AHM 188 $2.00

SATB

Ashrei Hagafrur

"Blessed is the Match"

Music by Arnold Harris

*A **Hebrew Song** for the Chanukah Season*

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Ashrei Hagafrur

Hannah Senesh (1921-1944) was a Hungarian born Jew, who moved to Palestine in 1939 to escape the Nazi persecution of Jews in Europe. Once there, she enlisted to fight the Germans and was parachuted by the British to Yugoslavia. She was captured, tortured and executed in 1944 at the age of 23. Even at a young age she was a noted poet and playwright.

This poem, Ashrei Hagafrur, ("Blessed Is The Match") is her last poem, written while she was in Yugoslavia. Although not specifically a Chanukah text, it expresses the yearning for religious and political freedom which is the context of the Chanukah holiday.

Arnold Harris' original setting of the text reflects the tension and power of the lyrics with biting harmonies and rhythmic accompaniment.

Chanukah celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was recaptured from the Syrian Greeks in 165 BCE. The miracle referred to is the fact that when the priests returned to the Temple, they found only enough oil to last for one day, but it lasted for eight. Thus, holiday candles are lit on all eight days. The menorah, with its eight branches, one for each candle, has become the symbol of Chanukah.

Lyrics (Translation by Marie Syrkin)

Ashrei hagafrur she nisraf	**Blessed is the match that is**
v'hitzit l'havot	**consumed in kindling flame**
Ashrei hal'hava shebaarah	**Blessed is the flame that burns in**
b'sitrei l'vavot	**secret fastness of the heart**
Ashrei hal'vavot sheyadu	**Blessed is the heart with strength**
lachdol b'chavod	**to stop it's beating for honor's sake**

Pronunciation Guide For Hebrew

a	**as in *ah***
e	**as in *led***
i	**as in *ski***
o	**as in French *beau***
u	**as in zoo (no diphthong)**
ei	**as in French *blasé***
ch	**as in German *buch***
g	**as in *good***
h	**as in *house***
k	**as in *kite***
s	**as in *sound***
sh	**as in *shoe***
ts	**as in *hits***

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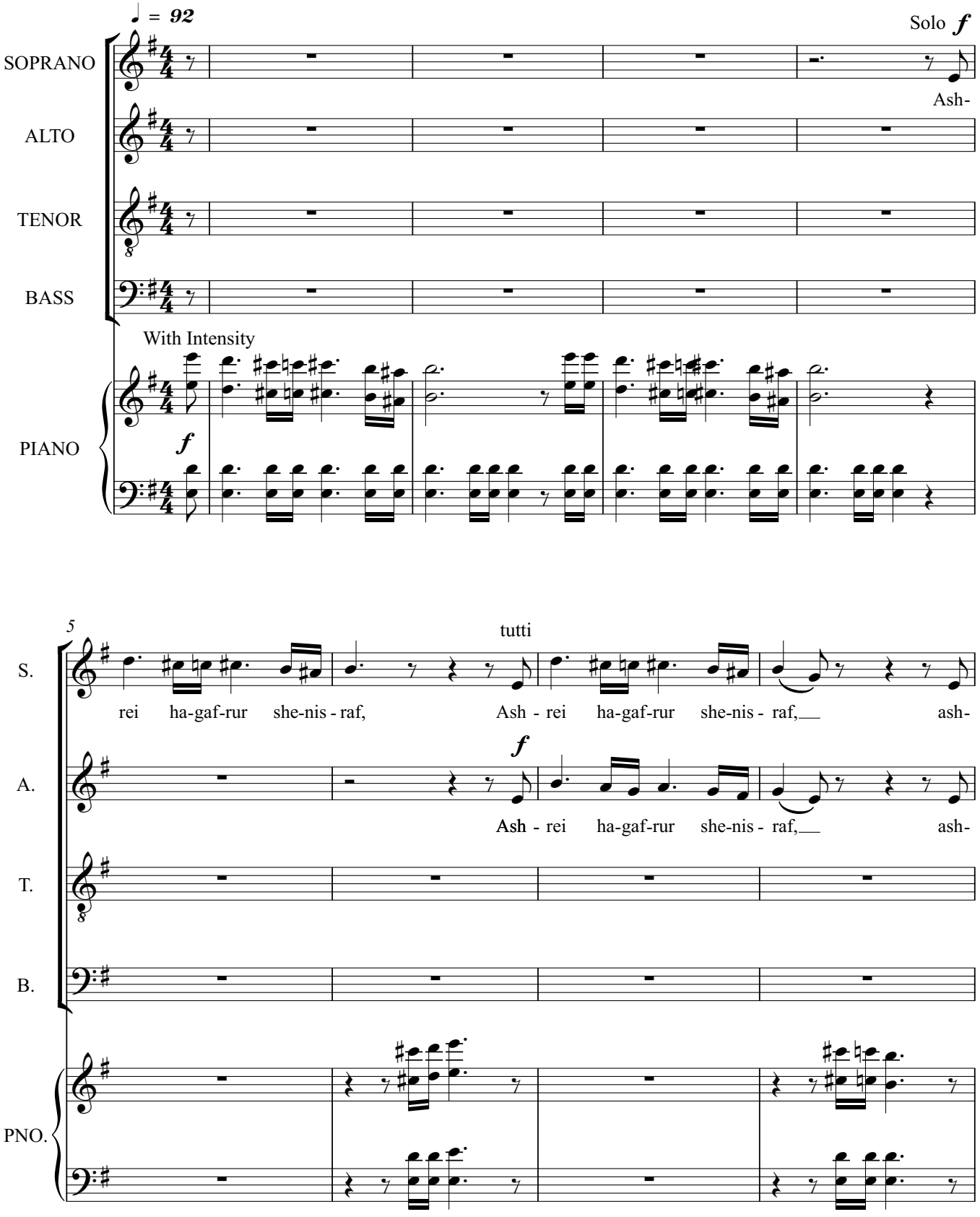
Ashrei Hagafrur

poem by Hannah Senesh (1921-1944)

music by Arnold Harris ©2011



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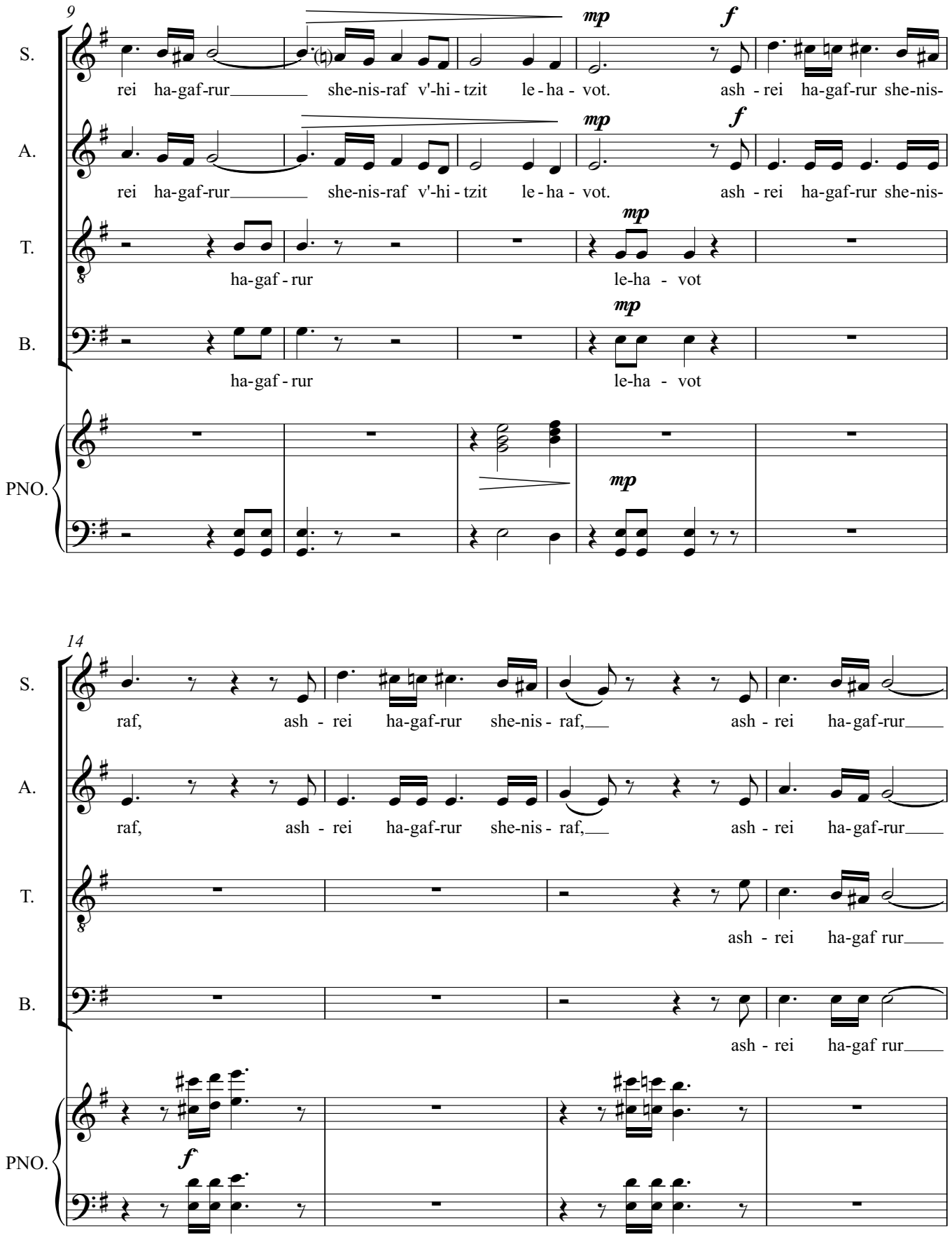
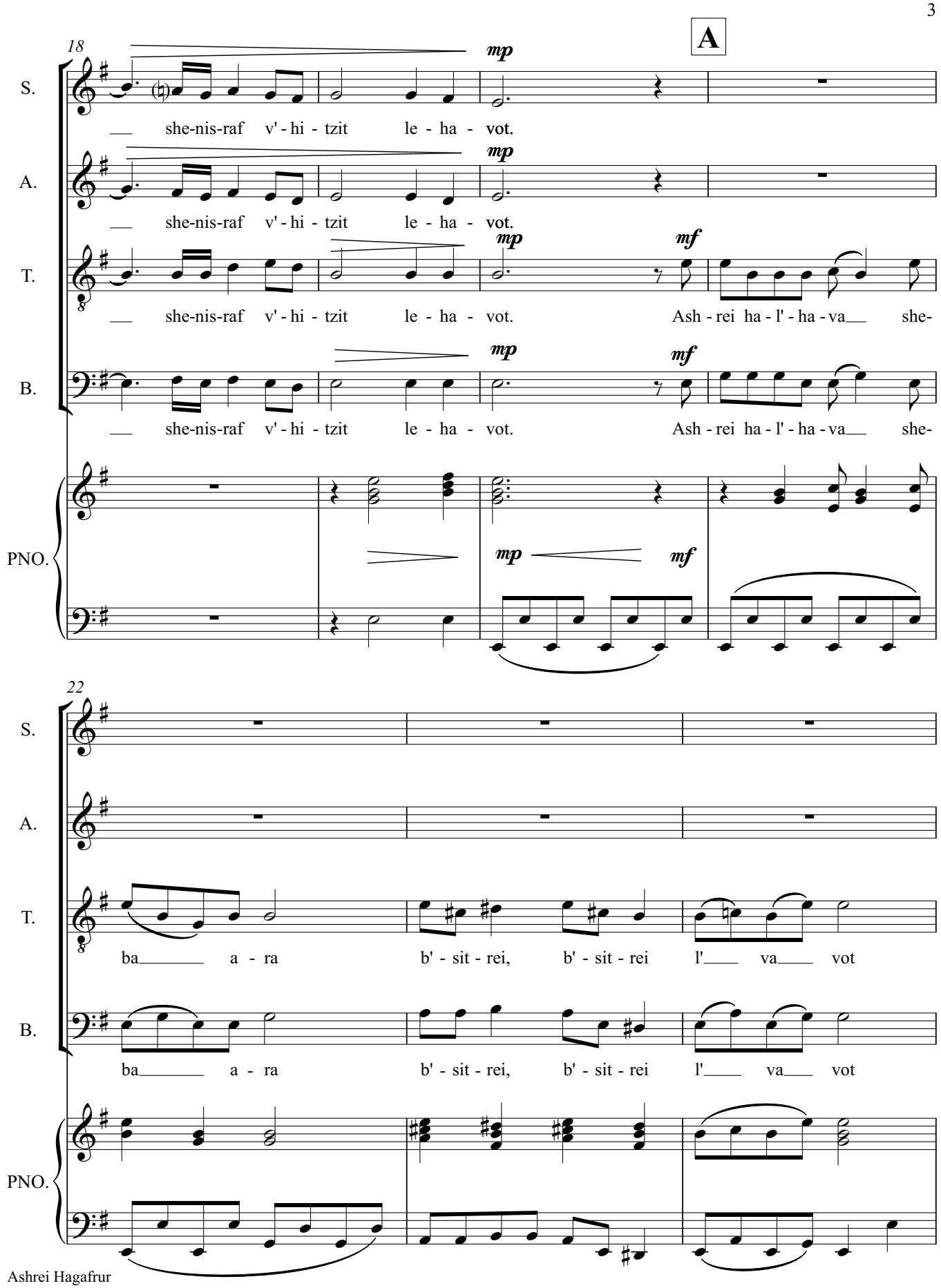
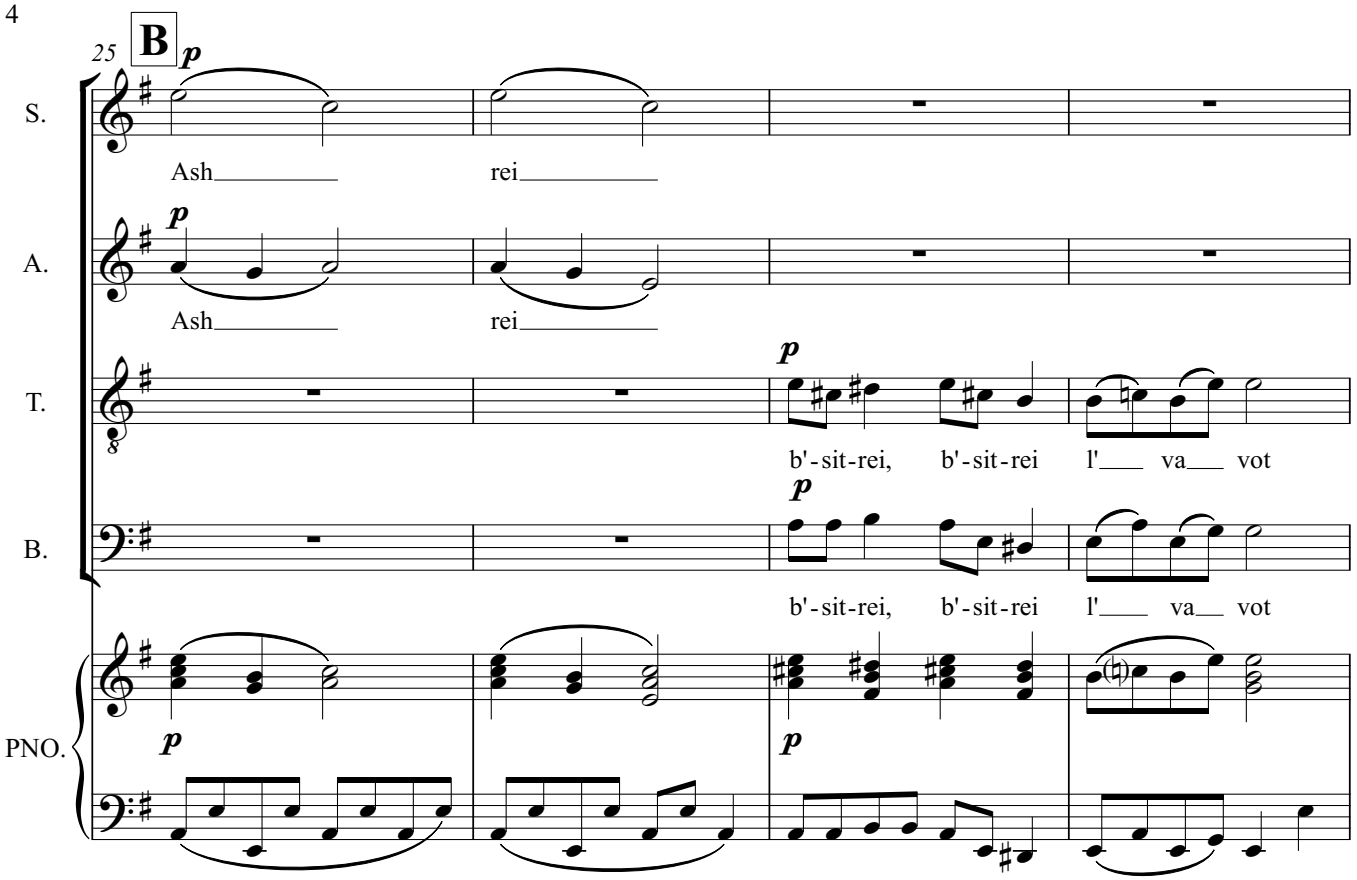
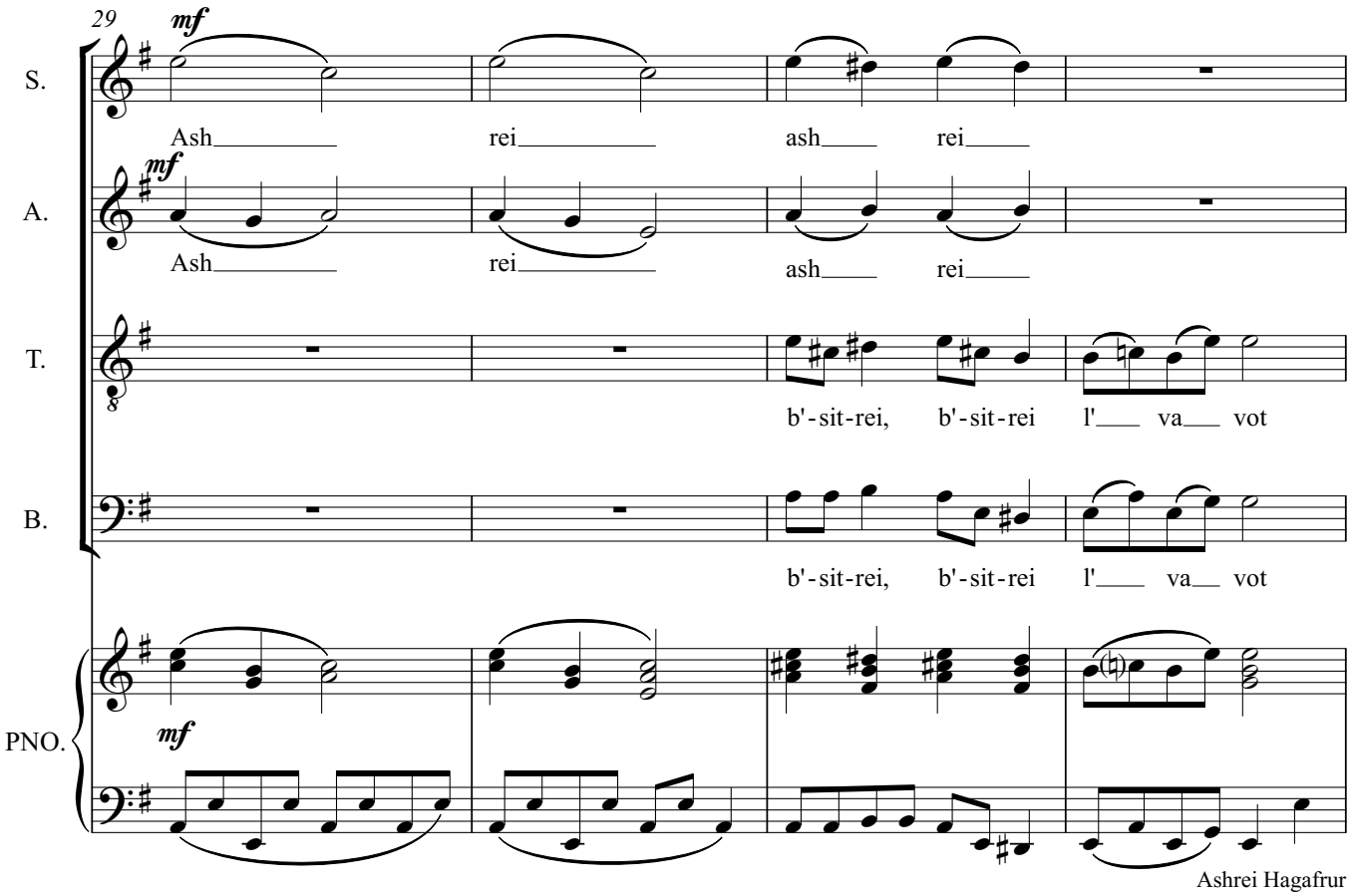
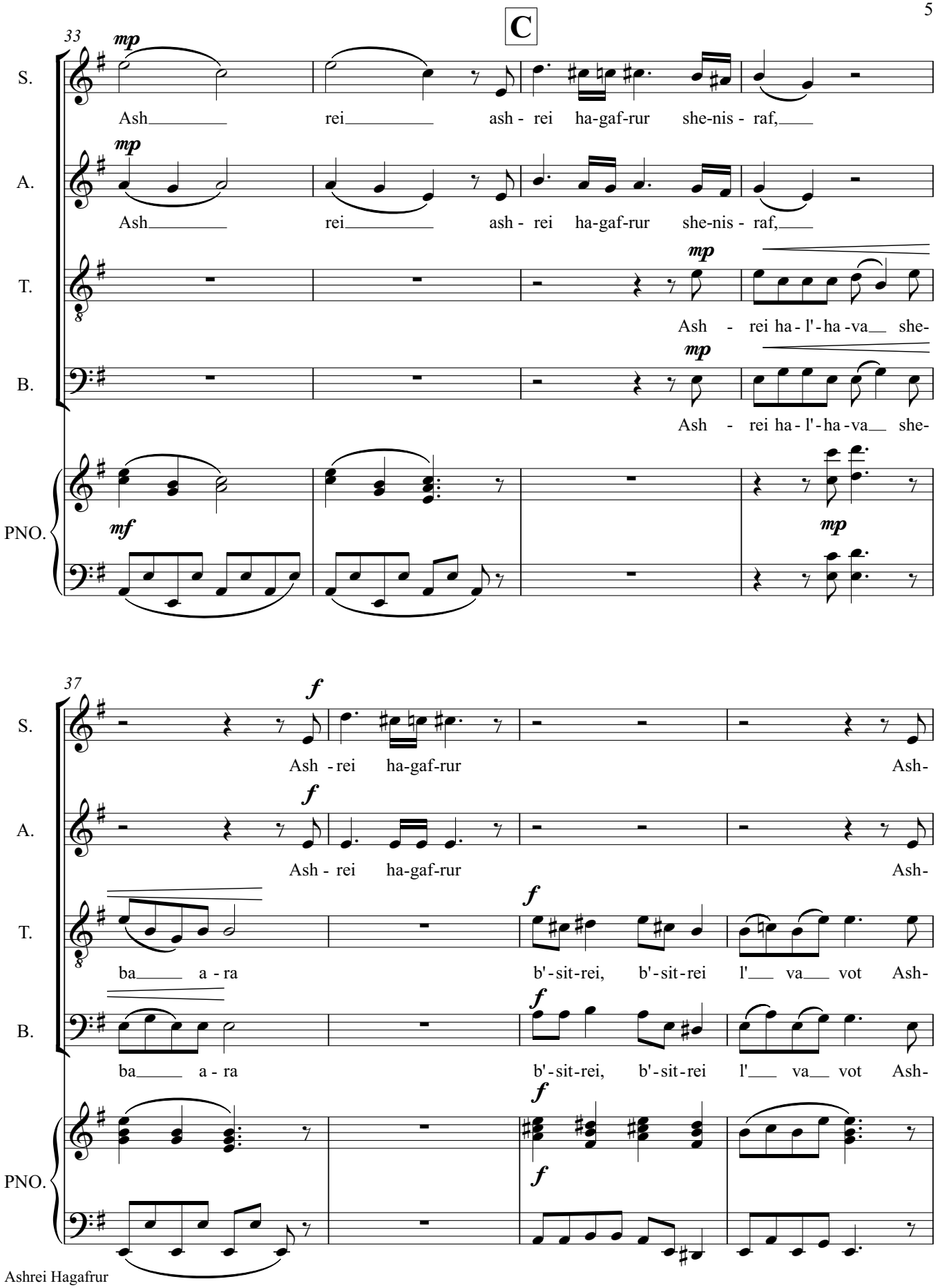
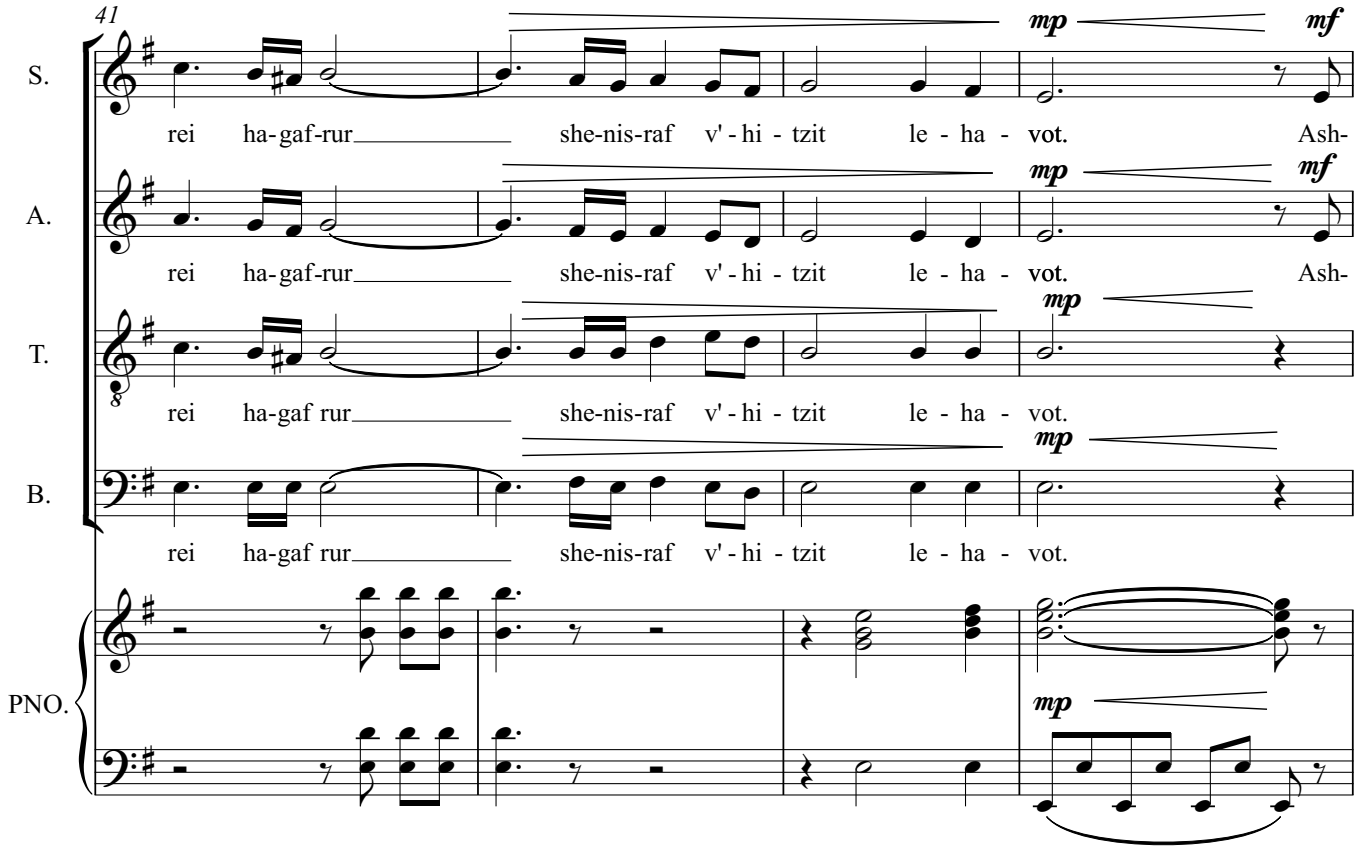

9
S.
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi-tzit le-ha-vot. ash-rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-
A.
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi-tzit le-ha-vot. ash-rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-
T.
ha-gaf-rur le-ha-vot
B.
ha-gaf-rur le-ha-vot
PNO.
mp
f
14
S.
raf, ash-rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf, ash-rei ha-gaf-rur
A.
raf, ash-rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf, ash-rei ha-gaf-rur
T.
ash-rei ha-gaf rur
B.
ash-rei ha-gaf rur
PNO.
f

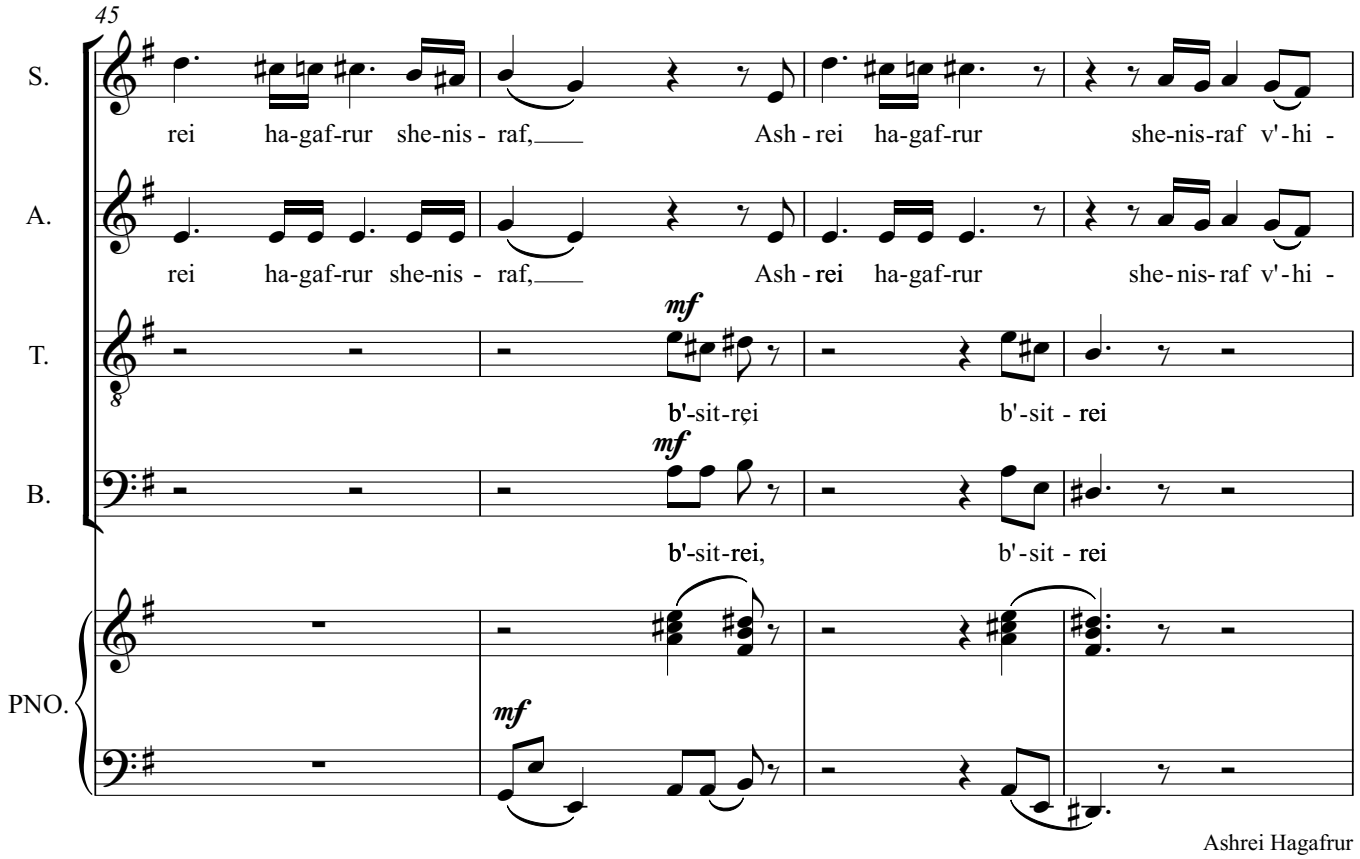

A
18
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mp
mf
she-nis-raf v'-hi-tzit le-ha-vot.
Ash-rei ha-l'-ha-va she-
22
ba a-ra b'-sit-rei, b'-sit-rei l' va vot

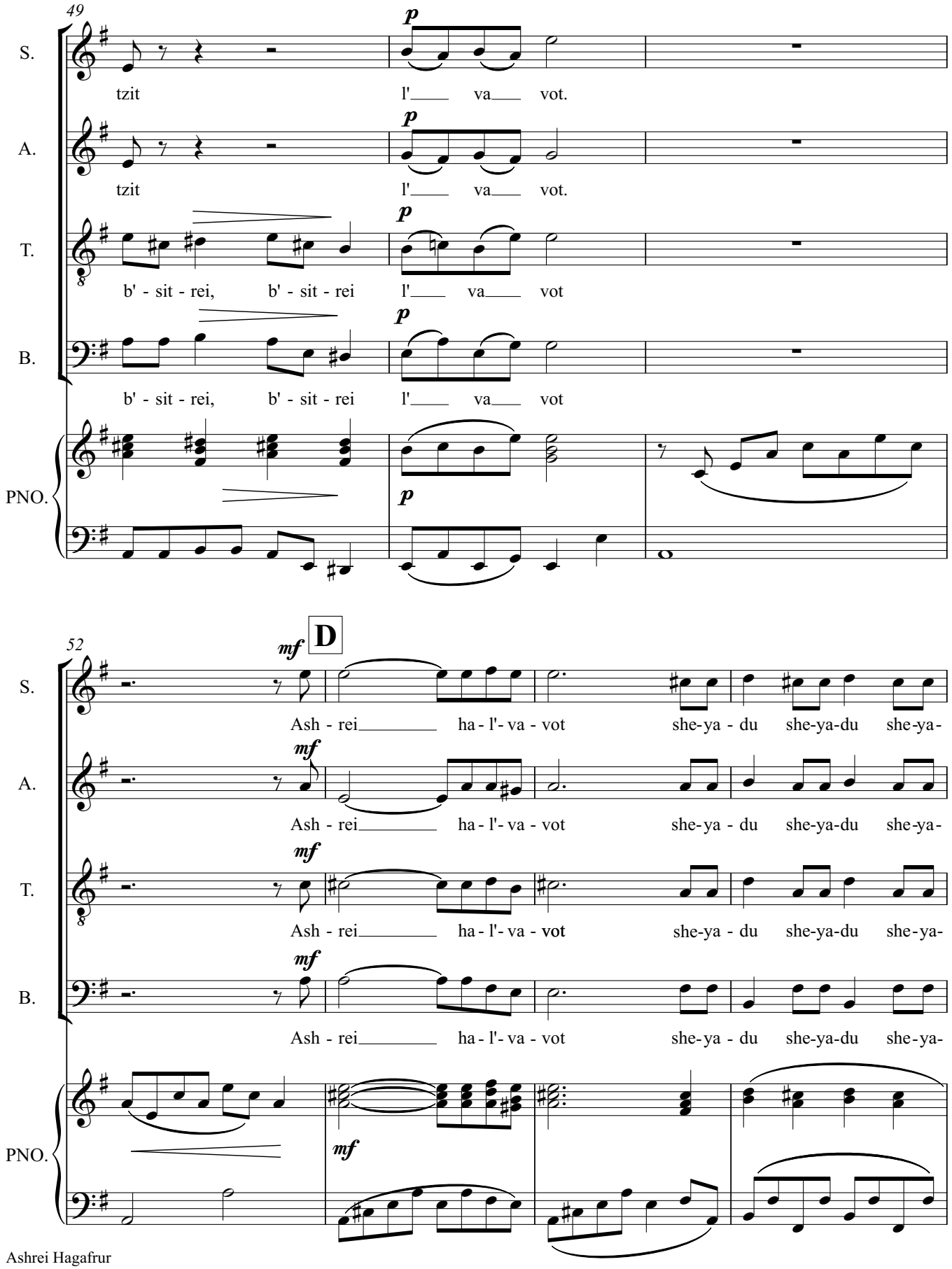

25
B
p
S.
Ash rei
A.
Ash rei
T.
b'-sit-rei, b'-sit-rei l' va vot
B.
b'-sit-rei, b'-sit-rei l' va vot
PNO.

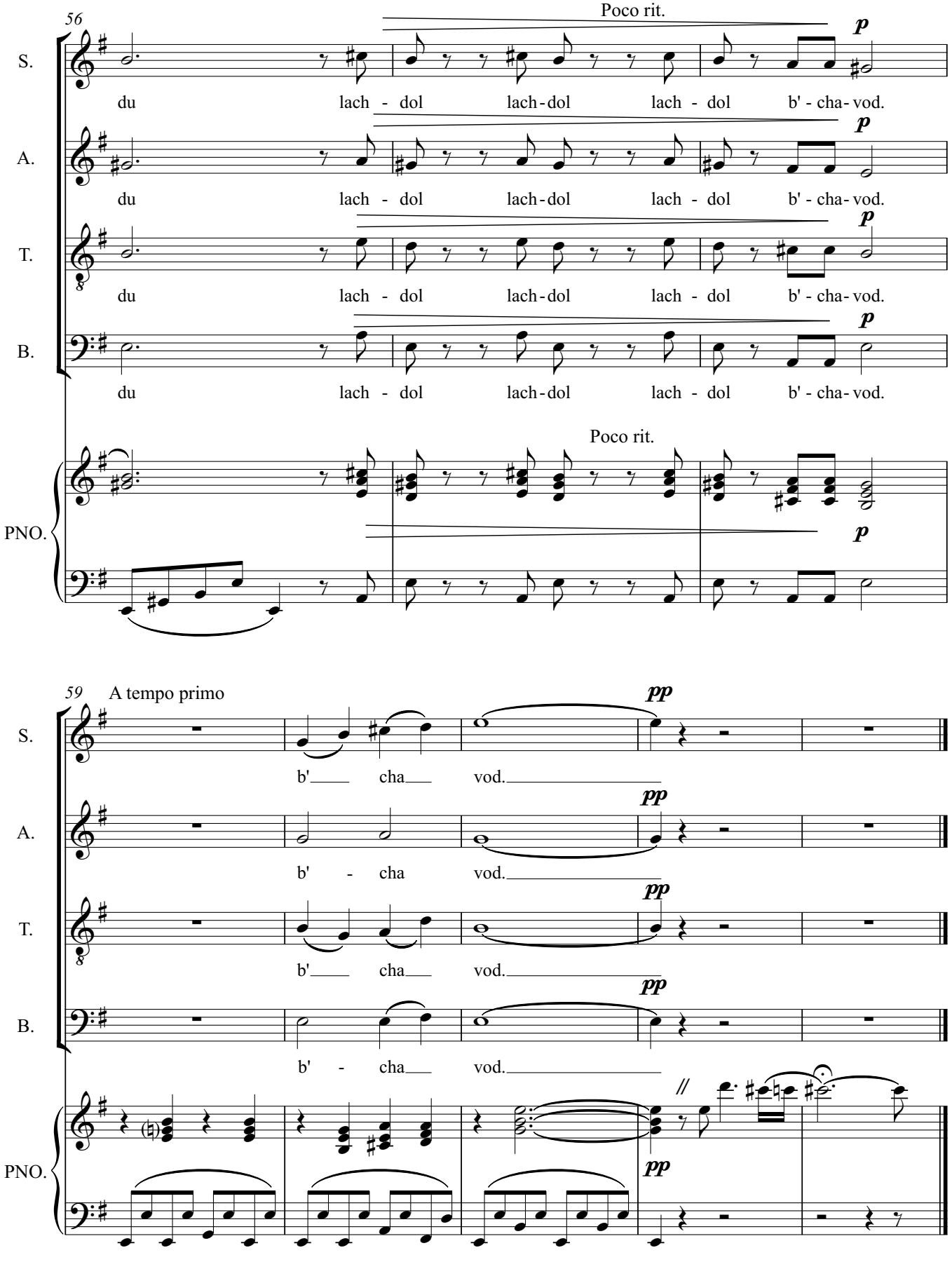

29
mf
S.
Ash rei ash rei
A.
Ash rei ash rei
T.
b'-sit-rei, b'-sit-rei l' va vot
B.
b'-sit-rei, b'-sit-rei l' va vot
PNO.


C
33
S.
A.
T.
B.
PNO.
mp
Ash rei ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis - raf,
Ash - rei ha - l' - ha - va she-
mf
37
f
Ash - rei ha-gaf-rur
Ash-
ba a - ra
b' - sit-rei, b' - sit-rei l' va vot Ash-


41
S.
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi-tzit le-ha-vot. Ash-
A.
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi-tzit le-ha-vot. Ash-
T.
rei ha-gaf rur she-nis-raf v'-hi-tzit le-ha-vot.
B.
rei ha-gaf rur she-nis-raf v'-hi-tzit le-ha-vot.
PNO.
mp
mf


45
S.
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf, Ash-rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi-
A.
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf, Ash-rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi-
T.
b'-sit-rei b'-sit-rei
B.
b'-sit-rei, b'-sit-rei
PNO.
mf


49
S.
tzit l'___ va___ vot.
A.
tzit l'___ va___ vot.
T.
b' - sit - rei, b' - sit - rei l'___ va___ vot
B.
b' - sit - rei, b' - sit - rei l'___ va___ vot
PNO.
52
D
S.
Ash - rei_____ ha - l'- va - vot she-ya - du she-ya-du she-ya-
A.
Ash - rei_____ ha - l'- va - vot she-ya - du she-ya-du she-ya-
T.
Ash - rei_____ ha - l'- va - vot she-ya - du she-ya-du she-ya-
B.
Ash - rei_____ ha - l'- va - vot she-ya - du she-ya-du she-ya-
PNO.


56
Poco rit.
p
S.
du lach - dol lach-dol lach - dol b' - cha- vod.
A.
du lach - dol lach-dol lach - dol b' - cha- vod.
T.
du lach - dol lach-dol lach - dol b' - cha- vod.
B.
du lach - dol lach-dol lach - dol b' - cha- vod.
PNO.
Poco rit.
59
A tempo primo
pp
S.
b' cha vod.
A.
b' - cha vod.
T.
b' cha vod.
B.
b' - cha vod.
PNO.