

GIOVANNI BOTTESINI



Complete Method

for

Double Bass



Part I

Transposed Three 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 three 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*

1.1 *Lento*

1.2

1.2

1.3

1.3

1.4

1.4

1.5

1.5

1.6

1.6

1.7

1.7

1.8

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 A Major





2.19 **Andantino**

2.20 **Moderato**

2.21 **Allegretto**

2.22 **Andante**

2.23 **Allegretto**

First musical staff of the page, featuring a bass clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

Second musical staff of the page, continuing the melody from the first staff.

2.24 **Moderato**

Third musical staff, marked 'Moderato'. It features a bass clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/8 time signature. The melody includes eighth and quarter notes.

Fourth musical staff of the 'Moderato' section.

Fifth musical staff of the 'Moderato' section.

Sixth musical staff of the 'Moderato' section.

2.25 **Adagio**

Seventh musical staff, marked 'Adagio'. It features a bass clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 9/8 time signature. The melody includes quarter and eighth notes.

Eighth musical staff of the 'Adagio' section.

Ninth musical staff of the 'Adagio' section.

Tenth musical staff of the 'Adagio' section.

2.26 **Andante**

Eleventh musical staff, marked 'Andante'. It features a bass clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a common time signature (C). The melody includes eighth notes and rests, with triplets and sextuplets indicated by the numbers 3 and 6 above the notes.

Twelfth musical staff of the 'Andante' section.

Musical notation for two staves, measures 1-4. The first staff has a measure with a '6' below it. The second staff has a measure with a '6' below it.

2.27 **Moderato** $\frac{3}{4}$

Musical notation for two staves, measures 1-4. The first staff has a measure with a '3' above it and a measure with a '6' below it. The second staff has a measure with a '6' above it.

2.28 **Allegro** C

Musical notation for one staff, measures 1-4.

2.29 **Adagio** C

Musical notation for one staff, measures 1-4.

2.30 **Moderato** $\frac{3}{4}$

Musical notation for two staves, measures 1-4.

2.31 **Andantino** C

Musical notation for two staves, measures 1-4.

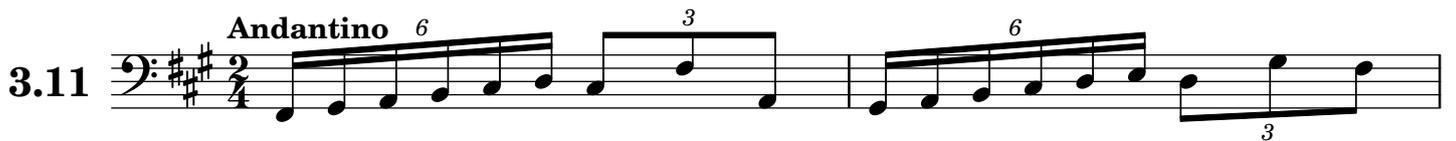
Moderato

2.32

Moderato

2.33







Allegretto

4.8

Musical score for bass clef, 3/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The music is written in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

5. Exercises in B Minor



Moderato



Andantino



Moderato





The image displays five staves of musical notation for a bass clef instrument, likely a cello or double bass. The key signature is A major (three sharps: F#, C#, G#). The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, slurs, and ornaments. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to A major. The second staff features a sharp sign (#) at the beginning of the first measure. The third staff contains a natural sign (♮) above the first measure. The fourth staff has a sharp sign (#) above the first measure and a natural sign (♮) above the fifth measure. The fifth staff includes a sharp sign (#) above the first measure, a natural sign (♮) above the second measure, and a sharp sign (#) above the third measure. The notation concludes with a double bar line.

Three staves of music in bass clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and common time. The first staff contains measures 23 and 24, ending with a repeat sign. The second staff contains measure 25, featuring a forte (*sf*) dynamic marking. The third staff contains measures 26 and 27, ending with a double bar line.

7.5 **Moderato**

Four staves of music in bass clef, key signature of three sharps, and common time. The first staff is marked *p* (piano) and *sf* (sforzando). The second staff is marked *sf*. The third and fourth staves continue the piece, ending with a double bar line.

8. Exercises in B Major



**Lentamente**

9.5 **Ben legato**

10. Exercises in G Major



Moderato ben marcato e staccato



Allegretto con energia



Allegretto leggiero

10.5

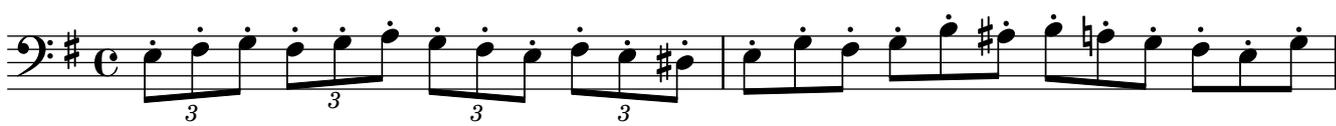
p

crescendo

11. Exercises in E Minor

11.1  

Exercise 11.1 consists of two systems of music in E minor, common time. The first system contains two measures of quarter notes: E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3. The second system contains two measures of quarter notes: F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, followed by a double bar line.

11.2   

Exercise 11.2 consists of three systems of music in E minor, common time. The first system contains four measures of eighth notes, each marked with a '3' for a triplet: E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3. The second system contains four measures of eighth notes: F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3. The third system contains four measures of eighth notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, followed by a double bar line.

11.3 *Adagio*     

Exercise 11.3 is marked *Adagio* and consists of five systems of music in E minor, common time. The first system contains five measures of eighth notes, each marked with a '3' for a triplet: E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3. The second system contains four measures of eighth notes: F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3. The third system contains four measures of eighth notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3. The fourth system contains four measures of eighth notes: A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3. The fifth system contains four measures of eighth notes: B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, followed by a double bar line.

11.4 *Andante*  *con forza*

Exercise 11.4 is marked *Andante* and consists of one system of music in E minor, common time. It contains four measures of quarter notes: E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3. The first measure is marked *con forza*. The second measure has a sharp sign above the F#2. The third measure has a flat sign above the G2. The fourth measure has a flat sign above the A2. The system ends with a double bar line.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains measures 31 and 32. The second staff continues the melody from measure 31. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes, some with slurs and accents.

Allegretto

11.5

Three staves of musical notation in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The first staff is marked with the tempo 'Allegretto' and the number '11.5'. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with various articulations like slurs, accents, and breath marks. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef. The first staff contains a sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals (sharps, naturals, flats). The second staff continues this sequence, ending with a double bar line.

Allegretto leggermente

12.6

A series of seven staves of musical notation in bass clef, 3/8 time signature. The music consists of continuous sixteenth-note patterns, often grouped in pairs or fours, with various slurs and accidentals. The key signature changes from one sharp to one flat.

Adagio

12.7

A series of four staves of musical notation in bass clef, common time signature. The music features prominent triplet patterns and slurs, with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) at the beginning.

13. Exercises in A Minor

13.1 

13.2 **Maestoso** 

13.3 **Allegretto** 

13.4 **Moderato** 

Adagio

13.5

Maestoso

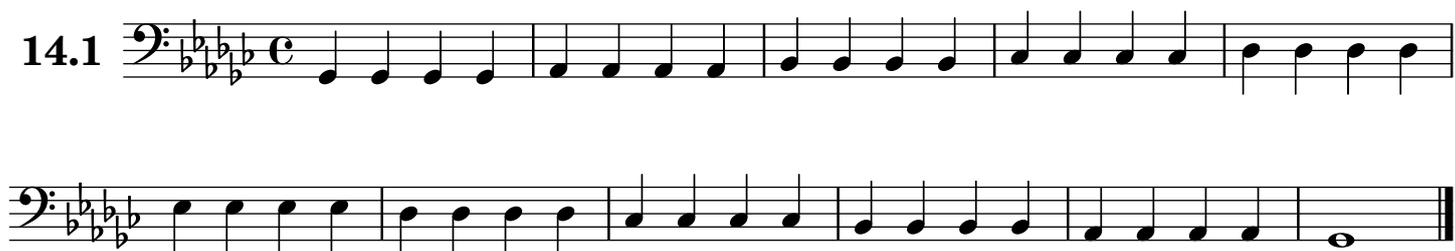
13.6

Moderato

13.7

Musical score for bass clef, measures 36-40. The score consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a bass clef and a common time signature. The music is written in a key with two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff contains measures 36-38. The second staff contains measures 39-40. The third staff contains measures 41-42. The fourth staff contains measures 43-44. The score ends with a double bar line. Various musical notations are present, including accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals), slurs, and articulation marks.

14. Exercises in G-Flat Major

14.1 

14.2 *Allegro energia*
f 

14.3 *Moderato* 

14.4 *Adagio* 

Three staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and common time. The first staff contains measures 38-40, the second staff contains measures 41-42, and the third staff contains measures 43-45. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with various articulations and dynamics.

Moderato

14.5 Musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats, and common time. The first staff contains measures 14.5-14.8. The music features eighth notes, often beamed in groups of three, with various articulations and dynamics.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats, and common time. The first staff contains measures 14.9-14.10, and the second staff contains measures 14.11-14.12. The music features eighth notes, often beamed in groups of three, with various articulations and dynamics.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats, and common time. The first staff contains measures 14.13-14.14, and the second staff contains measures 14.15-14.16. The music features eighth notes, often beamed in groups of three, with various articulations and dynamics.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats, and common time. The first staff contains measures 14.17-14.18, and the second staff contains measures 14.19-14.20. The music features eighth notes, often beamed in groups of three, with various articulations and dynamics.

15. Exercises in E-Flat Minor



Moderato

15.4

Musical score for exercise 15.4, Moderato. The piece is in bass clef, 3/4 time signature, and B-flat major. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to B-flat major. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final measure ending with a fermata.

Allegretto

15.5

Musical score for exercise 15.5, Allegretto. The piece is in bass clef, 2/4 time signature, and B-flat major. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to B-flat major. The music is characterized by eighth-note patterns and some slurs, ending with a fermata in the final measure.

16. Exercises in F Major



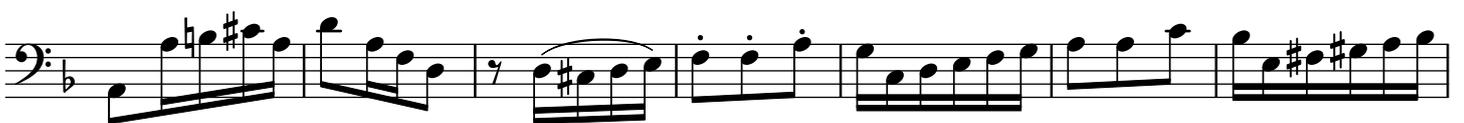
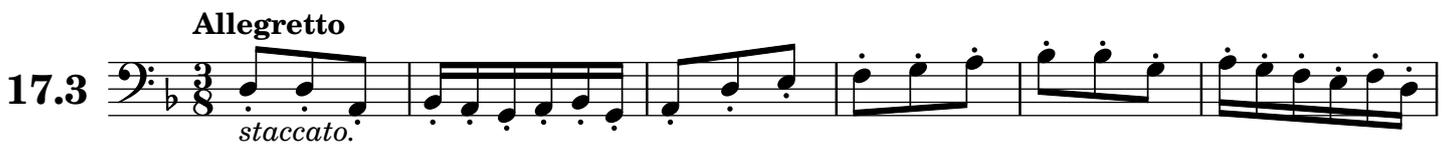
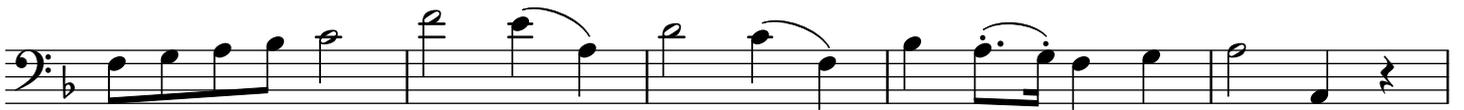
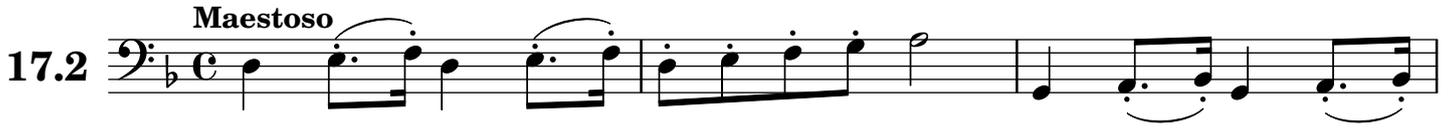
Musical score for measures 38-41. The music is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and rests. Measure 38 starts with a sharp sign before the first note. Measure 39 has a flat sign above the first note. Measure 40 has a flat sign above the first note. Measure 41 ends with a double bar line.

Moderato

16.5

Musical score for measures 16.5-20. The music is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. Measure 16.5 features three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' below the notes). The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and rests. Measure 17 has a flat sign above the first note. Measure 18 has a flat sign above the first note. Measure 19 has a flat sign above the first note. Measure 20 ends with a double bar line.

17. Exercises in D Minor



Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains measures 44-47. The second staff contains measures 48-51. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and a key signature change to B major in measure 50.

17.4 **Andantino**

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key of B-flat major, 3/4 time signature. The exercise consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern with various accidentals and slurs. The first staff shows the beginning with four triplets marked '3'. The second staff continues the pattern with various accidentals and slurs.

17.5 **Moderato**

Four staves of musical notation in bass clef, key of B-flat major, 3/4 time signature. The exercise consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern with various accidentals and slurs. The first staff shows the beginning with a slur. The second staff continues the pattern with various accidentals and slurs. The third and fourth staves continue the pattern with various accidentals and slurs.

18. Exercises in D-Flat Major



Moderato

18.6

Moderato

18.7

Moderato

18.8

Adagio

18.9



19. Exercises in B-Flat Minor



Adagio

19.5

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C), then changes to a bass clef. The second staff is in a bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat major). The tempo is marked 'Adagio'. The score contains two lines of music, each with several measures of eighth and quarter notes, including dynamic markings like 'f' and 'p', and articulation marks like 'acc' and 'trill'.

20. Exercises in B-Flat Major

20.1 *Adagio*

20.2 *Moderato*

20.3 *Adagio*

20.4 *Adagio*

The image displays three staves of musical notation in bass clef. The first staff begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and contains a sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together, and a few quarter notes. The second staff continues this melodic line with similar rhythmic patterns and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The third staff concludes the piece with a final cadence, marked by a double bar line and repeat dots. The notation includes various accidentals such as flats, sharps, and naturals, and uses slurs and beams to indicate phrasing and rhythm.

21. Exercises in G Minor

Adagio

21.1

21.2

Andantino

21.3

Allegretto

21.4

staccato

The image displays a musical score for five staves, all in bass clef and one flat key signature. The score is organized into five systems, each containing one staff. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. Some notes are marked with a 'b' in parentheses, likely indicating a breath mark. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

23. Exercises in C Minor

Adagio

23.1

Moderato

23.2

Moderato

23.3

Three staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat, E-flat). The first staff contains measures 56-58. The second staff contains measures 59-60. The third staff contains measures 61-62. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some slurs and ties.

Andantino

23.4

Eight staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat, E-flat), and 6/8 time signature. The first staff is labeled '23.4'. The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the lower register and a more melodic line in the upper register. There are several slurs and ties throughout the piece.

24. Exercises in A-Flat Major

24.1 *Maestoso*

24.1 *Maestoso*

24.2 *Allegretto*

24.2 *Allegretto*

24.3 *Andantino*

24.3 *Andantino*

Three staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and 2/4 time signature. The music features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and a bass line with similar rhythmic patterns. Measure 58 is marked with a '58' above the staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata.

Molto moderato

24.4 Musical notation for measure 24.4, starting with a bass clef, key signature of three flats, and 2/4 time signature. The measure contains a series of eighth notes.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats, and 2/4 time signature. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a measure with a fermata.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats, and 2/4 time signature. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats, and 2/4 time signature. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a measure with a fermata.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats, and 2/4 time signature. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats, and 2/4 time signature. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a measure with a fermata.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, key signature of three flats, and 2/4 time signature. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a measure with a fermata.

25. Exercises in F Minor

Adagio

25.1

Musical score for exercise 25.1, Adagio, in F minor, common time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (F minor), and a common time signature. The music is written in a single line with various note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The second and third staves continue the piece with similar notation. The fourth staff concludes the exercise with a double bar line.

Andante

25.2

Musical score for exercise 25.2, Andante, in F minor, common time. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (F minor), and a common time signature. The music is written in a single line with various note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The second and third staves continue the piece with similar notation. The fourth and fifth staves conclude the exercise with a double bar line.

26. Additional Exercises

26.1 *Andante*

26.1 *Andante*

26.2 *Moderato*

26.2 *Moderato*

Molto moderato

26.3

Musical score for exercise 26.3, **Molto moderato**. The piece is in bass clef, key of D major (one sharp), and common time (C). It consists of six staves of music. The first four measures feature a continuous eighth-note pattern with triplets (marked '3'). The piece concludes with a final cadence on the sixth staff.

26.4

Moderato

Musical score for exercise 26.4, **Moderato**. The piece is in bass clef, key of D major (one sharp), and common time (C). It consists of seven staves of music. The piece features a continuous eighth-note pattern with various melodic lines and dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The piece concludes with a final cadence on the seventh staff.

Andante cantabile

26.5

Musical score for exercise 26.5, **Andante cantabile**, bass clef, 3/4 time signature. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), which then changes to two sharps (F# and C#) in the second staff. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with various articulations such as slurs and accents. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Maestoso

26.6

Musical score for exercise 26.6, **Maestoso**, bass clef, common time signature. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is characterized by a steady, rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often beamed together in groups of four or six. There are several slurs and accents throughout the piece. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Moderato

26.7

Musical score for exercise 26.7, **Moderato**, bass clef, 3/4 time signature. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with various articulations such as slurs and accents. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Measures 26.5 to 26.8. Bass clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations, including slurs and accents.

Assai moderato

26.8

Measures 26.8 to 27.3. Bass clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), 6/8 time signature. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs and accents.

Adagio e molto legato

26.9

Measures 26.9 to 27.4. Bass clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), common time (C). The music is characterized by wide intervals and a slow, legato feel, with many notes marked with 'x'.

Measures 64-70: This section consists of six staves of music in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Some notes are marked with an 'x' above them. There are several slurs and ties throughout the passage.

Moderato

26.10

Measures 26.10-26.14: This section is in bass clef with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a 6/8 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The music consists of eighth notes, some with slurs, and some with accents. The melody is relatively simple and rhythmic.

Allegretto

26.11

Measures 26.11-26.14: This section is in bass clef with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a 6/8 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The music features a more active eighth-note melody with many slurs and ties, creating a sense of continuous motion.

Musical score for measures 65-72. The music is written in bass clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It features a series of eighth-note chords and arpeggiated patterns, with some notes marked with a slur and a 'z' (likely a grace note or a specific articulation). Measure 72 ends with a double bar line.

Moderato

26.12

Musical score for measures 26.12-33. The music is written in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F-sharp, C-sharp) and a common time signature (C). It consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern. Measure 33 ends with a double bar line.

