Several of Byrd's keyboard pavans appear to have had their origin in consorts. The C minor pavan given here certainly did, for an incomplete set of parts exists as British Museum Add MS 37402-6.
The missing second tenor has been reconstructed by me using the keyboard version as a guide.
See Musica Britannica XXVII no. 29a and the Collected Works of William Byrd vol 17, no. 14.

Three of the parts survive in the keyboard version of the Pavan 2 in 1, i.e. the canonic parts and the bass. Sometimes the full five part texture is present, eg the first four bars of the third strain. On occasions the reconstruction is more speculative. See MB XXVIII, no 74.

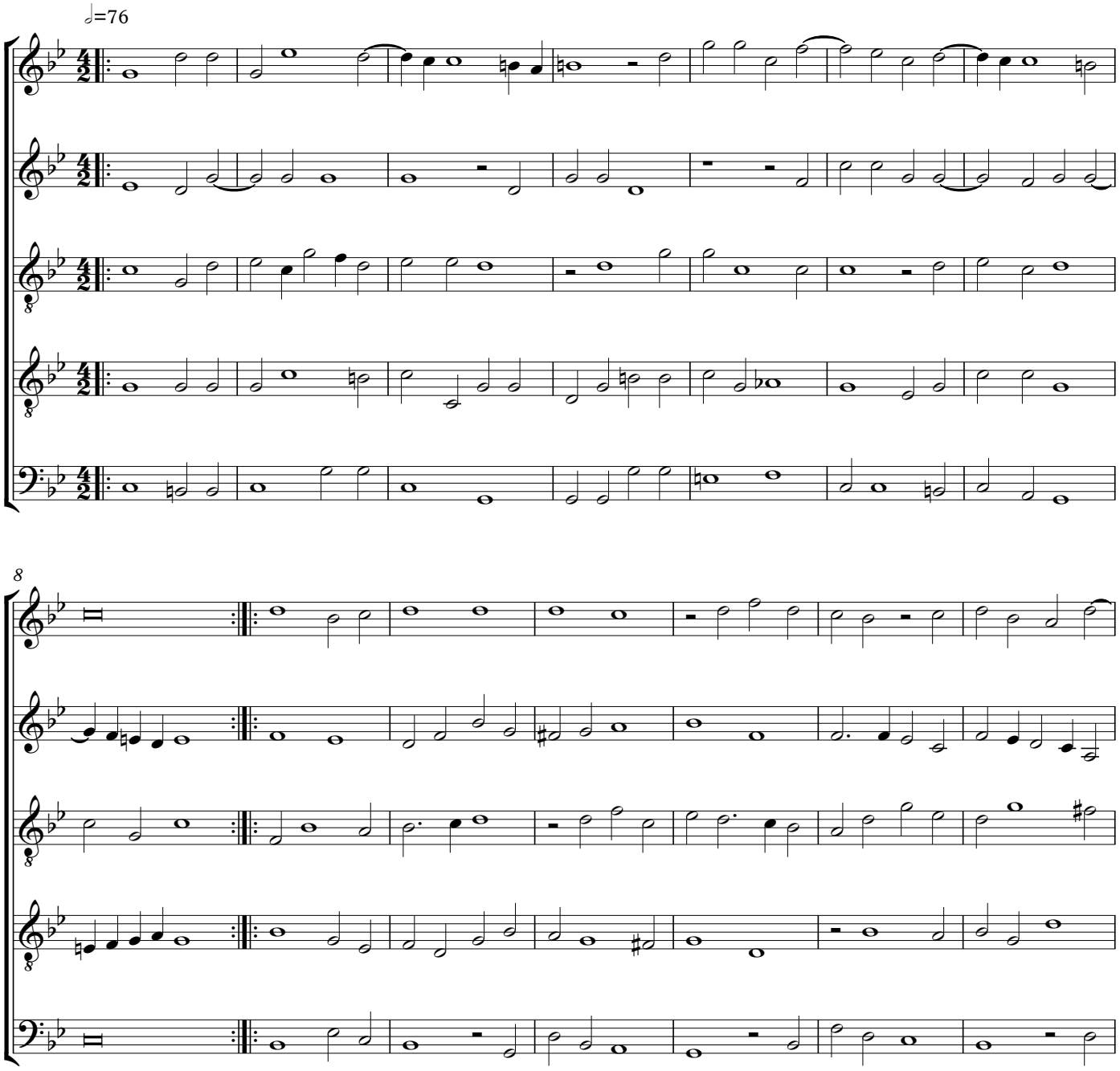
The keyboard version of the Pavan in A minor is unusually full and undecorated, with the five part texture often present. The main query is the four part texture in the second half of the first strain.
It is harmonically complete, and there are no imitative or textural lacunae, so I gave the second tenor a long rest. See MB XXVII, no 17.

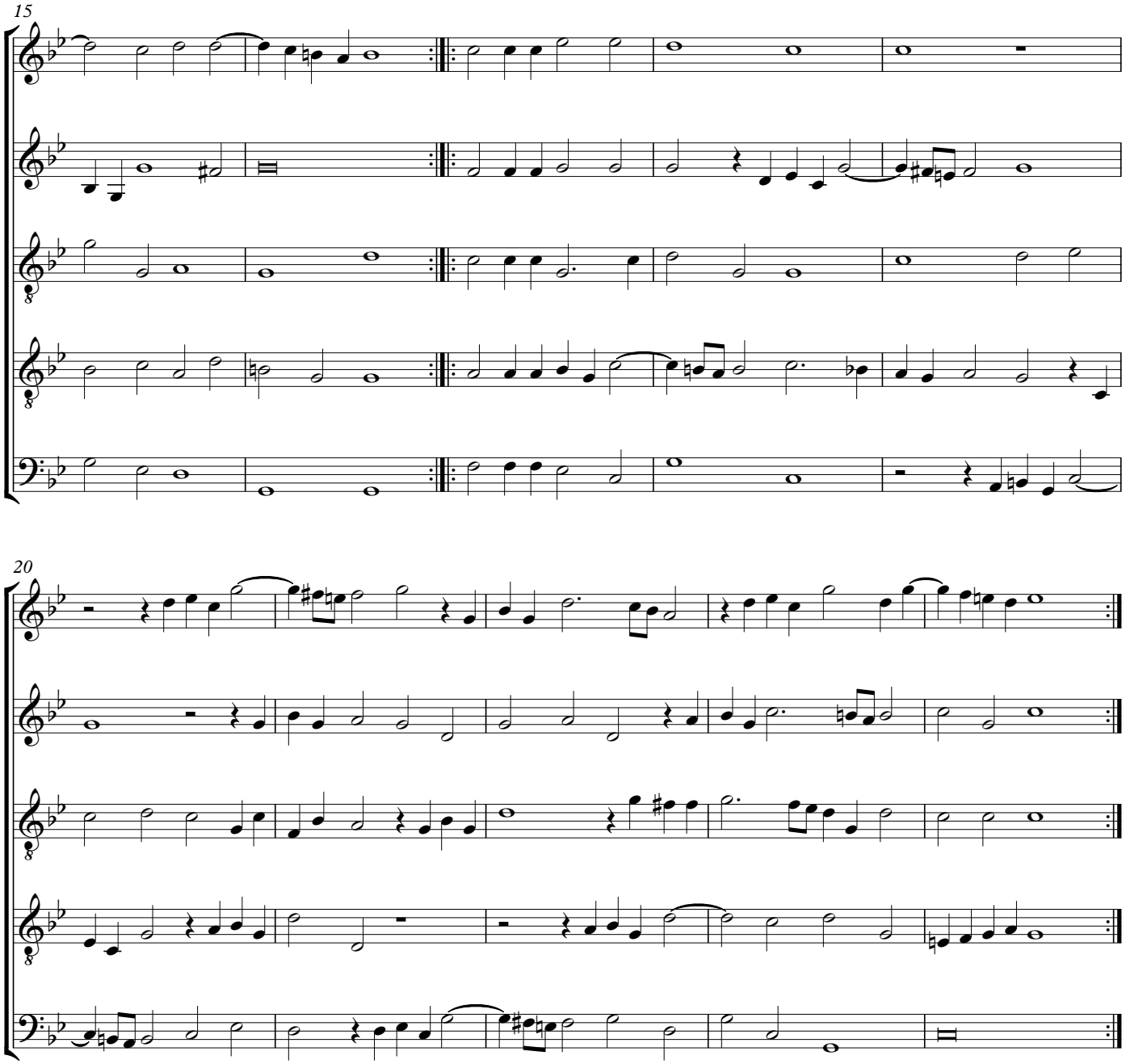
With the Pavan and Galliard in B flat a decision had to be made as to the number of parts in the presumed consort original. The material in the keyboard version could be fully presented in four parts, and the full texture was often present. Only in the Galliard, first half of the second strain, is there material to fill five parts.
The key is very unusual. This is the only pair with a B flat final in Byrd's keyboard output.
The tessitura is rather high, so the question of transposition arises, say down a minor third to G, but then certain bass notes would be uncharacterisically low, and they could not readily be octave transposed upwards.
The tenor entry on the last crotchet of bar 5 of the pavan is an octave lower in the keyboard version, deemed to be so placed for playability. The first tenor note in bar 3 of the galliard is D in the source. C is possible. See MB XXVII, nos 23 a and b.

Gervais Frykman
August 2020

Pavan in C minor

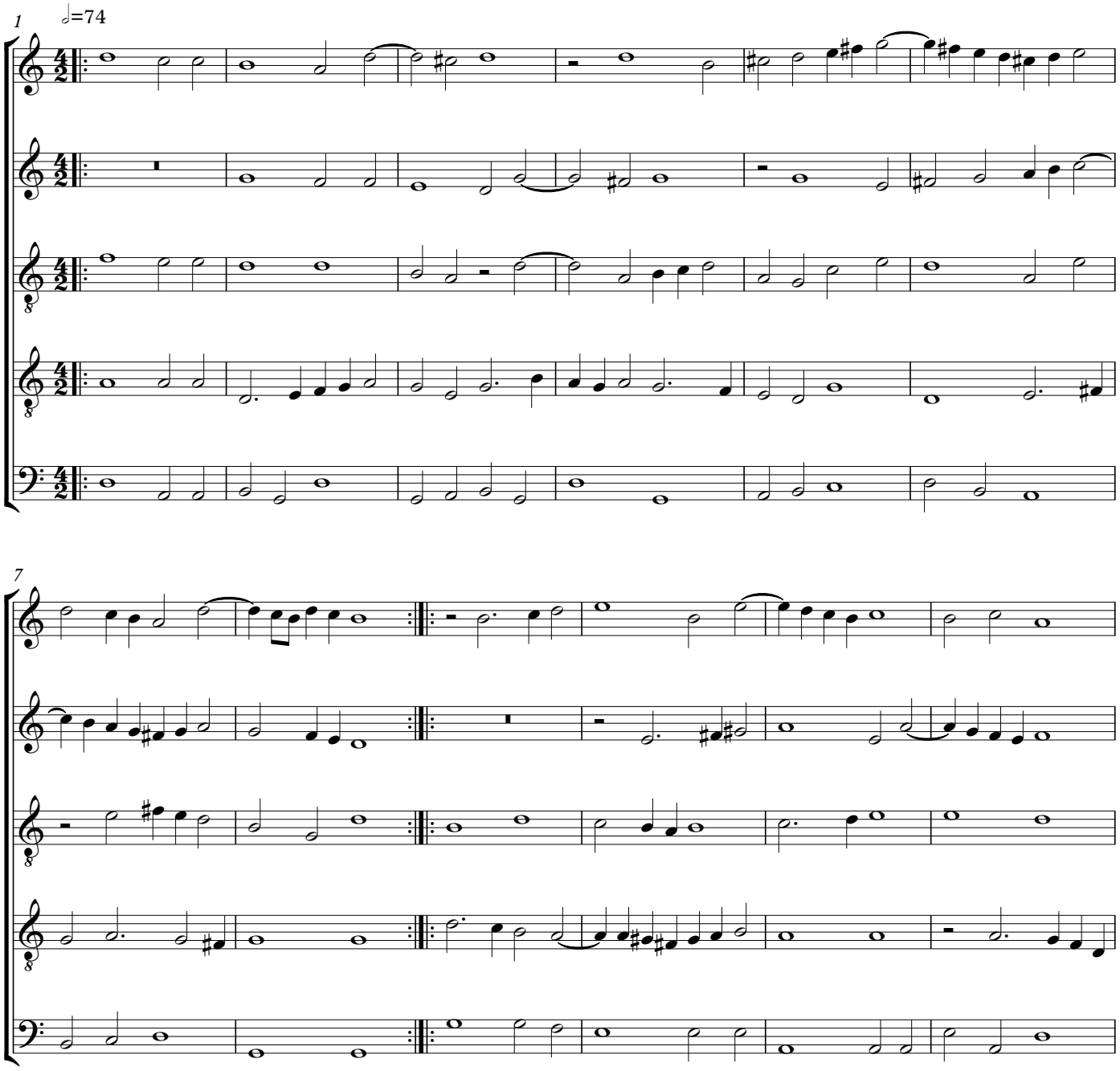
William Byrd

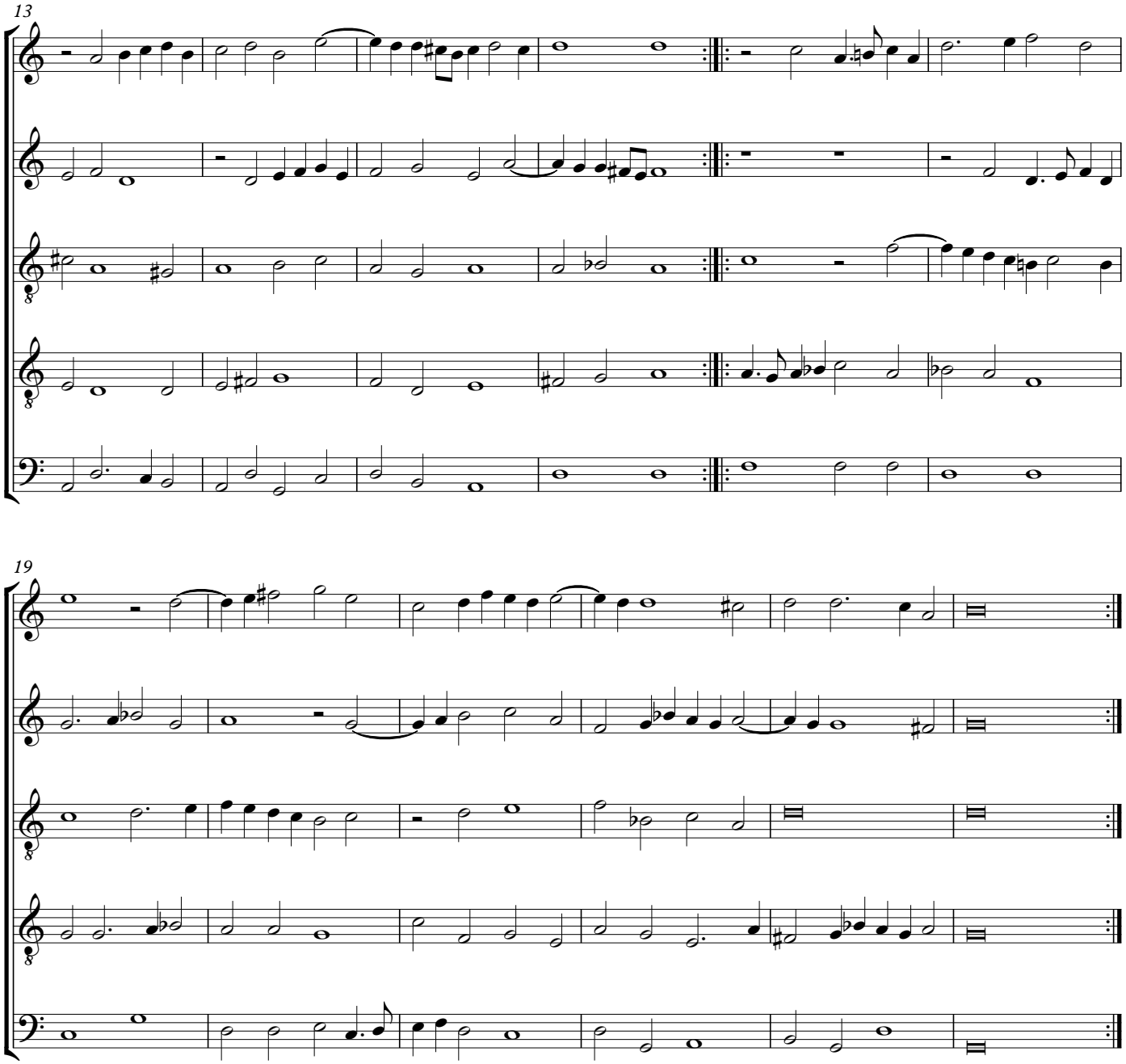



15
20

Pavan 2 in 1

William Byrd

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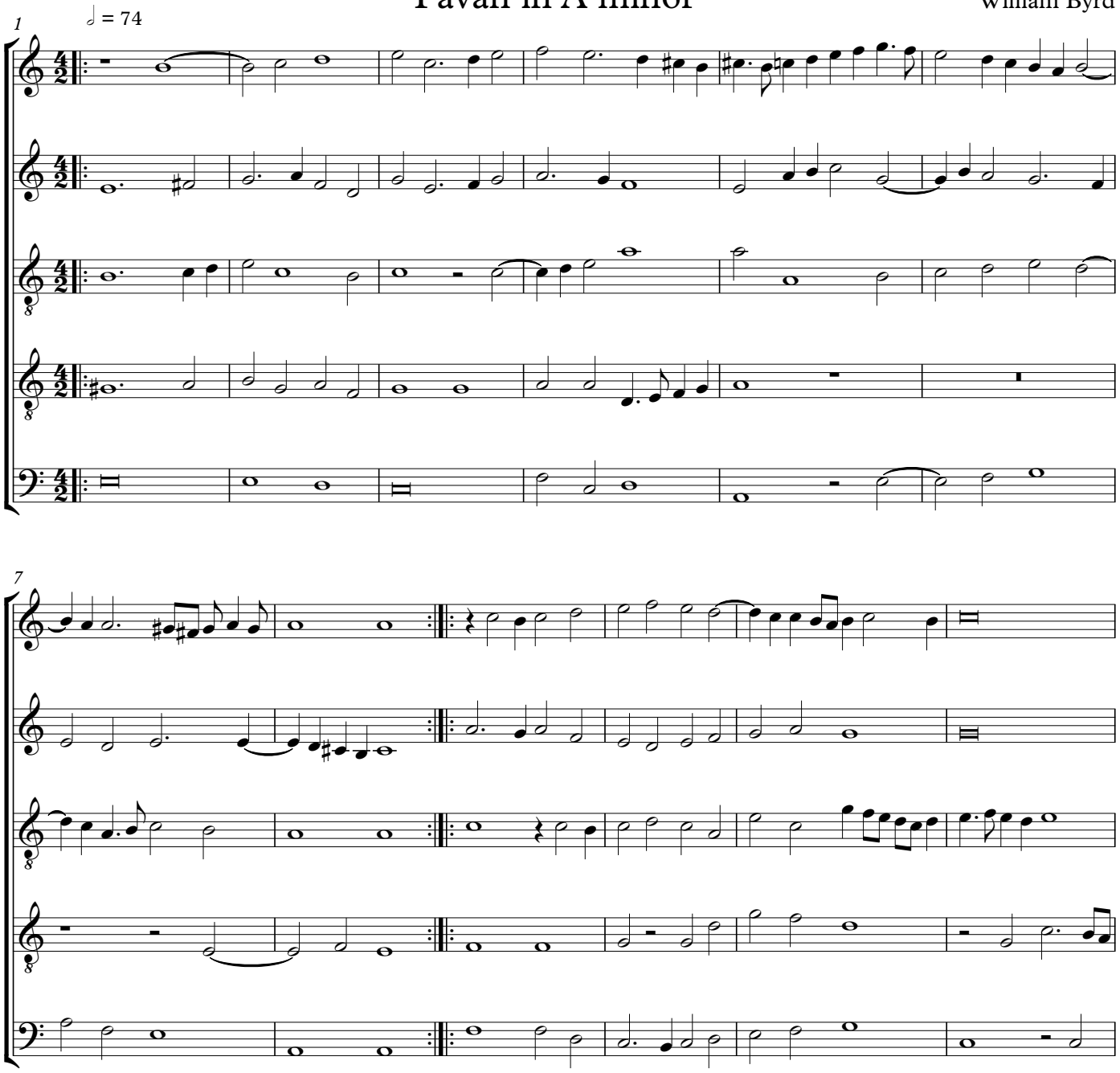
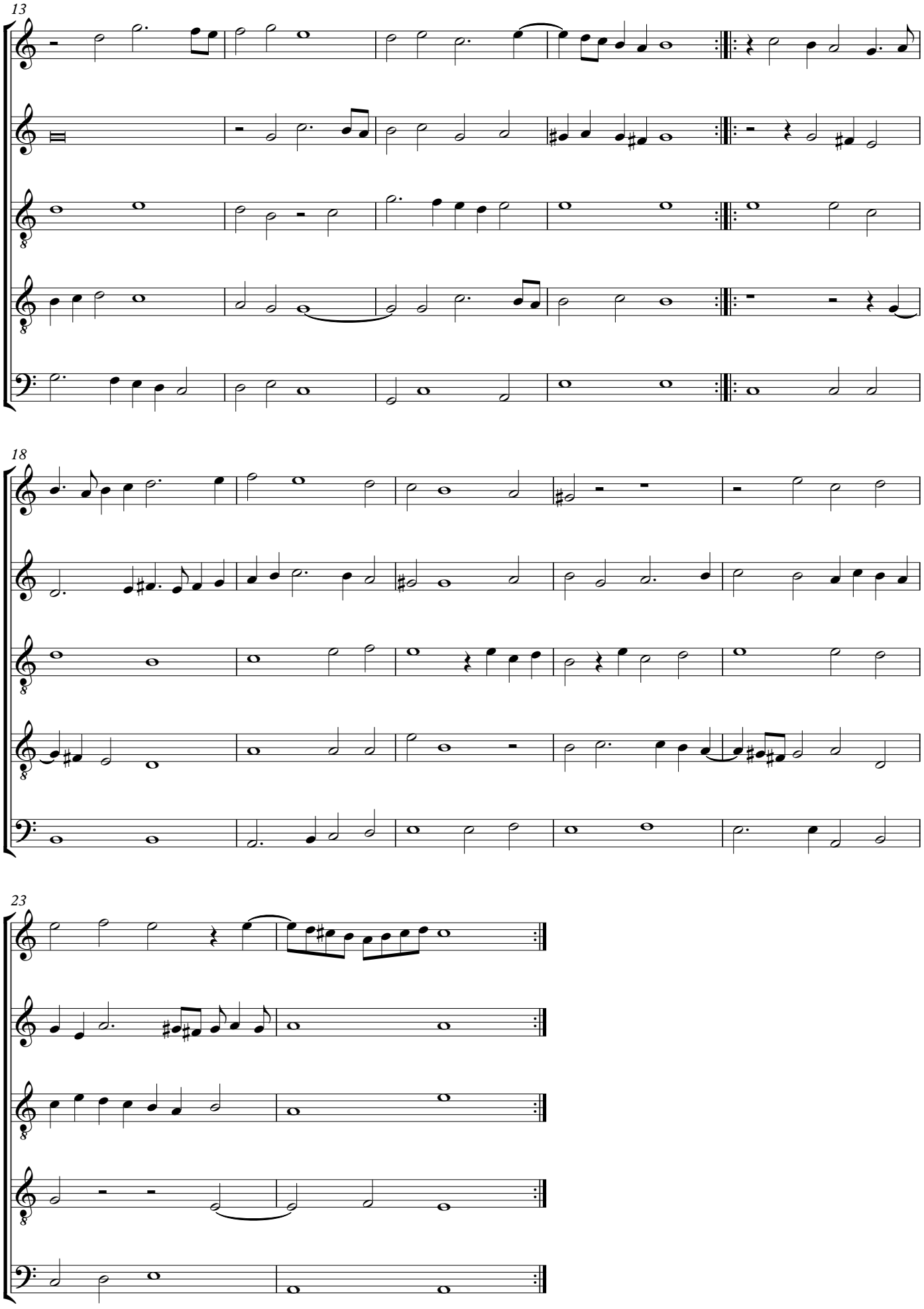
19

Pavan in A minor

William Byrd

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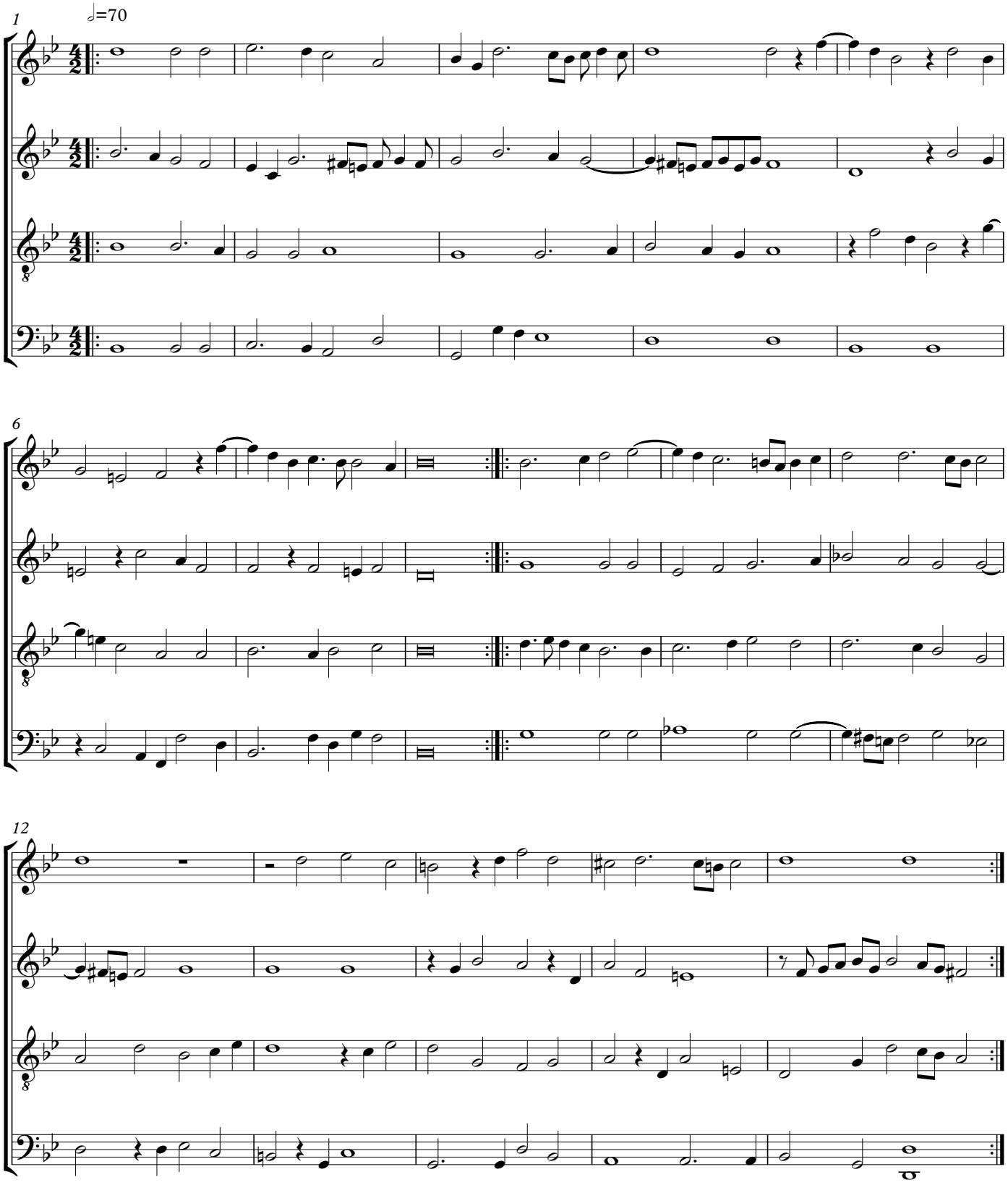
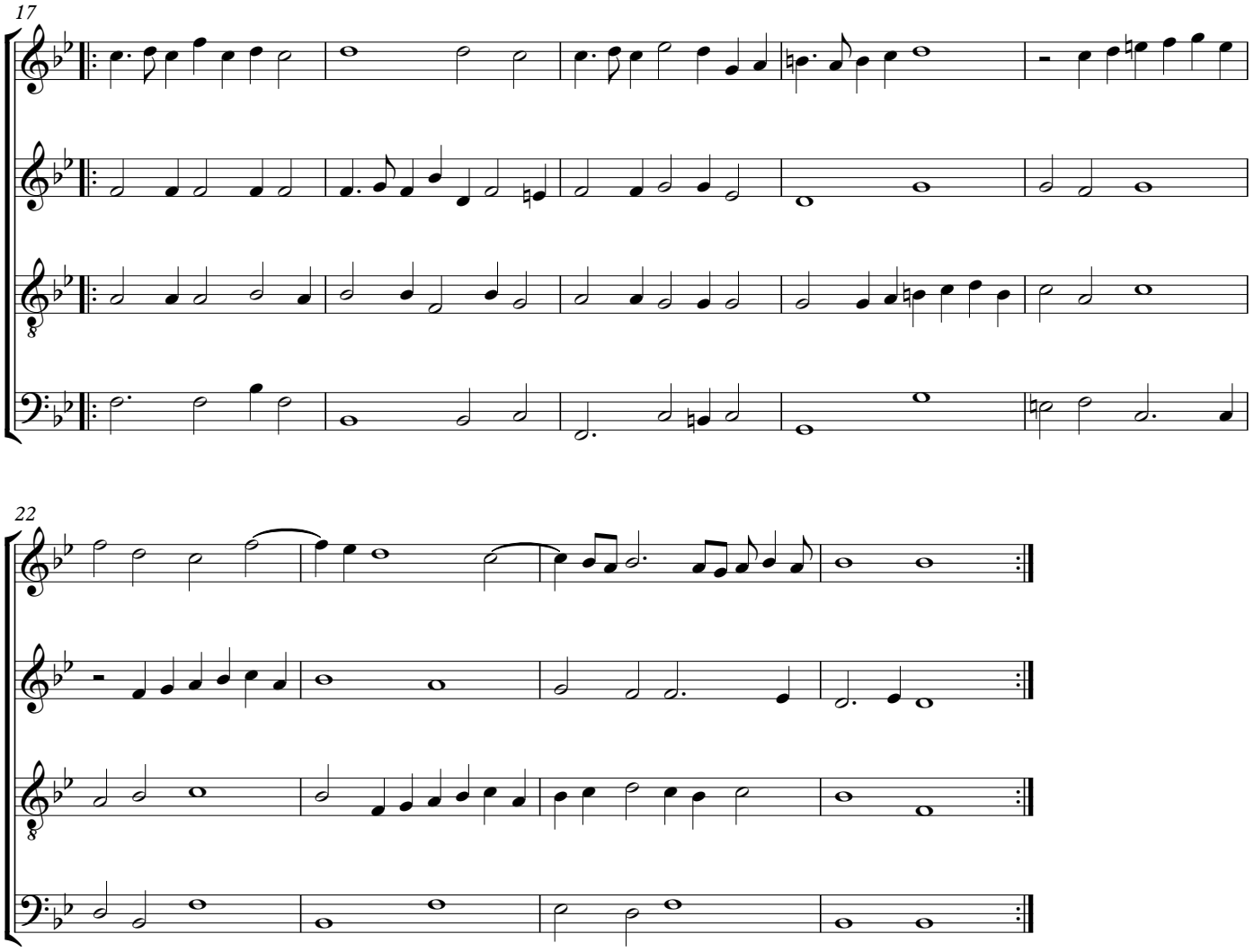
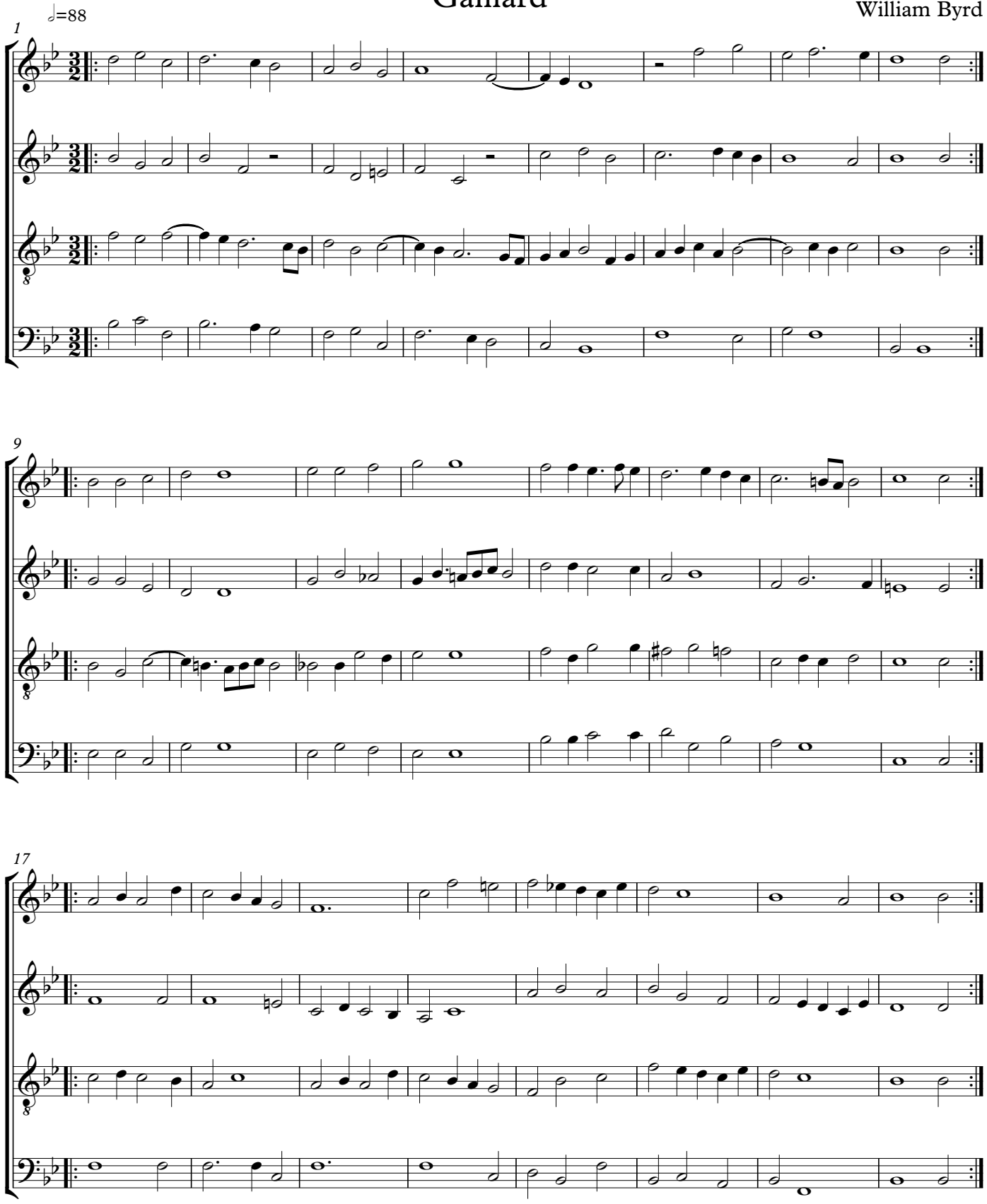
18
23

Pavan in B Flat

William Byrd




17
22

Galliard

William Byrd