Bright Star III

for mezzo-soprano
and alto saxophone

music by

Michael Oberhauser

poem by

Shannon Berry

2018

Bright Star or The Transept of Venus: June 5, 2012
by Shannon Berry
(After John Keats and Sandro Botticelli)

On the day that Venus
passes
between you and I

and our bright star,

I wait and wonder
how she can stay held in the sky,
in all of that gravity and grace,

a black disk crossing an orange ocean of fire
and nuclear fusion:
a pure ablution round earth's human shores.

Venus: only female in the pantheon of the sky,
named for love and loneliness:
hair like fire and fusion,
a pure ablution round earth's human shores,
in only a clamshell:

a lonely path around a dying, steadfast star.

I sit at my circular kitchen table,
a perfect disk circling an orange ocean of fire and fusion,
a pure ablution round earth's human shores,

a low-key hymn to the God of

all of that gravity and grace
that love and loneliness.

I stare at a telephone and
wait for it to ring

between you and I,

my fair love,

and our bright star.

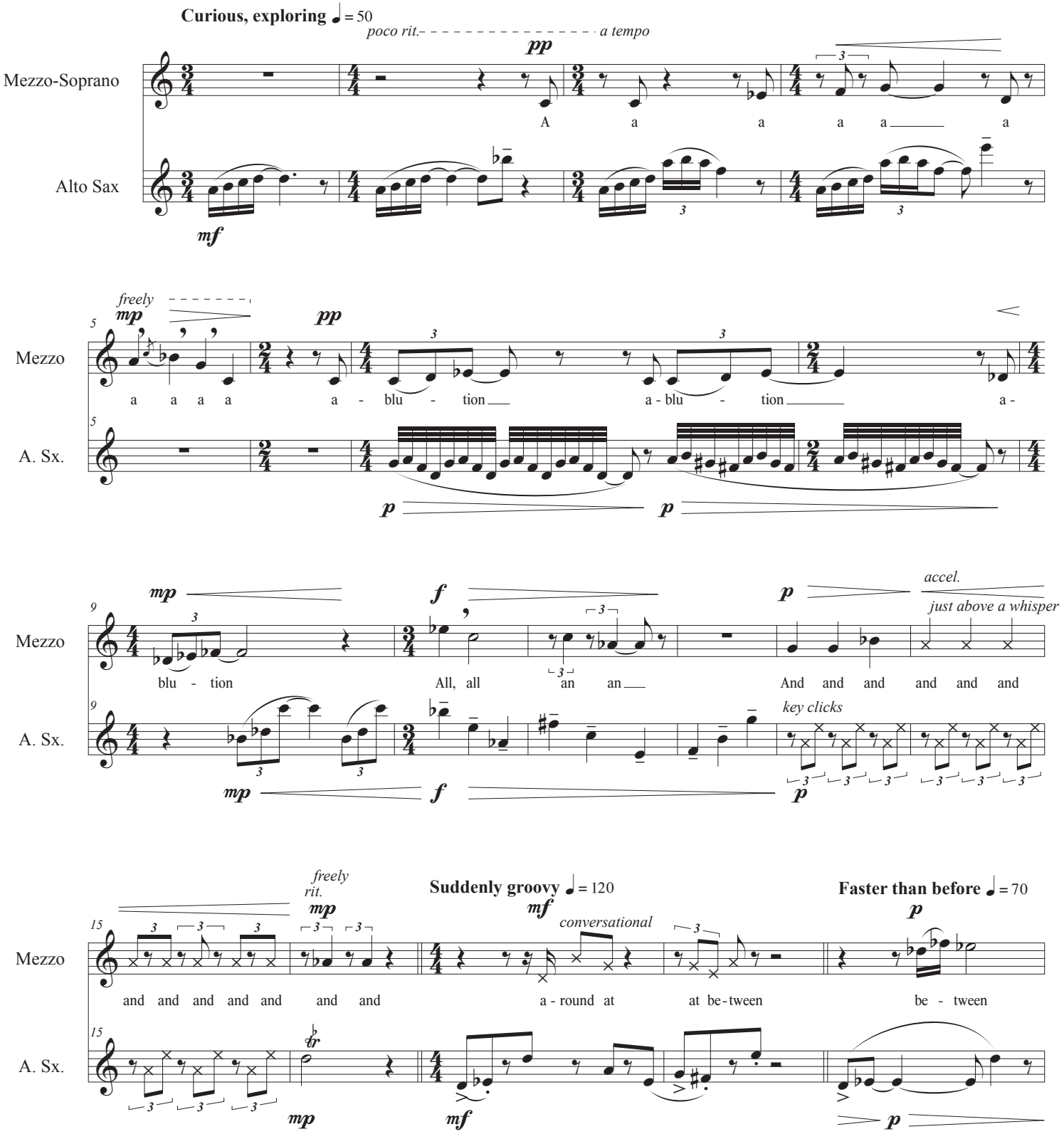
Transposed Score

Bright Star III

for Megan Ihnen & Alan Theisen present...

Shannon Berry

Michael Oberhauser

1st Movement

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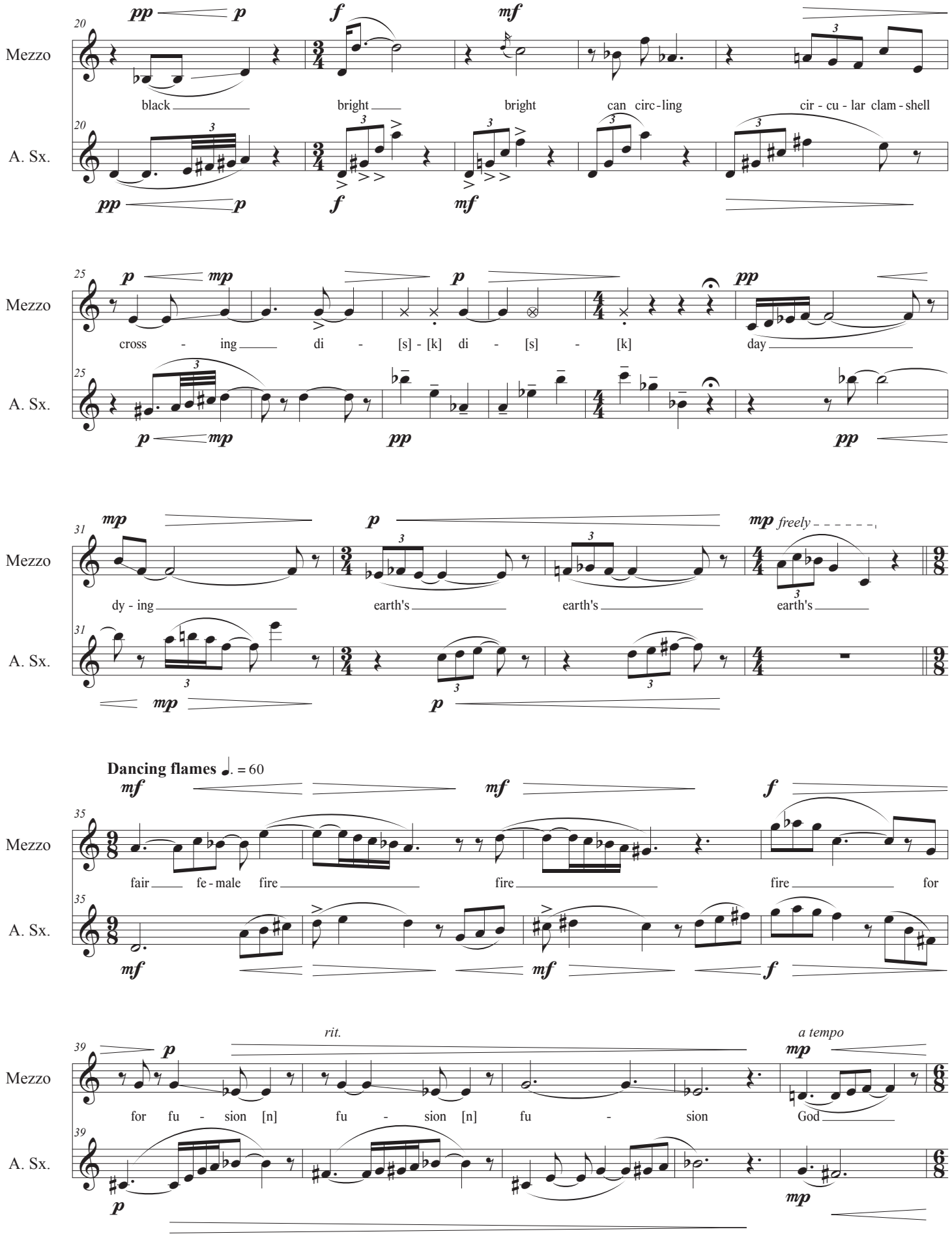
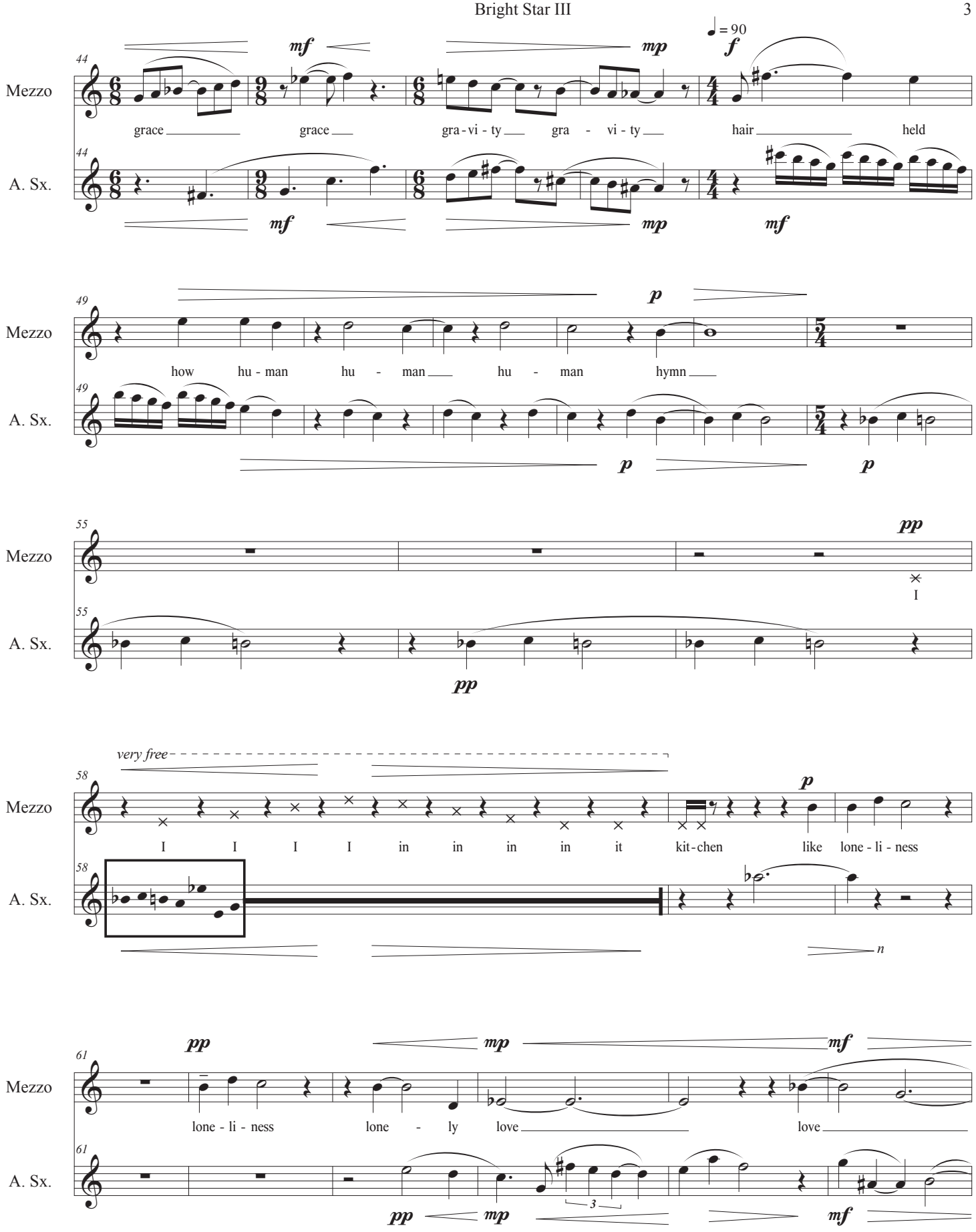
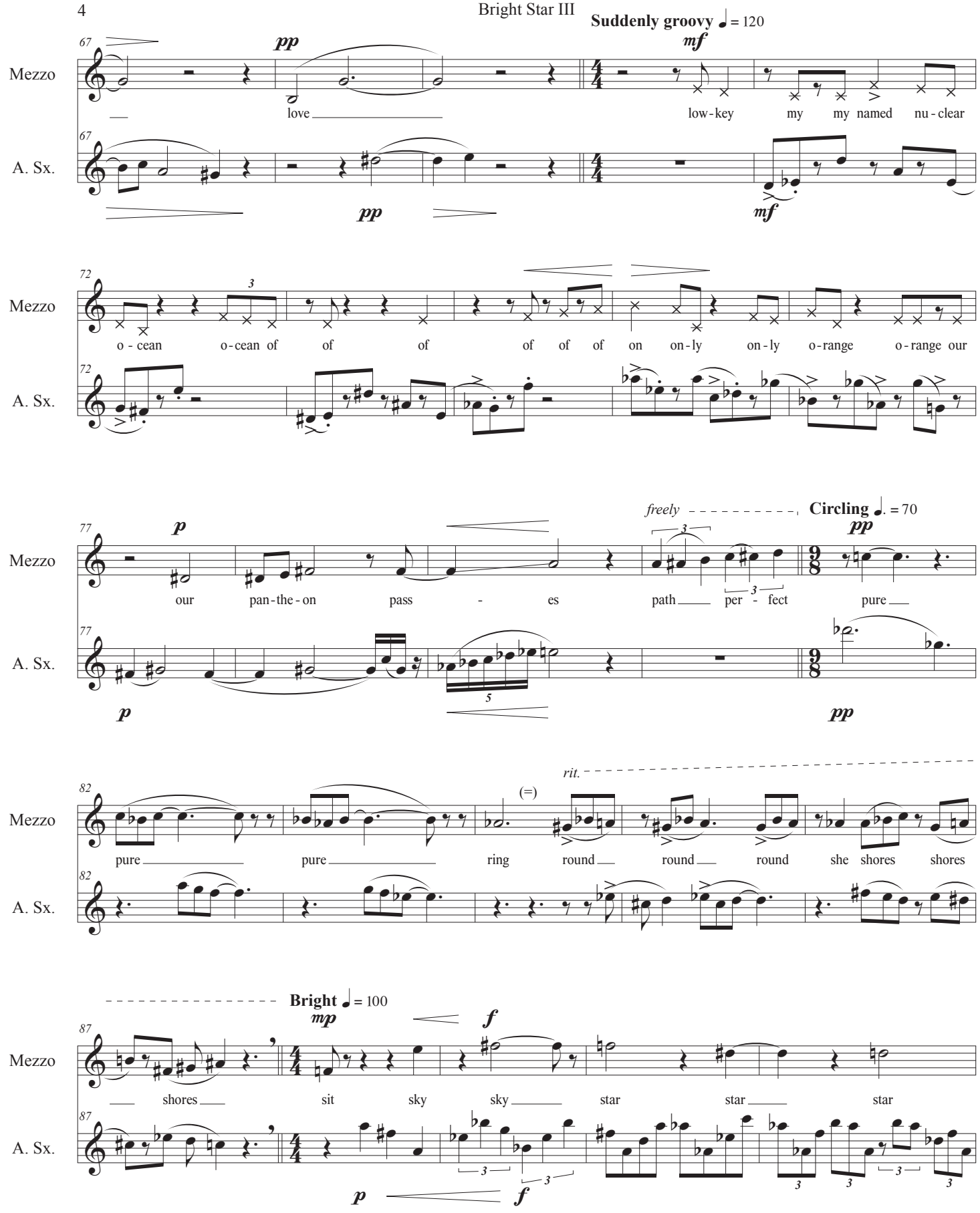
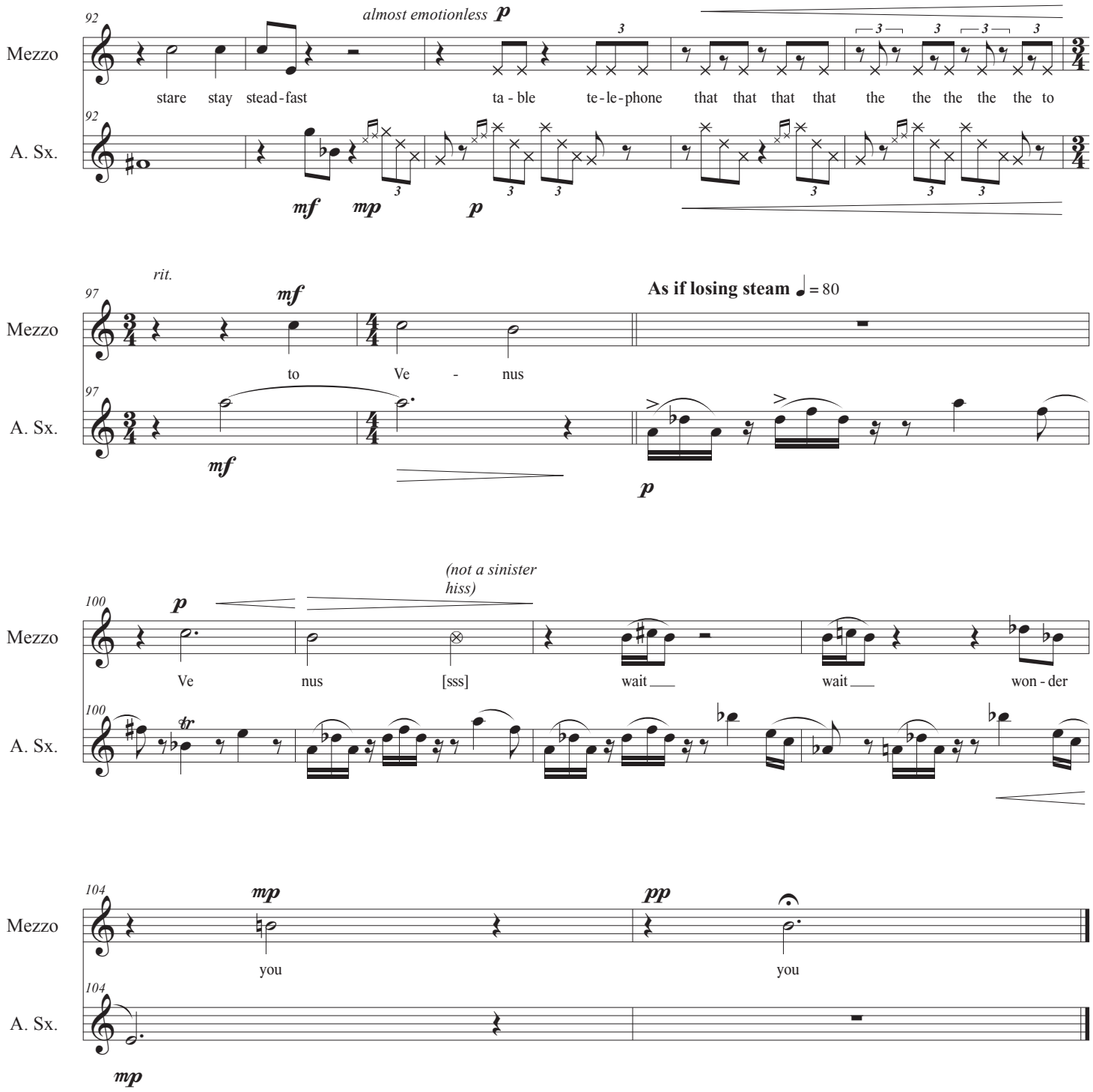
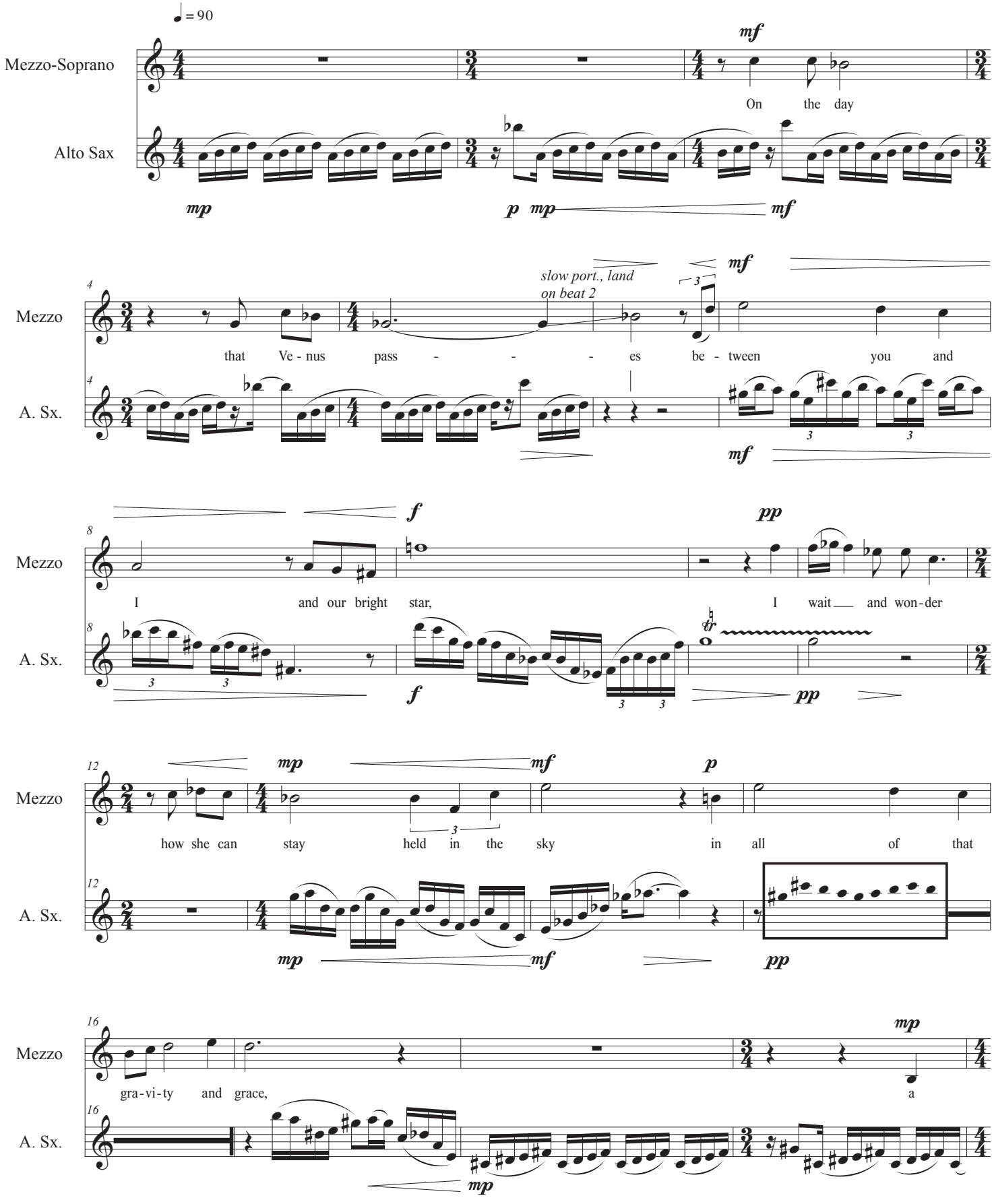

20
Mezzo
A. Sx.
pp p f mf
black bright bright can circ-ling cir - cu - lar clam - shell
25
cross - ing di - [s] - [k] di - [s] - [k] day
31
dy - ing earth's earth's earth's
freely
Dancing flames ♩. = 60
35
fair fe - male fire fire fire for
39
rit.
a tempo
for fu - sion [n] fu - sion [n] fu - sion God

44
Mezzo
A. Sx.
mf
mp
♩ = 90
f
grace grace gra - vi - ty gra - vi - ty hair held
49
p
how hu - man hu - man hu - man hymn
55
pp
I
very free
58
I I I I in in in in it kit - chen like lone - li - ness
n
61
lone - li - ness lone - ly love love
3

Suddenly groovy ♩ = 120
Mezzo
A. Sx.
love
low-key my my named nu-clear
o-cean o-cean of of of of of of on on-ly on-ly o-range o-range our
freely
Circling ♩. = 70
our pan-the-on pass - es path per - fect pure
pure pure ring round round round she shores shores
rit.
(=)
Bright ♩ = 100
shores sit sky sky star star star

First movement: 5'20"

October 10, 2018
Washington, DC

Second Movement

Shannon Berry

Michael Oberhauser

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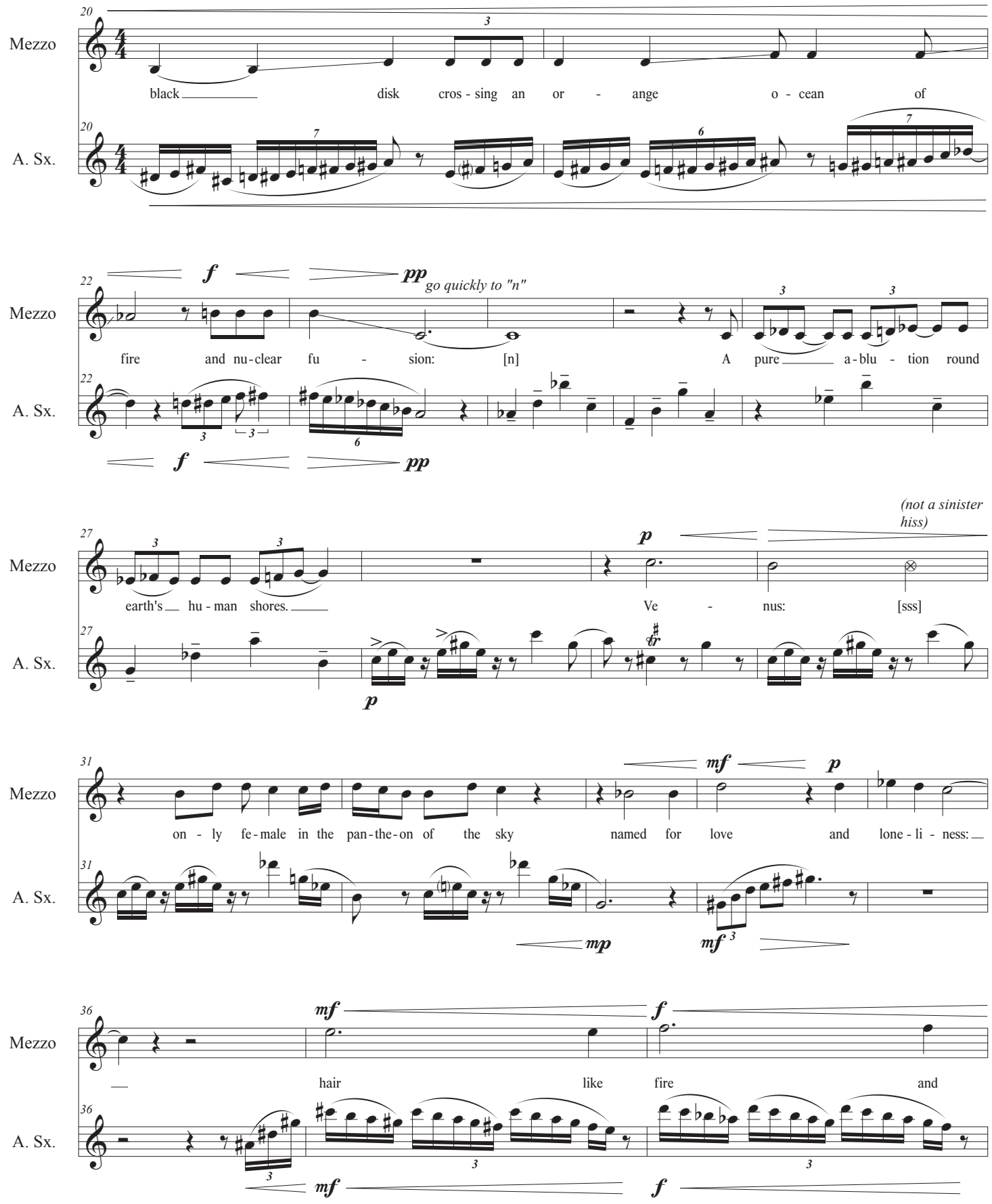
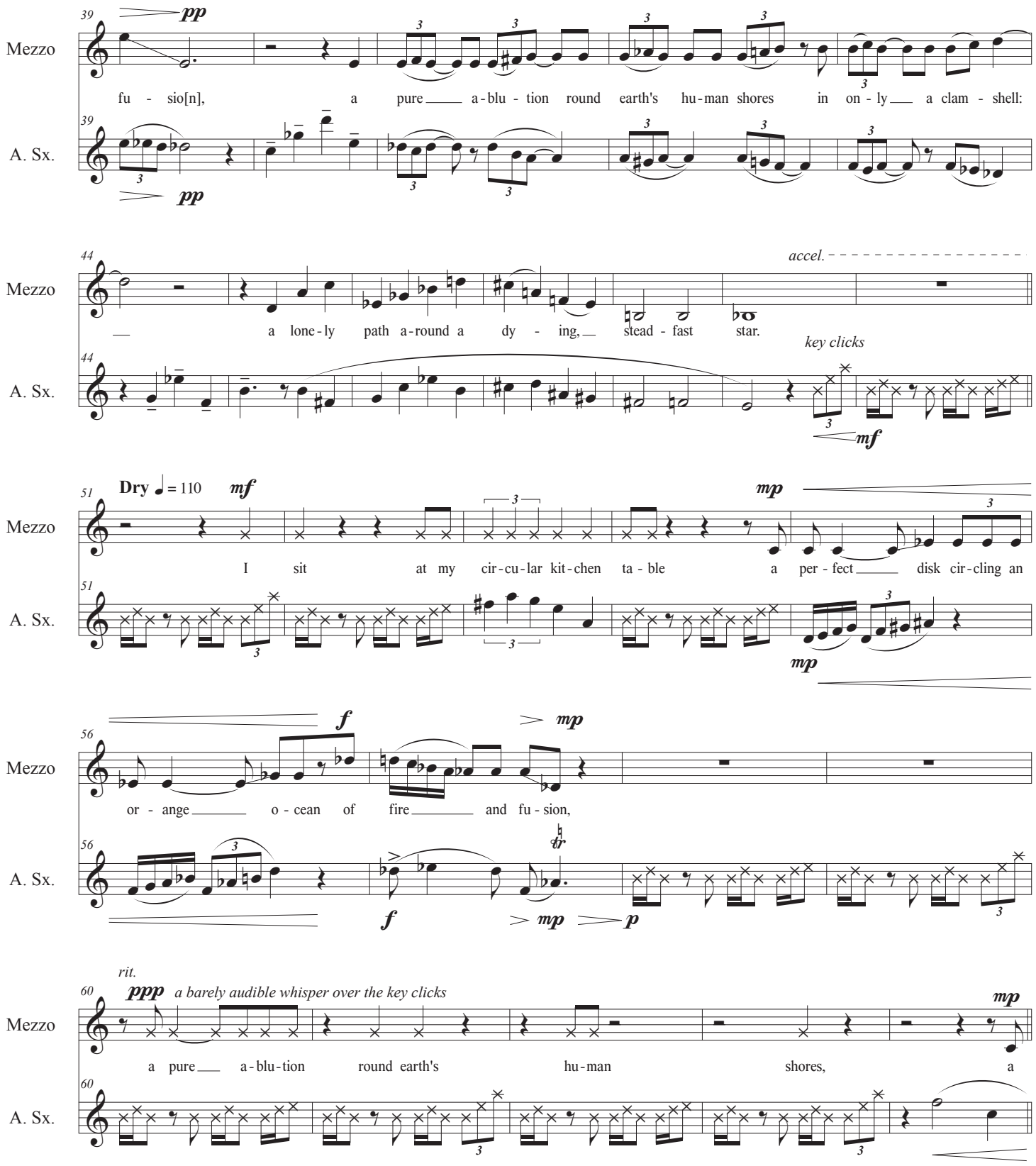
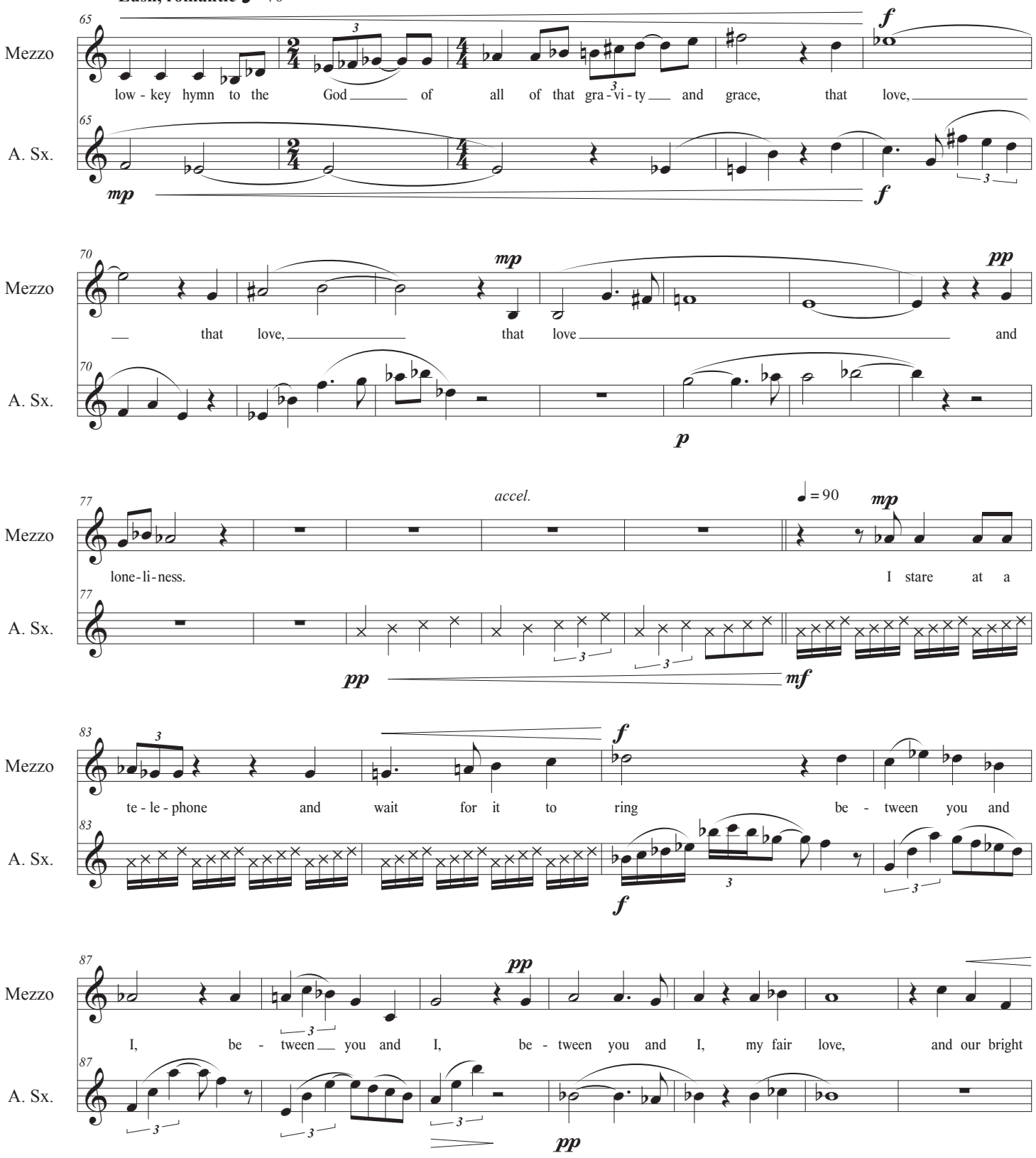
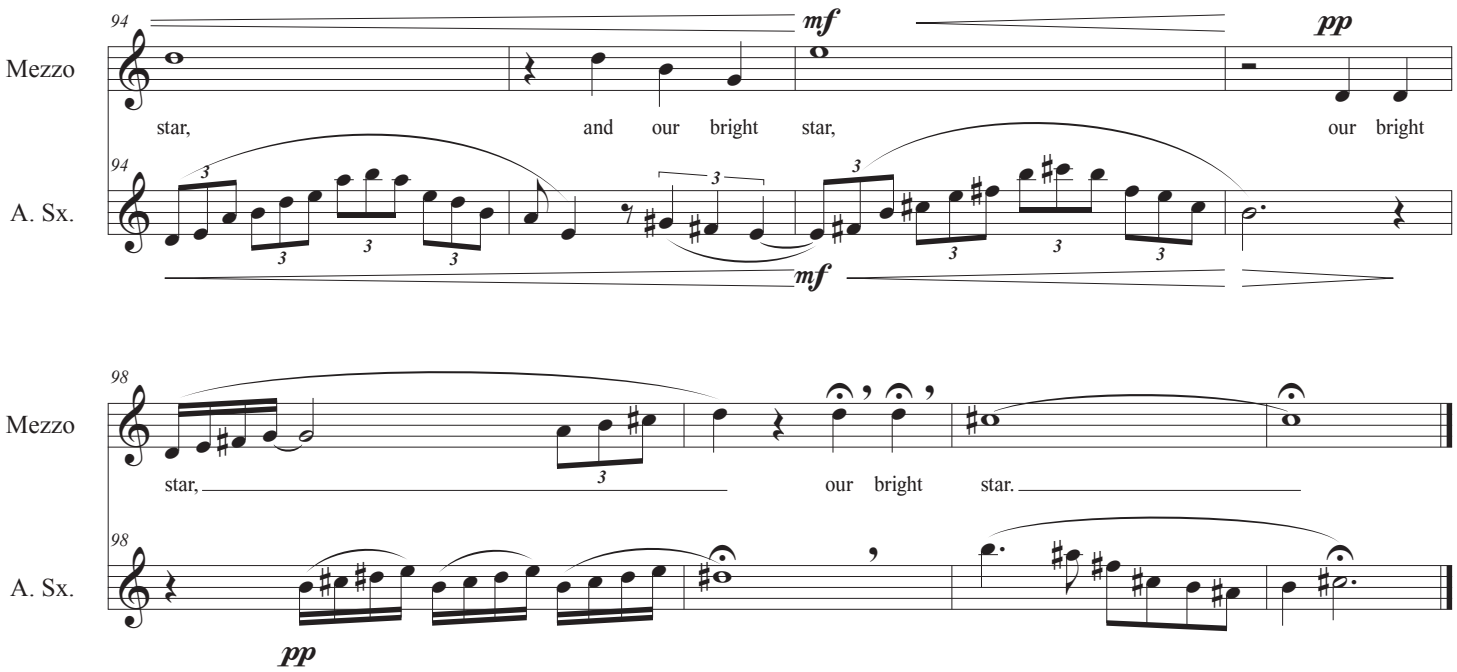

20
Mezzo
black disk cros - sing an or - ange o - cean of
A. Sx.
22
f
pp
go quickly to "n"
Mezzo
fire and nu-clear fu - sion: [n] A pure a-blu - tion round
A. Sx.
f
pp
27
(not a sinister hiss)
Mezzo
earth's hu - man shores. Ve - nus: [sss]
A. Sx.
p
31
mf
p
Mezzo
on - ly fe-male in the pan-the-on of the sky named for love and lone - li - ness:
A. Sx.
mp
mf
36
mf
f
Mezzo
hair like fire and
A. Sx.
mf
f

39
pp
Mezzo
fu - sio[n], a pure a-blu-tion round earth's hu-man shores in on-ly a clam-shell:
A. Sx.
pp
44
accel.
Mezzo
a lone-ly path a-round a dy - ing, stead-fast star.
key clicks
A. Sx.
mf
51
Dry ♩ = 110
mf
mp
Mezzo
I sit at my cir-cu-lar kit-chen ta-ble a per-fect disk cir-cling an
A. Sx.
mp
56
f
mp
Mezzo
or - ange o-cean of fire and fu-sion,
A. Sx.
tr
f
mp
p
rit.
60
ppp
a barely audible whisper over the key clicks
mp
Mezzo
a pure a-blu-tion round earth's hu-man shores, a
A. Sx.

Lush, romantic ♩ = 70
65
Mezzo
low - key hymn to the God of all of that gra - vi - ty and grace, that love,
A. Sx.
mp
f
70
Mezzo
that love, that love and
A. Sx.
mp
pp
p
77
Mezzo
lone - li - ness.
accel.
♩ = 90
mp
I stare at a
A. Sx.
pp
mf
83
Mezzo
te - le - phone and wait for it to ring be - tween you and
A. Sx.
f
87
Mezzo
I, be - tween you and I, be - tween you and I, my fair love, and our bright
A. Sx.
pp

Second movement: 4'40"

September 10, 2018
Washington, DC