David Feurzeig

Three Mnemonics

for female chorus

Months	2' 00
Music	4' 00
Monarchs	1' 30

texts traditional, adapted by the composer

total duration ca. 7' 30

In “Months” the untilitarian doggerel of a familiar calendar rhyme serves as the basis for a haunting bipolar expresiionist fantasy, achieved through a sort of musical surrealism.

“Music” (subtitled “First Lessons”) begins as a simple primer on the note names of the treble staff, gradually unraveling as it devolves into a tirade against the insisidious sexist “lessons” embedded in language and culture—even in a seemingly innocuous pedagogical mnemonic. Though the text strays from the lesson plan, the lyrics maintain the alphabetic scheme of the mnemonic throughout: the first letter of each word matches the pitch being sung, as in “Every Good Boy Does Fine”.

“Monarchs” is a cheekily deranged setting of a schoolroom verse that rattles off in order the occupants of the English throne, with a brief interlude for a couplet memorializing the fates of Henry VIII’s wives. No offense is meant to HRH Queen Elizabeth II, long may she reign.

Months

Thirty days hath November,
April, June, and September.
Of twenty-eight there is but one,
All the remnant thirty-one.

Music

F-A-C-E: “face.”
Every Good Boy Does Fine...

Monarchs

The Monarchs of England:
Willie, Willie, Harry, Stee,
Harry, Dick, John, Harry Three;
One, two, three Neds, Richard Two,
Harrys Four, Five, Six...then who?
Edwards Four, Five, Dick the Bad,
Harrys twain, Ned Six (the Lad),
Mary, Bessie, James the Vain,
Charlie, Charlie, James again,
Will and Mary, Anna Gloria,
Georges four, Will Four, Victoria,
Edward Seven, George and Ted,
George the Sixth, Liz till she’s...

The Six Wives of Henry VIII:
Divorced, beheaded, died,
Divorced, beheaded, survived.

Three Mnemonics

David Feurzeig
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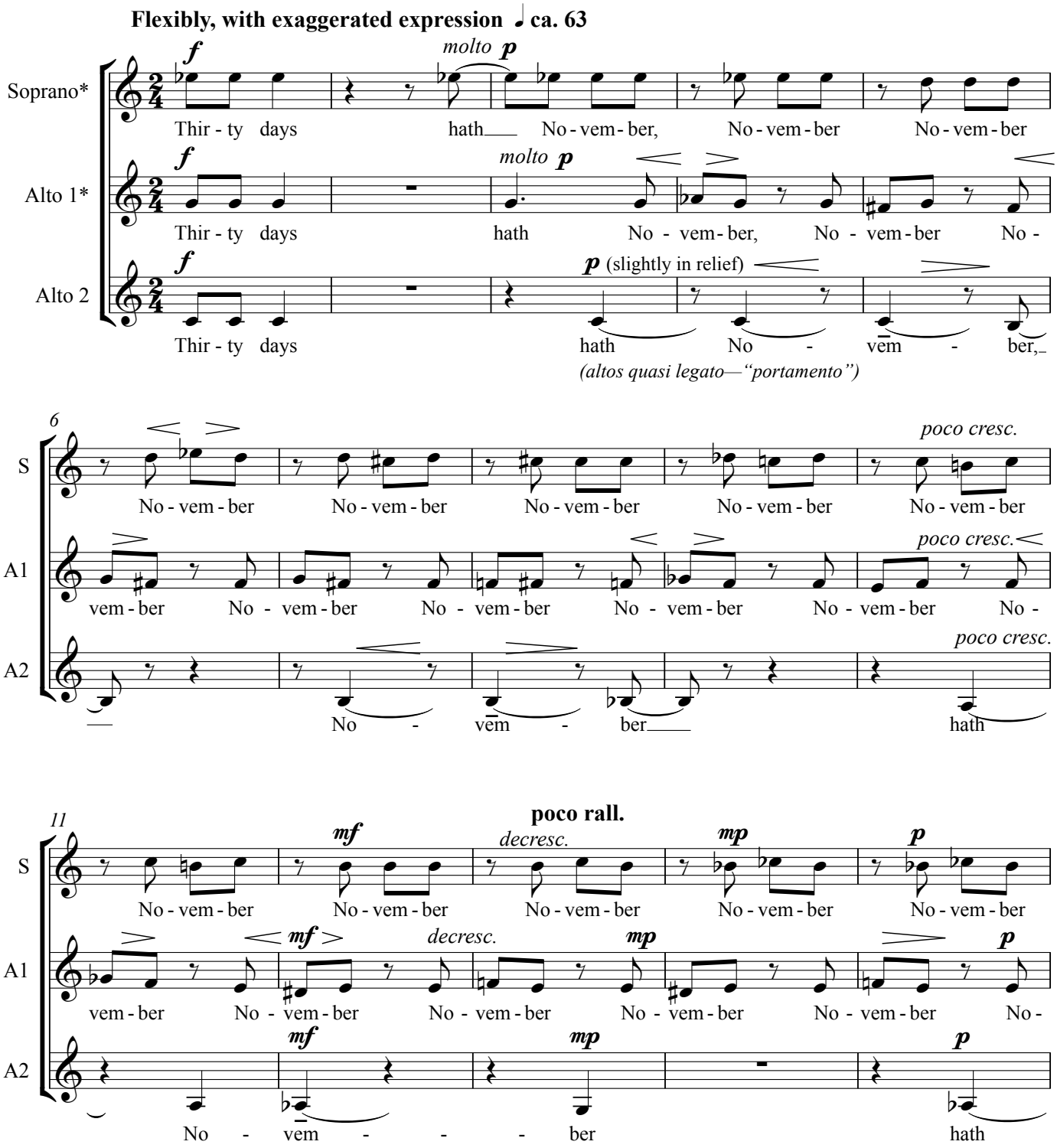
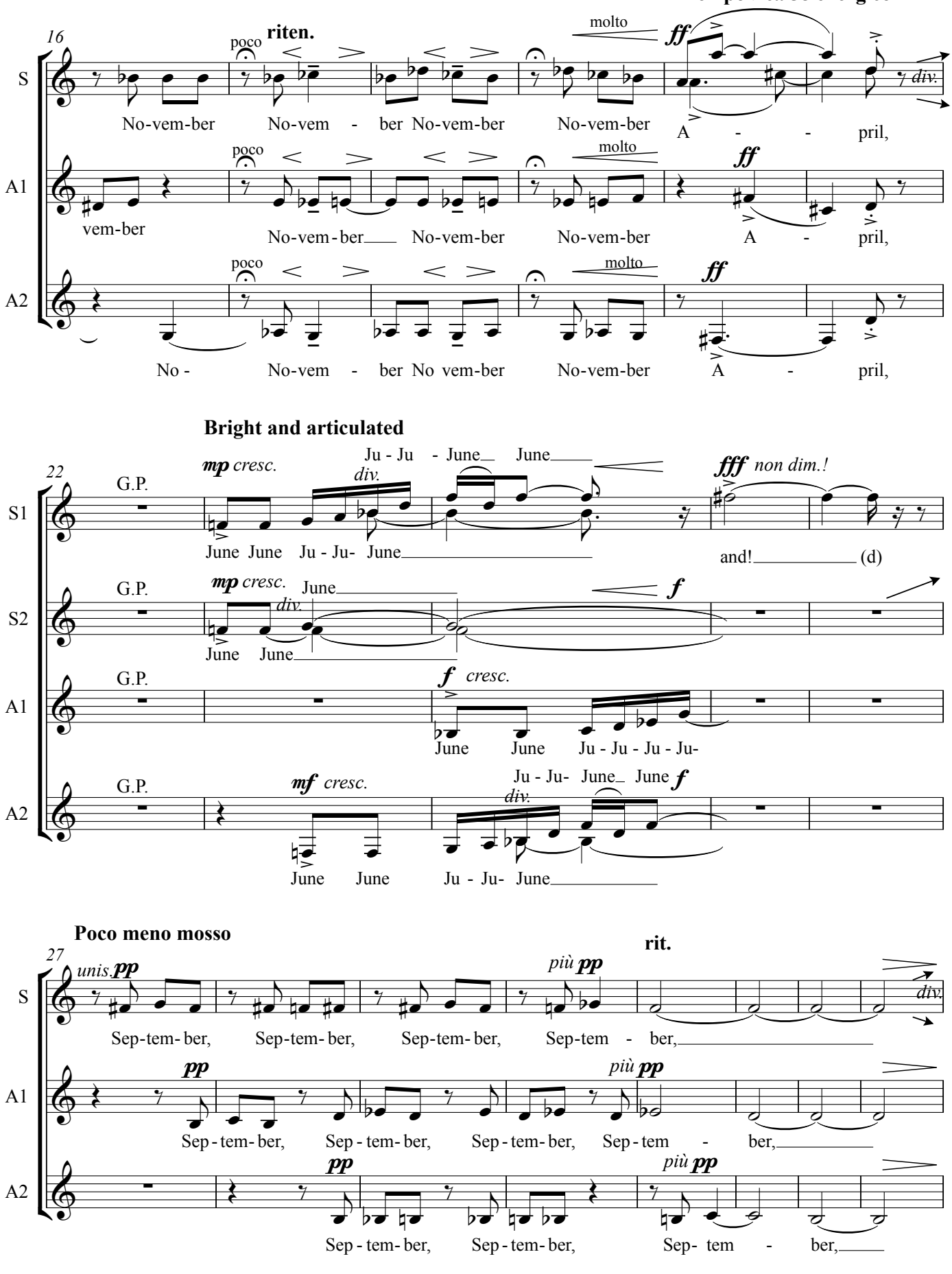
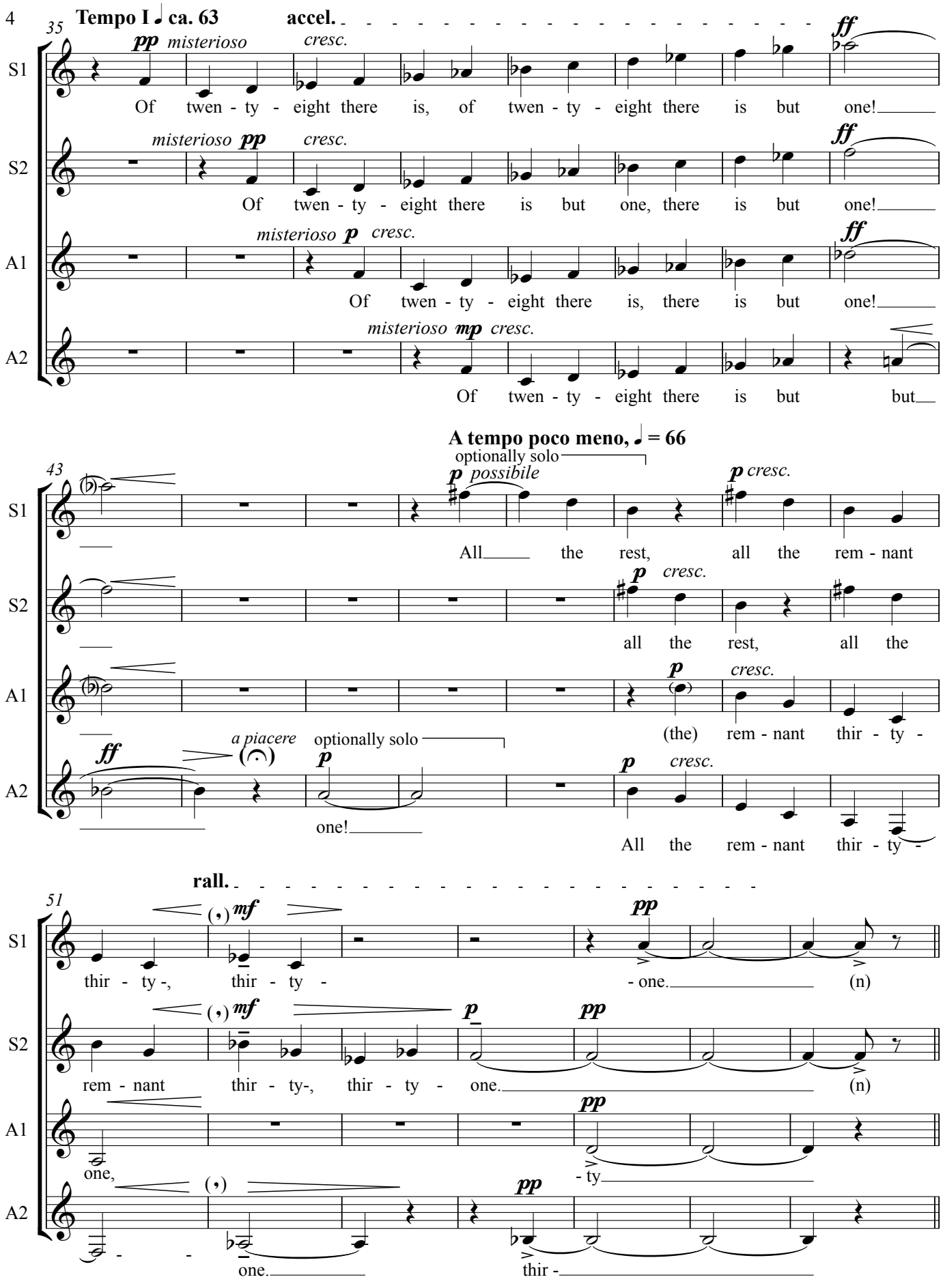
I. Months

for Dawn Willis and Bella Voce

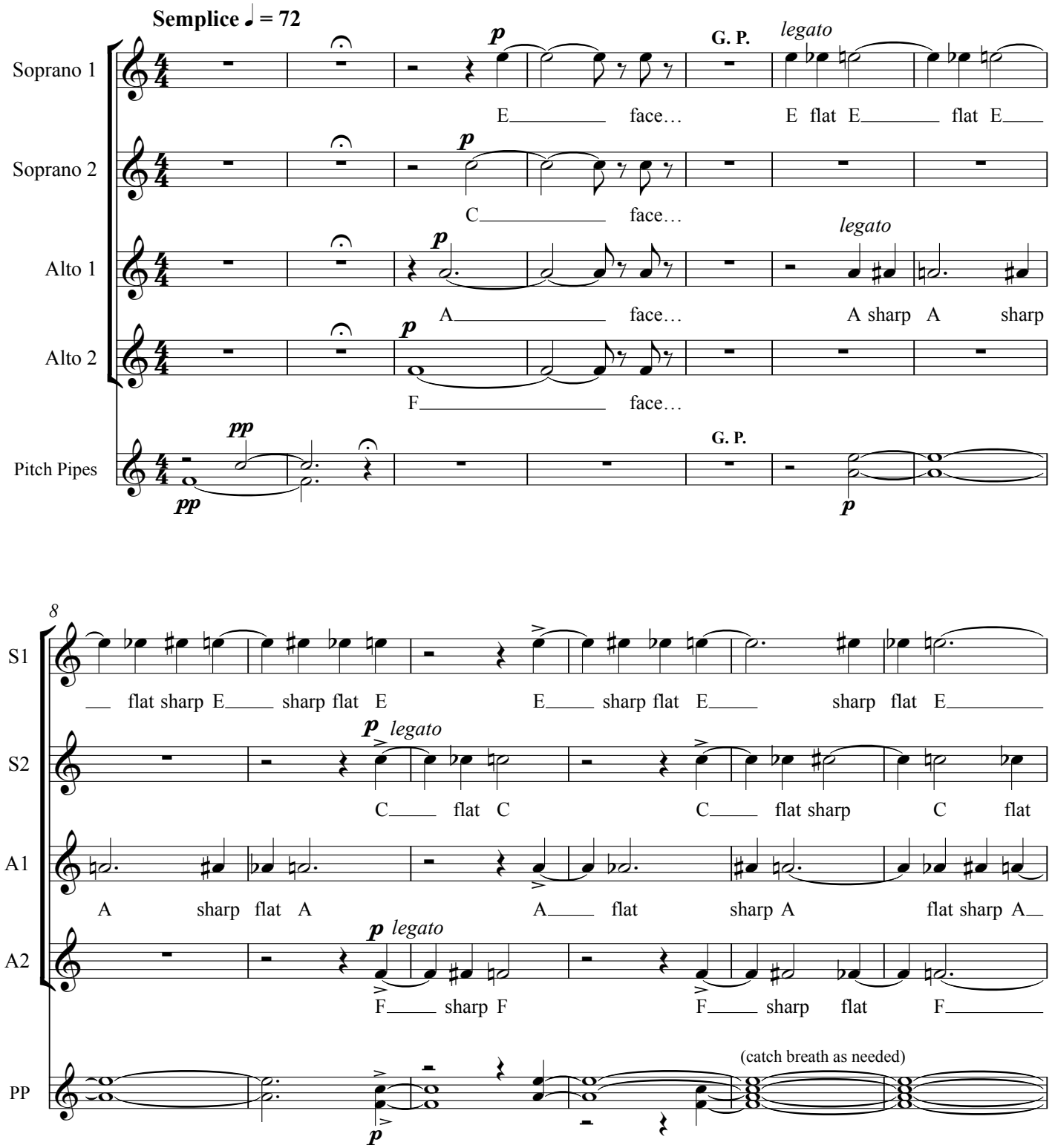


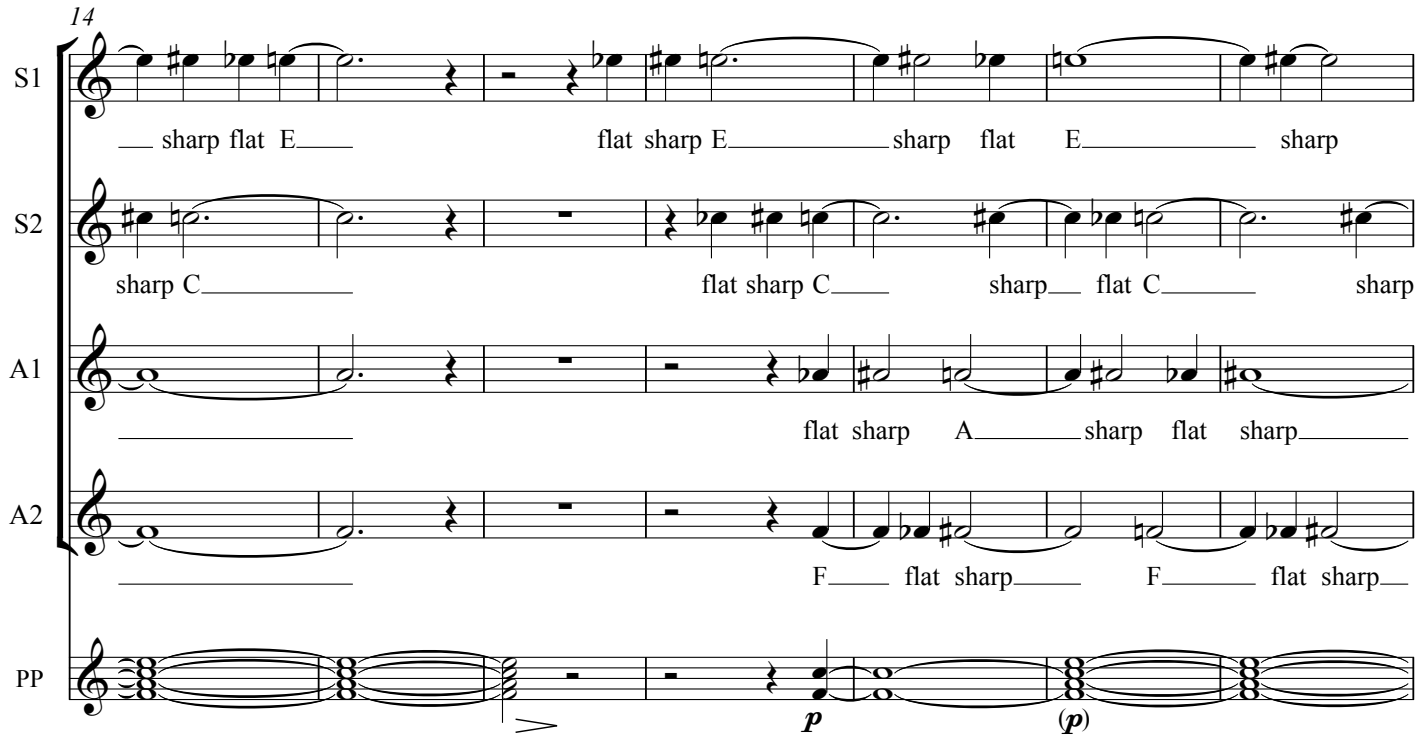
* in 3-part passages, adjust divisi as needed for balance

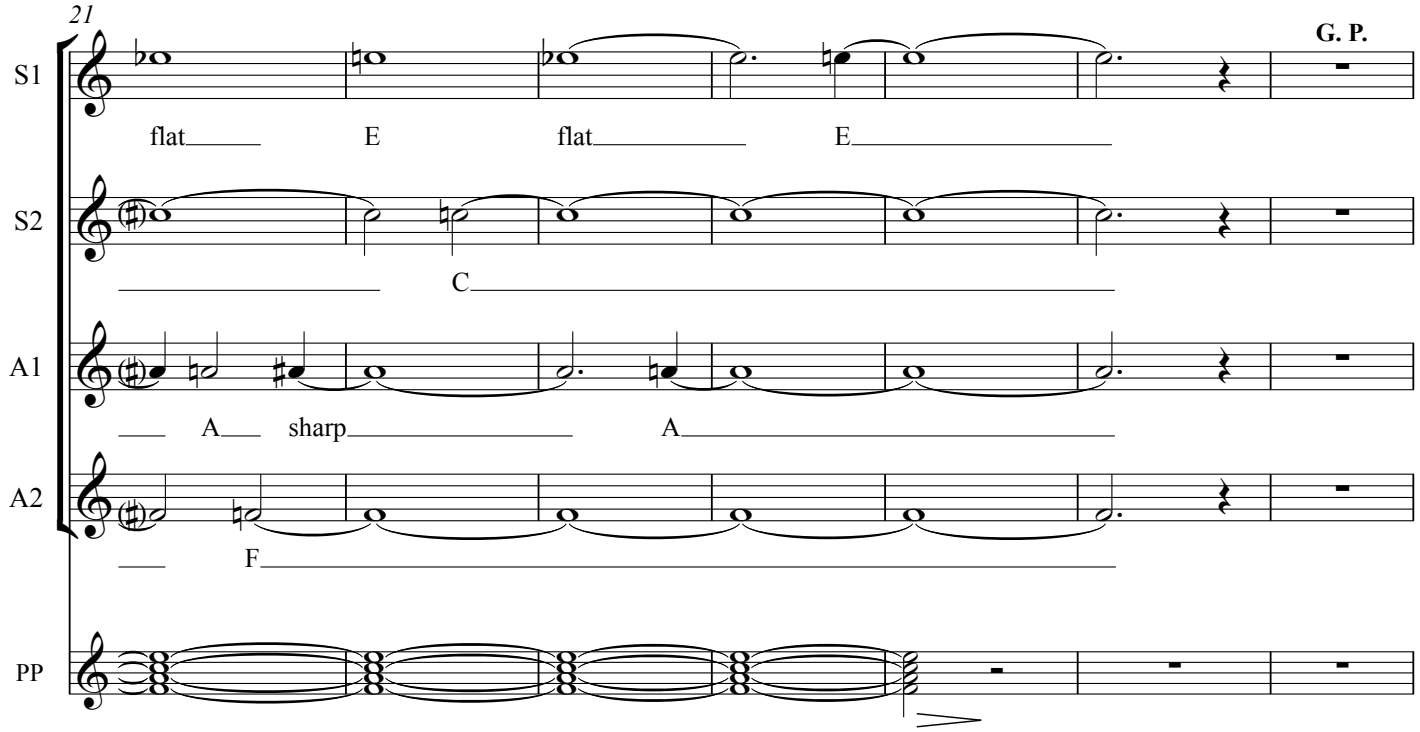

A Tempo ♩ ca 58 energico
16
riten.
poco
molto
ff
S
No-vem-ber No-vem - ber No-vem-ber No-vem-ber A - - pril,
div.
A1
vem-ber
No-vem-ber No-vem-ber No-vem-ber A - pril,
A2
No - No-vem - ber No vem-ber No-vem-ber A - pril,
Bright and articulated
22
G.P.
mp cresc.
div.
Ju - Ju - June June
fff non dim.!
S1
June June Ju - Ju- June
and! (d)
S2
June June
f
A1
f cresc.
June June Ju - Ju - Ju - Ju-
mf cresc.
Ju - Ju- June June
A2
June June Ju - Ju- June
Poco meno mosso
rit.
27
unis.
pp
più pp
Sep-tem- ber, Sep-tem- ber, Sep-tem- ber, Sep-tem - ber,
Sep - tem- ber, Sep - tem- ber, Sep - tem- ber, Sep - tem - ber,
Sep - tem- ber, Sep - tem- ber, Sep- tem - ber,

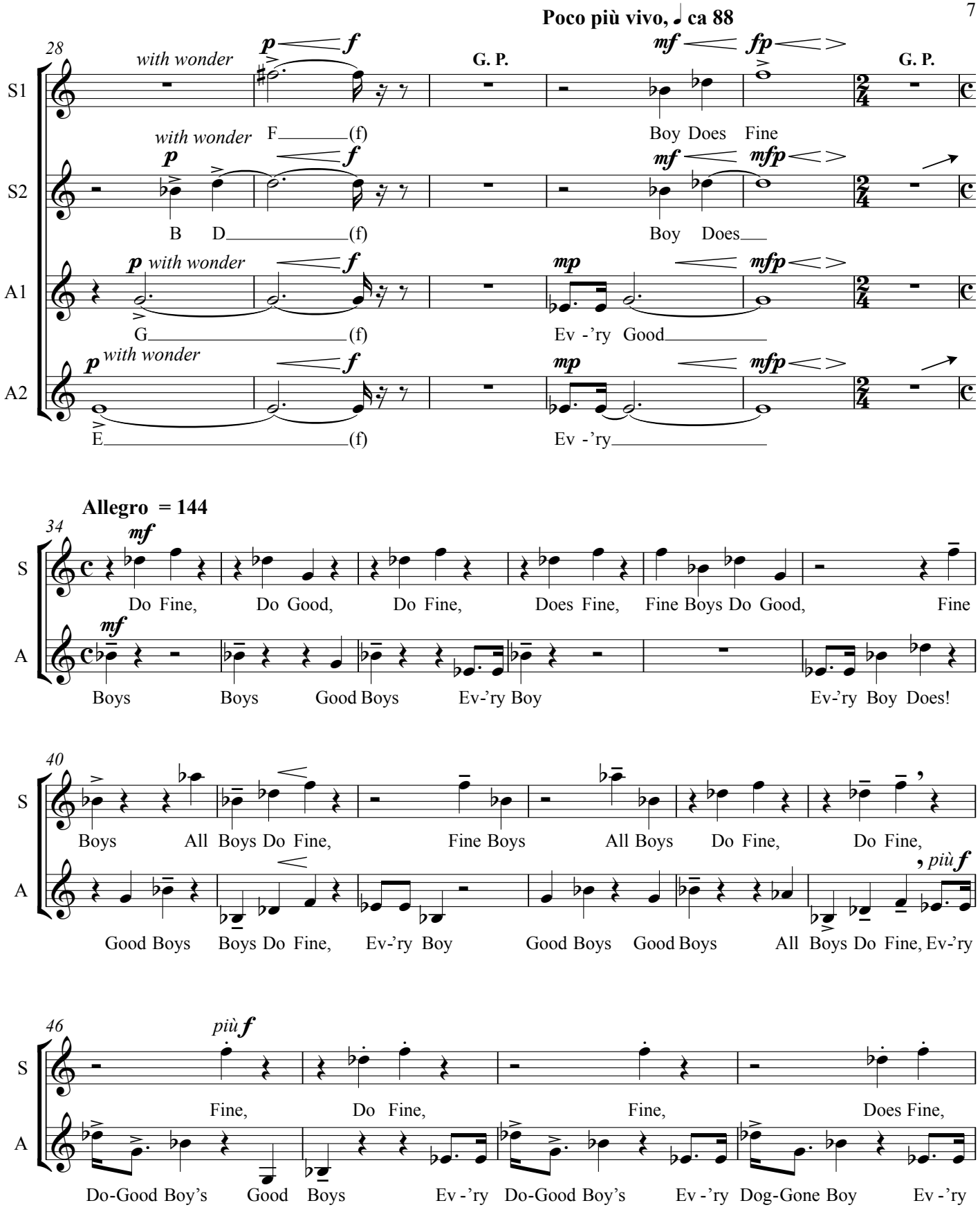

35
Tempo I ca. 63
accel.
S1
S2
A1
A2
pp misterioso
cresc.
ff
Of twen - ty - eight there is, of twen - ty - eight there is but one!
misterioso pp
cresc.
ff
Of twen - ty - eight there is but one, there is but one!
misterioso p cresc.
ff
Of twen - ty - eight there is, there is but one!
misterioso mp cresc.
Of twen - ty - eight there is but but
43
A tempo poco meno, ♩ = 66
optionally solo
p possibile
p cresc.
All the rest, all the rem - nant
p cresc.
all the rest, all the
p cresc.
(the) rem - nant thir - ty -
ff
a piacere
optionally solo
p
one!
p cresc.
All the rem - nant thir - ty -
51
rall.
mf
pp
thir - ty -, thir - ty - - one. (n)
mf
p
pp
rem - nant thir - ty-, thir - ty - one. (n)
pp
one, - ty
mf
pp
one. thir -

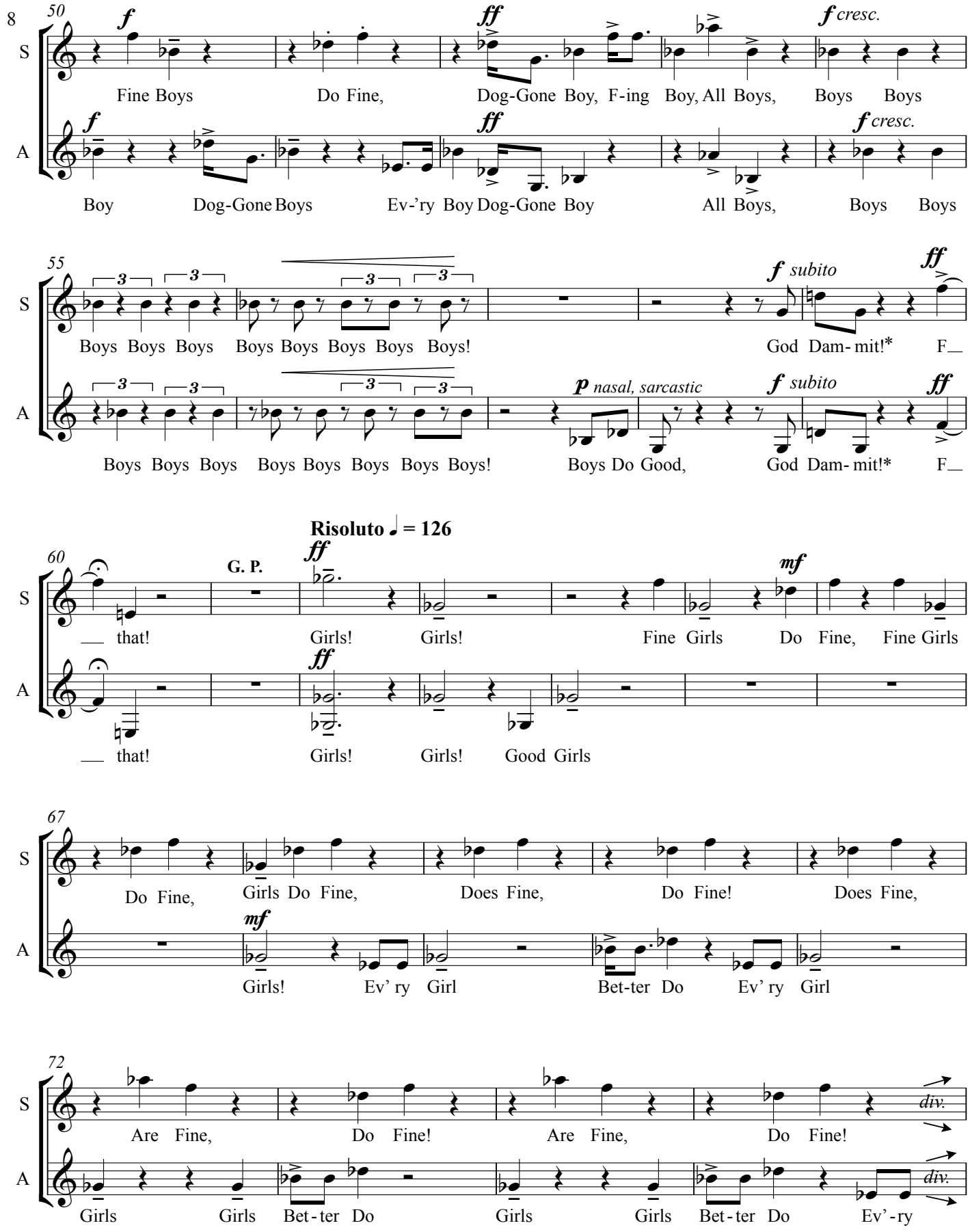
II. Music
or
First Lessons



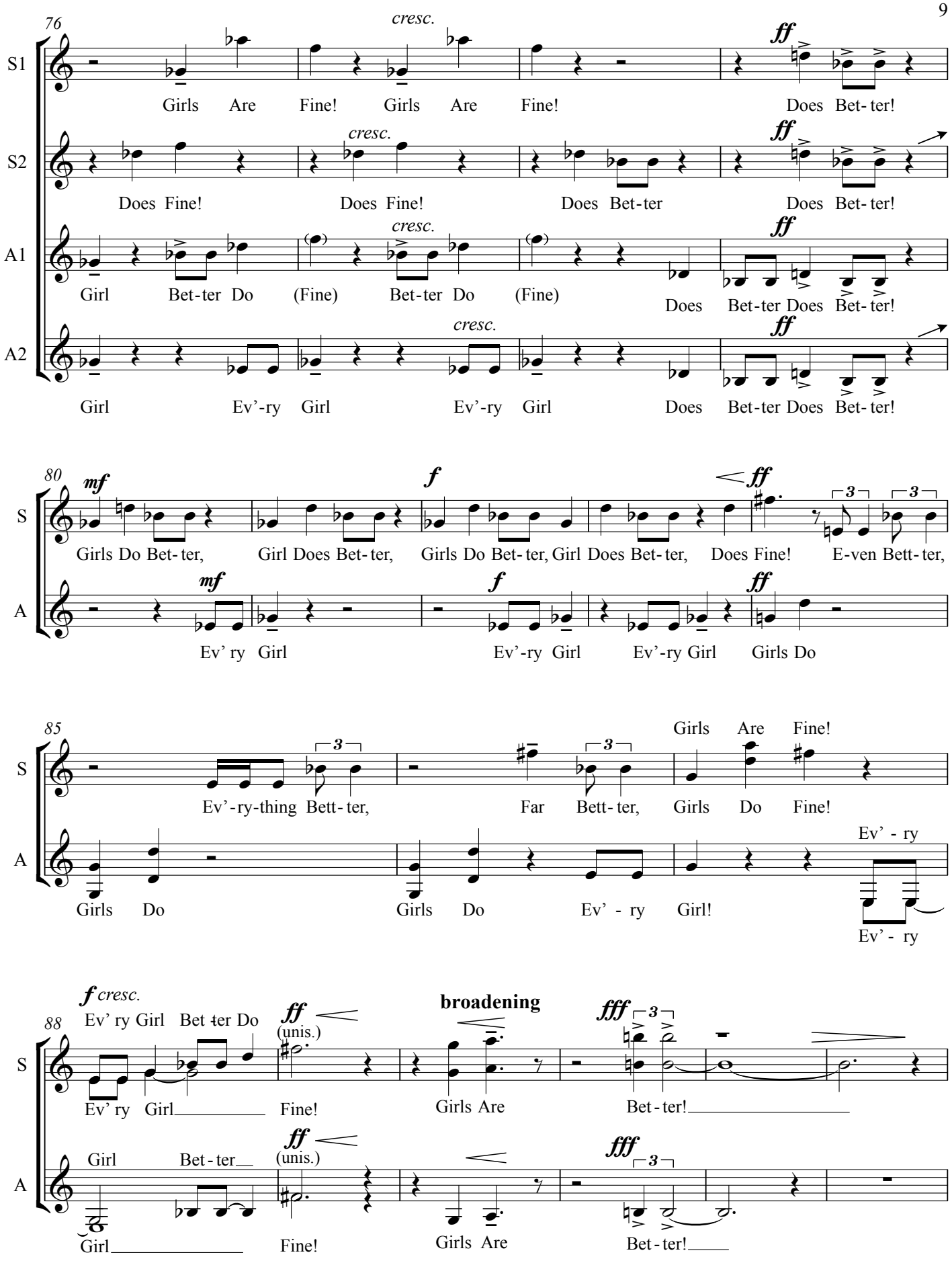

14
S1
sharp flat E
flat sharp E
sharp flat E
sharp
S2
sharp C
flat sharp C
sharp flat C
sharp
A1
flat sharp A
sharp flat sharp
A2
F
flat sharp
F
flat sharp
PP
p
(p)

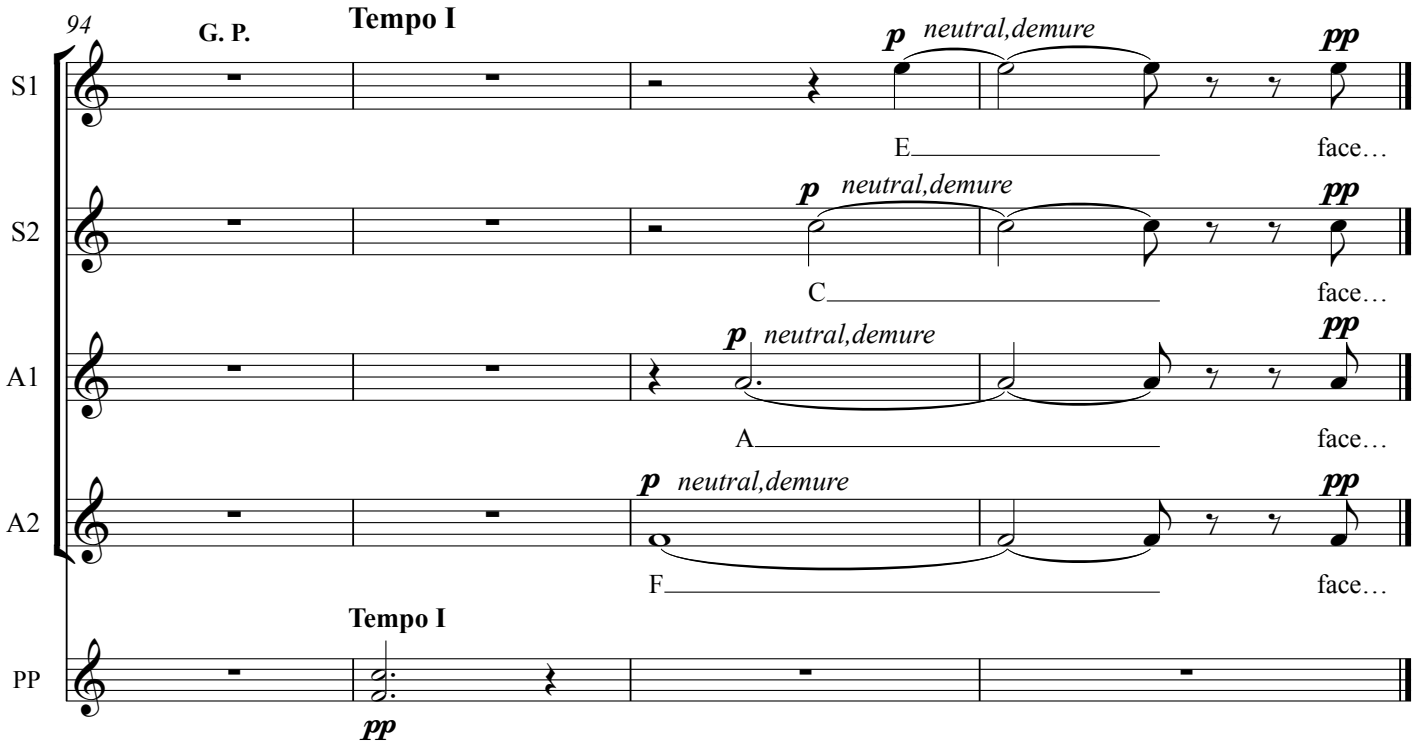

21
G. P.
S1
flat
E
flat
E
S2
C
A1
A
sharp
A
A2
F
PP


Poco più vivo, ♩ ca 88
28
S1
S2
A1
A2
with wonder
G. P.
F (f)
Boy Does Fine
B D (f)
Boy Does
G (f)
Ev -'ry Good
E (f)
Ev -'ry
Allegro = 144
34
S
A
Do Fine, Do Good, Do Fine, Does Fine, Fine Boys Do Good, Fine
Boys Boys Good Boys Ev-'ry Boy Ev-'ry Boy Does!
40
Boys All Boys Do Fine, Fine Boys All Boys Do Fine, Do Fine,
più f
Good Boys Boys Do Fine, Ev-'ry Boy Good Boys Good Boys All Boys Do Fine, Ev-'ry
46
più f
Fine, Do Fine, Fine, Does Fine,
Do-Good Boy's Good Boys Ev -'ry Do-Good Boy's Ev -'ry Dog-Gone Boy Ev -'ry

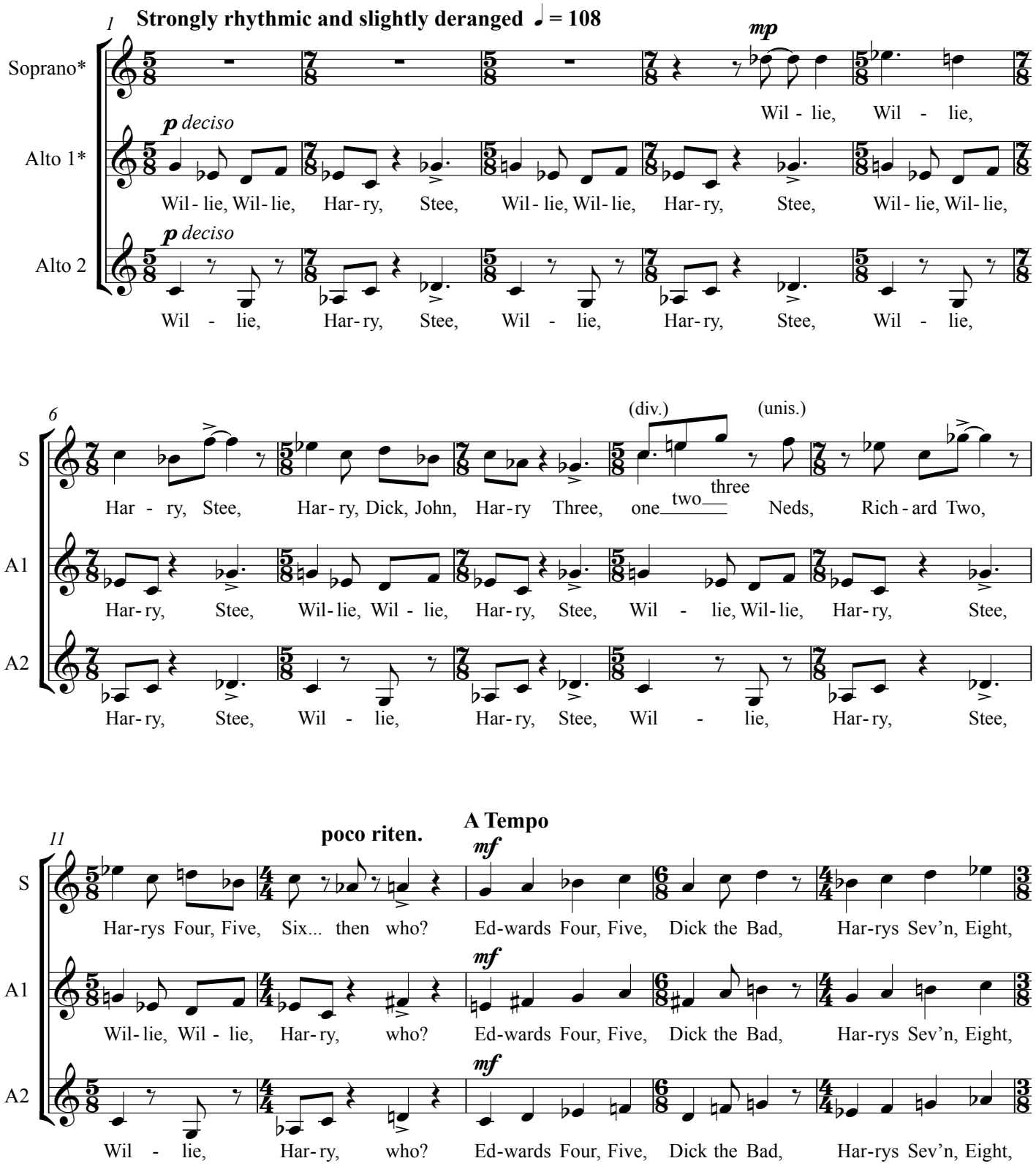


*Depending on singer and audience sensibilities, may be changed to "G. D. it," "Gol-Dangit," or the like.


76
cresc.
ff
S1
Girls Are Fine! Girls Are Fine! Does Bet- ter!
S2
cresc.
ff
Does Fine! Does Fine! Does Bet-ter Does Bet- ter!
A1
cresc.
ff
Girl Bet-ter Do (Fine) Bet-ter Do (Fine) Does Bet-ter Does Bet- ter!
A2
cresc.
ff
Girl Ev'-ry Girl Ev'-ry Girl Does Bet-ter Does Bet- ter!
80
mf
f
ff
S
Girls Do Bet- ter, Girl Does Bet- ter, Girls Do Bet- ter, Girl Does Bet- ter, Does Fine! E-ven Bett- ter,
mf
f
ff
A
Ev' ry Girl Ev'-ry Girl Ev'-ry Girl Girls Do
85
S
Girls Are Fine!
Ev'-ry-thing Bett- ter, Far Bett- ter, Girls Do Fine!
A
Ev' - ry
Girls Do Girls Do Ev' - ry Girl!
Ev' - ry
88
f cresc.
ff (unis.)
broadening
fff
S
Ev' ry Girl Bet ter Do
Ev' ry Girl Fine! Girls Are Bet- ter!
A
ff (unis.)
fff
Girl Bet- ter
Girl Fine! Girls Are Bet- ter!


94
G. P.
Tempo I
S1
S2
A1
A2
PP
p neutral,demure
pp
E
face…
C
face…
A
face…
F
face…
Tempo I
pp

III. Monarchs



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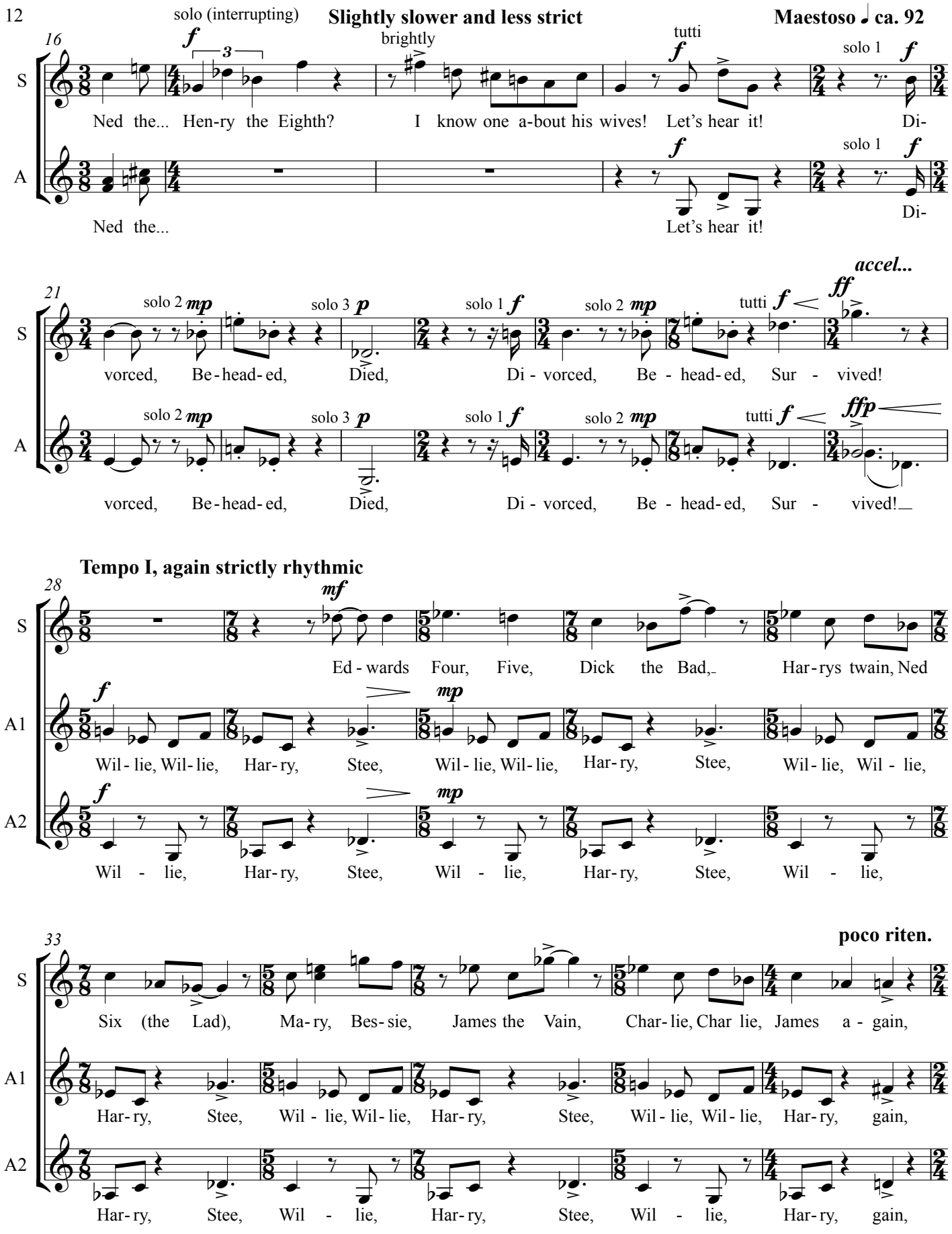
solo (interrupting)
Slightly slower and less strict
Maestoso ♩ ca. 92
brightly
tutti
solo 1
16
S
A
Ned the... Hen-ry the Eighth? I know one a-bout his wives! Let's hear it! Di-
Ned the... Let's hear it! Di-
accel...
21
solo 2 mp
solo 3 p
solo 1 f
solo 2 mp
tutti f
ff
ffp
vorced, Be-head-ed, Died, Di - vorced, Be - head-ed, Sur - vived!
Tempo I, again strictly rhythmic
28
mf
A1
A2
Ed - wards Four, Five, Dick the Bad, Har-rys twain, Ned
Wil - lie, Wil-lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil-lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie,
Wil - lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie,
poco riten.
33
Six (the Lad), Ma-ry, Bes-sie, James the Vain, Char-lie, Char lie, James a - gain,
Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil-lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil-lie, Wil-lie, Har-ry, gain,
Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har-ry, gain,

A Tempo ma poco meno mosso ♩ ca. 100

38

S: *mf* Will and Mar - y, An - na Glo - ria, Geor - ges four, Will Four, Vic - to - ria,

A: *mf* Will and Mar - y, An - na Glo - ria, Geor - ges four, Will Four, Vic - to - ria,

42

poco a poco più animato e cresc. *f* **riten.** G.P.

S: Ed - ward Sev - en, George and Ted, George the Sixth, Liz till she's... *

poco a poco più animato e cresc. *f*

A: Ed - ward Sev - en, George and Ted, George the Sixth, Liz till she's... *

47

Tempo I

S1: *p* Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee

S2: *p* Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee

A1: *mp* Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry,

A2: *mp* Wil - lie, Har - ry,

50

S: *fp* Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, *sfpp* Stee...

A: *fp* Wil - lie, Har - ry, *sfpp* Stee...

* If this offends, "now Liz in-...." or "E-liz-a-..." may be substituted for the last three syllables.