Anton Bruckner

Aequale II

for 3 trombones

Full score

with piano arrangement

a new completion
of the bass trombone part
by Mateusz Łuczak

2024

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Sources of figures:

Fig. 1 Getty Images
Fig. 2 Jonathan Harker, Yamaha Corporation (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trombone)

Introduction

Two Aequali (WAB 114, 149) were composed by Bruckner in 1847. Scored for three trombones (alto, tenor and bass), they are quite popular among his chamber works. They were probably written in memory of Bruckner's aunt, Rosalia Mayrhofer (Howie 2004: 55).

Fig. 1 Anton Bruckner

The term *aequale* refers to a piece for several 'equal' voices or instruments, especially one used at the funeral service in Austria in 18th and 19th century. Another example of the genre is Beethoven's set of three aequali for a trombone quartet (*Drei Equales*, WoO 30).

Fig. 2 Alto, tenor and bass trombones

Bruckner's aequali "express hope and comfort rather than grief," which is shown by frequent modulations to major keys. In addition, the cadences end with whole notes extended by fermatas, which make the phrases uneven in a manner similar to plainchant (Kinder 2000: 9).

In *Aequale II*, the part of the bass trombone was missing. For the first *Gesamtausgabe* (collected works), this part was reconstructed by Hans Bauernfeind. Recently other reconstructions have appeared:

- William Carragan's reconstruction is recorded on the CD "Music of St Florian Period: Vol. II" [1].
- Two other ones, whose scores can be found online are by Rob Peters [2] and by Liam C. Flood, for carillon [3].
- Still different versions can be heard in some recordings of the piece (e.g.: by James Justin Kent [4] and by Bart Claessens, Nico Schippers and Martin Schippers) [5].

The present completion is derived from an arrangement within the **Bruckner for Guitar** project [6]. I dared to offer it for musical and practical reasons (I did not like Bauernfeind's version and I did not have access to scores of all the other versions. But first of all, I wanted to create a part that could be played on the guitar).

The aim of this edition is to make this new reconstruction available for trombonists or possibly other arrangers. Compared to earlier completions, the bass part is more like that in *Aequale I*, namely more chromatic and with longer note values. The initial and final sections are clearly different but significant differences also appear in the middle, for example in mm. 14-16, presented here in 4 different reconstructions for comparison. What can be seen is that my completion is similar to reconstructions 3 and 4.

You can listen to a recording of *Aequale II* as completed by me and arranged for guitar, here: https://mateuszluczak4.wixsite.com/bruckner-for-guitar/music.

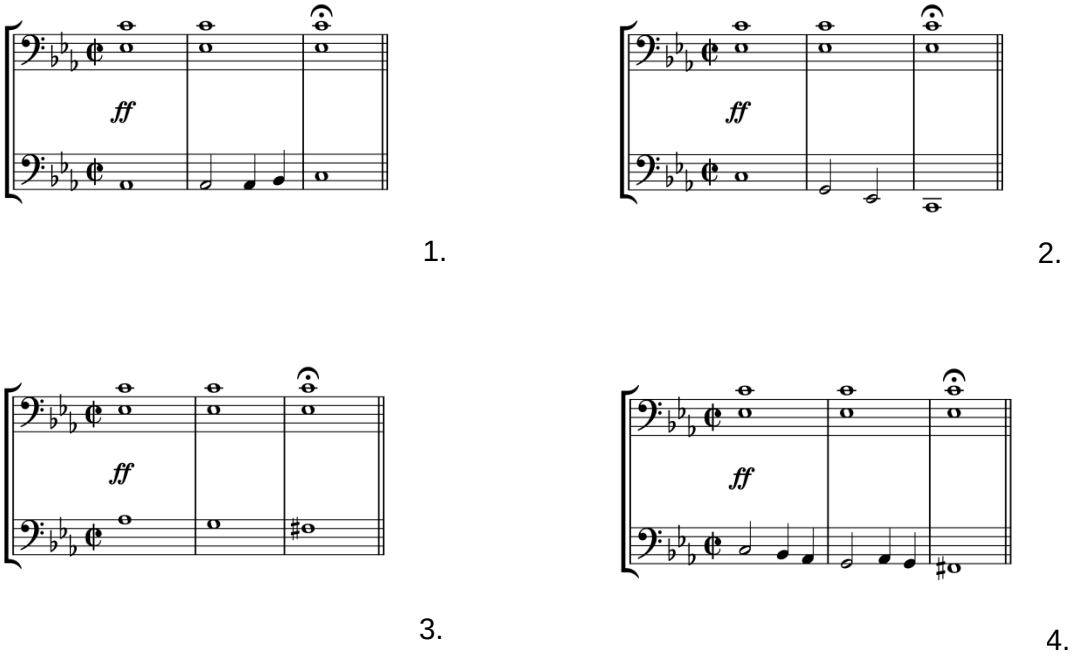


Fig. 3 Reconstructions of mm. 14-16 by 1. H. Bauernfiend, 2. R. Peters, 3. L. C. Flood, 4. W. Carragan

References:

Anton Bruckner *Gesamtausgabe* [Collected Works]. Musikwissenschaftlicher Verlag, Vienna:

- vol. XXI. H. Bauernfeind, L. Nowak (ed.) Kleine Kirchenmusikwerke 1835-1892 (1984/2001)

Howie, A. C. 'Bruckner and the motet'. In: J. Williamson (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Bruckner*. Cambridge University Press 2004, pp. 54-63.

Howie, A. C. Anton Bruckner: *A Documentary Biography. Vol. I- II*. Edwin Mellen Press 2002 (rev. 2020-2021) https://www.abruckner.com/articles/articlesenglish/HowieBrucknerBio

Kinder, K. W. *The Wind and Wind-Chorus Music of Anton Bruckner*. Westport, CT, Greenwood Press 2000

Websites:

[1] https://www.abruckner.com/store/downloads/BSVD0111/

[2] http://imslp.org/wiki/Aequale%2C_WAB_149_(Bruckner%2C_Anton)

[3] https://www.abruckner.com/downloads/scoresorchestraltr/transcription-for-carollon

[4] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXf_YVMw9PI

[5] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2f--T64kZo

[6] https://mateuszluczak4.wixsite.com/bruckner-for-guitar

The original manuscripts of the work may be viewed on Bruckner Online (go to the list of works: http://www.bruckner-online.at/?page_id=1588, enter „Aequale" in the „Titel" field or „149" in the „WAB Nummer" field.

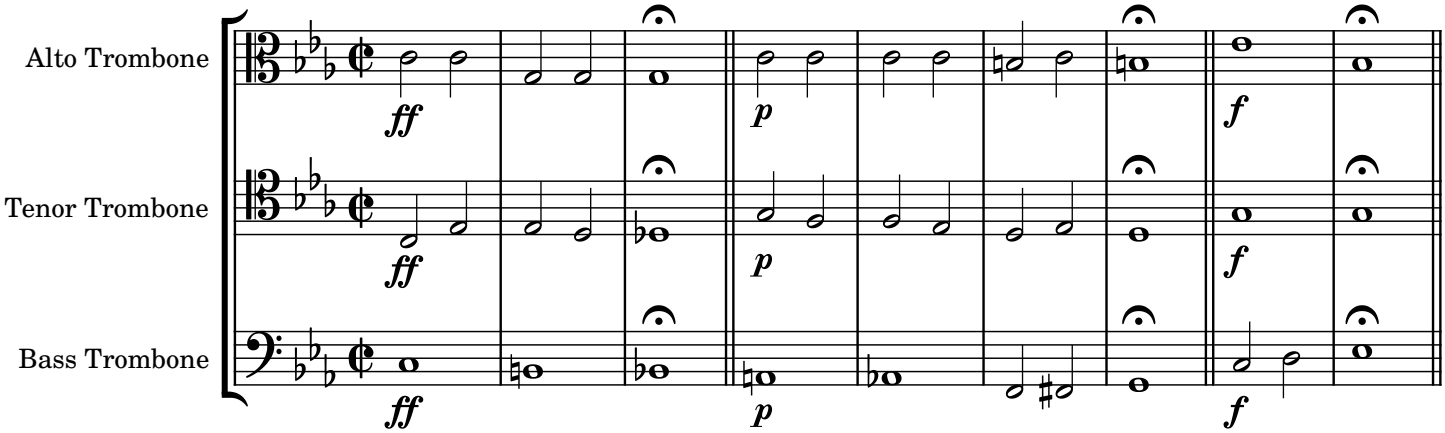
Aequale II

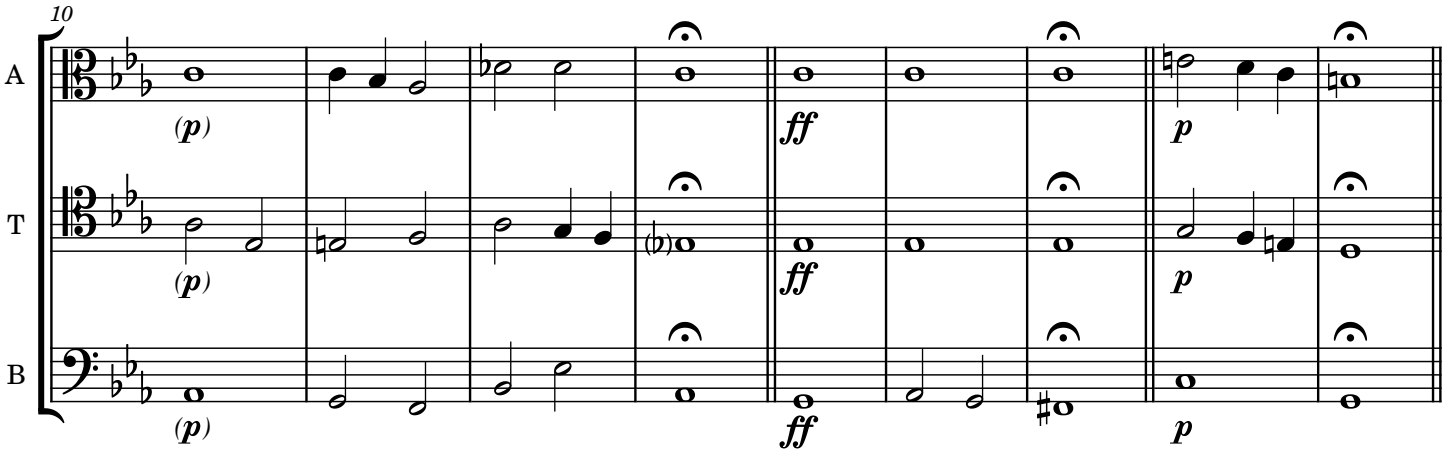
Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

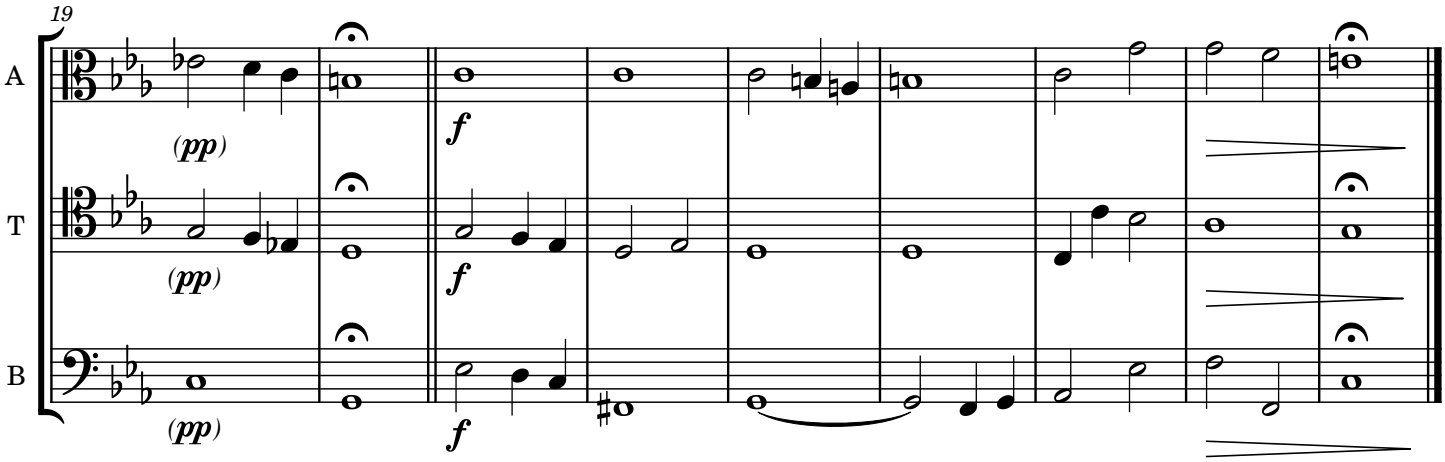
bass trombone part completed by
Mateusz Łuczak

for 3 trombones

(Grave)







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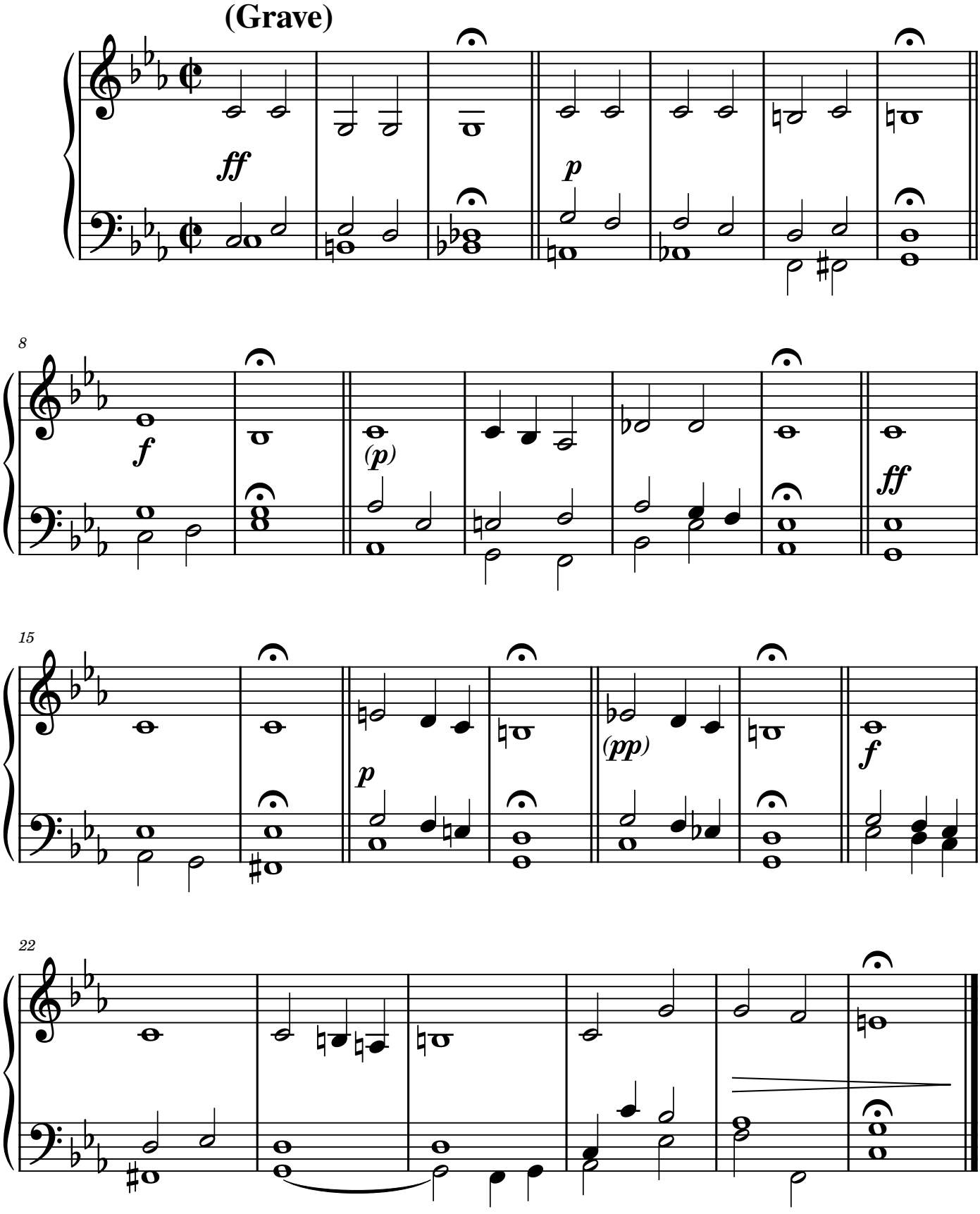
Aequale II

for piano

Anton Bruckner

(completion of bass trombone part
and piano arrangement by
Mateusz Łuczak)



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