Trio super
Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend

J. S. Bach

BWV 655, No. 5 of the Eighteen Chorales for Organ

Arranged by Peter Billam

For Flute and Piano

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Johann Sebastian Bach probably wrote the *Great Eighteen Chorales*, soon after 1708, when he moved to Weimar. He then revised them, during the years 1739-1742 and 1746-1747, while he was in Leipzig, and they are sometimes known as the *Eighteen Leipzig Chorales*. Both versions can be seen in the *Bach-Gesellschaft* edition, or reprinted in the *Dover* edition, and they confirm Forkel's observation "*comparing together many copies of his principal works, written in different years, I confess that I have often felt both surprise and delight at the means which he employed to make, little by little, the faulty good, the good better, and the better perfect . . . Even commonplace passages are frequently changed into the most elegant by changing, taking away, or adding a single note.*"

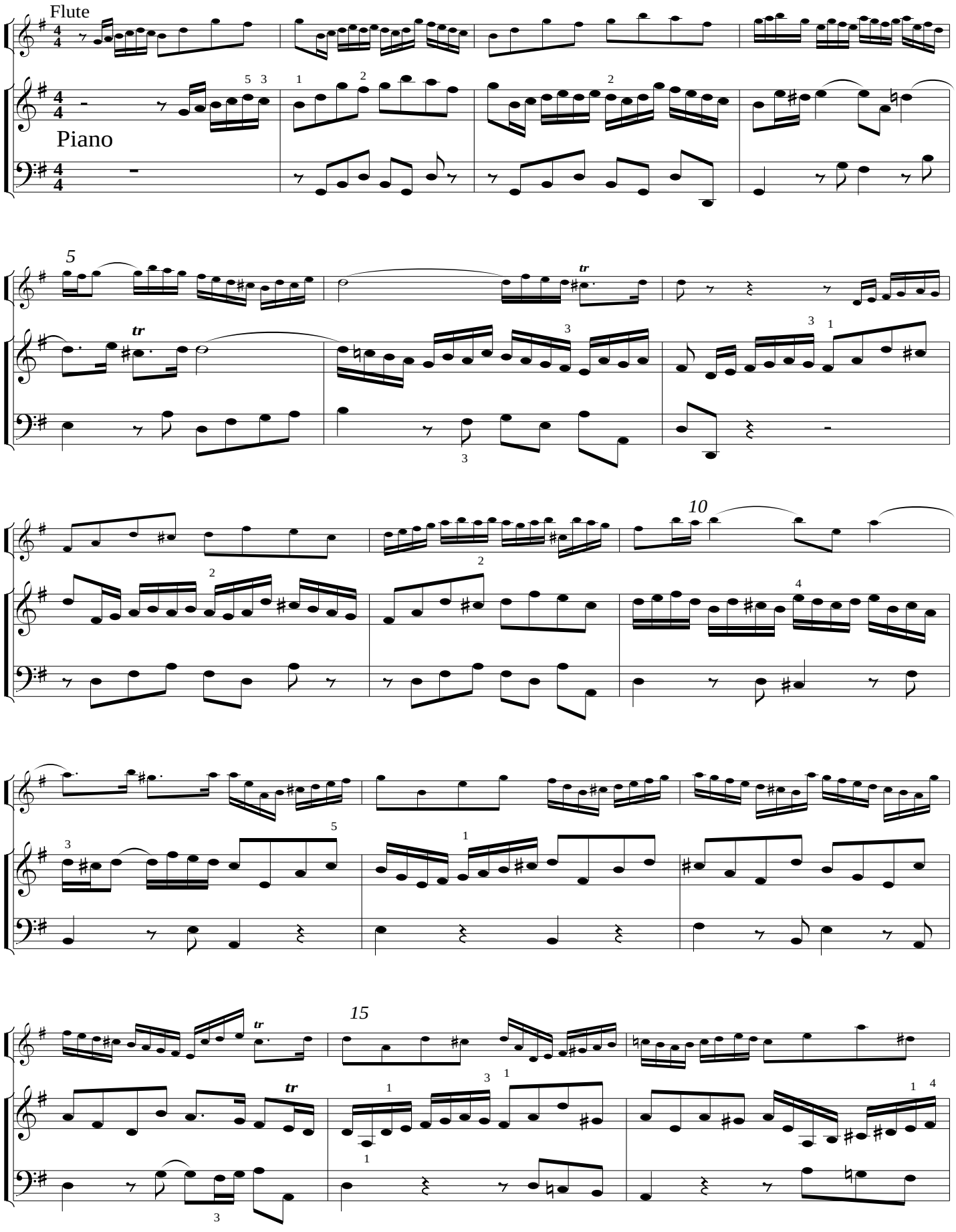
Number 5 of the *Eighteen Chorales* is a trio on the hymn-tune *Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend*, BWV 655. It fits particularly well onto flute and piano. The top two voices share the same register, and frequently cross, so they need different tone-colours. Just a few beats in bars 50 and 51 need to be exchanged between voices; if this arrangement is being played on violin and piano the original in small notes can be played. The running semiquaver scales are Bach's characteristic motif expressing happiness, as is the quaver rhythm in the bass, for example from bar 6 to bar 7.

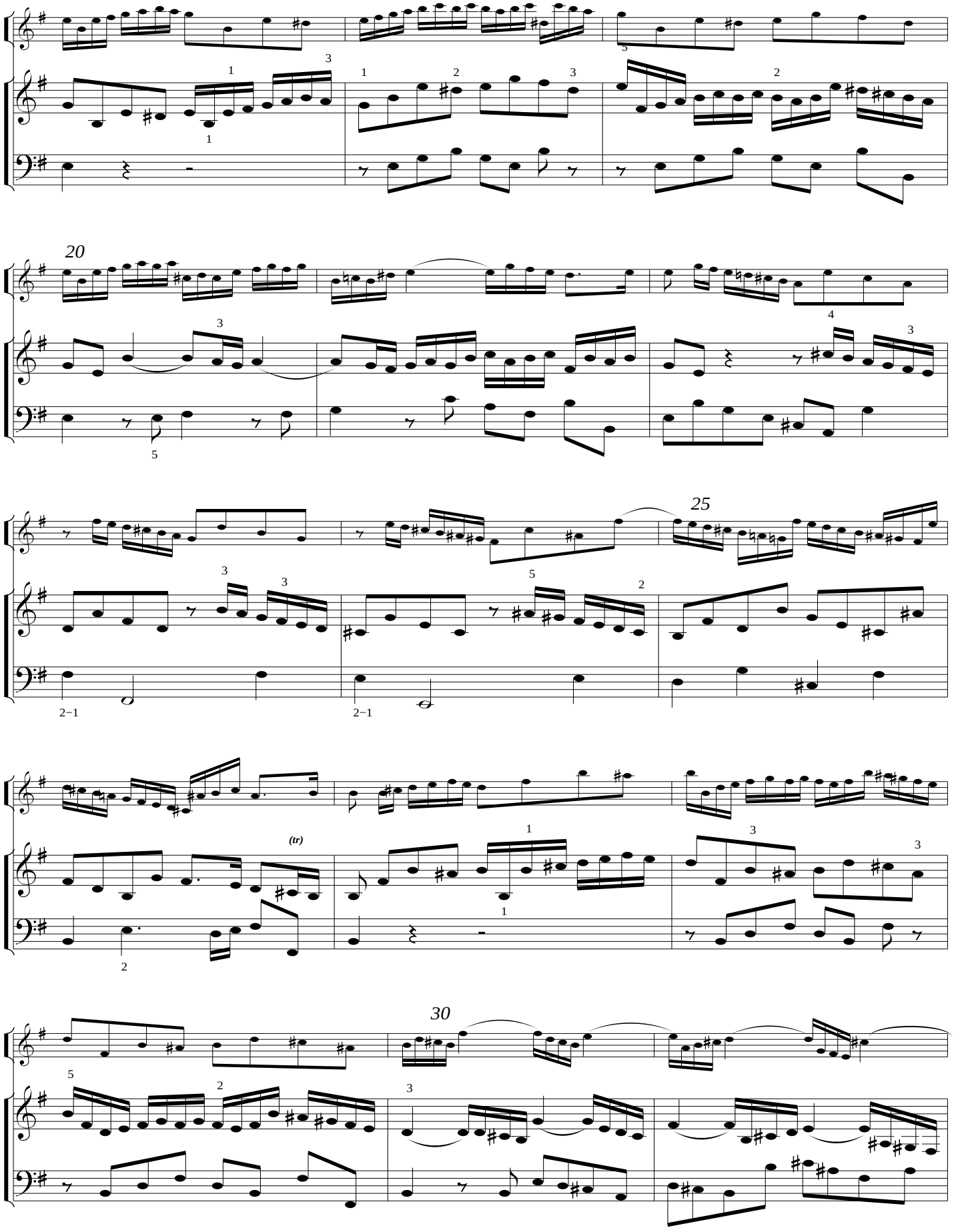
The flute trill in bar 62 should start from below, starting with **d e f# e**. For more practical performance, a separate piano part is supplied, with a convenient page turn. The piano fingering may be disregarded with a clear conscience. Bach's SATB setting of the hymn is included.

- *Johann Sebastian Bach*, Albert Schweizer, Breitkopf and Härtel
- *Johann Sebastian Bach*, Albert Schweizer, translated by Ernest Newmann, Dover
- *Johann Sebastian Bach Organ Music*, 1970, Dover Press
- *Johann Sebastian Bach*, Christoph Wolff, 2001, Oxford University Press
- *J. S. Bach, 388 Four-Part Chorales* edited by János Dobra, Editio Musica Budapest

Peter J Billam, www.pjb.com.au

Trio super Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend

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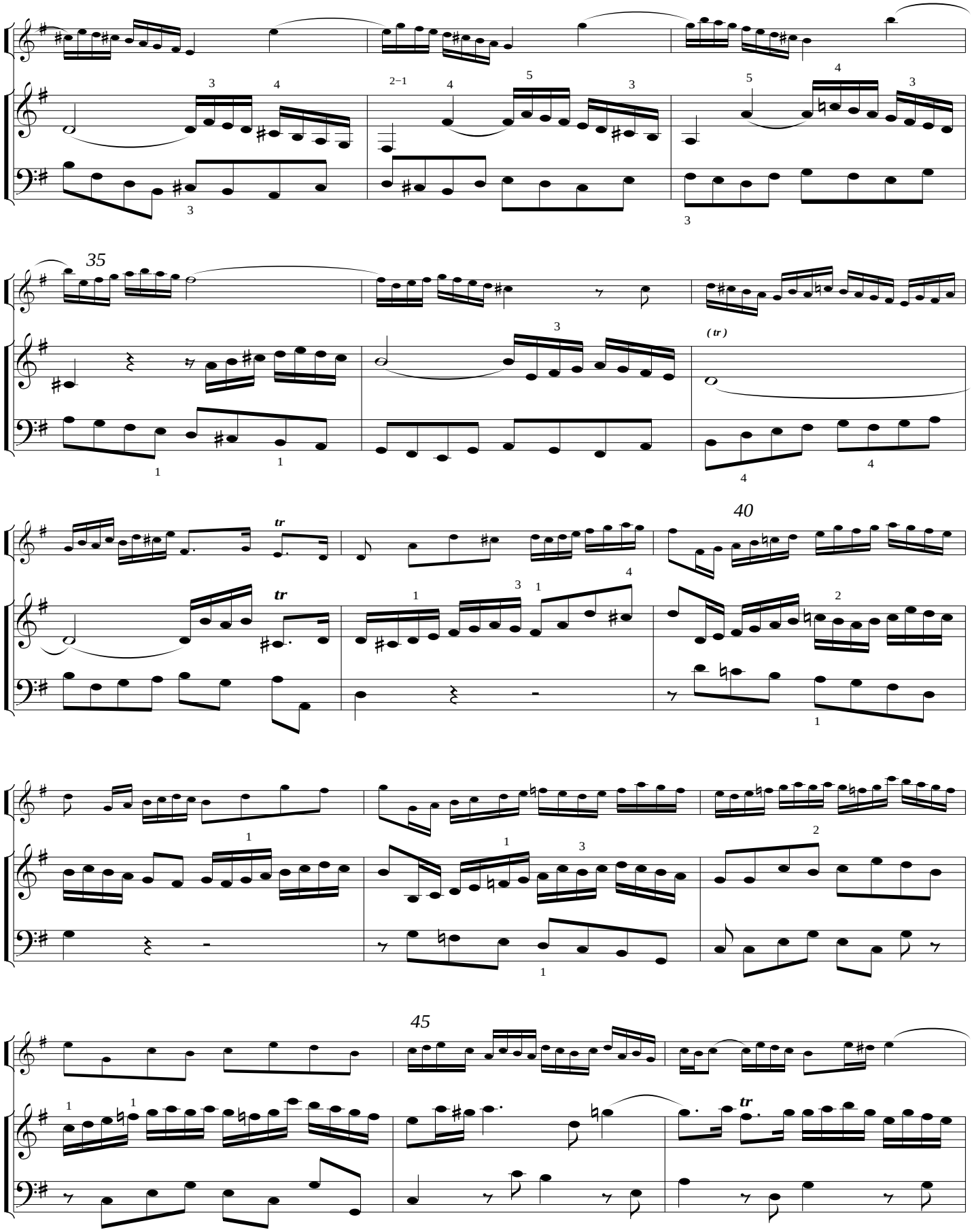
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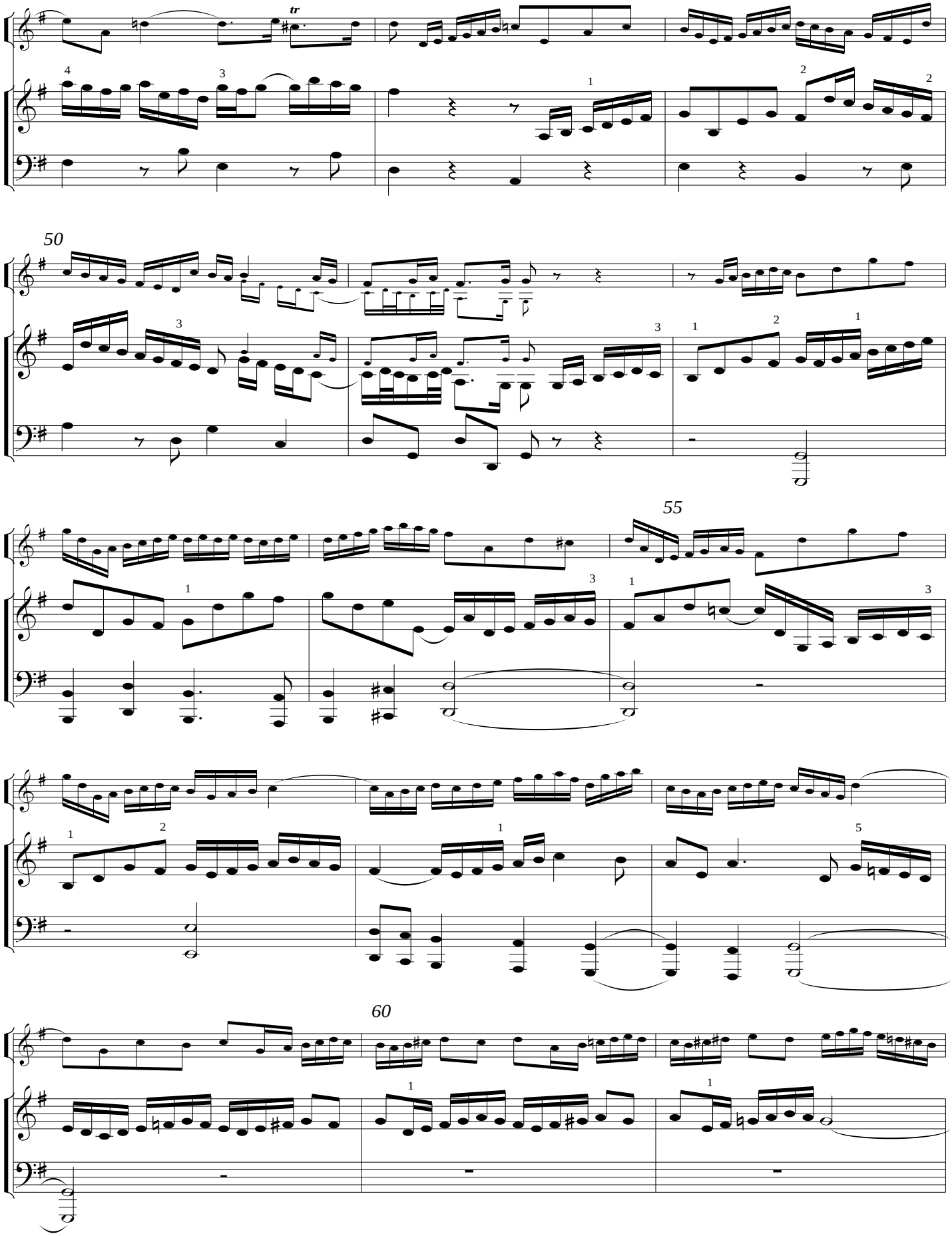
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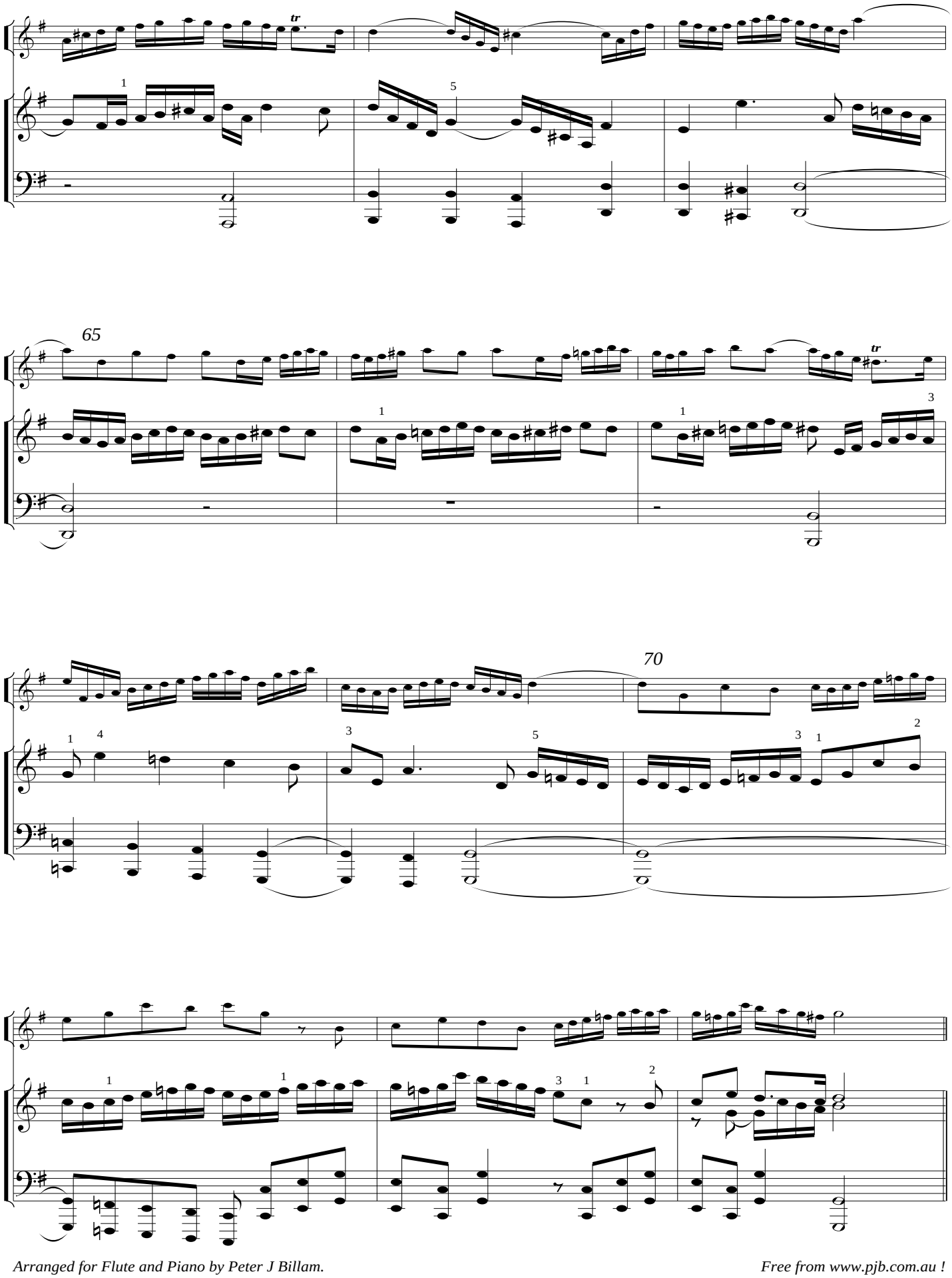
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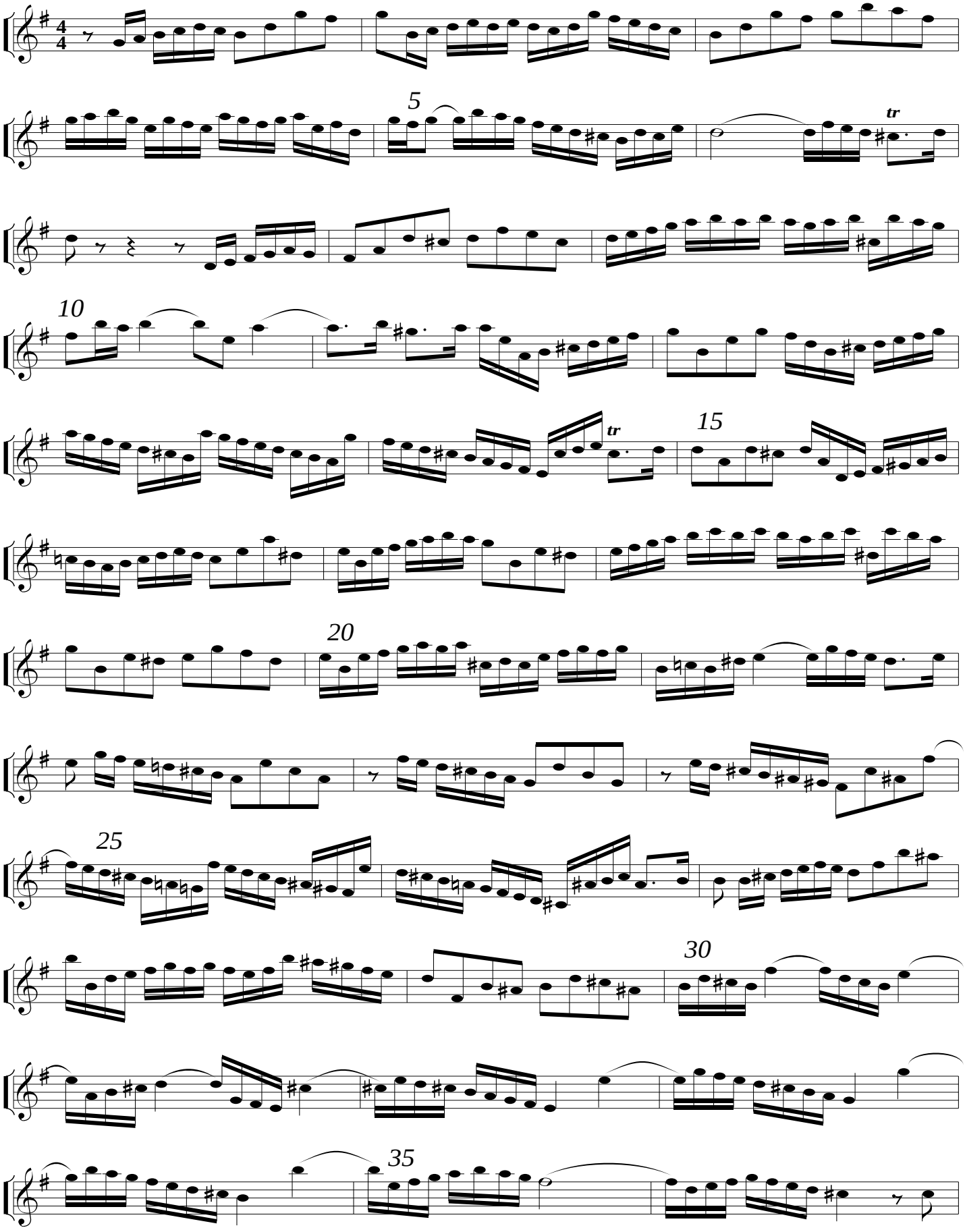
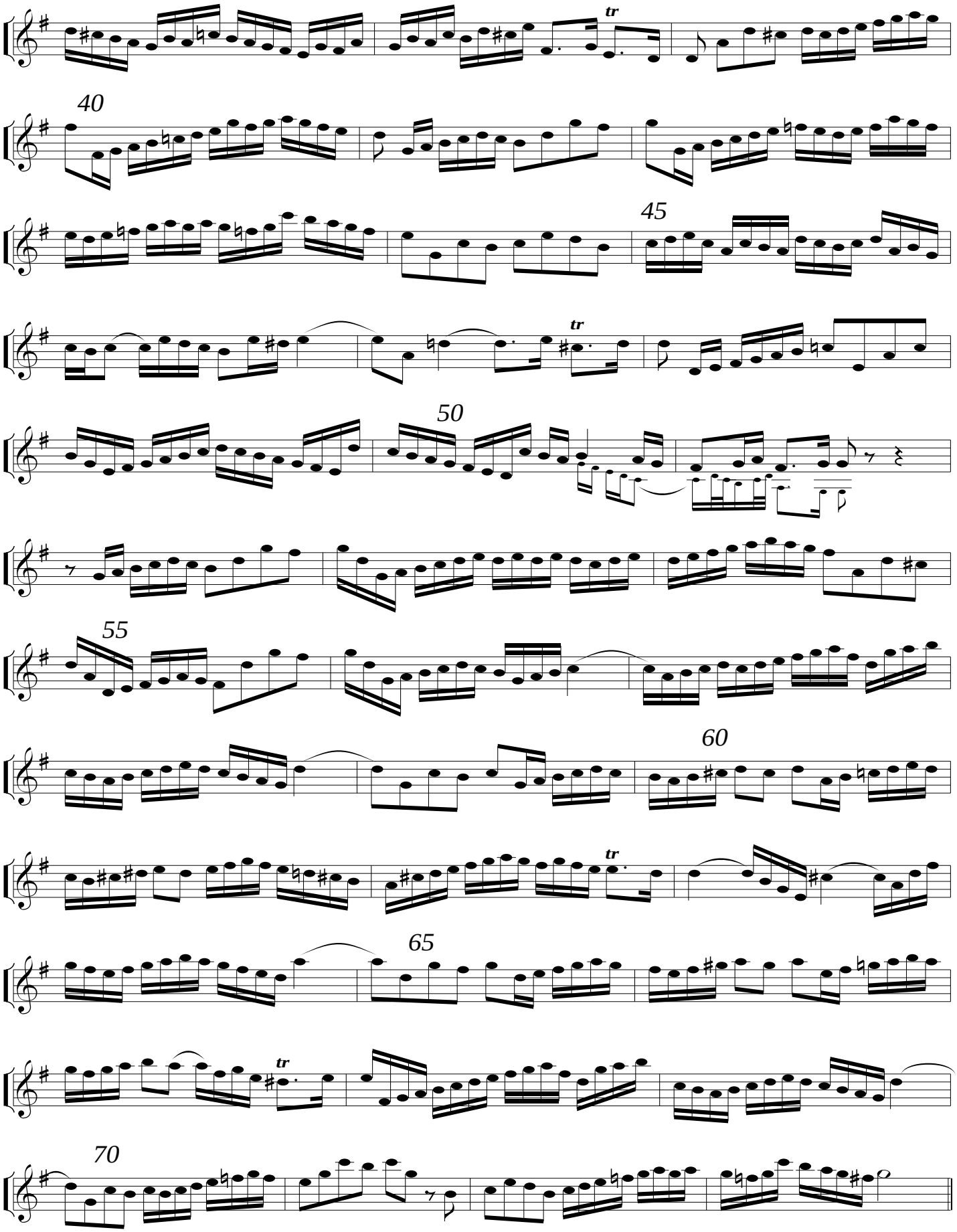
Johann S. Bach

Trio super Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend

Flute

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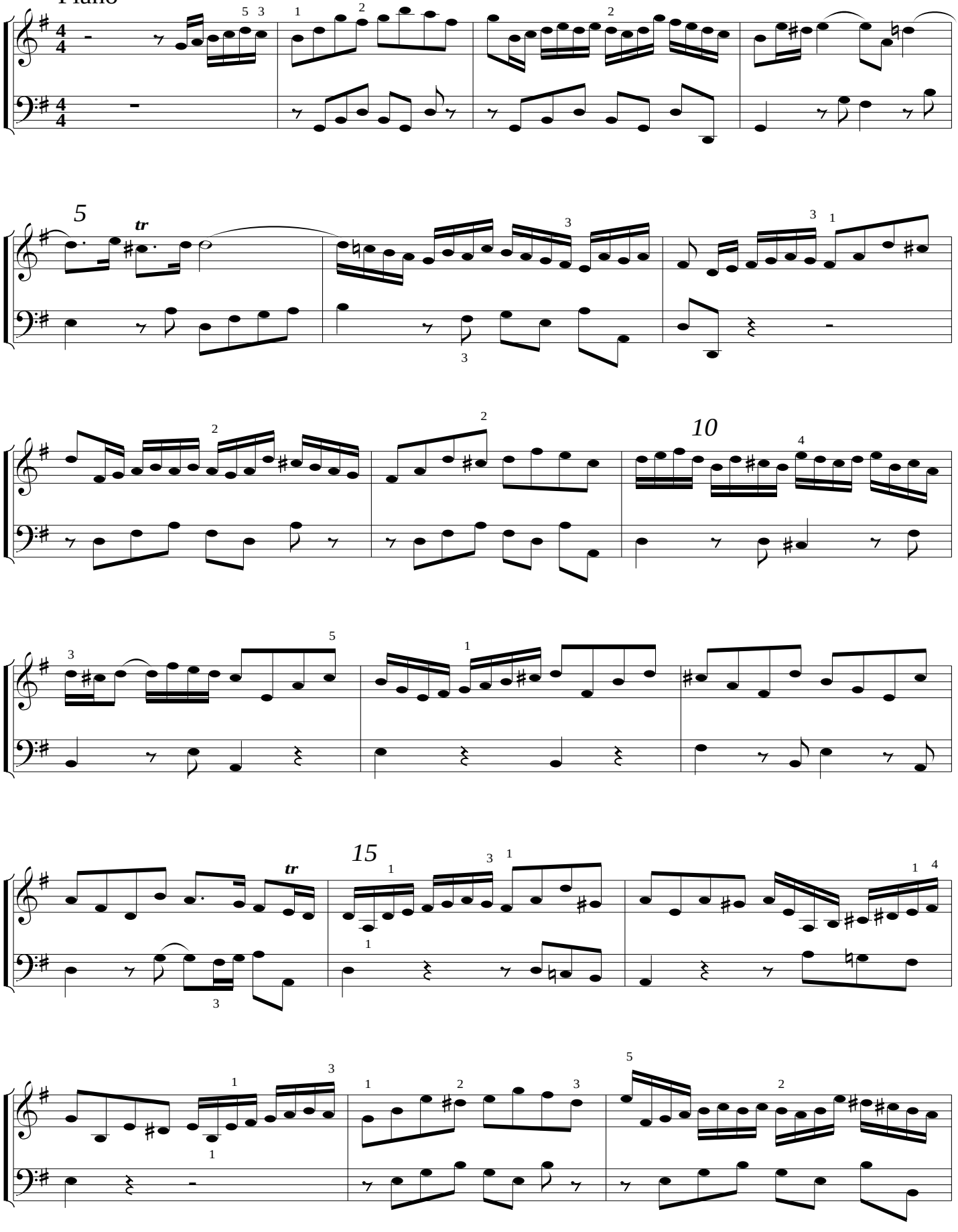
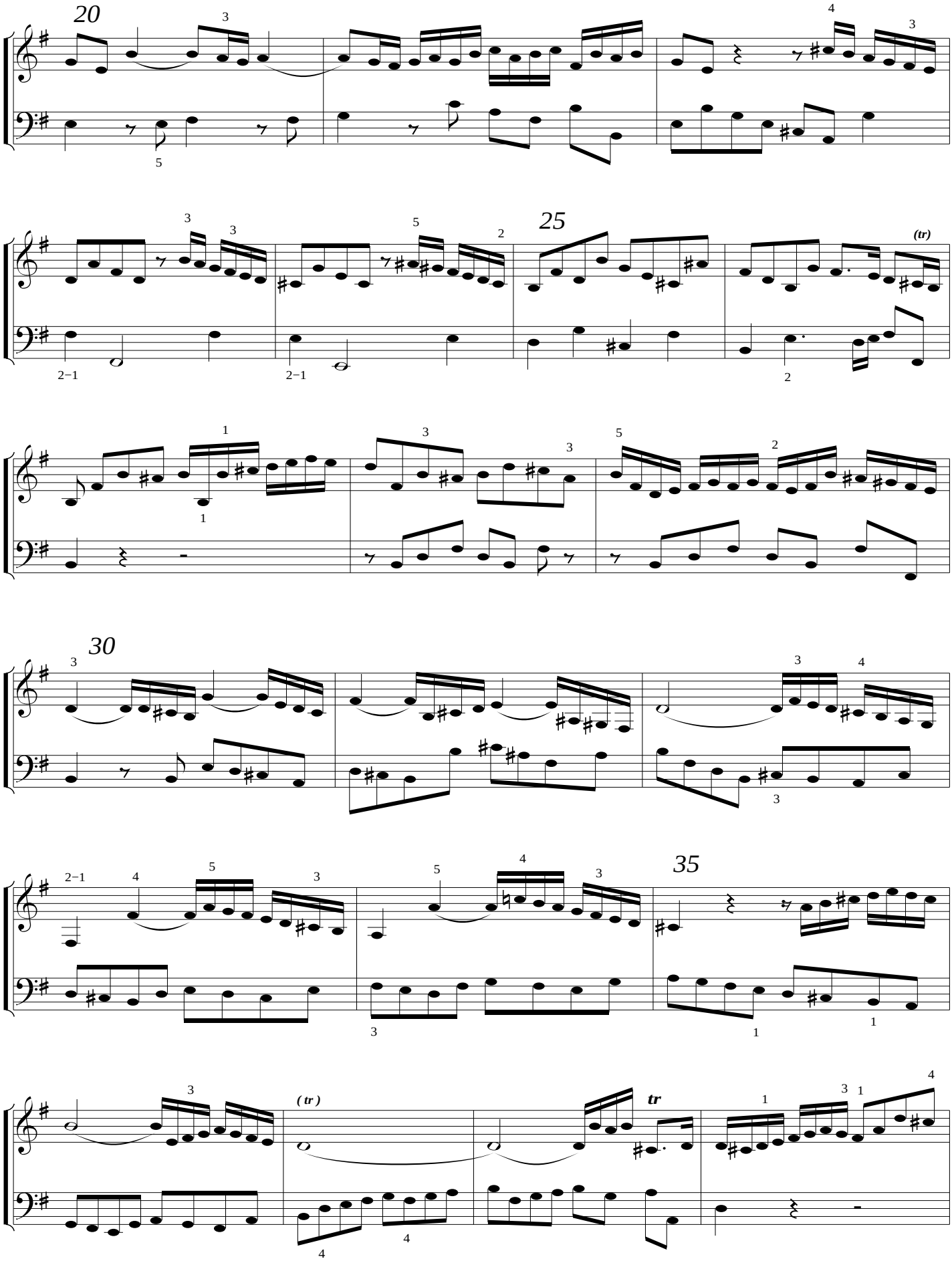
Johann S. Bach

Trio super Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend

Piano

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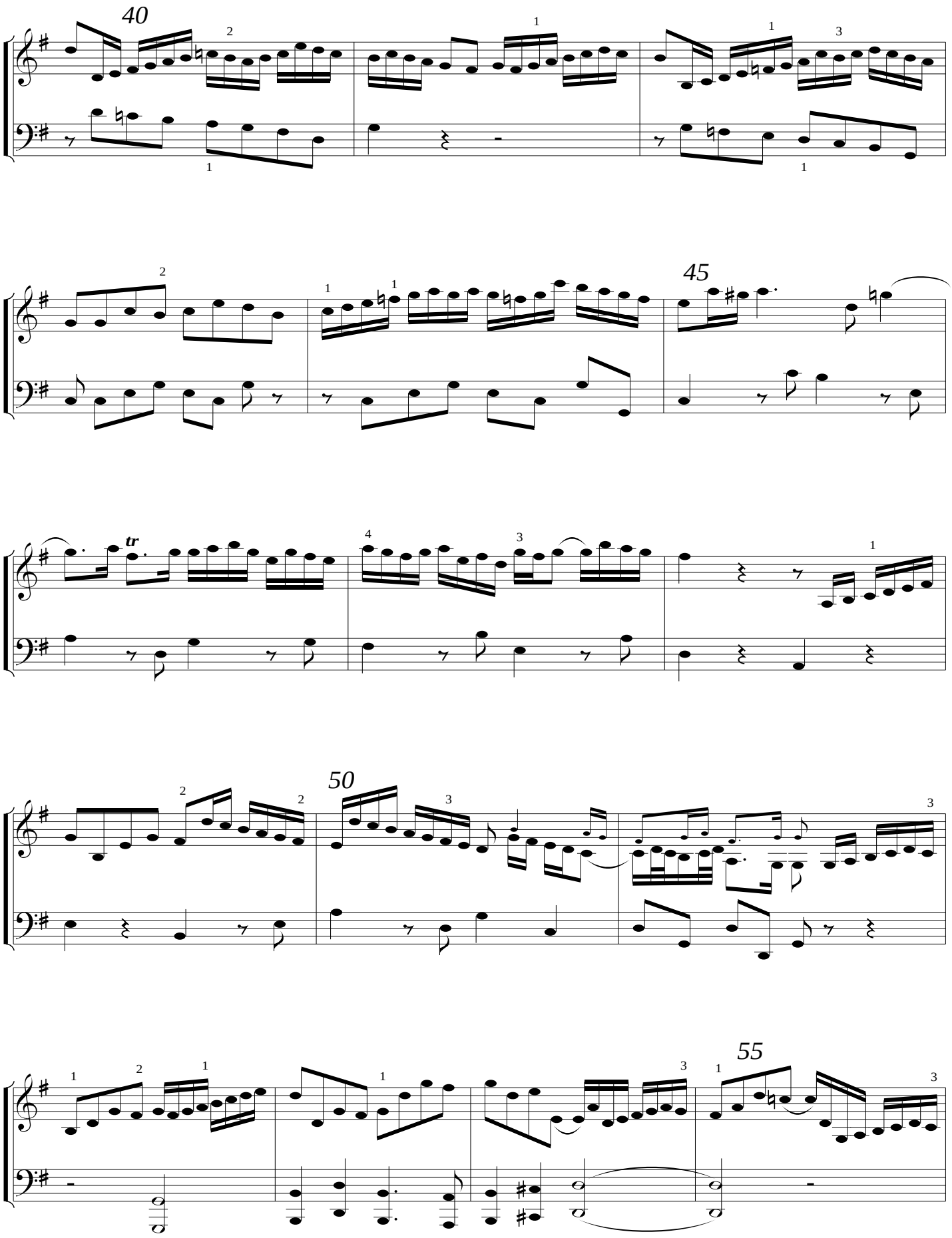
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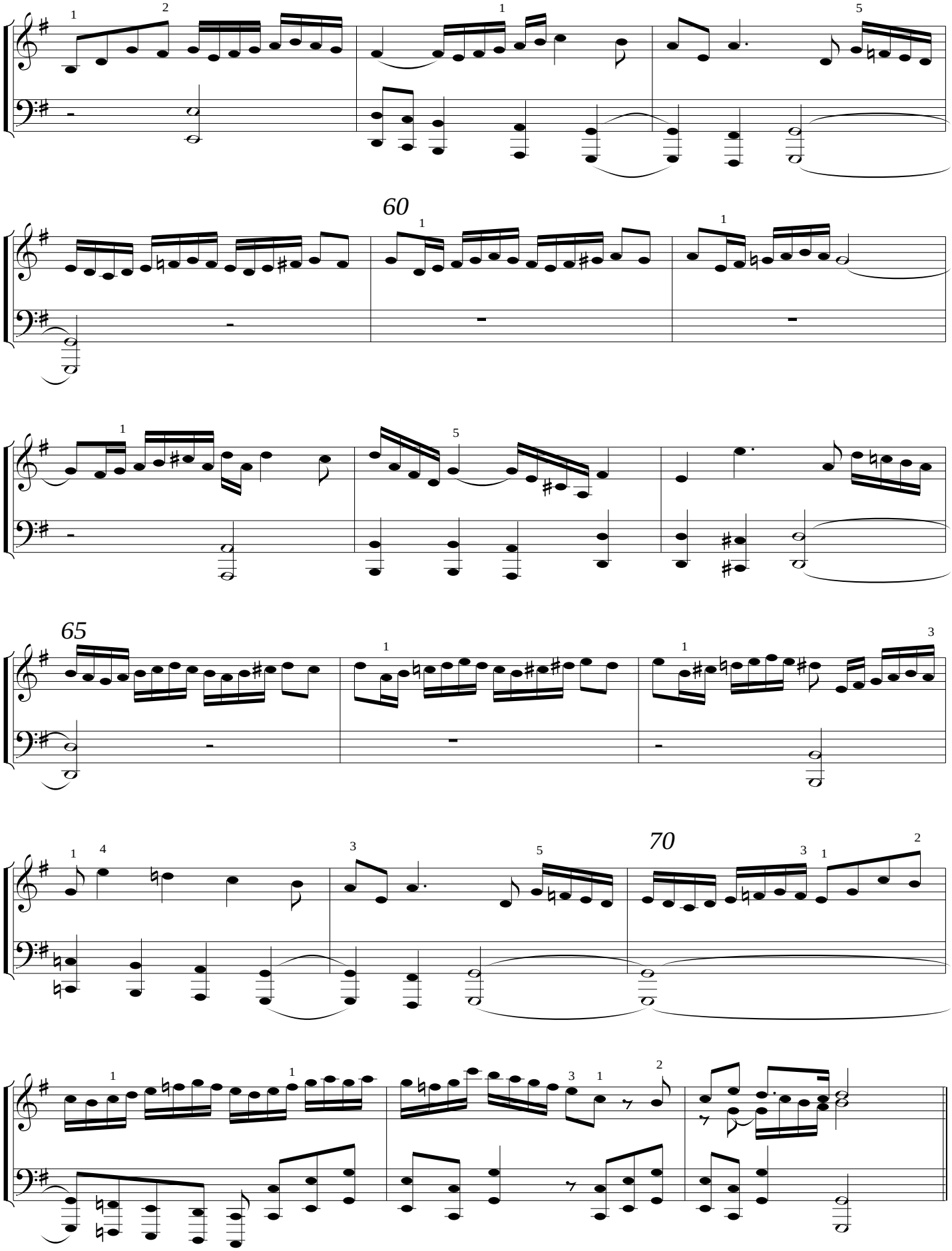
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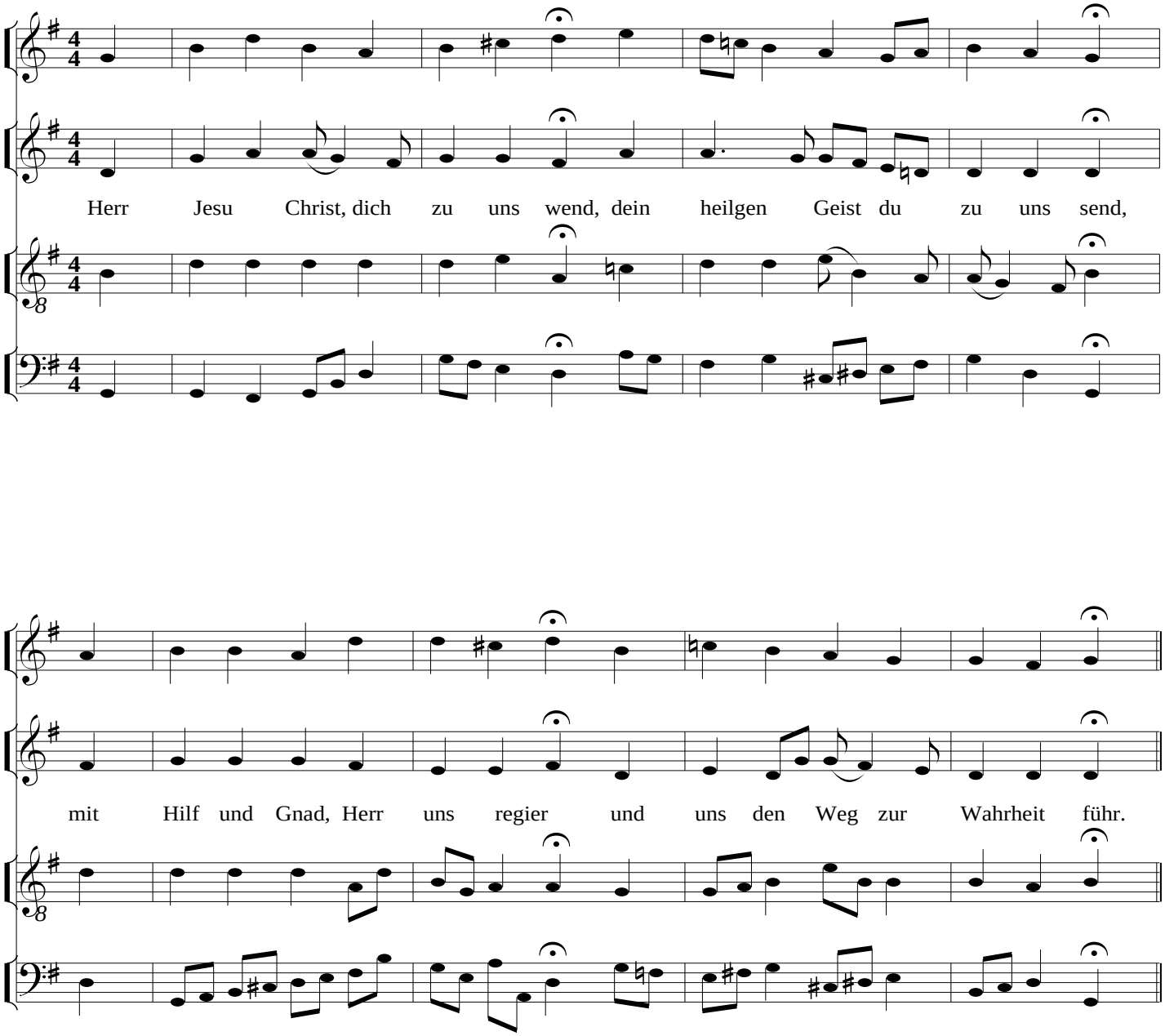
BWV 332 Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend



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 !**

Compositions at *www.pjb.com.au* include: *Five Short Pieces*, guitar, 1979; *Divisions on an Italian Ground*, flute and guitar, 1980; *De Profundis* and *Nacht*, on poems by Lama Anagarika Govinda, voice and piano, 1980; *Fünf Bagatellen*, piano, 1980; *Five Rounds*, choir, 1986; *Go Forth and Multiply*, choir, 1986; *Three Violin Duets*, 1987; *Fable*, for piano, 1987; *To Erich Jantsch*, SAATTB recorders, 1988; *A Suite of Curves*, trombone (or horn) and piano, 1990; *Two Recorder Duets*, alto recorders, or other melody instruments, 1991; *Trombone Quintet*, trombone, flute, piano, bass, and percussion, 1994; *Three Songs*, on poems by Jack Kerouac, Vikram Seth and Dylan Thomas, voice and piano (only the first and third of these are available), 1994; *Piano Study*, piano, 1994; *Four Dances*, various ensembles including recorder quartet, string quartet, 1995; *The Poet in the Clouds*, on a poem by S. T. Coleridge, SATB choir, 1995; *Tres Casidas del Diván del Tamarit*, on poems by Federico García Lorca, voice and piano, 1997; *Three Suites*, for the solo line, piano, and piano and a solo line, 2000; *Die Zeiten*, on poems by Kästner, Bachman and Jünger, choir (only the second and third of these are available), 2000; *Three Duets* for flutes, 2001; *For Four Hands* for piano four hands, 2002; *Three Preludes* for piano, 2003; *Second Solo Suite* for flute, violin, viola or cello, 2003; *Guitar Duet* for two guitars, 2006; *We Who Mourn* for choir, 2007; *Trio With Guitar* for guitar and two clarinets or two recorders or two violas, 2008; *Canons* for two- and four-hand piano, 2009; *Flute Trio*, 2012; *Keyboard Studies*, 2013.

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; *Four Duets BWV 802-5*, keyboard; *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*, *4* and *9* 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* plus settings by Isaac, Bach, Praetorius, recorders. *John Carr, Divisions on an Italian Ground*, flute or recorder and guitar. 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. *Claudio Monteverdi*, *Ecco Mormorar l'Onde*, SSATB recorders. By Arnold Schoenberg: *Verklärte Nacht* for piano. By Franz Schubert: *Four Songs*, voice and guitar; *Dances*, recorders and guitar, *Dances*, piano 4 hands. *Scriabin, Two Preludes op.67; Five Preludes op.74*, piano. *Telemann, Twelve Flute Fantasias*, recorder. *John Wilbye, Draw on sweet Night*, SSATTB recorders, and for flute choir. *Twelve Italian Songs*, voice and guitar; *Fourteen Folk Dance Tunes*, recorder and guitar; *Bushband Dances*, violin, piano accordeon and banjo; *Easy Classical Pieces*, Bb trumpet and piano.

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