Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

(1562 – 1621)

Fantasia Chromatica

Edited for
Two Manual Organ
by John Zielinski
2018

The Dutch composer Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621) left no directions in his keyboard music as to its interpretation. The reader will find no dynamics, no registration, no tempo marks, scant ornamentation, and not a single indication as to which parts might be taken on a second manual or pedalboard. It is therefore incumbent upon the performer to make his own decisions.

I began learning the *Chromatic Fantasy* using Alexandre Guilmant's edition, but found it to be riddled with errors, omissions and (in my opinion) arbitrary editorial changes. Perhaps he did not have a reliable source to work with. I have arranged the piece to be playable on a two-manual instrument with only thumb pistons, and the pages are formatted such that the organist can comfortably turn them without an assistant. Certain passages with intricately crossed voices have been rewritten for readability (without changing any of the notes of course). The pedaling follows Guilmant except for a few bars of lighter texture where the use of the pedal seemed ponderous. Certain long-held notes have been slightly shortened to promote the clarity of other moving voices when necessary.

The registration is roughly inspired by Helmut Walcha's 1977 recording in which he begins the piece *mezzo forte*, pulls it back to *mezzo piano* at measure 70 with the introduction of the second counter-subject, pulls it back even further to *piano* in measure 120 at the descending scale motive, then gradually crescendos to the end by addition of stops. The numbers in circles that look like rehearsal numbers are thumb piston indications. The pistons on my instrument were programmed as such…

1. SW: Fl. 8', 4', 2', Prin. 4'; GR: Prin. 8', 4', Fl. 2'; PED: Prin. 16', 8', 4'
2. SW: as 1; GR: Fl. 8', 2'; PED: Prin. 16', 8'
3. SW: Fl. 8', 4'; GR: Fl. 8', 2'; PED: Fl. 16', 8'
4. SW: as 3; GR: Fl. 8', Prin. 4': PED: as 3
5. SW: as 1; GR: as 4; PED: Prin. 16', Fl. 8'
6. SW: as 5; GR: Prin. 8', 4', 2'; PED: as 5
7. SW: + Mix; GR: as 6; PED: Prin. 16', 8', 4', mix
8. SW: as 7; GR: + Mix; PED: as 7

---John Zielinski, 10/18/2020

Fantasia Chromatica

J. P. Sweelinck
ed. John Zielinski

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Allegro Moderato

mf

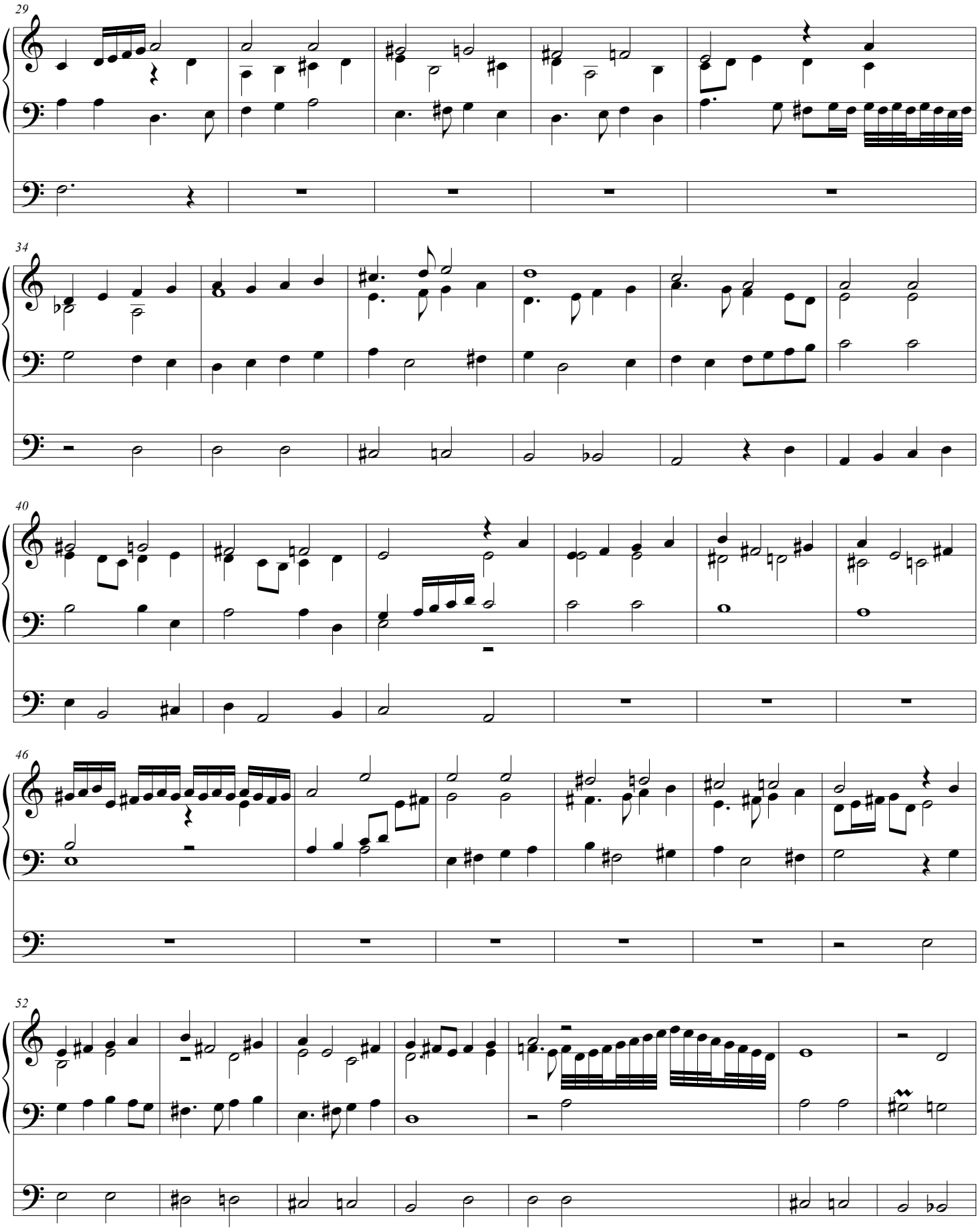
GR.

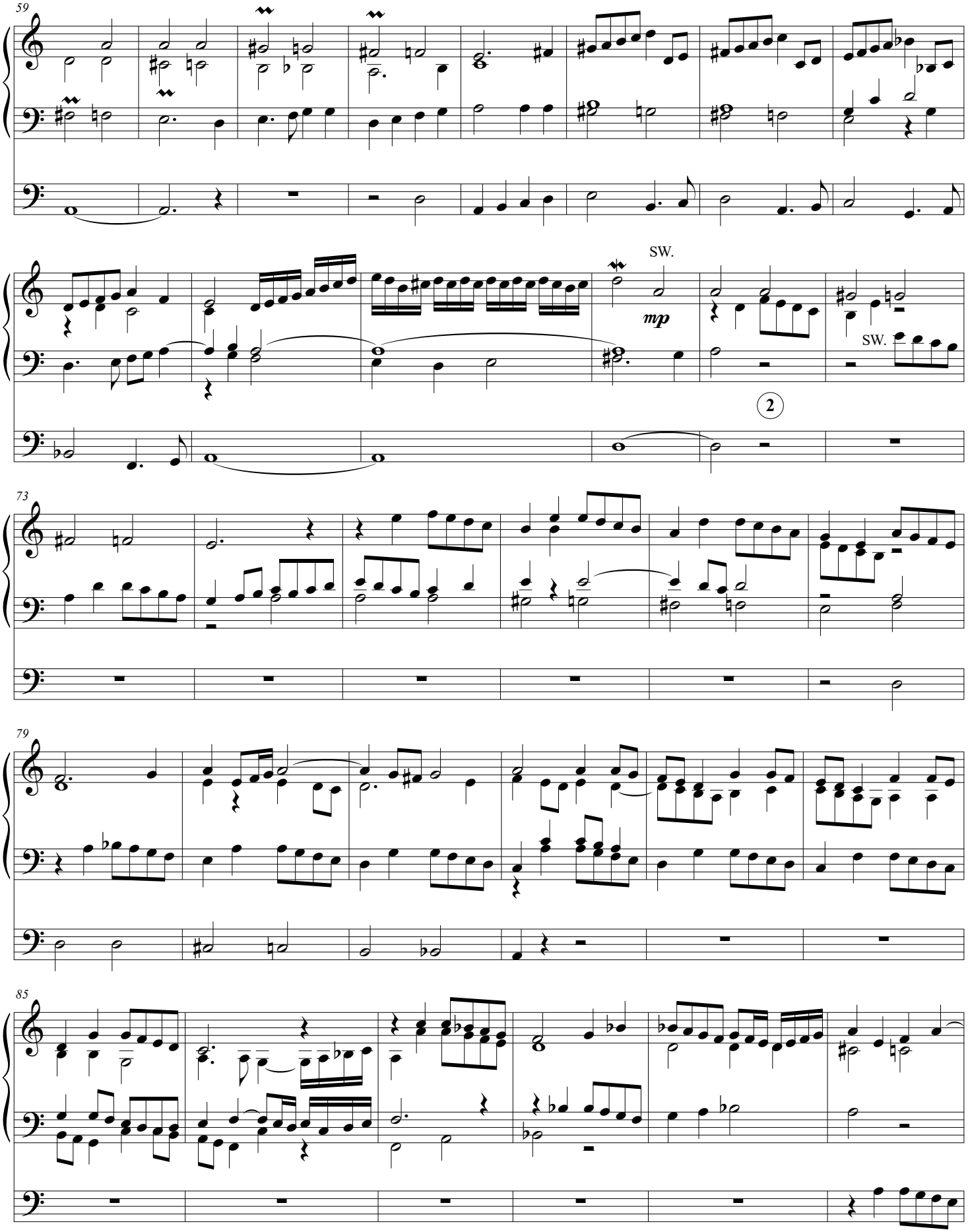
GR.

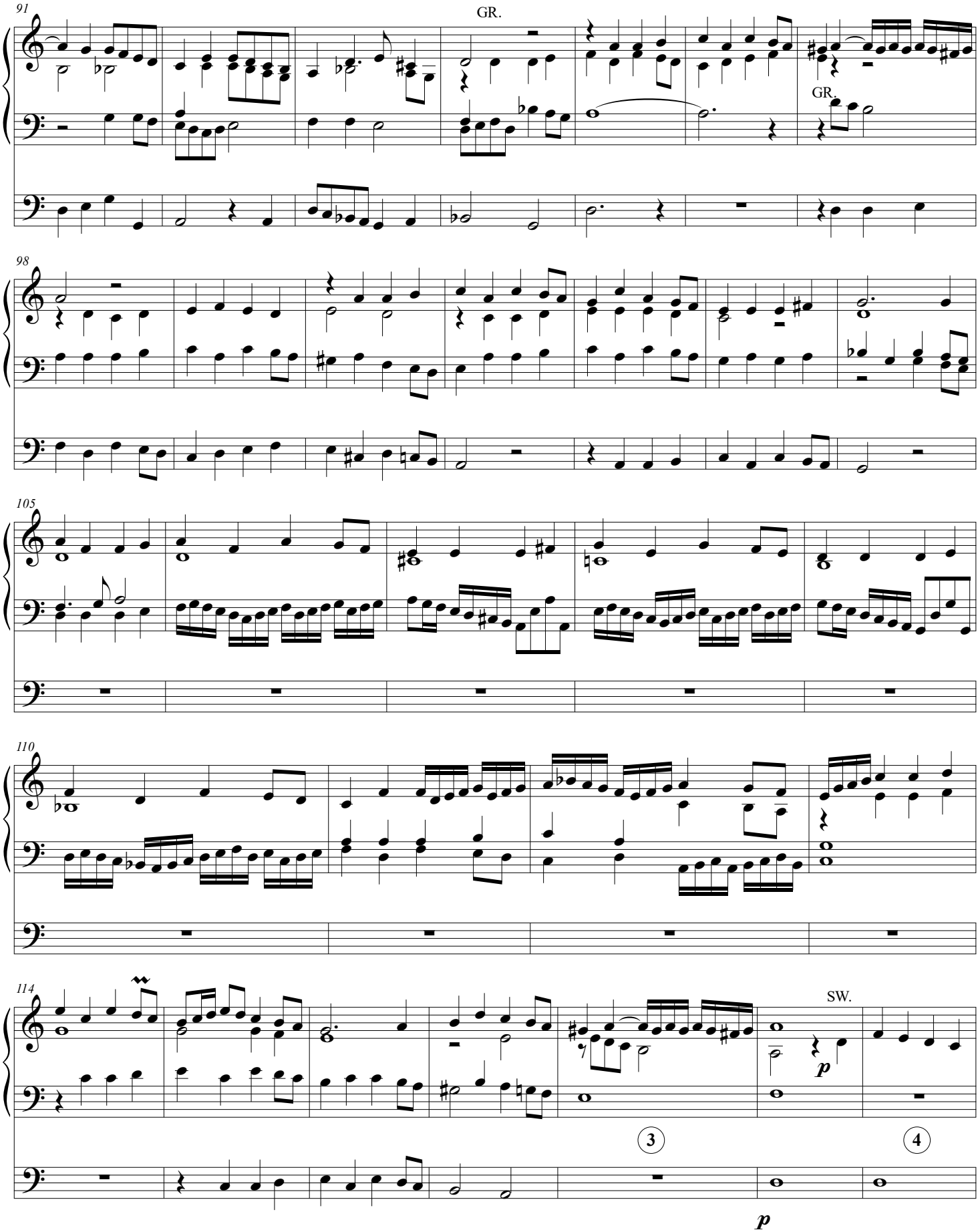
9

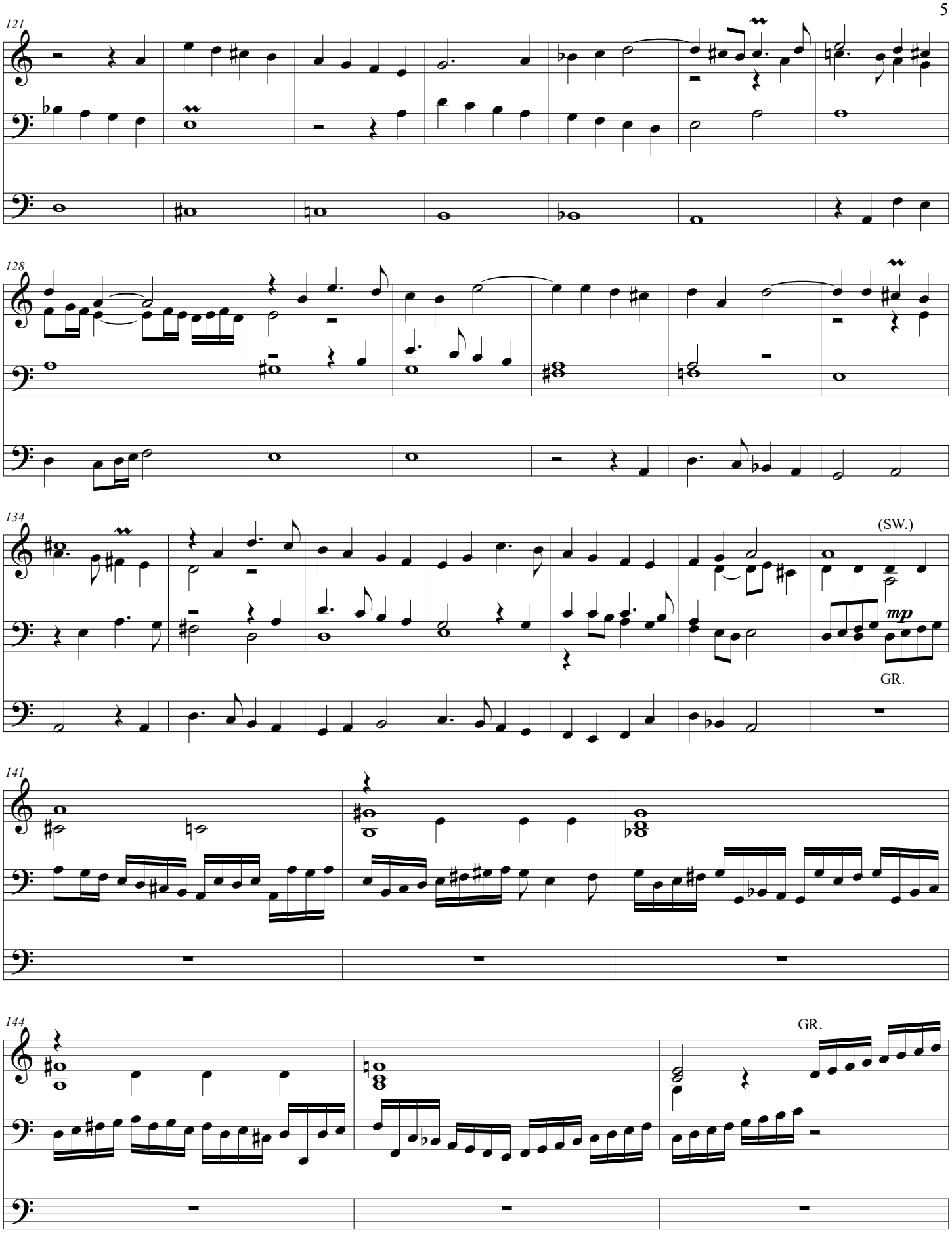
15

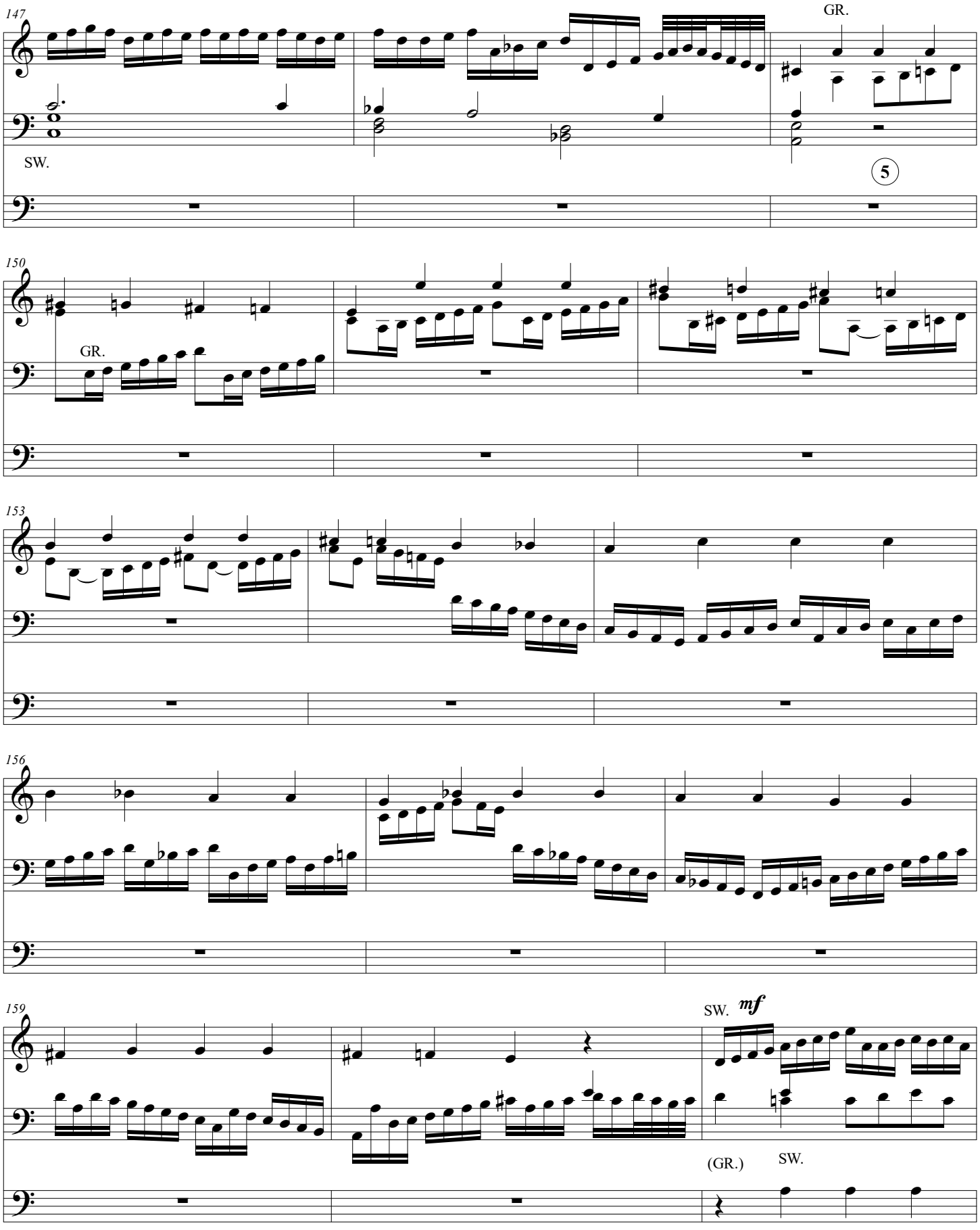
22

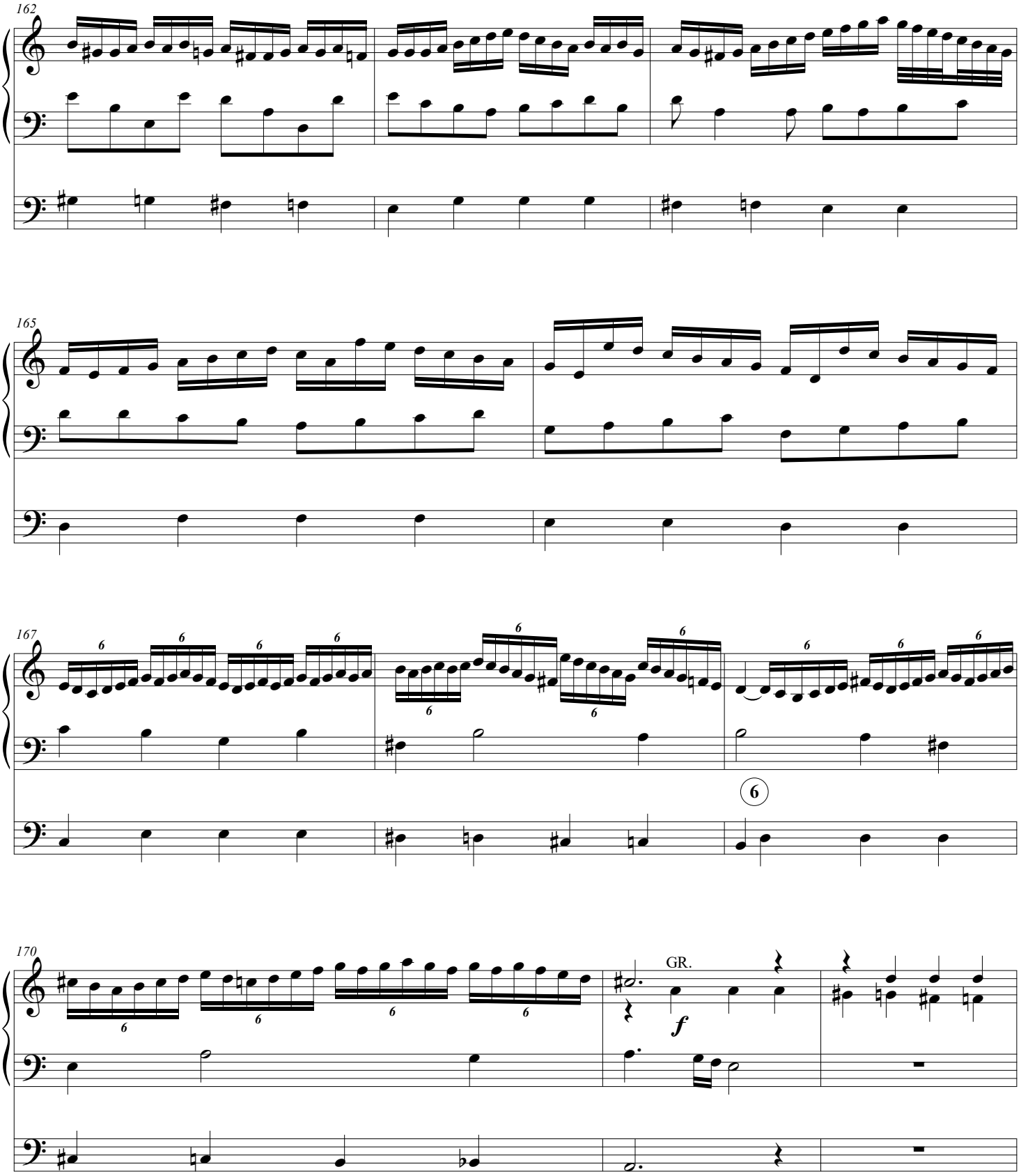

29
34
40
46
52

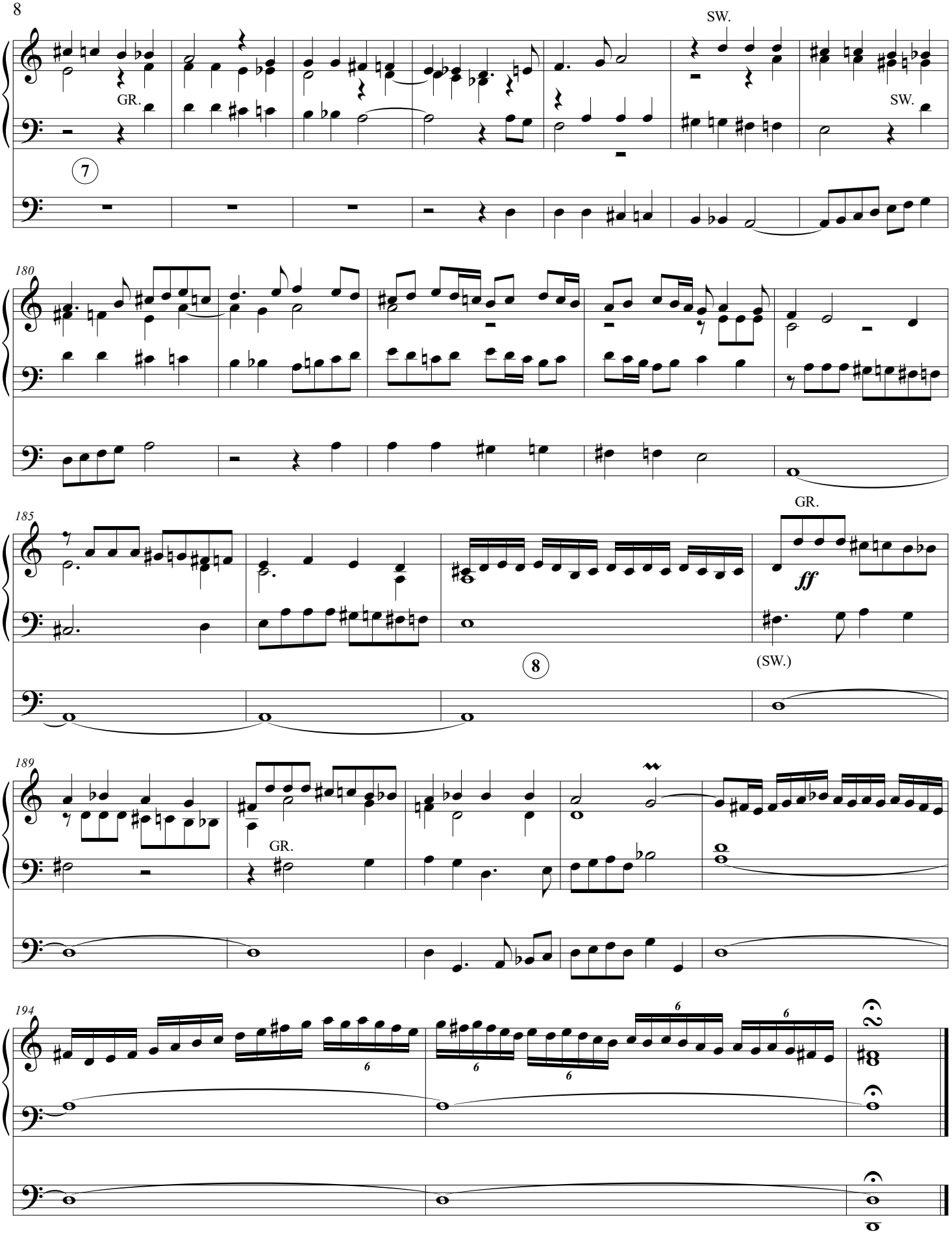

59
SW.
mp
SW.
2
73
79
85


91
GR.
GR.
98
105
110
114
SW.
3
4
p
p


121
128
134
(SW.)
mp
GR.
141
144
GR.


147
GR.
SW.
5
150
GR.
153
156
159
SW.
mf
(GR.)
SW.


162
165
167
6
170
GR.
f


SW.
GR.
SW.
7
180
185
GR.
ff
8
(SW.)
189
GR.
194
6
6
6
6