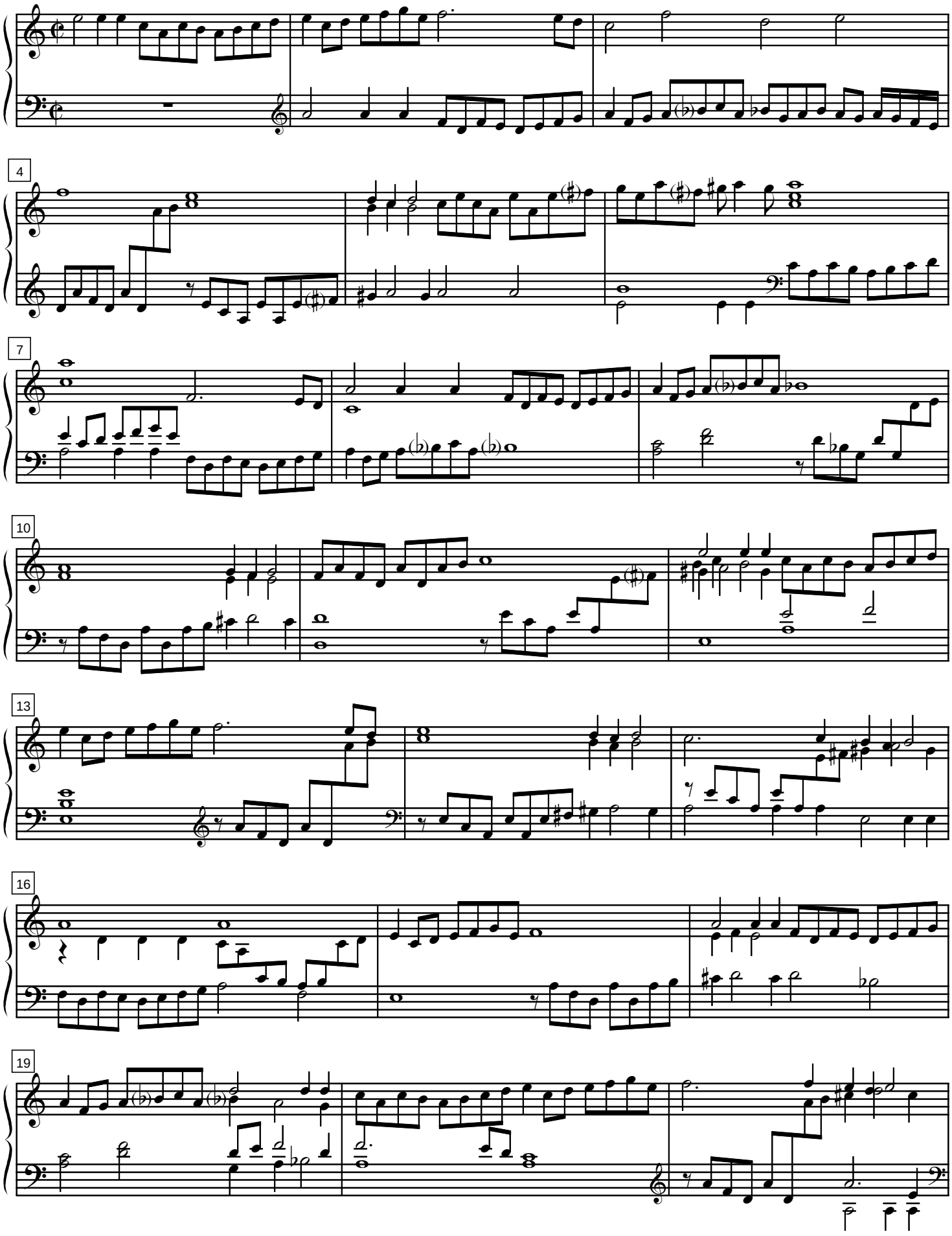
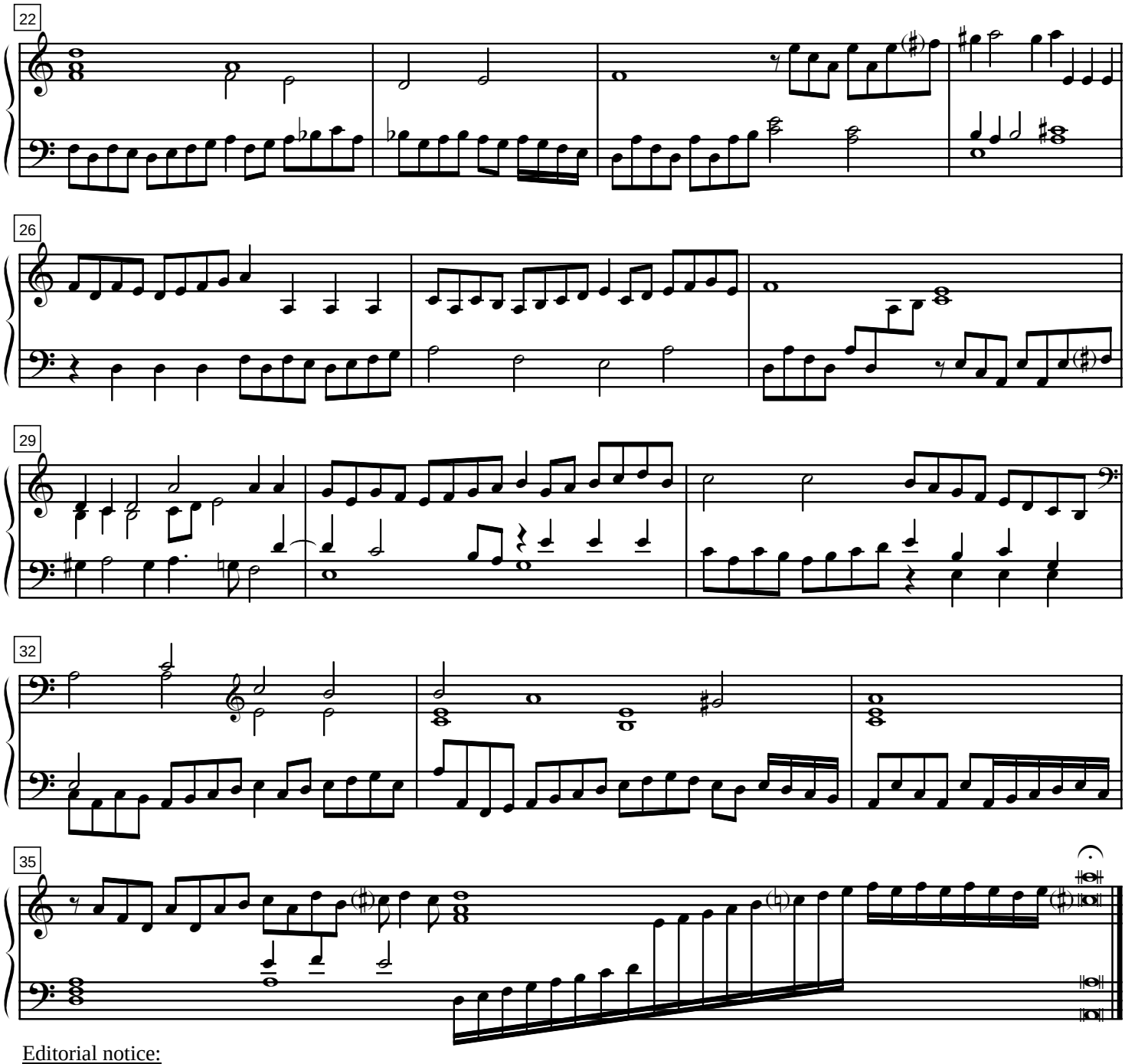
Canzon

Giovanni Gabrieli (1553-1612)





Editorial notice:

Source: Manuscript Mus. Ms. 40316 (formerly identified as Mus. Ms. 191), Staatsbibliothek Berlin, as reproduced in:
Dr. K. Ph. Bernet Kempers, "Muziekgeschiedenis" (Rotterdam 1940), pag.138-139.
The manuscript dates from the 17th century. Incipit of the piece: "Canzon Joann Gabriel."
The notation is in Italian keyboard tabulature. For this edition I have tried to retain the spirit of the tabulature notation by clearly dividing the music between left and right hand. The editorial additions and changes are listed below.

* All accidentals in brackets are added by the editor.
* Bar 11, first note, right hand: the manuscript has a semiquaver rest. The note f1 has been added to provide a proper resolution of the preceding note g1.
* Bar 20, first note, middle voice: in original half note without dot.
* Bar 30: in the original, the first note in the middle voice is a dotted half note c1. Changed to quarter note d1 (tied to the preceding note) and half note c1 to avoid parallel fifths.
* Bar 30, 9th note, left hand: changed from c1 to e1.
* Bar 35: strangely enough, in the right hand, the last chord reads a1-f2 in the manuscript. Changed here to c#2-a2, but e1-c#2 is also possible. The last group of semiquavers has two redundant added sharps, placed below the notes. A possible explanation for these sharps is that the last group of semiquavers should be played a thrird higher (a, g#, a, g#, a, g#, a, f#, g#) with an extension of the prededing upwards run with two extra notes, f and g. However, the present notation sounds more satisfying. Gabrieli's exact intentions for the conclusion of the piece remain unclear.

Rob Peters, june 2006