Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf

Motet

BWV 226

by J. S. Bach

Arranged for SATB-SATB Recorders

by Peter Billam

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This printing 8 April 2009.

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Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf, BWV 226

Johann Sebastian Bach has bequeathed us six motets. They were first published in 1803 by Breitkopf u. Härtel in an edition by Schicht, the Thomaskantor at the time. The manuscripts of two of them survive, including that of *Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf*, and its parts are marked *Motette bei Beerdigung des seel. Professoris und Rectoris Ernesti*, who died in October 1729. In the score a figured bass for organ is written out, and the first choir is to be supported by strings, and the second by oboes, *taille* (cor-anglais, roughly) and bassoon.

Several of the expressive motifs that Schweizer discusses make an appearance, for example the step-motif in *denn er vertritt* (e.g. in the alto at bar 178) and the Joy-motif of *Heiligen* (e.g. in the tenor at 180).

This edition makes the motet available for recorders. The words are mostly omitted, but the ends of phrases, where breaths would usually be taken, have been indicated with breath-marks. Some implied legato has been made explicit with slurs, though choirs do not always sing legato in extended passages on one vowel. In general, quavers joined by beams should be slurred together, according to the conventional notation of vocal music. In the first movement the quavers Bb-A-Bb occur frequently; there is an alternative fingering on the C-recorders which might be useful, using half the right ring-finger, and the A played with the middle finger. The Allabreve, in order to retain rhythmic vitality, needs clear articulation of its phrases.

The thrilling, jubilant eight-voice counterpoint of the first movement gradually merges to four-voice counterpoint during the course of the motet. The basses unite in bars 132, the tenors in bar 134, the altos in 136 and the the sopranos finally in the Allabreve, bar 146. This complicates the distribution of Parts:

Soprano and Alto of choir 1 need pages 19-24, 25-27
Tenor and Bass of choir 1 need pages 19-24, 34-36
Soprano and Alto of choir 2 need pages 28-33, 25-27
Tenor and Bass of choir 2 need pages 28-33, 34-36

Peter J Billam
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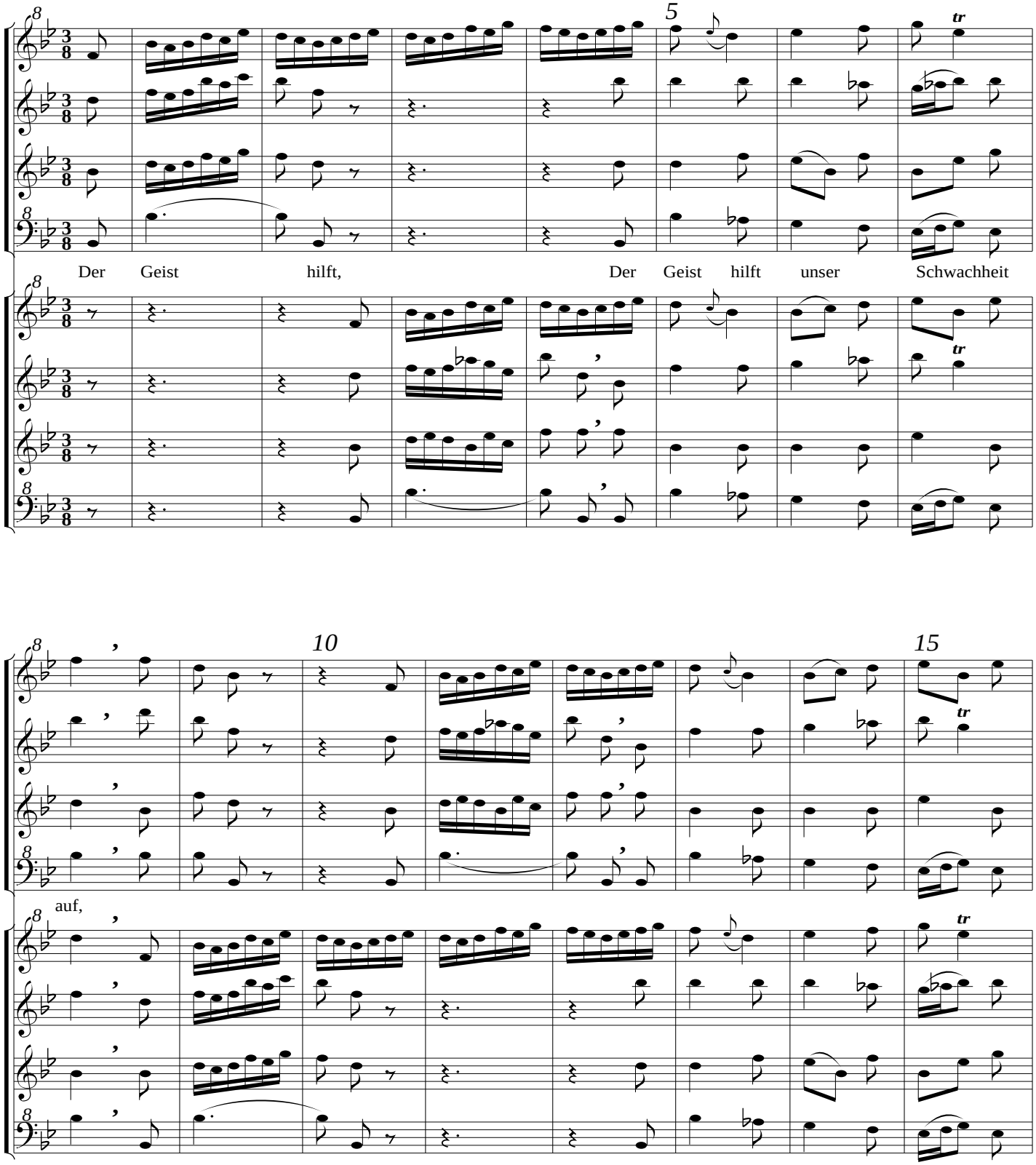
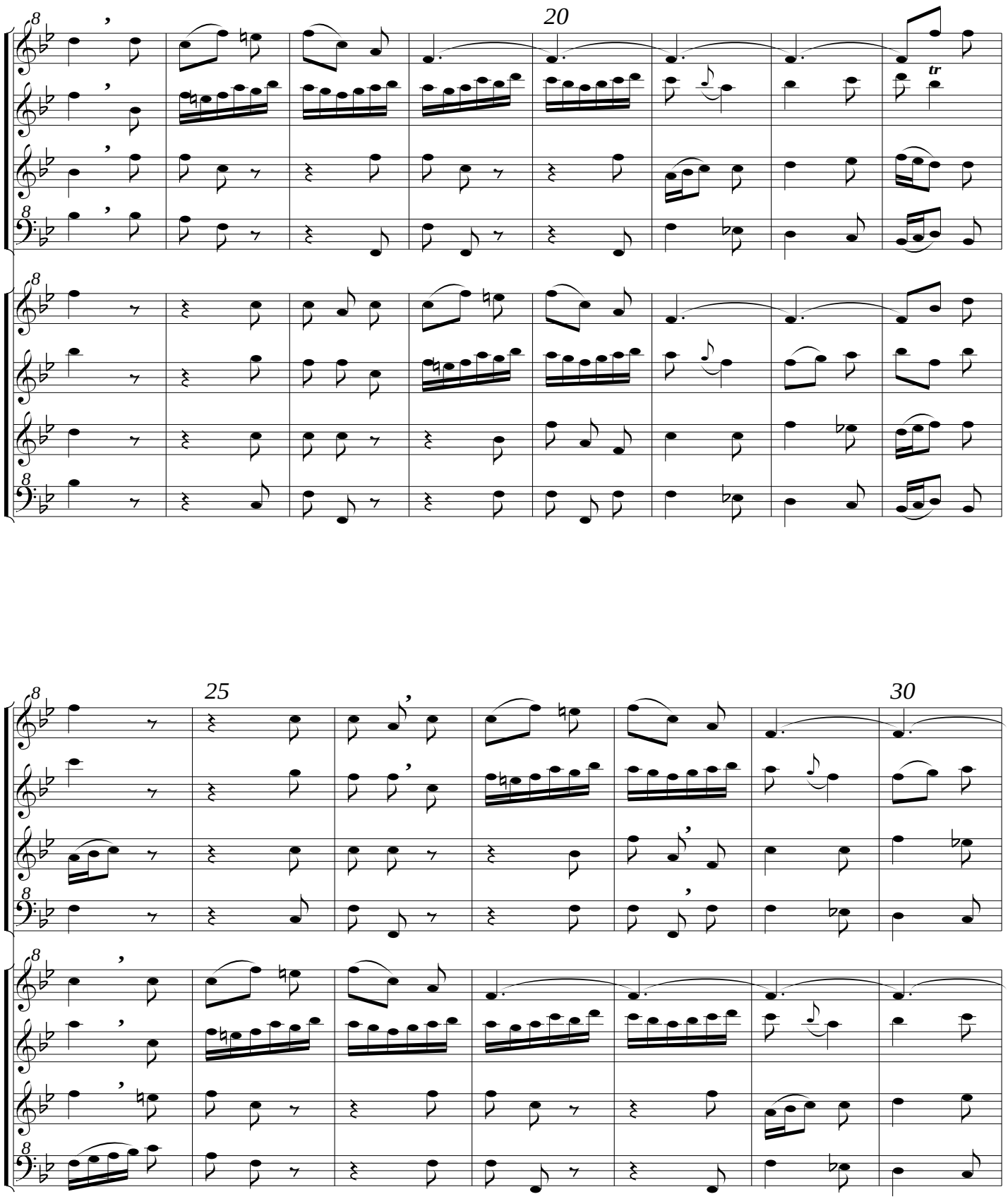
Motet: Der Geist hilft unser Schwacheit auf

1. Der Geist hilft unser Schwacheit auf

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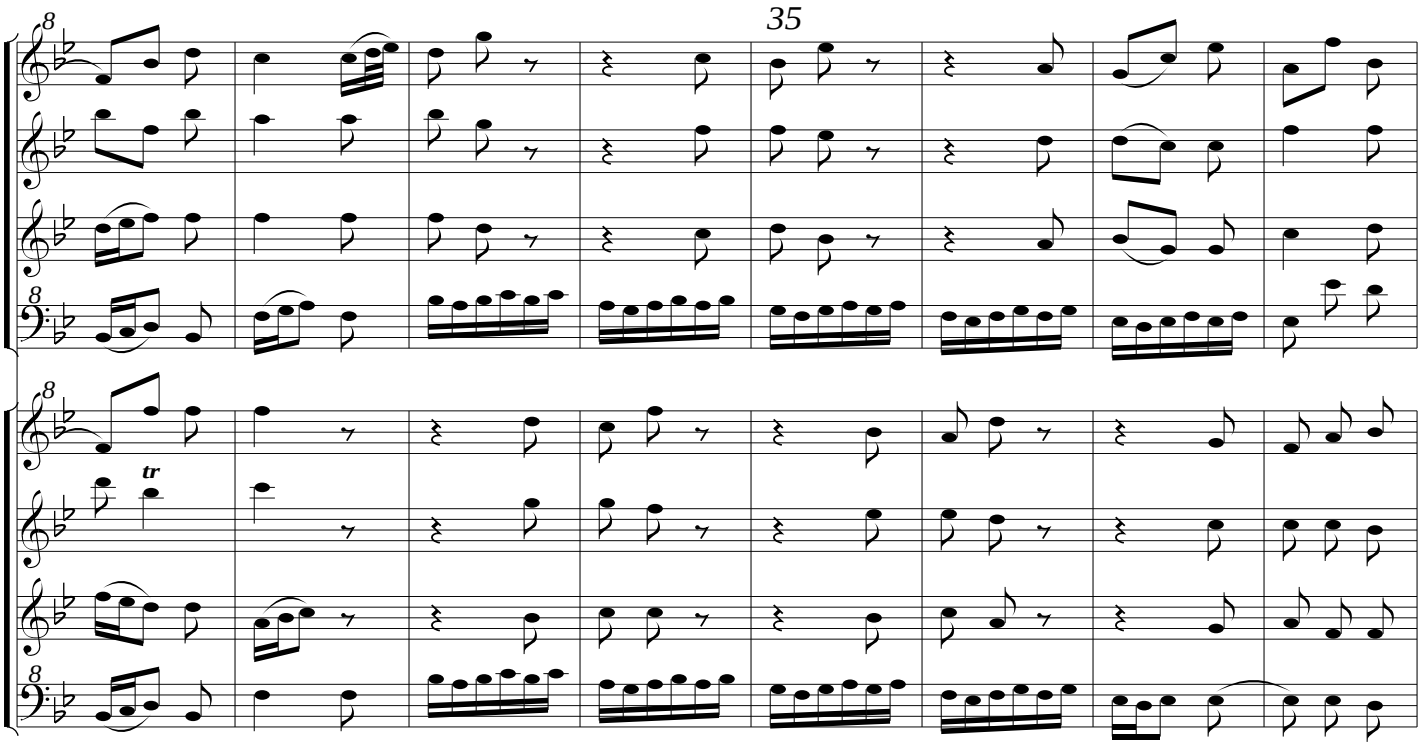
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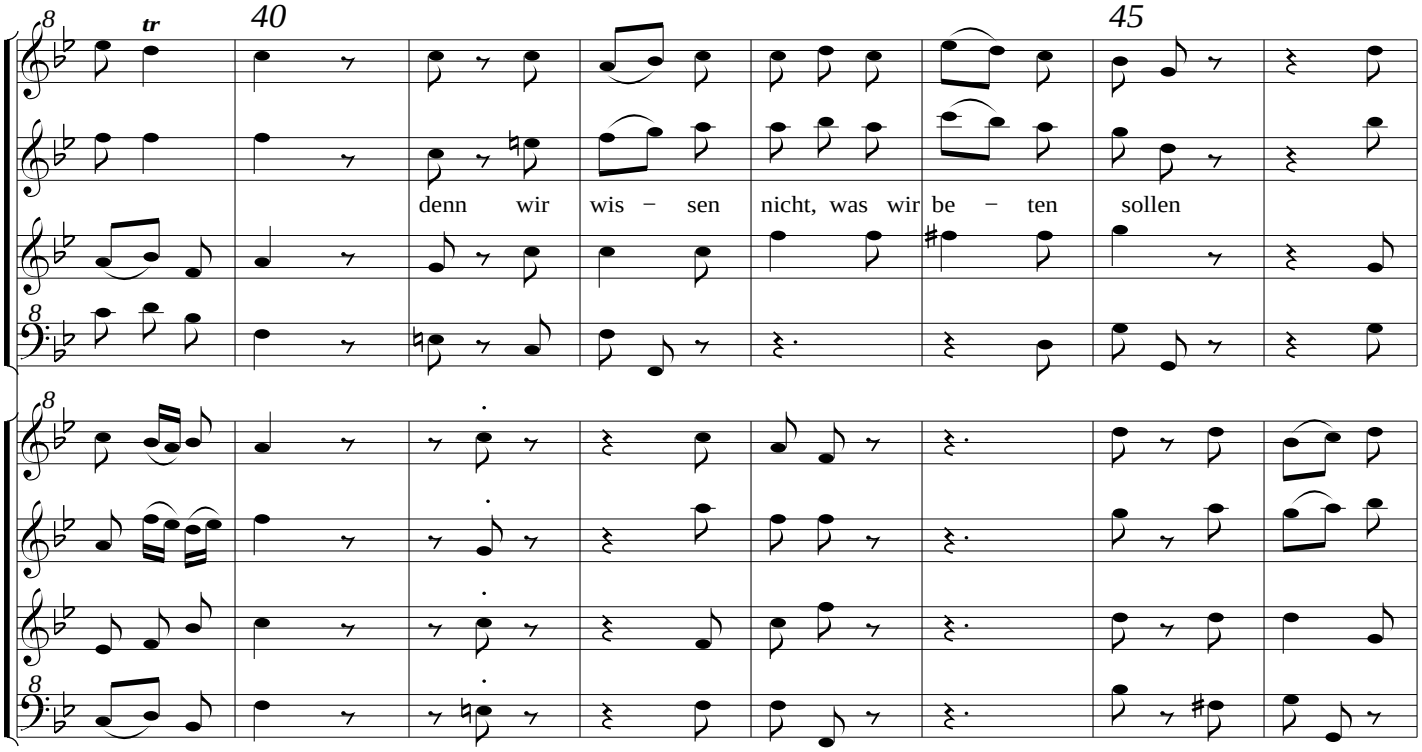
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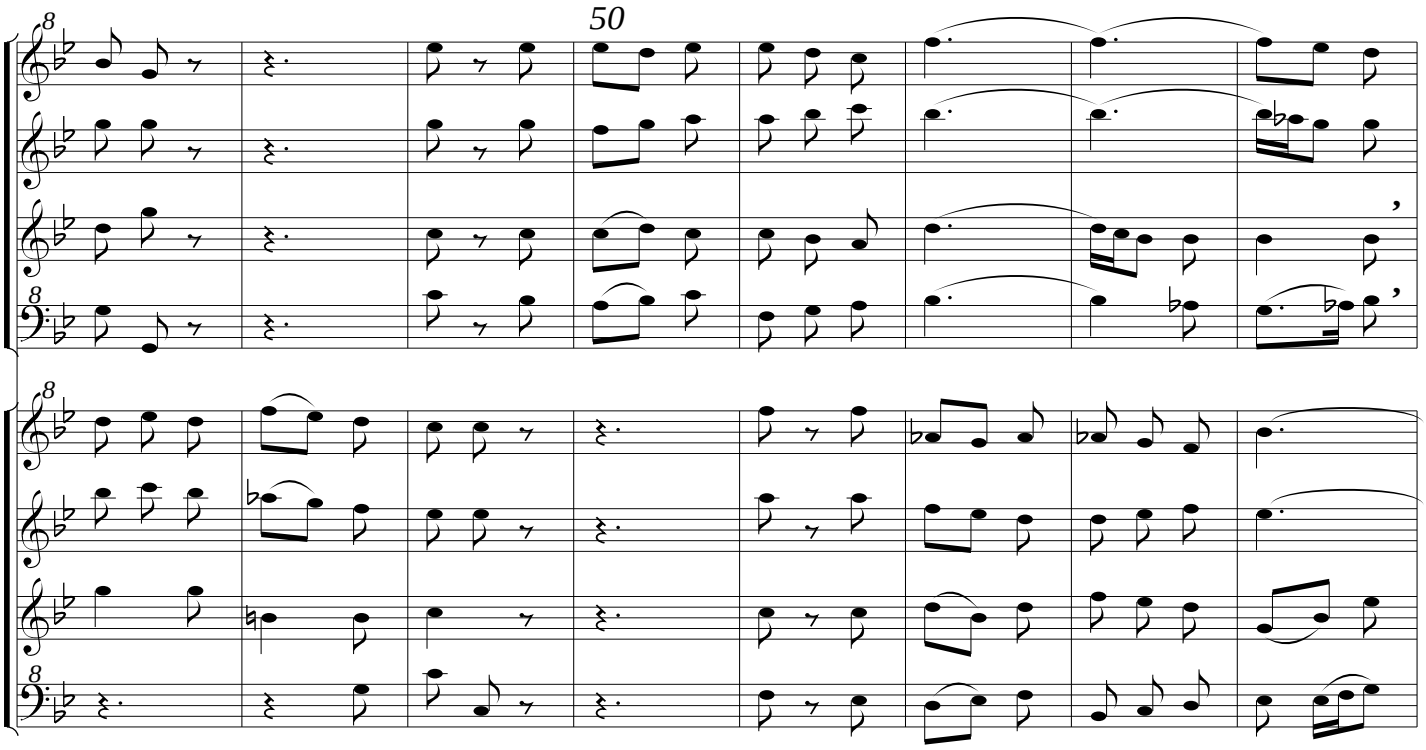
denn wir wis − sen nicht, was wir be − ten sollen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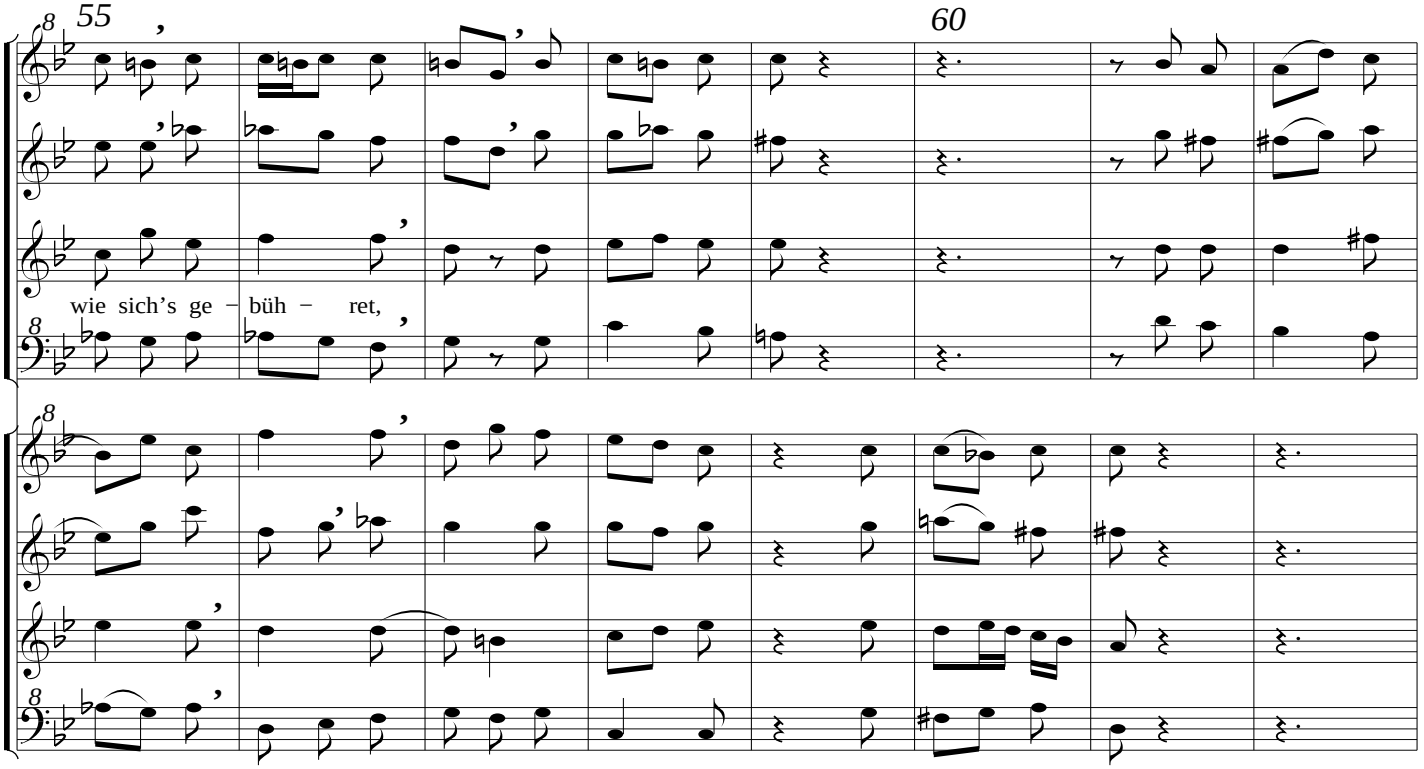
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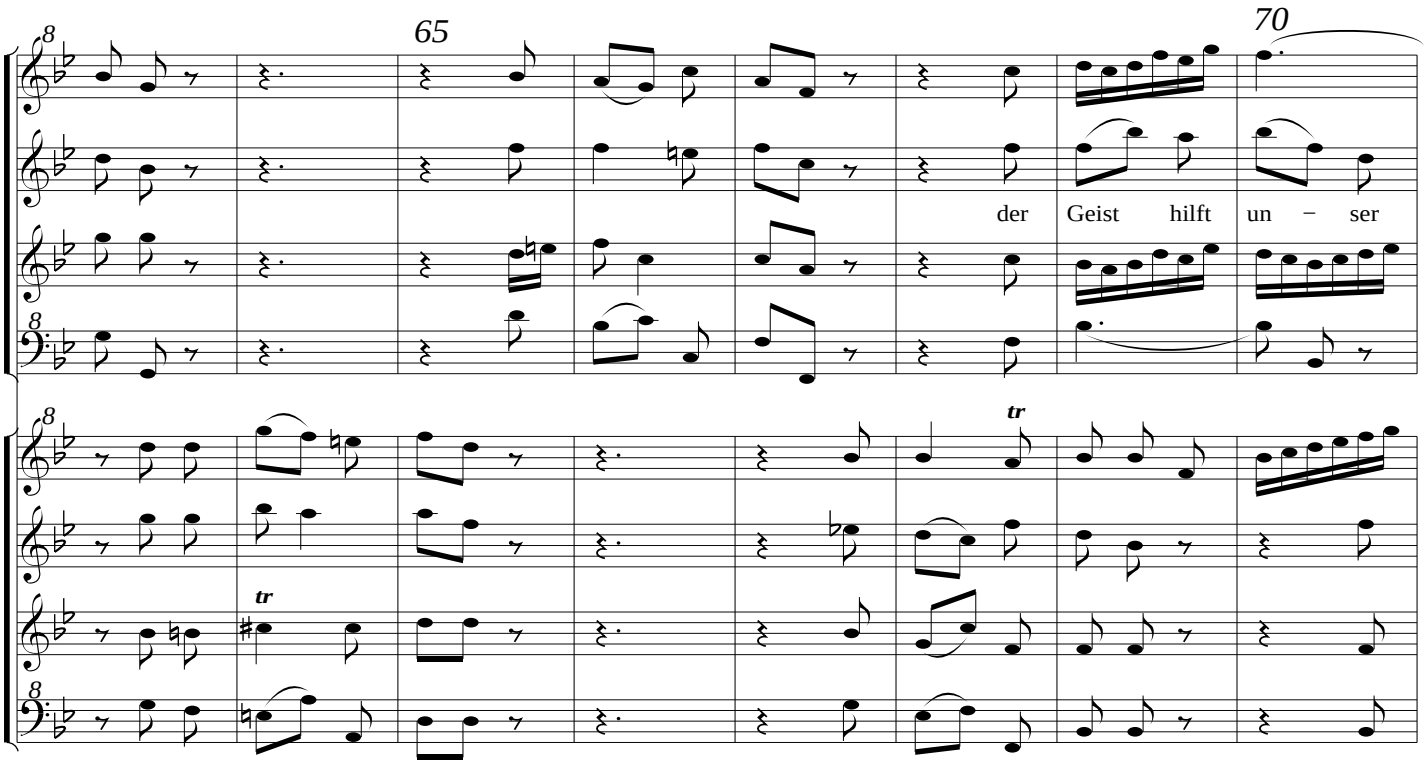
wie sich's ge – büh – ret,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der Geist hilft un − ser
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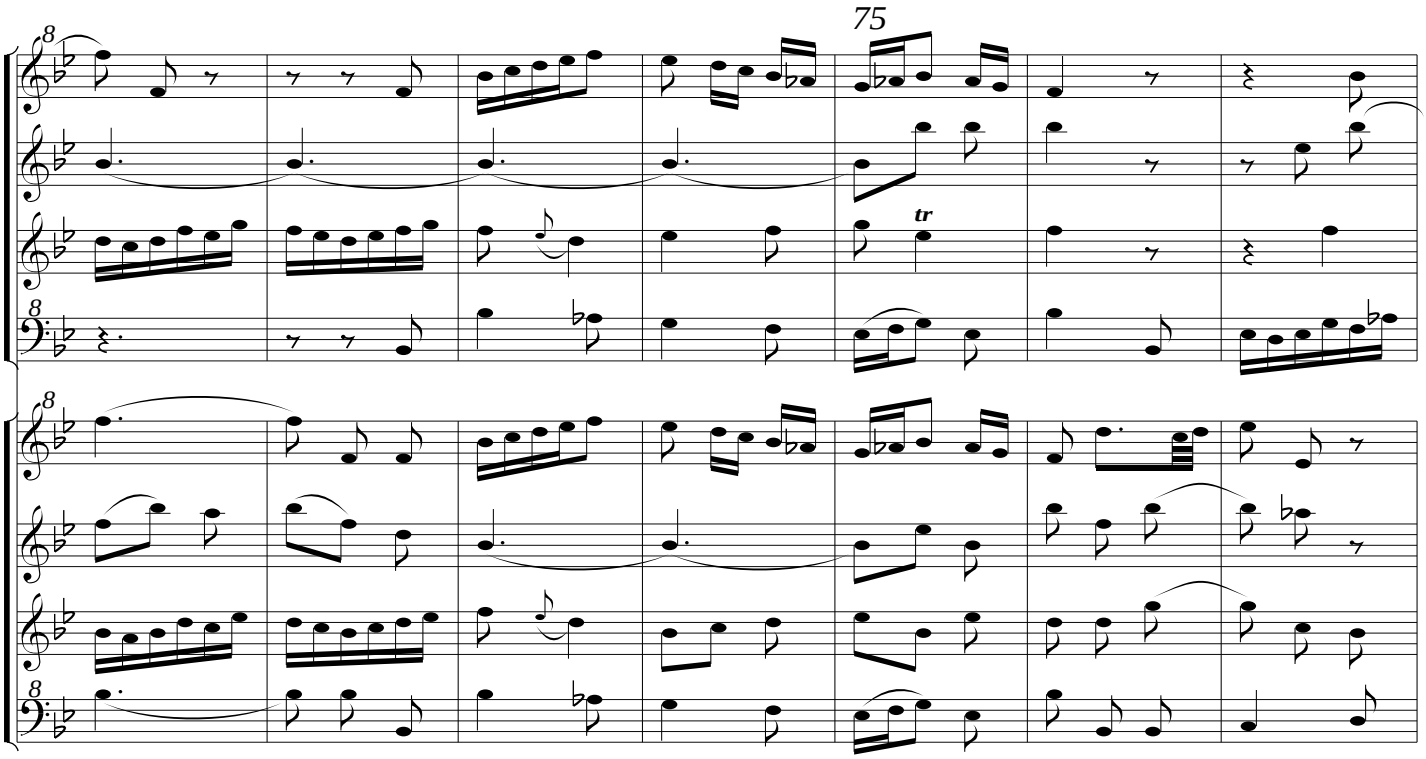
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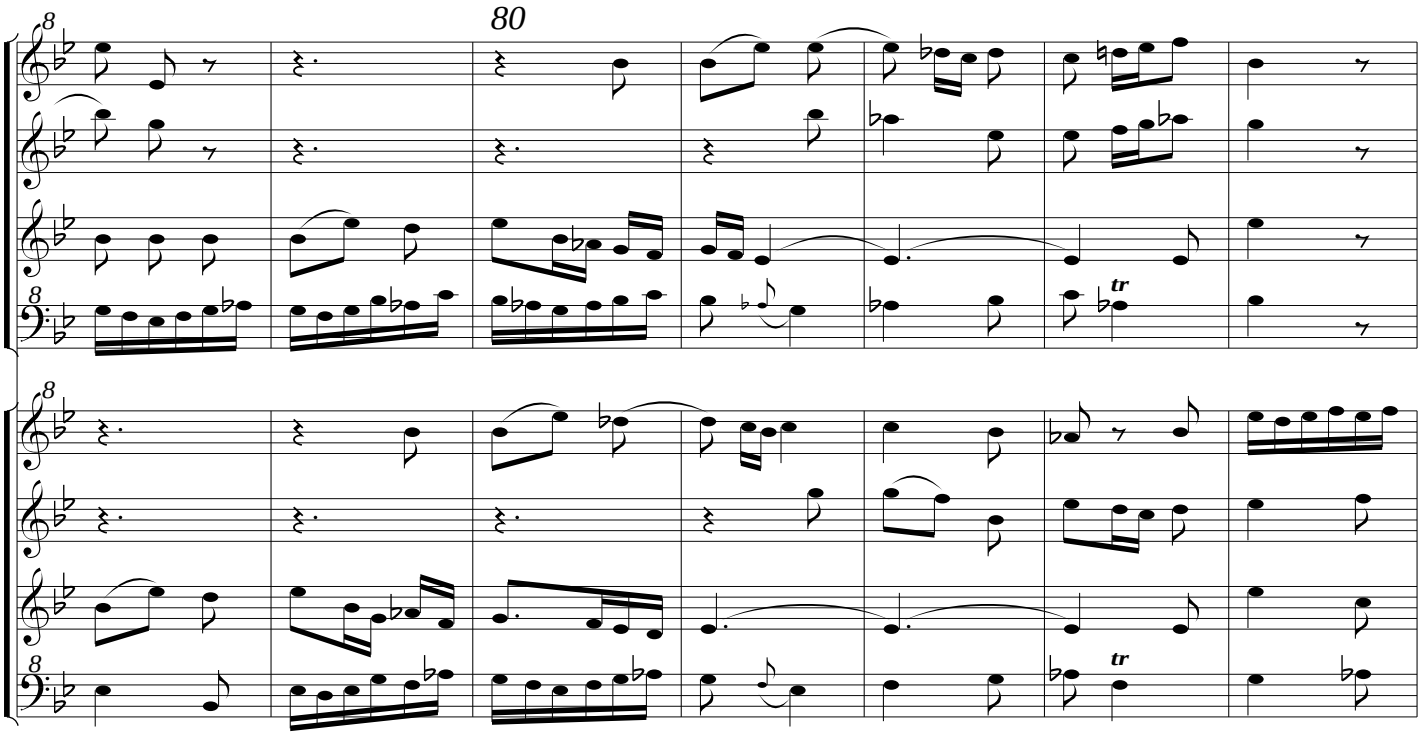
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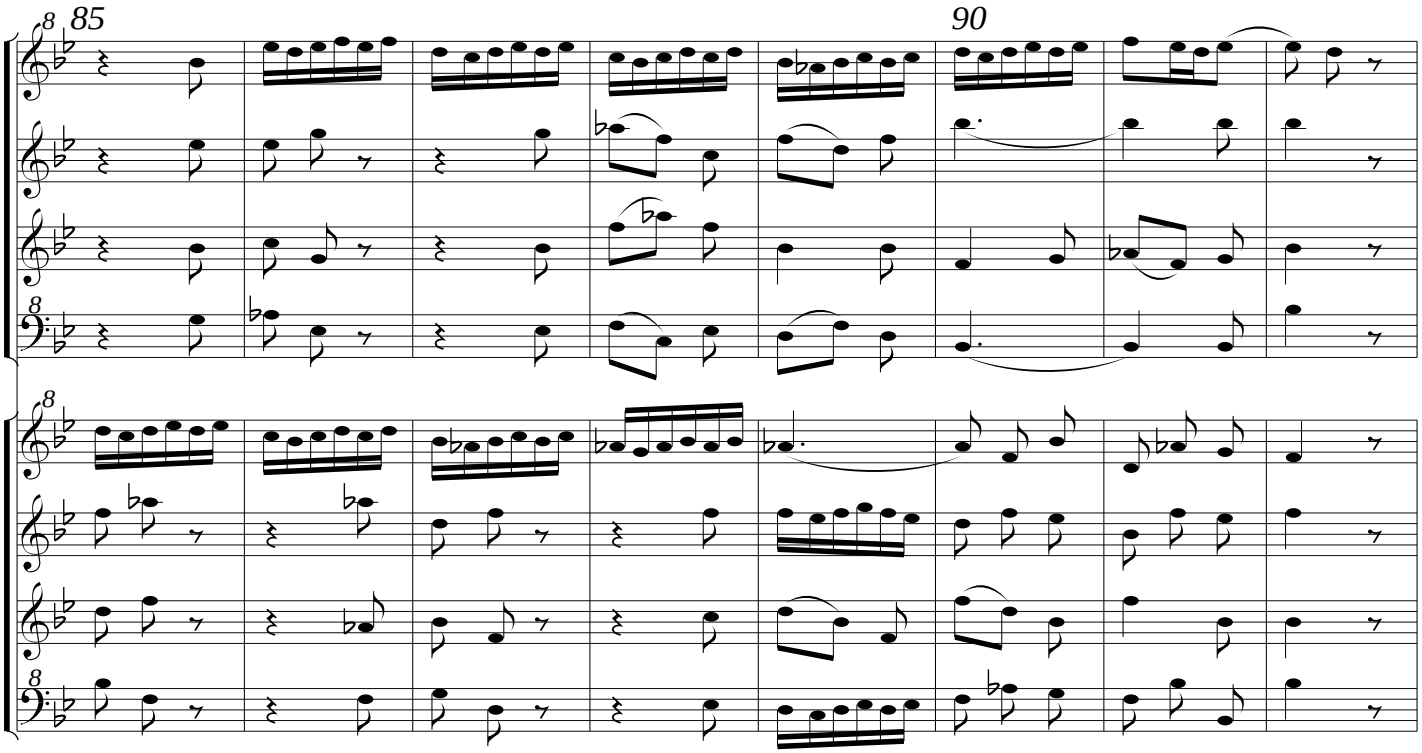
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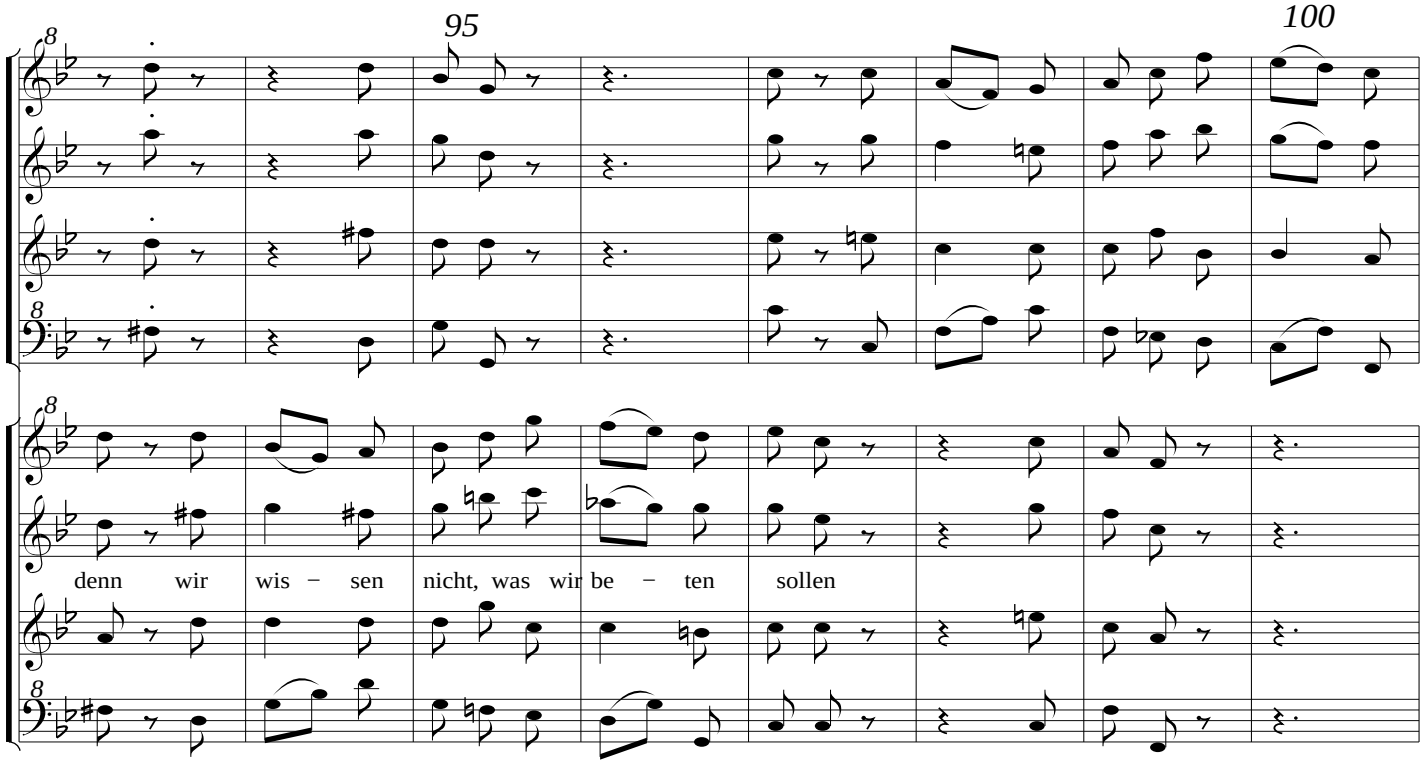
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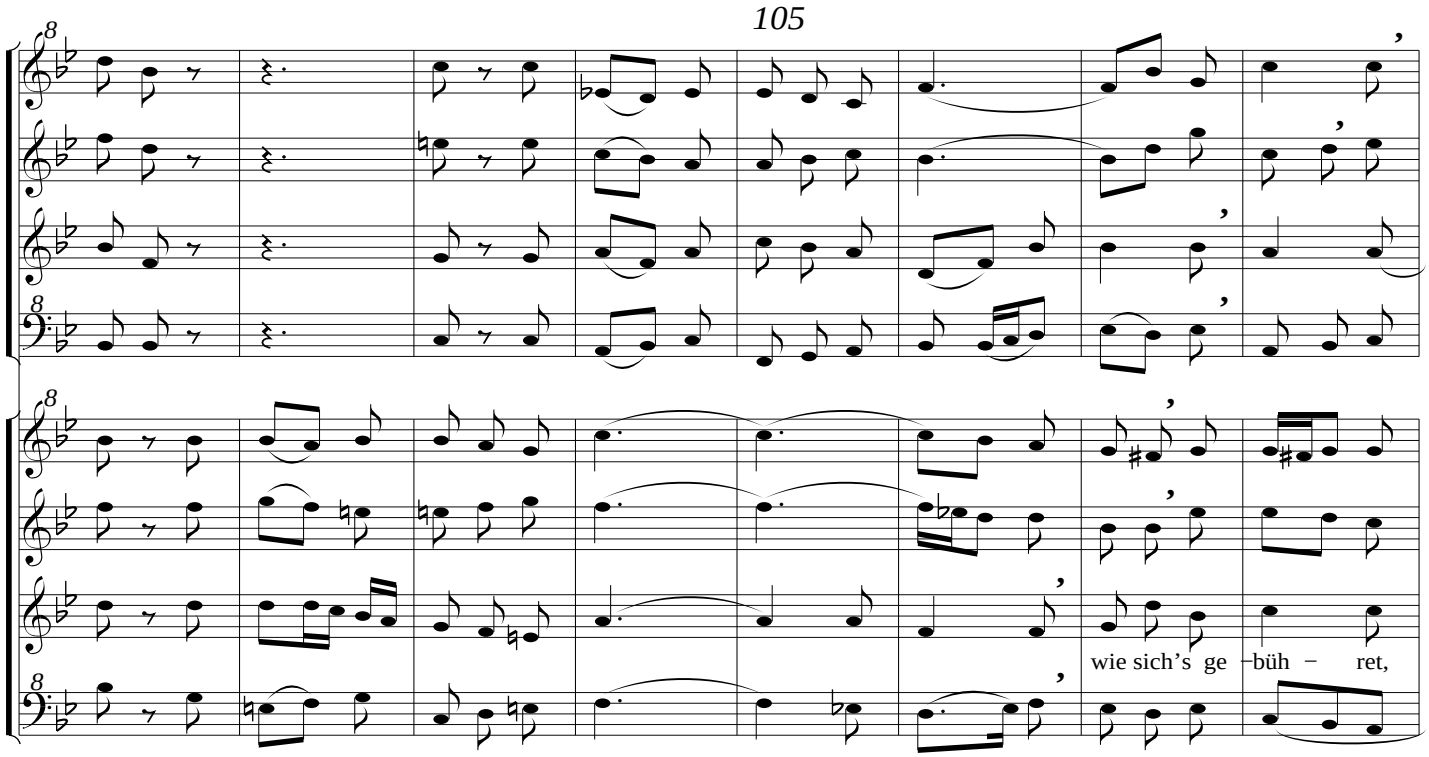
denn wir wis – sen nicht, was wir be – ten sollen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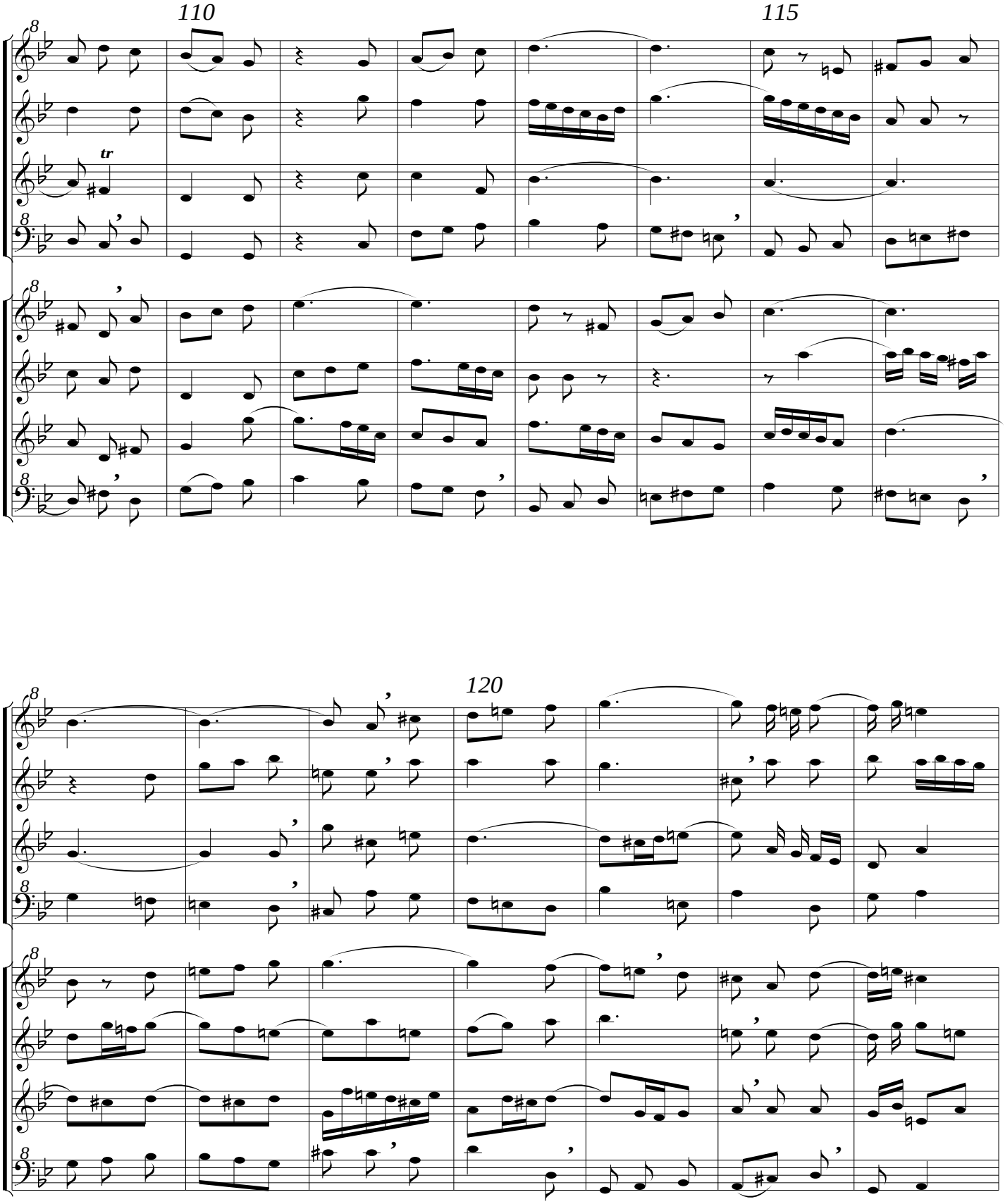
wie sich's ge – büh – ret,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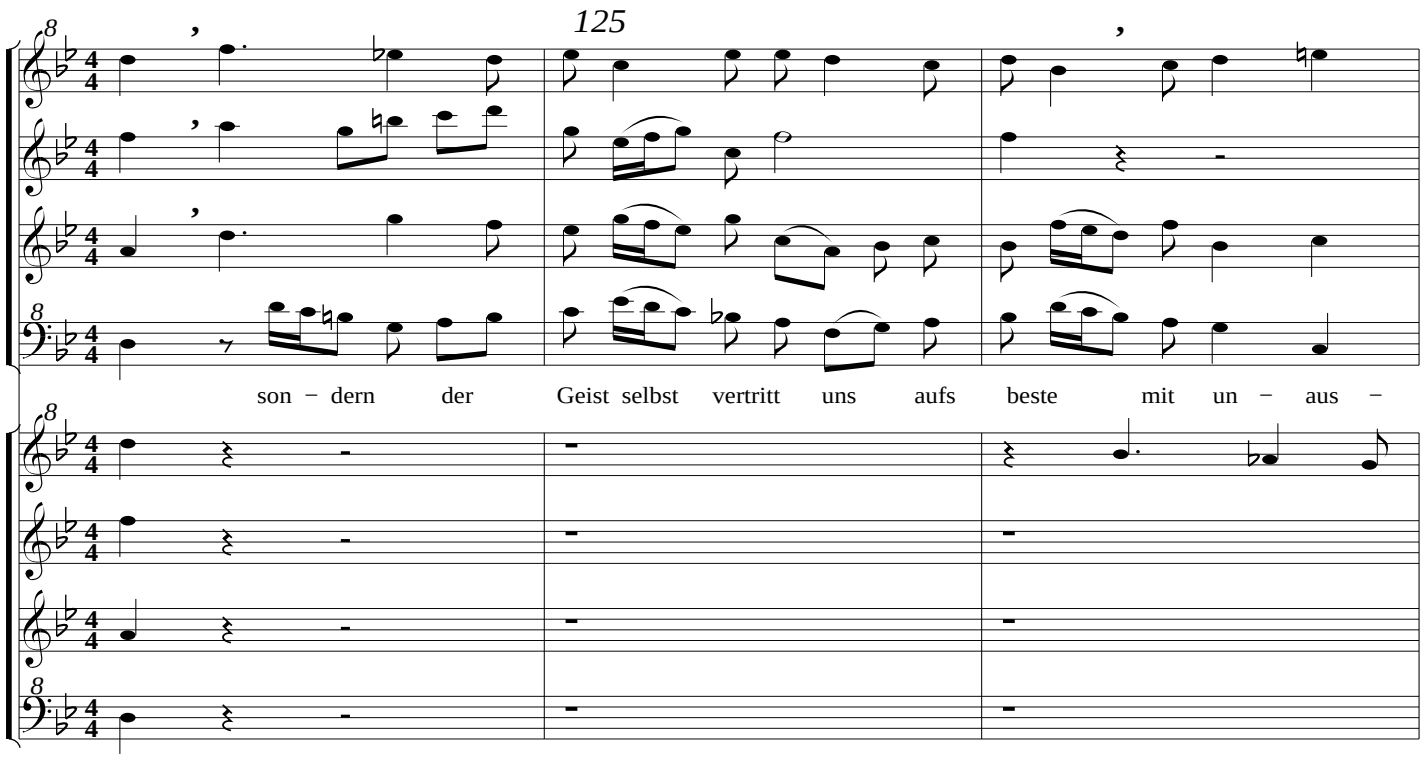
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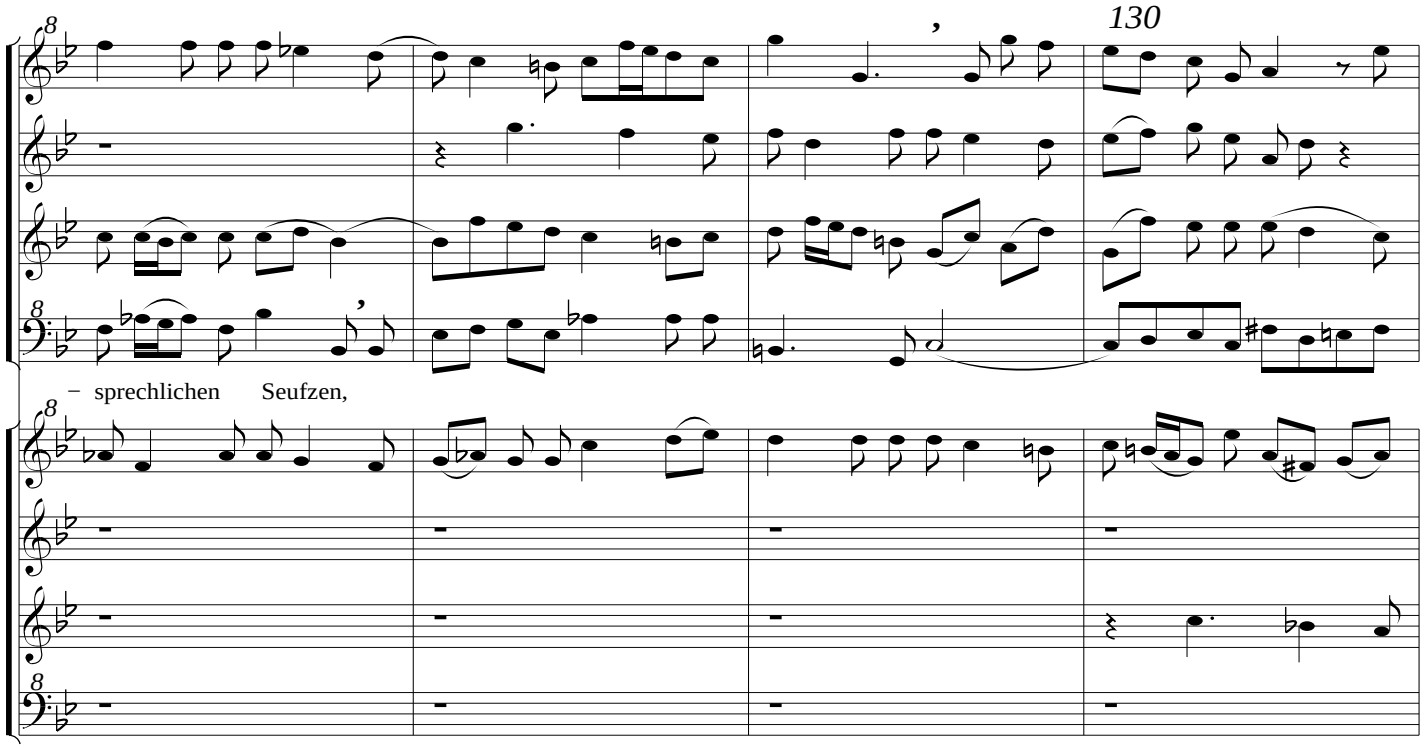
son − dern der Geist selbst vertritt uns aufs beste mit un − aus −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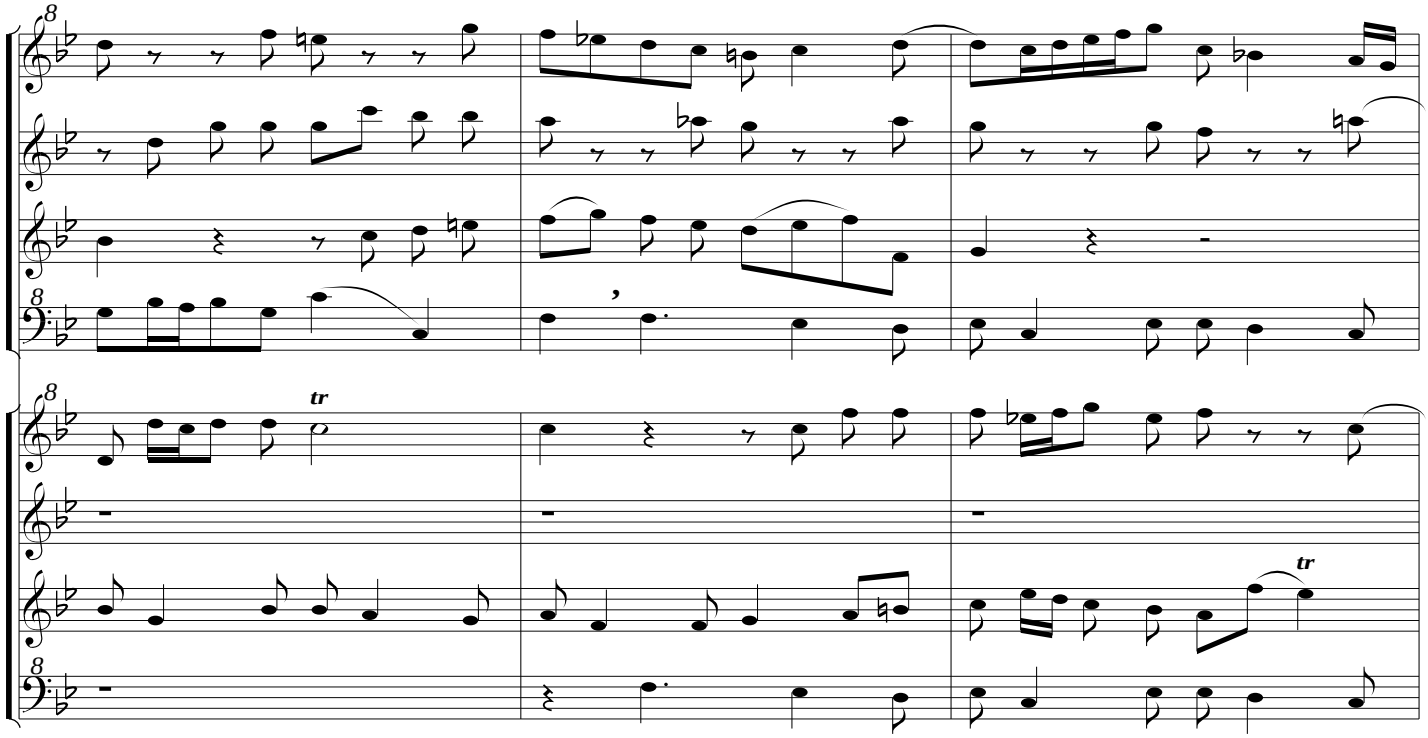
− sprechlichen Seufzen,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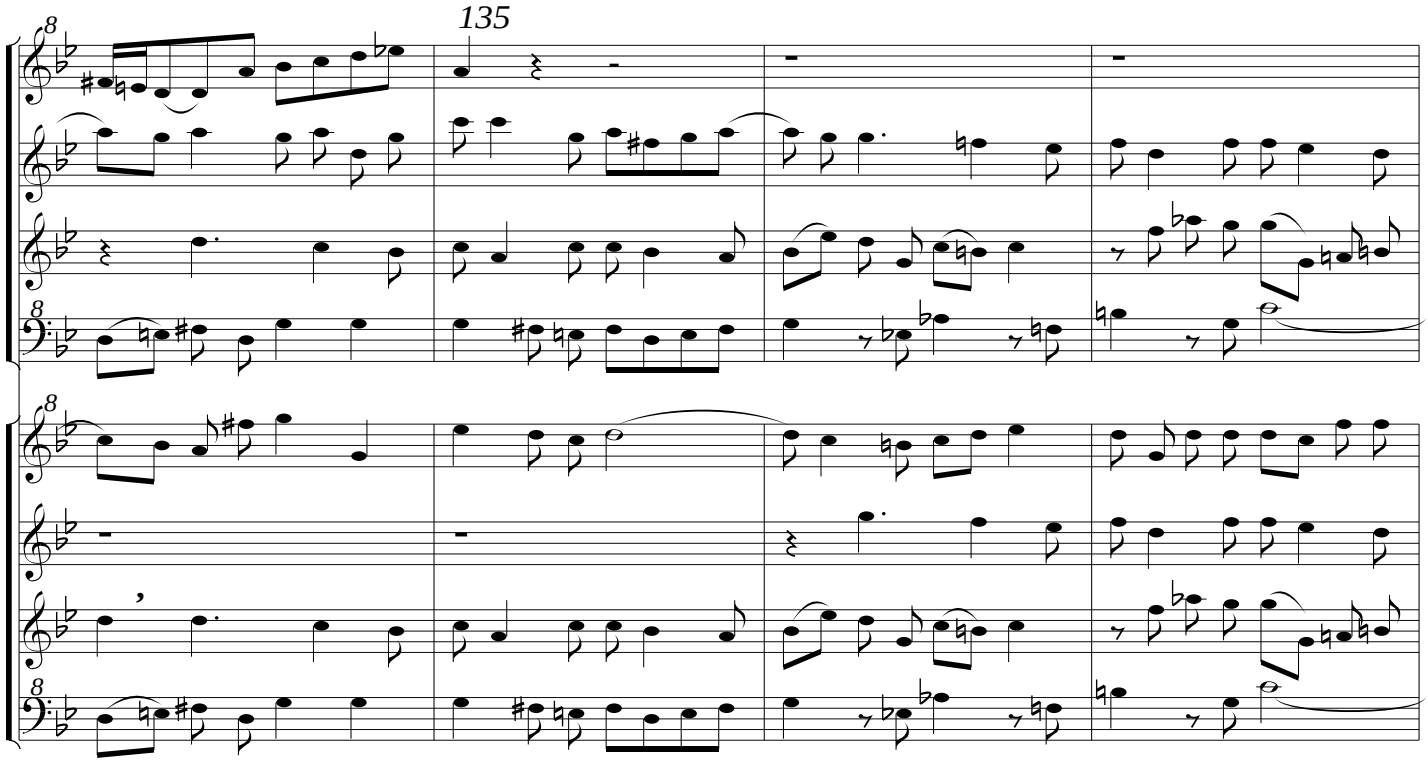
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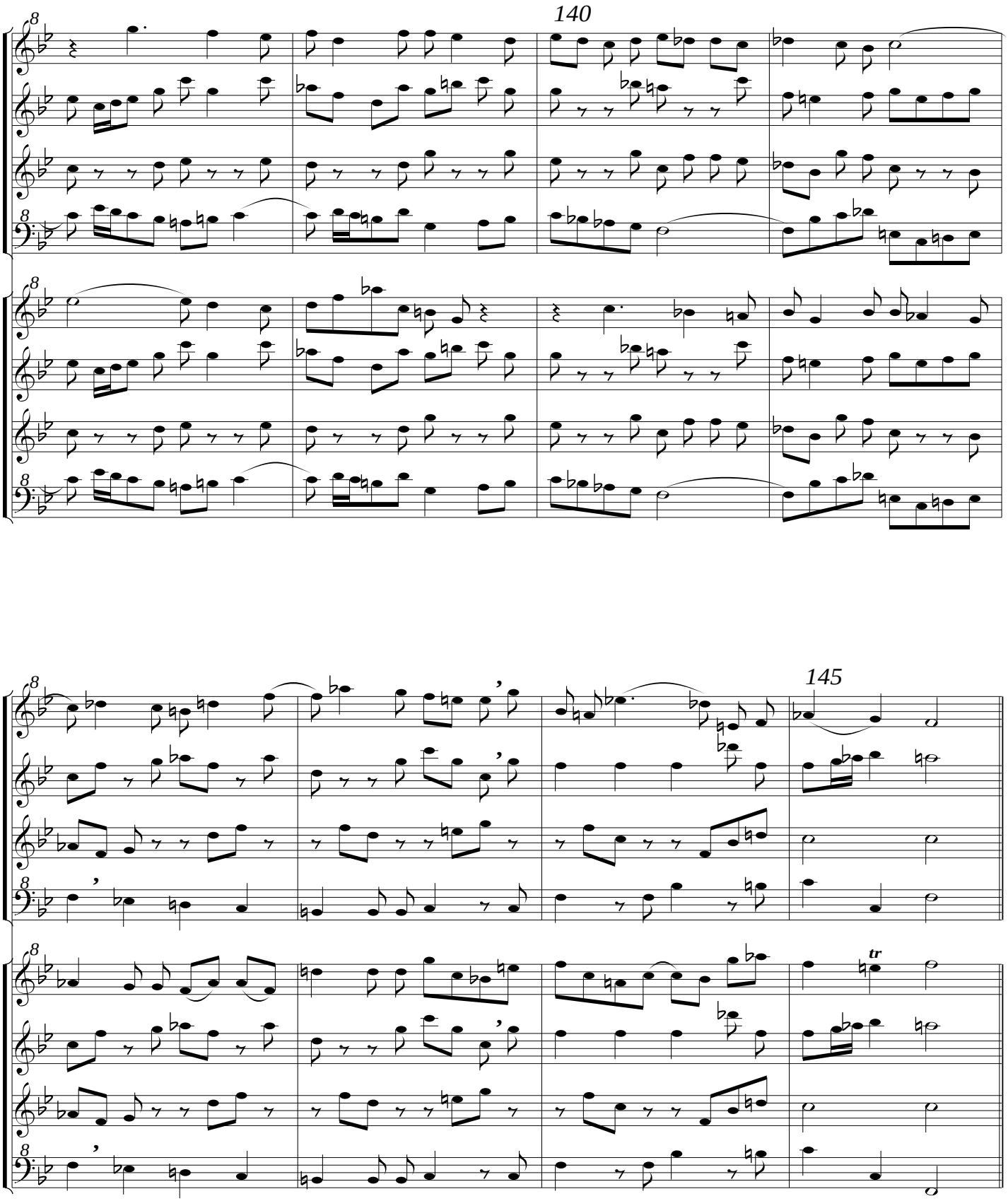
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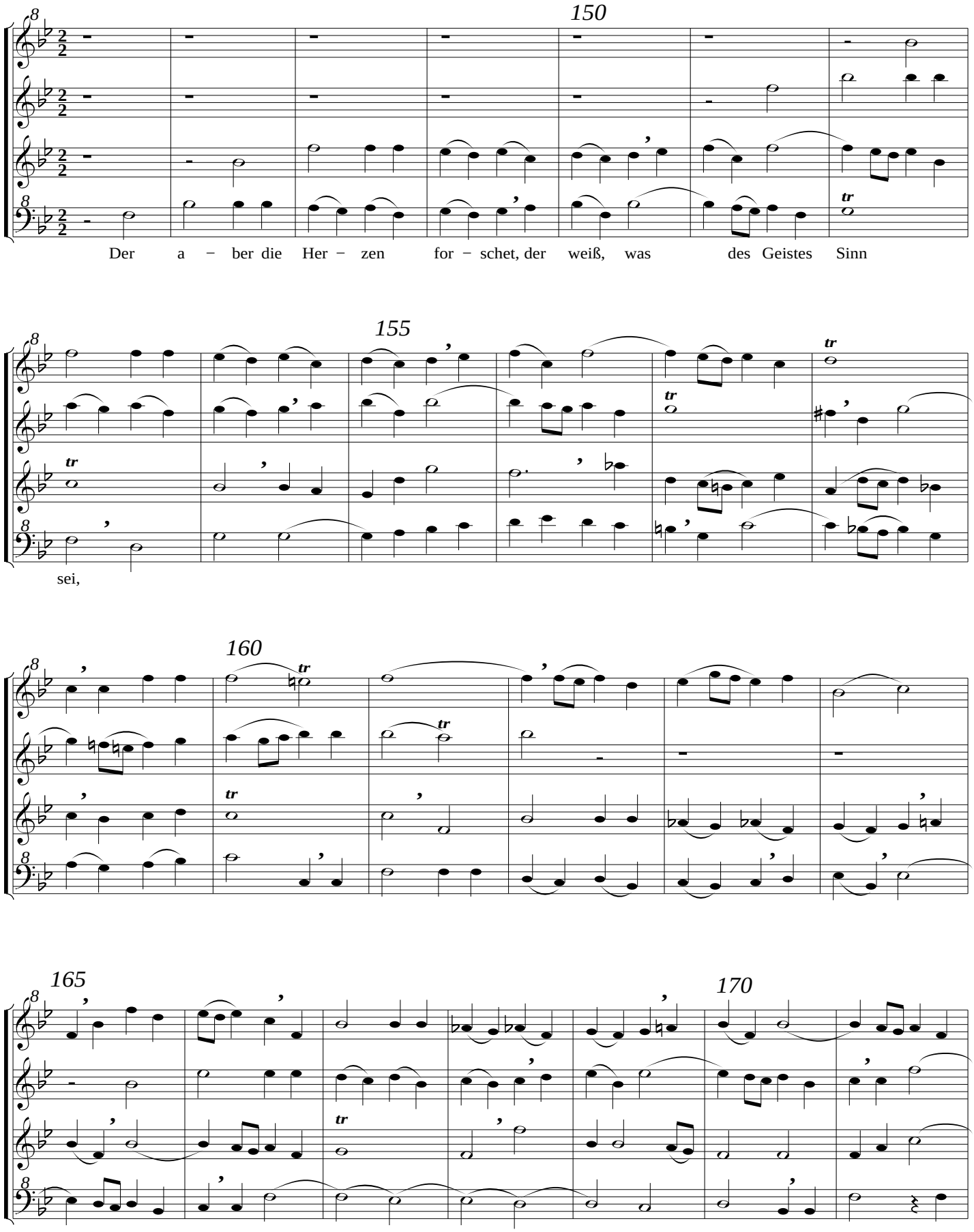
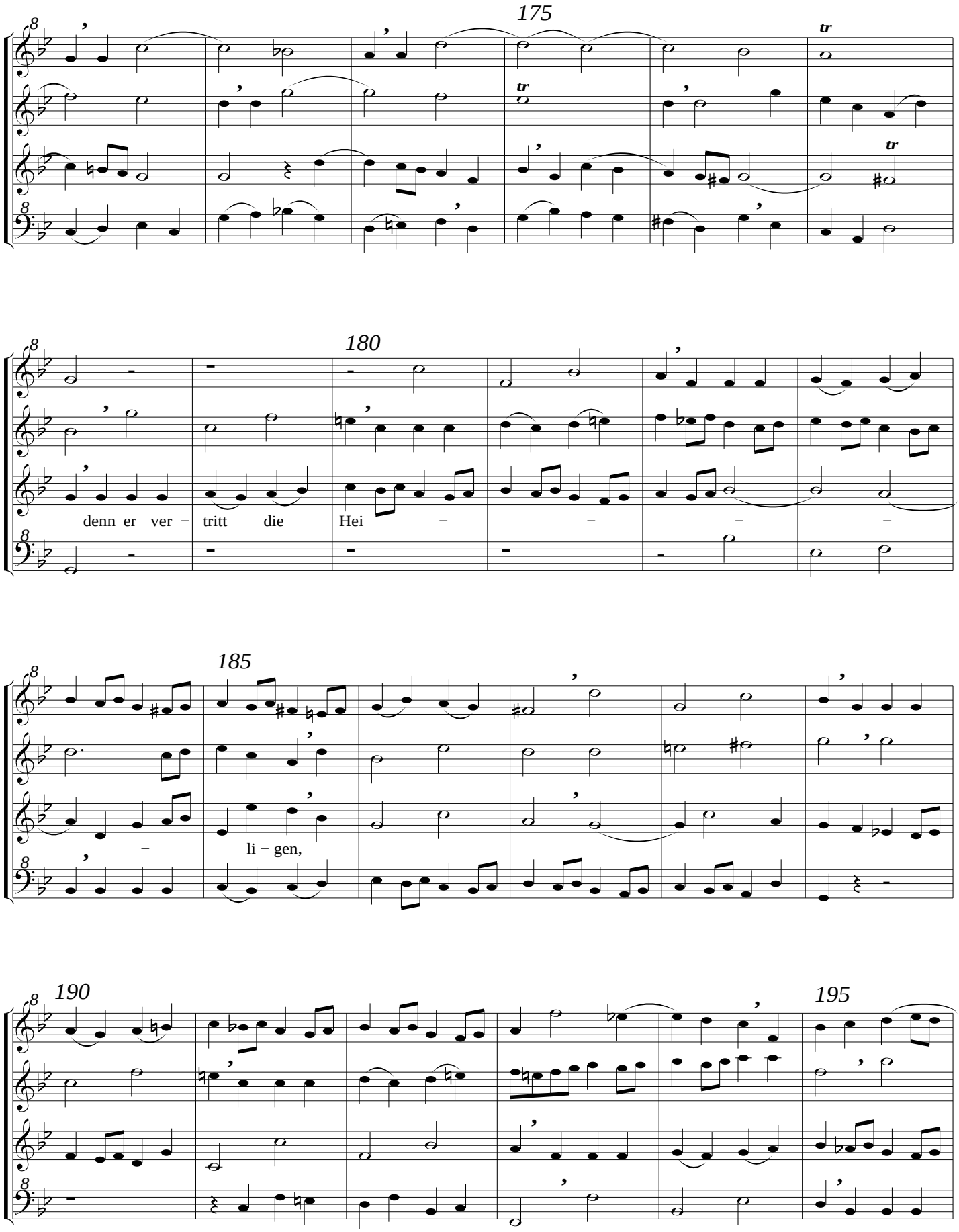
2. Allabreve: Der aber die Herzen forschet

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180
denn er ver − tritt die Hei − − − −
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− li − gen,
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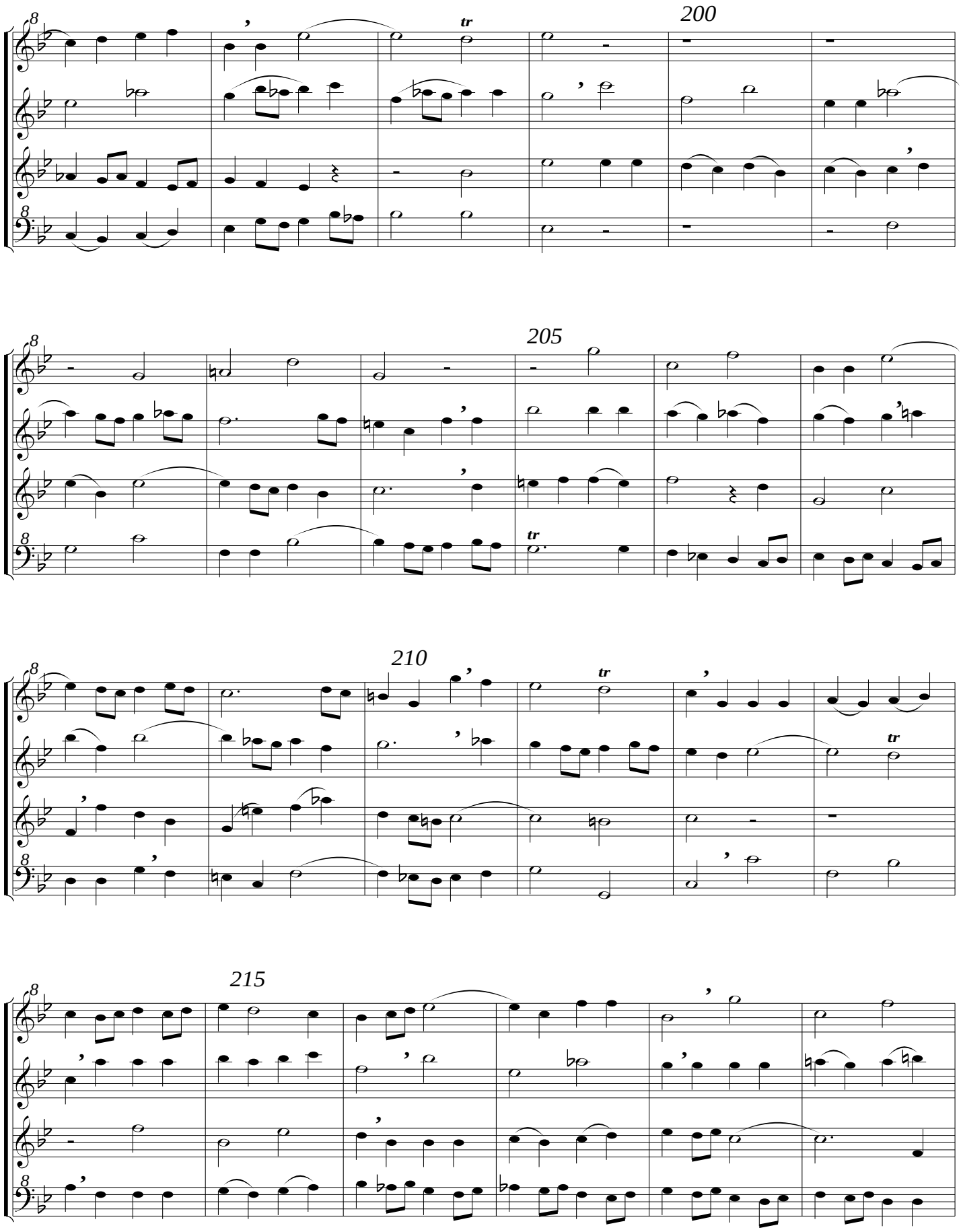
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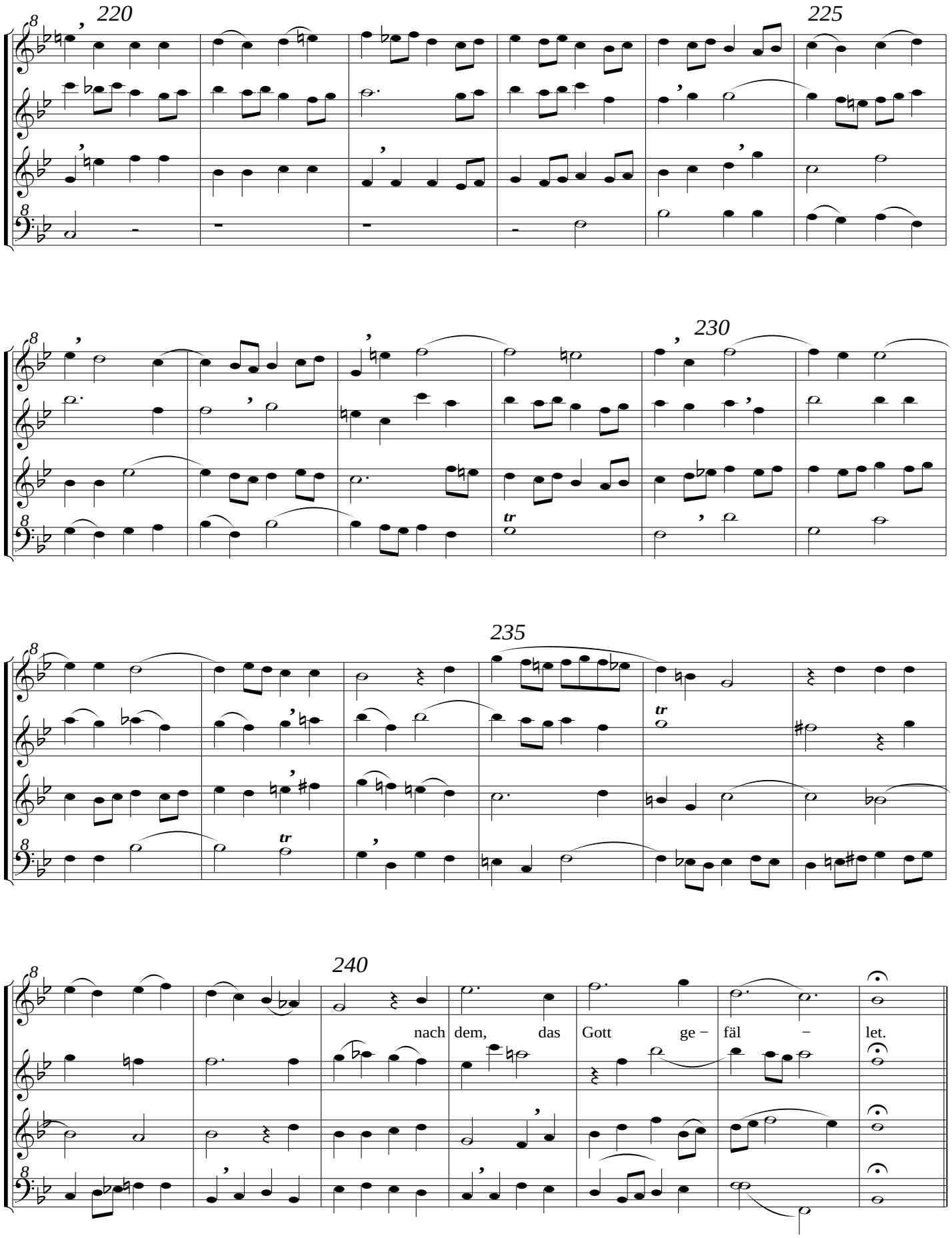
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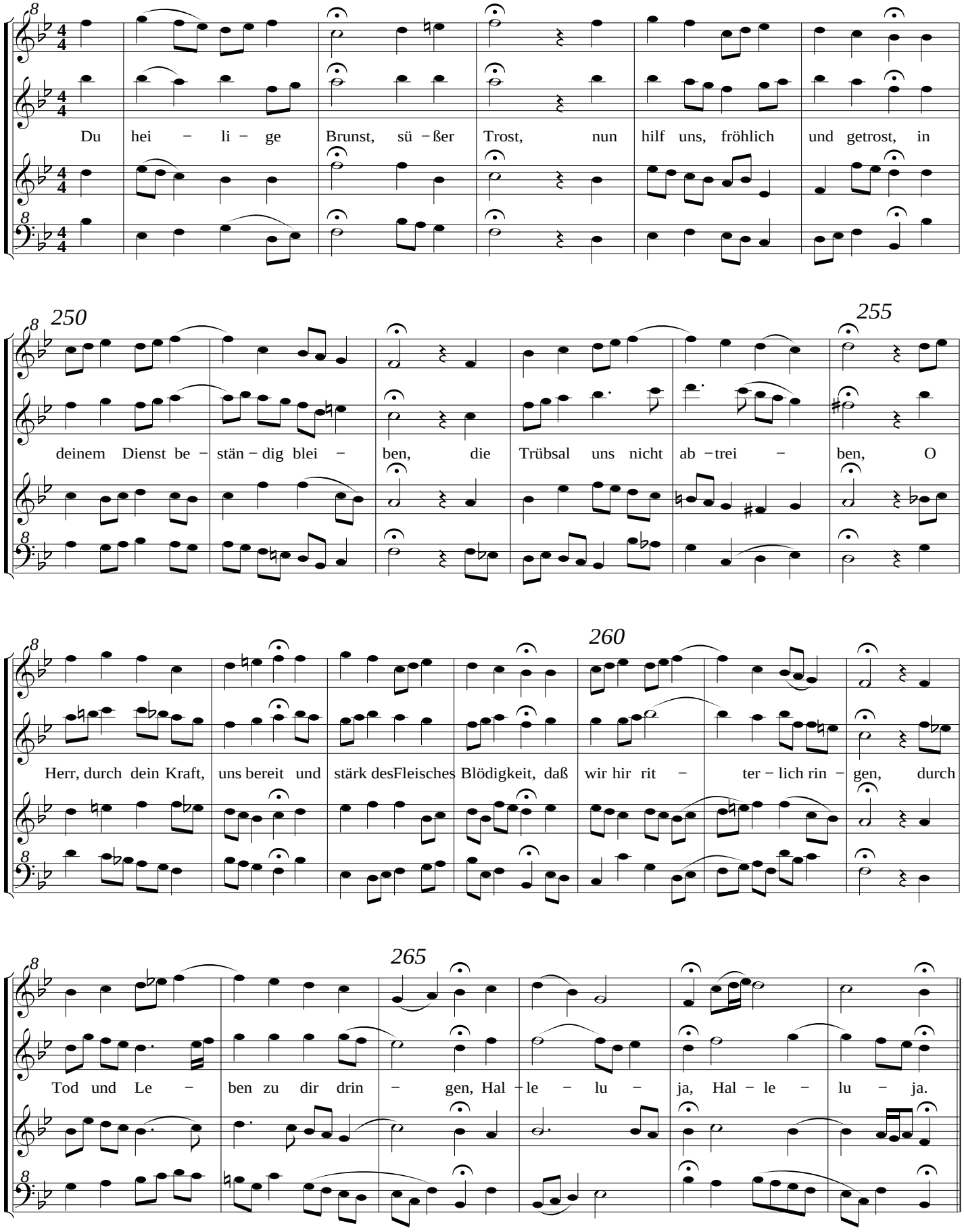
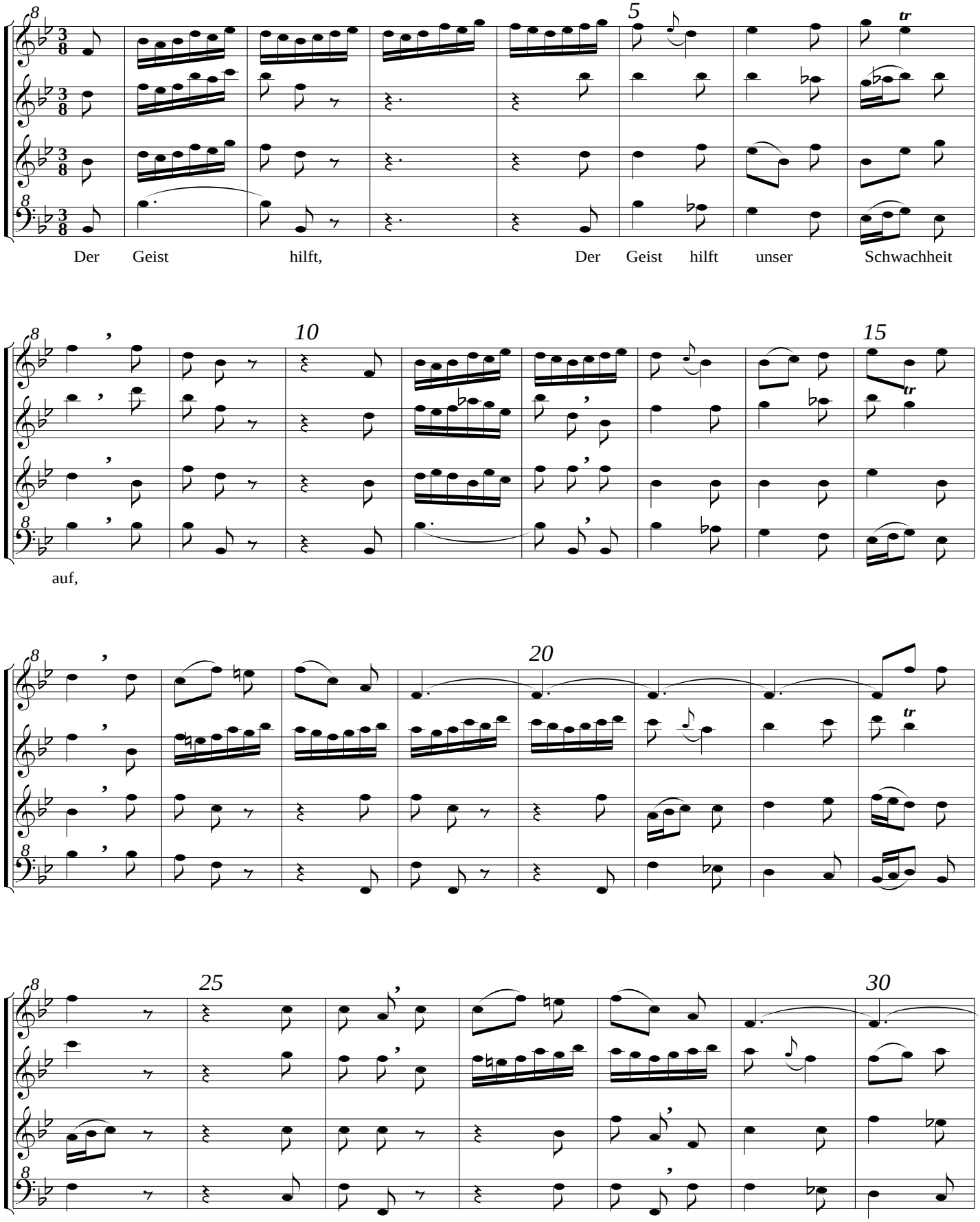
nach dem, das Gott ge − fäl − let.

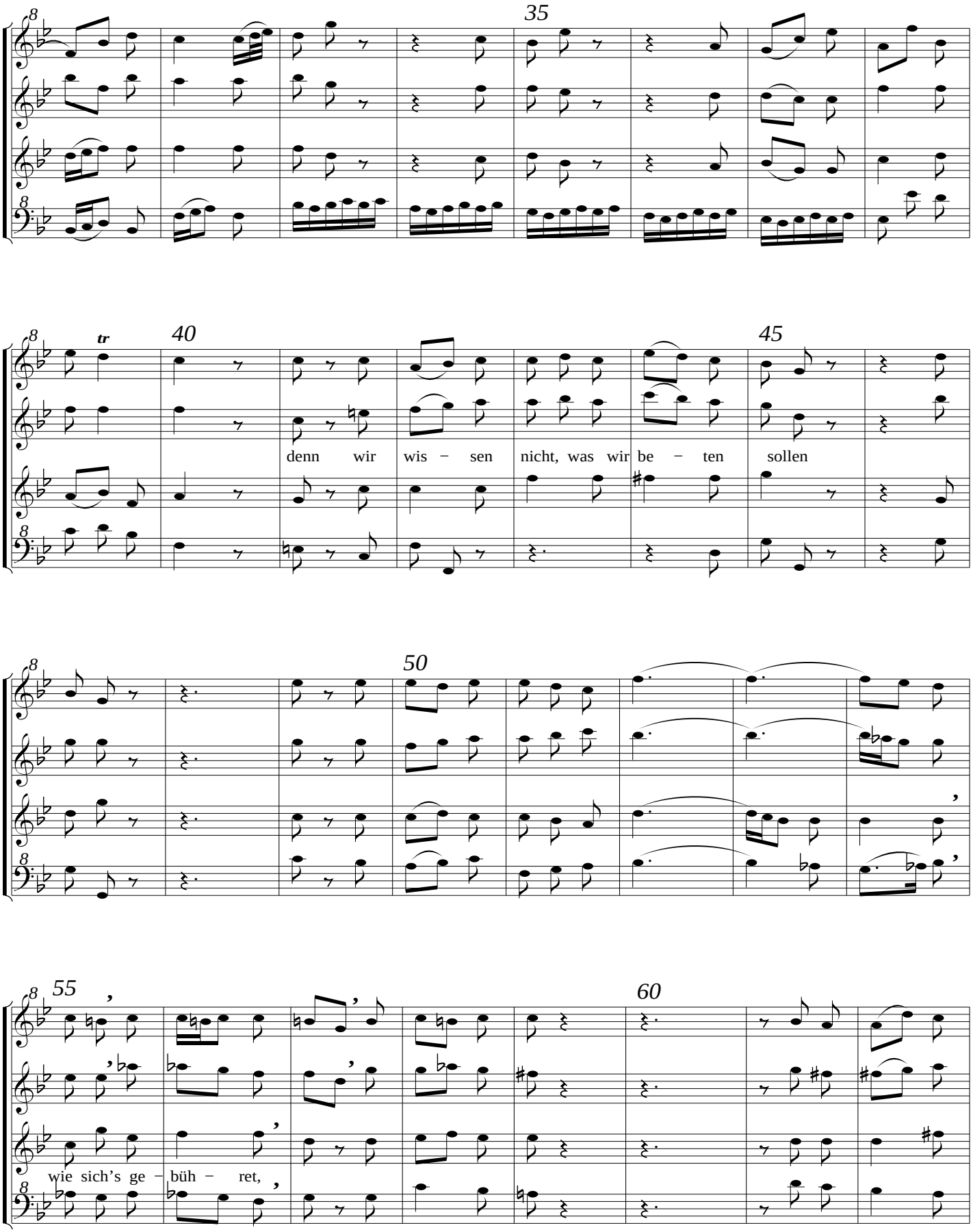
3. Choral: Du heilige Brunst



Choir 1 part, Der Geist hilft unser Schwacheit auf

1. Der Geist hilft unser Schwacheit auf




35
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denn wir wis – sen nicht, was wir be – ten sollen
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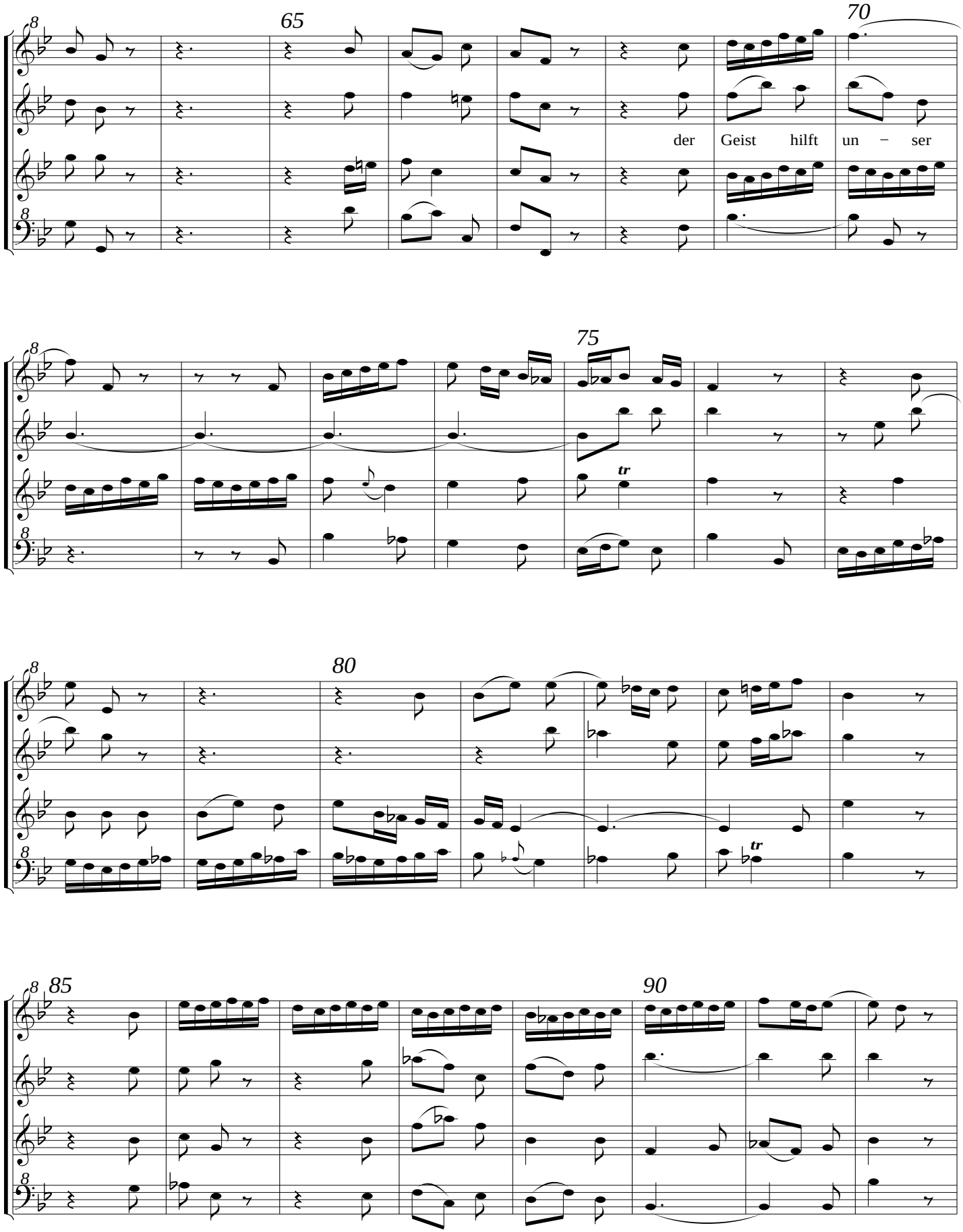
wie sich's ge – büh – ret,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der Geist hilft un – ser
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tr
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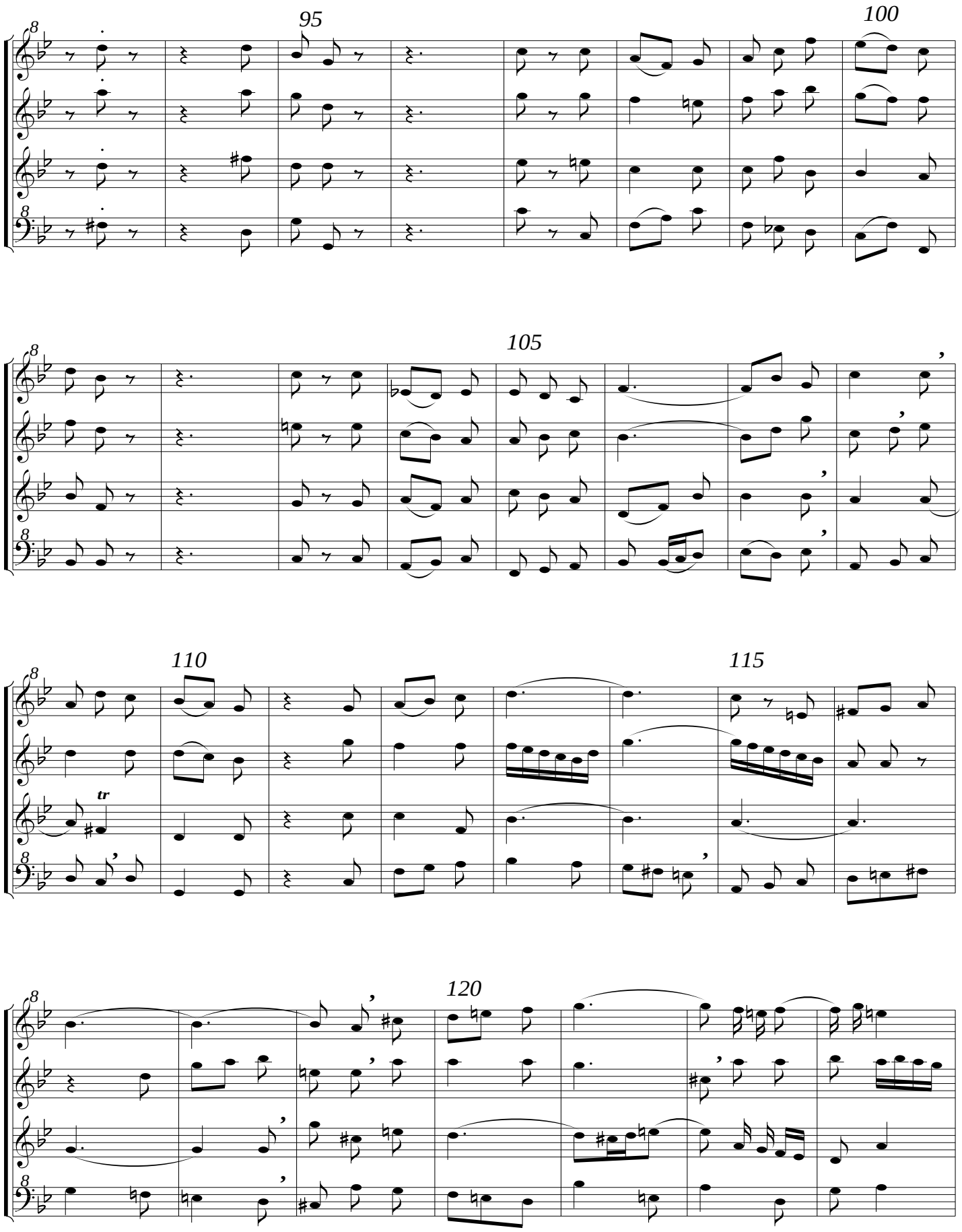
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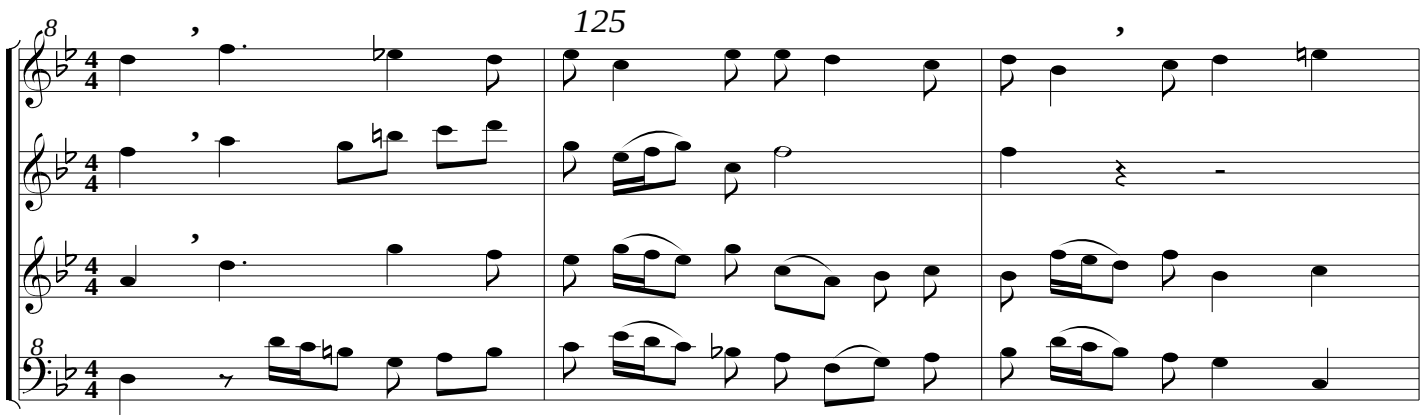
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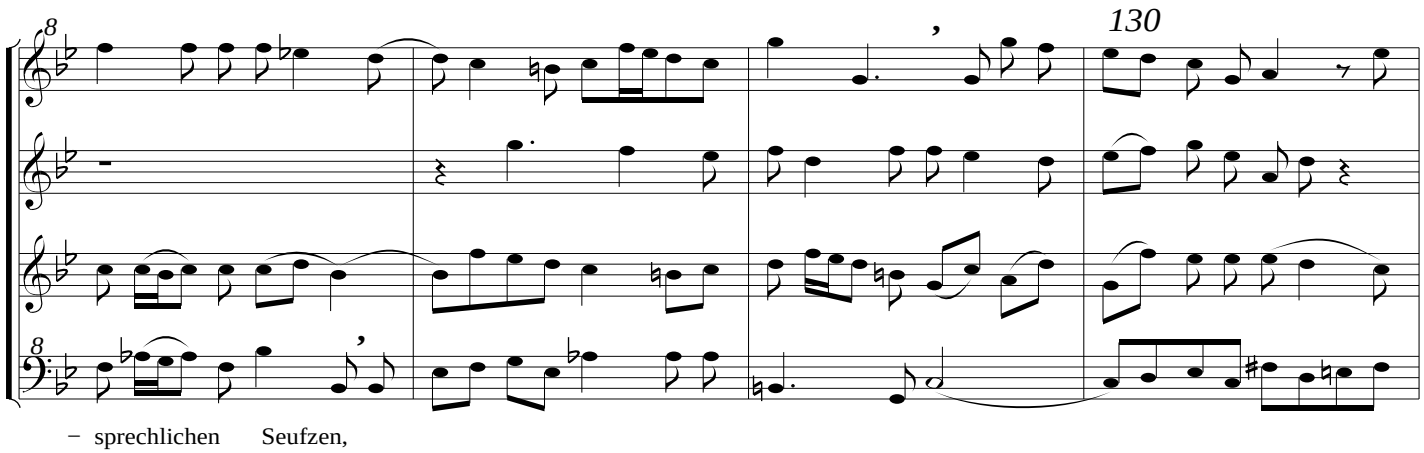
son − dern der Geist selbst vertritt uns aufs beste mit un − aus −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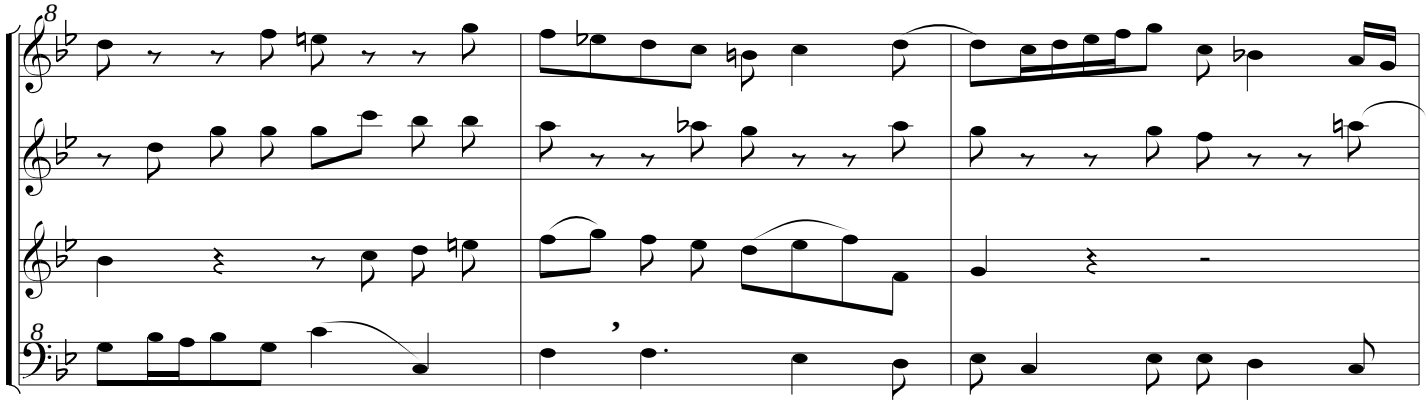
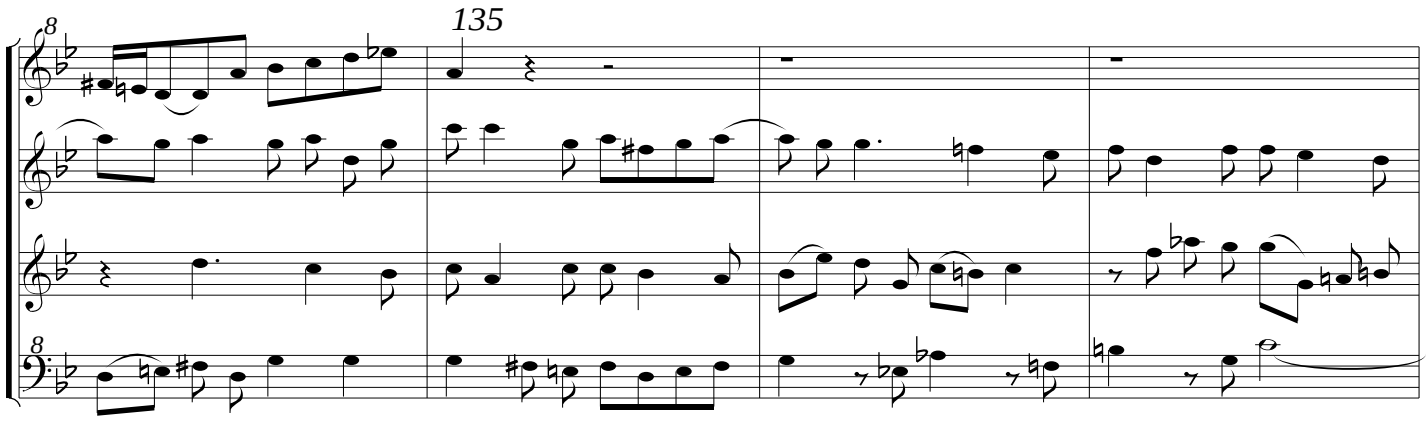
− sprechlichen Seufzen,

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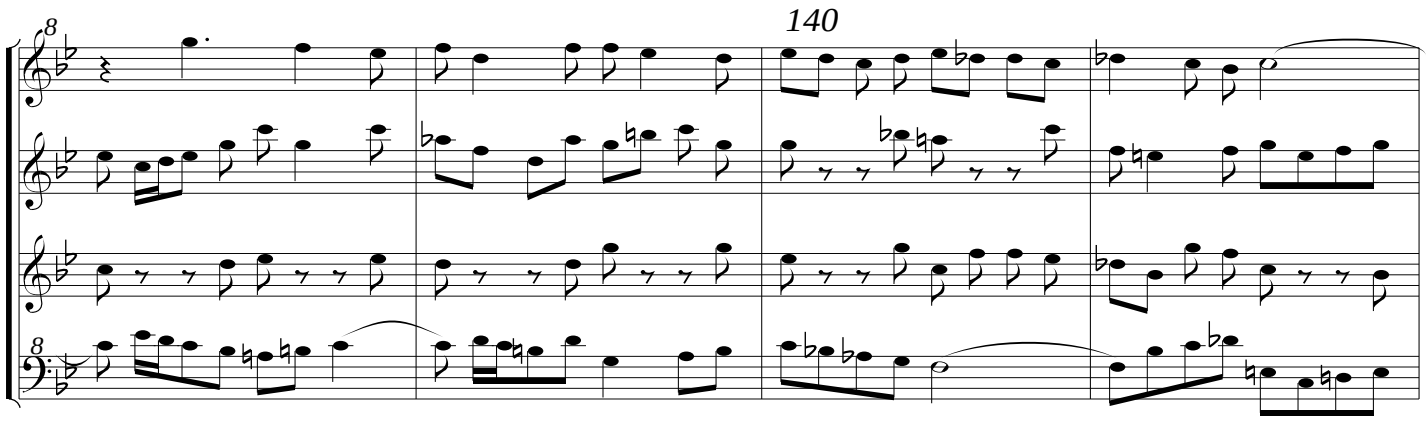
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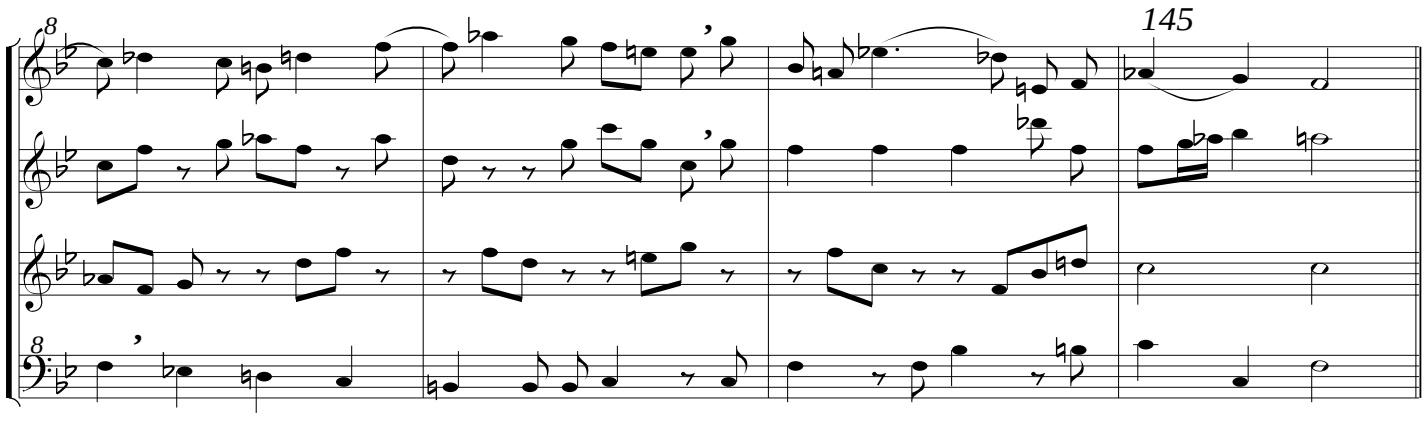
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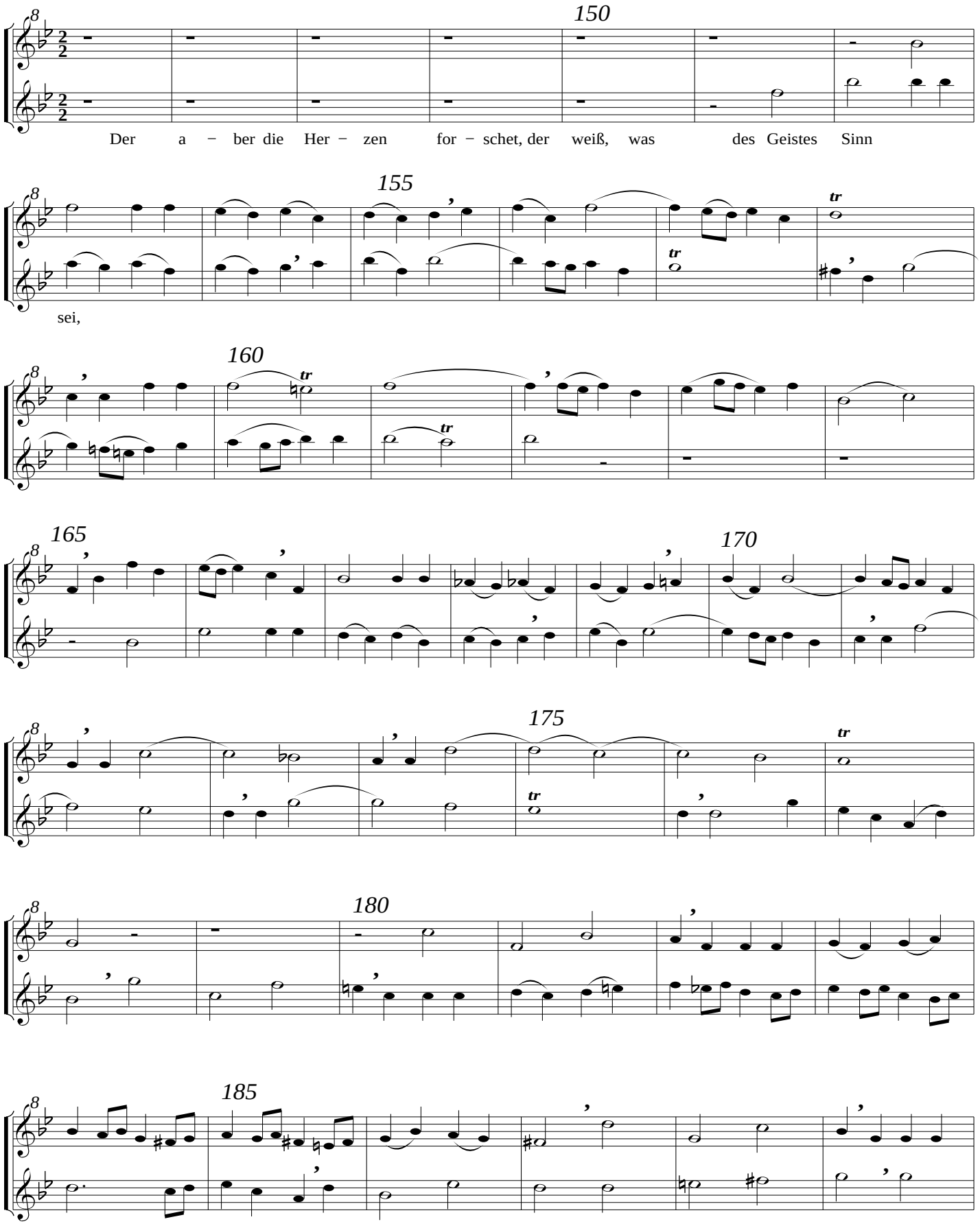
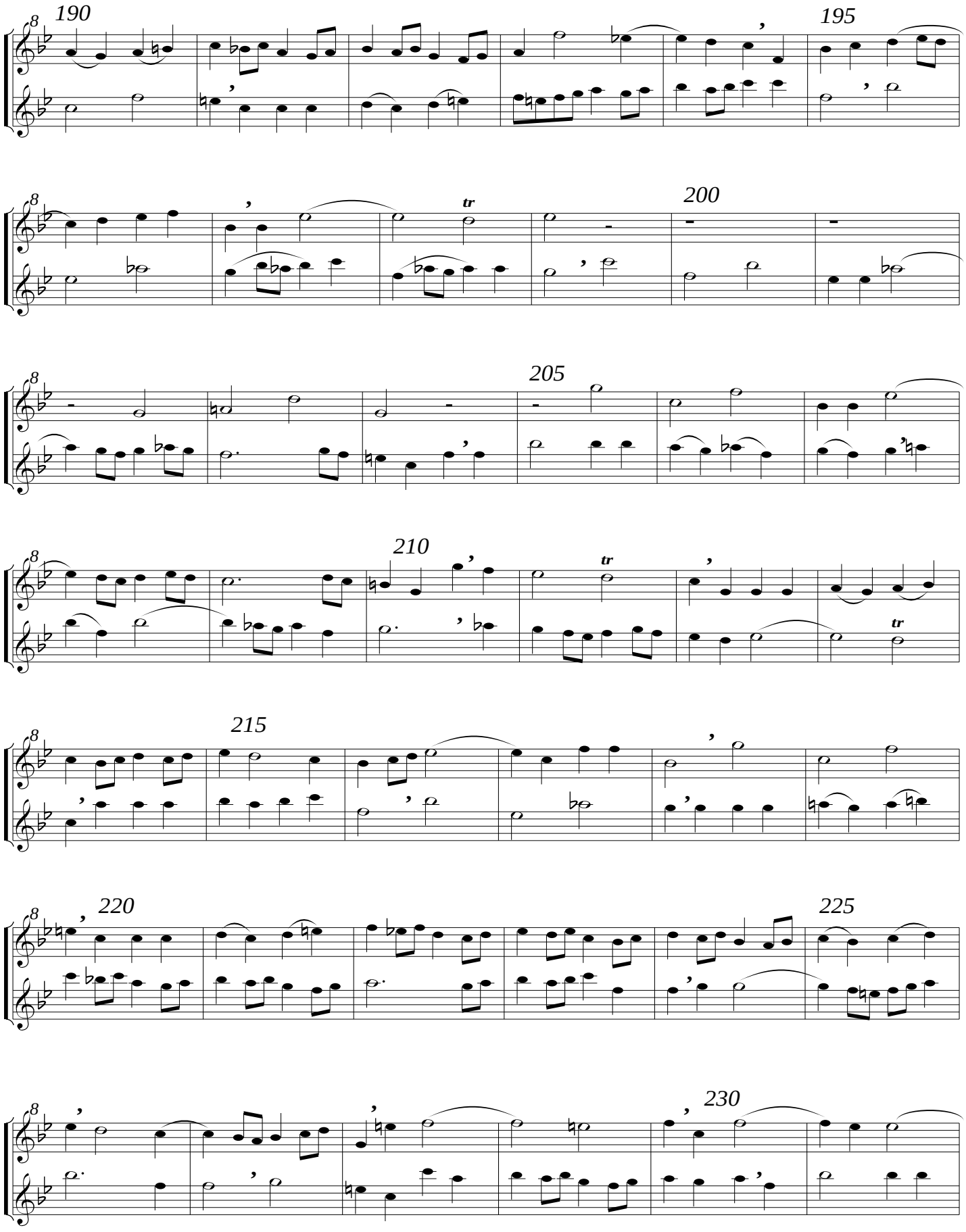
Soprano and Alto part, Der Geist hilft unser Schwacheit auf

2. Allabreve: Der aber die Herzen forschet

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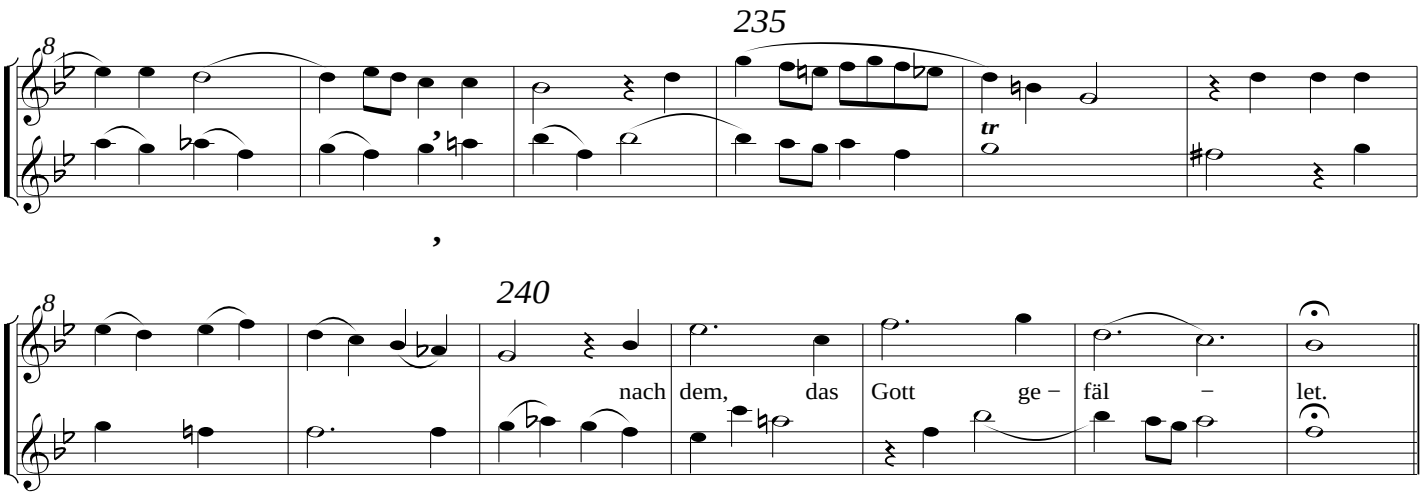
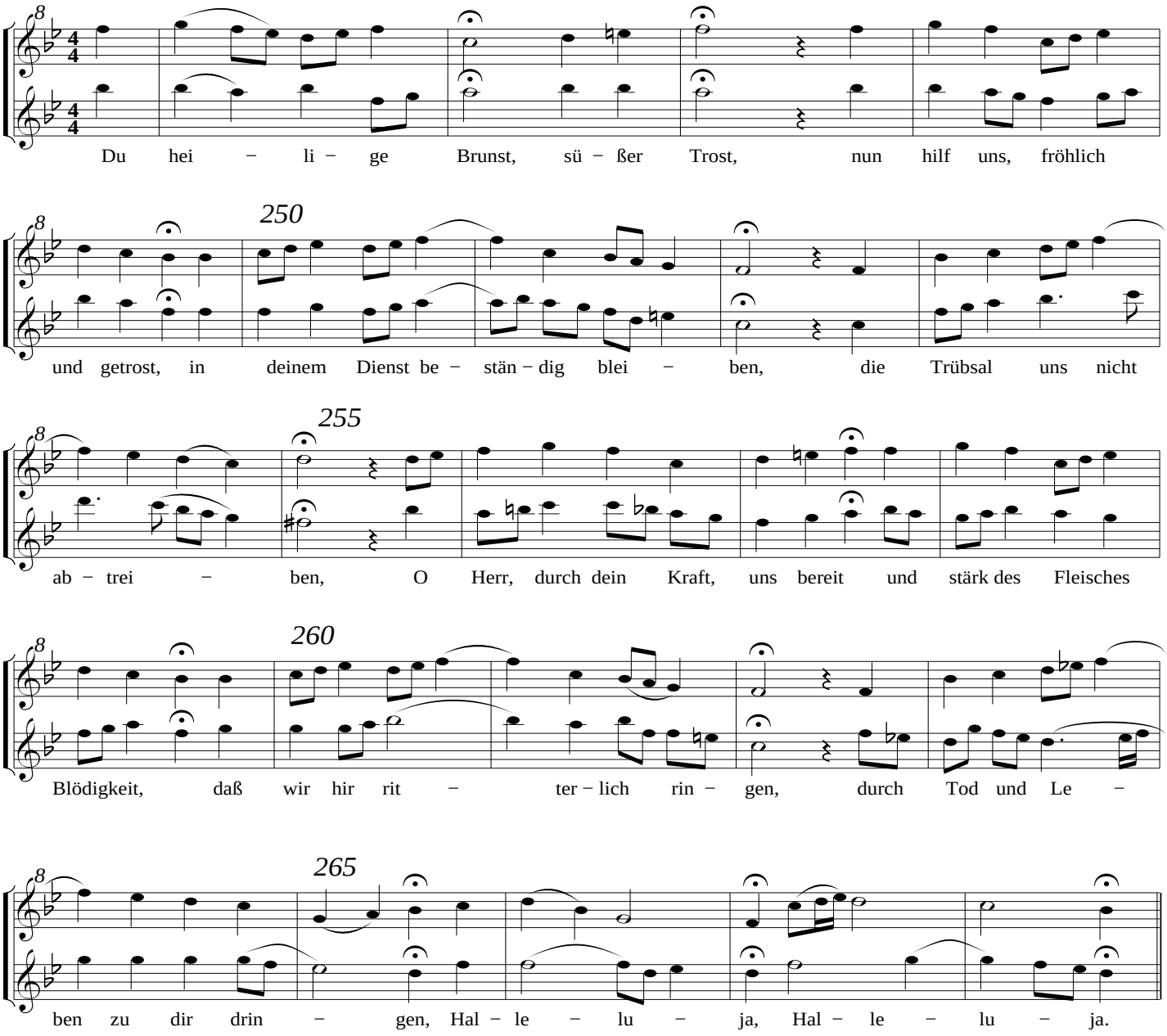
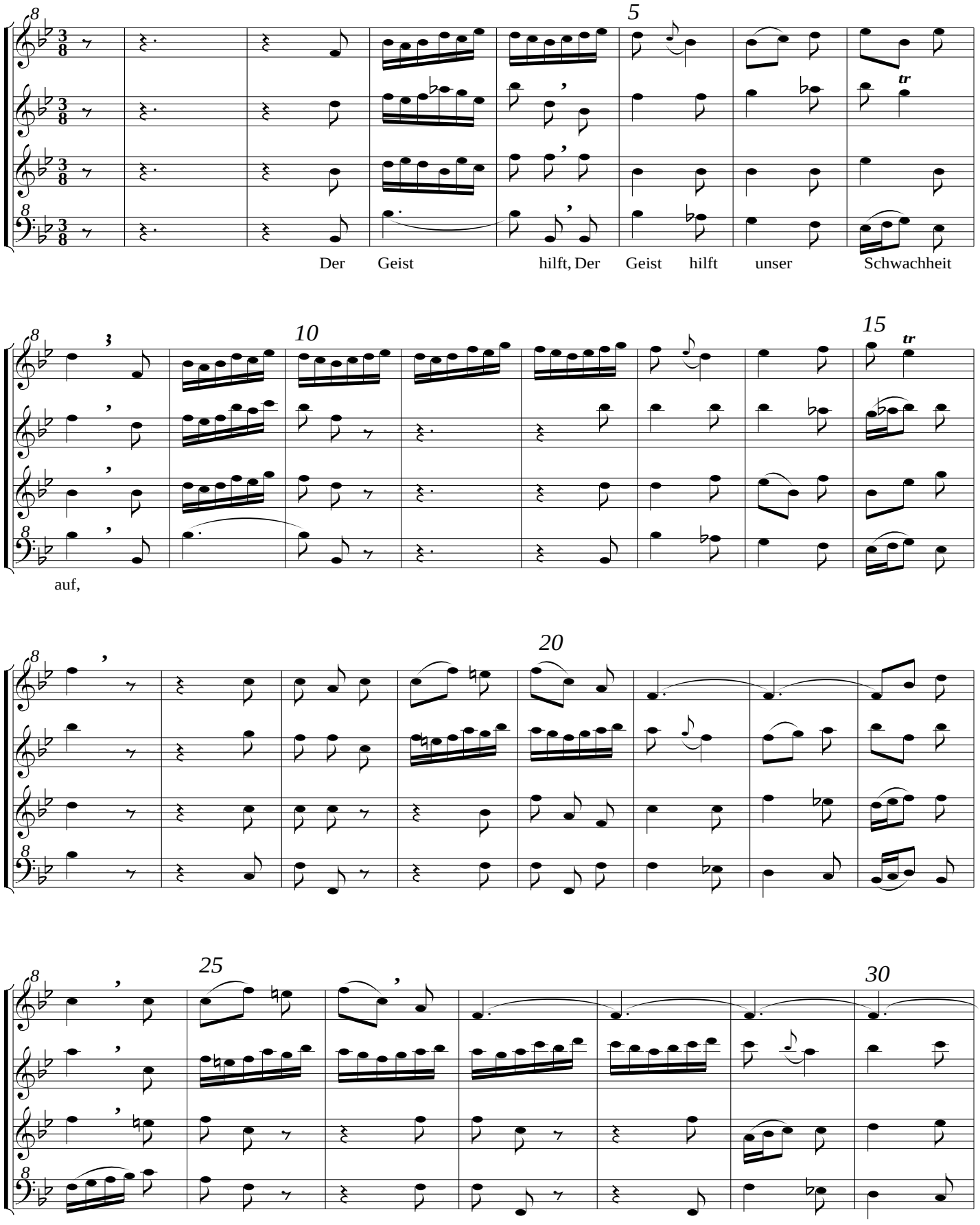


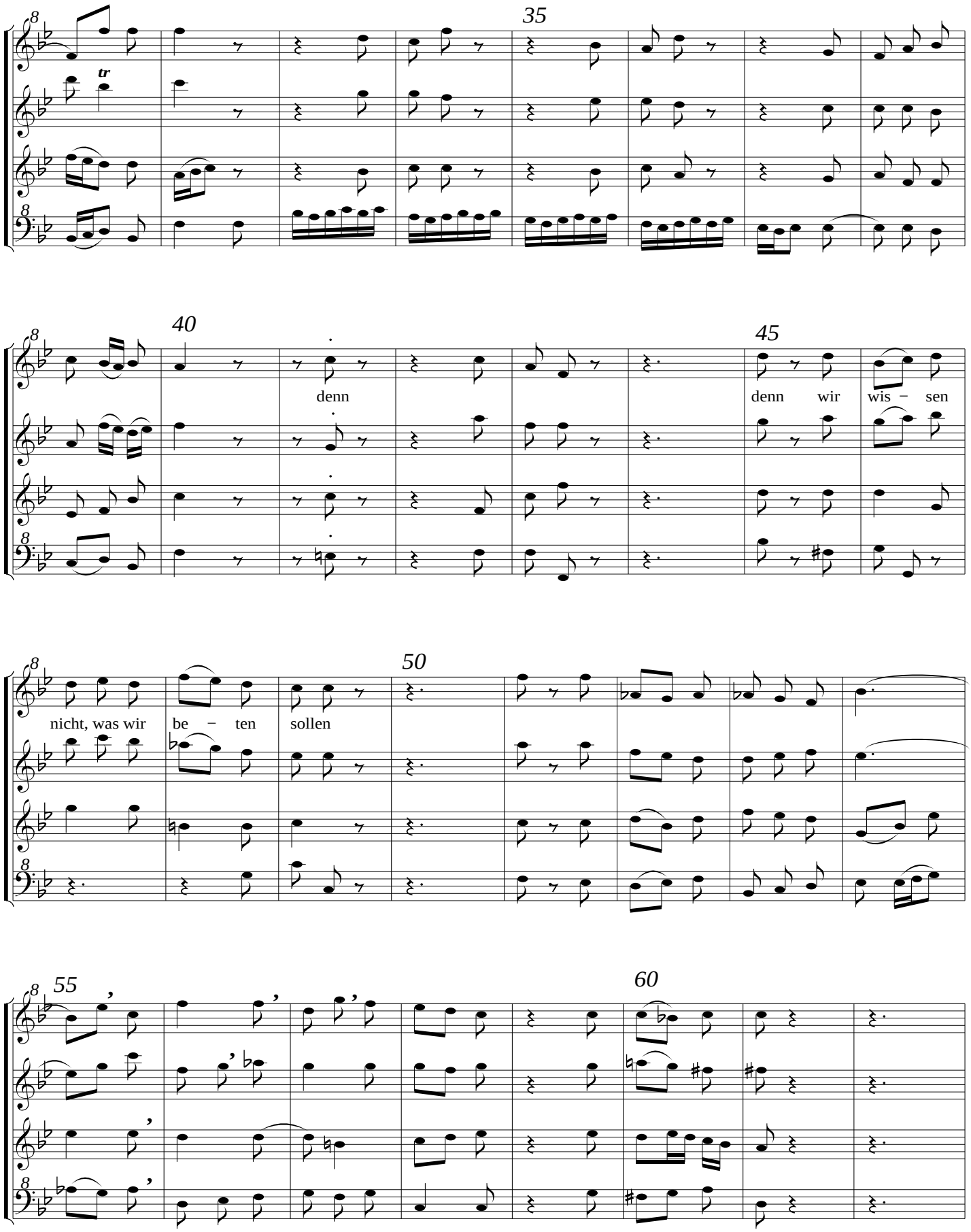
3. Choral: Du heilige Brunst

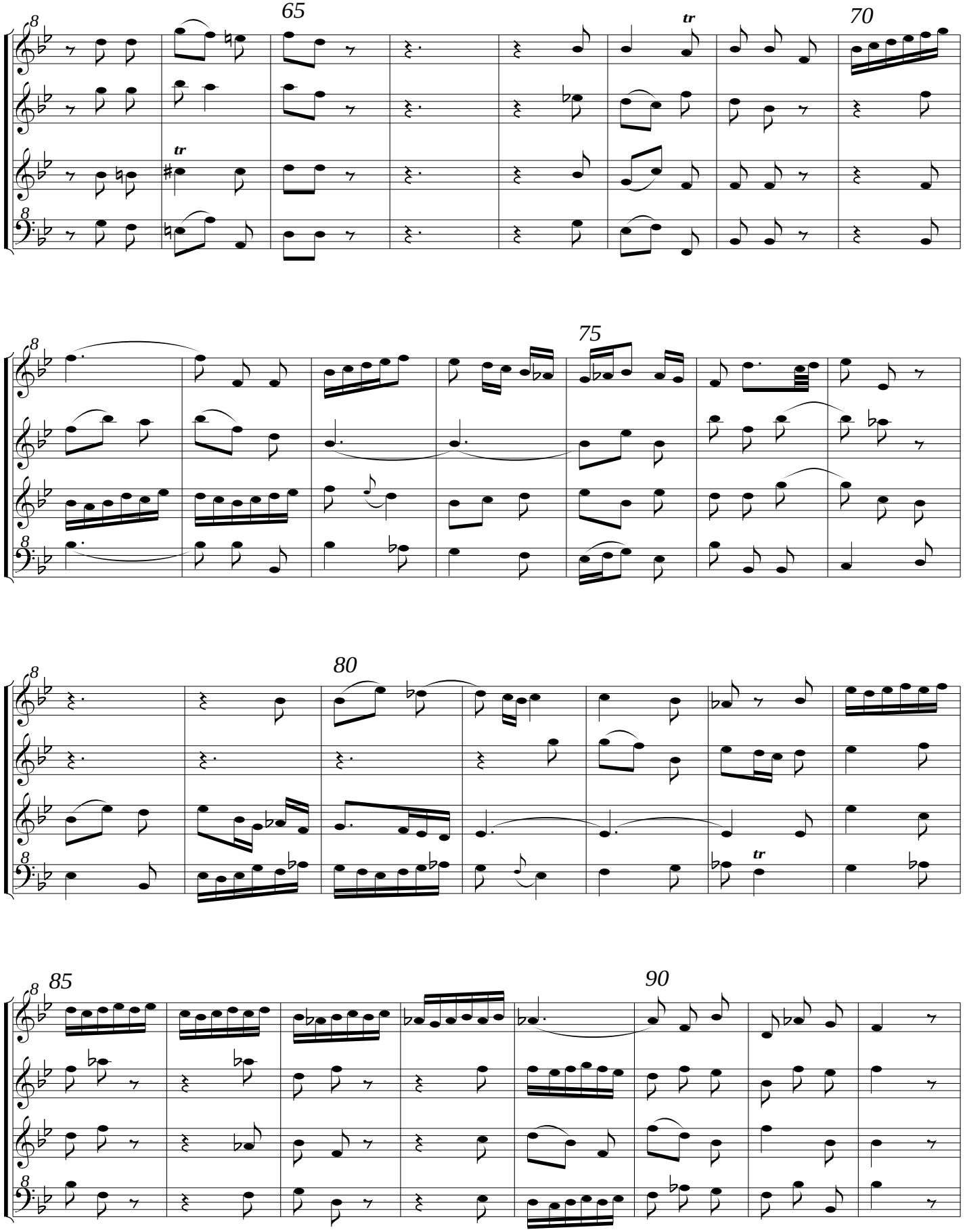


Choir 2 part, Der Geist hilft unser Schwacheit auf

1. Der Geist hilft unser Schwacheit auf




35
40
denn
45
denn wir wis – sen
50
nicht, was wir be – ten sollen
55
60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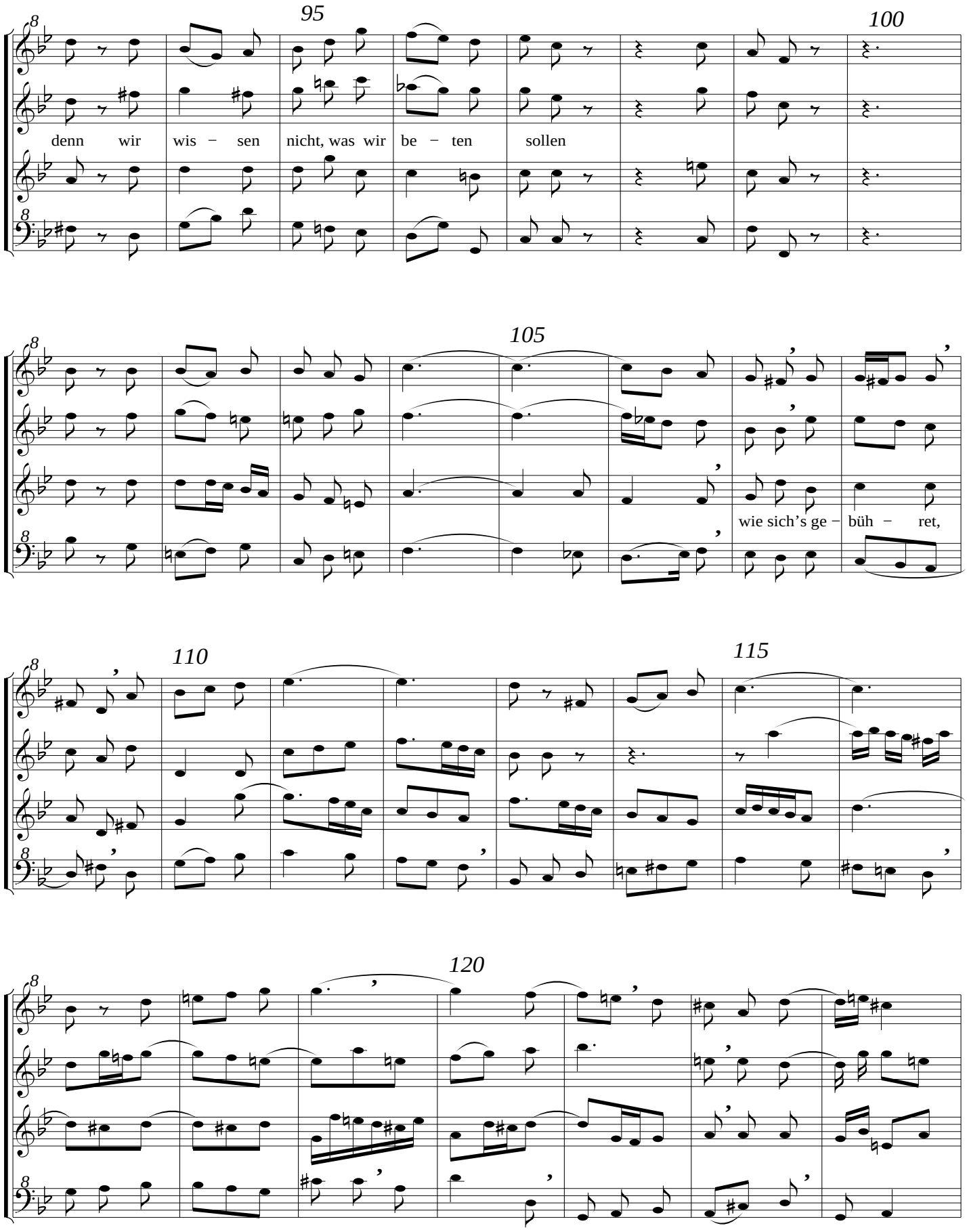
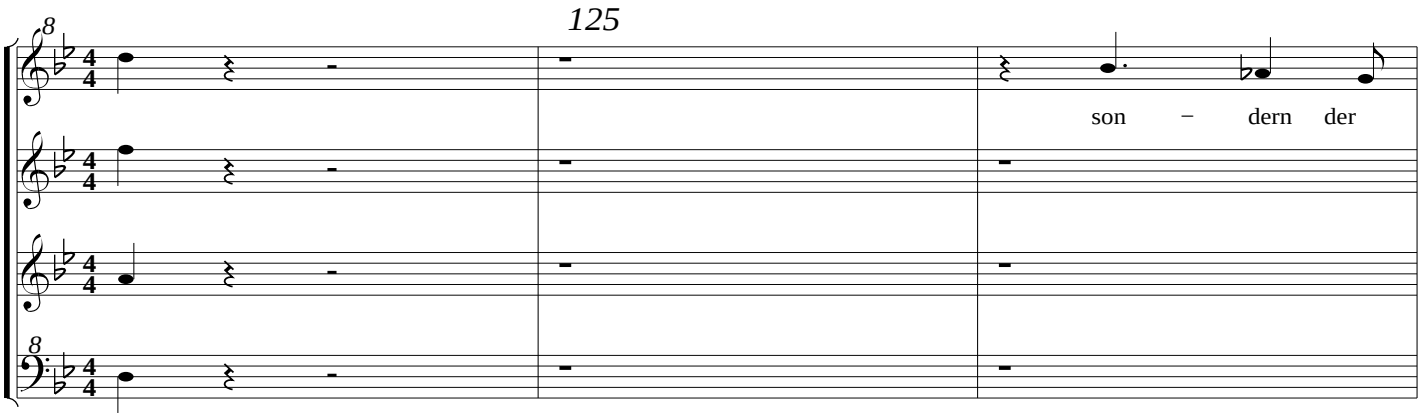

95
100
denn wir wis – sen nicht, was wir be – ten sollen
105
wie sich's ge – büh – ret,
110
115
120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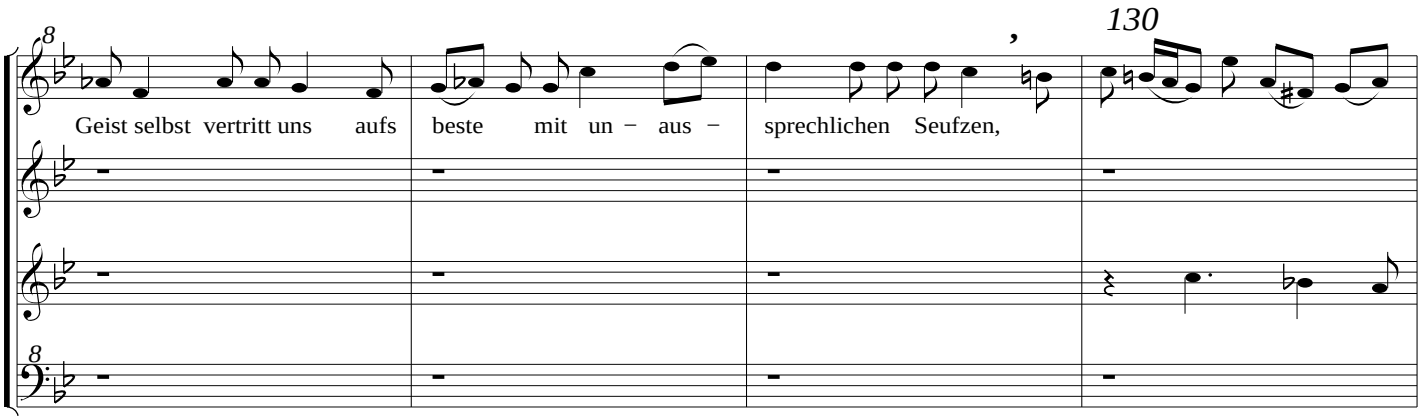
son – dern der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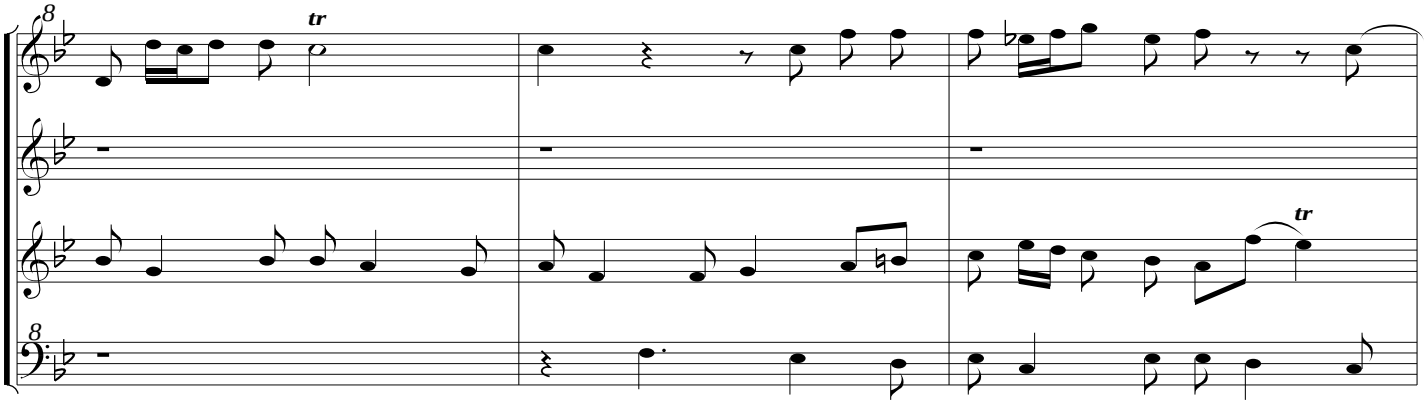
Geist selbst vertritt uns aufs beste mit un – aus – sprechlichen Seufzen,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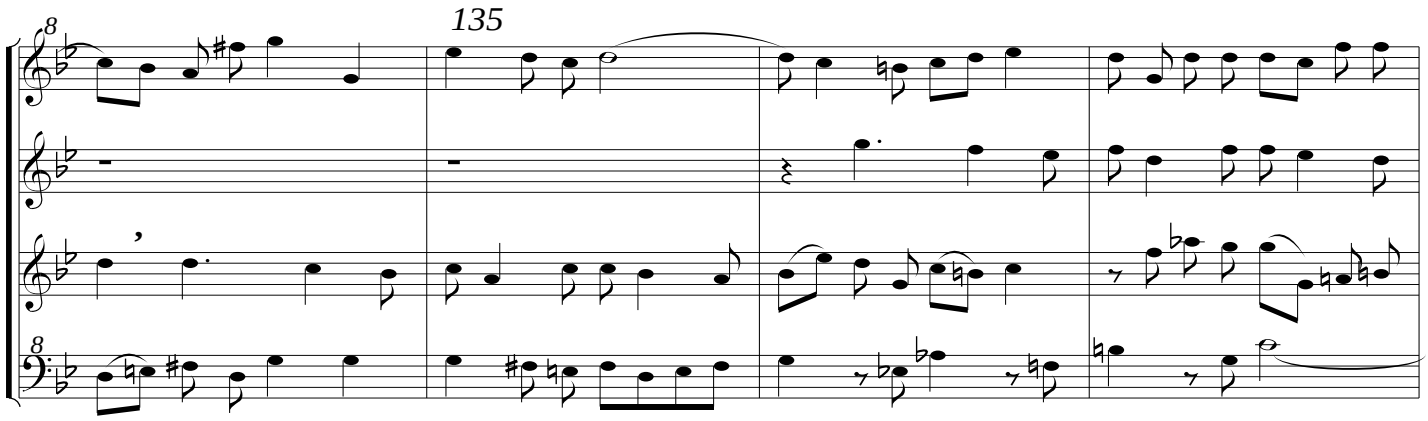
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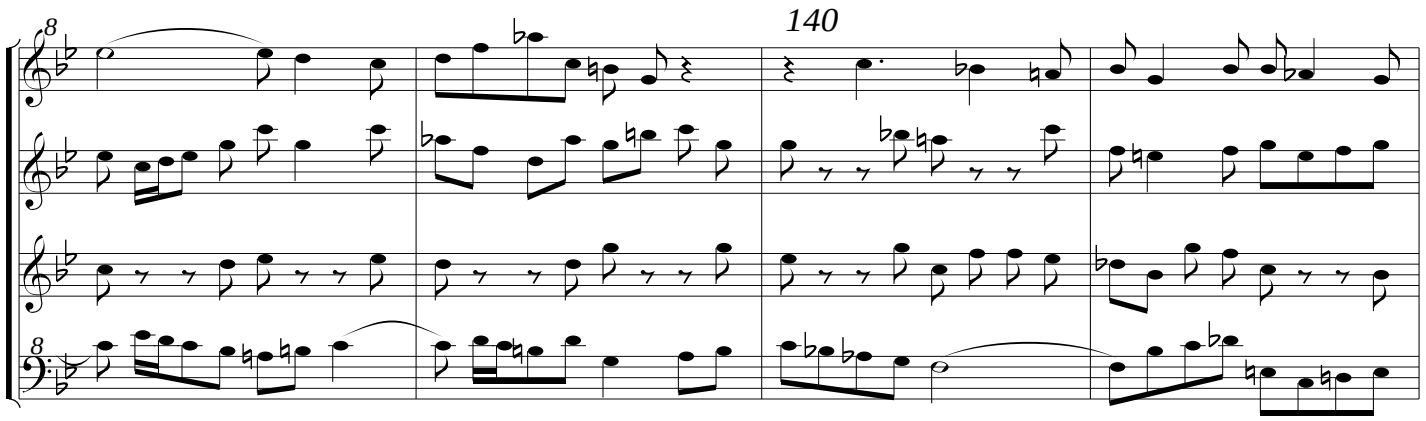
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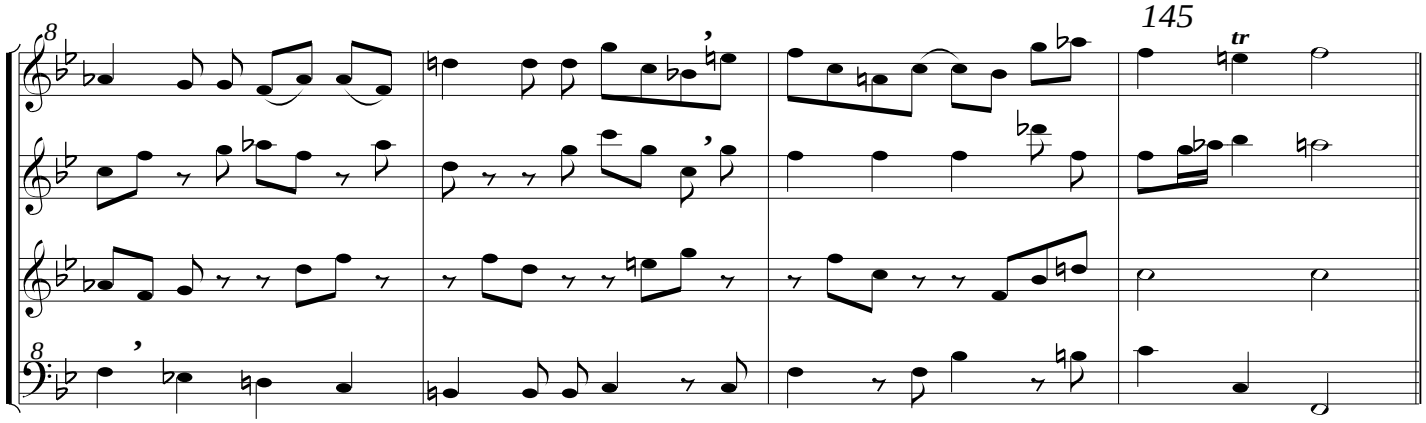
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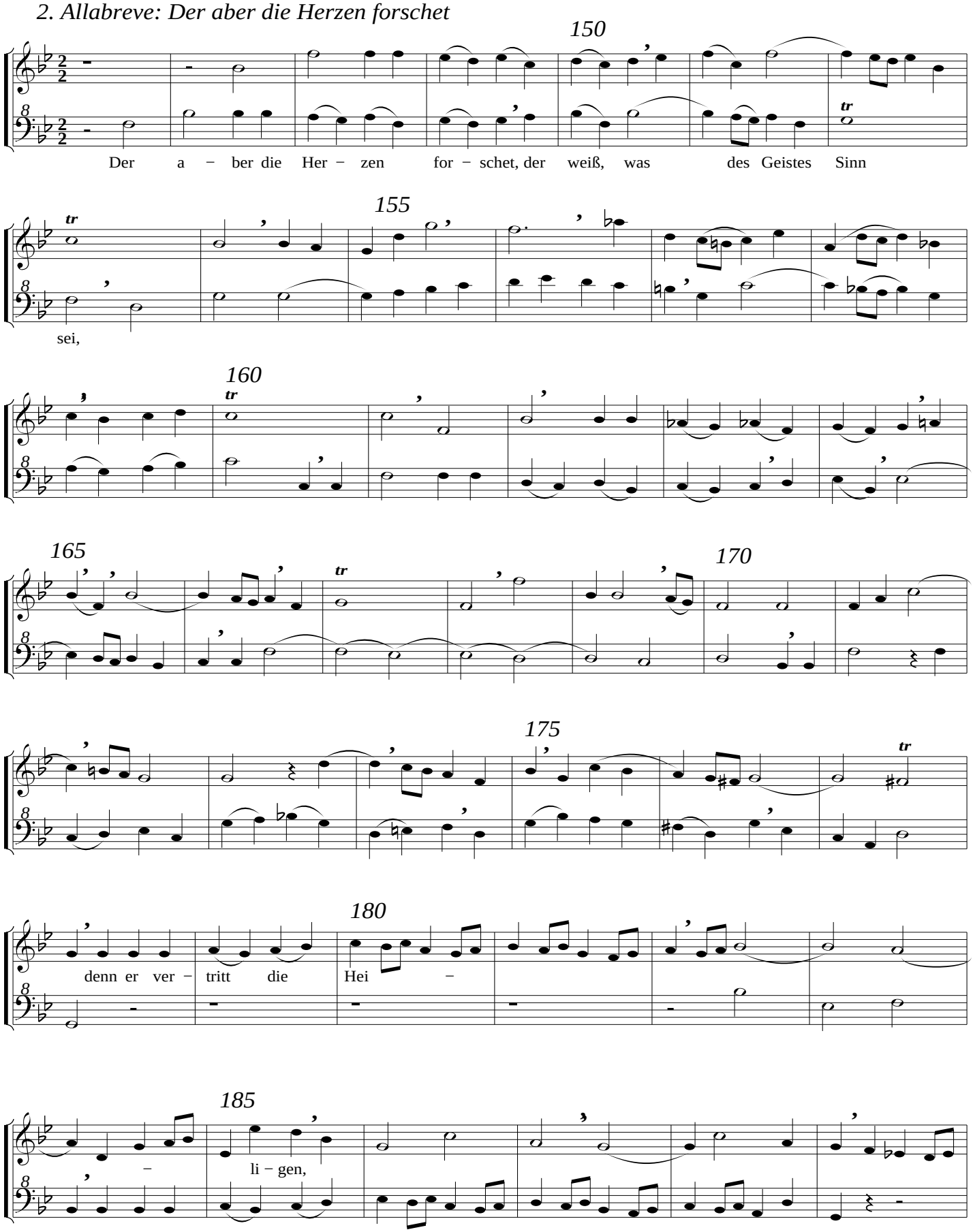
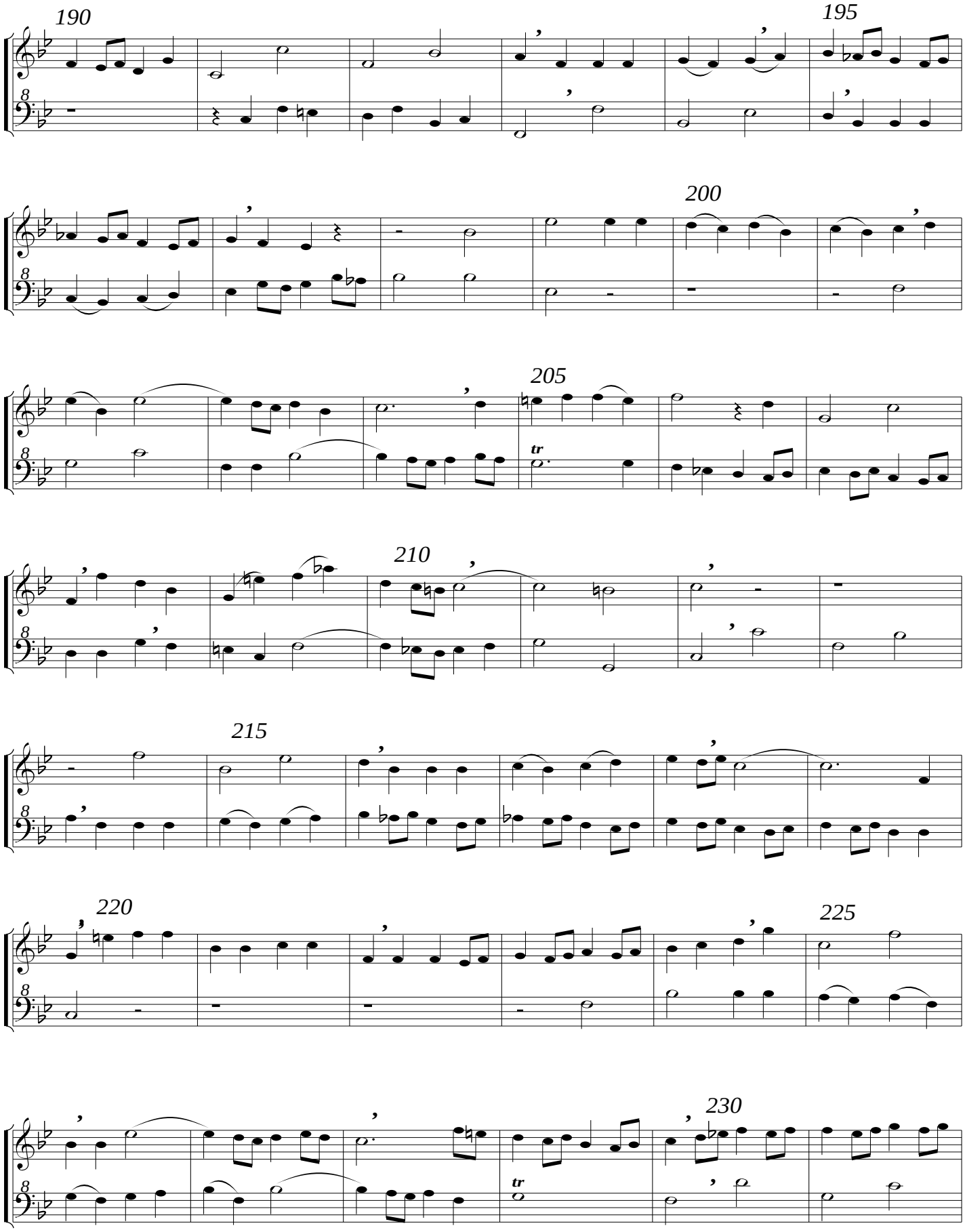
Tenor and Bass part, Der Geist hilft unser Schwacheit auf

2. Allabreve: Der aber die Herzen forschet

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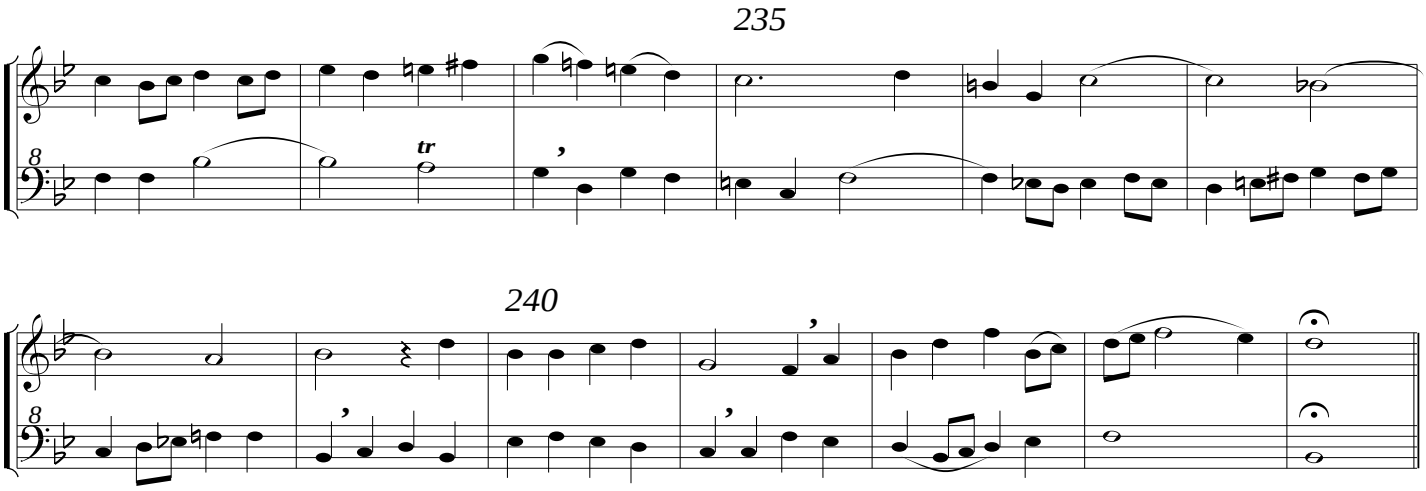
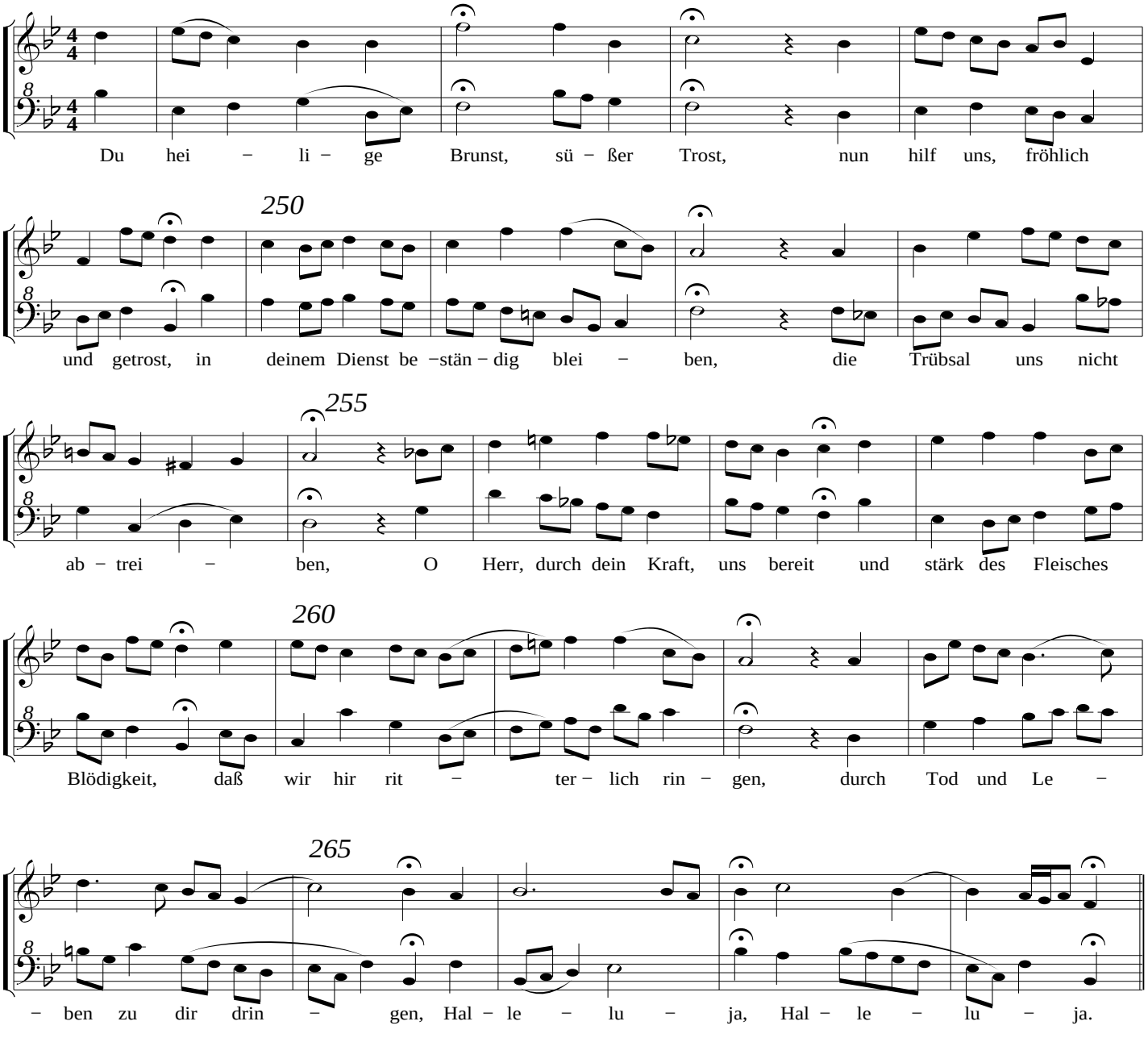


3. Choral: Du heilige Brunst



Peter Billam was born in London in 1948, studied piano, and lived in Switzerland from 1973 to 1983, where he studied composition, classical guitar, flute and voice, worked as Musical Director of the *Théâtre Populaire Romand*, and as recording engineer, record producer and computer programmer. He moved to Tasmania in 1983, lectured in composition at the Conservatorium, conducted recorder ensembles and choirs, studied recorder, voice and harpsichord. He founded **www.pjb.com.au**, becoming the first composer to sell scores on-line, with on-line delivery, taking scores from Composer to Performer in one immediate step. *Www.pjb.com.au* offers a new approach to music publishing. These pieces are **written to be read, made to be played !**

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Arrangements include: By J. S. Bach: *Trio BWV 655*, piano and flute; *Vor deinen Thron BWV 668*, piano; *Fugue in F minor BWV 689*, SATB recorders; *Flute Sonata BWV 1031* transposed into G major for alto recorder and keyboard; *Flute Sonata BWV 1032* completed by Peter Billam for flute and keyboard, also in C major for alto recorder, and in G major for descant; *Ricercare a 3, from the Musikalisches Opfer* for keyboard; *Ricercare a 6*, for sSATBG recorders, or strings, or two keyboards; *Fuga Canonica in Epidiapente* for keyboard and melody instrument; from the *Art of Fugue*: *Contrapuncti 1* and *4* for keyboard, and *Contrapunctus 14* as completed by D. F. Tovey, for keyboard, or for SATB recorders, or for strings; *Passacaglia and Fugue in c* for piano four hands; *Chorales with Descant* for melody instrument and piano; *Cello Suites I*, *II* and *III* for flute or alto recorder, *Forty Chorales* for piano, *Der Geist hilft* for SATB-SATB recorders. By Johannes Brahms: *Fugue in Ab minor for organ*, for SATB recorders and gamba, in A minor; *Choralvorspiele for organ* with previous settings by Isaac, Bach, Praetorius, recorders. By Franz Schubert: *Four Songs*, voice and guitar; *Schubert Dances*, recorders and guitar, *Schubert Dances*, piano 4 hands. By G. F. Händel: *Concerto Grosso in A minor* op 6 no 4, harpsichord and recorders; *Recorder Sonata in Bb* no 5, in G for tenor recorder and keyboard. By other composers: *Claudio Monteverdi, Ecco Mormorar l'Onde*, SSATB recorders; *Twelve Italian Songs*, voice and guitar; *John Wilbye, Draw on sweet Night*, SSATTB recorders, and for flute choir; *Telemann, Twelve Flute Fantasias*, recorder; *John Carr, Divisions on an Italian Ground*, flute or recorder and guitar; *Fourteen Folk Dance Tunes*, recorder and guitar; *Easy Classical Pieces*, Bb trumpet and piano.

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