The Dialogue of Zion and God

for eight solo voices

Robert Saxton

University of York Music Press

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THE DIALOGUE OF ZION AND GOD

[ehm habahneem- the mother of children]

for

eight solo voices

[2 sopranos, alto, counter-tenor, 2 tenors, 2 basses]

poem by

Eleazar ben Kallir

music by

Robert Saxton

'The Dialogue of Zion and God' was commissioned by The Clerks' Group with funds provided by the Jerwood Foundation.

The first performance was given on the 31st May, 2000 at the Wigmore Hall, London, by The Clerks' Group, directed by Edward Wickham.

I am indebted to Dr. Susan Gillingham and Helen-Ann Francis of Worcester College, Oxford, for their advice and time spent on the transliteration of the Hebrew text.

NOTE: in the transliteration, a lower-case 'ch' denotes a hard sound('k');
an upper-case'CH' denotes a gutteral sound, as in the German 'ich'.

Duration: 5 minutes circa

אֵם הַבָּנִים

אֵם הַבָּנִים כְּיוֹנָה מְנַהֶמֶת,
בַּלֵּב מִתְאוֹנֶנֶת וּבַפֶּה מִתְרַעֶמֶת.
גּוֹעָה בִּבְכִי וּבְמַר נוֹאֶמֶת,
דְּמָעוֹת מַזֶּלֶת וְדוֹמֶמֶת וְנִדְהֶמֶת:

'הִשְׁלִיכַנִי בַּעְלִי וְסָר מֵעָלַי,
וְלֹא זָכַר אַהֲבַת כְּלוּלַי,
זֵרַנִי וּפִזְּרַנִי מֵעַל גְּבוּלַי,
חִדָּה עָלַי כָּל תּוֹלָלַי.

טְרָפַנִי כְּנִדָּה וּמִמֶּנָּיו הִדִּיחַנִי,
יְקָשַׁנִי בְּכֹבֶד וְלֹא הֲנִיחַנִי,
כָּלוּ עֵינַי בְּחוֹכָחוֹת וּכְחַנִי,
לָמָּה לָנֶצַח עֲזַבַנִי, שְׁכֵחַנִי?'

'מַה תִּתְאוֹנְנִי עָלַי, יוֹנָתִי,
נָטַע חֶמֶד עֲרוּגַת גַּנָּתִי?
שִׂיחַ פְּלוּלַיִךְ כְּבָר עָנִיתִי,
עָטוּר בָּךְ כְּאָז חָנִיתִי.

פָּנִיתִי אֵלַיִךְ בְּרַחֲמֵי הָרַבִּים,
צָעוֹד בָּשַׁעַר בַּת רַבִּים.
קָמַיִךְ, אֲשֶׁר עָלַיִךְ מִתְרַבִּים,
רְעַשְׁתִּי הֵיוֹת כְּעָשָׁן כָּבִים.

שְׁחוֹרָתִי, לָעַד לֹא אֶזְנָחֵךְ,
שֵׁנִית אוֹסִיף יָד וְאֶקָּחֵךְ.
תַּמּוּ וְסָפוּ דִּבְרֵי וְכוּחֵךְ,
תַּמָּתִי, לֹא אֶעֶזְבֵךְ וְלֹא אֶשְׁפָּחֵךְ.'

Verse 1: Israel, personified as 'the mother', is described weeping (lower voices)

verse 2: She describes her abandonment by her husband and her rejection (entry of sopranos)

verse 3: She asks why 'he' has forsaken her

verse 4: God replies, calming her

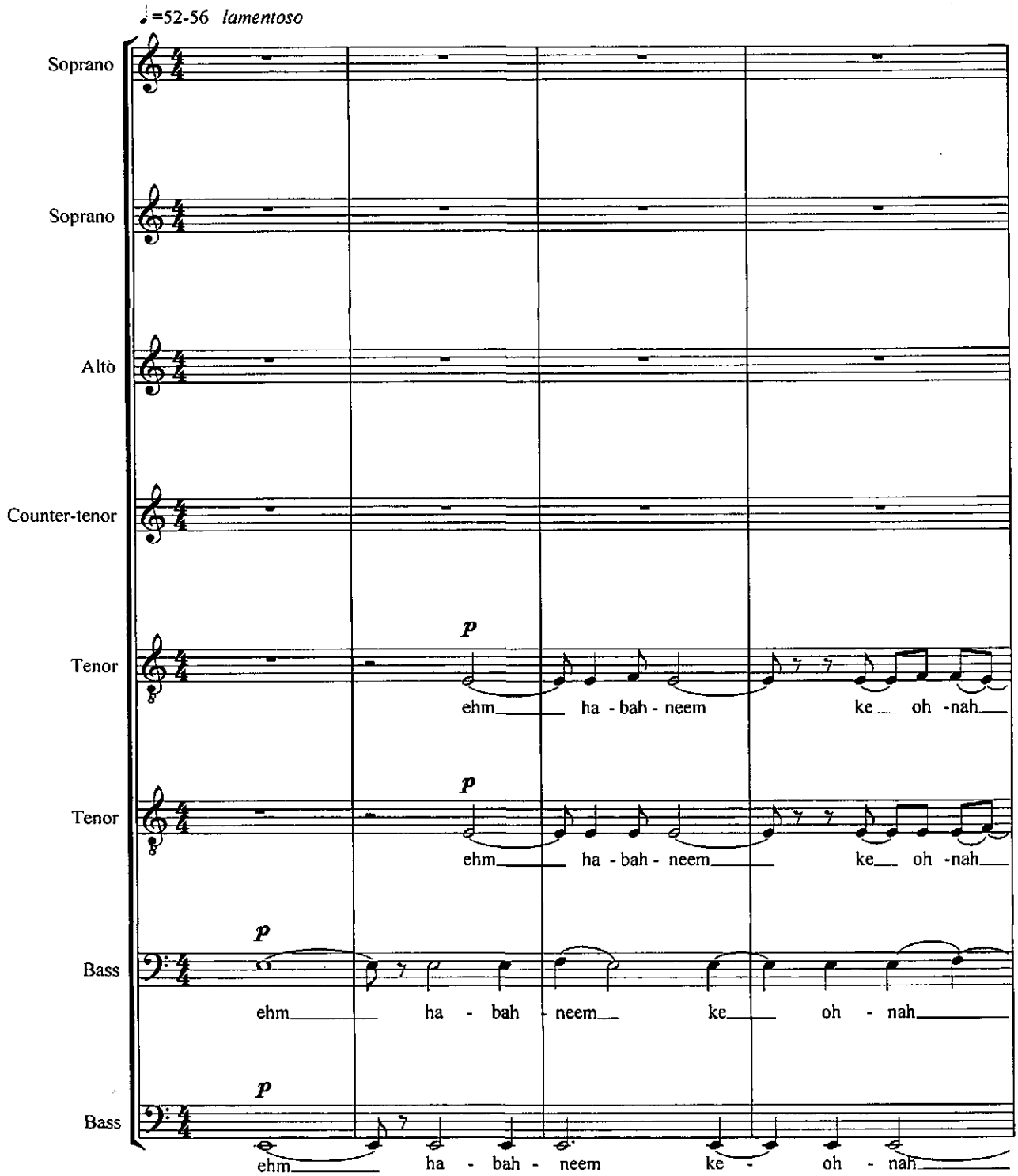
verse 5: God speaks of His compassion towards her and how he has destroyed her enemies

verse 6: God reassures her, saying that he will never forsake or forget her.

for Edward Wickham and The Clerks' Group

THE DIALOGUE OF ZION AND GOD

Eleazar ben Kallir (6th C AD?) (ehm habahneem---The mother of children) Robert Saxton (2000)



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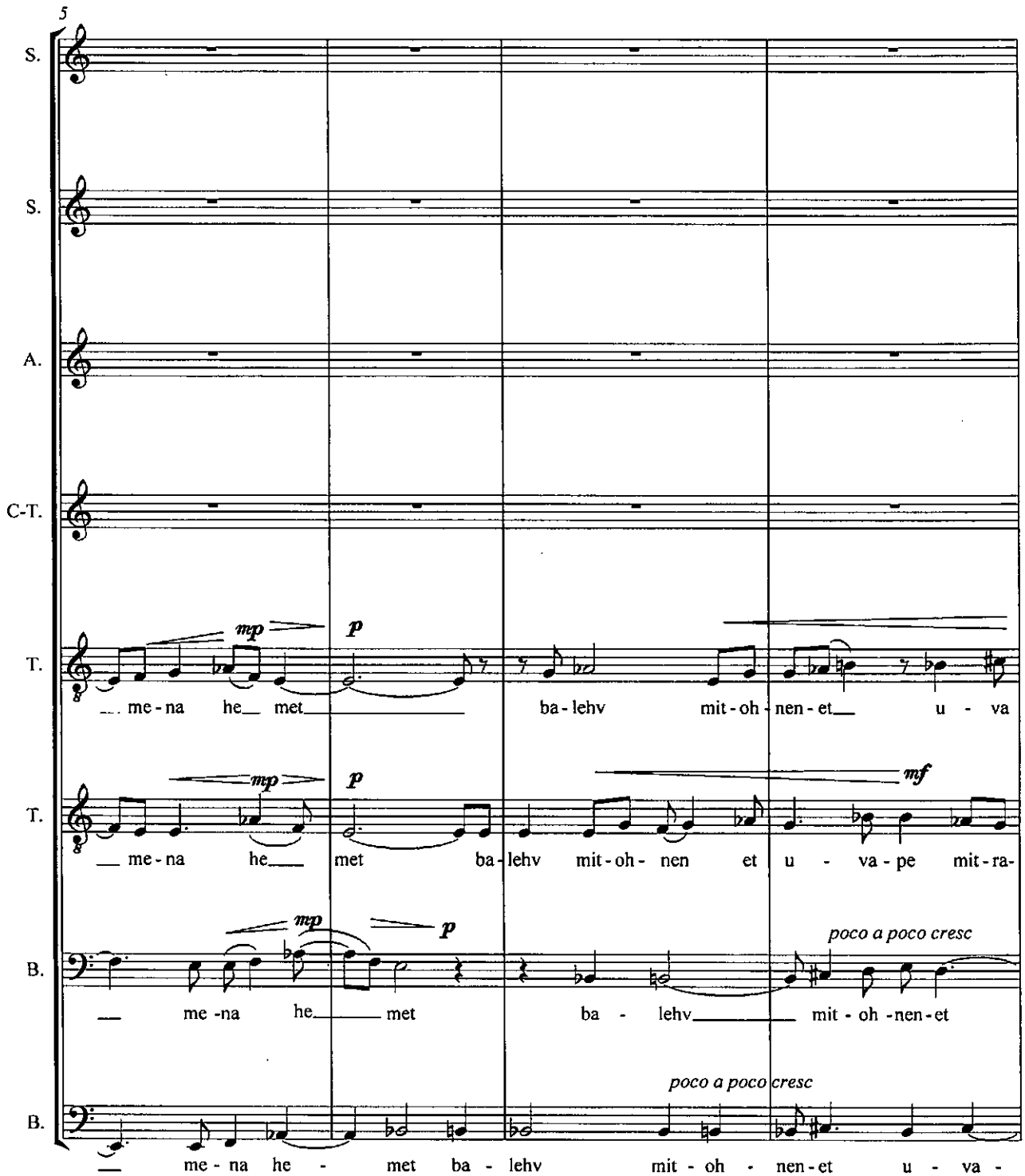
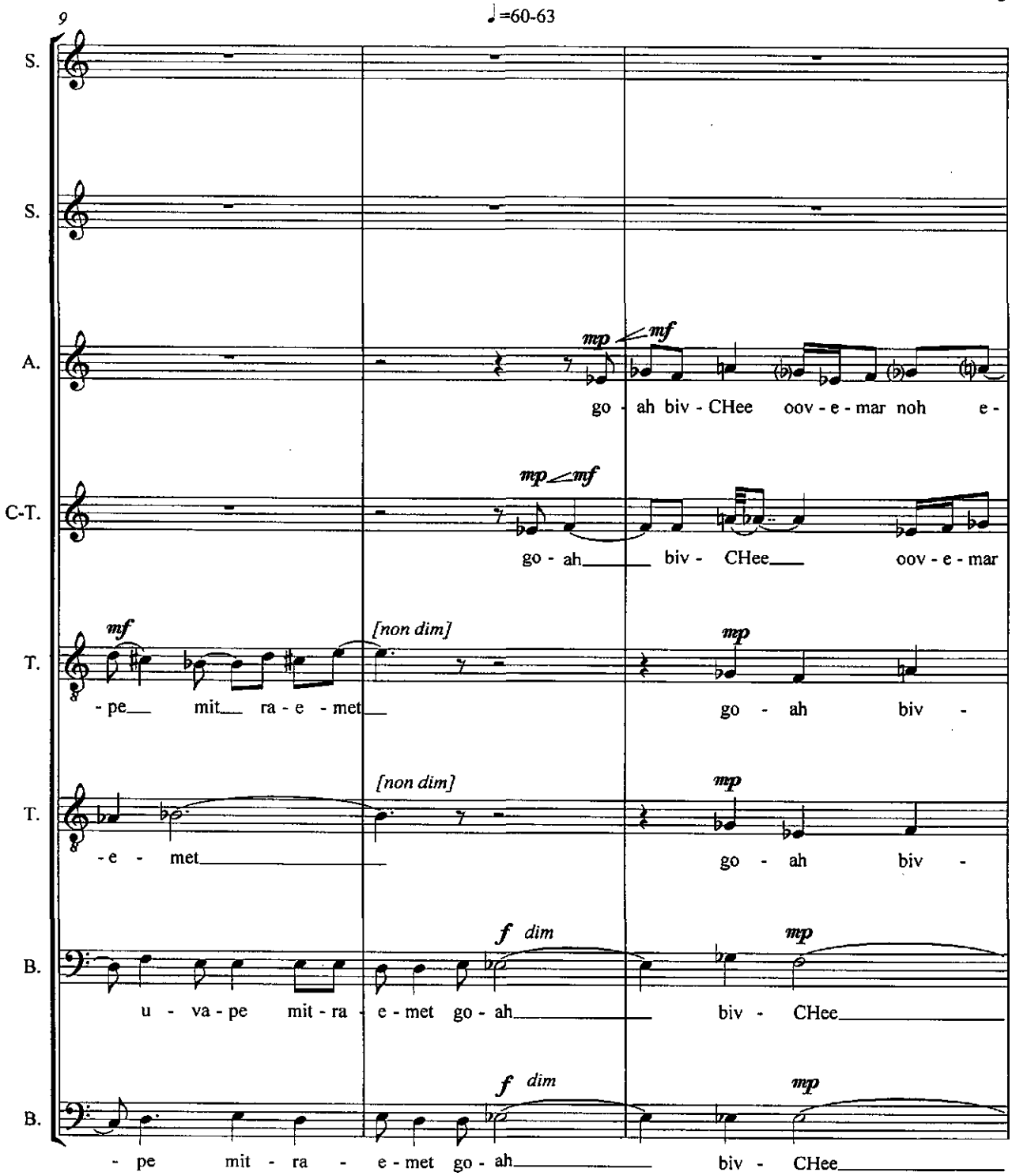
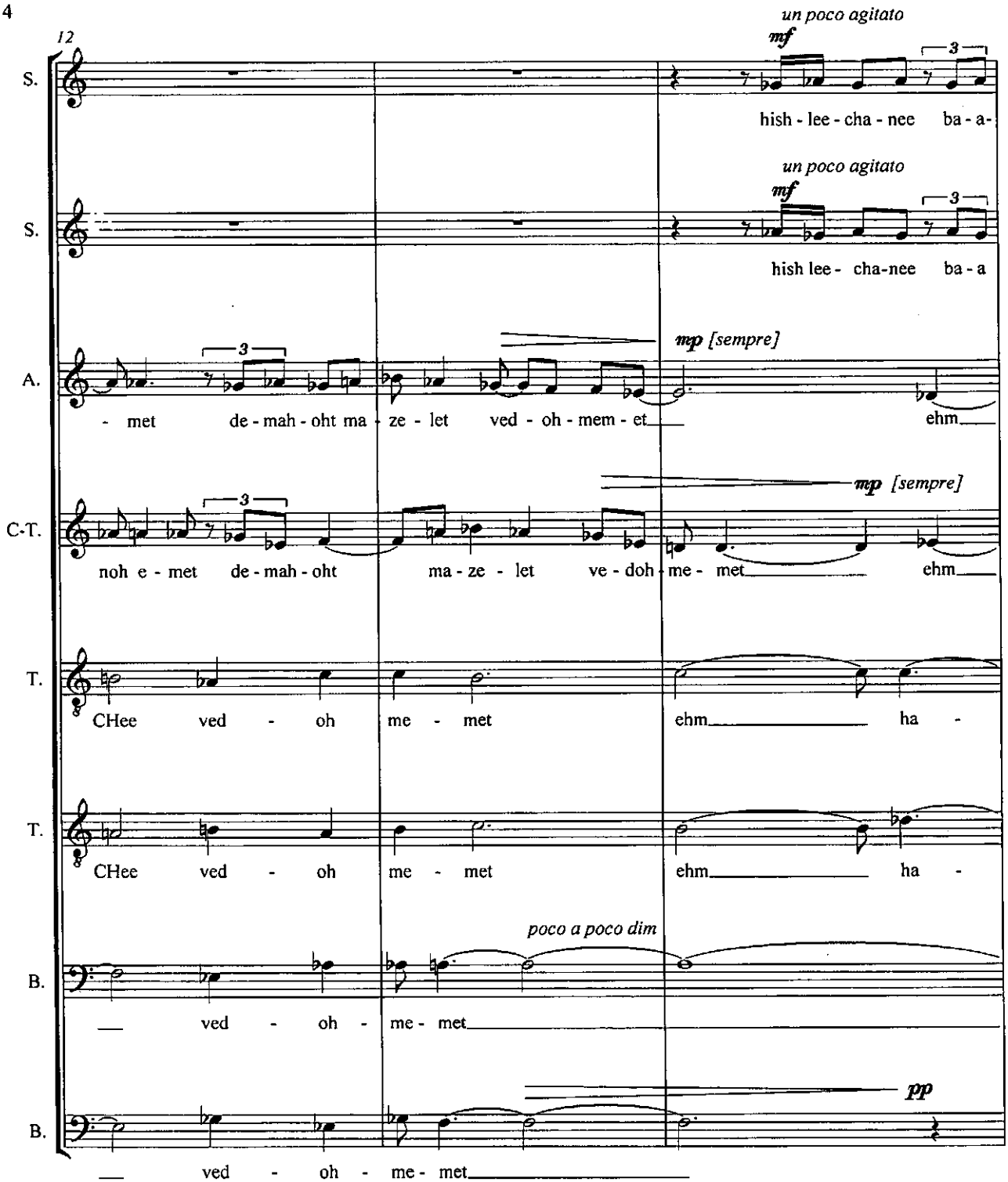
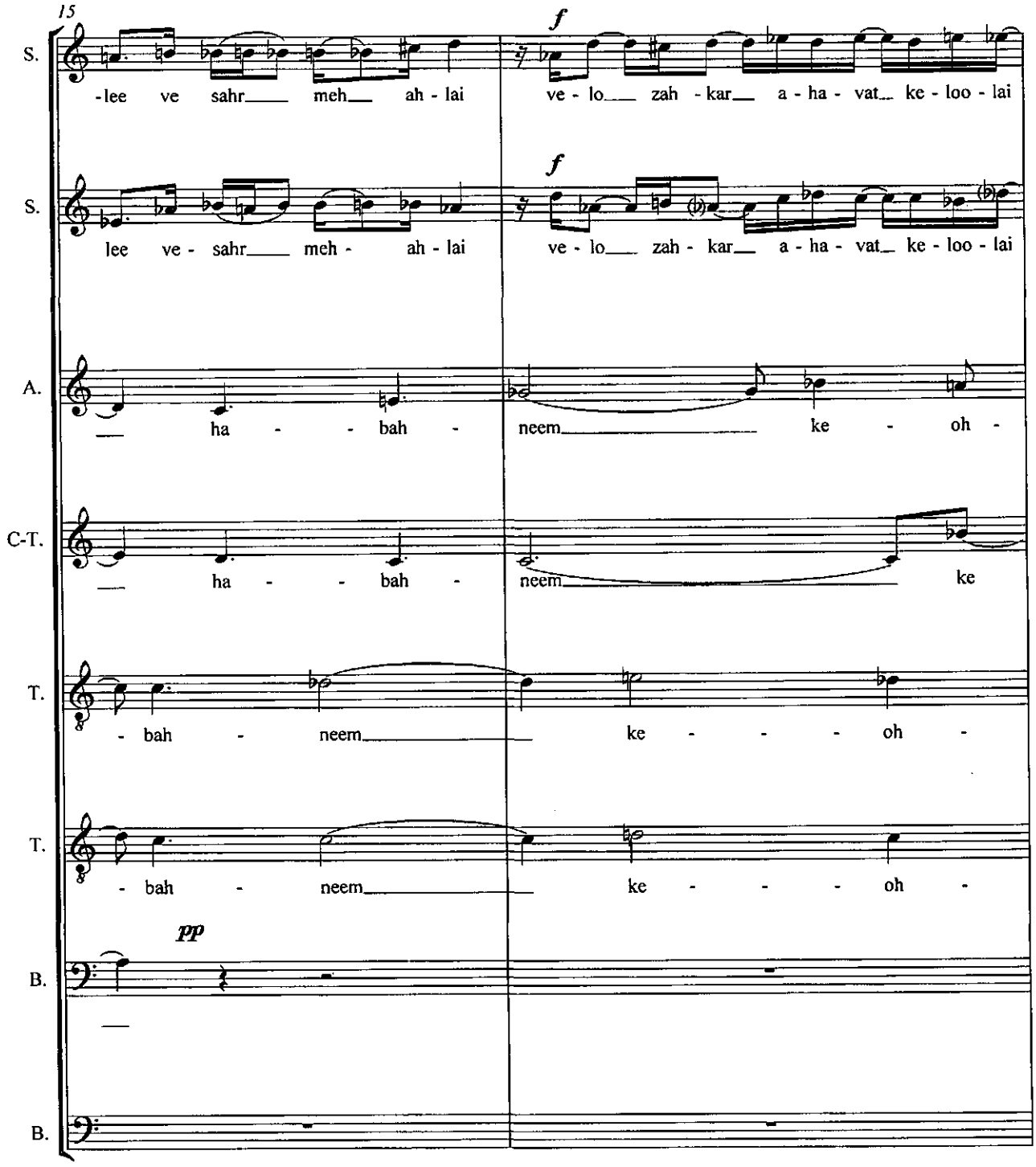

5
S.
S.
A.
C-T.
T.
T.
B.
B.
mp
p
mp
p
mf
mp
p
poco a poco cresc
poco a poco cresc
me - na he met ba - lehv mit - oh - nen - et u - va
me - na he met ba - lehv mit - oh - nen et u - va - pe mit - ra -
me - na he met ba - lehv mit - oh - nen - et
me - na he - met ba - lehv mit - oh - nen - et u - va -

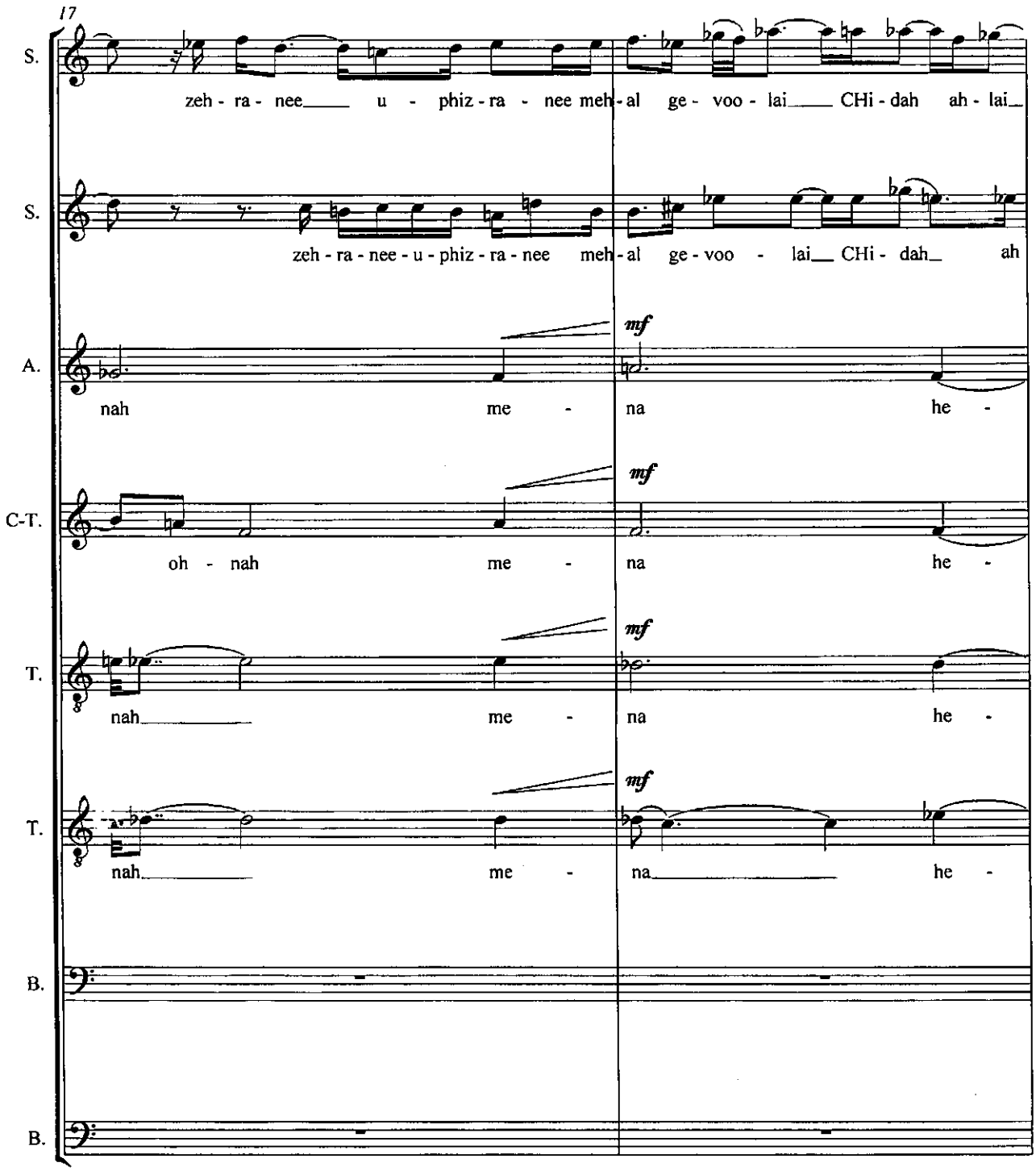
un poco piu mosso

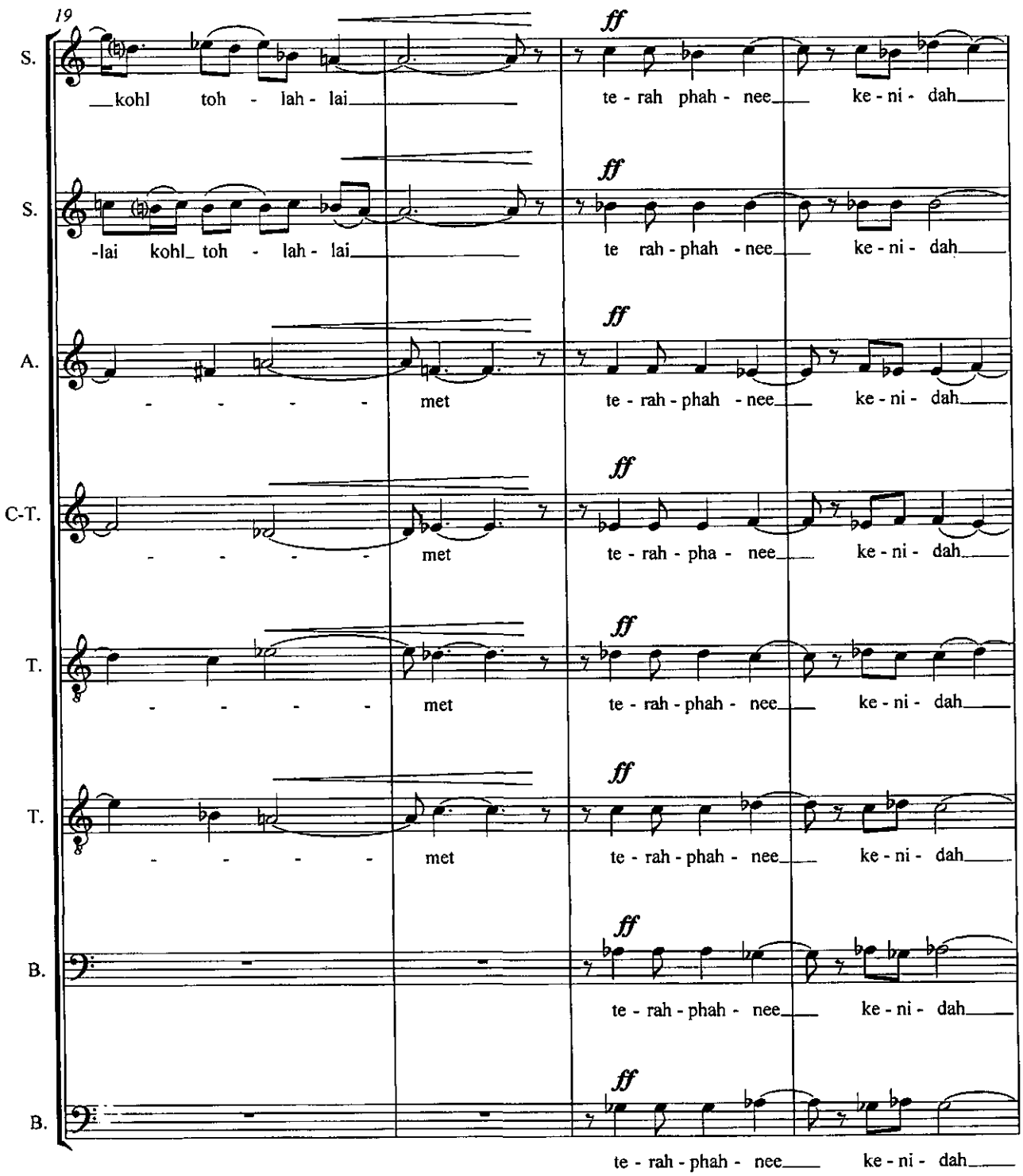
♩=60-63

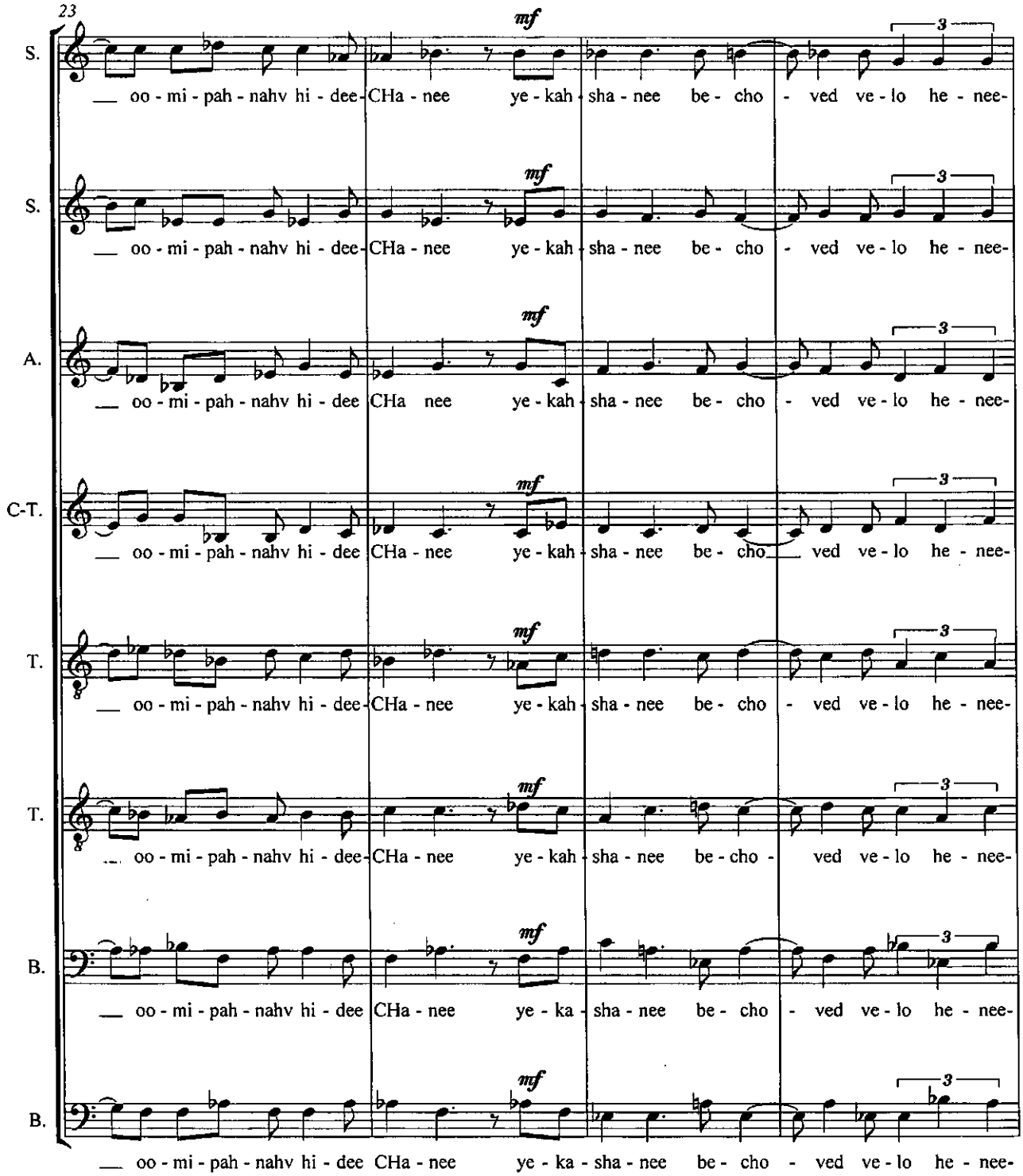


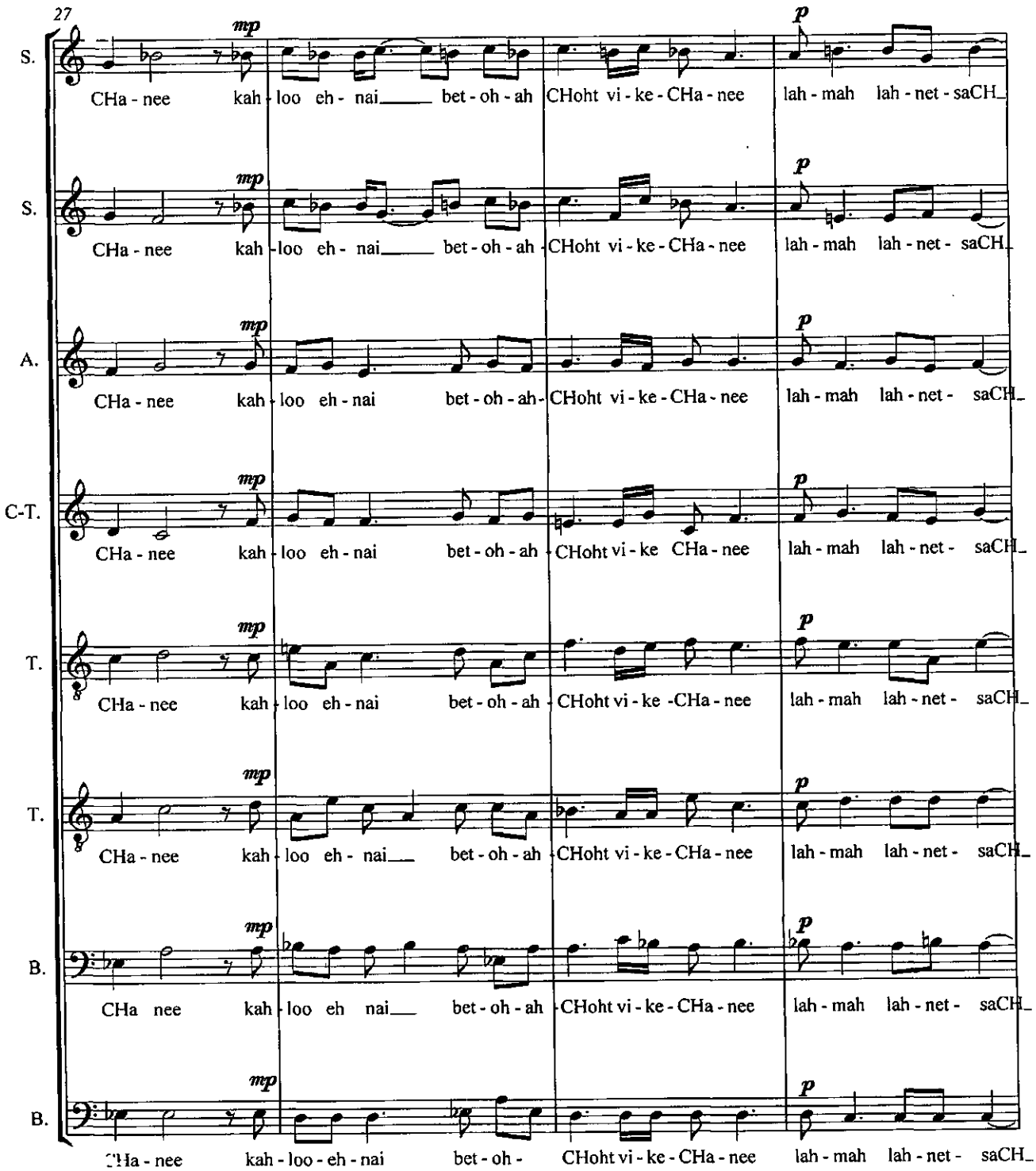

12
un poco agitato
mf
3
S.
hish - lee - cha - nee ba - a-
un poco agitato
mf
3
S.
hish lee - cha-nee ba - a
mp [sempre]
3
A.
- met de - mah - oht ma - ze - let ved - oh - mem - et ehm
mp [sempre]
3
C-T.
noh e - met de - mah - oht ma - ze - let ve - doh - me - met ehm
T.
CHee ved - oh me - met ehm ha -
T.
CHee ved - oh me - met ehm ha -
poco a poco dim
B.
ved - oh - me - met
pp
B.
ved - oh - me - met

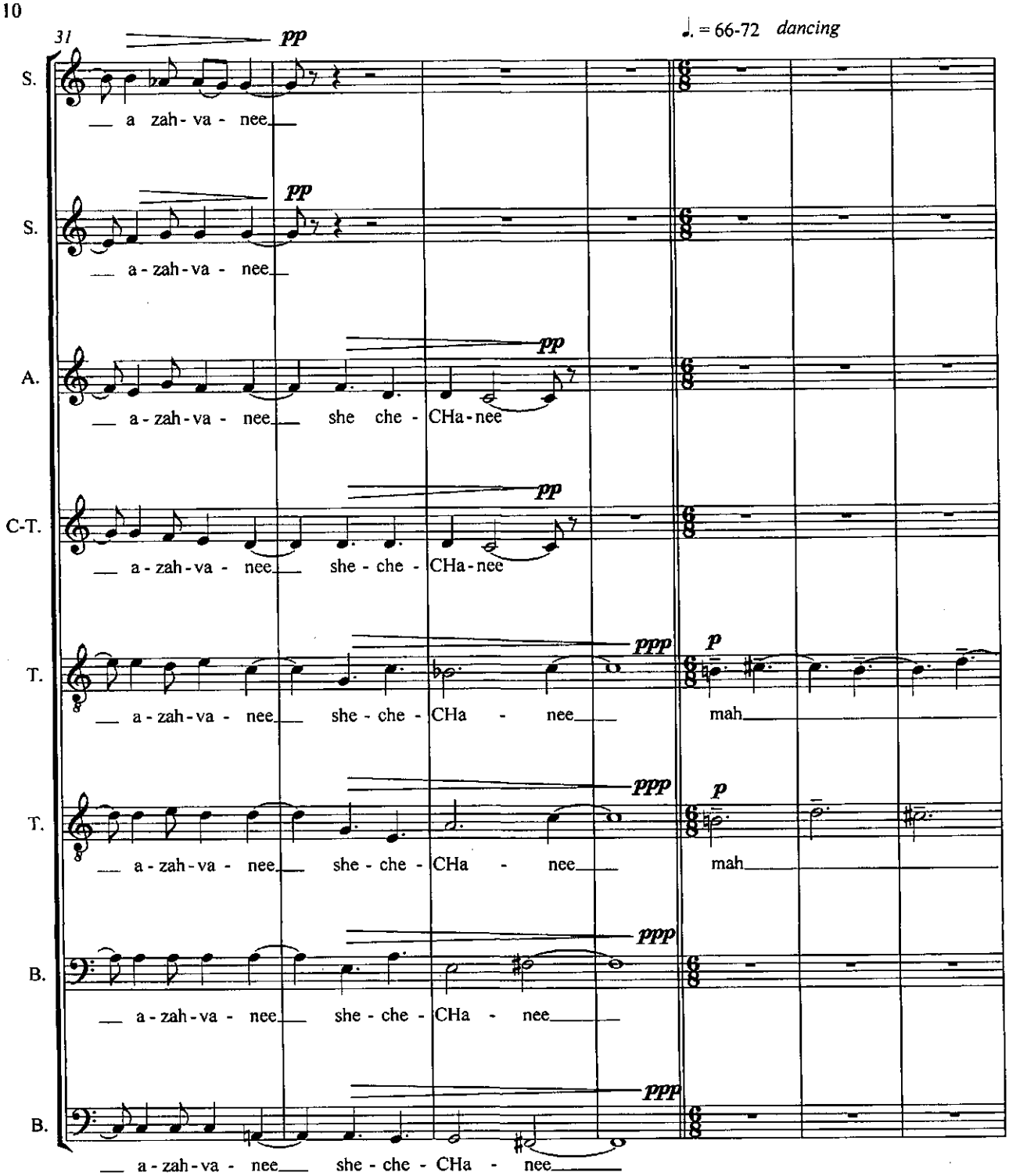

15
S.
-lee ve sahr meh ah - lai
f
ve - lo zah - kar a - ha - vat ke - loo - lai
S.
lee ve - sahr meh - ah - lai
f
ve - lo zah - kar a - ha - vat ke - loo - lai
A.
ha - - bah -
neem ke - oh -
C-T.
ha - - bah -
neem ke
T.
- bah - neem ke - - - oh -
T.
- bah - neem ke - - - oh -
pp
B.
B.

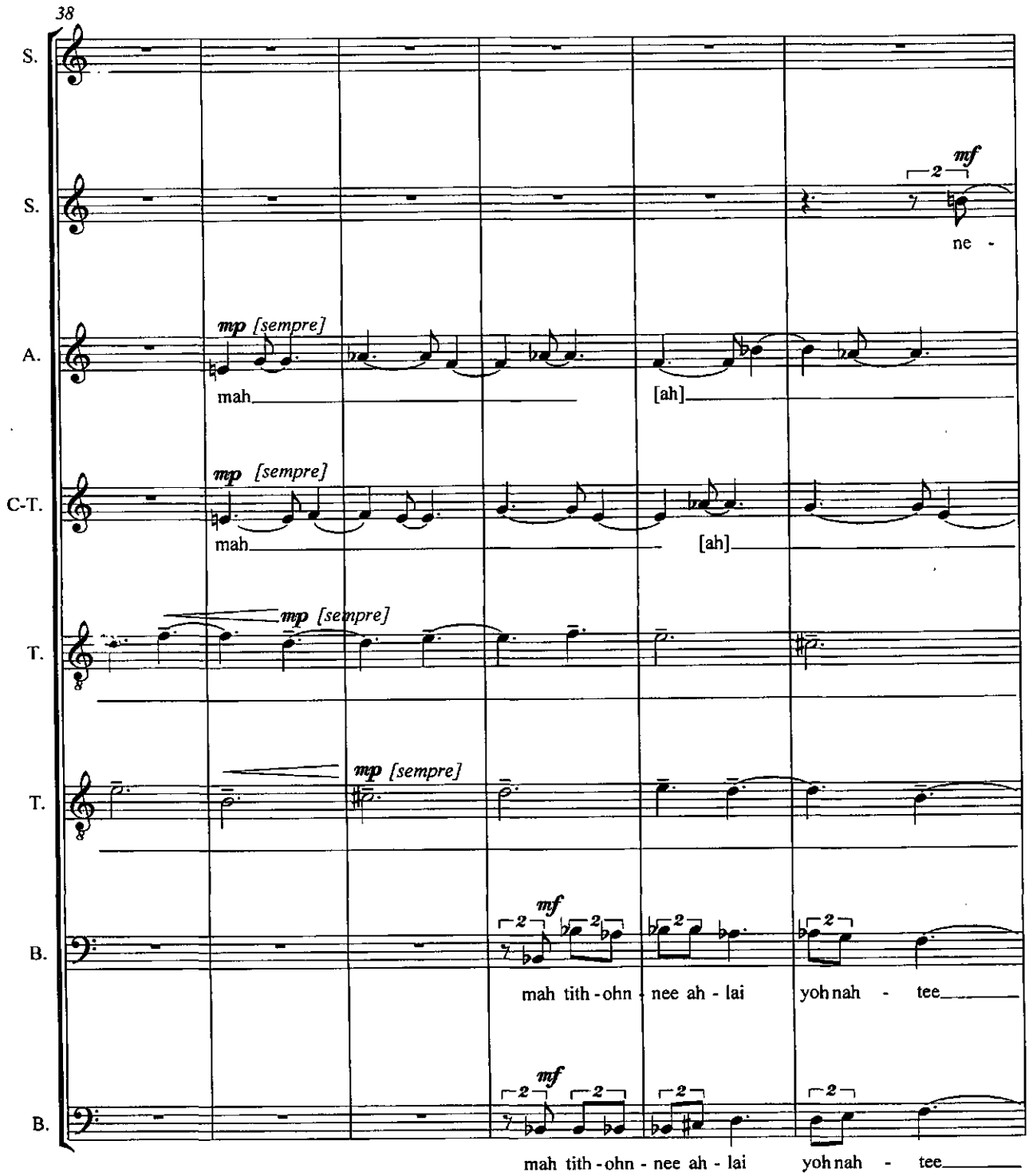

17
S.
zeh - ra - nee u - phiz - ra - nee meh - al ge - voo - lai CHi - dah ah - lai
S.
zeh - ra - nee - u - phiz - ra - nee meh - al ge - voo - lai CHi - dah ah
A.
mf
nah me - na he -
C-T.
mf
oh - nah me - na he -
T.
mf
nah me - na he -
T.
mf
nah me - na he -
B.
B.

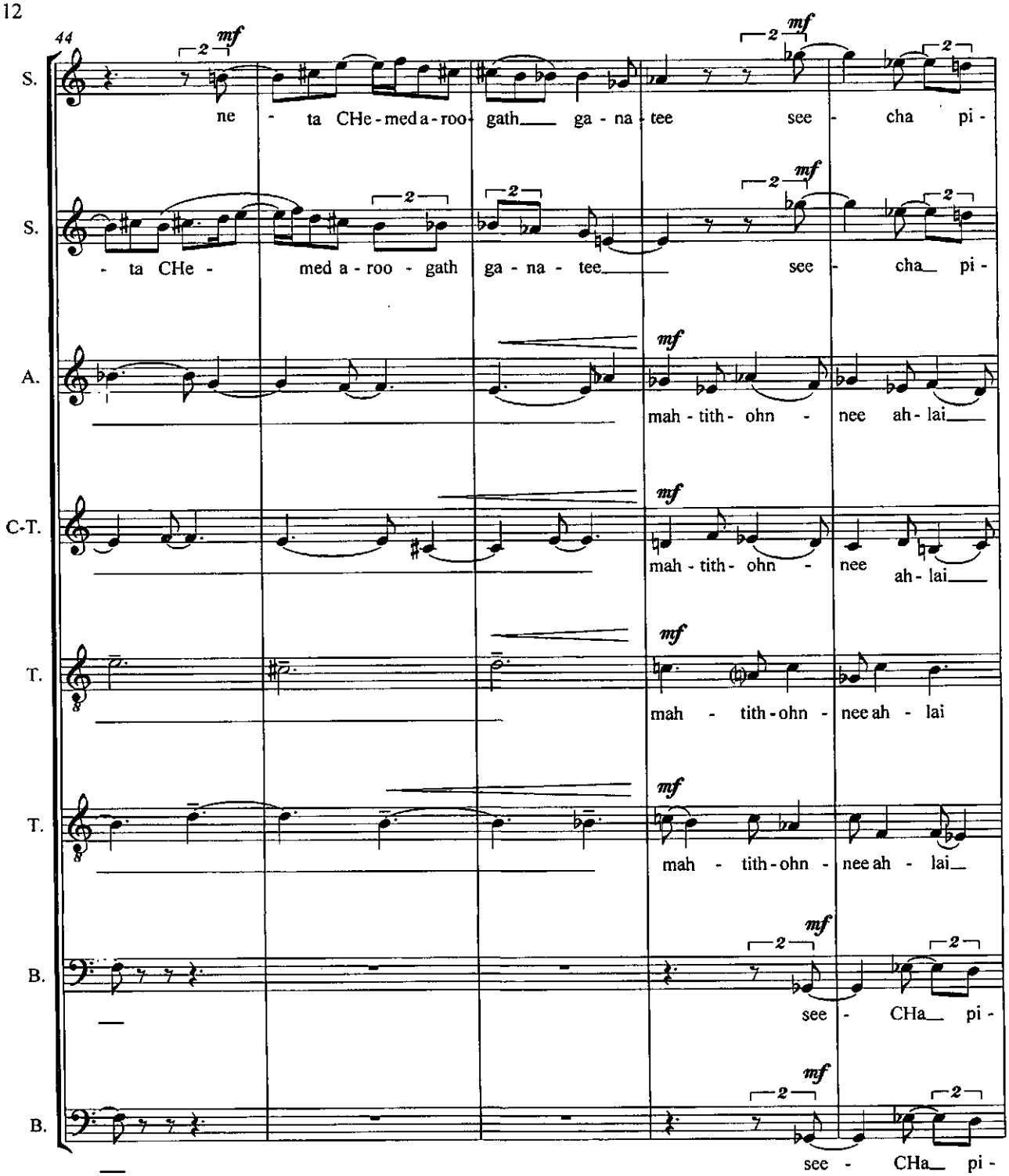

19
S.
kohl toh - lah - lai
ff
te - rah phah - nee
ke - ni - dah
S.
-lai kohl toh - lah - lai
ff
te rah - phah - nee
ke - ni - dah
A.
- - - - -
met
ff
te - rah - phah - nee
ke - ni - dah
C-T.
- - - - -
met
ff
te - rah - pha - nee
ke - ni - dah
T.
- - - - -
met
ff
te - rah - phah - nee
ke - ni - dah
T.
- - - - -
met
ff
te - rah - phah - nee
ke - ni - dah
B.
ff
te - rah - phah - nee
ke - ni - dah
B.
ff
te - rah - phah - nee
ke - ni - dah

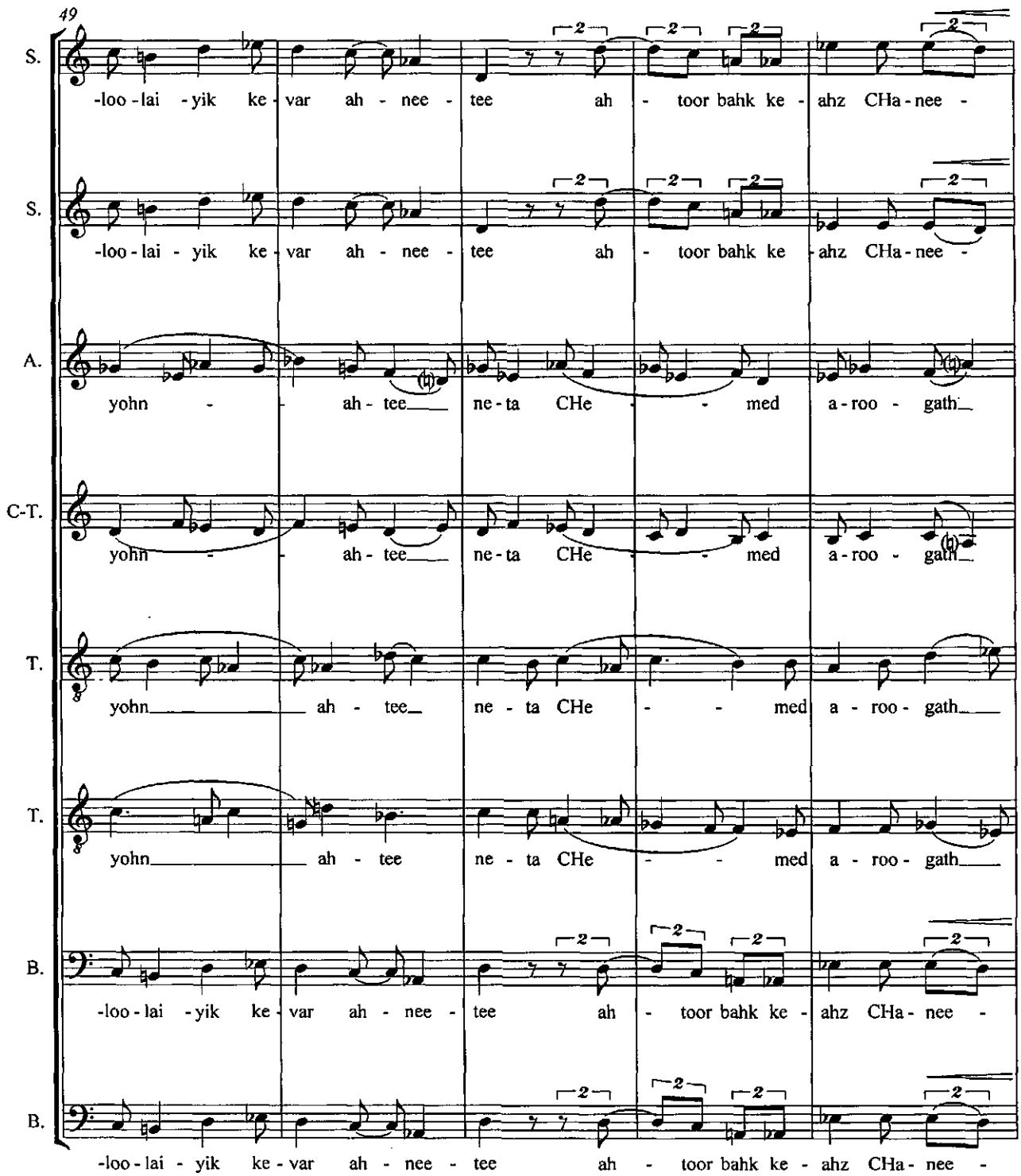

23
S.
S.
A.
C-T.
T.
T.
B.
B.
mf
3
oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee - CHa - nee ye - kah - sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee-
oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee - CHa - nee ye - kah - sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee-
oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee CHa nee ye - kah - sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee-
oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee CHa - nee ye - kah - sha - nee be - cho ved ve - lo he - nee-
oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee - CHa - nee ye - kah - sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee-
oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee - CHa - nee ye - kah - sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee-
oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee CHa - nee ye - ka - sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee-
oo - mi - pah - nahv hi - dee CHa - nee ye - ka - sha - nee be - cho - ved ve - lo he - nee-

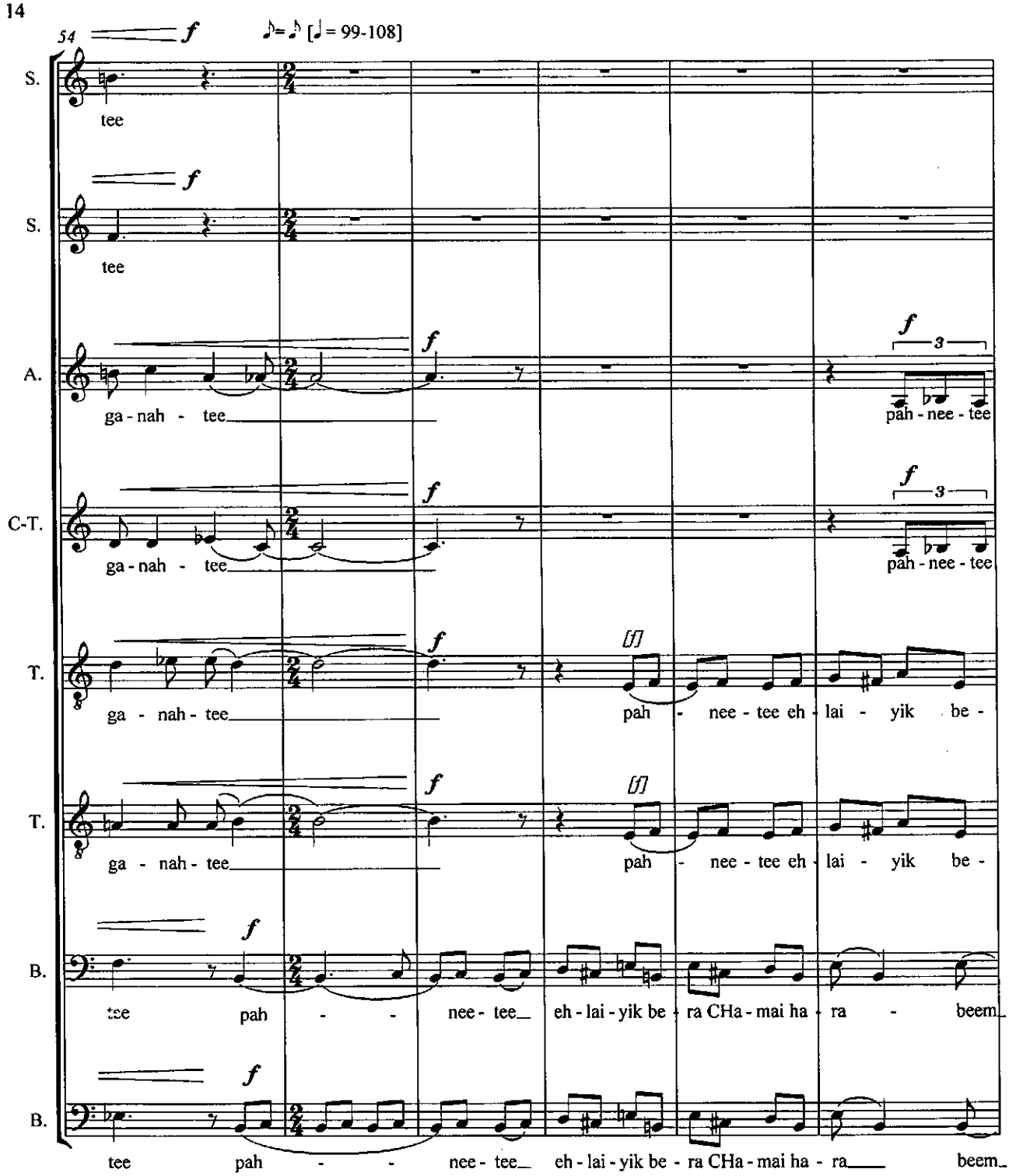

27
S.
mp
CHa - nee kah - loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHoht vi - ke - CHa - nee
p
lah - mah lah - net - saCH
S.
mp
CHa - nee kah - loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHoht vi - ke - CHa - nee
p
lah - mah lah - net - saCH
A.
mp
CHa - nee kah - loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHoht vi - ke - CHa - nee
p
lah - mah lah - net - saCH
C-T.
mp
CHa - nee kah - loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHoht vi - ke CHa - nee
p
lah - mah lah - net - saCH
T.
mp
CHa - nee kah - loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHoht vi - ke - CHa - nee
p
lah - mah lah - net - saCH
T.
mp
CHa - nee kah - loo eh - nai bet - oh - ah CHoht vi - ke - CHa - nee
p
lah - mah lah - net - saCH
B.
mp
CHa nee kah - loo eh nai bet - oh - ah CHoht vi - ke - CHa - nee
p
lah - mah lah - net - saCH
B.
mp
CHa - nee kah - loo - eh - nai bet - oh - CHoht vi - ke - CHa - nee
p
lah - mah lah - net - saCH

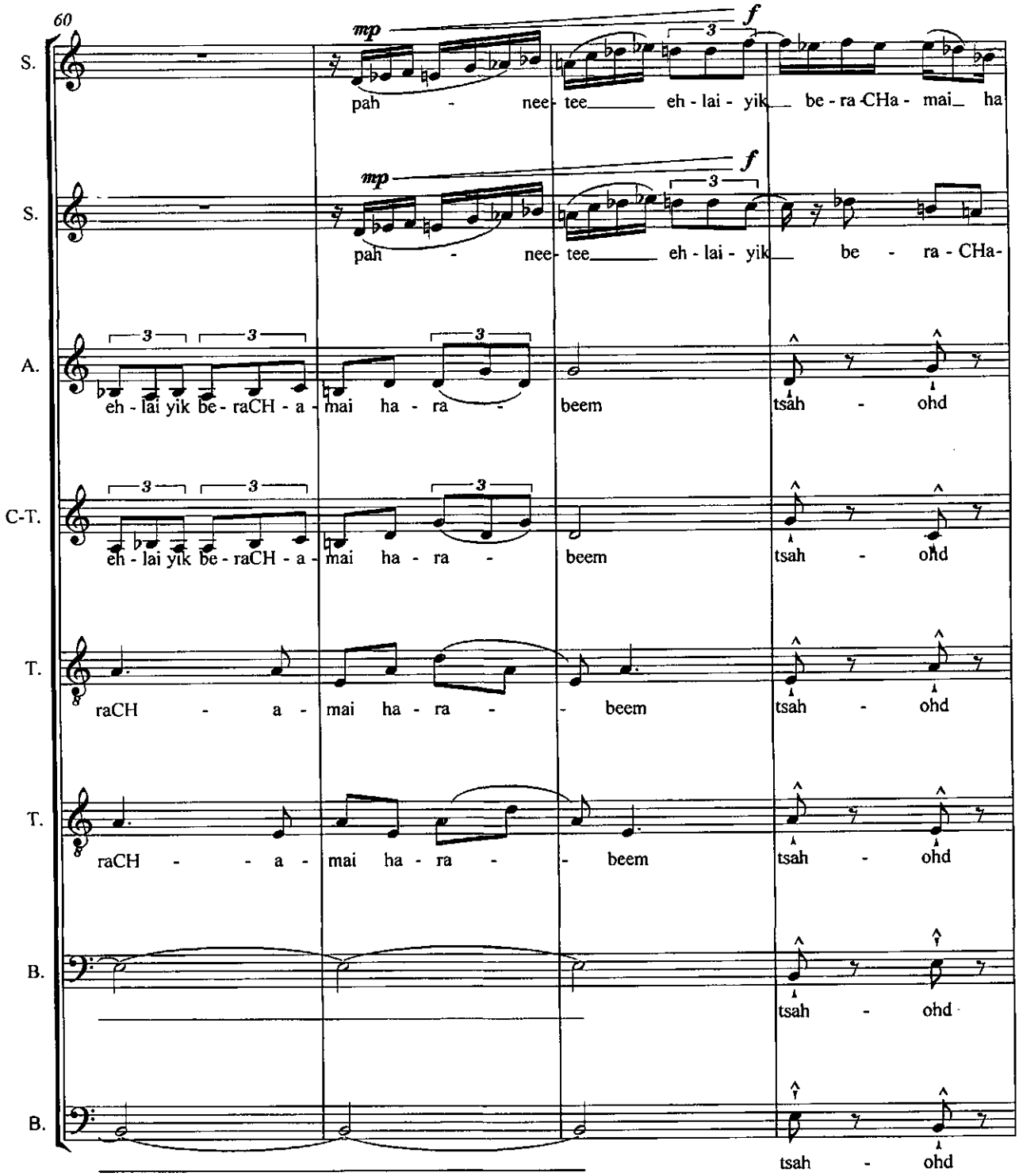

31
pp
♩. = 66-72 dancing
S.
a zah - va - nee
S.
pp
a - zah - va - nee
A.
pp
a - zah - va - nee she che - CHa - nee
C-T.
pp
a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee
T.
ppp
p
a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee mah
T.
ppp
p
a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee mah
B.
ppp
a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee
B.
ppp
a - zah - va - nee she - che - CHa - nee

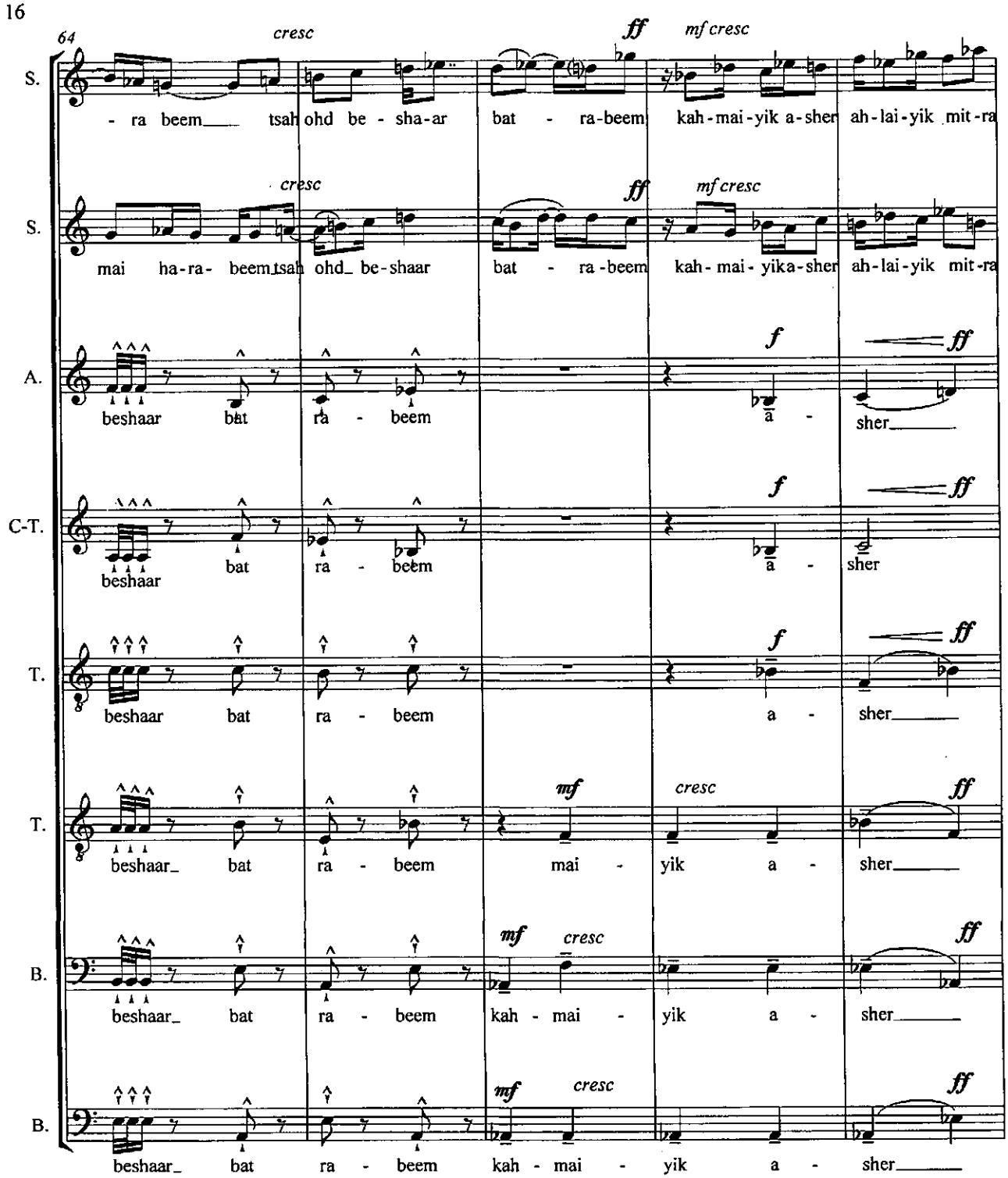

38
S.
S.
mf
ne -
A.
mp [sempre]
mah
[ah]
C-T.
mp [sempre]
mah
[ah]
T.
mp [sempre]
T.
mp [sempre]
B.
mf
mah tith - ohn - nee ah - lai
yoh nah - tee
B.
mf
mah tith - ohn - nee ah - lai
yoh nah - tee

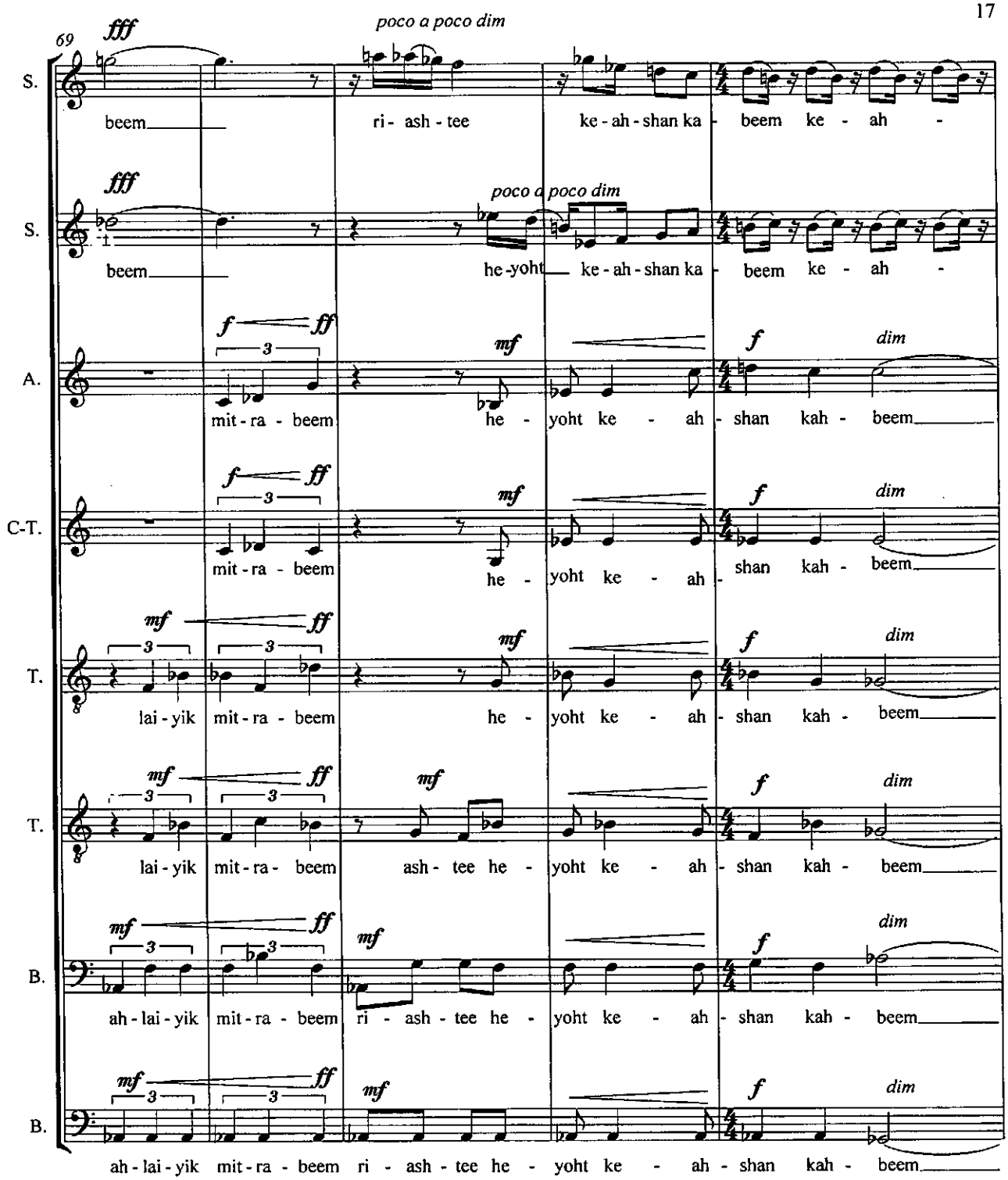

44
S.
ne - ta CHe - med a - roo - gath ga - na - tee see - cha pi -
S.
- ta CHe - med a - roo - gath ga - na - tee see - cha pi -
A.
mah - tith - ohn - nee ah - lai
C-T.
mah - tith - ohn - nee ah - lai
T.
mah - tith - ohn - nee ah - lai
T.
mah - tith - ohn - nee ah - lai
B.
see - CHa pi -
B.
see - CHa pi -

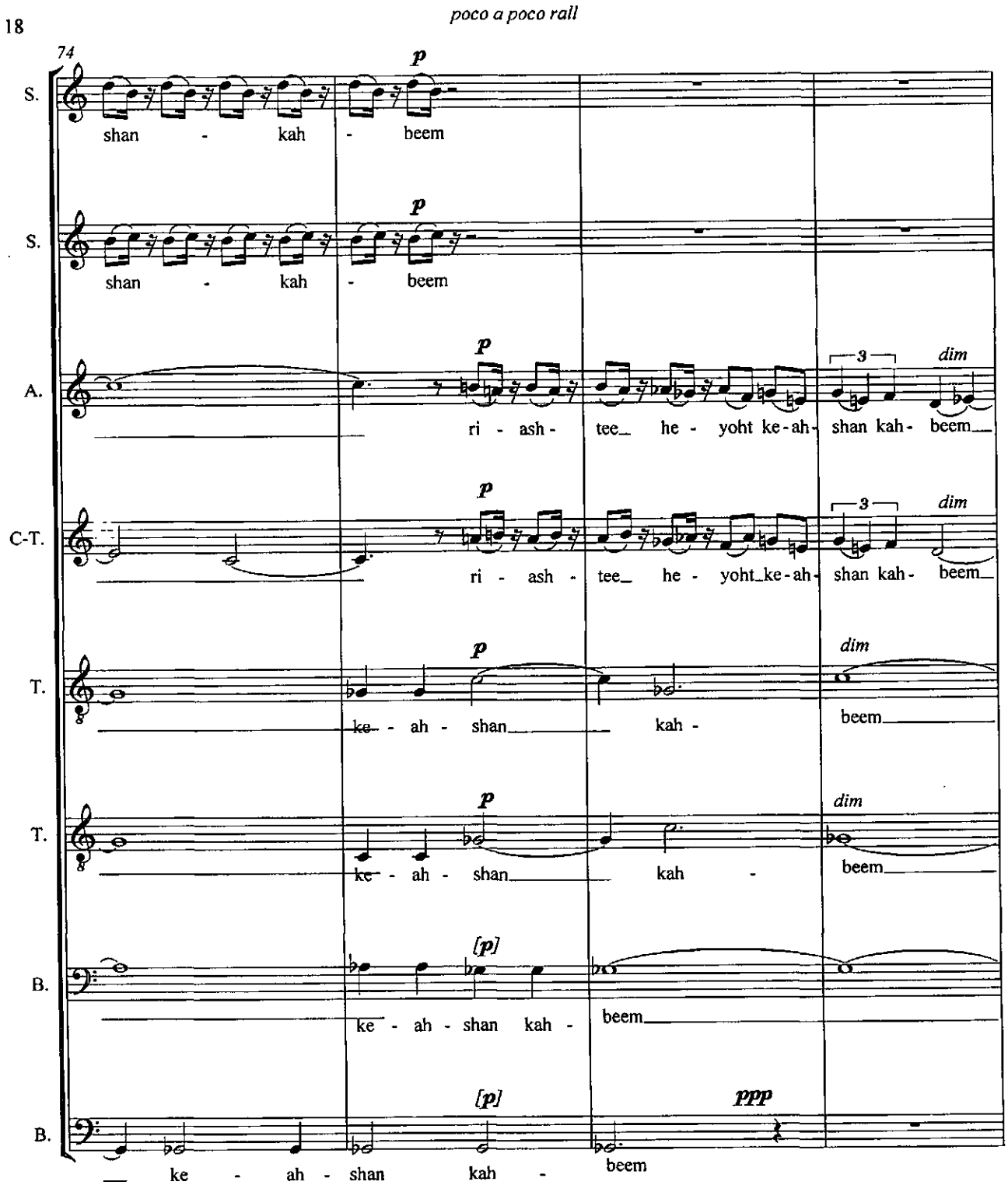

49
S.
-loo - lai - yik ke - var ah - nee - tee ah - toor bahk ke - ahz CHa - nee -
S.
-loo - lai - yik ke - var ah - nee - tee ah - toor bahk ke - ahz CHa - nee -
A.
yohn - - ah - tee ne - ta CHe - - med a - roo - gath
C-T.
yohn - - ah - tee ne - ta CHe - - med a - roo - gath
T.
yohn ah - tee ne - ta CHe - - med a - roo - gath
T.
yohn ah - tee ne - ta CHe - - med a - roo - gath
B.
-loo - lai - yik ke - var ah - nee - tee ah - toor bahk ke - ahz CHa - nee -
B.
-loo - lai - yik ke - var ah - nee - tee ah - toor bahk ke - ahz CHa - nee -

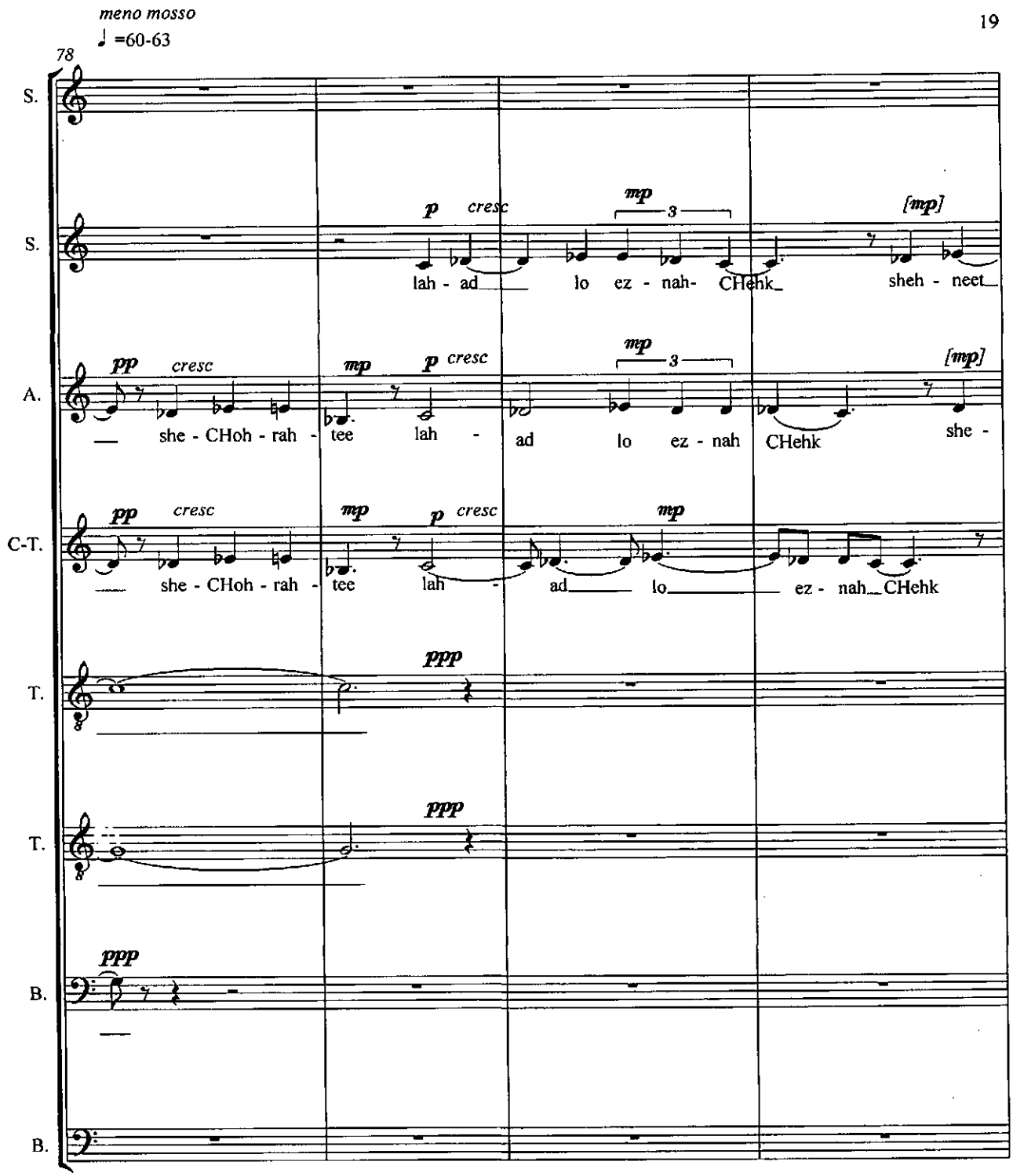

54
f
♪= ♪ [♩= 99-108]
S.
tee
S.
tee
A.
ga - nah - tee
pah - nee - tee
C-T.
ga - nah - tee
pah - nee - tee
T.
ga - nah - tee
pah - nee - tee eh - lai - yik be -
T.
ga - nah - tee
pah - nee - tee eh - lai - yik be -
B.
tee pah - - nee - tee eh - lai - yik be - ra CHa - mai ha - ra - beem
B.
tee pah - - nee - tee eh - lai - yik be - ra CHa - mai ha - ra beem

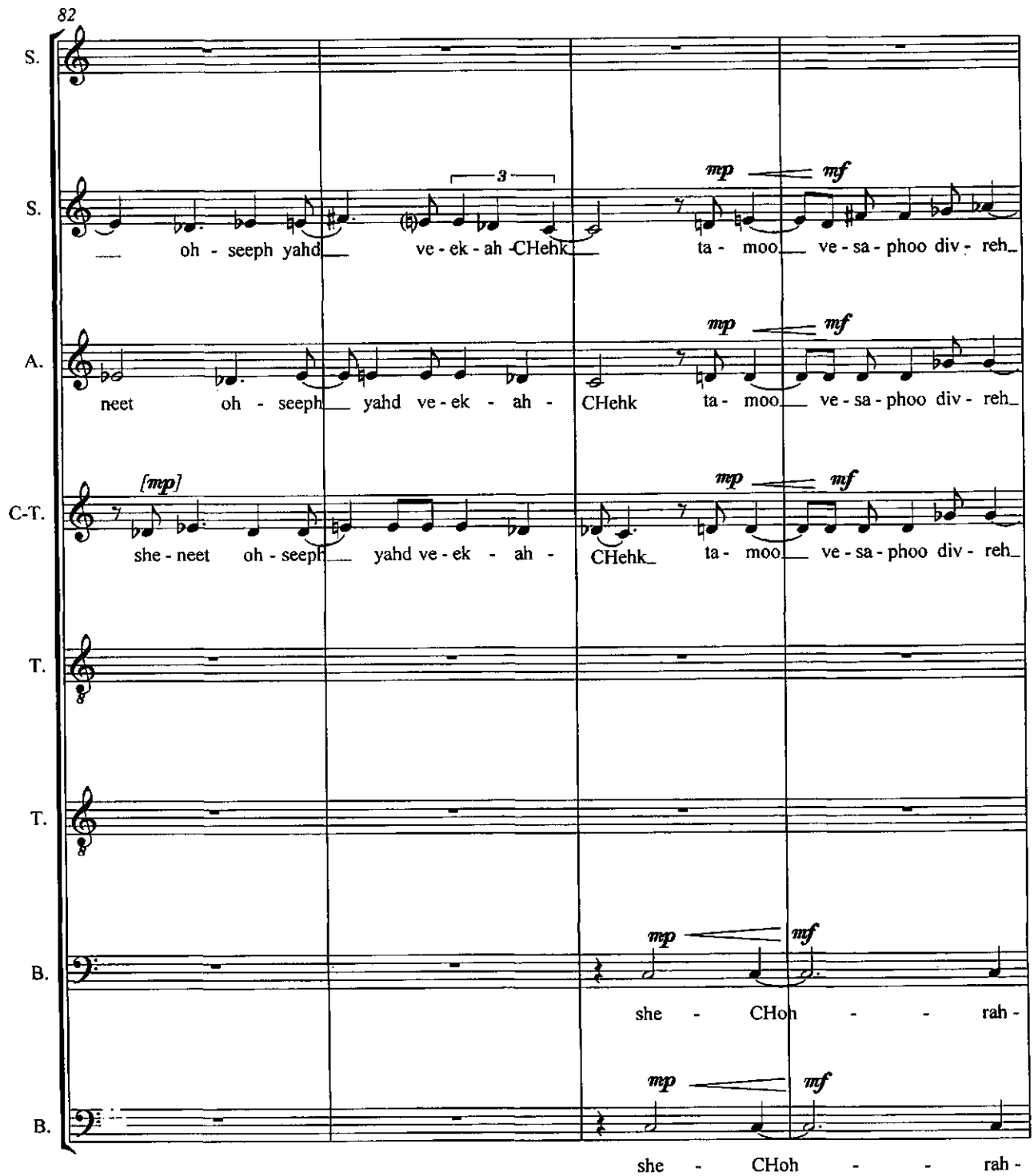

60
S.
mp
f
pah - nee- tee eh - lai - yik be - ra - CHa - mai ha
S.
mp
f
pah - nee- tee eh - lai - yik be - ra - CHa-
A.
eh - lai yik be - raCH - a - mai ha - ra - beem tsah - ohd
C-T.
eh - lai yik be - raCH - a - mai ha - ra - beem tsah - ohd
T.
raCH - a - mai ha - ra - beem tsah - ohd
T.
raCH - - a - mai ha - ra - beem tsah - ohd
B.
tsah - ohd
B.
tsah - ohd

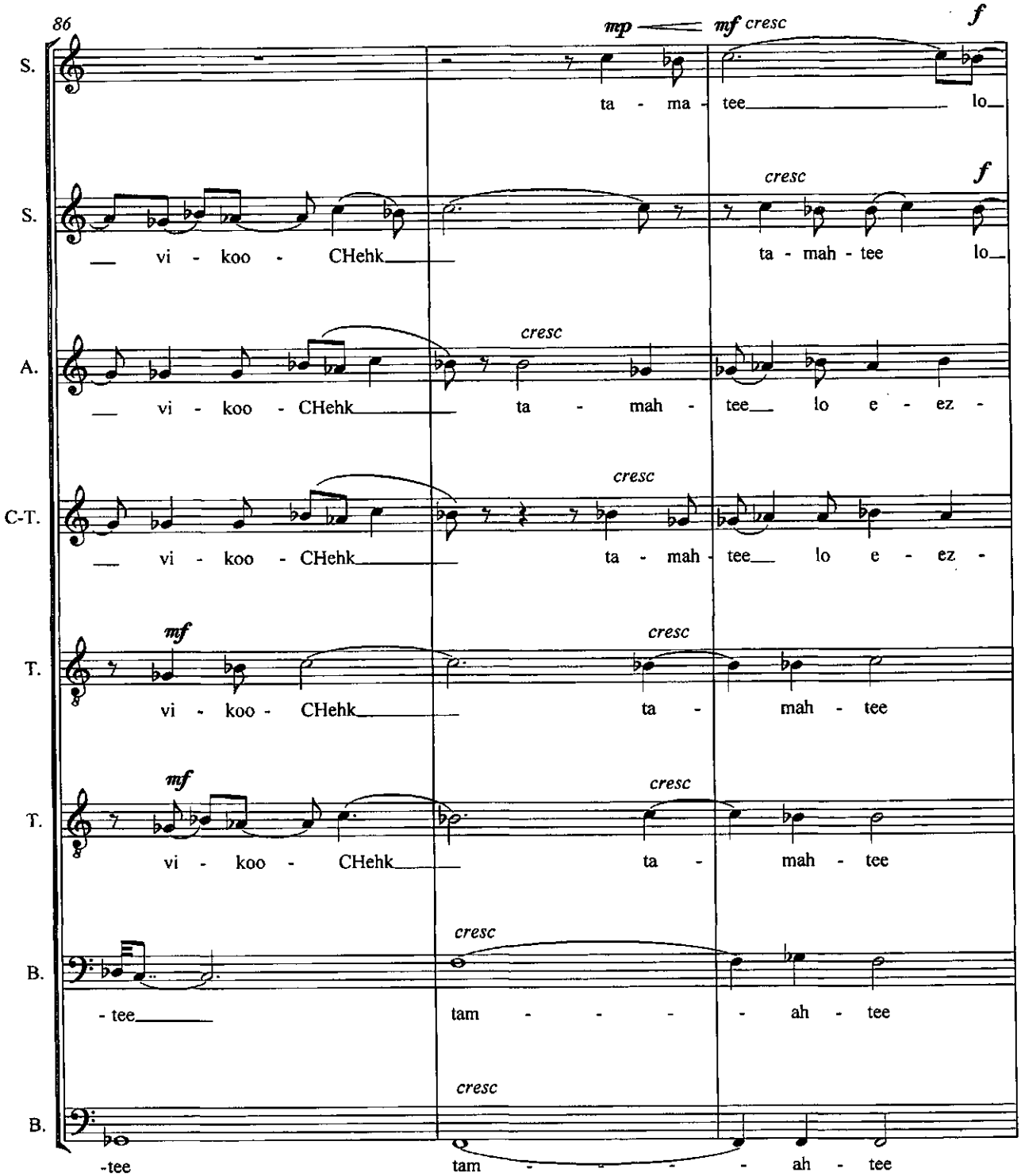

64
S.
cresc
ff
mf cresc
- ra beem tsah ohd be - sha-ar bat - ra-beem kah-mai-yik a-sher ah-lai-yik mit-ra
S.
cresc
ff
mf cresc
mai ha-ra- beem tsah ohd be-shaar bat - ra-beem kah-mai-yik a-sher ah-lai-yik mit-ra
A.
f
ff
beshaar bat ra - beem a - sher
C-T.
f
ff
beshaar bat ra - beem a - sher
T.
f
ff
beshaar bat ra - beem a - sher
T.
mf
cresc
ff
beshaar bat ra - beem mai - yik a - sher
B.
mf
cresc
ff
beshaar bat ra - beem kah - mai - yik a - sher
B.
mf
cresc
ff
beshaar bat ra - beem kah - mai - yik a - sher

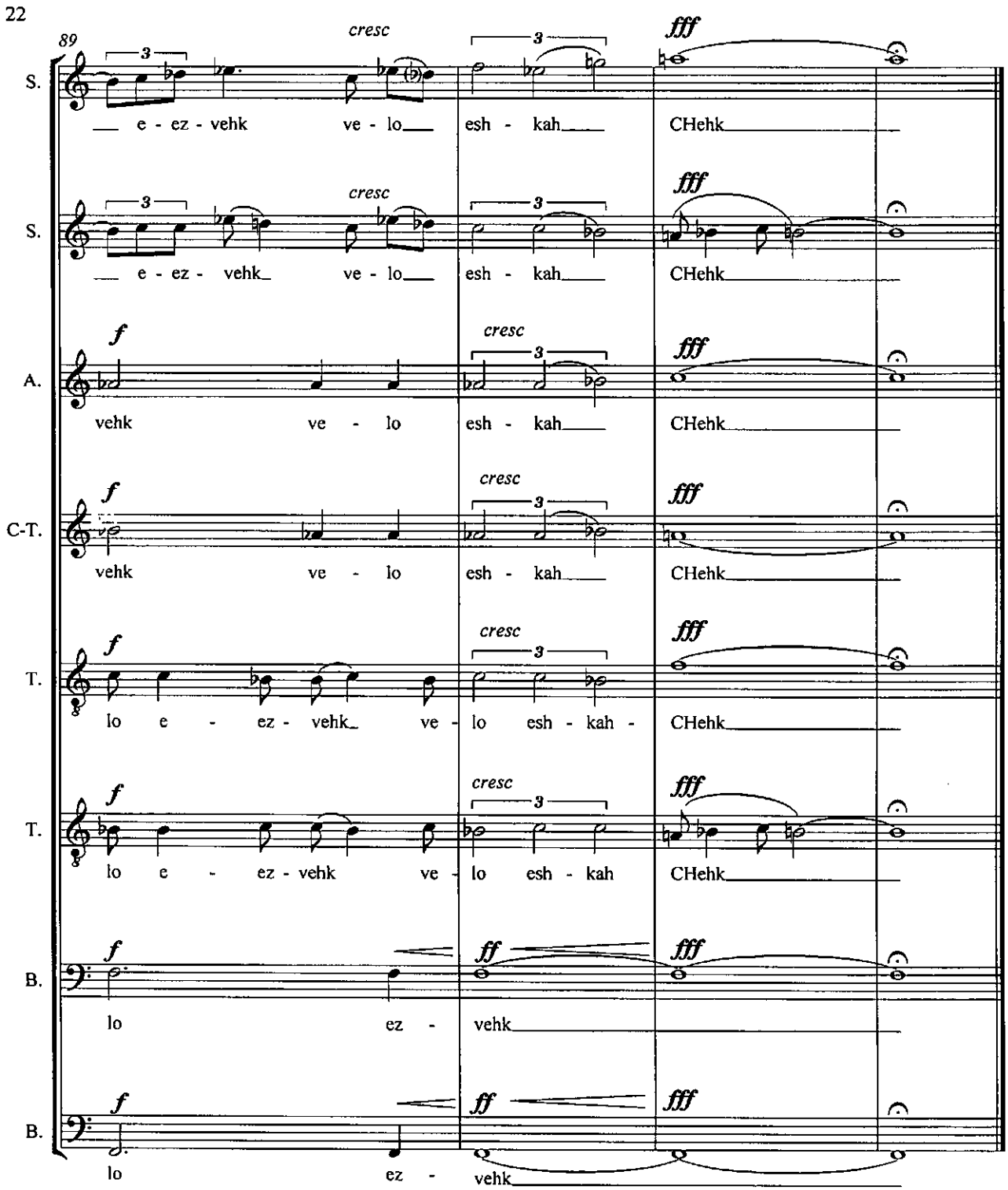

69
poco a poco dim
S.
beem ri - ash - tee ke - ah - shan ka - beem ke - ah -
S.
beem he - yoht ke - ah - shan ka - beem ke - ah -
A.
mit - ra - beem he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem
C-T.
mit - ra - beem he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem
T.
lai - yik mit - ra - beem he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem
T.
lai - yik mit - ra - beem ash - tee he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem
B.
ah - lai - yik mit - ra - beem ri - ash - tee he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem
B.
ah - lai - yik mit - ra - beem ri - ash - tee he - yoht ke - ah - shan kah - beem


poco a poco rall
74
S.
shan - kah - beem
S.
shan - kah - beem
A.
ri - ash - tee he - yoht ke-ah- shan kah- beem
C-T.
ri - ash - tee he - yoht ke-ah- shan kah- beem
T.
ke - ah - shan kah - beem
T.
ke - ah - shan kah - beem
B.
ke - ah - shan kah - beem
B.
ke - ah - shan kah - beem
p
dim
3
[p]
ppp


meno mosso
♩ =60-63
78
S.
S.
A.
C-T.
T.
T.
B.
B.
p cresc
mp
3
[mp]
lah - ad lo ez - nah- CHehk sheh - neet
pp cresc
mp
p cresc
mp
3
[mp]
she - CHoh - rah - tee lah - ad lo ez - nah CHehk she -
pp cresc
mp
p cresc
mp
she - CHoh - rah - tee lah - ad lo ez - nah CHehk
ppp
ppp
ppp


82
S.
S.
oh - seeph yahd ve - ek - ah - CHehk ta - moo ve - sa - phoo div - reh
A.
neet oh - seeph yahd ve - ek - ah - CHehk ta - moo ve - sa - phoo div - reh
C-T.
she - neet oh - seeph yahd ve - ek - ah - CHehk ta - moo ve - sa - phoo div - reh
T.
T.
B.
she - CHoh - - rah -
B.
she - CHoh - - rah -
mp
mf
[mp]
3


86
mp
mf cresc
f
S.
ta - ma - tee lo
S.
vi - koo - CHehk
cresc
f
ta - mah - tee lo
A.
vi - koo - CHehk
cresc
ta - mah - tee lo e - ez -
C-T.
vi - koo - CHehk
cresc
ta - mah - tee lo e - ez -
T.
mf
vi - koo - CHehk
cresc
ta - mah - tee
T.
mf
vi - koo - CHehk
cresc
ta - mah - tee
B.
- tee
cresc
tam - - - - ah - tee
B.
-tee
cresc
tam - - - - ah - tee


89
S.
e - ez - vehk ve - lo esh - kah CHehk
cresc
fff
S.
e - ez - vehk ve - lo esh - kah CHehk
A.
vehk ve - lo esh - kah CHehk
C-T.
vehk ve - lo esh - kah CHehk
T.
lo e - ez - vehk ve - lo esh - kah - CHehk
T.
lo e - ez - vehk ve - lo esh - kah CHehk
B.
lo ez - vehk
B.
lo ez - vehk