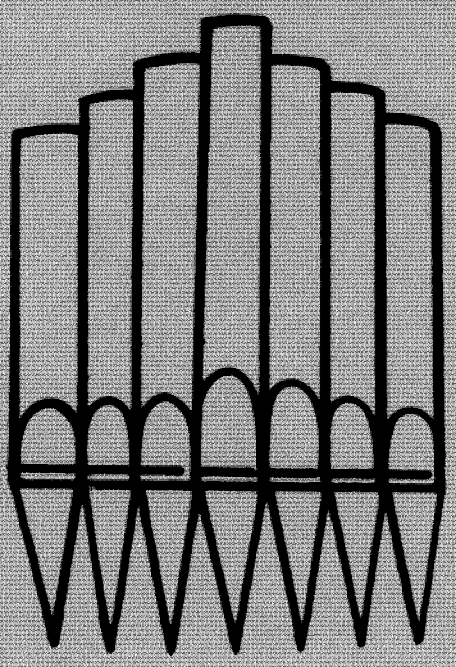

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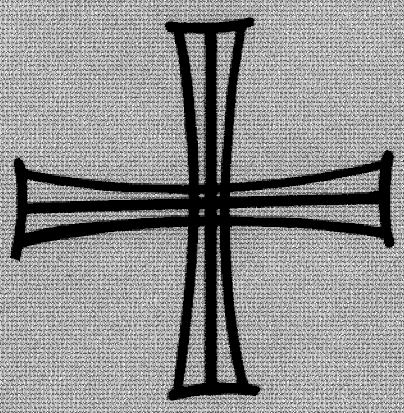

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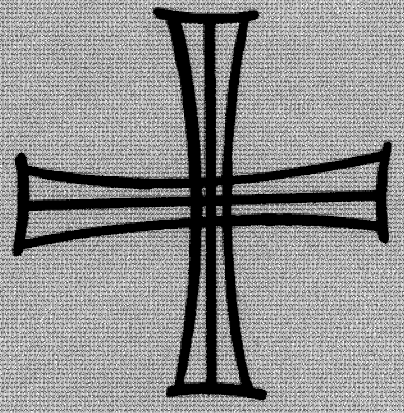
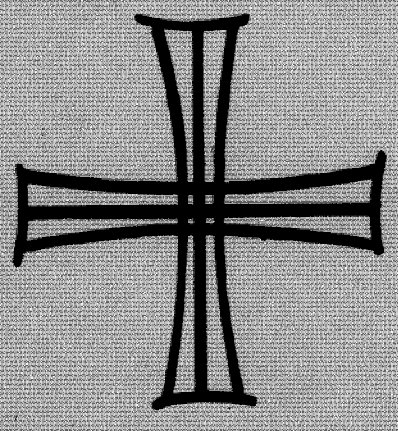


by

Johann G. Walther



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A Collection of
CHORALE PRELUDES
by
Johann Gottfried Walther

Edited by
Theodore Beck

Concordia Publishing House
St. Louis, Missouri

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FOREWORD

While it is true that the organ chorale preludes of Johann Gottfried Walther are already well represented, both in editions devoted exclusively to his work and in various collections of organ chorale preludes, no apology for another addition to this repertory seems necessary, for not only had Walther written more chorale preludes than any of his contemporaries, but in general their practicality and adaptability for use in the worship service is undeniable. The quality of craftsmanship in these chorale preludes may not attain the usual level of those by J. S. Bach but does compare favorably with the rest of Walther's contemporaries and predecessors. By the same token his works are usually at a level of difficulty within the grasp of the average organist. The influences of Scheidt and Pachelbel, Buxtehude and Böhm are synthesized in these works in style and form, yet the preludes illustrate a technique and method peculiar to Walther and do not become mere imitations. His work is always formally clean, contrapuntally and harmonically solid, convincing and logical in procedure and design.

This volume attempts to add to the repertory some preludes which are not generally available in practical editions and also provides settings on some of those chorale melodies for which few preludes exist. This was the thought in mind when the selection of the works was made. The edition is intended to complement present volumes and generally avoids any duplication of works already published.

In conclusion let it be said that this collection embraces only a sampling of Walther's chorale preludes, but a valid deduction applicable to all of his preludes can be made from these examples: they are of high quality and extremely serviceable for the church organist. Dr. Walter E. Buszin states in the Foreword of his *Memorial Collection of Organ Preludes and Variations* by Johann Gottfried Walther (Concordia, 1943): "On the whole, his music is churchly and conservative; better church music for the organ is hard to find." Indeed, it might well be so, for Walther devoted his entire life to this end.

THEODORE BECK

Seward, Nebraska

May 1, 1963

To My
Friend and Colleague
Paul Rosel

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Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

(Manual)

Komm, Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott
15th century / Erfurt, 1524

Diap. 8', 4', 2 2/3', 2'

r. h.

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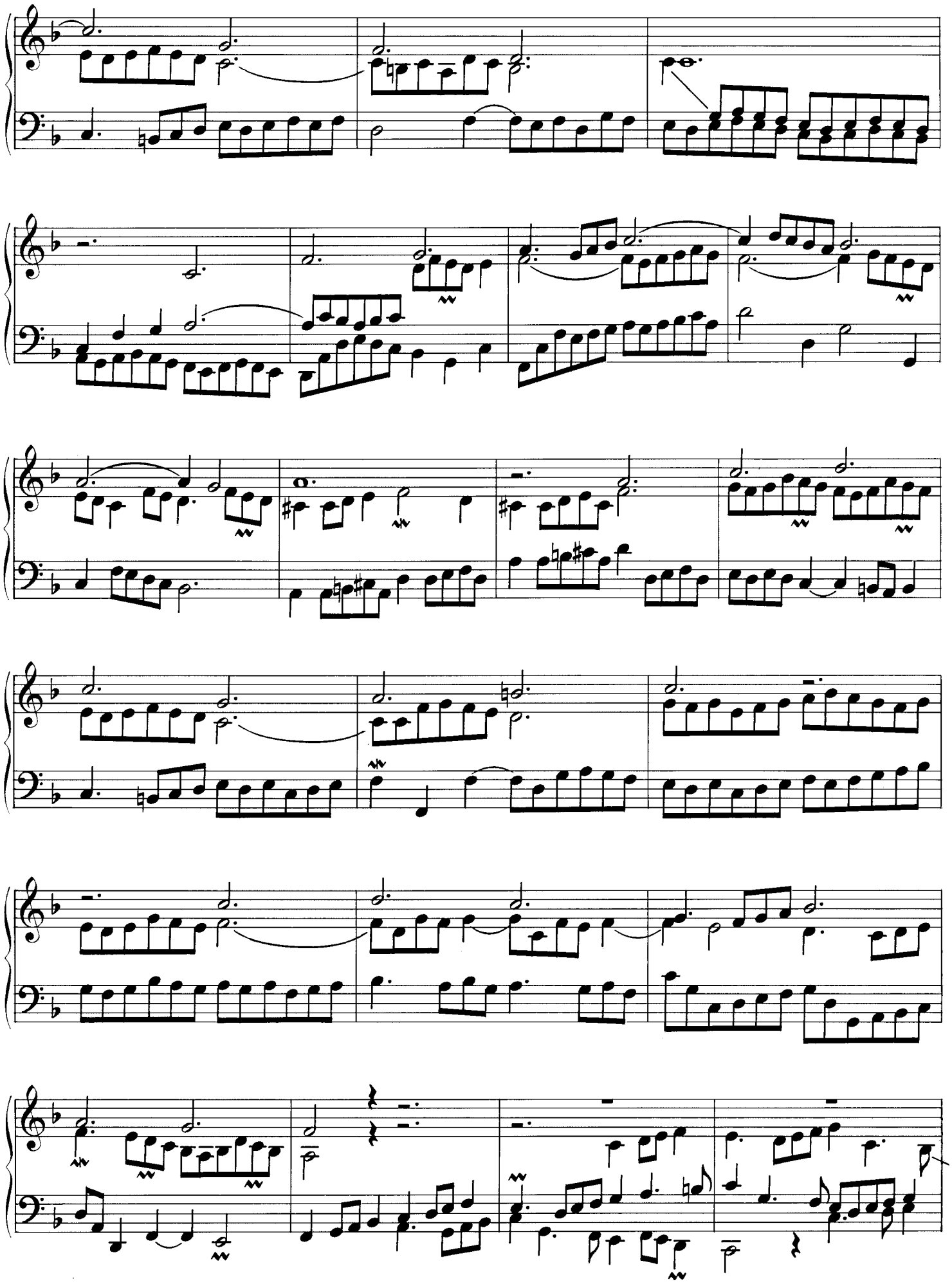


r. h.

r. h.

In Thee Alone, O Christ, My Lord

(Manual and Pedal)

Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ
Wittenberg, 1541

Full Diap. to Mix.

Great

l.h.

Ped.

Ped.

Swell

Ped.

Man.

l.h.

Man.

Great

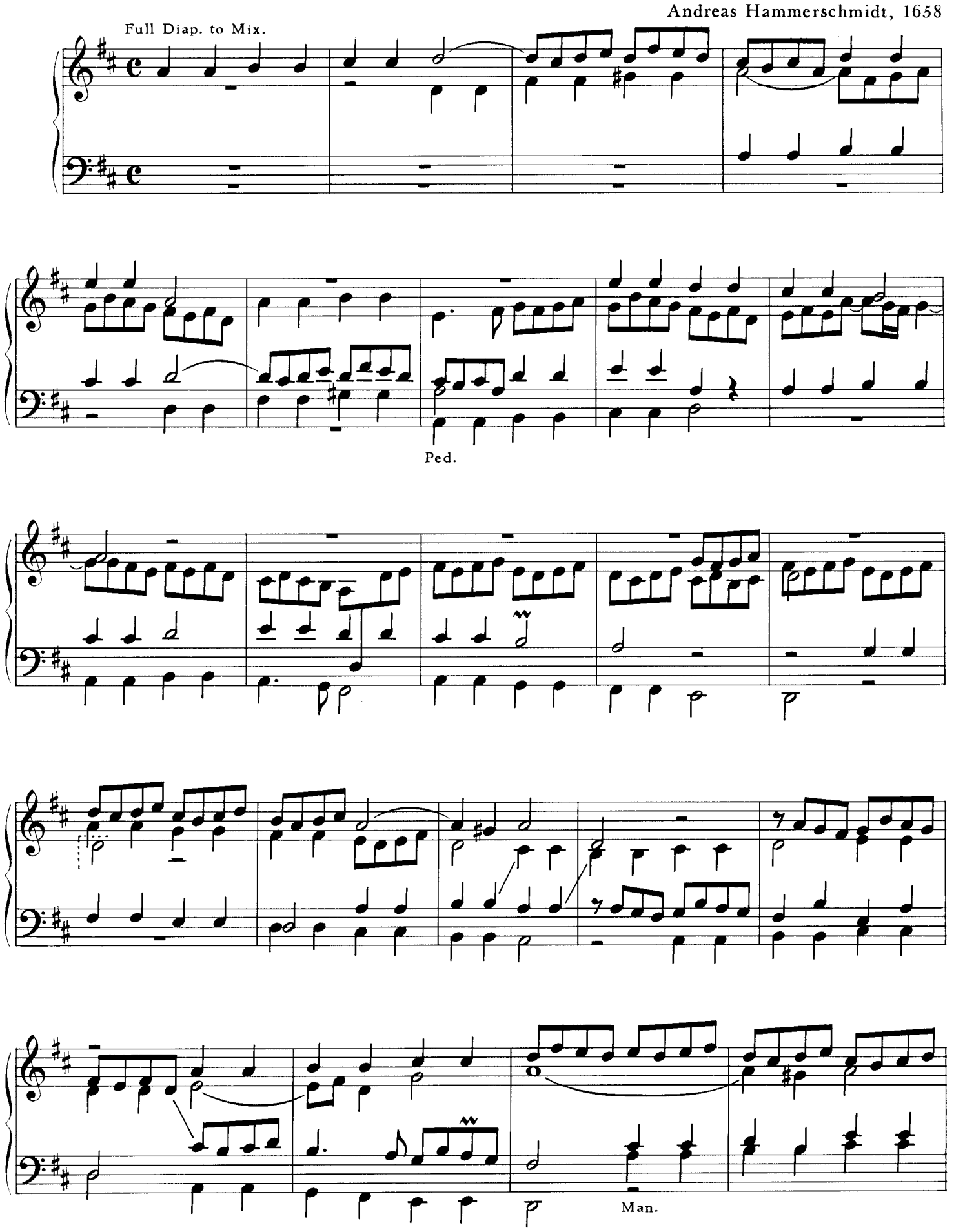
Ped.

Ped.

Jesus I Will Never Leave

(Manual and Pedal)

Meinen Jesum lass' ich nicht
Andreas Hammerschmidt, 1658



Ped.

Man.

Ped.

Man.

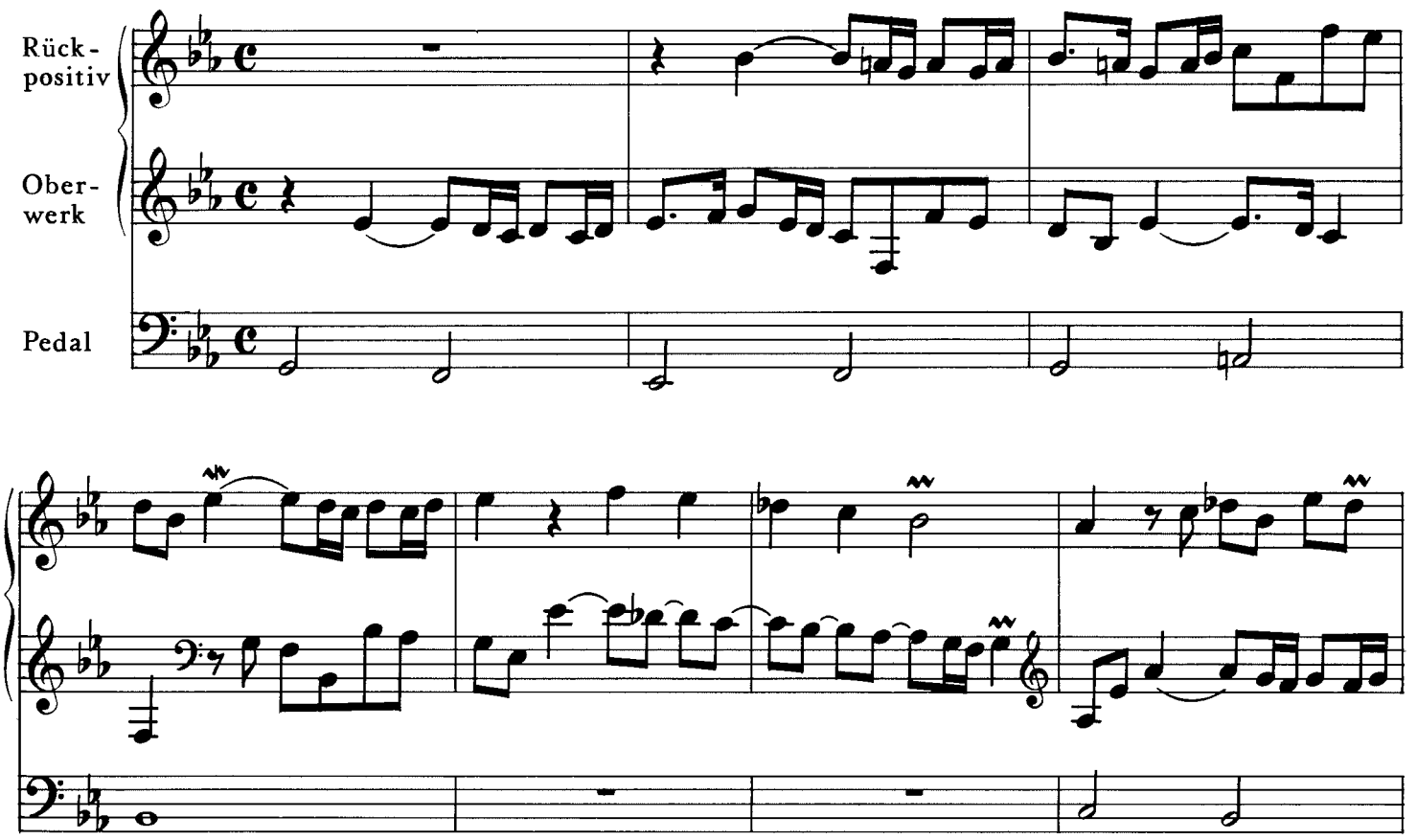
Ped.

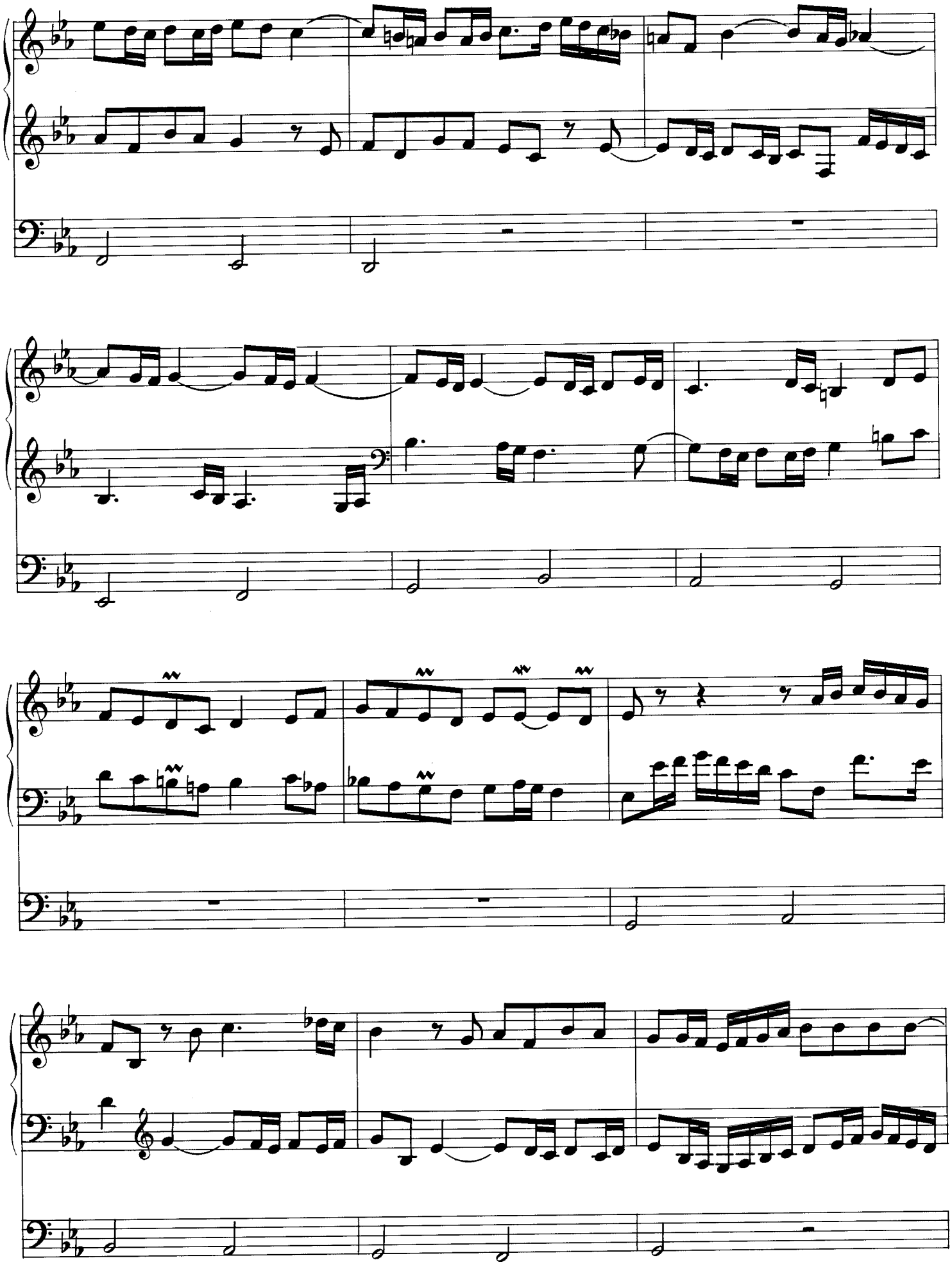
Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

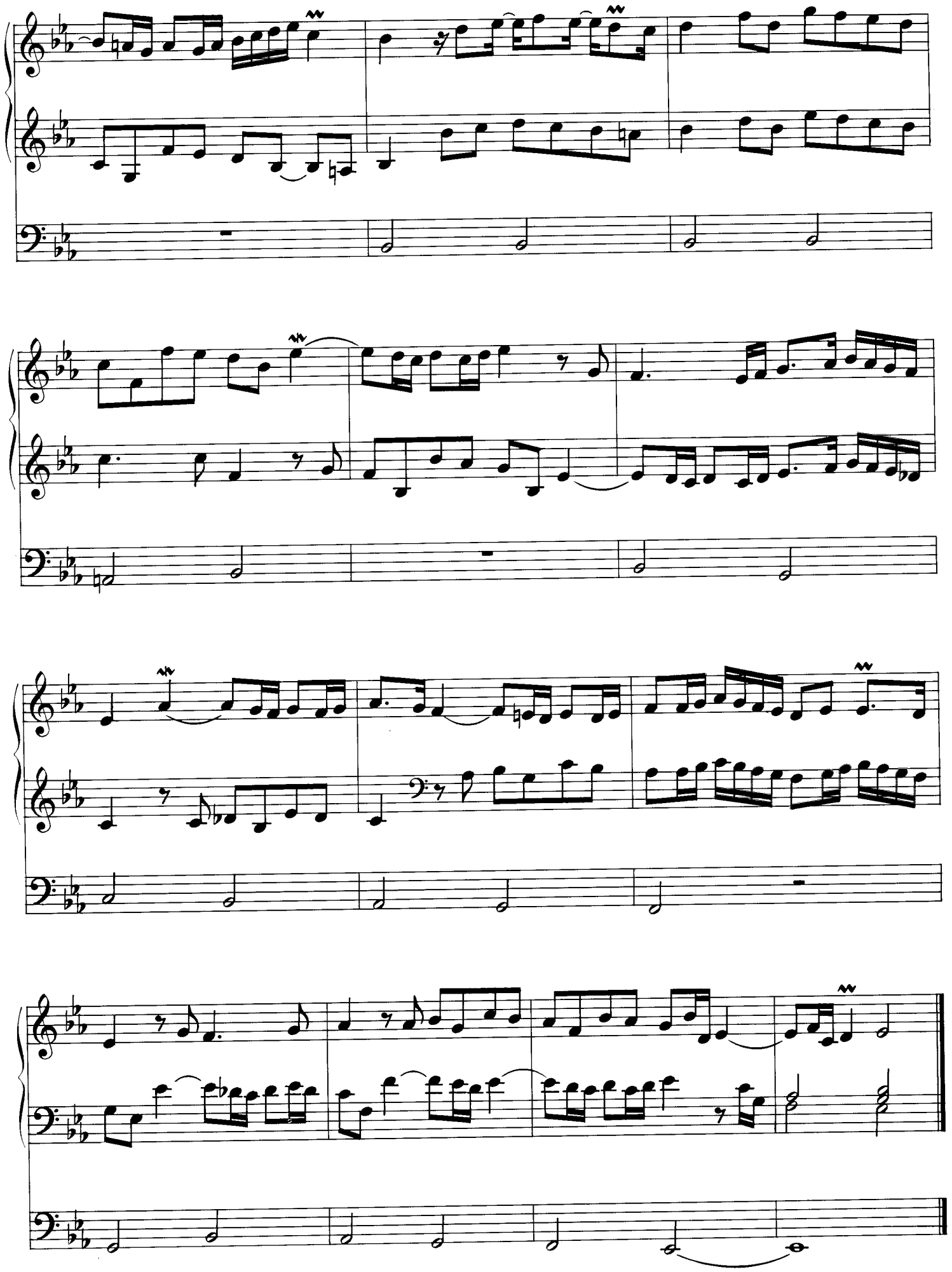
(2 Manuals and Pedal)

Rück. – Flute, 8' and 2'
Ober. – Flute, 8' and 4'
Ped. – Schalmei, 4'

Jesu Kreuz, Leiden und Pein
Melchior Vulpius, 1609





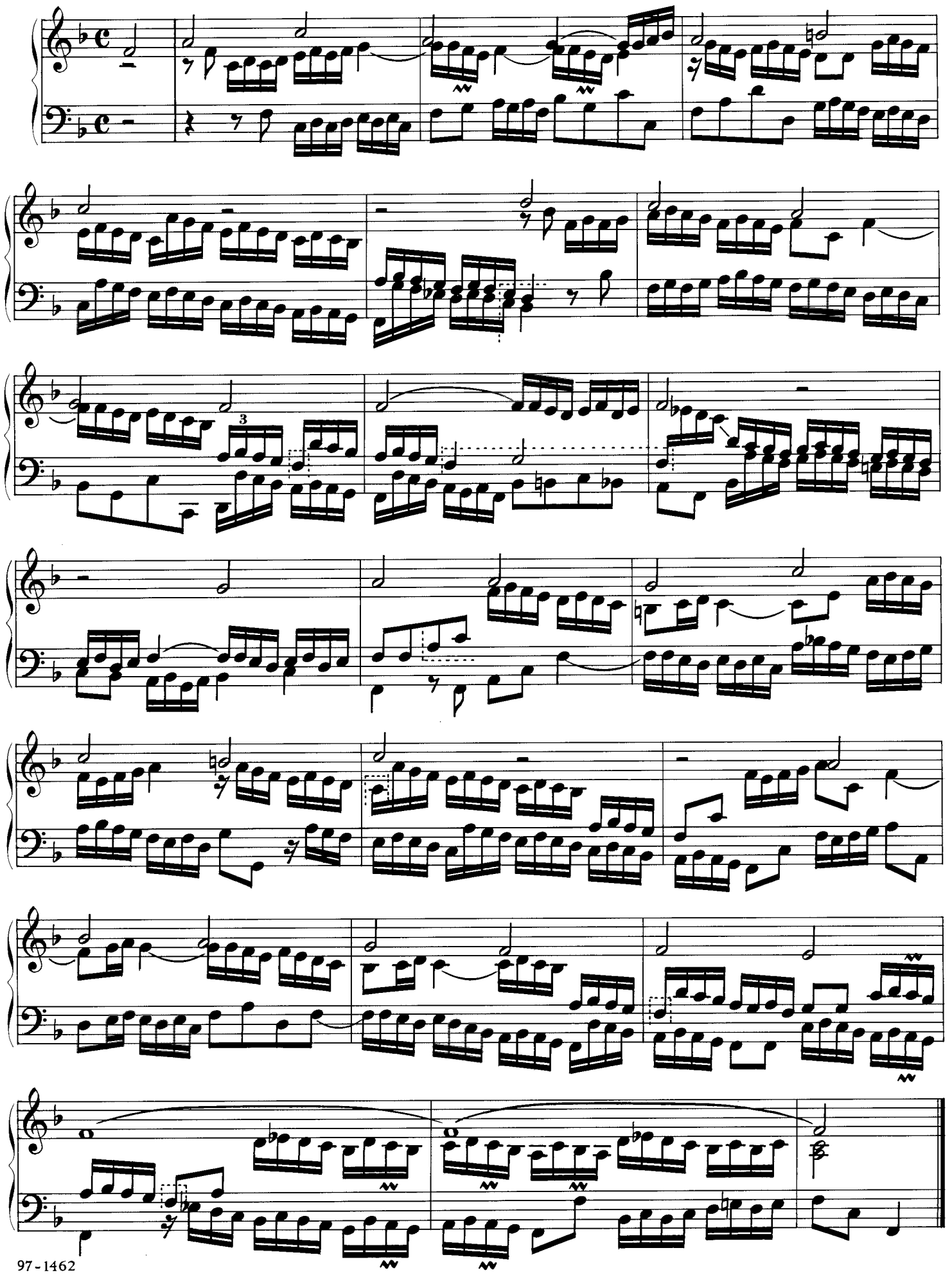


Gedakt 8'
Octave 4'
Principal 2'

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

(Manual)

Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend'
Dresden, 1628

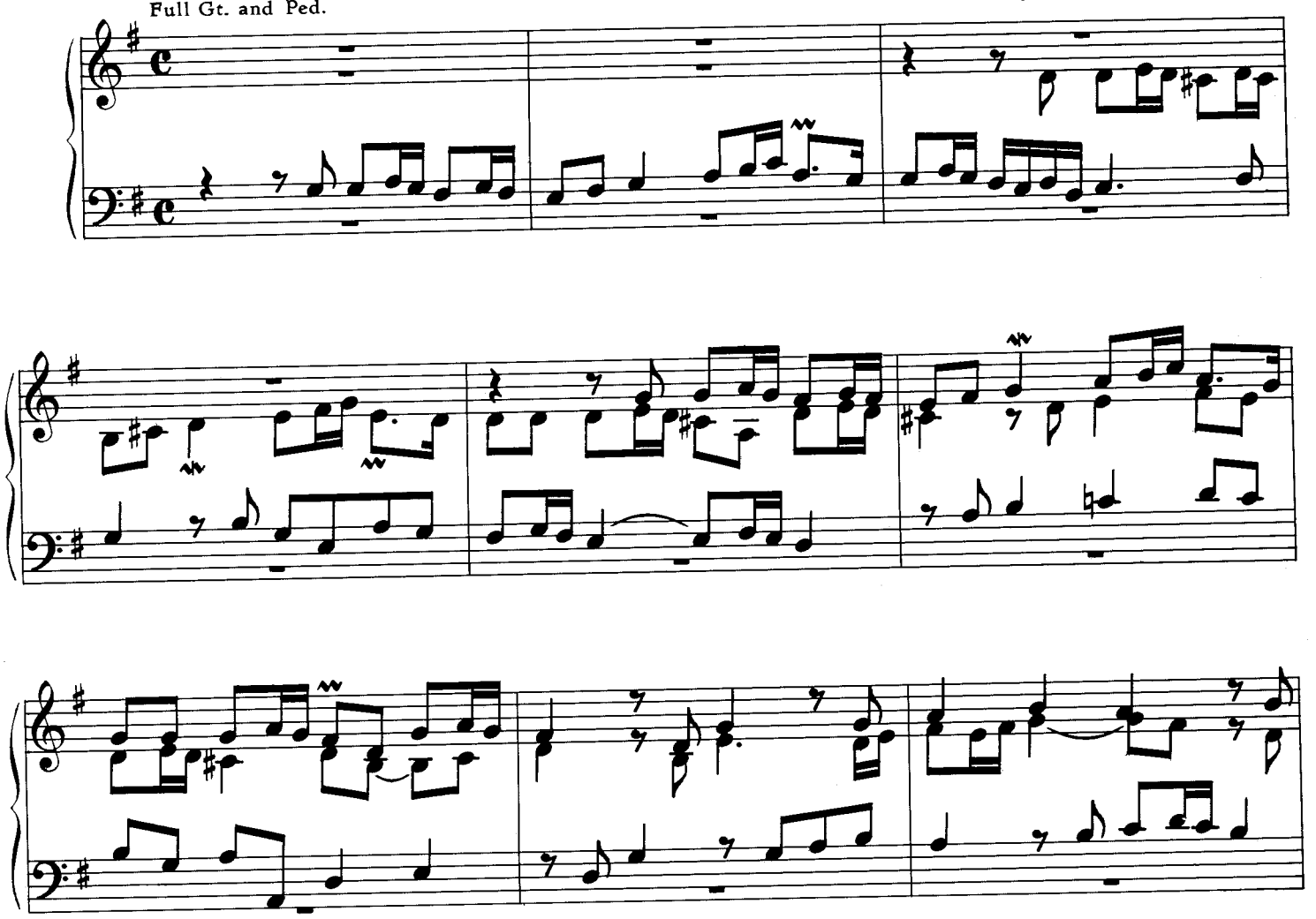


Now Let Us Come Before Him

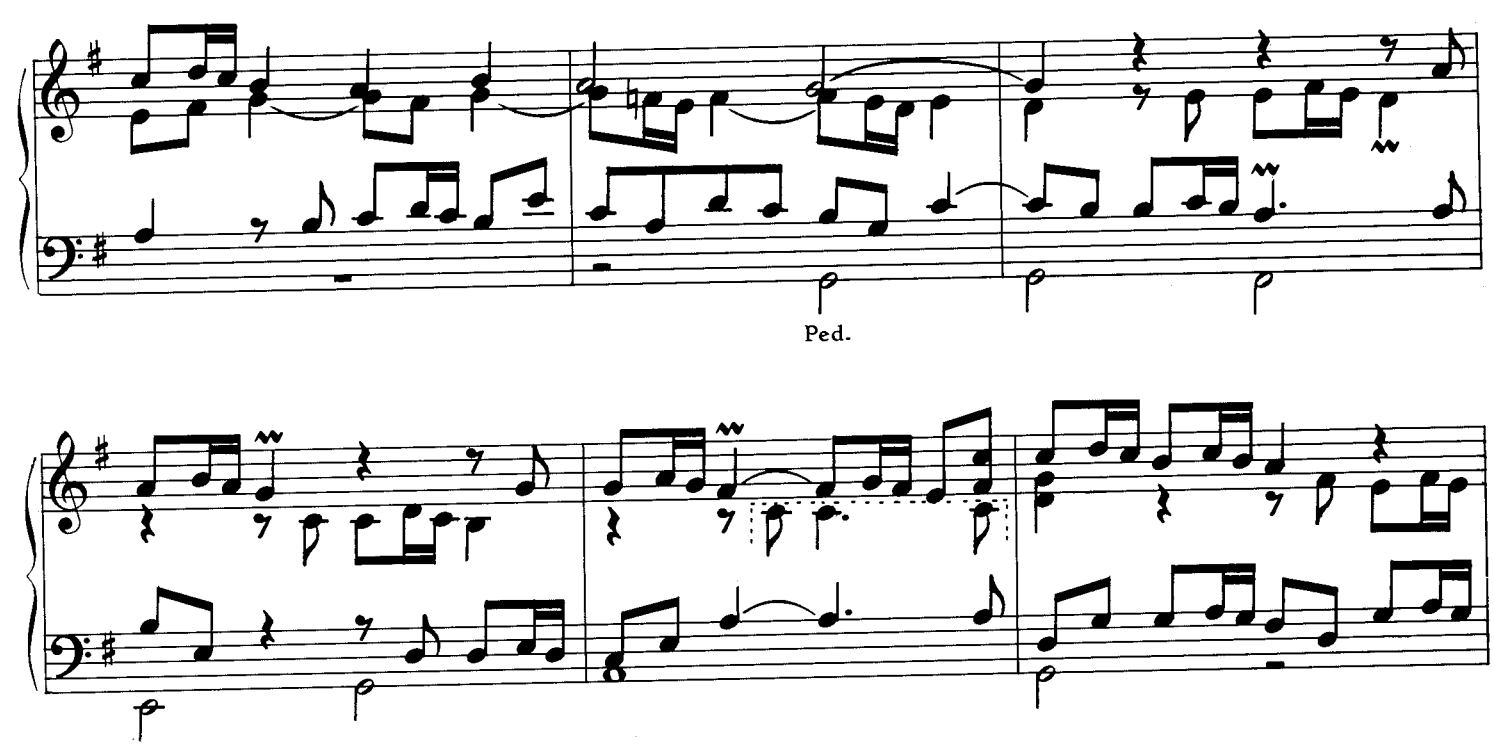
(Manual and Pedal)

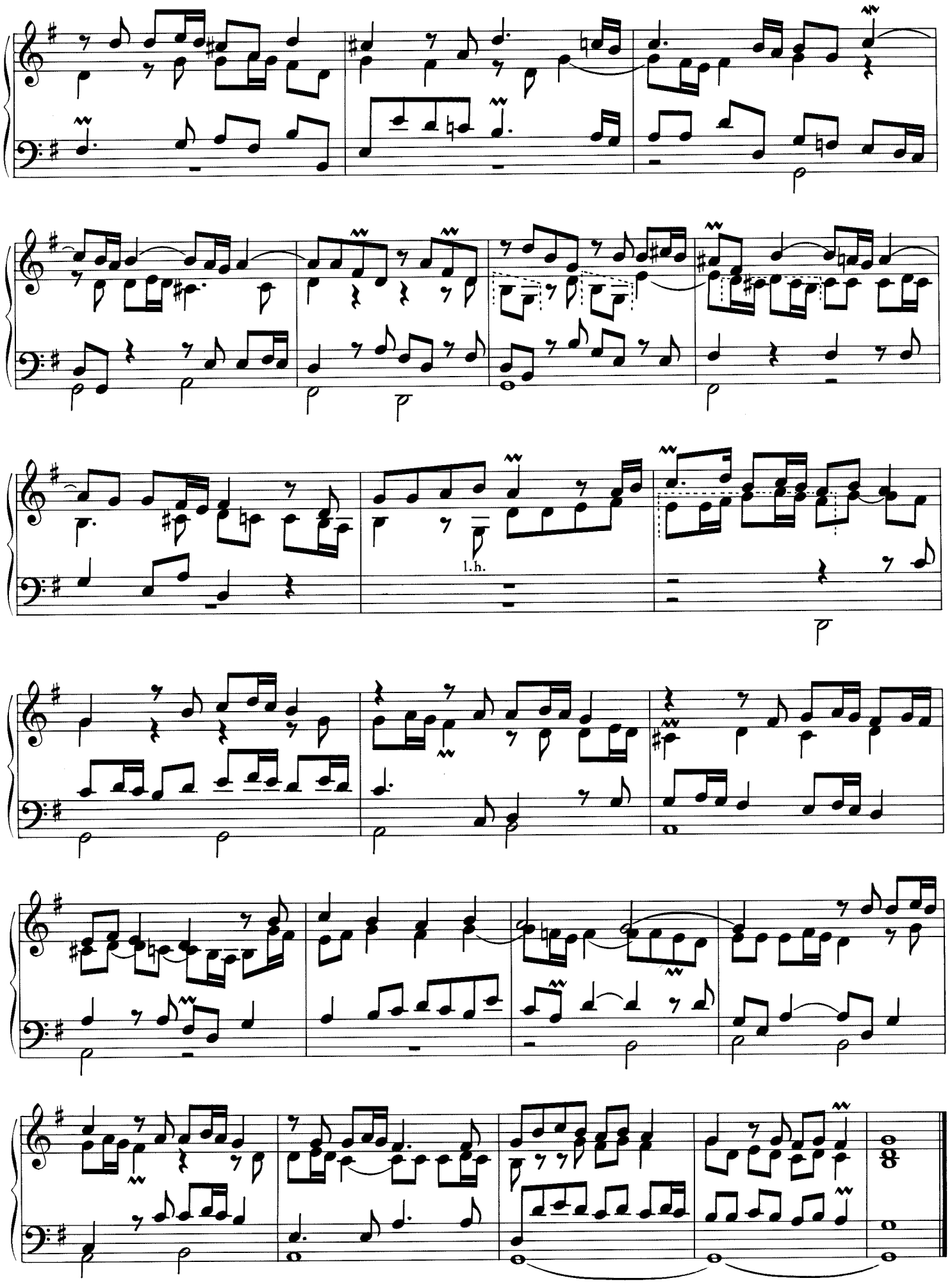
Nun lasst uns Gott dem Herren
Nikolaus Selnecker, 1587 / Johann Crueger, 1649

Full Gt. and Ped.



Ped.



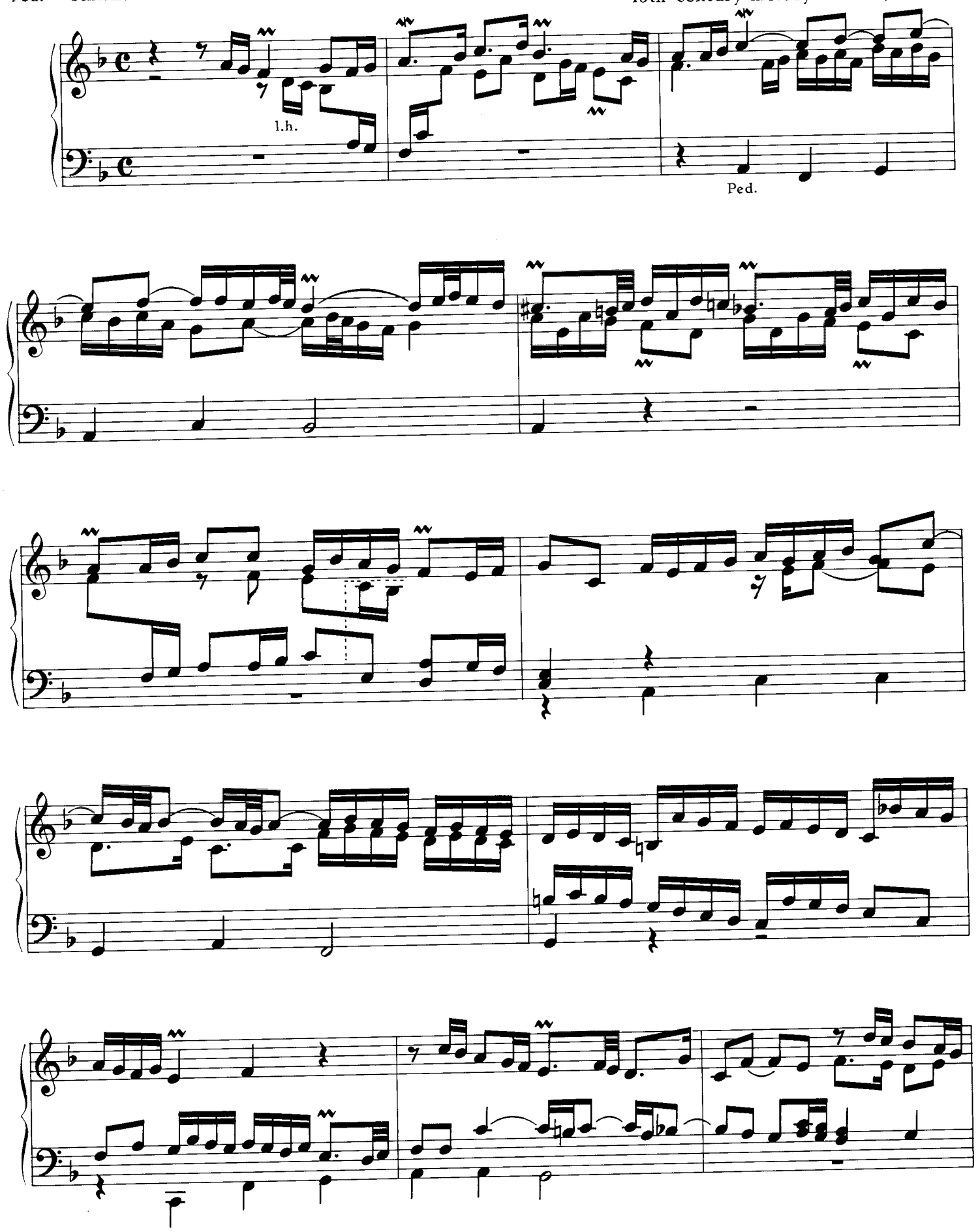

l.h.

Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadows

(Manual and Pedal)

Man. – Fl. 8', 4'
Ped. – Schalmei 4'

O Welt, ich muss dich lassen
15th-century melody / sacred, c. 1505



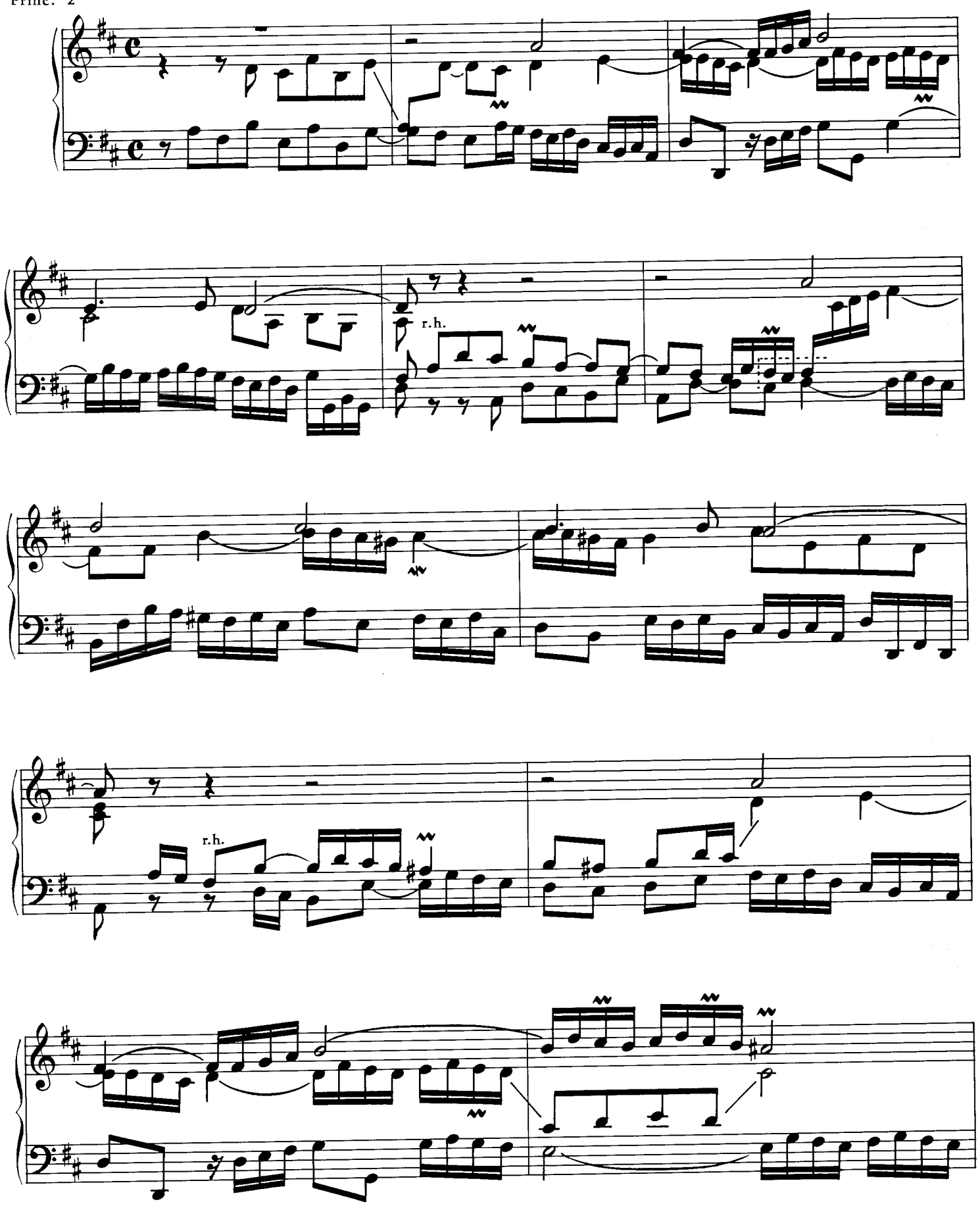
Ped.

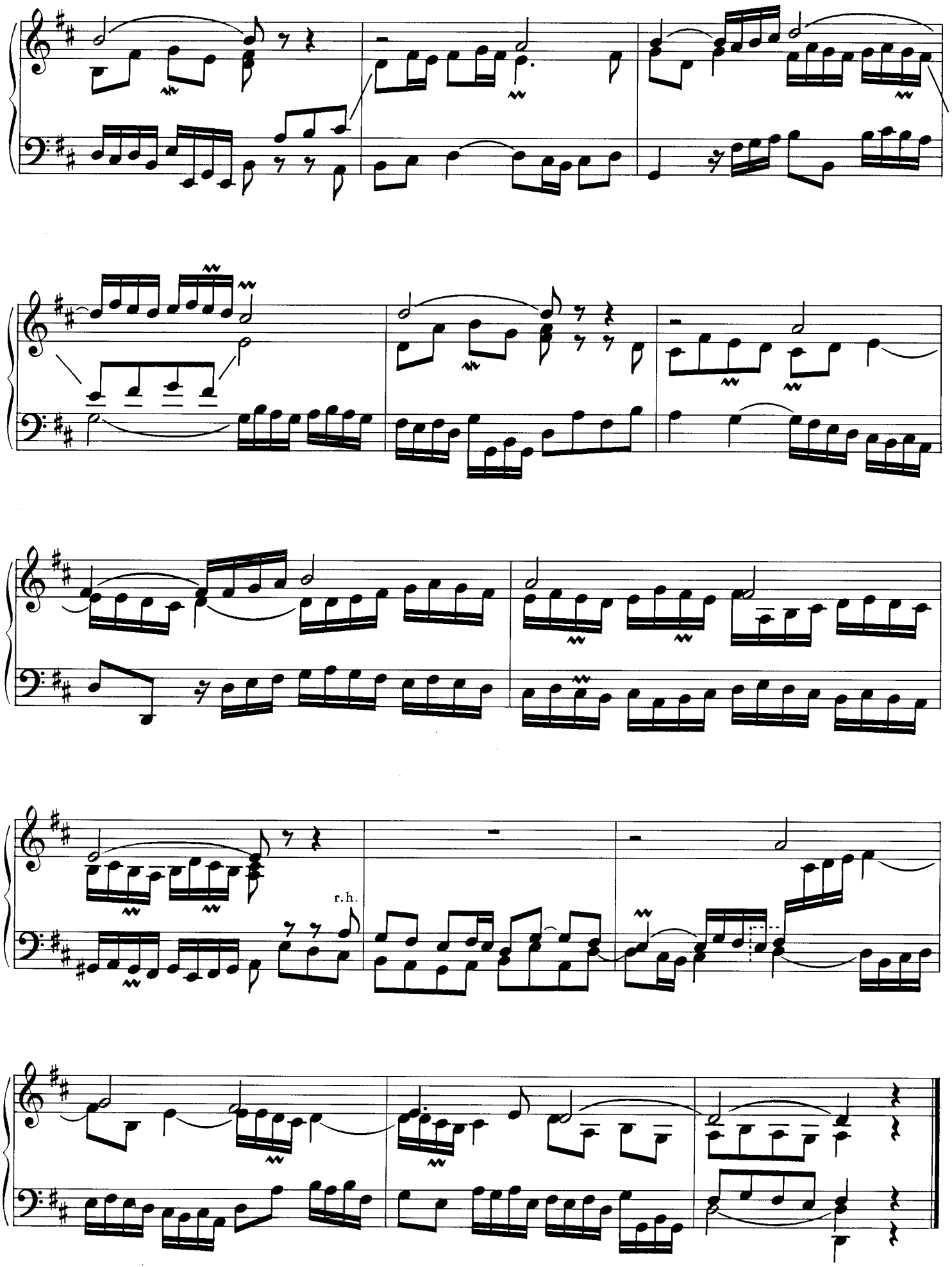
O Bride of Christ, Rejoice (I)

(Manual)

Gedakt 8'
Octave 4'
Princ. 2'

Wo soll ich fliehen hin
Nürnberg, 1679

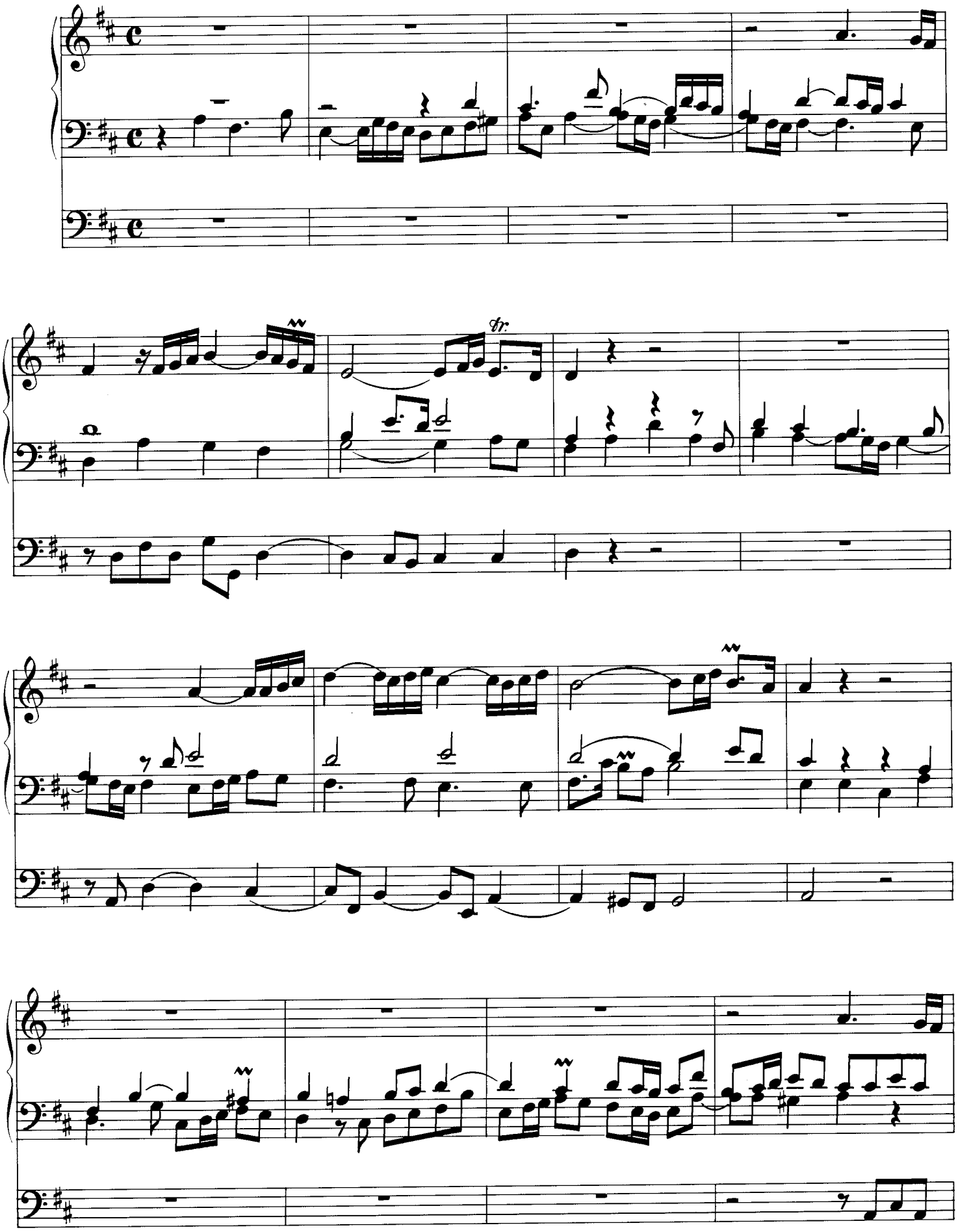


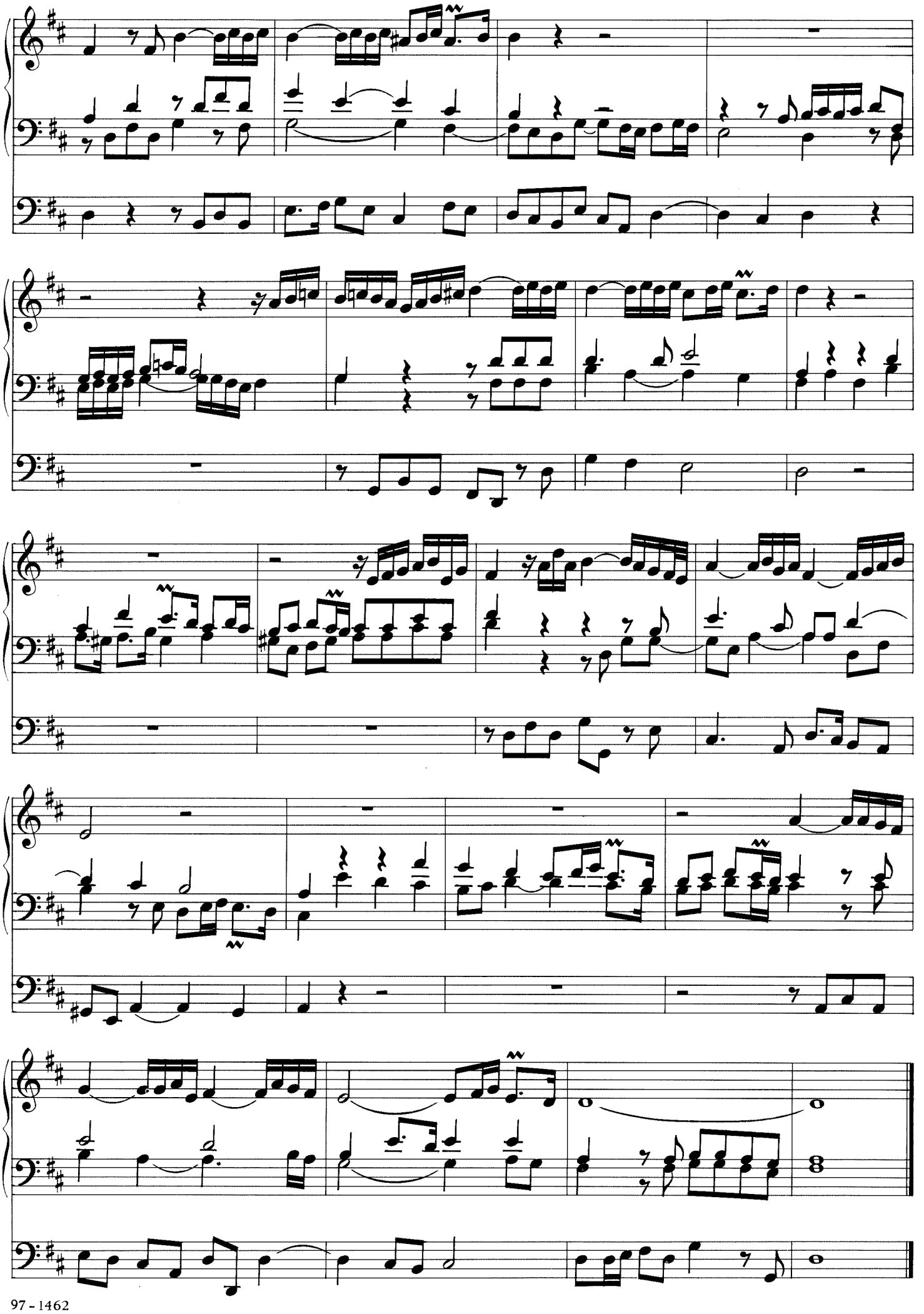

r.h.

O Bride of Christ, Rejoice (II)

(2 Manuals and Pedal)

Solo — Cornet
Gt. — Fl. 8', 4'
Ped. — Bourdon 16', 8', 4'





O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

(Manual)

Kommt her zu mir
15th century / sacred, 1530 / Nürnberg, 1534

Diap. 8', 4'

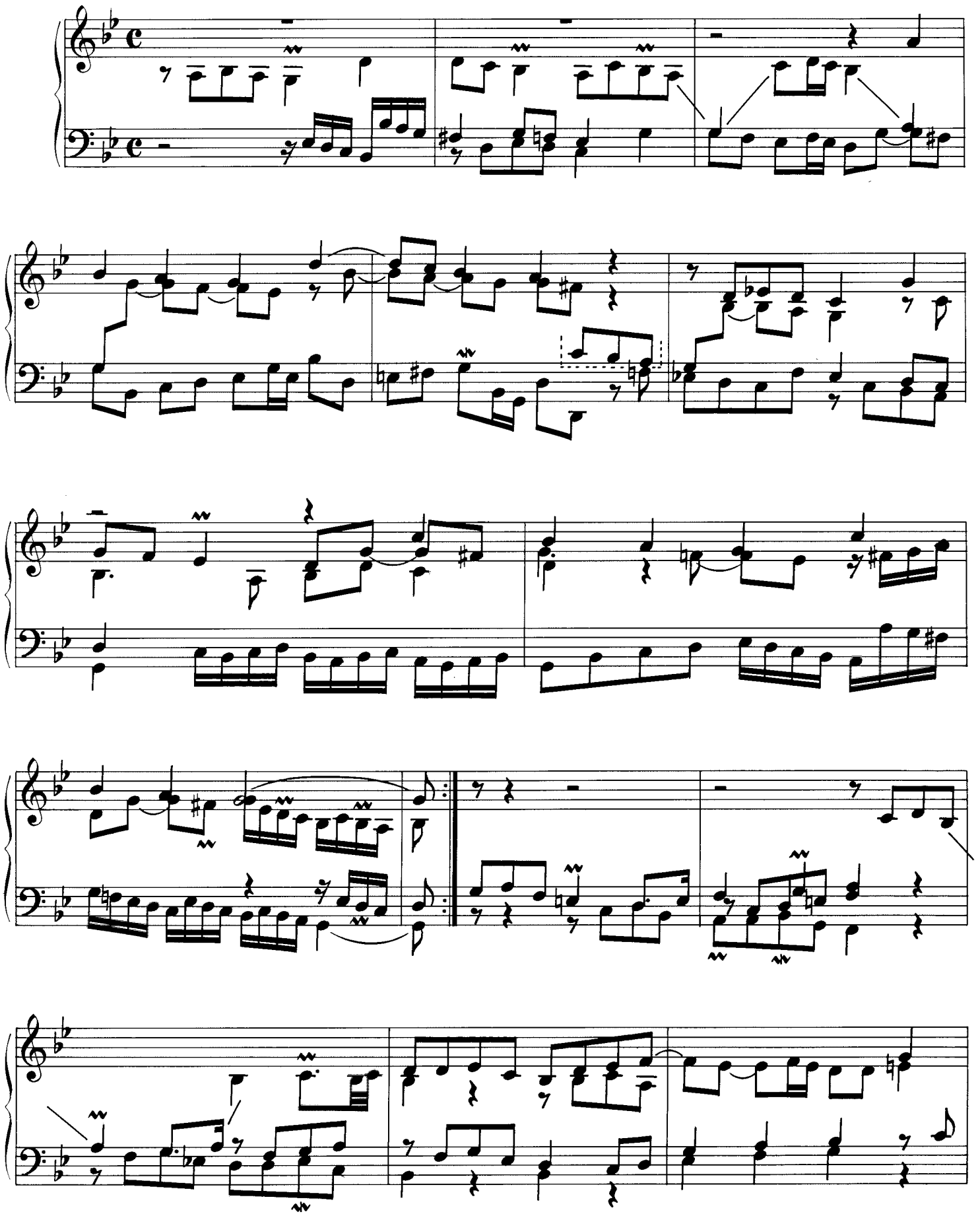
l. h.

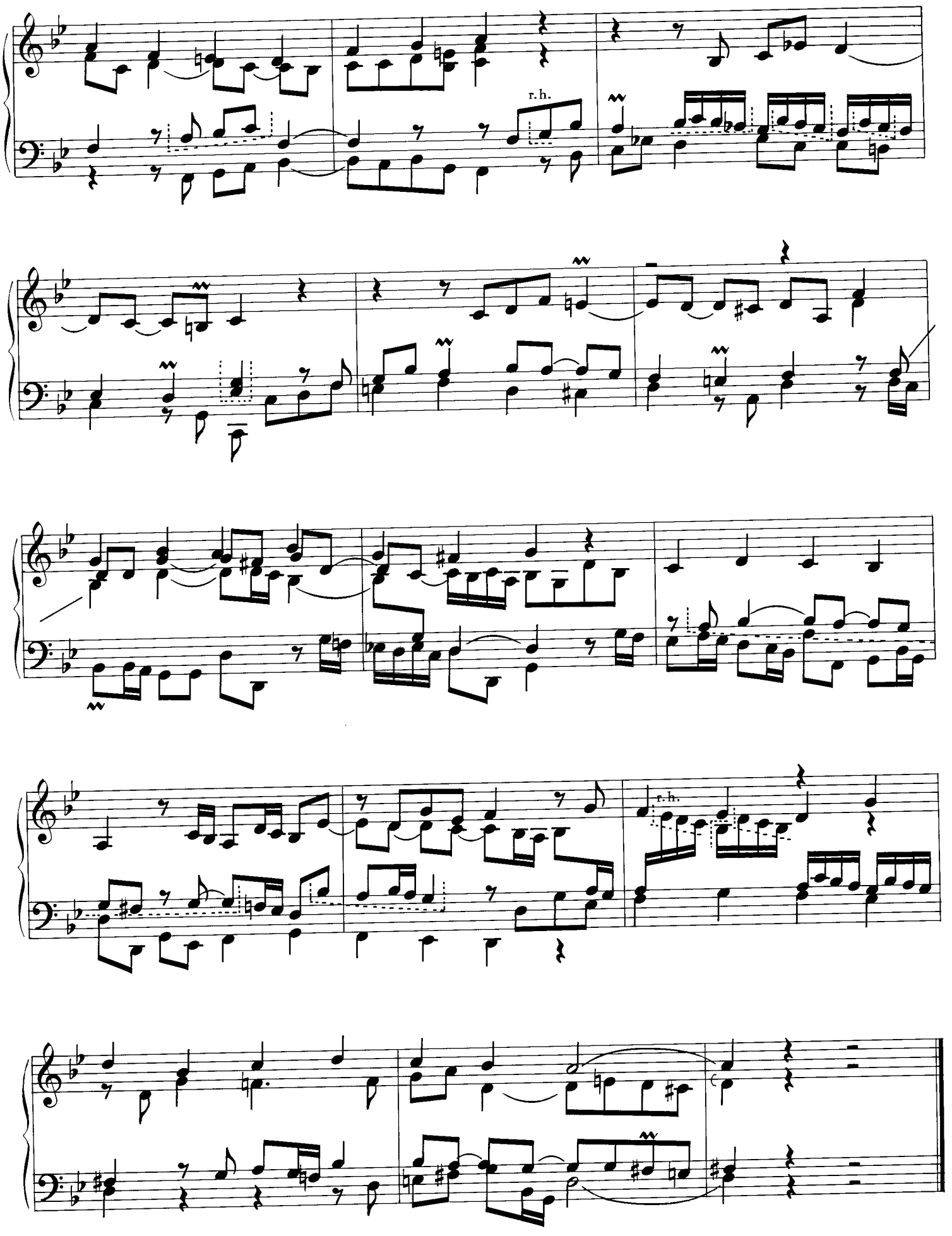
O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold

(Manual)

Gedakt 8'
Octave 4'
Principal 2'

Ach Gott, vom Himmel sieh darein
Erfurt, 1524




r.h.
r.h.

Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall

(Manual and Pedal)

Ch. - Fl. 8', 4', 2'
Ped. - 4' reed

Wo Gott zum Haus
Wittenberg, 1533

l.h.

Ped.

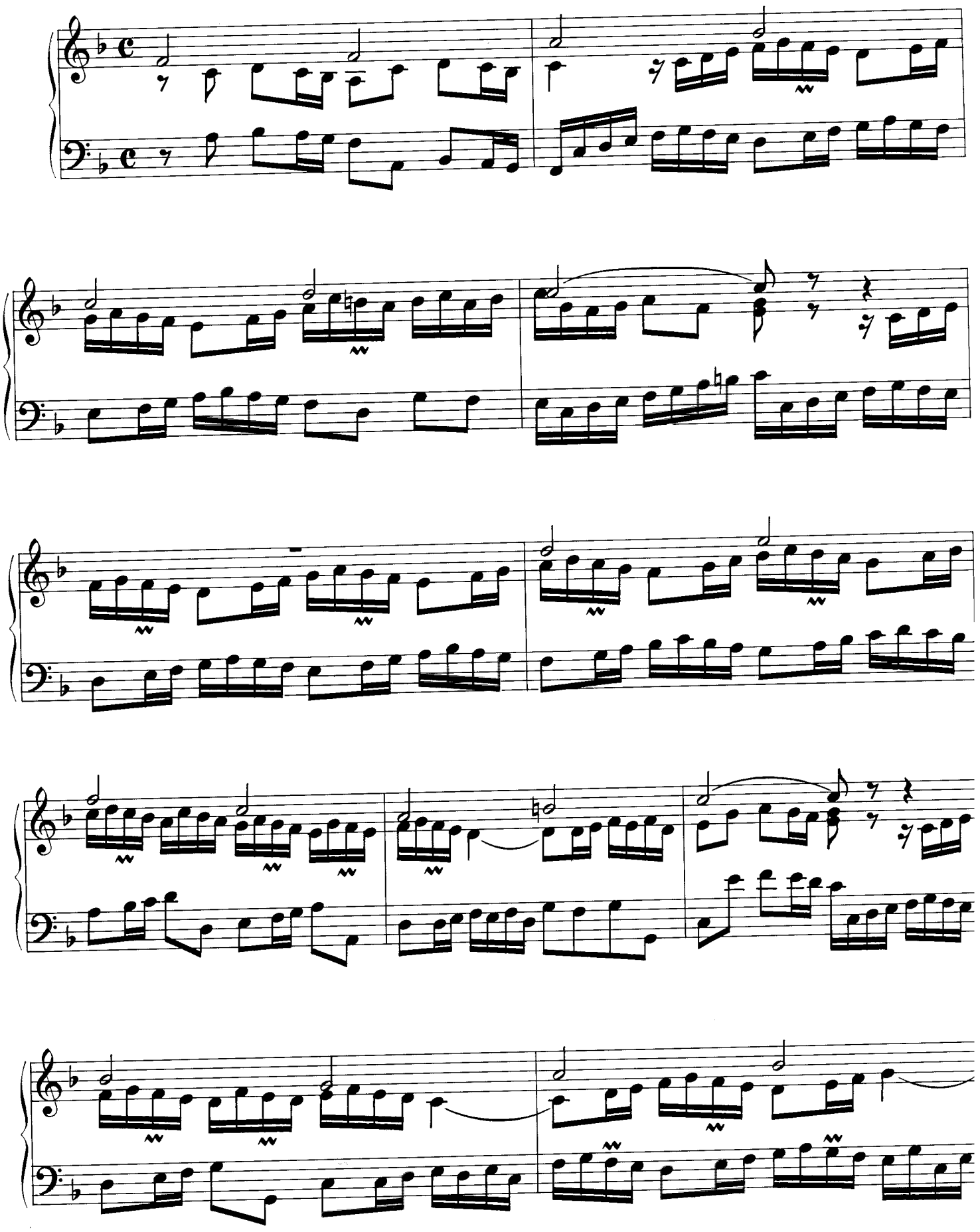
Ped.

Once He Came in Blessing

(Manual)

Gedakt 8'
Octave 4'
Princ. 2'

Gottes Sohn ist kommen
15th century / Bohemian Brethren, 1531



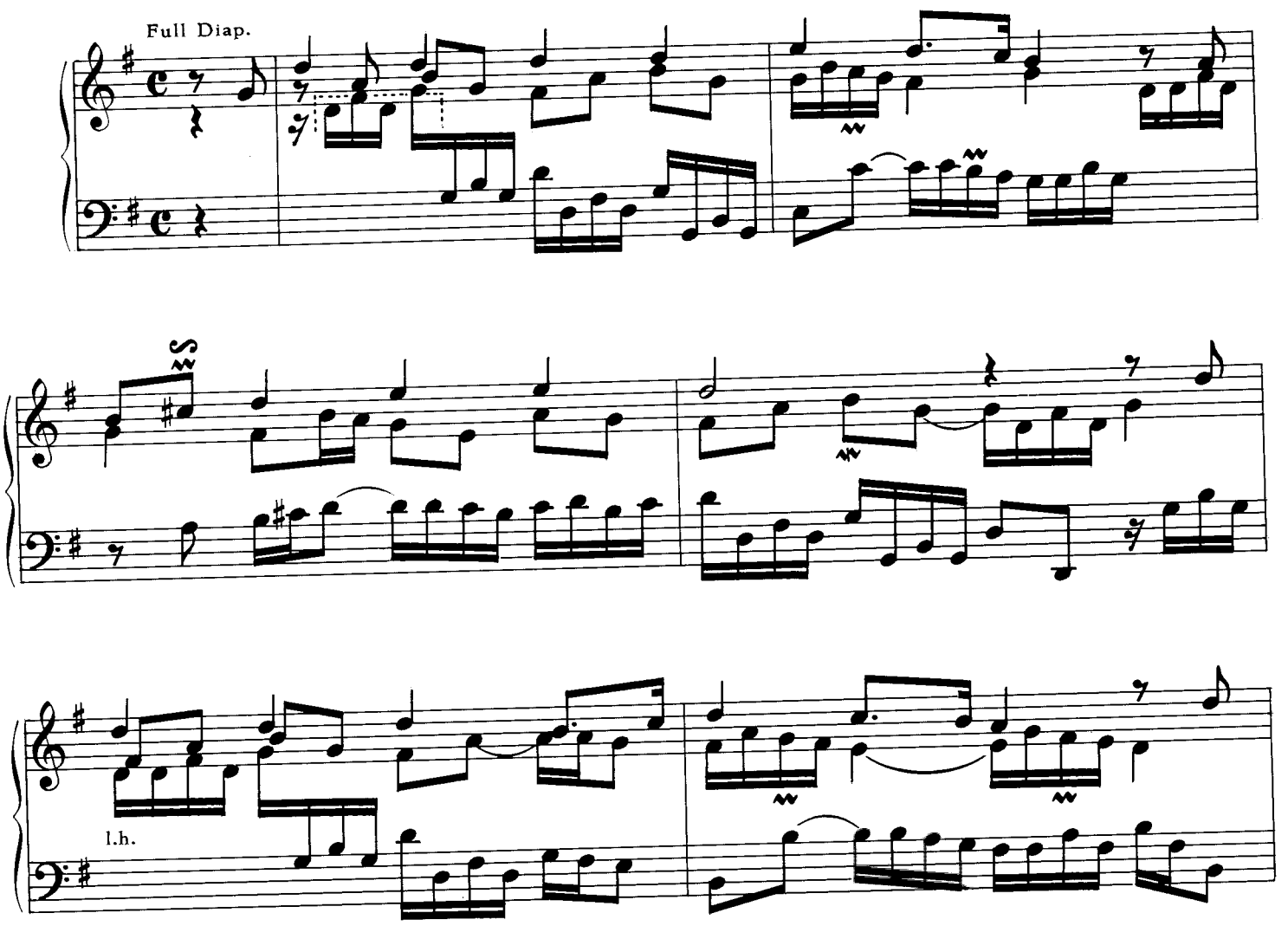
r.h.

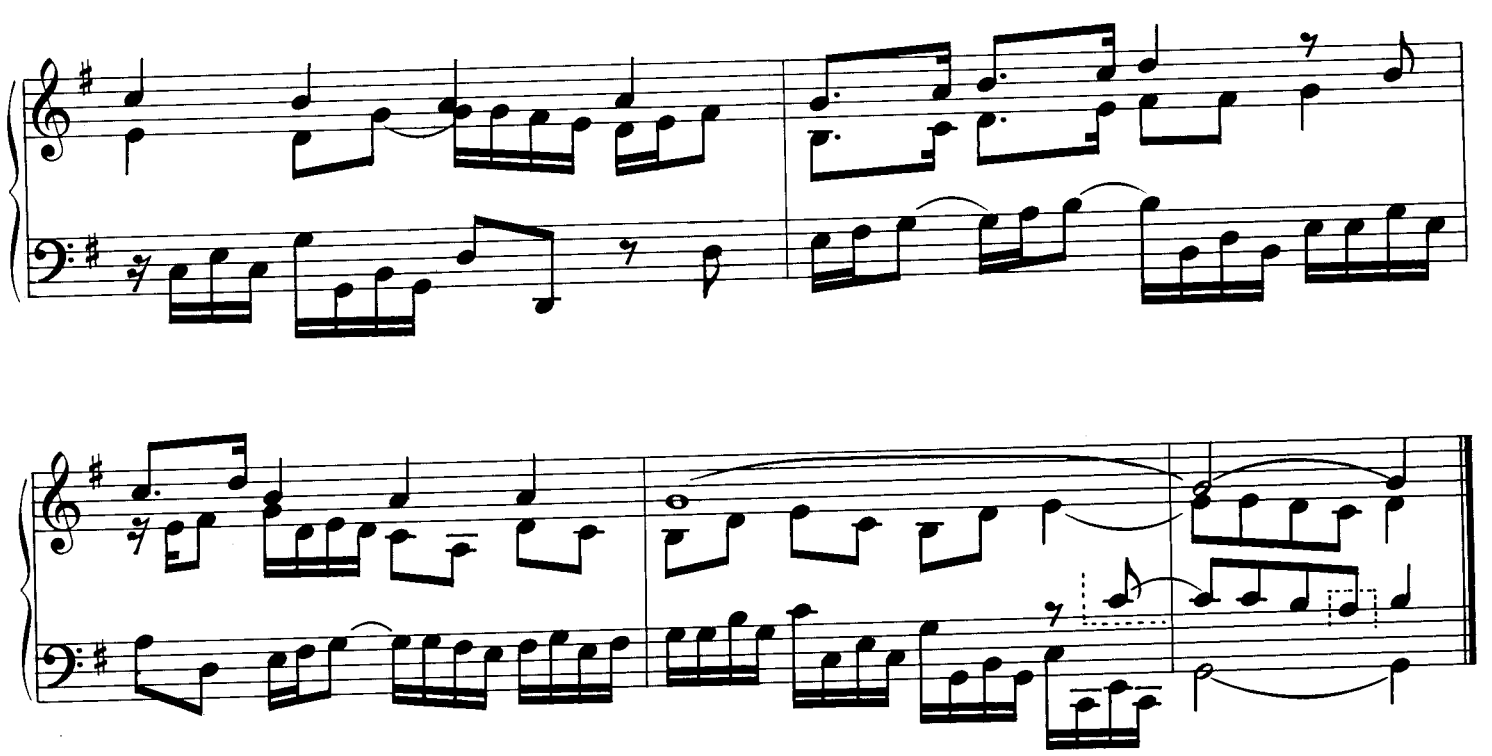
r.h.

Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men (G)

(Manual)

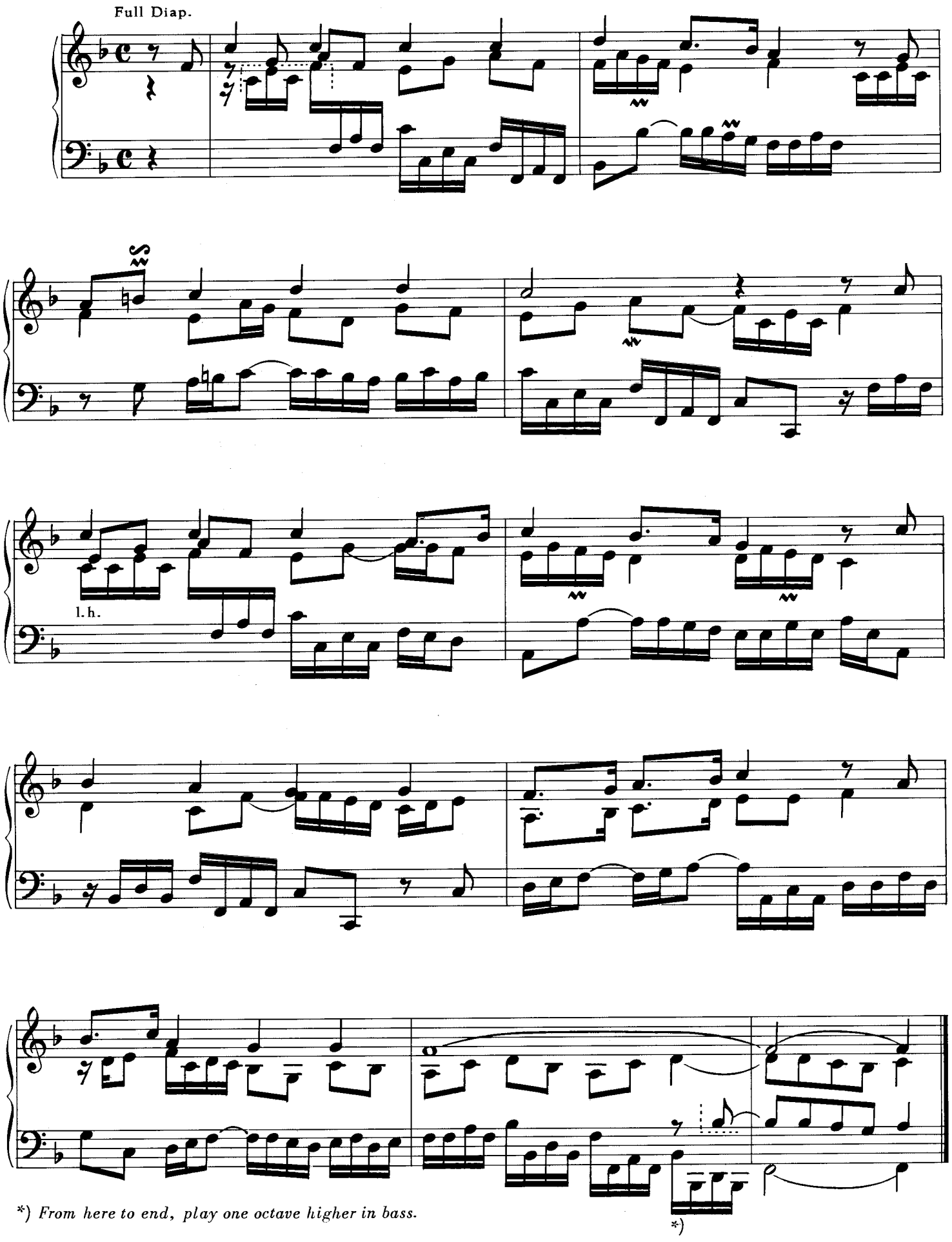
Lobt Gott, ihr Christen
Nikolaus Herman, 1554





Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men (F)

(Manual)



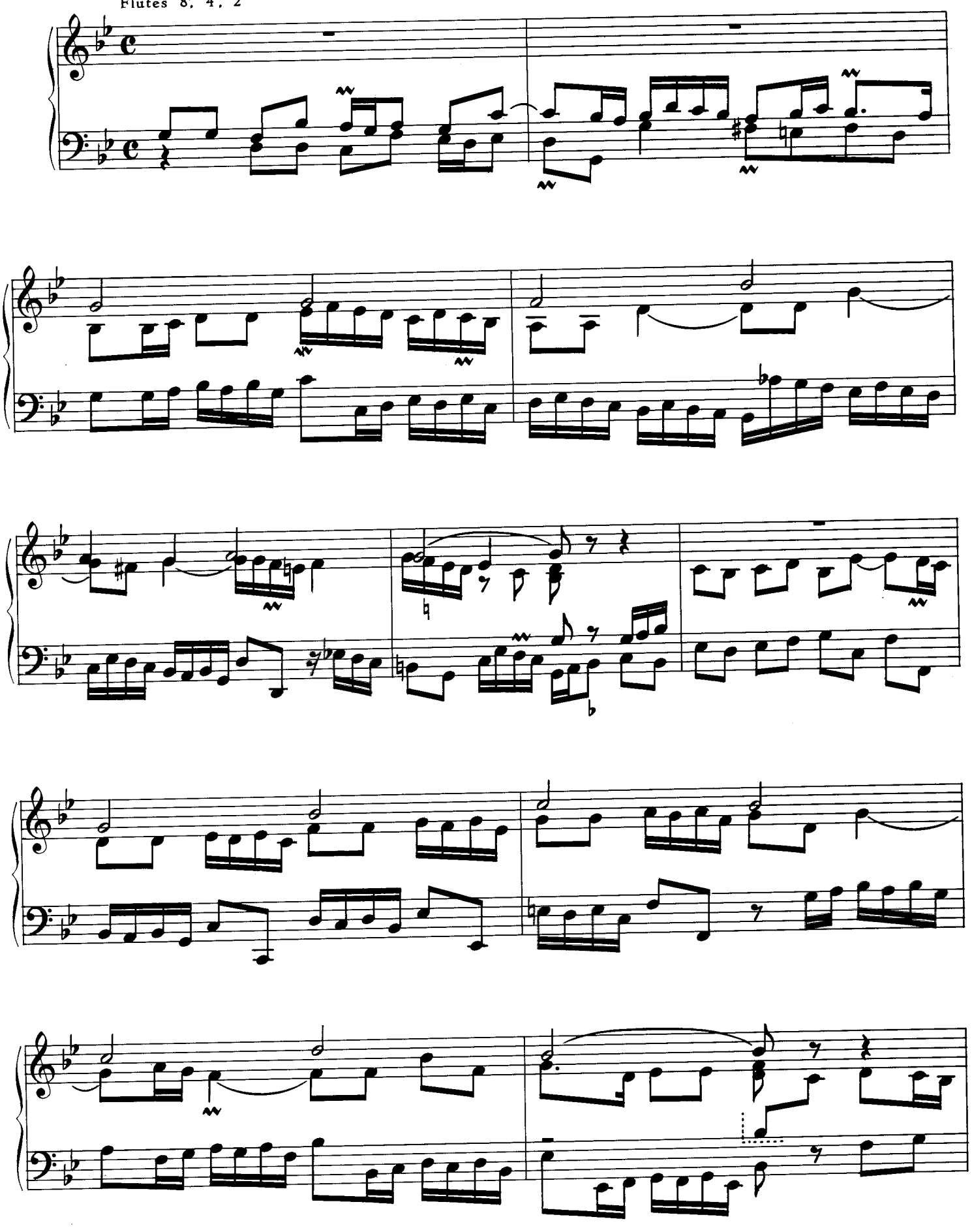
*) *From here to end, play one octave higher in bass.*

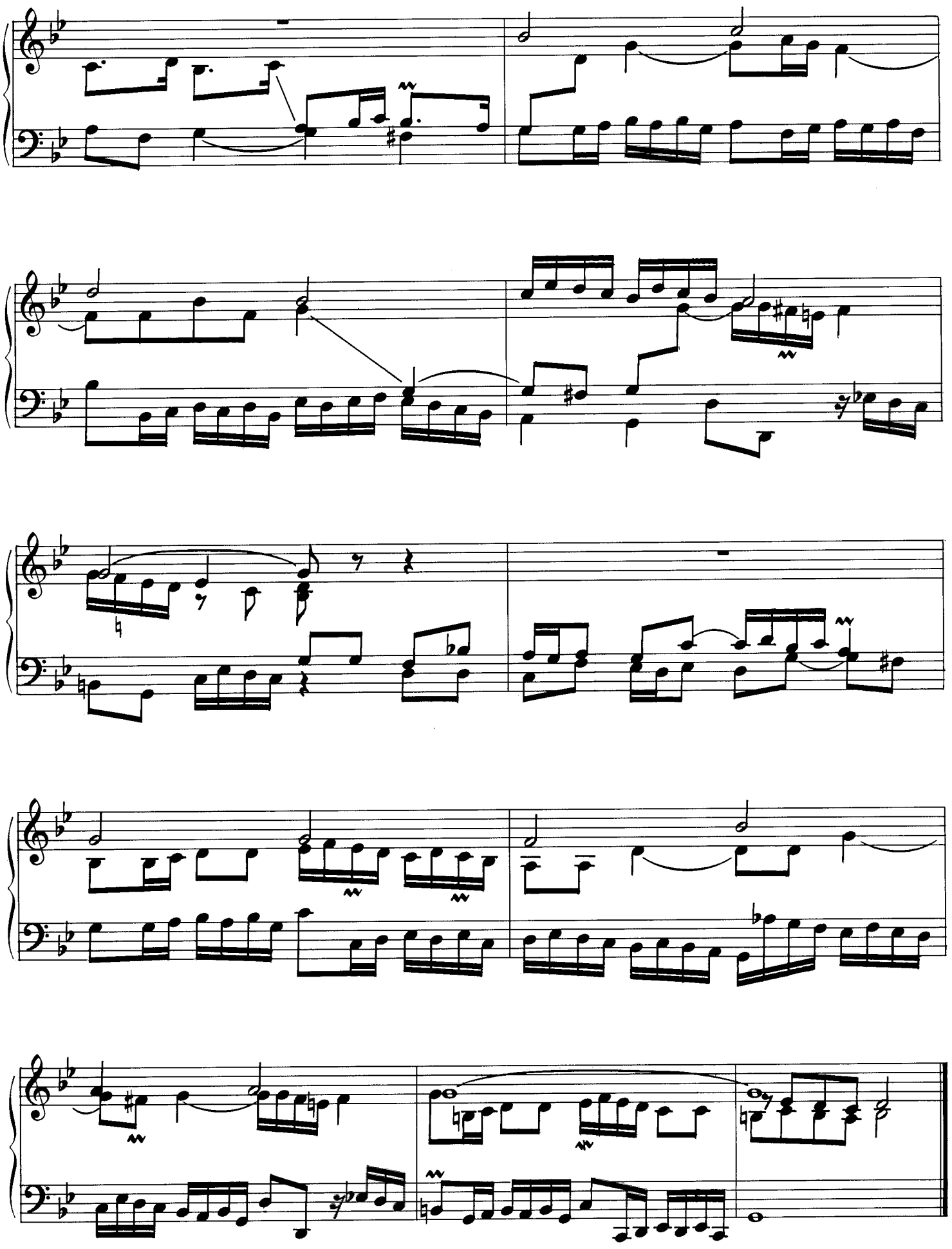
Savior of the Nations, Come

(Manual)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
From the ancient church / Martin Luther, 1524

Flutes 8', 4', 2'



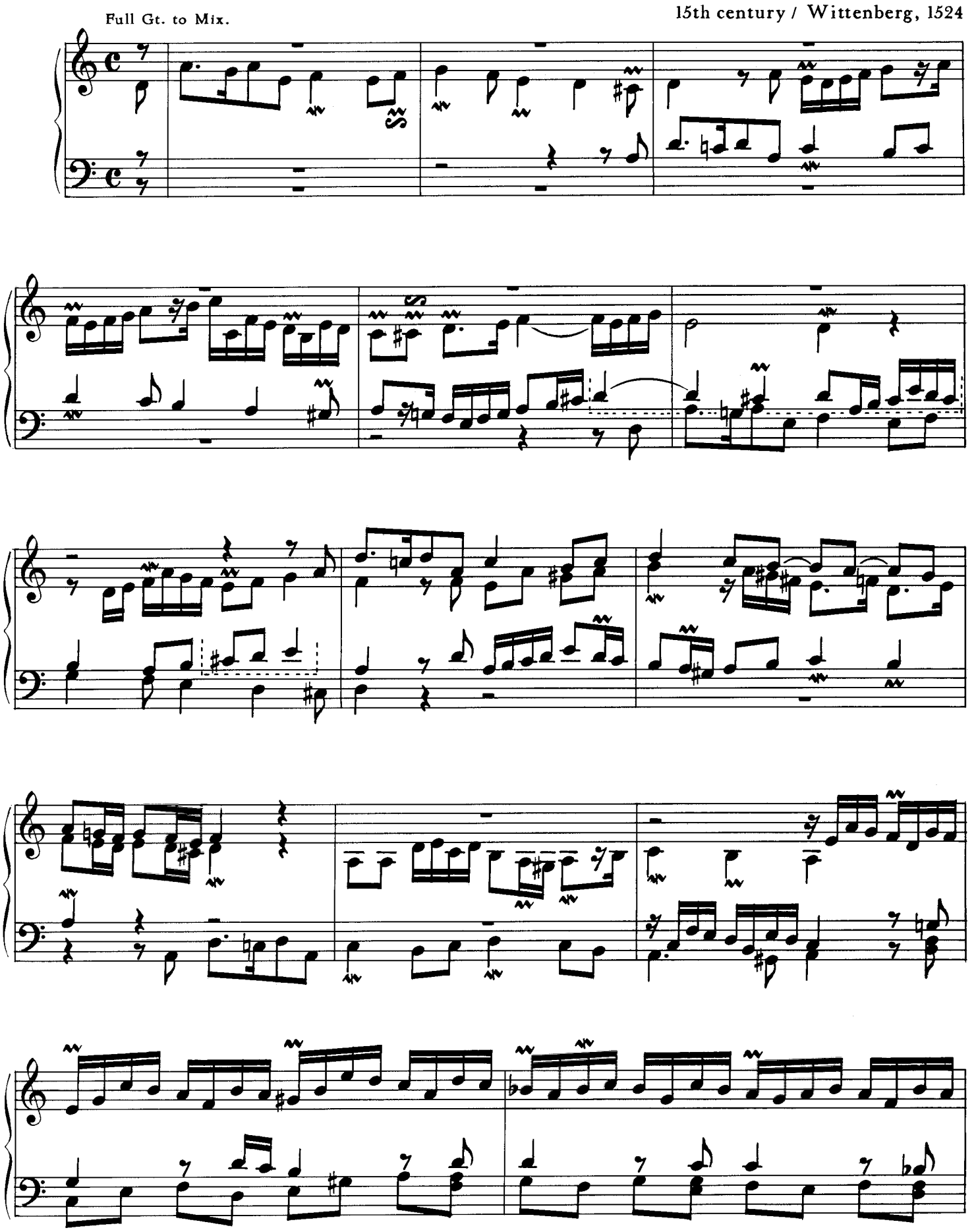


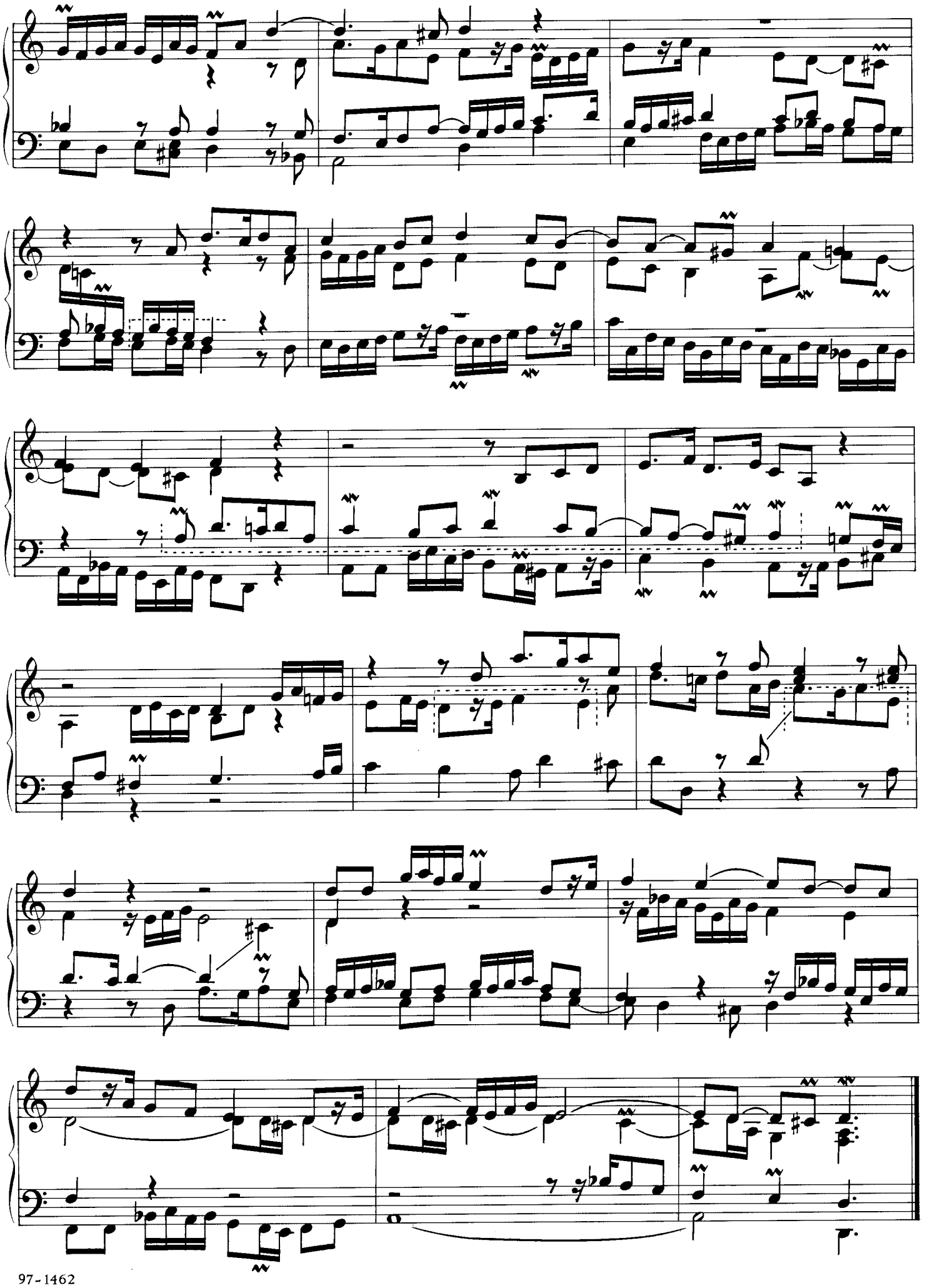
We All Believe in One True God

(Manual)

Wir glauben all' an einen Gott
15th century / Wittenberg, 1524

Full Gt. to Mix.



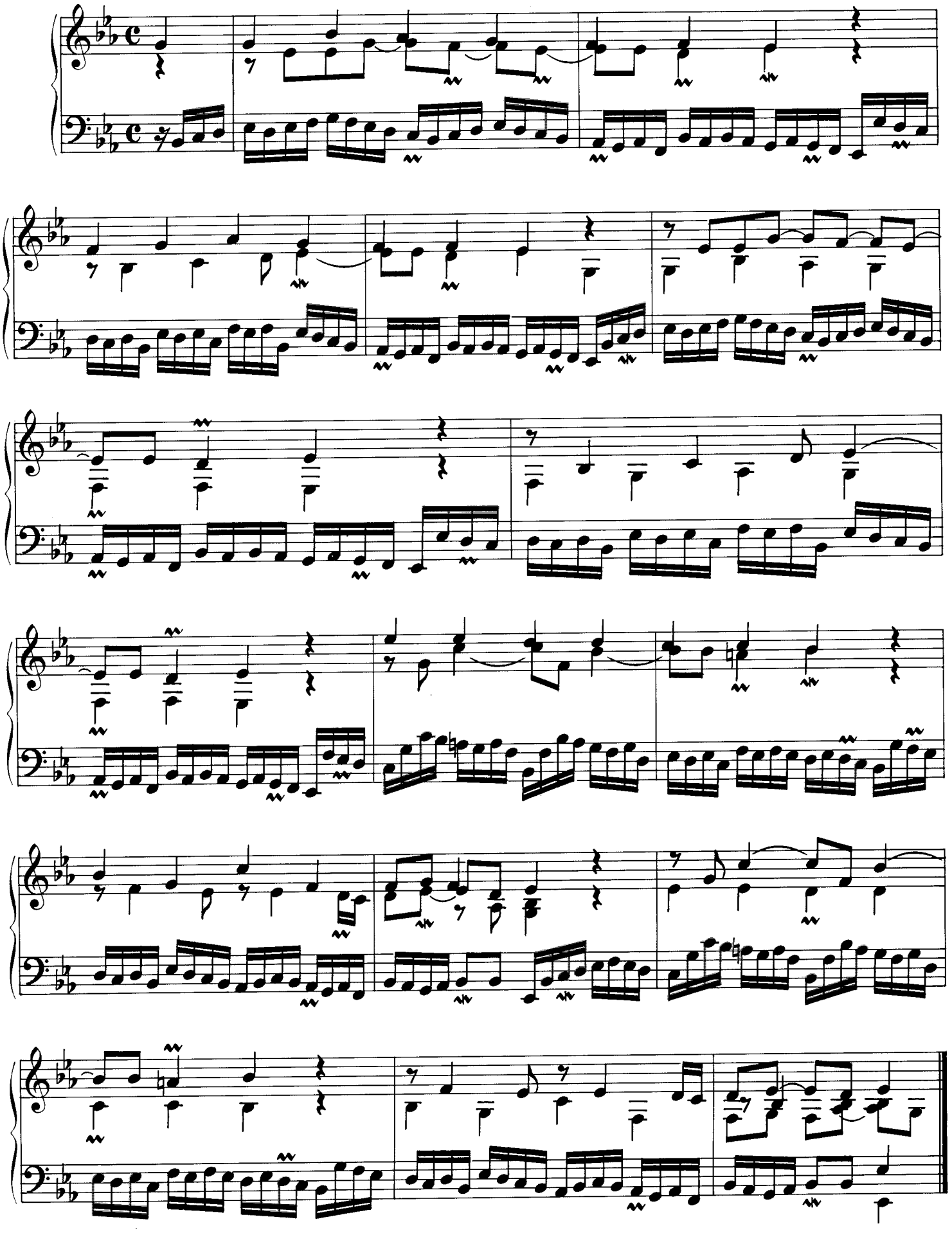


We All Believe in One True God

(Manual)

Wir glauben all' an einen Gott
Darmstadt, 1699

Gedakt 8'
Princ. 4', 2'



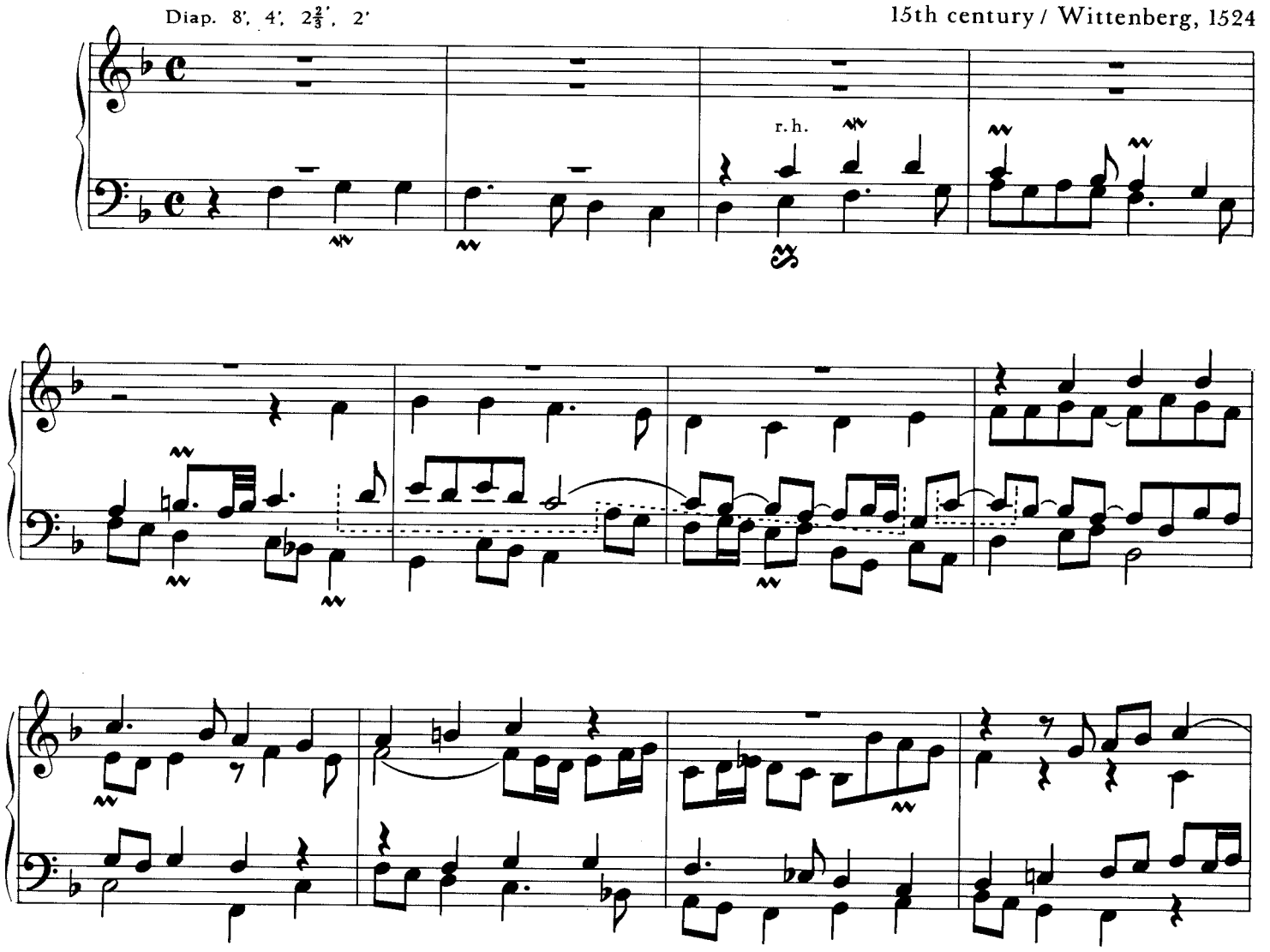
We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost

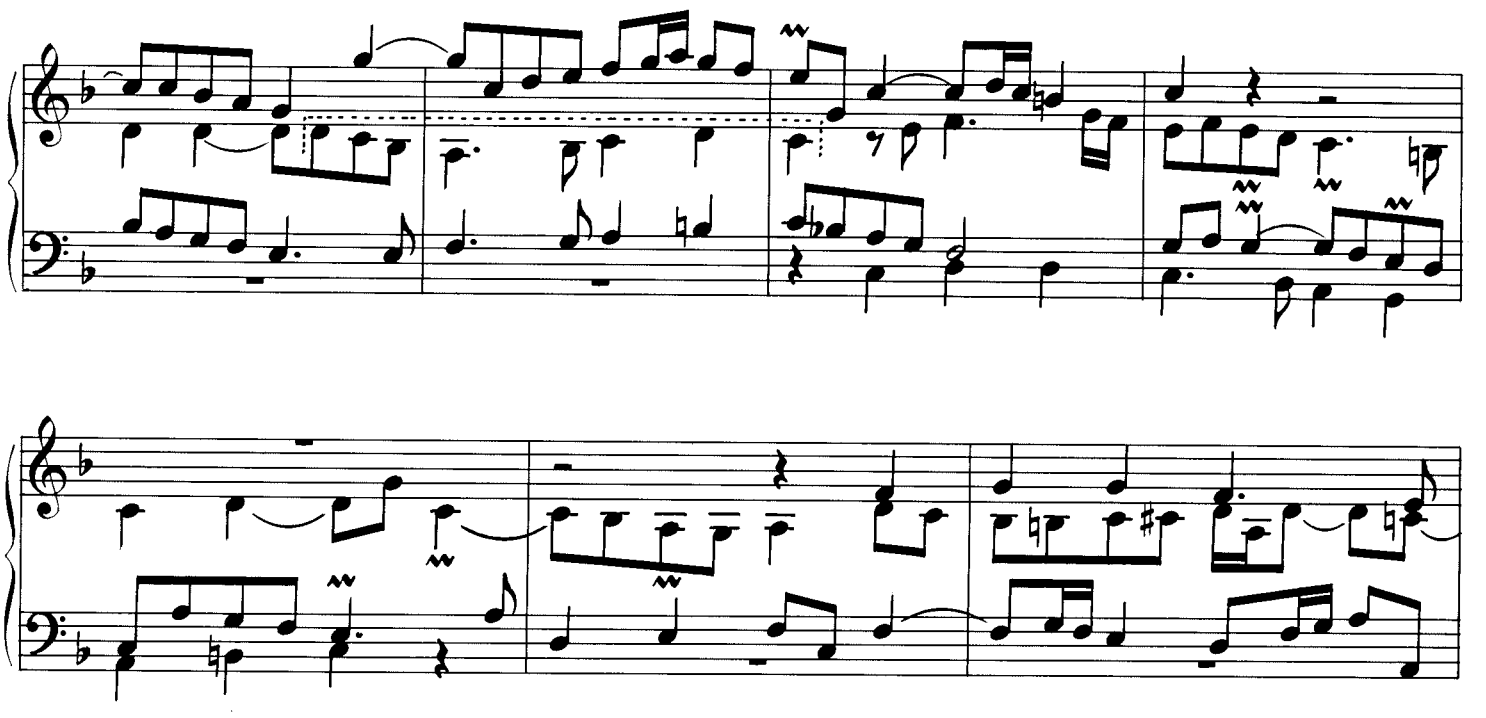
(Manual)

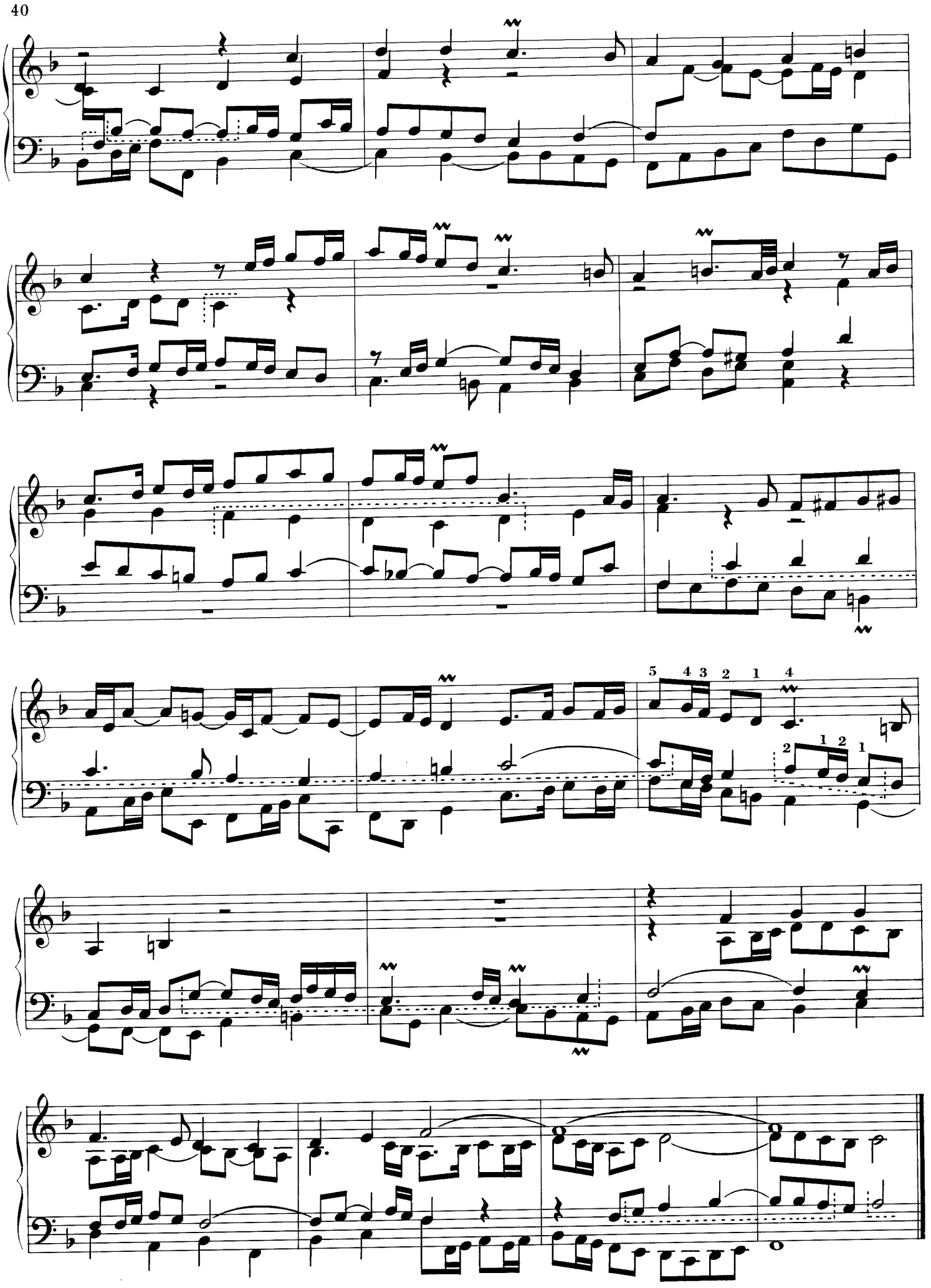
Nun bitten wir
15th century / Wittenberg, 1524

Diap. 8', 4', $2\frac{2}{3}$', 2'

r.h.



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2 1 2 1