Nine Tas

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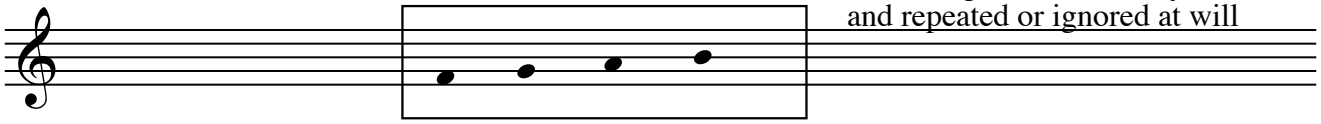
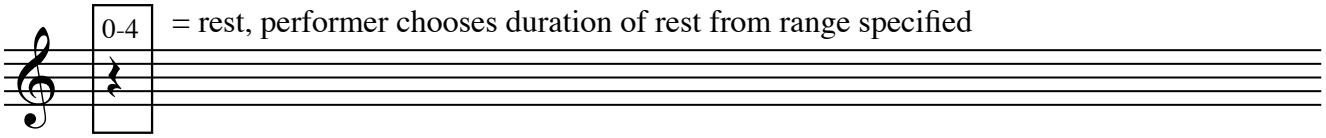
Notes

Nine Tas is for four voices in any combination.
All parts may be sung by any voice or vocal range.
Parts are notated in treble clef for convenience only.
Parts may be transposed in octaves to suit any vocal register.
When transposing, performers should attempt to preserve voicings as notated.

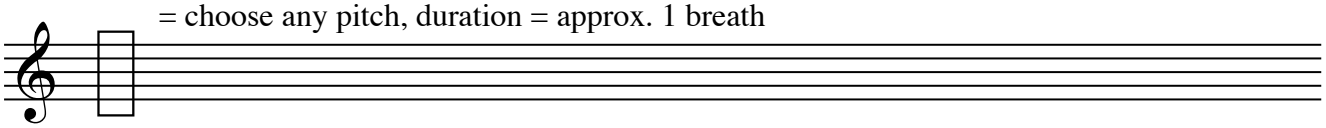
Notes inside a choice box



are to be performed in any order
and repeated or ignored at will



= rest, performer chooses duration of rest from range specified



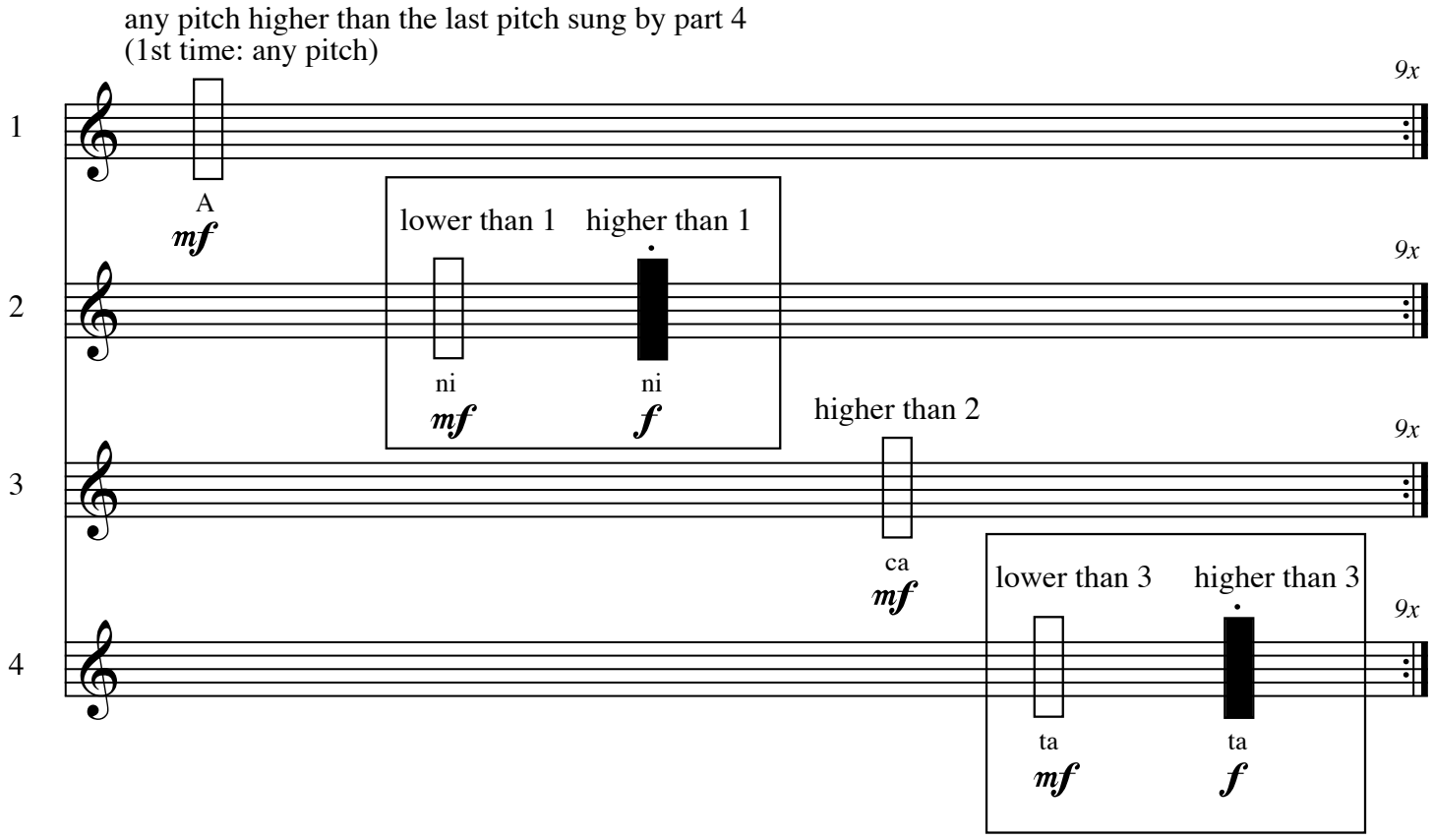
= choose any pitch, duration = approx. 1 breath

= choose any pitch, staccato

Pronunciation:
Aniccata - Ah-nee-CHAH-tah, impermanence
Dukkhata - Duke-HAH-tah, unsatisfactoriness
Anattata - Ah-nah-TAH-tah, not-selfhood
Dhammatthitata - Dah-mah-tee-TAH-tah, naturalness
Dhammaniyamata - Dah-mah-nee-yah-MAH-tah, lawfulness
Idappaccayata - Ee-dah-pah-chah-YAH-tah, conditionality, interdependence
Sunnata - Sue-NAH-tah, voidness
Tathata - Tah-TAH-tah, thusness
Atammayata - Ah-tah-mah-YAH-tah, unconcoctability

Nine Tas

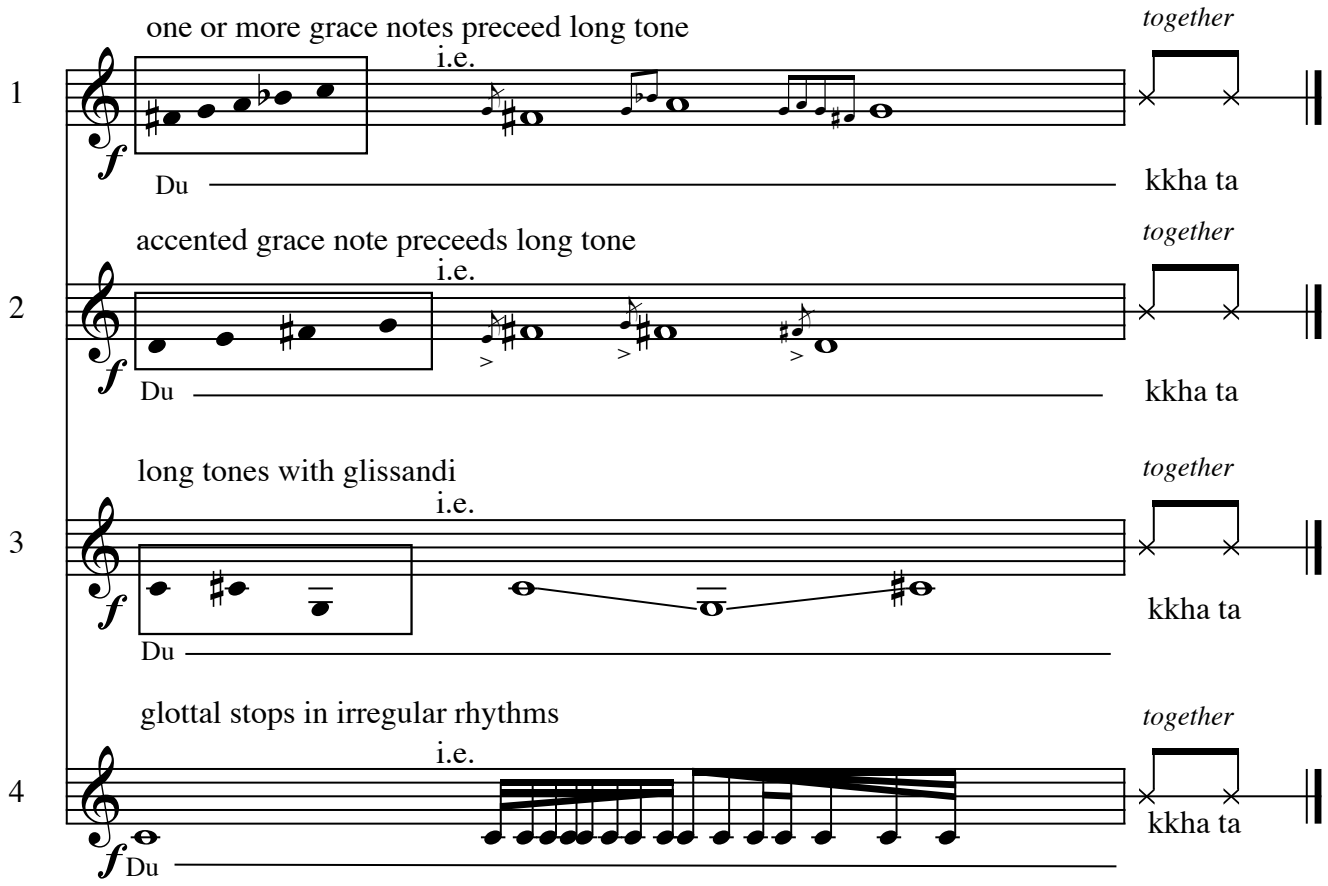
1 - Aniccata



Sing consecutively in free time.
Sustain all syllables until the next stacatto syllable or your next entrance, whichever comes first.

Nine Tas

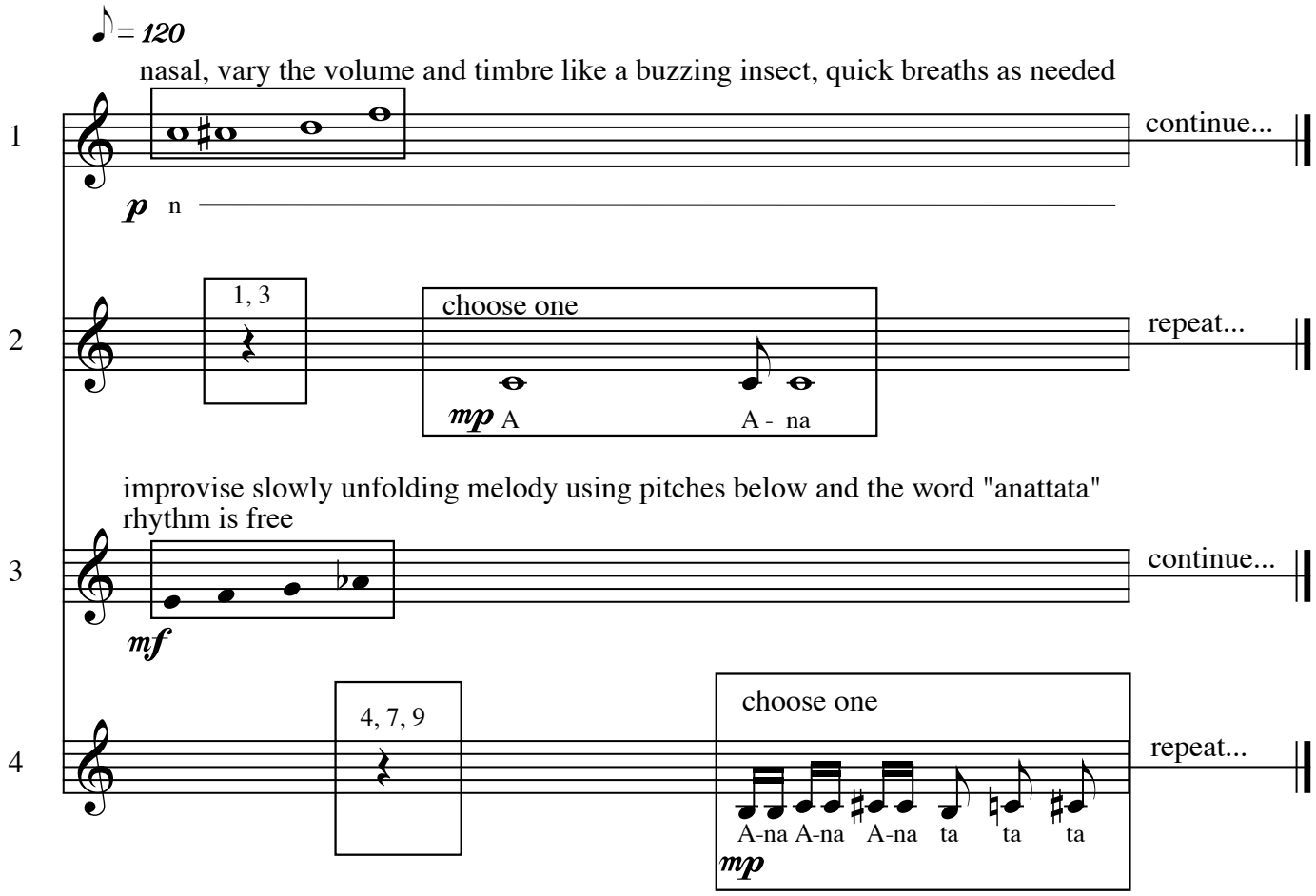
2 - Dukkhata



Sing "Du" as long as possible choosing which gestures (if any) to perform.
As breath begins to run out, maintain volume at the expense of tone quality.
When it is no longer possible to produce a sound by exhaling, pronounce "kkhata" while inhalaing.

Nine Tas

3 - Anattata

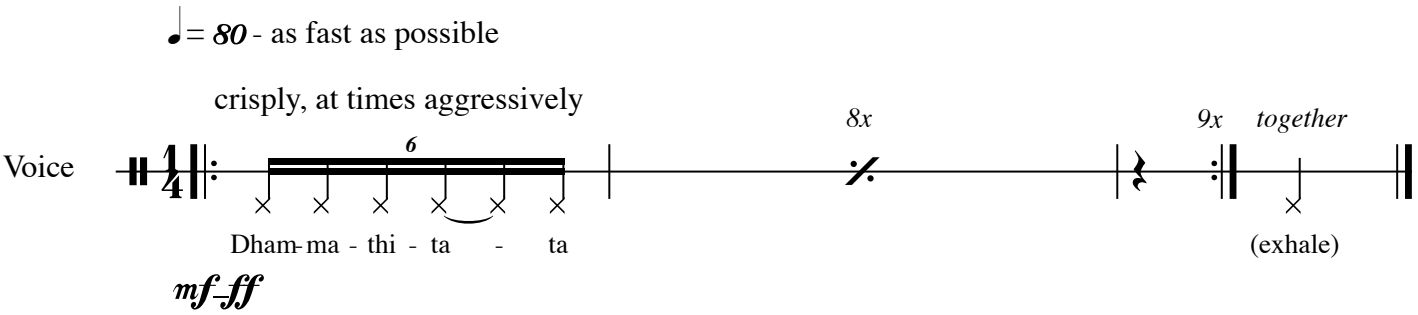


= length of a breath

Duration of movement is free.

Nine Tas

4 - Dhammathitata



Spoken or sung on any pitch.
On repeat you may choose another pitch.

Tempo is elastic for each performer, but group should proceed at same overall pace and perform the final exhalation together.

Imagine a footrace with runners pulling ahead and falling behind,
then everyone crosses the finish line together.

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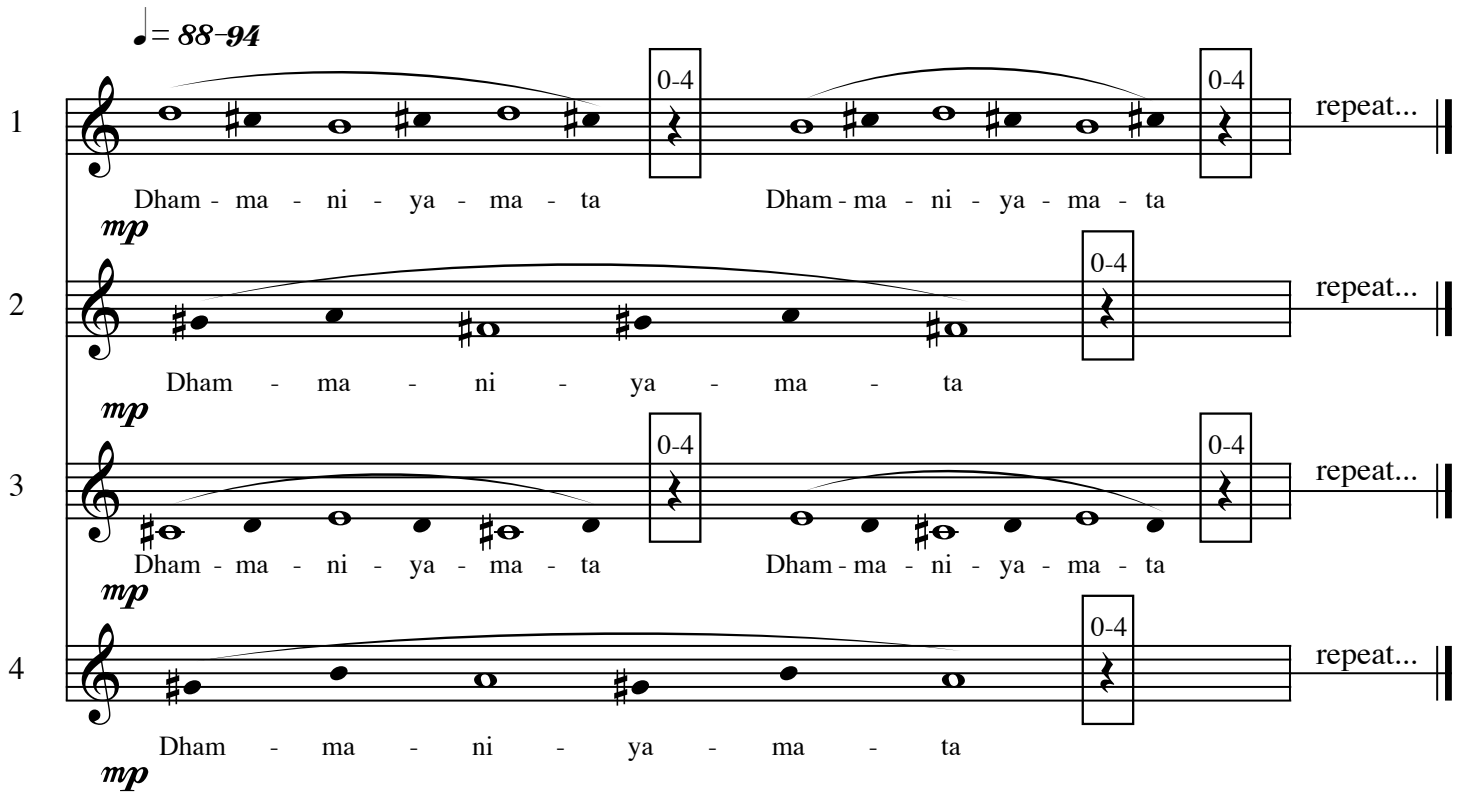
5 - Dhammaniyamata



𝅗𝅥 = 1 or 2 beats

𝅝 = 2 or 3 beats

Voice 3 begins. Other voices enter when ready. Each voice ends at any rest when ready.

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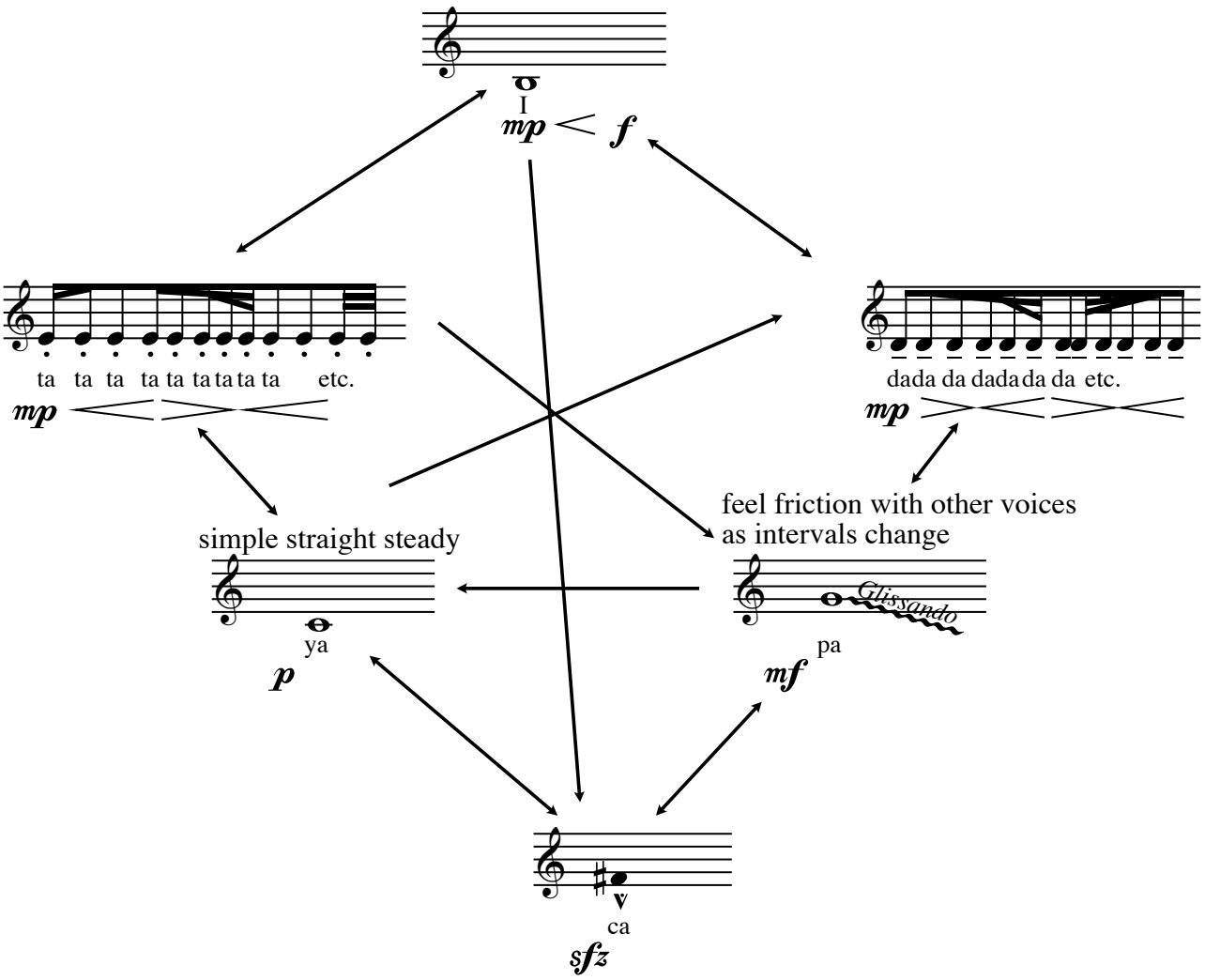
6 - Idappaccayata



Sing consecutively in reverse order.
Voice 4 begins with "I".
Voice 3 then follows an arrow from "I" to choose "da", "ca" or "ta"
Voice 2 follows an arrow from Voice 3 choice to determine next gesture
Voice 1 follows an arrow from Voice 2 choice to determine next gesture
Voice 4 follows an arrow from Voice 1 choice to determine next gesture
:
:
Until someone sings "ta" and signals the end of the movement.
Each gesture lasts no longer than one breath.
Gestures may overlap.
Duration is free.

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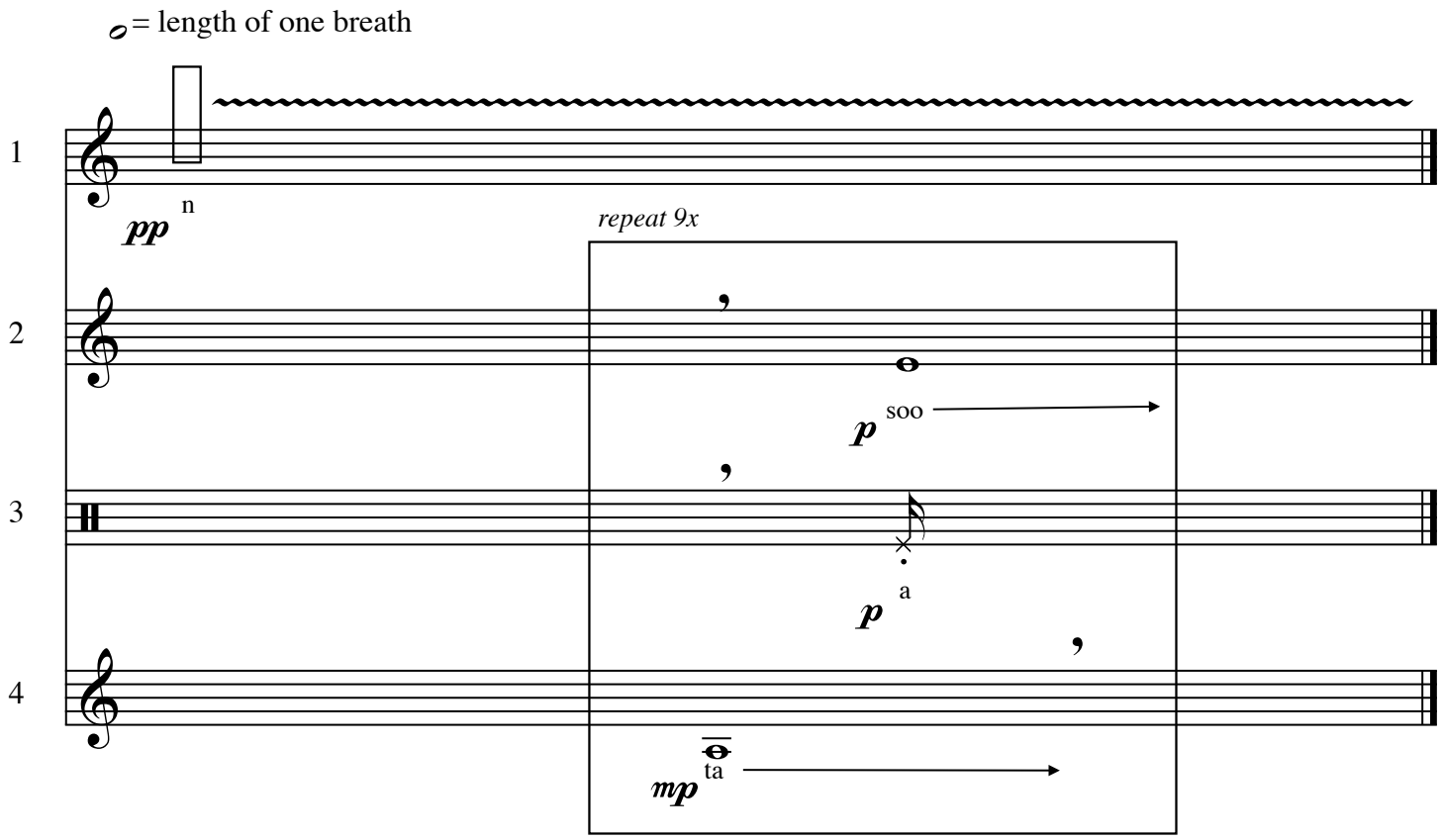
7 - Sunnata

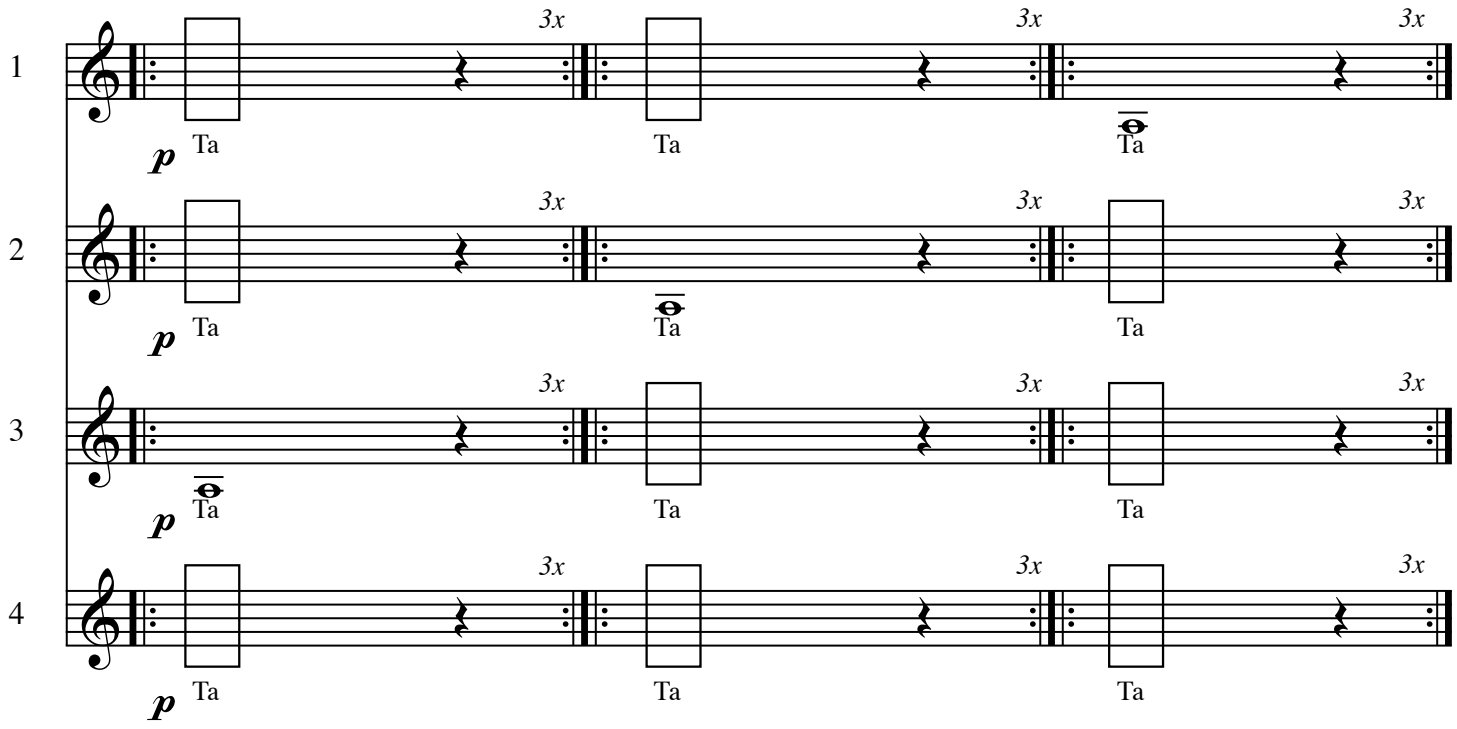


Voice 1:
choose any high pitch
vary the pitch and volume slightly like a buzzing insect
continue throughout movement
quick breaths when necessary

Voice 2:
gradually draw out 's' and shorten 'oo' until the ninth time it becomes only 's'

Voice 3:
gradually add more 'a' sounds until the ninth time it becomes a continuous glottal fry

8 - Tathata



Each Ta is the length of one breath (exhale).
Each rest is the length of one breath (inhale).

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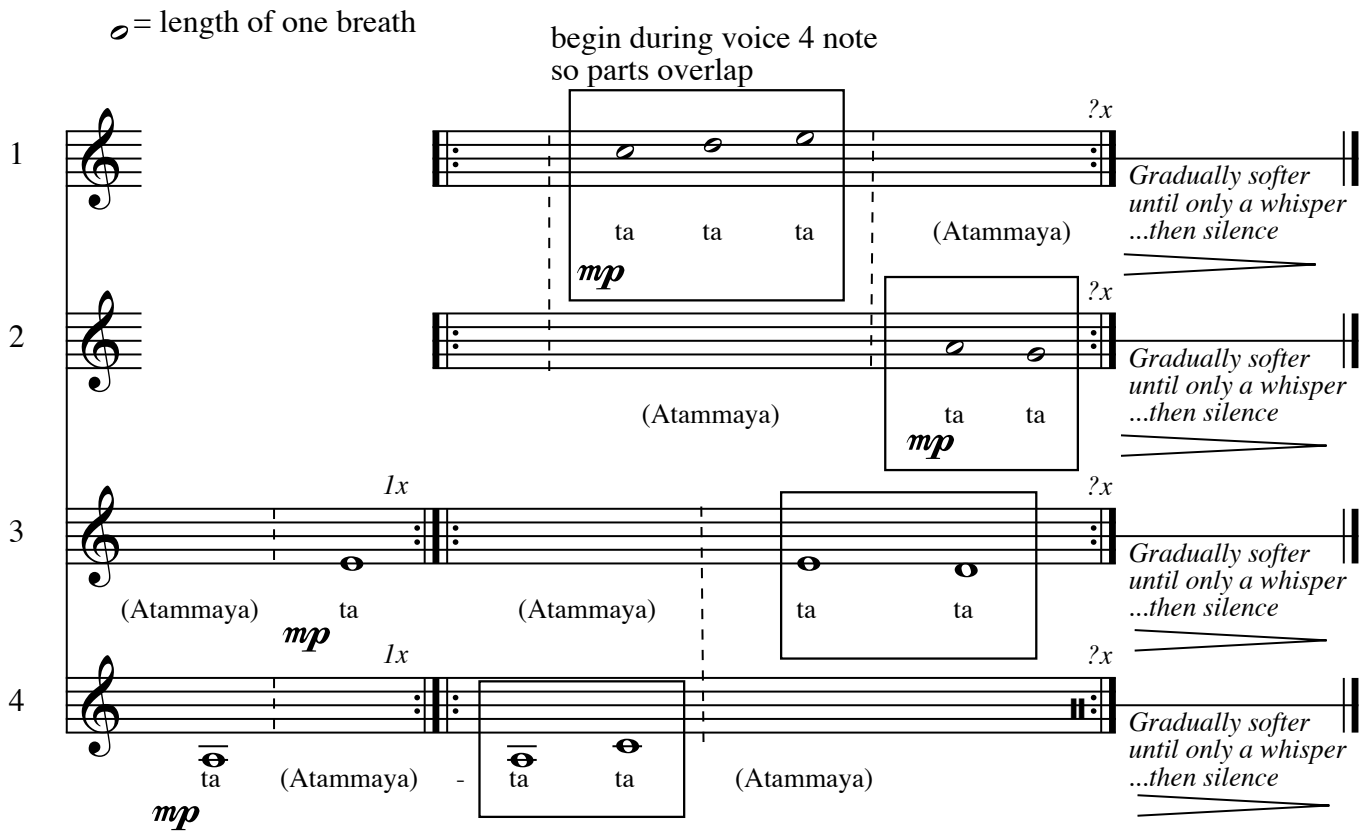
9 - Atammayata



(Atammaya) = whisper while inhaling
No stage whispers, please.

Duration is free.