Toccata Marziale

Transposition Inquisition No. 58a

Ralph Vaughan Williams

arr. Martorano

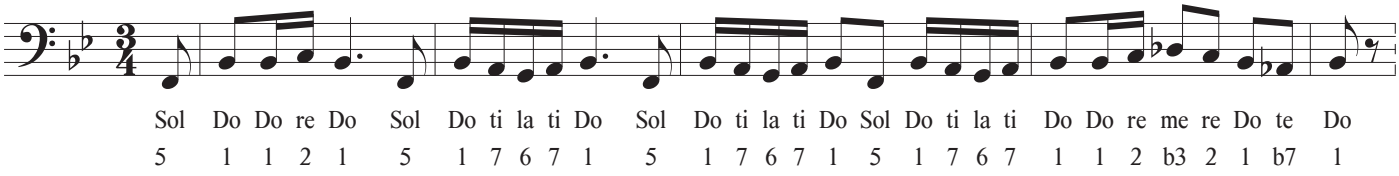
About the Composer:

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958) was an English composer. His works include operas, ballets, chamber music, secular and religious vocal pieces and orchestral compositions including nine symphonies, written over sixty years. Strongly influenced by Tudor music and English folk-song, his output marked a decisive break in British music from its German-dominated style of the 19th century.

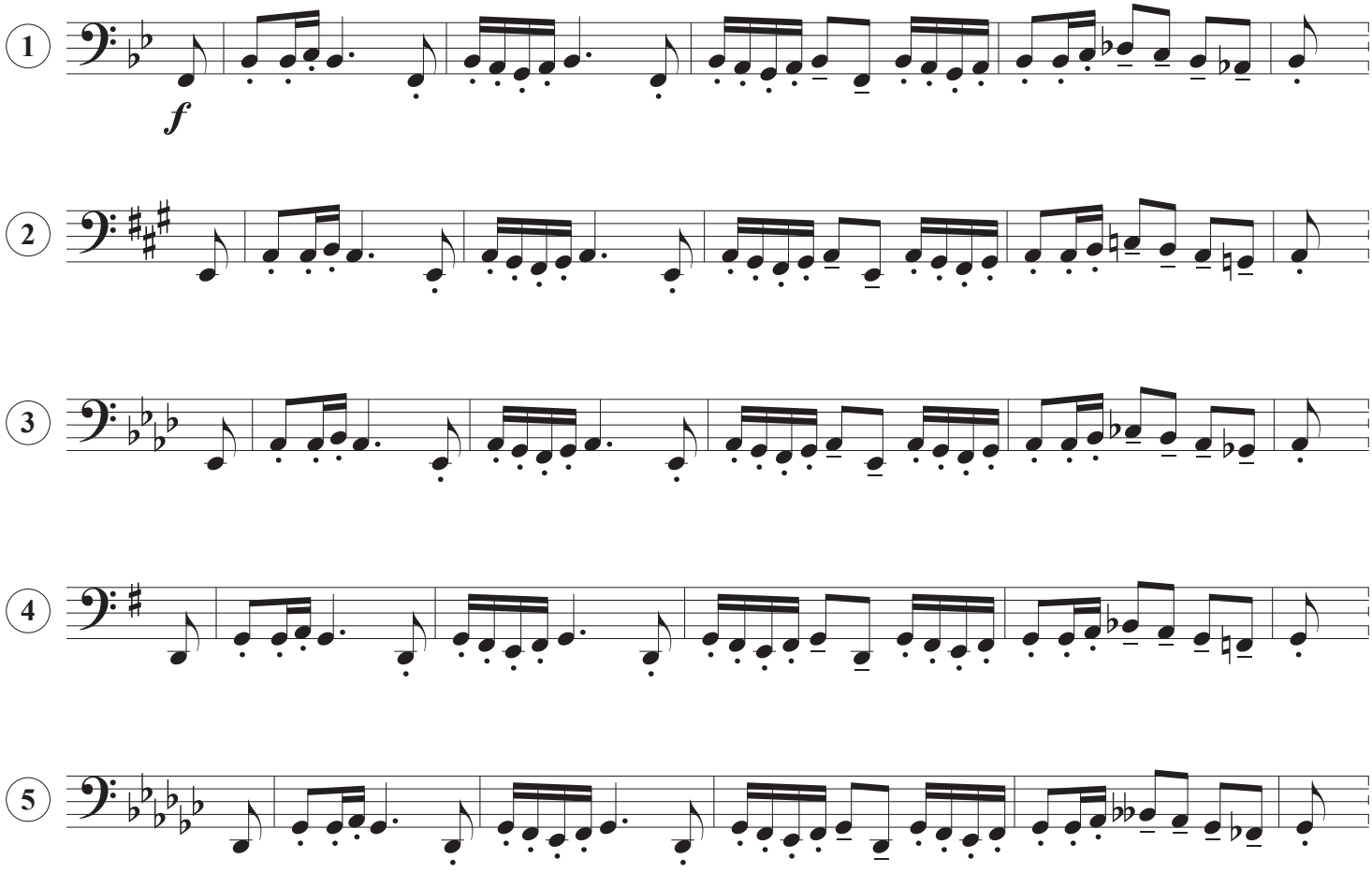
About the Piece:

Toccata Marziale, written in 1924, was Vaughan Williams's second work for military band and is one of the most significant contributions to the wind band literature. The word "toccata" comes from the Italian toccare, meaning "to touch," hence its association with the early Baroque virtuouso keyboard pieces written by Frescobaldi and others. Toccata Marziale is a contrapunctal masterpiece for wind ensemble, in which textures are juxtaposed in massed effects with large sections of winds and brasses. A rhythmic vigor, as suggested by the title, permeates the piece, and Vaughan Williams's brilliant scoring reveals the fundamental properties of the band's sonority and its instrumental virtuosity and color.

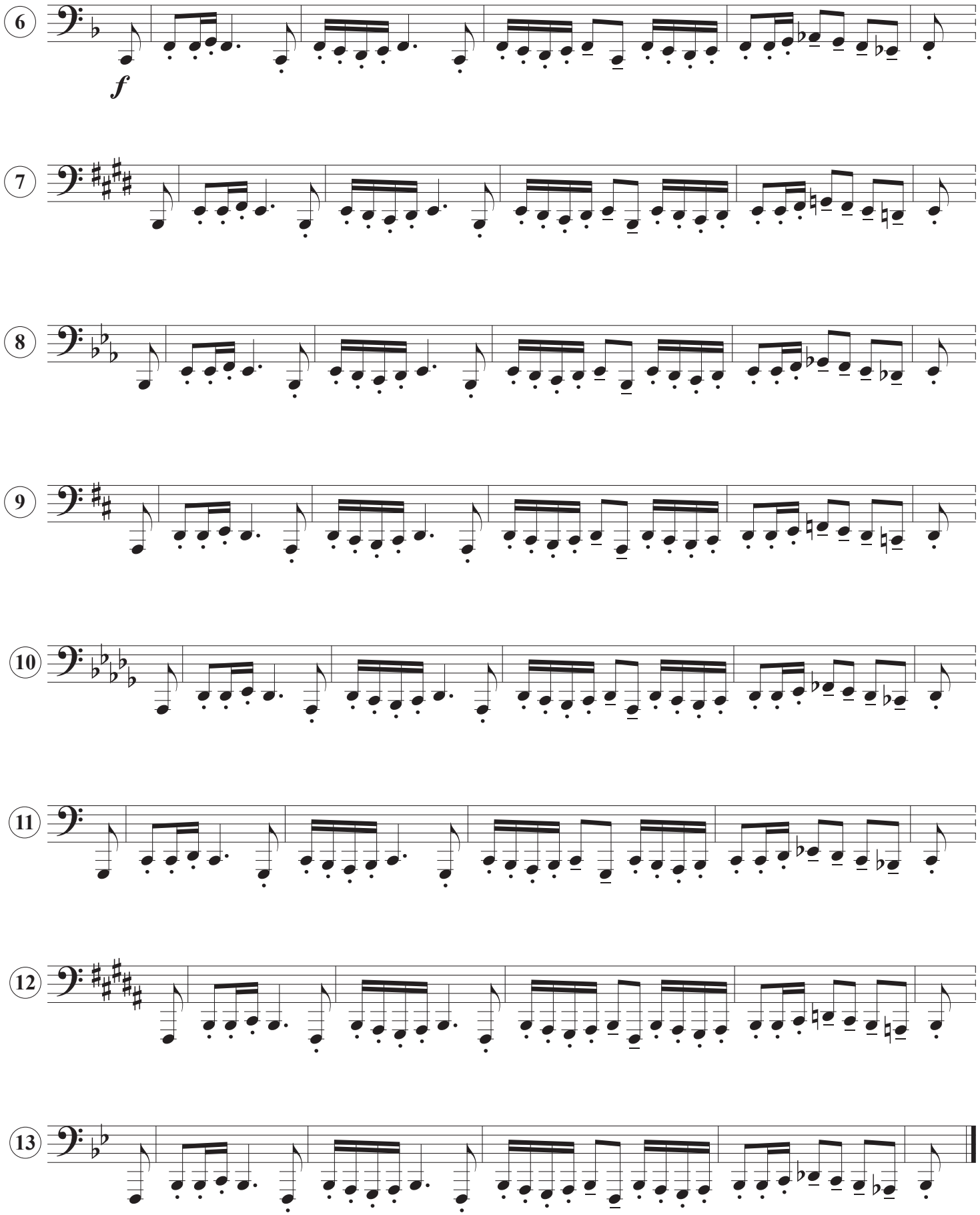
- Program Note by Frederick Fennell



Allegro maestoso



Allegro maestoso



Toccata Marziale

Transposition Inquisition No. 58b

Ralph Vaughan Williams
arr. Martorano

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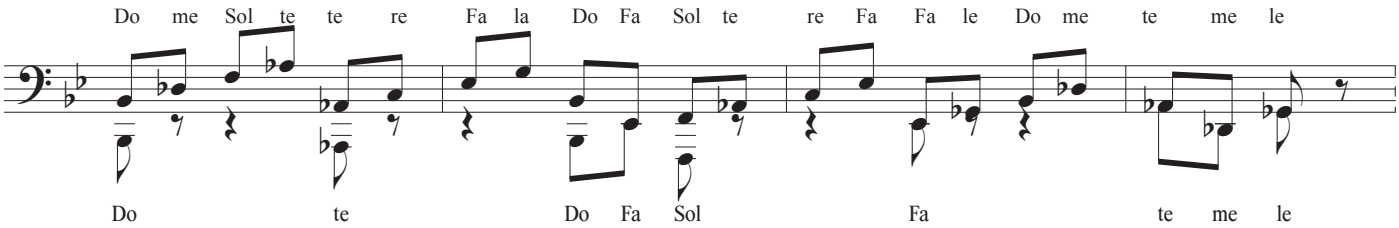

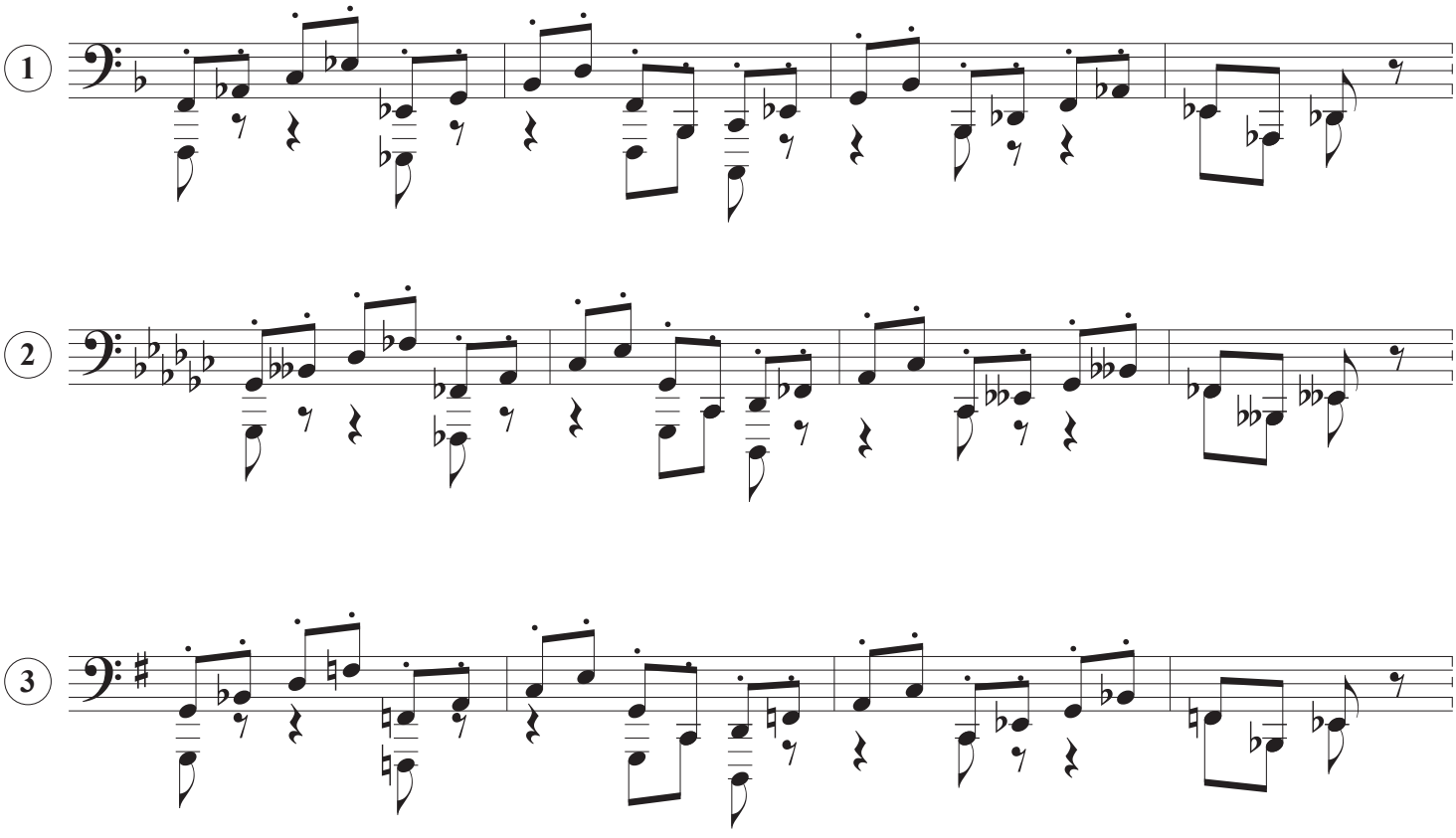

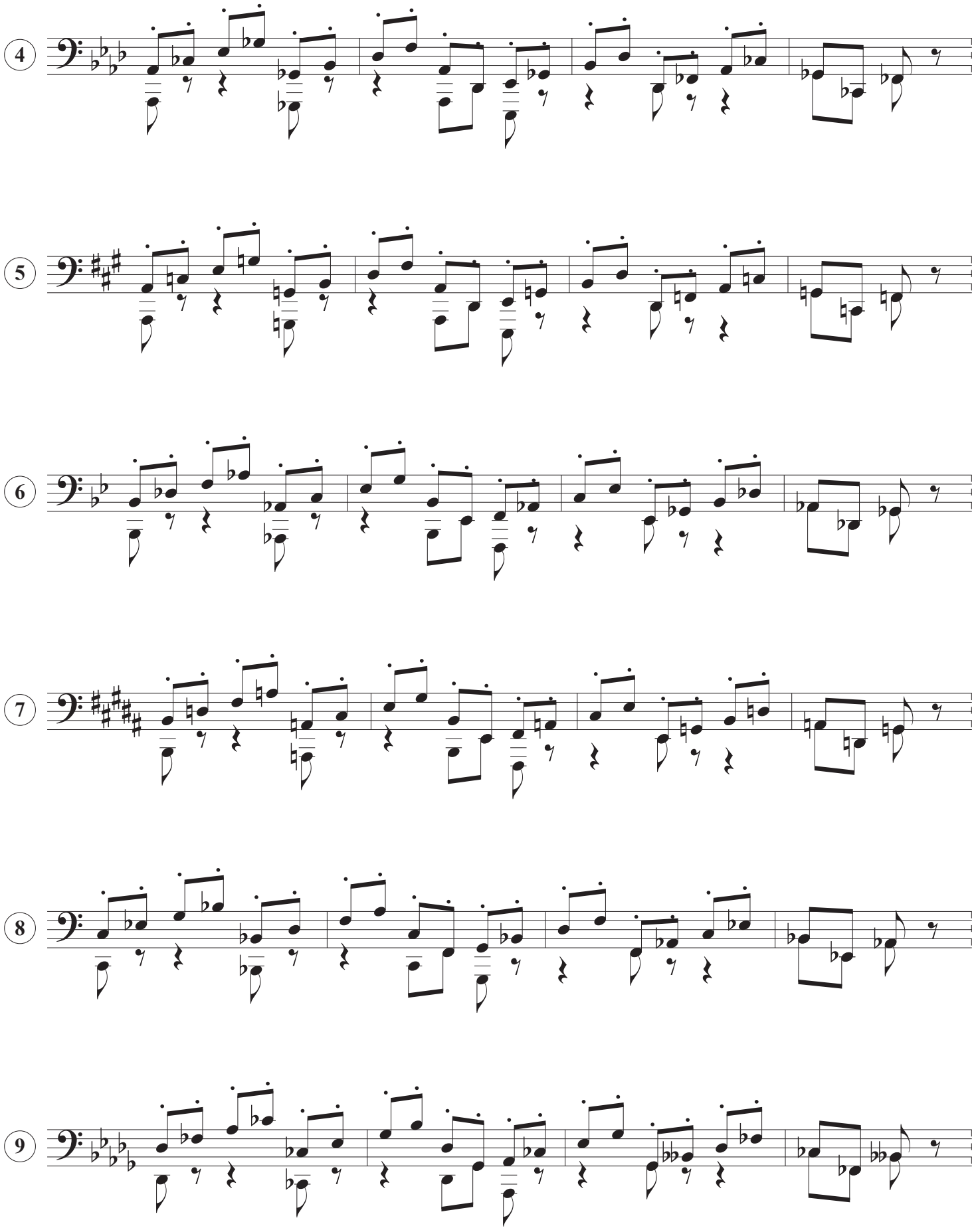
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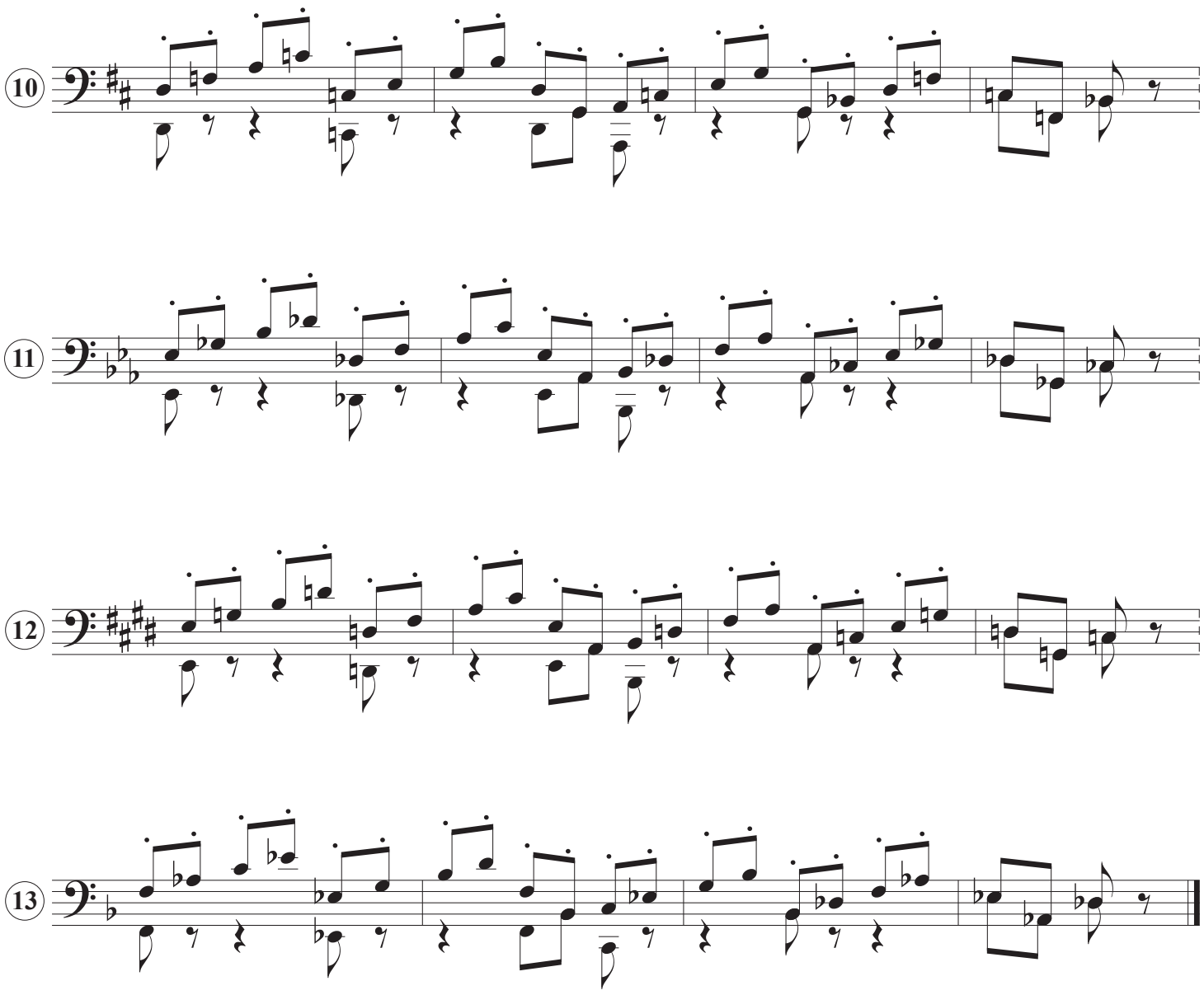
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