Concerto in G Minor

for Bassoon, Strings, and Basso Continuo

RV 495

(Op. 40, No. 20/P. 384/F VIII, No. 23/M 269)

Antonio Vivaldi

1678-1741

Edited by David A. Wells, 2013

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License

Critical Report

In this edition, I have strived to stay as close as possible to what Vivaldi wrote, using a copy of his autograph manuscript as my source. All the slurs and other articulation markings are his. I have added accidentals in places either as reminders (he did not always rewrite accidentals at the beginnings of bars when the preceding note was the same) or when the harmony suggests it is simply missing. The composer also sometimes used a flat symbol to cancel a previous sharp symbol or vice versa; I have adhered to the modern convention of using a natural symbol in these places. Accidentals I have added or changed appear in parentheses.

Creating a performing edition from Vivaldi's manuscript involves a good deal of fleshing out of his indications. Any time two parts are in unison (often an upper string playing with the basso), he simply directs that player to play the other part rather than writing it out a second time. Similarly, the last tutti section of the first movement is identical to measures 23-55. Rather than writing out these 33 bars again, Vivaldi writes a dal segno and places fermatas at the spot where the movement ends. Here, I have expanded all of the composer's shorthand.

In most of the tutti sections, Vivaldi indicates that the soloist should follow the basso continuo line. I have reproduced the bass line in the solo part with small noteheads in these spots. In the few places where Vivaldi did not make such an indication, I have left rests for the soloist.

Comments on specific measures or notes:

Presto

m. 93, BC: This measure in the basso part contains a single quarter note without dot or rest. I have added an eighth rest to bring it in line with the same bar in the solo part and the previous bars in the basso part.

m. 249-252 and 258-9, Bsn: The articulation markings at 258-9 are distinctly longer in Vivaldi's hand than those at 249-252. Thus, I have rendered the markings in 249-252 as staccati and those in 258-9 as wedges.

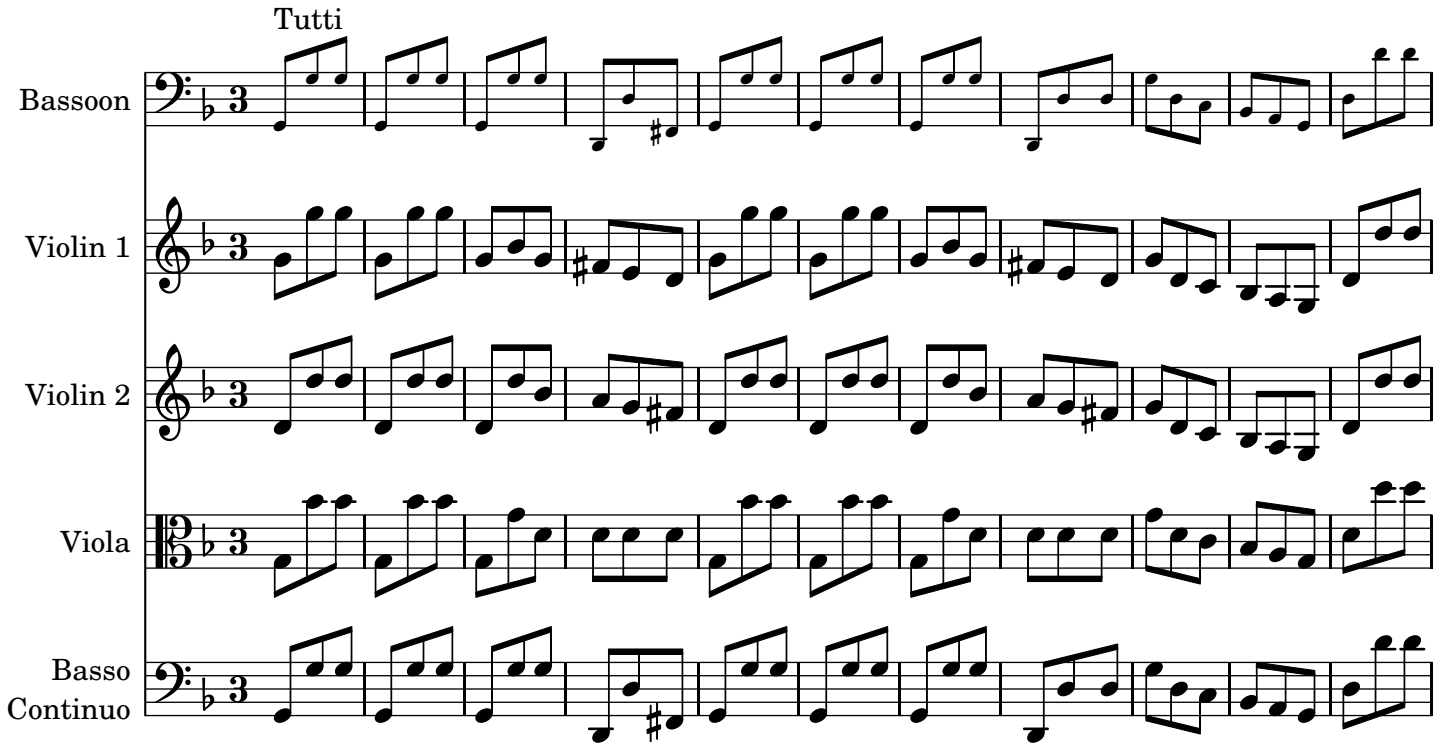
m. 293, Bsn: Because of the composer's use of a dal segno to save space, the final note of the movement is the same as the first note of the solo part. I have changed it from an eighth note to a quarter note to match the other parts.

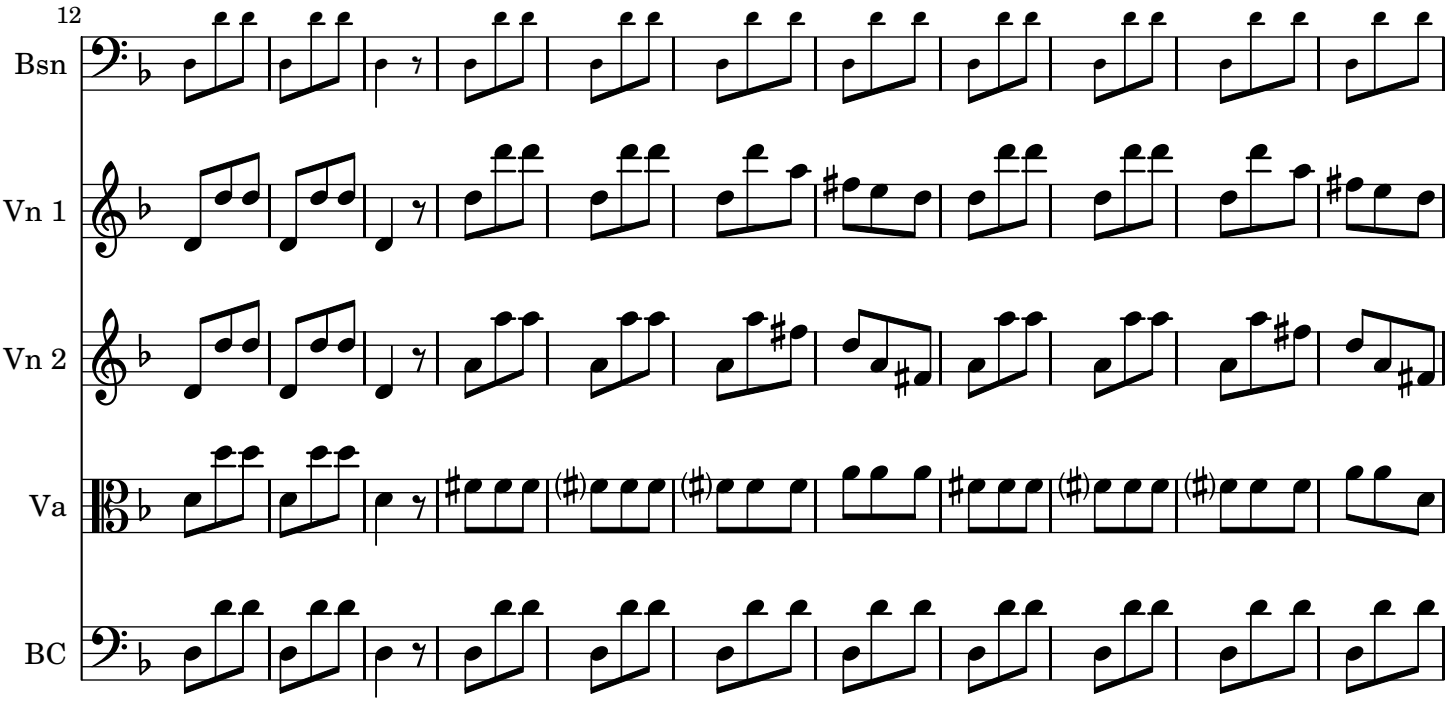
Allegro

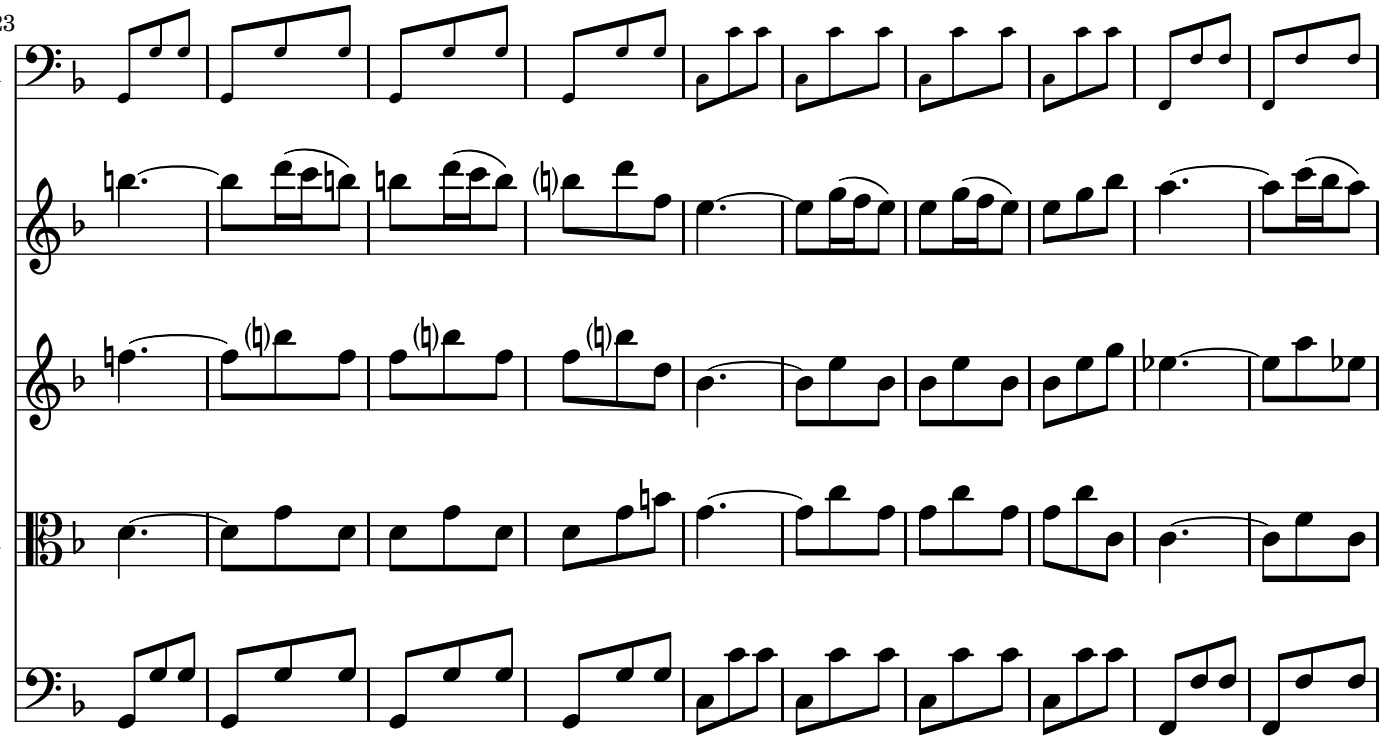
m. 62, Bsn: Vivaldi left beats three and four of this measure blank. I have added a quarter note E-flat on beat three to complete the cadence.

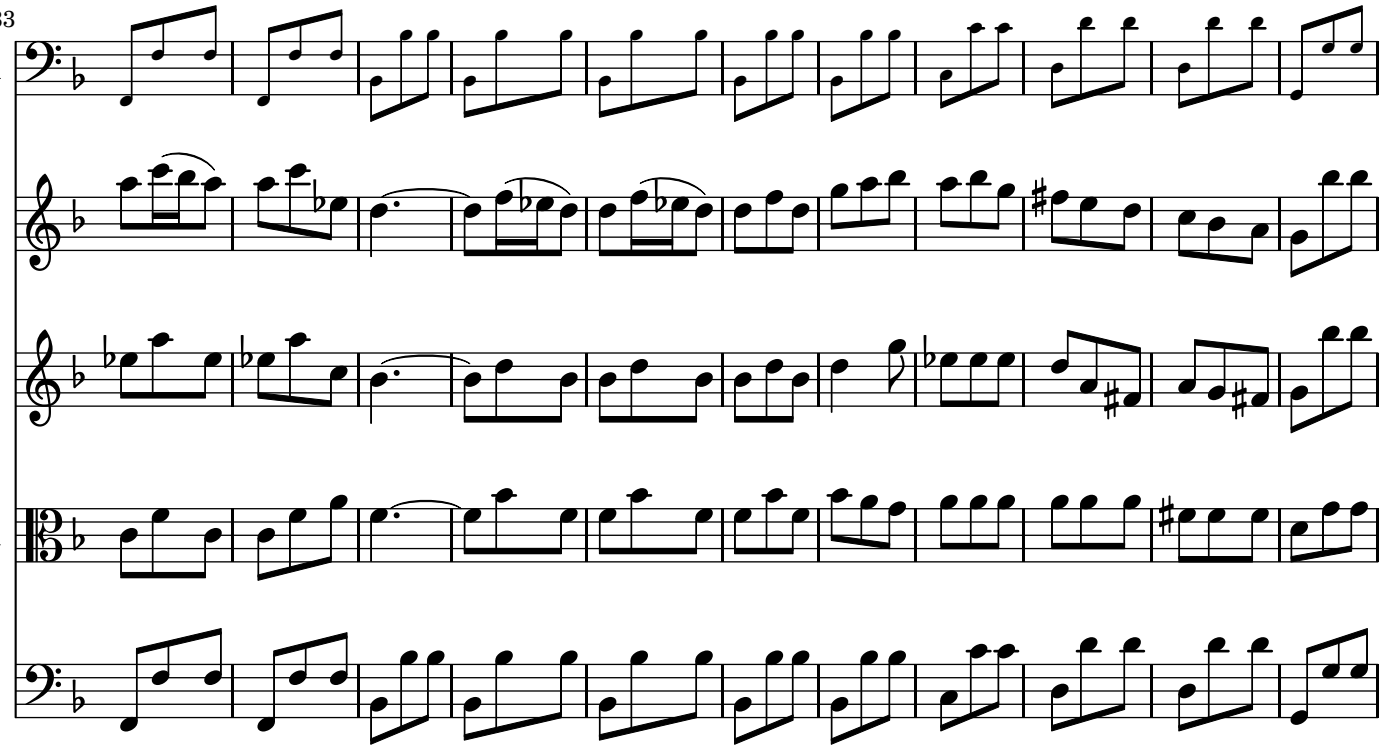
m. 65, BC: The fourth note in this measure is clearly a G-sharp in the composer's hand, but given the harmonic and motivic context, F-sharp seems more appropriate.

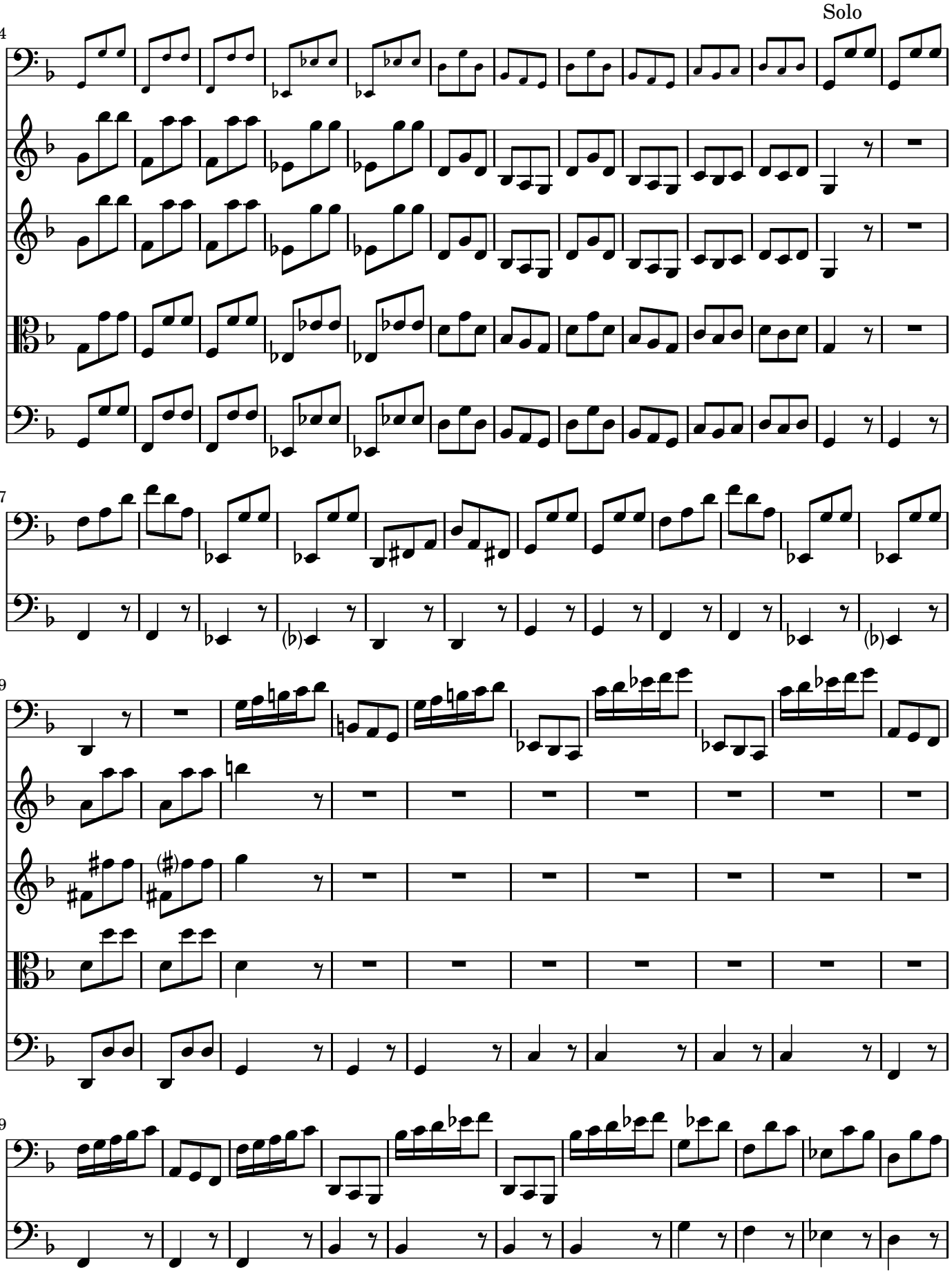
Presto

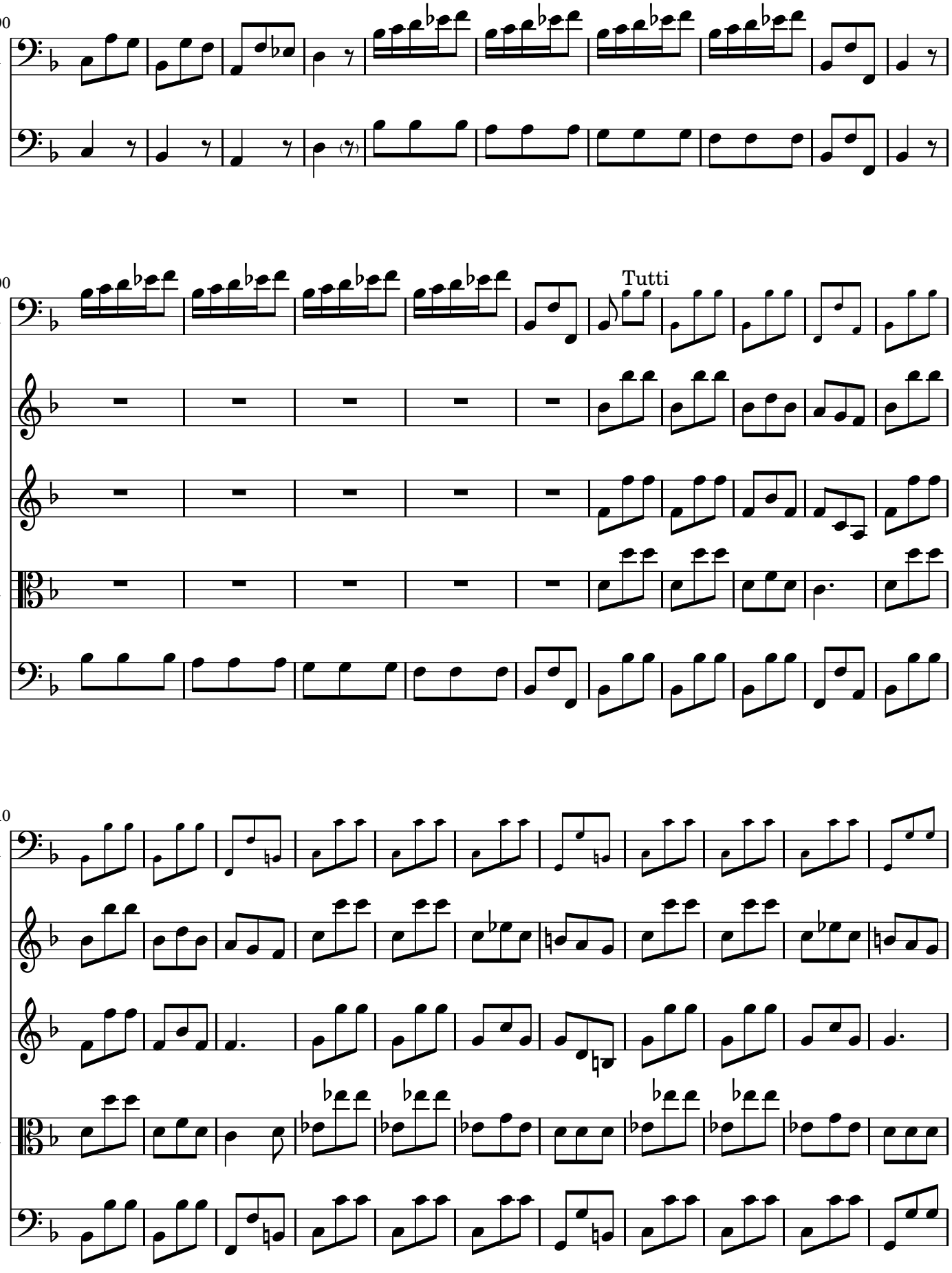

Tutti
Bassoon
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Basso Continuo

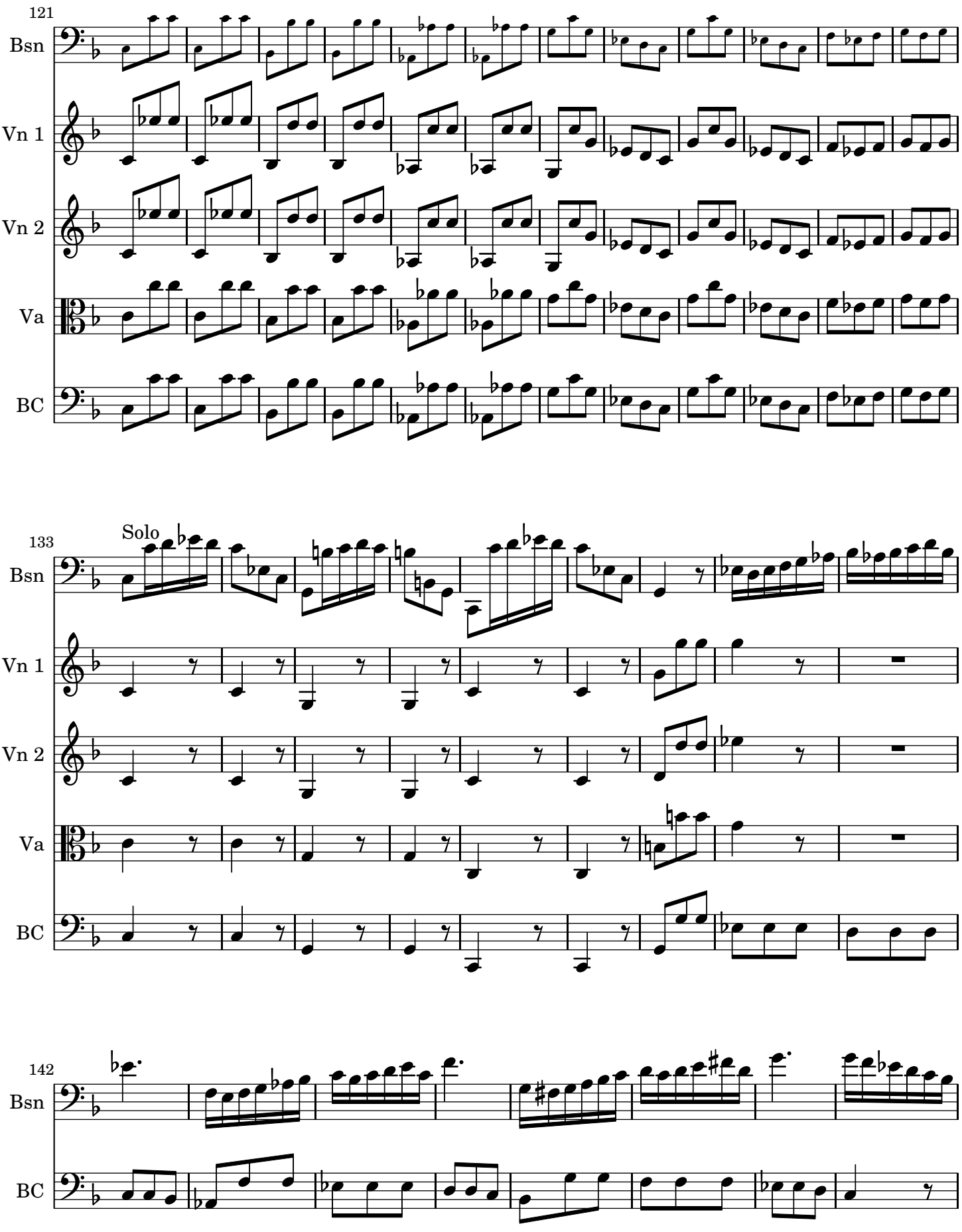

12
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC

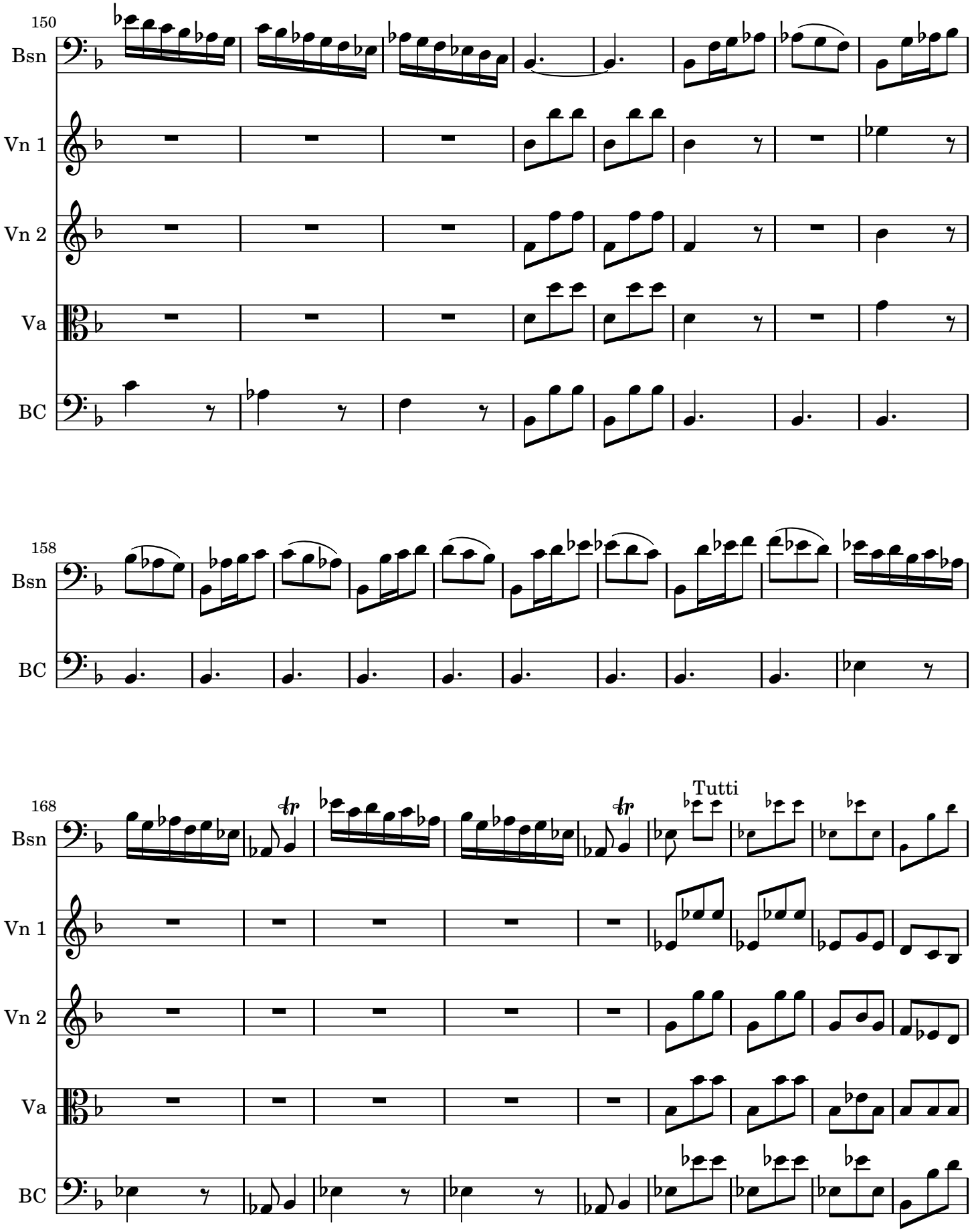

23
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC

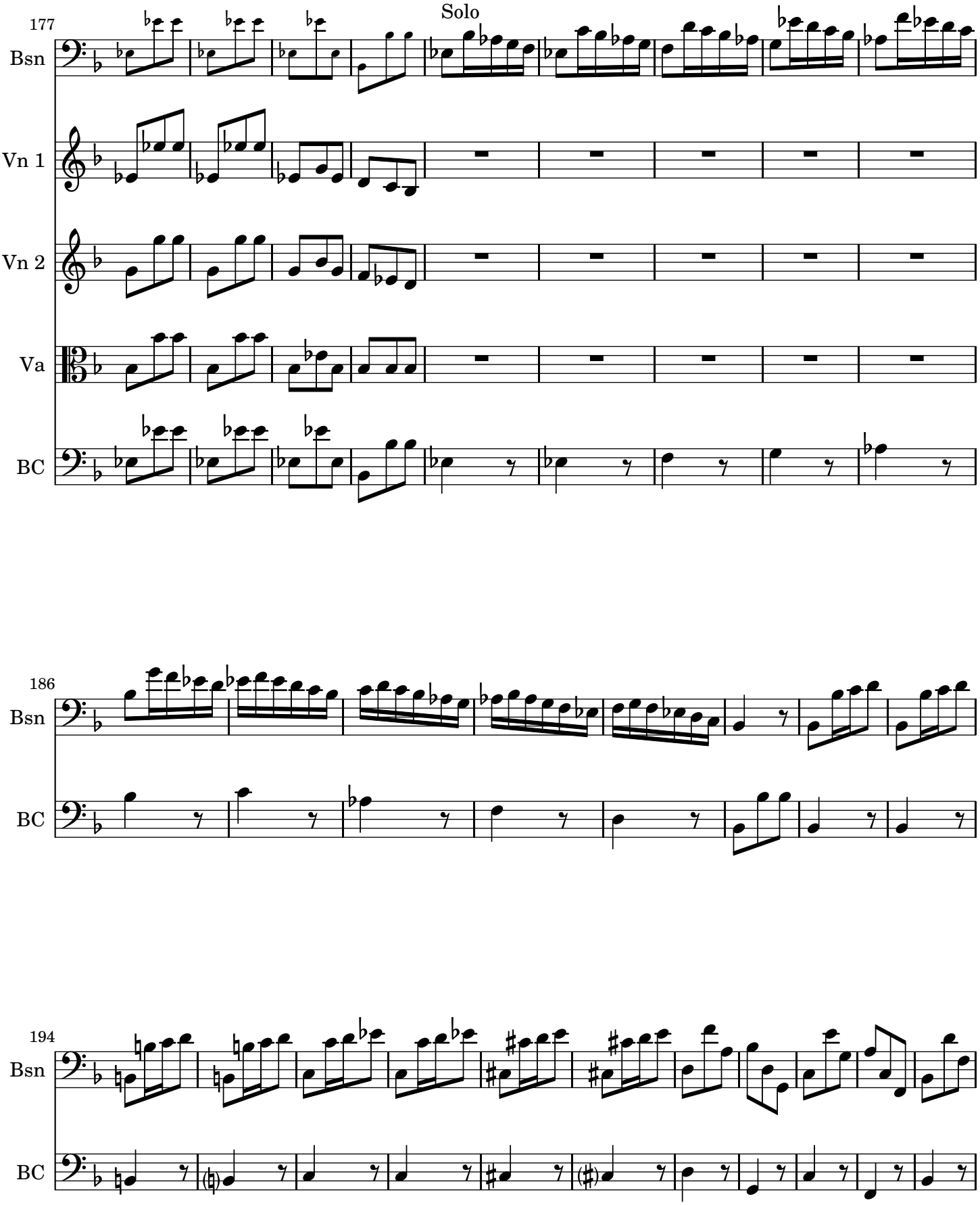

33
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC

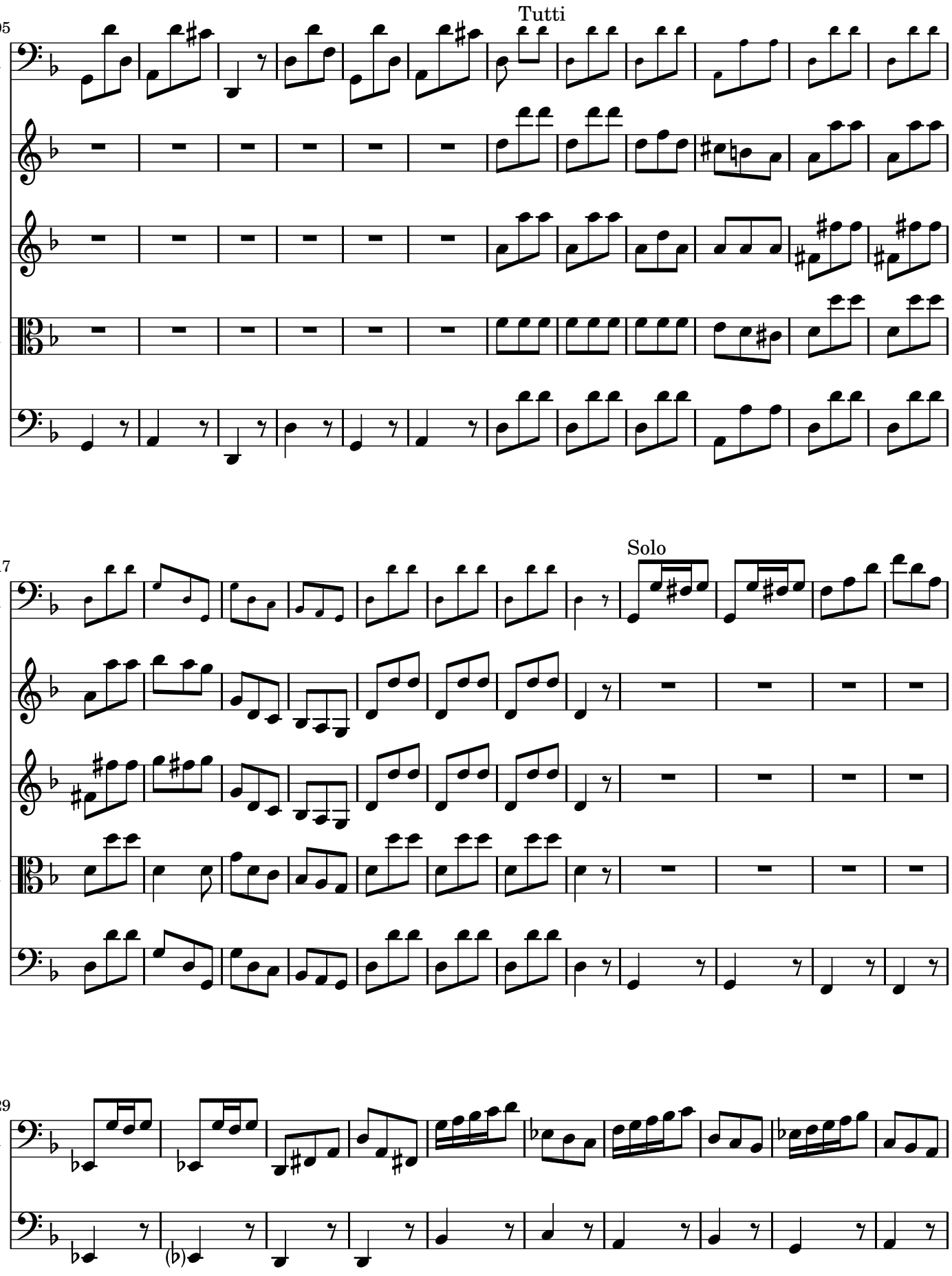

Solo
44
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
57
Bsn
BC
69
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
79
Bsn
BC

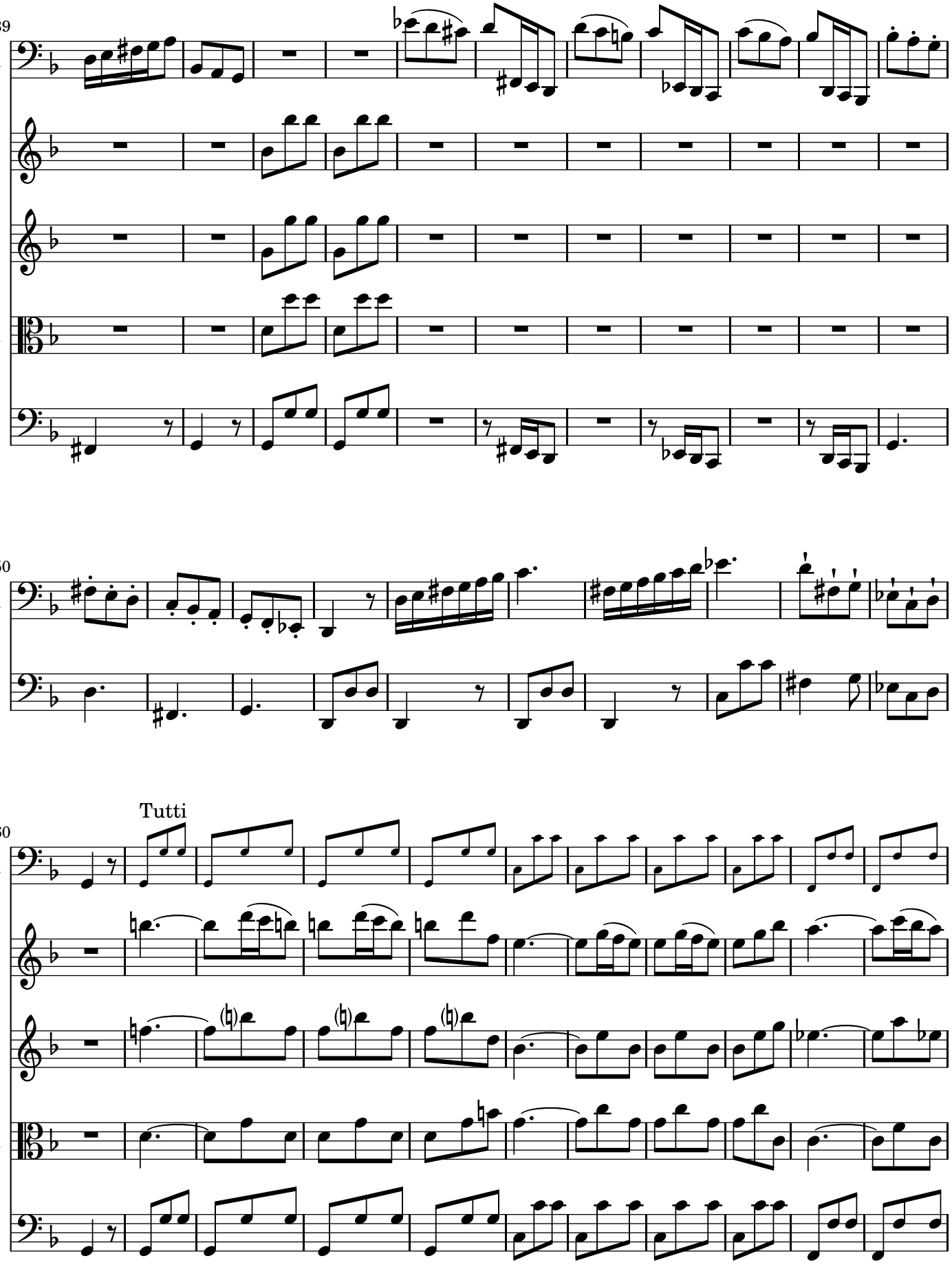

90
Bsn
BC
100
Tutti
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
110
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC

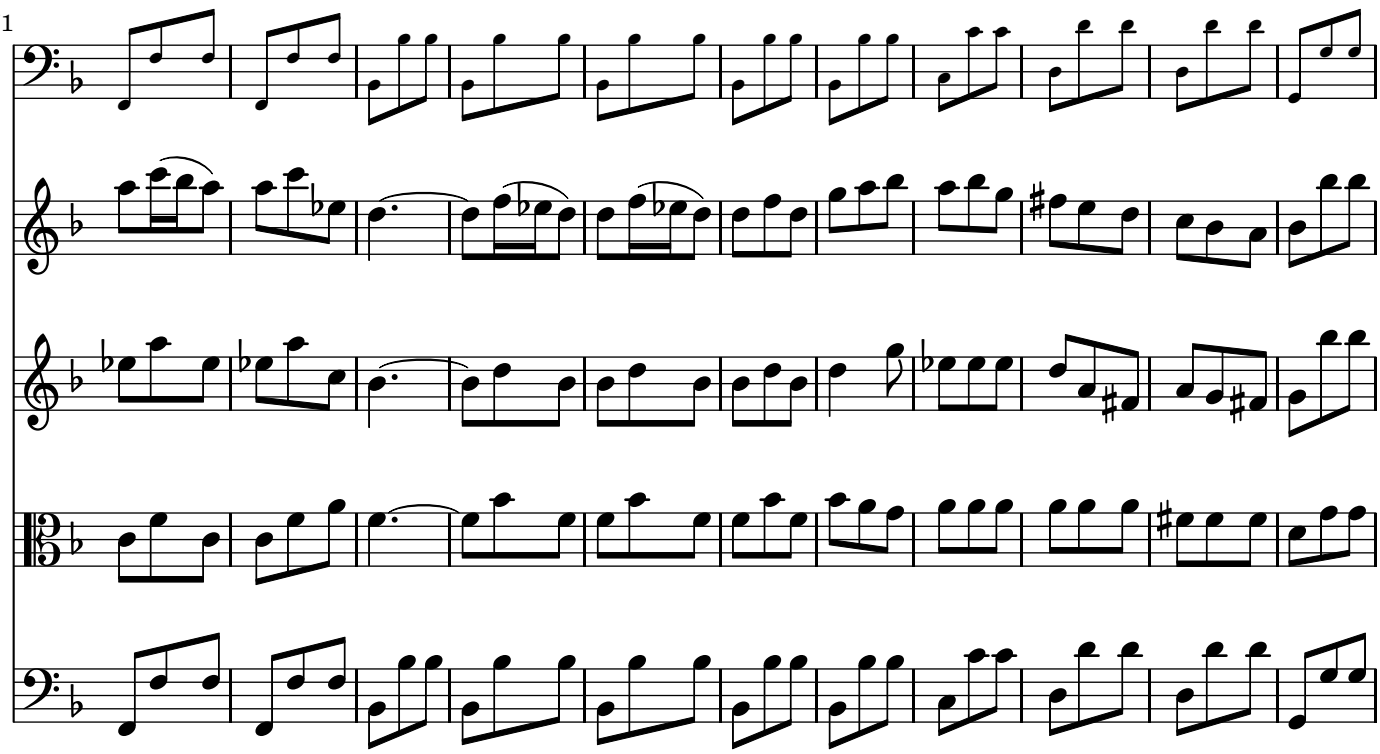

121
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
133
Solo
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
142
Bsn
BC

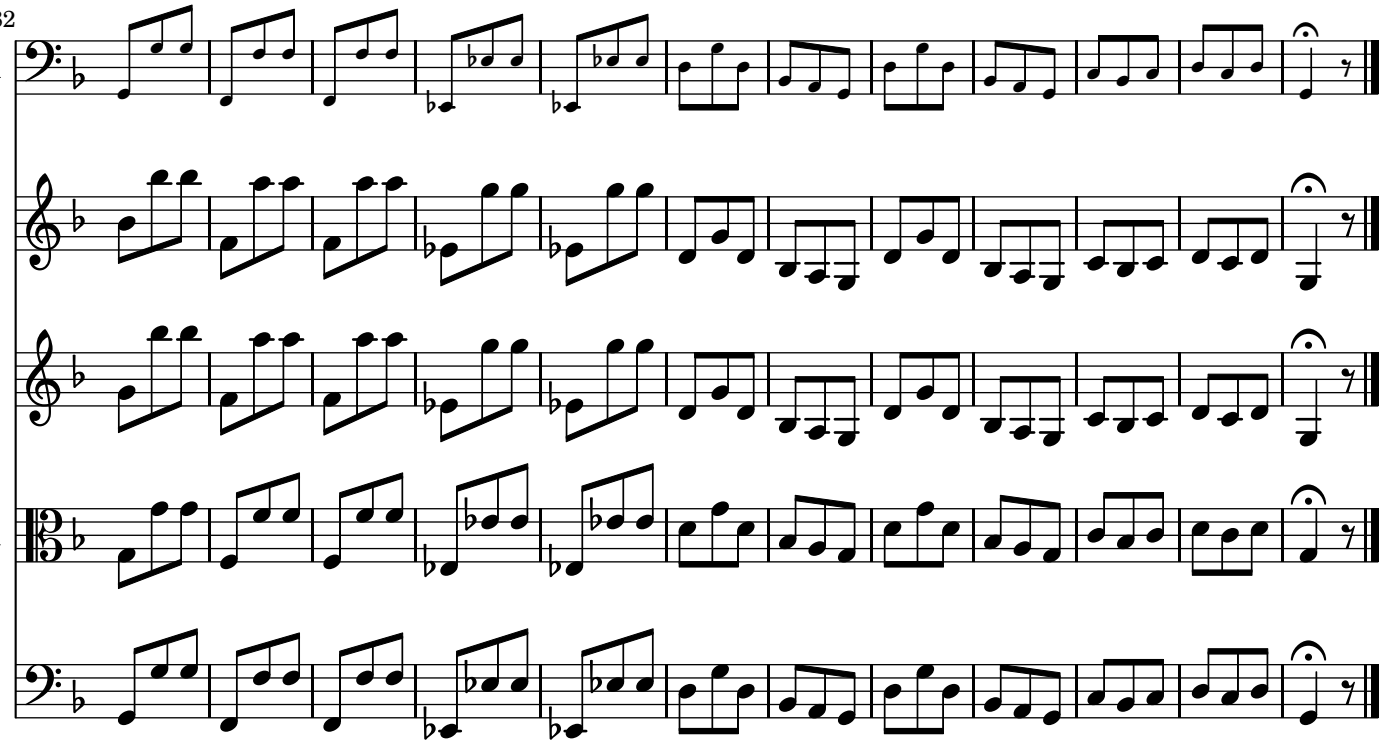

150
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
158
Bsn
BC
168
Bsn
Tutti
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC


177
Solo
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
186
Bsn
BC
194
Bsn
BC

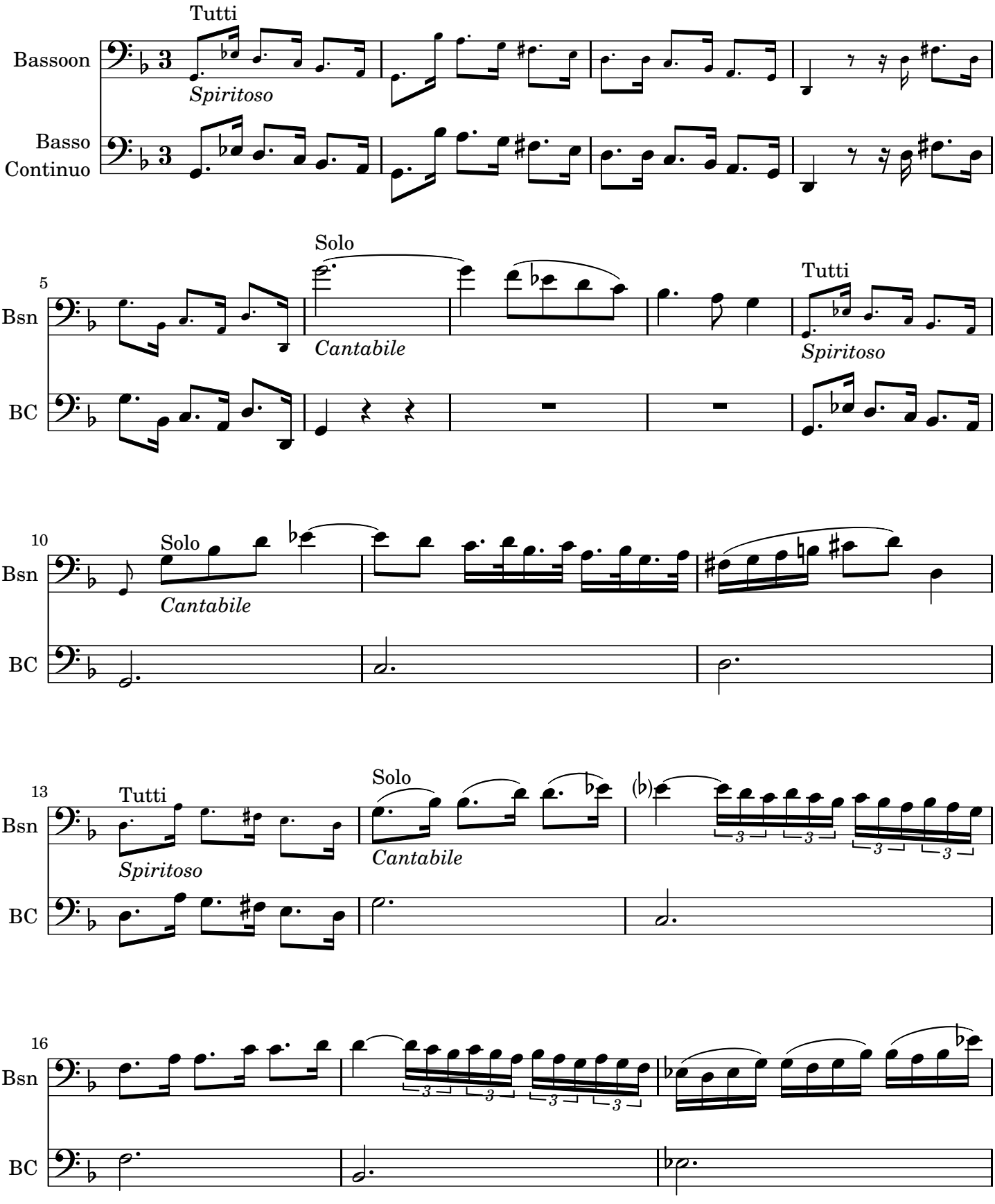

205
Tutti
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
217
Solo
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
229
Bsn
BC

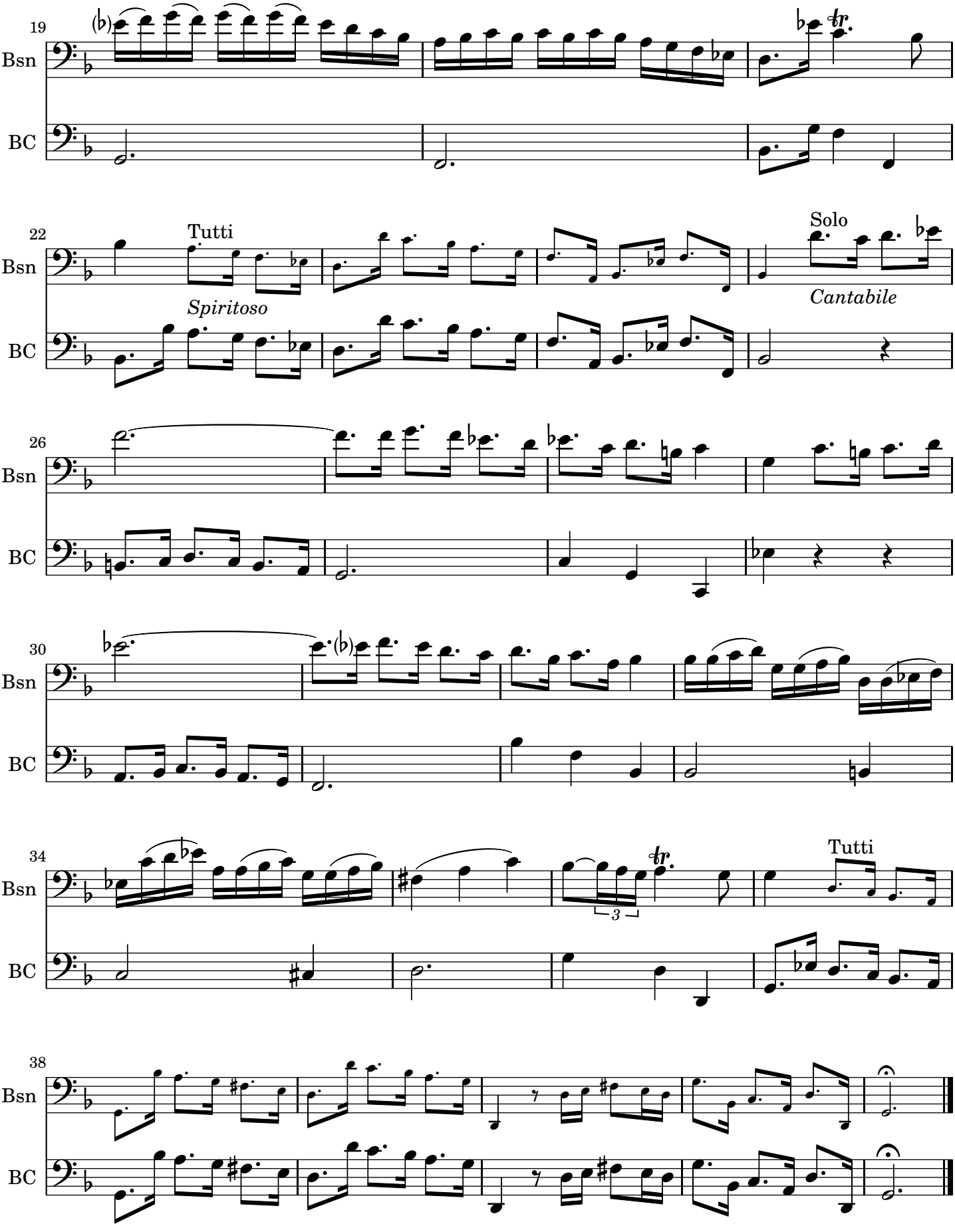

239
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
250
Bsn
BC
Tutti
260
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC


271
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC

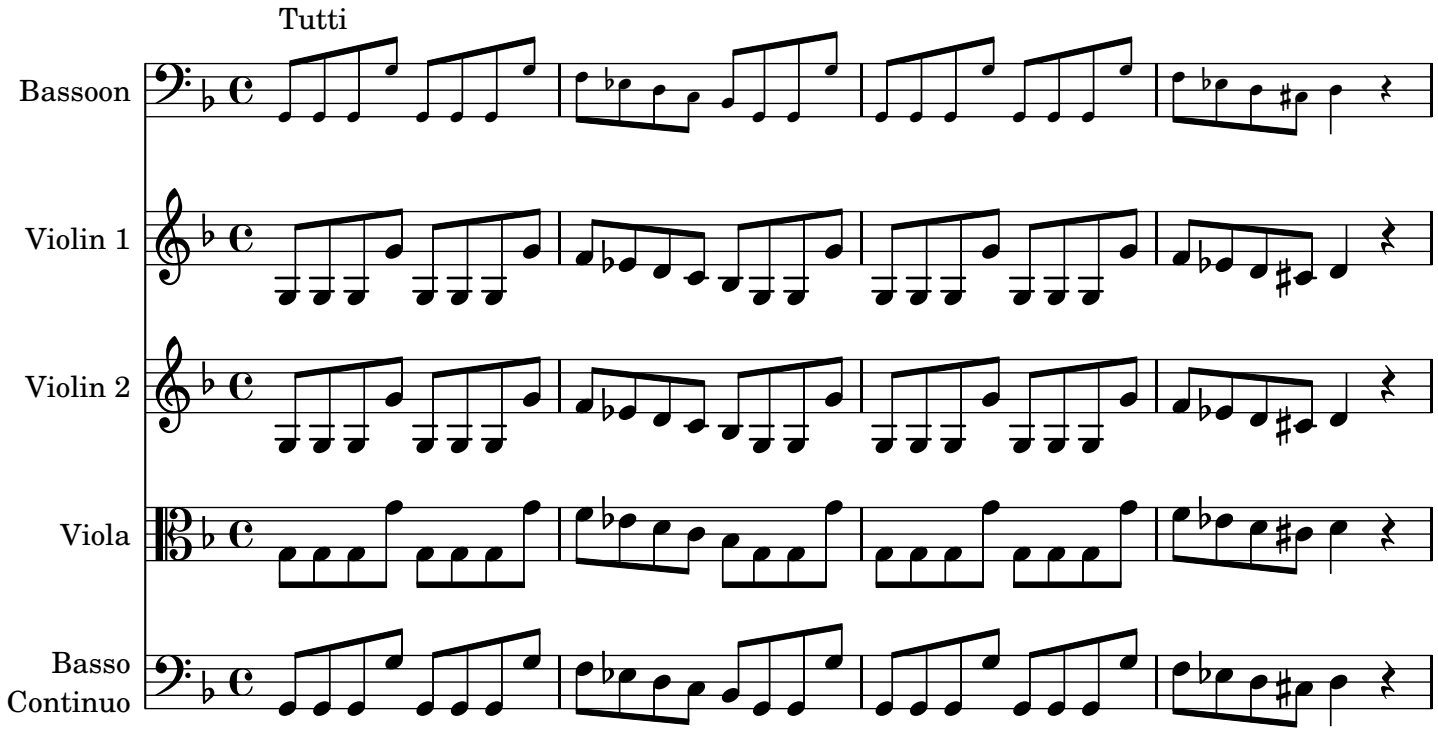

282
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC

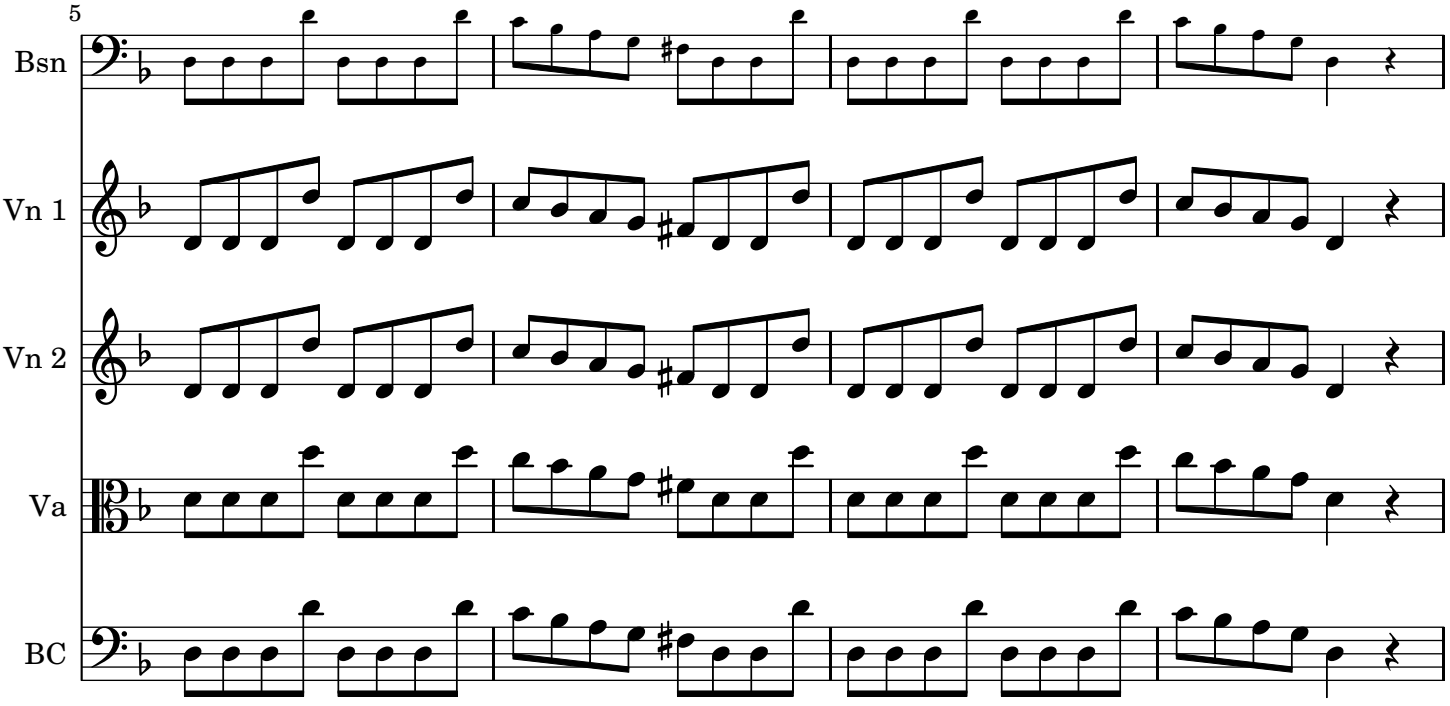
Largo

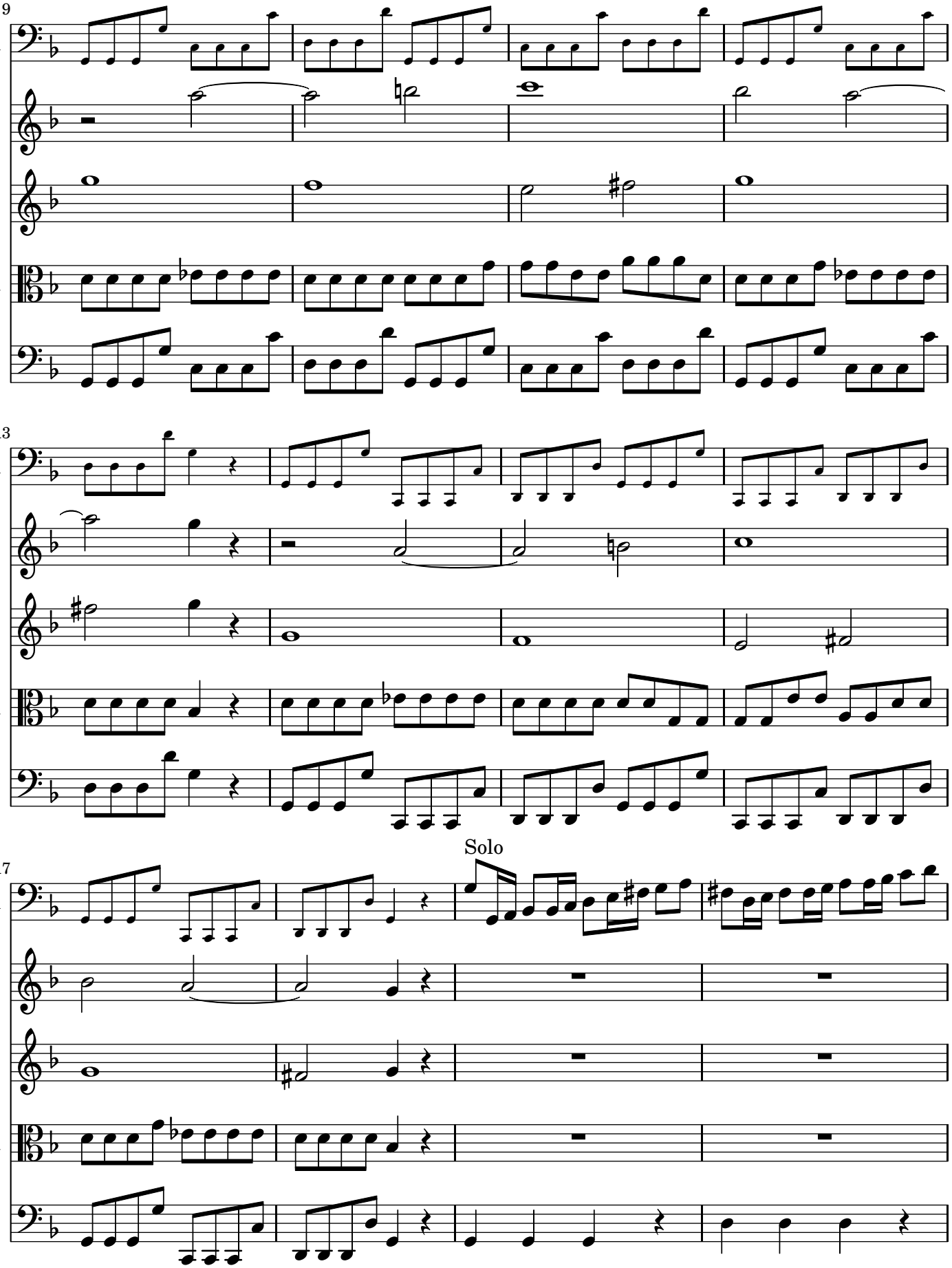

Tutti
Bassoon
Spiritoso
Basso Continuo
5
Solo
Cantabile
Tutti
Spiritoso
Bsn
BC
10
Solo
Cantabile
13
Tutti
Spiritoso
Solo
Cantabile
16

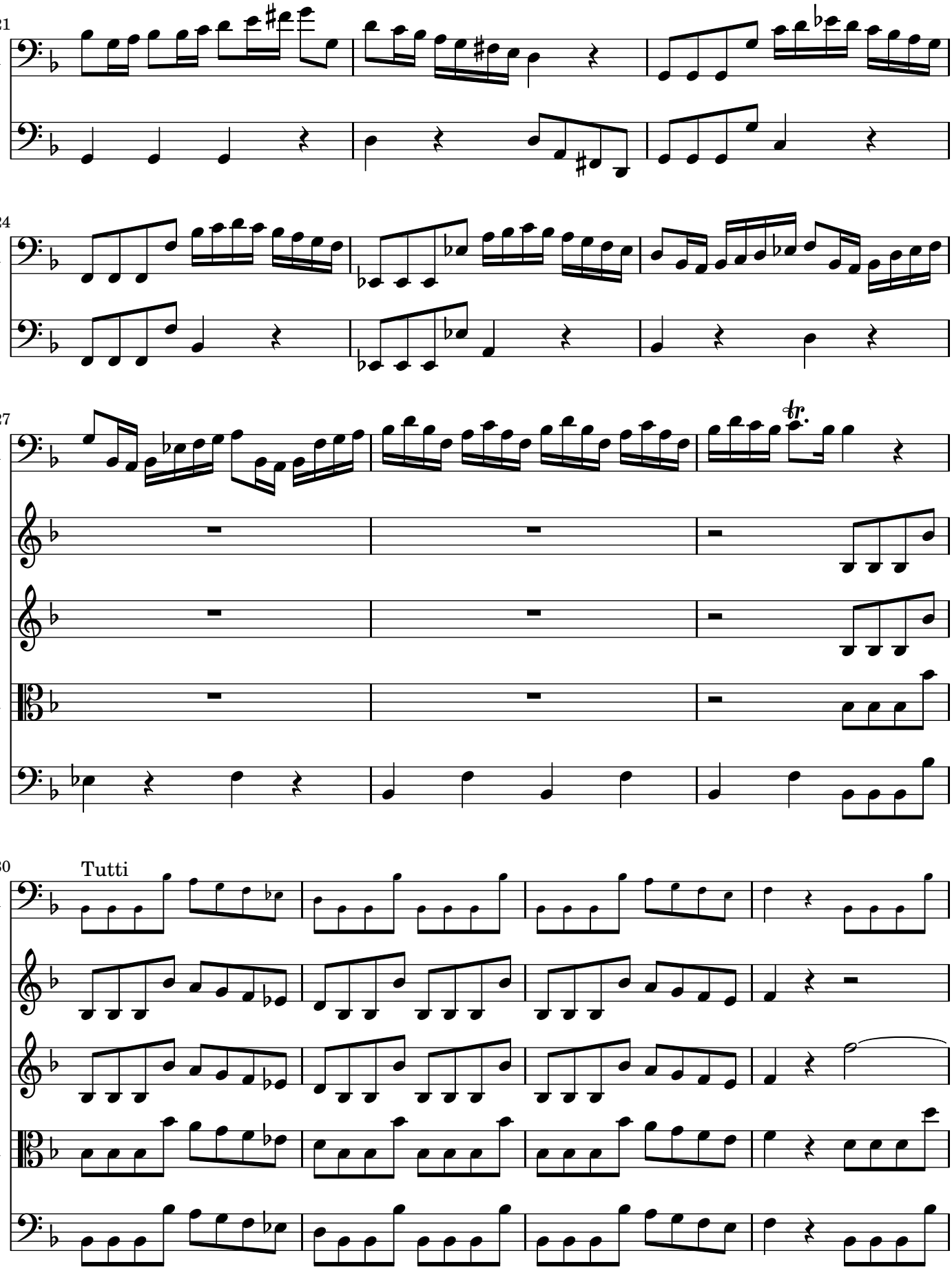

19
Bsn
BC
22
Tutti
Spiritoso
Solo
Cantabile
26
30
34
Tutti
38

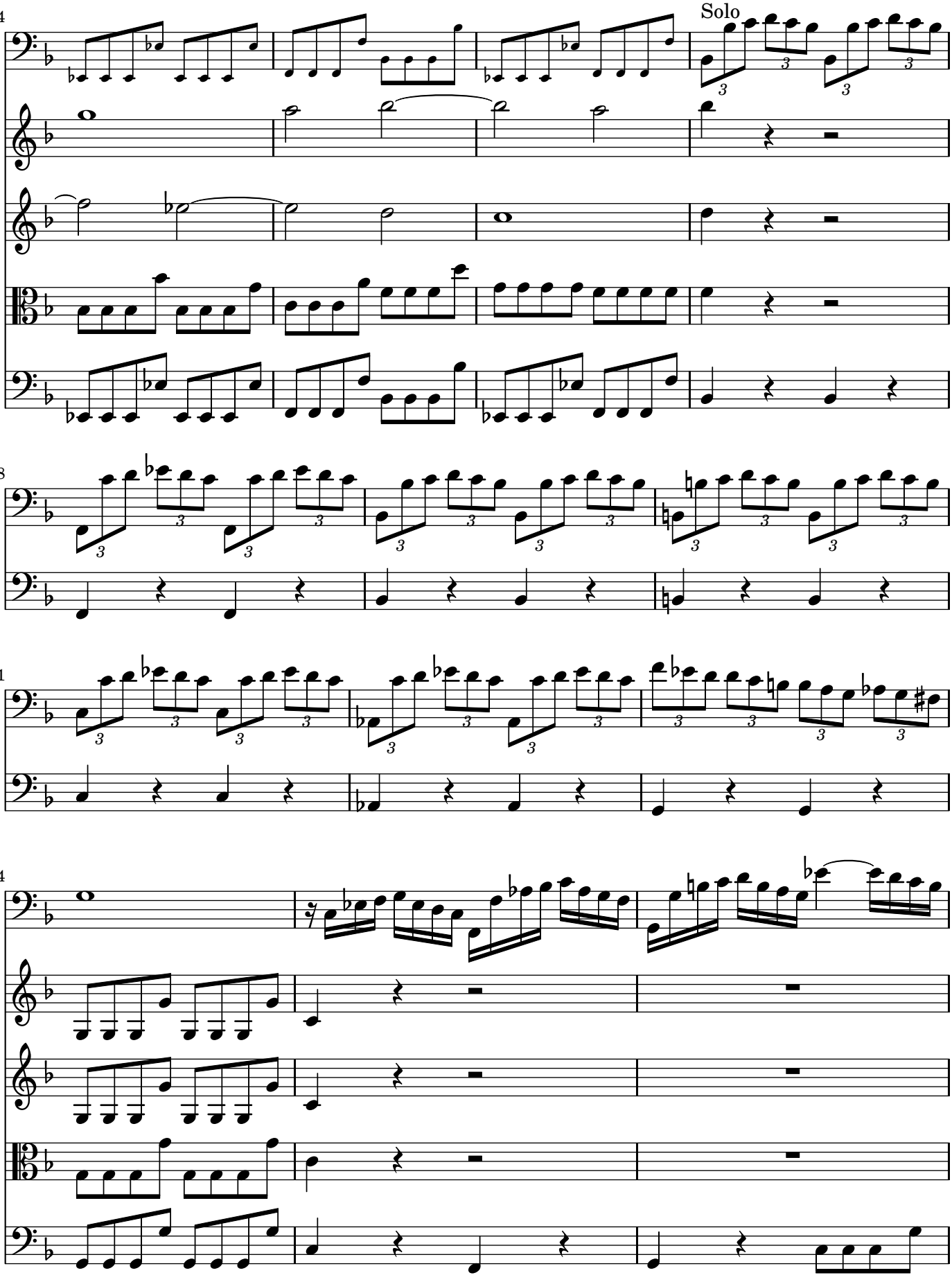
Allegro

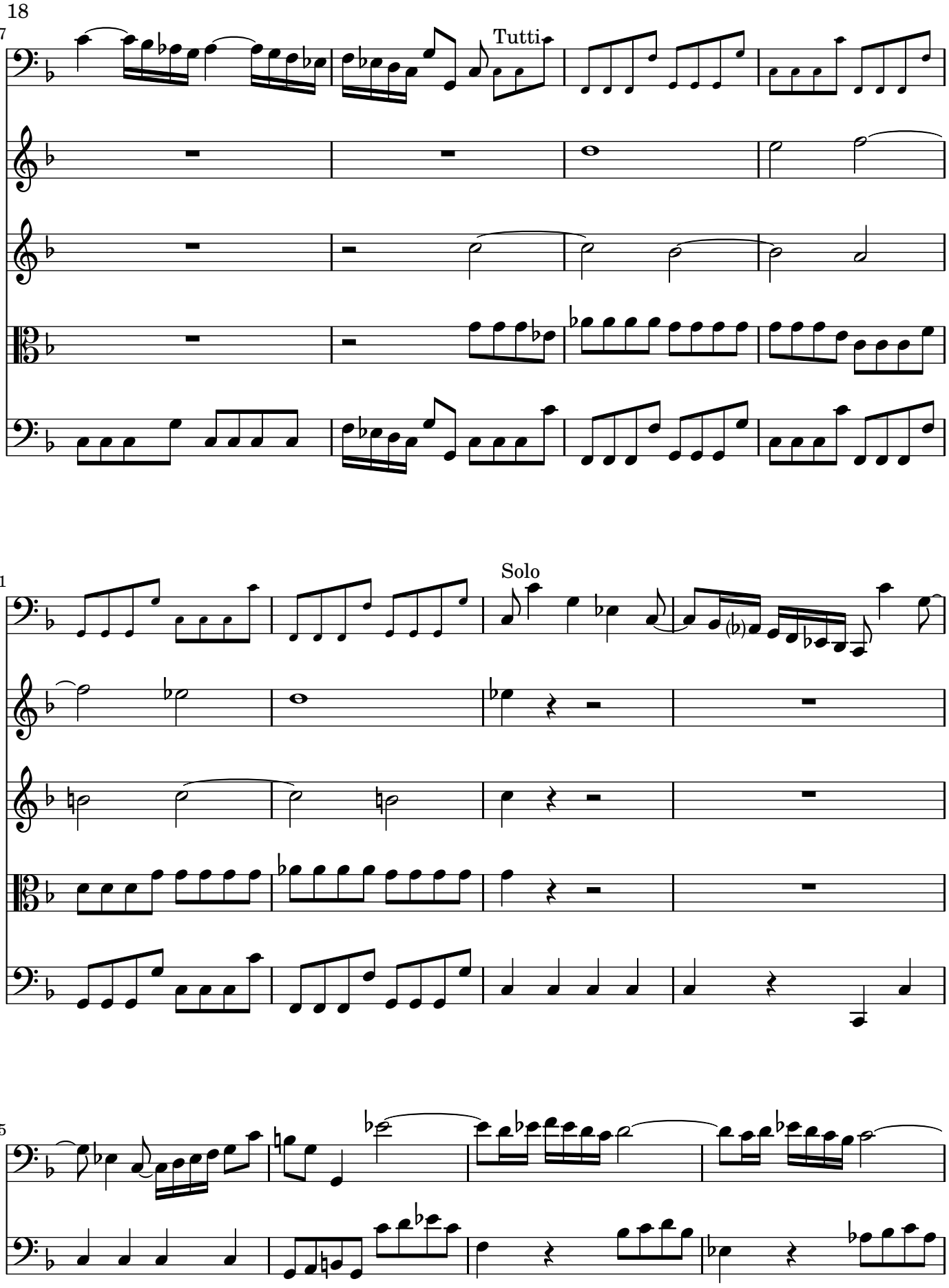

Tutti
Bassoon
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Basso Continuo

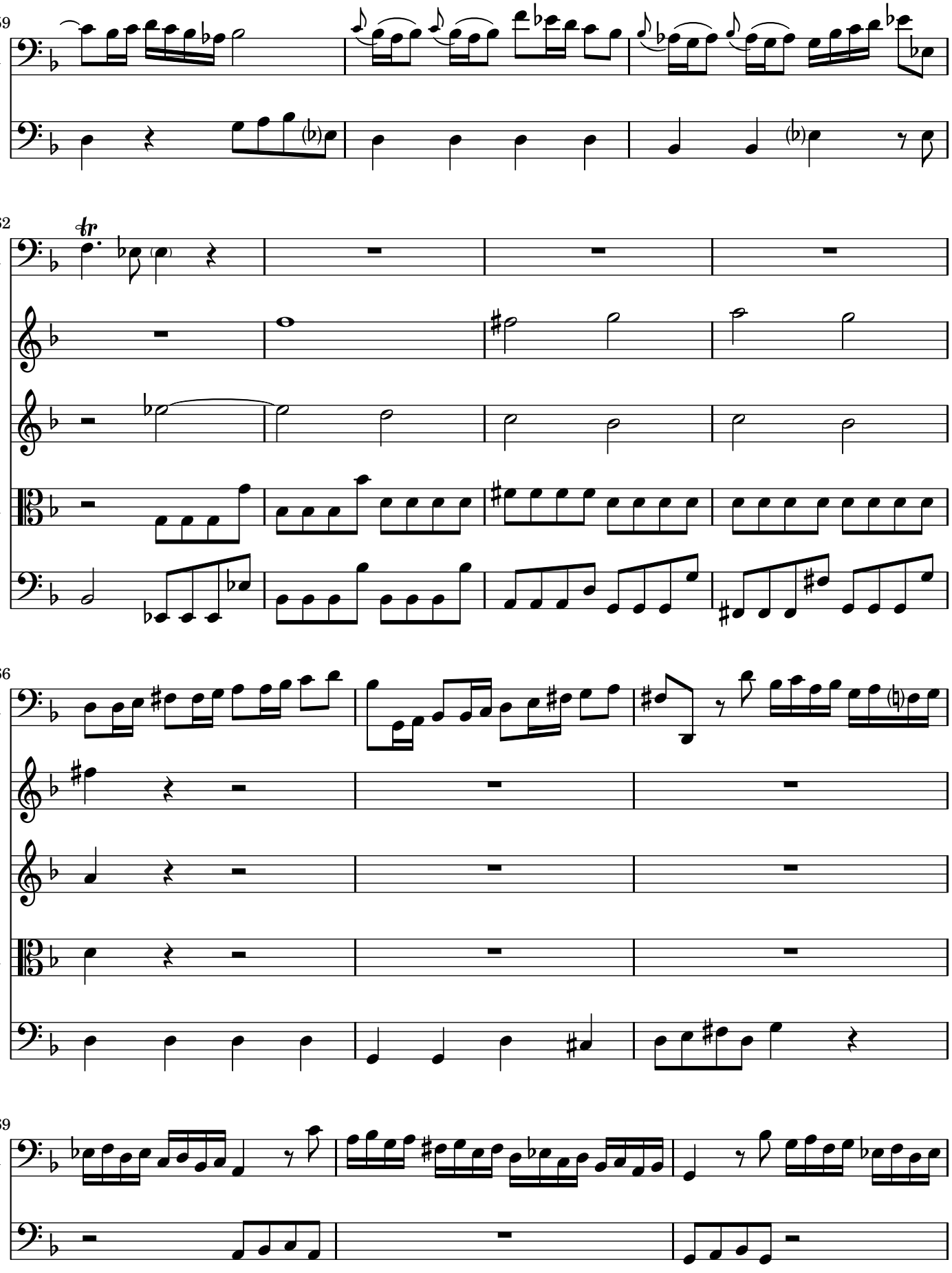

5
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC

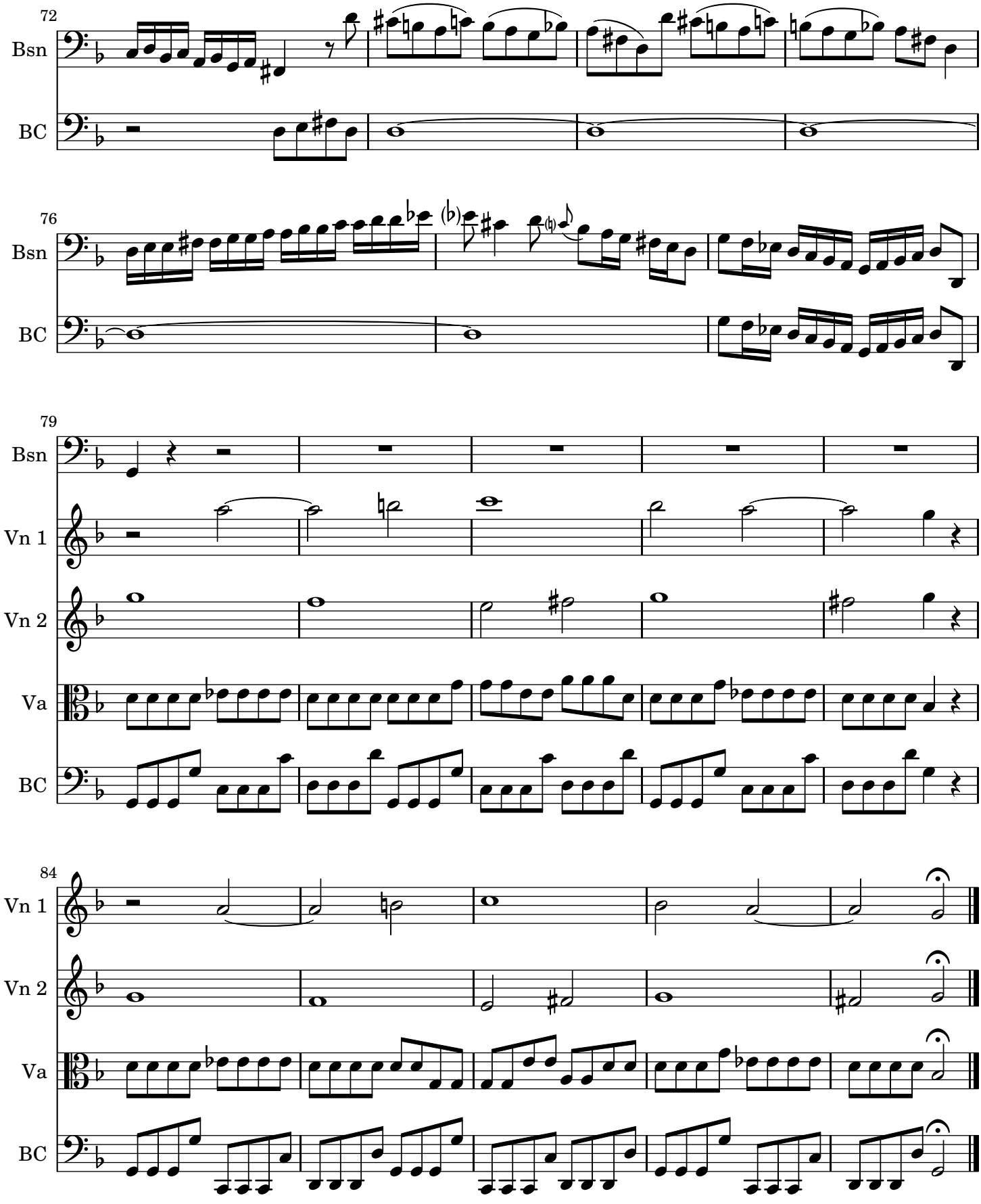

9
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
13
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
17
Solo
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC


21
Bsn
BC
24
Bsn
BC
27
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
30
Tutti
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC


34
Solo
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
38
Bsn
BC
41
Bsn
BC
44
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC


18
47
Bsn
Tutti
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
51
Solo
55


59
Bsn
BC
62
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
66
Bsn
Vn 1
Vn 2
Va
BC
69
Bsn
BC



Edited by David A. Wells, 2013 • davidawells.com
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License