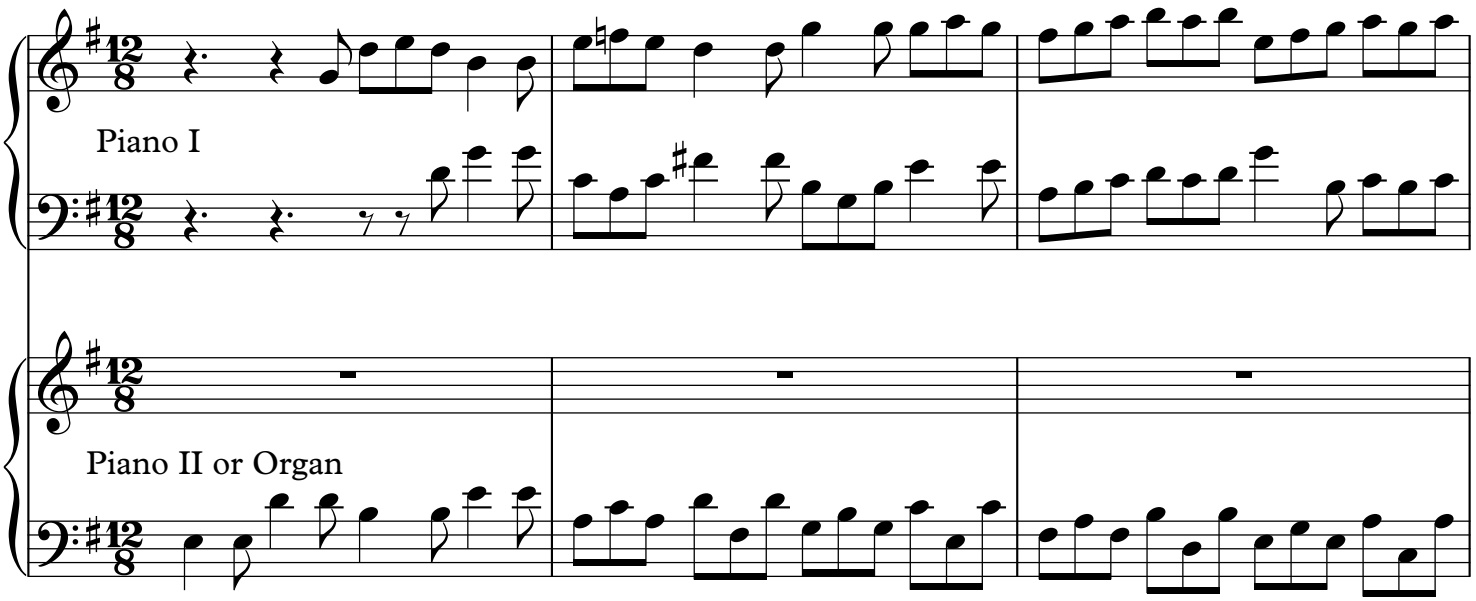
Bach's mysterious abscense from Arnstadt, 1705-1706

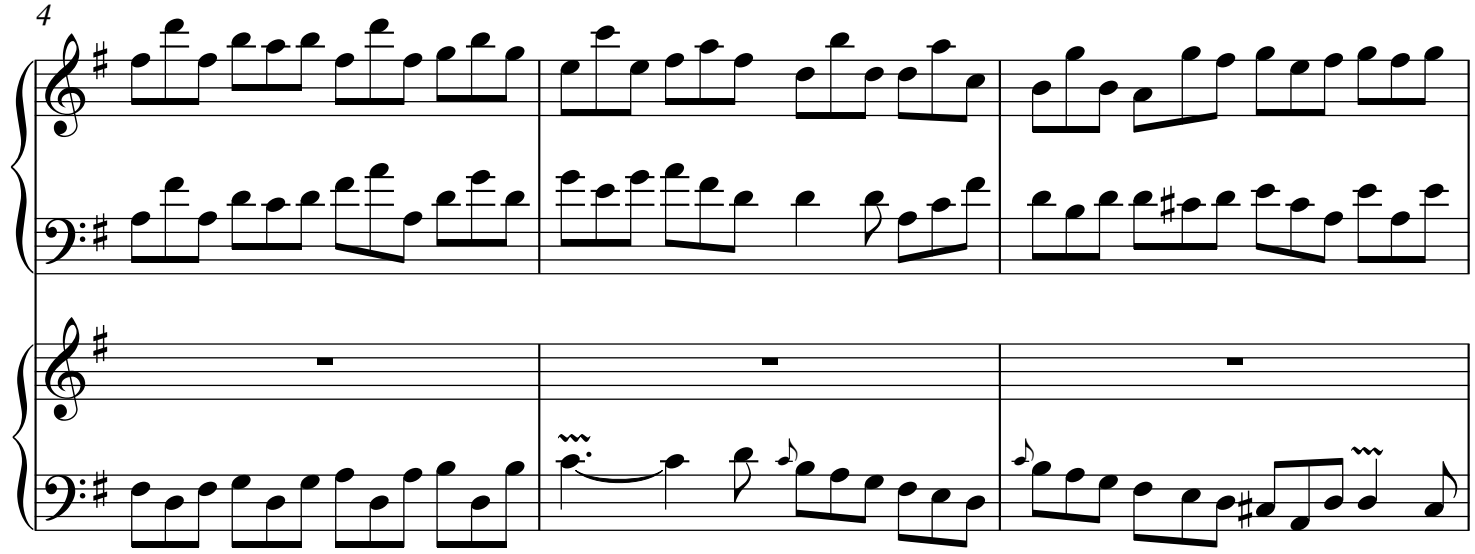
For 2 pianos or piano & organ

Based on Fuge in G-dur (BWV 577) inspired by a Fuga by Buxtehude

This piece tells of an apocryphal adventure that J. S. Bach undertook when he sought leave from the Arnstadt authorities in autumn 1705. This was to visit Buxtehude and attend the Abendmusik.
Bach stayed away for considerably longer than expected.
Bach composis a Fugue with subject very akin to Buxtehude's Fuga in C.
Buxtehude advises Bach to visit his home country of Denmark. Bach accordingly visits Copenhagen.
Bach then travels to Scotland and arrives on the west coast, on the Isle of Skye!
He travels south and is much impressed by a Teddy Bear's picnic.
He thinks of themes which he will incorporate into his organ music and concerto writing.
He hears a famous trumpet voluntary composed by Henry Purcell.
He encounters a Gallery Choir singing a famous melodi to a carol and blends it with a Chorale melodi.
In Sussex he hears another carol.
He arrives in France and encounters a lively Branle being danced.
Upon arrivel home in 1706, at one of the family gatherings, famous for their quodlibets, fitting together different melodies, he introduces his new composition.

Peter Lea-Cox (b. 1945)





Composed 3.V.2020

Typeset André Palsgård 2025

7 *Bach visits Copenhagen*

9 *and enriches his fugal writing*

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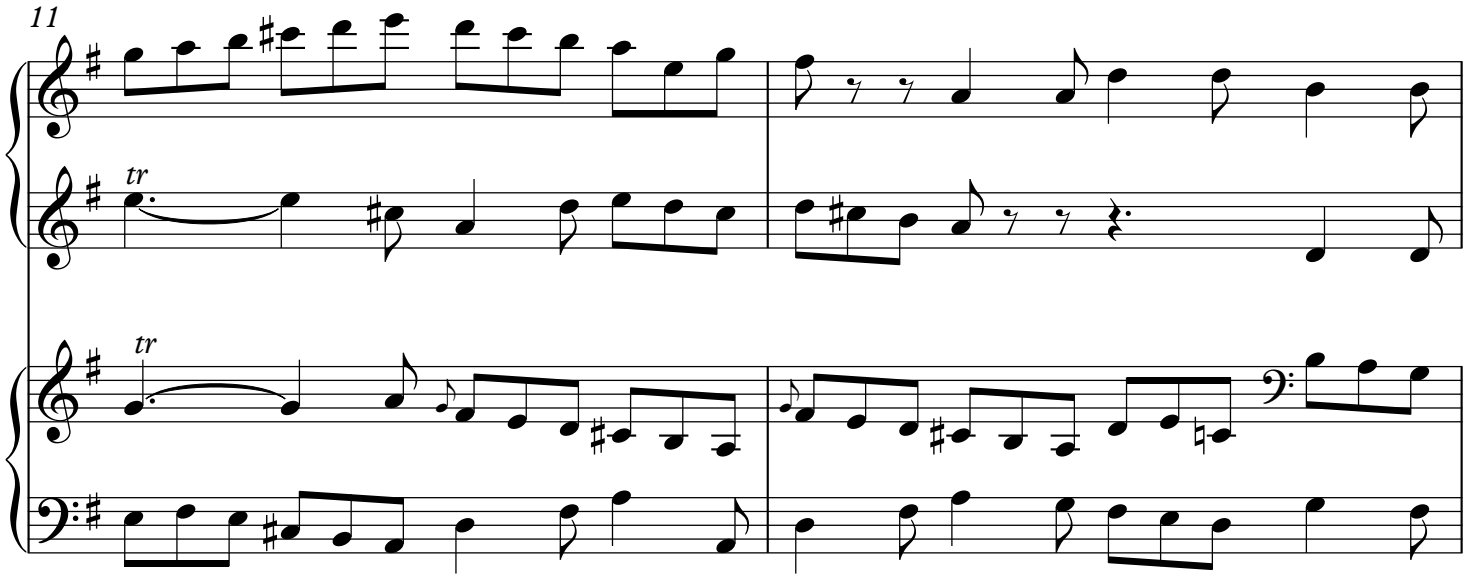

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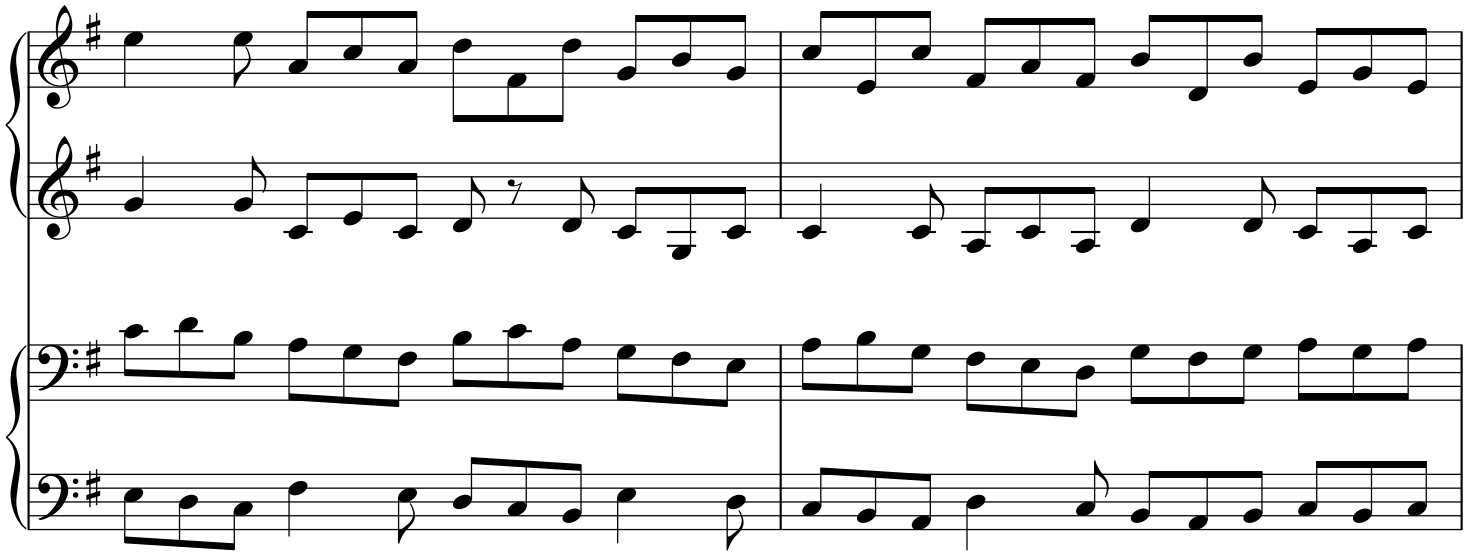

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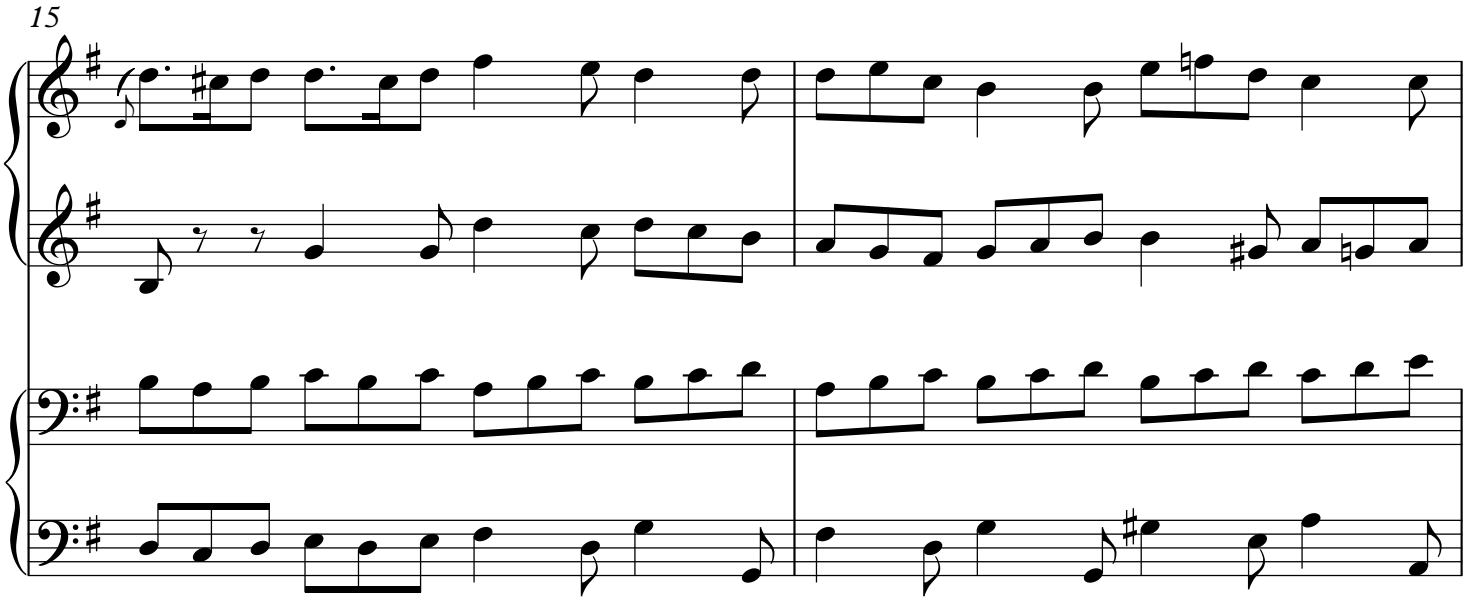

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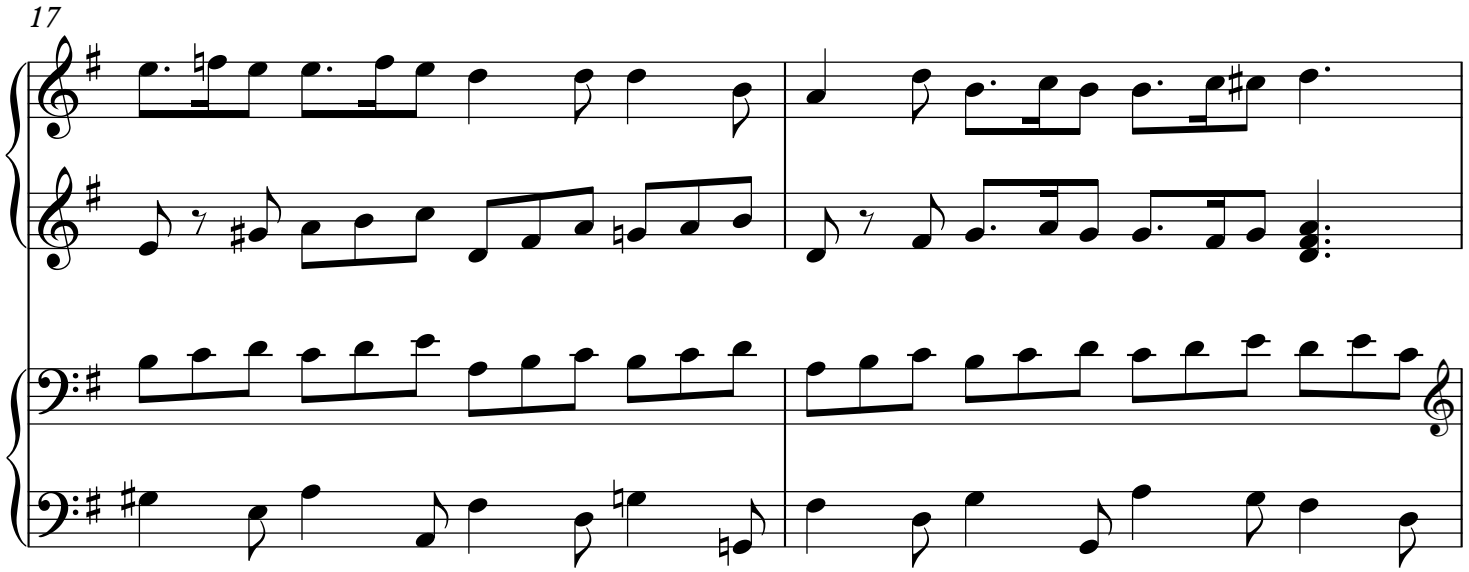

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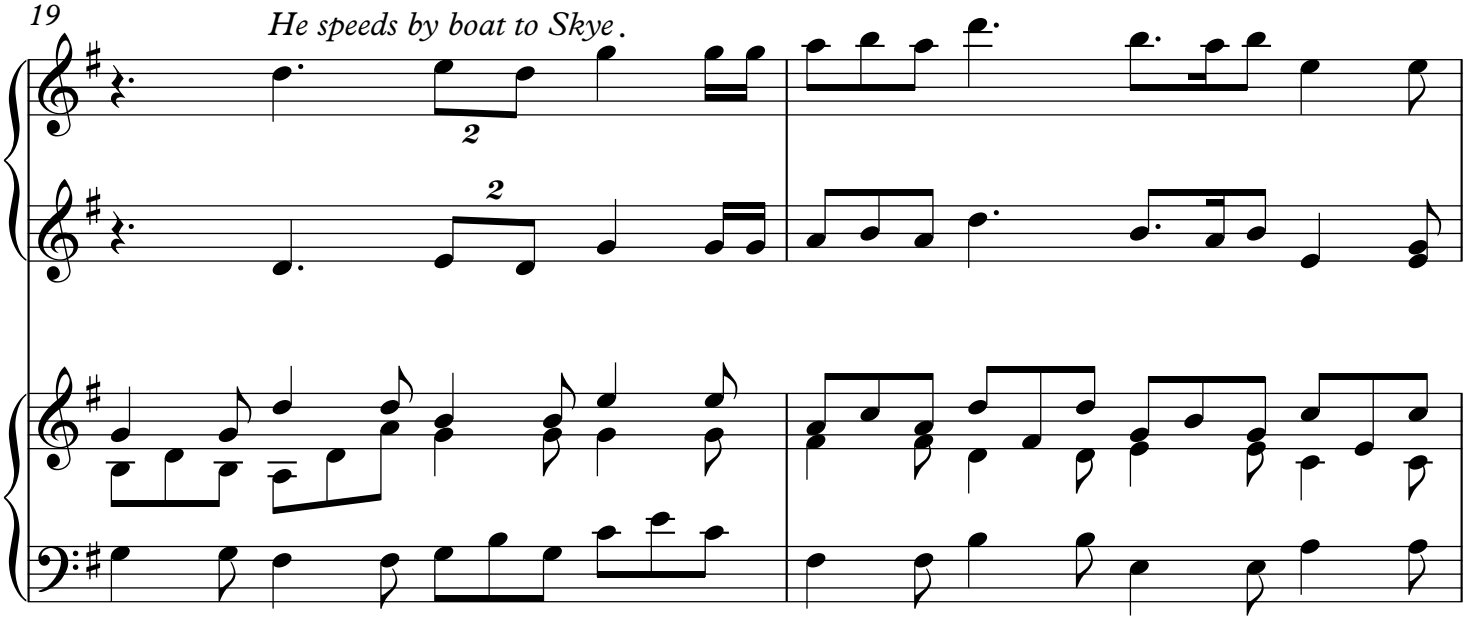
He speeds by boat to Skye.



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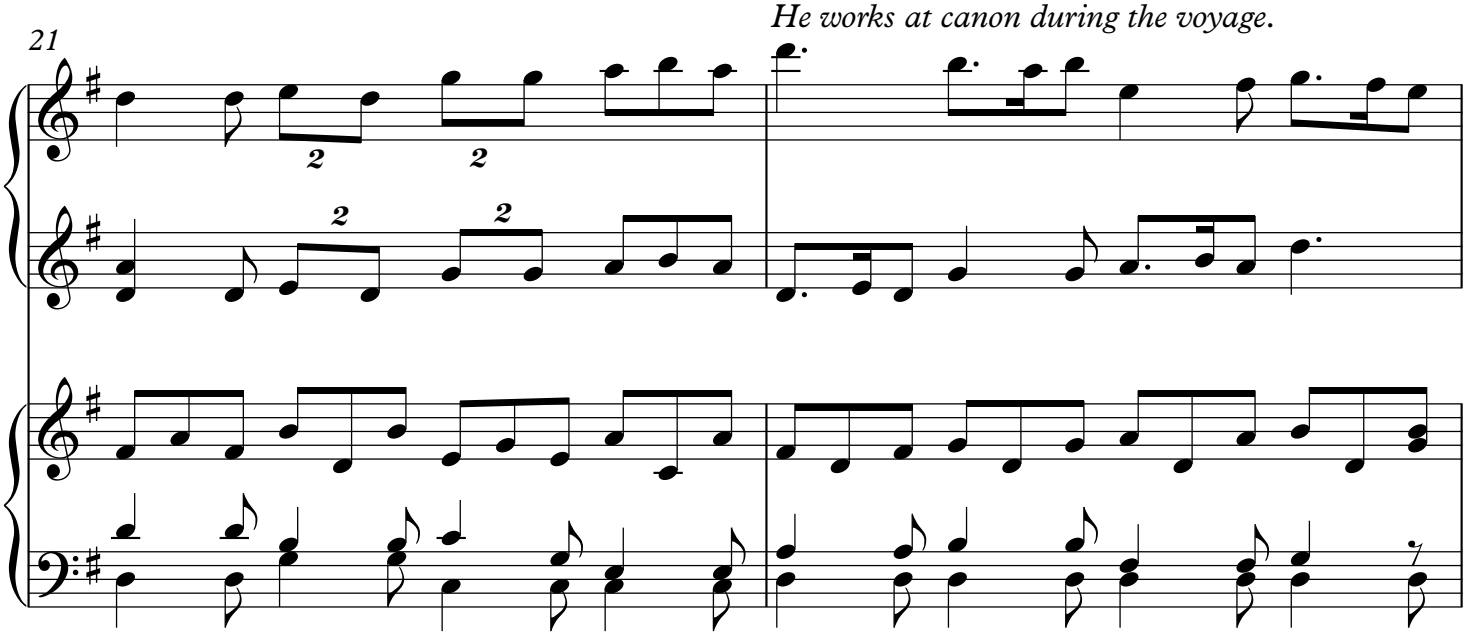
He works at canon during the voyage.



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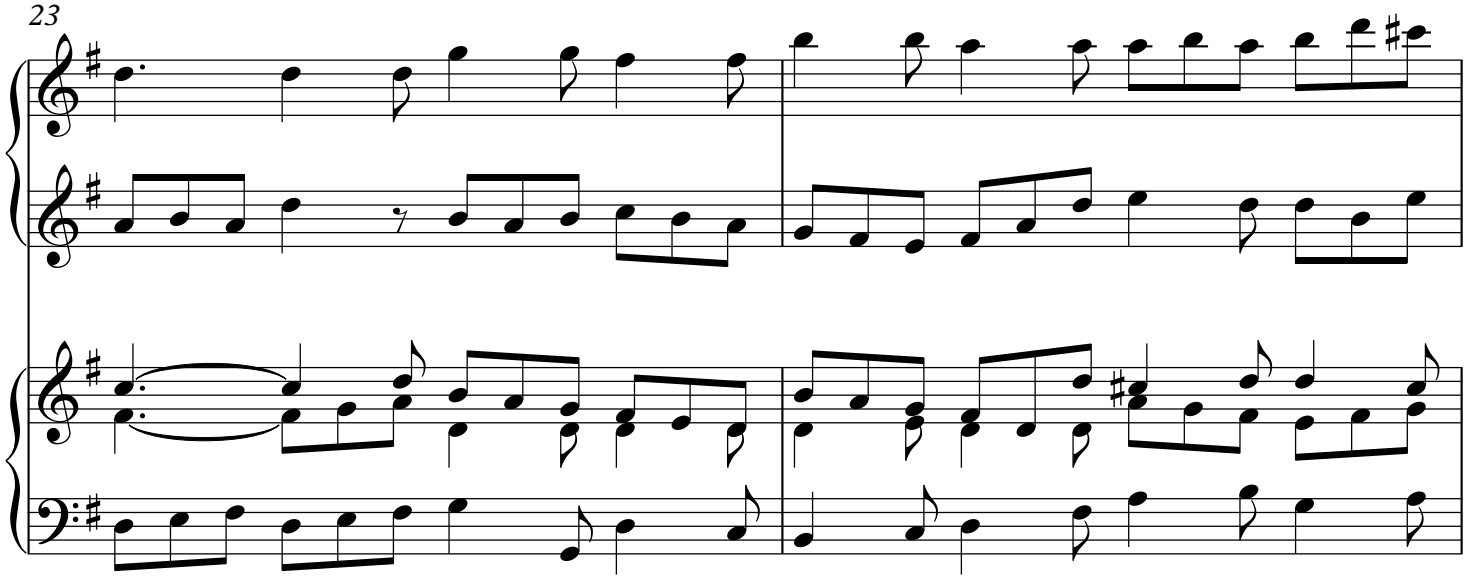

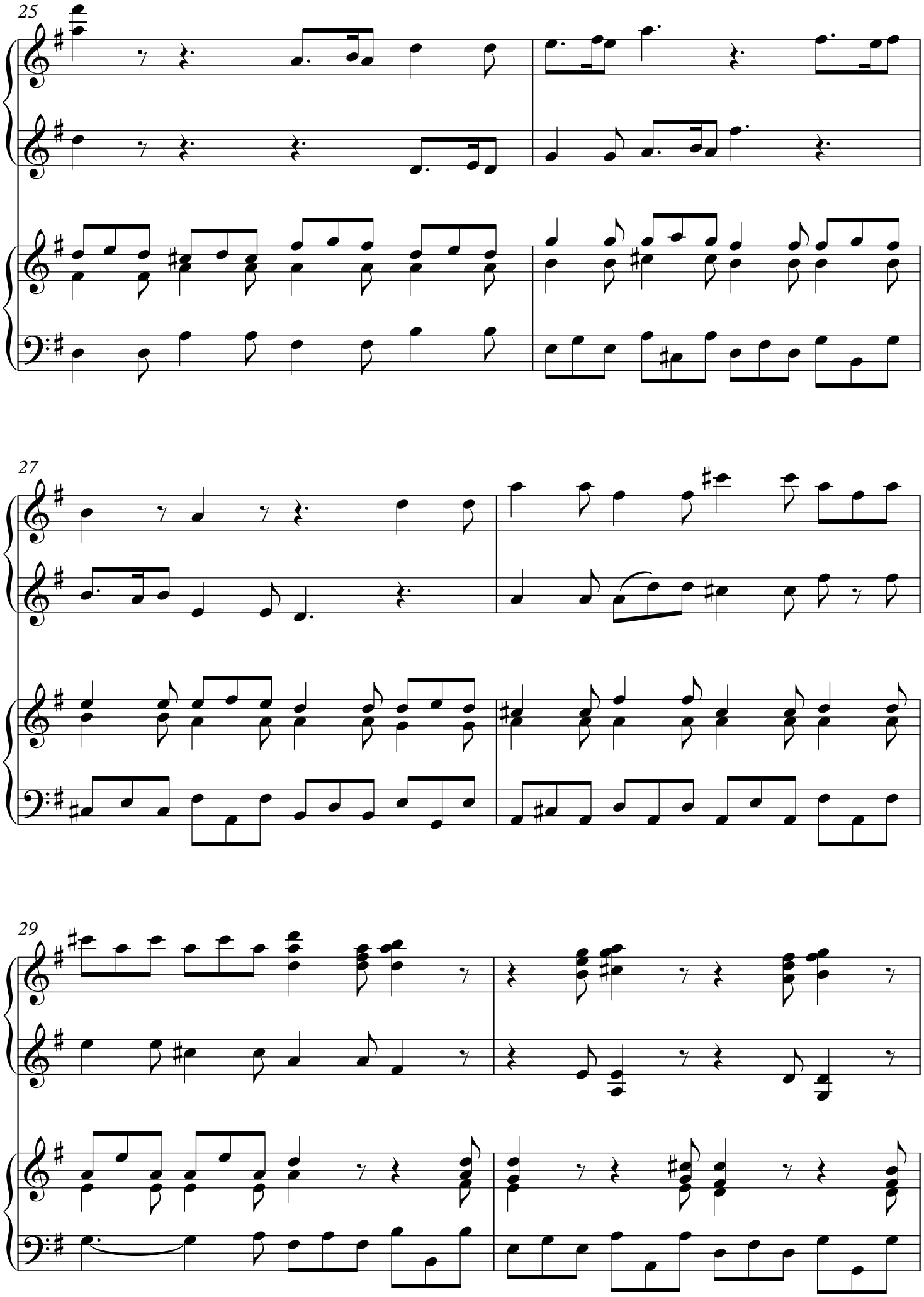
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He encounters a Teddy Bear's picnic

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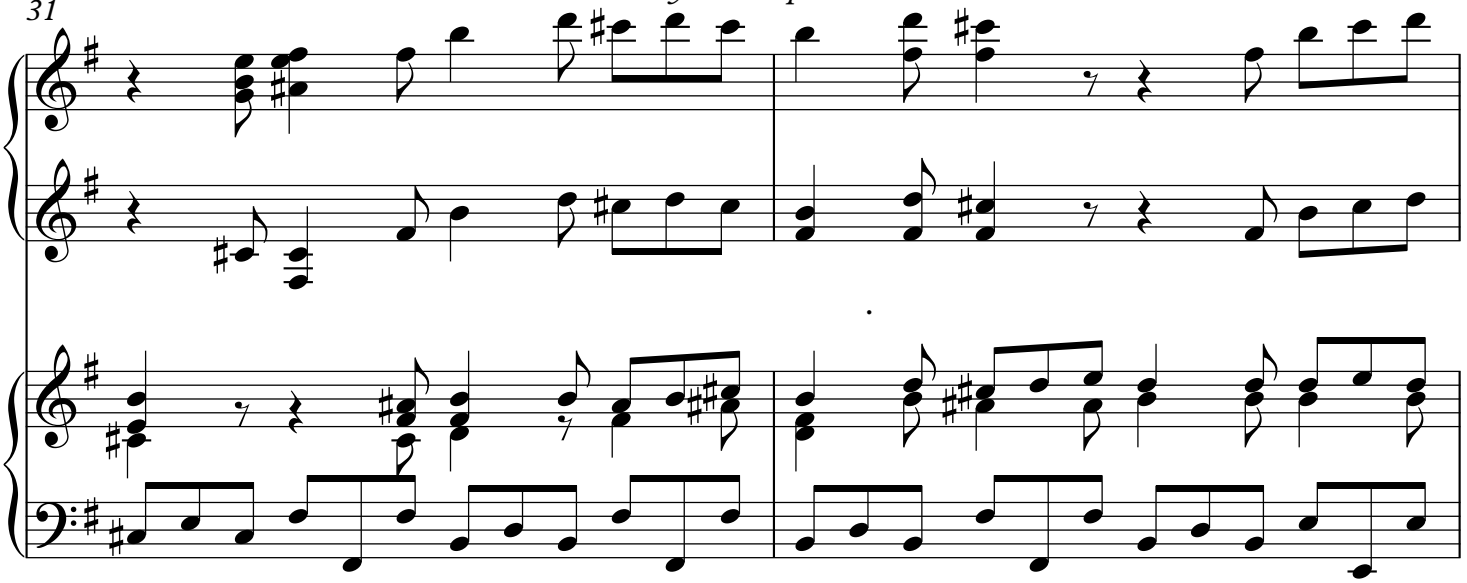

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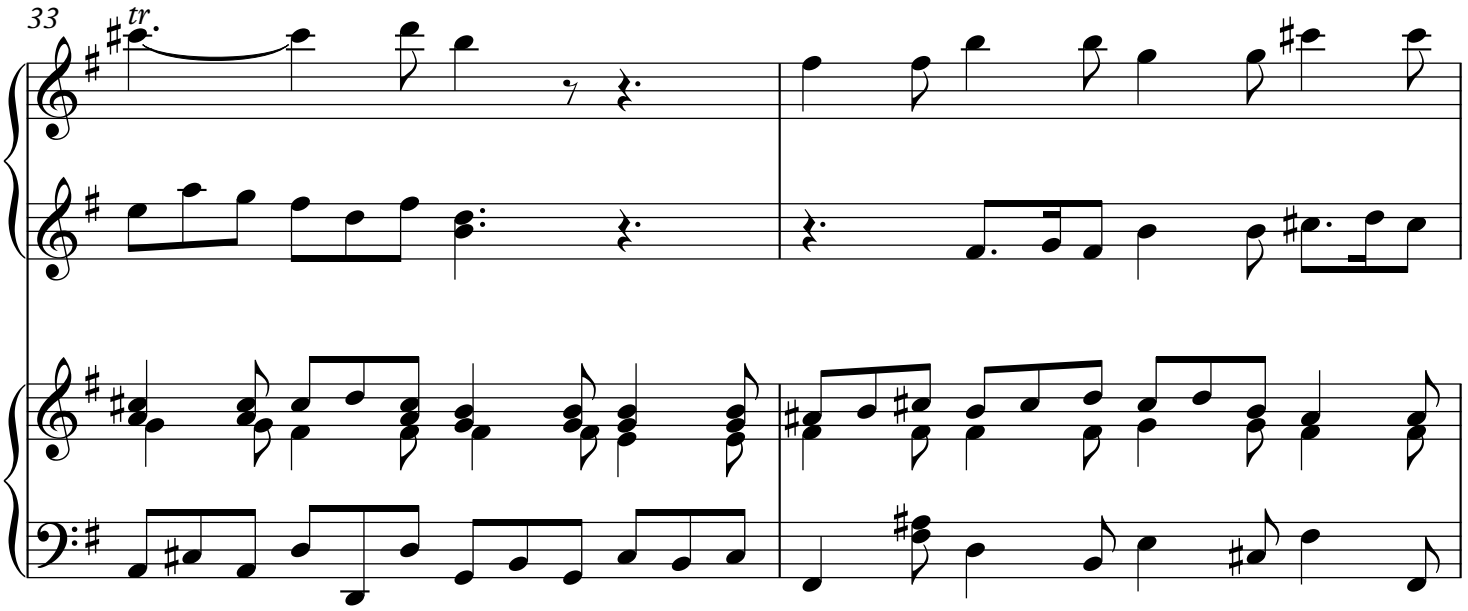

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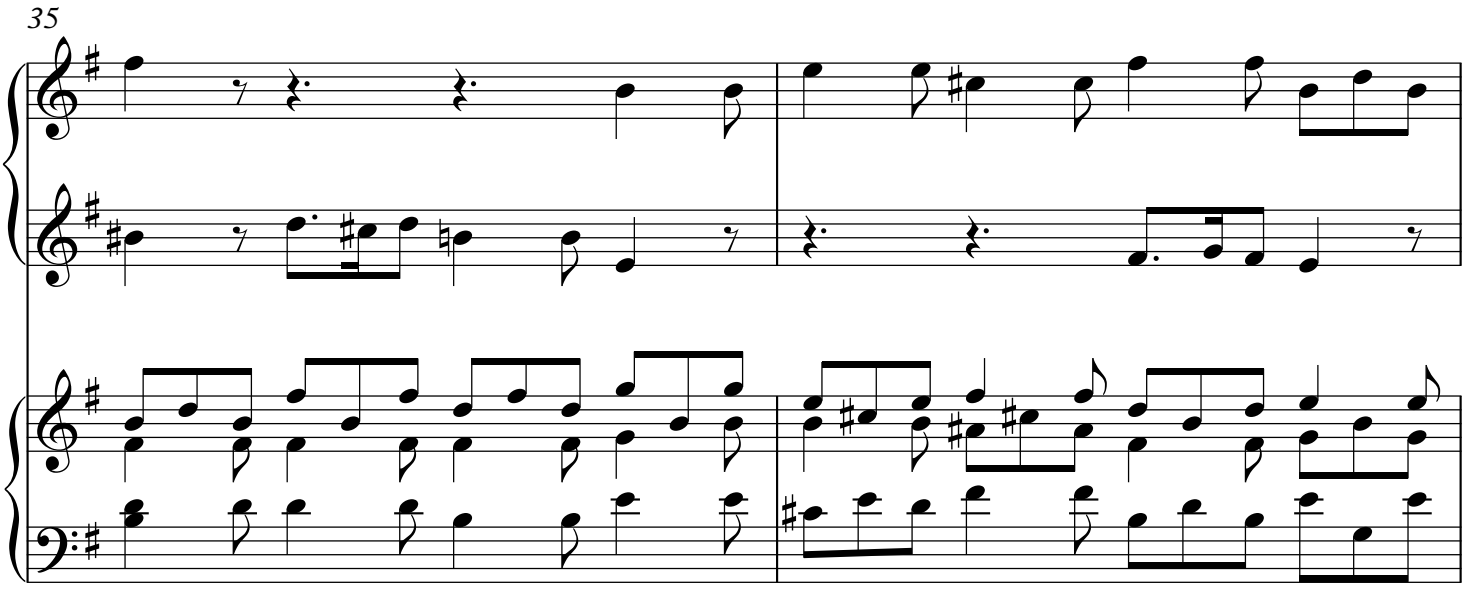

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He finds a theme which will be useful in his organ music.

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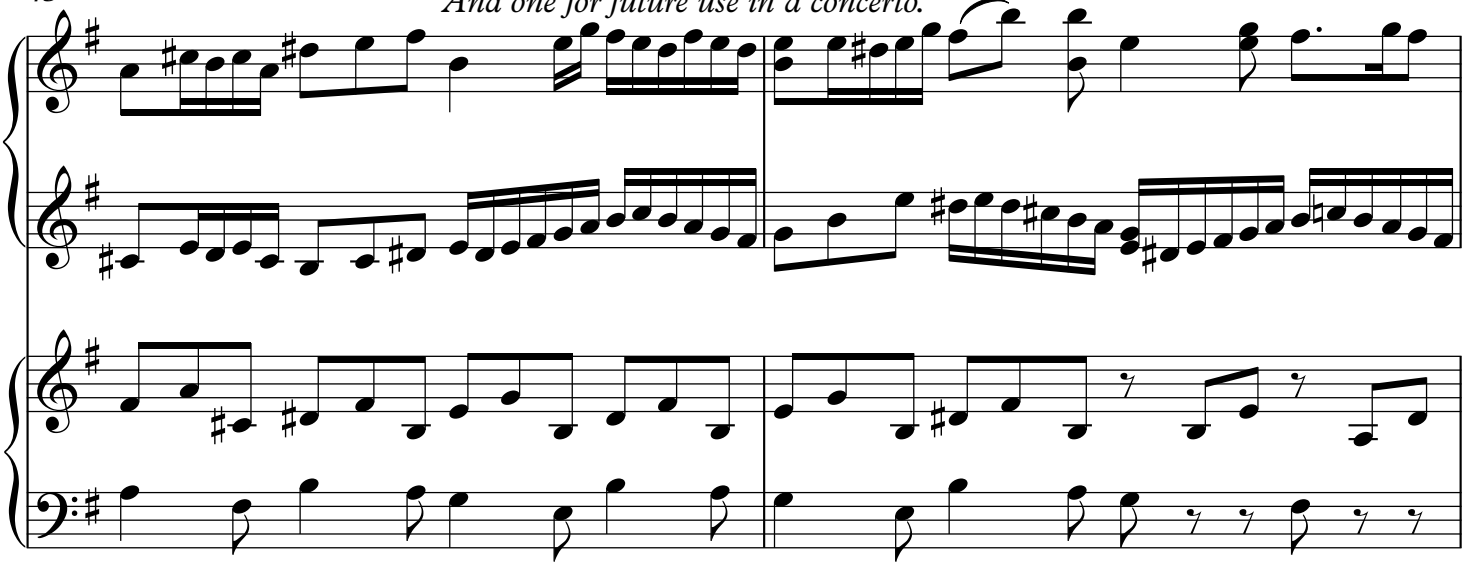
And one for future use in a concerto.



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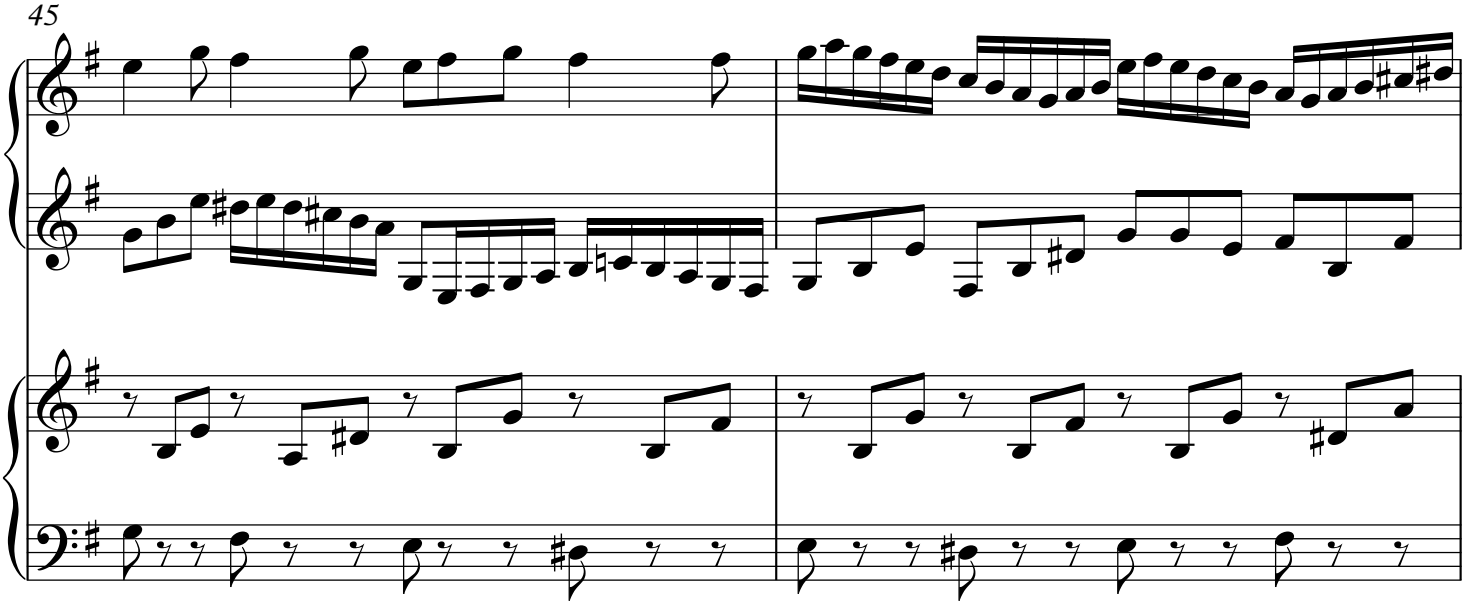

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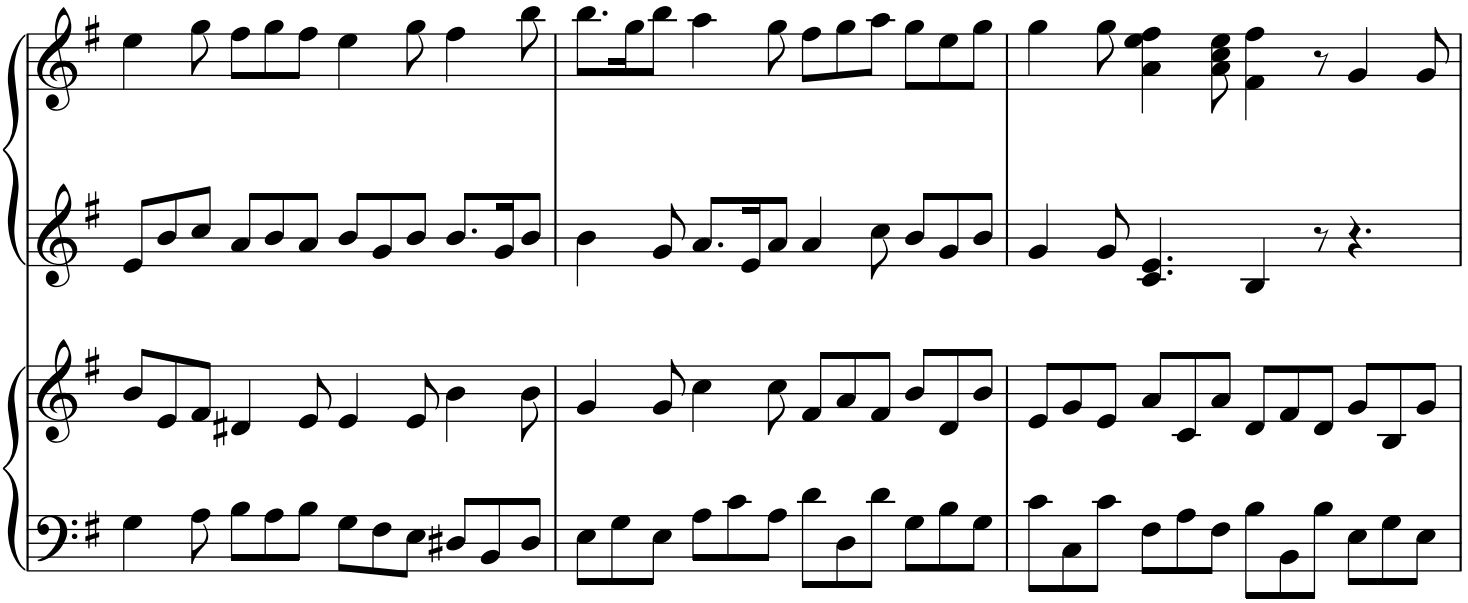

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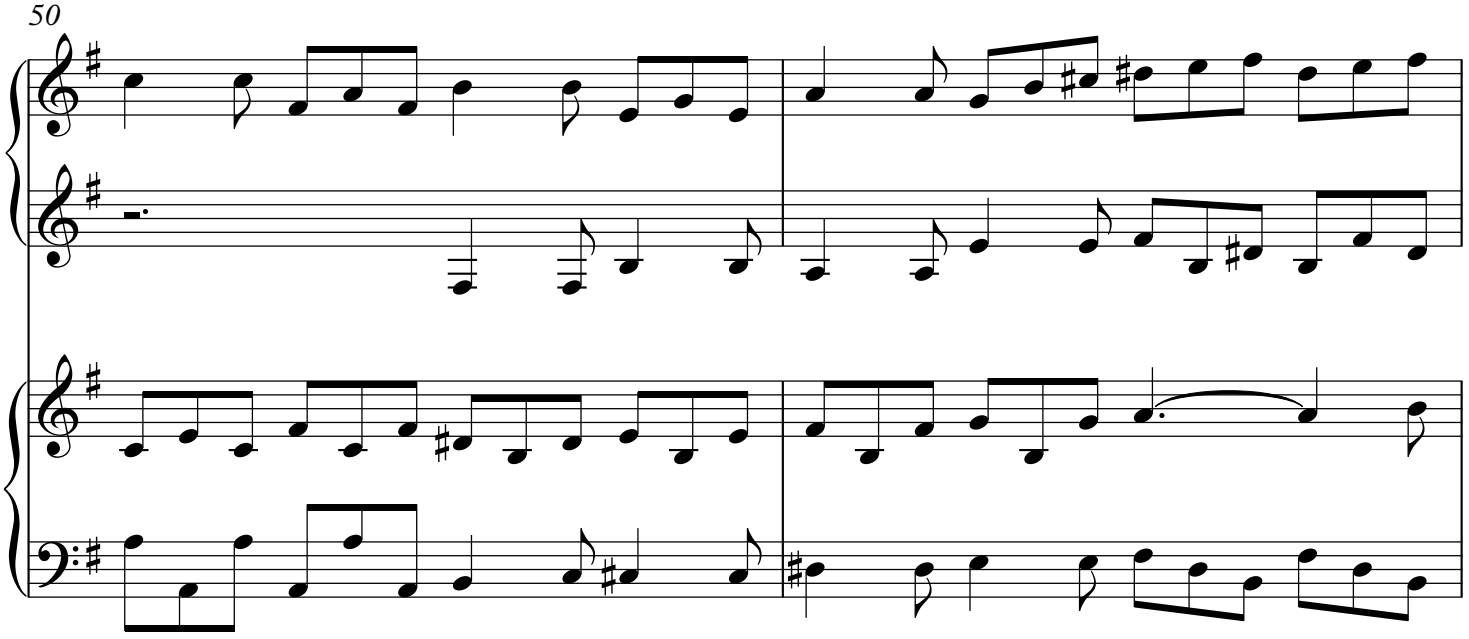

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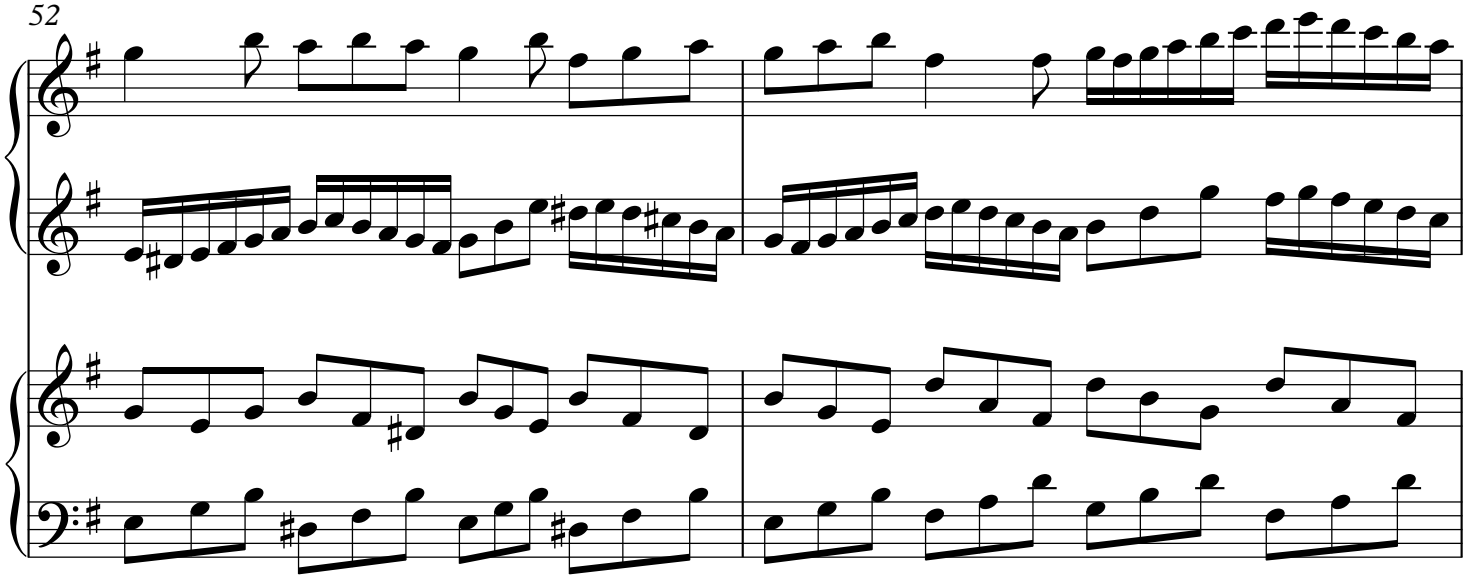

Travelling through England, he hears a trumpet tune by Purcell.

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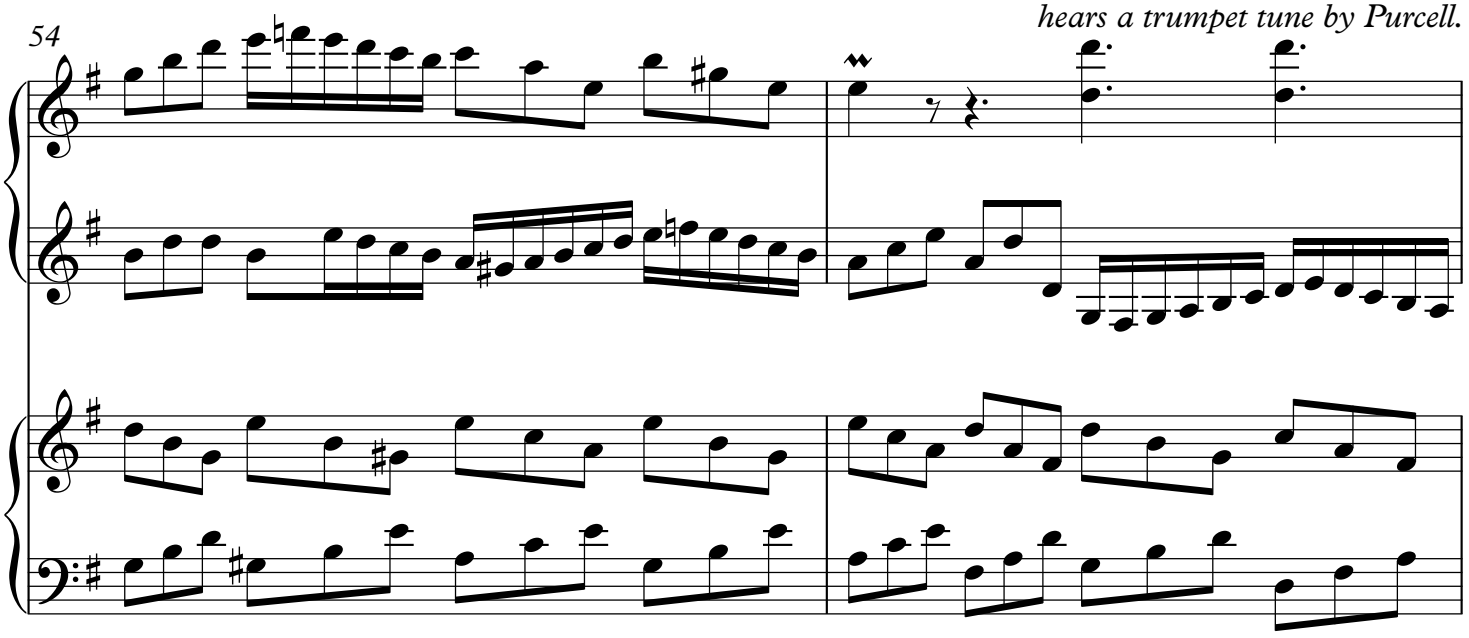

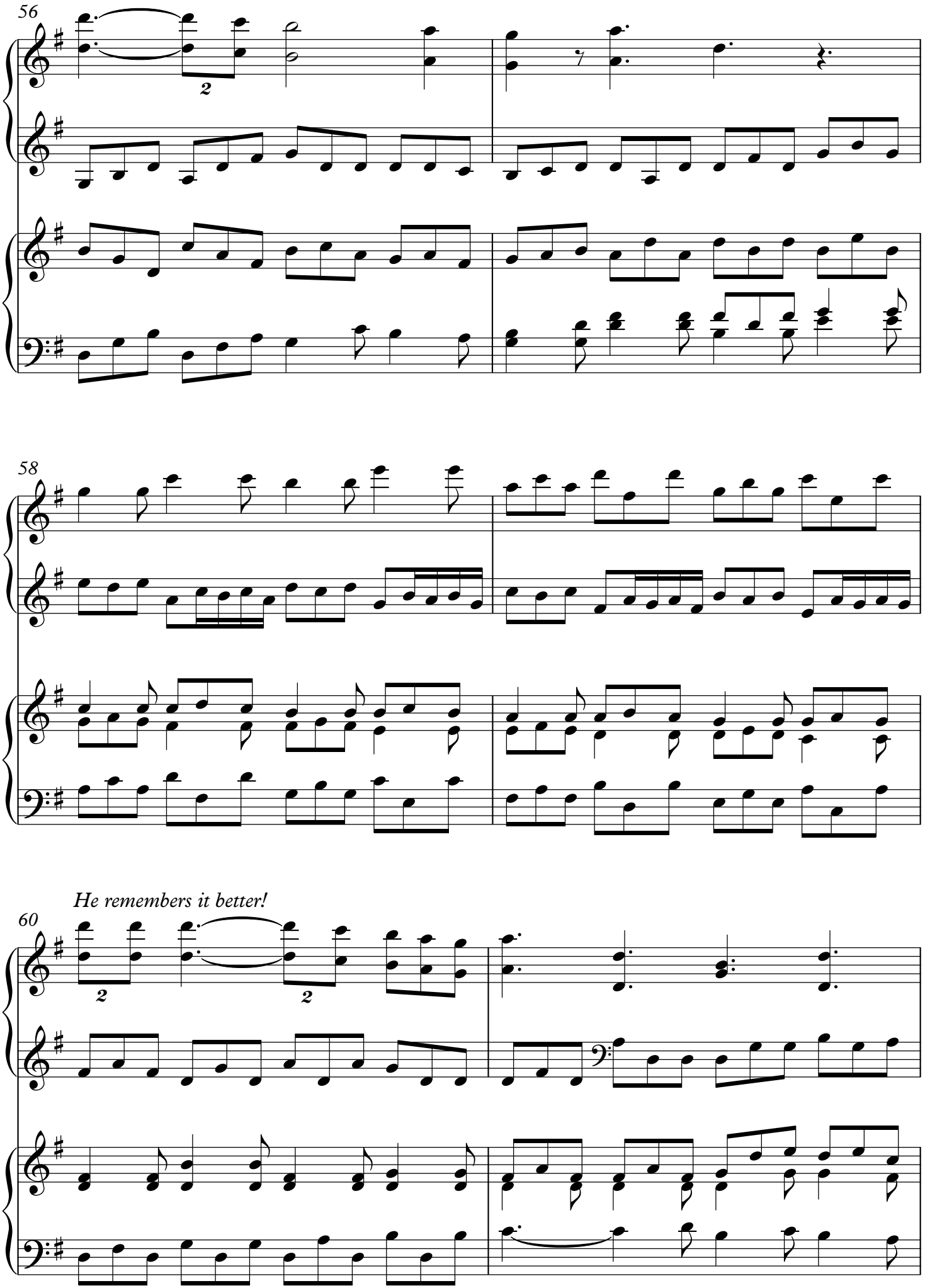
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He remembers it better!
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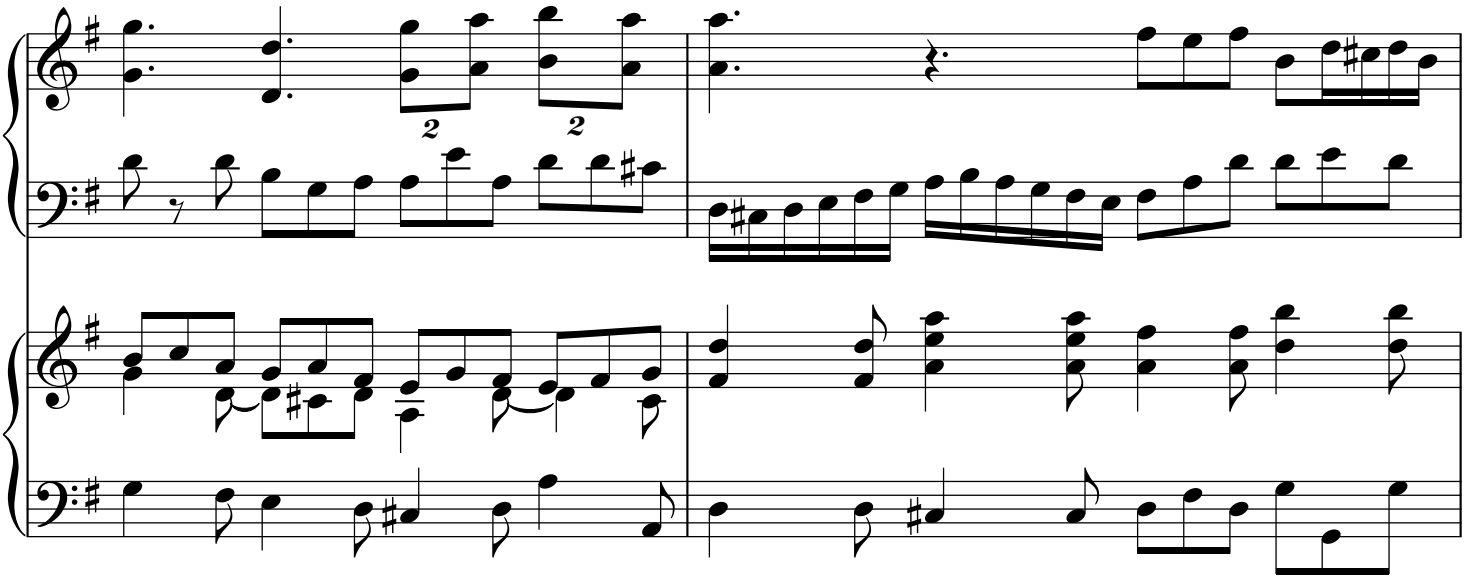

He hears a Gallery Choir
singing a carol

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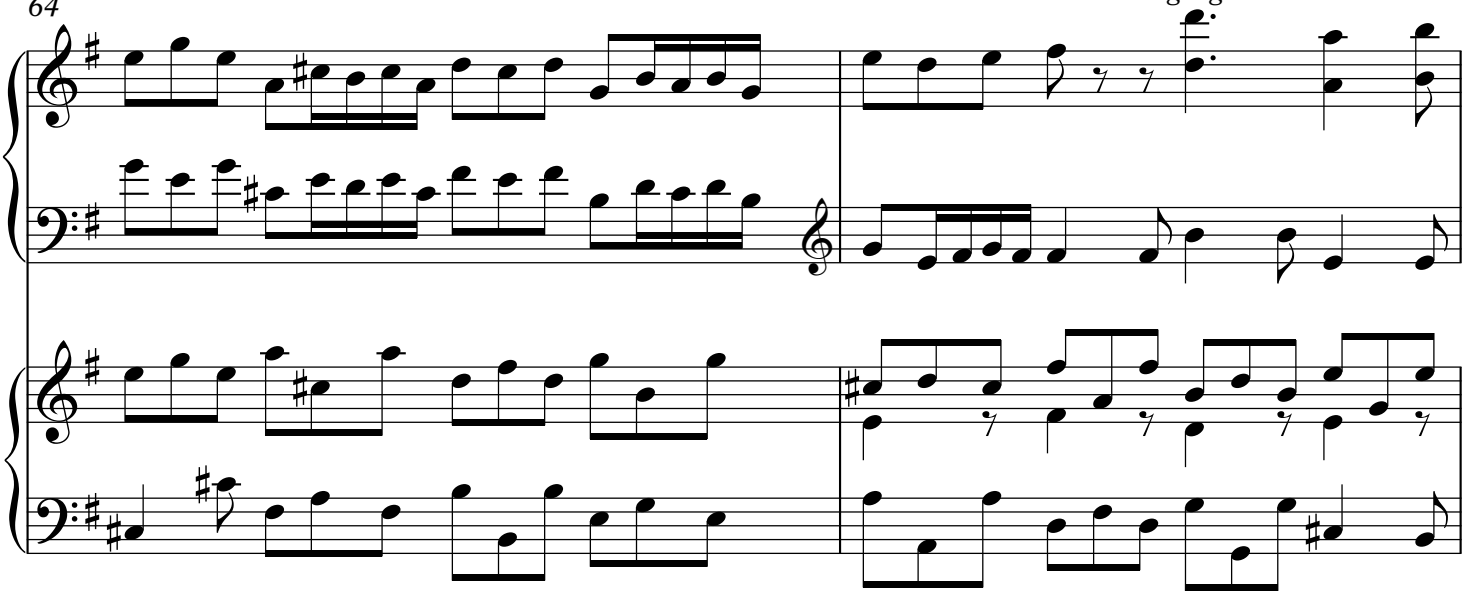

and blends it to a german Chorale melody.

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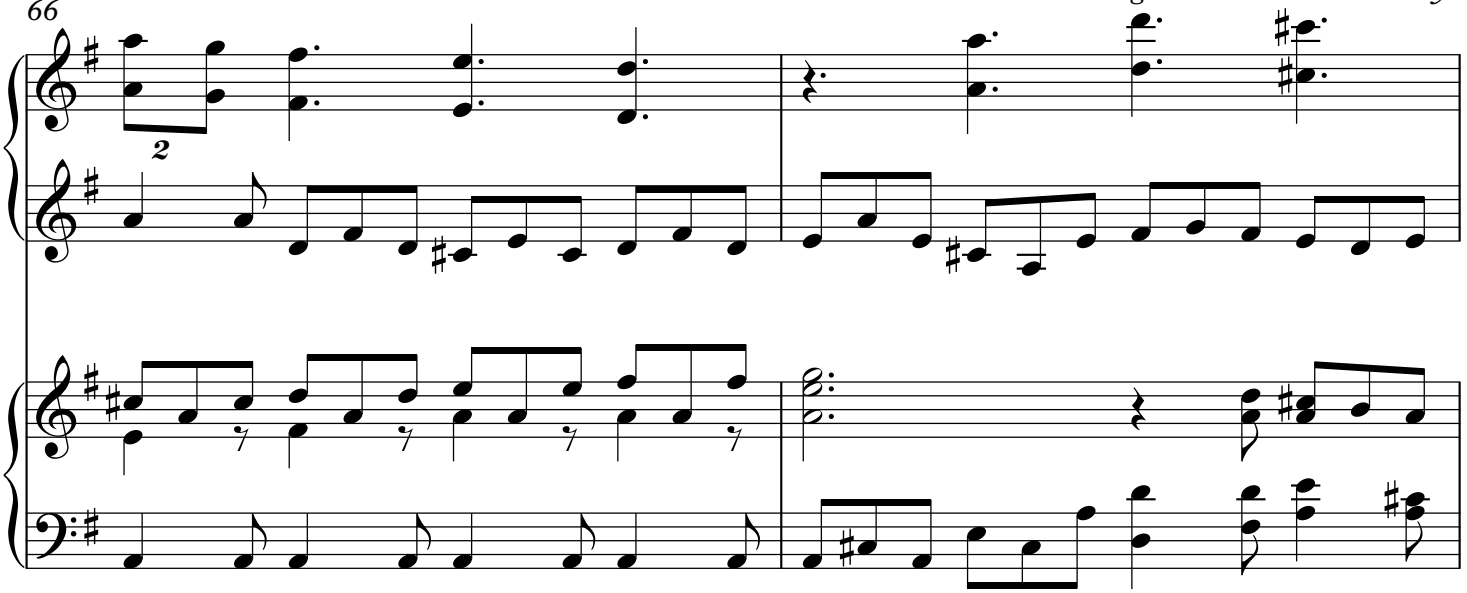

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He reaches Sussex, where he hears another carol.

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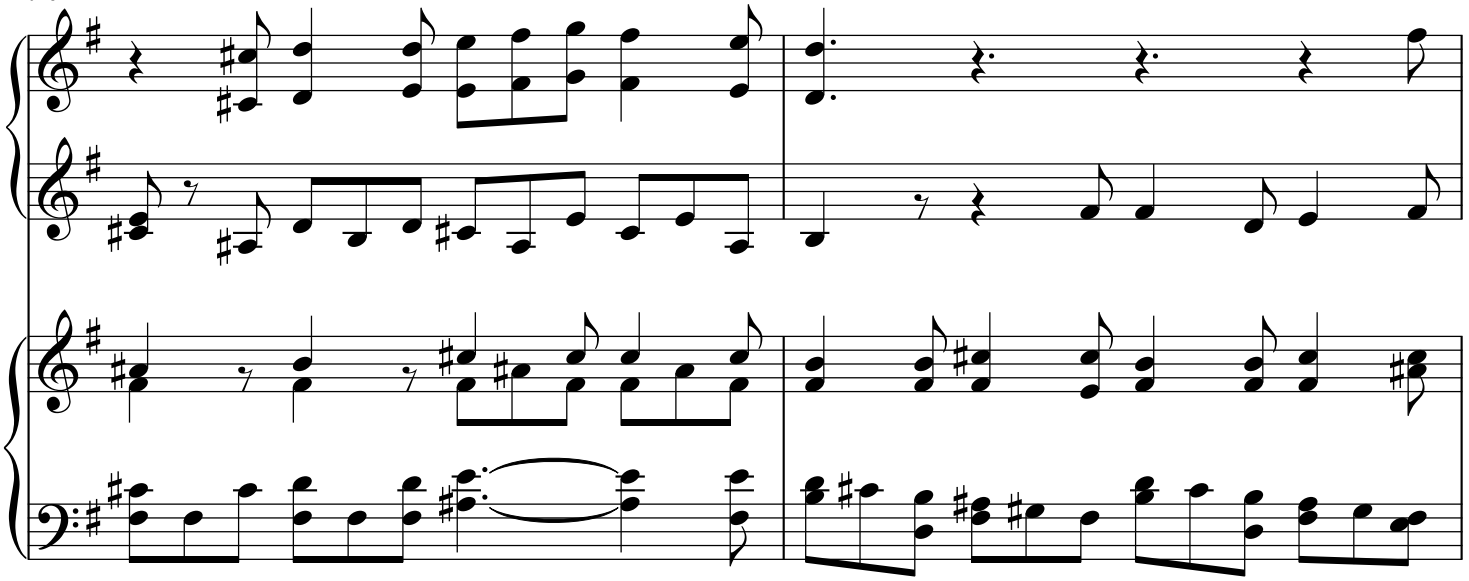

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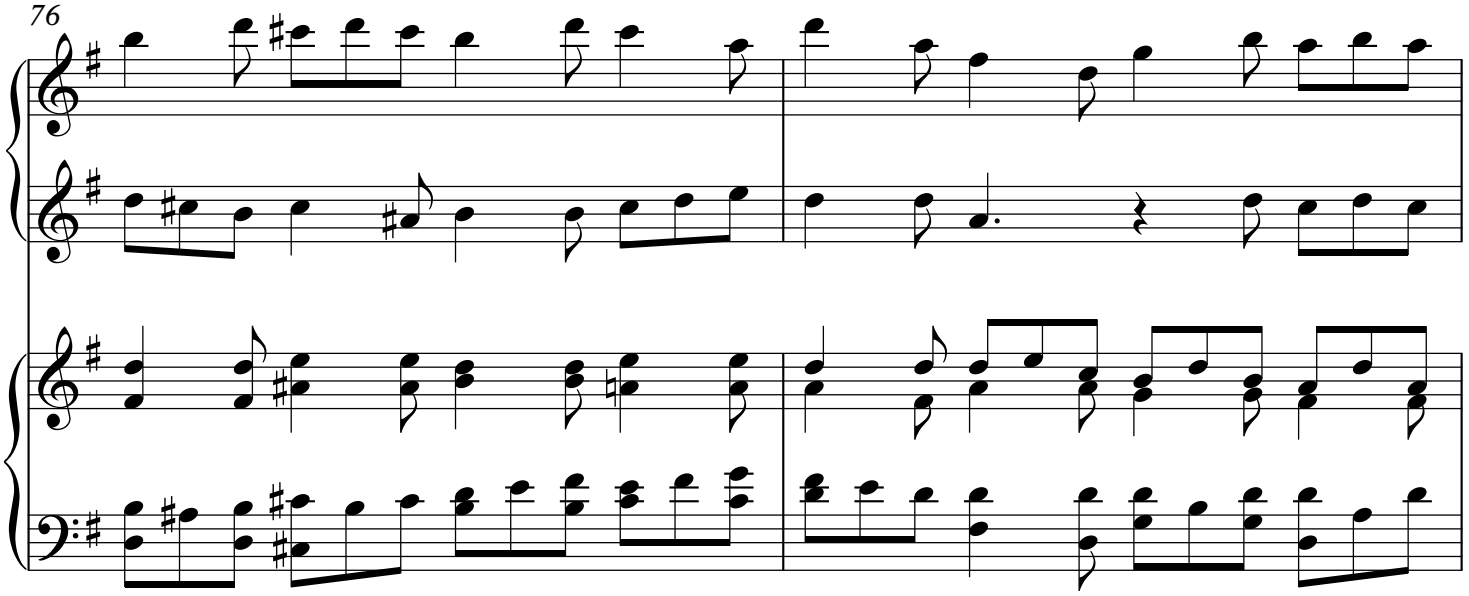
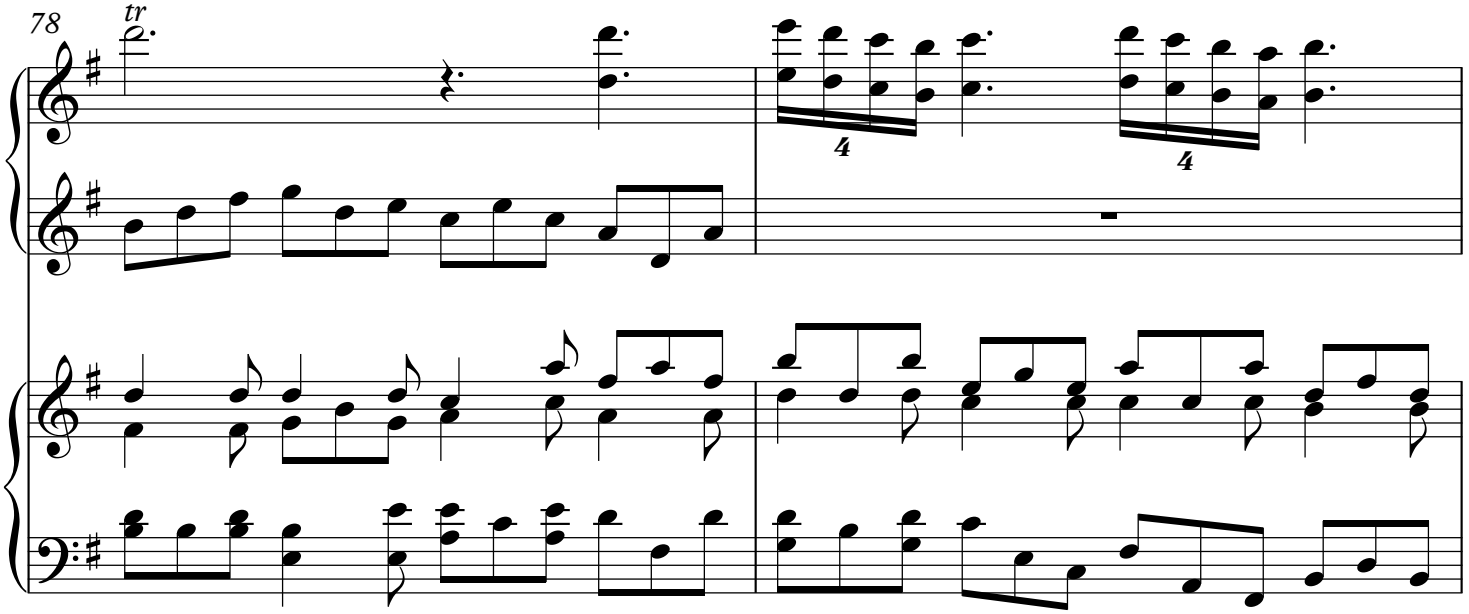
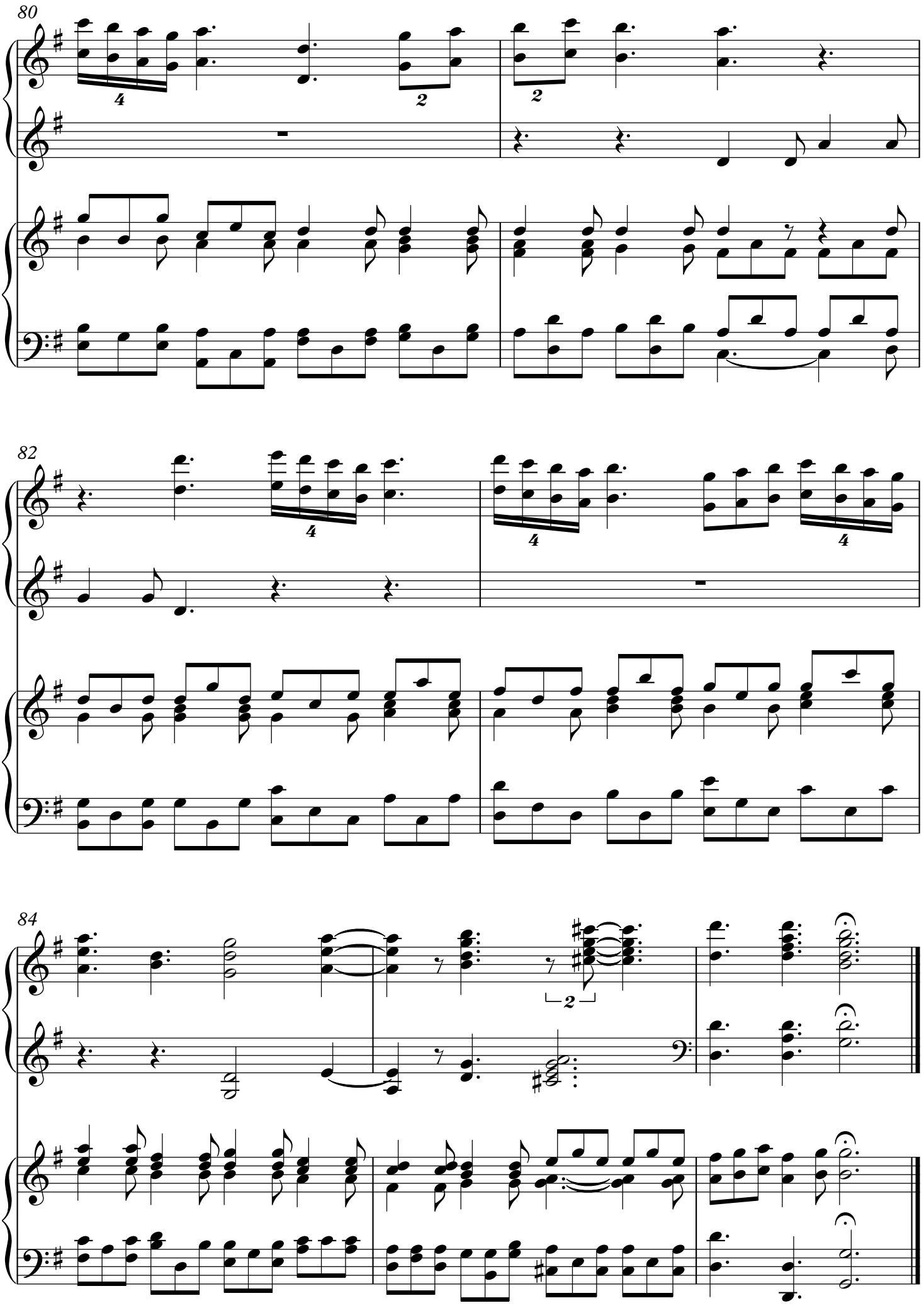


He arrives in France and watches a lively dance, "Branle de l'Official"

78 *tr*

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