To my grandfather George Francis Bird, a seedsman & historian of North Dakota

Four prairie songs of Sandburg

1. Prairie

Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)

Peter Bird

Andante moderato (♩=80)

SOPRANO *mf* I was

ALTO *mf* I was

TENOR *mf* I was

BASS *mf* I was

Andante moderato (♩=80)

PIANO *mf*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

5

accel.

S. *f* born on the prai - rie *mf* and the milk of its

A. *f* born on the prai - rie *mf* and the milk of its

T. *f* born on the prai - rie *mf* and the milk of its

B. *f* born on the prai - rie *mf* and the milk of its

accel.

PNO. *mp*

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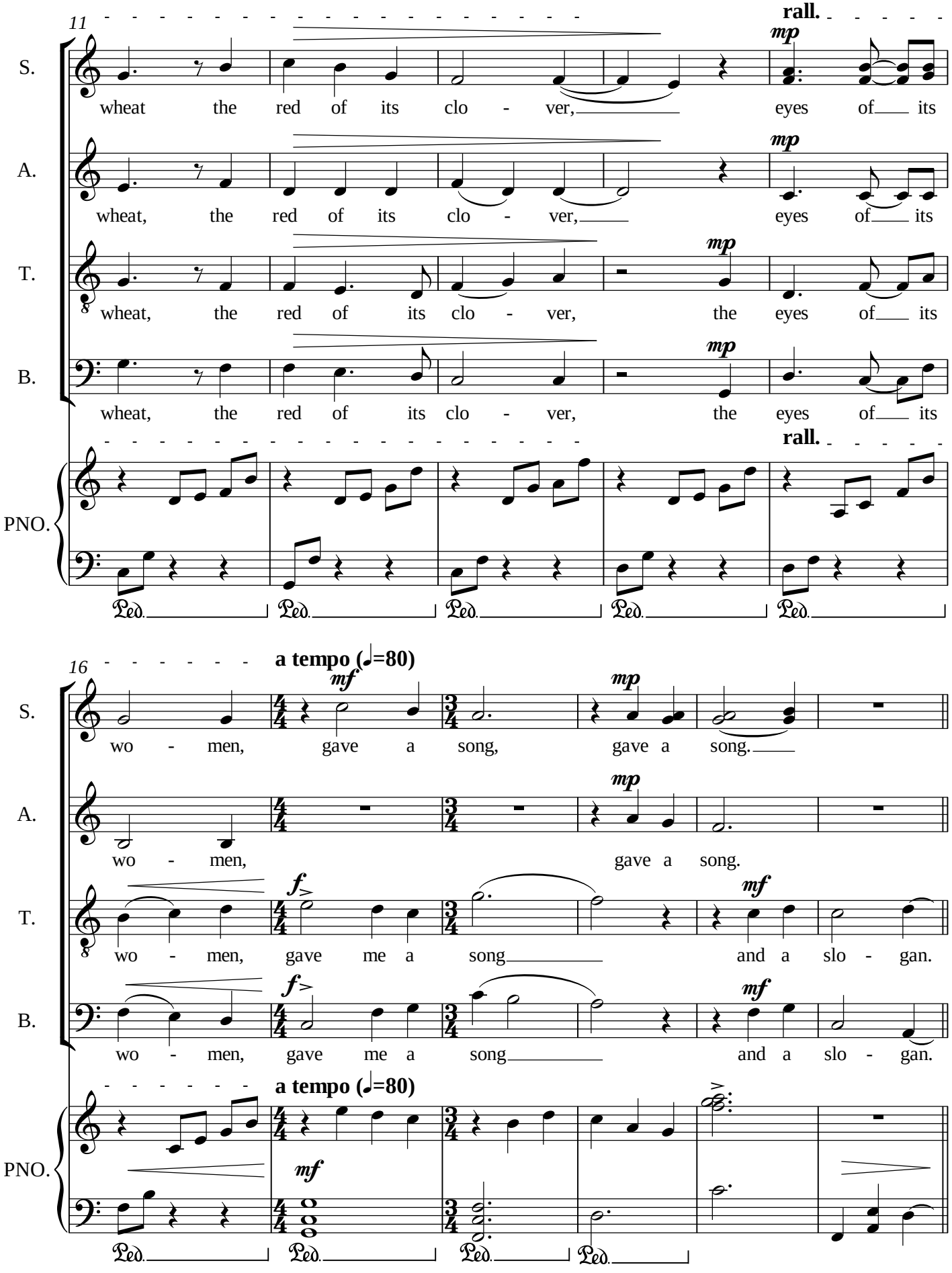
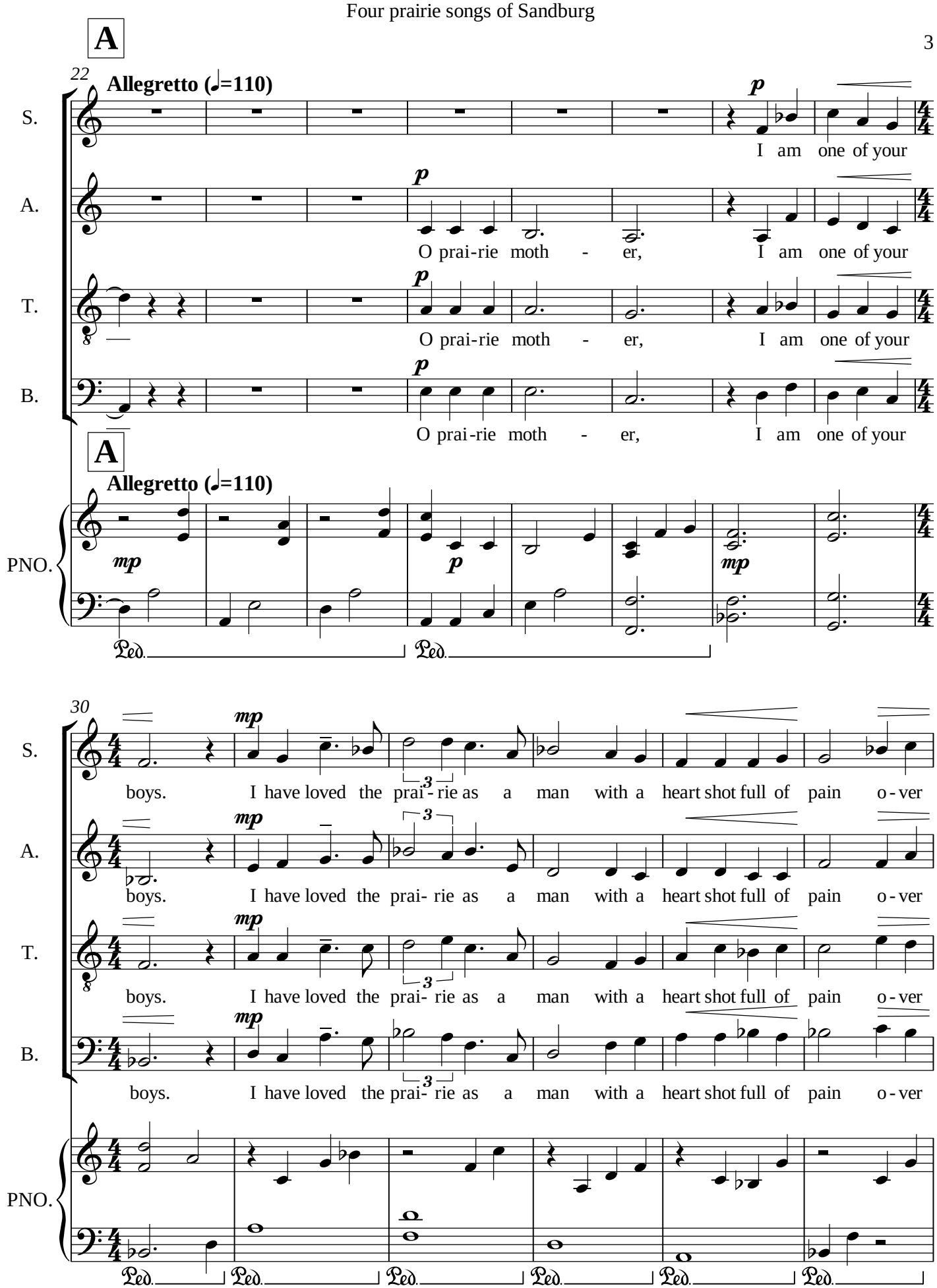
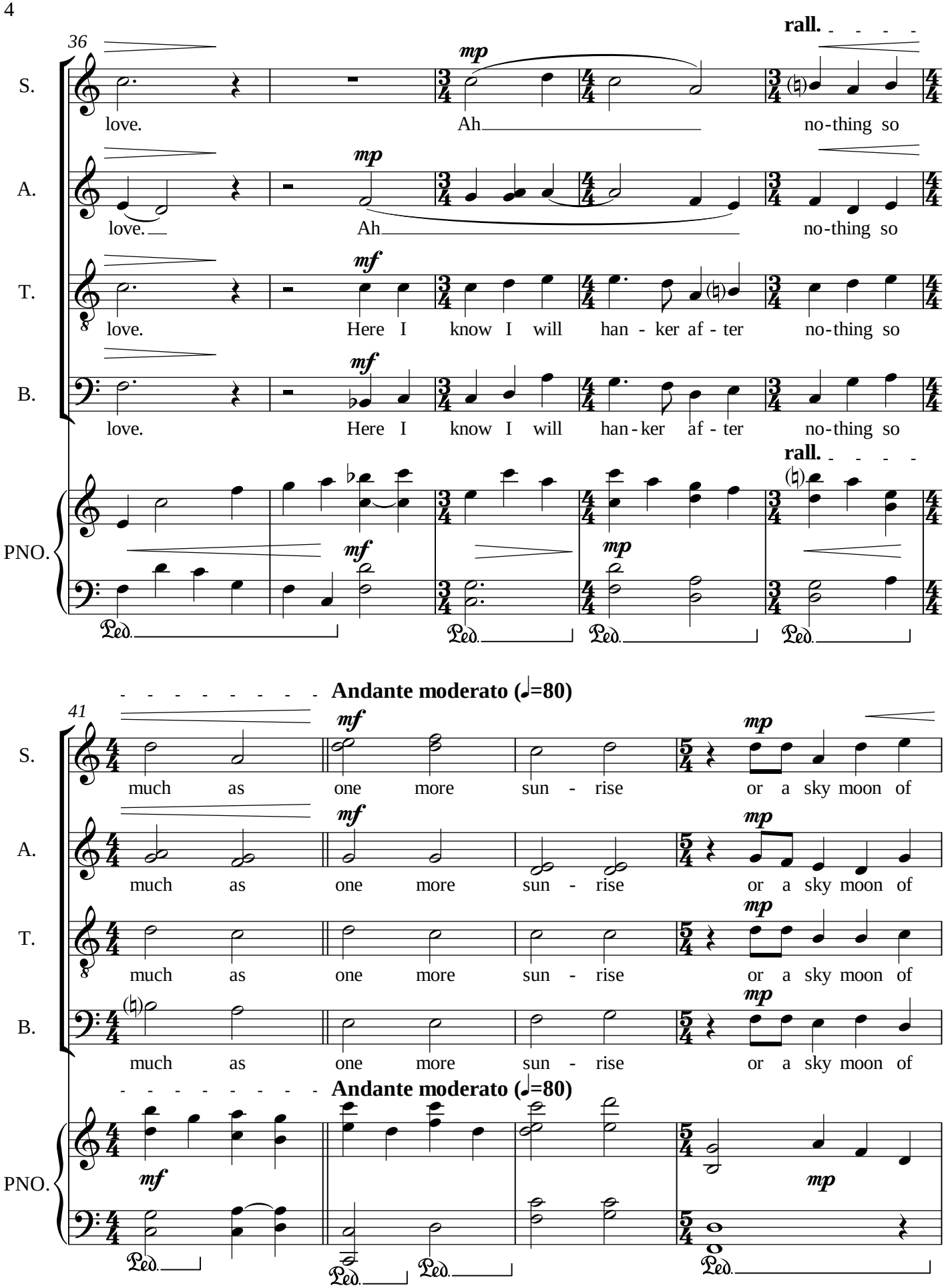
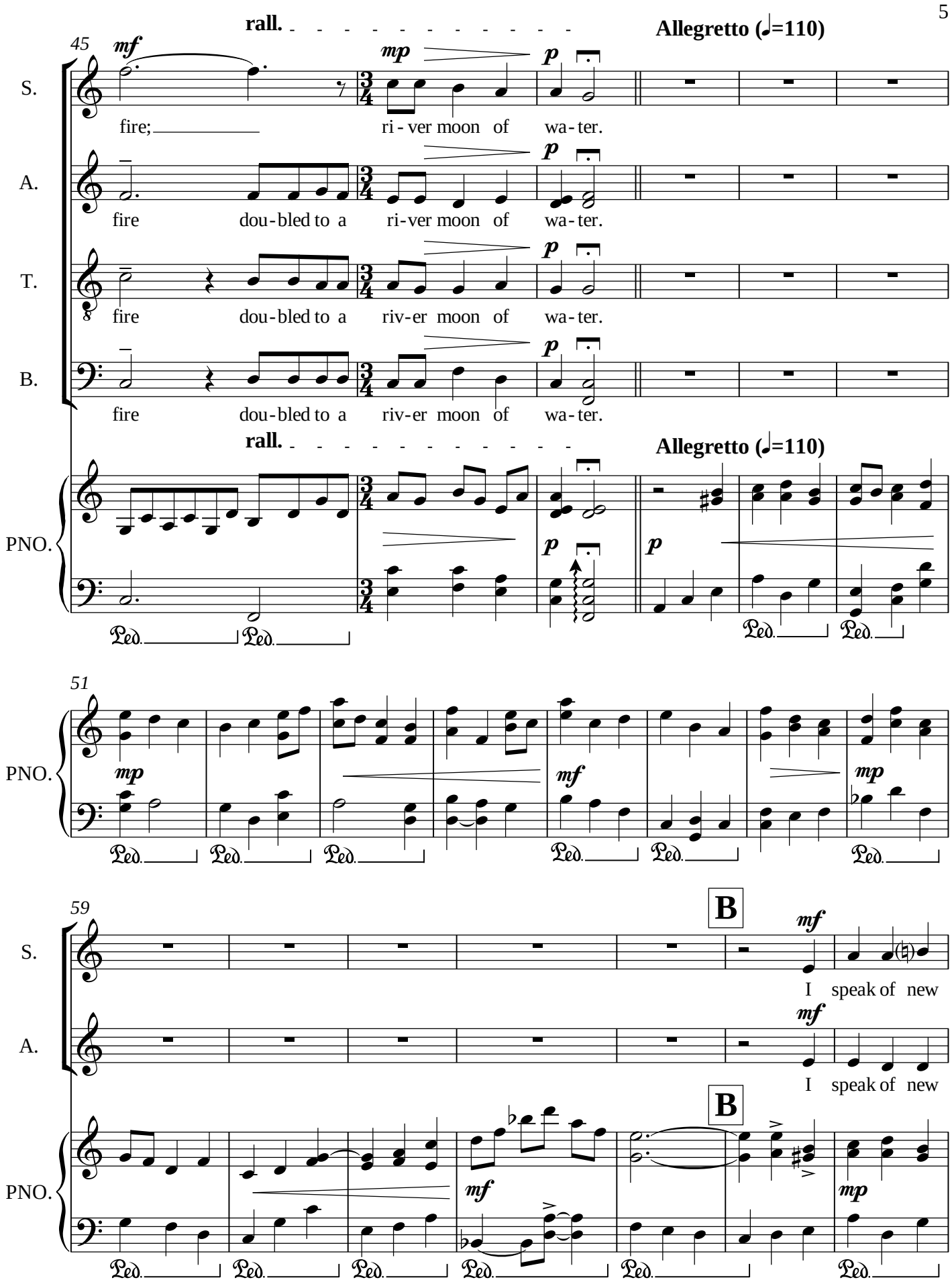
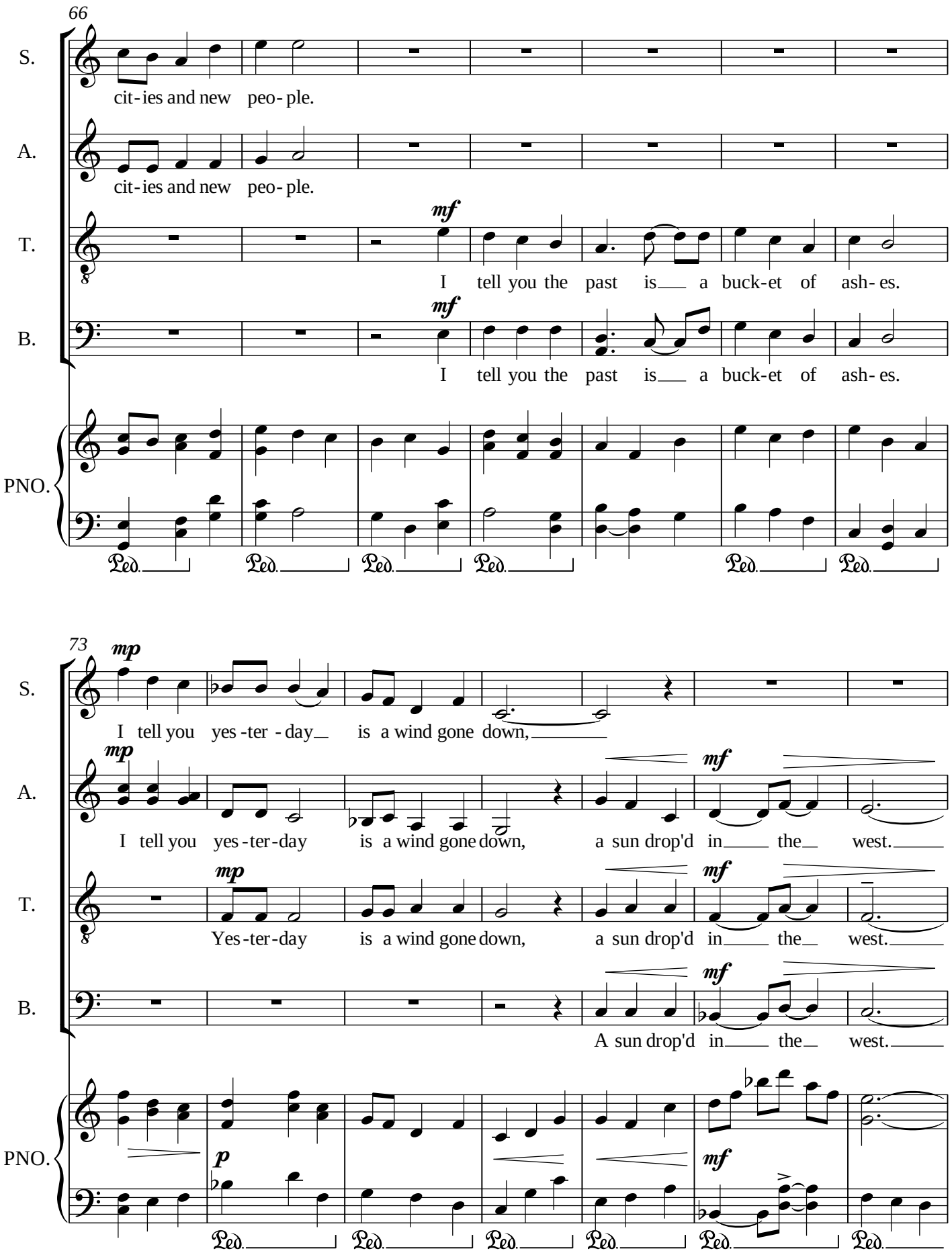
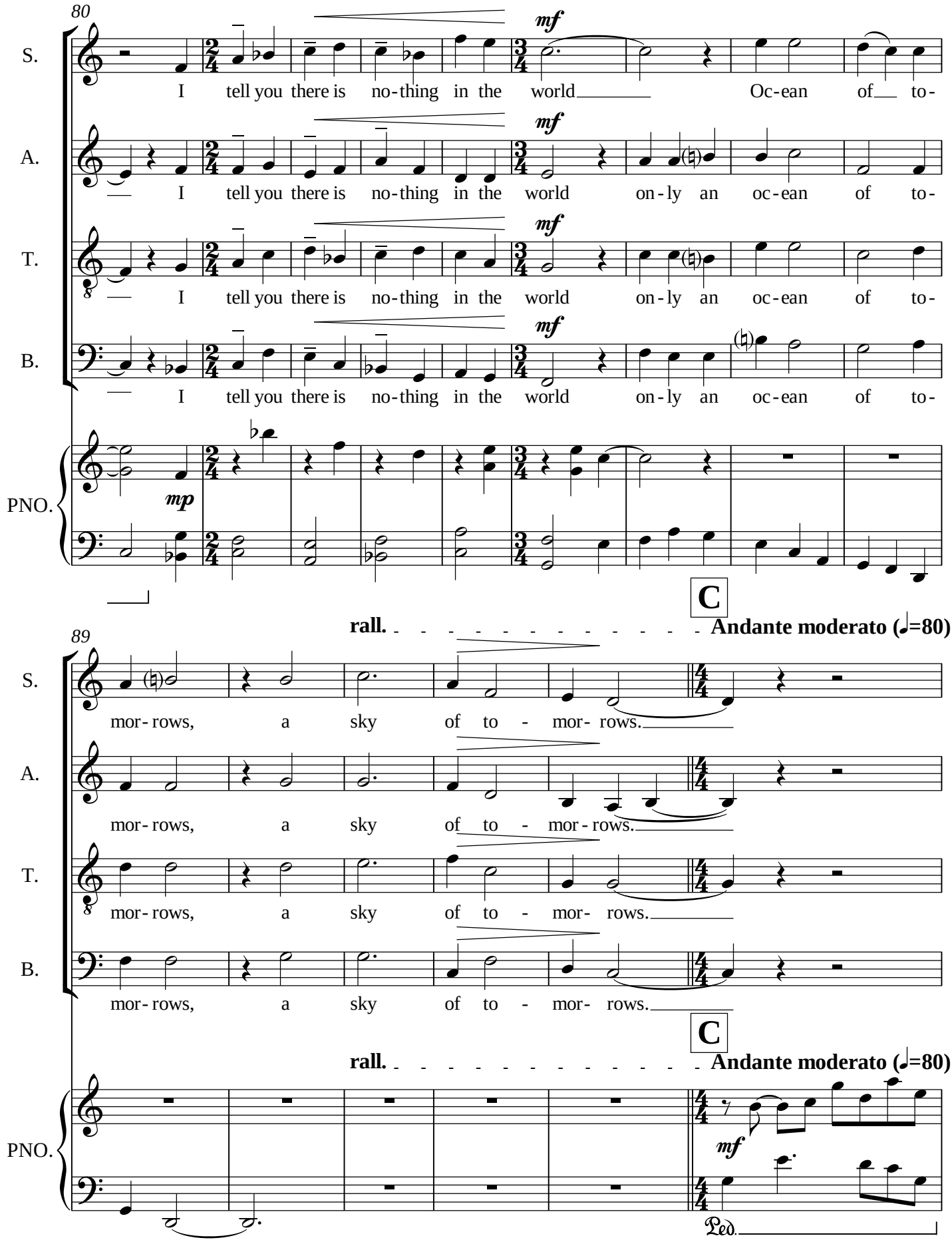

11
rall.
S.
wheat the red of its clo - ver, eyes of its
A.
wheat, the red of its clo - ver, eyes of its
T.
wheat, the red of its clo - ver, the eyes of its
B.
wheat, the red of its clo - ver, the eyes of its
PNO.
16
a tempo (♩=80)
wo - men, gave a song, gave a song.
wo - men, gave a song.
wo - men, gave me a song and a slo - gan.
wo - men, gave me a song and a slo - gan.

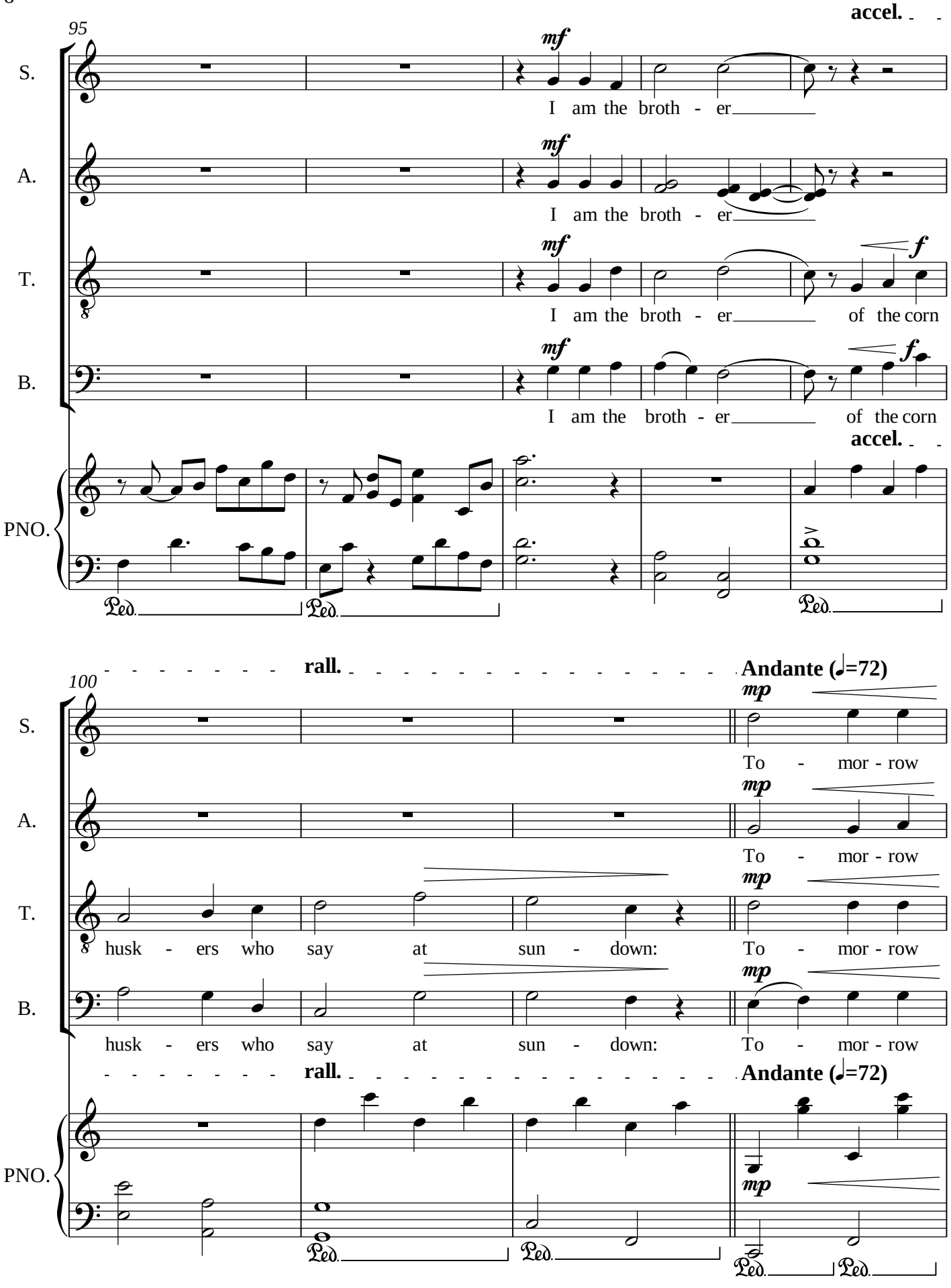

A
22
Allegretto (♩=110)
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
I am one of your
O prai-rie moth - er, I am one of your
O prai-rie moth - er, I am one of your
O prai-rie moth - er, I am one of your
A
Allegretto (♩=110)
30
boys. I have loved the prai- rie as a man with a heart shot full of pain o-ver
boys. I have loved the prai- rie as a man with a heart shot full of pain o-ver
boys. I have loved the prai- rie as a man with a heart shot full of pain o-ver
boys. I have loved the prai- rie as a man with a heart shot full of pain o-ver

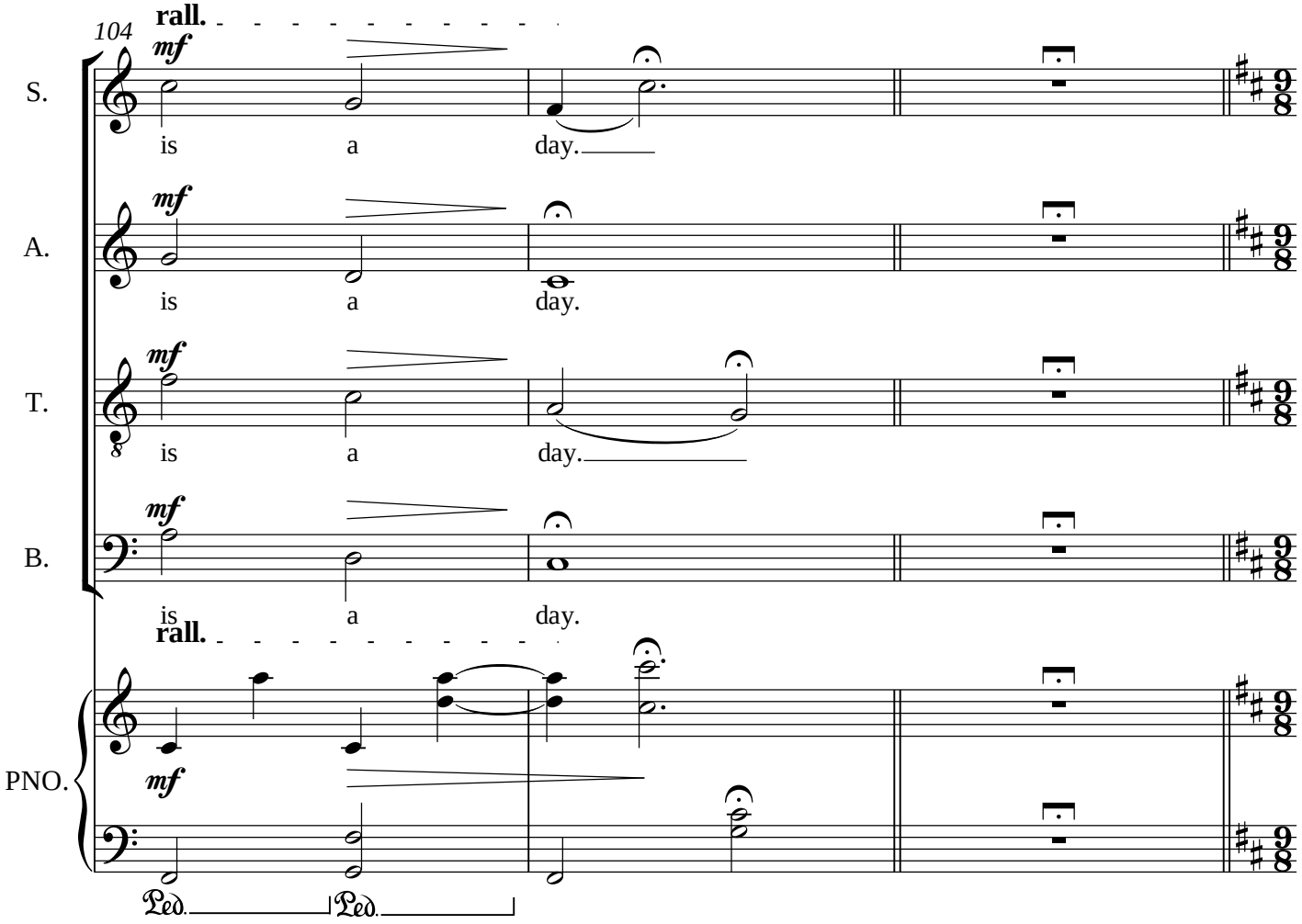

36
rall.
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mp
mf
love.
Ah
no-thing so
Here I know I will han - ker af - ter
han-ker af - ter
Ped.
Andante moderato (♩=80)
41
much as one more sun - rise or a sky moon of


rall.
Allegretto (♩=110)
45
mf
mp
p
S.
fire;
ri - ver moon of wa - ter.
A.
fire dou - bled to a ri - ver moon of wa - ter.
T.
fire dou - bled to a riv - er moon of wa - ter.
B.
fire dou - bled to a riv - er moon of wa - ter.
PNO.
Ped.
51
59
B
I speak of new

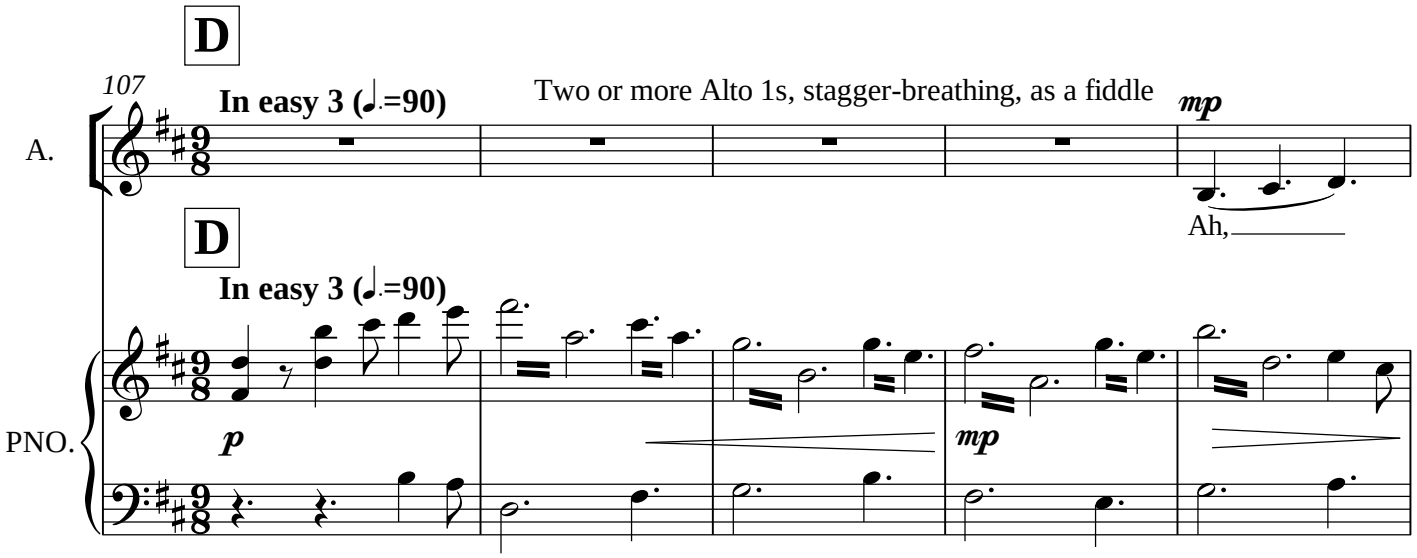

66
S.
cit-ies and new peo-ple.
A.
cit-ies and new peo-ple.
T.
mf
I tell you the past is a buck-et of ash-es.
B.
mf
I tell you the past is a buck-et of ash-es.
PNO.
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.
73
S.
mp
I tell you yes-ter-day is a wind gone down,
A.
mp
I tell you yes-ter-day is a wind gone down, a sun drop'd in the west.
mf
T.
mp
Yes-ter-day is a wind gone down, a sun drop'd in the west.
mf
B.
mf
A sun drop'd in the west.
PNO.
p
mf
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

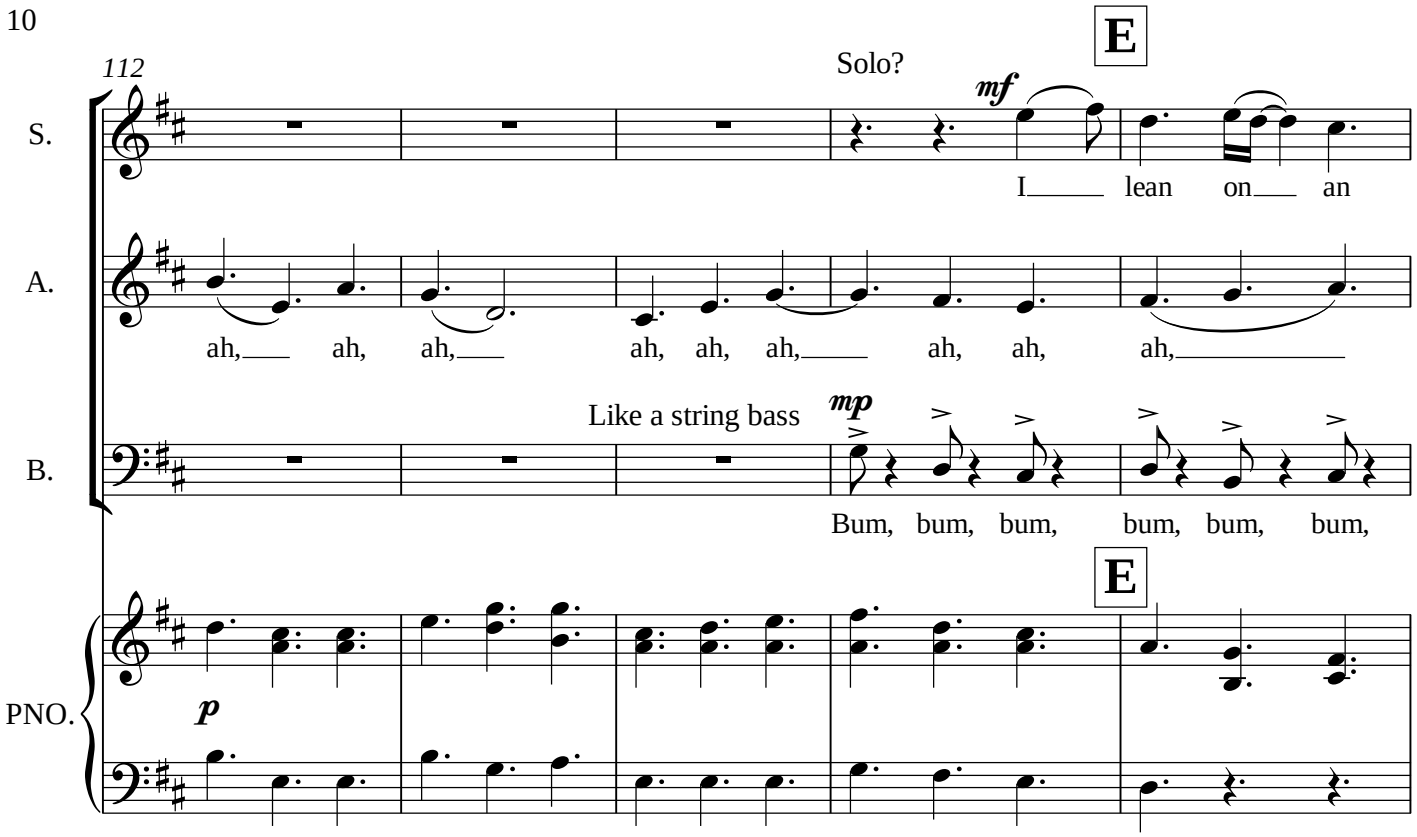

80
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mf
mp
I tell you there is no-thing in the world Oc-ean of to-
I tell you there is no-thing in the world on-ly an oc-ean of to-
C
rall.
Andante moderato (♩=80)
89
mor-rows, a sky of to - mor-rows.

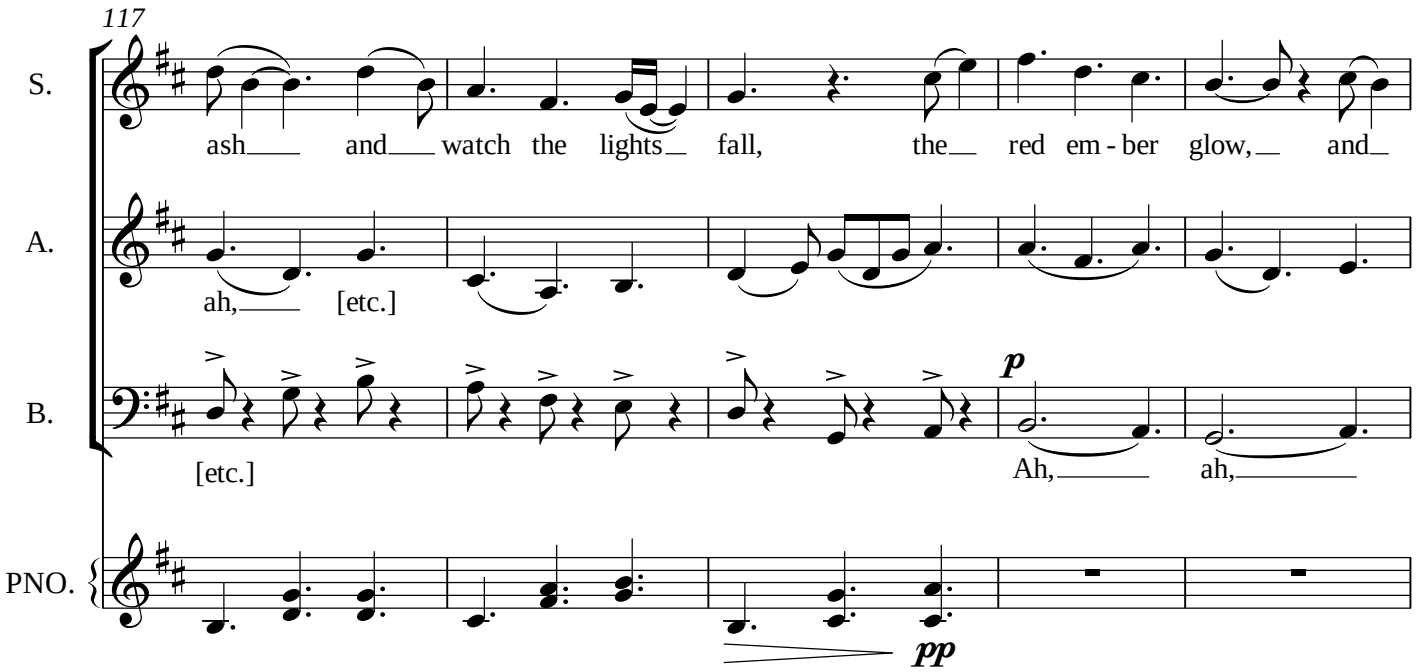

95
accel.
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mf
f
I am the broth - er
of the corn
Ped.
rall.
Andante (♩=72)
100
mp
To - mor - row
husk - ers who say at sun - down:

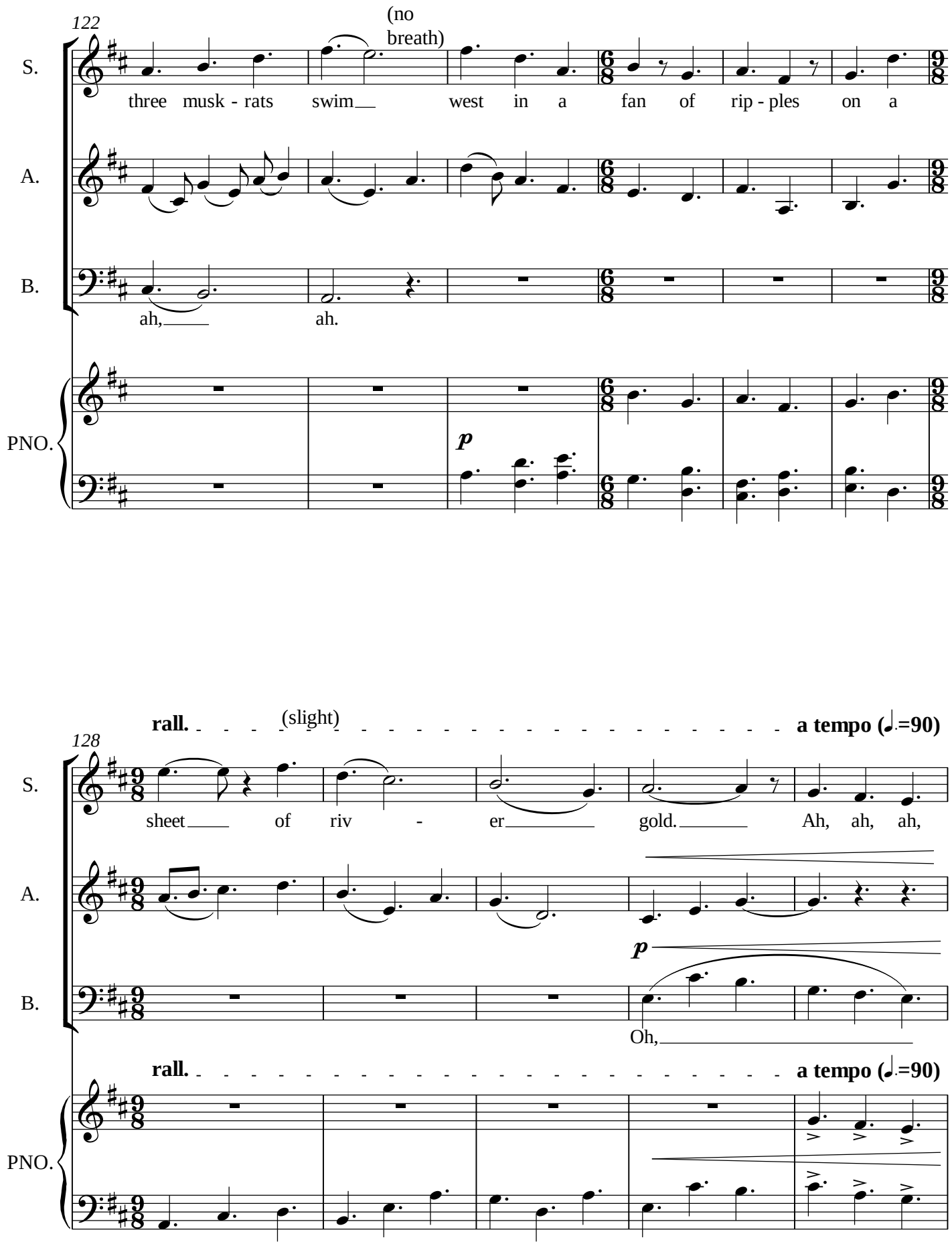


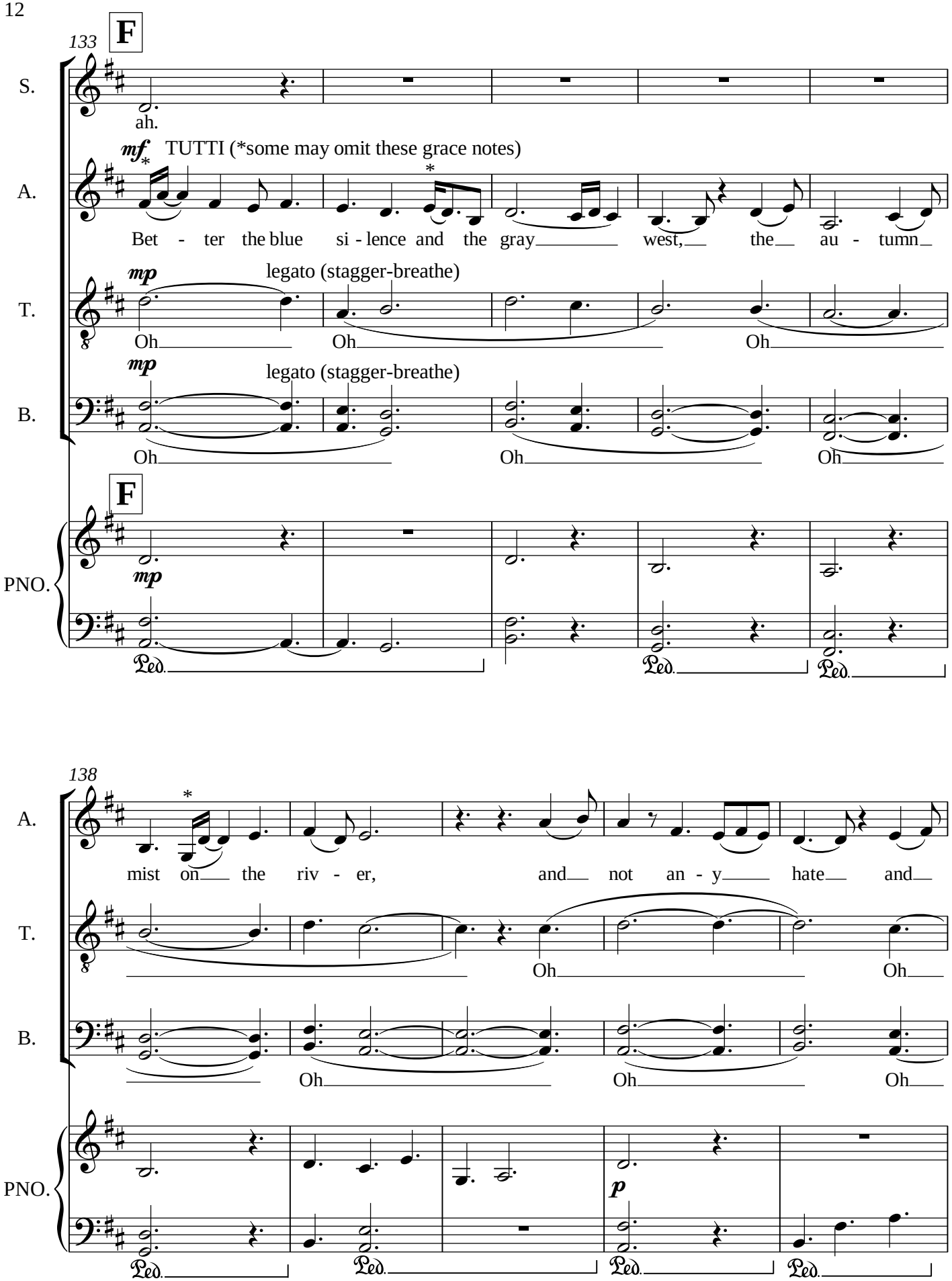
2. The Smoke of Autumn

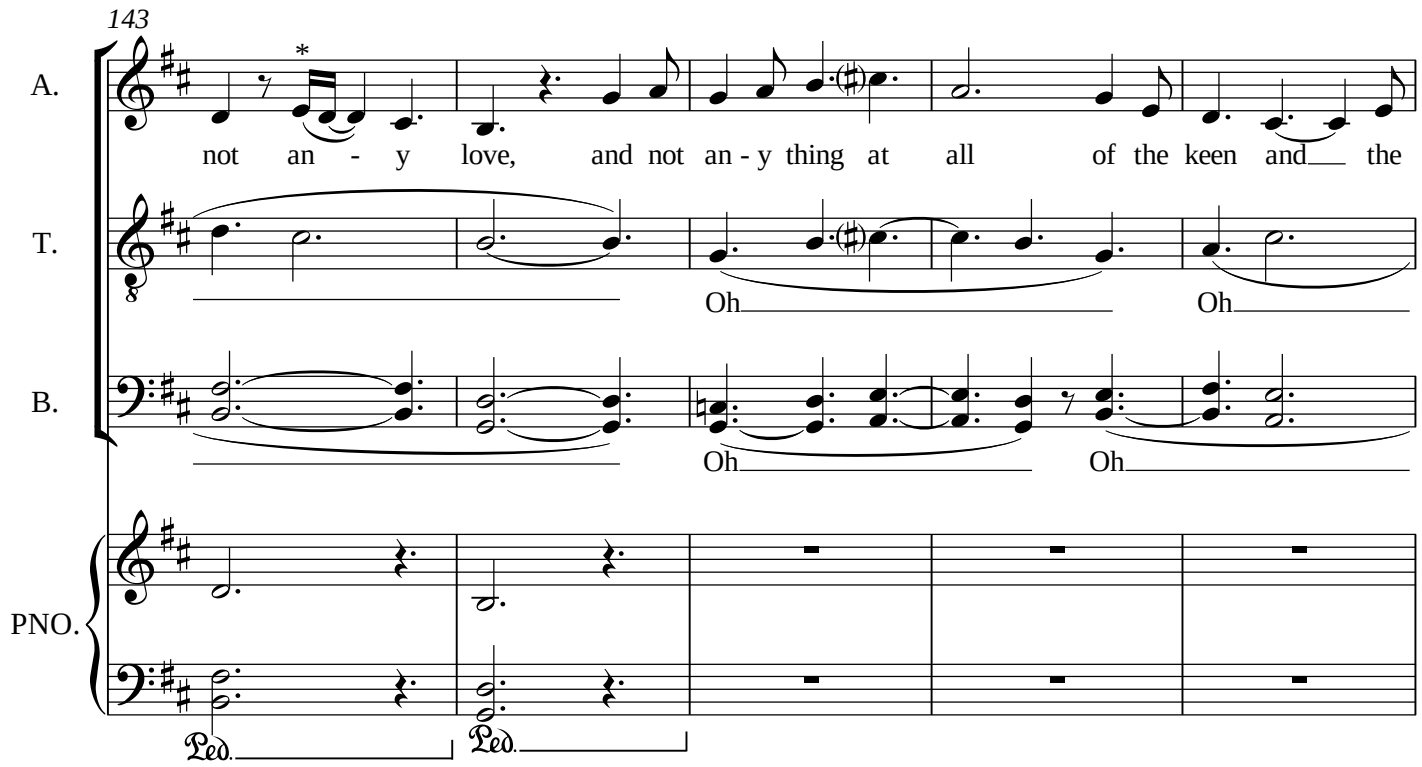


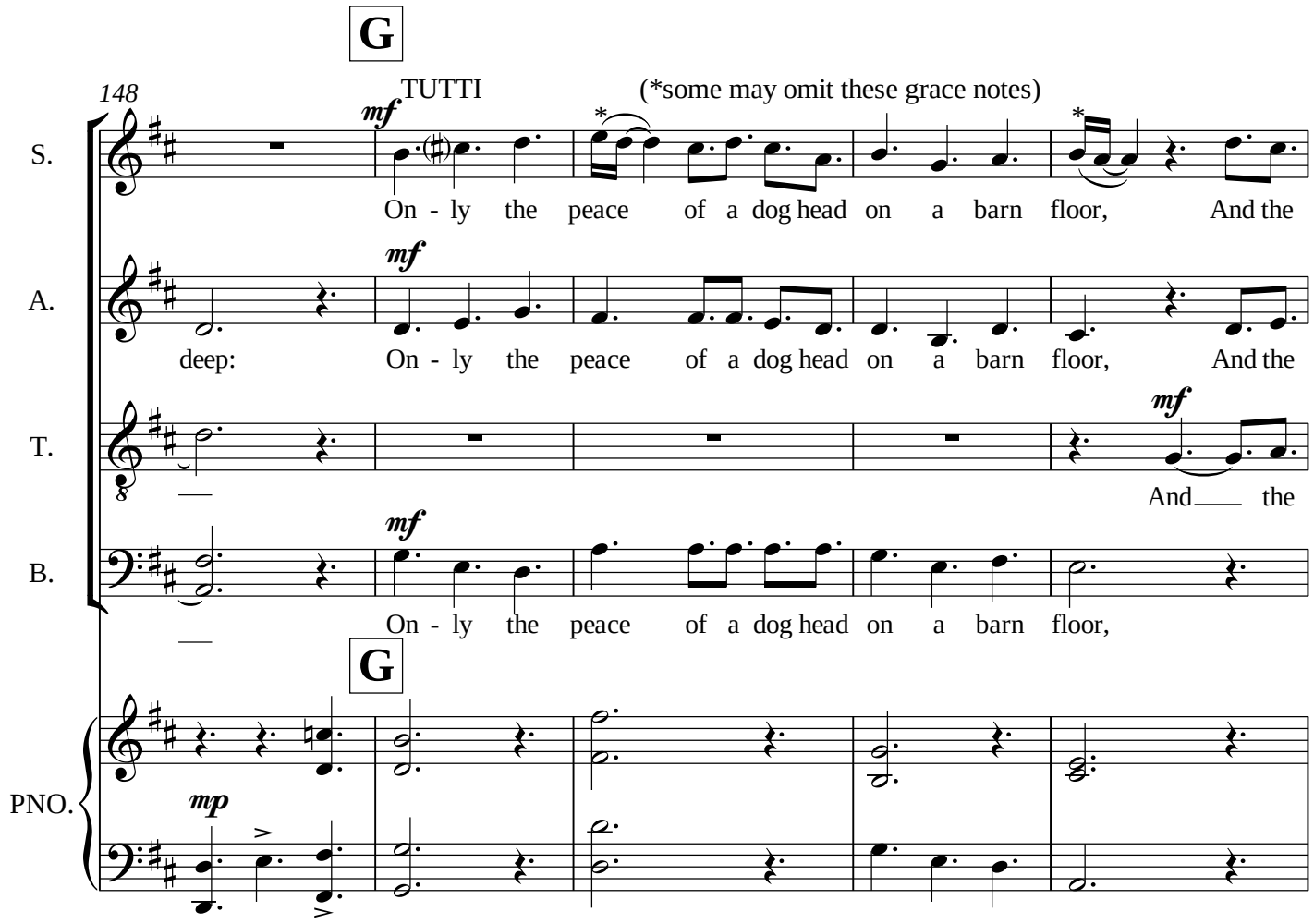

112
E
Solo?
mf
S.
I lean on an
A.
ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah,
Like a string bass
mp
B.
Bum, bum, bum, bum, bum, bum,
E
p
PNO.

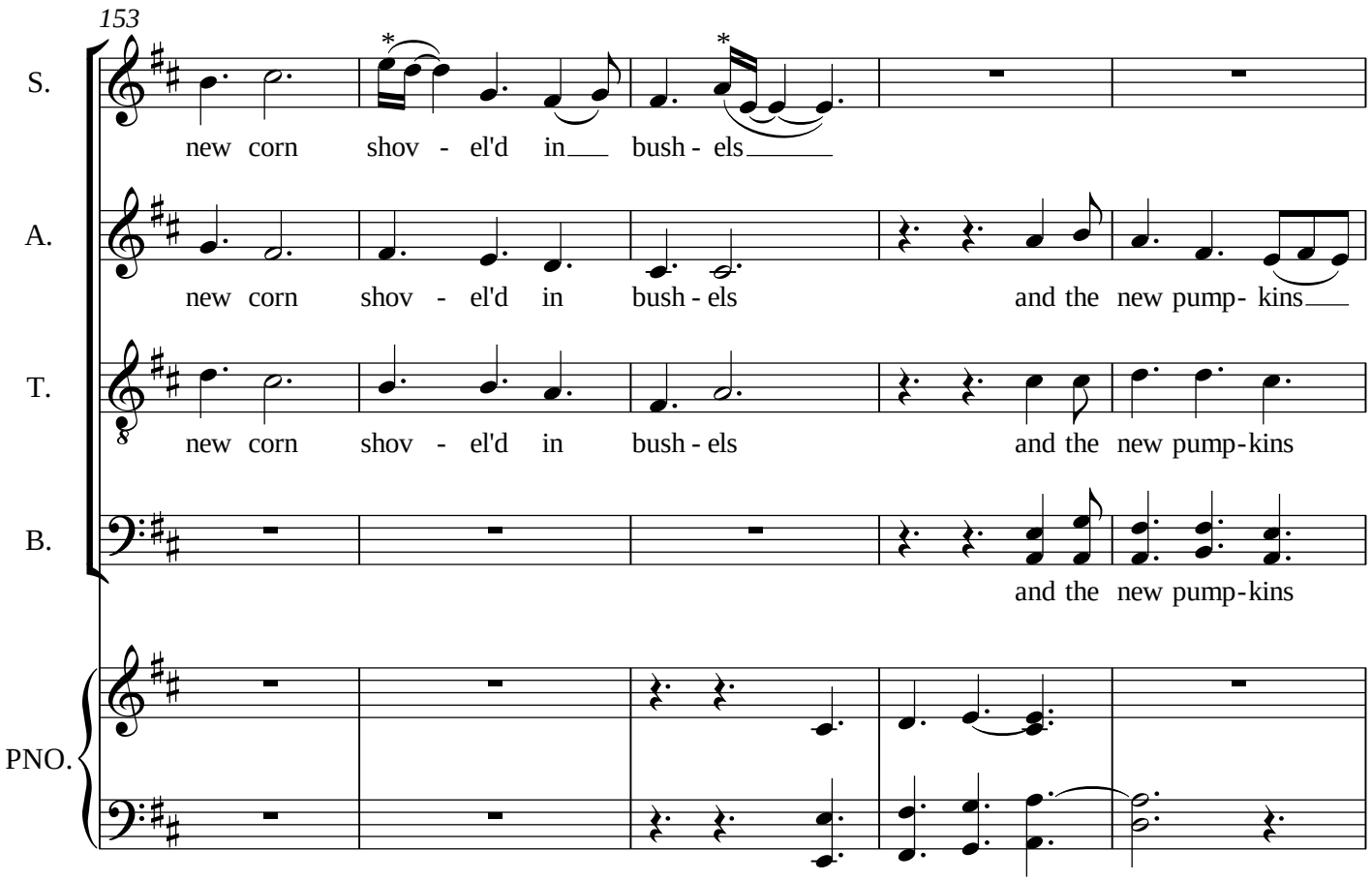

117
S.
ash and watch the lights fall, the red em - ber glow, and
A.
ah, [etc.]
B.
[etc.]
p
Ah, ah,
PNO.
pp

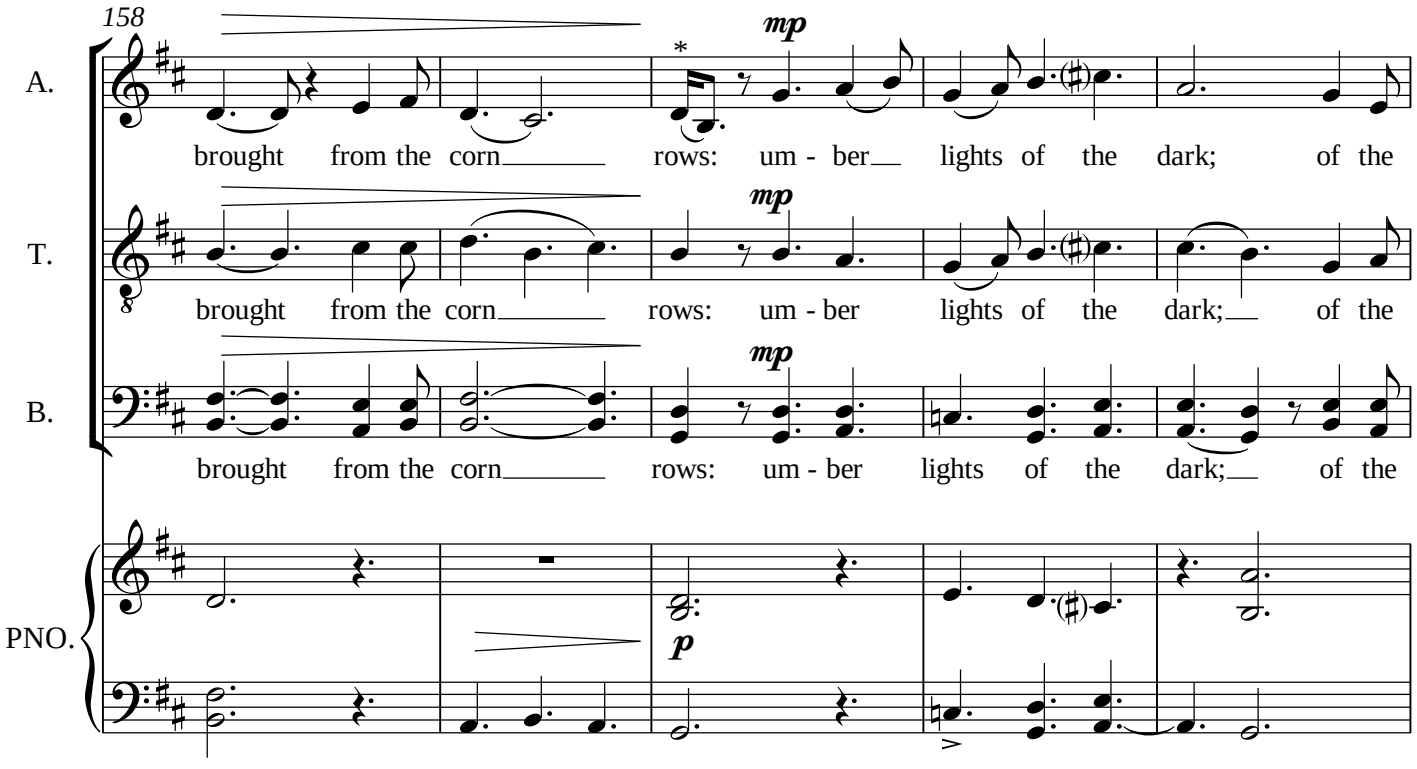

122
(no breath)
S.
three musk - rats swim west in a fan of rip - ples on a
A.
B.
ah, ah.
PNO.
p
rall.
(slight)
a tempo (♩.=90)
128
S.
sheet of riv - er gold. Ah, ah, ah,
A.
p
B.
Oh,
rall.
a tempo (♩.=90)
PNO.

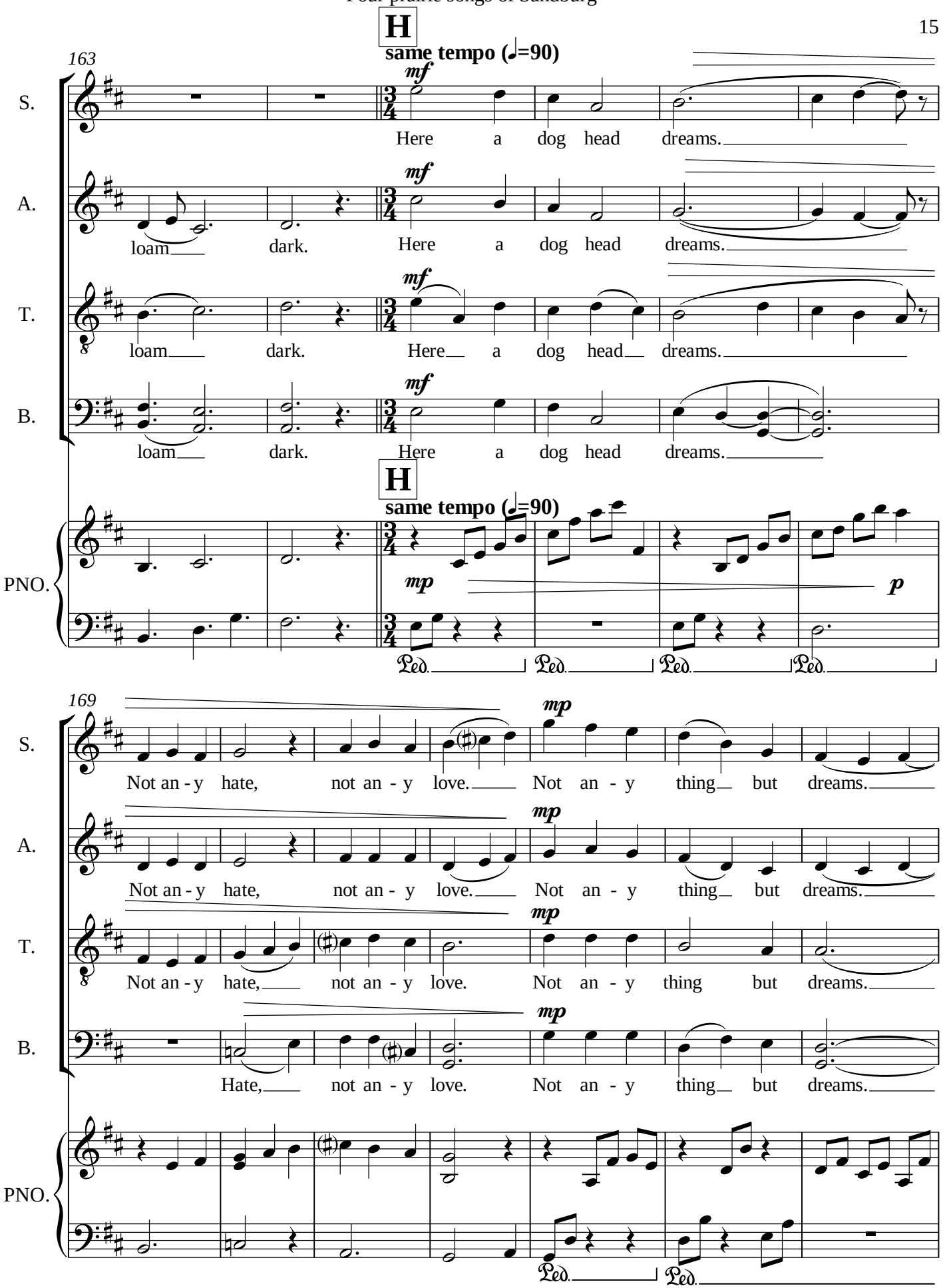

133
F
S.
ah.
mf
TUTTI (*some may omit these grace notes)
A.
Bet - ter the blue si - lence and the gray west, the au - tumn
mp
legato (stagger-breathe)
T.
Oh Oh Oh
mp
legato (stagger-breathe)
B.
Oh Oh Oh
F
PNO.
mp
Ped. Ped. Ped.
138
A.
mist on the riv - er, and not an - y hate and
T.
Oh Oh
B.
Oh Oh Oh
PNO.
p
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

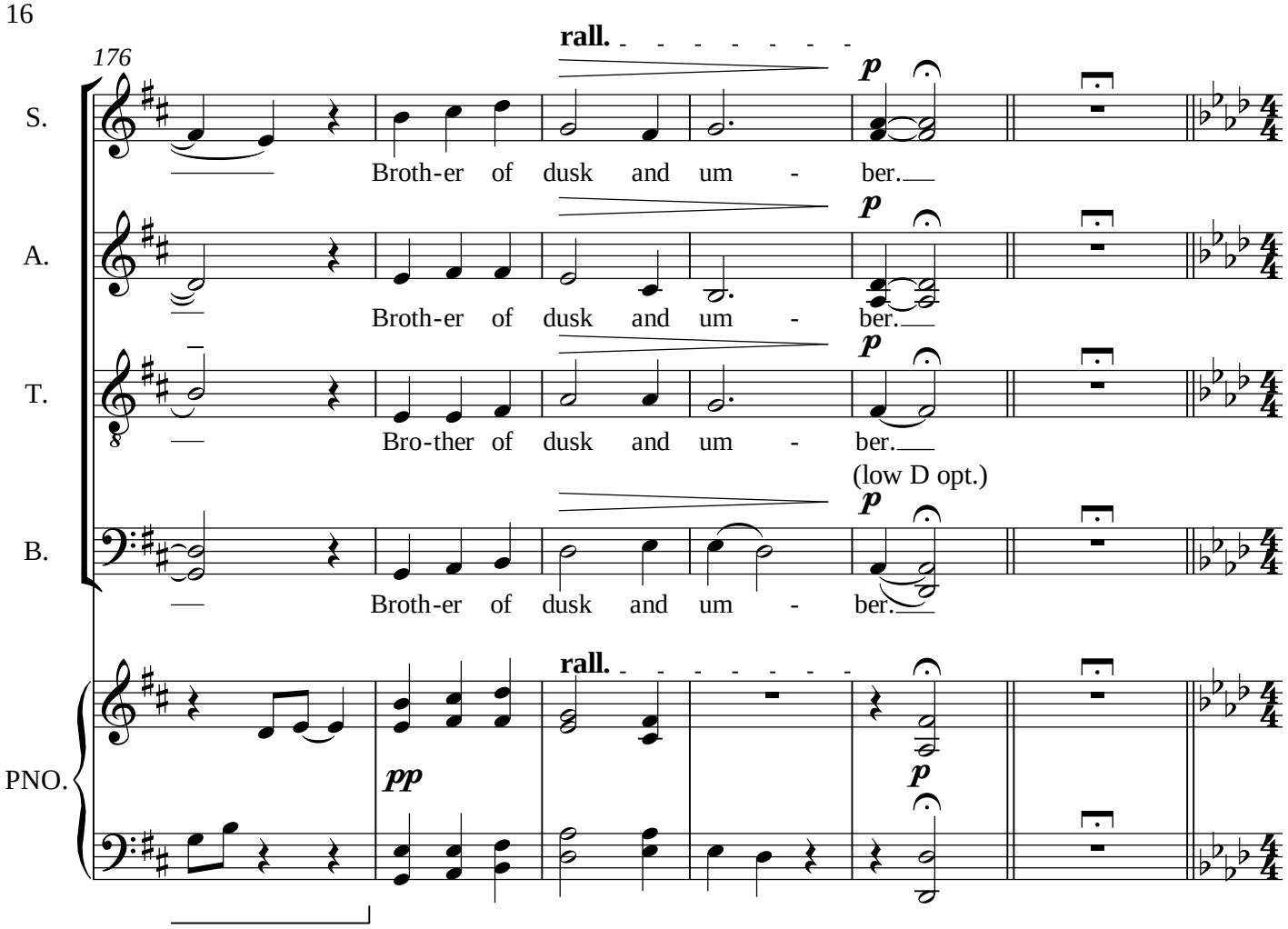

143
A.
not an - y love, and not an - y thing at all of the keen and the
T.
Oh Oh
B.
Oh Oh
PNO.
Ped. Ped.

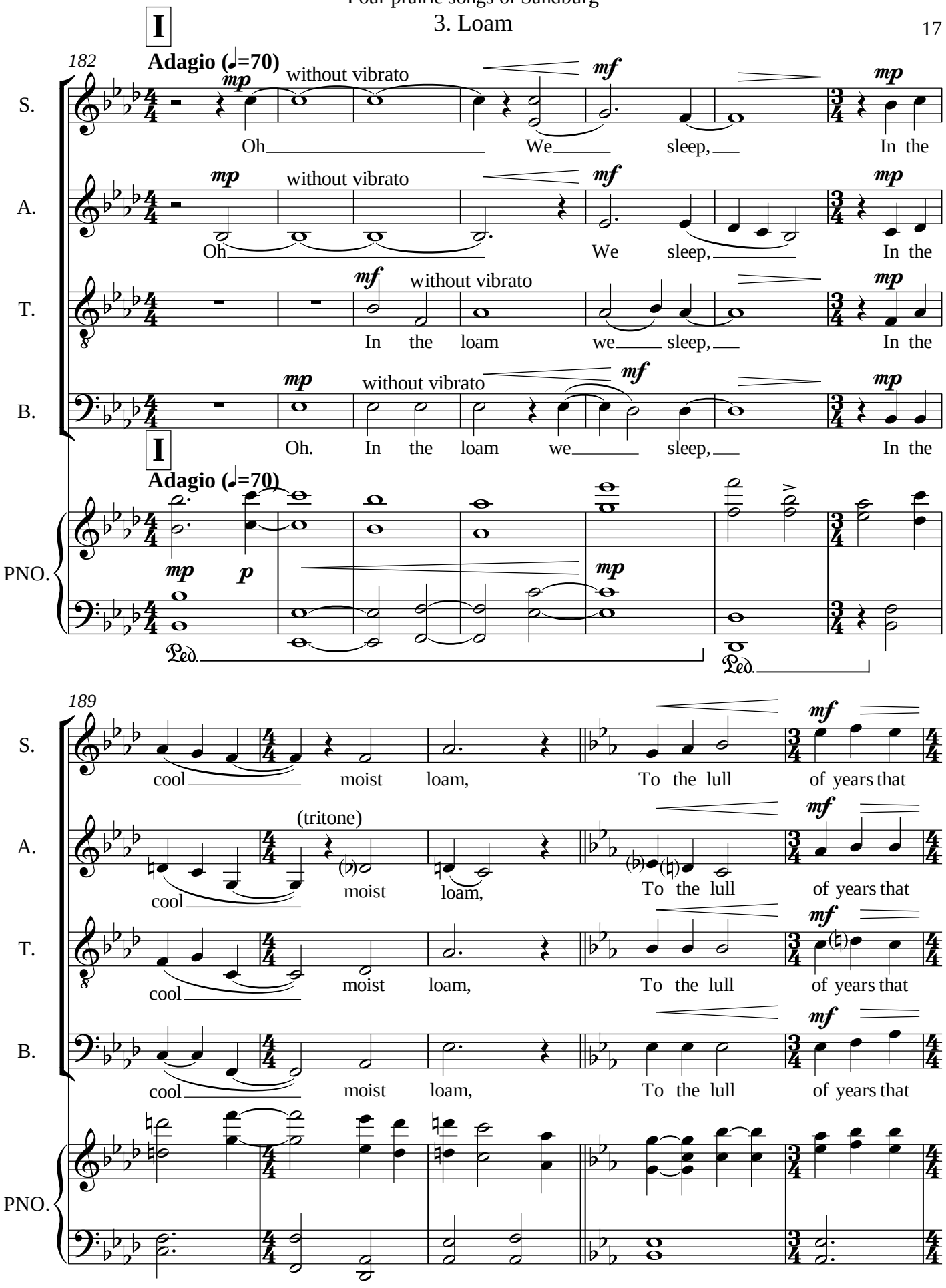

G
148
TUTTI
(*some may omit these grace notes)
S.
mf
On - ly the peace of a dog head on a barn floor, And the
A.
mf
deep: On - ly the peace of a dog head on a barn floor, And the
T.
mf
And the
B.
mf
On - ly the peace of a dog head on a barn floor,
G
PNO.
mp

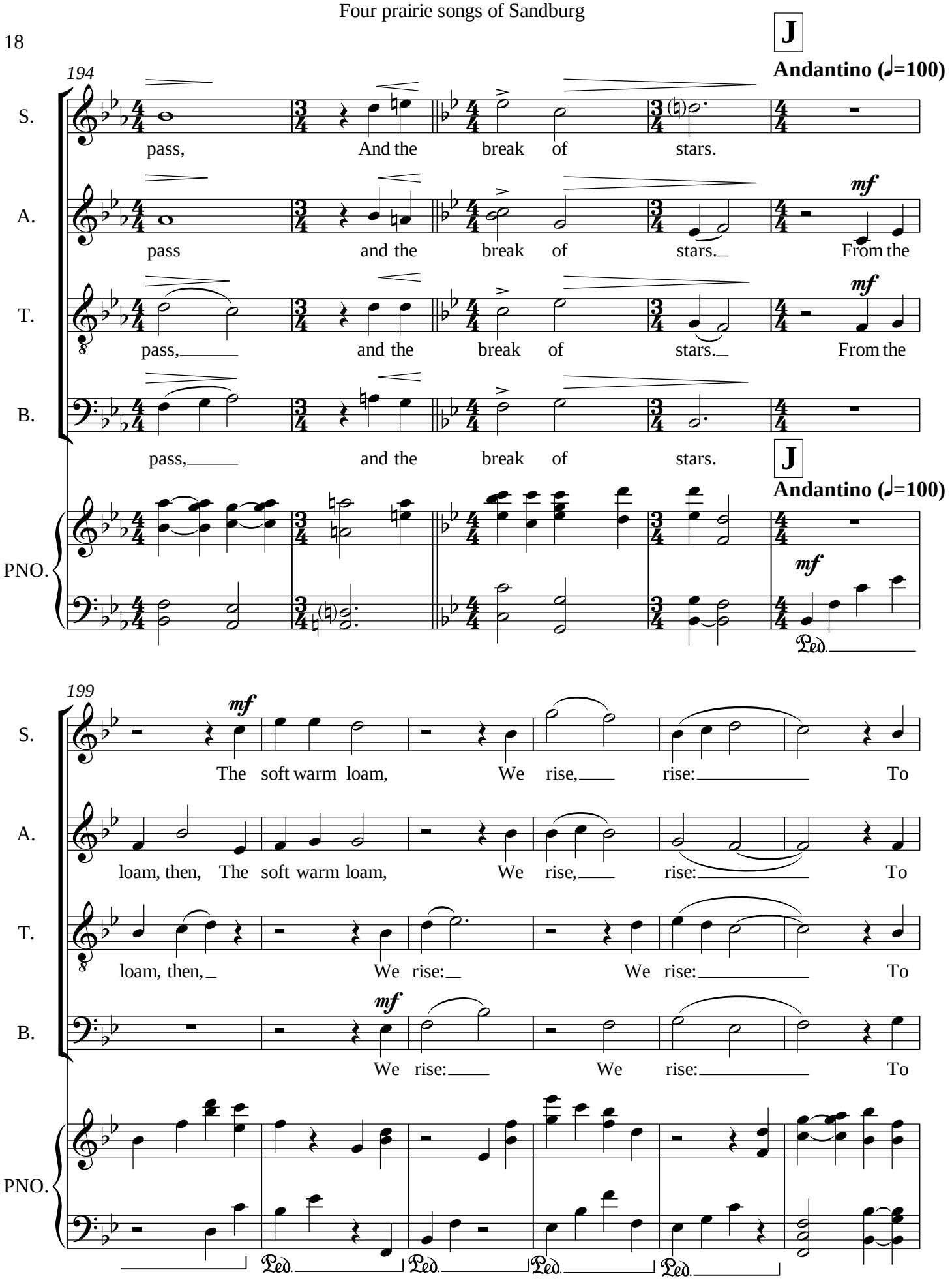

153
S.
new corn shov - el'd in bush - els
A.
new corn shov - el'd in bush - els and the new pump- kins
T.
new corn shov - el'd in bush - els and the new pump-kins
B.
and the new pump-kins
PNO.

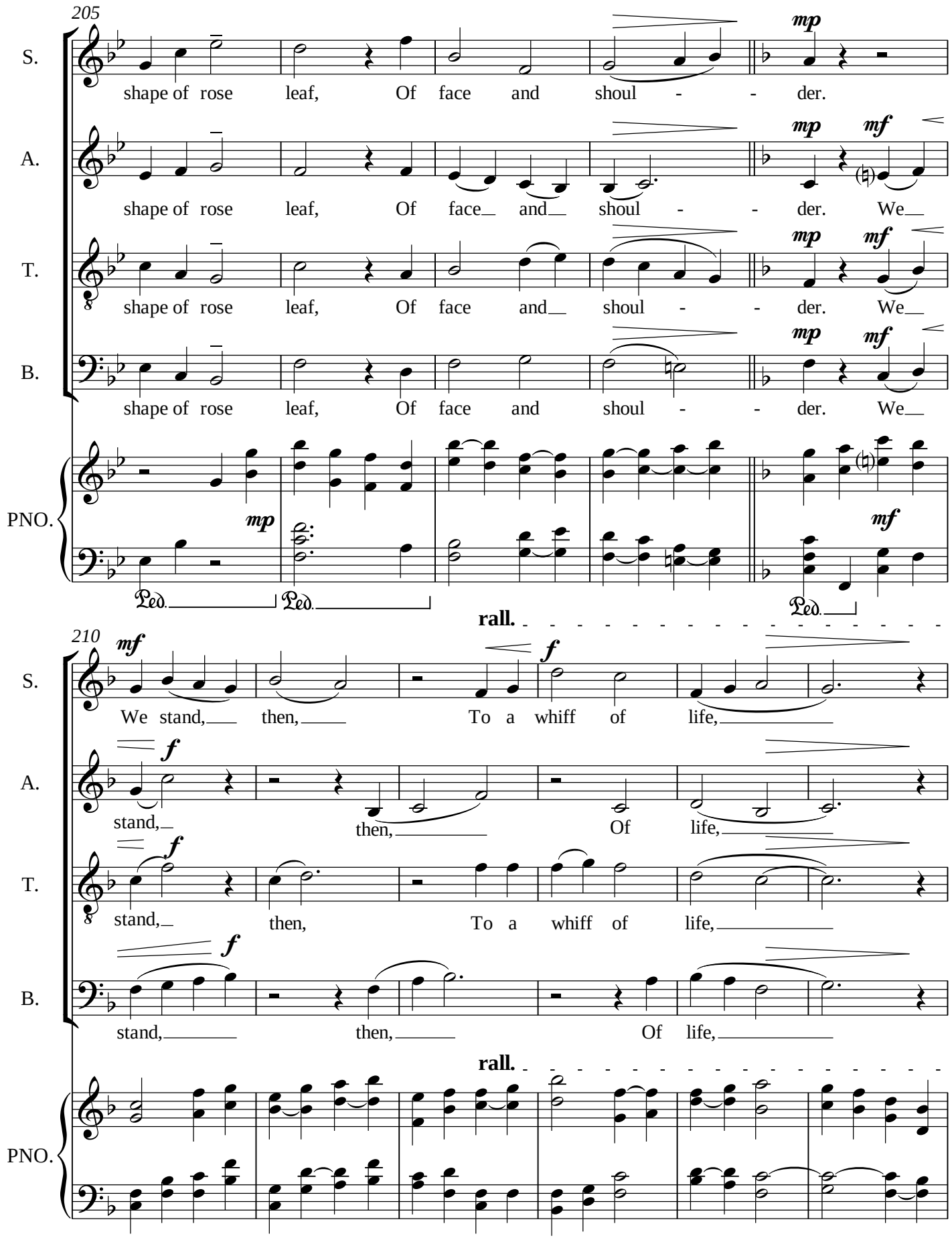

158
A.
brought from the corn rows: um - ber lights of the dark; of the
mp
T.
brought from the corn rows: um - ber lights of the dark; of the
mp
B.
brought from the corn rows: um - ber lights of the dark; of the
mp
PNO.
p

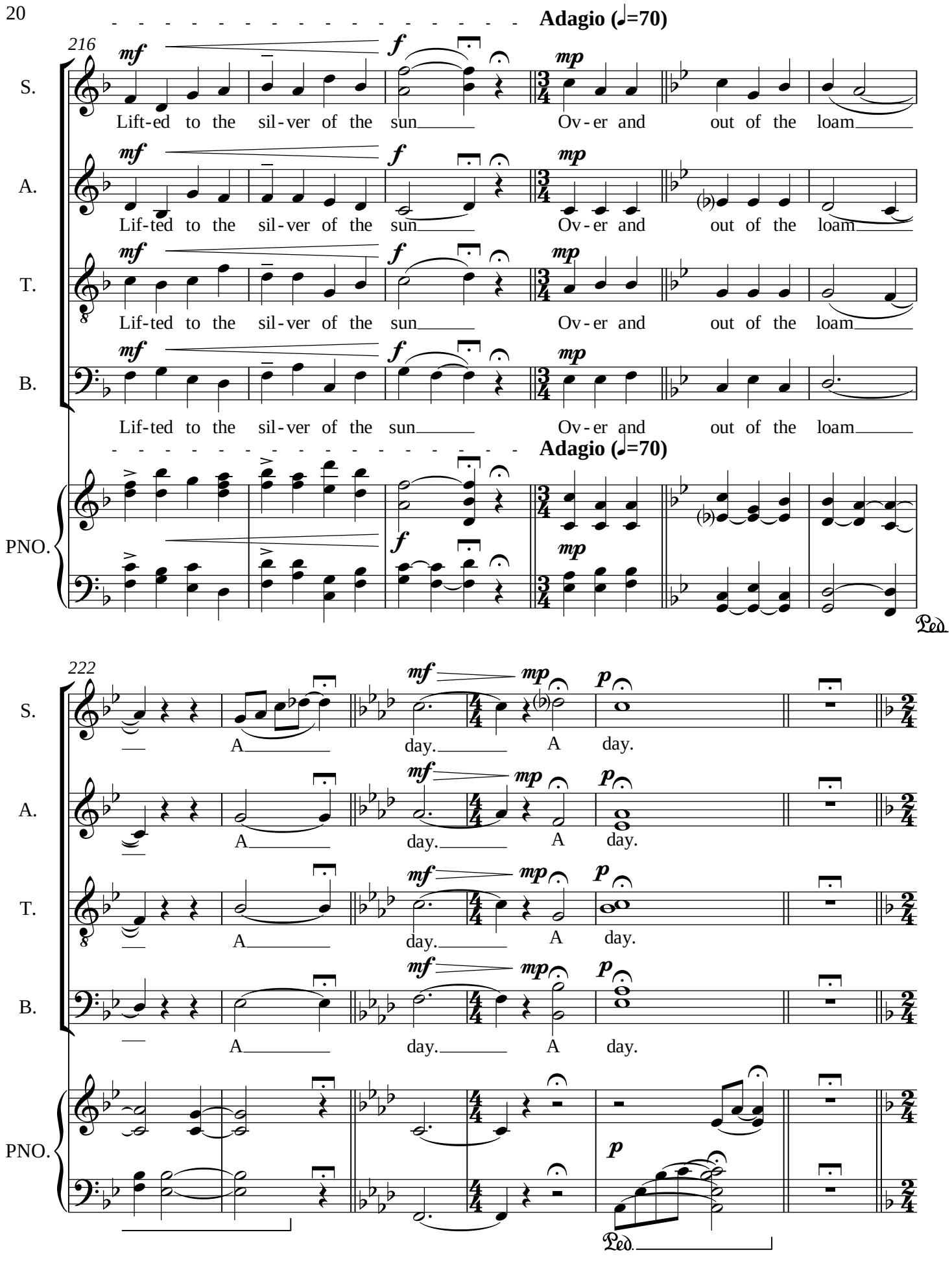

H
same tempo (♩=90)
163
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mf
Here a dog head dreams.
loam dark.
mp
p
Ped.
169
Not an - y hate, not an - y love. Not an - y thing but dreams.
Hate, not an - y love. Not an - y thing but dreams.

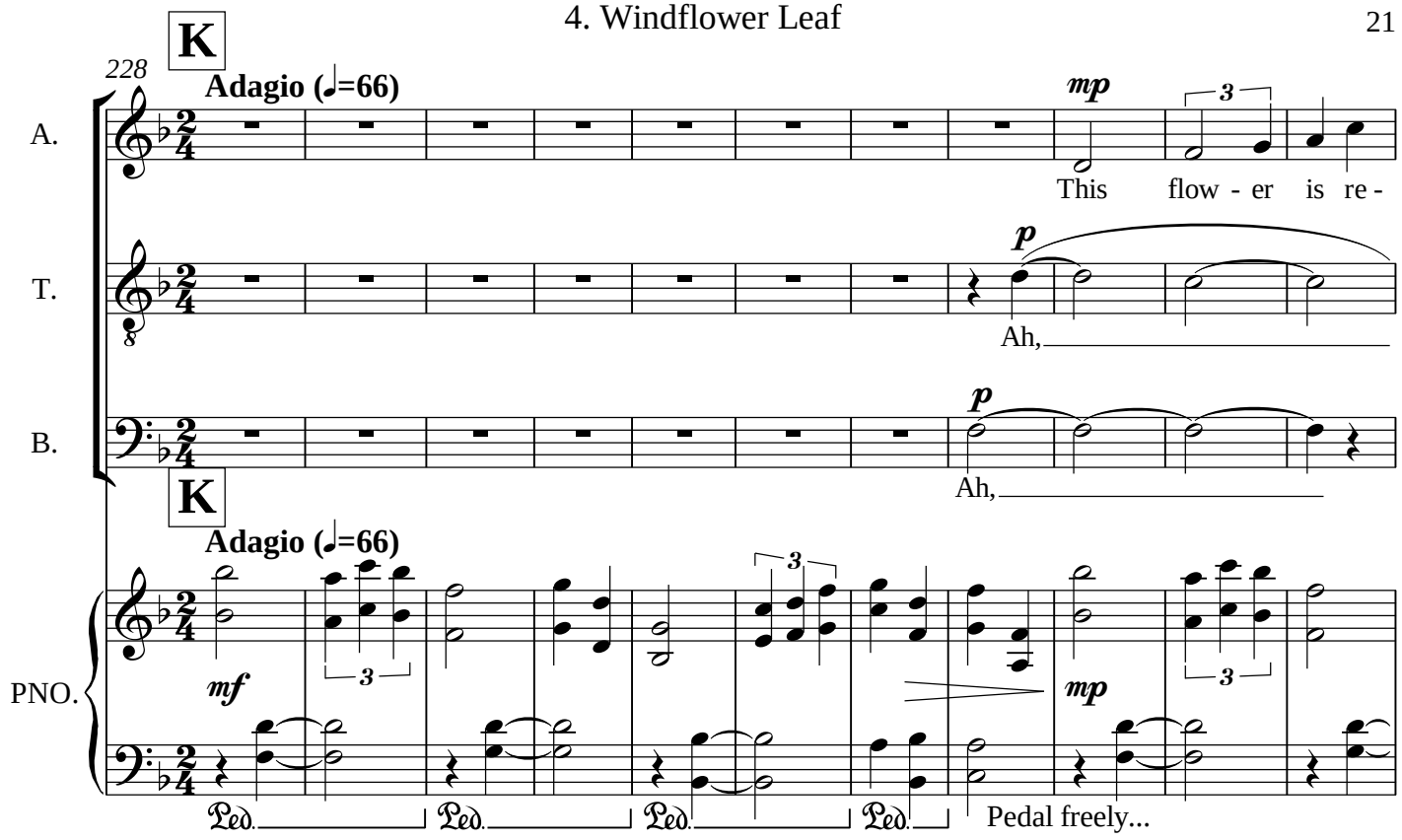

176
rall.
p
S.
Broth-er of dusk and um - ber.
A.
Broth-er of dusk and um - ber.
T.
Bro-ther of dusk and um - ber.
(low D opt.)
B.
Broth-er of dusk and um - ber.
rall.
pp
p
PNO.

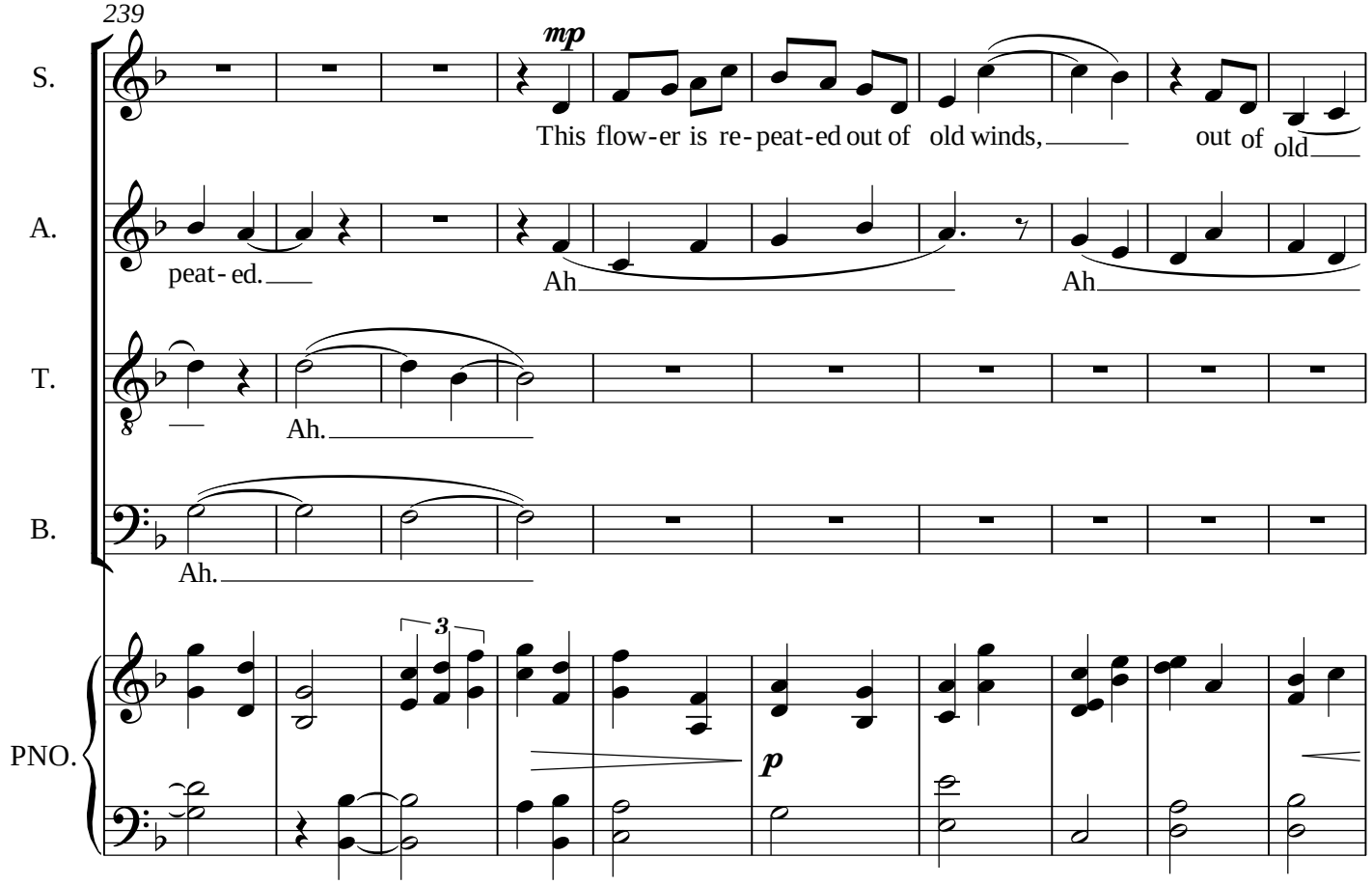

I
Adagio (♩=70)
182
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mp
without vibrato
mf
Oh
We
sleep,
In the
In the loam
we
Oh. In the loam we
p
Ped.
189
cool
moist
loam,
To the lull
of years that
(tritone)

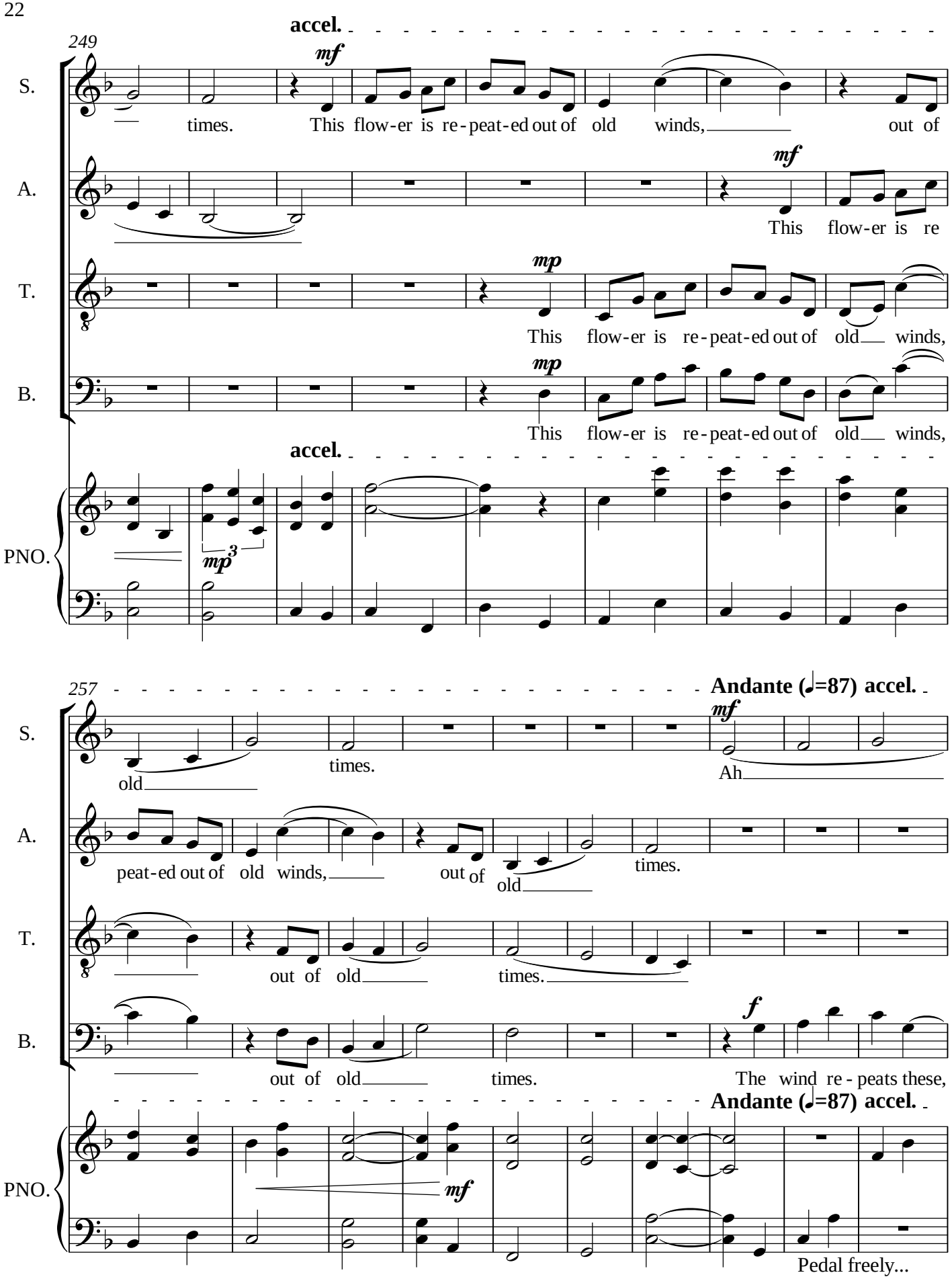

J
Andantino (♩=100)
194
S.
pass, And the break of stars.
A.
pass and the break of stars. From the
mf
T.
pass, and the break of stars. From the
B.
pass, and the break of stars.
PNO.
Ped.
199
The soft warm loam, We rise, rise: To
loam, then, The soft warm loam, We rise, rise: To
loam, then, We rise: We rise: To
We rise: We rise: To

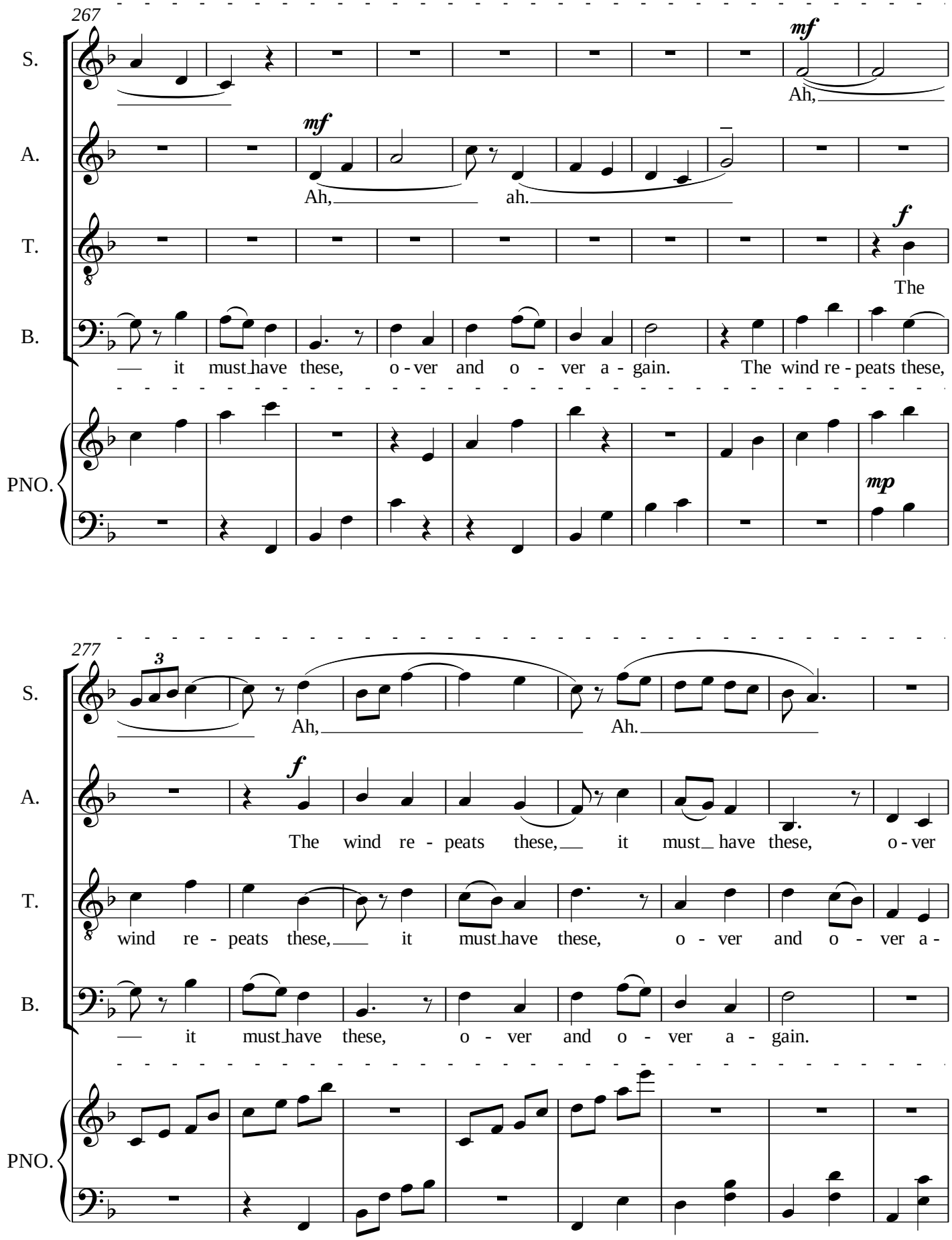

205
S.
shape of rose leaf, Of face and shoul - - der.
A.
shape of rose leaf, Of face and shoul - - der. We
T.
shape of rose leaf, Of face and shoul - - der. We
B.
shape of rose leaf, Of face and shoul - - der. We
PNO.
mp
mf
Ped.
rall.
210
We stand, then, To a whiff of life,
stand, then, Of life,
stand, then, To a whiff of life,
stand, then, Of life,

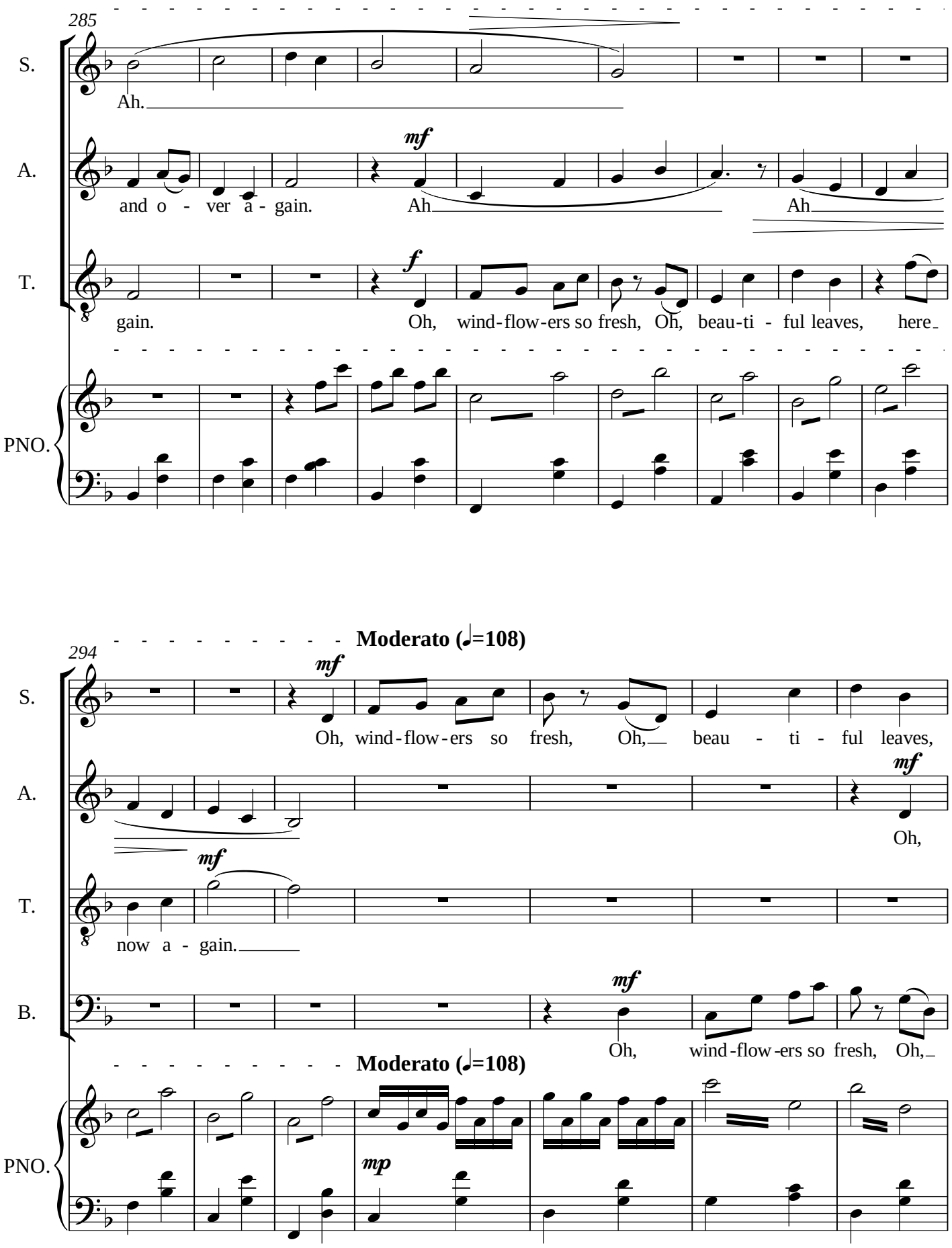

Adagio (♩=70)
216
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mf
f
mp
Lift-ed to the sil-ver of the sun
Ov-er and out of the loam
Adagio (♩=70)
Ped.
222
p
A day.
A day.
Ped.

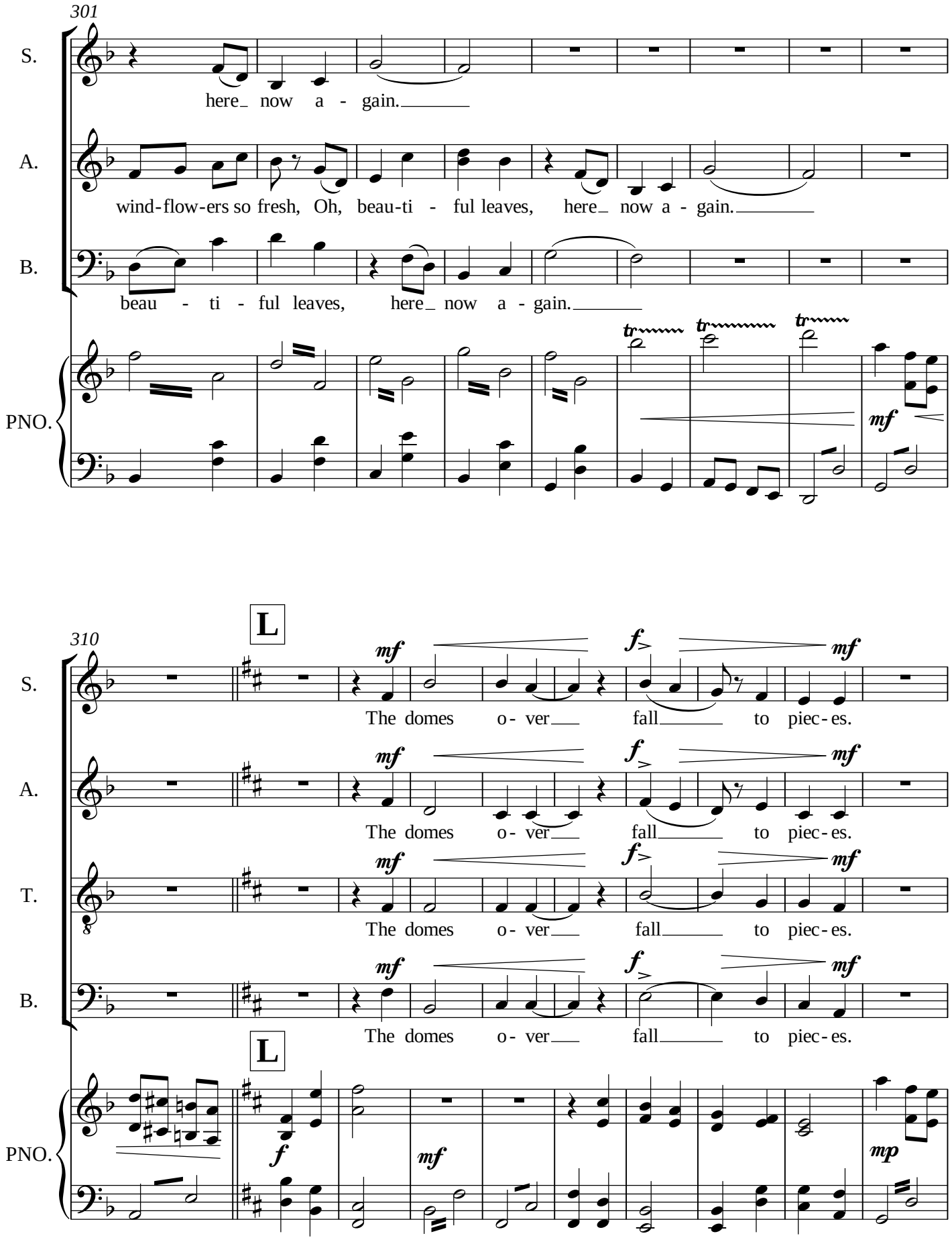

228
K
Adagio (♩=66)
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mp
p
This flow - er is re -
Ah,
Ah,
K
Adagio (♩=66)
mf
mp
Ped.
Pedal freely...

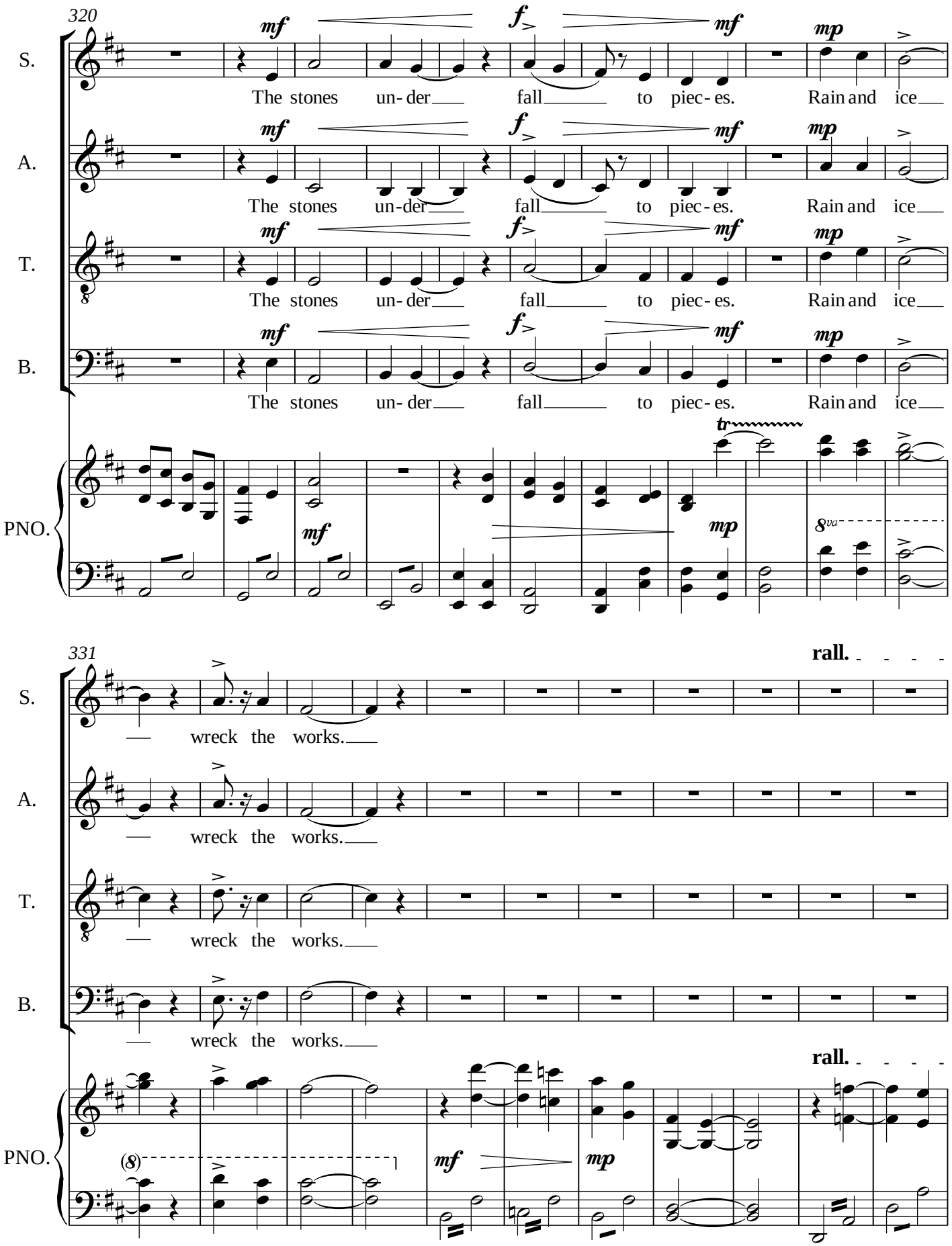

239
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mp
This flow-er is re-peat-ed out of old winds,
out of old
peat - ed.
Ah
Ah
Ah.
Ah.
p

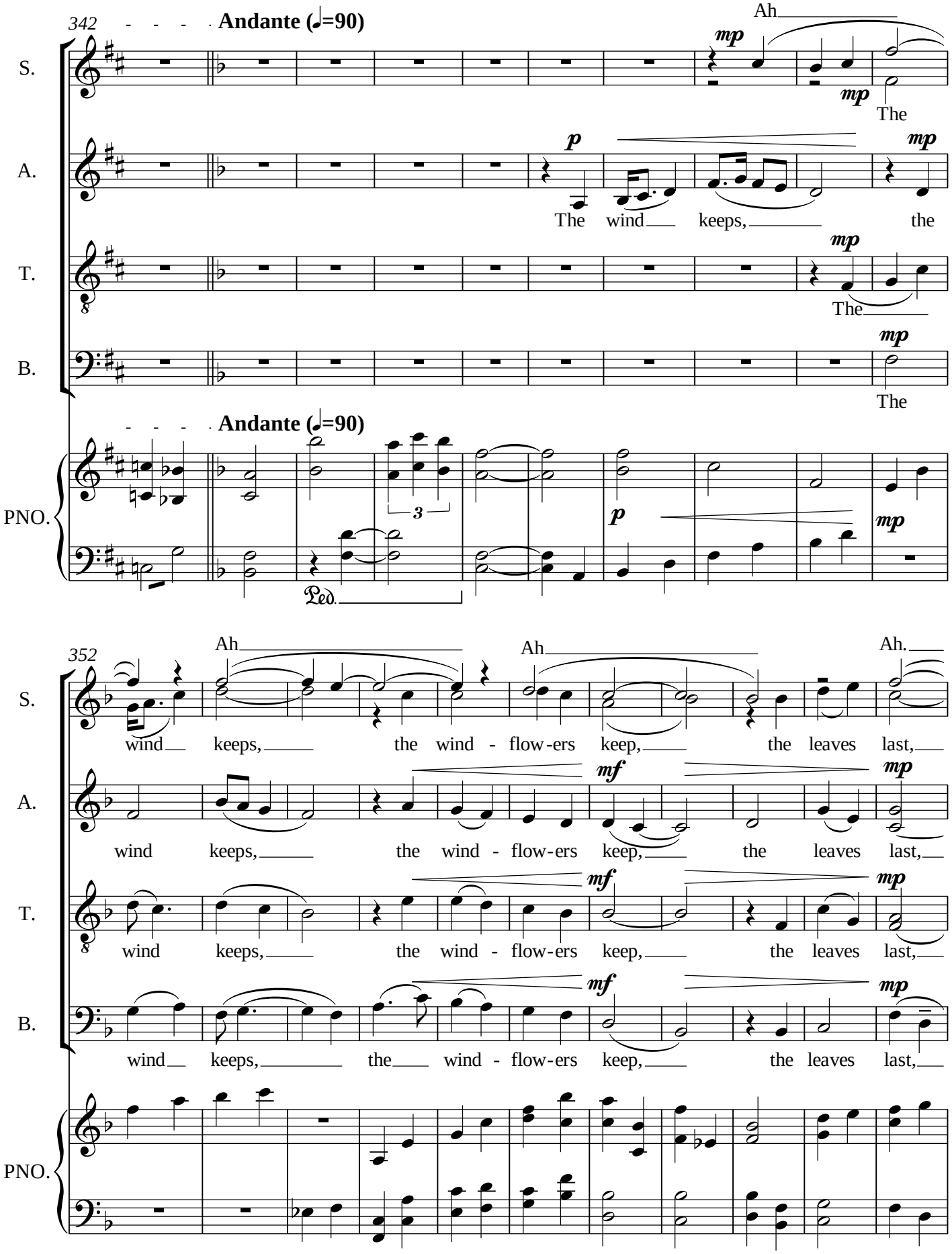

249
accel.
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mf
mp
times. This flow-er is re-peat-ed out of old winds, out of
This flow-er is re
This flow-er is re-peat-ed out of old winds,
This flow-er is re-peat-ed out of old winds,
257
Andante (♩=87) accel.
old times.
Ah
peat-ed out of old winds, out of old times.
out of old times.
out of old times.
f
The wind re-peats these,
Pedal freely...

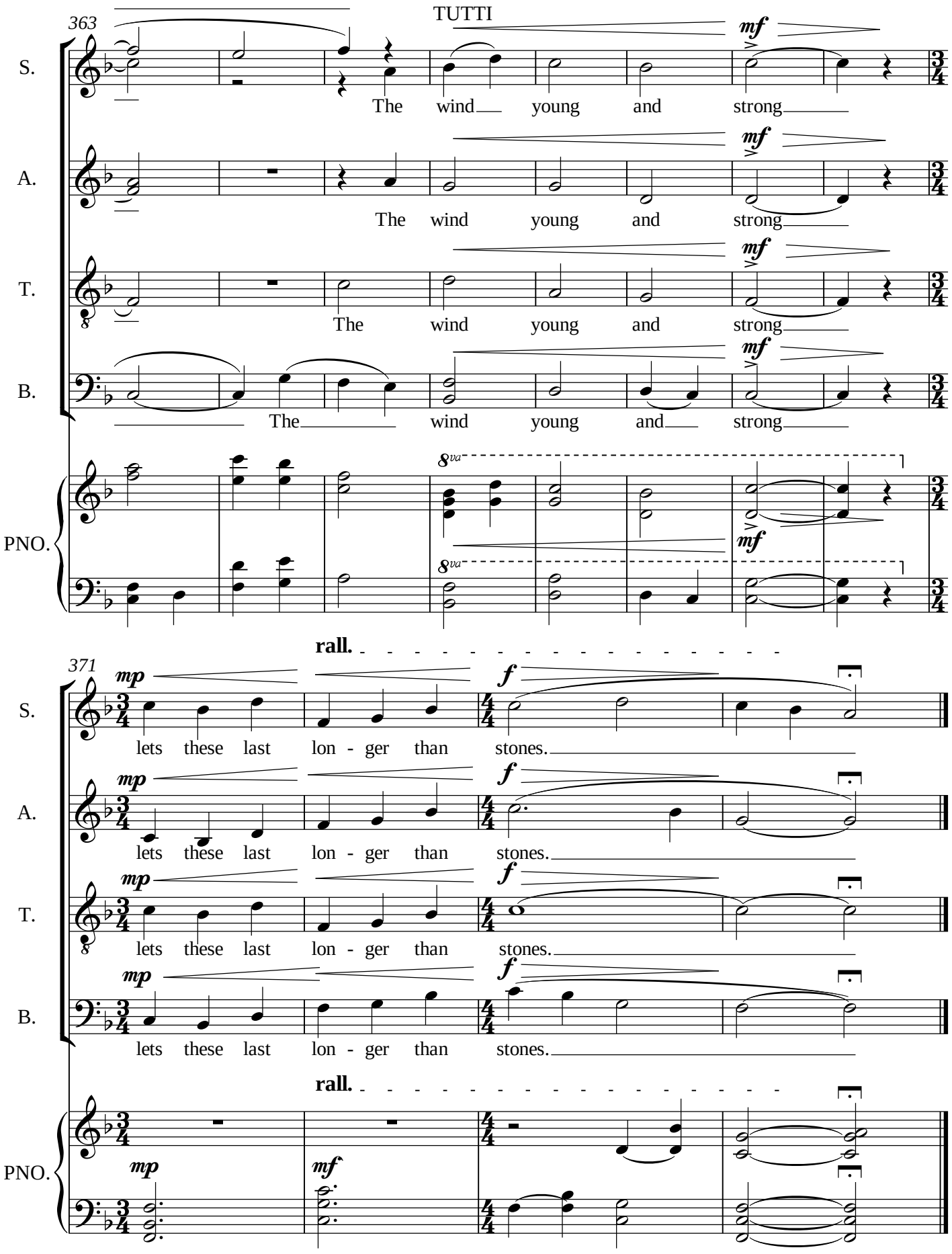

267
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mf
Ah,
mf
Ah, ah.
f
The
— it must have these, o - ver and o - ver a - gain. The wind re - peats these,
mp
277
3
Ah, Ah.
f
The wind re - peats these, — it must — have these, o - ver
wind re - peats these, — it must have these, o - ver and o - ver a -
— it must have these, o - ver and o - ver a - gain.


285
S.
Ah.
A.
and o - ver a - gain.
mf
Ah
Ah
T.
gain.
f
Oh, wind-flow-ers so fresh, Oh, beau-ti - ful leaves, here
PNO.
294
Moderato (♩=108)
S.
mf
Oh, wind-flow-ers so fresh, Oh, beau - ti - ful leaves,
A.
mf
Oh,
T.
mf
now a - gain.
B.
mf
Oh, wind-flow-ers so fresh, Oh,
Moderato (♩=108)
PNO.
mp


301
S.
here now a - gain.
A.
wind-flow-ers so fresh, Oh, beau-ti - ful leaves, here now a - gain.
B.
beau - ti - ful leaves, here now a - gain.
PNO.
mf
310
L
S.
mf
f
mf
The domes o - ver fall to piec - es.
A.
The domes o - ver fall to piec - es.
T.
The domes o - ver fall to piec - es.
B.
The domes o - ver fall to piec - es.
L
PNO.
f
mf
mp


320
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mf
f
mf
mp
The stones un- der fall to piec- es. Rain and ice
tr
8va
331
rall.
— wreck the works.
(8)


342
Andante (♩=90)
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
Ah
mp
The
p
The wind keeps, the
mp
The
mp
The
Andante (♩=90)
3
p
mp
Ped.
352
Ah
Ah
Ah.
wind keeps, the wind - flow-ers keep, the leaves last,
mf
mp
wind keeps, the wind - flow-ers keep, the leaves last,
mf
mp
wind keeps, the wind - flow-ers keep, the leaves last,
mf
mp
wind keeps, the wind - flow-ers keep, the leaves last,


363
TUTTI
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mf
The wind young and strong
8va
371
rall.
mp
f
lets these last lon - ger than stones.
mf

Four prairie songs of Sandburg

Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)

1. Prairie

(first & last lines of *Cornhuskers: Prairie*)

I WAS born on the prairie and the milk of its
wheat, the red of its clover, the eyes of its
women, gave me a song and a slogan.

O prairie mother, I am one of your boys.
I have loved the prairie as a man with a heart
shot full of pain over love.
Here I know I will hanker after nothing so much
as one more sunrise or a sky moon of fire
doubled to a river moon of water.
…
I speak of new cities and new people.
I tell you the past is a bucket of ashes.
I tell you yesterday is a wind gone down,
a sun dropped in the west.
I tell you there is nothing in the world
only an ocean of to-morrows,
a sky of to-morrows.

I am the brother of the cornhuskers who say
at sundown:
To-morrow is a day.

2. The Smoke of Autumn

(last lines from *Cornhuskers: Three Pieces on the Smoke of Autumn*)

I lean on an ash and watch the lights fall, the red
ember glow, and three muskrats swim west in
a fan of ripples on a sheet of river gold.
…

Better the blue silence and the gray west,
The autumn mist on the river,
And not any hate and not any love,
And not anything at all of the keen and the deep:
Only the peace of a dog head on a barn floor,
And the new corn shoveled in bushels
And the pumpkins brought from the corn rows,
Umber lights of the dark,
Umber lanterns of the loam dark.

Here a dog head dreams.
Not any hate, not any love.
Not anything but dreams.
Brother of dusk and umber.

3. Loam

(*Cornhuskers: Loam*)

IN the loam we sleep,
In the cool moist loam,
To the lull of years that pass,
And the break of stars.

From the loam, then,
The soft warm loam,
We rise:
To shape of rose leaf,
Of face and shoulder.

We stand, then,
To a whiff of life,
Lifted to the silver of the sun
Over and out of the loam
A day.

[Cornhuskers, Henry Holt, NY, 1918 (Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, 1919)]

4. Windflower Leaf

This flower is repeated
out of old winds, out of
old times.

The wind repeats these, it
must have these, over and
over again.

Oh, windflowers so fresh,
Oh, beautiful leaves, here
now again.

The domes over
fall to pieces.
The stones under
fall to pieces.
Rain and ice
wreck the works.
The wind keeps, the windflowers
keep, the leaves last,
The wind young and strong lets
these last longer than stones.

[American Poetry 1922: A Miscellany, Harcourt Brace & Co., NY, 1922]

PIANO

To my grandfather George Francis Bird, a seedsman & historian of North Dakota

Four prairie songs of Sandburg

1. Prairie

Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)

Peter Bird

Andante moderato (♩=80)

mf

9 **accel.**

mp

15 **rall.** **a tempo (♩=80)**

mf

A

22 **Allegretto (♩=110)**

mp *p* *mp*

30

V.S.

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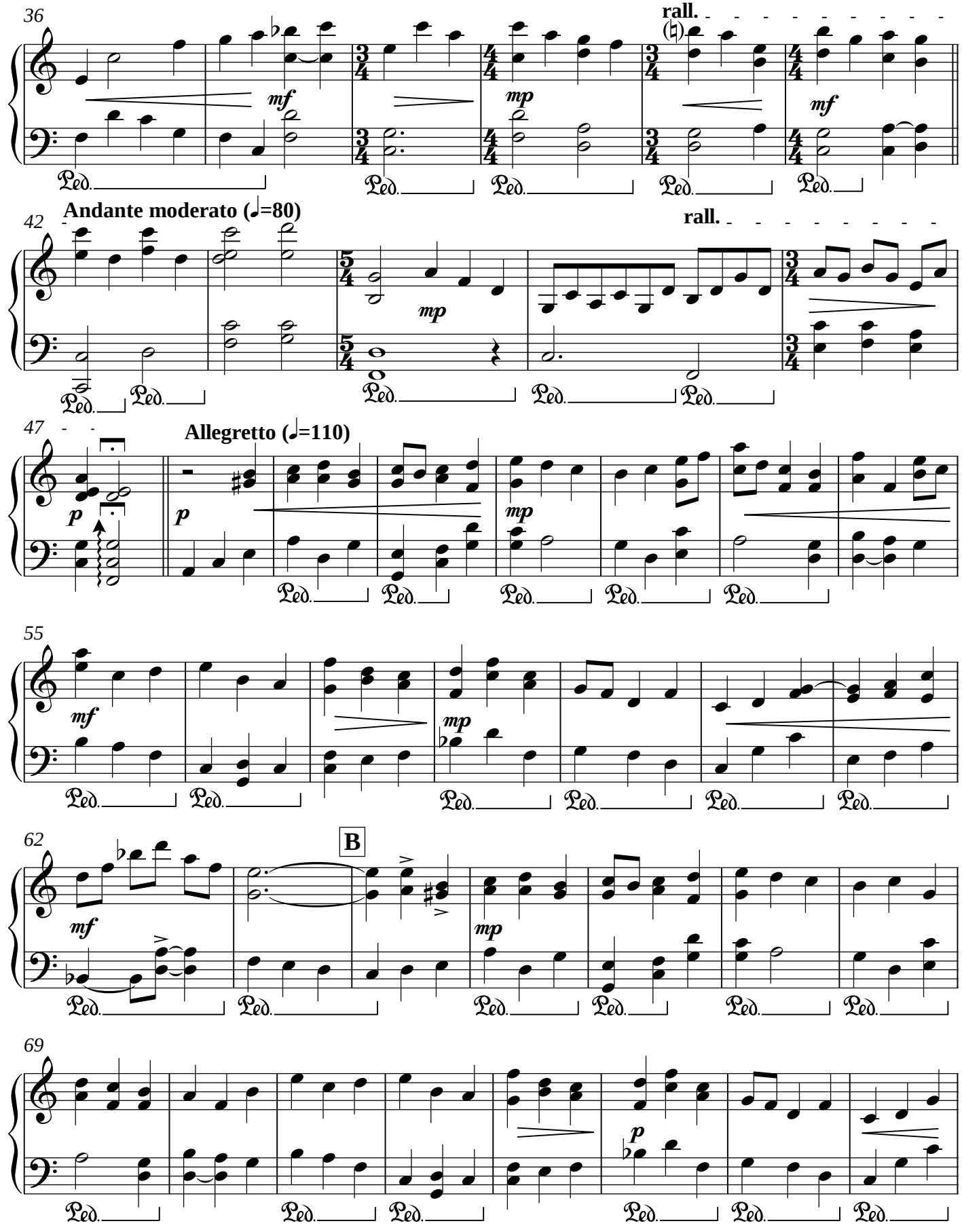
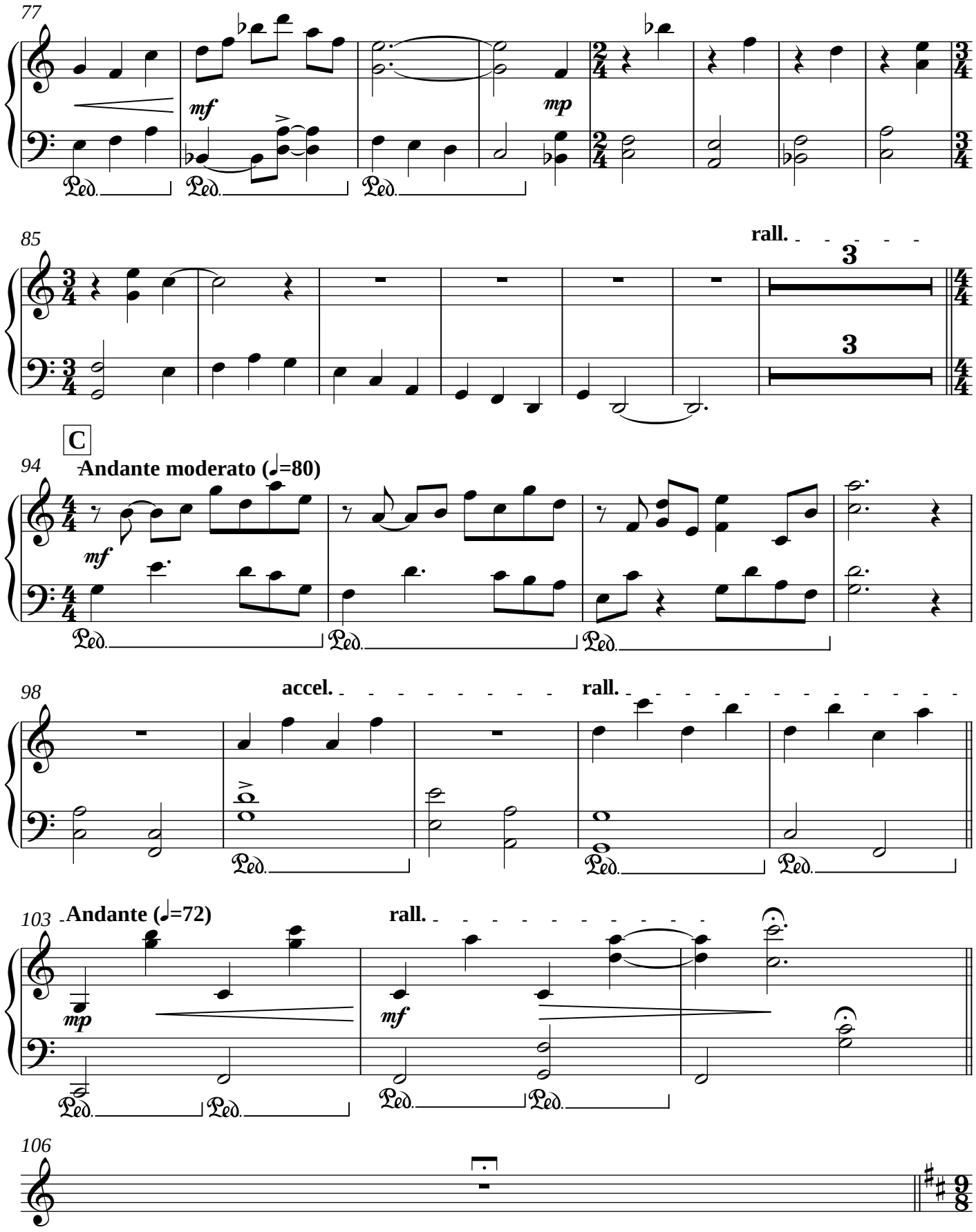
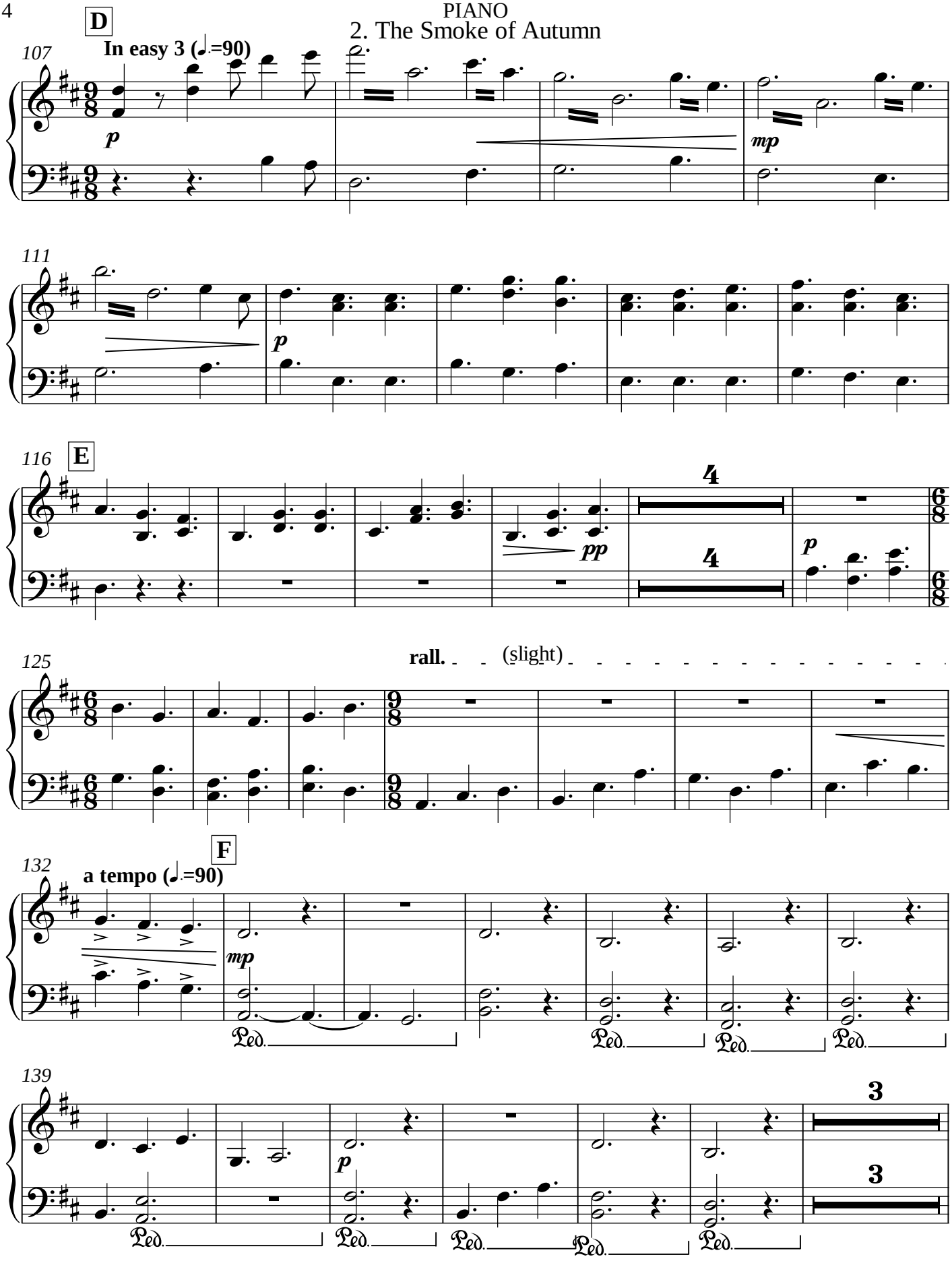
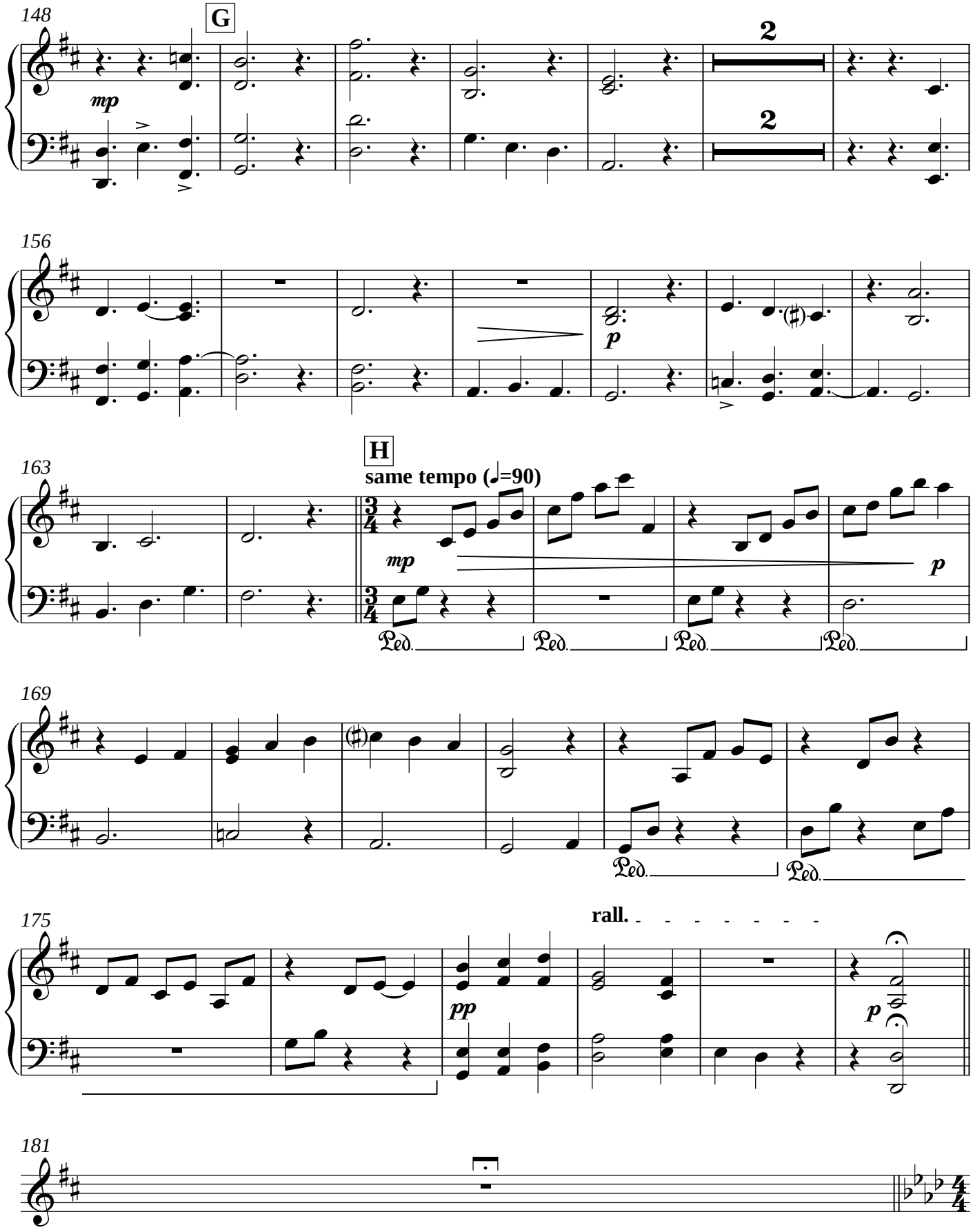

36
rall.
mf
mp
mf
Ped.
42
Andante moderato (♩=80)
rall.
mp
47
Allegretto (♩=110)
p
p
mp
55
mf
mp
62
B
mf
mp
69
p

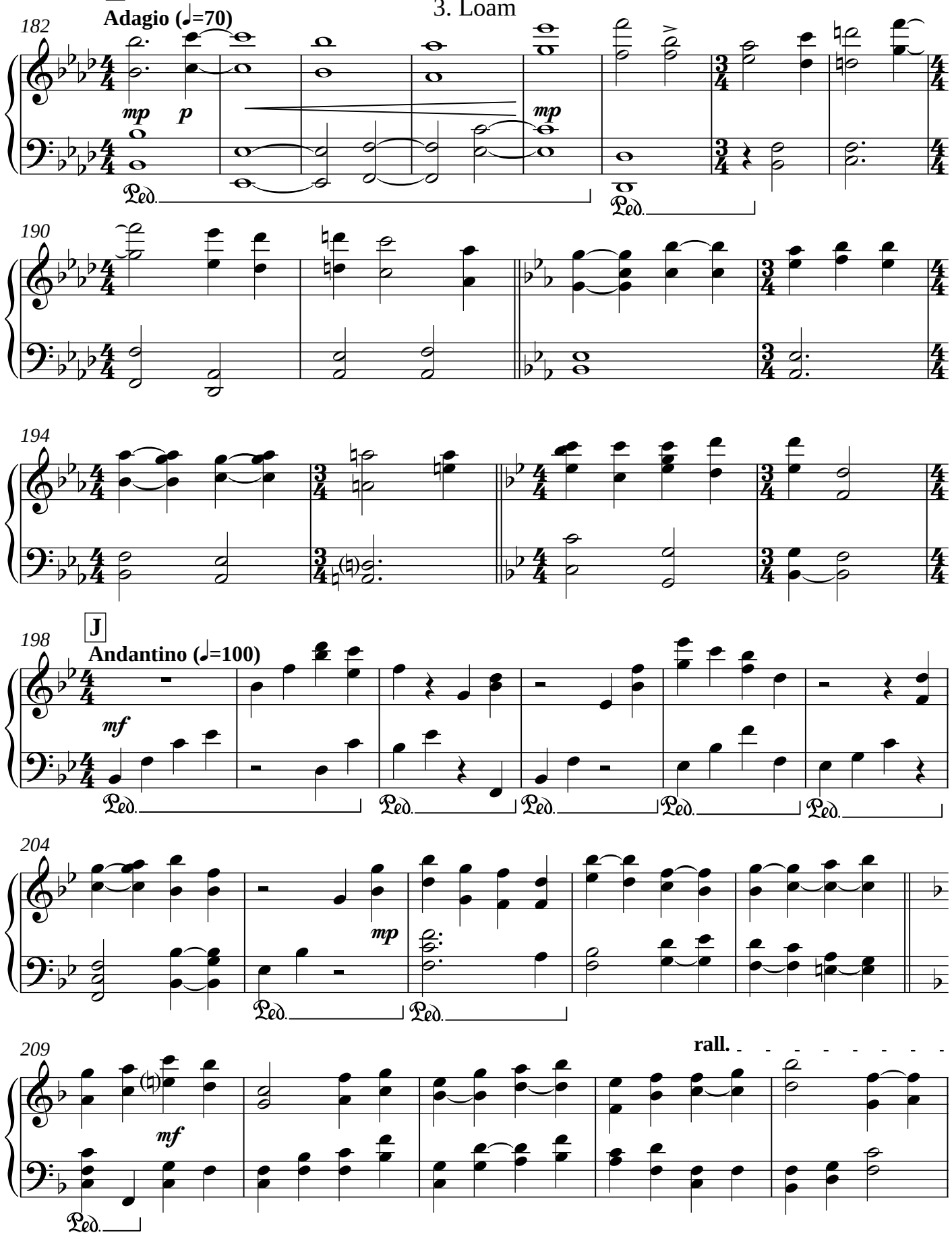

77
mf
mp
85
rall.
3
3
C
94
Andante moderato (♩=80)
mf
98
accel.
rall.
103
Andante (♩=72)
mp
rall.
mf
106

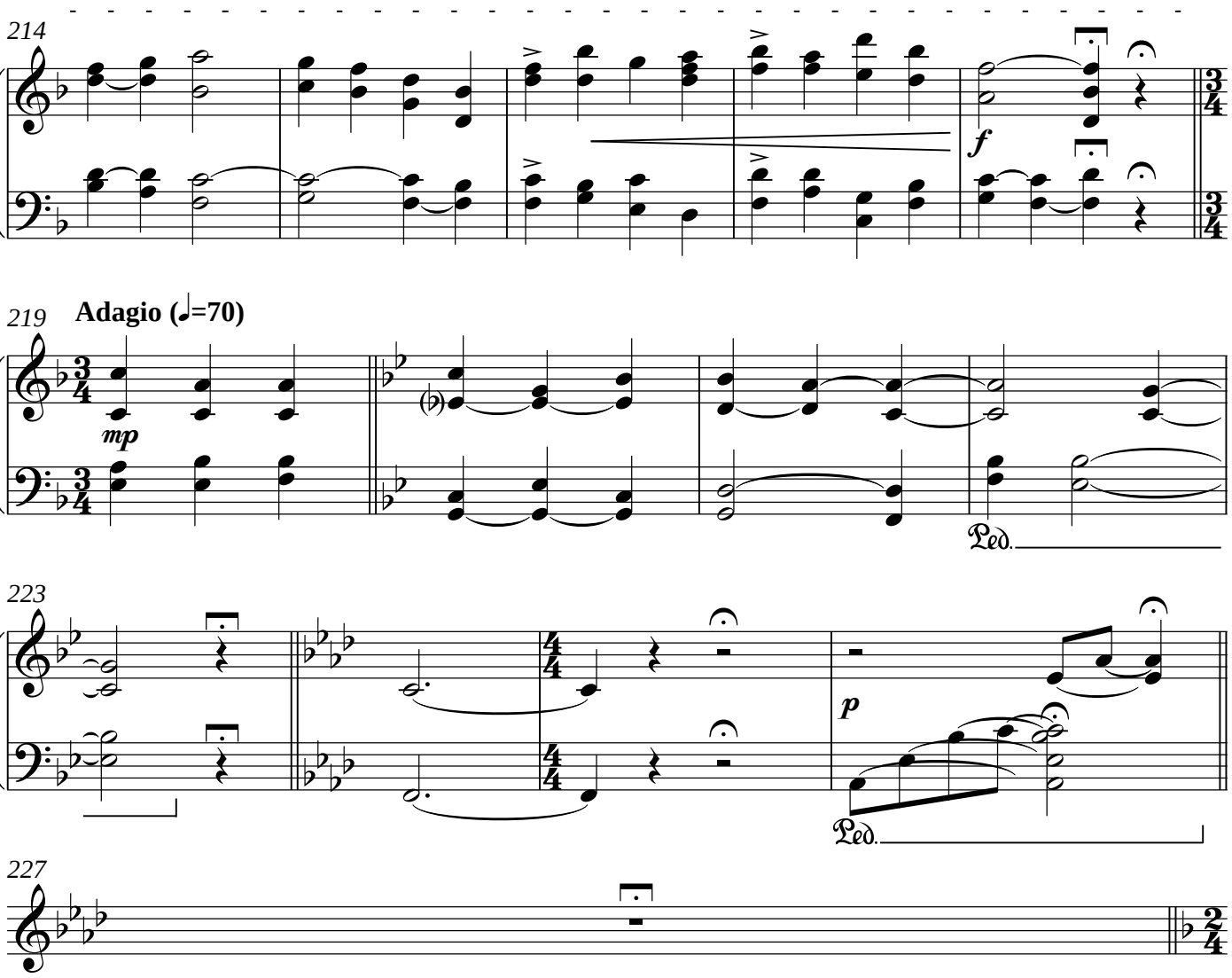
Four prairie songs of Sandburg
PIANO
2. The Smoke of Autumn




148
G
mp
2
2
156
p
163
H
same tempo (♩=90)
mp
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
169
Ped.
Ped.
175
rall.
pp
p
181

Four prairie songs of Sandburg
PIANO
3. Loam




214
f
219
Adagio (♩=70)
mp
Ped.
223
p
Ped.
227

4. Windflower Leaf

K

228 **Adagio (♩=66)**

mf *mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Pedal freely...

239

p

250 **accel.**

mp *mf*

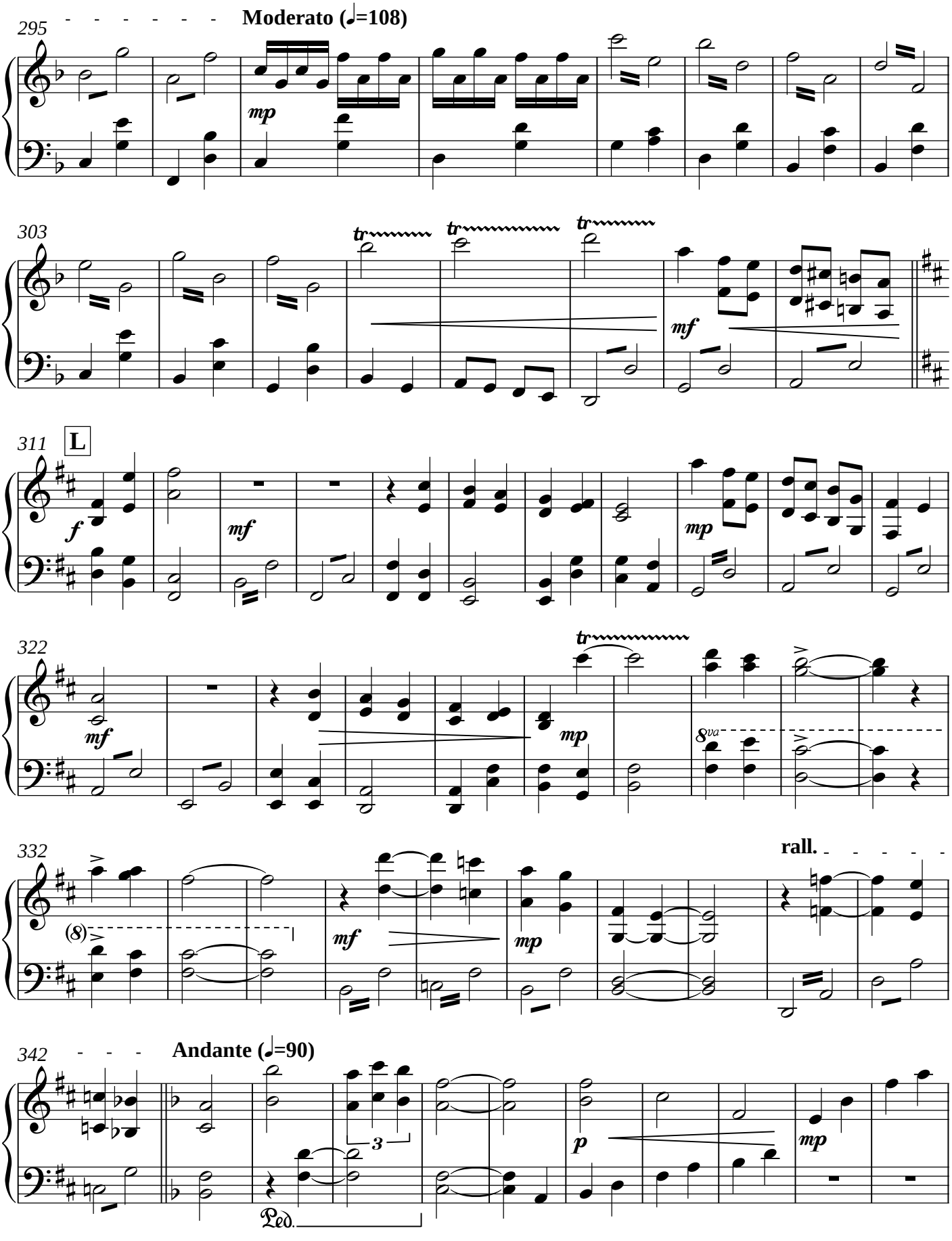
262 **Andante (♩=87) accel.**

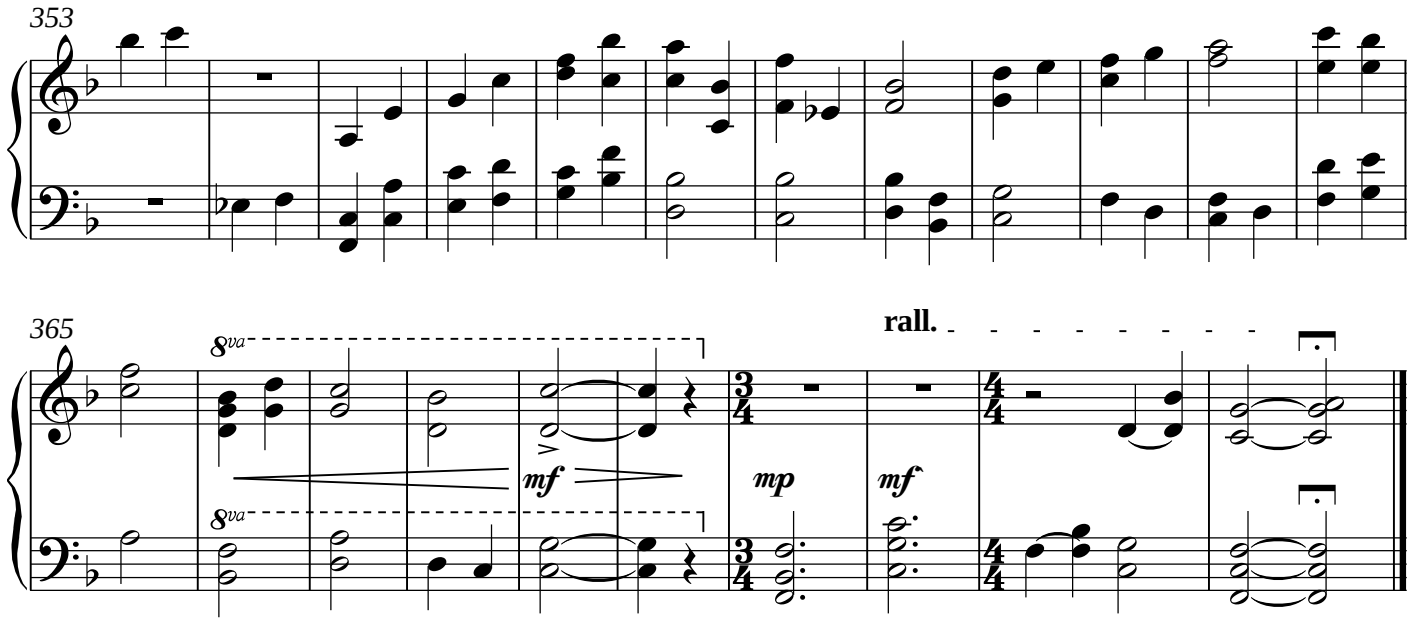
Pedal freely...

274

mp

284


295
Moderato (♩=108)
mp
303
tr
tr
tr
mf
311
L
f
mf
mp
322
mf
tr
mp
8va
332
rall.
(8)
mf
mp
342
Andante (♩=90)
3
p
mp
Ped.


353
365
8va
8va
mf
mp
mf
rall.