

GIOVANNI BOTTESINI



Complete Method

for

Double Bass



Part I

Transposed Two Semitones 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 two semitones 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.

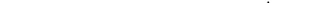
Yuval Nov
August 2020



1. Preliminary Exercises

1.1 **Lento**

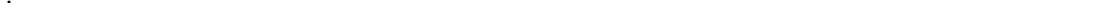
The musical score is written in bass clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Lento'. The score consists of three staves. The first staff contains 8 measures, the second staff contains 8 measures, and the third staff contains 8 measures. The melody is a simple, slow, and repetitive pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes, with a final double bar line at the end of the third staff.

1.2 

1.3



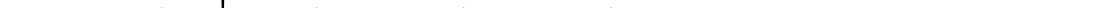
1.4

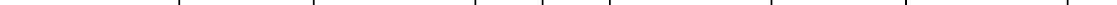
1.5 

[illegible]

1.7

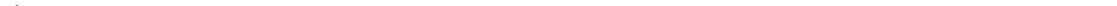
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1.9 

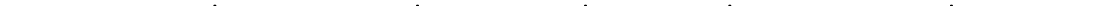
1.10 

1.11 

1.12

1.13 

[illegible]

1.15 

[illegible]

1.17 

1.18



2. Exercises in B-Flat Major





Andantino

2.14

Moderato

2.15

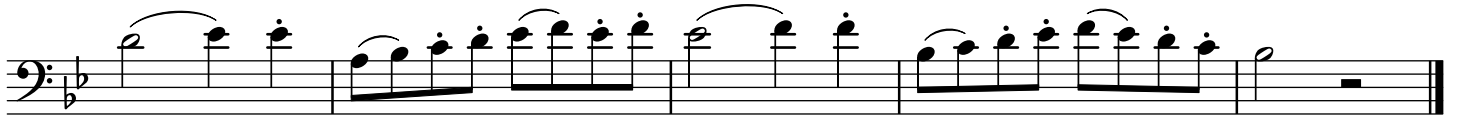
2.16

Andantino

2.17

Moderato

2.18



Andantino

2.19



Moderato

2.20



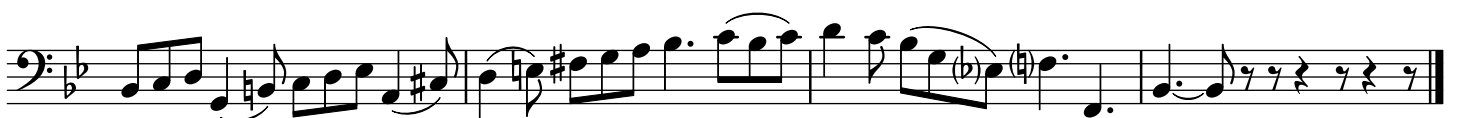
Allegretto

2.21



Andante

2.22



Allegretto

2.23





Moderato

2.24



Adagio

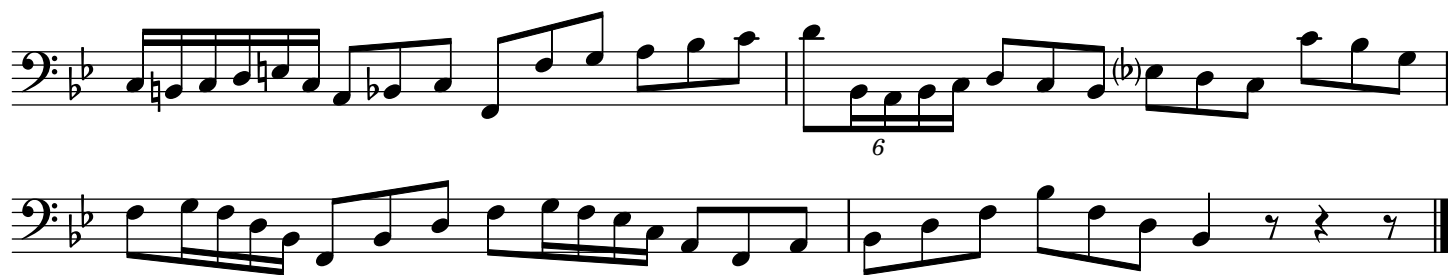
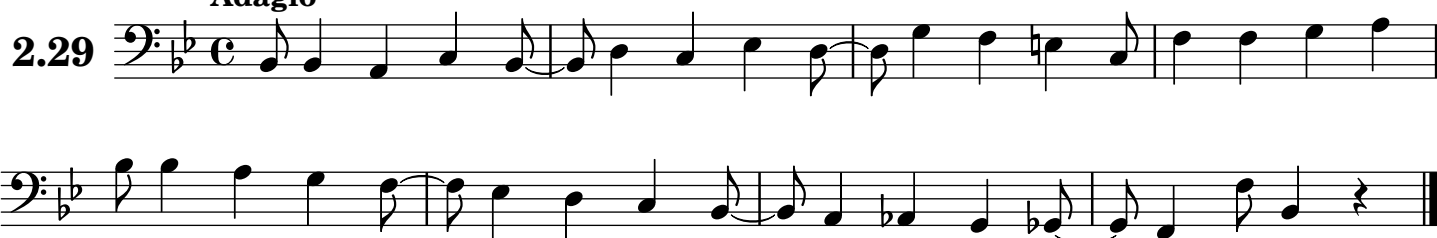
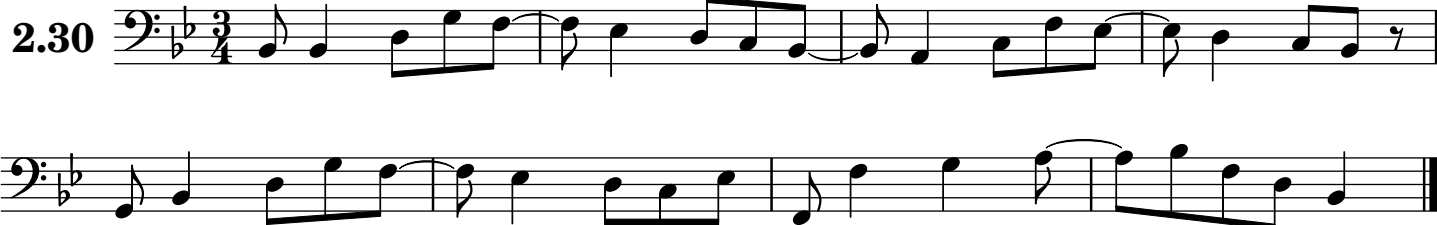
2.25



Andante

2.26



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

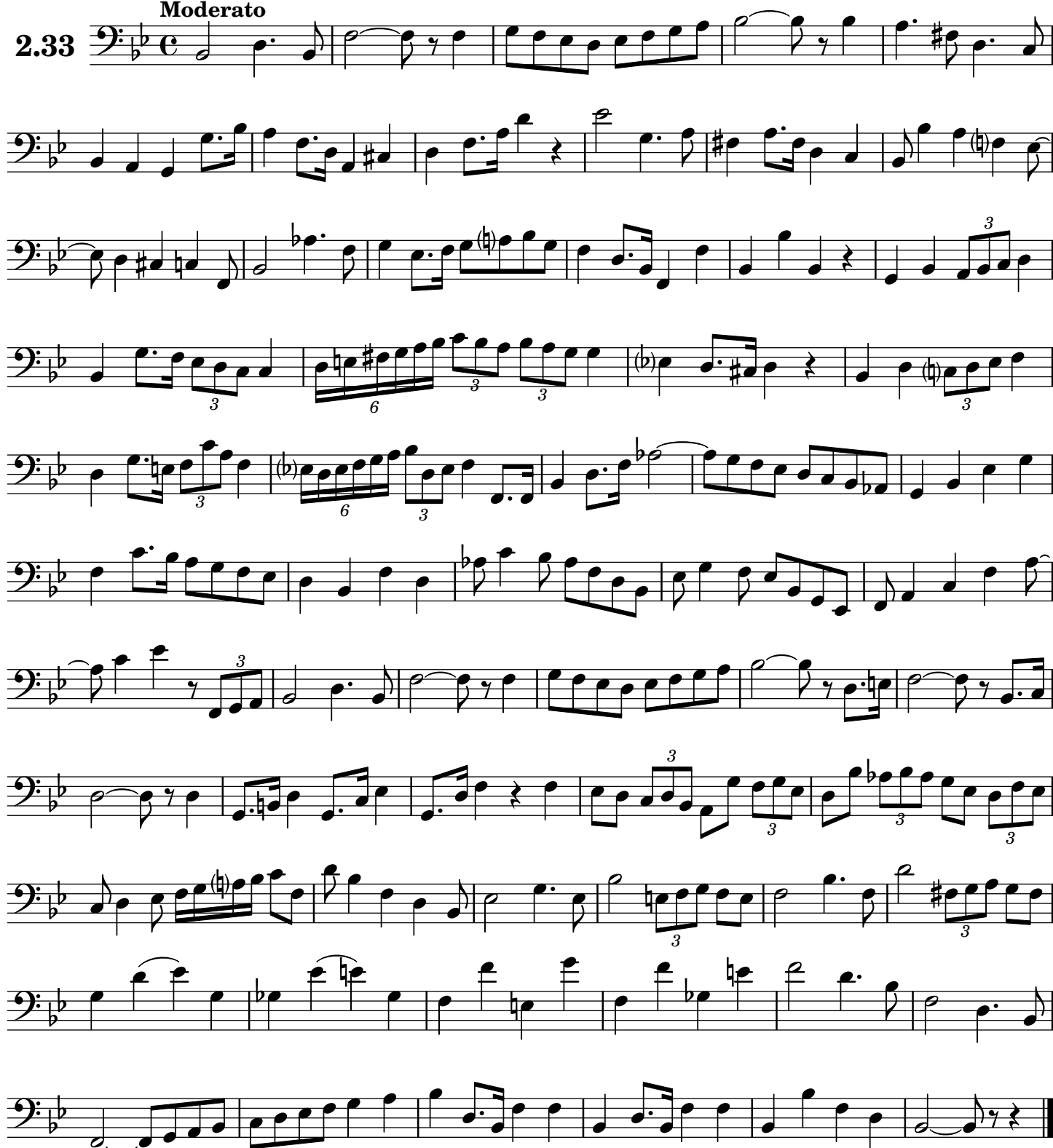
Moderato

2.32



Moderato

2.33



3. Exercises in G Minor





Andante

3.5



Allegretto

3.6



Allegretto

3.7



Moderato

3.8



Andantino

3.9





4. Exercises in E-Flat Major



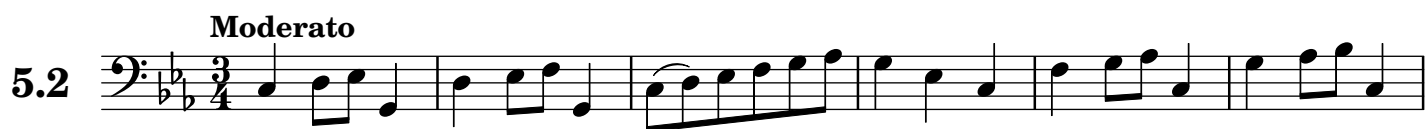


Allegretto

4.8



5. Exercises in C Minor



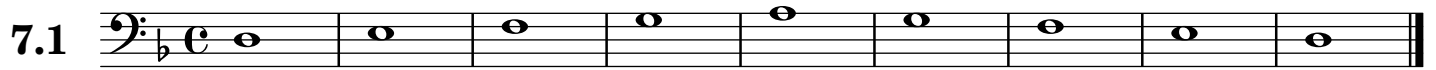
5.5

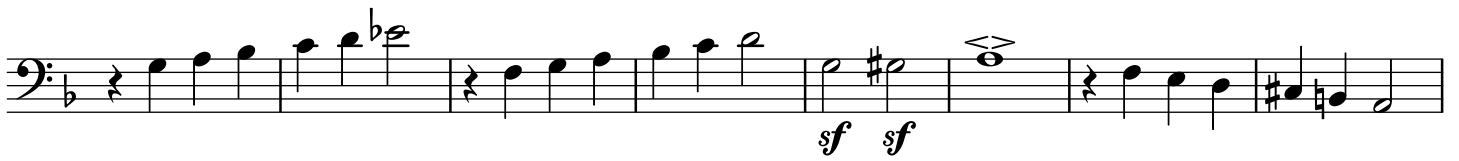
6. Exercises in F Major





7. Exercises in D Minor





8. Exercises in C Major

8.1

8.2

Moderato con molto arco

mf

8.3

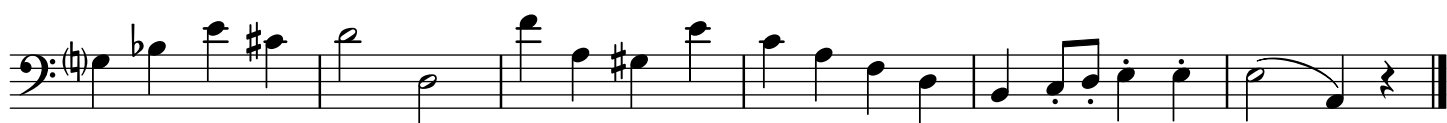
f

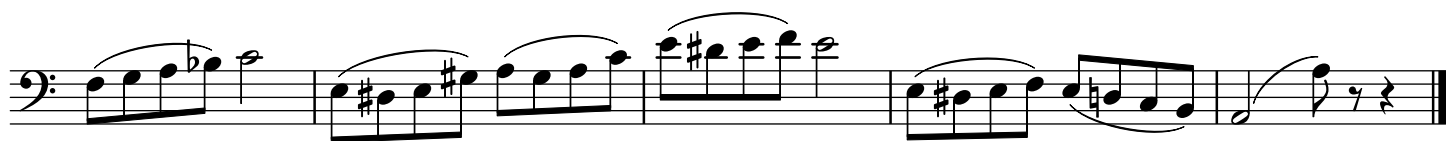
p

f



9. Exercises in A Minor

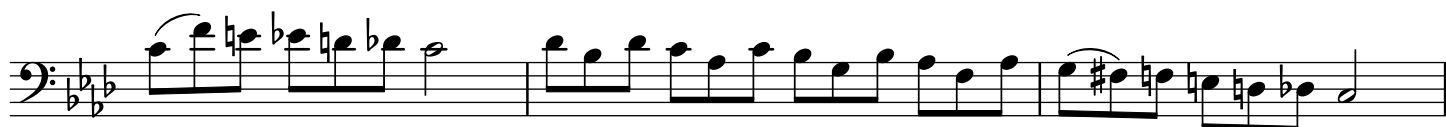
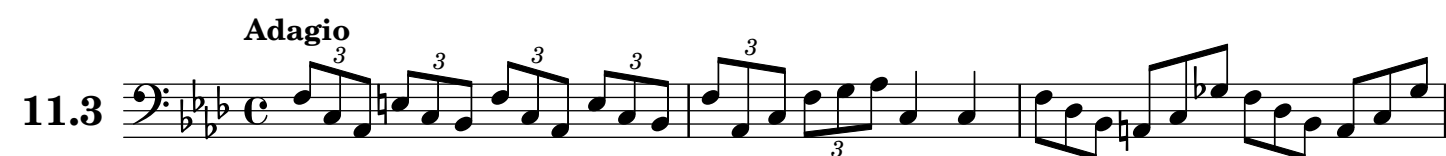




10. Exercises in A-Flat Major

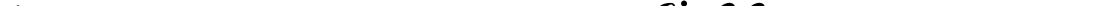


11. Exercises in F Minor



**Allegretto**

12. Exercises in D-Flat Major

12.1 

Adagio pesante

[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 consists of six measures: 1. G2-A2-B2 (quarter), C2-B2-A2 (quarter), G2 (half). 2. F2-E2-D2 (quarter), C2-B2-A2 (quarter), G2 (half). 3. F2-E2-D2 (quarter), C2-B2-A2 (quarter), G2 (half). 4. F2-E2-D2 (quarter), C2-B2-A2 (quarter), G2 (half). 5. F2-E2-D2 (quarter), C2-B2-A2 (quarter), G2 (half). 6. F2-E2-D2 (quarter), C2-B2-A2 (quarter), G2 (half).

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in 3/4 time and D minor. It consists of six measures. The first measure has a half note D2 and a quarter note F2. The second measure has an eighth note D2, an eighth note F2, and a quarter note D2. The third measure has an eighth note D2, an eighth note F2, and a quarter note D2. The fourth measure has an eighth note D2, an eighth note F2, and a quarter note D2. The fifth measure has an eighth note D2, an eighth note F2, and a quarter note D2. The sixth measure has an eighth note D2, an eighth note F2, and a quarter note D2. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Moderato

12.3

A musical score for a single staff in bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody consists of eighth notes and quarter notes across six measures. Measure 1: B2, D2, F2. Measure 2: G1, B1, D2. Measure 3: E2, G2, B2. Measure 4: C3, B2, A2. Measure 5: G2, F2, E2. Measure 6: D2, C2, B1. There are fermatas over the final note of each measure.

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 six measures. The first measure contains a quarter note G2, an eighth note A2, and a quarter note B-flat2. The second measure contains a quarter note C3, an eighth note B-flat2, and a quarter note A2. The third measure contains a quarter note G2, an eighth note F2, and a quarter note E-flat2. The fourth measure contains a quarter note D2, an eighth note C3, and a quarter note B-flat2. The fifth measure contains a quarter note A2, an eighth note G2, and a quarter note F2. The sixth measure contains a quarter note E-flat2, an eighth note D2, and a quarter note C3. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody consists of five measures: 1. G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (half). 2. D3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), G3 (half). 3. A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), D4 (half). 4. E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (half). 5. B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (half). The piece ends with a double bar line.

Adagio

12.4

[illegible]

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 eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The final measure ends with a double bar line.

Moderato

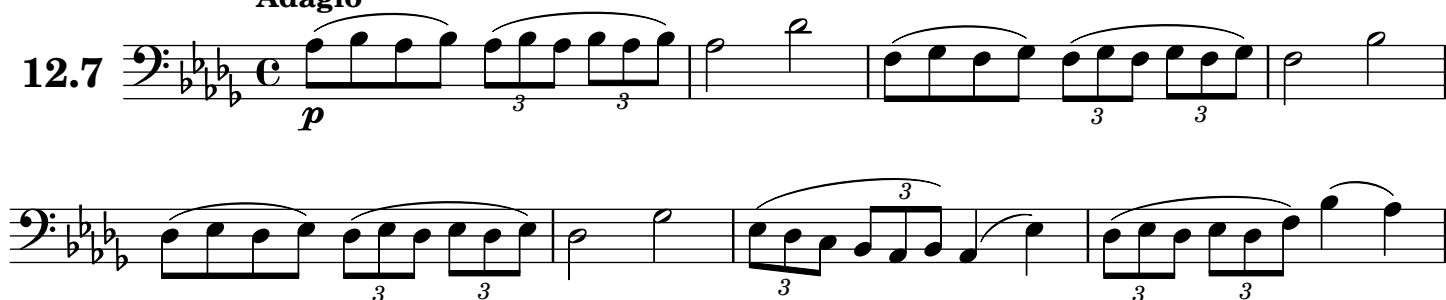
12.5 

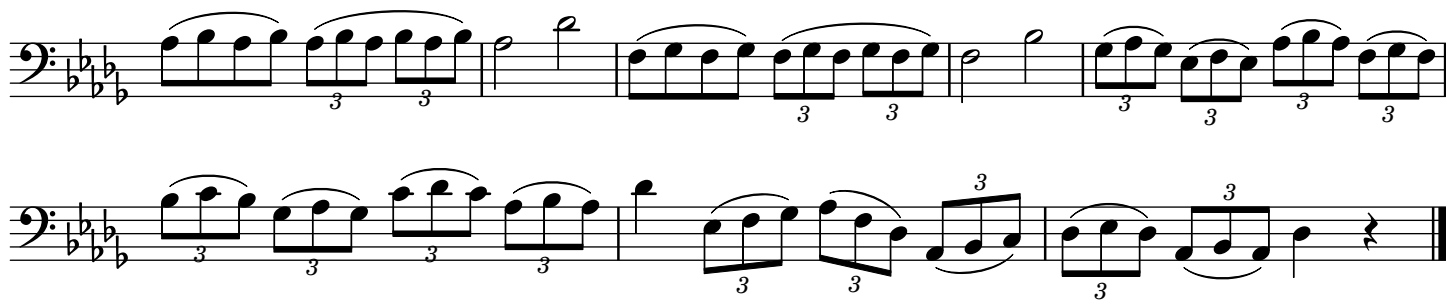


Allegretto leggermente



Adagio





13. Exercises in B-Flat Minor

13.1



13.2

Maestoso



13.3

Allegretto



13.4

Moderato





Adagio

13.5



Maestoso

13.6



Moderato

13.7

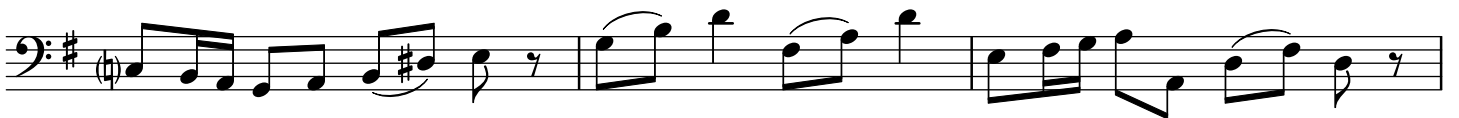


14. Exercises in G Major





15. Exercises in E Minor





Allegretto



16. Exercises in G-Flat Major





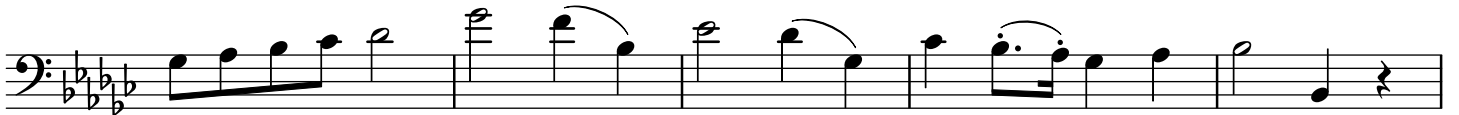
Moderato



17. Exercises in E-Flat Minor

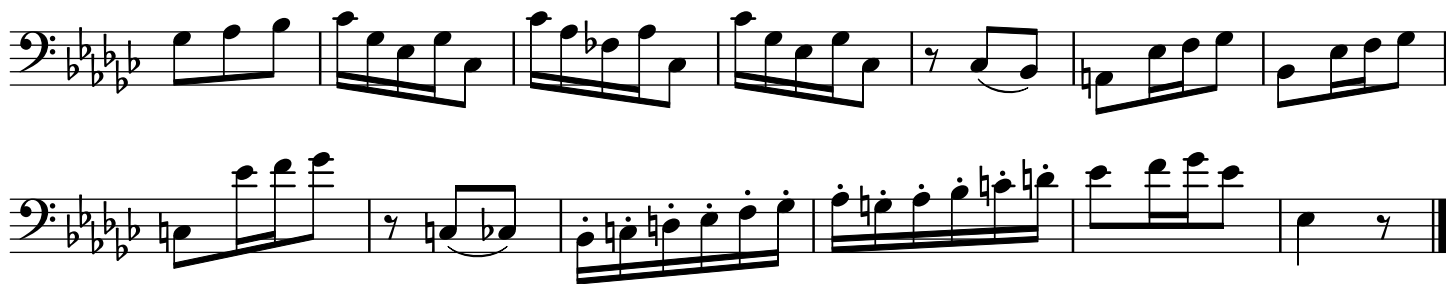


Maestoso



Allegretto



**Andantino**

17.4

**Moderato**

17.5



18. Exercises in D Major





19. Exercises in B Minor



Adagio

19.5



20. Exercises in B Major

20.1 *Adagio*

20.2 *Moderato*

20.3 *Adagio*

Adagio

20.4



21. Exercises in G-Sharp Minor

Adagio

21.1

21.2

Andantino

21.3

Allegretto

21.4

staccato



22. Exercises in E Major

22.1

Exercise 22.1 is in E major (three sharps: F#, C#, G#) and common time (C). It is written in bass clef. The first staff contains 8 measures, the second staff contains 8 measures with a repeat sign at the end, and the third staff contains 8 measures ending with a double bar line.

22.2

Adagio

Exercise 22.2 is in E major (three sharps: F#, C#, G#) and common time (C). It is written in bass clef. The tempo marking is Adagio. The first staff contains 8 measures, the second staff contains 8 measures, the third staff contains 8 measures, and the fourth staff contains 8 measures ending with a double bar line.

22.3

Moderato

Exercise 22.3 is in E major (three sharps: F#, C#, G#) and 3/8 time. It is written in bass clef. The tempo marking is Moderato. The first staff contains 8 measures, the second staff contains 8 measures, the third staff contains 8 measures, and the fourth staff contains 8 measures ending with a double bar line.



23. Exercises in C-Sharp Minor

Adagio

23.1

Moderato

23.2

Moderato

23.3



23.4 Andantino

Measures 62-71 of a musical piece in bass clef, key of D major (three sharps), marked **Andantino**. The time signature is 6/8. The notation features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and accidentals. Measure 71 ends with a double bar line.

24. Exercises in A Major

24.1 *Maestoso*

24.2 *Allegretto*

24.3 *Andantino*



Molto moderato



25. Exercises in F-Sharp Minor

Adagio

25.1

Andante

25.2

26. Additional Exercises

26.1 *Andante*

Exercise 26.1 is an Andante piece in bass clef with one flat. It consists of five staves of music. The notation includes eighth notes, quarter notes, eighth rests, and trills (tr). There are also triplets and slurs throughout the piece.

26.2 *Moderato*

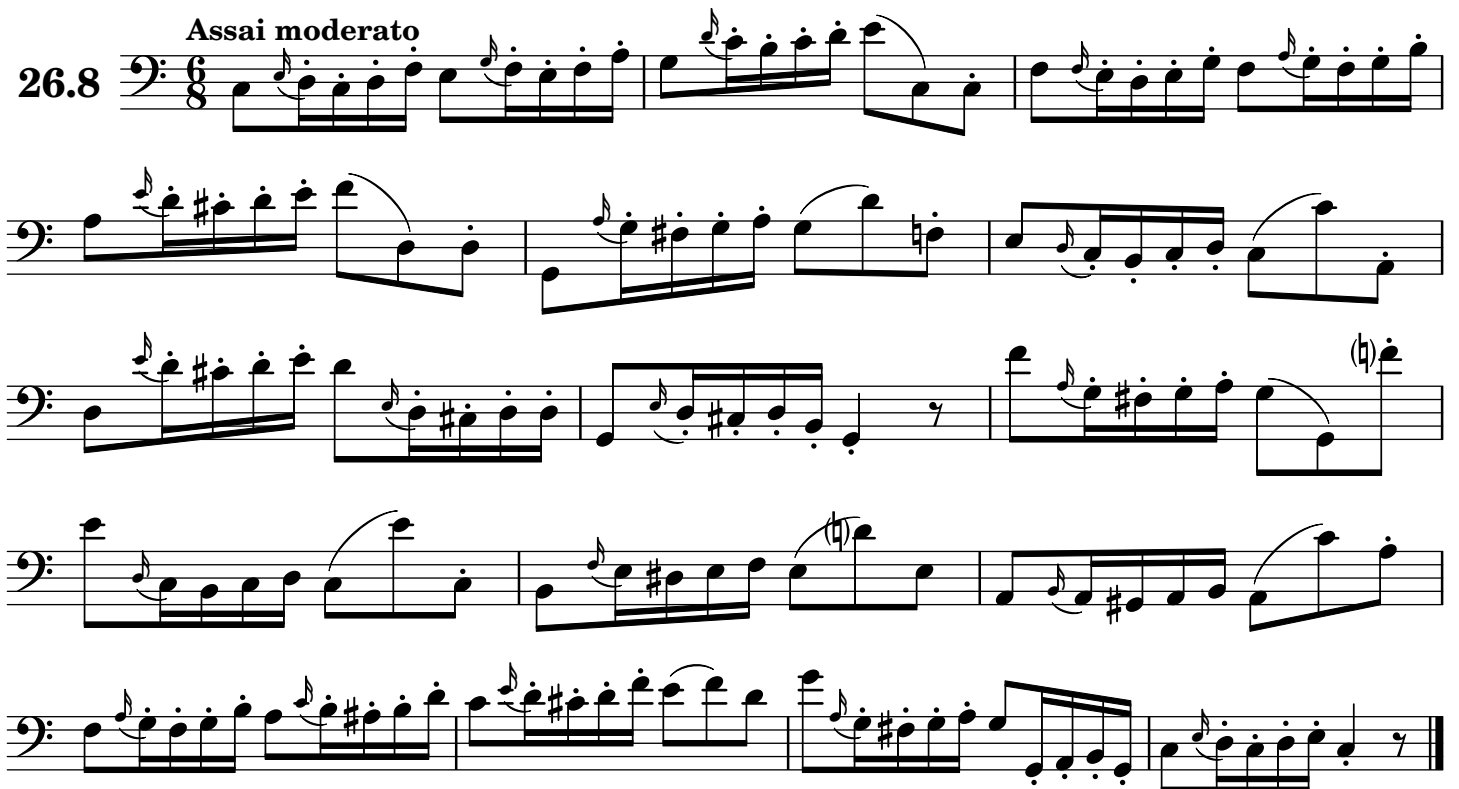
Exercise 26.2 is a Moderato piece in bass clef with one flat. It consists of six staves of music. The notation includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and eighth rests. There are also slurs and accidentals throughout the piece.

26.3 *Molto moderato*

Exercise 26.3 is a Molto moderato piece in bass clef with one flat. It consists of one staff of music. The notation includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and eighth rests. There are also slurs and triplets throughout the piece.



**Maestoso****Moderato**



**Moderato****Allegretto**



Moderato

