J.S. Bach

B minor mass

Version for chamber orchestra by Tony Kime

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute
Oboe
Cor Anglais
Bassoon
String quartet
Double bass

Editor's note

Starting with a string quintet, and bearing in mind that Bach gathered the material from disparate sources, each with its own orchestration, it became clear that the number of wind instruments was relatively large. But I imagined that Bach, being such a pragmatic soul, would not disapprove of some rationalisation. So two flutes could become one flute with an oboe underneath. Two oboes could become an oboe and a cor anglais, and so on. So, always aware of the great genius looking over my shoulder, I tried to emulate his intentions with the one exception of giving the single movement for corno da caccia to the cor anglais. The trumpet lines are played by high oboe, supported by flute and cor anglais. I'm sure Bach will forgive me for not using drums - what is lost in excitement will, I hope, be gained by hearing the wonderful harmony and contrapuntal lines more clearly. My faith in Bach's flexible approach was strengthened when I discovered that he simply forgot to define the obligato instrument in the Benedictus. Modern editors favour the flute, but it seems to me that the string-crossing style suits the violin rather better, and that may well have been his intention. The flute, as earlier and together with the other wind instruments, provides a hint of continuo organ, which Bach almost certainly would have played himself.

Rehearsal letters and bar numbers correspond to the 2002 New Novello Choral Edition

B minor mass

No. 1 Kyrie

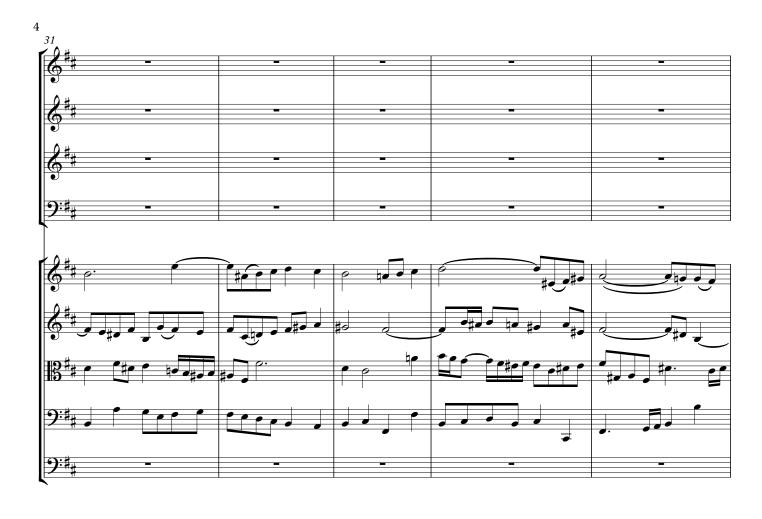
J.S. Bach

























































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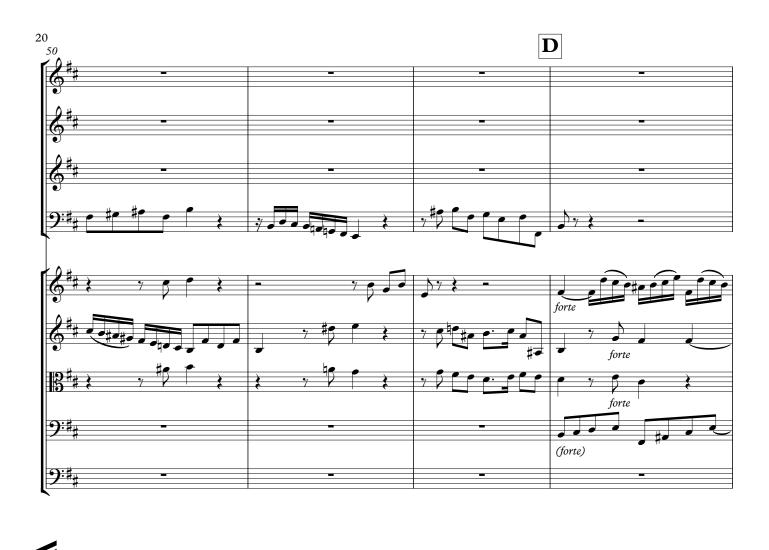


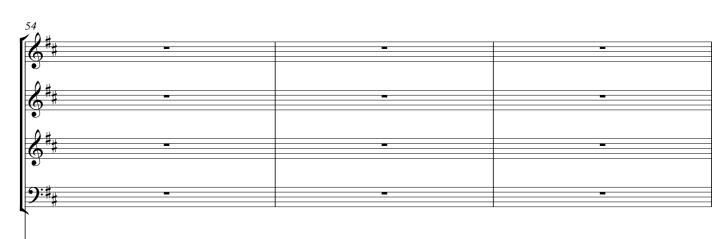
















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No. 5 Et in terra pax

































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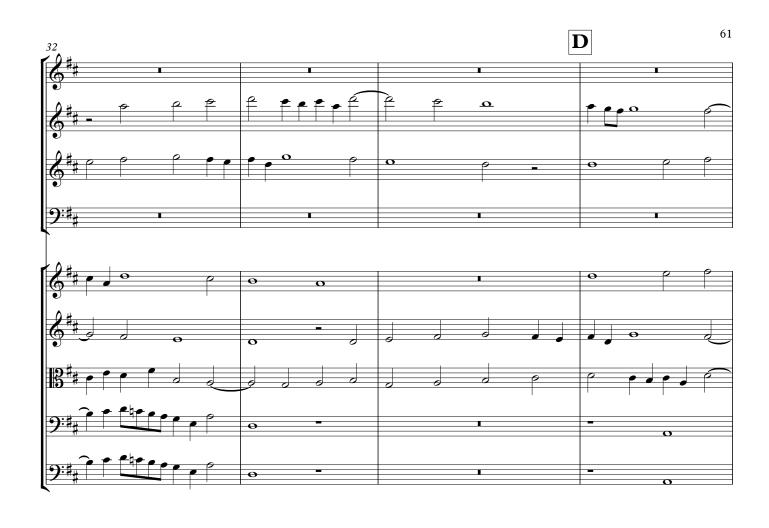




















































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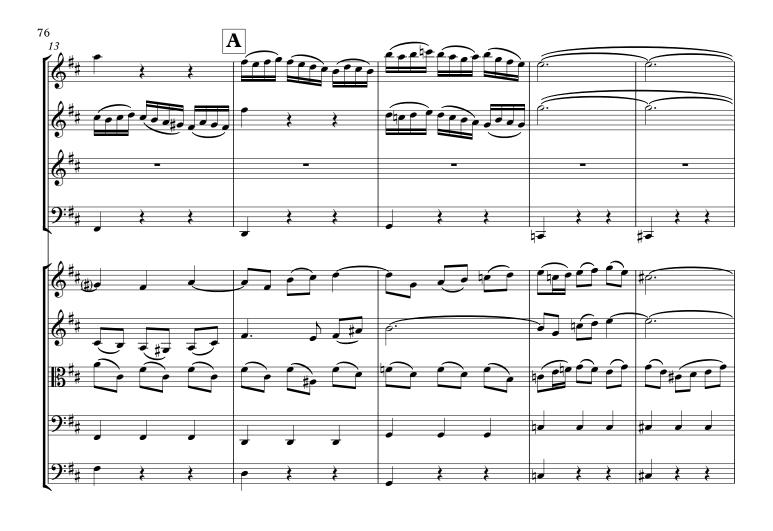
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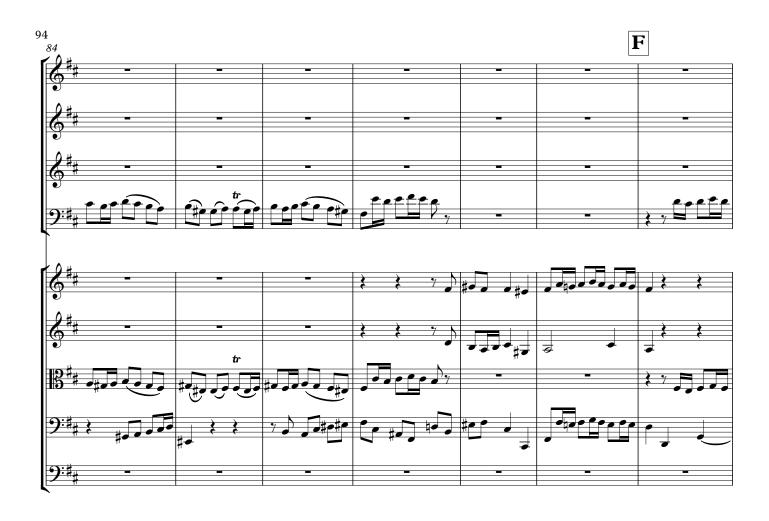




























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No. 12 Cum sancto spiritu













































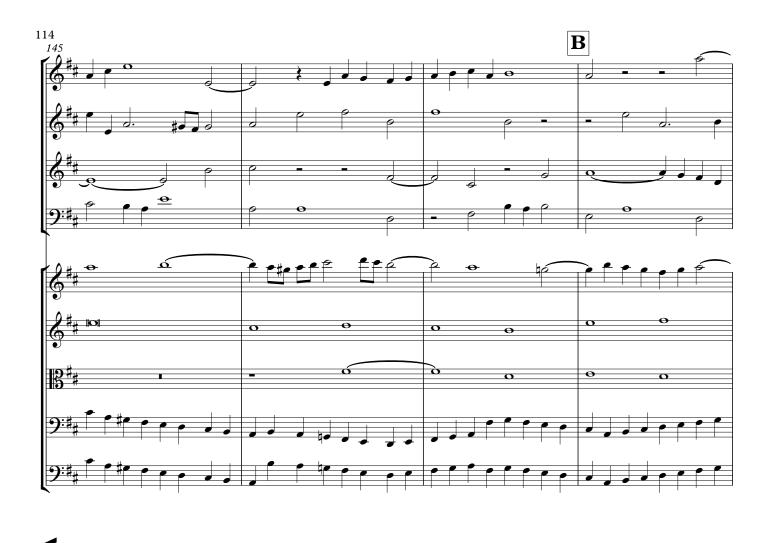
Part two

II SYMBOLUM NICENUM

No. 1 Credo













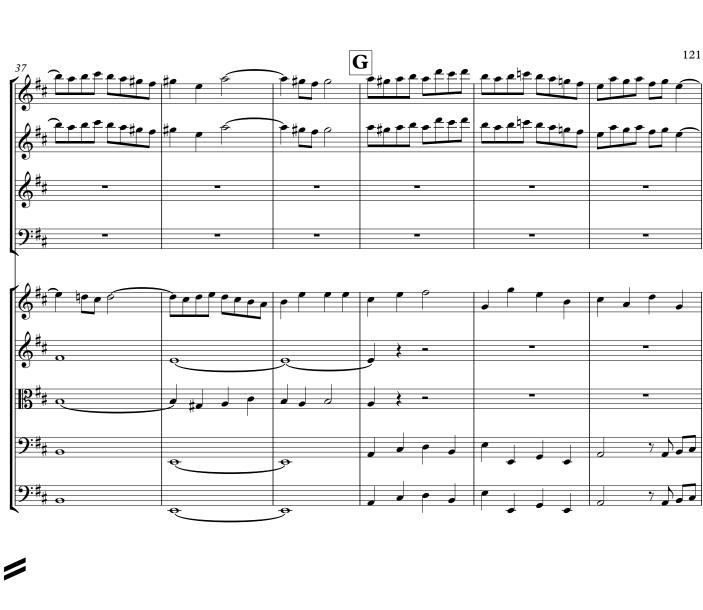


No. 2 Patrem omnipotentem



















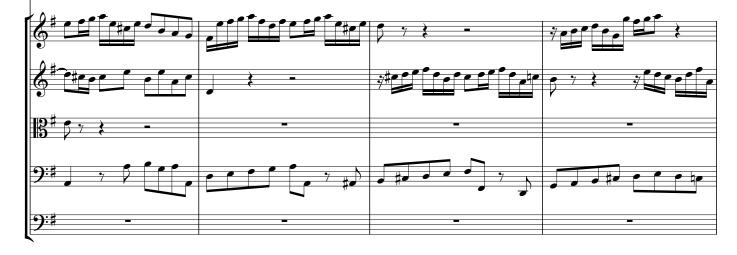
No. 3 Et in unum Dominum













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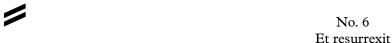












































































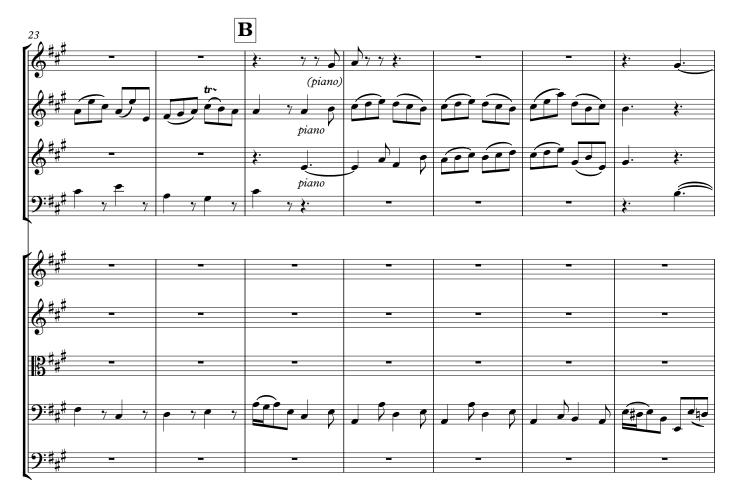






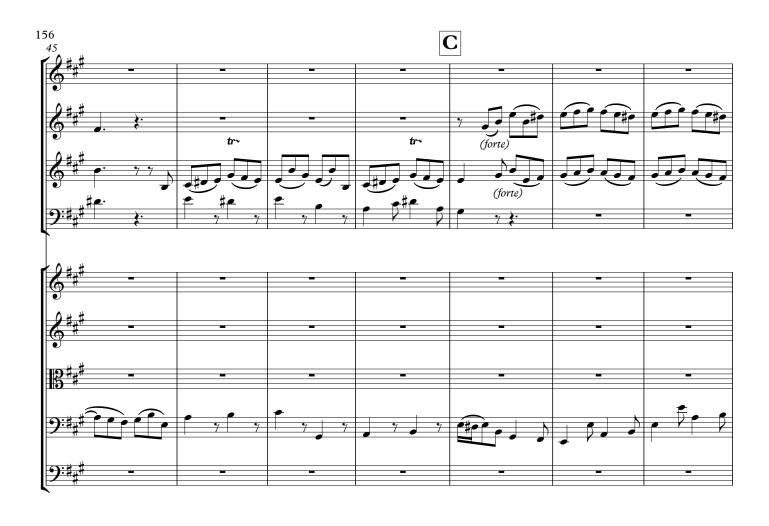














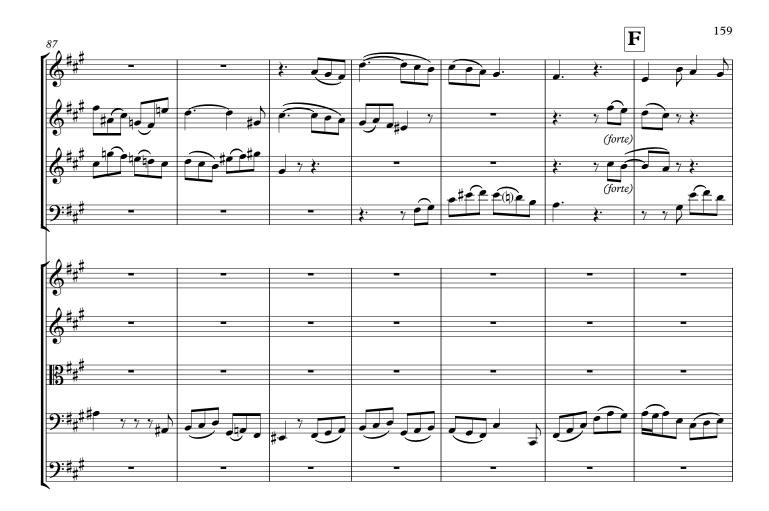


























No. 8 Confiteor









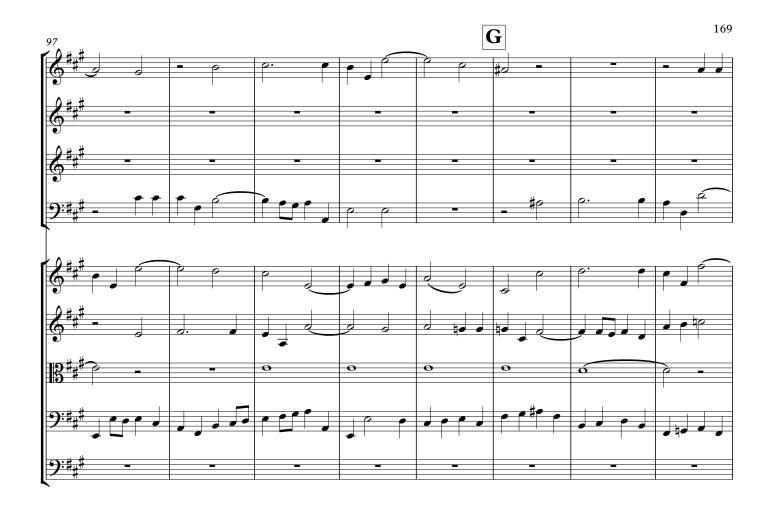






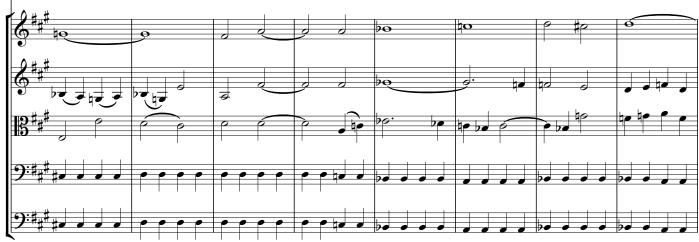
















































III SANCTUS















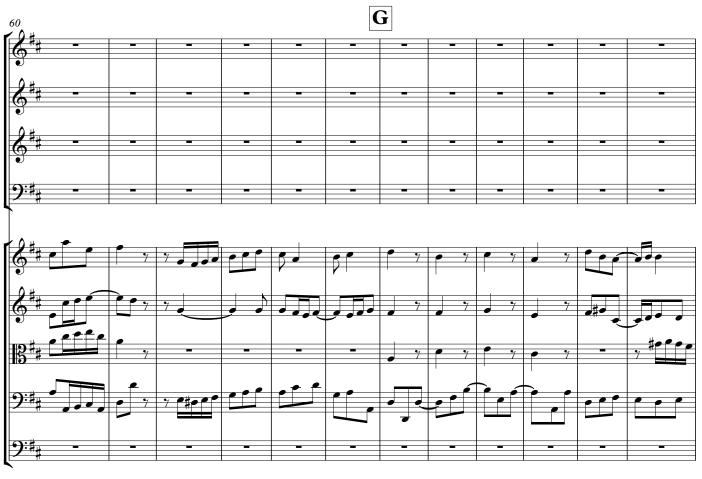


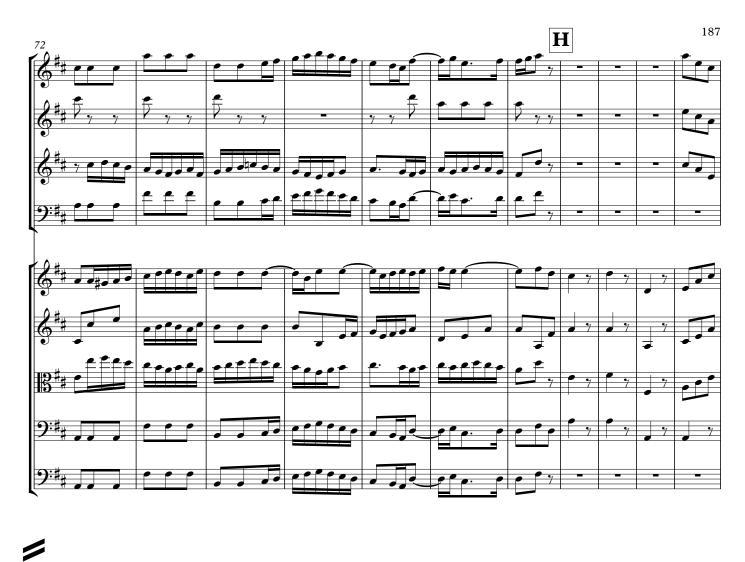




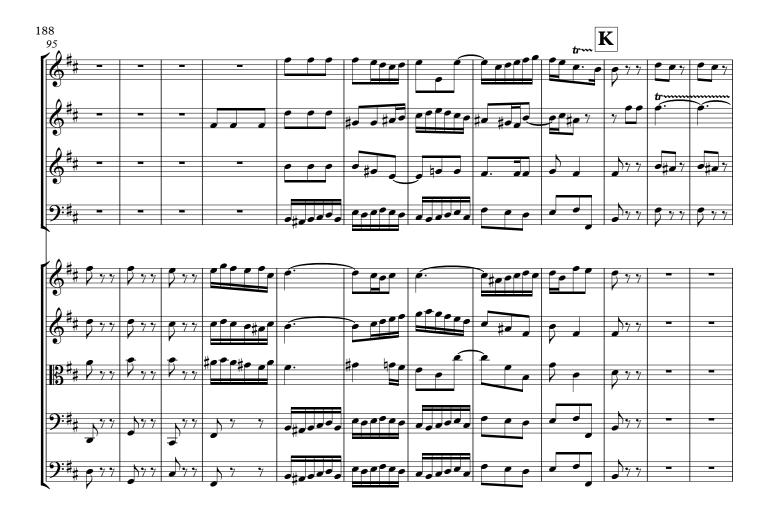








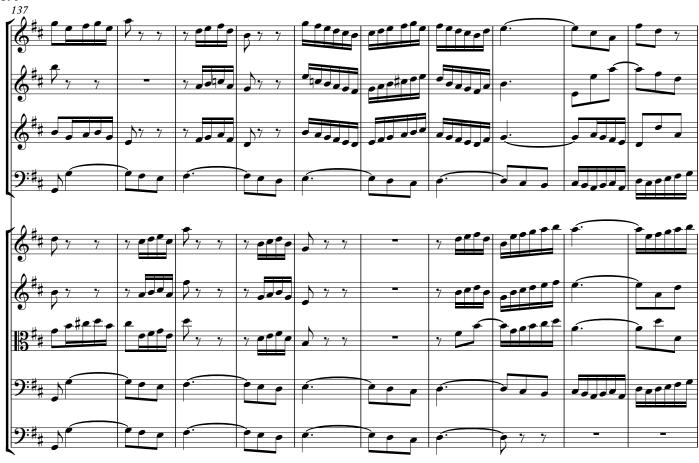




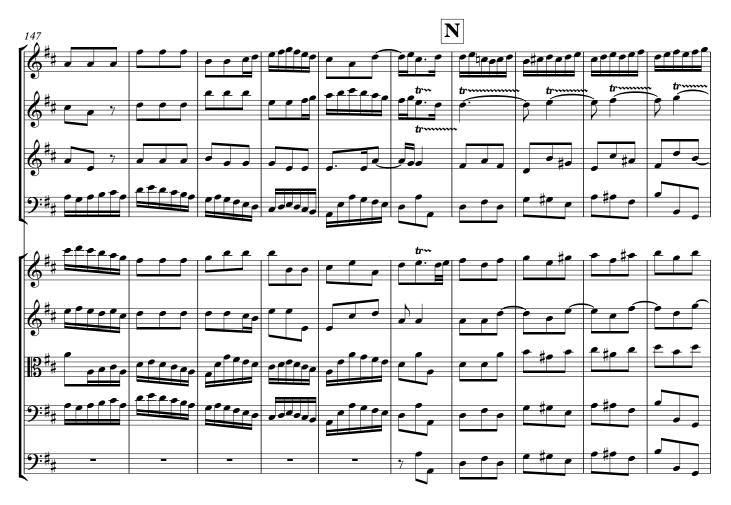








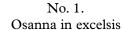




















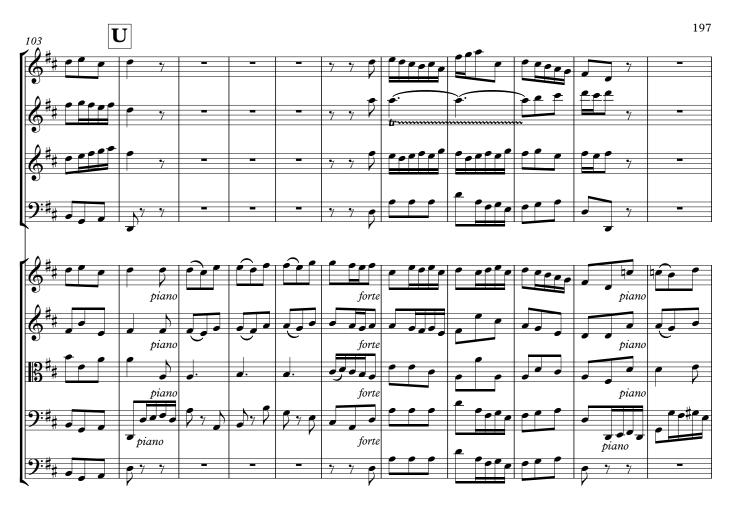




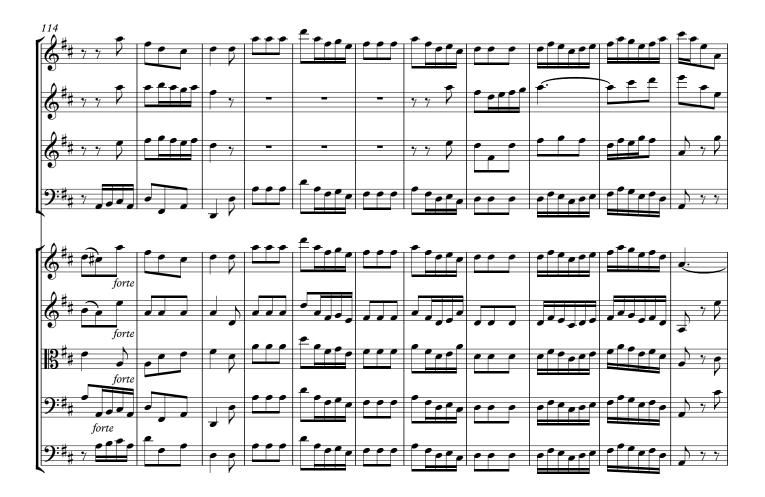
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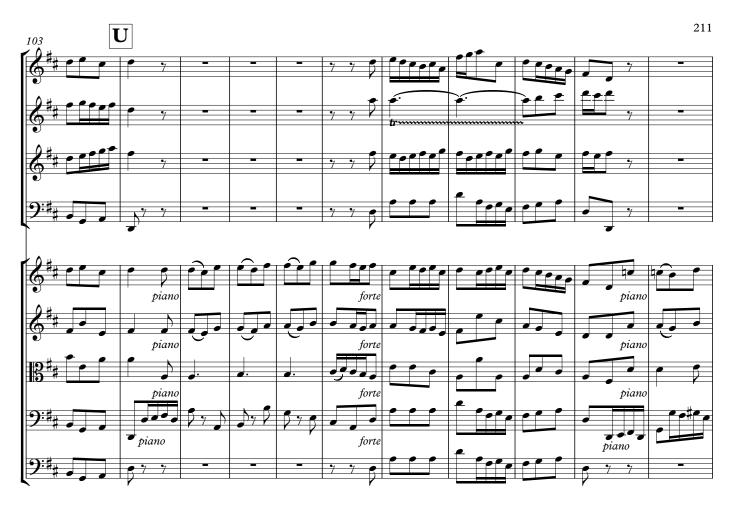




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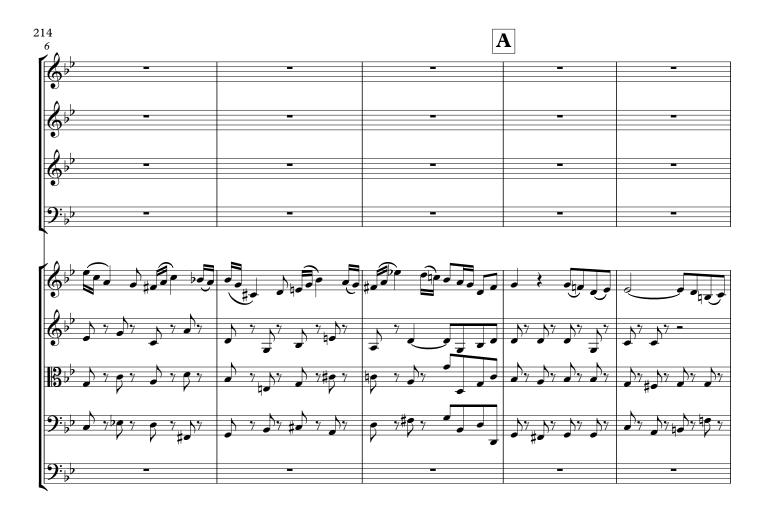








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No. 5 Dona nobis pacem













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