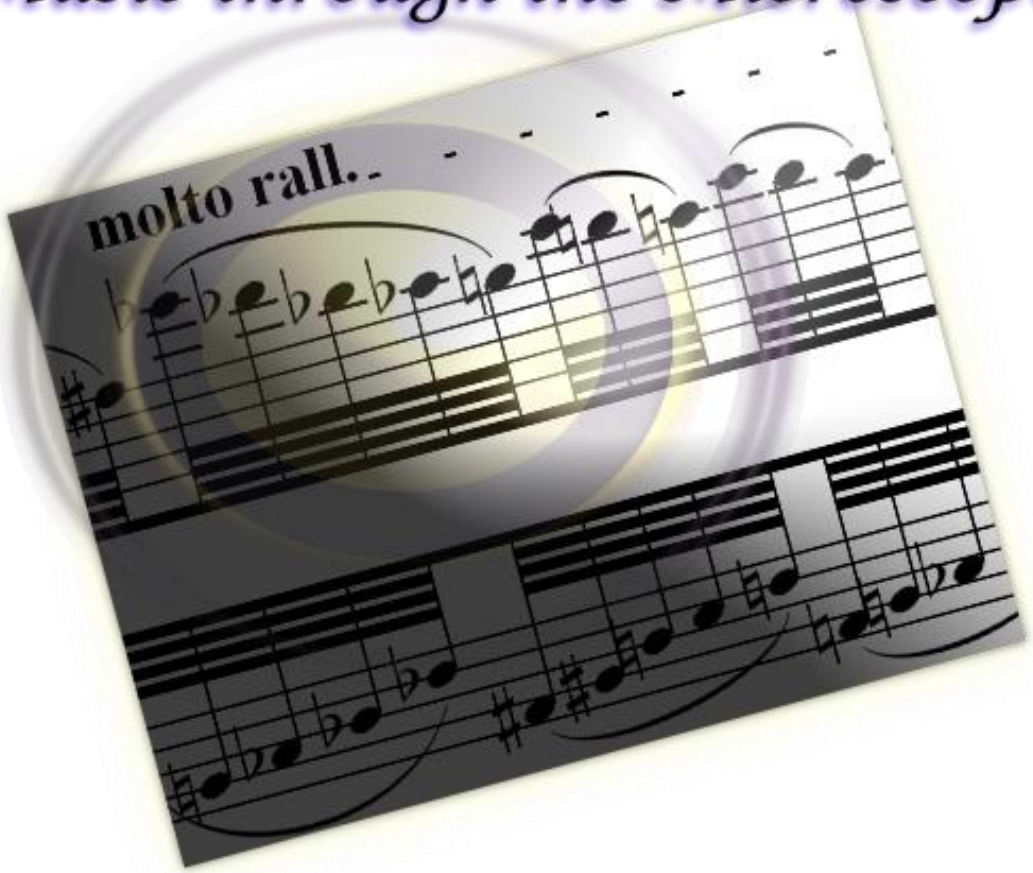
Music through the Microscope



William Byrd

Ave verum corpus

A musical analysis

Music through the Microscope Volume 8

Illustrations

© Dr Nick Redfern 2017 Cloud Factory Publications Limited as part of *Music through the Microscope*.

The singular voice

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About this document

This document is a detailed analysis of *Ave verum corpus* by William Byrd. The purpose of this analysis is to aid the study of the work by isolating aspects of structure, melody and melodic development, harmony, texture, rhythm, etc.

This study is not a critique of the composer and does not seek to explore the cultural, contextual or historical aspects of the music.

This book is illustrated by animated scores, for which there are hyperlinks within the text of this book, located by image illustrations. To access these resources on the internet then please visit either:

http://www.nickredfern.co.uk/ave_verum_corpus.html

or via the William Byrd Ave verum corpus YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8gLwjq2ETCg4zsOXYgJrzg?guided_help_flow=3

If some of the image illustrations appear too small, then a free copy of the illustrations and a variety of scores and resources can be downloaded as PDF files from:

http://www.nickredfern.co.uk/byrd_ave_verum_corpus.html

YouTube

Further resources will be available at the YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8gLwjq2ETCg4zsOXYgJrzg?guided_help_flow=3

Sources

The source of this analysis is a Sibelius transcription made from a number of sources at IMSLP:

http://imslp.org/wiki/Ave_verum_corpus_(Byrd,_William)

The text has been excluded from many illustrations for visual clarity.

Acknowledgements

Gimell Records & The Tallis Scholars

I would like to offer my most sincere thanks Steve Smith and Gimell Records for allowing the use of their recording of Ave verum corpus, sung by the magnificent Tallis Scholars, directed by Peter Phillips. This recording has been used to illustrate this document and without their cooperation the completion of this book would not be possible. Nick Redfern

The recording of Ave verum corpus is part of *The Tallis Scholars sing William Byrd* and is available in many audio formats, including CD.

The Tallis Scholars sing William Byrd

https://www.gimell.com/cdgim208-tallis-scholars-william-by

The Tallis Scholars sing William Byrd at Hyperion, CD or download

http://www.hyperion-records.co.uk/dc.asp?dc=D_CDGIM208

Gimell

http://www.gimell.com/

The Tallis Scholars

http://www.thetallisscholars.co.uk/

Ave verum corpus: complete animated score

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dl6Tv6AYtTY&feature=youtu.be

Rhythmic convention

The note values are in half the value of the original, which is in keeping with modern publications of the work.

Video: Texture bar 1 to 4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWMj7OOcdq0&feature=youtu.be

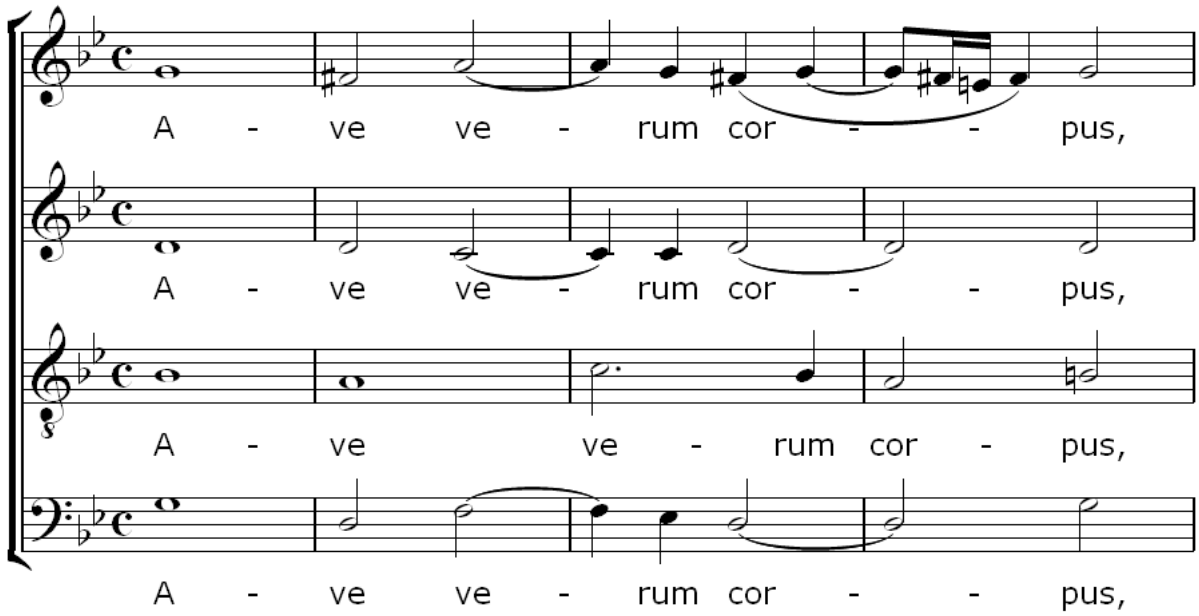

Figure 1 Texture bar 1 to 4

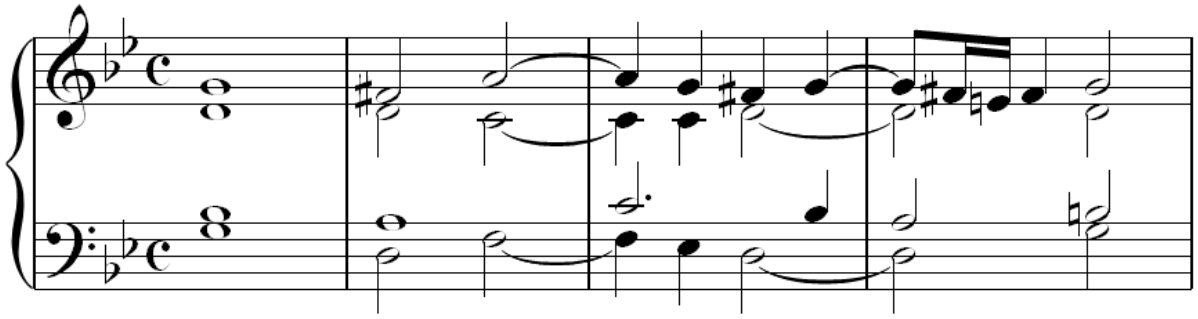

Figure 2 Part spacing bar1 to 4

Video: Texture bar 5 to 8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRvE-9ak7fU&feature=youtu.be

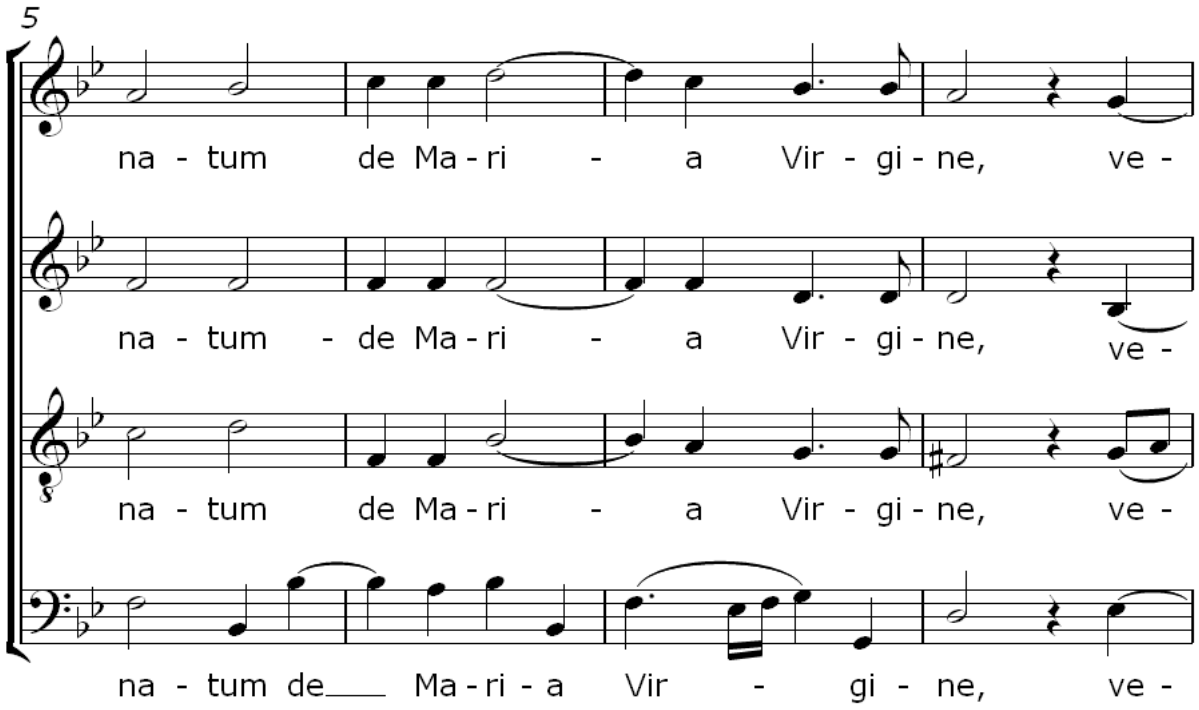

Figure 3 Texture bar 5 to 8

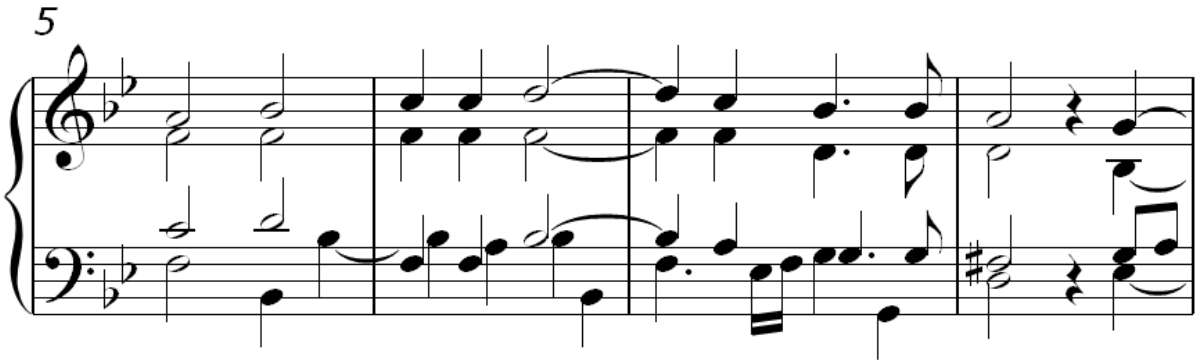

Figure 4 Part spacing bar 5 to 8

Video: Texture bar 8 to 10

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U17s4XgrN0U&feature=youtu.be

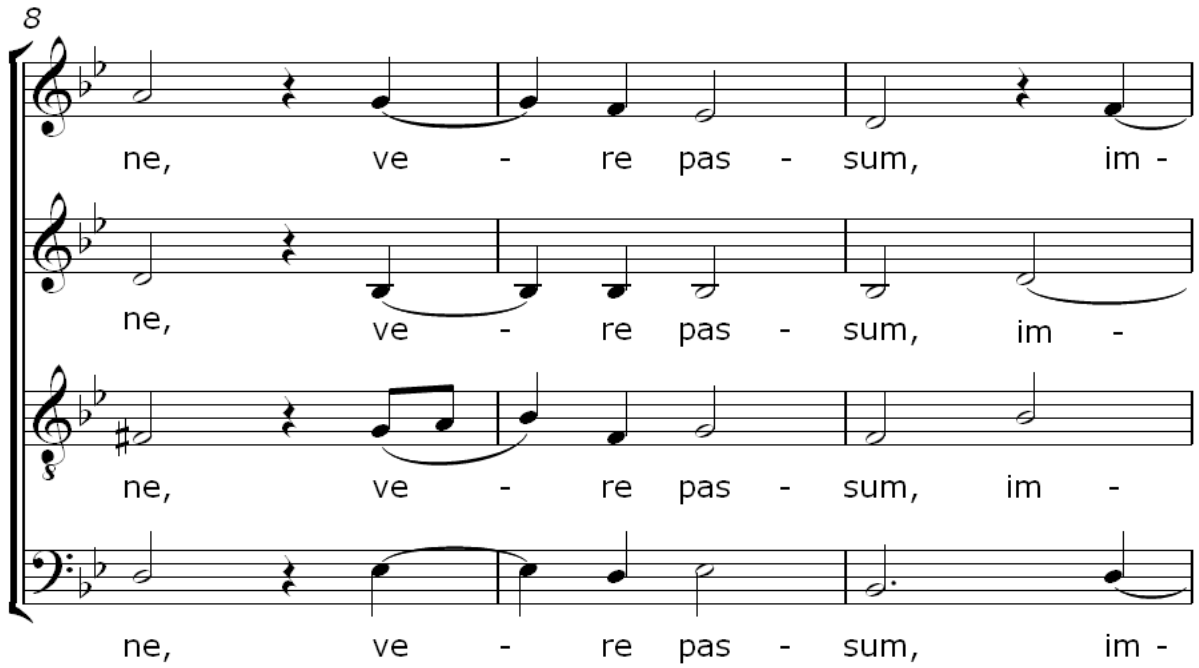

Figure 5 Texture bar 8 to 10

Video: Texture bar 10 to 12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2kT_YMh8Qk&feature=youtu.be

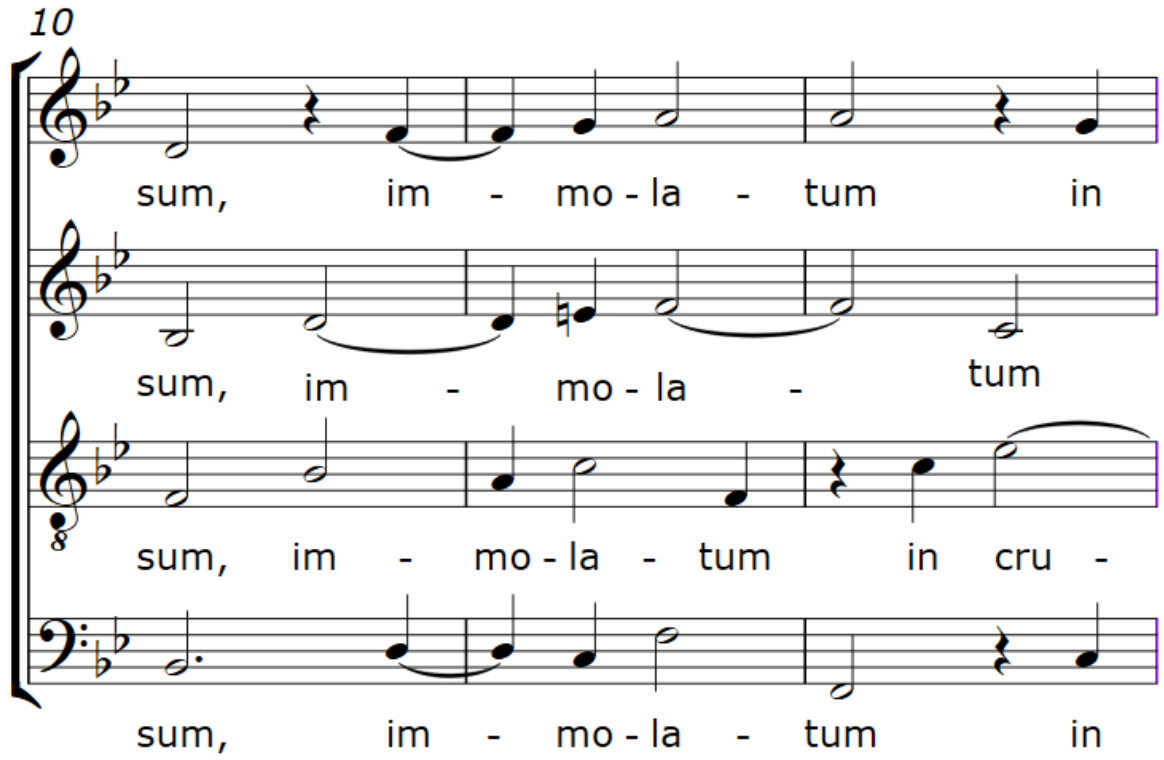

Figure 6 Texture bar 10 to 12

Video: Texture bar 10 to 15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqgsLUSx_Ro&feature=youtu.be

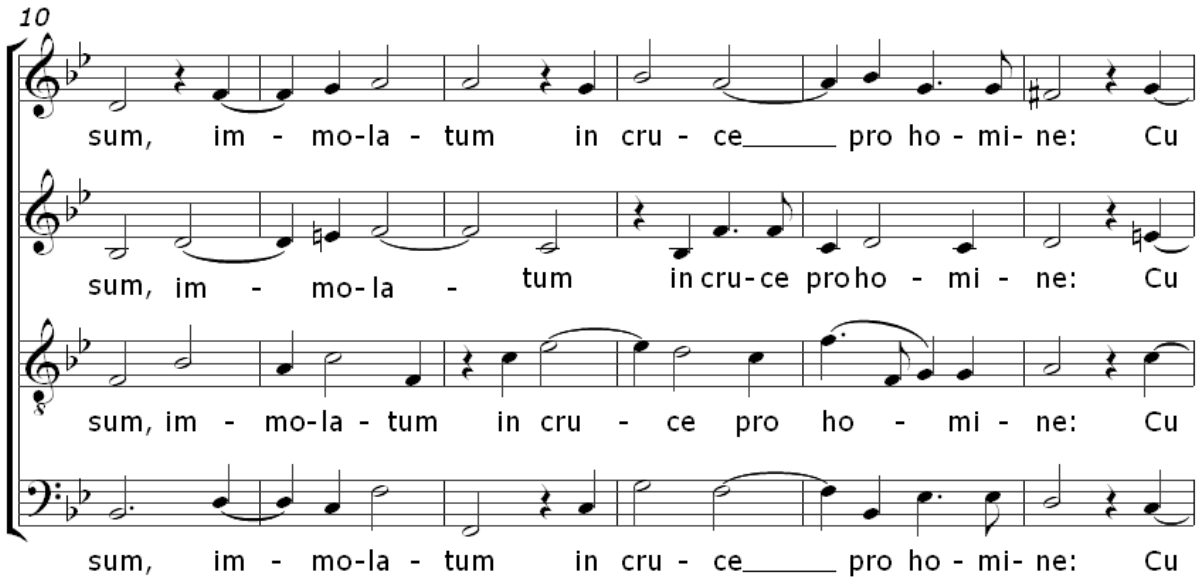

Figure 7 Texture bar 10 to 15

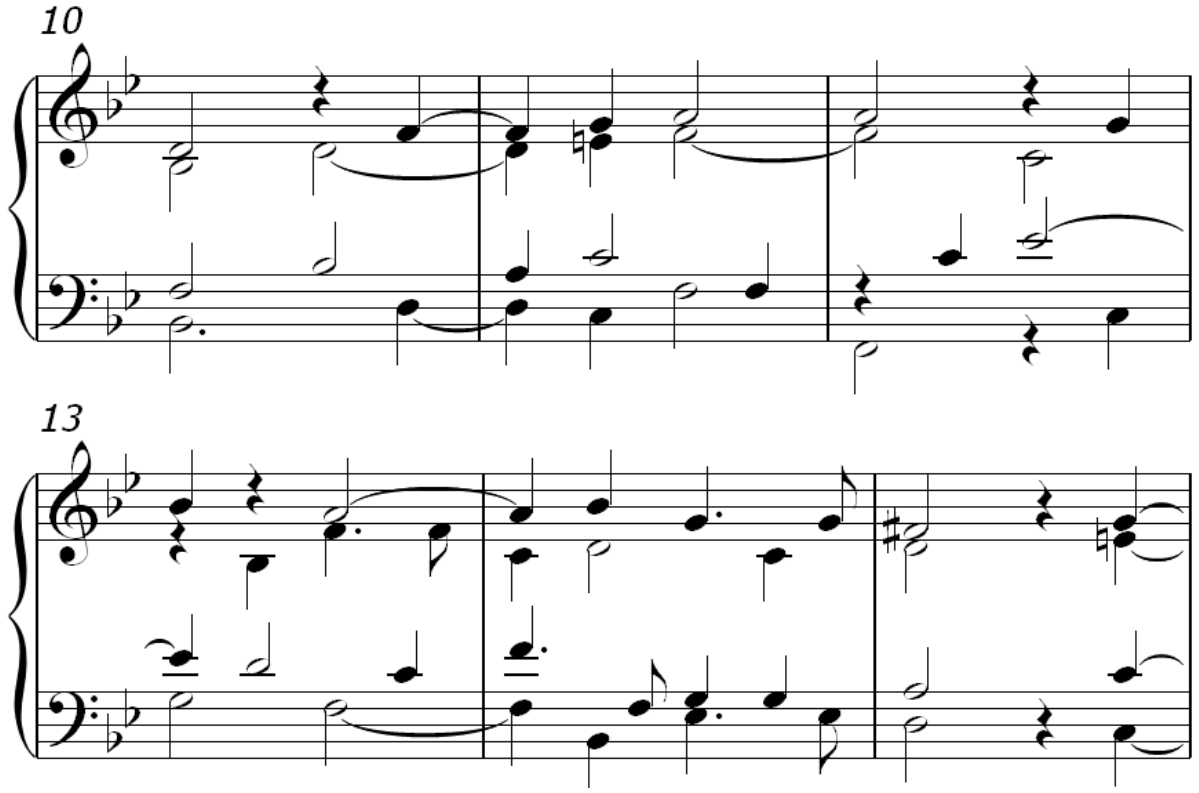

Figure 8 Texture bar 10 to 15

Video: Texture bar 15 to 18

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlT1ITmNNhU&feature=youtu.be

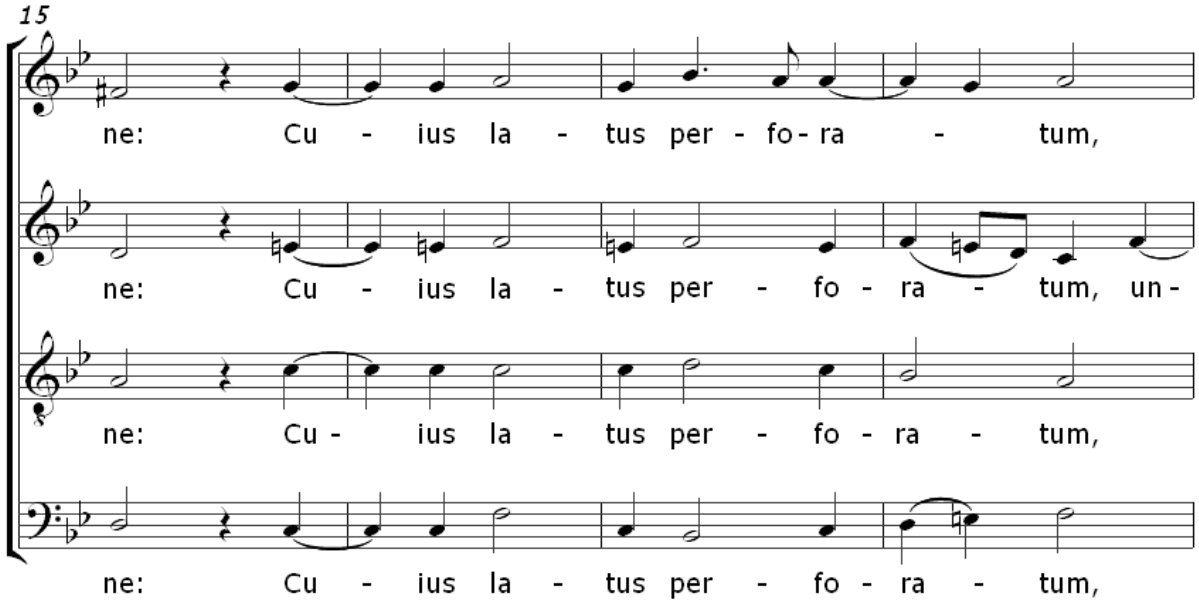

Figure 9 Texture bar 15 to 18

Video: Texture bar 18 to 22

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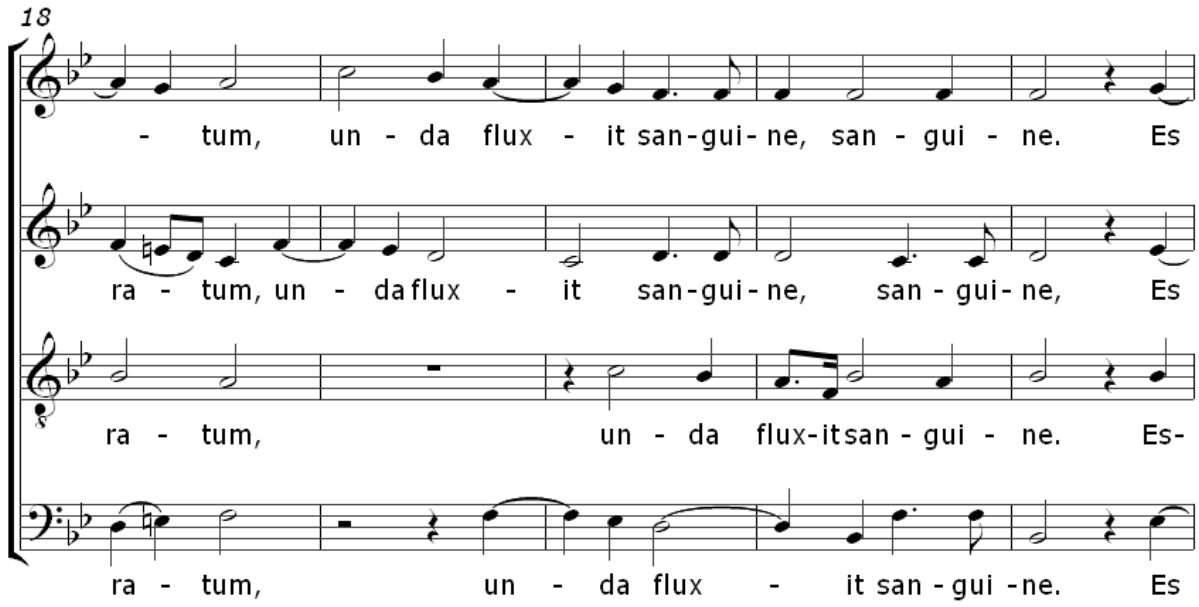

Figure 10 Texture bar 18 to 22

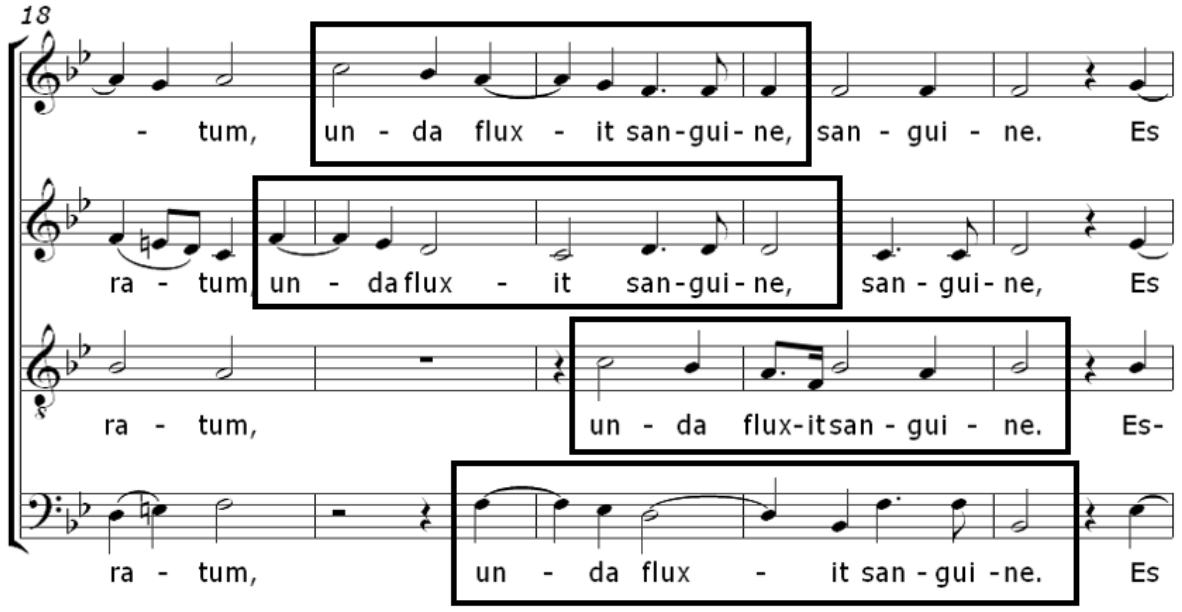

Figure 11 Texture & canonic imitation bar 18 to 22

Video: Texture bar 22 to 26

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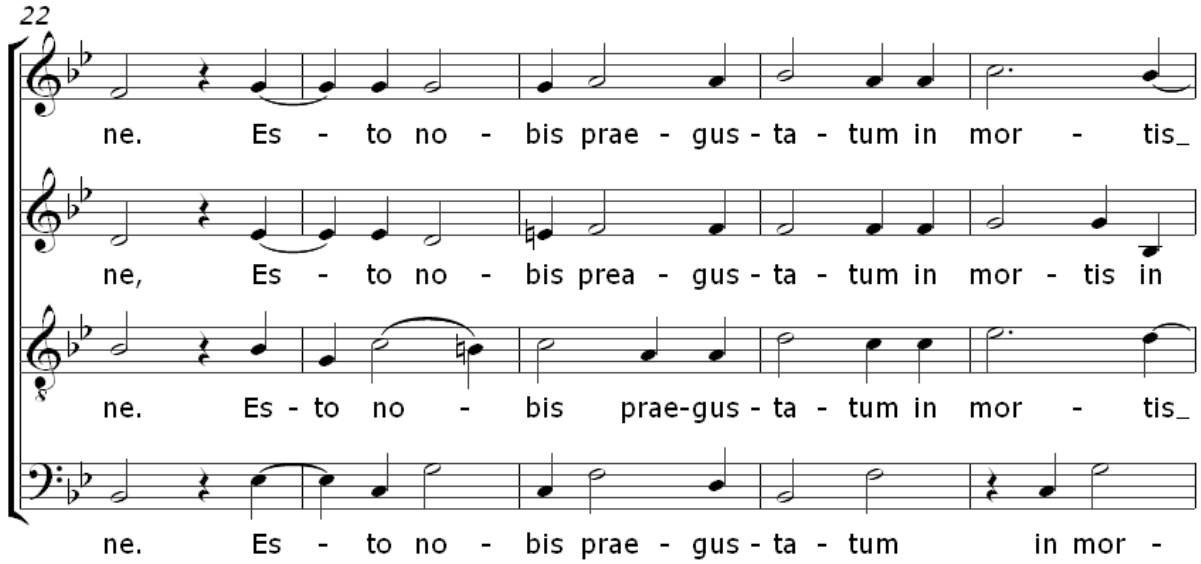

Figure 12 Texture bar 22 to 26

Video: Texture bar 25 to 28

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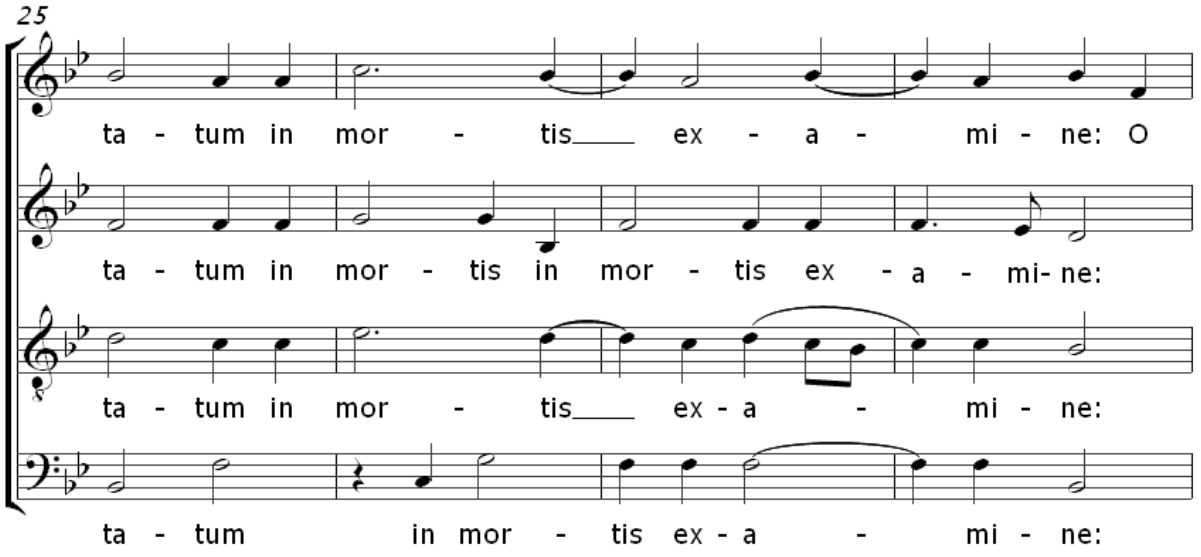

Figure 13 Texture bar 25 to 28

Section B

Video: Texture bar 28 to 32

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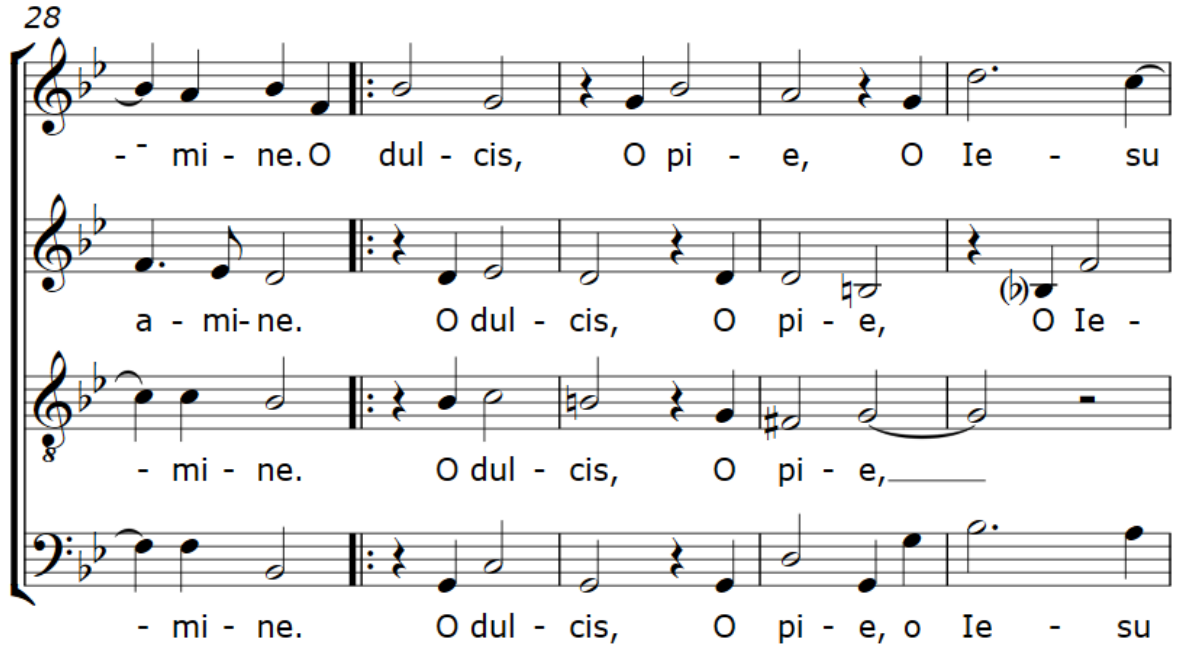

Figure 14 Texture & setting bar 28 to 32

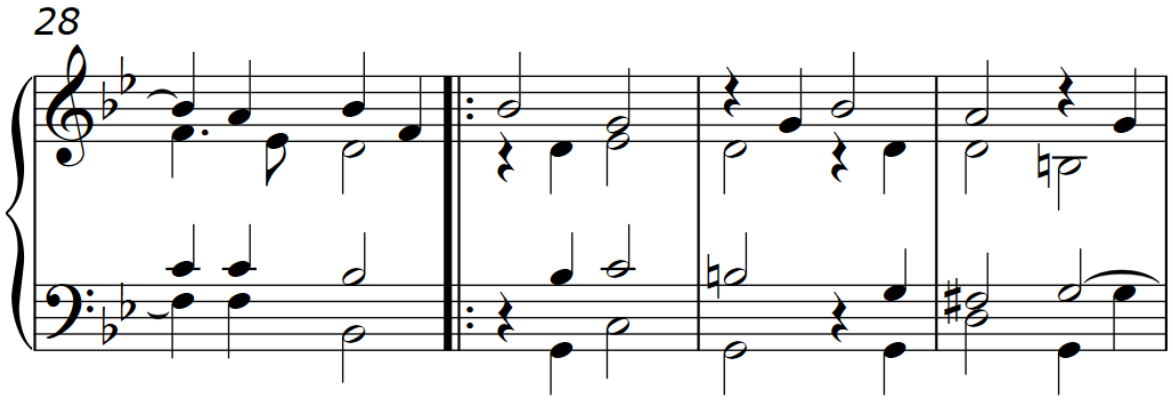

Figure 15 Texture & spacing bar 28, beat 4, to 31

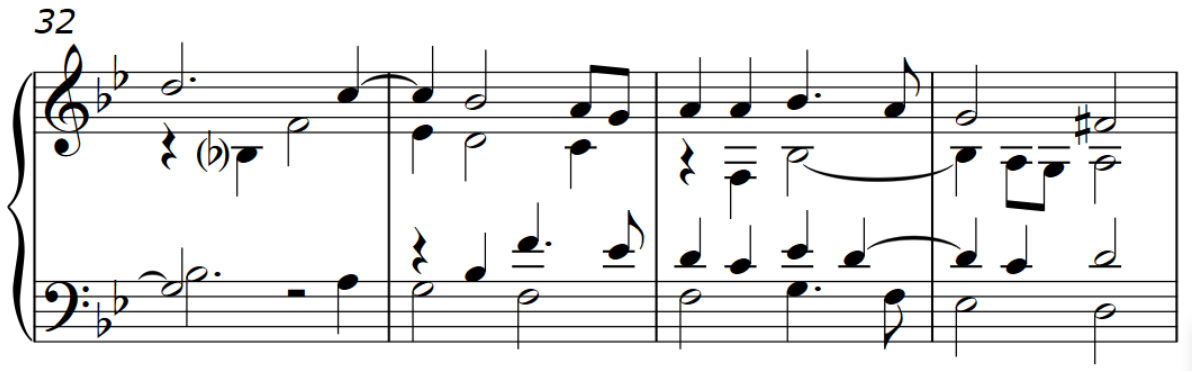

Figure 16 Texture & spacing bar 32 to 35

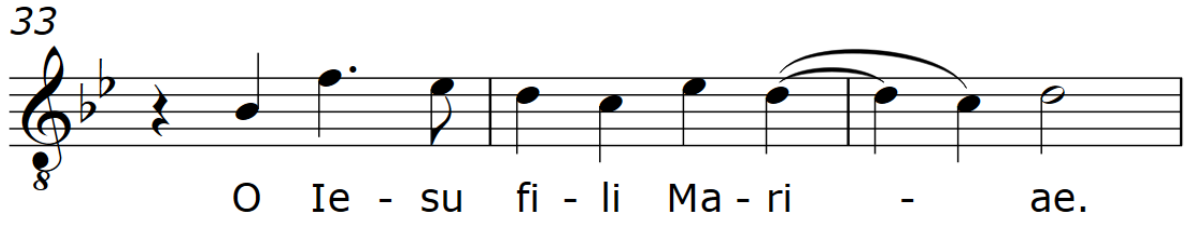

Figure 17 Tenor bar 33 to 35

Video: Texture bar 31 to 35

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSwdb2TxmAE&feature=youtu.be

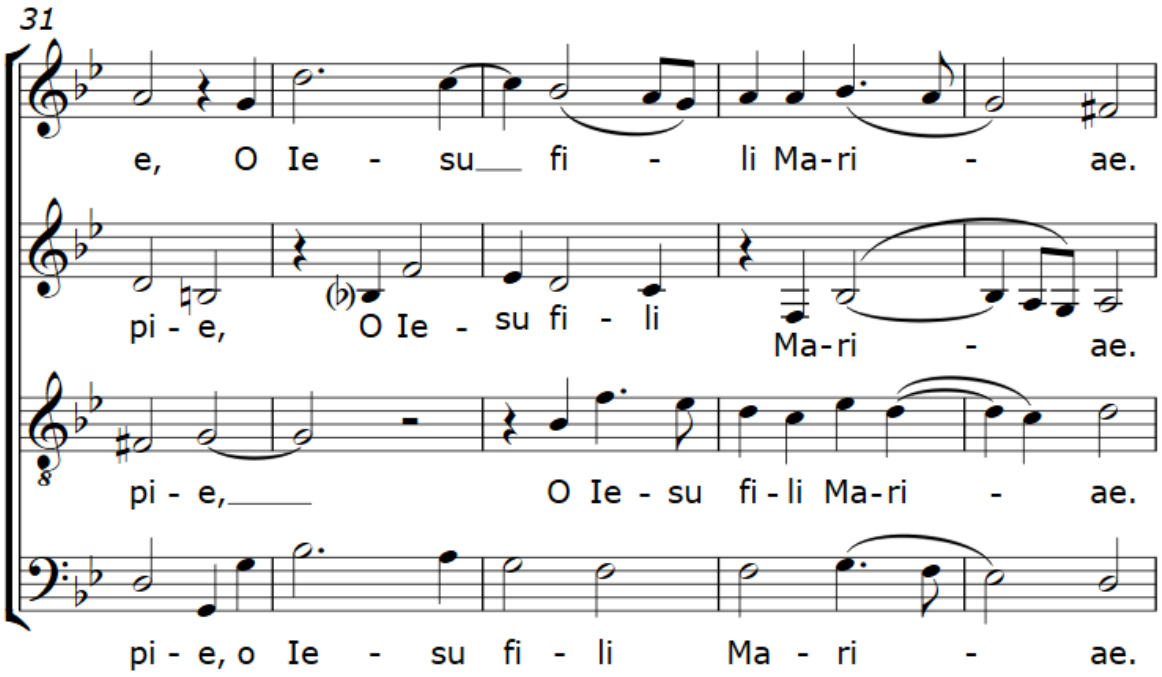

Figure 18 Polyphonic texture bar 31 to 35

Video: Texture bar 36 to 37

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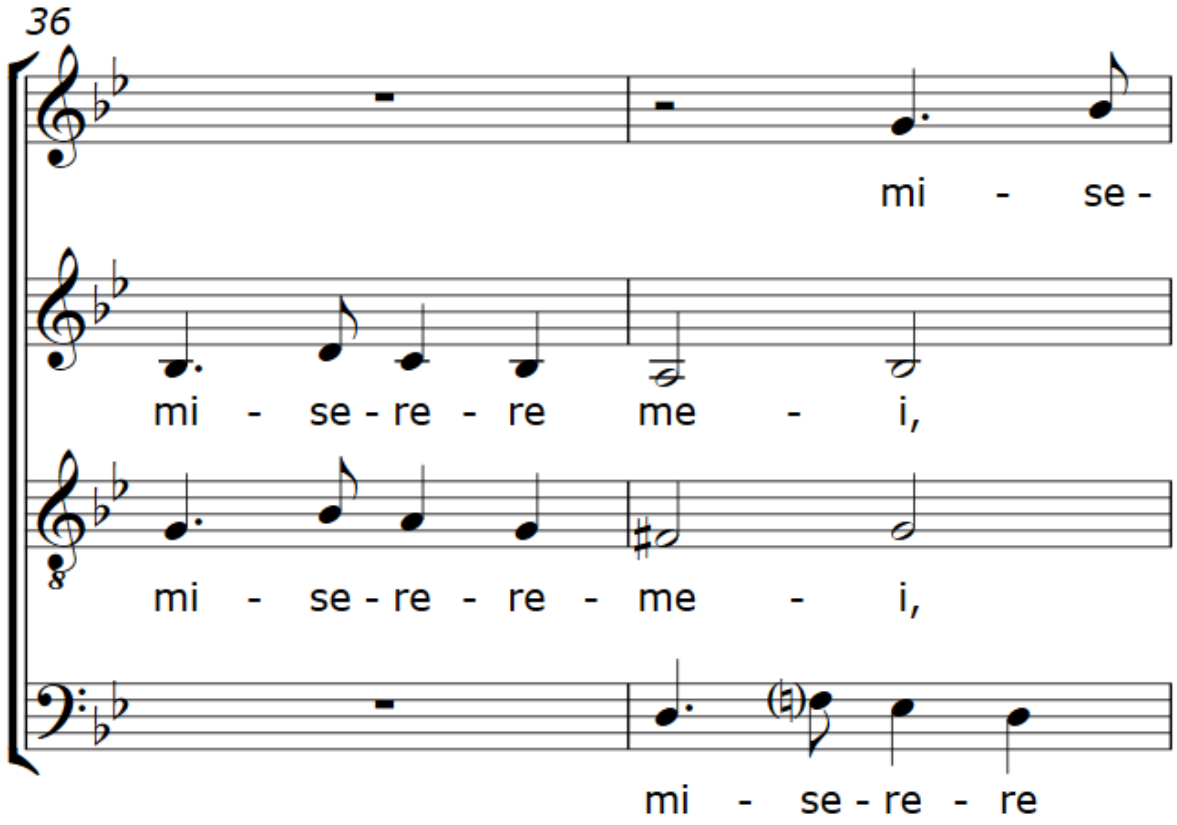

Figure 19 Texture bar 36 to 37

Video: Texture bar 36 to 39

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WD-wtJUa0S0&feature=youtu.be

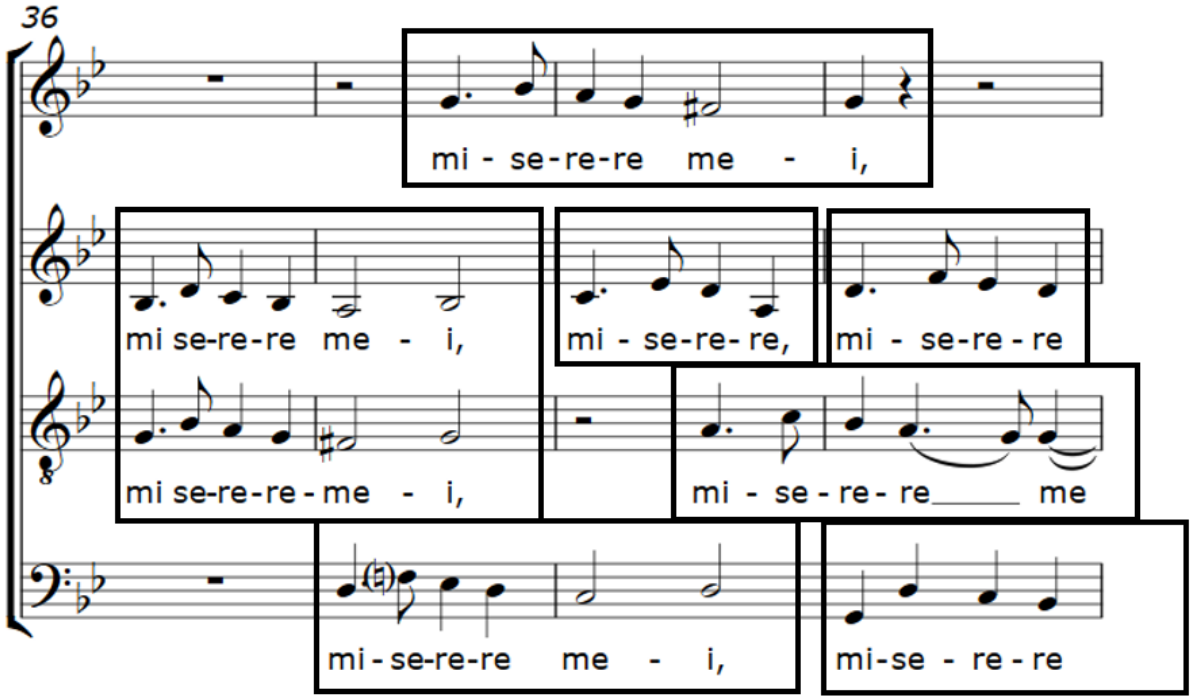

Figure 20 Texture Miserere Motif bar 36 to 39

Video: Texture bar 40 to 43

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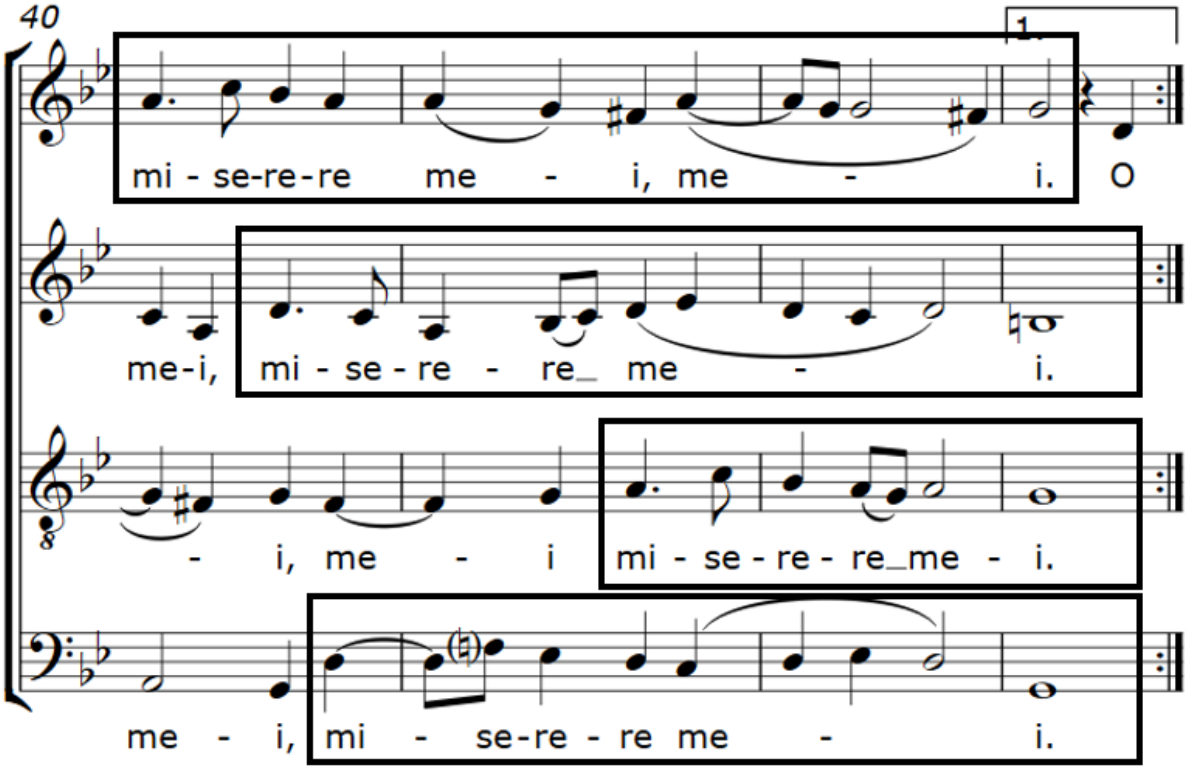

Figure 21 Texture Miserere Motif bar 40 to 43

Video: Texture bar 44 to 47

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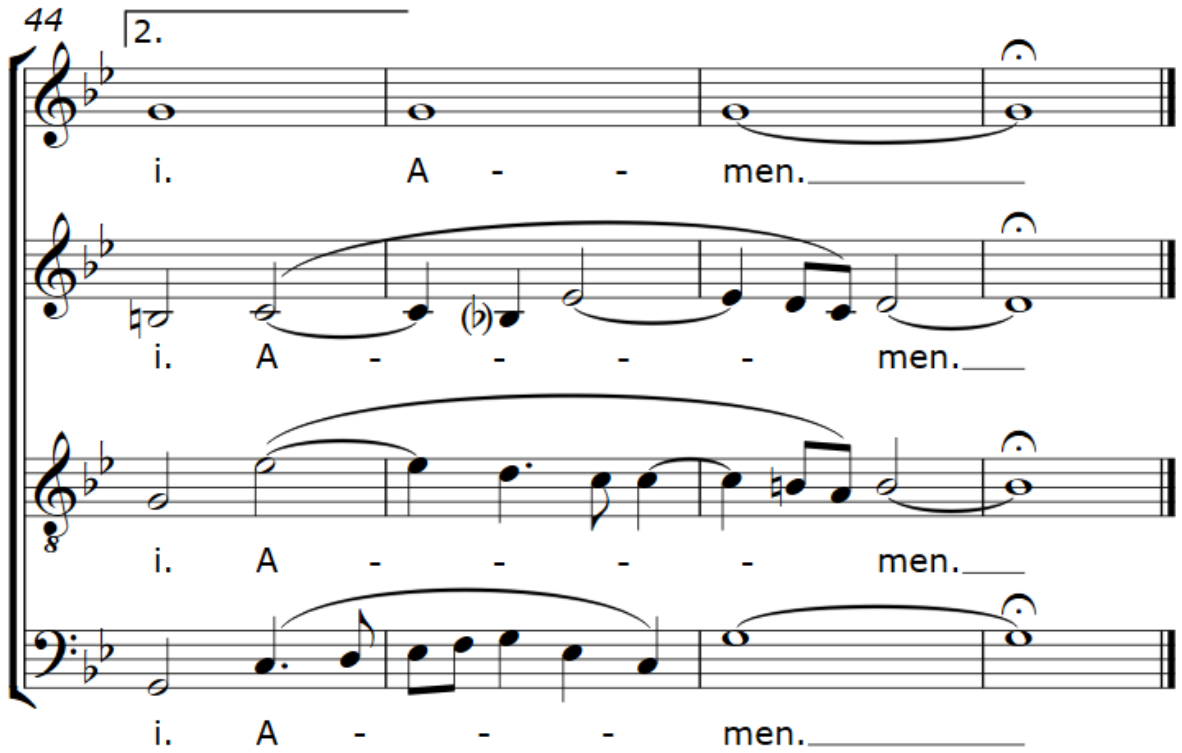

Figure 22 Texture bar 44 to 47

Harmony & tonality

Section A

Video: Harmony bar 1 to 4 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIK4a_6Krvs&feature=youtu.be

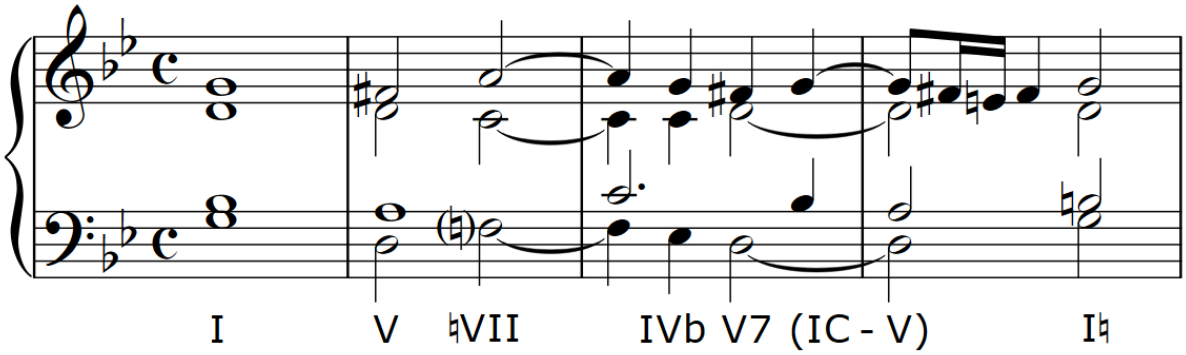

Figure 23 Harmony bar 1 to 4

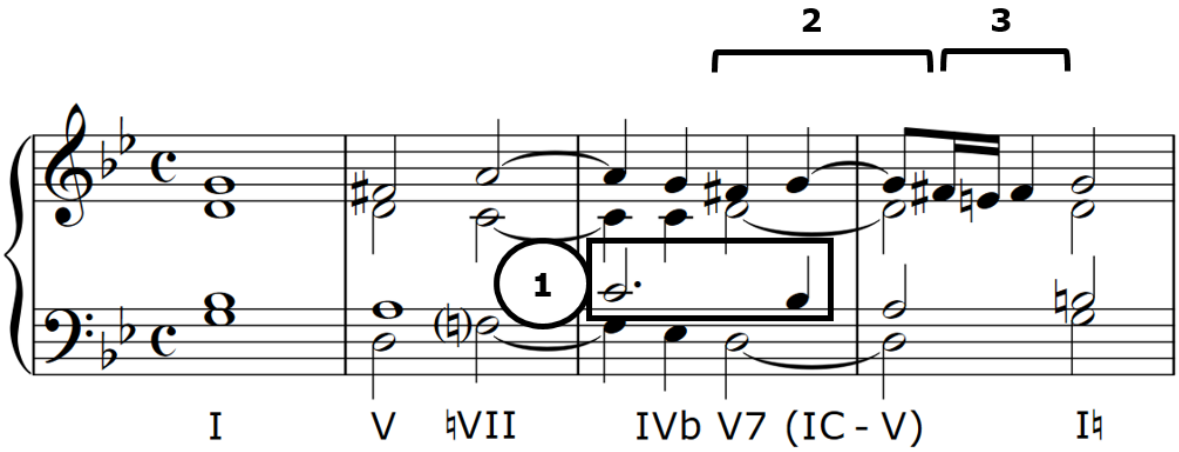

Figure 24 Harmonic annotation bar 1 to 4

Video: Harmony bar 5 to 8 reduction

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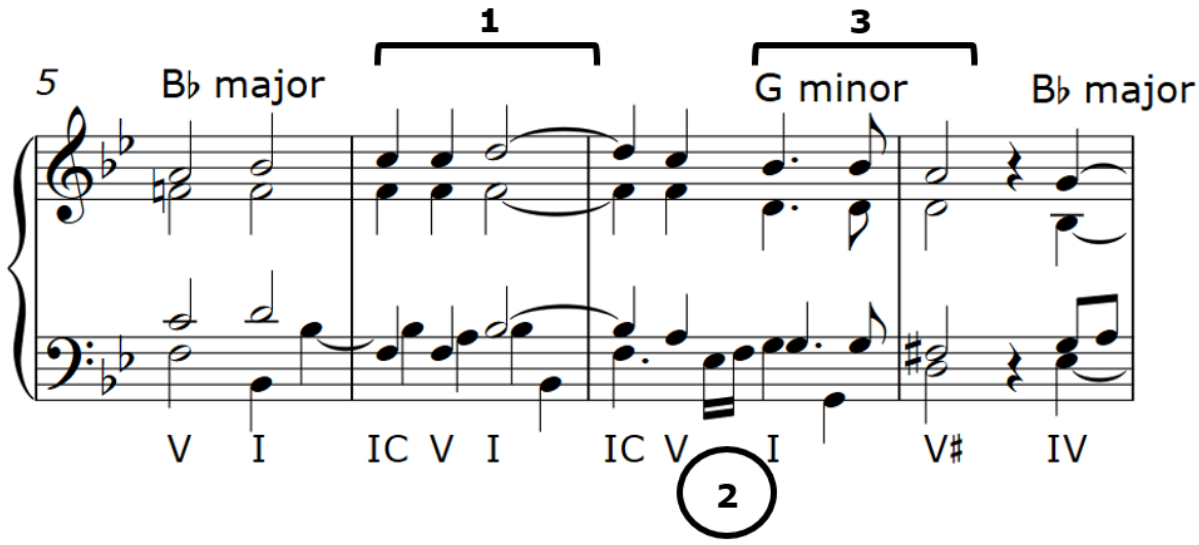

Figure 25 Harmonic annotation bar 5 to 8

Video: Harmony bar 9 to 12 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svXioqGnl60&feature=youtu.be

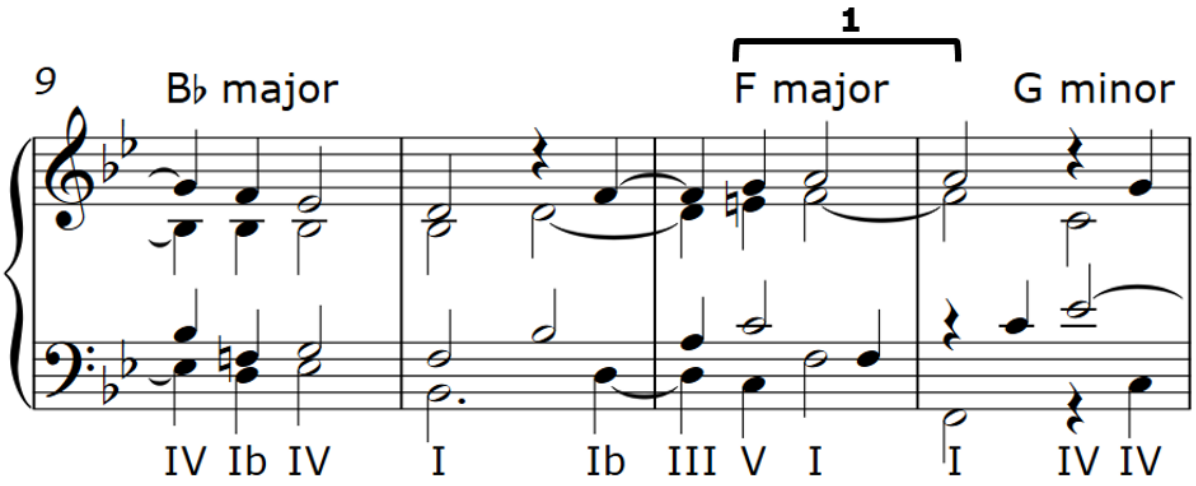

Figure 26 Harmonic annotation bar 9 to 12

Video: Harmony bar 13 to 15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_t34yF8BsA&feature=youtu.be

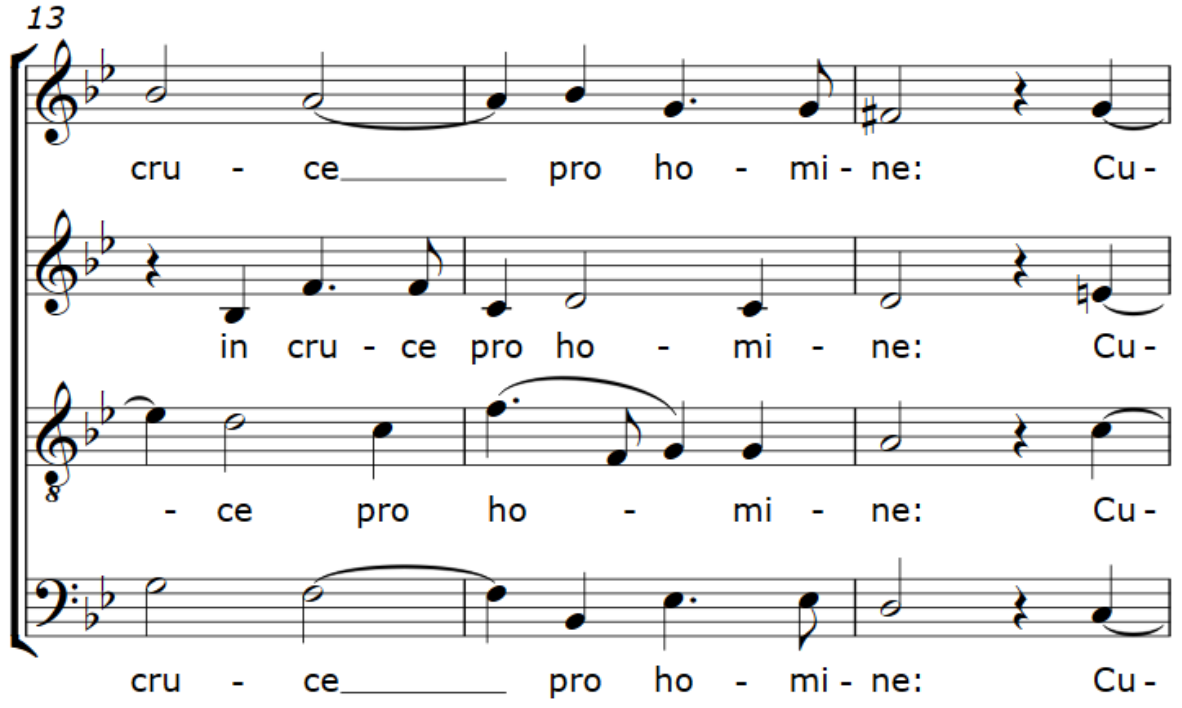

Figure 27 Harmony bar 13 to 15

Video: Harmony bar 13 to 16 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY5DSxLDM1c&feature=youtu.be

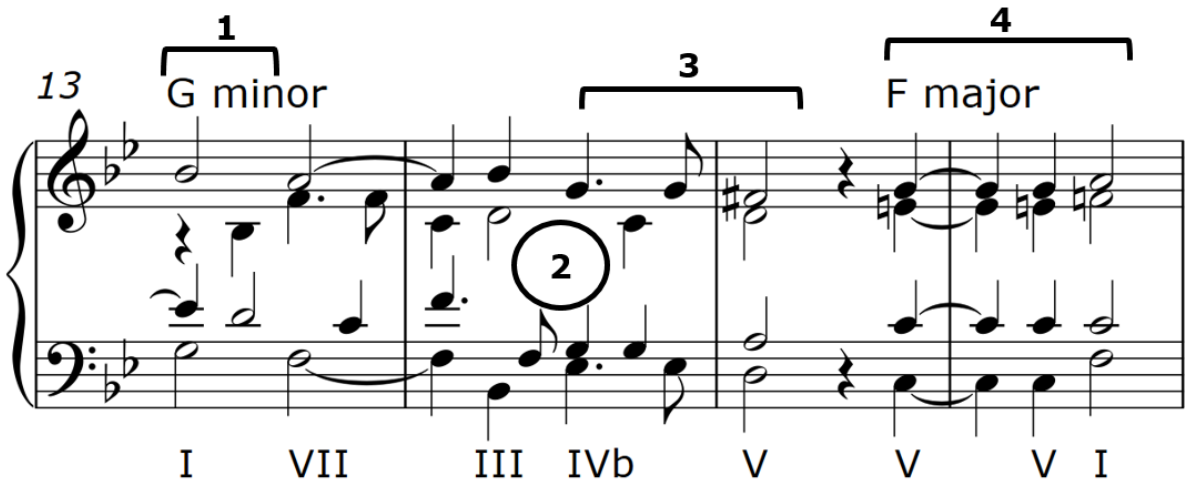

Figure 28 Harmonic annotation bar 13 to 16

Video: Harmony bar 16 to 18 reduction

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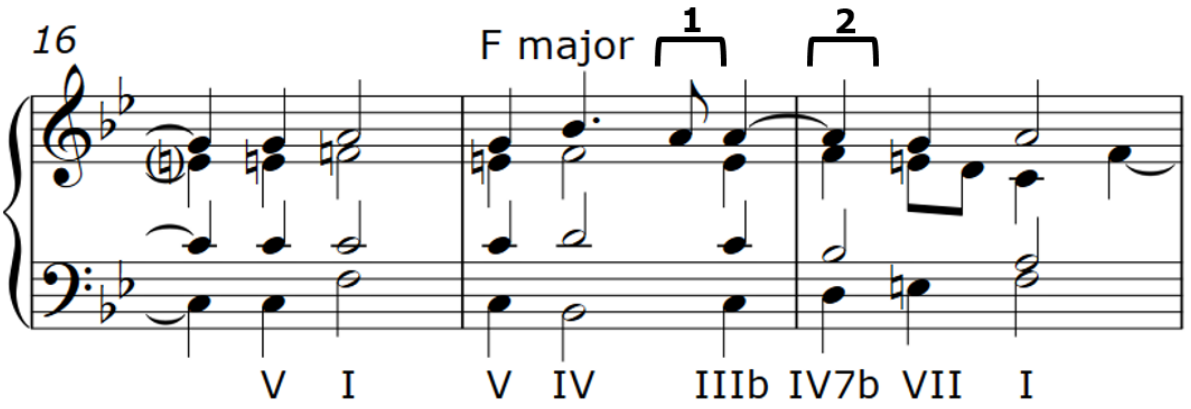

Figure 29 Harmonic annotation bar 16 to 18

Video: Harmony bar 19 to 22 reduction

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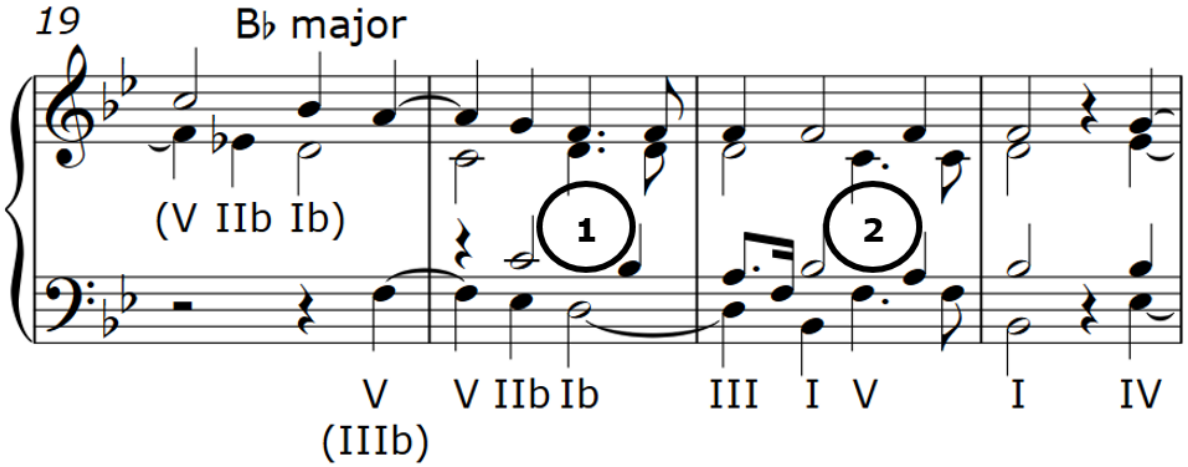

Figure 30 Harmonic annotation bar 19 to 22

Video: Harmony bar 22 to 25 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=am6gKMtc6xc&feature=youtu.be

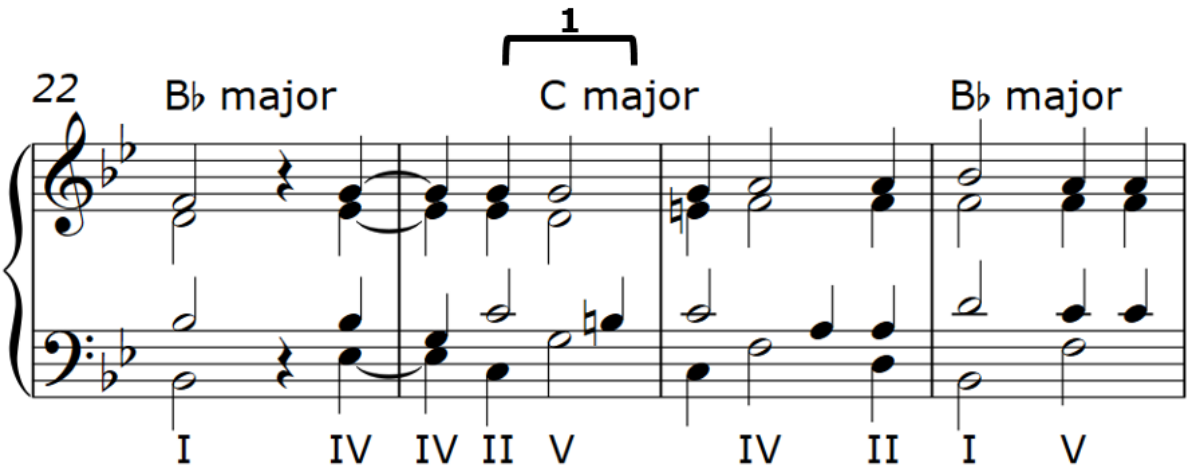

Figure 31 Harmonic annotation bar 22 to 25

Video: Harmony bar 26 to 28 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv-OssPnkEk&feature=youtu.be

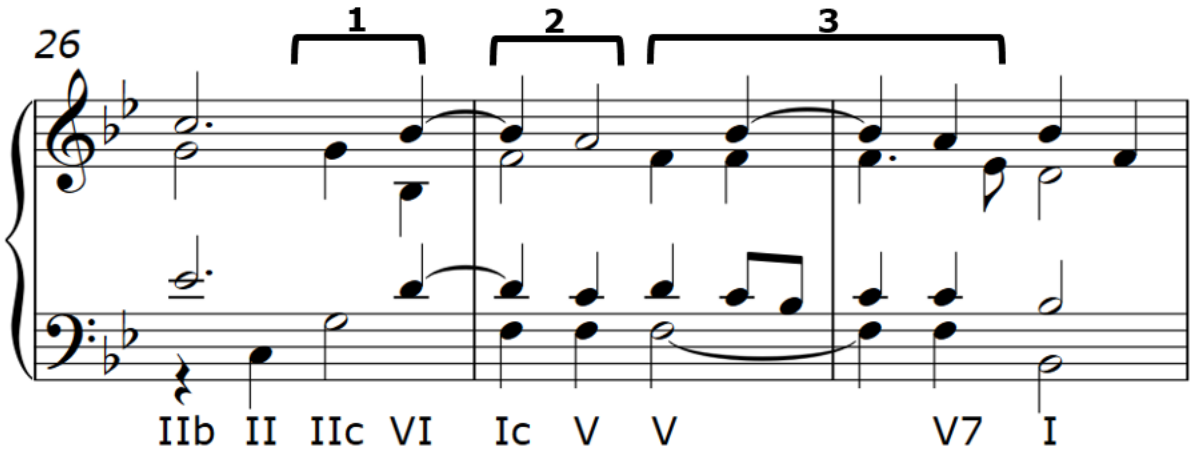

Figure 32 Harmonic annotation bar 26 to 282

Section B

Video: Harmony bar 29 to 31 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sULUyRj2ClQ&feature=youtu.be

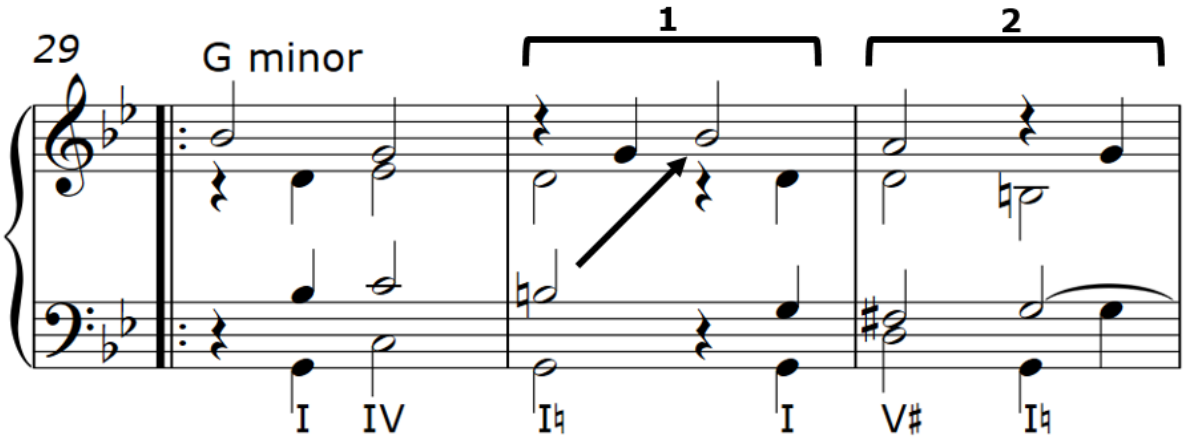

Figure 33 Harmonic annotation bar 29 to 31

, D to C.

Video: Harmony bar 32 to 35 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeD3Ddap0gU&feature=youtu.be

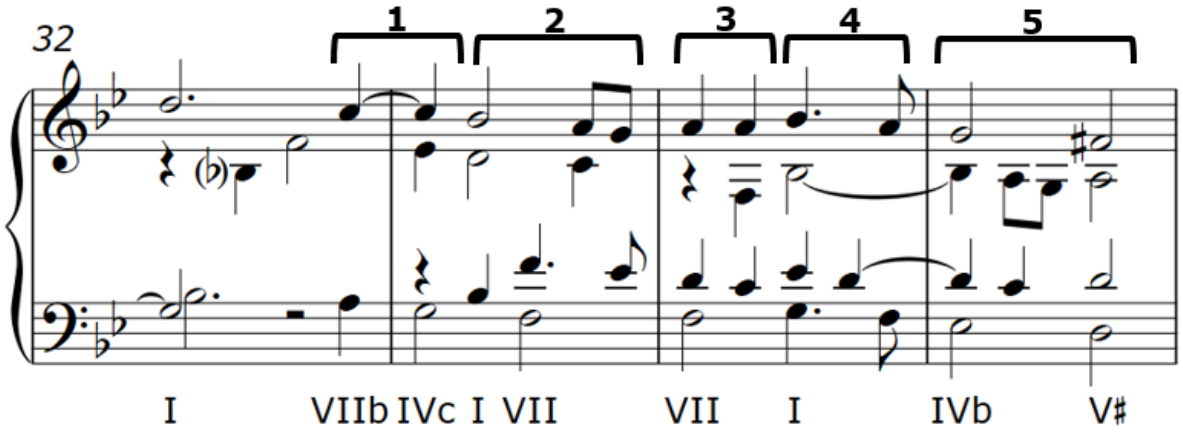

Figure 34 Harmonic annotation bar 32 to 35

Video: Harmony bar 36 to 37 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8F6vMZoRtr8&feature=youtu.be

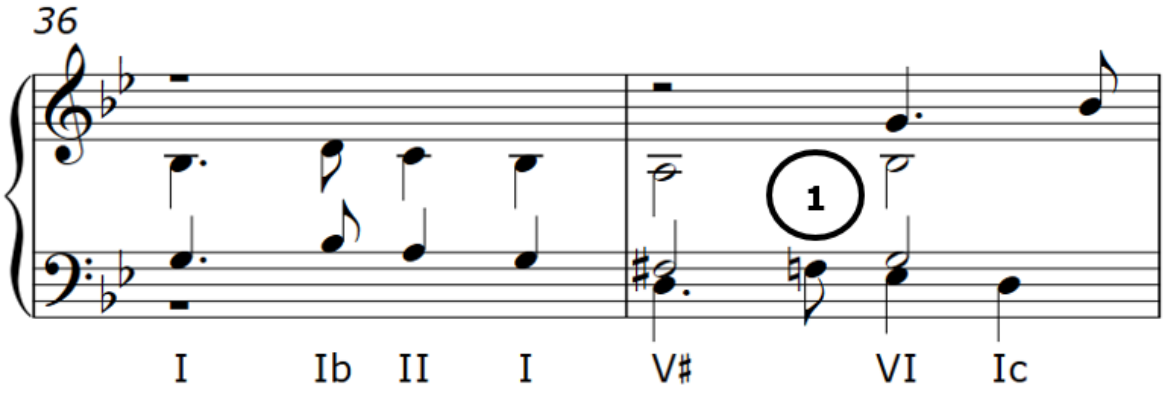

Figure 35 Harmonic annotation bar 36 to 37

Video: Harmony bar 38 to 40 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jep0yA3YTGQ&feature=youtu.be

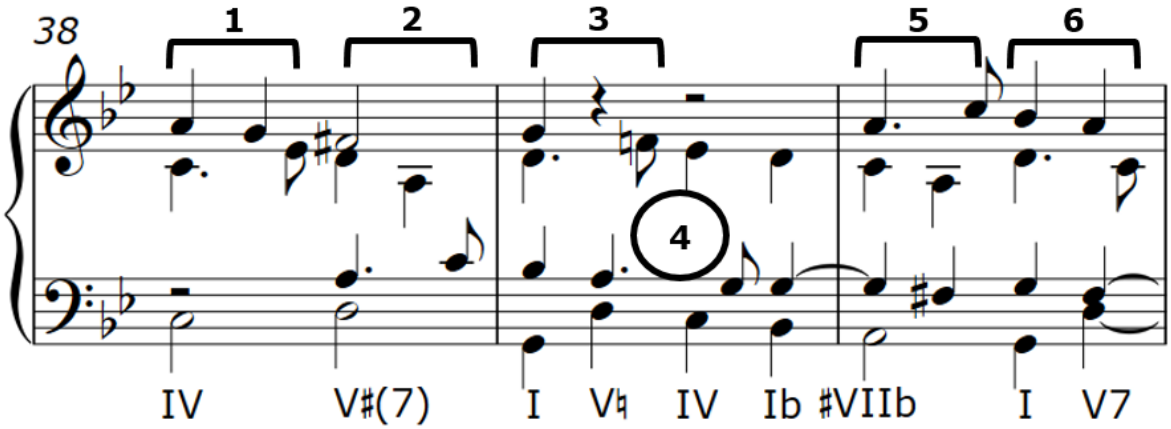

Figure 36 Harmonic annotation bar 38 to 40

Video: Harmony bar 38 to 40

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L76fAX5y9cs&feature=youtu.be

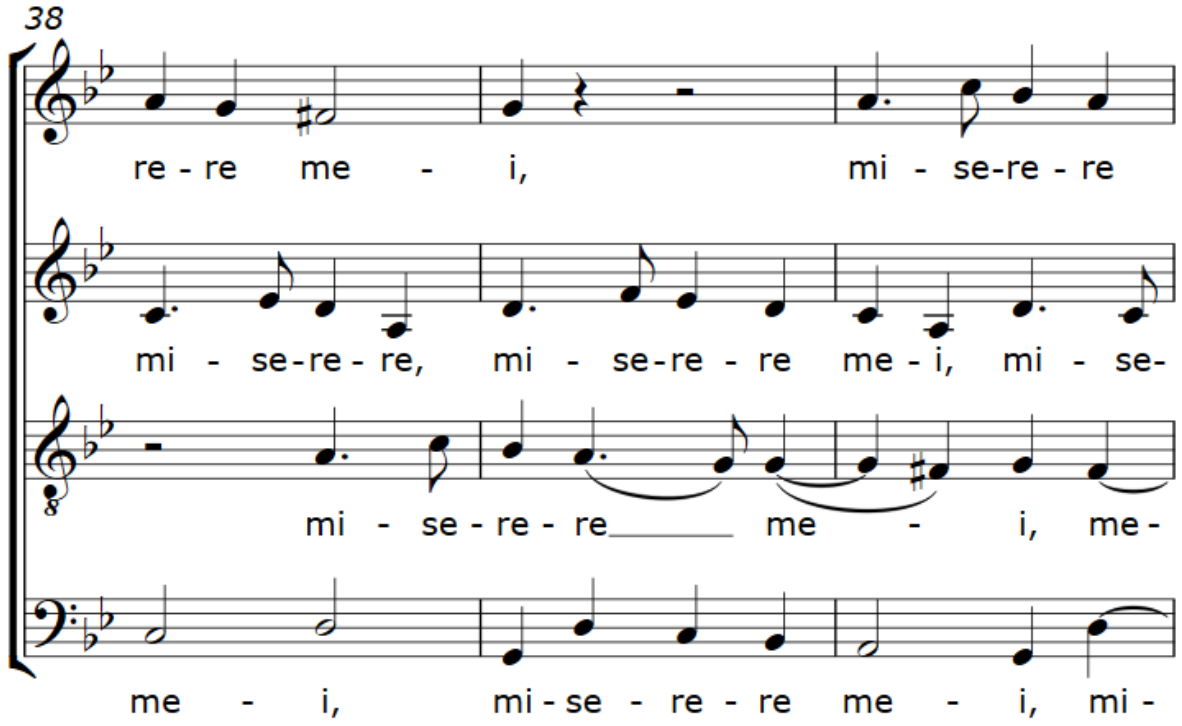

Figure 37 Harmony bar 38 to 40

Video: Harmony bar 41 to 43 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUKrwVqWeUY&feature=youtu.be

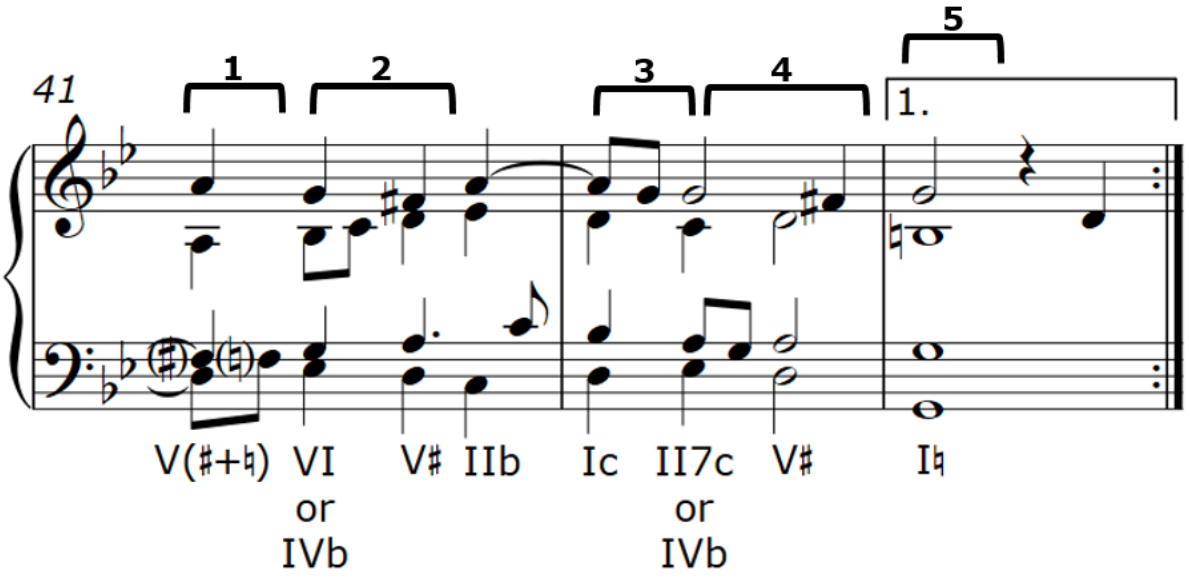

Figure 38 Harmonic annotation bar 41 to 43

Video: Harmony bar 44 to 47 reduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBUEzEZtN1g&feature=youtu.be

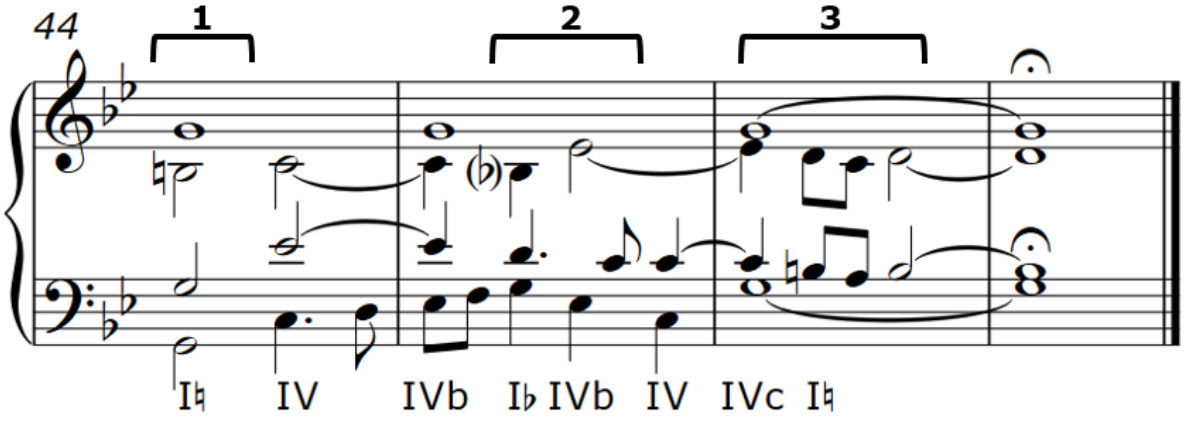

Figure 39 Harmonic annotation bar 44 to 47

Vocal lines & motivic structure

Section A

Video: Lines bar 1 to 4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0HZXEVUbBY&feature=youtu.be

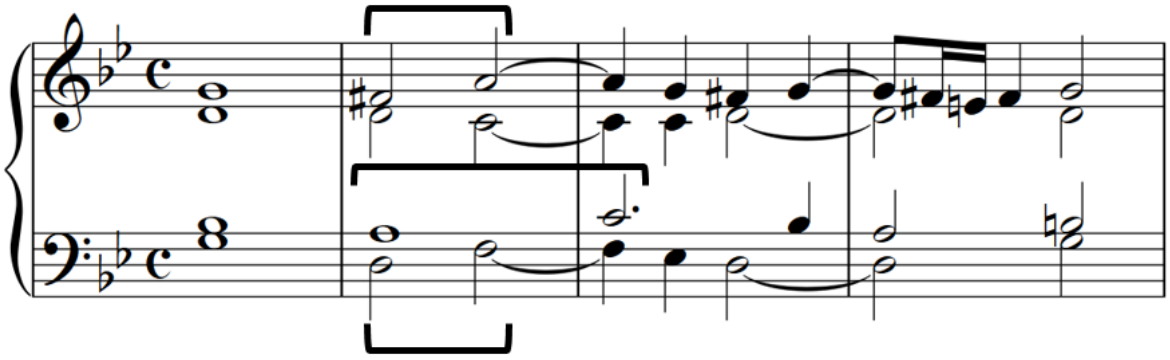

Figure 40 Bar 1 to 5 annotated reduction

Video: Soprano bar 1 to 4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7lB7MuKf6A&feature=youtu.be

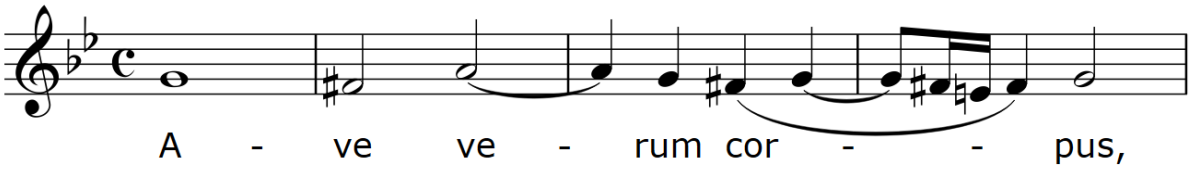

Figure 41 Soprano bar 1 to 4

Video: Soprano bar 41 to 43

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzdfeBIZK5I&feature=youtu.be

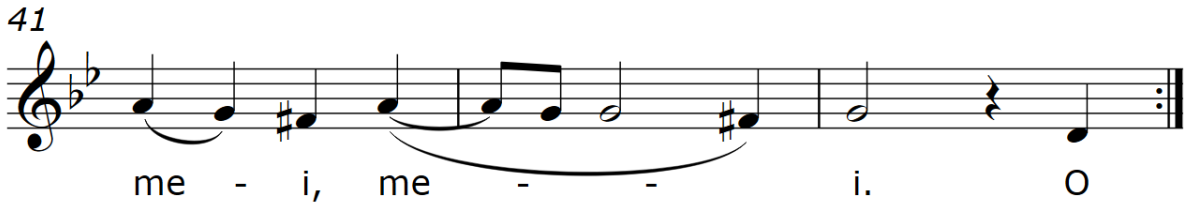

Figure 42 Soprano bar 41 to 43

Video: Lines bar 5 to 8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhhJ8kYE11Y&feature=youtu.be

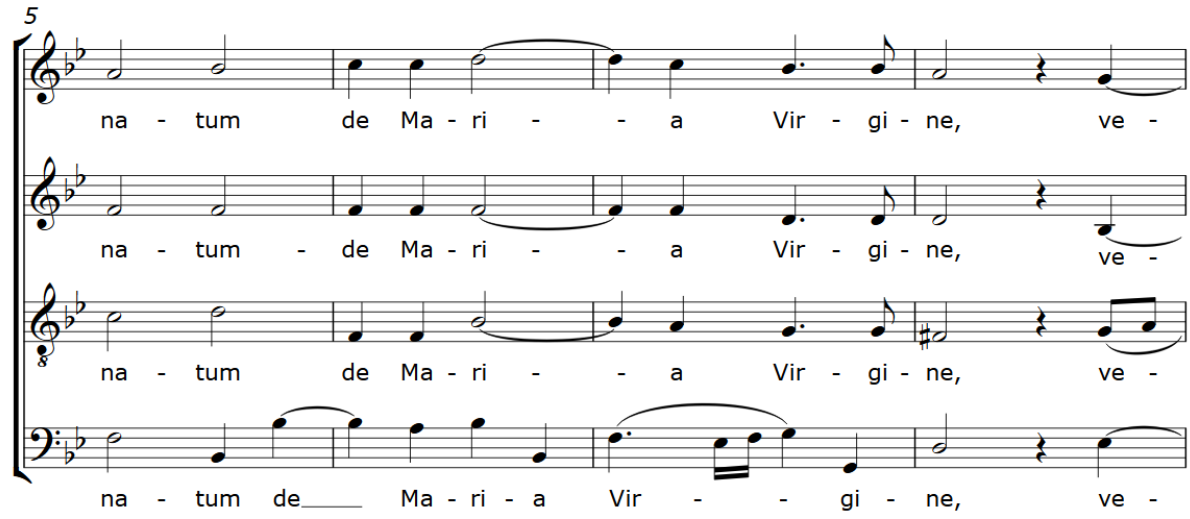

Figure 43 Lines bar 5 to 8

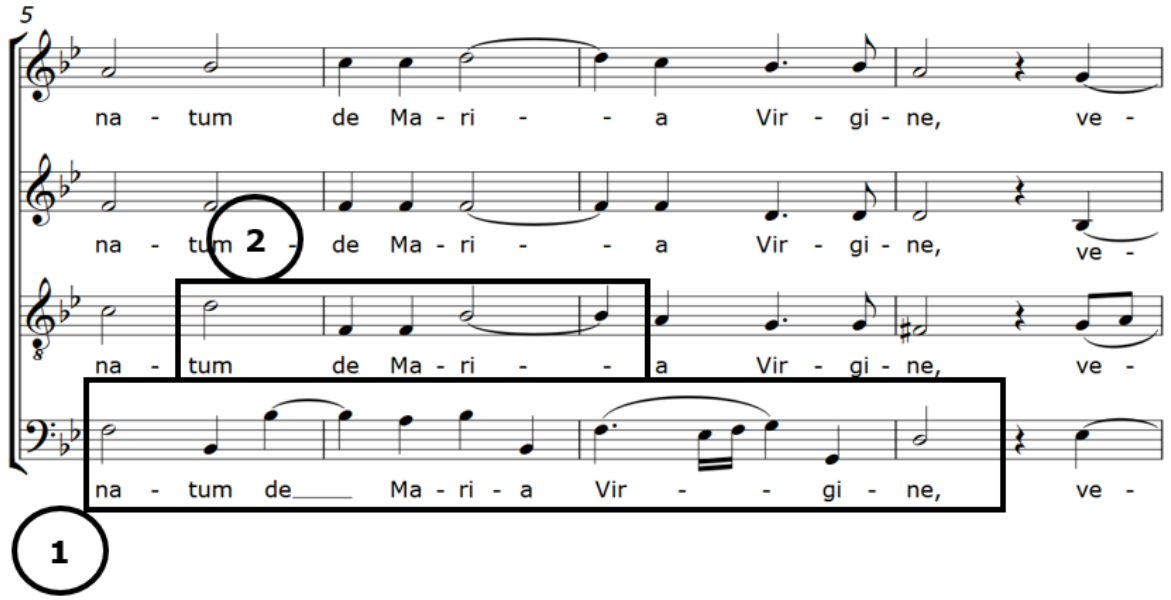

Figure 44 Lines bar 5 to 8 annotated

Video: Lines bar 8 to 12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1p-GID1uUc&feature=youtu.be

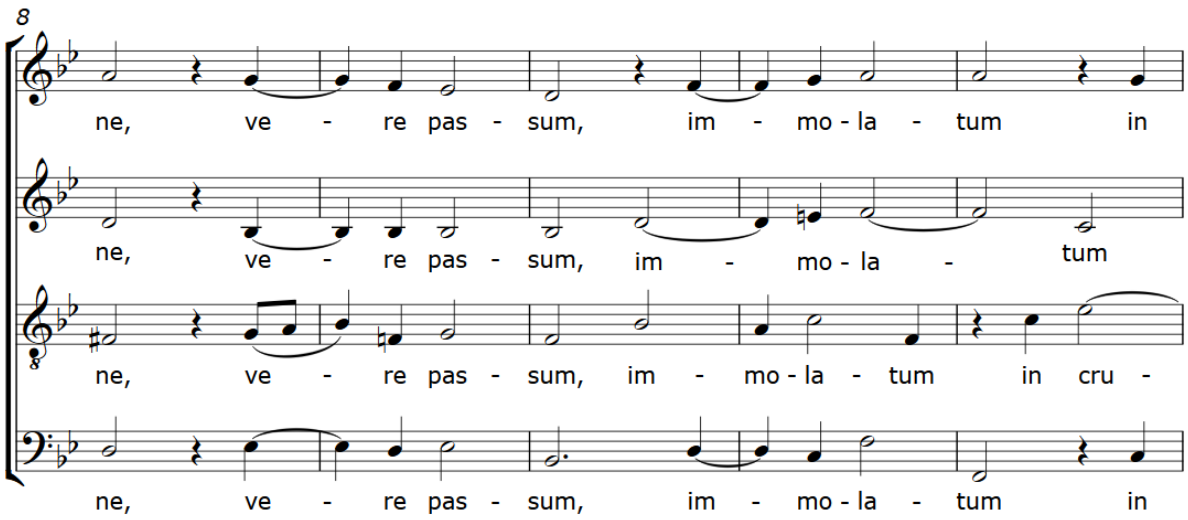

Figure 45 Lines bar 8 to 12

Video: Lines bar 12 to 15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owPNyyYBq8c&feature=youtu.be

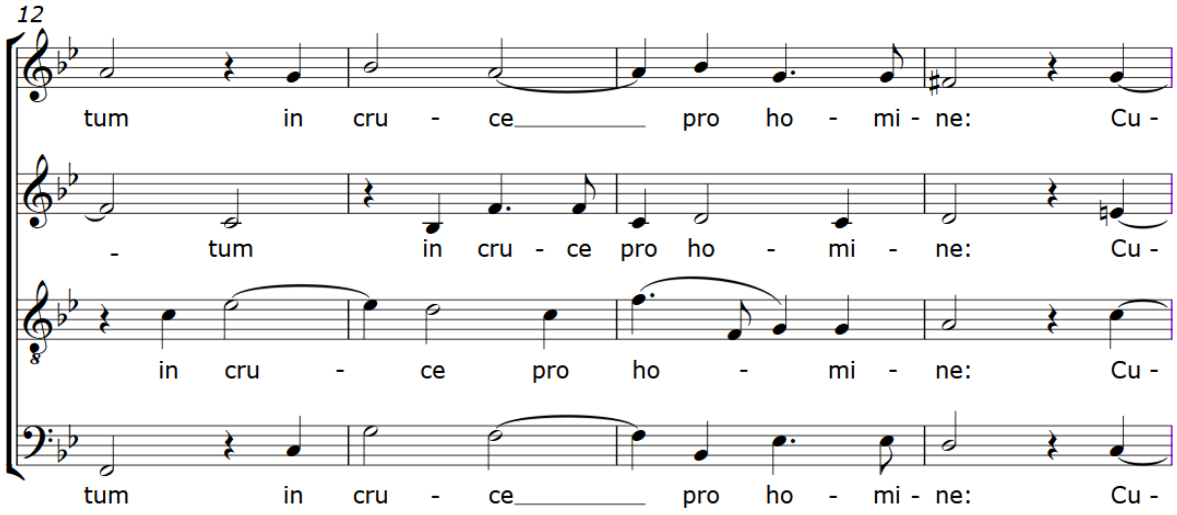

Figure 46 Lines bar 12 to 15

Video: Soprano bar 1 to 28

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWcnDz1fCjc&feature=youtu.be

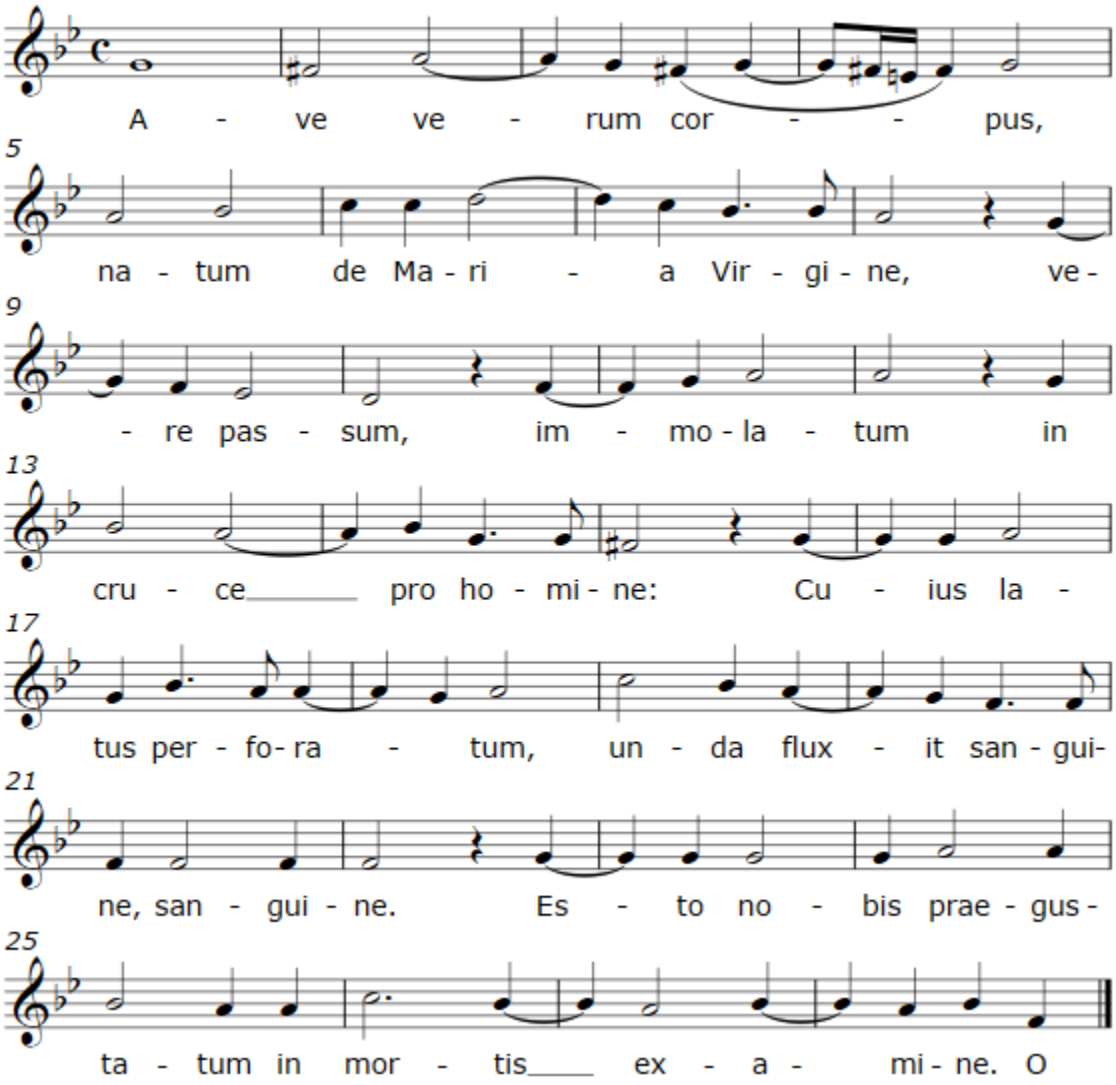

Figure 47 Soprano Section A bar 1 to 28

Video: Soprano bar 5 to 12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QF_myZKwjUY&feature=youtu.be

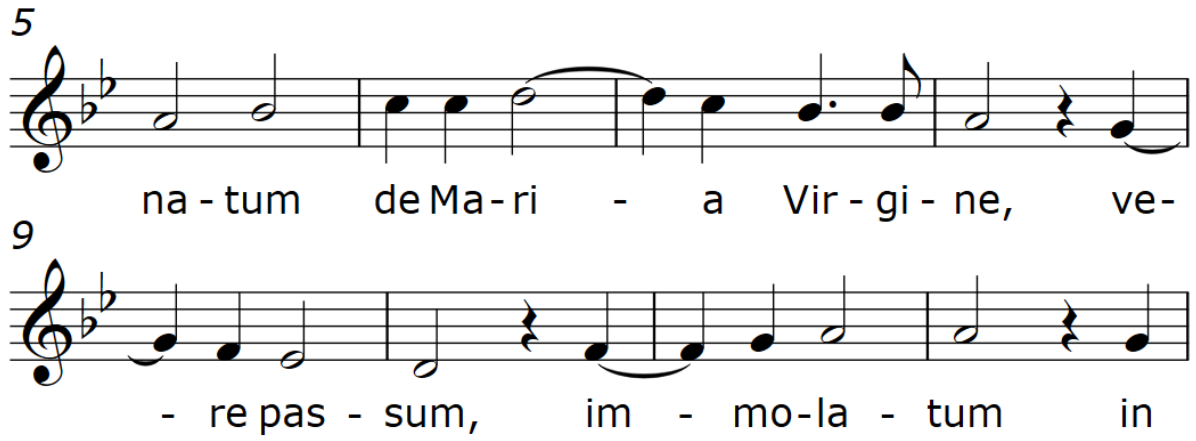

Figure 48 Melody Soprano bar 5 to 12

Video: Soprano bar 17 to 18

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnboXAaSfqs&feature=youtu.be

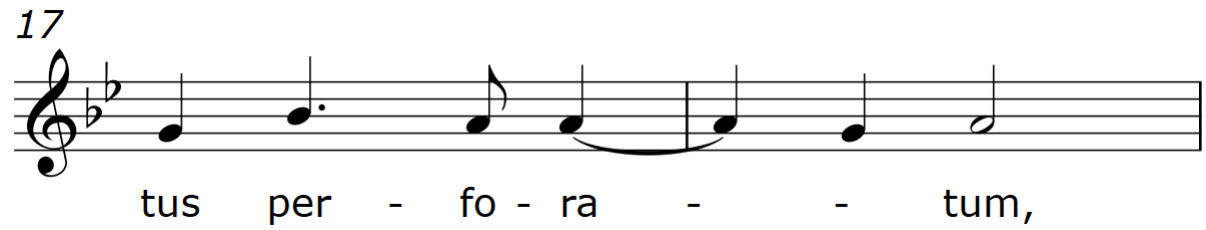

Figure 49 Soprano bar 17 to 18

Video: Soprano bar 17 to 20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2i_Pub4AfAQ&feature=youtu.be

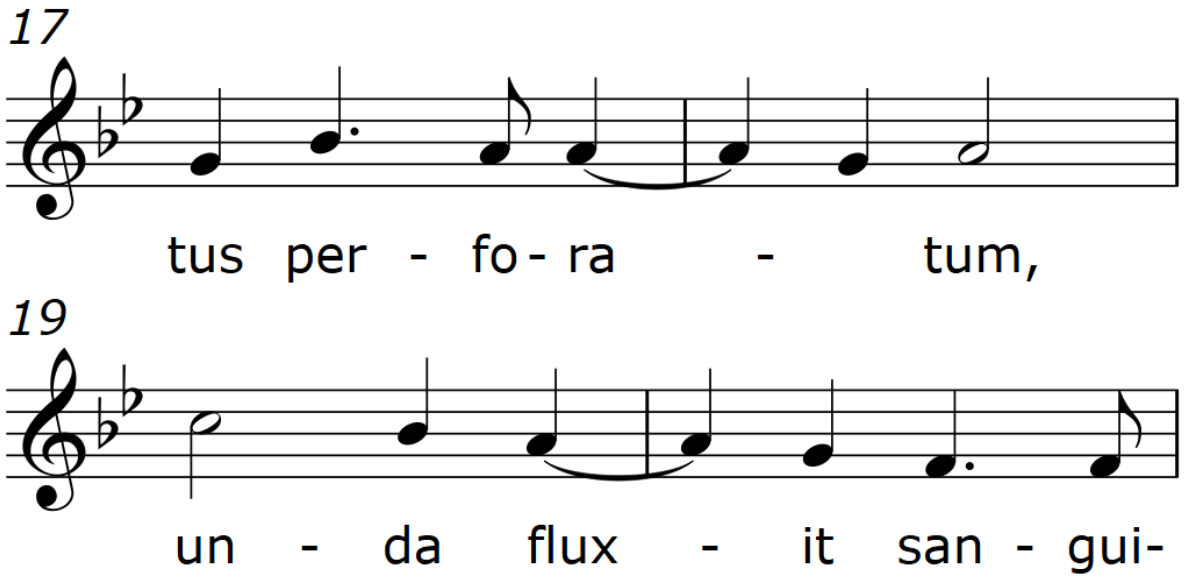

Figure 50 Soprano bar 17 to 20

Video: Soprano bar 21 to 28

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqiNGkTaUig&feature=youtu.be

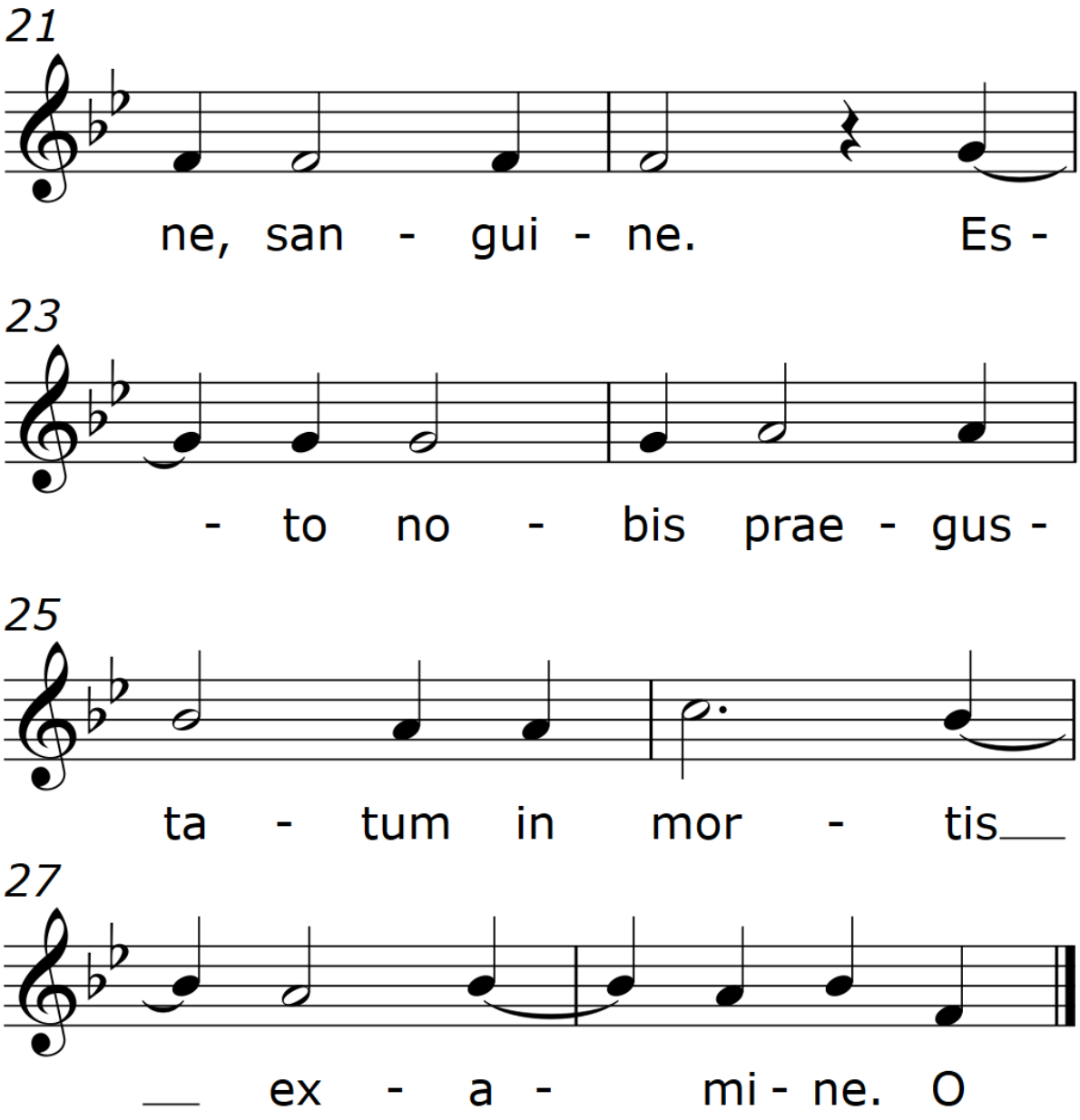

Figure 51 Soprano bar 21 to 28

Miserere Motif

Video: Bar 36 Miserere

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdrxjAwOhFg&feature=youtu.be

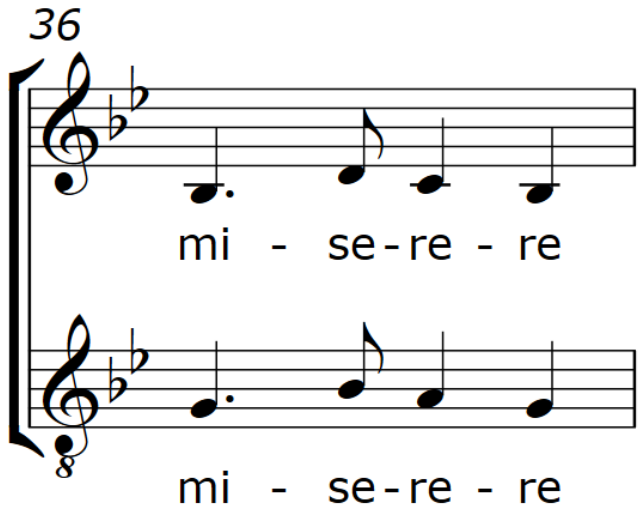

Figure 52 Miserere Motif, Alto & Tenor, bar 36

Section B

(Return to **Texture & setting: Section B**)

Video: bar 29 to 35

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4pCW2EaRwo&feature=youtu.be

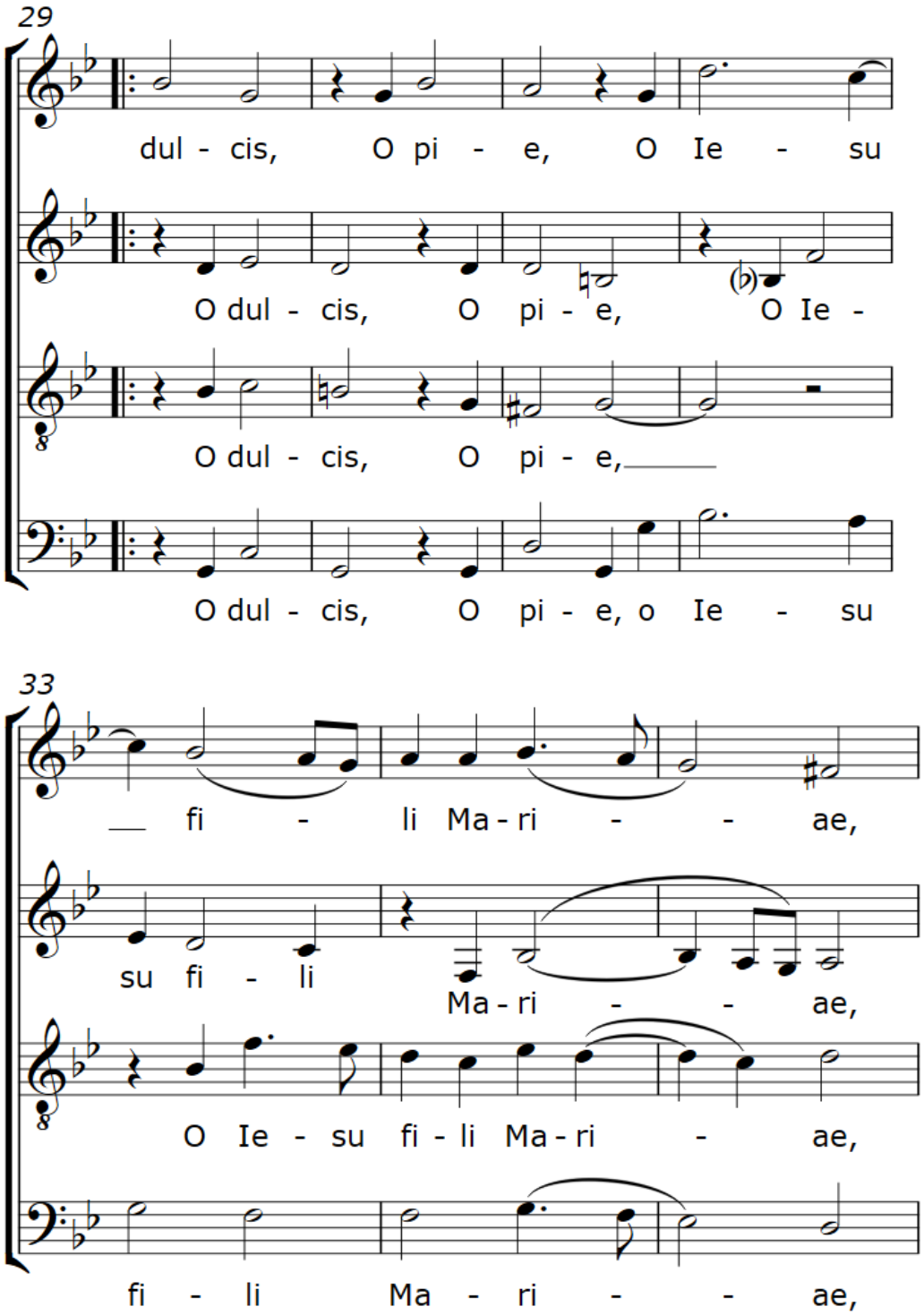

Figure 53 Bar 29 to 35

Video: Bass bar 29 to 31

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZJPzNRdX_M&feature=youtu.be

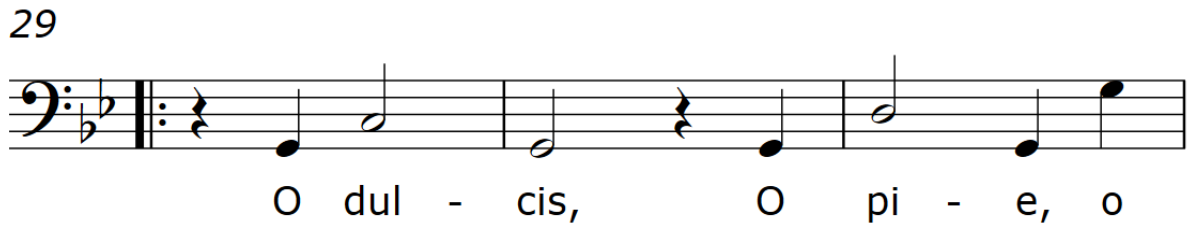

Figure 54 Bass bar 29 to 31

Video: Bass bar 31 to 33

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoAMmx80SHo&feature=youtu.be

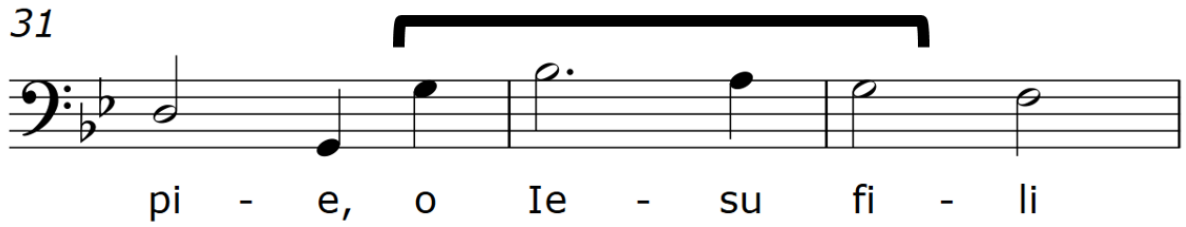

Figure 55 Bass bar 31 to 33

Video: Miserere Motif bar 36 to 39

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5sWADLSpDw&feature=youtu.be

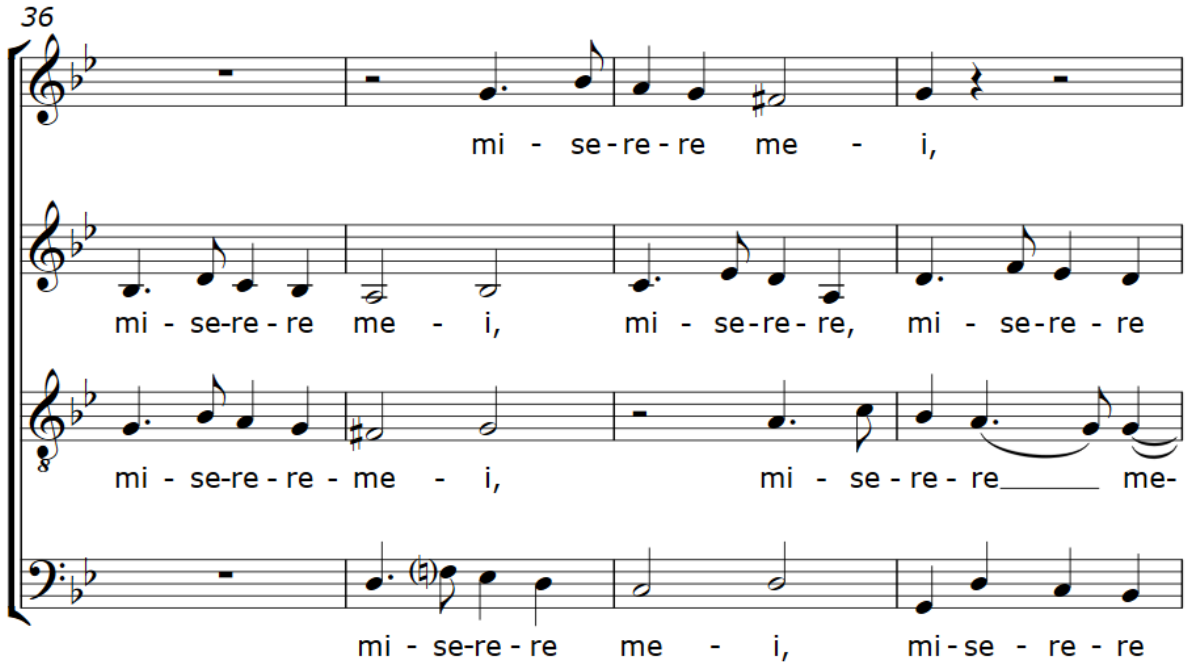

Figure 56 Miserere Motif bar 36 to 39

Video: Miserere Motif bar 37 to 39

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q23m_0swG4&feature=youtu.be

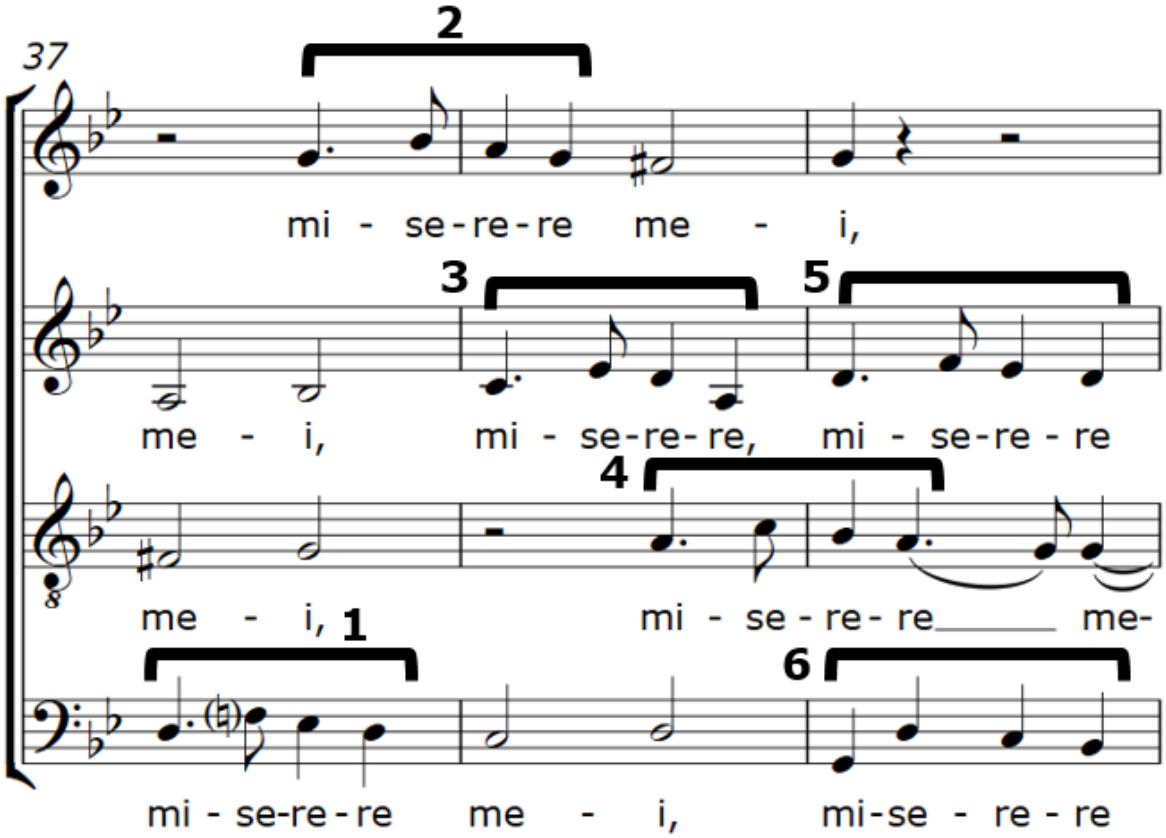

Figure 57 Miserere Motif bar 37 to 39 annotated

Video: Imitation bar 36 to 43

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nSHHiZuKlY&feature=youtu.be

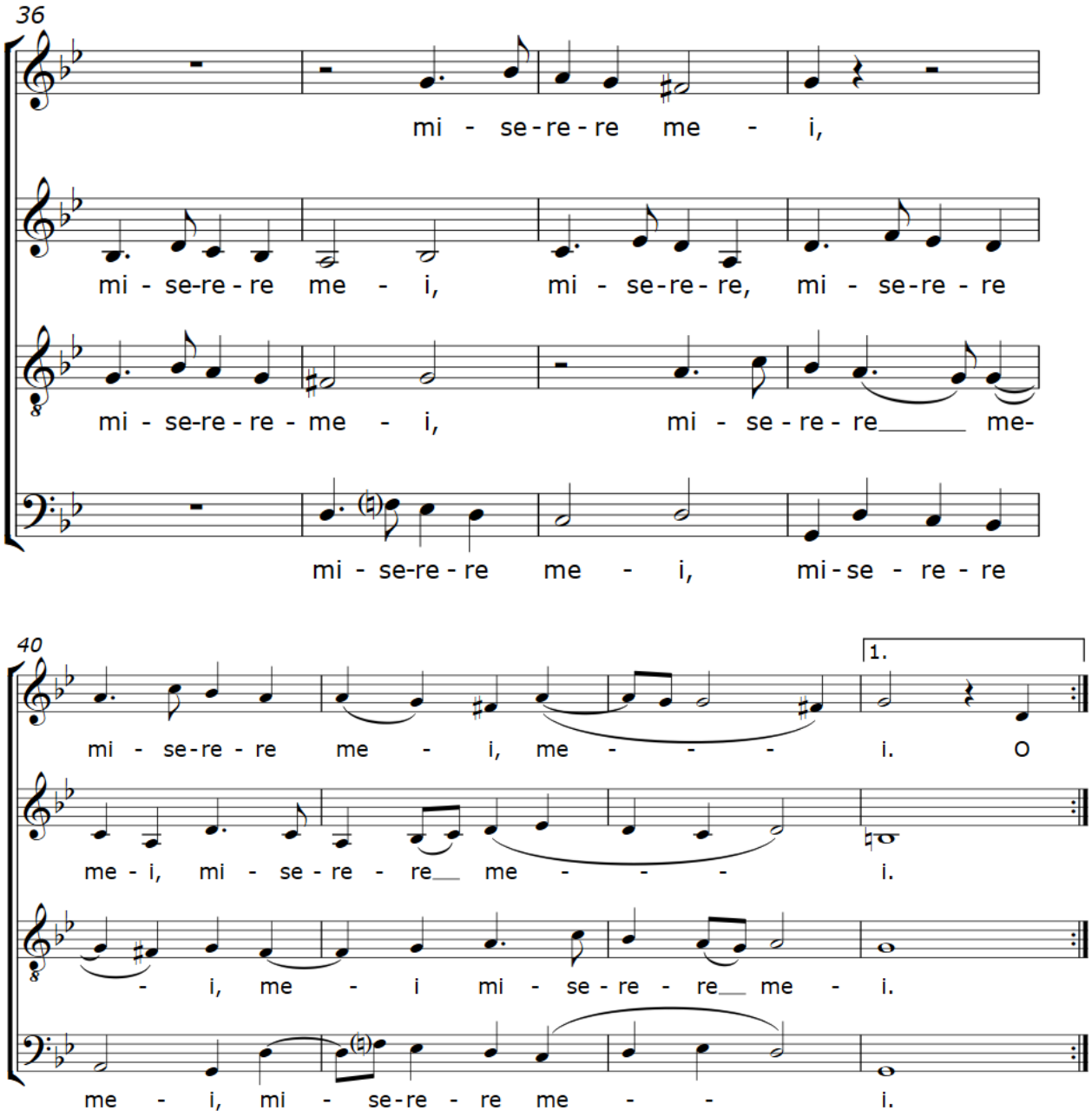

Figure 58 Imitation bar 36 to 43

Video: Alto bar 40 to 43

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZlO49I8TJk&feature=youtu.be

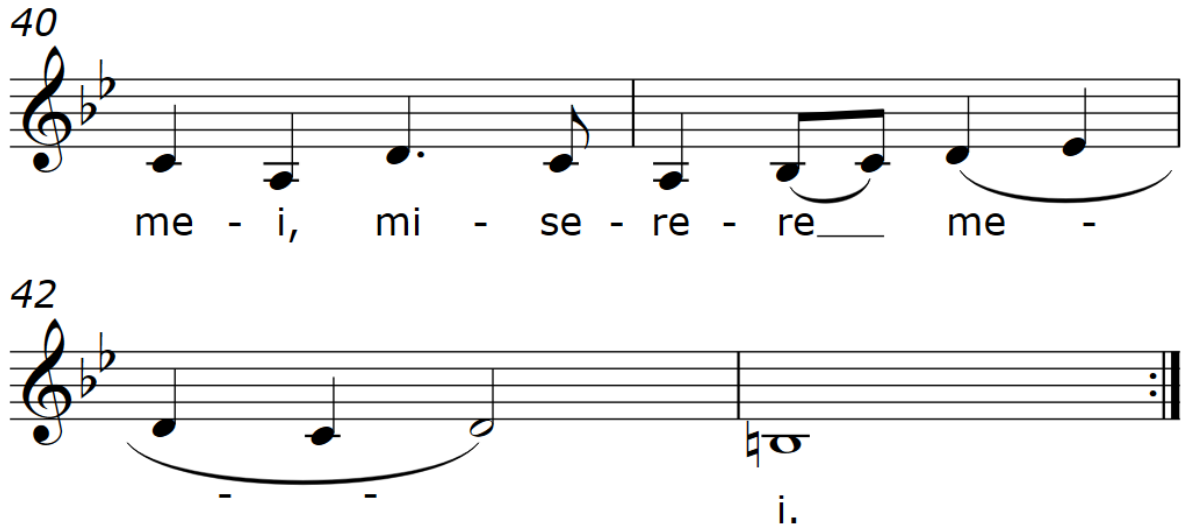

Figure 59 Lines Alto bar 40 to 43

Video: Tenor bar 36 to 43

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIc0e8w9j50&feature=youtu.be

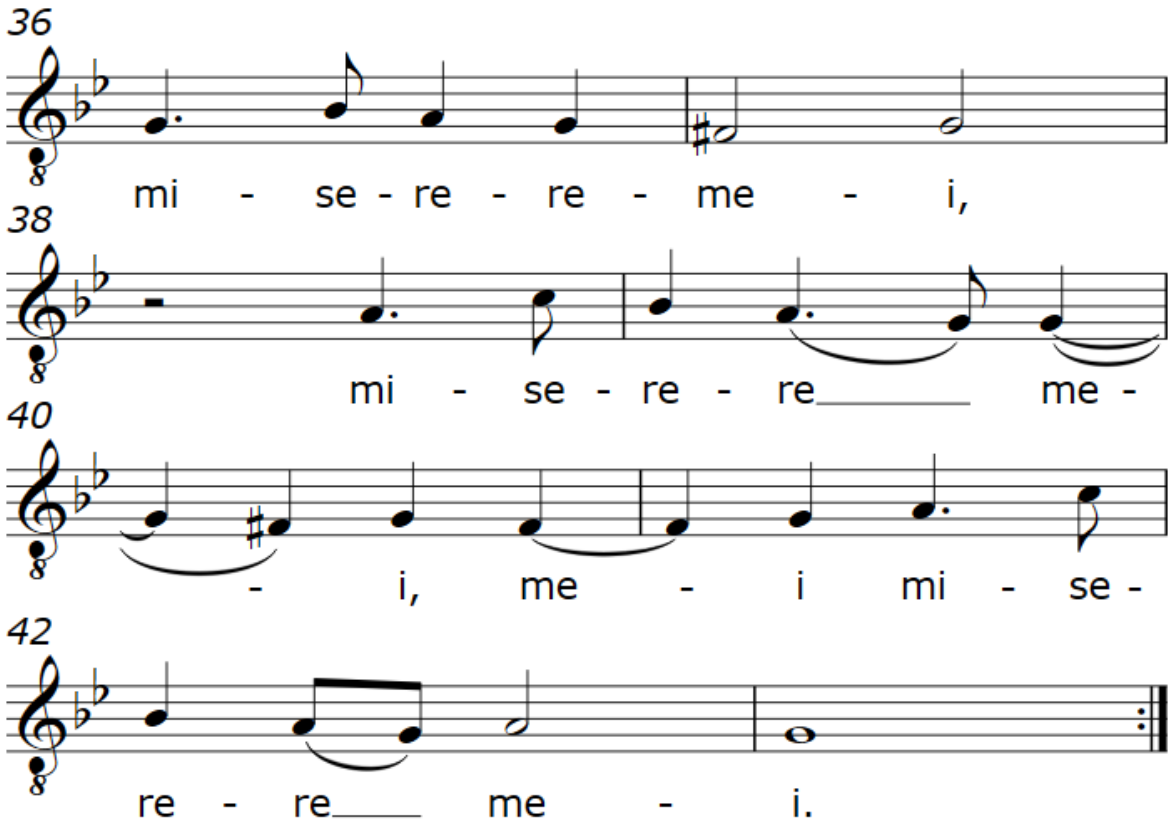

Figure 60 Tenor bar 36 to 43

Video: Bass bar 37 to 43

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojlAokm1_Fo&feature=youtu.be

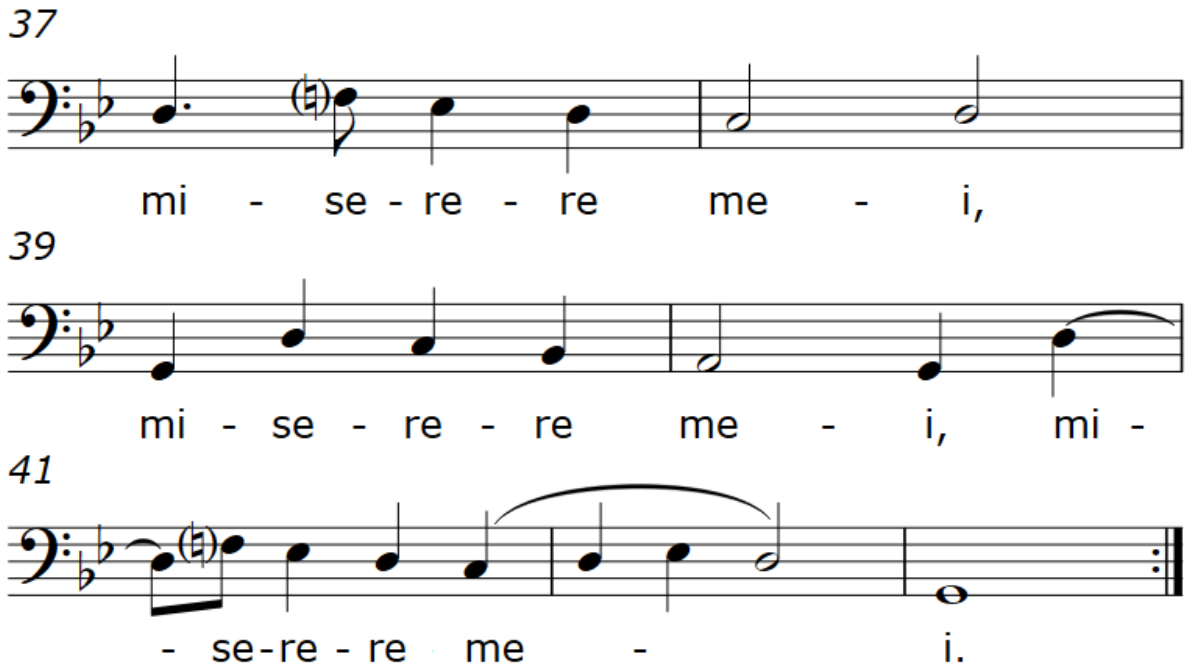

Figure 61 Bass bar 37 to 43

Video: Final cadence bar 44 to 47

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_ikoFYXERY&feature=youtu.be

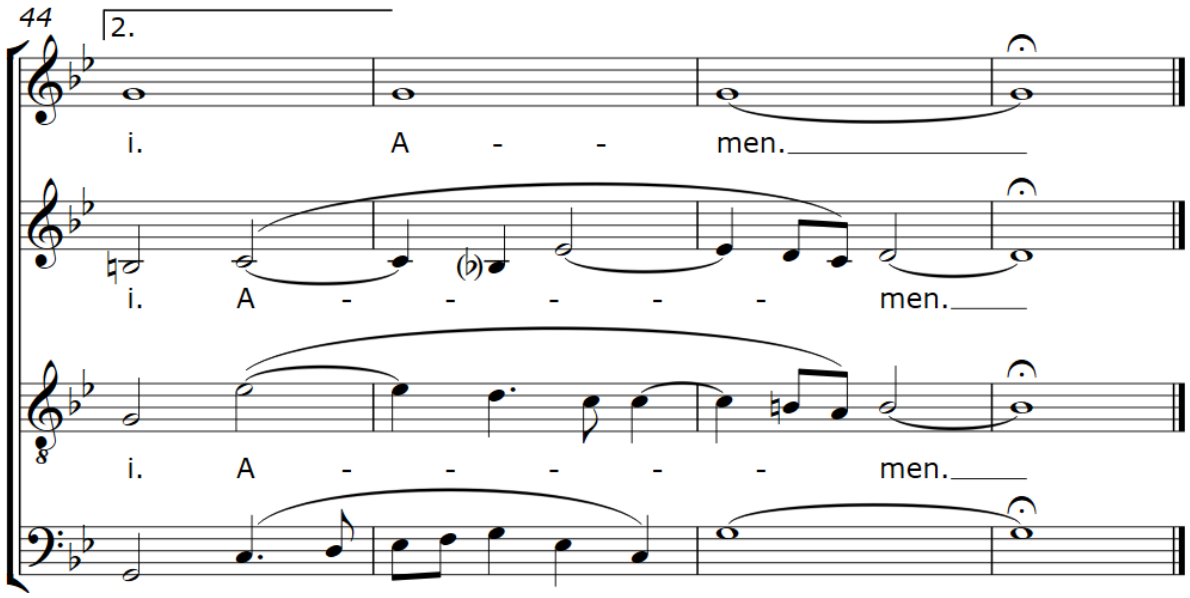

Figure 62 Final cadence bar 44 to 47

(Return to Texture & setting: Section B)

Rhythmic language

Hemiola

Section A

Video: Hemiola bar 1 to 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nj3E9R4eNrM&feature=youtu.be

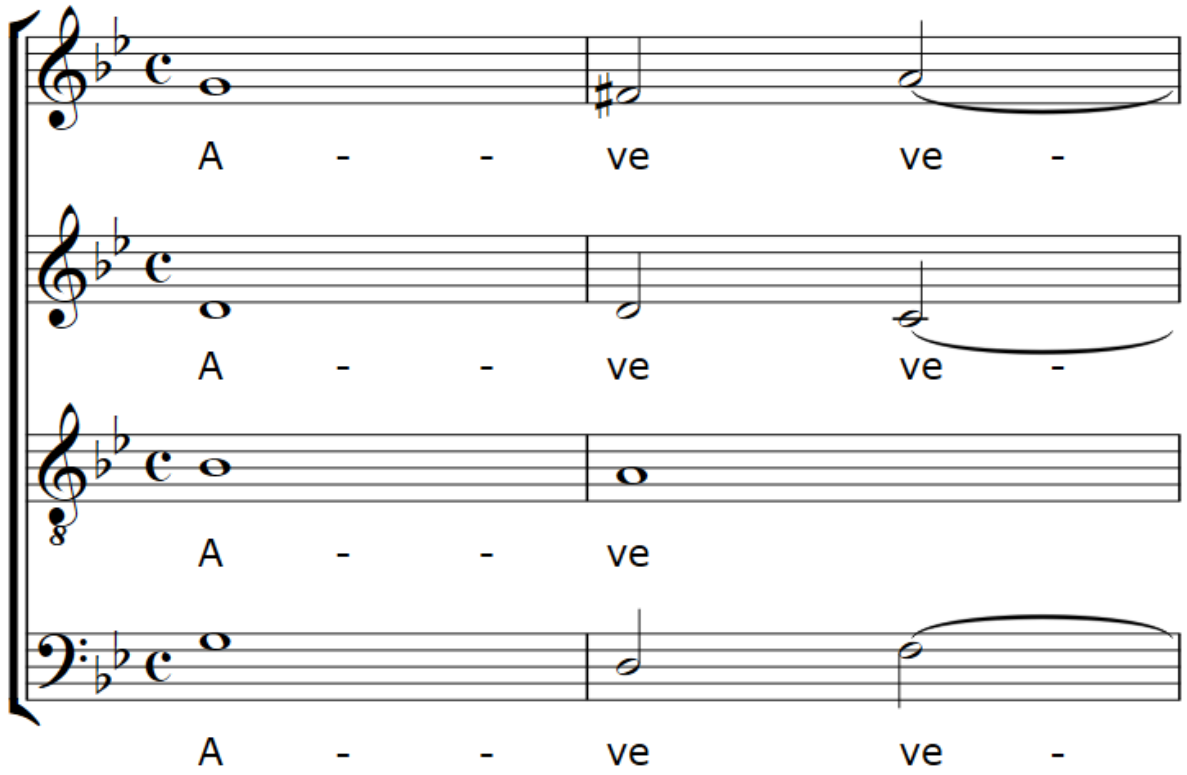

Figure 63 Hemiola bar 1 to 2

Video: Hemiola bar 5 to 6

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8r3rTtpY14&feature=youtu.be

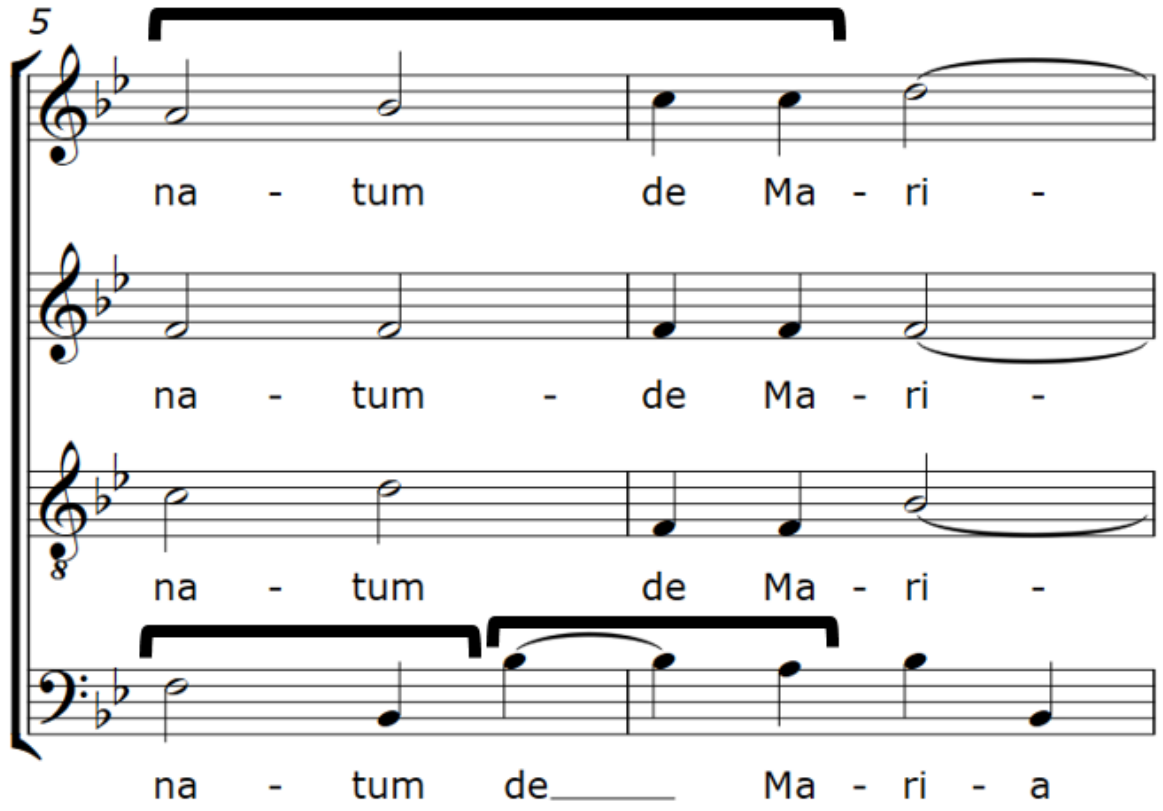

Figure 64 Hemiola bar 5 to 6

Video: Hemiola Tenor bar 10 to 13

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61h6JMmYIHY&feature=youtu.be

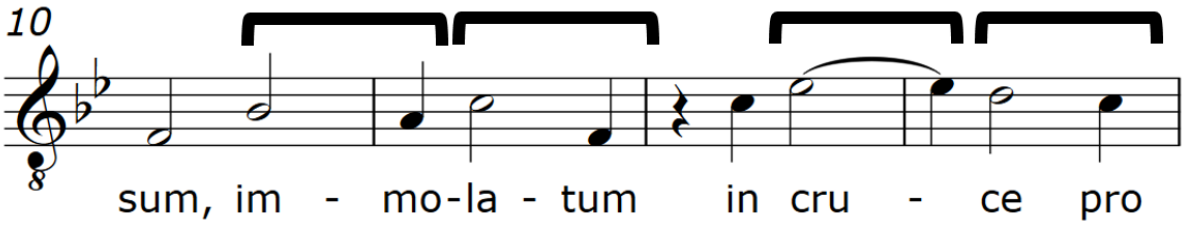

Figure 65 Hemiola Tenor bar 10 to 13

Video: Hemiola bar 10 to 14

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvcvbzAQ9kU&feature=youtu.be

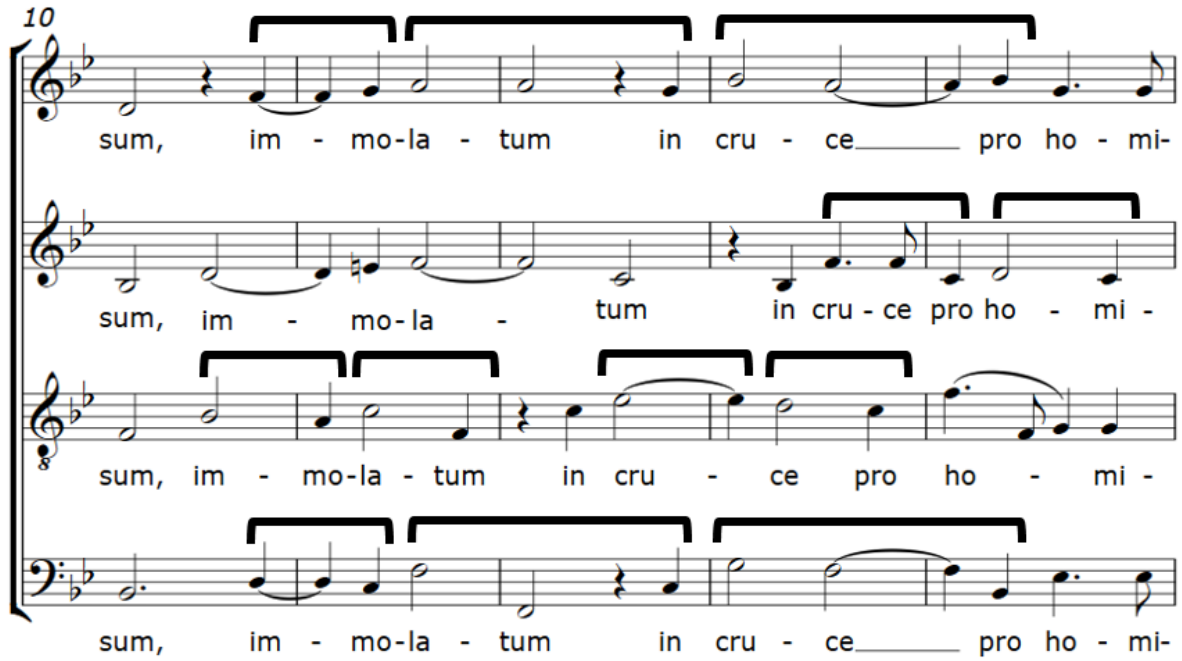

Figure 66 Hemiola bar 10 to 14

Video: Hemiola bar 19 to 24

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBGd6tW8FN4&feature=youtu.be

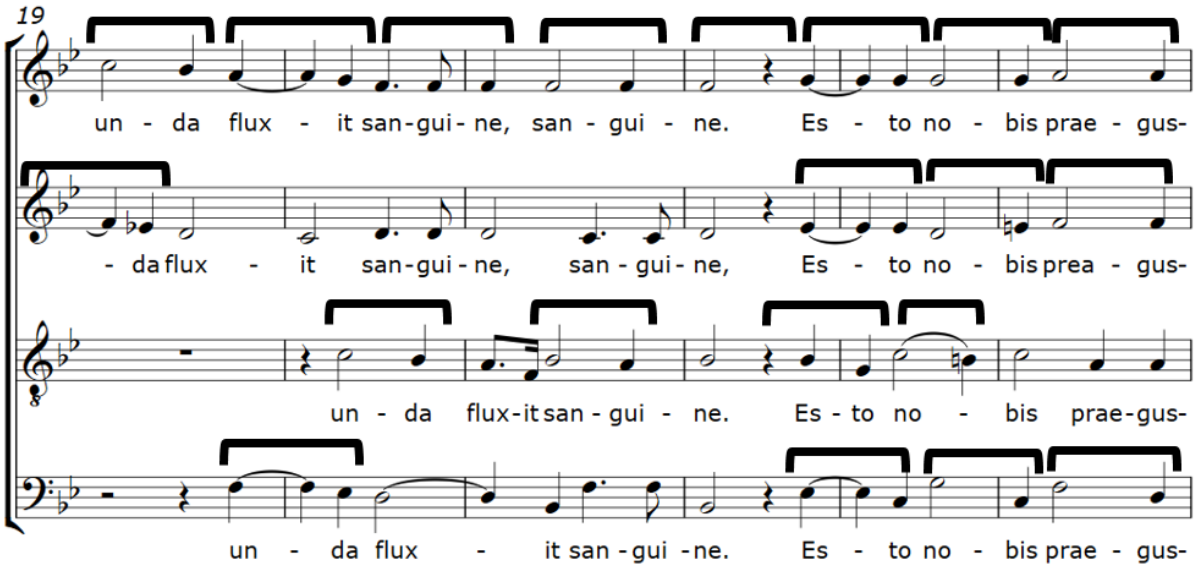

Figure 67 Hemiola bar 19 to 24

Section B

Video: Hemiola bar 32 to 35

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G06RKBpD-1M&feature=youtu.be

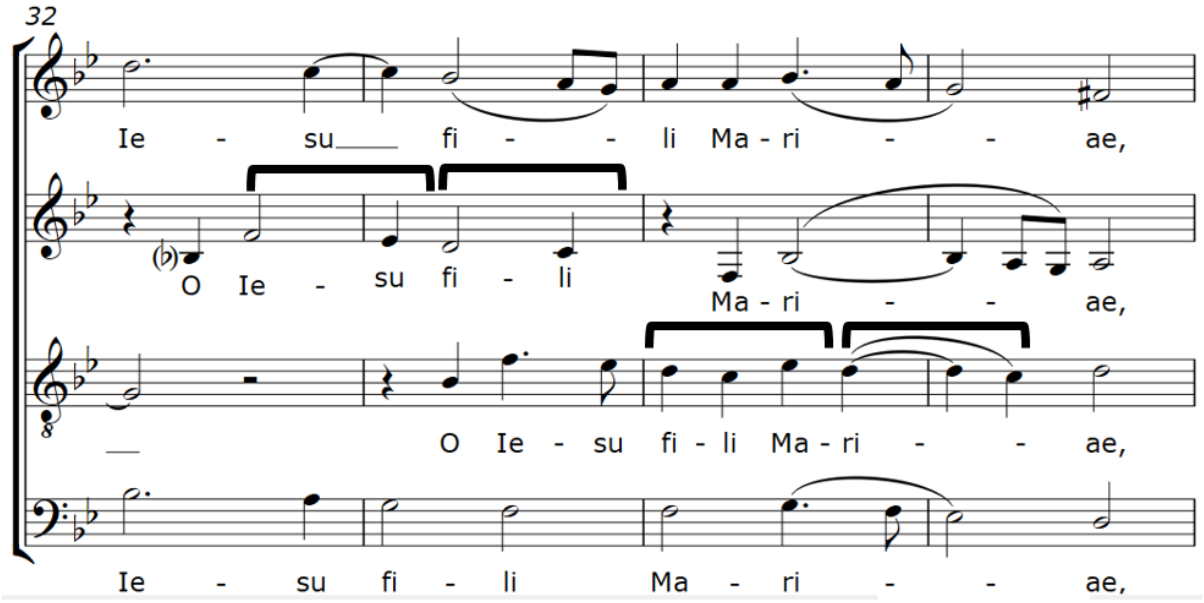

Figure 68 Hemiola bar 32 to 35

Links

Resources for this publication

The Tallis Scholars

http://www.thetallisscholars.co.uk/

The Tallis Scholars sing William Byrd

http://www.gimell.com/recording-The-Tallis-Scholars-sing-William-Byrd.aspx

The Tallis Scholars Sing William Byrd (Hyperion)

http://www.hyperion-records.co.uk/dc.asp?dc=D_CDGIM208

Gimell

http://www.gimell.com/

Illustrations, scores and other resources

http://www.nickredfern.co.uk/byrd_ave_verum_corpus.html

Video illustrations

http://www.nickredfern.co.uk/ave_verum_corpus.html

YouTube resources

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8gLwjg2ETCg4zsOXYgJrzg?guided_help_flow=3