PROGRESSIVE ETUDES VOL. 1

for Bass Trombone

By Andy Derrick

Whether you are a new bass trombonist, a tenor player looking to develop low range or some bass bone chops or a tuba player looking for a good double, this book is intended for you.

Starting from basic principles of tone and breathing, to learning how the low range can really work well for you, these studies are your key to making improvements that will reflect on your complete playing.

Tips on some pieces are included to give you a way in to each piece. Whilst it is useful to know lots of alternative positions using the valves to aid speed and smoothness, it is recommended that you play with the open side of the trombone as much as possible as this has potentially the best tone. Some of the best bass trombone sounds of the last 70 years were achieved on single trigger instruments.

One final tip on achieving a great sound, try to listen to the sound you make and don't focus on your mouth and hands. It is easy to get caught up in the technical playing of something and not truly listen to what sounds you make.

Good luck and happy playing.

Andy Derrick, 2020

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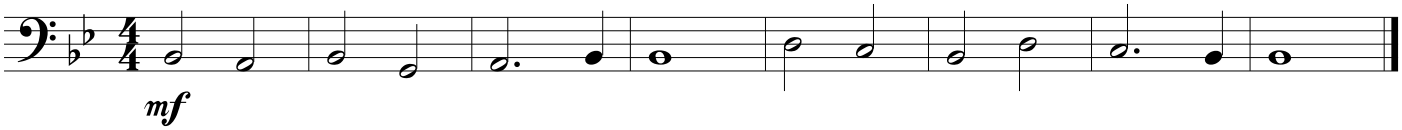
1. SINISTER MARCH

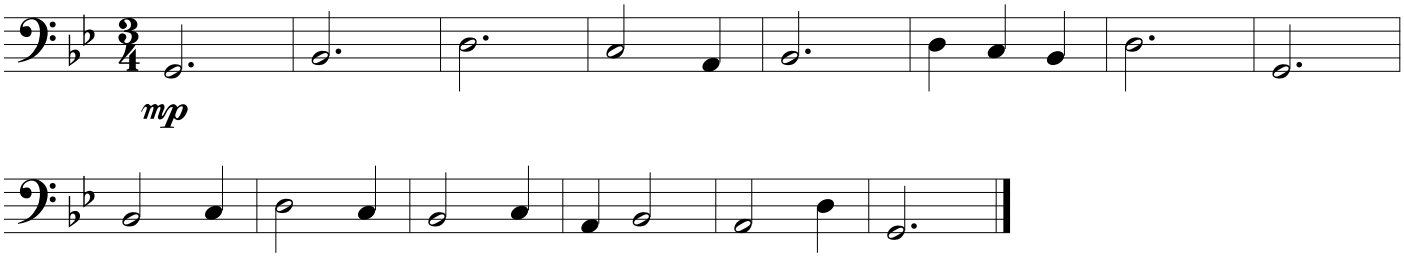
Tip: Keep the embouchure still & breath under control

Allegro



2. WALTZ MINORE

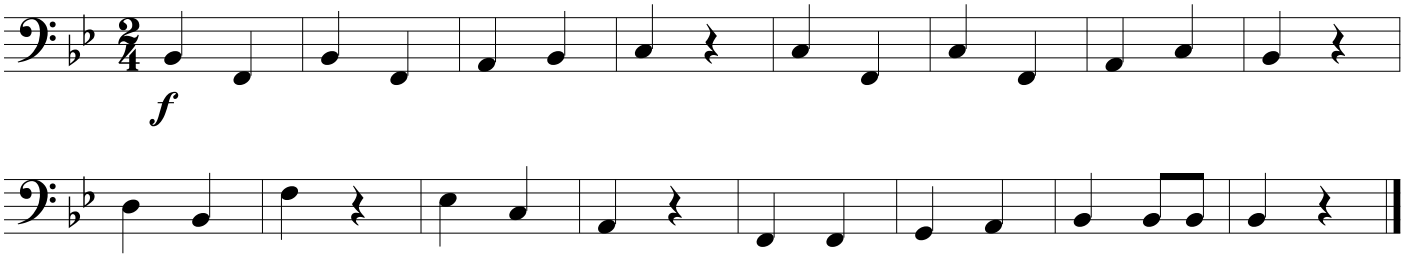
Allegretto



3. STOMPERINI

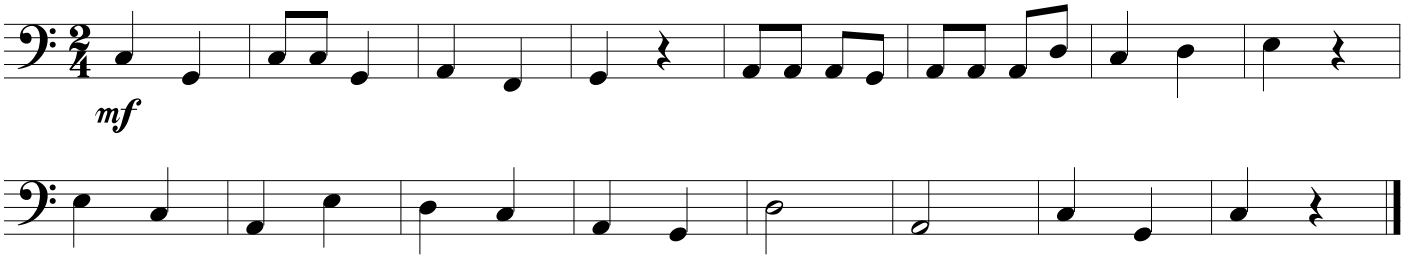
Tip: Aim to ge tthe notes as equal as possible in tone and attack

Maestoso



4. MARCH

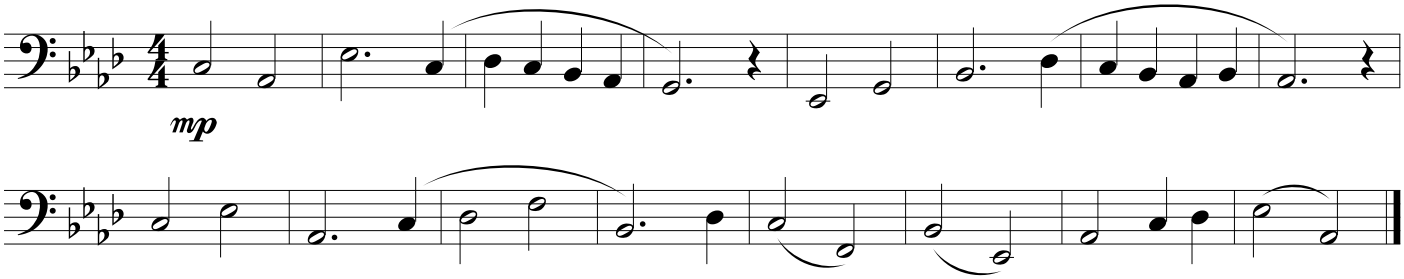
Moderato



5. LYRICOSA

Tip: Focus on diaphragm control in the lower register here

Moderato



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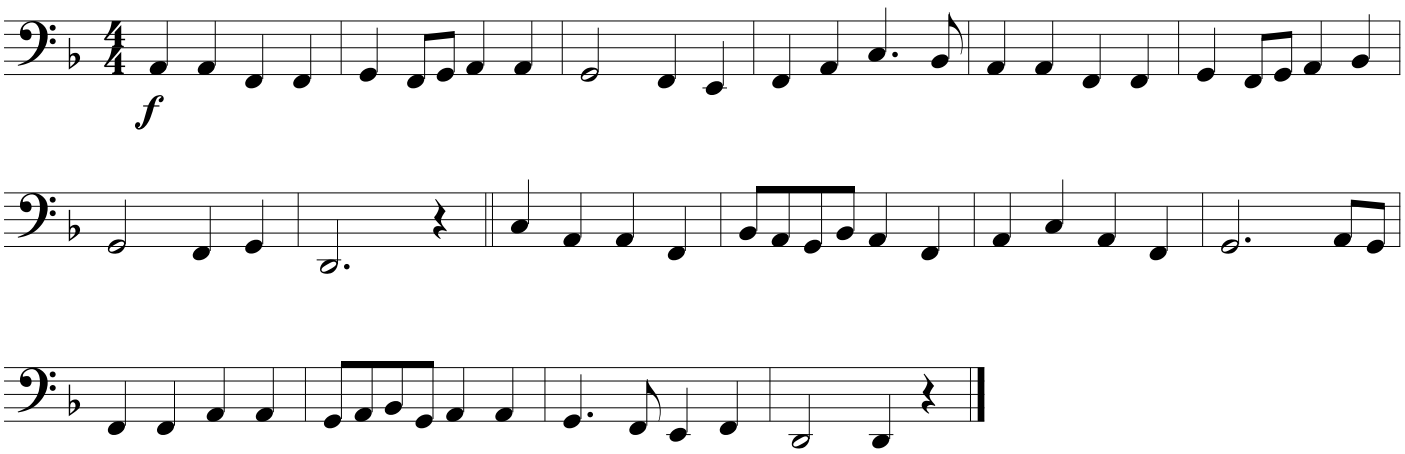
6 .SOMERSET SONG

Tip: Aim for a sound that doesn't burst. Go for a big sound that isn't too loud.

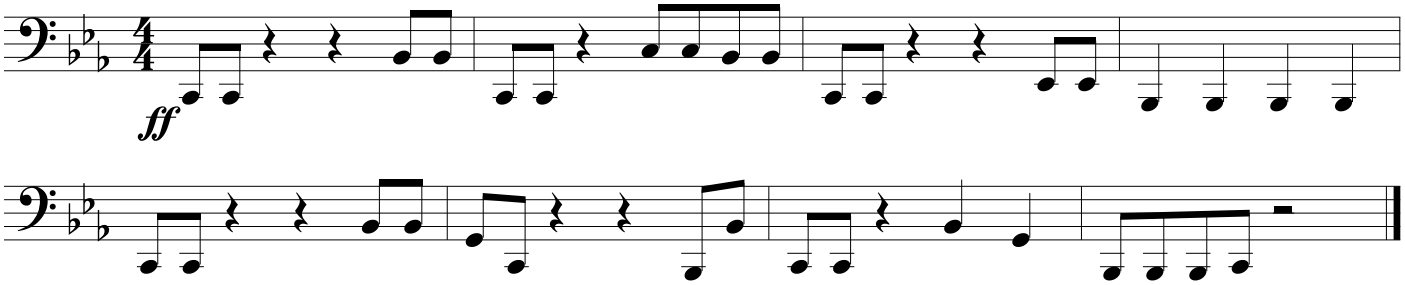
Vivace



7 .FUNKY LOW LINE

Tip: Plenty of air is required for clean articulation when playing low

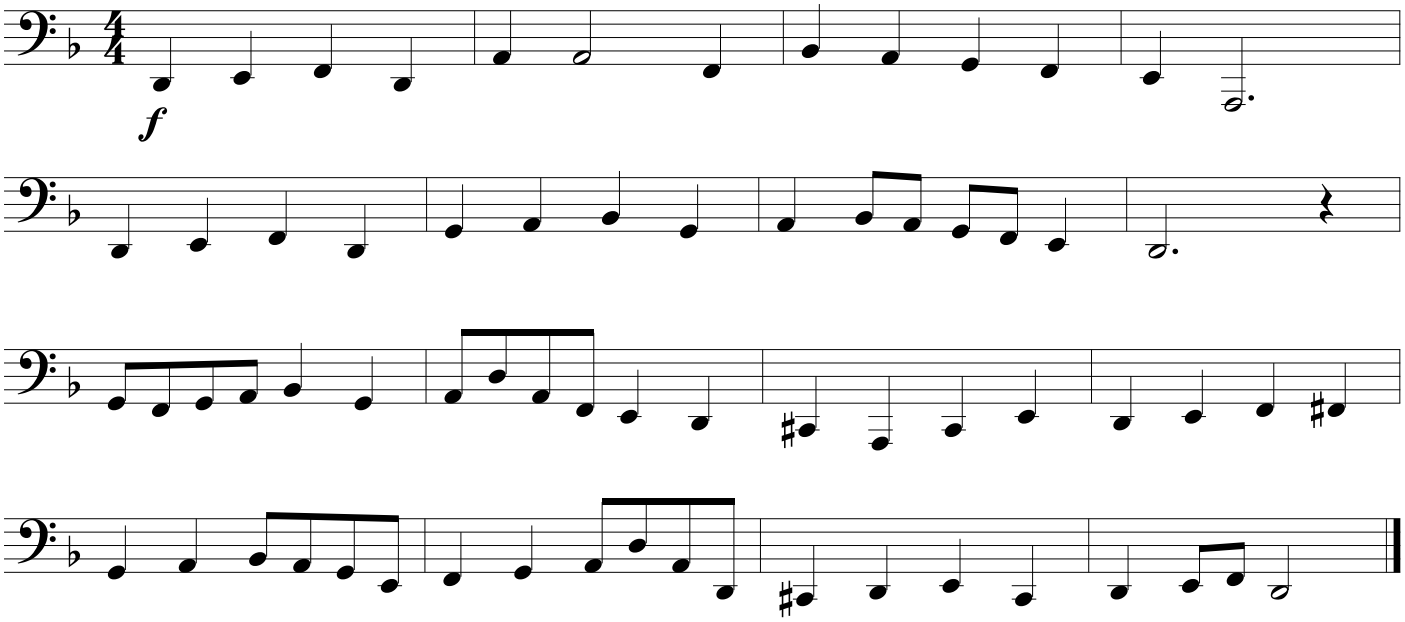
Andante



8. PASSACAGLIA

Tip: This has a great focus on low note intonation

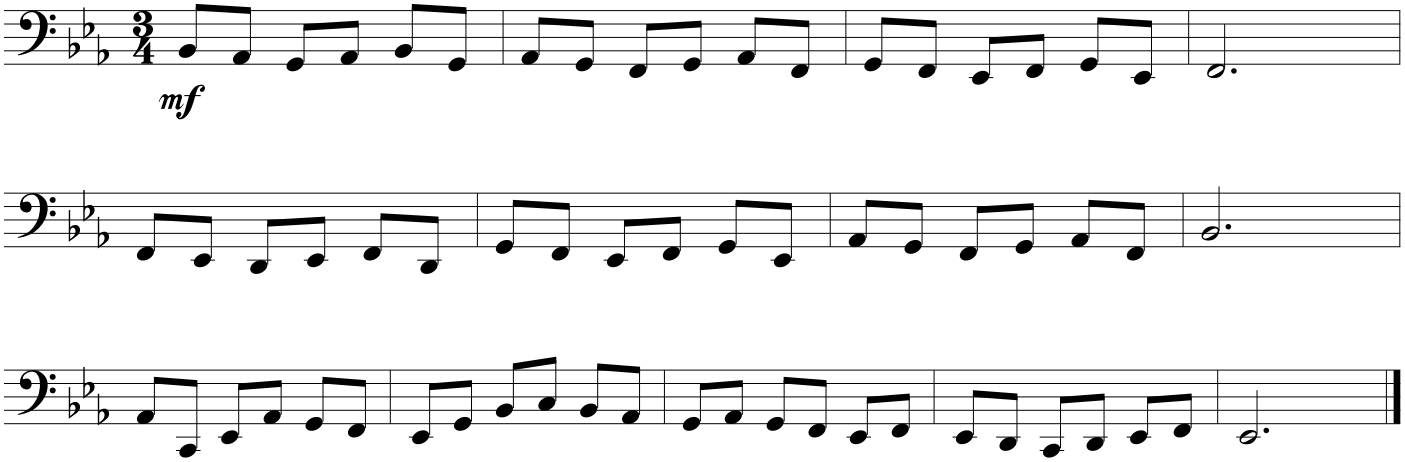
Moderato



9. CHACONNE

Tip: This type of mobile bass line requires a sound between that of tenor trombones and tubas, broad but not ponderous

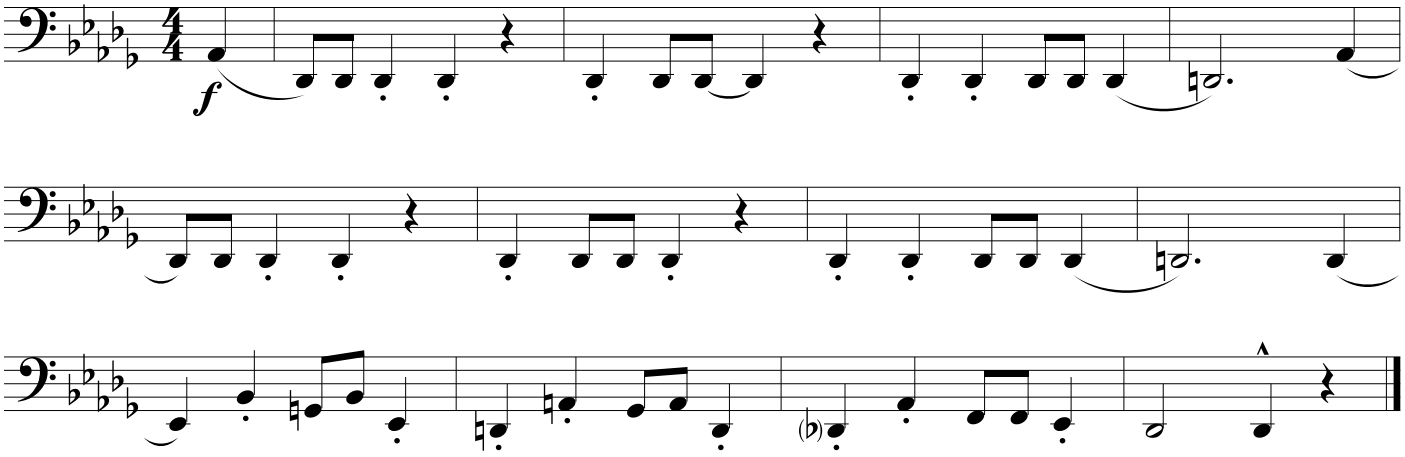
Andante



10. BREAK TIME BOUNCE

Tip: Stay right on the pulse here.

Medium Swing



11. DISCO SQUID

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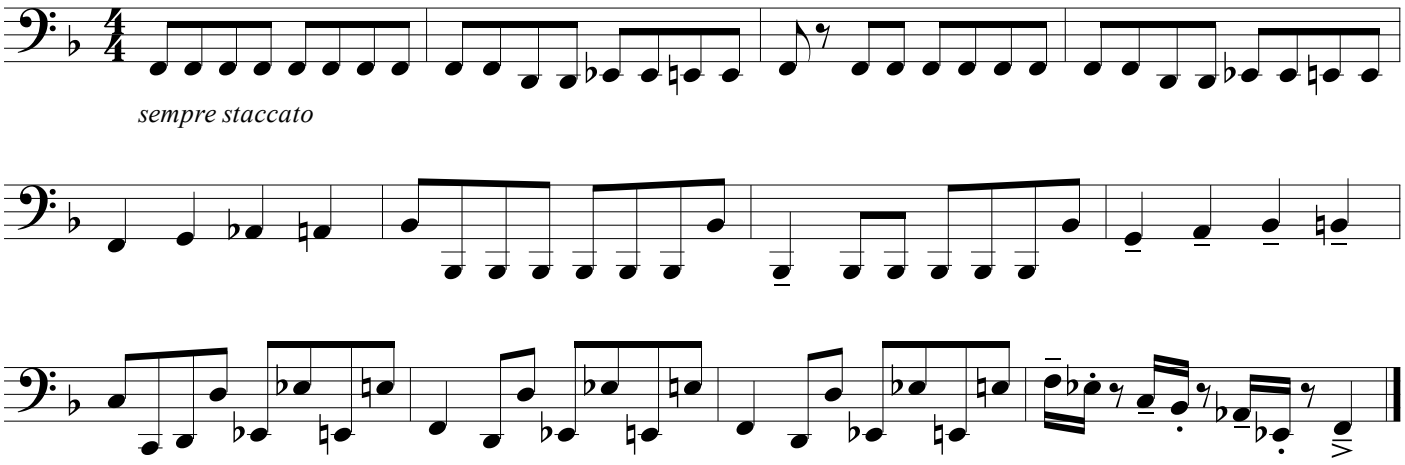
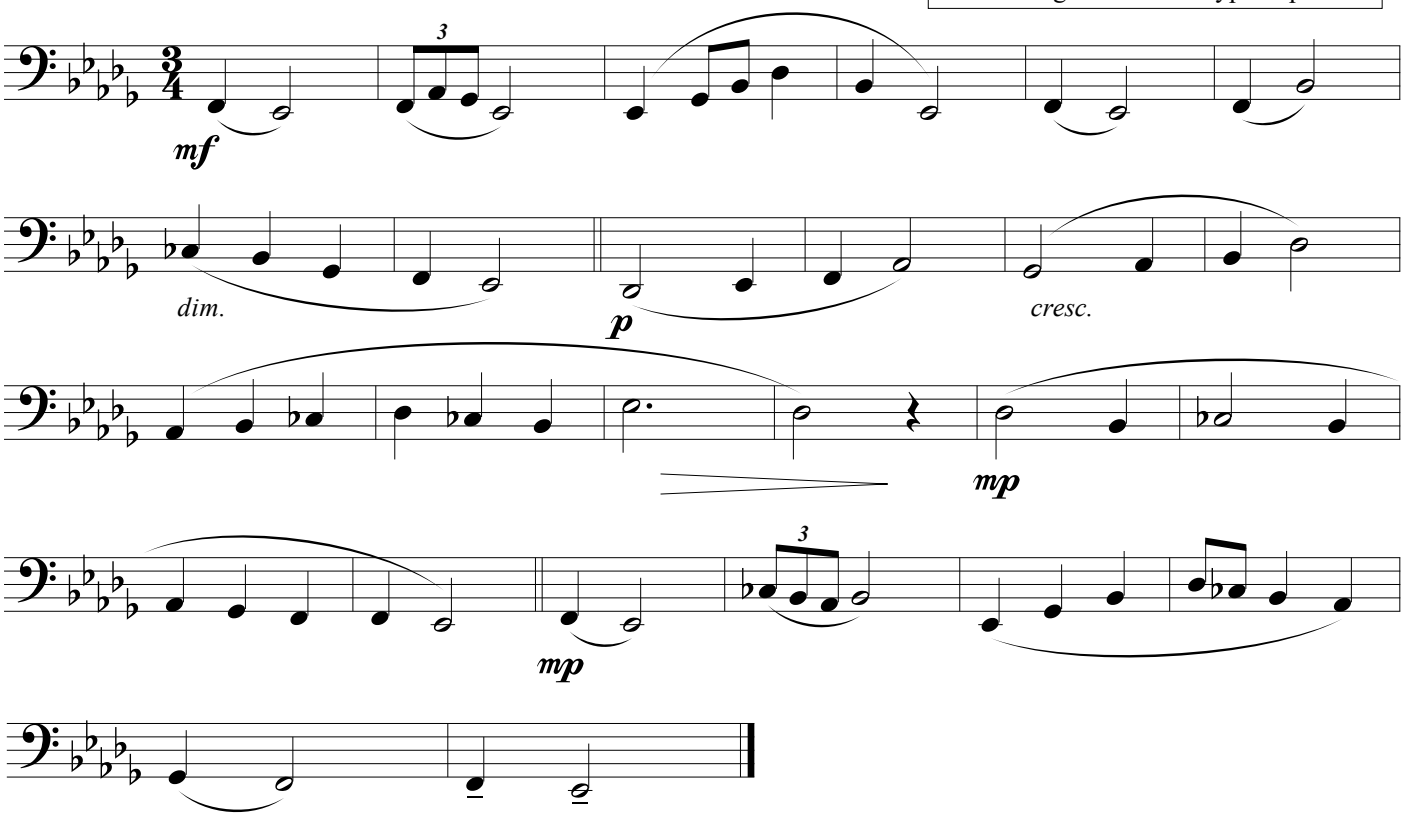


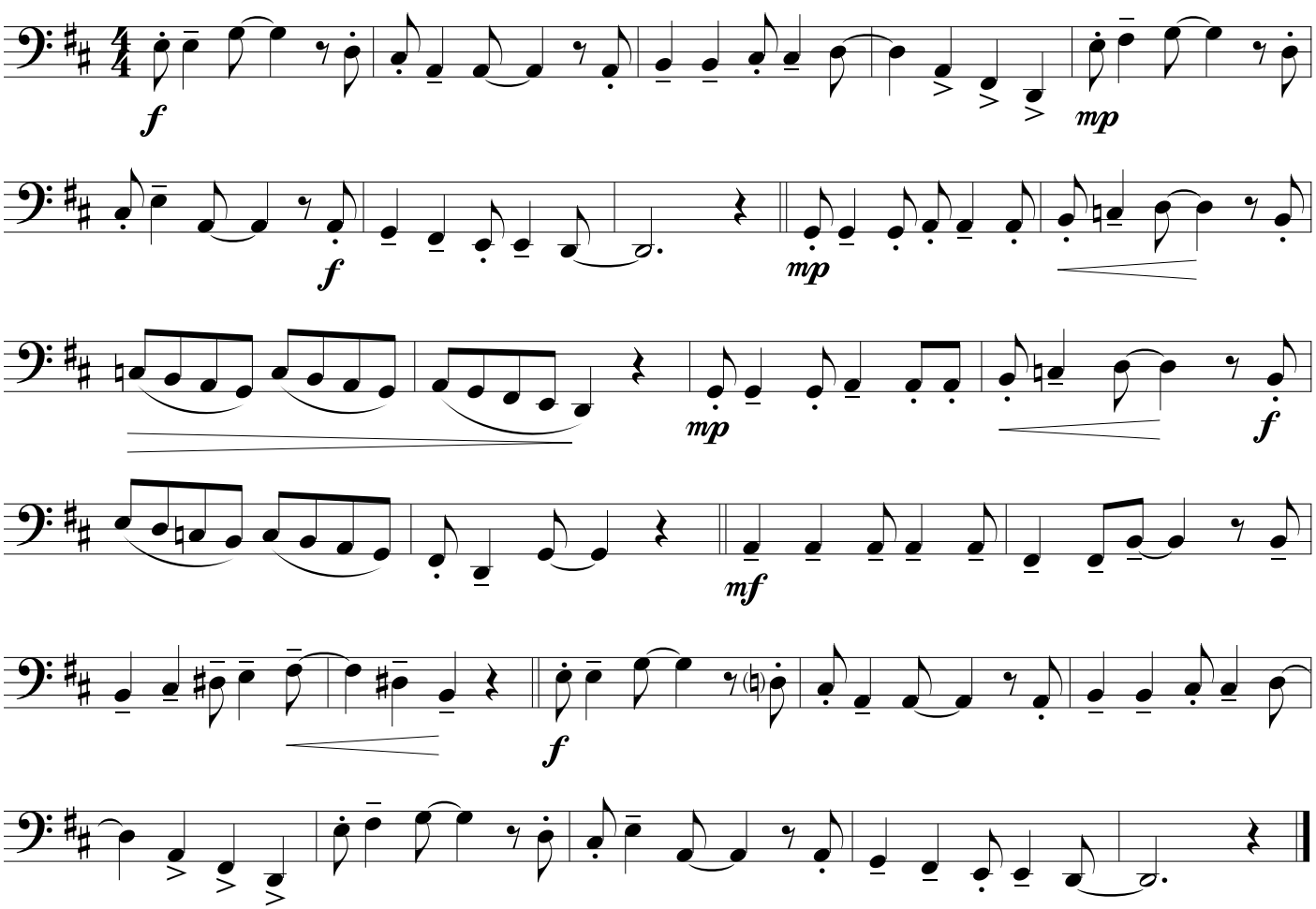
12. LAKE SIDE

Tip: Breathing, intonation & articulation all come together on this type of piece



13. BOMBARDINO

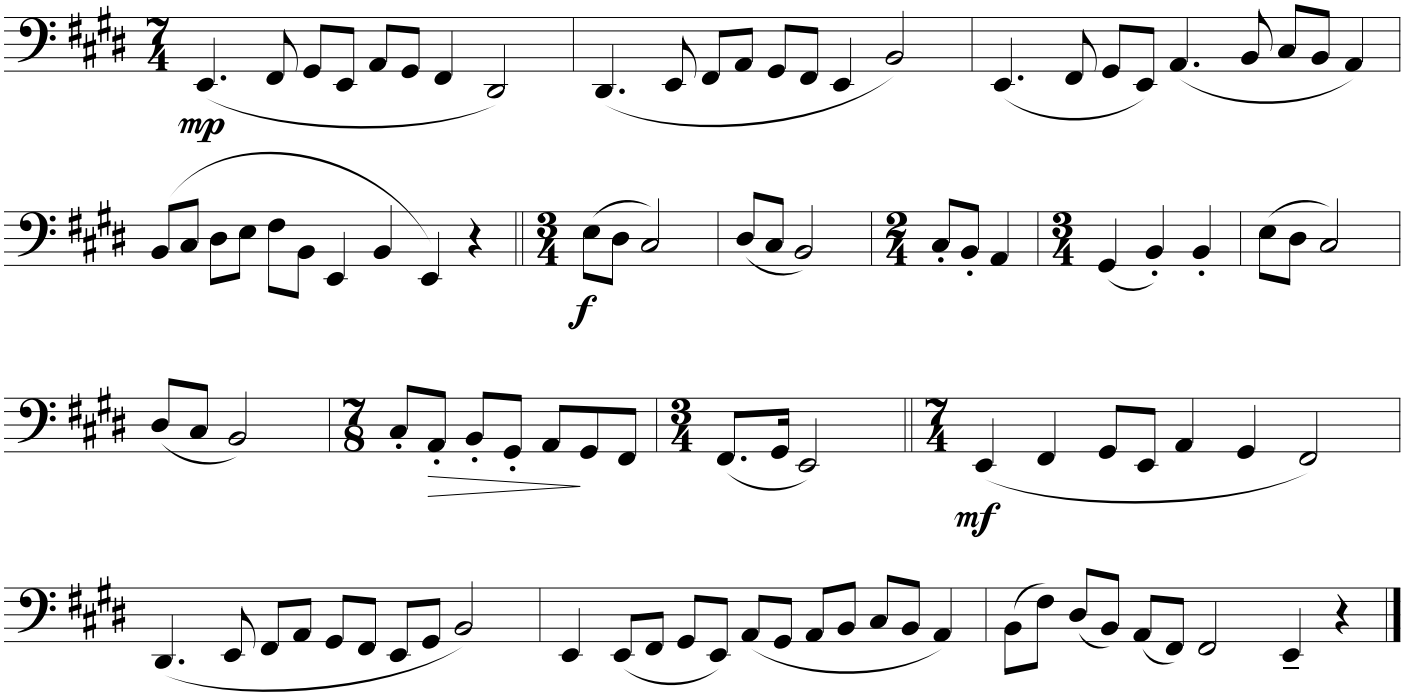
Tip: Work on achieving effective contrast in articulation and dynamics



14. COULISSE

Tip: the melodic potential of the Bass Trombone is key to developing great tone

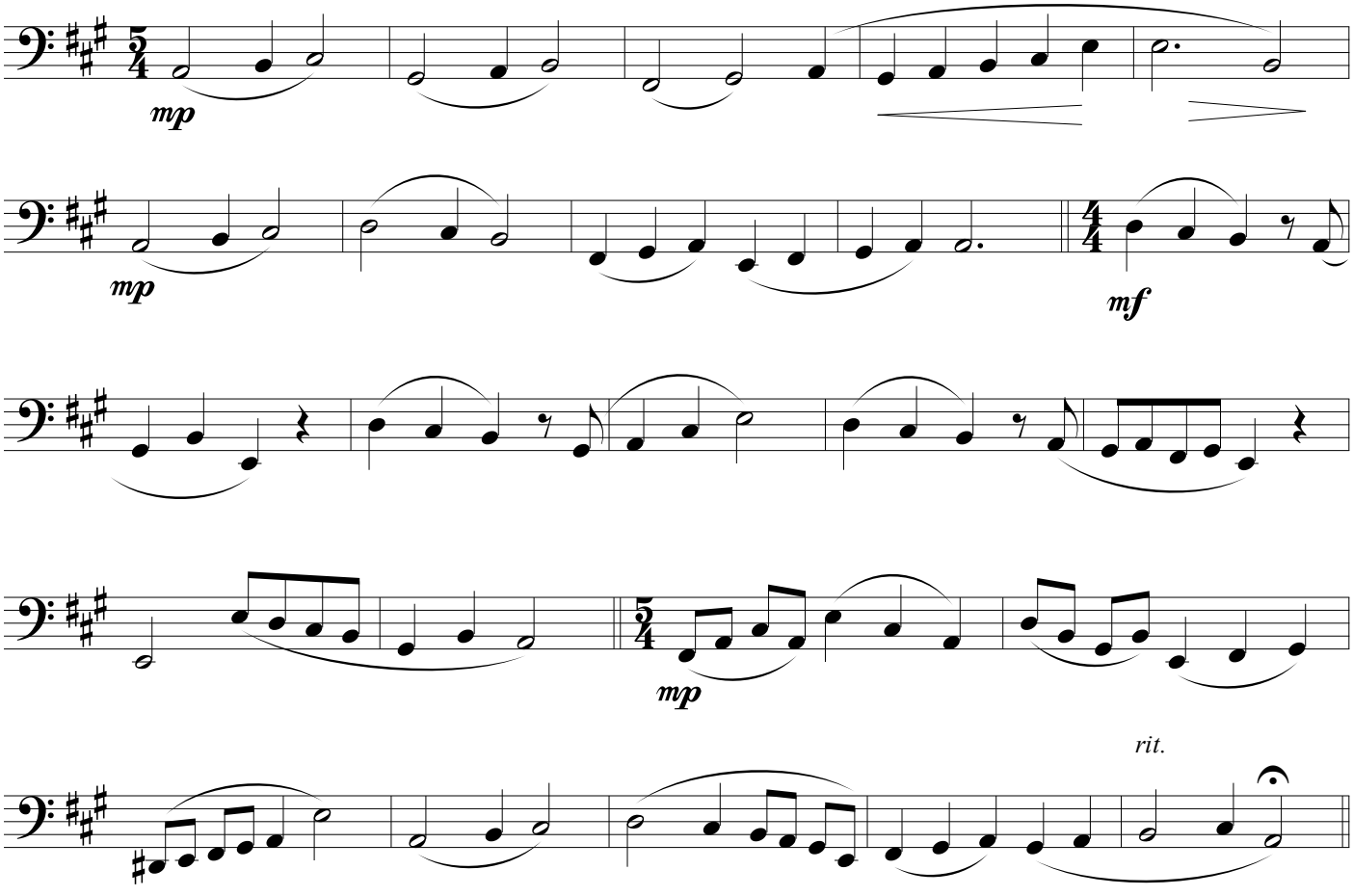
Andante



15. A VELA

Tip: relaxed but deep breathing is very useful here to

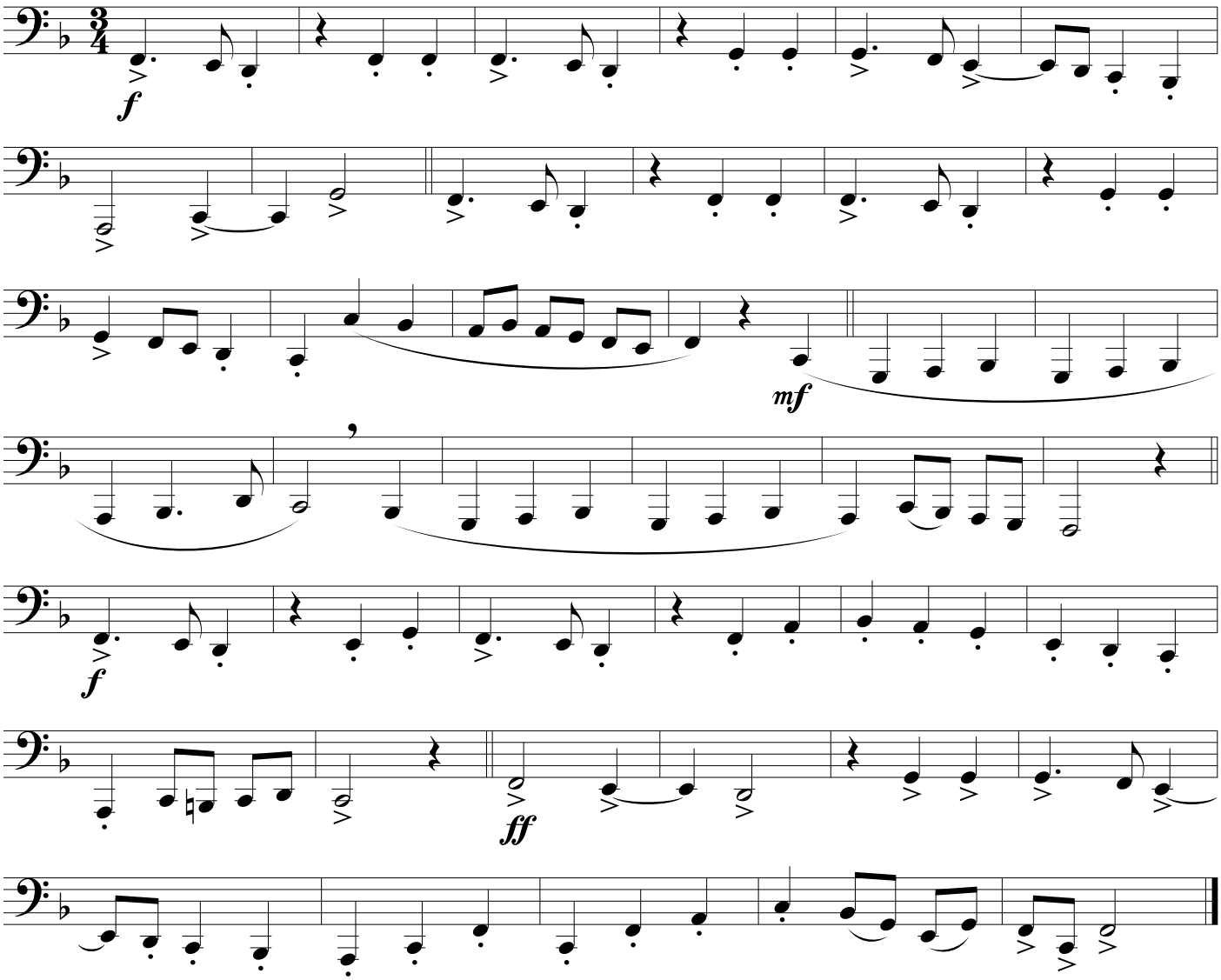
Andante con moto



16. APRESURADO

Tip: Treat the pedal register as an extension and not as a separate part of your playing

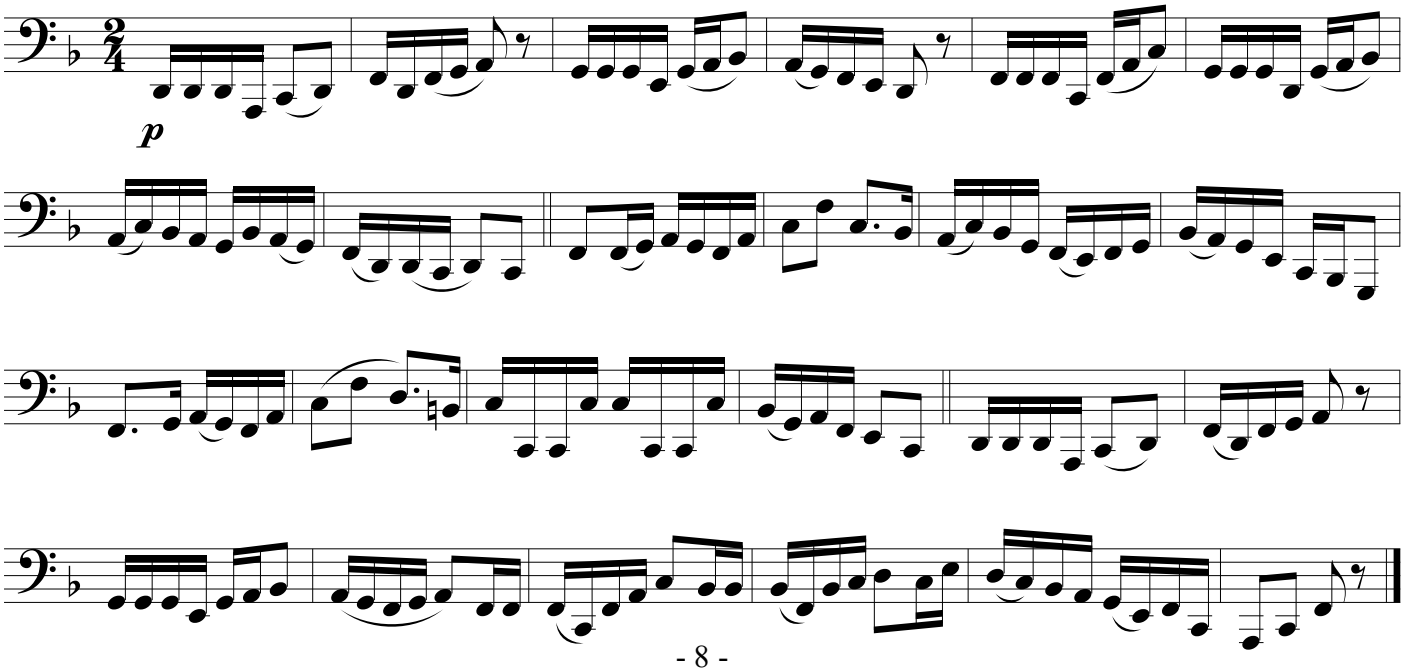
Presto



17. ZART

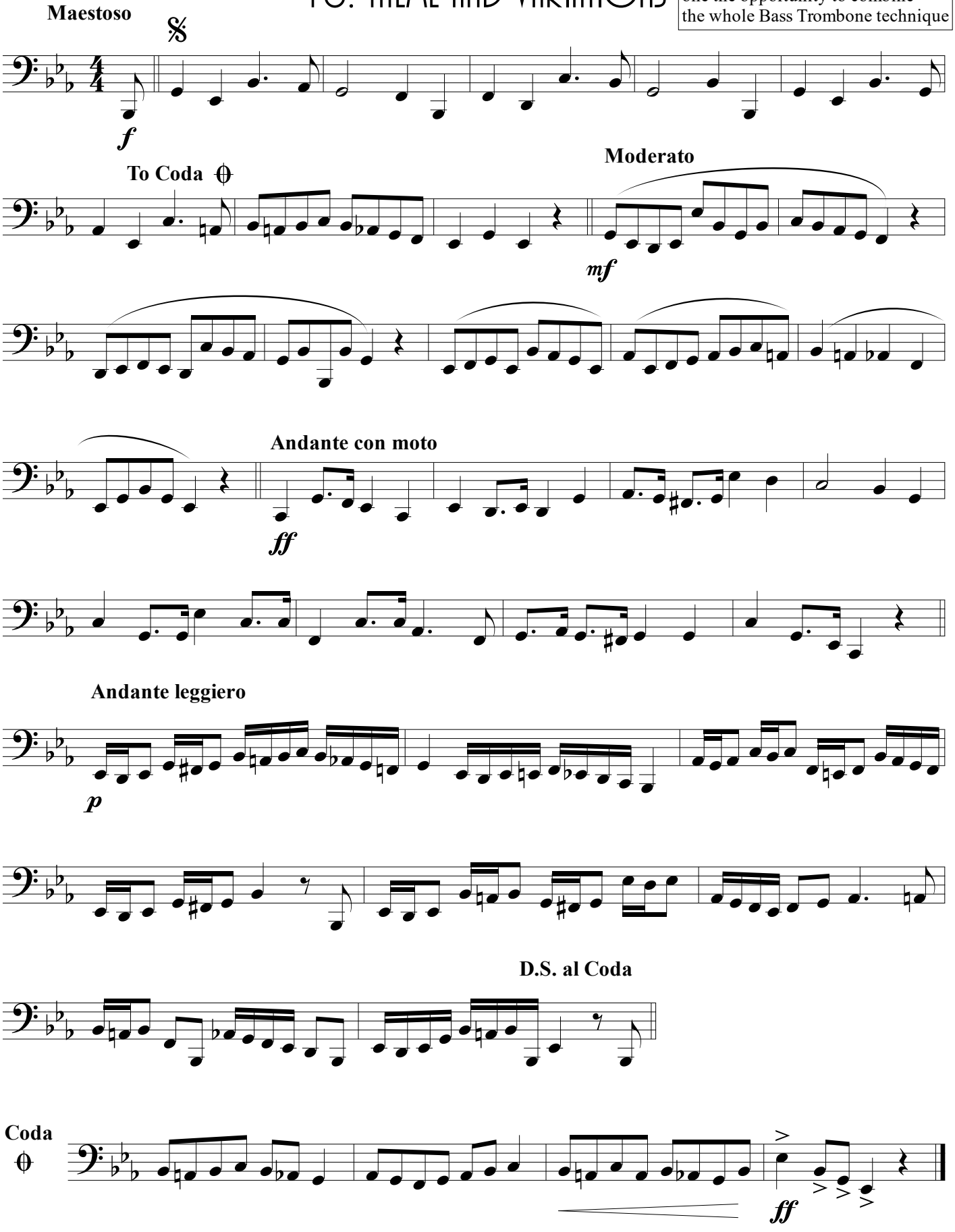
Tip: Although in semiquavers, this is really a very slow piece.

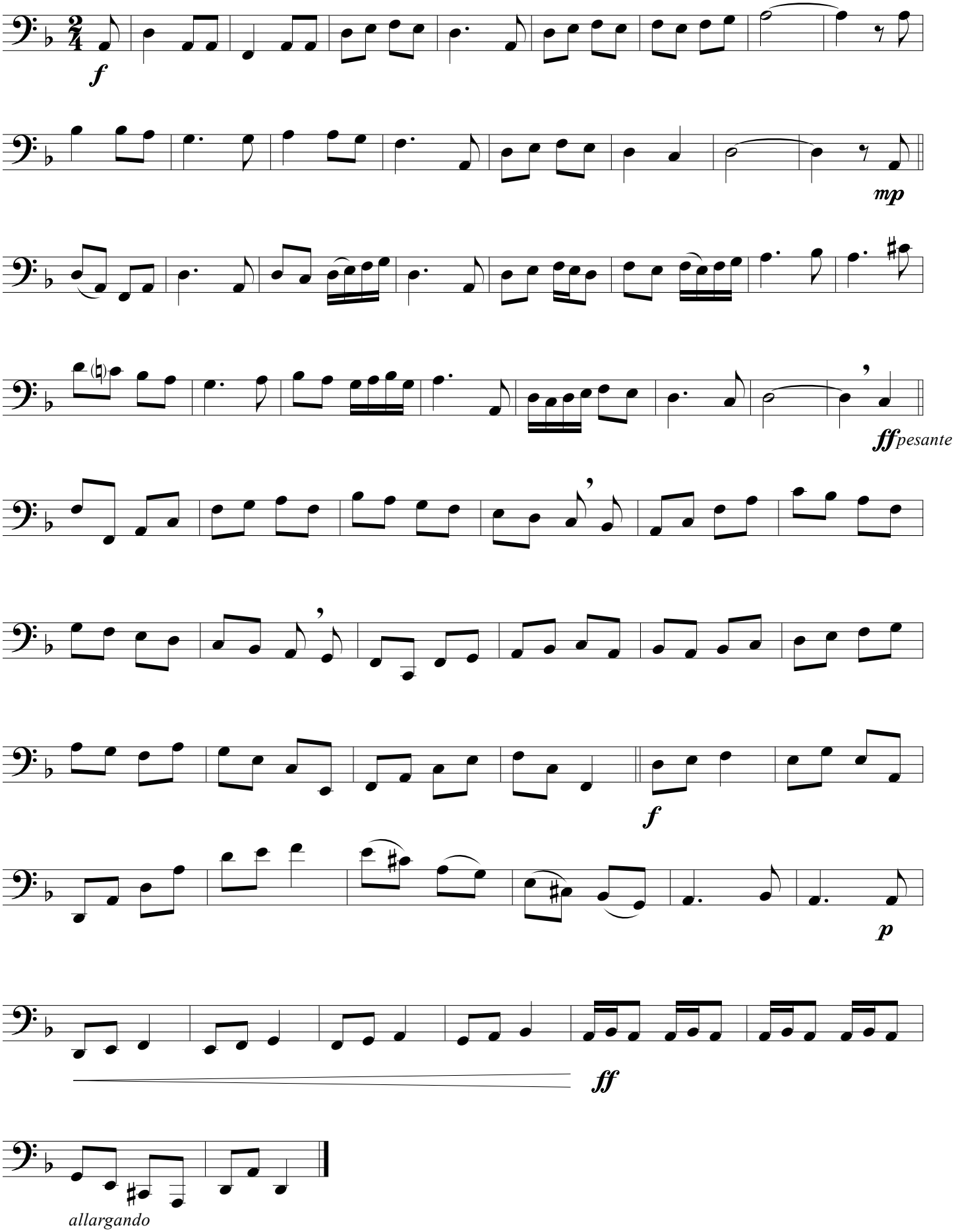
Grave



18. THEME AND VARIATIONS

Tip: These last two pieces give one the opportunity to combine the whole Bass Trombone technique



19. NEW MARCH

Moderato