RADIX MALORUM EST CUPIDITAS

Lewis Edmunds

Composer's notes

Inspired by The Pardoner's Tale, one of Geoffery Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, *Radix Malorum est Cupiditas* explores the nature of greed through a choral piece. The piece uses harmonic tension, and repetition to express the taunting, seductive, and often impulsive nature of greed, the piece simulates struggle and temptation in the characters within the tale.

During the writing process I found the words of the piece served well the images I wished to create, in that the ends of the words *malorum* and *cupiditas* could be easily tranformed in to the vowels *oo* and *ah*. Using the vowels in the middle section allows the audience to be lulled in to a trance-like state - the seduction of greed - the performers should bear this in mind throughout. Each change of vowel should be supported by a gradual change of the shape of the mouth, to achieve the desired effect.

The piece recieved its world premier on July 8th 2017 by conductor Benedict Preece and the Caritas Chamber Choir in Canterbury, UK.

Lewis Edmunds

For Benedict Preece, and the Caritas Chamber Choir

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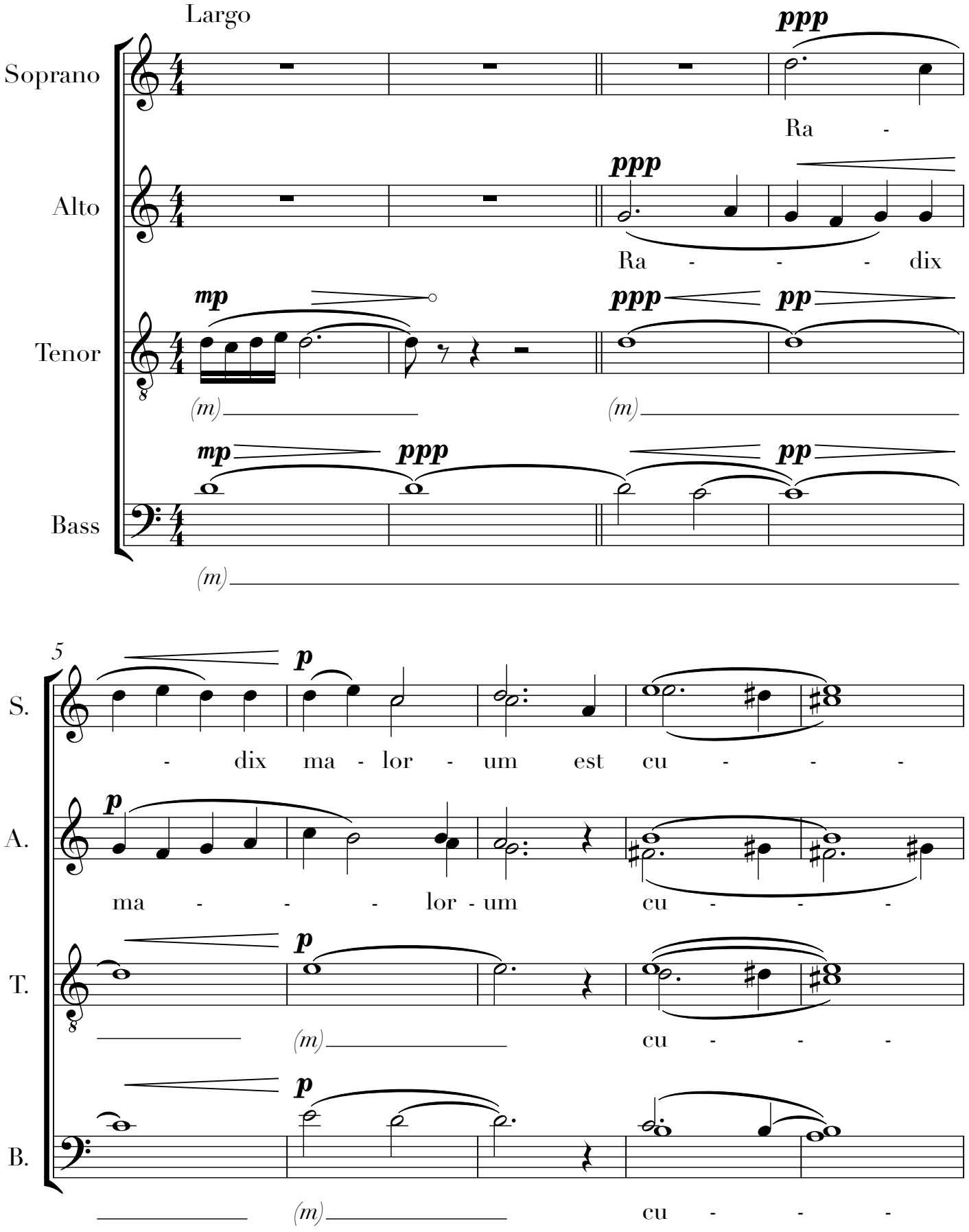

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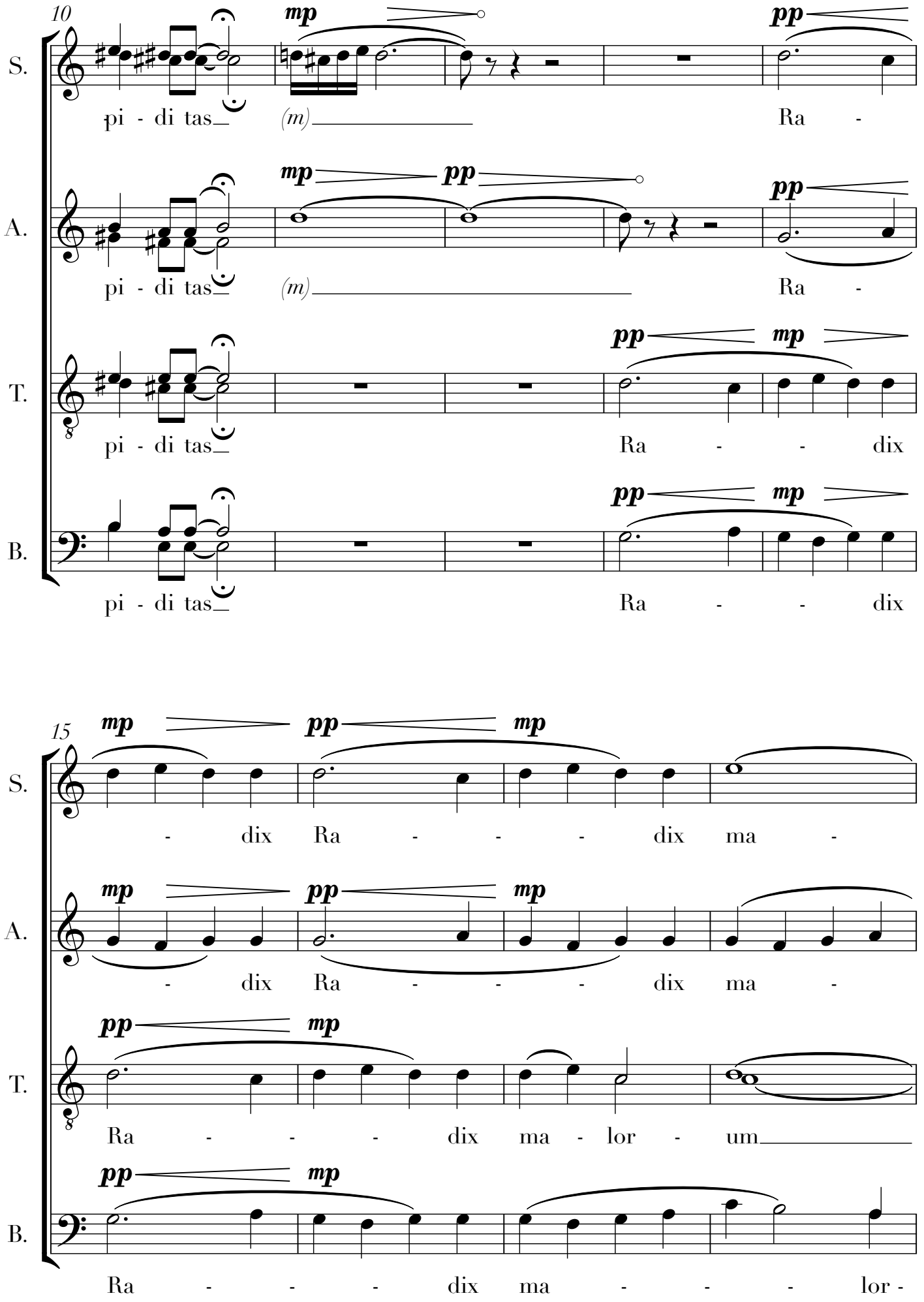
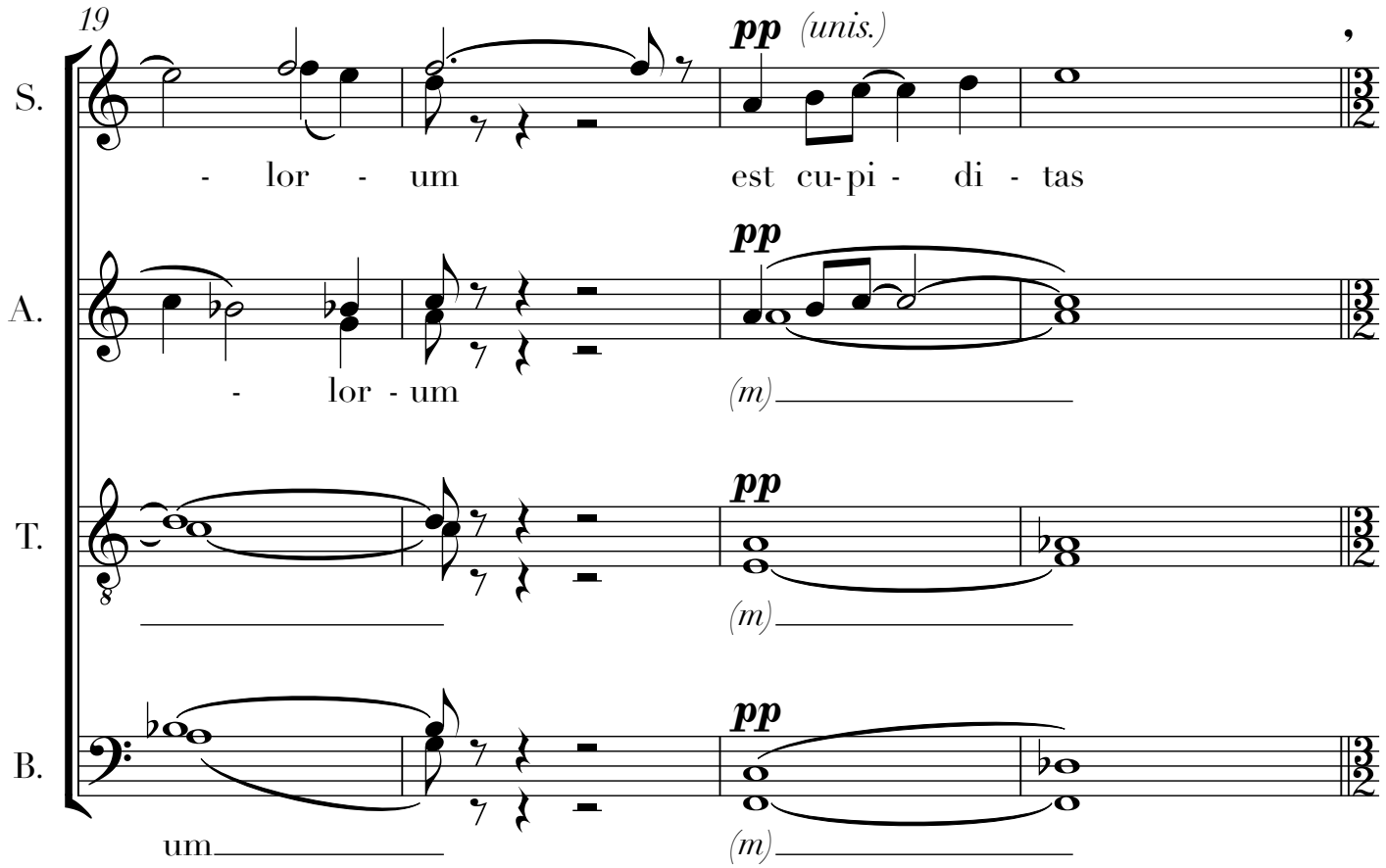
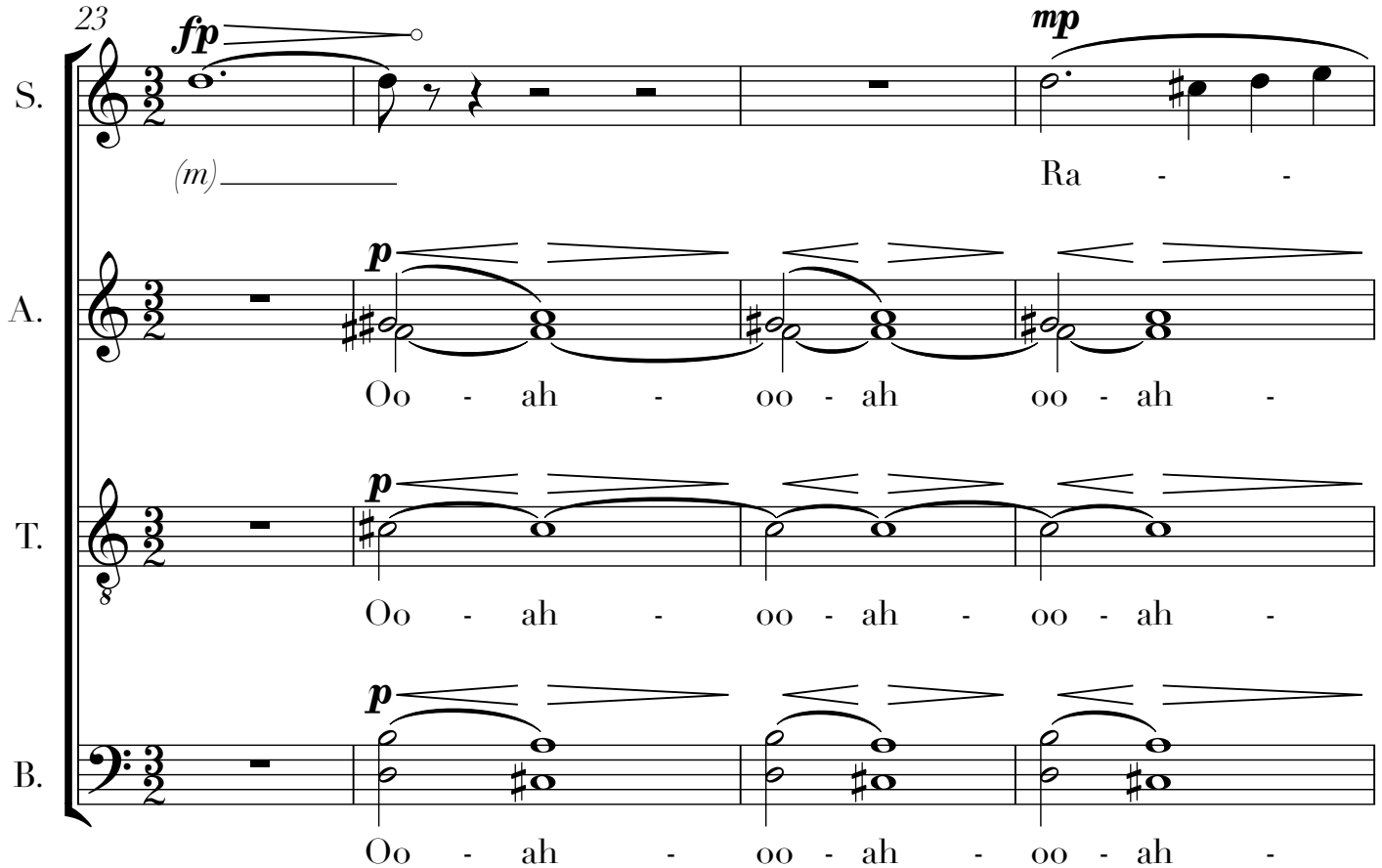
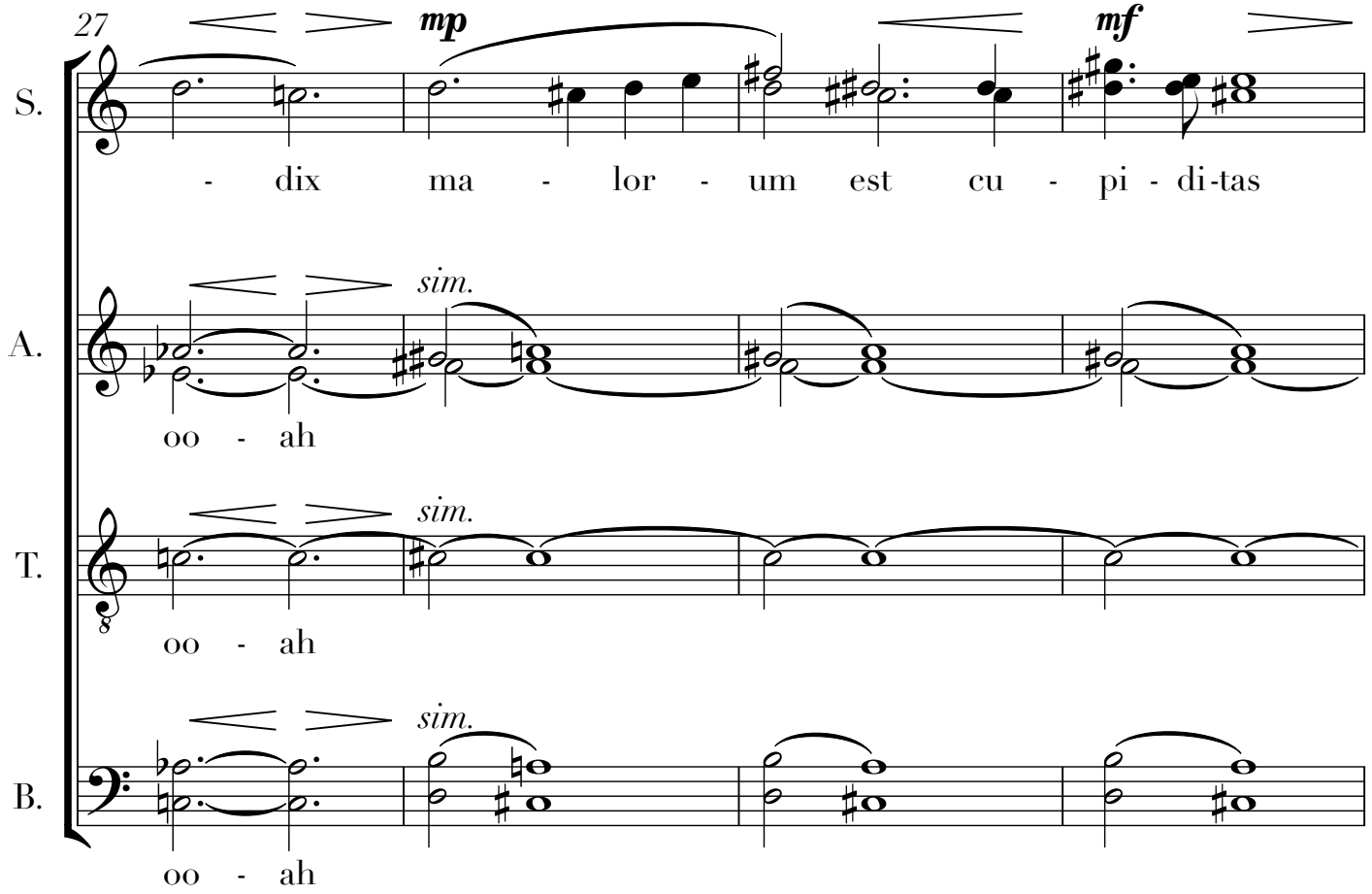
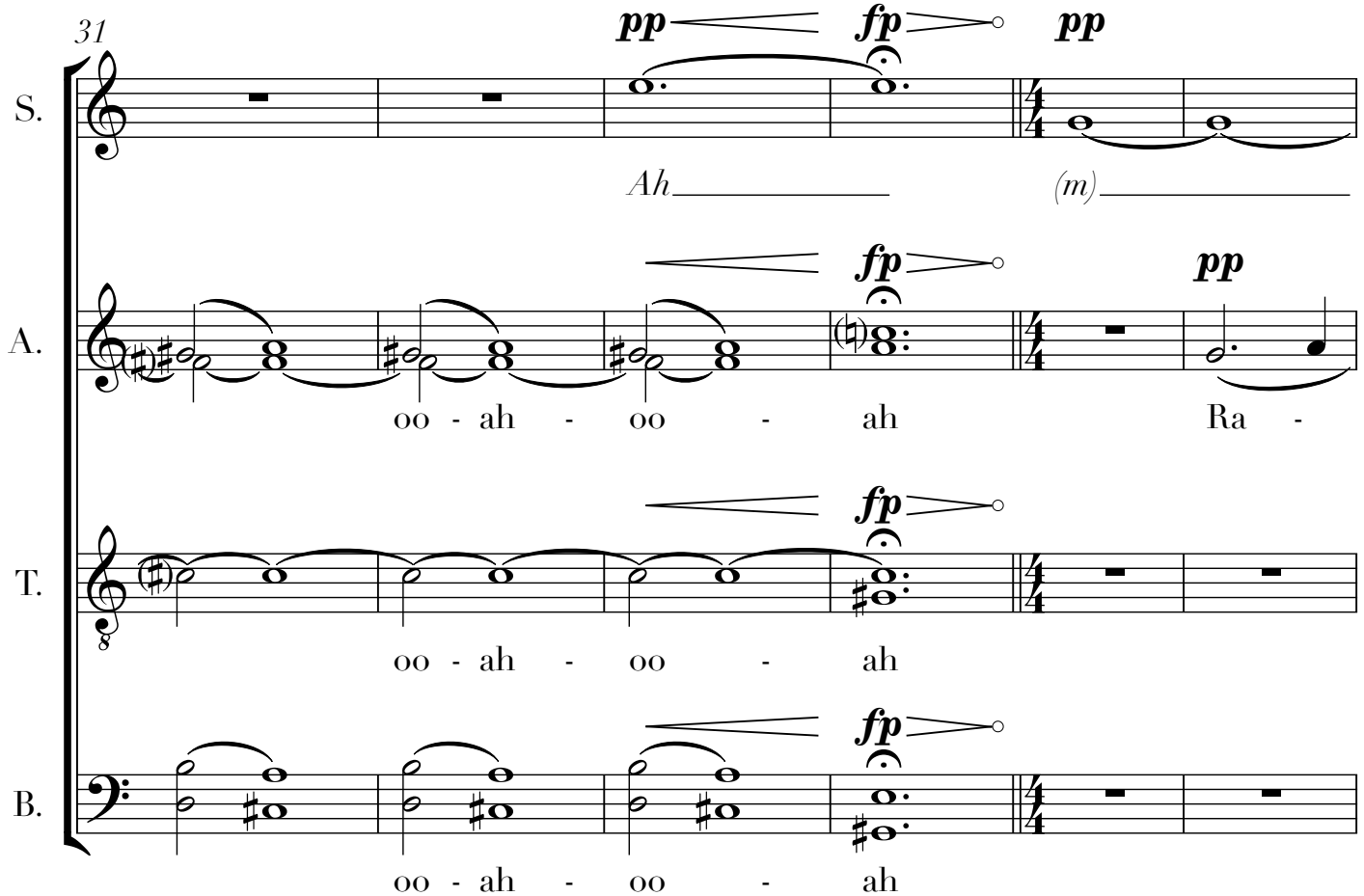

10
S.
A.
T.
B.
mp
pp
pi - di tas_
(m)
Ra -
- dix
15
Ra - - - dix ma -
Ra - - - dix ma - lor - um
Ra - - - dix ma - - - lor -

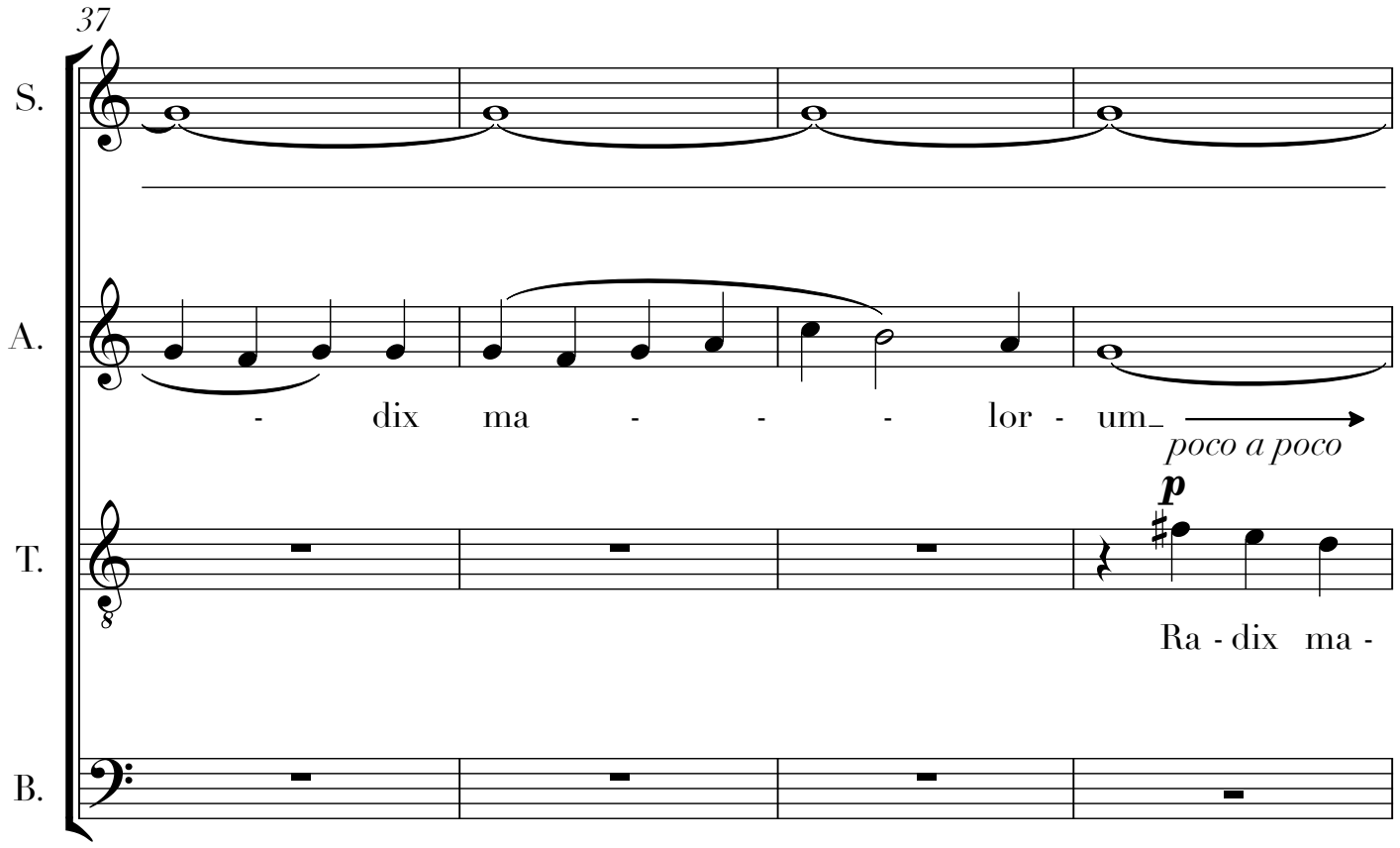


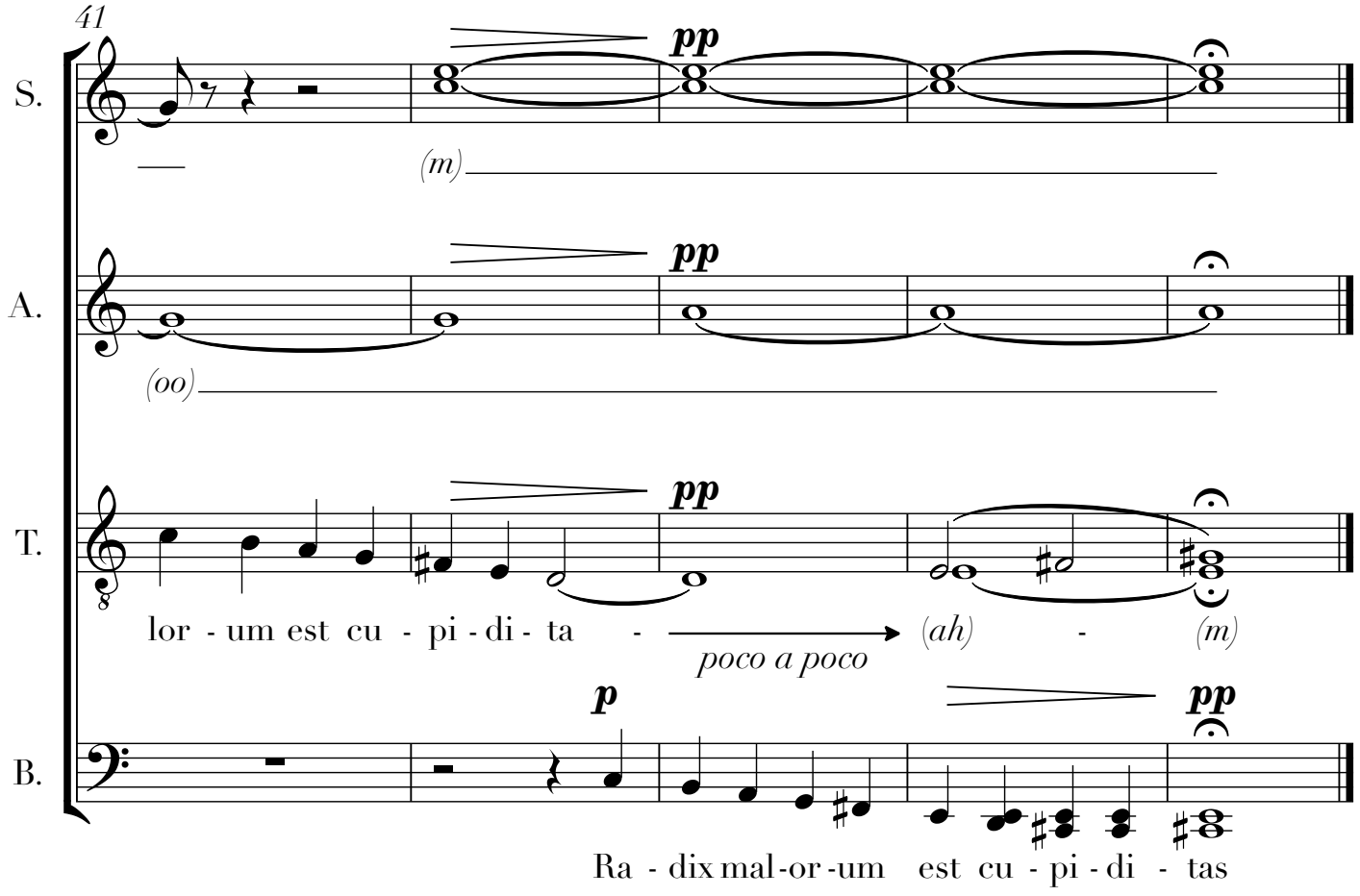
Seductively, with lots of space




27
mp
mf
S.
- dix ma - lor - um est cu - pi - di-tas
A.
sim.
oo - ah
T.
sim.
oo - ah
B.
sim.
oo - ah


31
pp
fp
pp
S.
Ah
(m)
A.
fp
pp
oo - ah - oo - ah
Ra -
T.
fp
oo - ah - oo - ah
B.
fp
oo - ah - oo - ah


37
S.
A.
- dix ma - - - lor - um_
poco a poco
T.
p
Ra - dix ma -
B.


41
S.
pp
(m)
A.
pp
(oo)
T.
pp
lor - um est cu - pi - di - ta -
poco a poco
(ah) - (m)
B.
p
pp
Ra - dix mal - or - um est cu - pi - di - tas