

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

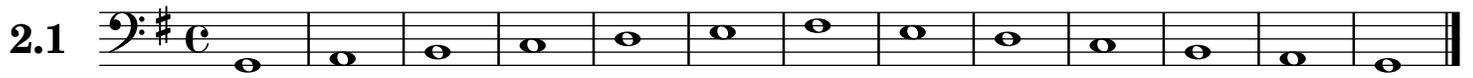
1.6

1.7

1.8



2. Exercises in G Major





Andante



Allegretto



Moderato



Adagio



2.26 **Andante** *c*

2.27 **Moderato** *3/4*

2.28 **Allegro** *c*

2.29 **Adagio** *c*

2.30 **Moderato**

2.31 **Andantino**

2.32 **Moderato**

2.33 **Moderato**

The image displays a musical score for five staves, all in bass clef and one sharp (F#) key signature. The score is organized into five horizontal lines. The first line begins with a treble clef and a sharp sign, followed by a bass clef. It contains a sequence of notes, including a triplet of eighth notes. The second line continues the melody with more triplet markings. The third line features a complex rhythmic pattern with multiple triplet markings. The fourth line consists of a series of eighth notes with some accidentals. The fifth line concludes the piece with a final cadence, including a double bar line.

3. Exercises in E Minor

3.1 

3.2 *Sostenuto* 




3.3 *Moderato* 




3.4 *Lento* 






4. Exercises in C Major



Two staves of musical notation in bass clef. The first staff contains measures 17 and 18. The second staff continues the melody from measure 17. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals (sharps and naturals) and slurs.

4.5 **Andante**

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, marked "Andante" and "4.5". The first staff contains measures 19 and 20. The music is in common time (C) and features a mix of quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, continuing the "Andante" section. The first staff contains measures 21 and 22. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, continuing the "Andante" section. The first staff contains measures 23 and 24. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs and some accidentals.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, continuing the "Andante" section. The first staff contains measures 25 and 26. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, continuing the "Andante" section. The first staff contains measures 27 and 28. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs and a double bar line at the end.

4.6 **Allegretto**

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, marked "Allegretto" and "4.6". The first staff contains measures 29 and 30. The music is in common time (C) and features eighth notes with triplets, indicated by a "3" below the notes, and slurs.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, continuing the "Allegretto" section. The first staff contains measures 31 and 32. The music features eighth notes with slurs.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, continuing the "Allegretto" section. The first staff contains measures 33 and 34. The music features eighth notes with slurs.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, continuing the "Allegretto" section. The first staff contains measures 35 and 36. The music features eighth notes with slurs and a double bar line at the end.

5. Exercises in A Minor

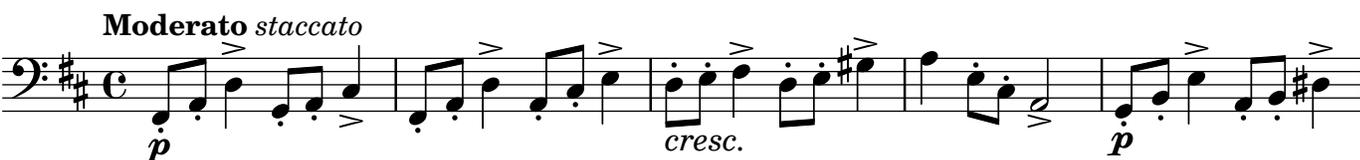




6. Exercises in D Major

6.1 

6.2 *Maestoso con forza*


6.3 *Moderato staccato*





6.4 *Adagio staccato*

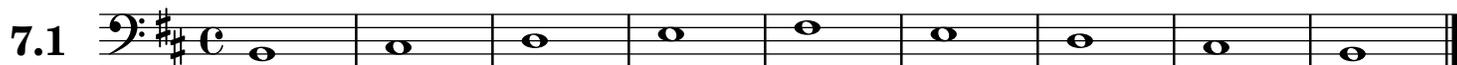





6.5 *Moderato*


The image displays a musical score for a bass clef instrument, likely a cello or double bass, on page 22. The music is written in G major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#) in the key signature. The score consists of four staves of music, each containing a series of notes and rests. The first staff begins with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, and then a quarter note B2. The second staff continues with a quarter note C3, followed by a quarter note D3, and then a quarter note E3. The third staff continues with a quarter note F#3, followed by a quarter note G3, and then a quarter note A3. The fourth staff continues with a quarter note B3, followed by a quarter note C4, and then a quarter note D4. The music is written in a simple, melodic style, with a focus on the lower register of the instrument. The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings such as (h) and #.

7. Exercises in B Minor



8. Exercises in A Major

8.1 



8.2 *Moderato con molto arco*
mf 





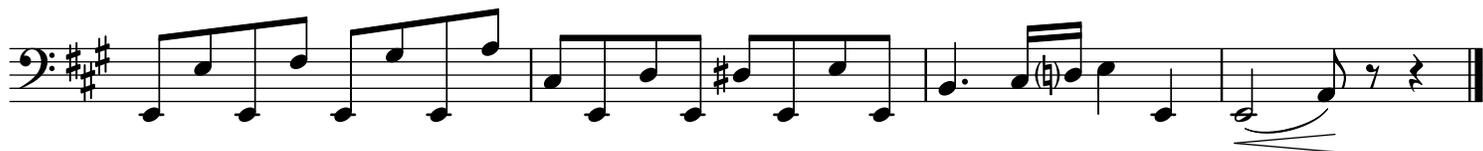




8.3 *f* 







Lentamente





Musical staff 1: Bass clef, key signature of one flat. The staff begins with a dynamic marking of *sf*. It contains a trill on a note, followed by a series of eighth notes and sixteenth notes. The staff concludes with a double bar line.

Allegretto leggiero

10.5

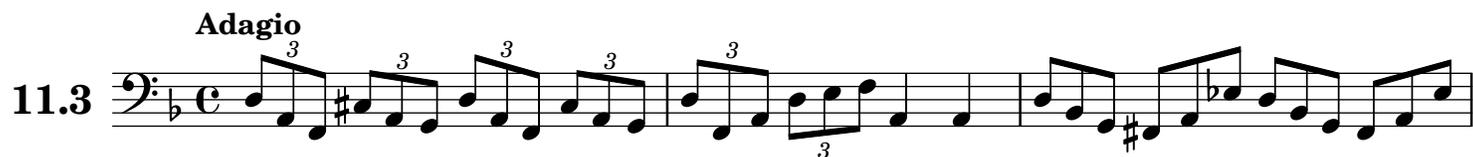
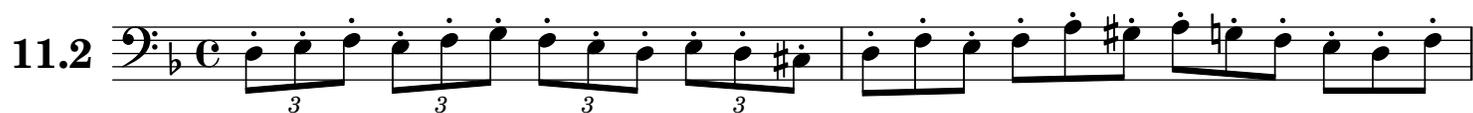
Musical staff 2: Bass clef, 3/4 time signature. The staff begins with a dynamic marking of *p*. It features a trill on a note, followed by eighth notes and sixteenth notes. The staff concludes with a double bar line.

Musical staff 3: Bass clef. The staff begins with a *crescendo* marking. It contains eighth notes and sixteenth notes. The staff concludes with a double bar line.

Musical staff 4: Bass clef. The staff begins with a trill on a note, followed by eighth notes and sixteenth notes. It includes a *crescendo* marking. The staff concludes with a double bar line.

Musical staff 5: Bass clef. The staff begins with a trill on a note, followed by eighth notes and sixteenth notes. It includes a *crescendo* marking. The staff concludes with a double bar line.

11. Exercises in D Minor



12. Exercises in B-Flat Major



Moderato

12.5

Exercise 12.5 is in bass clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat major. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a quarter note G3. The second staff continues with eighth notes A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, and a quarter note G4. The third staff concludes with eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, and a quarter note G5, ending with a double bar line.

Allegretto *leggeramente*

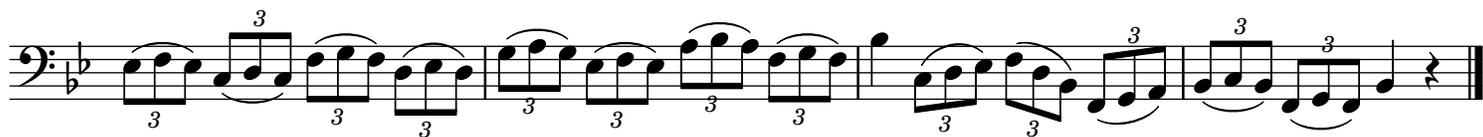
12.6

Exercise 12.6 is in bass clef, 3/8 time, and B-flat major. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a quarter note G3. The second staff continues with eighth notes A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, and a quarter note G4. The third staff concludes with eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, and a quarter note G5, ending with a double bar line.

Adagio

12.7

Exercise 12.7 is in bass clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat major. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a quarter note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, and a quarter note G3. The second staff continues with eighth notes A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, and a quarter note G4. The third staff concludes with eighth notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, and a quarter note G5, ending with a double bar line.



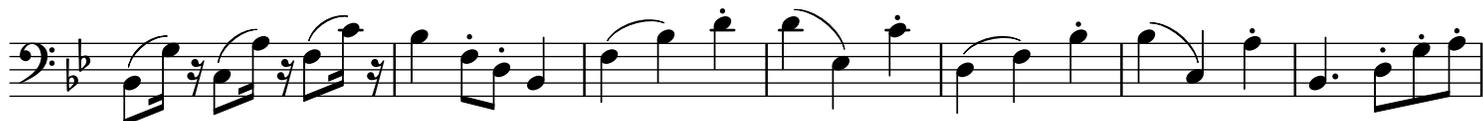
13. Exercises in G Minor

13.1



Adagio

13.5



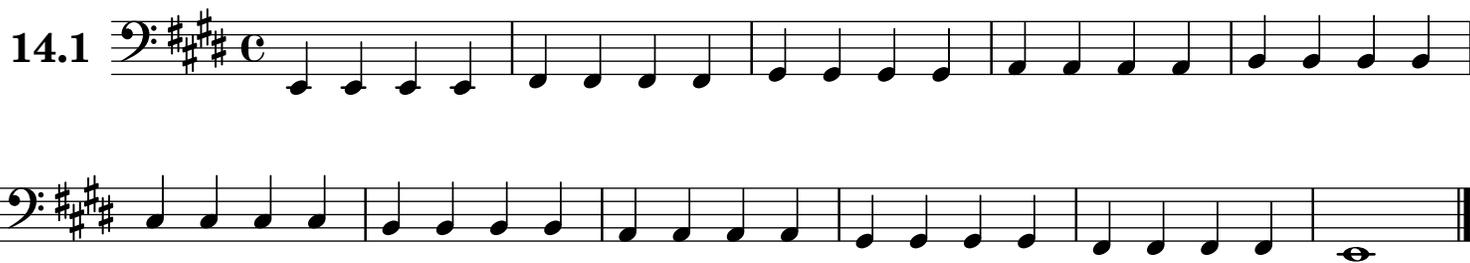
Maestoso

13.6





14. Exercises in E Major

14.1 

14.2 *Allegro energia*
f 

14.3 *Moderato* 

Adagio

14.4

Moderato

14.5

15. Exercises in C-Sharp Minor



Adagio



Lento



Moderato

15.4

Musical score for exercise 15.4, Moderato, in bass clef with key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and 3/4 time signature. The piece consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to three sharps. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

Allegretto

15.5

Musical score for exercise 15.5, Allegretto, in bass clef with key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and 2/4 time signature. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to three sharps. The music is more rhythmic, featuring many eighth and sixteenth notes, with some slurs and accents.

16. Exercises in E-Flat Major



Musical score for measures 44-50. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The music consists of six staves of notation. Measure 44 starts with a bass clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 3/4 time signature. The first staff contains measures 44-45. The second staff contains measures 46-47. The third staff contains measures 48-49. The fourth staff contains measure 50. The fifth and sixth staves contain measures 51-52. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Moderato

16.5

Musical score for measures 16.5-22. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The music consists of seven staves of notation. Measure 16.5 starts with a bass clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 3/4 time signature. The first staff contains measures 16.5-17.5, with triplets indicated by a '3' below the notes. The second staff contains measures 18-19. The third staff contains measures 20-21. The fourth staff contains measure 22. The fifth and sixth staves contain measures 23-24. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

17. Exercises in C Minor

17.1 

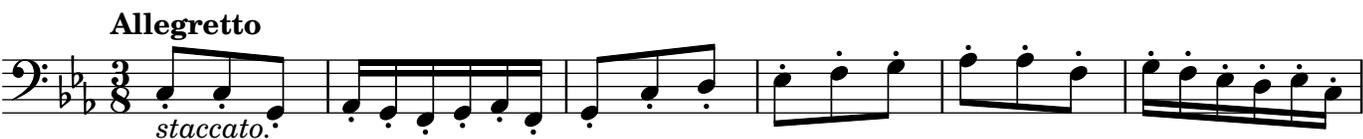
17.2 **Maestoso** 









17.3 **Allegretto** 







**Andantino****Moderato**

18. Exercises in B Major



18.6 **Moderato**

18.7 **Moderato**

18.8 **Moderato**

18.9 **Adagio**



19. Exercises in G-Sharp Minor





20. Exercises in A-Flat Major

20.1 *Adagio*

The image displays three staves of musical notation in bass clef, likely for a cello or double bass. The music is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and rests. Slurs are used to group phrases of notes. The first staff begins with a series of eighth notes, followed by a half note, then a group of eighth notes with a slur, and ends with a quarter note. The second staff continues with eighth notes, a half note, and another group of eighth notes with a slur. The third staff starts with a group of eighth notes with a slur, followed by a half note, another group of eighth notes with a slur, and concludes with a quarter note and a double bar line.

The image displays a musical score for five staves, all in bass clef and the key of B-flat major (two flats). The score begins at measure 55. The first staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a sharp sign (#) and a flat sign (b). The second staff continues the melodic line with similar rhythmic patterns and includes a flat sign (b). The third staff features a more complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes. The fourth staff shows a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a final melodic phrase and a double bar line.

23. Exercises in B-Flat Minor

Adagio

23.1

Moderato

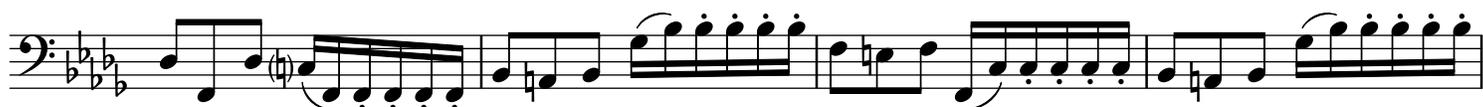
23.2

Moderato

23.3



Andantino



24. Exercises in G-Flat Major

Maestoso

24.1

Allegretto

24.2

Andantino

24.3

Molto moderato

24.4

25. Exercises in E-Flat Minor

Adagio

25.1

Musical score for exercise 25.1, Adagio, in E-flat minor, bass clef, common time. The exercise consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature, followed by a bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with some slurs and accents. The second and third staves continue the melodic line with similar rhythmic patterns and phrasing. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Andante

25.2

Musical score for exercise 25.2, Andante, in E-flat minor, bass clef, common time. The exercise consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature, followed by a bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with some slurs and accents. The second and third staves continue the melodic line with similar rhythmic patterns and phrasing. The fourth staff concludes the piece 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, common time (C), and features a series of eighth-note patterns, some with triplets (indicated by a '3' above the notes) and slurs. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

26.4

Musical score for exercise 26.4, **Moderato**. The piece is in bass clef, common time (C), and features a series of eighth-note patterns, some with slurs and accents (indicated by a 'b' above the notes). The key signature has one flat (Bb).

Andante cantabile

26.5

Musical score for exercise 26.5, **Andante cantabile**, bass clef, 3/4 time signature. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Maestoso

26.6

Musical score for exercise 26.6, **Maestoso**, bass clef, common time signature. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and slurs. 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 score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (D major). The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Measures 66-71: Bass clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music consists of six staves of continuous eighth-note and sixteenth-note passages. Measure 71 ends with a double bar line and a fermata.

26.8 *Assai moderato*

Measures 26.8-27.3: Bass clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), 6/8 time signature. The music consists of six staves of continuous eighth-note and sixteenth-note passages with various articulations and slurs. Measure 27.3 ends with a double bar line and a fermata.

26.9 *Adagio e molto legato*

Measures 26.9-27.1: Bass clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), common time (C). The music consists of three staves of continuous eighth-note and sixteenth-note passages with various articulations and slurs. Measure 27.1 ends with a double bar line and a fermata.

Musical score for measures 67-75. The score consists of five staves of music in bass clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped with slurs and ties. Some notes are marked with a 'b' in a circle, indicating a flat. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Moderato

26.10

Musical score for measures 26.10-26.14. The score consists of four staves of music in bass clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note rhythm, often with slurs and ties. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Allegretto

26.11

Musical score for measures 26.11-26.14. The score consists of two staves of music in bass clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The music features a steady eighth-note rhythm, often with slurs and ties. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

68

Musical score for measures 68-73. The score consists of four staves of music in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed eighth notes and sixteenth notes, often grouped with slurs. Measure 68 is marked with a '68' above it. Measure 71 contains a measure rest. Measure 73 ends with a double bar line.

Moderato

26.12

Musical score for measures 26.12-31. The score consists of eight staves of music in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The music is in a moderate tempo and features a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 26.12 is marked with '26.12' and a common time signature. Measure 31 ends with a double bar line.

Musical score for three staves in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a sharp sign, indicating a key signature of one sharp. The music is written in bass clef. The second and third staves continue the piece. The third staff ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.