

GIOVANNI BOTTESINI



Complete Method

for

Double Bass



Part I

Transposed Five 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 five 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

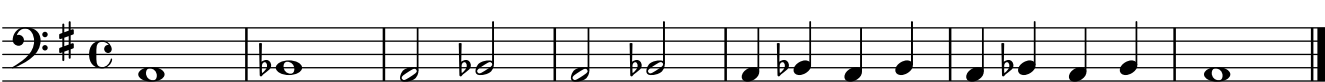
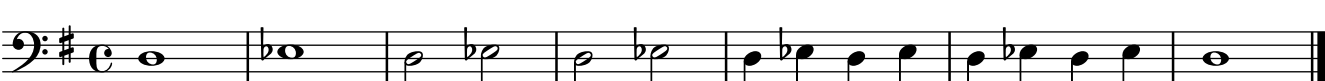
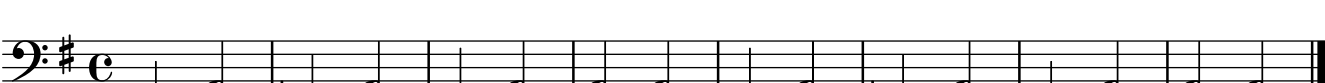
1.4

1.5

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 G Major





Andantino

2.14

Moderato

2.15

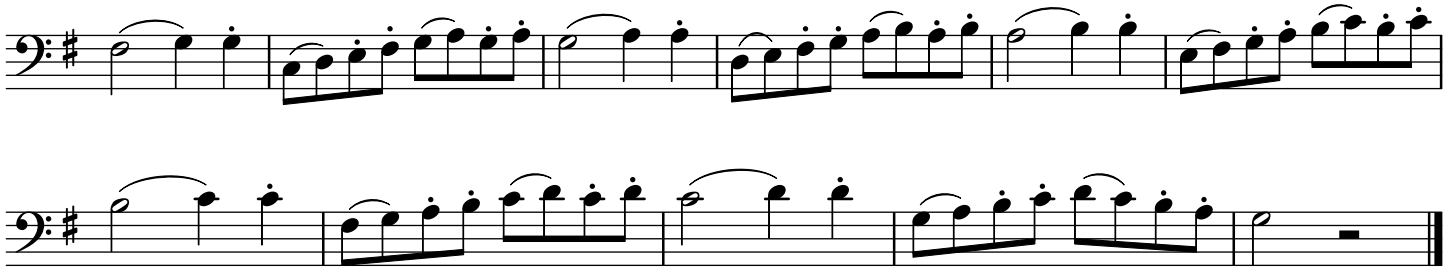
2.16

Andantino

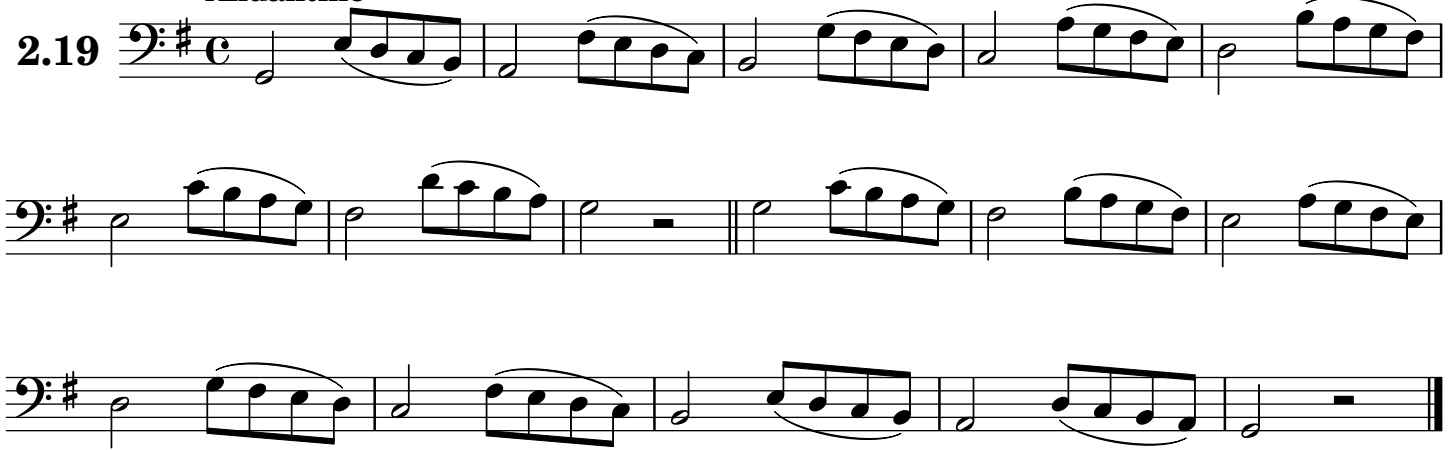
2.17

Moderato

2.18



Andantino



Moderato



Allegretto



Andante



Allegretto



The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line is written in a soprano clef, and the piano accompaniment is in a bass clef. The score includes a variety of musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system concludes with a final double bar line. The title "The Rose Tree" is written in a decorative font at the top right of the page.

2.24 **Moderato**

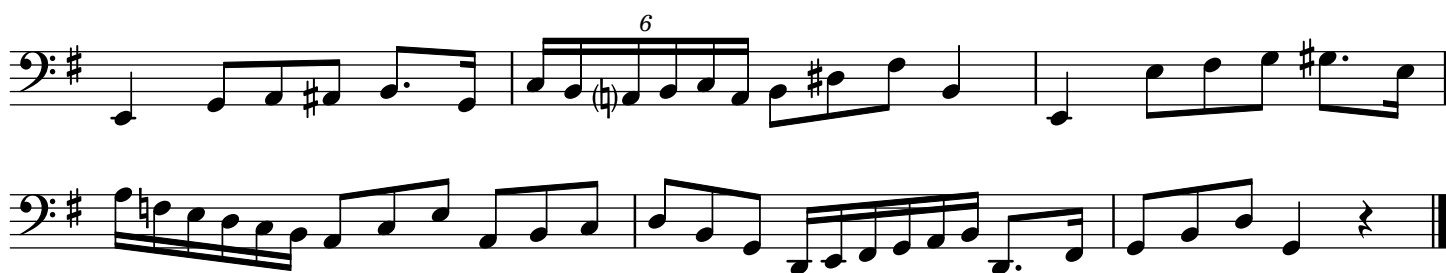
The musical score is written in bass clef with a 3/8 time signature. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), which is then changed to two sharps (F# and C#) for the remainder of the piece. The music features various rhythmic patterns including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

2.25 **Adagio**

The musical score is written in bass clef with a 9/8 time signature. The key signature is D major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'Adagio'. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), which is then changed to two sharps (F# and C#) for the remainder of the piece. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

2.26 *Andante*

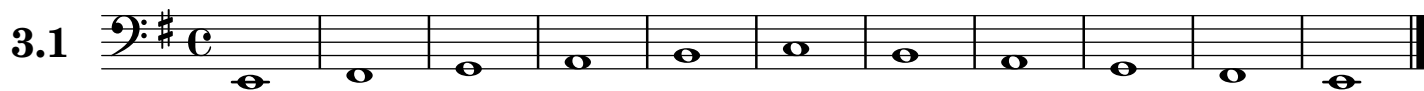
3 6 3 6



2.32 **Moderato**

2.33 **Moderato**

3. Exercises in E Minor





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

4. Exercises in C Major





Allegretto

4.8

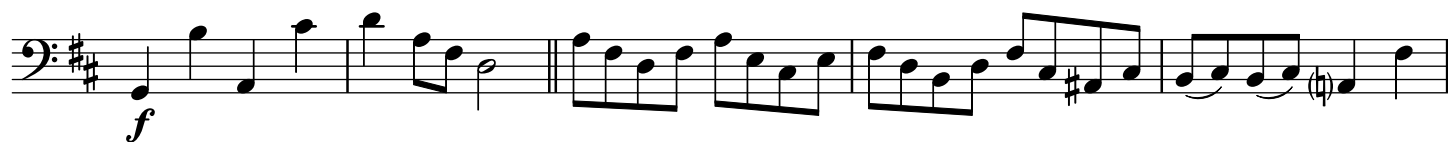


5. Exercises in A Minor



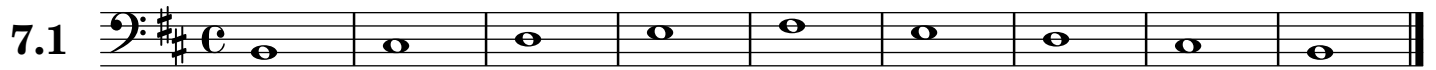


6. Exercises in D Major





7. Exercises in B Minor



23

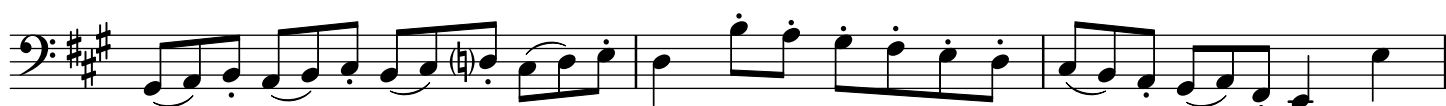


8. Exercises in A Major





Lentamente



9. Exercises in F-Sharp Minor





10. Exercises in F Major



Allegretto leggiero

10.5

p

crescendo

11. Exercises in D Minor

11.1

11.2

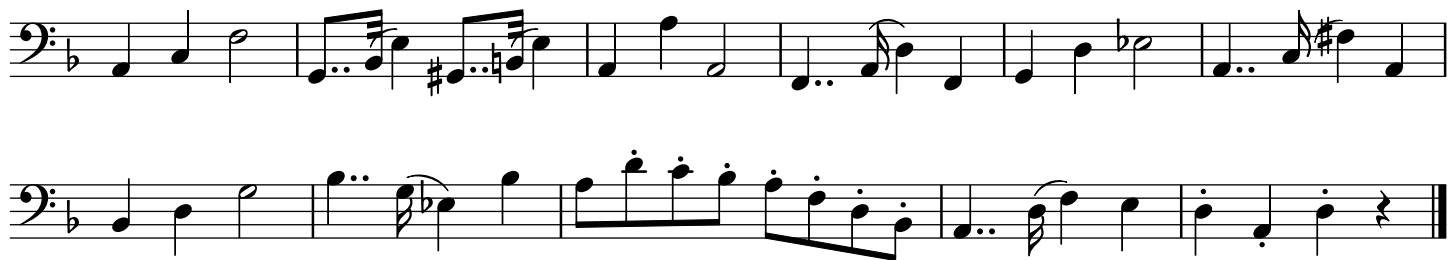
Adagio

11.3

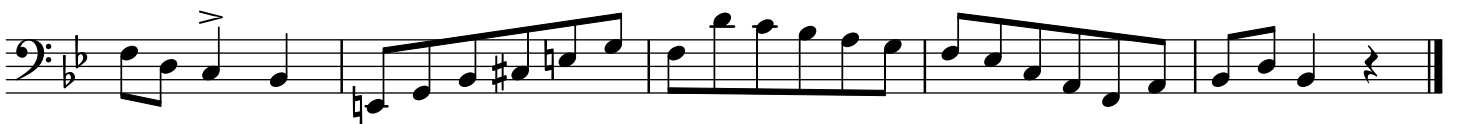
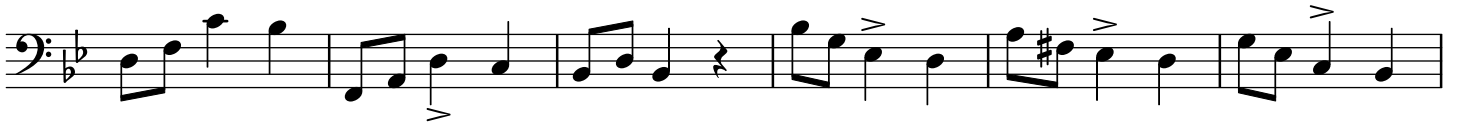
Andante

11.4

con forza



12. Exercises in B-Flat Major





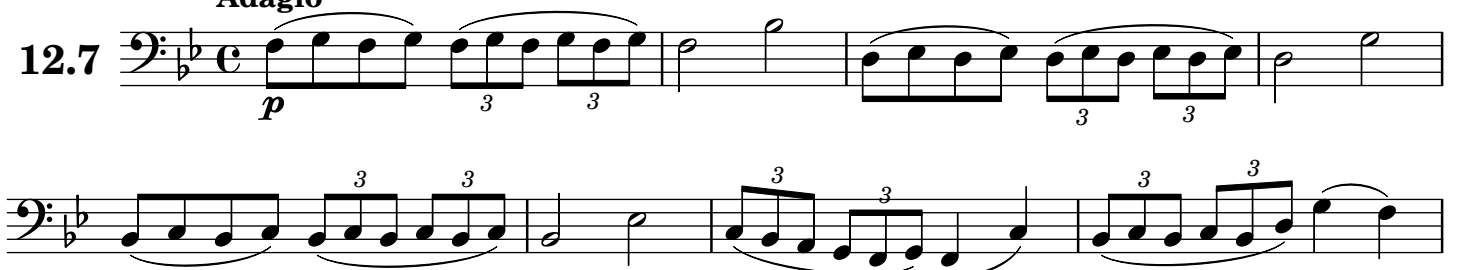
Allegretto leggermente

12.6



Adagio

12.7





13. Exercises in G Minor

13.1

13.2 *Maestoso*

13.3 *Allegretto*

13.4 *Moderato*



Adagio

13.5



Maestoso

13.6



Moderato

13.7



14. Exercises in E Major

14.1

14.2 *Allegro energia*

f

14.3 *Moderato*

14.4 *Adagio*



15. Exercises in C-Sharp Minor



Adagio



Lento



Moderato

15.4

**Allegretto**

15.5



16. Exercises in E-Flat Major



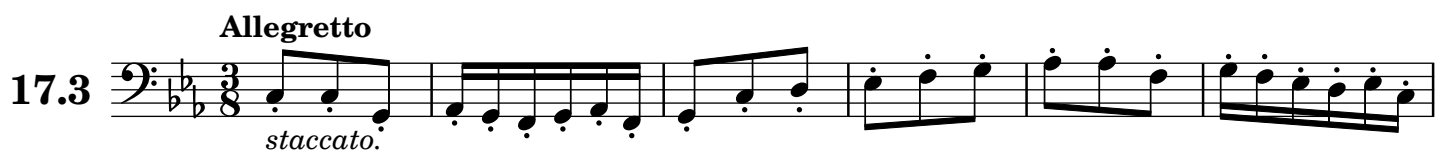
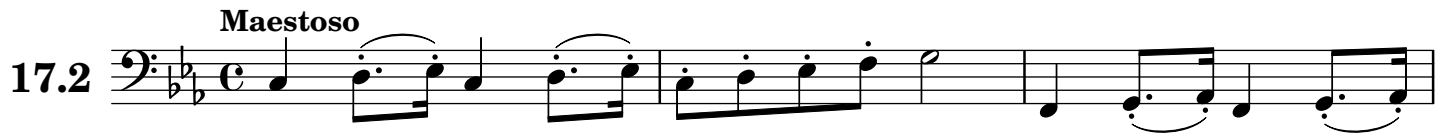


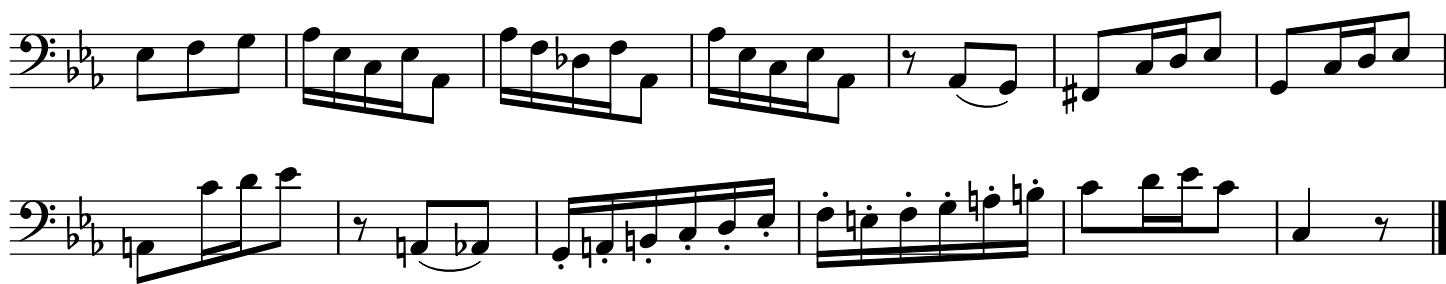
Moderato

16.5



17. Exercises in C Minor



**Andantino**

17.4

**Moderato**

17.5



18. Exercises in B Major



Moderato

18.6



Moderato

18.7



Moderato

18.8



Adagio

18.9



19. Exercises in G-Sharp Minor





20. Exercises in A-Flat Major

20.1 *Adagio*

20.2 *Moderato*

20.3 *Adagio*

20.4 *Adagio*



21. Exercises in F Minor

Adagio

21.1

21.2

Andantino

21.3

Allegretto

21.4

staccato



22. Exercises in D-Flat Major

22.1

Exercise 22.1 is in D-flat major (three flats: B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and common time (C). It is written in bass clef. The exercise consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains four measures. The second staff contains four measures, with a repeat sign at the end of the second measure. The third staff contains four measures, ending with a double bar line.

22.2

Adagio

Exercise 22.2 is in D-flat major (three flats: B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and common time (C). It is marked *Adagio* and written in bass clef. The exercise consists of five staves of music. The first staff contains four measures. The second staff contains four measures. The third staff contains four measures. The fourth staff contains four measures. The fifth staff contains four measures, ending with a double bar line.

22.3

Moderato

Exercise 22.3 is in D-flat major (three flats: B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and 3/8 time. It is marked *Moderato* and written in bass clef. The exercise consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains four measures. The second staff contains four measures. The third staff contains four measures. The fourth staff contains four measures, ending with a double bar line.

55



23. Exercises in B-Flat Minor

Adagio

23.1



Moderato

23.2



Moderato

23.3





Andantino

23.4



24. Exercises in G-Flat Major

Maestoso

24.1

Allegretto

24.2

Andantino

24.3

**Molto moderato**

25. Exercises in E-Flat Minor

Adagio

25.1

Andante

25.2

26. Additional Exercises

26.1 *Andante*

26.2 *Moderato*

Molto moderato

26.3

26.4

Andante cantabile

26.5

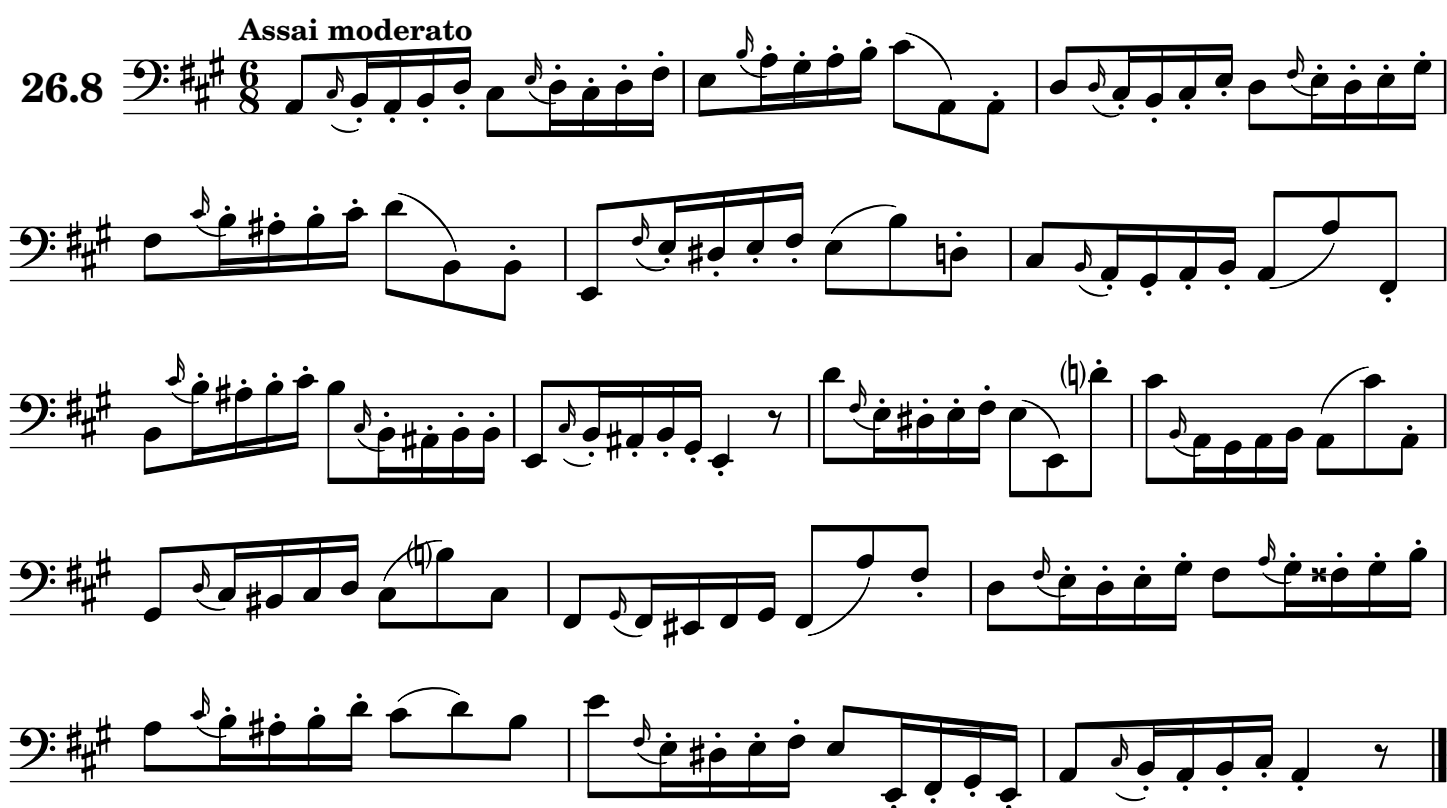
**Maestoso**

26.6

**Moderato**

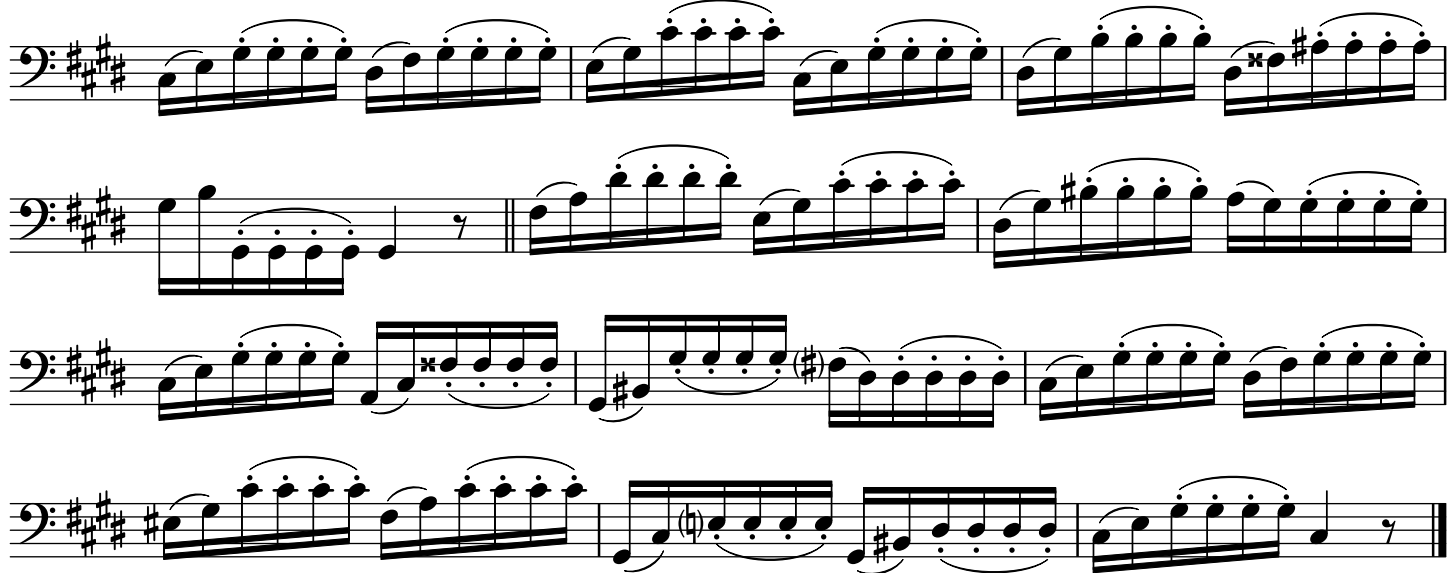
26.7





**Moderato****Allegretto**

66



Moderato



