

**i went fishing with
my family when i
was five**

for SATB

The text for **i went fishing with my family when i was five** was written by Tao Lin (www.taolin.info/) and is set and reproduced here with the kind permission of the author.

Duration: 9-10'

i went fishing with my family when i was five

Tao Lin

when i was five

i went fishing with my family

my dad caught a turtle

my mom caught a snapper

my brother caught a crab

i caught a whale

that night we ate crab

the next night we ate turtle

the next night we ate snapper

the next night we ate whale

the next night we ate whale

the next night we ate whale

the next night we ate whale

the next night we ate whale

the next night we ate whale

the next night we ate whale

(in the original the last line repeats a further 3995 times)

Directions for Performance

Generally, emphasis of individual words in a traditionally studied/choral manner is to be avoided. A plainer, more casual tone is preferred, as exemplified in the two (rather than three) syllable “fam’ly” in bar 4. However, this is not true of ten instances (bars 8, 41, 43, 55, 89, 102, 110, 114, 118 and 120), in which a word’s last phoneme is given its own note. In these bars the indicated phoneme should be over-enunciated in a reasonably dramatic manner, drawing attention to its unnatural pronunciation.

The dynamic indications in the piece are to be interpreted un-operatically, and should instead be understood as relational ‘volumes’, rather than expressive indications.

"i went fishing with my family when i was five"

for SATB

Tao Lin

Extraordinarily seriously, ♩ = 60-66

Soprano
mp when i was five i went fish - ing with my *mf* fam - 'ly *mp* my dad caught a tur - tle

Alto
mp when i was five i went fish - ing with my *mf* fam - 'ly *mp* my dad caught a tur - tle

Tenor
mp when i was five i went fish - ing with my *mf* fam - 'ly *mp* my dad caught a tur - tle

Bass
mp when i was five i went fish - ing with my *mf* fam - 'ly *mp* my dad caught a tur - tle

Piano (red.)
when i was five i went fish - ing with my fam - 'ly my dad caught a tur - tle

6

(mp) *mf* *mp*

S. *(mp)* *mf* *mp*

A. *(mp)* *mf* *mp*

T. *(mp)* *mf* *mp*

B. *(mp)* *mf* *mp*

Pno.

my mom caught a snapper my brother caught a crab

my mom caught a snapper my brother caught a crab

my mom caught a snapper my brother caught a crab

my mom caught a snapper my brother caught a crab

my mom caught a snapper my brother caught a crab

Solemnly

Flatly, monotonously

11 *mf* *mp*

S. *mf* *mp*

A. *mf* *mp*

T. *mf* *mp*

B. *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

i caught a whale that night we ate crab the next night we ate tur-tle

i caught a whale that night we ate crab the next night we ate tur-tle

i caught a whale that night we ate crab the next night we ate tur-tle

i caught a whale that night we ate crab the next night we ate tur-tle

i caught a whale that night we ate crab the next night we ate tur-tle

18

S. *mf*
the next night we ate snap - per the next night we ate whale

A. *mf*
the next night we ate snap - per the next night we ate whale

T. *mf*
the next night we ate snap - per the next night we ate whale

B. *mf*
the next night we ate snap - per the next night we ate whale

Pno.
the next night we ate snap - per the next night we ate whale

Stable at ♩ = 60, always reasonably flat

22

S. *mp* *p*
the next night we ate whale _____ the next night we ate whale _____ the

A. *mp* *p*
the next night we ate whale _____ next night we ate whale _____ the

T. *p* *mp*
we ate whale _____ next night we ate whale _____ the

B. *p* *mp*
we ate whale _____ next night we ate whale _____ the

Pno. the next night we ate whale _____ the next night we ate whale _____ the

27

S. *mp*
 next night we _____ the next night we ate whale _____ the

A. *mp*
 next night we _____ the next night we ate whale _____ the

T. *(mp)* *p* *mp*
 next night we ate whale _____ the next night _____ whale _____ the

B. *(mp)* *p* *mp*
 next night we ate whale _____ the next night _____ whale _____ the

Pno.
 next night we ate whale _____ the next night we ate whale _____ the
 the next night _____ whale _____ the

31

p

S. *p*

next night we ate whale_____ the next night we ate_____ whale___ the next night we ate whale_____

A. *p*

next night we ate whale_____ next night we ate_____ whale___ the next night we ate whale_____

T. *p*

next night we ate whale_____ we ate_____ whale___ the next night we ate whale_____

B. *p*

next night we ate whale_____ we ate_____ whale___ the next night we ate whale_____

Pno. *p*

next night we ate whale_____ the next night we ate_____ whale___ the next night we ate whale_____

we ate_____ whale___

37 *mp* *mf*

S. *mp* *mf*

A. *mp* *mf*

T. *mp* *mf*

B. *mp* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a four-part vocal setting with piano accompaniment. It begins at measure 37. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the piano accompaniment all feature a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure of each phrase. The lyrics are 'the next night we ate whale'. The first phrase is in 4/4 time, followed by a 5/4 time signature, and ending in 6/4. The second phrase repeats this structure. Dynamics are marked as mezzo-piano (mp) for the first measure and mezzo-forte (mf) for the second measure of each phrase. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, mirroring the vocal lines.

40 *mp* *p*

S. *mp* *p*

A. *mp* *p*

T. *mp* *p*

B. *mp* *p*

Pno. *mp* *p*

the next night we ate___ wha - le the next night we___ ate whale the nex - t

the next night we ate___ wha - le the next night we___ ate whale the nex - t

the next night we ate___ wha - le the next night we___ ate whale

the next night we ate___ wha - le the next night we___ ate whale

the next___ night we ate___ wha - le the next night we___ ate whale the nex - t

the next___ night we ate___ wha - le the next night we___ ate whale

44

S. *mp* *p* *mp*
 night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

A. *mp* *p* *mp*
 night we ate whale next night we ate whale

T. *p* *mp*
 we ate whale next night we ate whale

B. *p* *mp*
 we ate whale next night we ate whale

Pno.
 night we ate whale the next night we ate whale
 we ate whale next night we ate whale

48 *(mp)* *p*

S. *(mp)* *p*

the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

(mp) *p*

A. *(mp)* *p*

the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

(mp) *p*

T. *(mp)* *p*

the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale ate whale

(mp) *p*

B. *(mp)* *p*

the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

(mp) *p*

Pno. *(mp)* *p*

the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

54

S. *mp* *p*

next__night we ate__ wha - le the next night__ we ate whale the next night we ate whale

A. *mp* *p*

next__night we ate__ wha - le the next night__ we ate whale the next night we ate whale

T. *(p)* *mp*

the next__night we ate__ wha - le the next night__ we ate whale the next night we ate whale

B. *mp* *p*

next__night we ate__ wha - le the next night__ we ate whale the next night we ate whale

Pno.

the next__ night we ate__ wha - le the next night__ we ate whale the next night we ate whale

59

mp

S. *mp*
 the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

A. *mp*
 the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

T. *(mp)*
 the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

B. *mp*
 the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale we ate

Pno. *mp*
 the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

64 *mf* *mp*

S. *mf* *mp*

A. *mf* *mp*

T. *mf* *mp*

B. *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale the next night

whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale night

whale the next night we ate the next night we ate night

whale the next night we the next night we night

whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale the next night

68

p

S.

we ate whale the next night we ate whale

p

A.

we ate whale the next night we ate whale

p

T.

we ate whale we ate whale

p

B.

we ate whale we ate whale

Pno.

we ate whale the next night we ate whale

72

S. *mp*
 the next night we ate whale _____ the next night we ate

A. *mp*
 the next night we ate whale _____ the next night we ate

T. *mp*
 the next night we ate whale _____ the next night we ate

B. *mp*
 the next night we ate whale _____ the next night we ate

Pno.
 the next night we ate whale _____ the next night we ate

77

p

S. 

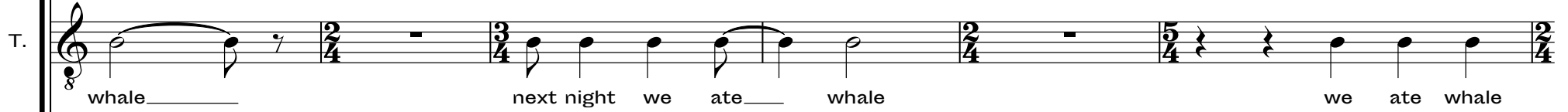
whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

p

A. 

whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

p

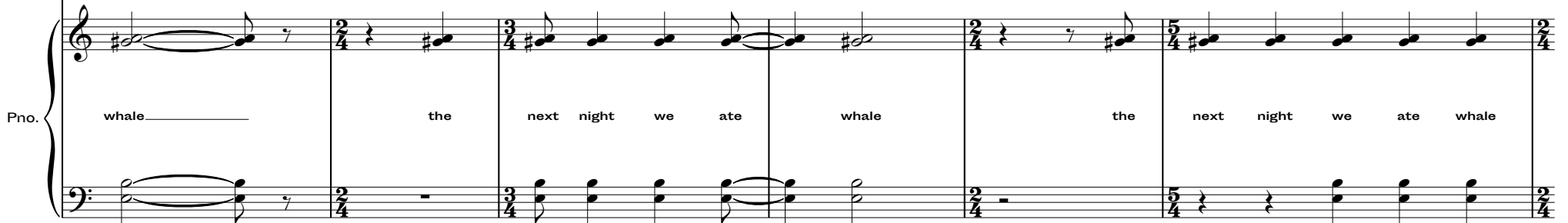
T. 

whale next night we ate whale we ate whale

p

B. 

whale next night we ate whale we ate whale

Pno. 

whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

83

S. *(p)*
 the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

A. *(p)*
 the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

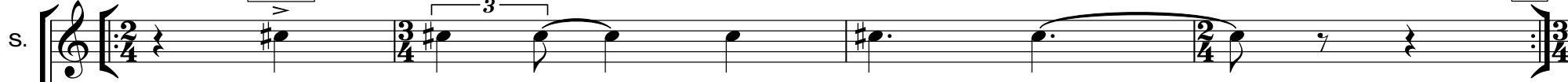
T. *(p)*
 we ate whale next night we ate whale

B. *(p)*
 we ate whale next night we ate whale

Pno.
 the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a vocal ensemble and piano. It begins at measure 83. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) all sing the lyrics 'the next night we ate whale' in a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Soprano and Alto parts have a melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes. The Tenor and Bass parts have a more rhythmic accompaniment with quarter notes and rests. The piano accompaniment consists of a single melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The time signature starts in 2/4, changes to 6/4 for the first phrase, and then to 5/4 for the second phrase. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

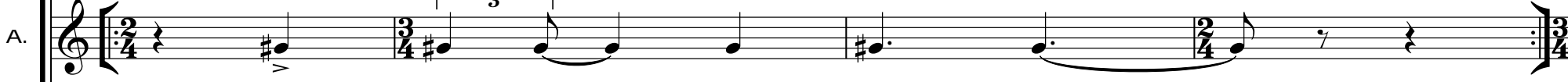
1. *mp*
2. *p*
3. *p*

S. 

the next night we ate wha - le

x3

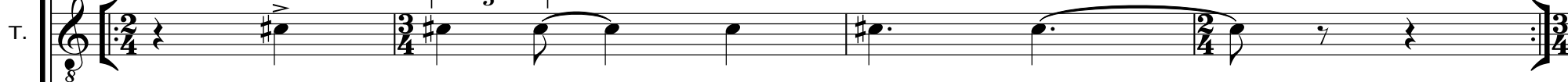
1. *mp*
2. *p*
3. *p*

A. 

the next night we ate wha - le

x3


1. *mp*
2. *p*
3. *p*

T. 

the next night we ate wha - le

x3

1. *mp*
2. *p*
3. *p*

B. 

the next night we ate wha - le

x3

Pno. 

the next night we ate wha - le

x3

x3

90

S. *mp*
the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

A. *mp*
the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

T. *mp*
the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

B. *mp*
the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

Pno. *mp*
the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

94 *p*

S. *p*

A. *p*

T. *p*

B. *p*

Pno. *p*

whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

whale next night we ate whale the next night we

whale next night we ate whale the next night we

whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate

99

S. *mp* *p*
 whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale

A. *mp* *p*
 whale the next night we ate whale next night we ate whale

T. *mp* *p*
 the next night we ate whale nex - t ate whale

B. *mp* *p*
 the next night we ate whale nex - t ate whale

Pno. *mp* *p*
 whale the next night we ate whale the next night we ate whale
 nex - t ate whale

x4

- 1. *p*
- 2. *piu piano*
- 3. *pp*
- 4. *p*

104

S. 

the next night we ate whale

- 1. *p*
- 2. *piu piano*
- 3. *pp*
- 4. *p*

A. 

the next night we ate whale

- 1. *p*
- 2. *piu piano*
- 3. *pp*
- 4. *p*

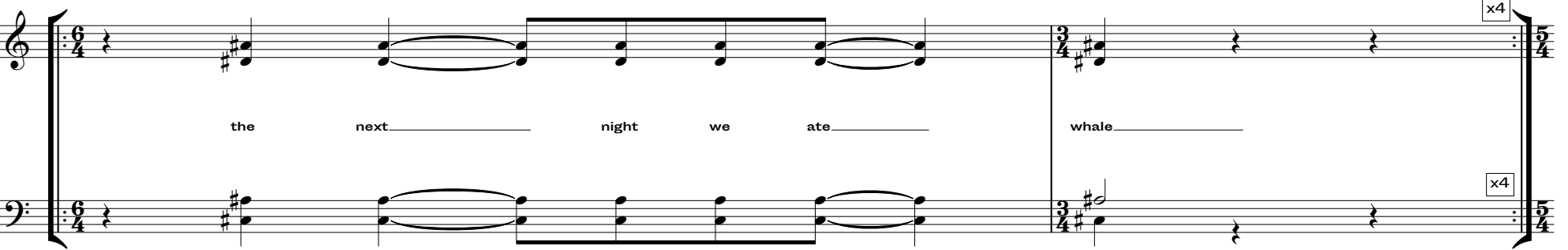
T. 

the next night we ate whale

- 1. *p*
- 2. *piu piano*
- 3. *pp*
- 4. *p*

B. 

the next night we ate whale

Pno. 

the next night we ate whale

106

S. *(p)* *mp*

the next__ night we ate__ whale the next night we ate wha - le the next

A. *(p)* *mp*

the next__ night we ate__ whale the next night we ate wha - le the next

T. *(p)* *mp*

the__ next__ night we ate__ whale the next night we ate wha - le next

B. *(p)* *mp*

the next__ night we ate__ whale the next night we ate wha - le next

Pno. *(p)*

the next__ night we ate__ whale the next night we ate wha - le the next
the__ next__ night we ate__ whale

111

S.

night we ate whale _____ the next night we _____ ate whale _____

A.

night we ate whale _____ the next nigh - t ate whale _____

T.

night we ate whale _____ the next nigh - t ate whale _____

B.

night we ate whale _____ the next nigh - t ate whale _____

Pno.

night we ate whale _____ the next night we _____ ate whale _____

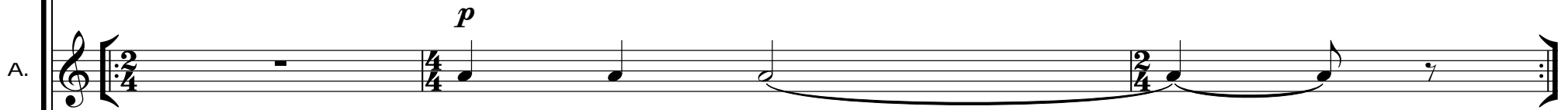
next nigh - t ate whale _____

116

p

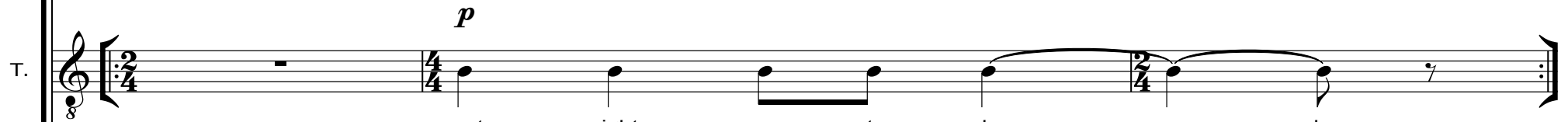
S. 

the next night we

A. 

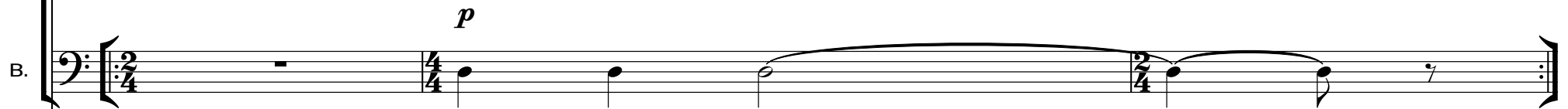
p

next night we

T. 

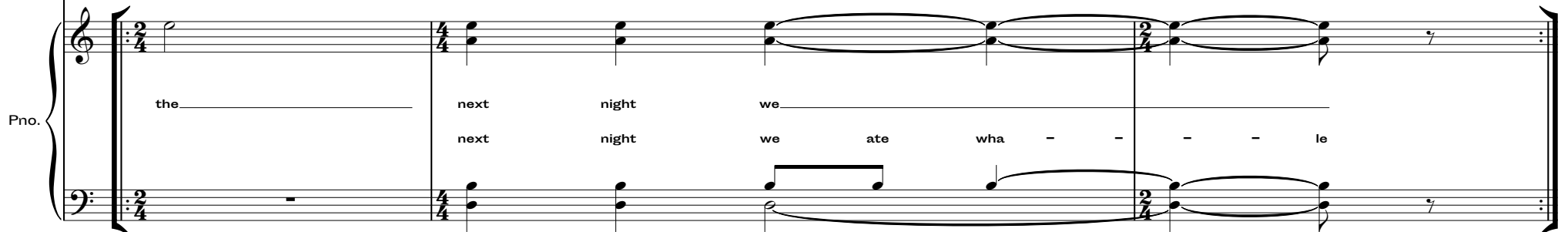
p

next night we ate what

B. 

p

next night we


Pno. 


the next night we

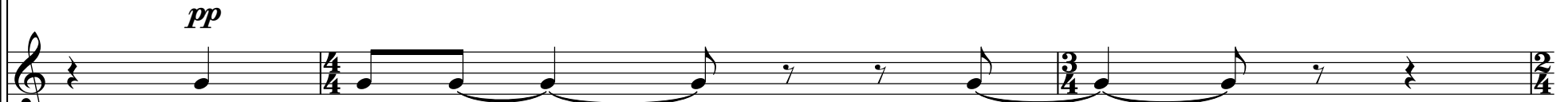
next night we ate what

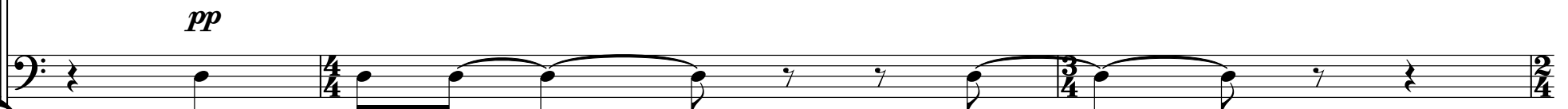
119

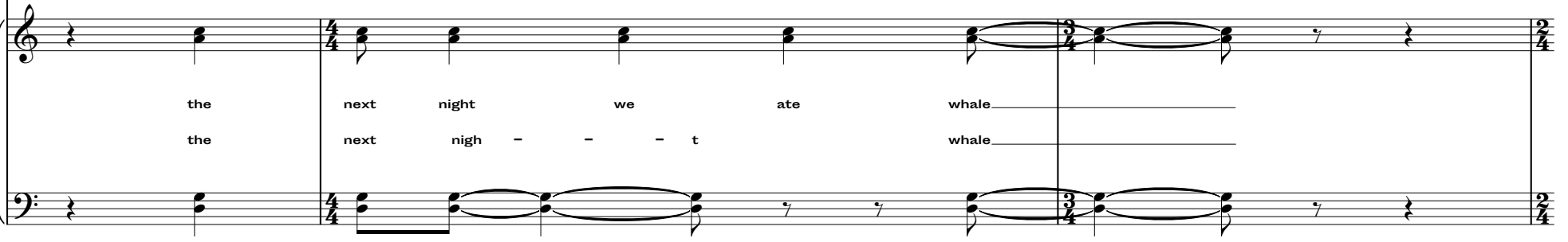
pp

S.  *pp*
 the next night we ate whale_____

A.  *pp*
 the next night we ate whale_____

T.  *pp*
 the next nigh - - t whale_____

B.  *pp*
 the next nigh - - t whale_____

Pno.  *pp*
 the next night we ate whale_____
 the next nigh - - t whale_____

122

S.

- 1. *pp*
- 2. *p*
- 3. *p*

Musical notation for the Soprano voice part, measures 122-125. The staff is in treble clef. Measure 122 starts with a 2/4 time signature, followed by a 3/4 time signature change. The melody consists of quarter notes and a half note with a fermata. A dynamic marking box is positioned above the first measure. The piece concludes with a repeat sign and a 'x3' marking.

the next night we ate whale_____

A.

- 1. *pp*
- 2. *p*
- 3. *p*

Musical notation for the Alto voice part, measures 122-125. The staff is in treble clef. Measure 122 starts with a 2/4 time signature, followed by a 3/4 time signature change. The melody consists of quarter notes and a half note with a fermata. A dynamic marking box is positioned above the first measure. The piece concludes with a repeat sign and a 'x3' marking.

the next night we ate whale_____

T.

- 1. *pp*
- 2. *p*
- 3. *p*

Musical notation for the Tenor voice part, measures 122-125. The staff is in treble clef with an 8va marking below the clef. Measure 122 starts with a 2/4 time signature, followed by a 3/4 time signature change. The melody consists of quarter notes and a half note with a fermata. A dynamic marking box is positioned above the first measure. The piece concludes with a repeat sign and a 'x3' marking.

the next night we ate whale_____

B.

- 1. *pp*
- 2. *p*
- 3. *p*

Musical notation for the Bass voice part, measures 122-125. The staff is in bass clef. Measure 122 starts with a 2/4 time signature, followed by a 3/4 time signature change. The melody consists of quarter notes and a half note with a fermata. A dynamic marking box is positioned above the first measure. The piece concludes with a repeat sign and a 'x3' marking.

the next night we ate whale_____

Pno.

Musical notation for the Piano accompaniment, upper staff, measures 122-125. The staff is in treble clef. Measure 122 starts with a 2/4 time signature, followed by a 3/4 time signature change. The accompaniment consists of chords and a half note with a fermata. A dynamic marking box is positioned above the first measure. The piece concludes with a repeat sign and a 'x3' marking.

the next night we ate whale_____

Musical notation for the Piano accompaniment, lower staff, measures 122-125. The staff is in bass clef. Measure 122 starts with a 2/4 time signature, followed by a 3/4 time signature change. The accompaniment consists of chords and a half note with a fermata. A dynamic marking box is positioned above the first measure. The piece concludes with a repeat sign and a 'x3' marking.

125 *(p)*

S. *(p)*
the next night we ate

A. *(p)*
the next night we ate

T. *(p)*
the next night we ate

B. *(p)*
the next night we ate

Pno. *(p)*
the next night we ate