ORAZIO VECCHI

(*1550 - 1605*)

Fantasia
for four viols

transposed down a fourth for
(descant in a, tenor, tenor, bass)

Ed. and typeset by Jens Egeberg

after:

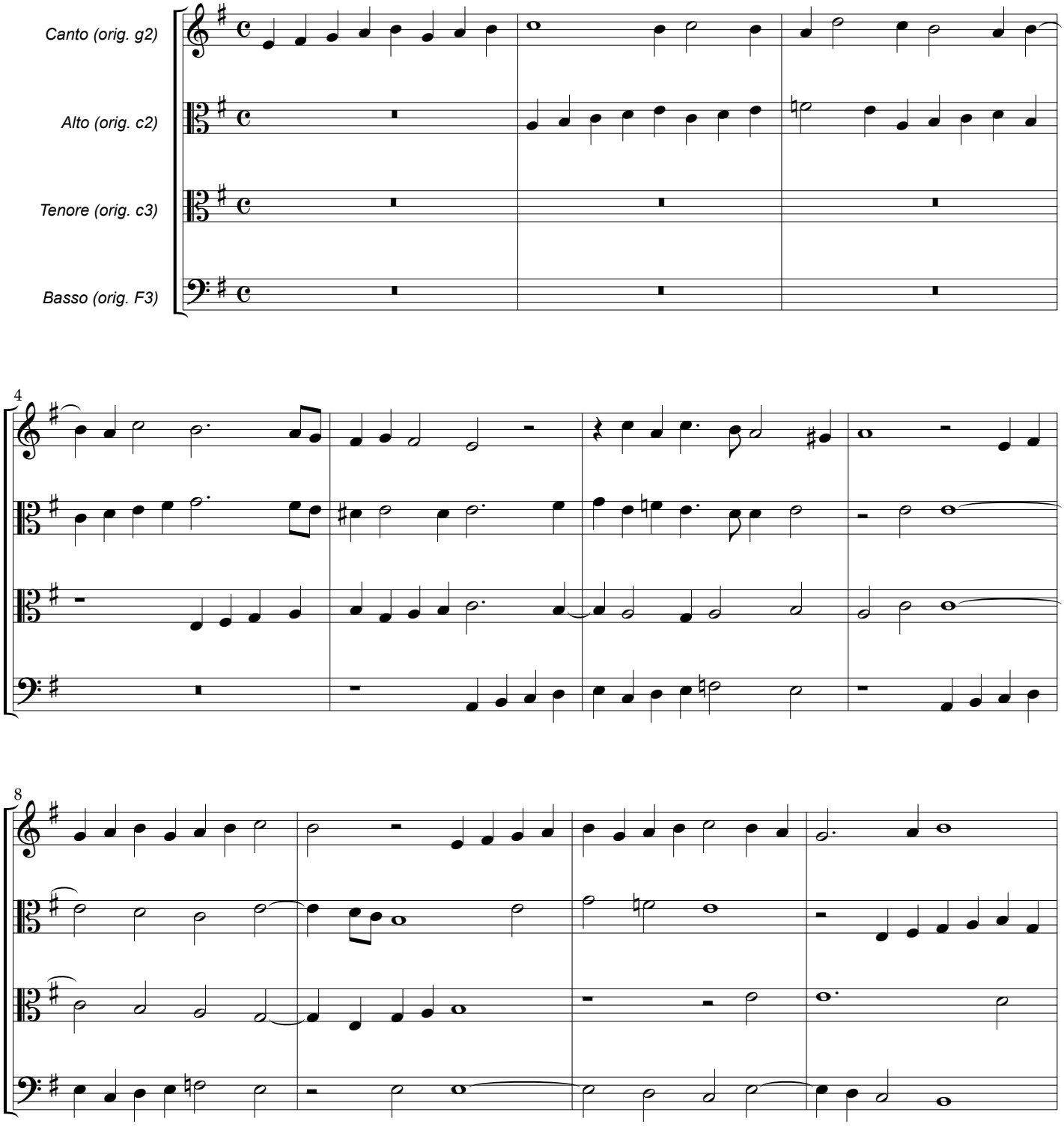
Selva di varia ricreatione. – Venetia, 1590

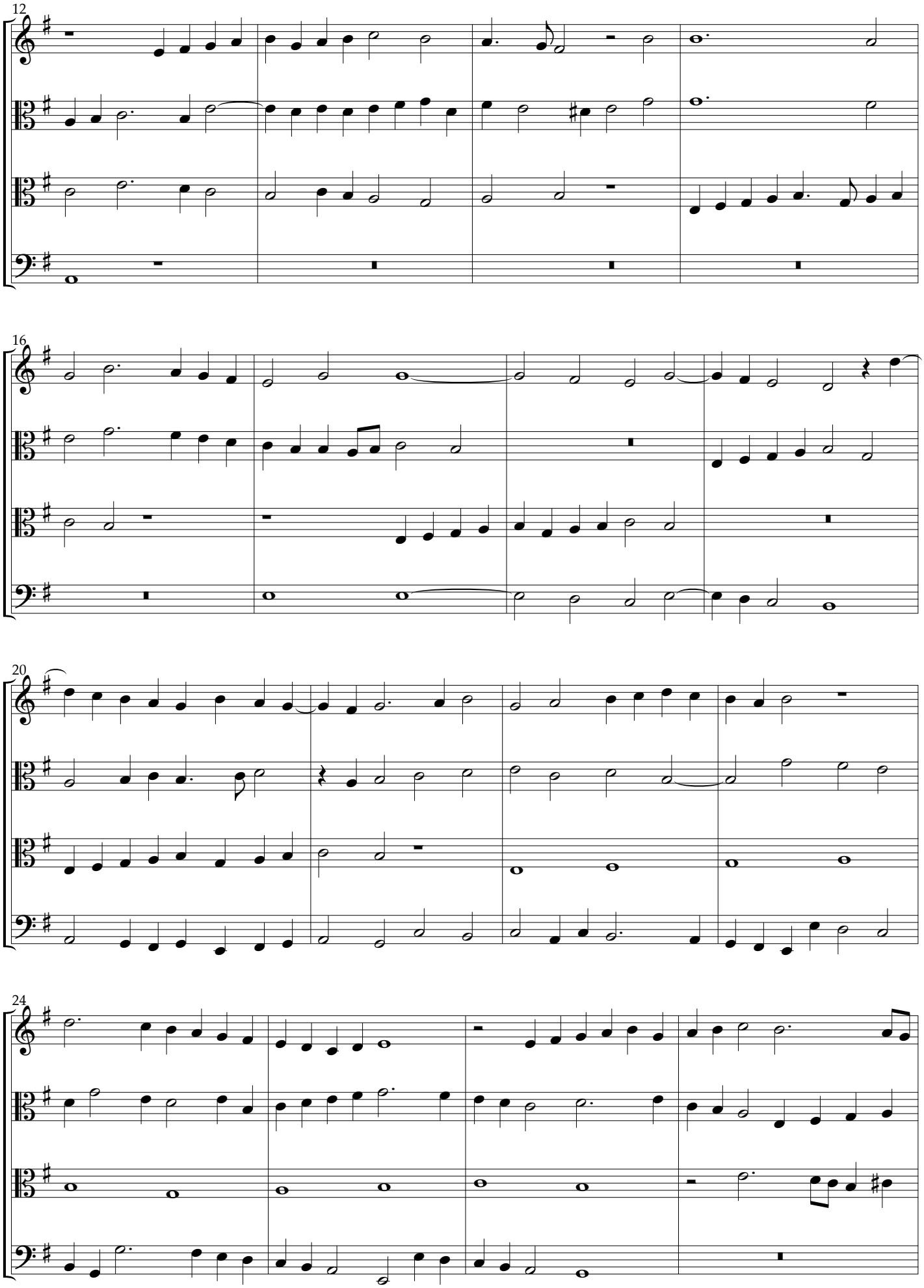
Score

Fantasia. A 4

(Selva di varia ricreatione. - Venetia, 1590)

Horatio Vecchi
(1550 - 1605)

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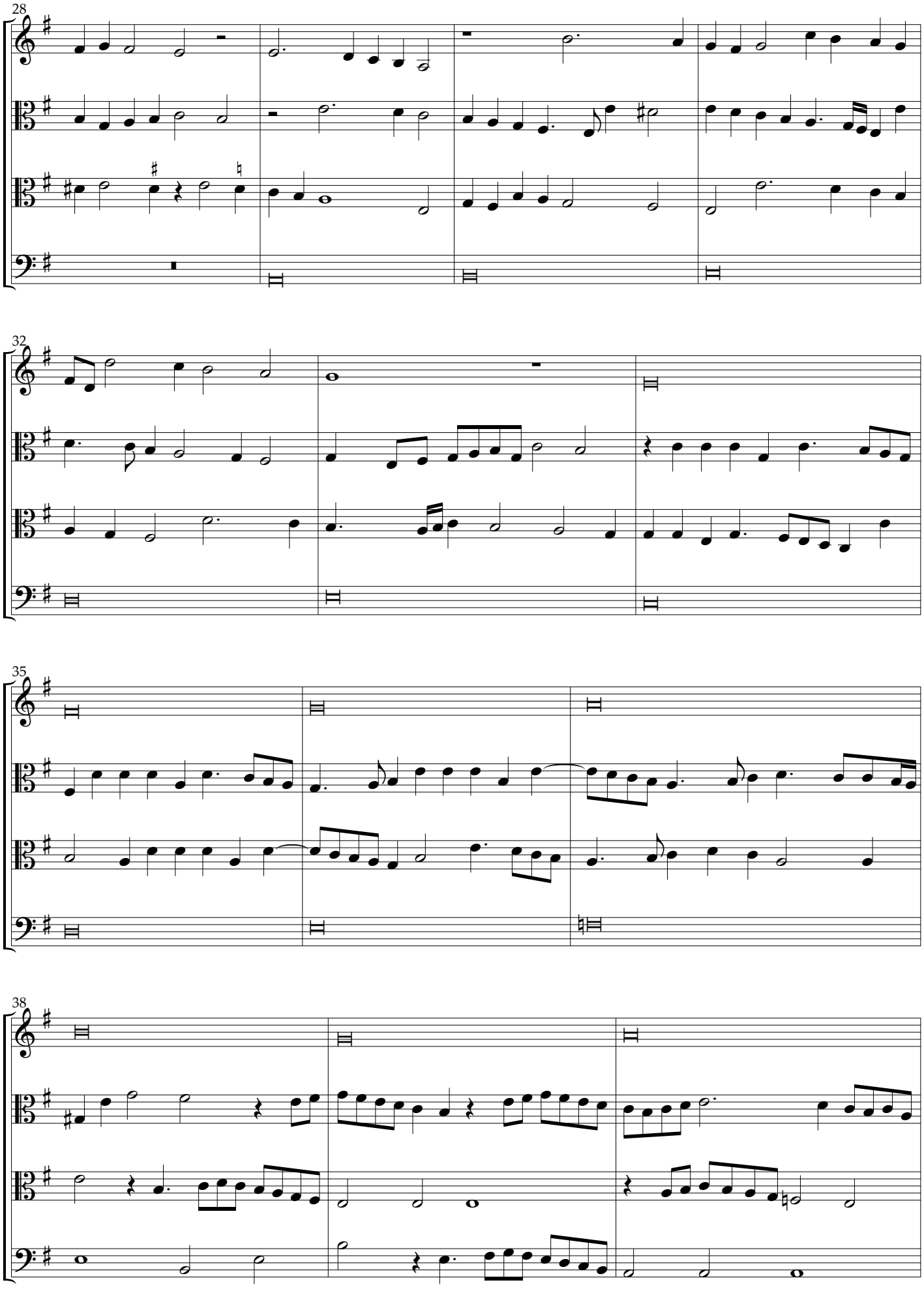
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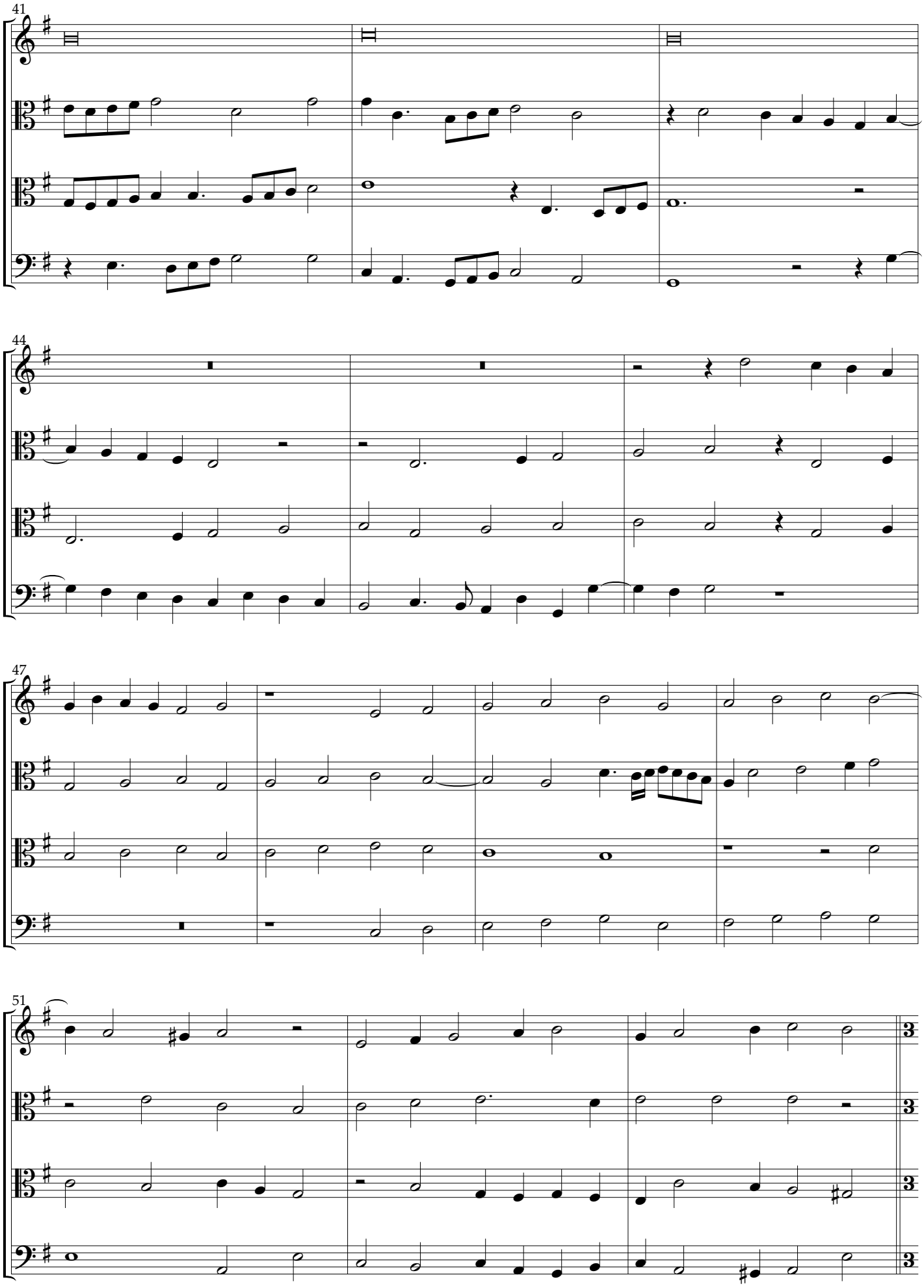
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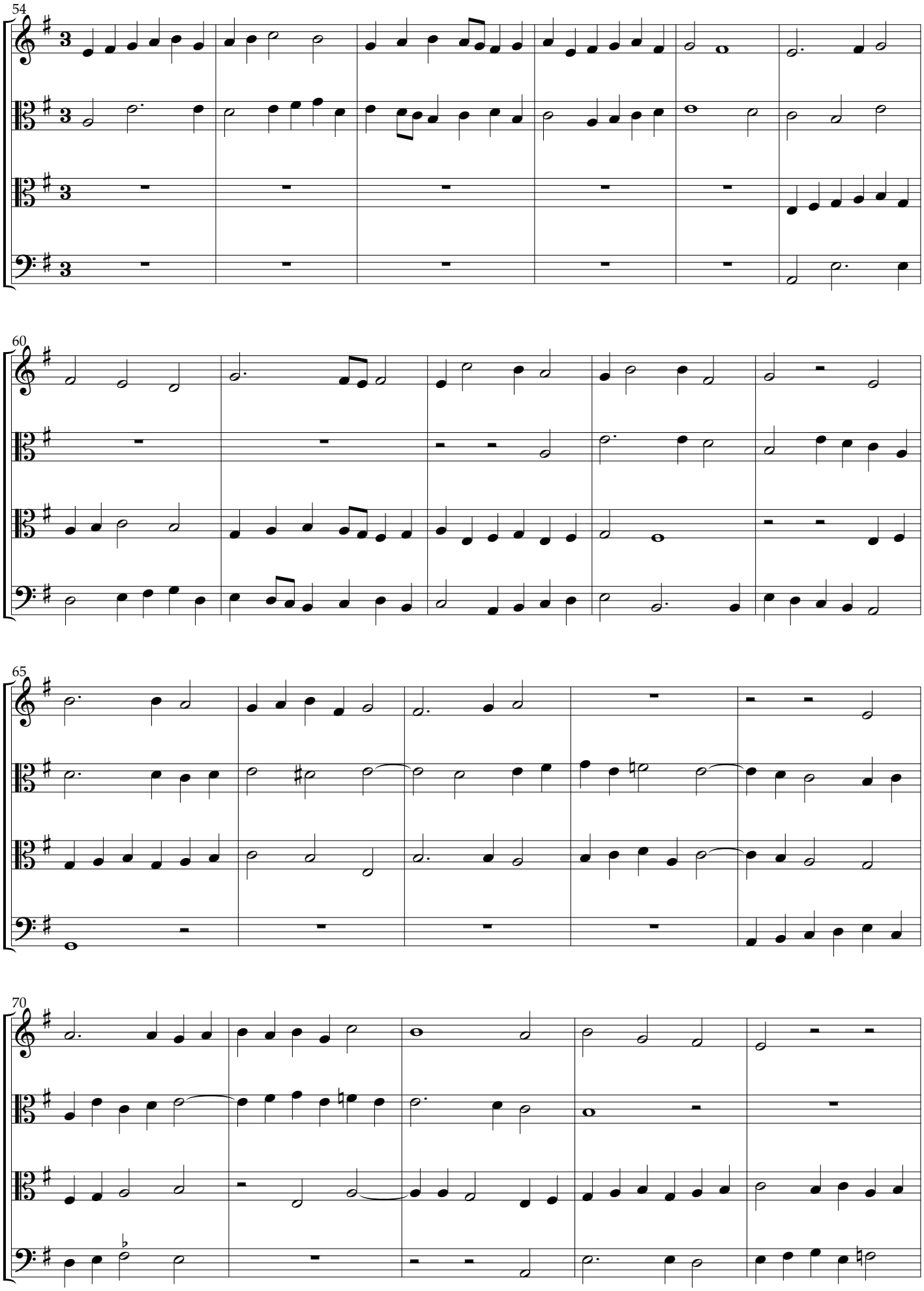
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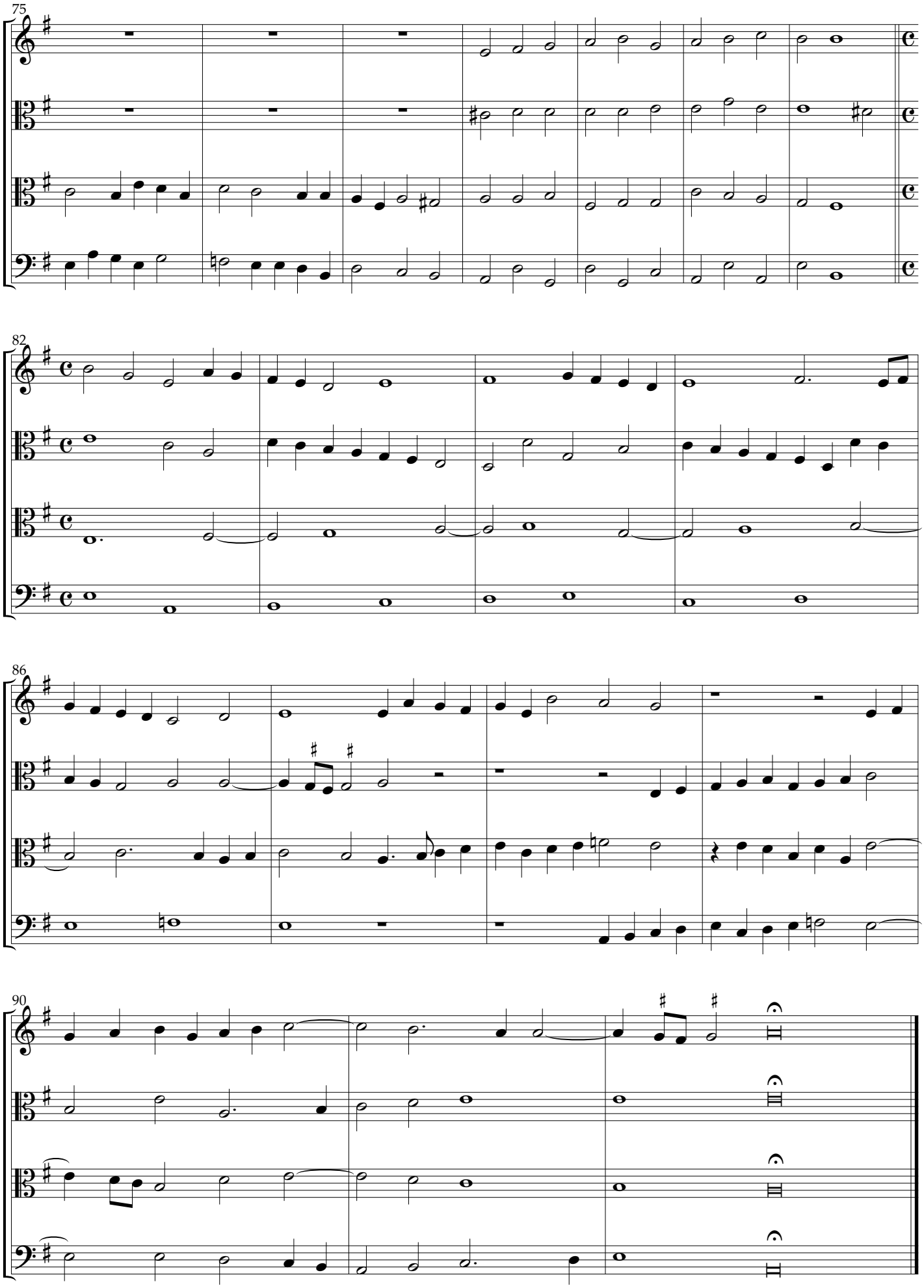

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The present edition of Orazio Vecchi's four-part fantasia is based on an incomplete copy at the Royal Library, Copenhagen. The missing parts (Settimo, Ottava, Nono & Decimo) have been added to the set with carefully handwritten copies by the Danish musicologist S.A.E. Hagen in the late 19th Century. But the four-part fantasia is in the original parts. The entire *Selva di varia ricreatione* has been published by the Royal Library as a digital facsimile at http://www.kb.dk/elib/noder/pre1800/vecchi.htm

This Vecchi fantasia is rather unusual in the *oeuvre* of Orazio Vecchi. First of all it is without text, and second, it has a contrapunctual outline, which is not like Vecchi's normal and more famous lighter vein as in the *canzonettas* and the madrigal comedies. In the *Selva* ... there is only one other textless piece: a five-part dance, *Saltarello detto Trivella.* But for this and other collections he made serious madrigals as well, but no textless compositions.

A particular feature of the fantasia is the monothematic concept. The main theme is presented in quavers, in semibreves and breves - in imperfect and perfect time - with different countersubjects, and thus resembles the earlier *ricercare* by Willaert and Buus.

Jens Egeberg, 2005.