Cloe Hotham

Oak

SATB

Oak

for SATB

Oak is inspired by the idea that once we give names to things, or more usually learn the names of things that have already been named, we care more deeply for them. This piece has been written in a time of trying to connect more deeply with nature through learning about the natural world, particularly through taxonomic names, inspired by my love of the Latin language. I chose to focus on the oak in this piece as it is a symbol of the English countryside (especially the English Oak as in this piece), but it was also a deeply meaningful symbol in Ancient Roman culture.

Names are the way we humans build relationship, not only
with each other but with the living world.
Robin Wall Kimmerer, in *Braiding Sweetgrass*

Text

Lucretius, De Rerum Natura / On the Nature of Things

Men came to use the varied sounds of speech,
by taking up the names of things, when talking each to each,
and in what way the awe of the gods slipped into the heart,
which on the globe of earth keeps some things sacred and apart:
The altars, shrines, lakes, groves, gods' graven images in art.

quove modo genus humanum variante loquella
coeperit inter se vesci per nomina rerum;
et quibus ille modis divom metus insinuarit
pectora, terrarum qui in orbi sancta tuetur
fana lacus lucos aras simulacraque divom.

English translation by A. E. Stallings
Latin taken from Book 5, lines 71 - 75

English oak - Quercus robur

c. 5.30'

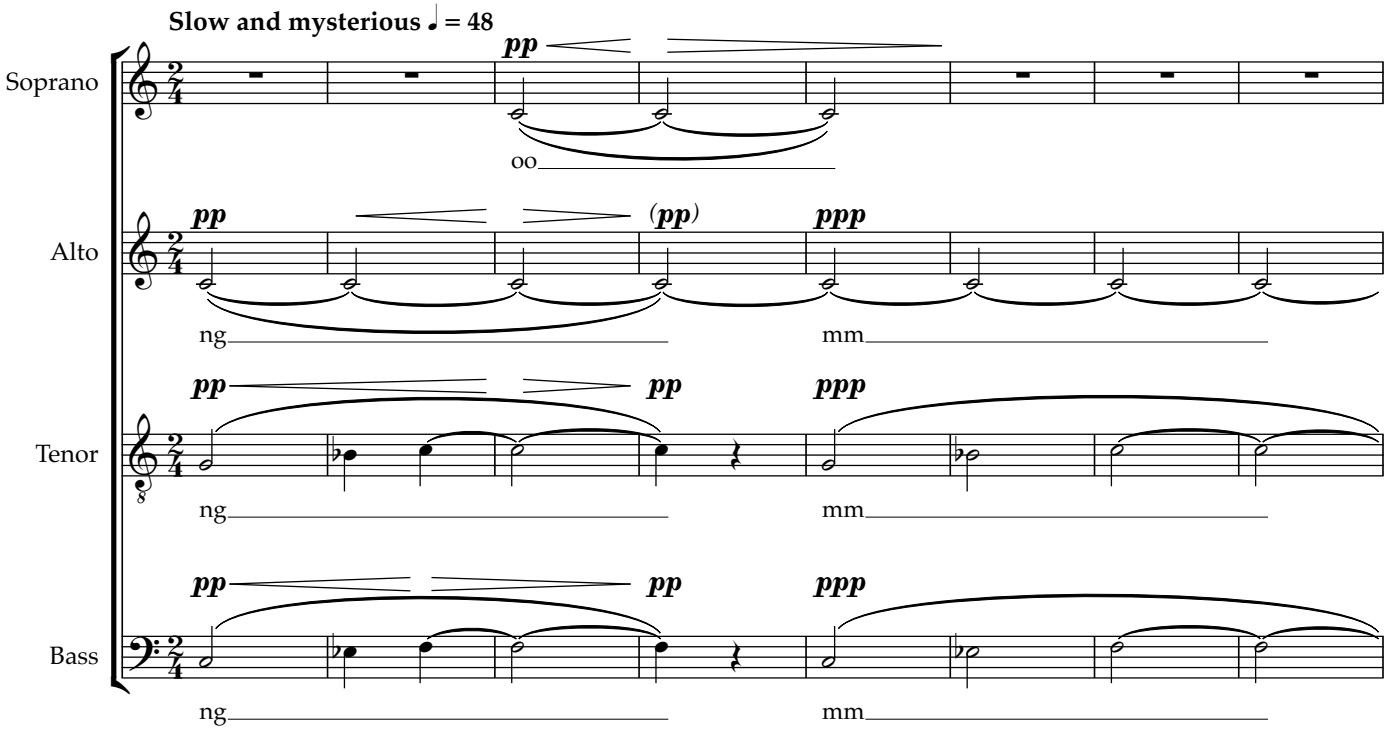
Written for the Composer Academy at Cheltenham Music Festival 2025

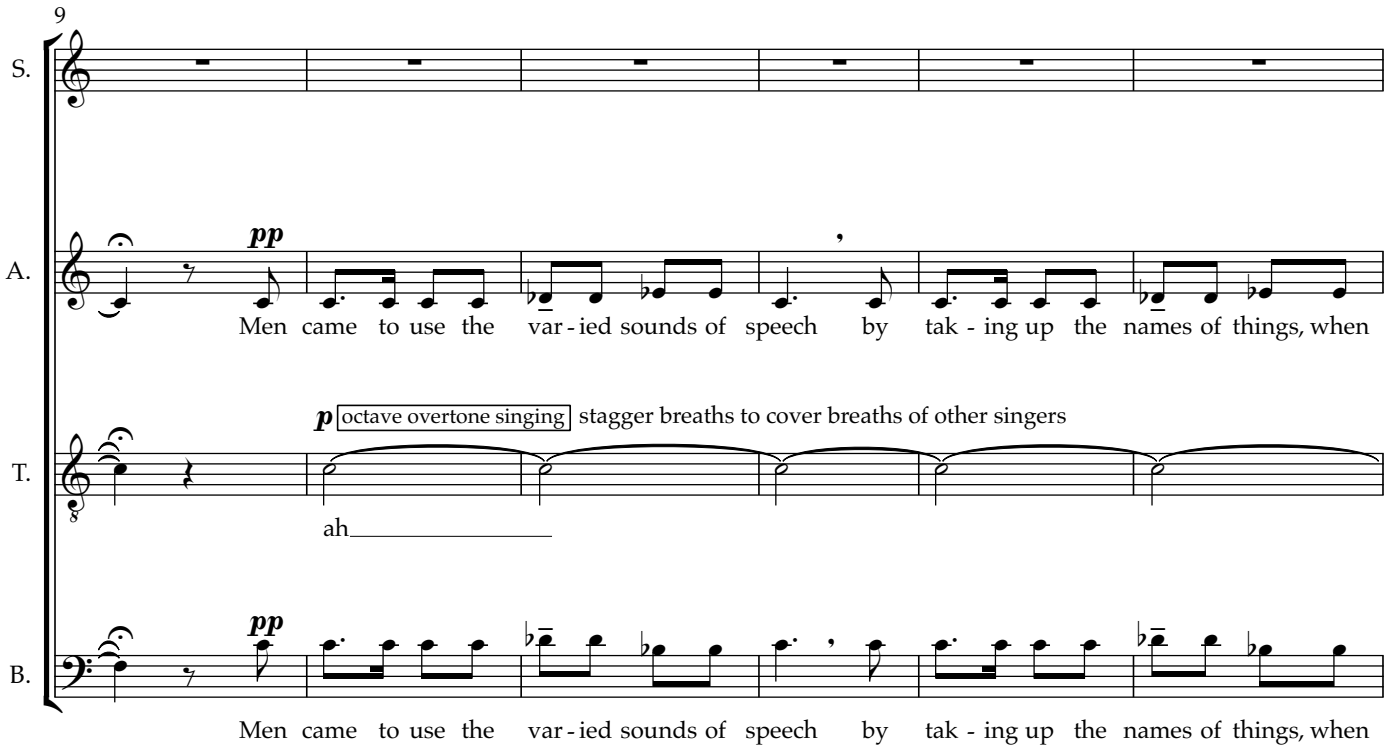
Premiered by The Carice Singers, directed by George Parris, 11th July 2025

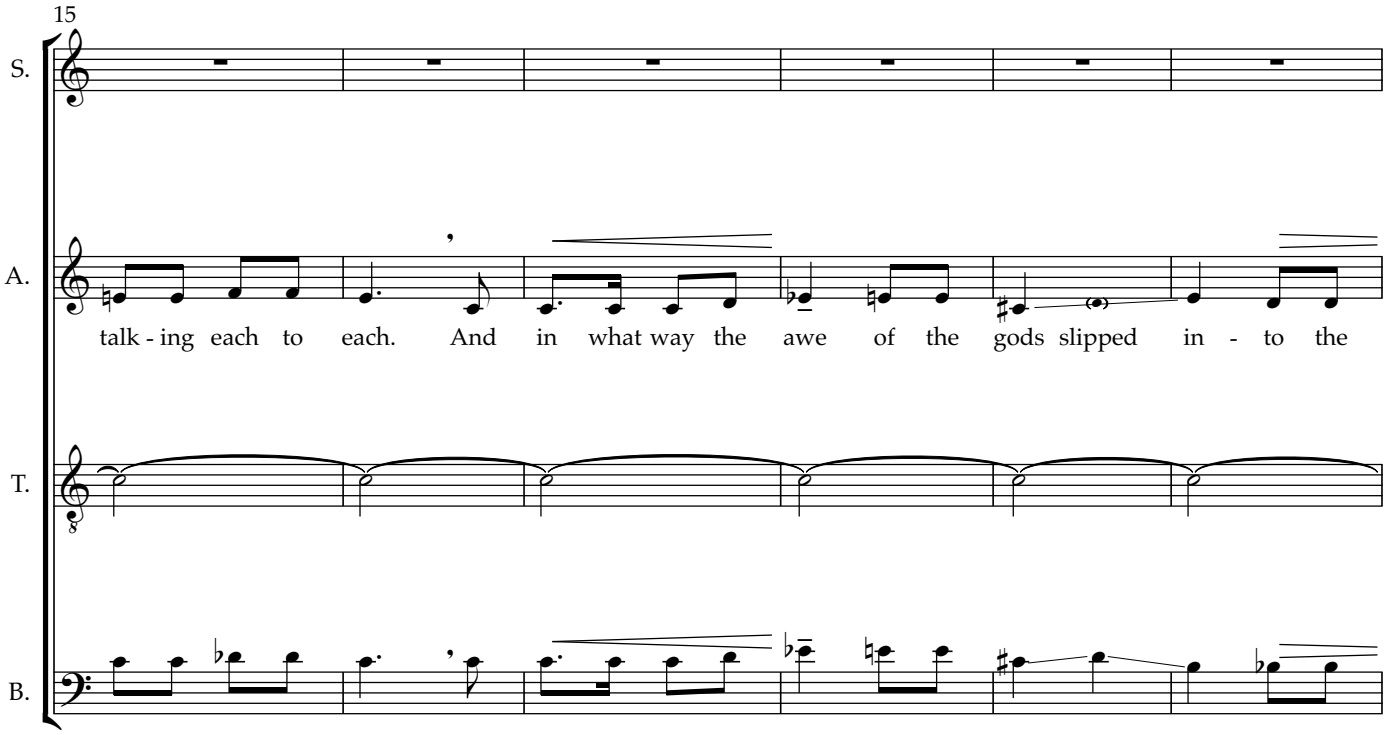
Oak

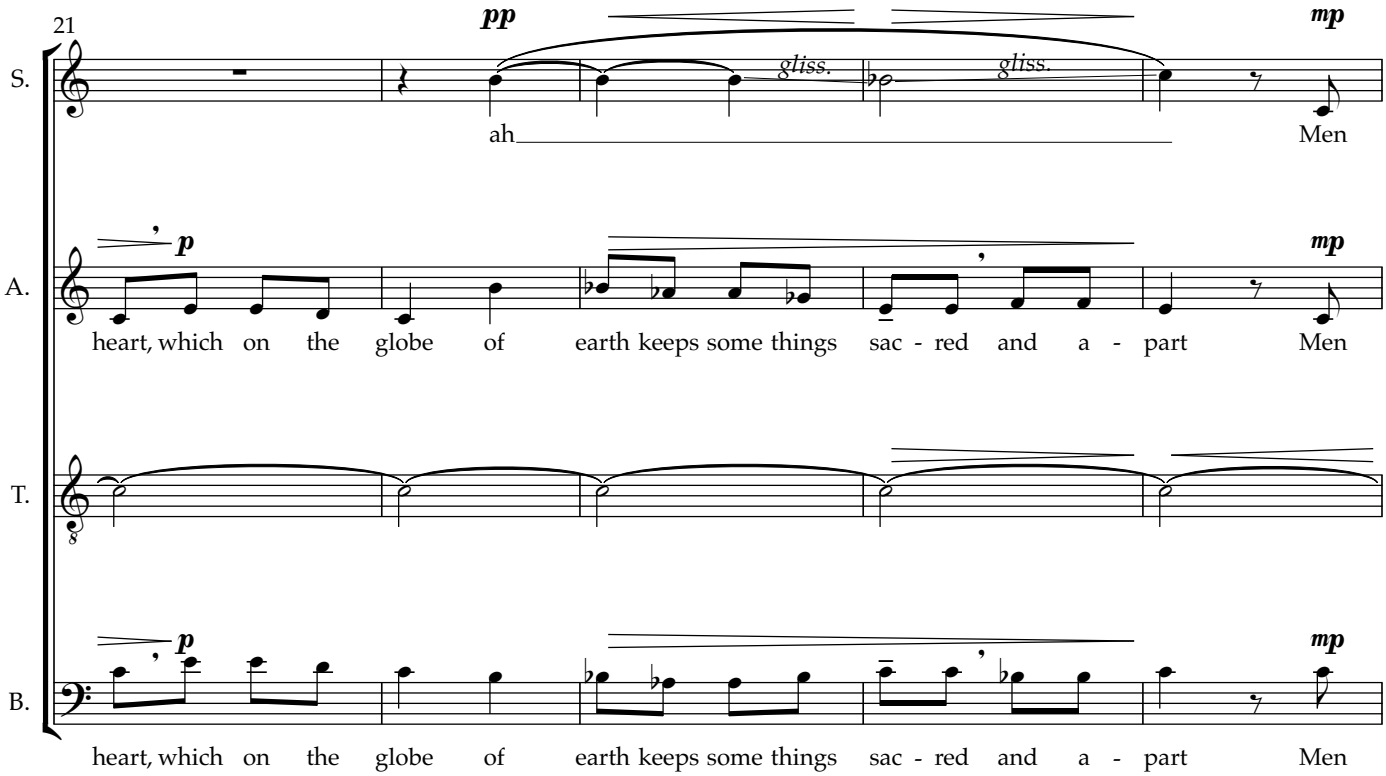
Lucretius *De Rerum Natura* / *On the Nature of Things*

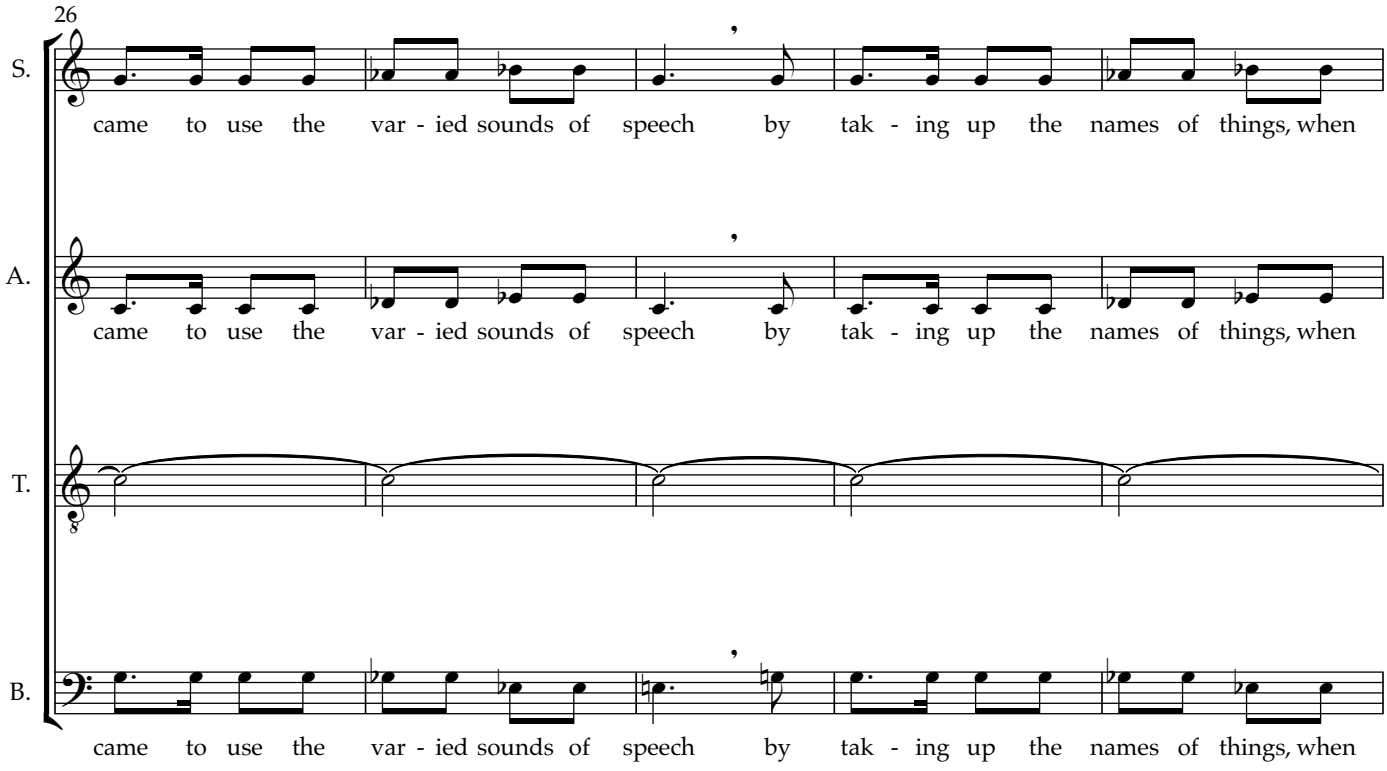
Cloe Hotham

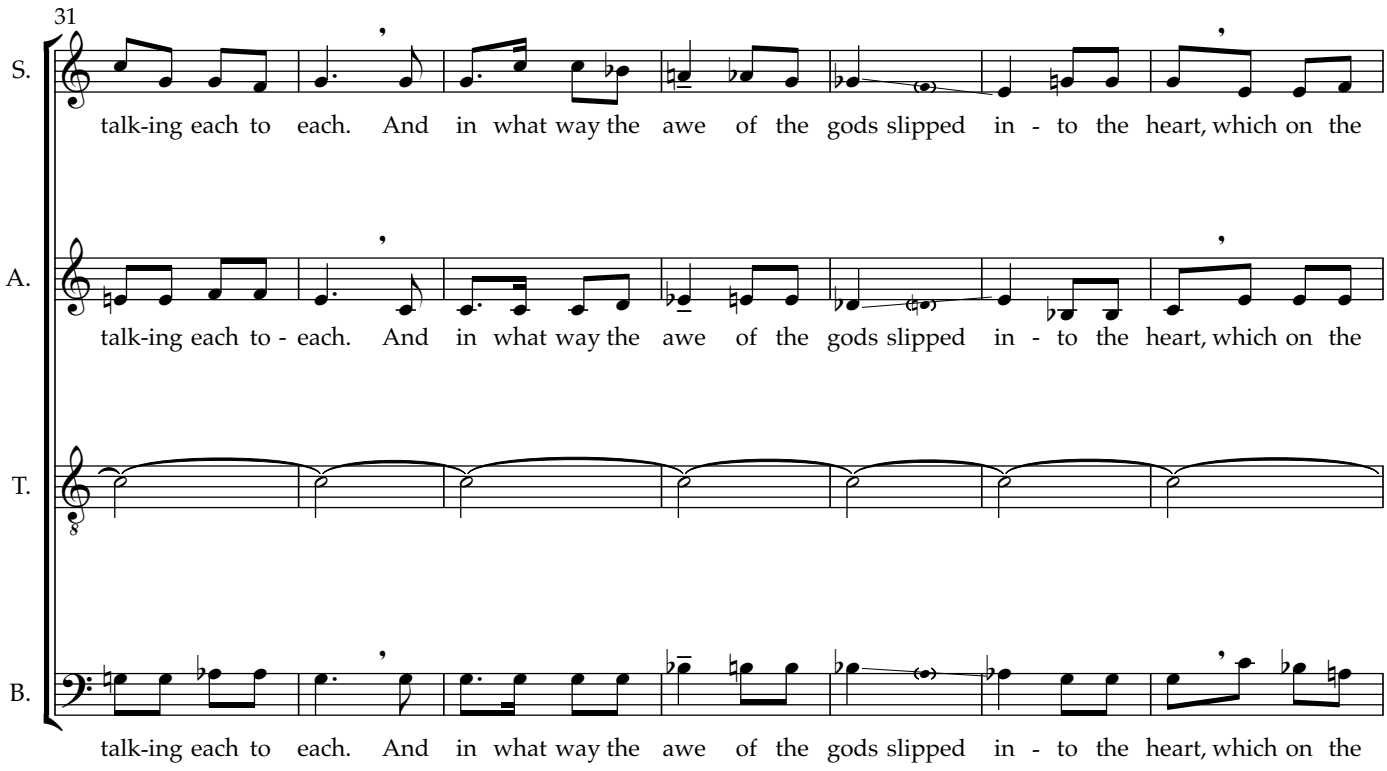


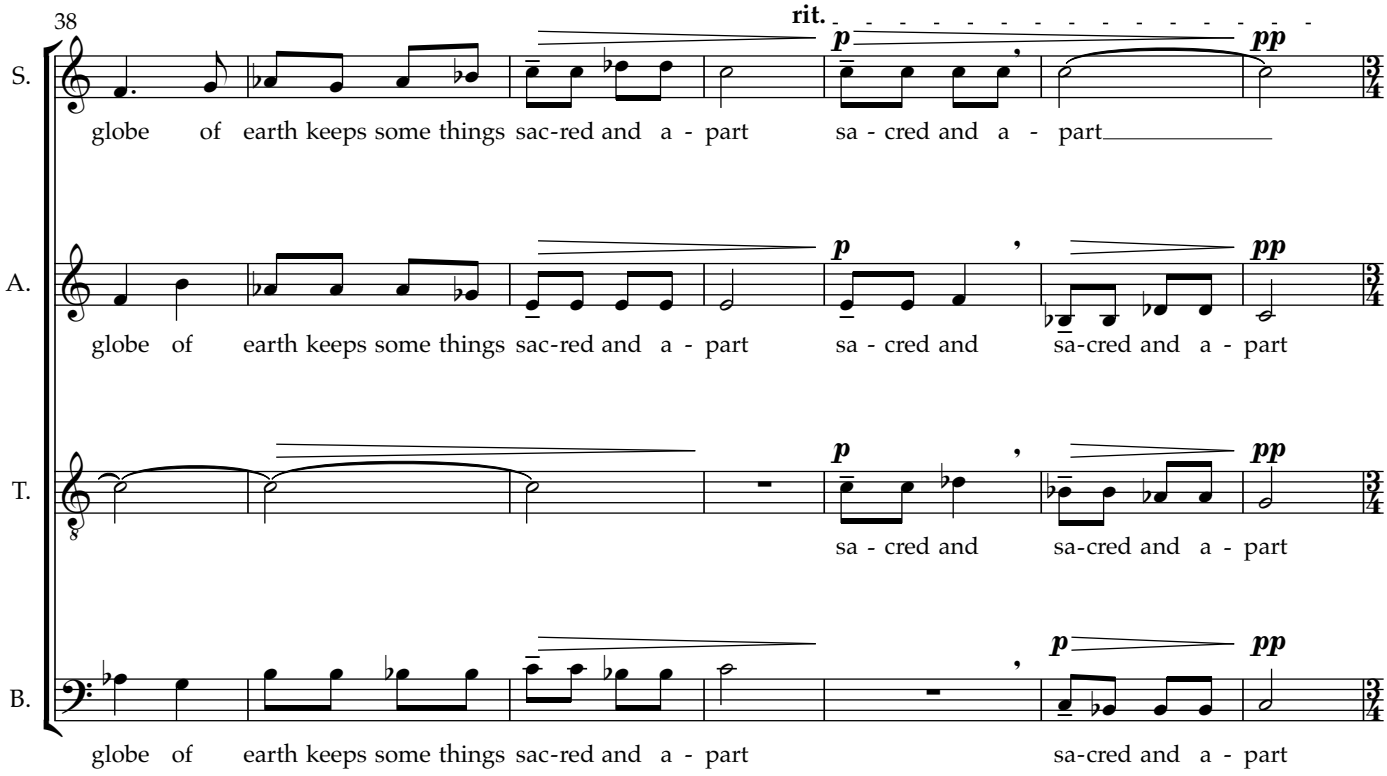


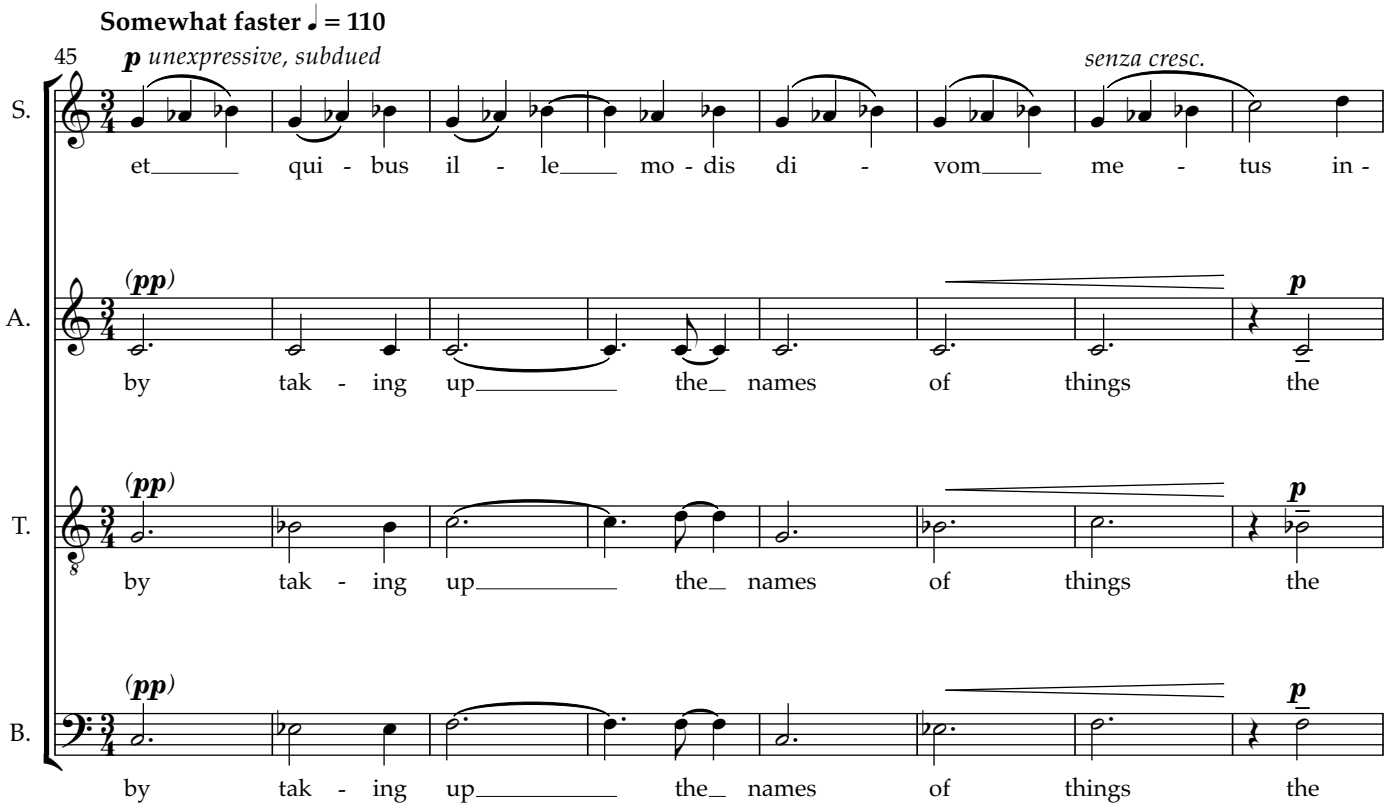

15
S.
A.
T.
B.
talk - ing each to each. And in what way the awe of the gods slipped in - to the
talk - ing each to each. And in what way the awe of the gods slipped in - to the

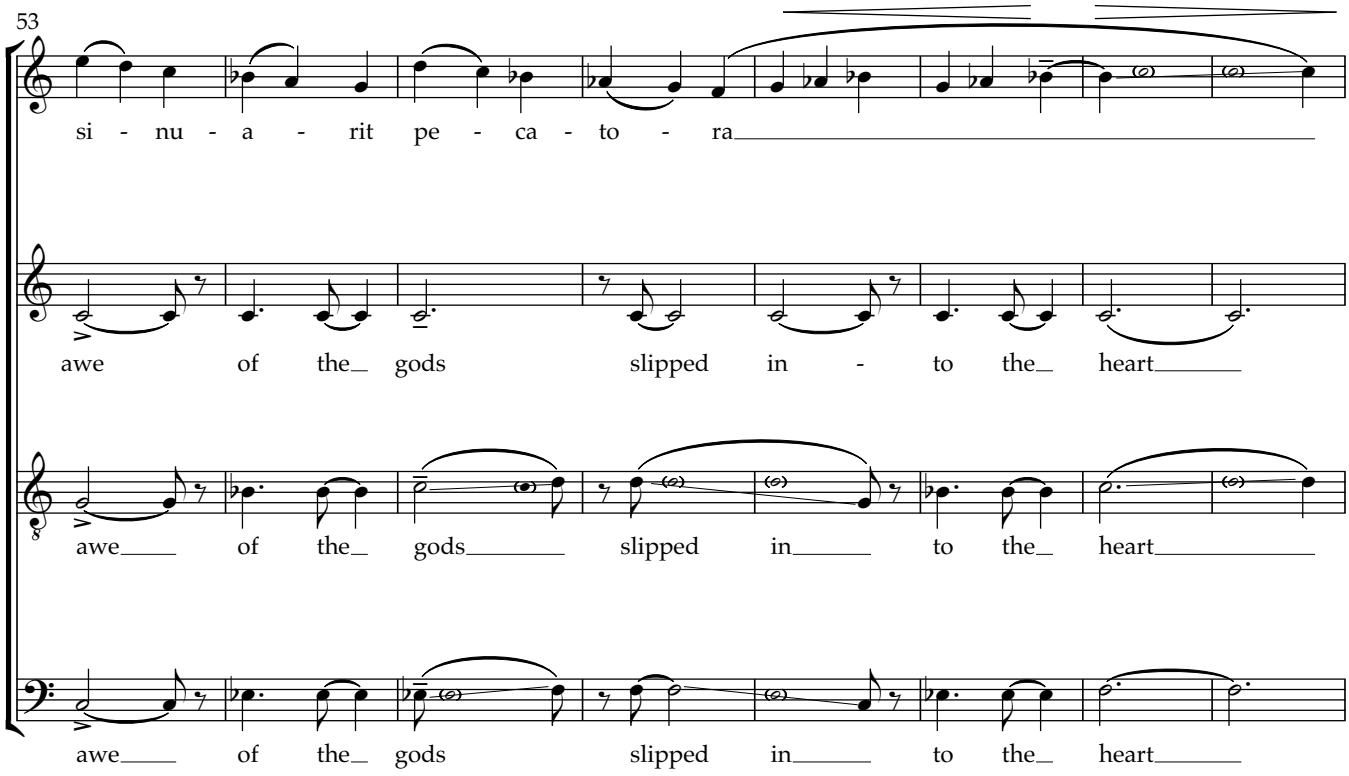

21
S.
A.
T.
B.
pp
gliss.
gliss.
mp
ah
Men
p
mp
heart, which on the globe of earth keeps some things sac - red and a - part Men
p
mp
heart, which on the globe of earth keeps some things sac - red and a - part Men

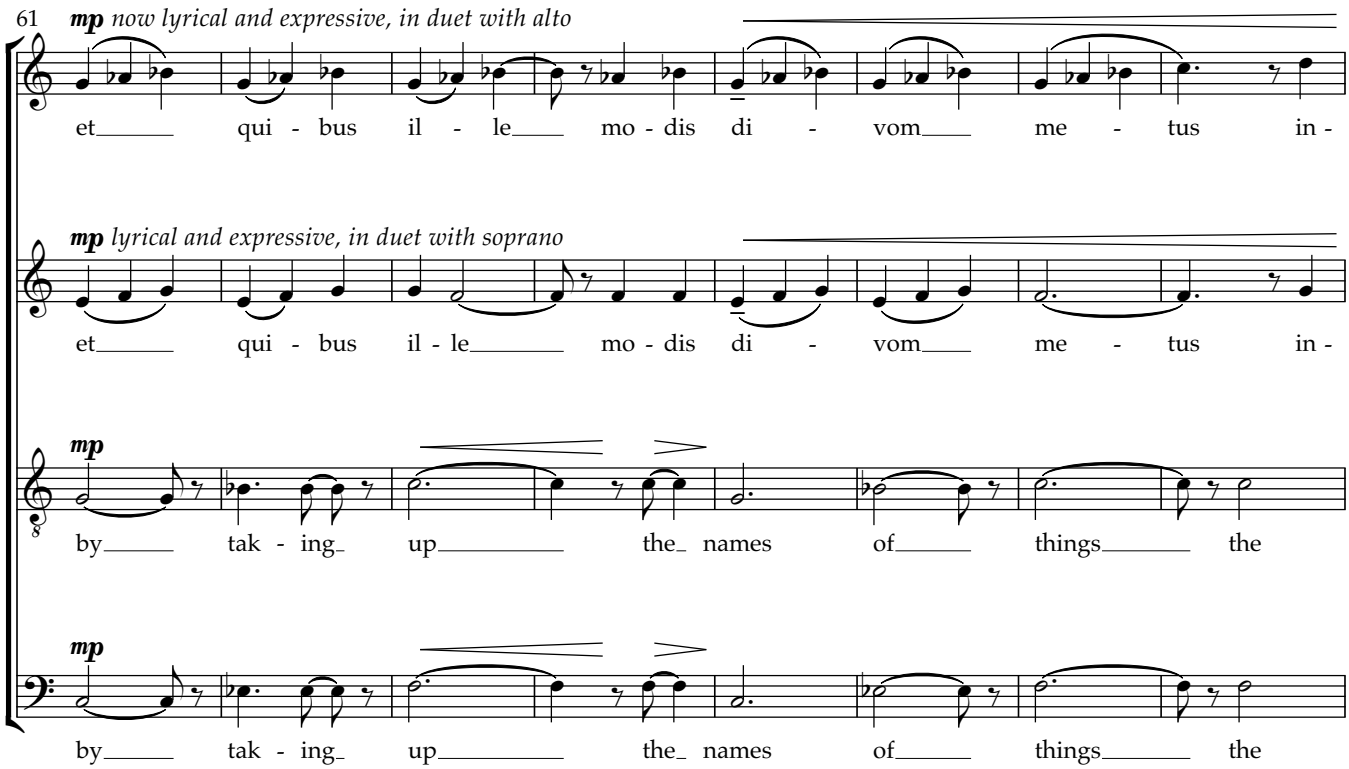

26
S.
came to use the var - ied sounds of speech by tak - ing up the names of things, when
A.
came to use the var - ied sounds of speech by tak - ing up the names of things, when
T.
B.
came to use the var - ied sounds of speech by tak - ing up the names of things, when

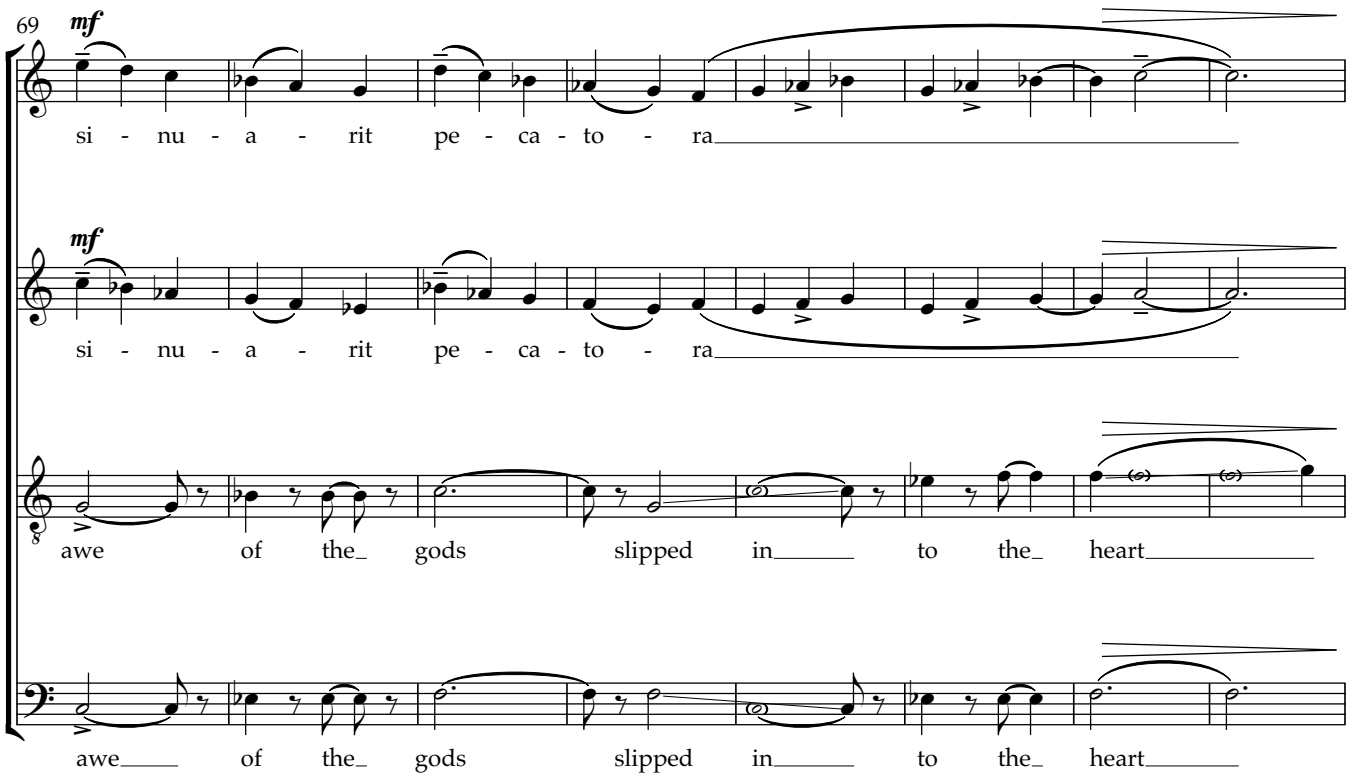

31
S.
talk-ing each to each. And in what way the awe of the gods slipped in - to the heart, which on the
A.
talk-ing each to - each. And in what way the awe of the gods slipped in - to the heart, which on the
T.
B.
talk-ing each to each. And in what way the awe of the gods slipped in - to the heart, which on the

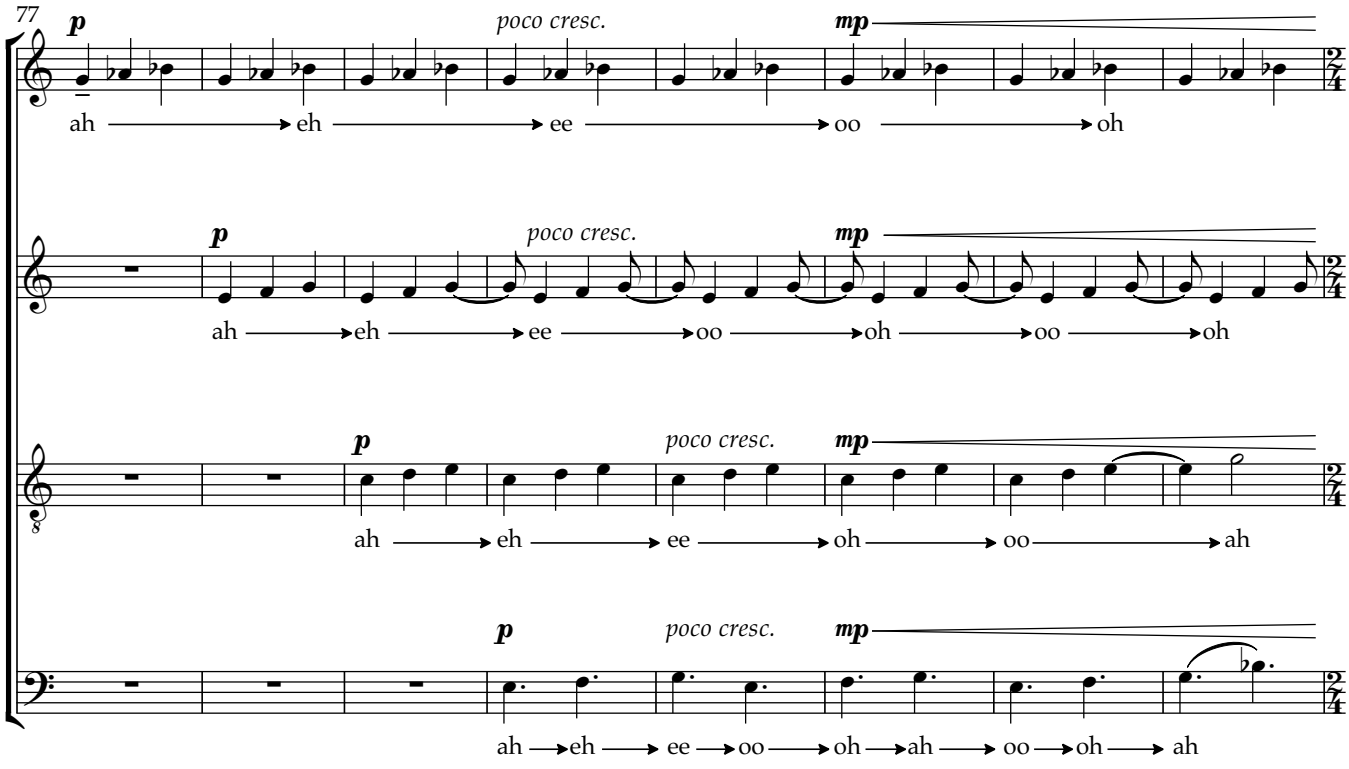

38
rit.
S.
globe of earth keeps some things sac-red and a - part sa - cred and a - part
A.
globe of earth keeps some things sac-red and a - part sa - cred and sa-cred and a - part
T.
sa - cred and sa-cred and a - part
B.
globe of earth keeps some things sac-red and a - part sa-cred and a - part

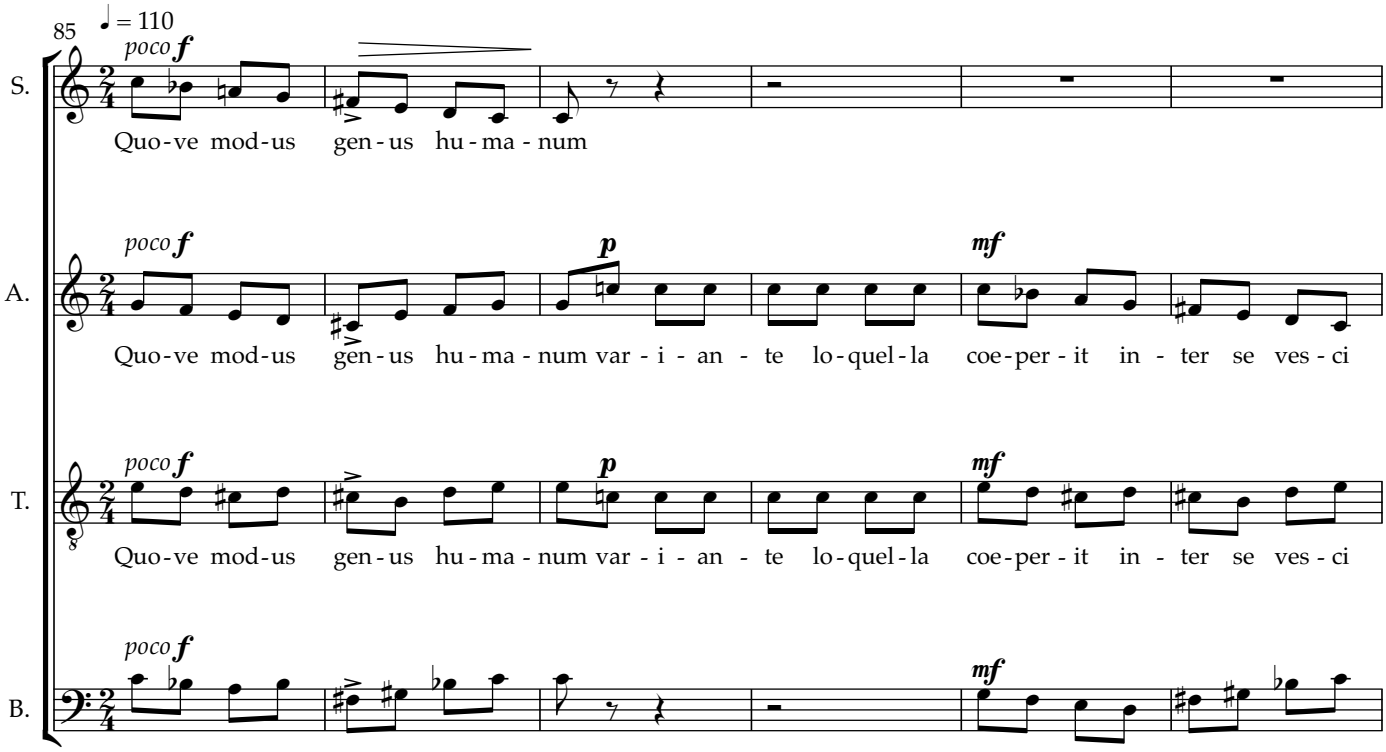

Somewhat faster ♩ = 110
45
p unexpressive, subdued
senza cresc.
S.
et qui - bus il - le mo - dis di - vom me - tus in -
A.
by tak - ing up the names of things the
T.
by tak - ing up the names of things the
B.
by tak - ing up the names of things the

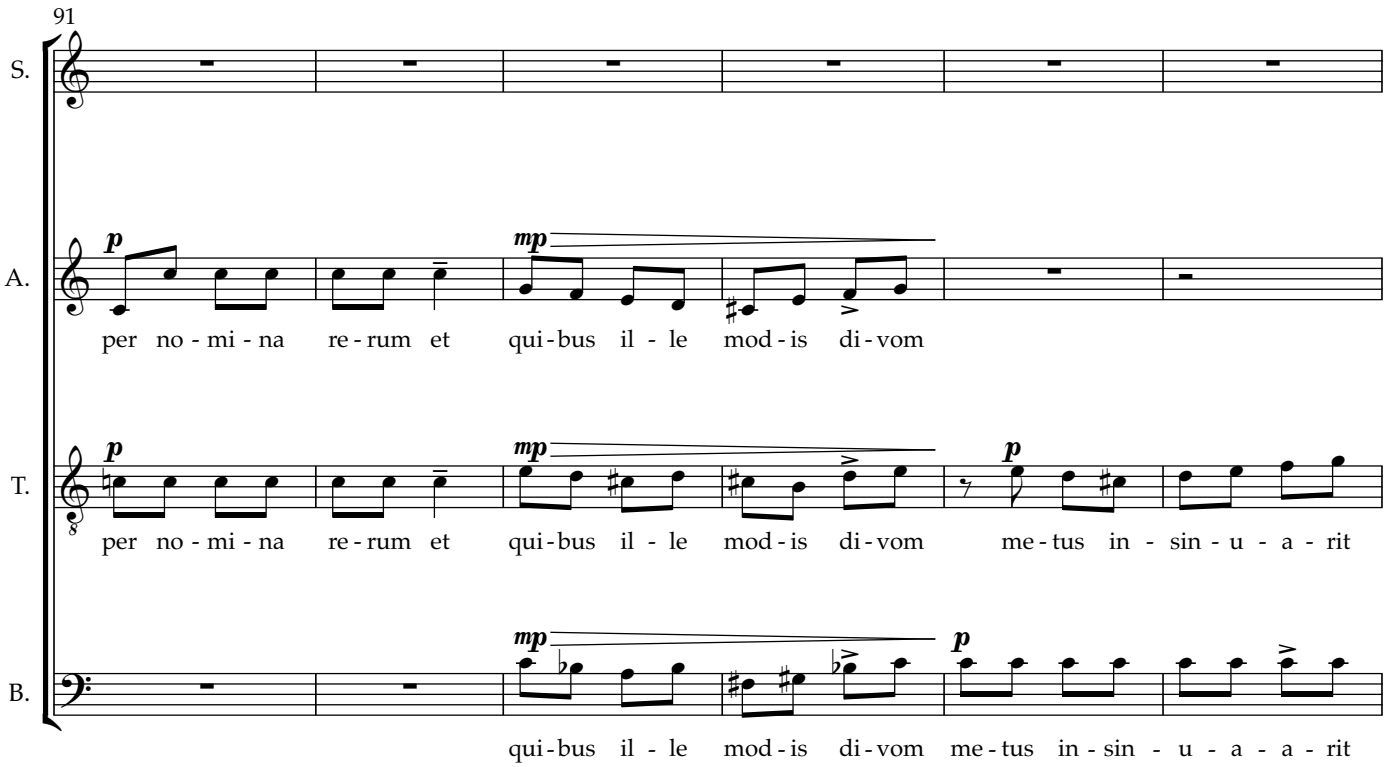

53
S.
si - nu - a - rit pe - ca - to - ra
A.
awe of the gods slipped in - to the heart
T.
awe of the gods slipped in to the heart
B.
awe of the gods slipped in to the heart

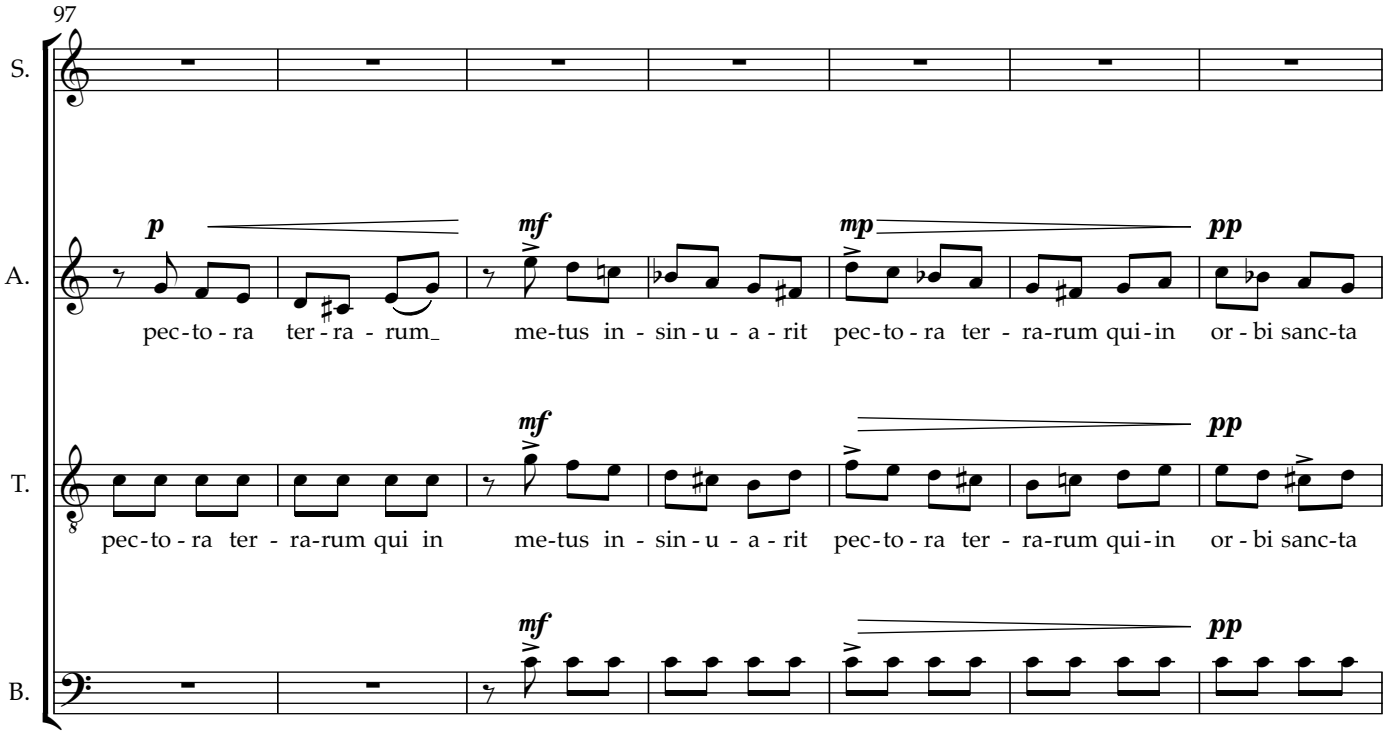

61
mp now lyrical and expressive, in duet with alto
S.
et qui - bus il - le mo - dis di - vom me - tus in -
mp lyrical and expressive, in duet with soprano
A.
et qui - bus il - le mo - dis di - vom me - tus in -
mp
T.
by tak - ing up the names of things the
mp
B.
by tak - ing up the names of things the

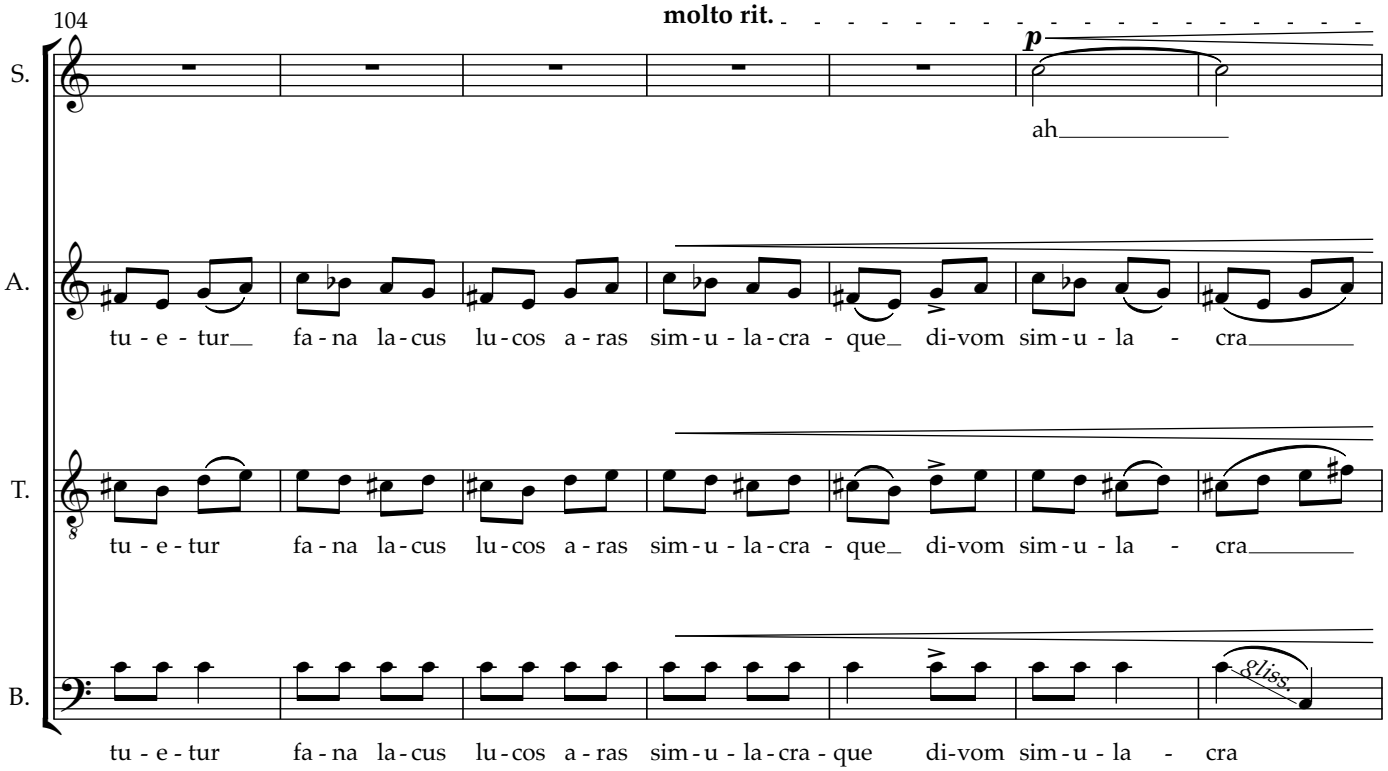

69
mf
S.
si - nu - a - rit pe - ca - to - ra
mf
A.
si - nu - a - rit pe - ca - to - ra
T.
awe of the gods slipped in to the heart
B.
awe of the gods slipped in to the heart

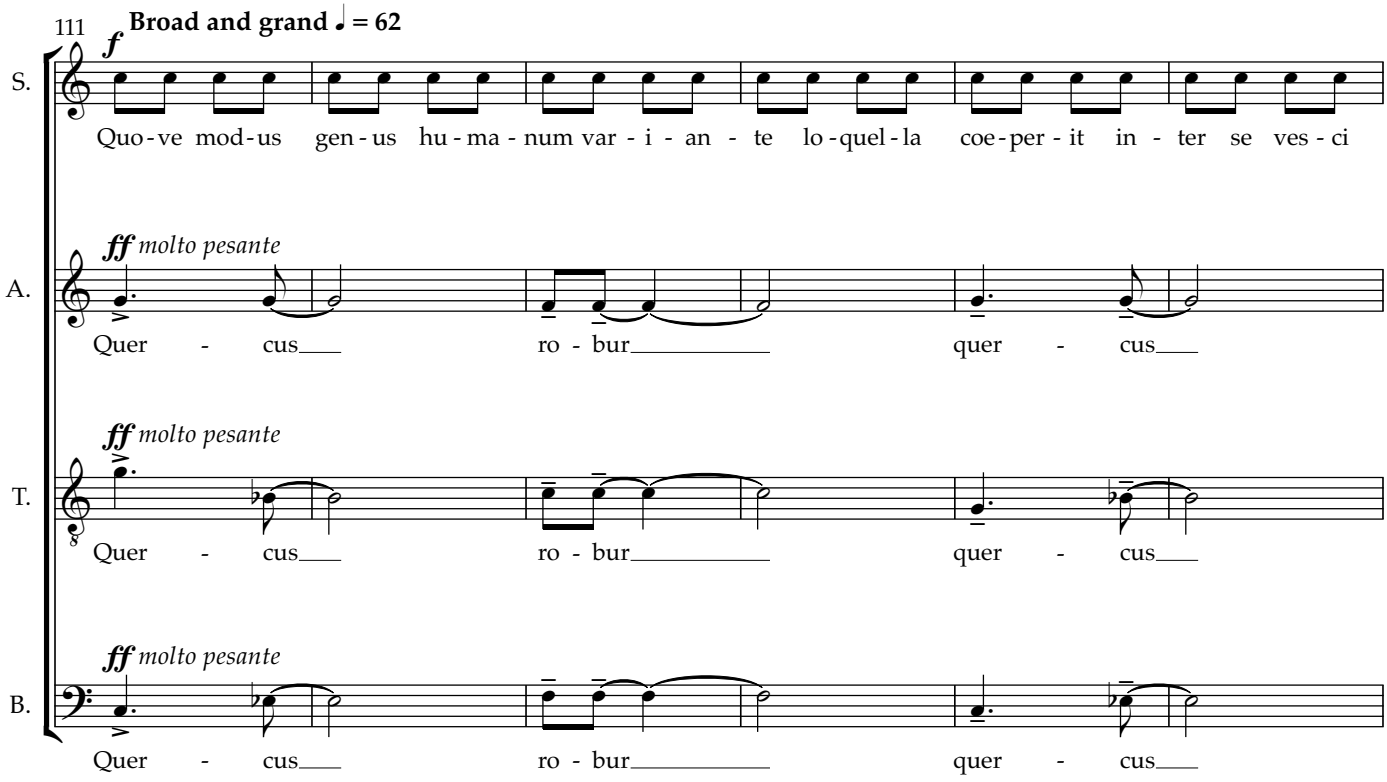

77
p
poco cresc.
mp
S.
ah eh ee oo oh
p
poco cresc.
mp
A.
ah eh ee oo oh oo oh
p
poco cresc.
mp
T.
ah eh ee oh oo ah
p
poco cresc.
mp
B.
ah eh ee oo oh ah oo oh ah

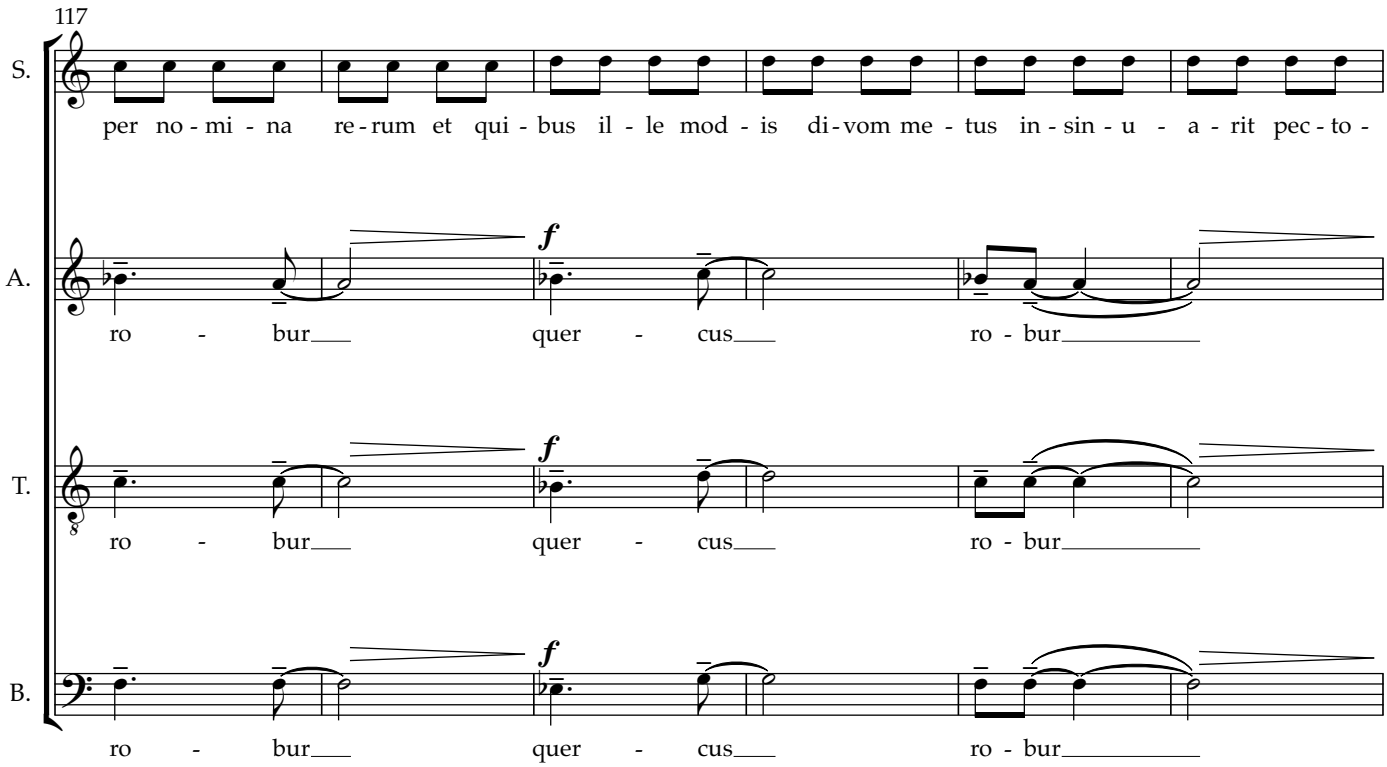

85
♩ = 110
poco f
S.
Quo-ve mod-us gen-us hu-ma-num
A.
Quo-ve mod-us gen-us hu-ma-num var-i-an-te lo-quel-la coe-per-it in-ter se ves-ci
T.
Quo-ve mod-us gen-us hu-ma-num var-i-an-te lo-quel-la coe-per-it in-ter se ves-ci
B.
Quo ve mod-us gen-us hu-ma-num coe-per-it in-ter se ves-ci
p
mf

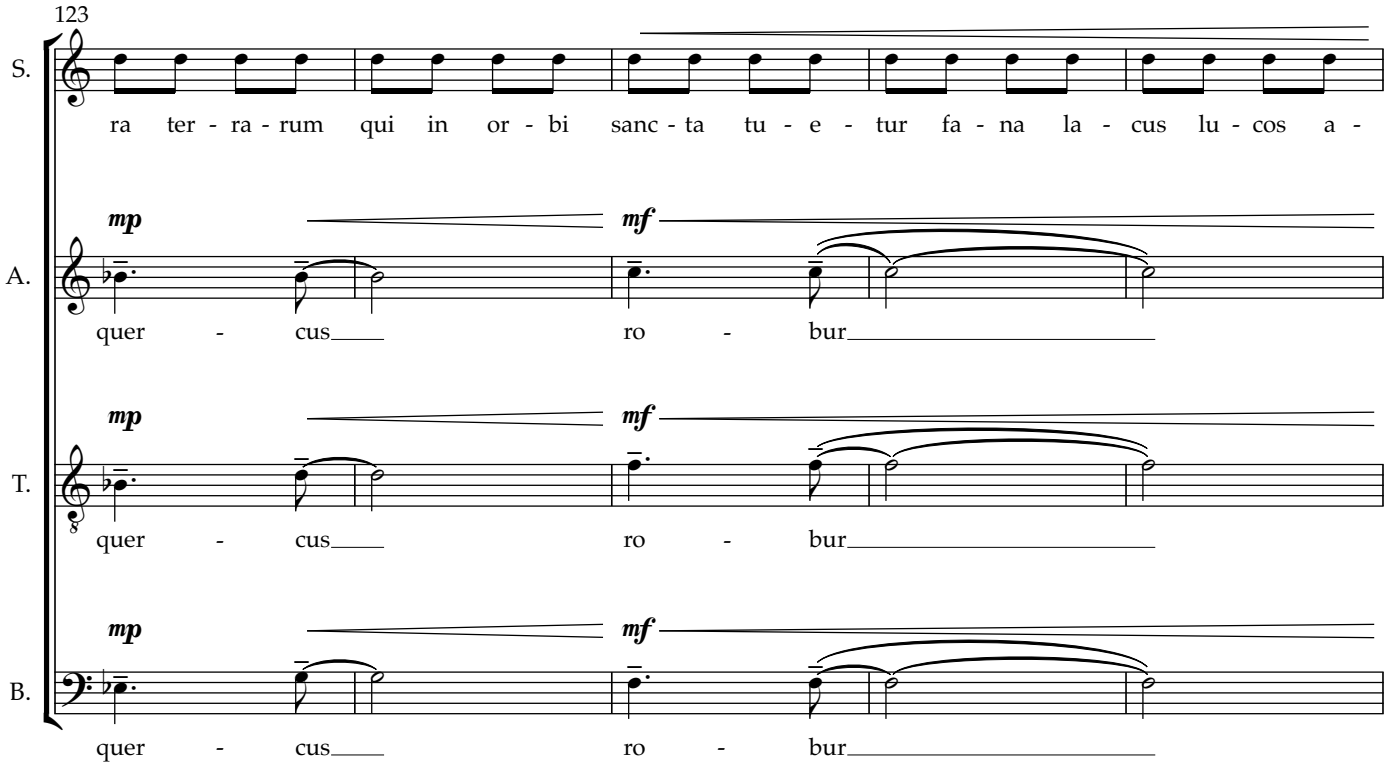

91
S.
A.
per no-mi-na re-rum et qui-bus il-le mod-is di-vom
T.
per no-mi-na re-rum et qui-bus il-le mod-is di-vom me-tus in-sin-u-a-rit
B.
qui-bus il-le mod-is di-vom me-tus in-sin-u-a-a-rit
p
mp

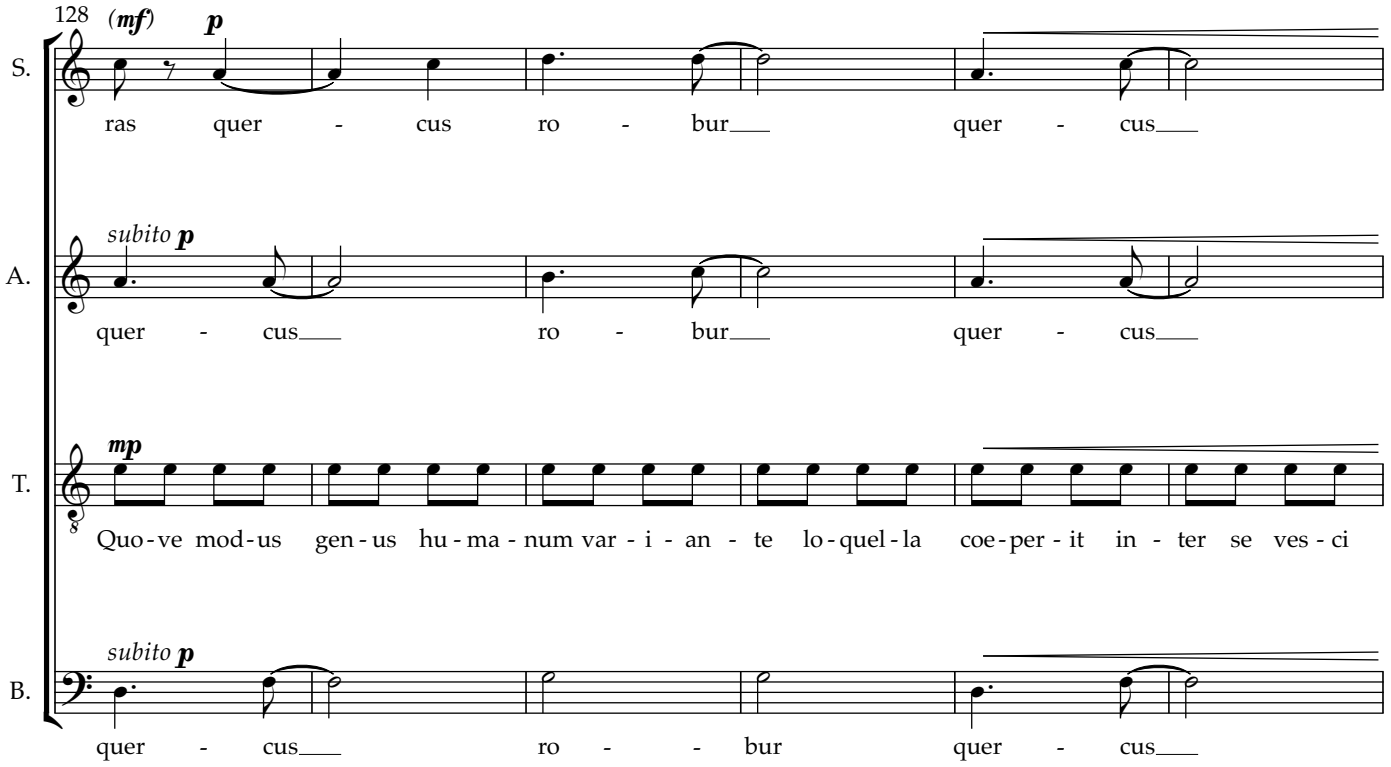

97
S.
A.
T.
B.
p
mf
mp
pp
pec-to-ra ter-ra-rum_ me-tus in-sin-u-a-rit pec-to-ra ter-ra-rum qui-in or-bi sanc-ta
pec-to-ra ter-ra-rum qui in me-tus in-sin-u-a-rit pec-to-ra ter-ra-rum qui-in or-bi sanc-ta
me-tus in-sin-u-a-rit pec-to-ra ter-ra-rum qui-in or-bi sanc-ta

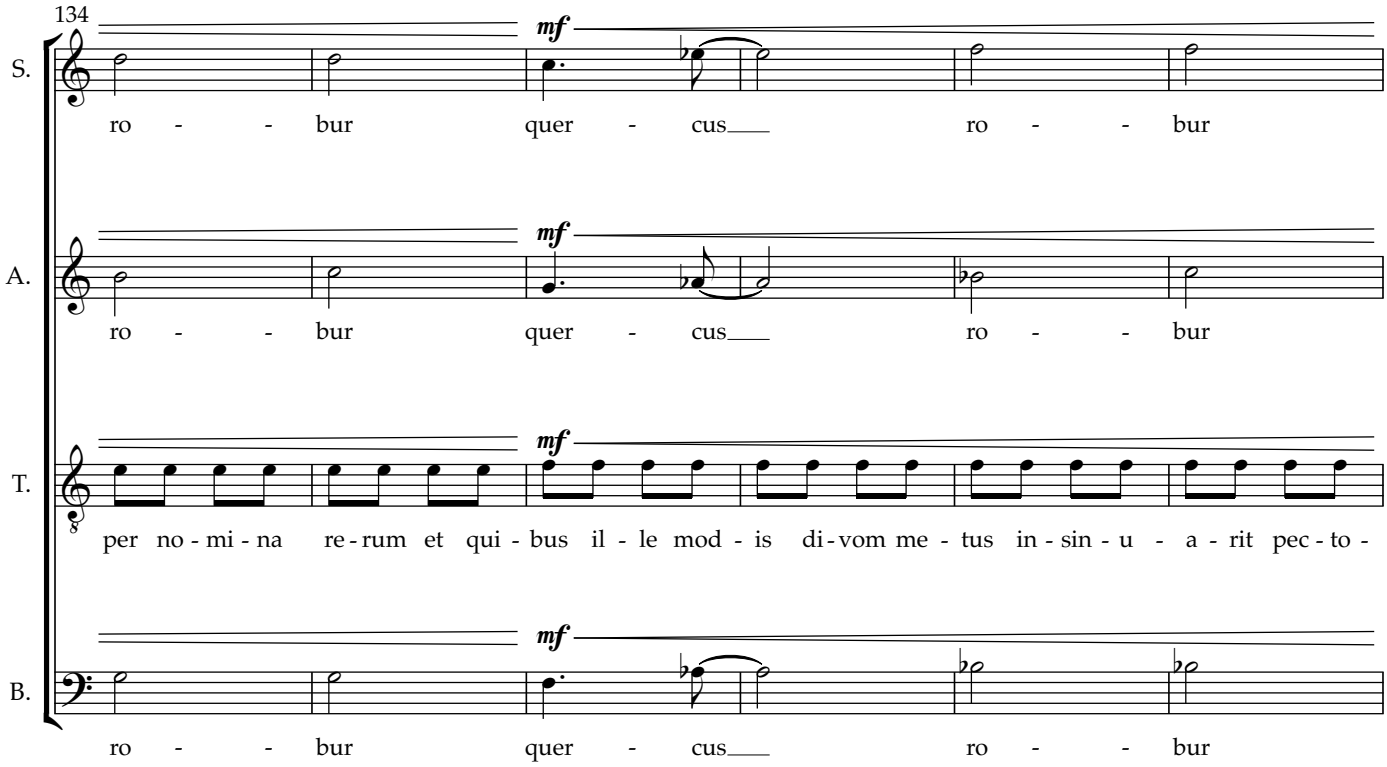

104
molto rit.
S.
A.
T.
B.
p
ah
tu-e-tur_ fa-na la-cus lu-cos a-ras sim-u-la-cra-que_ di-vom sim-u-la - cra
tu-e-tur fa-na la-cus lu-cos a-ras sim-u-la-cra-que_ di-vom sim-u-la - cra
gliss.
tu-e-tur fa-na la-cus lu-cos a-ras sim-u-la-cra-que di-vom sim-u-la - cra

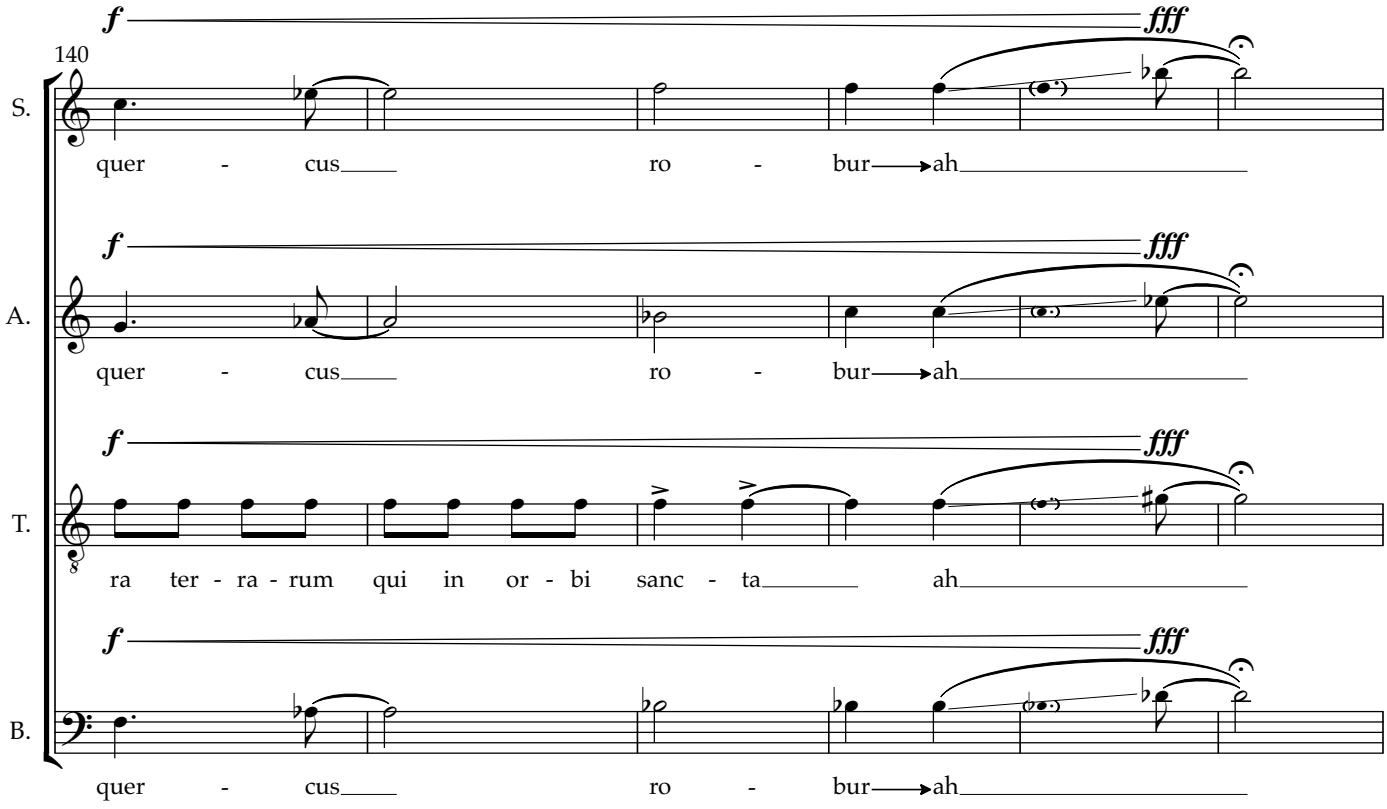

111
Broad and grand ♩ = 62
S.
Quo - ve mod - us gen - us hu - ma - num var - i - an - te lo - quel - la coe - per - it in - ter se ves - ci
A.
ff molto pesante
Quer - cus ro - bur quer - cus
T.
ff molto pesante
Quer - cus ro - bur quer - cus
B.
ff molto pesante
Quer - cus ro - bur quer - cus

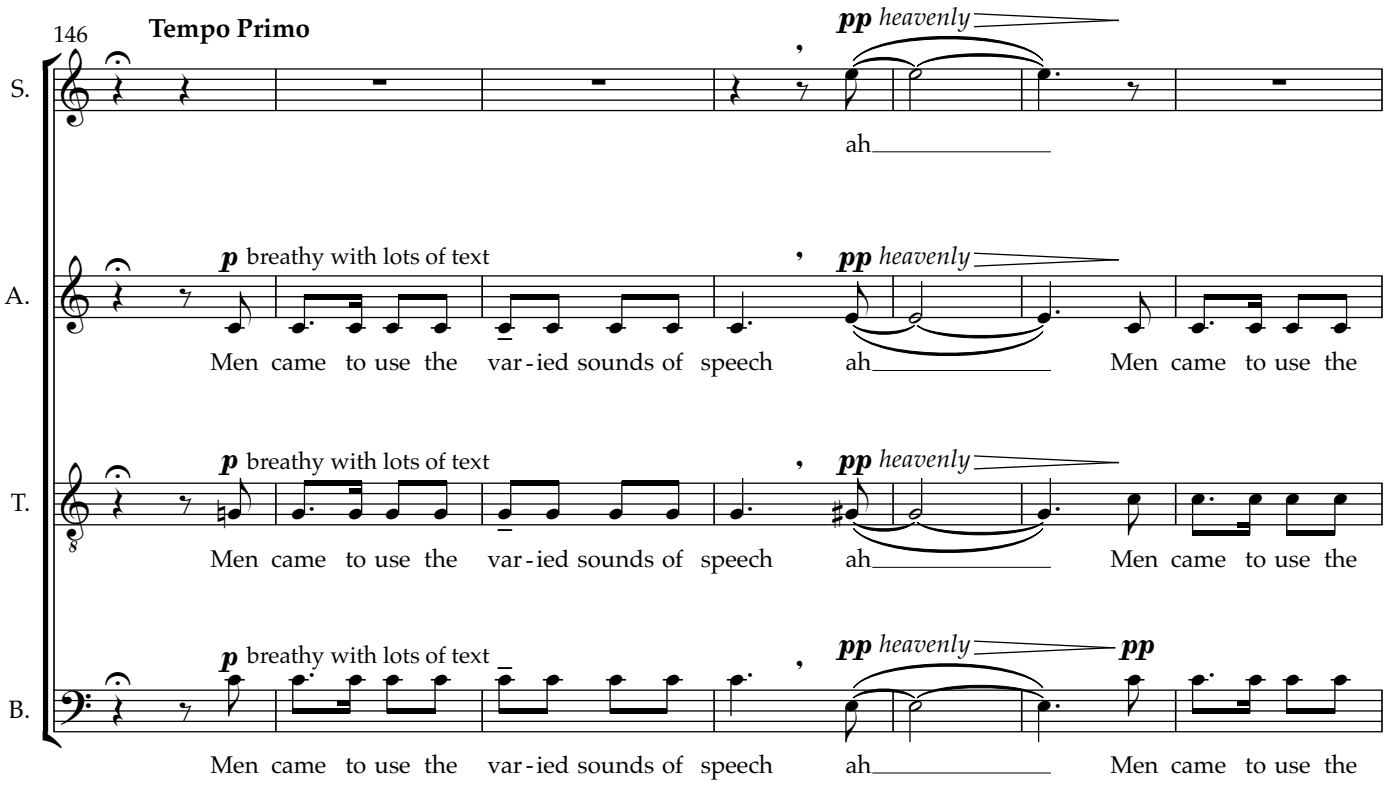

117
S.
per no - mi - na re - rum et qui - bus il - le mod - is di - vom me - tus in - sin - u - a - rit pec - to -
A.
f
ro - bur quer - cus ro - bur
T.
f
ro - bur quer - cus ro - bur
B.
f
ro - bur quer - cus ro - bur

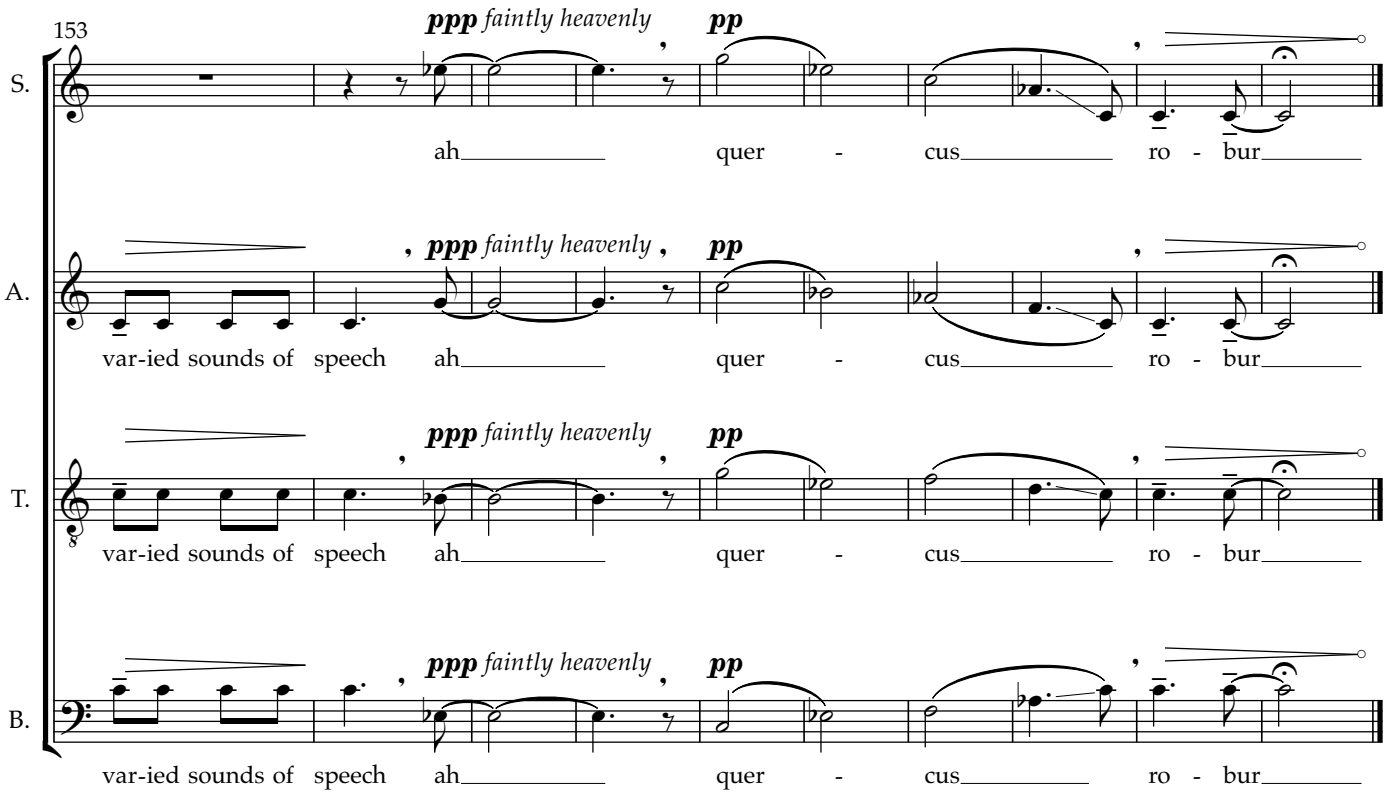

123
S.
ra ter - ra - rum qui in or - bi sanc - ta tu - e - tur fa - na la - cus lu - cos a -
A.
mp
mf
quer - cus ro - bur
T.
mp
mf
quer - cus ro - bur
B.
mp
mf
quer - cus ro - bur


128
S.
(mf)
p
ras quer - cus ro - bur quer - cus
A.
subito p
quer - cus ro - bur quer - cus
T.
mp
Quo - ve mod - us gen - us hu - ma - num var - i - an - te lo - quel - la coe - per - it in - ter se ves - ci
B.
subito p
quer - cus ro - - bur quer - cus


134
S.
A.
T.
B.
mf
ro - - bur quer - cus ro - - bur
per no - mi - na re - rum et qui - bus il - le mod - is di - vom me - tus in - sin - u - a - rit pec - to -


140
S.
A.
T.
B.
f
fff
quer - cus ro - bur ah
ra ter - ra - rum qui in or - bi sanc - ta ah


146
Tempo Primo
S.
A.
T.
B.
p breathy with lots of text
pp heavenly
Men came to use the var-ied sounds of speech ah Men came to use the
pp


153
S.
A.
T.
B.
ppp faintly heavenly
pp
ah quer - cus ro - bur
var-ied sounds of speech ah quer - cus ro - bur