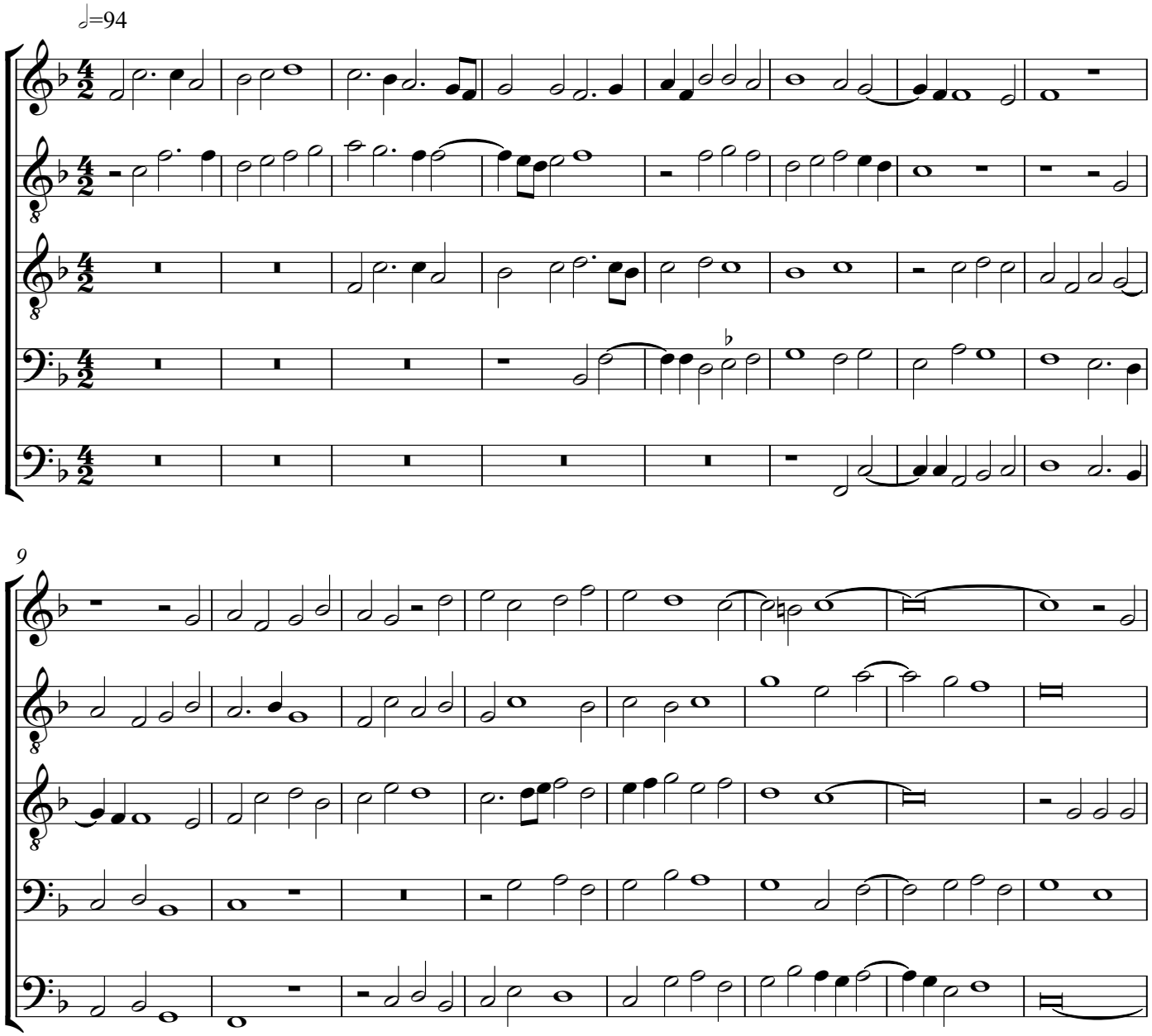
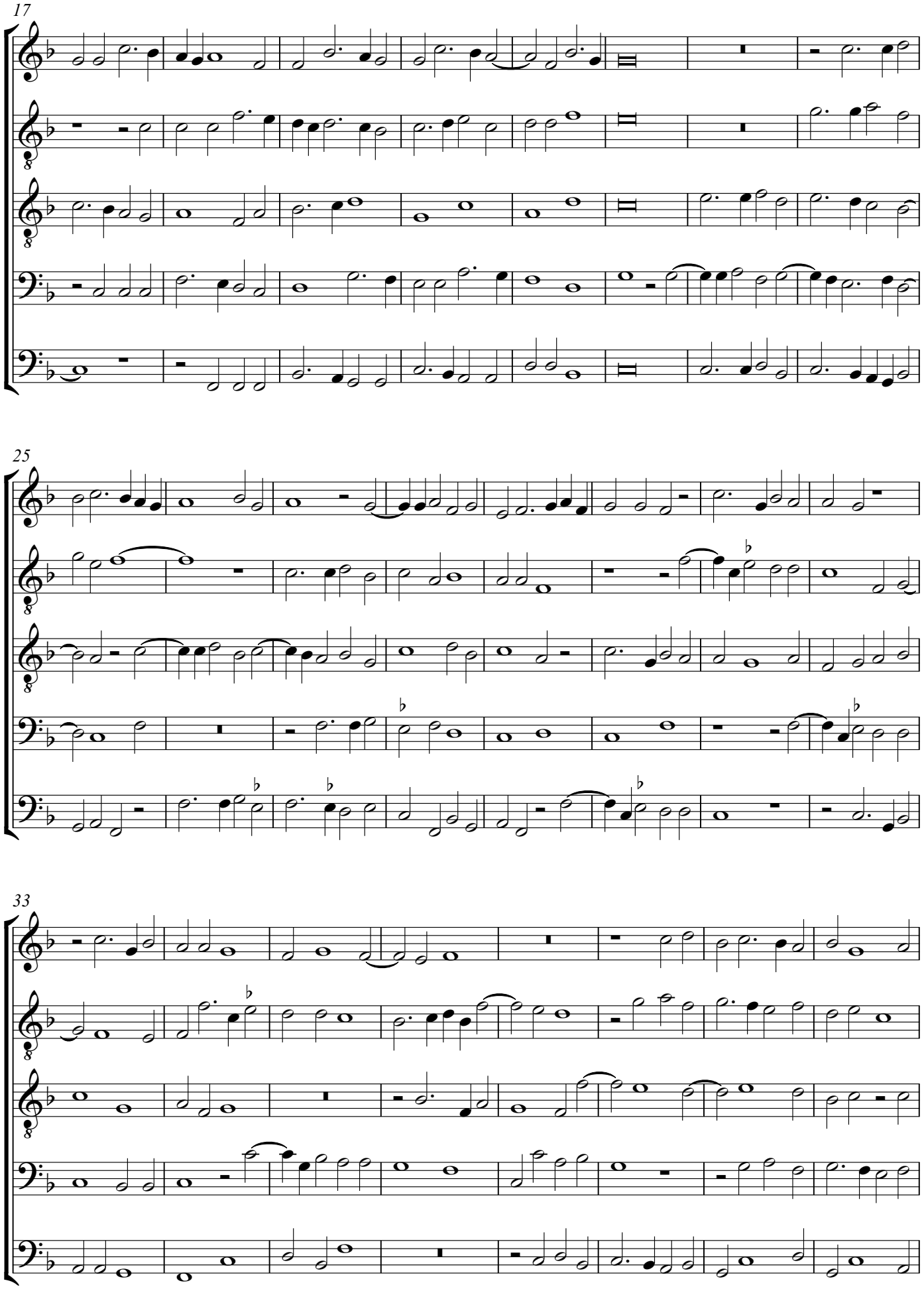
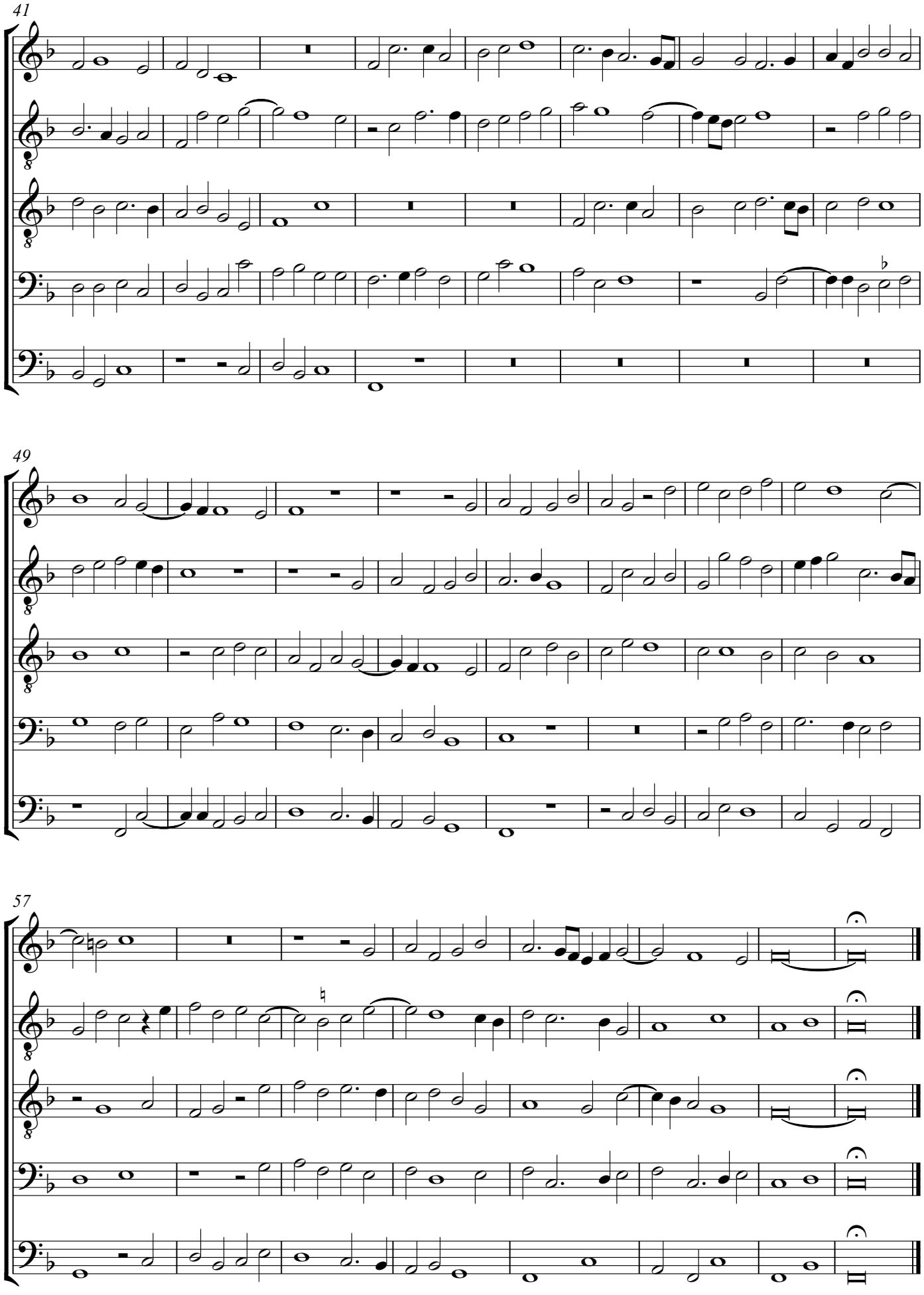
Source: Musica Britannica 44.
This piece exhibits in a small space the sophisicated number relationships between sections that were prevalent in masses, magnificats, antiphons and such like in the 15th and 16th Centuries. Sections normally ended for this purpose when the first voice came to its final note, however long that was (first finisher). Pauses were disregarded.
Here there are no changes of scoring to delimit the sections, rather it is a cadence and a new point.
The count in semibreves is as follows:
18,12,12,15,15,14,18,22, total 126.
126=7x18=14x9=42x3 so the 14 is 1/9 of the total.
Immediately there is a twin relationship between the 18s, 12s and 15s.
18:12=3:2
18+12=30=15+15.
12+15+15=42 which is 1/3 of the total.
18+12+12=42.
18+22=40, in the ratio of 4:3 with the 30s already mentioned.
14+22=36=twice 18.
12+12+15+15=54=14+18+22

A Solfing Song

Thomas Tallis




17
25
33


41
49
57