Claude Le Jeune

50 Psalms Set to Three Voices

Book 2

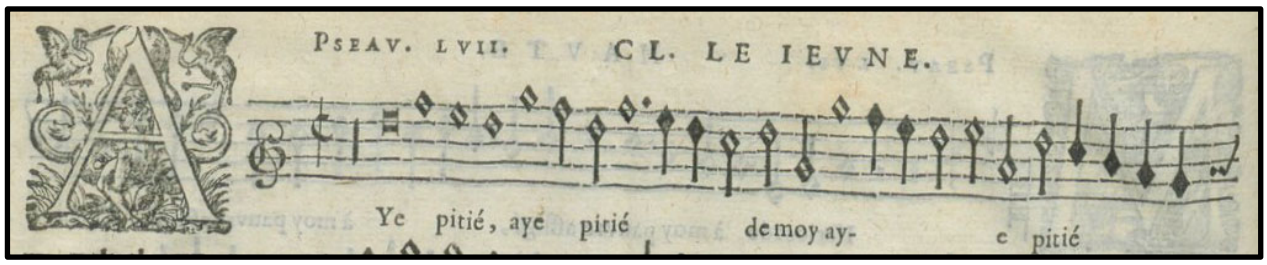
Arranged for
treble, treble and tenor viol consort

Dick Yates
October 2024

Introduction

Claude Le Jeune was a 16th-century Franco-Flemish composer best known for his collections of musical settings of psalms. While his four-voice psalm settings are reasonably well known, with modern published editions and recordings, those for three voices are not. Indeed, it is difficult to find any information at all about them beyond facsimiles of the edition published eight years after his death in 1608, and from which this edition was produced.

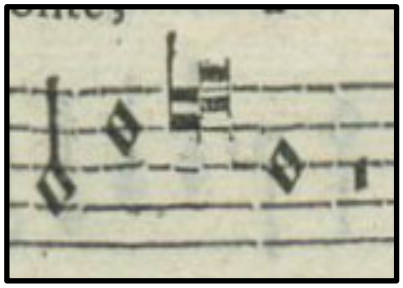
Although his musical output included a Mass setting, chansons, madrigals and motets, in the later decades of his life he focused almost exclusively on psalm settings. The earlier works were notable for their use of *musique mesurée*, in which the music reflected the exact stress accents of the French language. But the psalm settings look back to earlier Renaissance counterpoint where the texts are important but their rhythmic connection to the music is looser. In the 1608 edition the placement of the lyrics is sometimes, at best, ambiguous melismas being the opposite of *musique mesurée.*



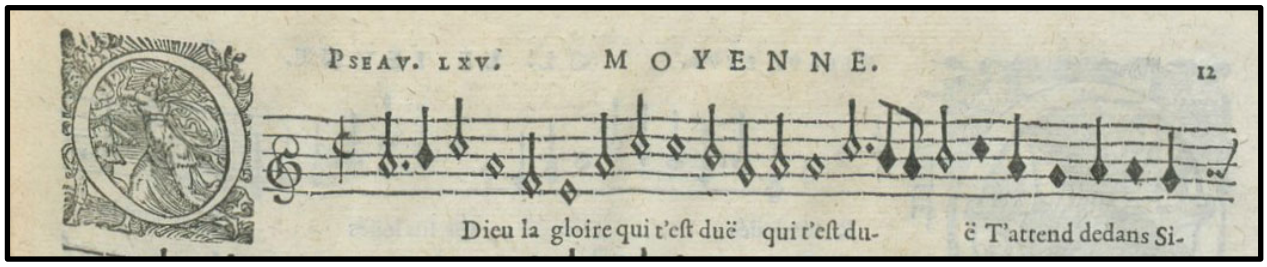
The psalm texts are taken from settings done by the early French poets Clément Marot (1496-1544) and Théodore de Bèze (1519-1605). Interested players may want to learn more about the texts and their use in the 16th -century as song lyrics, and for Le Jeune's polyphonic settings in particular, at Dick Wursten's website www.clementmarot.com.

The scores you find here were prepared directly by transcription from the 1608 edition facsimile where they appear as separate parts, not in full score. The facsimile is quite readable, with only a small number of errors that I could detect, and a not insurmountable number of mensural notation conventions to decode, notably:

the baritone clef:

binary ligatures: 

and episodic changes to triple time and no bar lines:



The present edition is available for several different combinations of three viols – see www.musicforviols.org for all versions. The ranges of the parts, and their total range, are narrow enough to permit the arrangement of easily playable scores.

Dick Yates
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October 2024

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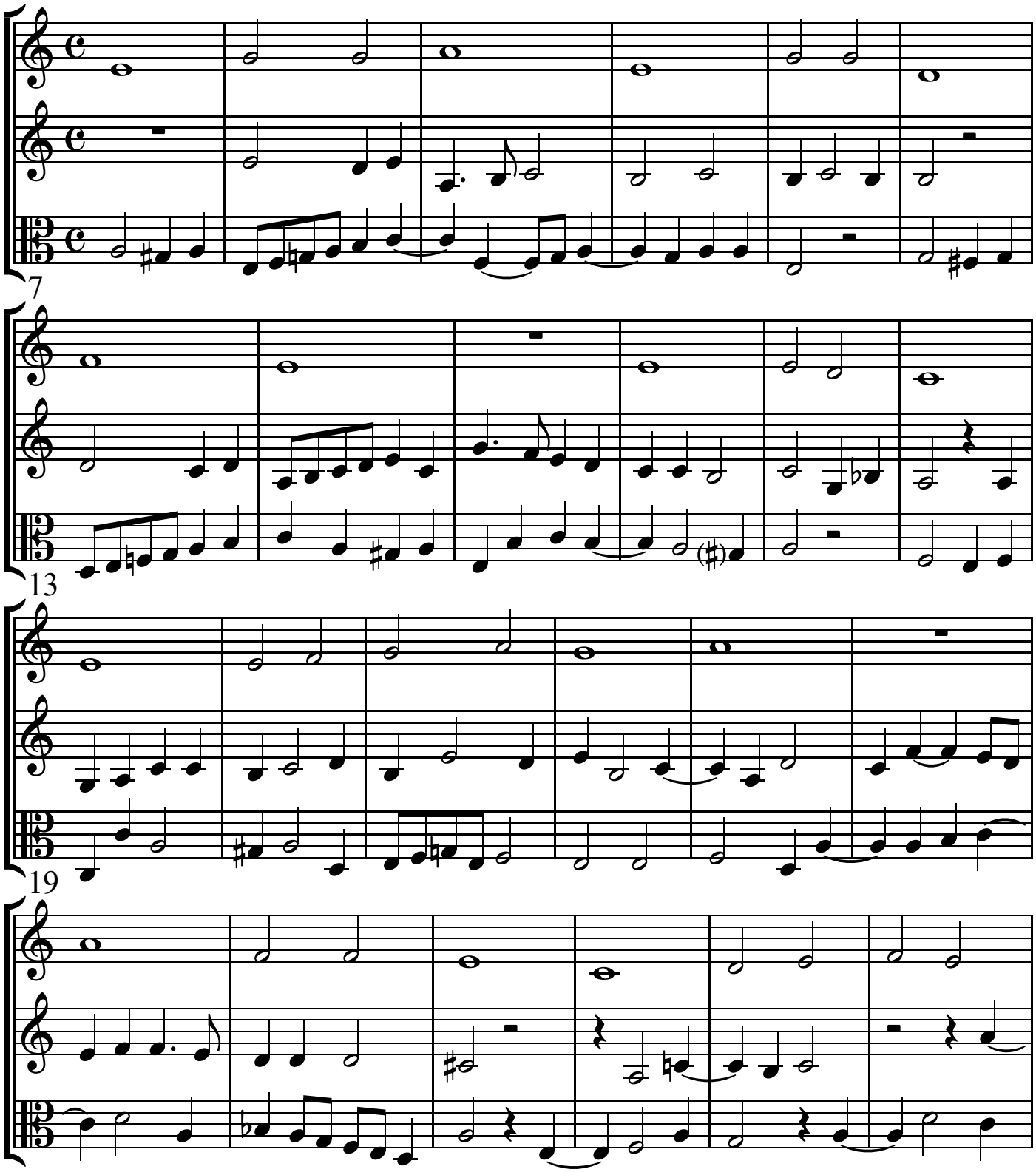
50 Psalms of David set to Three Voices, Book 2

Claude Le Jeune (1528-1600)

LI. Misericorde au pauvre vicieux



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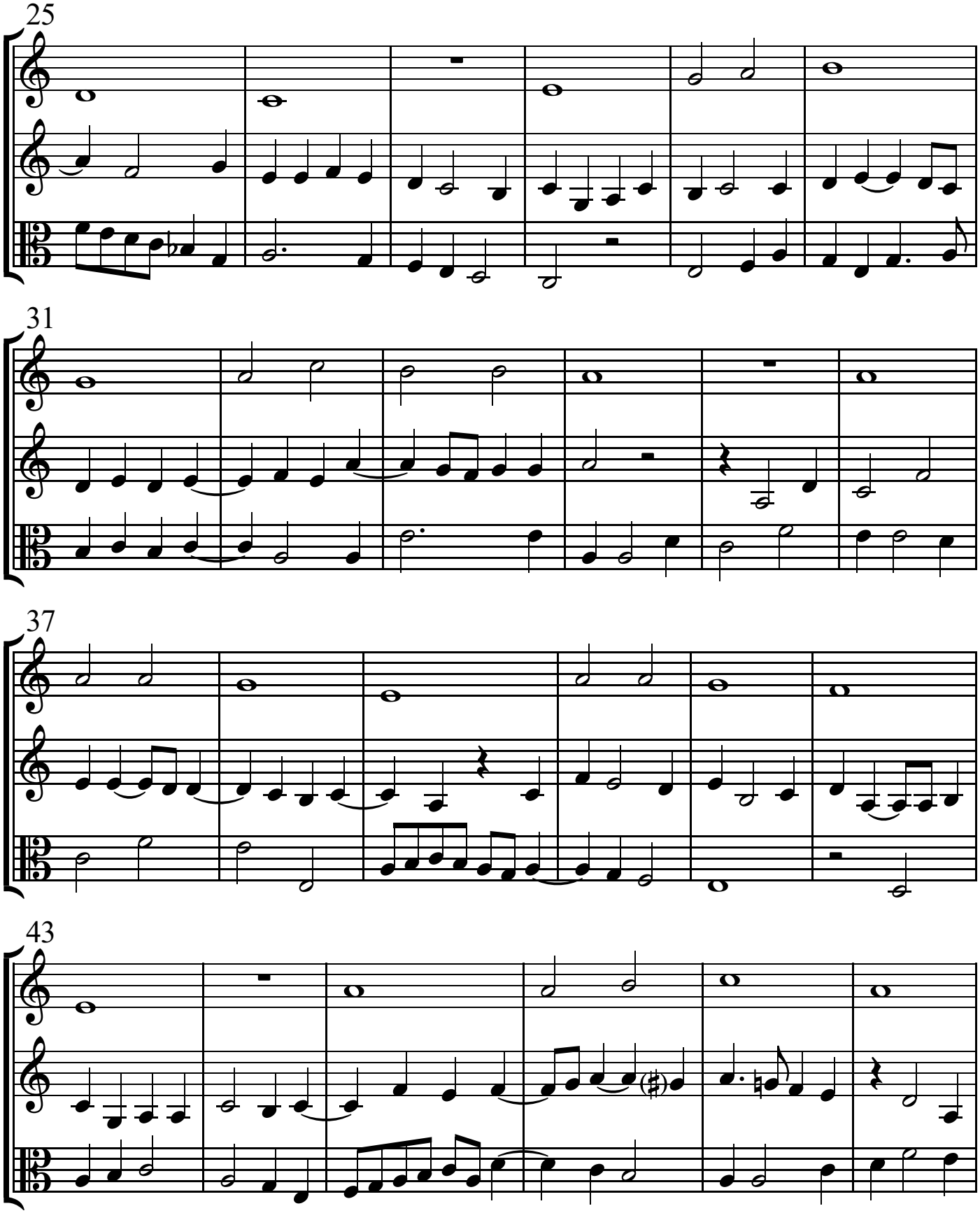

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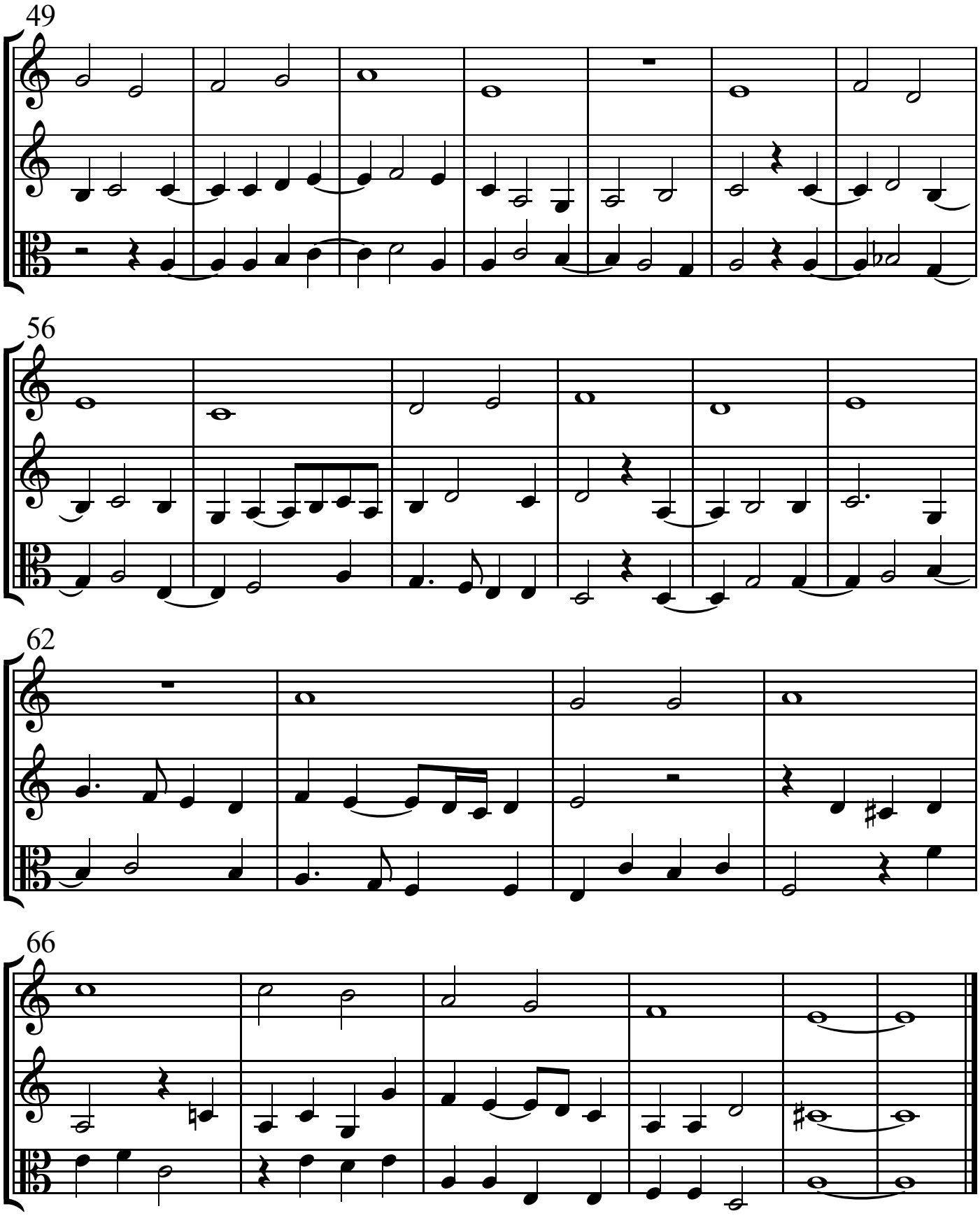

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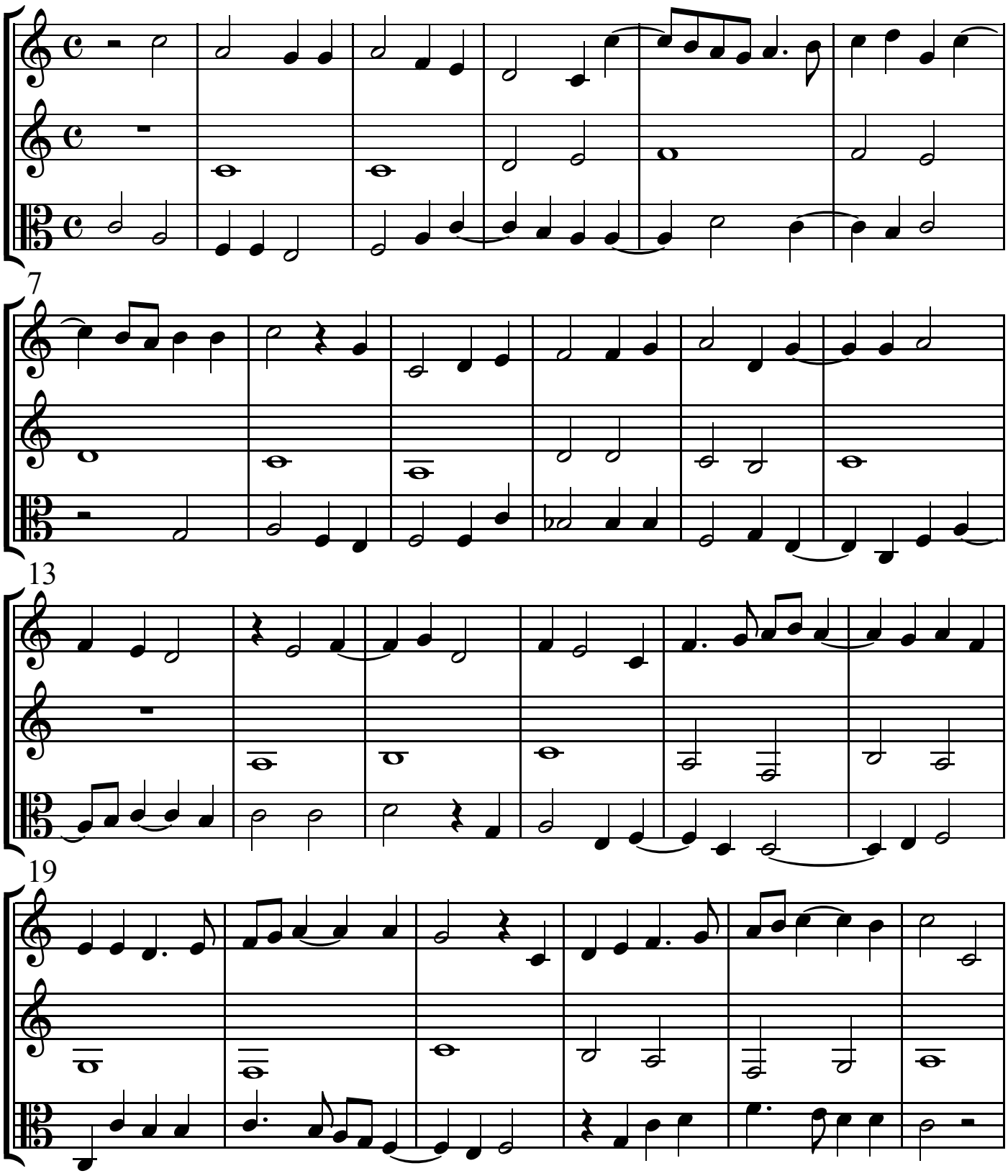
LII. Di moy malheureux



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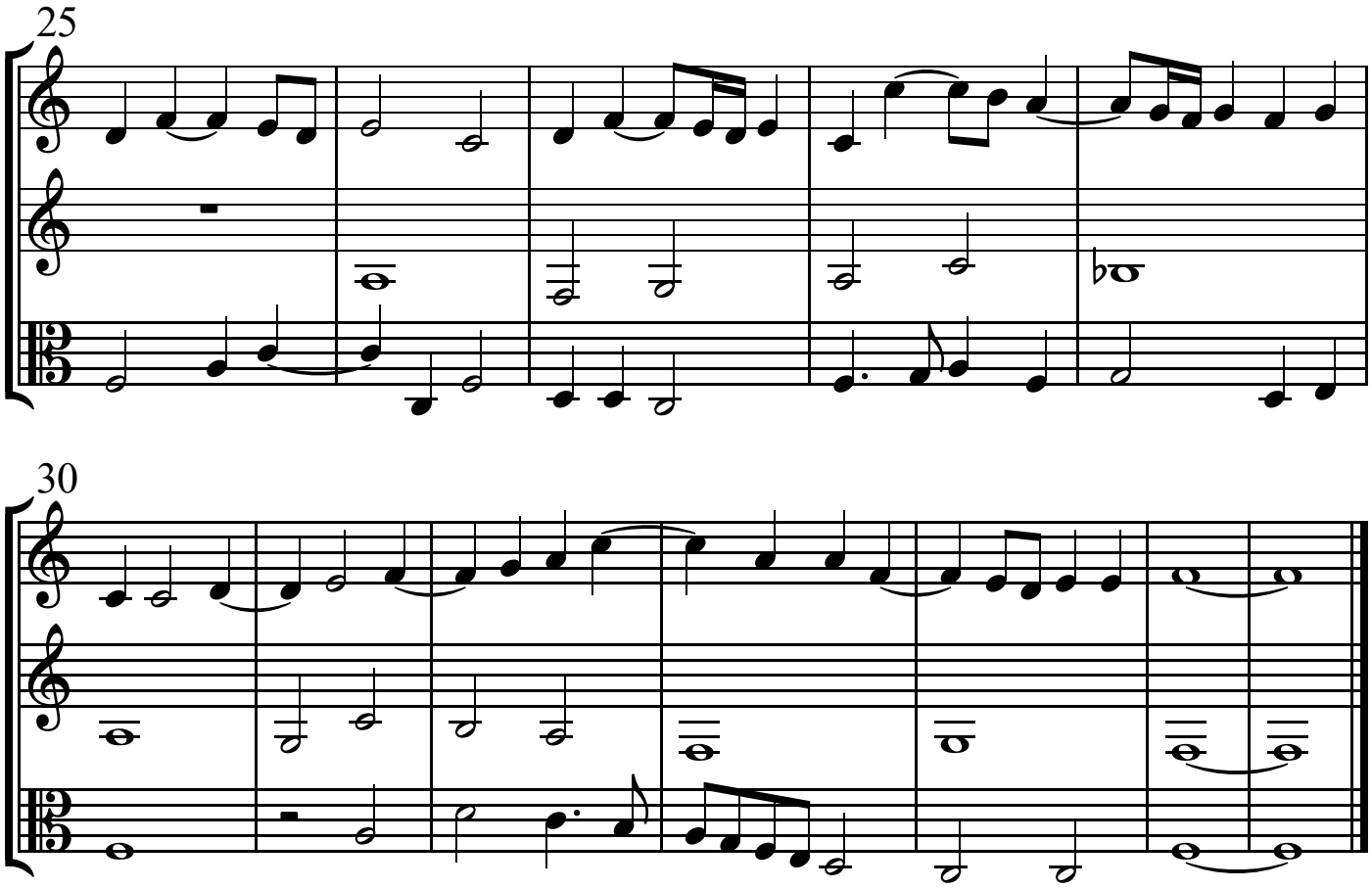

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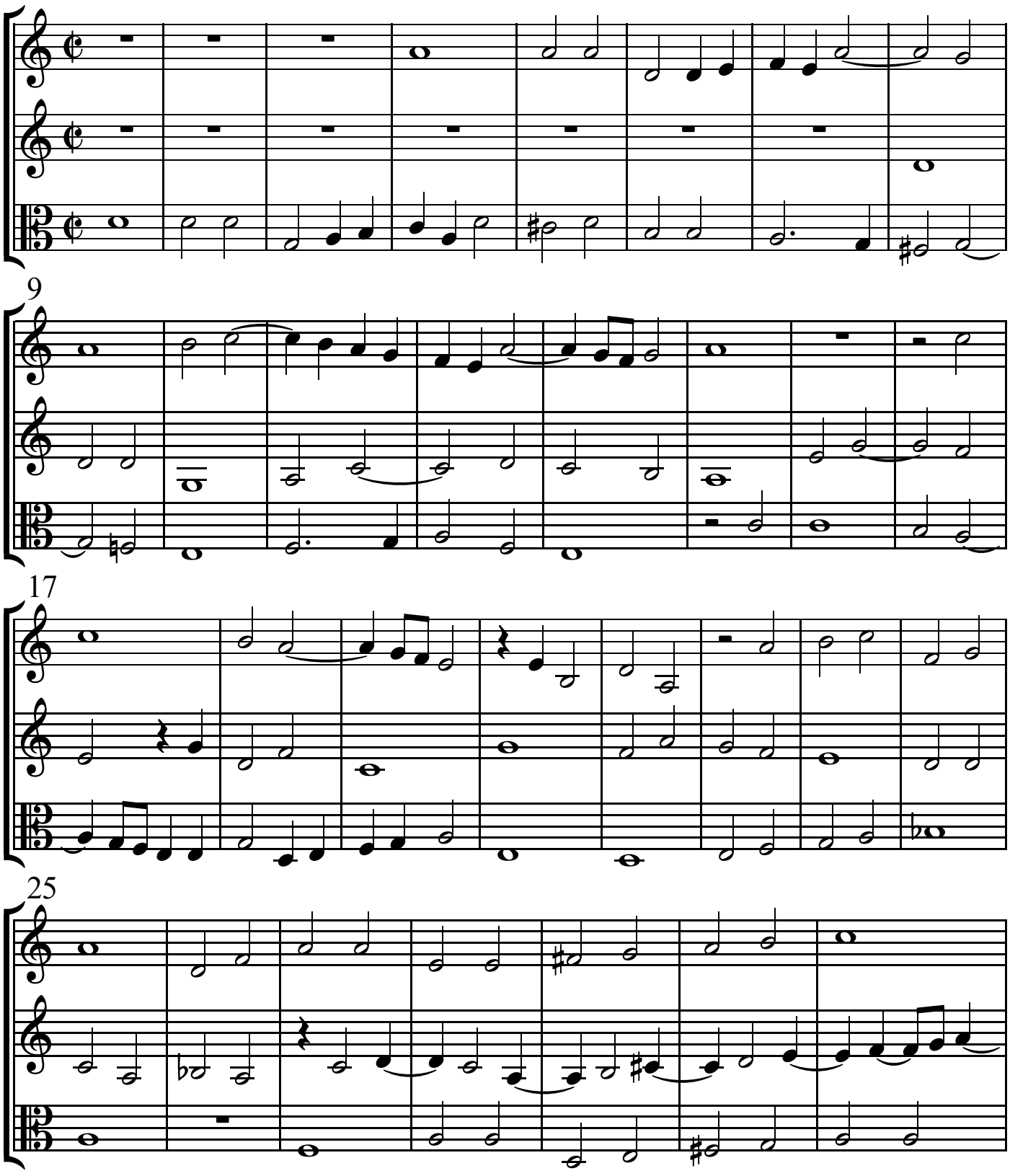
LIII. Le fol malin



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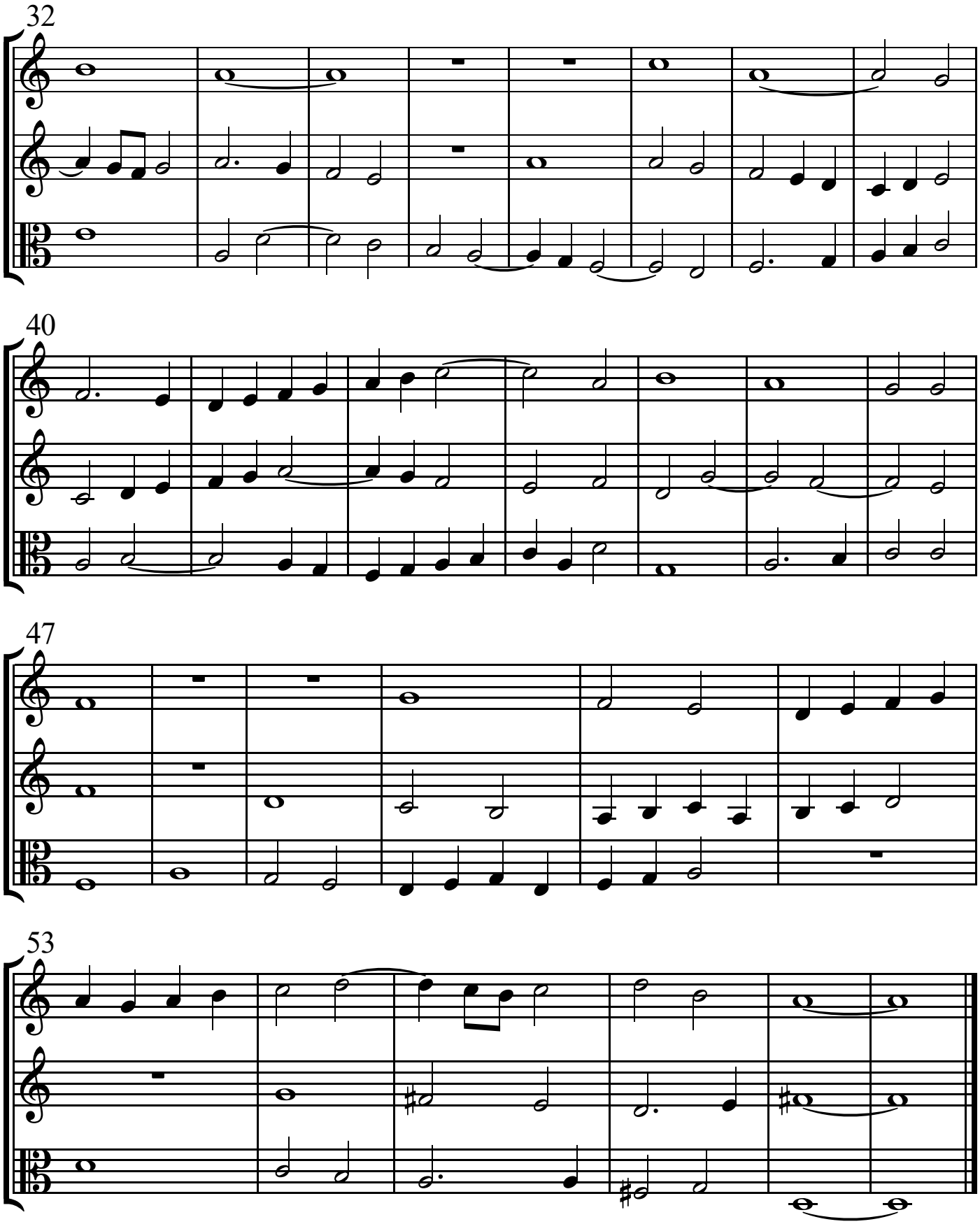

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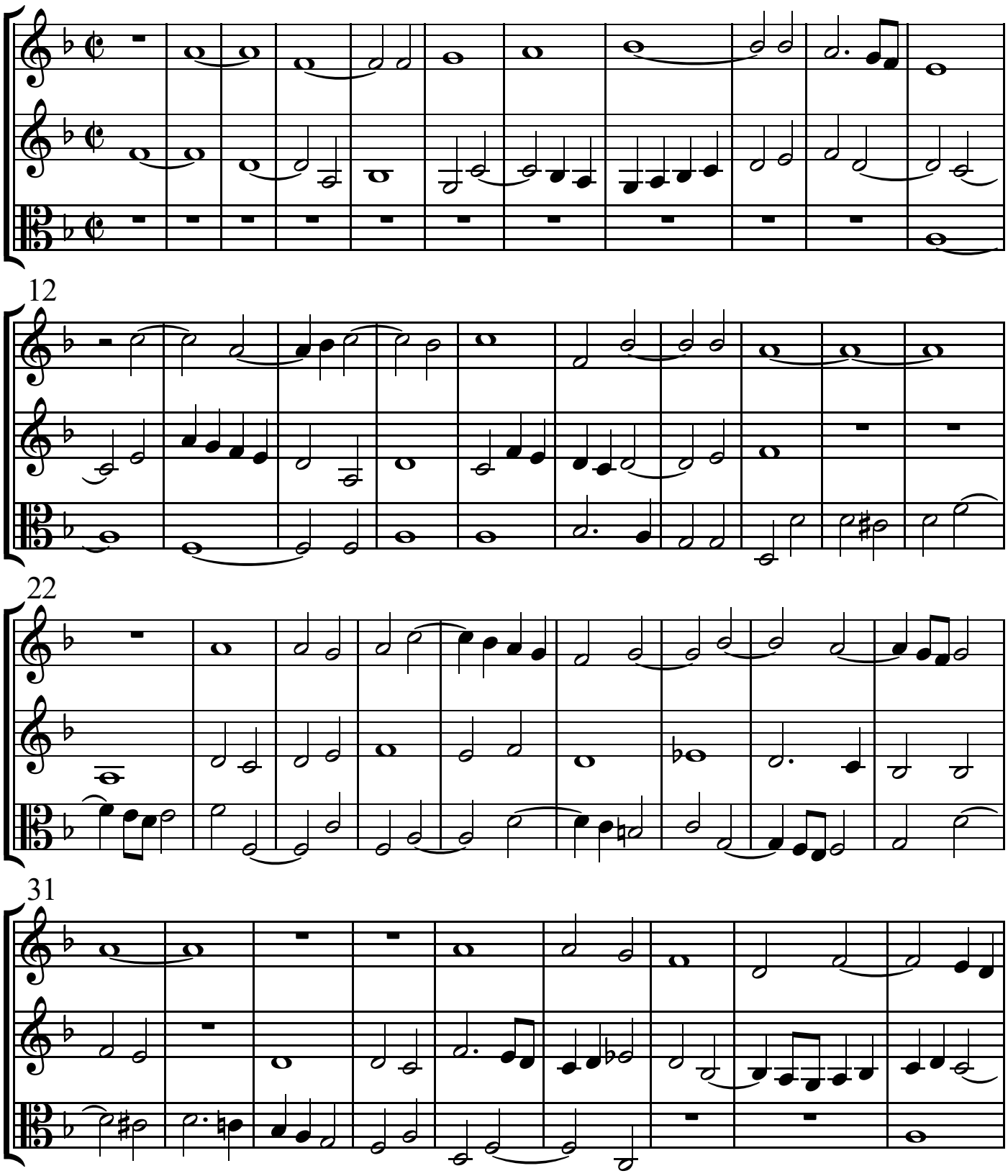
LIIII. O Dieu tout puissant



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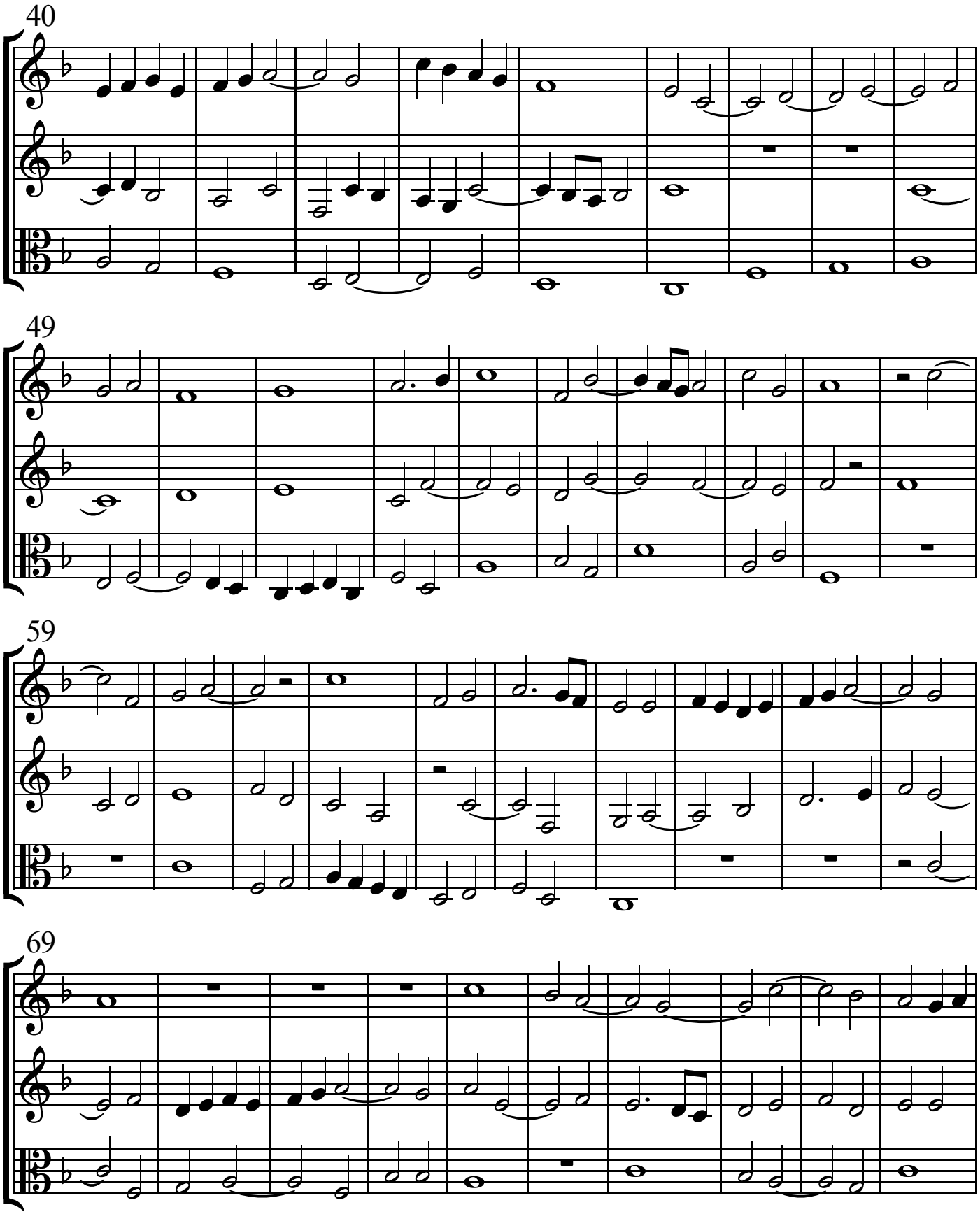

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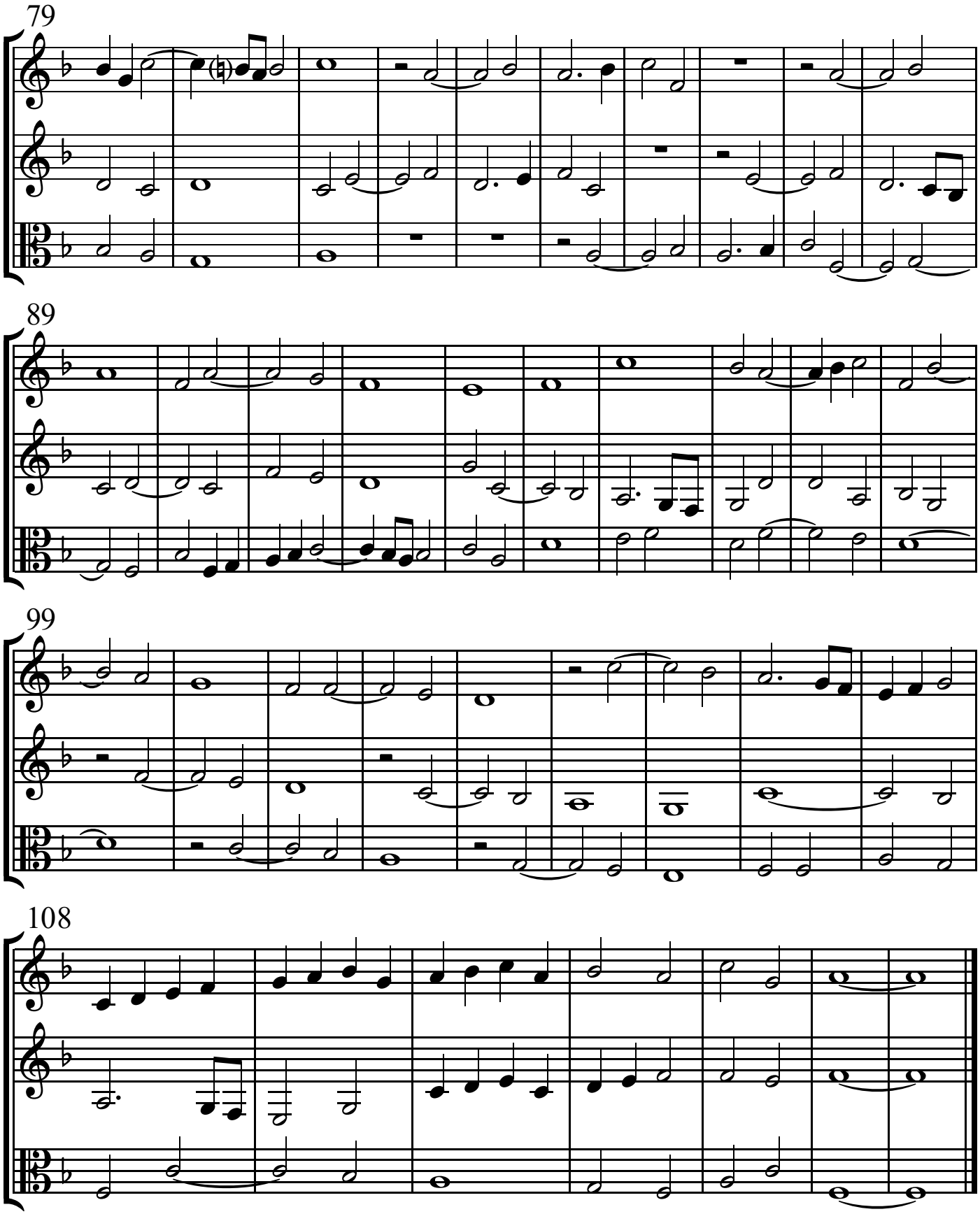

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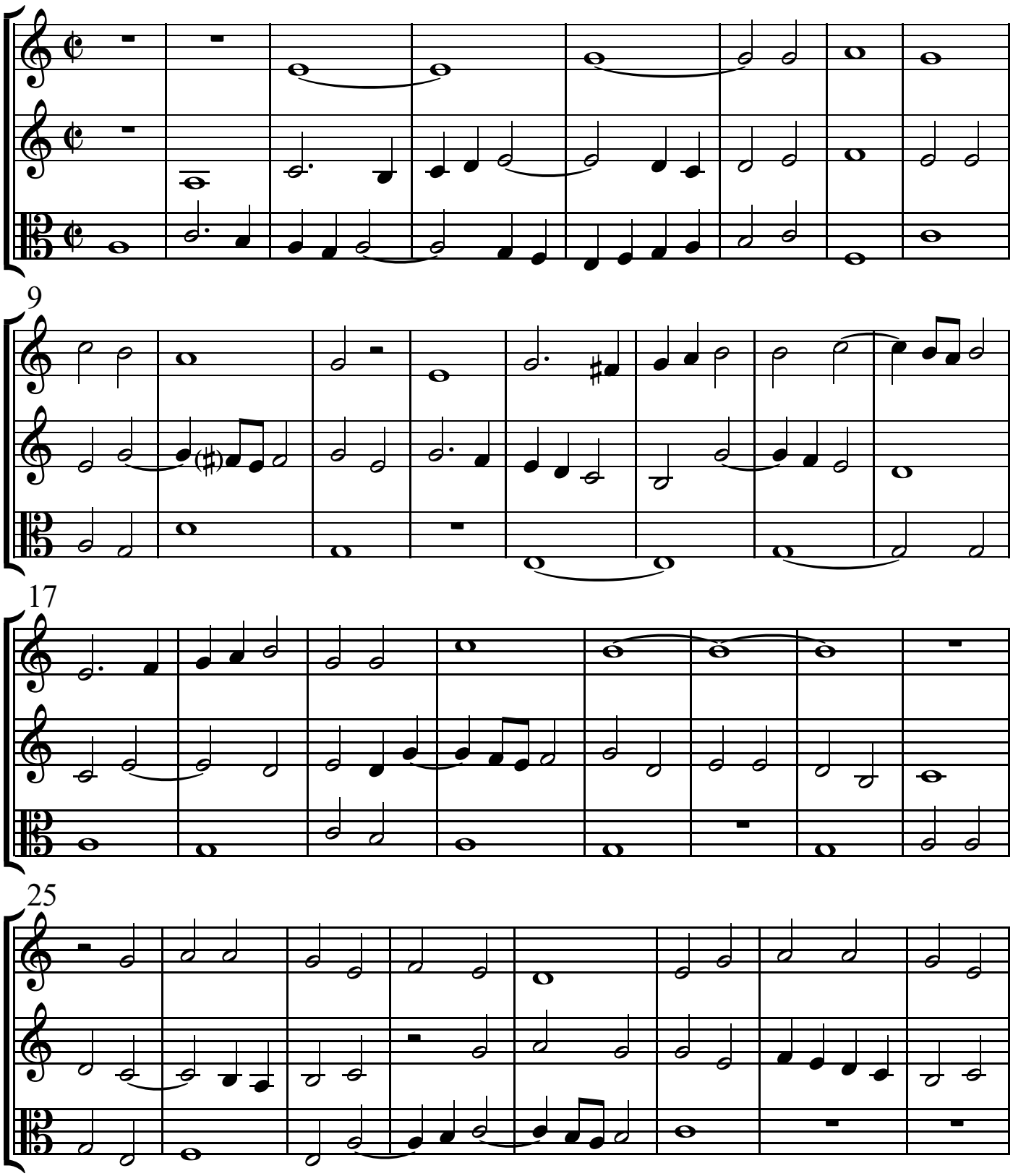
LV. Exauce ô mon Dieu



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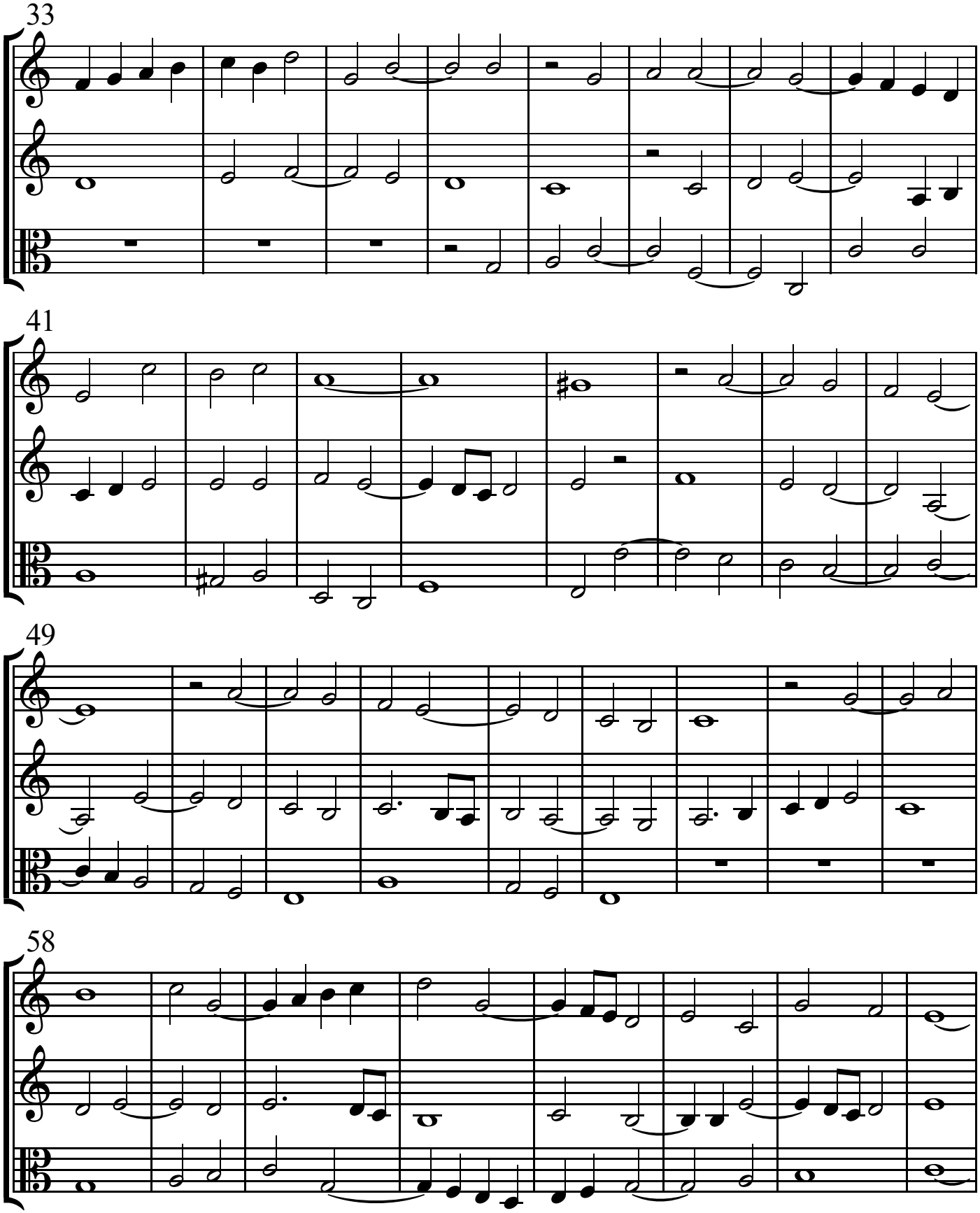

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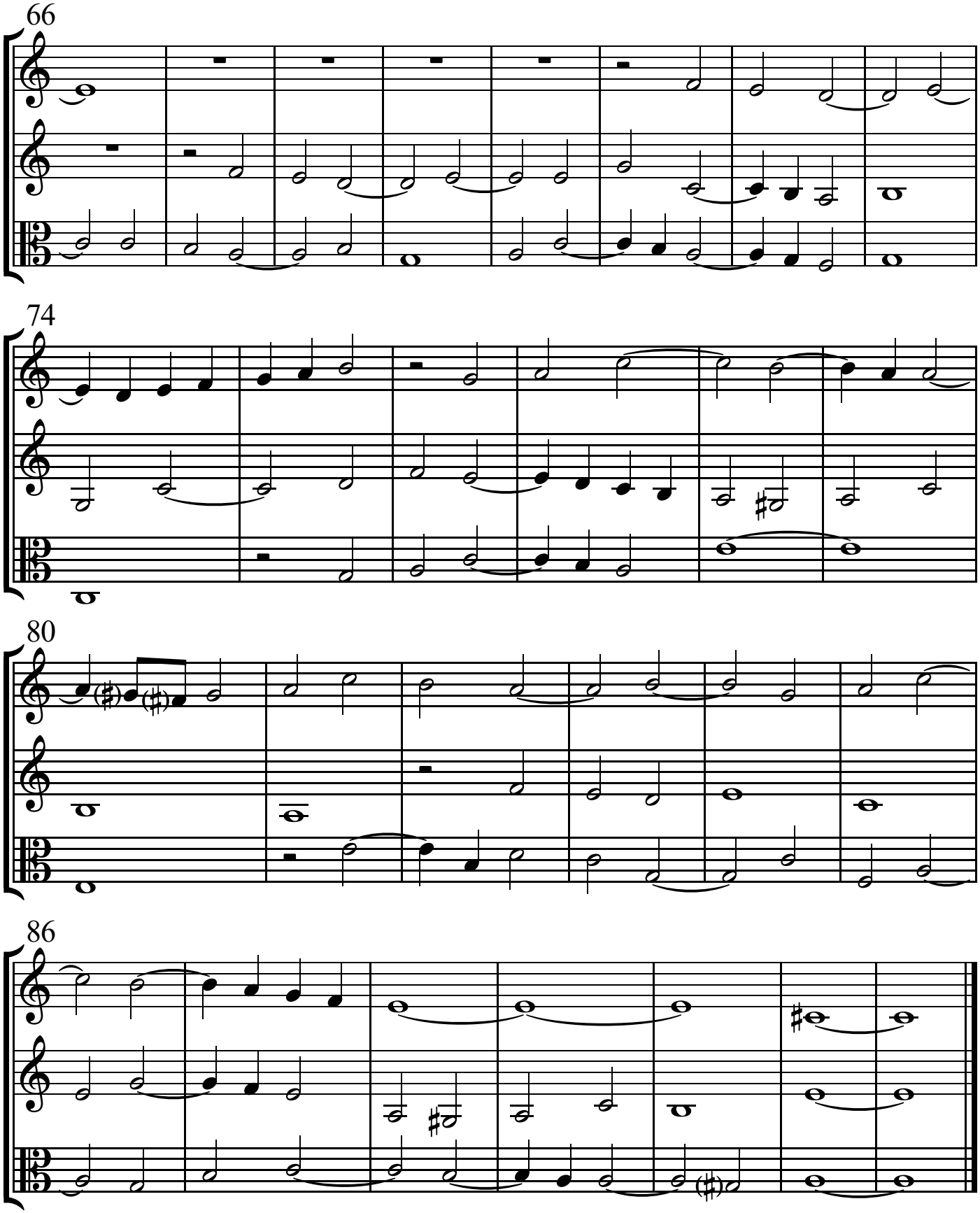

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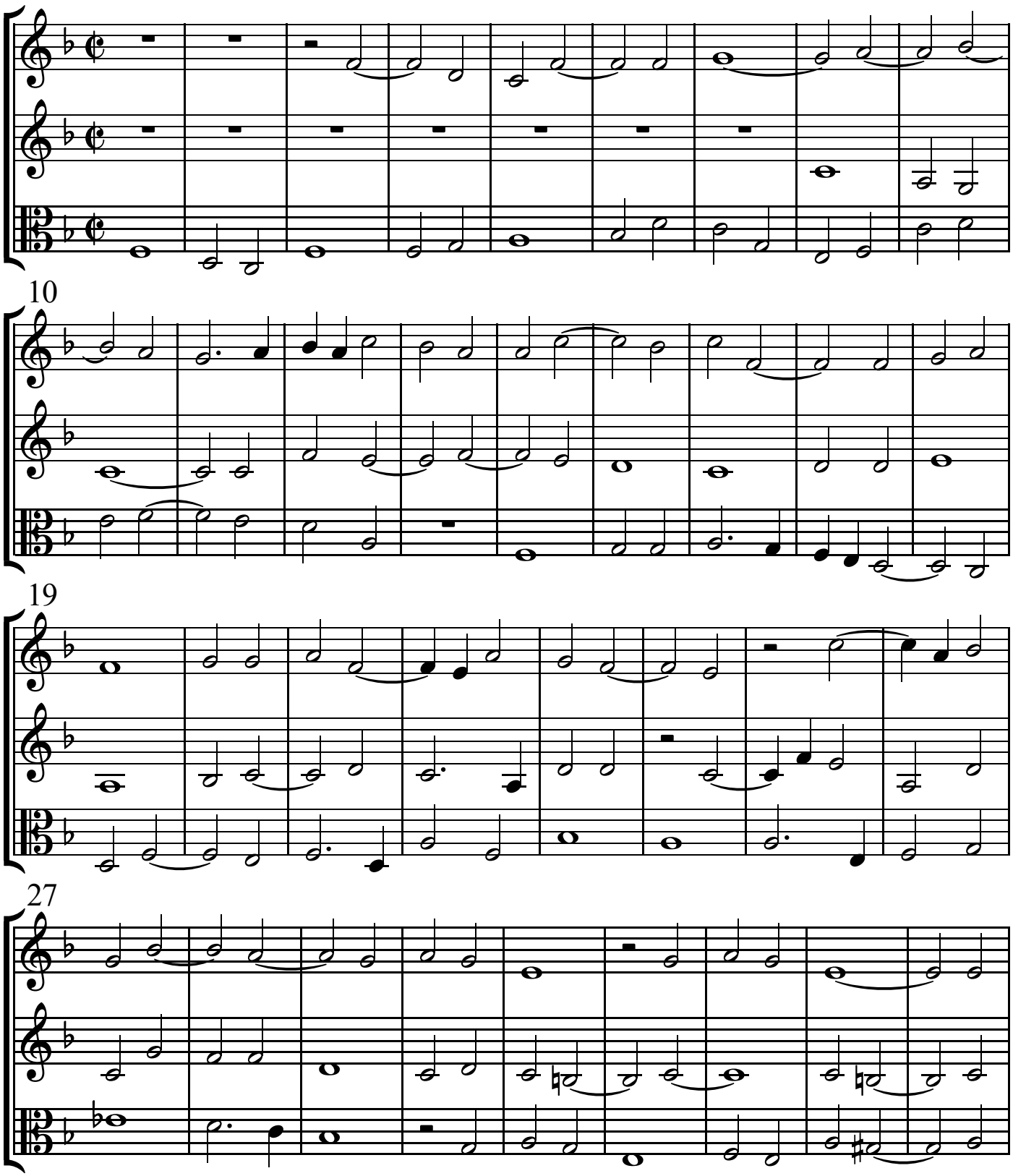
LVI. Misericorde à moy



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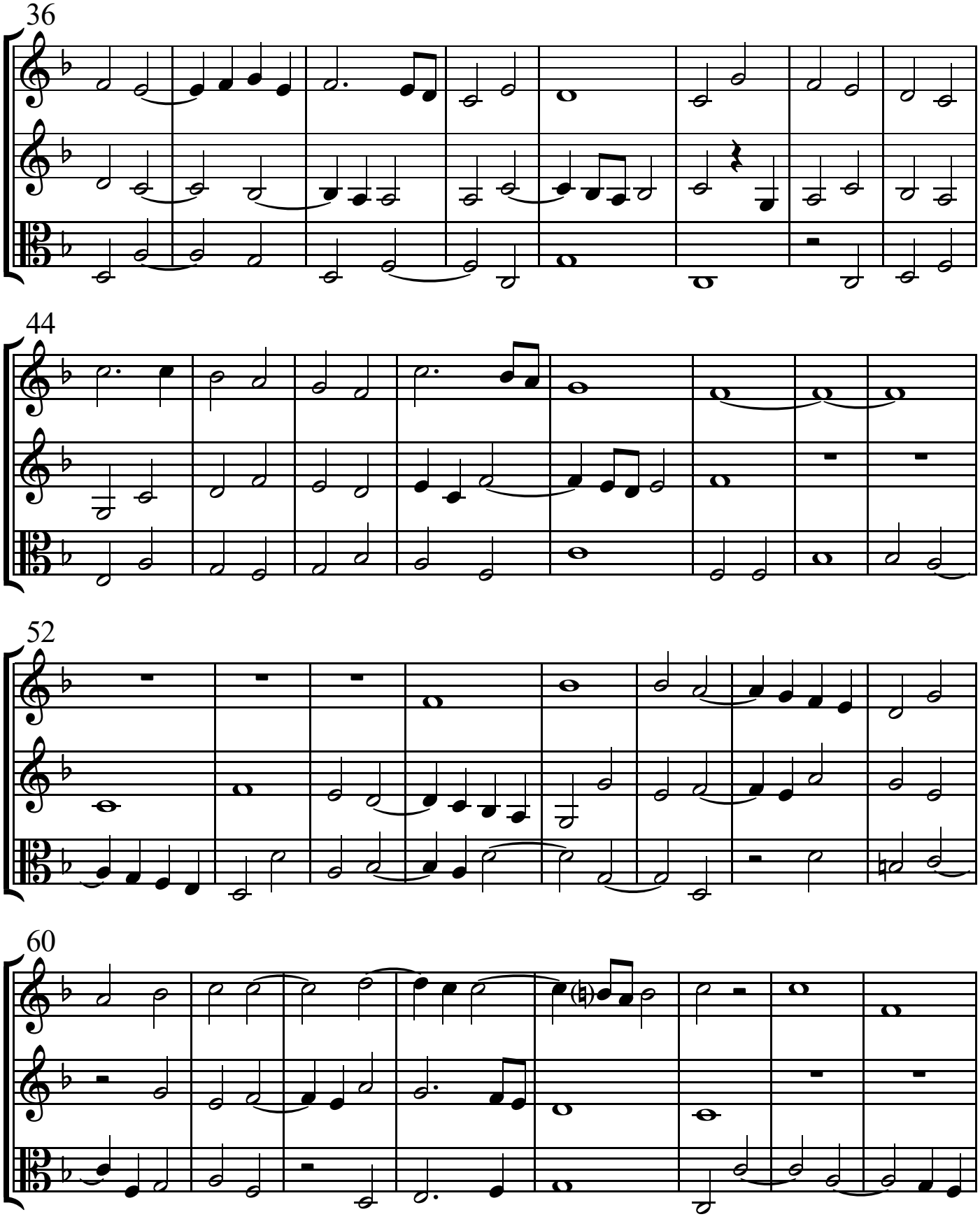

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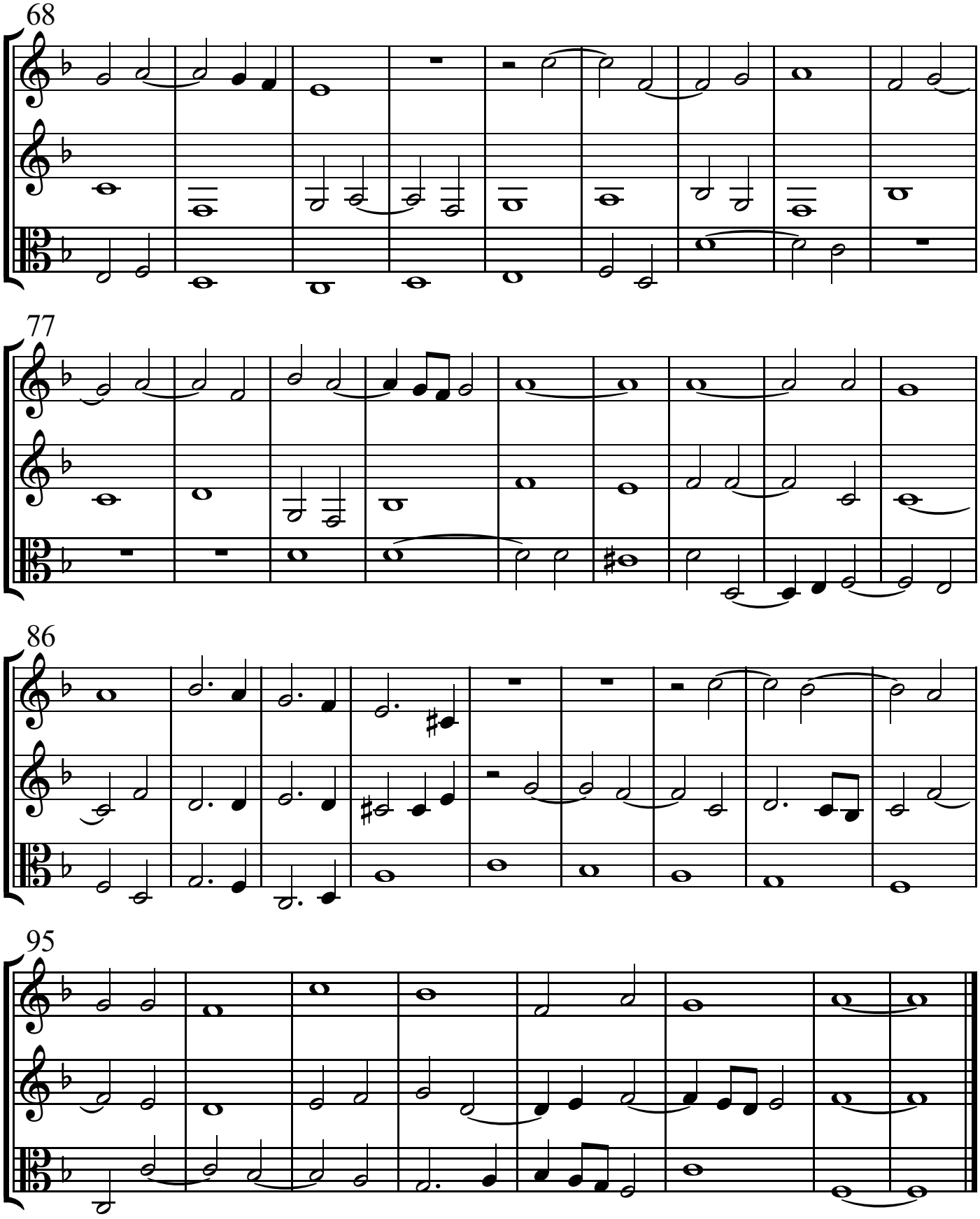

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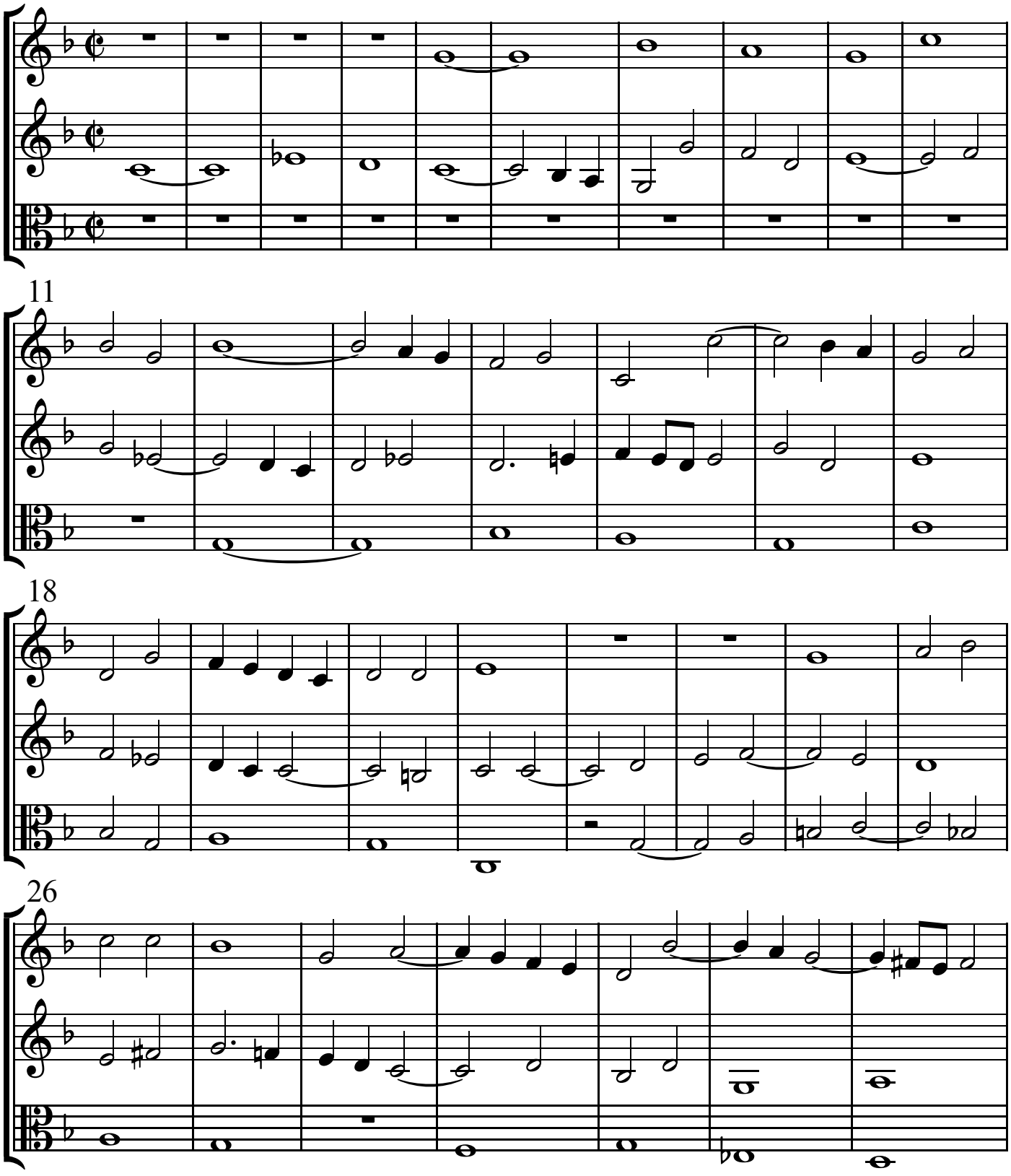
LVII. Aye pitié de moy



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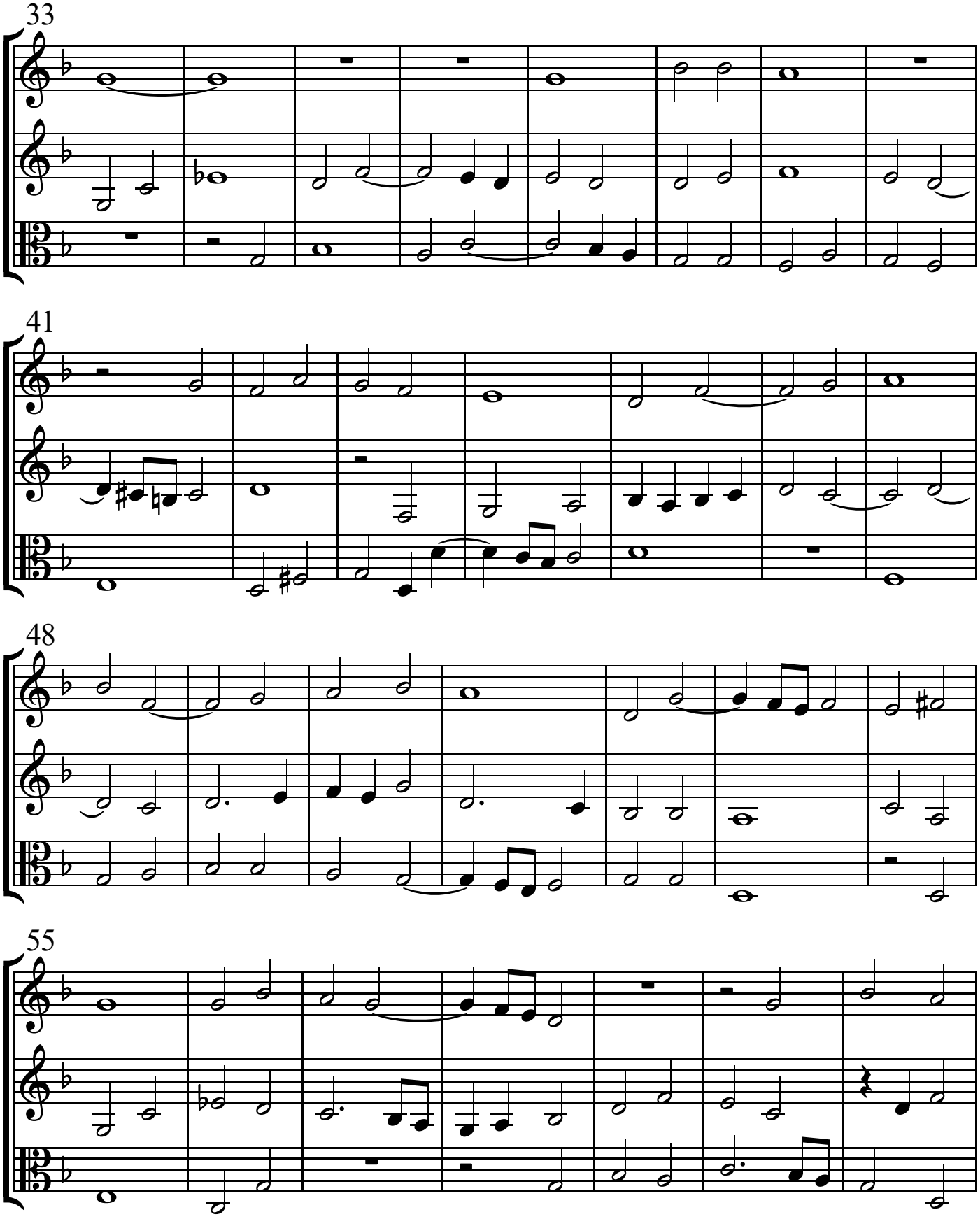

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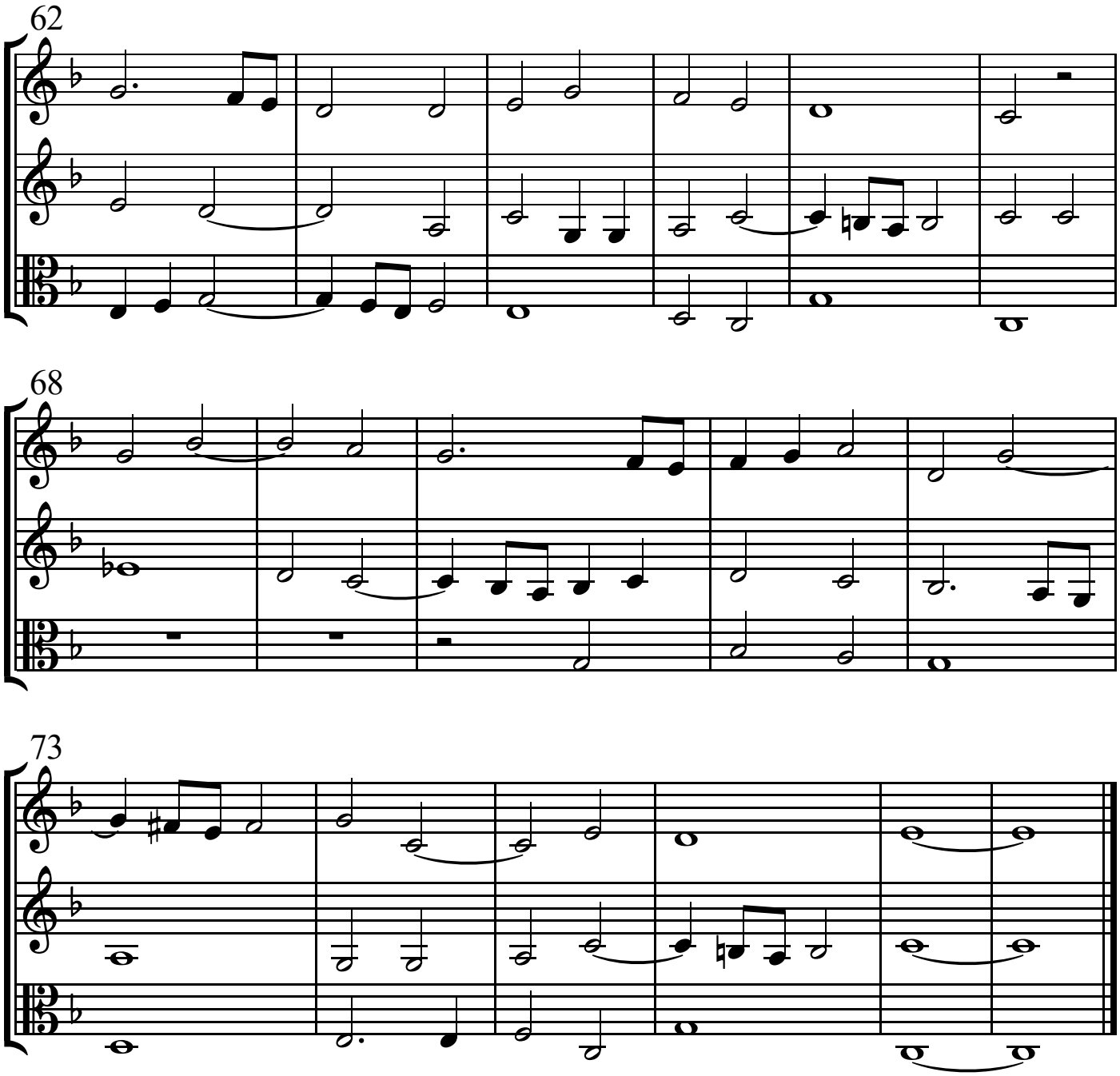

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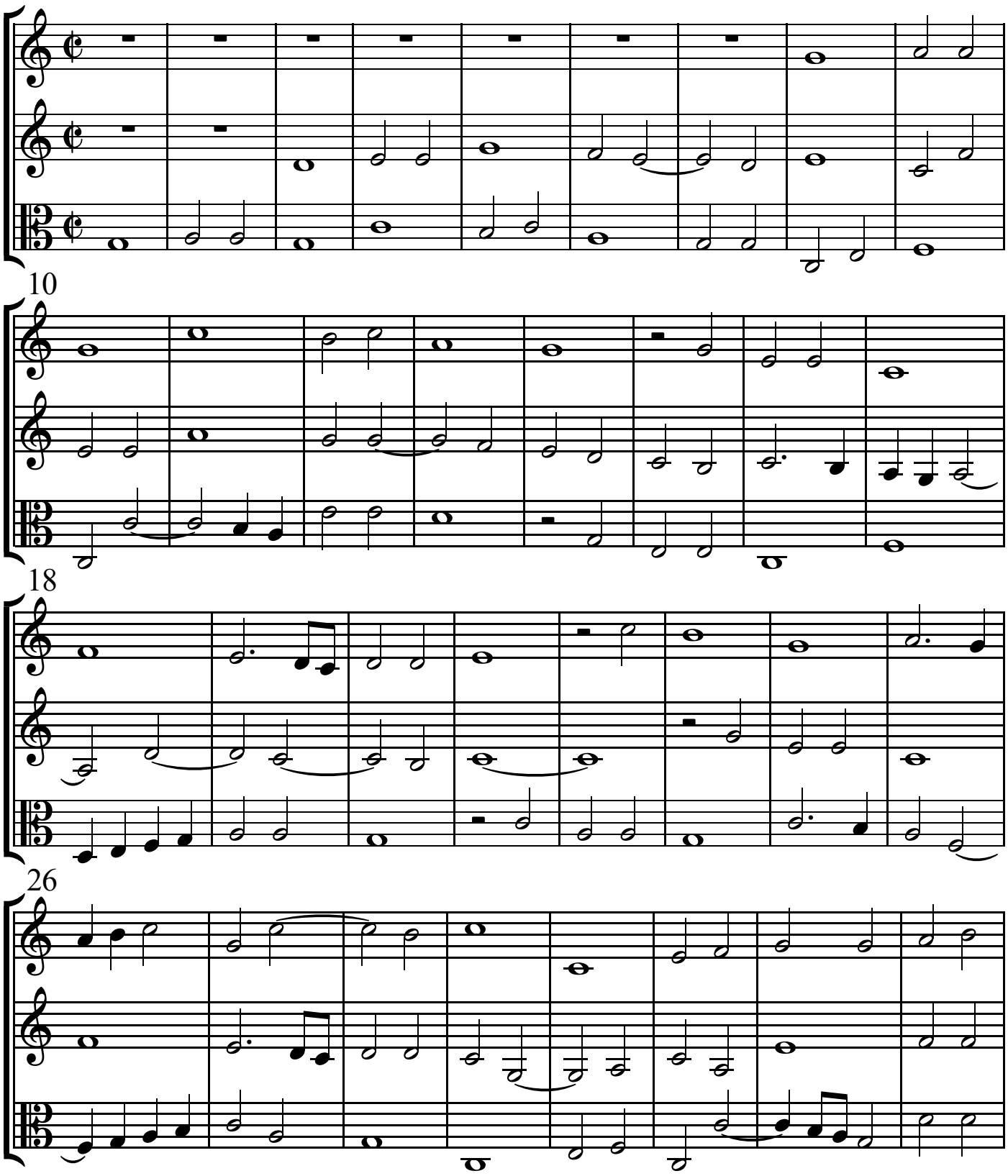
LVIII. Entre vous conseillers



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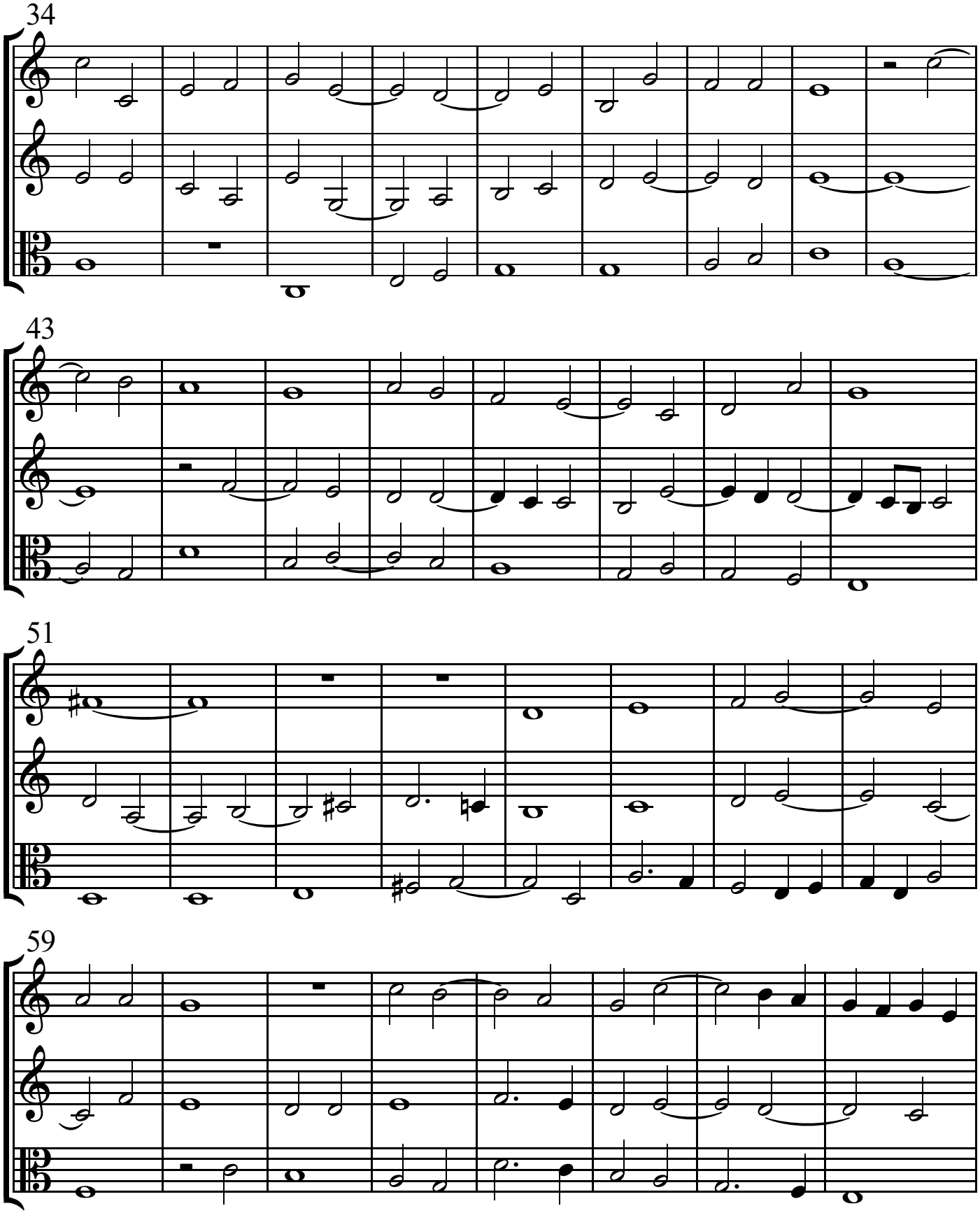

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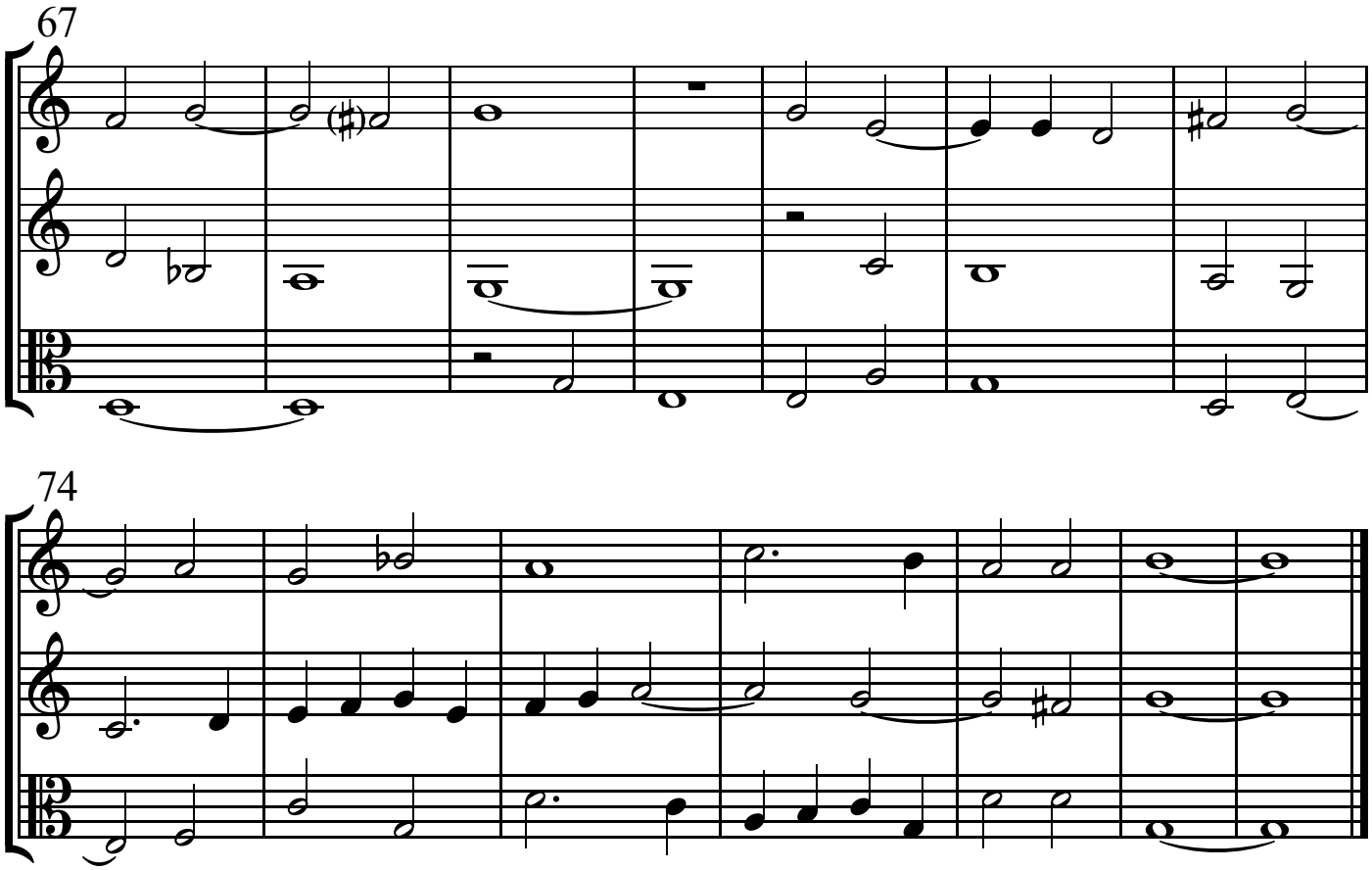

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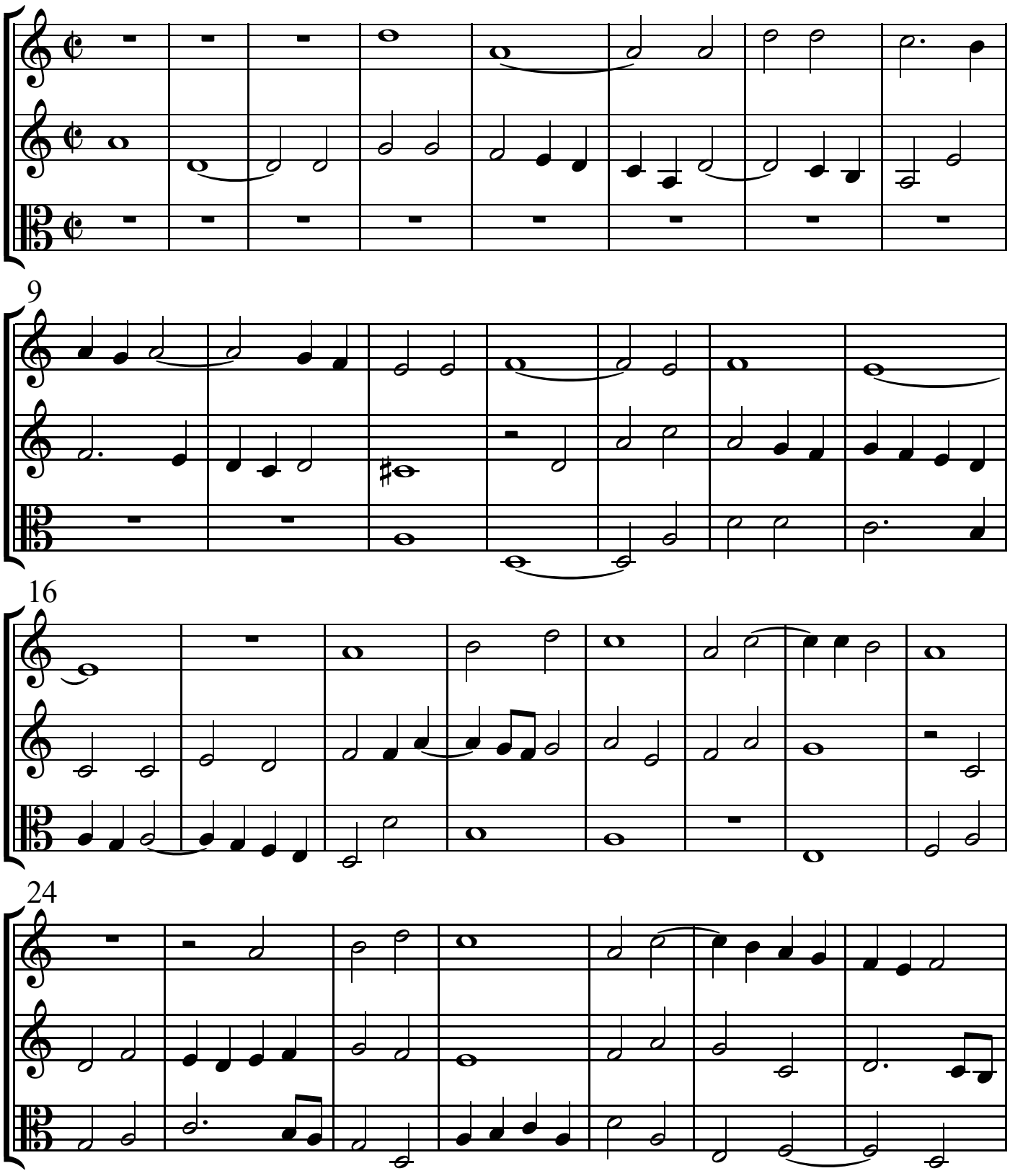
LIX. Mon Dieu l'ennemy



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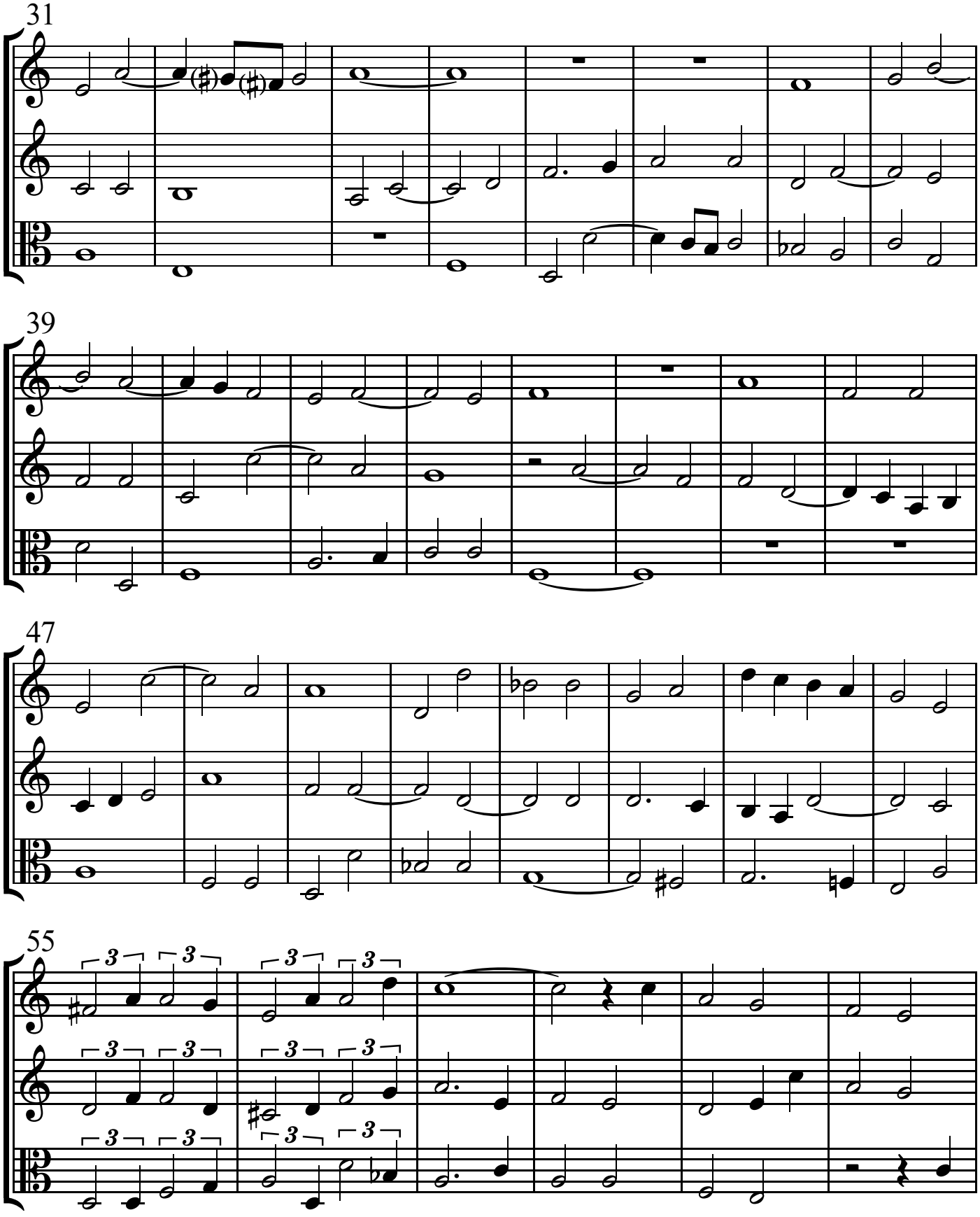

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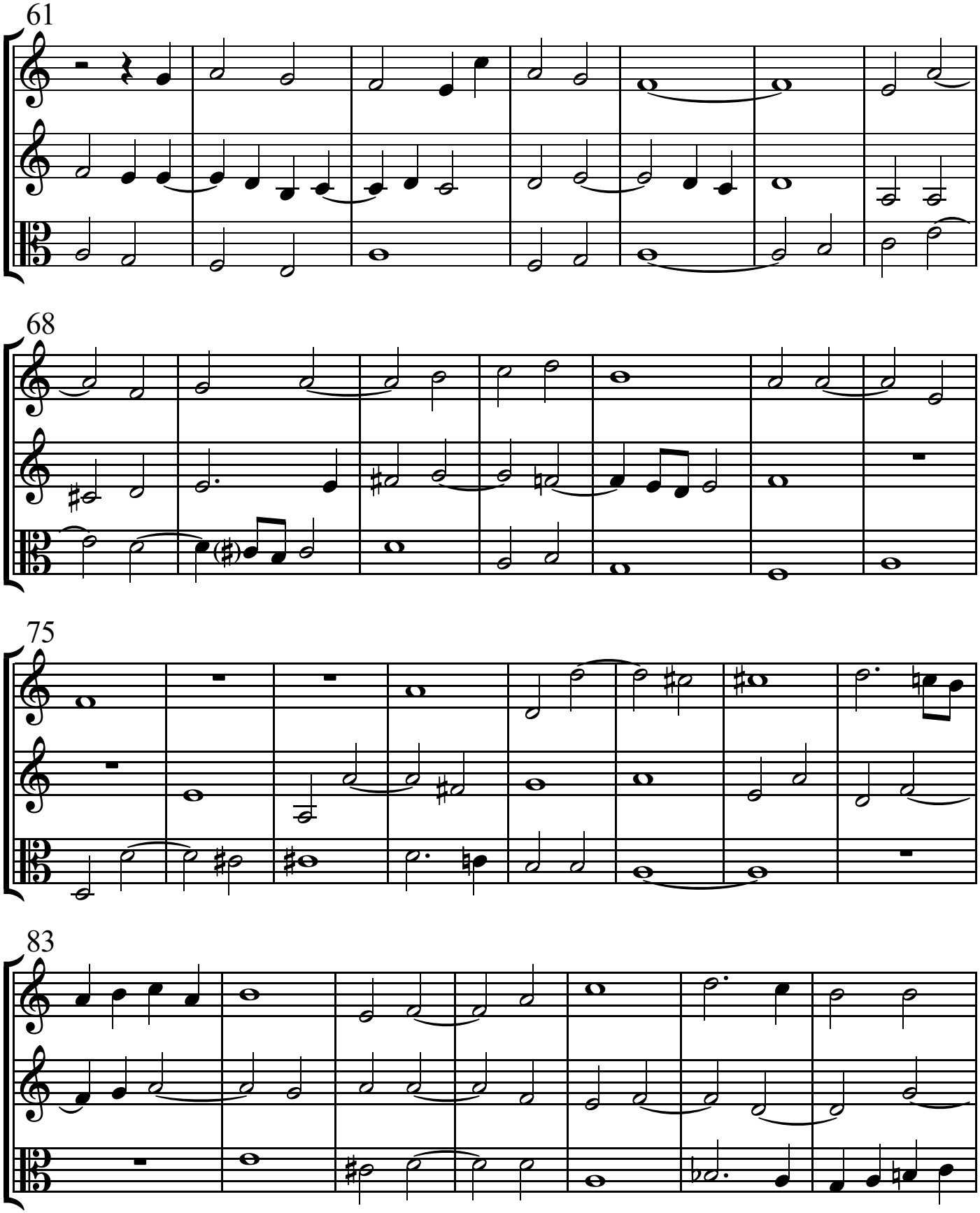

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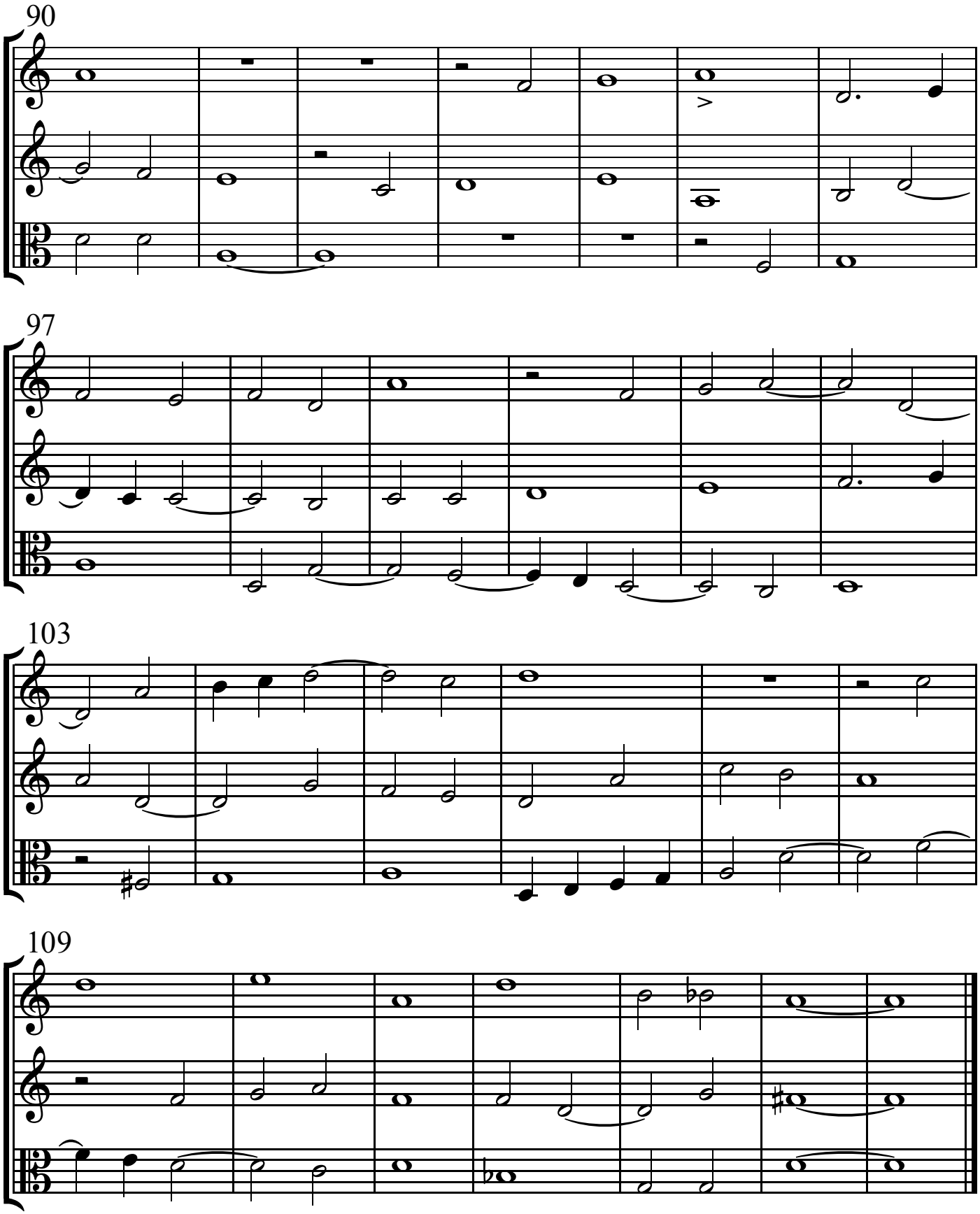

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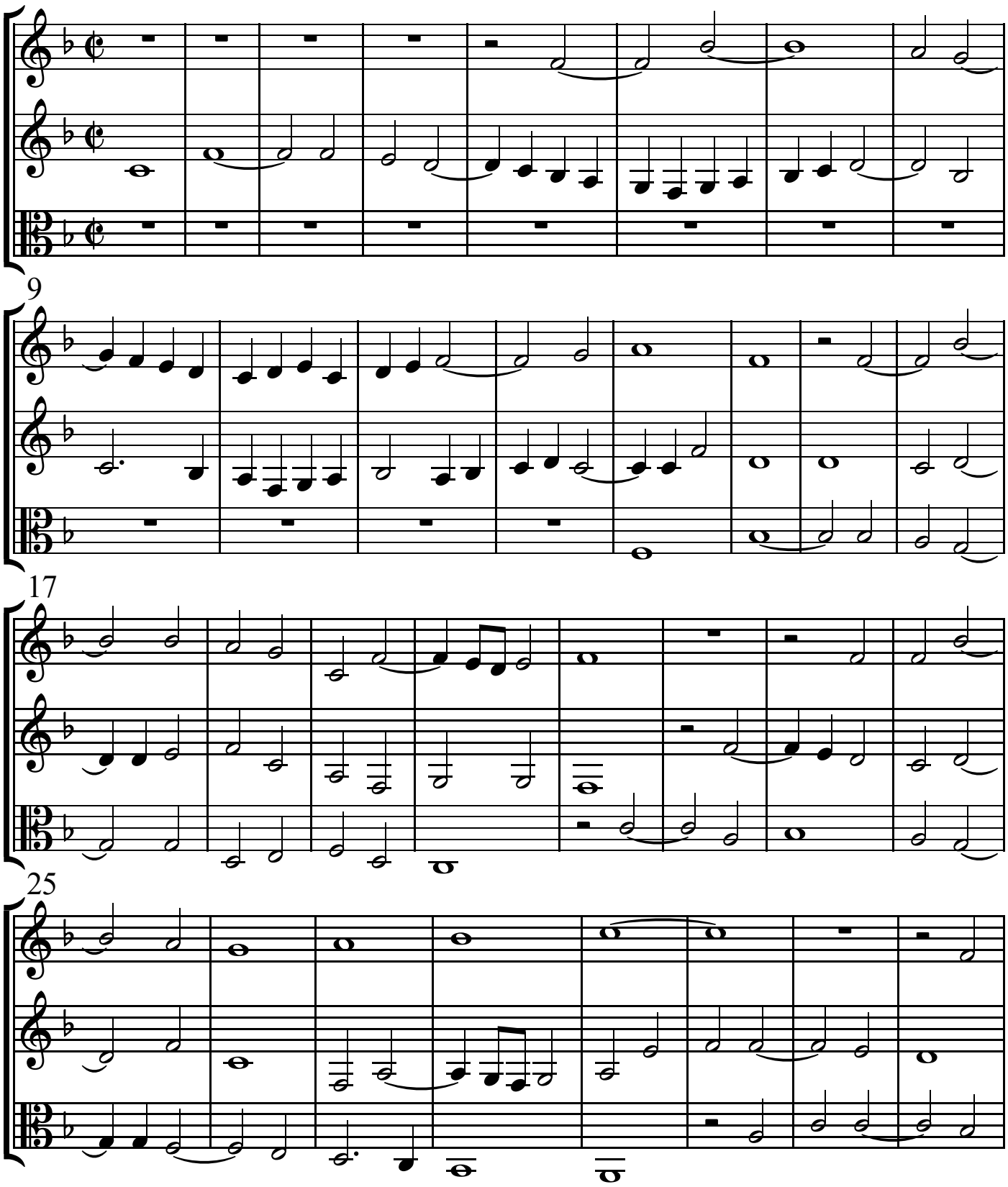
LX. O Dieu qui nous as deboutés



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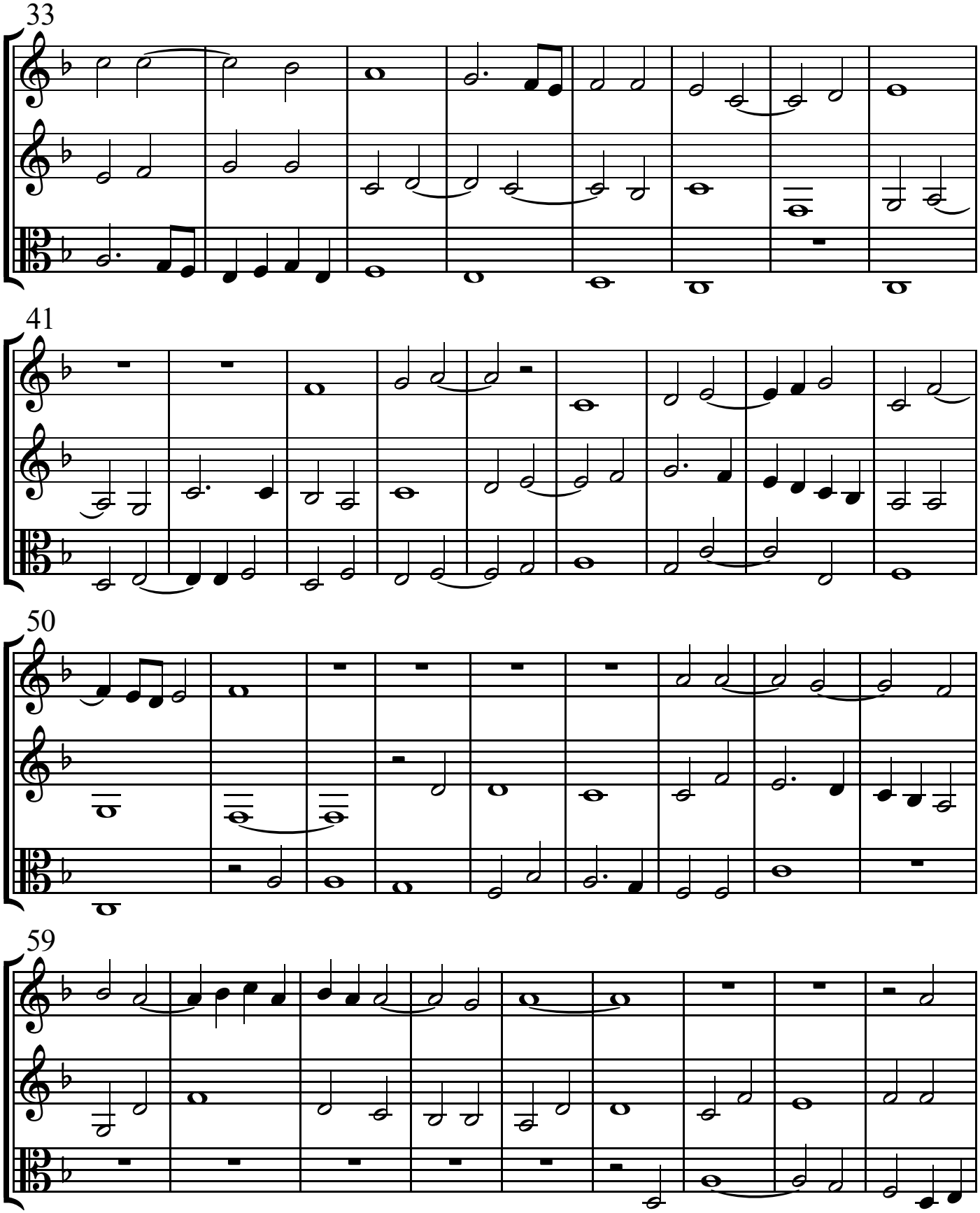

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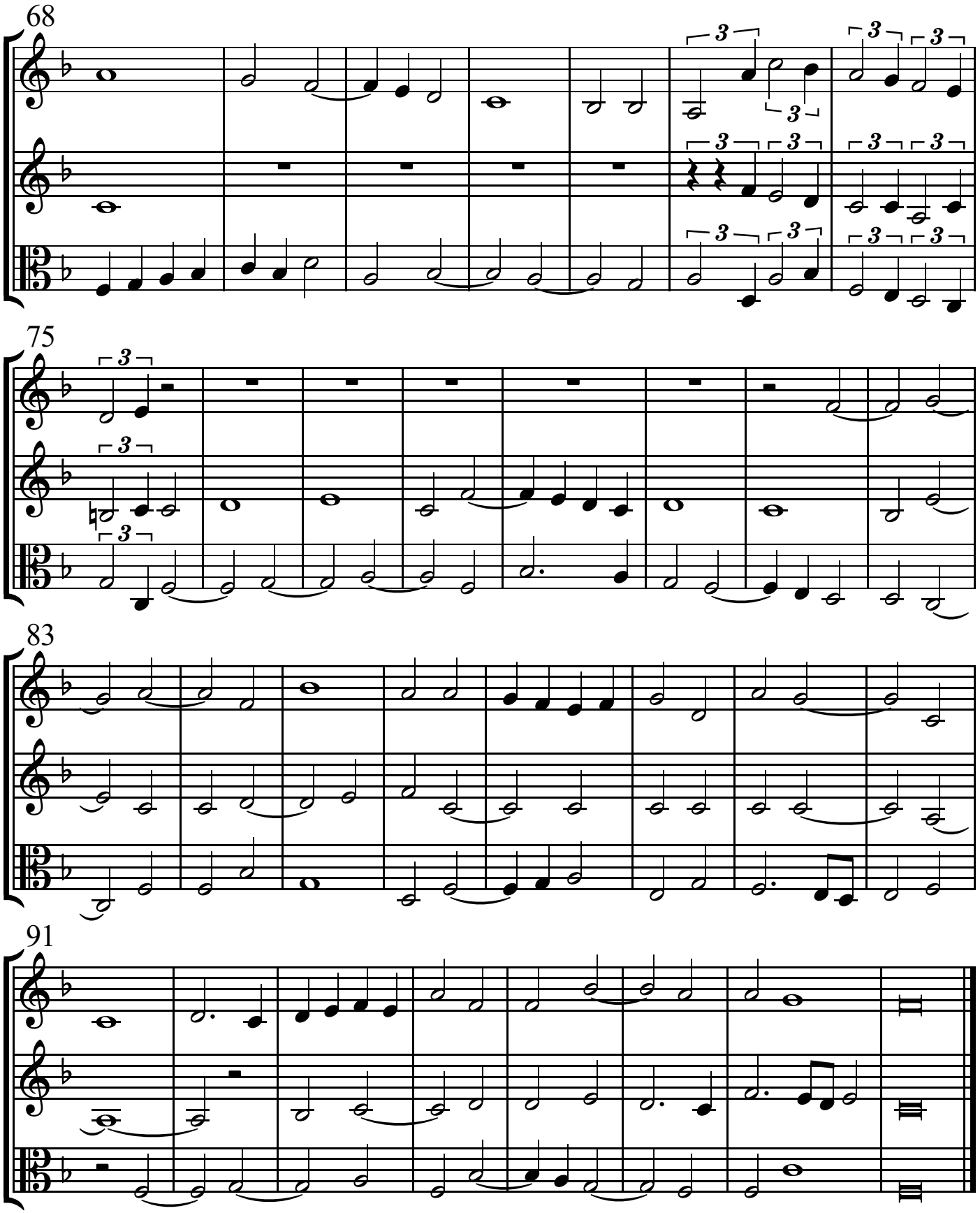

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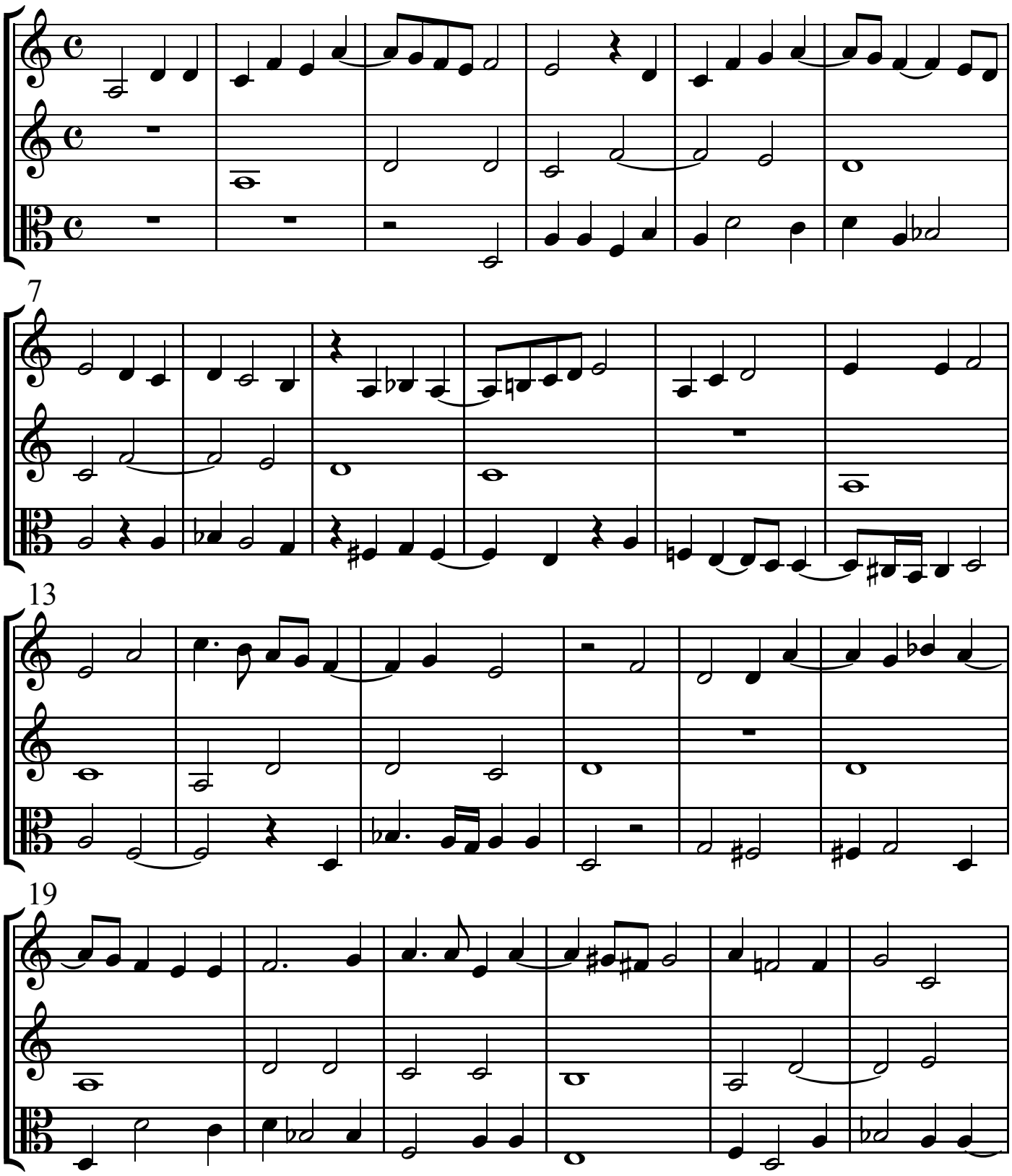
LXI. Enten à ce que je crie



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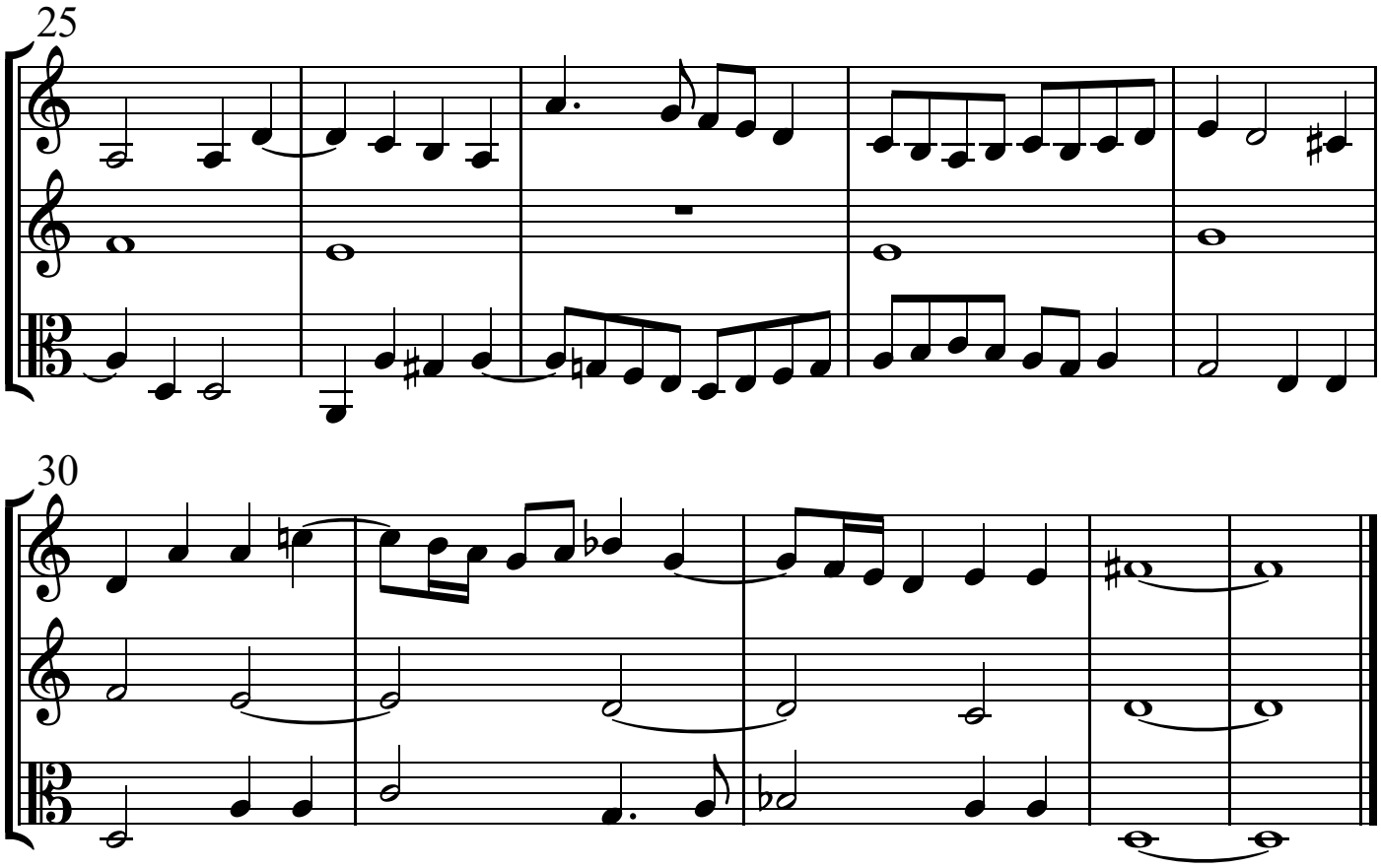

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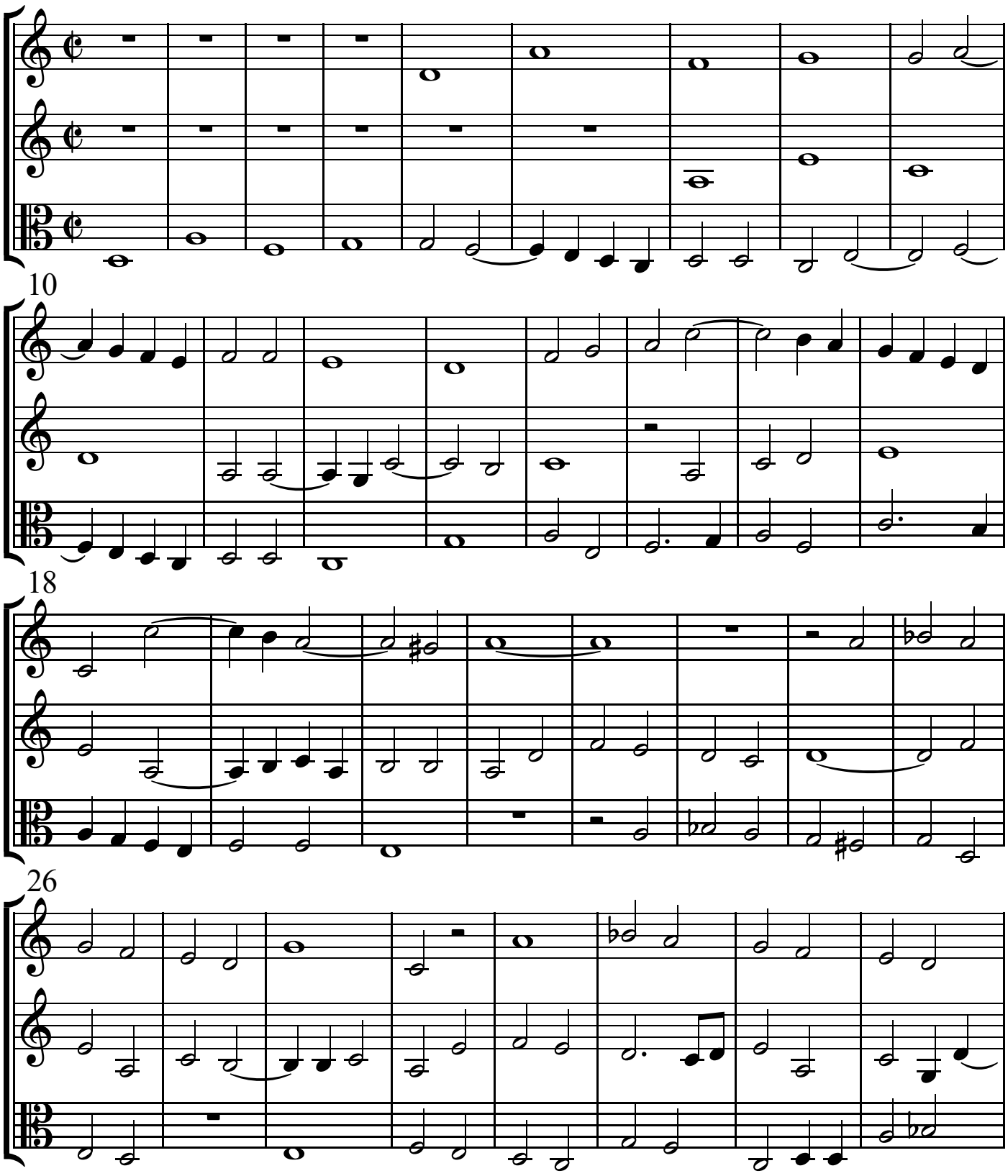
LXII. Mon ame en Dieu



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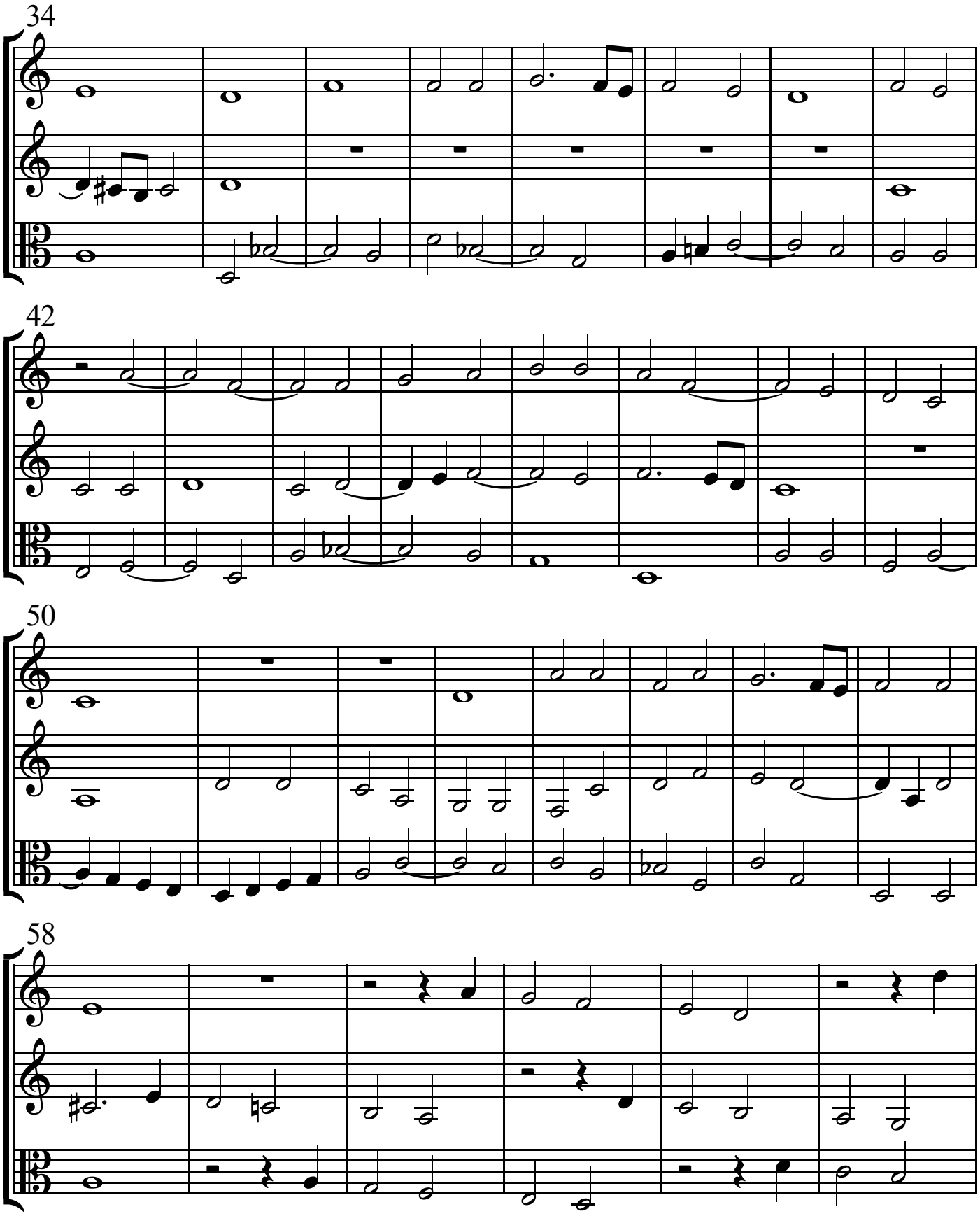

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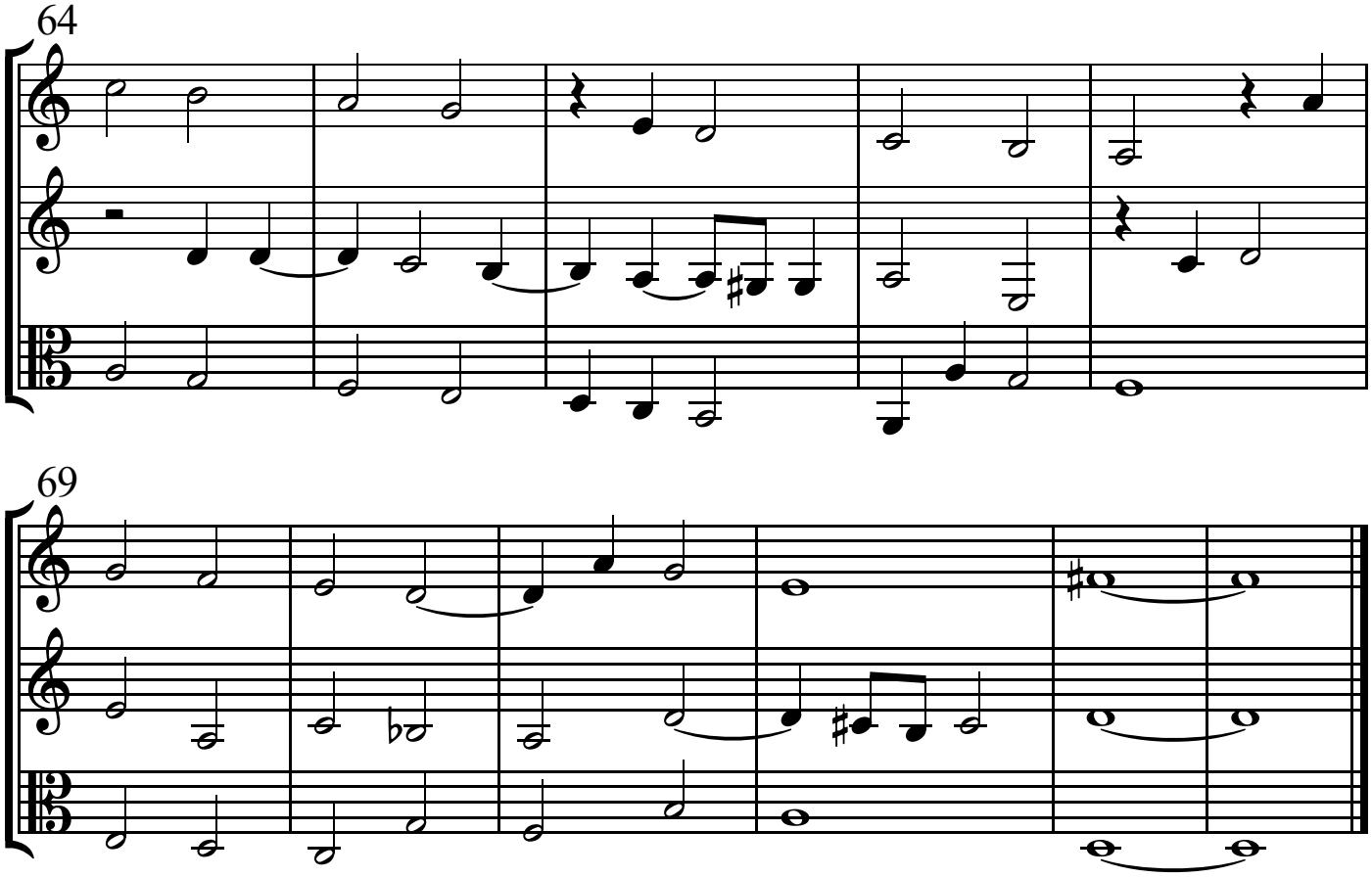

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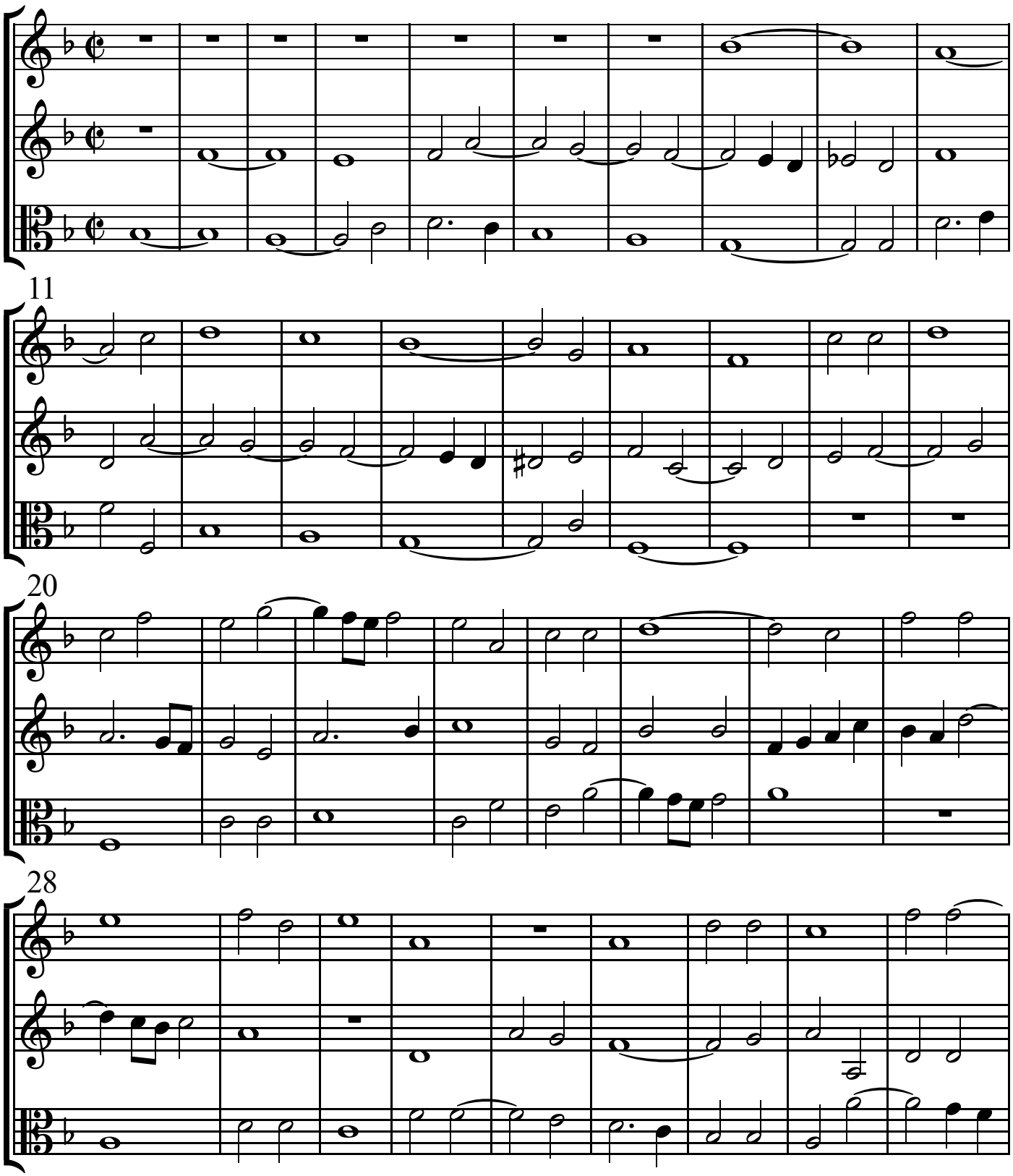
LXIII. O Dieu, je n’ay Dieu



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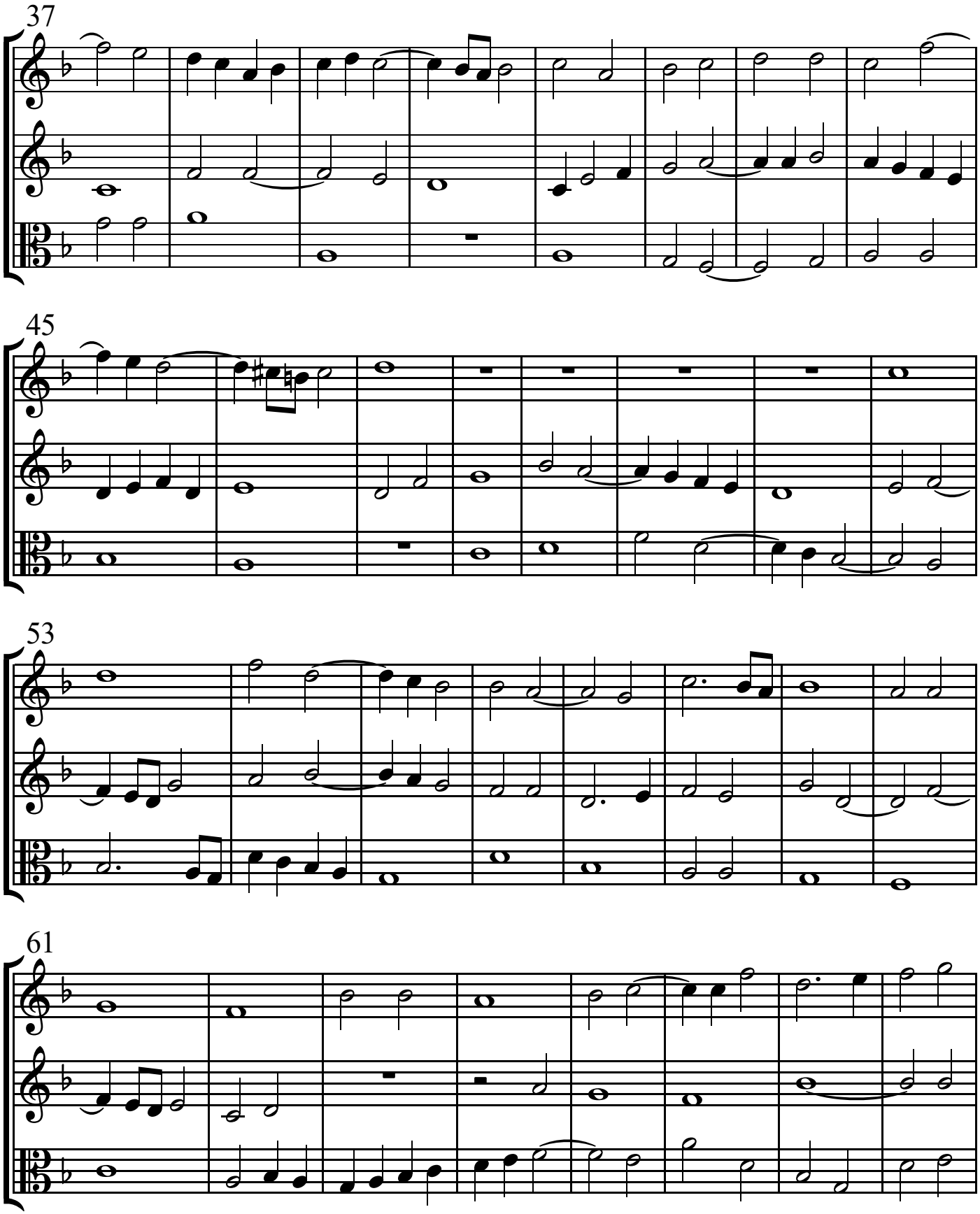

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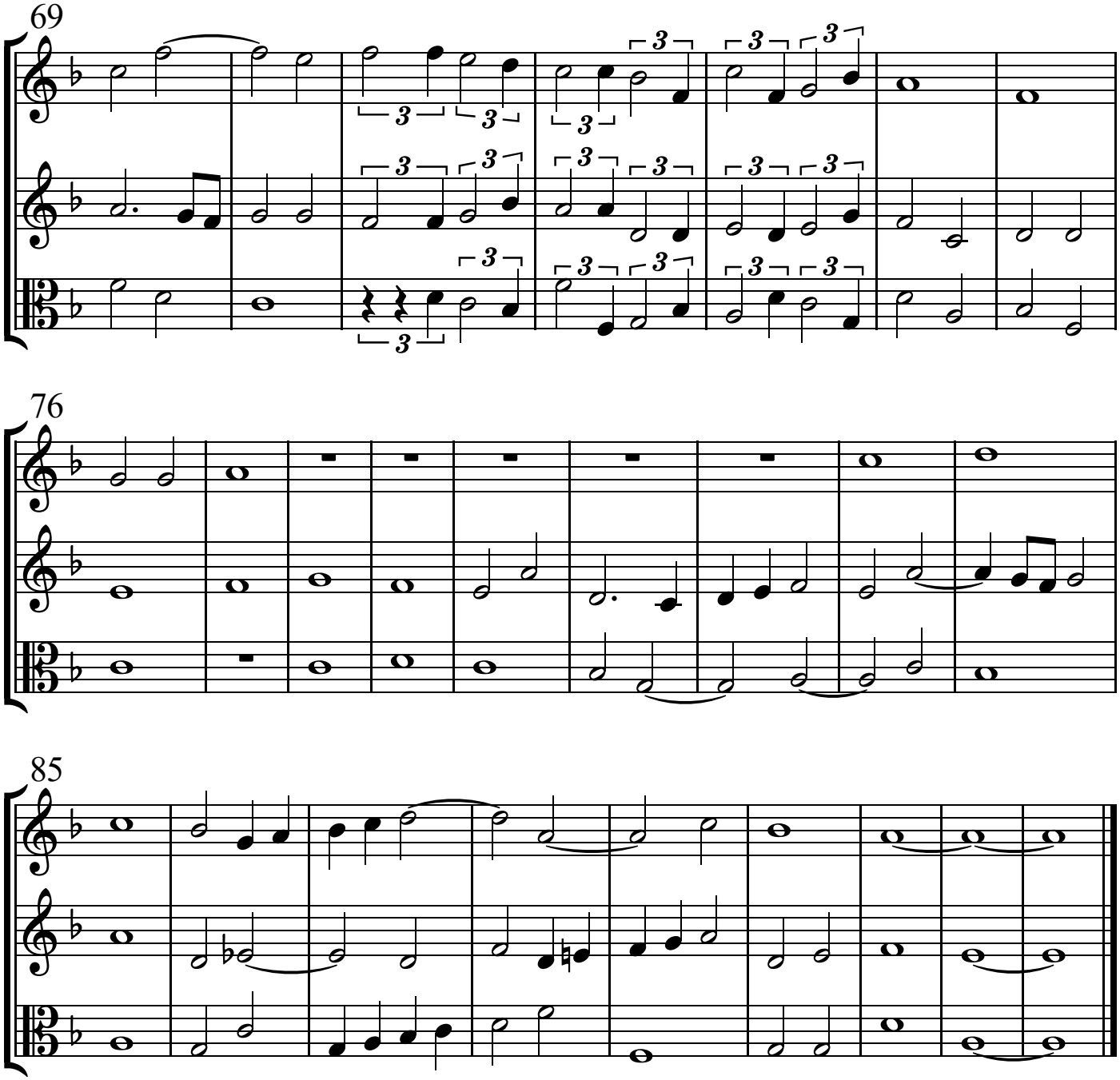

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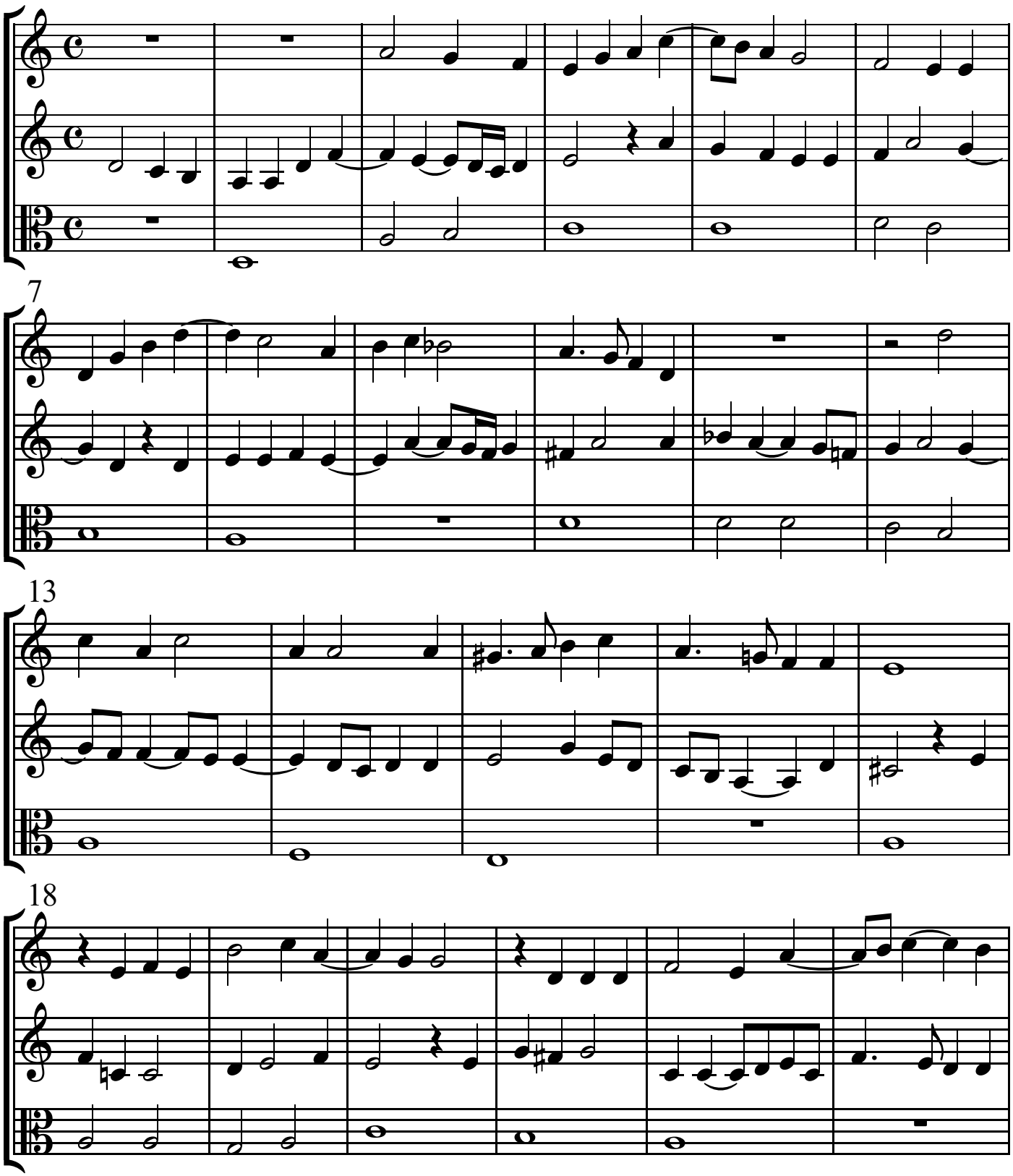
LXIIII. Enten à ce que je veux dire



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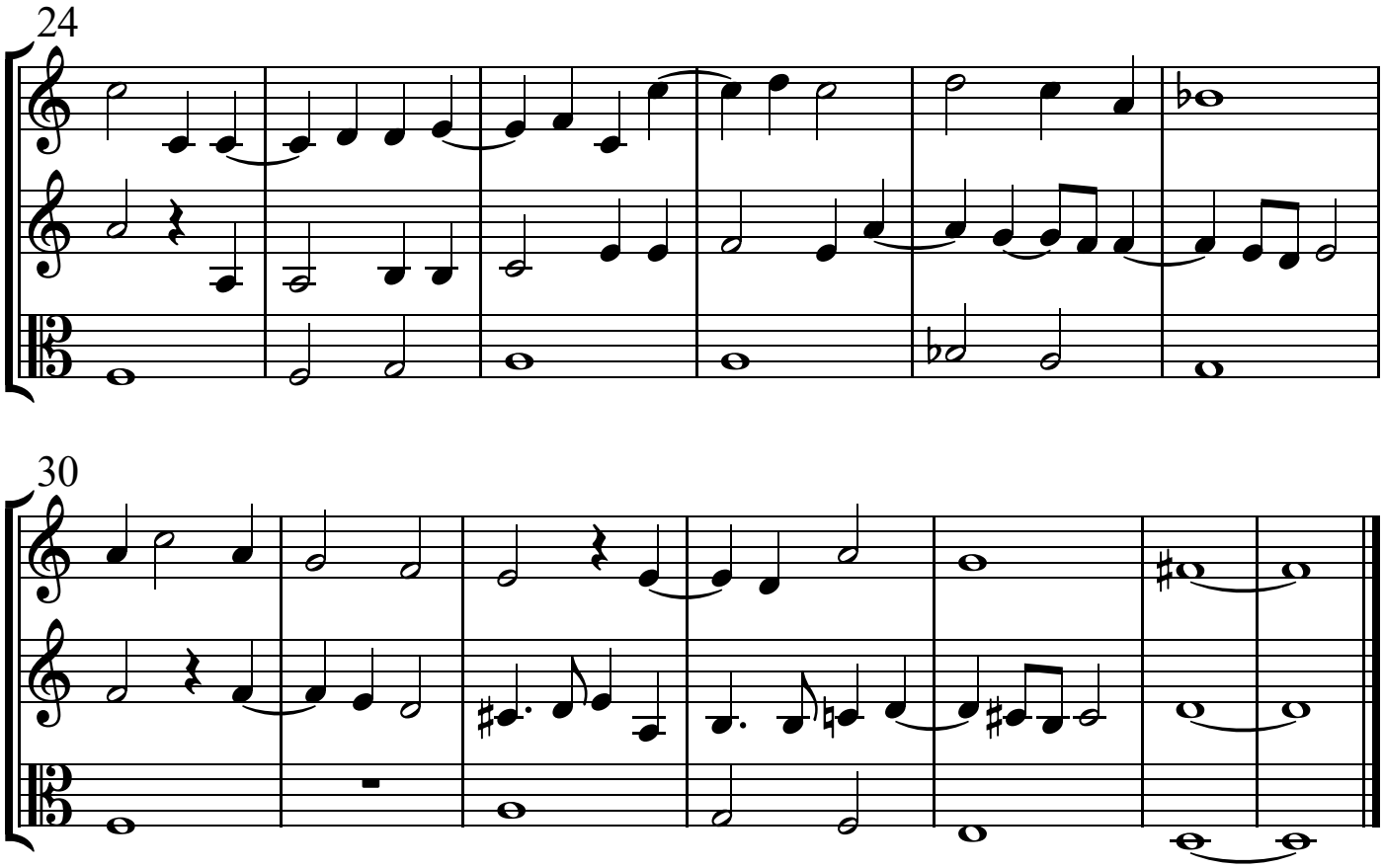

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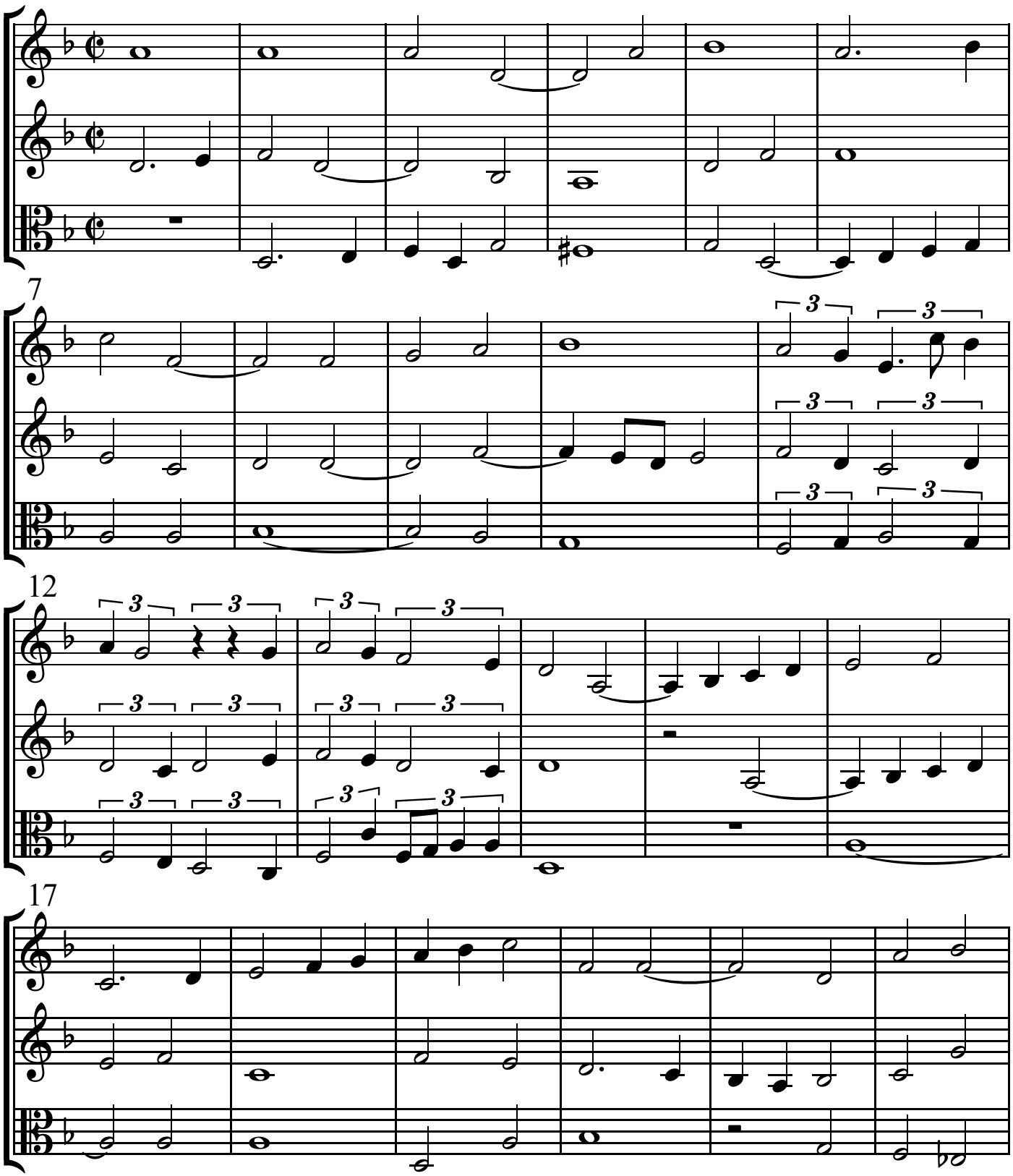
LXV. O Dieu la gloire



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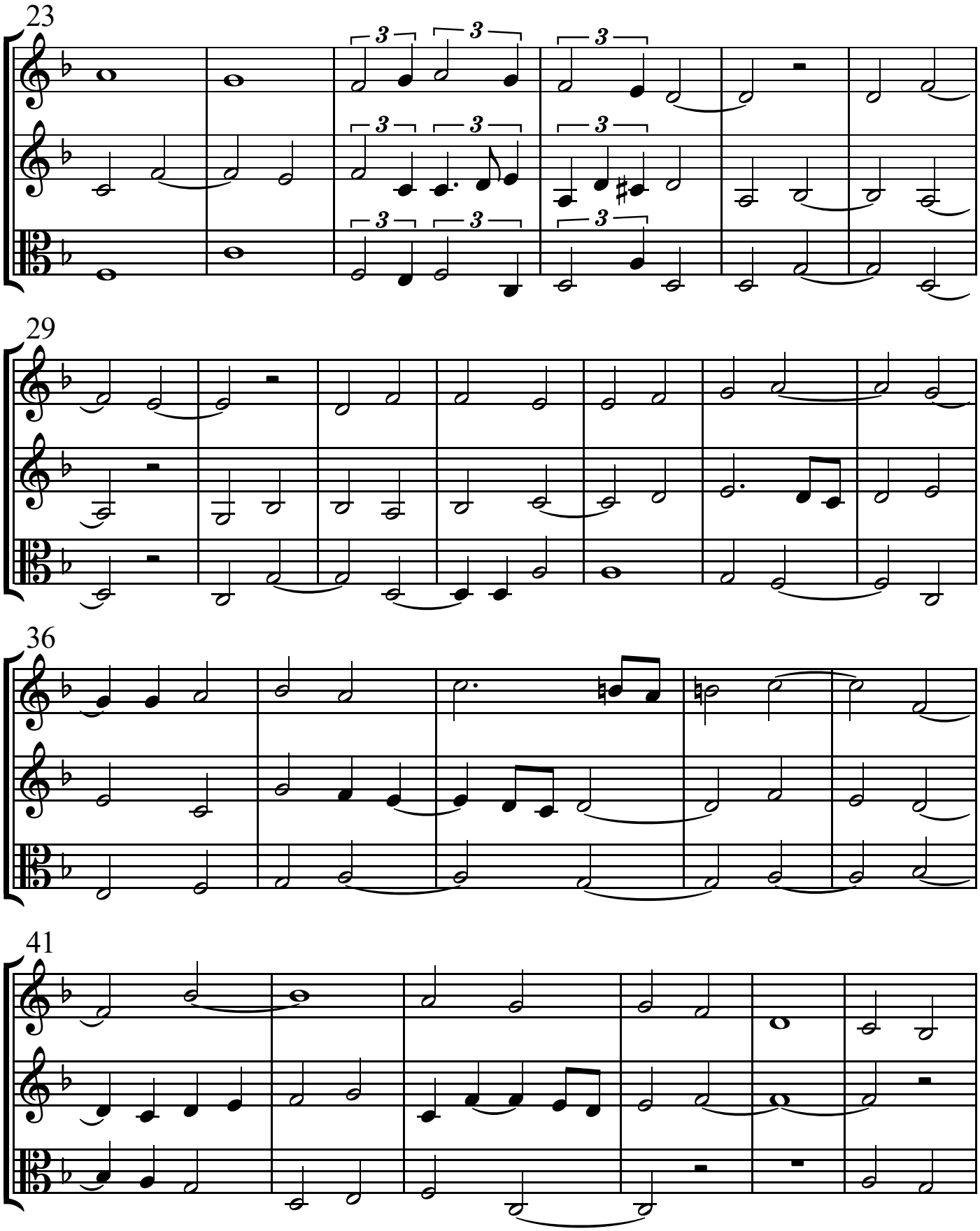

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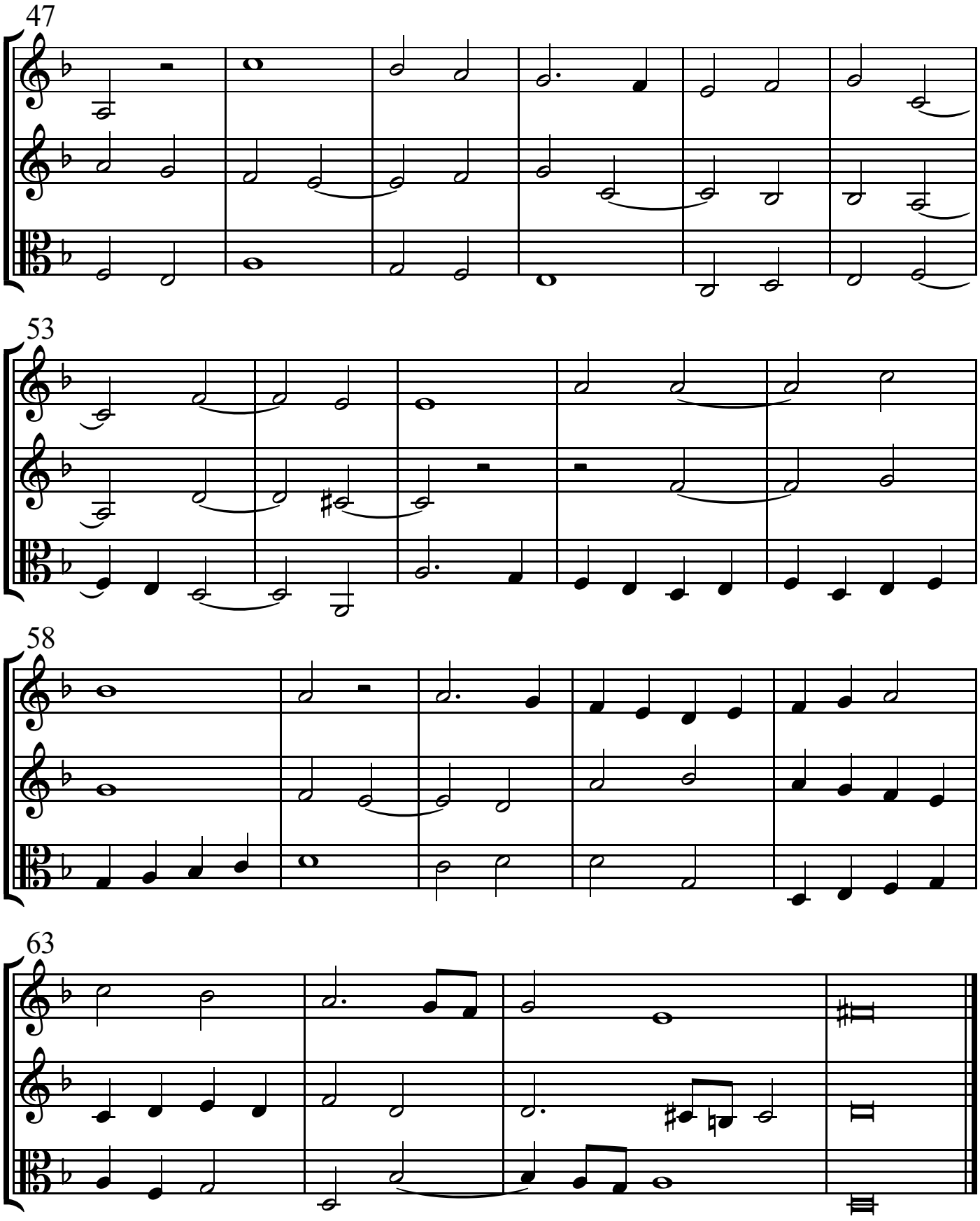

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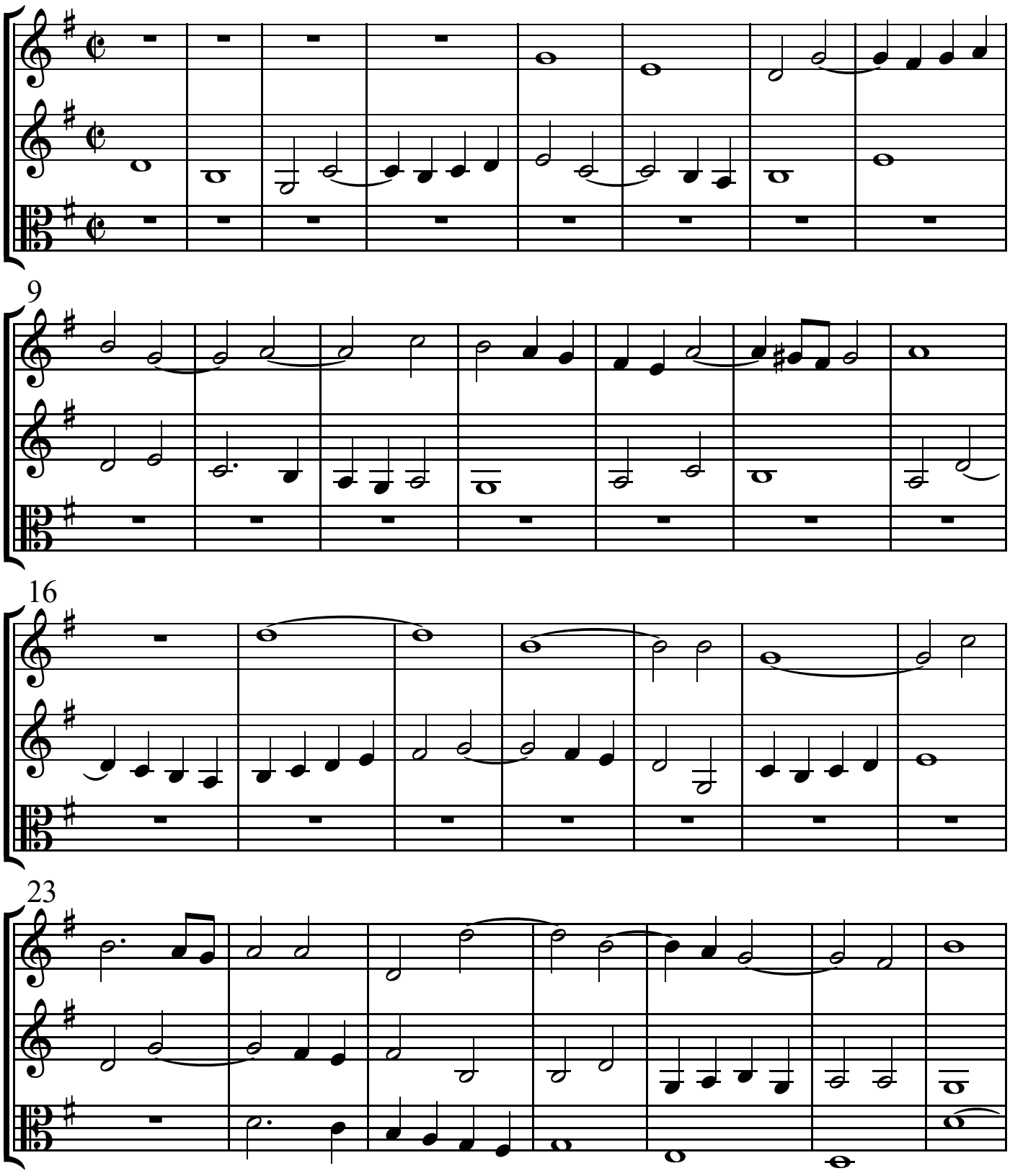
LXVI. Or sus loüés



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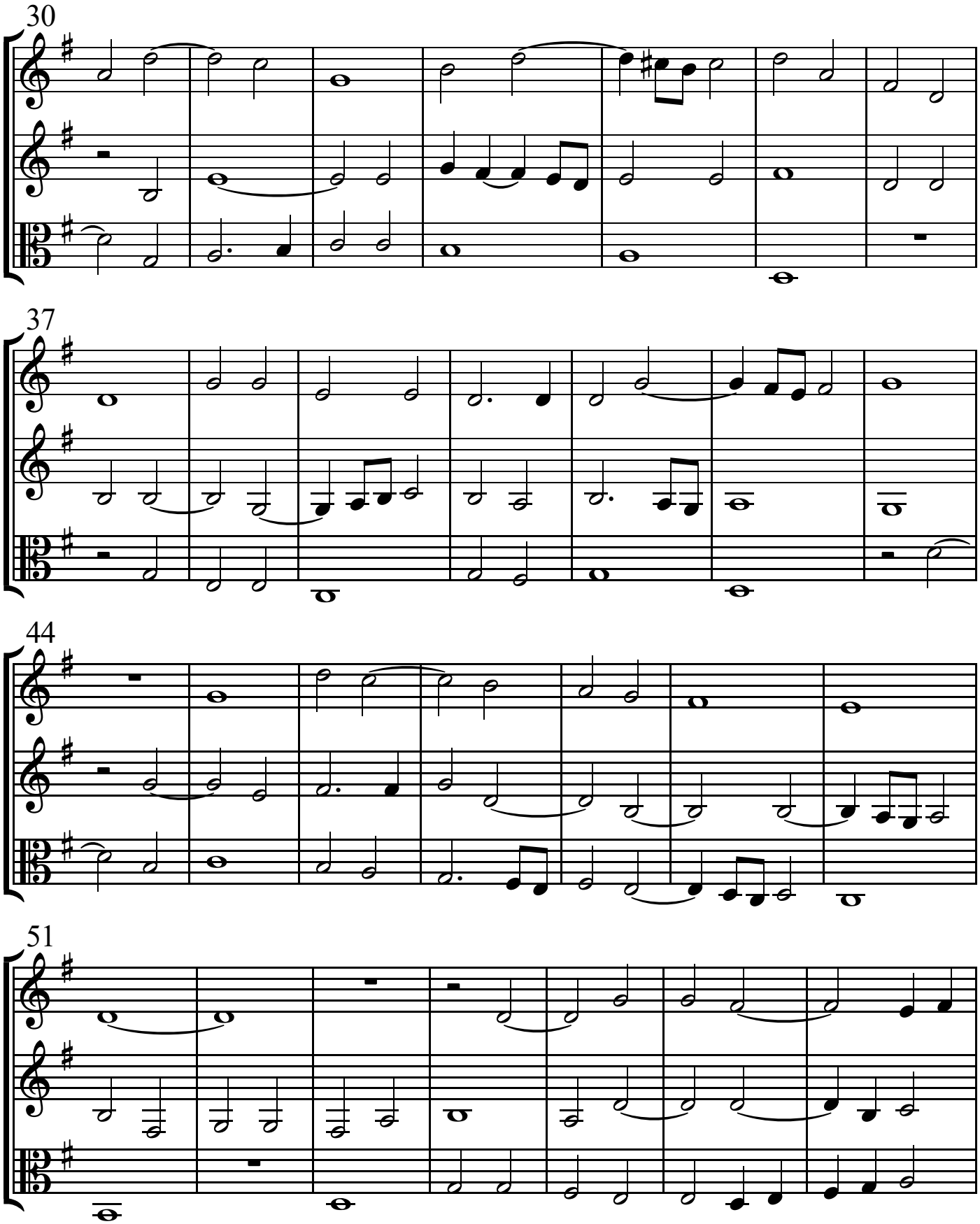

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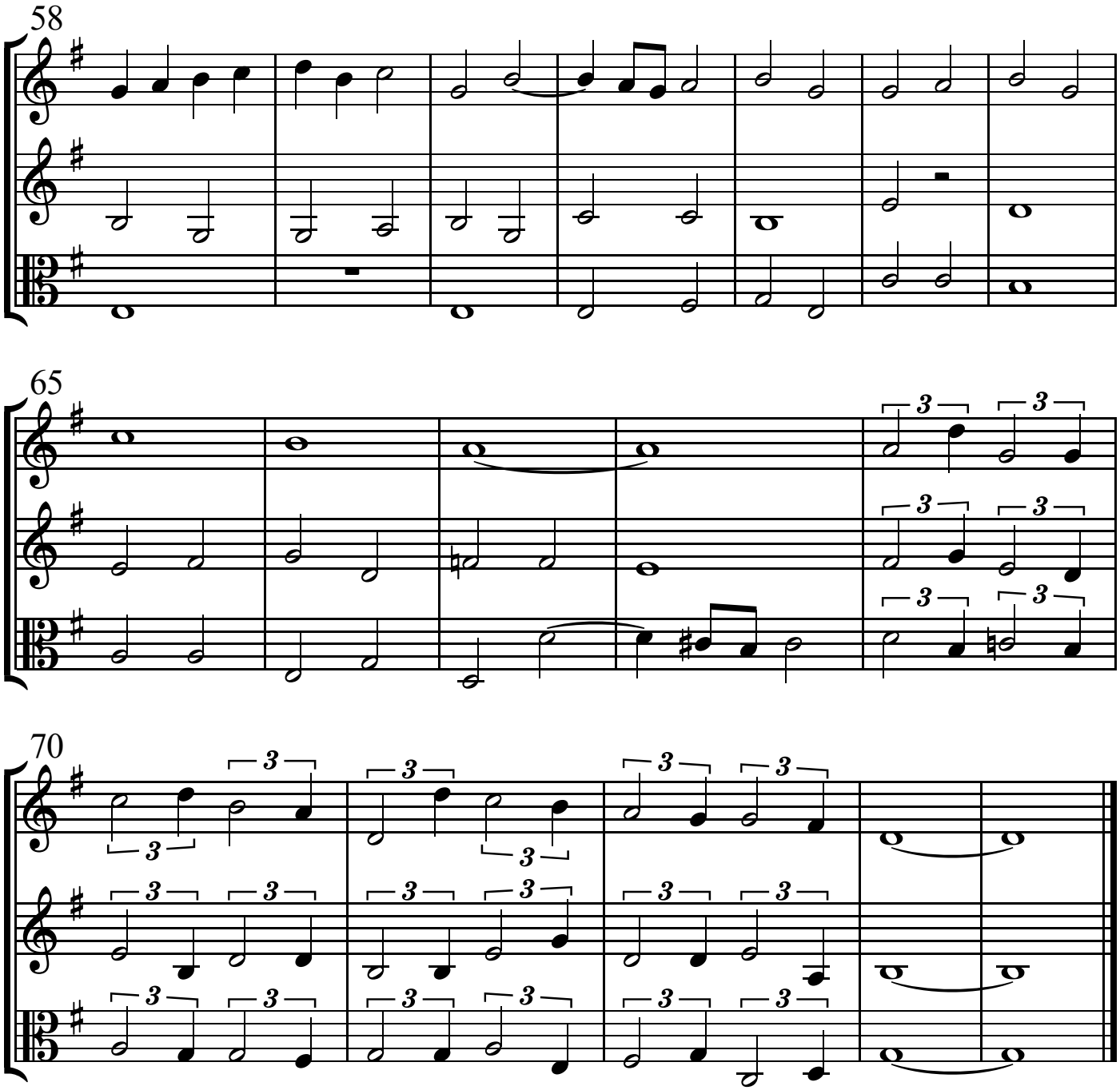

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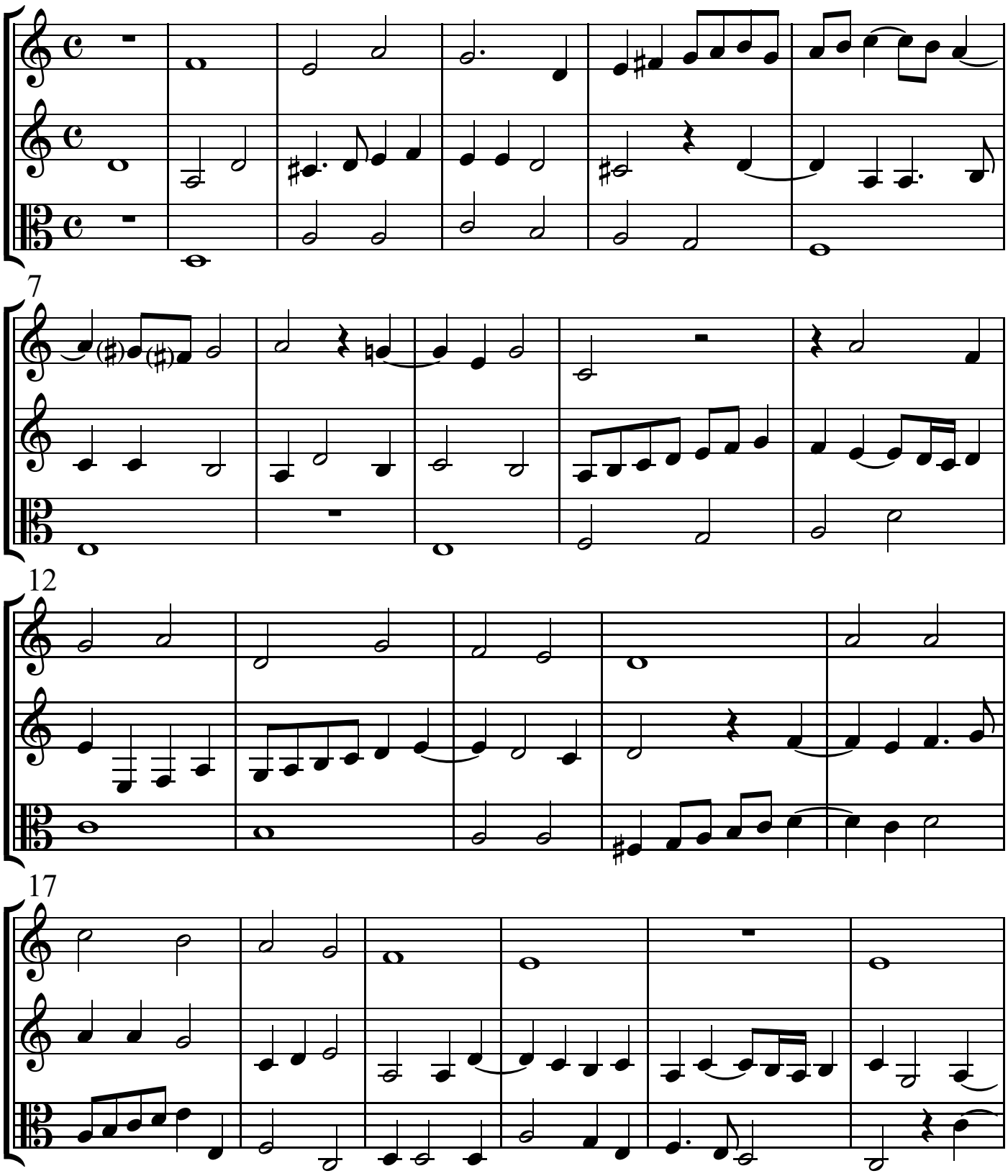
LXVII. Dieu nous soit doux



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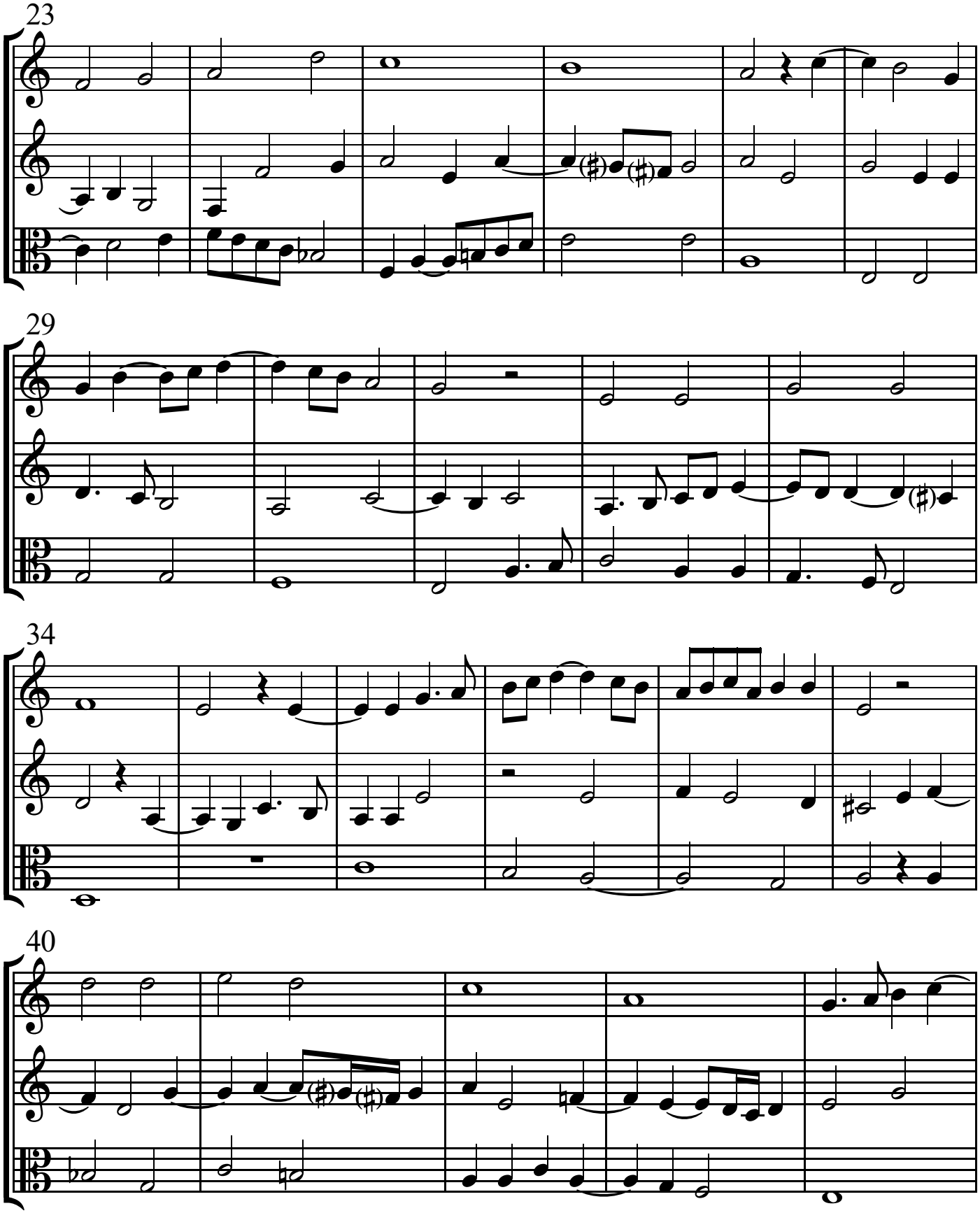

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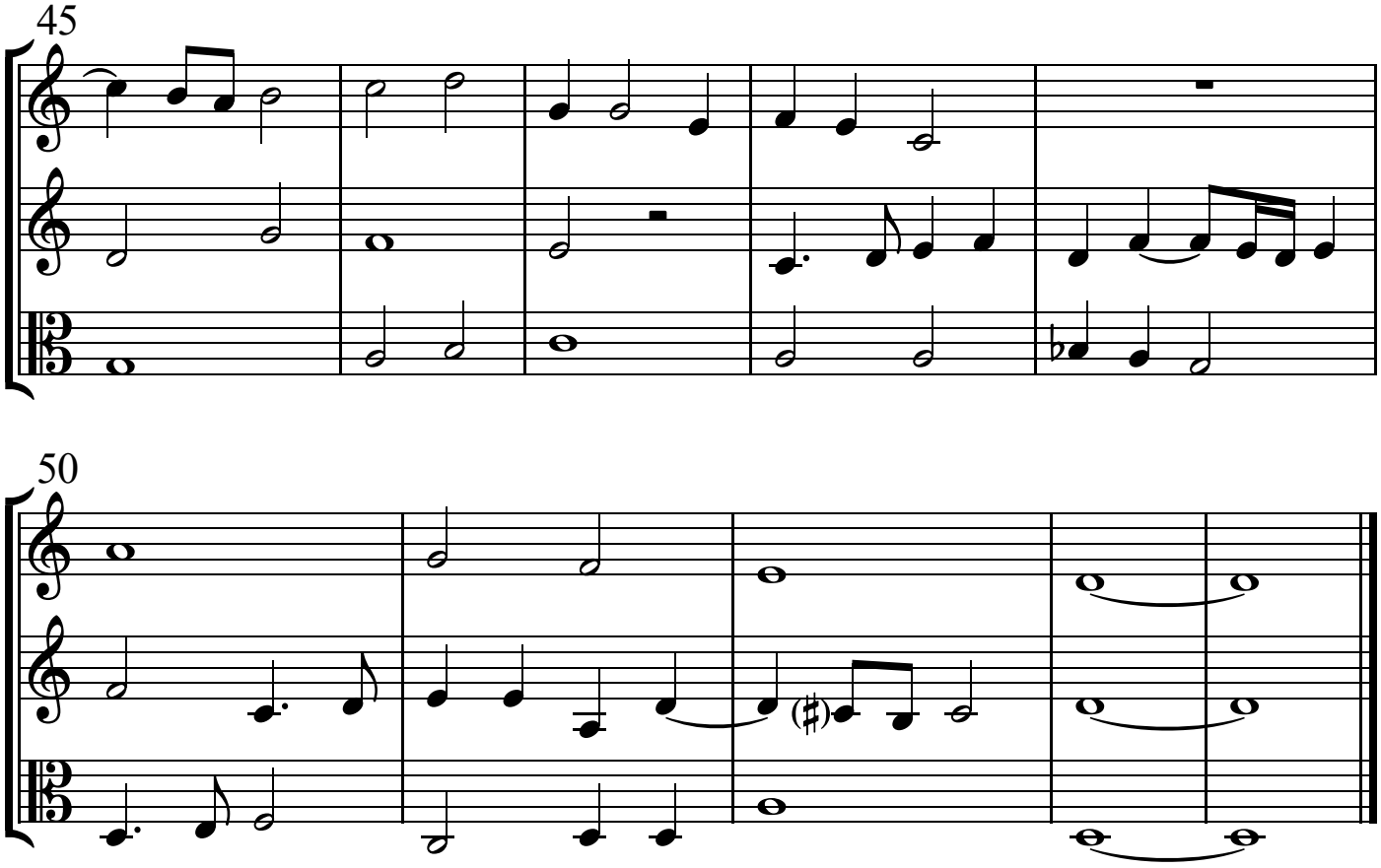

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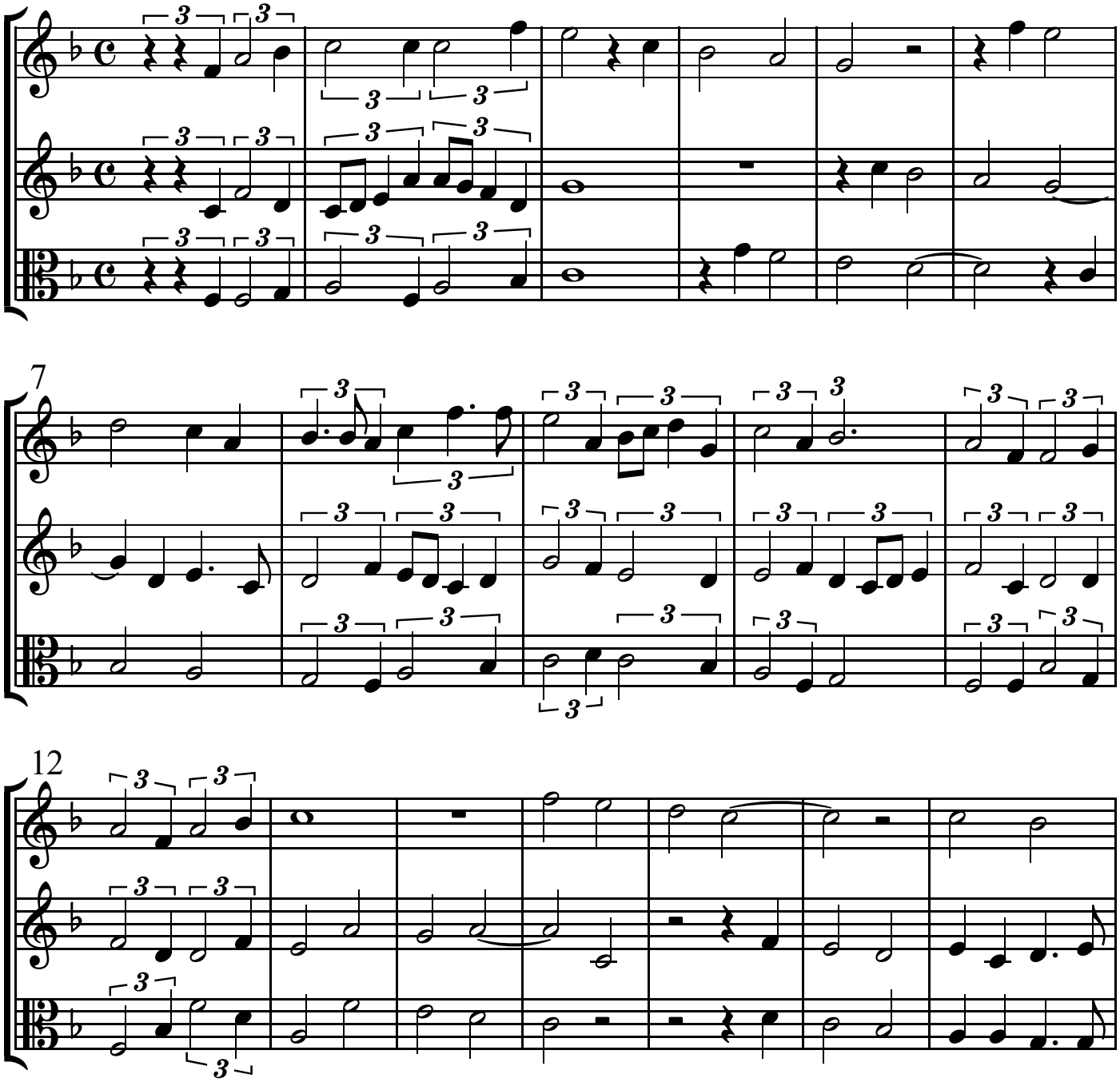
LXVIII. Que Dieu se montre



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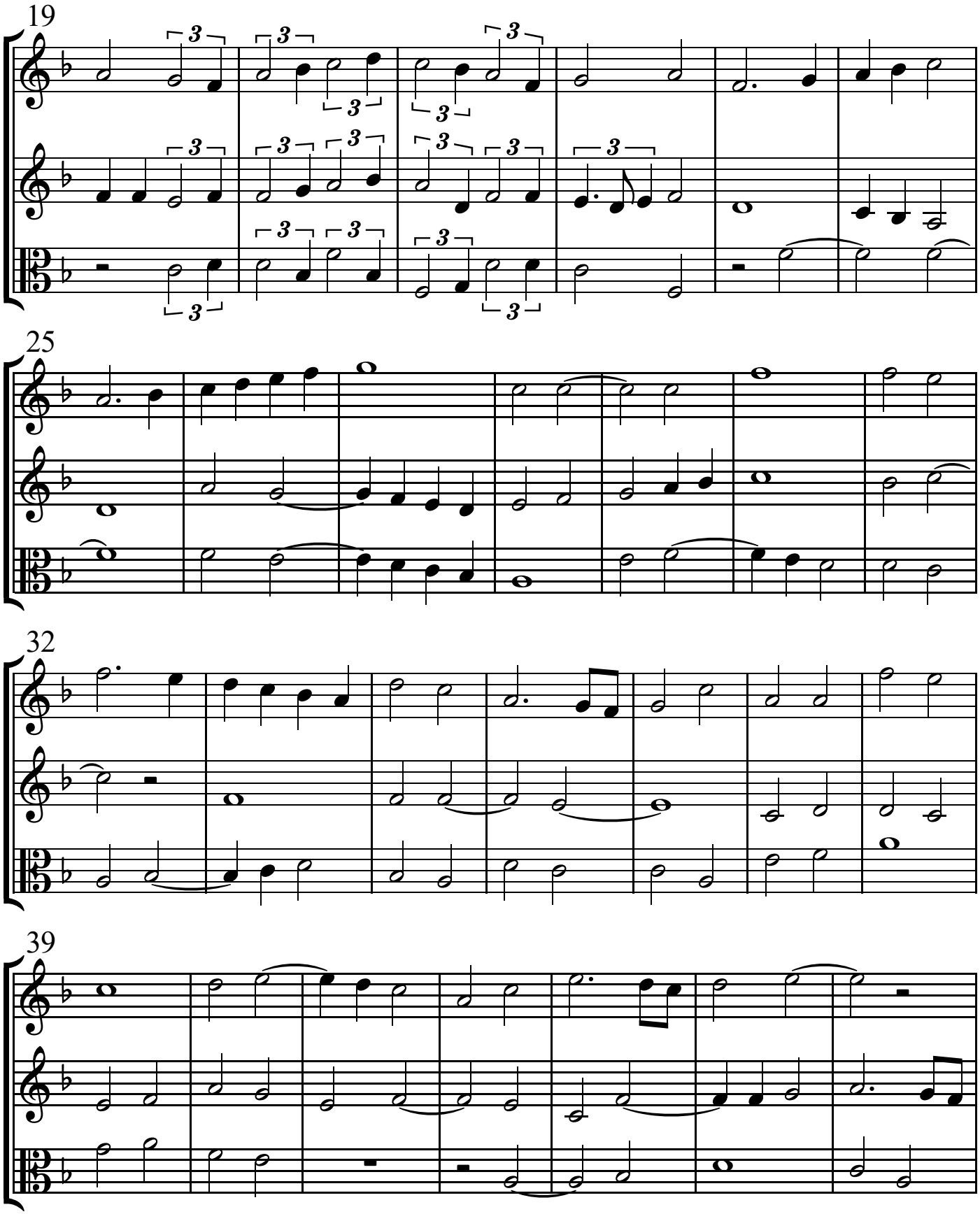

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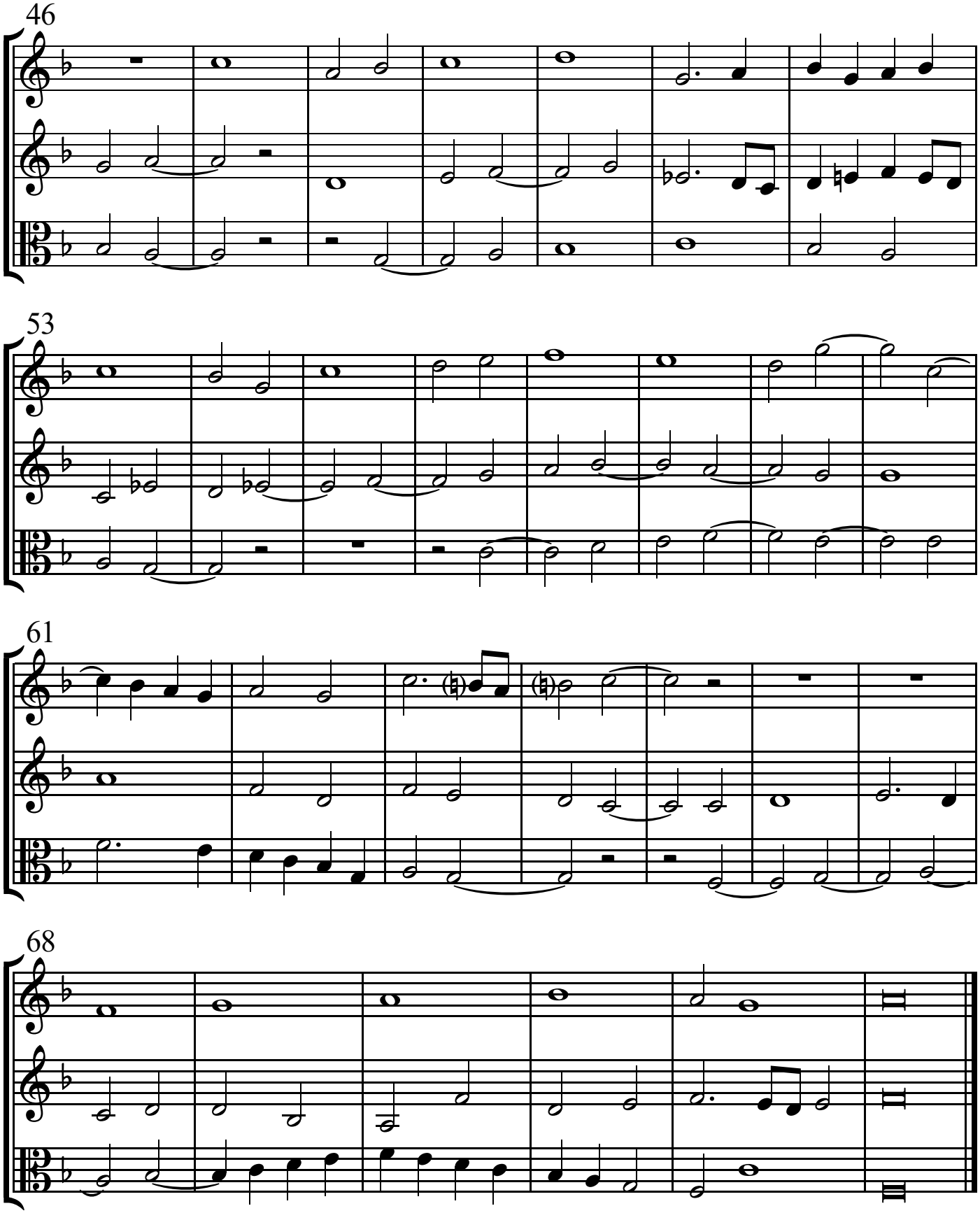

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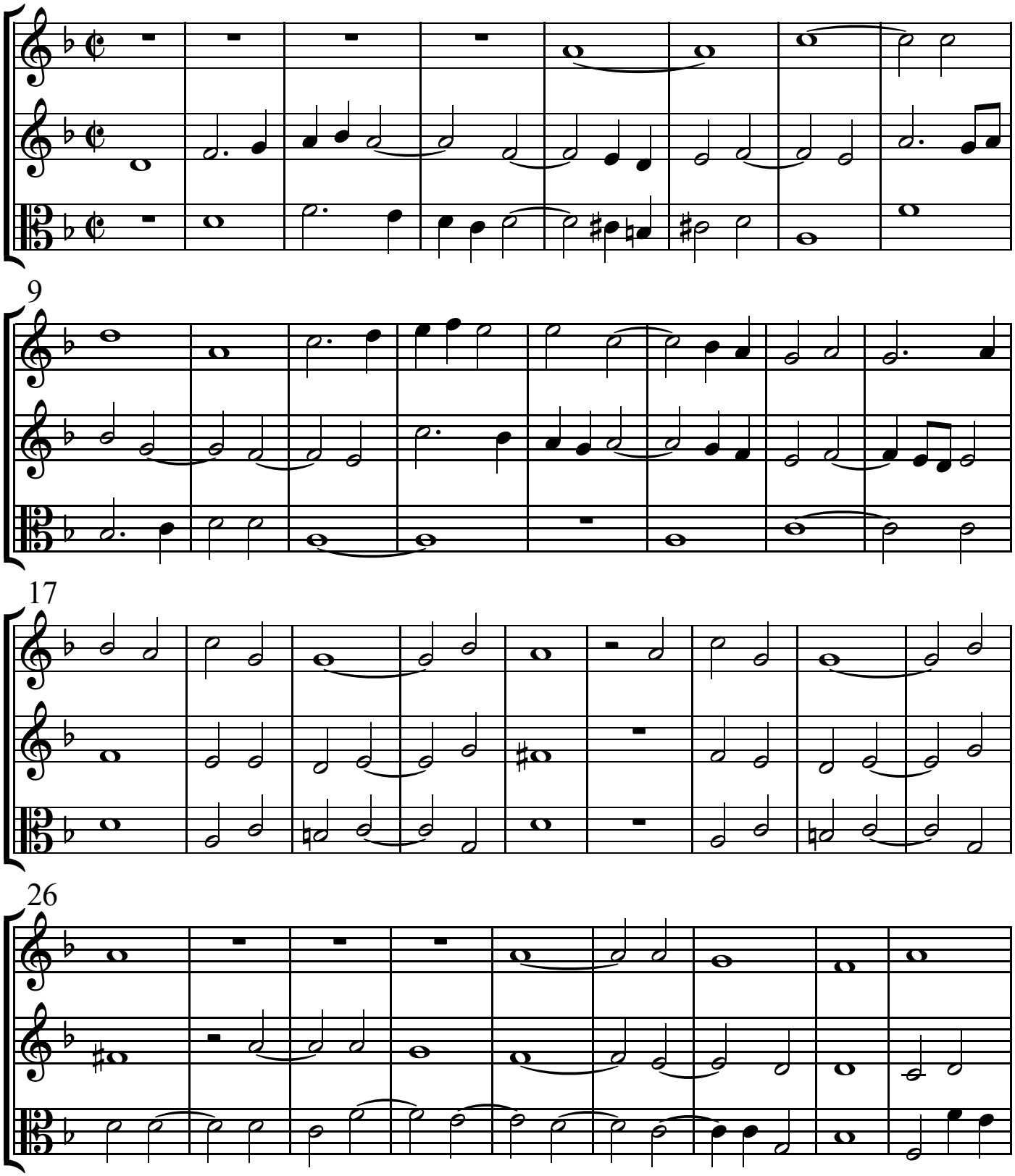
LXIX. Helas! Seigneur



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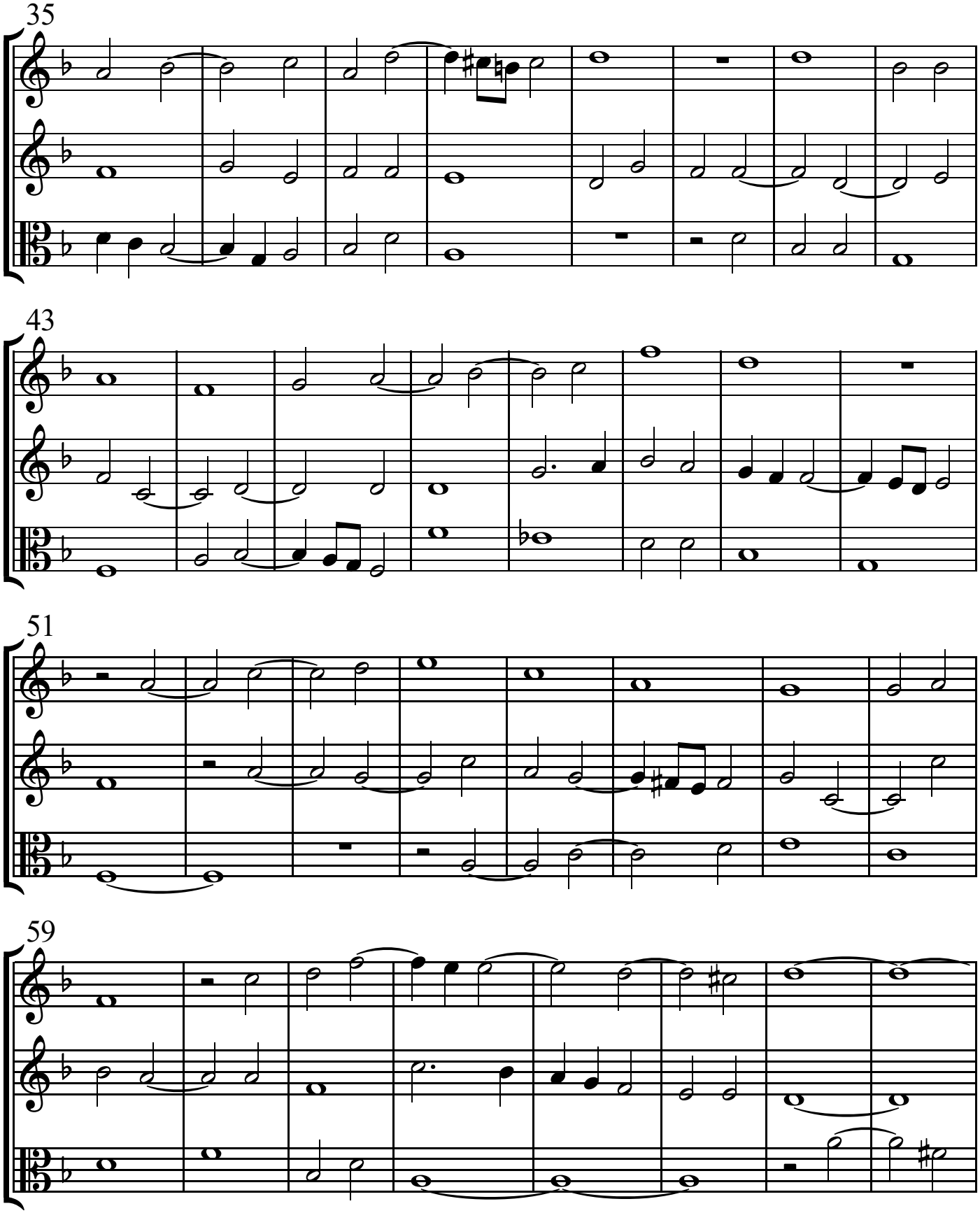

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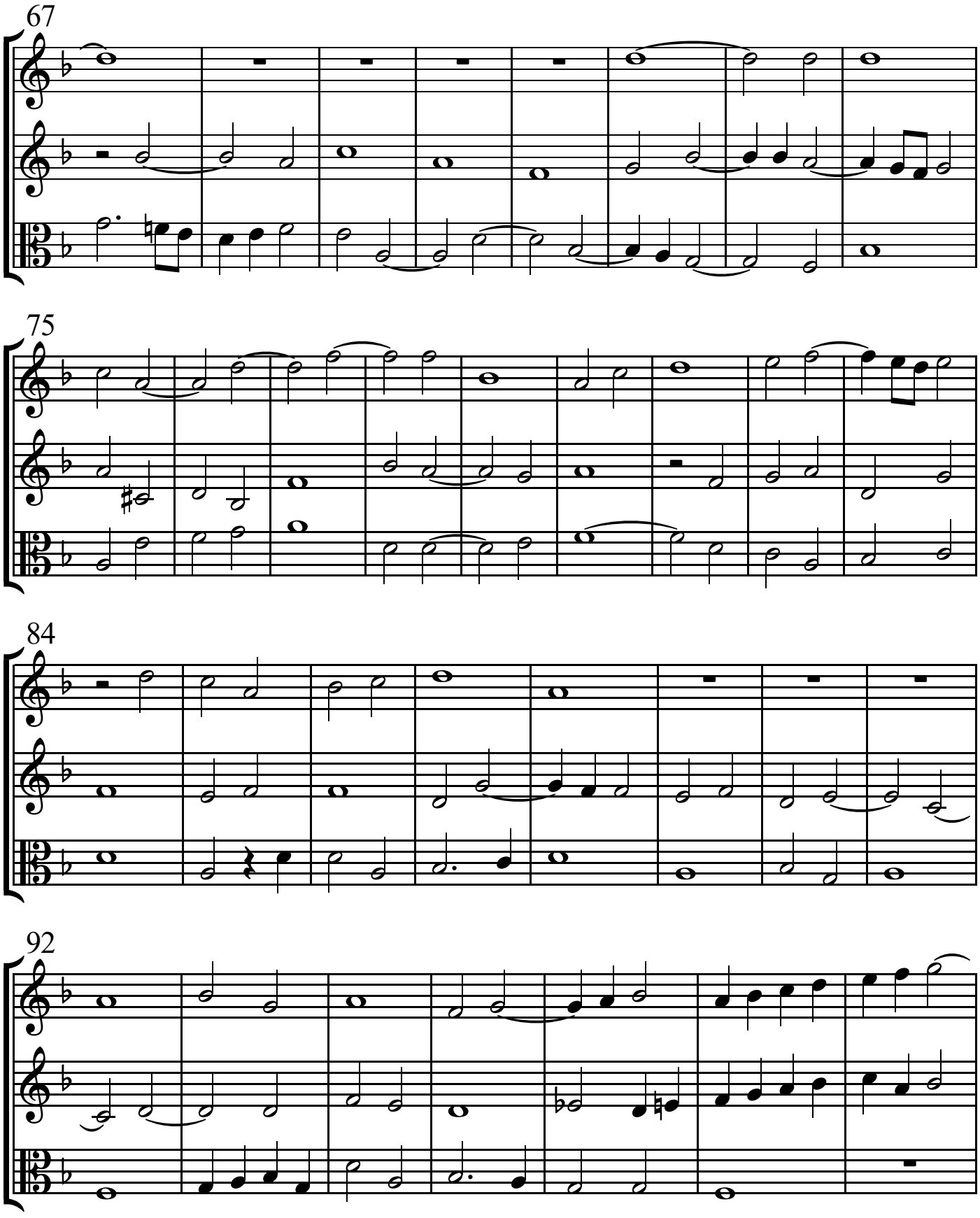

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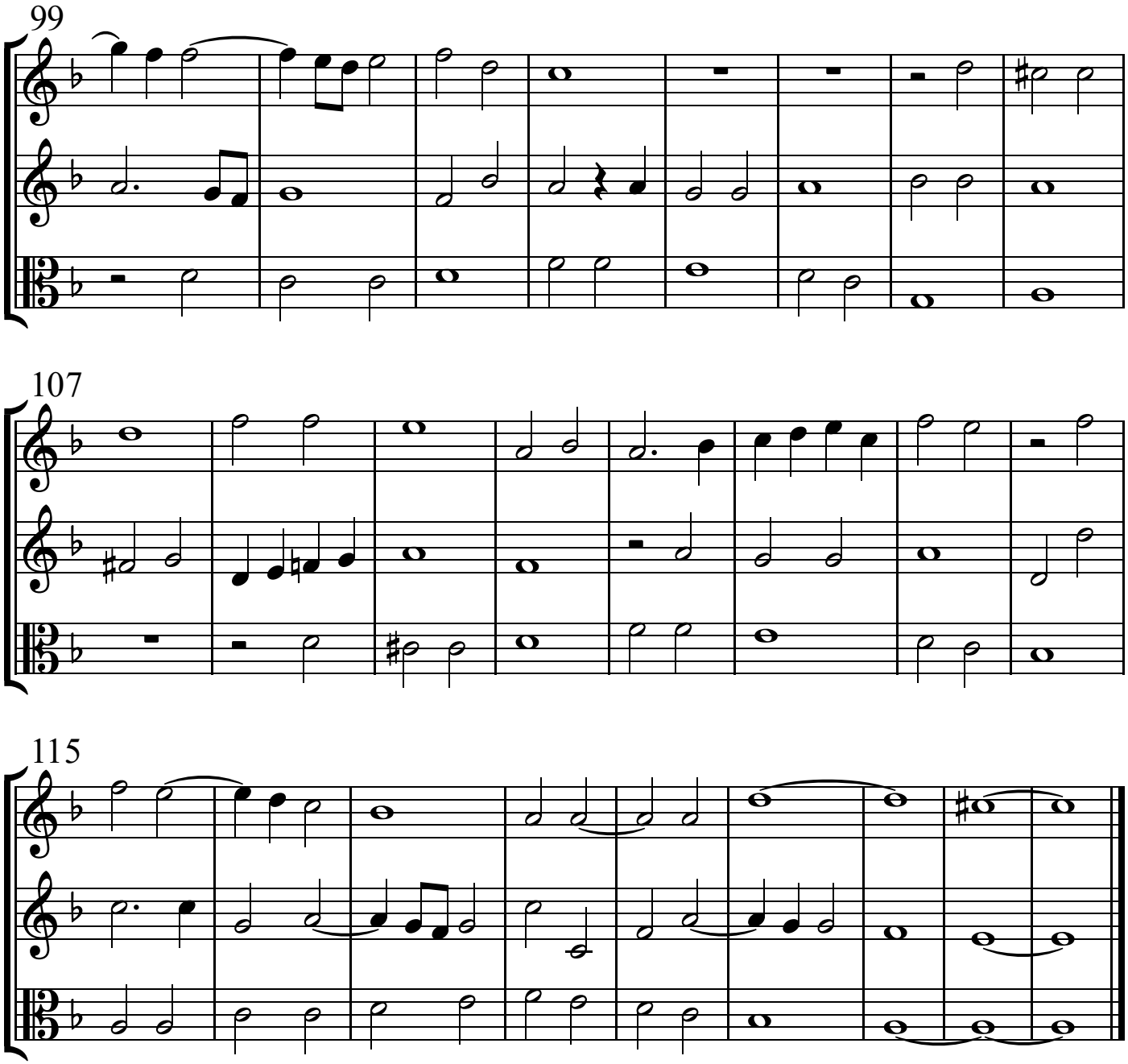

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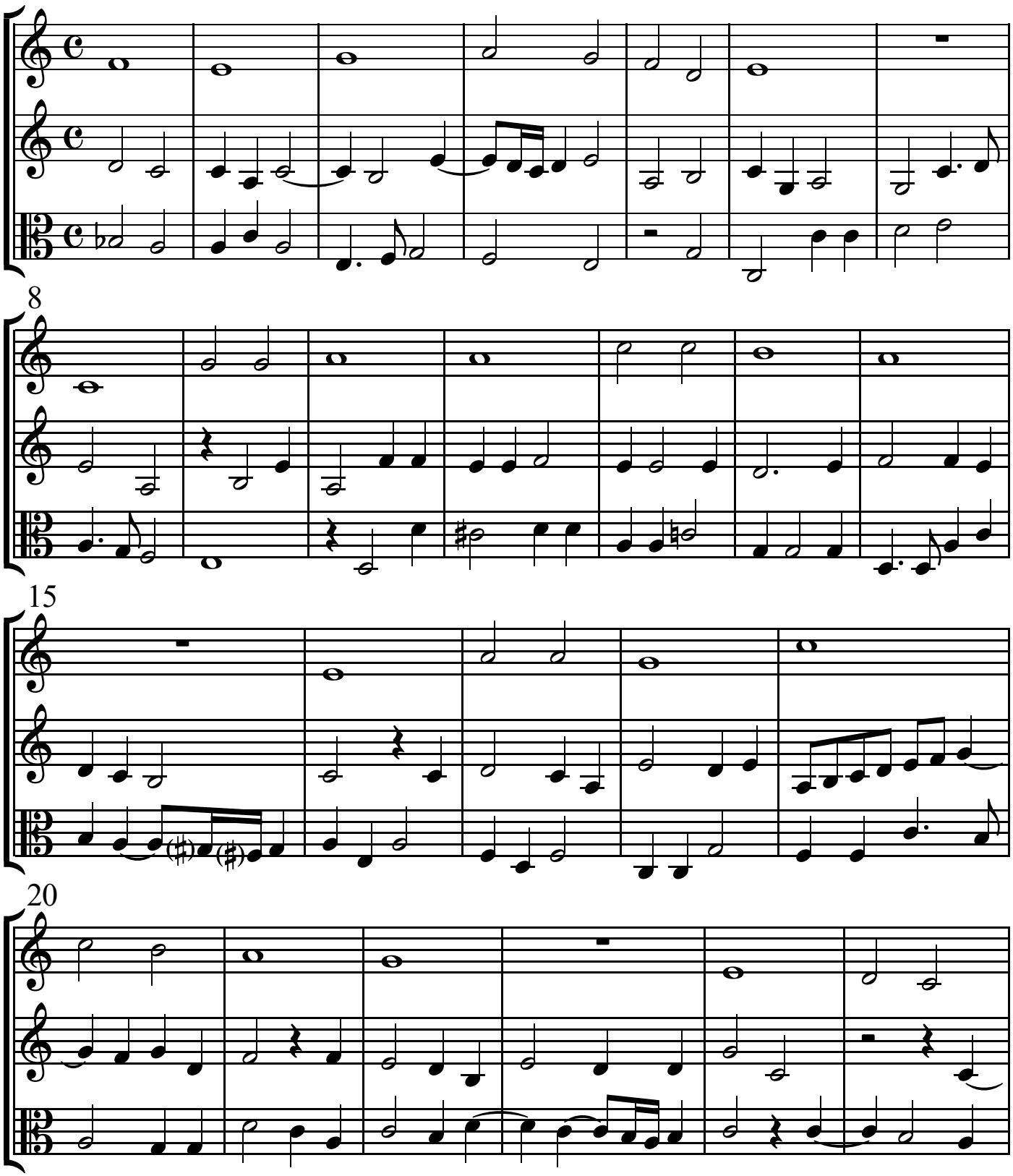
LXX. O Dieu ou mon espoir



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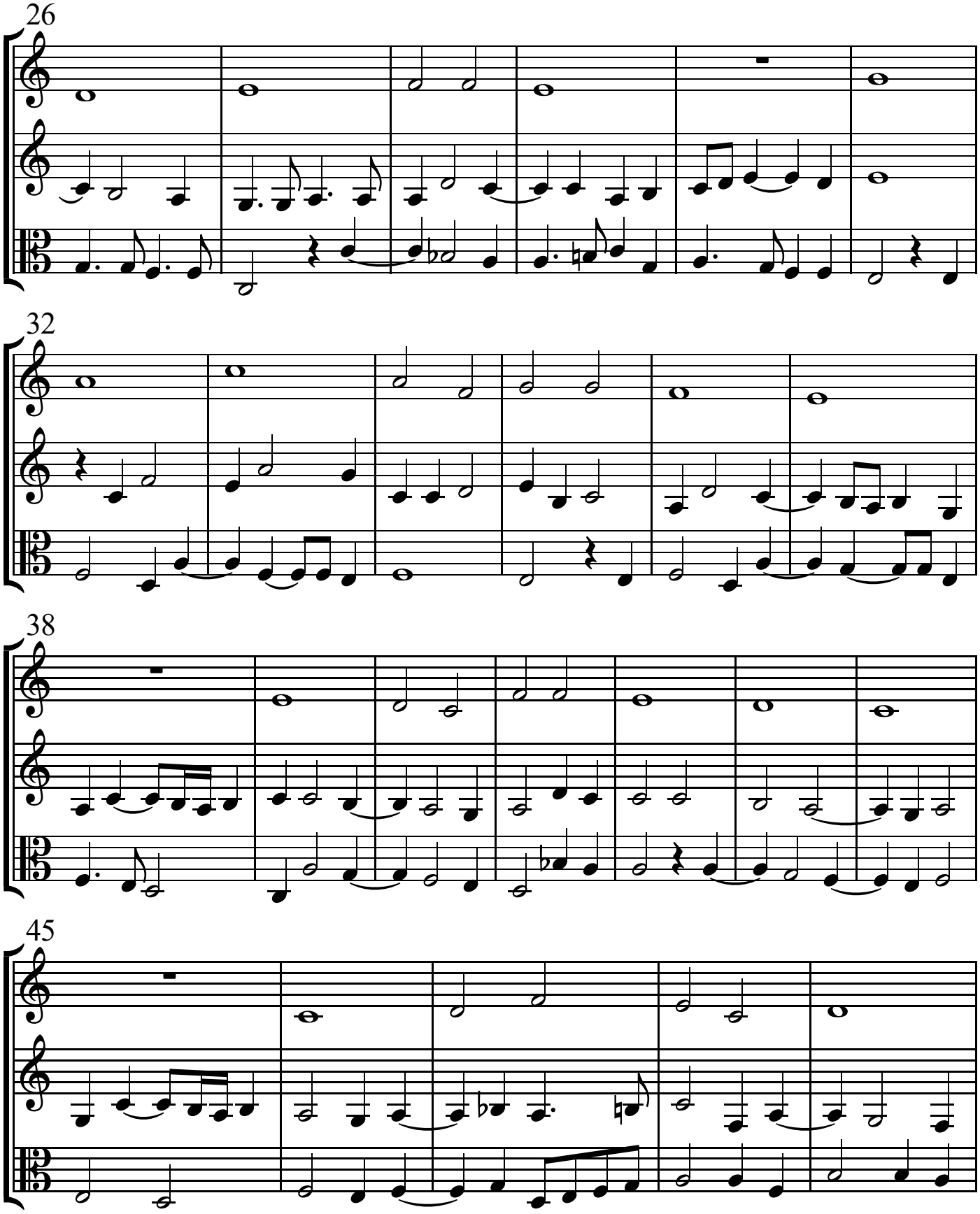

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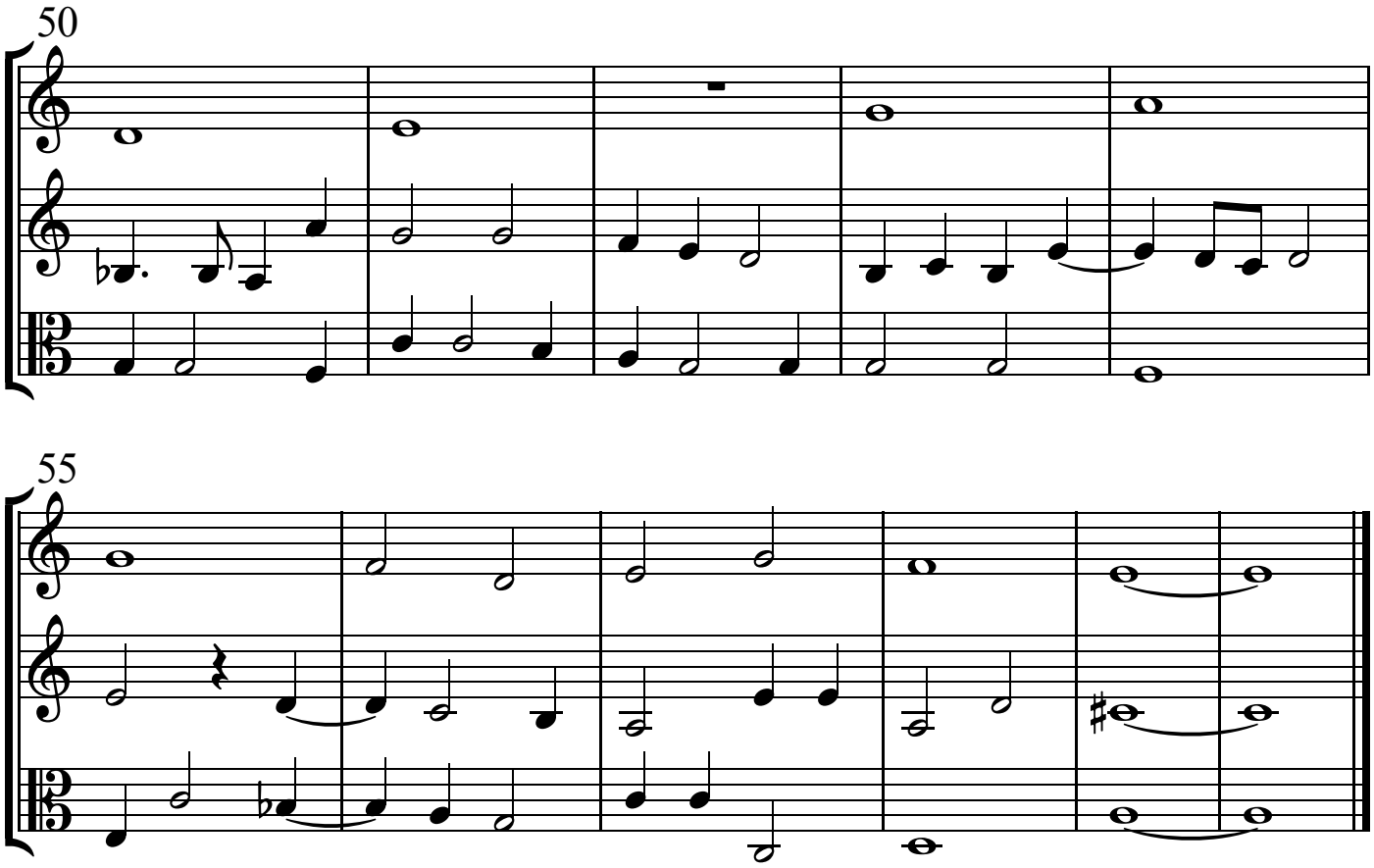

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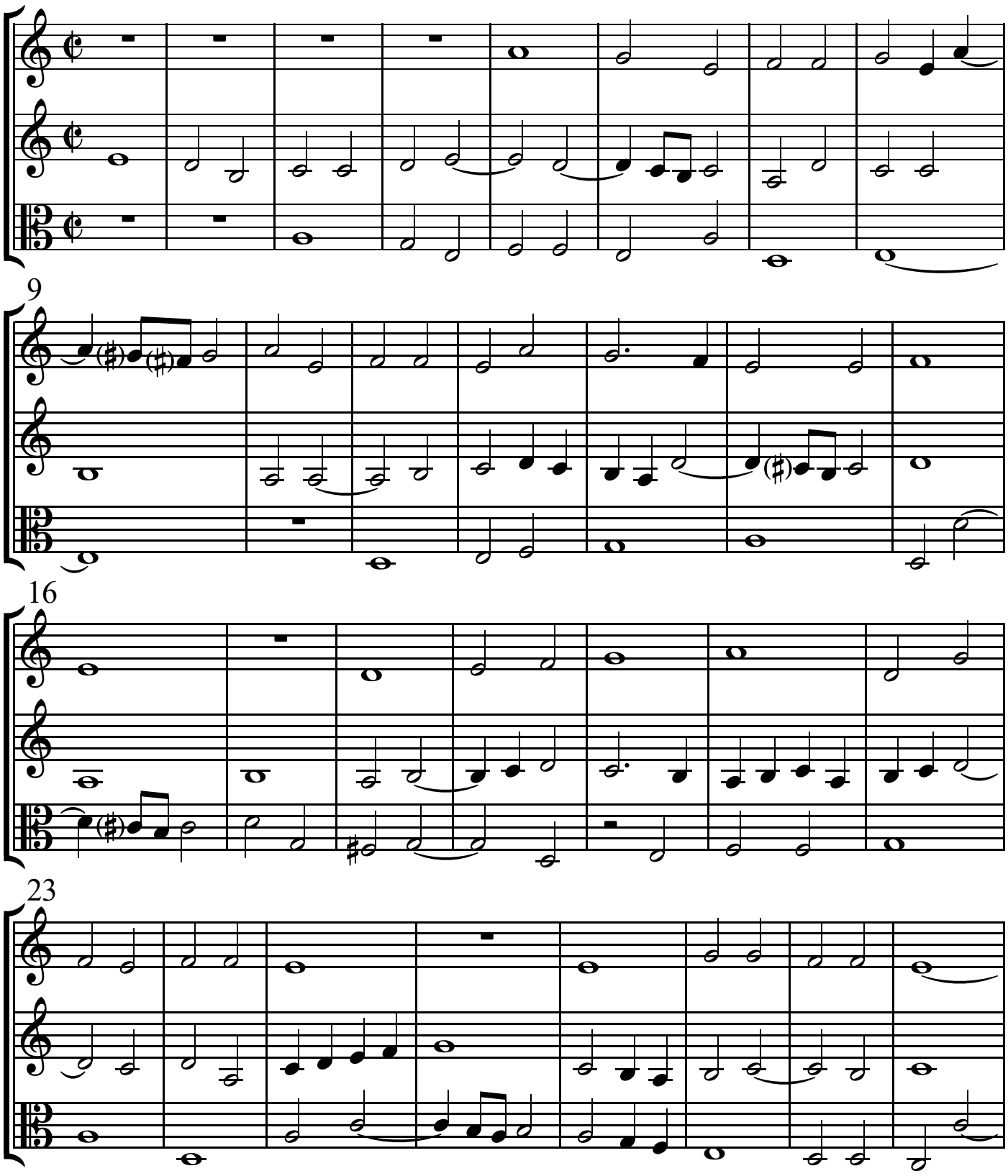
LXXI. I’ay mis en toy



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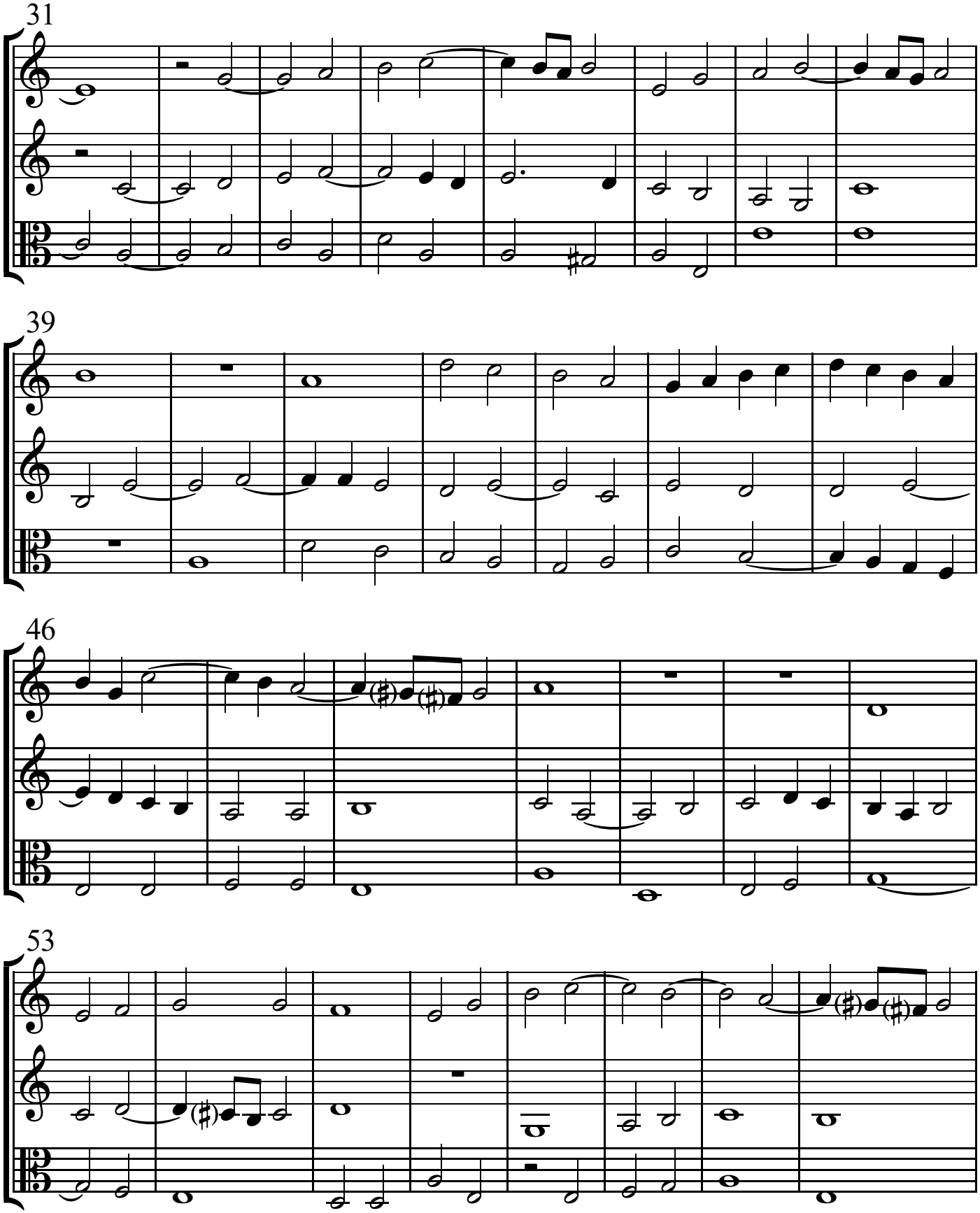

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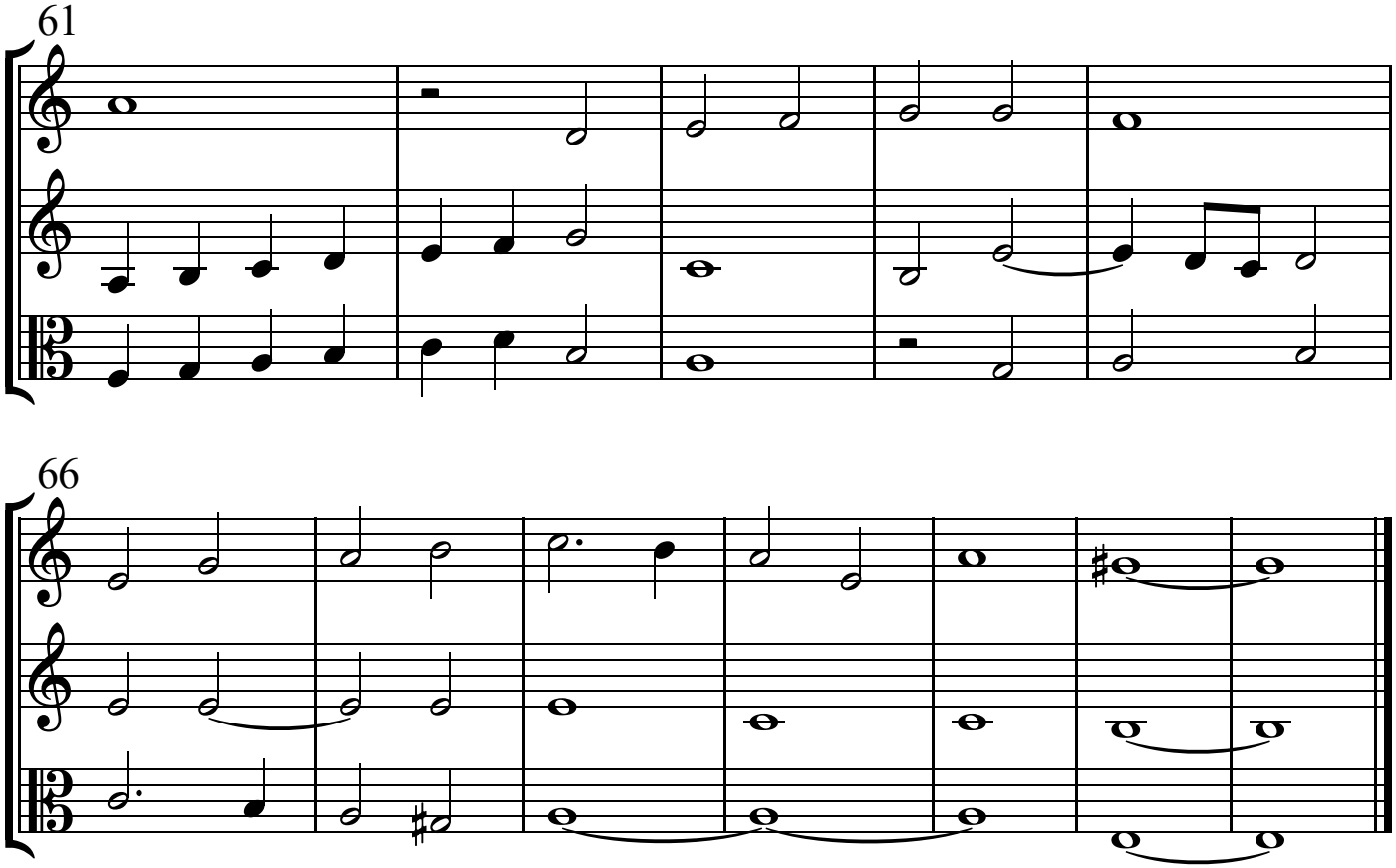

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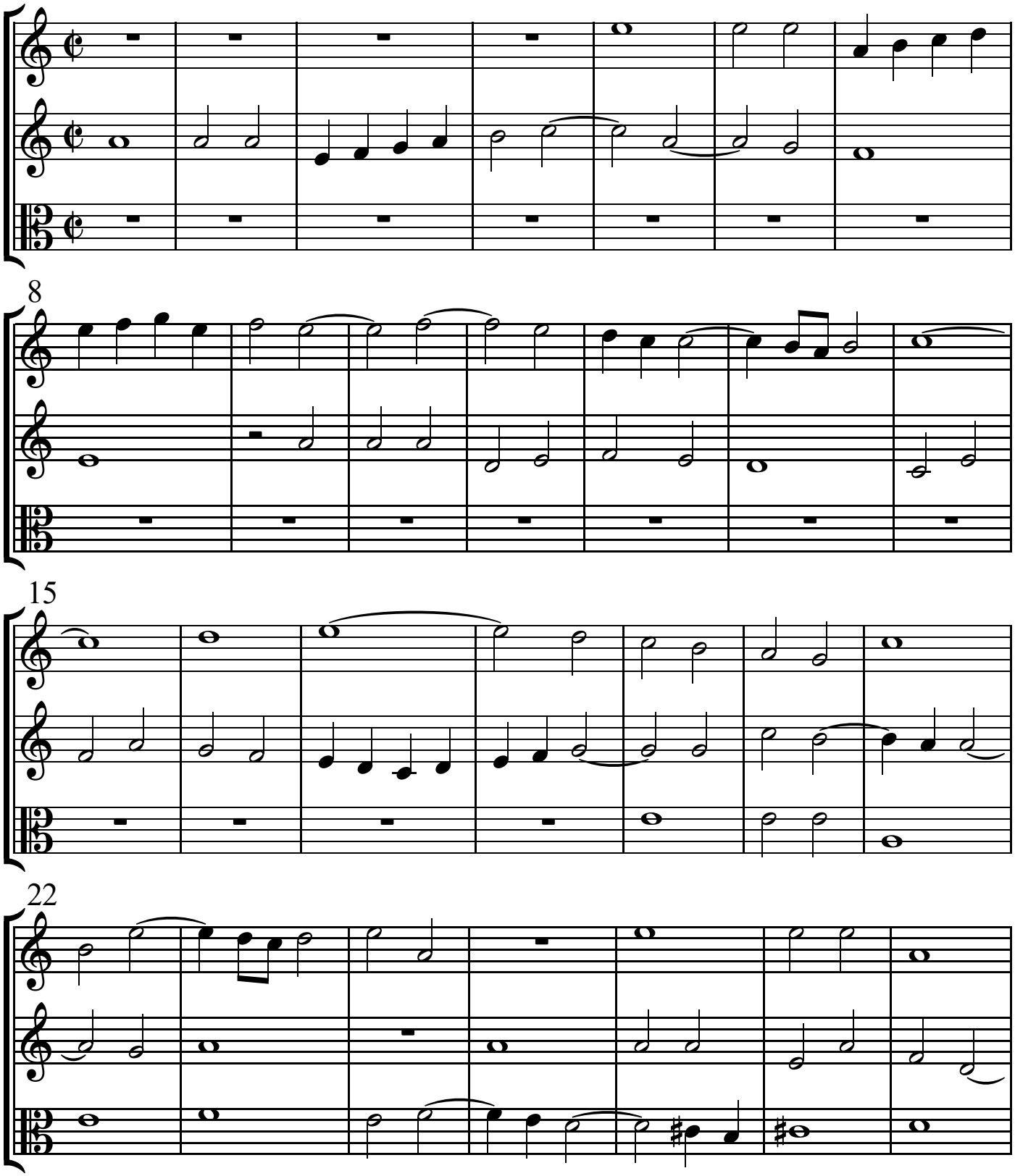
LXXII. Tes jugemens



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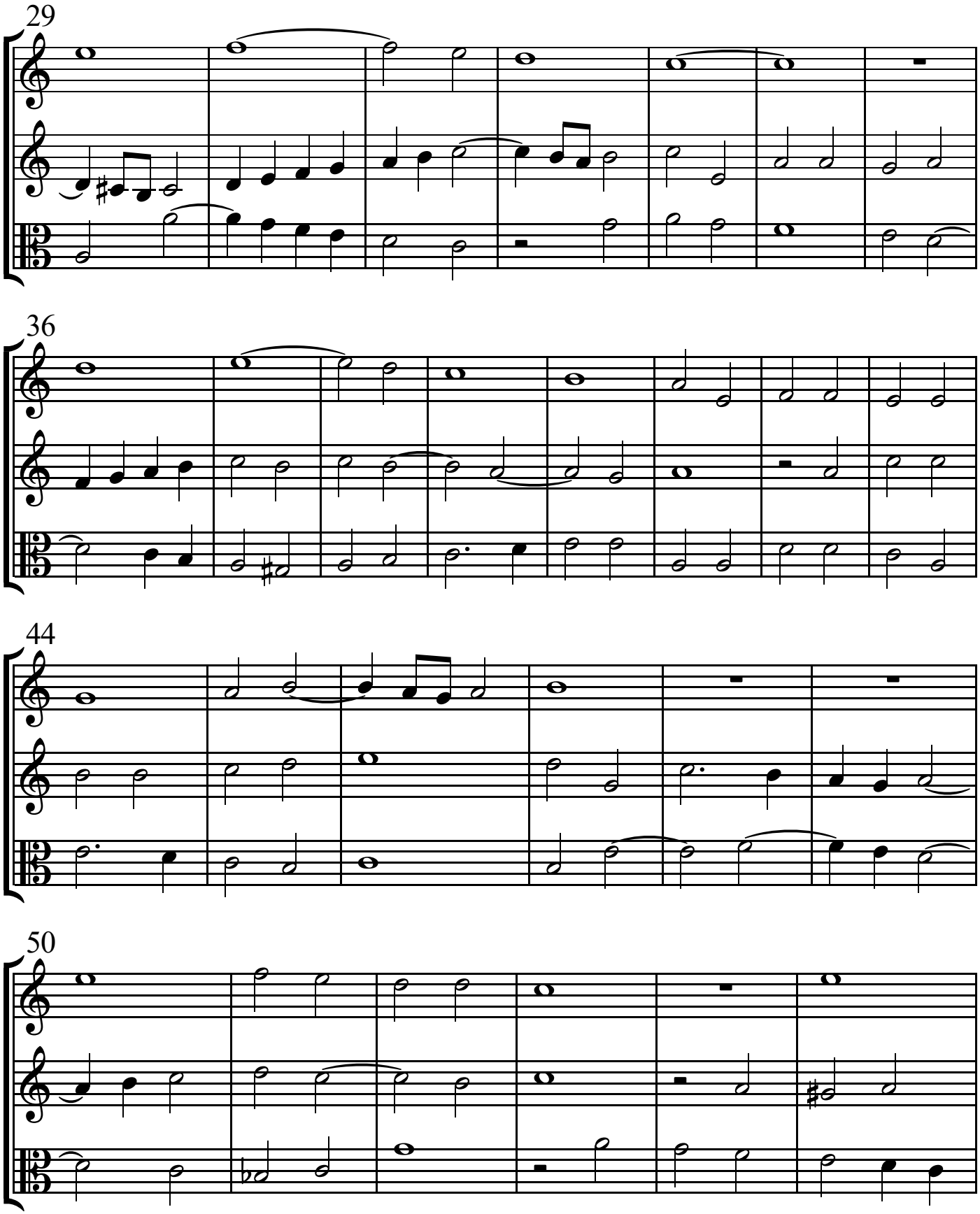

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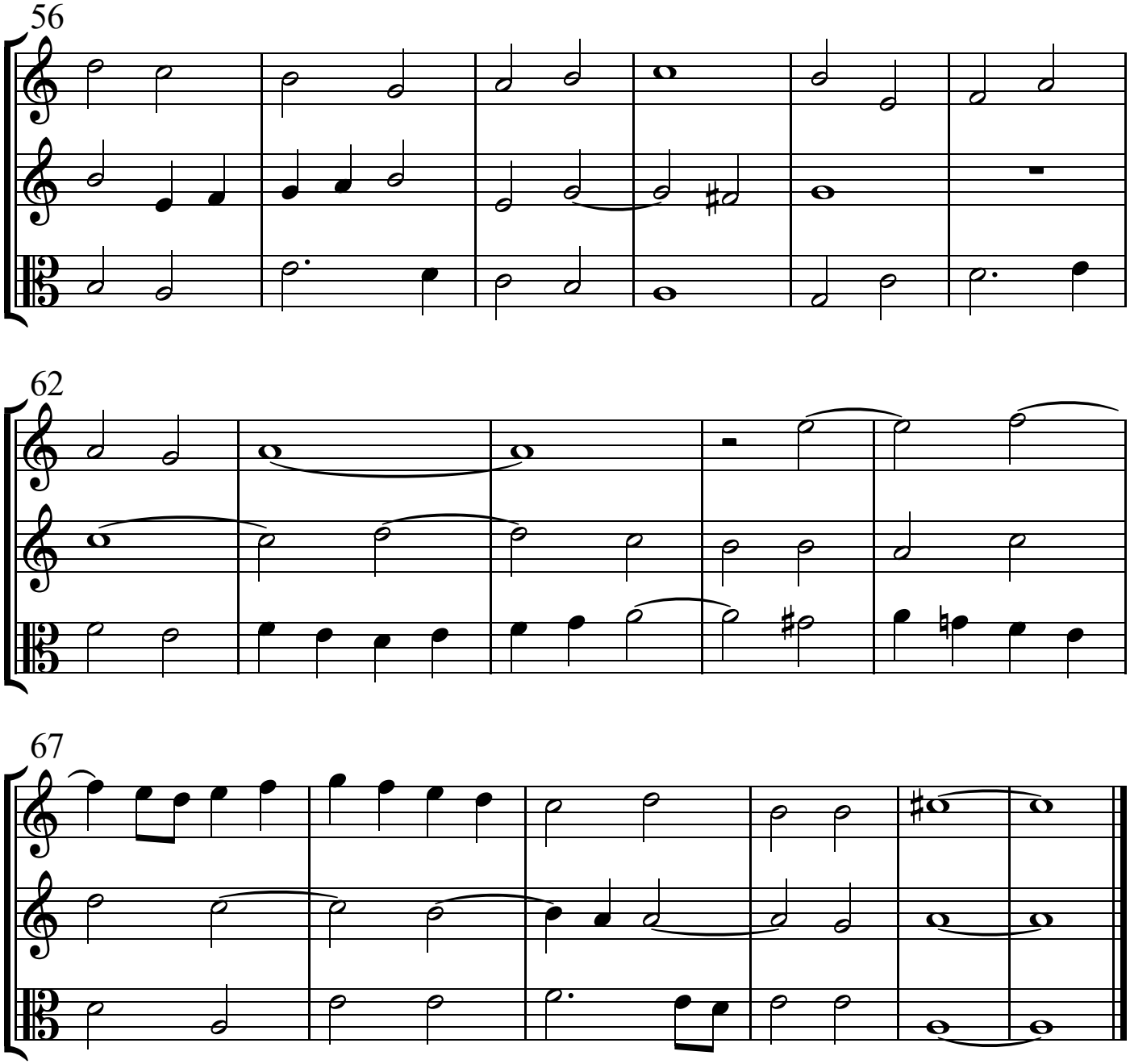

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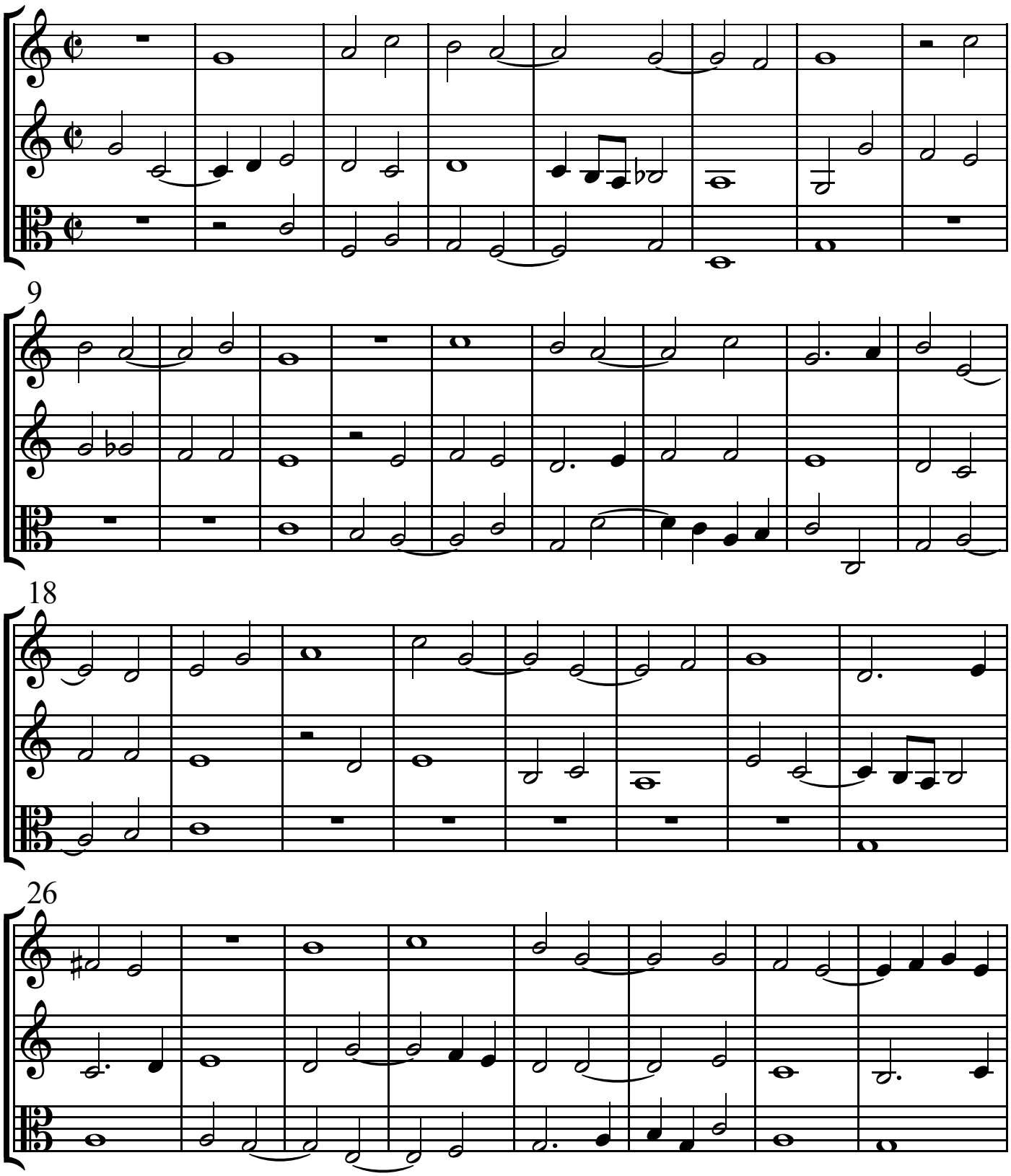
LXXIII. Si est-ce que Dieu



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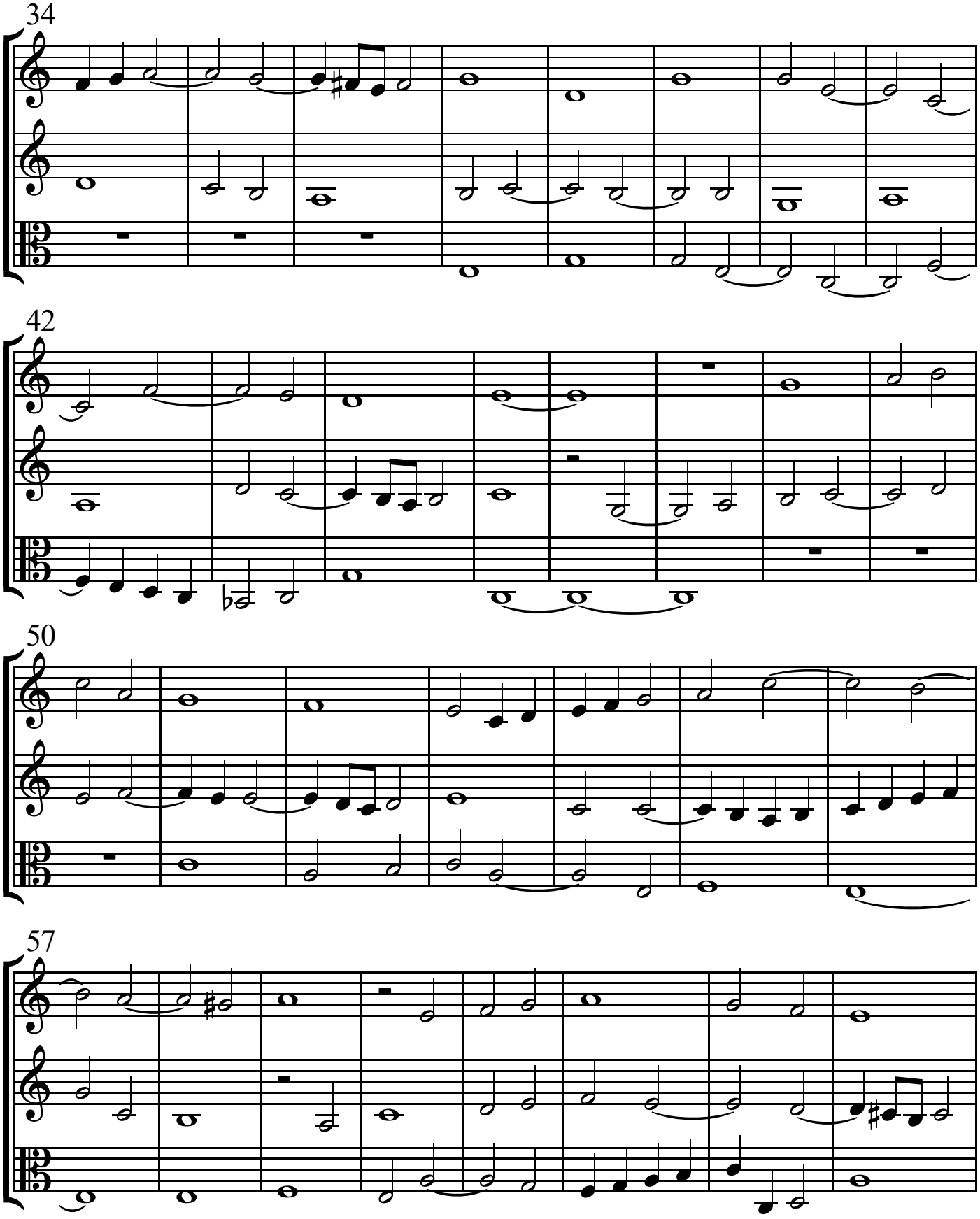

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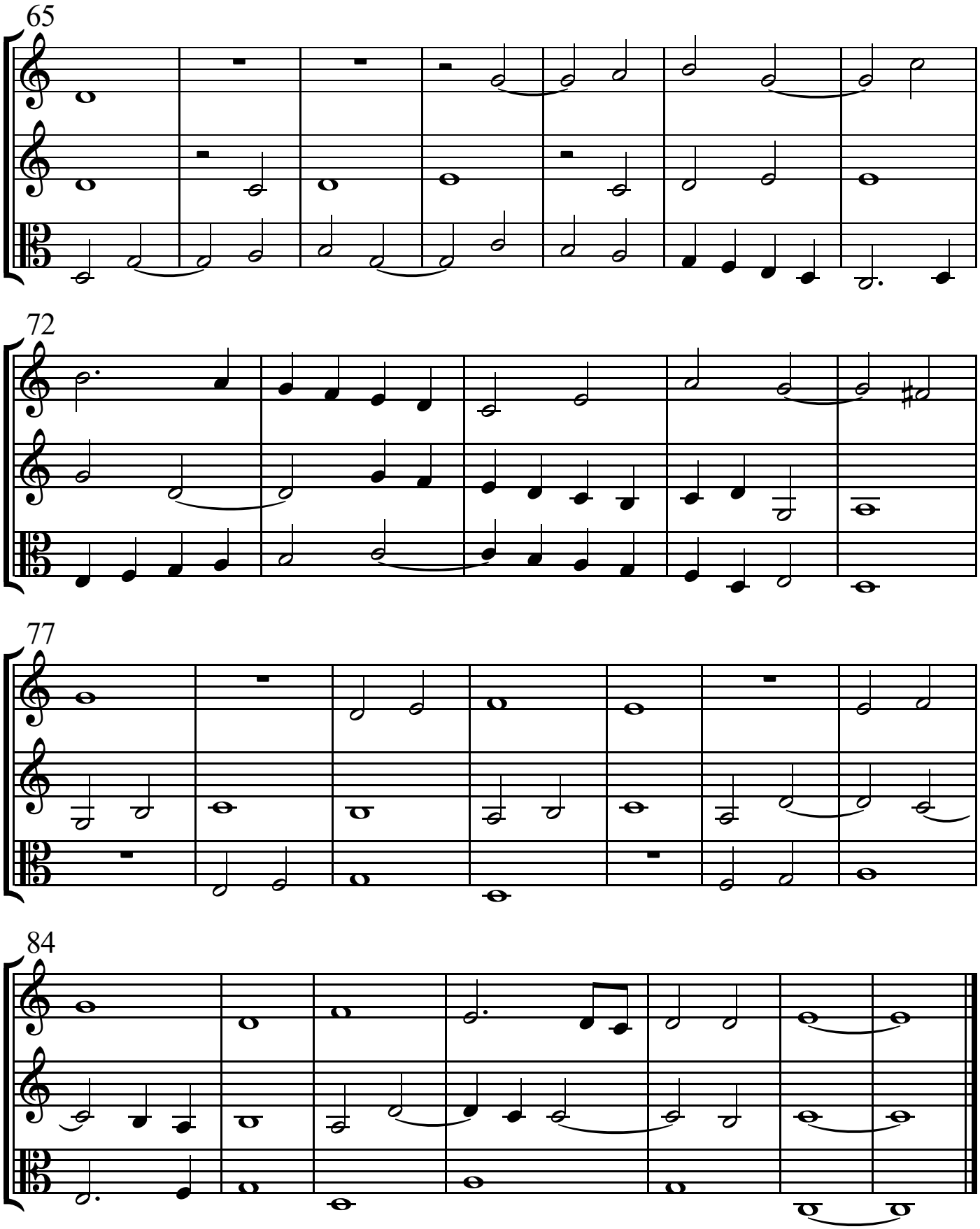

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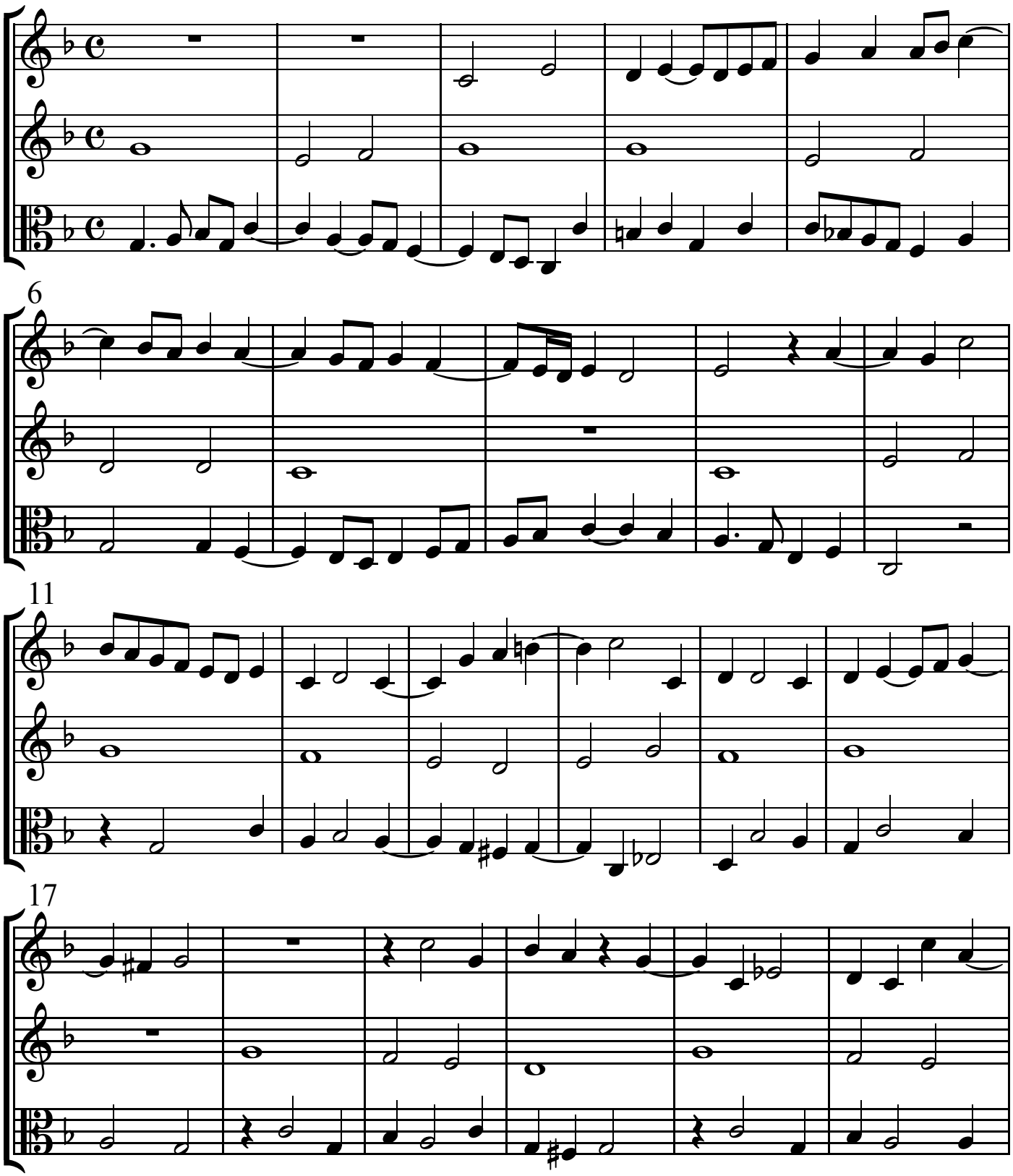
LXXIIII. D'ou vient Seigneur



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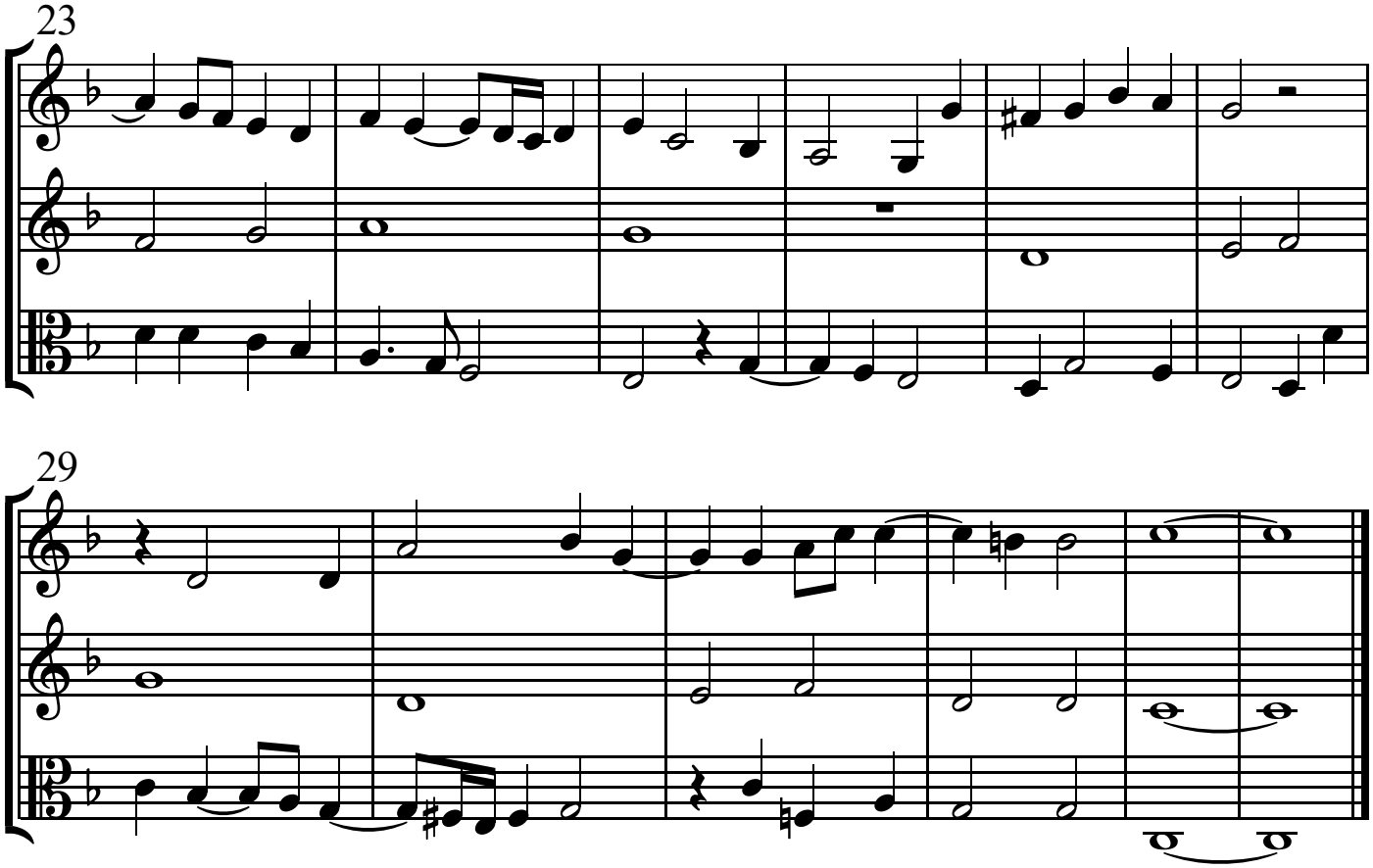

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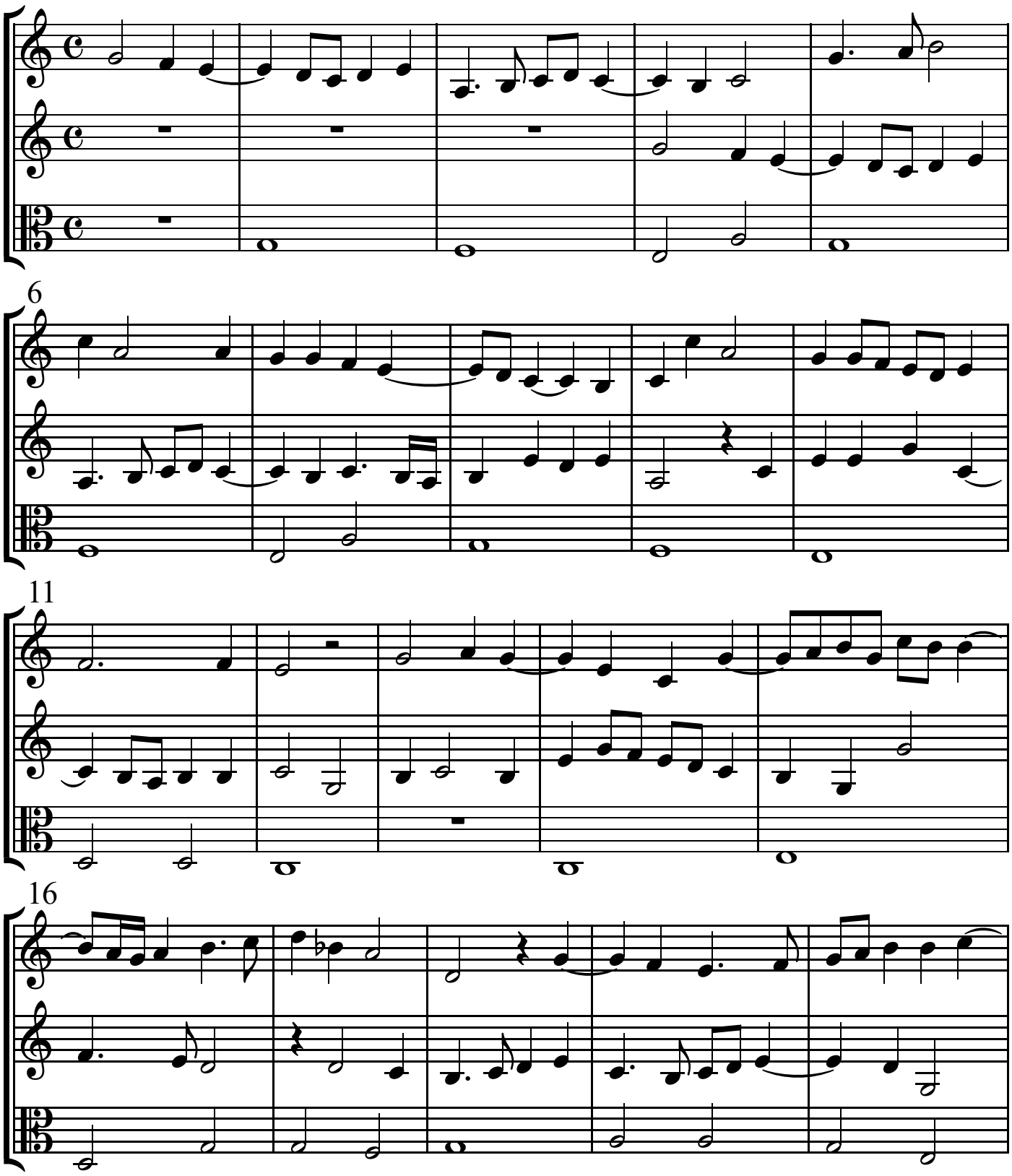
LXXV. O Seigneur loüé sera



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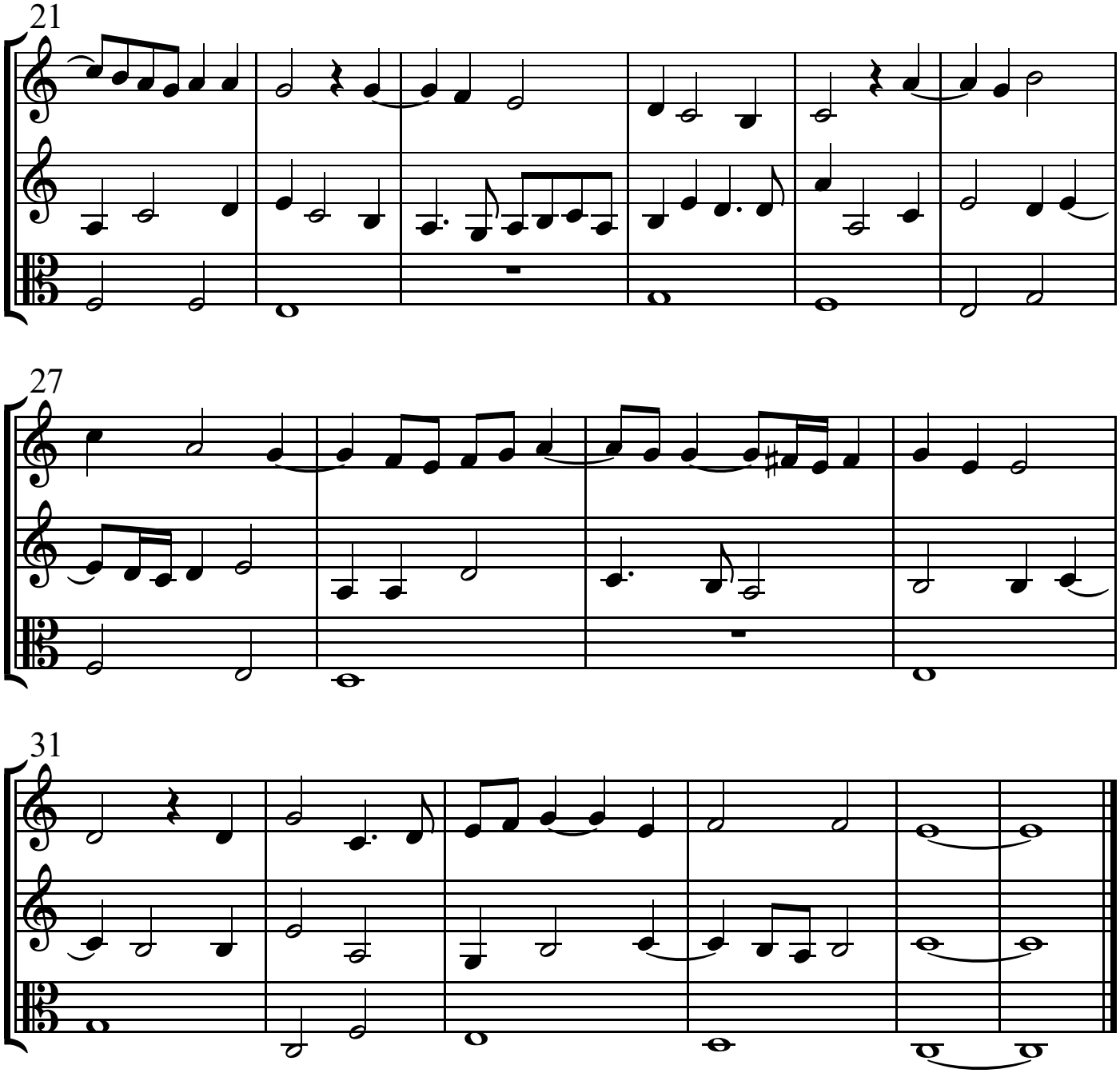

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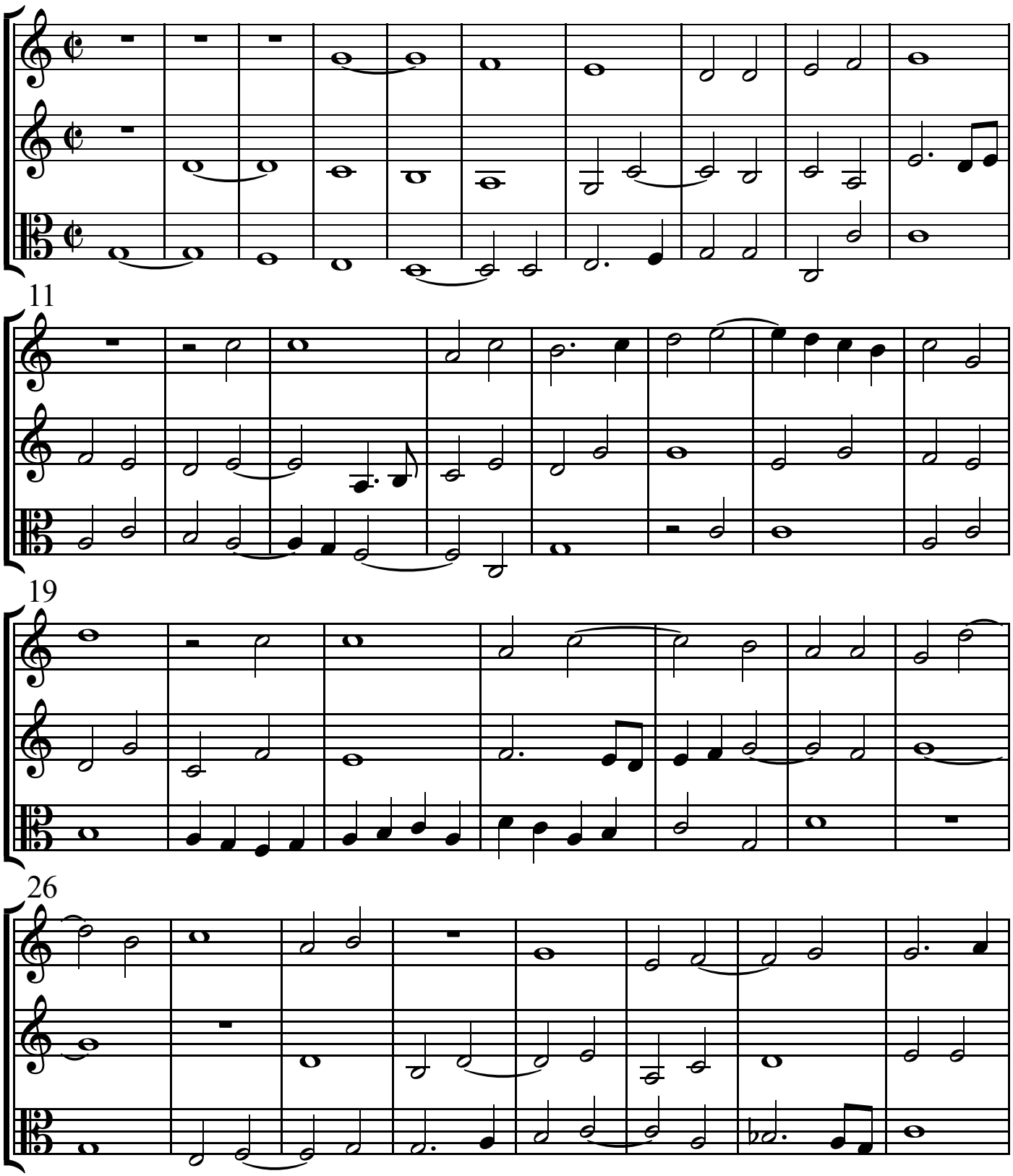
LXXVI. C'est en Iudée



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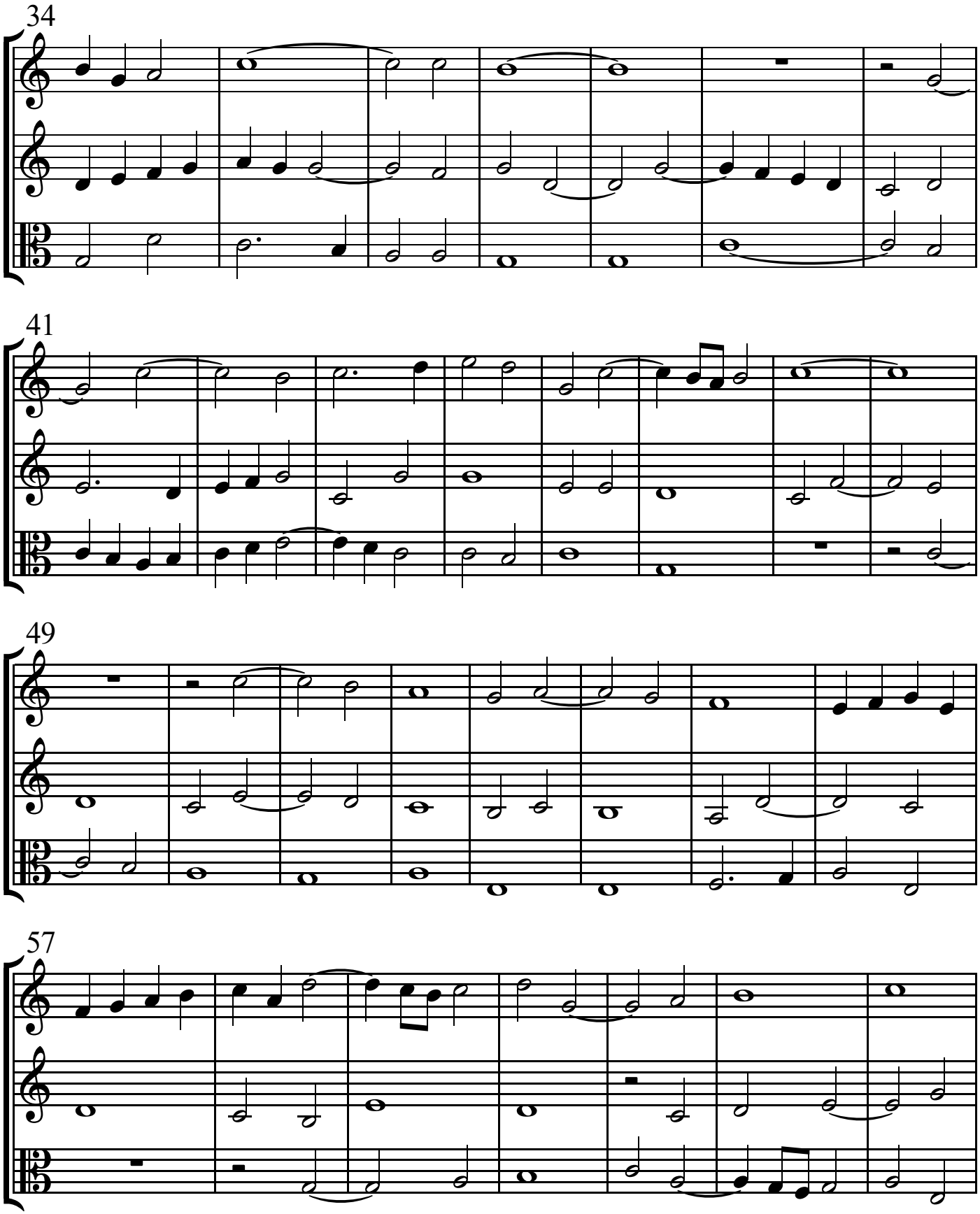

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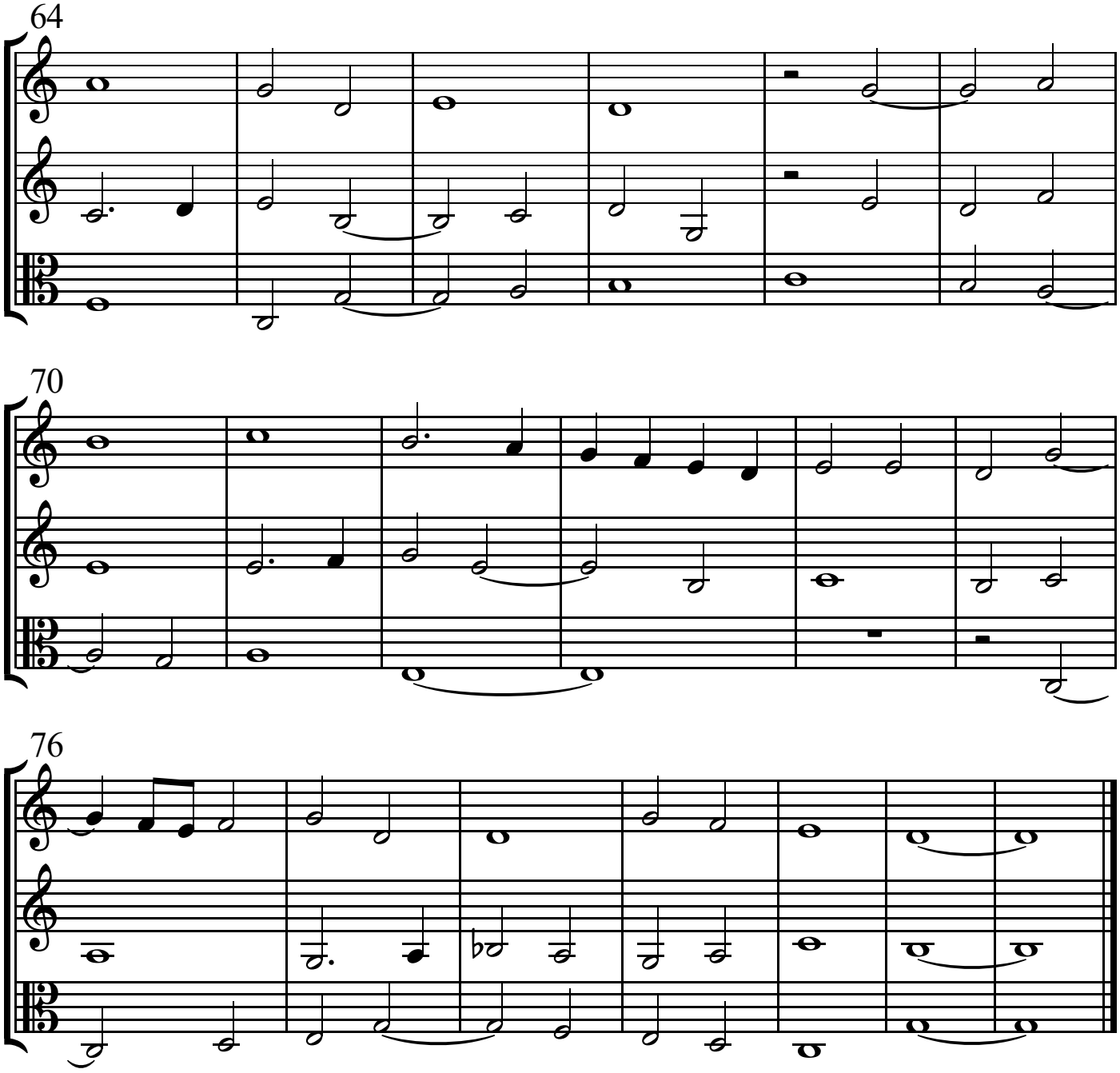

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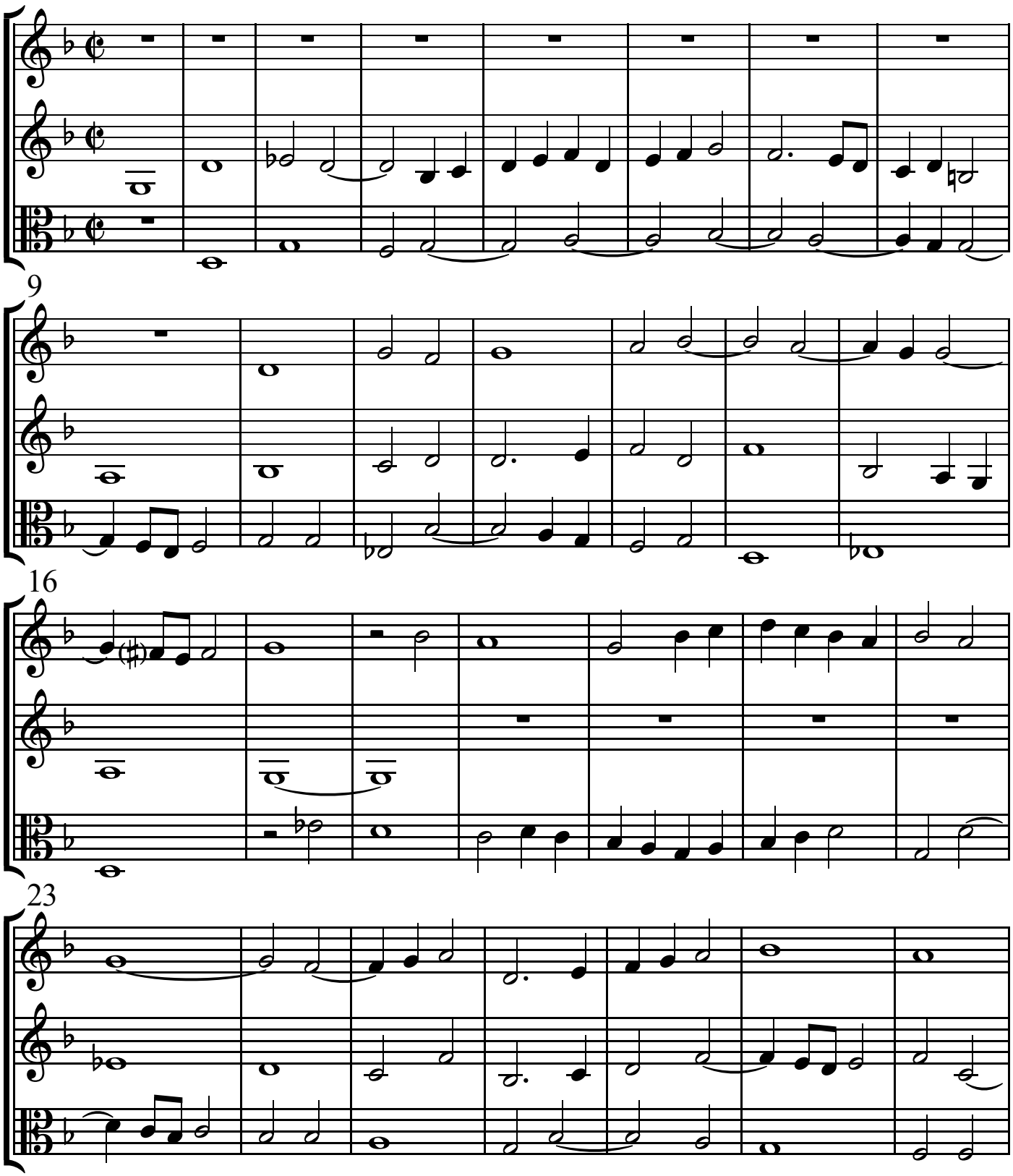
LXXVII. A Dieu ma voix



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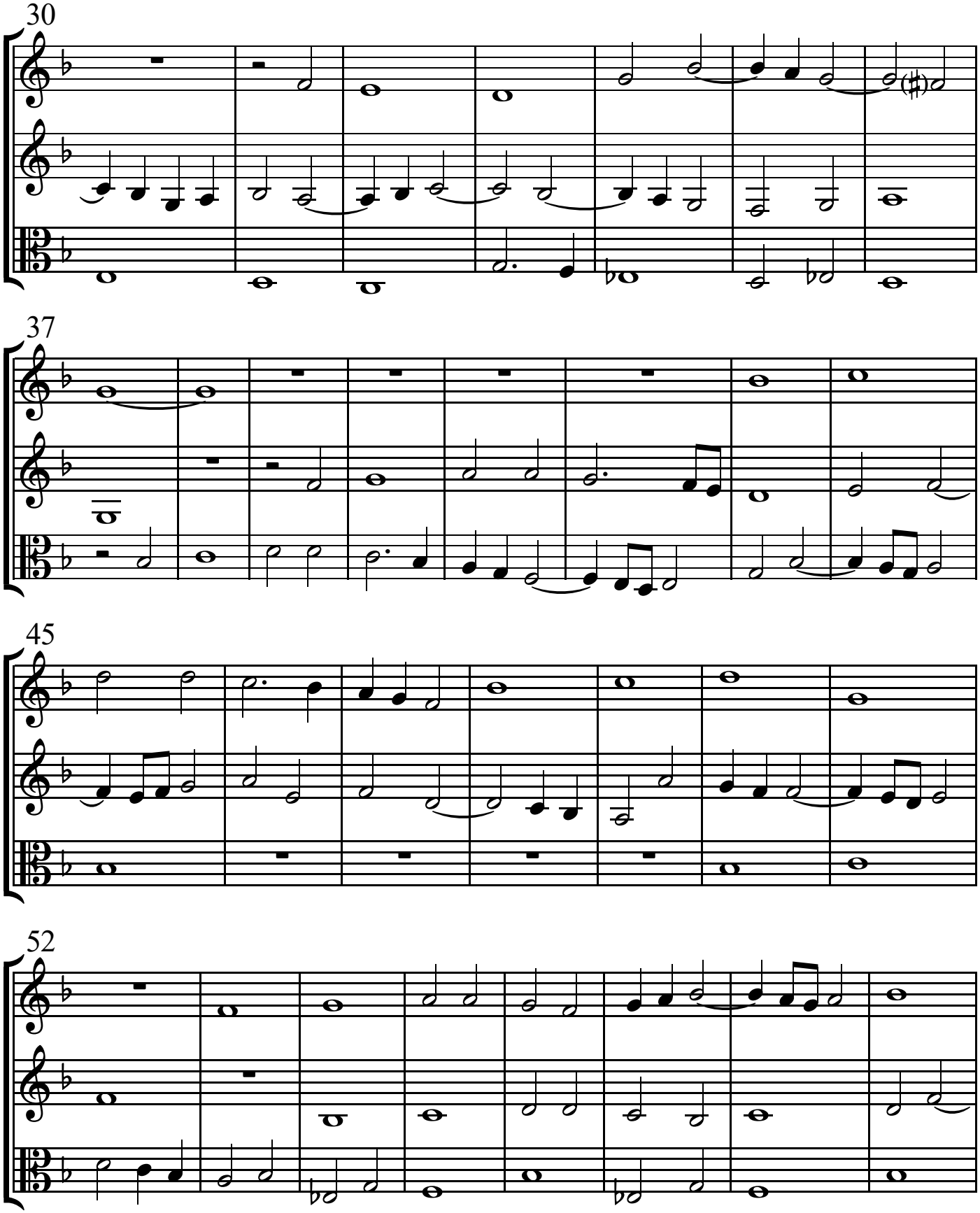

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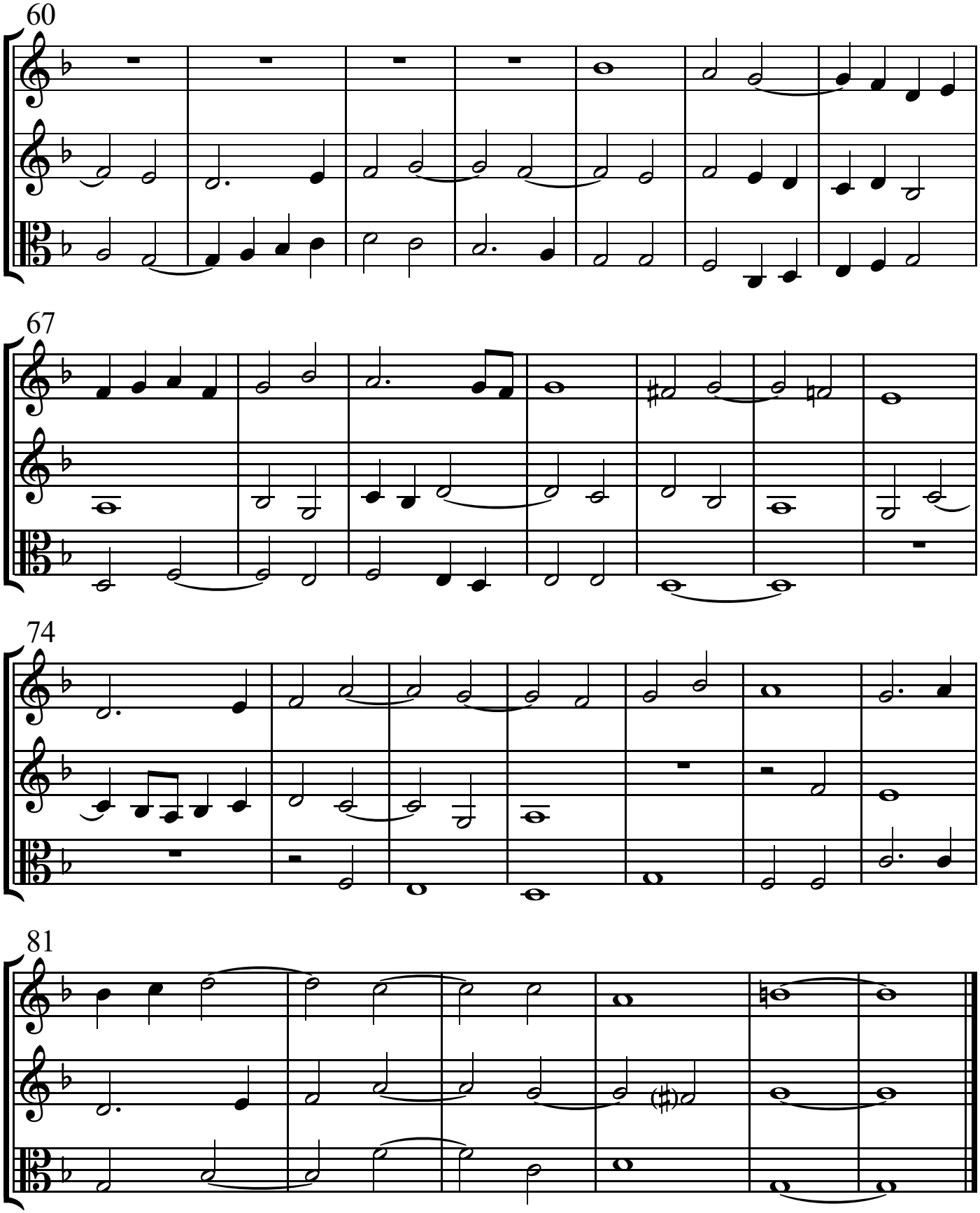

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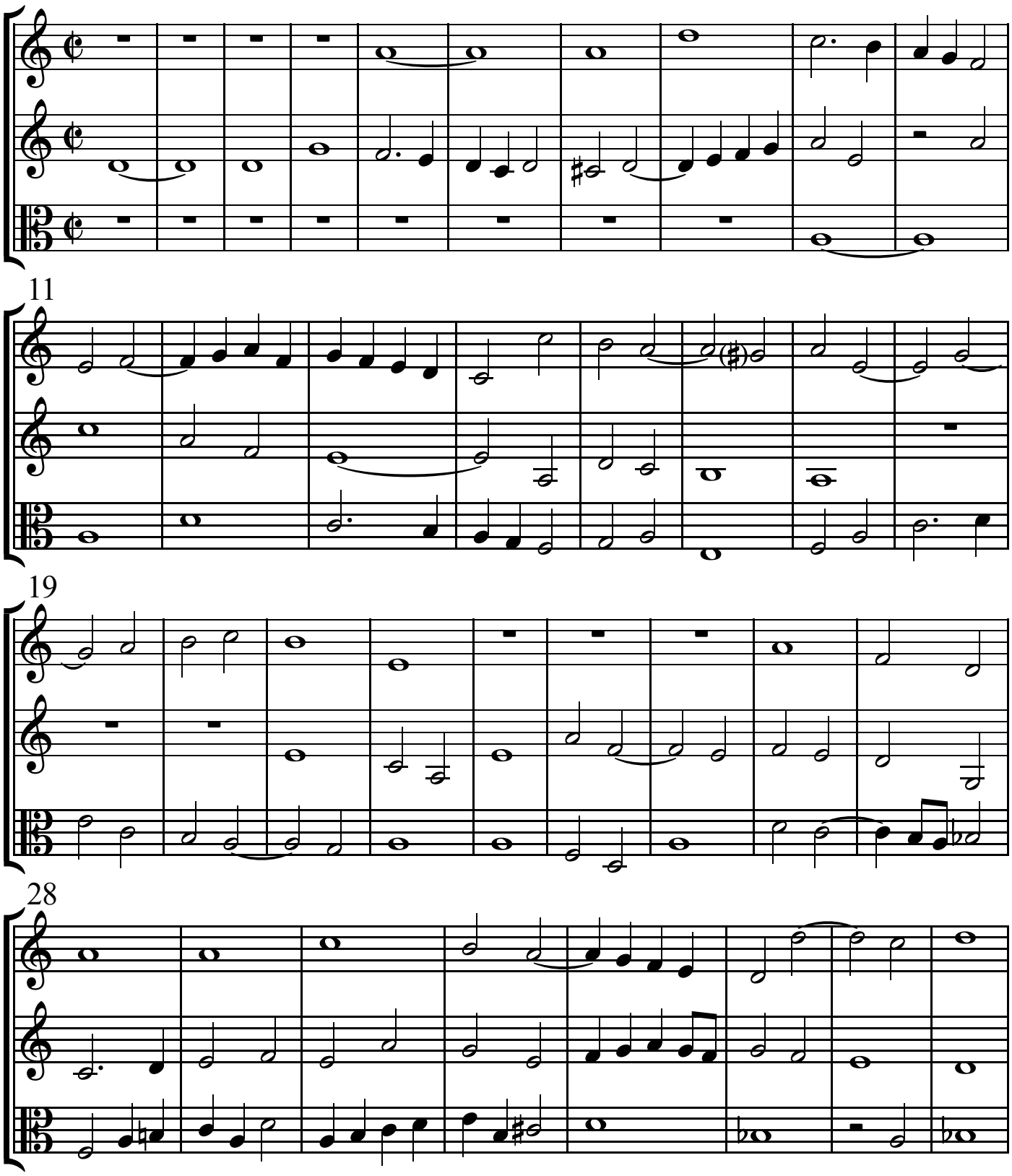
LXXVIII. Sois ententif



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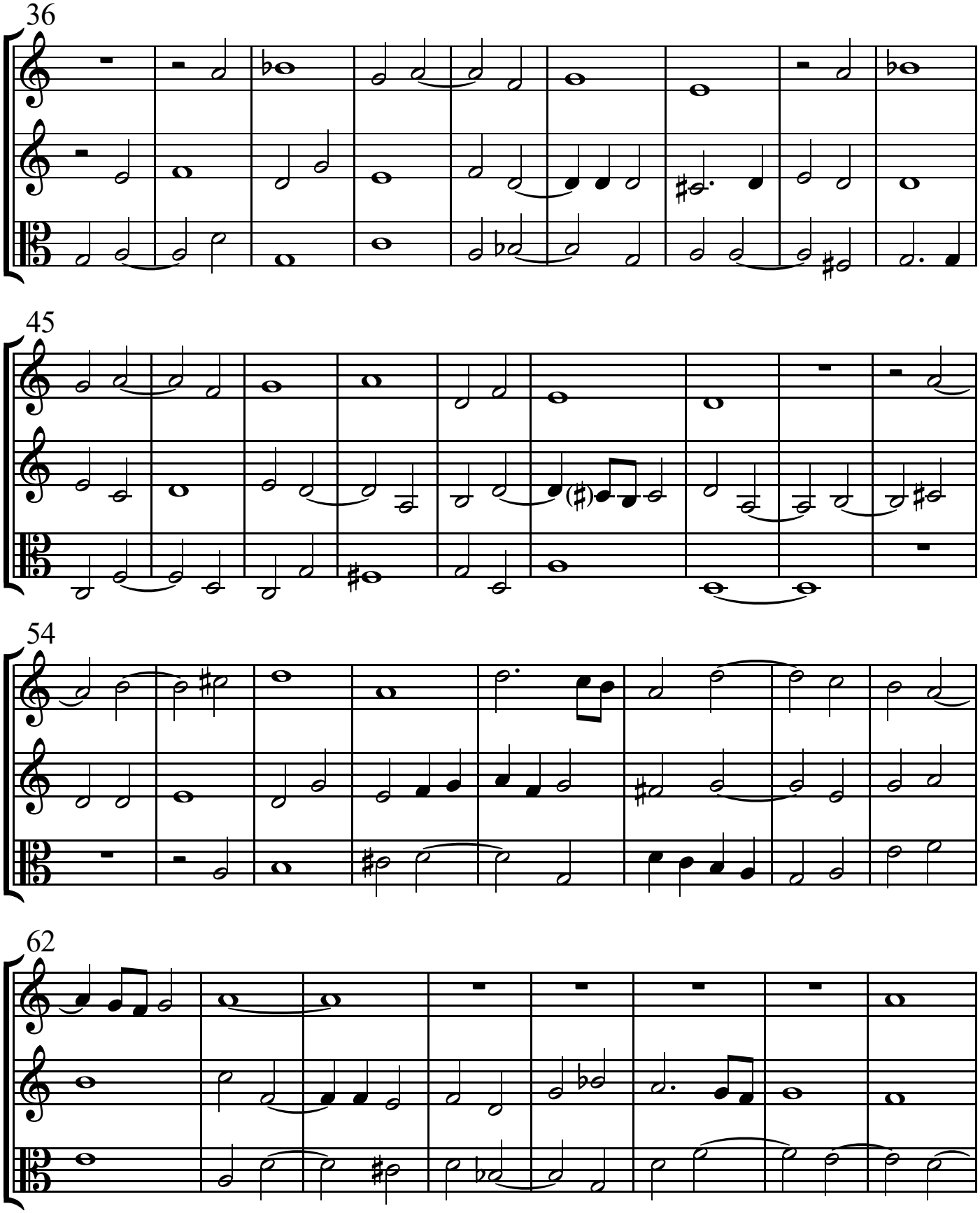

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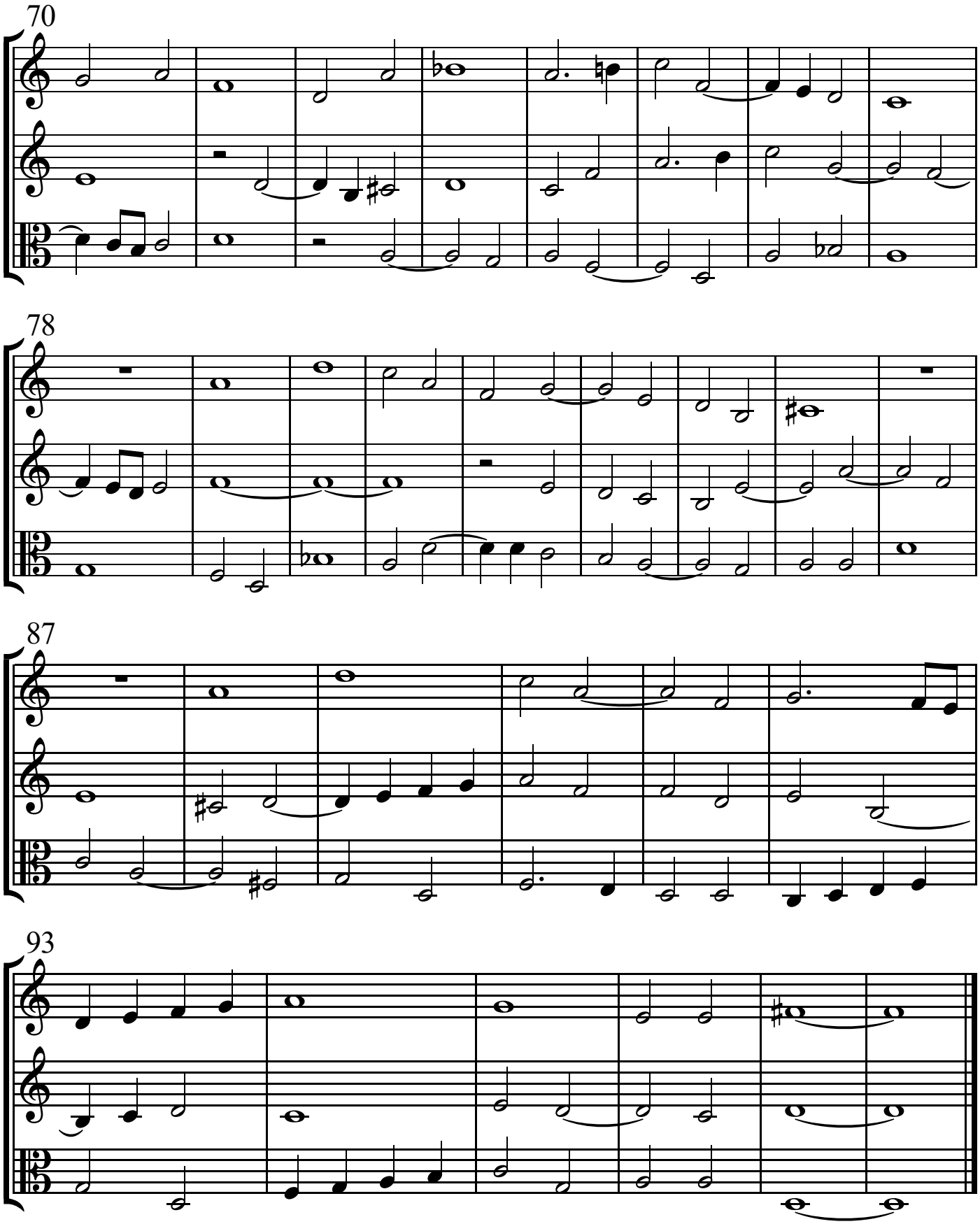

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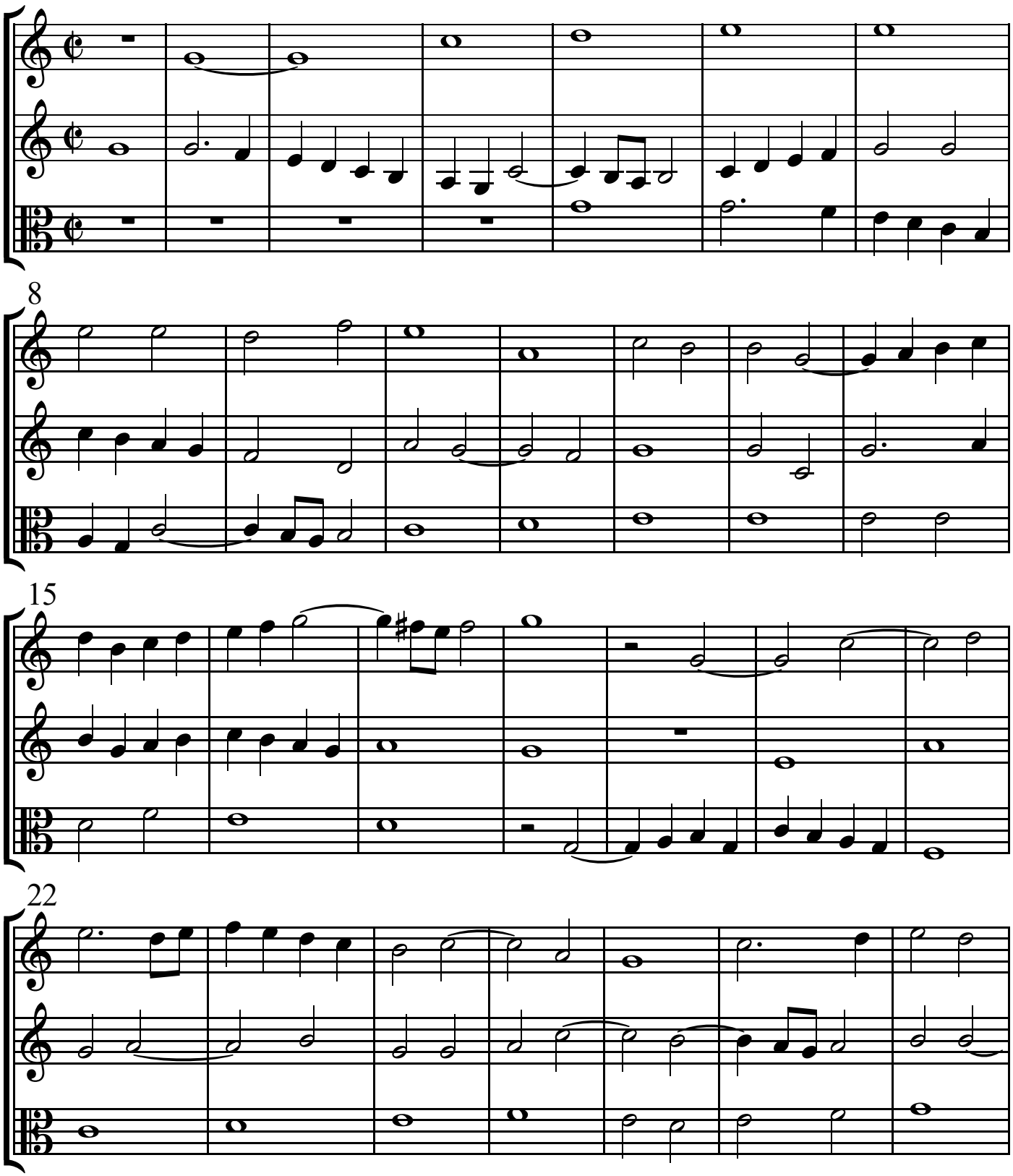
LXXIX. Les gens entrés sont



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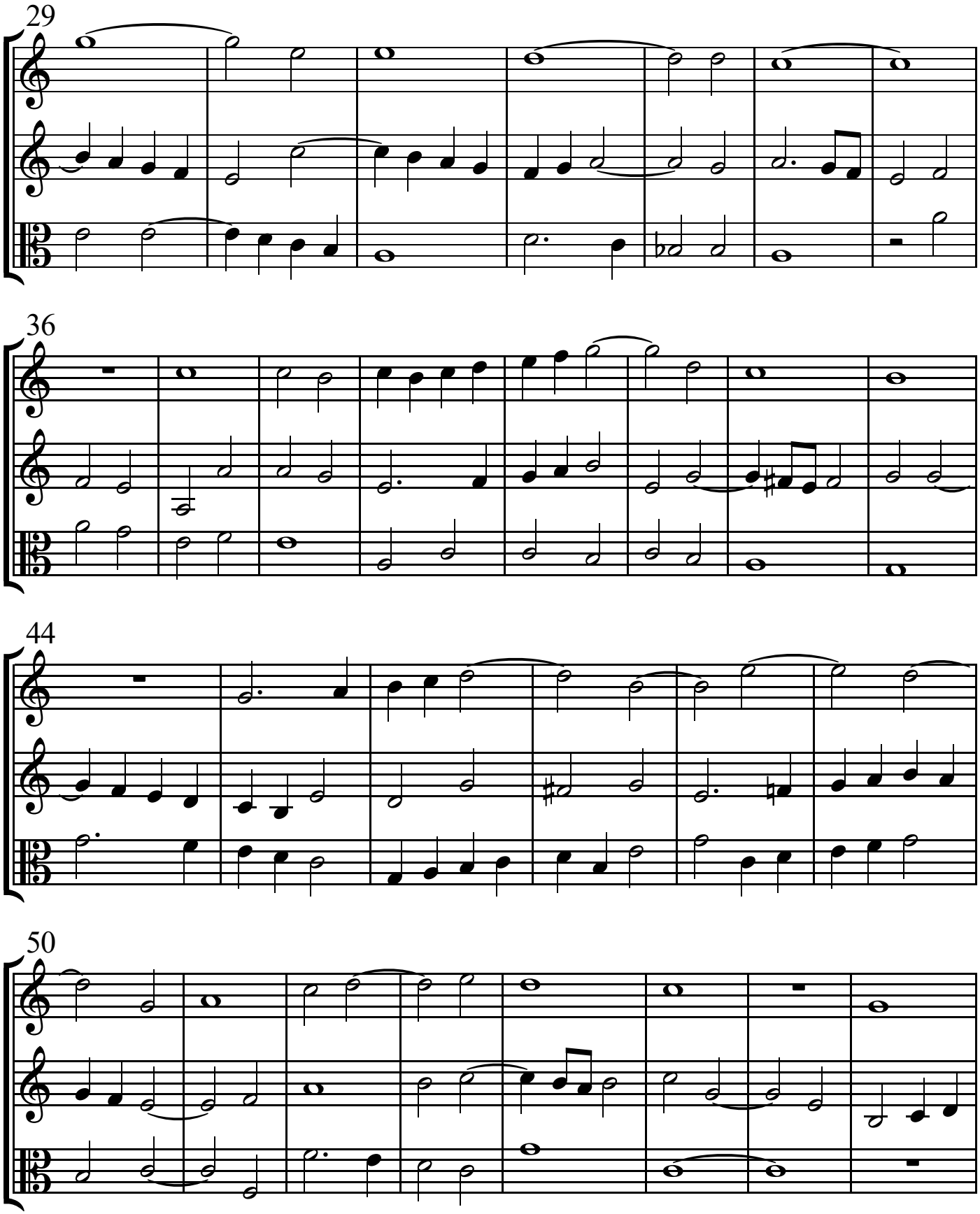

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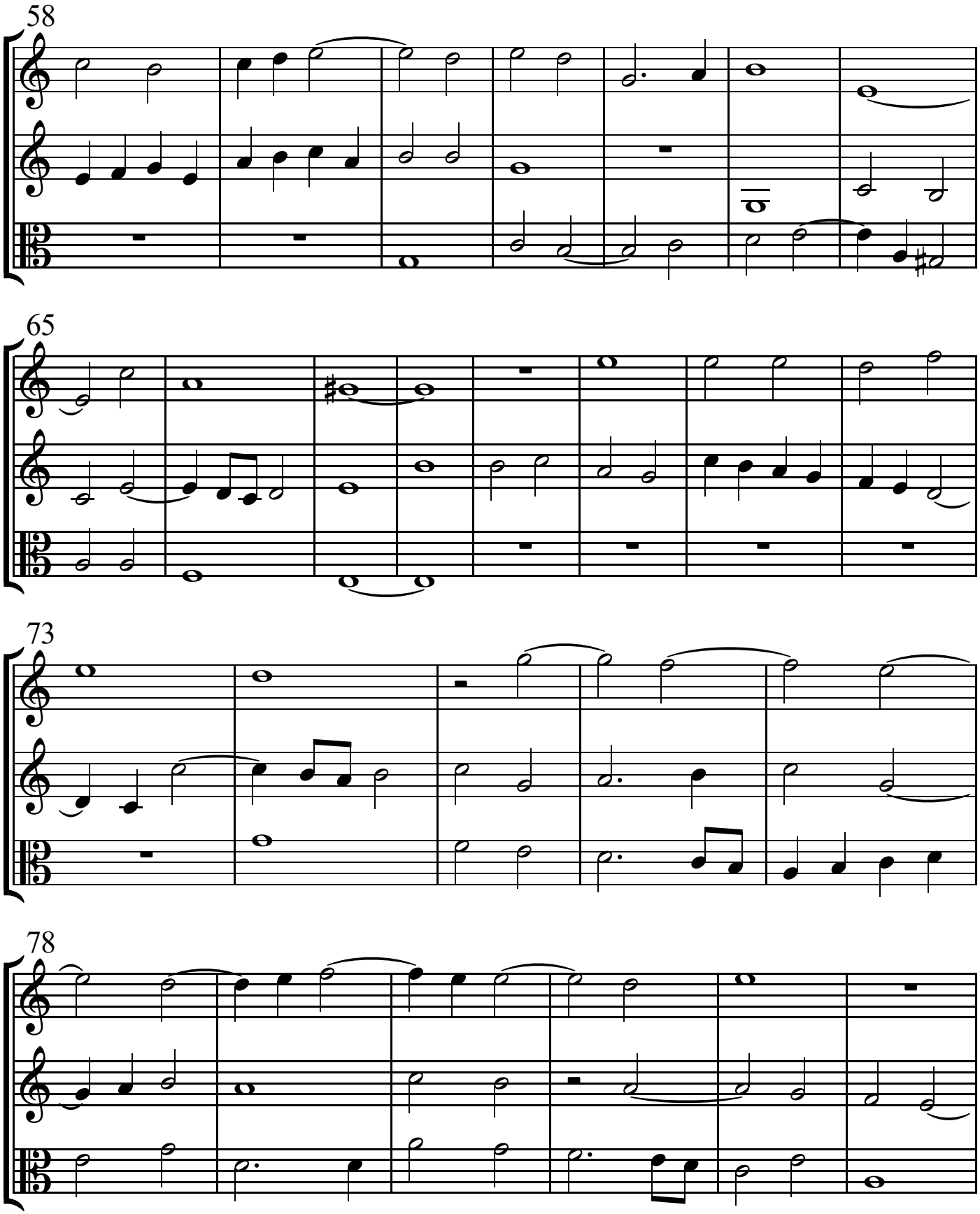

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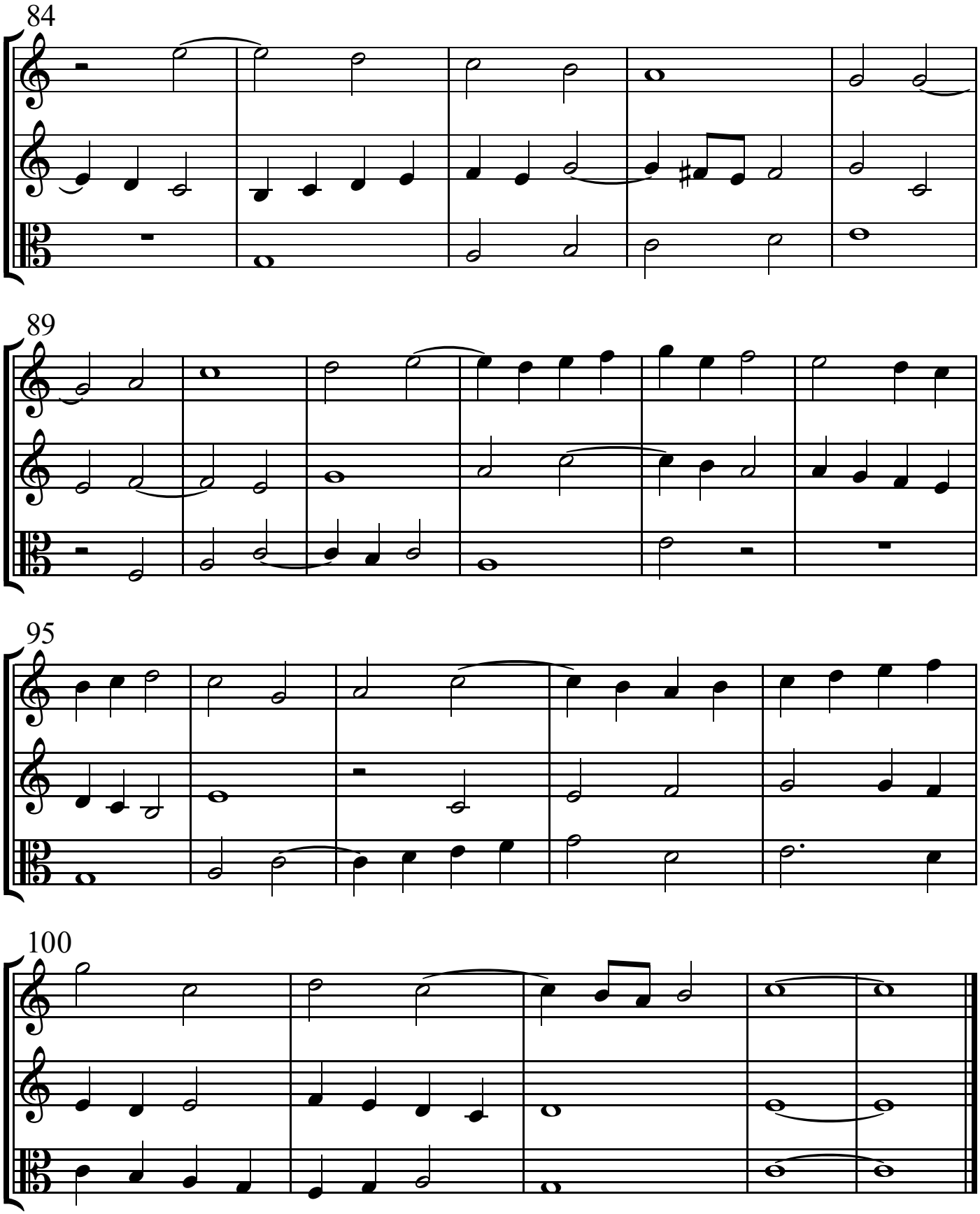

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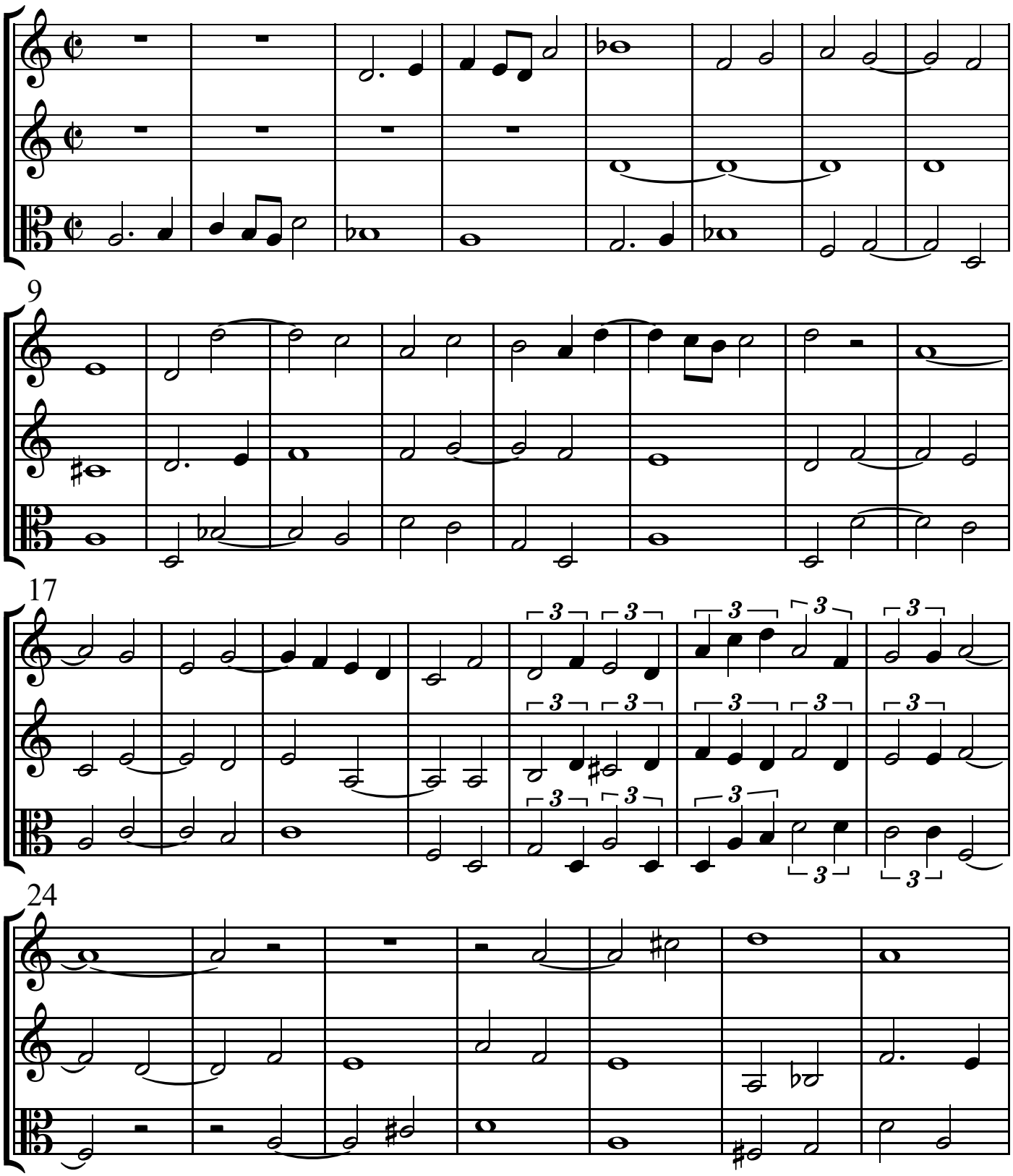
LXXX. O pasteur d'Israël



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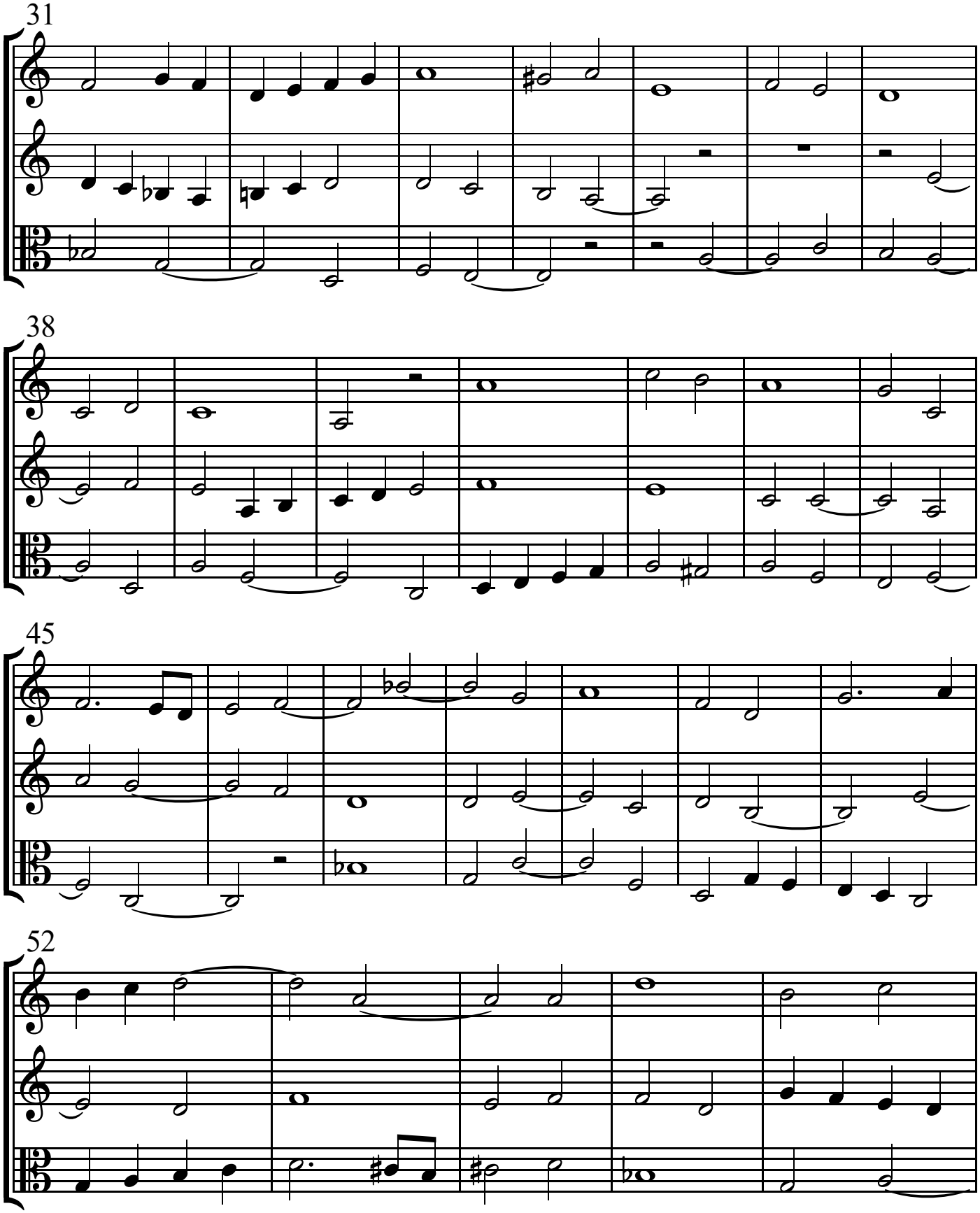

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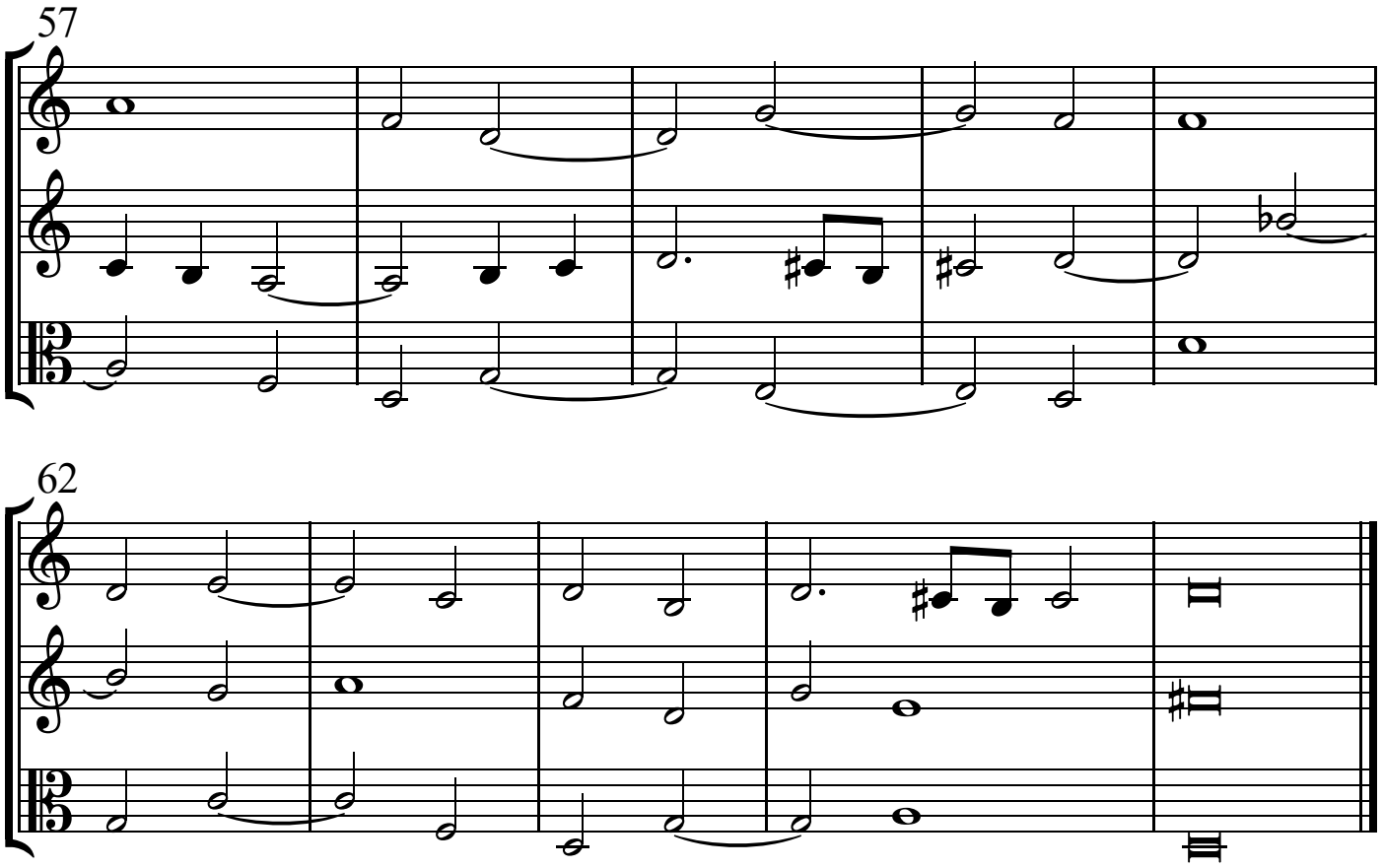

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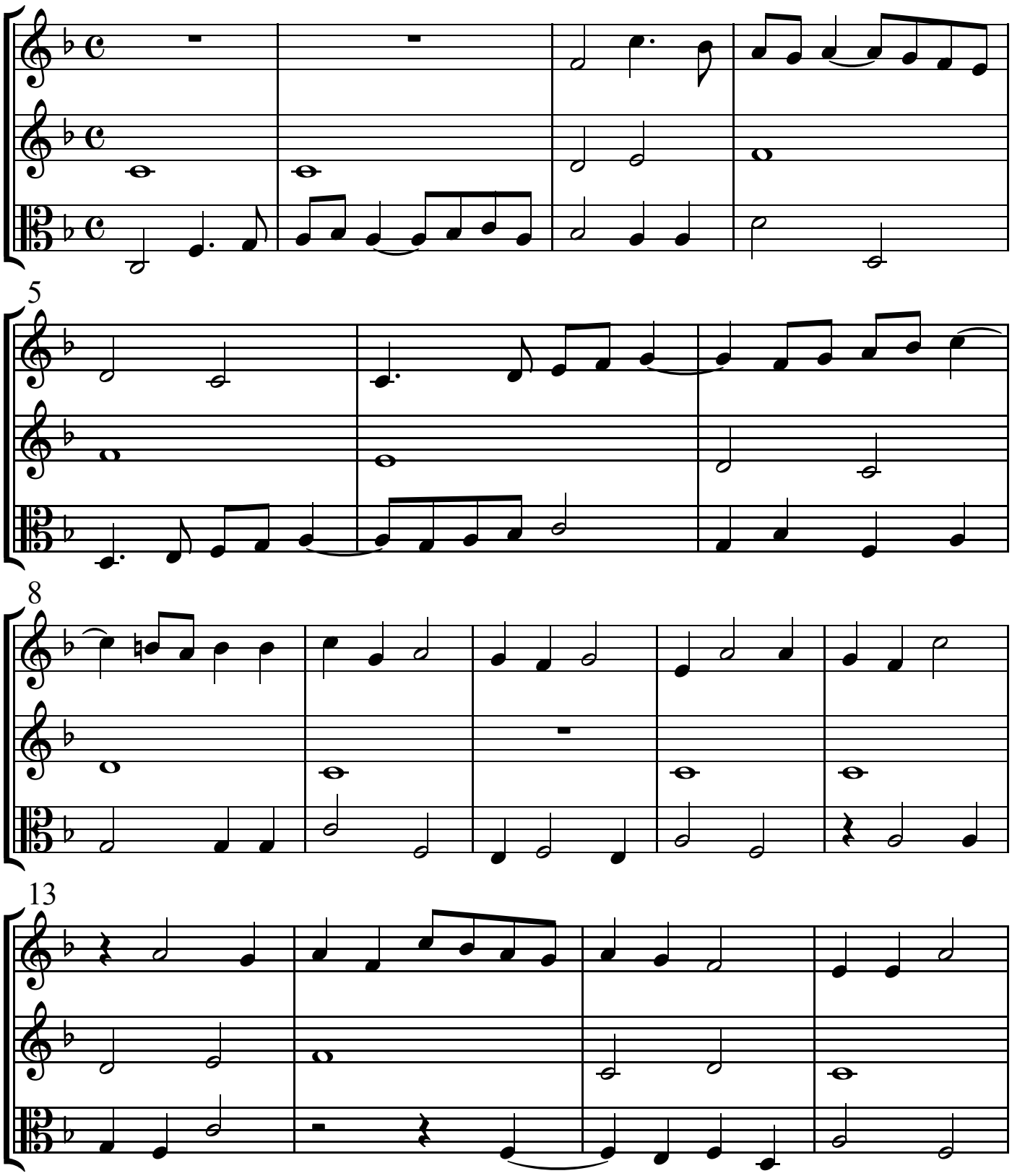
LXXXI. Chantés gayement



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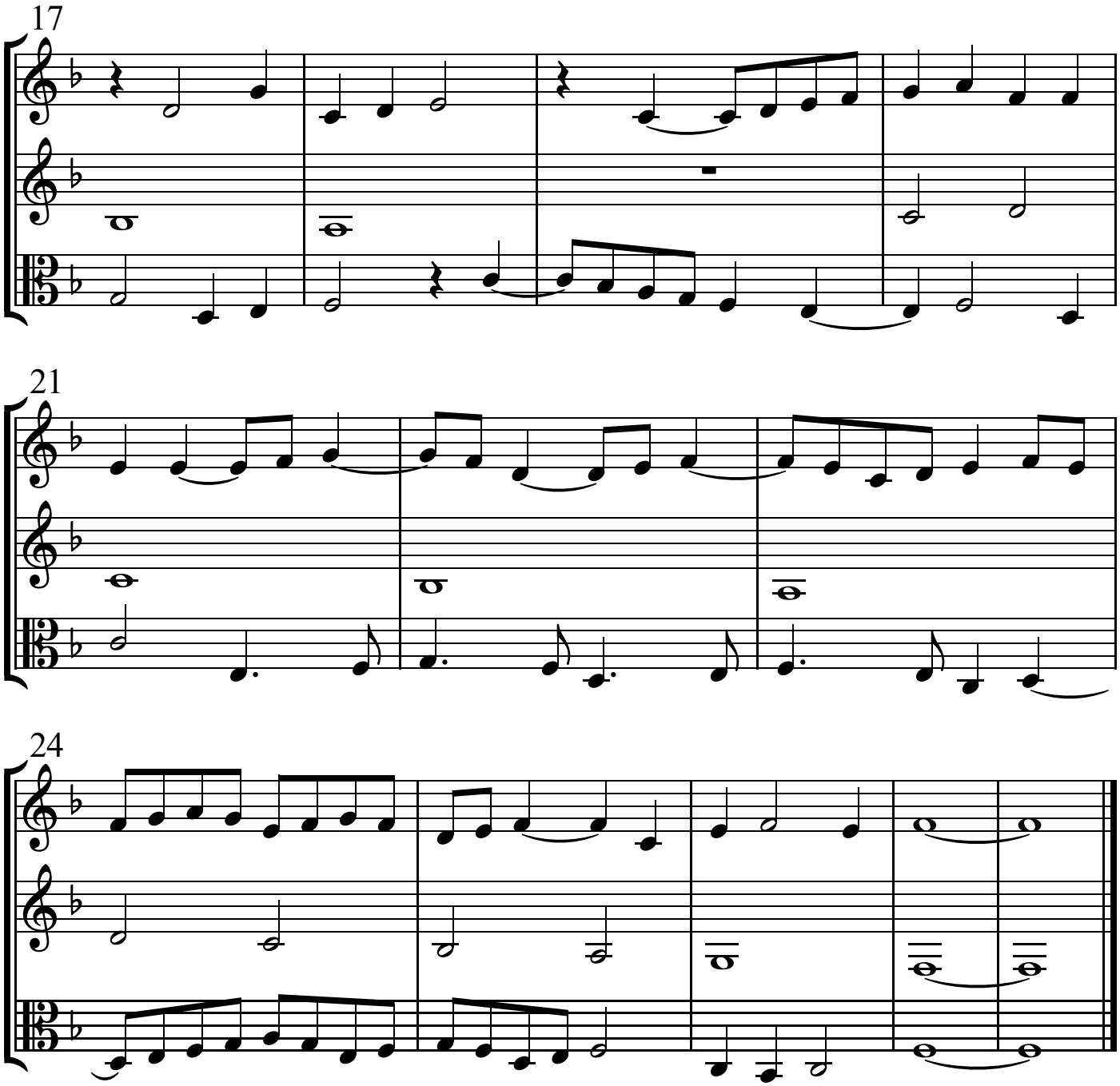

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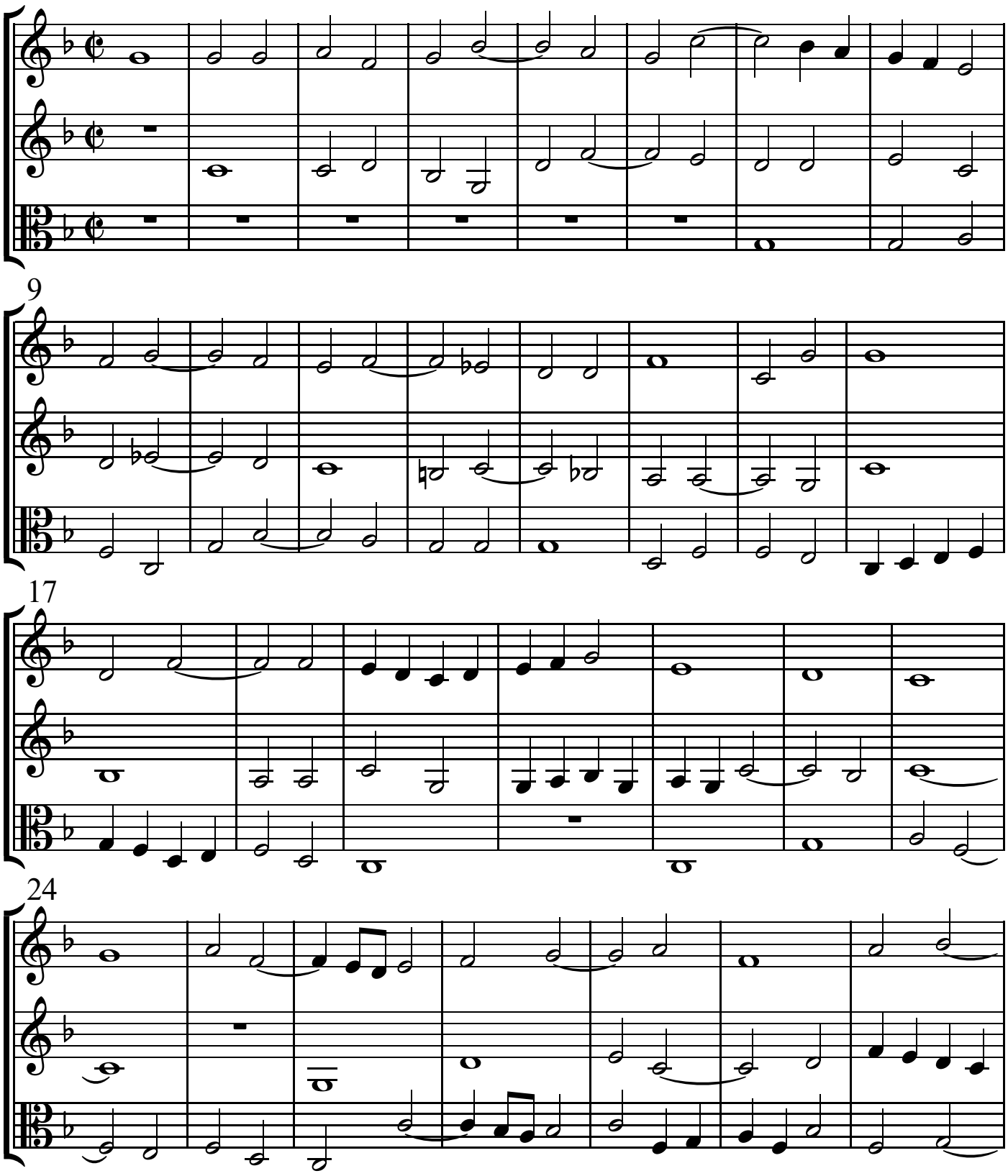
LXXXII. Dieu est assis



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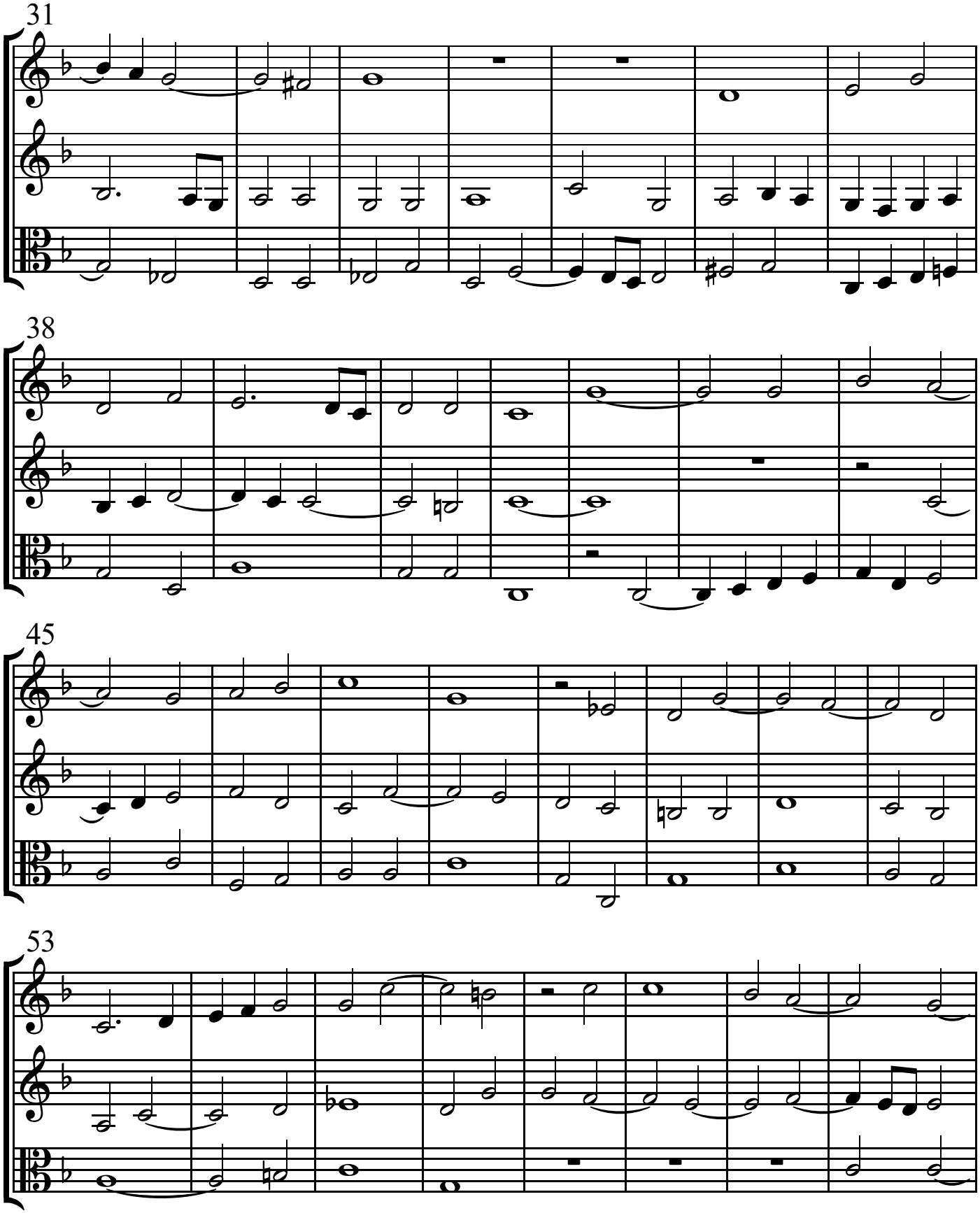

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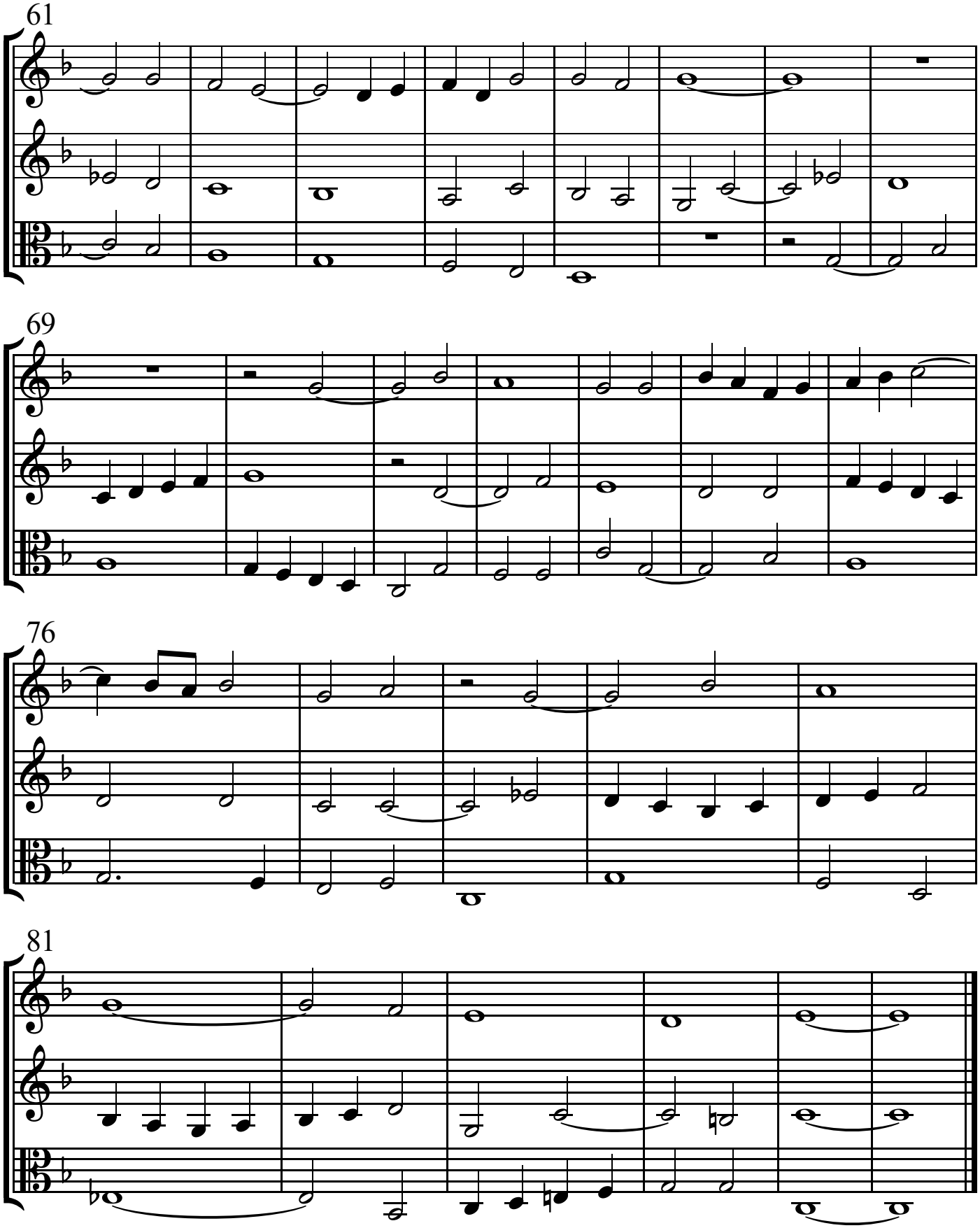

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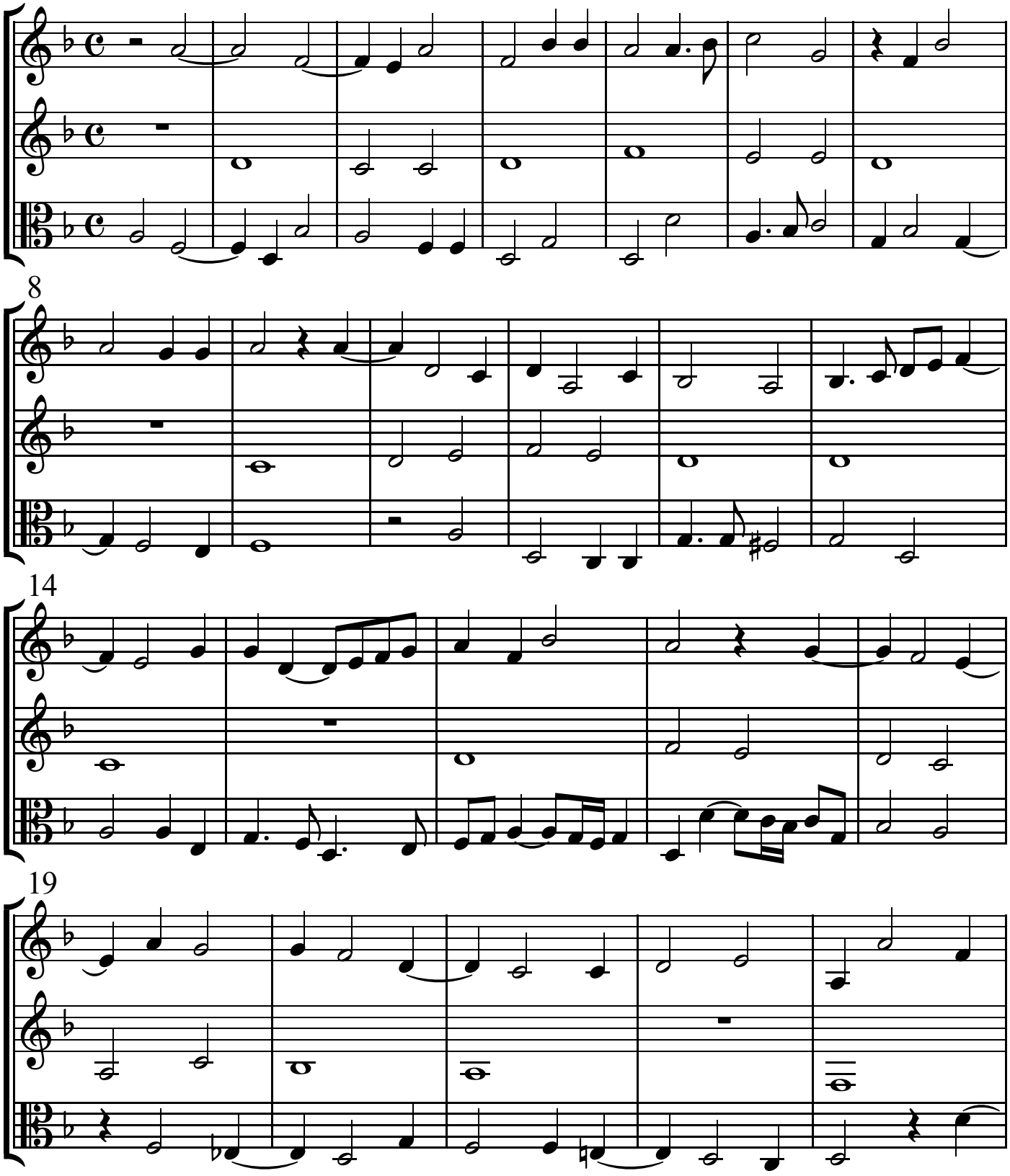
LXXXIII. Dieu ne soy plus à recoy



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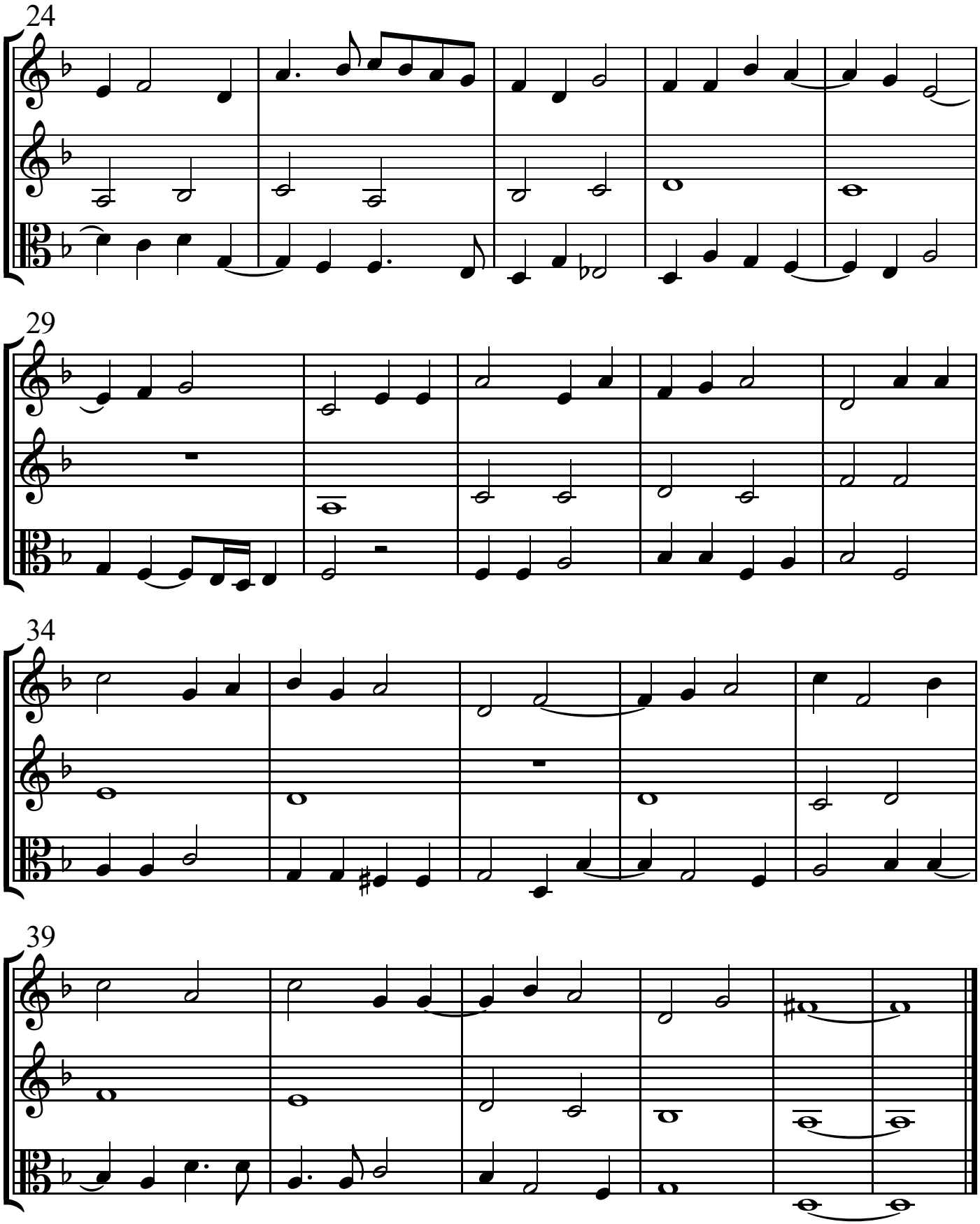

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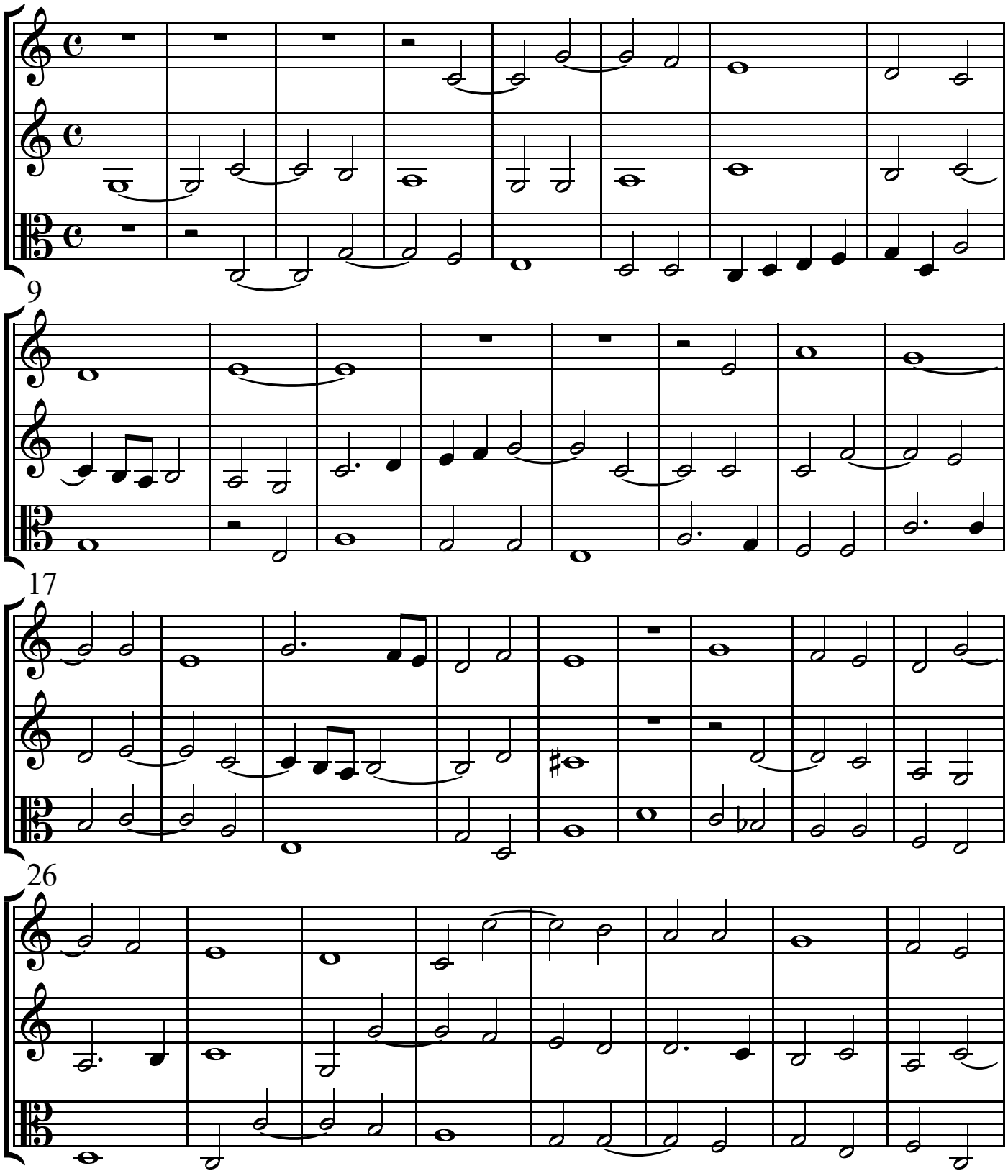
LXXXIIII. O Dieu des armées



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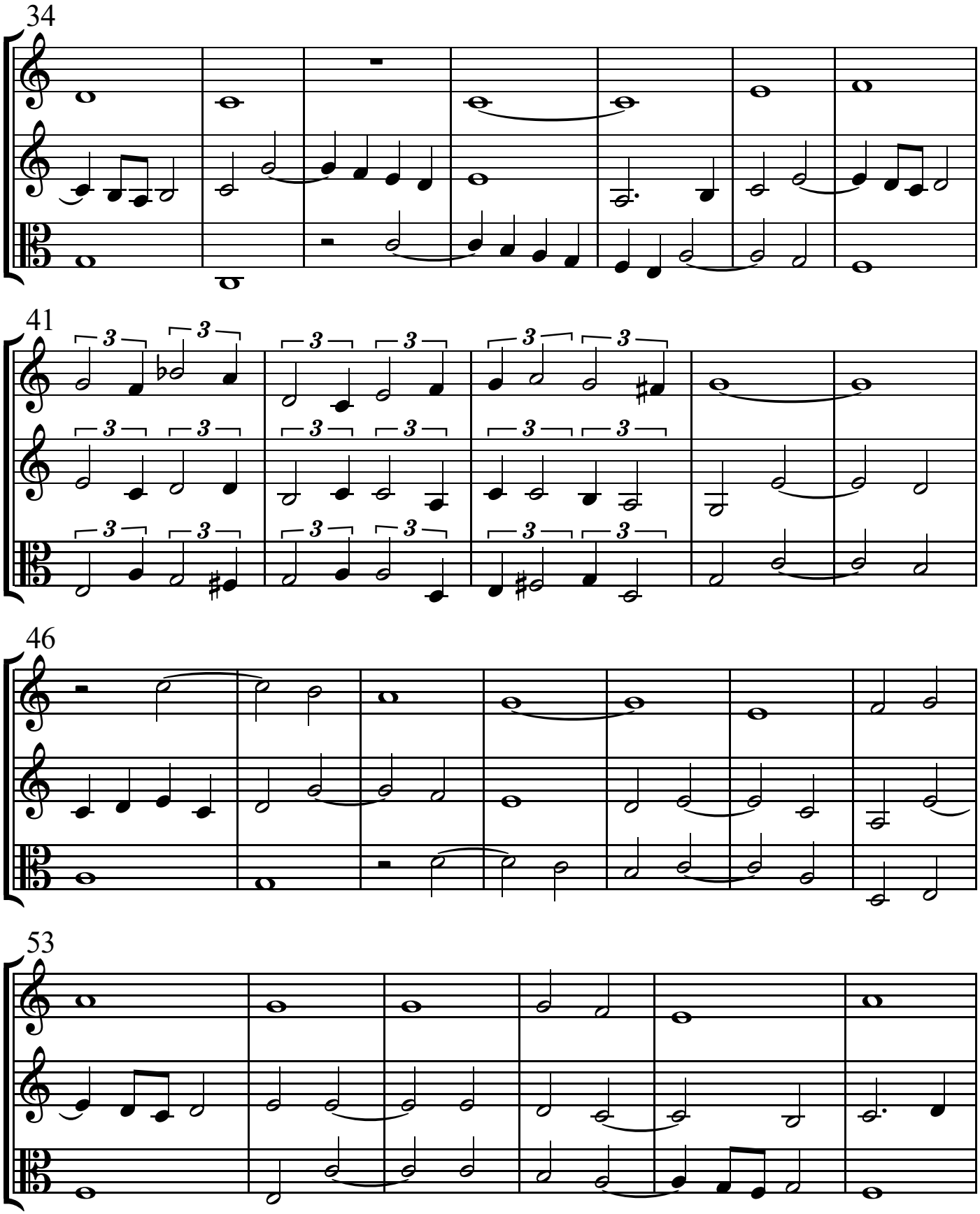

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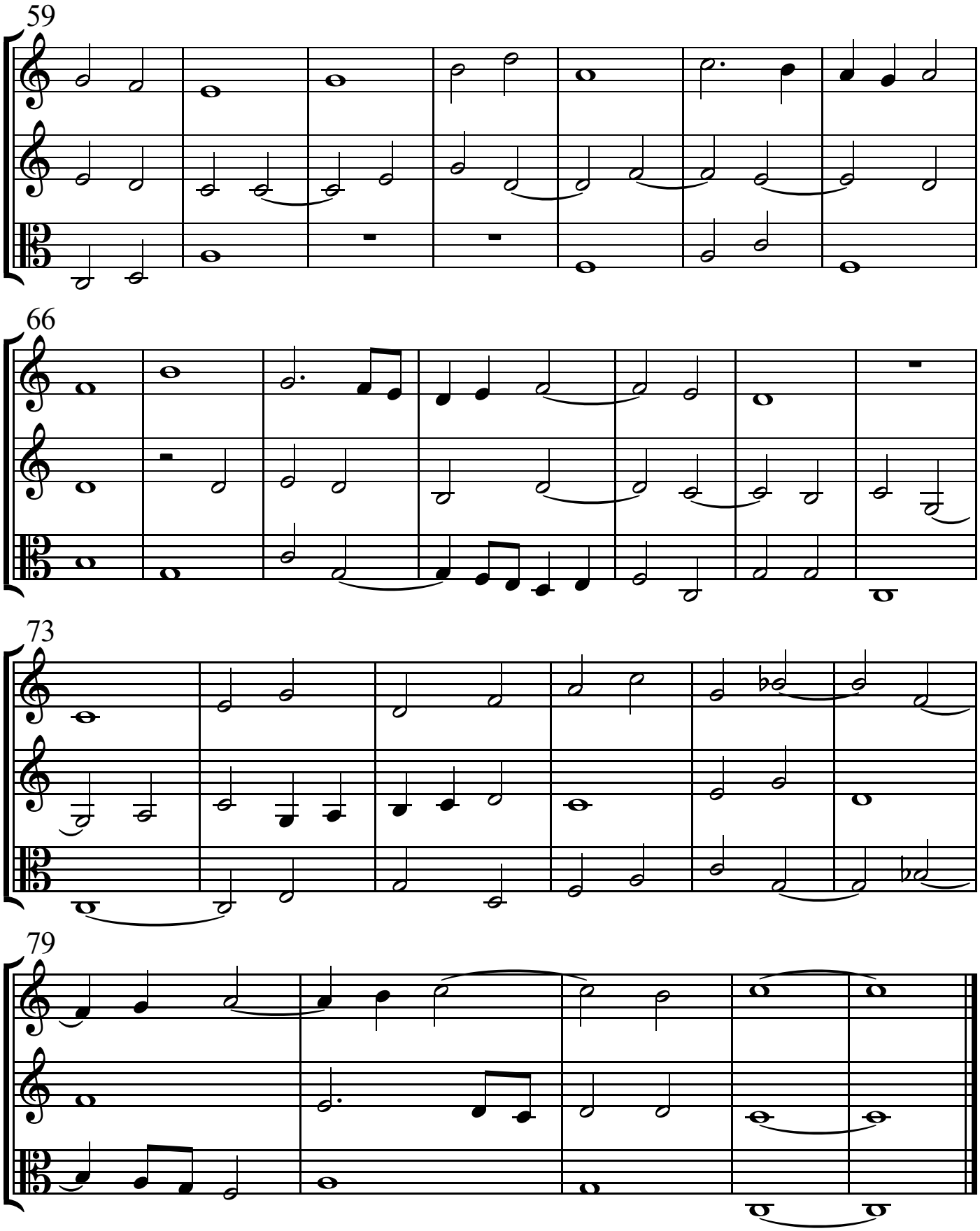

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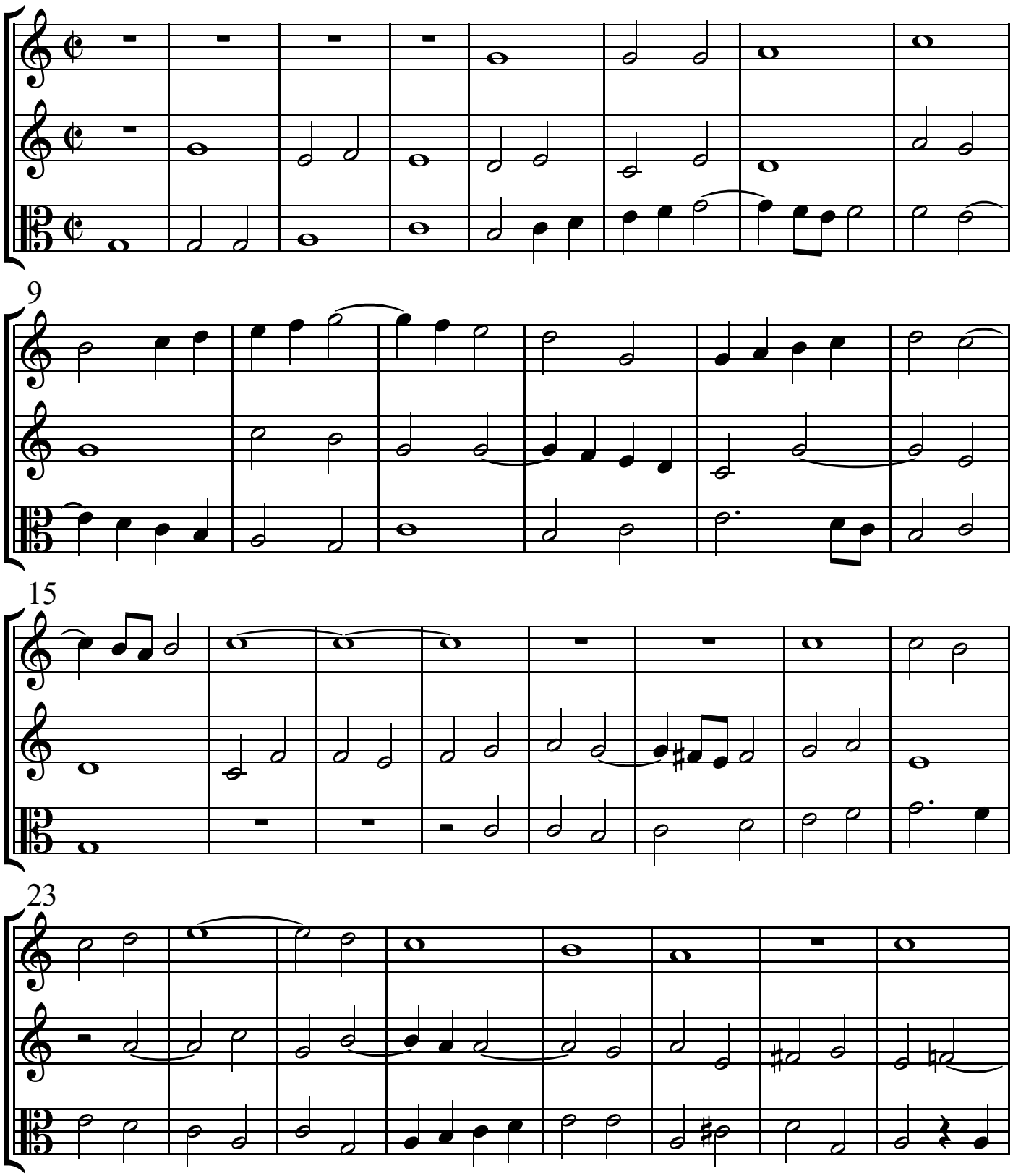
LXXXV. Avec les tiens



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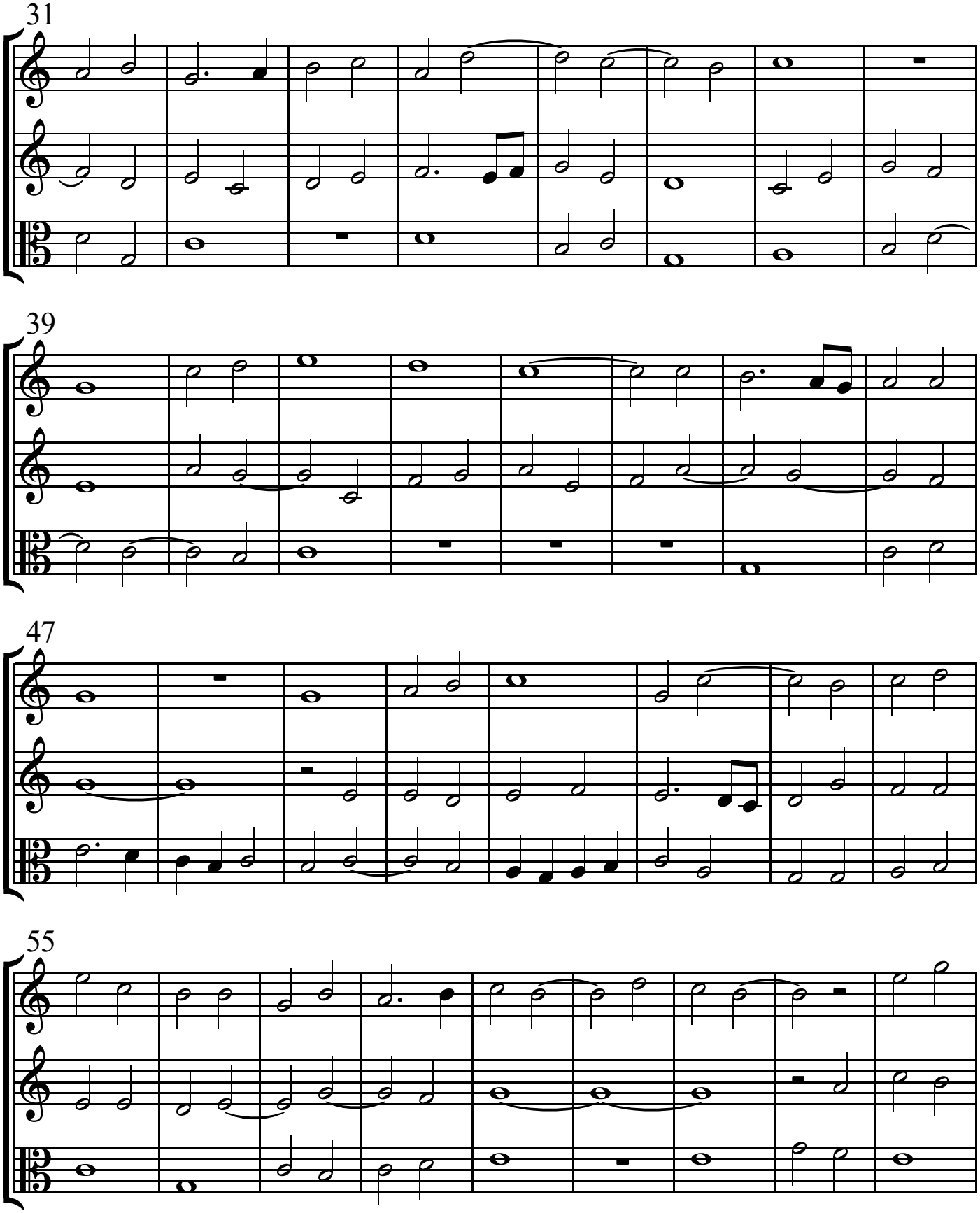

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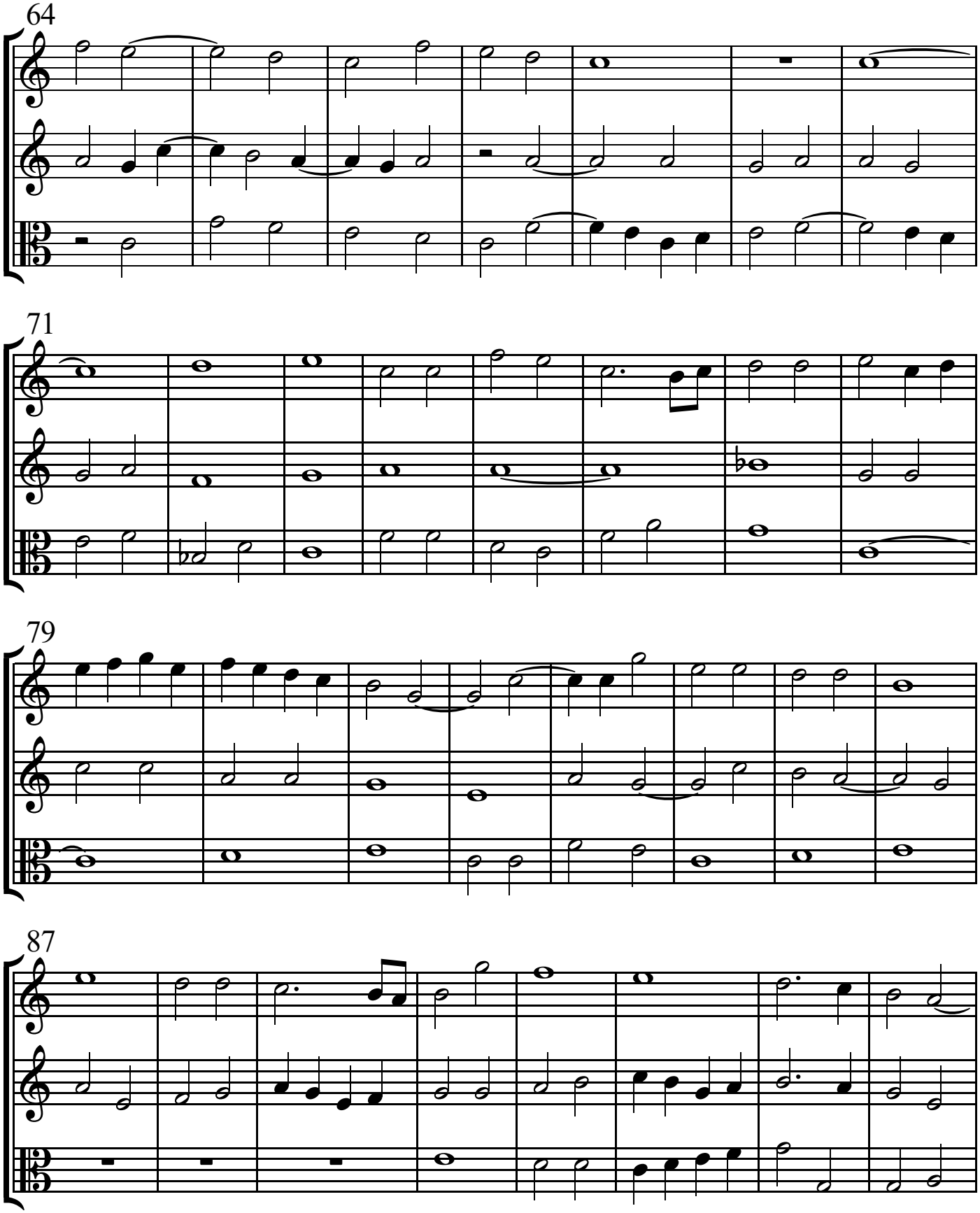

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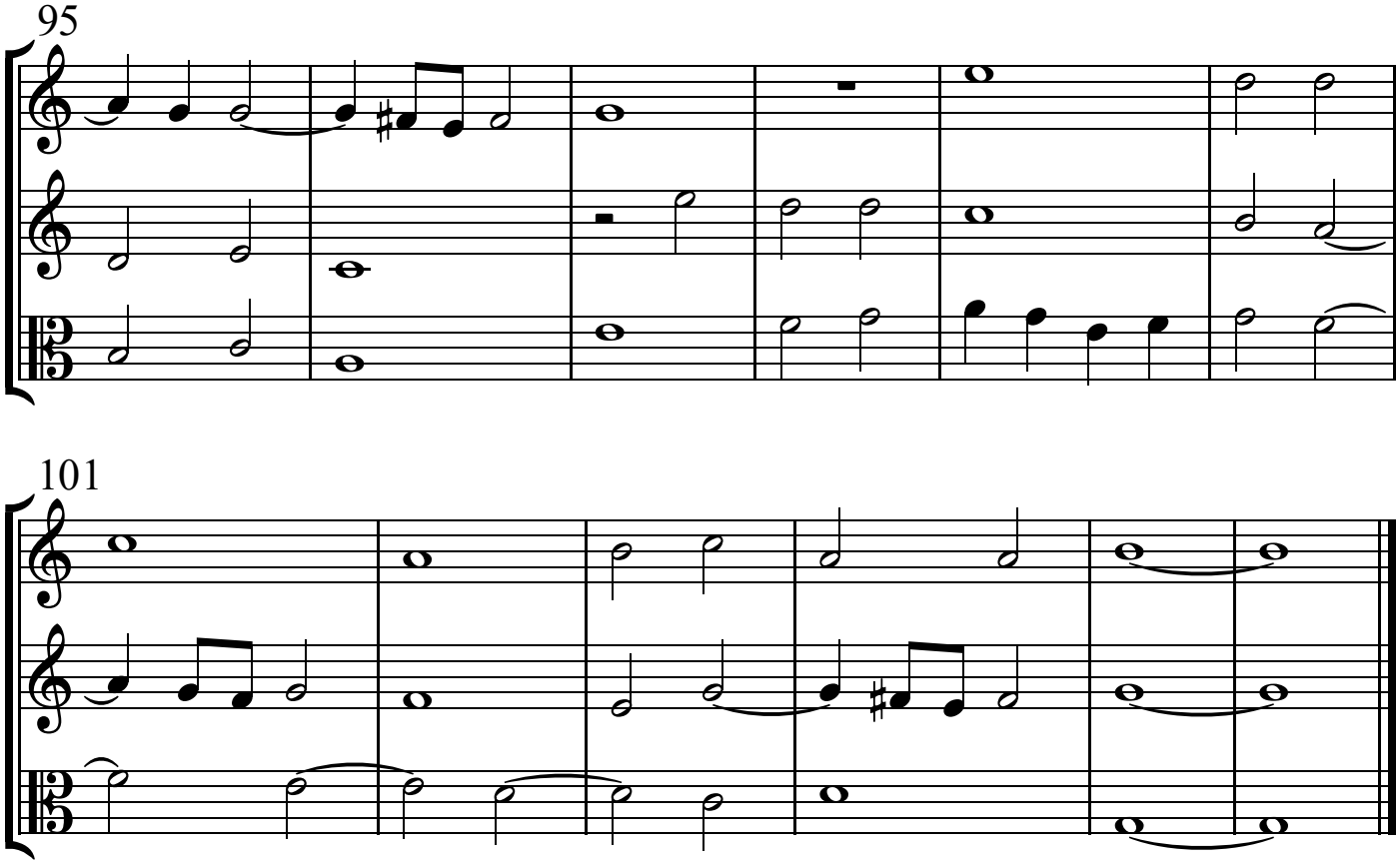

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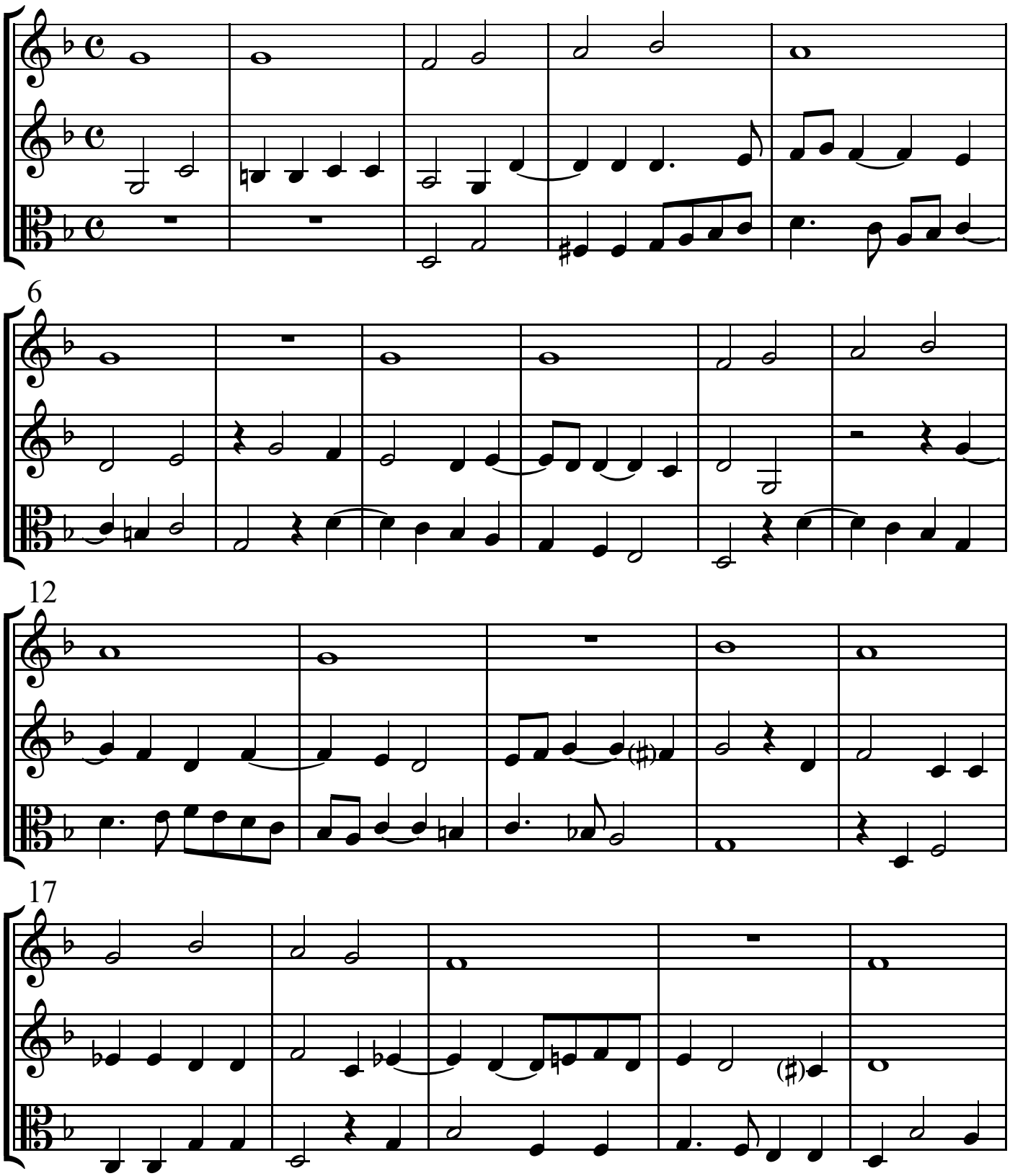
LXXXVI. Mon Dieu preste moy



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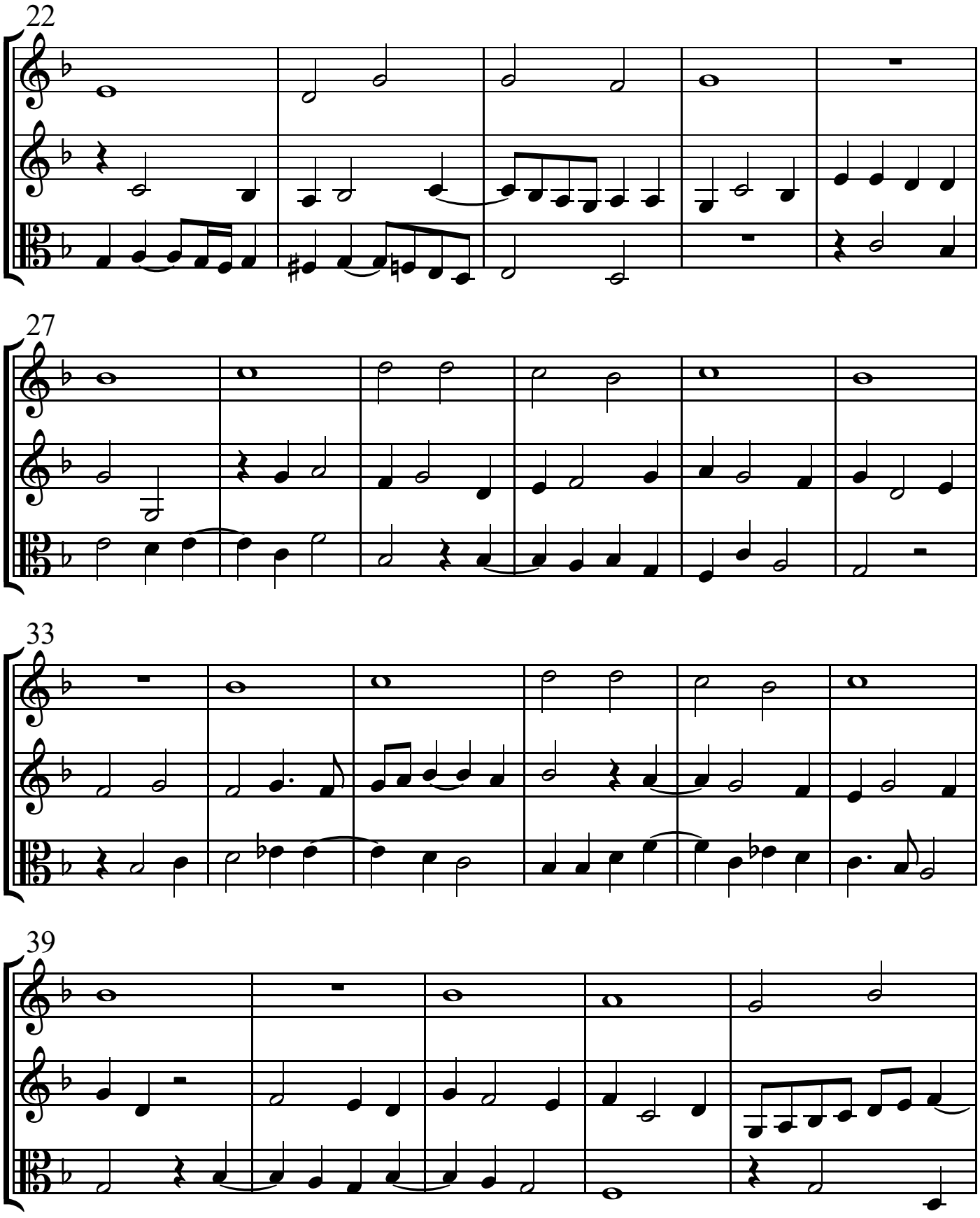

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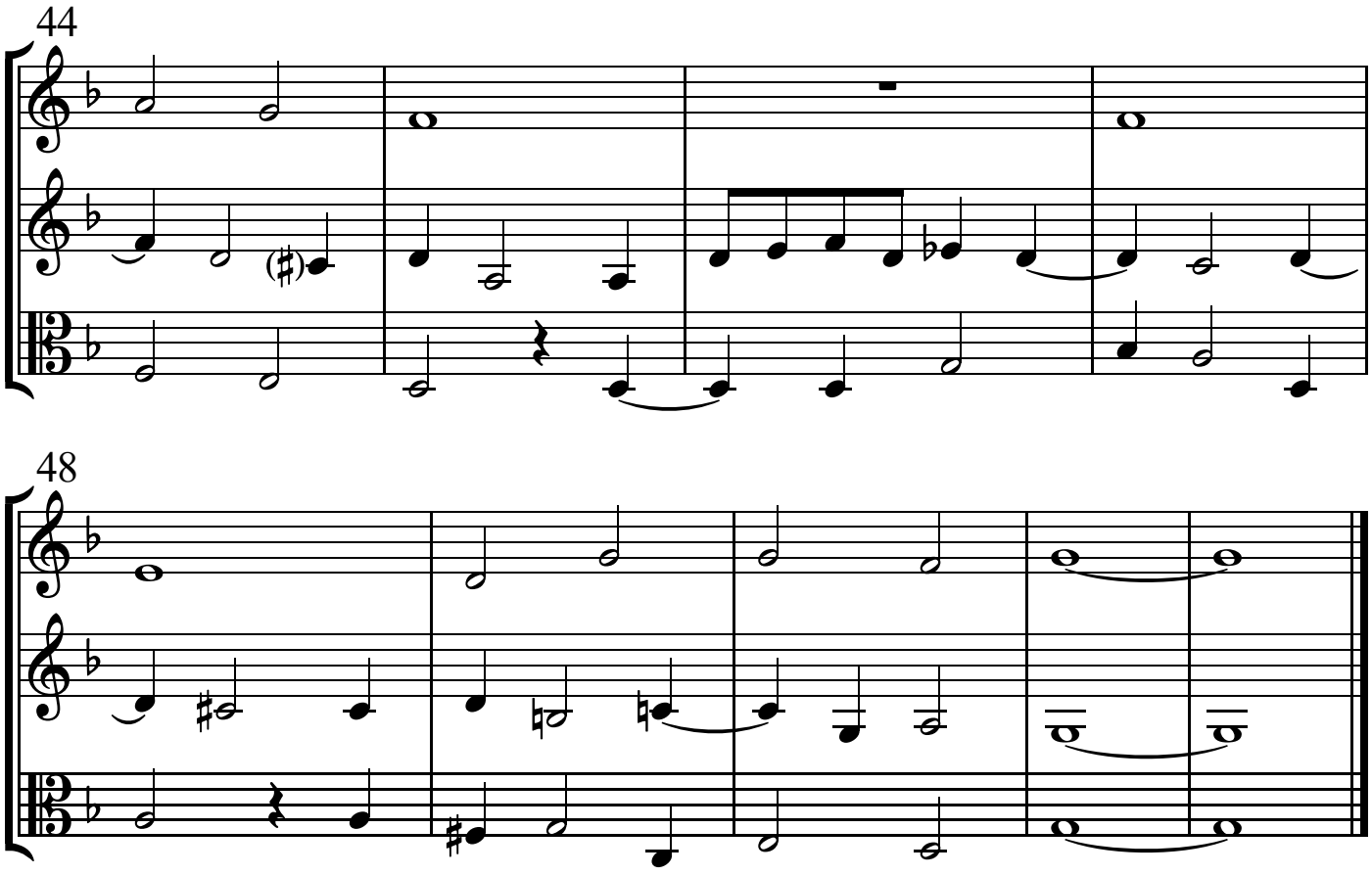

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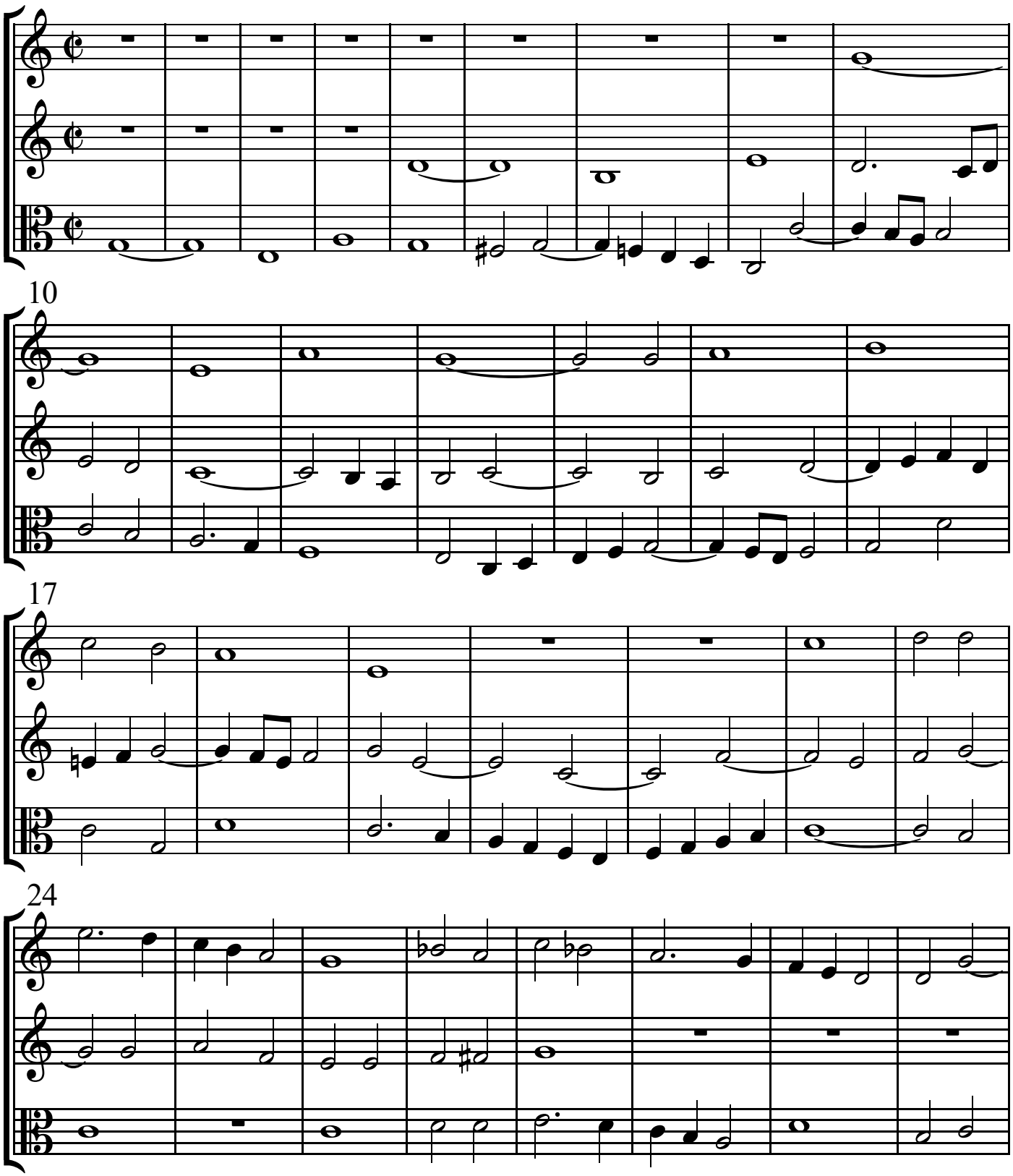
LXXXVII. Dieu pour fonder



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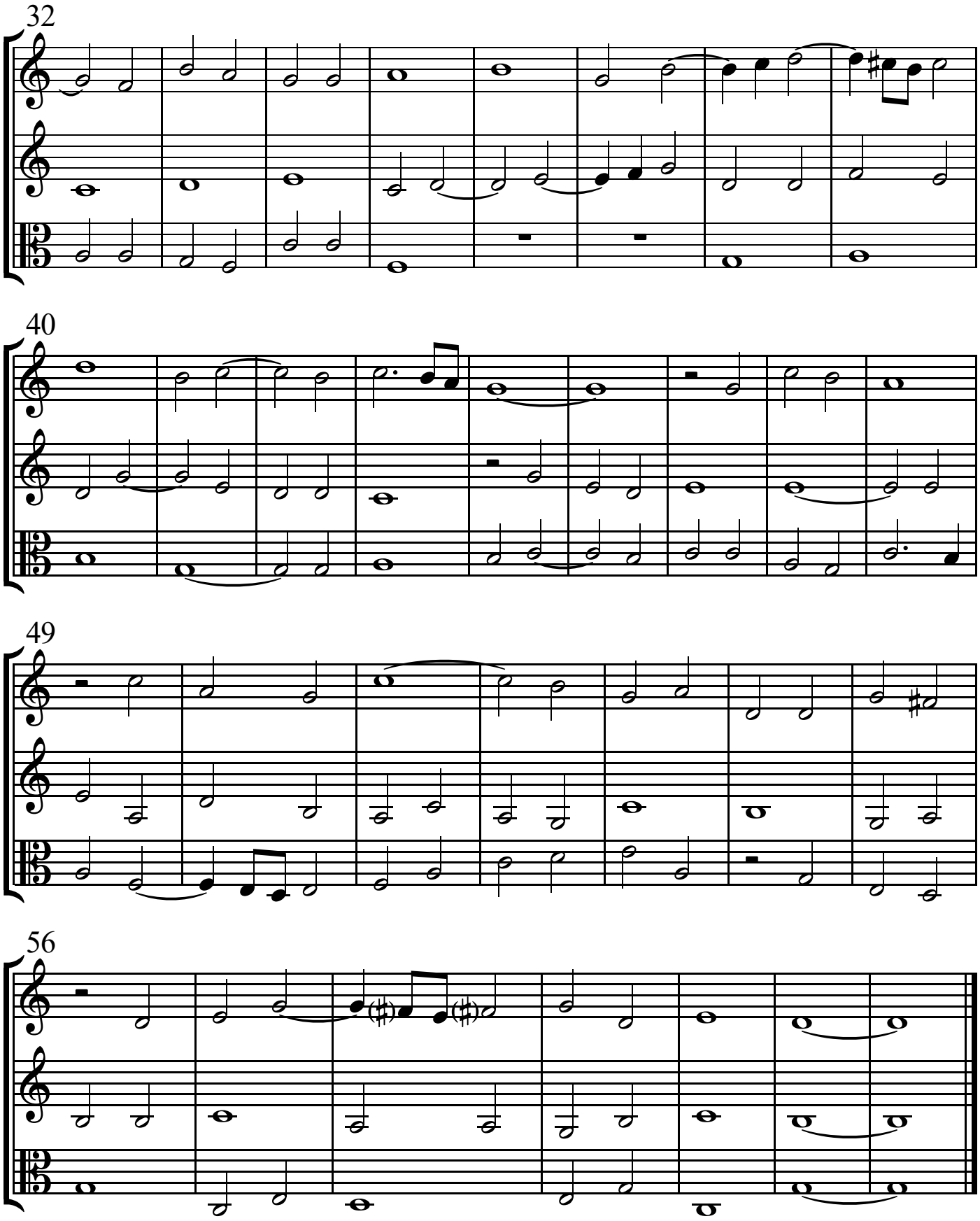

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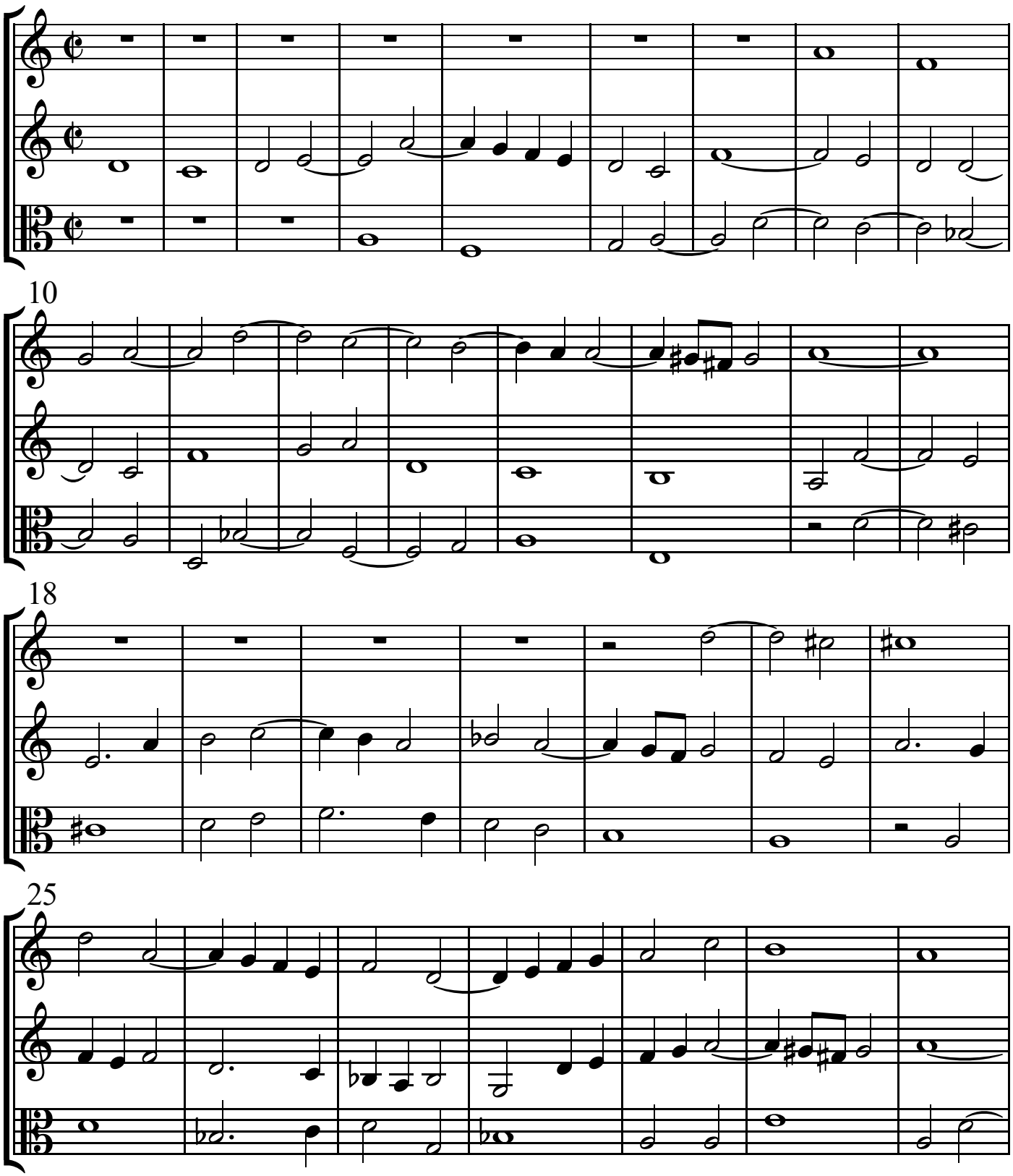
LXXXVIII. O Dieu eternel



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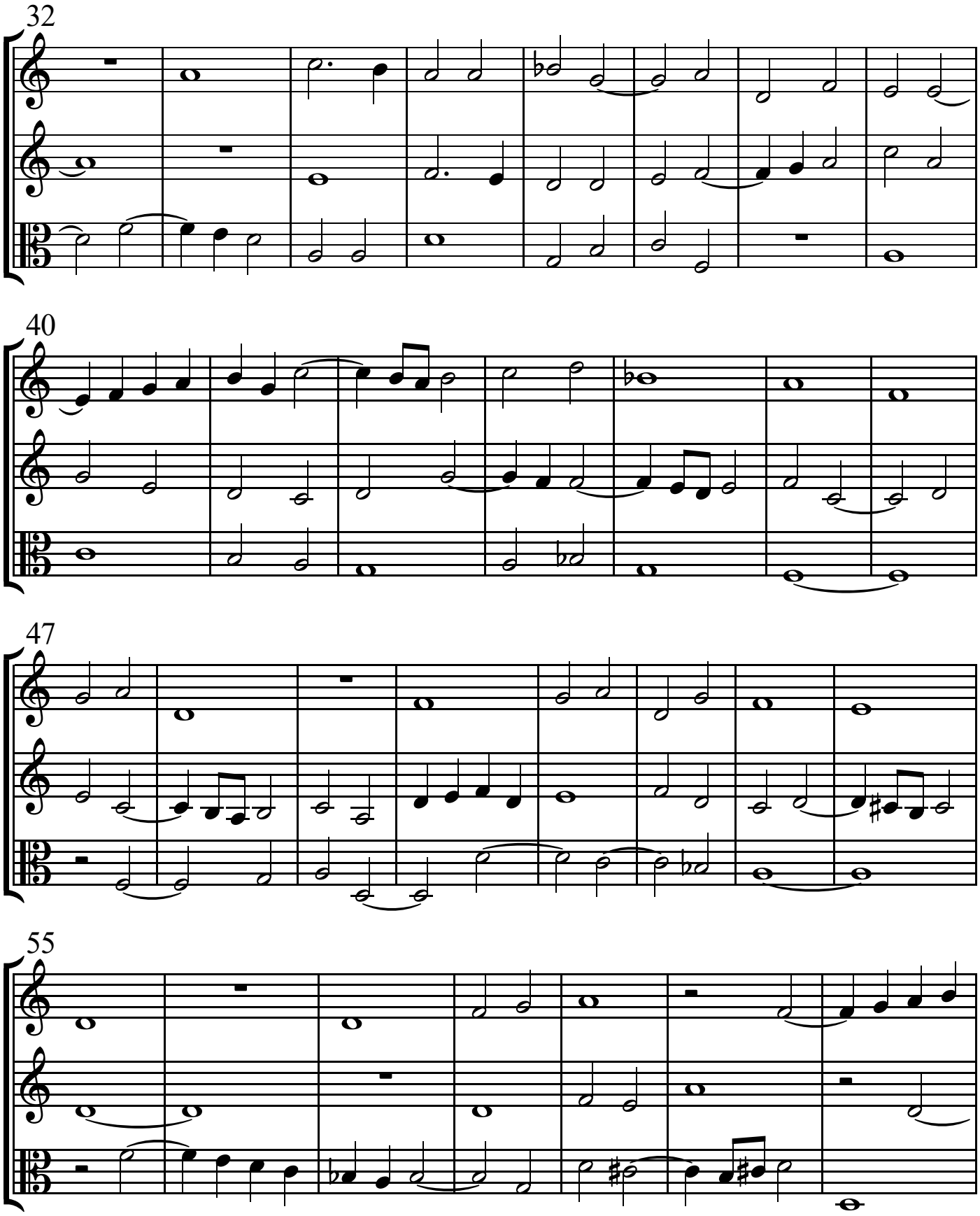

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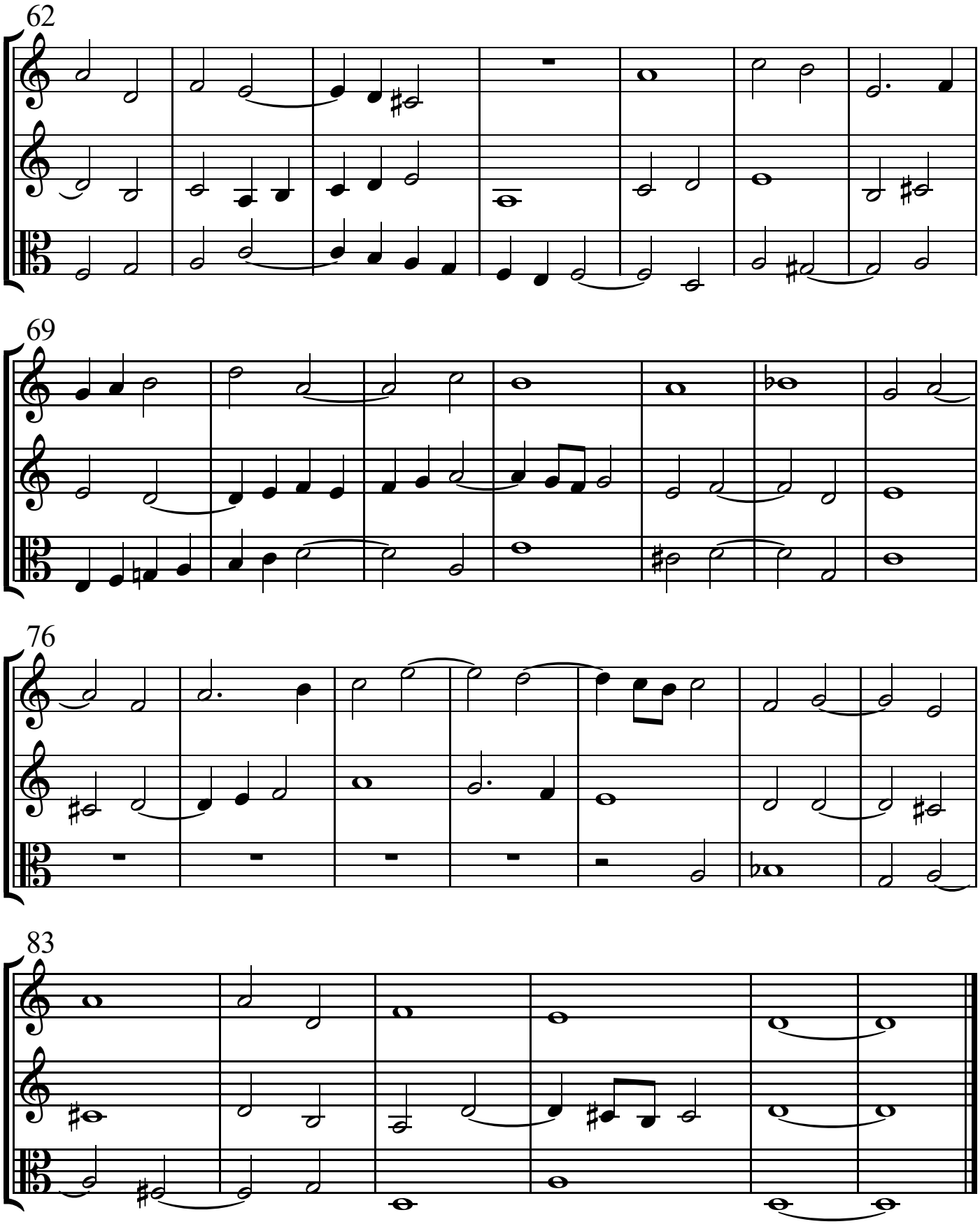

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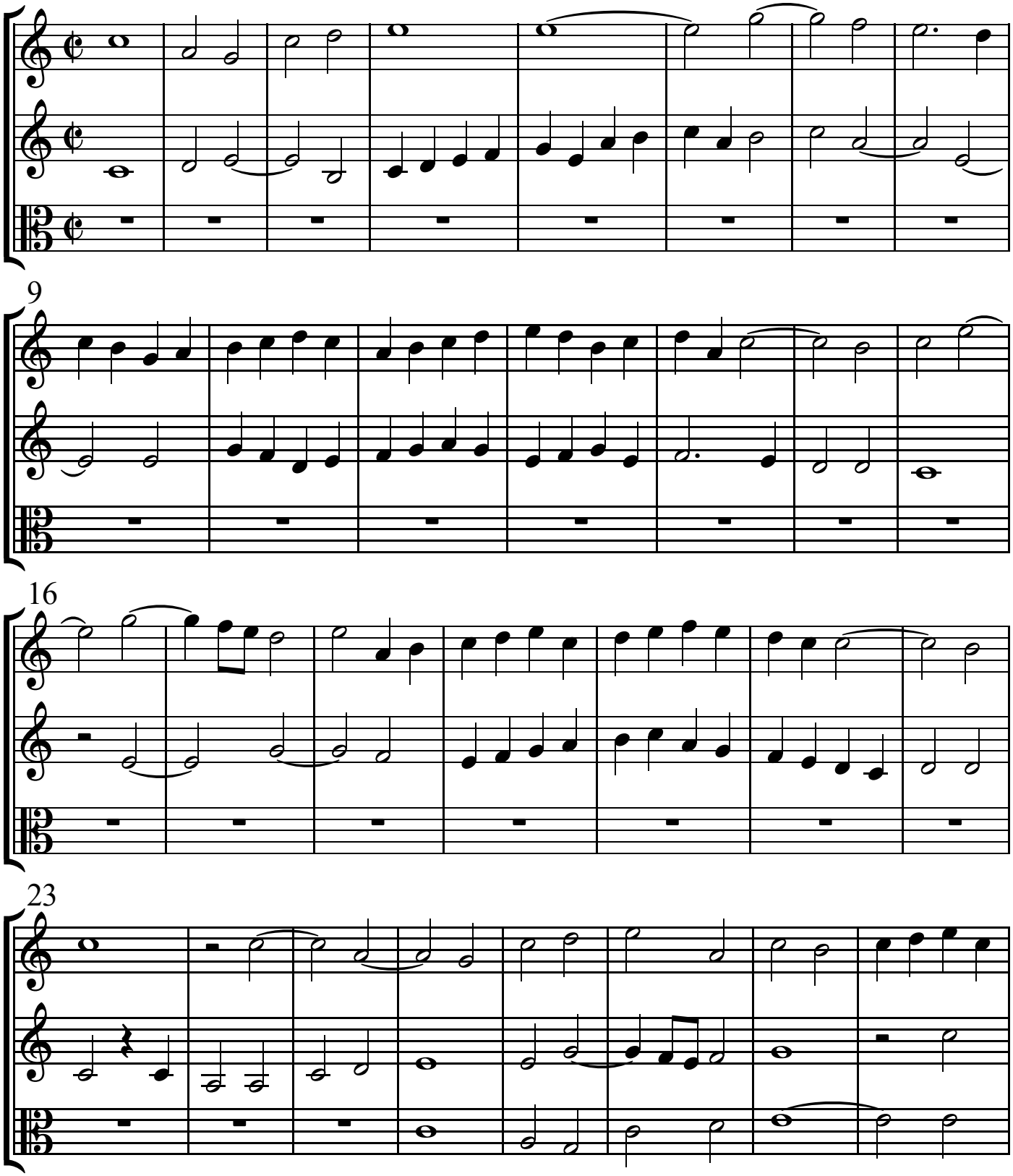
LXXXIX. Du Seigneur les bontés



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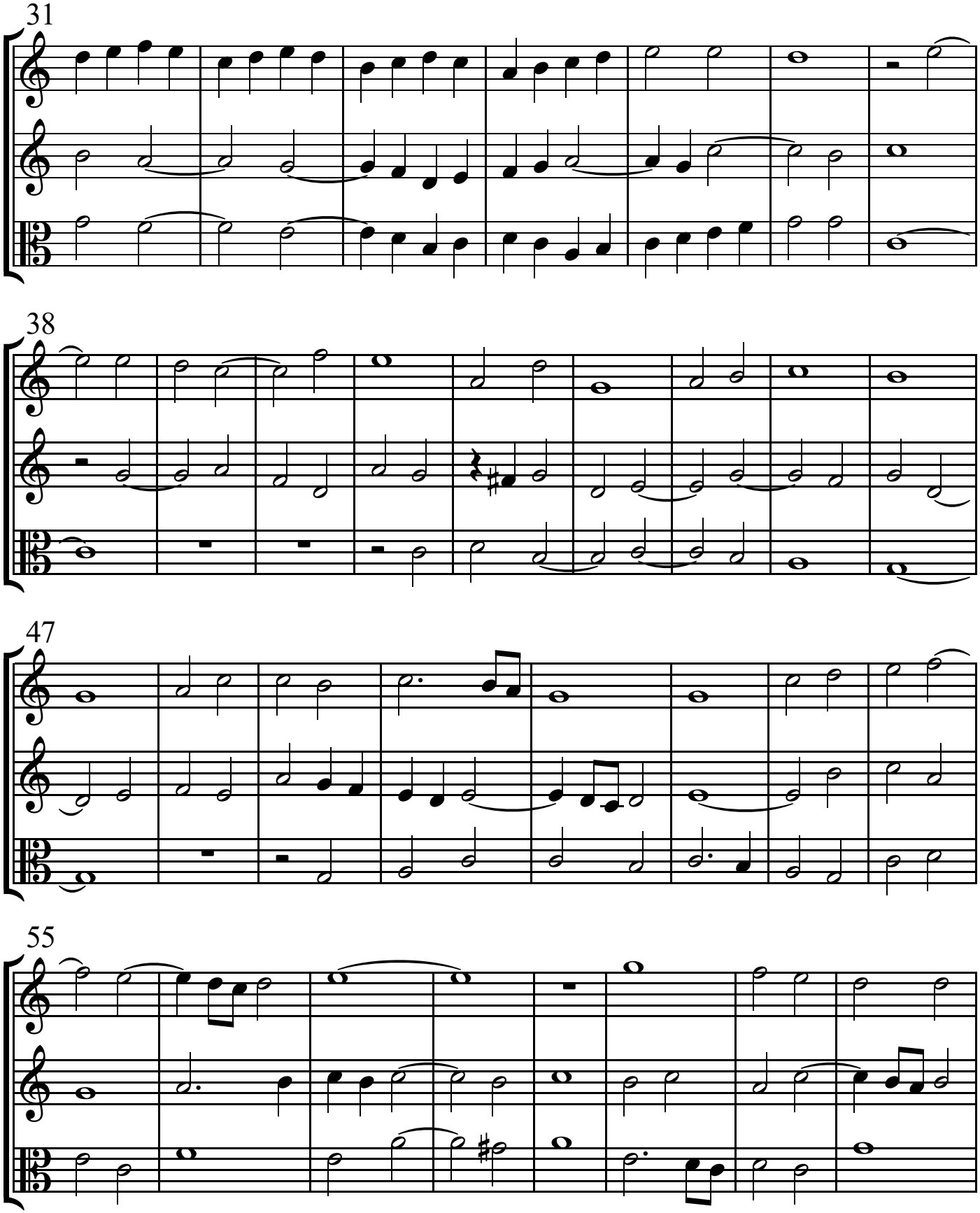

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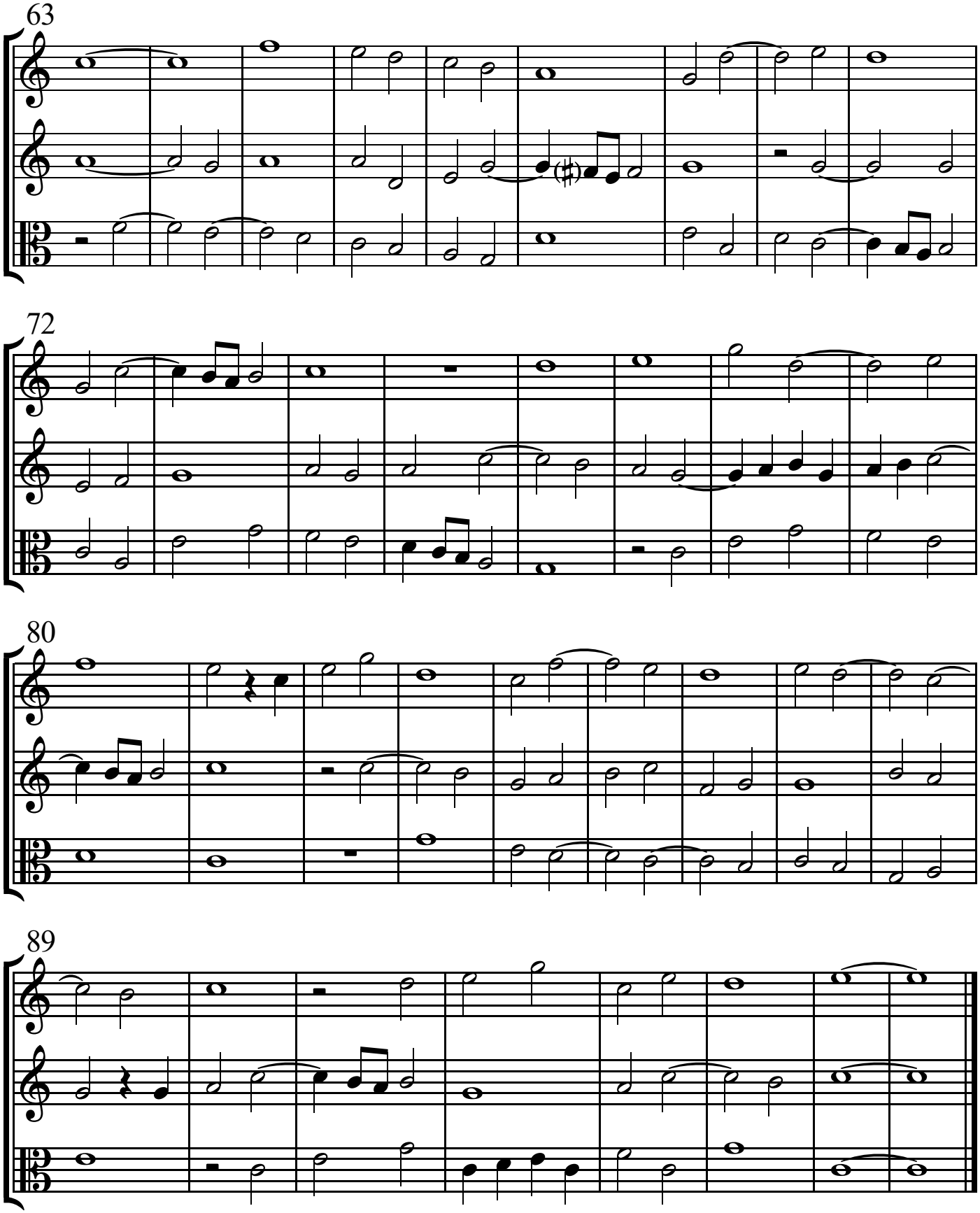

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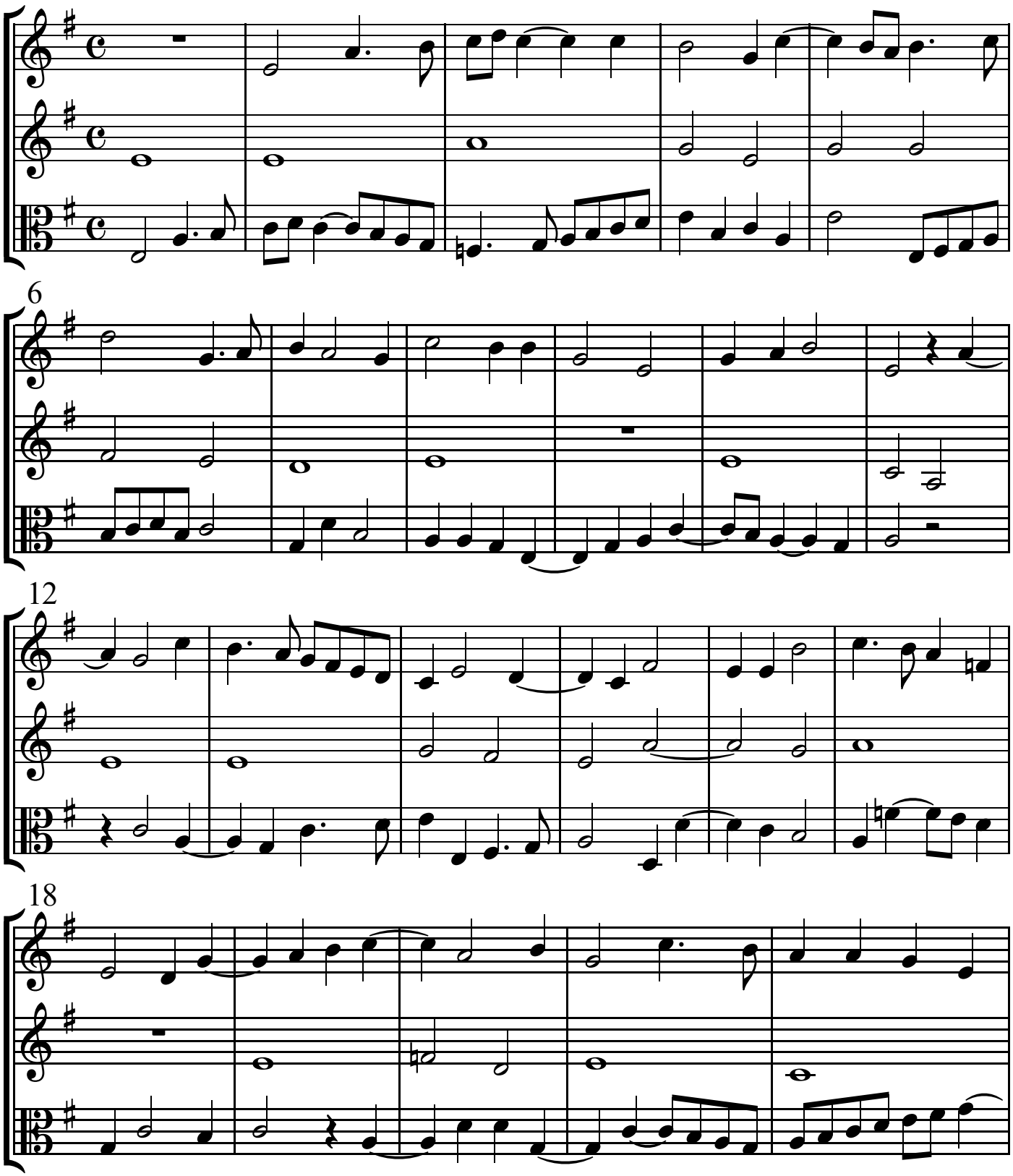
XC. Tu as esté Seigneur



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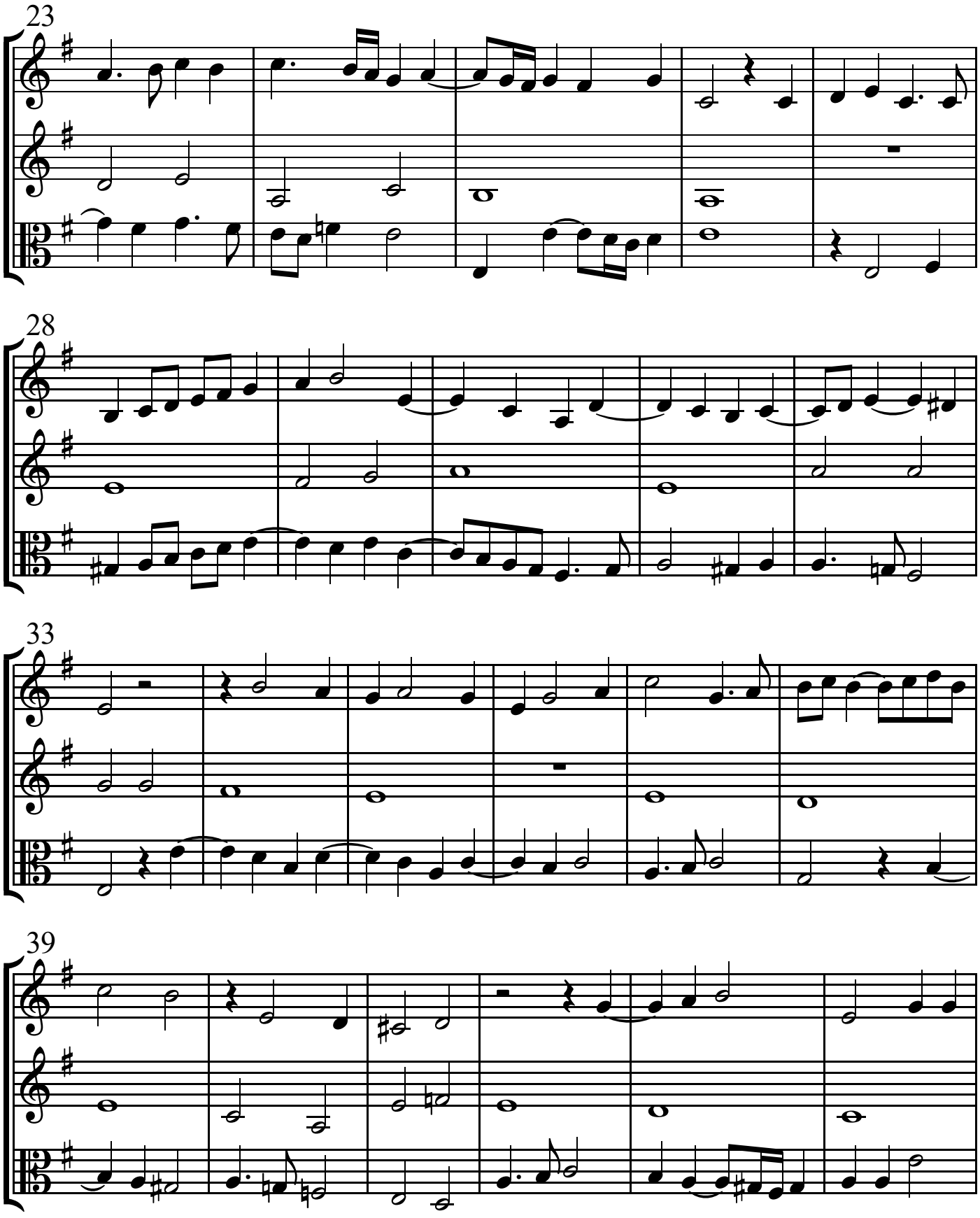

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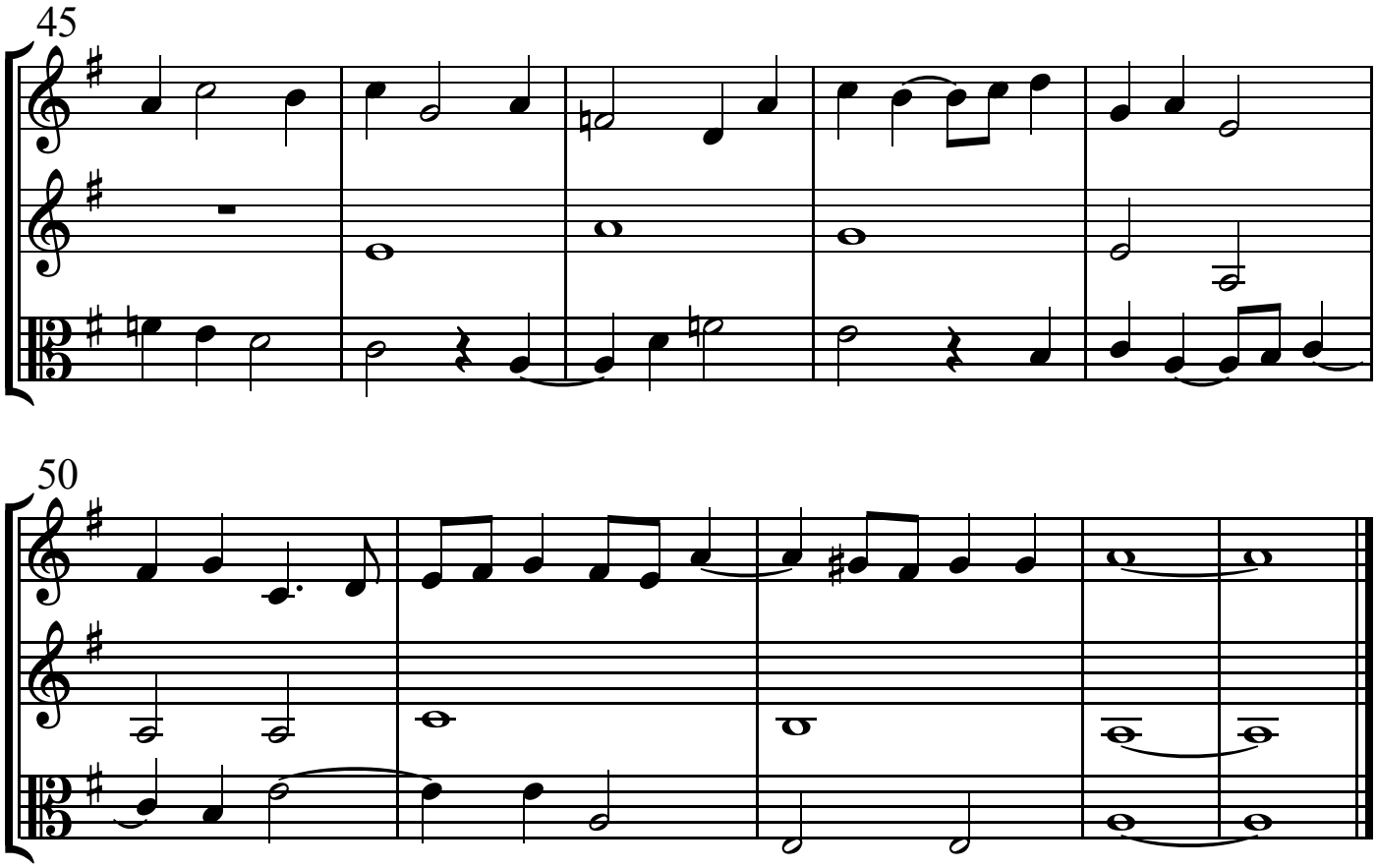

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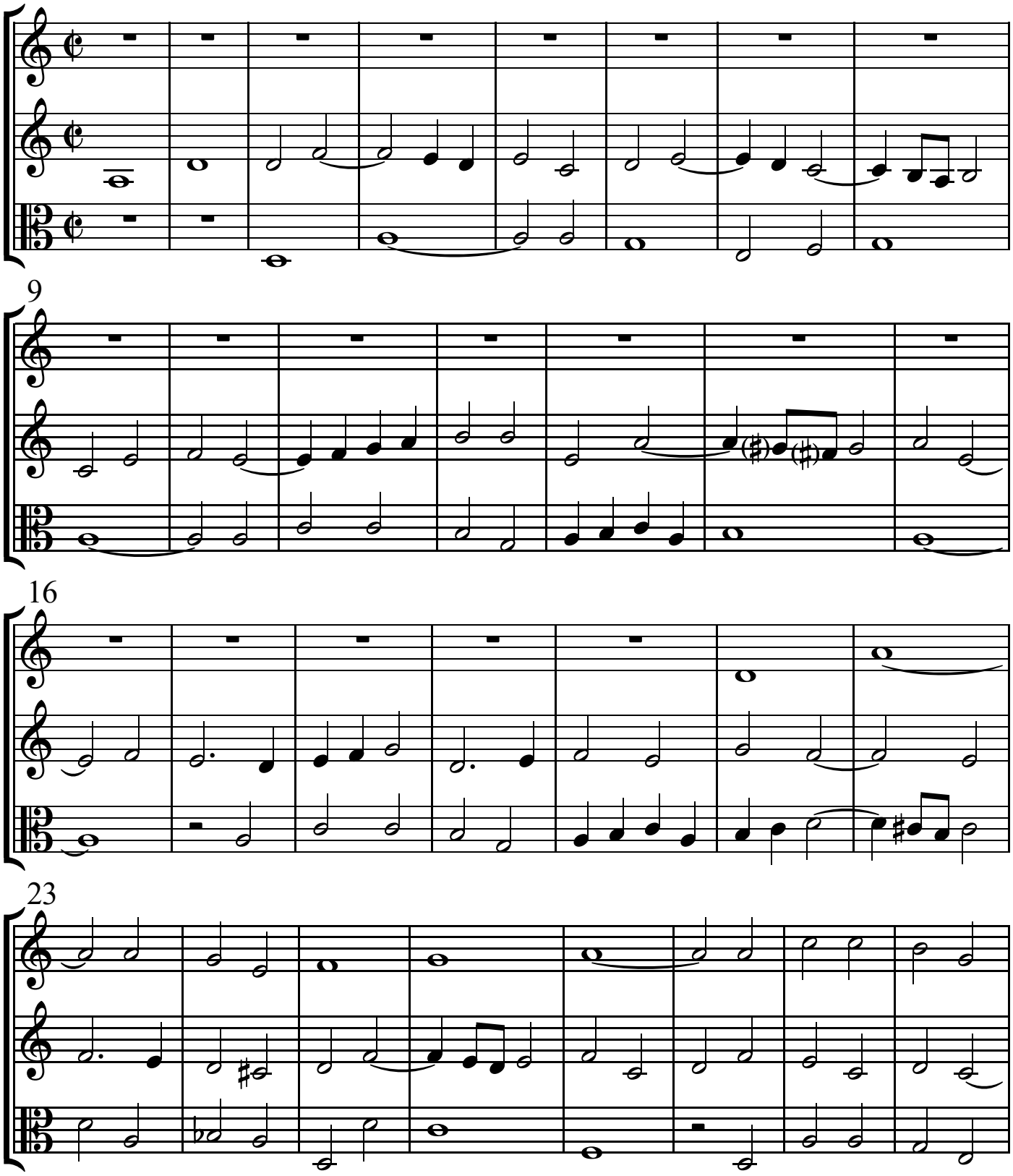
XCI. Qui en la garde



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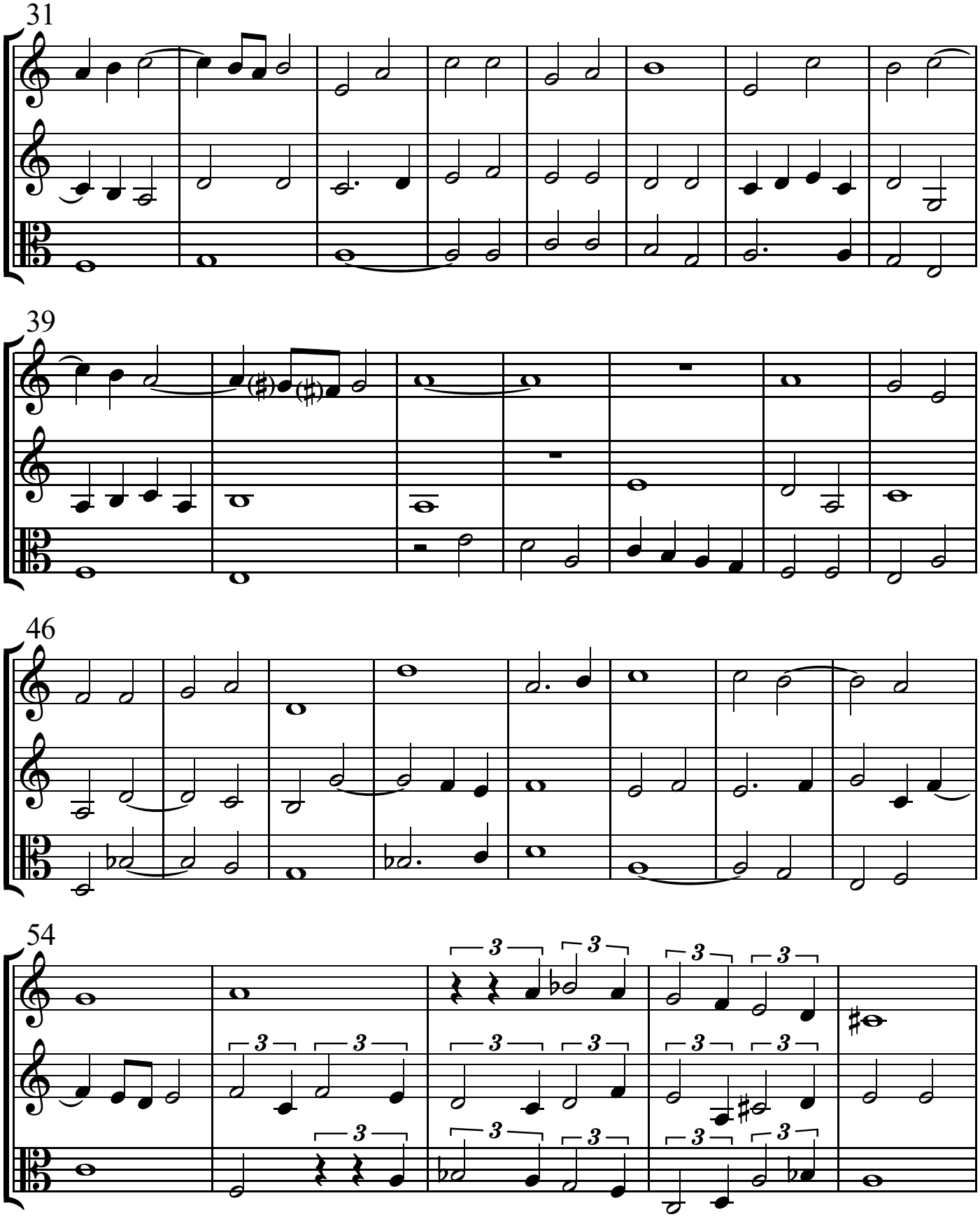

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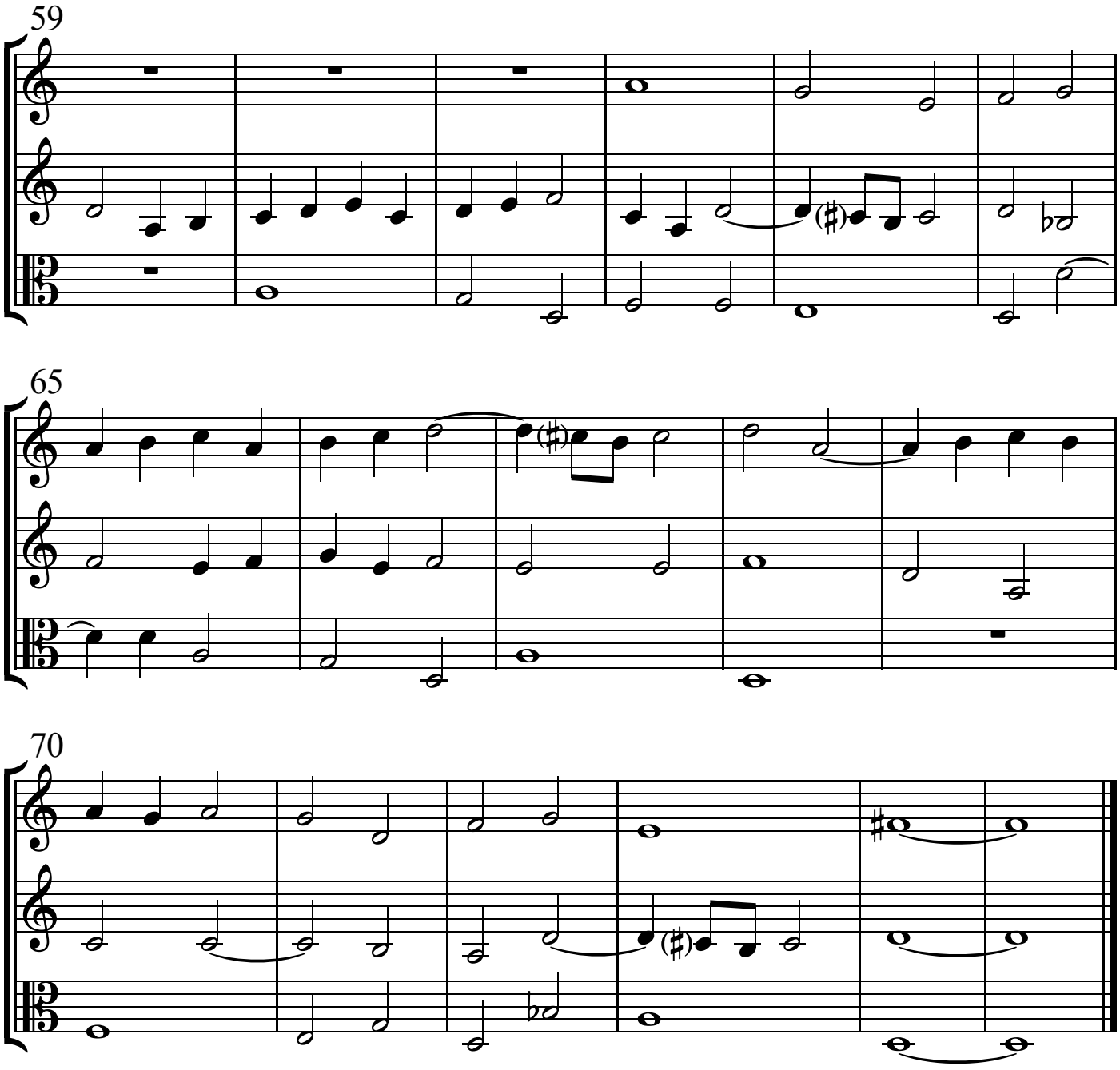

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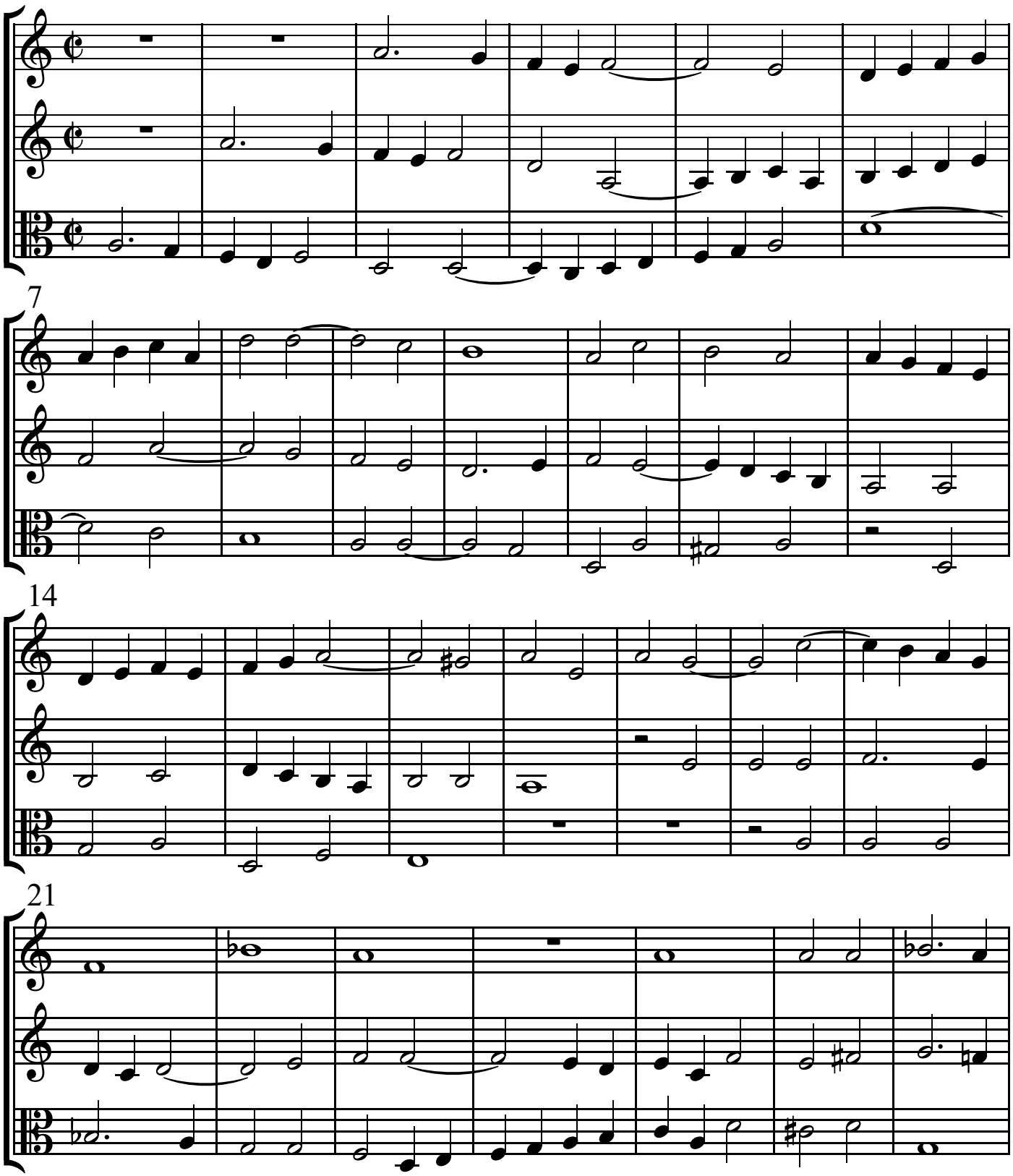
XCII. O que c'est chose belle



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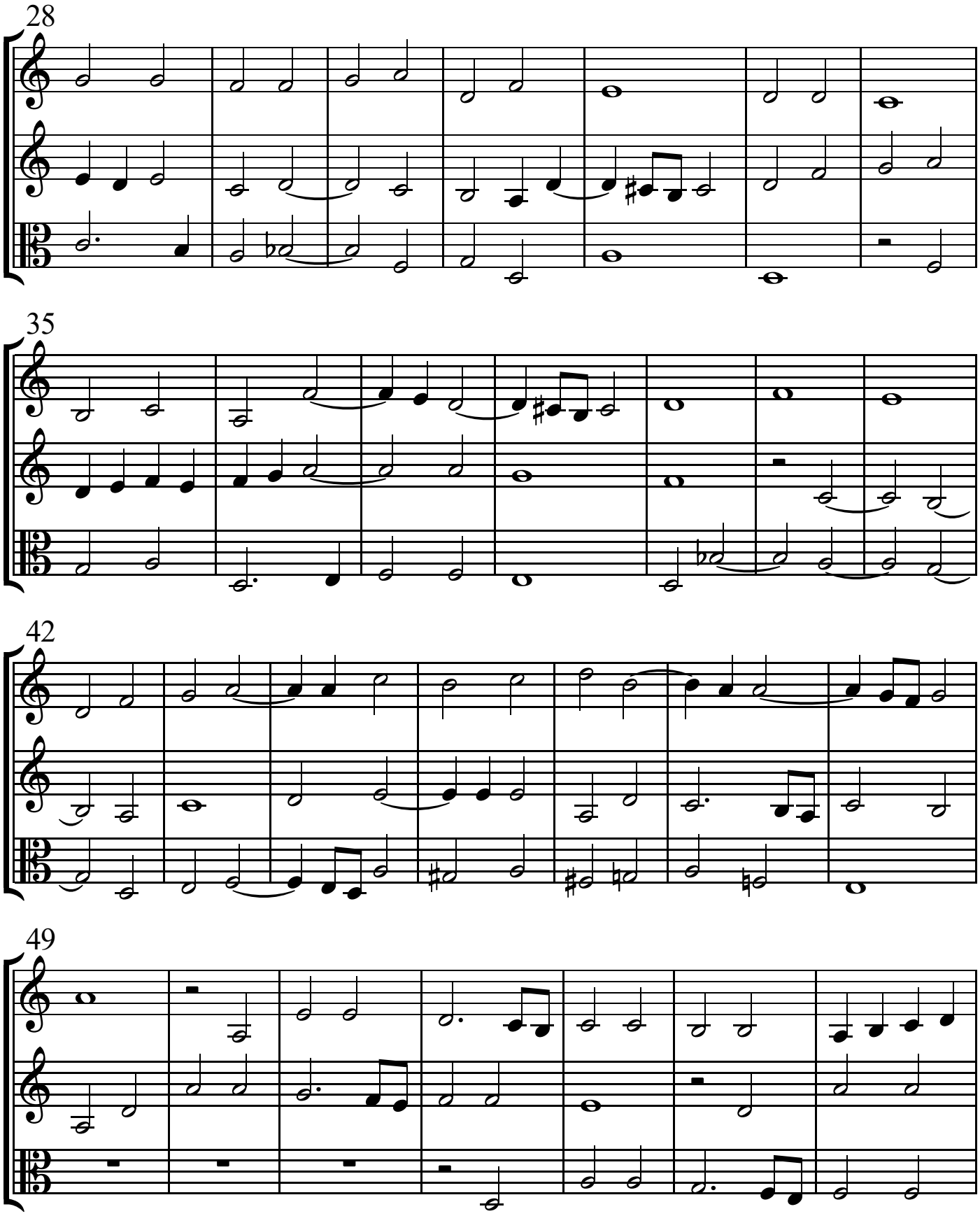

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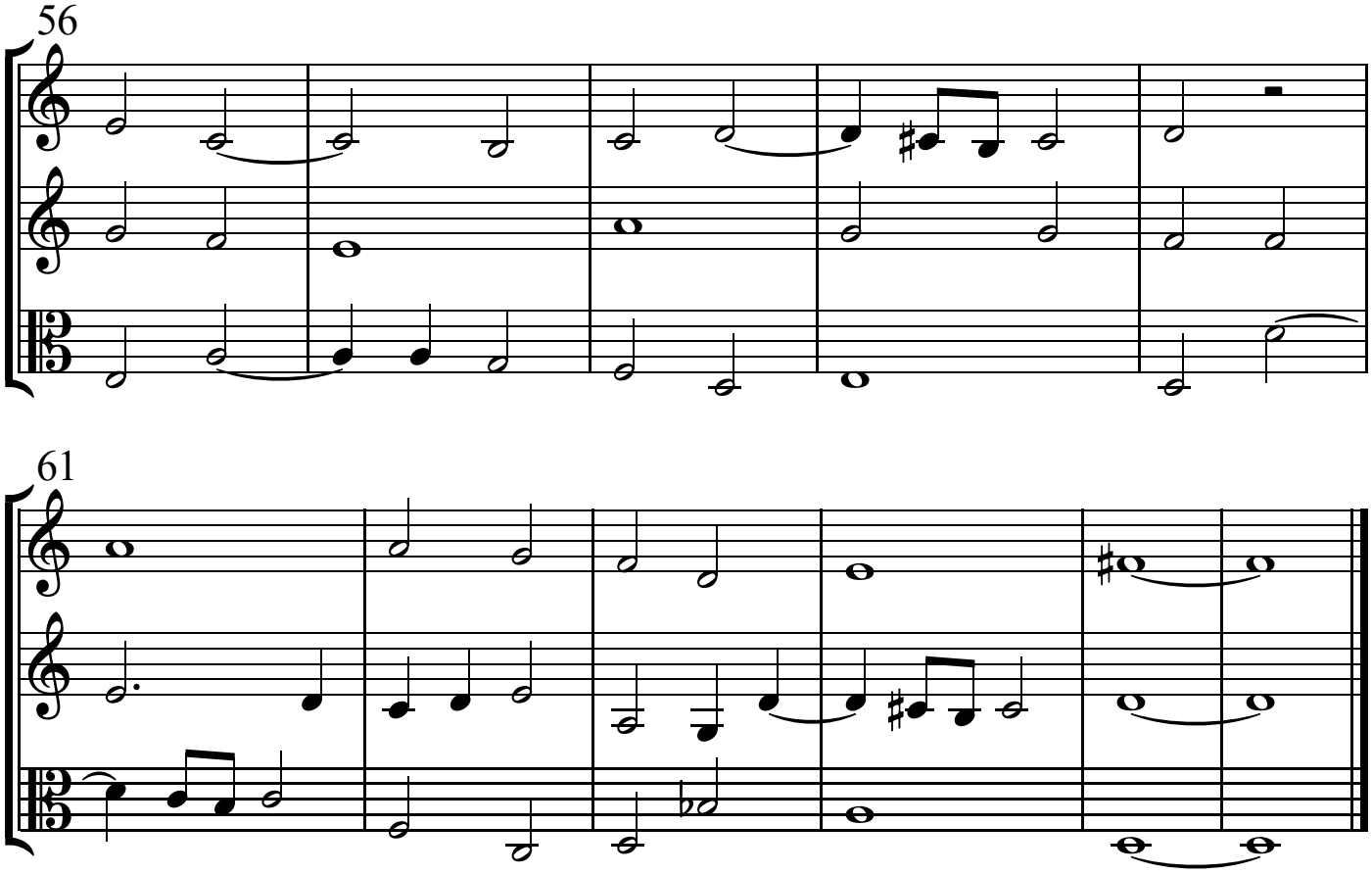

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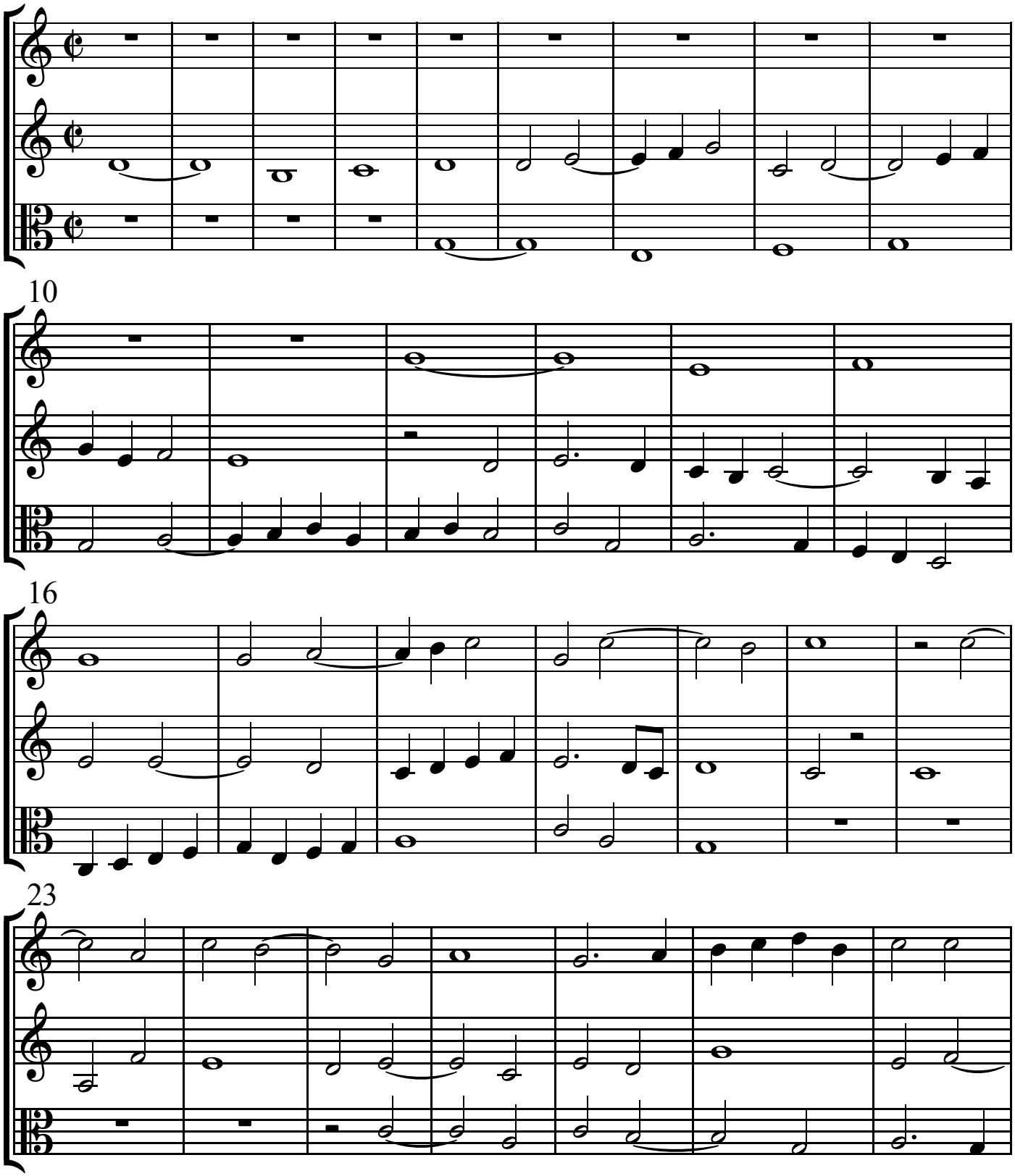
XCIII. Dieu est regnant



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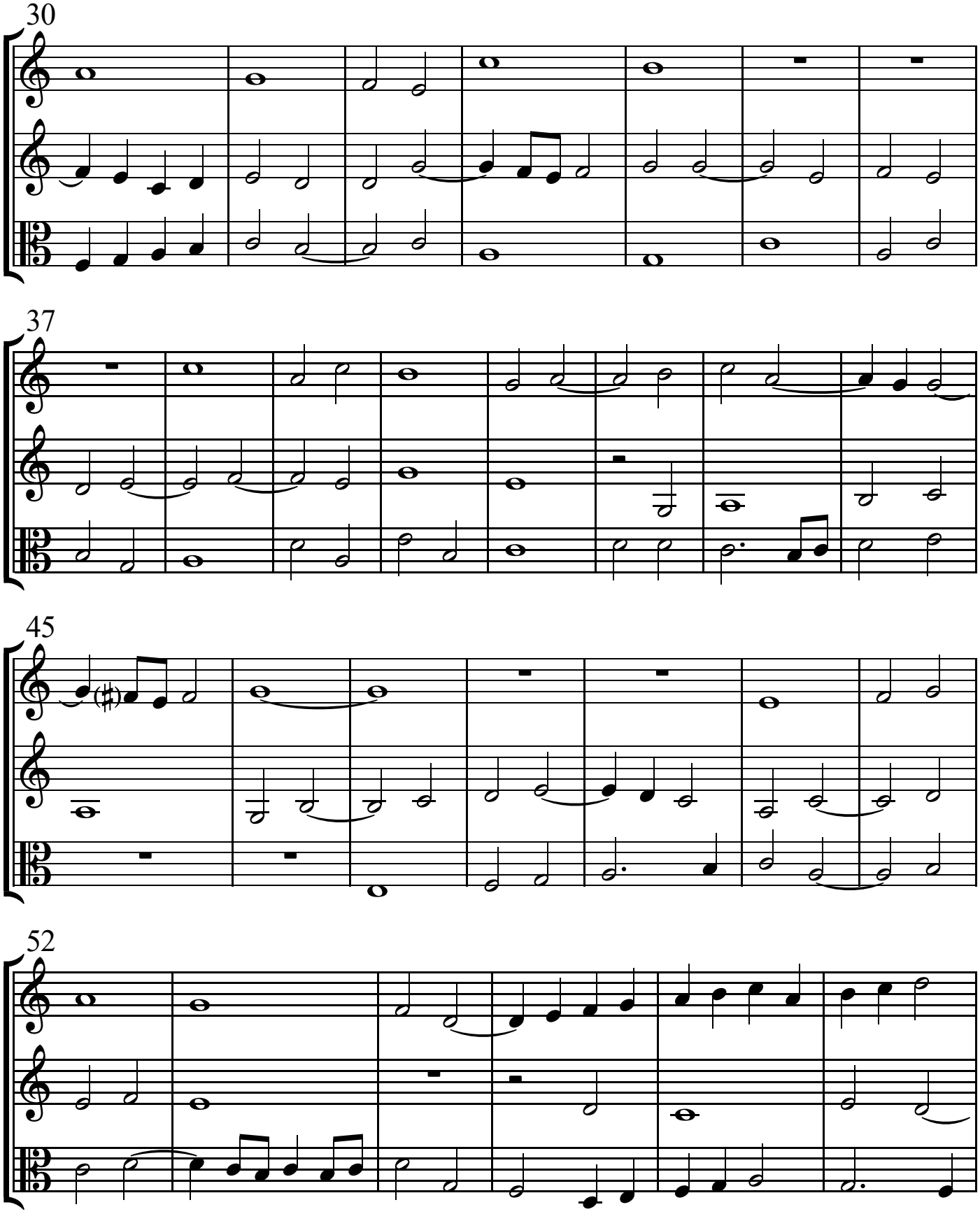

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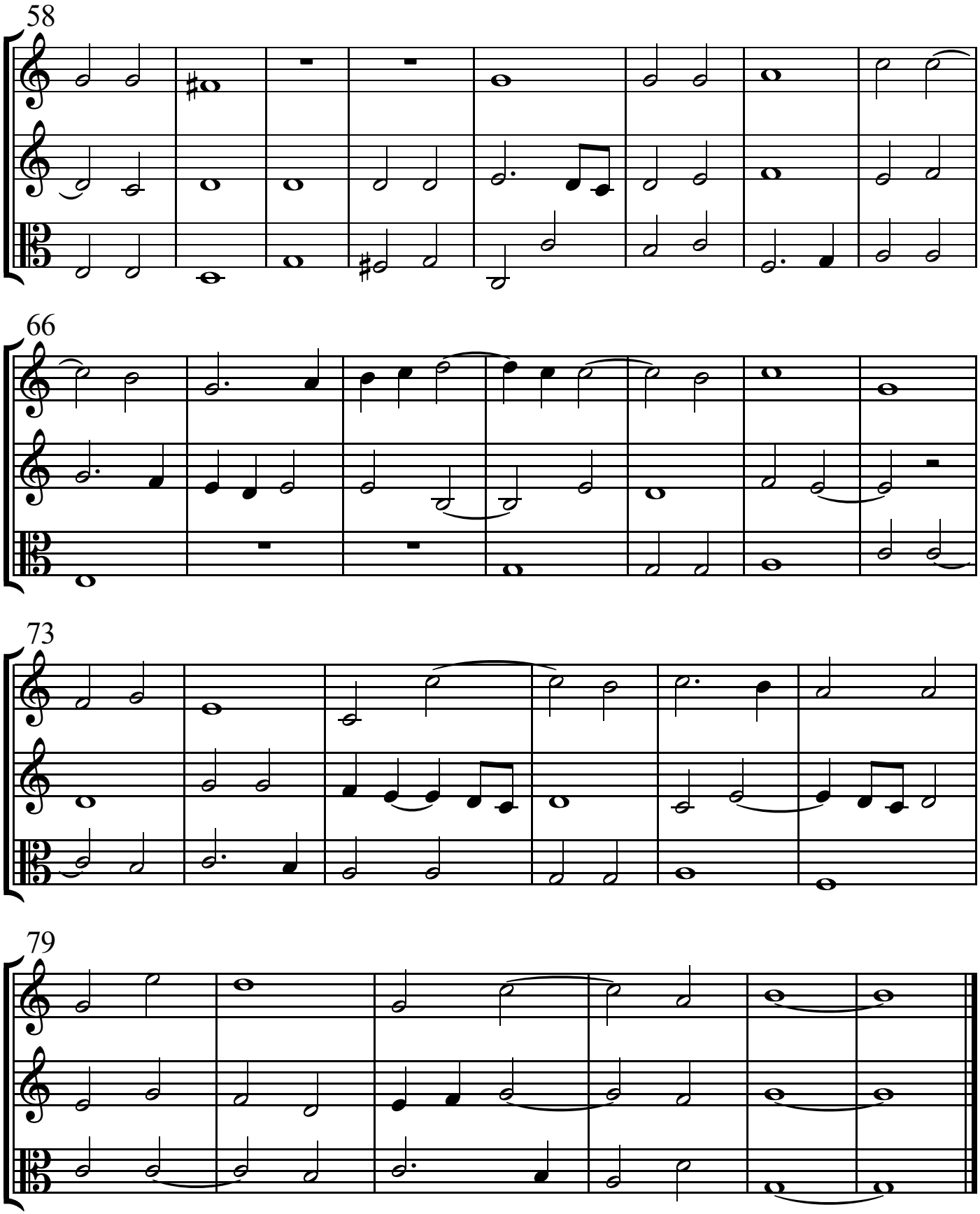

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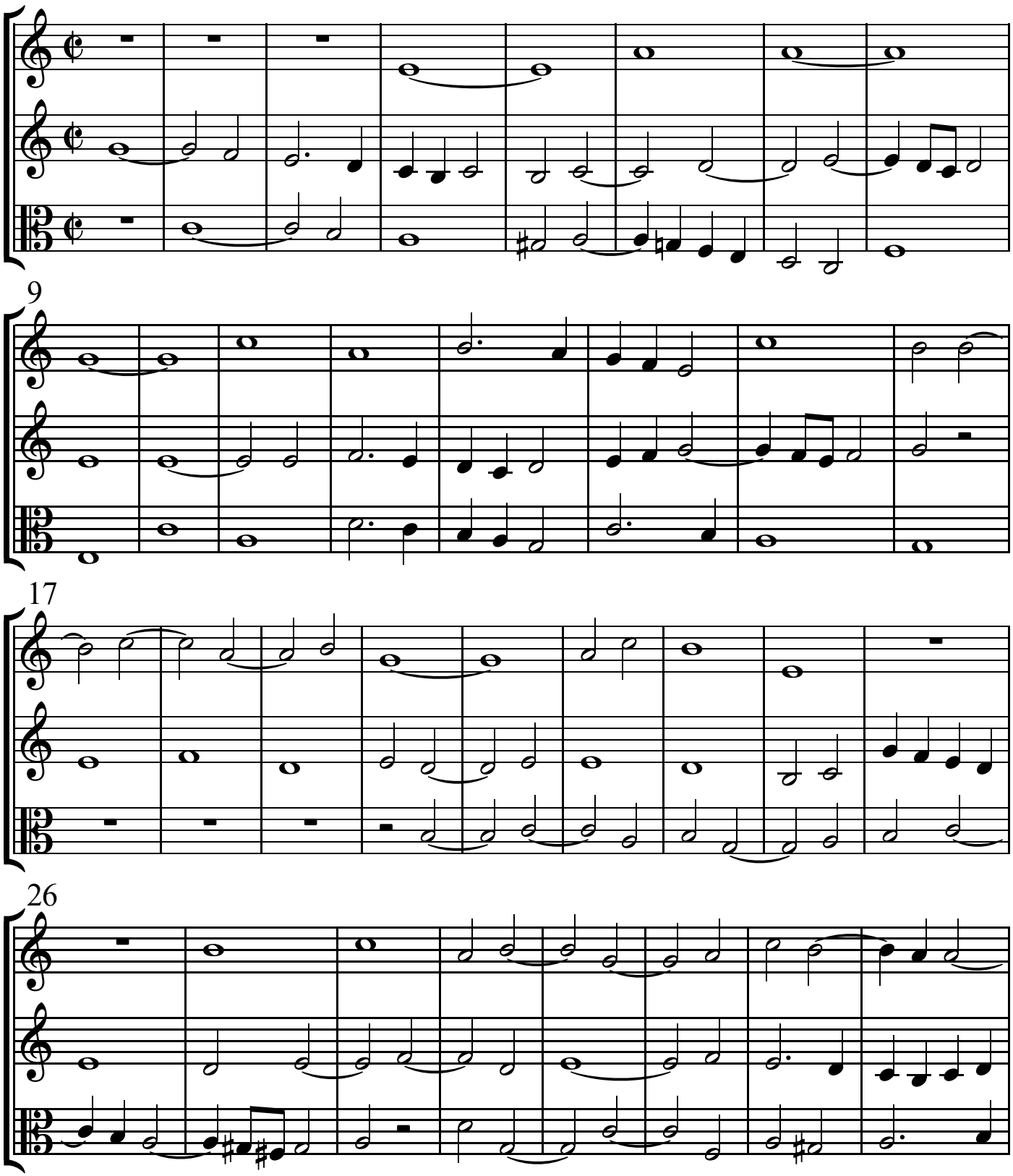
XCIV. O eternel Dieu



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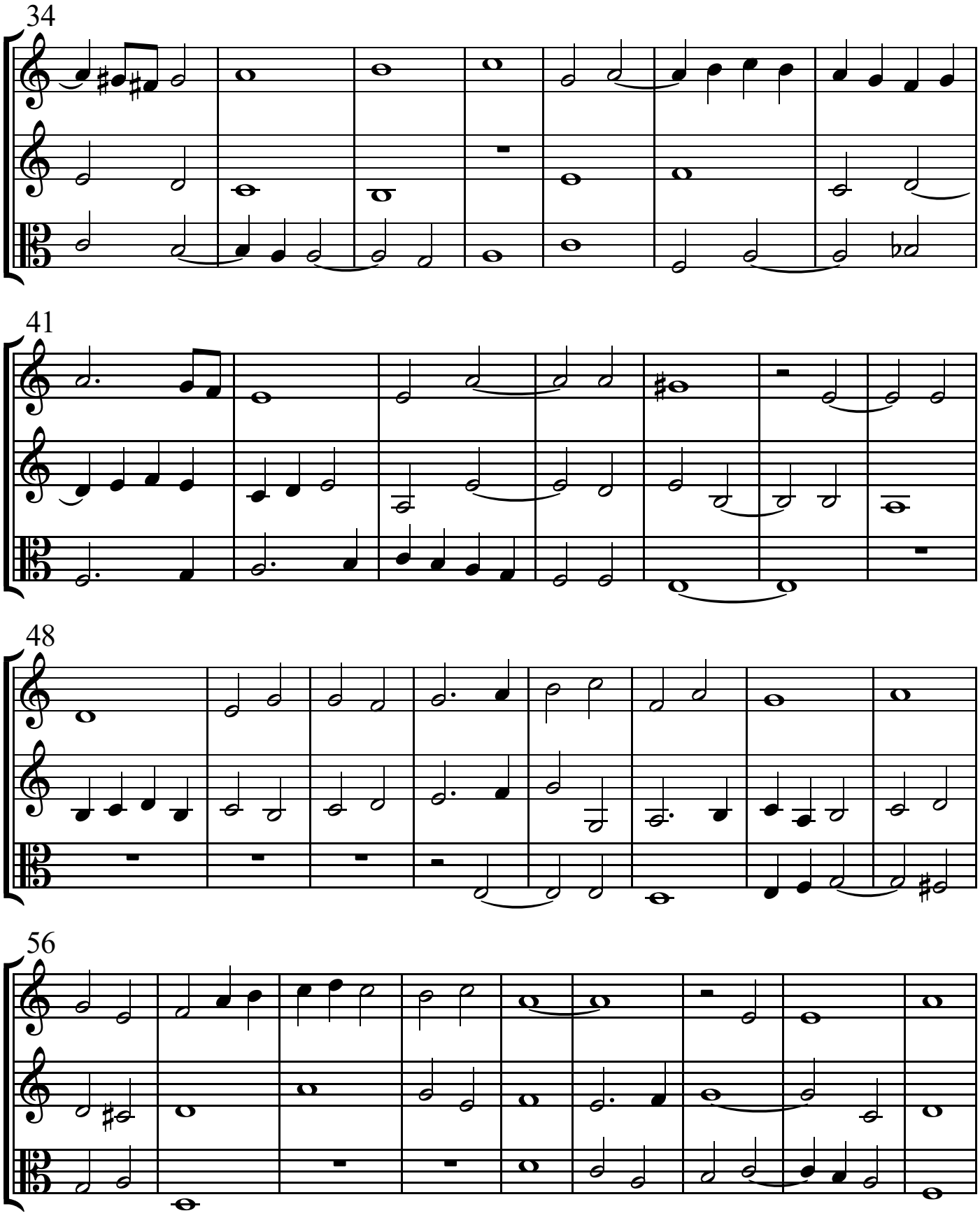

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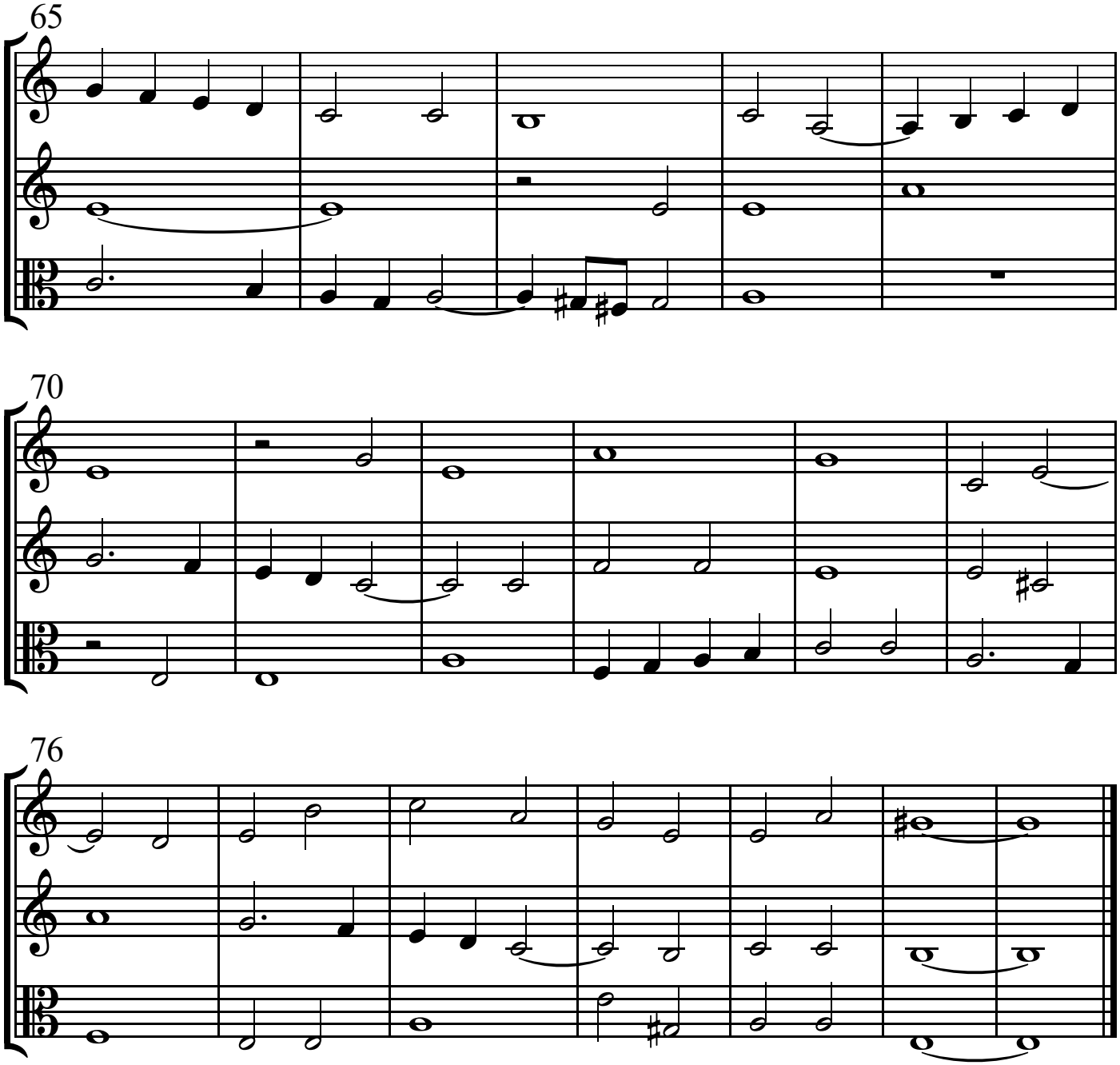

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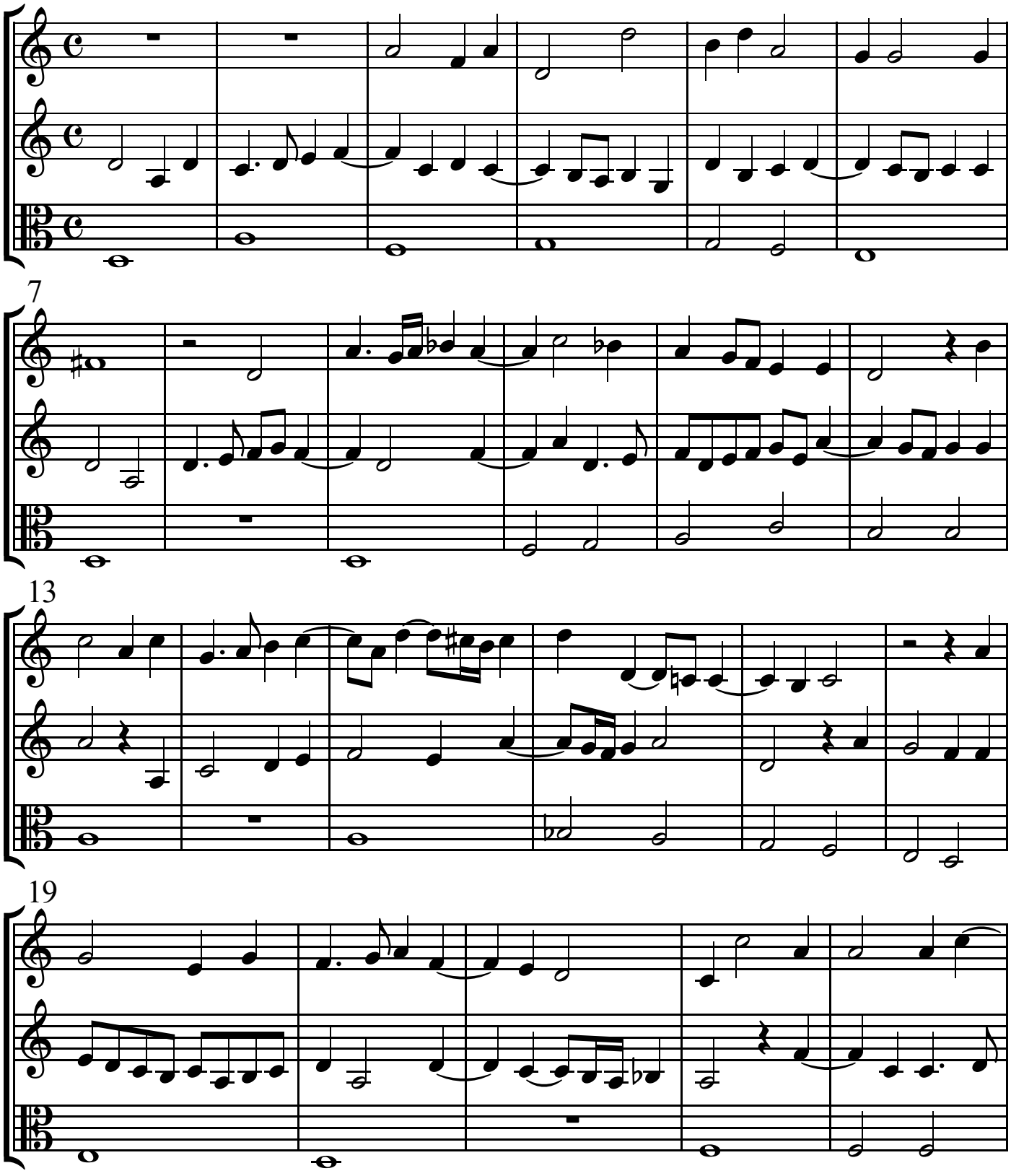
XCV. Sus egayon nous



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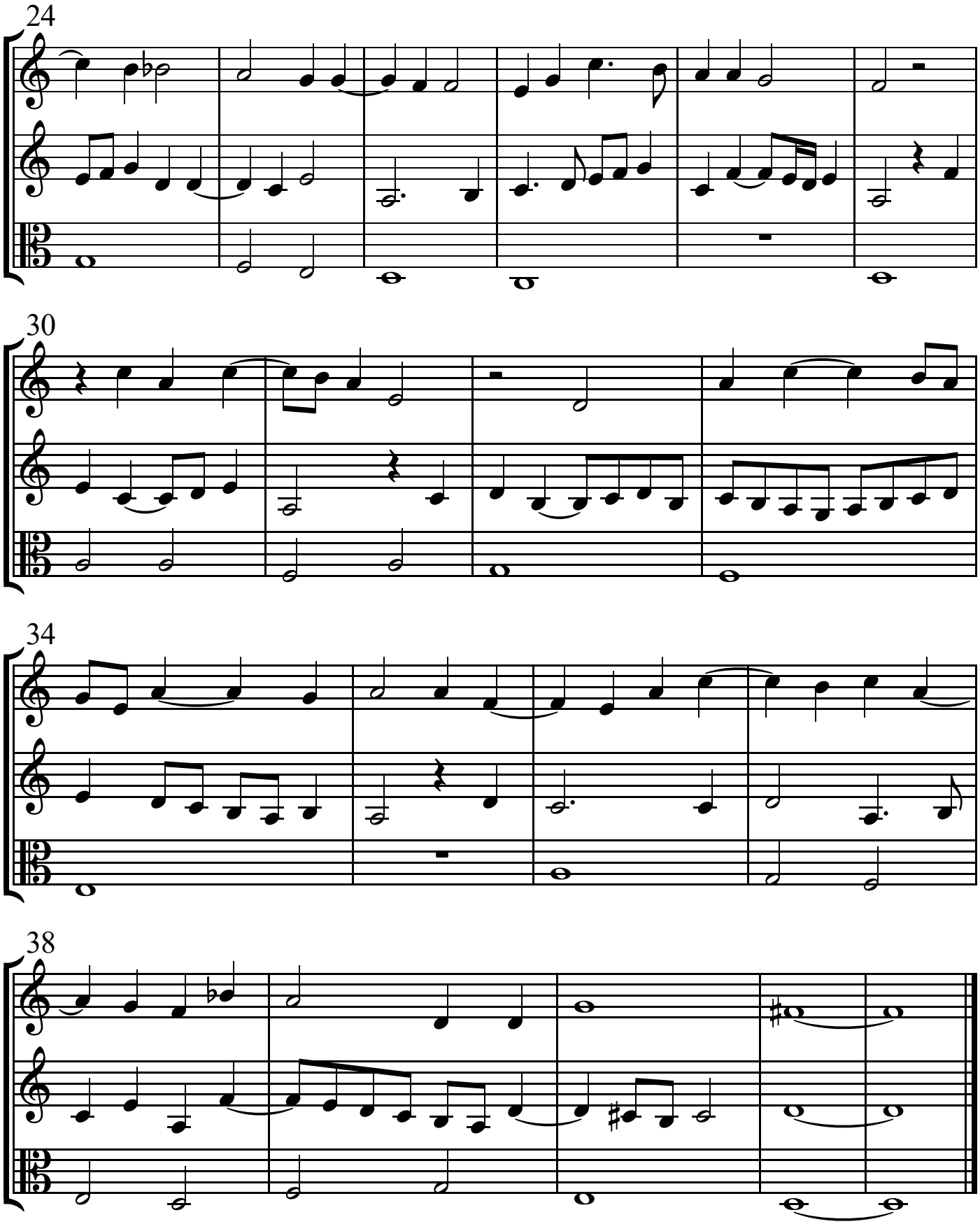

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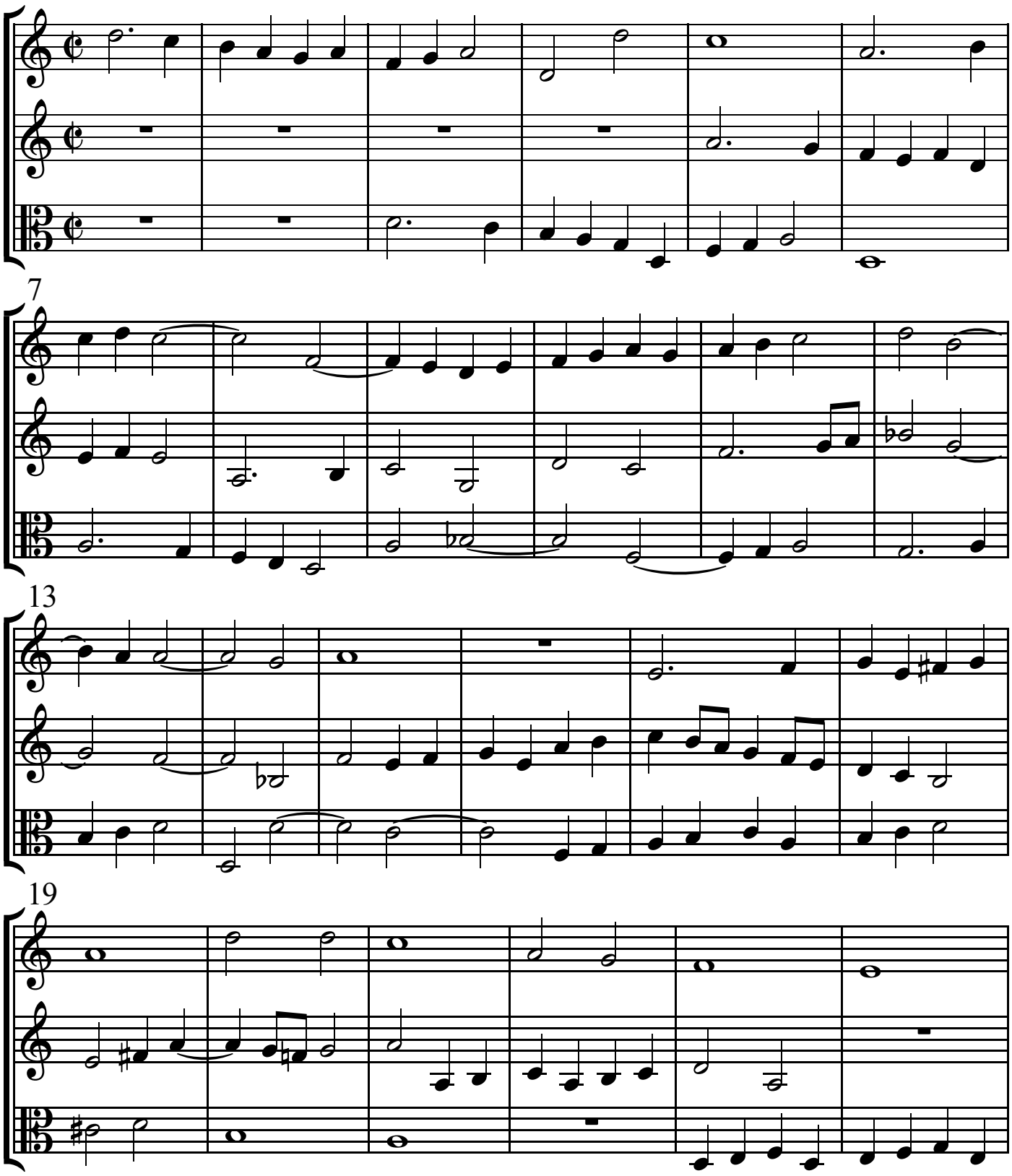
XCVI. Chantez à Dieu chanson



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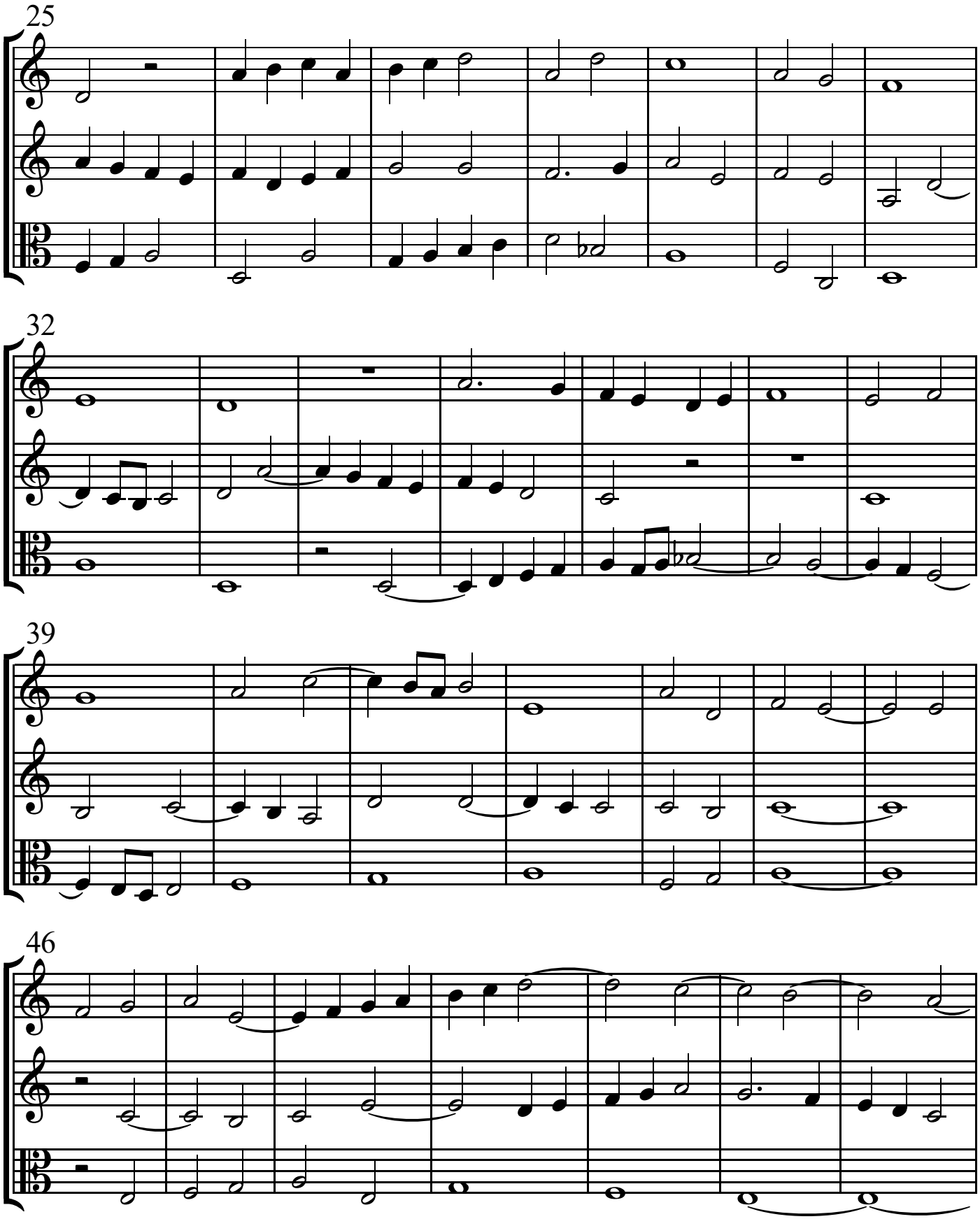

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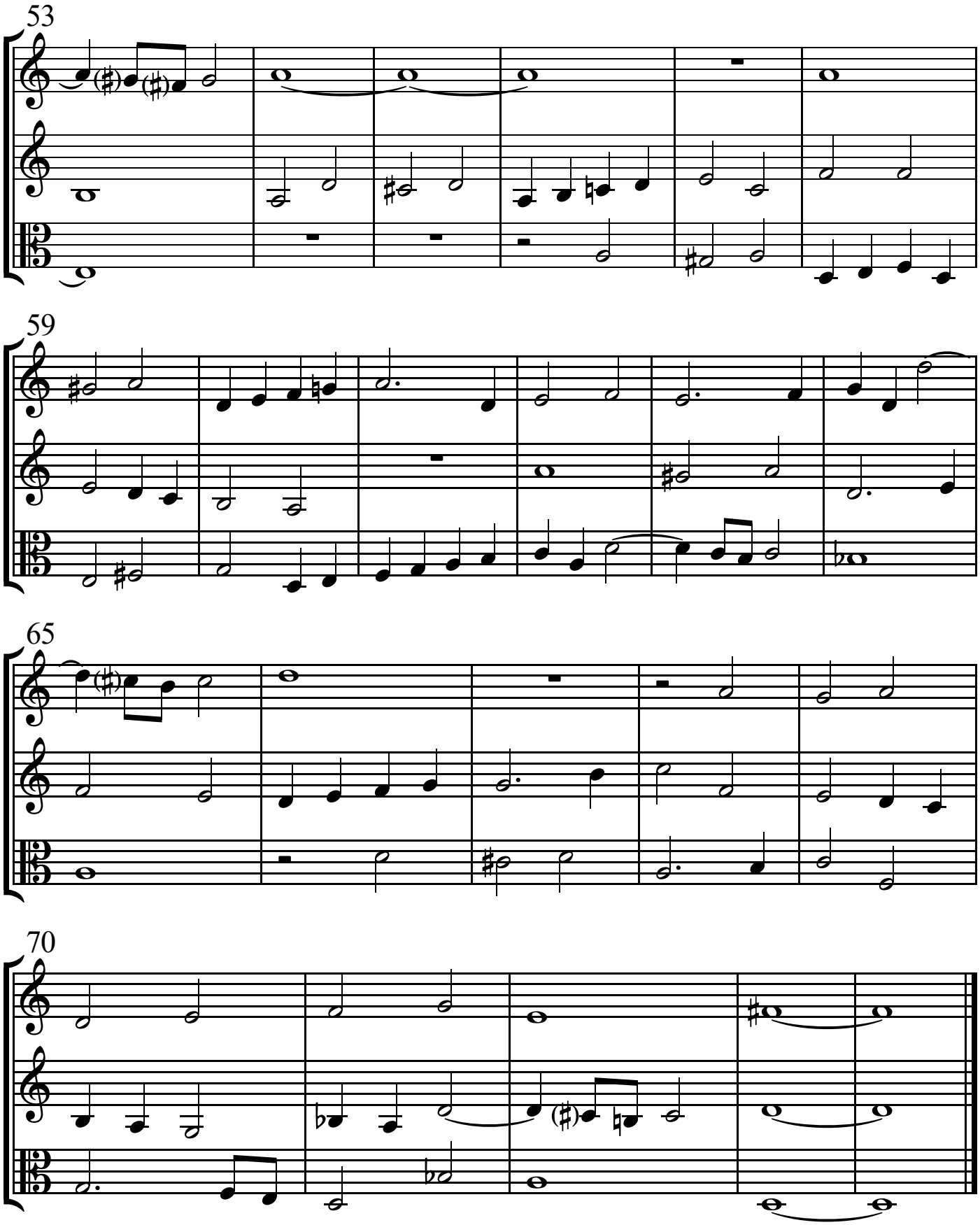

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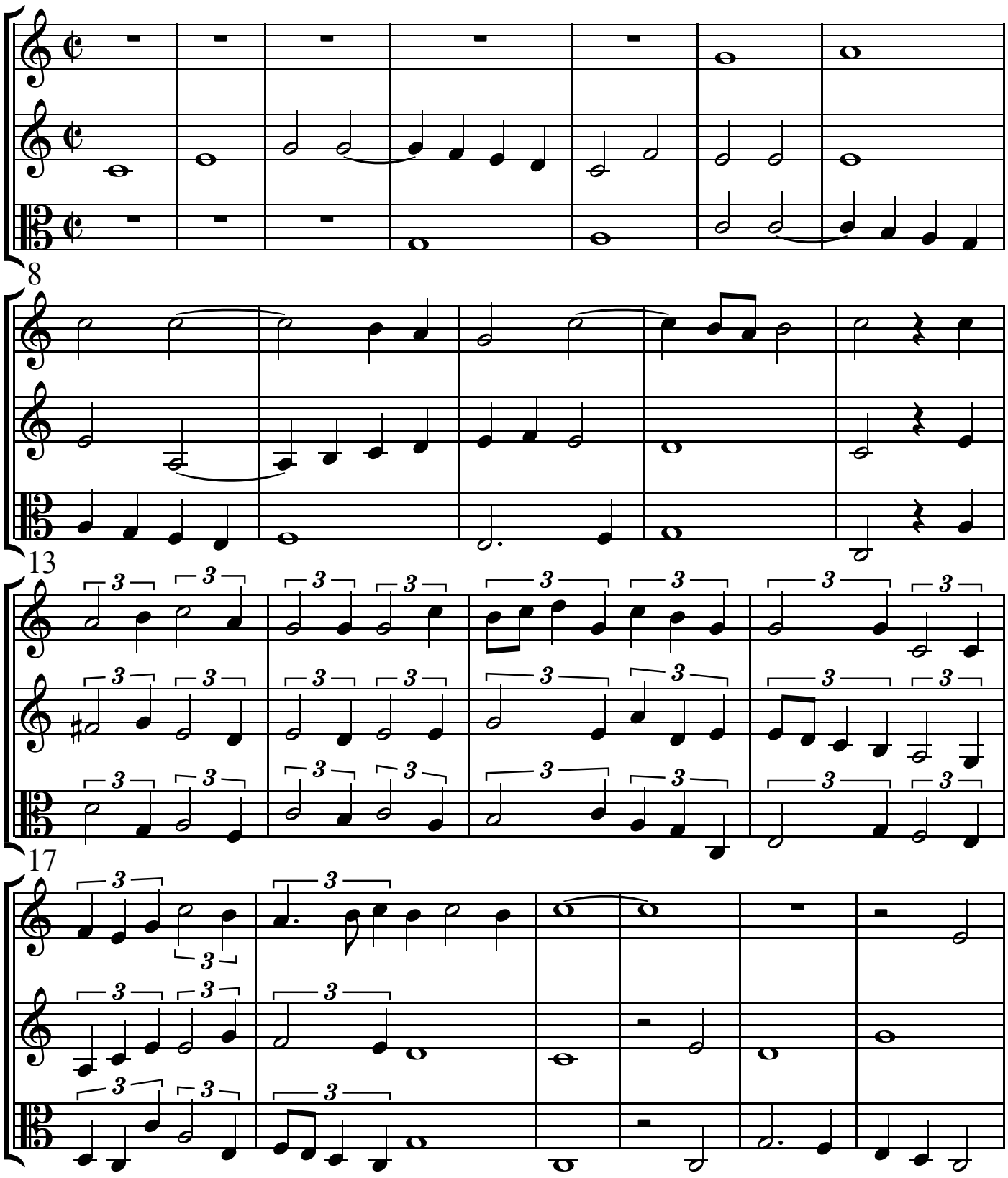
XCVII. L'Eternel est regnant



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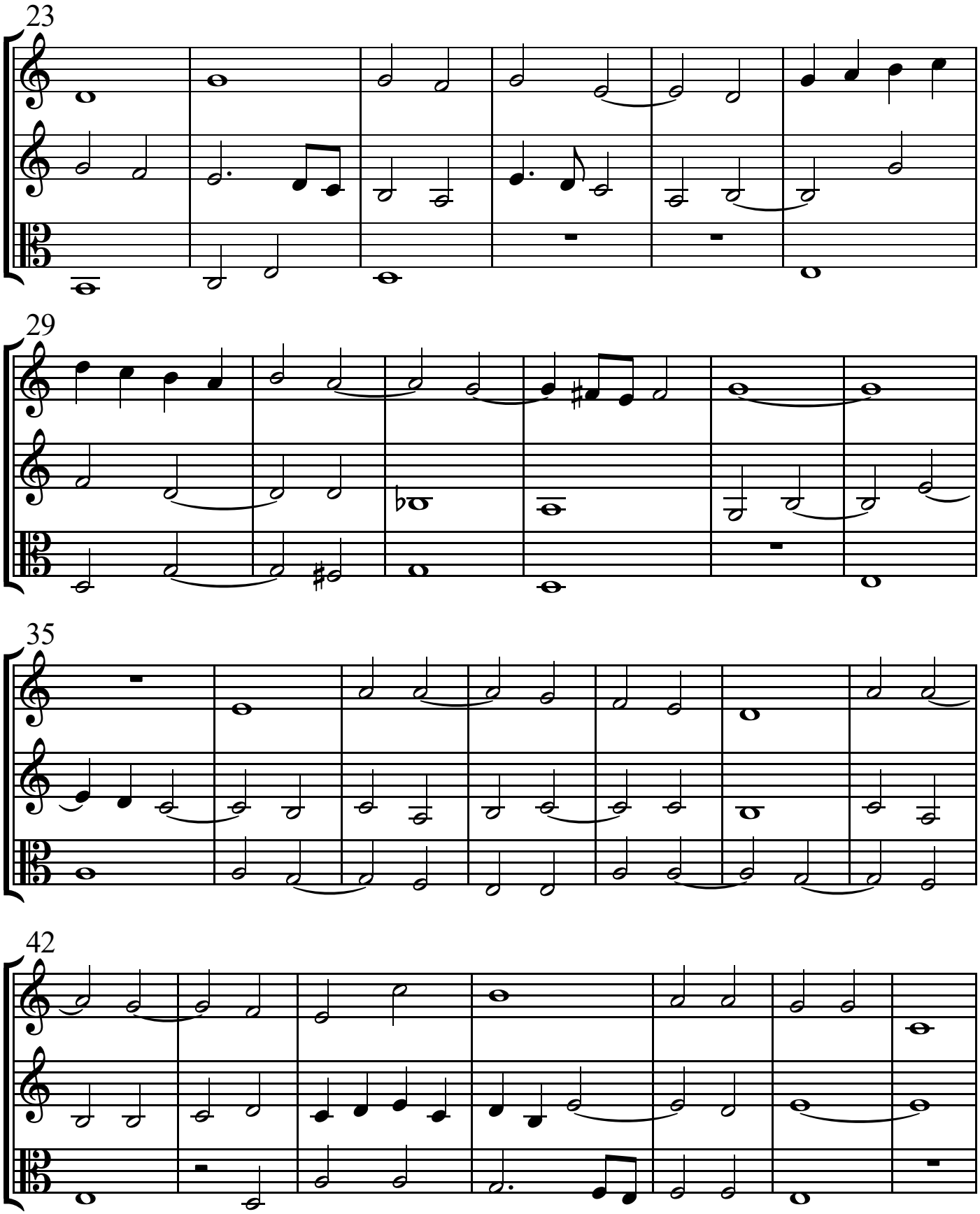

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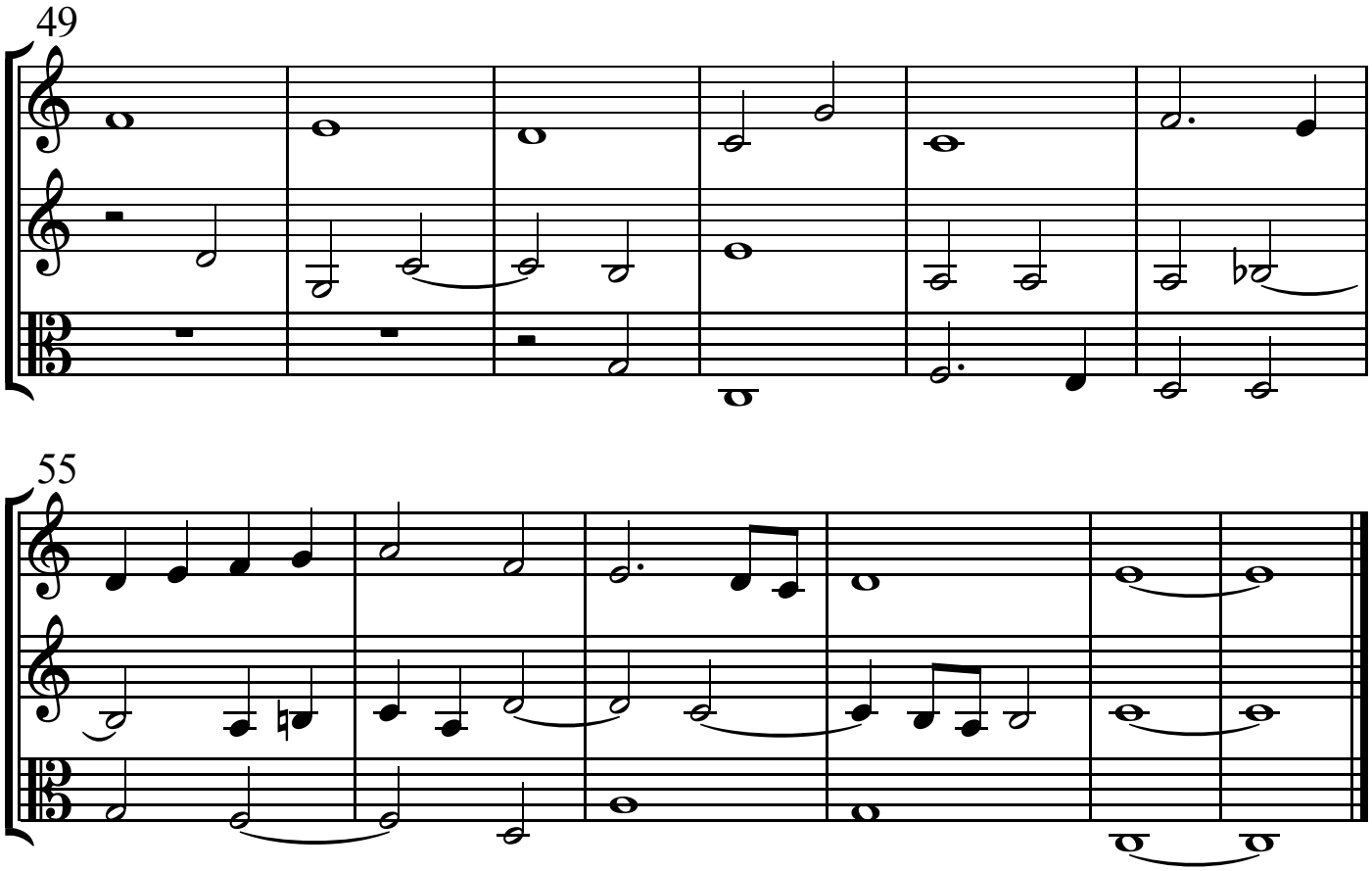

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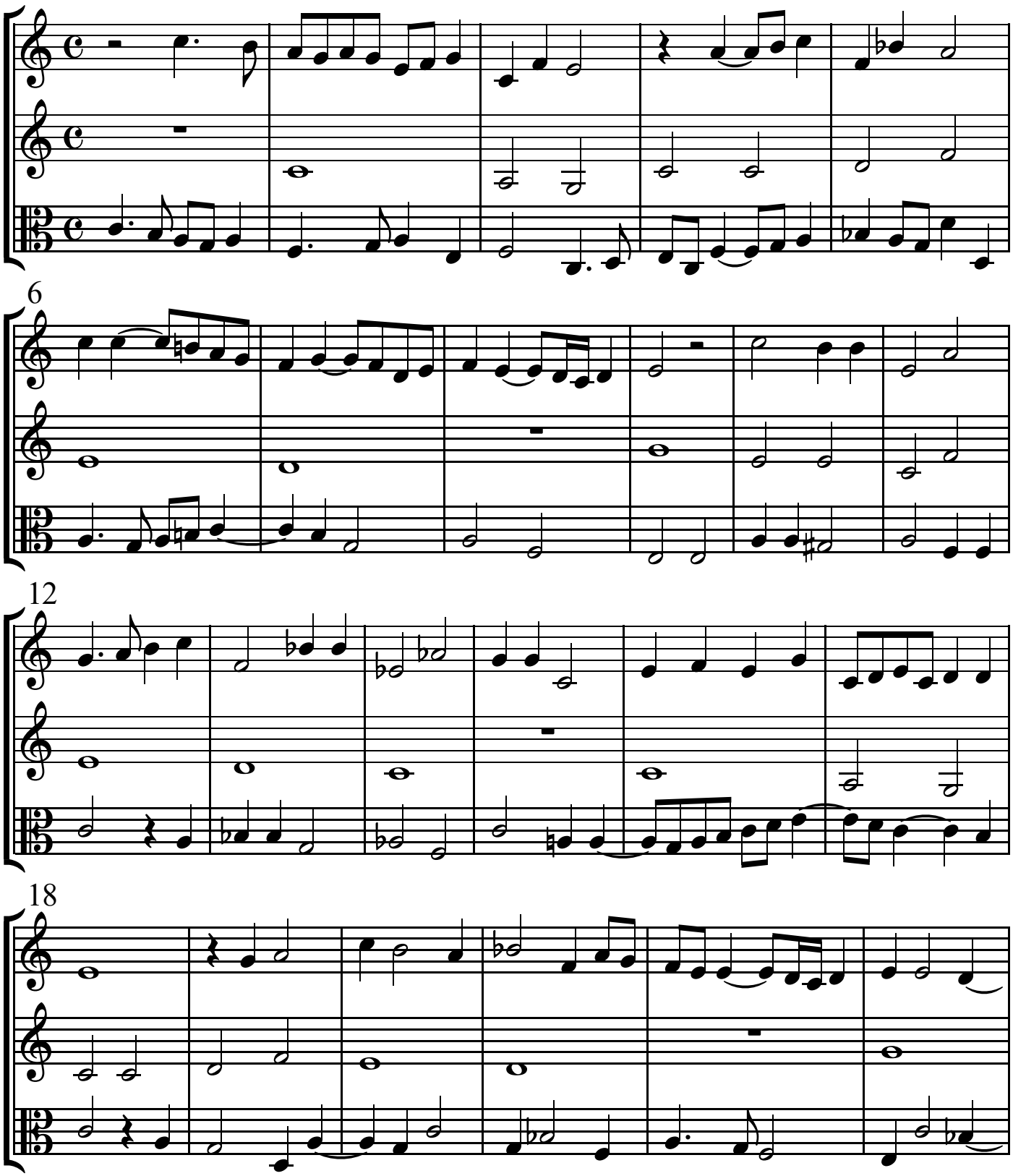
XCVIII. Chantés à Dieu nouveau cantique



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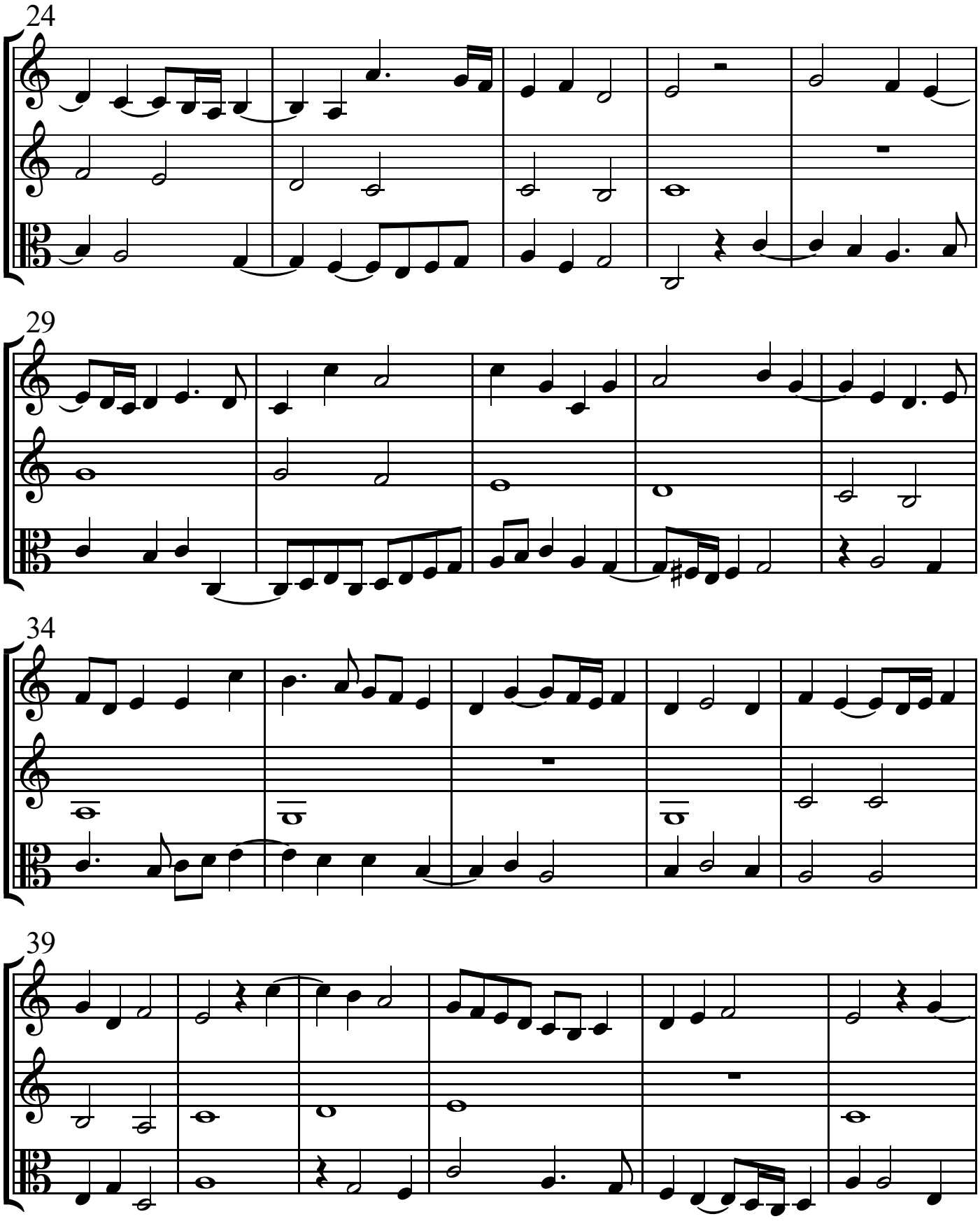

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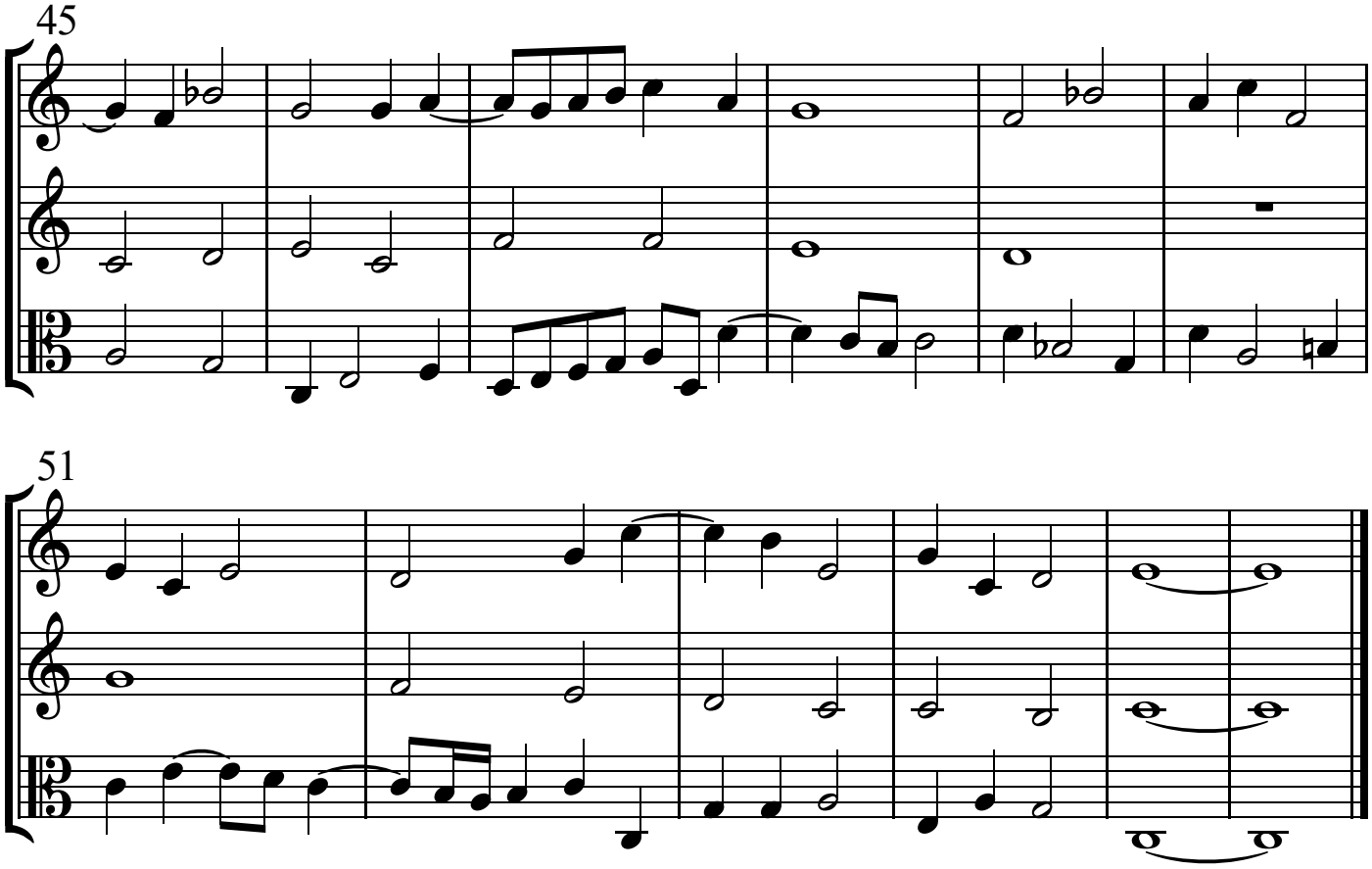

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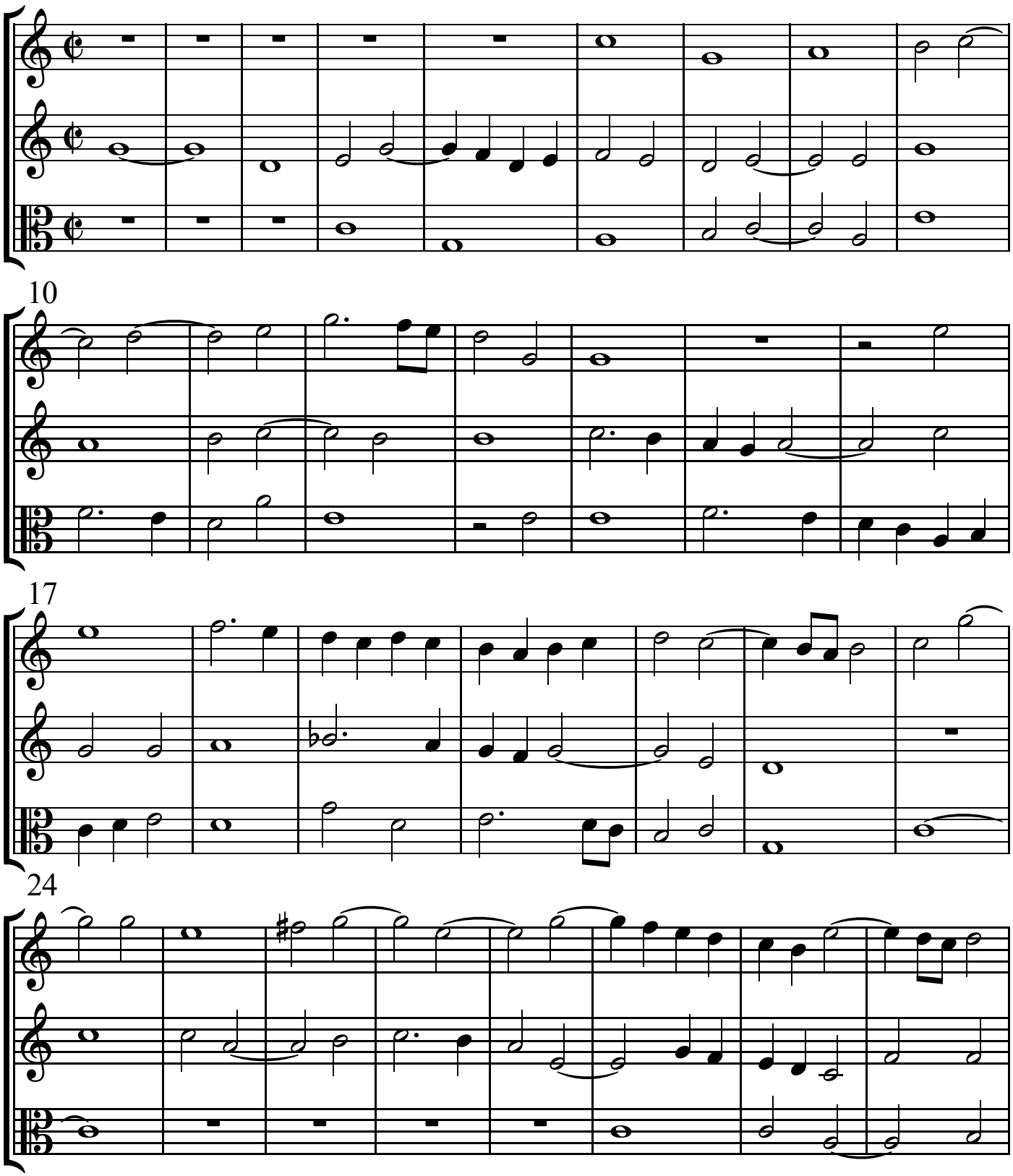
XCIX. Or est maintenant



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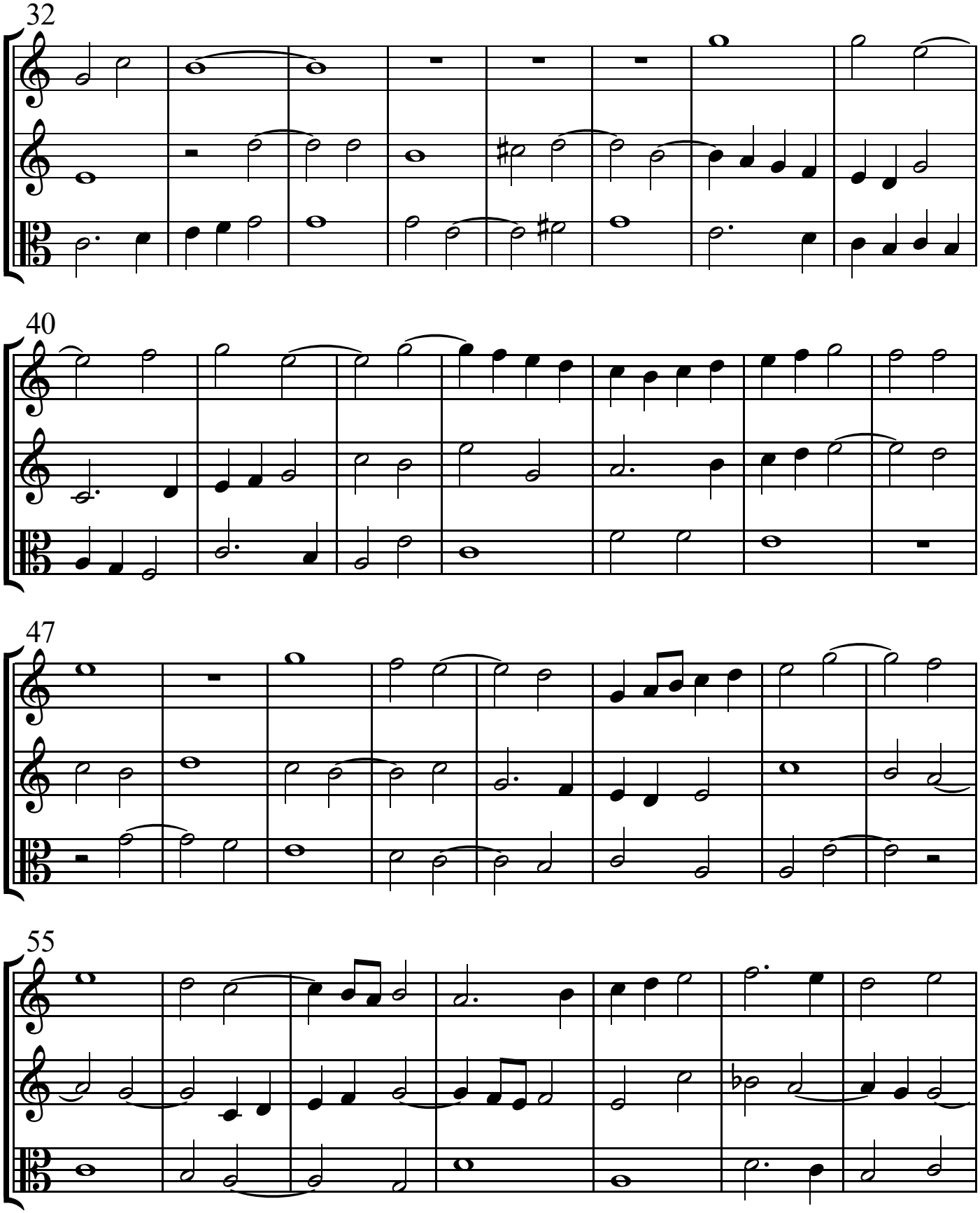

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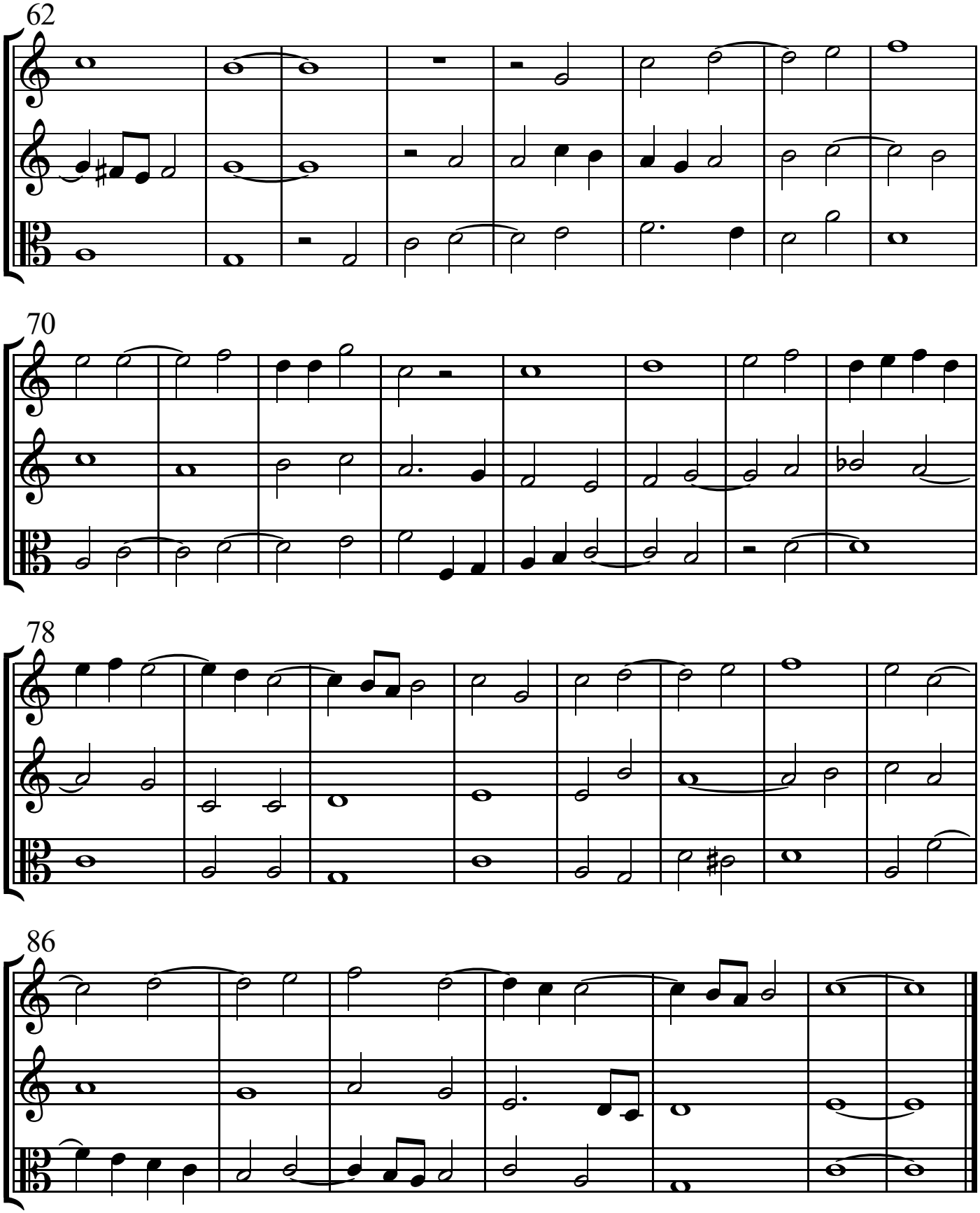

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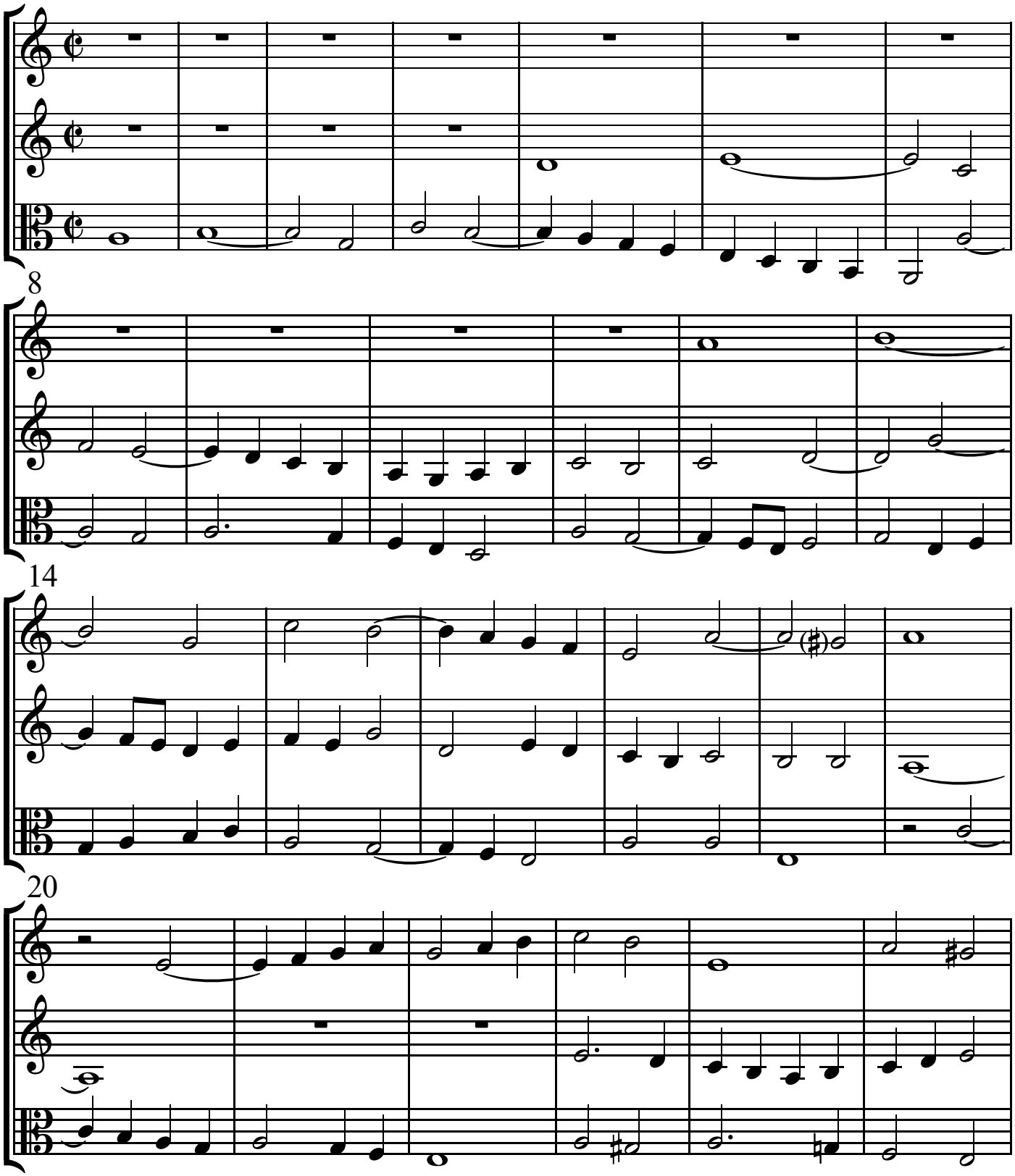
C. Vous tous qui la terre



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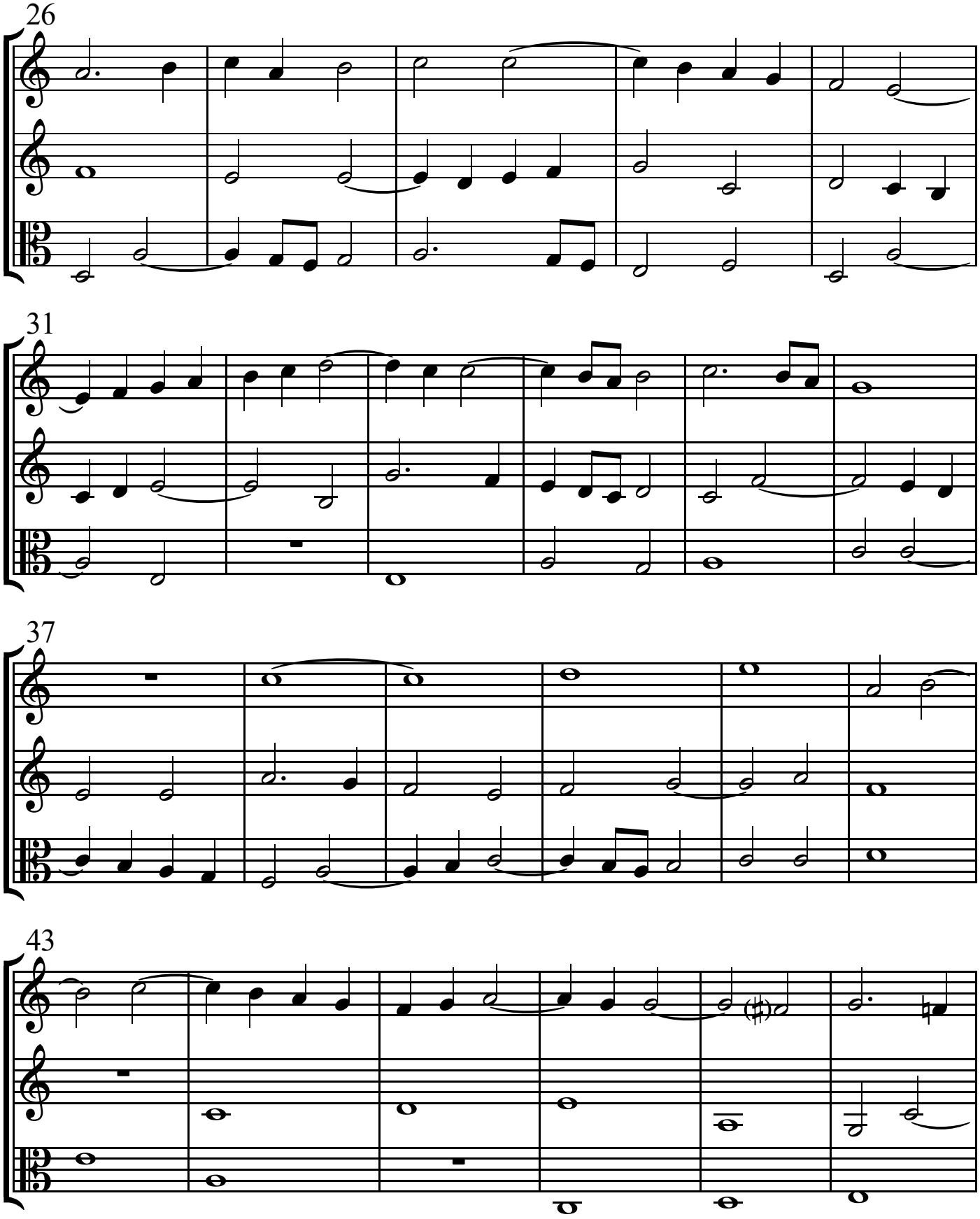

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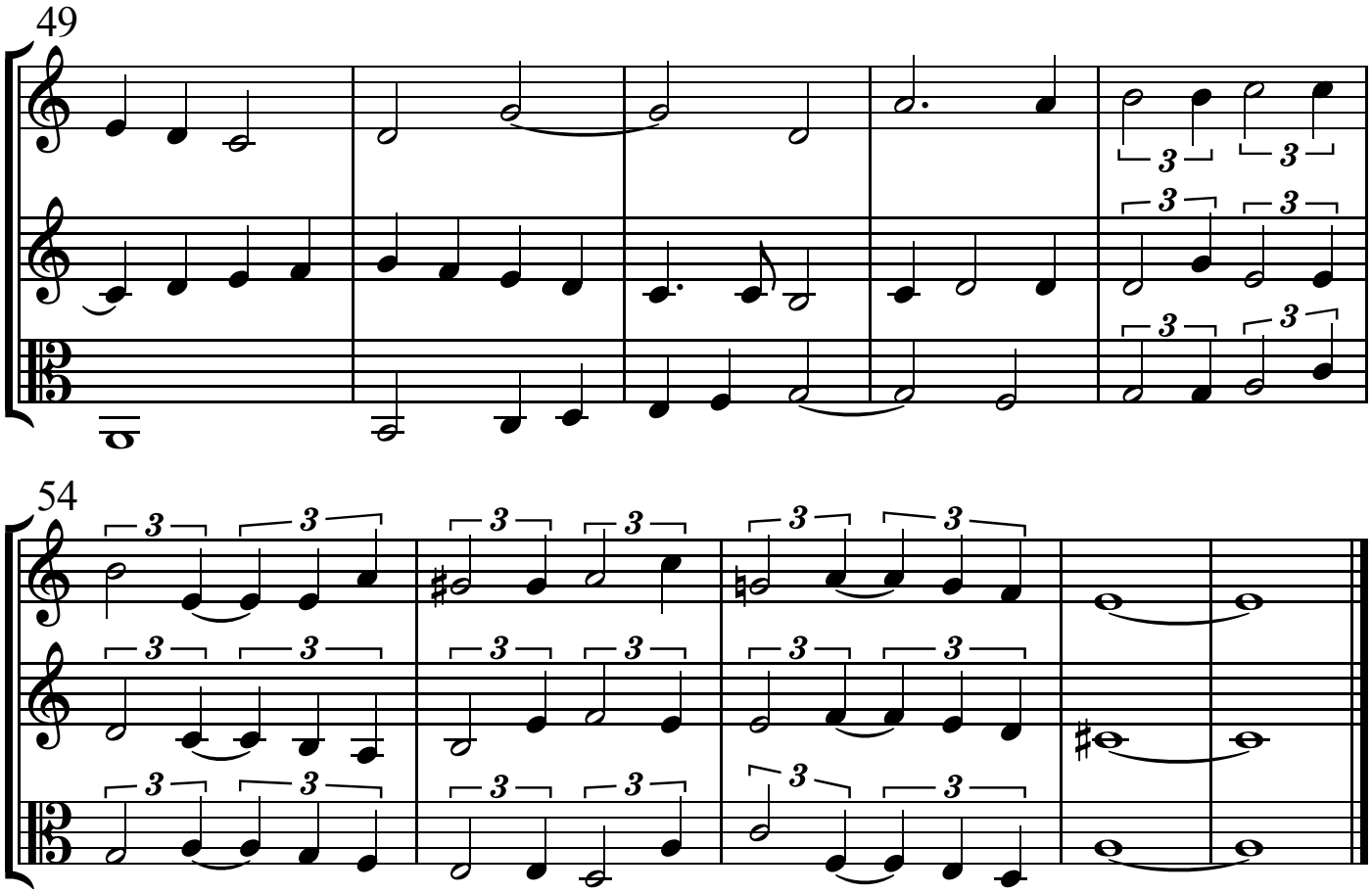

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