

GIOVANNI BOTTESINI



Complete Method

for

Double Bass



Part I

Transposed Six 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 six 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.

This edition and its source files are distributed under the CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license. This roughly means that you can freely use, copy, redistribute, or modify them, but you may not use them for commercial purposes; if you modify or combine them with other work, you must attribute this source and share the derived work under the same license. For details, see creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0.

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

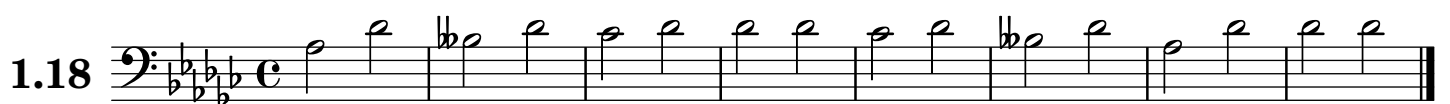
1.4

1.5

1.6

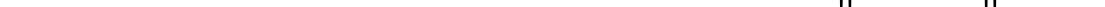
1.7

1.8



1.19 

[illegible]

1.21 

1.22

[illegible]

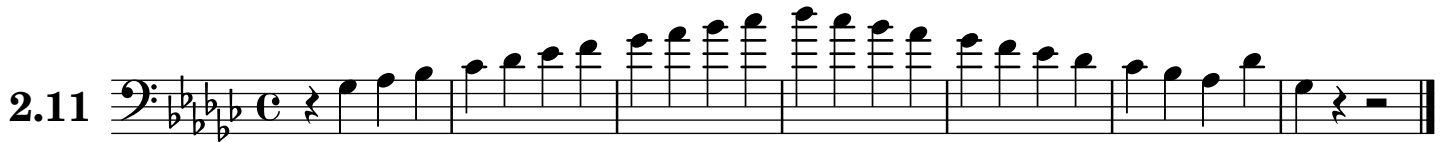
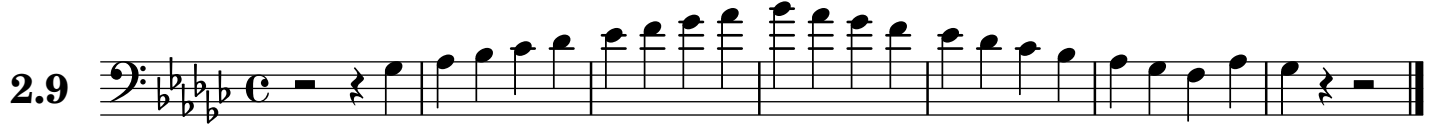
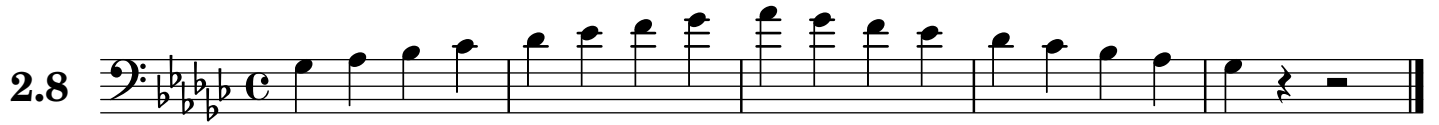
1.24

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), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody consists of the following notes: B2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F2 (half), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (half), B1 (quarter), A1 (quarter), G1 (quarter), F1 (half), E1 (quarter), D1 (quarter), C1 (half), B0 (quarter), A0 (quarter), G0 (quarter), F0 (half), E0 (quarter), D0 (quarter), C0 (half). The piece ends with a double bar line.

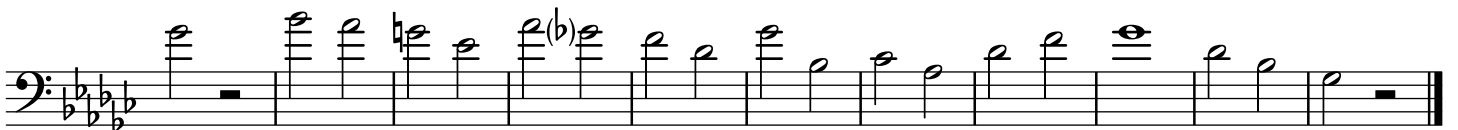
1.25

2. Exercises in G-Flat Major

[illegible]

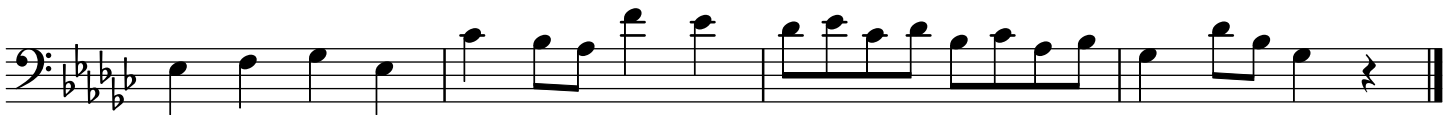
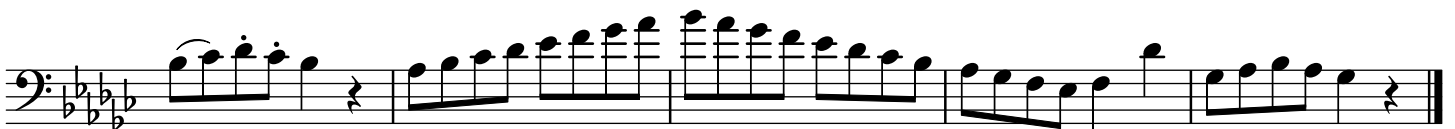
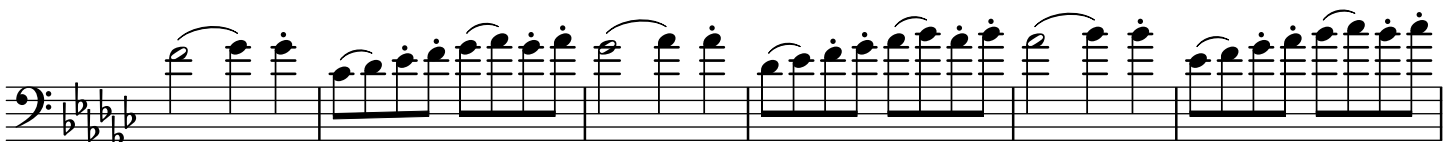


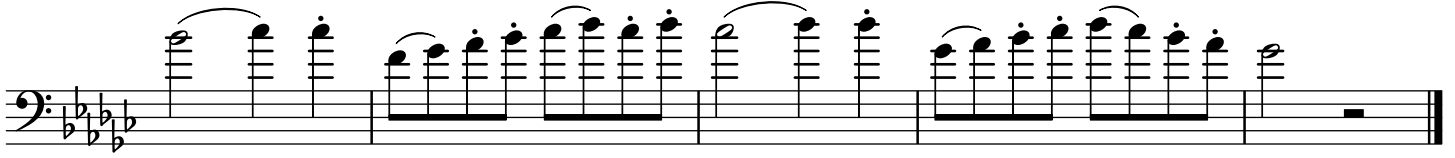
Moderato



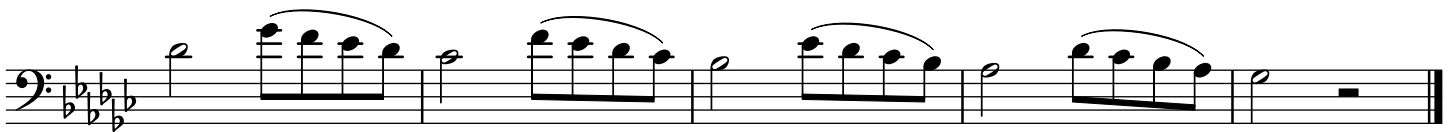
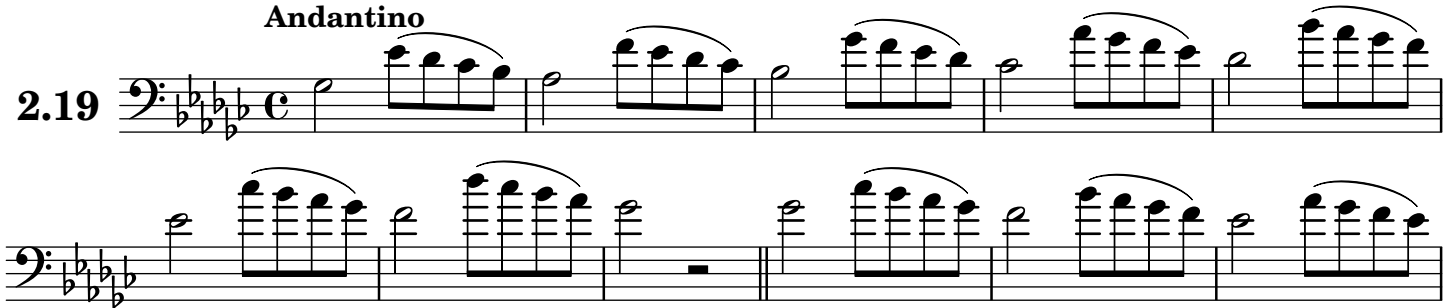
Andantino



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

**Andantino**

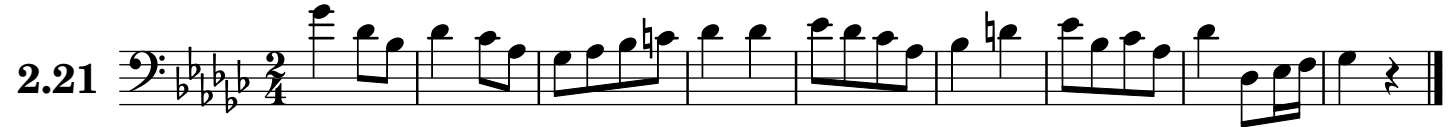
2.19

**Moderato**

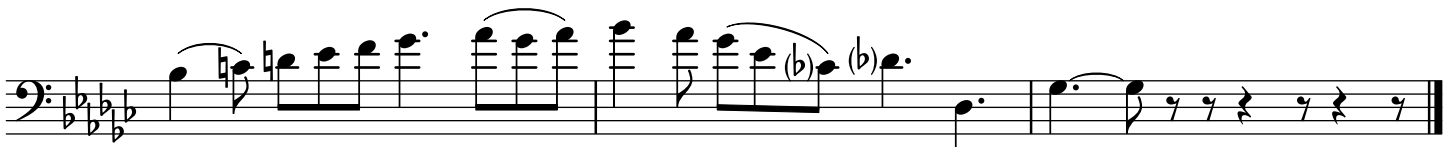
2.20

**Allegretto**

2.21

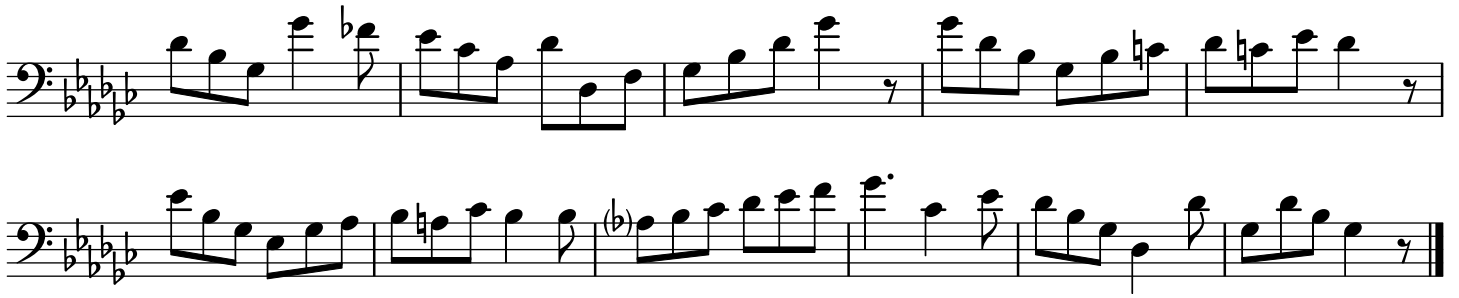
**Andante**

2.22

**Allegretto**

2.23





Moderato

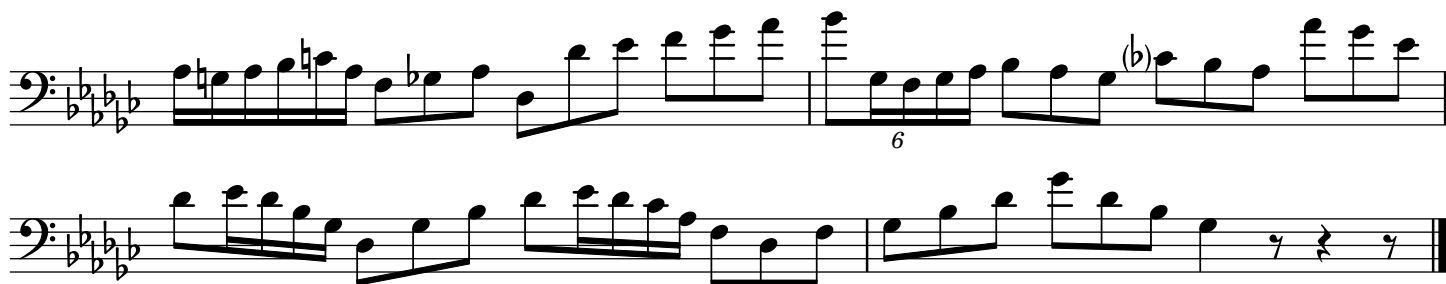


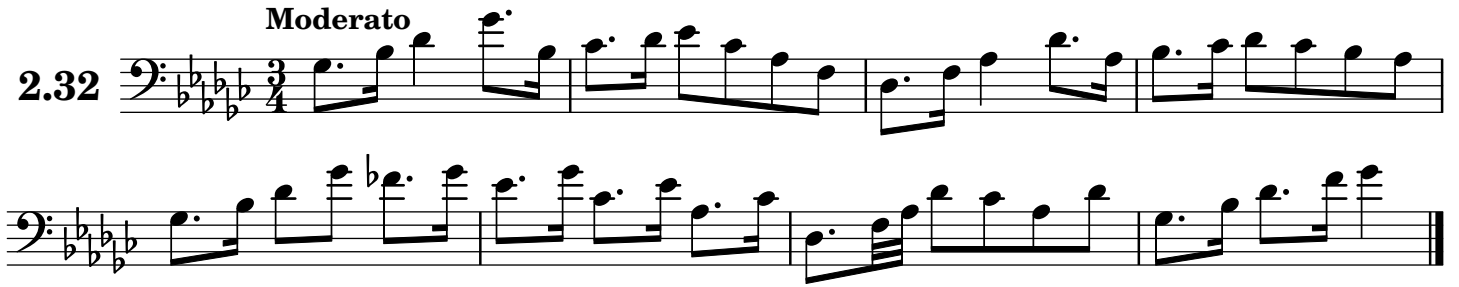
Adagio



Andante

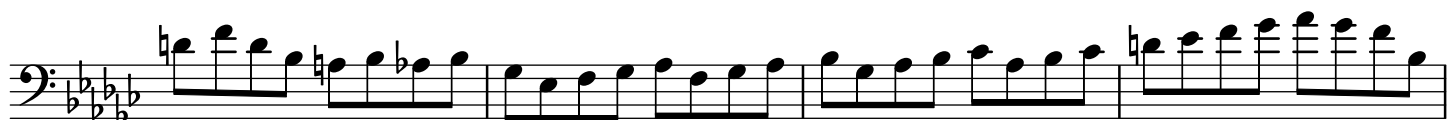




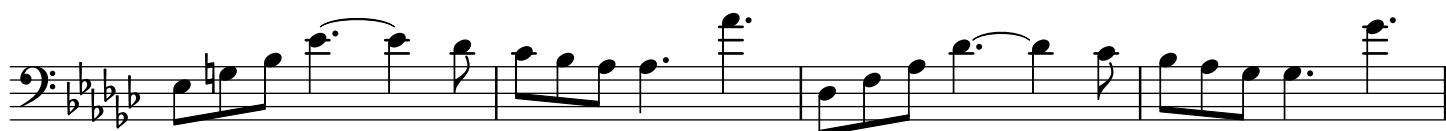
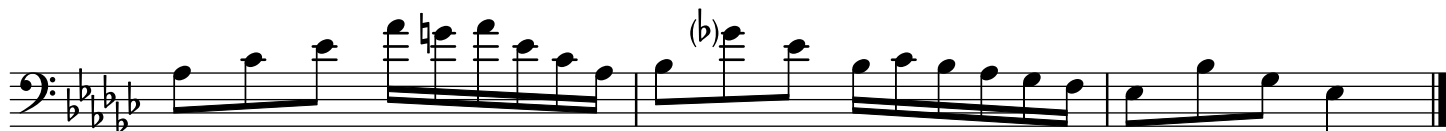
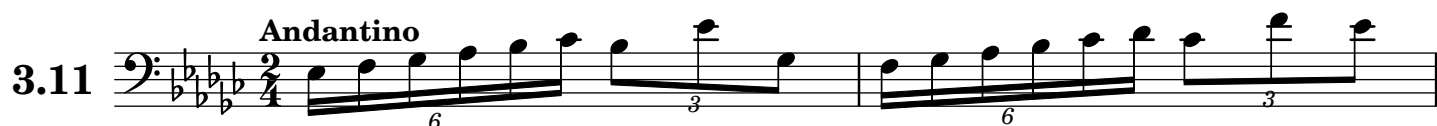
Moderato**2.32****Moderato****2.33**



3. Exercises in E-Flat Minor

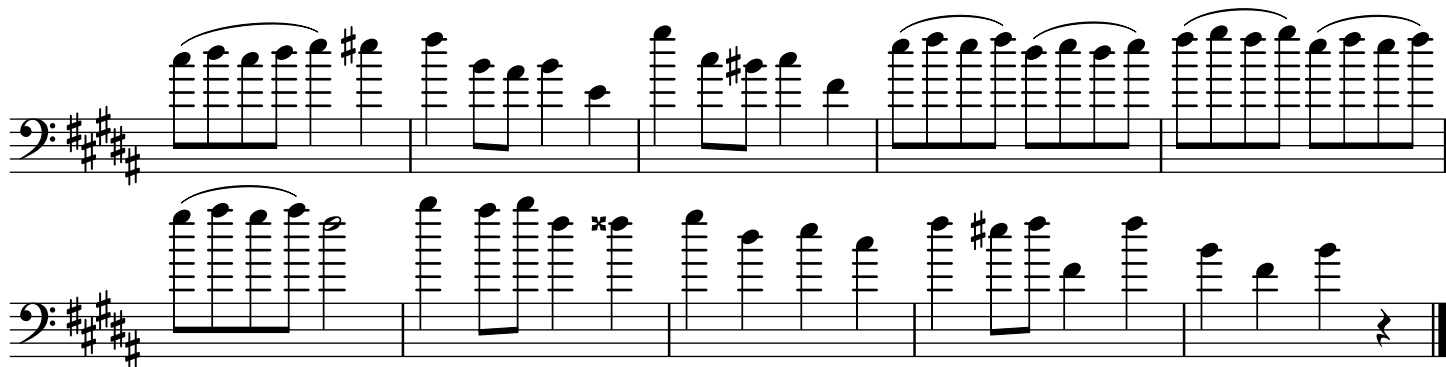


**Andante****Allegretto****Moderato****Andantino**

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

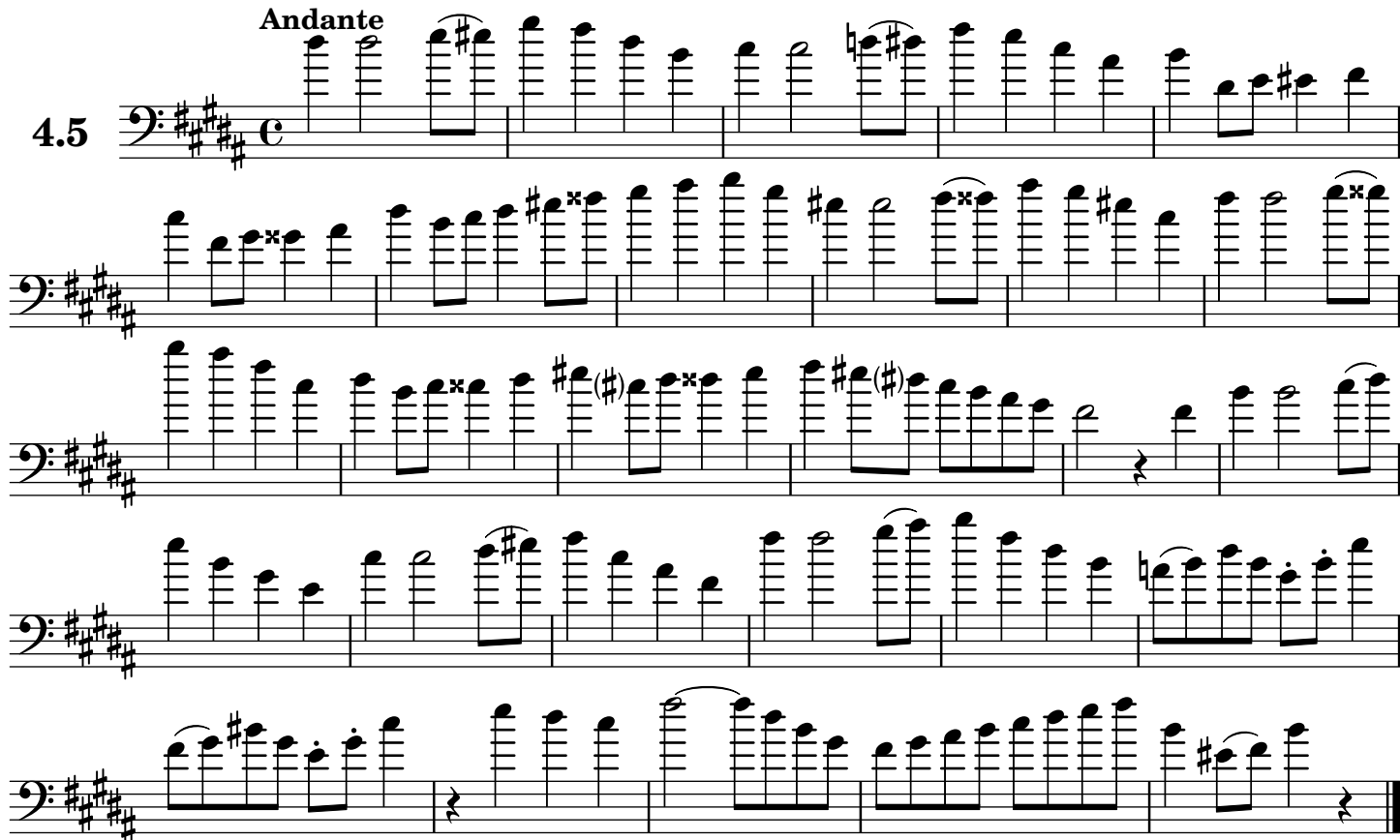
4. Exercises in B Major

[illegible]



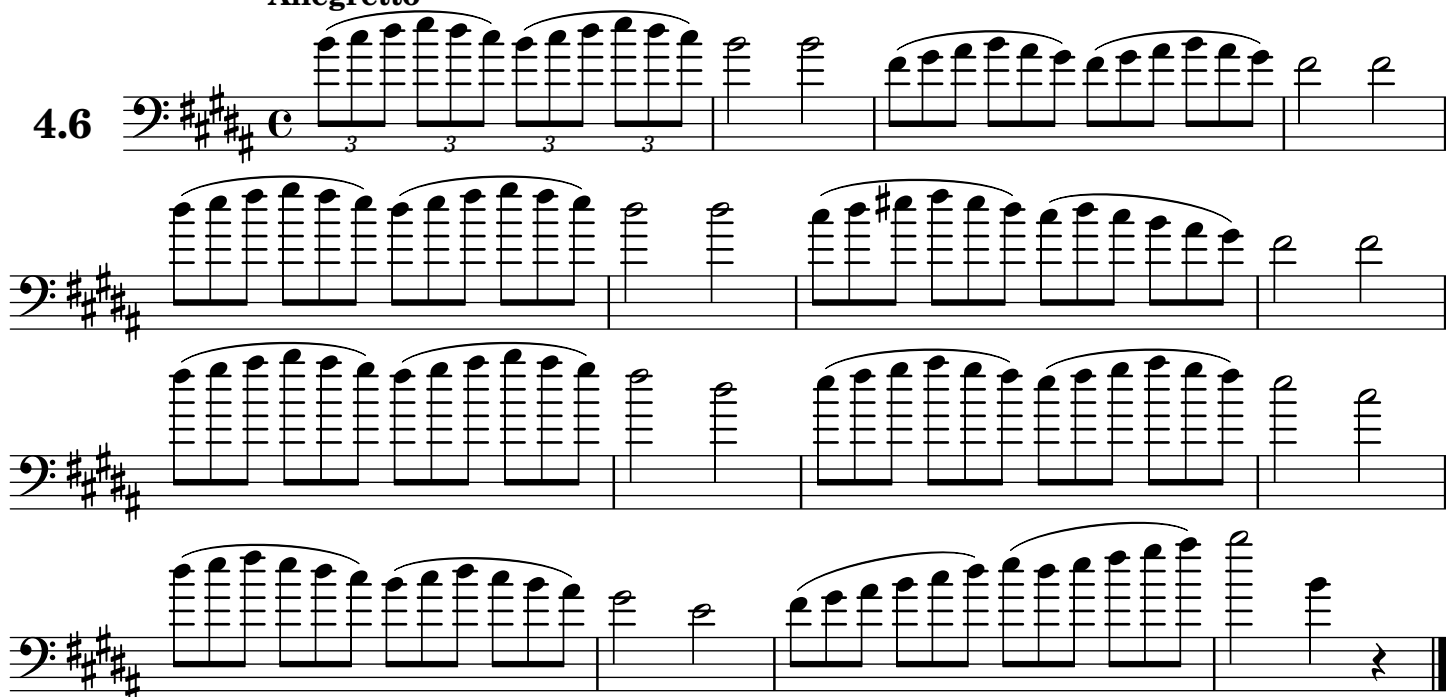
Andante

4.5



Allegretto

4.6



Adagio

4.7

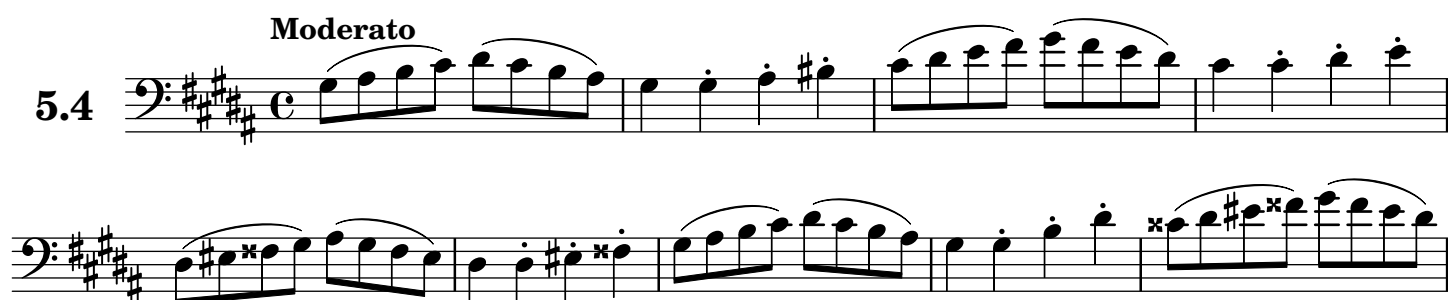
Adagio

Allegretto

4.8

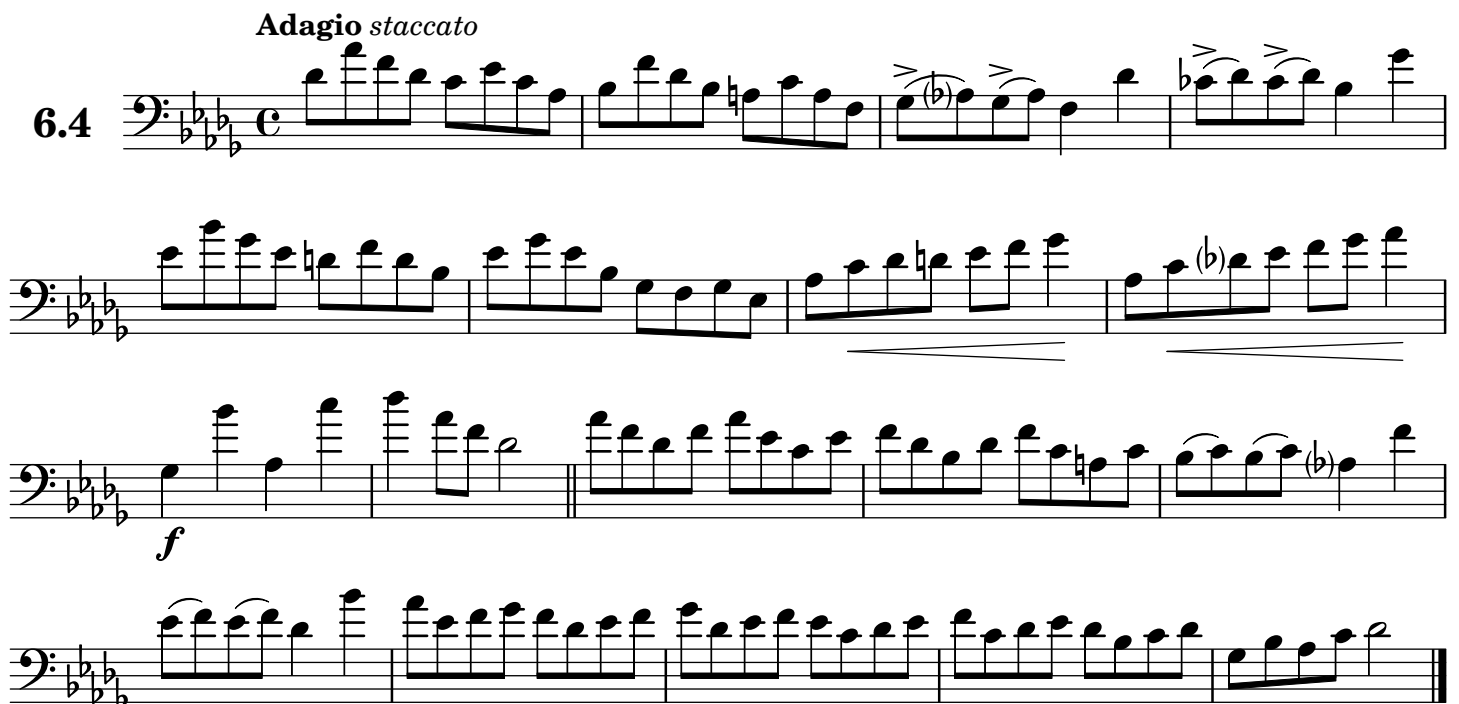
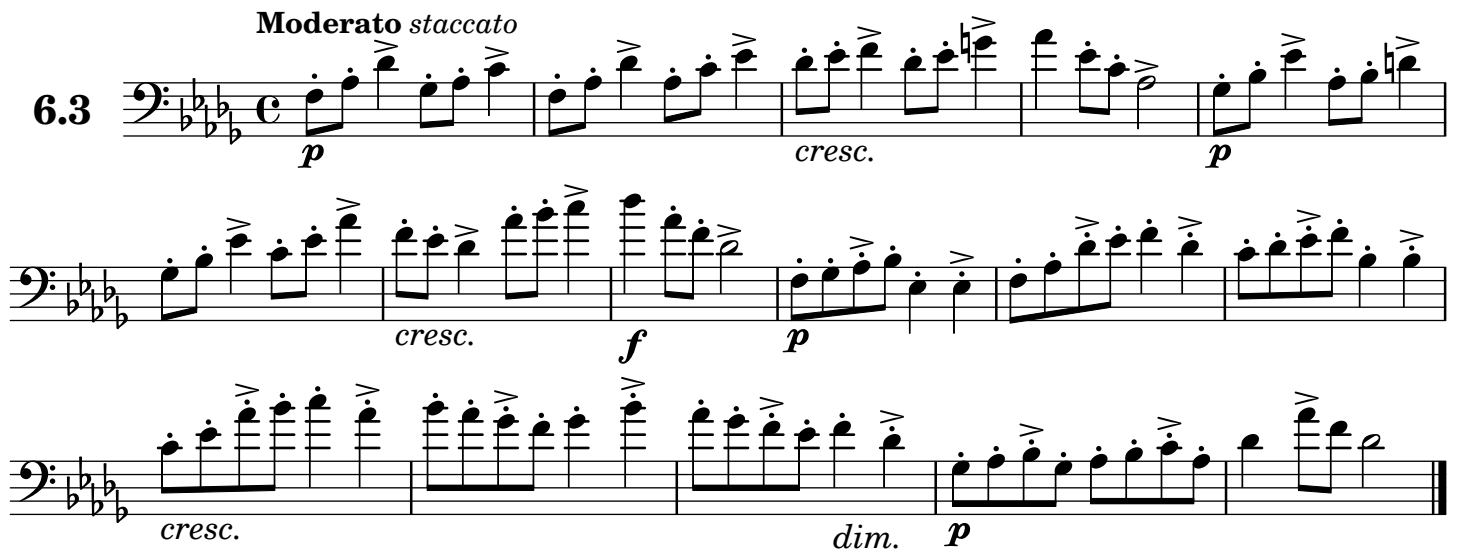
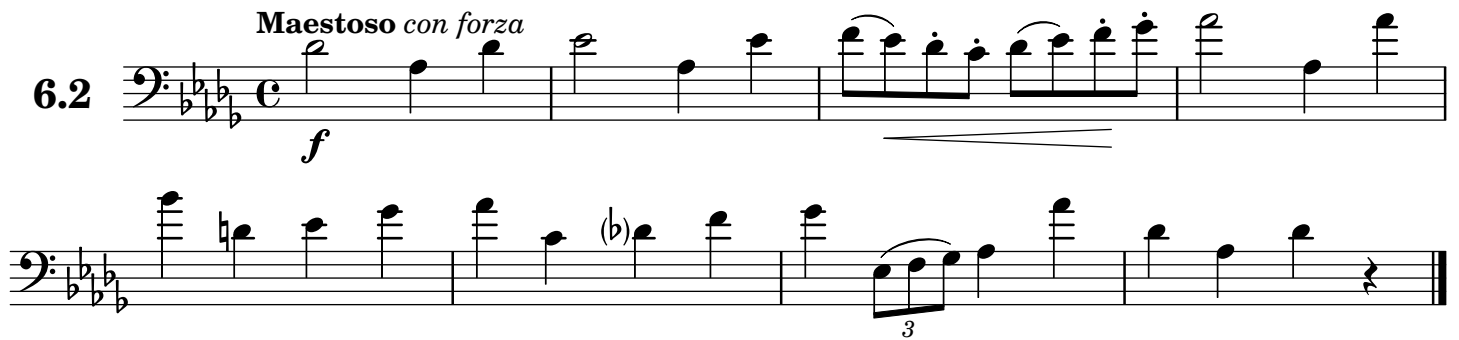
Allegretto

5. Exercises in G-Sharp Minor



Musical score for bass clef, key of D major (F# C# G# D). The score consists of 18 measures, divided into two systems of nine measures each. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, sixteenth notes), rests, and accidentals (sharps, naturals, double sharps, double flats). Slurs and ties are used to indicate phrasing and continuation across measures. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system begins with a measure rest (5.5) before the first measure.

6. Exercises in D-Flat Major



Moderato

6.5

The musical score for exercise 6.5 is written in bass clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The piece consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to three flats, followed by a 3/4 time signature. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are several slurs and ties throughout the piece, indicating phrasing and melodic lines. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

7. Exercises in B-Flat Minor

[illegible]

7.2 **Maestoso**

The musical score for Exercise 7.2, marked **Maestoso**, is written in bass clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature (C). The exercise consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains four measures. The second staff contains four measures, including a repeat sign. The third staff contains four measures, ending with a repeat sign. The tempo is **Maestoso**.

7.3 **Molto Moderato**

The musical score for Exercise 7.3, titled "Molto Moderato", is written in bass clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and common time (C). The score consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to three flats. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

7.4 **Adagio**

Adagio

B-flat major

Common time

B-flat

A-flat

G

F

E-flat

D

C

B-flat

A-flat

G

F

E-flat

D

C

B-flat

Measures 24-28 of a musical score in bass clef, key of B-flat major (three flats). The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings. Measure 24 starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G2. Measure 25 has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G2. Measure 26 has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G2. Measure 27 has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G2. Measure 28 has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G2. Dynamics include *sf* (sforzando) in measures 26 and 27.

Moderato

7.5

Measures 29-33 of a musical score in bass clef, key of B-flat major (three flats). The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings. Measure 29 starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G2. Measure 30 has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G2. Measure 31 has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G2. Measure 32 has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G2. Measure 33 has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G2. Dynamics include *p* (piano) in measure 29 and *sf* (sforzando) in measures 30, 31, and 32.

8. Exercises in A-Flat Major

8.1

8.2

Moderato con molto arco

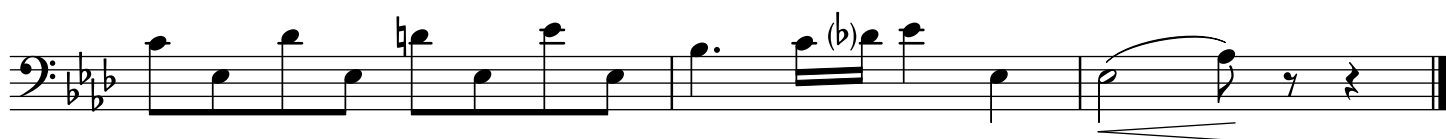
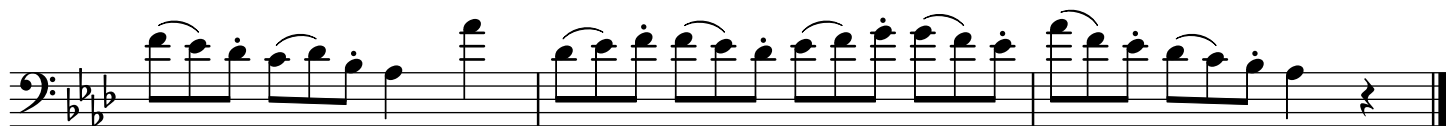
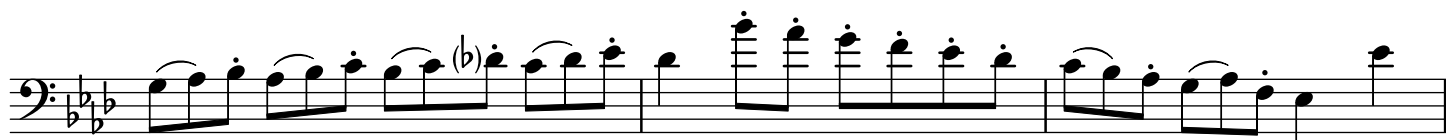
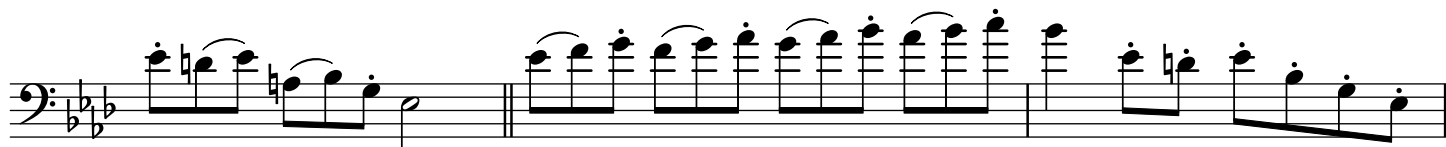
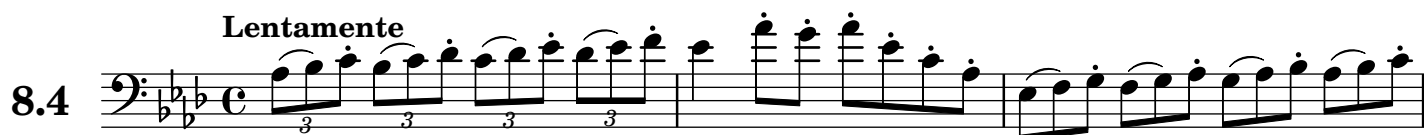
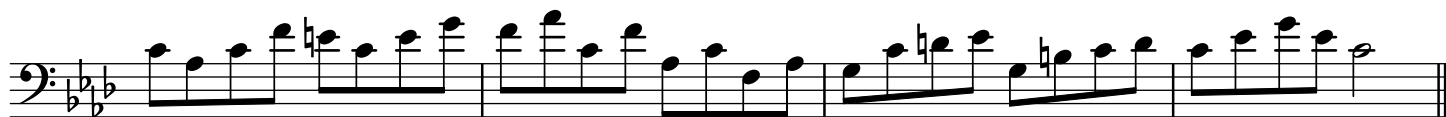
mf

8.3

f

p

f

**Lentamente****con forza**

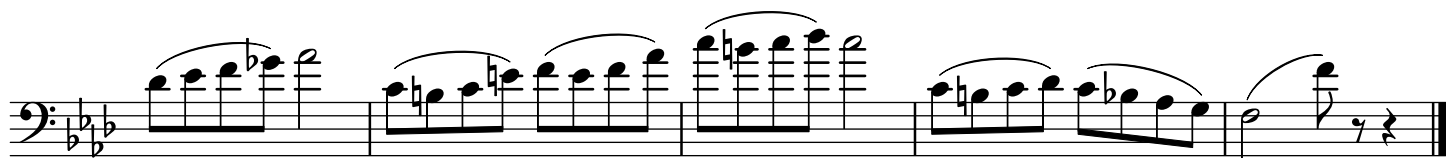
9. Exercises in F Minor

9.1

9.2 *Adagio*

9.3

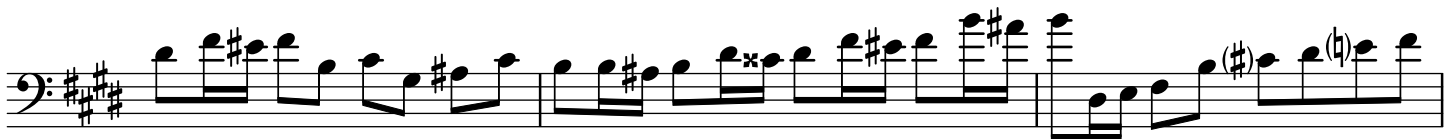
9.4



10. Exercises in E Major



Moderato *ben marcato e staccato*

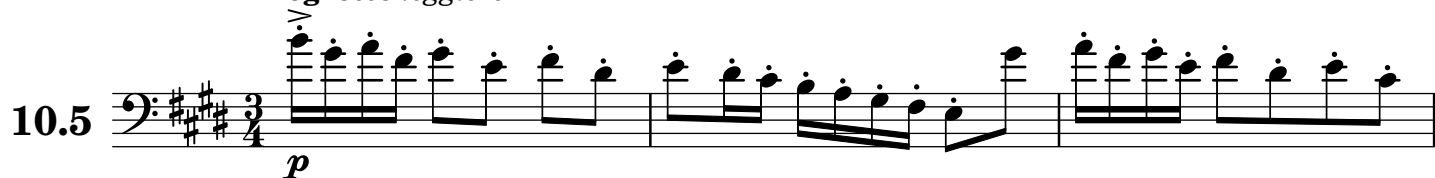


Allegretto *con energia*





Allegretto leggiero



11. Exercises in C-Sharp Minor

11.1

11.2

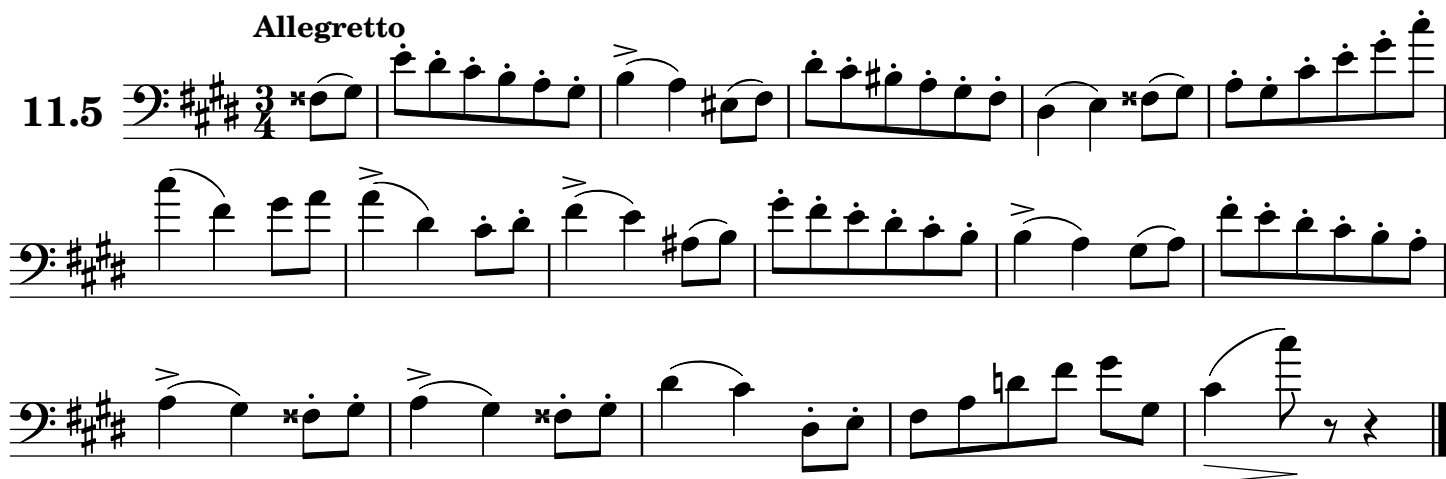
11.3

Adagio

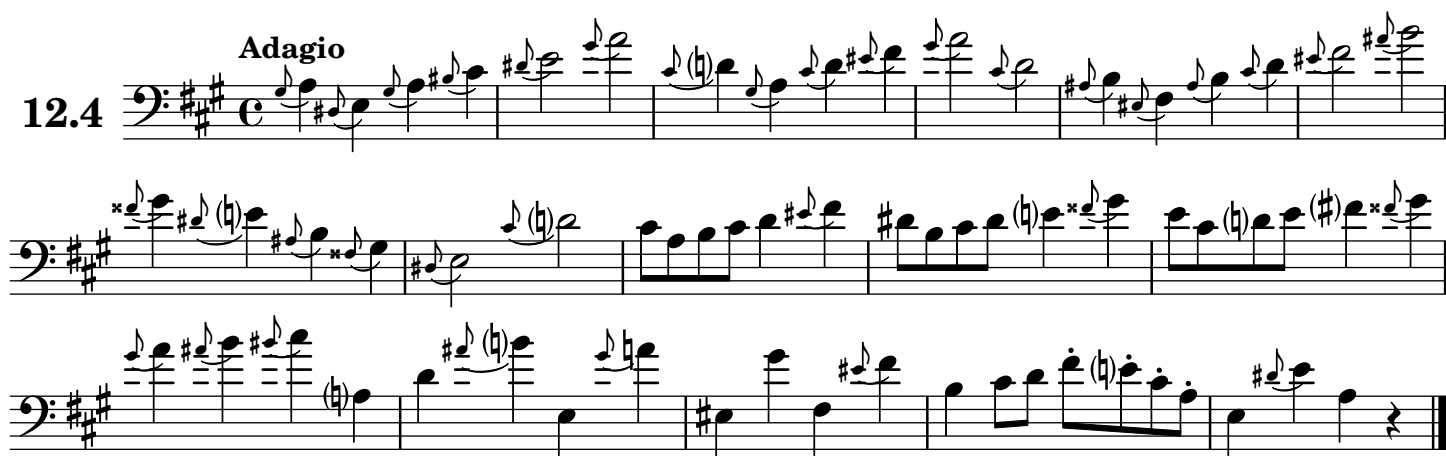
11.4

Andante

con forza

**Allegretto**

12. Exercises in A Major





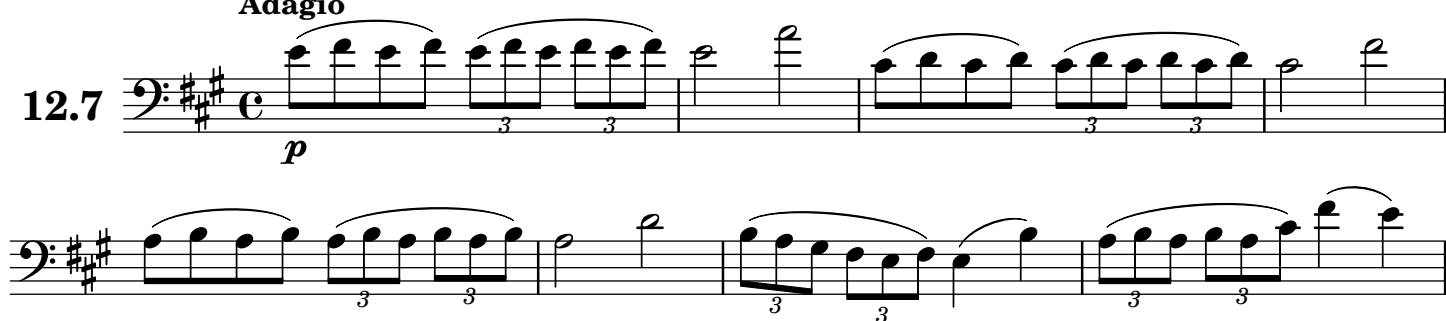
Allegretto leggermente

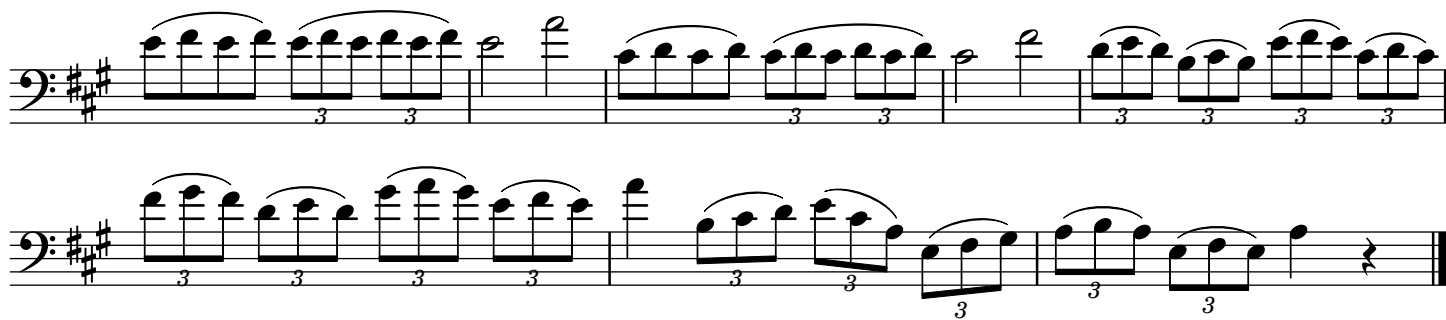
12.6



Adagio

12.7





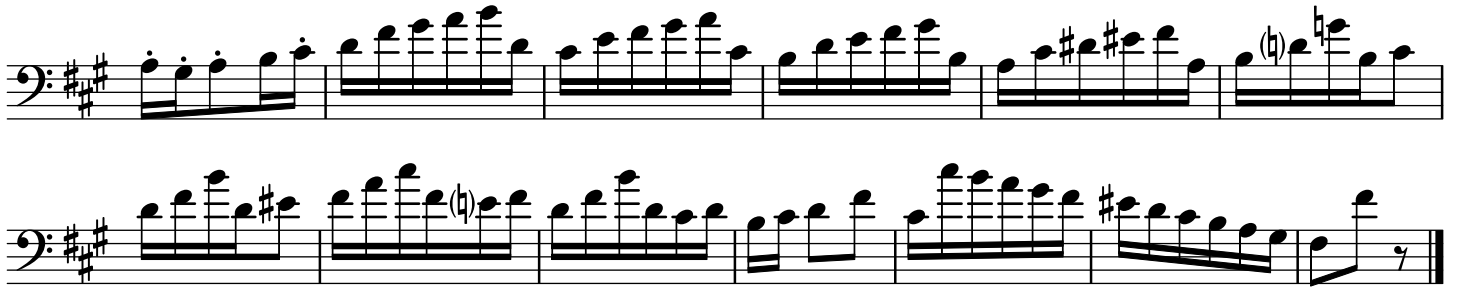
13. Exercises in F-Sharp Minor

13.1

13.2 *Maestoso*

13.3 *Allegretto*

13.4 *Moderato*



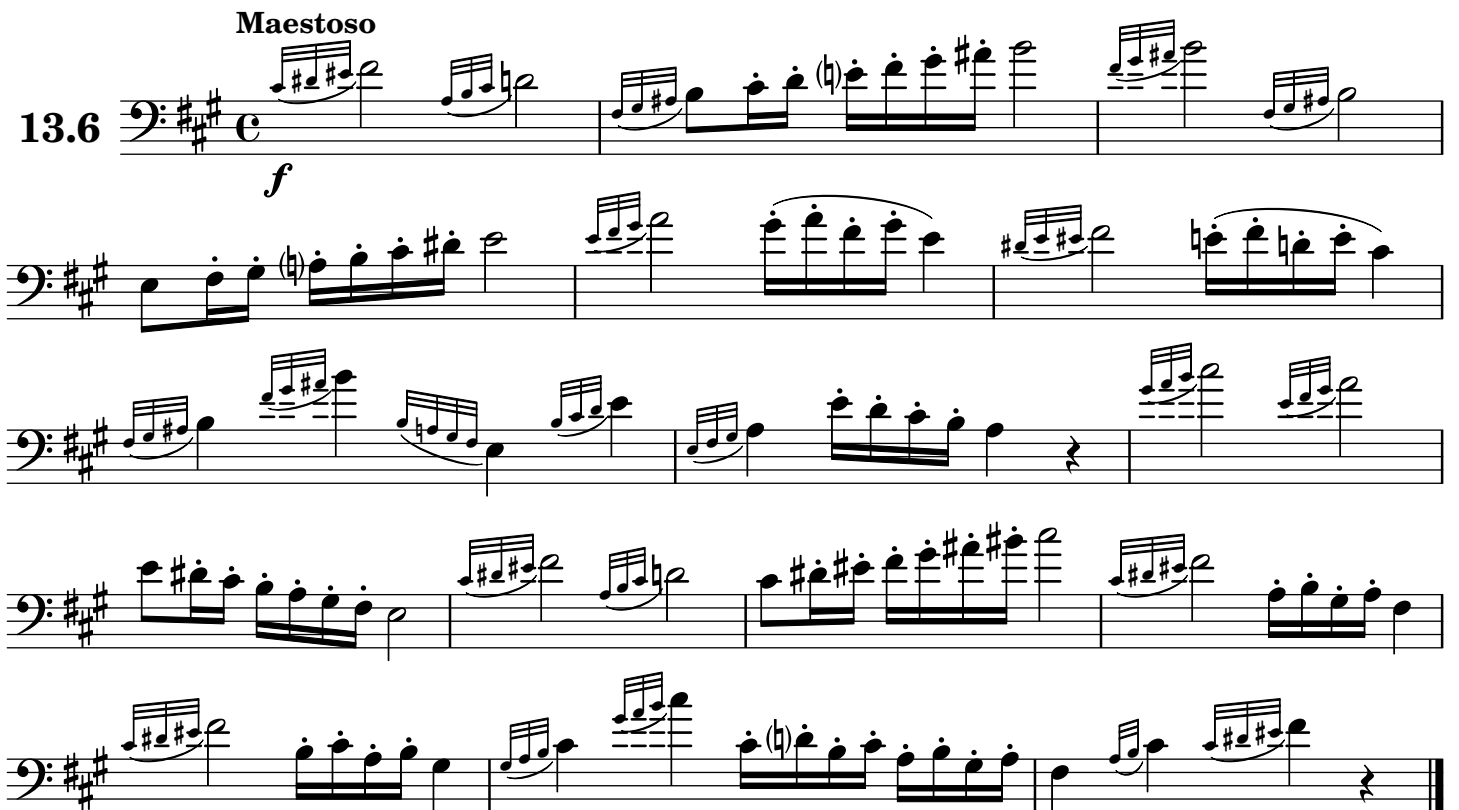
Adagio

13.5



Maestoso

13.6



Moderato

13.7



14. Exercises in E-Flat Major

14.1

14.2

Allegro energia

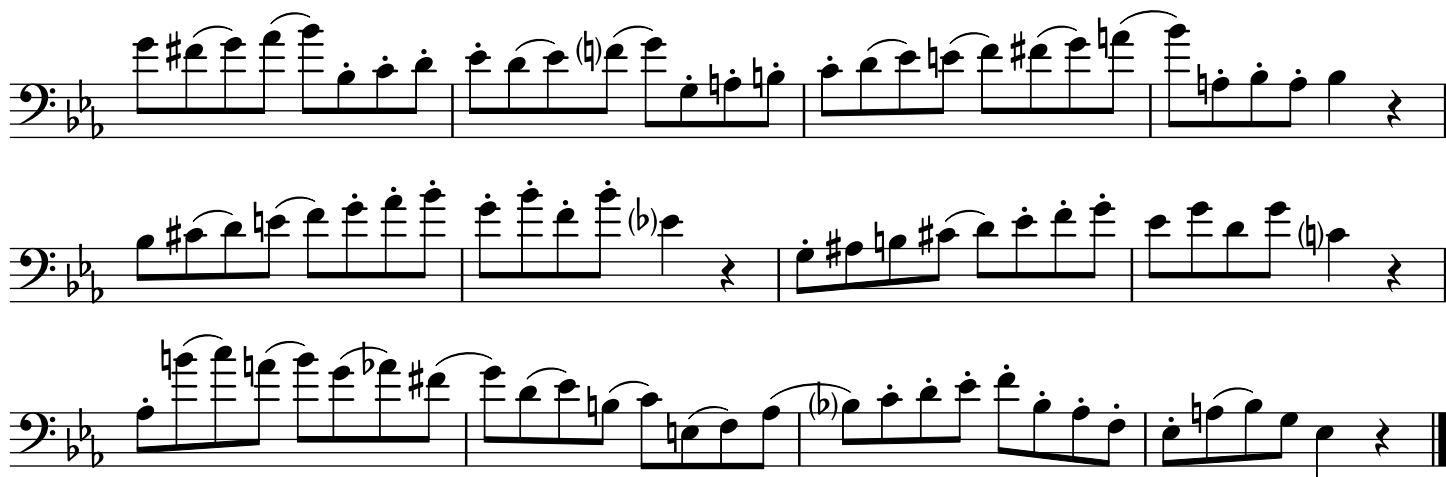
f

14.3

Moderato

14.4

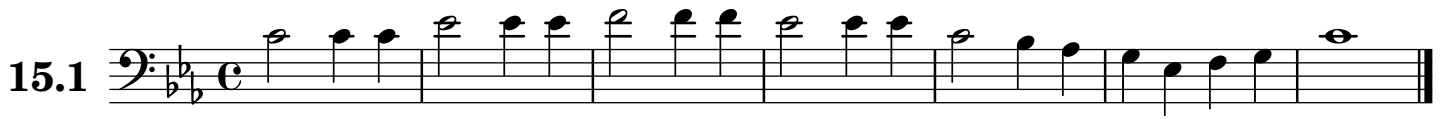
Adagio



Moderato

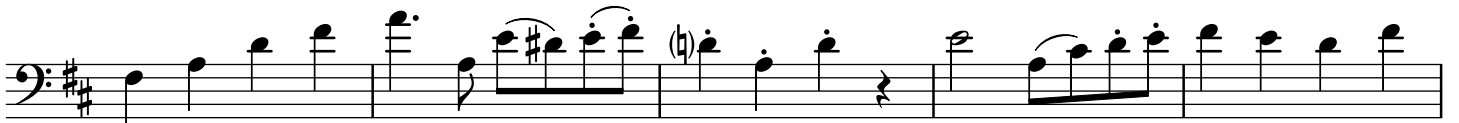
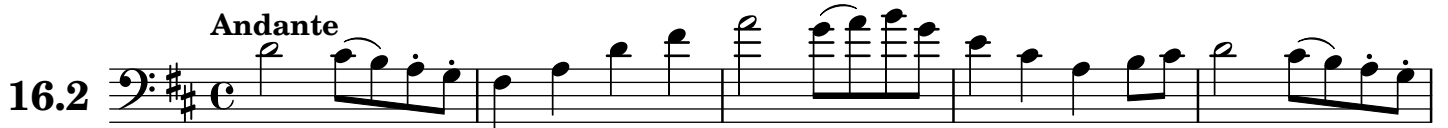


15. Exercises in C Minor



Moderato**15.4****Allegretto****15.5**

16. Exercises in D Major



Moderato

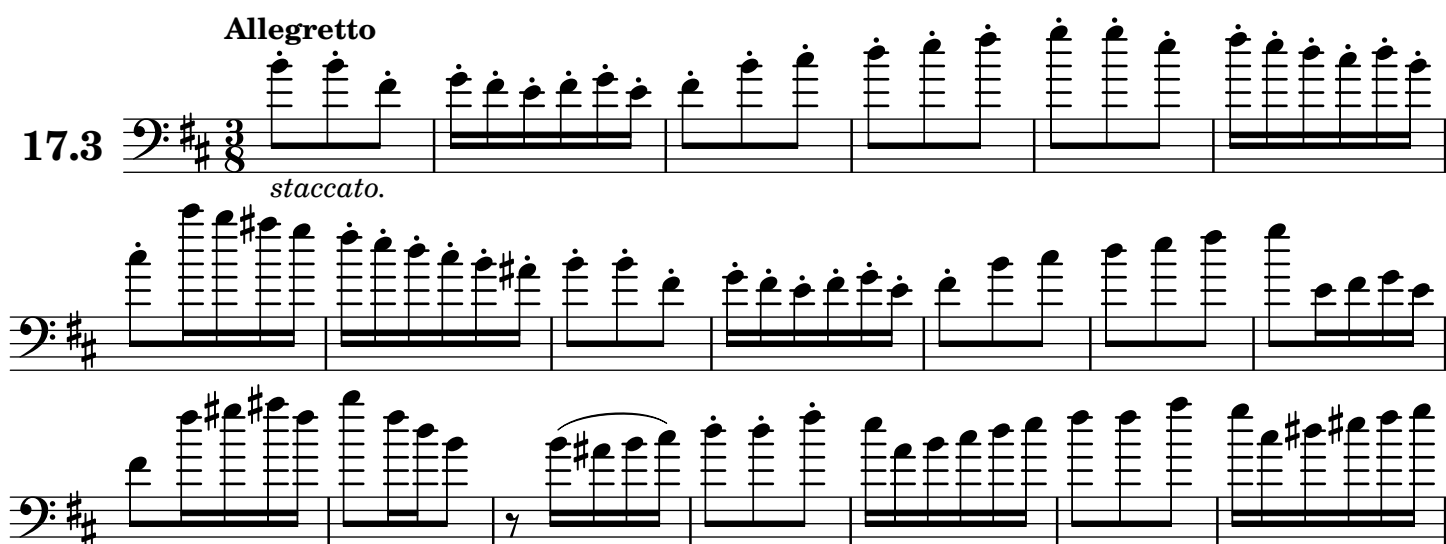
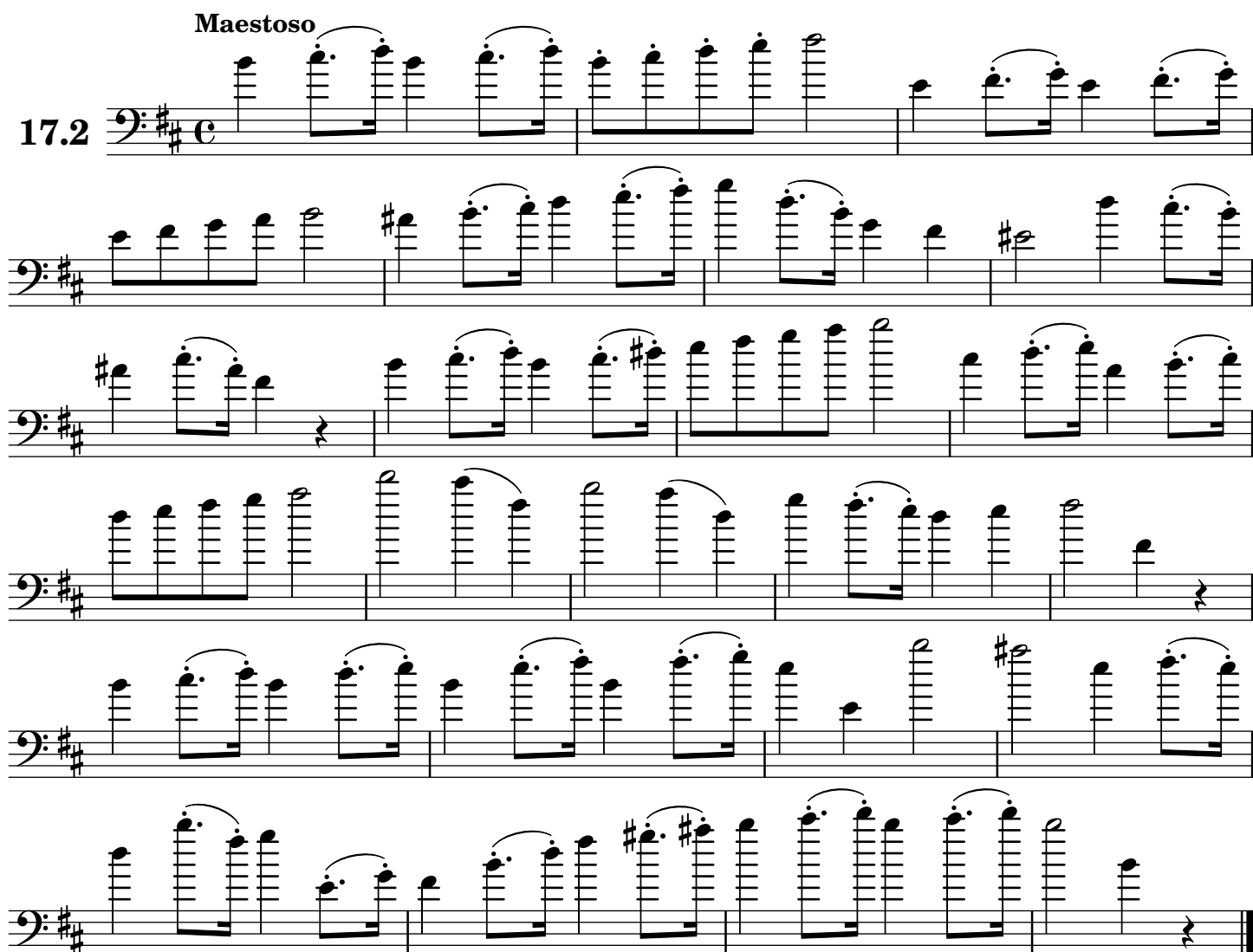
16.5

3 3 3

(b)

(h)

17. Exercises in B Minor



Andantino

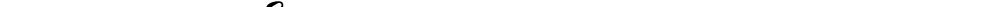
17.4

Moderato

17.5

18. Exercises in B-Flat Major

18.1

18.2 

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: F2, F2, F2, F2, G2, G2, G2, G2, A2, A2, A2, A2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, C3. The piece ends with a double bar line.

18.3 **Moderato**

f

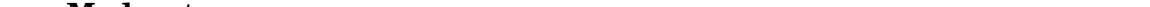
18.4 **Moderato**

The musical score for Exercise 18.4 is written in bass clef, B-flat major (two flats), and common time (C). It consists of two staves. The first staff has a melody starting on G2, moving up stepwise to D3, then a series of eighth-note runs. The second staff has a bass line starting on G2, moving up stepwise to D3, then a series of eighth-note runs. The piece ends with a double bar line.

18.5 **Andante**

The musical score is written for three staves in bass clef, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Andante'. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to B-flat major. The music features various note values, rests, and a key signature change to E-flat major in the second staff. The third staff continues the melody and includes a double bar line at the end.

Moderato

18.6 

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a melody of eighth notes with slurs, followed by a whole note, and then a series of beamed eighth notes. The lower staff is also in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, featuring a series of beamed eighth notes. The second system continues the melody in the upper staff and includes a section marked with a circled 'b' (basso) in the lower staff, indicating a change in the bass line. The score concludes with a double bar line.

18.7 **Moderato**

The musical score for Example 18.7, titled 'Moderato', is written in bass clef, key of B-flat major (two flats), and common time (C). The score consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a rehearsal mark '18.7' and a tempo marking 'Moderato'. The music is composed of eighth-note chords and single notes. The second staff continues the sequence with more chords and a double bar line. The third staff concludes the piece with a final chord and a double bar line.

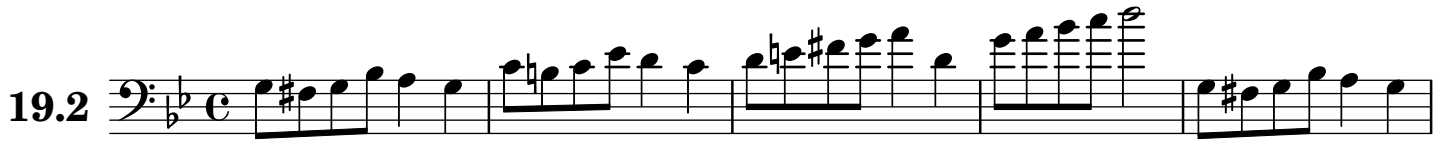
18.8 **Moderato**

The musical score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 3/4. It consists of four staves. The first staff is marked 'Moderato'. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets and accidentals (flats and a sharp). The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

18.9 *Adagio*

The musical score is written for three staves in bass clef, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked "Adagio". The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second and third staves have bass clefs and a key signature of one flat. The music features various note values, rests, and accidentals, including a double bar line with repeat dots in the second staff.

19. Exercises in G Minor



Adagio

19.5



20. Exercises in G Major

20.1 *Adagio*

20.2 *Moderato*

20.3 *Adagio*

20.4 *Adagio*



21. Exercises in E Minor

21.1 *Adagio*

21.2

21.3 *Andantino*

21.4 *Allegretto*

staccato



22. Exercises in C Major

22.1

Exercise 22.1 is a bass clef piece in common time (C). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains a sequence of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff includes a repeat sign and continues the melodic line. The third staff concludes the exercise with a final cadence.

Adagio

22.2

Exercise 22.2 is a bass clef piece in common time (C), marked Adagio. It consists of four staves of music. The notation includes slurs, accents, and dynamic markings such as *f* and *p*. The exercise features a variety of note values and rests, ending with a final cadence.

Moderato

22.3

Exercise 22.3 is a bass clef piece in 3/8 time, marked Moderato. It consists of four staves of music. The notation is characterized by many beamed eighth notes, creating a rhythmic and melodic flow. The exercise includes various intervals and concludes with a final cadence.

23. Exercises in A Minor

23.1 *Adagio*

23.2 *Moderato*

23.3 *Moderato*



Andantino

23.4



24. Exercises in F Major

Maestoso

24.1

Allegretto

24.2

Andantino

24.3

**Molto moderato**

24.4



25. Exercises in D Minor

Adagio

25.1

Exercise 25.1 is a piece in D minor, Adagio tempo, consisting of three staves of music. The first staff contains five measures, the second staff contains five measures, and the third staff contains five measures. The music features various eighth and sixteenth note patterns, some with slurs and ties, and a final measure with a double bar line.

Andante

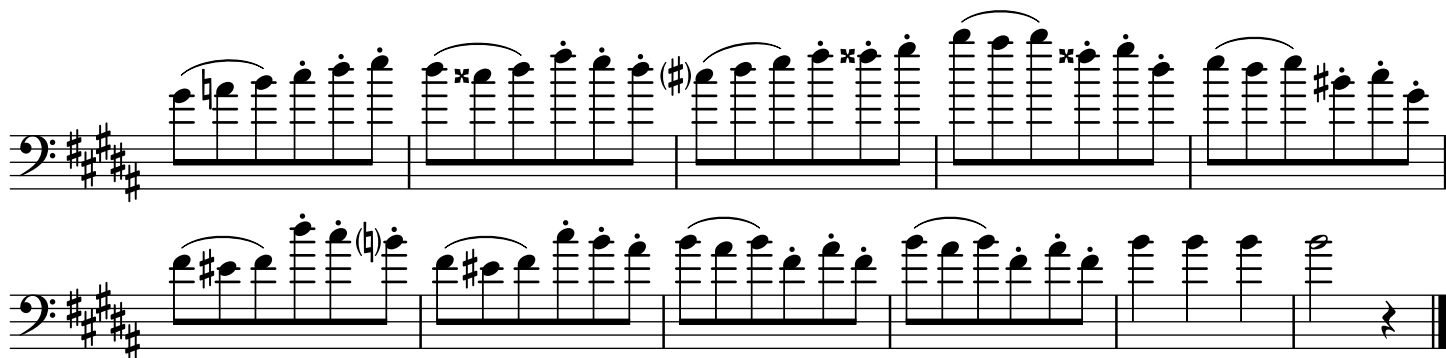
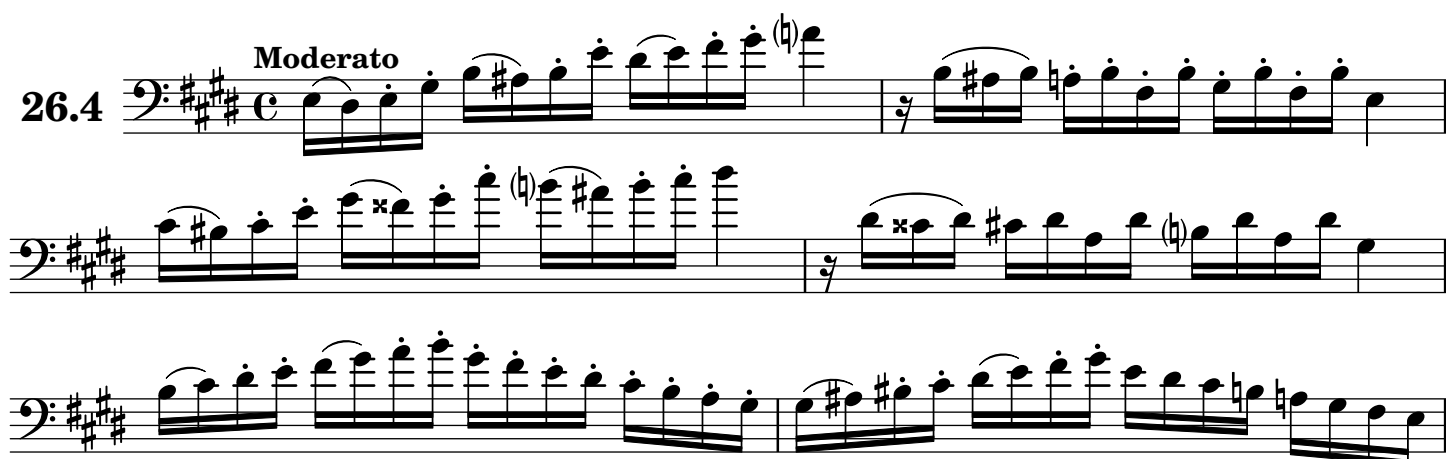
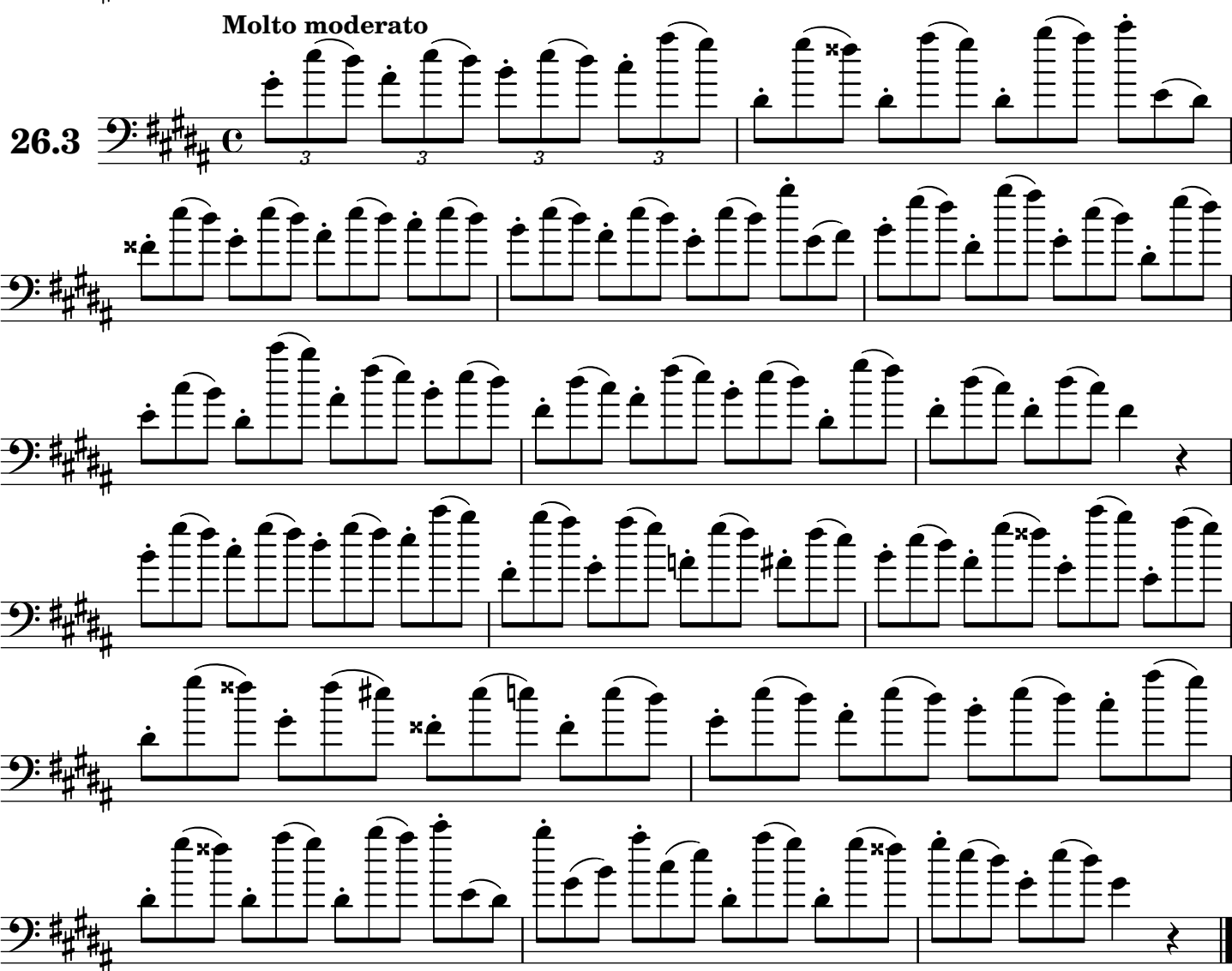
25.2

Exercise 25.2 is a piece in D minor, Andante tempo, consisting of four staves of music. The first staff contains four measures, the second staff contains four measures, the third staff contains four measures, and the fourth staff contains four measures. The music features various eighth and sixteenth note patterns, some with slurs and ties, and a final measure with a double bar line.

26. Additional Exercises

26.1 *Andante*

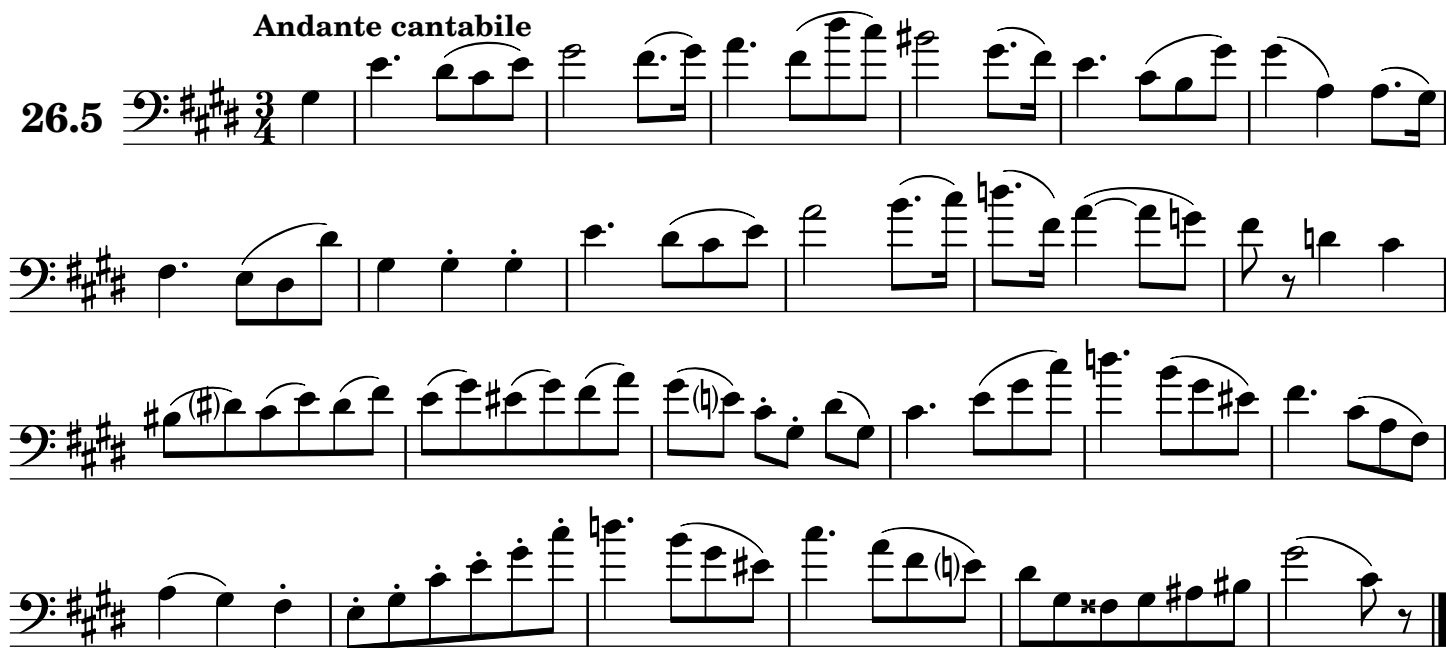
26.2 *Moderato*

**Molto moderato**

63

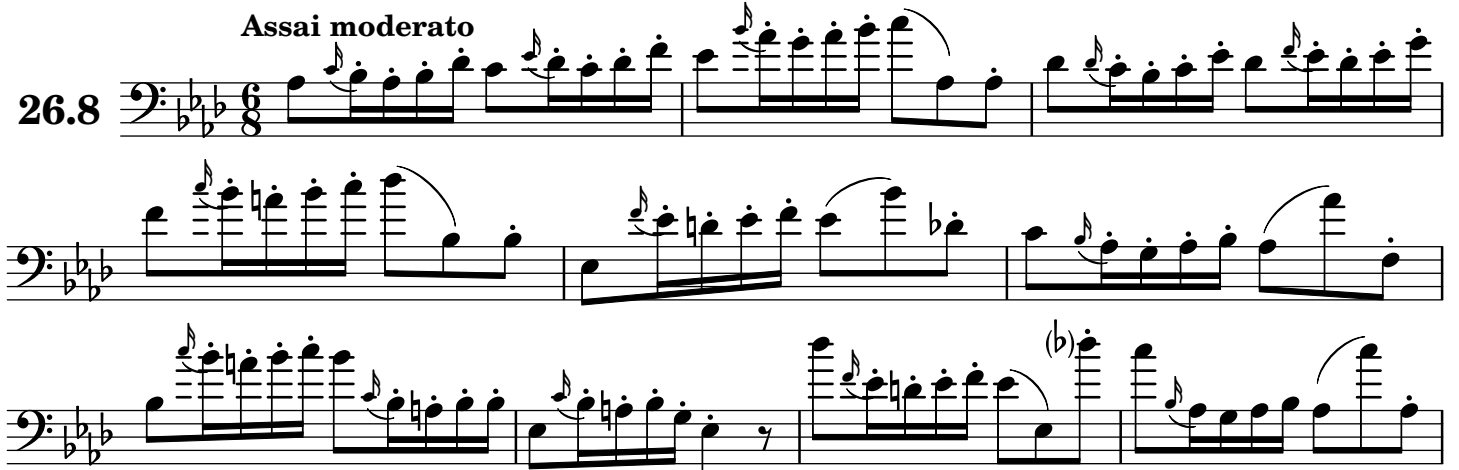
**Andante cantabile**

26.5

**Maestoso**

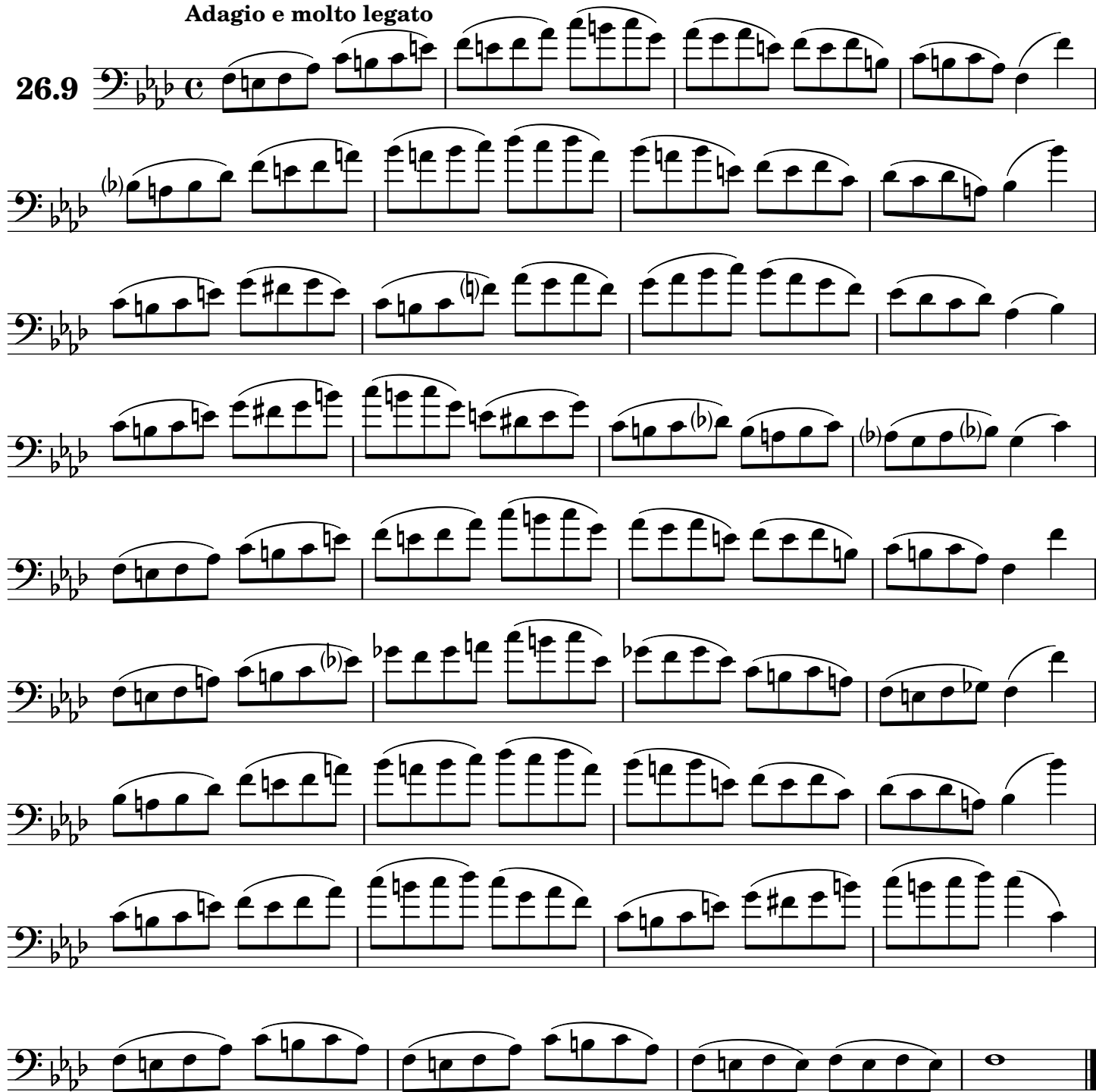
26.6



**Moderato****Assai moderato**

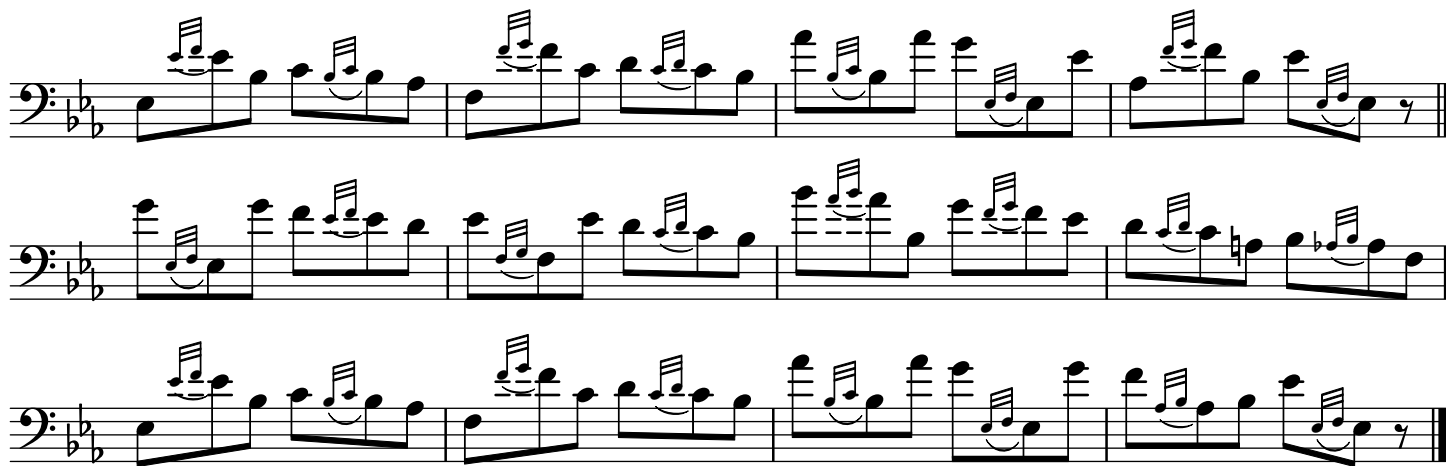
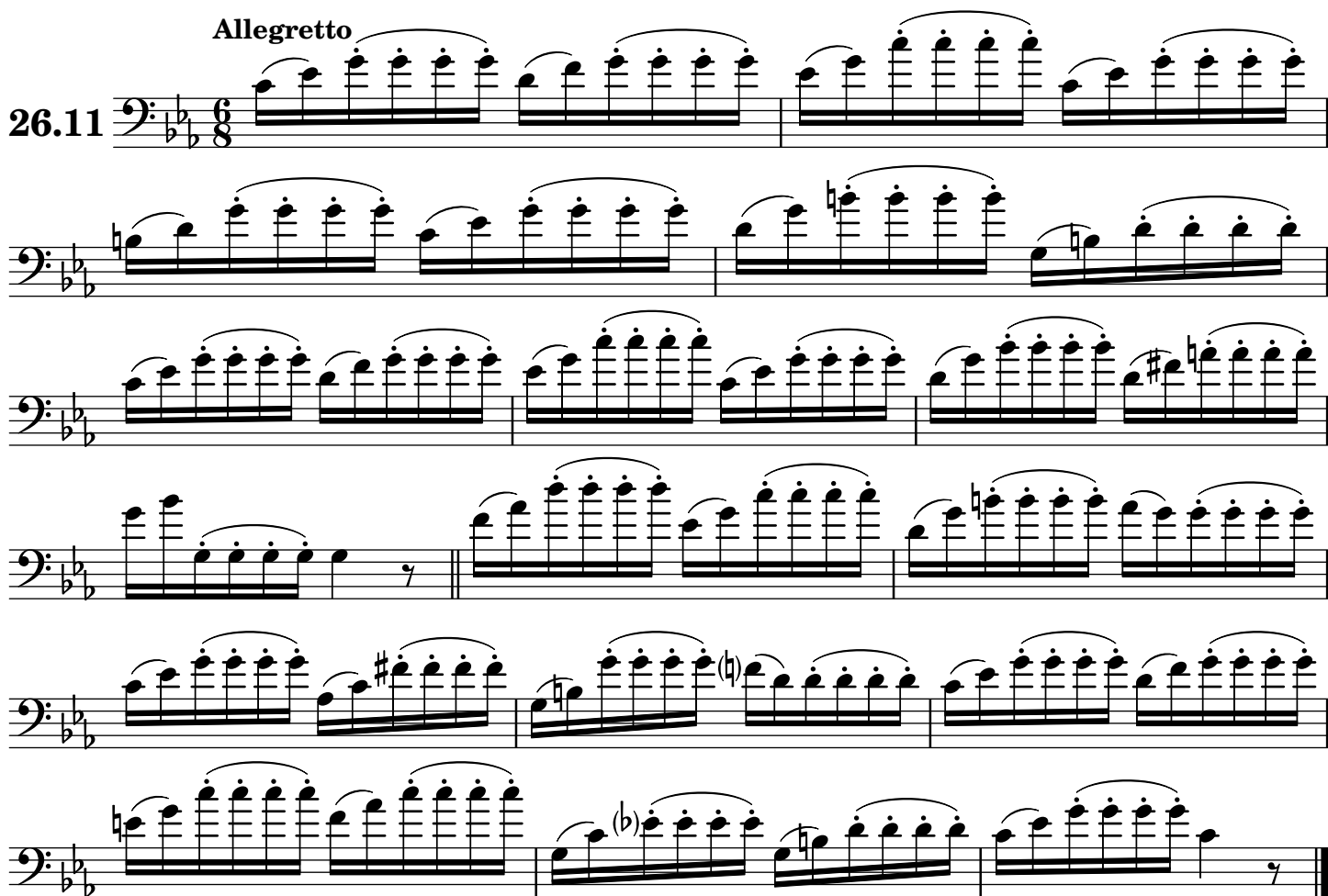
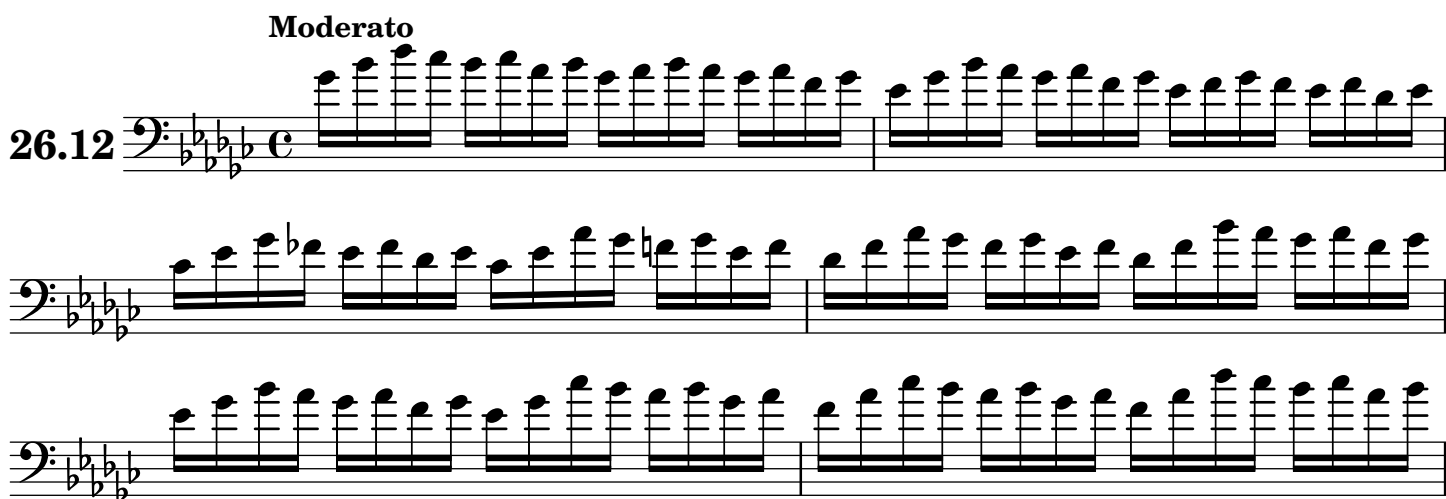


Adagio e molto legato



Moderato



**Allegretto****Moderato**

The image displays a page of musical notation, specifically a page numbered 67. The notation is written on ten staves, each using a bass clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The music consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together in groups. There are several dynamic markings, including *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte), and some notes are marked with a *b* (basso) or a *h* (half). The notation is arranged in a continuous sequence across the staves, with some measures containing multiple notes. The page ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.