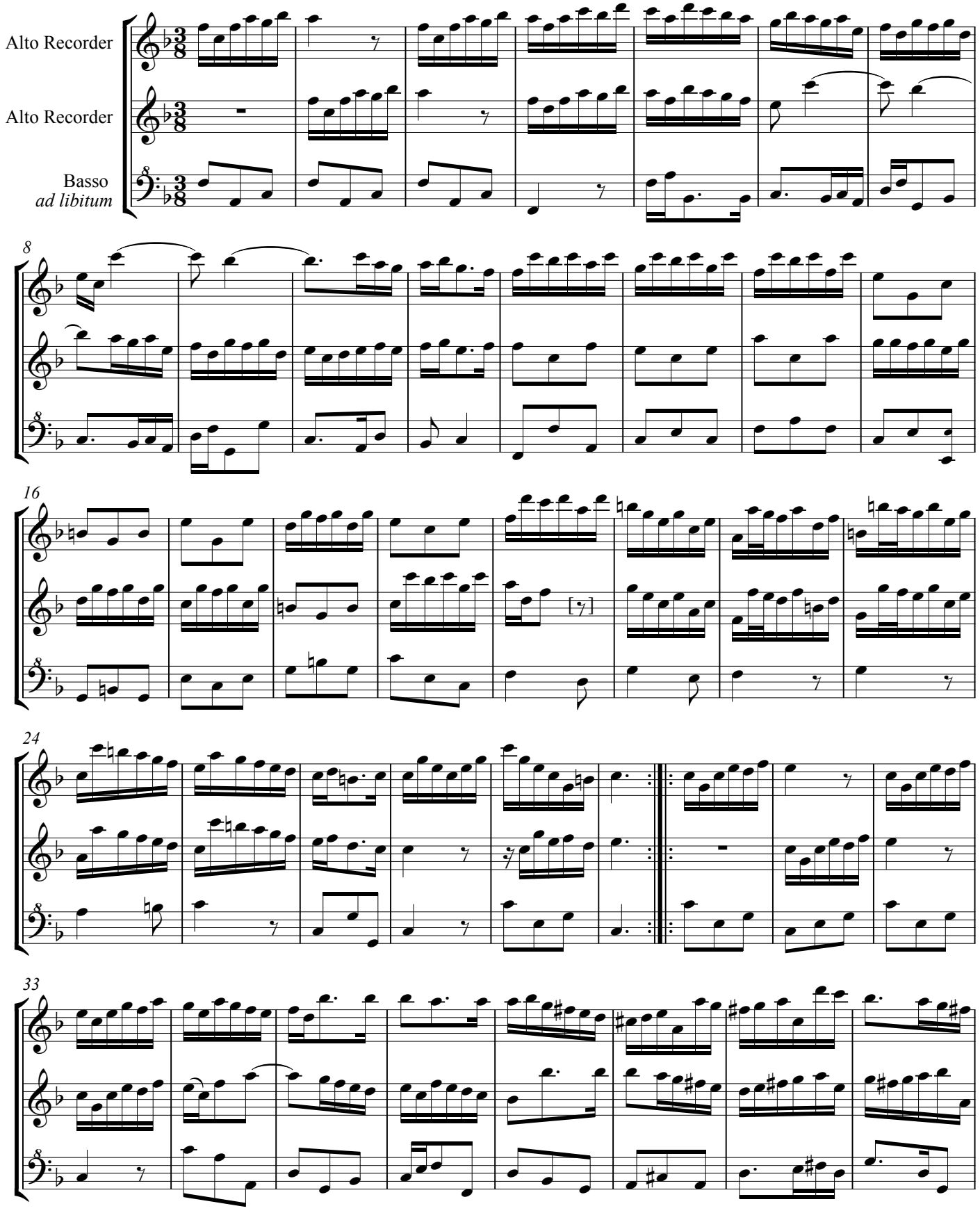
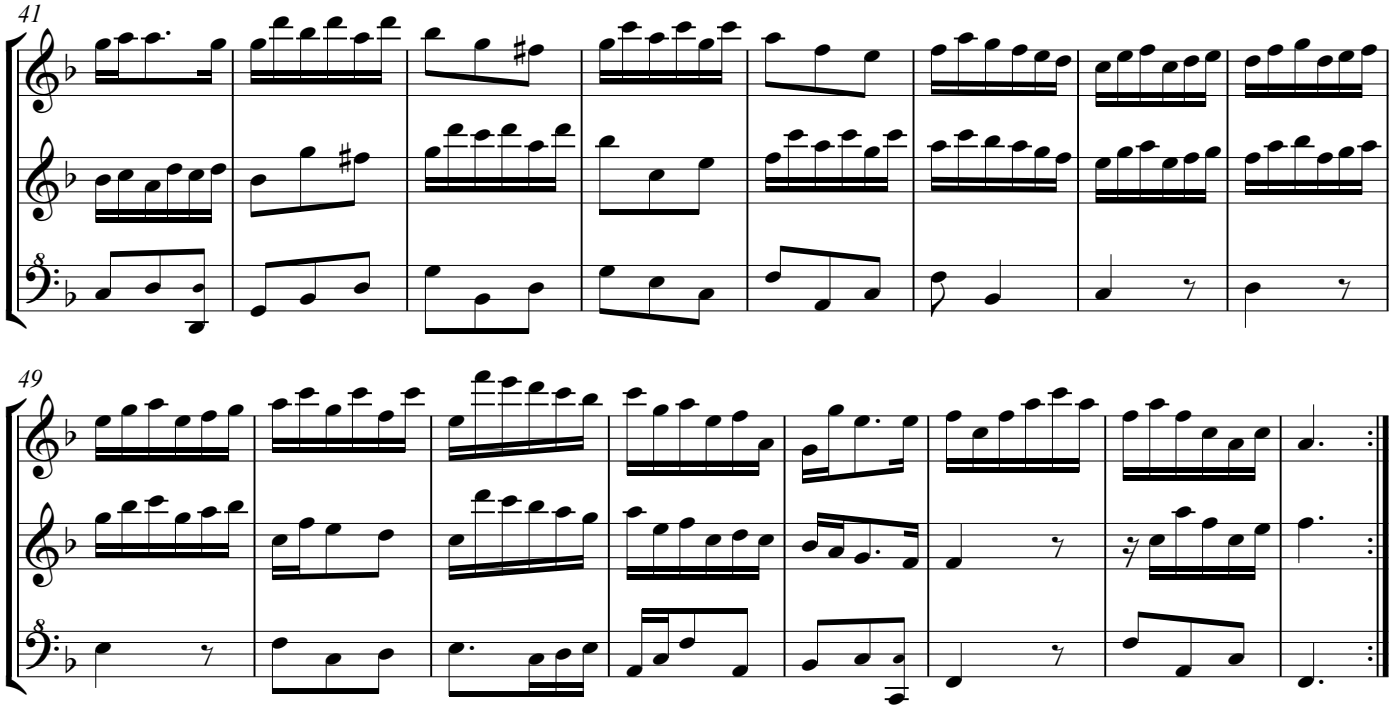
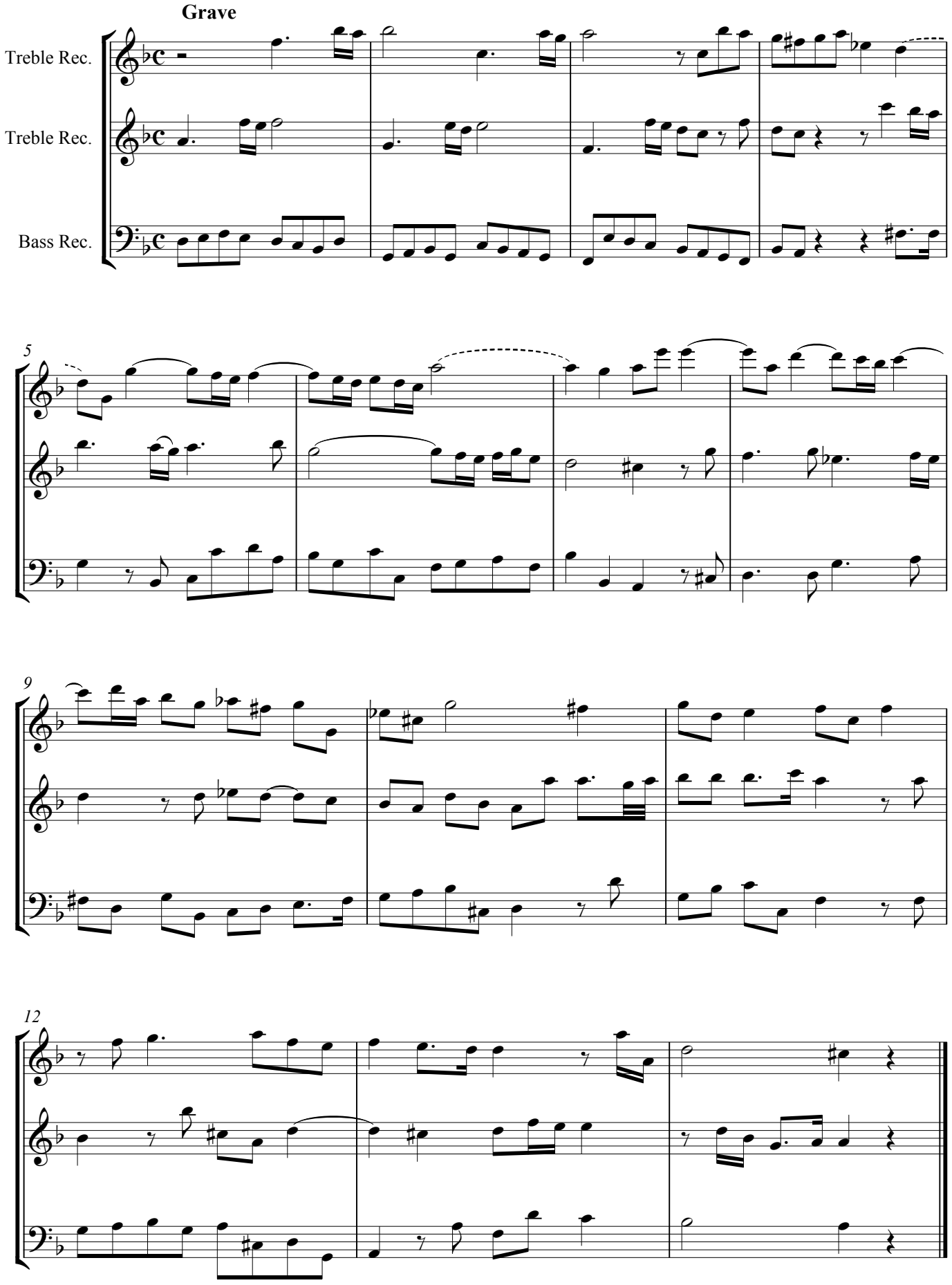
Sonata in F

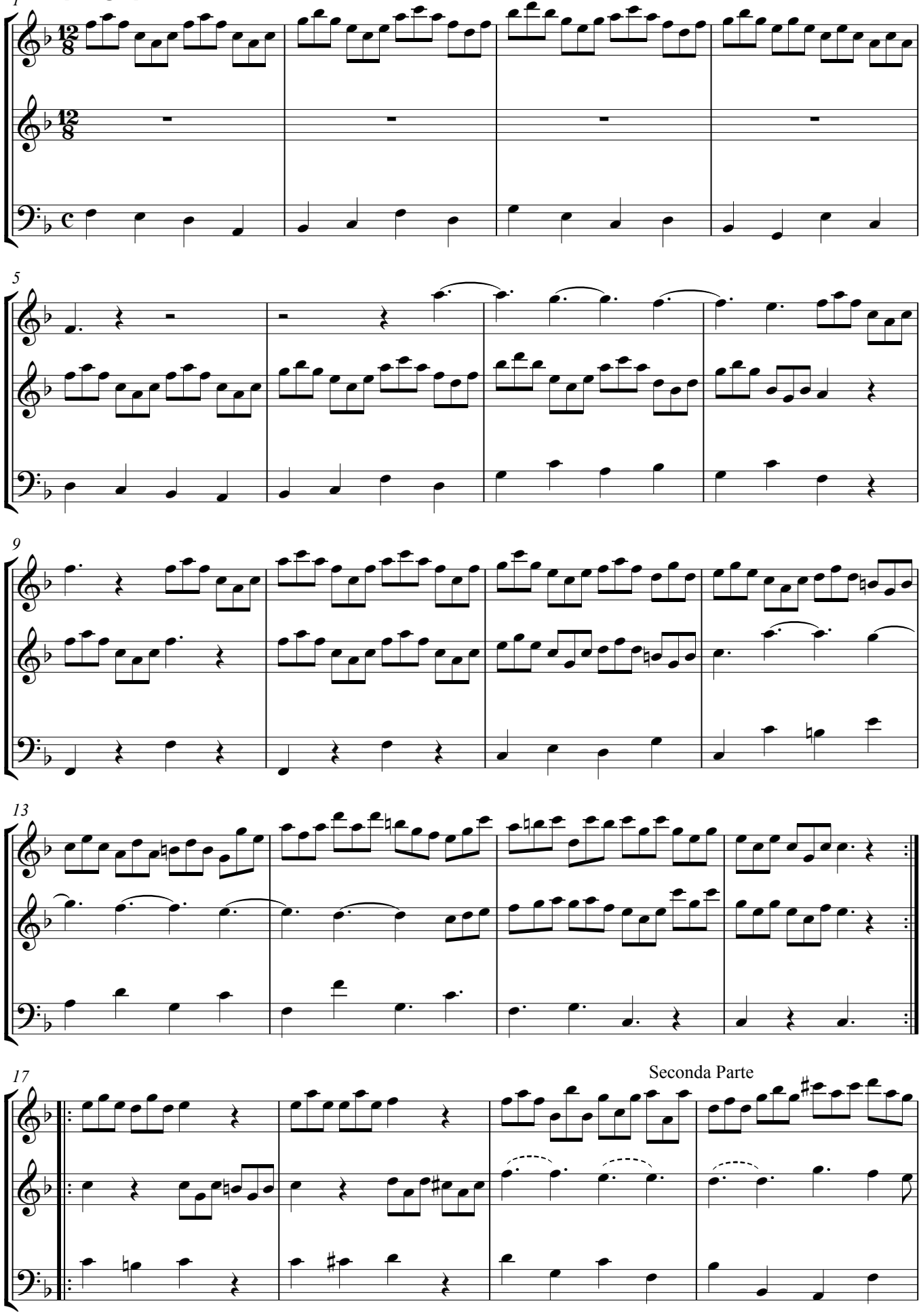
for 2 treble recorders and continuo, HWV 405
according to ms. Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge MU 261 (30H11)

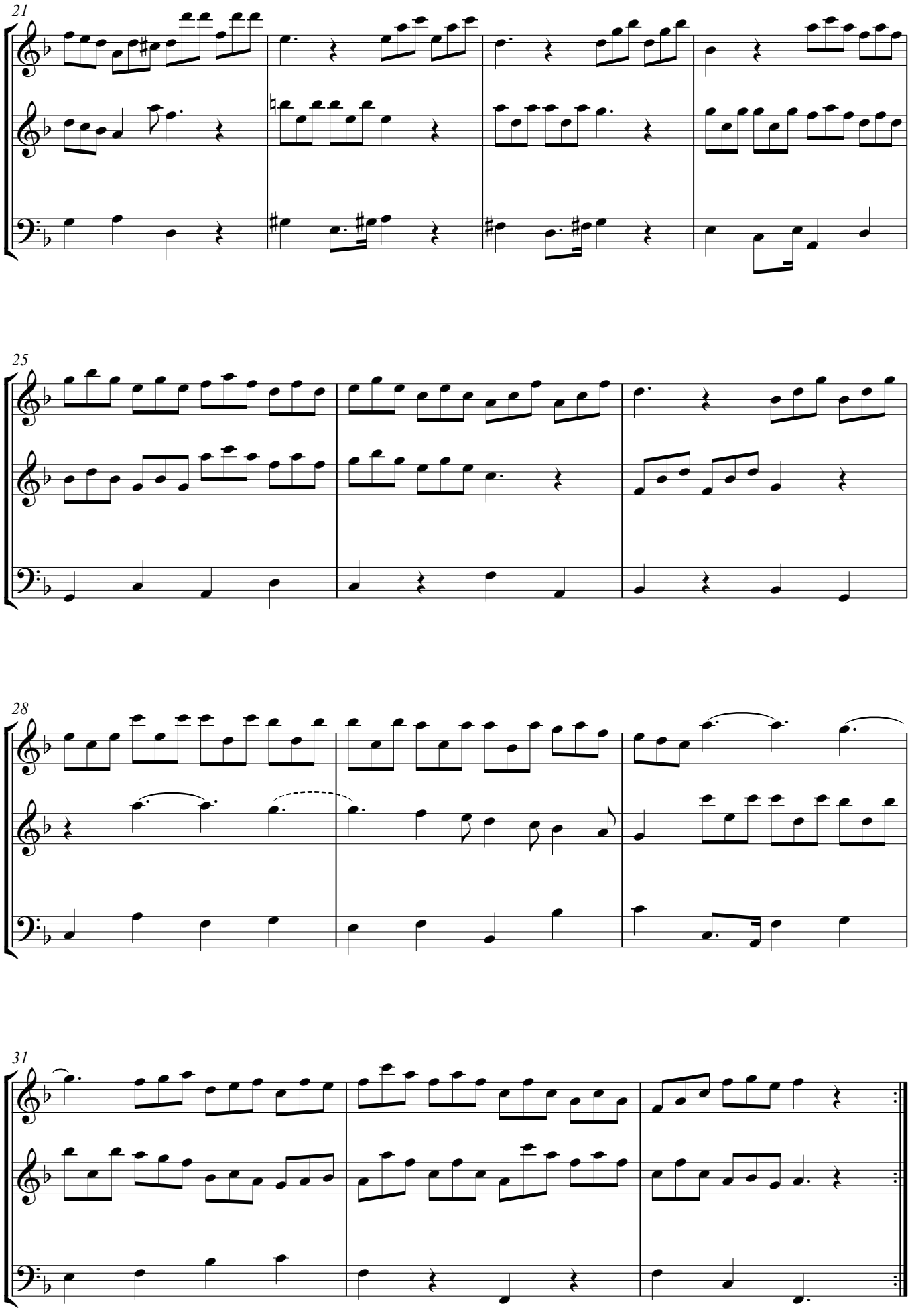



41
49


Grave
Treble Rec.
Treble Rec.
Bass Rec.
5
9
12

[Allegro]




21
25
28
31

Critical notes

I edited this sonata from the manuscript (scanned microfilm print) mentioned in the title, which gives in the first part only two staves, without leaving space for a basso continuo part. The continuo part of the first movement is provided by a manuscript from the second half of the 18th century in the Library of Congress, Washington, 48034927, M 350 .M3, that contains no continuo figures. No doubt the performer was supposed to produce the right chords, just like the two modern editors do. I copied the bass line of the first movement from Chr. Hogwood's edition, London 1981. The other edition is the Hallische Händel Ausgabe, IV-19 (1988) pp. 62-66.

I include an arrangement for three recorders of the final section of the Overtura of Handel's opera Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno from the Chrysander edition in IMSLP, where two oboes play the same theme as the first movement, but a third lower in D, supporting the ascription to recorders of this sonata. But in the opera only the first 5 bars of this sonata movement are nearly identical, and they are not accompanied by the orchestra or a bass instrument. My opinion is that the first sonata movement does not need a bass or continuo part. Of course Handel may have added it later. As an appendix I add my arrangement for 3 instruments of the final section of this opera overture.

Hogwood's edition is closer to Handel's autograph. Although the ms. contains many corrections and makes the impression of a draft, I tried to keep as close as possible to it, so including Handel's irregularities and inconsistencies, but I do not give Handel's own corrections. They are listed in the HHA. My edition has some differences from Hogwood´s.

Movement 1

The Washington ms. gives the tempo as Allegro. The Cambridge ms gives a tie in Recorder 2 bars 7-8; the last note of bar 20 is a quaver in the ms, but no rest follows; the f" in Recorder 1 bar 37 note 4 is sharpenend; Hogwood changed Recorder 2 bar 43 note 3 c'" to b".

Movement 2

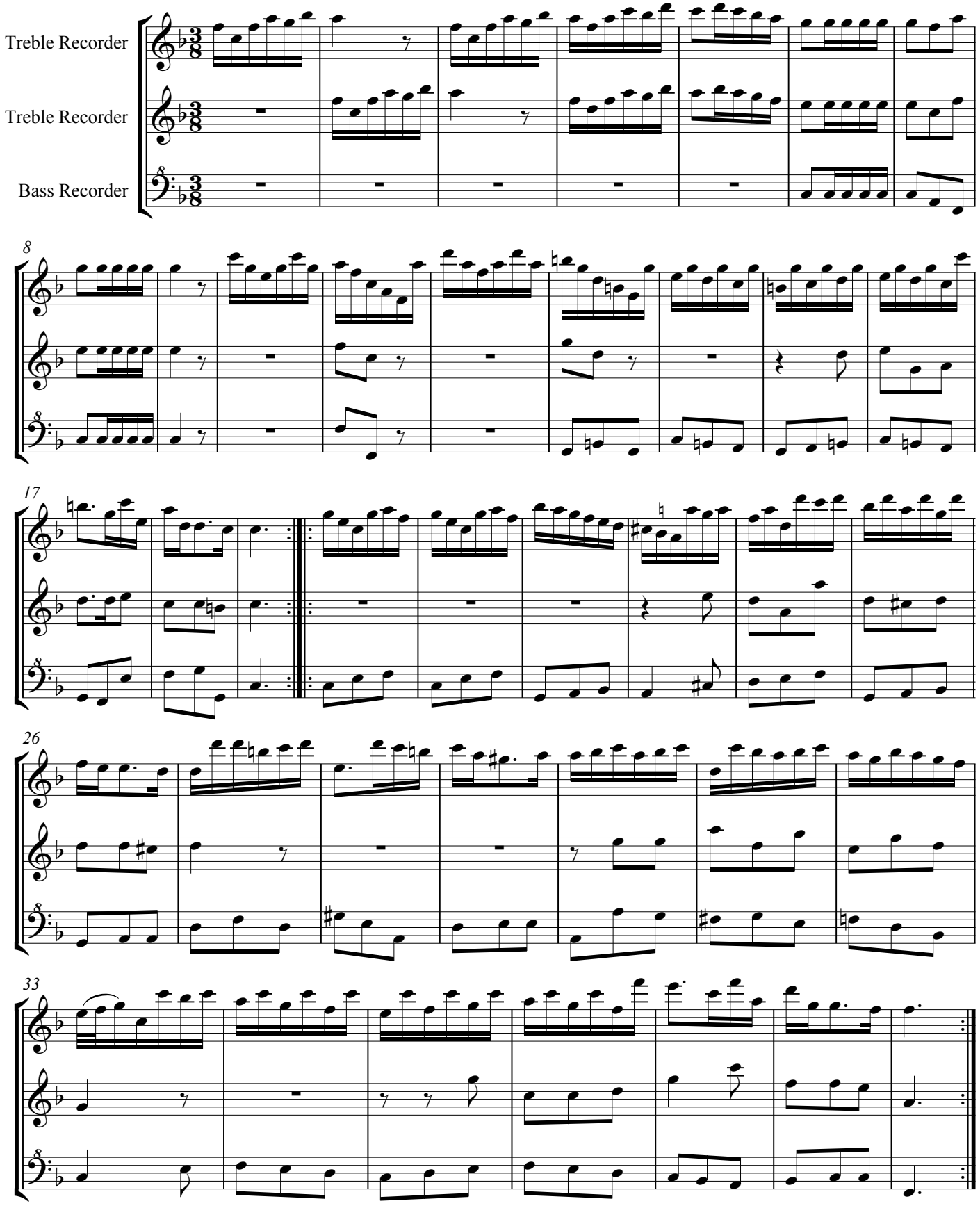
Bass bar 10 note 1 e has been changed to f in the ms, but should be g (with Hogwood).

Movement 3

The Washington ms gives the tempo as Allegro. No dots are used with rests, and with notes they are not consistent. Note that the final bass notes are longer than the final notes of the recorders. In Recorder 2 bar 16 note 6 is an f". In Bass 24 note 2 seems to be undotted, but it may be hided by the beam between note 2 and 3.

Arnold den Teuling, October 12th 2013.

Final section of Overtura Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Inganno

arranged for 2 treble and 1 bass recorder

G.F. Handel (Halle 1685 - London 1759)