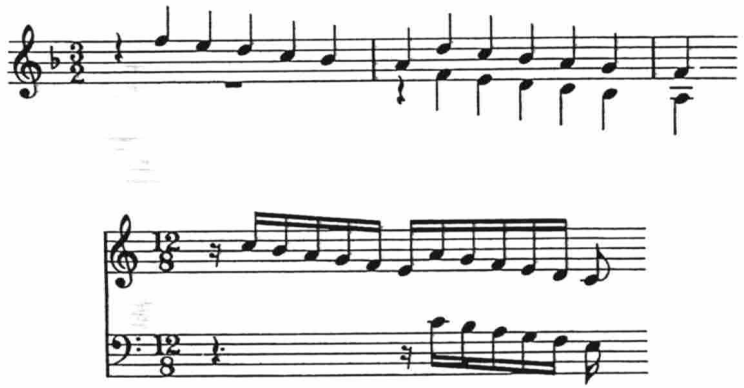
CHRISTE, DU LAMM GOTTES

The text of this chorale is a German translation of the Agnus Dei and the word *trägst* :ar), "you who *bear* the sin of the world," may have provided a reference for canonic :atment as in the similar *getragen* of the previous chorale.

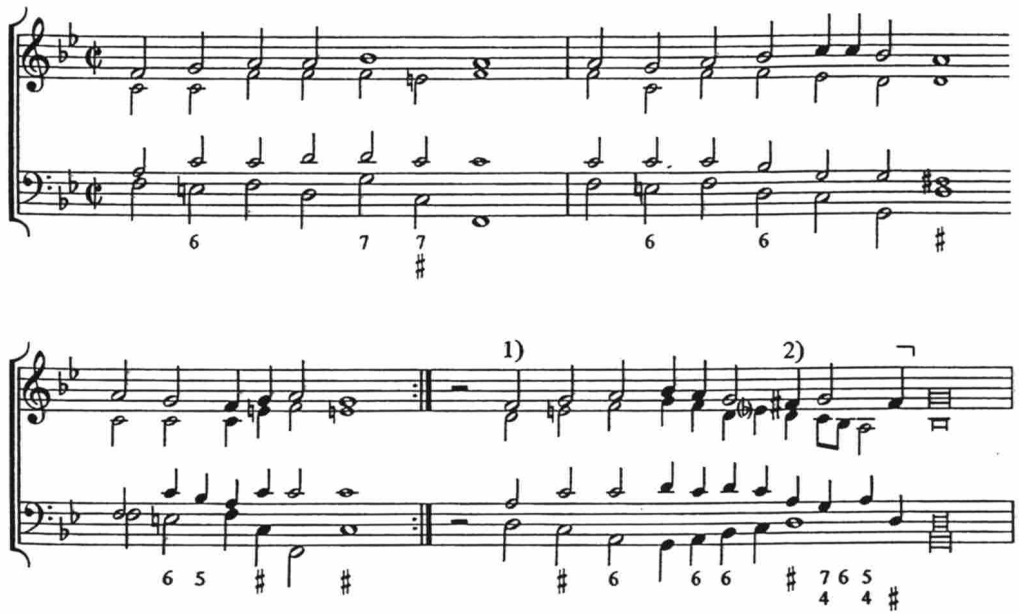
More apparent than the canonic treatment of the chorale is the quasi-canonic treat-:nt of a motive formed from two descending hexachords first appearing in measures 1 d 2. Friedrich Smend, in his important study of the *Canonic Variations* on "Vom Him-:l hoch" (BWV 769 and 769a), noted the similarity of this motive to the opening :asures of the *Canonic Variations*:[1]



Performance on two manuals and pedal is indicated in the autograph, both by the :ection "à 2 Clav. e ped." and by brackets on the staff: each hand takes one canonic and e noncanonic voice. Registration may be austere and simple. The contrasting 8′ Prin-)als of the *Hauptwerk* and *Oberwerk* such as may be found on many 18th-century central :rman organs may provide an ideal for registration of the upper four voices. Another ınner of registration, reflecting French practice, would include a reed in the left hand and Cornet or Sesquialtera in the right hand.

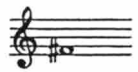
[1]Friedrich Smend, "Bachs Kanonwerk über 'Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her,' " *Bach-Jahrbuch* 30 (1933): 18. An-Heiller believed that this motive was derived from manipulation of notes from the last phrase of "Vom Himmel hoch" was used by Bach systematically as a sign of the Incarnation. This motive is also prominent in the Prelude in C Major VV 547). The mixture of a Christmas sign with a Passion chorale was, according to Heiller, a figure for the theological cept that Christ was born into the world to suffer. Thus Christ's incarnation and passion are inseparable, and Bach tried xpress this through musical means (see also the note to the commentary on "O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde gross," p. 84).

Weissenfels, 171·



Original one step higher.

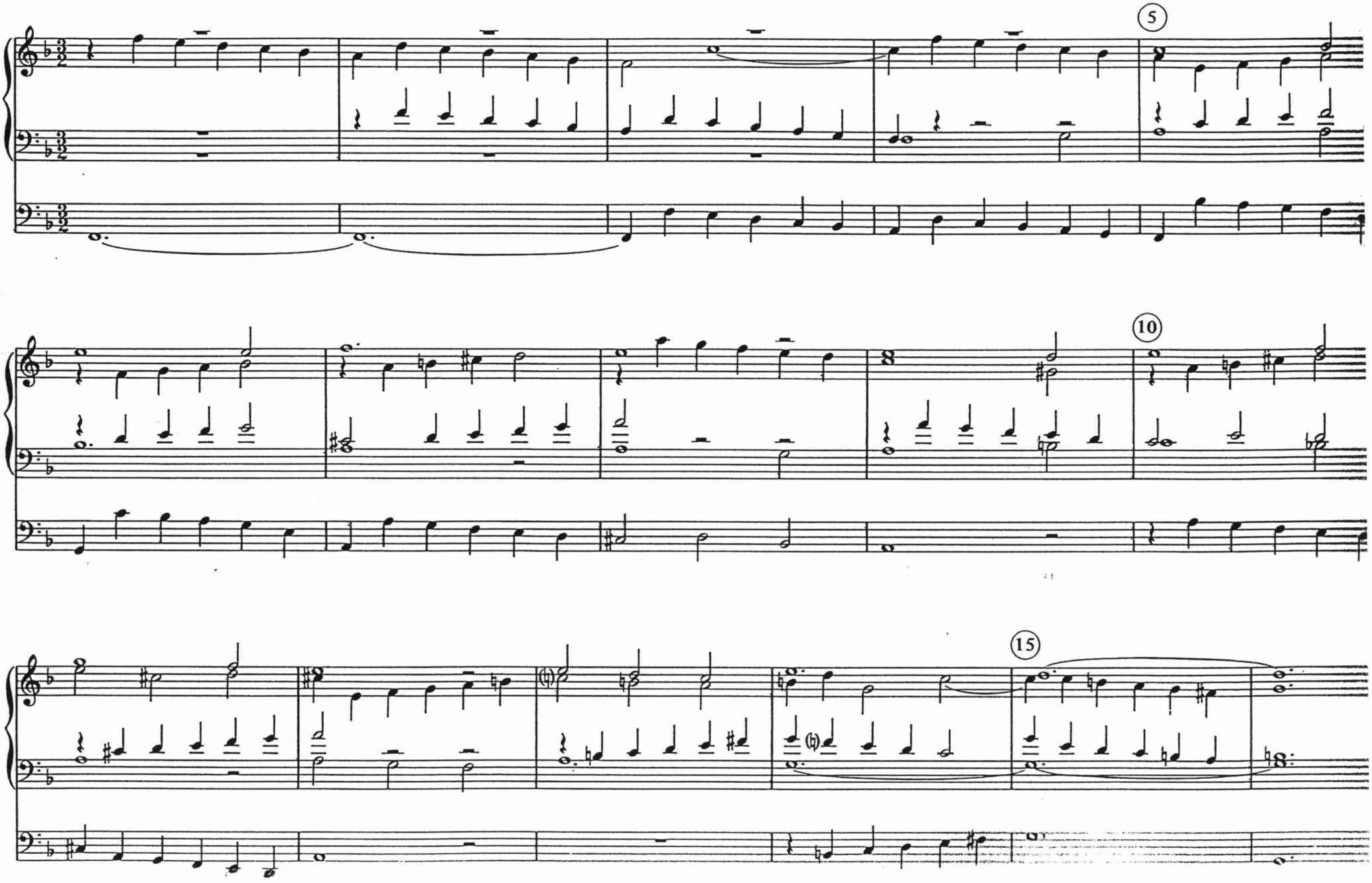
1) Bach omits this concluding phrase.

2) Original melody 

Christe, du Lamm Gottes,
der du trägst die Sünd der Welt,
erbarm dich unser!

O Christ, Lamb of God,
You who bear the sin of the world,
have mercy on us!

(German Agnus Dei)

CHRISTE, DU LAMM GOTTES

in Canone alla duodecima
à 2 Clav. et Ped.
BWV 619