Thus Spake the Mother

for SSA Choir

Music by Melissa Dunphy
Poetry by Sri Ananda

3.5 min
2024

Commissioned by the William & Mary Society of 1918
for the W&M Barksdale Treble Chorus (Dr. Jamie C. Bartlett, director)
celebrating 100 years of treble music making at W&M

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Forward! Forward! Carry my banner beyond the Boundary!
Cross the ditches, break the hedges, and march unto the Beyond!
Soar into the firmament and pluck the light of the stars,
Dive unbreathing into the billows and seize the secret of the lightless sea,
Scan and control what mighty powers lie hidden in the soul's unfathomed deeps.
Nature will bring her long-saved treasures to serve and nurture you,
But you shall lead Humanity by the hand with gentle, ceaseless, sweet, unasking love.

—From *Snow-Birds* by Sri Ananda Acharya (1919)

Cover artwork by Faith Ronquest.

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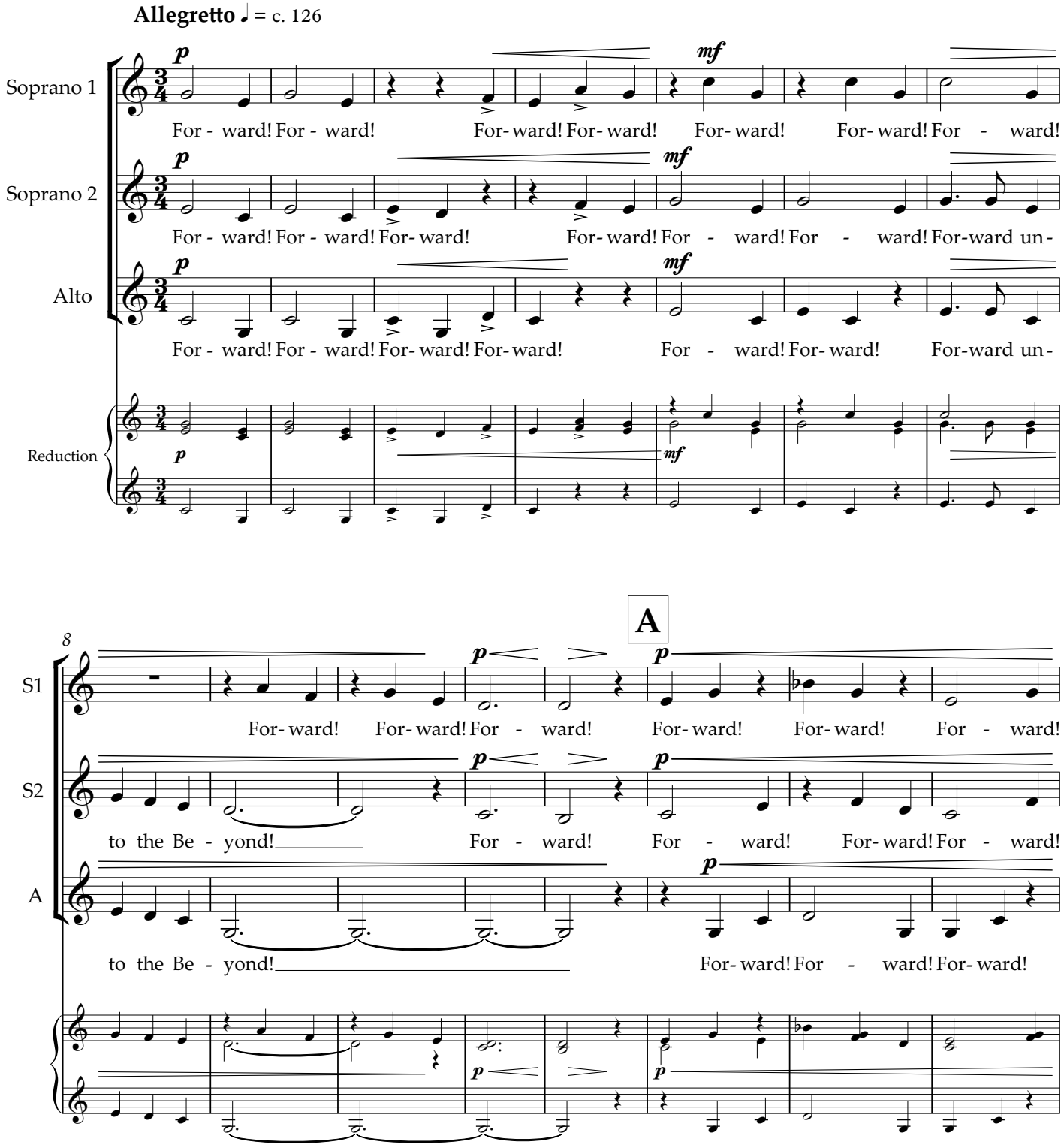

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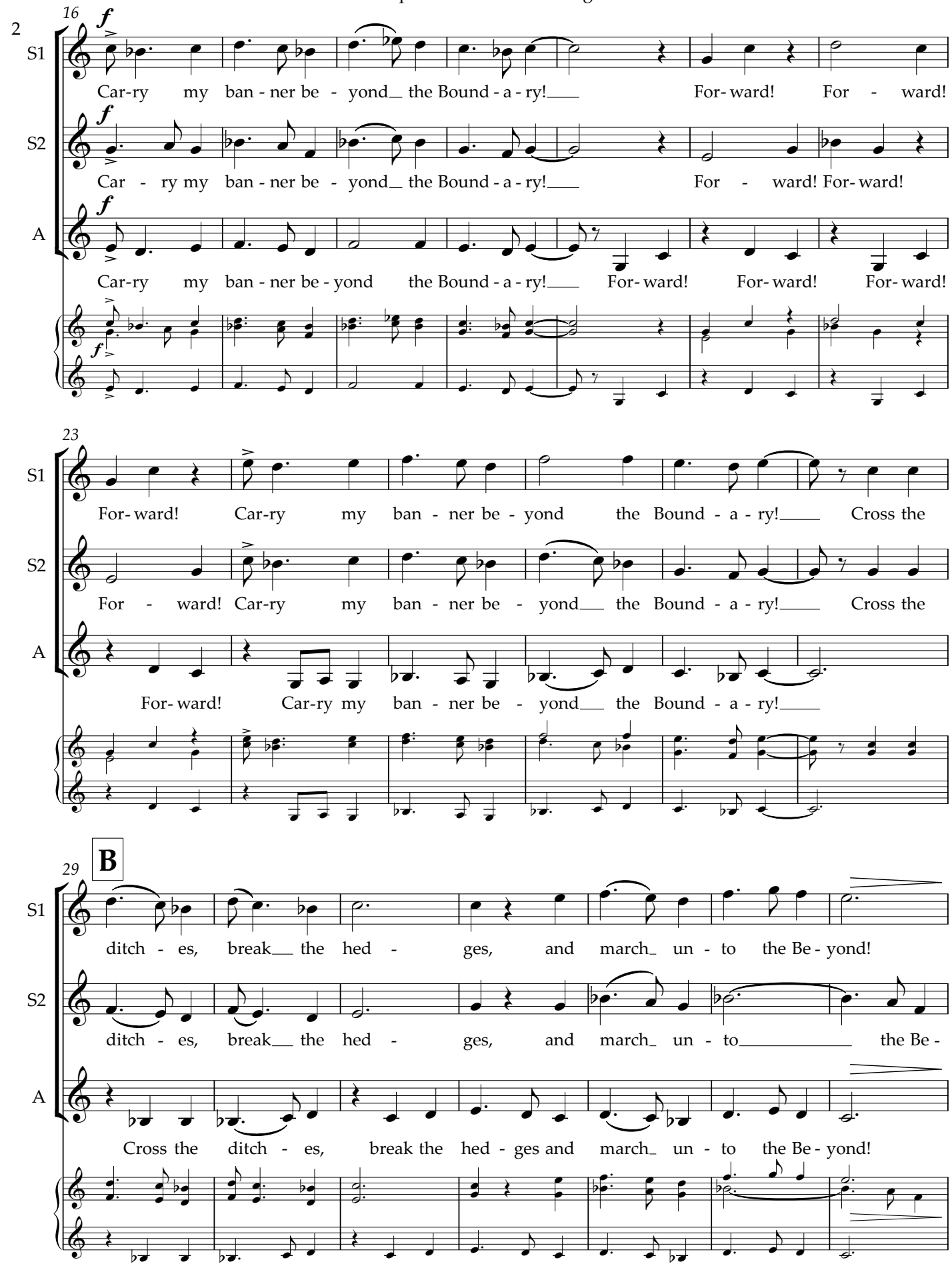
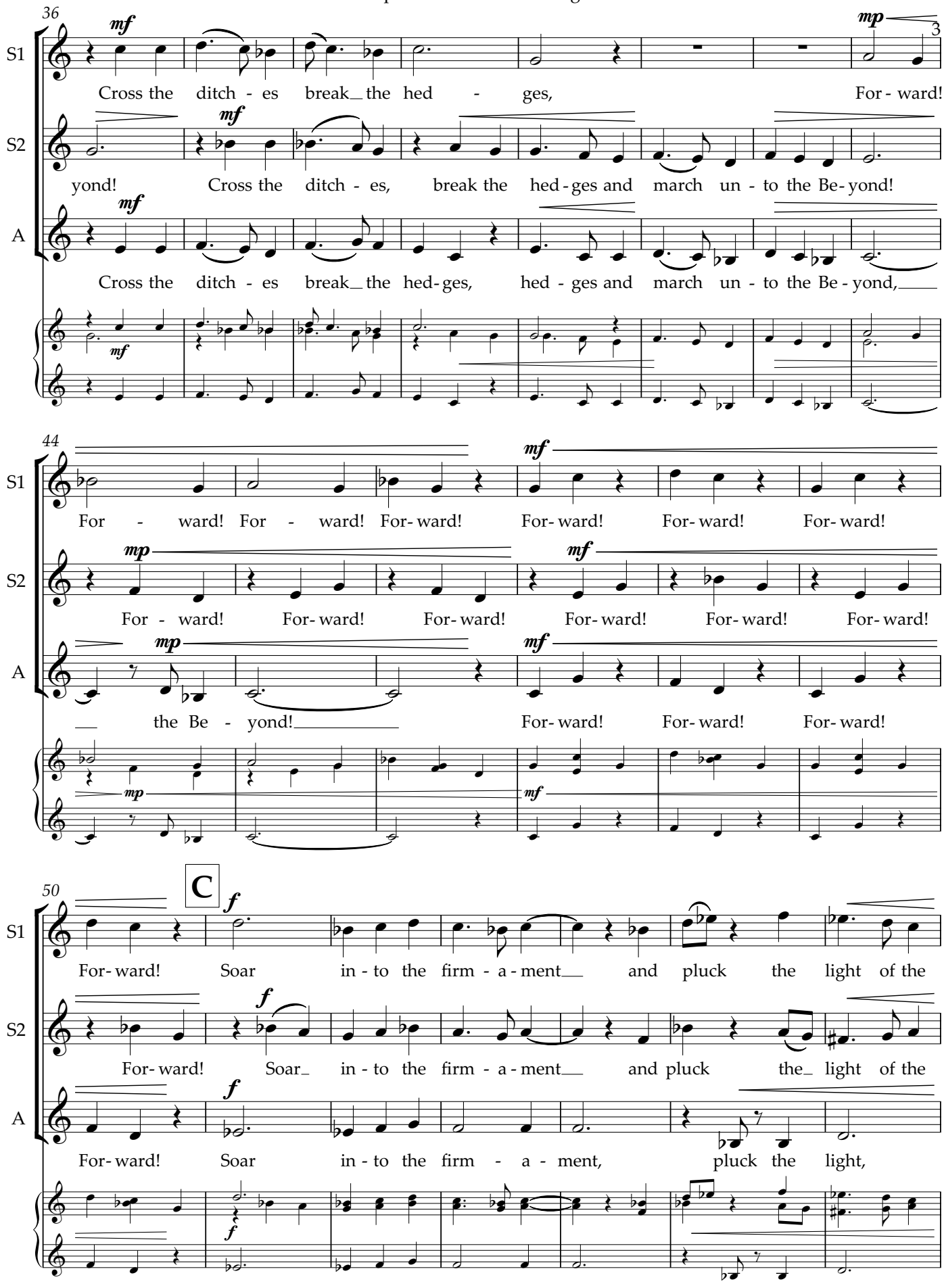
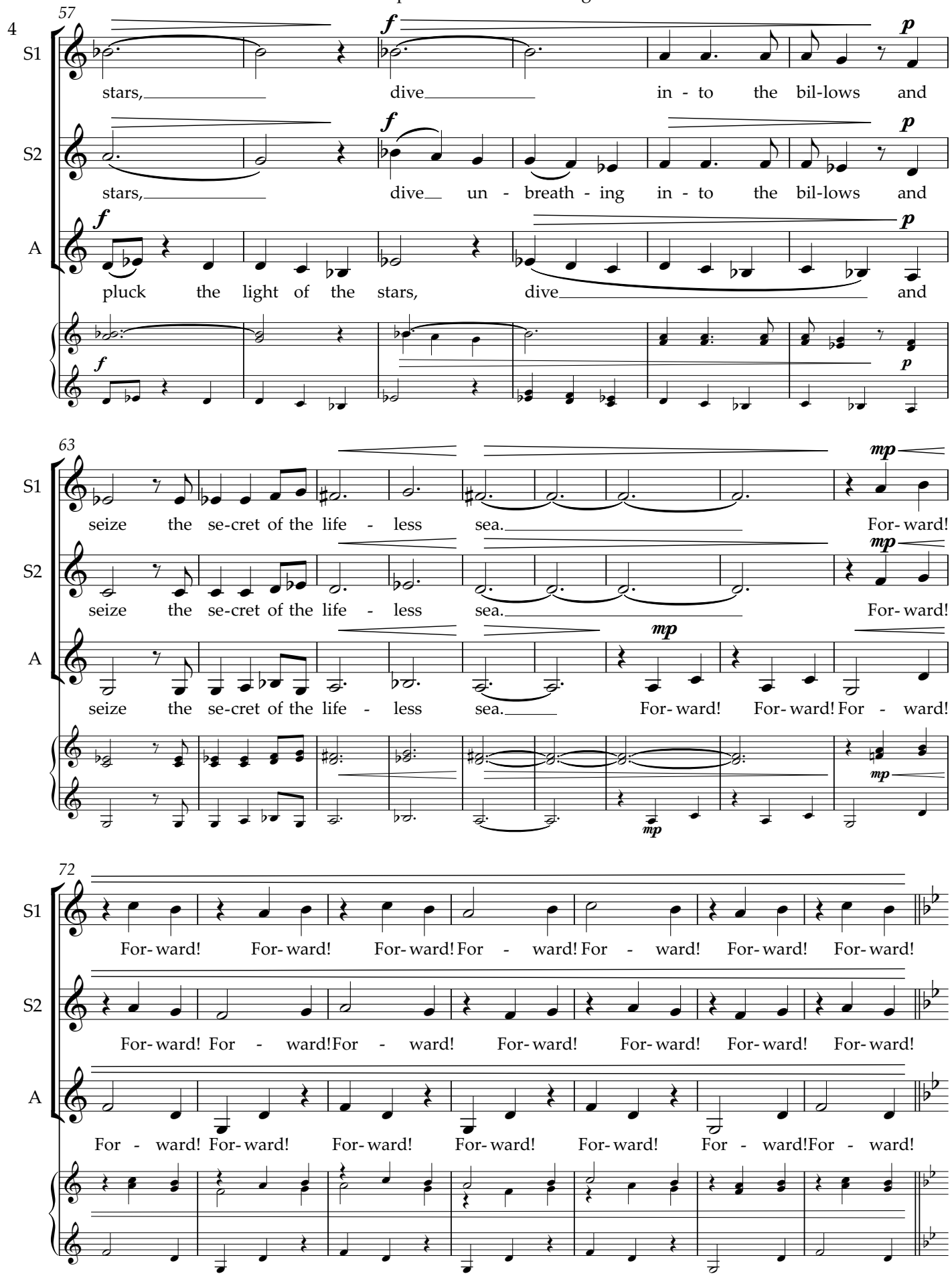

2
16
S1
Car-ry my ban - ner be - yond the Bound - a - ry! For- ward! For - ward!
S2
Car - ry my ban - ner be - yond the Bound - a - ry! For - ward! For- ward!
A
Car-ry my ban - ner be - yond the Bound - a - ry! For- ward! For- ward! For- ward!
23
S1
For- ward! Car-ry my ban - ner be - yond the Bound - a - ry! Cross the
S2
For - ward! Car-ry my ban - ner be - yond the Bound - a - ry! Cross the
A
For- ward! Car-ry my ban - ner be - yond the Bound - a - ry!
29
B
S1
ditch - es, break the hed - ges, and march un - to the Be - yond!
S2
ditch - es, break the hed - ges, and march un - to the Be -
A
Cross the ditch - es, break the hed - ges and march un - to the Be - yond!


36
S1
S2
A
mf
mp
3
Cross the ditch - es break_ the hed - ges, For - ward!
yond! Cross the ditch - es, break the hed - ges and march un - to the Be - yond!
Cross the ditch - es break_ the hed - ges, hed - ges and march un - to the Be - yond,
44
For - ward! For - ward! For - ward! For - ward! For - ward! For - ward!
For - ward! For - ward! For - ward! For - ward! For - ward! For - ward!
the Be - yond! For - ward! For - ward! For - ward!
50
C
f
For - ward! Soar in - to the firm - a - ment and pluck the light of the
For - ward! Soar in - to the firm - a - ment and pluck the light of the
For - ward! Soar in - to the firm - a - ment, pluck the light,


4
57
S1
S2
A
f
p
stars, dive in - to the bil-lows and
stars, dive un - breath - ing in - to the bil-lows and
pluck the light of the stars, dive and
63
mp
seize the se-cret of the life - less sea. For- ward!
seize the se-cret of the life - less sea. For- ward!
seize the se-cret of the life - less sea. For- ward! For- ward! For - ward!
72
For- ward! For- ward! For- ward! For - ward! For - ward! For- ward! For- ward!
For- ward! For - ward! For - ward! For- ward! For- ward! For- ward! For- ward!
For - ward! For- ward! For- ward! For- ward! For- ward! For - ward! For - ward!

D

79

S1 *f* Scan, scan and con - trol the might - y pow - ers *ff*

S2 *f* Scan and con - trol, Scan and con - trol the pow - ers *ff*

A *f* Scan and con - trol, Scan and con - trol the might - y *ff*

f *f*

84

S1 that lie hid - den, lie hid - den in the soul's un - *mp*

S2 the might - y pow'rs that lie hid - den in the soul's *mp*

A pow'rs, might - y pow'rs that lie hid - den, hid - den *mp*

p

90

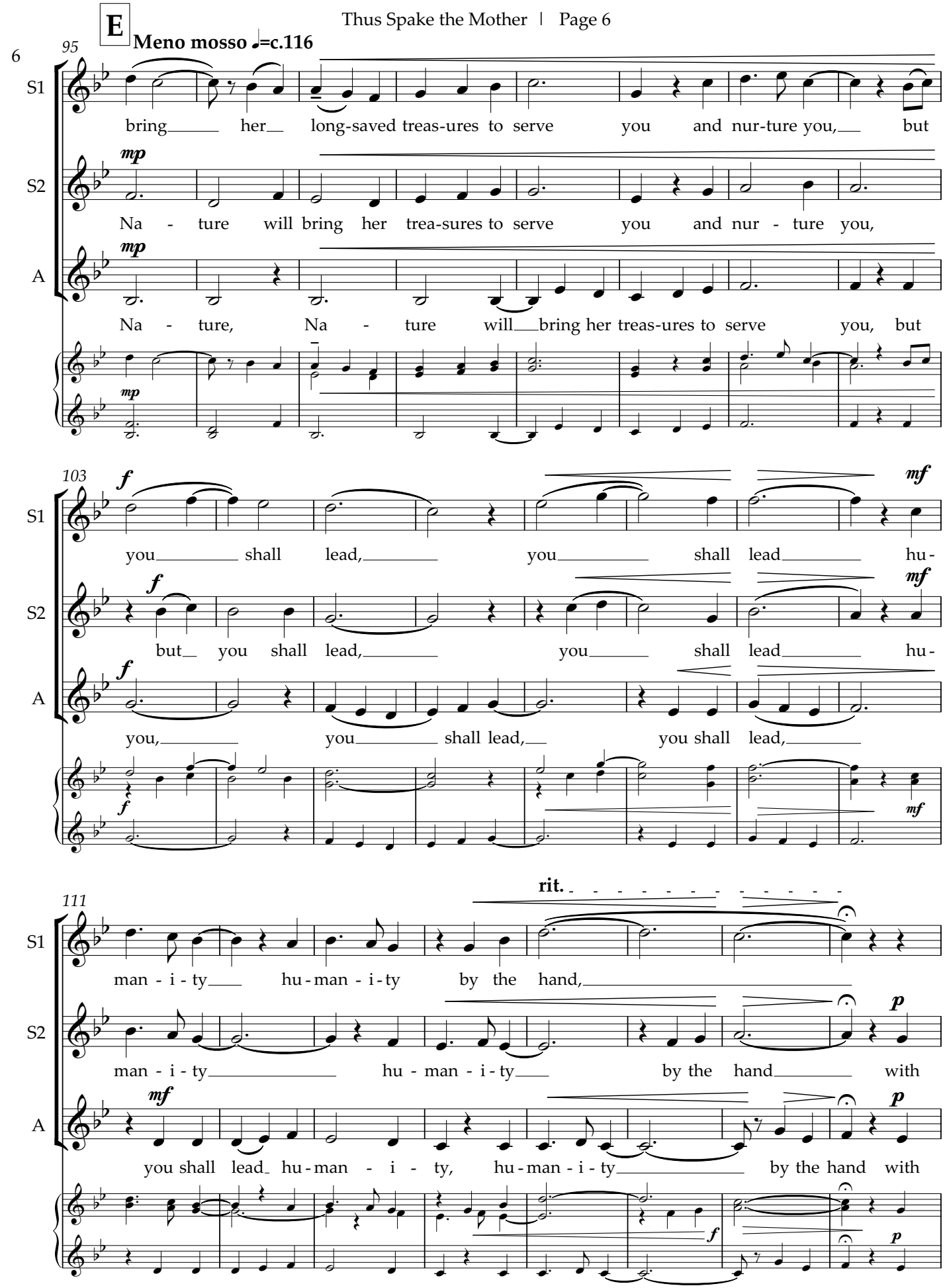
rit.

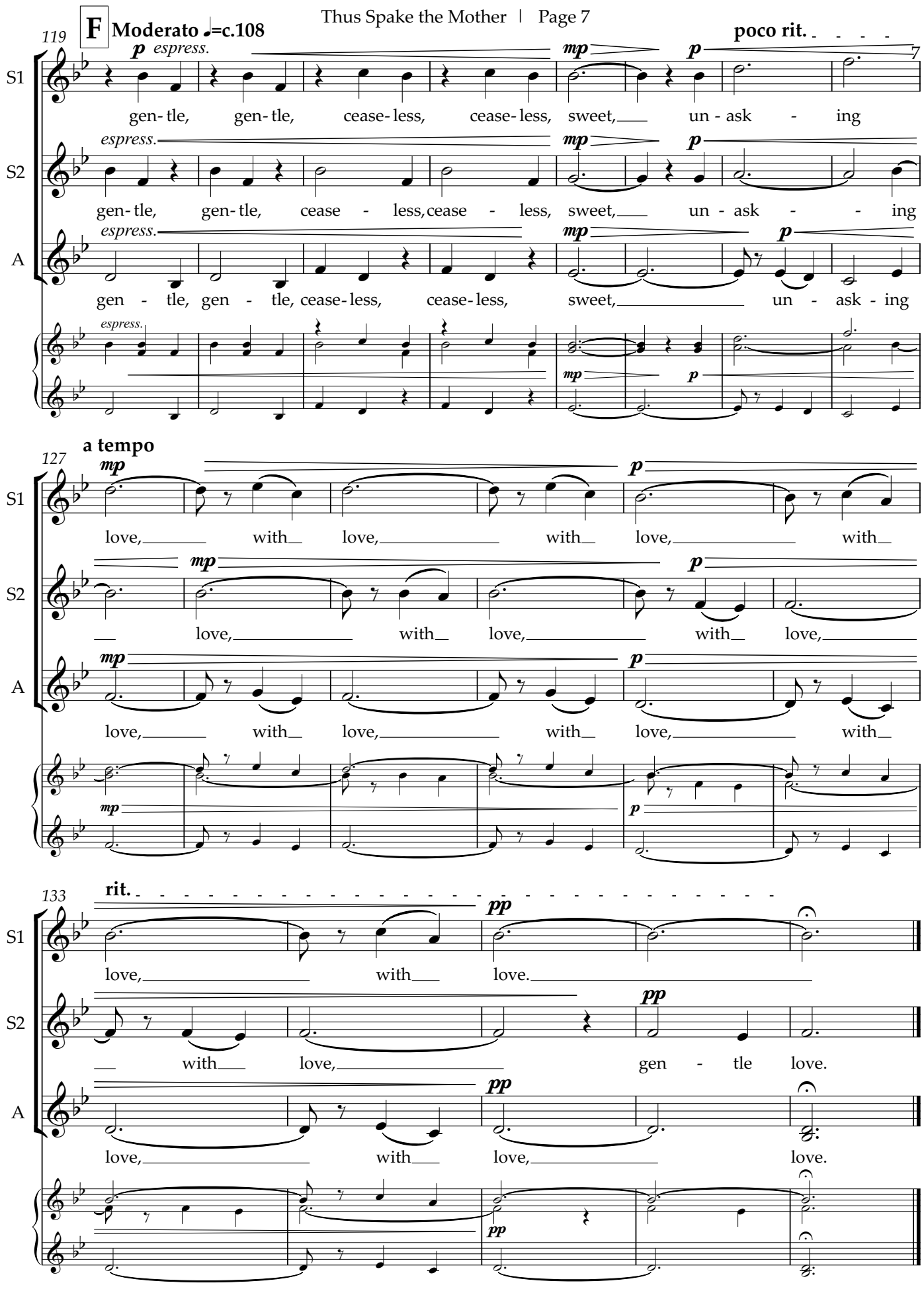
S1 fath - omed deeps. Na - ture will *mp*

S2 un - fath - omed deeps.

A in un - fath - omed deeps.

mp


E
Meno mosso ♩=c.116
6
95
S1
bring her long-saved treas-ures to serve you and nur-ture you, but
S2
mp
Na - ture will bring her trea-sures to serve you and nur - ture you,
A
mp
Na - ture, Na - ture will bring her treas-ures to serve you, but
103
f
mf
you shall lead, you shall lead hu-
S2
f
mf
but you shall lead, you shall lead hu-
A
f
you, you shall lead, you shall lead,
111
rit.
S1
man - i - ty hu - man - i - ty by the hand,
S2
p
man - i - ty hu - man - i - ty by the hand with
A
mf
p
you shall lead hu - man - i - ty, hu - man - i - ty by the hand with
f
p


F
Moderato ♩=c.108
119
poco rit.
S1
S2
A
p espress.
mp
p
gen- tle, gen- tle, cease- less, cease- less, sweet, un - ask - ing
gen - tle, gen - tle, cease - less, cease - less, sweet, un - ask - ing
gen - tle, gen - tle, cease- less, cease- less, sweet, un - ask - ing
127
a tempo
love, with love, with love, with
love, with love, with love,
love, with love, with love, with
133
rit.
pp
love, with love.
with love, gen - tle love.
love, with love, love.