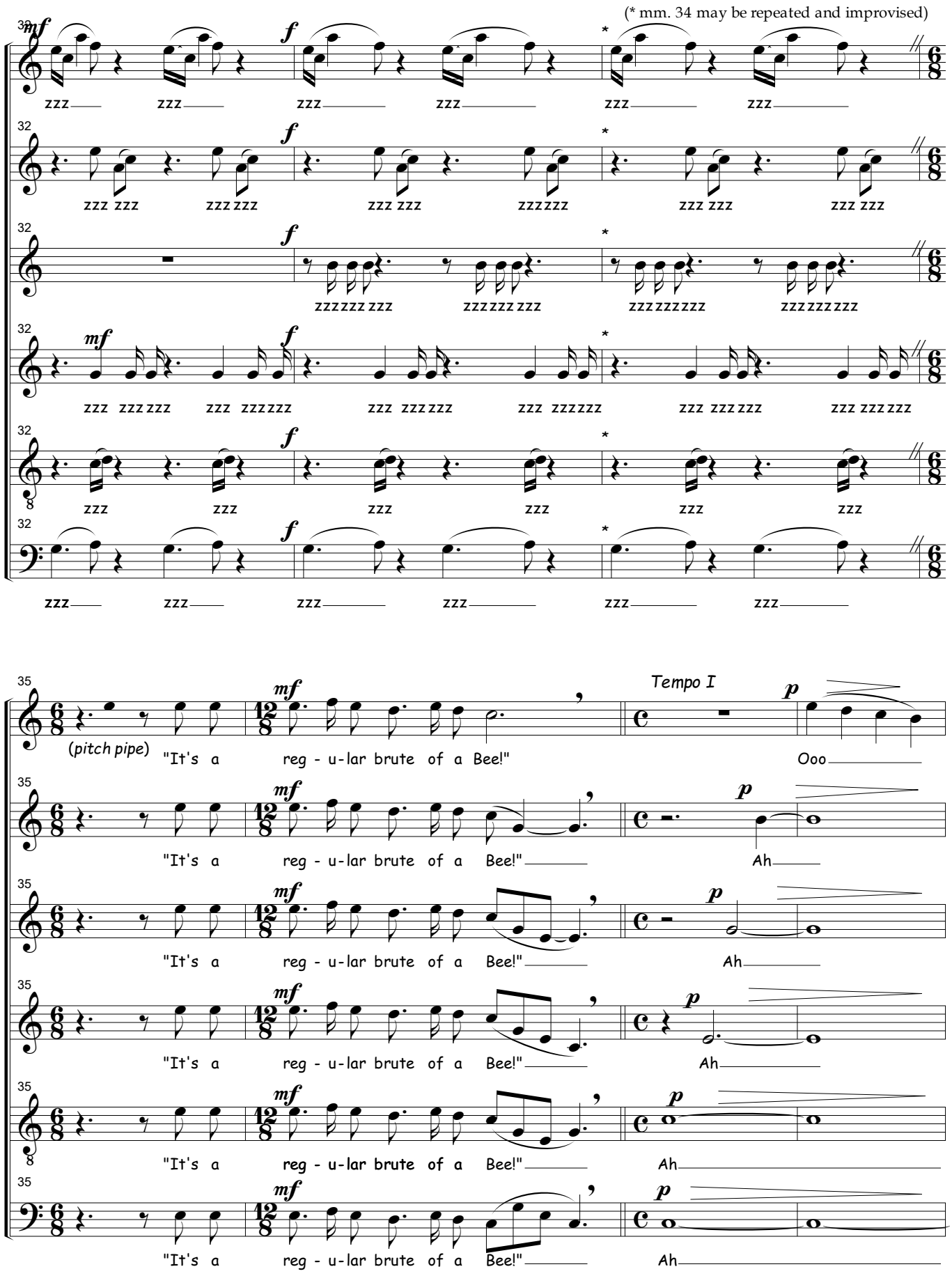
(* mm. 19 may be repeated and improvised)

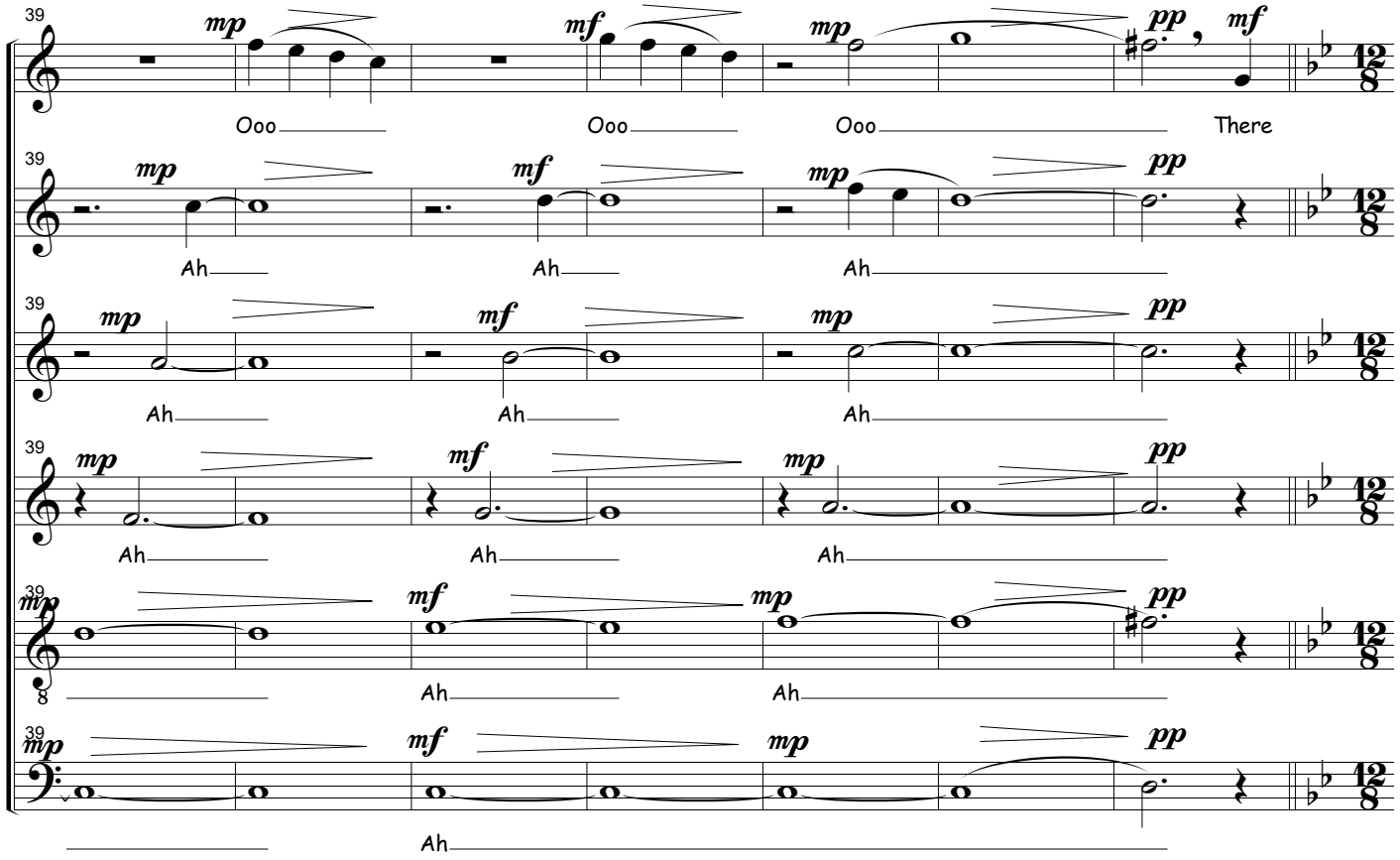


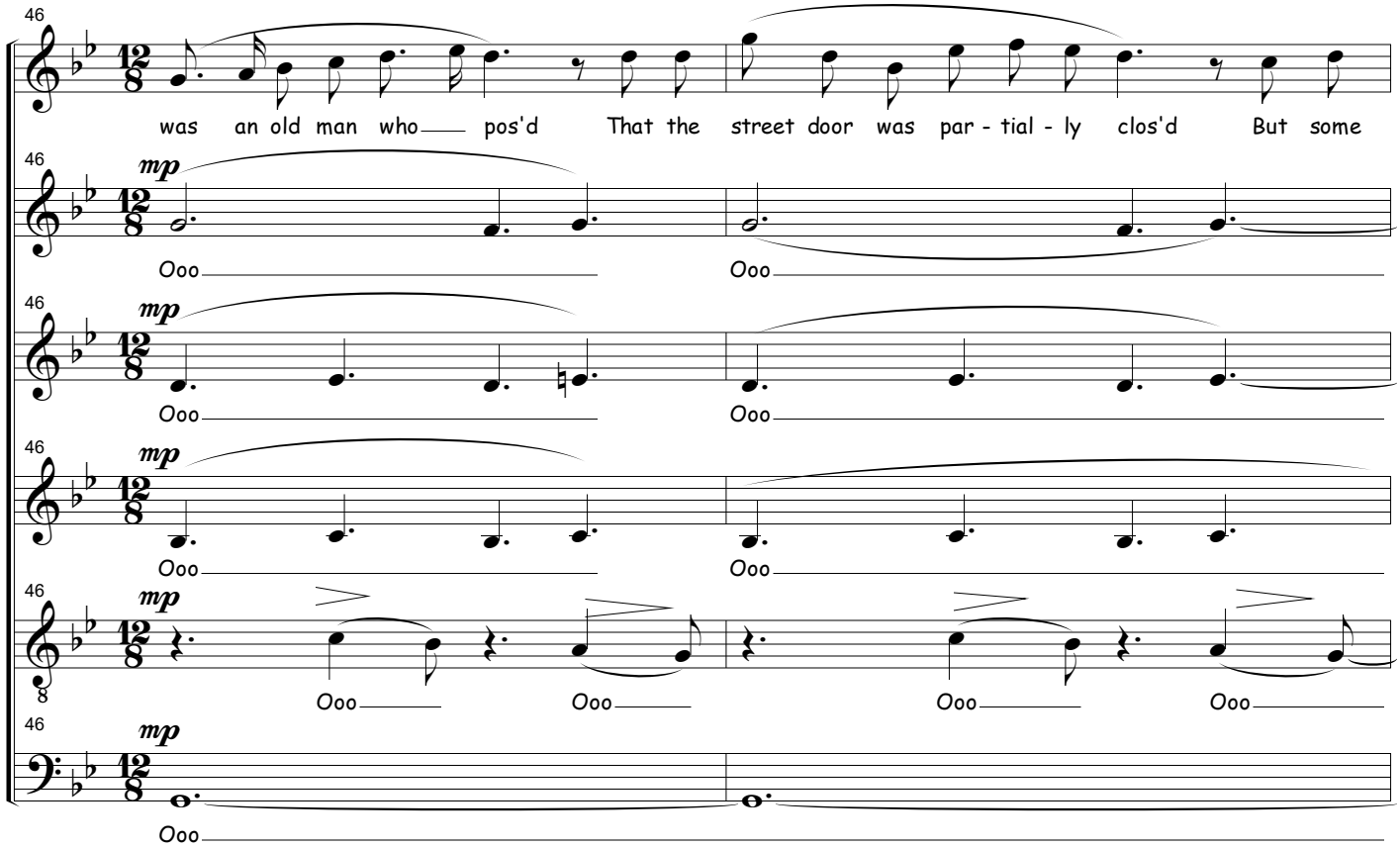

22
p legato
mf
S 1
Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo When they
S 2
Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo When they
A 1
mp
was an old man in a tree, Who was hor - rib - ly bored by a bee. When they
A 2
mp legato
mp
Ooo Ooo was hor - rib - ly bored by a bee. When they
T
mp
Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Ooo
B
mp
Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Ooo

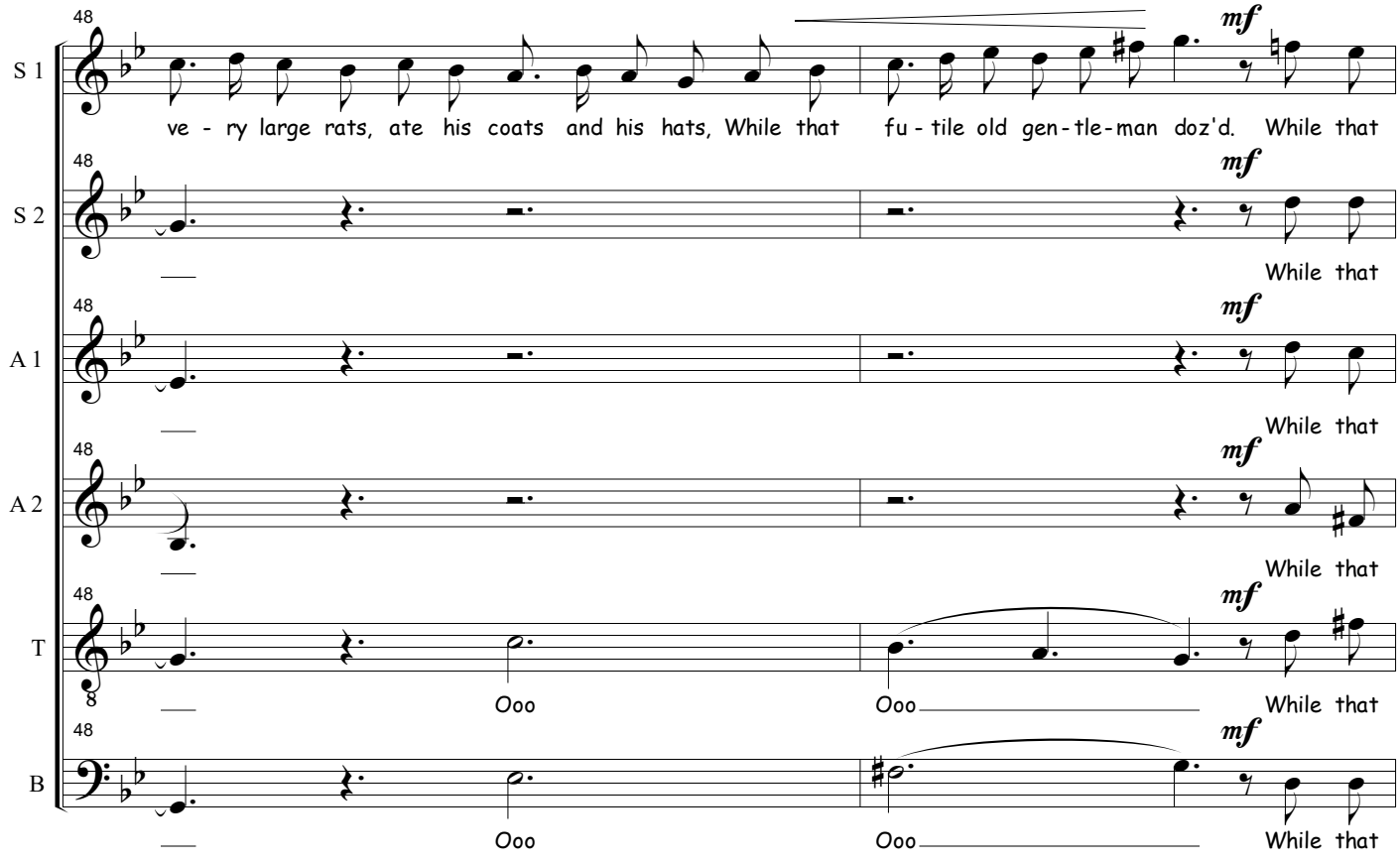

24
sfz
S 1
said, "Does it buzz?" he re-plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Bee!" Ah
S 2
said, "Does it buzz?" he re-plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Bee!"
A 1
said, "Does it buzz? he re - plied, "Yes, it does! It's reg - lar brute of Bee!" Ah
A 2
said, "Does it buzz?" he re - plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - lar brute of Bee!" Ah
T
mp
Ooo Ooo Doo Doo Doo
B
mp
Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo

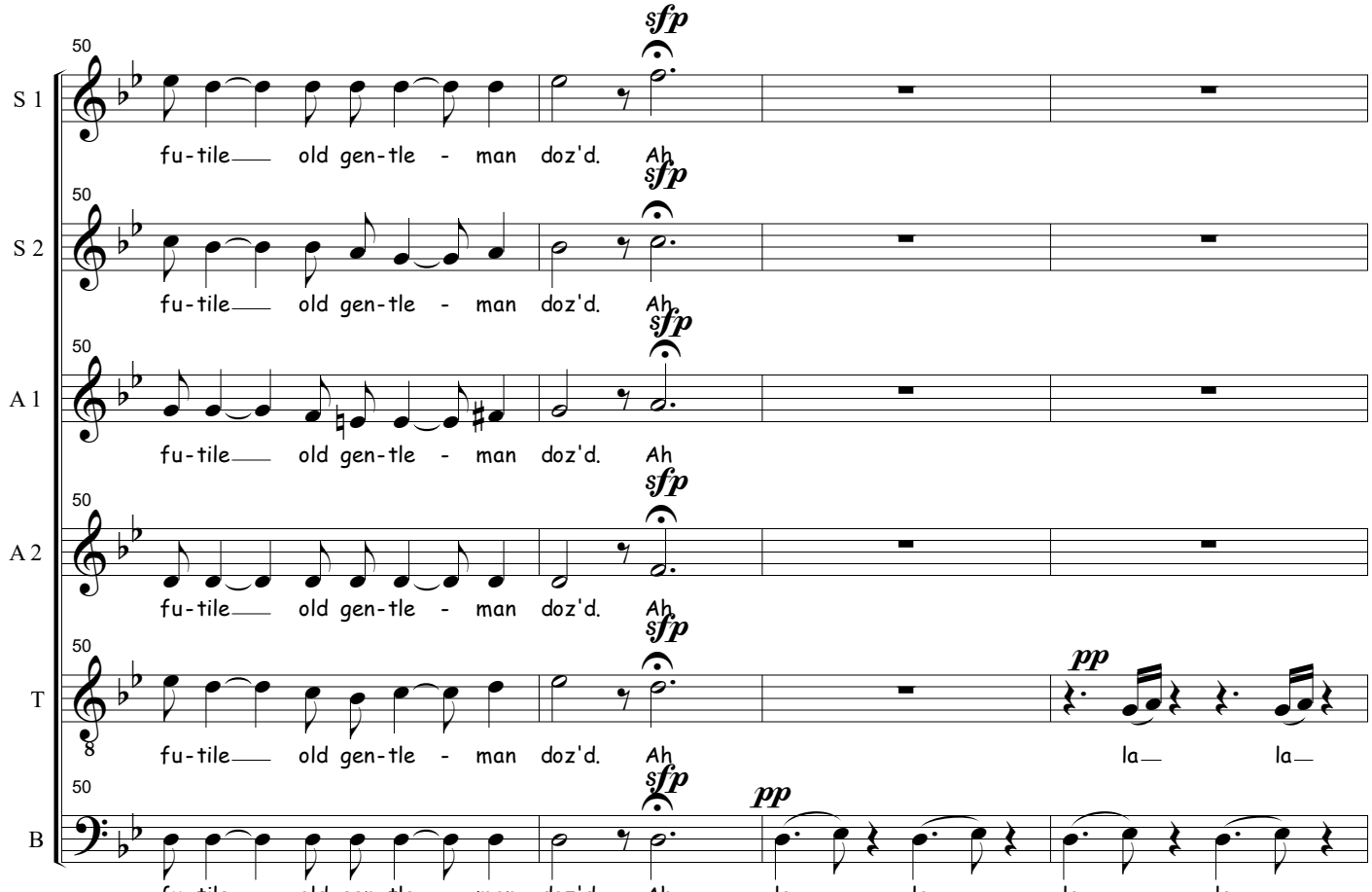

26
S 1
mf
What a buzz,
cresc.
that bee did, that bee did buzz!
S 2
mf
that it does!
cresc.
that bee did, that bee did buzz!
A 1
mp
Buzz it does.
cresc.
that bee did, that bee did buzz!
A 2
mf
said he, be-cuz that bee did,
cresc.
that bee did buzz!
T
mf
Miff'd he was,
that bee did,
cresc.
that bee did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

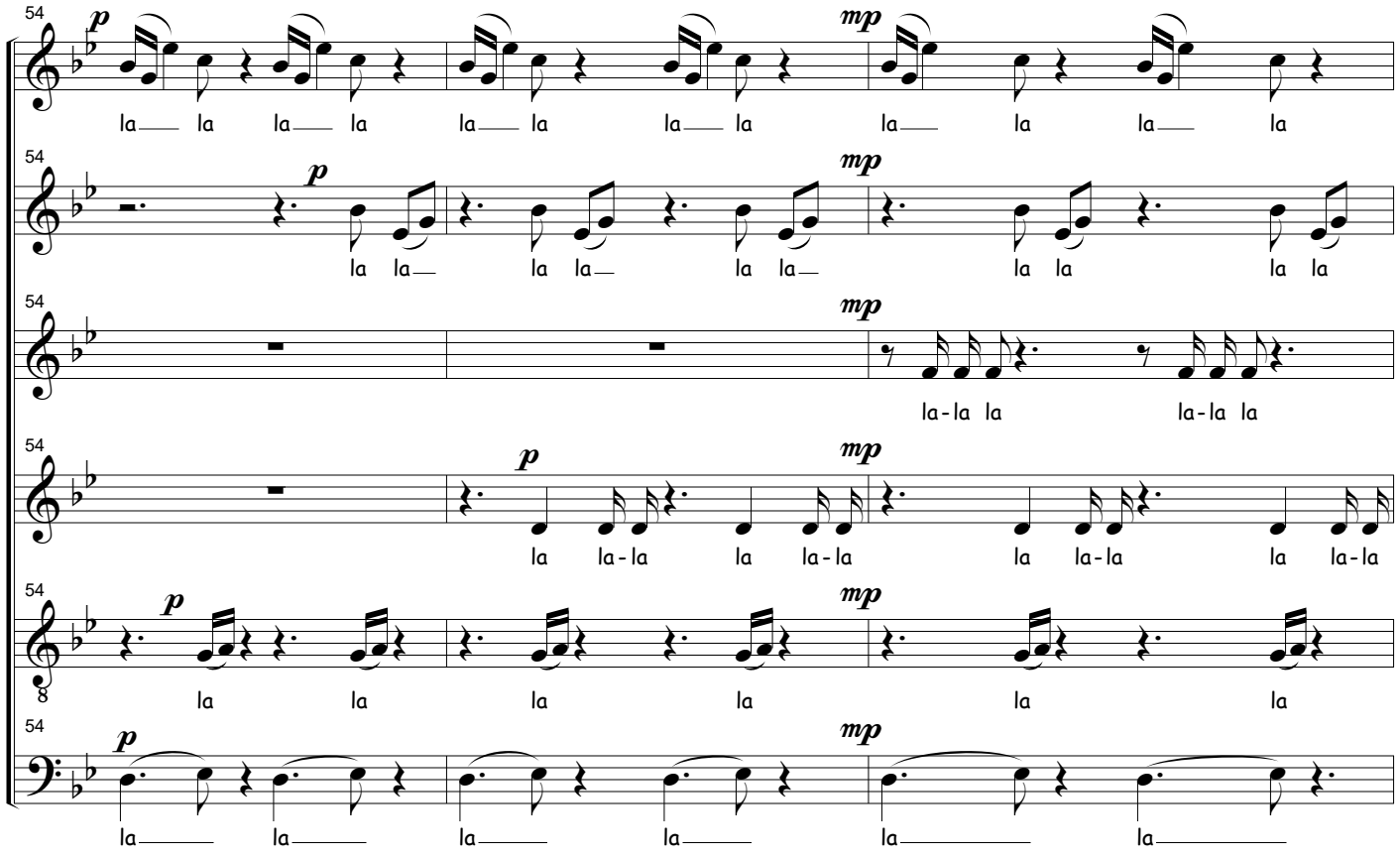

(* mm. 34 may be repeated and improvised)
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T
B
32
35
mf
f
p
zzz
(pitch pipe)
"It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Bee!"
Tempo I
Ooo
Ah

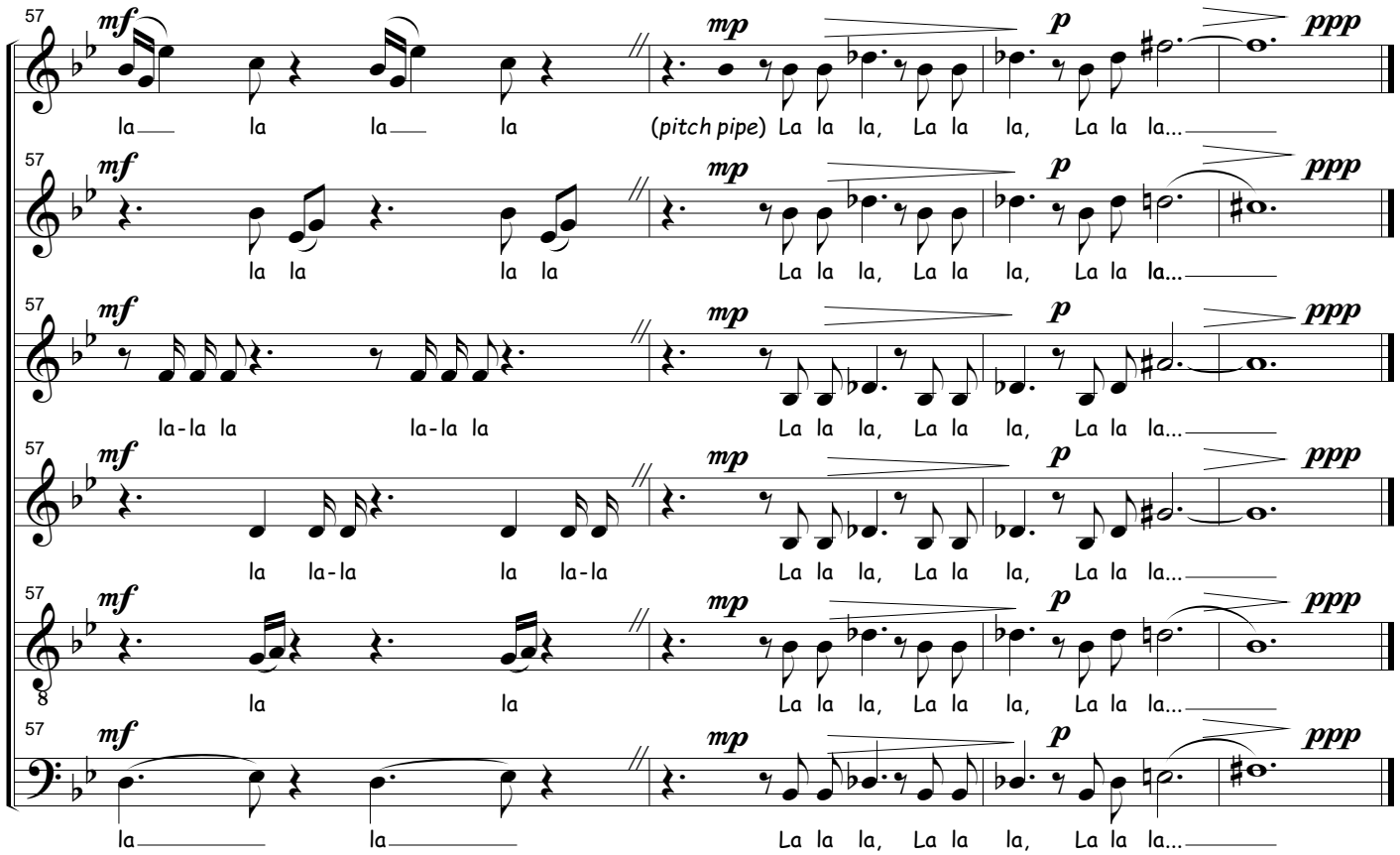

39
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T
B
mp
mf
pp
Ooo
Ah
There


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


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
S 2
While that
A 1
While that
A 2
While that
T
Ooo Ooo While that
B
Ooo Ooo While that


50
S 1
fu-tile old gen-tle - man doz'd. Ah
sfp
S 2
fu-tile old gen-tle - man doz'd. Ah
A 1
fu-tile old gen-tle - man doz'd. Ah
A 2
fu-tile old gen-tle - man doz'd. Ah
T
fu-tile old gen-tle - man doz'd. Ah la la
pp
B
fu-tile old gen-tle - man doz'd. Ah la la la la


54
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T
B
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 la
la la la la la la


57
S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T
B
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...