PARTHENIA

★

WILLIAM BYRD JOHN BULL ORLANDO GIBBONS

Transcribed and edited by

THURSTON DART

A critical edition of this famous book, first published in 1612-13, comprising eight pieces by William Byrd, seven by John Bull and six by Orlando Gibbons.

SECOND, REVISED EDITION

LONDON:

STAINER & BELL, LTD.

AMERICAN AGENTS: GALAXY MUSIC CORPORATION, NEW YORK

Made in Great Britain

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PARTHENIA

or

THE MAYDENHEAD

of the first musicke that
ever was printed for the VIRGINALLS
COMPOSED
By three famous Masters: William Byrd, Dr: John Bull & Orlando Gibbons
Gentilmen of his Ma:ties most Illustrious Chappell.
Ingraven
by William Hole.

[Engraving of lady at virginals]

Lond: print: for Mris: Dor: Evans. Cum privilegio. *Are to be sould by G. Lowe printr in Loathberry*

[*Dedication page:*]

TO THE HIGH & MIGHTY

and magnificent Princes Frederick Elector Palatine of the Reine: and his betrothed Lady, Elizabeth the only daughter of my Lord the king.

The virgin PARTHENIA (whilst yet I may) I offer up to your virgin / Highnesses. To you (Gracious Lady) even from the byrth she was entended / and nowe I trust shalbe more wellcome having learnd to tune and twine togeithr / these next neighbour letters E and F, the vowell that makes so sweet a Consonāt. / Her notes so linkt and wedded togeither seeme lively Hierogliphicks of the / harmony of mariage, the high and holy State wherinto you shortly must be / incorporat. This smale worke (yet first in this kind) was only ment for this / lesser world: howbeit under your shadowes (in yor sunneshine I should / say rather; yt is, yor sweete and glorious Consorte) it may sound & rellish / in the eares of the greater. For Musick (like that miraculous tongue of / th'Apostles) having but one and ye same Caracter is alike knowne to all the / sundry nations of ye world. And what wonder, sinc Harmony is the Soule / thereof multipliciously varied of fowre bare notes as ye Body is of the fowre / Elements. These lessons were composed by three famous Masters in the / faculties, whereof one had ye honor to be yor teacher most Illustrious lady; / and (had he not had it before) thereby deserved the stile of a Doctor. / If, to theire greatr grace, yor Grace will vouchsafe to lend yor white hands / they will arrive wth more pleasure at ye princely eares of yor GREATE / FREDERIKE. Our lord Jesus who hath honored mariage / wth his deere presence and first miracle, extraordinarily done at ye instance / of his mayden mother, æternally blesse you maydes and maryed.

Yor Highnesses
most humbly
William Hole

[*Commendatory poems preceding the first piece of music:*]

Mr: HUGH HOLLAND

On his worthy friend W:H:
& his Triumviri of Musicke.

List to that sweete Recorder;
How daintily this BYRD his notes doth vary,
As if he were the Nightingalls owne brother!
Loe, where doth pace in order
A braver BULL, then did Europa cary:
Nay let all Europe showe me such an other.
Orlando though was counted Musicks fathr;
Yet this ORLANDO parallels di Lasso:
Whose triple praise would tire a very Tasso;
Thē heere in one these three men heare yu rather
And praise thaire songes: & sing his praise who maried
Those notes so well wch they so sweetely varied.

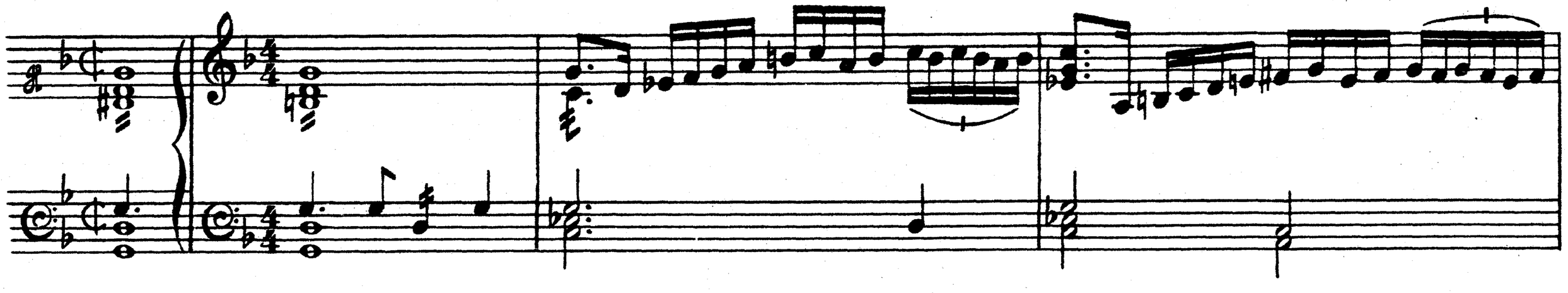
Mr: GEO: CHAPMAN

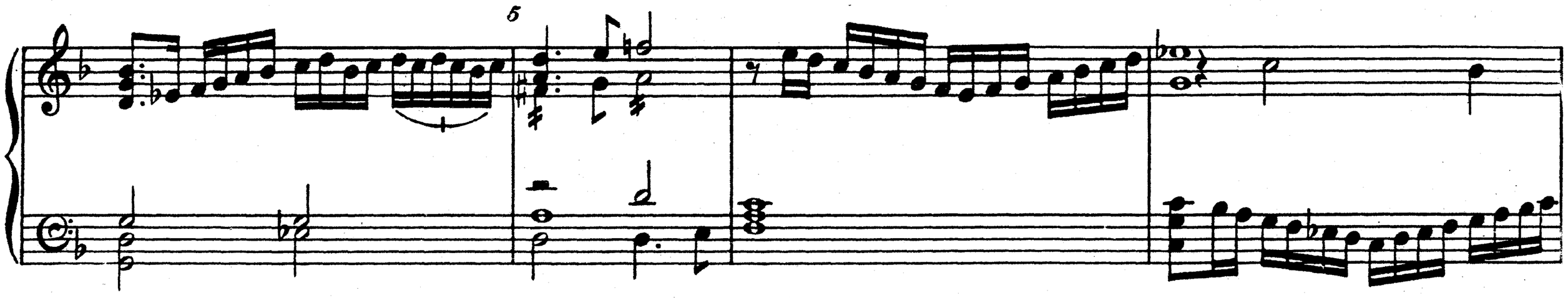
In worthy love of this new worck
and the most Autenticall Aucthors.

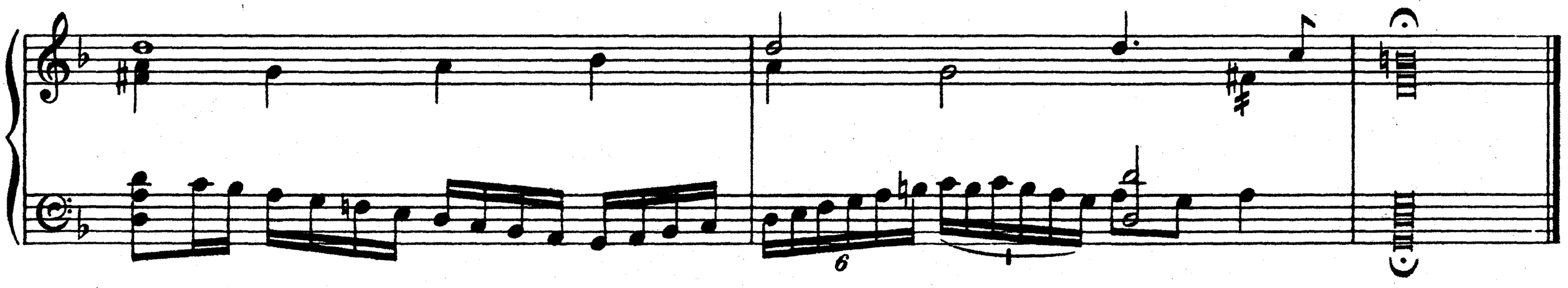
By theis choice lessons of theise Musique Mastrs:
Ancient, and heightn'd wth ye Arts full Bowles,
Let all our moderne, mere Phantastique Tasters,
(Whose Art but forreigne Noveltie extolls)
Rule and confine theyr fancies; and prefer
The constāt right & depthe Art should pduce
To all lite flashes, by whose light they err;
This wittie Age, hath wisedome least in use;
The world, ould growing, Ould, wth it, grow Men,
Theyr skylls decaying, like theyr bodies strengthe;
Young Men, to oulde are now but Childeren:
First Rules of Art, encrease still wth theyr lengthe.
Which see in this new worck, yet never seene:
Art ye more oulde, growes evr ye more greene.

1. Preludium

MR. WILLIAM BYRDE

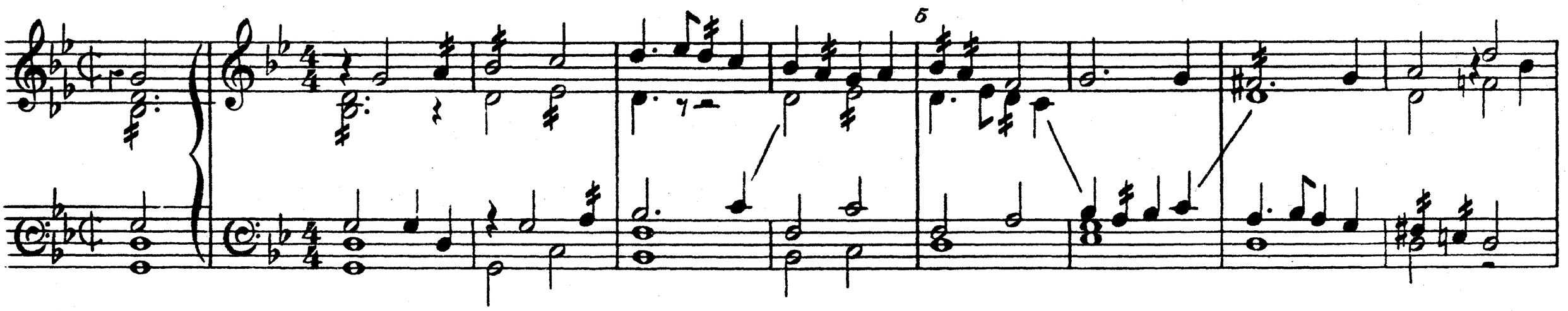


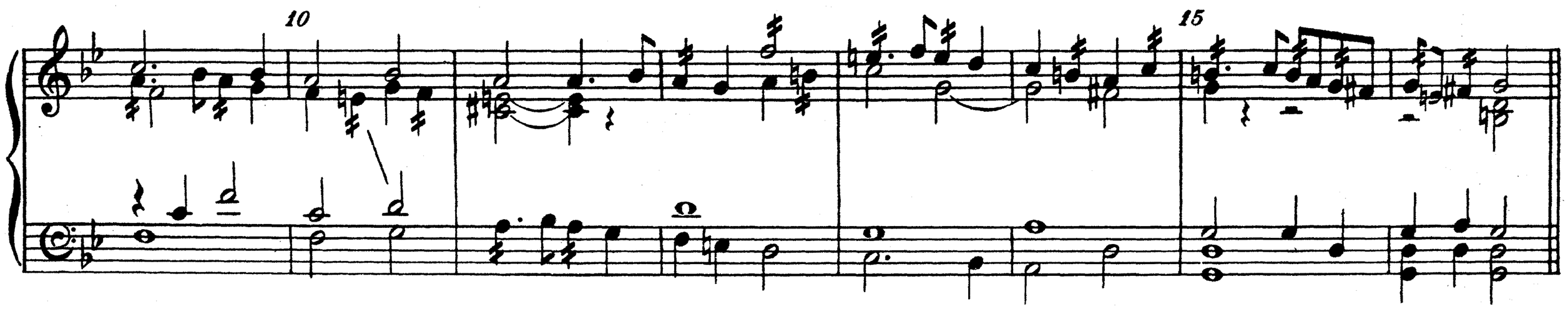


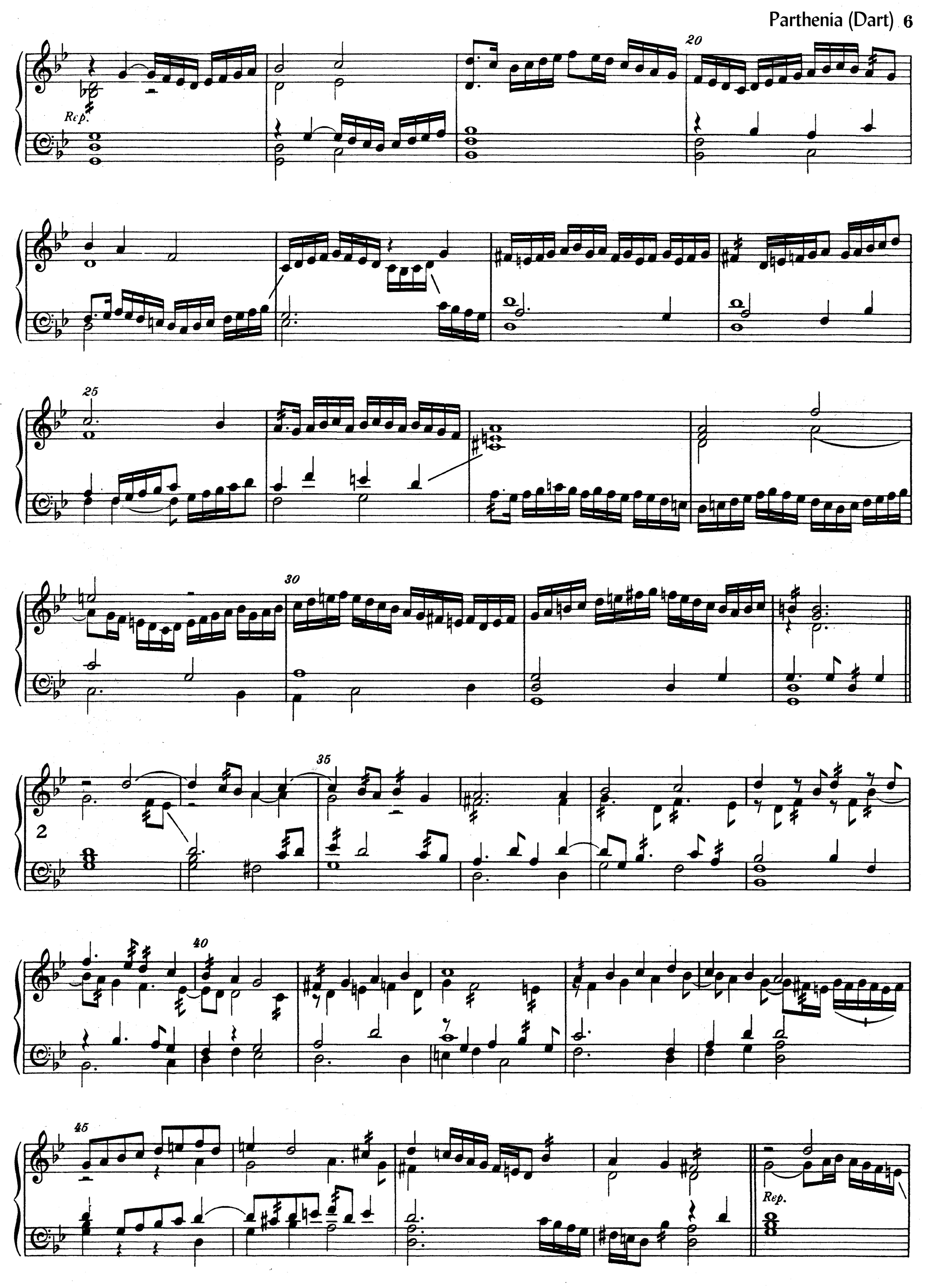


2. Pavana. Sr Wm Petre

WILLIAM BYRDE



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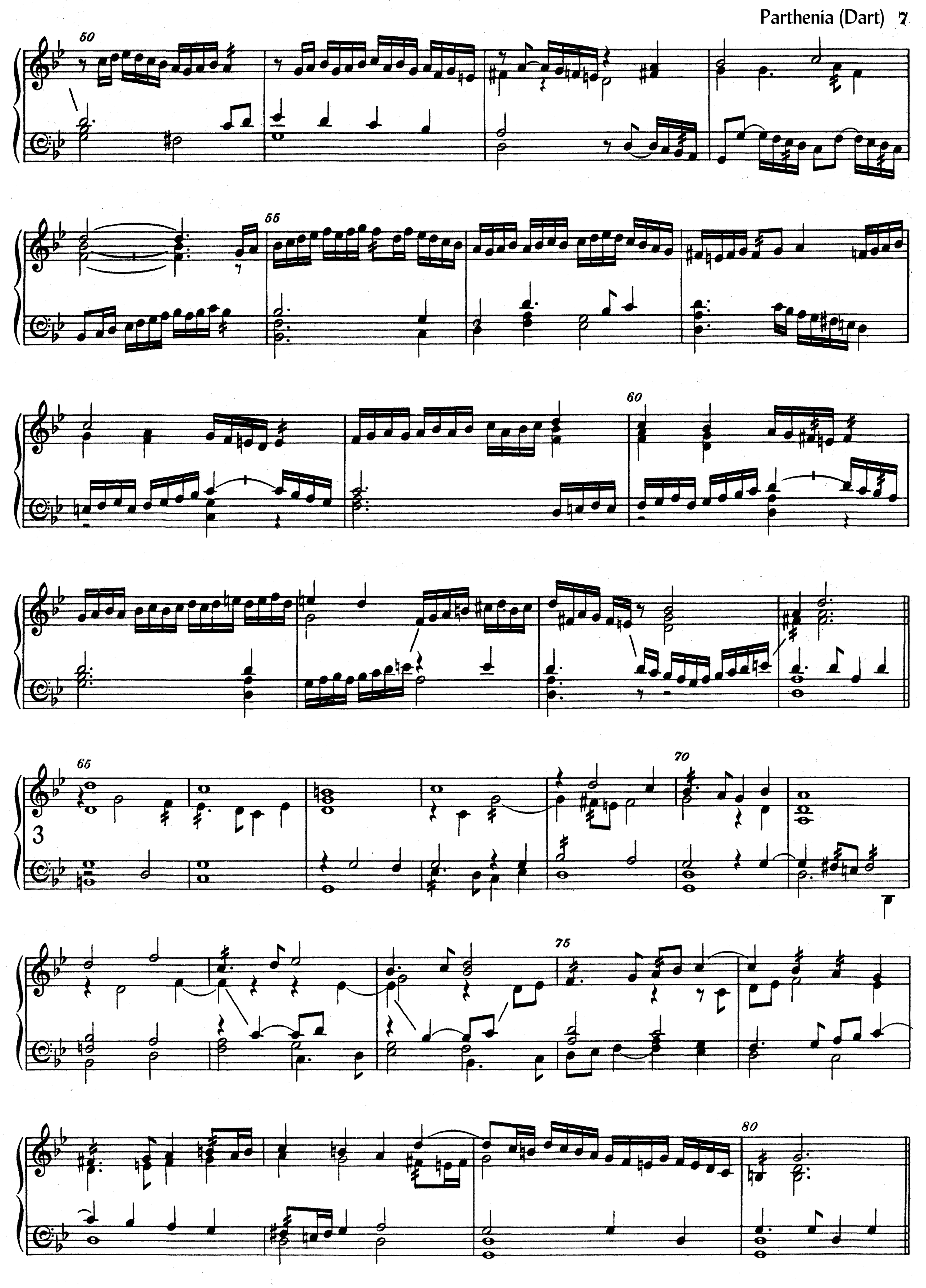
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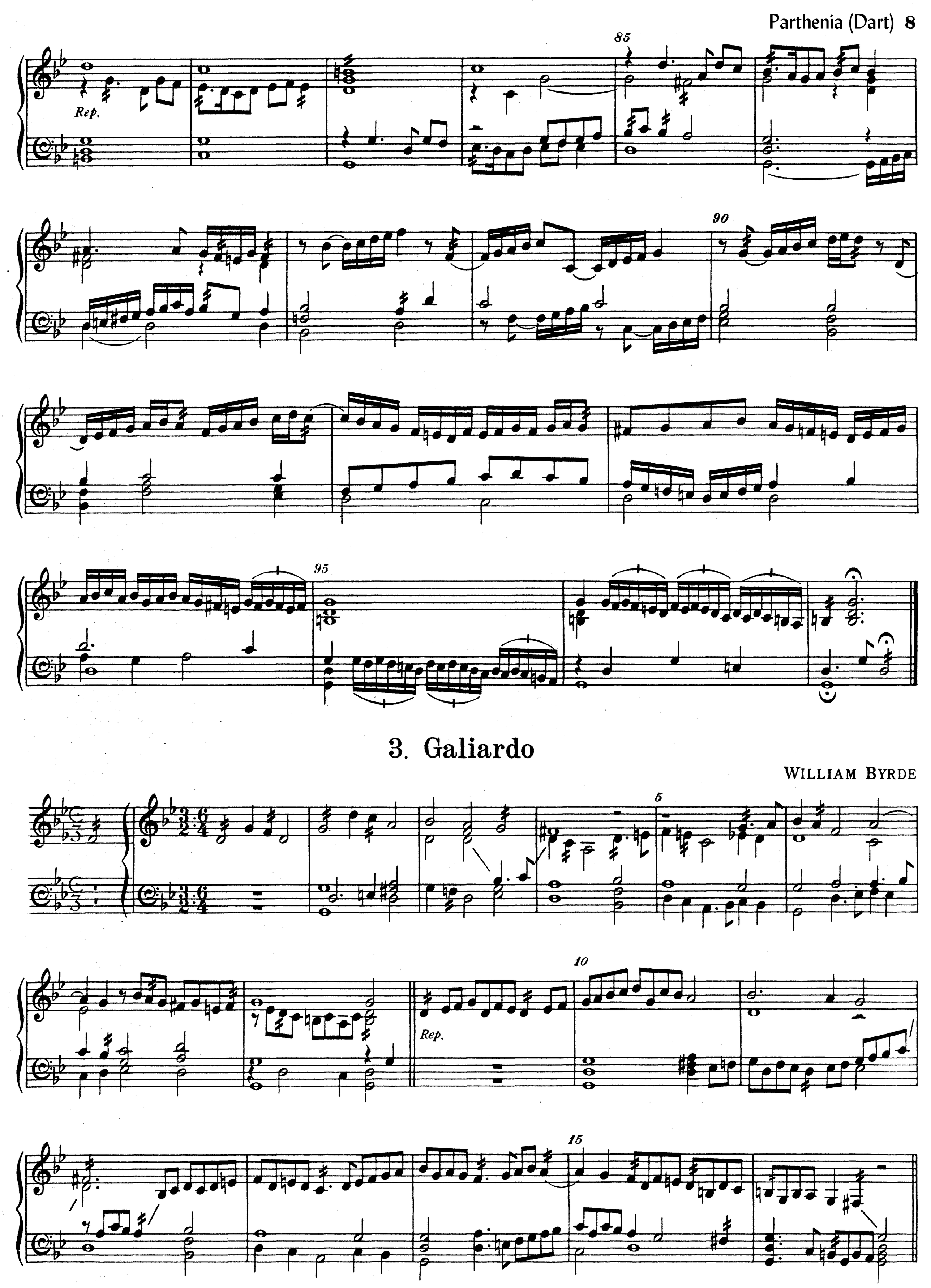
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3. Galiardo
WILLIAM BYRDE
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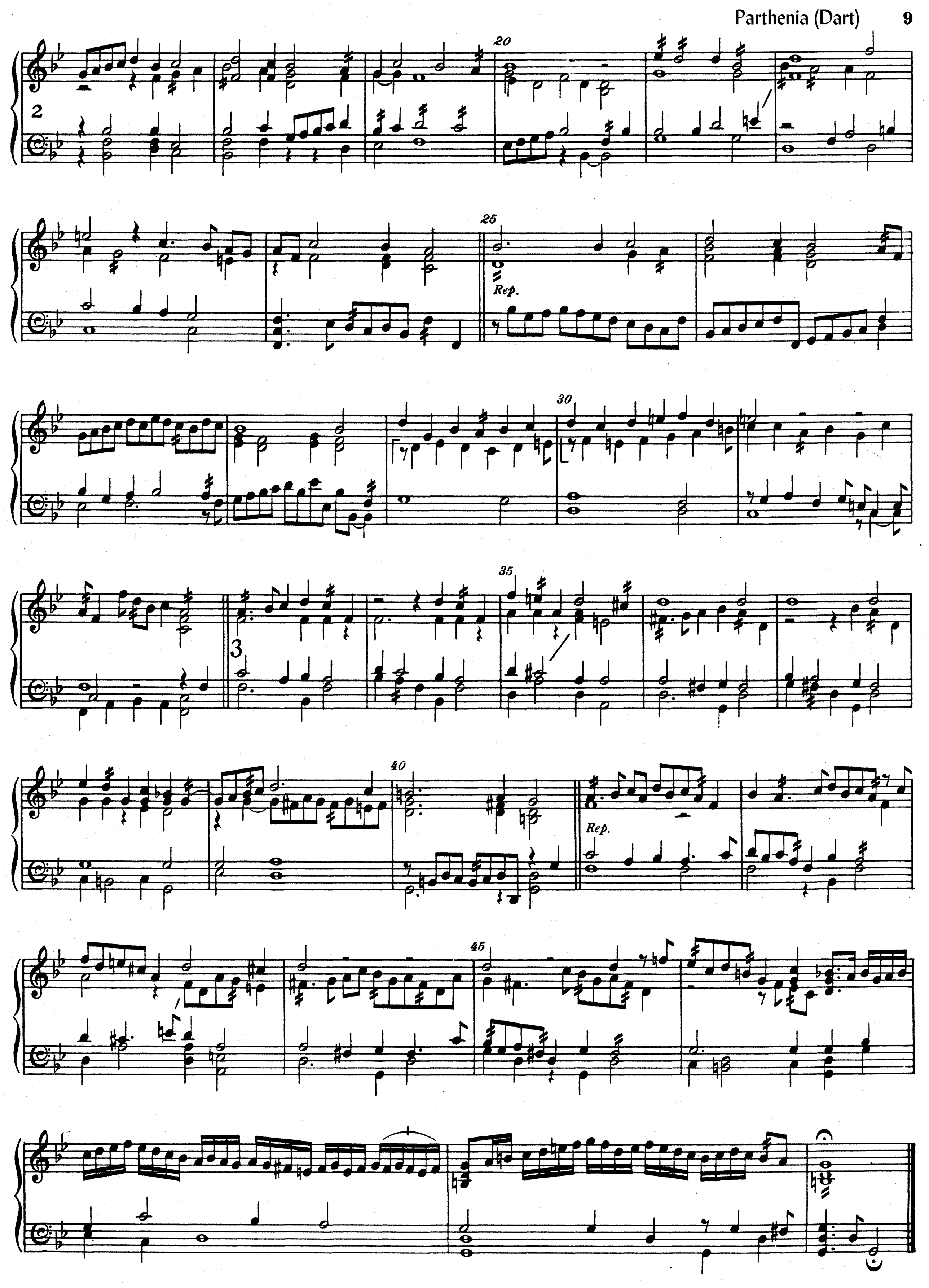
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4. Preludium

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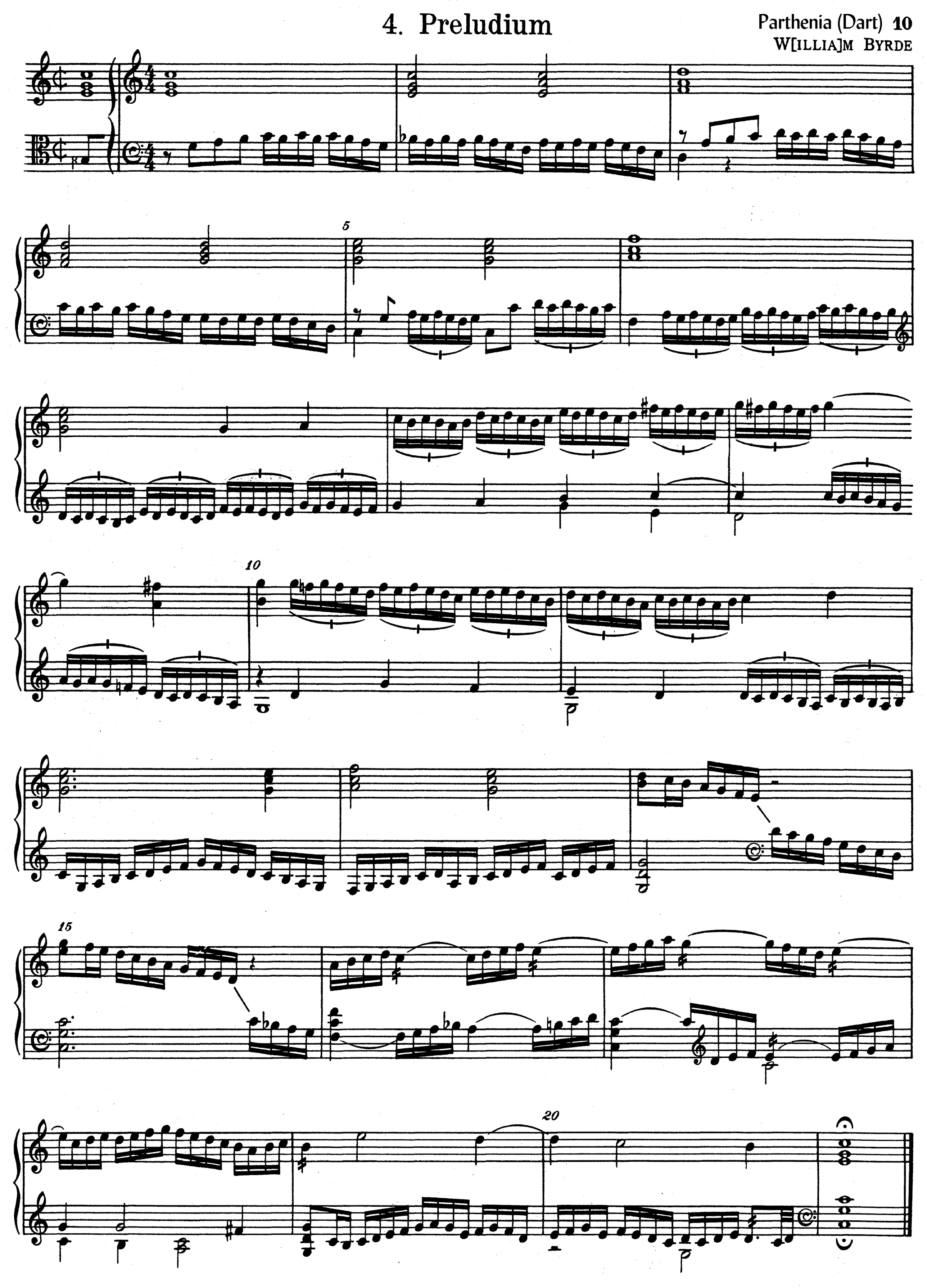
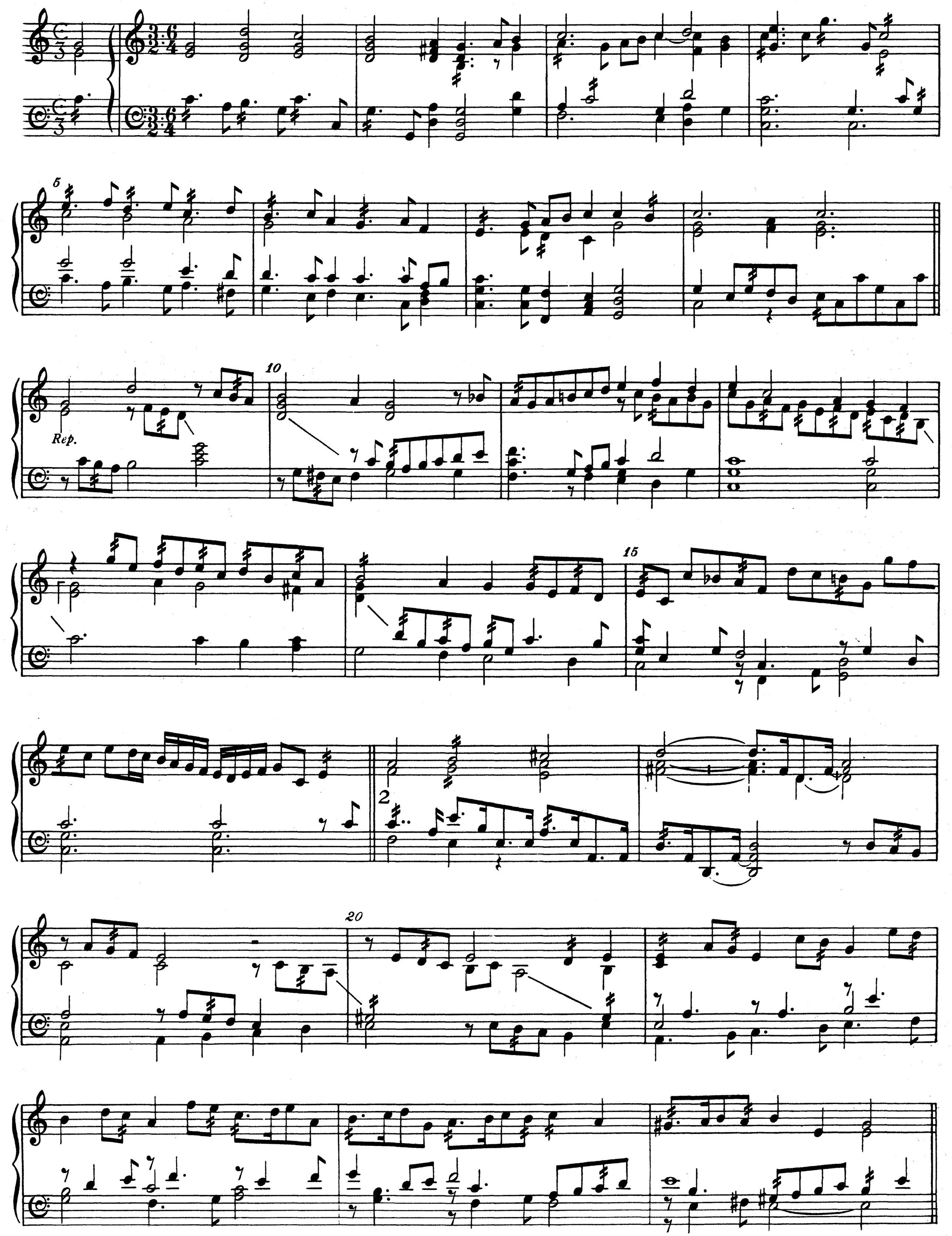
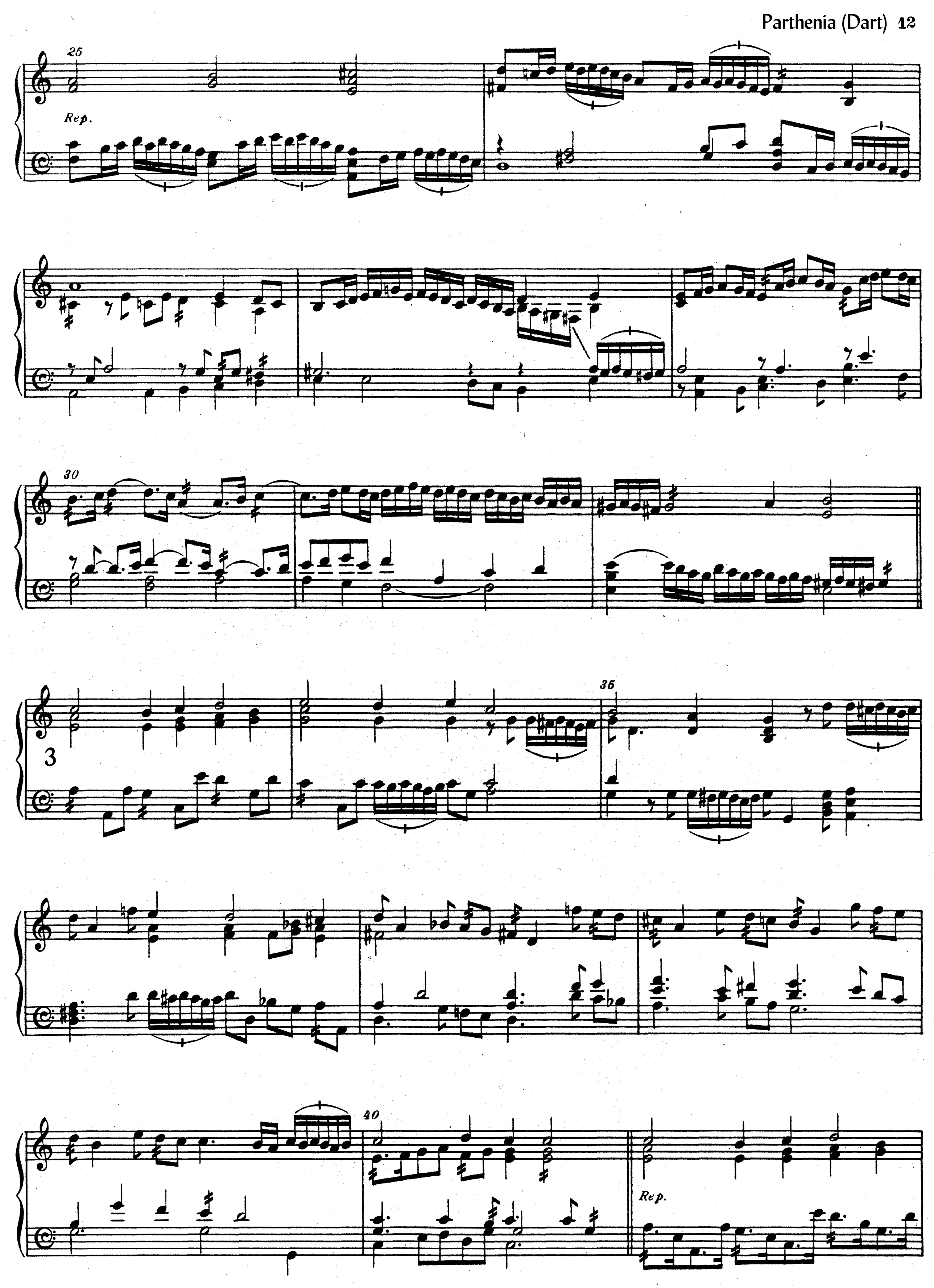


5. Galiardo. Mris Marye Brownlo

WILL[IAM] BYRDE

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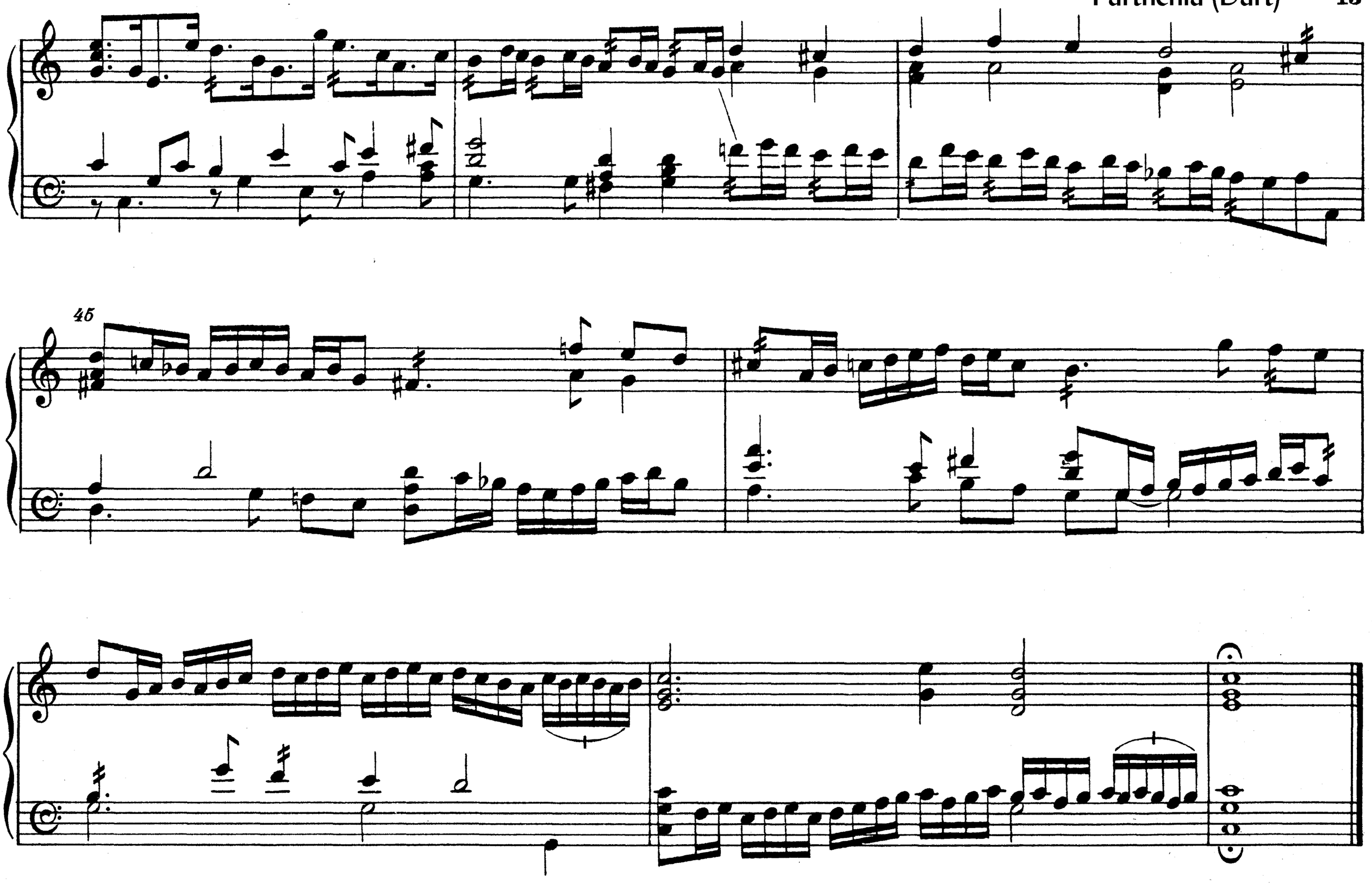
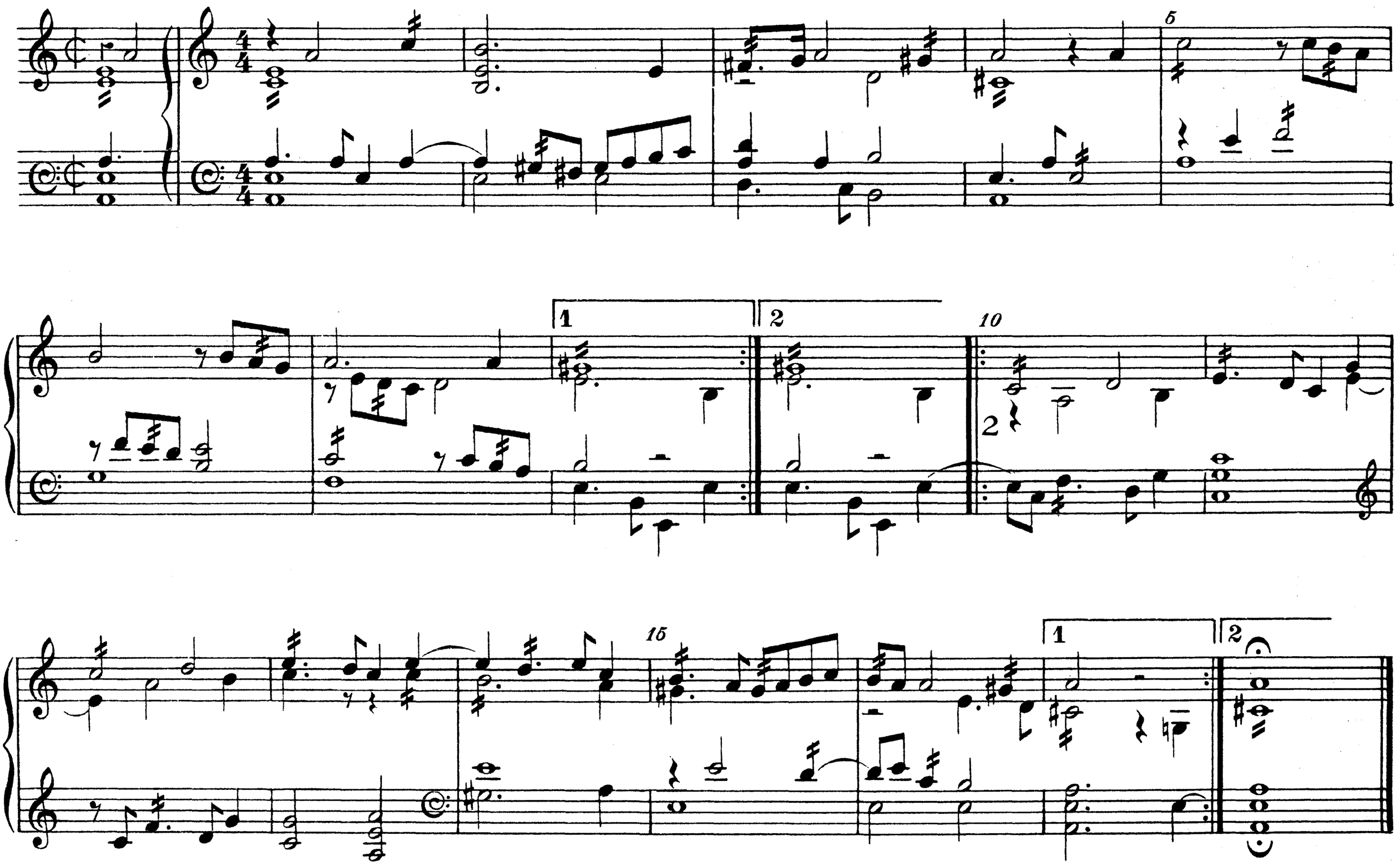


6. Pavana. The Earle of Salisbury

WILL[IAM] BYRDE



7. Galiardo

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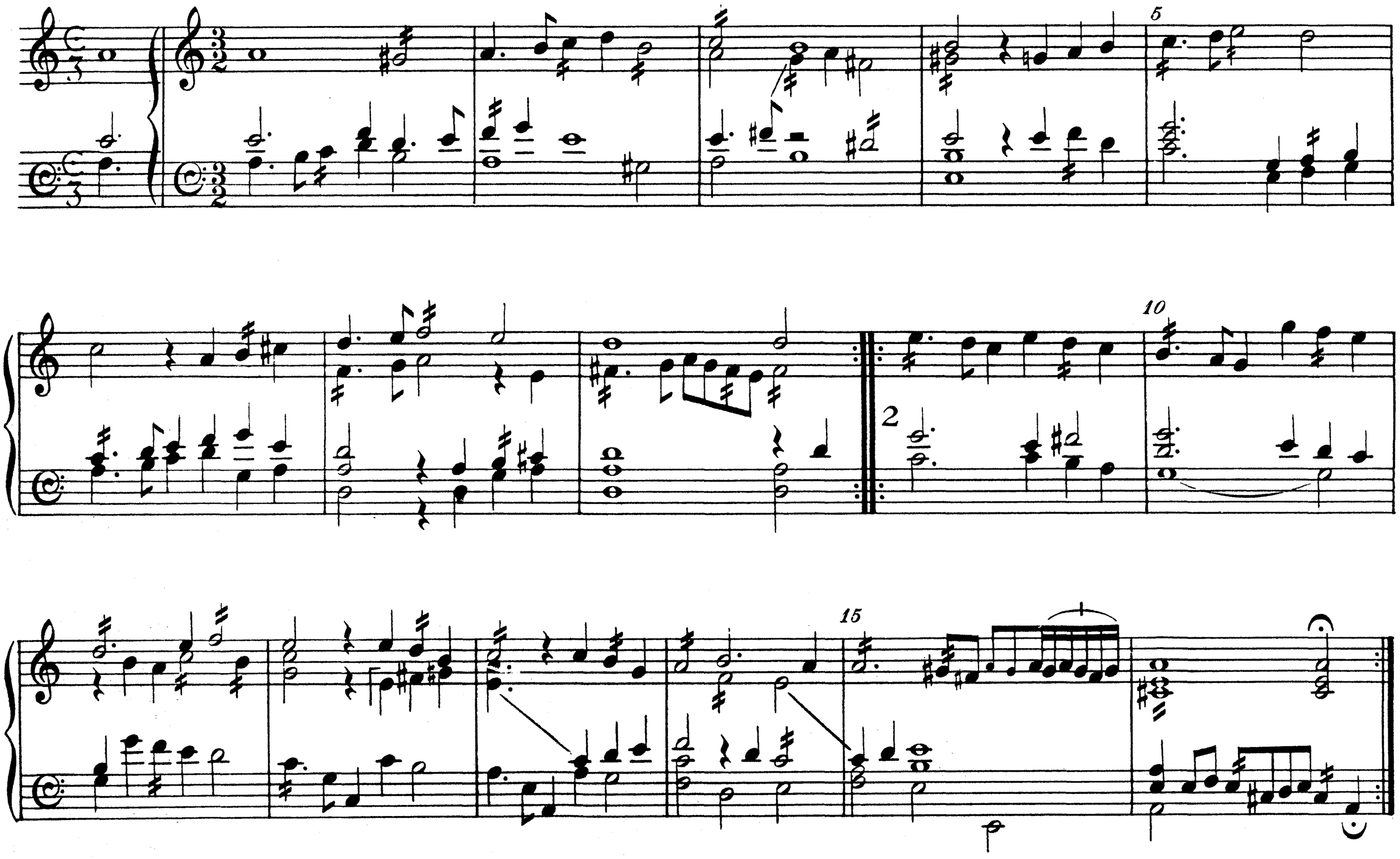
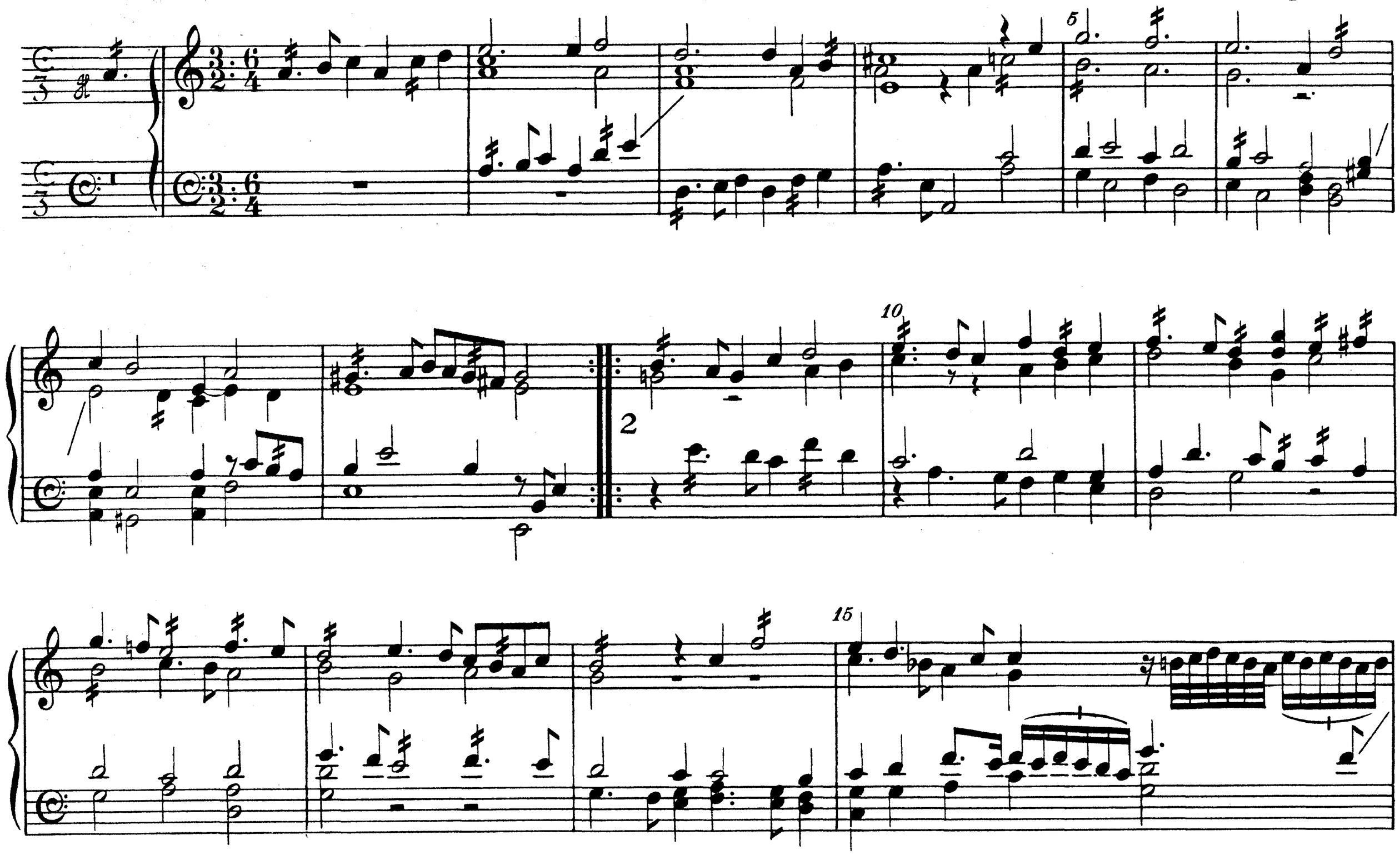
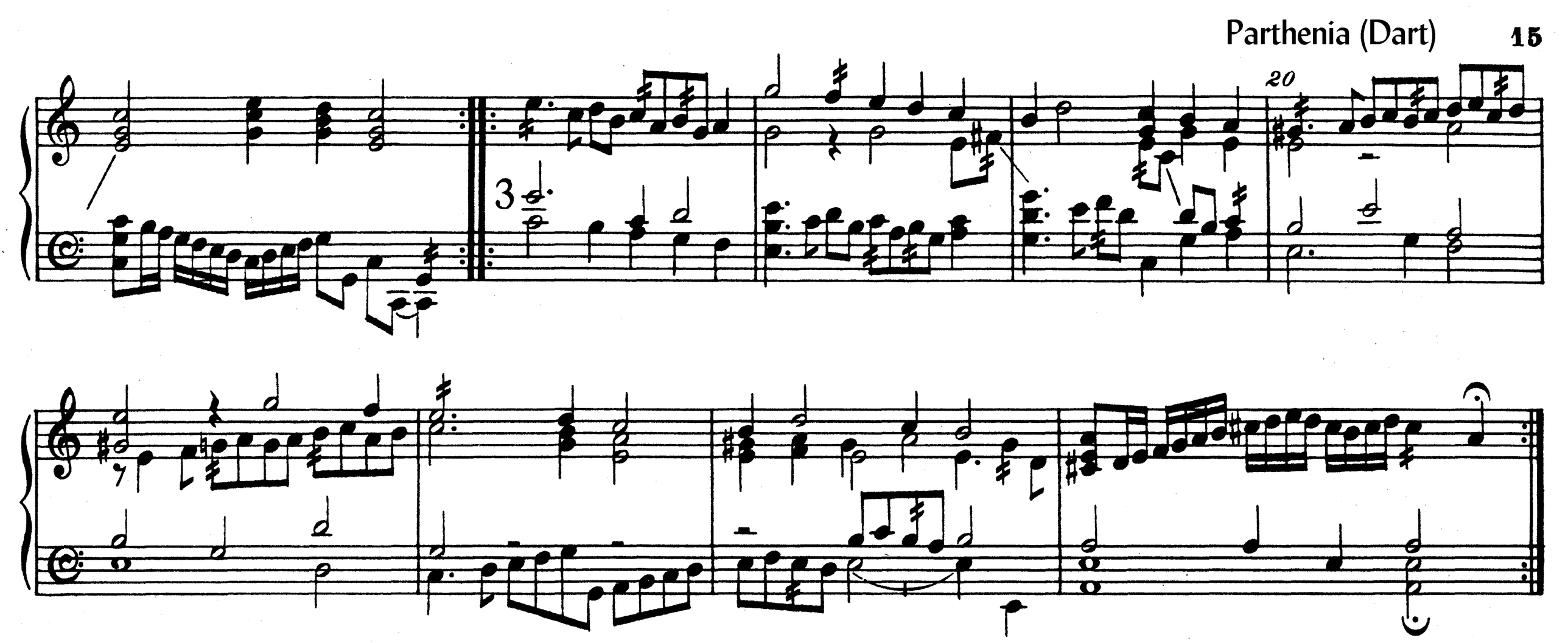


8. Galiardo Secundo. Mris Marye Brownlo

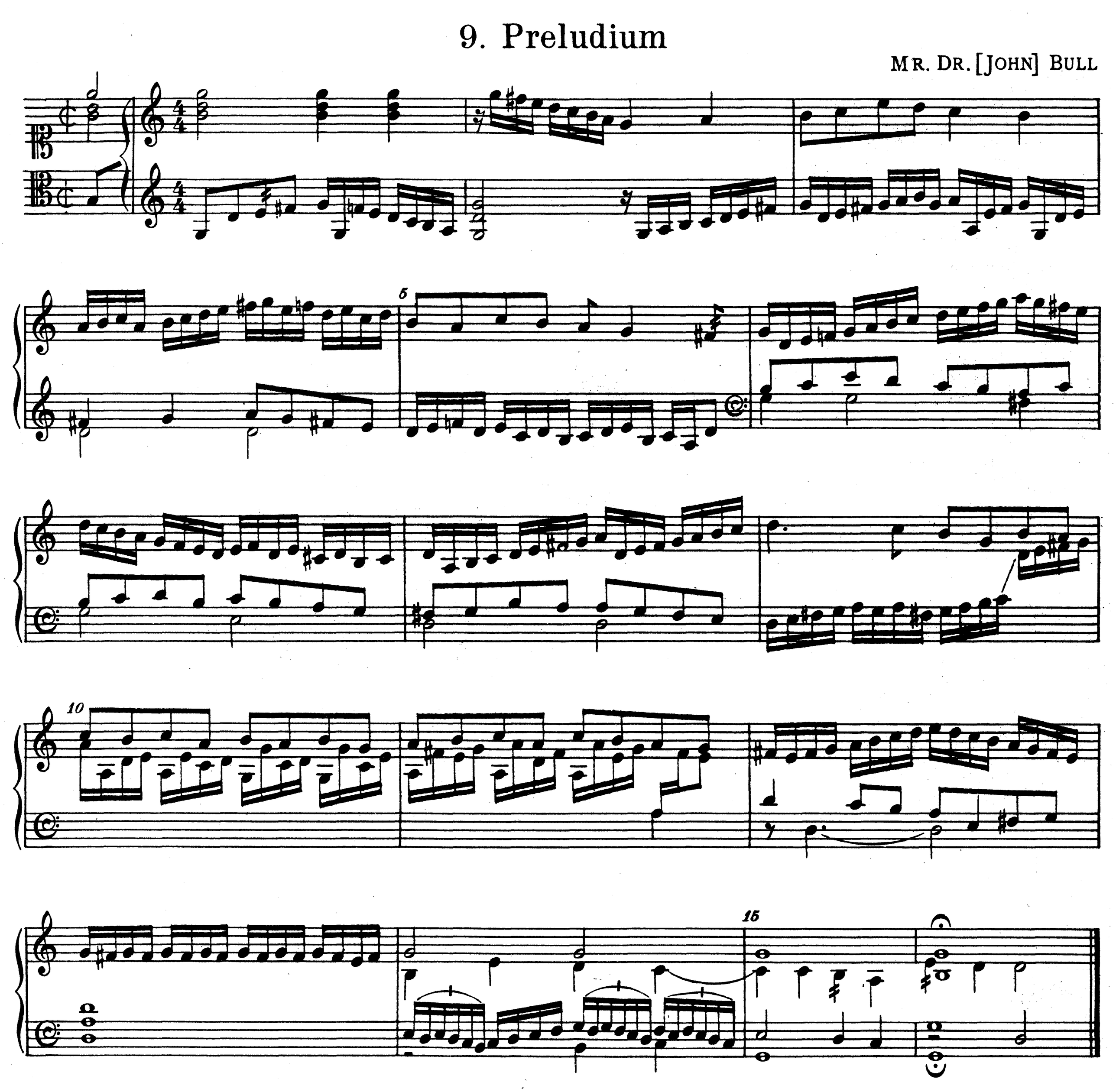
WILL[IAM] BYRDE





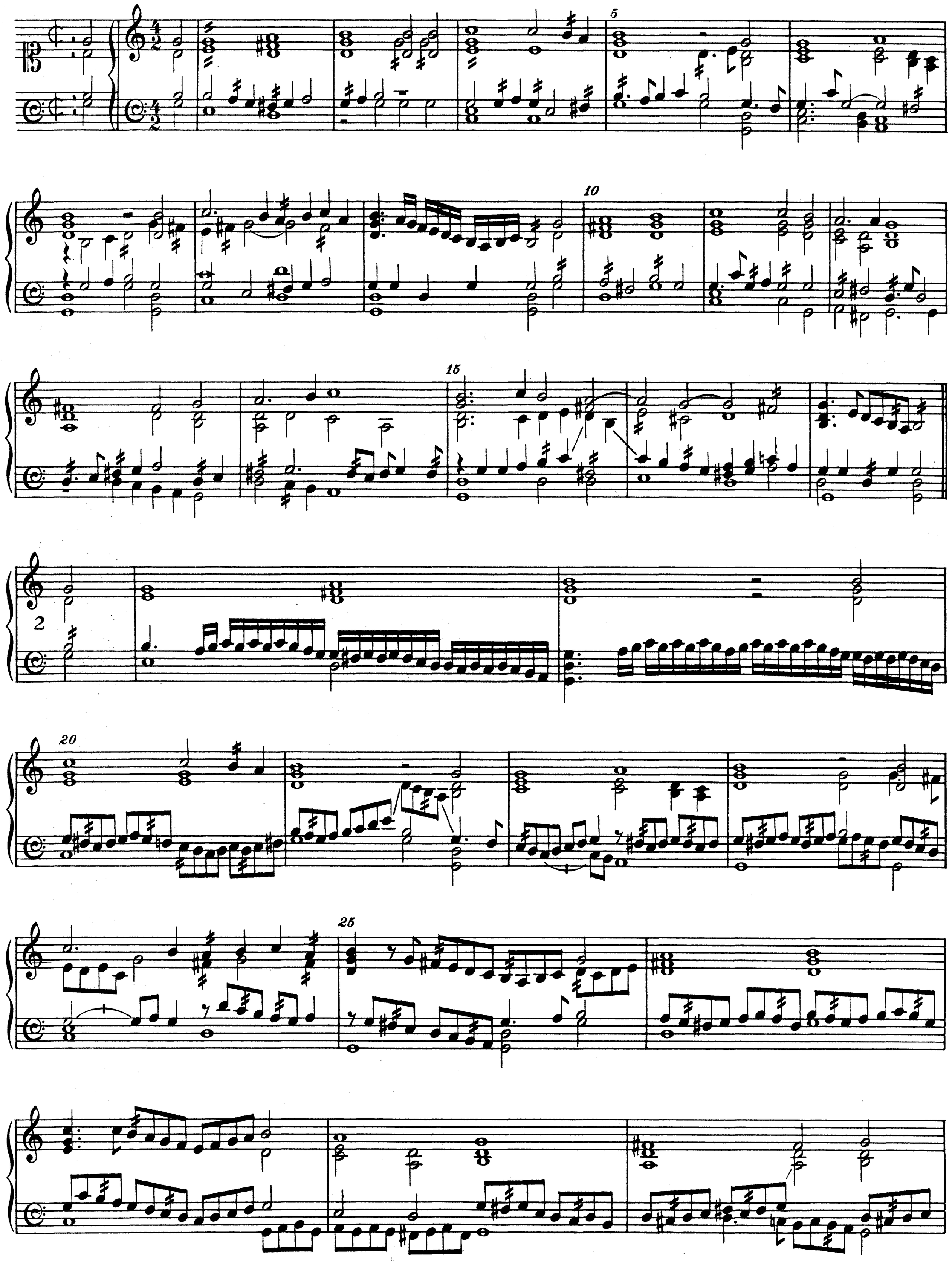
9. Preludium

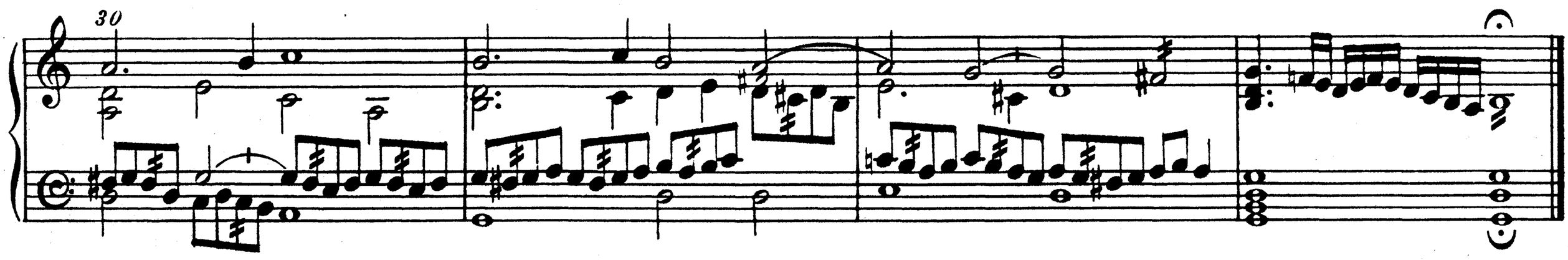
MR. DR. [JOHN] BULL



10. Pavana. St Thomas Wake

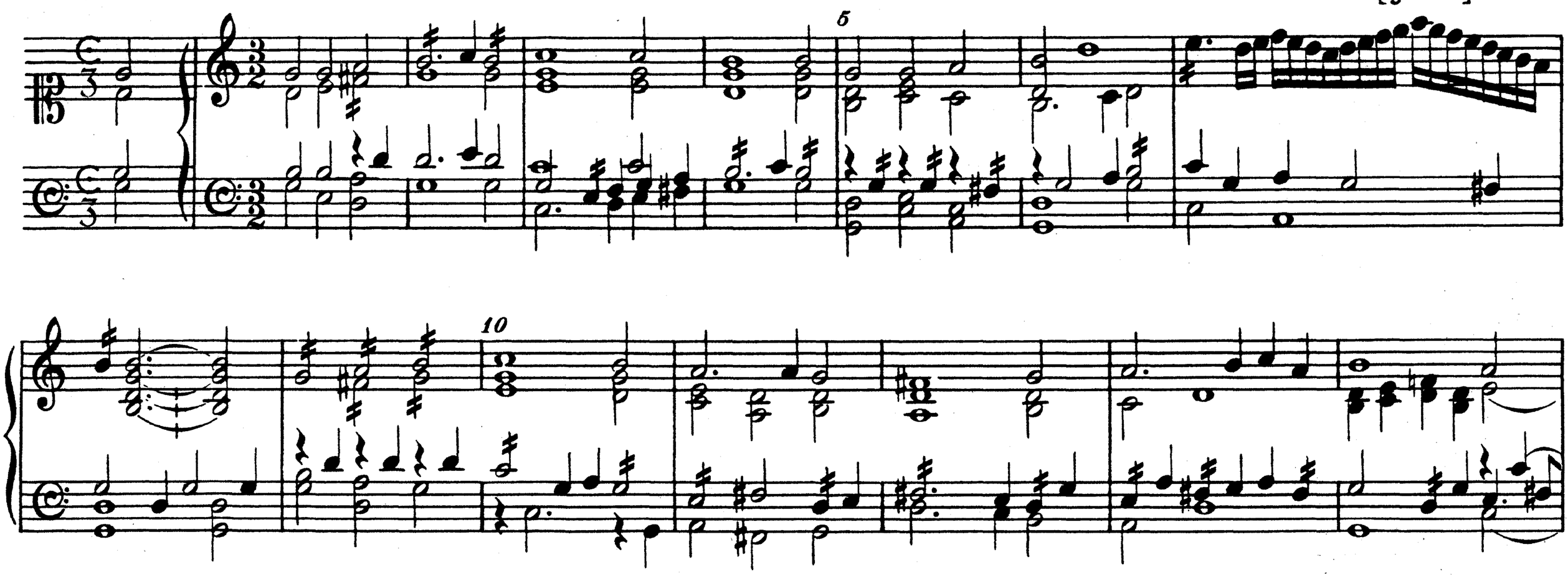
DR. [JOHN] BULL

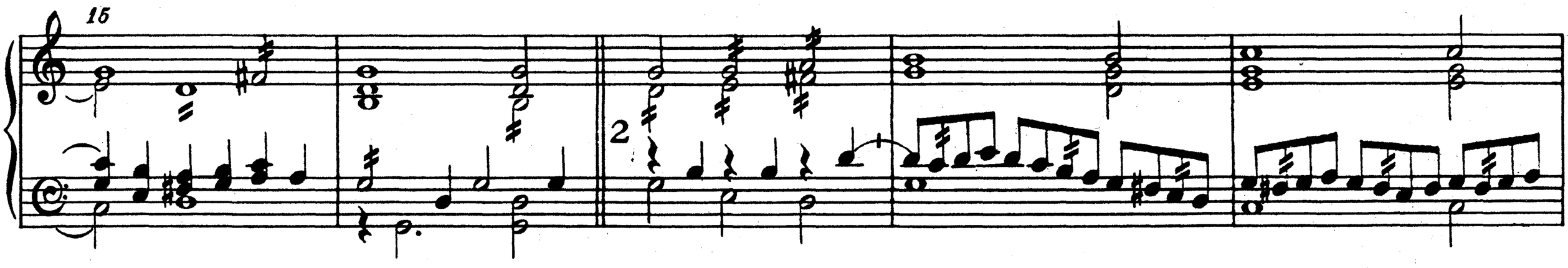


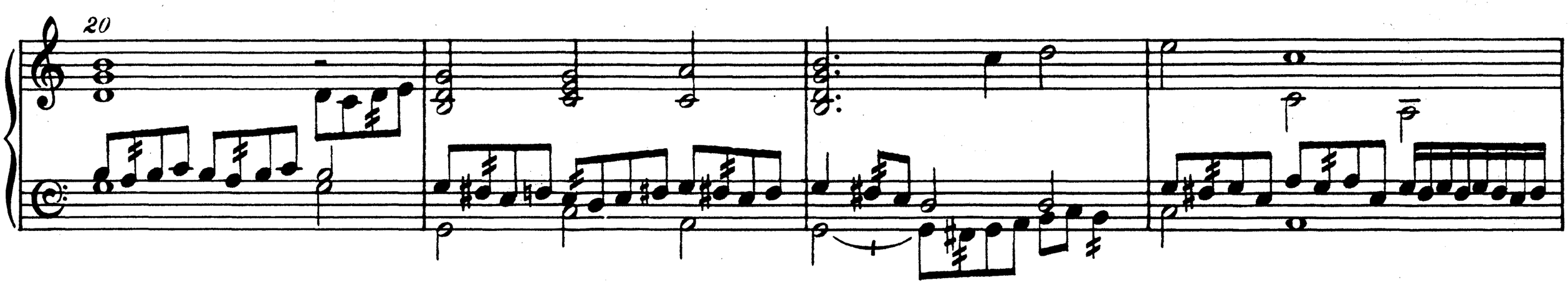


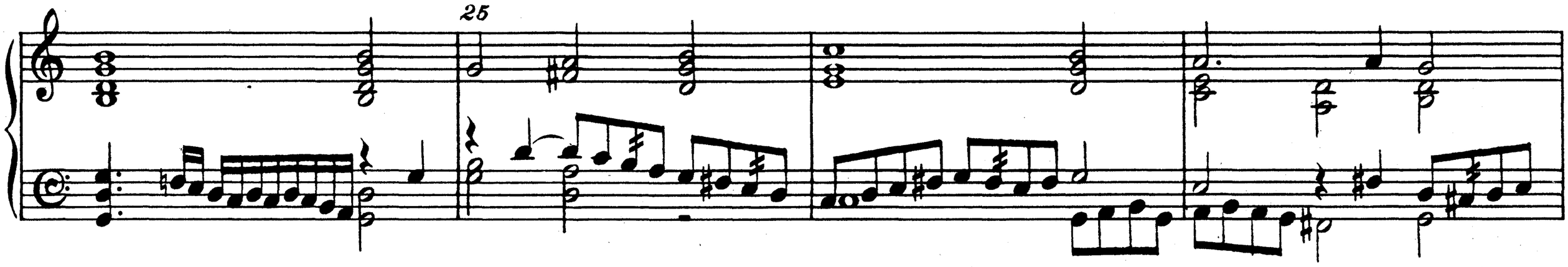
11. Galiardo. St Thomas Wake

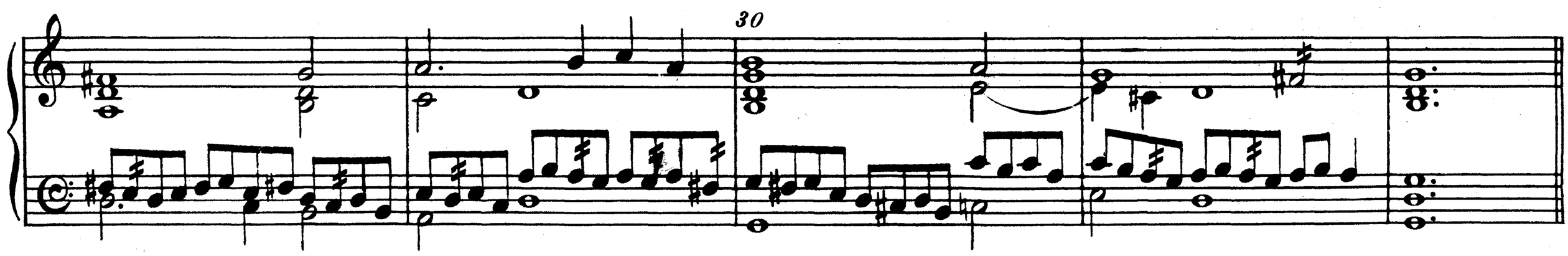
DR. [JOHN] BULL

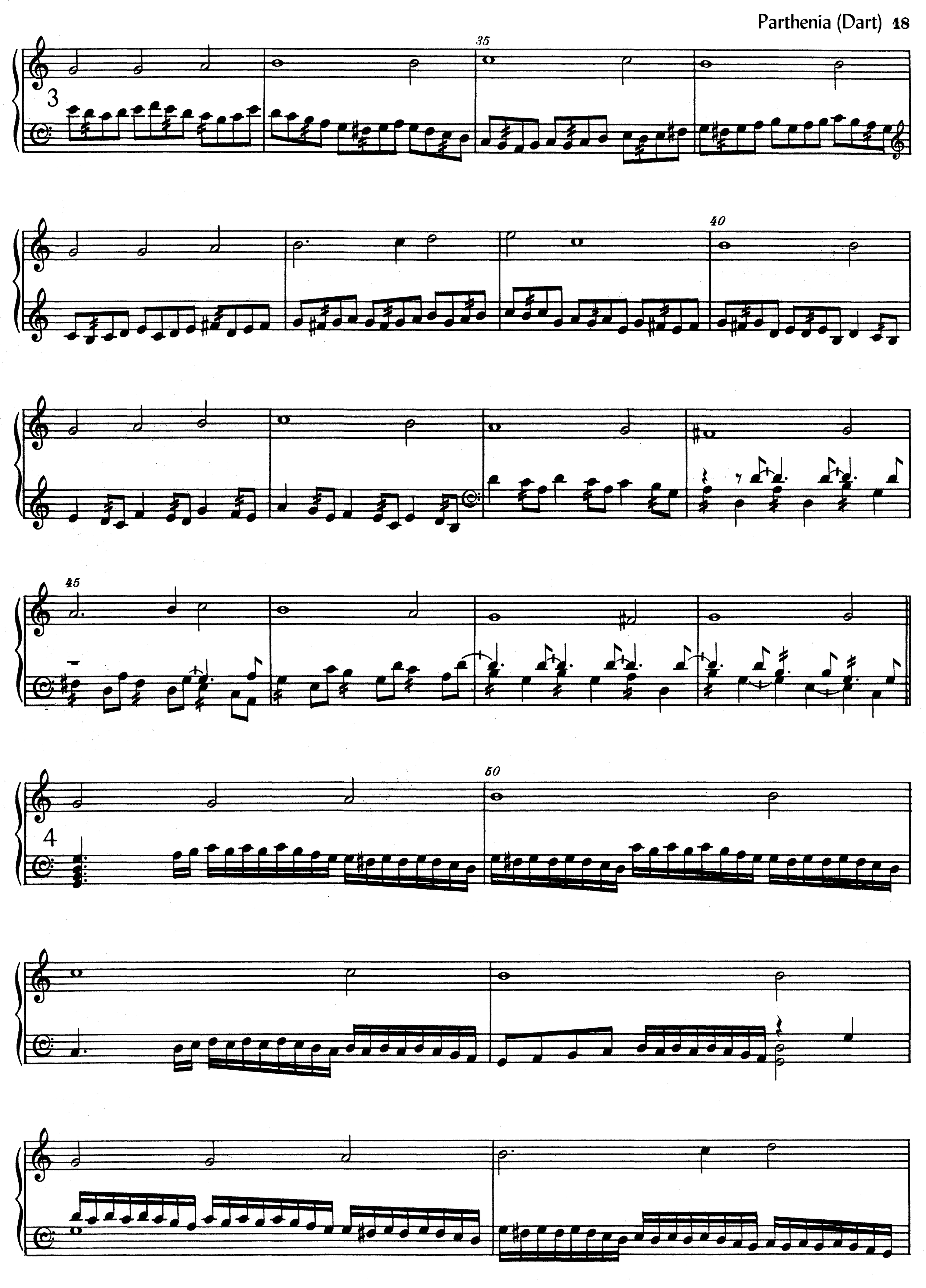








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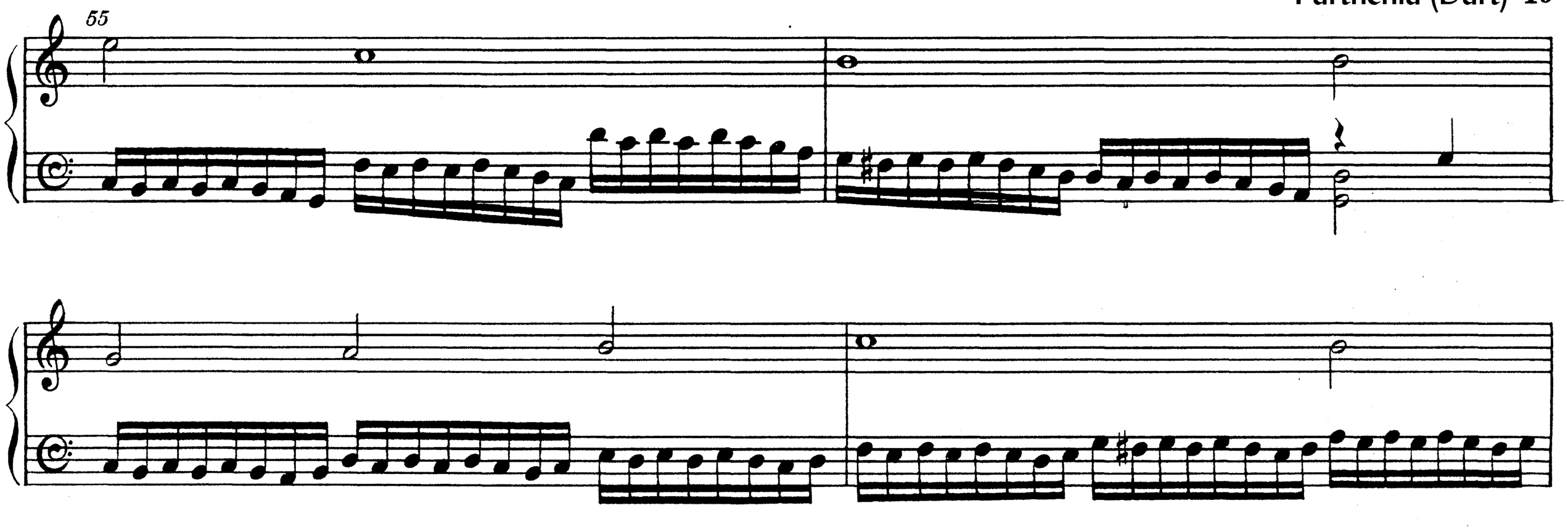

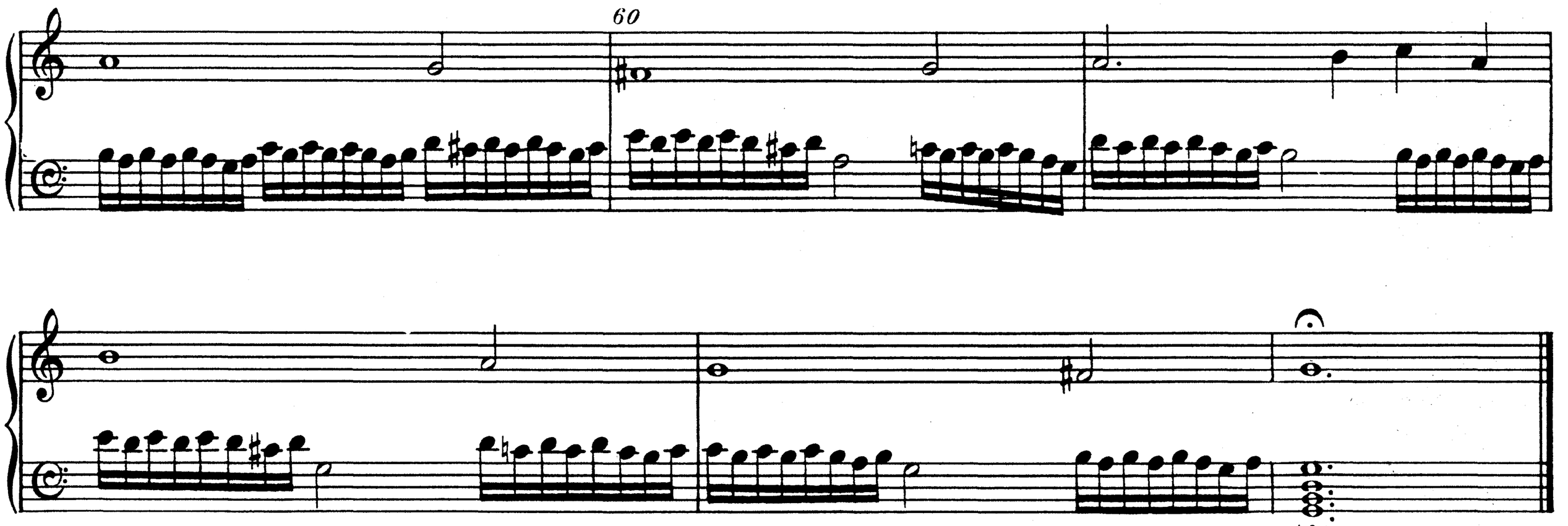

12. Pavana

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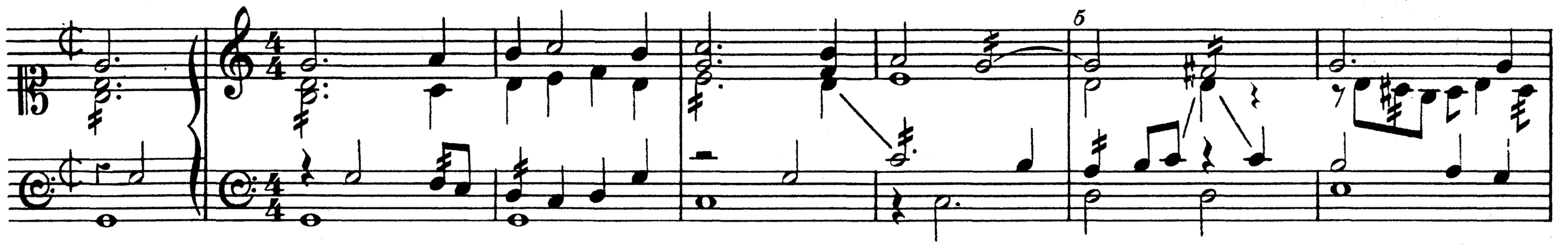

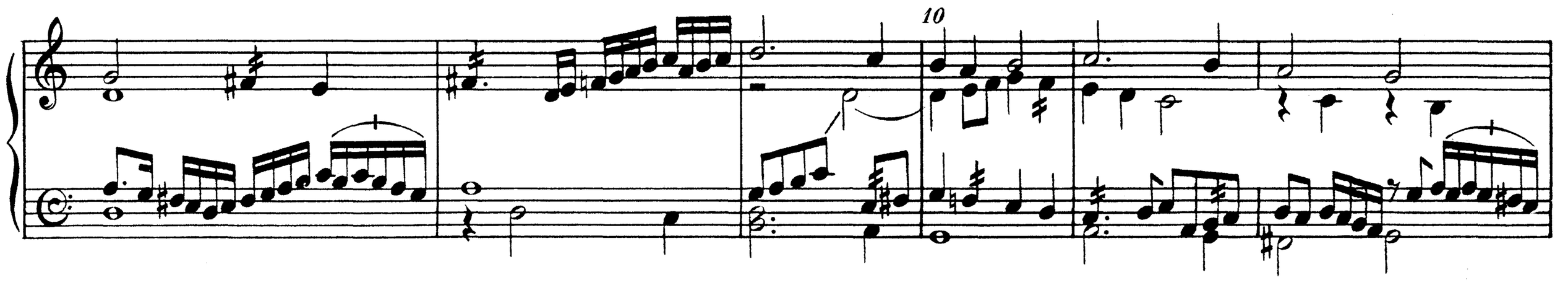

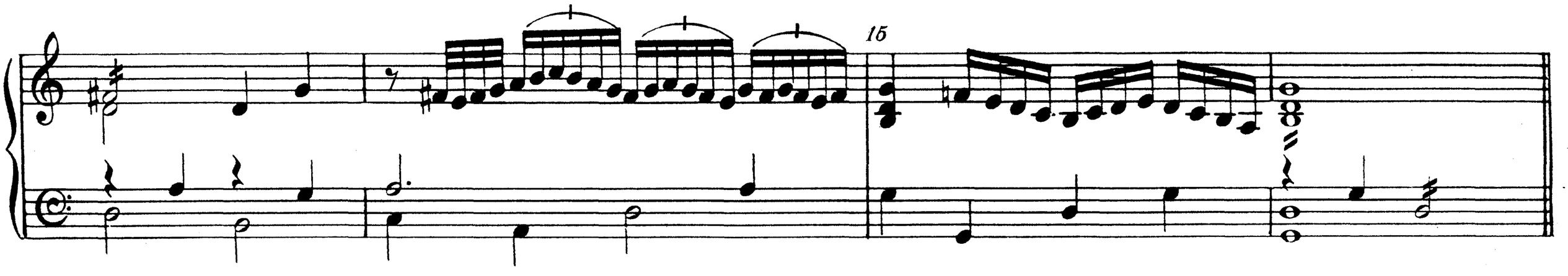

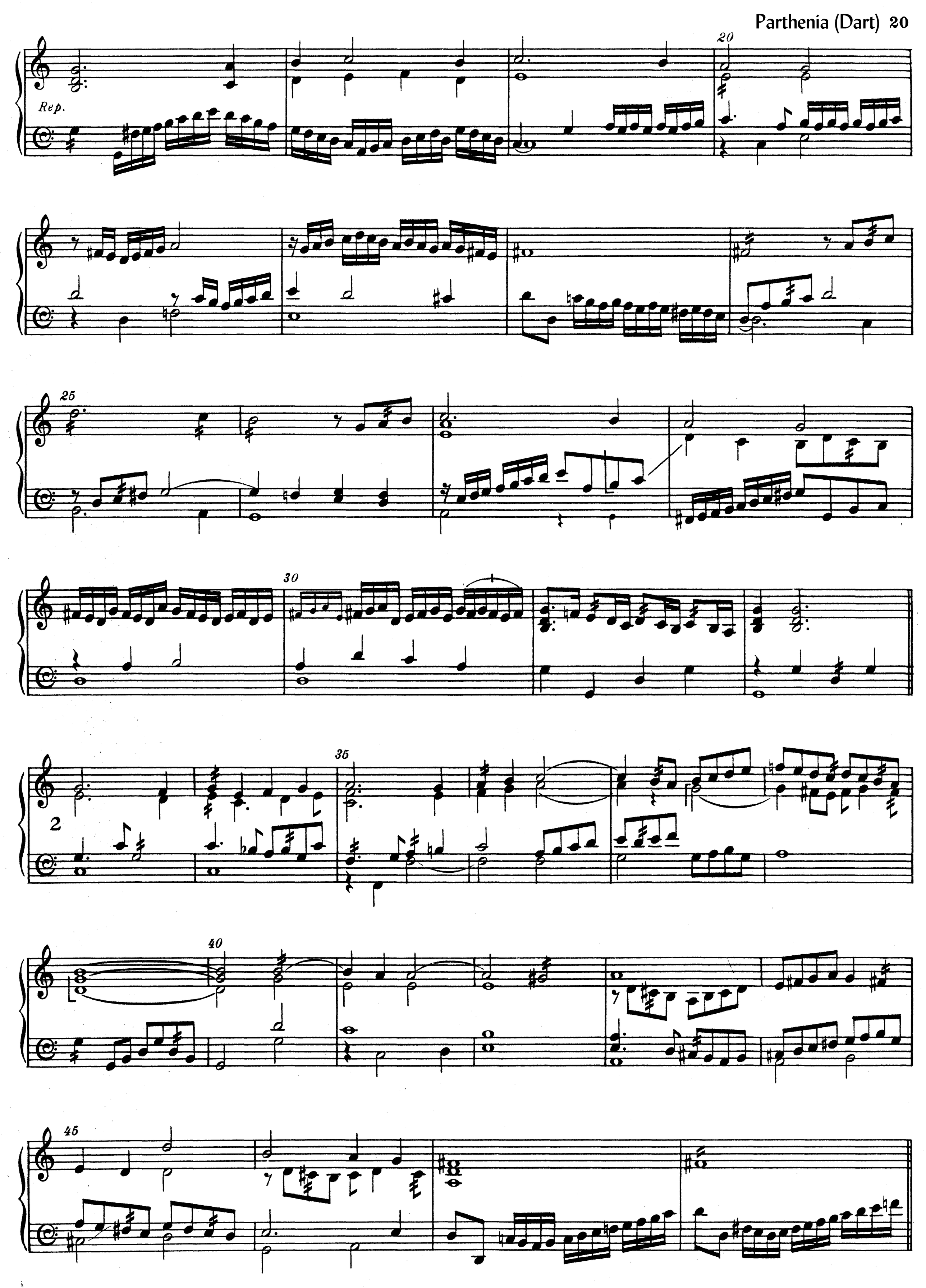
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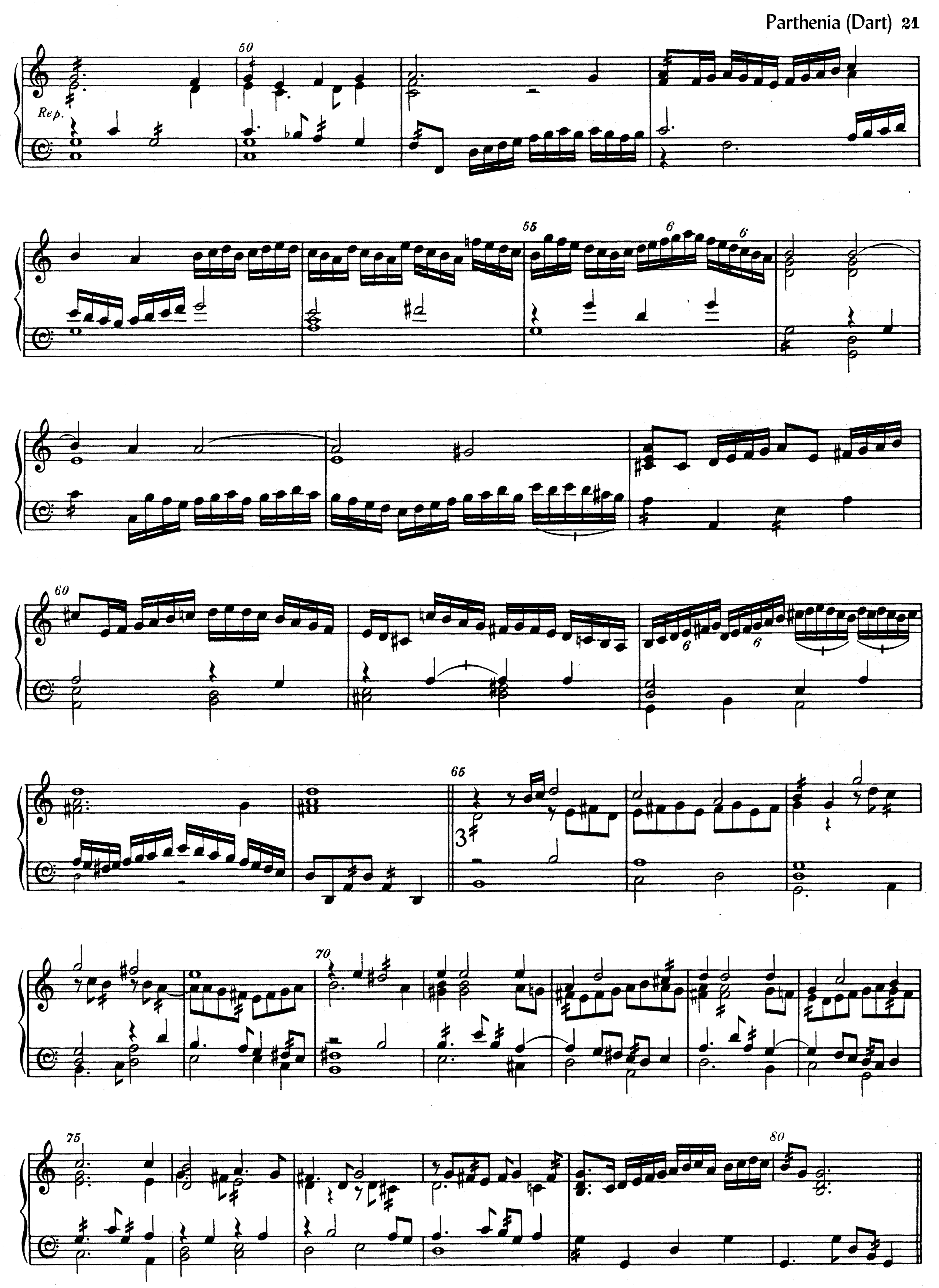
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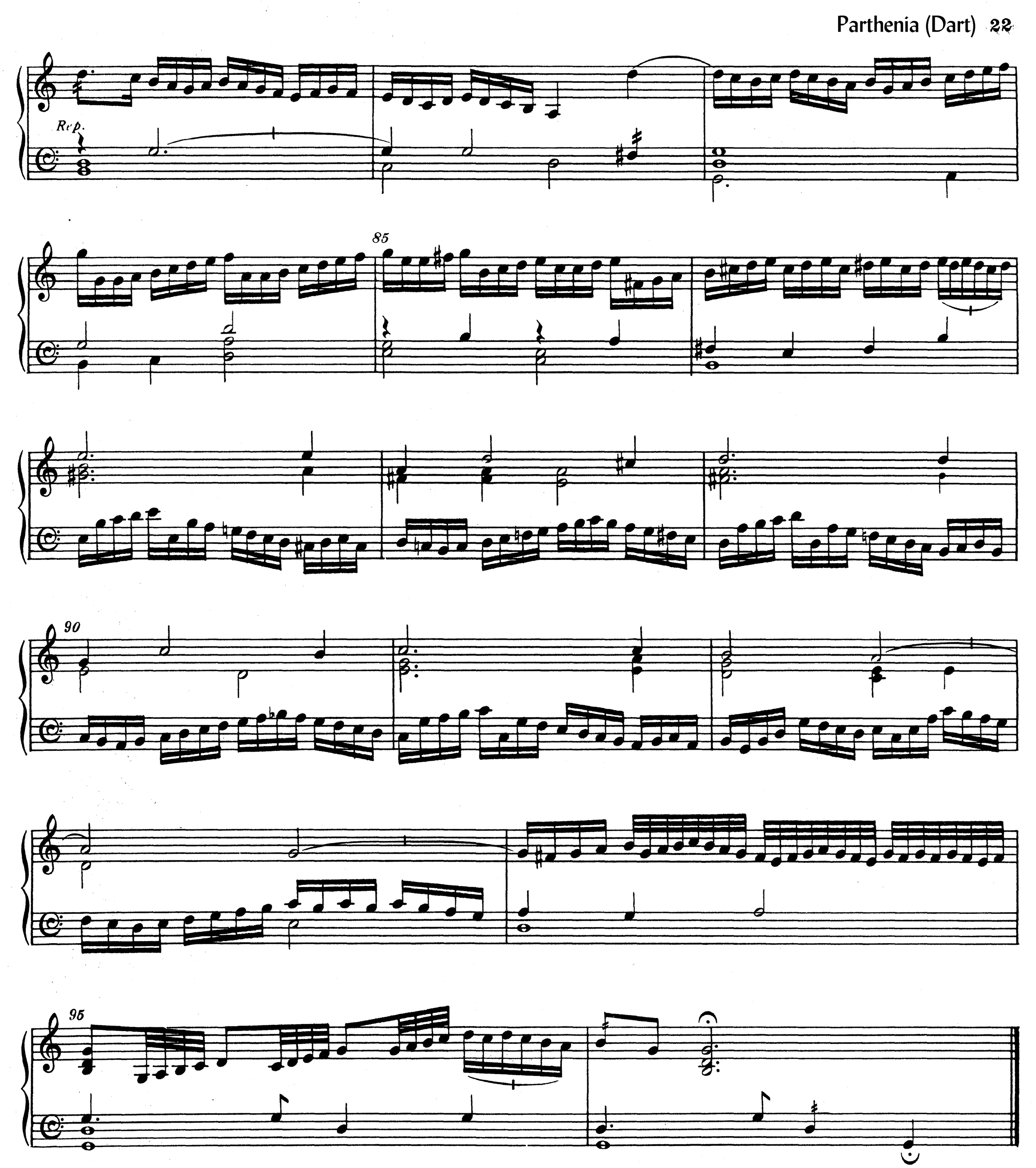
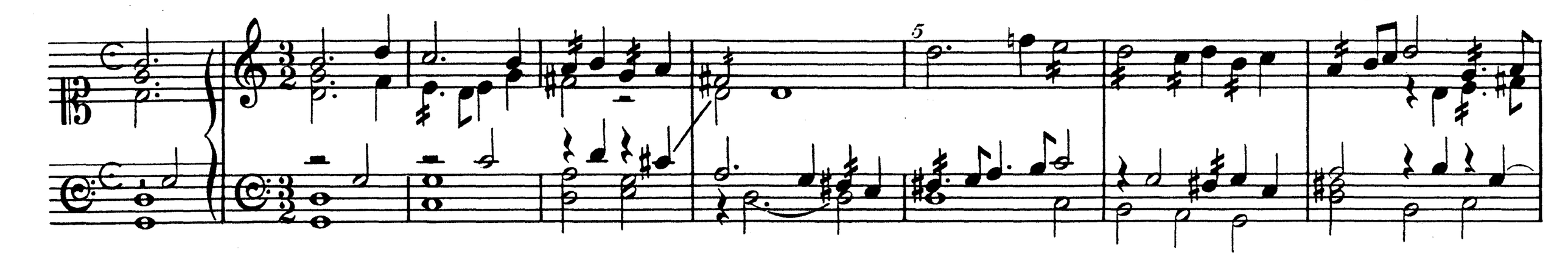
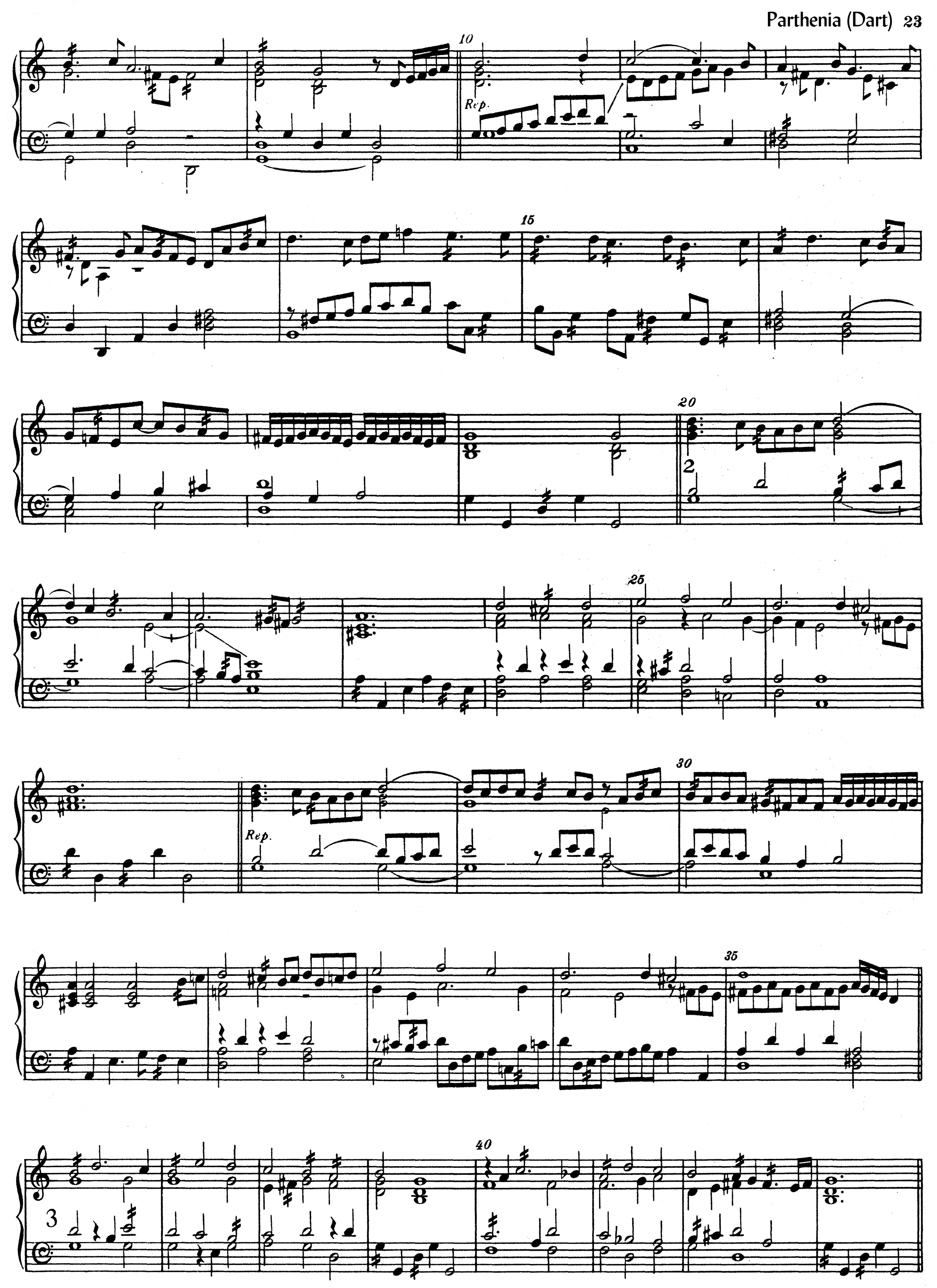


13. Galiardo

DR. [JOHN] BULL

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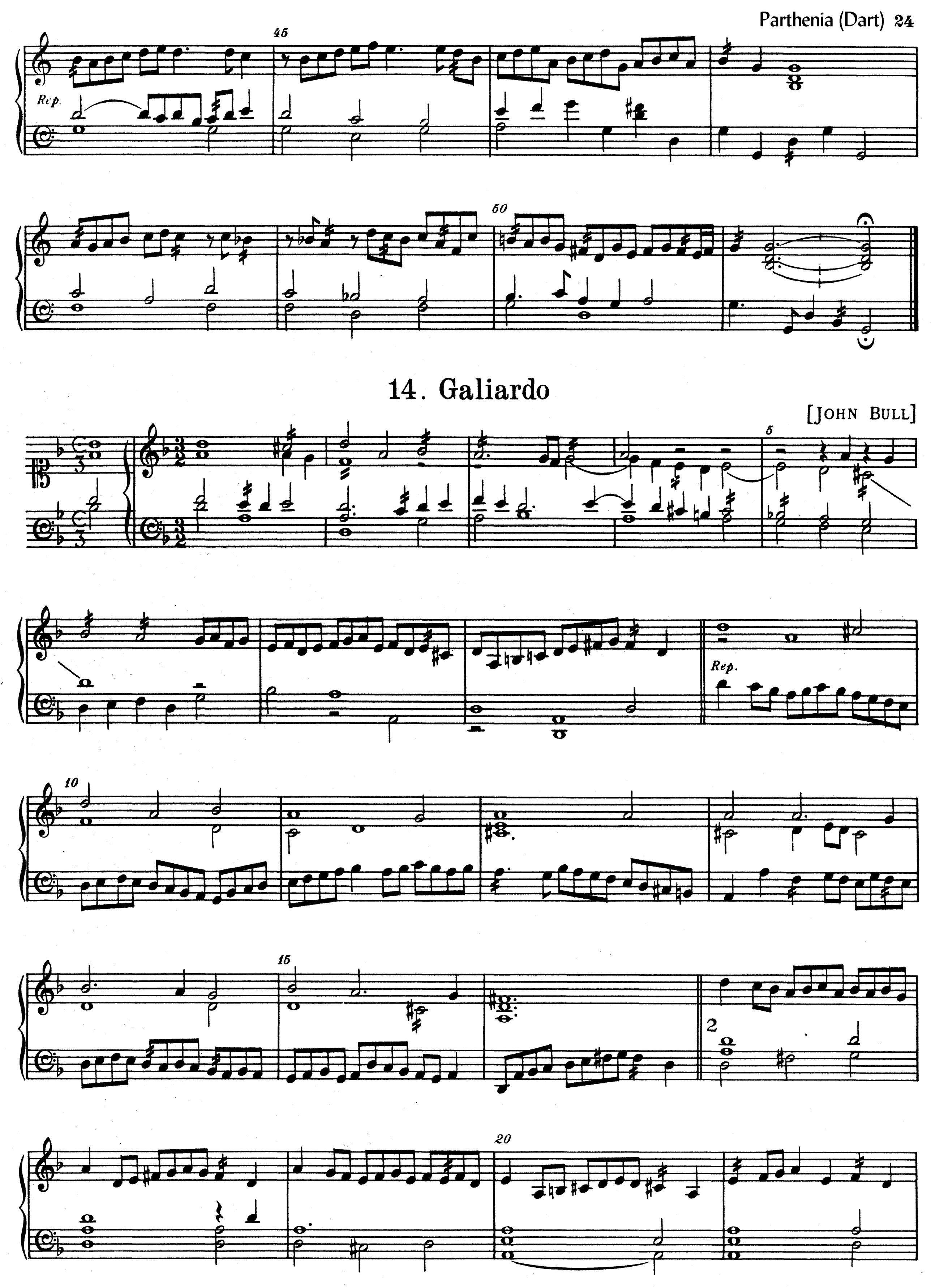
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14. Galiardo
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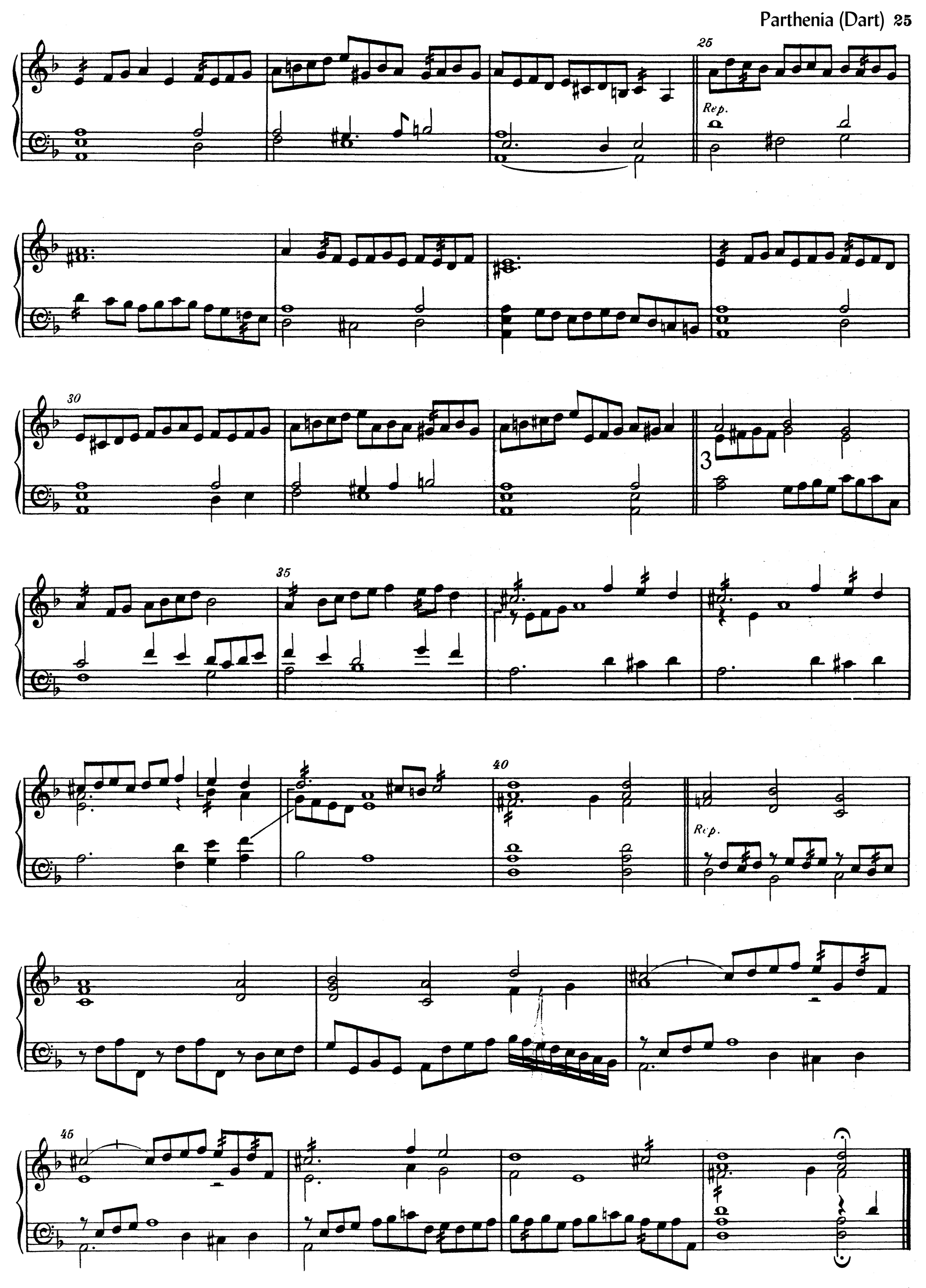
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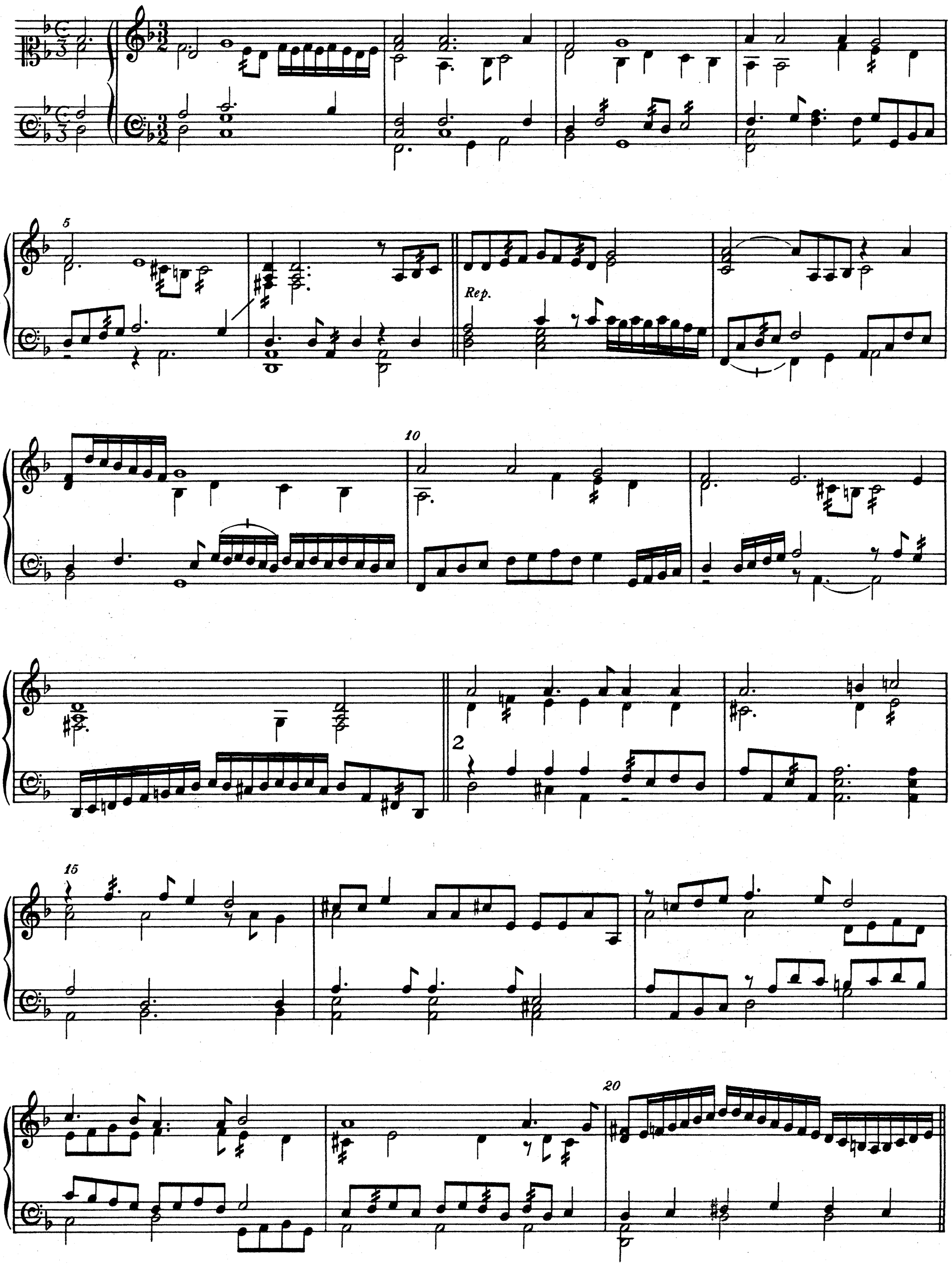
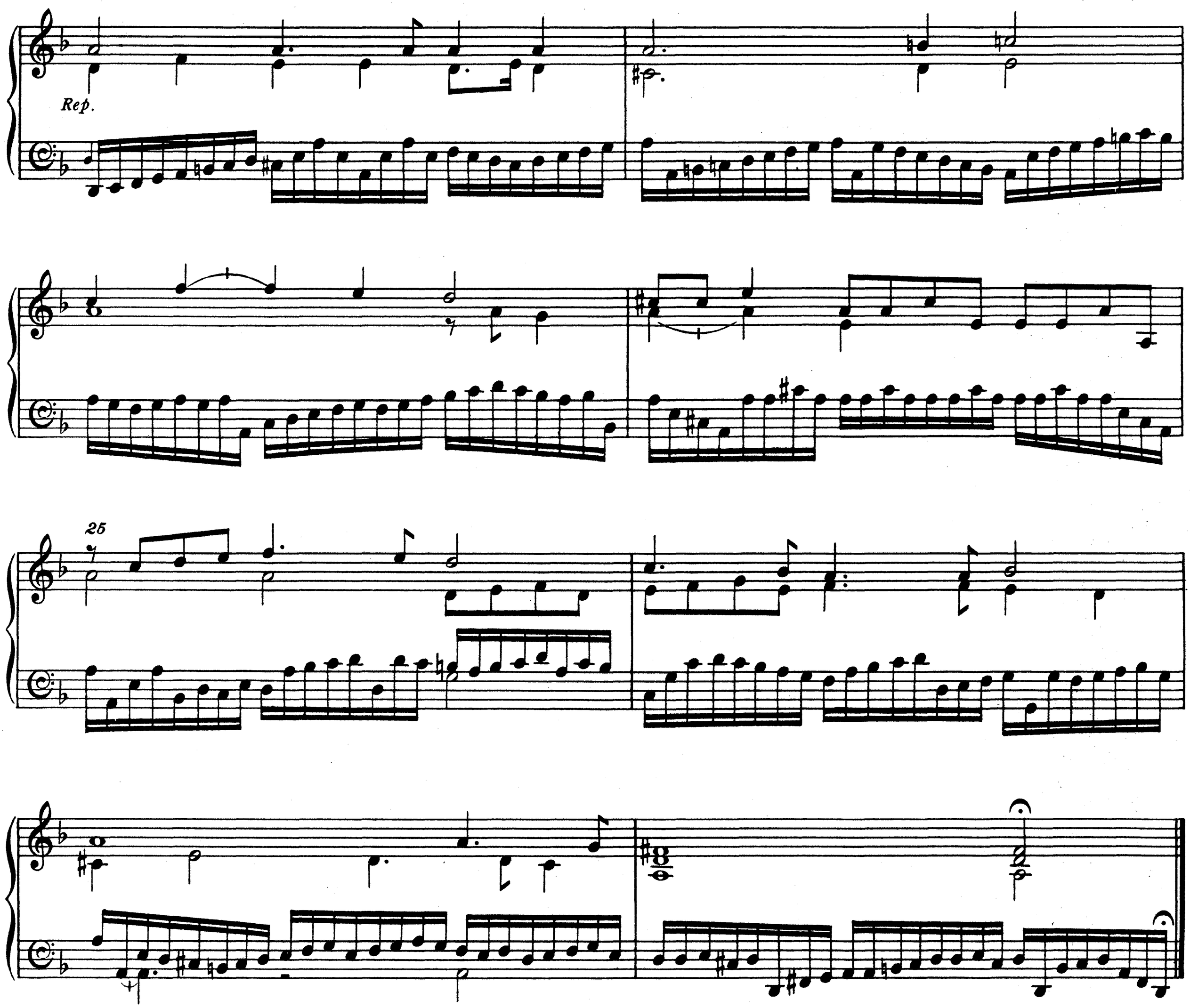
15. Galiardo

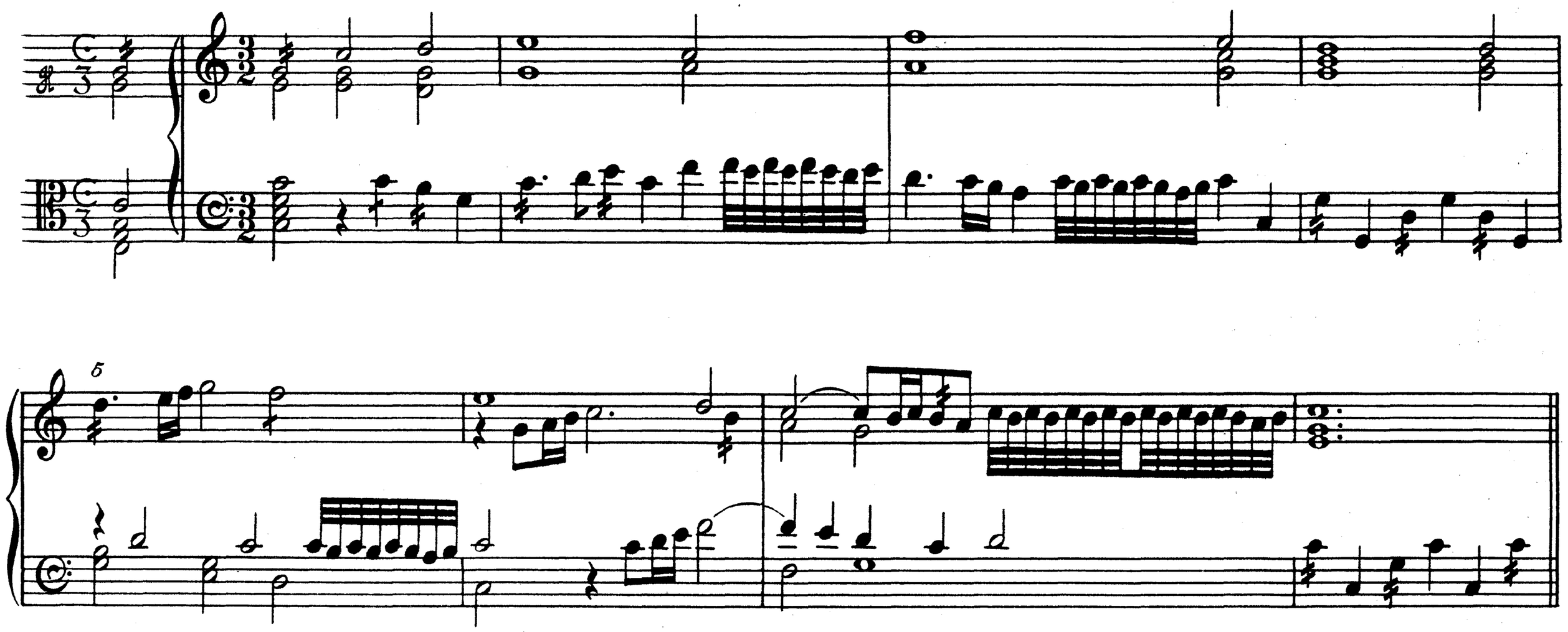
DR. [JOHN] BULL

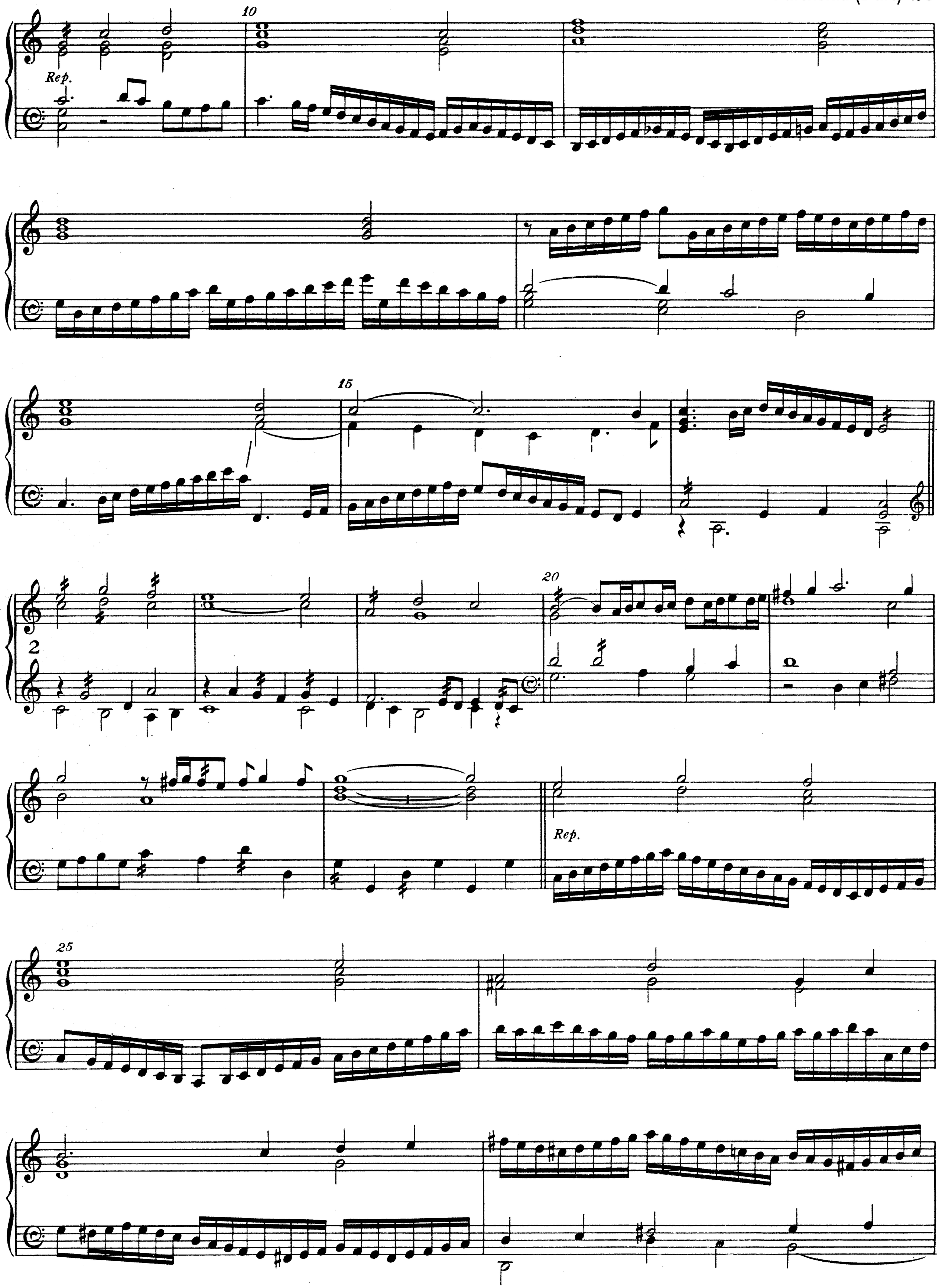




16. Galiardo

ORLANDO GIBBONS

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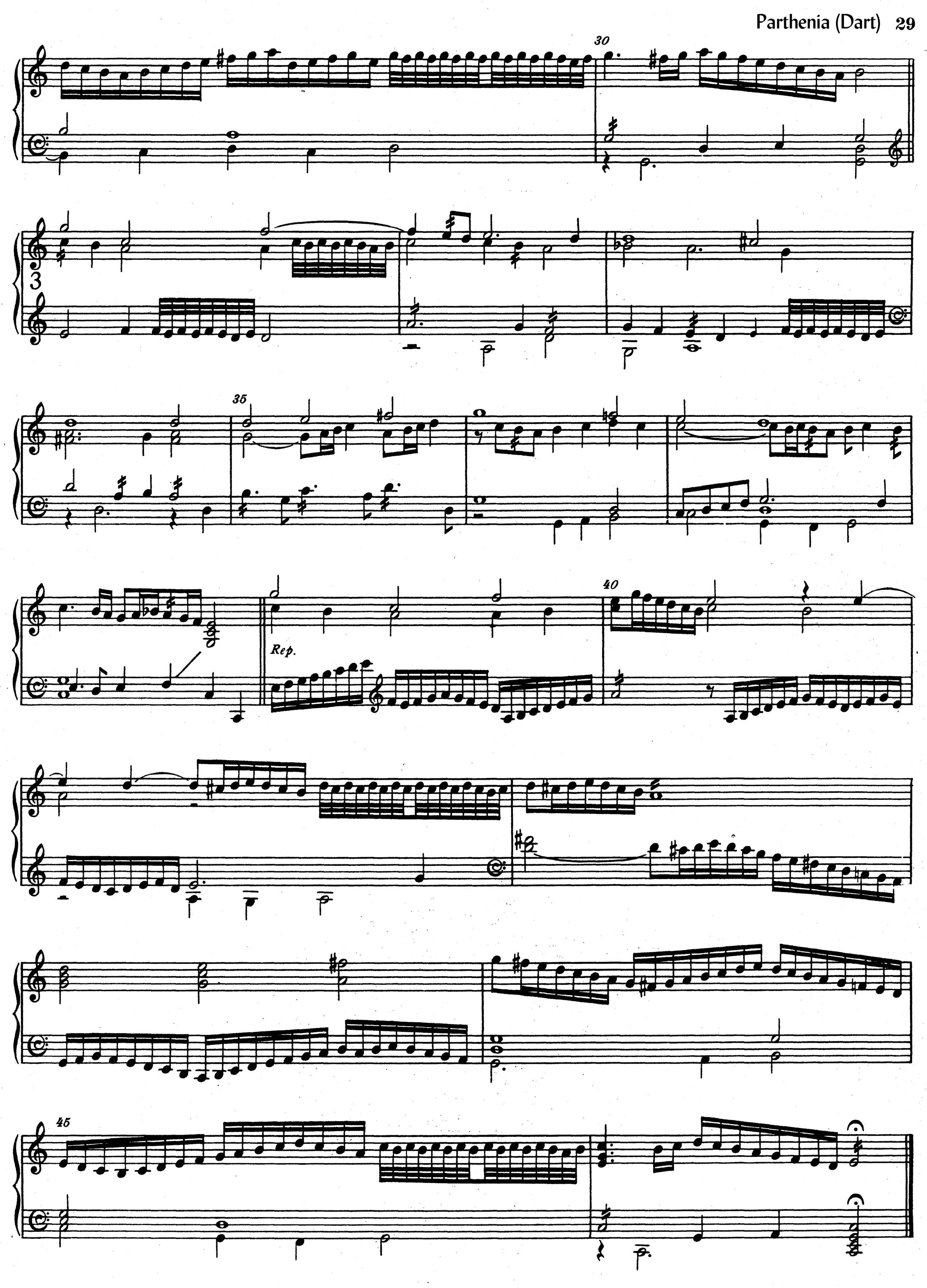
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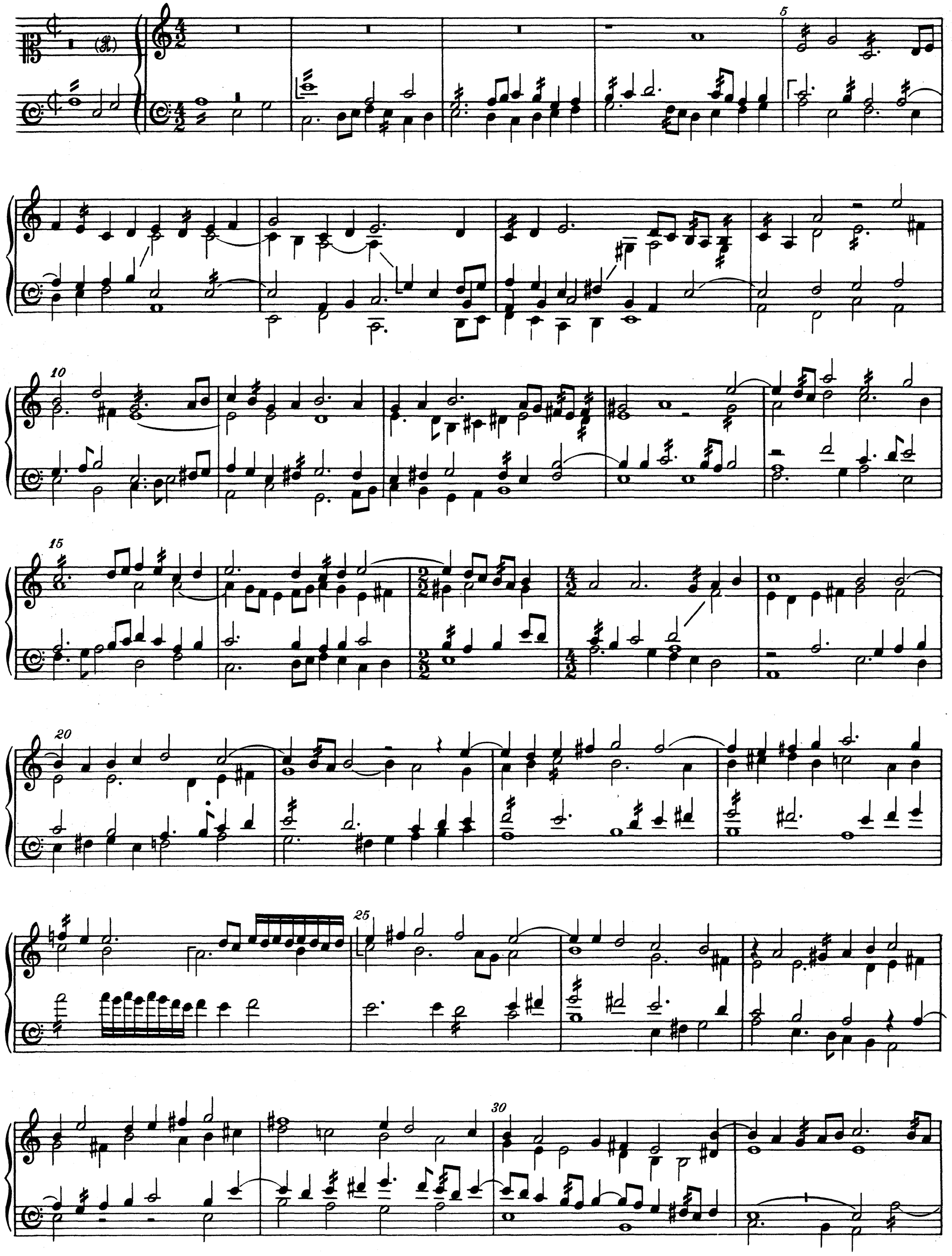
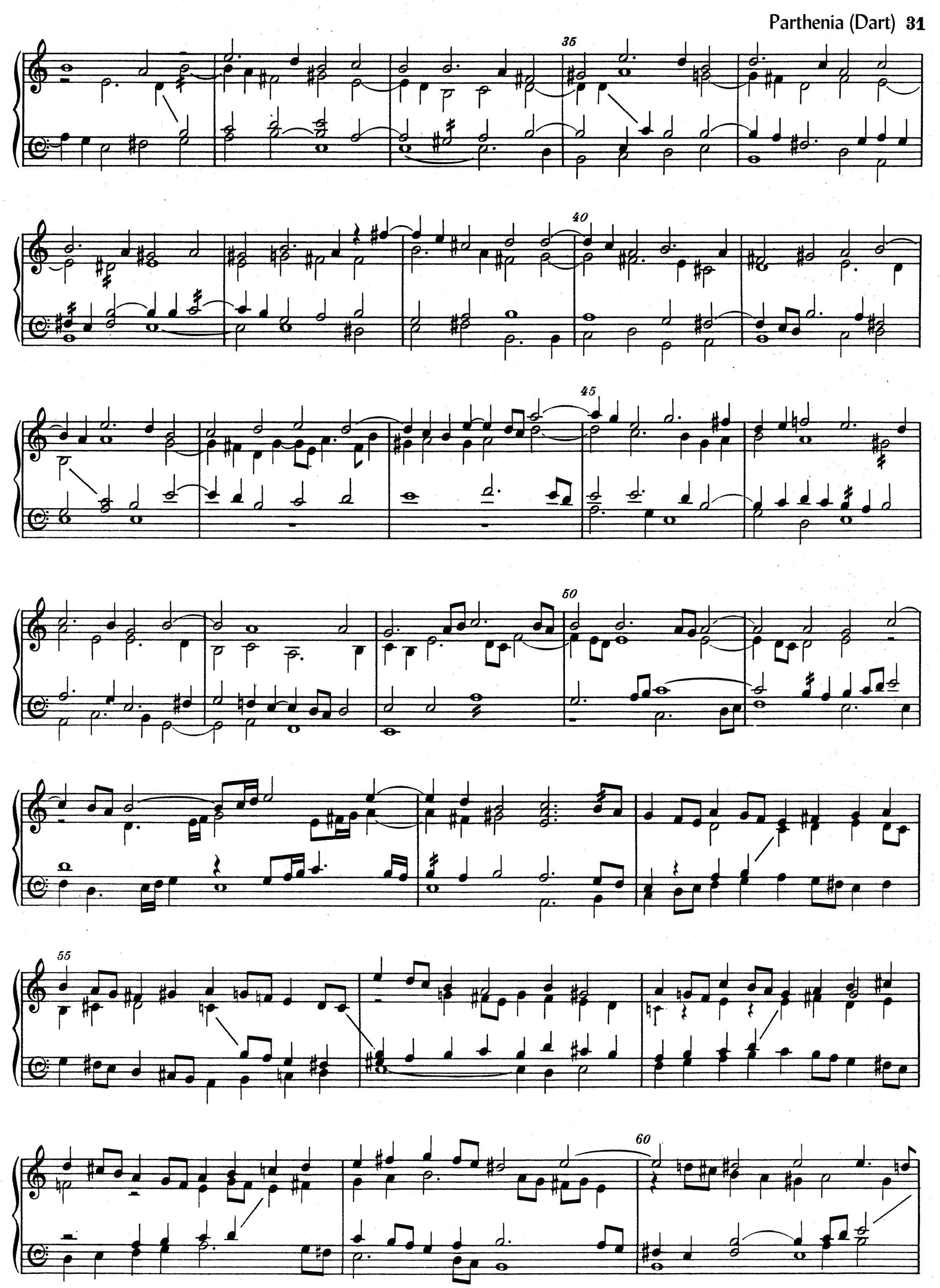
17. Fantazia of foure parts

Parthenia (Dart) **30**

ORL[ANDO] GIB[BONS]

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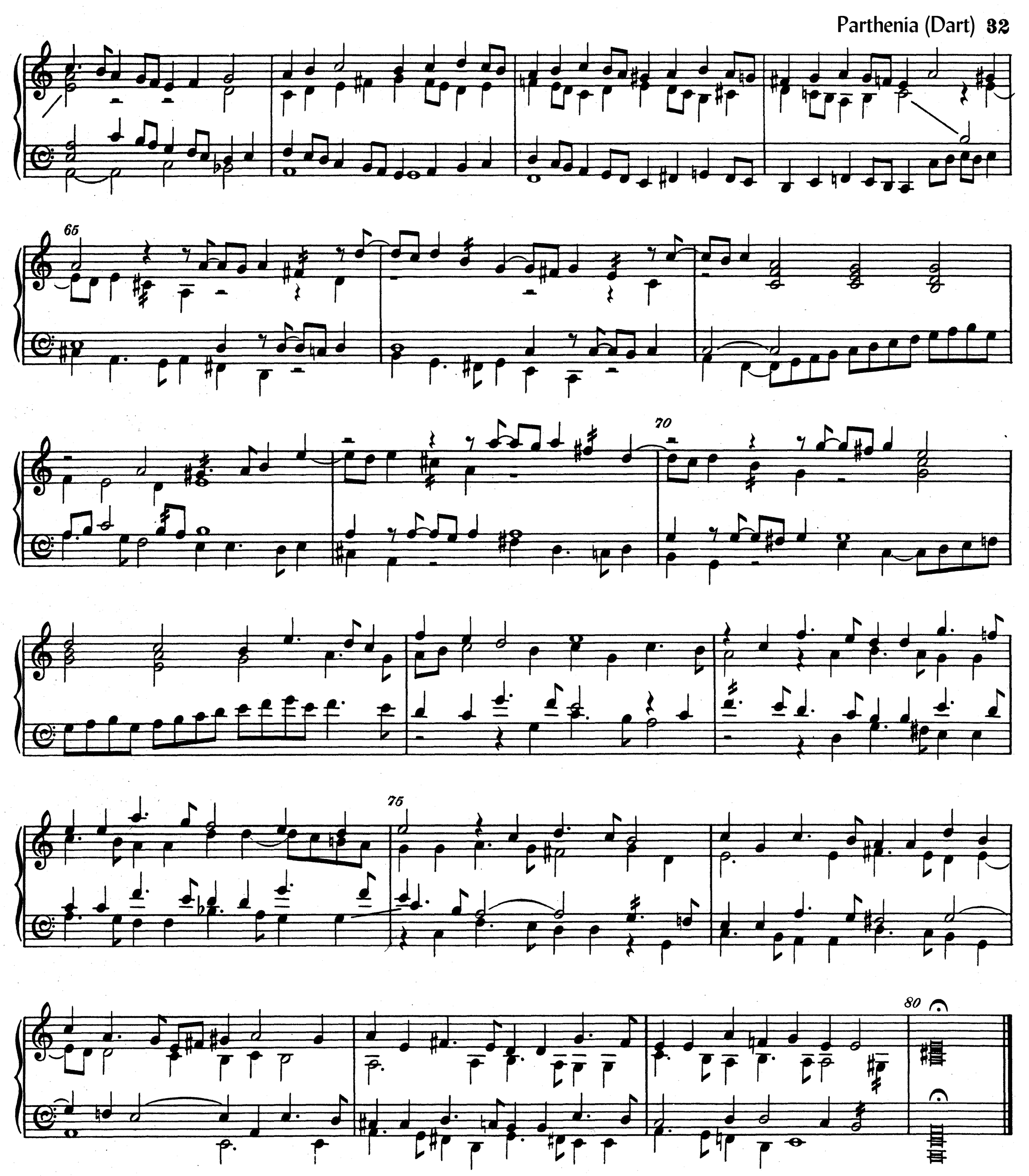
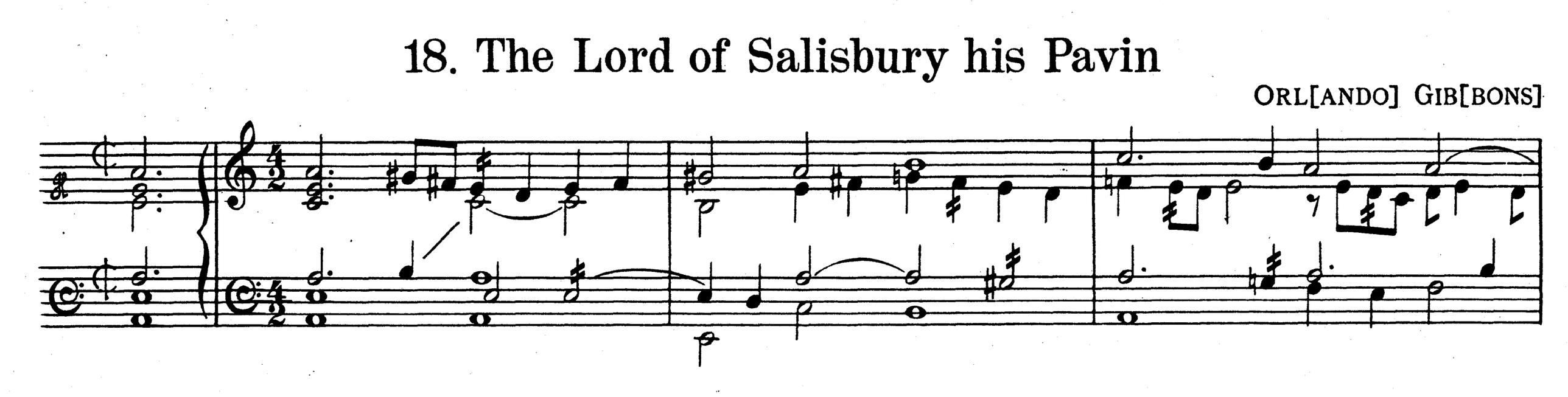
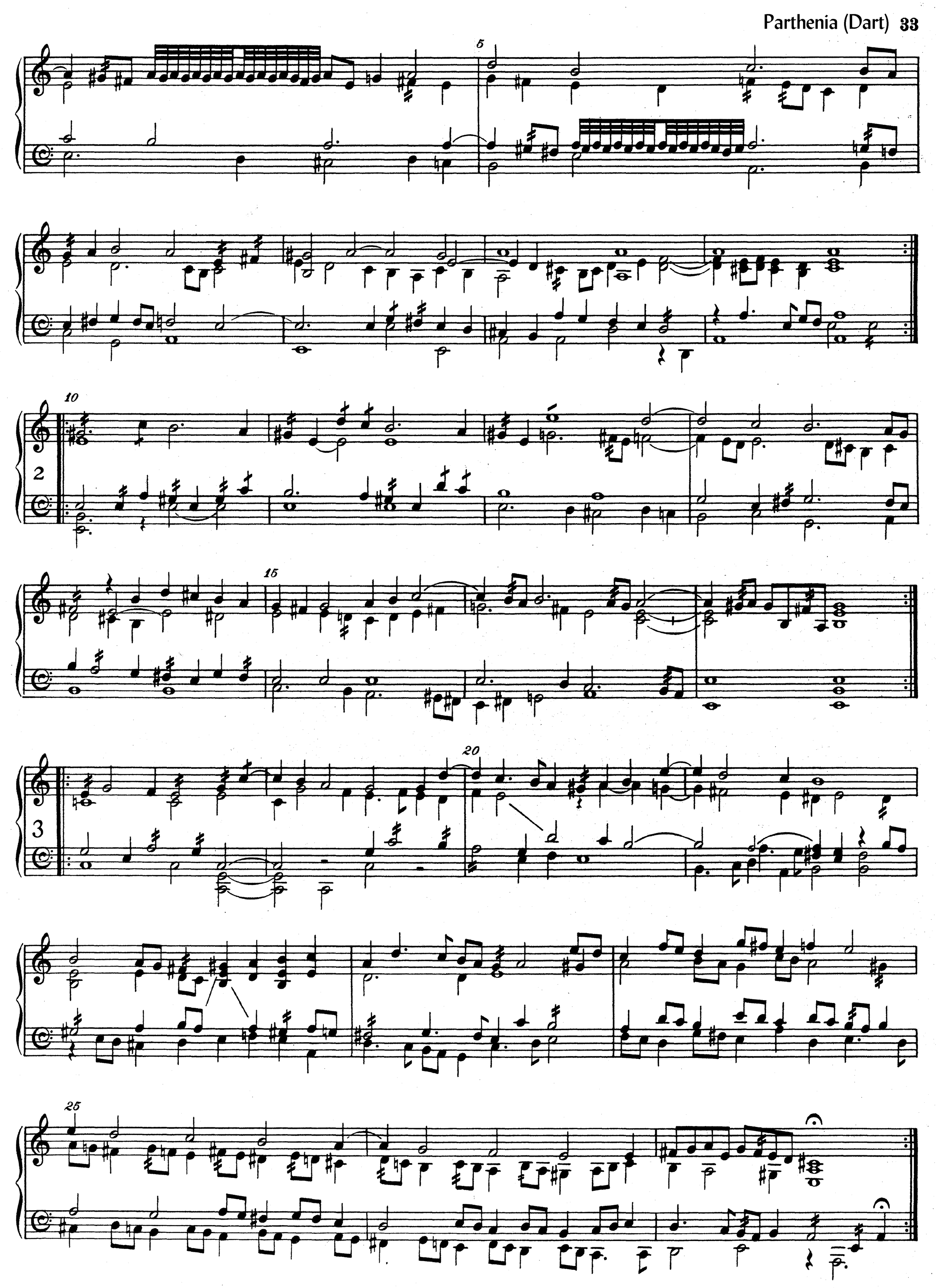


18. The Lord of Salisbury his Pavin

ORL[ANDO] GIB[BONS]

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19. Galiardo

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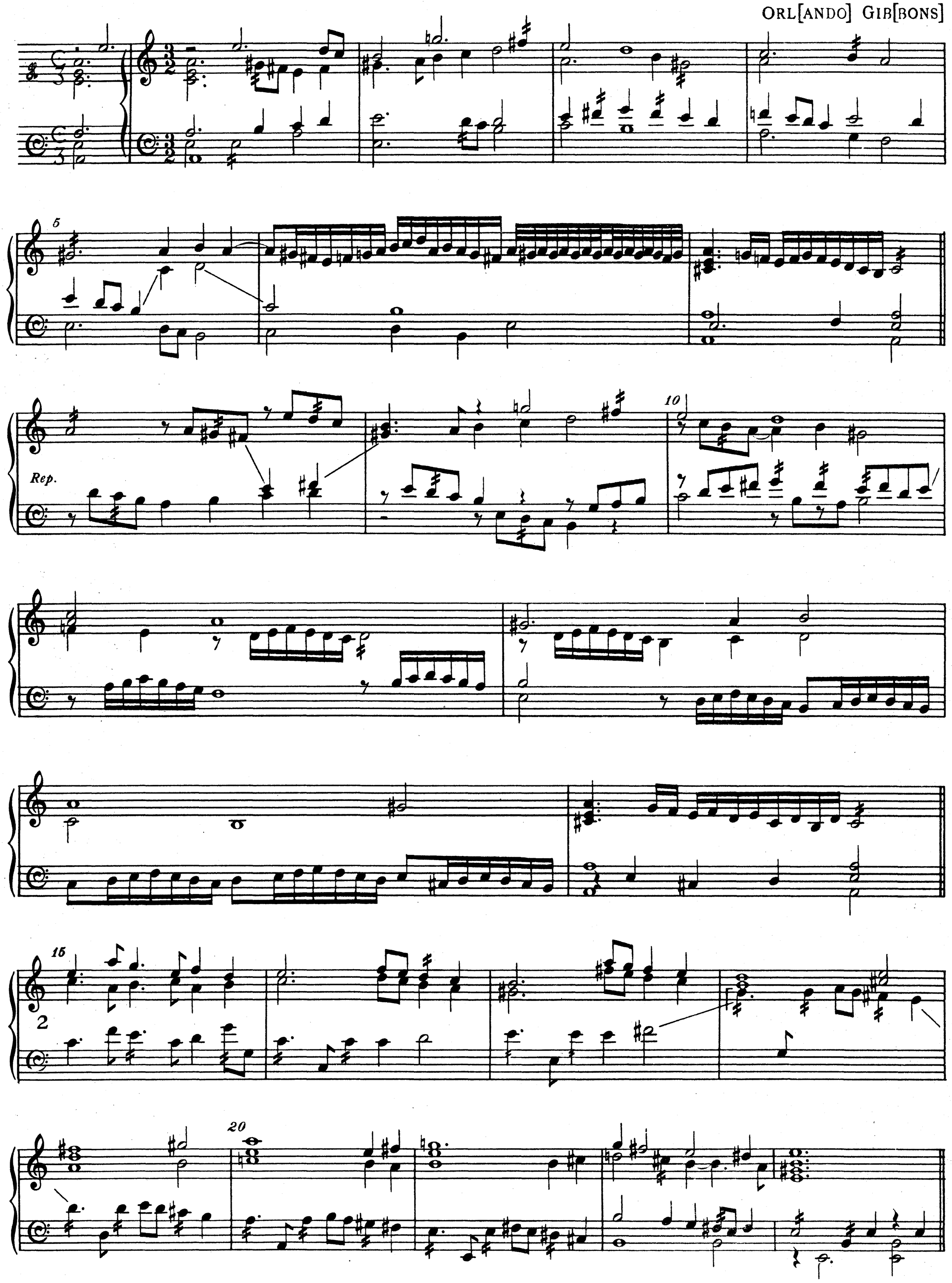

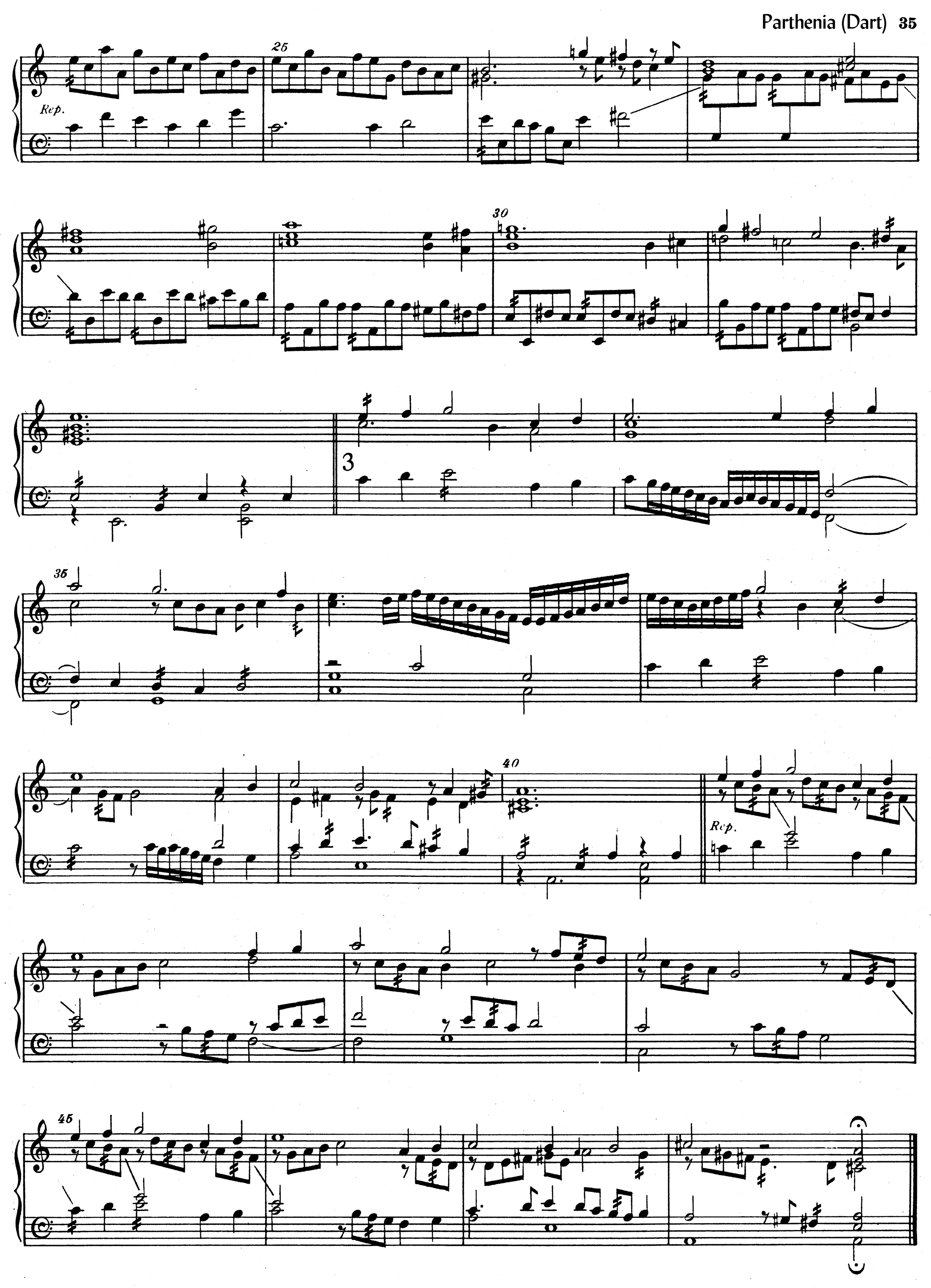
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20. The Queenes Command

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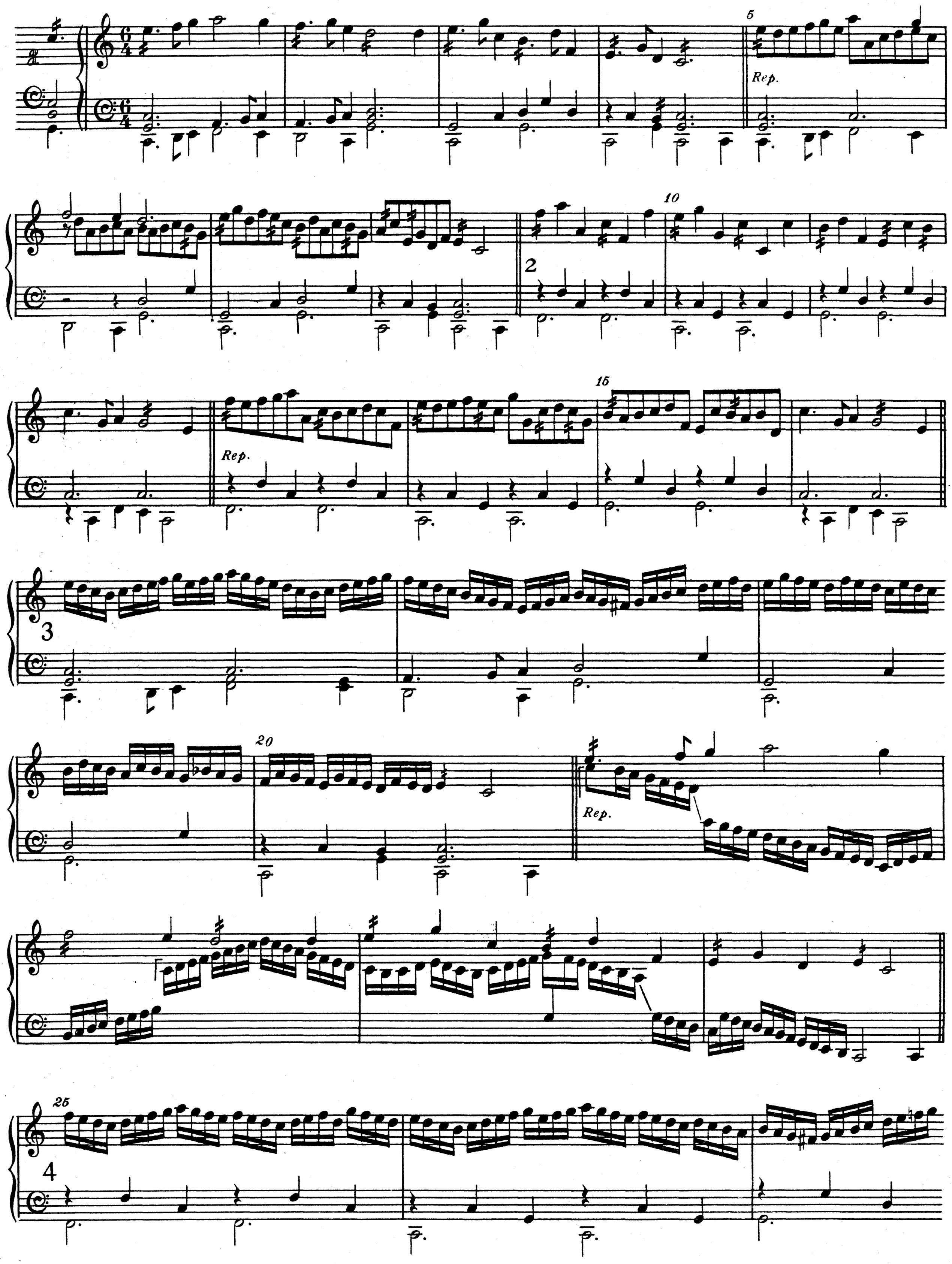

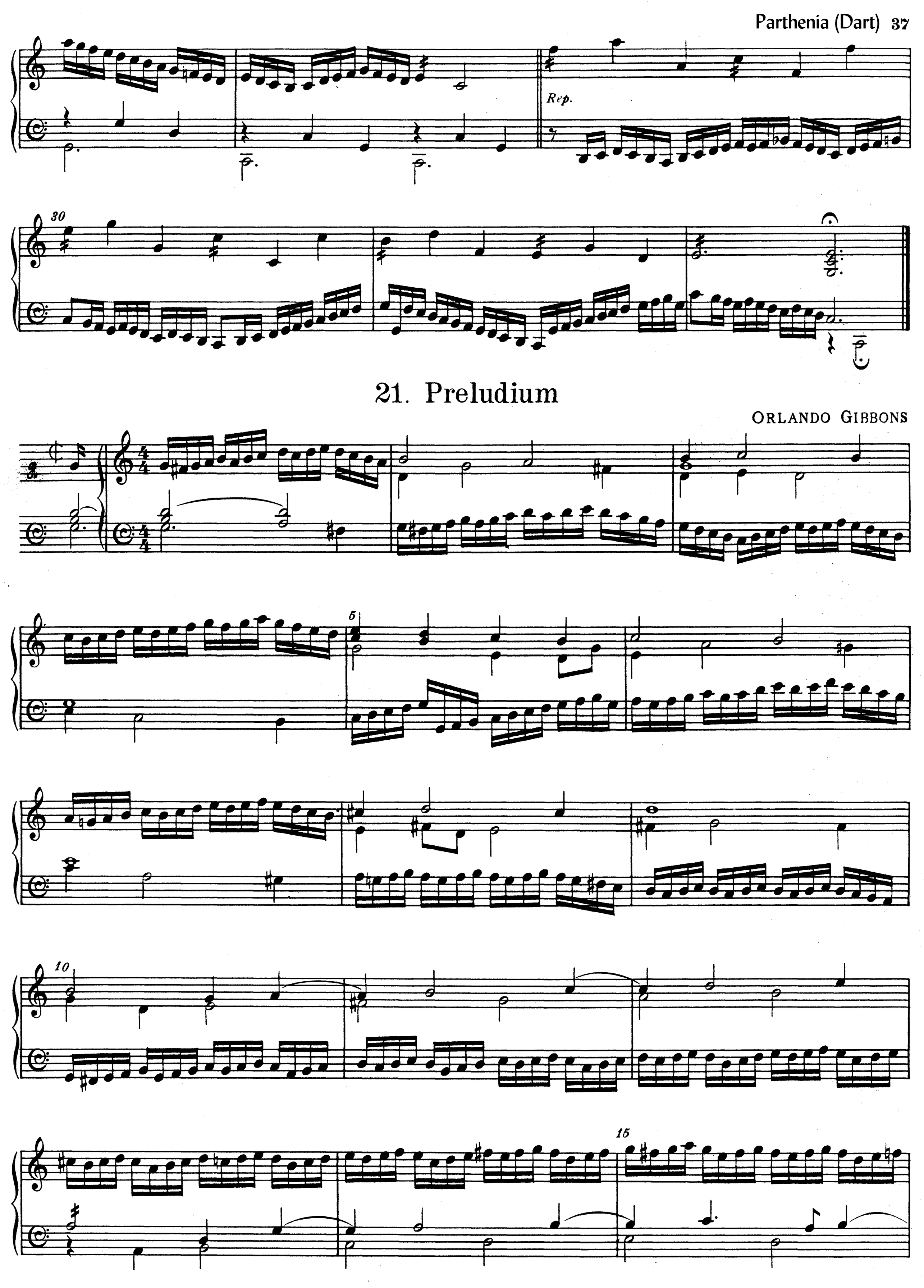
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21. Preludium
ORLANDO GIBBONS
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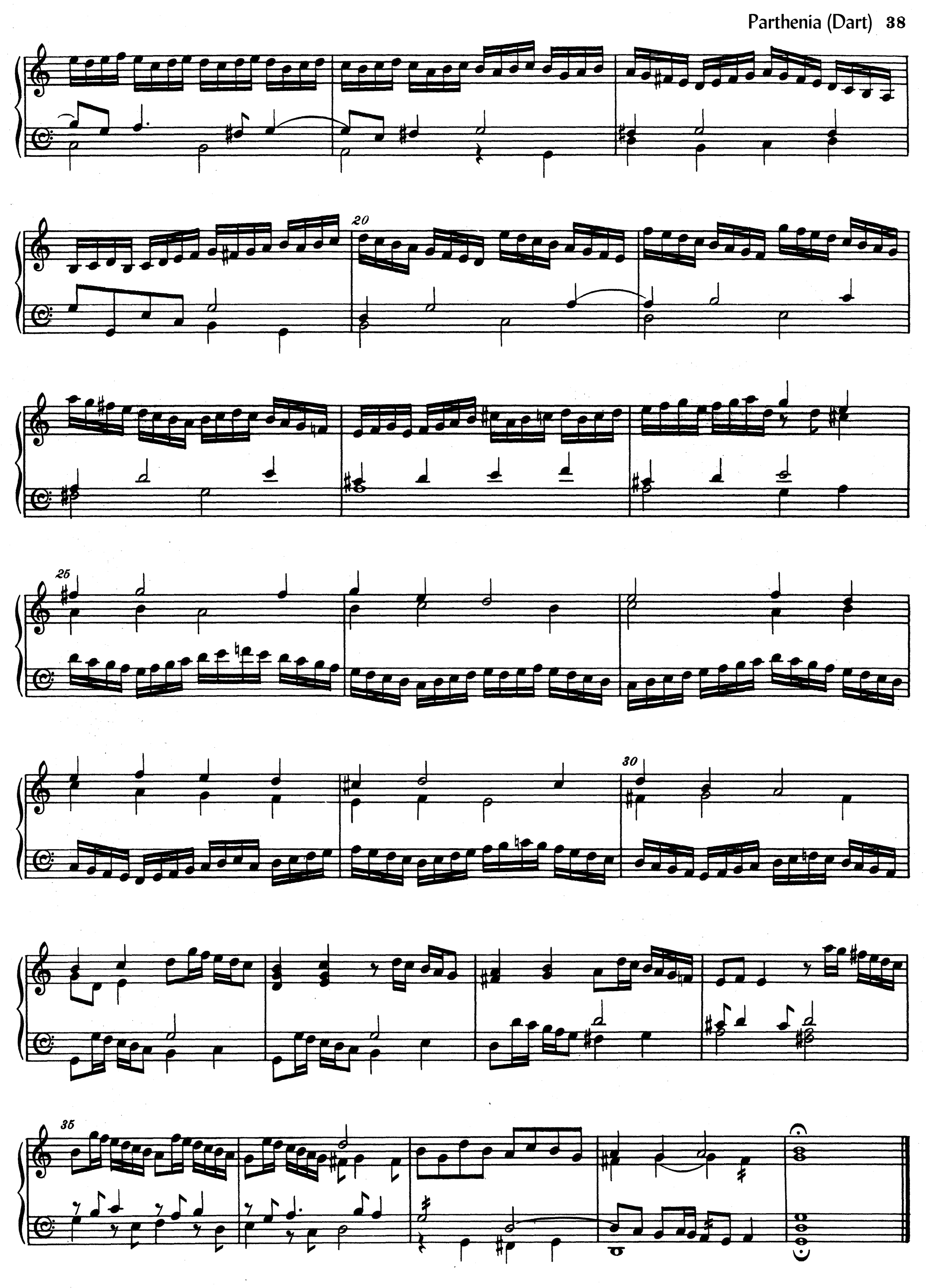
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