Ave, Maria

by Jacob Arcadelt (1514 - 1568)
edited by Klaus Bjerre (2002)
for:

a quartet of treble clef instruments in the tenor and bass ranges. Compatible with the bass clef version.

This piece from the 16th century Netherlands originally was written for 4-part SATB vocals.

During the winter of 1999-2000 there was a thread on a tuba and euphonium forum about creating material for a tuba quartet by transcribing SATB vocal settings. This can be done in various ways. One approach is to transpose all parts down a fifth or an octave. Or one can let the tenor part stay in its original range, while transposing the three other parts down an octave. The latter approach has been applied in this edition. But watch out: The SATB score order has been kept. This not too complicated piece can be used to learn to play from a score. No single parts are provided.

A suggestion for part distribution in a tuba quartet would be this one:
The euphonium with the heavier sound plays the Soprano. The euphonium with the lighter sound plays the Tenor. The bass tuba plays the Alto. The contrabass tuba plays the Basso.

The breathing marks reflect the punctuations and rhymes of the original text. There are no dynamic markings written in. Which does not mean that a constant dynamic level is asked for. Only that the aspects of dynamic life are left to the discretion of the performers. Internal balance in the group and the acoustic environment are factors to be considered.

This edition can be used free of charge, but a postcard or an e-mail would be nice.

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Quartet for 4 𝄞-clef instruments
in the tenor and bass ranges
(Lead, 2nd, and Basso parts are
transposed down 1 octave)

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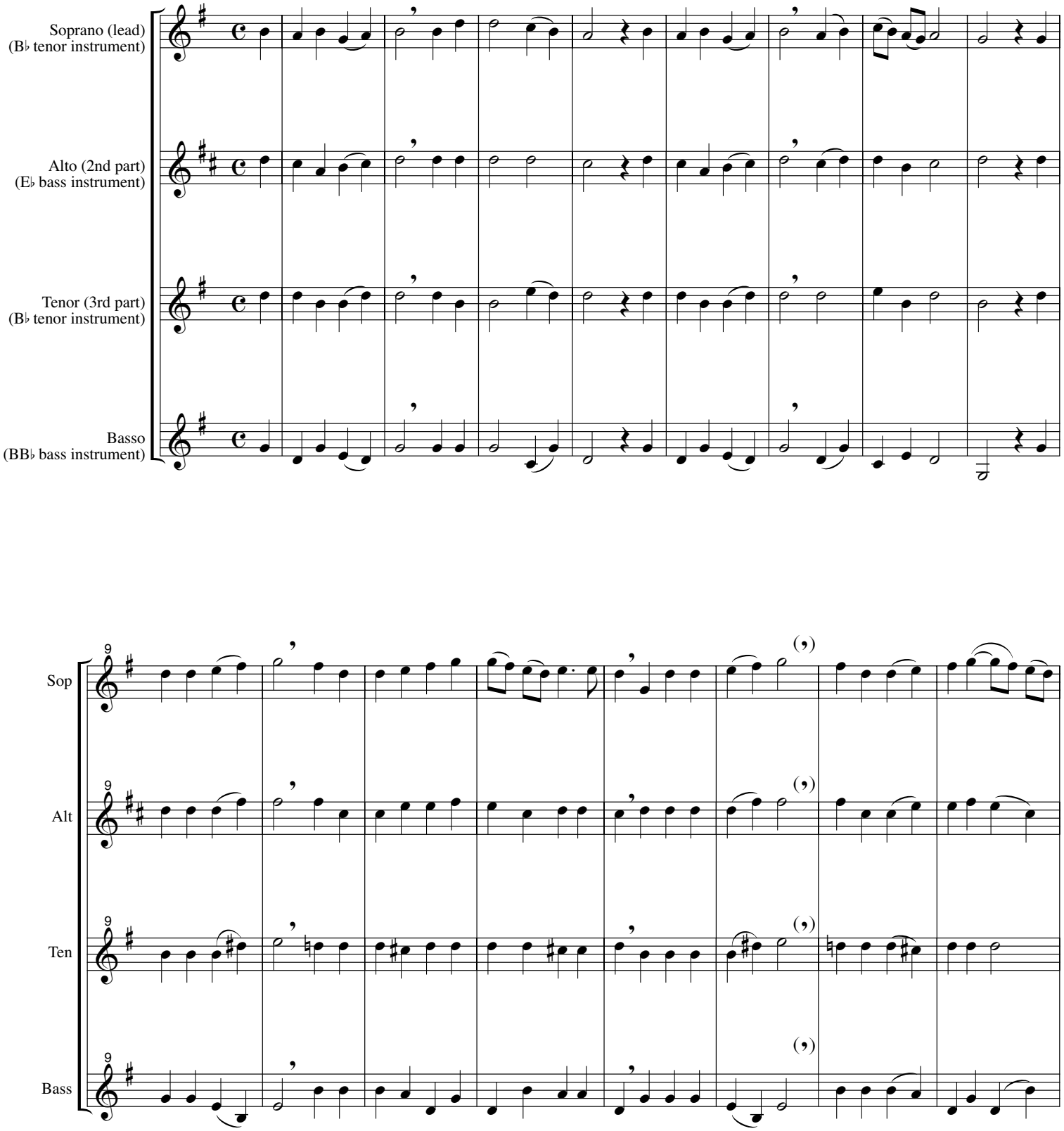

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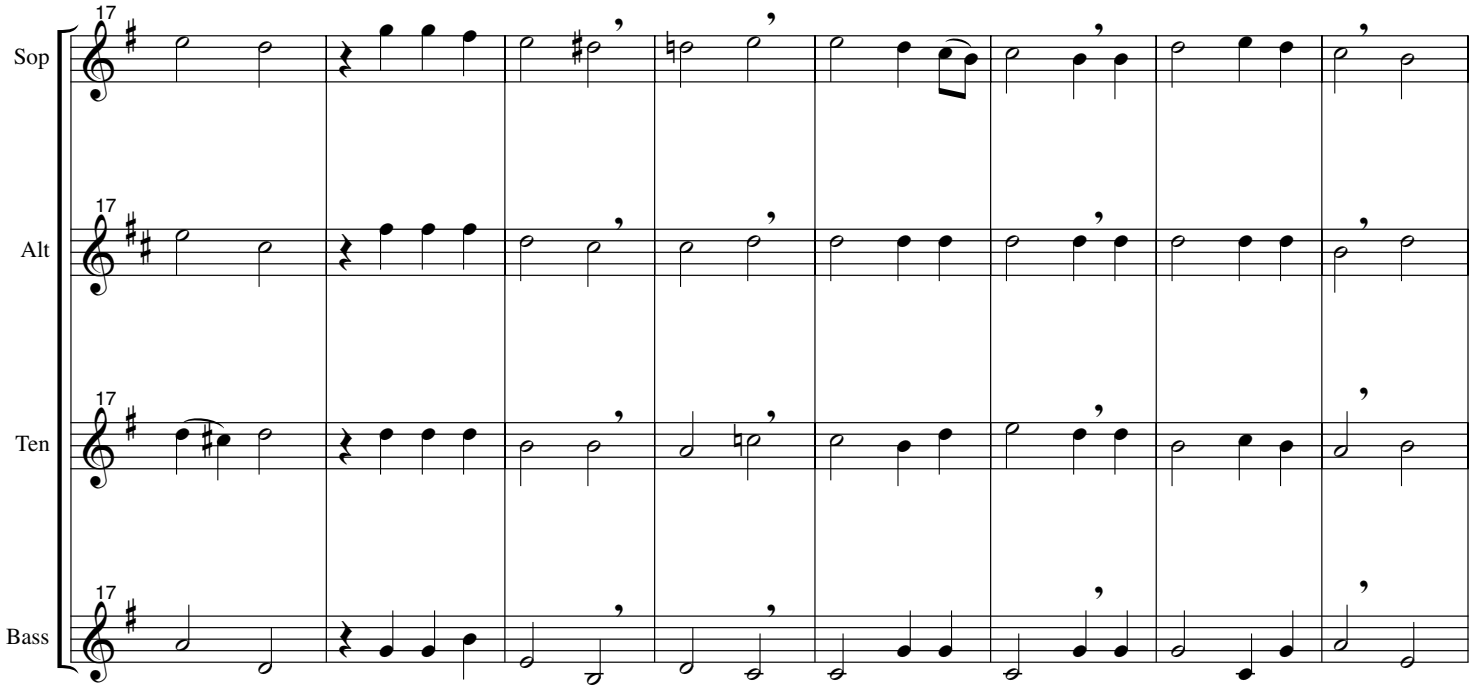

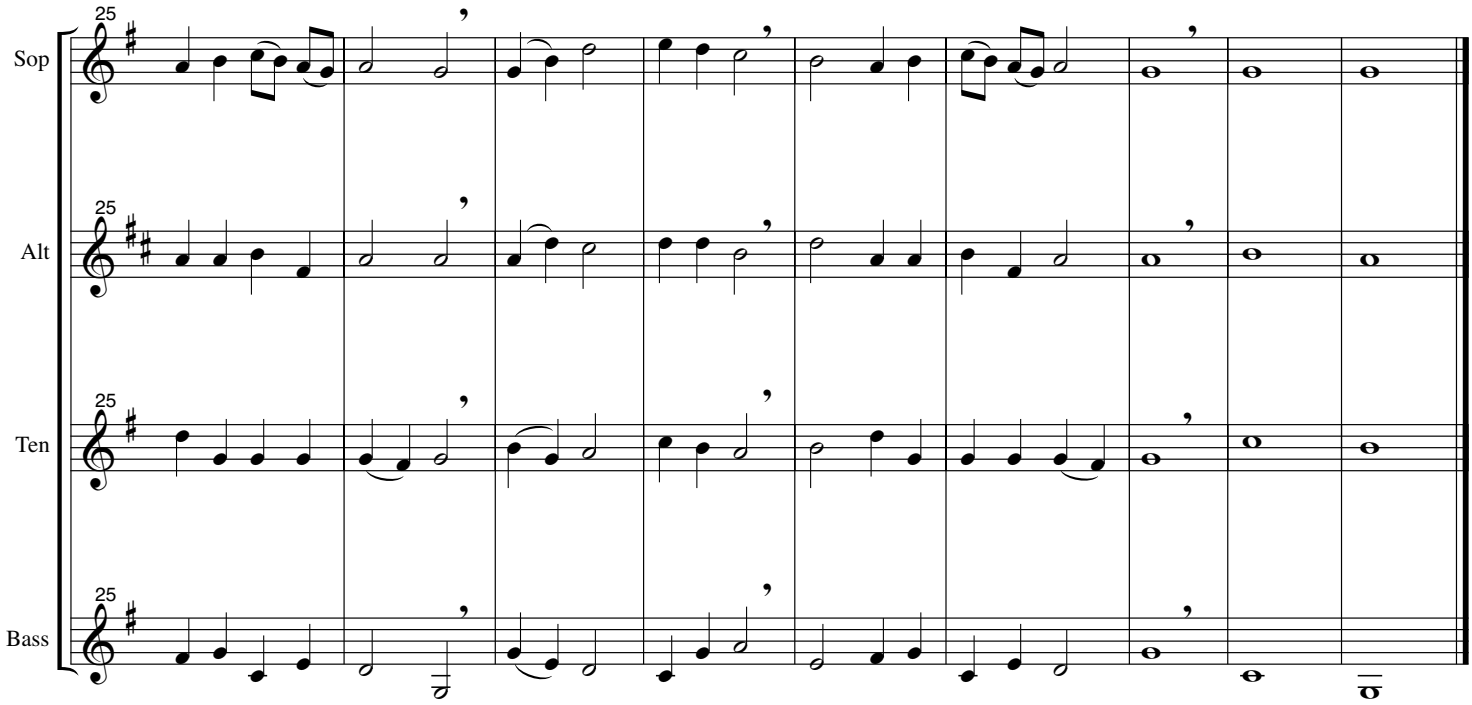

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