Real Organ Music Even a Pianist Can Play

Washington State Music Teachers Association

2022 State Conference

Lower Columbia College, Longview, WA

Friday, June 24, 2022; 2:00 PM



Presented by:

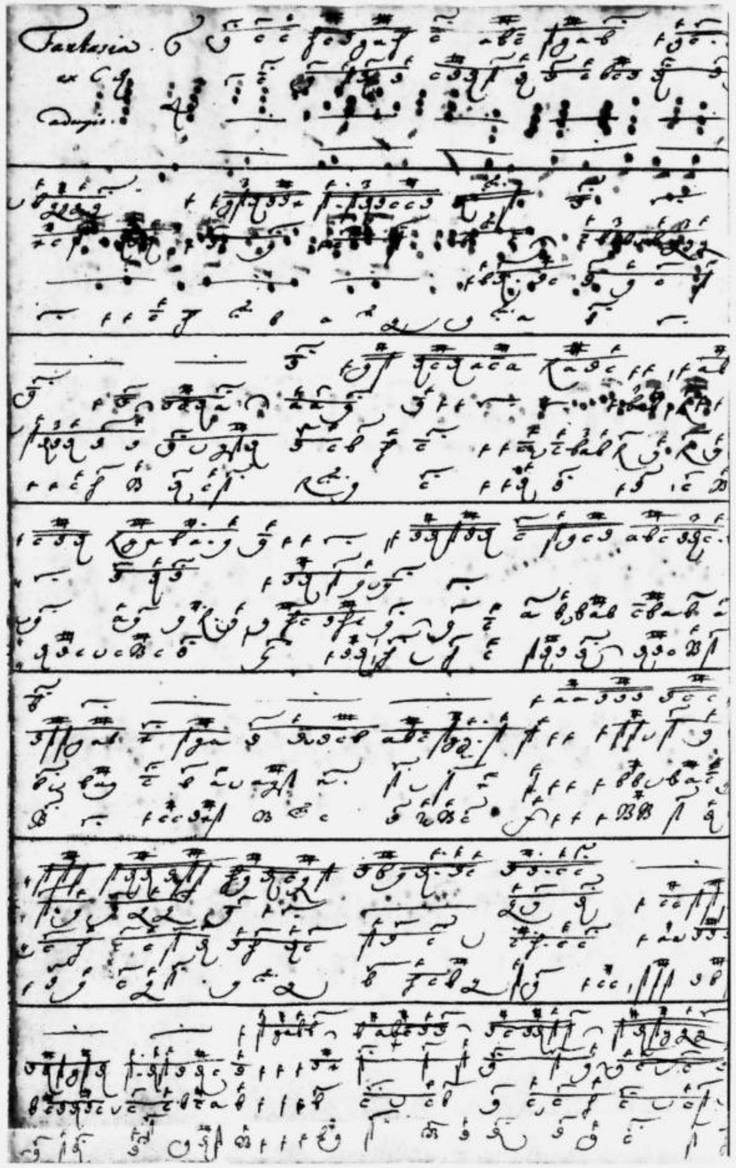
Joann S. Richardson, NCTM; WSMTA Chair for Organ

- slides: jrichardsonmusic.com
- contact: organistjoann@gmail.com

Why learn "real organ music?"

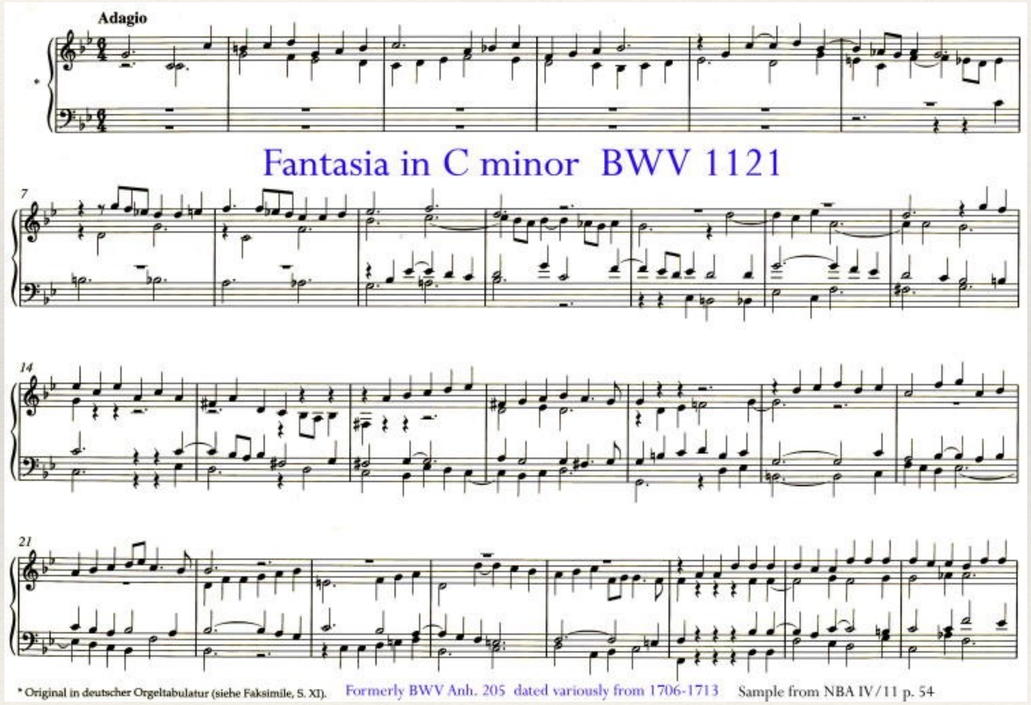
Because the music itself will teach you how to play the instrument

- Organ touch
- Registration (the art of combining organ stops)
- How to manage the instrument
- Music history



Fantasie c-Moll, BWV 1121, früher Anh. 205. Reinschrift von der Hand Johann Sebastian Bachs in deutscher Orgeltabulatur (Takt 1–38)
(Musikbibliothek der Stadt Leipzig, *III. 8. 4*, „Andreas-Bach-Buch", Bl. 72ᵛ).
Originalgröße: 32 x 21 cm from NBA IV/11 p. XI

Organ music written by Bach's hand using organ tablature



Realization of Bach's tablature score

https://bach-cantatas.com/Scores/BWV1121-Tablature.htm



≠



Organ = wind instrument (play it by controlling the movement of air into a pipe)

Piano = percussion instrument (play it by striking it)

Simply pressing the right keys does not make a pianist sound like an organist (or vice versa!)

Organ Touch

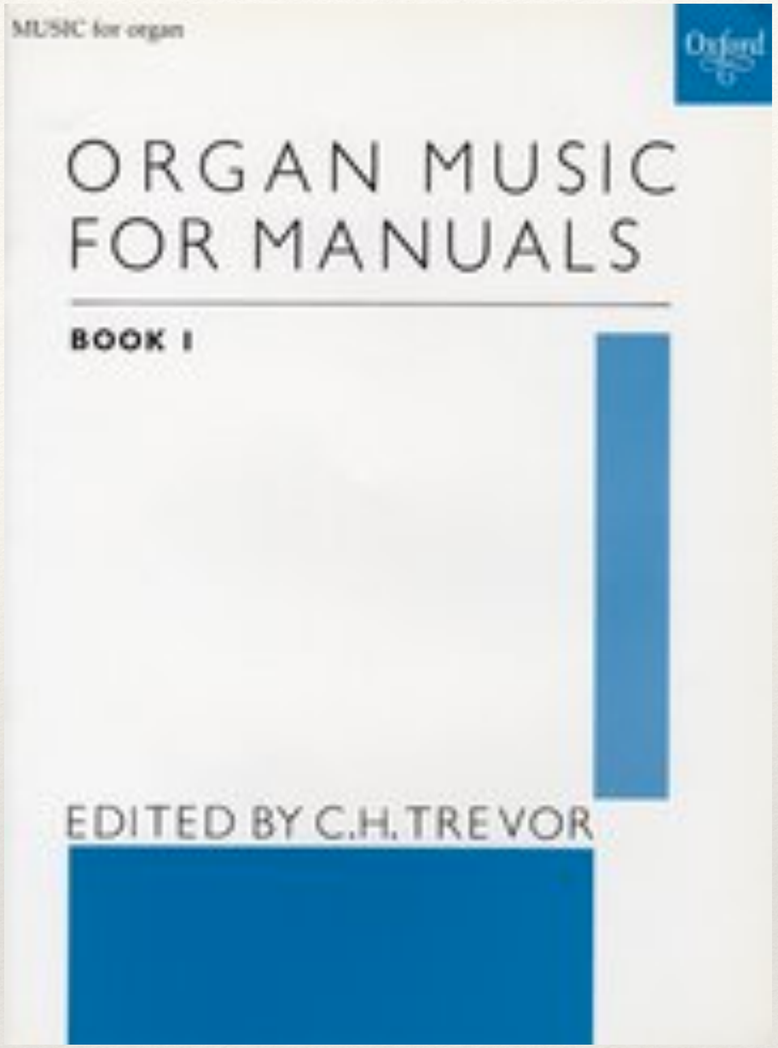
- Articulated Touch
- Legato Touch



Marcel Dupré at the Wanamaker Organ, Philadelphia, PA
W. H. Hoedt (photographer), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Where to find organ music?

- Public domain sites online (like imslp.org)
- Thrift shops
- Colleagues, retired organists
- People who give you boxes of it…
- Published music for organ



https://global.oup.com/academic/product/organ-music-for-manuals-book-1-9780193758339?cc=us&lang=en&

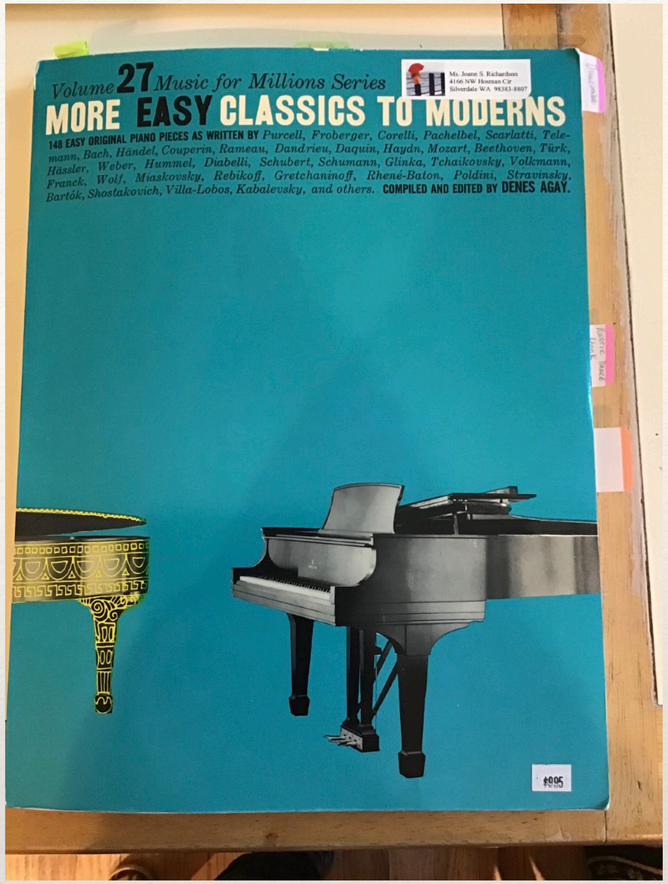
Where to find organ music?

"Piano Music" books that you or your students already own

- Piano—invented circa 1700
- Baroque and earlier = written for keyboard instrument (not a piano)
  - "Early" keyboard music is often (but not always) interchangeable between the organ, harpsichord, clavichord, virginal, and occasionally, fortepiano

Advantages to Using "Piano Music" You Already Know

- No additional purchase required
- Easy way to get piano students started on the organ
  - Assign a piece of "early" music as part of piano lesson
  - Have an organ day at church and students play their assigned pieces on the organ



All "piano book" examples in this presentation will be from: *More Easy Classics to Moderns, Vol. 27*, compiled and edited by Denes Agay, © 1956, Consolidated Music Publishers, New York.

Advantages to Using “Piano Music” You Already Know

- Familiar music means one less new thing when facing an organ “cockpit”
- It may sound *better* played on the organ — because it was never intended to be played on an instrument that hadn’t been invented yet (the piano)

Classic FM
@ClassicFM

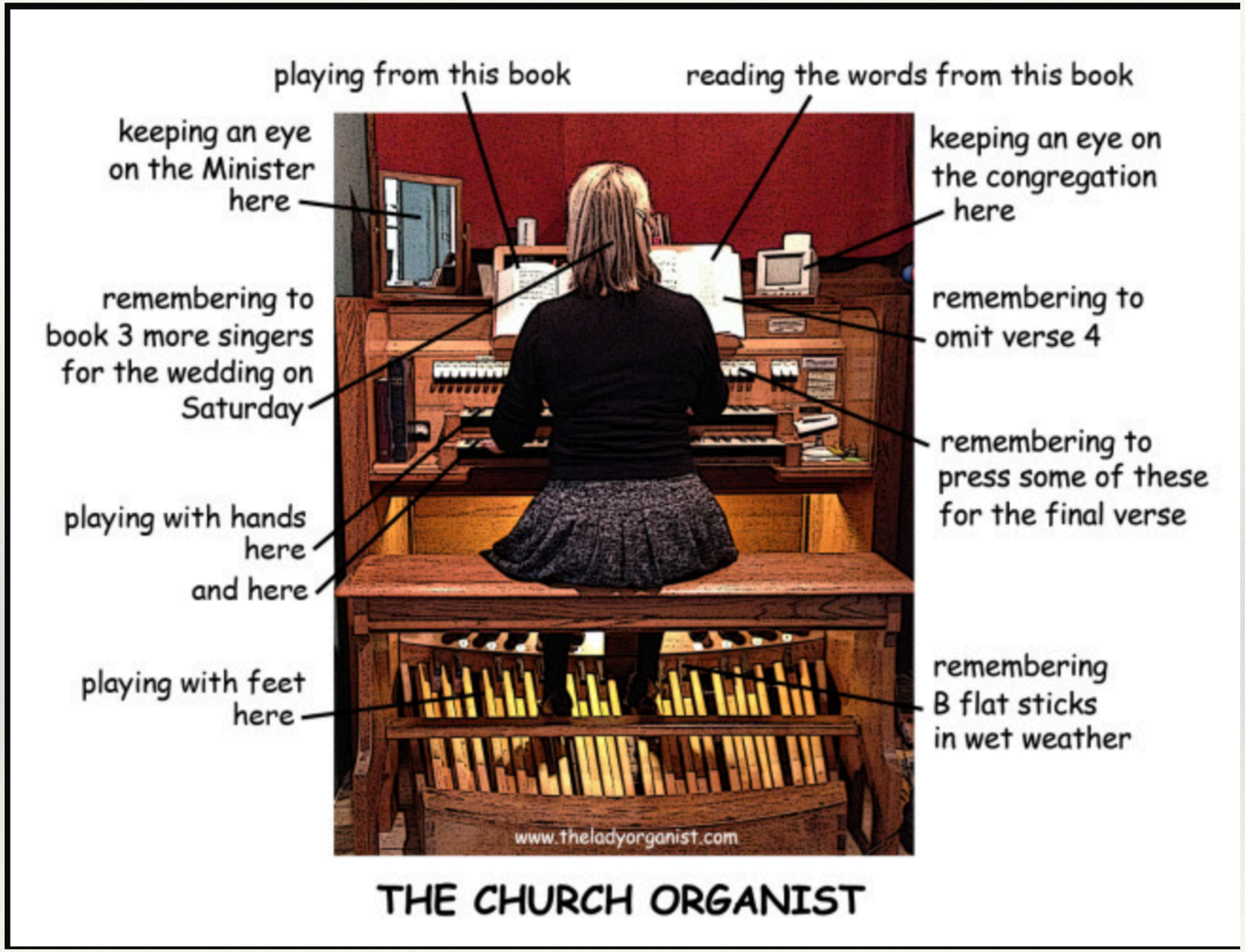
"This is your Captain speaking. There'll be good music on this flight"



8:22 AM · Nov 8, 2014 · Twitter for Android

Advantages to Using "Piano Music" You Already Know

- It's "in your fingers"—sometimes you just need easy music you can play right away
- You may be busy concentrating on other things…



Cautions when using “Piano Music” You Already Own…



- If you play it on the organ using piano technique, then you may sound like a pianist who is trying to play the organ.
- If it was originally harpsichord music, then it may or may not work on the organ.

Cautions when using “Piano Music” You Already Own…



- Unless edited by an early music specialist, most editing of early music that appears in piano editions (even “urtext editions”) is not historically correct in terms of:
  - Articulation and phrasing
  - Dynamics
  - Tempo
  - Fingering (especially fingering!)

Criteria for Selecting Music for this Presentation

- **Accessibility**—music is technically accessible for a competent pianist
- **Usefulness** — for church services or concert use
- **Educational Value**— teaches organ technique; exposes student to stylistic features of major organ "schools"
- **Availability**—musical examples are available in the public domain*

**Unfortunately, most organ music in the public domain that is accessible to new organists is not inclusive of underrepresented composers. If you know of any good music that fits this category, then please let me know.*

Old English Organ Music (before Romantic era)

- Organ music is first rate and appealing
- Music sounds good on just about any organ
- Music is not very difficult
- Uses articulated technique
- Music is for manuals only (organs in England did not have pedalboards until the early 1800s)

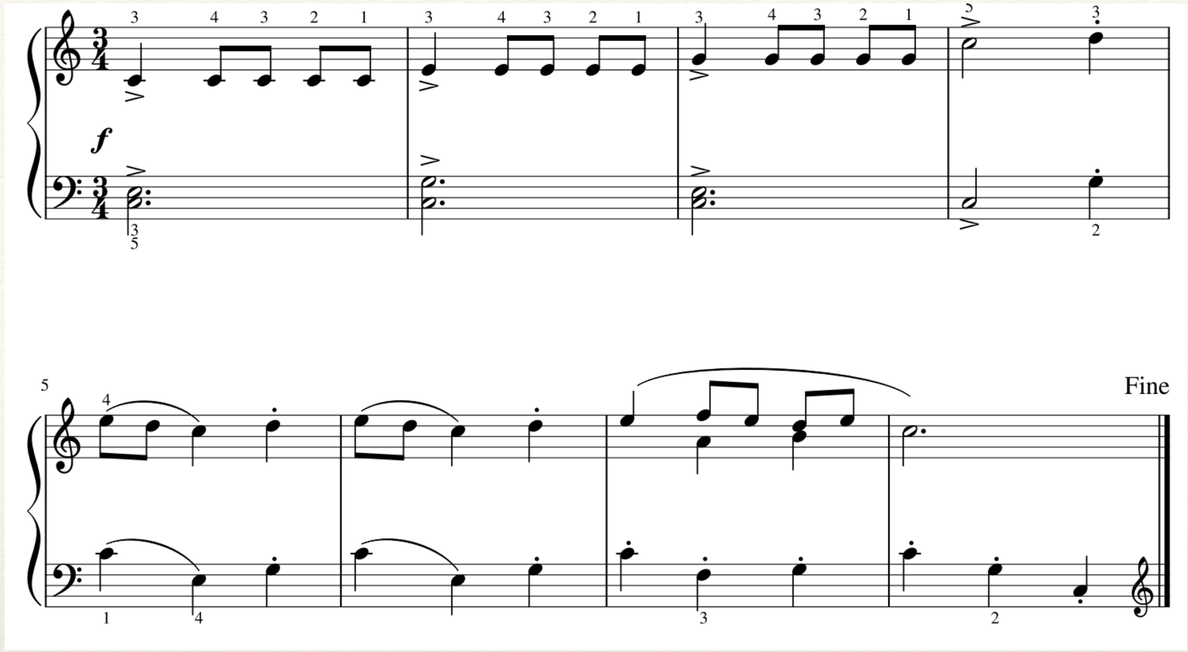


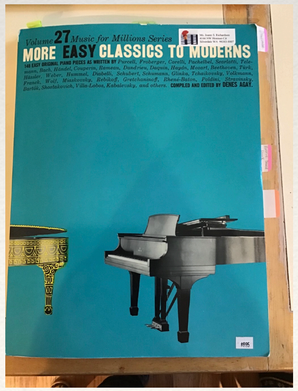
Organ at Adlington Hall, Cheshire, UK
Organ believed to have been played by Handel
https://www.scottbrothersduo.com/theorganofadlingtonhall.htm

Old English Organ Music

William Duncombe (ca. 1736-38— 1818 or 1819): “Fanfare Minuet”

- p. 10: *More Easy Classics to Moderns, vol 27*, Denes Agay, ed.)
- Available on imslp.org: https://imslp.org/wiki/Fanfare_Minuet_(Duncombe%2C_William)



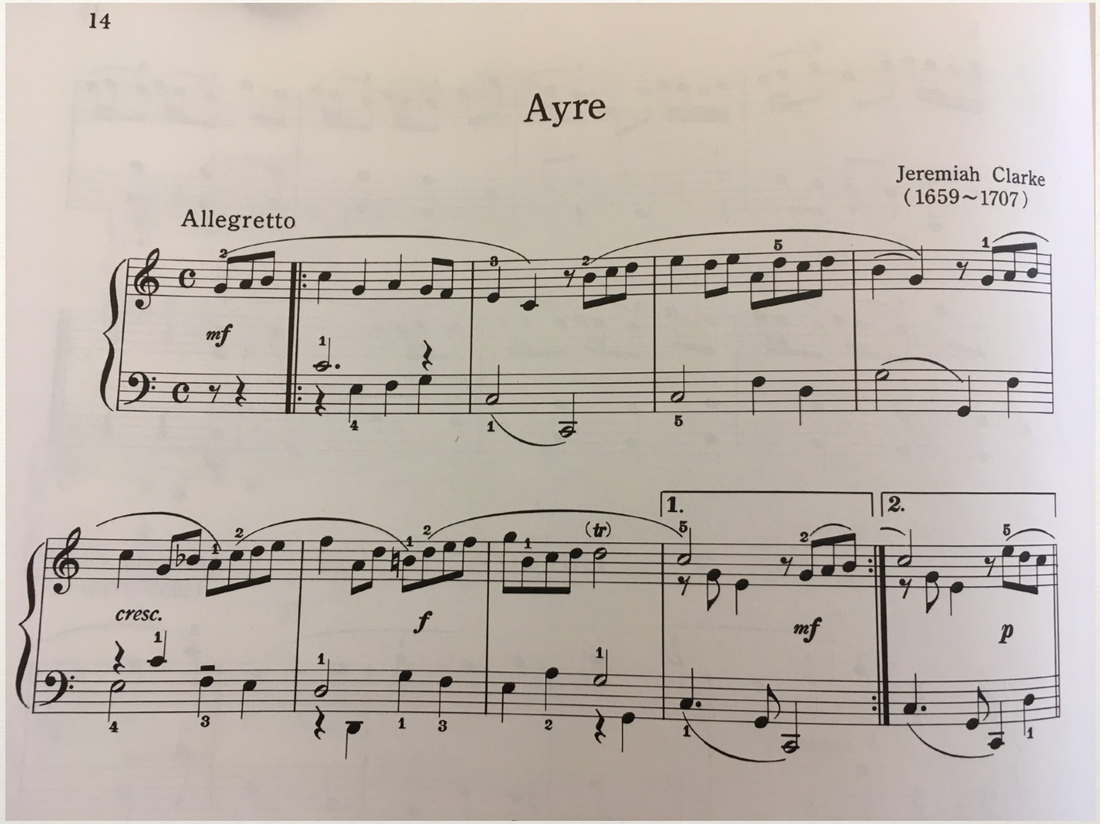


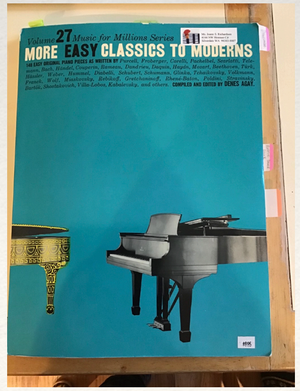


Old English Organ Music

Jeremiah Clarke (1659-1707): “Ayre”

- p. 14: *More Easy Classics to Moderns, vol 27,* Denes Agay, ed.
- Available on imslp.org: https://imslp.org/wiki/An_Ayre_(Clarke%2C_Jeremiah)



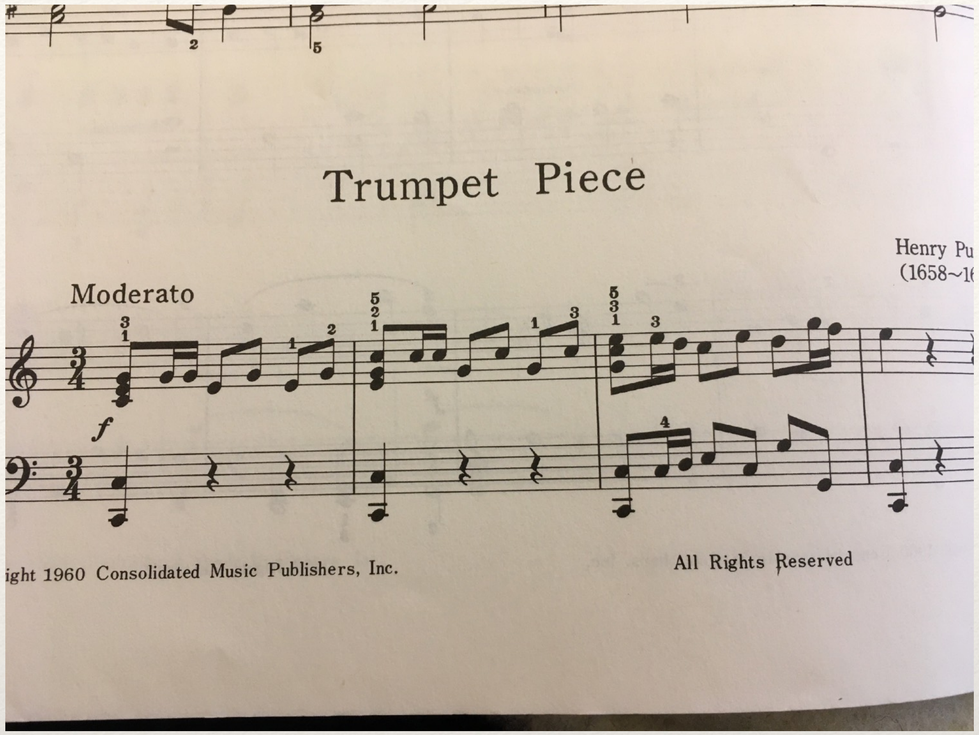


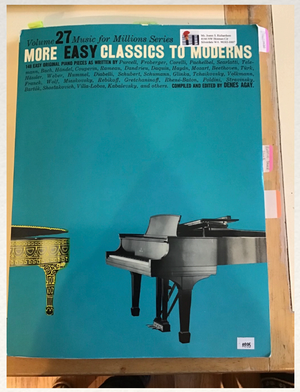


Old English Organ Music

Henry Purcell (1658-1695): “Trumpet Piece”

- pp. 12-13: *More Easy Classics to Moderns, vol 27*, Denes Agay, ed.
- Also available on imslp.org: https://imslp.org/wiki/Harpsichord_Music_and_Organ_Music_(Purcell%2C_Henry)

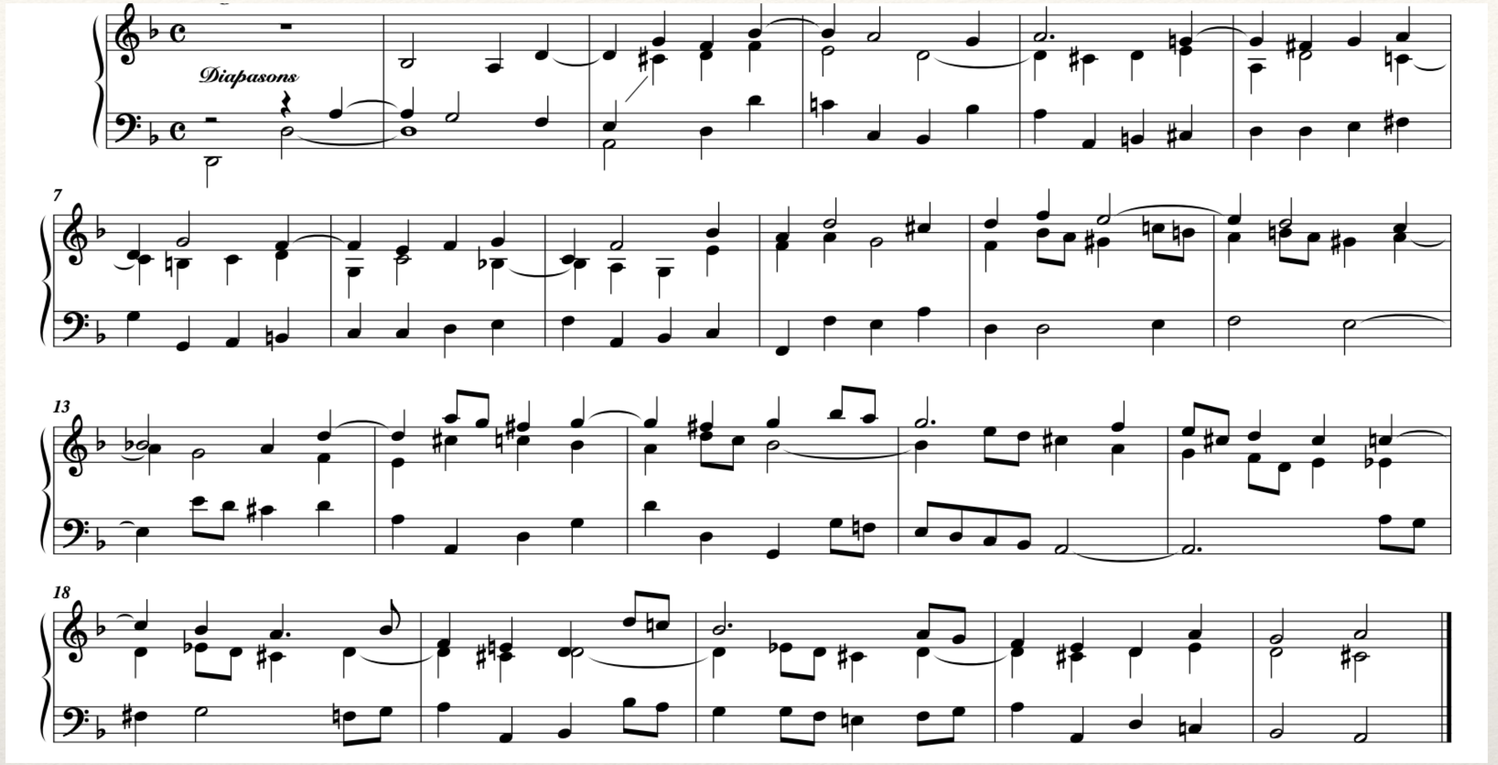






Old English Organ Music

John Stanley (1712-1786):
From Voluntary V, Op. 6,
"Adagio"

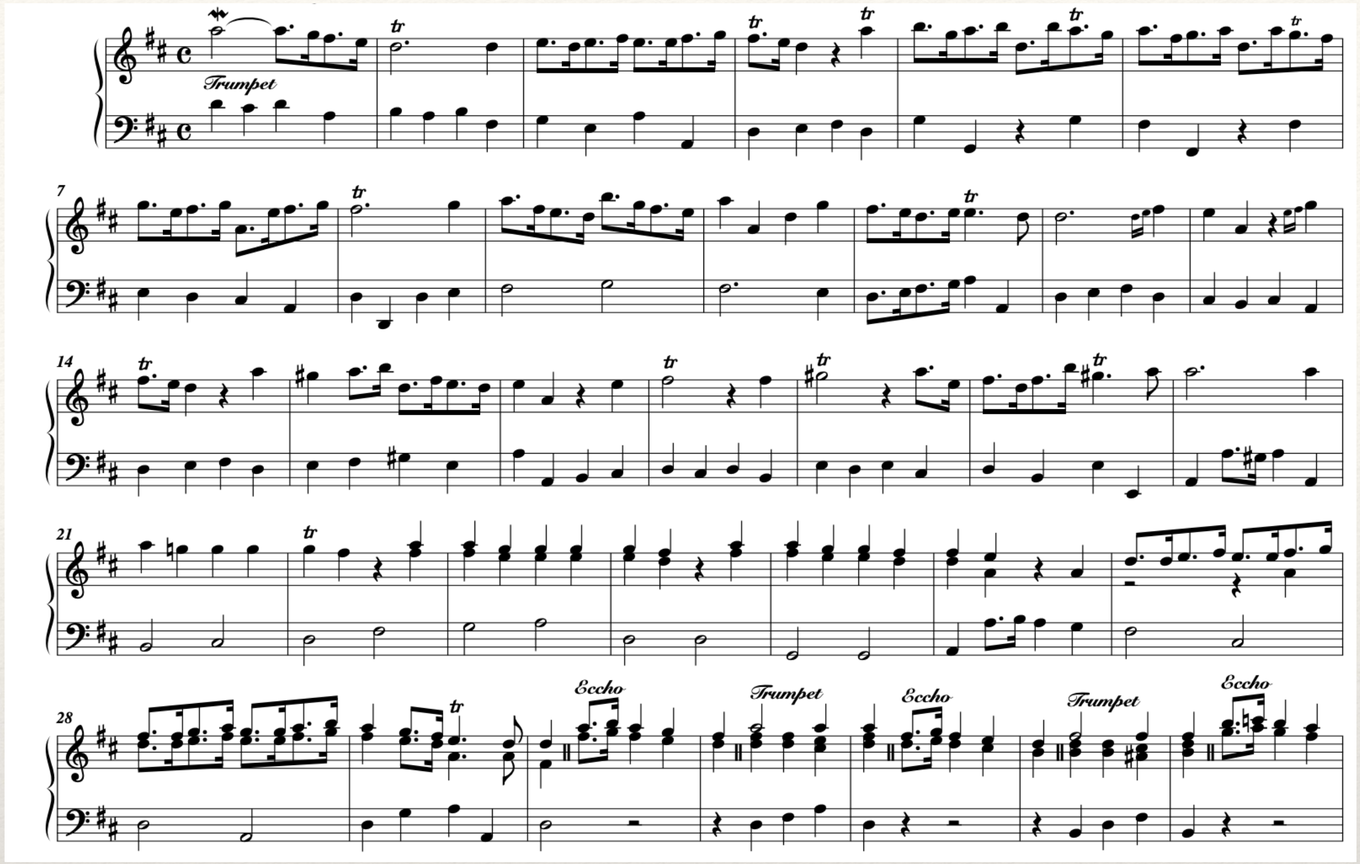


- (this example) Voluntaries, Op. 6: https://imslp.org/wiki/10_Voluntaries,_Op.6_(Stanley,_John)
- (also excellent) Stanley, John Voluntaries, Op. 5: https://imslp.org/wiki/10_Voluntaries,_Op.5_(Stanley,_John)



Old English Organ Music

John Stanley (1712-1786): *From Voluntary V, Op. 6,* "Trumpet Voluntary"

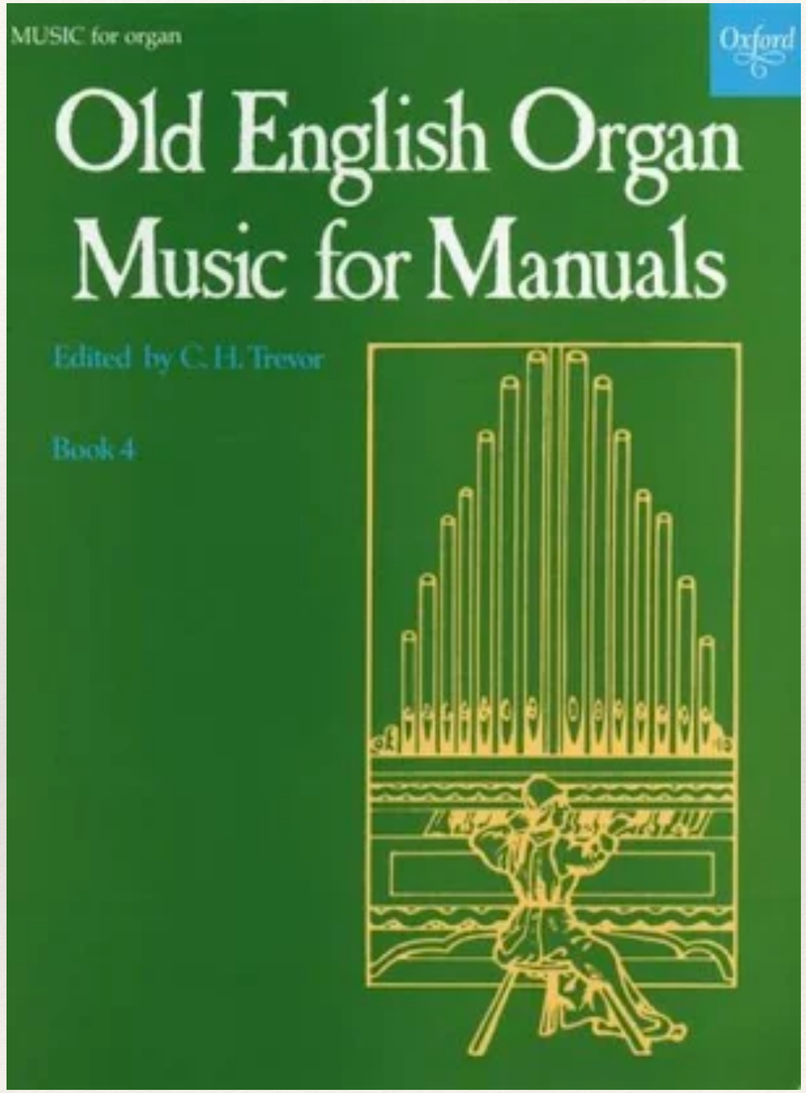


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- (also excellent) Stanley, John Voluntaries, Op. 5: https://imslp.org/wiki/10_Voluntaries,_Op.5_(Stanley,_John)



Old English Organ Music– Other

- Old English Organ Music for Manuals, CH Trevor, editor
  - Multi-volume collection, variety of composers and musical styles
  - https://global.oup.com/academic/search?q=old+english+music+for+manuals&cc=us&lang=en





Early Italian Organ Music (before Romantic era)

- Many examples for manuals only or for minimal pedal
- Articulated touch
- Music sounds good on just about any organ

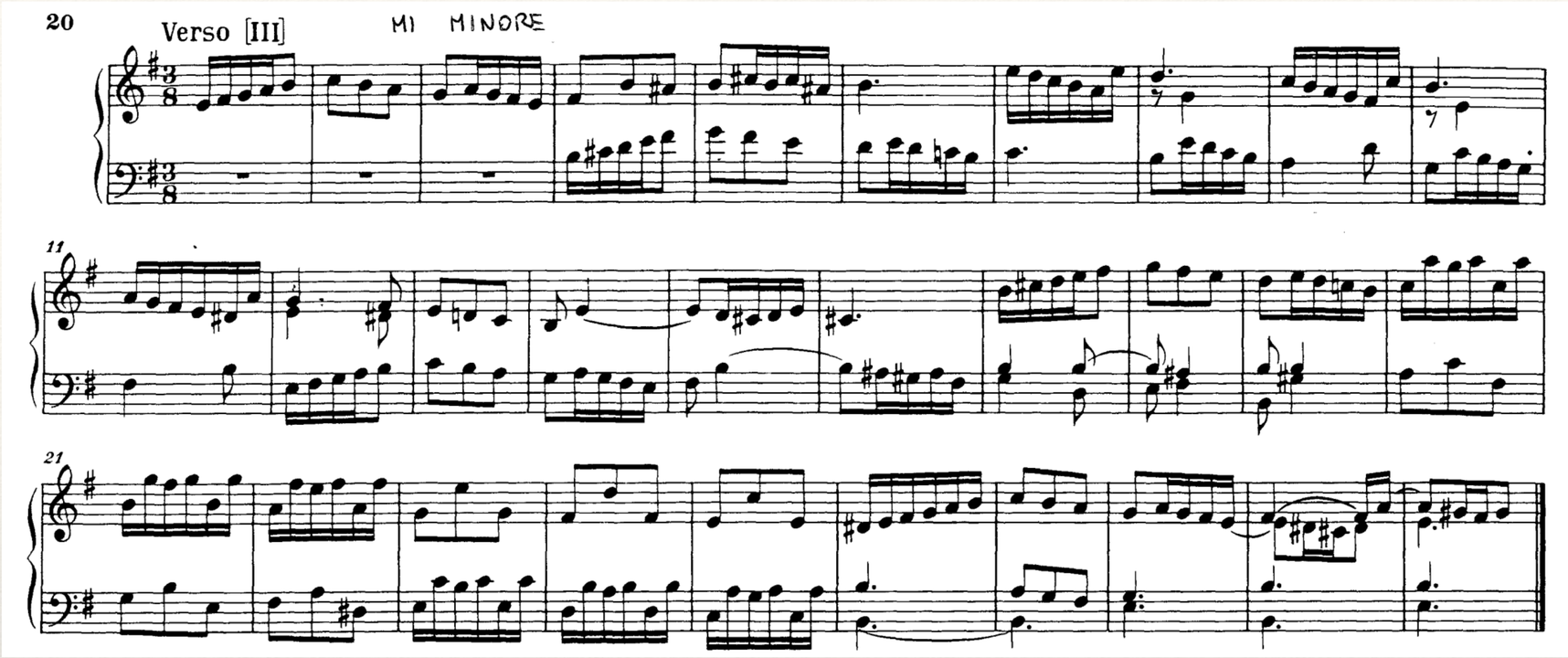
Italian Organ
Univ. of Rochester, Eastman School of Music, Memorial Art Gallery
https://pipeorgandatabase.org/organ/29506



Italian Organ Music (Early)

Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726): “Verso in e minor” from Orgelwerke (edited by Luigi Tagliavini)

- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/3/3e/IMSLP11435-Sonate_d'intavolatura.pdf

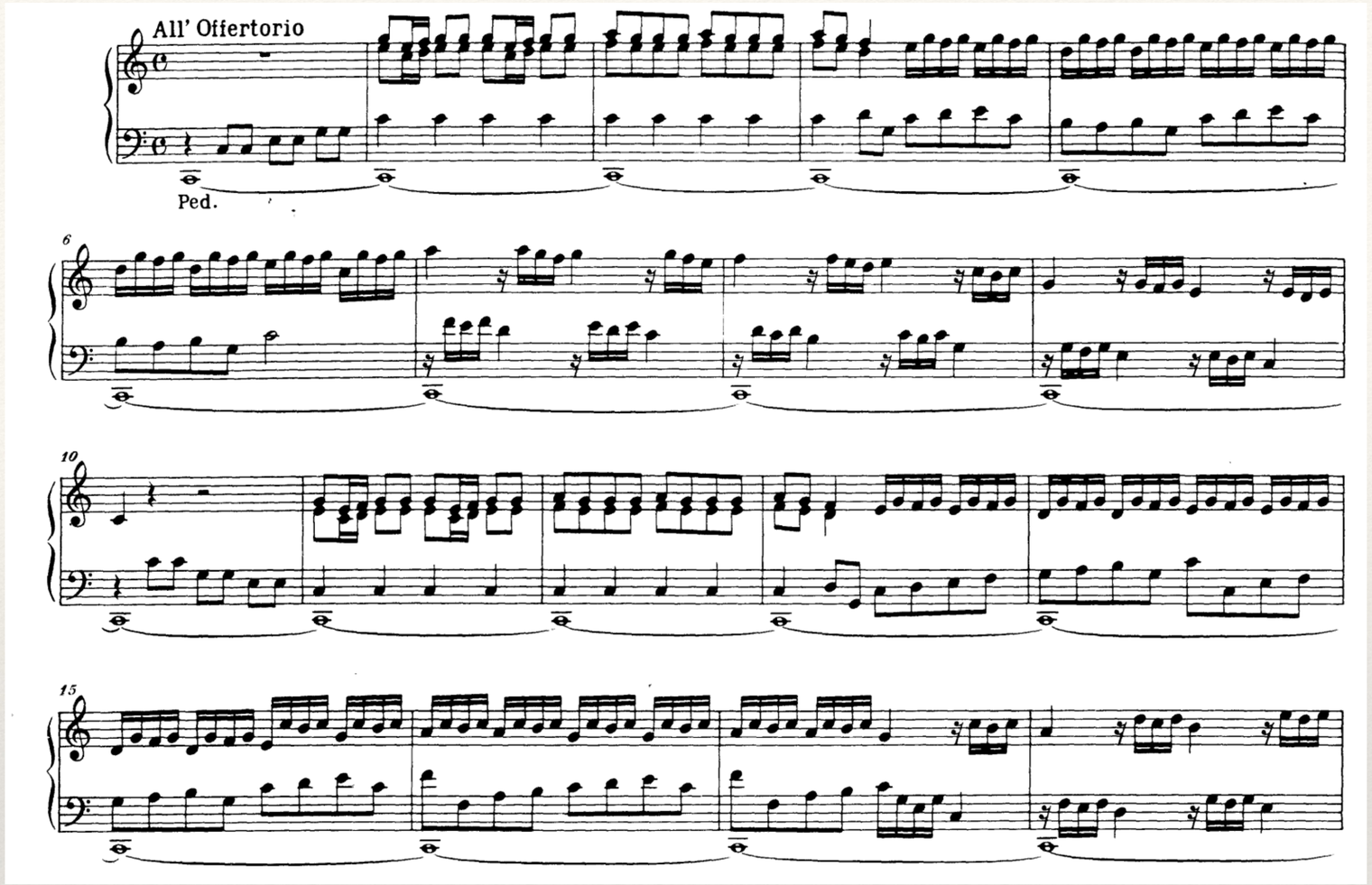




Italian Organ Music (Early)

Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726): “All’Offertorio” from Orgelwerke (edited by Luigi Tagliavini)

- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/3/3e/IMSLP11435-Sonate_d'intavolatura.pdf

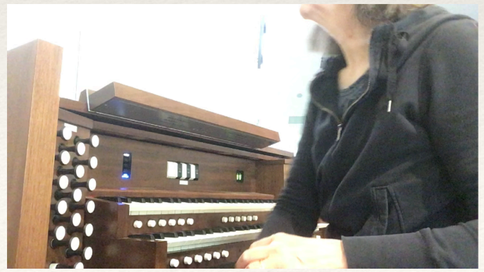


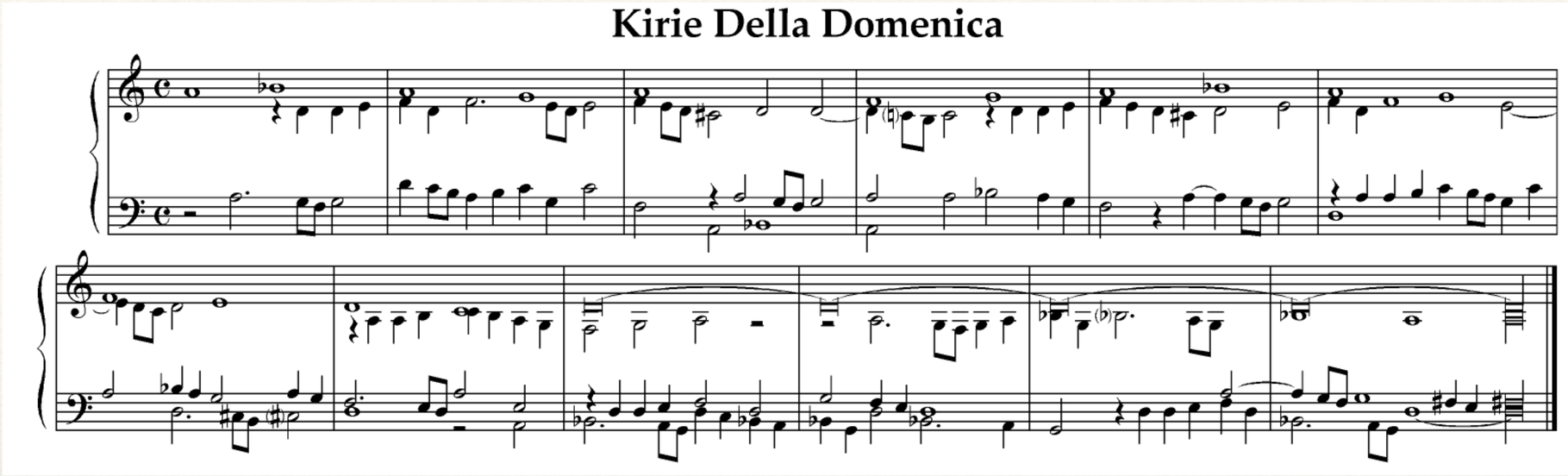


Italian Organ Music (Early)

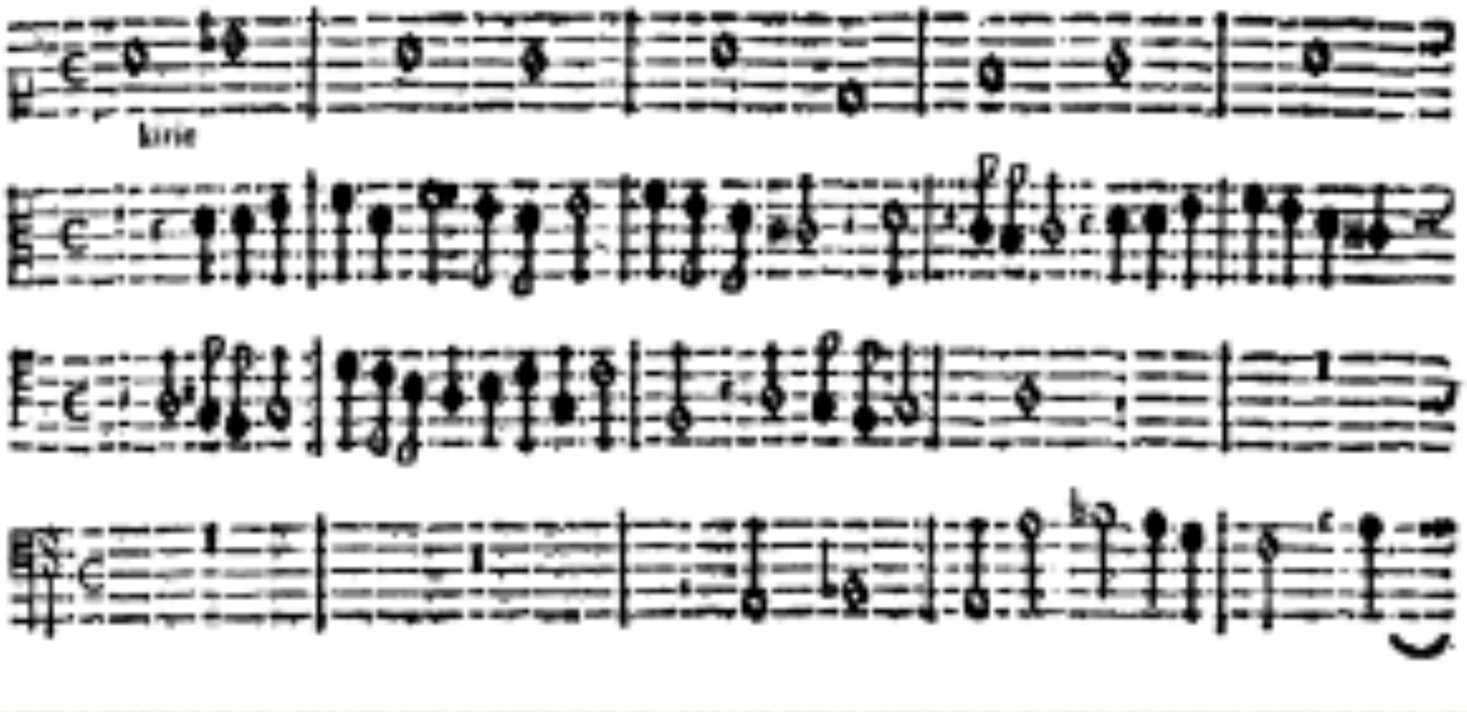
Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643): “Kyrie Della Domenica” from *Fiori Musicali*

- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/f/fe/IMSLP213599-WIMA.1448-Fiori_musicali.pdf





First Edition: As written by Frescobaldi in Open Score using different clefs



German Organ Music -Early (before Romantic era)

- Often based on chorale melodies (useful for church services)
- Music sounds good on just about any organ—Germans usually did not suggest registration
- Many examples for manuals only or for minimal pedal
- Articulated touch



St. Jacobi Hamburg, Arp-Schnitger-Orgel
By An-d - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=22080092

German Organ Music (Early)

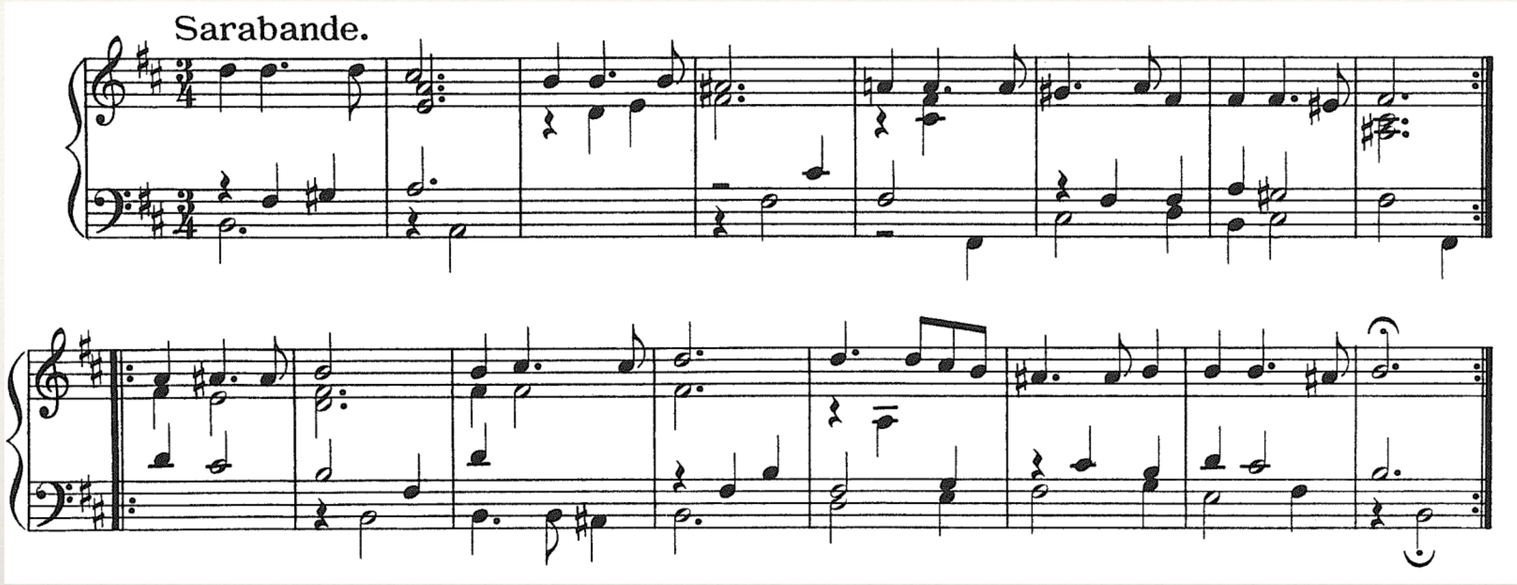
- Music that looks like it was written for manuals only may actually require pedals
- Manuals only only does not mean easy to play— it's often more difficult!



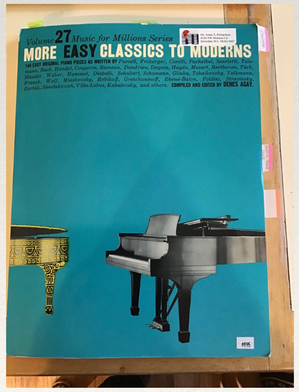
Silbermannorgel (1715) in der Kirche St. Georg Pfaffroda (Olbernhau) (Detail)
Geolina163, CC BY-SA 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

German Organ Music (Early)

Johann Jakob Froberger (1616-1667): “Sarabande”



- p.21: *More Easy Classics to Moderns, vol 27,* Denes Agay, ed.
- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/9/9b/IMSLP33045-PMLP75280-6242710-Orgel-und-Klavierwerke-2-Johann-Jakob-Froberger.pdf





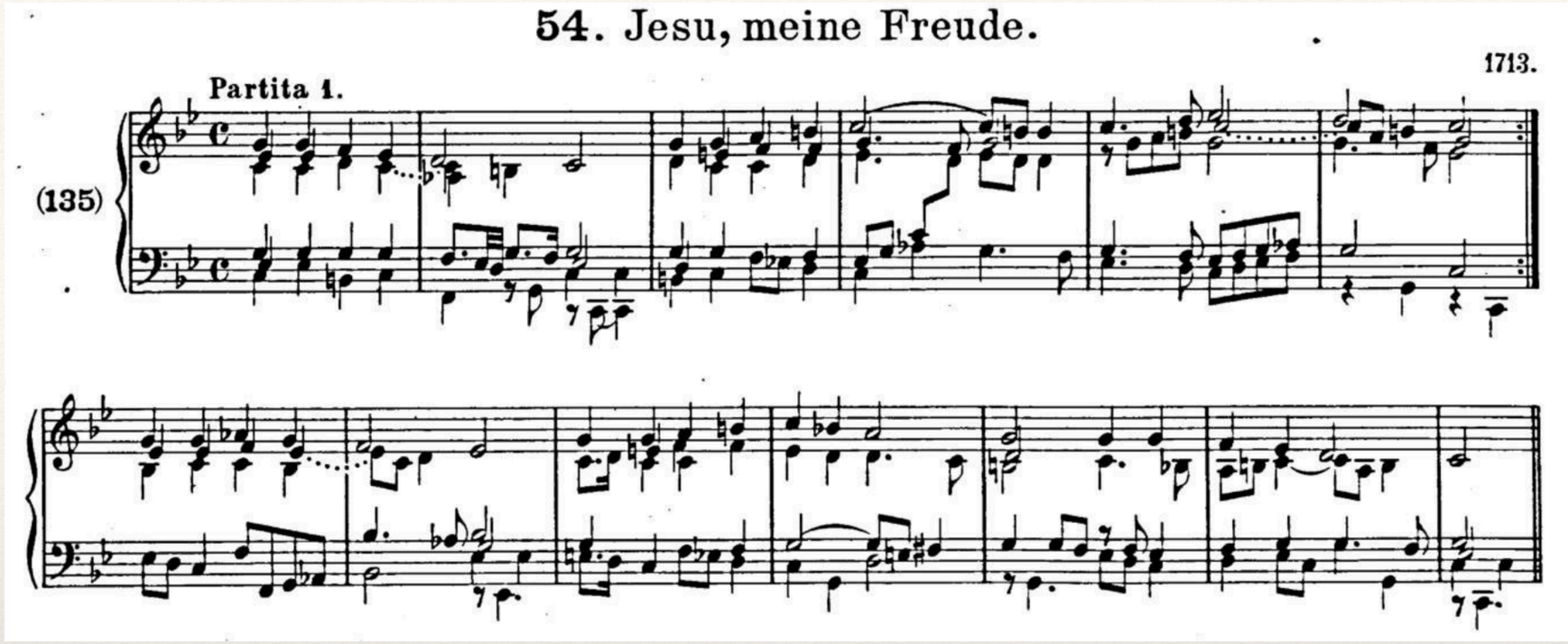


Organ Memes (Facebook) Posted Dec 16, 2016
https://www.facebook.com/216041878551278/photos/pb.100063702722187.-2207520000../796581047164022/?type=3

German Organ Music (Early)

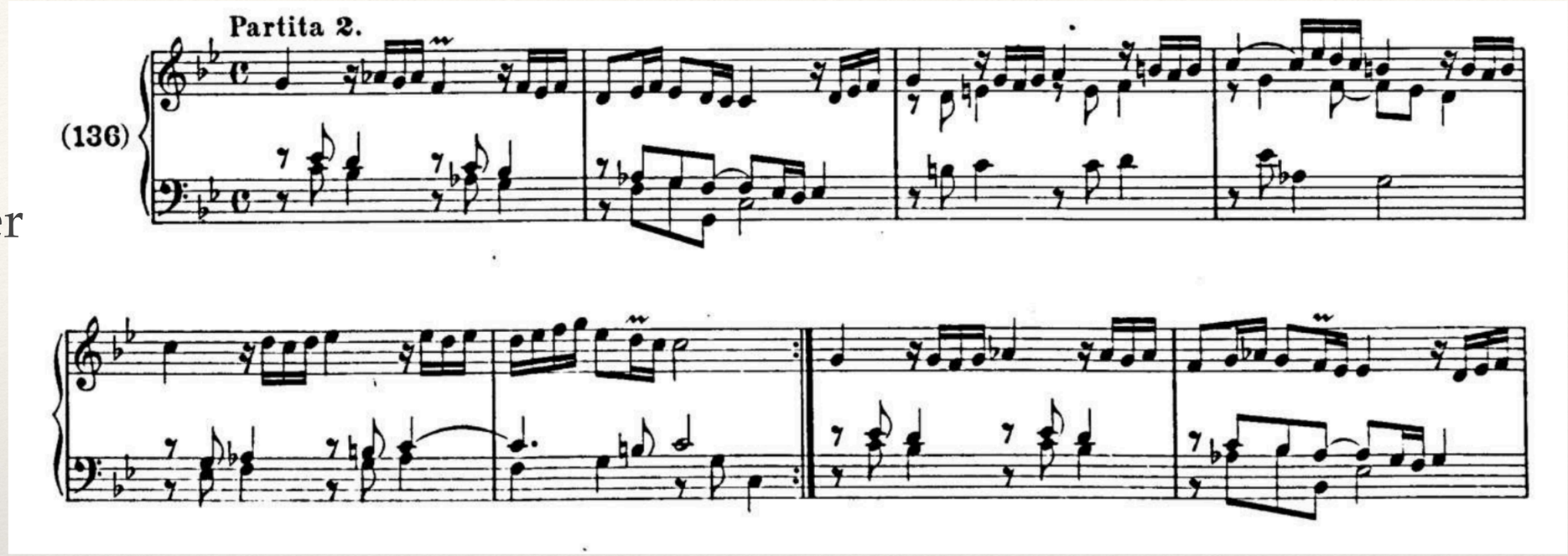
Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748): *Chorale Partita* "Jesu, meine freude" (Variations on the chorale)

- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/a/a8/IMSLP273858-PMLP53270-Choralvorspiele.pdf





German Organ Music (Early)



Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748): *Chorale Partita* "Jesu, meine freude" (Variations on the chorale)

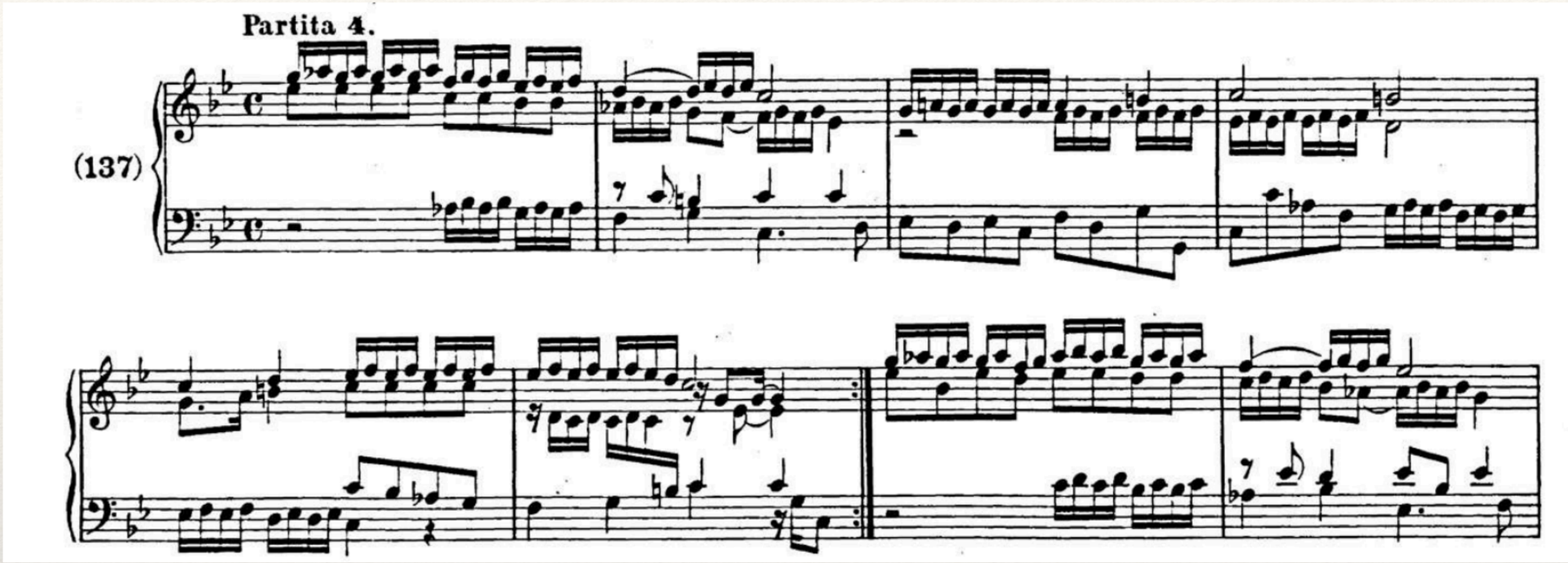
- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/a/a8/IMSLP273858-PMLP53270-Choralvorspiele.pdf



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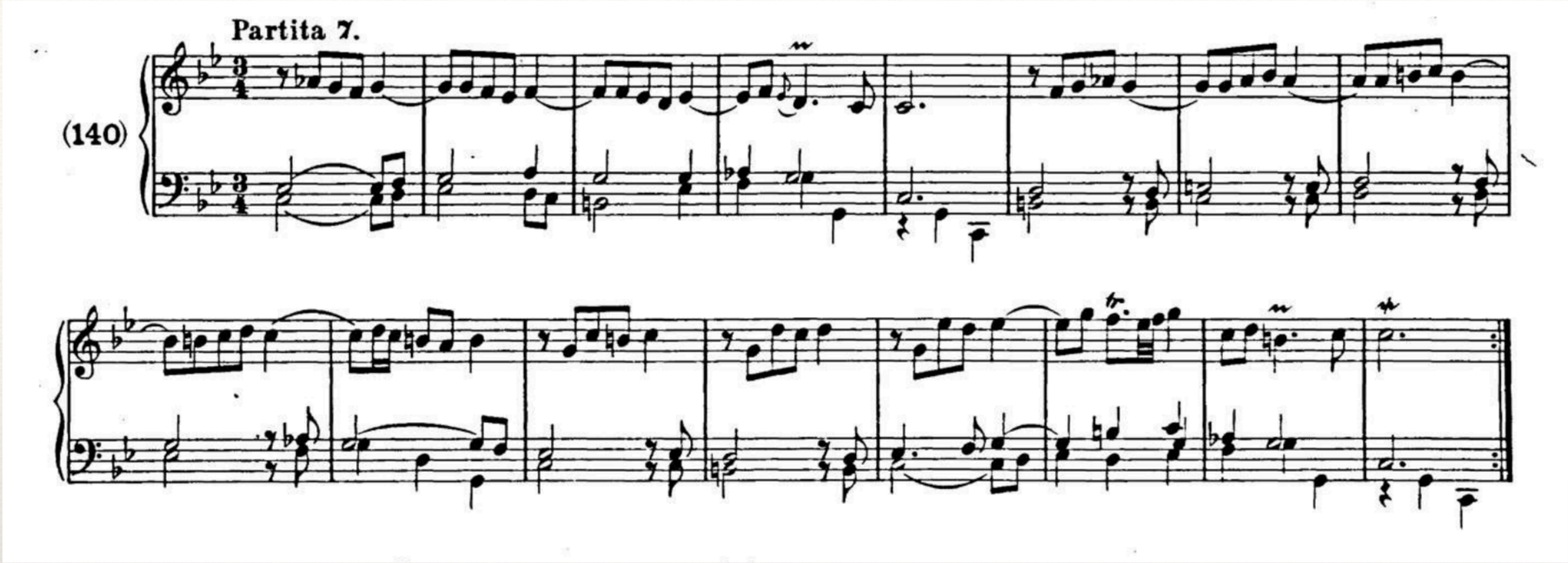
- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/a/a8/IMSLP273858-PMLP53270-Choralvorspiele.pdf





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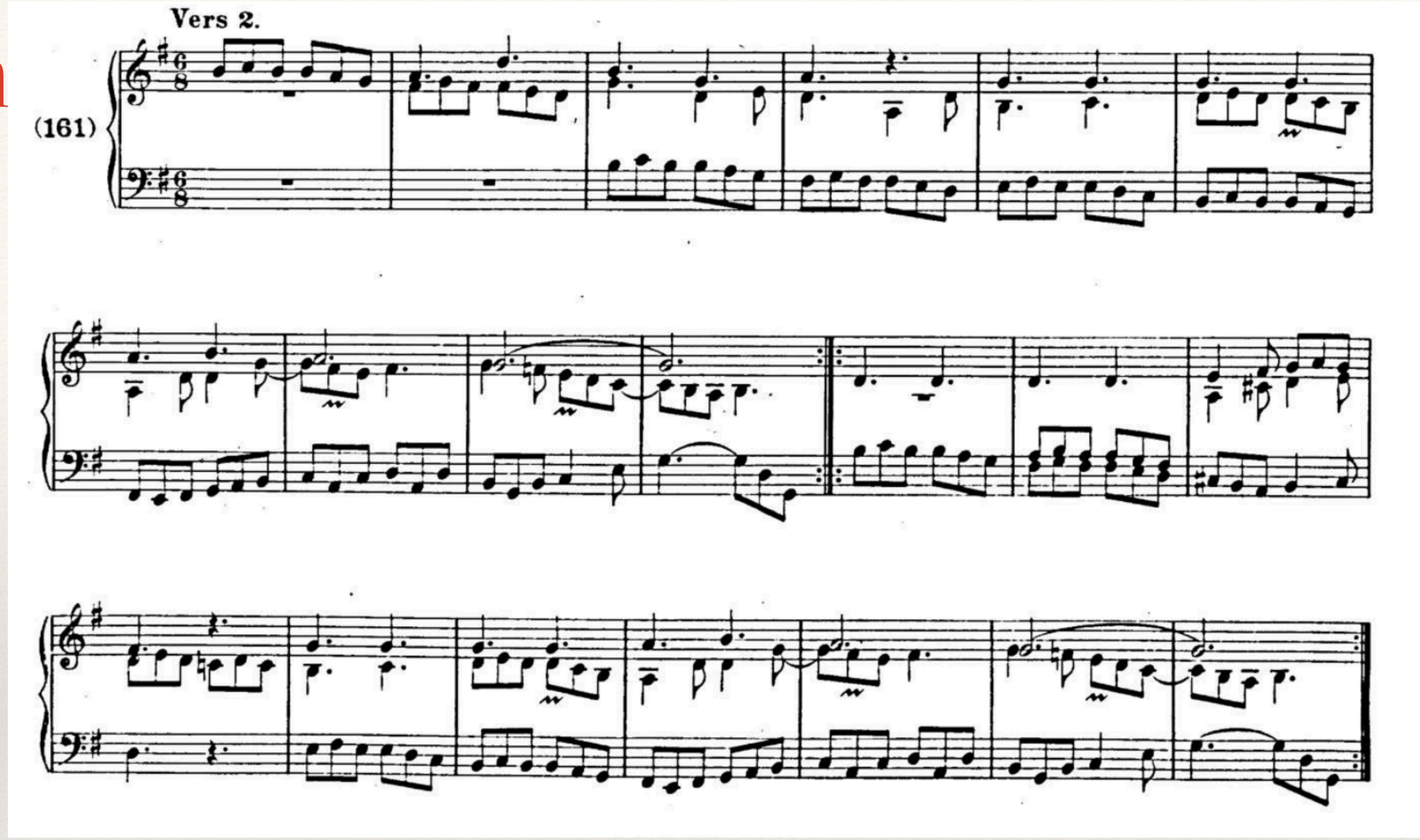
- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/a/a8/IMSLP273858-PMLP53270-Choralvorspiele.pdf



German Organ Music (Early)

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748): *Chorale Partita* "Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier" (Variations on the chorale)

- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/a/a8/IMSLP273858-PMLP53270-Choralvorspiele.pdf



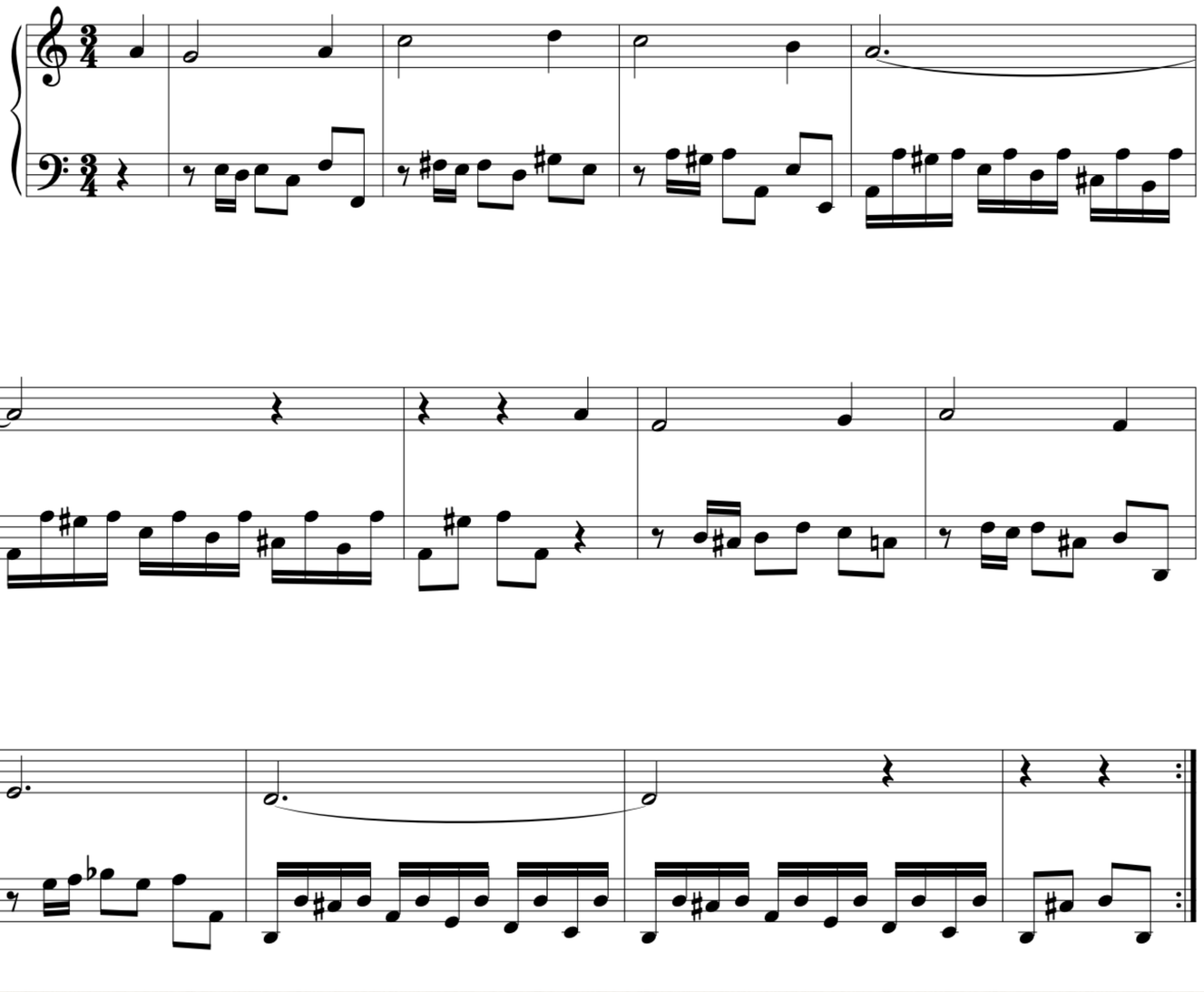


German Organ Music (Early)

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767): “Christ lag in Todes Banden”

- http://conquest.imslp.info/files/imglnks/usimg/4/40/IMSLP361895-PMLP584441-Telemann_Orgelwerke.pdf

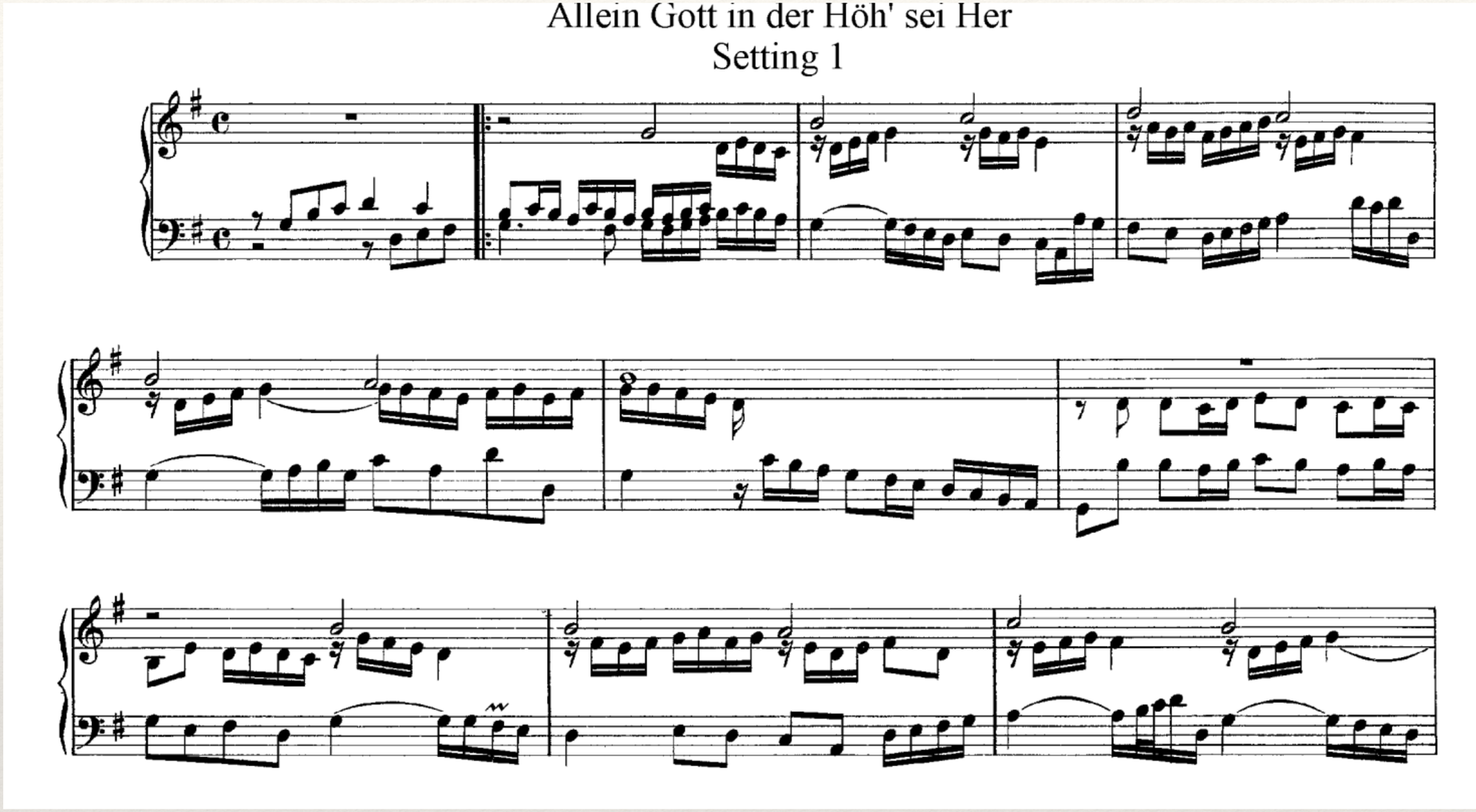




German Organ Music (Early)

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706): “Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr”

- Various Organ Works (Selected Chorales, Toccatas, Fugues on the Magnificat) https://imslp.org/wiki/Orgelkompositionen_(Pachelbel,_Johann)





French Organ Music– Early (before Romantic era)

- Many examples for manuals only or for minimal pedal
- Articulated touch
- Style is generally less familiar to Americans than Old English, German, and (some) Italian music
- The music may not sound right without French organ stops — French indicated desired registration (registration usually must be adapted to American organs)

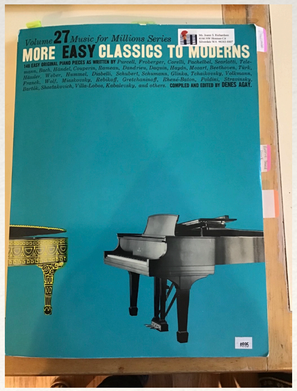


The notable Clicquot organ of the Versailles Chapel
By Maximillian Puhane - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6559173

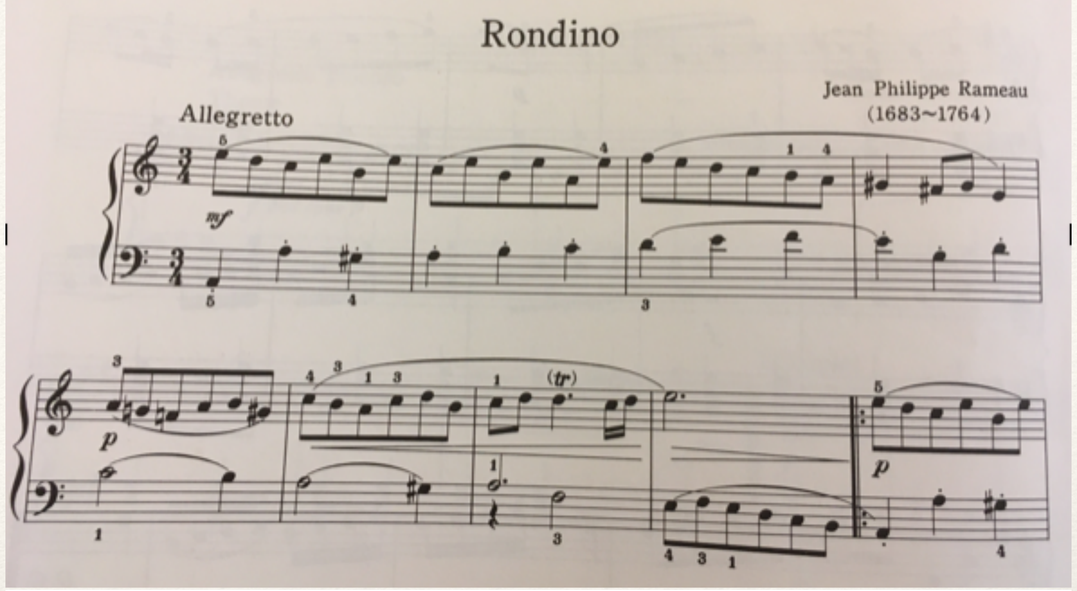
French Organ Music (Early)

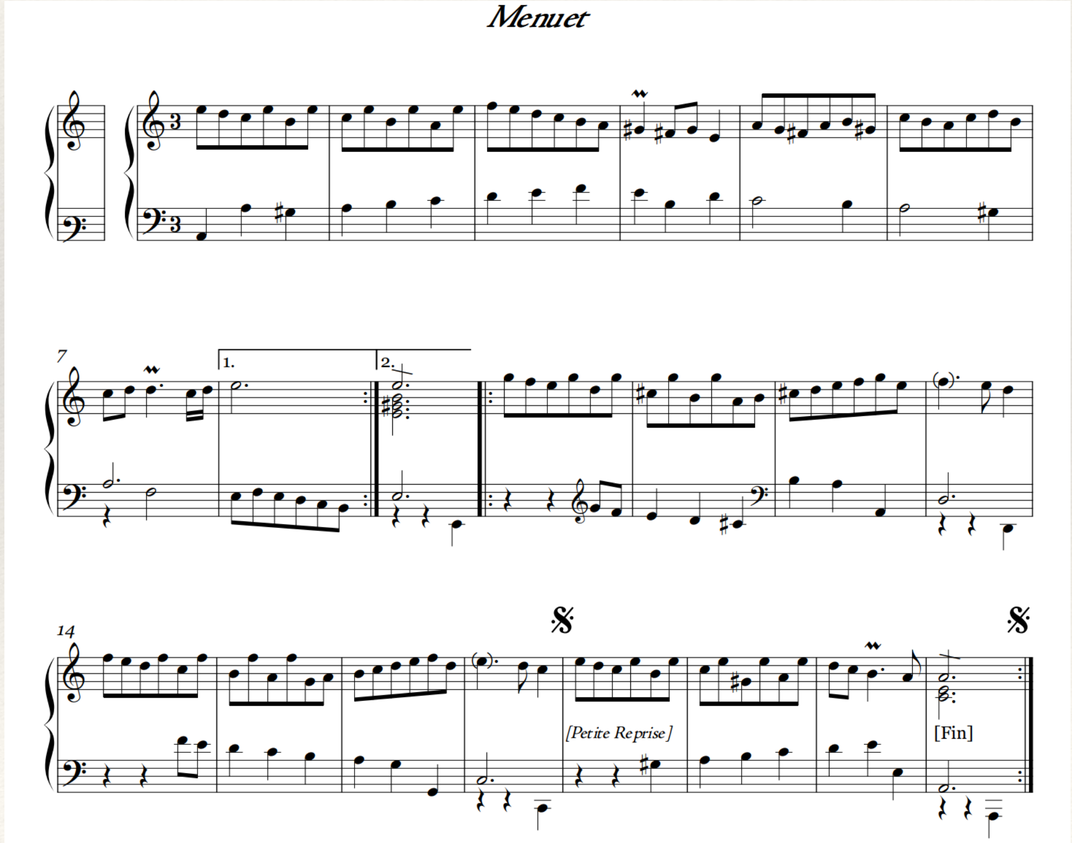
Jean Philippe Rameau (1683-1764): "Rondino"

- p.46: *More Easy Classics to Moderns, vol 27*, Denes Agay, ed.
- https://imslp.org/wiki/Premier_Livre_de_Pi%C3%A8ces_de_Clavecin_(Rameau,_Jean-Philippe)





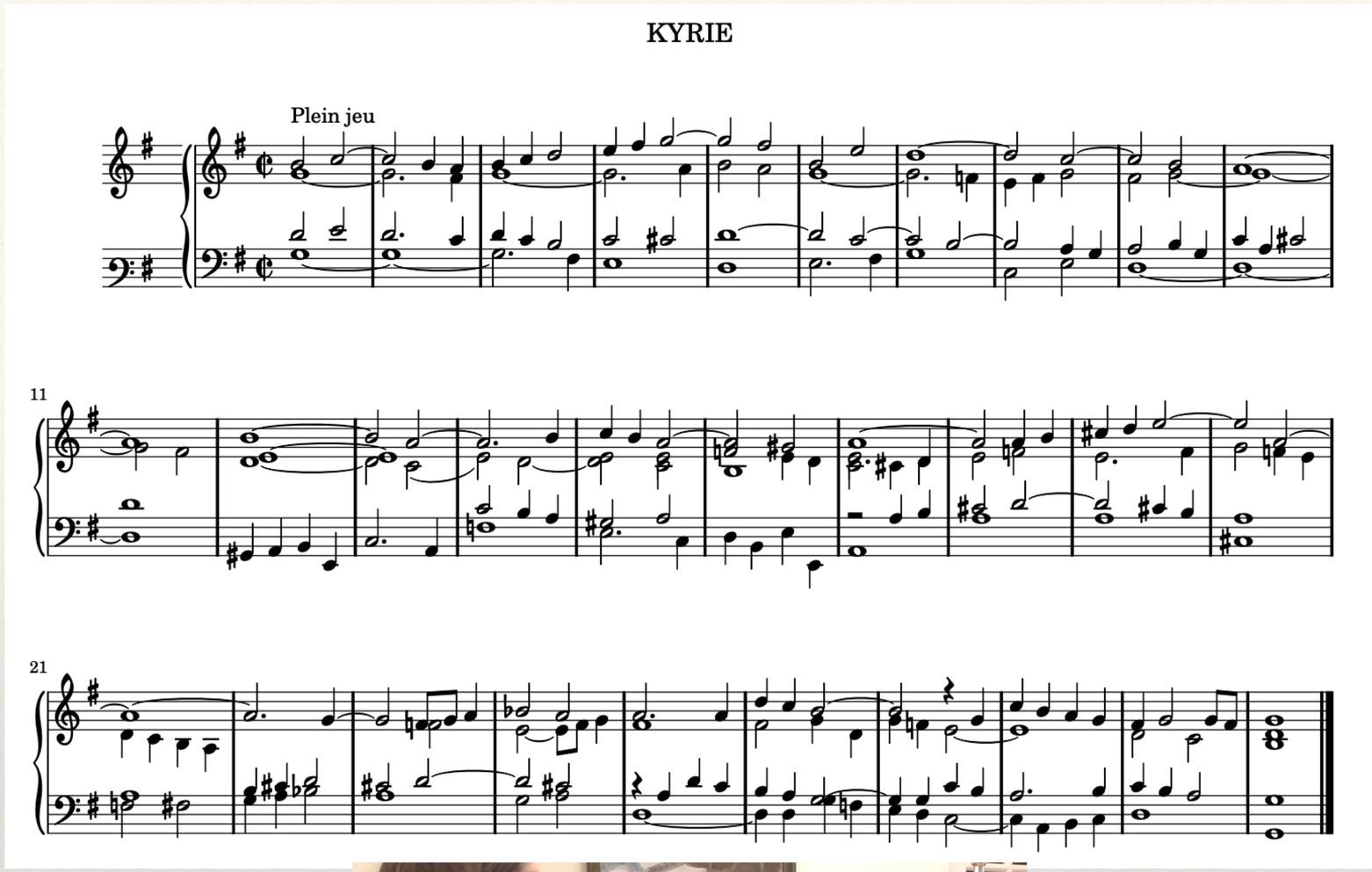




French Organ Music (Early)

François Couperin (1668-1733): From *Messe pour les couvents*, "Kyrie: plein jeu"

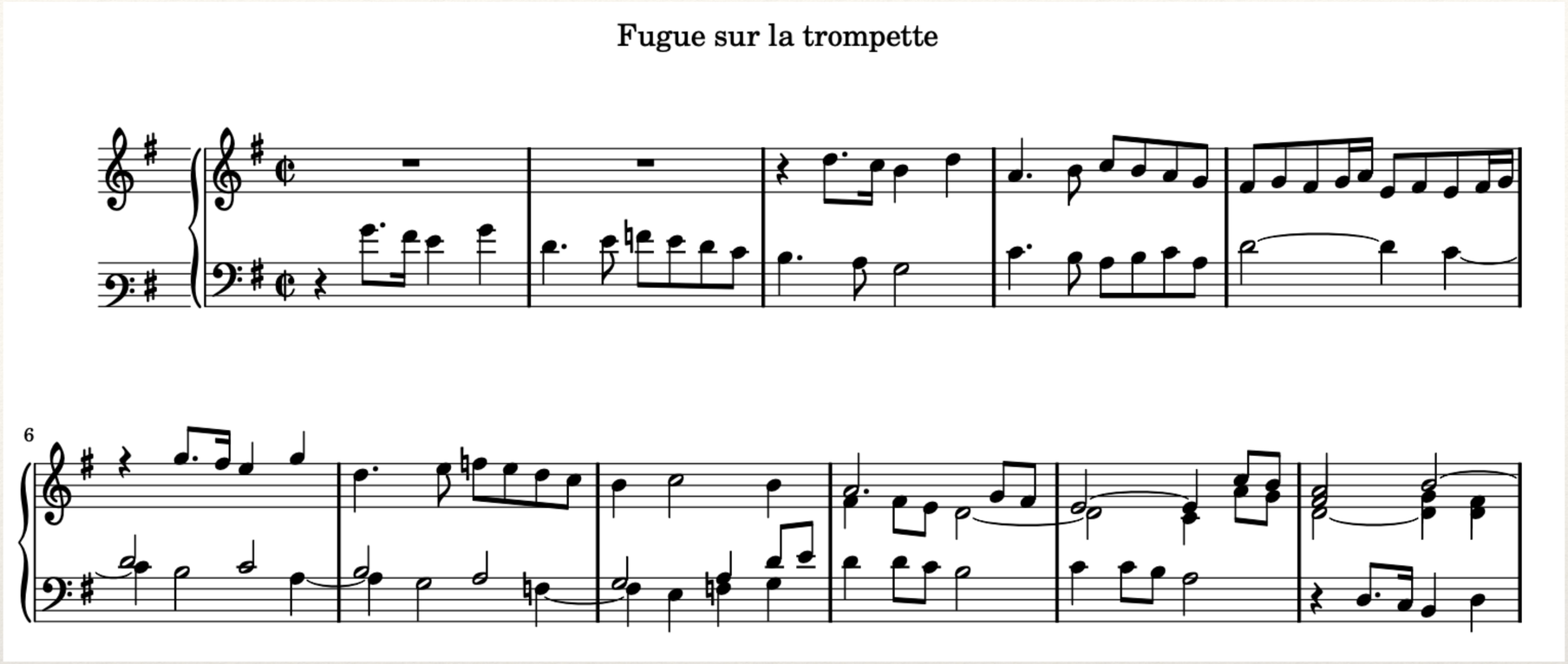
- Masses (Pour les paroisses; Pour les couvents): https://imslp.org/wiki/Pi%C3%A8ces_d'orgue_(Couperin%2C_Fran%C3%A7ois)





French Organ Music (Early)

François Couperin: From *Messe pour les couvents*, "Kyrie: Fugue sur la trompette"



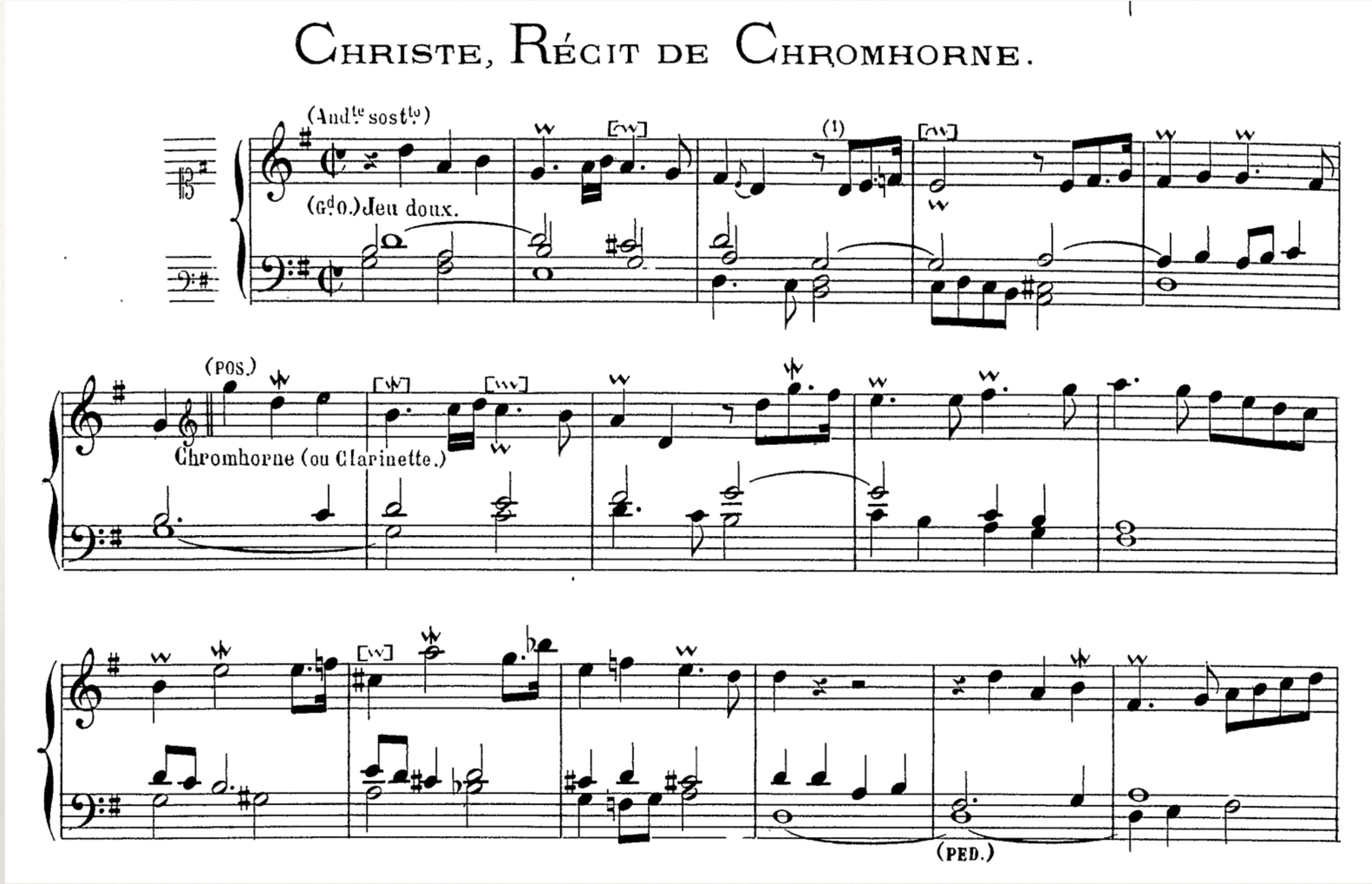
- Masses (Pour les paroisses; Pour les couvents): https://imslp.org/wiki/Pi%C3%A8ces_d'orgue_(Couperin%2C_Fran%C3%A7ois)



French Organ Music (Early)

François Couperin: From *Messe pour les couvents*, "Christe: Récit de chromhorne"

- Masses (Pour les paroisses; Pour les couvents): https://imslp.org/wiki/Pi%C3%A8ces_d'orgue_(Couperin%2C_Fran%C3%A7ois)

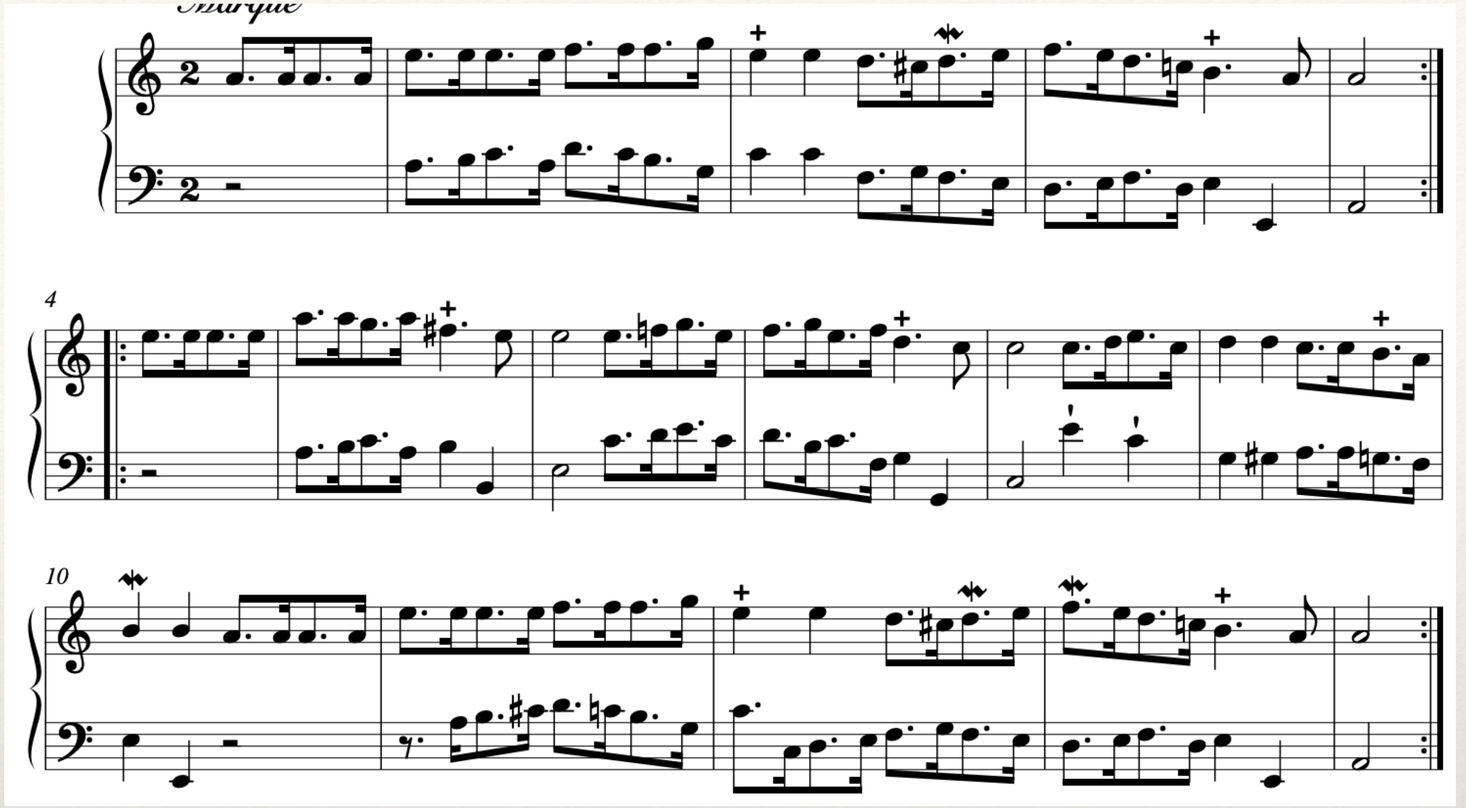


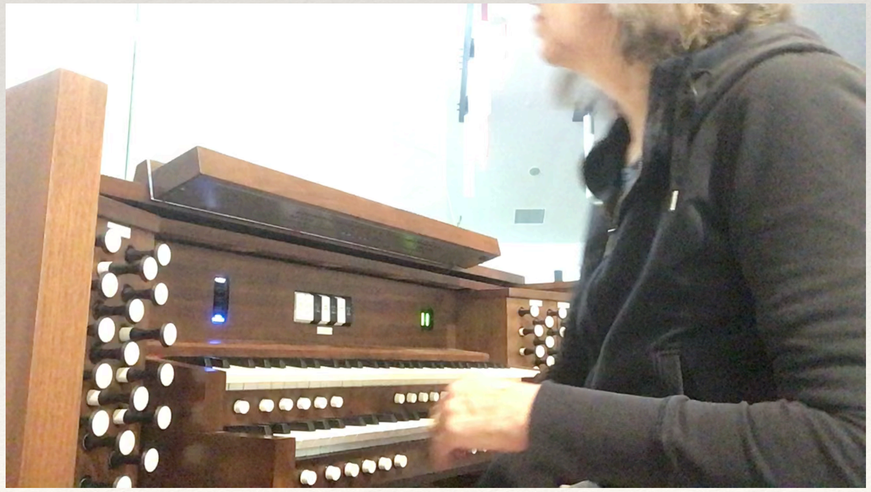


French Organ Music (Early)

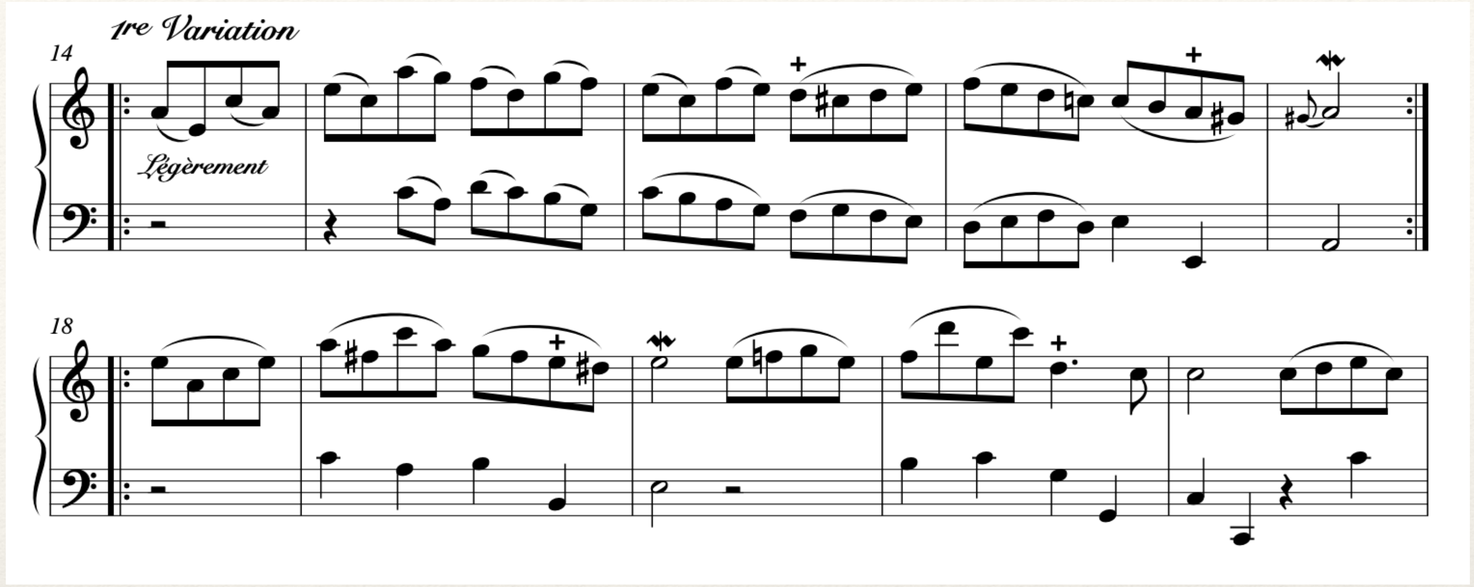
Claude Balbastre (1724-1799): “Il est un petit l’ange—noël suisse” from *Noëls,* Theme

- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/d/d5/IMSLP380691-PMLP247982-Balbastre_Noels_Complete.pdf



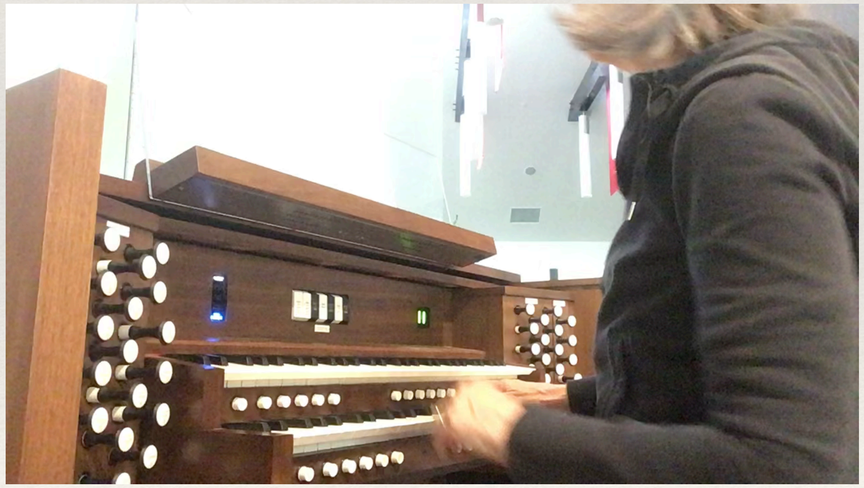


French Organ Music (Early)



Claude Balbastre (1724-1799): “Il est un petit l’ange—noël suisse” from *Noëls,* Variation 1

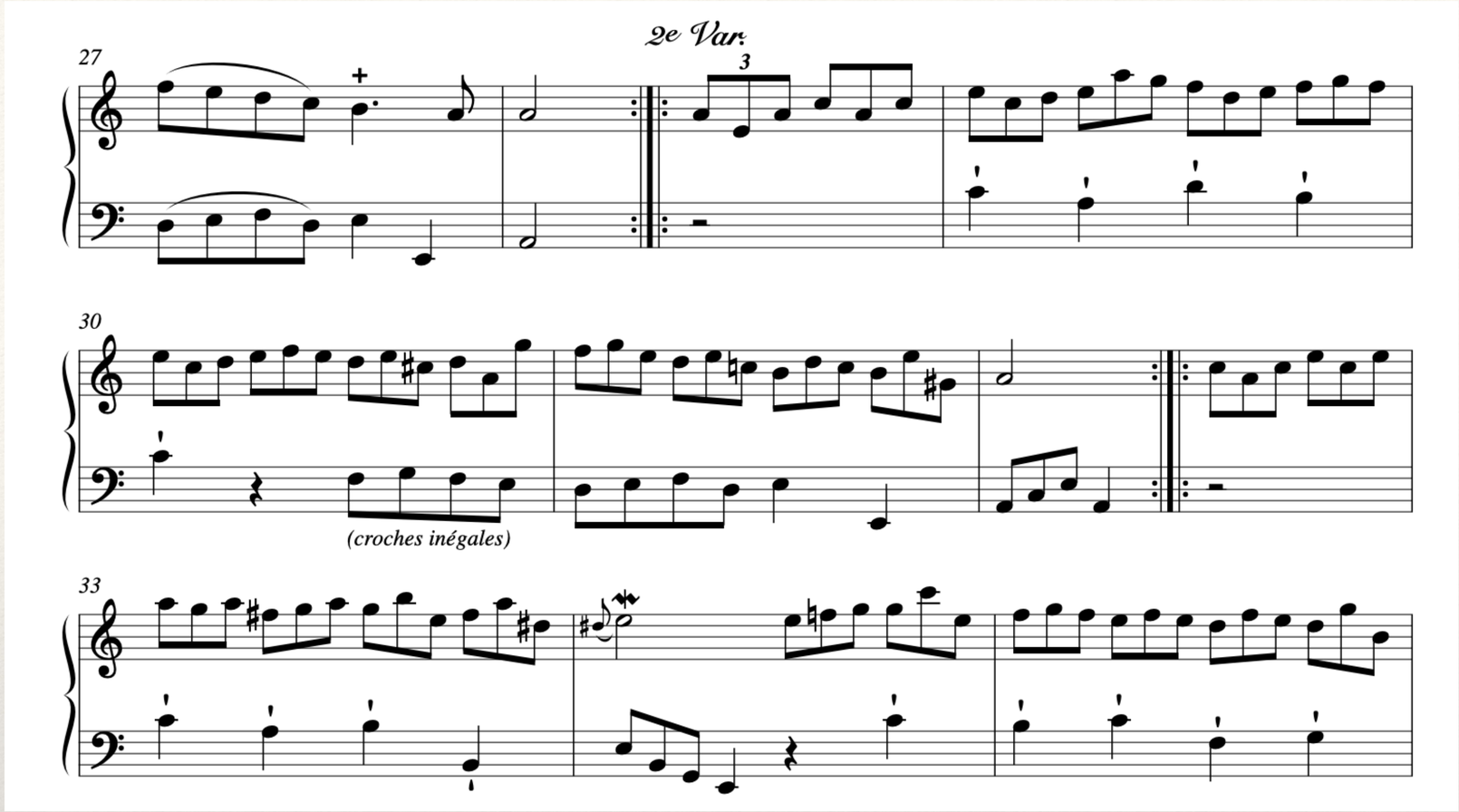
- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/d/d5/IMSLP380691-PMLP247982-Balbastre_Noels_Complete.pdf

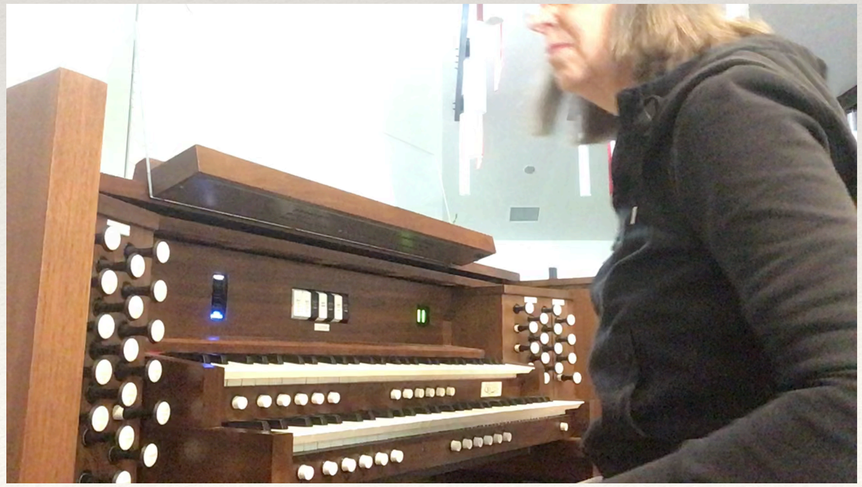


French Organ Music (Early)

Claude Balbastre (1724-1799): “Il est un petit l’ange—noël suisse” from *Noëls,* Variation 2

- https://s9.imslp.org/files/imglnks/usimg/d/d5/IMSLP380691-PMLP247982-Balbastre_Noels_Complete.pdf





French Organ Music (Romantic)

Organ legato required (usually)

- Substitution, finger crossing, glissando (finger, thumb, pedal), heel/toe technique in pedal



By Orgues Cathédrale Nancy; Cavaillé-Coll - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=26829545

French Organ Music (Romantic)

- The music may not sound right without French organ stops —French indicated desired registration (registration usually must be adapted to American organs)
- Music often requires use of expression pedal (swell pedal) and registration devices (pistons, toe studs)



Saint-Ouen Organ, Rouen; Cavaillé-Coll
Cmcmcm1, CC BY-SA 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

French Organ Music (Romantic)

- Many examples for manuals only or for minimal pedal, especially if written for harmonium
- Some collections: Pour l'orgue ou harmonium (for the organ or harmonium)
  - Léon Boëllmann-"Heures mystiques"
  - César Franck- "L'Organiste"
  - Louis Vierne- 24 pièces en stile libre (most difficult)

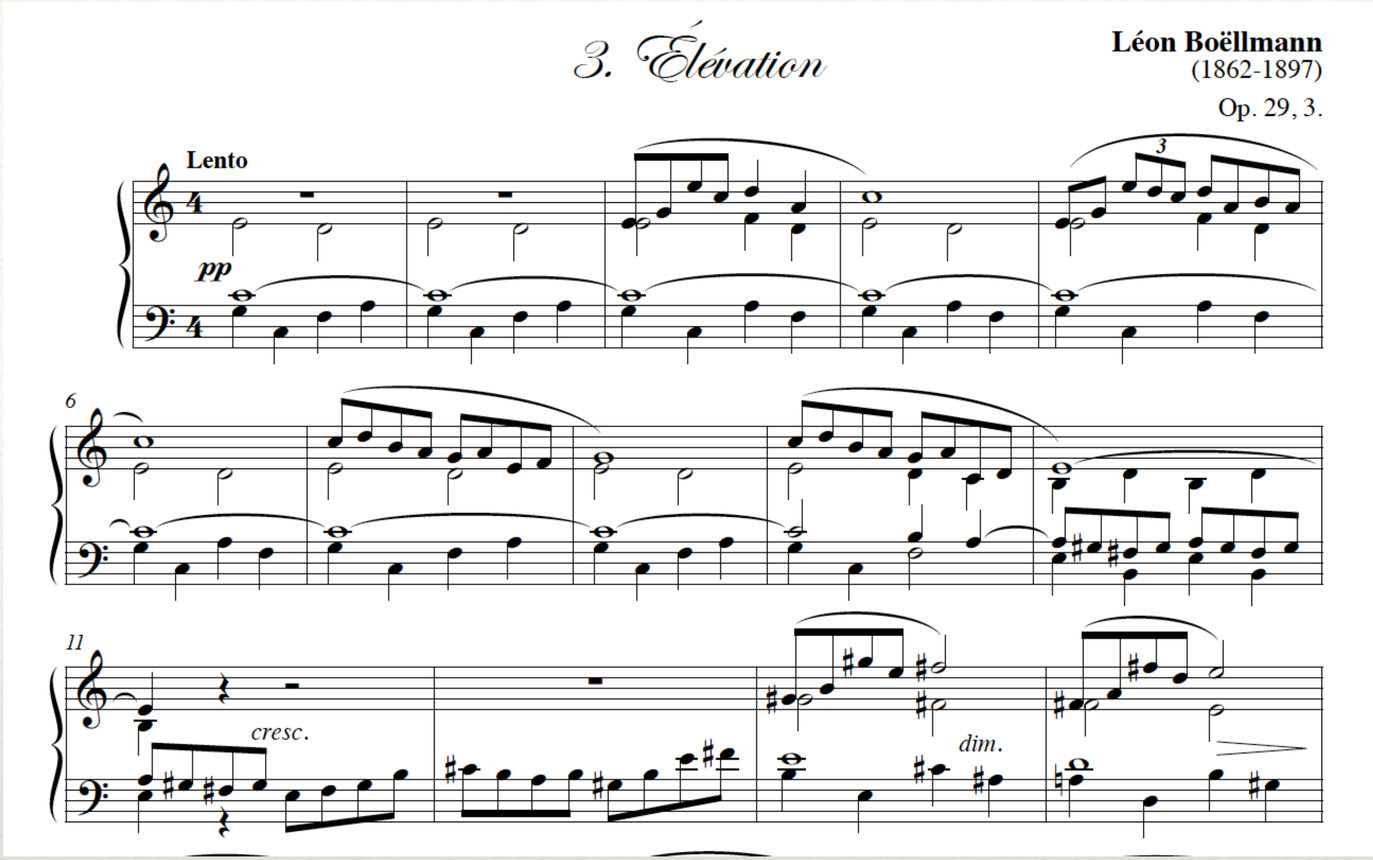


Harmonium (Photo: Public Domain)
https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/504397#:~:text=Victor%20and%20Auguste%20Mustel%20French,and%20learned%20the%20carpentry%20trade.

French Organ Music (Romantic)

Léon Böellmann (1862-1897): from *Heures Mystiques- Messe 3:* "Élévation"

- https://imslp.org/wiki/Heures_mystiques%2C_Opp.29-30_(Bo%C3%ABllmann%2C_L%C3%A9on)

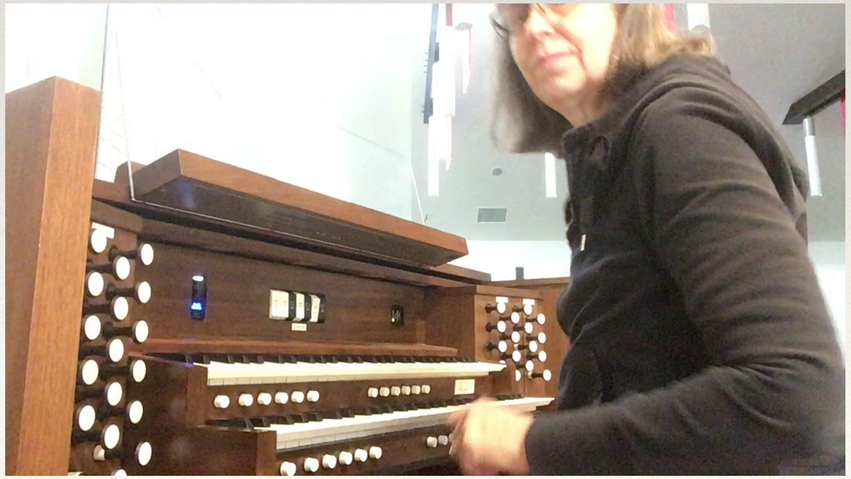


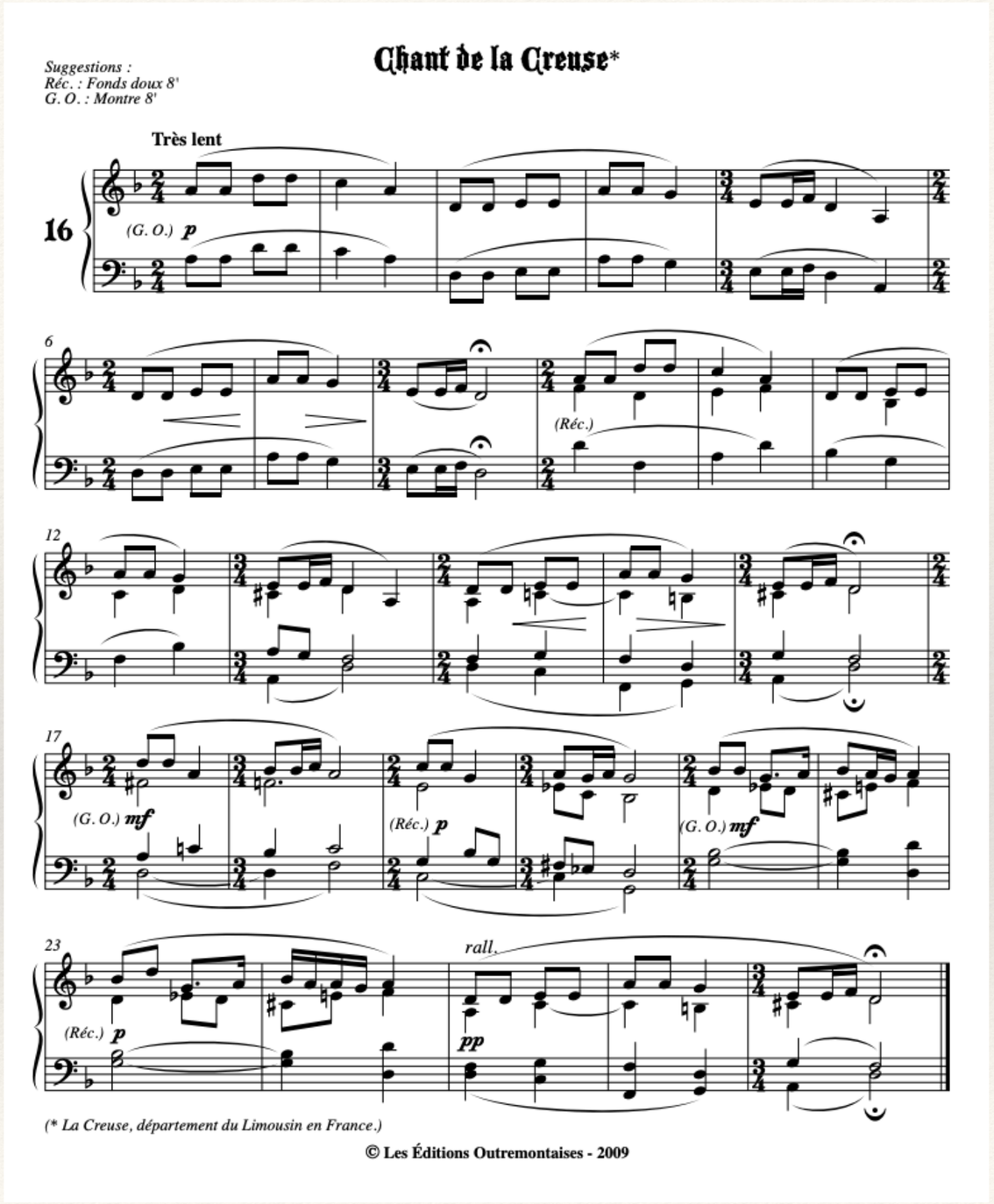


French Organ Music (Romantic)

César Franck (1822-1890): *L'Organiste*

- https://imslp.org/wiki/L%27Organiste_%28Franck,_C%C3%A9sar%29





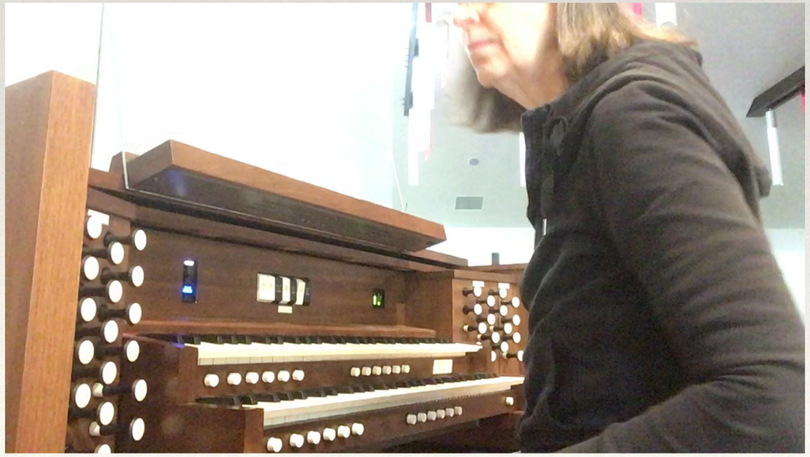
Music for the Advancing Organist

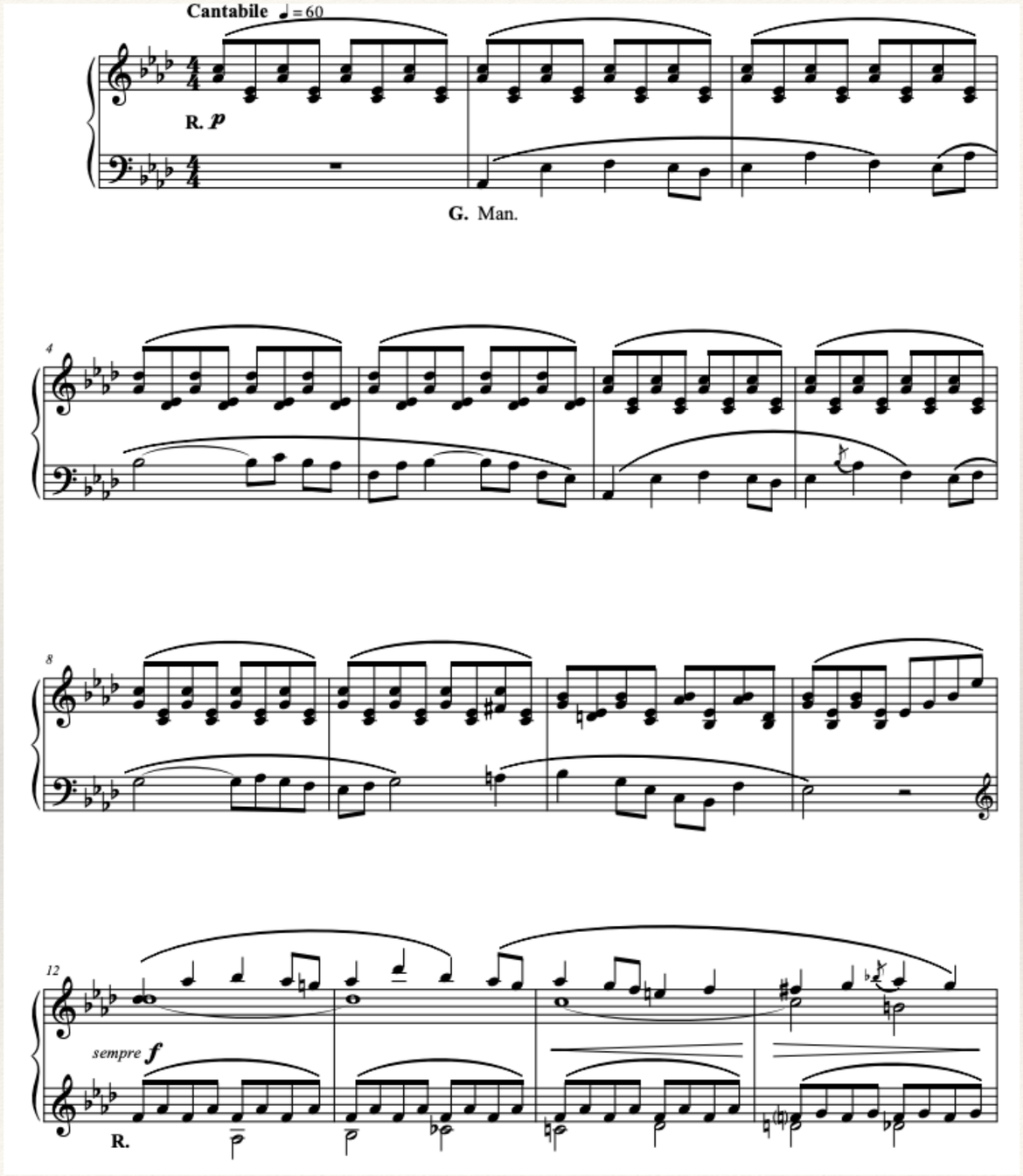


French Organ Music (Romantic)

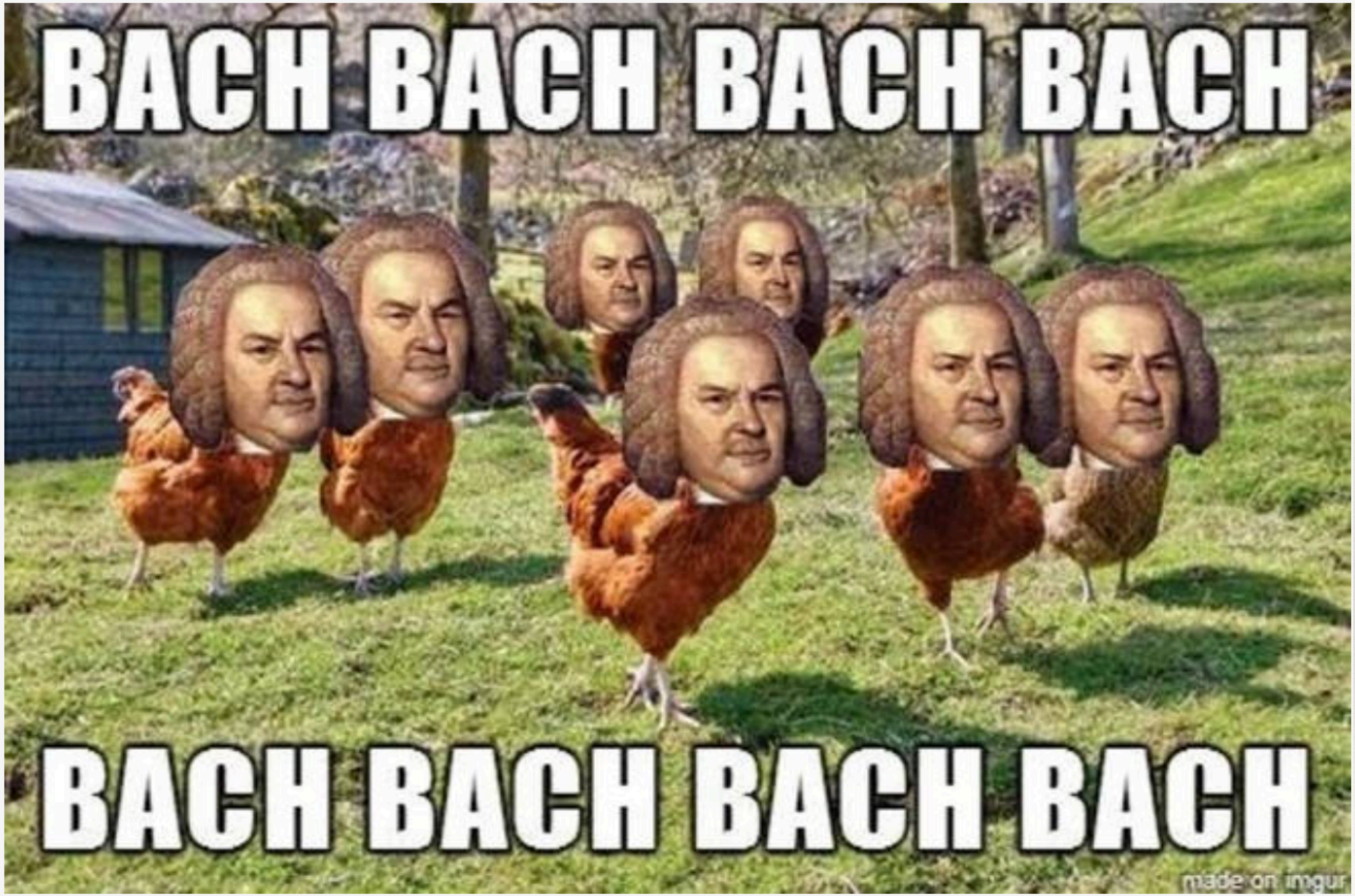
Louis Vierne (1870-1937): From *24 pièces en stile libre, book 2* — "Lied"

- https://imslp.org/wiki/24_Pi%C3%A8ces_en_style_libre%2C_Op.31_(Vierne%2C_Louis)





- Bach is difficult—start with easier Bach



Bach Bach Bach. *Picture: Facebook / Dynamic Rhythms*

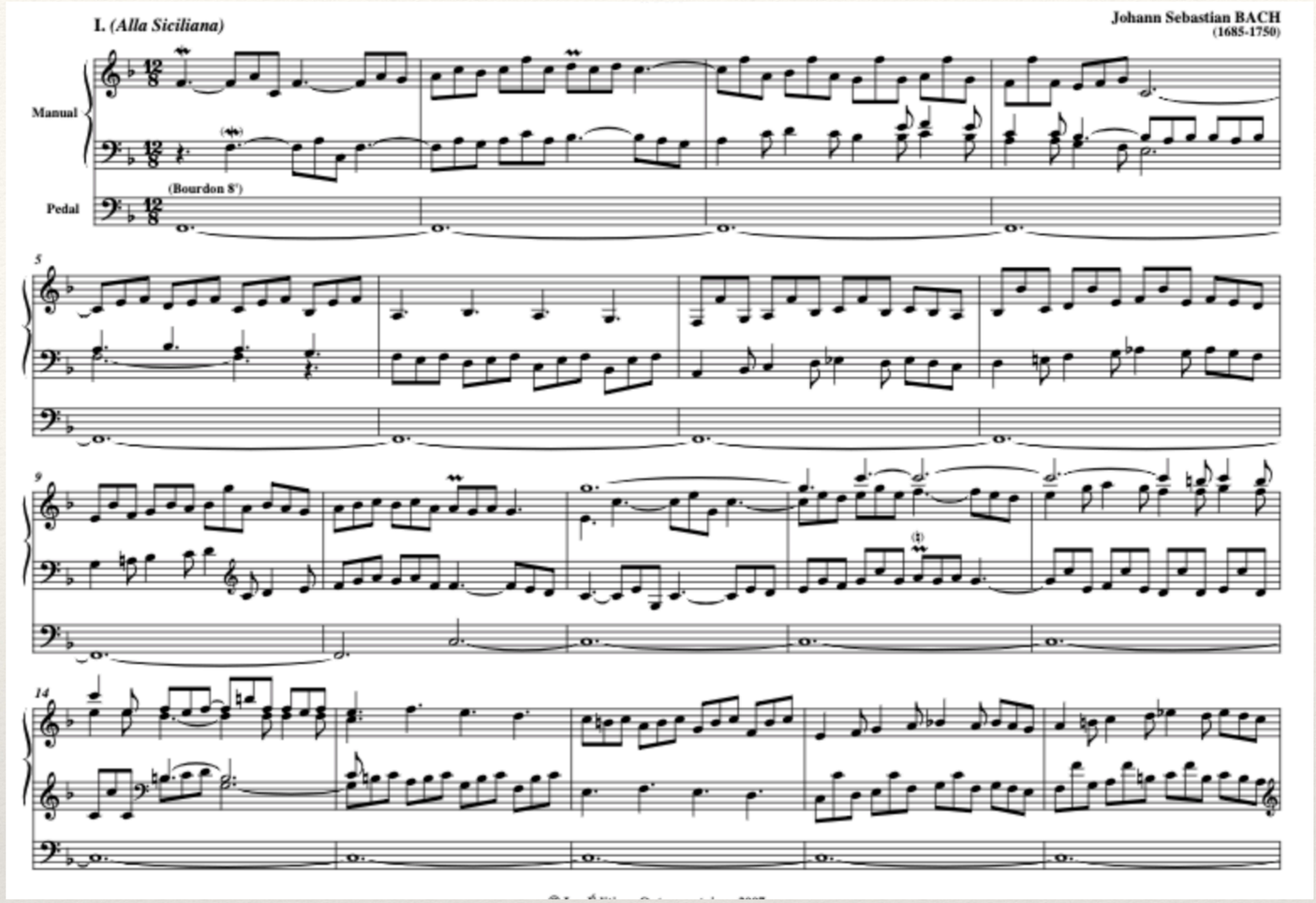
Good Beginning Bach



Johann Sebastien Bach (1685-1750)

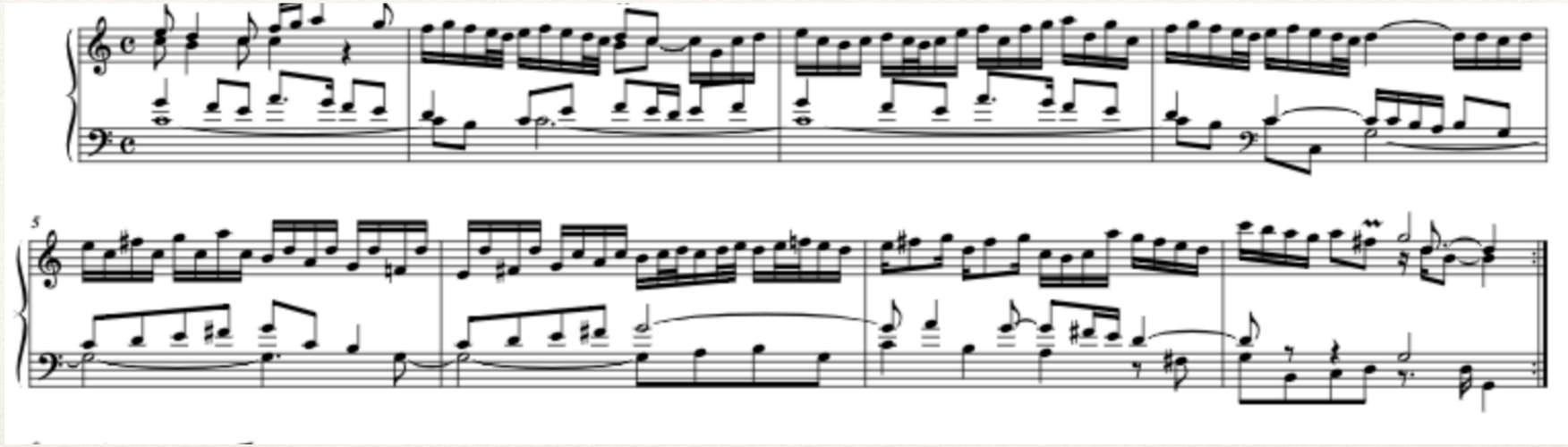
Pastorale in F, BWV 590

- https://imslp.org/wiki/Pastorale_in_F_major,_BWV_590_(Bach,_Johann_Sebastian)





Johann Sebastien Bach (1685-1750)

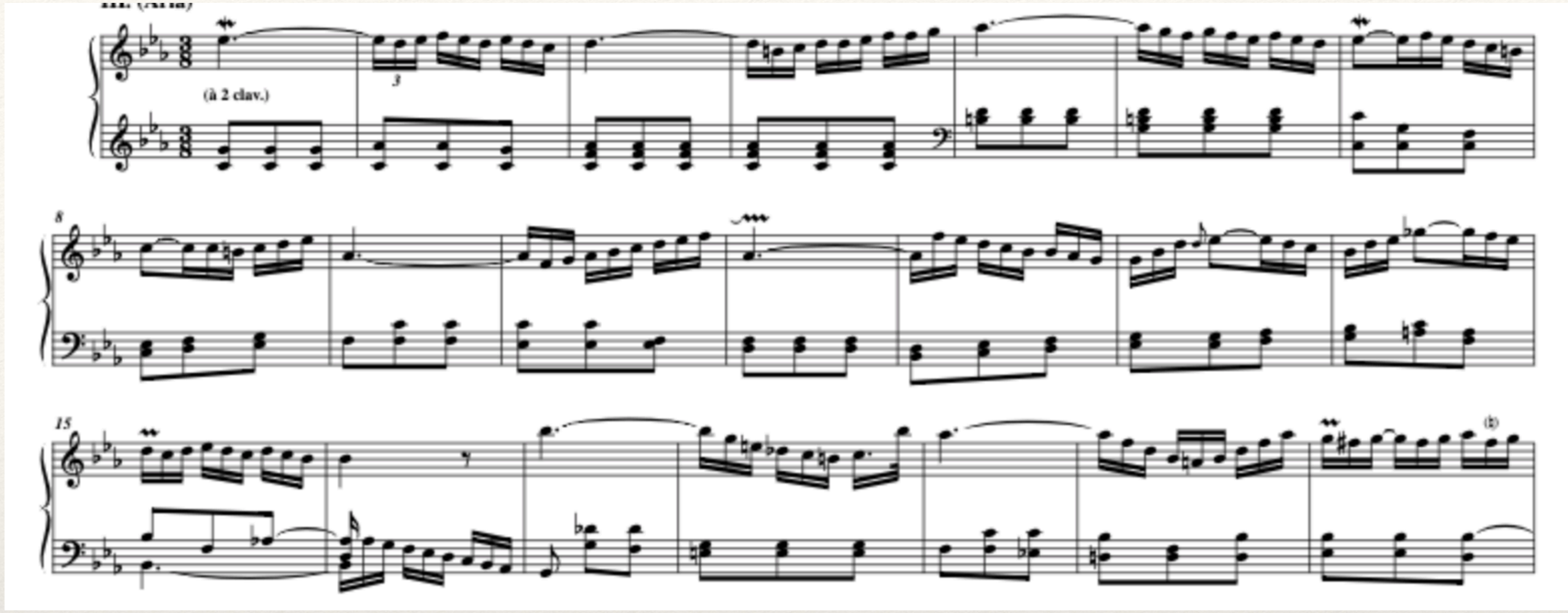


Pastorale in F, BWV 590

- https://imslp.org/wiki/Pastorale_in_F_major,_BWV_590_(Bach,_Johann_Sebastian)



Johann Sebastien Bach (1685-1750)



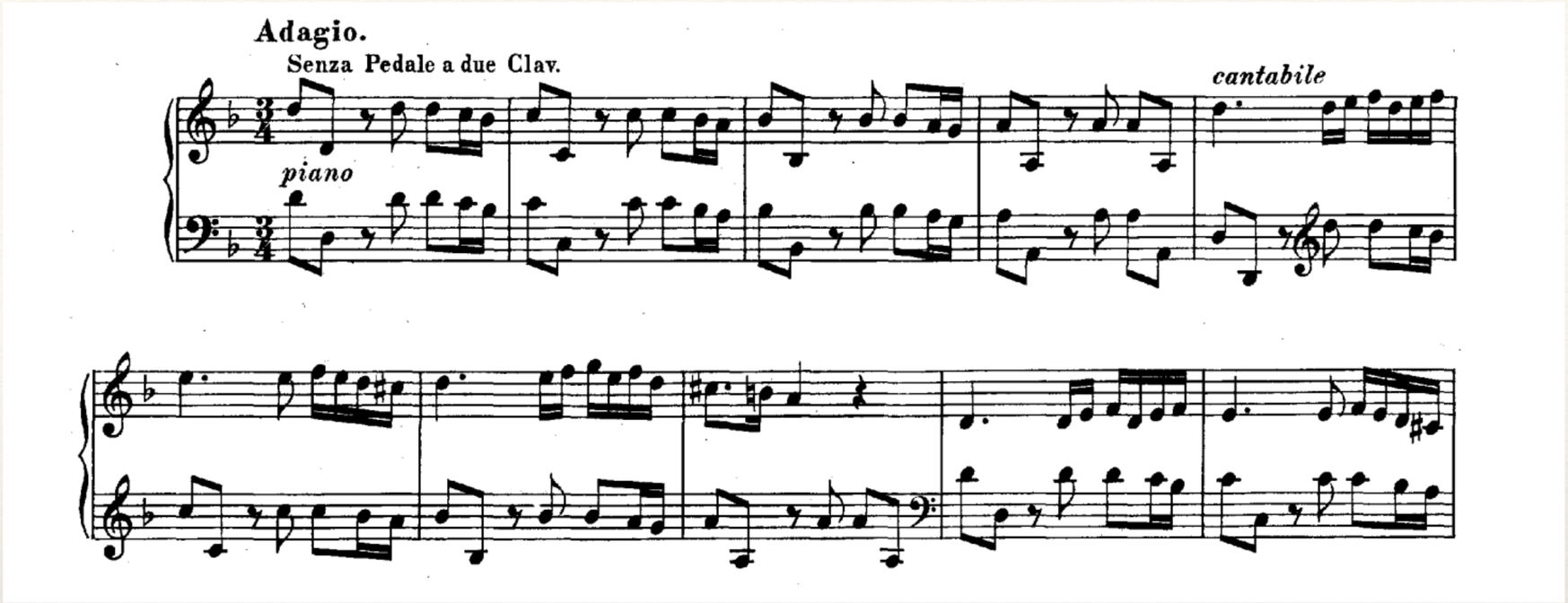
Pastorale in F, BWV 590

- https://imslp.org/wiki/Pastorale_in_F_major,_BWV_590_(Bach,_Johann_Sebastian)



Johann Sebastien Bach (1685-1750)

Adagio from Concerto in a minor (after Vivaldi), BWV 593



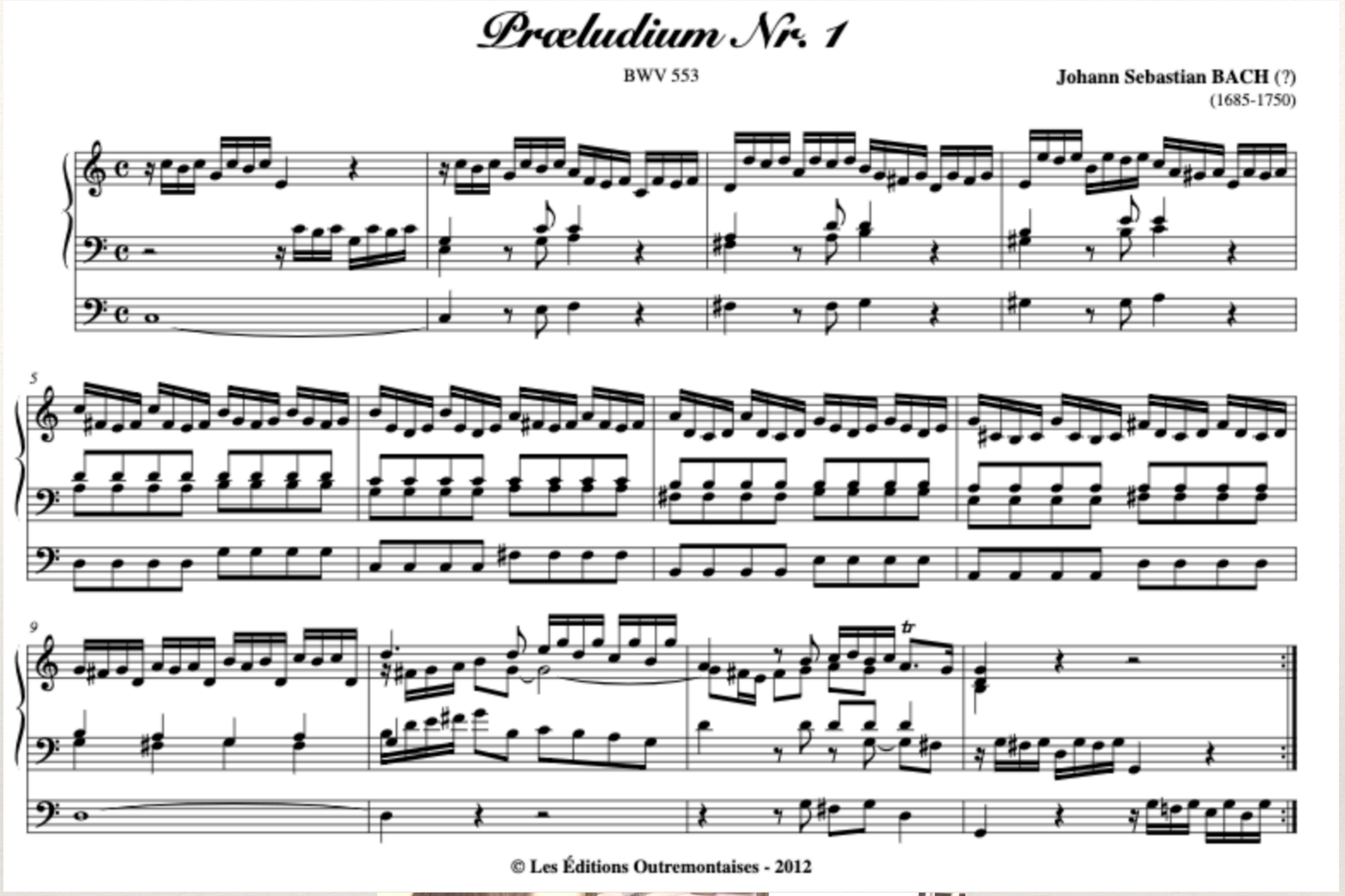
- https://imslp.org/wiki/Organ_Concerto_in_A_minor,_BWV_593_(Bach,_Johann_Sebastian)



Formerly Attributed to Bach

8 Little Preludes and Fugues (formerly attributed to Bach): Prelude in C Major

- https://imslp.org/wiki/8_Kleine_Pr%C3%A4ludien_und_Fugen%2C_BWV_553-560_(Bach%2C_Johann_Sebastian)

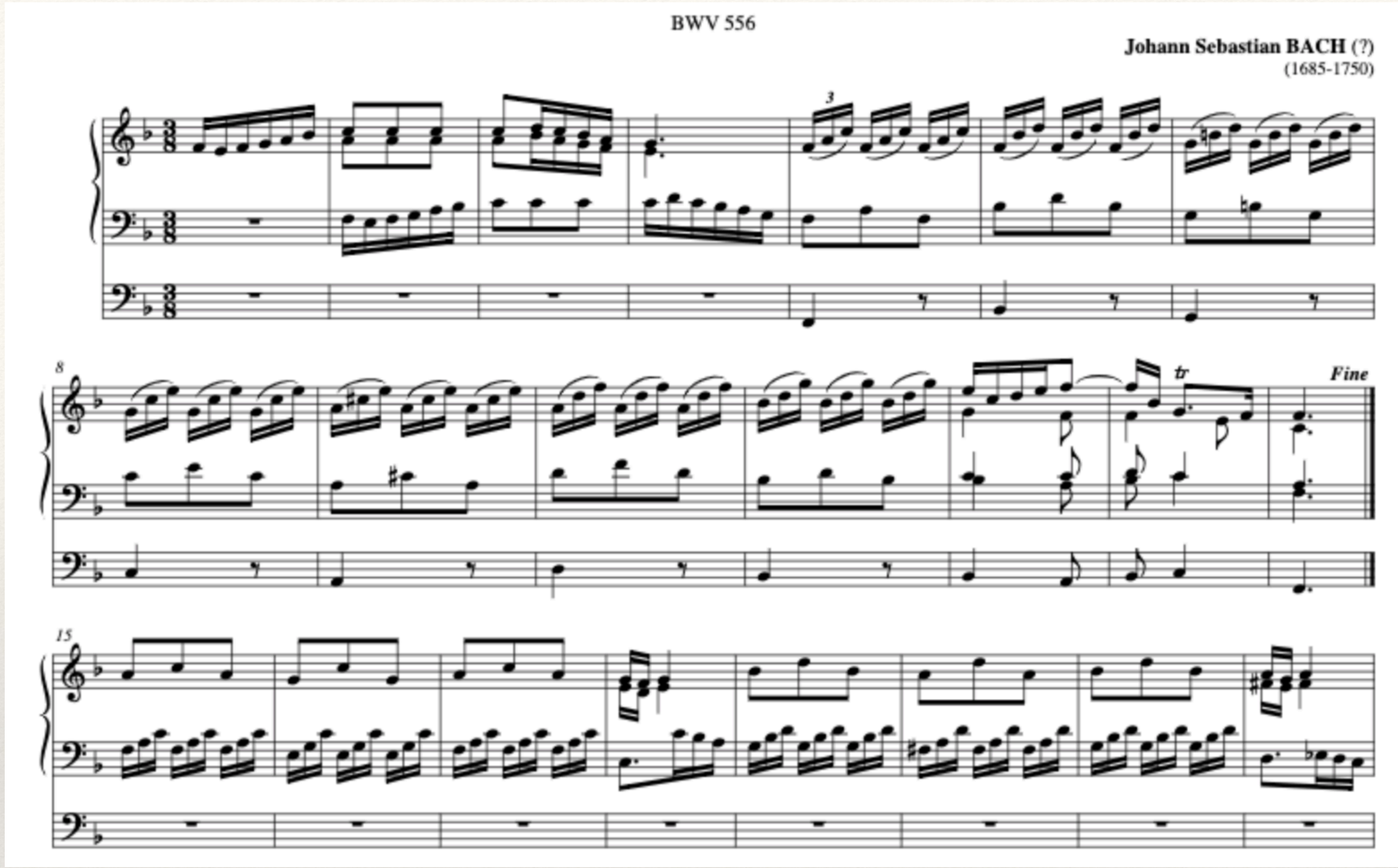




Formerly Attributed to Bach

8 Little Preludes and Fugues (formerly attributed to Bach): Prelude in F Major

- https://imslp.org/wiki/8_Kleine_Pr%C3%A4ludien_und_Fugen%2C_BWV_553-560_(Bach%2C_Johann_Sebastian)

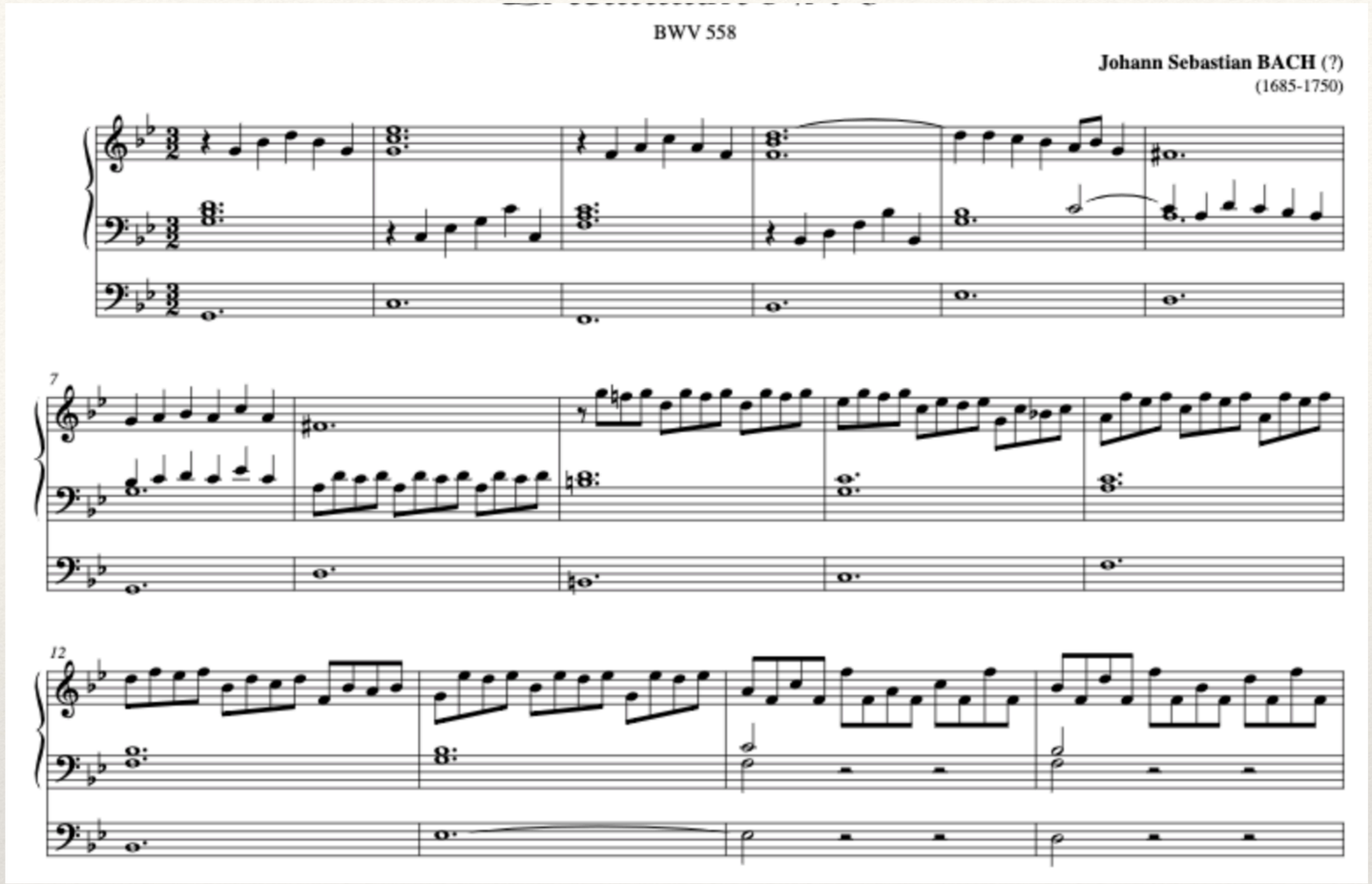




Formerly Attributed to Bach

8 Little Preludes and Fugues (formerly attributed to Bach): Prelude in G Minor

- https://imslp.org/wiki/8_Kleine_Pr%C3%A4ludien_und_Fugen%2C_BWV_553-560_(Bach%2C_Johann_Sebastian)





Also at this year's WSMTA Conference…

Please join me for a

Church Music Forum

Lunchtime Meeting

12:15PM, Saturday June 25

Joann S. Richardson, NCTM; WSMTA Chair for Organ

- slides for "Real Organ Music Even a Pianist Can Play"
  - jrichardsonmusic.com
- contact: organistjoann@gmail.com

