Bach – the art of elaboration

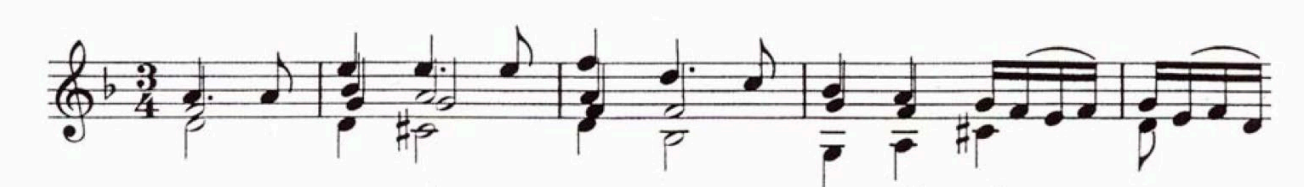
Prof Steve Goss

Tonebase 24th August 2022

Chaconne from BWV 1004

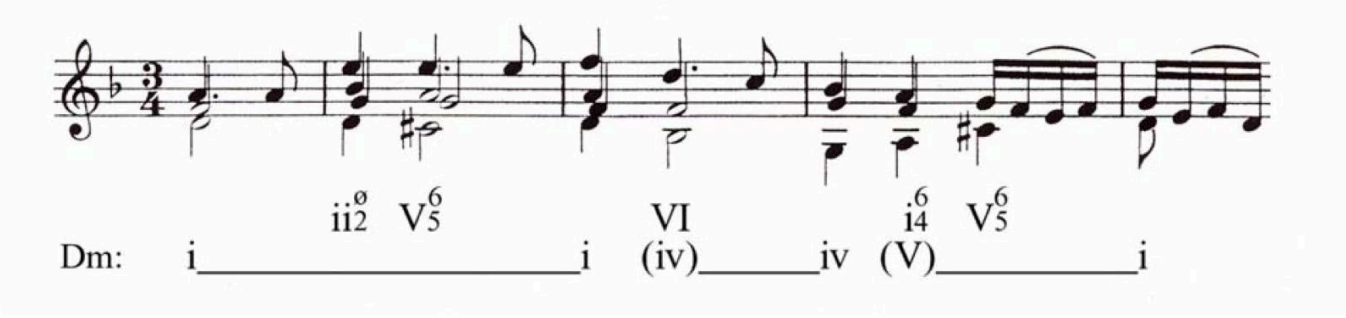
Goldberg Variations BWV 988

Chaconne



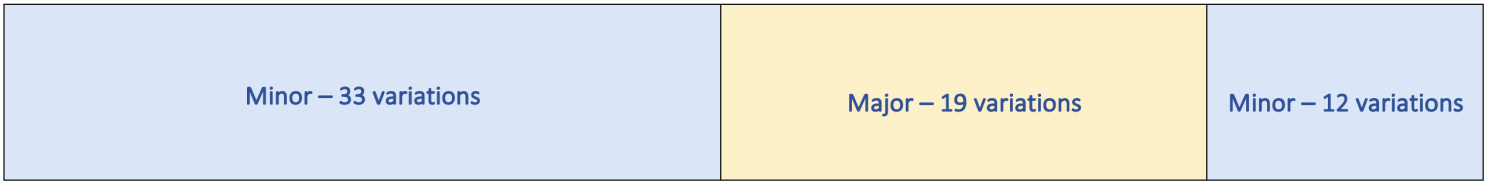
We get 64 statements of this 4-measure bass

Chaconne

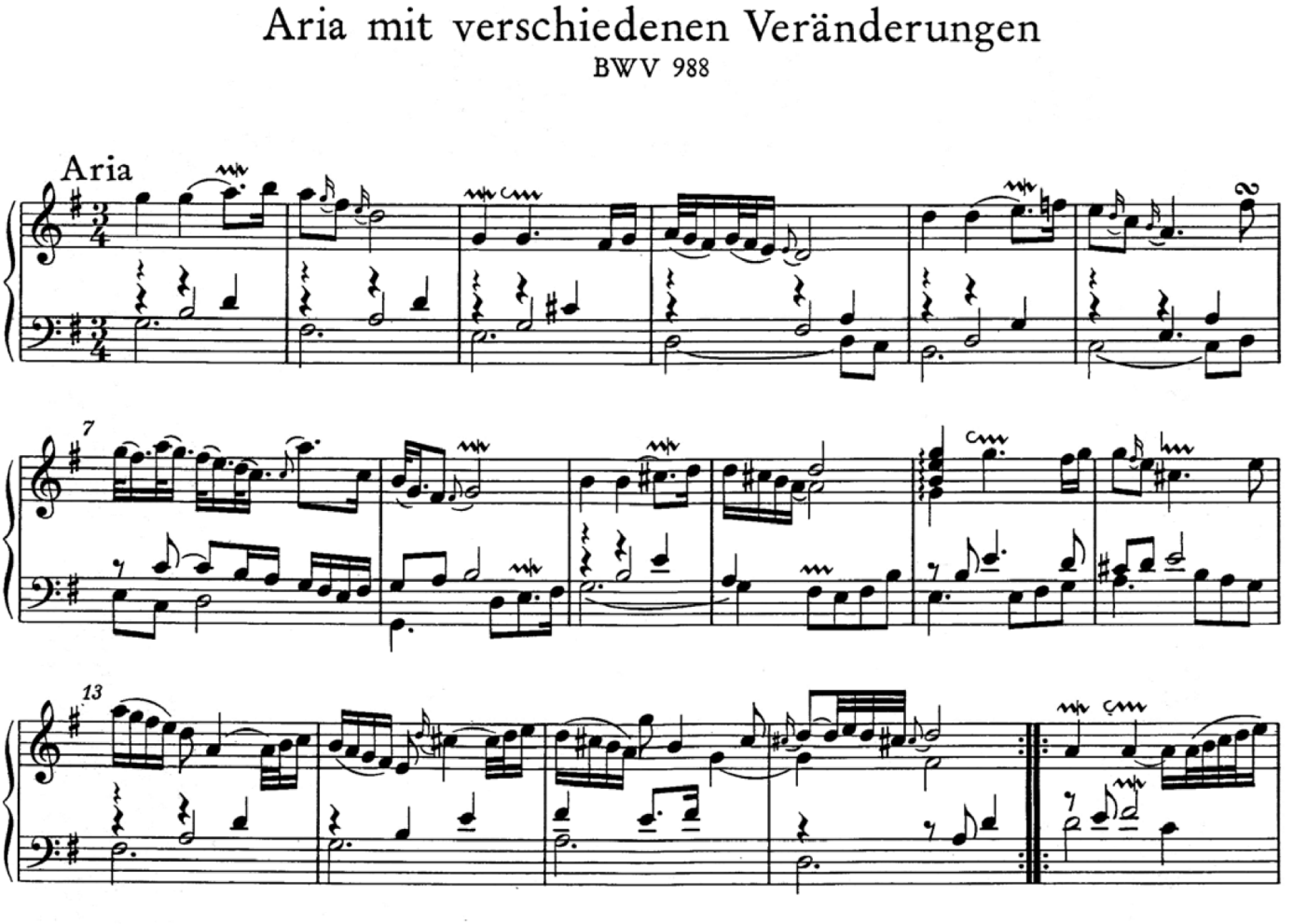


We get 64 statements of this 4-measure bass

Overall Shape of the Chaconne

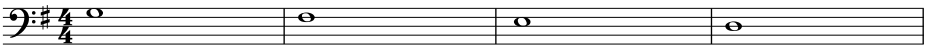


The Goldberg Variations



Goldberg Variations Bass Line for part 1

JS Bach



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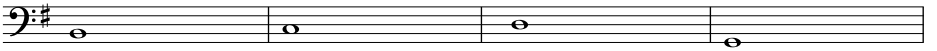

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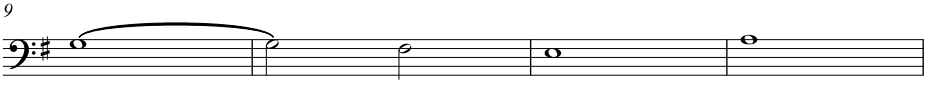

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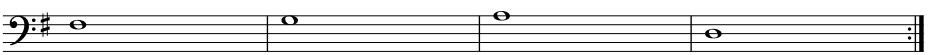
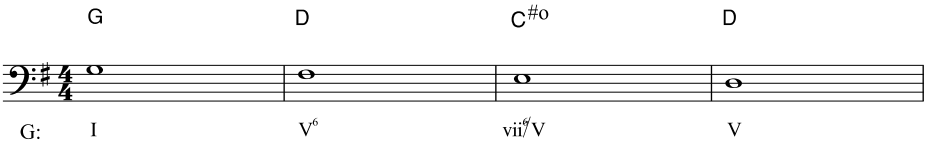
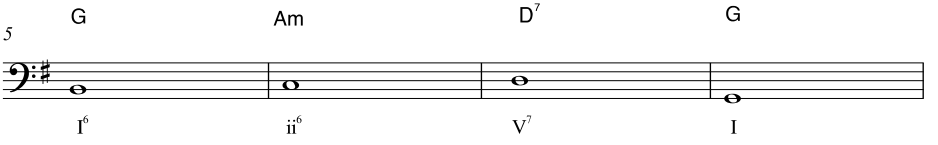
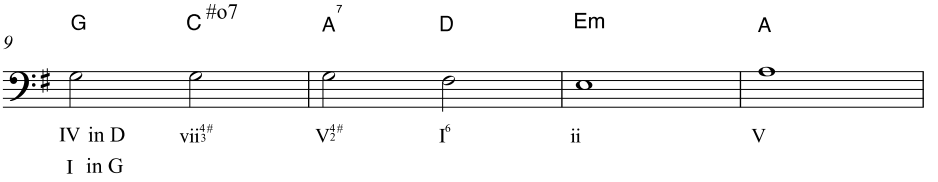


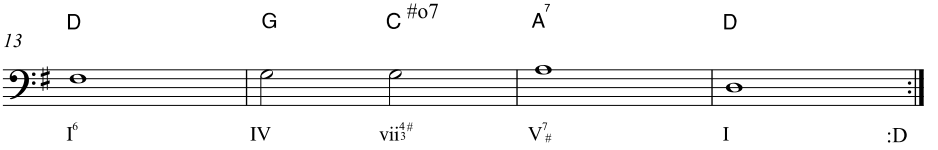
Goldberg Variations Bass Line
with chord symbolsfor part 1

JS Bach



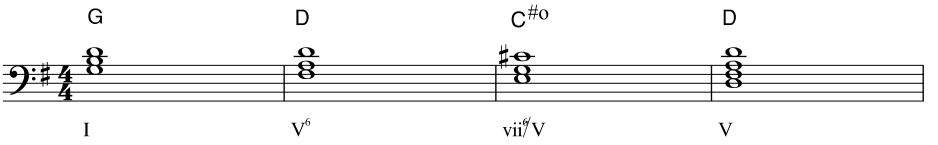


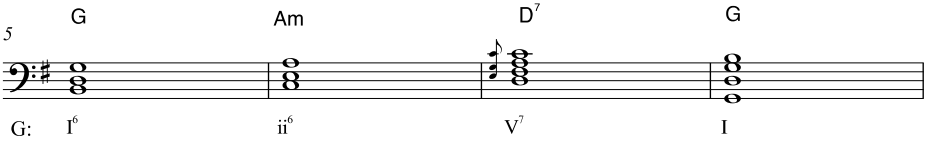


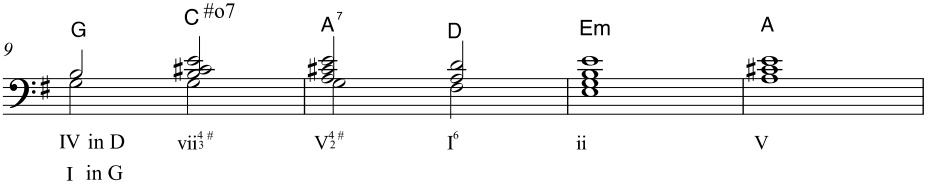


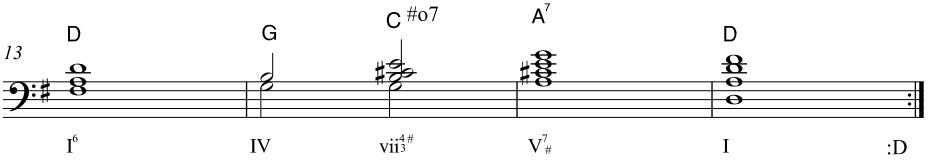
Goldberg Variations Harmonic Template for part 1

JS Bach









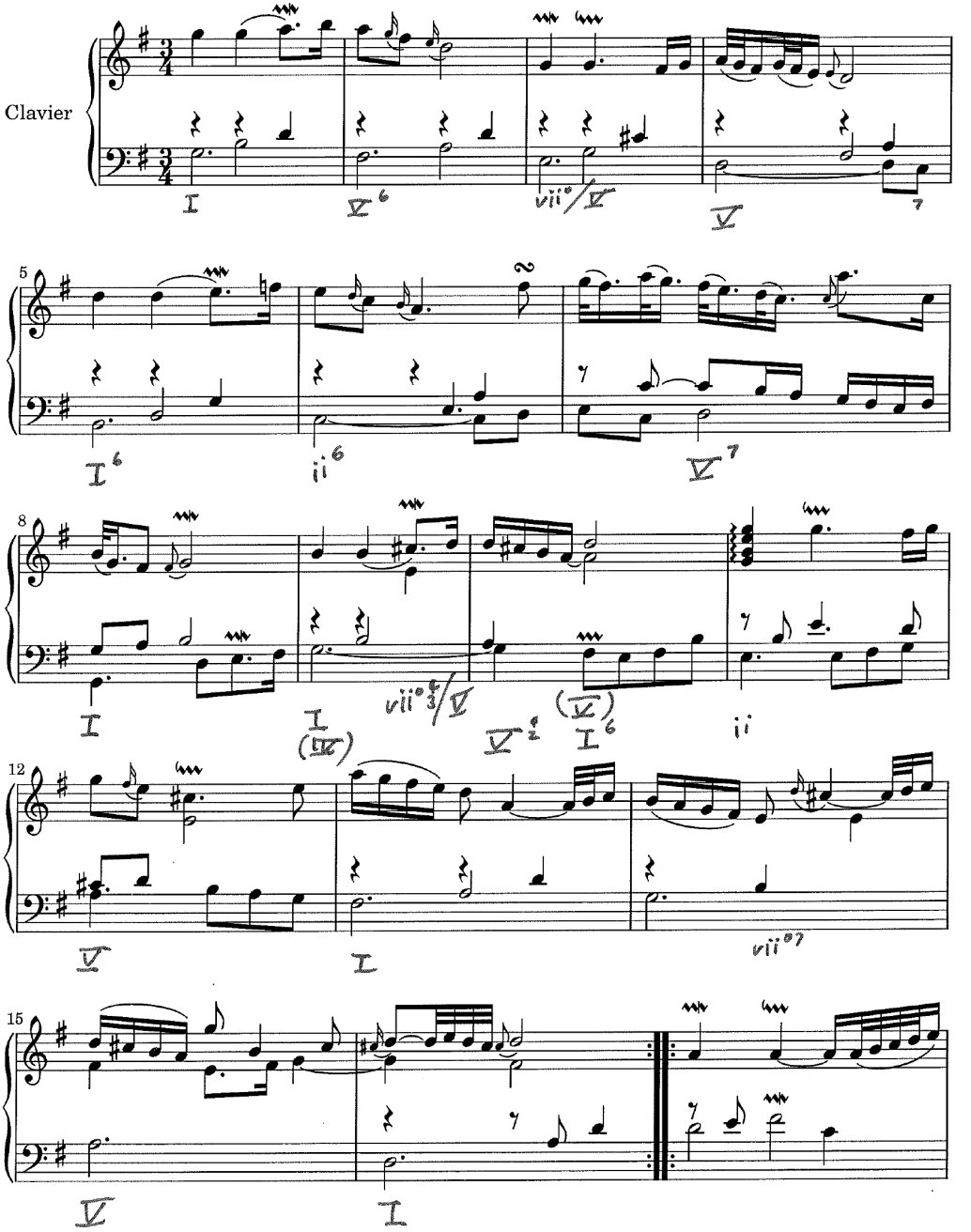
Aria con 30 Variazioni

"Goldbergsche Variationen"

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Aria

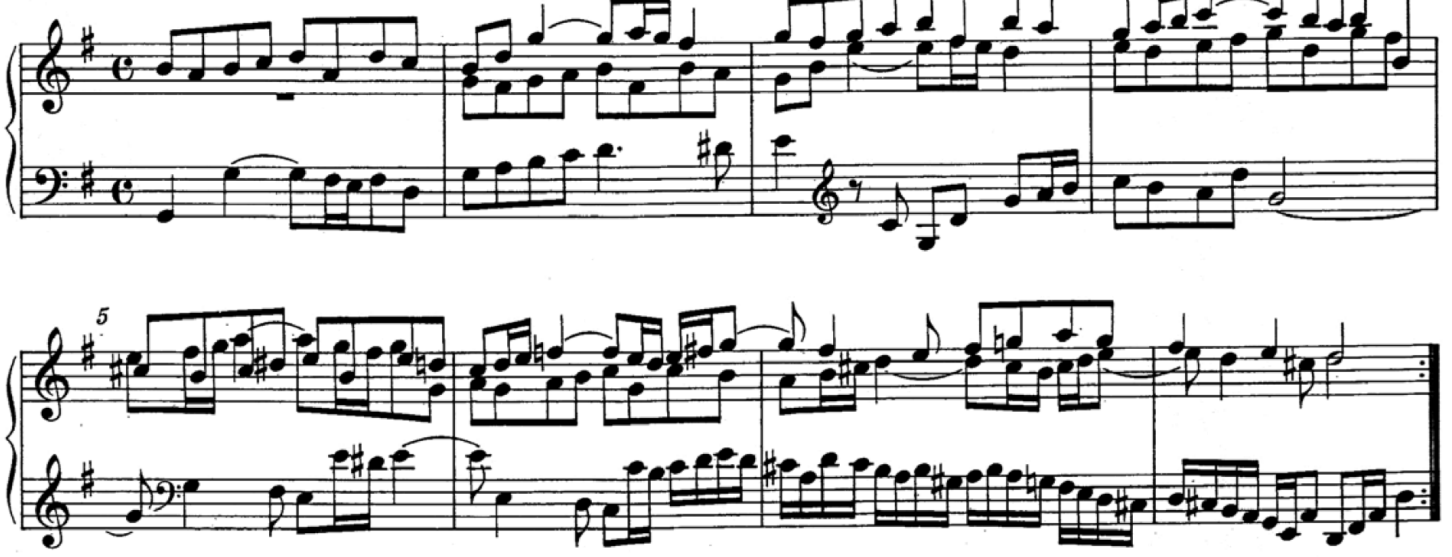
BWV 988



The Canons

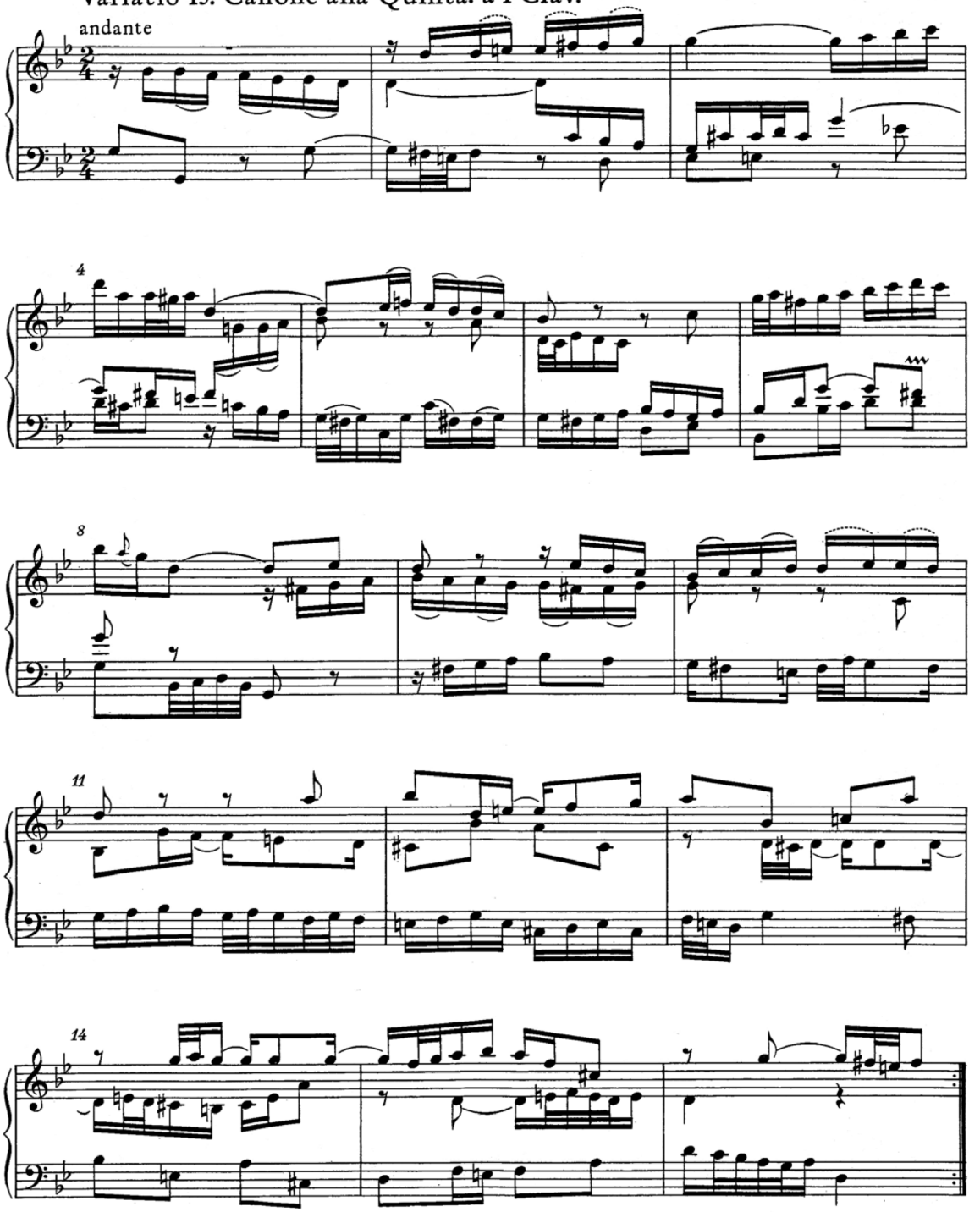
- 3 Unison
- 6 2nd
- 9 3rd
- 12 4th in inversion
- 15 5th in inversion
- 18 6th
- 21 7th
- 24 Octave
- 27 9th
- 30 Quodlibet

Variatio 9. Canone alla Terza. a 1 Clav.

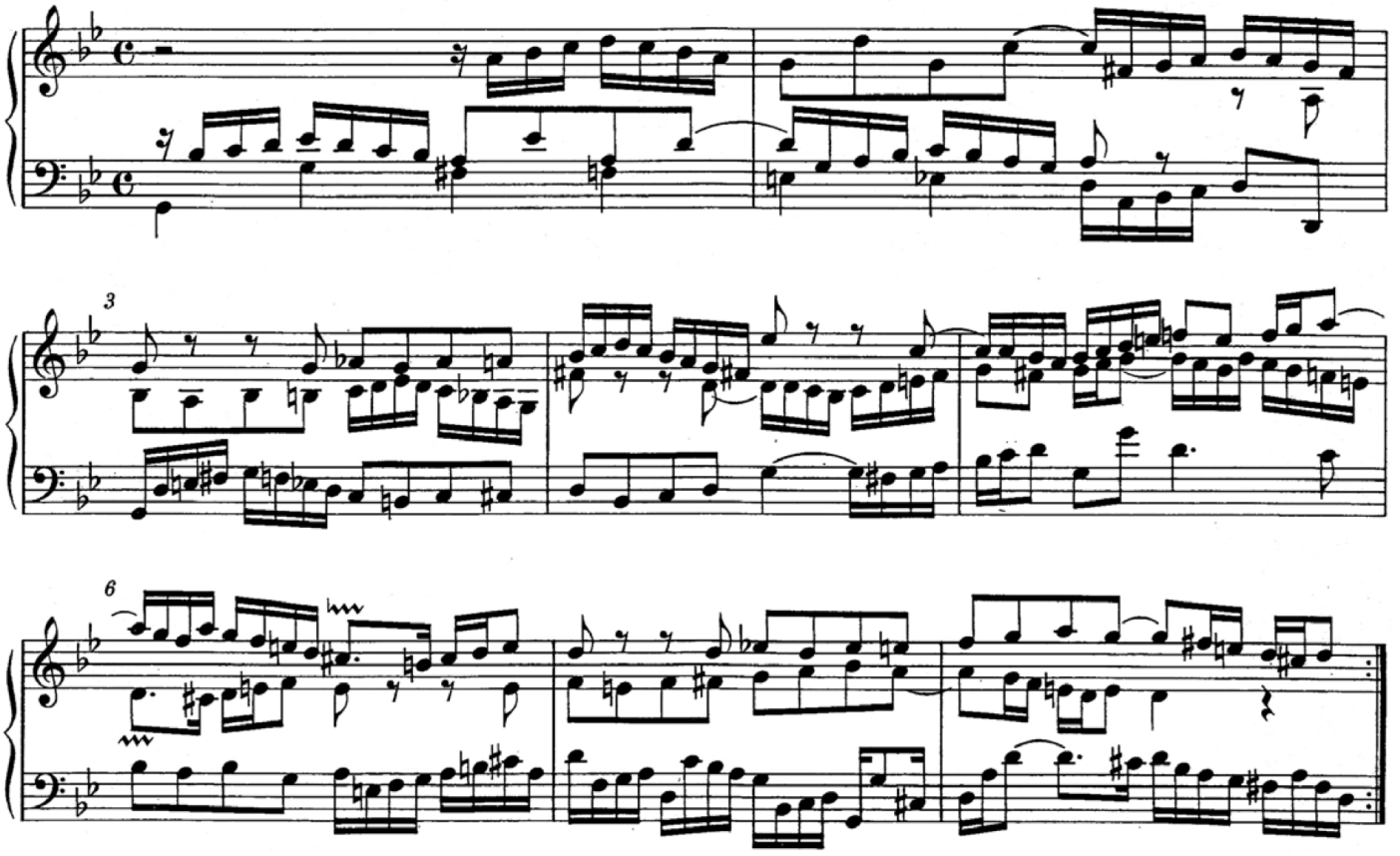


Variatio 15. Canone alla Quinta. a 1 Clav.

andante



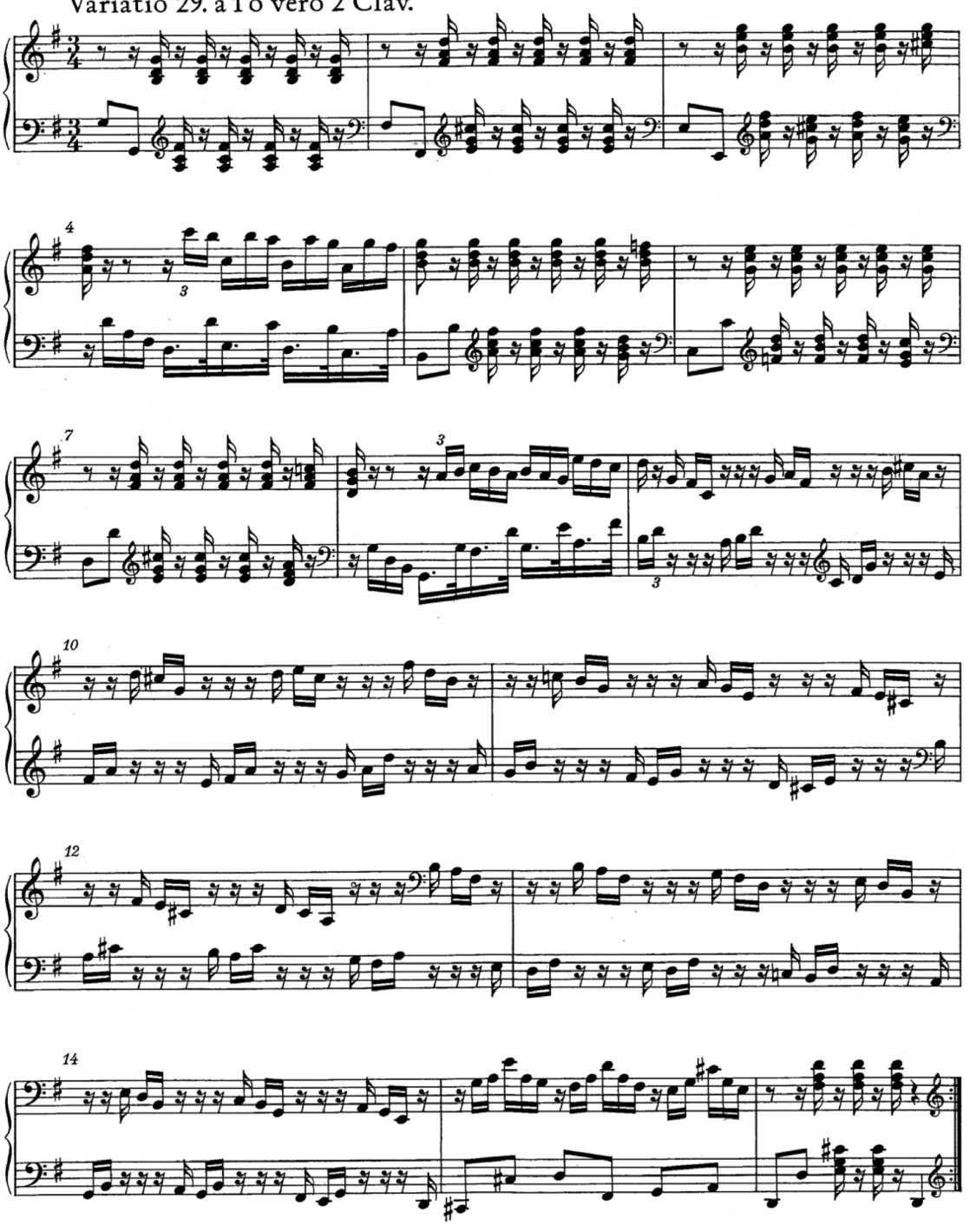
Variatio 21. Canone alla Settima. *a 1 Clav.*



The Arabesques

- 5
- 8
- 11
- 14
- 17
- 20
- 23
- 26
- 29 virtuosic in Italian Style

Variatio 29. a 1 ô vero 2 Clav.

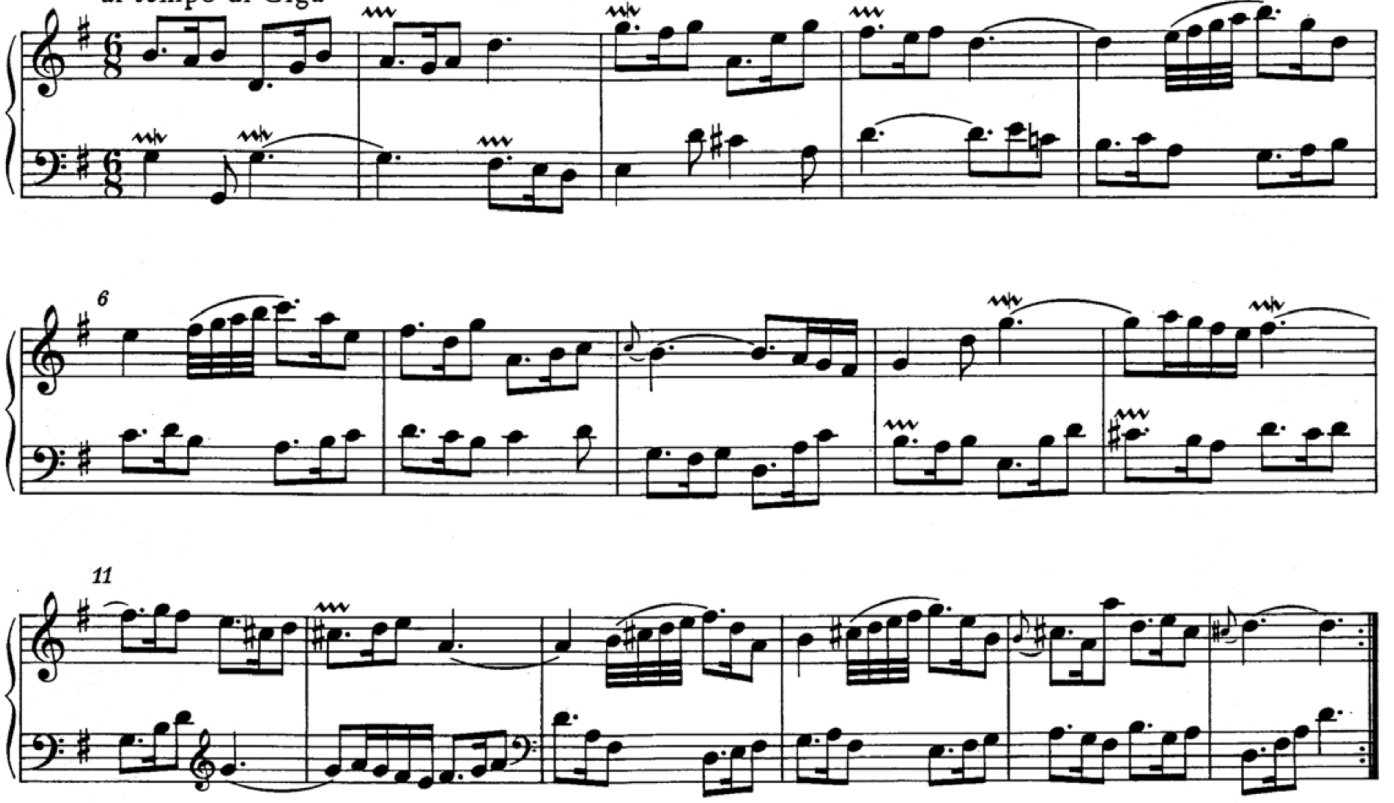


The Dances

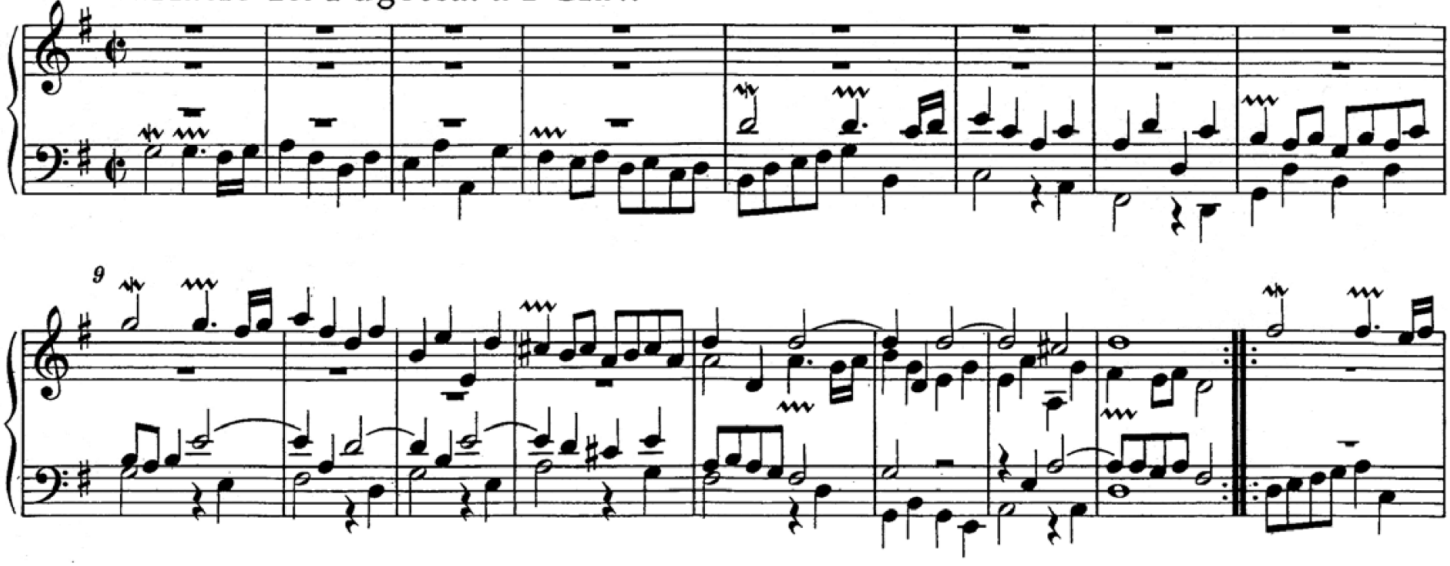
- 4, 7, 19 Baroque Dances 7 - Gigue
- 10 Fughetta
- 16 French Overture
- 13, 25 Arias

Variatio 7. a 1 ô vero 2 Clav.

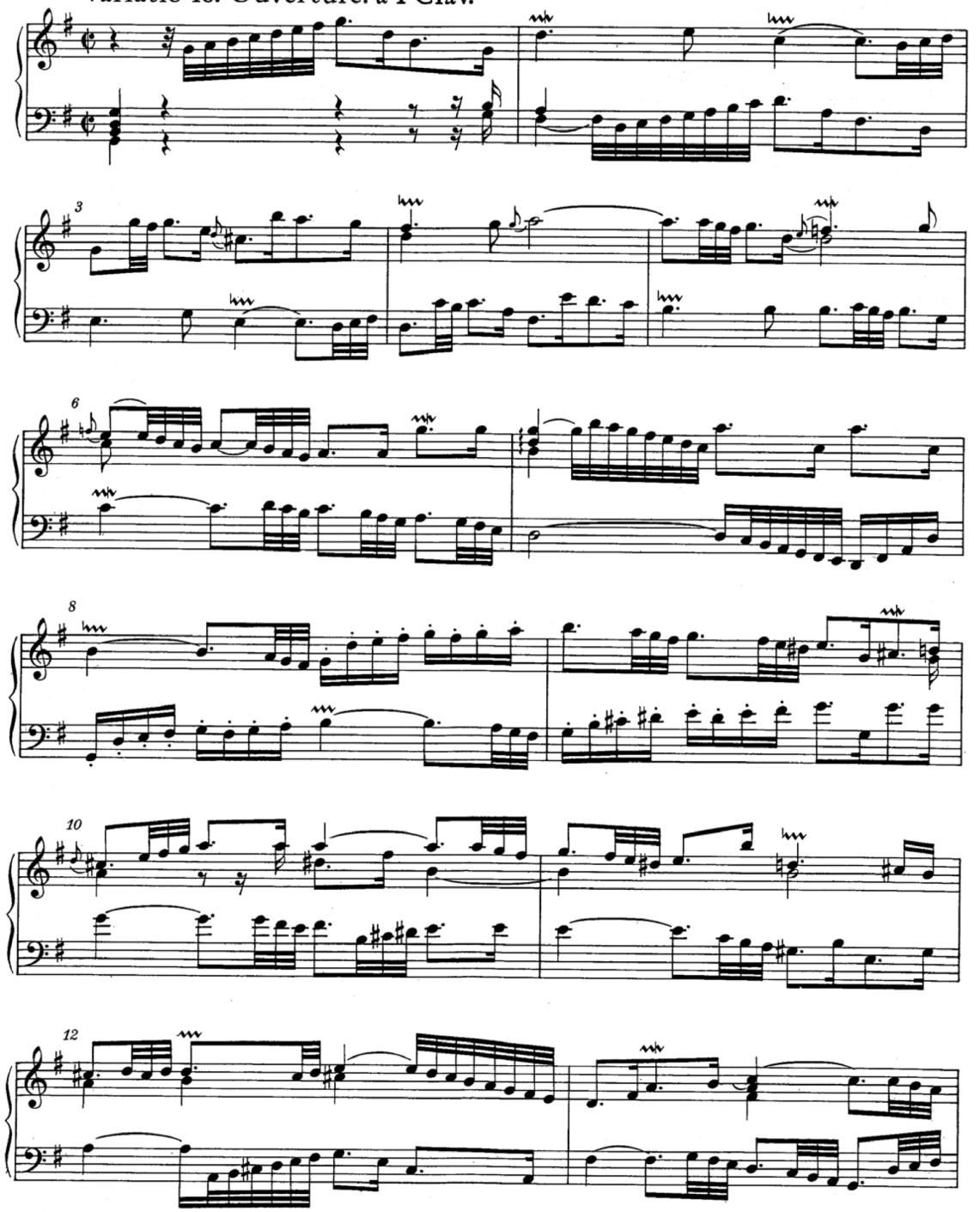
al tempo di Giga

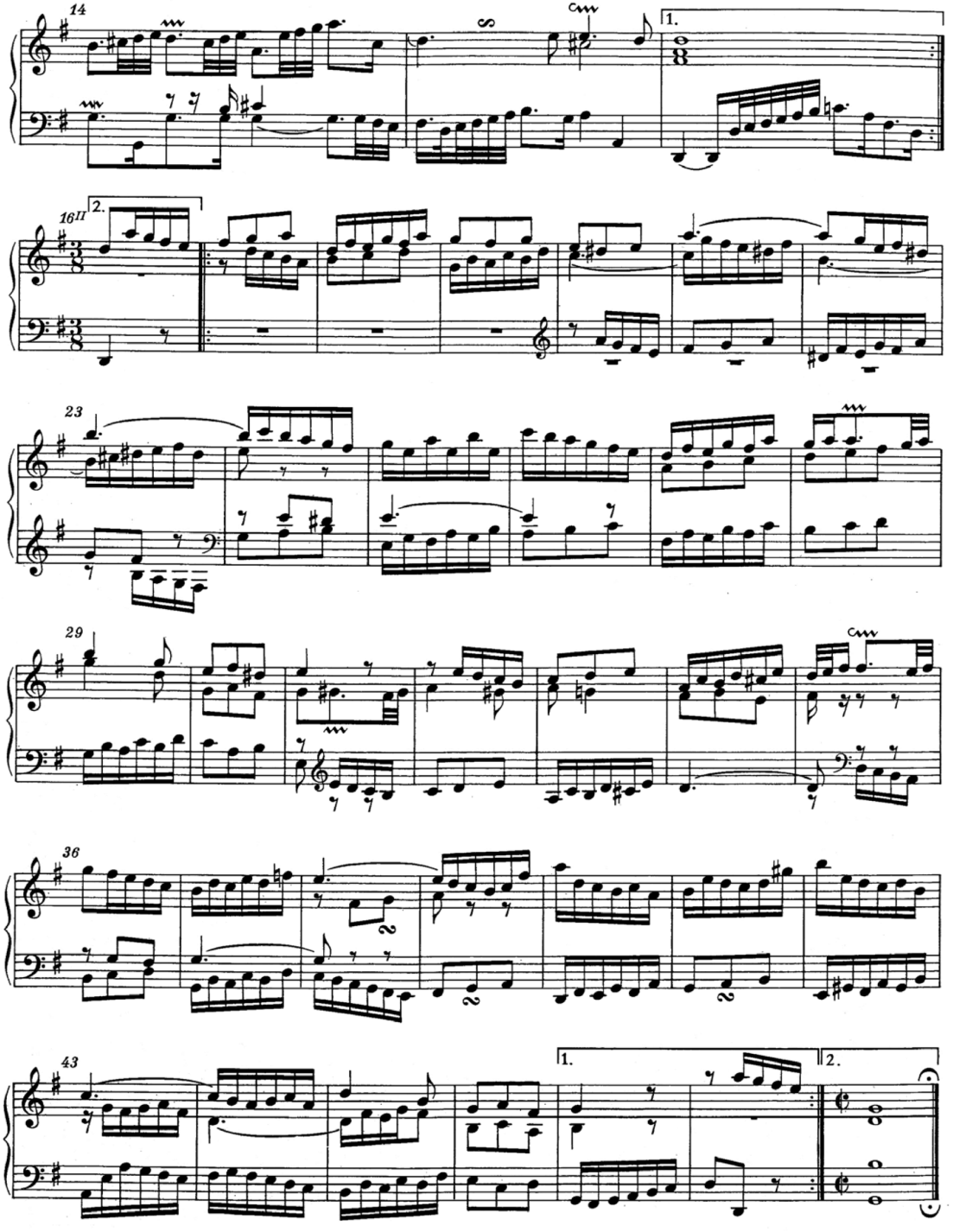


Variatio 10. Fugetta. a 1 Clav.



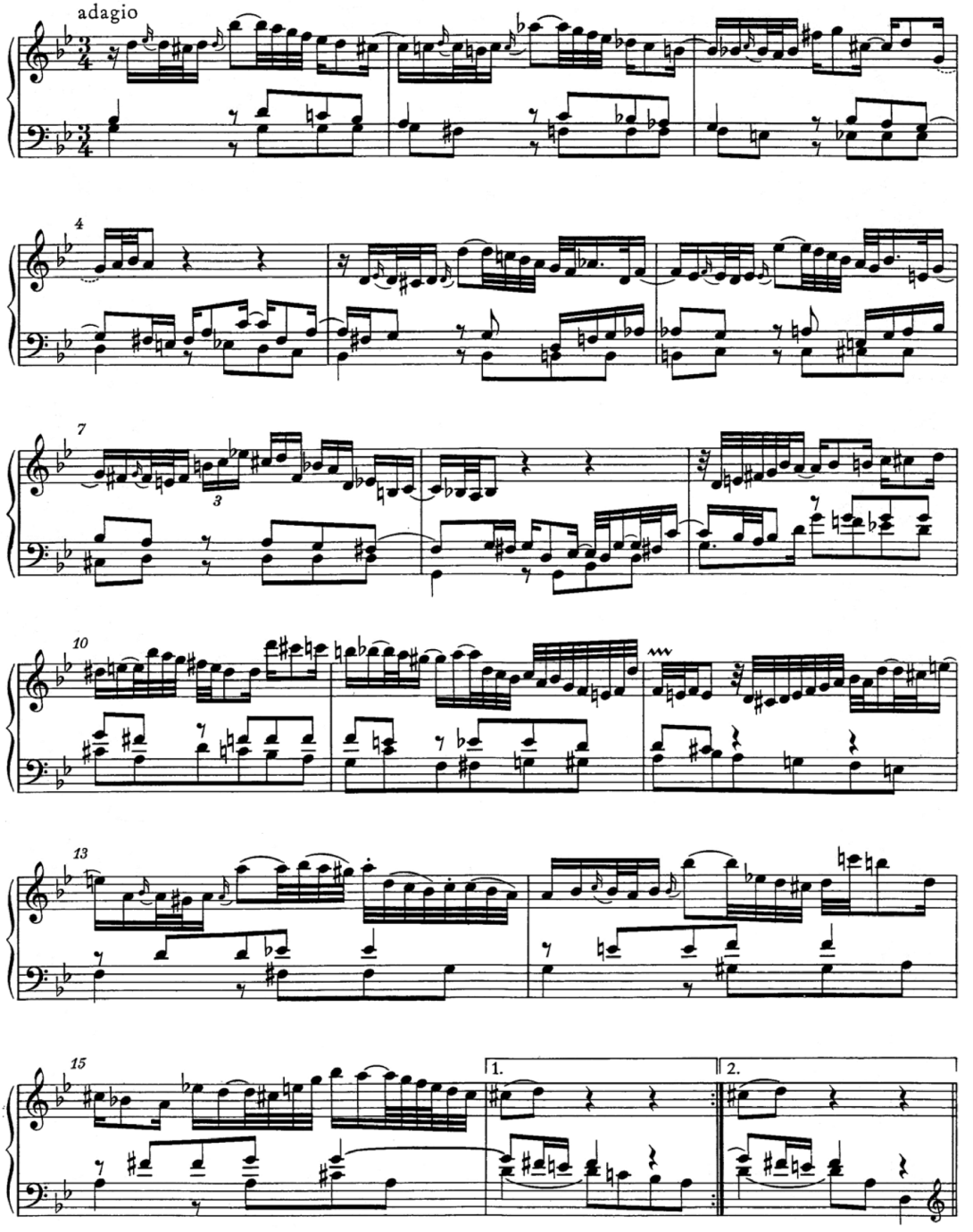
Variatio 16. Ouverture. a 1 Clav.




14
1.
16II
2.
23
29
36
43
1.
2.

Variatio 25. a 2 Clav.

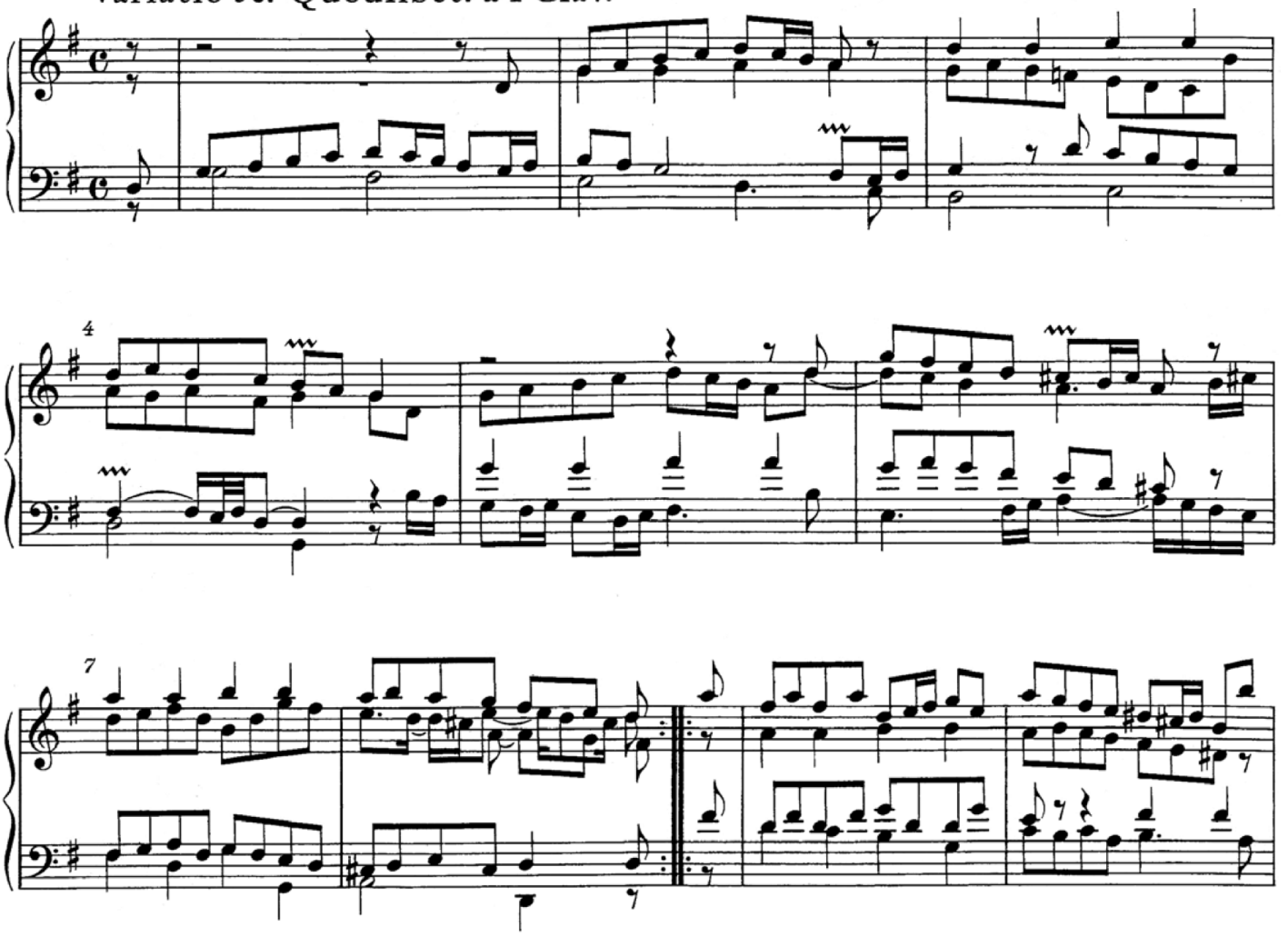
adagio



Quodlibet

- Multiple melodies at once
- Many of them popular tunes of the day
- This variation was intended as a joke

Variatio 30. Quodlibet. a 1 Clav.



Conclusions and Questions

Further viewing and reading…

Bach and Contrapuntal Harmony
by Milton Mermikides
https://youtu.be/deuMNjnK_H8

Bach and the Patterns of Invention
by Laurence Dreyfus
Harvard University Press