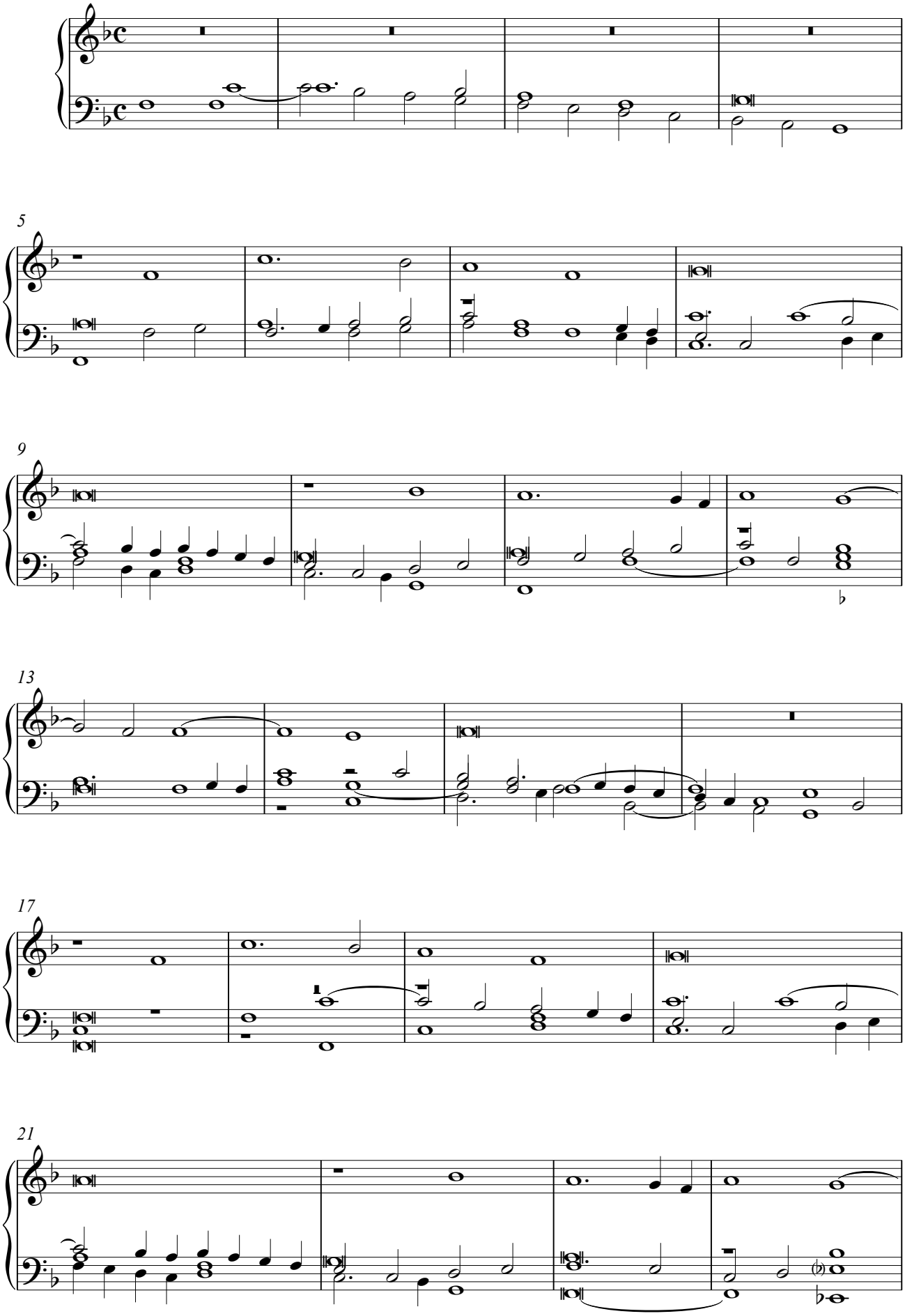
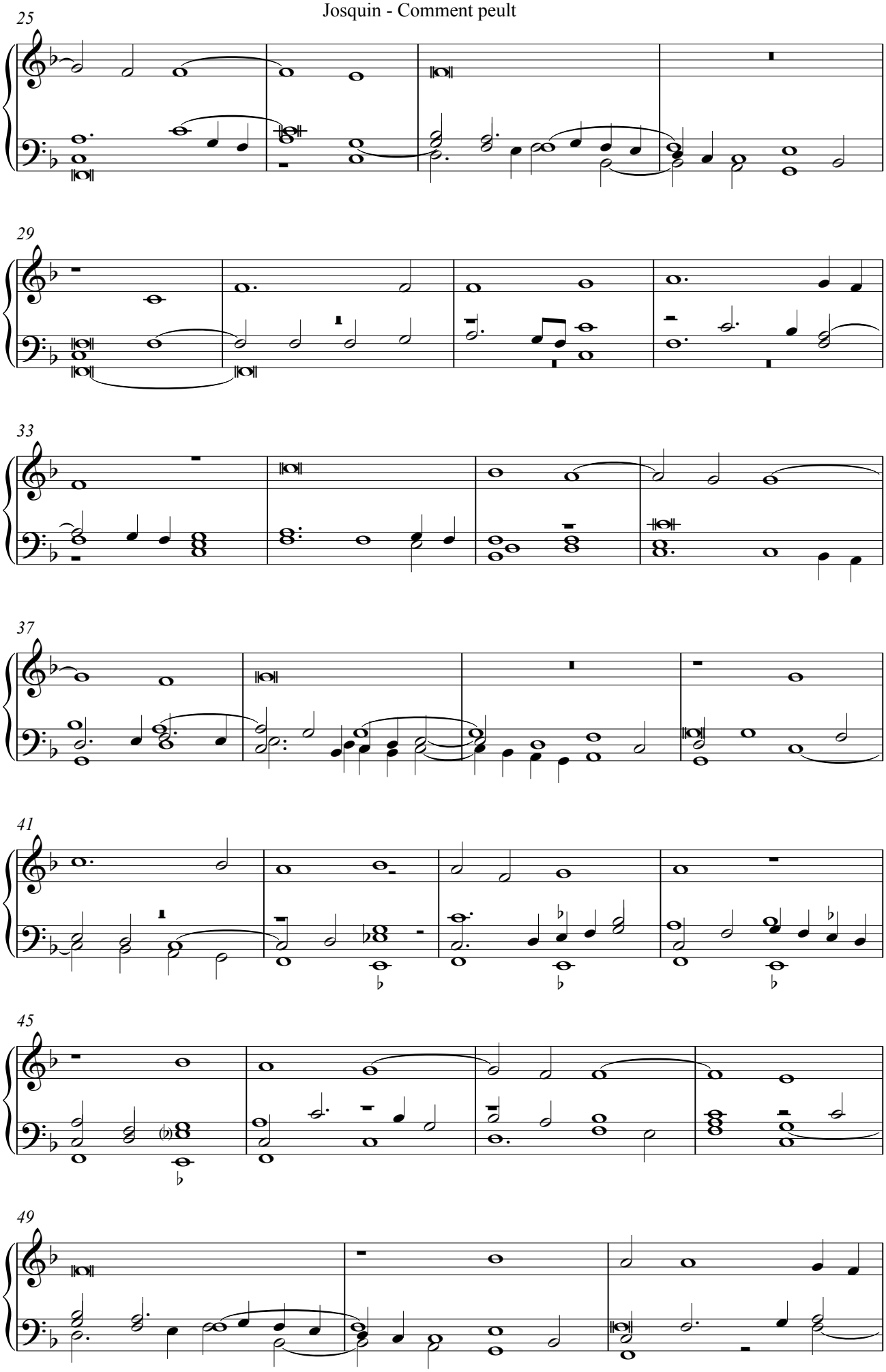
Comment peult

alla quinta bassa

Josquin Desprez (ca 1450 - 1521 Condé sur Escaut)

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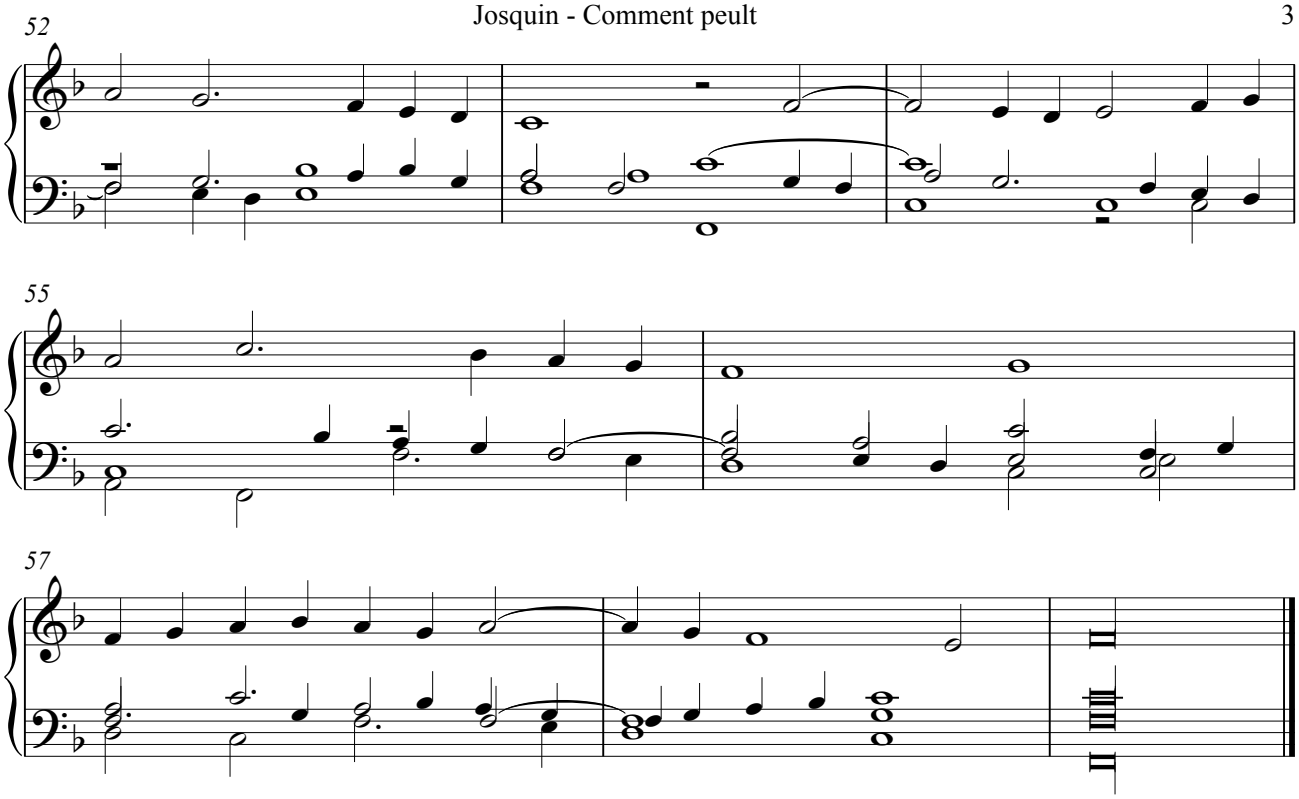

Edition based on Smijers, Wereldlijke werken, II 54, nr 56, I retained the note values because contemporary tabulatures halved the original note values. Original clefs G2, C3, (C3), C4. Note however, that g" cannot be sung by a male voice and so the piece should probably be performed a 5th down, alla quinta bassa, as has been indicated by the use of high clefs. A text has been given in the edition for four voices, but it does not appear in the polyphonic sources.
The tenor (starting in bar 7) is given in one source as: Fuga duorum temporum per dyapason: canon, two bars in the octave; signa congruentiae have been supplied in three sources at Superius bar 7 and 51. One of the sources is Petrucci, Canti B (1502).
NJE gives editorial b (here transposed to e) flats at Bassus bar 12 and Altus and Bassus bar 38. Glareanus gives no accidentals at all and handles this piece as an example of the hypoionic mode.
This keyboard transcription is an edition alla quinta bassa.
Unless you have pedals at your disposal you could leave out the E flats in Bass bars 43 and 45.