Goldberg Canons

by

Johann Sebastian Bach

1685-1750

Arranged in 2008 by
Alberto Gomez Gomez

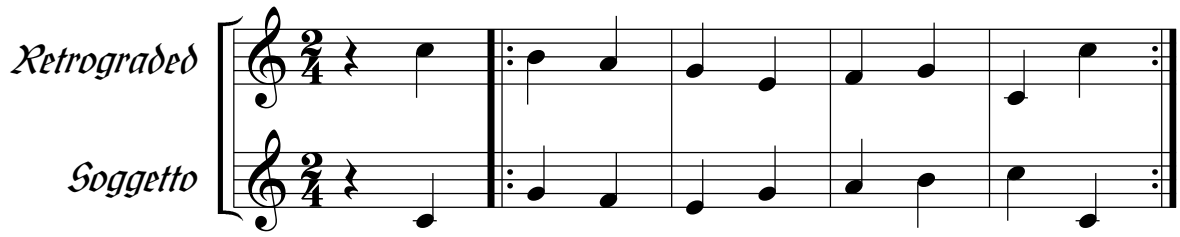
Use freely

Fourteen Canons on the First Eight Notes of the Goldberg Ground

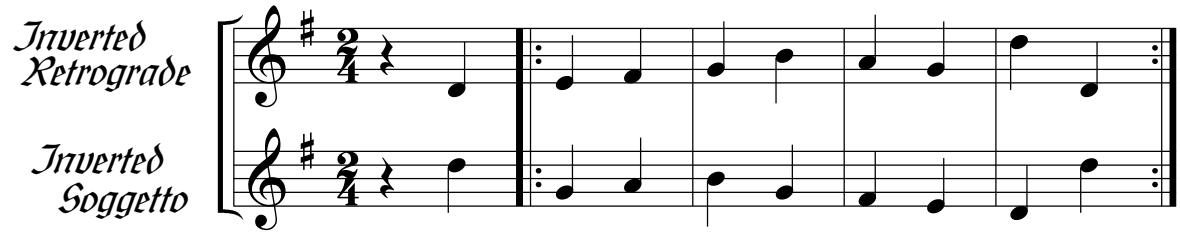
Delightful to hear, these canons were discovered in private possession in France in 1974. Only numbers 11 and 13 were known before then.

1. Soggetto with its retrograde

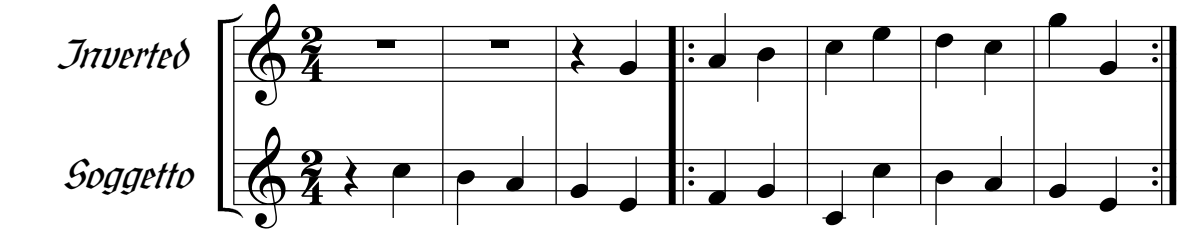
J. S. Bach



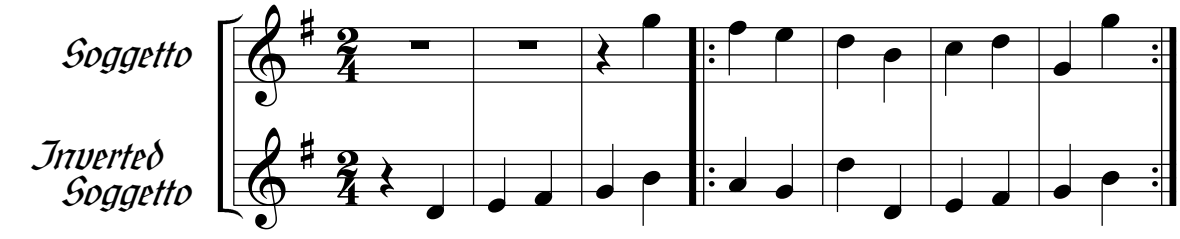
2. Inverted Soggetto with its retrograde



3. Soggetto with its inversion



4. Inverted Soggetto with its inversion

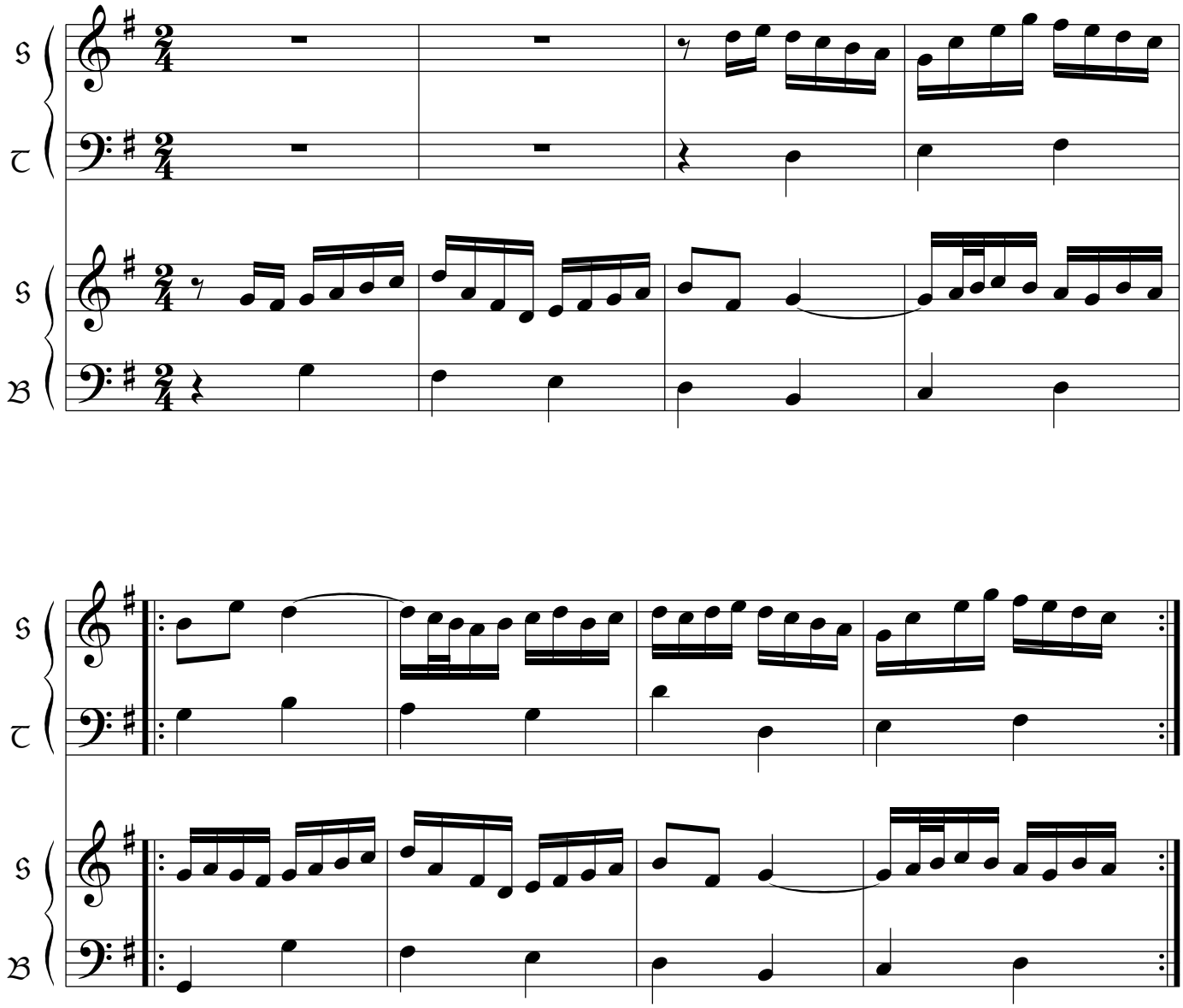


5. Four-part Double Mirror Canon

Canon duplex a 4 voci

Two keyboards or SSTB recorders

J. S. Bach

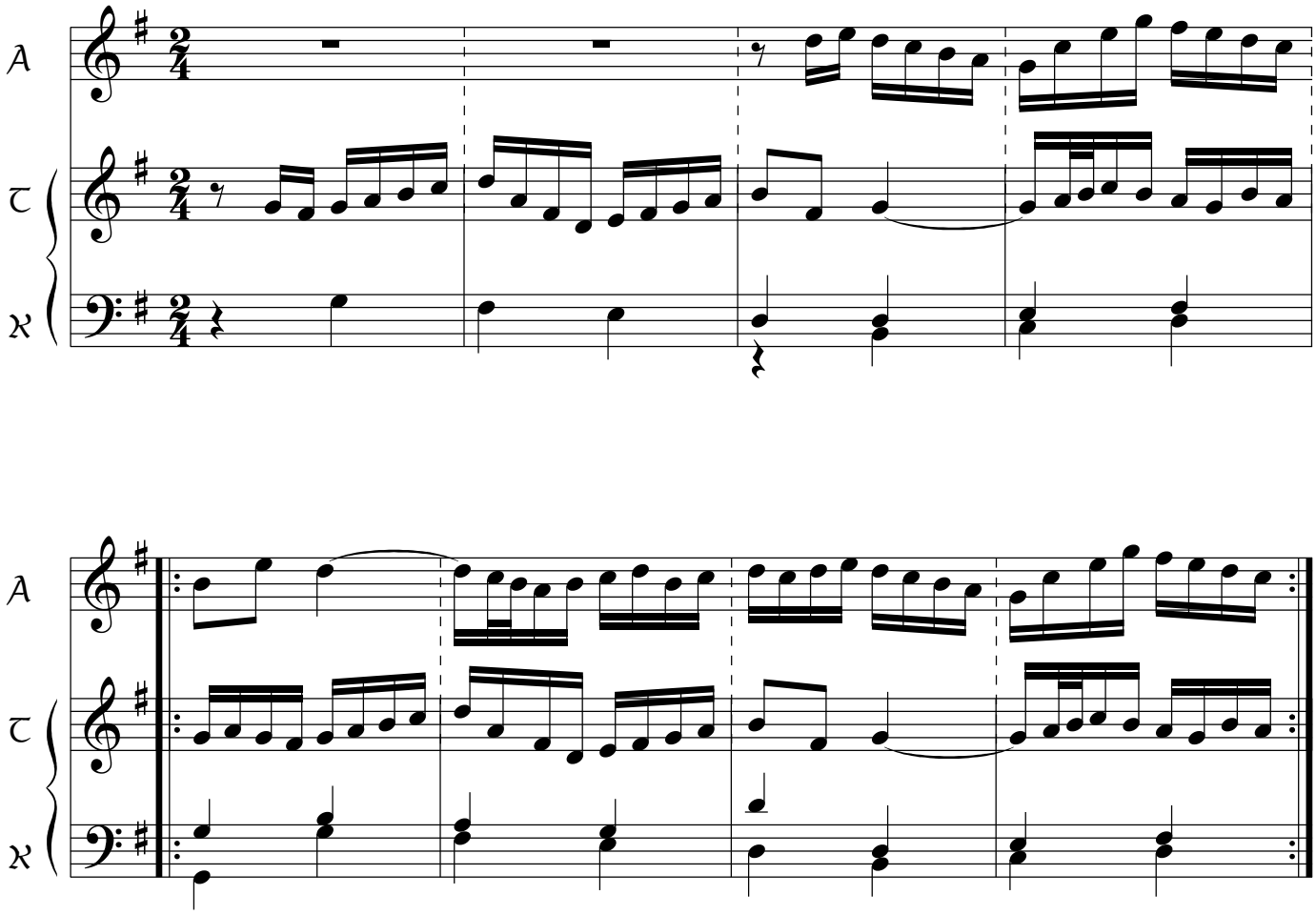


5. Four-part Double Mirror Canon

Canon duplex a 4 voci

AT recorders and keyboard
or A recorder and keyboard

J. S. Bach

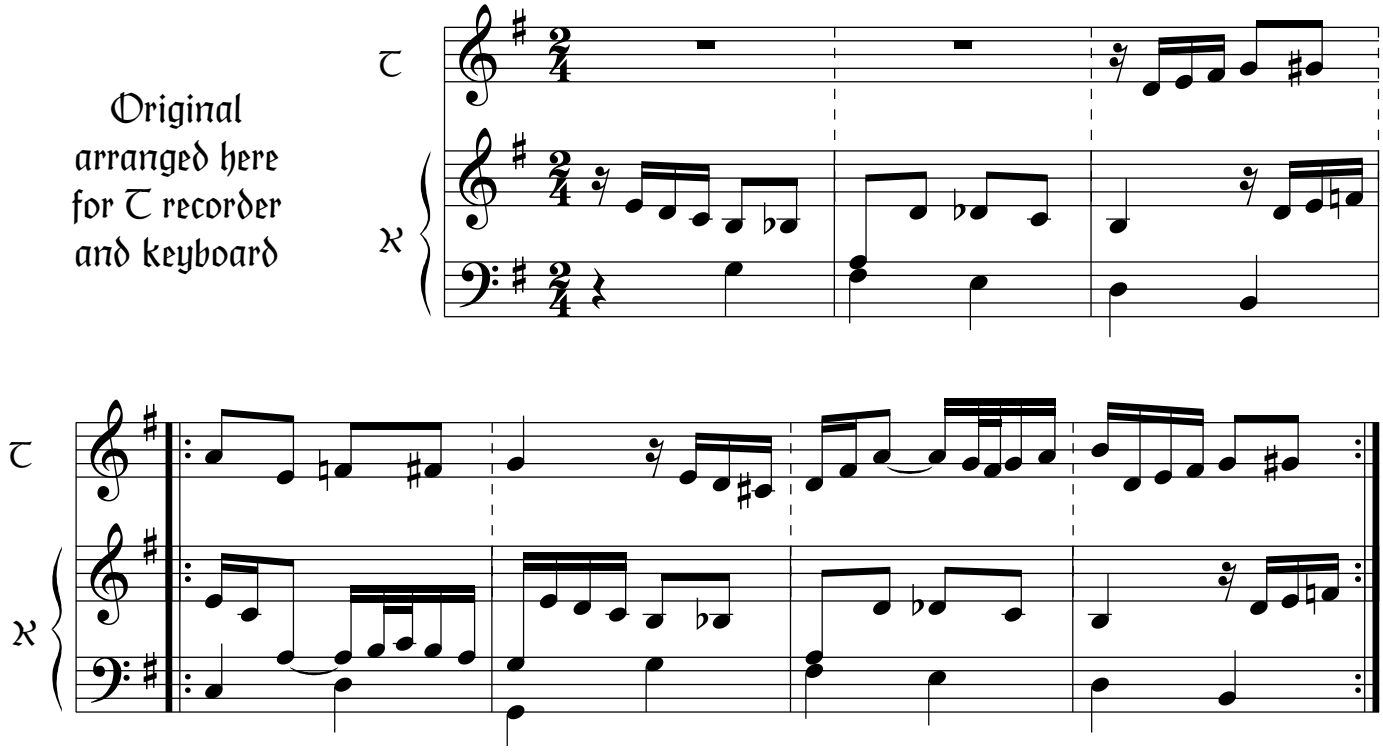


6. Two-part Mirror Canon above a Ground Bass

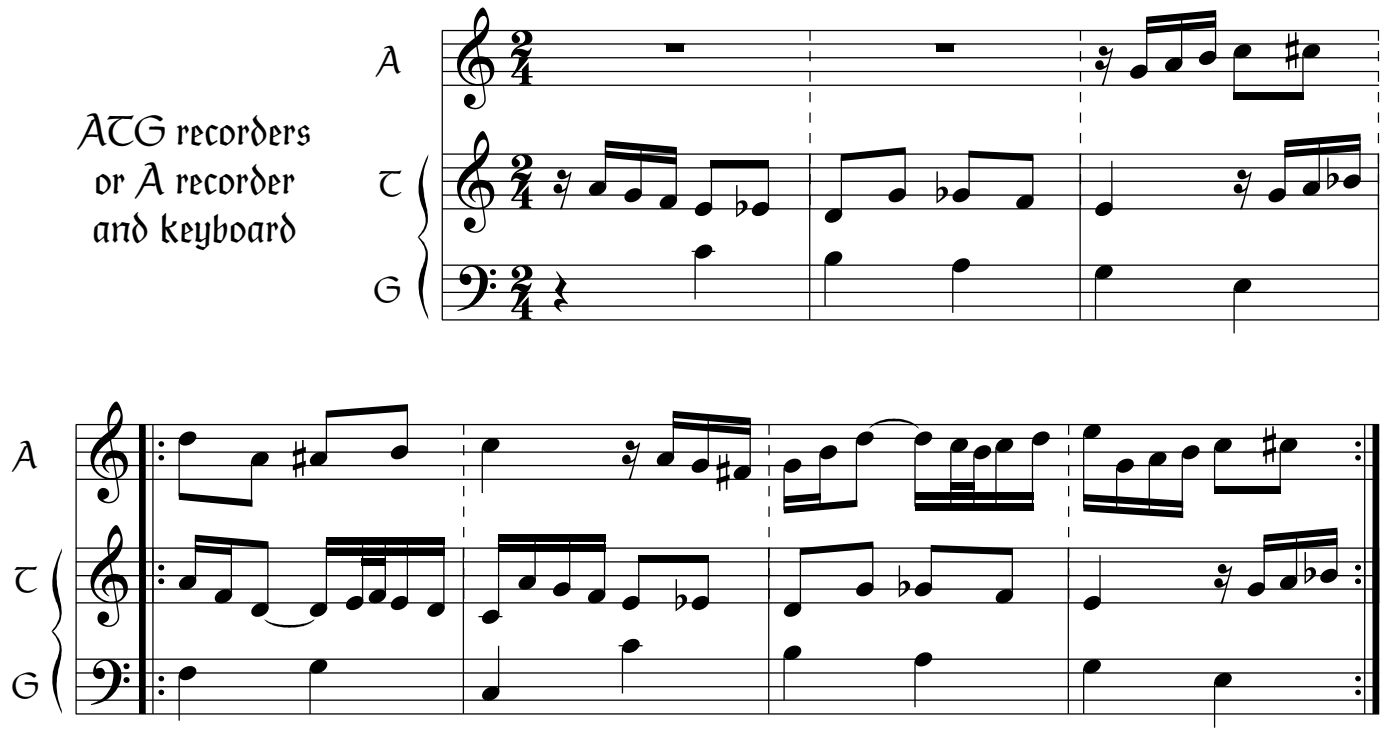
Canon simplex über besagtes Fundament a 3 voci

J. S. Bach

Original arranged here for T recorder and keyboard



ATG recorders or A recorder and keyboard

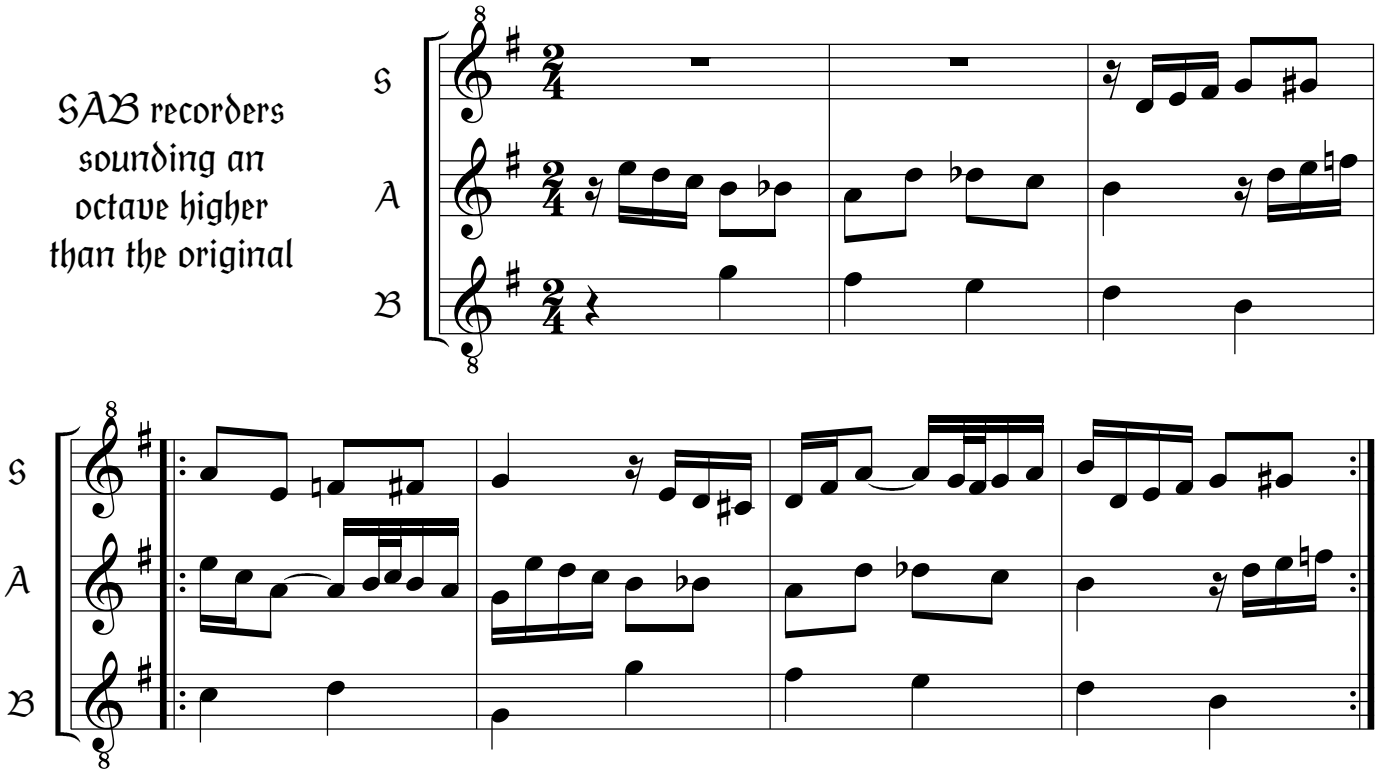


6. Two-part Mirror Canon above a Ground Bass

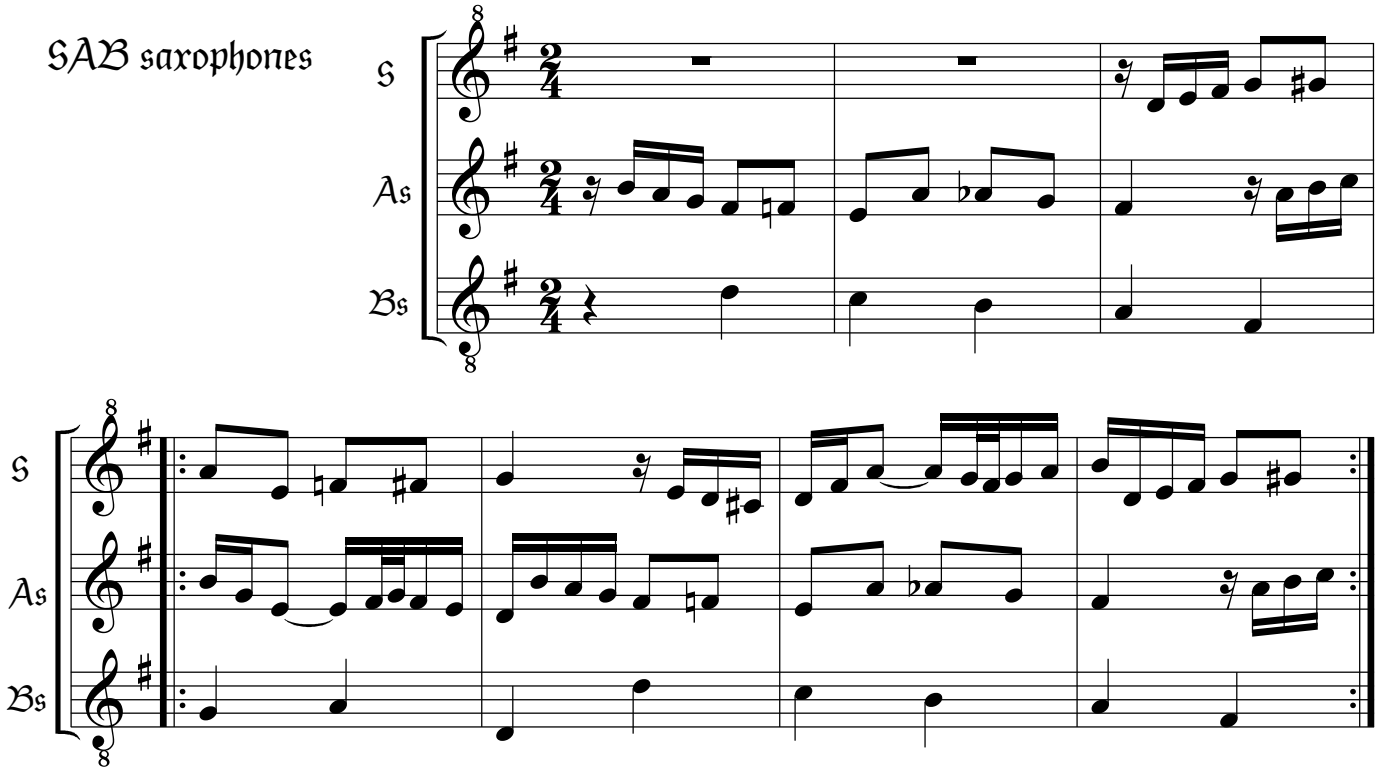
Canon simplex über besagtes Fundament a 3 voci

J. S. Bach

SAB recorders sounding an octave higher than the original



SAB saxophones

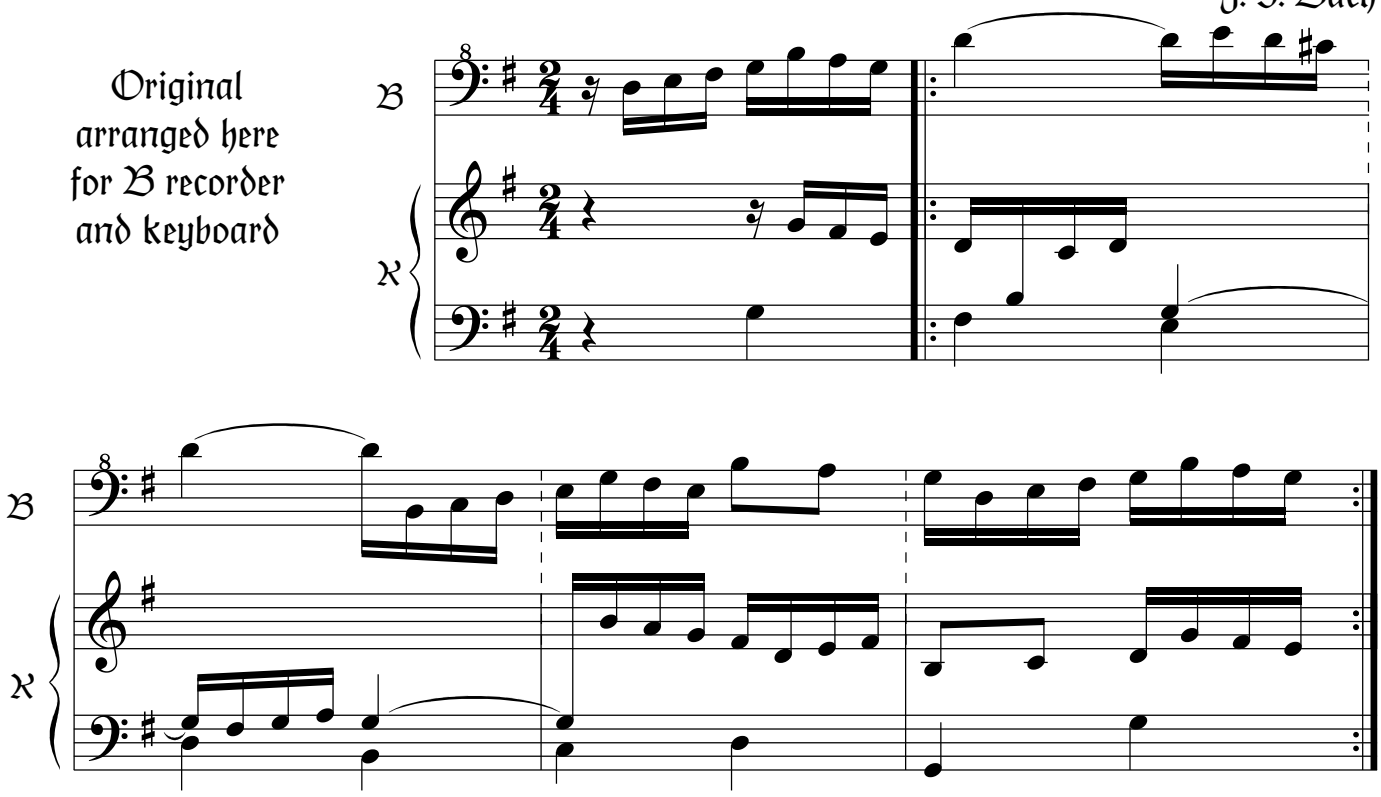


7. Two-part Mirror Canon above a Ground Bass

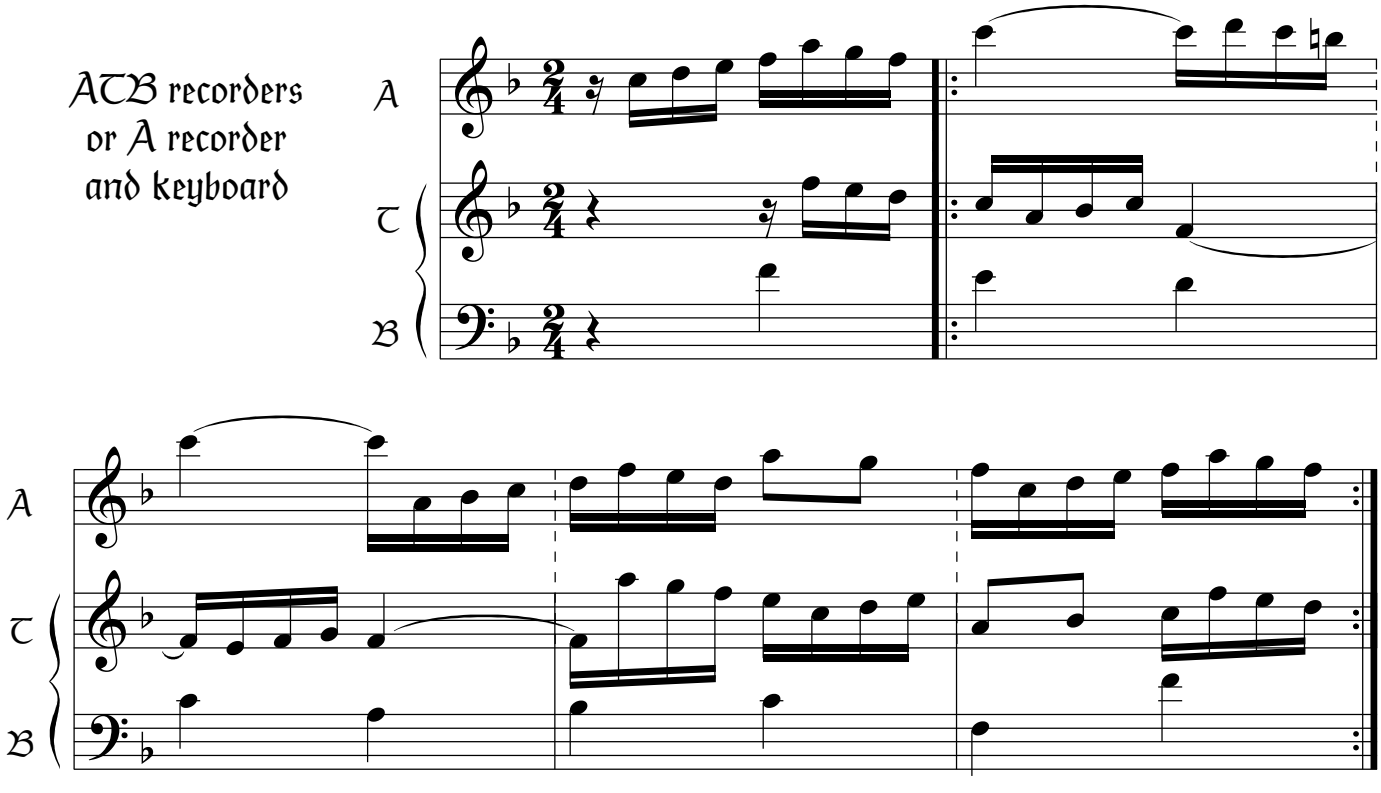
Canon simplex über besagtes Fundament a 3 voci

J. S. Bach

Original arranged here for B recorder and keyboard



A T B recorders or A recorder and keyboard

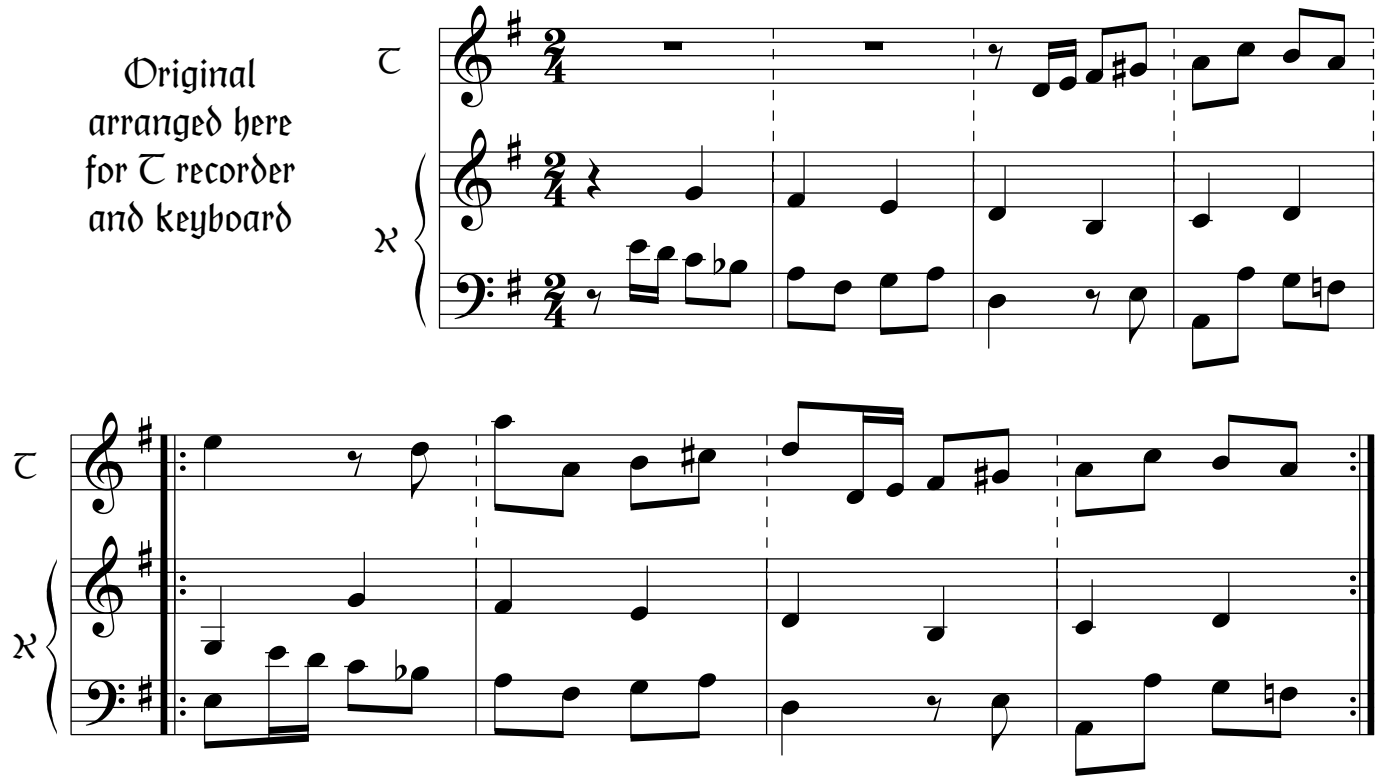


8. Two-part Mirror Canon around the Ground

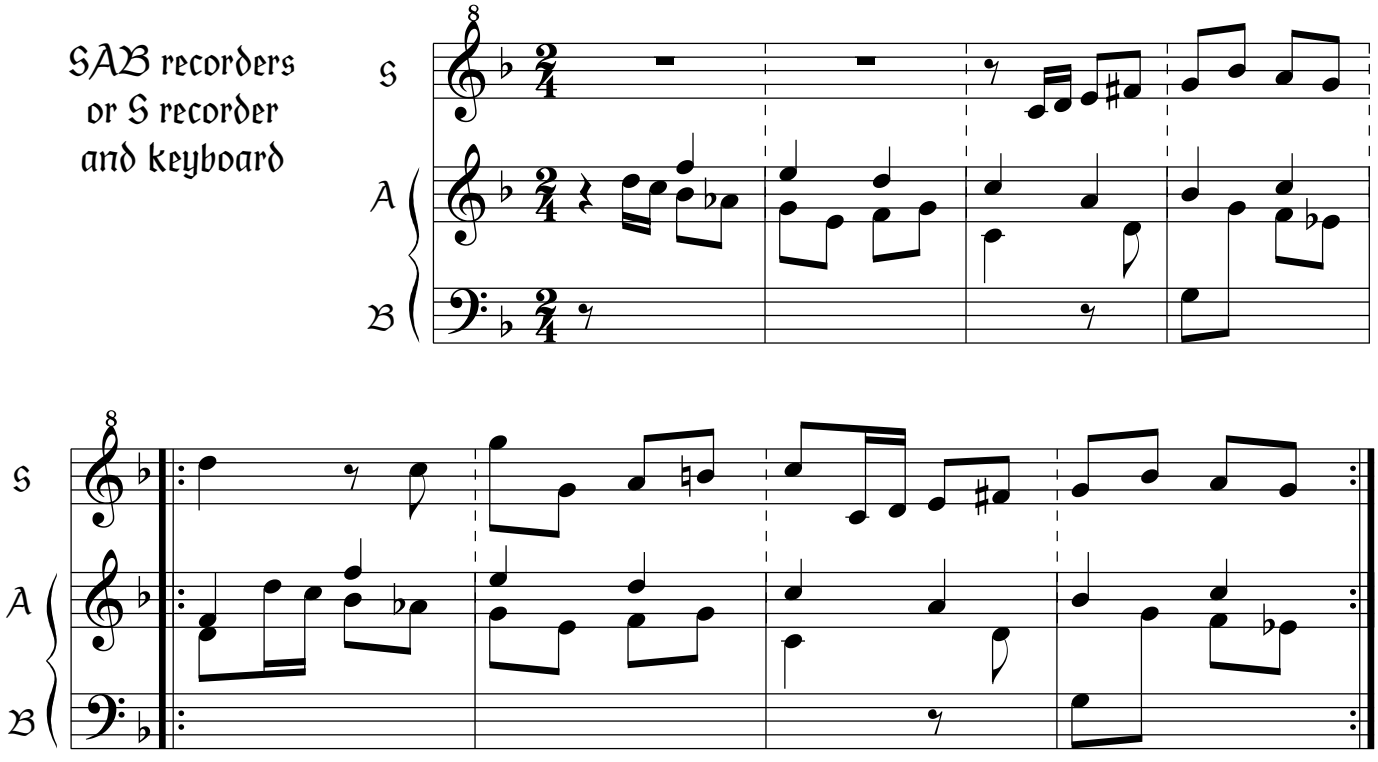
Canon simplex a 3 voci, il soggetto in Alto

J. S. Bach

Original arranged here for T recorder and keyboard



SAB recorders or S recorder and keyboard

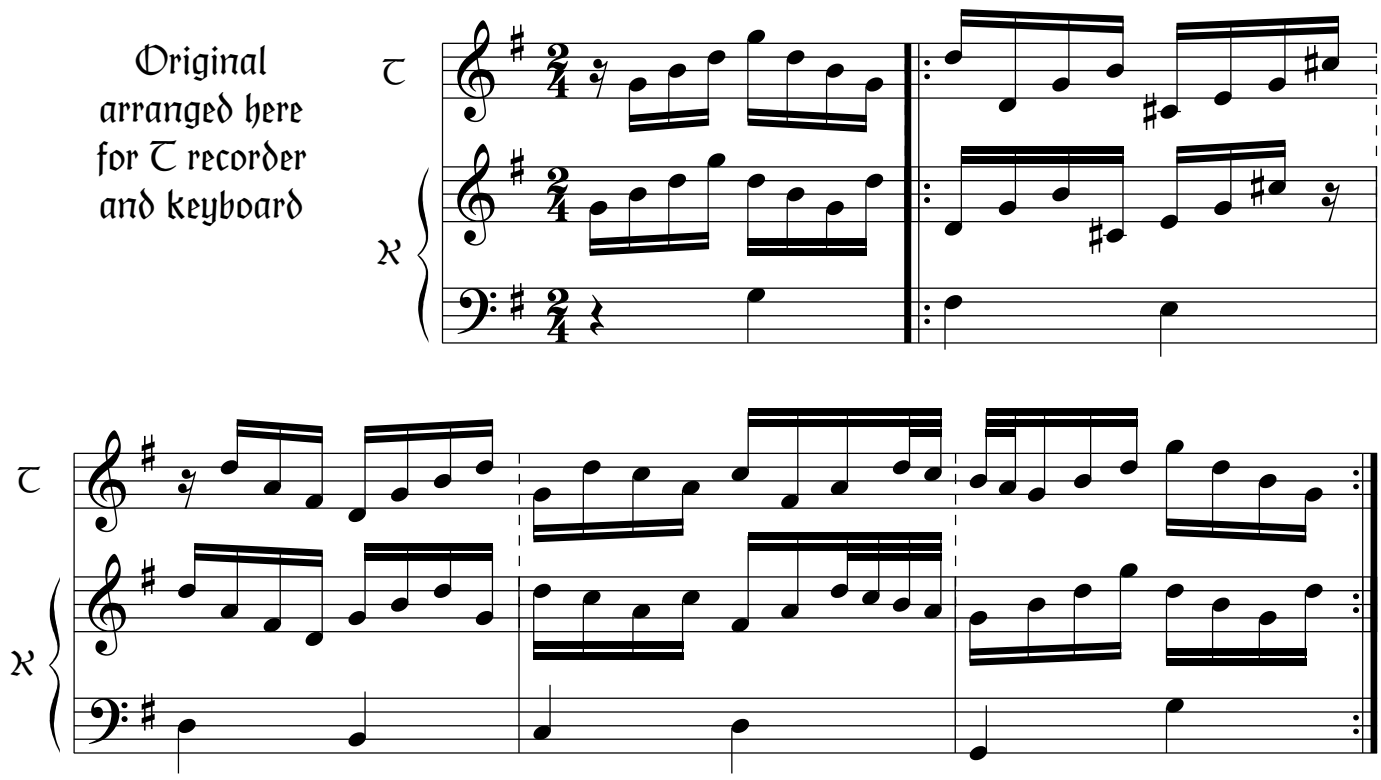


9. Unison Canon Followed at the Sixteenth

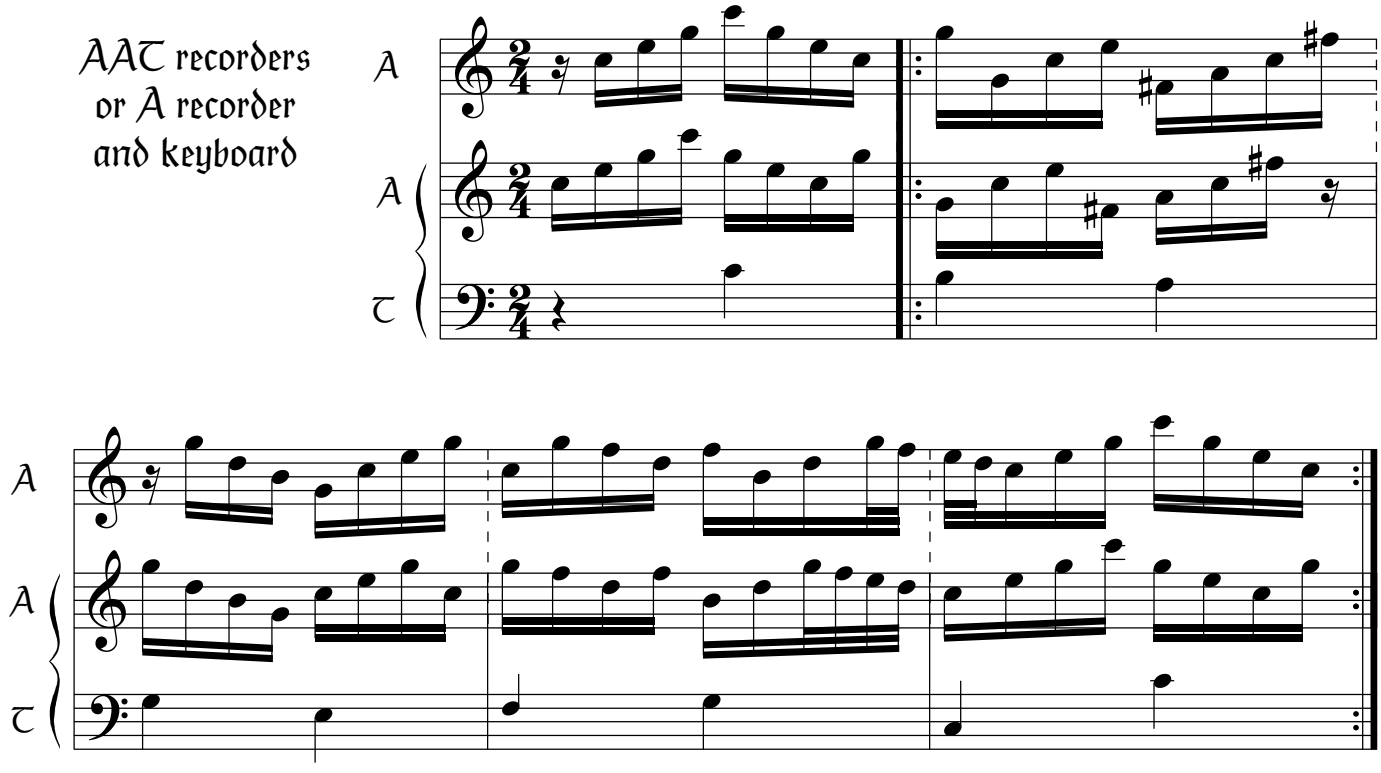
Canon in unisono post semifusam a 3 voci

J. S. Bach

Original arranged here for T recorder and keyboard



AAT recorders or A recorder and keyboard

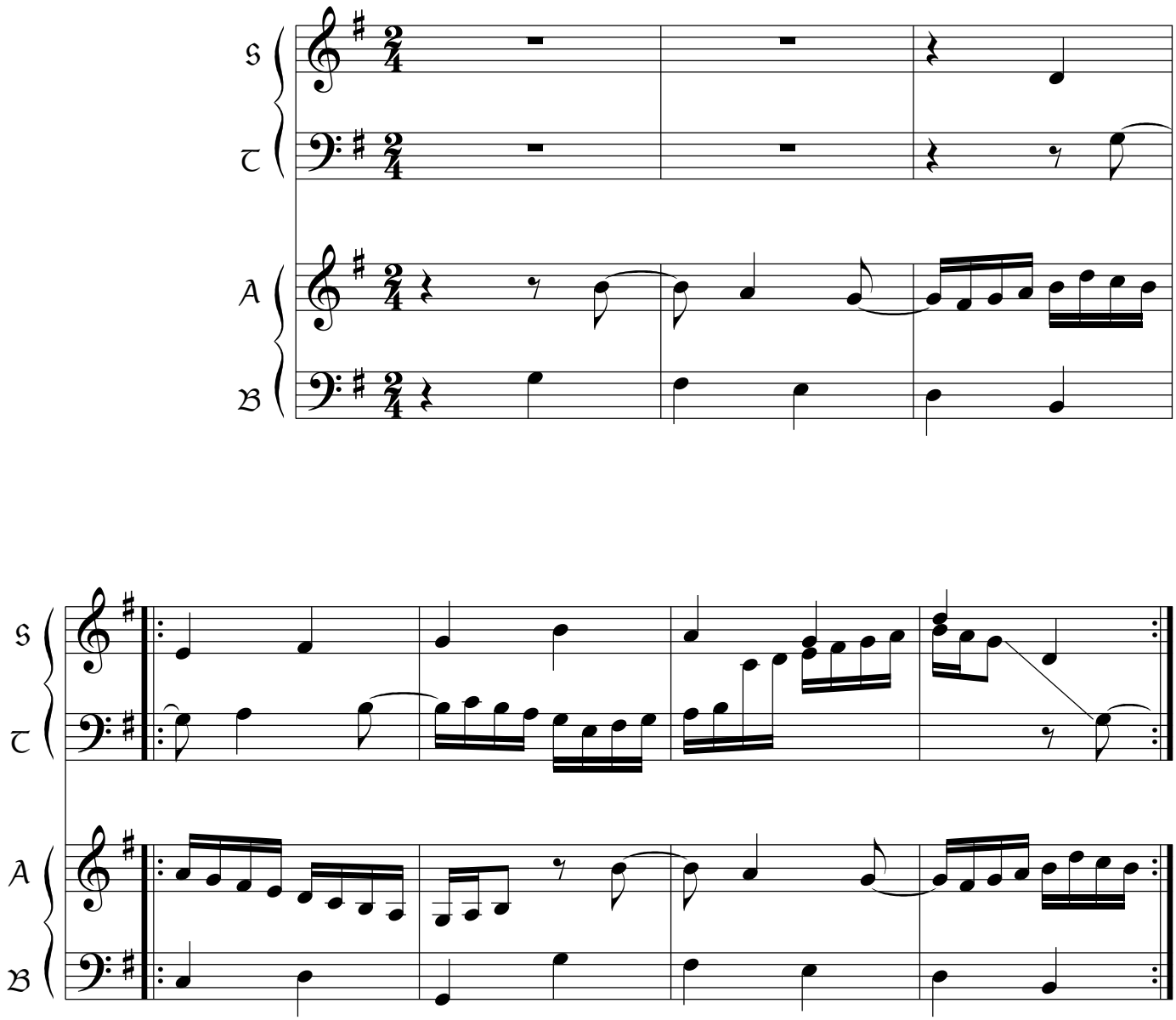


10. Syncopated Two-part Double Mirror Canon

Alio modo per syncopationes et per ligaturas a 2 voci

Two keyboards or SATB recorders

J. S. Bach



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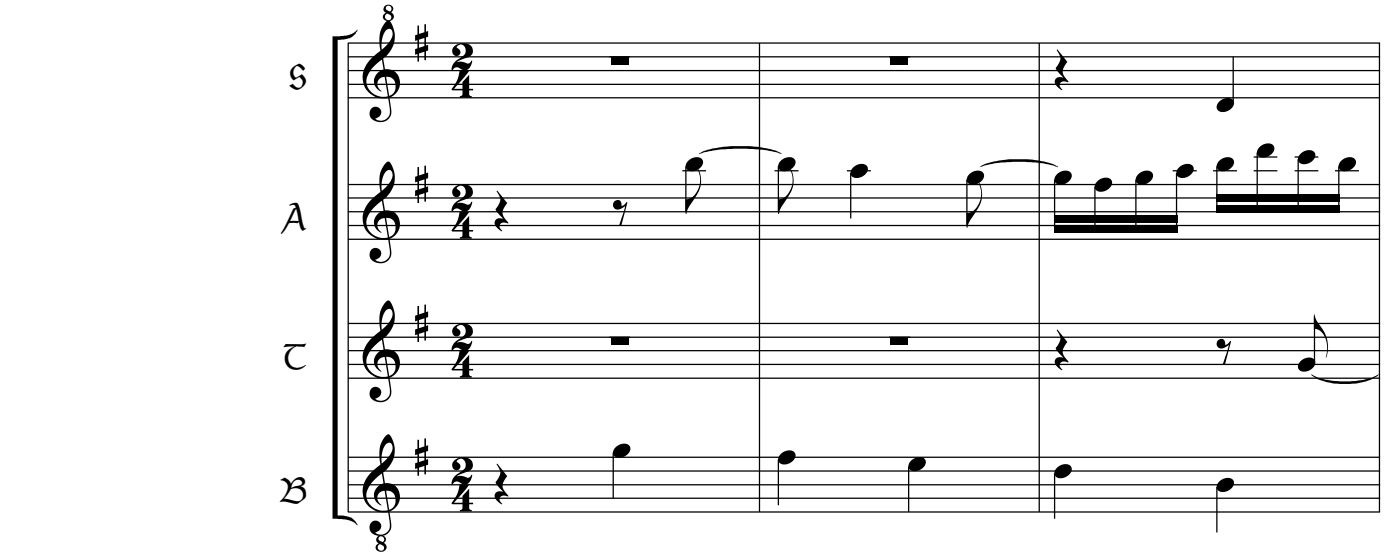
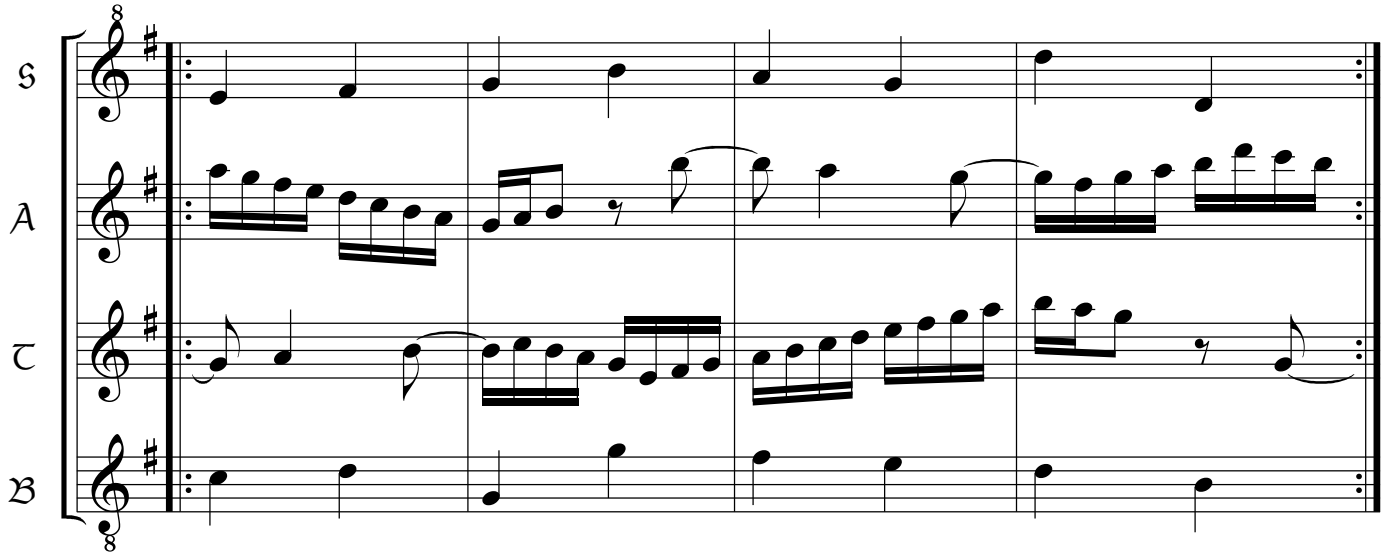
SATB recorders

J. S. Bach





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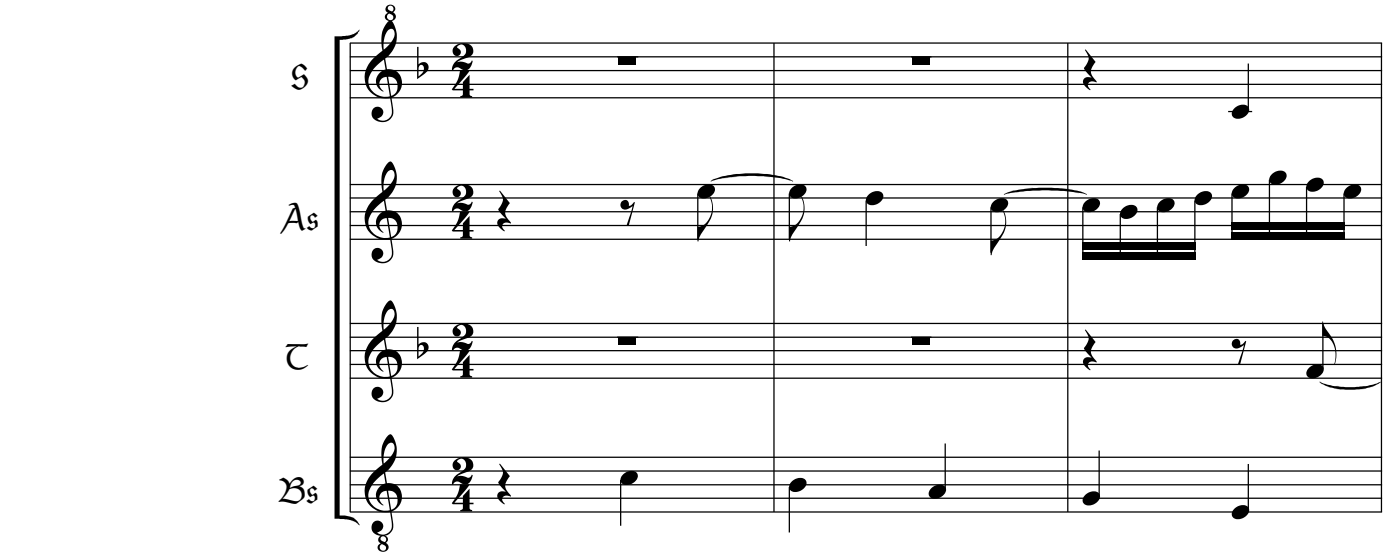
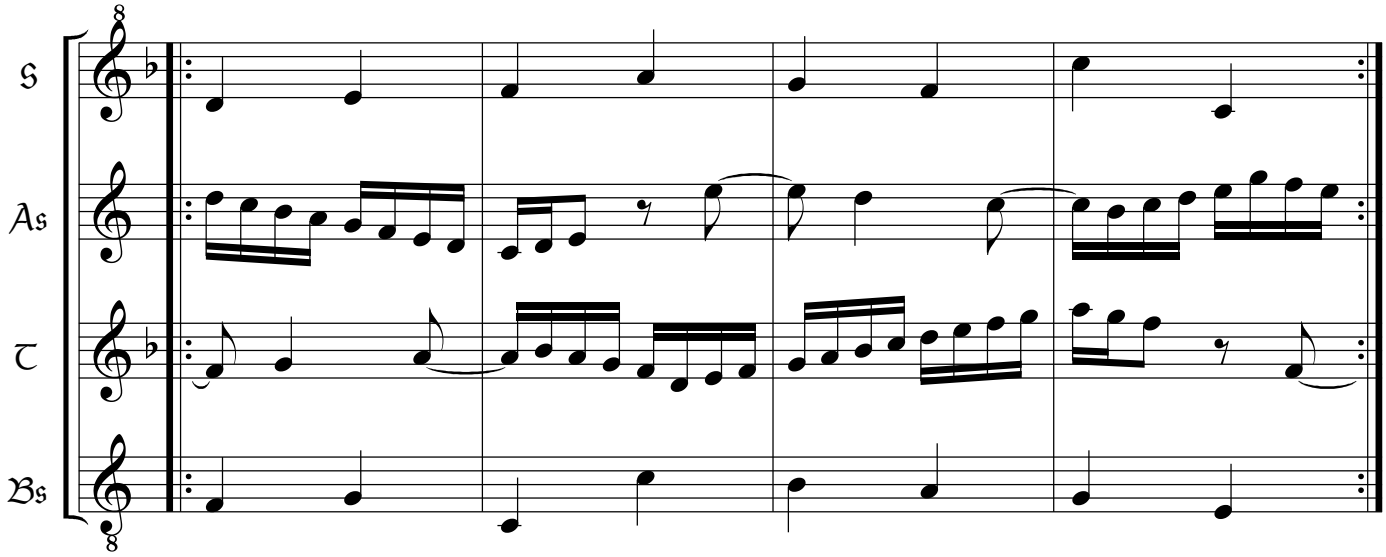
SATB saxophones

J. S. Bach



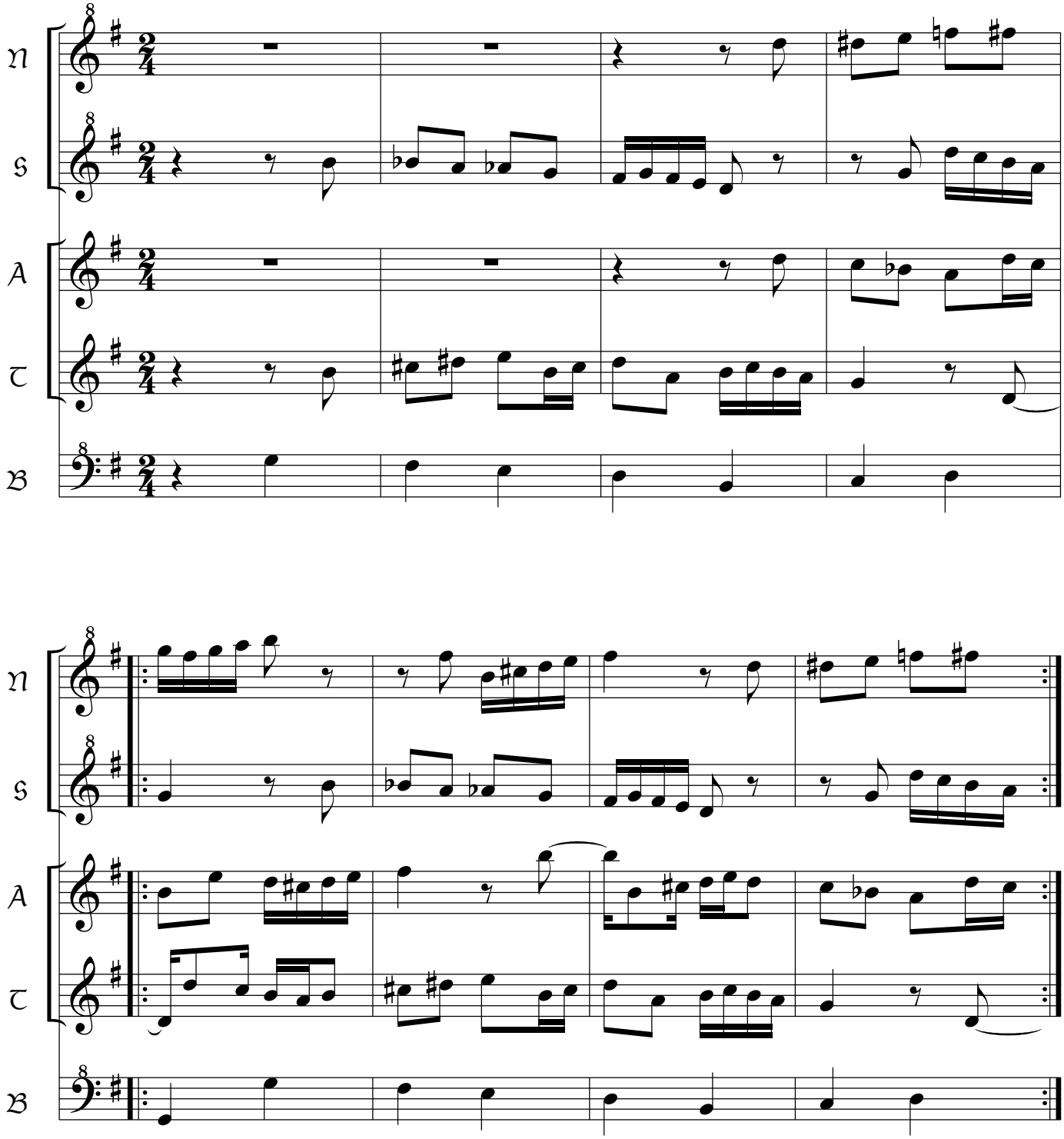


11. Five-part Double Mirror Canon above a Ground

Canon duplex übers Fundament a 5 voci

The cryptic inscriptions 'Christ's Symbol will crown the cross-bearers' and 'Bach wished to commend himself to the Lord Owner by means of these notes,' on Johann Gottlieb Fulda's notebook containing this canon may reveal Bach's wish to represent Christ's five wounds through the five descending semitones of the top voice.

NSATB recorders J. S. Bach, 1747 Oct 15



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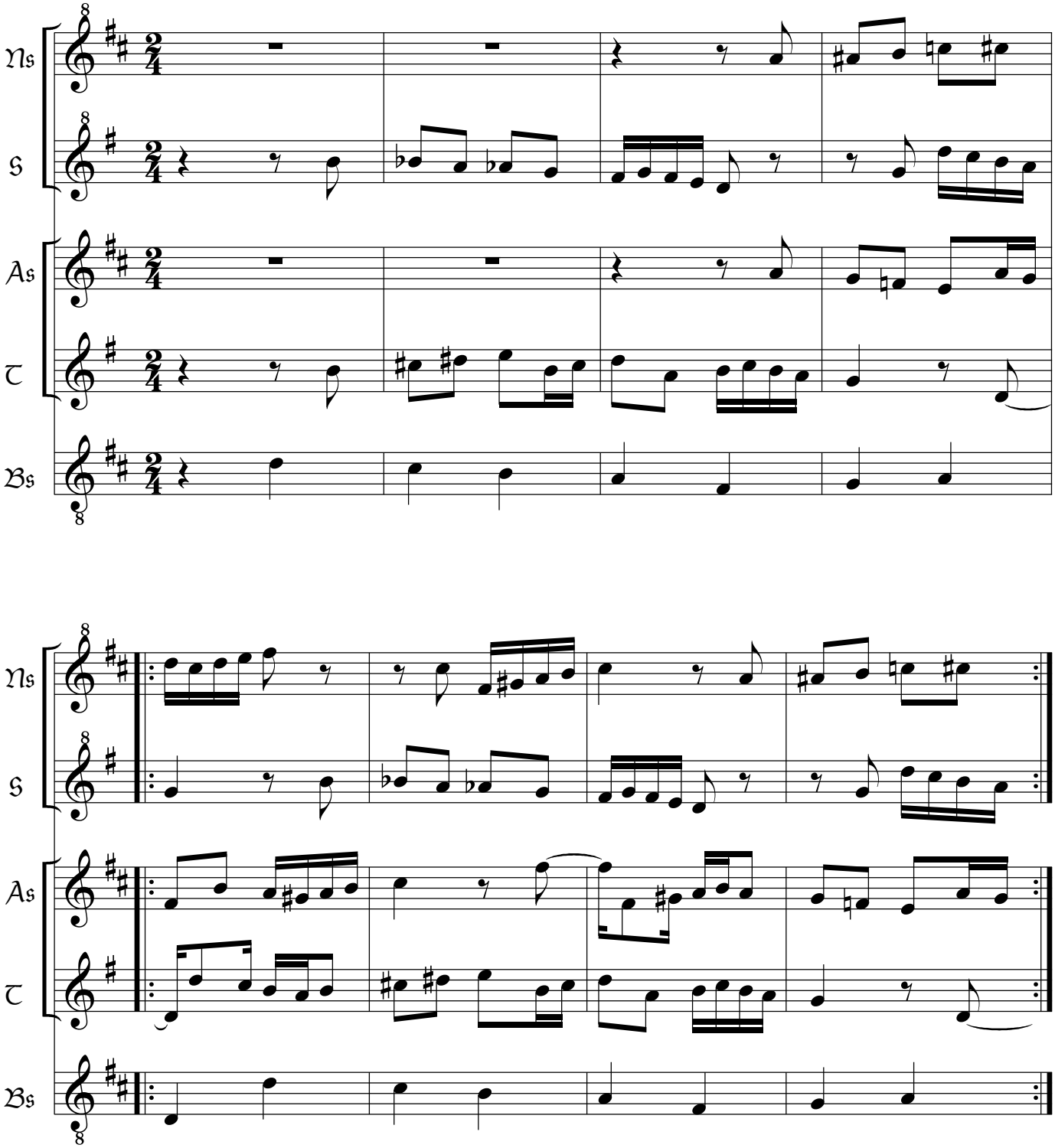
NSATB saxophones J. S. Bach, 1747 Oct 15

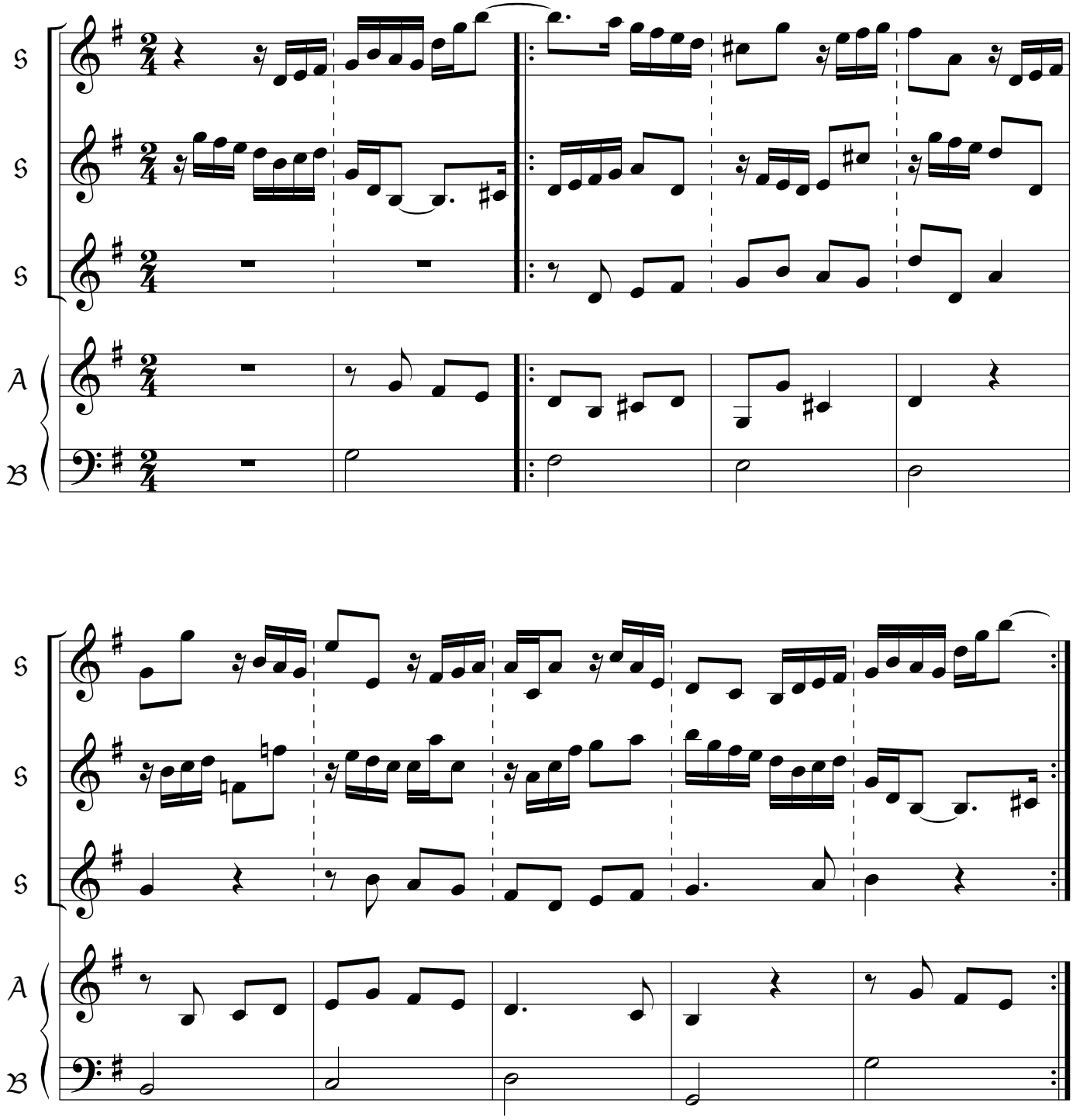


12. Five-part Double Mirror Canon

Canon duplex über Fundamental-Noten a 5 voci

Original version
Suitable for keyboard and three violins

J. S. Bach

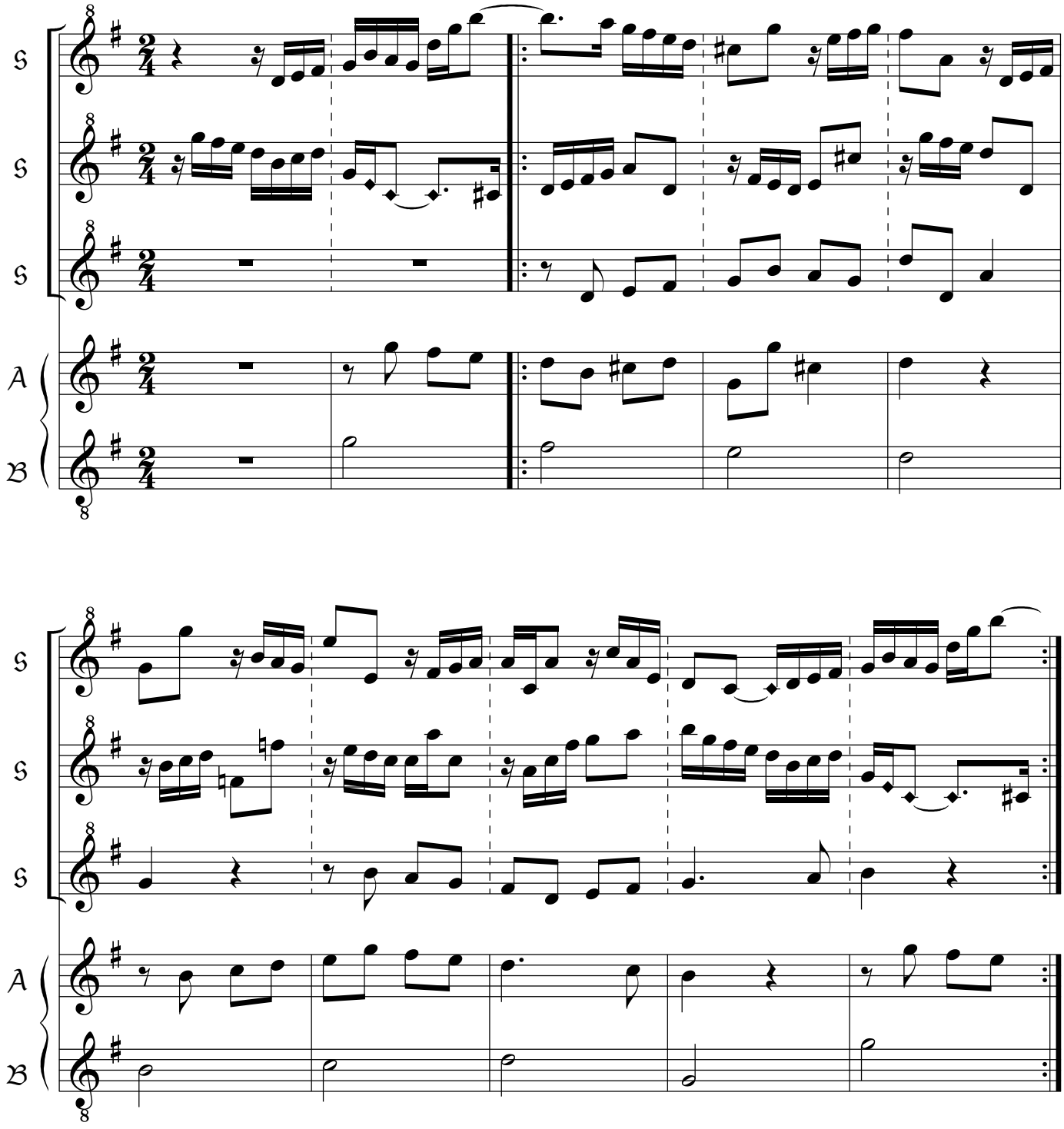


12. Five-part Double Mirror Canon

Canon duplex über Fundamental-Noten a 5 voci

Adapted for SSSAB recorders

J. S. Bach

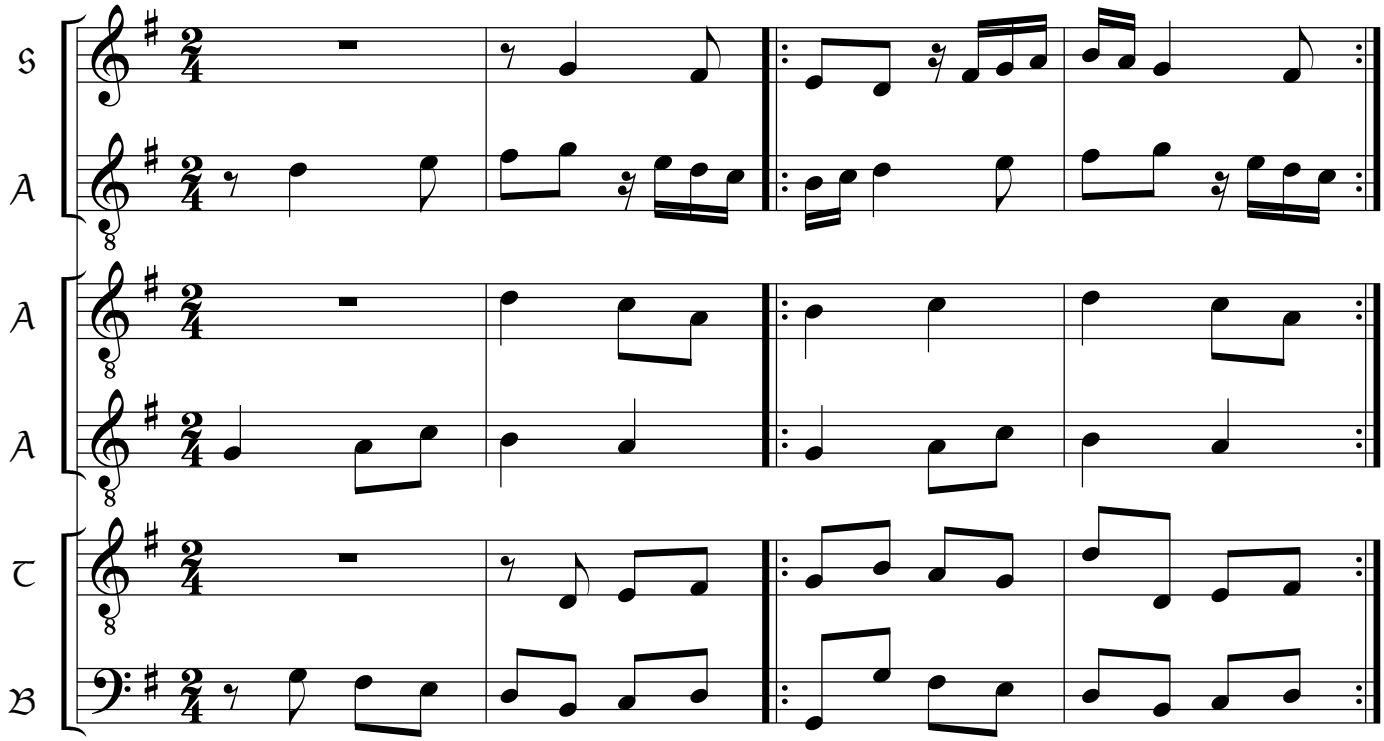


13. Six-part Triple Mirror Canon

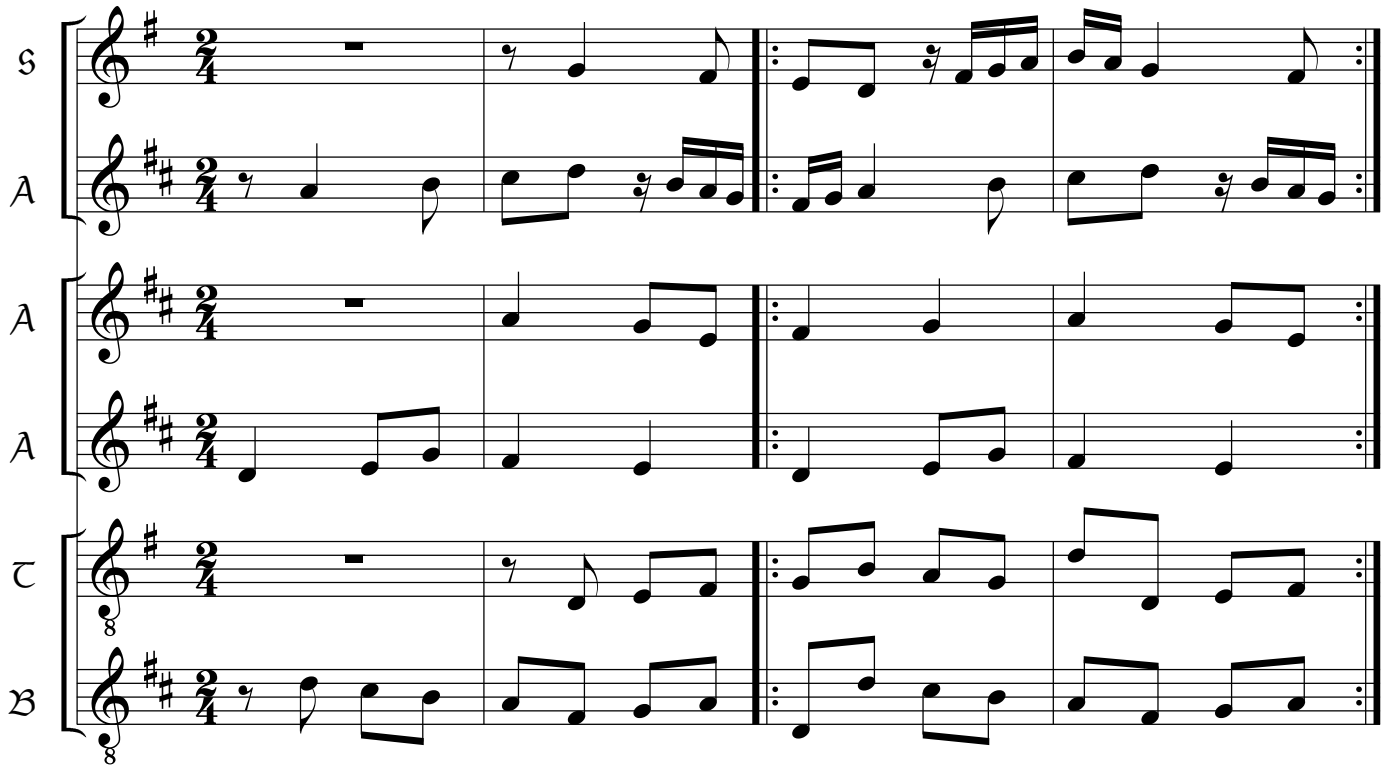
Canon triplex a 6 voci

J. S. Bach

Original version (suitable for SAAATB recorders)



SAAATB saxophones

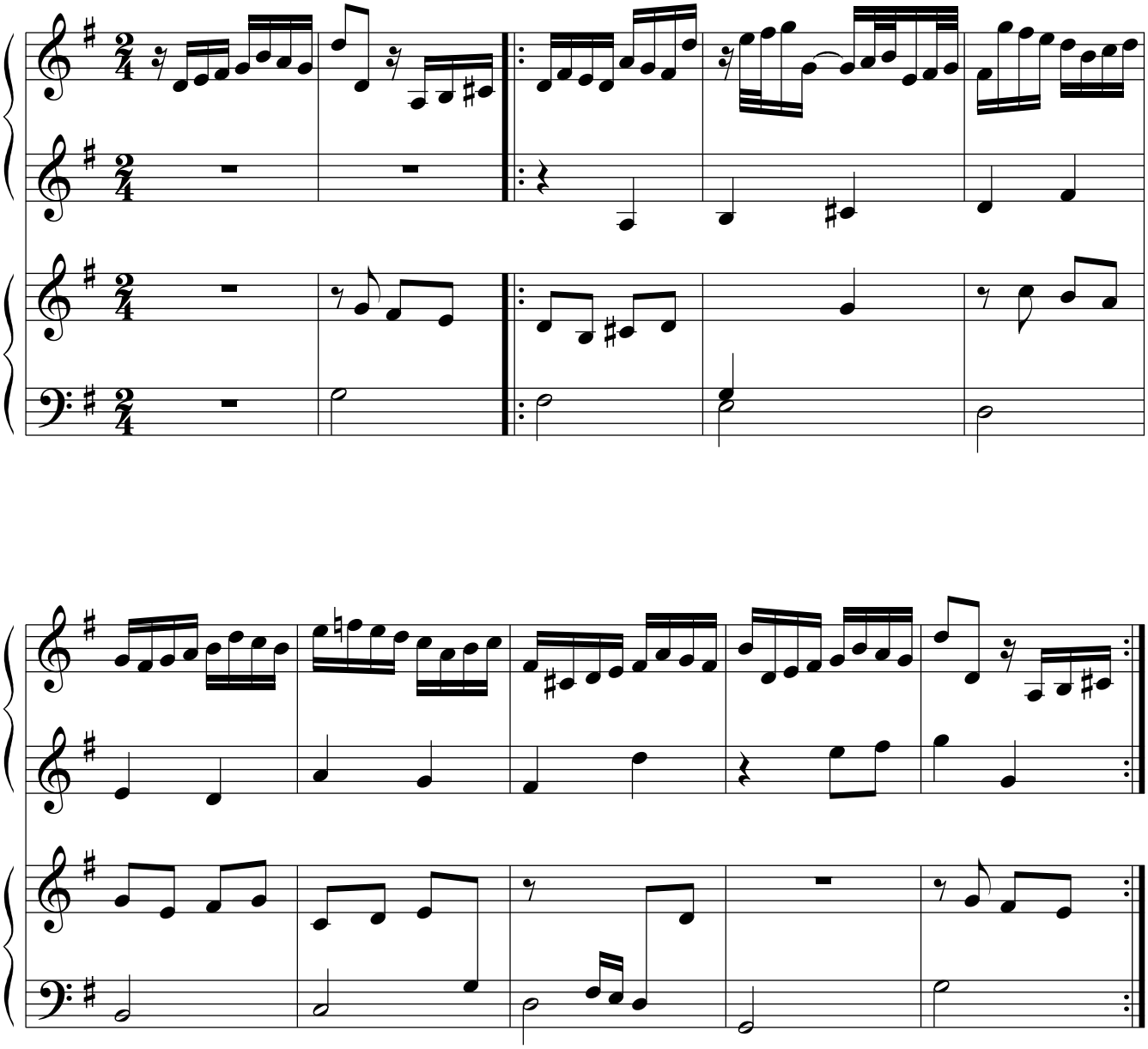


14. Augmented Canon in Inverted Motion

Canon a 4 per Augmentationem et Diminutionem

Original arranged for two keyboards

J. S. Bach

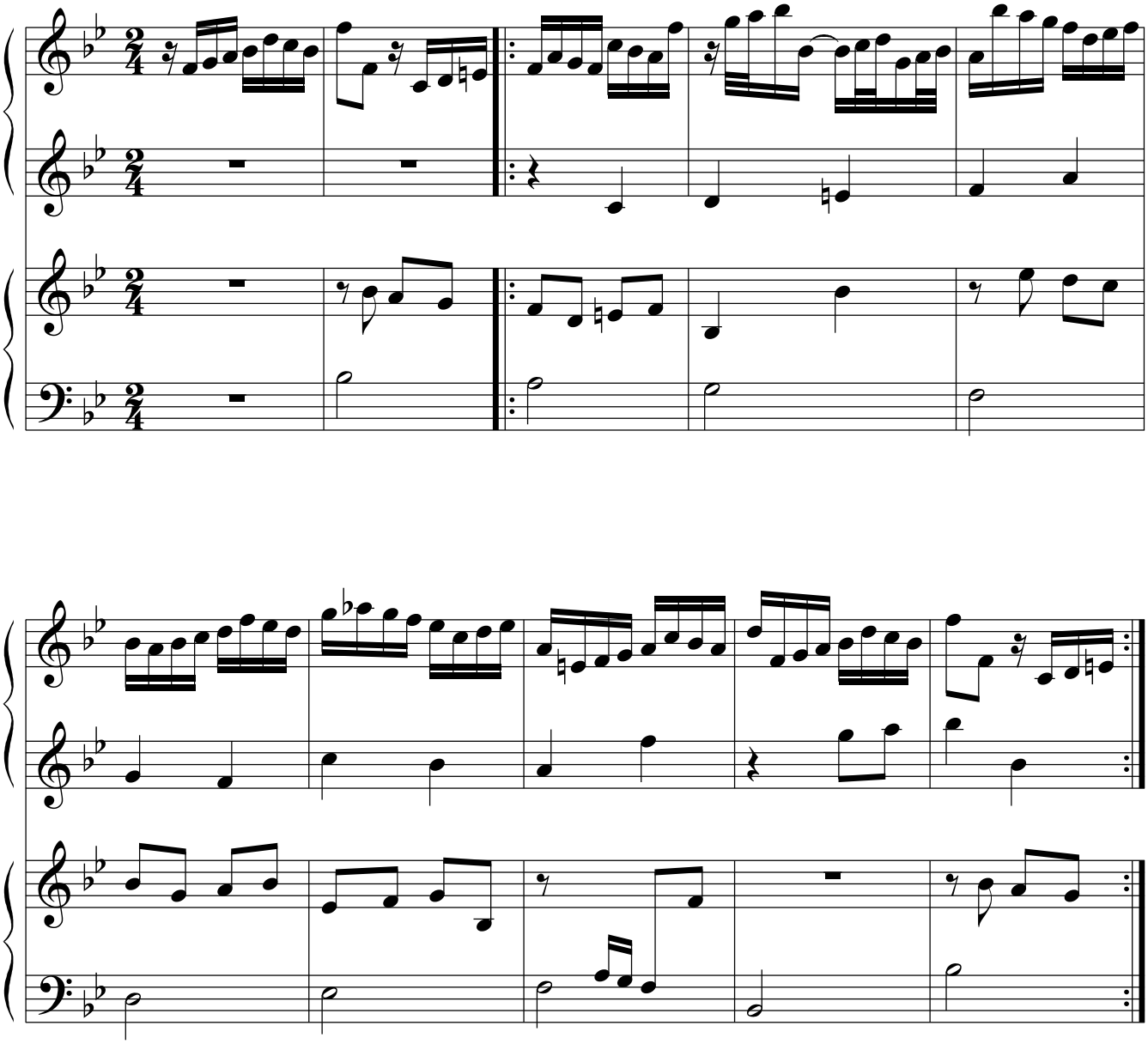


14. Augmented Canon in Inverted Motion

Canon a 4 per Augmentationem et Diminutionem

Pitch raised a minor third

J. S. Bach

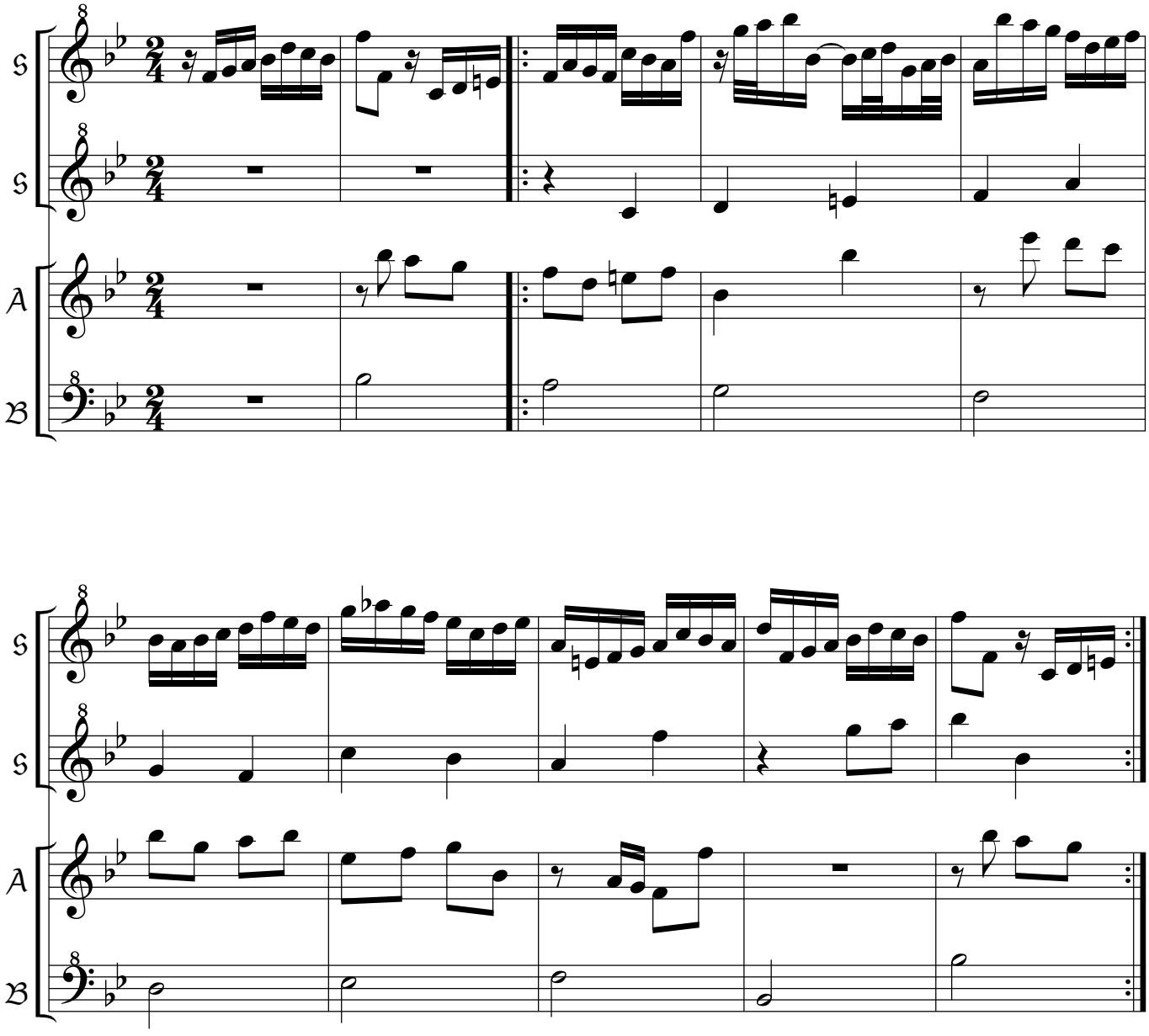


14. Augmented Canon in Inverted Motion

Canon a 4 per Augmentationem et Diminutionem

SSAB recorders

J. S. Bach



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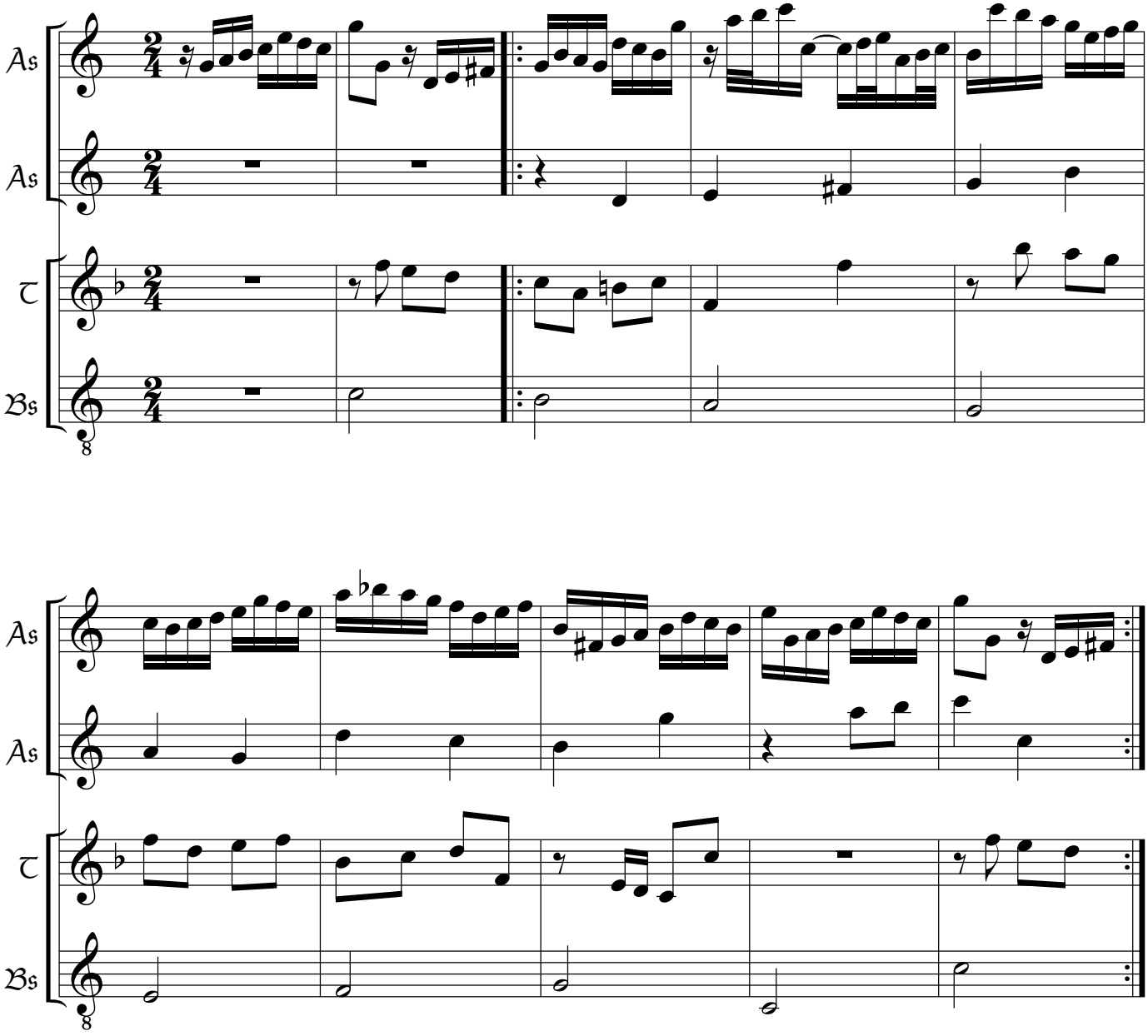
Canon a 4 per Augmentationem et Diminutionem

AATB saxophones

J. S. Bach



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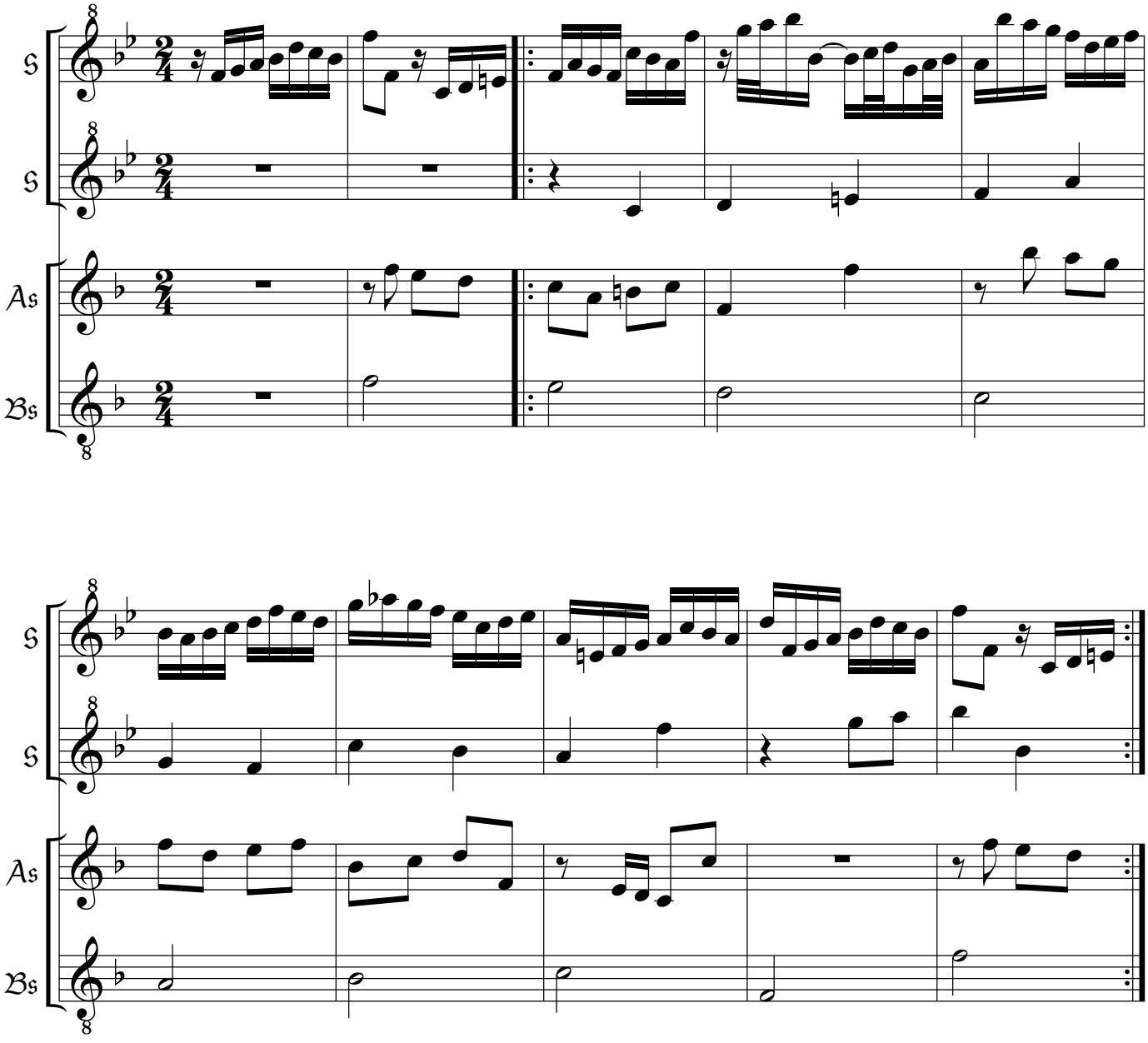
Canon a 4 per Augmentationem et Diminutionem

SSAB saxophones

J. S. Bach

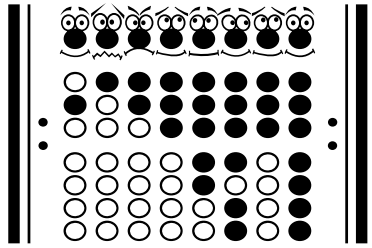


Canons on the First Eight Notes of the Goldberg Ground

Arrangement for children's recorders
in Baroque fingering

J. S. Bach

1.



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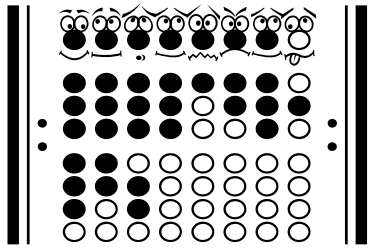

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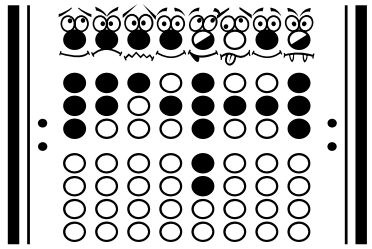

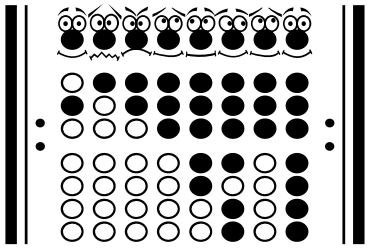

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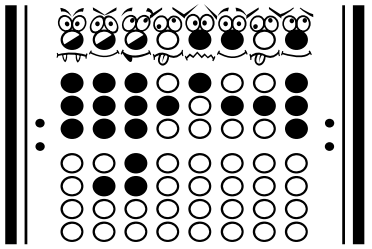
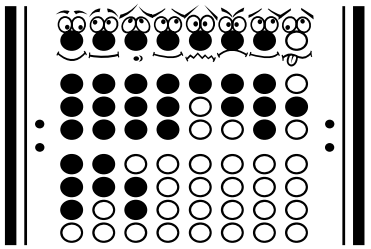
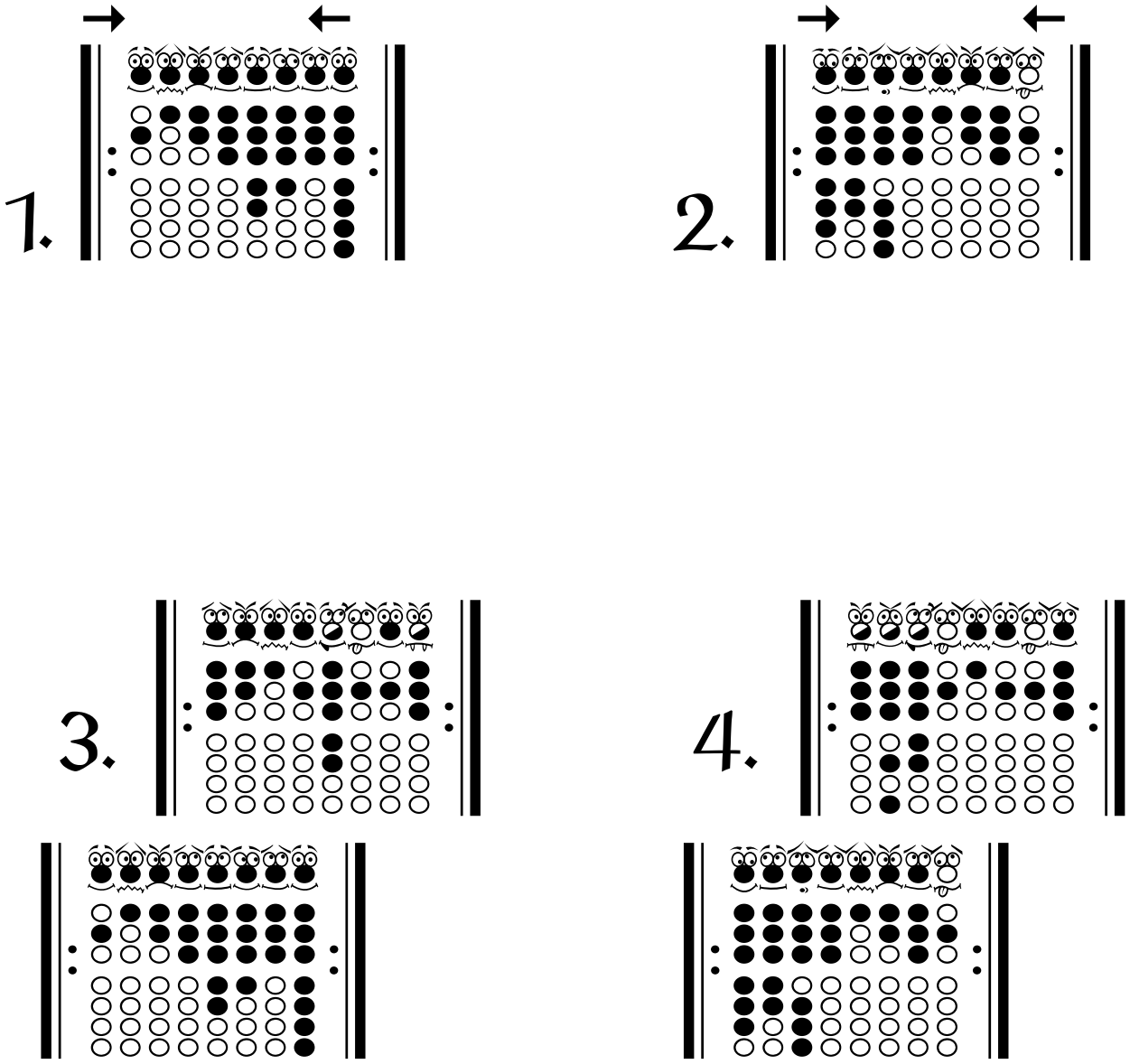




Canons on the First Eight Notes of the Goldberg Ground

Arrangement for children's recorders
in German fingering

J. S. Bach