Michigan School Vocal Music Association

Serving vocal music education in Michigan since 1937

Our mission is to educate and inspire all people to understand and value the art of vocal music, and its lifelong impact on the human spirit..

State Solo & Ensemble Festival Sight Reading

2014-15

Composer

Jed Scott

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2015 STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL
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Information and Procedures

LARGE AND SMALL ENSEMBLES

Performing in the Large Ensemble/Small Ensemble

Sight Reading Room 15 minutes

State Solo & Ensemble festival sight reading has been designed to assess our students' sight reading ability. To be successful, preparation prior to festival is required/necessary. Sight reading should be a regular part of daily class/ensemble rehearsals. Students and directors should select and adhere to a sight reading method with which they are comfortable and can have success. Whether a group is singing for a final determination or comments only, the ensemble is required to sight read.

Levels and Voicing

The director will choose the level of sight reading to be performed. All large and small ensembles being considered for Michigan Youth Arts Festival MUST sight read at the Intermediate **or** Advanced Levels.

General Information

· The MSVMA Sight Reading Rubric defines the criteria for adjudication.
· Sight reading exercises will be printed in the appropriate clef for each voice.
· Each exercise will be eight measures in length.
· Directors should choose a tempo at which the group can succeed.

General Rules and Procedures for Large and Small Ensemble (performing in the LE room)

· When the ensemble enters the room, the singers will organize themselves into the arrangement of their choice. The sight reading books will remain closed.
· The adjudicator will confirm with the director the level and voicing to be read.
· The singers will open the sight reading books when instructed to do so.
· The director and singers may discuss all of the exercise at the beginning of the session.
· The director and singers may discuss any of the musical elements of the exercise, but during the performance the director may not sing the exercise, clap the exercise, or in any way perform the exercise with/for the students.
· If the director chooses to conduct the exercise, he/she may only conduct the basic meter of the exercise.
· The director may use conducting and/or unvoiced assistance in maintaining a steady tempo (ie. clapping, snapping, tapping).

· The director is discouraged from giving verbal assists during the performance of the exercise. Oral assistance from the director while the students are performing will be evaluated in light of the overall performance.
· The director may transpose the key to best support the vocal abilities of the choir. The director should inform the adjudicator of the key change.

Preparation

· The Warm-up – The key may be established by having the students sing a few scales or chord patterns. Students may sing random intervals or patterns such as 1-3-5-3-1, 1-4-6-4-1, etc. in preparation.
· Directors may only sing with the choir during the warm-up to establish keyality. Directors may not illustrate by singing AT ANY TIME intervals directly referenced from the exercise.
· When discussing the exercise, the director may point out potentially problematic intervals contained therein. However, he/she may not immediately rehearse them with the choir.
· All singers are permitted to discuss and sing with their neighbors during the prep time, as long as the director is not assisting by illustrating intervals or rhythms. This practice of "neighboring" is limited to 2 or 3 students.
· The "neighboring" groups may not join together and prepare as one section.

Performance Instructions

· The exercise will be performed once.

SOLOS AND SMALL ENSEMBLES
Performing in the Solo/Small Ensemble
Sight Reading Room 7.5 minutes

State Solo & Ensemble festival sight reading has been designed to assess our students' sight reading ability. To be successful, preparation prior to festival is required/necessary. Sight reading should be a regular part of daily class/ensemble rehearsals. Students and directors should select and adhere to a sight reading method with which they are comfortable and can have success. Whether a group is singing for a final determination or comments only, the ensemble is required to sight read.

Levels and Voicing

The director will choose the level of sight reading to be performed. All soloists and small ensembles being considered for Michigan Youth Arts Festival MUST sight read at the Intermediate **or** Advanced Levels.

General Information

· The MSVMA Sight Reading Rubric defines the criteria for adjudication.
· Sight reading exercises will be printed in the appropriate clef for each voice.
· Each exercise will be eight measures in length.
· Singers should choose a tempo at which they can succeed.

Questions

· Singers will answer questions related to an explanation of the key signature and the time/meter signature. Singers will identify pitch names in whatever system they use i.e. letter names, movable *do,* fixed *do,* or numbers.

Preparation

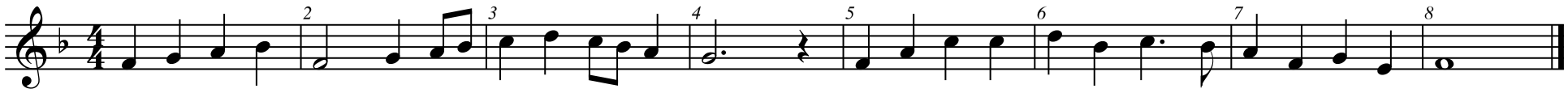
· The students may prepare by singing scales or patterns to establish the keyality.
· Singers may rehearse the exercise aloud

Performance Instructions

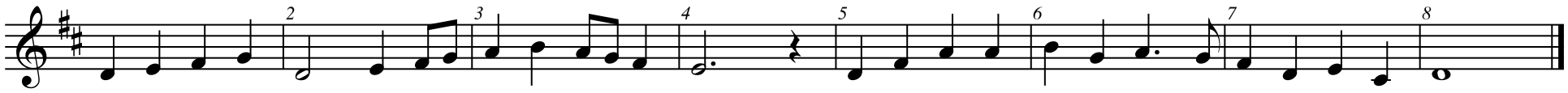
· The exercise will be performed once.

Solo Primary

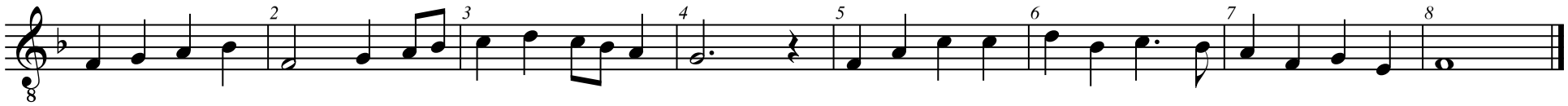
Soprano



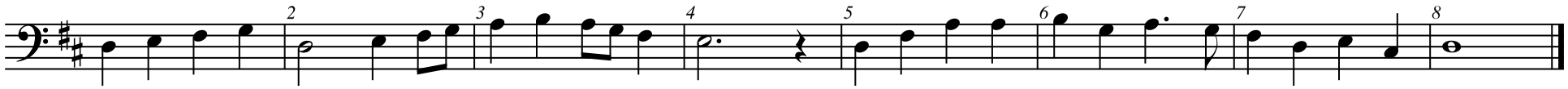
Alto



Tenor



Bass



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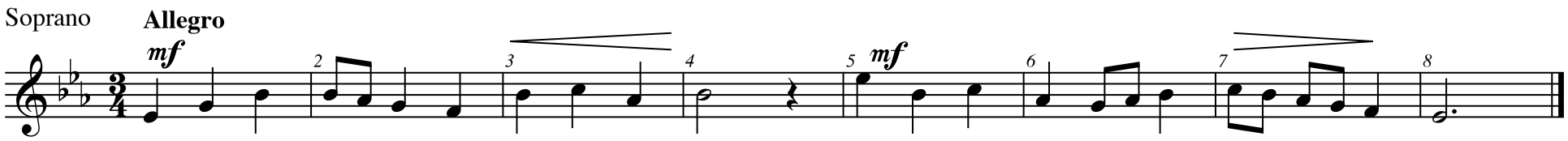
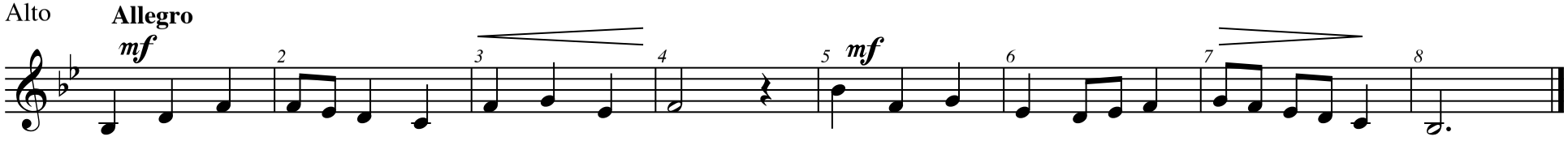
Solo Intermediate

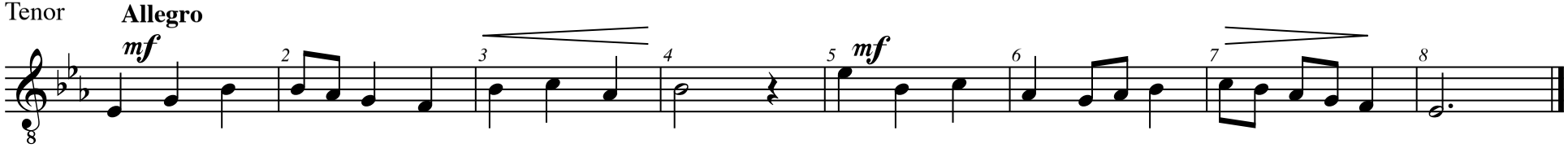
Soprano



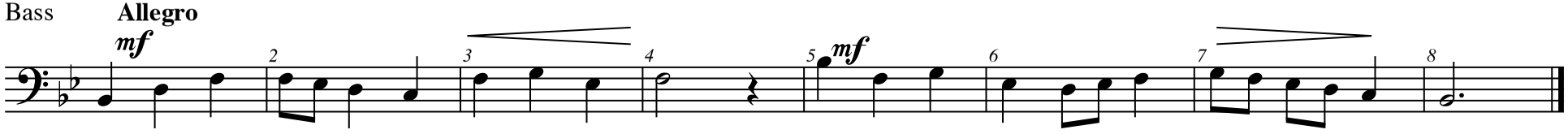
Alto



Tenor



Bass



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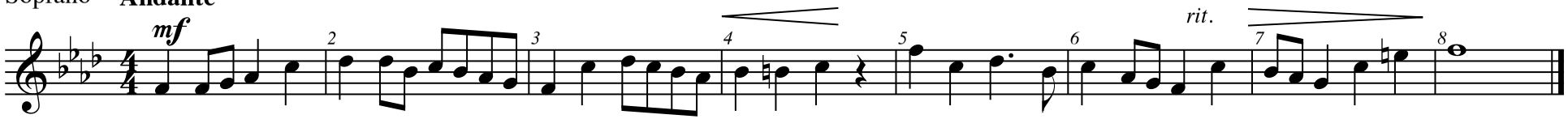
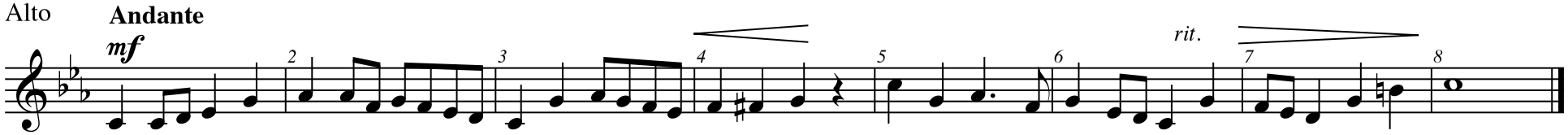
Solo Advanced

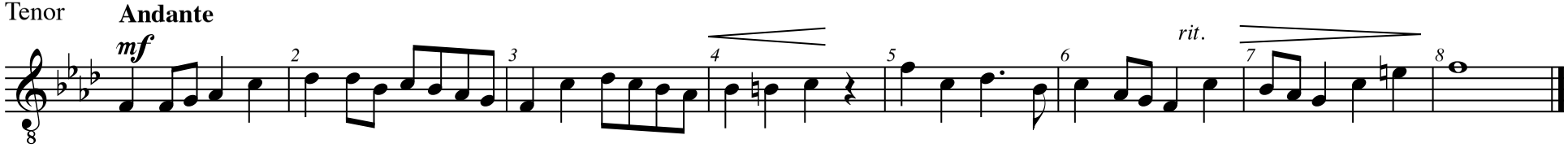
Soprano **Andante** *mf* *rit.*



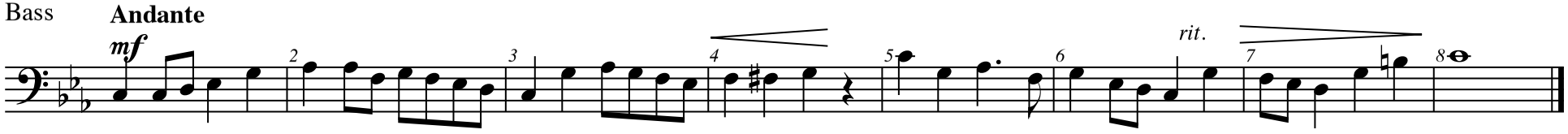
Alto **Andante** *mf* *rit.*



Tenor **Andante** *mf* *rit.*



Bass **Andante** *mf* *rit.*



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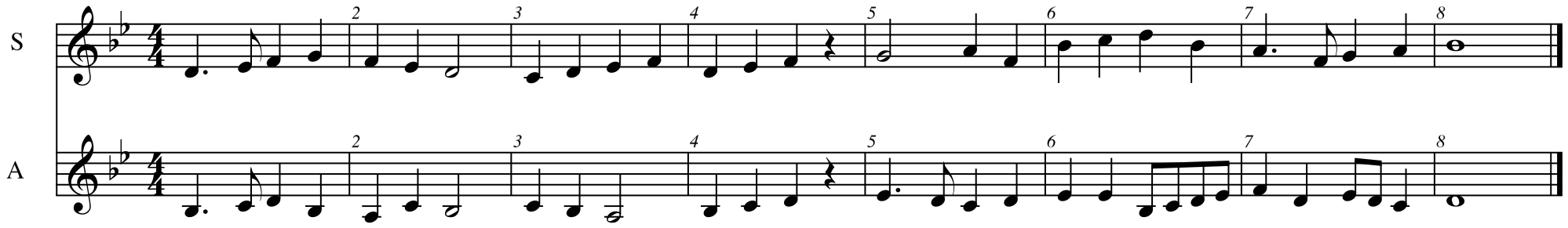
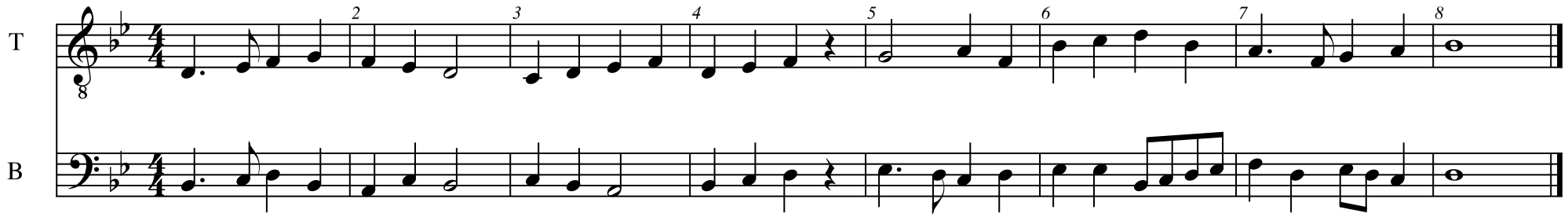
Soprano/Alto Duet



Tenor/Bass Duet



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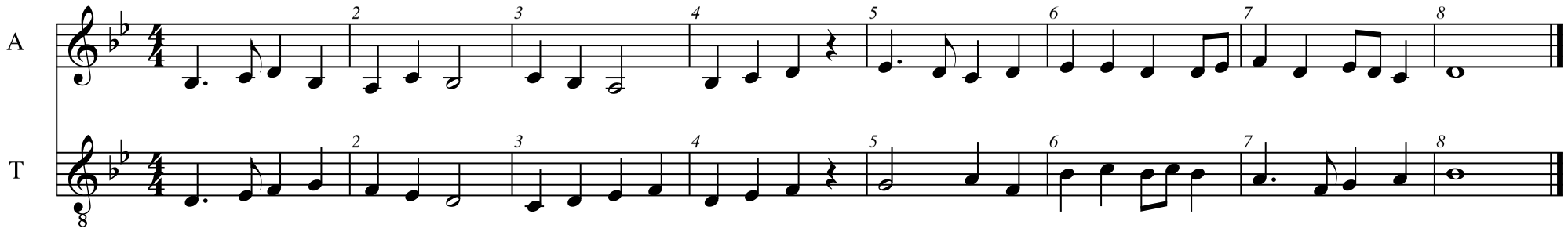
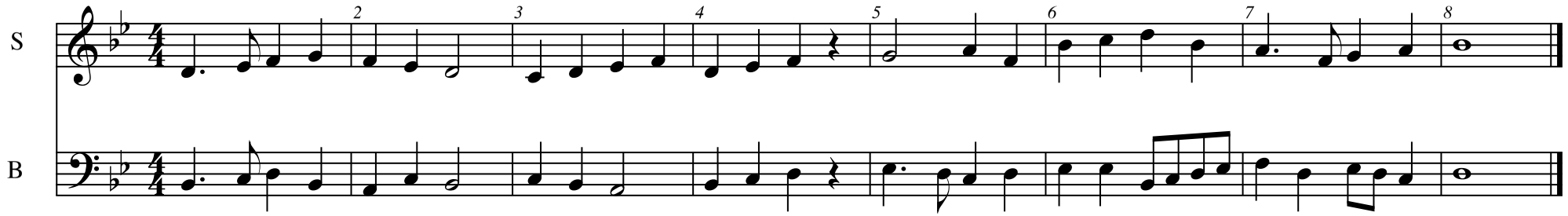
Alto/Tenor Duet



Soprano/Bass Duet



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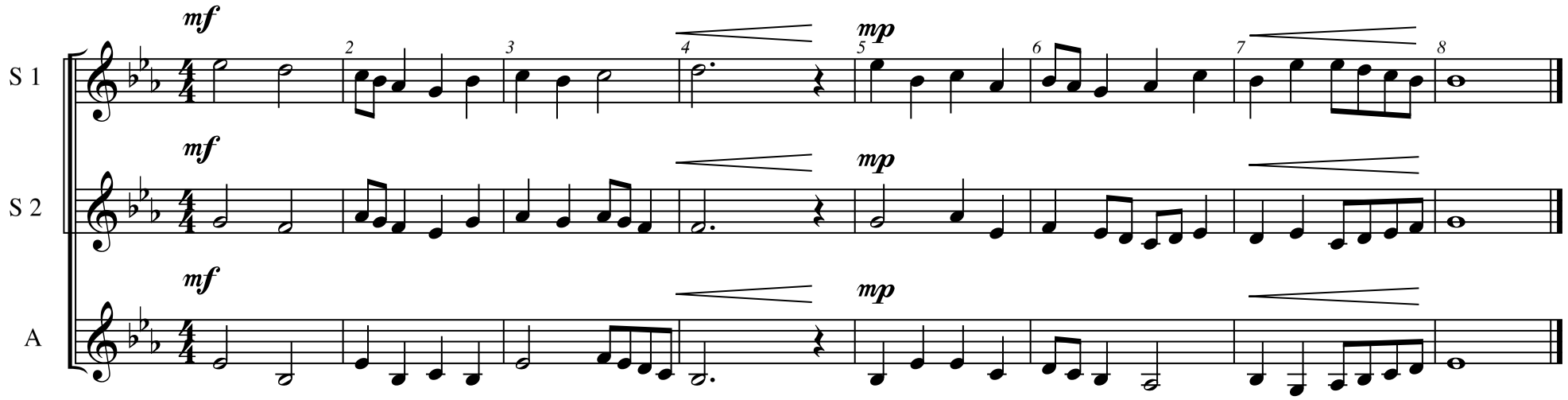
SSA Trio



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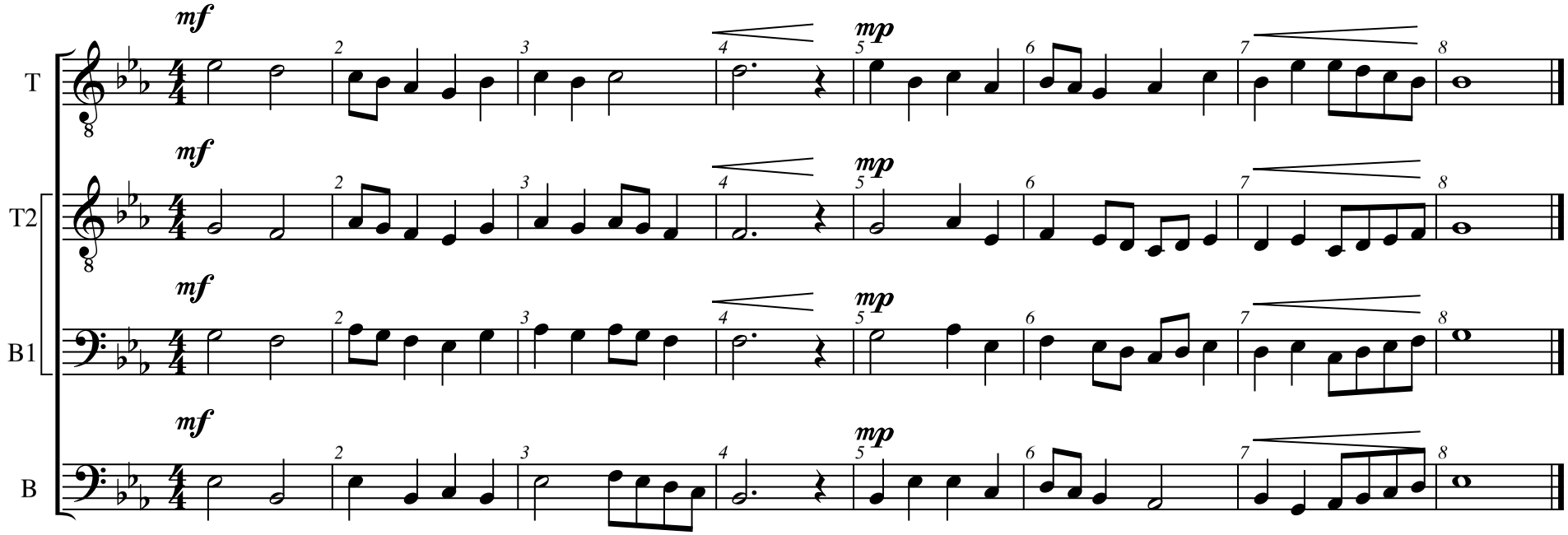
TTB Trio

Middle part may choose to sing T2 or B1 part



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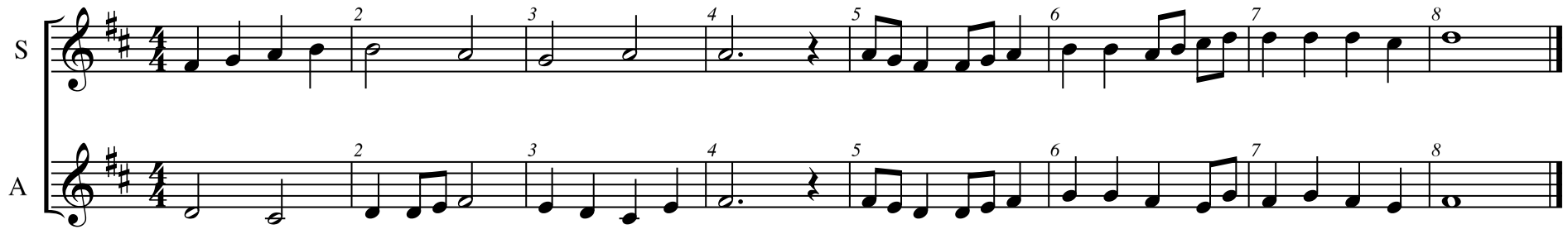
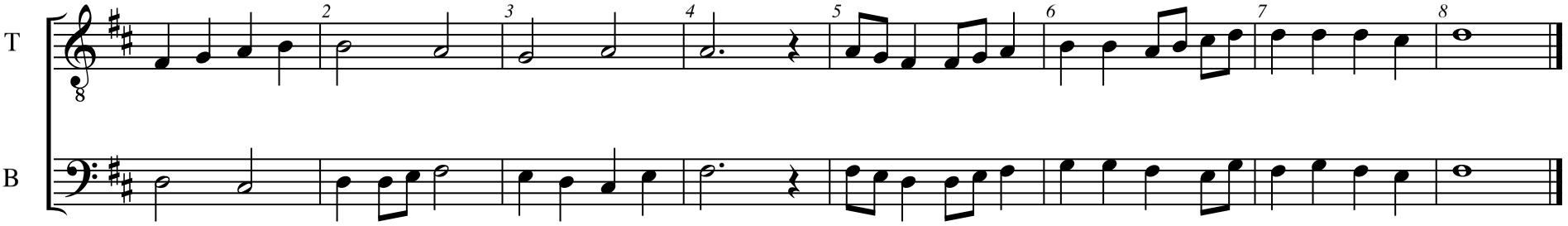
SA Large Ensemble Primary



TB Large Ensemble Primary



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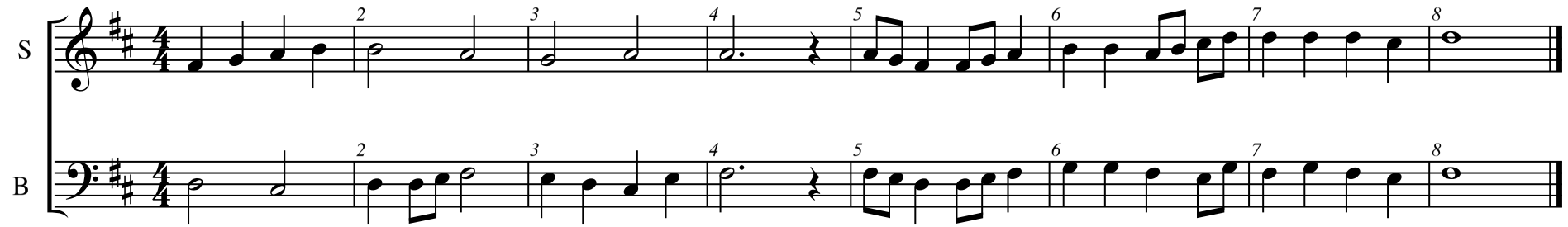
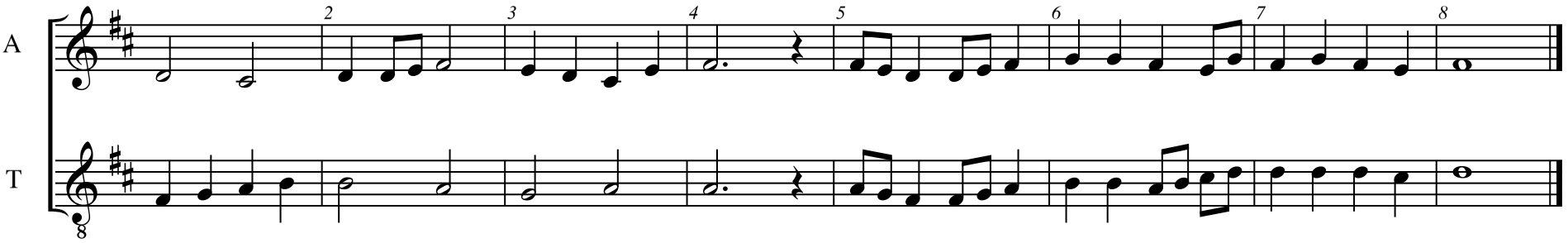
SB Large Ensemble Primary



AT Large Ensemble Primary



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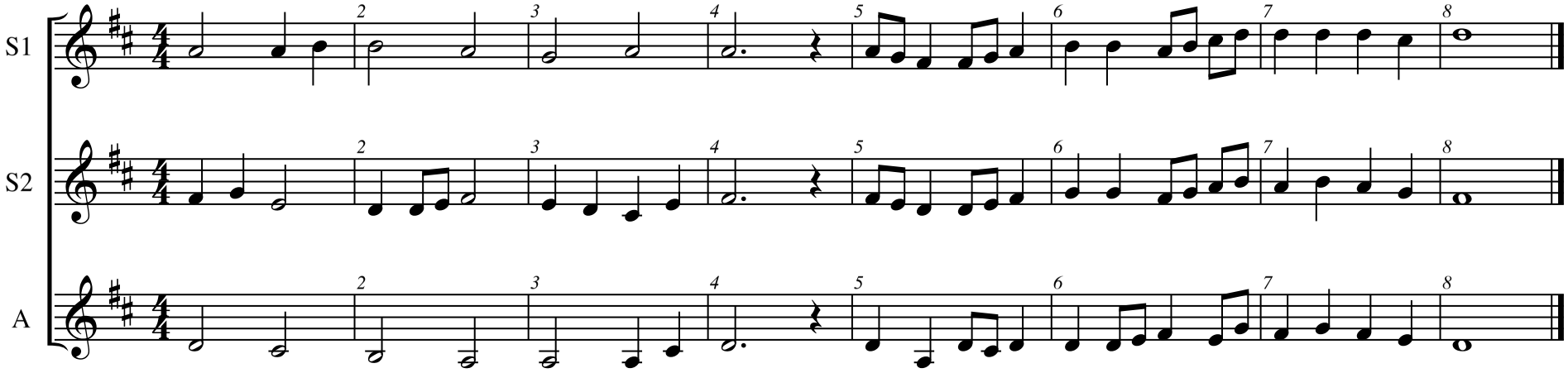
SSA Large Ensemble Primary



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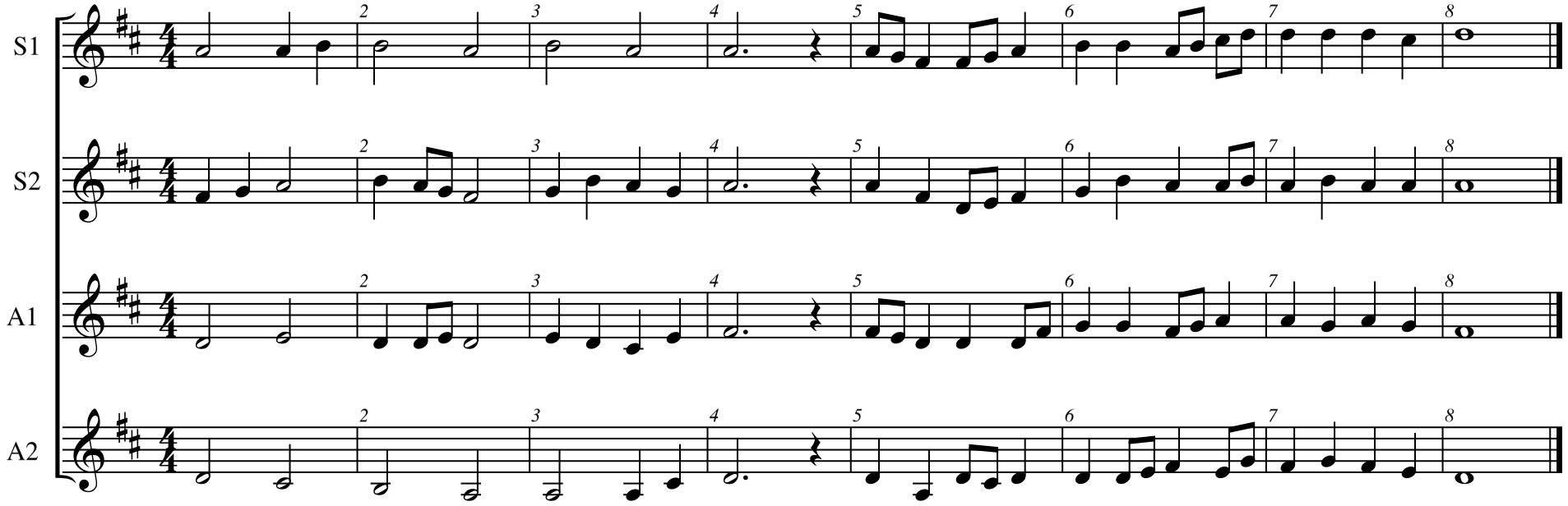
SSAA Large Ensemble Primary



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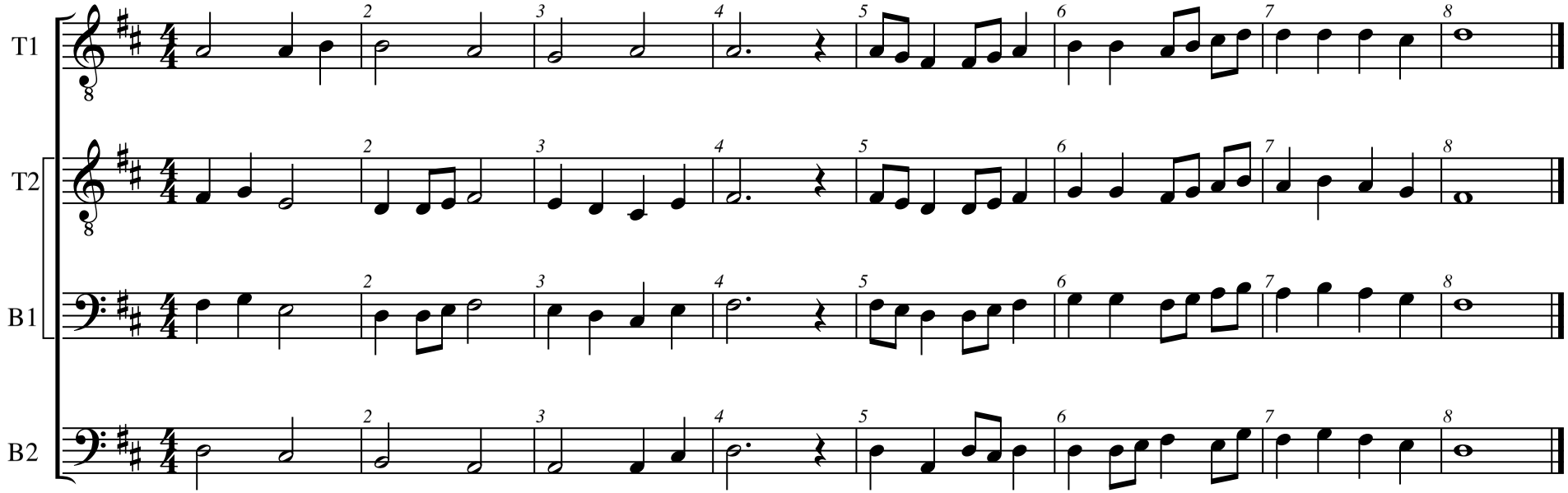
TTB/TBB Large Ensemble Primary

Middle part may choose to sing T2 or B1 part



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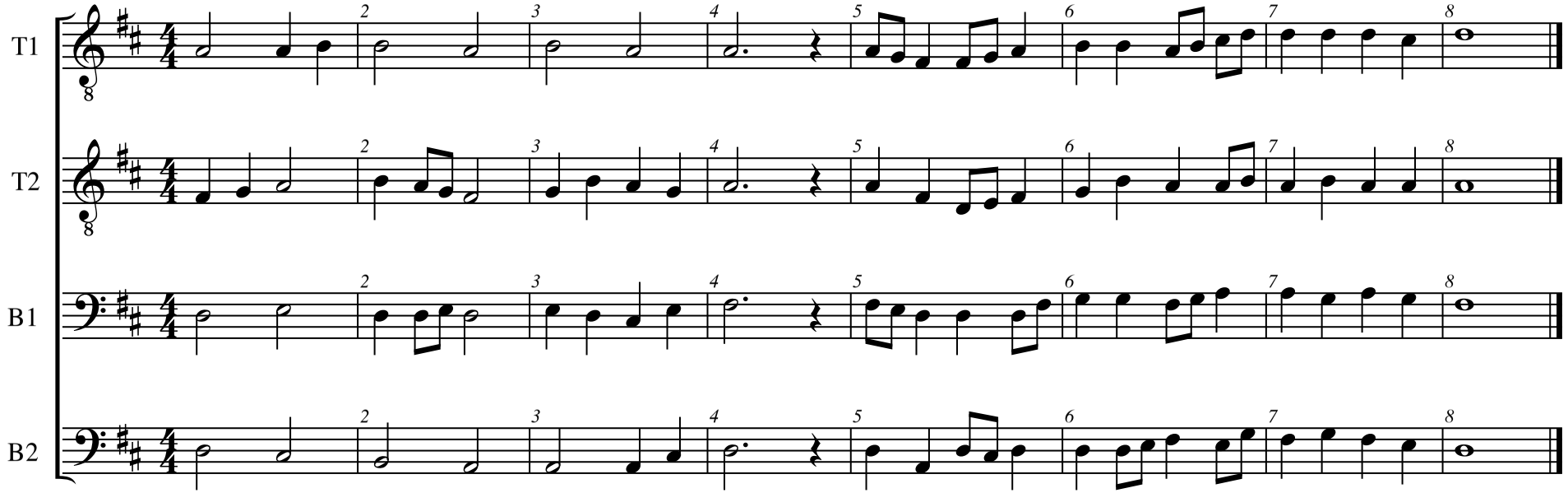
TTBB Large Ensemble Primary



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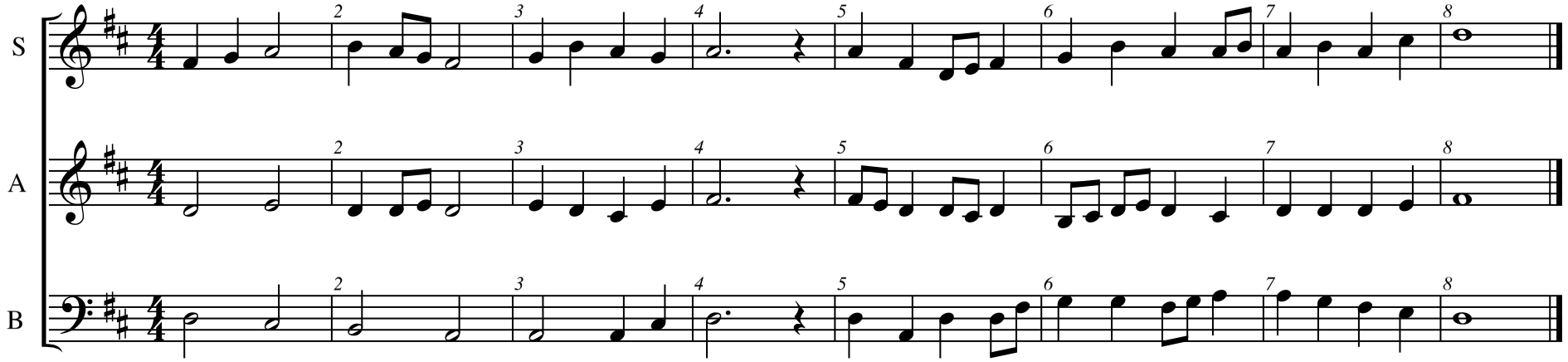
SAB Large Ensemble Primary



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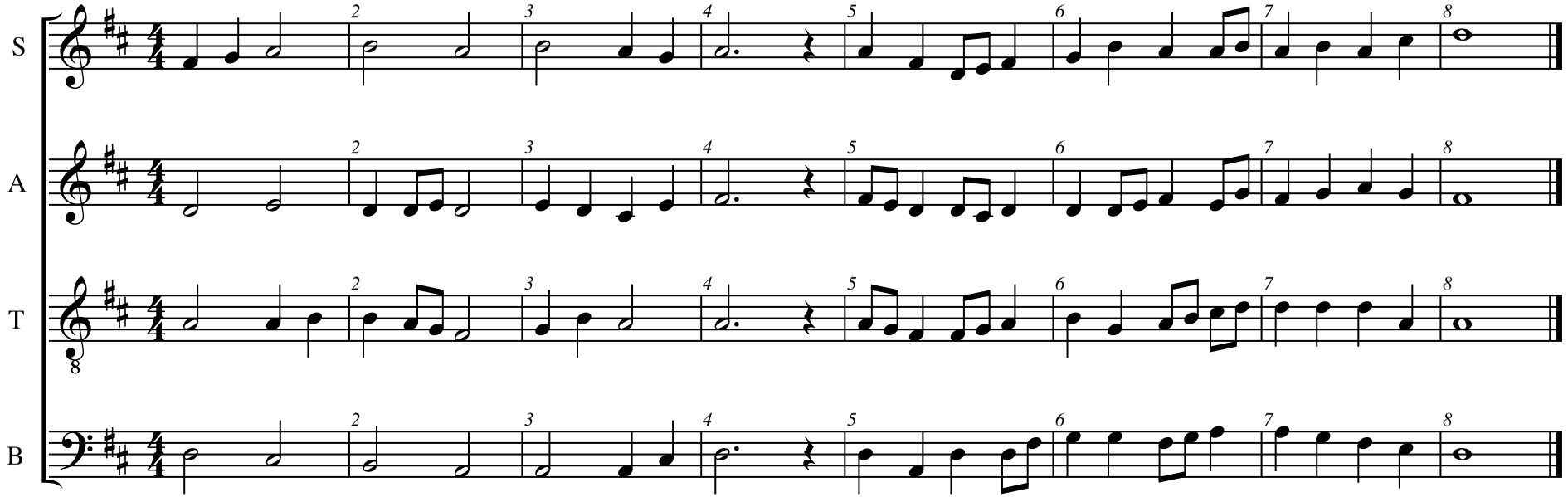
SATB Large Ensemble Primary



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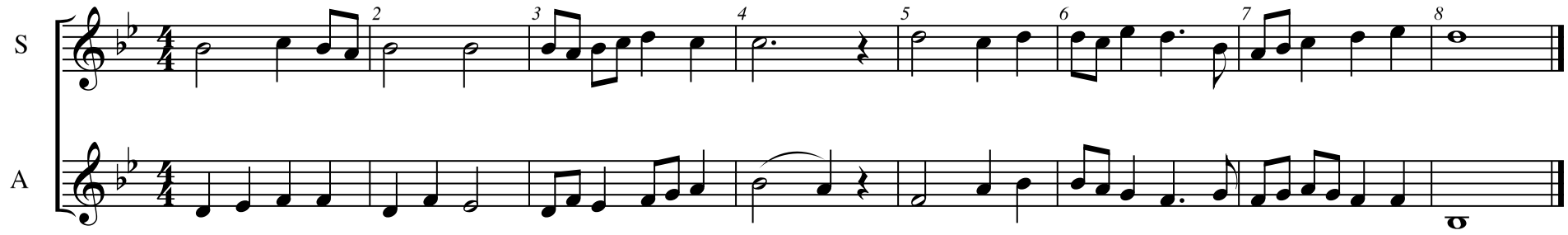
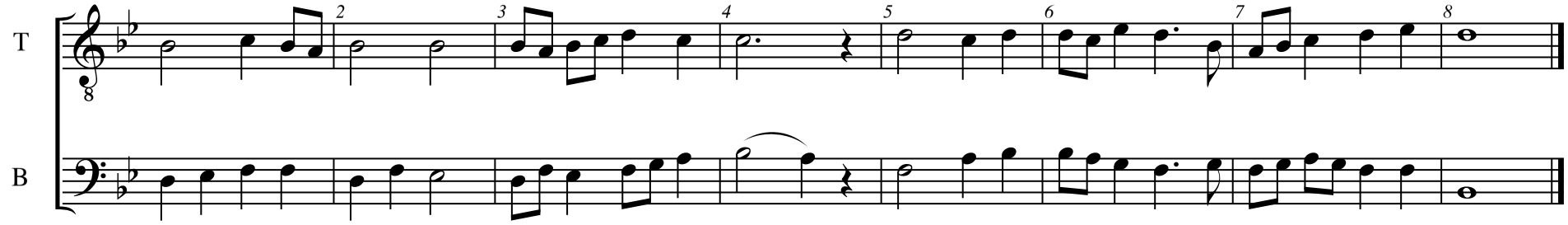
SA Small/Large Ensemble Intermediate



TB Small/Large Ensemble Intermeiate



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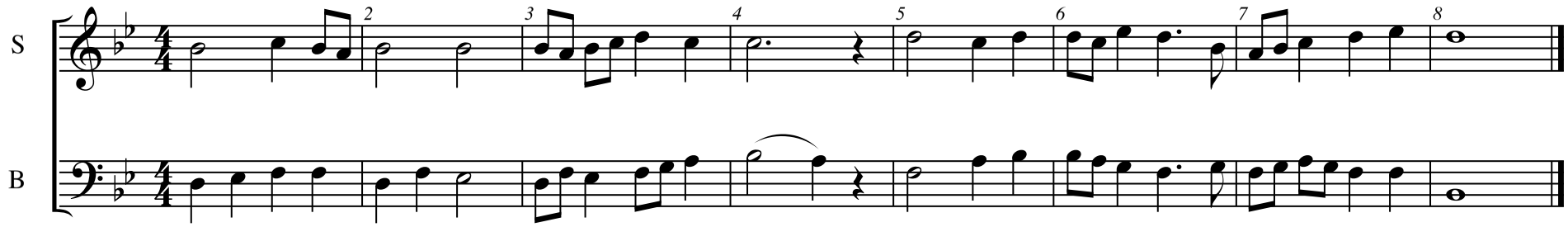
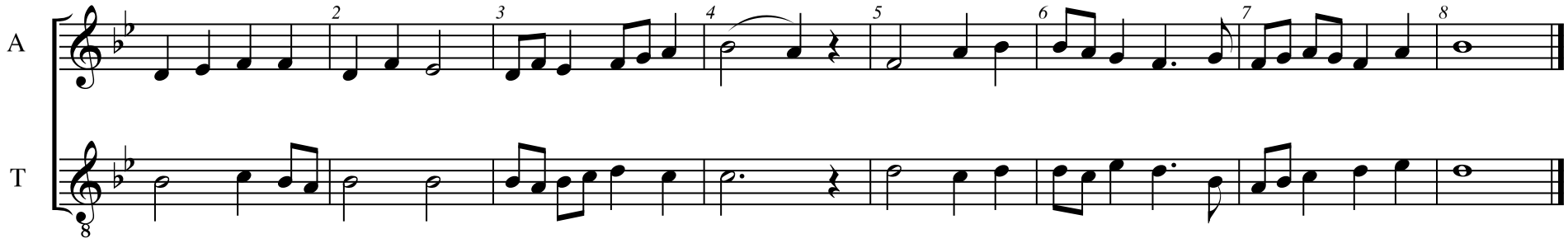
SB Small/Large Ensemble Intermediate



AT Small/Large Ensemble Intermediate



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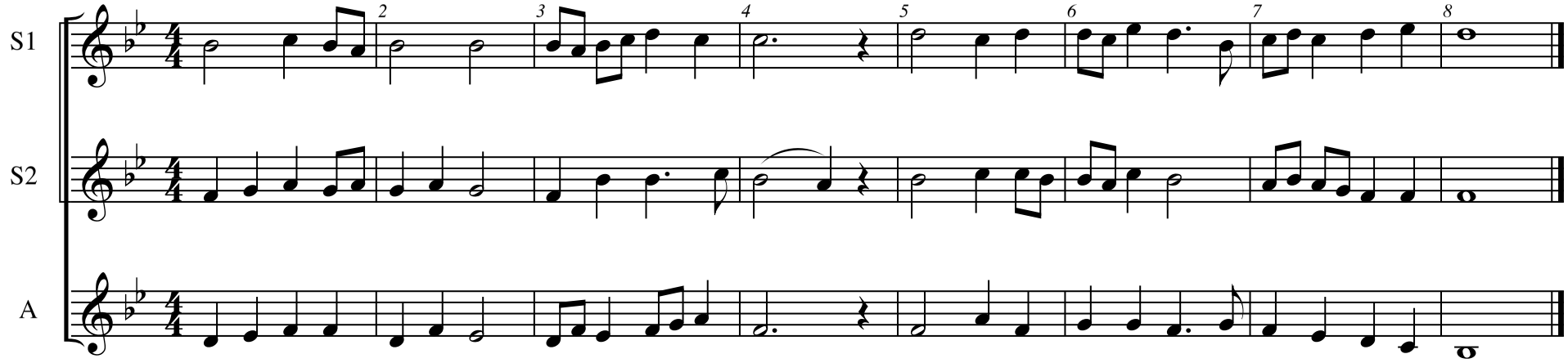
SSA Small/Large Ensemble Intermediate



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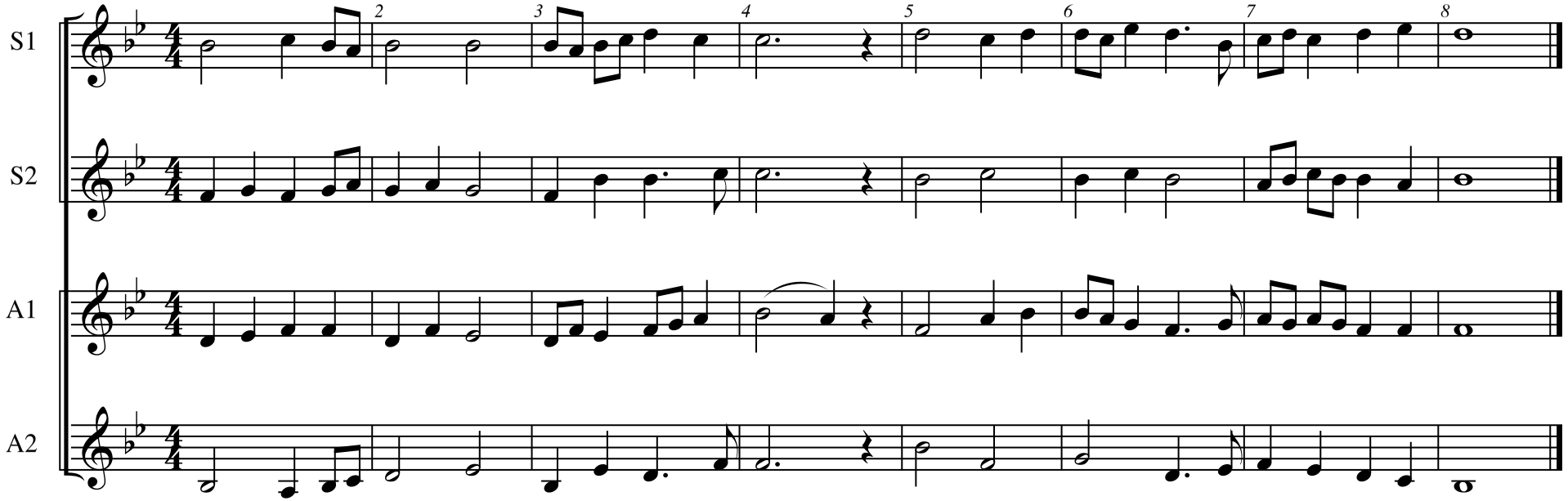
SSAA Small/Large Ensemble Intermediate



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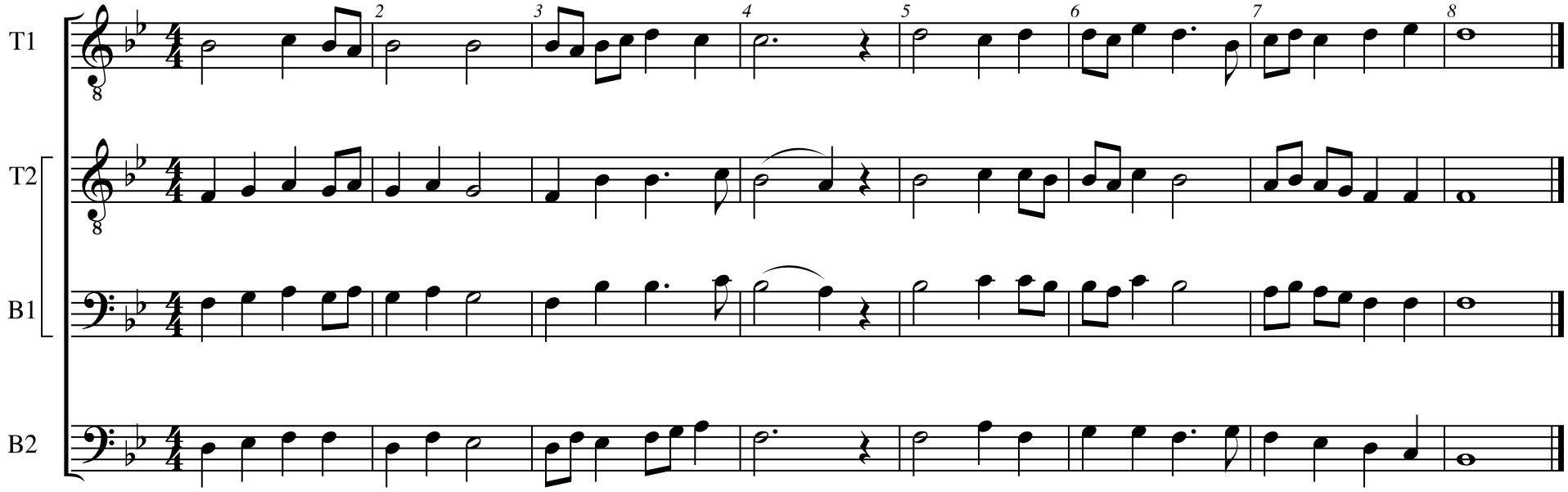
TTB/TBB Small/Large Ensemble Intermediate

Middle Part may choose to sing T2 or B1 line



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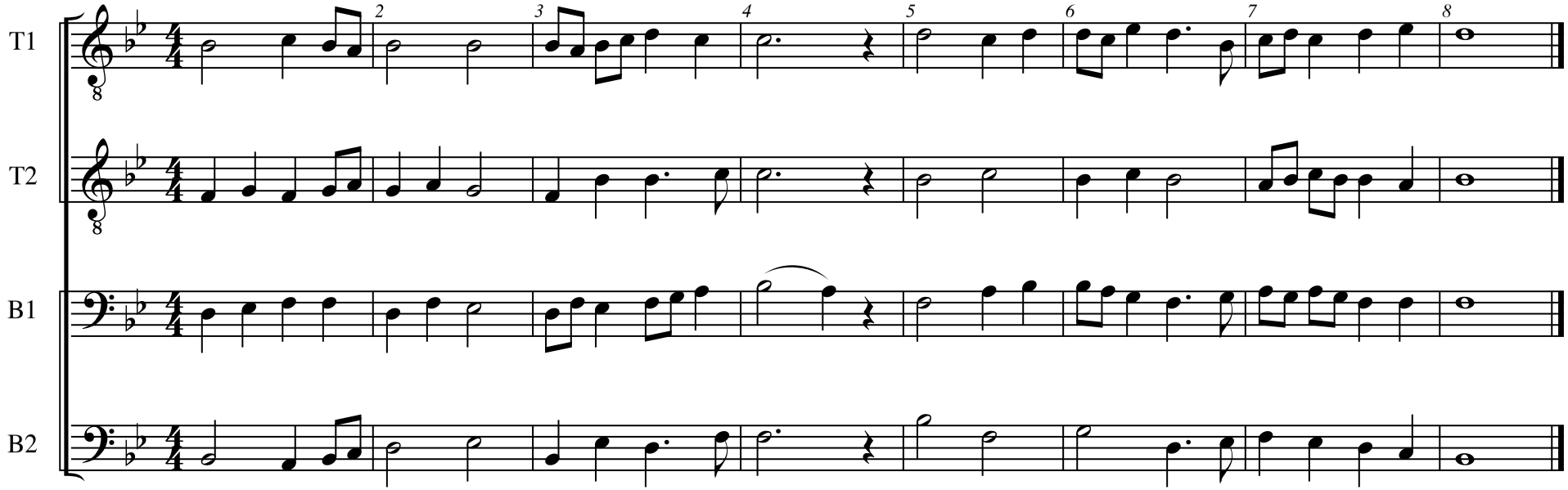
TTBB Small/Large Ensemble Intermediate



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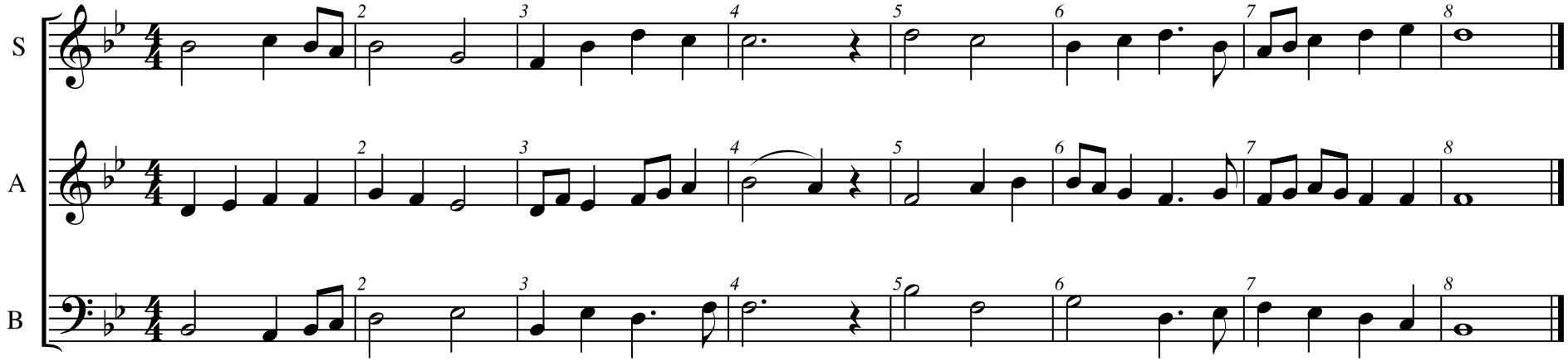
SAB Small/Large Ensemble Intermediate



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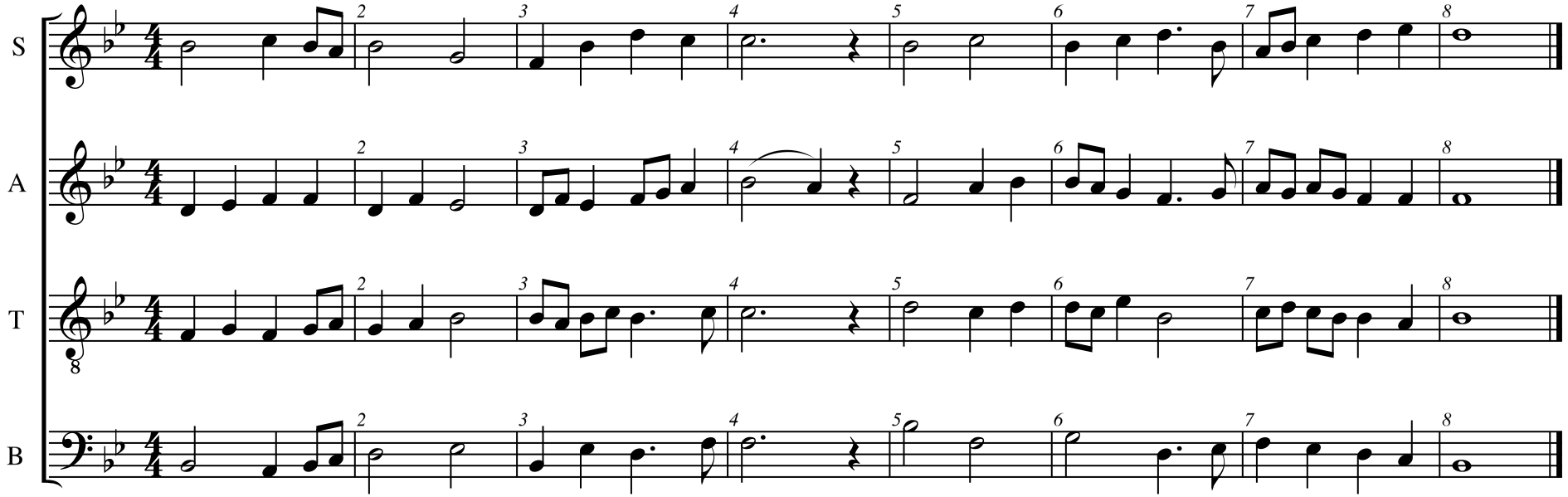
SATB Small/Large Ensemble Intermediate



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Our mission is to educate and inspire all people to understand and value the art of vocal music, and its lifelong impact on the human spirit..

Instructions for State Solo & Ensemble Festival Sight Reading Judges
SOLOS
7.5 minutes

- The judge will refer to the document entitled "State Solo & Ensemble Festival Sight Reading Information and Procedures."
- The judge will place the singer's book on the table.
- The judge will set up the adjudication table before the soloist enters the room and it will remain there until conclusion.
- The judge will welcome the student and confirm the level of sight reading, and give instructions for locating the exercise.
- The judge will remain seated at the adjudication table at all times.
- The judge will ask the questions under **OTHER FACTORS.**
- The judge will allow the singer to rehearse the exercise using whatever system he/she chooses.
- With 3 minutes remaining the judge will ask the singer to perform the exercise.
- The judge will not let personal preference for sight reading systems influence his/her comments whether written or verbal. Any suggestions for improving or changing systems should be sent to the director through a private written note. The judge will thank the student for singing and wish her/him a good day.
- The judge will score the reading according to the rubric.

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Instructions for State Solo & Ensemble Festival Sight Reading Judges
SMALL ENSEMBLES
7.5 minutes

- The judge will refer to the document entitled "State Solo & Ensemble Festival Sight Reading Information and Procedures."
- The judge will place the singers' books on the table.
- The judge will set up the adjudication table before the singers enter the room and it will remain there until conclusion.
- The judge will welcome the students and confirm the level of sight reading, and give instructions for locating the exercise.
- The judge will remain seated at the adjudication table at all times.
- The judge will ask the questions under **OTHER FACTORS.**
- The judge will allow the singers to rehearse the exercise using whatever system they choose.
- With 3 minutes remaining the judge will ask the singers to perform the exercise.
- The judge will not let personal preference for sight reading systems influence his/her comments whether written or verbal. Any suggestions for improving or changing systems should be sent to the director through a private written note. The judge will thank the students for singing and wish them a good day.
- The judge will score the reading according to the rubric.

Michigan School Vocal Music Association
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Our mission is to educate and inspire all people to understand and value the art of vocal music, and its lifelong impact on the human spirit..

Instructions for State Solo & Ensemble Festival Sight Reading Judges
LARGE/SMALL ENSEMBLES
15 minutes

- The judge will refer to the document entitled "State Solo & Ensemble Festival Sight Reading Information and Procedures."
- The judge will place the sight reading books on the chairs for students. Place one on the stand for the director. Keep the remaining books in case the accompanist needs one or if there are extra singers.
- The judge will set up the adjudication table before the ensemble enters the room and it will remain there until conclusion.
- The judge will welcome the director and confirm the level of sight reading. The judge will BRIEFLY welcome the ensemble and give instructions for locating the exercise.
- The judge will remain seated at the adjudication table at all times with the possible exception of the group welcome and the clinic at the conclusion of the process.
- The judge will not interrupt the process once it has started unless the director requests information or assistance. Any errors or rules violations will be reflected in the overall final determination. The judge IS allowed to point out instances when students are singing in groups larger than 2 or 3.
- The judge will allow an ensemble to sing through the example a second time. However, the judge will only adjudicate the first "read" of the example.
- The judge will give the director a 5 minute warning.
- The judge will direct any **personal** remarks toward the director in a written note.
- The judge will provide constructive comments and/or clinic at the conclusion of the exercise, if time allows.
- The judge will not let personal preference for sight reading systems influence his/her comments whether written or verbal. Any suggestions for improving or changing systems should be sent to the director through a private written note.

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