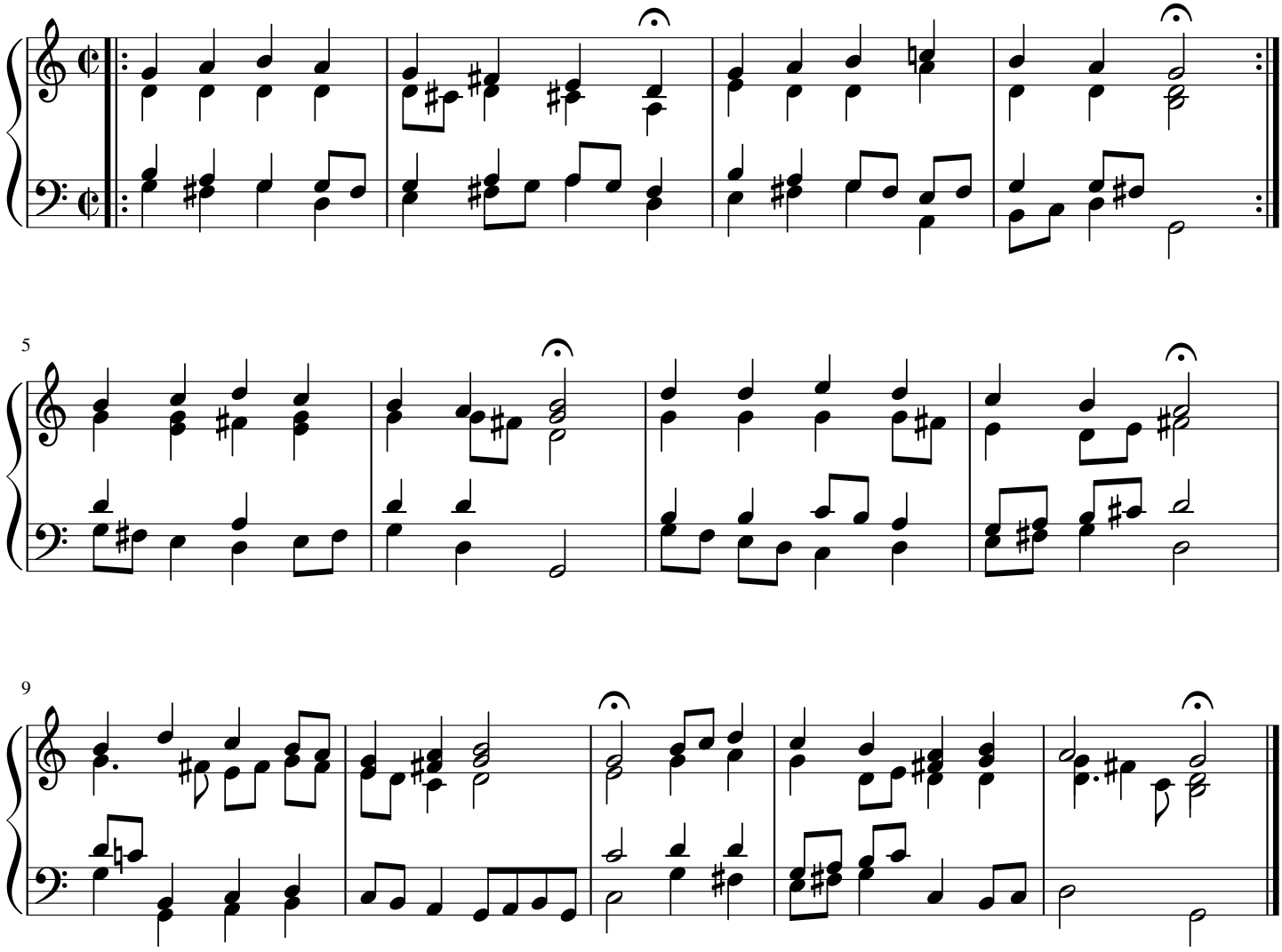
Choral: Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele
Rejoice greatly, o my soul
Album for the Young, Album für die Jugend op. 68, no. 4

Robert Schumann, 1848

Robert Schumann did not tell us the source of his choral melody nor of his setting.
He admired **J.S. Bach**, who used this choral melody several times,
e.g. for the final chorus (**see below**) of his cantata **BWV 32**
"Liebster Jesu, mein Verlangen" (Beloved Jesus, my desire)
A feasible simplification of this chorus seems very close to Schumanns piano version:



Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele,
und vergiß all Not und Qual,
weil dich nun Christus, dein Herre,
ruft aus diesem Jammertal.
Aus Trübsal und großem Leid
sollst du fahren in die Freud,
die kein Ohr hat je gehöret,
die in Ewigkeit auch währet.

Rejoice greatly, o my soul,
and forget all misery and torment
since Christ your Lord
calls you from this valley of misery!
From affliction and sorrow
you will journey to the joy
no ear has ever heard
that awaits you in eternity

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In creating his chorale/Psalm melody for the Geneva Psalm 42 “Ainsi que la biche rée” in his collection of Psalms in “Pseaumes octante trios de David” (Gene, 1551), Louis Bourgeois took a secular song “Ne l’oseray je dire” contained in “Manuscrit de Bayeux” (circa 1510) and transformed it into a sacred chorale/Psalm melody. This chorale melody "Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele" was then used by several composers and also by Johann Sebastian Bach in several of his cantatas.

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