Red & Green

words and music
by
Maddy Prior
arranged
by
Joan Szymko

Joan Szymko (b.1957)

Joan Szymko's music is sung by distinguished ensembles across North America and abroad, with performances at international competitions and festivals, at state and regional conferences, and at six consecutive National Conferences of the American Choral Directors Association. Especially significant is her contribution to the body of quality literature for women's voices.The ACDA recognized Joan's lasting contribution to the choral arts by slecting her as the recipient of the 2010 Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission, "All Works of Love."

Composing for vocal ensembles is an extension of Szymko's creativity as a choral director; her passion for the art of singing, an embodied approach to sound, her dedication to storytelling and an insistence on quality texts all relate to her predilections as a conductor and are reflected in her choral compositions. She serves on the faculty of Portland State University Music School as director of the select women's choir, Vox Femina. Szymko has led Aurora Chorus as Artistic Director and conductor since 1993.

Maddy Prior (b.1947) is an English folk singer. She is perhaps best known for the many years she performed as lead singer for *Steeleye Span*, an English folk-rock band popular in the 1970's and 1980's.

"Some forty years from her emergence on the late sixties folk club circuit, Maddy Prior is one of the most enduring, influential and respected artists in British music." — from her officail web site: http://www.maddyprior.co.uk/

"Red and Green" is from a suite of seasonal songs Prior wrote for her 1993 Celtic solo album,"Year."

Performance Notes

"Red & Green" is vicseral. Its dorian mode and driving rhythms lend it an ancient, tribal air. Sing this Celtic flavored work with a firm, rooted feeling and and with fire in the belly. The lyrics, economical and evocative, are to be sung crisply.

Percussion for a single player is available (single tom or drum kit) and recommneded though not necessary for a successful performance.

The Holly Tree

In "the dark time of the year," when everything else is barren, the holly tree remains green and continues to bear fruit. Hence, people have found special meaning in the red berries and green leaves of the holly. To the early Celts, who began the tradition of adorning houses with holly during the winter months, this evergreen signifies persistence and triumph, fertility adn growth—even in times of darkness. And to this day, its thorns are symbolic of its perceived protective properties. The lyrics of "Red and Green" the lyrics clearly reflect the ancient Celtic meanings.

When Christianity made its way into Celtic societies, the traditional meaning and beliefs about the holly shifted; the thorns on the holly tree were said to represent the crown of thorns worn by Jesus, while the red berries represented the blood shed by Christ. Holly's use at Christmas time relates to a legend concerning the Holy Family: When Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus were fleeing Herod's soldier's, holly was said to have grown suddenly to provide cover, hiding them from Herod's wrath. In gratitude, the tree was given the power to remain evergreen.

Red & Green

Chorus:
Red and green together be seen
In the dark time of the year
Red and green together be seen
In the time of dread and fear

Green for the thorn of the holly leaf
That shines in candlelight
That holds the hope of evergreen
And glimmers in the night

REFRAIN

Red for the berry round and full
A drop of blood on snow
That shows us our humanity
The fruit from which we grow

These rocky fields of black and white
Demanding endless toil
The misty sun gives tired light
To raise the sleeping soil

REFRAIN

Red and Green

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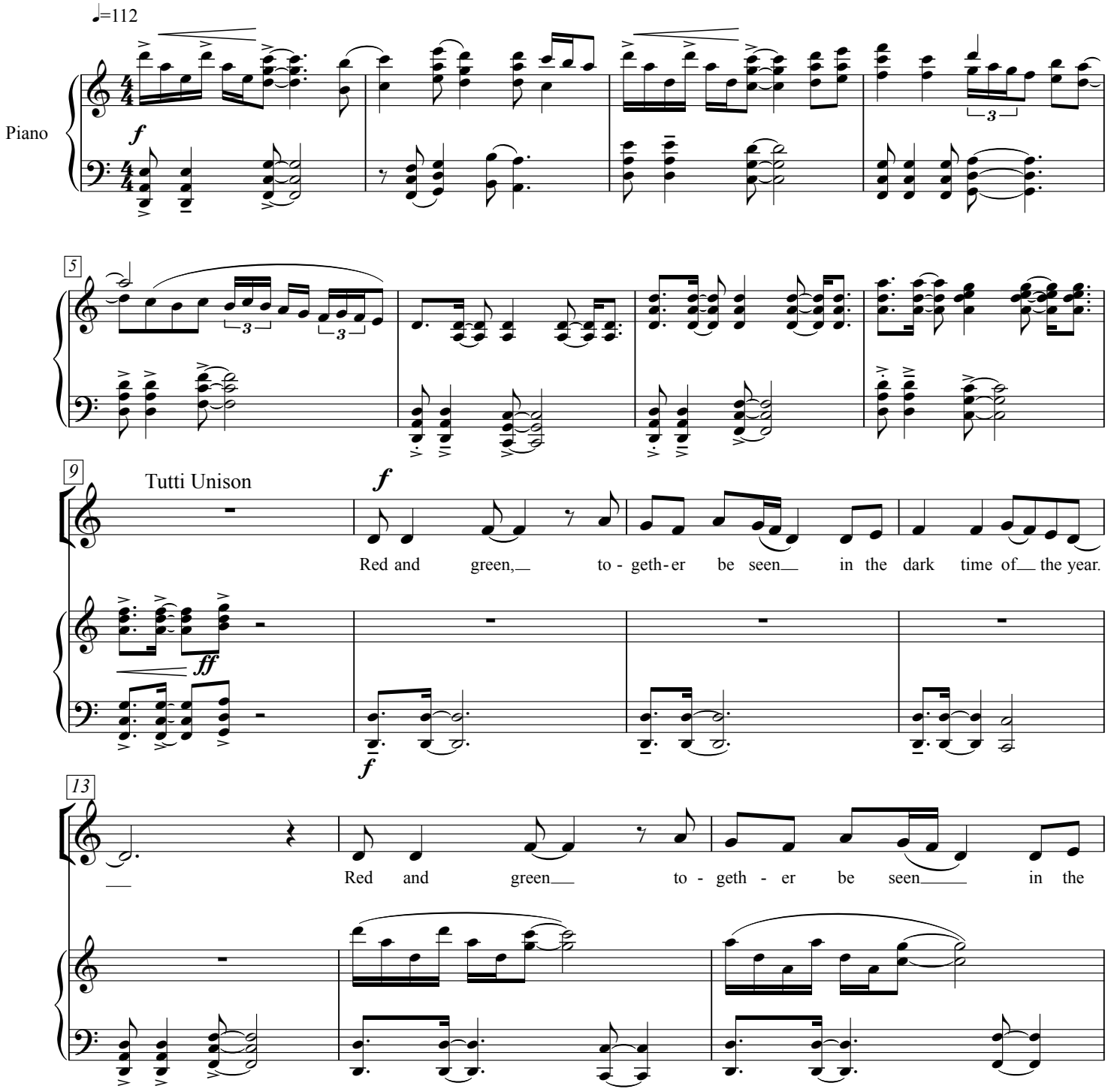

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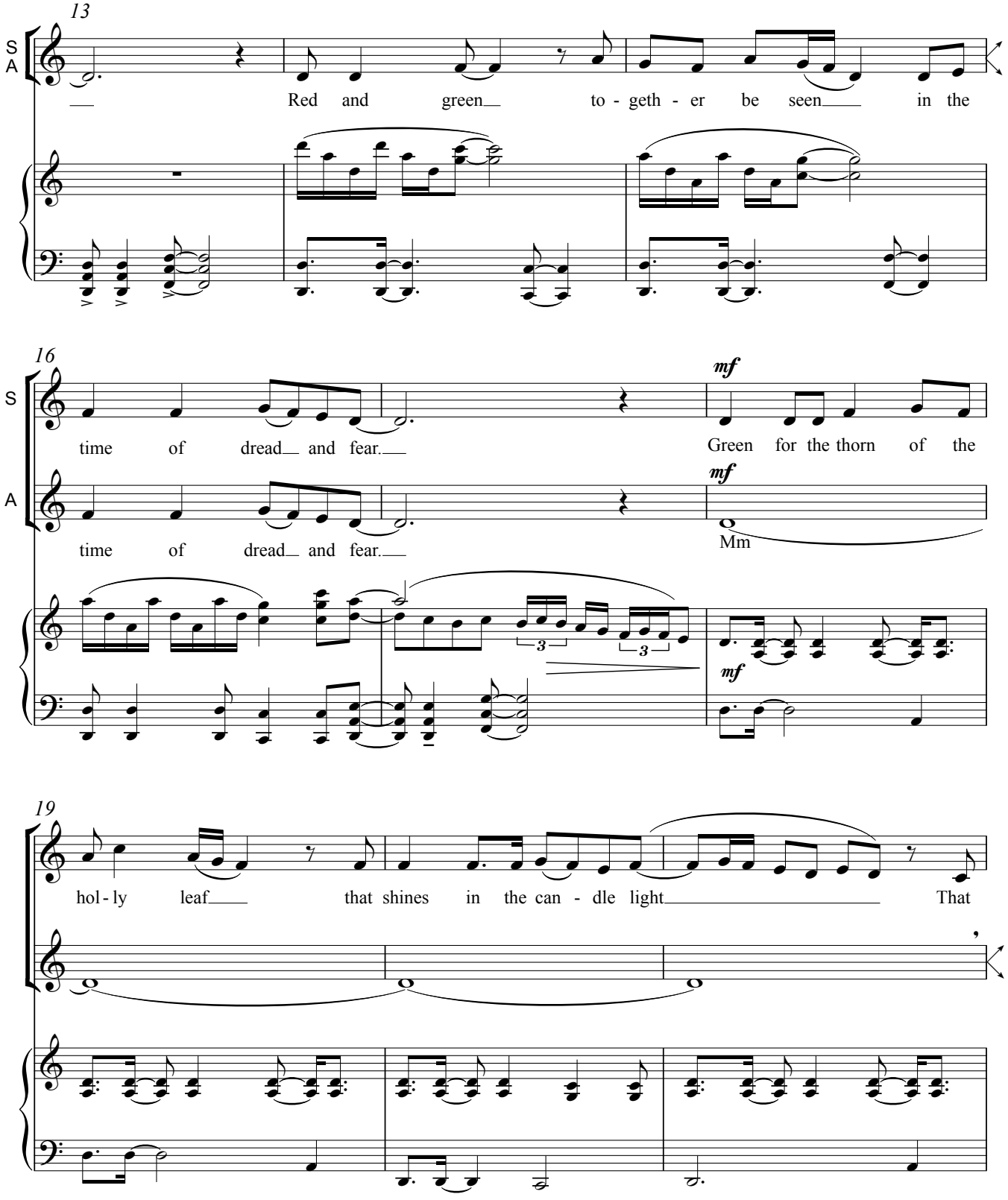
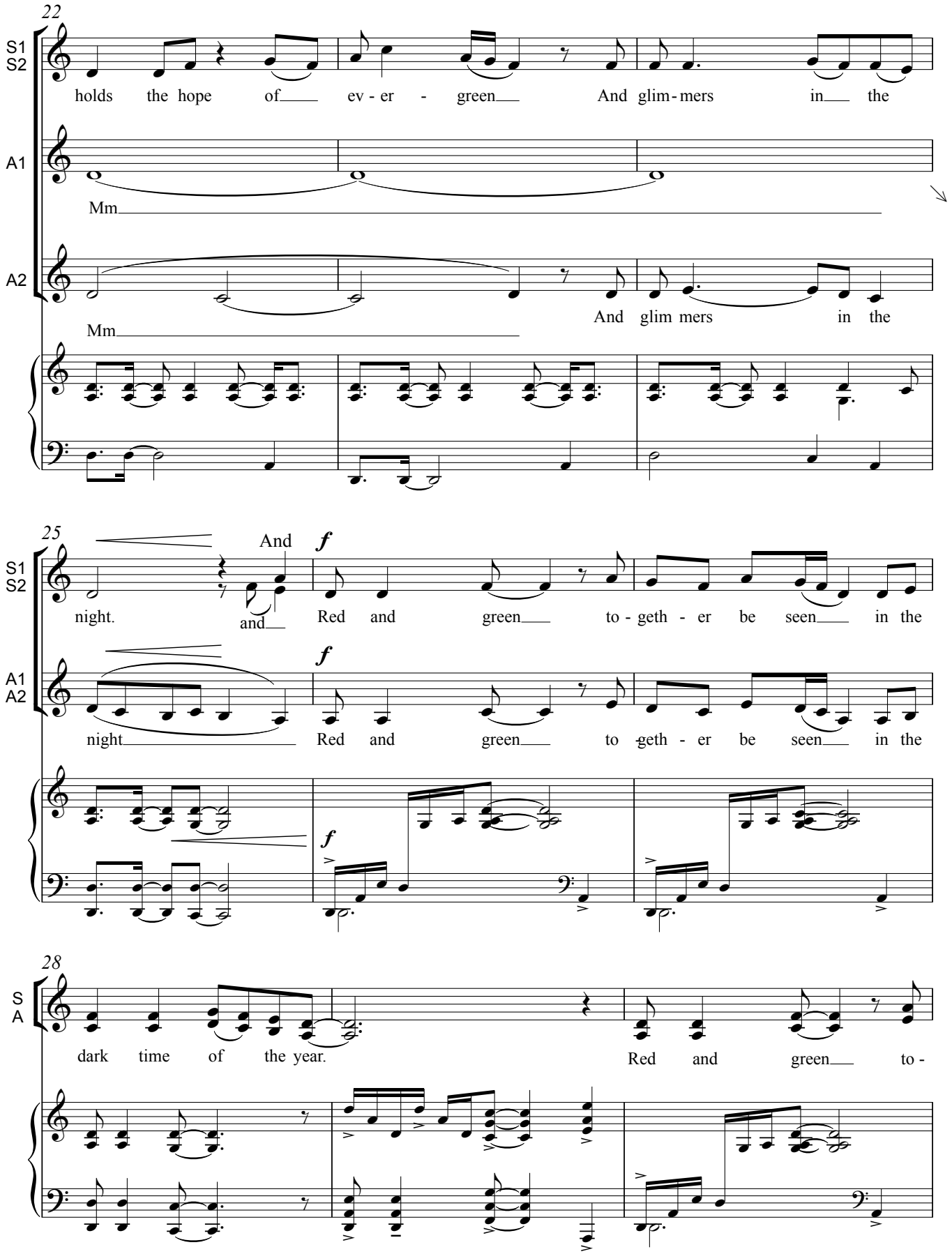
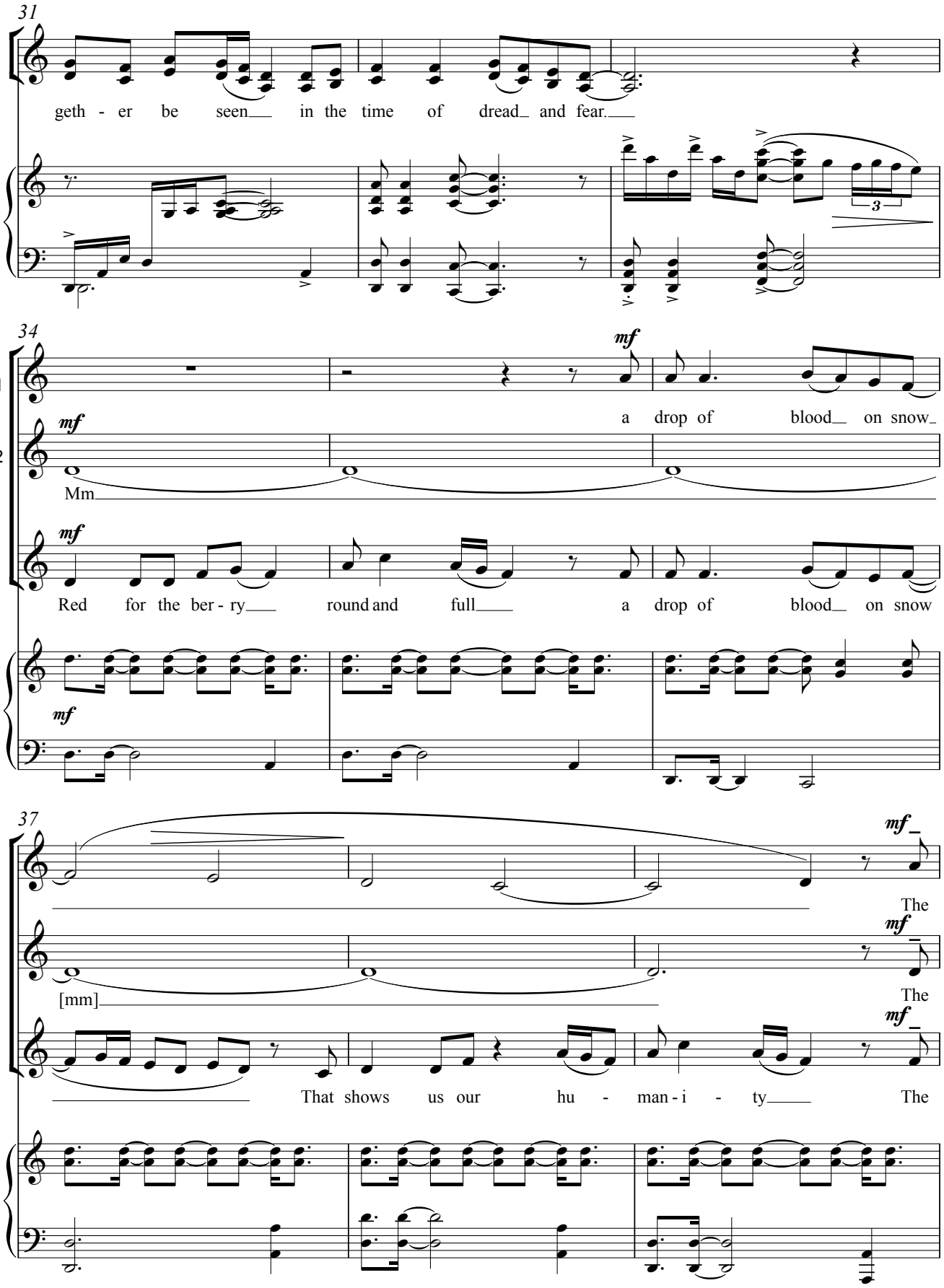
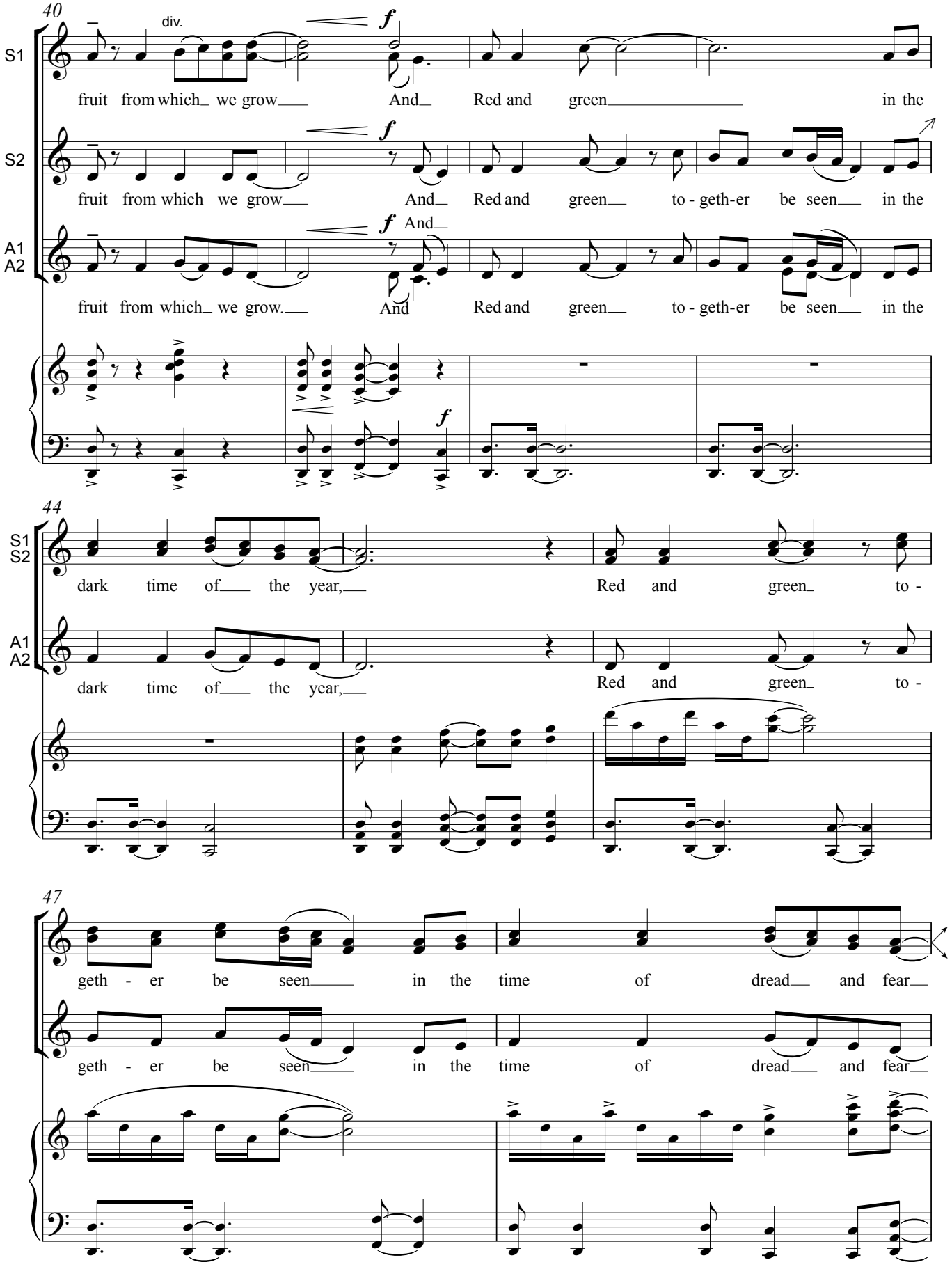
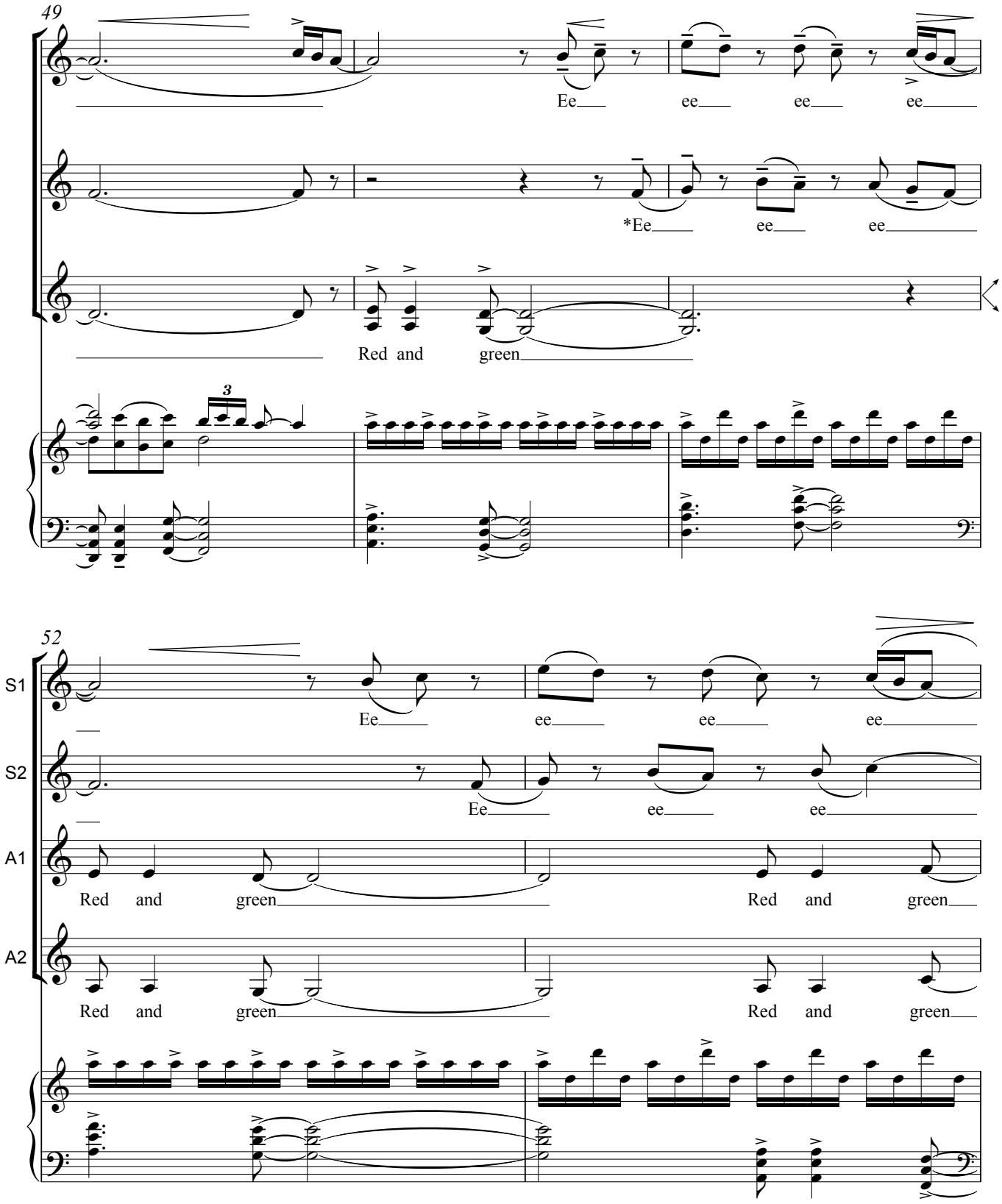
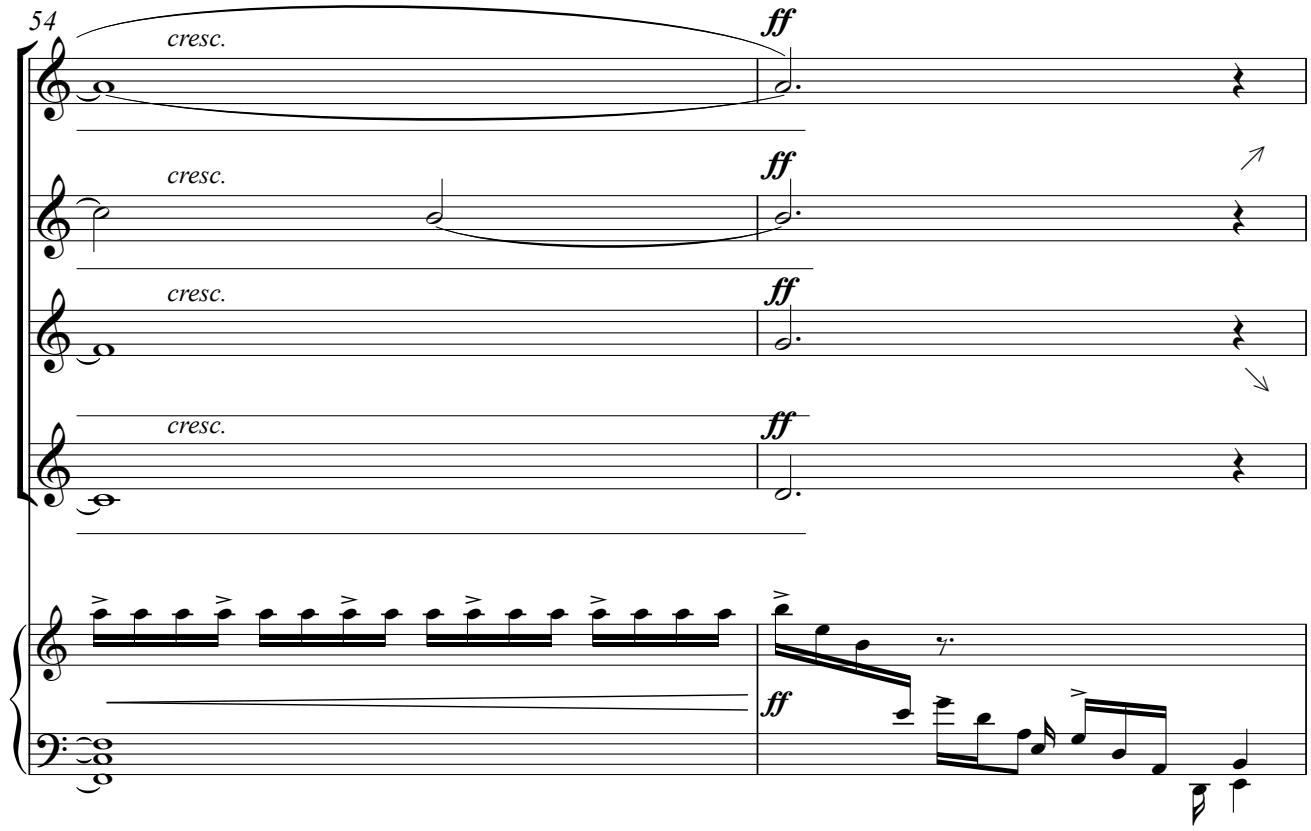

13
S
A
Red and green to - geth - er be seen in the
16
S
A
time of dread and fear.
mf
Green for the thorn of the
time of dread and fear.
mf
Mm
mf
19
hol - ly leaf that shines in the can - dle light That

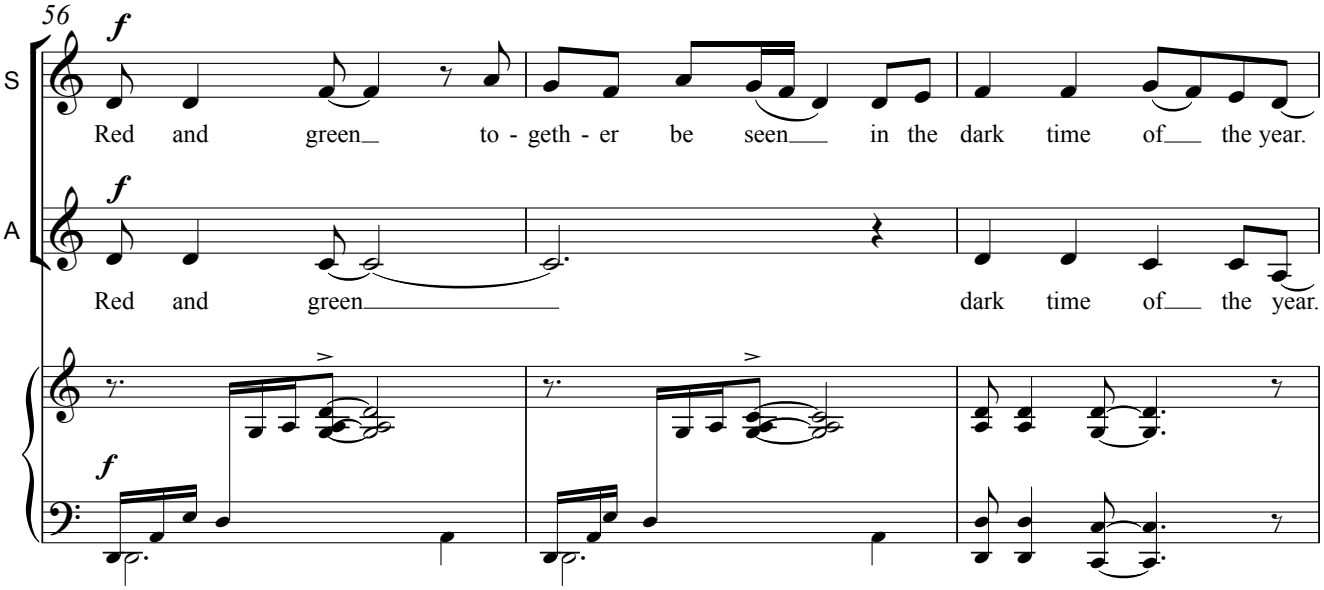

22
S1
S2
holds the hope of ev - er - green And glim - mers in the
A1
Mm
A2
Mm
And glim mers in the
25
S1
S2
And
f
night. and Red and green to - geth - er be seen in the
A1
A2
f
night Red and green to geth - er be seen in the
f
28
S
A
dark time of the year. Red and green to -

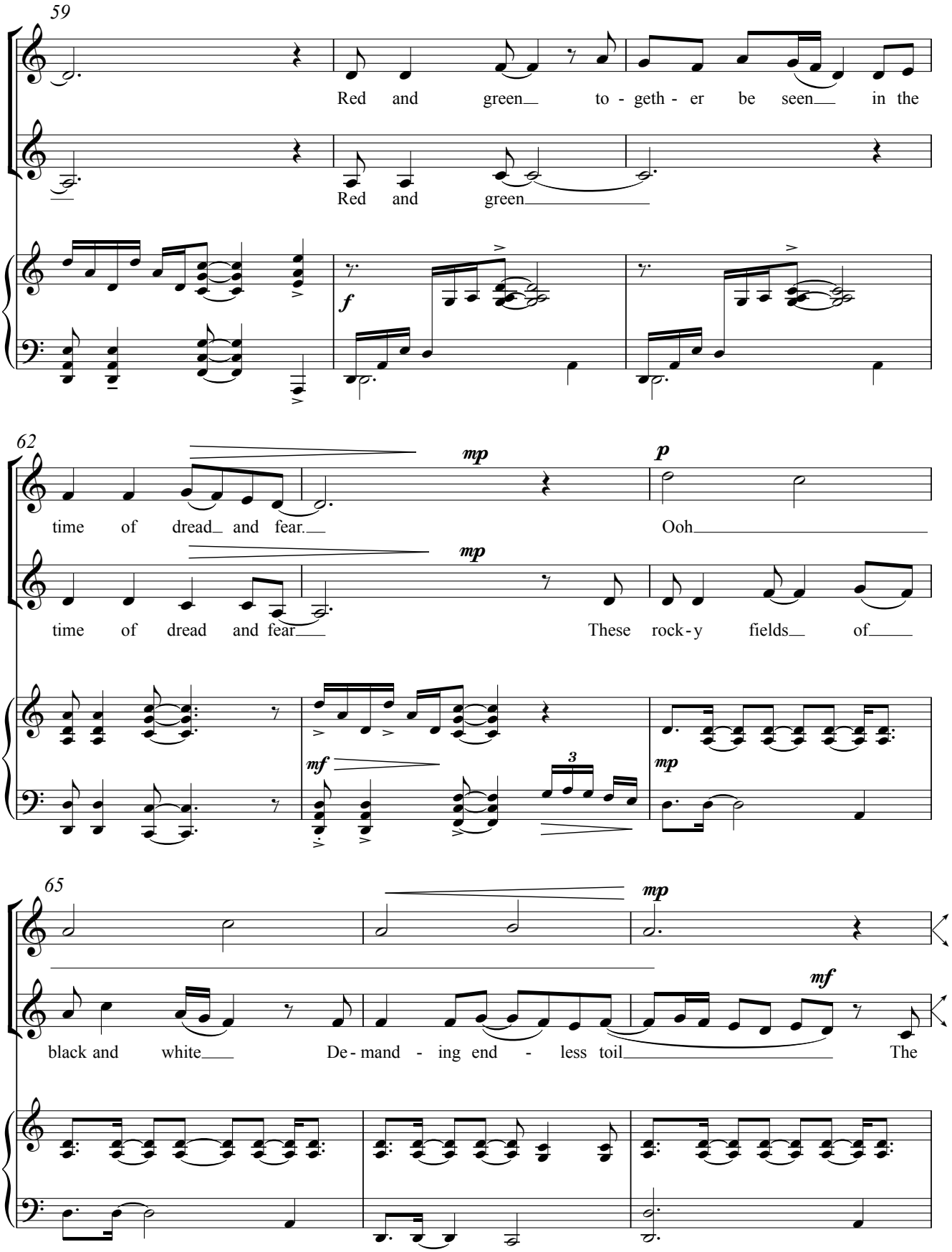

31
geth - er be seen in the time of dread and fear.
34
S1
S2
A1
A2
mf
a drop of blood on snow
Mm
Red for the ber - ry round and full a drop of blood on snow
37
The
[mm]
That shows us our hu - man - i - ty

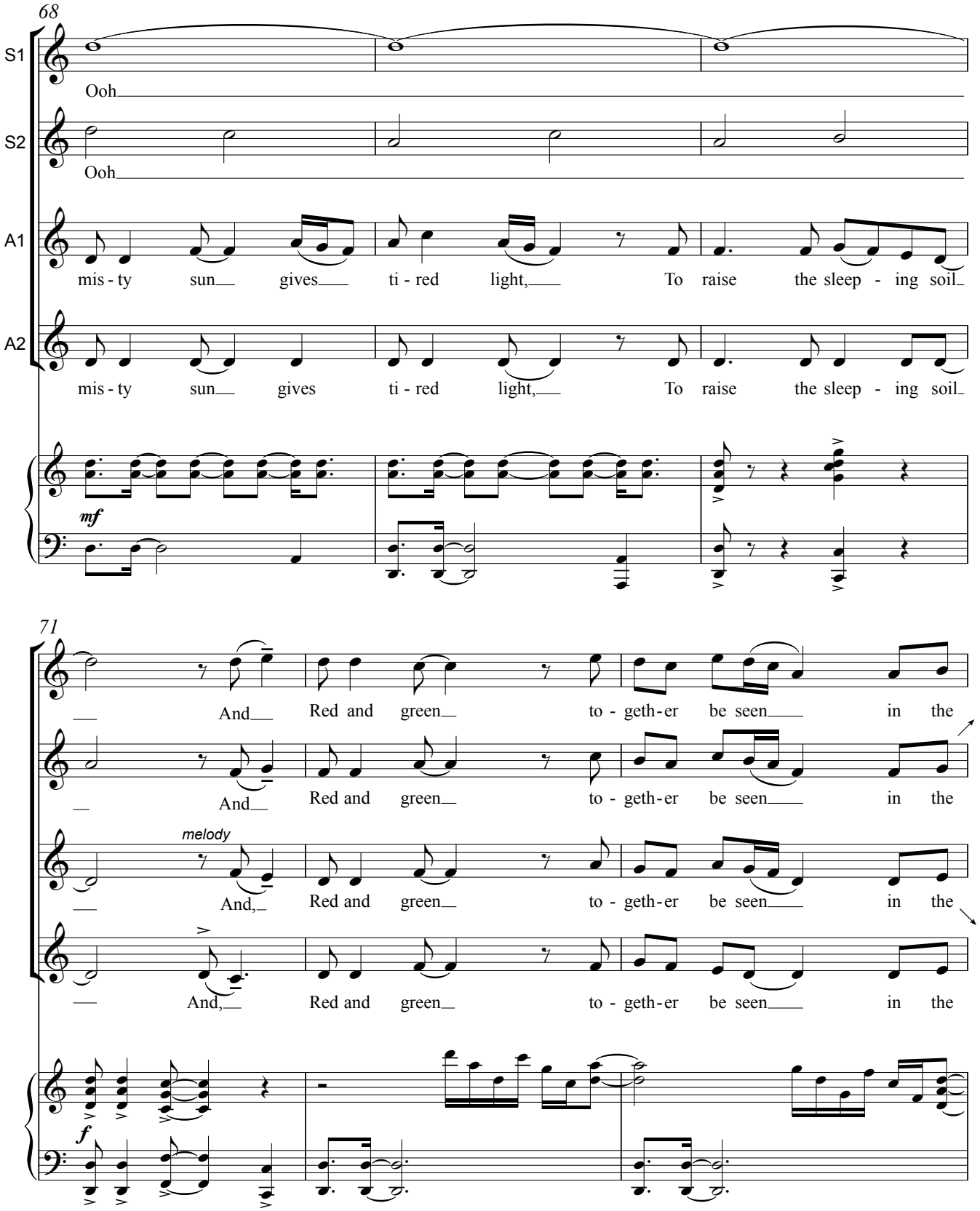

40
S1
div.
f
fruit from which we grow And Red and green in the
S2
f
fruit from which we grow And Red and green to - geth-er be seen in the
A1
A2
f And
fruit from which we grow. And Red and green to - geth-er be seen in the
f
44
S1
S2
dark time of the year, Red and green to -
A1
A2
dark time of the year, Red and green to -
47
geth - er be seen in the time of dread and fear
geth - er be seen in the time of dread and fear

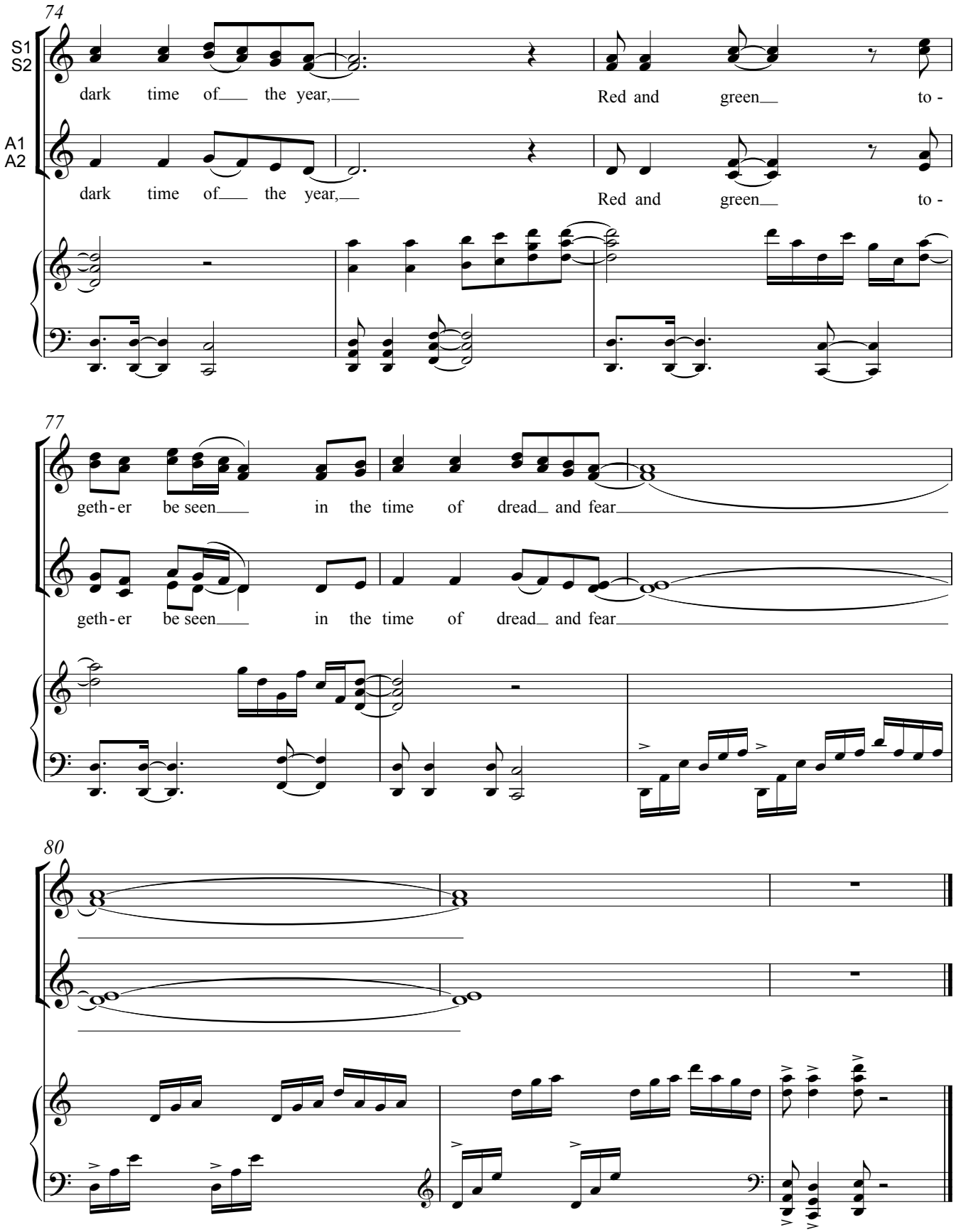

49
Ee ee ee ee
*Ee ee ee
Red and green
3
52
S1
Ee ee ee ee
S2
Ee ee ee
A1
Red and green Red and green
A2
Red and green Red and green


54
cresc.
ff
cresc.
ff
cresc.
ff
cresc.
ff
ff


56
S
A
f
Red and green to - geth - er be seen in the dark time of the year.
f
Red and green dark time of the year.
f


59
Red and green to - geth - er be seen in the
Red and green
f
62
time of dread and fear.
mp
Ooh
time of dread and fear
mp
These rock - y fields of
mf
3
mp
65
mp
black and white
De - mand - ing end - less toil
mf
The


68
S1
Ooh
S2
Ooh
A1
mis - ty sun gives ti - red light, To raise the sleep - ing soil
A2
mis - ty sun gives ti - red light, To raise the sleep - ing soil
mf
71
And Red and green to - geth - er be seen in the
And Red and green to - geth - er be seen in the
melody
And, Red and green to - geth - er be seen in the
And, Red and green to - geth - er be seen in the
f


74
S1
S2
dark time of the year,
Red and green to -
A1
A2
dark time of the year,
Red and green to -
77
geth - er be seen in the time of dread and fear
geth - er be seen in the time of dread and fear
80