

GIOVANNI BOTTESINI



Complete Method

for

Double Bass



Part I

Transposed One Semitone Down

Preface

Giovanni Bottesini (1821–1889) was an Italian composer, conductor, and music teacher. He was arguably also the most eminent double-bass player of his time, and his virtuosity on the instrument had earned him the title “the Paganini of the Double Bass.” Bottesini toured the world extensively, and among his many accomplishments, was chosen by Verdi to conduct the world premiere of *Aida* in 1871.

Bottesini’s instructional book *Complete Method for Double Bass*, in its various editions, has become a staple of the double-bass curriculum. Bottesini championed the three-string double bass — an earlier version of the instrument, missing today’s E string, which was standard at the time in many parts of the world. Consequently, the lowest note in his original *Method* is low A (except for a few exercises, originally meant for solfège). This version of the book is transposed one semitone down from the original, for practicing purposes.

This digital edition of Bottesini’s *Method* is based on the 1869 French edition issued by Léon Escudier, as found on the International Music Score Library Project website (imslp.org). It contains only the exercises (in a slightly different order), without the original text and illustrations, and does not include the second part of the book, titled “the double bass considered as a solo instrument.” Due to the advances in double-bass technique since Bottesini’s time, and given today’s near-universality of four-string instruments, the original fingering, position, and bowing markings were omitted.

The latest version of this edition and additional material (the entire book transposed to all other keys, audio files, etc.) are available at yuvalnov.org/bottesini. To report mistakes in this document or to suggest improvements, please write to bottesini.method@gmail.com.

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I dedicate this edition to my beloved daughter Naomi, a baker of fine pizzas and a hopelessly forgetful toothbrusher.

Yuval Nov
August 2020



1. Preliminary Exercises

1.1 *Lento*

1.2

1.3

1.4

1.5

1.6

1.7

1.8

- 1.9 
- 1.10 
- 1.11 
- 1.12 
- 1.13 
- 1.14 
- 1.15 
- 1.16 
- 1.17 
- 1.18 



2. Exercises in B Major







Moderato

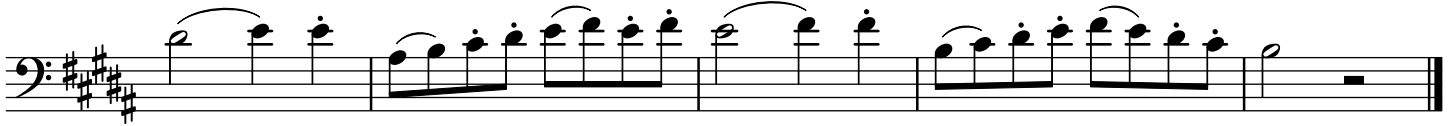


Andantino

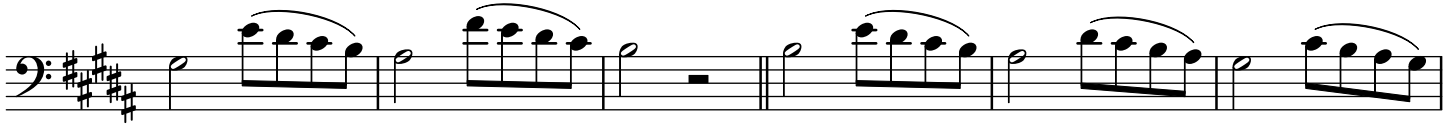


Moderato





Andantino



Moderato



Allegretto



Andante



Allegretto





Moderato

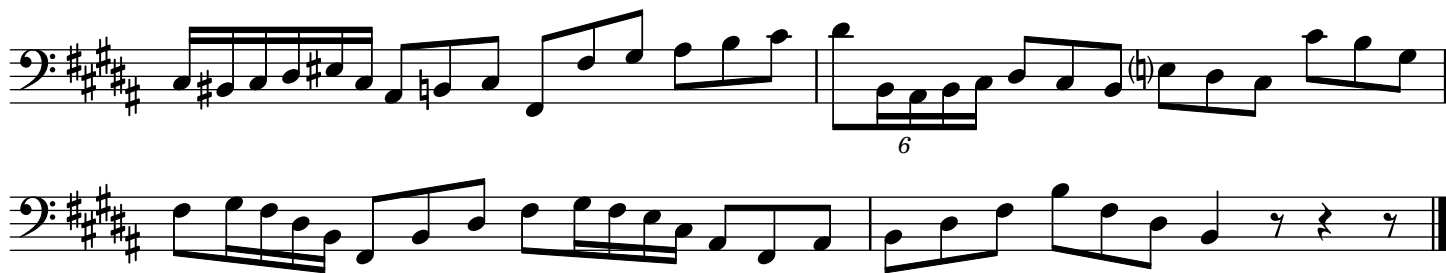
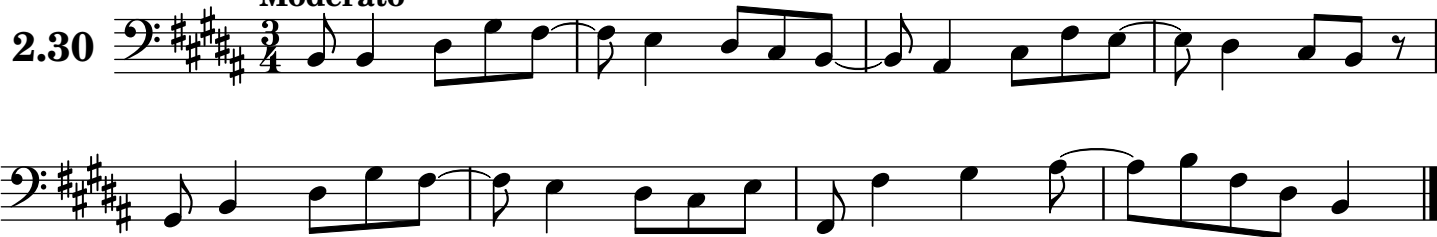


Adagio



Andante



**Moderato****Allegro****Adagio****Moderato****Andantino**

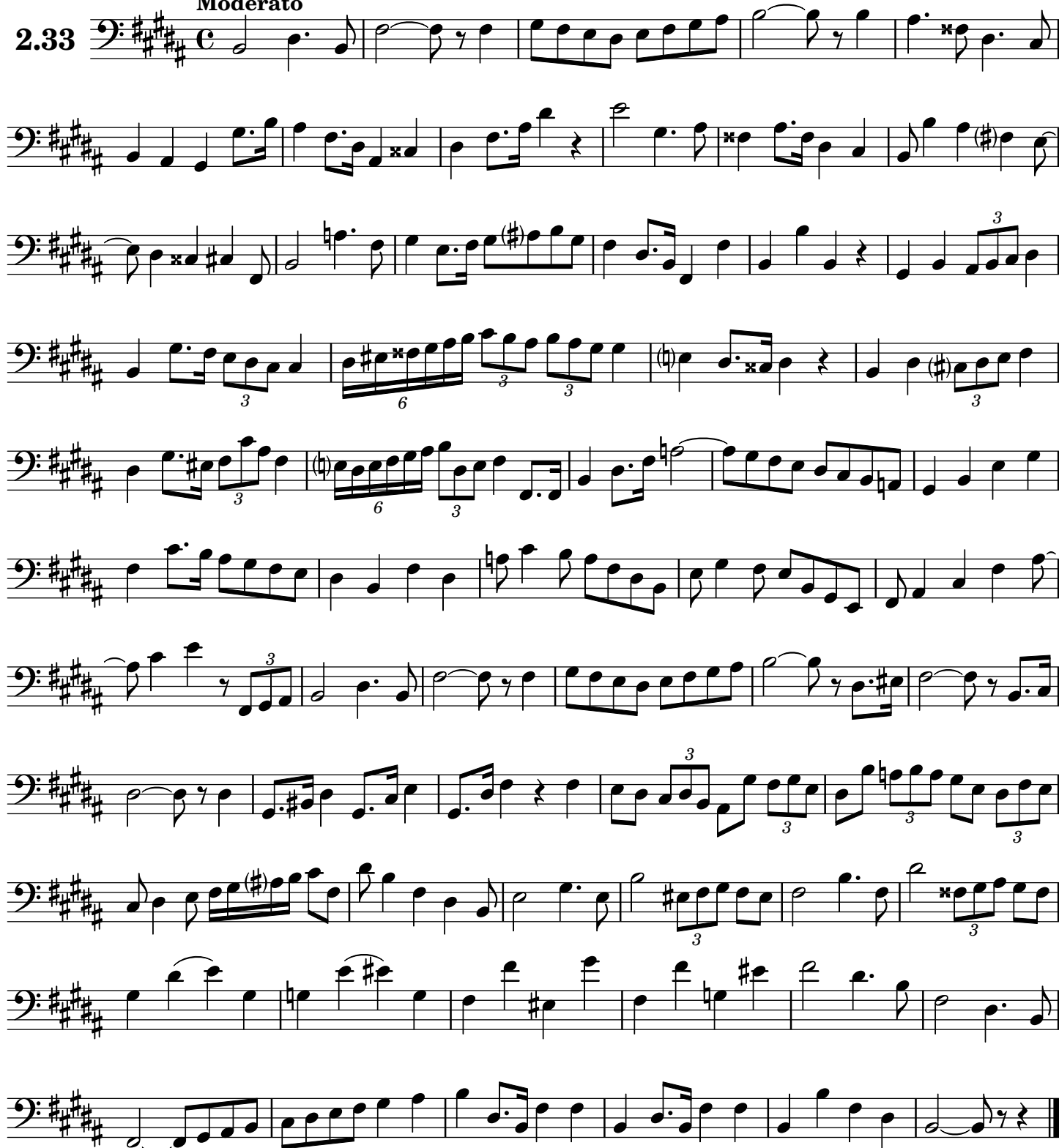
Moderato

2.32



Moderato

2.33



3. Exercises in G-Sharp Minor





Andante



Allegretto



Allegretto



Moderato



Andantino



**Moderato****Andantino****Allegretto**

4. Exercises in E Major





**Allegretto**

4.8



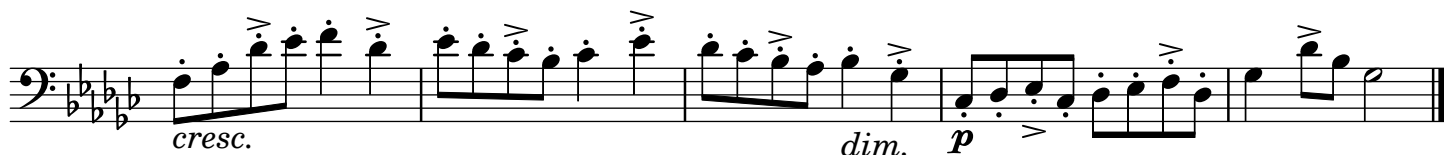
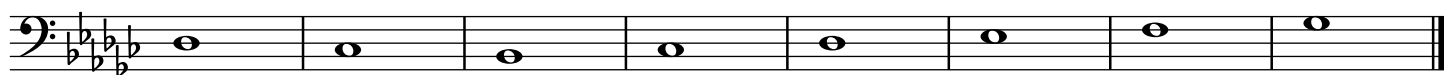
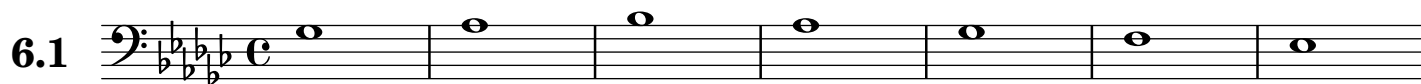
5. Exercises in C-Sharp Minor



Musical score for bass clef, key of D major (F# C# G# D). The score consists of 9 measures, numbered 19 to 27. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, accidentals, and slurs. The first five measures (19-23) are grouped together, followed by a measure rest (24), and then the final three measures (25-27). The key signature is D major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is common time (C). The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, accidentals, and slurs.

5.5

6. Exercises in G-Flat Major

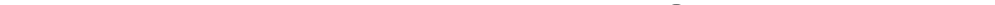


Moderato

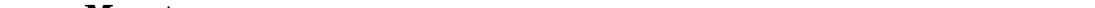
6.5

The musical score is written in bass clef, 3/4 time, and key of B-flat major (three flats). It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to B-flat major. The music features a variety of note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The score concludes with a double bar line.

7. Exercises in E-Flat Minor

7.1 

7.2 **Maestoso**



The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written on a single staff in bass clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B-flat2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F2 (quarter), E-flat2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (half). There is a repeat sign after the eighth note (D2), and the second ending consists of: C2 (quarter), B-flat2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F2 (quarter), E-flat2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (half).

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in 3/4 time and D minor. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody starts on a G4 (first space) and proceeds through a series of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a triplet of eighth notes (F4, E4, D4) and a final quarter note (C4). The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

7.3 **Molto Moderato**

[illegible]

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody begins with a quarter note G2, followed by an eighth note F2, and a quarter note E2. This is followed by a half note D2, then a quarter note C2. The melody continues with a quarter note B1, an eighth note A1, and a quarter note G1. This is followed by a half note F1, then a quarter note E1. The melody ends with a quarter note D1, a half note C1, and a quarter note B0. The key signature is indicated by three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) on the staff.

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in 3/4 time and G major. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on G4, moves to A4, then B4, and continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and a final G4. The melody is accompanied by a simple bass line consisting of G3, B2, and D3.

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in bass clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G2, A2, B-flat2, C3, D3, E-flat3, F3, G3, A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B-flat4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B-flat5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B-flat6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B-flat7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B-flat8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B-flat9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B-flat10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B-flat11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B-flat12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B-flat13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B-flat14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B-flat15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B-flat16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B-flat17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B-flat18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B-flat19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B-flat20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B-flat21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B-flat22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B-flat23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B-flat24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B-flat25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B-flat26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B-flat27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B-flat28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, B-flat29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, B-flat30, C31, D31, E31, F31, G31, A31, B-flat31, C32, D32, E32, F32, G32, A32, B-flat32, C33, D33, E33, F33, G33, A33, B-flat33, C34, D34, E34, F34, G34, A34, B-flat34, C35, D35, E35, F35, G35, A35, B-flat35, C36, D36, E36, F36, G36, A36, B-flat36, C37, D37, E37, F37, G37, A37, B-flat37, C38, D38, E38, F38, G38, A38, B-flat38, C39, D39, E39, F39, G39, A39, B-flat39, C40, D40, E40, F40, G40, A40, B-flat40, C41, D41, E41, F41, G41, A41, B-flat41, C42, D42, E42, F42, G42, A42, B-flat42, C43, D43, E43, F43, G43, A43, B-flat43, C44, D44, E44, F44, G44, A44, B-flat44, C45, D45, E45, F45, G45, A45, B-flat45, C46, D46, E46, F46, G46, A46, B-flat46, C47, D47, E47, F47, G47, A47, B-flat47, C48, D48, E48, F48, G48, A48, B-flat48, C49, D49, E49, F49, G49, A49, B-flat49, C50, D50, E50, F50, G50, A50, B-flat50, C51, D51, E51, F51, G51, A51, B-flat51, C52, D52, E52, F52, G52, A52, B-flat52, C53, D53, E53, F53, G53, A53, B-flat53, C54, D54, E54, F54, G54, A54, B-flat54, C55, D55, E55, F55, G55, A55, B-flat55, C56, D56, E56, F56, G56, A56, B-flat56, C57, D57, E57, F57, G57, A57, B-flat57, C58, D58, E58, F58, G58, A58, B-flat58, C59, D59, E59, F59, G59, A59, B-flat59, C60, D60, E60, F60, G60, A60, B-flat60, C61, D61, E61, F61, G61, A61, B-flat61, C62, D62, E62, F62, G62, A62, B-flat62, C63, D63, E63, F63, G63, A63, B-flat63, C64, D64, E64, F64, G64, A64, B-flat64, C65, D65, E65, F65, G65, A65, B-flat65, C66, D66, E66, F66, G66, A66, B-flat66, C67, D67, E67, F67, G67, A67, B-flat67, C68, D68, E68, F68, G68, A68, B-flat68, C69, D69, E69, F69, G69, A69, B-flat69, C70, D70, E70, F70, G70, A70, B-flat70, C71, D71, E71, F71, G71, A71, B-flat71, C72, D72, E72, F72, G72, A72, B-flat72, C73, D73, E73, F73, G73, A73, B-flat73, C74, D74, E74, F74, G74, A74, B-flat74, C75, D75, E75, F75, G75, A75, B-flat75, C76, D76, E76, F76, G76, A76, B-flat76, C77, D77, E77, F77, G77, A77, B-flat77, C78, D78, E78, F78, G78, A78, B-flat78, C79, D79, E79, F79, G79, A79, B-flat79, C80, D80, E80, F80, G80, A80, B-flat80, C81, D81, E81, F81, G81, A81, B-flat81, C82, D82, E82, F82, G82, A82, B-flat82, C83, D83, E83, F83, G83, A83, B-flat83, C84, D84, E84, F84, G84, A84, B-flat84, C85, D85, E85, F85, G85, A85, B-flat85, C86, D86, E86, F86, G86, A86, B-flat86, C87, D87, E87, F87, G87, A87, B-flat87, C88, D88, E88, F88, G88, A88, B-flat88, C89, D89, E89, F89, G89, A89, B-flat89, C90, D90, E90, F90, G90, A90, B-flat90, C91, D91, E91, F91, G91, A91, B-flat91, C92, D92, E92, F92, G92, A92, B-flat92, C93, D93, E93, F93, G93, A93, B-flat93, C94, D94, E94, F94, G94, A94, B-flat94, C95, D95, E95, F95, G95, A95, B-flat95, C96, D96, E96, F96, G96, A96, B-flat96, C97, D97, E97, F97, G97, A97, B-flat97, C98, D98, E98, F98, G98, A98, B-flat98, C99, D99, E99, F99, G99, A99, B-flat99, C100, D100, E100, F100, G100, A100, B-flat100, C101, D101, E101, F101, G101, A101, B-flat101, C102, D102, E102, F102, G102, A102, B-flat102, C103, D103, E103, F103, G103, A103, B-flat103, C104, D104, E104, F104, G104, A104, B-flat104, C105, D105, E105, F105, G105, A105, B-flat105, C106, D106, E106, F106, G106, A106, B-flat106, C107, D107, E107, F107, G107, A107, B-flat107, C108, D108, E108, F108, G108, A108, B-flat108, C109, D109, E109, F109, G109, A109, B-flat109, C110, D110, E110, F110, G110, A110, B-flat110, C111, D111, E111, F111, G111, A111, B-flat111, C112, D112, E112, F112, G112, A112, B-flat112, C113, D113, E113, F113, G113, A113, B-flat113, C114, D114, E114, F114, G114, A114, B-flat114, C115, D115, E115, F115, G115, A115, B-flat115, C116, D116, E116, F116, G116, A116, B-flat116, C117, D117, E117, F117, G117, A117, B-flat117, C118, D118, E118, F118, G118, A118, B-flat118, C119, D119, E119, F119, G119, A119, B-flat119, C120, D120, E120, F120, G120, A120, B-flat120, C121, D121, E121, F121, G121, A121, B-flat121, C122, D122, E122, F122, G122, A122, B-flat122, C123, D123, E123, F123, G123, A123, B-flat123, C124, D124, E124, F124, G124, A124, B-flat124, C125, D125, E125, F125, G125, A125, B-flat125, C126, D126, E126, F126, G126, A126, B-flat126, C127, D127, E127, F127, G127, A127, B-flat127, C128, D128, E128, F128, G128, A128, B-flat128, C129, D129, E129, F129, G129, A129, B-flat129, C130, D130, E130, F130, G130, A130, B-flat130, C131, D131, E131, F131, G131, A131, B-flat131, C132, D132, E132, F132, G132, A132, B-flat132, C133, D133, E133, F133, G133, A133, B-flat133, C134, D134, E134, F134, G134, A134, B-flat134, C

[illegible]

7.4 **Adagio**



[illegible]

Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G2, an eighth note F2, and a quarter note E2. The next measure contains a quarter note D2, an eighth note C2, and a quarter note B1. The third measure has a quarter note A1, an eighth note G1, and a quarter note F1. The fourth measure begins with a sixteenth rest, followed by a sixteenth note G1, an eighth note F1, and a quarter note E1. The fifth measure contains a quarter note D1, an eighth note C1, and a quarter note B0. The sixth measure has a quarter note A0, an eighth note G0, and a quarter note F0. The seventh measure begins with a sixteenth rest, followed by a sixteenth note G0, an eighth note F0, and a quarter note E0. The eighth measure contains a quarter note D0, an eighth note C0, and a quarter note B0. The ninth measure has a quarter note A0, an eighth note G0, and a quarter note F0. The tenth measure begins with a sixteenth rest, followed by a sixteenth note G0, an eighth note F0, and a quarter note E0. The eleventh measure contains a quarter note D0, an eighth note C0, and a quarter note B0. The twelfth measure has a quarter note A0, an eighth note G0, and a quarter note F0. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

7.5 **Moderato**

p *sf*

[illegible][illegible]

8. Exercises in D-Flat Major

8.1

8.2

Moderato con molto arco

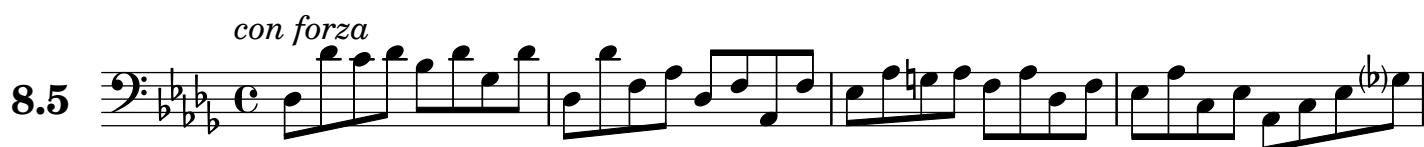
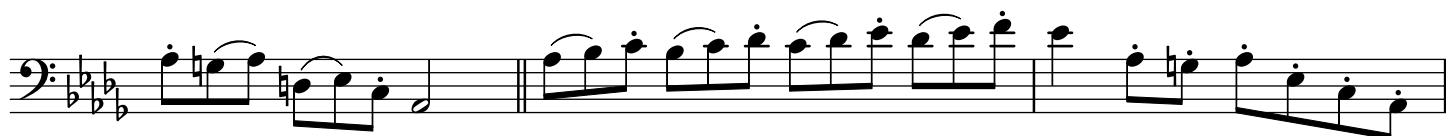
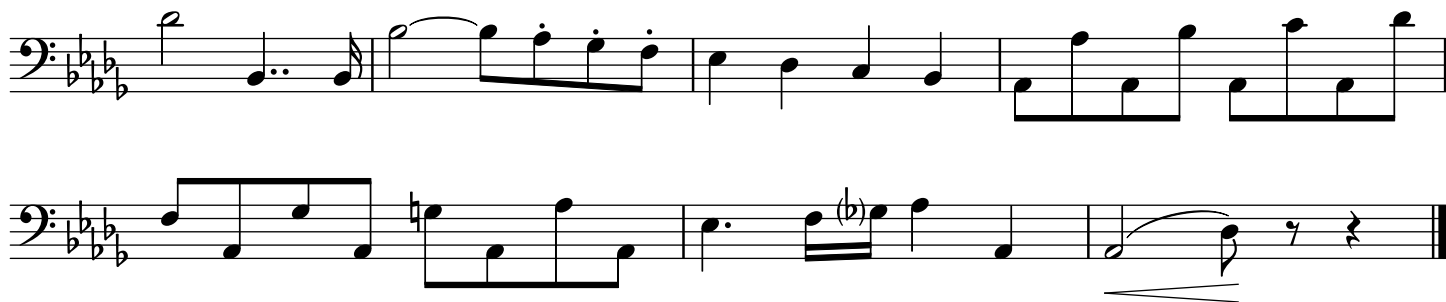
mf

8.3

f

p

f



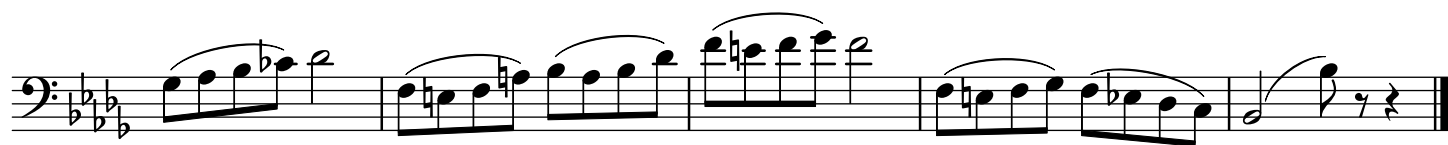
9. Exercises in B-Flat Minor

9.1

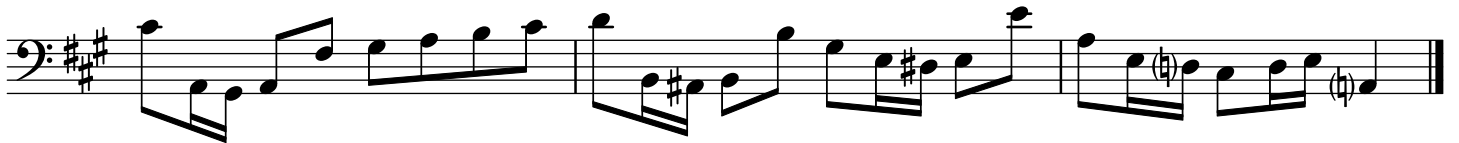
9.2 *Adagio*

9.3

9.4



10. Exercises in A Major



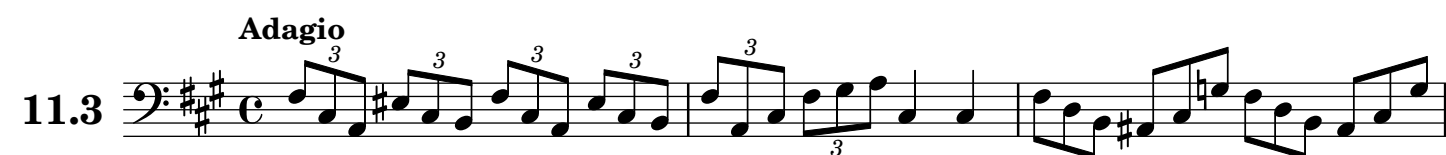
Allegretto leggiero

10.5

p

crescendo

11. Exercises in F-Sharp Minor





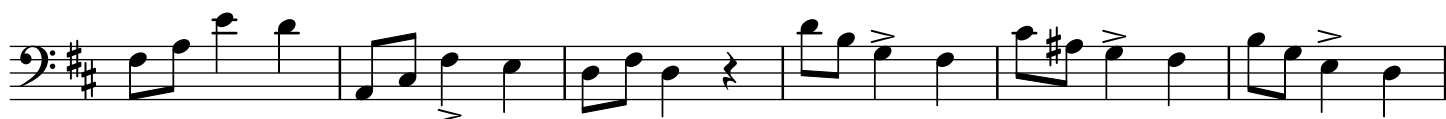
12. Exercises in D Major



Adagio pesante



Moderato



Adagio



Moderato





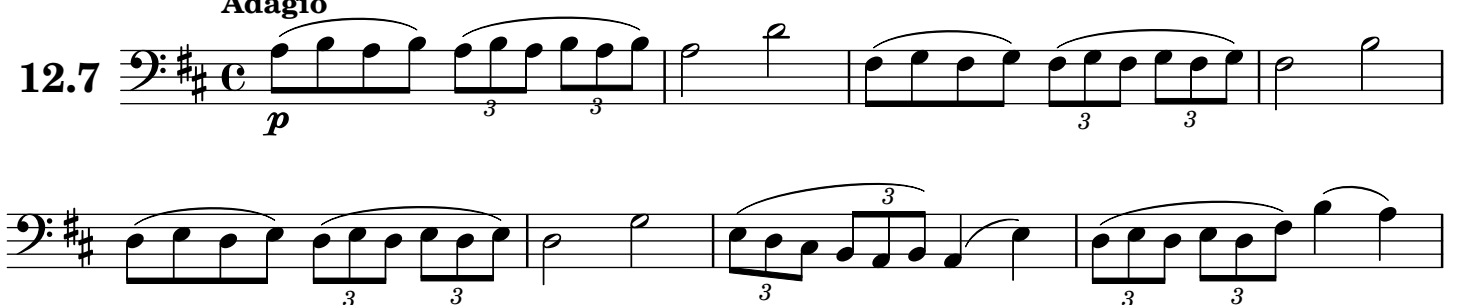
Allegretto leggermente

12.6



Adagio

12.7



34

13. Exercises in B Minor

13.1

Exercise 13.1 is a short piece in bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of 12 measures. The melody is written on a single staff. The first four measures are: D4 quarter, E4-F4 eighth pair, G4 quarter, A4-B4 eighth pair. The next four measures are: B4 dotted quarter, A4-G4 eighth pair, F4-E4 eighth pair, D4 quarter. The final four measures are: D4 dotted quarter, E4-F4 eighth pair, G4 quarter, A4-B4 eighth pair, ending on a whole note D4.

13.2 **Maestoso**

13.2 **Maestoso**

13.3 **Allegretto**

The musical score is written on three staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in eighth and quarter notes. The second staff continues the melody with some sixteenth notes and rests. The third staff concludes the piece with a final cadence.

13.4 **Moderato**

The musical score for Example 13.4, titled 'Moderato', is written in bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/8 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has six measures, the second staff has six measures, and the third staff has six measures. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and accidentals (sharps and naturals). The tempo is marked 'Moderato'.



Adagio



Maestoso



Moderato

13.7



14. Exercises in A-Flat Major

14.1

The musical score consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a common time signature (C). It contains four measures of music: the first measure has four eighth notes (G2, F2, E2, D2); the second measure has four eighth notes (D2, C2, B1, A1); the third measure has four eighth notes (A1, G1, F1, E1); and the fourth measure has four quarter notes (E1, D1, C1, B0). The second staff continues the piece with five measures: the first measure has four quarter notes (B0, A1, G1, F1); the second measure has four quarter notes (E1, D1, C1, B0); the third measure has four quarter notes (A1, G1, F1, E1); the fourth measure has four eighth notes (D2, C2, B1, A1); and the fifth measure has four eighth notes (G2, F2, E2, D2) followed by a double bar line.

14.2 **Allegro energia**

f

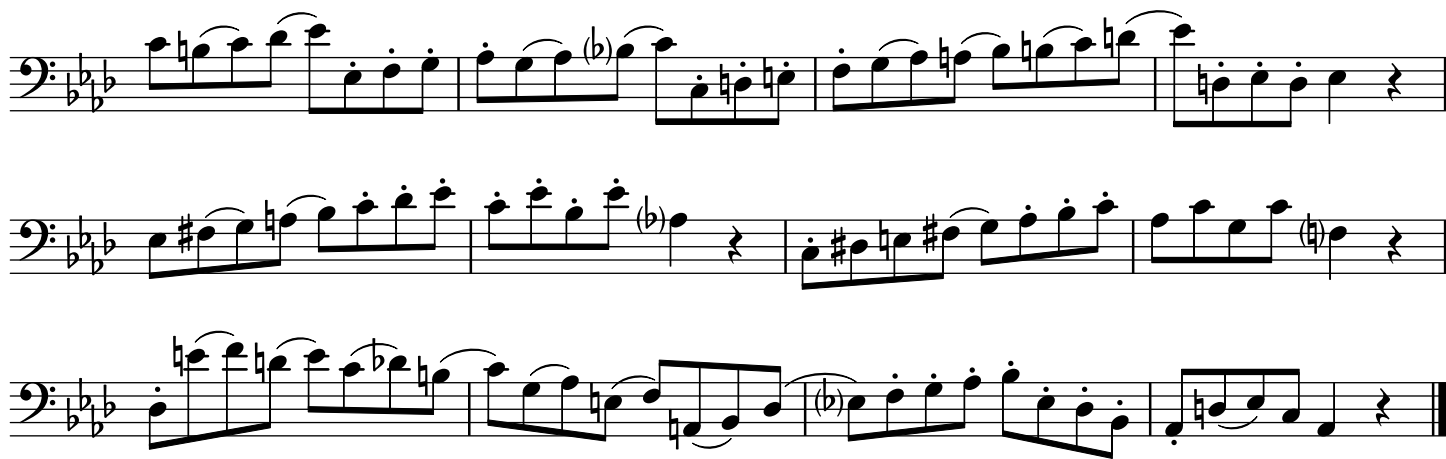
14.3 **Moderato**

The musical score for Exercise 14.3, titled "Moderato", is written in B-flat major (two flats) and common time (C). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The music is written in a single melodic line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff concludes the exercise with a double bar line.

14.4 **Adagio**



The musical score for Example 14.4, Adagio, is written in bass clef, key of B-flat major (two flats), and common time (C). It consists of two measures. The first measure contains a half note chord (B-flat, D-flat, F) followed by a half note chord (B-flat, D-flat, F). The second measure contains a half note chord (B-flat, D-flat, F) followed by a half note chord (B-flat, D-flat, F). The score is marked with a 'C' time signature and a 'b' key signature.



Moderato

14.5



15. Exercises in F Minor



Moderato

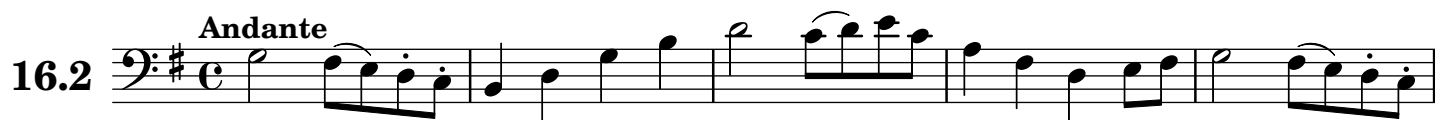
15.4

**Allegretto**

15.5



16. Exercises in G Major

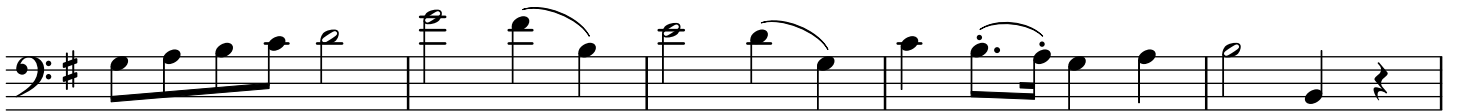
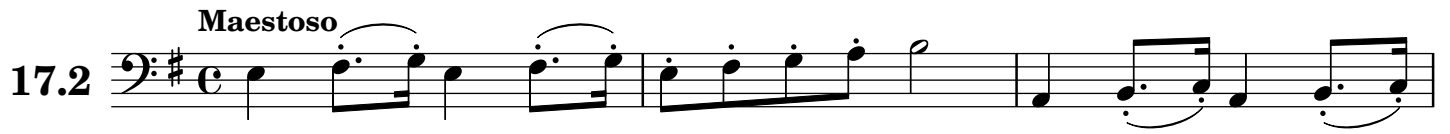


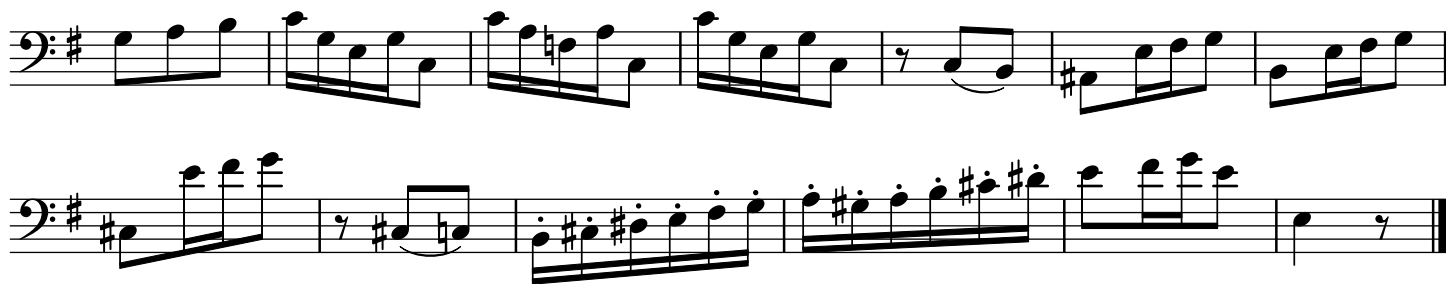


Moderato



17. Exercises in E Minor





Andantino

17.4



Moderato

17.5

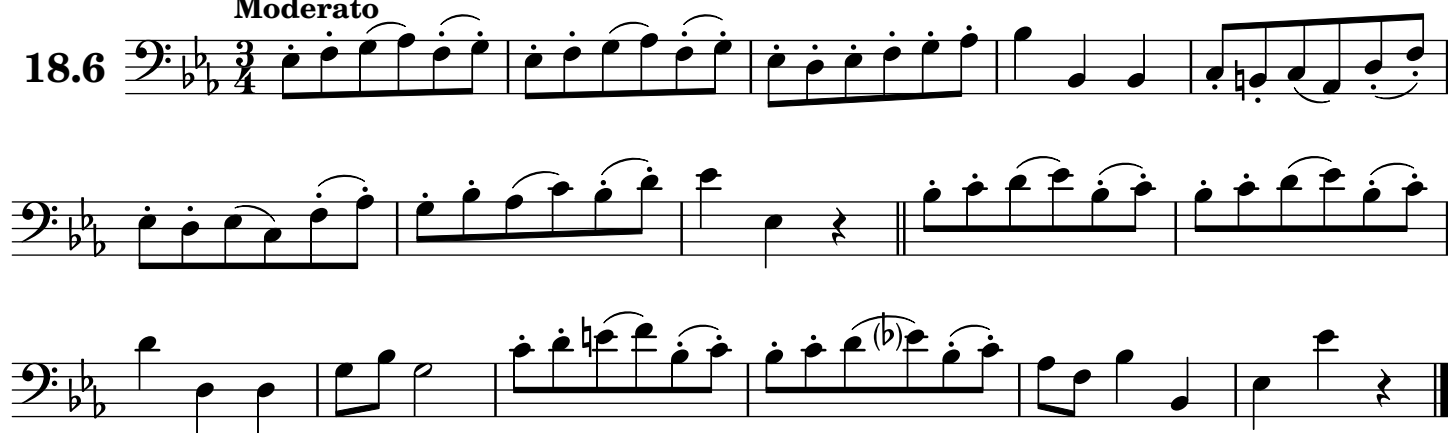


18. Exercises in E-Flat Major



Moderato

18.6



Moderato

18.7



Moderato

18.8



Adagio

18.9





19. Exercises in C Minor



Adagio

19.5



20. Exercises in C Major

20.1 *Adagio*

20.2 *Moderato*

20.3 *Adagio*

20.4 *Adagio*



21. Exercises in A Minor

21.1 *Adagio*

21.2

21.3 *Andantino*

21.4 *Allegretto*

staccato



22. Exercises in F Major

22.1

22.2 *Adagio*

22.3 *Moderato*

23. Exercises in D Minor

23.1 *Adagio*

23.2 *Moderato*

23.3 *Moderato*



24. Exercises in B-Flat Major

Maestoso

24.1

Allegretto

24.2

Andantino

24.3

**Molto moderato**

24.4



25. Exercises in G Minor

Adagio

25.1

Andante

25.2

26. Additional Exercises

26.1 *Andante*

Exercise 26.1 is an Andante piece in E major (three sharps). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The music includes several triplets, trills, and grace notes, with slurs and ties connecting notes across measures. The key signature is E major (F#, C#, G#).

26.2 *Moderato*

Exercise 26.2 is a Moderato piece in E major (three sharps). It consists of seven staves of music. The time signature is 3/4. The music includes several triplets, trills, and grace notes, with slurs and ties connecting notes across measures. The key signature is E major (F#, C#, G#).

Molto moderato

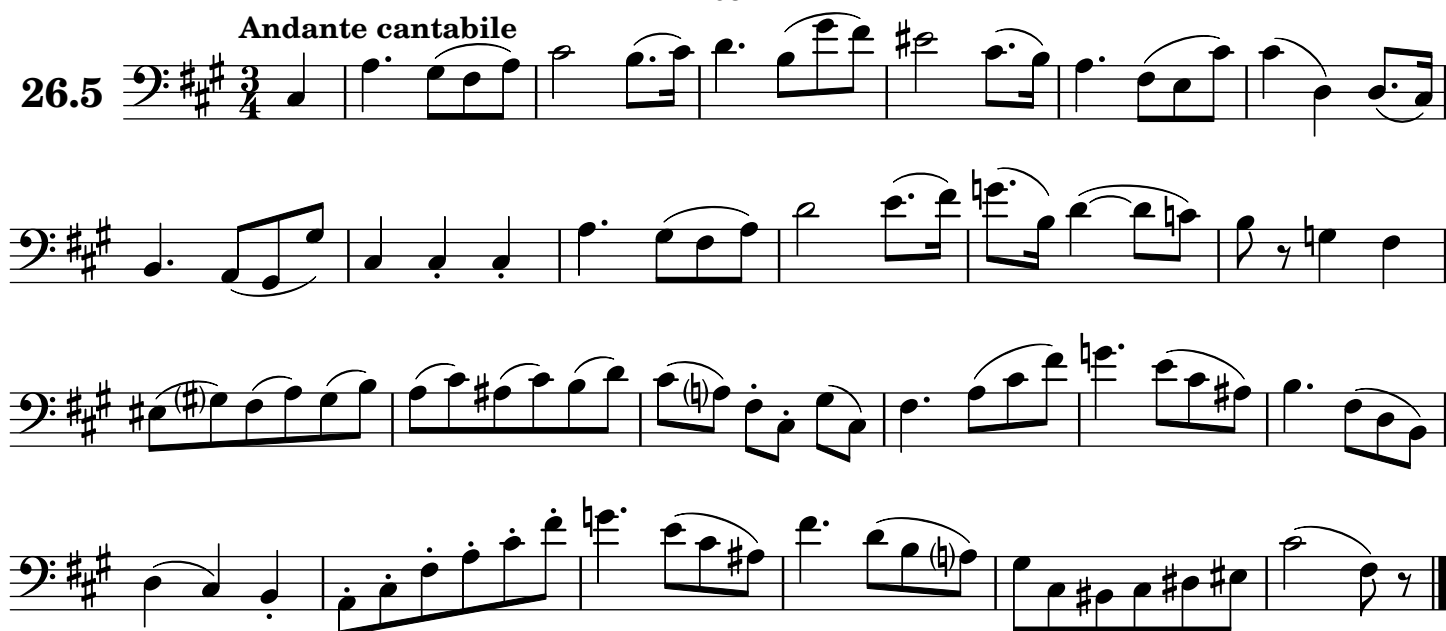
26.3

26.4

Moderato

Andante cantabile

26.5

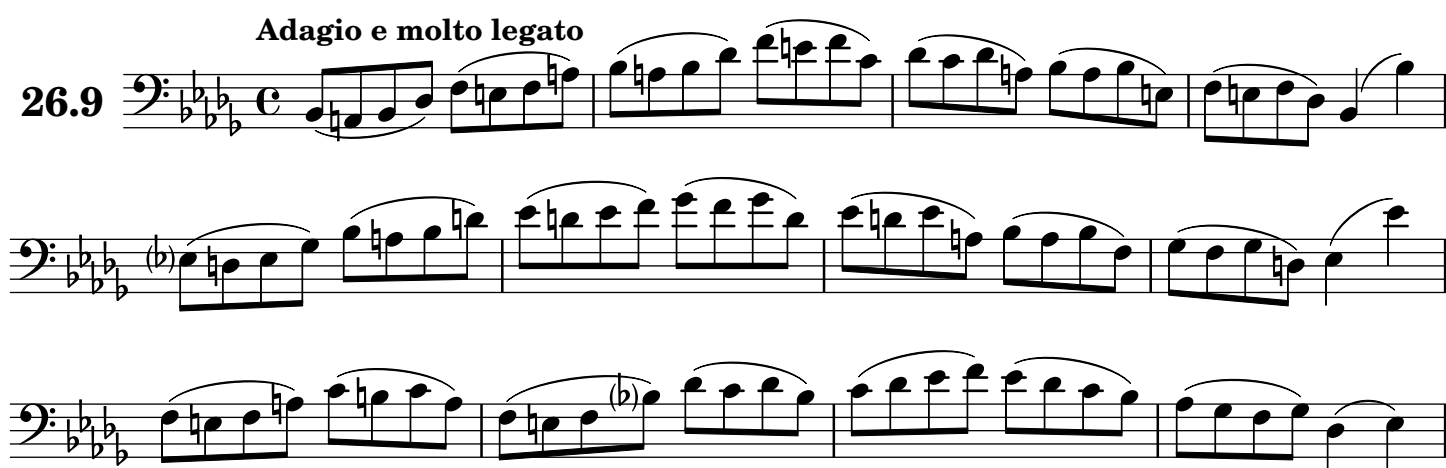
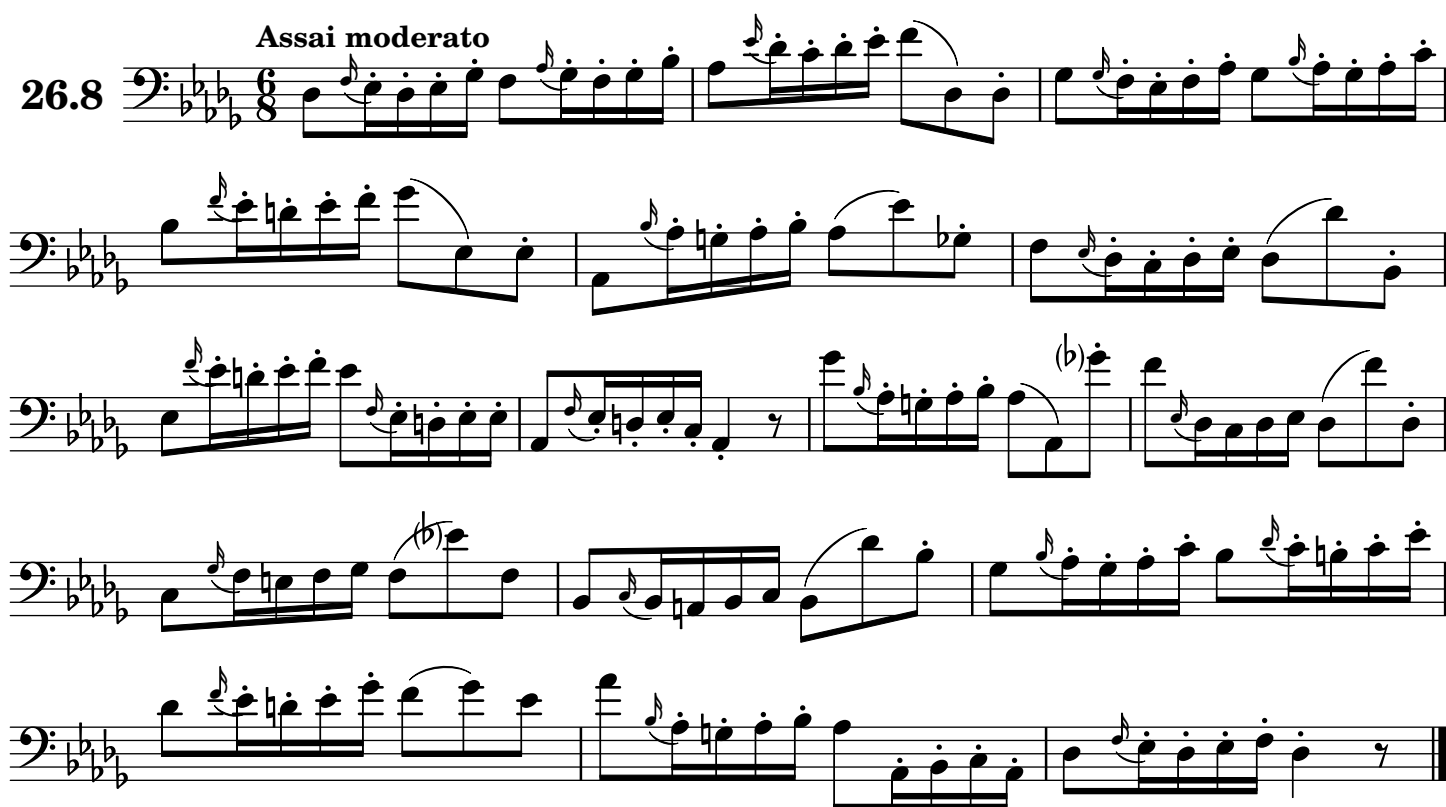
**Maestoso**

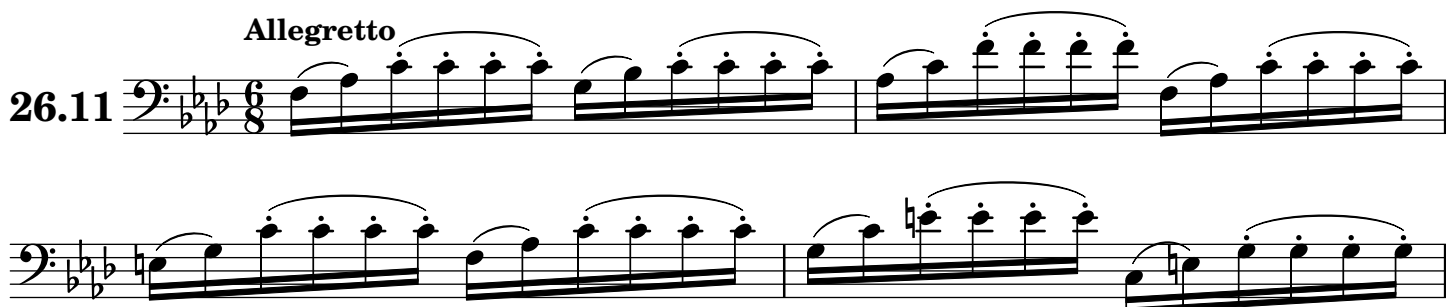
26.6

**Moderato**

26.7





**Moderato****Allegretto**

66



Moderato



