

GIOVANNI BOTTESINI



Complete Method

for

Double Bass



Part I

Transposed Four 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 four 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*

1.2

1.3

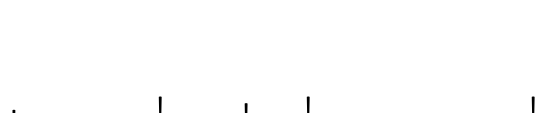
1.4

1.5

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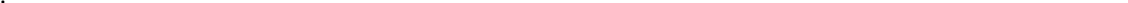
1.23 

1.24 

1.25 



2. Exercises in A-Flat Major

2.1 

2.2

A musical score snippet labeled "2.2". It features a single staff with a bass clef, three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and common time (C). The melody consists of eighth notes followed by quarter notes, ascending from G2 to B-flat3 over eight measures.

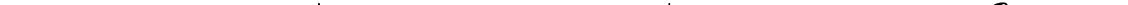
Musical notation showing a sequence of notes on a five-line staff.

[illegible]

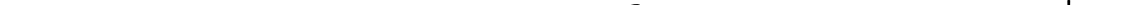
The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in 2/4 time on a single staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G2 (half note), A2 (quarter note), B-flat2 (quarter note), A2 (quarter note), G2 (quarter note), F2 (quarter note), E-flat2 (quarter note), D2 (half note), C2 (half note), B-flat2 (quarter note), A2 (quarter note), G2 (quarter note), F2 (quarter note), E-flat2 (quarter note), D2 (half note), C2 (half note), and a final whole note C2.

[illegible]

The musical notation for the bass staff shows a sequence of notes starting from a whole note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, and ending with a whole note G4. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C).

2.5 

[illegible]

2.6 



Andantino



Moderato



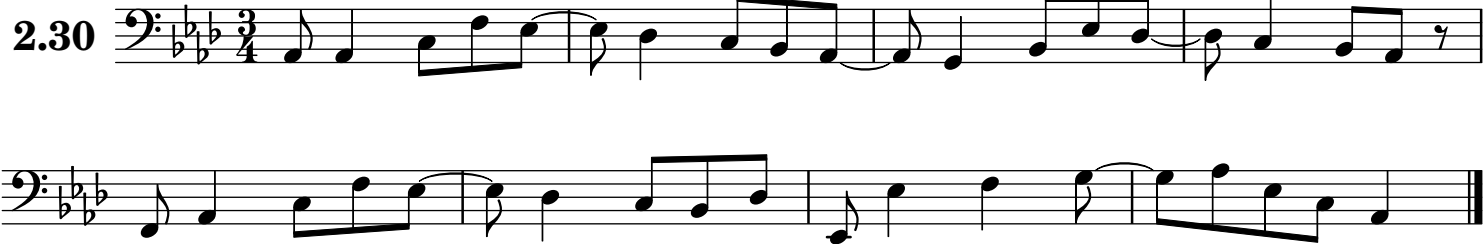
Andantino



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

**Allegretto****Moderato****Adagio**



Moderato**Andantino****Moderato****Moderato**



3. Exercises in F Minor





Andante



Allegretto



Allegretto



Moderato



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

4. Exercises in D-Flat Major

[illegible]

4.2 **Moderato**

The musical notation for exercise 4.2 is written in bass clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and common time (C). The tempo marking is 'Moderato'. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody consists of six measures: 1. G2, A2, Bb2, A2, G2 (quarter notes); 2. F2, G2, A2, Bb2, A2, G2 (quarter notes); 3. F2, G2, A2, Bb2, A2, G2 (quarter notes); 4. F2, G2, A2, Bb2, A2, G2 (quarter notes); 5. F2, G2, A2, Bb2, A2, G2 (quarter notes); 6. F2, G2, A2, Bb2, A2, G2 (quarter notes). The final note is a whole note G2.

Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final double bar line.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

4.4 **Moderato**

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written on a single staff in bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. A slur covers the first four measures, and another slur covers the last four measures. A trill is indicated above the eighth note in the fifth measure.

**Andante****Allegretto**

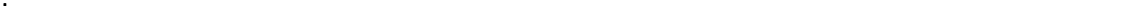
Adagio**Allegretto**

5. Exercises in B-Flat Minor





6. Exercises in E-Flat Major

6.1 

6.2 *Maestoso con forza*



f

6.3 *Moderato staccato*

p *cresc.* *p* *cresc.* *p* *cresc.* *p* *cresc.* *p* *cresc.*

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in 3/4 time, starting on a bass clef with one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together. It begins with a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking and ends with a *dim.* (diminuendo) marking. The final measure is a whole note chord of B-flat and D, marked *p* (piano). The notation includes various ornaments like accents and slurs.

6.4 *Adagio staccato*



Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final measure containing a B-flat note. A double bar line is present after the fourth measure.

The first staff of music is written in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The melody starts on a whole note G2, followed by quarter notes A2 and B2, and a half note C3. After a double bar line, it continues with eighth notes D3, E3, F3, and G3, followed by a quarter note F3, and then a half note E3. The staff concludes with a half note D3, a quarter note C3, and a final half note B2.

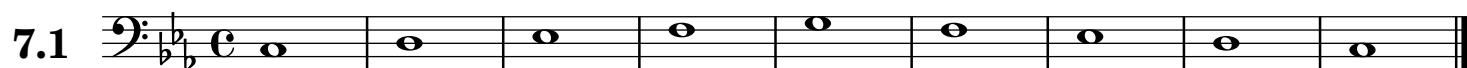
[illegible]

6.5 **Moderato**

Musical notation for exercise 6.5, Moderato, in bass clef, 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The exercise consists of six measures. Measures 1-2: A descending eighth-note scale from G2 to B1. Measures 3-4: An ascending eighth-note scale from B1 to G2. Measures 5-6: A descending eighth-note scale from G2 to B1. The final note is a whole note B1.



7. Exercises in C Minor



[illegible][illegible]

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a sequence of eighth and quarter notes: B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat. This is followed by a quarter rest, then a series of eighth notes: B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat. The melody continues with a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, a quarter note G, a quarter note F, a quarter note E, a quarter note D, a quarter note C, and a quarter note B-flat. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

7.5 **Moderato**

The first staff of music is written in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note F2. A dynamic marking of *sf* (sforzando) is placed below the first note. The staff continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, including a sharp sign (F#) and a double bar line with repeat dots. The notation is complex, with many notes beamed together.

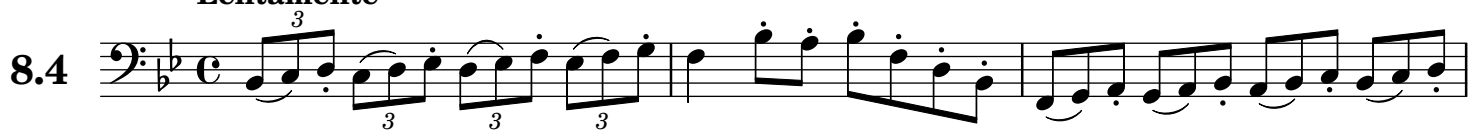
[illegible]

8. Exercises in B-Flat Major





Lentamente



con forza



9. Exercises in G Minor

9.1

Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G2 (half note), F2 (half note), E2 (half note), D2 (half note), C2 (half note), B1 (half note), A1 (half note), and G1 (half note). The piece ends with a double bar line.

Adagio

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of 12 measures. The first measure contains a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and an eighth note Bb2. The second measure contains a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, and an eighth note E3. The third measure contains a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, and an eighth note A3. The fourth measure contains a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4, and an eighth note D4. The fifth measure contains a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, and an eighth note G4. The sixth measure contains a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and an eighth note C5. The seventh measure contains a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and an eighth note F5. The eighth measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note A5, and an eighth note B5. The ninth measure contains a quarter note C6, a quarter note B5, and an eighth note A5. The tenth measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note F5, and an eighth note E5. The eleventh measure contains a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, and an eighth note B4. The twelfth measure contains a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and an eighth note F4. The piece ends with a double bar line.

9.4

**Ben legato**



Allegretto *leggiero*



11. Exercises in E-Flat Minor

11.1

11.2

11.3

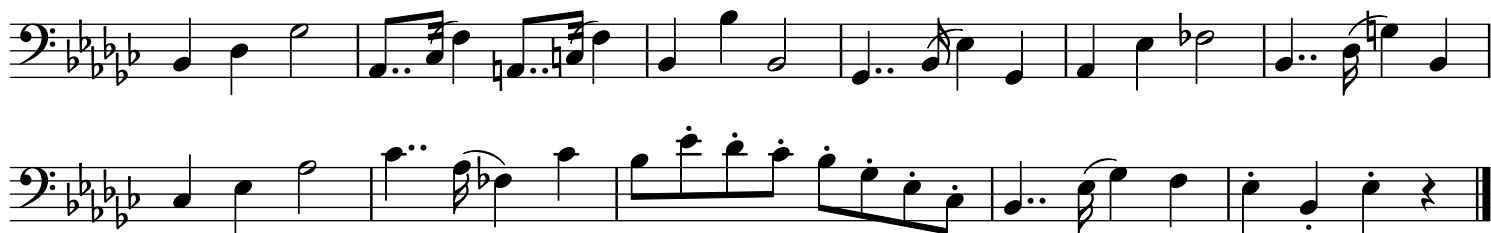
Adagio

11.4

Andante

con forza

33



Allegretto

11.5



12. Exercises in B Major



Moderato

12.5

**Allegretto leggermente**

12.6

**Adagio**

12.7





13. Exercises in G-Sharp Minor





Adagio

13.5



Maestoso

13.6





14. Exercises in F Major



Adagio

14.4

**Moderato**

14.5



15. Exercises in D Minor



Moderato

15.4

**Allegretto**

15.5



16. Exercises in E Major

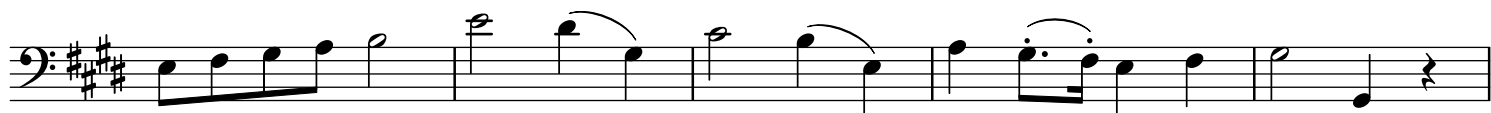




Moderato

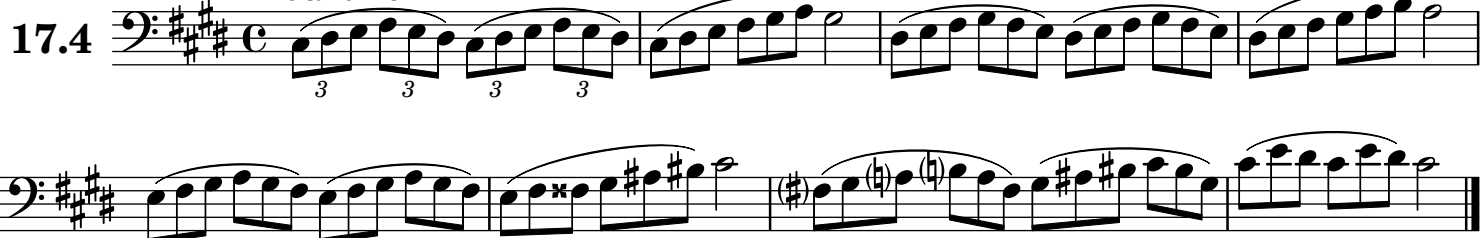


17. Exercises in C-Sharp Minor





Andantino



Moderato



18. Exercises in C Major

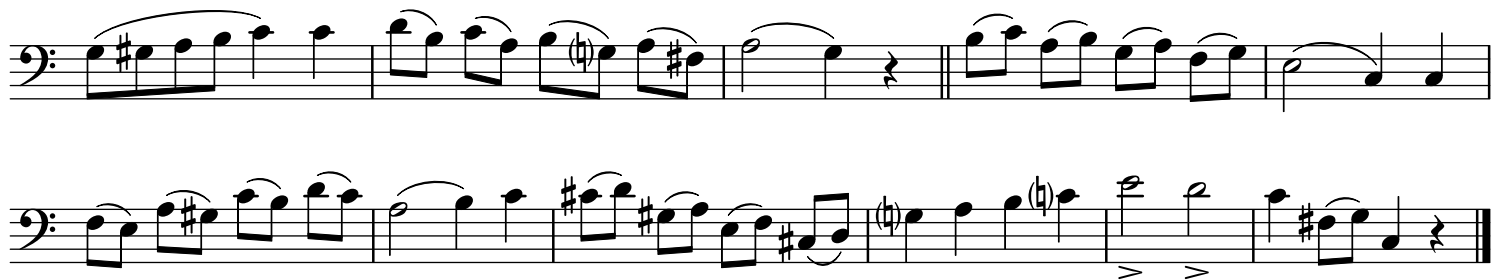


18.6 **Moderato**

18.7 **Moderato**

18.8 **Moderato**

18.9 **Adagio**



19. Exercises in A Minor





20. Exercises in A Major

20.1 *Adagio*

20.2 *Moderato*

20.3 *Adagio*

20.4 *Adagio*



21. Exercises in F-Sharp Minor

Adagio

21.1



21.2



Andantino

21.3



Allegretto

21.4

staccato

22. Exercises in D Major

22.1

Exercise 22.1 is in D major (two sharps) and common time (C). It is written in bass clef. The first staff contains 8 measures of music. The second staff contains 8 measures, ending with a repeat sign. The third staff contains 8 measures.

22.2

Adagio

Exercise 22.2 is in D major (two sharps) and common time (C). It is written in bass clef. The tempo is marked "Adagio". The exercise consists of four staves of music, featuring various slurs and ties.

22.3

Moderato

Exercise 22.3 is in D major (two sharps) and 3/8 time. It is written in bass clef. The tempo is marked "Moderato". The exercise consists of three staves of music, featuring various slurs and ties.

23. Exercises in B Minor

Adagio

23.1



Moderato

23.2



Moderato

23.3





23.4 Andantino

Measures 61-70 of the musical score, marked **Andantino**. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The time signature is 6/8. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and a double bar line at the end of measure 70.

24. Exercises in G Major

Maestoso

24.1

Allegretto

24.2

Andantino

24.3

**Molto moderato**

24.4



25. Exercises in E Minor

Adagio

25.1



Andante

25.2



26. Additional Exercises

26.1 *Andante*

26.1 *Andante*

26.2 *Moderato*

26.2 *Moderato*

Molto moderato

26.3

26.3 Musical score for exercise 26.3, **Molto moderato**, in bass clef with key signature of three flats and common time. The piece consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with four triplet eighth notes. The music features a variety of eighth and sixteenth note patterns, some with slurs and ties, leading to a final measure with a whole note and a repeat sign.

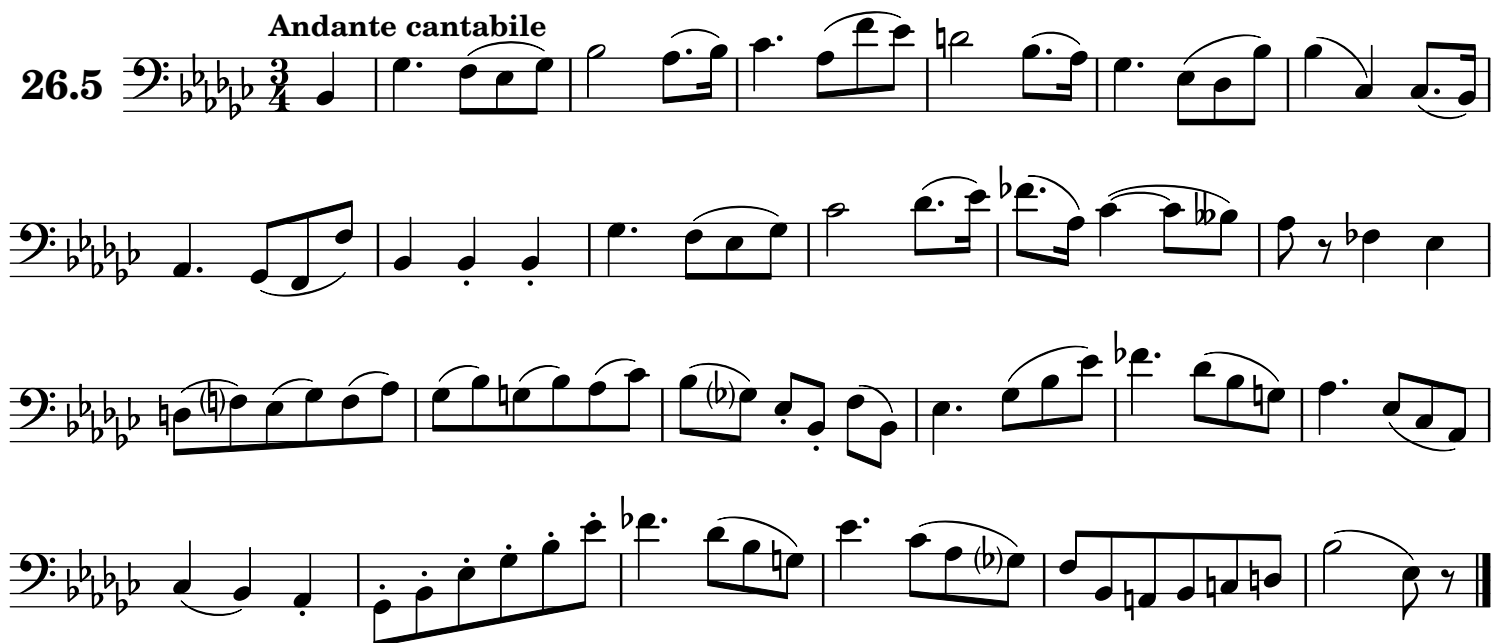
Moderato

26.4

26.4 Musical score for exercise 26.4, **Moderato**, in bass clef with key signature of three flats and common time. The piece consists of seven staves of music. It features more complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, with frequent slurs and ties. The key signature changes to two flats in the final measure of the seventh staff.

Andante cantabile

26.5

**Maestoso**

26.6

**Moderato**

26.7



**Assai moderato**

26.8

**Adagio e molto legato**

26.9



Measures 68-75: Bass clef, 2/4 time signature. The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and slurs. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

Moderato

26.10

Measures 26.10-26.11: Bass clef, 6/8 time signature. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with slurs. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

Allegretto

26.11

Measure 26.11: Bass clef, 6/8 time signature. The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with slurs. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).



Moderato



