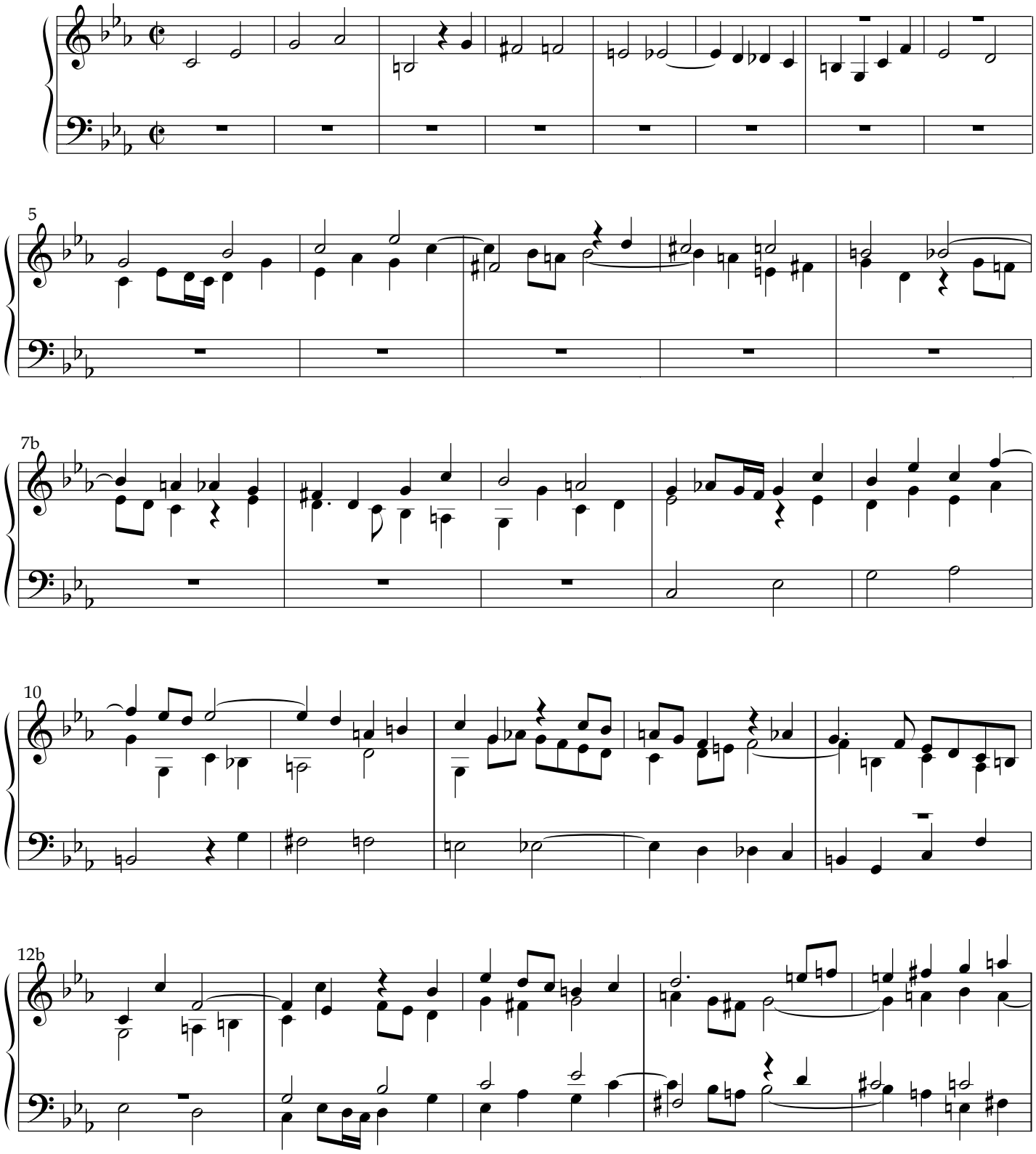
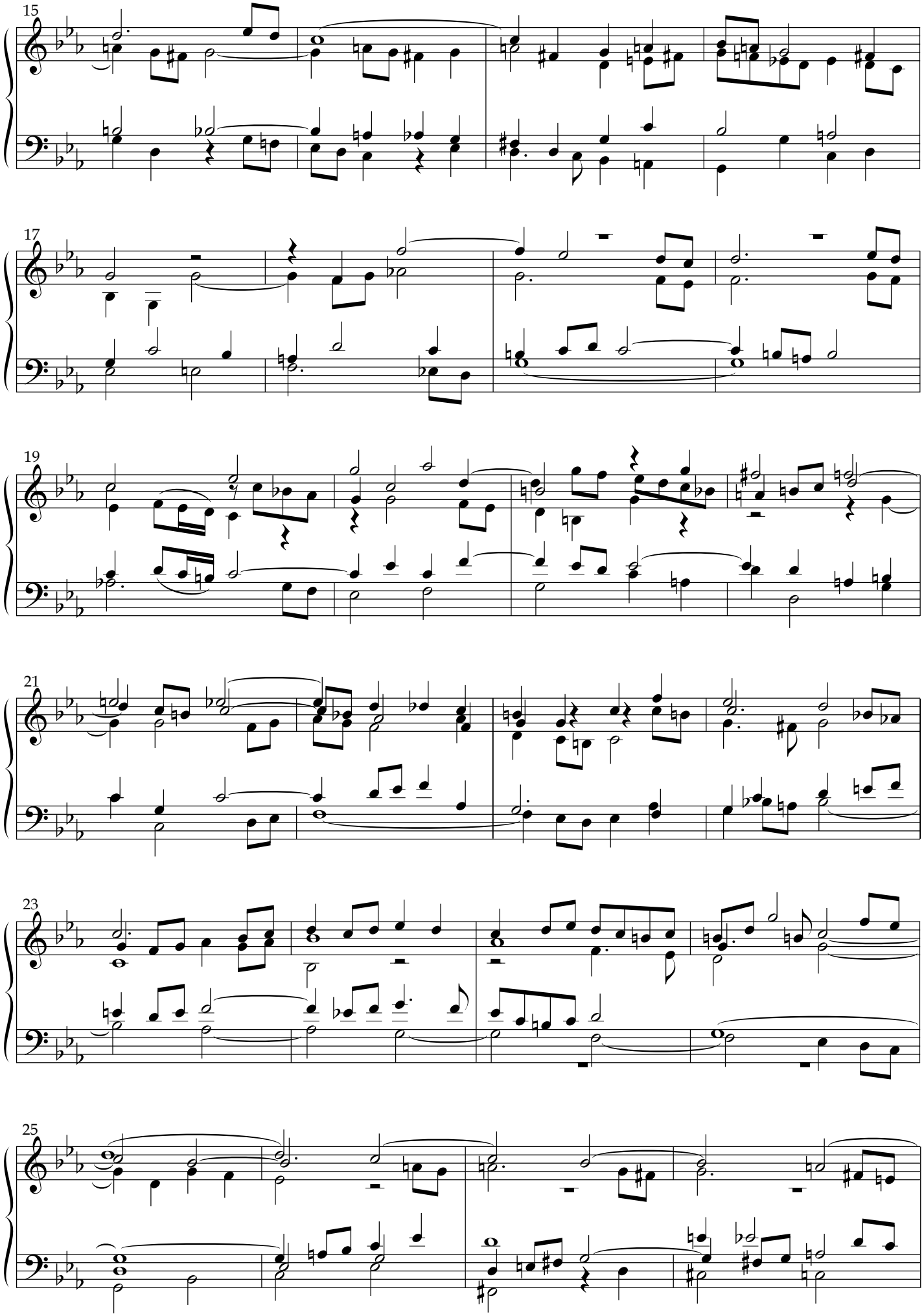
Johann Sebastian Bach

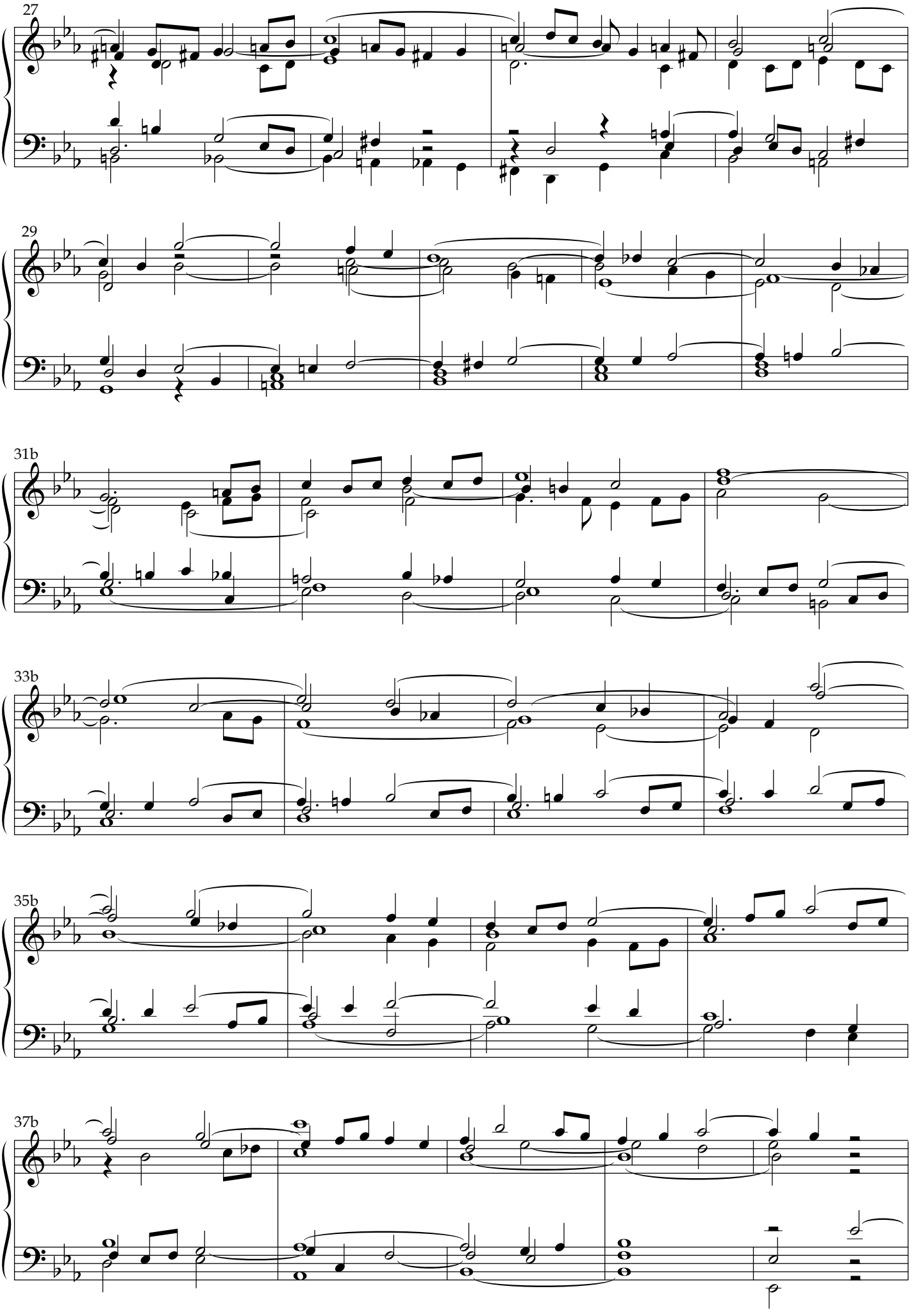
Ein Musicalisches Opfer - Ricercar a 6

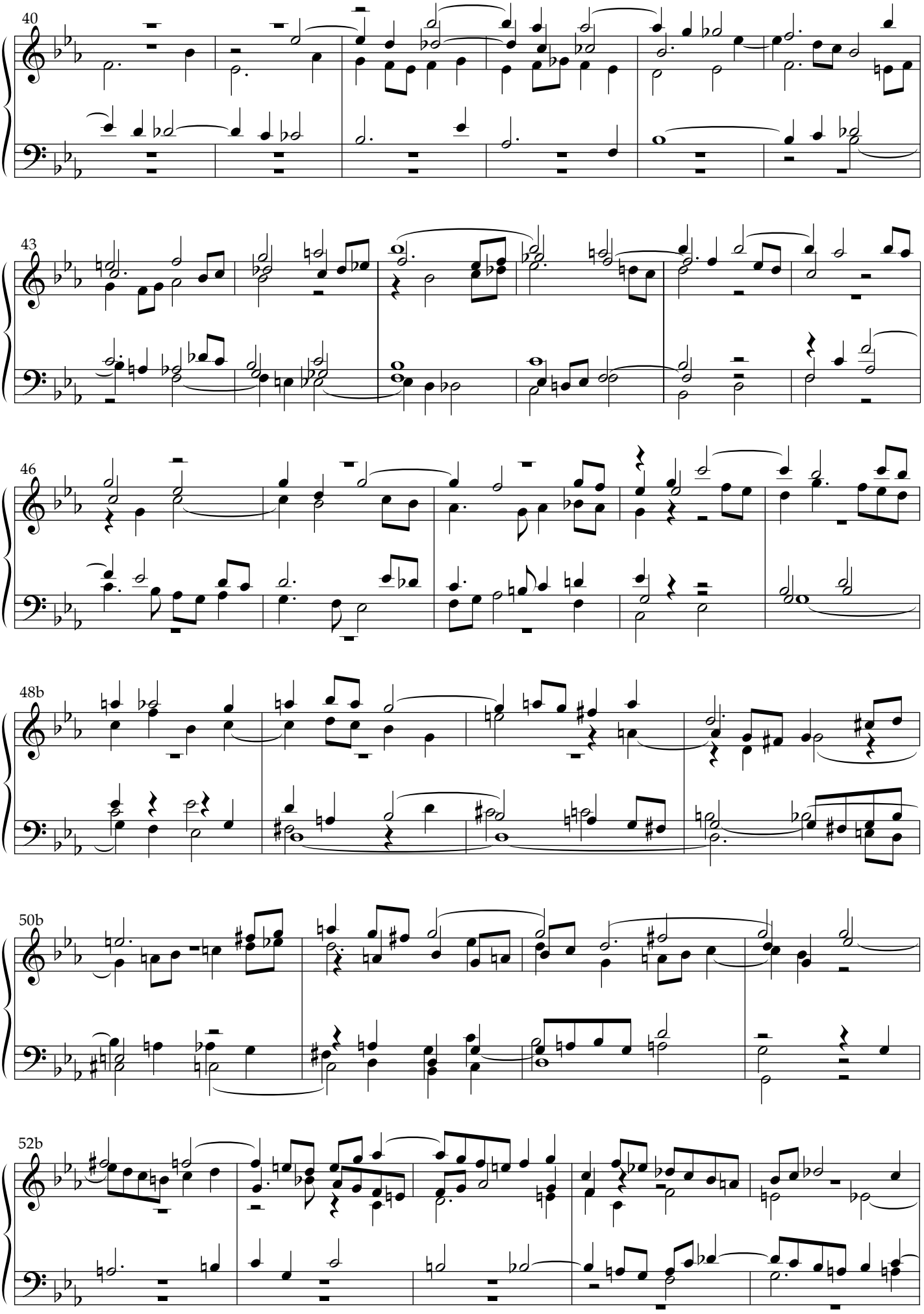
BWV 1079/2

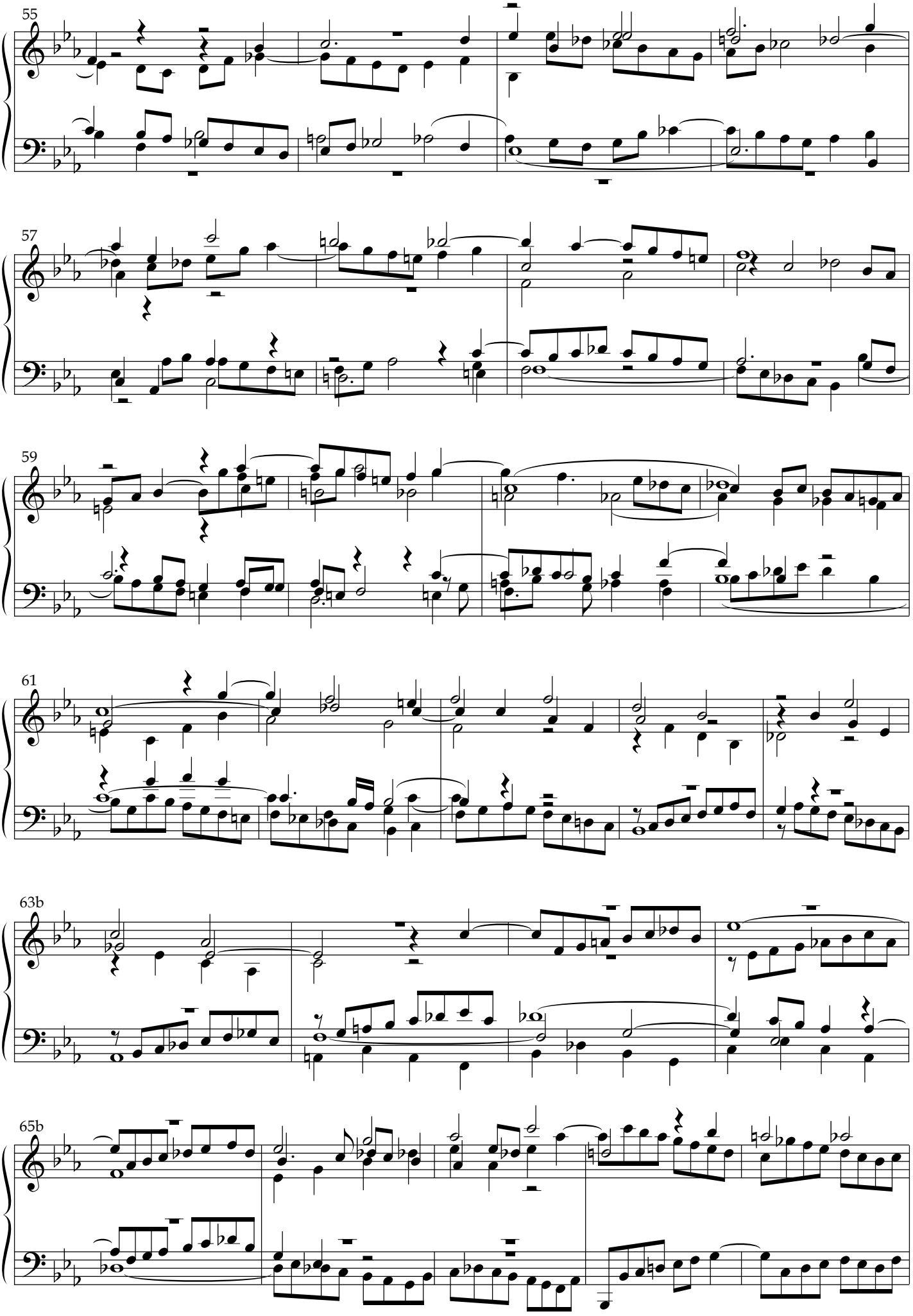


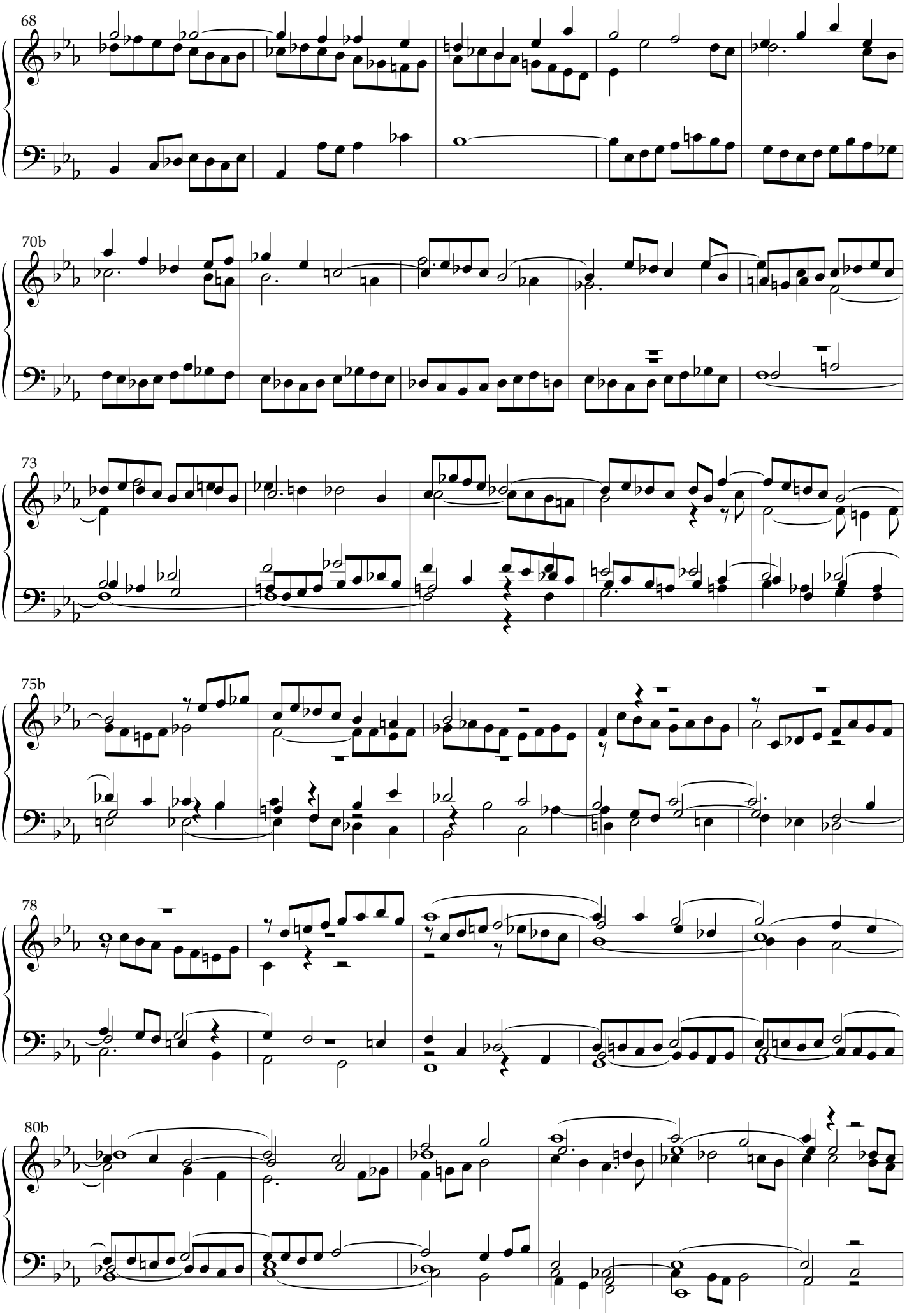
Edited for IMSLP / Petrucci Music Library by Hans-Joerg Rechtsteiner - 9/2013; 2nd version 10/2014

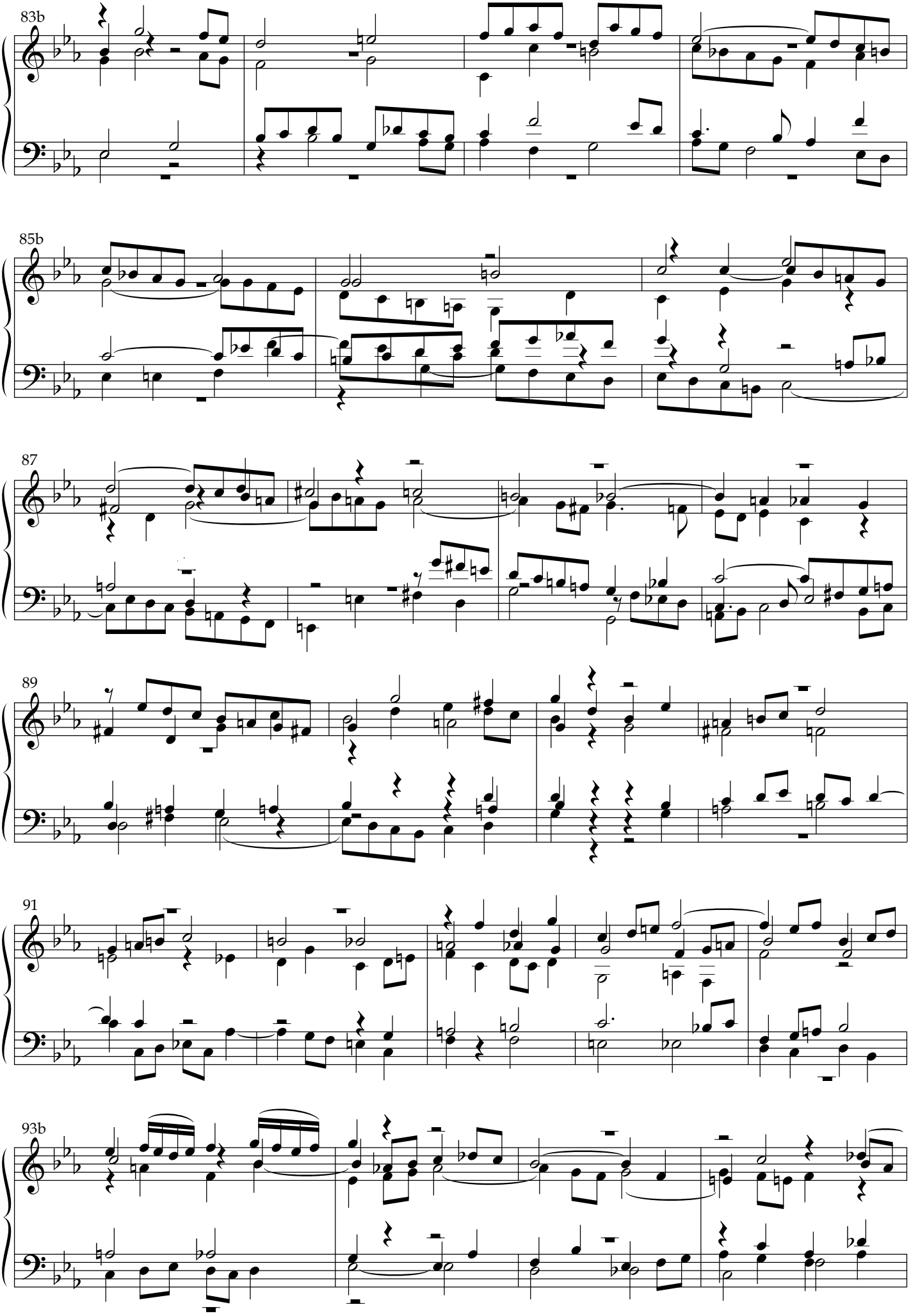

15
17
19
21
23
25

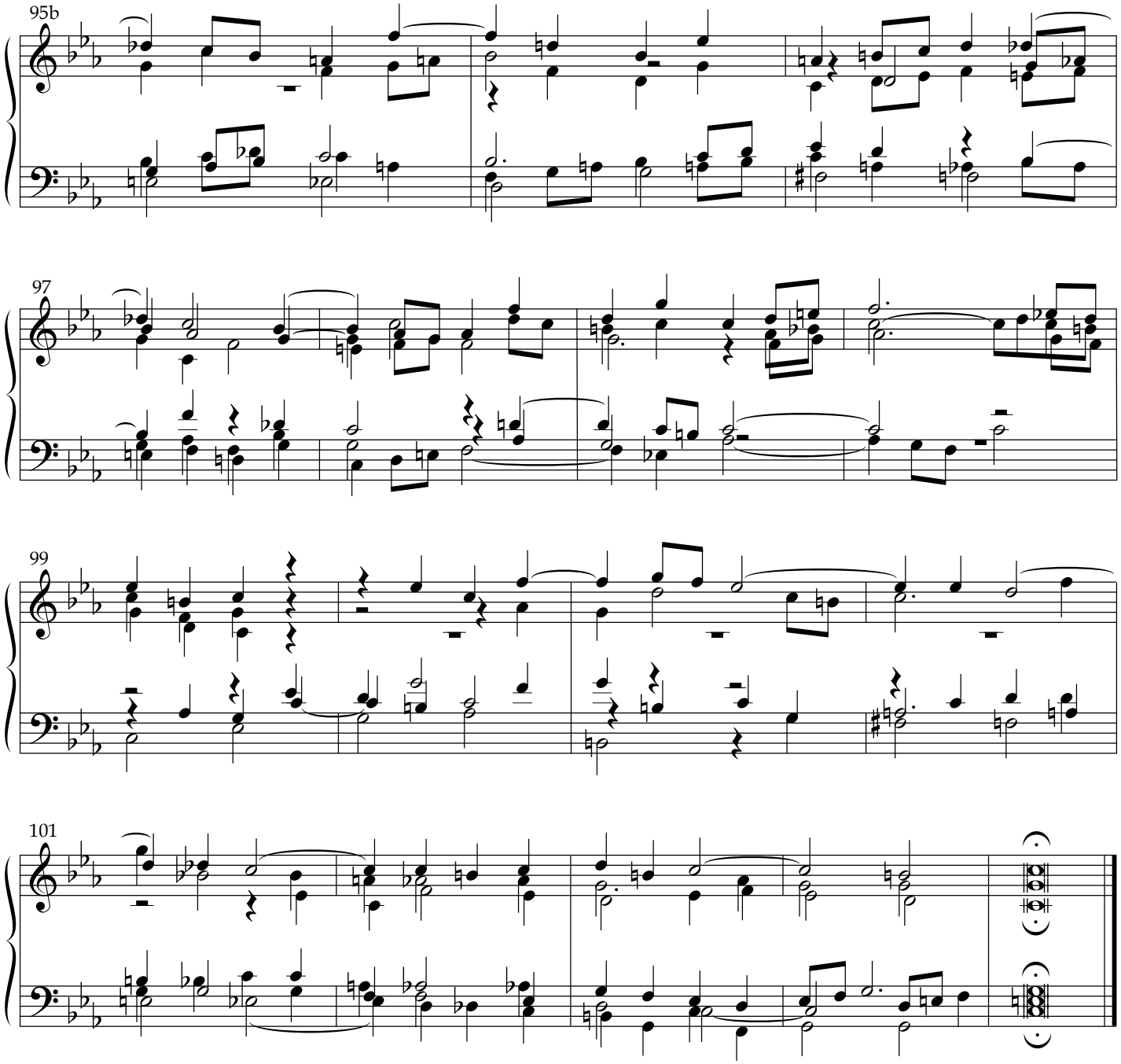

27
29
31b
33b
35b
37b


40
43
46
48b
50b
52b


55
57
59
61
63b
65b


68
70b
73
75b
78
80b


83b
85b
87
89
91
93b



Some remarks on the edition

The piece goes back to two constitutive sources: the autograph (Mus. ms. Bach P 226) and the original print, both from 1747. The major difference between these sources is the six-part score of the printed edition in contrast to the manuscript's simple piano score with two staves. Comparison of these music texts reveals relatively minor differences between both versions, yet also allows presuming that the print represents a younger stage in development of the piece, since it includes the improvements - except for one hardly legible correction found only in the manuscript, not in the later print: In bar 72 the 5th note of the Soprano I is a crotchet B flat ante correcturam, which has been changed to two quavers, E flat / B flat. I consider this correction an amelioration and have thus incorporated it into the present edition. The concluding fermata occurs only in the manuscript, too. Otherwise, the entire musical text follows the original print. The use of a piano score, though, has its model in Bach's manuscript, and intends to make the great challenge of playing a fugue for six voices on the harpsichord or piano as agreeable as possible even to an advanced amateur.

Offenbach, September 2013, Hans-Joerg Rechtsteiner