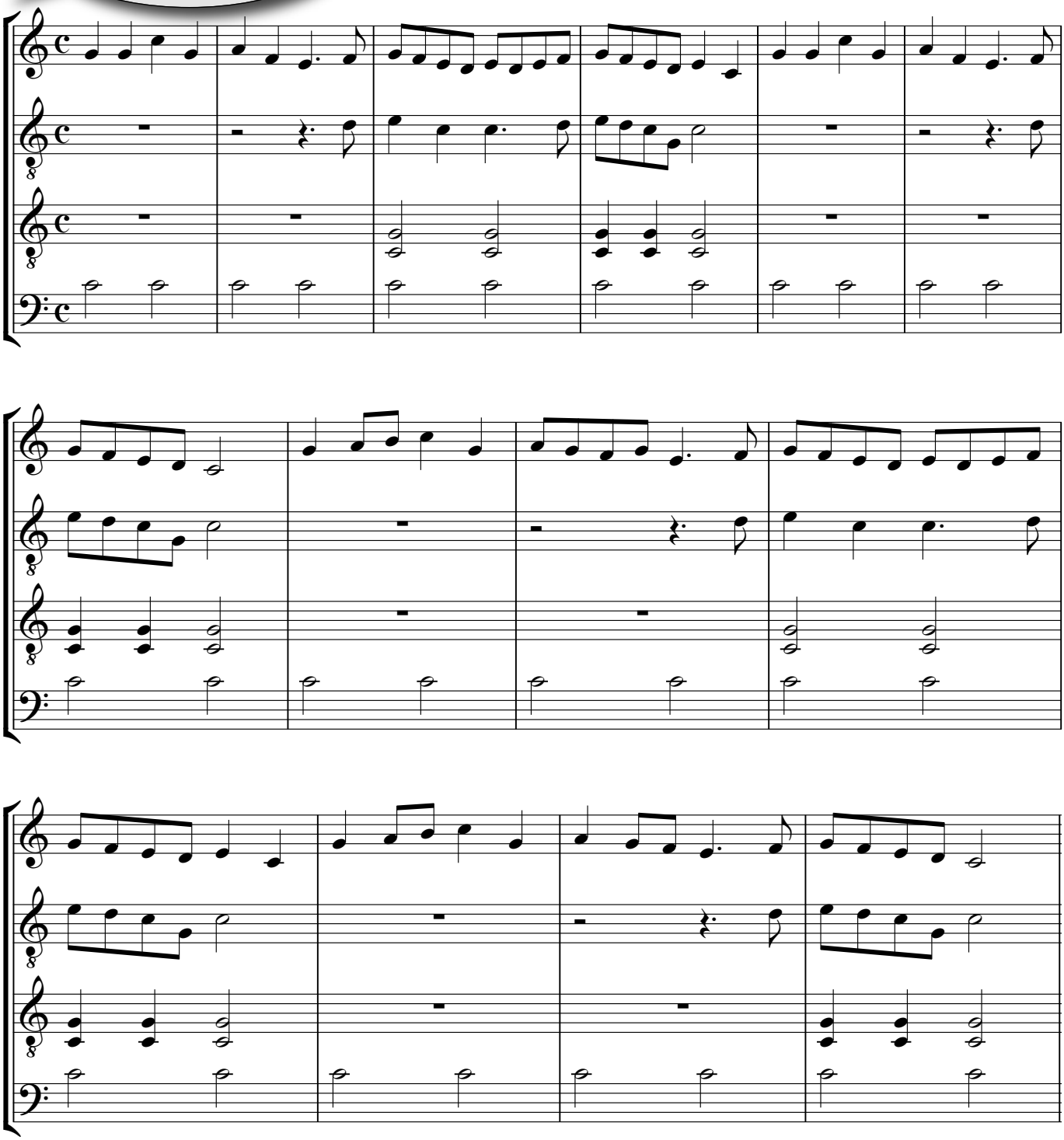
3. Branles de Village

The framework of this piece is made up of a melody and a drone. I suggest an arrangement for a larger ensemble.

Robert Ballard (?–1588)
Middle parts by Monika Mandelartz



Voice Leading

In classical music, there are certain voice leading rules which, if you follow them, lead to a harmonious piece of music.

VOICE LEADING

Parallel fifths and octaves are prohibited.

Where does this ban on parallel fifths and octaves come from?

Parallel voice leading sounds like folk music and music from the Middle Ages, both of which were considered old-fashioned by the 16th century. As our modern understanding of harmony arose, parallel voice leading was downright frowned upon. Yet when used with good judgment, it can become a stylistic device that refers to rural scenes and peasant dances. On the other hand, a folk piece can acquire a more serious character with the use of contrary motion instead of parallel chords.

NOTE

If the bass line moves in steps, the upper parts must move in contrary motion.

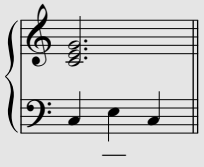
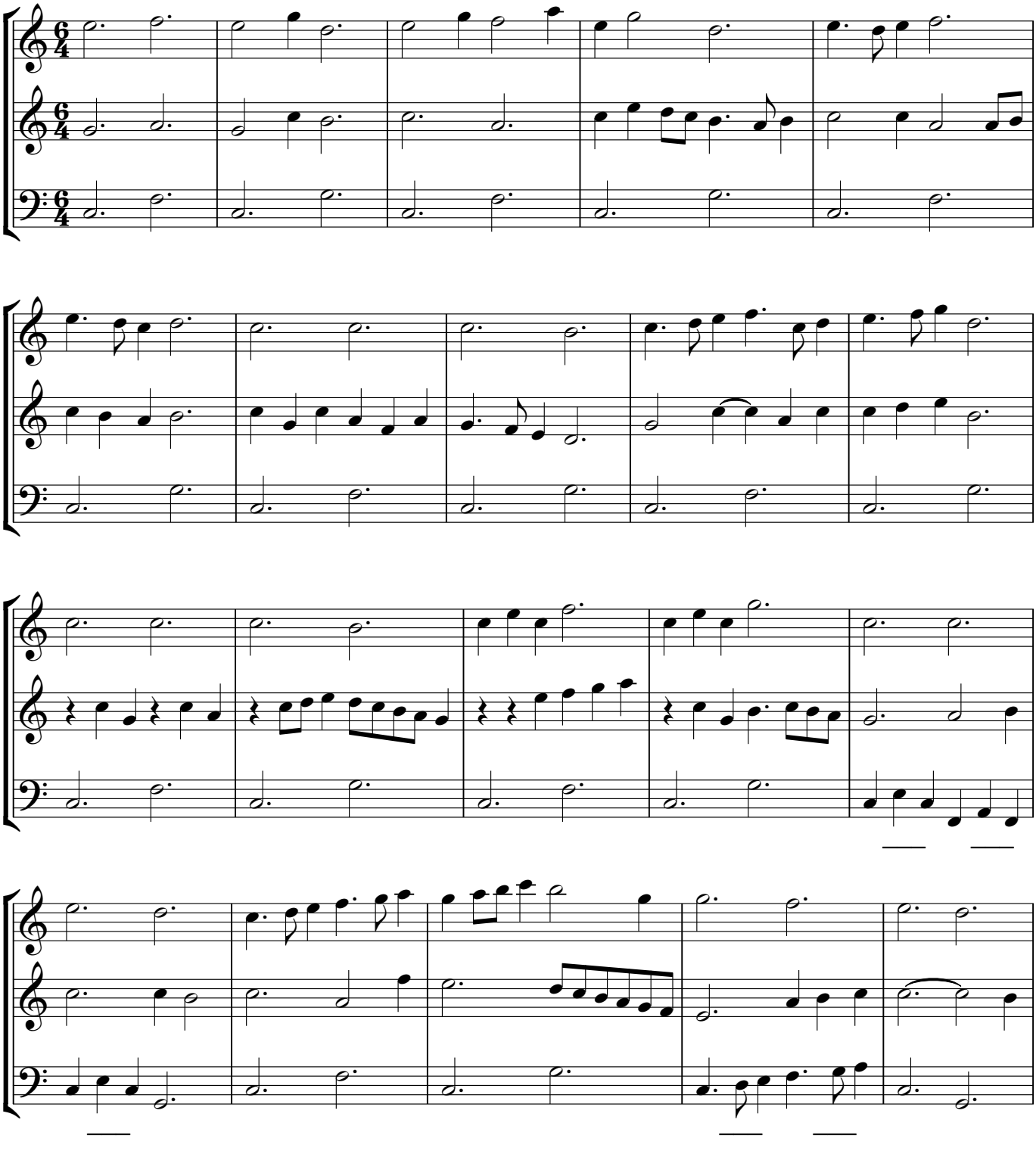
37. The Irish March

Boffons

... is the name of the harmonic pattern below: C F C G .

NUMBERS:

__ means:
Don't change the chord.



from "Elisabeth Rogers hir virginall booke", 1656
Second part by Monika Mandelartz