Canntaireachd

For SSAATTBB Choir

Aileen Sweeney

(2021)

Aileen Sweeney

Instrumentation

Soprano 1
Soprano 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Tenor 1
Tenor 2
Bass 1
Bass 2

Written for The Carice Singers as part of the 2021 Cheltenham Music Festival Composer Academy.

Duration

c. 3’ 30”

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Programme Note

Canntaireachd (pronounced counter-achk), Gaelic for ‘chanting’, is a complex oral notation used by Scottish pipers for centuries to teach repertoire and performance style. The tunes are long with many complex variations that were taught aurally by using a combinations of different vocable syllables. Each note of the scale is represented by a vowel sound with the many forms of grace notes and ornaments being represented with different consonants.

I took the piobaireachd (pronounced pibroch) ‘The Prince’s Salute’ as a starting point for the piece. I transcribed the tune and took small snippets of the melody and rearranged them to create rhythmical loops. A performance of the pibroch and canntaireachd in its original form can be heard using the link below.

The Prince’s Salute:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCHRQuITwWs

Pronunciations

Hin	Pronounced ‘hin’ as in hindrance
Hio	Pronounced ‘hee-yo’ (all one syllable)
He	Pronounced ‘hee’
E	Pronounced ‘ee’
En	Pronoucned ‘en’ as in pen
Eo	Pronounced ‘yo’ as in yoke
I	Pronounced ‘ee’
Vi	Pronounced ‘vee’
Ea	Pronounced ‘yah’
Ha	Pronounced ‘hah’
Em	Pronounced ‘em’ as in embrace
De	Pronounced ‘dee’
Da	Pronounced ‘dah’

All vowels should be sung with a ‘closed’ vowel sound as opposed to an open, rounded vowel sound so that the words are aggressive and punchy.

Canntaireachd

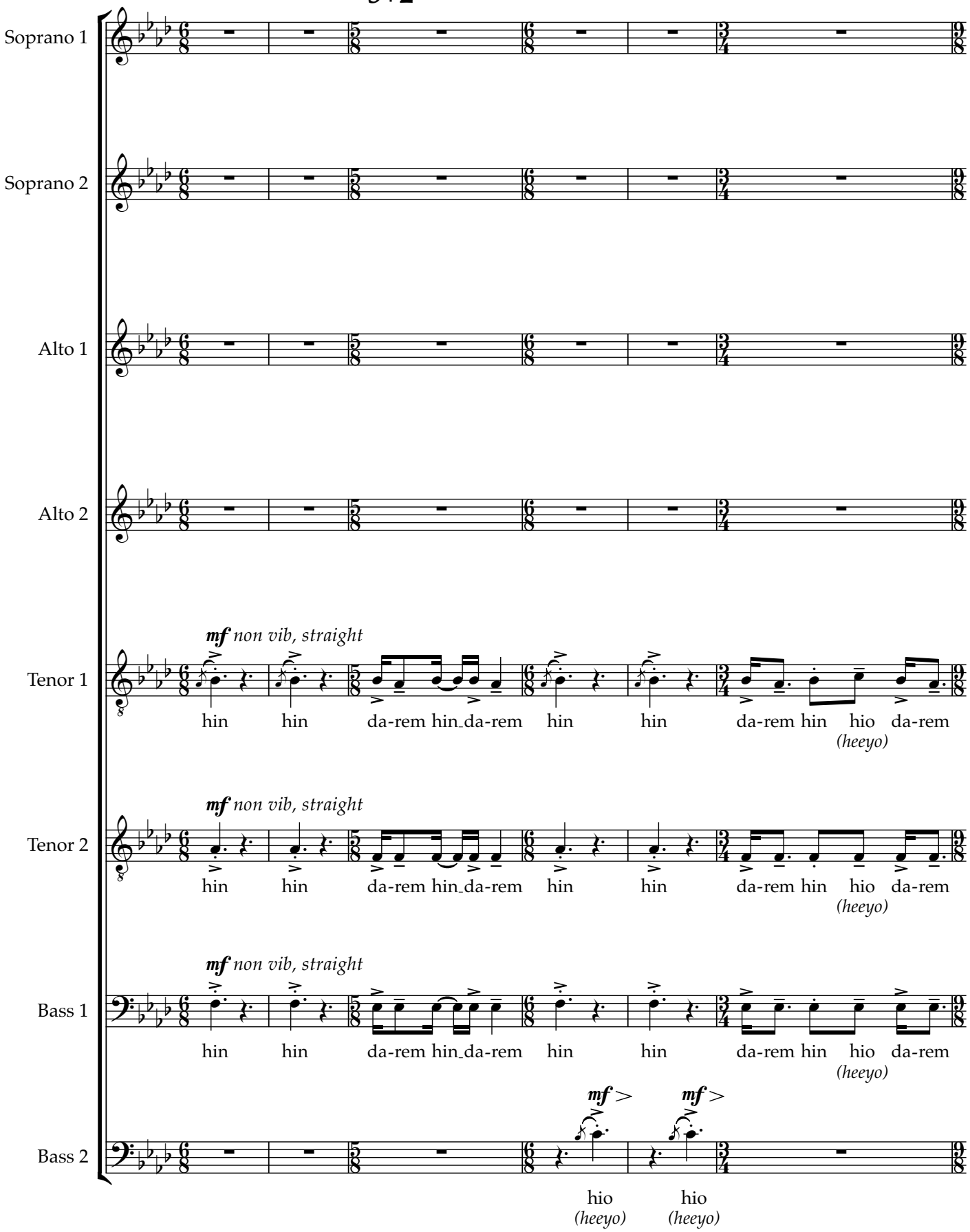
for The Carice Singers

Raw, with energy and drive

♩. = 66 (♩ = 100)

Aileen Sweeney (b. 1994)

3+2



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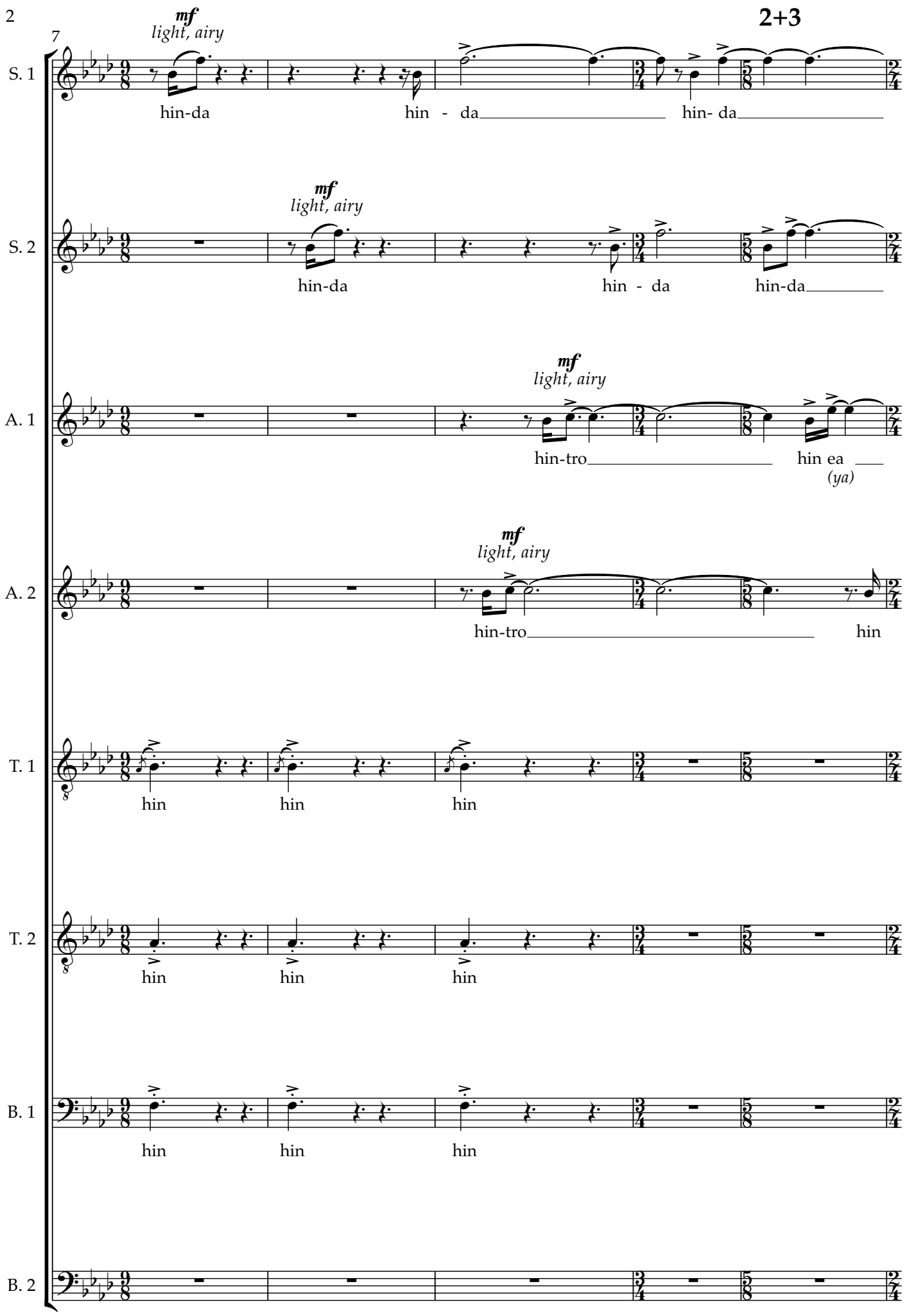
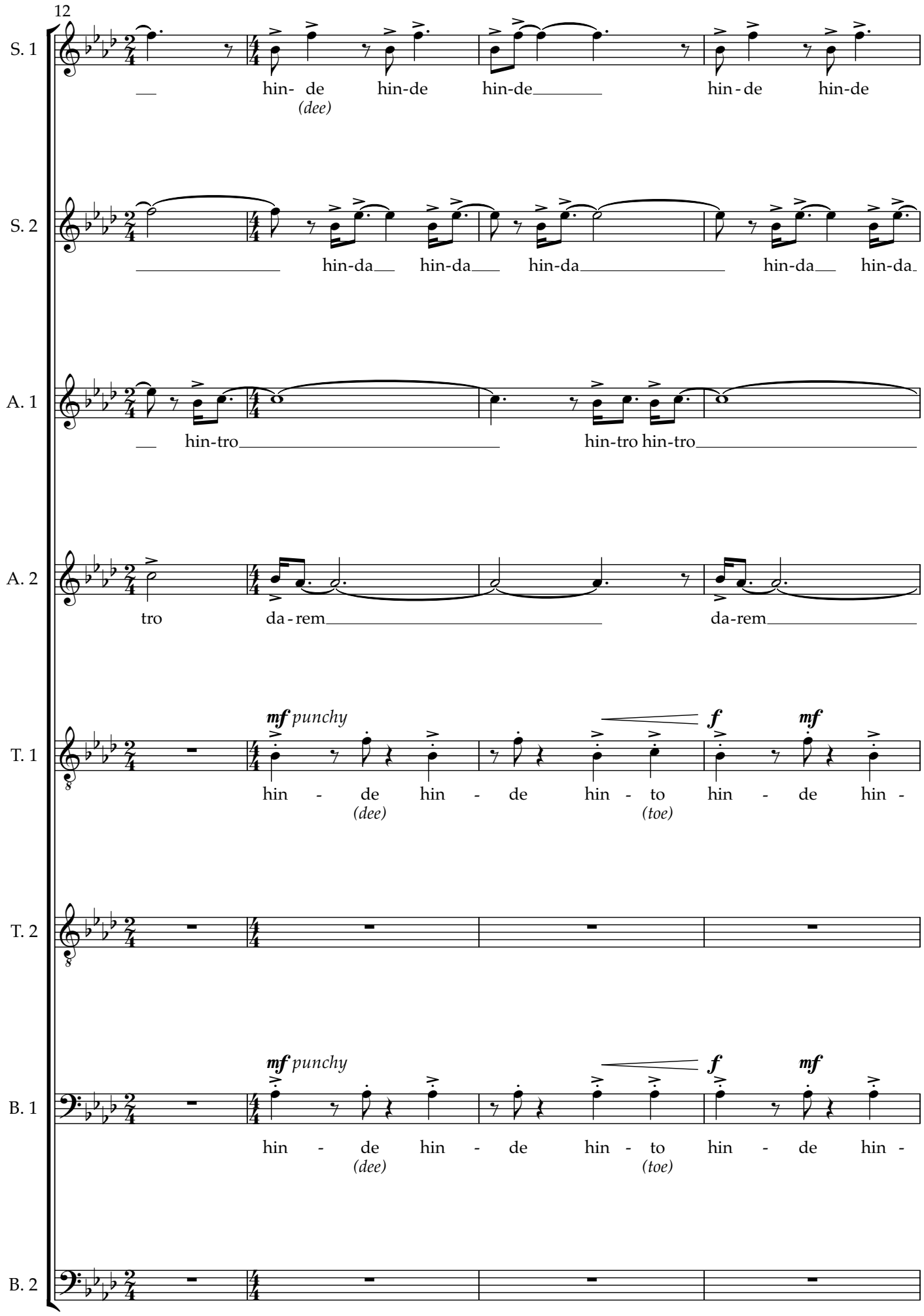
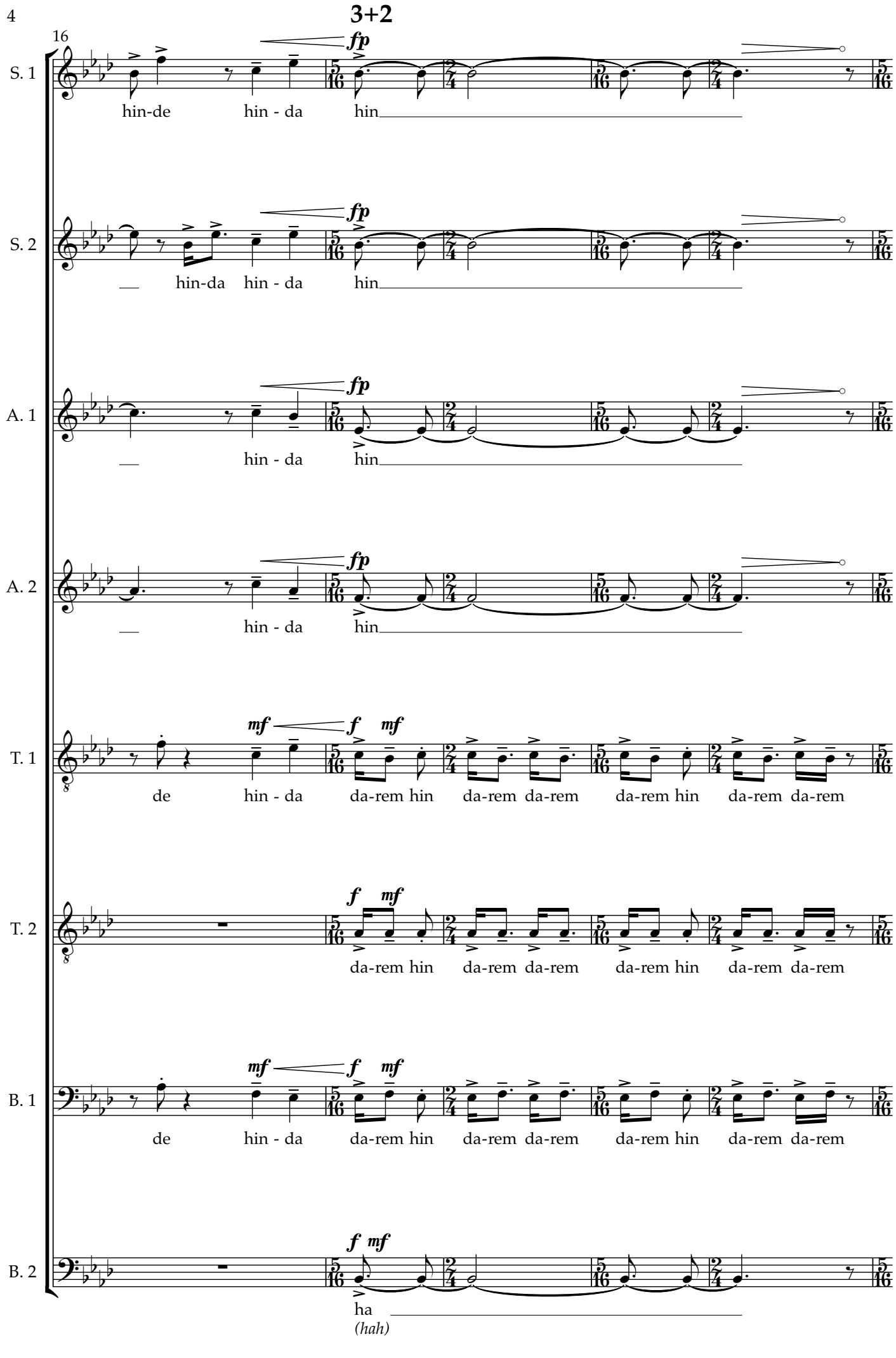
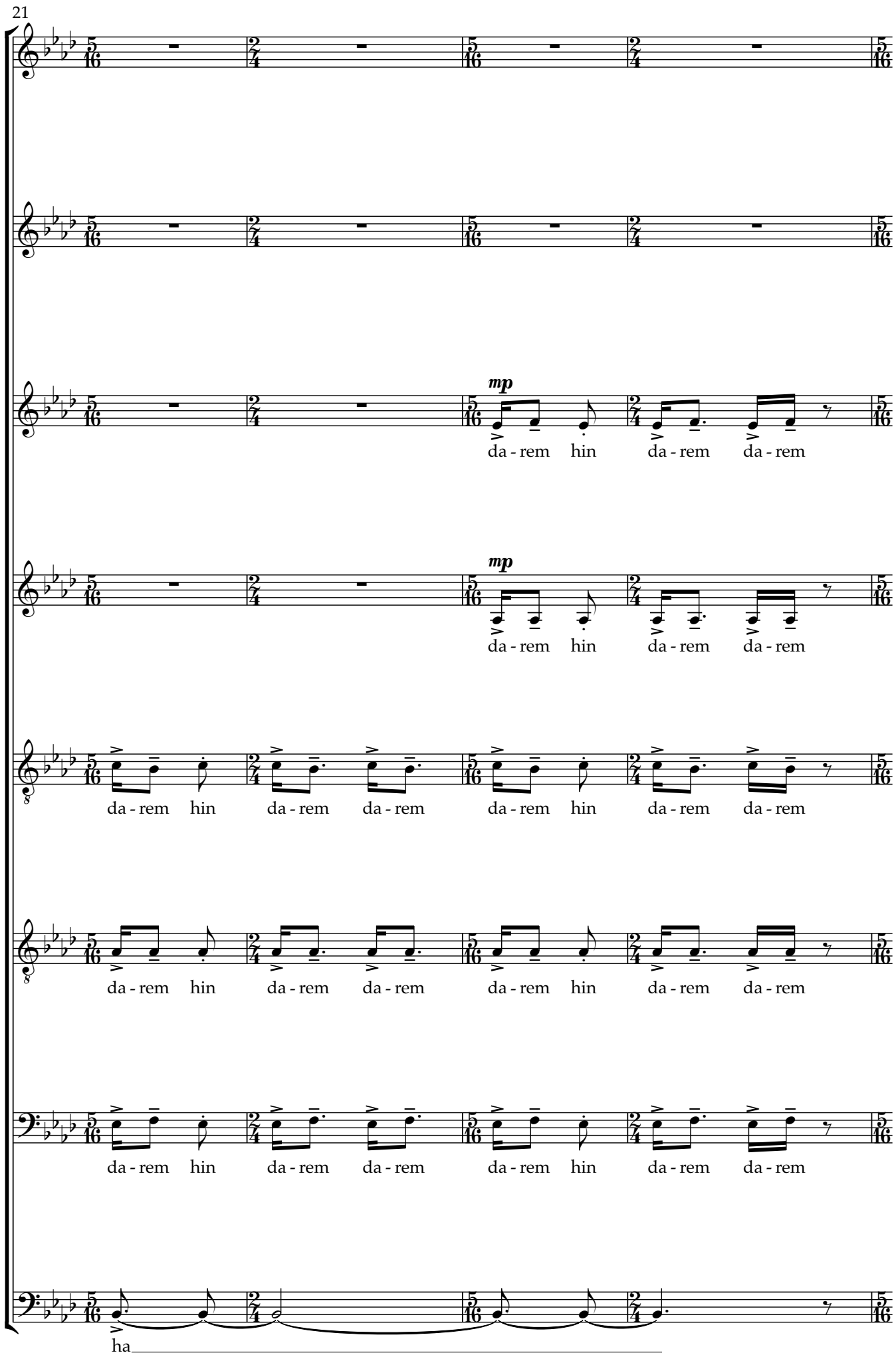
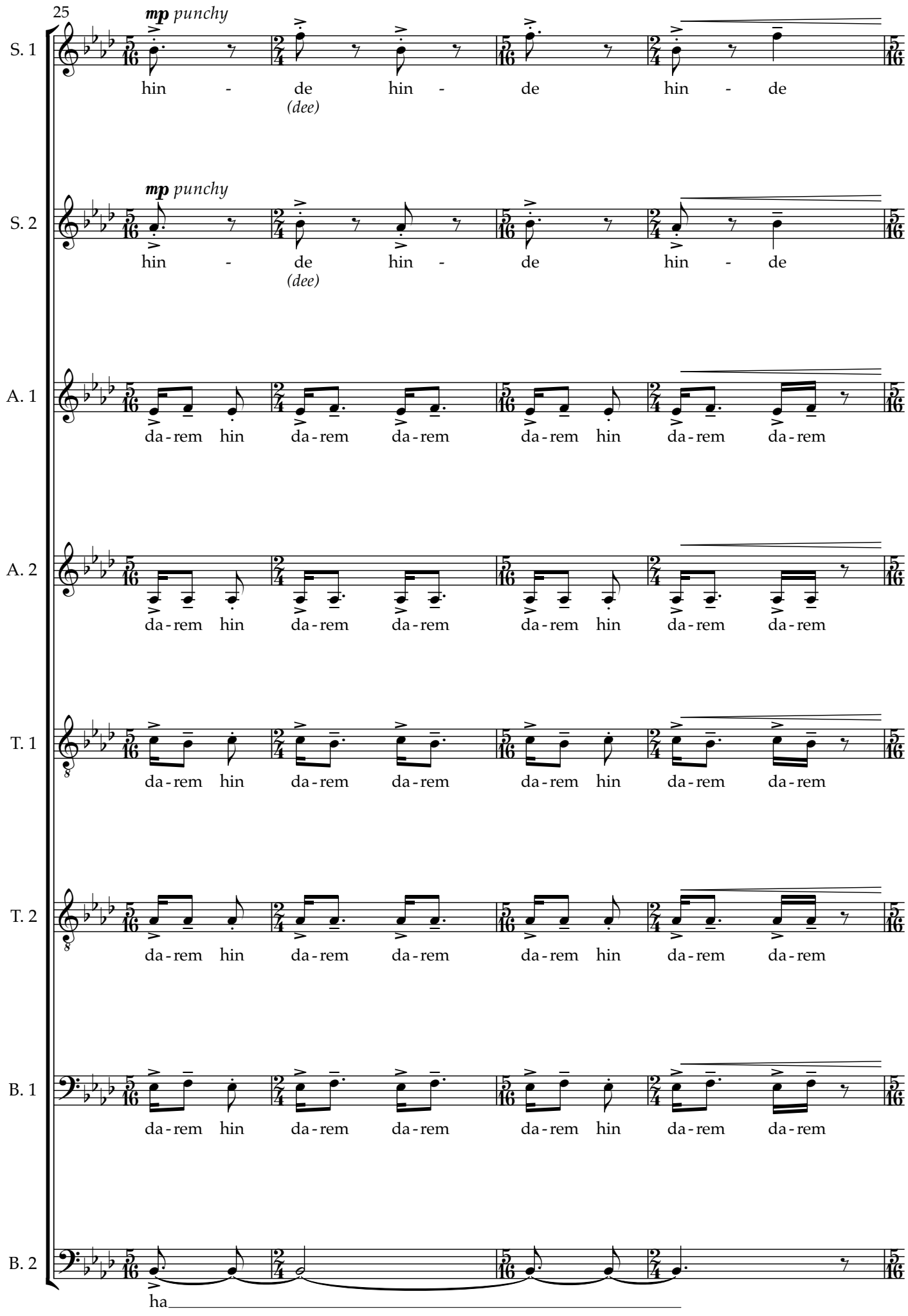
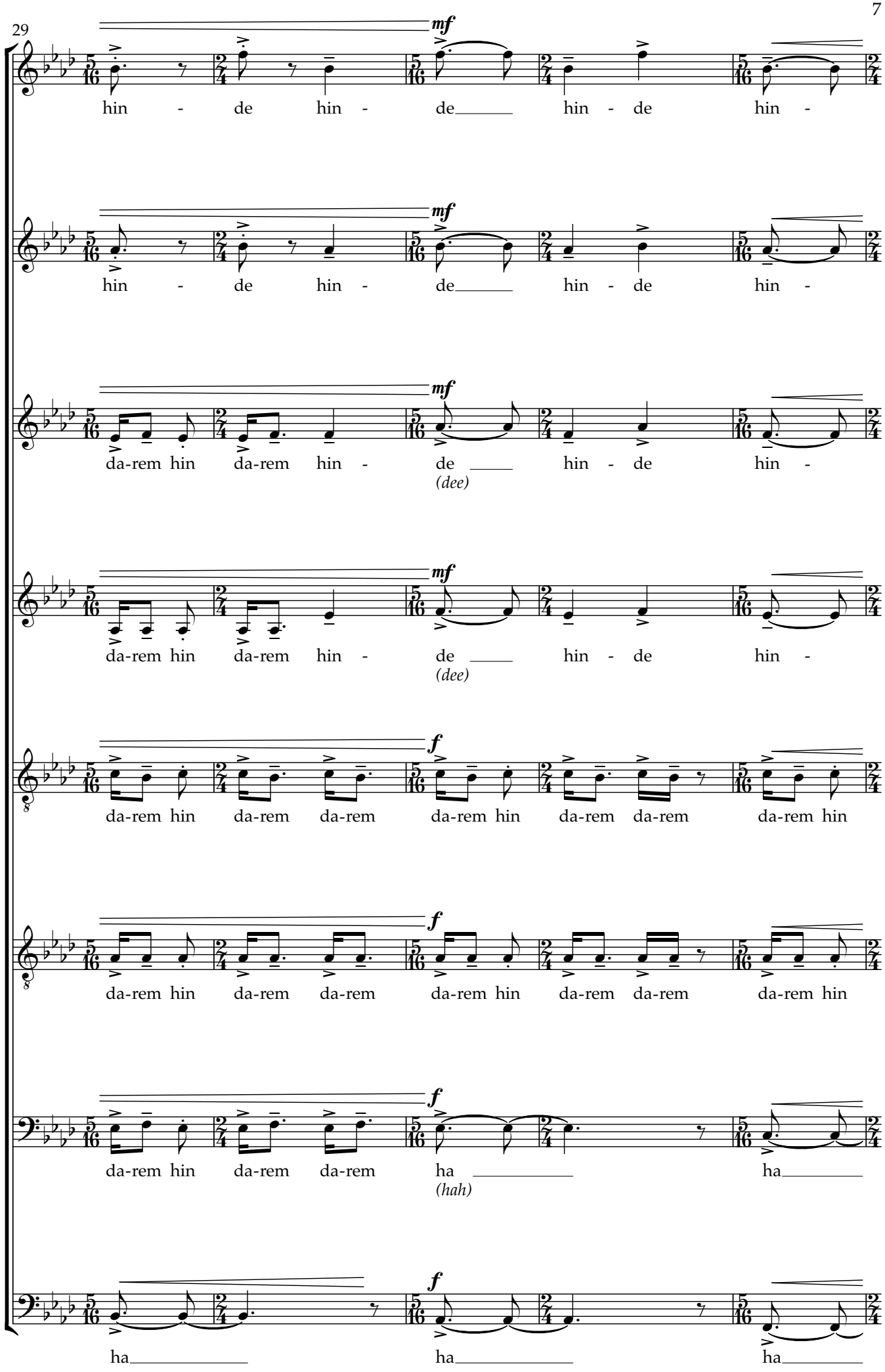

7
2+3
S. 1
mf
light, airy
hin-da
hin - da
hin- da
S. 2
mf
light, airy
hin-da
hin - da
hin-da
A. 1
mf
light, airy
hin-tro
hin ea
(ya)
A. 2
mf
light, airy
hin-tro
hin
T. 1
hin
hin
hin
T. 2
hin
hin
hin
B. 1
hin
hin
hin
B. 2

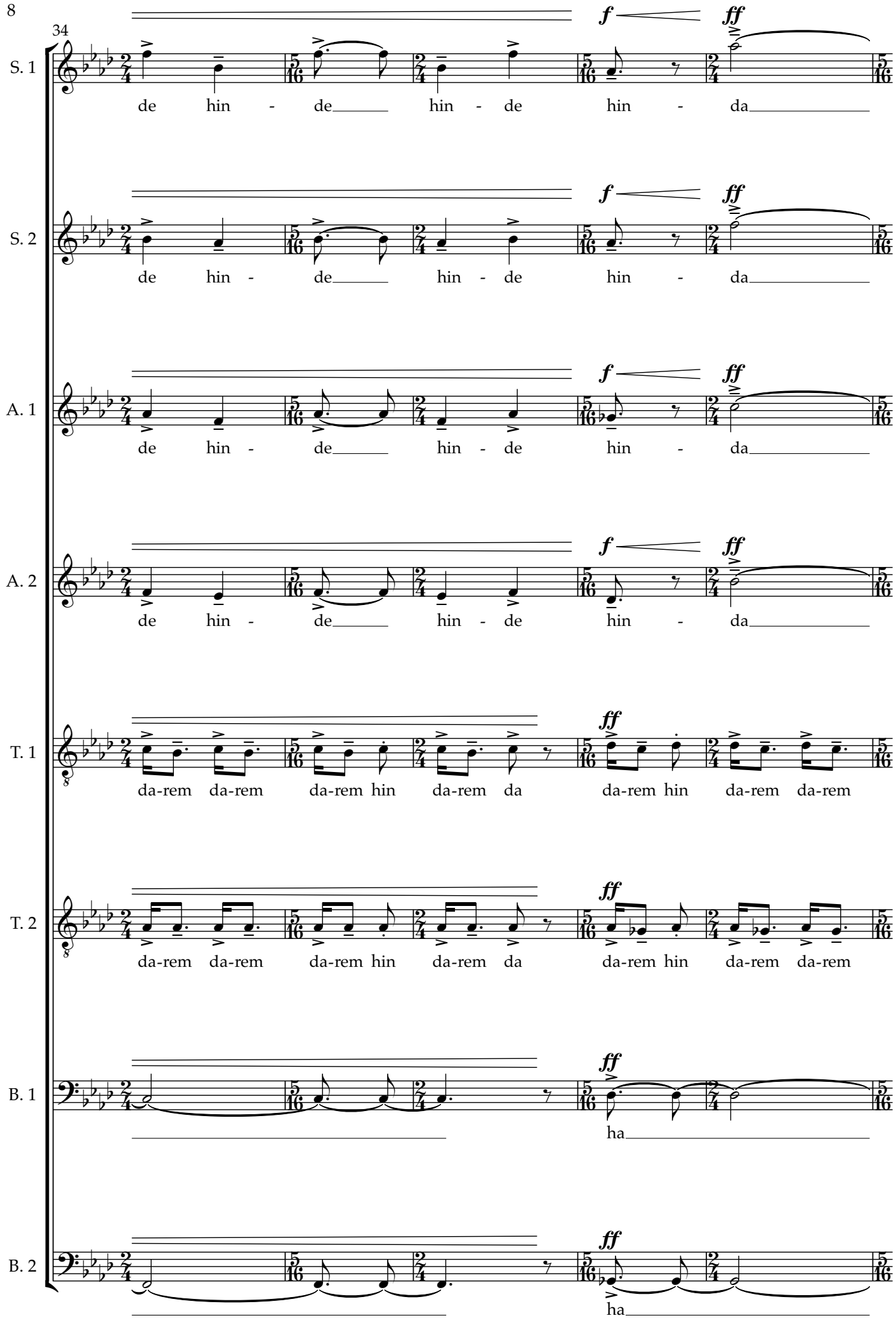

12
S. 1
hin- de hin-de hin-de hin - de hin-de
(dee)
S. 2
hin-da hin-da hin-da hin-da hin-da
A. 1
hin-tro hin-tro hin-tro
A. 2
tro da - rem da-rem
T. 1
mf punchy
f
mf
hin - de hin - de hin - to hin - de hin -
(dee)
(toe)
T. 2
B. 1
mf punchy
f
mf
hin - de hin - de hin - to hin - de hin -
(dee)
(toe)
B. 2

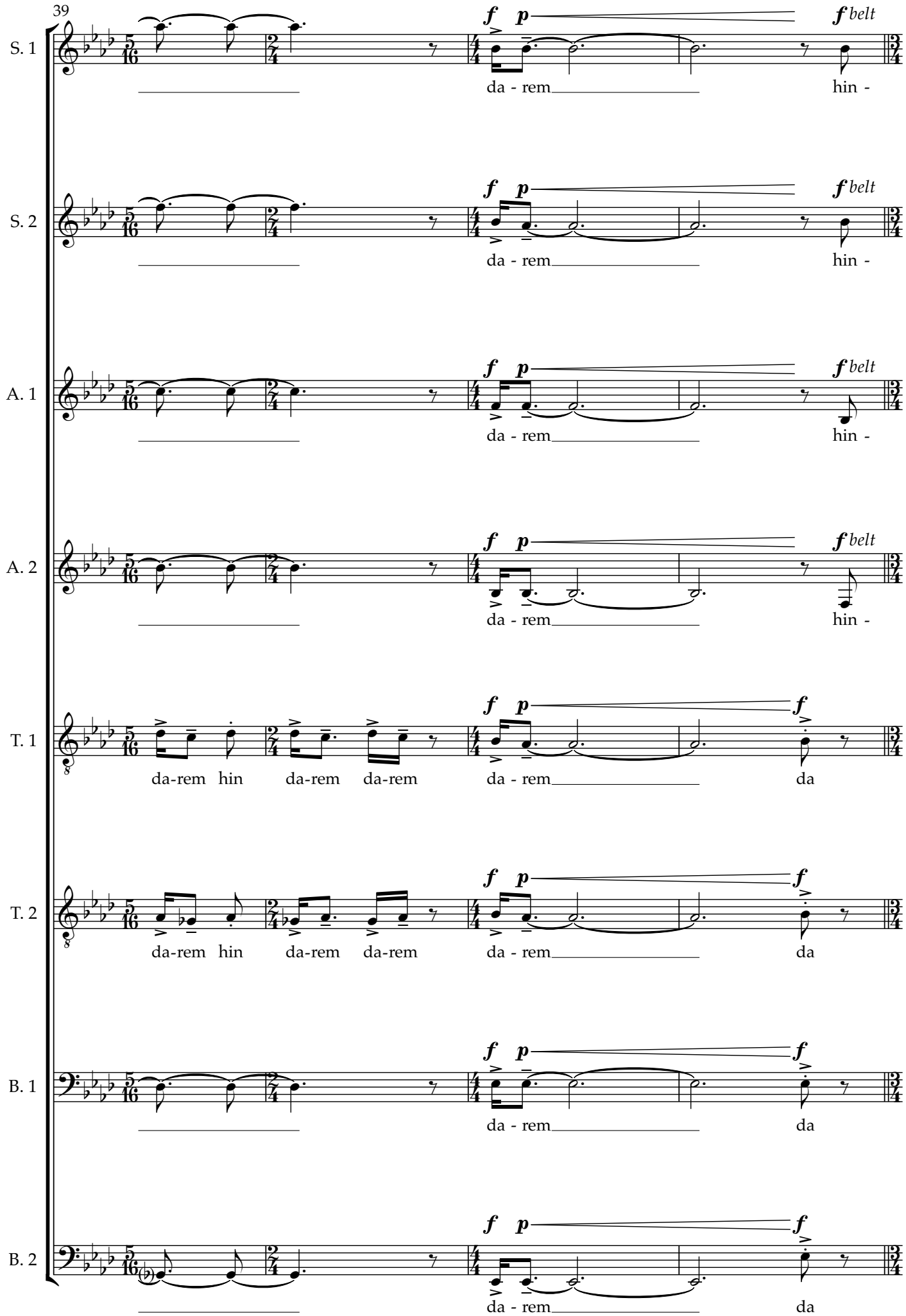

3+2
16
S. 1
fp
hin-de hin - da hin
S. 2
fp
hin-da hin - da hin
A. 1
fp
hin - da hin
A. 2
fp
hin - da hin
T. 1
mf f mf
de hin - da da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
T. 2
f mf
da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
B. 1
mf f mf
de hin - da da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
B. 2
f mf
ha
(hah)


21
S. 1
S. 2
A. 1
mp
da - rem hin da - rem da - rem
A. 2
mp
da - rem hin da - rem da - rem
T. 1
da - rem hin da - rem da - rem da - rem hin da - rem da - rem
T. 2
da - rem hin da - rem da - rem da - rem hin da - rem da - rem
B. 1
da - rem hin da - rem da - rem da - rem hin da - rem da - rem
B. 2
ha


25
mp punchy
S. 1
hin - de hin - de hin - de
(dee)
mp punchy
S. 2
hin - de hin - de hin - de
(dee)
A. 1
da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
A. 2
da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
T. 1
da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
T. 2
da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
B. 1
da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
B. 2
ha


29
S. 1
mf
hin - de hin - de hin - de hin -
S. 2
mf
hin - de hin - de hin - de hin -
A. 1
mf
da-rem hin da-rem hin - de hin - de hin -
(dee)
A. 2
mf
da-rem hin da-rem hin - de hin - de hin -
(dee)
T. 1
f
da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin
T. 2
f
da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da-rem da-rem hin
B. 1
f
da-rem hin da-rem da-rem ha ha
(hah)
B. 2
f
ha ha ha


34
S. 1
de hin - de hin - de hin - da
S. 2
de hin - de hin - de hin - da
A. 1
de hin - de hin - de hin - da
A. 2
de hin - de hin - de hin - da
T. 1
da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
T. 2
da-rem da-rem da-rem hin da-rem da da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
B. 1
ha
B. 2
ha


39
S. 1
S. 2
A. 1
A. 2
T. 1
T. 2
B. 1
B. 2
f p f belt
da - rem
hin -
f p f
da-rem hin da-rem da-rem
da

A **Bold, fiery**

43

S. 1

da en-tro_ hin-da hin - da en-tro_ en-tro hin-da hin - da en-tro_ hin-da hin-

S. 2

da en-tro_ hin-da hin - da en-tro_ en-tro hin-da hin - da en-tro_ hin-da hin-

A. 1

da en-tro_ hin-da hin - da en-tro_ en-tro hin-da hin - da en-tro_ hin-da hin-

A. 2

da en-tro_ hin-da hin - da en-tro_ en - tro hin-da hin - da en-tro_ hin-da hin-

T. 1

f *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

hin hin-da hin

T. 2

f *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

hin hin-da hin

B. 1

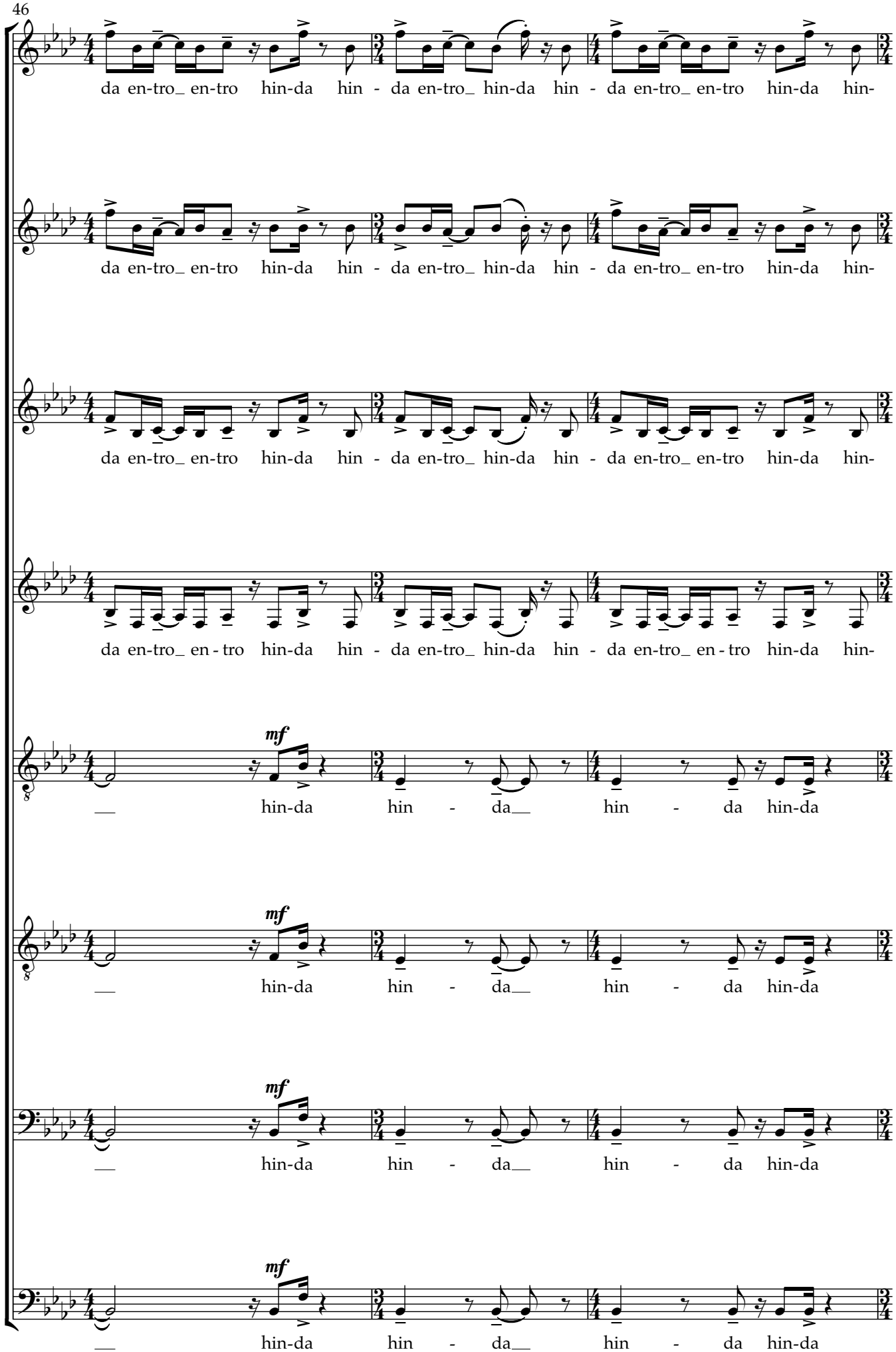
f *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

hin hin-da hin

B. 2

f *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

hin hin-da hin


46
S. 1
da en-tro_ en-tro hin-da hin - da en-tro_ hin-da hin - da en-tro_ en-tro hin-da hin-
S. 2
da en-tro_ en-tro hin-da hin - da en-tro_ hin-da hin - da en-tro_ en-tro hin-da hin-
A. 1
da en-tro_ en-tro hin-da hin - da en-tro_ hin-da hin - da en-tro_ en-tro hin-da hin-
A. 2
da en-tro_ en - tro hin-da hin - da en-tro_ hin-da hin - da en-tro_ en - tro hin-da hin-
T. 1
mf
hin-da hin - da hin - da hin-da
T. 2
mf
hin-da hin - da hin - da hin-da
B. 1
mf
hin-da hin - da hin - da hin-da
B. 2
mf
hin-da hin - da hin - da hin-da

Pages have been removed from this perusal score. If you would like to see the full score, feel free to get in touch on aileensweeney5@gmail.com