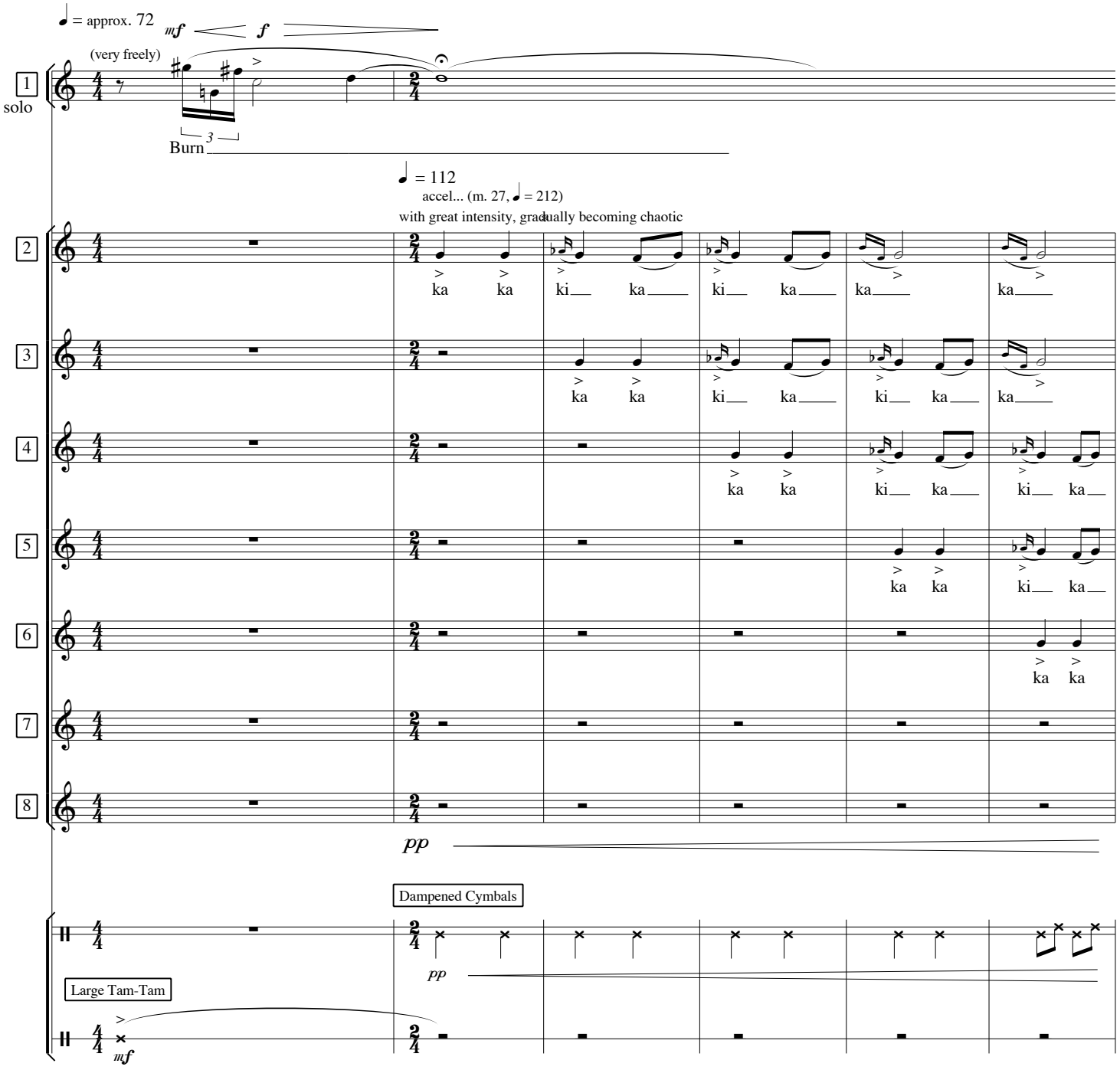
Burn

for Womens' or Childrens' voices and Percussion

16th Century Mayan Text
Translated by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

Emily Doolittle, 1996



*In this section, accents indicate which note is to be on the downbeat. Precise alignment of grace notes is not necessary.

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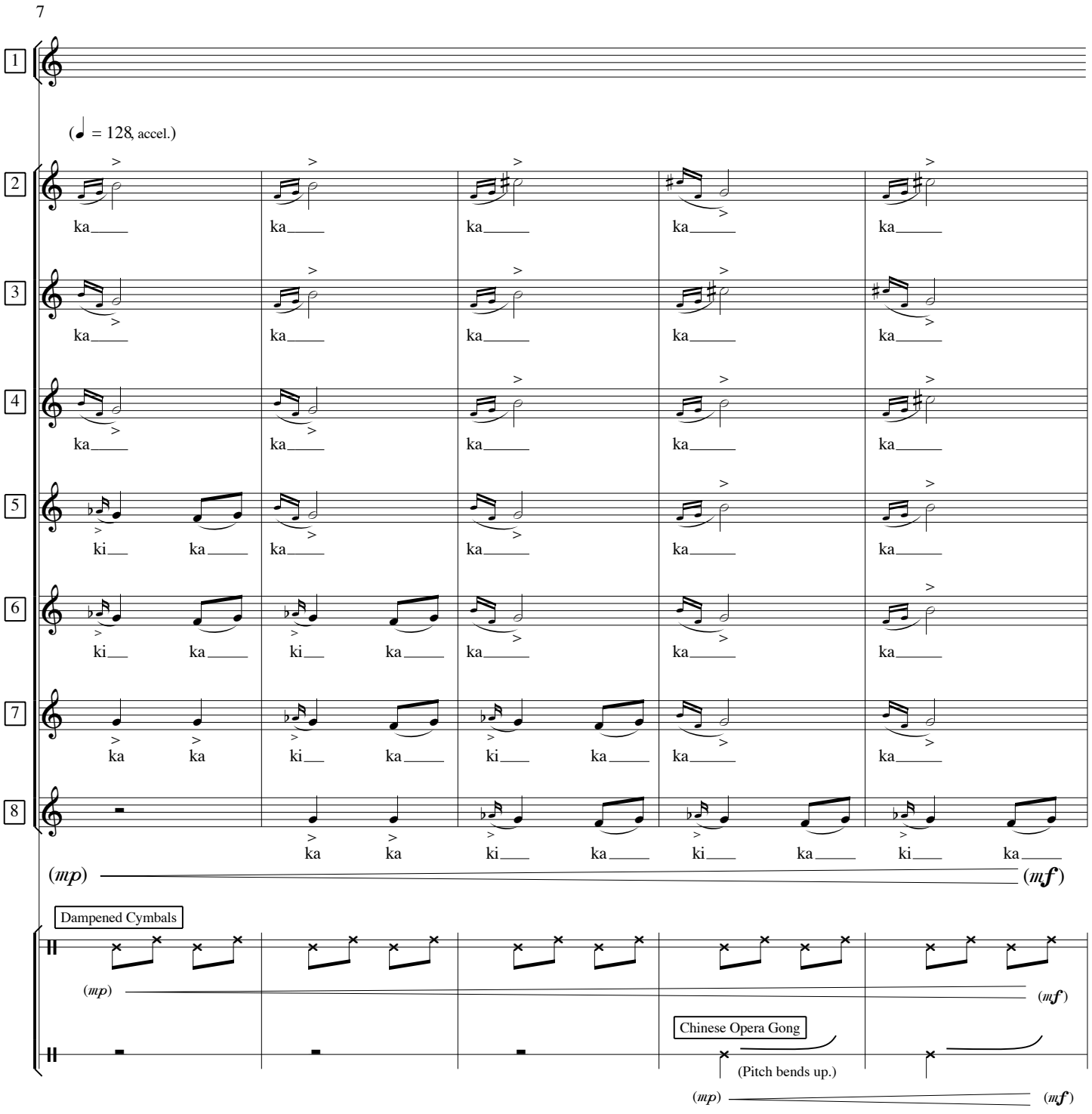
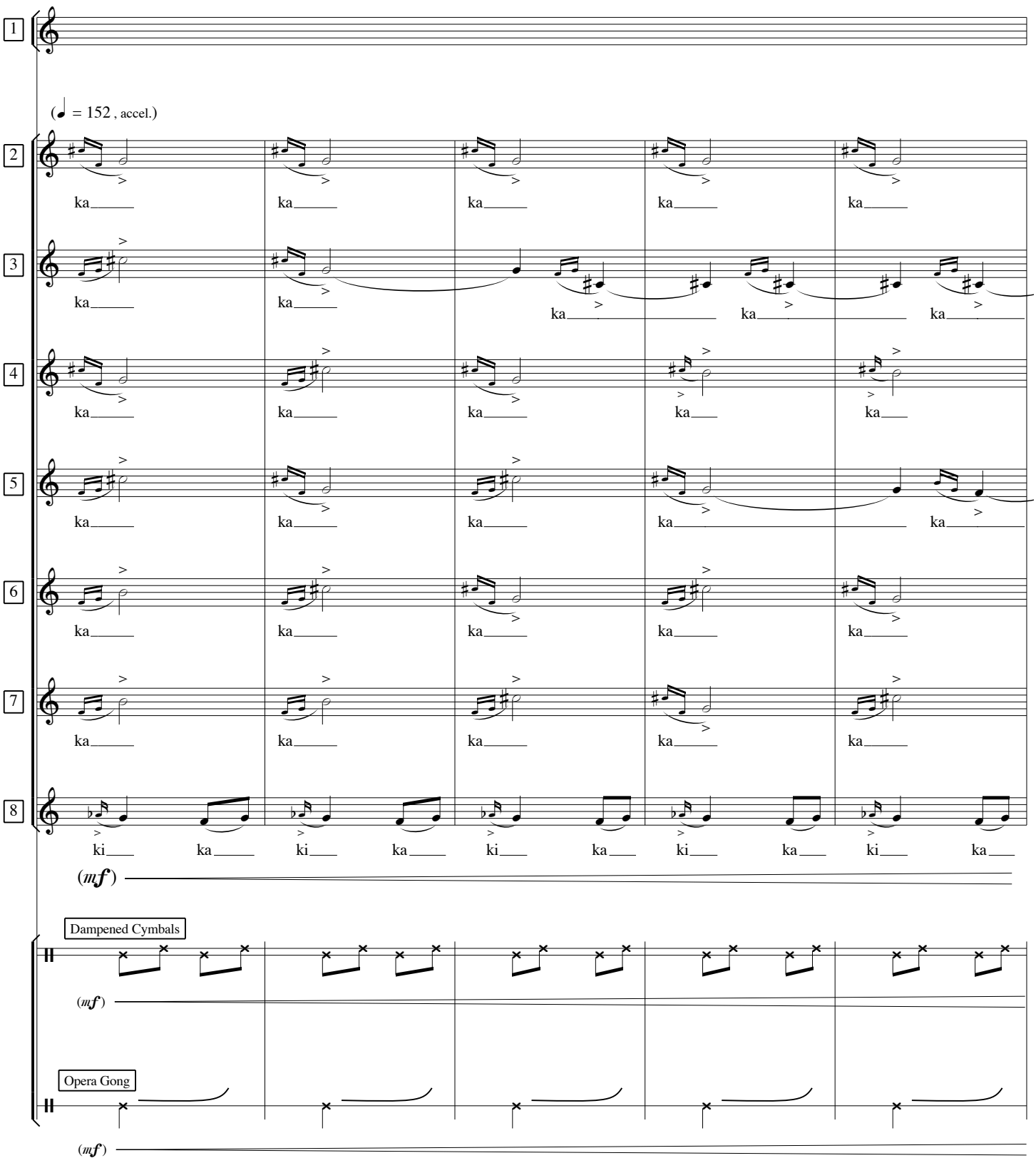
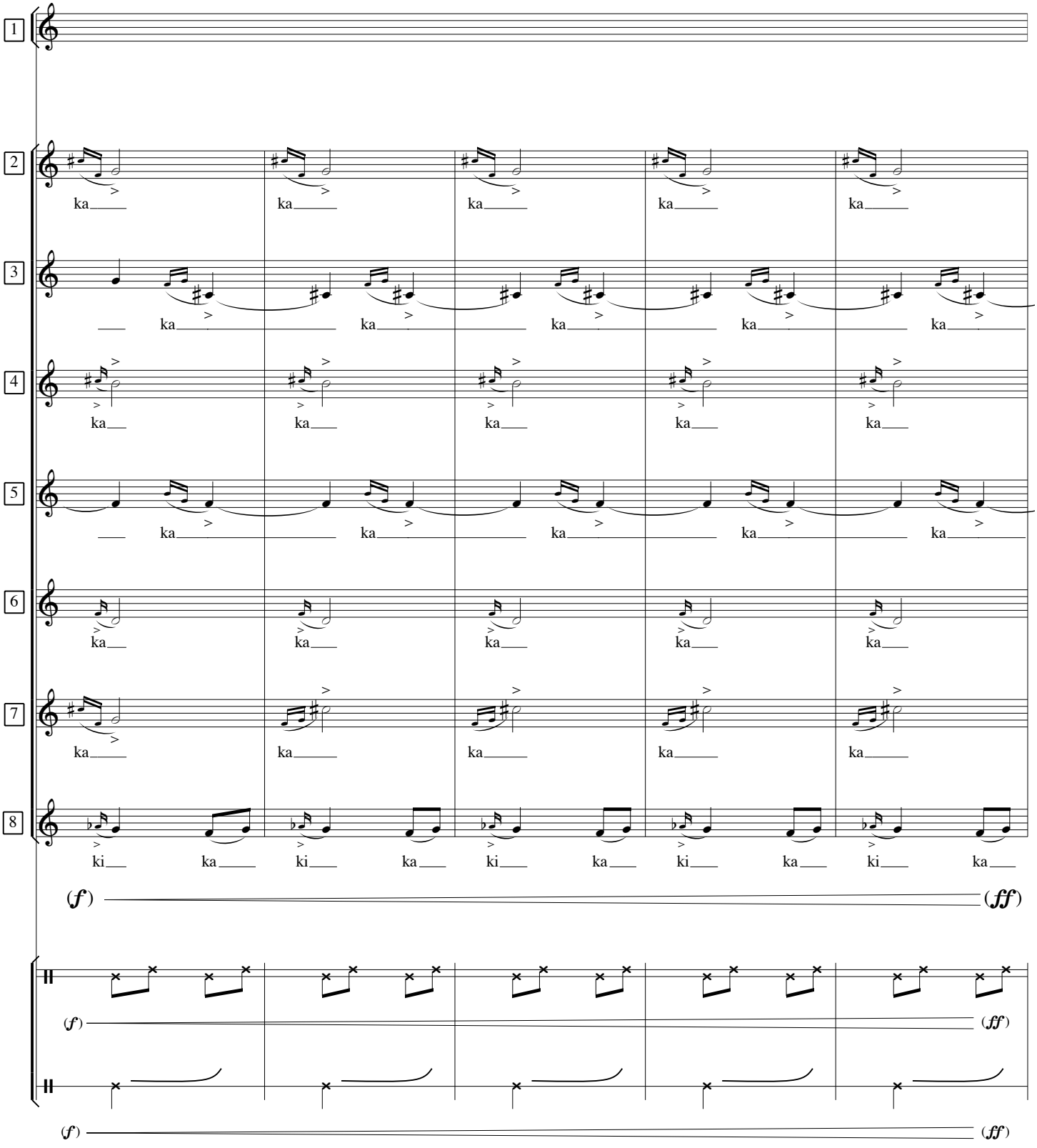
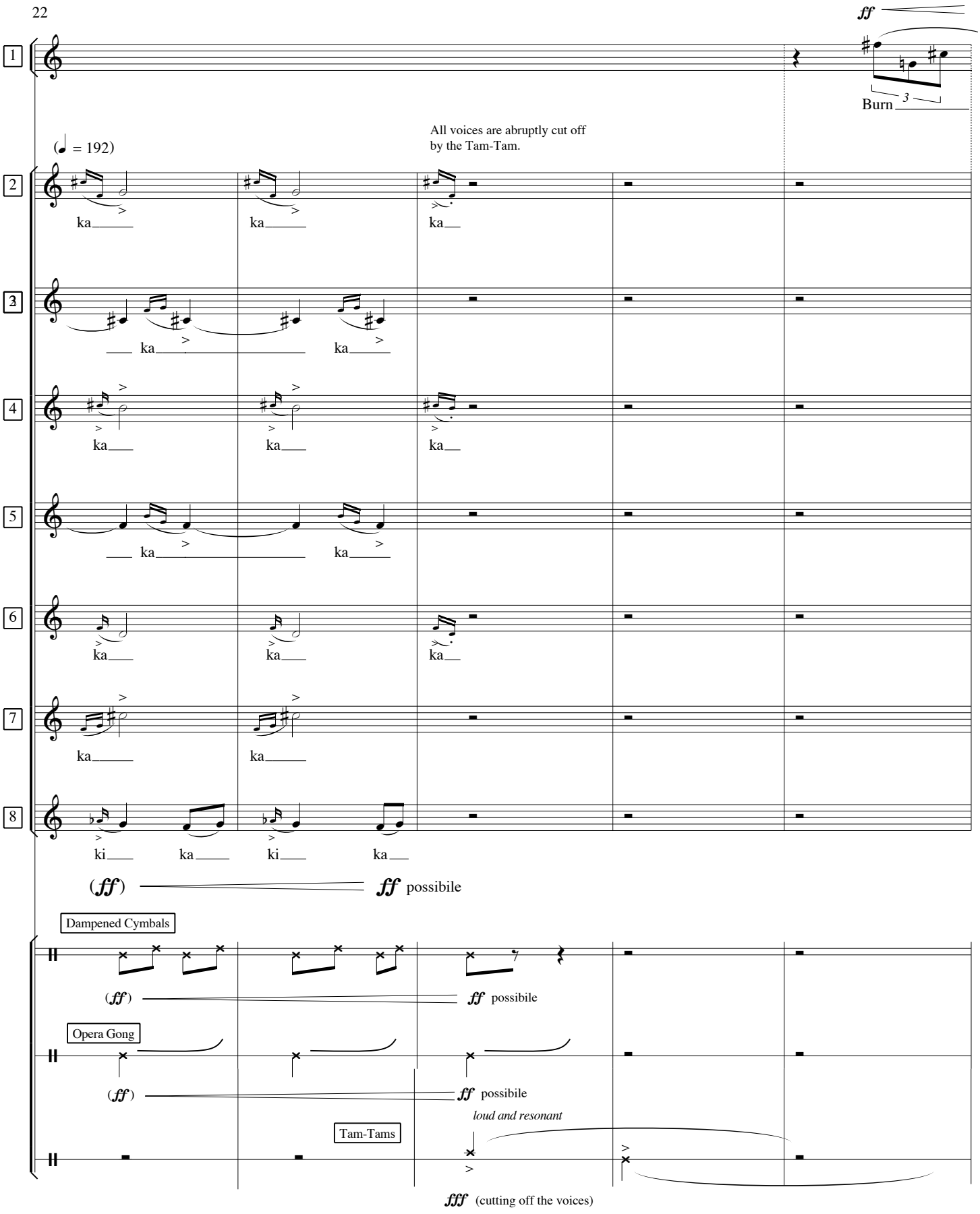
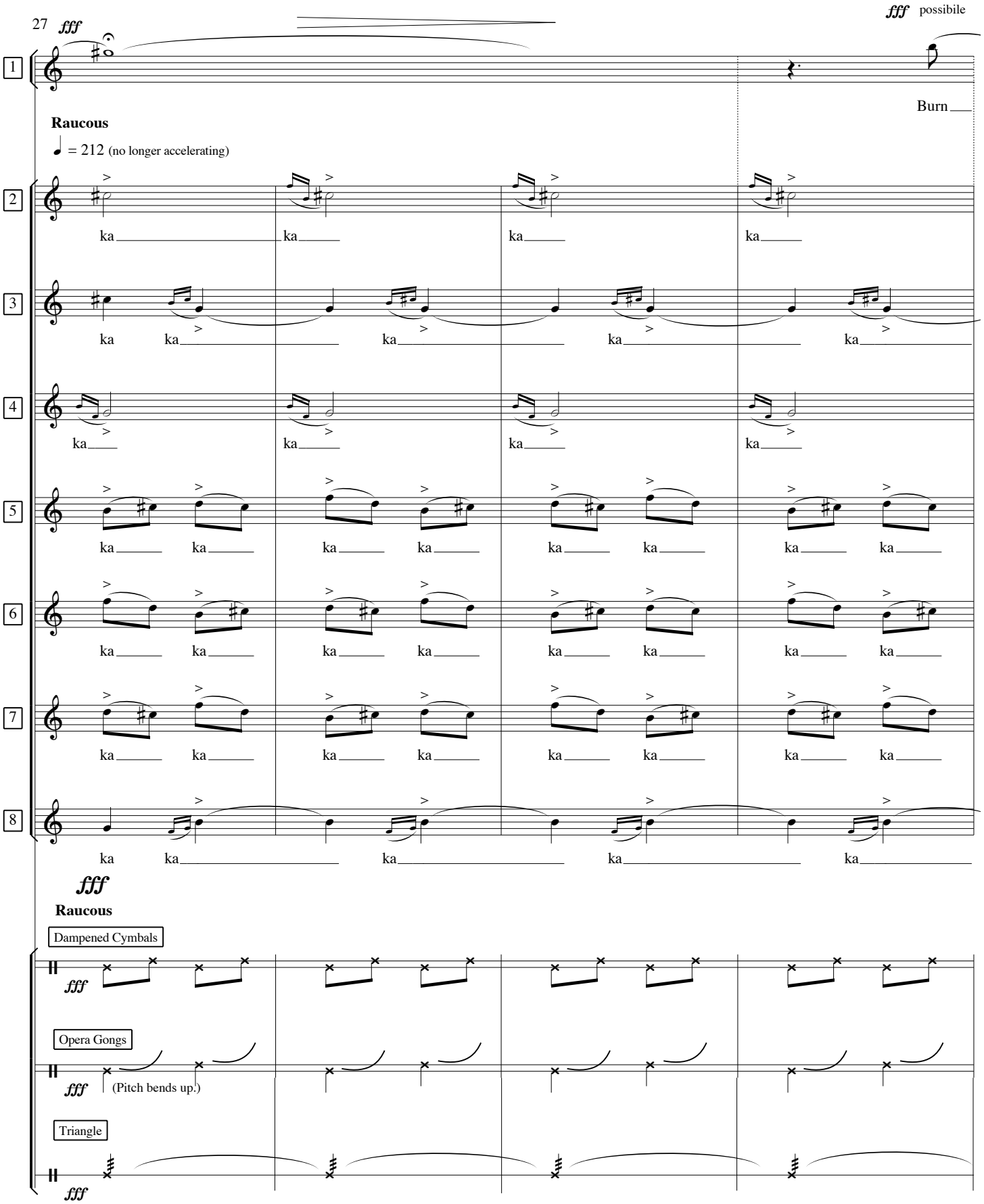
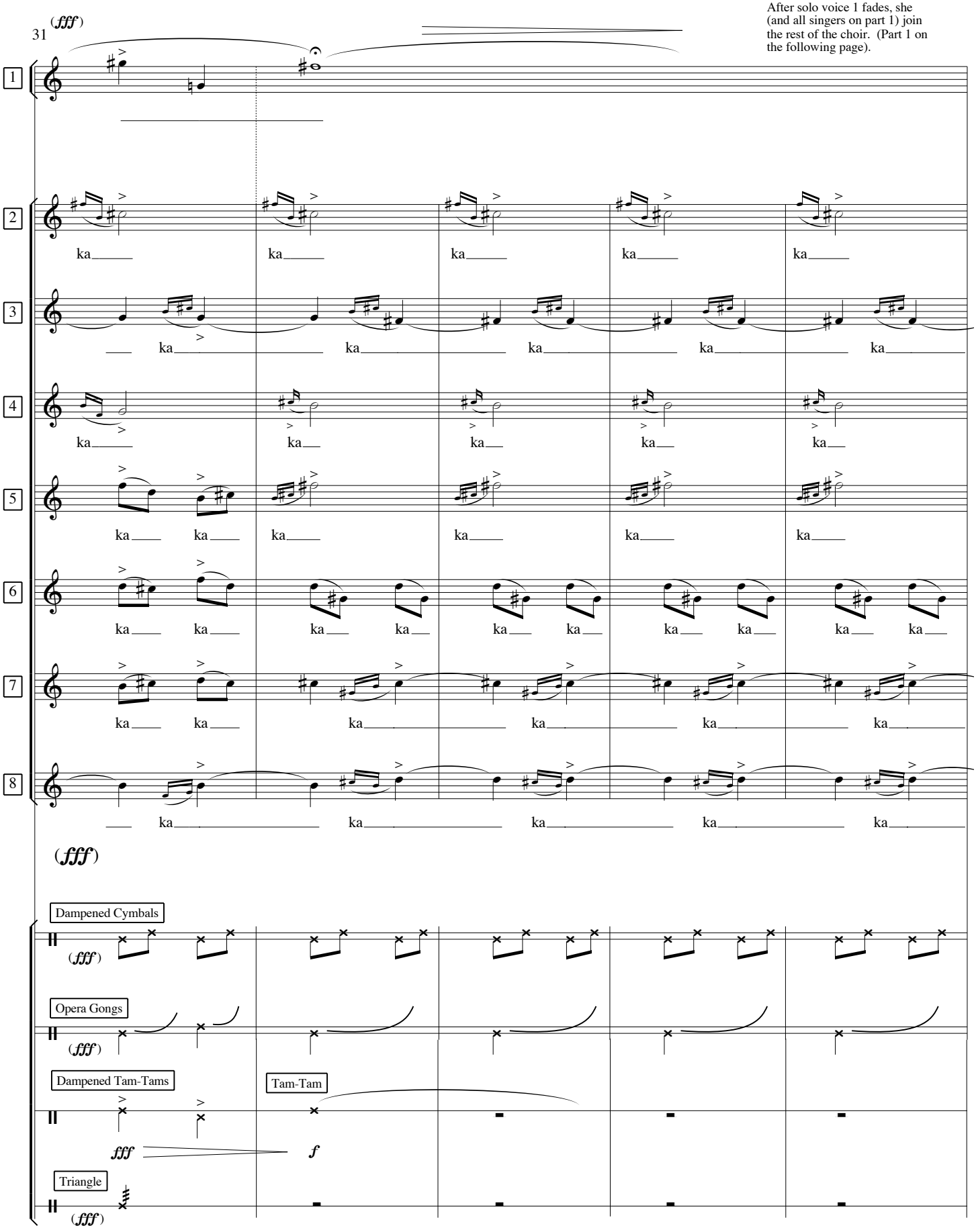

7
1
(♩ = 128, accel.)
2
ka ka ka ka ka
3
ka ka ka ka ka
4
ka ka ka ka ka
5
ki ka ka ka ka ka
6
ki ka ki ka ka ka ka
7
ka ka ki ka ki ka ka ka
8
ka ka ki ka ki ka ki ka
(mp)
(mf)
Dampened Cymbals
(mp)
(mf)
Chinese Opera Gong
(Pitch bends up.)
(mp)
(mf)


1
(♩ = 152 , accel.)
2
ka ka ka ka ka
3
ka ka ka ka ka
4
ka ka ka ka ka
5
ka ka ka ka ka
6
ka ka ka ka ka
7
ka ka ka ka ka
8
ki ka ki ka ki ka ki ka ki ka
(mf)
Dampened Cymbals
(mf)
Opera Gong
(mf)

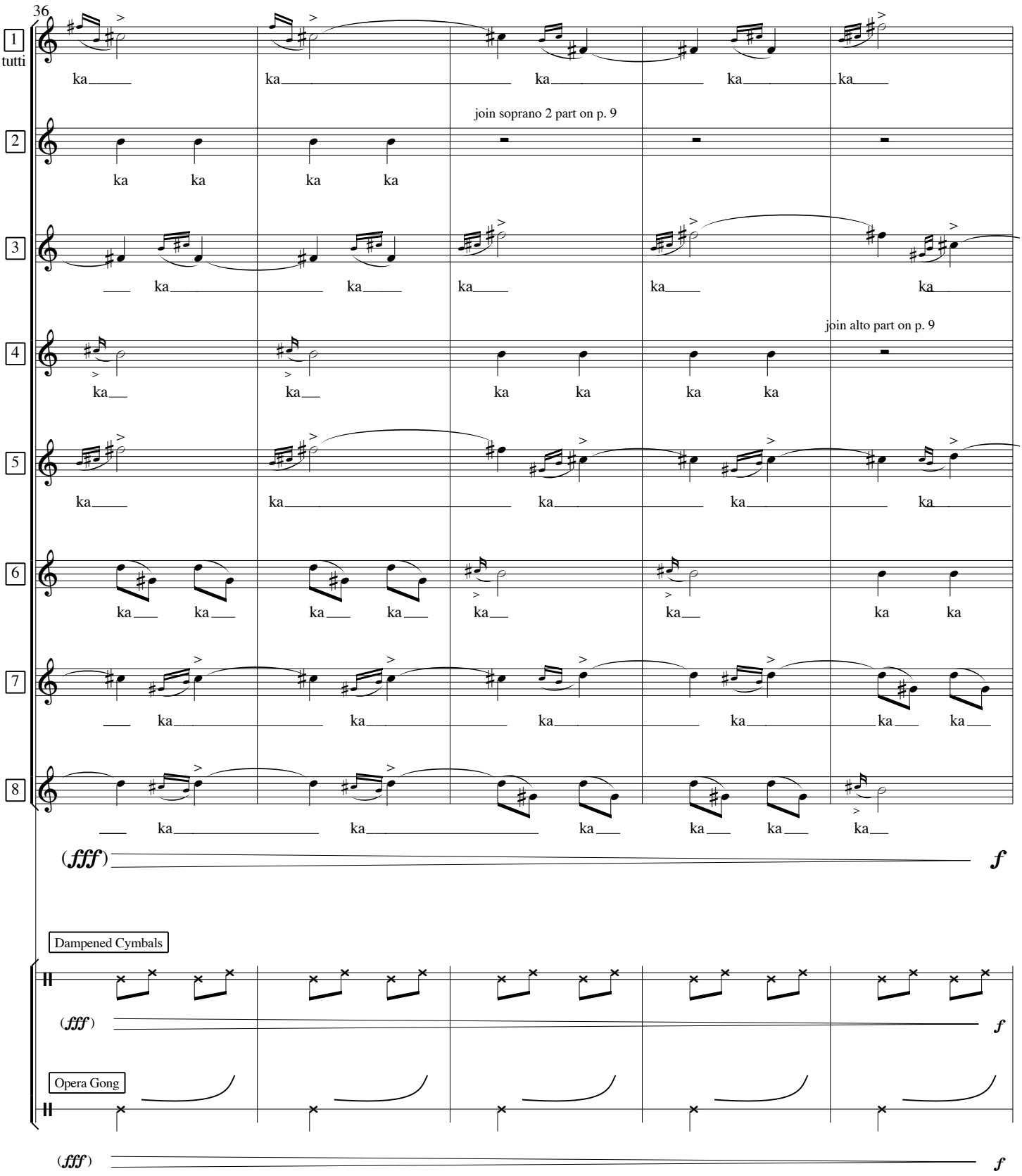

1
2
ka ka ka ka ka
3
ka ka ka ka ka
4
ka ka ka ka ka
5
ka ka ka ka ka
6
ka ka ka ka ka
7
ka ka ka ka ka
8
ki ka ki ka ki ka ki ka ki ka
(f) (ff)
(f) (ff)
(f) (ff)


ff
Burn
3
All voices are abruptly cut off by the Tam-Tam.
(♩ = 192)
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
ka
ki
(ff)
ff possibile
Dampened Cymbals
Opera Gong
Tam-Tams
loud and resonant
fff (cutting off the voices)

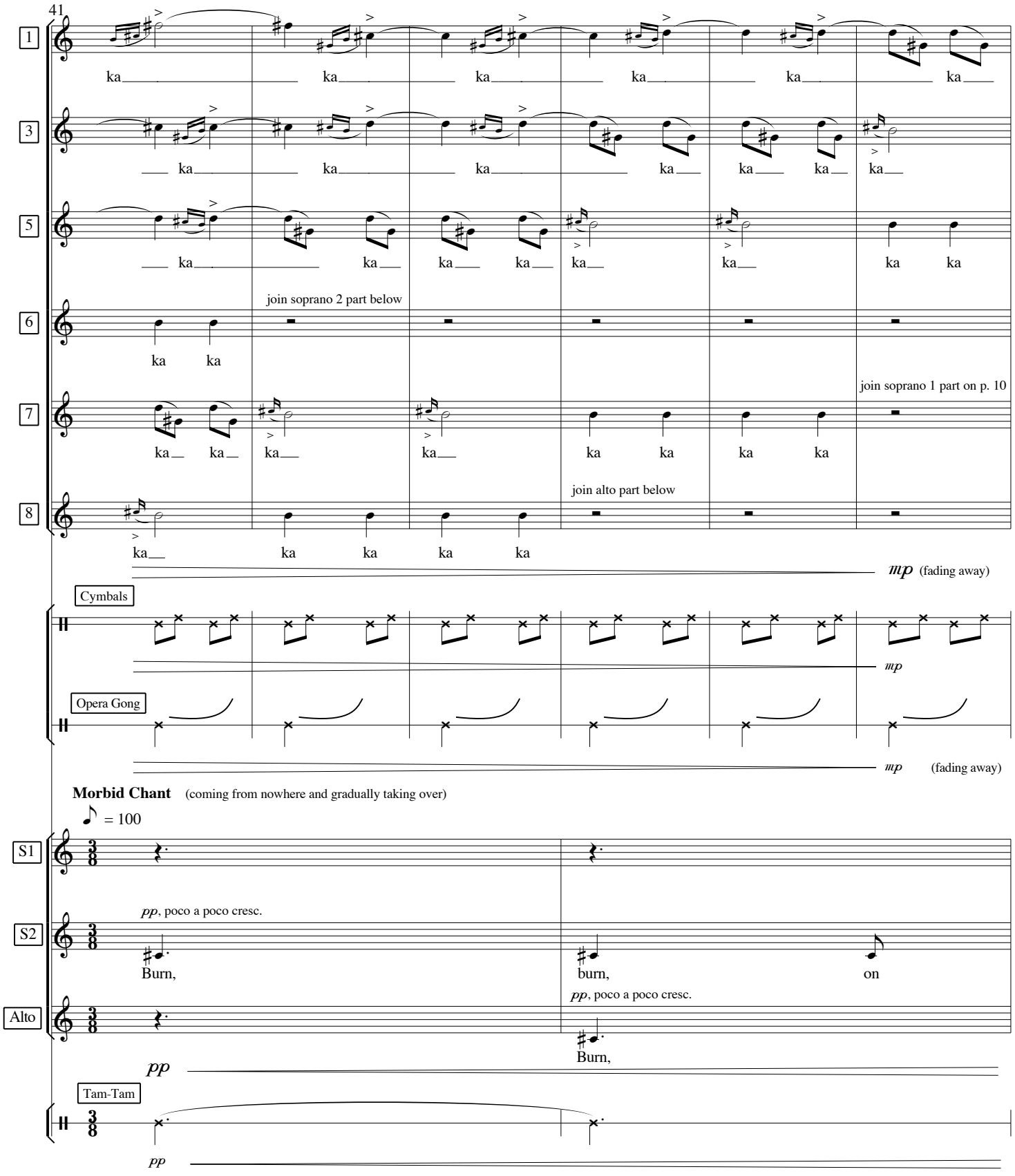

27
fff
fff possibile
Burn
Raucous
= 212 (no longer accelerating)
ka
fff
Raucous
Dampened Cymbals
Opera Gongs
(Pitch bends up.)
Triangle

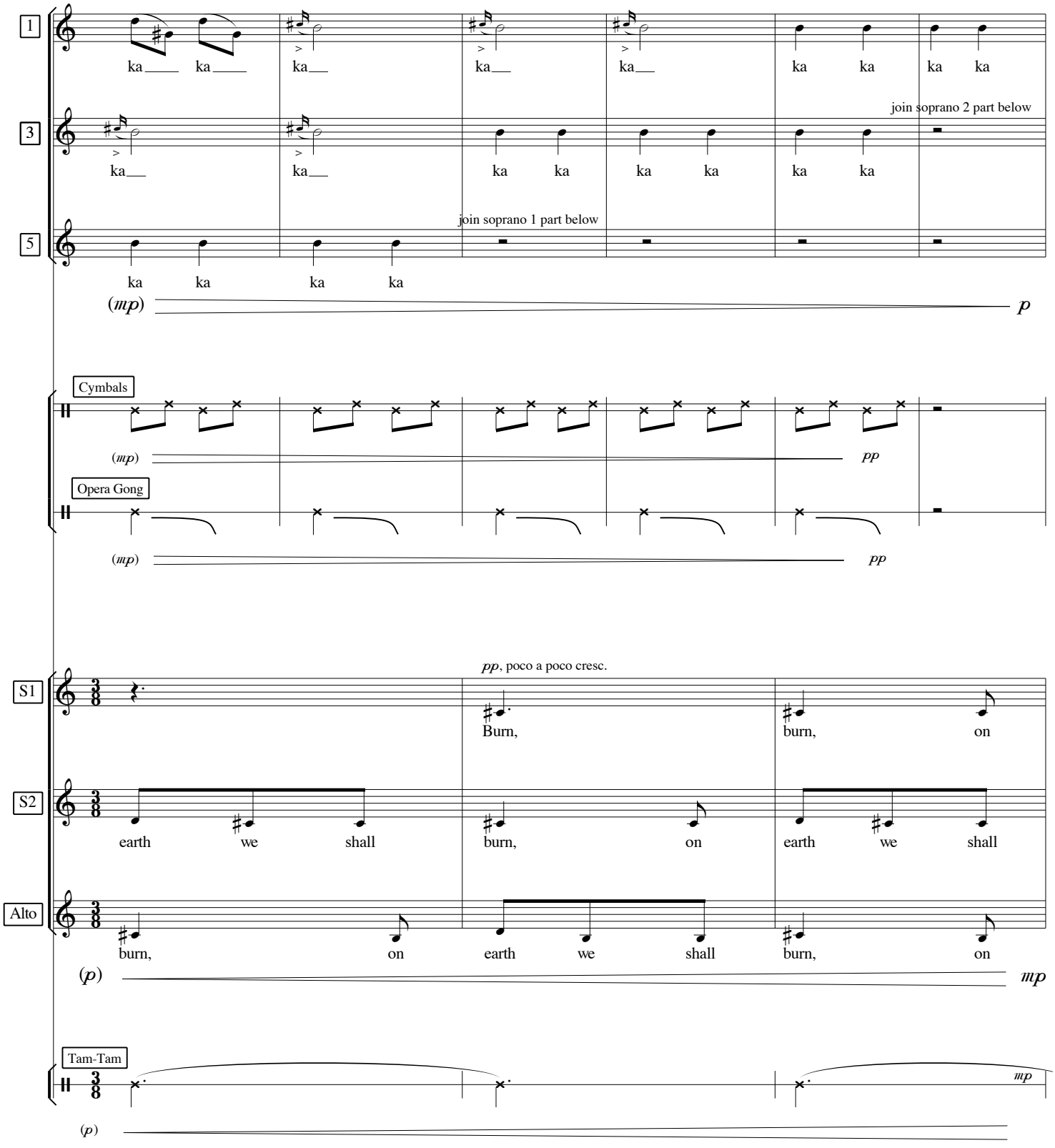

31
(fff)
After solo voice 1 fades, she (and all singers on part 1) join the rest of the choir. (Part 1 on the following page).
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
ka
(fff)
Dampened Cymbals
Opera Gongs
Dampened Tam-Tams
Tam-Tam
Triangle
fff
f

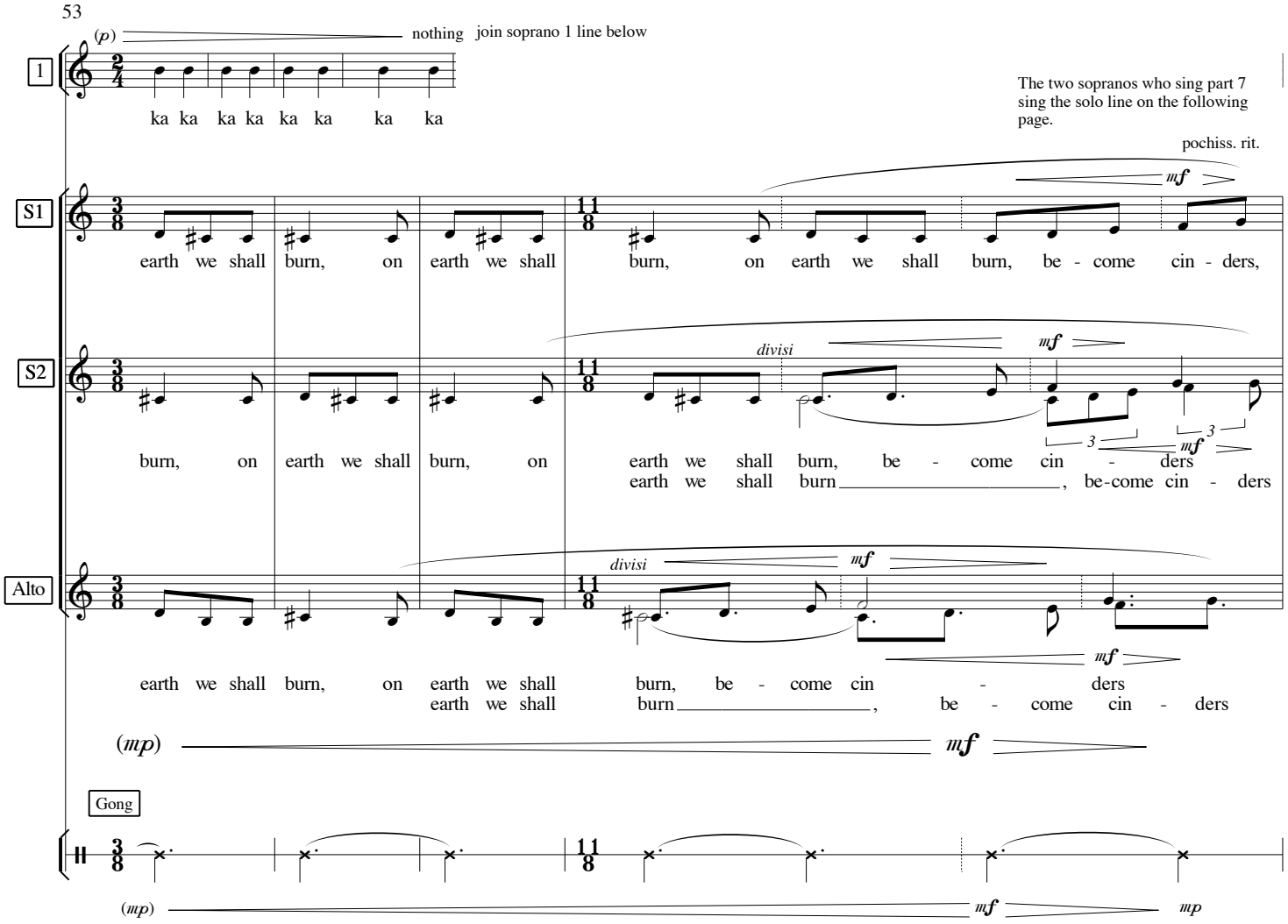
Beginning to lose energy (little by little decrescendo and ritardando.)



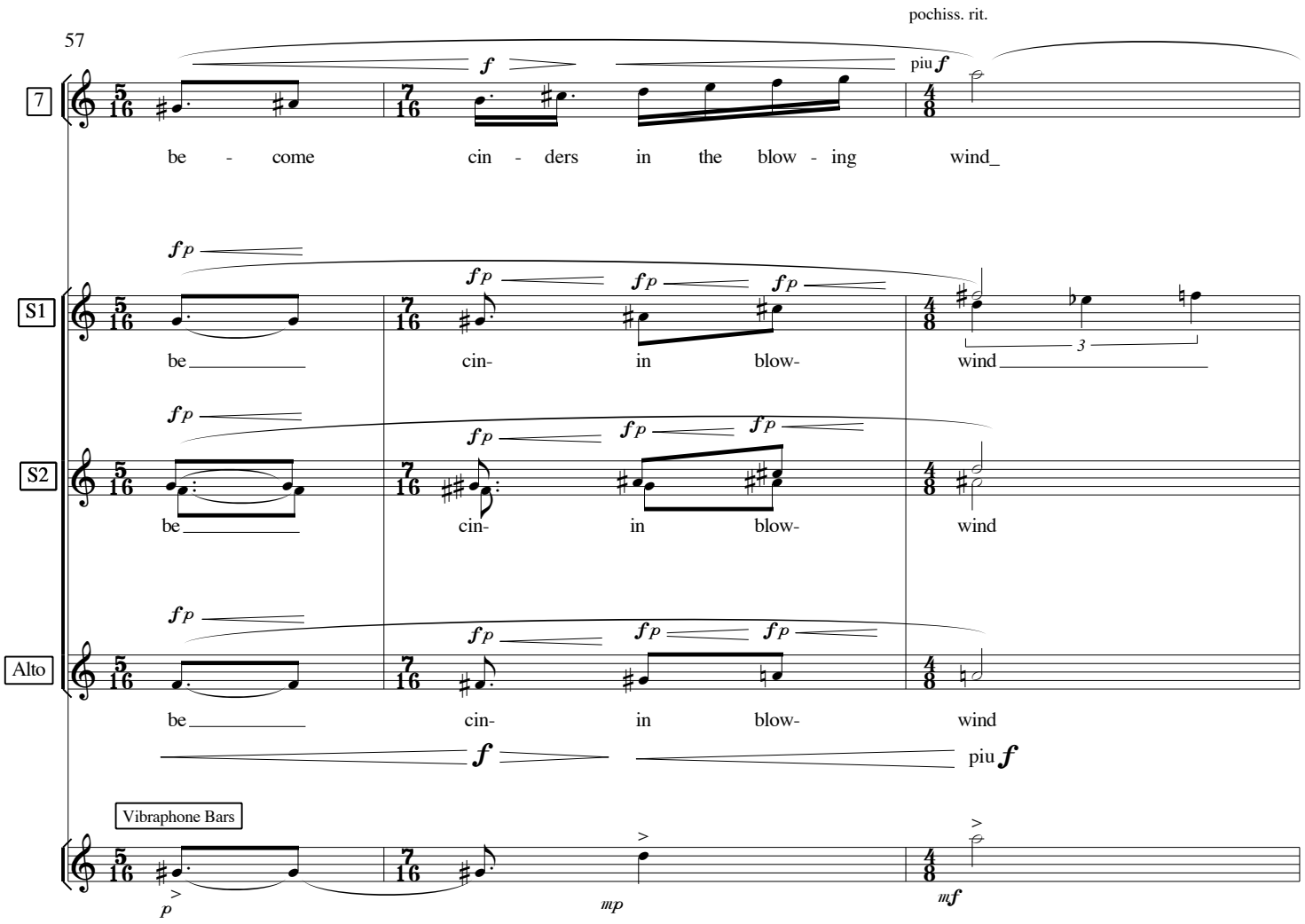
As parts 1 - 8 drop out one by one, they join the S1, S2, and A music at the bottom of the page. Alignment of the measures between the two sections is only approximate, as the 2/4 music is gradually slowing down while the 3/8 music is strictly in tempo.



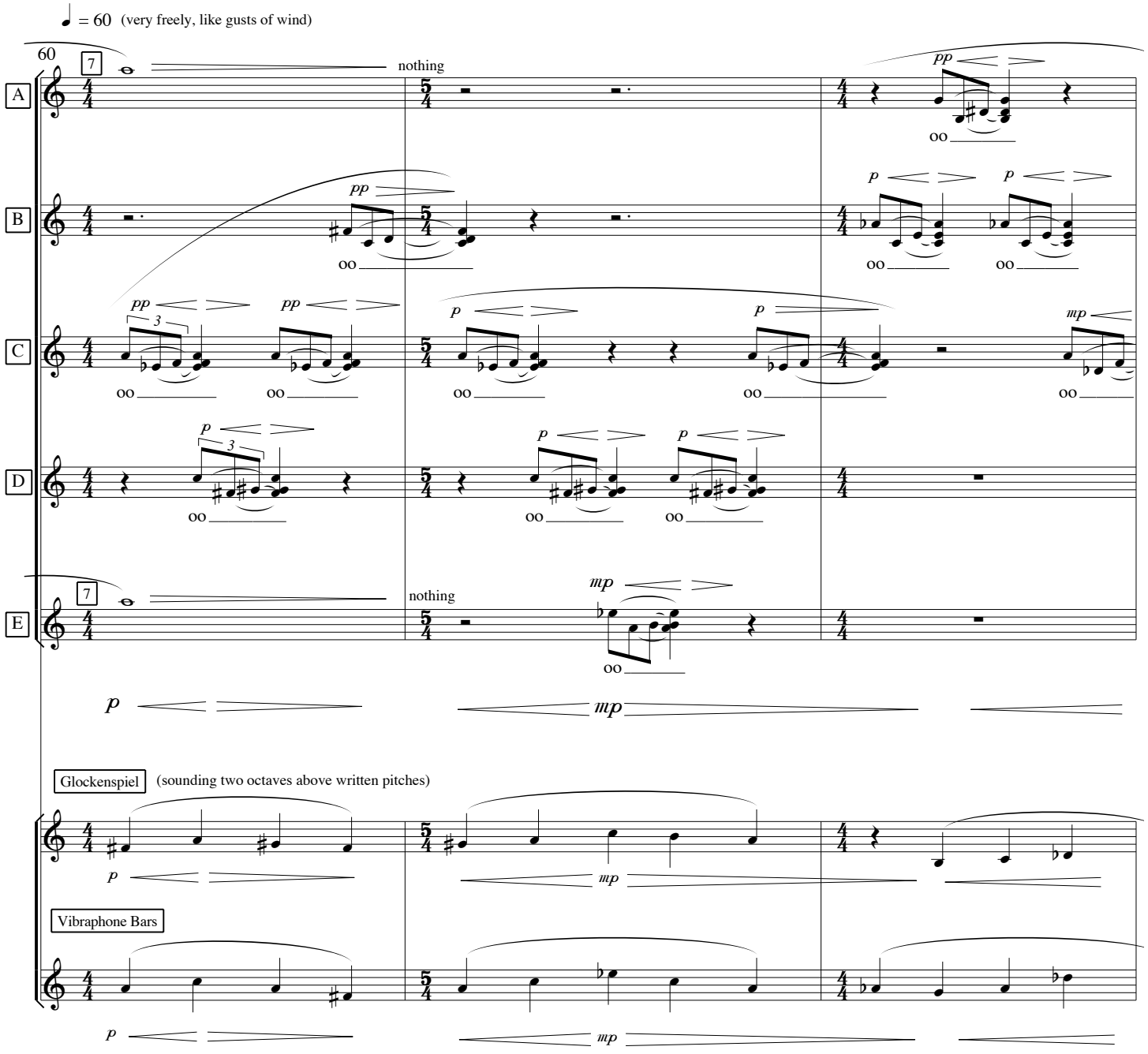

1
ka ka ka ka ka ka ka ka ka ka
3
join soprano 2 part below
ka ka ka ka ka ka ka ka
5
join soprano 1 part below
ka ka ka ka
(mp)
p
Cymbals
(mp)
pp
Opera Gong
(mp)
pp
pp, poco a poco cresc.
S1
Burn, burn, on
S2
earth we shall burn, on earth we shall
Alto
burn, on earth we shall burn, on
(p)
mp
Tam-Tam
mp
(p)

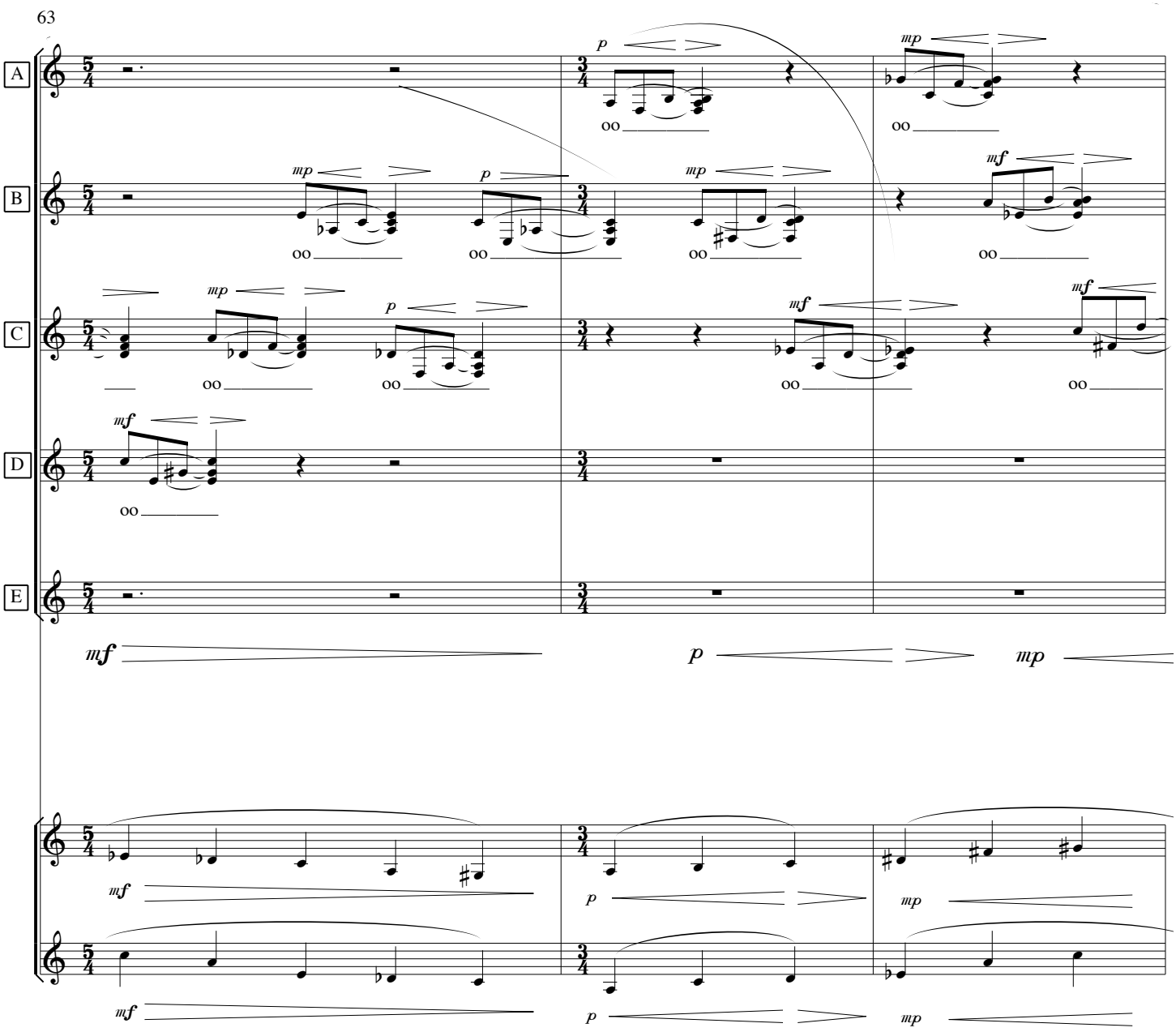

53
(p)
nothing
join soprano 1 line below
1
ka ka ka ka ka ka ka ka
The two sopranos who sing part 7 sing the solo line on the following page.
pochiss. rit.
S1
mf
earth we shall burn, on earth we shall burn, on earth we shall burn, be - come cin - ders,
S2
divisi
mf
3
3
mf
burn, on earth we shall burn, on earth we shall burn, be - come cin - ders
earth we shall burn, be-come cin - ders
Alto
divisi
mf
mf
earth we shall burn, on earth we shall burn, be - come cin - ders
earth we shall burn, be - come cin - ders
(mp)
mf
Gong
(mp)
mf
mp

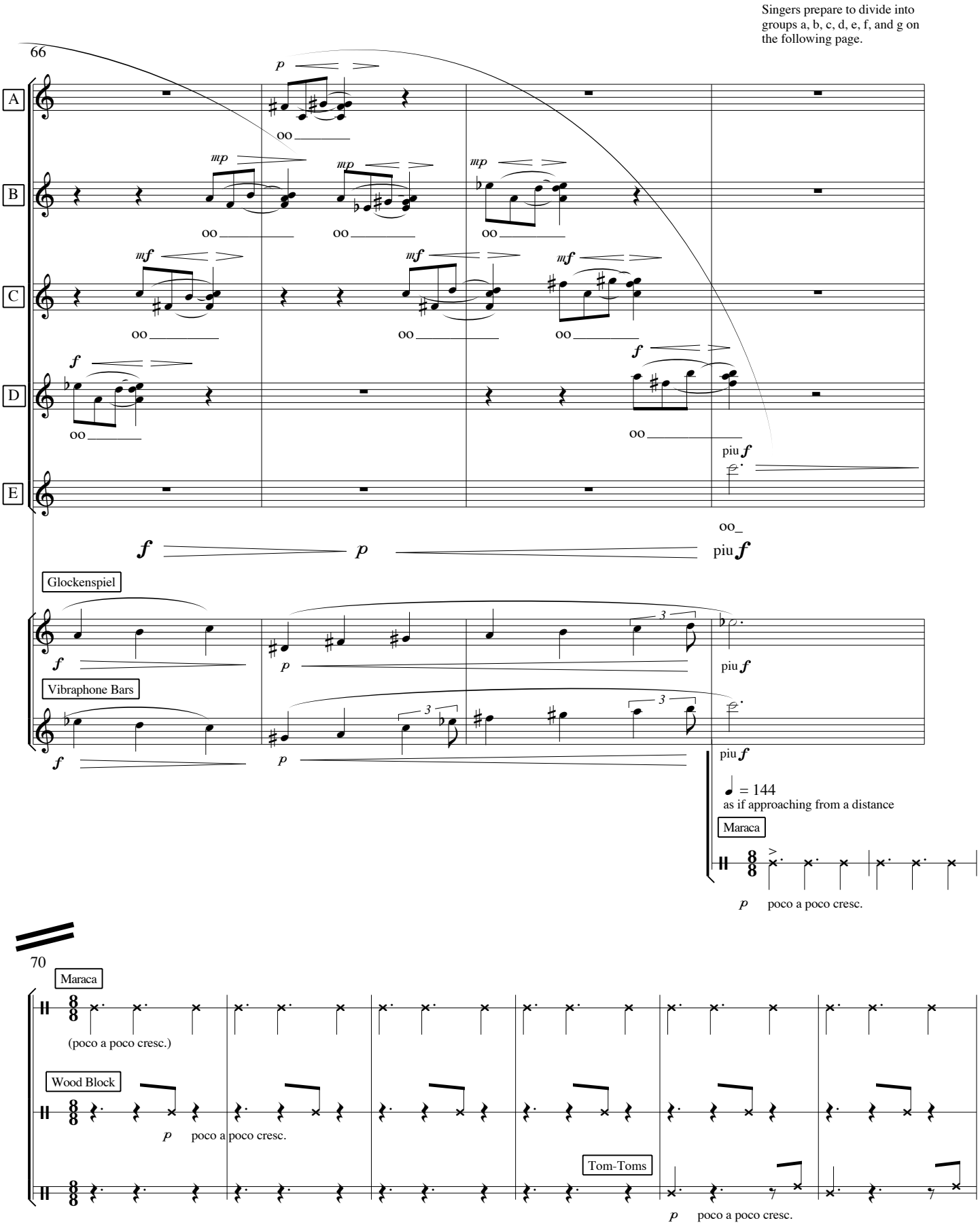
Singers prepare to divide into groups A, B, C, D, and E on the following page.

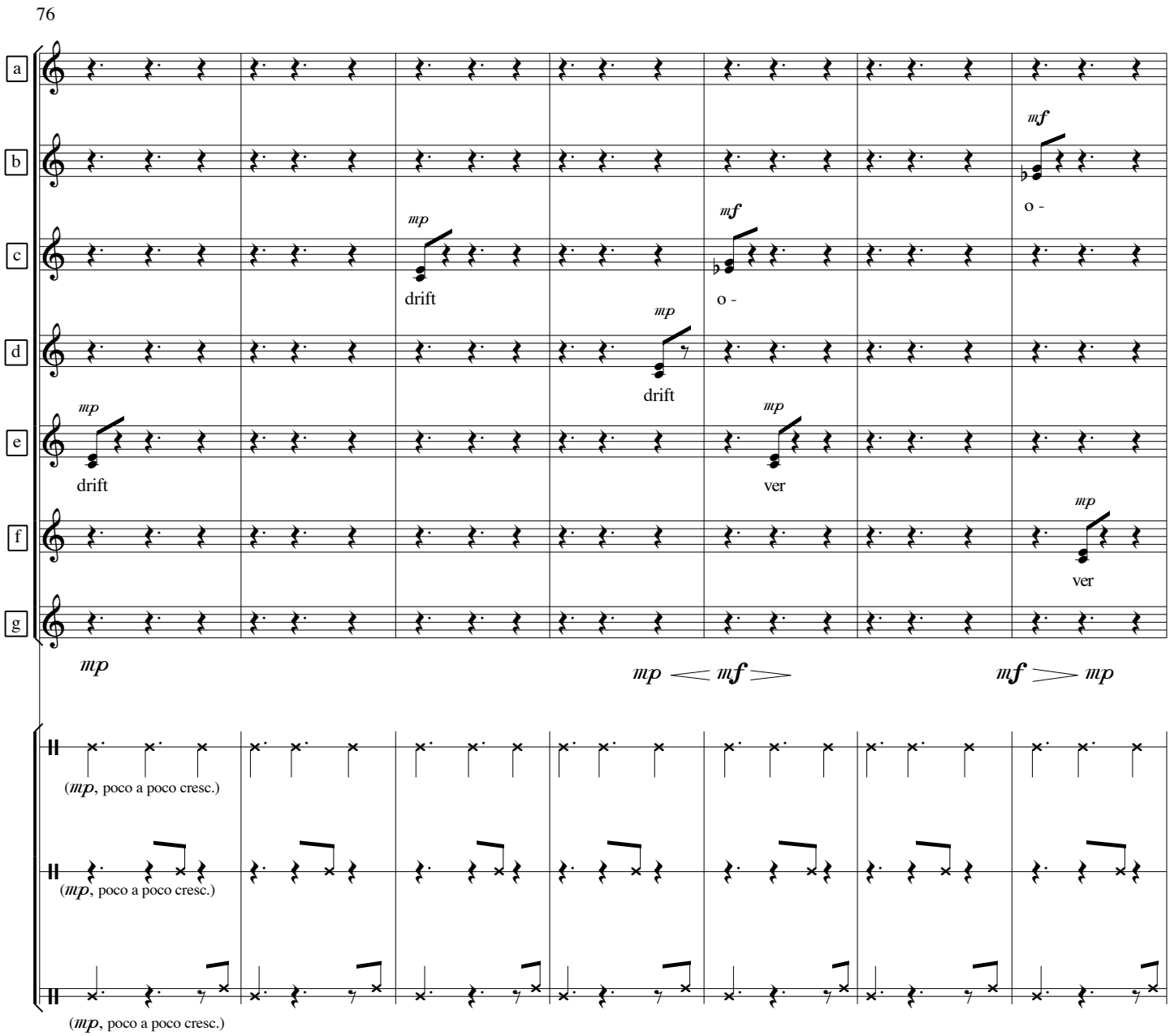


There are 3 (or more) singers on each of parts A through E. For each triplet figure, all three singers sing the first triplet eighth-note.
One singer sustains the first triplet eighth (to the end of the next beat), while the other two singers move to the second triplet eigth.
One of the two singers sustains that note while the other moves to and sustains the third triplet eighth-note.
Allow the vowel sound to change slightly as the register changes.



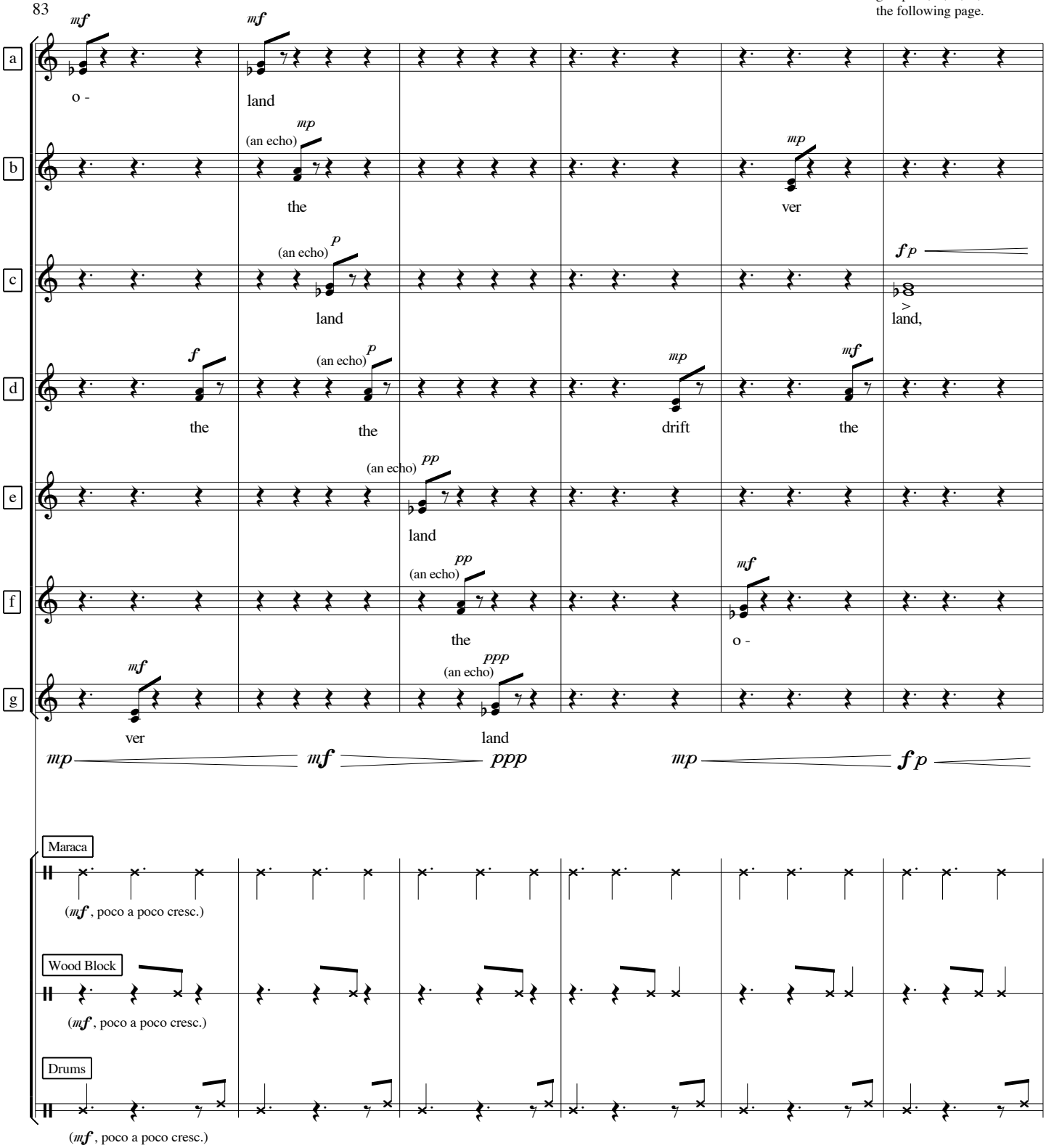

63
A
B
C
D
E
mf
p
mp

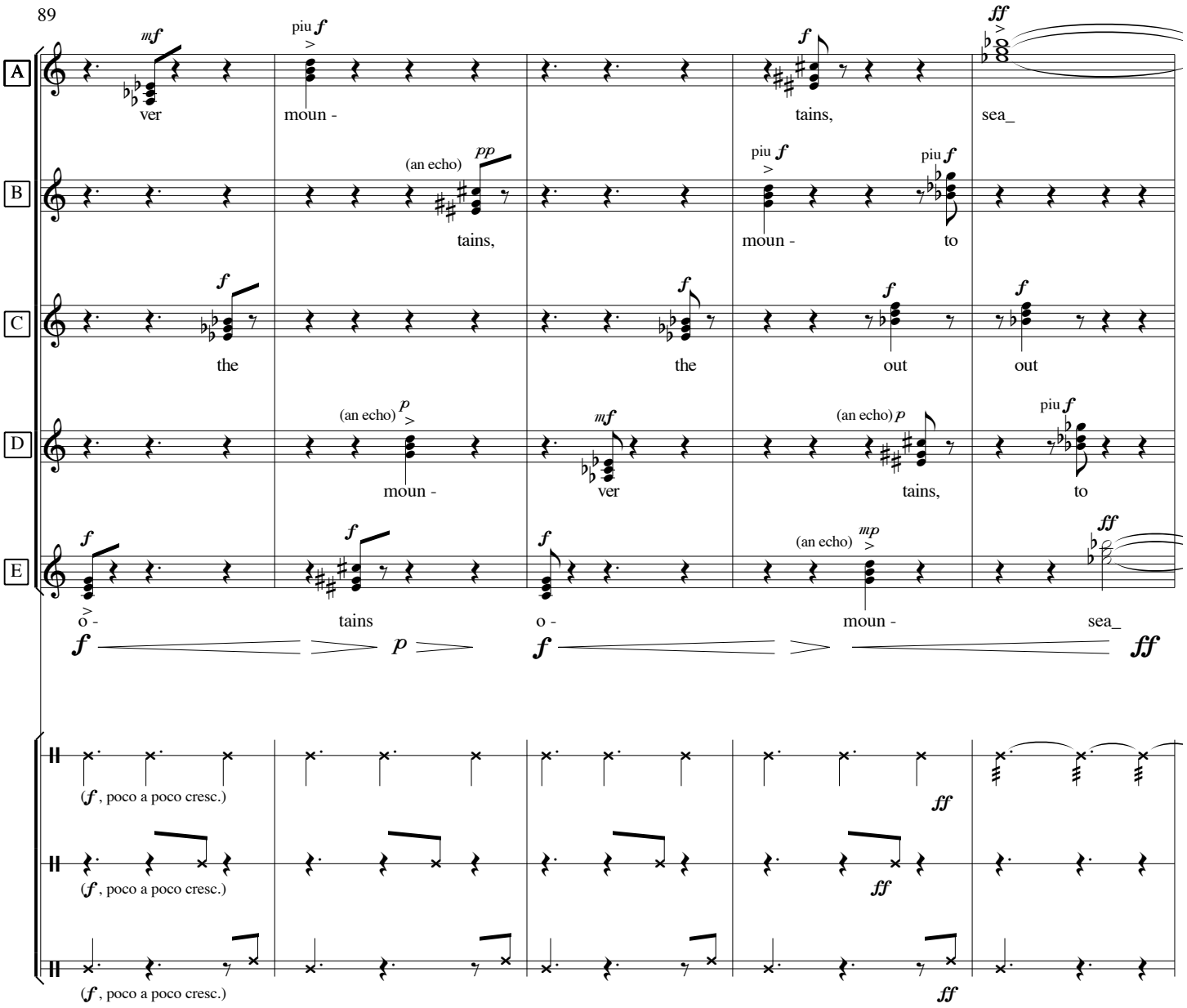

Singers prepare to divide into groups a, b, c, d, e, f, and g on the following page.

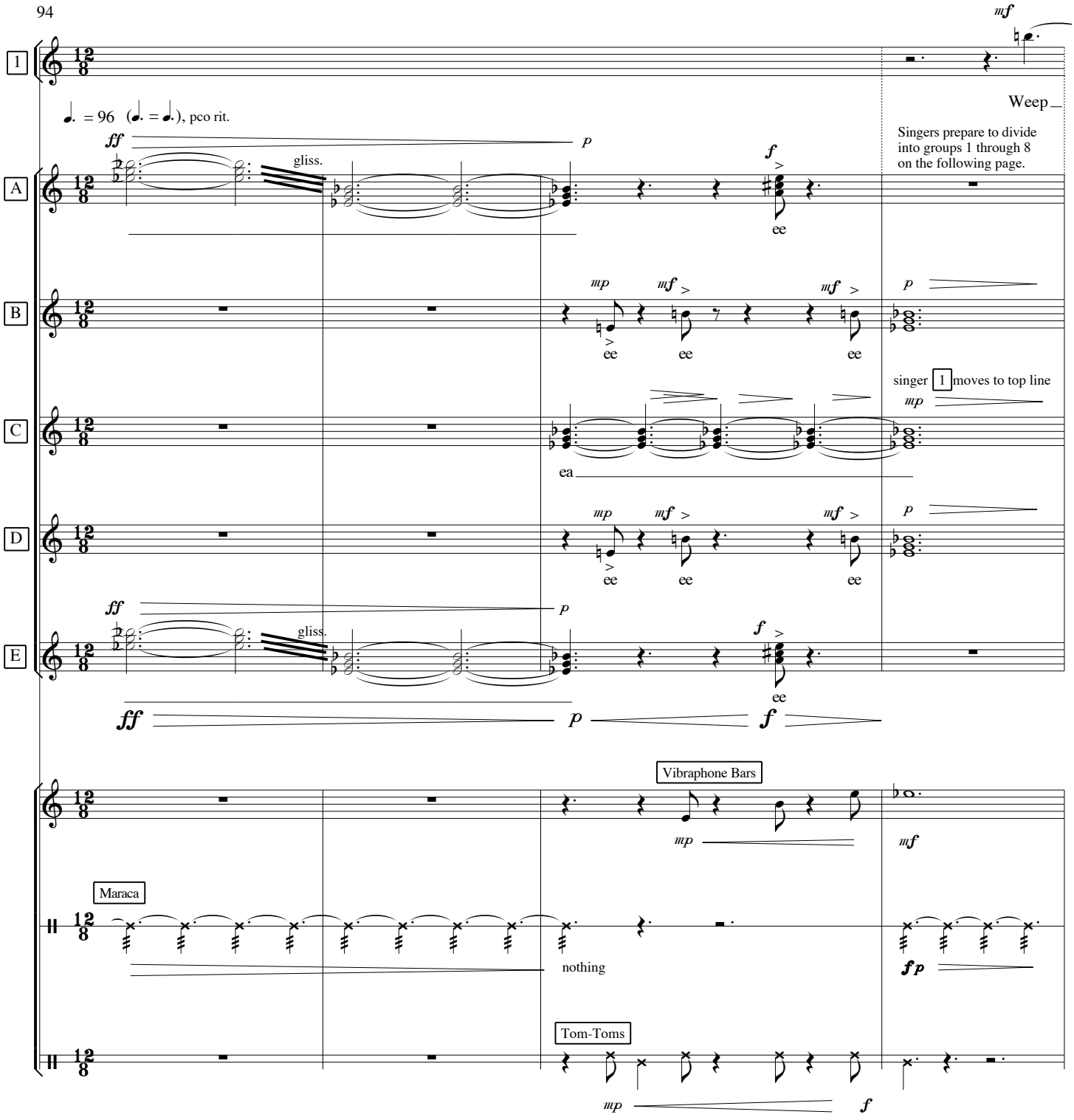

76
a
b
c
d
e
f
g
mp
drift
mp
drift
mf
o -
mp
drift
mp
ver
mf
o -
mp
ver
mp
mp < mf >
mf > mp
(mp, poco a poco cresc.)
(mp, poco a poco cresc.)
(mp, poco a poco cresc.)

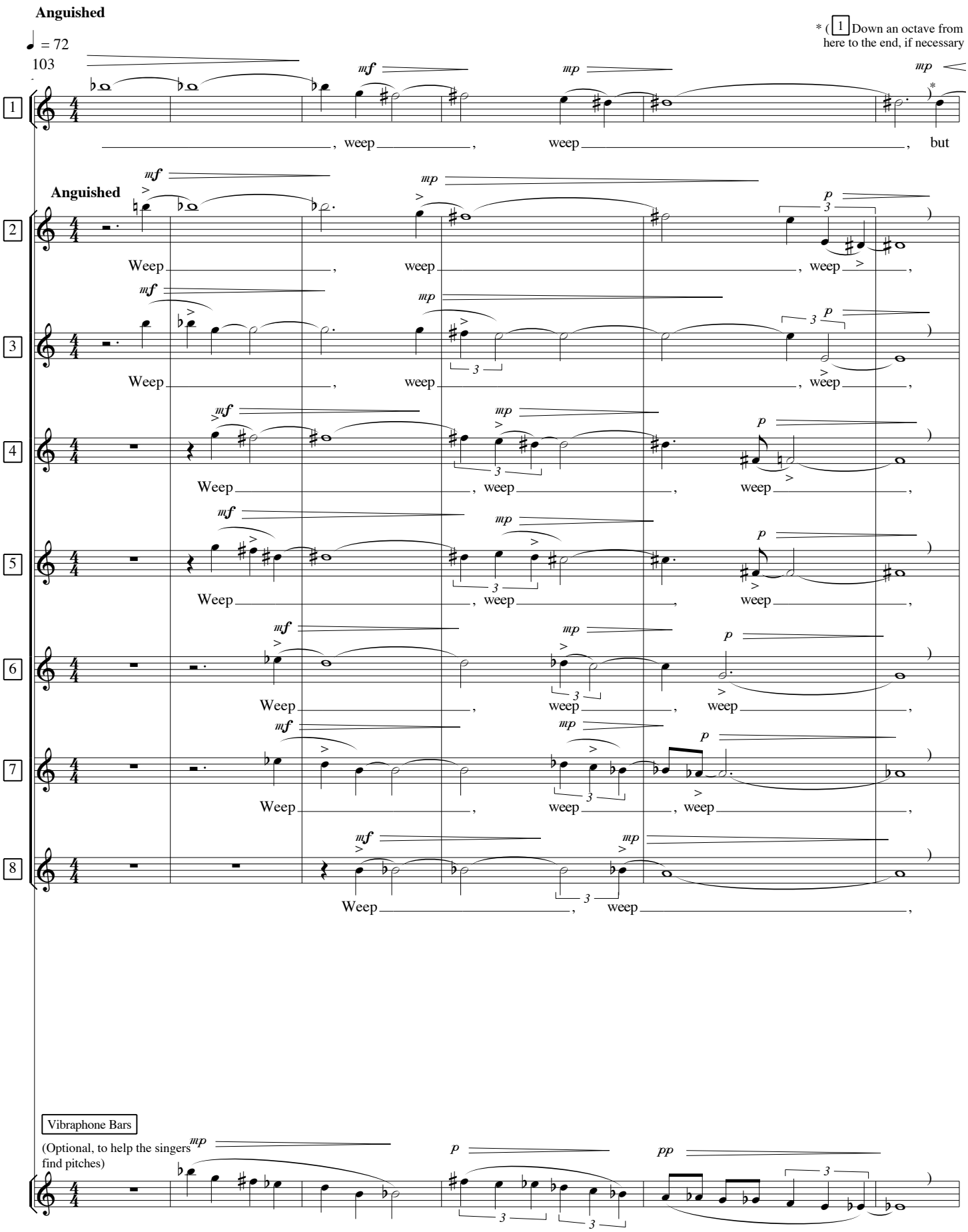
Singers prepare to divide into groups A, B, C, D, and E on the following page.

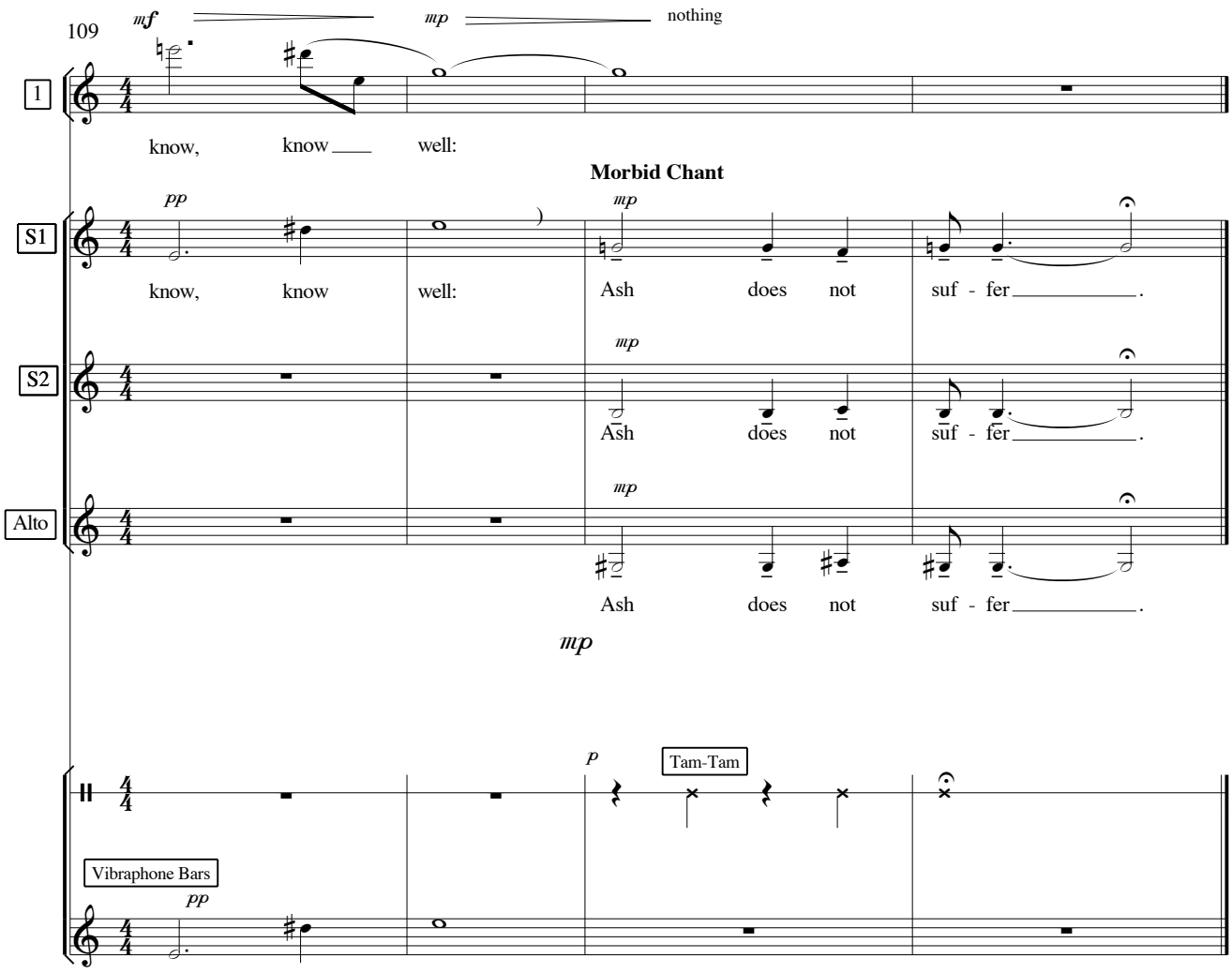
83




89
A
B
C
D
E
ver
moun -
tains,
sea_
(an echo)
tains,
moun -
to
the
the
out
out
(an echo)
moun -
ver
tains,
to
o -
tains
o -
moun -
sea_
(f, poco a poco cresc.)
(f, poco a poco cresc.)
(f, poco a poco cresc.)


mf
1
Weep
♩. = 96 (♩. = ♩.), pco rit.
Singers prepare to divide into groups 1 through 8 on the following page.
ff
p
gliss.
f
A
ee
mp
mf
B
singer 1 moves to top line
C
ea
D
E
Vibraphone Bars
Maraca
nothing
fp
Tom-Toms


Anguished
♩ = 72
103
* (1 Down an octave from here to the end, if necessary
weep
weep
but
Anguished
Weep
weep
weep
Weep
weep
weep
Weep
weep
weep
Weep
weep
weep
Weep
weep
weep
Weep
weep
Vibraphone Bars
(Optional, to help the singers find pitches)


109
mf
mp
nothing
1
know, know well:
Morbid Chant
pp
mp
S1
know, know well: Ash does not suf - fer.
S2
mp
Ash does not suf - fer.
Alto
mp
Ash does not suf - fer.
mp
p
Tam-Tam
Vibraphone Bars
pp