Nathaniel Parks

ARGO

for The Hour Prior
(SSATB)

Poem by Caroline Preziosi

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ARGO

the landscape is made
into windows of the car at the station alone
bronzed with dust and wheat

a penny on the ground counts back
ten years of dying, never
and not afraid of it

passing through the headland
the closed or open window
which is false with nothing outside

this time I
will be Orpheus

white loaded asphalt out of the claim
to go to her in the garden

not walking through smoke
not whipping up dust but rather

the sound of metal falling onto pavement

some but not all
of something

down among dead gods
leaves close at night and again

the girl is held
by plaster palms and again

wheels tire
over dry earth turning back
crumbling
into sand

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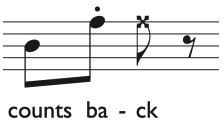
Program Note

ARGO is, at its core, a reflection on loss and separation filtered through the lens of Caroline Preziosi's poem of the same name. The text speaks to the loss of something or someone and the reader's inability to turn back to that thing or to hold on too tightly to its memory. Similarly, the music of ARGO seeks to capture the ever fragmenting, reunifying, and slipping away of a memory as time passes.

Performance Notes

This piece should be sung with minimal vibrato.



Put space between the vowel and the closing consonant, with the consonant arriving on the beat.

Staccatos not marked as above should be followed immediately with a consonant, unless one is not present at the end of the syllable.

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Text by Caroline Preziosi

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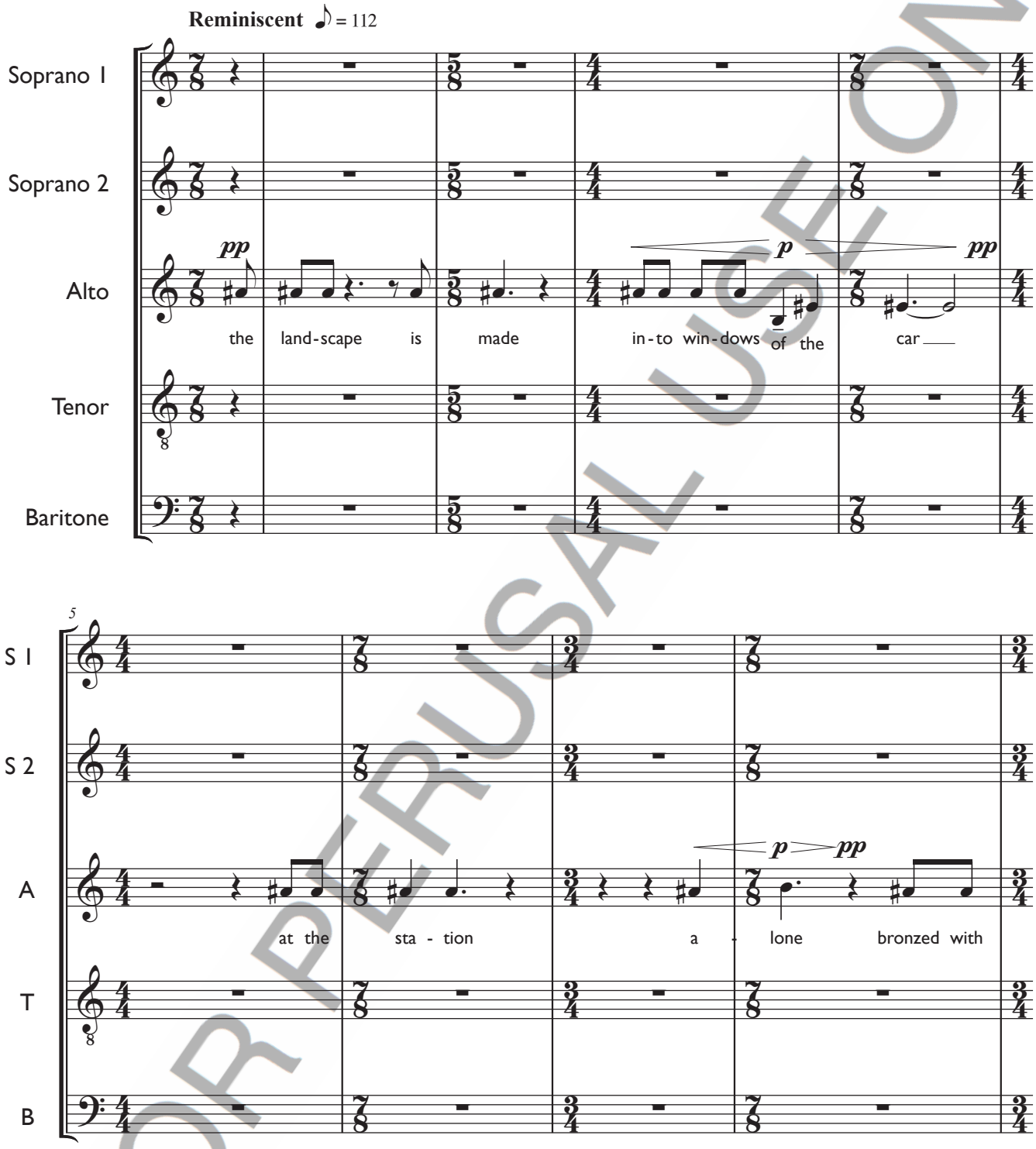

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ARGO

9

S 1

S 2

A

dust and wheat a pen - ny on the

T

B

a pen - ny

13

S 1

S 2

A

ground counts back ten years of

T

B

on the ground counts ba - ck ten years

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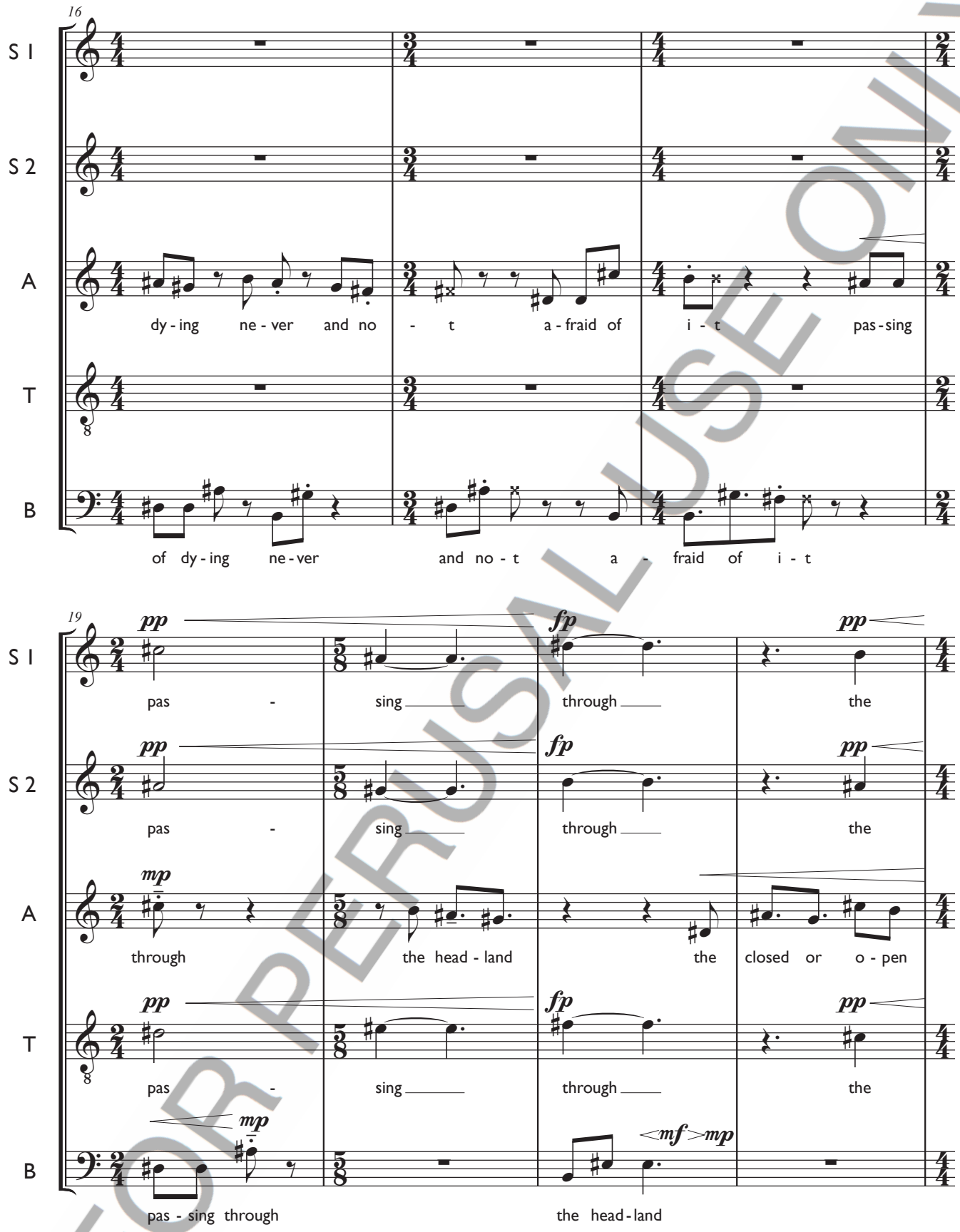

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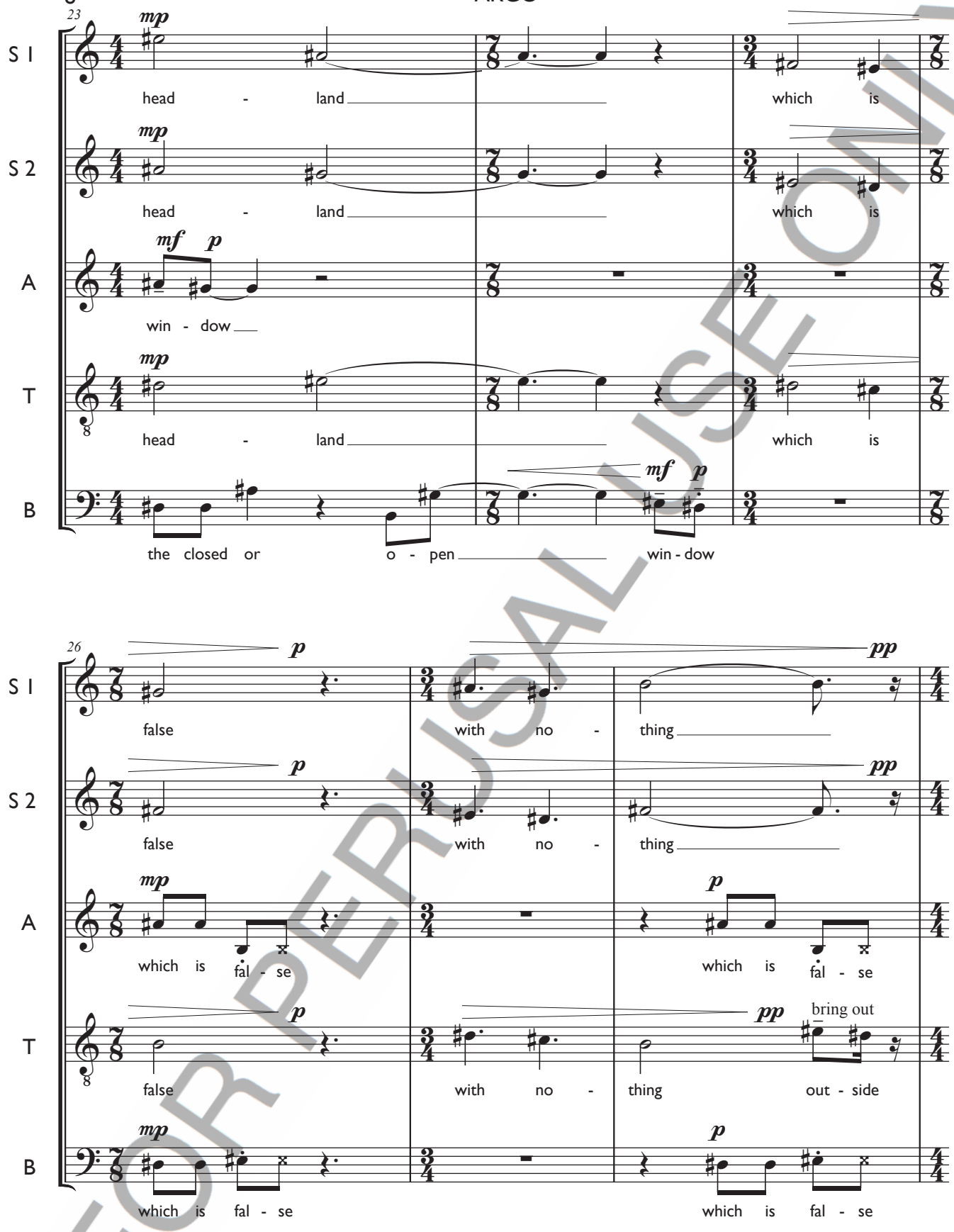

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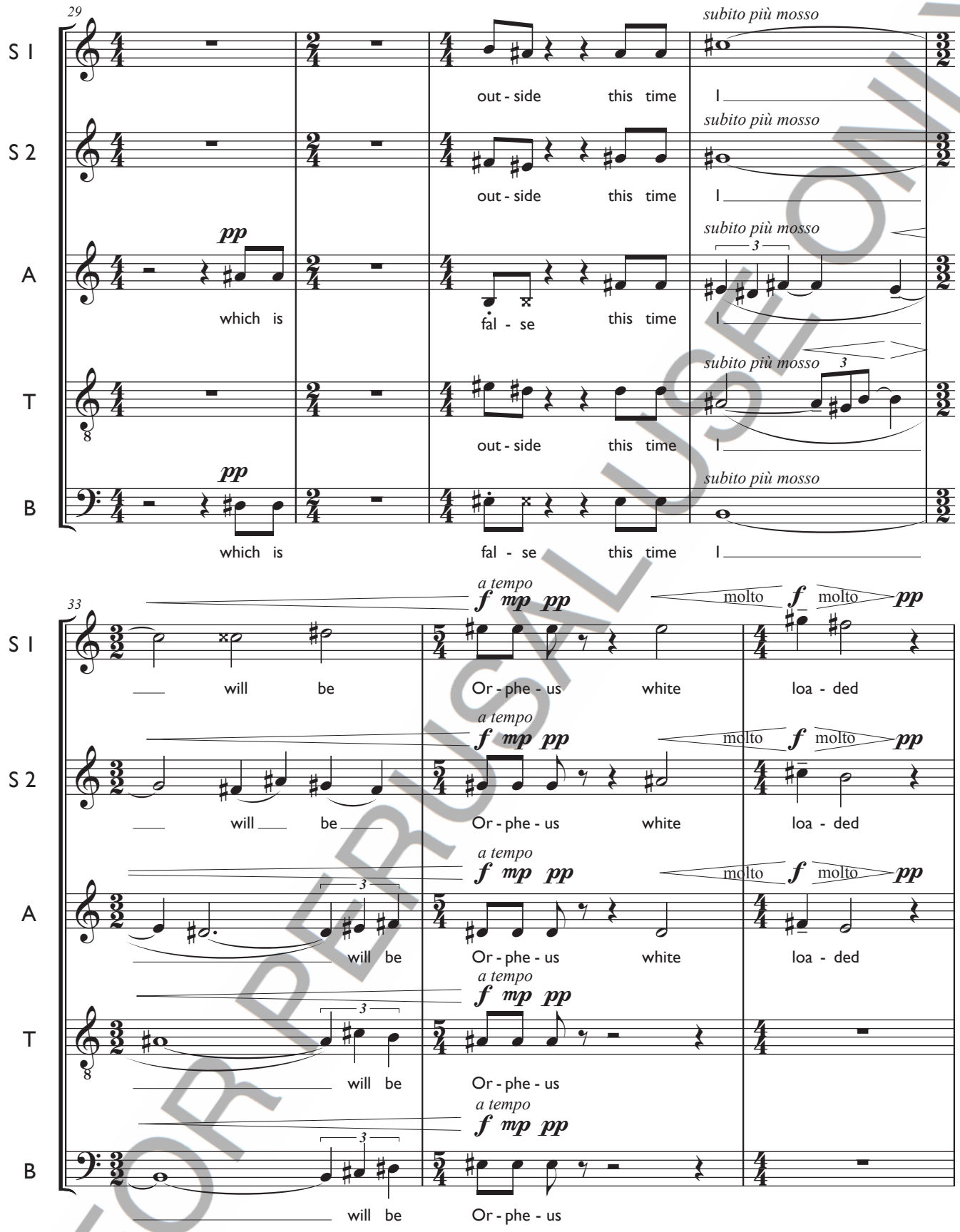

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36

S 1: as - phal - t out of the claim

S 2: as - phal - t out of the claim

A: as - phal - t out of the claim to go to her in the gar - den

T: out of the claim to go to her in the gar - den

B: out of the claim to go to her in the gar - den

40

S 1: in the gar - den not wal - king through

S 2: in the gar - den not wal - king through

A: in the gar - den not

T:

B: in the gar - den

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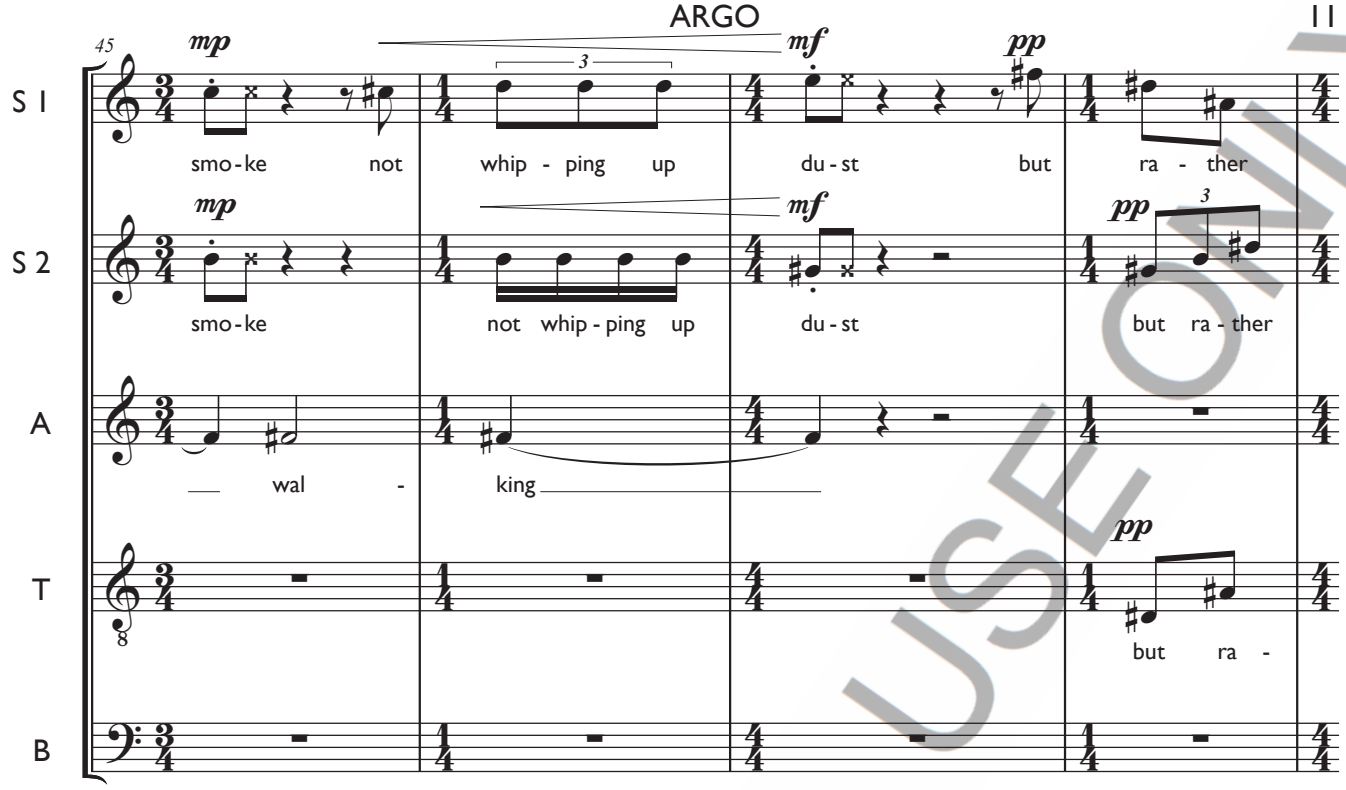

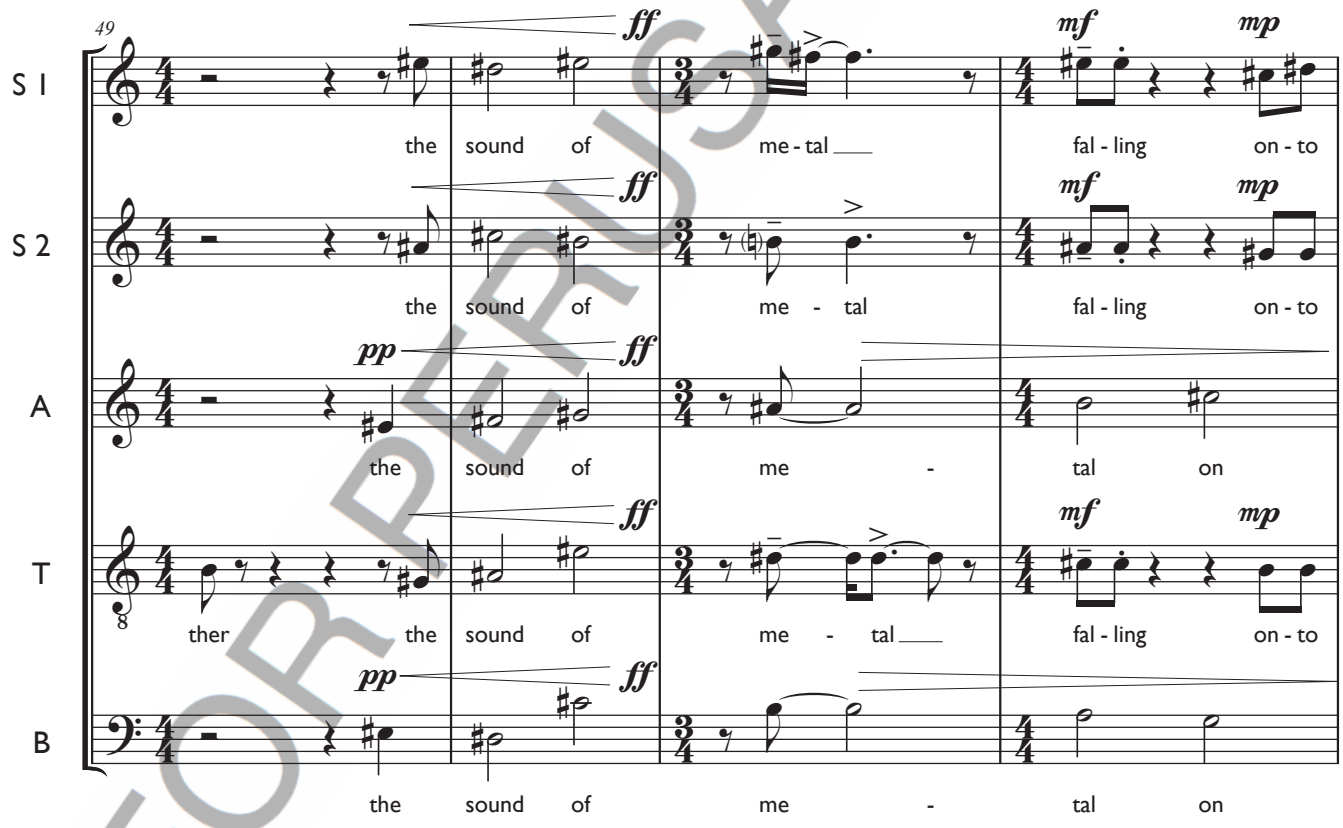

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53

S 1: pave - men - t some but not all of some - thing

S 2: pave - men - t some all of some - thing

A: pave - men - t some but not all of some - thing

T: pave - men - t some all of some - thing

B: pave - men - t some but not all of some - thing

56

S 1: down a - mong dead gods [o] [a]

S 2: down a - mong dead gods leaves close at night

A: down a - mong dead gods [æ] [a]

T: down a - mong dead gods

B: down a - mong dead gods

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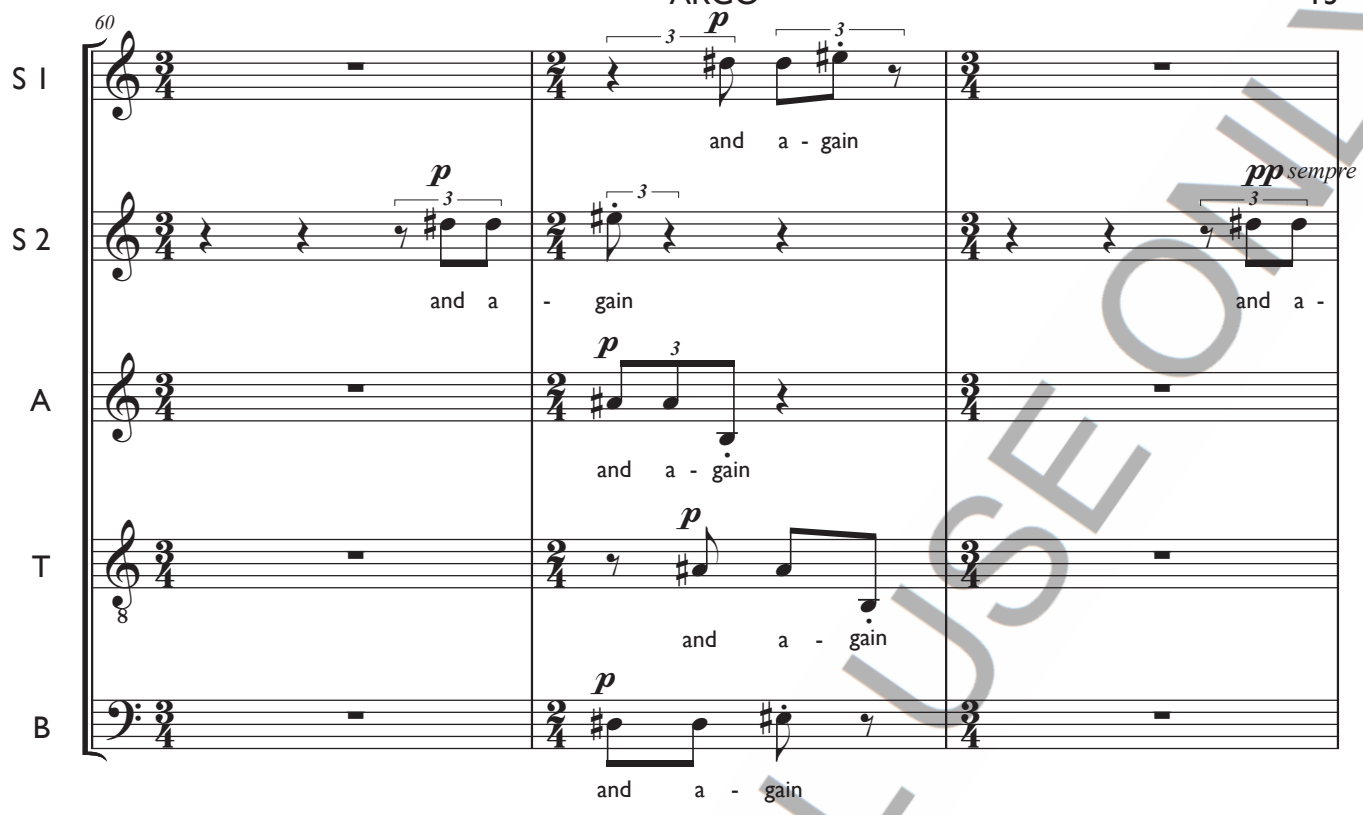

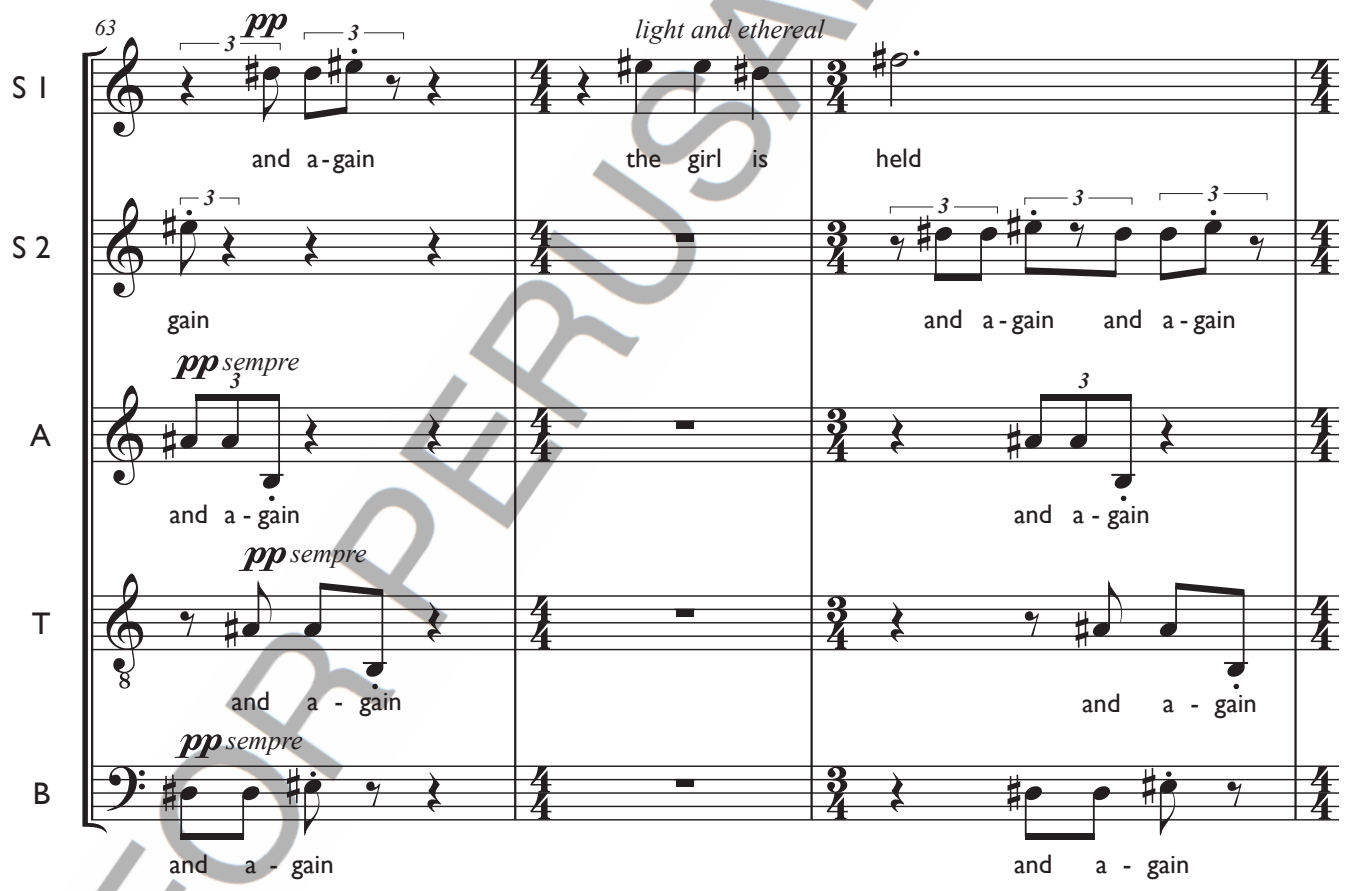

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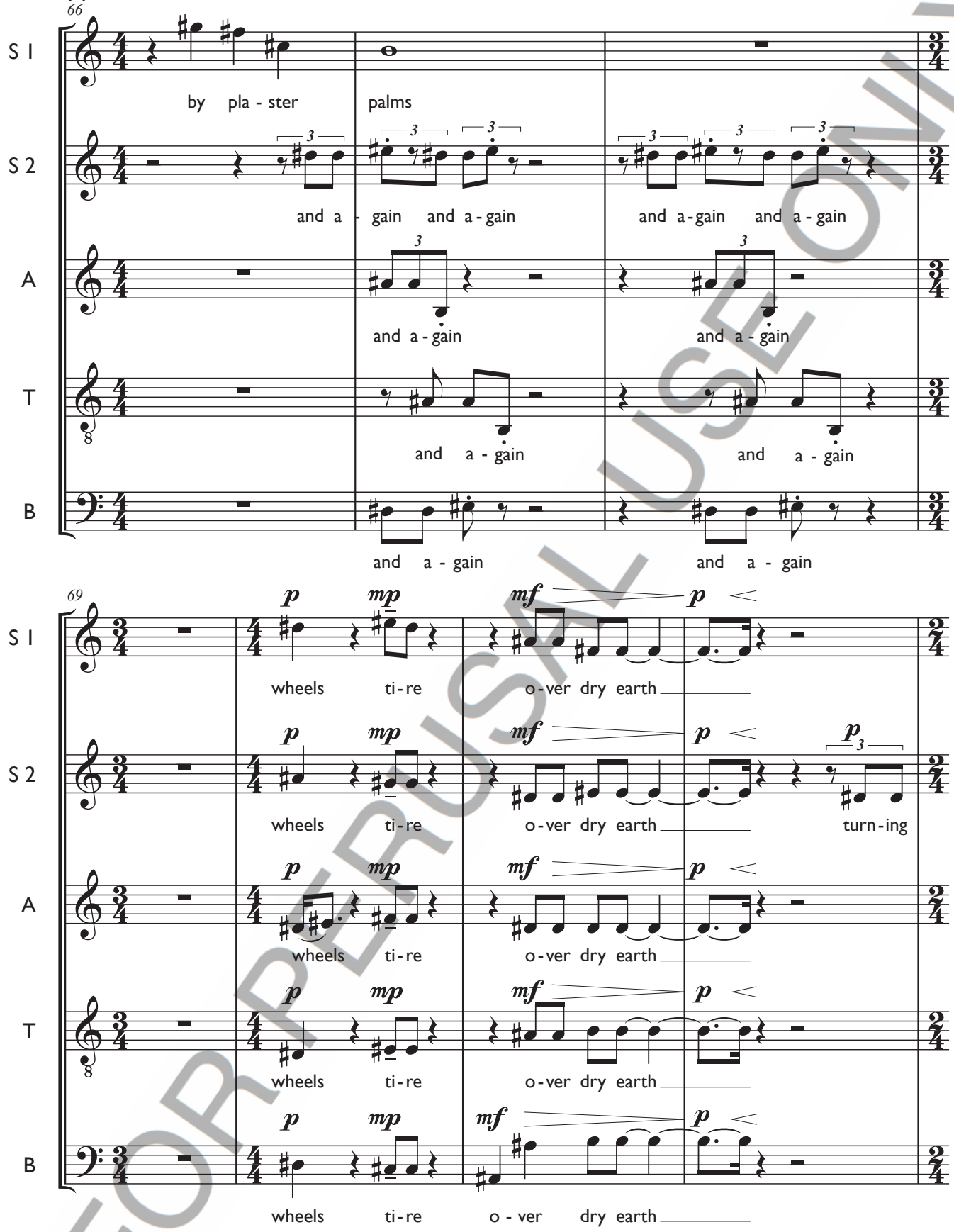

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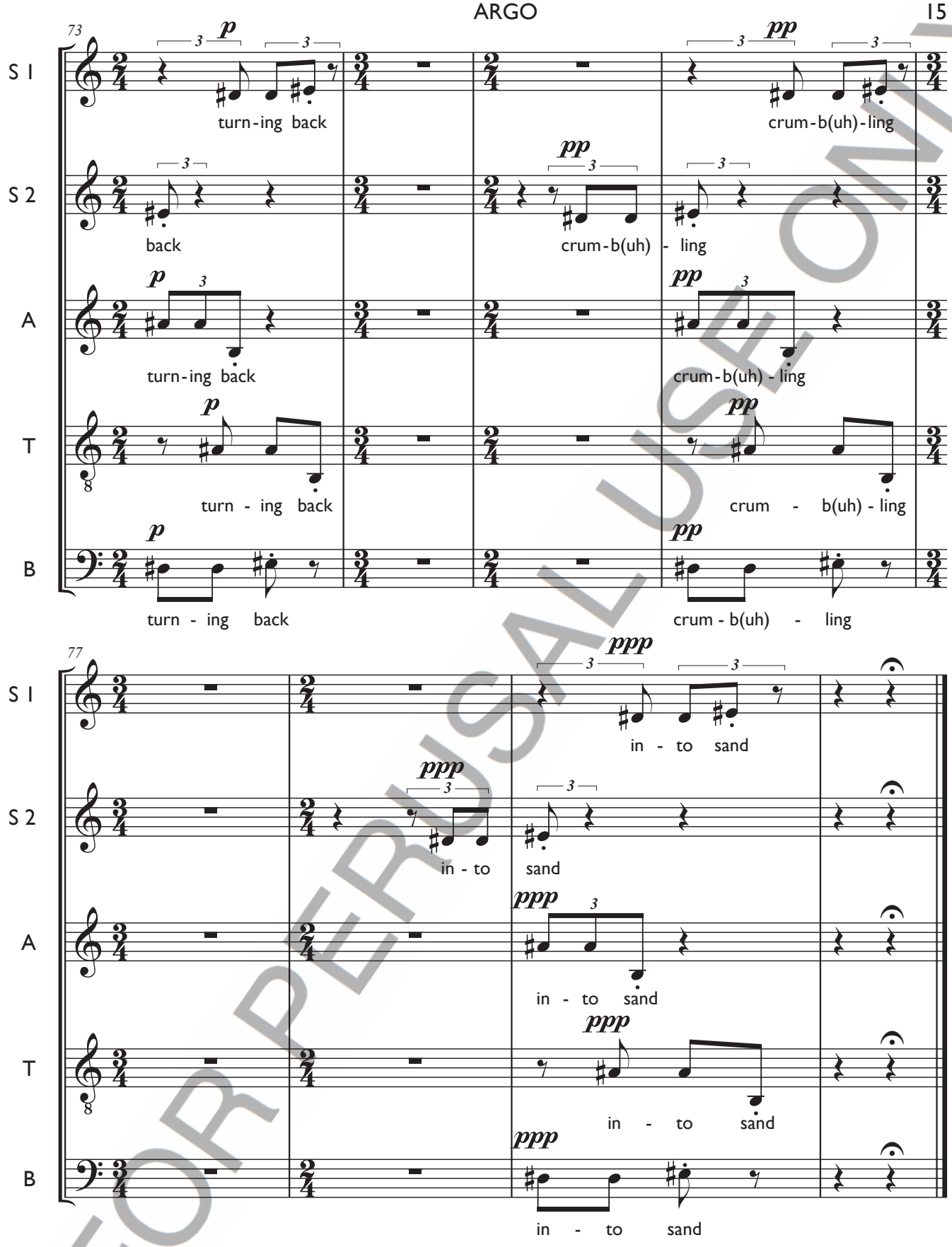

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