Śuddhi (Purify)

For Solo Soprano and Live-electronics

Kenrick Ho

(2024)

Preface:

The text is taken from the Mantra of Verbal Purification, commonly practiced in East Asian Buddhism. The mantra, recited in Sanskrit, is believed to have the ability to cleanse one's negative karma, particularly those arising from speech. It is often recited several times at the beginning of recitation or meditation sessions to purify one's mind for what follows.

Lyrics:
Sanskrit: ॐ सुरि-सुरि महा-सुरि सुसुरि स्वाहा

IPA: /ɔm ʃuli-ʃuli mɐhɐ-ʃuli ʃuʃuli swɐ.hɐ/

Romanization used in the score: Om shuri-shuri maha-shuri shushuri swaha

Video demonstrating the sanskrit pronunciation:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gk8UArQQIo4&list=WL&index=20&t=29s

Performance Notes

This piece should be played with a live-electronic part. The max-patch can be downloaded here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V9t63MdRRu6j0HYmWxLhplwEYrXInG93/view?usp=sharing

The patch features a sine wave controlled by various parameters of the vocal input, such as amplitude, frequency, and partials detection. As such, the dynamic level, vowel shape, and pitch of the singer's voice will loosely impact the behaviour of the electronic part, though this relationship is delibrately obfuscated.

Wherever possible, the piece should be performed with the singer's voice amplified, with output signals wired to the same speakers as the sine wave.

The score is notated with noteheads only. The rhythm is roughly represented spatially and each system is roughly the length of one full breath, though there is flexibility in terms speed and rhythm (as well as dynamics) depending on your reaction to the live-electronic part.

Vowel changes should happen slowly and gradually, with the intention to emphasise changes in the harmonic series.

Take time between systems. The patch will increase in volume when no sound is detected to fill in the gaps, so please allow time for the electronics to ring.

(c. 7'00)

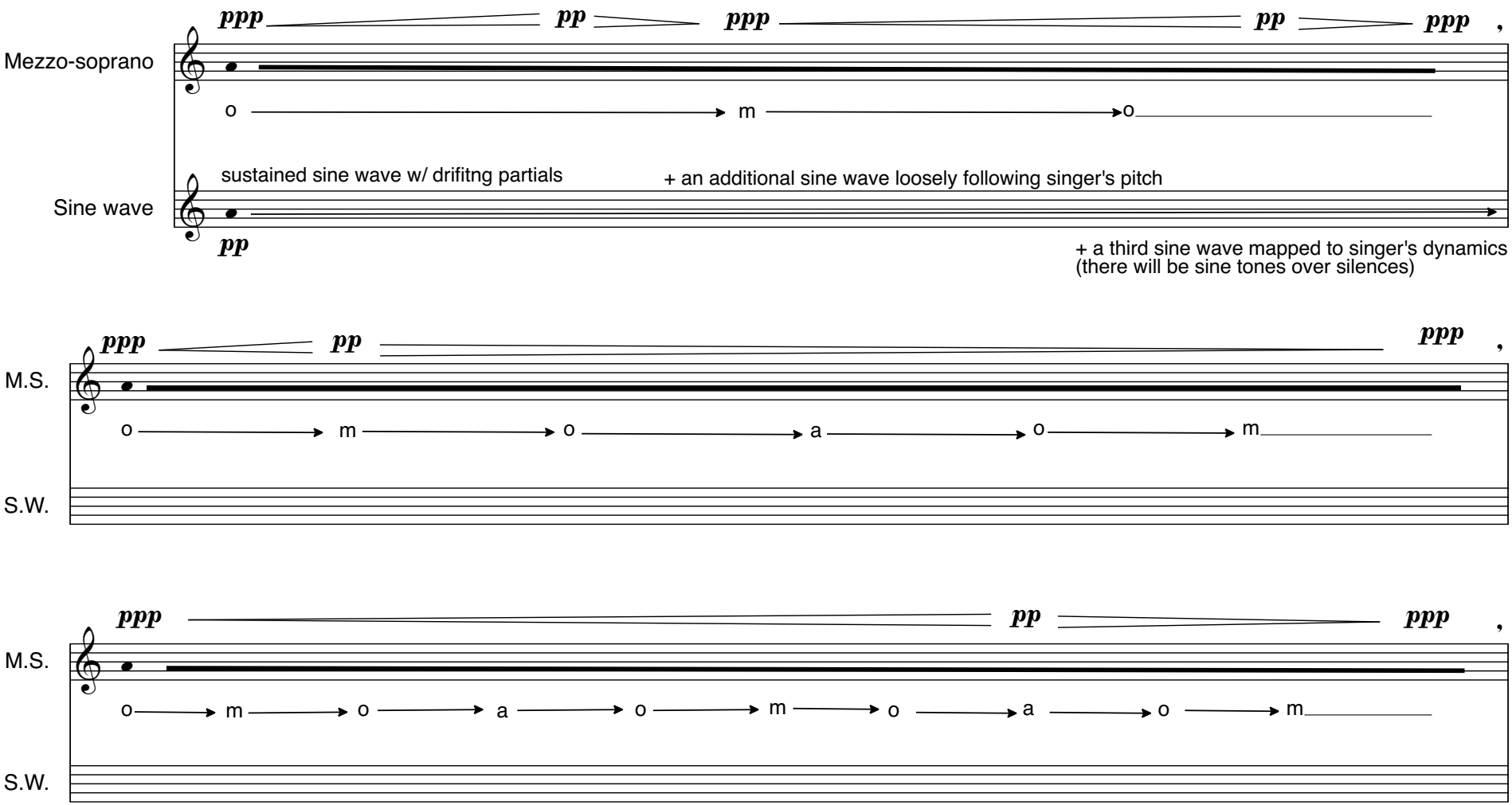
Śuddhi

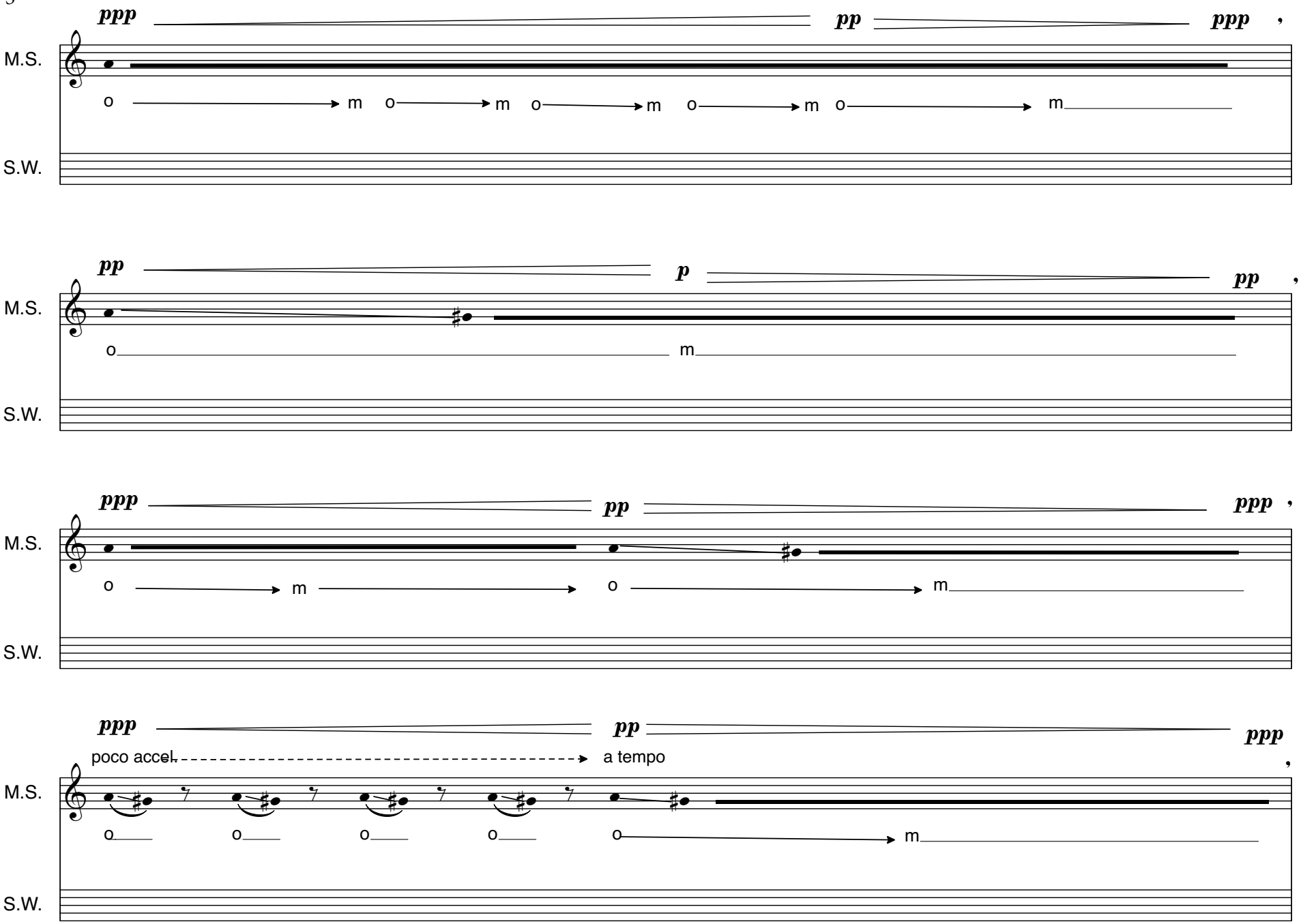
(Purify)

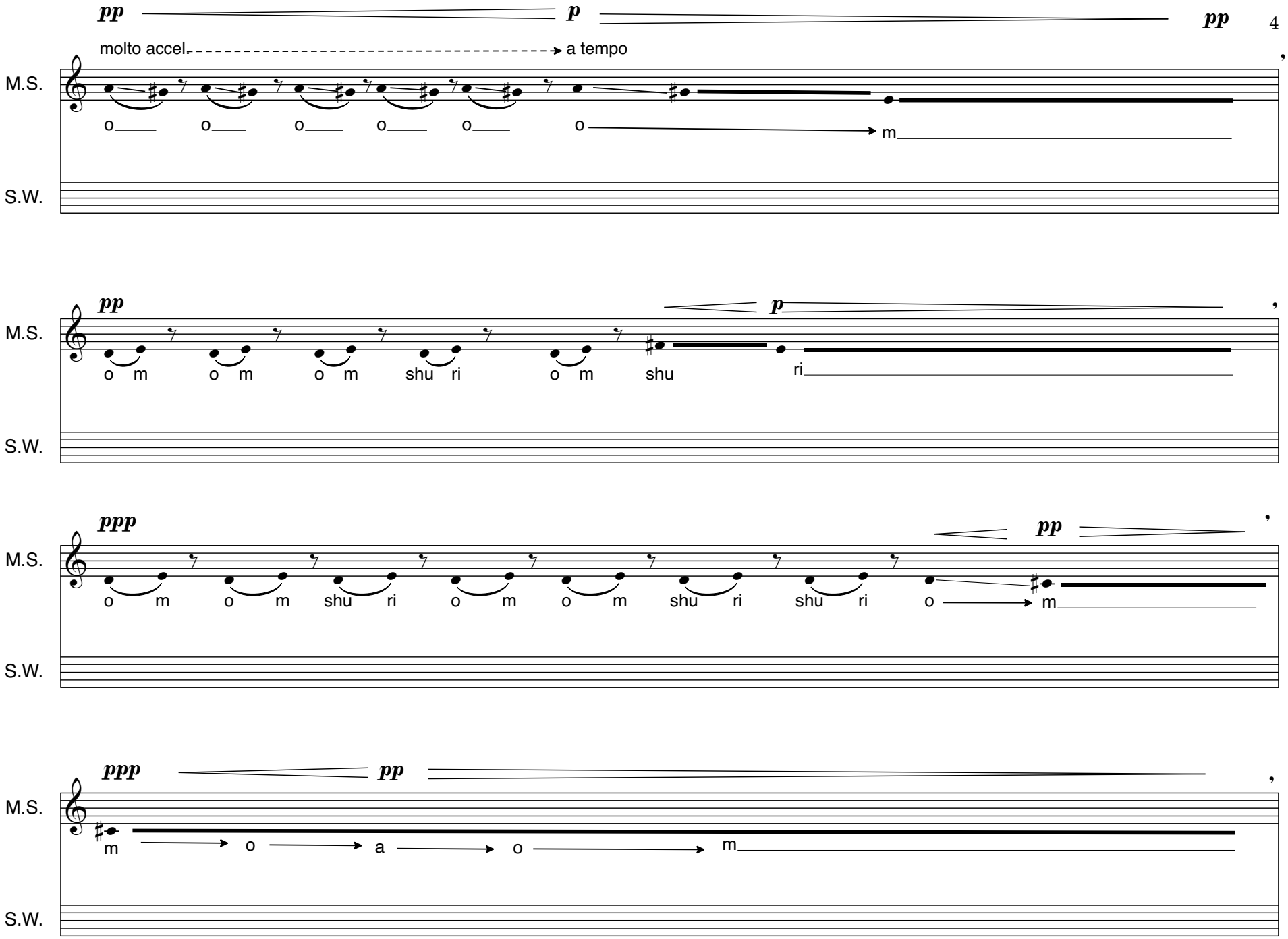
For Lotte Betts-Dean

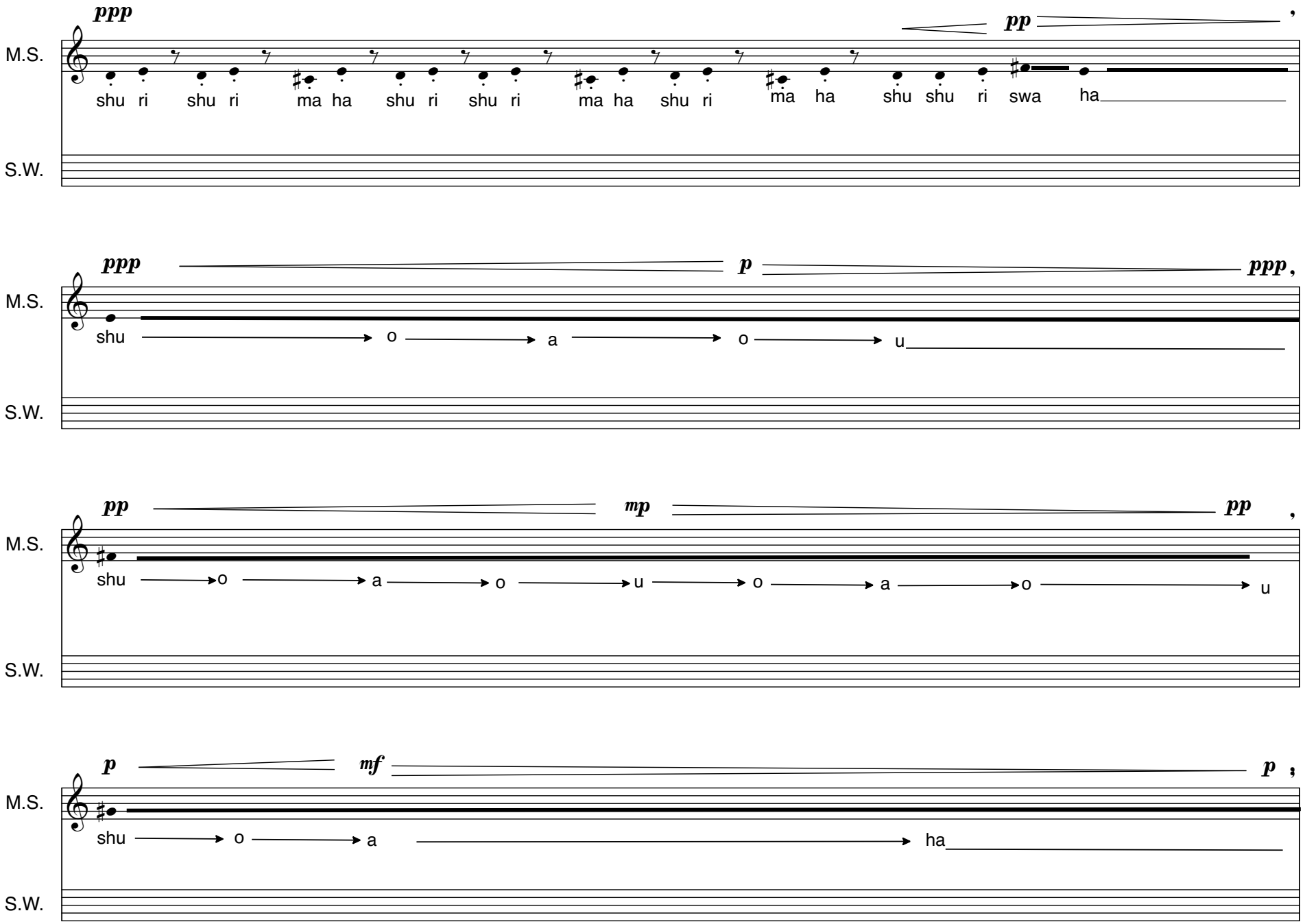
Kenrick Ho

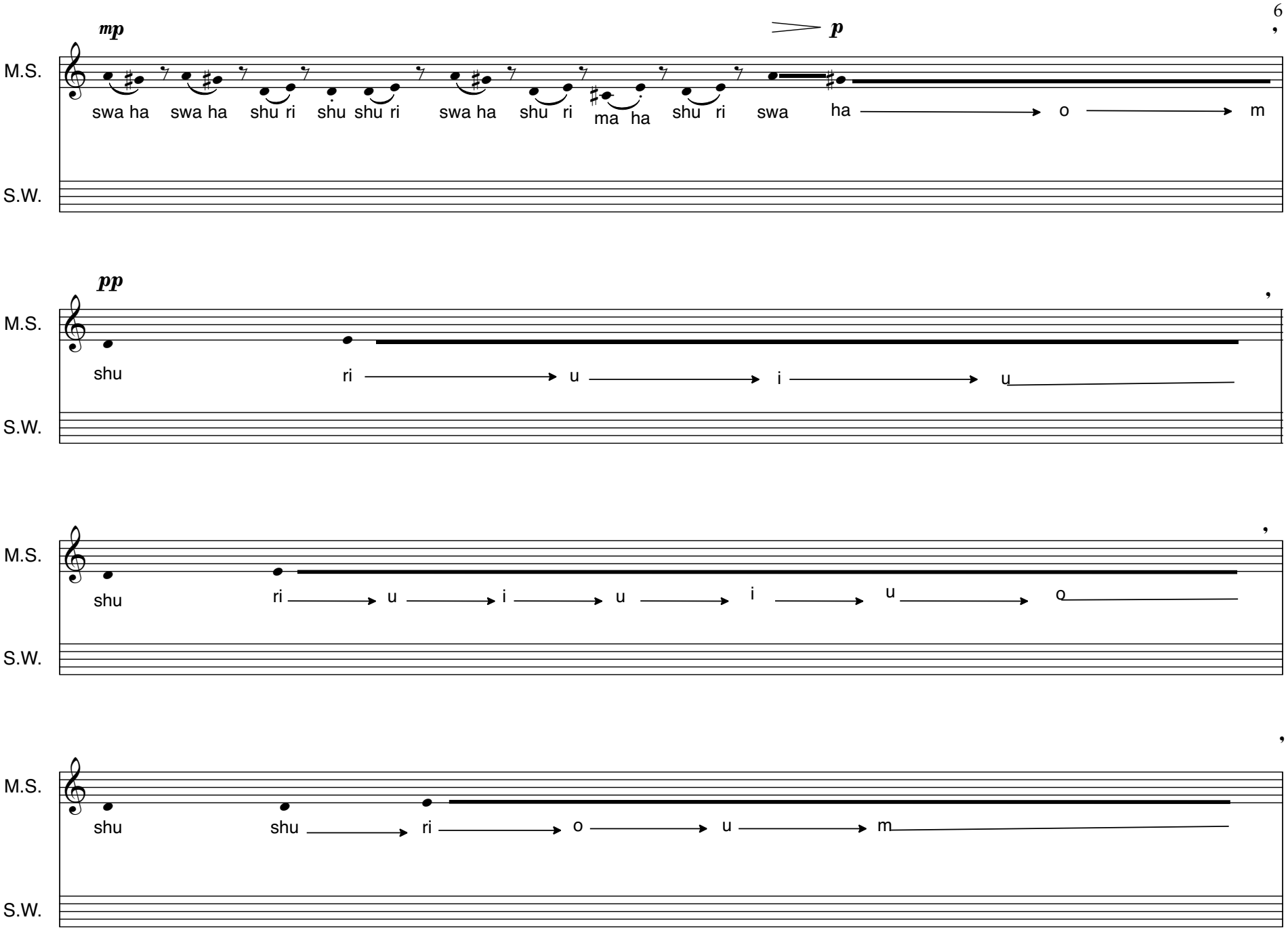
Slowly (all movements should feel gradual)

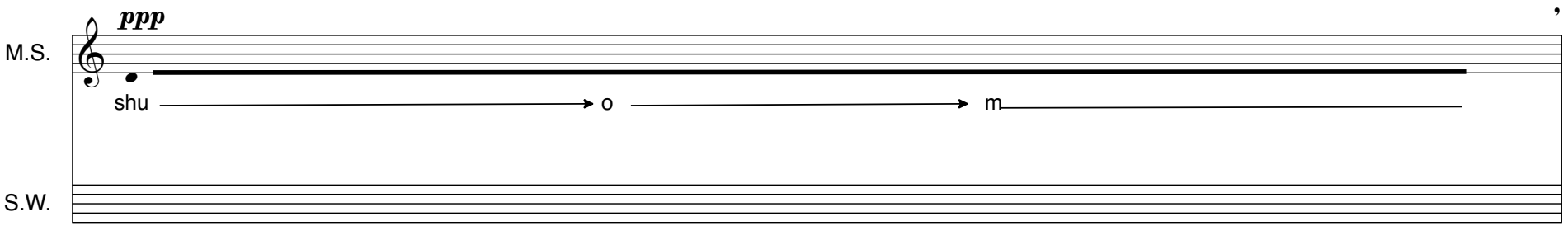


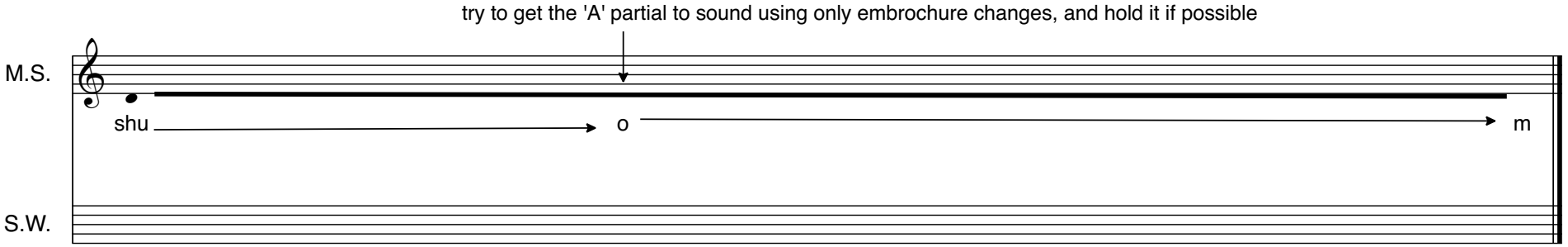

ppp
pp
ppp
M.S.
o
m
S.W.
pp
p
pp
ppp
pp
ppp
ppp
pp
ppp
poco accel.
a tempo


pp
p
pp
molto accel.
a tempo
M.S.
S.W.
o o o o o o m
pp
p
M.S.
S.W.
o m o m o m shu ri o m shu ri
ppp
pp
M.S.
S.W.
o m o m shu ri o m o m shu ri shu ri o m
ppp
pp
M.S.
S.W.
m o a o m


ppp
pp
M.S.
shu ri shu ri ma ha shu ri shu ri ma ha shu ri ma ha shu shu ri swa ha
S.W.
ppp
p
ppp
M.S.
shu o a o u
S.W.
pp
mp
pp
M.S.
shu o a o u o a o u
S.W.
p
mf
p
M.S.
shu o a ha
S.W.


mp
p
M.S.
S.W.
swa ha swa ha shu ri shu shu ri swa ha shu ri ma ha shu ri swa ha o m
pp
shu ri u i u
shu ri u i u i u o
shu shu ri o u m


ppp
M.S.
shu
o
m
S.W.


try to get the 'A' partial to sound using only embrochure changes, and hold it if possible
M.S.
shu
o
m
S.W.