HILDEGARD'S PROLOGUE

for six women's voices

by

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Text for ***Hildegard's Prologue***
(an alternation of Latin and English)

Ecce quadragisimo tertio temporalis
cursus mei anno

In the forty-third year of my life, my earthly journey,
I saw a heavenly vision

Cum celesti visioni magno timore tremula intentione inherem
Vidi maximum splendorum
In quo facta est vox de celo ad me dicens
O homo fagilis

O fragile man and woman
Ash of ashes
Decay of decays

Dice et scribe que vides et audis

Say and write what you speak and hear!

NOTE: When one vowel is connected to another by the arrow (------→), please smoothly ellide from one sound to the next.
Grace notes begin on the beat and are relaxed, especially from M. 117 on.

Pronunciation: Please use Liturgical Latin pronunciation
Pure vowels
qu=kw (*que* is kweh)
C followed by e = ch (as in *celeste, celo, dicens*,)
c=ck (hard c) in *cum, ecce*
magno=mag-no
g=dj (as in *fagilis)*

This piece was commissioned by the Urban Sky Consort in 1996 for the 1998 Celebration of Hildegard's 900th Anniversary of her Birth . Many thanks for Jo Scheier for her interest and support in this project, and to Richard Tang Yuk for his helpful suggestions.

Dolce, sin vibrato ♩ = 72

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Soprano 3

Alto 1

Alto 2

Alto 3

p

Ah

7

poco in relievo

6

ah

poco in relievo

– 6

add some vibrato ("sweeten")

11

mf

Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Ec - ce Ec - ce Ec - ce

17

mp f mp

si - mo ter - ti - o tem - po - ra

si - mo ter - ti - o tem - po ra

Ec - ce qua - dra ge - si - mo ter - ti - o tem - po ra

ec - ce qua - dra - ge - si - mo ter - ti - o tem - po ra

ec - ce quad - ra - gi si mo o

ec - ce quad - ra - gi - si mo o

22

lis cur sus mei - an no oh

lis cur sus mei - an no oh

lis cur sus mei oh

lis cur sus mei - oh

lis cur sus- mei an no oh -

lis cur sus- mei - an no

26

oh Lo

oh

oh Lo

oh Lo

oh oh

oh oh

31

Lo Lo In the for - ty third year

mp Lo Lo In the for - ty third year

Lo In the for - ty third year

In the for - ty third year

mp Lo In the for - ty third year

mp Lo In the for - ty third year

36

of my life ai earth - ly life

of my life ai

of my life ai earth - ly life

of my life ai

of my life ai earth - ly life

of my life ai

39

Exuberantly full, but light

p

ah ah ah

earth - ly life ah ah

ah ah

p

earth - ly life ah ah

ah ah

ah ah

43

p ♩ = ♩.

ah ah

ah 5 ah

ah 5 ah

ah ah ah

3 ah

5 ah

48

♩. = 72

gently, undulating

p

(ah)

(ah)

(ah)

(ah)

I — saw a

(ah)

(ah)

(ah)

(ah)

53

I — saw a

(ah)

hea - ven - ly vi -sion

hea - ven - ly vi - sion

ah

I — saw a

hea - ven - ly vi sion

ah

57

in relievo

f

hea-ven-ly vi sion

Cum ce les ti — cum ce-

vi - sion vi sion hea-ven-ly vi - sion vi - sion vi sion

ah

I saw a heaven-ly vi sion

I saw a hea-ven-ly

saw a vi sion

I saw a hea-ven-ly vi sion

62

-les -ti — vi-si -o -ni

po- co a po- co cre - scen - do - - - mag -no ti-

ah — ah

ah

ah

po- co a po- co cre - scen - do - - -

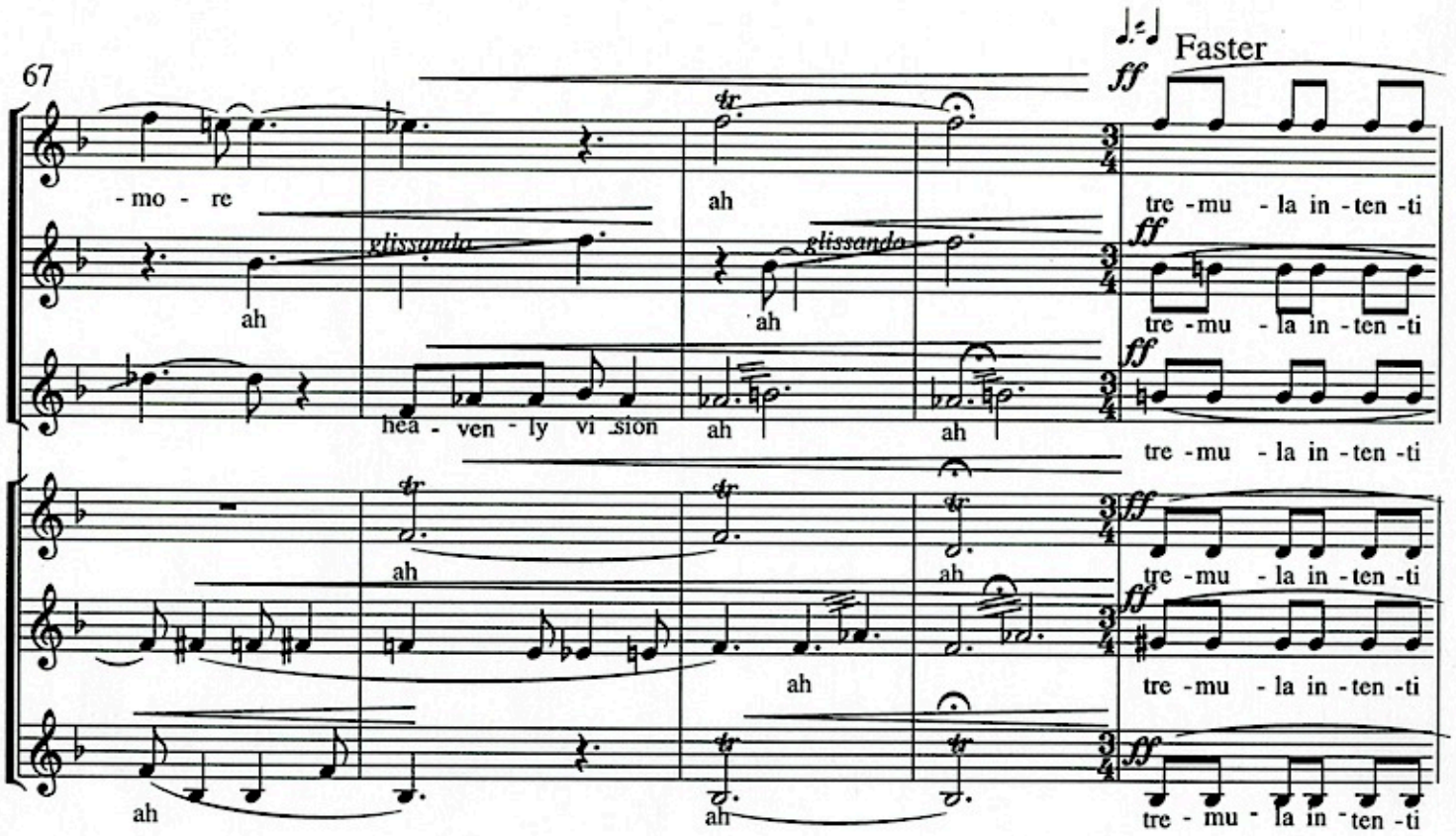
I saw a vi sion

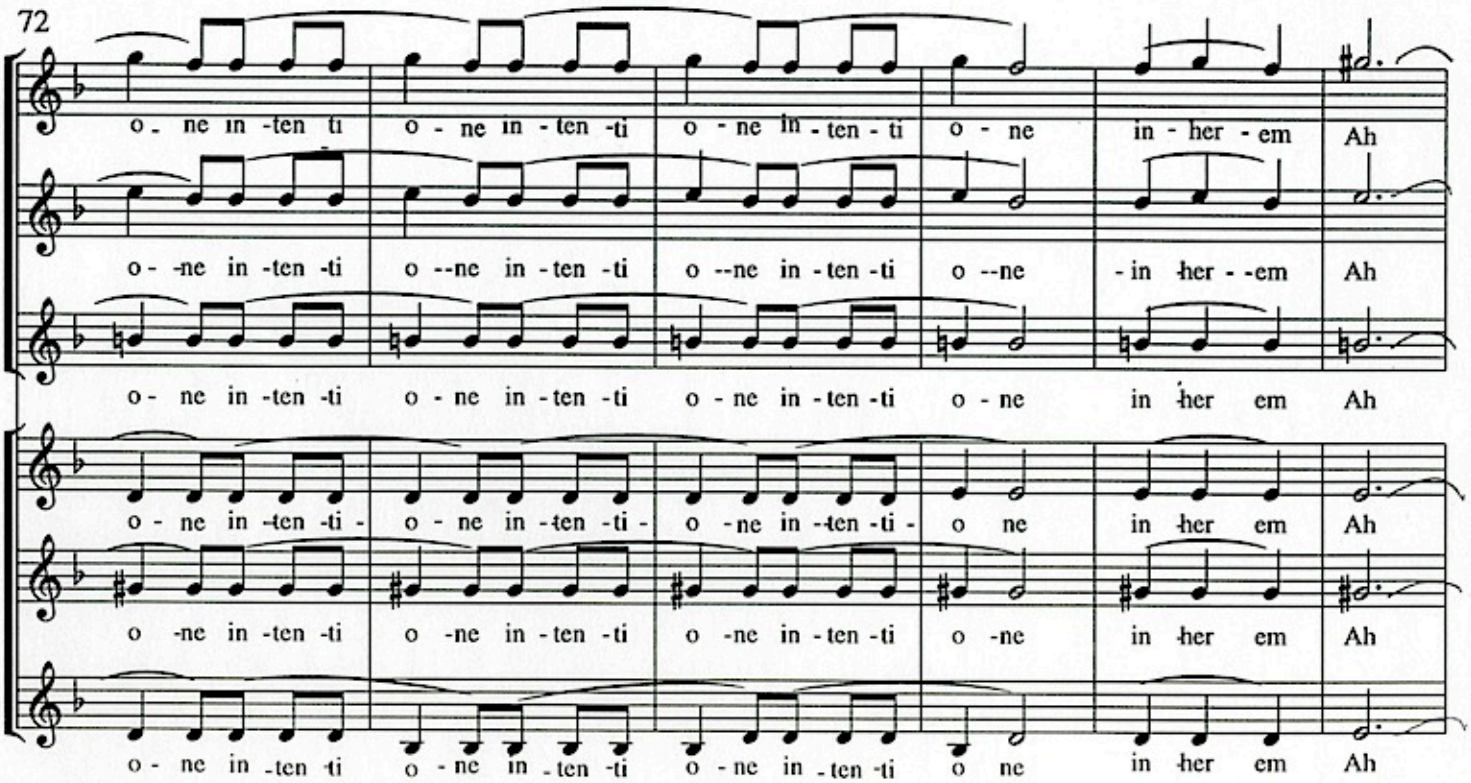
I — saw a hea-ven-ly vi sion

po - co a po - co cre - sc en - do - - -

I — saw a ah

I — saw a hea-ven-ly vi sion


67
Faster
ff
-mo - re
ah
tre -mu - la in -ten -ti
glissando
hea - ven - ly vi sion


72
o - ne in -ten ti
o - ne in - ten -ti
o - ne in - ten - ti
o - ne
in - her - em
Ah

78

r-i-t-a-r-d

♩ = 54

Angelically, gradually speeding up and getting louder

sempre legato

Ah

ritard

Ah

ritard

Ah

ritard

pp

Ah

Vi - di max - i - mum splen - dor - um Vi - di

ritard

pp

Ah

Vi - di max - i - mum splen - dor - um Vi - di

ritard

pp

Ah

Vi - di max - i - mum splen - dor - um Vi - di

82

mf

splen dor - um Vi - -

mf

Vi - -

mf

Vi

mf

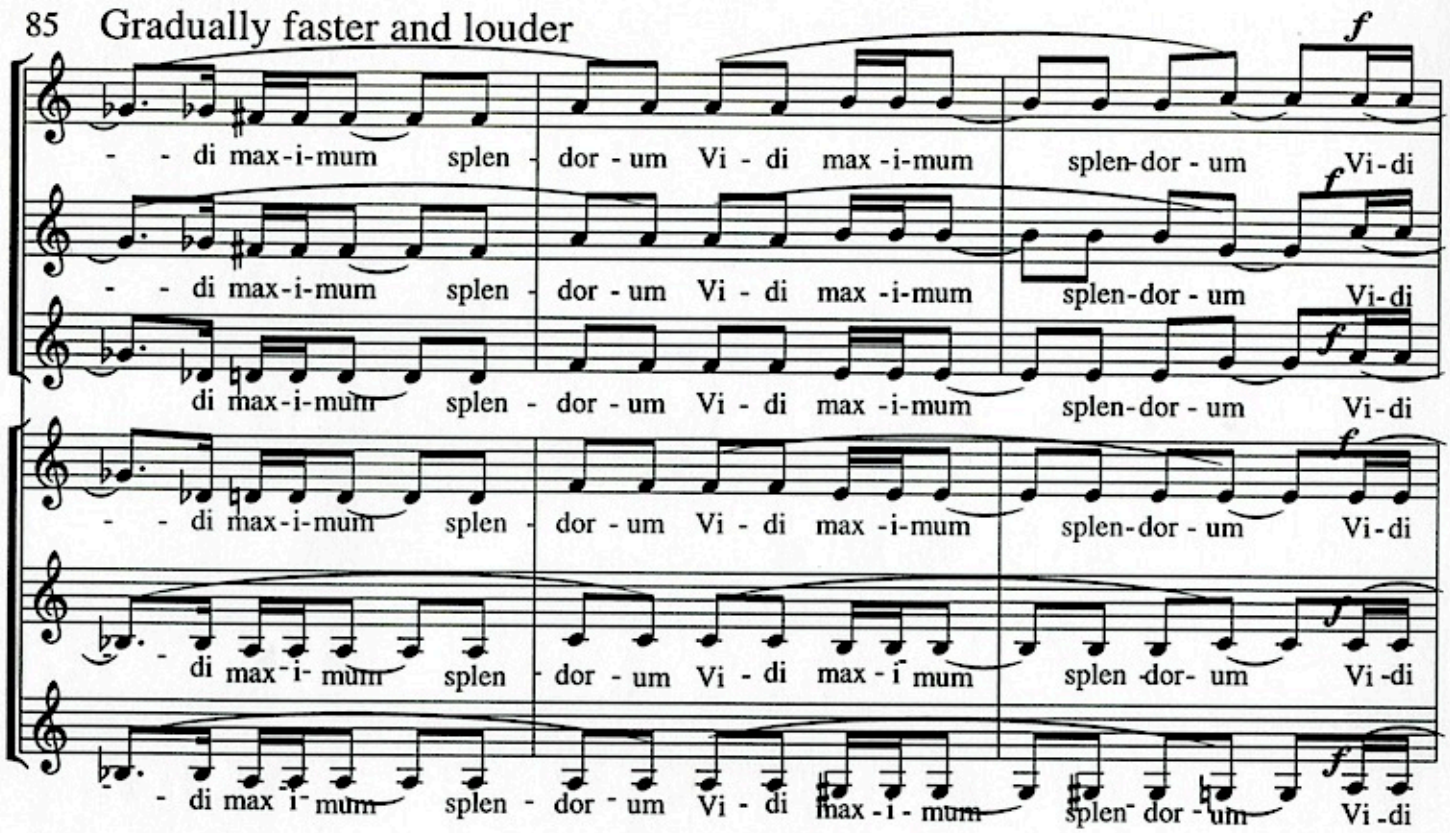
max - i - mum splen - dor - um vi di max - i - mum splen - dor - um Vi - -

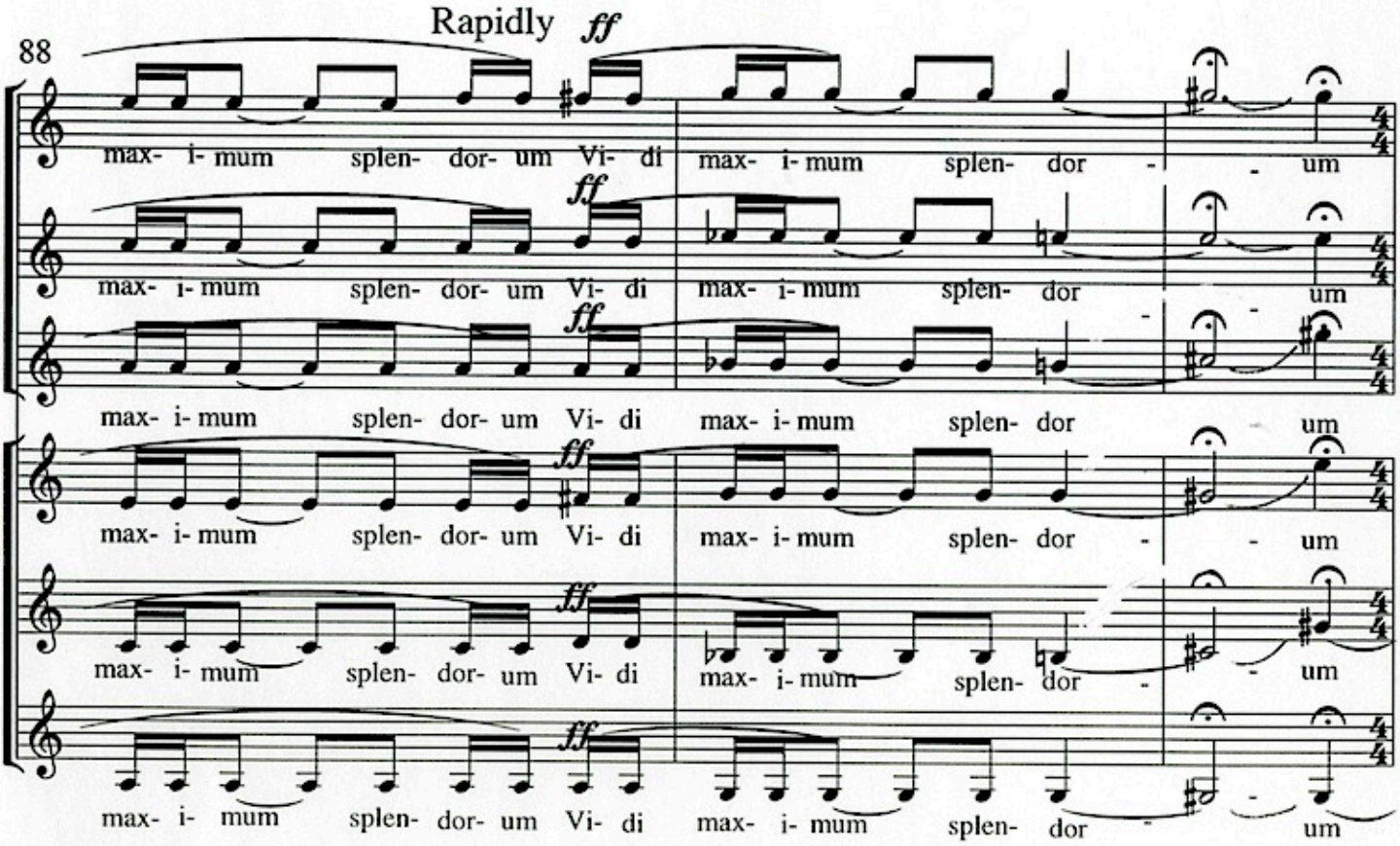
mf

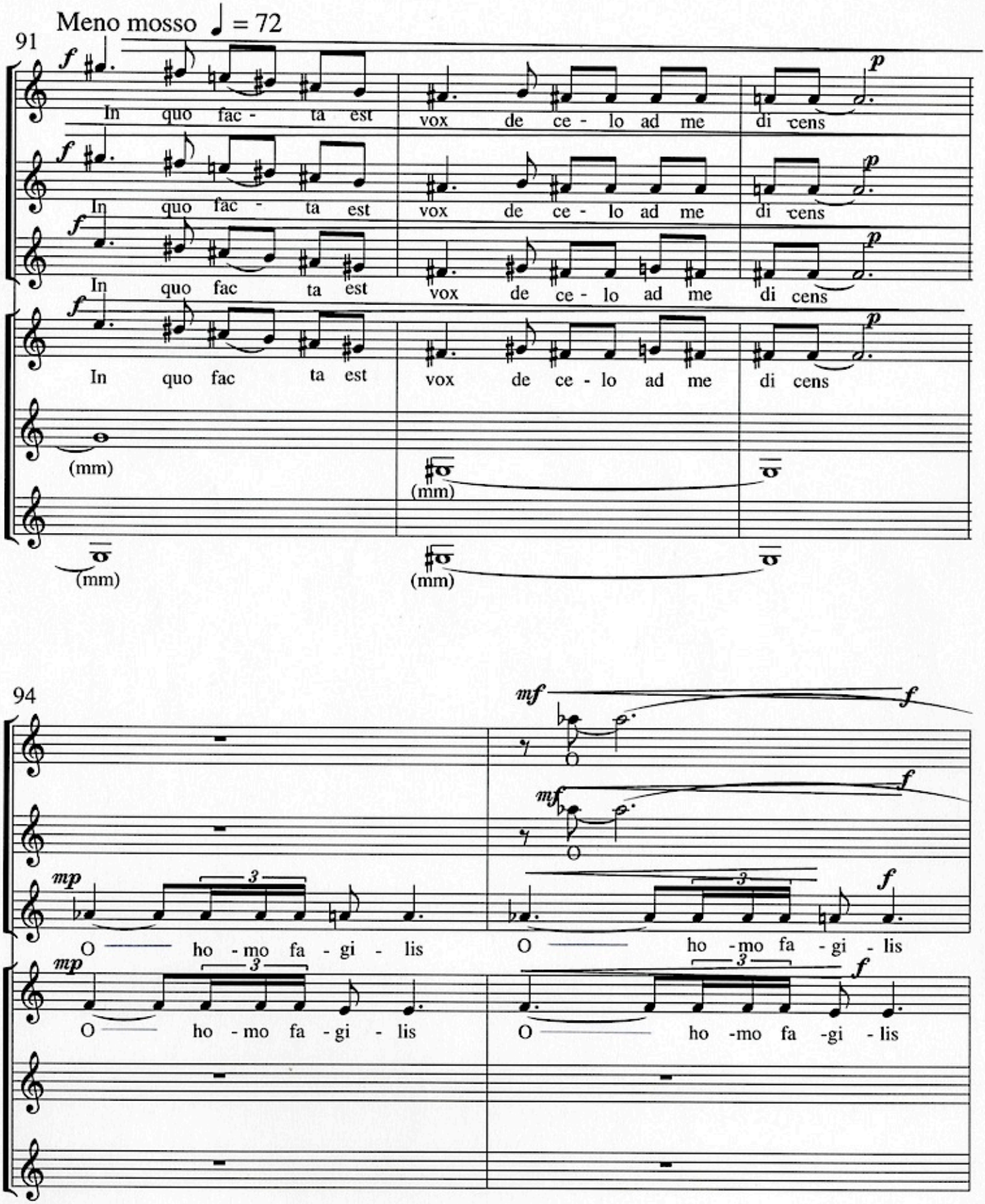
max - i - mum splen - dor - um vi di max - i - mum splen - dor - um Vi - -

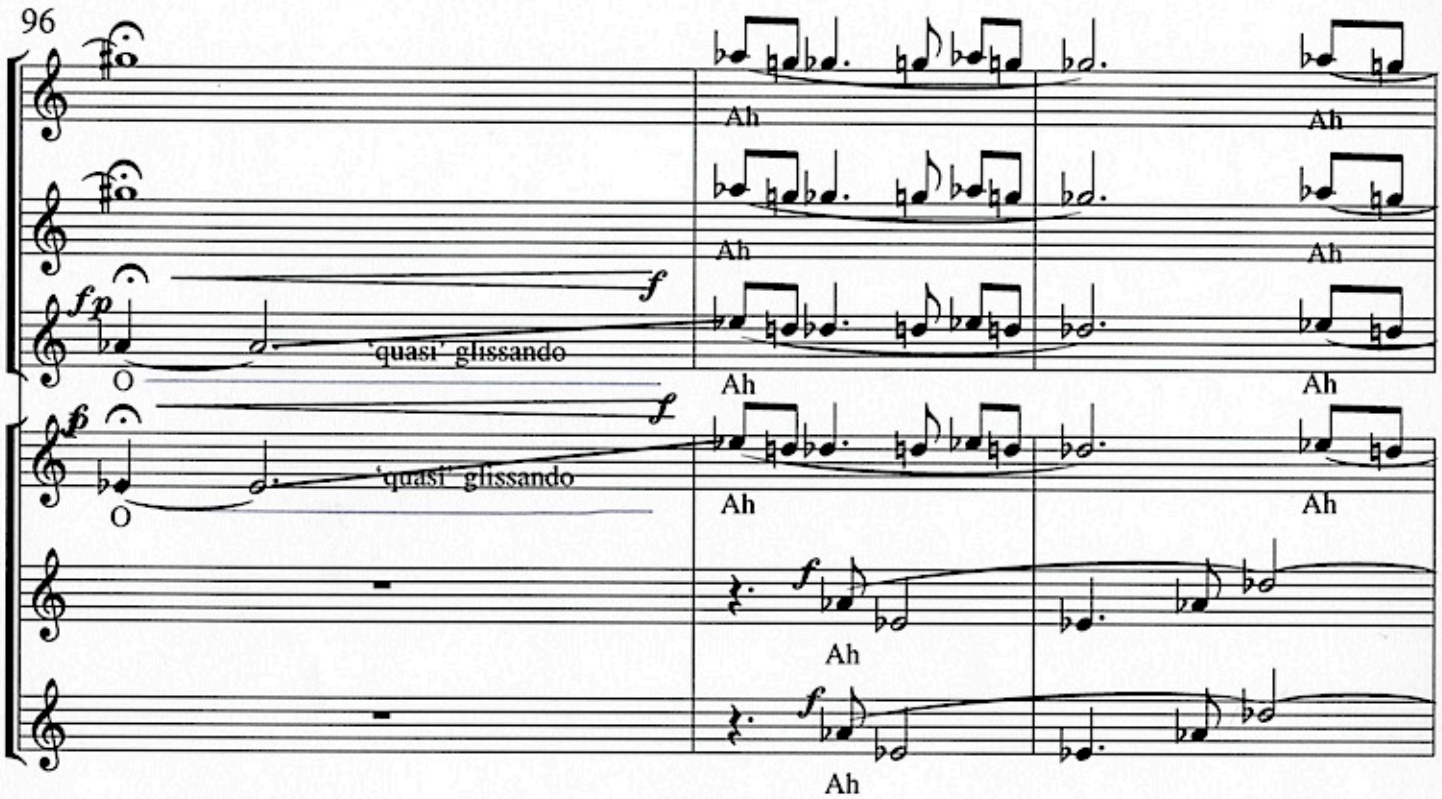
mf

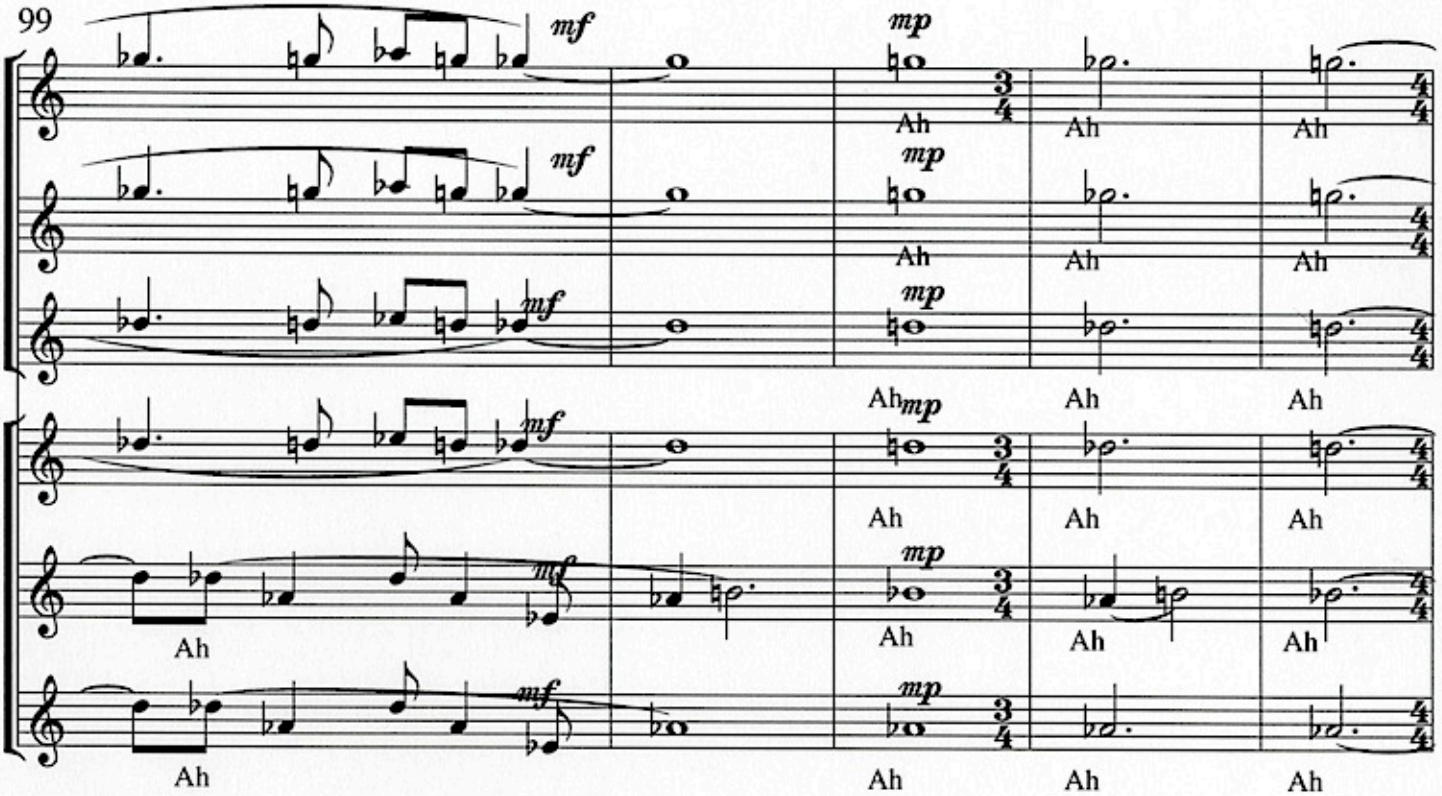
max i - mum splen - dor - um vi - di max - i - mum splen - dor - um Vi - -

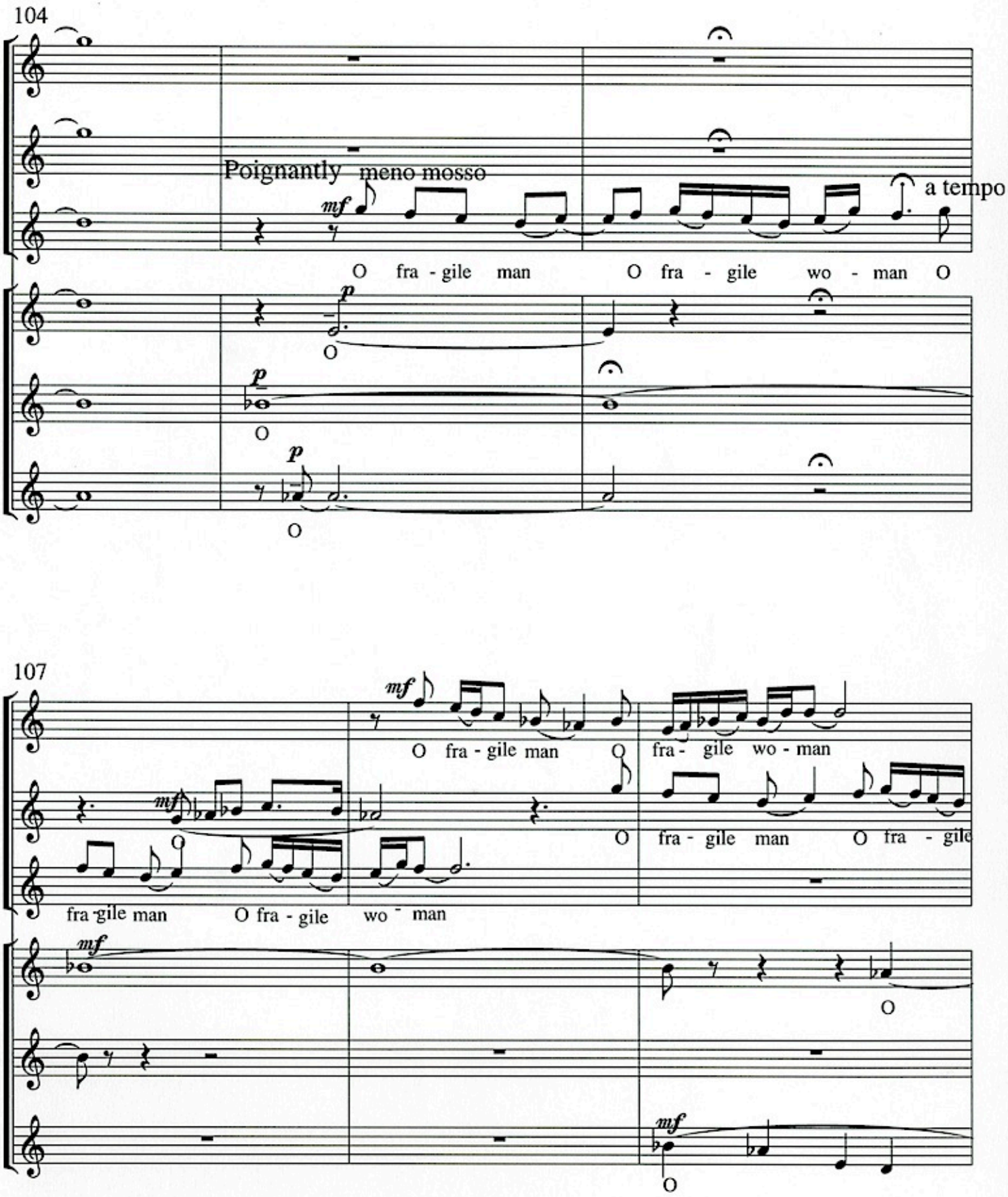

85 Gradually faster and louder
f
- - di max-i-mum splen - dor - um Vi - di max -i-mum splen-dor - um Vi-di
- - di max-i-mum splen - dor - um Vi - di max -i-mum splen-dor - um Vi-di
di max-i-mum splen - dor - um Vi - di max -i-mum splen-dor - um Vi-di
- - di max-i-mum splen - dor - um Vi - di max -i-mum splen-dor - um Vi-di
di max-i-mum splen - dor - um Vi - di max - i mum splen -dor- um Vi -di
- di max i mum splen - dor - um Vi - di max - i - mum splen dor - um Vi -di


88
Rapidly ff
max- i- mum splen- dor- um Vi- di max- i- mum splen- dor - - um
max- i- mum splen- dor- um Vi- di max- i- mum splen- dor - um
max- i- mum splen- dor- um Vi- di max- i- mum splen- dor - um
max- i- mum splen- dor- um Vi- di max- i- mum splen- dor - - um
max- i- mum splen- dor- um Vi- di max- i- mum splen- dor - um


Meno mosso ♩ = 72
91
In quo fac - ta est vox de ce - lo ad me di cens
In quo fac - ta est vox de ce - lo ad me di cens
In quo fac ta est vox de ce - lo ad me di cens
In quo fac ta est vox de ce - lo ad me di cens
(mm)
94
O ho - mo fa - gi - lis
O ho - mo fa - gi - lis
O ho - mo fa - gi - lis
O ho - mo fa - gi - lis


96
fp
f
'quasi' glissando
O
Ah


99
mf
mp
Ah


104
Poignantly meno mosso
mf
a tempo
O fra - gile man O fra - gile wo - man O
p
O
p
O
p
O
107
mf
O fra - gile man O fra - gile wo - man
mf
O
O fra - gile man O fra - gile
fra - gile man O fra - gile wo - man
mf
O
mf
O

110

O

wo - man

O

O fra -gile man O fra - gile wo man fra - gile wo - man

O

112

O fra - gile O fra - gile O

O

fra gile man

O

fra - gile man O -

O

O

O

114

fra - gile man O O a*

O fra - gile wo - man O a*

O O O a*

O O a*

O O a*

O O a*

*'a' as in 'ash'

117

A(sh) sh of ash - es de - cay of de cay

A(sh) - - A(sh) - sh of ash - es de - cay of de -cay

A(sh) sh of ash - es de - cay

A(sh) sh of ash - es de - cay

A(sh) - - sh of ash - es de - cay of

A(sh) - - sh of ash - es de - cay of de

121

p (ay) mf Ah Ah

p (ay) mp (ay) mf Ah

Ah

mp (ay) Ah

mp (ay) mp (ay) Ah

Full and resonant but still tenderly

125

Ah

Ah ah

Ah

f Di - ce et scri - be que vi des et au - dis

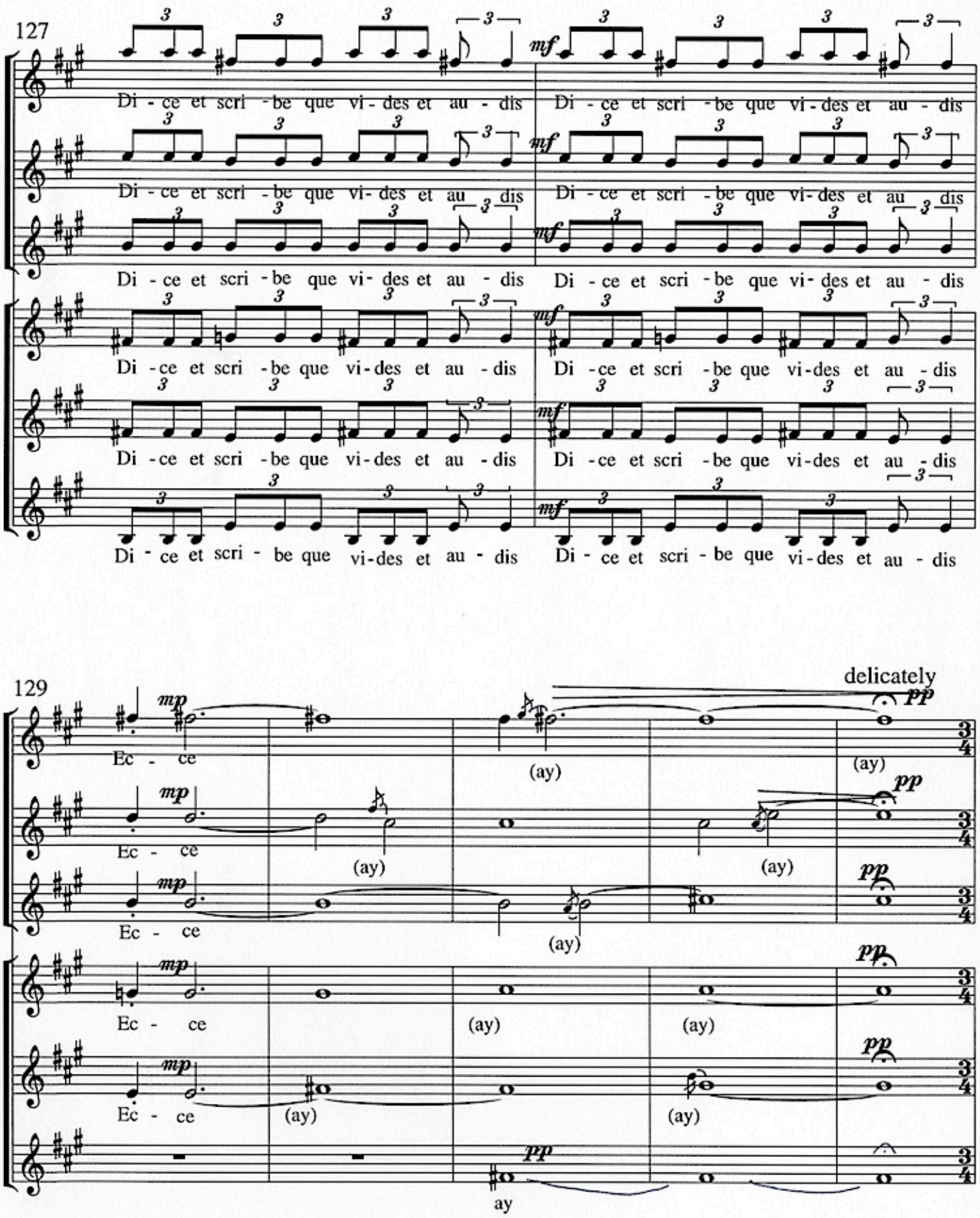
f Di - ce et scri - be que vi des et au dis

f Di - ce et scri - be que vi des et au - dis

f Di - ce et scri - be que vi des et au - dis

Ah

f Di - ce et scri - be que vi des et au - dis


127
mf
Di - ce et scri - be que vi - des et au - dis
Di - ce et scri - be que vi - des et au - dis
129
delicately
mp
pp
Ec - ce
(ay)
ay

134

Exuberant yet light

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

139

ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

143

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

Ah

147

Say and write what you see and hear Say and write what you see and hear

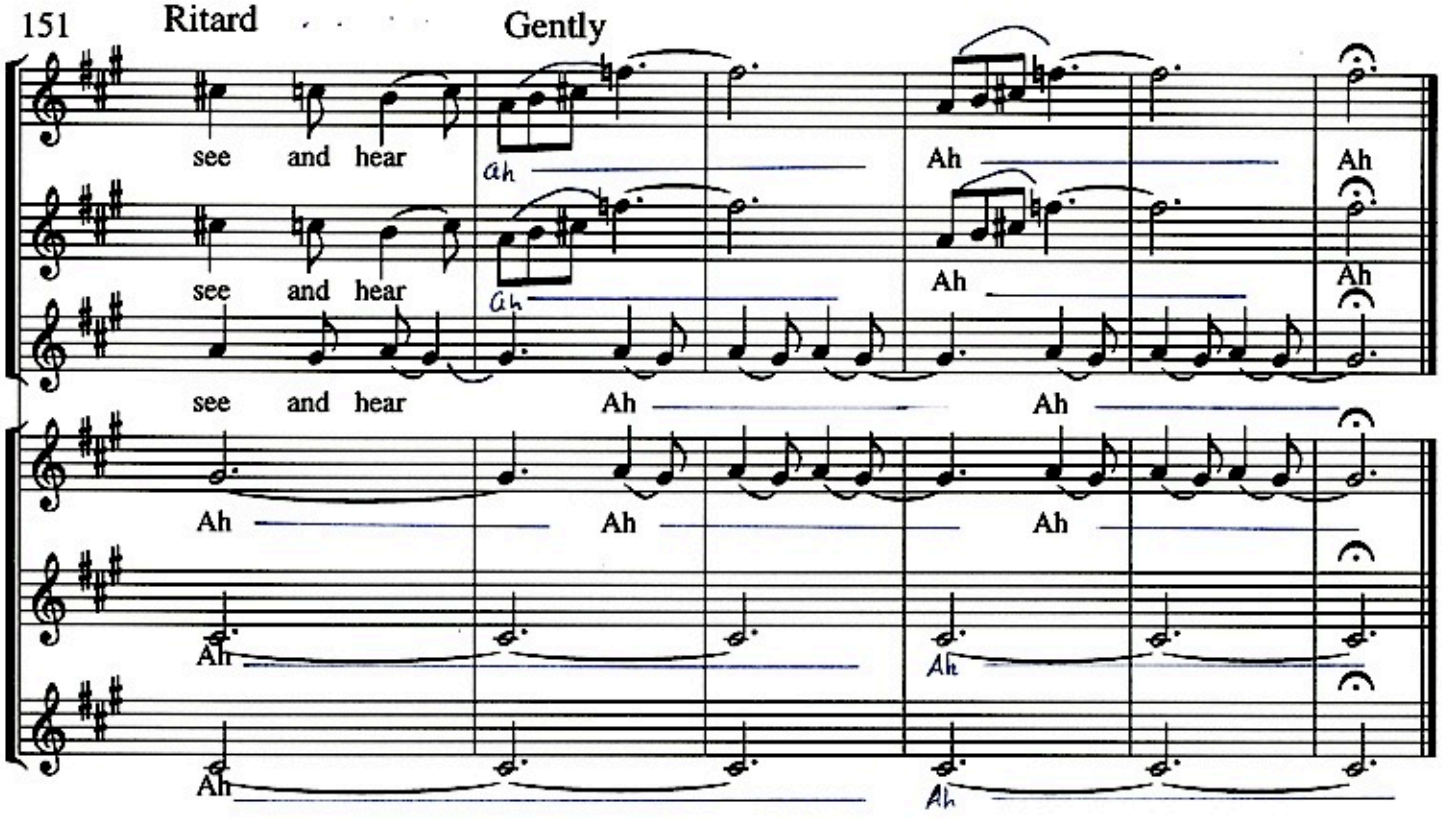
Say and write what you see and hear Say and write what you see and hear

Say and write what you see and hear Say and write what you see and hear

Ah Ah

Ah Ah

Ah Ah


151
Ritard
Gently
see and hear
ah
Ah
Ah
see and hear
ah
Ah
Ah
see and hear
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah