Hungarian March

Transposition Inquisition No. 93

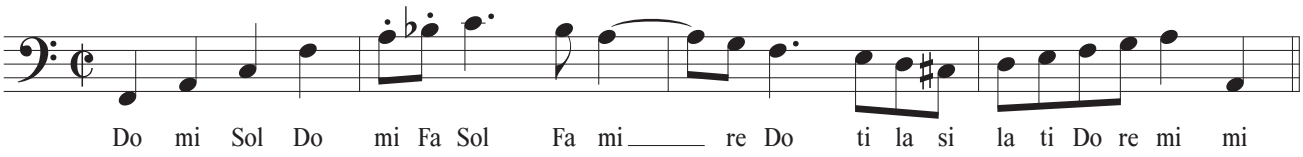
Hector Berlioz

arr. Martorano

About the Composer:

"French composer. He stands as the leading musician of his age in a country whose principal artistic endeavor was then literary, and in an art—music—whose principal pioneers were then German. In many senses the Romantic movement found its fullest embodiment in him, yet he had deep Classical roots and stood apart from many manifestations of that movement. His life presents the archetypal tragic struggle of new ideas for acceptance, to which he gave his full exertions as composer, critic and conductor. And though there were many who perceived greatness in his music from the beginning, his genius only came to full recognition in the 20th century.

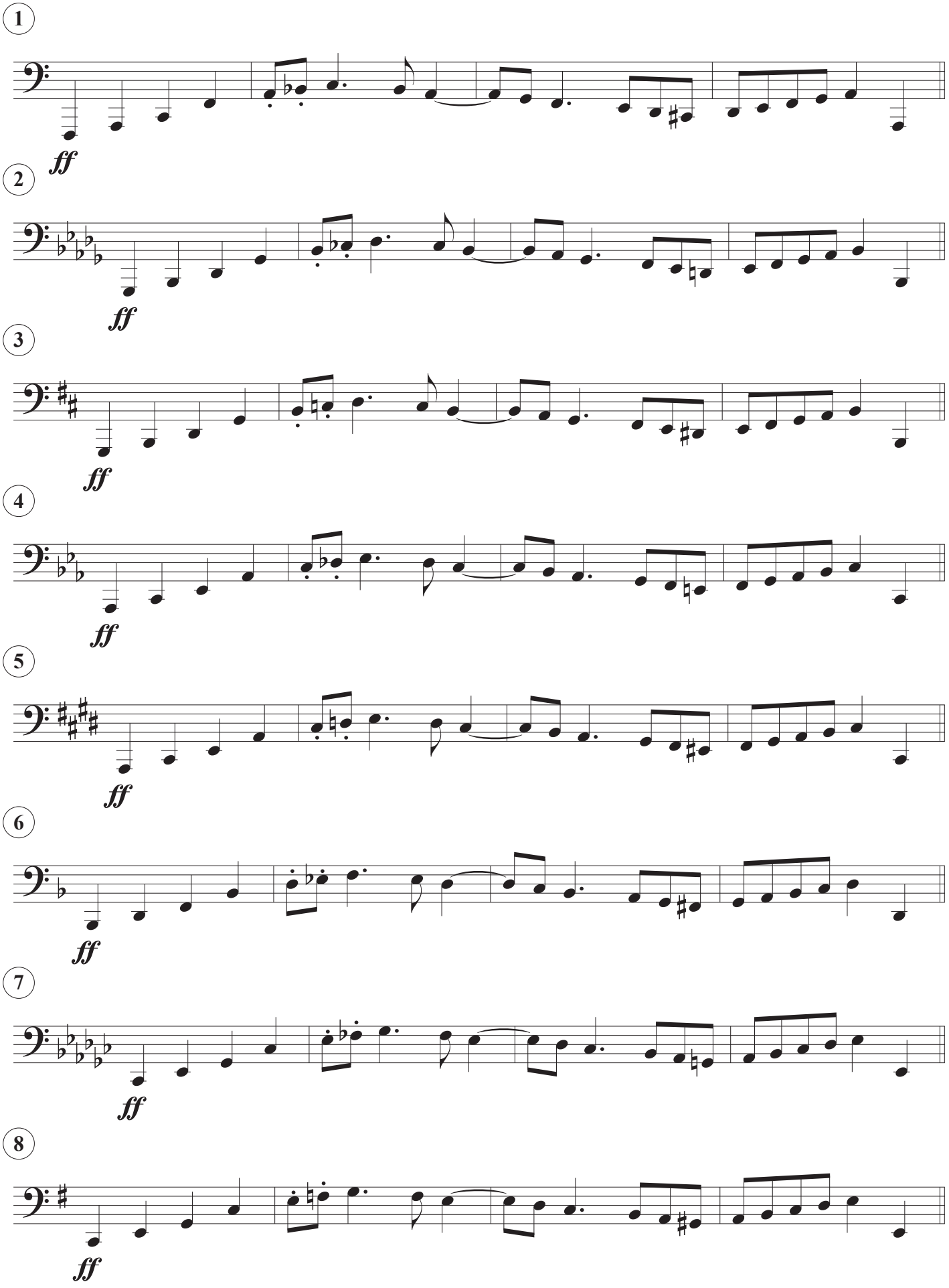
-Hugh Macdonald (Groves Music Dictonary)



About the Composition:

"La damnation de Faust is a work for four solo voices, full seven-part chorus, large children's chorus and orchestra by the French composer Hector Berlioz. It was first performed at the Opéra-Comique in Paris on 6 December 1846. Berlioz was inspired by a translation of Goethe's dramatic poem Faust. Berlioz read Goethe's Faust, Part One in 1828, in Gérard de Nerval's translation; "this marvellous book fascinated me from the first", he recalled in his Memoirs. "I could not put it down. I read it incessantly, at meals, in the theatre, in the street." He was so impressed that a suite entitled Eight Scenes from Faust became his Opus 1 (1829), though he later recalled all the copies of it he could find. He returned to the material in 1845, to make a larger work, with some additional text by Almire Gandonnière to Berlioz's specifications, that he first called a "concert opera", and as it expanded, finally a "dramatic legend".

He worked on the score during his concert tour of 1845, adding his own text for "Nature immense, impénétrable et fière" —Faust's climactic invocation of all nature—and incorporating the Rákóczi March, which had been a thunderous success at a concert in Pest, Hungary, on 15 February 1846.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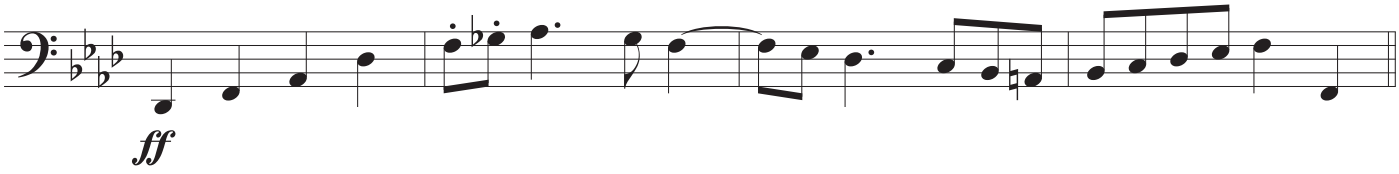

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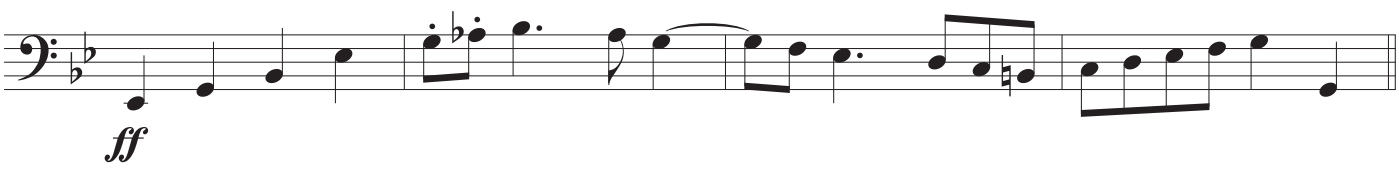

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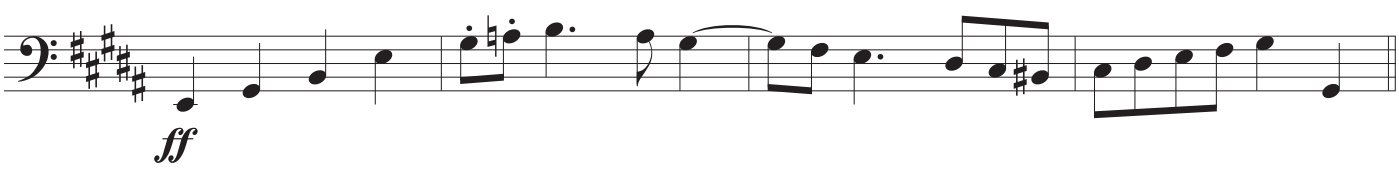

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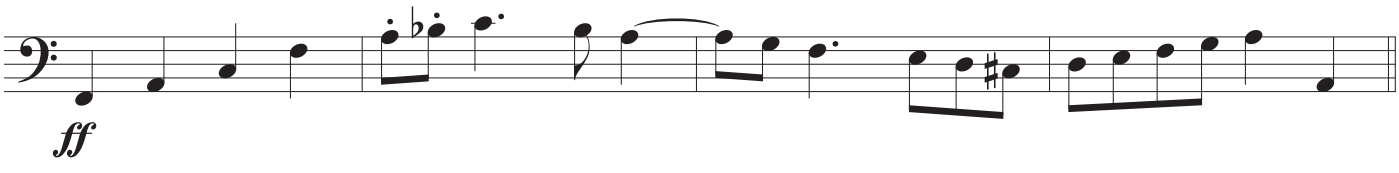

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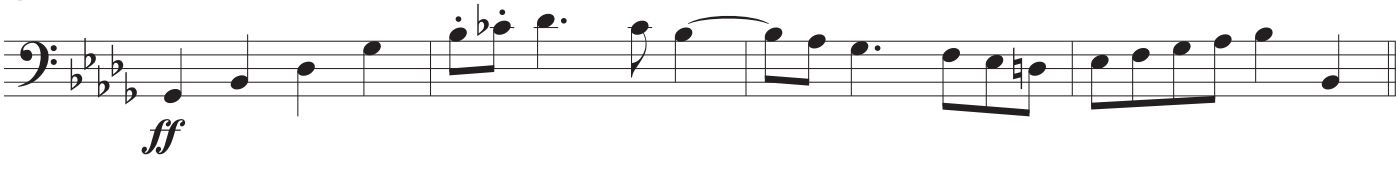

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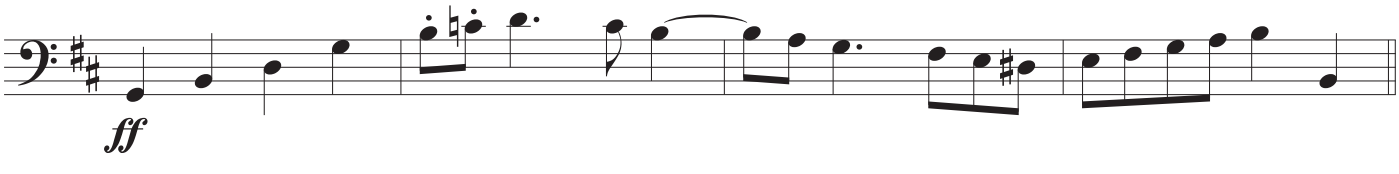
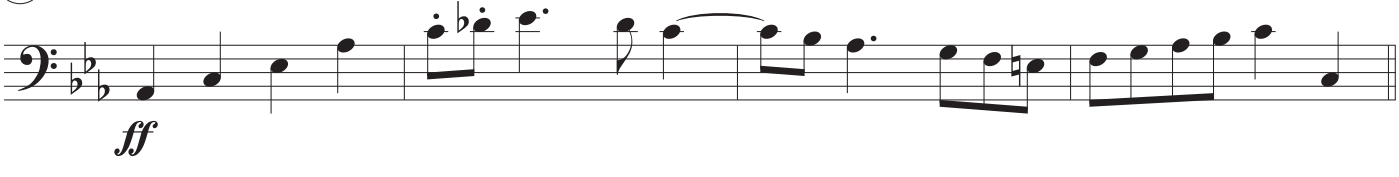
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