

Below soprano1 and soprano2 are notated on a common staff.
There are two distinct voices, so notes in second measure are double-stemmed.
Everything is obvious here.



Below is a soprano staff.

In first measure sopranos are temporarily split, but they merge back in second measure.
(there are no indications that only one soprano sings in second measure - no rests)



Below soprano1 and soprano2 are notated on a common staff.

The last two notes are sung only by soprano1, because soprano2 has a rest in this moment.
Everything is obvious here.



Now, what could this mean?



Or this?



Or this (example from Gondoliers)?

