Hannah Selin

Winter

from *Four Mountain Songs*
for SSATTB choir
(with divisi)

Lyrics by Ryōkan Taigu
English translation by Nobuyuki Yuasa

FIRST
2020
EDITION

Program Note

"Winter" is one of Four Mountain Songs, a choral song cycle based on poems from each of the four seasons by Sōtō Zen Buddhist poet-priest Ryōkan Taigu (1758-1831). The lyrics are in English, following translations by Nobuyuki Yuasa. "Winter" is based on an untitled poem. Yuasa's translation preserves much of the rhythm and meter of the original, but adds an extra layer of sibilance and more closed vowel sounds.

As global warming causes increasingly drastic changes in weather patterns around the world, seasonal cycles are becoming more a nostalgic fantasy than a reality. How will seasons be experienced by future generations? What kinds of activities will be associated with them?***s***

In soft spongy snow,
Wrapped entire in its fullness,
Stands the universe,
And within its boundless space,
Soft spongy snow keeps falling.

- Ryōkan Taigu, trans. Nobuyuki Yuasa

From THE ZEN POEMS OF RYOKAN by Nobuyuki Yuasa.
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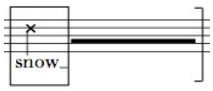
Performance Notes

Soprano 1 maximum divisi: 3
Soprano 2 maximum divisi: 2
Alto maximum divisi: 6
Tenor 1 maximum divisi: 3
Tenor 2 maximum divisi: 2
Bass: no divisi



repeat the boxed figure according to instructions provided

unpitched

Glissandi should begin as soon as they indicated, and should stretch across the duration of the note

decrescendo to niente

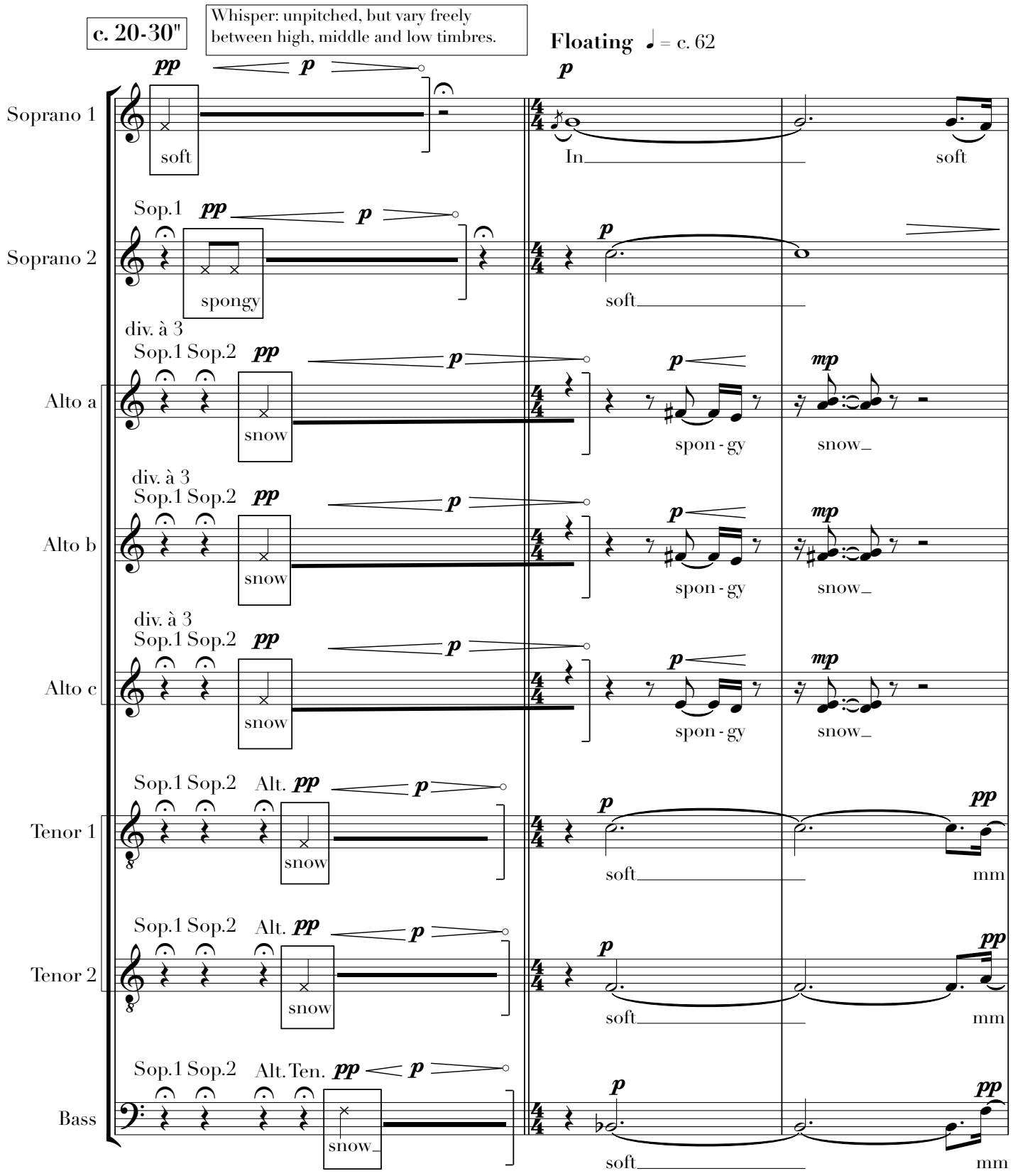
gradual shift from one sound to the next

Winter

from *Four Mountain Songs*

Ryōkan (c. 1758-1831)
Trans. Nobuyuki Yuasa

Hannah Selin



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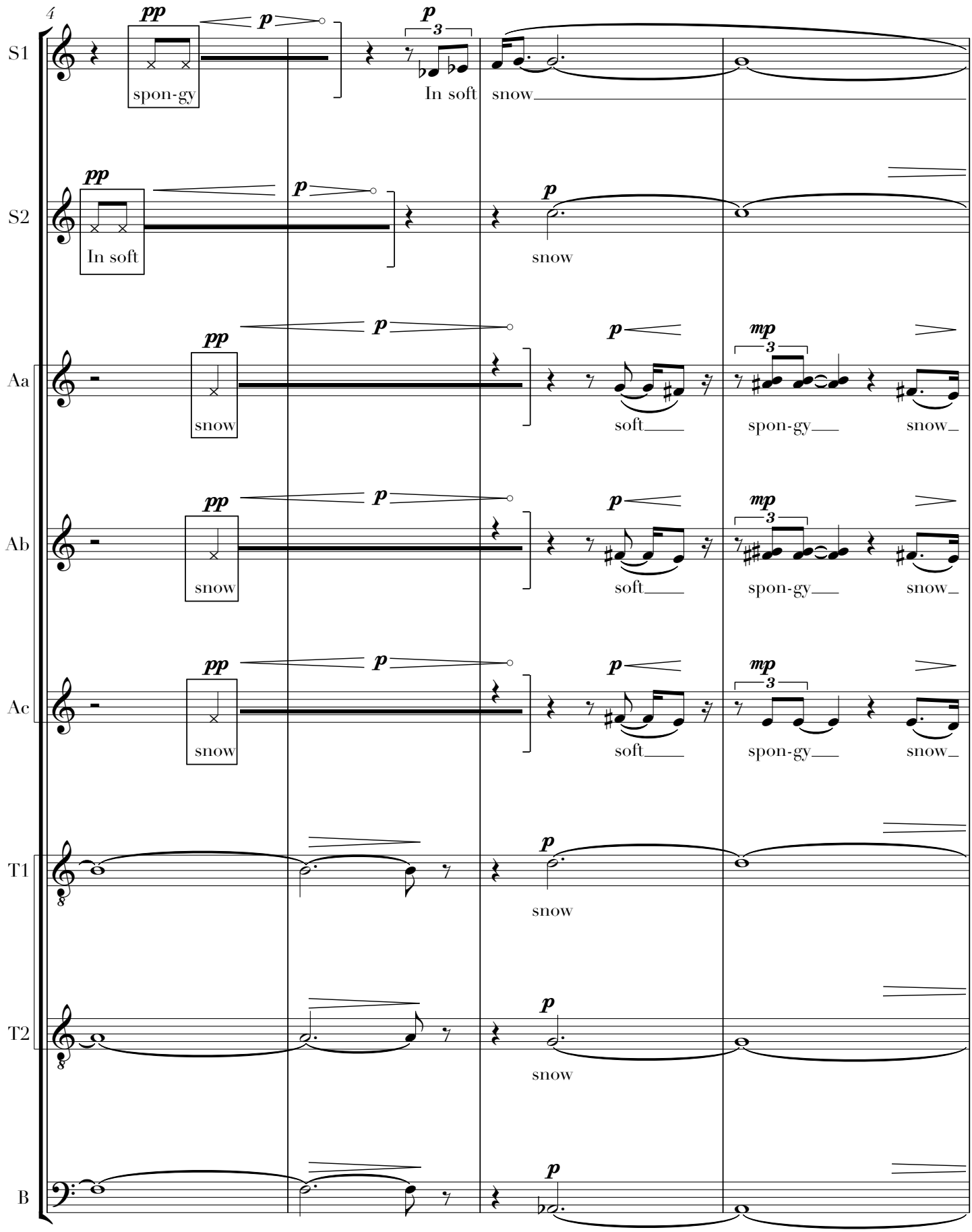
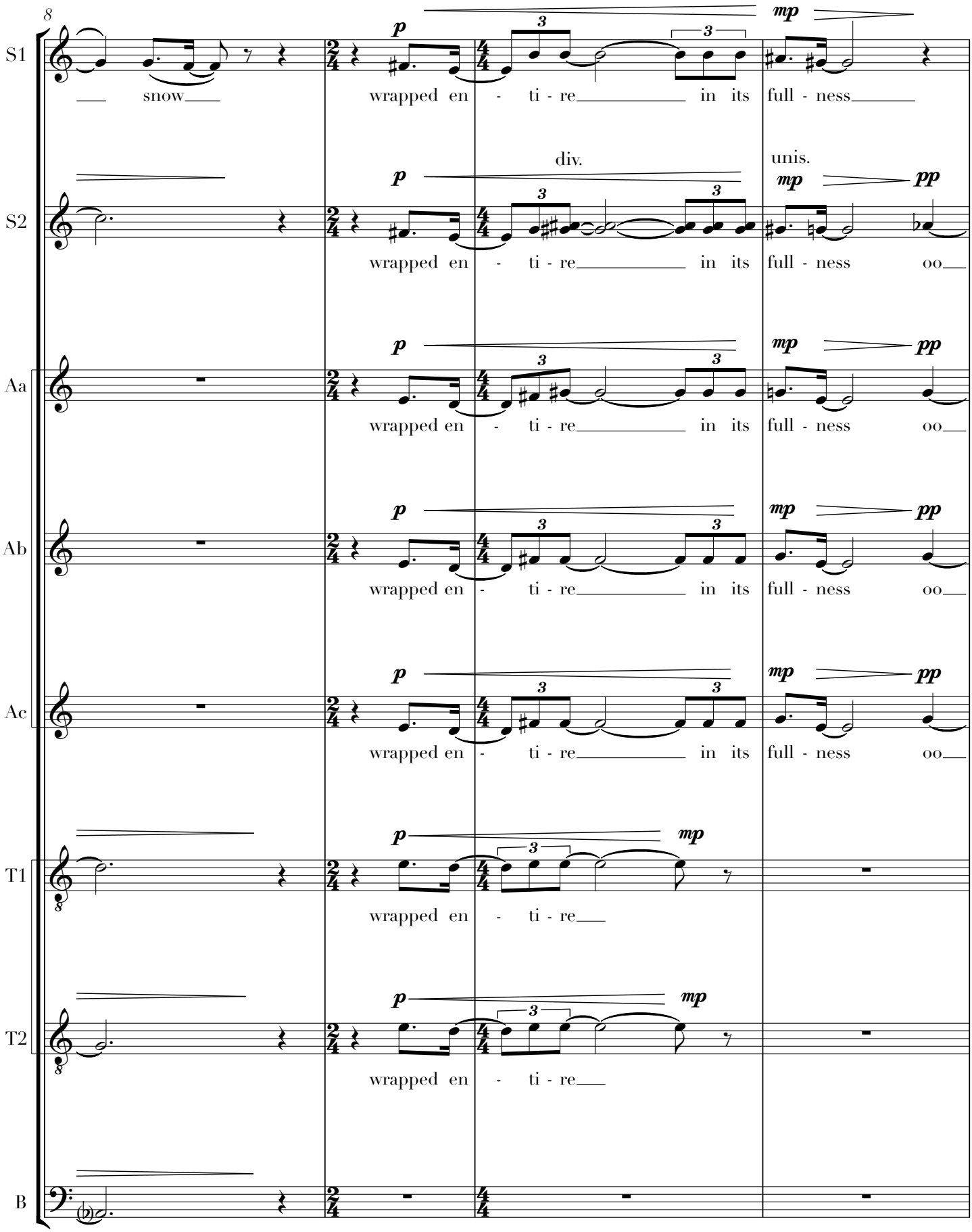
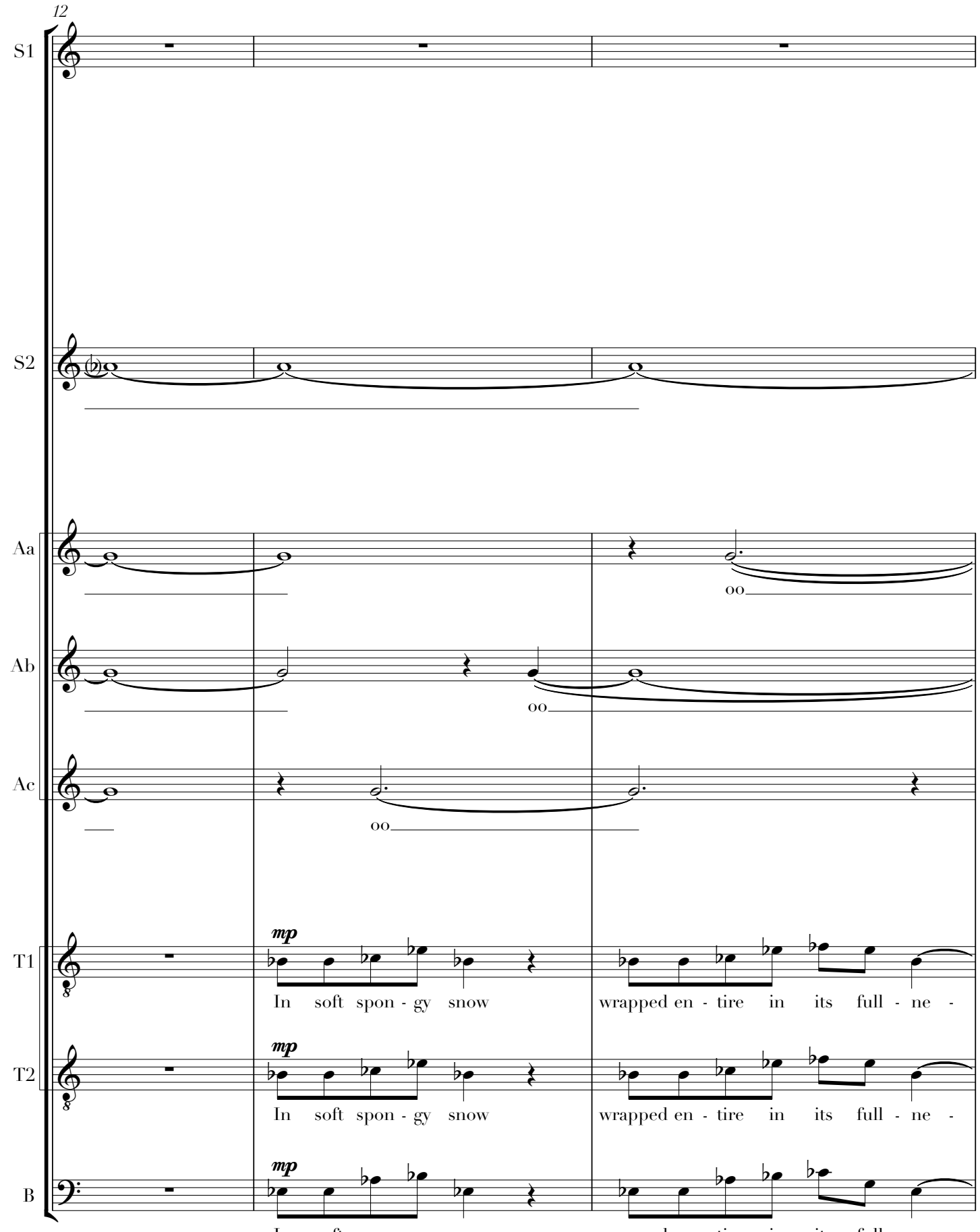
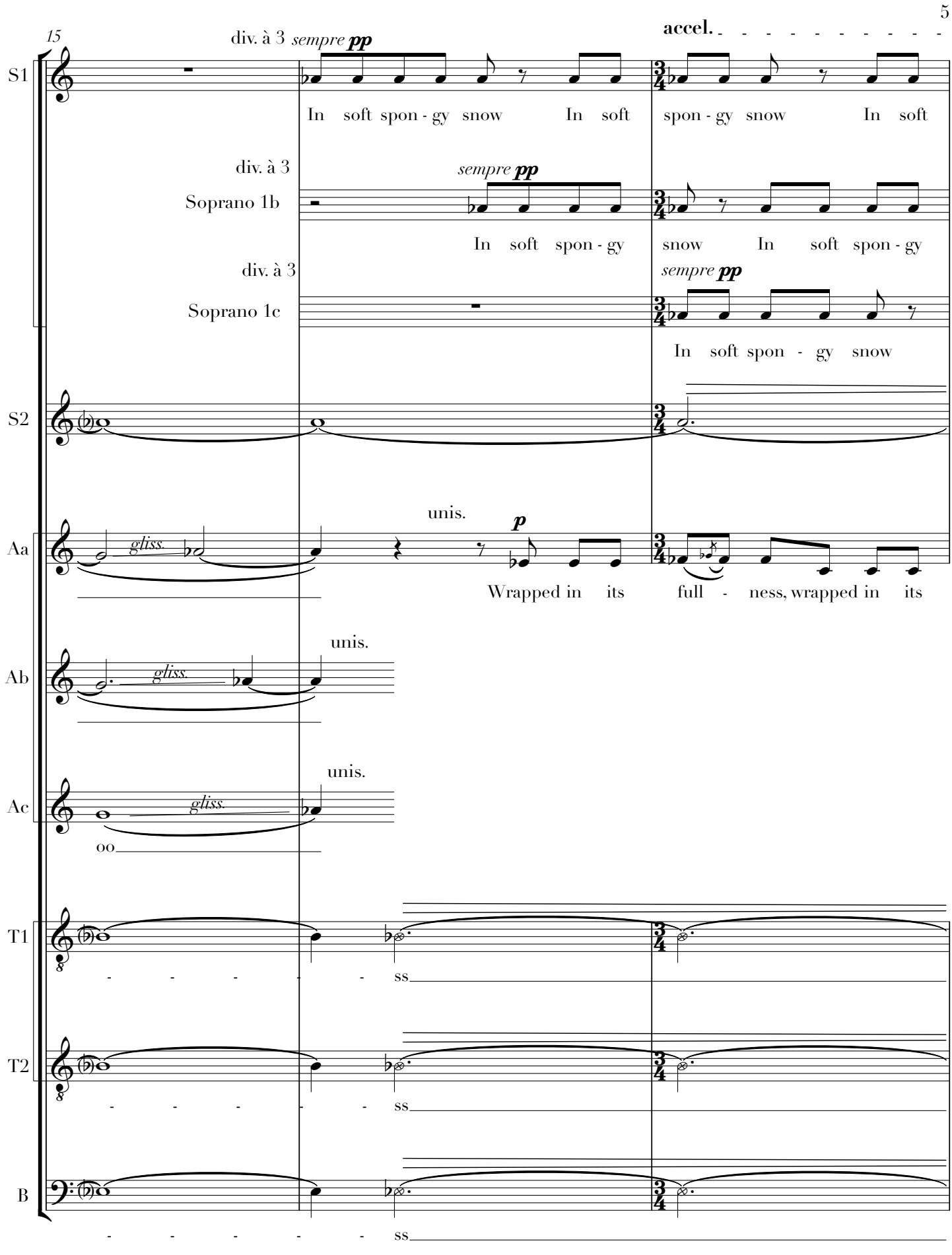

4
S1
pp
p
spon-gy
p
3
In soft
snow
S2
pp
p
In soft
p
snow
Aa
pp
p
snow
p
soft
mp
3
spon-gy
snow
Ab
pp
p
snow
p
soft
mp
3
spon-gy
snow
Ac
pp
p
snow
p
soft
mp
3
spon-gy
snow
T1
8
p
snow
T2
8
p
snow
B
p


8
S1
snow
p
wrapped en - ti - re in its full - ness
mp
S2
div.
unis.
pp
oo
Aa
Ab
Ac
T1
T2
B


12
S1
S2
Aa
oo
Ab
oo
Ac
oo
T1
mp
In soft spon - gy snow
wrapped en - tire in its full - ne -
T2
mp
In soft spon - gy snow
wrapped en - tire in its full - ne -
B
mp
In soft spon - gy snow
wrapped en - tire in its full - ne -


15
div. à 3 sempre pp
accel.
S1
In soft spon - gy snow In soft spon - gy snow In soft
div. à 3
sempre pp
Soprano 1b
In soft spon - gy snow In soft spon - gy
div. à 3
sempre pp
Soprano 1c
In soft spon - gy snow
S2
unis.
p
Aa
gliss.
Wrapped in its full - ness, wrapped in its
unis.
Ab
gliss.
unis.
Ac
gliss.
oo
T1
ss
T2
ss
B
ss

Open Repeat

Enter on cue. Whisper together, but do not worry about synchronizing exactly.

95

S1

In soft spongy snow,
Wrapped entire in its fullness,
Stands the universe,
And within its boundless space,
Soft spongy snow keeps falling.

Enter on cue after Sop. 1. Whisper together, but do not worry about synchronizing exactly.

Sop. 1

S2

In soft spongy snow,
Wrapped entire in its fullness,
Stands the universe,
And within its boundless space,
Soft spongy snow keeps falling.

Enter on cue after Sop. 1 and 2. Whisper together, but do not worry about synchronizing exactly.

Sop. 1 Sop. 2

Aa

In soft spongy snow,
Wrapped entire in its fullness,
Stands the universe,
And within its boundless space,
Soft spongy snow keeps falling.

T1

p *dim. poco a poco*

with - in its bound-less space

T2

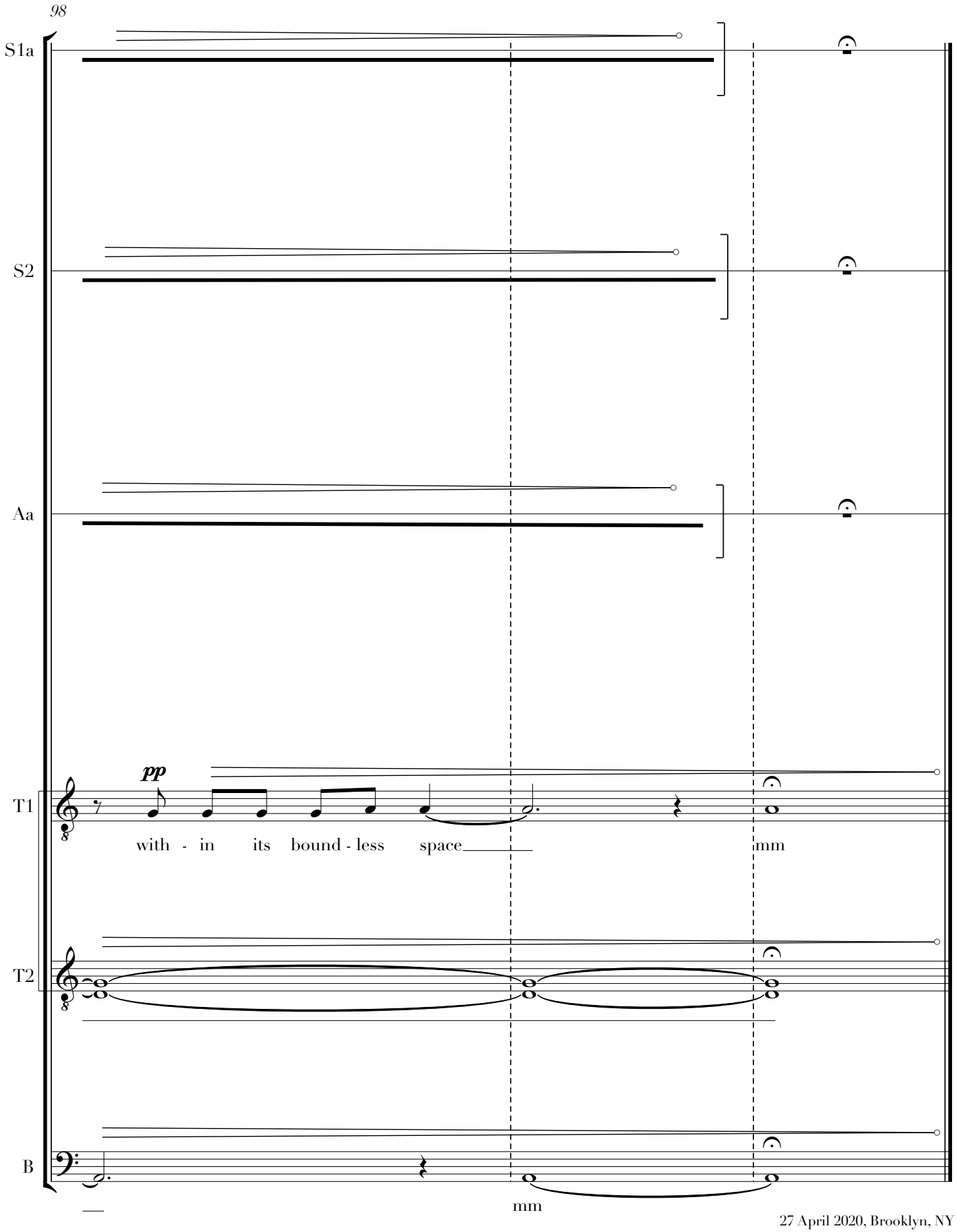
p div. *dim. poco a poco*

mm

B

p *dim. poco a poco*

mm with - in its bound-less space



27 April 2020, Brooklyn, NY