for Ashley, Lauren and Christopher

Michael Price

Had I not been awake

for Soprano, Mezzo and Piano

'Had I not been awake'

Had I not been awake I would have missed it,
A wind that rose and whirled until the roof
Pattered with quick leaves off the sycamore

And got me up, the whole of me a-patter,
Alive and ticking like an electric fence:
Had I not been awake I would have missed it,

It came and went so unexpectedly
And almost it seemed dangerously,
Returning like an animal to the house,

A courier blast that there and then
Lapsed ordinary. But not ever
After. And not now.

Seamus Heaney - Human Chain © 2010

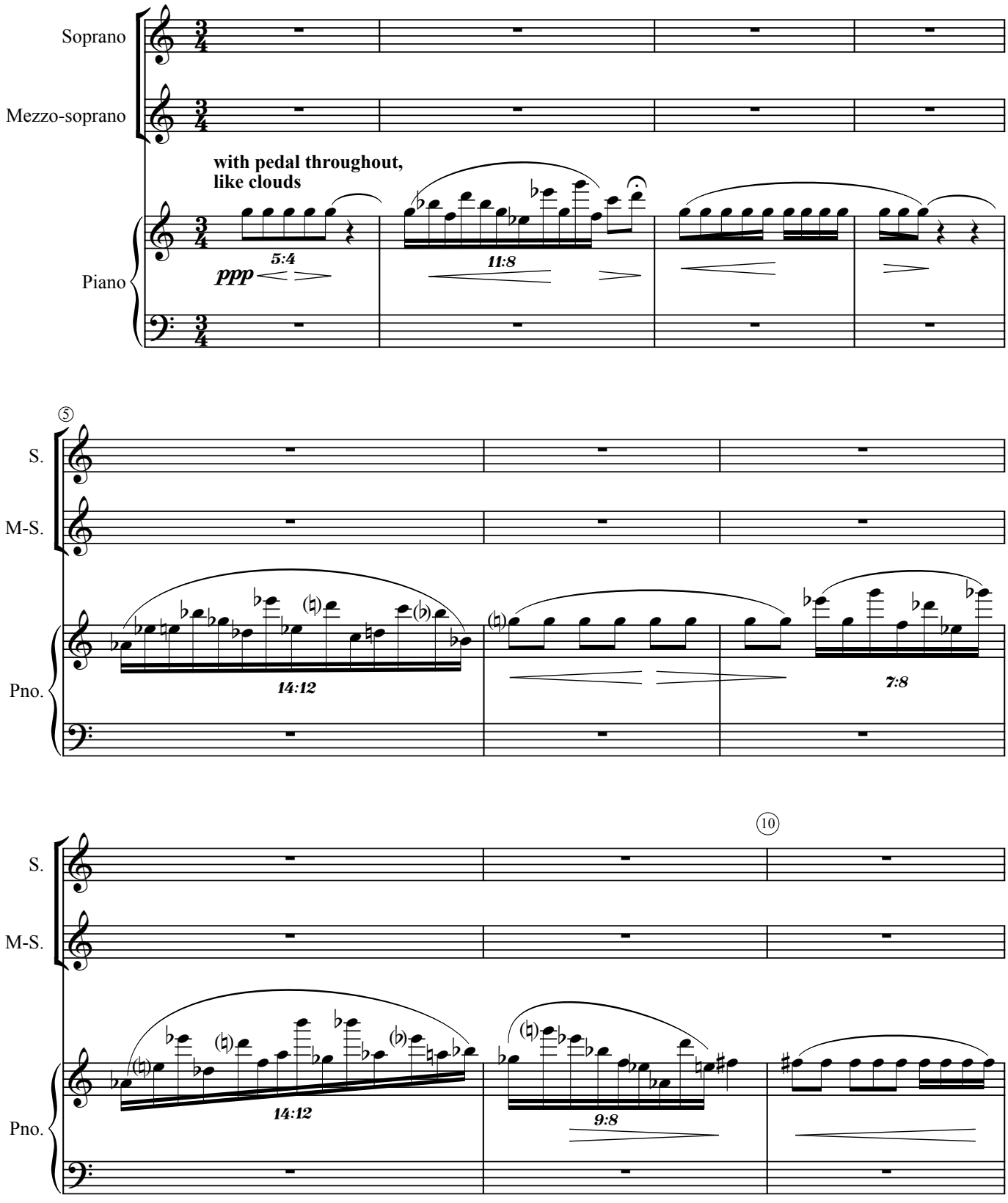
for Ashley, Lauren and Christopher

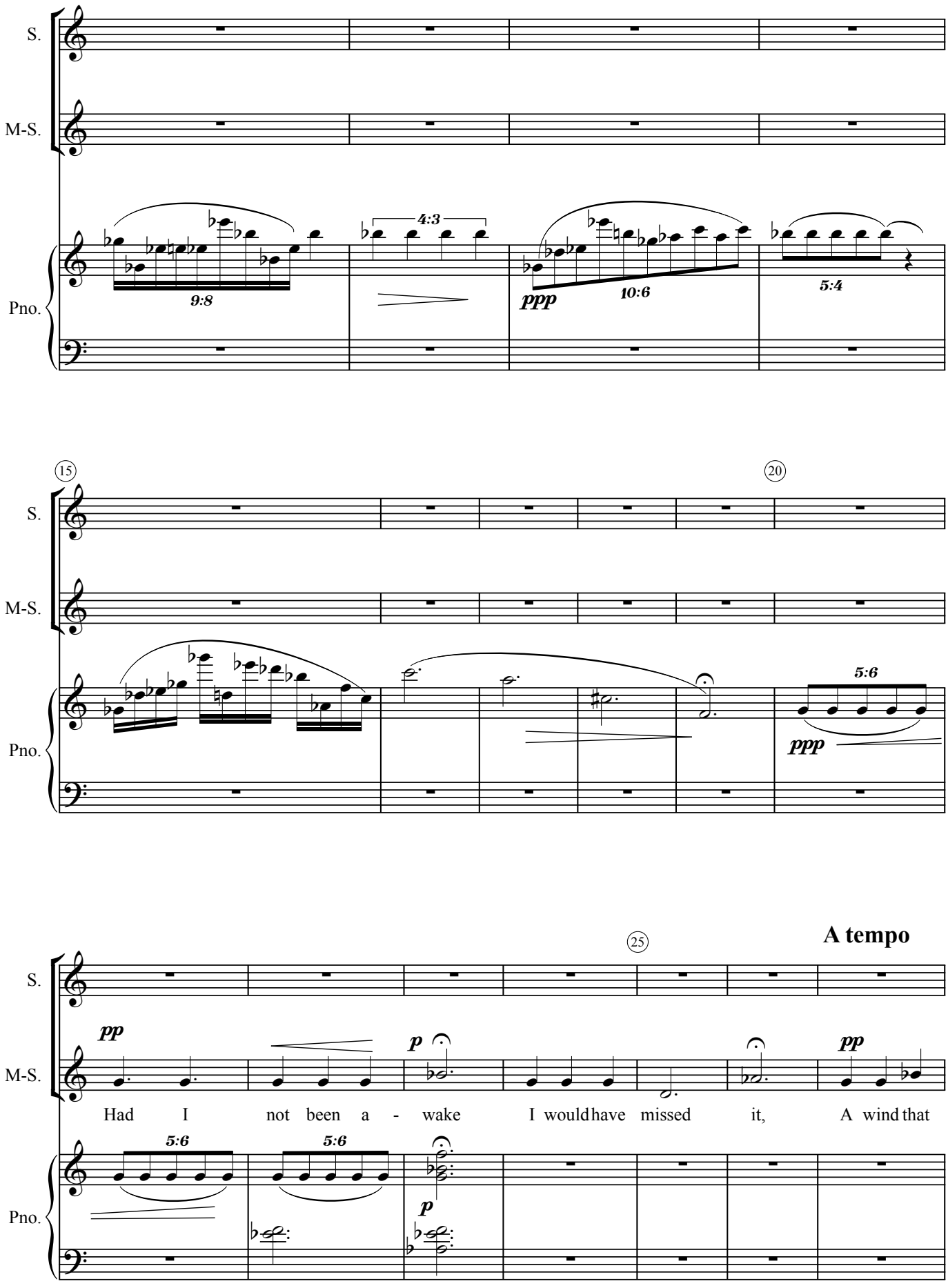
poem by Seamus Heaney © 2010

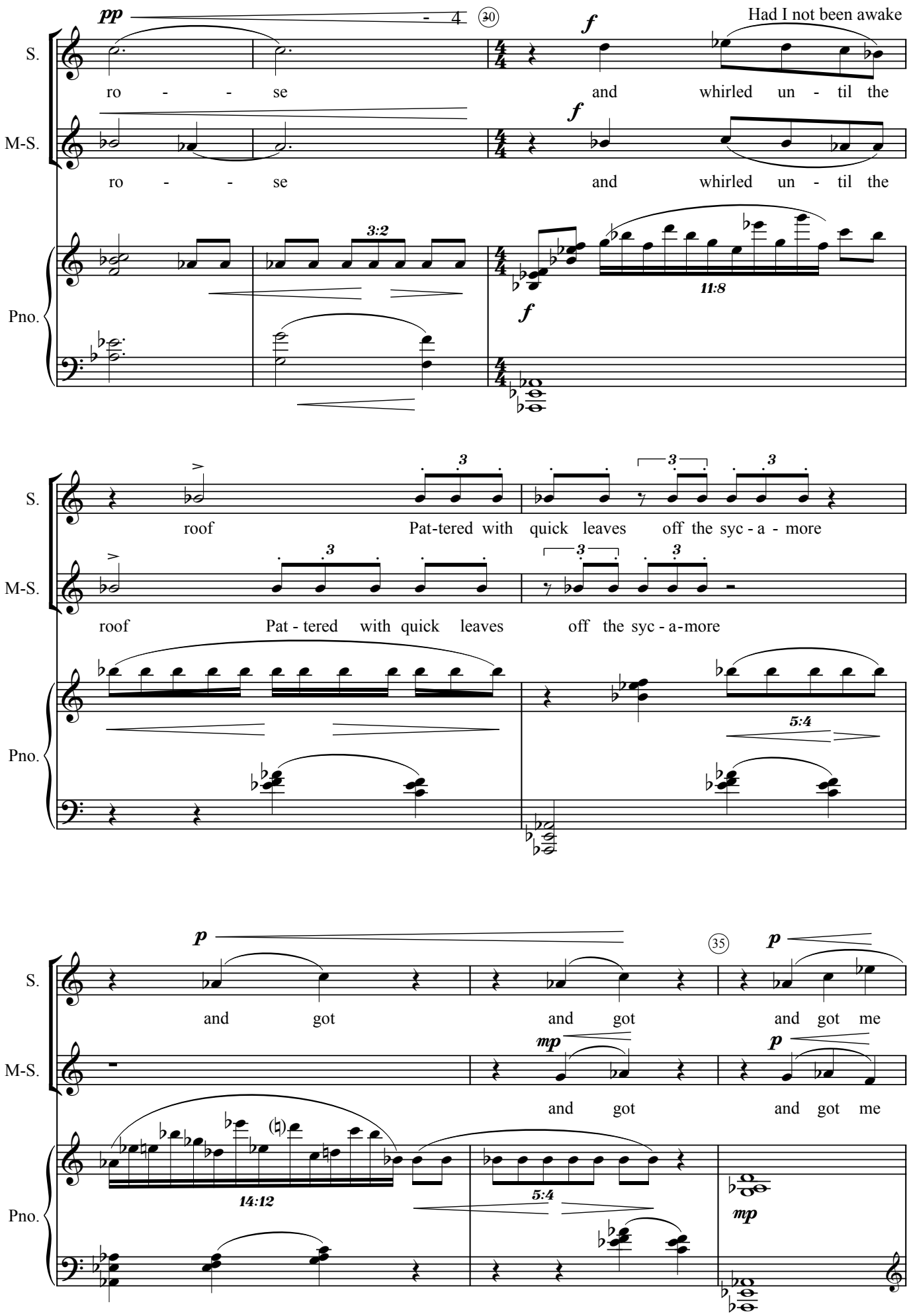
Michael Price

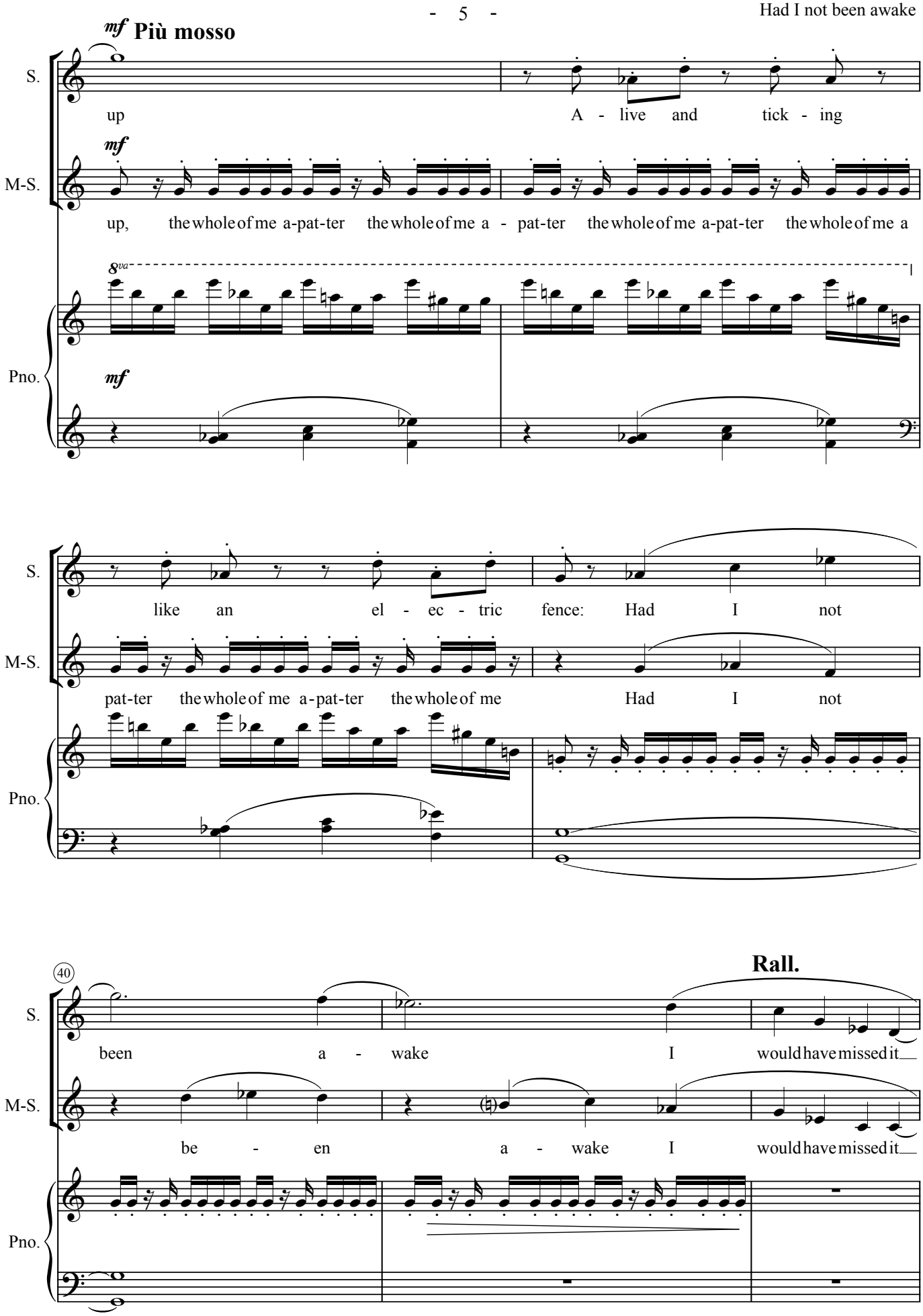
Had I not been awake

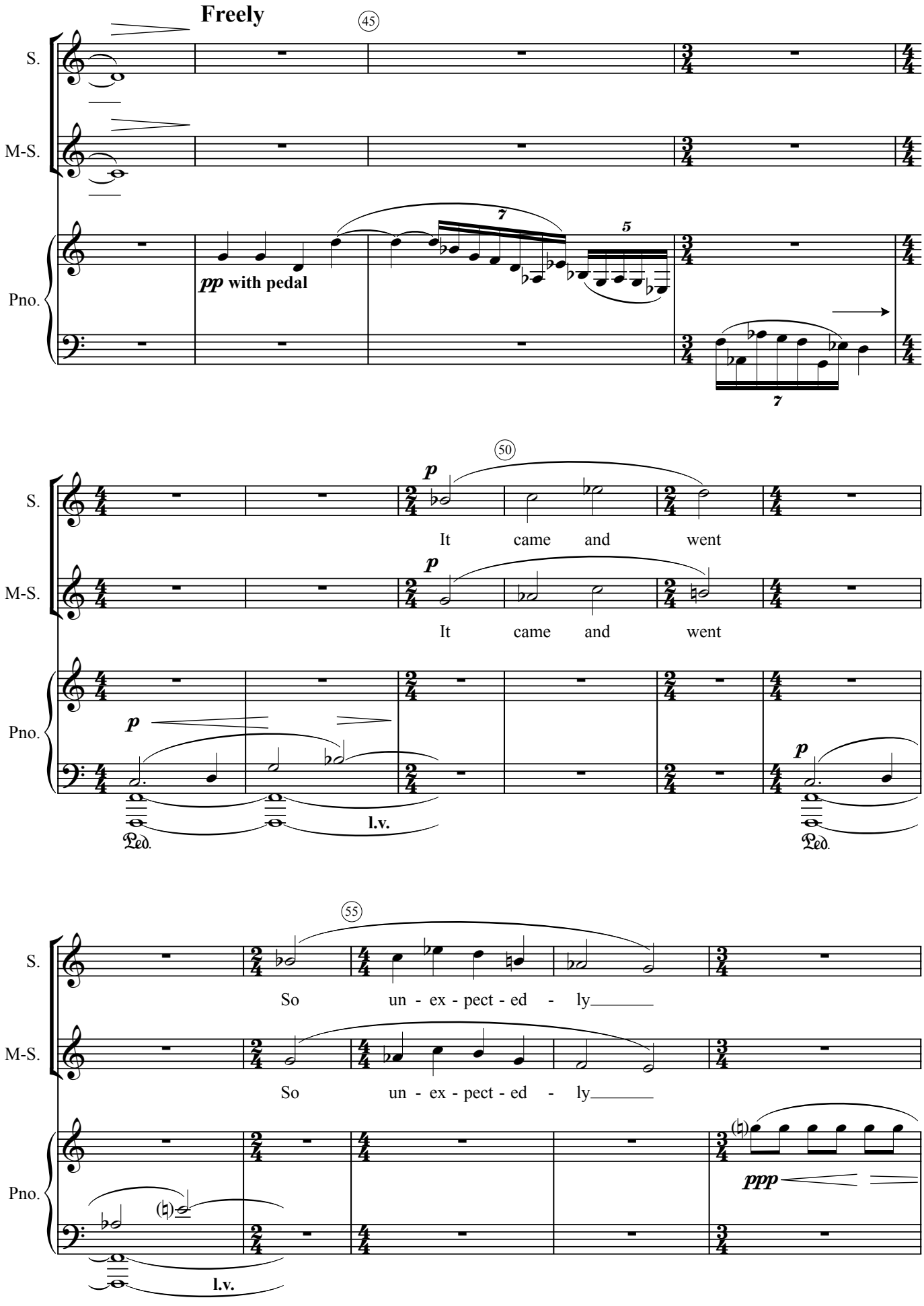
Slow and free

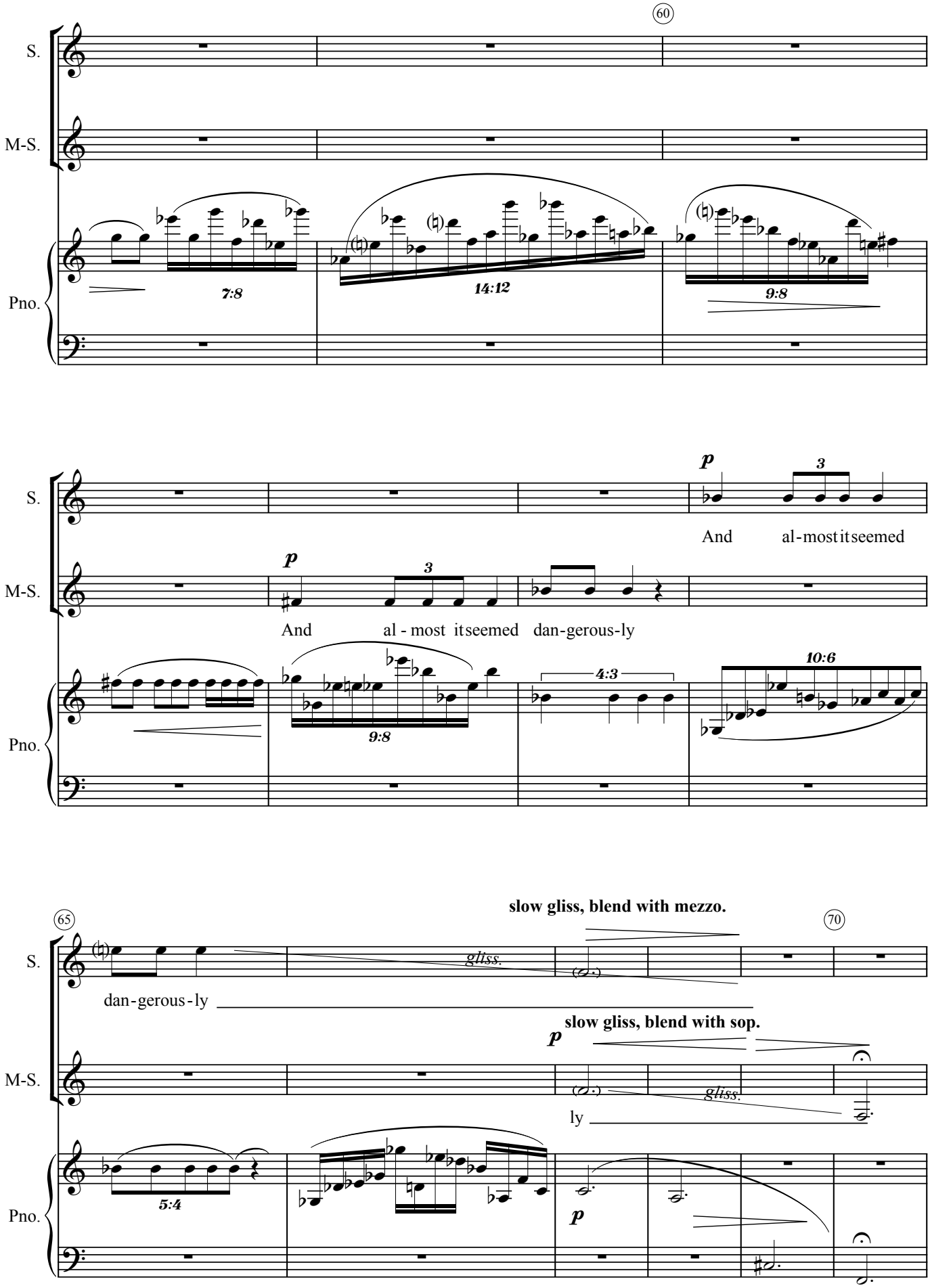


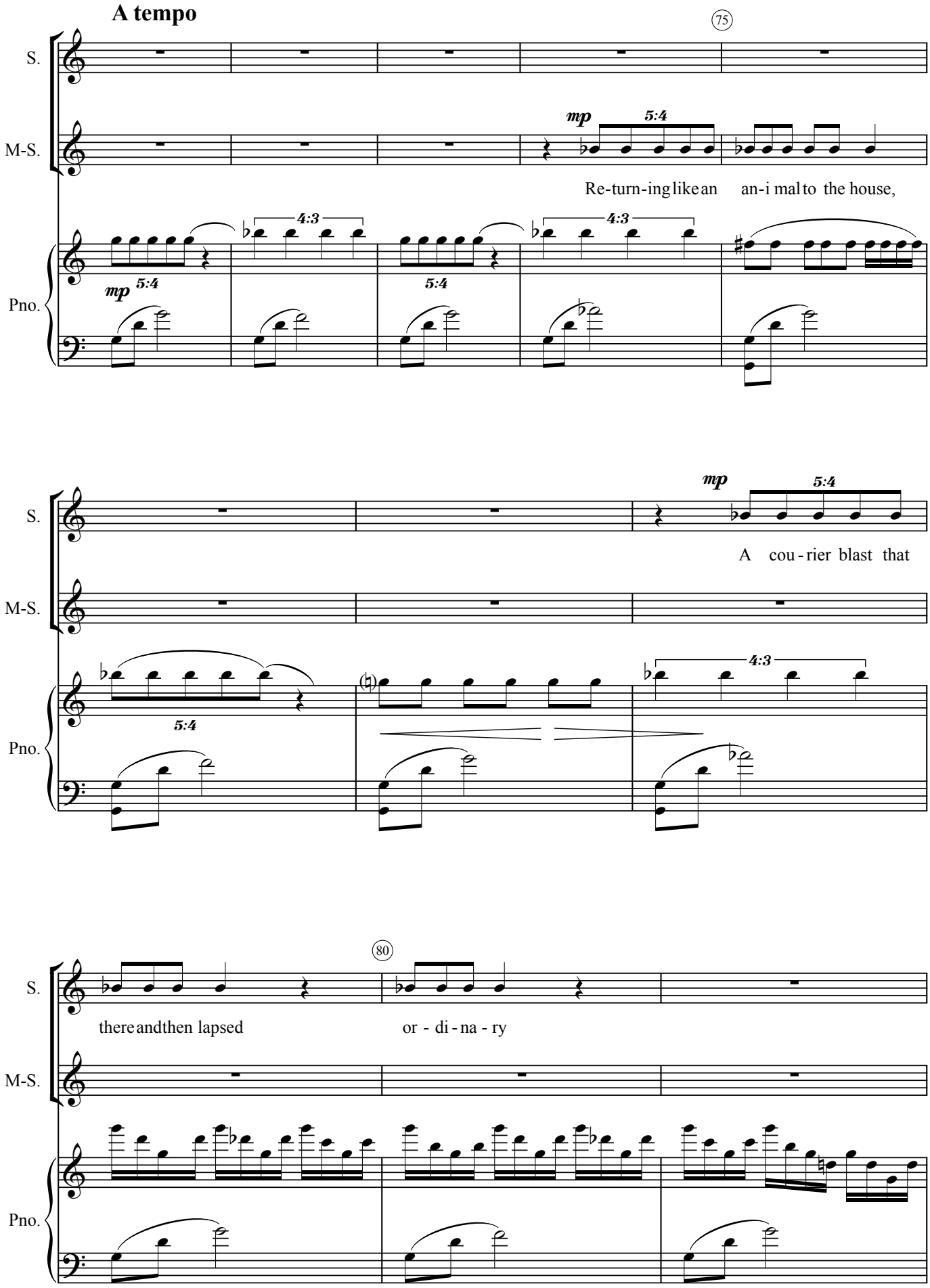

S.
M-S.
Pno.
9:8
4:3
ppp
10:6
5:4
15
20
5:6
ppp
25
A tempo
pp
p
pp
Had I not been a - wake I would have missed it, A wind that
5:6
5:6
p

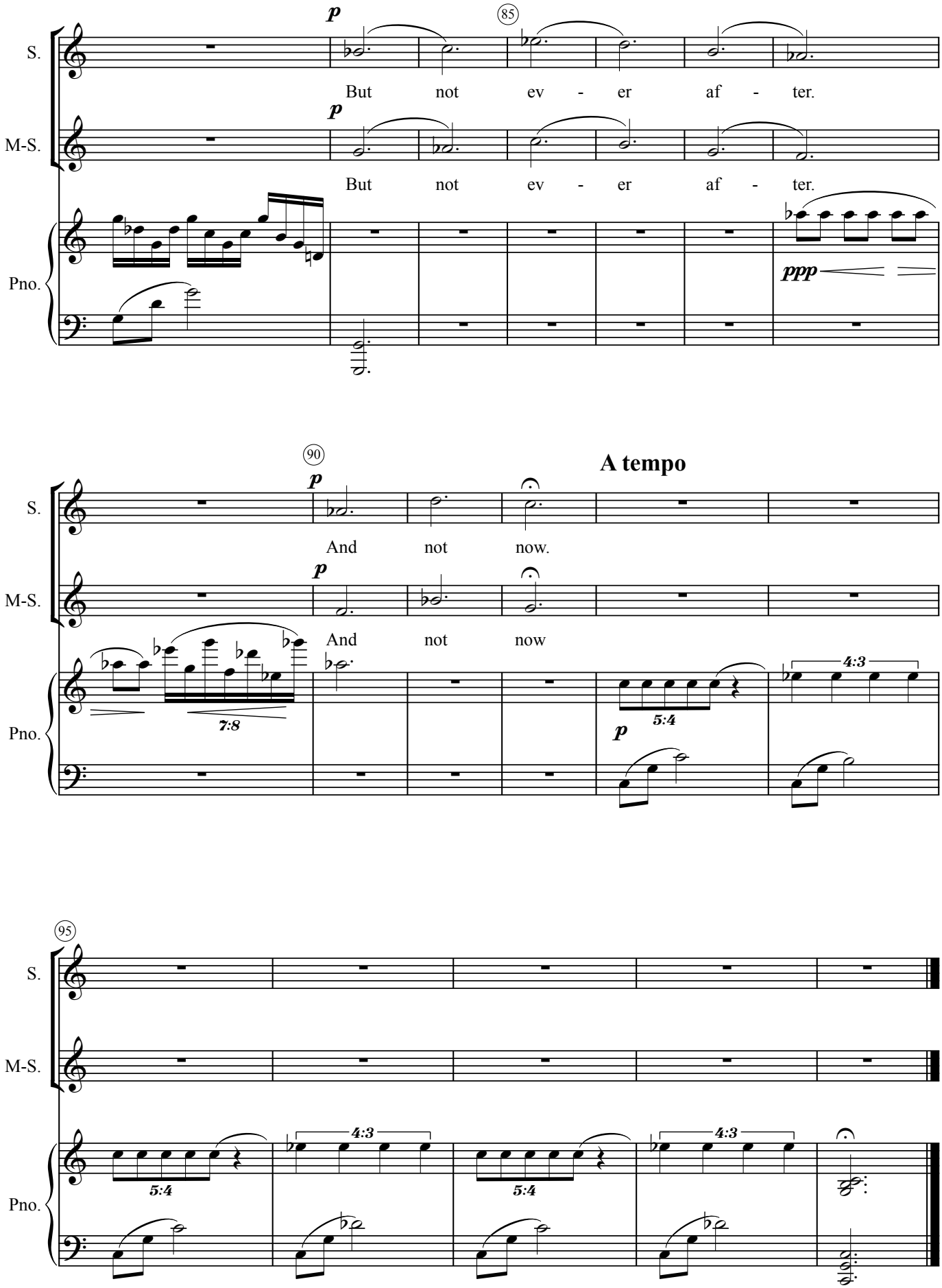

pp
30
f
Had I not been awake
S.
ro - - se
and whirled un - til the
M-S.
ro - - se
and whirled un - til the
3:2
11:8
Pno.
roof
Pat-tered with quick leaves
off the syc - a - more
roof
Pat - tered with quick leaves
off the syc - a-more
5:4
p
35
and got
and got
and got me
mp
and got
and got me
14:12
5:4
mp


mf Più mosso
S.
up
A - live and tick - ing
M-S.
mf
up, the whole of me a-pat-ter the whole of me a - pat-ter the whole of me a-pat-ter the whole of me a
8va
Pno.
mf
S.
like an el - ec - tric fence: Had I not
M-S.
pat-ter the whole of me a-pat-ter the whole of me Had I not
Pno.
40
Rall.
S.
been a - wake I would have missed it
M-S.
be - en a - wake I would have missed it
Pno.


Freely
45
S.
M-S.
Pno.
pp with pedal
7
5
7
50
p
It came and went
p
It came and went
p
l.v.
Ped.
p
Ped.
55
So un - ex - pect - ed - ly
So un - ex - pect - ed - ly
ppp
l.v.


60
S.
M-S.
Pno.
7:8
14:12
9:8
p
3
And al-most it seemed
And al - most it seemed dan-gerous-ly
4:3
10:6
65
70
dan-gerous-ly
gliss.
slow gliss, blend with mezzo.
slow gliss, blend with sop.
ly
5:4


A tempo
75
S.
M-S.
Pno.
mp
5:4
4:3
Re-turn-ing like an an-i mal to the house,
A cou-rier blast that
80
there and then lapsed
or - di - na - ry


85
S.
M-S.
Pno.
p
But not ev - er af - ter.
p
But not ev - er af - ter.
ppp
90
A tempo
p
And not now.
p
And not now
7:8
5:4
4:3
p
95
5:4
4:3
5:4
4:3