Duration: ca. 13 min.

Premiered by "Jauna Muzika" with conductor Vaclovas Augustinas, on October 25, 2010 at the Gaida festival in Vilnius, Lithuania. Commissioned by the Gaida Festival.

## COMPOSER'S NOTE

*This piece was begun while in residence at Copland House, Cortland Manor, New York, as a recipient of the Aaron Copland Award.*

When searching for the lyrics for my choral piece, I encountered an alluring phrase "the blue of distance". It remained just a poetical-philosophical hint since the text itself doesn't get utilized at all. Instead, the function of the lyrics is given to a set of speech sounds – mostly humming or the sung open vowels "a–e–i–o–u". In one part of the piece these vowels/letters appear as chords, they determine the succession of entrances of choral voices and their interrelationships.

*"The world is blue at its edges and in its depths… that color of horizons, of remote mountain ranges, of anything far away. The color of that distance is the color of an emotion, the color of solitude and of desire, the color of there seen from here, the color of where you are not. And the color of where you can never go. For the blue is not in the place those miles away at the horizon, but in the atmospheric distance between you and the mountains… Blue is the color of longing for the distances you never arrive in, for the blue world…"*

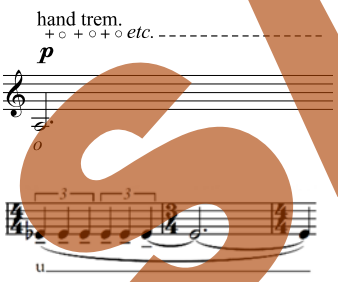
*The Blue of Distance* (from Rebecca Solnit "A Field Guide to Getting Lost")
(cited with kind permission from Penguin Books).

• • •

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

All vowels are pronounced as in the Italian language. [a] [e] [i] [o] [u]. In section A, every sound is being hummed with the initial articulation pronounced as [numm].

→ Δ gradual transition into a nasal voice achieved by pinching the nose
Ord. returning to normal voice




hand tremolo

Re-emphasize the tone (diaphgram accent).

SAMPLE

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KL 78.3411
ISMN 979-0-55011-856-0

Music prepared by Top Score Music Preparation Services
POD 2023

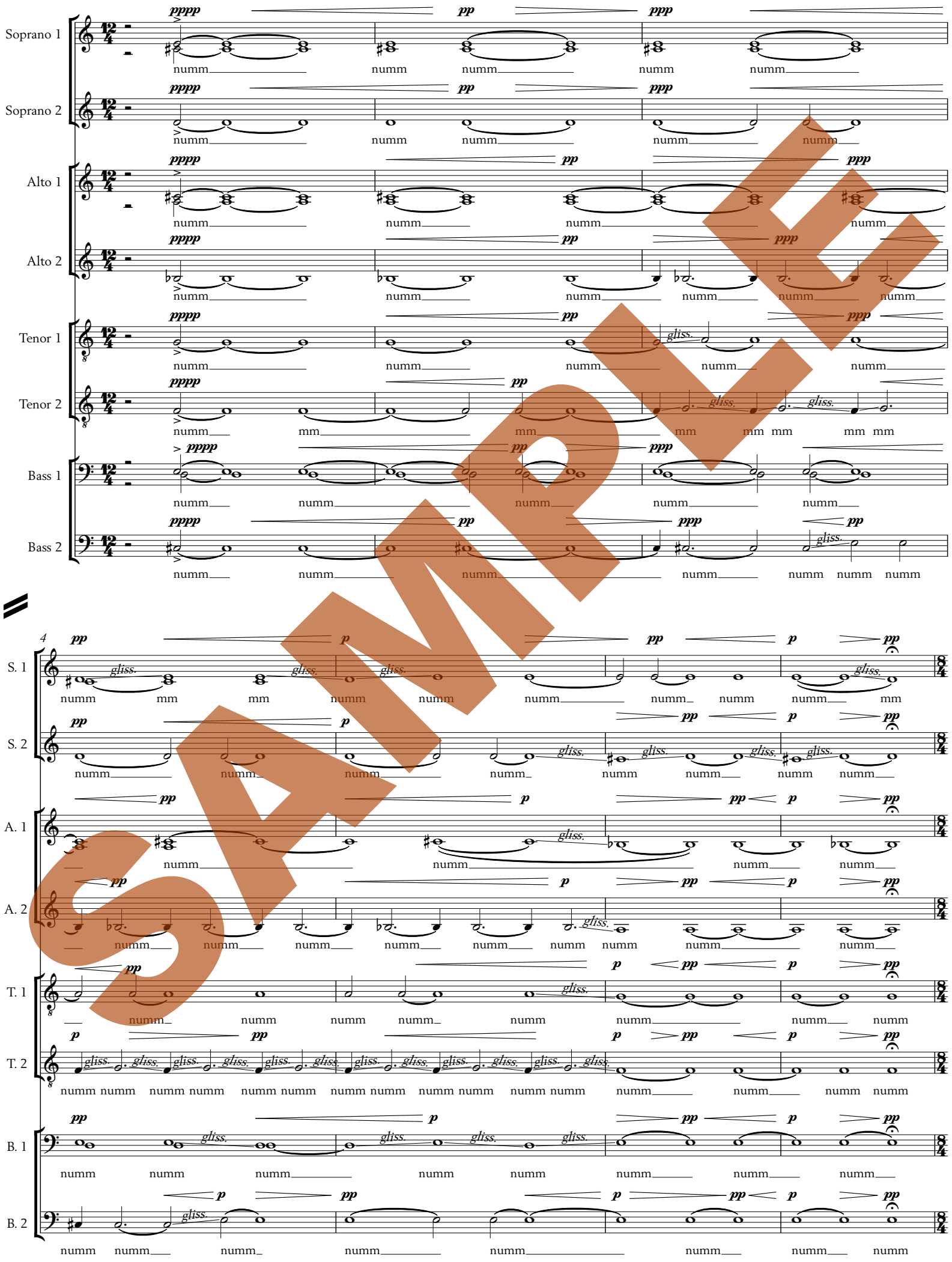
# THE BLUE OF DISTANCE
# TOLUMOS MĖLYNUMAS

ŽIBUOKLĖ MARTINAITYTĖ (2010)

Lontano. Misterioso

♩ = 80

*"...the blue at the horizon, the blue of land that seems to be dissolving into the sky..."*




SAMPLE

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Con moto

♩ = 90

**B** *"The color of that distance is the color of an emotion, the color of solitude and of desire, the color of there seen from here, the color of where you are not."*

8

S. 1 S. 2 A. 1 A. 2 T. 1 T. 2 B. 1 B. 2

12

SAMPLE

16

S. 1 — mp p mp | sfp mp | sf sfp
u u u | u u u | u u mm

S. 2 — pp sf p mp sf p p mp
mm e mm u u e mm e e e mm e e

A. 1 — pp p sf mp p sf p mp
mm i i i e mm i i i e mm mm i i

A. 2 — pp p sf mp p sf p mp
mm i i i e mm i i i e mm mm i i

T. 1 — pp p sf mp p sf p
mm i i i e mm i i i e mm mm

T. 2 — pp p sf p sf p p p
mm e mm e mm e e e mm

B. 1 — pp p sf p mp sf p mp
mm i i i e u u mm e mm e e

B. 2 — pp p mp p mp sf sfp mp
u u u u u u u u u u u u

19

S. 1 — mp p mp p mp p mp
u o u a a mm u o u a a mm u o u a a mm o o

S. 2 — p mp p mp p mp
a a mm u o u a a mm u o u a a mm o u

A. 1 — p mp p mp p mp p mp p
a a mm a u a a mm u u u u a a u o o o o u u

A. 2 — p mp mp p mp p mp p mp
a a mm a a a u a a mm u u u u a a u o o o o o o u

T. 1 — mp p mp p mp p mp p mp p
a a mm a a mm a a mm u u u u u a a o o o o o u u u o o

T. 2 — mp p mp mp p mp p mp p mp
a a a a a a mm a a u u u u u a a o o o o o u u o o o

B. 1 — p mp p mp p mp p
a a a a mm mm a a u u u u u a a o o o o o o u u

B. 2 — p mp p mp p mp p mp
u o u a a mm u o u a a u u u o u a a o o o o o o o u u

SAMPLE

23

S. 1 — mp p sfz mf mp mf mp
o o u u o u o u o u o u a

S. 2 — mp p mp sfz mf mp mf mp
o u o u o u u o o o u u a

A. 1 — mp p mf mp mf mp mf
o u o o u o u o u o o o o o

A. 2 — p mp p mp mf mp mf mp mf
o o o u u o u u o o

T. 1 — p mp mf mp mf
o o u u u o u u o u o o

T. 2 — p mp mf mp mf
o o o o u o o o o u u o u o o o

B. 1 — mp mf mp mf
o o o u o o o u o

B. 2 — mp mf mp mf
u o u u u u o

26

S. 1 — mf f mf sfz f
a a a a o a a a a a i a a a i a a a i a

S. 2 — mf f mf sfz f
a a a a a a a a a a a i a a a i a a a i a

A. 1 — f mf f
o a a a o a a a a a a a a a i a a a i a a a i a

A. 2 — f mf f
o a a a o a a a a a a i a a a i a o a a i a

T. 1 — mp mf f mf f
o a a o a a o a a a o a a a i a o a a i a

T. 2 — mp mf f mf f
o a a o a a o a a a o a a a i a o a a i a

B. 1 — mp mf f mf f
o o a o a a a a a a a i a i a a i a

B. 2 — mp mf f mf f
o o a o a a a a a a a i a i a a i a

SAMPLE

29

S. 1 — mf f mf f — o a i a o a i a a e e u u u e e u e a a a a a i a

S. 2 — mf f mf f — o a i a o a i a u a i a u a i a e e u u u e e e

A. 1 — mf f mf f — o a i a o a i a u a i a u a i a u a i a u u u u

A. 2 — mf f mf f — o a i a o a i a u a i a u a i a u a i a u a i a

T. 1 — mf f mf f — o a a i a o a a i a u a a i a a a u u a a i a a a i a

T. 2 — mf f mf f — o a a i a o a a i a u a u u a u u a a i a a a i a

B. 1 — mf f mf f — i a a i a i a a i a a i a a u a u e e u u u e e e

B. 2 — mf f mf f — i a a i a i a a a e e u u u e e u a a a e e

Molto sostenuto. Facilemente

♪ = 180

*"The color of where you can never go. For the blue is not in the place those miles away at the horizon, but in the atmospheric distance between you and the mountains."*

C

32

S. 1 — mp p mp ord. p mp — i i i i i i i i mm i i i i i i i mm

S. 2 — mp p mp ord. ord. p mp p mp — i i i i i i i i i i mm i i i i i i mm

A. 1 — mp p mp ord. ord. p mp p mp — i i i i i i i i i mm i i i i i i mm

A. 2 — mp p mp ord. ord. p mp — mm mm i i i i i i i i i

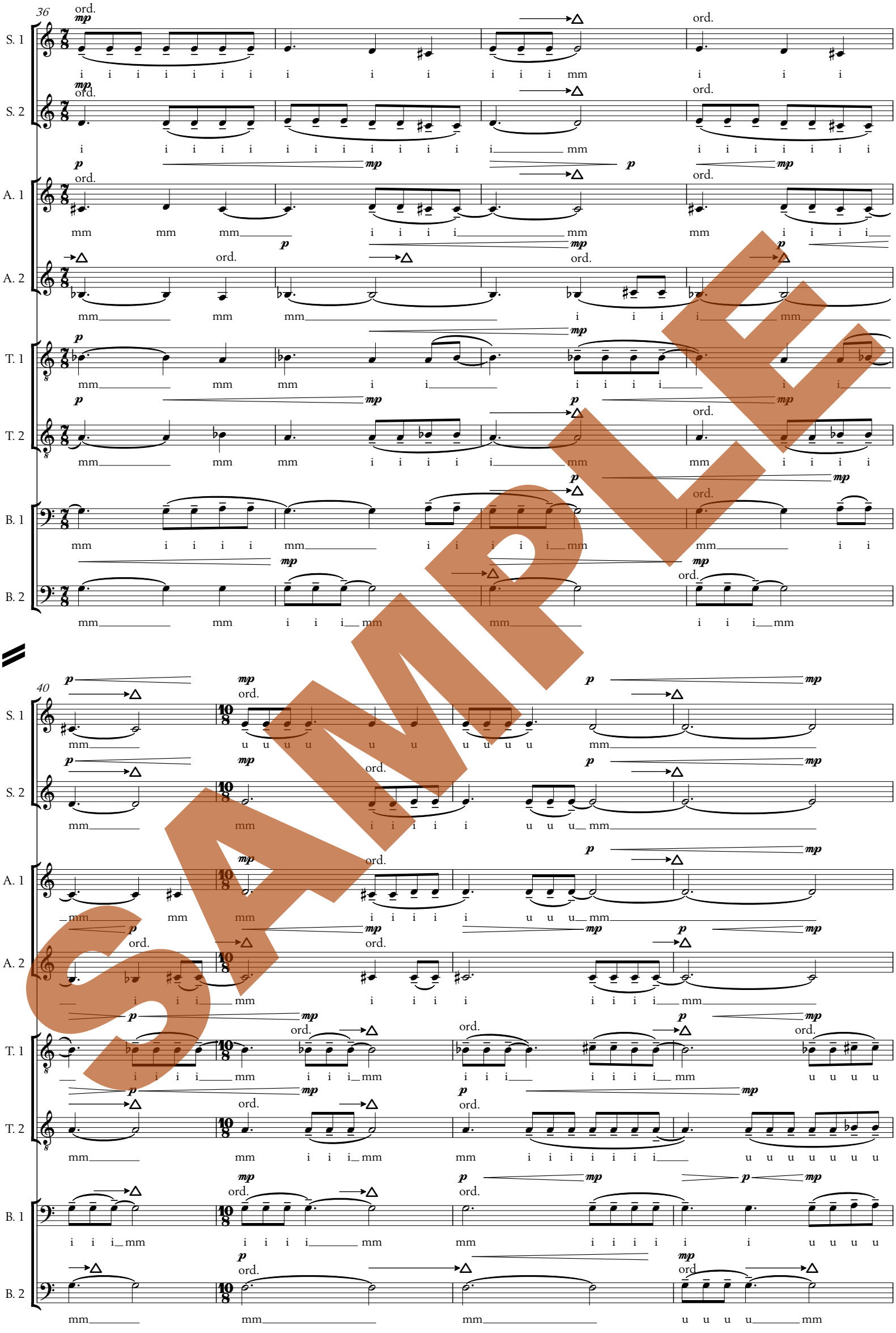
T. 1 — mp p mp ord. ord. p mp ord. — mm i i i i mm i i i i i i i

T. 2 — mp p mp p mp ord. — mm i i i mm i i i

B. 1 — mp p mp p mp ord. — mm i i i i i mm mm i i i i

B. 2 — mp p mp p mp ord. — mm i i i i i mm mm

SAMPLE


36
S. 1
S. 2
A. 1
A. 2
T. 1
T. 2
B. 1
B. 2
40
ord.
mp
p
i i i i i i i i i i i i i mm i i i
i i i i i i i i i i i i i mm i i i i i i i
mm mm mm i i i i mm mm i i i i
mm mm mm i i i i mm
mm mm mm i i i i i mm
mm mm mm i i i i i mm mm i i i i
mm i i i i mm i i i i i mm mm i i
mm mm i i i mm mm i i i mm
mm u u u u u u u u u u mm
mm mm i i i i i u u u mm
mm mm mm i i i i i u u u mm
i i i i mm i i i i i i i i mm
i i i i mm i i i mm i i i i i i i mm u u u u
mm mm i i i mm mm i i i i i i i u u u u u u u
i i i mm i i i i mm mm i i i i i i u u u u
mm mm mm u u u u mm

SAMPLE

44

S. 1 — p ord. | p mp | p ord. | p mp | p ord. | p ord.
mm i i i i mm i i i i i i mm u u u u u u u u

S. 2 — p ord. | p mp | p ord. | mp
mm i i i mm i i i i i i u u u u u u u u

A. 1 — p mp ord. | p mp | p mp ord. | p mp ord. | p ord.
mm u u u u mm i i i i i i i mm u u

A. 2 — p mp ord. | p mp | p ord. | p mp | p
mm u u u mm mm i i mm u

T. 1 — p mp | p mp ord. | p mp ord. | p mp | p ord.
mm u u u u mm i i i i mm i i i i mm u u

T. 2 — p mp | p ord. | mp ord. | p | p ord.
mm u u u mm u u mm i i i i i i mm u

B. 1 — ord. | p mp | p
u u u u mm i i i i i i i i i u u u u u u u

B. 2 — ord. | ord. | mp ord. | p
u u u mm i i i mm i i i i i i u u u u u u u u u

48

S. 1 — p | ord.
i i i i i i i i i mm u u u mm mm

S. 2 — p | ord. | mp | ord.
u i i i i mm i i i i i i i mm

A. 1 — p | p ord. | ord.
i i mm i i i i i mm i i i i i mm i i i mm

A. 2 — p | ord. | p
u i i i i mm i i i i i i i i i i i i

T. 1 — mp | p | ord. | p | p
u u u u u mm i i i i i i i i i i i mm

T. 2 — p ord. | p | p
u u u mm i i i i i mm i i i i i i i i i i

B. 1 — p | ord.
u u i i i i i mm mm mm

B. 2 — p | ord.
u u u u u u u u i i i mm mm mm

SAMPLE

53

S. 1 S. 2 A. 1 A. 2 T. 1 T. 2 B. 1 B. 2

rit.

D Cantabile, calmato.
♩. = 40

59 *"...the blue at the farthest reaches of the places where you see for miles, the blue of distance..."*

hand trem.

SAMPLE

65

S. 1 — p mp p gliss. pp — i a i — pp — mm

S. 2 — p mp p hand trem. — pp p pp — u u u

A. 1 — pp p mp p — mm mm mm — pp gliss. gliss. — mm mm mm mm

A. 2 — p hand trem. pp — o — mm

T. 1 — gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. p gliss. — mm mm mm mm — pp gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. — mm mm

T. 2 — pp p gliss. gliss. ord. pp — mm mm mm — pp p — u u

B. 1 — pp p — u — pp hand trem. — u

B. 2 — pp mp p hand trem. — u

71

S. 1 — mp p p mp > p pp — u u u — p pp mp hand trem. pp — a i a i a i a — mm

S. 2 — p mp pp — mm mm mm mm mm — mp p pp hand trem. — o — mm — pp p — mm mm mm

A. 1 — p pp pp p pp gliss. gliss. p pp — mm mm mm mm — p hand trem. — u — mm

A. 2 — pp p — mm — pp — mm

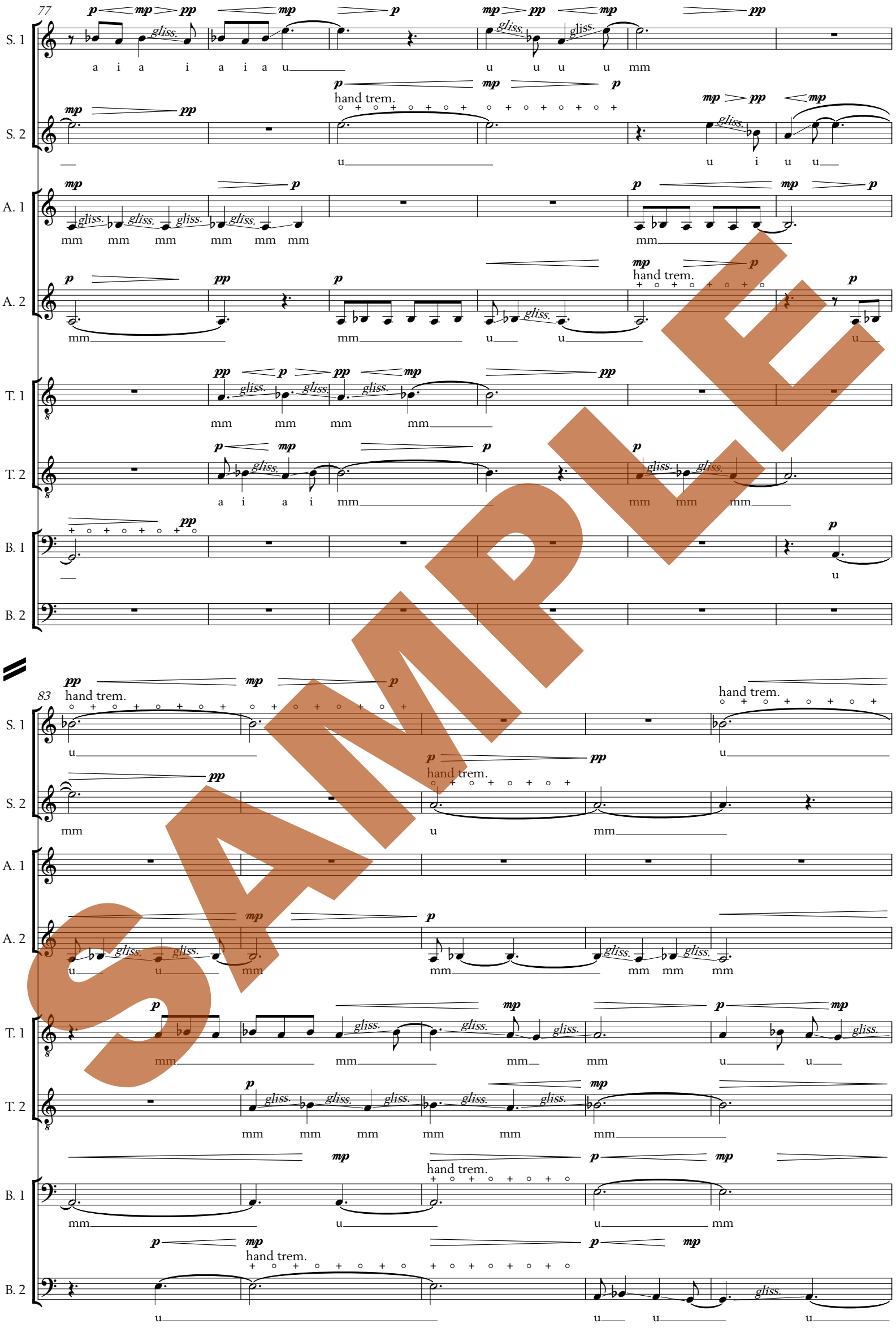
T. 1 — p gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. — mm mm mm mm — p hand trem. — u

T. 2 — p gliss. gliss. gliss. — mm mm mm mm — pp — mm

B. 1 — pp — pp p mp hand trem. — u — pp p — mm

B. 2

SAMPLE


77
S. 1
a i a i a i a u u u u u mm
S. 2
hand trem.
u u i u u
A. 1
mm mm mm mm mm mm mm
A. 2
mm mm u u u
T. 1
mm mm mm mm
T. 2
a i a i mm mm mm mm
B. 1
u
B. 2
83
hand trem.
S. 1
u u
S. 2
mm u mm
A. 1
A. 2
u u mm mm mm mm mm
T. 1
mm mm mm mm u u
T. 2
mm mm mm mm mm mm
B. 1
mm u u mm
B. 2
u u u u

SAMPLE

88

S. 1 — mp p | pp mf p | gliss. gliss. | u u u u u

S. 2 — p mf | p | hand trem. | p | u u u mm

A. 1 — mp p mp p mp

A. 2 — hand trem. hand trem. | u mm u mm u

T. 1 — p p mp p mp | u mm u mm u

T. 2 — p p mp p mp | gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. | u mm mm mm mm

B. 1 — p mp p mp | u mm u mm u

B. 2 — hand trem. | p | u mm u

93

S. 1 — mf p | gliss. | u u mm u i

S. 2 — mp | hand trem. | mp p | u u u u i

A. 1 — p mp mf p | gliss. gliss. | u u u u u i

A. 2 — p mp p mp p | hand trem. | mm u u u i

T. 1 — p | hand trem. | mp p mp p | u u u u i

T. 2 — gliss. gliss. | gliss. gliss. gliss. | mf p | gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. | mm mm mm mm uu u u i

B. 1 — p | hand trem. | p | mm u u i

B. 2 — p mp mf p | gliss. | mm a i a u u i

SAMPLE

Con anima. Scioltamente

♩= 60

E

*"The world is blue at its edges and in its depths."*

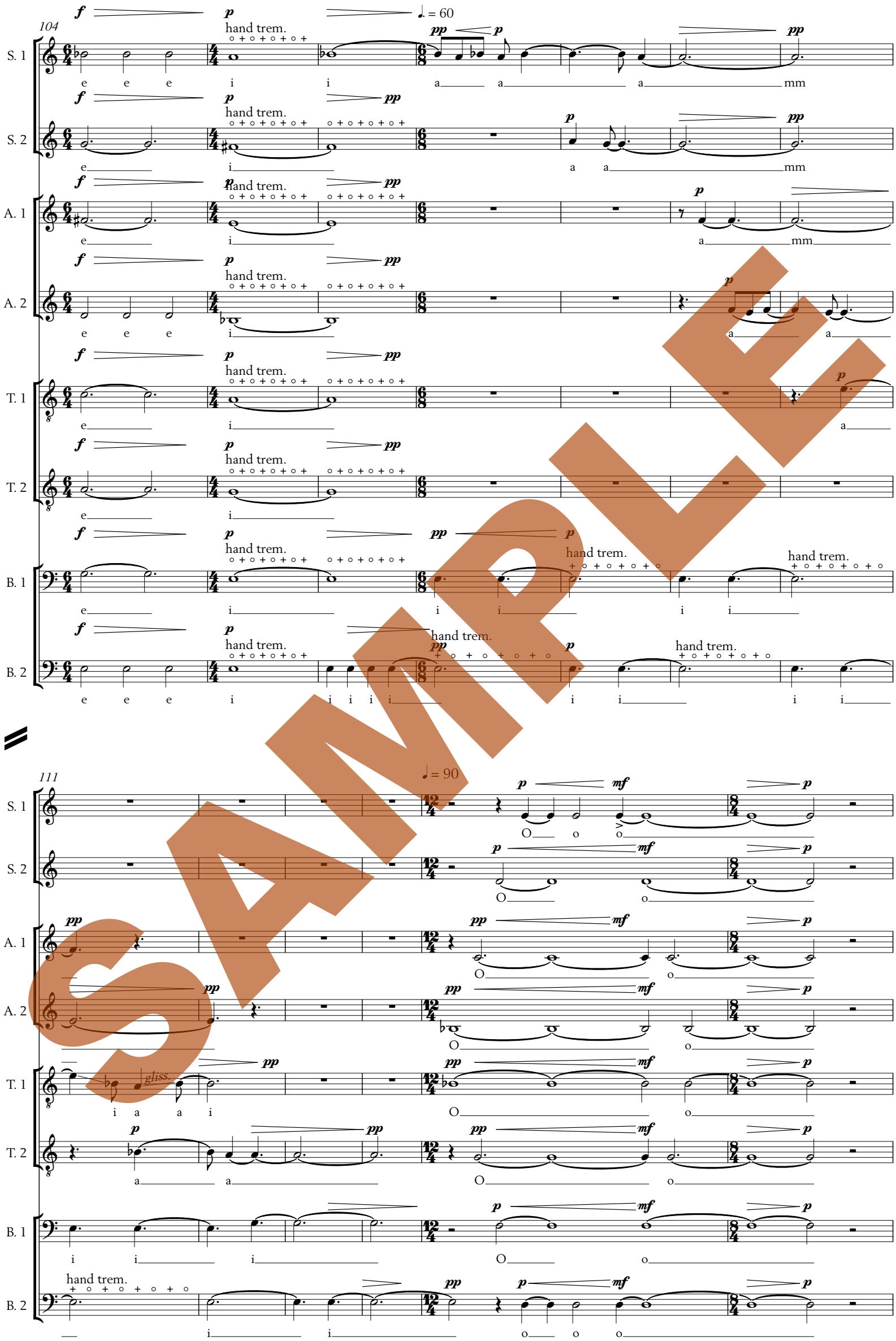
98

S. 1
S. 2
A. 1
A. 2
T. 1
T. 2
B. 1
B. 2

hand trem.

102

SAMPLE




SAMPLE

117

S. 1
S. 2
A. 1
A. 2
T. 1
T. 2
B. 1
B. 2

120

S. 1
S. 2
A. 1
A. 2
T. 1
T. 2
B. 1
B. 2

SAMPLE

123

S. 1 — f ff mp f p — o o o i e e e e i e e e e

S. 2 — f ff mp f p — o i e i e

A. 1 — f ff mp f p — o i e i e

A. 2 — f ff mp f p — o i e e e e i e e e e

T. 1 — f ff mp f p — o i e i e

T. 2 — f ff mp f p — o i e i e

B. 1 — f ff mp f p — o i e i e

B. 2 — f ff mp f p — o o i e e e e i e e e e

128

S. 1 — f pp mf f ff — i u u i i

S. 2 — f pp mf f ff — i u u i i

A. 1 — f pp mf f ff — i u u i i

A. 2 — f pp mf f ff — i u u i i

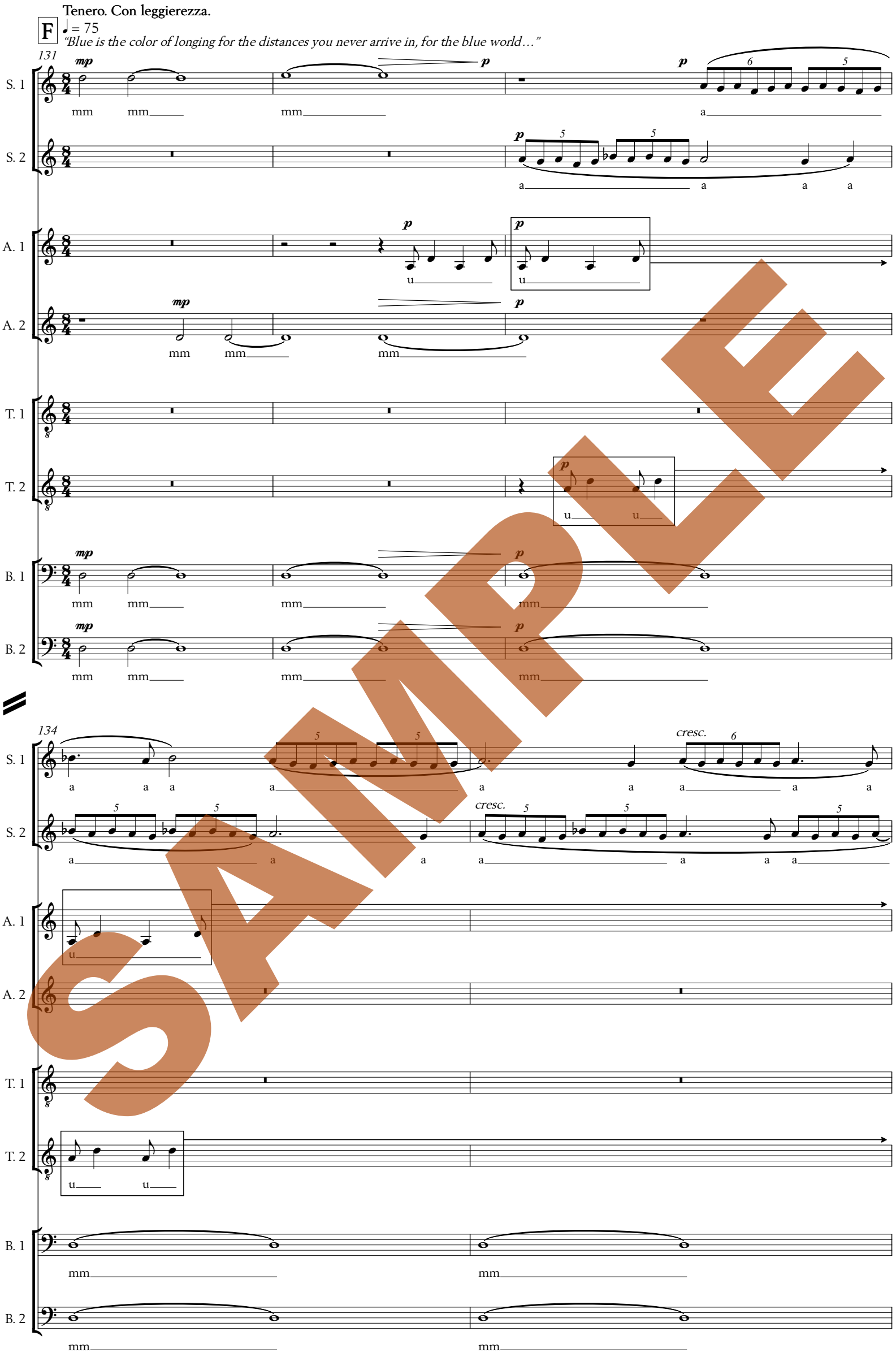
T. 1 — f pp mf f ff — i u u i i

T. 2 — f pp mf f ff — i u u i i

B. 1 — f pp mf f ff — i u u i i

B. 2 — f pp mf f ff — i u u u u u i i

SAMPLE


Tenero. Con leggierezza.
F
♩ = 75
"Blue is the color of longing for the distances you never arrive in, for the blue world…"
131
S. 1
S. 2
A. 1
A. 2
T. 1
T. 2
B. 1
B. 2
134
cresc.

SAMPLE

136

S. 1

S. 2

A. 1

A. 2

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1

B. 2

138

SAMPLE

140

S. 1 — *p* — a a mm — *p* — a mm — *pp*

S. 2 — *p* — a a mm — *pp*

A. 1 — u — *p* — mm — *pp* mm

A. 2 — *p* — i i i i u i i i i u i i i mm

T. 1 — mm mm mm

T. 2 — u u

B. 1 — *p* — i i i i u i i i i u i i i mm

B. 2 — mm mm mm

143

S. 1 — *pp* — mm — *p* — *mf* — a — *p* — mm

S. 2 — *pp* — *mf* — a — *p* — mm

A. 1 — *pp* — *mf* — a — *p* — mm

A. 2 — *pp* — *pp* — *mf* — a — *p* — mm

T. 1 — *pp* — *pp* — *mf* — mm a mm — *p*

T. 2 — *pp* — *mf* — a — *p* — mm

B. 1 — *pp* — *pp* — *mf* — a — *p* — mm

B. 2 — *pp* — *pp* — *mf* — mm a a mm — *p*

New York City
July- August 2010

SAMPLE