

GIOVANNI BOTTESINI



Complete Method

for

Double Bass



Part I

Transposed Four Semitones Up

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 up 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*

Exercise 1.1 is a preliminary exercise in bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It is marked *Lento*. The exercise consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains 8 measures, the second 8 measures, and the third 8 measures. The melody is a simple scale-like exercise with eighth notes and rests, each note marked with a fermata.

1.2

Exercise 1.2 is a preliminary exercise in bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of one staff of music, 6 measures long, featuring a sequence of half notes with rests.

1.3

Exercise 1.3 is a preliminary exercise in bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of one staff of music, 6 measures long, featuring a sequence of half notes with rests.

1.4

Exercise 1.4 is a preliminary exercise in bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of one staff of music, 6 measures long, featuring a sequence of half notes.

1.5

Exercise 1.5 is a preliminary exercise in bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of one staff of music, 8 measures long, featuring a sequence of half notes and quarter notes.

1.6

Exercise 1.6 is a preliminary exercise in bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of one staff of music, 10 measures long, featuring a sequence of half notes and quarter notes.

1.7

Exercise 1.7 is a preliminary exercise in bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of one staff of music, 10 measures long, featuring a sequence of half notes and quarter notes.

1.8 

1.9 

1.10 

1.11 

1.12 

1.13 

1.14 

1.15 

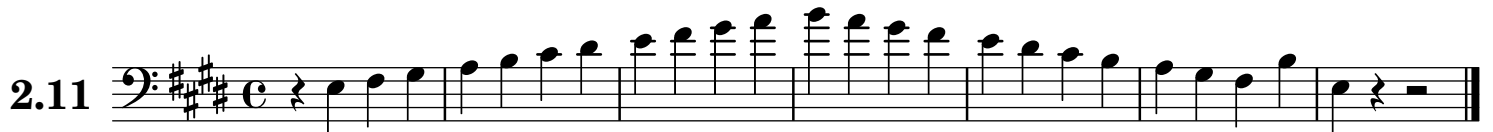
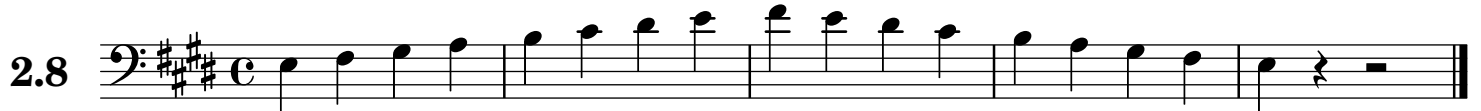
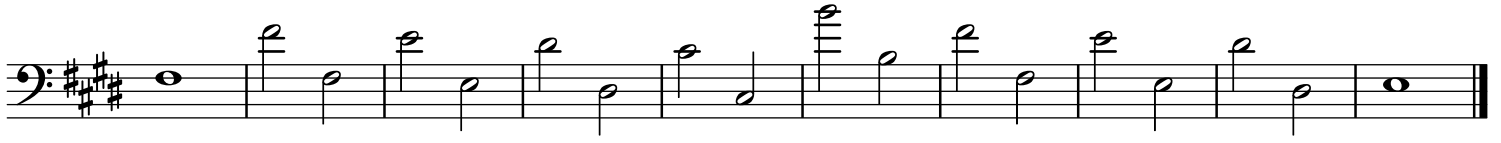
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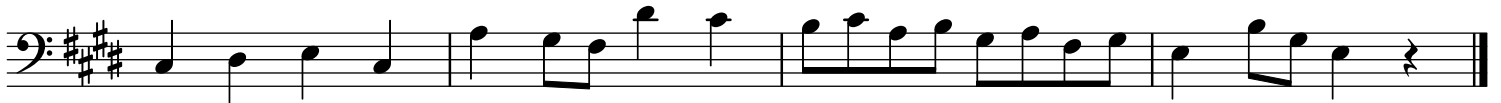
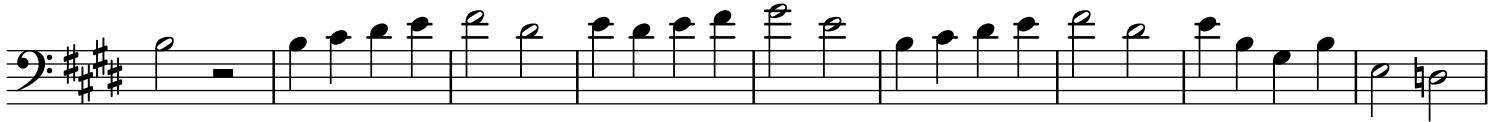


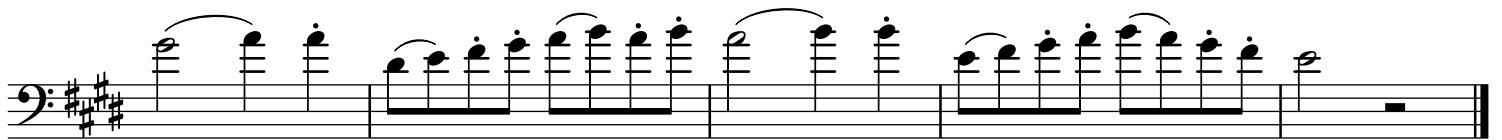


2. Exercises in E Major







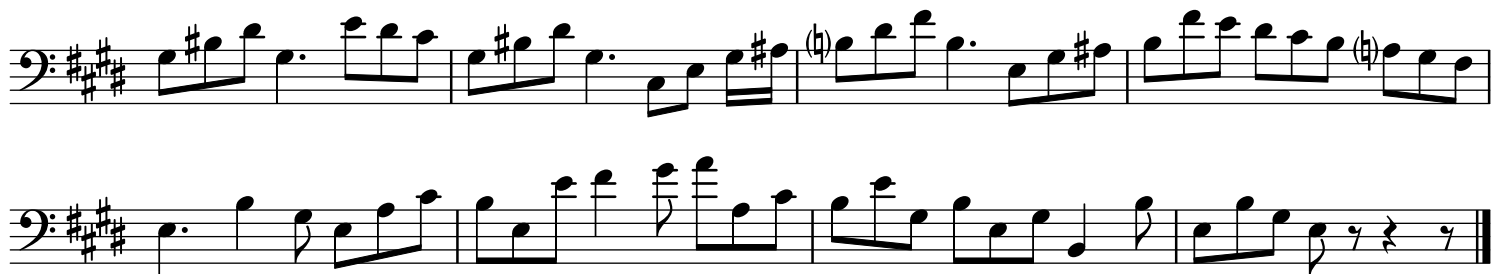


2.22 *Andante*

2.23 *Allegretto*

2.24 *Moderato*

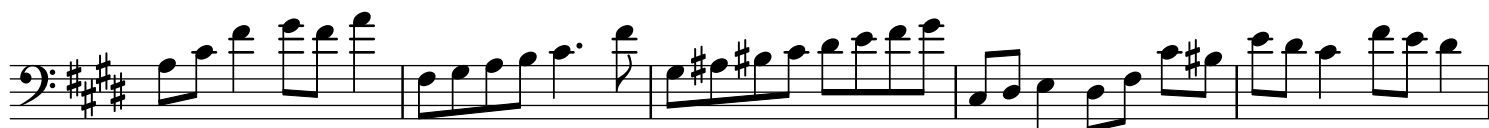
2.25 *Adagio*







3. Exercises in C-Sharp Minor





Andante



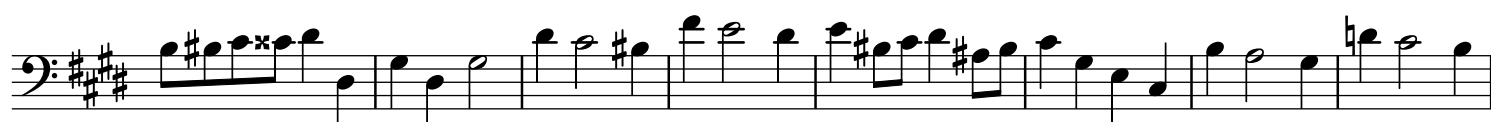
Allegretto



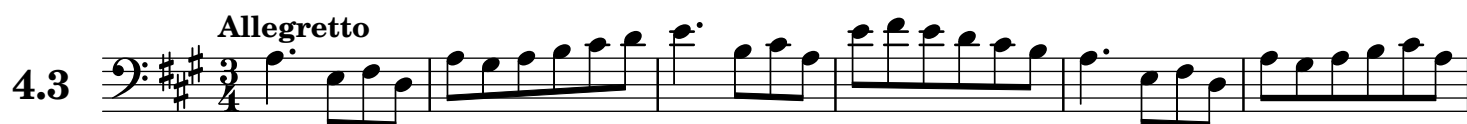
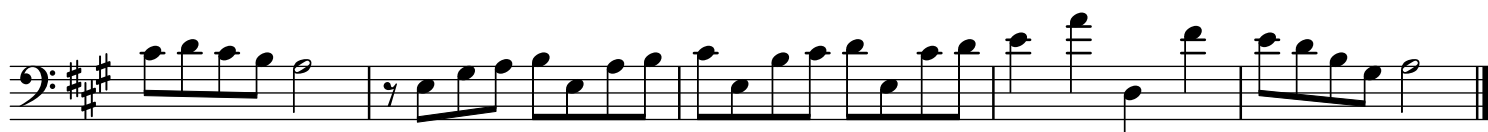
Allegretto

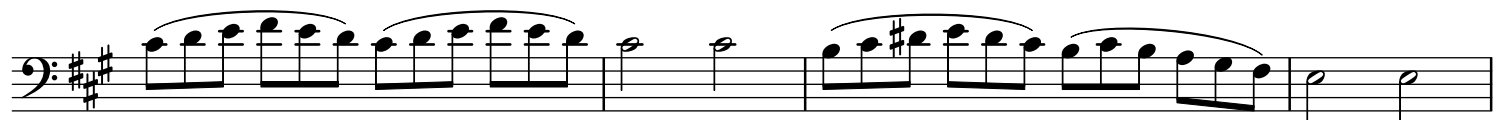
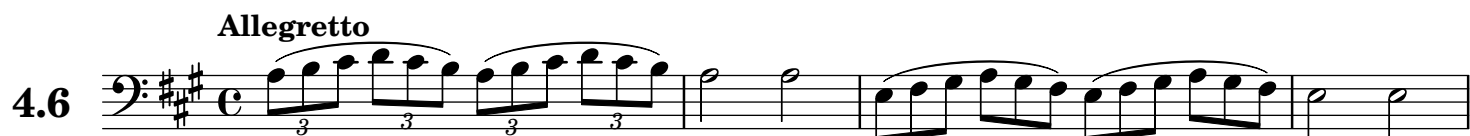
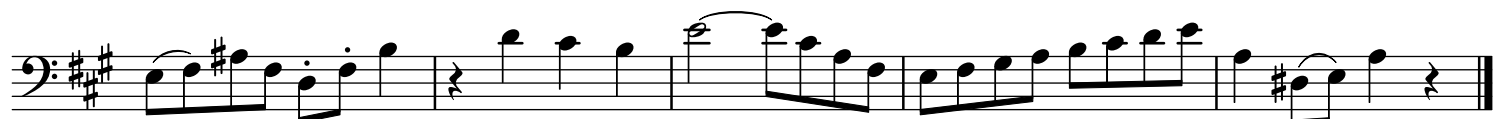
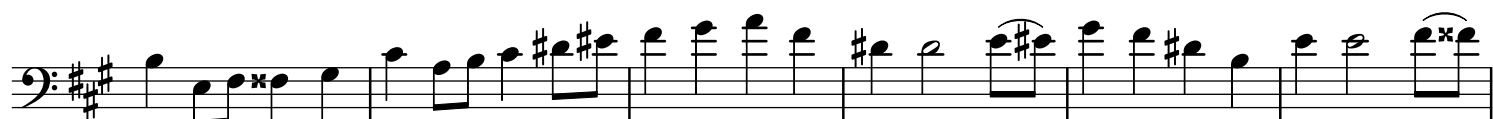
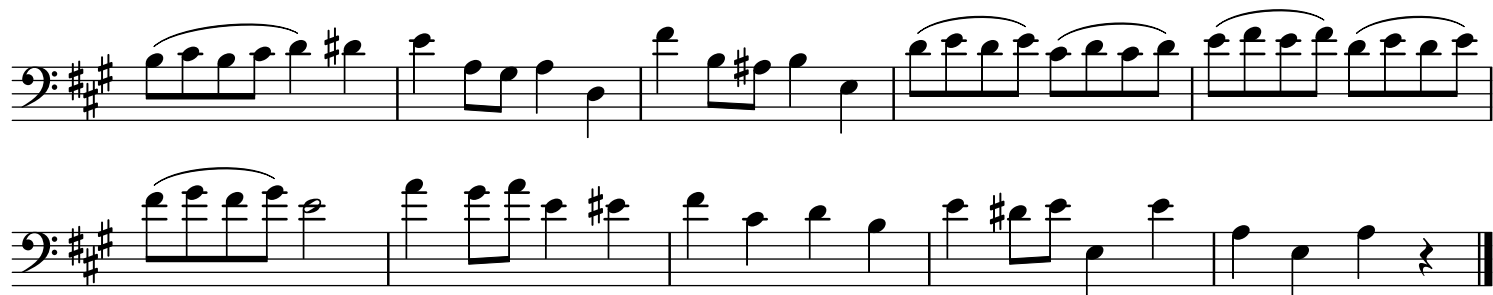


Moderato



4. Exercises in A Major





Adagio

4.7

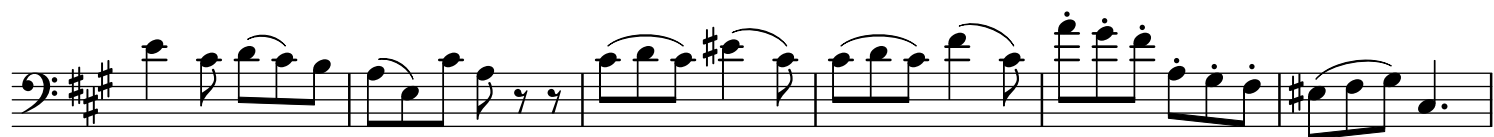


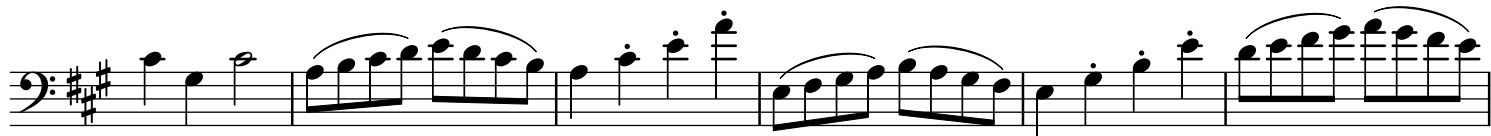
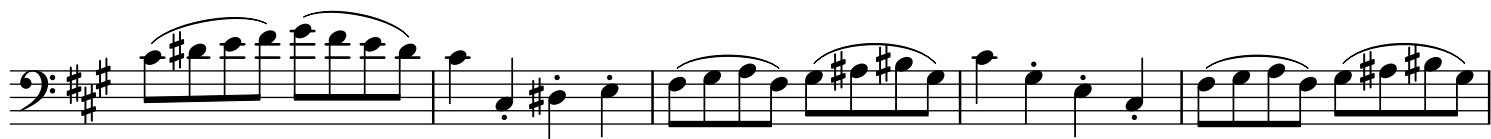
Allegretto

4.8



5. Exercises in F-Sharp Minor





6. Exercises in B Major

6.1

6.2

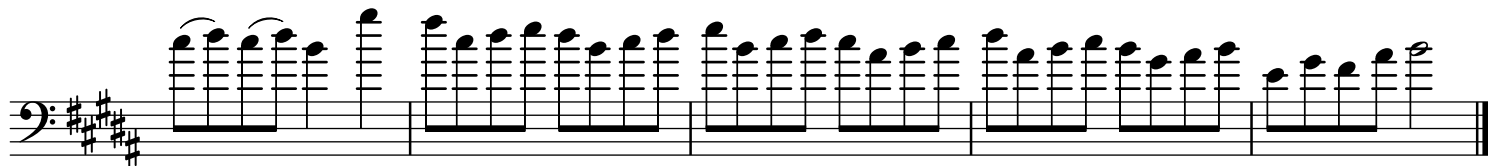
Maestoso con forza

6.3

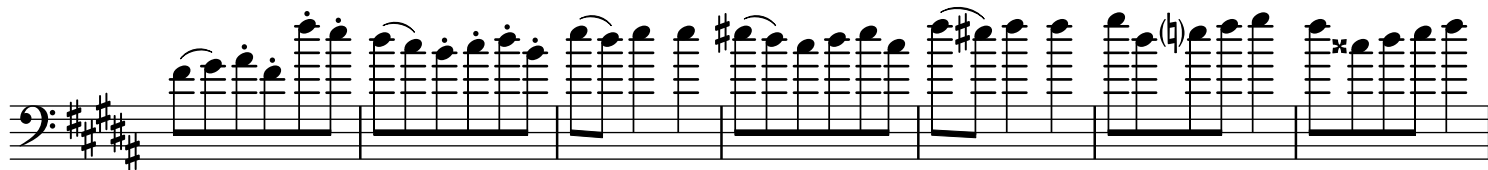
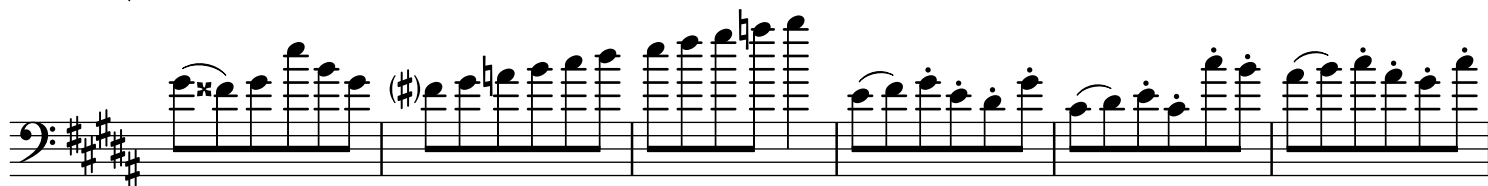
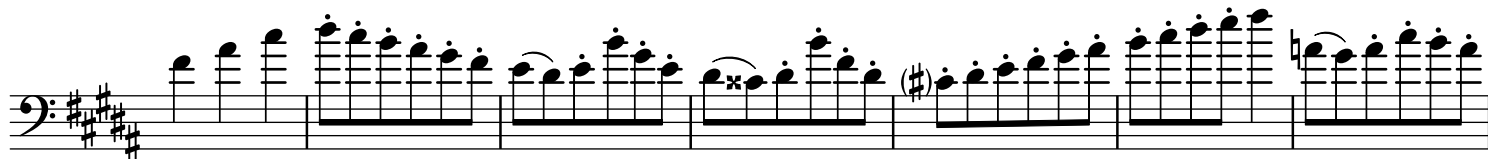
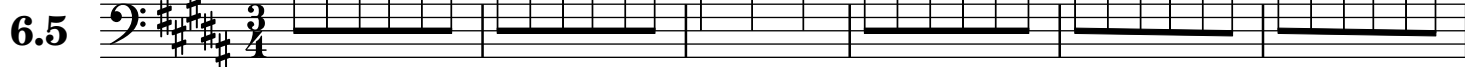
Moderato staccato

6.4

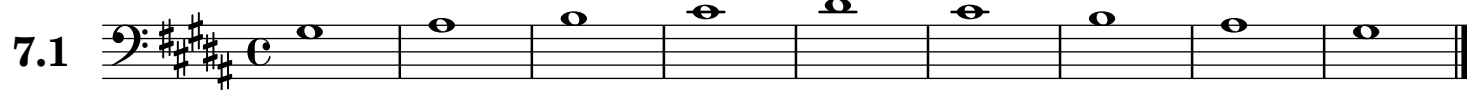
Adagio staccato



Moderato



7. Exercises in G-Sharp Minor



Adagio

7.4

Exercise 7.4 is in the bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a whole note rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff continues with similar rhythmic patterns, including a repeat sign. The third staff features a series of beamed eighth notes and a dynamic marking of *sf sf*. The fourth staff concludes with a repeat sign and a final cadence.

Moderato

7.5

Exercise 7.5 is in the bass clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *p*, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes, and a dynamic marking of *sf*. The second staff continues with similar rhythmic patterns, including a repeat sign. The third staff features a series of beamed eighth notes and a dynamic marking of *sf*.

8. Exercises in G-Flat Major

8.1

Musical score for exercise 8.1, bass clef, 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody consists of 16 notes: B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat, A, G, F, E, D, C, B-flat, A, G. The notes are grouped into pairs of eighth notes for the first 14 measures, followed by a half note in the final measure.

8.2 *Moderato con molto arco*

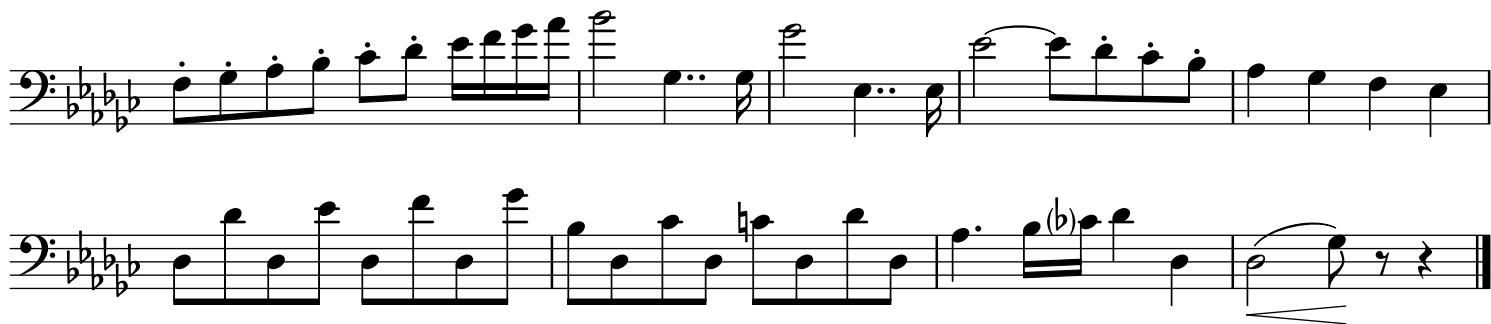
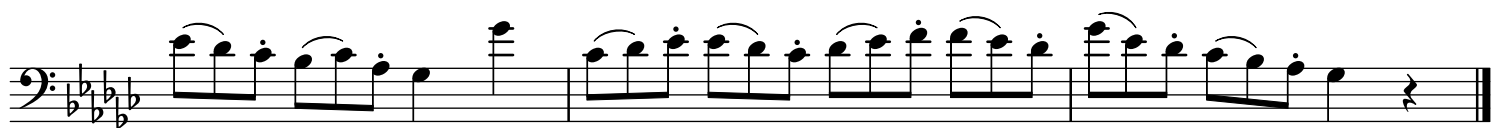
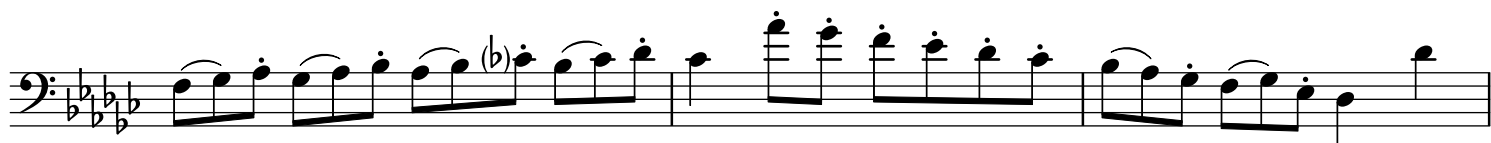
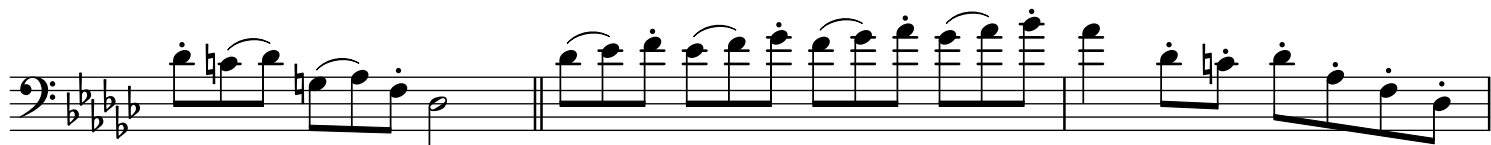
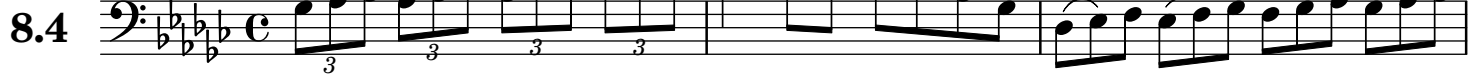
mf

8.3

f

p

f

*Lentamente**con forza*

9. Exercises in E-Flat Minor

9.1

The musical notation for the bass staff shows a sequence of notes: G2 (half note), F#2 (quarter note), E2 (quarter note), D2 (half note), C2 (half note), B1 (half note), A1 (half note), G1 (half note), F#1 (half note), E1 (half note), D1 (half note), and C1 (half note). The key signature has five flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat, G-flat) and the time signature is common time (C).

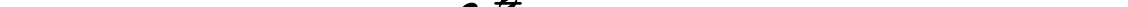
9.2 *Adagio*

Example 9.2 is a short musical piece in C major, 4/4 time, consisting of 16 measures. The tempo is marked 'Adagio'. The melody is written in the bass clef. The notes are: M1: C4, M2: D4, M3: E4, M4: F4, M5: G4, M6: A4, M7: B4, M8: C5, M9: B4, M10: A4, M11: G4, M12: F4, M13: E4, M14: D4, M15: C4, M16: B3.

[illegible]

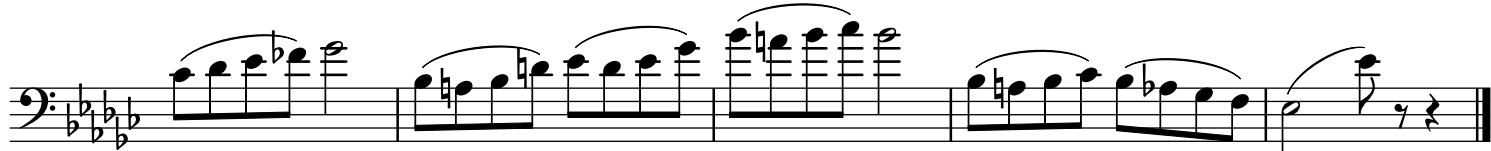
Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody consists of the following notes: F2, G2, A2, Bb2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, Bb3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, Bb6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, Bb7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, Bb8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, Bb9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, Bb10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, Bb11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, Bb12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, Bb13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, Bb14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, Bb15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, Bb16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, Bb17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, Bb18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, Bb19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, Bb20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, Bb21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, Bb22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, Bb23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, Bb24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, Bb25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, Bb26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, Bb27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, Bb28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, Bb29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, Bb30, C31, D31, E31, F31, G31, A31, Bb31, C32, D32, E32, F32, G32, A32, Bb32, C33, D33, E33, F33, G33, A33, Bb33, C34, D34, E34, F34, G34, A34, Bb34, C35, D35, E35, F35, G35, A35, Bb35, C36, D36, E36, F36, G36, A36, Bb36, C37, D37, E37, F37, G37, A37, Bb37, C38, D38, E38, F38, G38, A38, Bb38, C39, D39, E39, F39, G39, A39, Bb39, C40, D40, E40, F40, G40, A40, Bb40, C41, D41, E41, F41, G41, A41, Bb41, C42, D42, E42, F42, G42, A42, Bb42, C43, D43, E43, F43, G43, A43, Bb43, C44, D44, E44, F44, G44, A44, Bb44, C45, D45, E45, F45, G45, A45, Bb45, C46, D46, E46, F46, G46, A46, Bb46, C47, D47, E47, F47, G47, A47, Bb47, C48, D48, E48, F48, G48, A48, Bb48, C49, D49, E49, F49, G49, A49, Bb49, C50, D50, E50, F50, G50, A50, Bb50, C51, D51, E51, F51, G51, A51, Bb51, C52, D52, E52, F52, G52, A52, Bb52, C53, D53, E53, F53, G53, A53, Bb53, C54, D54, E54, F54, G54, A54, Bb54, C55, D55, E55, F55, G55, A55, Bb55, C56, D56, E56, F56, G56, A56, Bb56, C57, D57, E57, F57, G57, A57, Bb57, C58, 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F111, G111, A111, Bb111, C112, D112, E112, F112, G112, A112, Bb112, C113, D113, E113, F113, G113, A113, Bb113, C114, D114, E114, F114, G114, A114, Bb114, C115, D115, E115, F115, G115, A115, Bb115, C116, D116, E116, F116, G116, A116, Bb116, C117, D117, E117, F117, G117, A117, Bb117, C118, D118, E118, F118, G118, A118, Bb118, C119, D119, E119, F119, G119, A119, Bb119, C120, D120, E120, F120, G120, A120, Bb120, C121, D121, E121, F121, G121, A121, Bb121, C122, D122, E122, F122, G122, A122, Bb122, C123, D123, E123, F123, G123, A123, Bb123, C124, D124, E124, F124, G124, A124, Bb124, C125, D125, E125, F125, G125, A125, Bb125, C126, D126, E126, F126, G126, A126, Bb126, C127, D127, E127, F127, G127, A127, Bb127, C128, D128, E128, F128, G128, A128, Bb128, C129, D129, E129, F129, G129, A129, Bb129, C130, D130, E130, F130, G130, A130, Bb130, C131, D131, E131, F131, G131, A131, Bb131, C132, D132, E132, F132, G132, A132, Bb132, C133, D133, E133, F133, G133, A133, Bb133, C134, D134, E134, F134, G134, A134, Bb134, C135, D

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody begins with a half note G2 (labeled (b)), followed by a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. The next measure contains a half note C2. The third measure consists of a half note B1. The fourth measure is a half note A1. The fifth measure is a half note G1. The sixth measure is a half note F1. The seventh measure is a half note E1. The eighth measure is a half note D1. The ninth measure is a half note C1. The tenth measure is a half note B0. The eleventh measure is a half note A0. The twelfth measure is a half note G0. The thirteenth measure is a half note F0. The fourteenth measure is a half note E0. The fifteenth measure is a half note D0. The sixteenth measure is a half note C0. The seventeenth measure is a half note B0. The eighteenth measure is a half note A0. The nineteenth measure is a half note G0. The twentieth measure is a half note F0. The twenty-first measure is a half note E0. The twenty-second measure is a half note D0. The twenty-third measure is a half note C0. The twenty-fourth measure is a half note B0. The twenty-fifth measure is a half note A0. The twenty-sixth measure is a half note G0. The twenty-seventh measure is a half note F0. The twenty-eighth measure is a half note E0. The twenty-ninth measure is a half note D0. The thirtieth measure is a half note C0. The thirty-first measure is a half note B0. The thirty-second measure is a half note A0. The thirty-third measure is a half note G0. The thirty-fourth measure is a half note F0. The thirty-fifth measure is a half note E0. The thirty-sixth measure is a half note D0. The thirty-seventh measure is a half note C0. The thirty-eighth measure is a half note B0. The thirty-ninth measure is a half note A0. The fortieth measure is a half note G0. The forty-first measure is a half note F0. The forty-second measure is a half note E0. The forty-third measure is a half note D0. The forty-fourth measure is a half note C0. The forty-fifth measure is a half note B0. The forty-sixth measure is a half note A0. The forty-seventh measure is a half note G0. The forty-eighth measure is a half note F0. The forty-ninth measure is a half note E0. The fiftieth measure is a half note D0. The fifty-first measure is a half note C0. The fifty-second measure is a half note B0. The fifty-third measure is a half note A0. The fifty-fourth measure is a half note G0. The fifty-fifth measure is a half note F0. The fifty-sixth measure is a half note E0. The fifty-seventh measure is a half note D0. The fifty-eighth measure is a half note C0. The fifty-ninth measure is a half note B0. The sixtieth measure is a half note A0. The sixty-first measure is a half note G0. The sixty-second measure is a half note F0. The sixty-third measure is a half note E0. The sixty-fourth measure is a half note D0. The sixty-fifth measure is a half note C0. The sixty-sixth measure is a half note B0. The sixty-seventh measure is a half note A0. The sixty-eighth measure is a half note G0. The sixty-ninth measure is a half note F0. The seventieth measure is a half note E0. The seventy-first measure is a half note D0. The seventy-second measure is a half note C0. The seventy-third measure is a half note B0. The seventy-fourth measure is a half note A0. The seventy-fifth measure is a half note G0. The seventy-sixth measure is a half note F0. The seventy-seventh measure is a half note E0. The seventy-eighth measure is a half note D0. The seventy-ninth measure is a half note C0. The eightieth measure is a half note B0. The eighty-first measure is a half note A0. The eighty-second measure is a half note G0. The eighty-third measure is a half note F0. The eighty-fourth measure is a half note E0. The eighty-fifth measure is a half note D0. The eighty-sixth measure is a half note C0. The eighty-seventh measure is a half note B0. The eighty-eighth measure is a half note A0. The eighty-ninth measure is a half note G0. The ninetieth measure is a half note F0. The ninety-first measure is a half note E0. The ninety-second measure is a half note D0. The ninety-third measure is a half note C0. The ninety-fourth measure is a half note B0. The ninety-fifth measure is a half note A0. The ninety-sixth measure is a half note G0. The ninety-seventh measure is a half note F0. The ninety-eighth measure is a half note E0. The ninety-ninth measure is a half note D0. The hundredth measure is a half note C0.

9.3 

[illegible][illegible]

9.4 



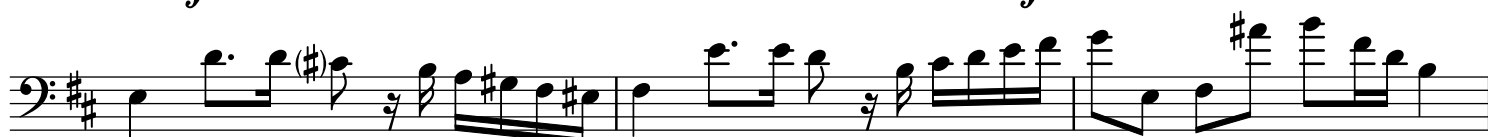
10. Exercises in D Major

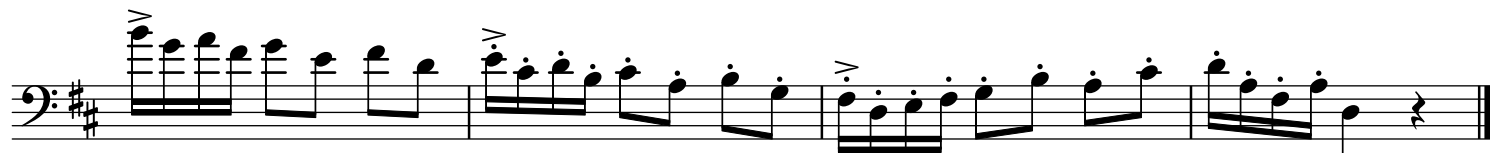
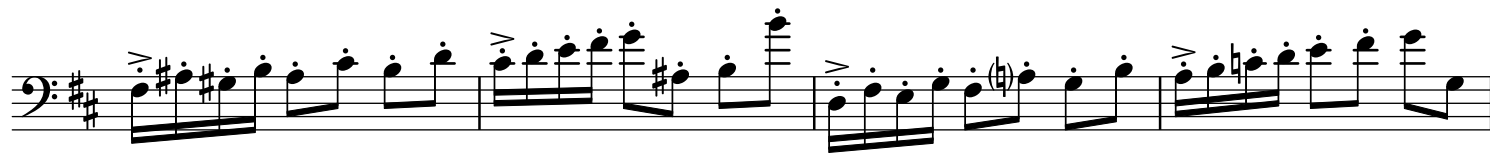
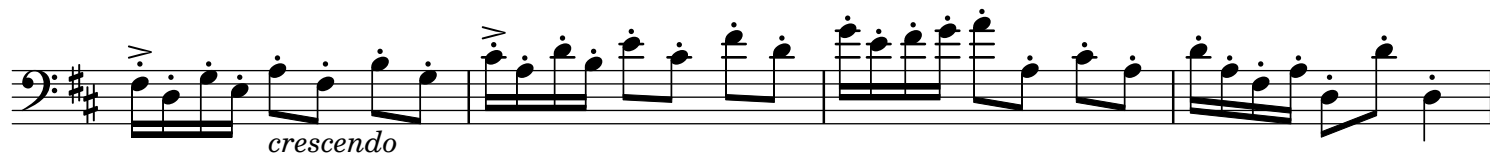
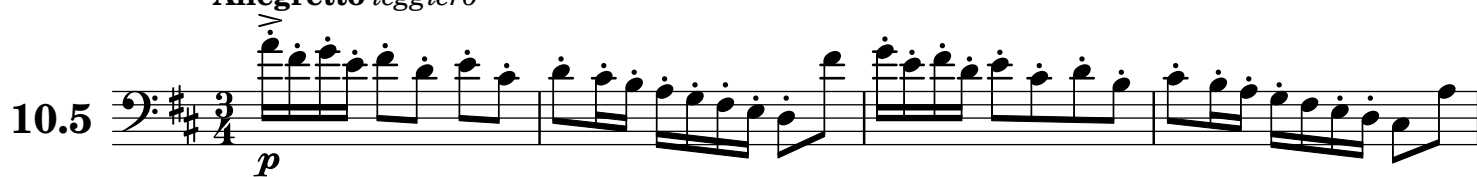


Moderato ben marcato e staccato



Allegretto con energia





11. Exercises in B Minor

11.1

11.2

Adagio

11.3

11.4 *Andante*

con forza

11.5 *Allegretto*

12. Exercises in G Major



Moderato

12.5

**Allegretto *leggeramente***

12.6

**Adagio**

12.7



36



13. Exercises in E Minor

13.1



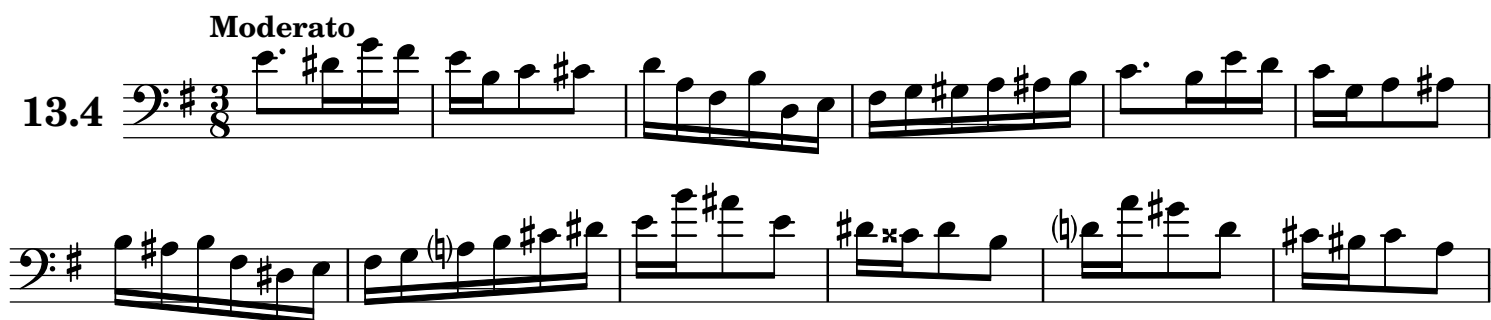
13.2 *Maestoso*



13.3 *Allegretto*



13.4 *Moderato*





Adagio

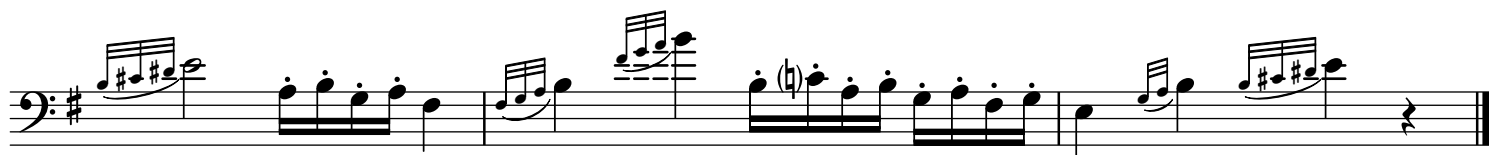
13.5



Maestoso

13.6





Moderato

13.7



14. Exercises in D-Flat Major

14.1

The image shows a musical exercise labeled 14.1. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody starts on a middle C (C4) and proceeds with a series of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6. The second staff continues the melody with eighth notes: D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, B6, A6, G6, F6, E6, D6, C6, and concludes with a whole note C6 followed by a double bar line.

14.2 **Allegro energia**

f

14.3 **Moderato**

The musical score is written in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to B-flat major (two flats). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some slurs and accents. The second staff continues the melody with similar rhythmic patterns. The third staff includes a double bar line and a key signature change to B-flat major (two flats). The fourth staff continues the melody with a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a final cadence and a double bar line.

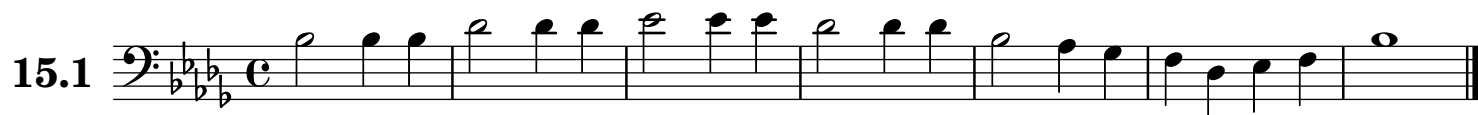
Adagio

14.4

Moderato

14.5

15. Exercises in B-Flat Minor



Moderato

15.4

15.4 Moderato

3/4

Bass clef, key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The piece consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to two flats (B-flat, E-flat). The music features a variety of note values including eighth, sixteenth, and thirty-second notes, as well as rests and accidentals. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Allegretto

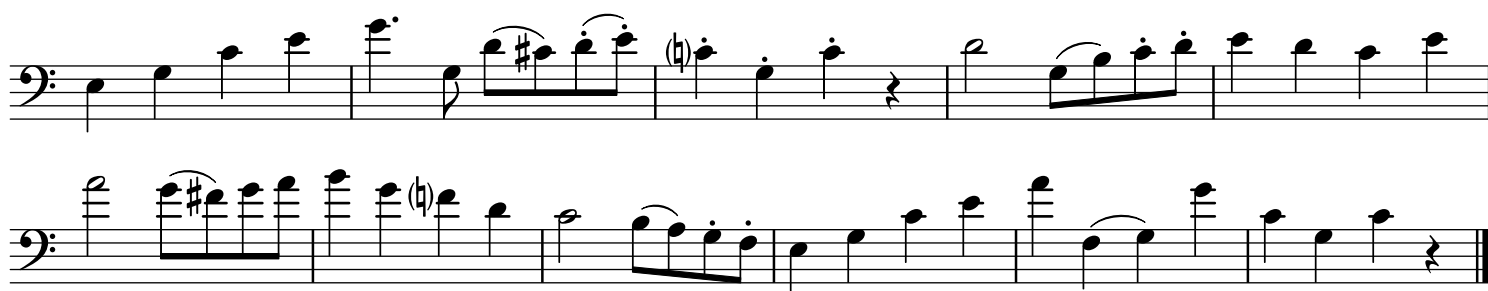
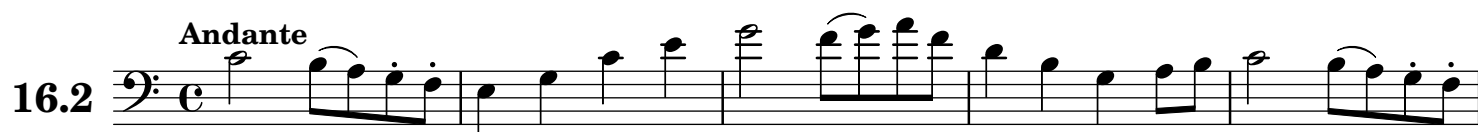
15.5

15.5 Allegretto

2/4

Bass clef, key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to two flats (B-flat, E-flat). The music is characterized by frequent sixteenth and thirty-second note patterns, often beamed together. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

16. Exercises in C Major



**Moderato**

17. Exercises in A Minor





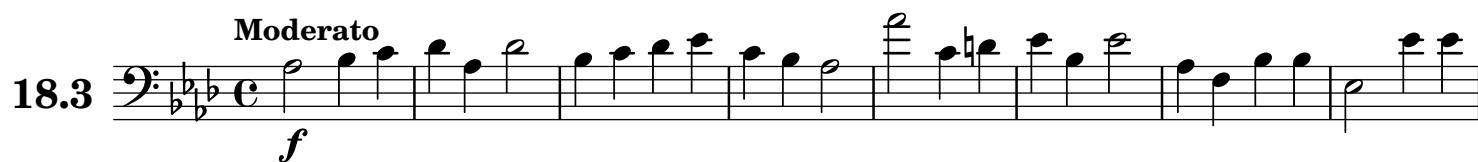
Andantino



Moderato

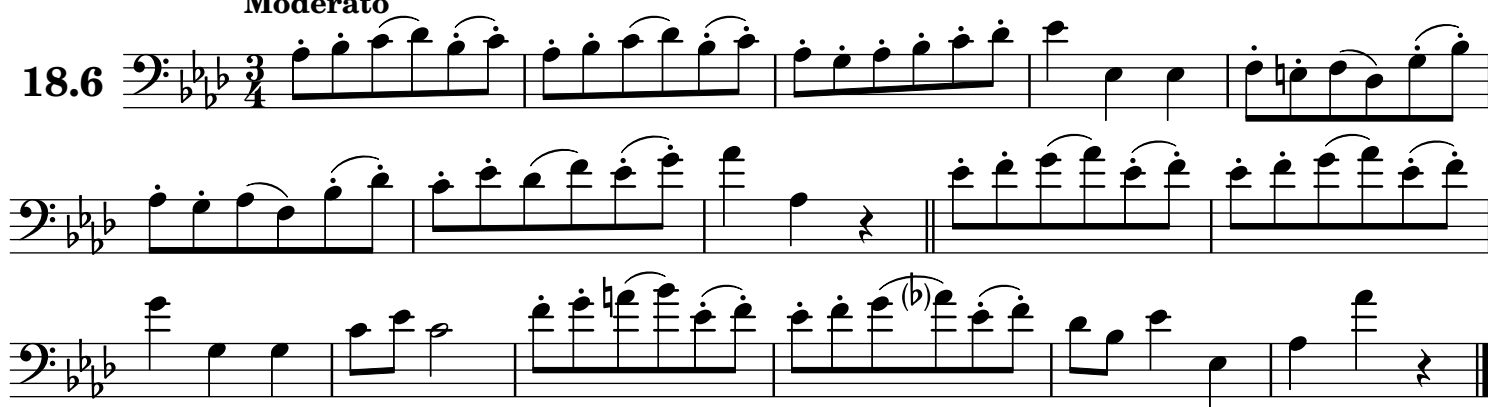


18. Exercises in A-Flat Major



Moderato

18.6

**Moderato**

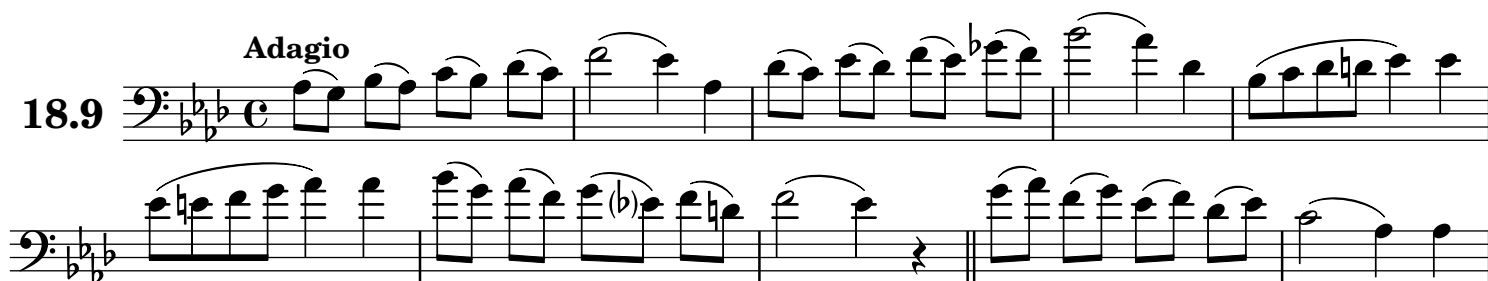
18.7

**Moderato**

18.8

**Adagio**

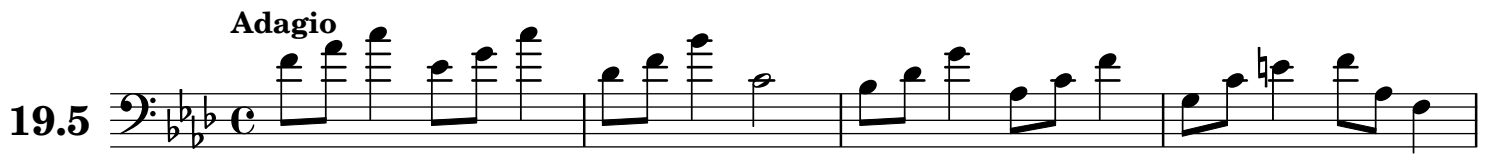
18.9





19. Exercises in F Minor





20. Exercises in F Major

20.1 *Adagio*



21. Exercises in D Minor

21.1 *Adagio*

21.2

21.3 *Andantino*

21.4 *Allegretto*
staccato

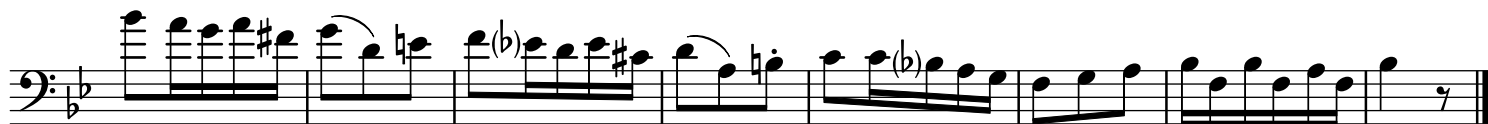


22. Exercises in B-Flat Major

22.1

22.2 *Adagio*

22.3 *Moderato*



23. Exercises in G Minor

23.1 *Adagio*

23.2 *Moderato*

23.3 *Moderato*



23.4 Andantino

Measures 61-68 of the musical score, marked **Andantino**. The music is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major) and a time signature of 6/8. The notation features complex rhythmic patterns, including many beamed sixteenth notes and eighth notes, and rests. Measure 68 ends with a double bar line.

24. Exercises in E-Flat Major

Maestoso

24.1

Allegretto

24.2

Andantino

24.3

**Molto moderato**

24.4



25. Exercises in C Minor

Adagio

25.1

Exercise 25.1 is a short piece in C minor, 2/4 time, marked Adagio. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in eighth notes with slurs. The second and third staves continue the melody, with the third staff ending with a double bar line. The key signature remains C minor throughout.

Andante

25.2

Exercise 25.2 is a short piece in C minor, 2/4 time, marked Andante. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in eighth notes with slurs. The second, third, and fourth staves continue the melody, with the fourth staff ending with a double bar line. The key signature remains C minor throughout.

26. Additional Exercises

26.1 *Andante*

Exercise 26.1 is an Andante piece in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and common time (C). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a half note F# and a half note C#, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (F#, C#, G#). The second staff continues with a half note F# and a half note C#, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (F#, C#, G#). The third staff features a half note F# and a half note C#, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (F#, C#, G#). The fourth staff starts with a half note F# and a half note C#, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (F#, C#, G#). The fifth staff concludes with a half note F# and a half note C#, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (F#, C#, G#).

26.2 *Moderato*

Exercise 26.2 is a Moderato piece in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a half note F# and a quarter note C#, followed by a half note F# and a quarter note C#. The second staff continues with a half note F# and a quarter note C#, followed by a half note F# and a quarter note C#. The third staff features a half note F# and a quarter note C#, followed by a half note F# and a quarter note C#. The fourth staff starts with a half note F# and a quarter note C#, followed by a half note F# and a quarter note C#. The fifth staff concludes with a half note F# and a quarter note C#, followed by a half note F# and a quarter note C#. The sixth staff concludes with a half note F# and a quarter note C#, followed by a half note F# and a quarter note C#.

Molto moderato

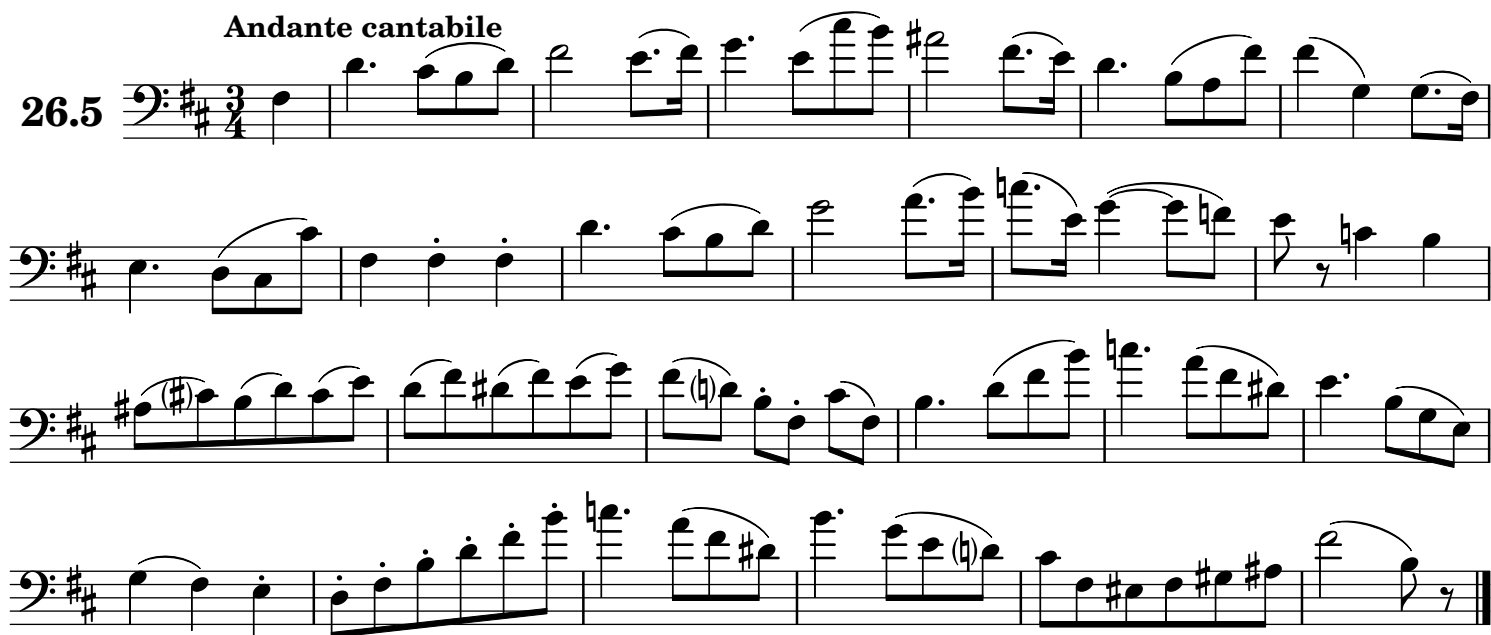
26.3

26.4

Moderato

Andante cantabile

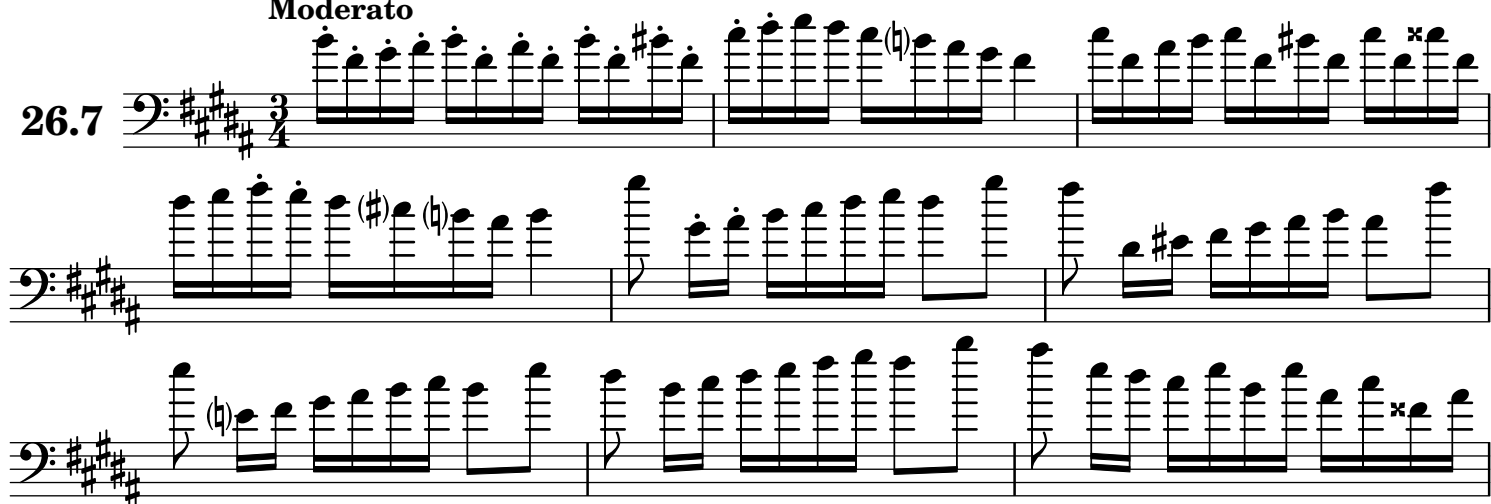
26.5

**Maestoso**

26.6

**Moderato**

26.7



Five staves of musical notation in bass clef, key of F# (three sharps). The music consists of measures 67 through 71. The notation is highly technical, featuring rapid sixteenth-note runs. Various articulations are present, including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings such as (b) and *. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign in the final measure.

Assai moderato

26.8

Five staves of musical notation in bass clef, key of Bb (four flats), and 6/8 time signature. The music begins at measure 26.8 and ends at measure 27.3. The notation includes slurs, accents, and dynamic markings such as (b). The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign in the final measure.

Adagio e molto legato

26.9

Moderato

26.10

Allegretto

26.11

Exercise 26.11 is an Allegretto in bass clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 6/8 time signature, then changes to a bass clef. The exercise features eighth-note patterns with slurs and ties. The piece ends with a double bar line and a fermata on the final note.

Moderato

26.12

Exercise 26.12 is a Moderato in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F-sharp, C-sharp, G-sharp) and a common time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature, then changes to a bass clef. The exercise features eighth-note patterns with slurs and ties. The piece ends with a double bar line and a fermata on the final note.

