

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.

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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

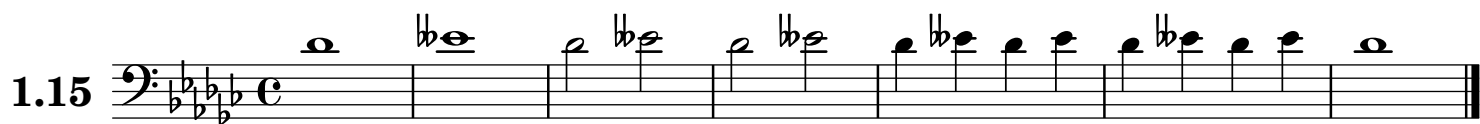
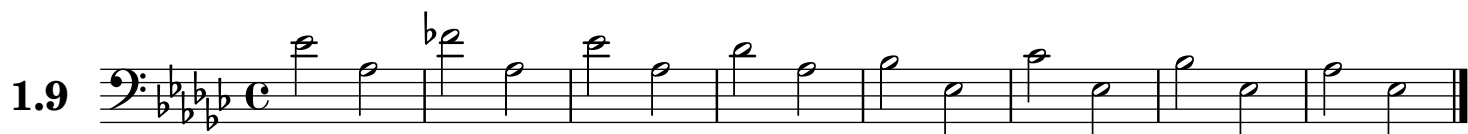
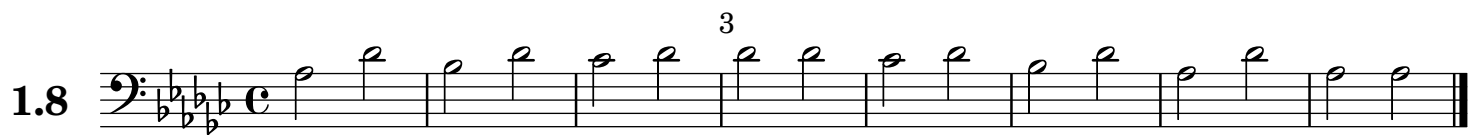
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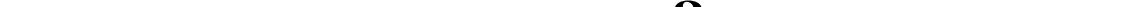
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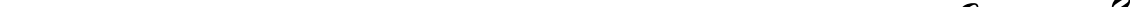
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2. Exercises in G-Flat Major

2.1 

2.2 

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The musical notation for the bass staff shows a sequence of notes starting from G2 (one ledger line below) and ascending stepwise through A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, and finally F#4 (the first space). The notes are mostly half notes, with the final note being a whole note. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and there is one sharp (F-sharp) on the final note.

2.4

Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line.

2.5

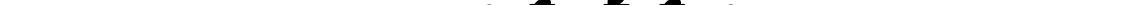
A musical score for the bass line of the song 'The Rose Tree'. The notation is on a single staff with a bass clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, starting on a low G and ending on a low C. The notes are: G2, A2, B-flat2, C3, D3, E-flat3, F3, G3, A3, B-flat3, C4, D4, E-flat4, F4, G4, A4, B-flat4, C5, D5, E-flat5, F5, G5, A5, B-flat5, C6, D6, E-flat6, F6, G6, A6, B-flat6, C7, D7, E-flat7, F7, G7, A7, B-flat7, C8, D8, E-flat8, F8, G8, A8, B-flat8, C9, D9, E-flat9, F9, G9, A9, B-flat9, C10, D10, E-flat10, F10, G10, A10, B-flat10, C11, D11, E-flat11, F11, G11, A11, B-flat11, C12, D12, E-flat12, F12, G12, A12, B-flat12, C13, D13, E-flat13, F13, G13, A13, B-flat13, C14, D14, E-flat14, F14, G14, A14, B-flat14, C15, D15, E-flat15, F15, G15, A15, B-flat15, C16, D16, E-flat16, F16, G16, A16, B-flat16, C17, D17, E-flat17, F17, G17, A17, B-flat17, C18, D18, E-flat18, F18, G18, A18, B-flat18, C19, D19, E-flat19, F19, G19, A19, B-flat19, C20, D20, E-flat20, F20, G20, A20, B-flat20, C21, D21, E-flat21, F21, G21, A21, B-flat21, C22, D22, E-flat22, F22, G22, A22, B-flat22, C23, D23, E-flat23, F23, G23, A23, B-flat23, C24, D24, E-flat24, F24, G24, A24, B-flat24, C25, D25, E-flat25, F25, 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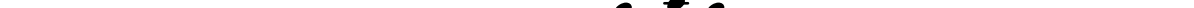
A musical score for a single staff in bass clef. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody consists of quarter notes: B-flat2, G2, F2, E-flat2, D-flat2, C2, B-flat2, A-flat2, G2, F2, E-flat2, D-flat2, C2, B-flat2, A-flat2, G2, F2, E-flat2, D-flat2, C2. Above each note is a stack of five ledger lines, indicating the notes are written below the staff.

Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody consists of a series of eighth notes, starting on a whole note G2, followed by a series of eighth notes: A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, 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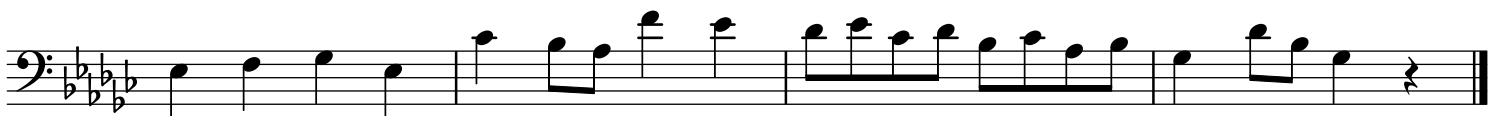
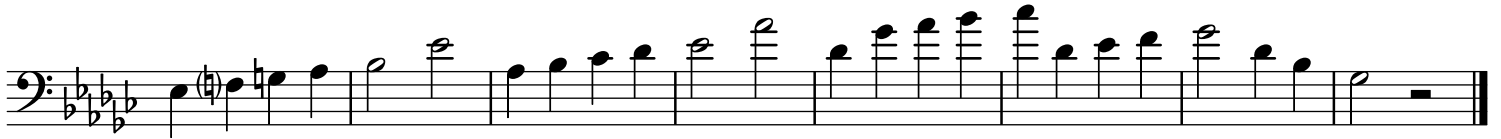
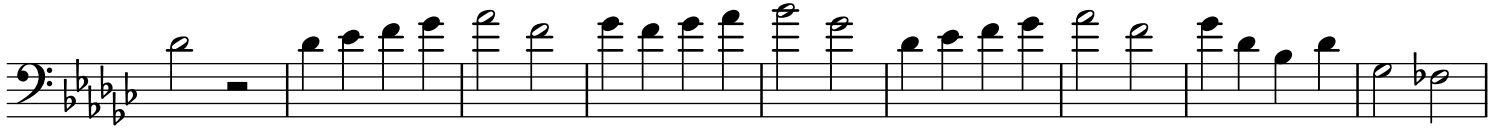
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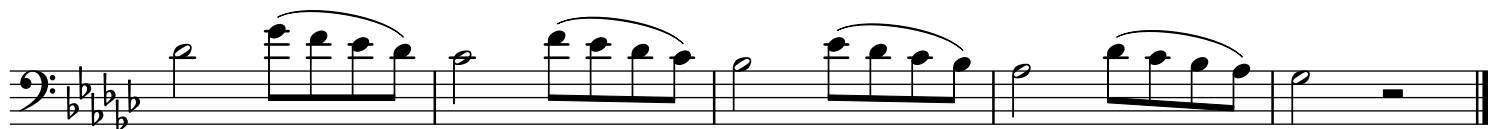
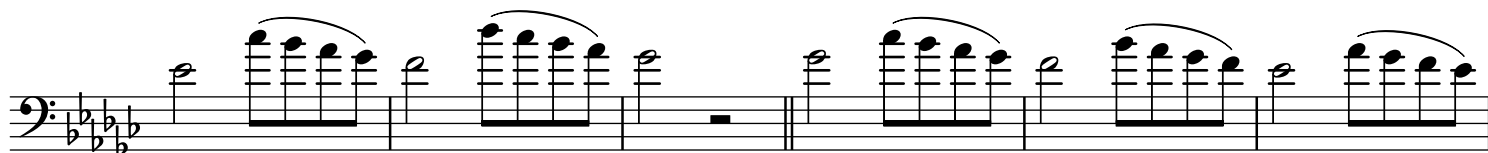
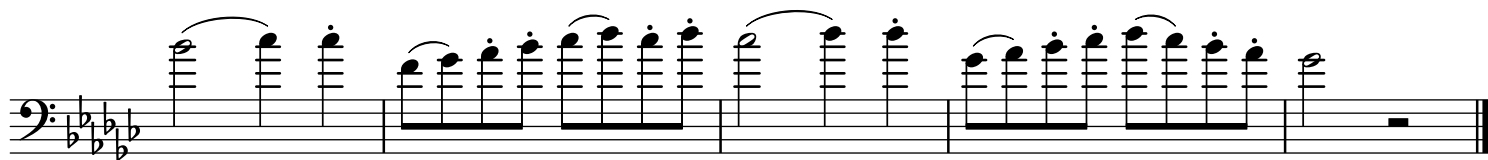
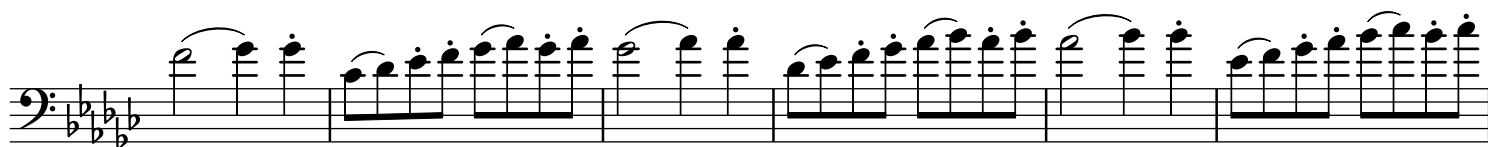
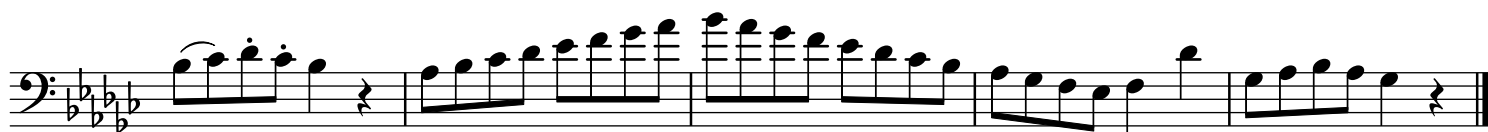
[illegible][illegible]

2.11 

2.12 

[illegible][illegible][illegible]



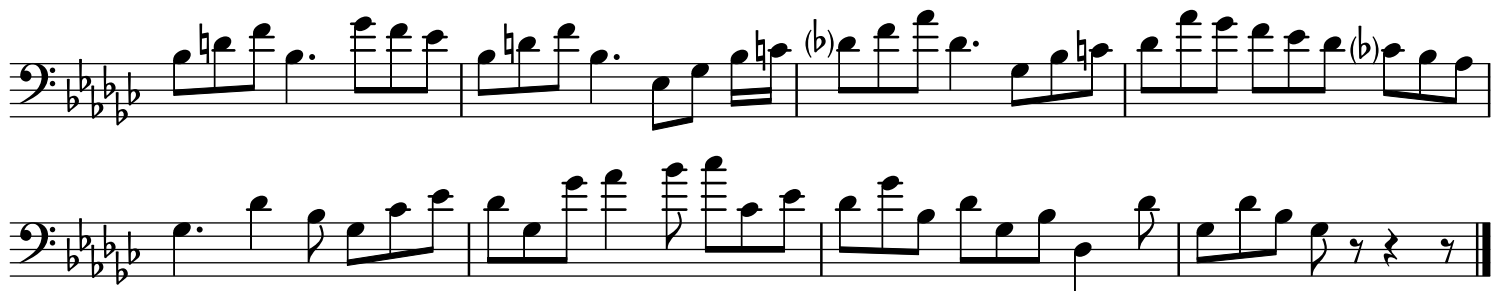


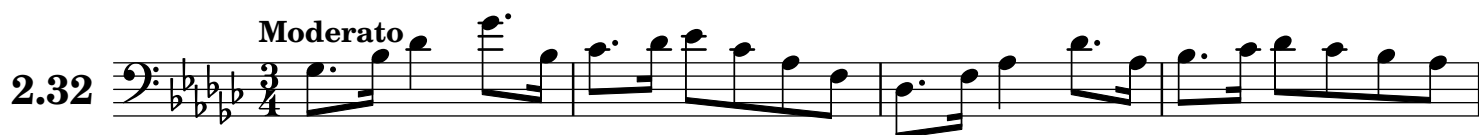
2.22 *Andante*

2.23 *Allegretto*

2.24 *Moderato*

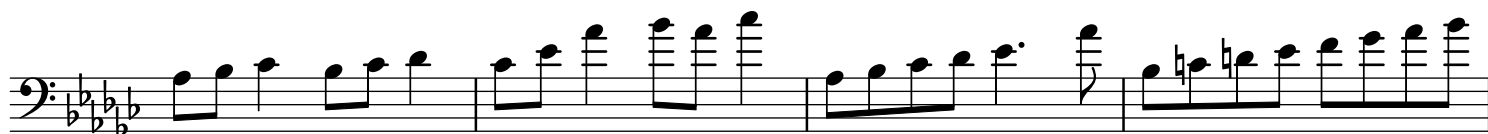
2.25 *Adagio*

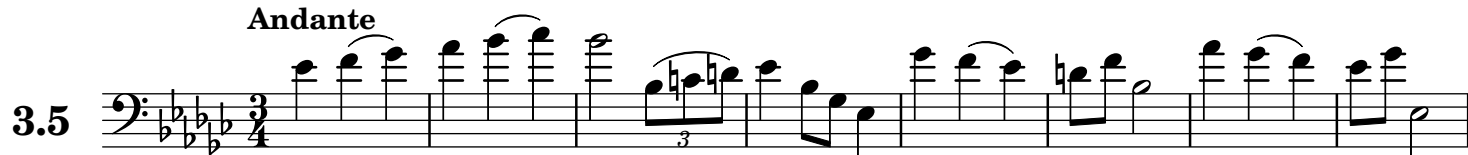
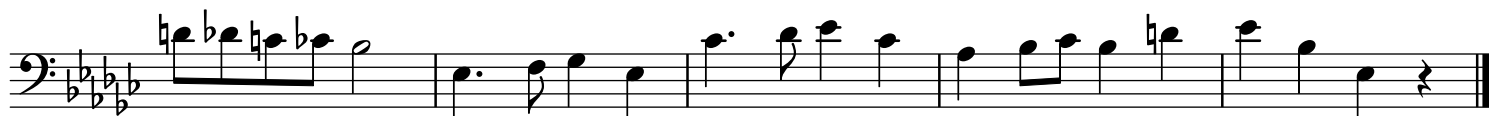
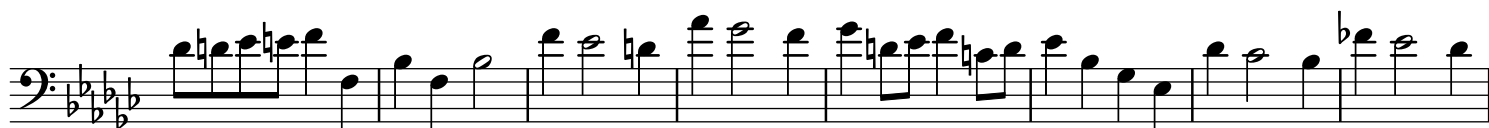


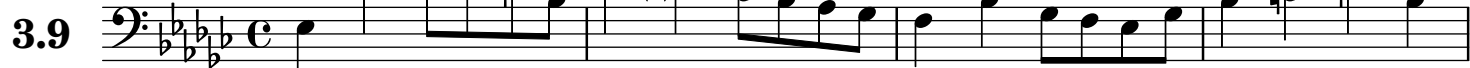
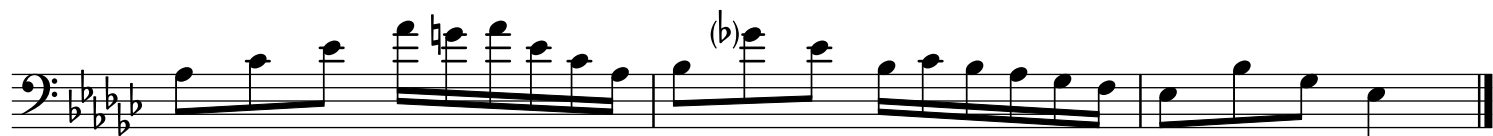


3 6 9

3. Exercises in E-Flat Minor

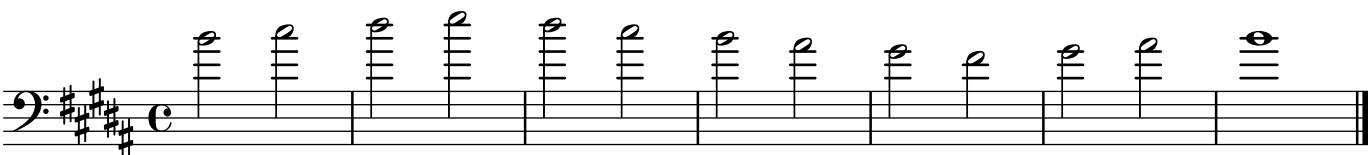


**Andante****Allegretto****Moderato**

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

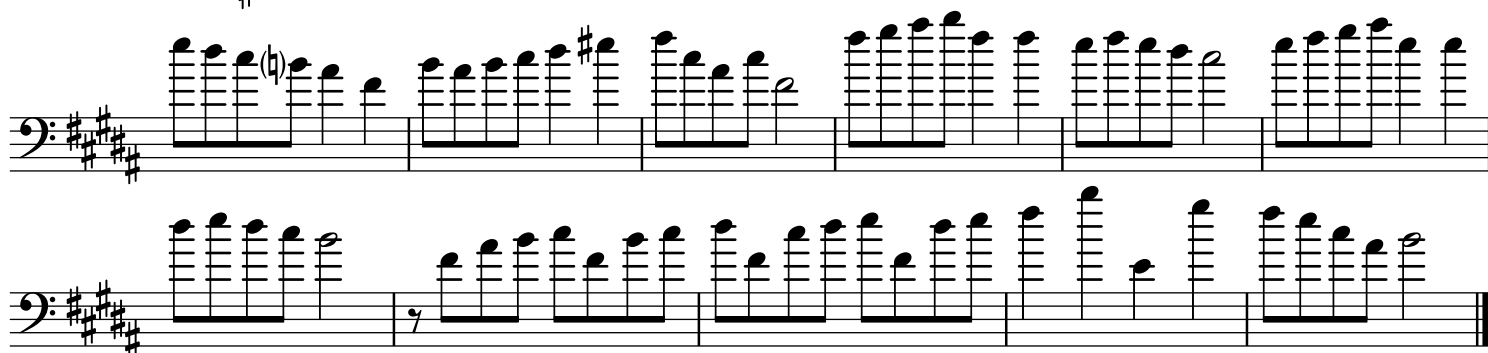
4. Exercises in B Major

4.1



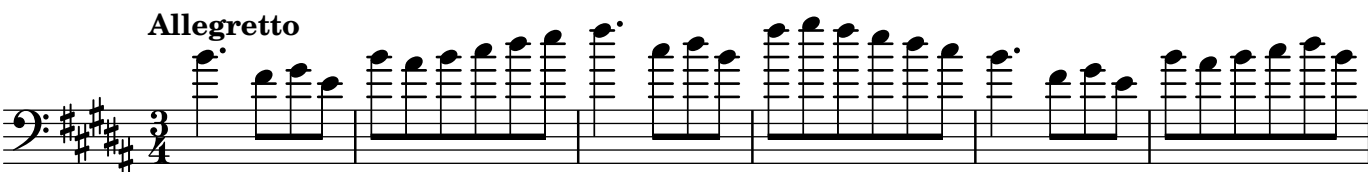
4.2

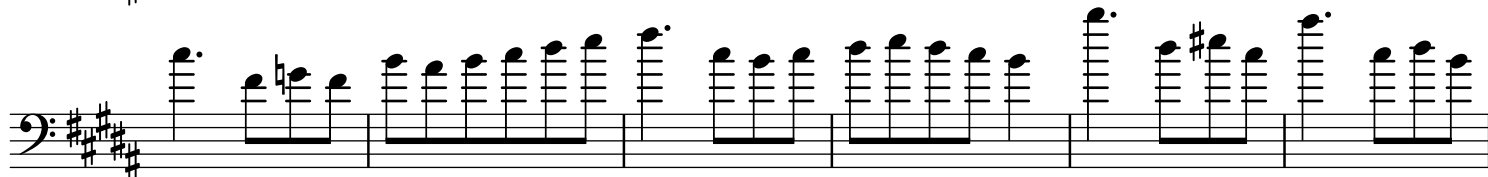
Moderato

4.3

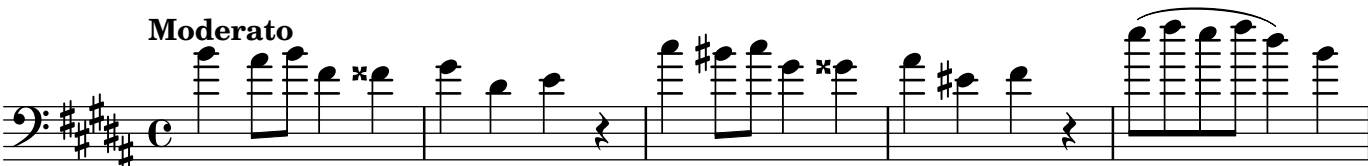
Allegretto






4.4

Moderato



4.5 *Andante*

4.6 *Allegretto*

Adagio

4.7

Allegretto

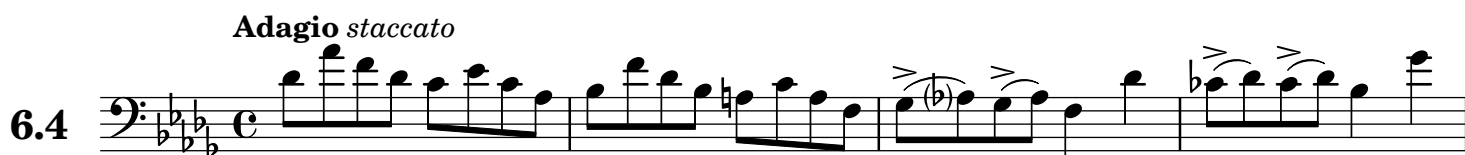
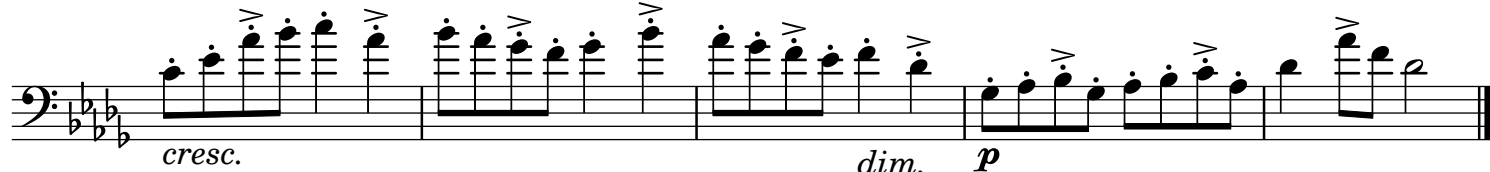
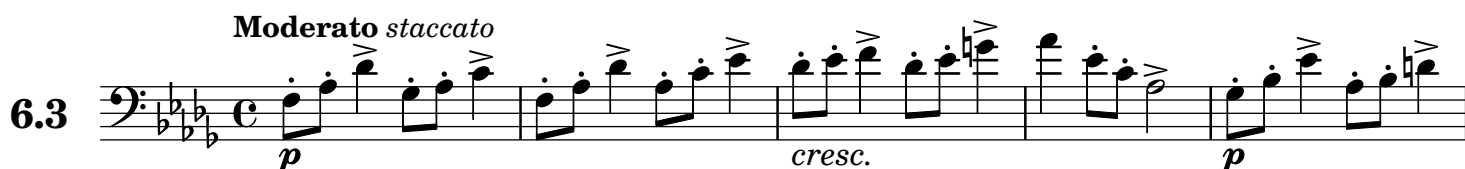
4.8

5. Exercises in G-Sharp Minor



5.5

6. Exercises in D-Flat Major

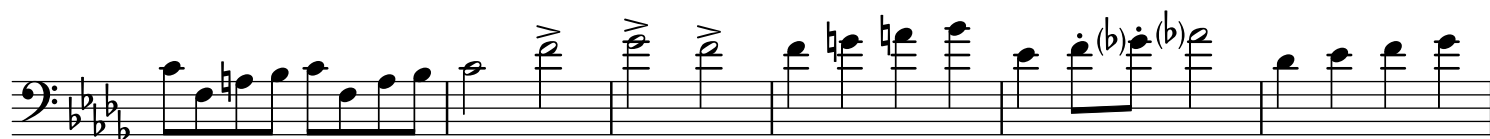
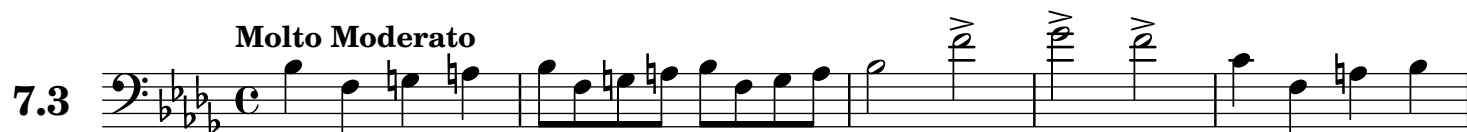
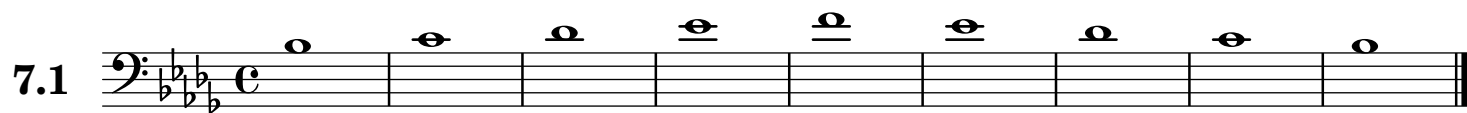


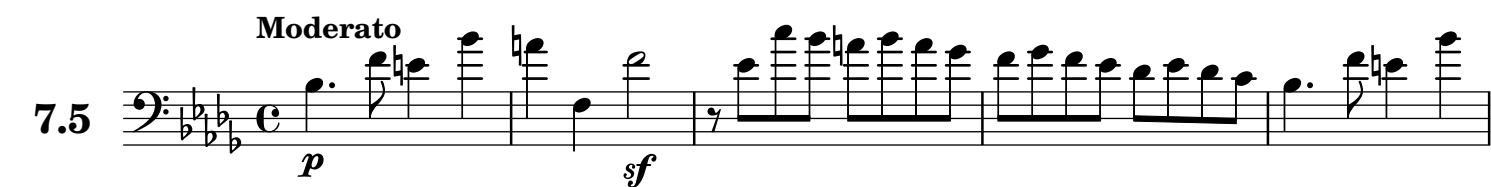
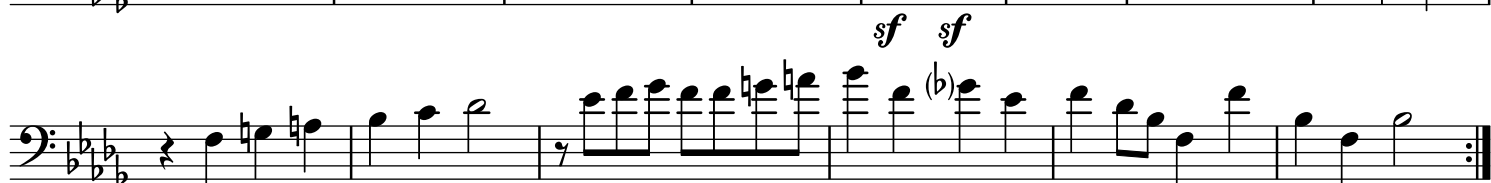
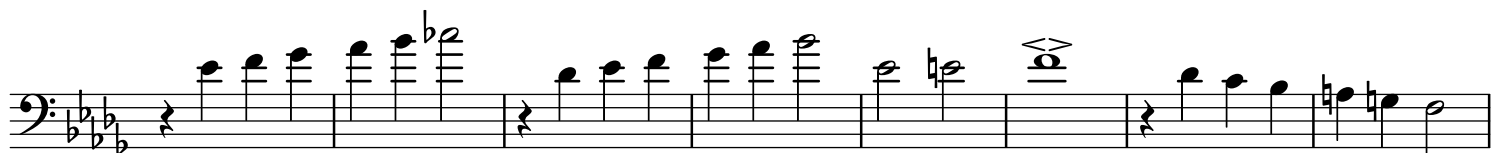
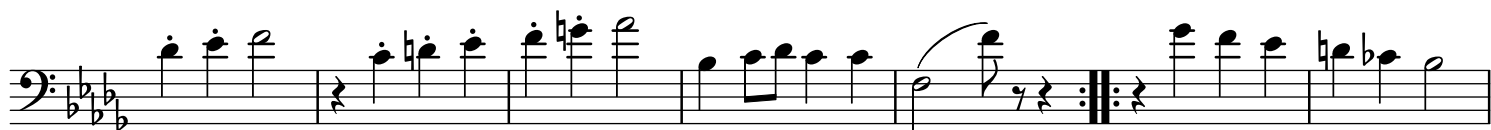
Moderato

6.5

A musical score for a piece titled "Moderato". The score is written in bass clef, 3/4 time, and B-flat major (three flats). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to B-flat major. The music features a variety of note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several slurs and ties throughout the piece. The score ends with a double bar line.

7. Exercises in B-Flat Minor





Moderato

7.5

*p**sf*

8. Exercises in A-Flat Major

8.1

Musical score for Example 8.1, a 12-measure exercise in bass clef, 3/4 time, B-flat major. The melody starts on G2, moves stepwise up to D4, and then descends back to G2. The notes are: G2 (half), A2 (quarter), Bb2 (quarter), C3 (half), D3 (half), Eb3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), G3 (half), Ab3 (quarter), Bb3 (quarter), C4 (half), D4 (half).

8.2 **Moderato** *con molto arco.*

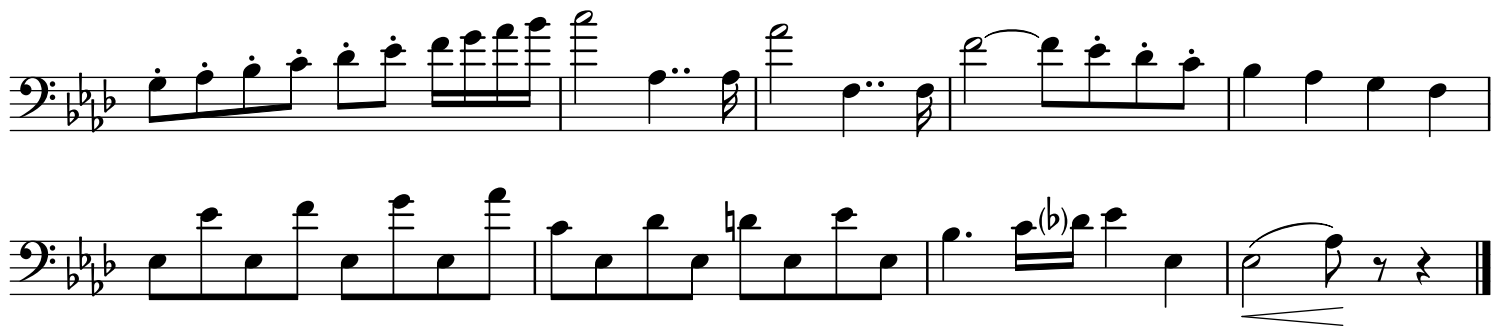
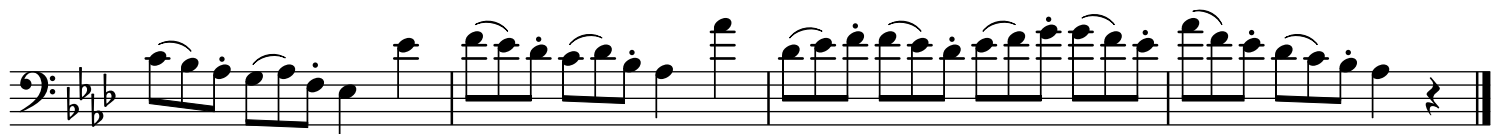
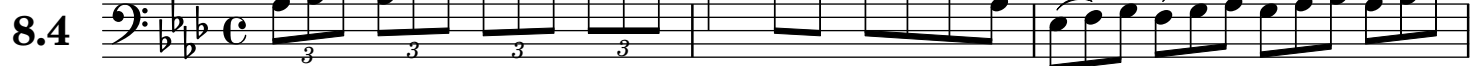
mf

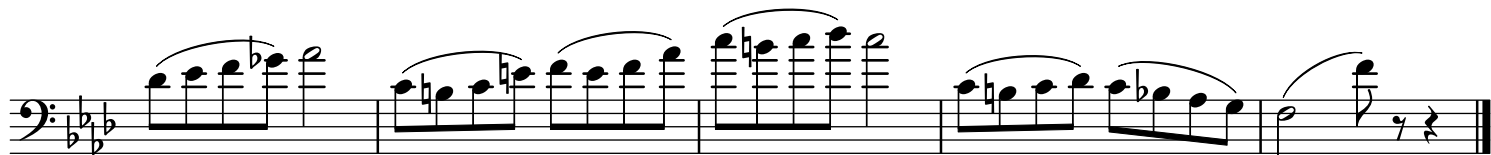
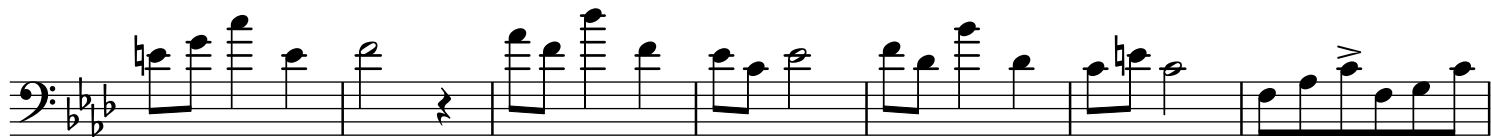
8.3

f

p

f

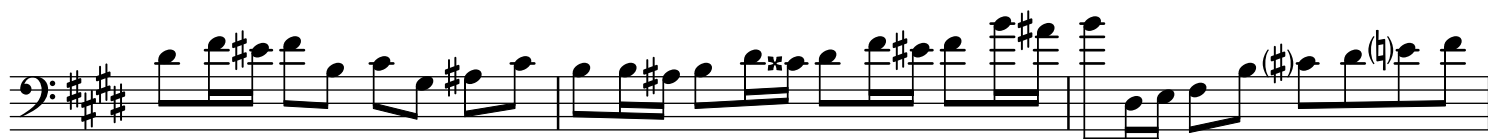
*Lentamente**con forza*



10. Exercises in E Major



Moderato ben marcato e staccato



Allegretto con energia



sf **Allegretto leggiero** *sf* *sf*

10.5 *p*

crescendo

p

11. Exercises in C-Sharp Minor

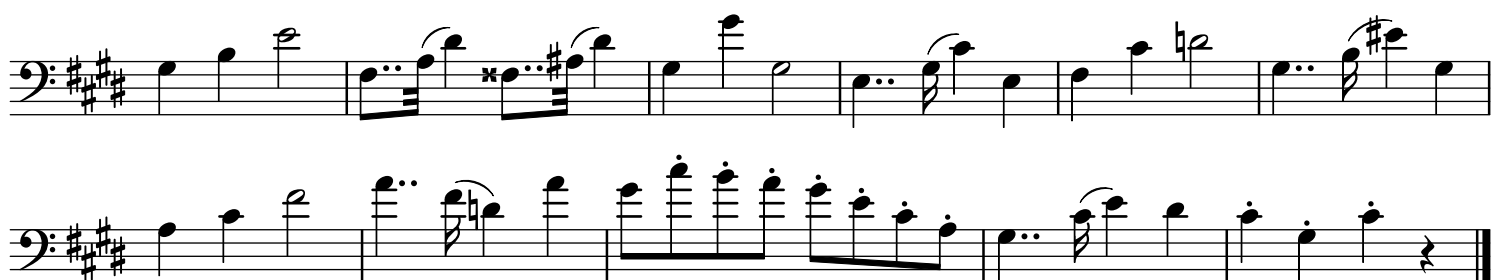
11.1

11.2

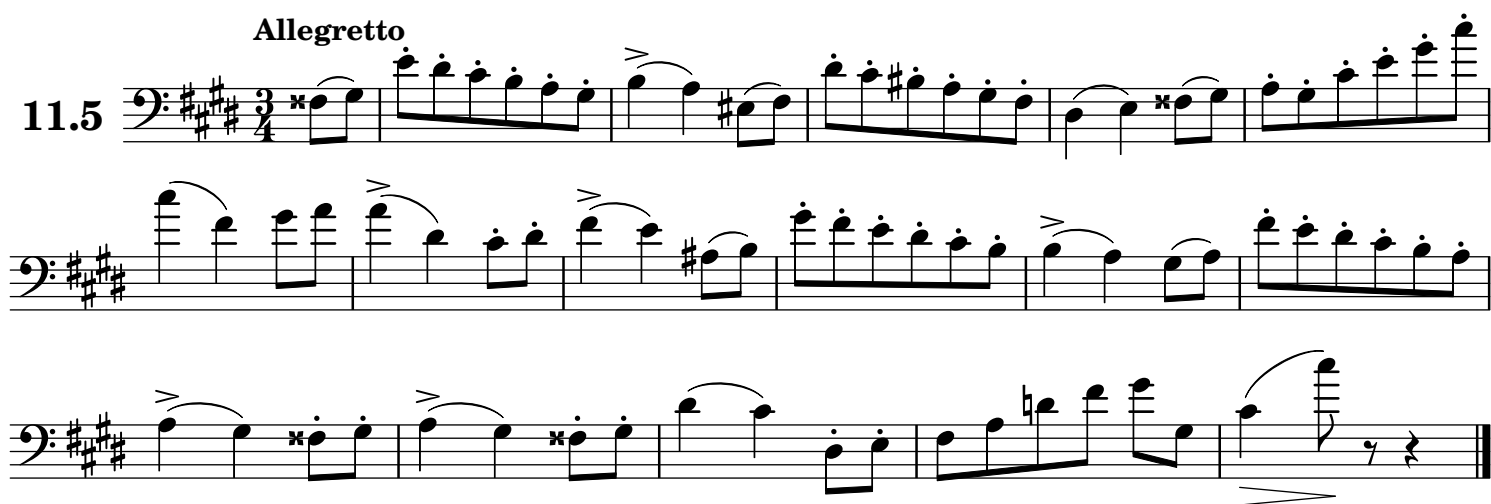
Adagio

11.3

11.4 **Andante**
con forza



11.5 **Allegretto**



12. Exercises in A Major



Moderato

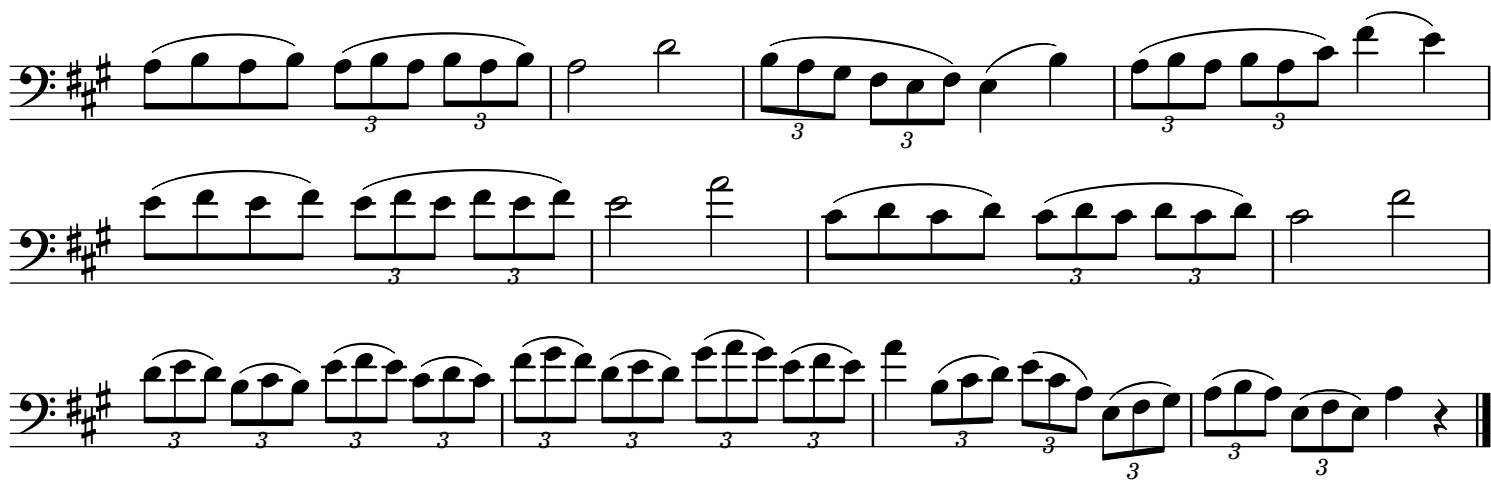
12.5

Allegretto *leggeramente*

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



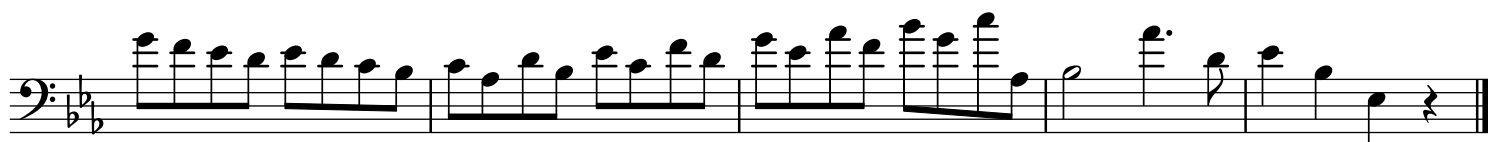


Moderato

13.7



14. Exercises in E-Flat Major



Adagio

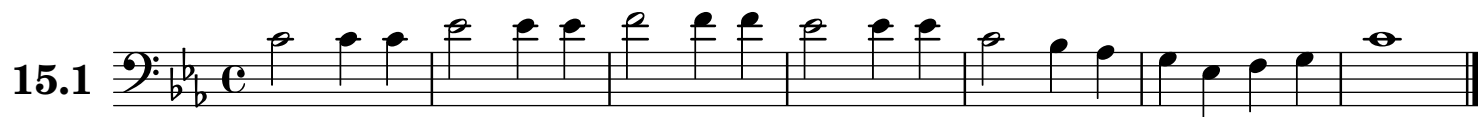
14.4

**Moderato**

14.5



15. Exercises in C Minor



Moderato

15.4

Exercise 15.4 is a piece in bass clef, 3/4 time, and B-flat major. It 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 melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The second staff continues the melody, featuring a half note with a flat (B-flat) and a half note with a flat (B-flat). The third staff continues the melody, featuring a half note with a flat (B-flat) and a half note with a flat (B-flat). The fourth staff continues the melody, featuring a half note with a flat (B-flat) and a half note with a flat (B-flat). The fifth staff concludes the piece with a final chord and a double bar line.

Allegretto

15.5

Exercise 15.5 is a piece in bass clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat major. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to B-flat major (two flats). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The second staff continues the melody, featuring a half note with a flat (B-flat) and a half note with a flat (B-flat). The third staff continues the melody, featuring a half note with a flat (B-flat) and a half note with a flat (B-flat). The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final chord and a double bar line.

16. Exercises in D Major

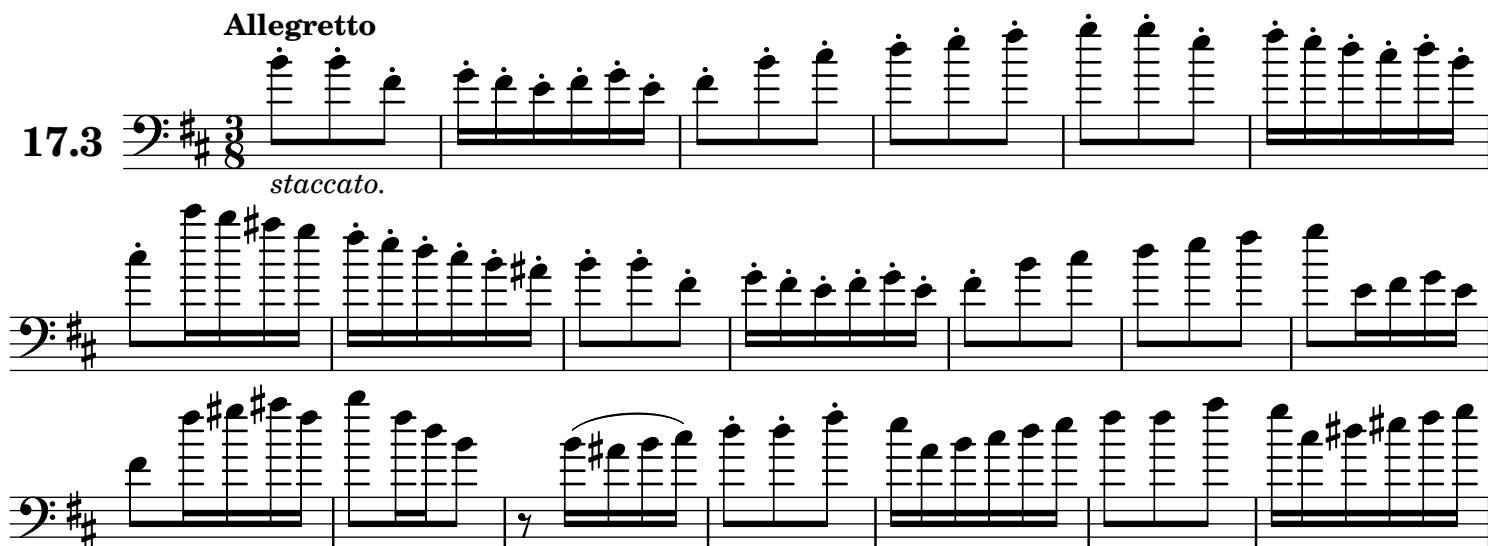
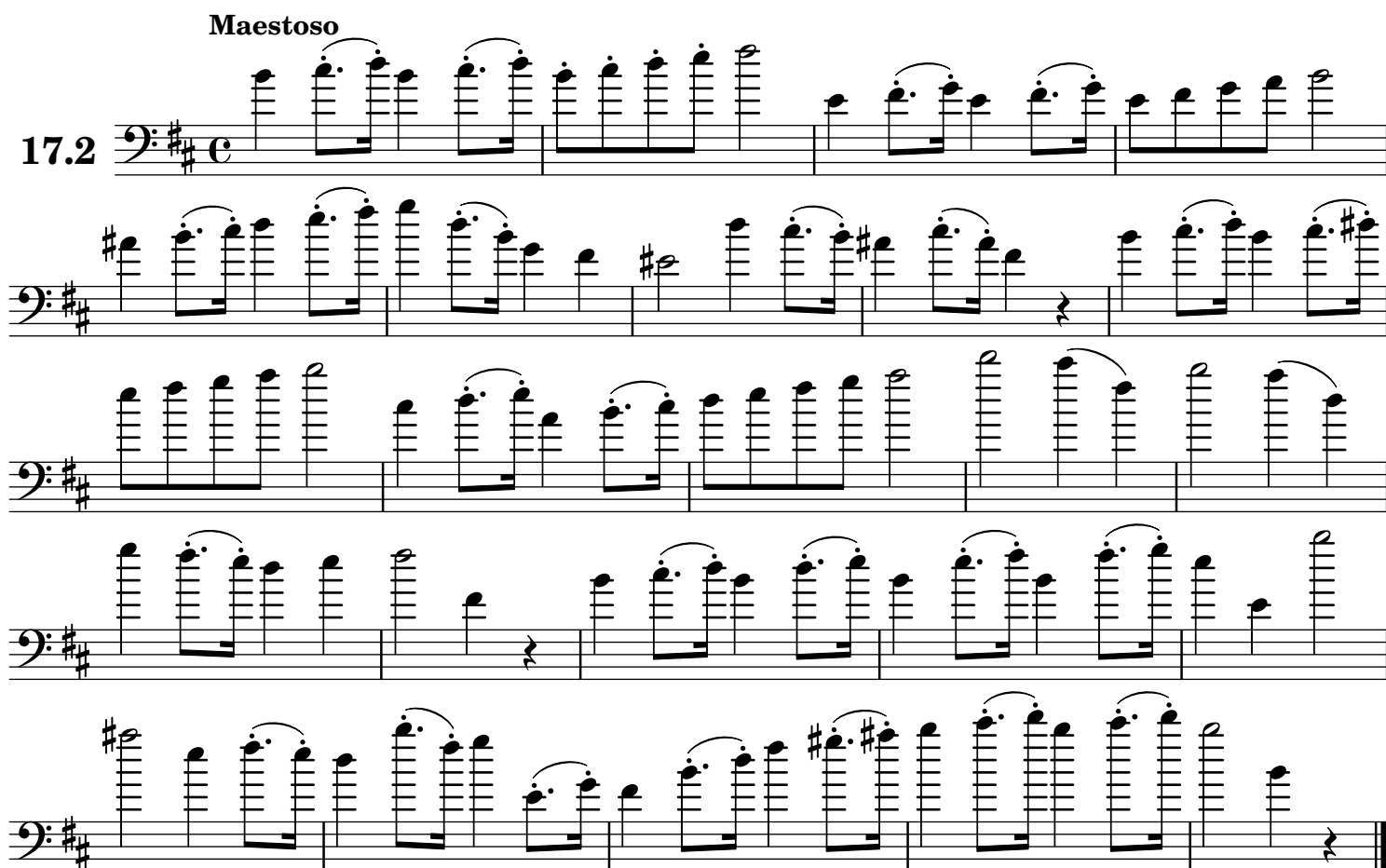


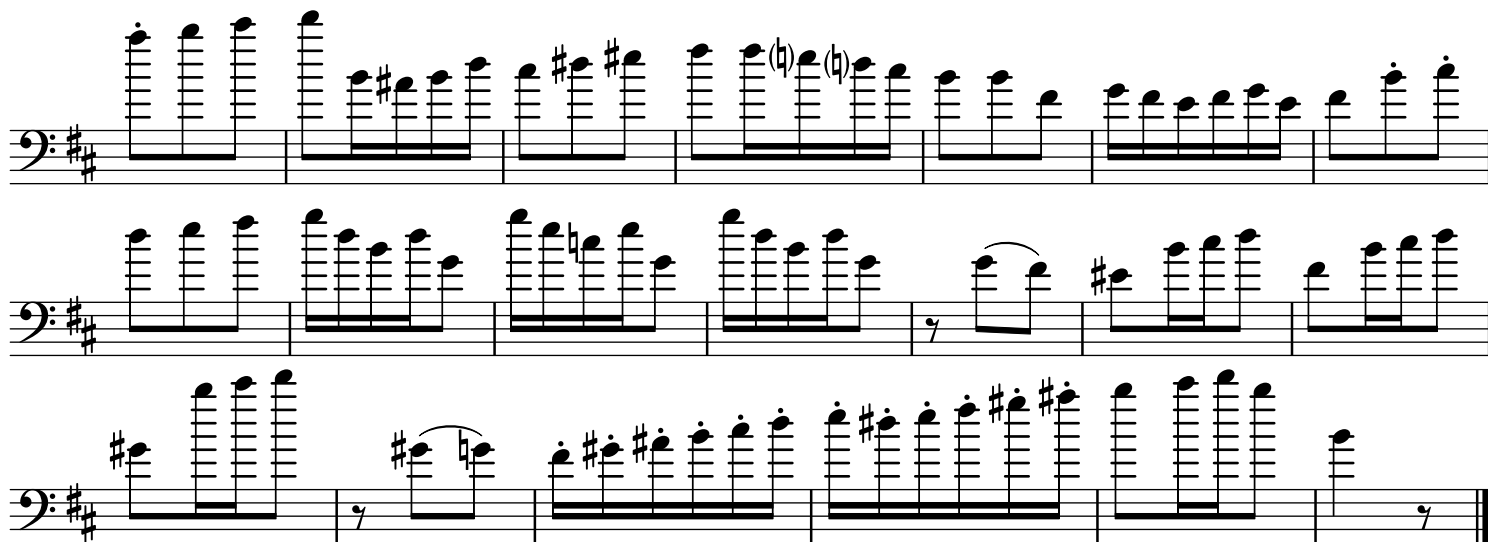


Moderato



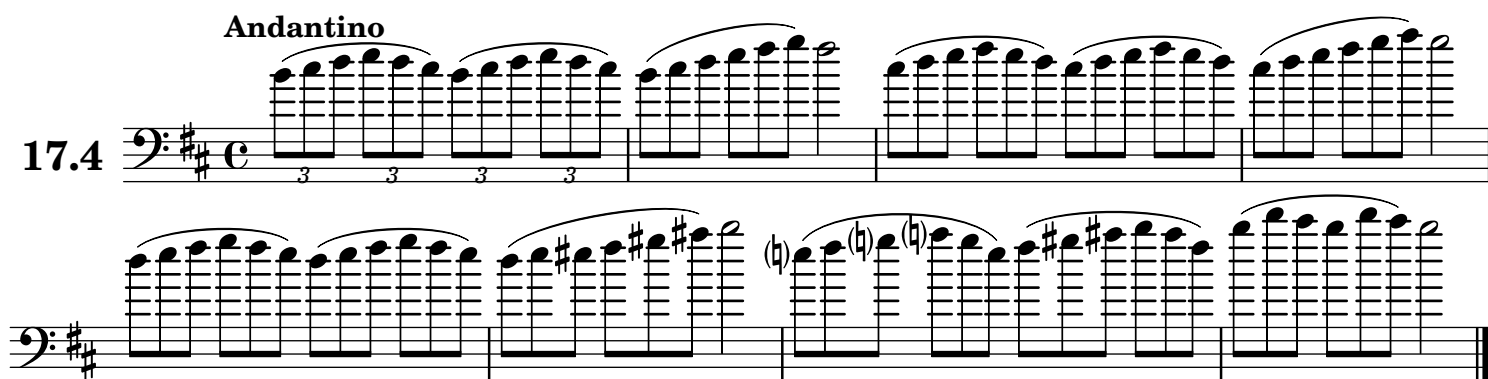
17. Exercises in B Minor





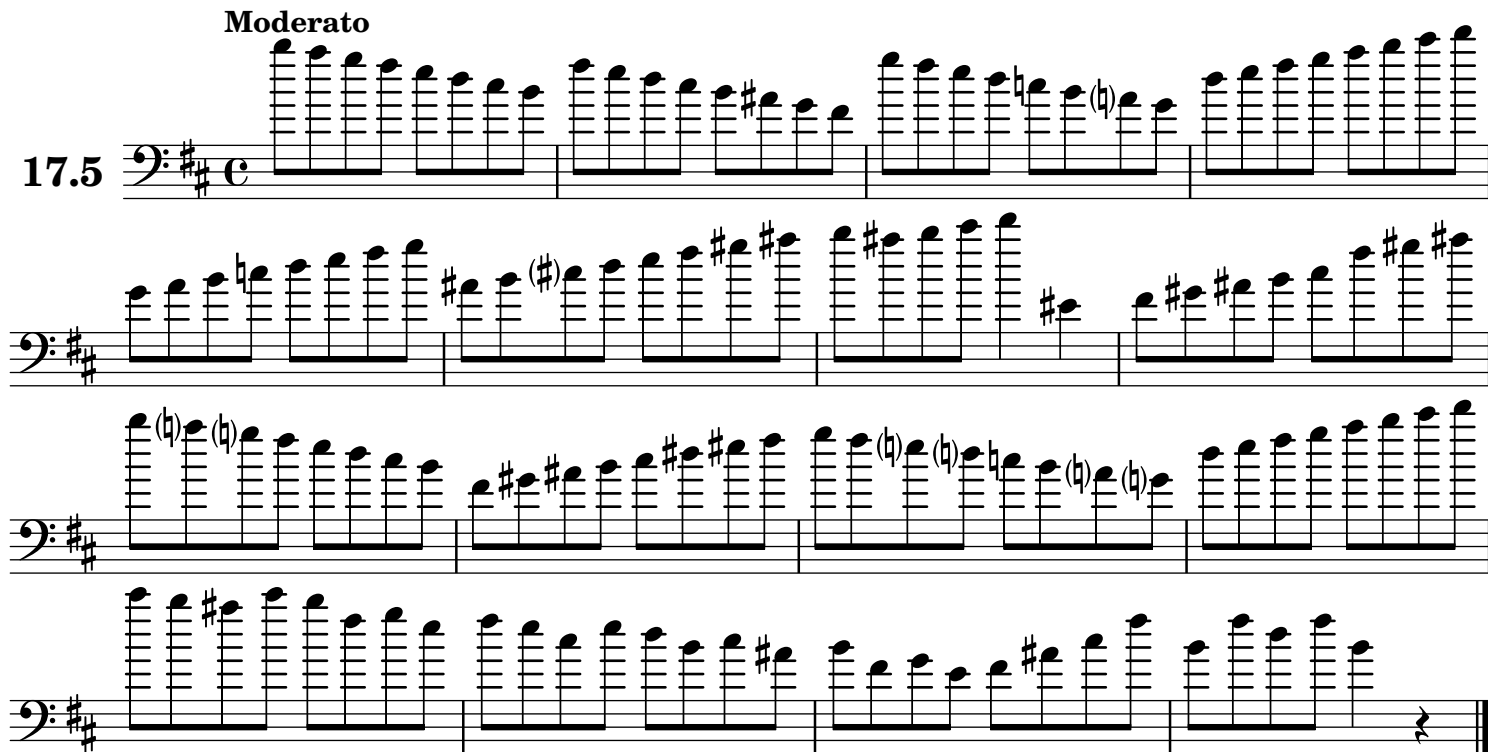
Andantino

17.4



Moderato

17.5



18. Exercises in B-Flat Major

18.1 

[illegible]

Musical notation for the bass line of "The Rose Tree" in G major, 3/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a whole note.

18.3 **Moderato**

f

The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It begins with a G2 whole note, followed by a half note G2, and then a half note G2. The melody then moves to A2, B2, and C3, with a final G2 whole note. The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature.

18.4 **Moderato**



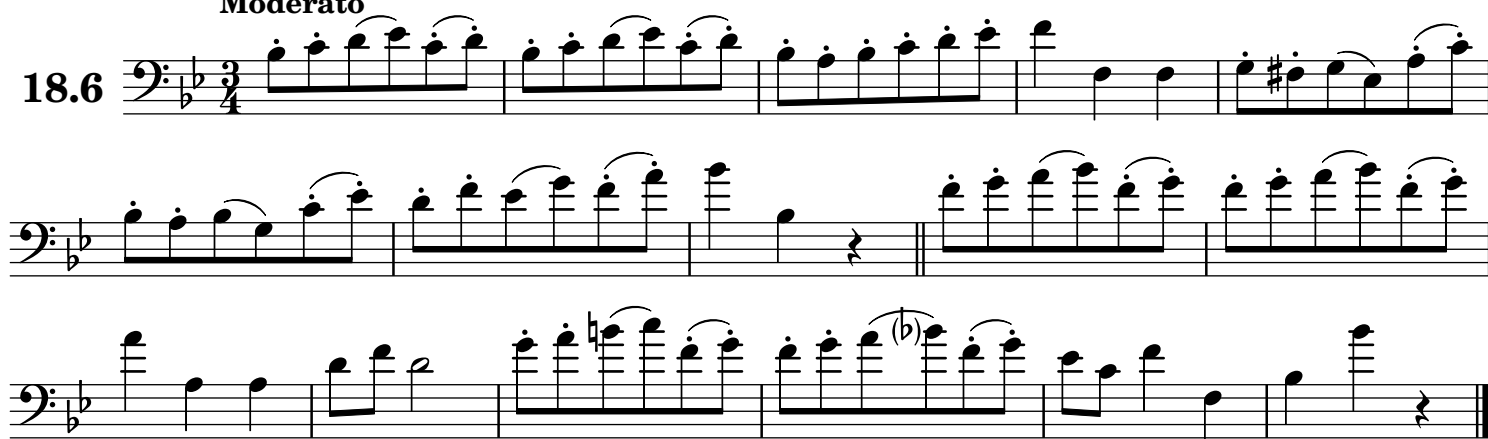
The bass line of 'The Rose Tree' is written in G major (one flat) and 2/4 time. It consists of 16 measures. The melody starts on G2, moves to A2, then B2, and continues with various intervals and rests. The notation includes many beamed eighth and sixteenth notes, as well as some triplets. The piece ends with a double bar line.

18.5 **Andante**

[illegible][illegible]

Moderato

18.6

**Moderato**

18.7

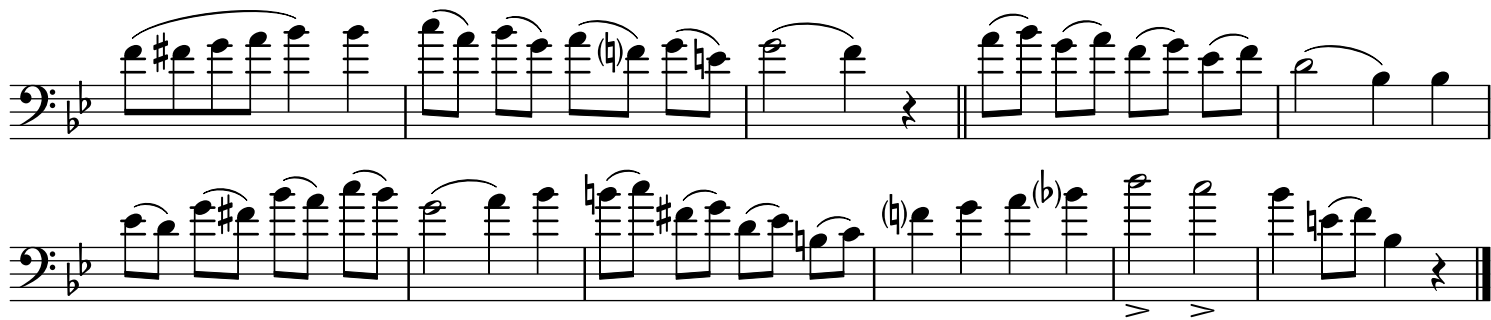
**Moderato**

18.8

**Adagio**

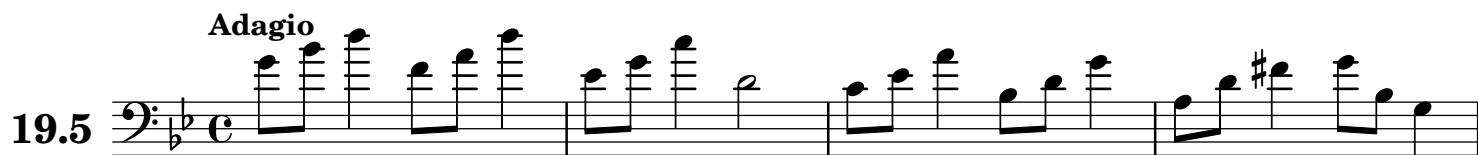
18.9





19. Exercises in G Minor





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

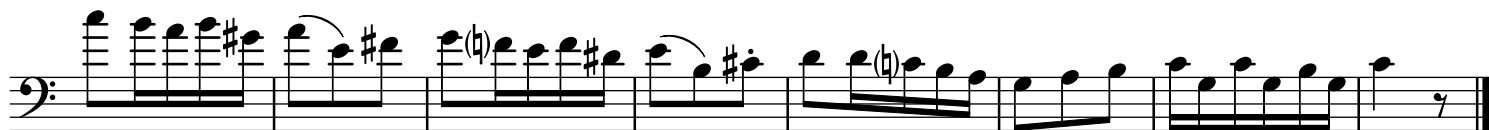
22.1

Adagio

22.2

Moderato

22.3



23. Exercises in A Minor

23.1 *Adagio*

23.2 *Moderato*

23.3 *Moderato*



Andantino

23.4

Measures 23.5 to 23.8 in bass clef, 6/8 time. The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, including slurs and accidentals. Measure 23.8 ends with a double bar line.

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



Andante

25.2



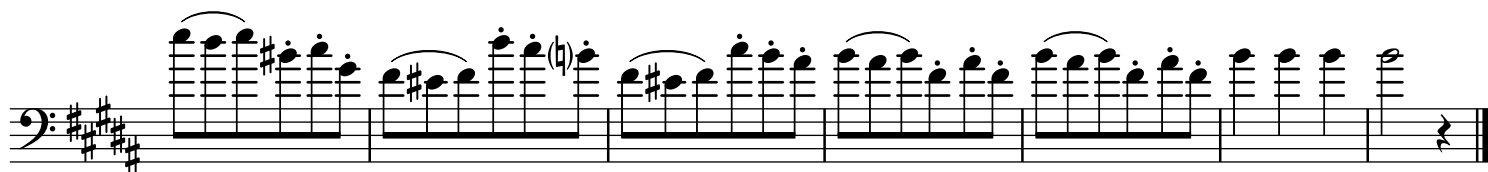
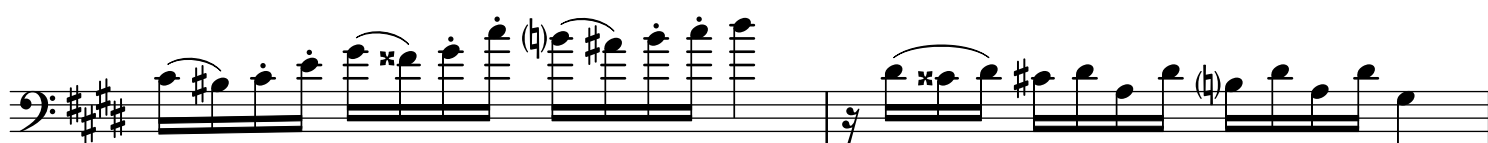
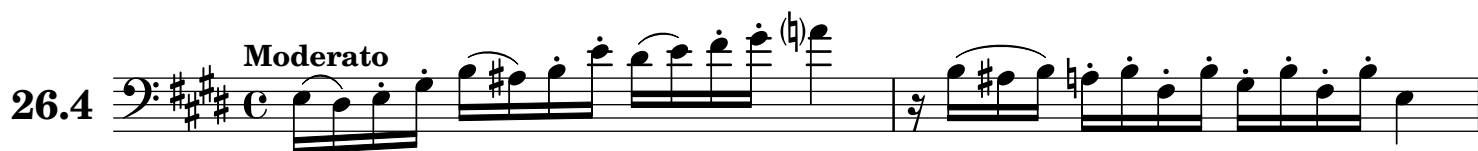
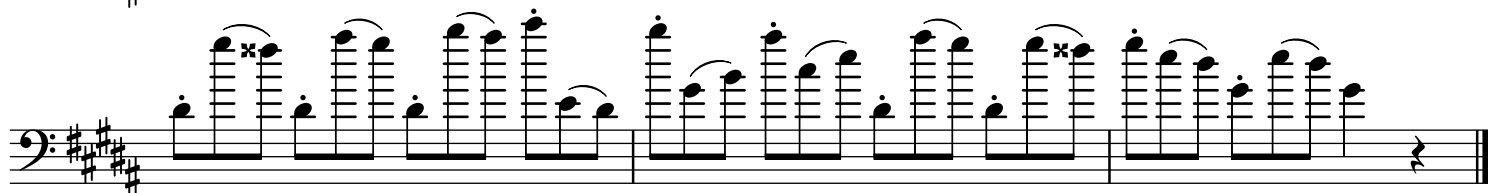
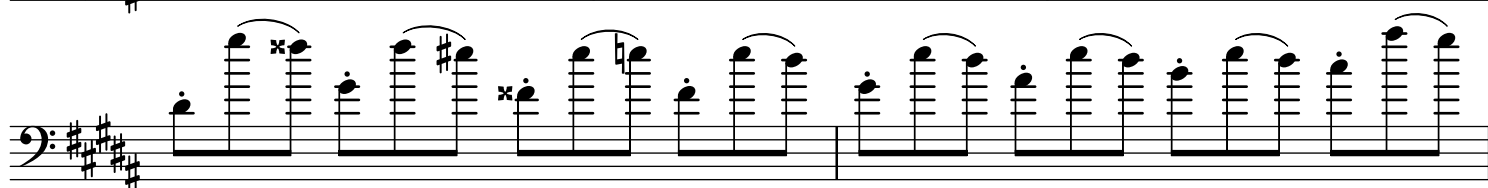
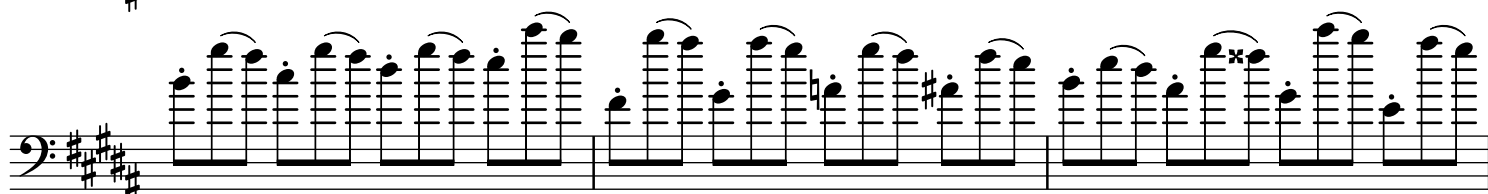
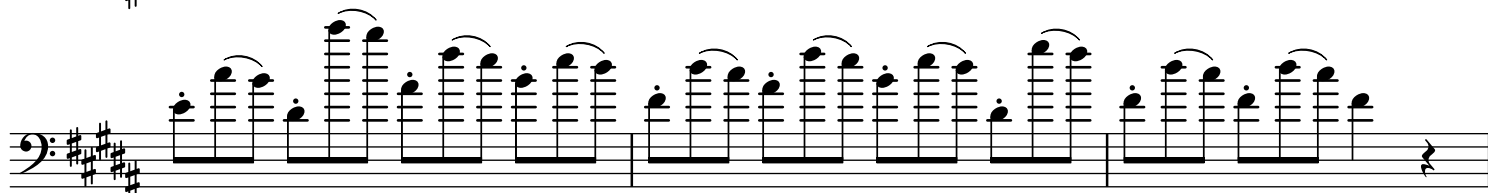
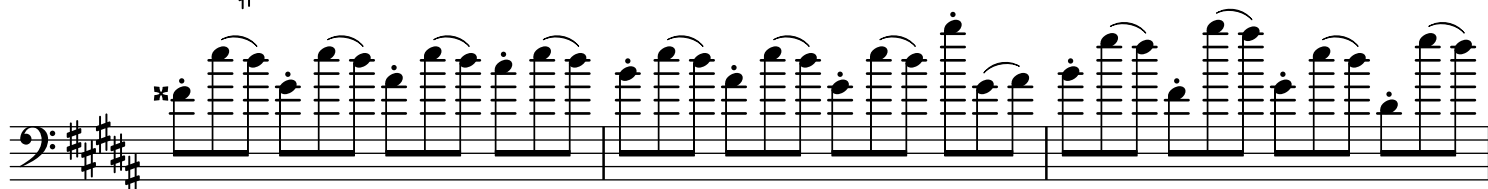
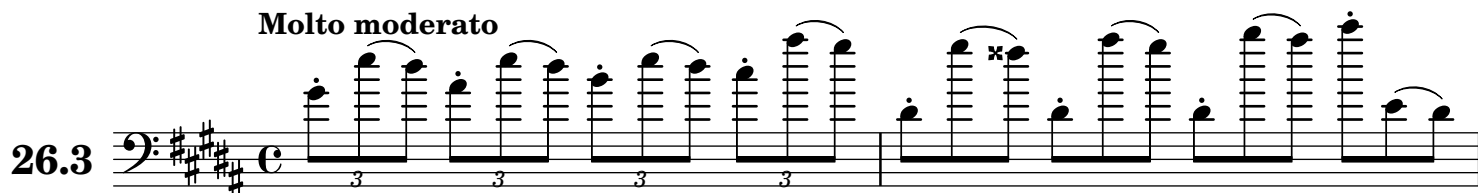
26. Additional Exercises

26.1 *Andante*

Exercise 26.1 is an Andante piece in bass clef with a key signature of four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat) and common time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a half note G2, followed by eighth notes A2, B2, and C3. The second staff contains a triplet of eighth notes (D3, E3, F3) and a trill on G3. The third staff continues with eighth notes and includes a trill on A3. The fourth staff features a triplet of eighth notes (B3, C4, D4) and a trill on E4. The fifth staff concludes with a triplet of eighth notes (F4, G4, A4) and a trill on B4.

26.2 *Moderato*

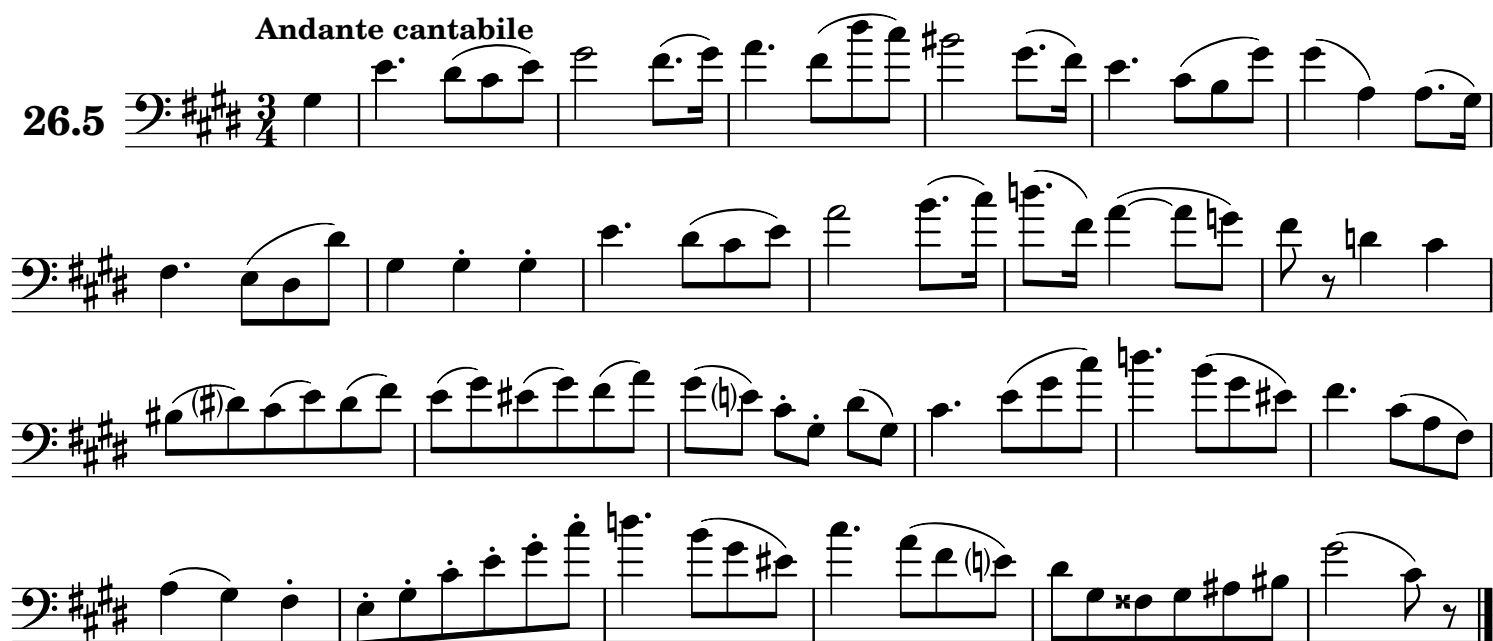
Exercise 26.2 is a Moderato piece in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F-sharp, C-sharp, G-sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a half note F#2, followed by eighth notes G#2, A#2, and B#2. The second staff continues with eighth notes and includes a trill on C#3. The third staff features a triplet of eighth notes (D#3, E#3, F#3) and a trill on G#3. The fourth staff continues with eighth notes and includes a trill on A#3. The fifth staff concludes with a triplet of eighth notes (B#3, C#4, D#4) and a trill on E#4.

**Molto moderato**



Andante cantabile

26.5



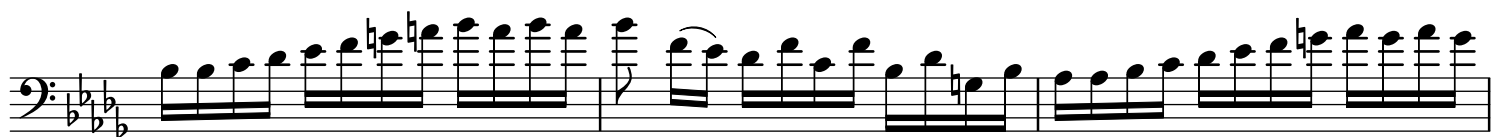
Maestoso

26.6

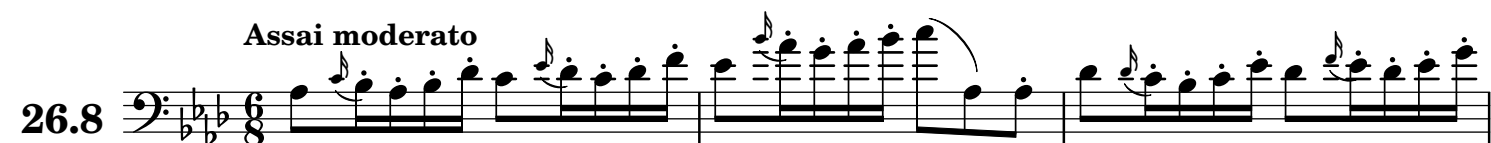


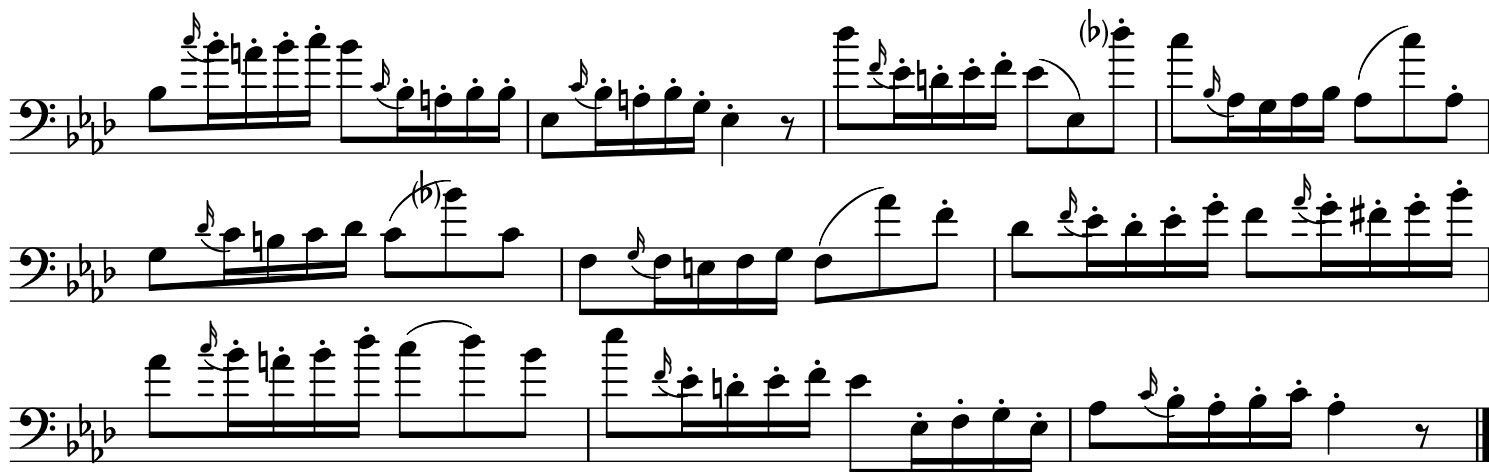
**Moderato**

26.7

**Assai moderato**

26.8





Adagio e molto legato

26.9



Moderato

26.10

Exercise 26.10 is a Moderato piece in bass clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to two flats. The music features a variety of eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped with slurs and accented. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Allegretto

26.11

Exercise 26.11 is an Allegretto piece in bass clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and 6/8 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to two flats. The music is characterized by rapid sixteenth-note passages, often grouped with slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Moderato

26.12

Exercise 26.12 is a Moderato piece in bass clef, key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, and A-flat), and common time (C). It consists of one staff of music. The music features eighth-note passages, often grouped with slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The image displays ten staves of musical notation, all in bass clef and key of B-flat major (indicated by two flats). The notation is dense, featuring a variety of rhythmic patterns and accidentals. The first staff begins with a B-flat note. The second staff contains a B-flat note. The third staff contains a B-flat note. The fourth staff contains a B-flat note. The fifth staff contains a B-flat note. The sixth staff contains a B-flat note. The seventh staff contains a B-flat note. The eighth staff contains a B-flat note. The ninth staff contains a B-flat note. The tenth staff contains a B-flat note. The notation is arranged in a continuous sequence across the ten staves, with various rhythmic values and accidentals (flats) used throughout.