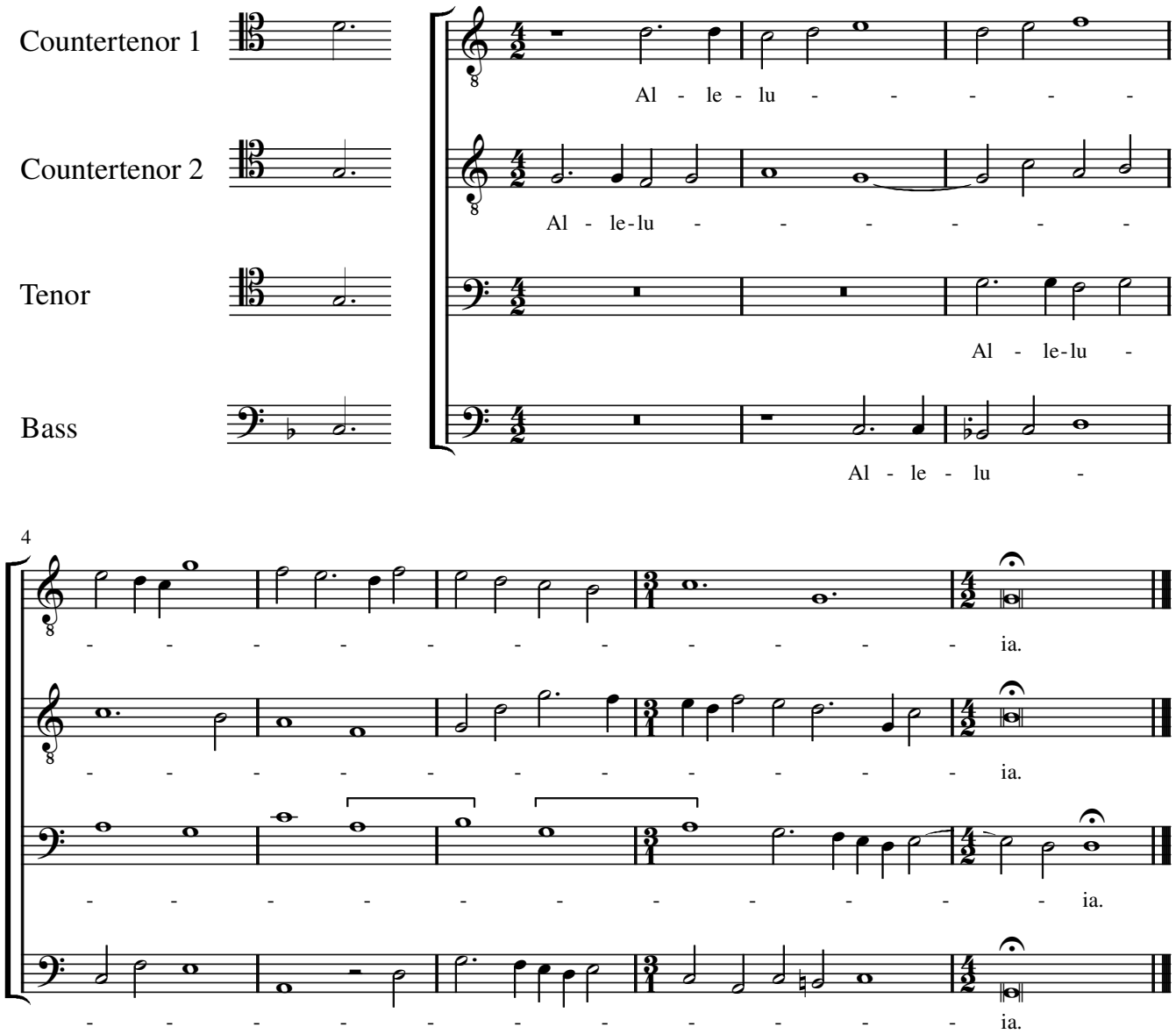
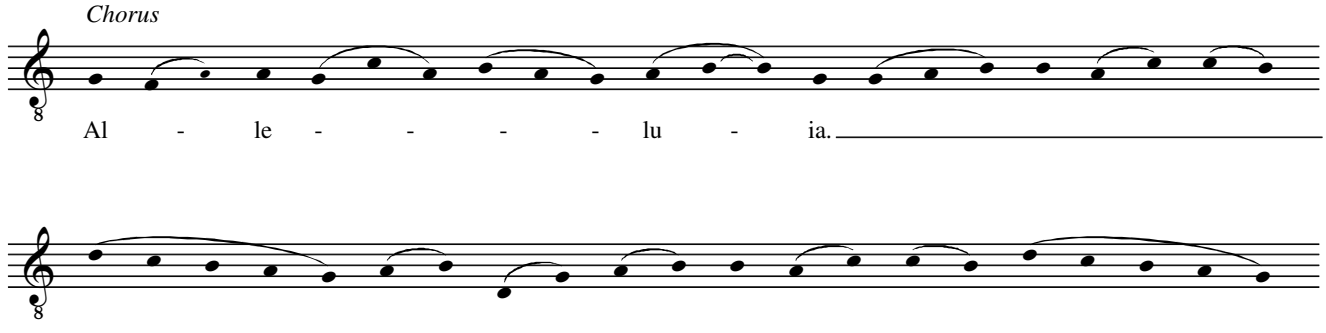
Alleluia. Virtutes caeli

Edited by Jason Smart

John Sheppard (d.1558)





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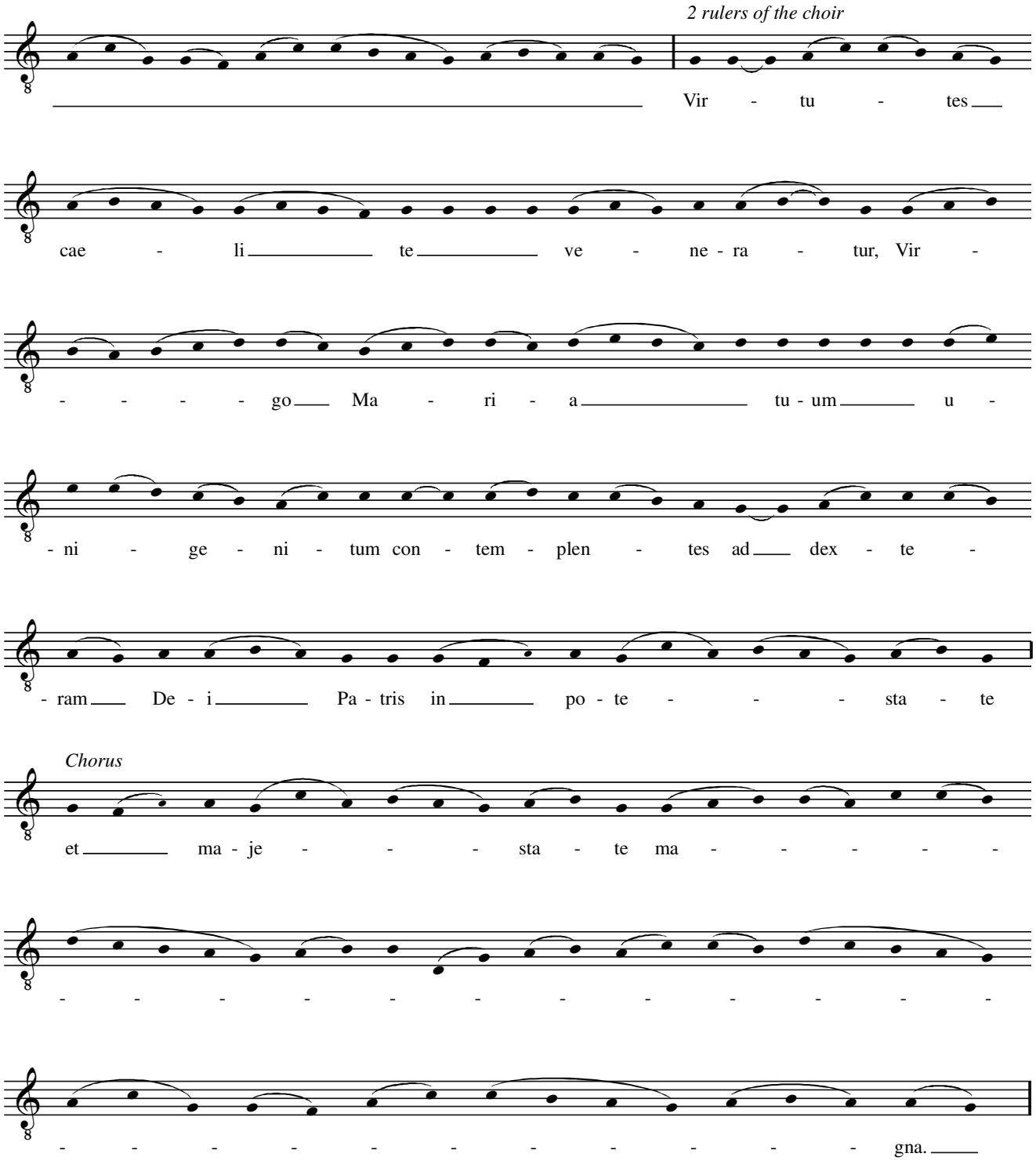

REPEAT POLYPHONY

Translation

Alleluia. Alleluia. The powers of heaven worship thee, O Virgin Mary, as they look upon thine only-begotten at the right hand of God the Father in power and great majesty. Alleluia.

Liturgical Function

Alleluia for the Lady Mass *Salve sancta parens* on Wednesdays from the Purification of the BVM (2 February) to the day before Septuagesima and from Easter Day to the day before Advent. Also sung, with a different verse, at Mass on the second Sunday in Advent. Sheppard's setting, however, is undoubtedly for votive use. Sheppard may well have written a complete cycle of Alleluias for the Lady Mass *Salve sancta parens*, of which this and three companion settings in the same source are the only survivors.

Editorial Conventions

The nomenclature of the voice-parts follows the Tudor convention.
The original clef, staff signature and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves. No mensuration symbols are given, but ¢ is assumed.
The dotted accidental in bar 3 is not present in the source but is implied by the original staff signature.
Ligatures are denoted by the sign ⌜‾‾‾⌝.
Spelling of the text has been modernised.

Sources

Polyphony: London, British Library, Add. MSS 17802–5 (*c.*1572–8).

17802	(Ct2)	f.24	at beginning:	master sheperd
17803	(Ct1)	f.22^{v}	at beginning:	master shep*er*de
17804	(T)	f.22	at beginning:	master sheperde
17805	(B)	f.22	at beginning:	Maister shepard

Plainsong: London, British Library, Add. MS. 17001, f.123^{v}.

Notes on the Readings of the Sources

The order within each entry below is: 1) bar number; 2) voice; 3) reading of the source. The symbol 𝄎 denotes an underlay repetition sign.

3 Ct2 𝄎 below C
4 B -*ia* 𝄎 below FE
4–5 T -*ia* 𝄎 below GC