Mellophone
Information Packet

2025

Reach for the Star

ATLANTA CV
drum & bugle corps

ALL-AGE
CLASS

MESSAGE FROM THE CORPS DIRECTOR

Congratulations on taking the first steps towards joining the South's premier All-Age Drum and Bugle corps! We are thrilled you are interested in becoming a part of the CV Family. The 2025 season marks CV's 28th season of all-age drum corps competition. 2024 also marks the 2nd season of the DCI All-Age Class! Our 2024 membership finished the season with a memorable experience at the DCI All-Age Championships in Lucas Oil Stadium. As we move forward, Atlanta CV is continuing to build a foundation to propel the organization into continued organizational growth, competitive heights, and the unparalleled education of a new generation of drum corps fans! We want YOU to be a part of this journey!

At the forefront of the 2025 journey will be Atlanta CV's Mission: *To foster within each member world-class performance and personal skills through a positive and challenging marching arts program emphasizing character, work ethic, and teamwork.* Atlanta CV's Core Values of **EDUCATION, EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY, RESPECT,** and **SAFETY** are the pillars that will serve as the foundation of our work in order to provide our membership with the best possible experience.

This packet contains the first step in joining our amazing organization. We are excited to be holding two rounds of auditions this year in search of the most committed, hardest working, talented, group of members we can find. As we embark on the 2025 season, Atlanta CV will only be as successful as the members who are chosen to represent our organization. We are thankful for your commitment to the audition, however, the formal "audition" is just ONE part of the process and just ONE part of the evaluation to seek members who are committed to the opportunity to develop and refine artistic, athletic, performance, and personal skills through a positive, high-quality, and challenging arts education programs that emphasize character building, a strong work ethic, teamwork, and the pursuit of performance excellence. We have an incredibly talented and experienced staff. Most are degreed music educators belonging to GMEA and Nafme – and all are very experienced in the performing arts. Your talent and motivation, combined with their instruction and design, will make 2025 Atlanta CV an exceptional experience you will cherish.

Whether you are looking at building your experience or continuing your love of the marching and performance arts, we are grateful you have chosen to ***Reach for the Star*** in 2025!

Sincerely,

Russell Thompson

Russ Thompson
Executive Director

Welcome Prospective CV Member

Open House Camps are the first steps toward becoming a part of Atlanta CV, and we're glad you've made the decision to join (or continue your journey with) the CV family! This audition packet provides you with important information about audition weekend, the audition process, and what it takes to become a member of Atlanta CV.

Please read everything carefully, complete the information where requested, and make sure you have this entire packet with you during your audition.

I. ABOUT ATLANTA CV

The Atlanta CV Drum & Bugle Corps is an open class drum and bugle corps participating in Drum Corps Associates (DCA) from the state of Georgia. Atlanta CV performs under our parent 501(c)3 not for profit organization, CorpsVets, Inc. The corps is a musical performance organization which consists of members playing brass and percussion instruments and spinning flags, rifles and sabers to superb achievement levels with high energy, excitement, and entertainment. The performance and competitive season take place during the summer months where we will perform at several drum and bugle corps competitions culminating at the DCI Championships held at Lucas Oil Stadium in August. The 2025 season will mark our 28th year of continuous, competitive operation.

The recent demographics of the corps include members from ages 14 to 48. Occupations range from high school and college students to lawyers, band directors, engineers, scientists and medical professionals. Primary membership is from the immediate Atlanta area, but because of the corps' great reputation for excellence we also draw members from all over the country including the states of Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi.

In the past 8 seasons, Atlanta CV has excitedly welcomed a new era of highlights with the best competitive and innovative stretch in its history.

- **2017;** Atlanta CV saw its highest placement in the corps history with a 2nd place finish, the highest score, DCA 1st Place Color Guard, Director of the Year Award, largest corps and the largest horn line in the corps' 24-year history.
- **2018;** was another high achievement year for the corps and its members with a 3rd place finish in the DCA World Championships.
- **2019;** Atlanta CV saw continued motion as a new powerhouse in DCA with another 2nd Place finish and DCA 1st Place Color Guard.
- **2020-2021;** Atlanta CV finished as a Top-3 corps in DCA; DCA 1st Place Color Guard and 1st Place Percussion
- **2022;** 2nd place finish in DCA Open Class; 1st Place Percussion; Director of the Year.
- **2023;** 4th place finish in DCA World Class; Director of the Year.
- **2024:** 4th place finish in DCI All-Age World Class; 2nd largest corps in its history.

II. WHAT TO BRING

- A three-ring binder with clear plastic sheets – this will contain sectional information, handouts, schedules and should be kept organized in clear sheet protectors. ANY information you could possibly use, or need should be in this binder.
- Pens, sharpened or mechanical pencils, sharpies, highlighters – Have a pencil with you at all times. Notes will be taken at every rehearsal and at all meetings. Write down everything!
- Gloves – Cotton gloves are required for all corps owned horns, types with grips are okay. Leather or other materials are not permitted.

- WATER JUG
- Equipment – Corps-owned equipment will be available, though we strongly recommend you bring your own for rehearsal and audition, as we are limited in the number of corps-owned equipment.
- While some meals, on certain days during the summer will be provided by CV; rehearsal weekend meals are not provided by CV. Please, always read over the information for each weekend, so you know what to expect.

If you have any additional questions, please contact your section leader/section staff member. Our BandApp, social media, and info@atlantacv.org are great places to have questions answered quickly.

III. REHEARSAL/COMPETITION ATTENDANCE

We do expect everyone to attend all rehearsals and **ALL** competitions. However, we understand that conflicts can arise and pre-arranged events that deal with school. We ask for transparency with your schedule as we are providing the same to you. You can request a "Band Director Conflict Letter" for those in high school or college that will include a copy of our season schedule. This form can be signed by your band director, you and your parent(s) and returned and will be included in your membership folder. This will help keep conflicts at a minimum between the corps and your school.

NON-COMMUNICATION IS UNACCEPTABLE!

The full season schedule will be released before the audition weekend, so you will know every date you are expected to be with Atlanta CV. Please look it over completely before signing a contract. It is imperative that you communicate with your section staff and CV administration on any conflicts you may have, ASAP. *The schedule will be updated periodically and posted in BandApp, on the website, and on social media platforms.*

NOTE: If you are in school during the Championship Dates *(August 8th through August 10th, 2024)* please start to communicate as soon as possible to any school administration and band directors to get approval for this time with Atlanta CV. Many teachers and band directors are understanding so long as you are a good, responsible student, a plan can be worked out that helps keep your commitment to both Atlanta CV and school/band/work, etc.

If you will miss any or all weekend, you must contact *your caption head, section instructor, section leader and administration* as soon as you know of the conflict. See contact information below.

IV. LOGISTICS

You are responsible for your own travel to and from rehearsal weekends as well as any local shows. Many of our members carpool together. Social media is the best place to communicate if carpooling is something you are interested in pursuing.

RSVPs are DUE by the date listed in the RSVP description. Staff and administration need to know these details for rehearsal facilities, music, administration items, and many more details...all to provide an experience of the highest quality!

We will request each and every member to RSVP for each camp weekend. You will receive communication about the weekend schedule prior to each camp, and will need to notify the administration,the caption head, section staff member, section leader, as well as to info@atlantacv.org in the event of any conflicts.

V. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Yes, there is a cost to audition and to be a member of this organization. While we only ask you to pay a small part of what the total cost is to run the organization, your part is vital and a mandatory commitment that you agree to when you accept a spot with Atlanta CV.

We also expect you to follow the payment schedule and communicate with administration. More detailed information will be provided regarding tuition cost when you audition. We will have a parent meeting after registration to go over all the details.

Fees:
All fees will be clearly communicated out in the *Member Contract and the Member Tuition and Fees document*.

- There is a **one-time** audition fee for 2025:
    - $100.00 - This fee **will count** towards Membership Tuition if contracted with ACV in 2025

Fees may be paid via check, cash, Venmo, PayPal or via the CV store at: www.atlantacv.org/shop

Fundraising:
Atlanta CV has several fundraisers throughout the season.

Sponsorships:
Some members do well in finding sponsorships from the community, friends, and family. However, it is up to each member to seek out sponsors and maintain communication with them regarding their contributions.

VI. PAPERWORK

Please complete the Waiver of Liability form provided. You cannot participate in Open House activities/audition without this form. *If you are a minor member under the age of 18, your form must be signed by a parent or guardian.* If selected to be a member of Atlanta CV, there will be a required medical form for all members.

VII. CORPSDATA PROFILE

CorpsData.net is the database system used by the Atlanta CV administrative team. It is the main information source for everyone involved with the corps, including members, staff, volunteers, parents and applicants. Before you travel to the audition camp(s), please complete all information in your CorpsData profile, including mailing address, email address, home and/or cell phone, glove size, T-shirt size (you will receive several T-shirts throughout the season), and visit the site frequently for updates.

- Use this link to create/update your CorpsData profile: http://www.trigonroad.com/cd
- To be included in our information emails, you will want to be sure that your corps history includes “2025 Atlanta CV” and the section/position for which you’ll be auditioning.
- If under 18 years old, a parent must have a CorpsData profile as well. Please set them up with one when you register.
- Update all information in the CorpsData profile, and for those of you who already have accounts, please make sure all information is current, including T-shirt and glove size as well.

VIII. WEEKEND PACKING LIST

Most weekends we can sleep at the school where we are rehearsing. If you live close enough to the rehearsal site, you may choose to go home and sleep. Our Open House Camp is a **ONE DAY** camp. Rehearsal will end at 9:00 pm.

REHEARSAL CLOTHING

- ☐ Athletic Shorts/Pants
- ☐ Athletic Socks (required)
- ☐ T-shirts (loose and comfortable)
- ☐ Tennis Shoes/Sneakers (required)
- ☐ Guard auditionees should wear clothing appropriate for dance class and spinning.

INSTRUMENT & EQUIPMENT (bring your own unless told otherwise)

- Brass players:
  - Gloves ($5/pair at camp, subject to change) – Cotton is required on corps owned horns, type with grips are okay. Leather or other materials are not allowed.
  - Towel that will accommodate the size of your horn to use to set your horn down on.
  - Bring the mouthpiece that you are currently most comfortable playing on.
  - Valve oil
  - Music Stand (if you have one)
- Front Ensemble:
  - Mallets
  - Music
- Percussion:
  - Sticks
  - Tape
  - Practice Pad
- Color Guard:
  - Gloves
  - Tape
  - Dance Clothing (section leader will post information on this)

REHEARSAL SUPPLIES

Binder with clear plastic sheets, pens, sharpened or mechanical pencils, highlighters, notebook, copies of all music, forms and paperwork, ONE GALLON water jug.

IX. IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Executive Director	Russ Thompson	director@atlantacv.org
Assistant Director	Nick Doyle	assistantdirector@atlantacv.org
Membership Coordinator	Sam Chase	memberservices@atlantacv.org
Percussion Caption Head	Billie Rodriguez	percussion@atlantacv.org
Brass Caption Head	Aakash Patel	brass@atlantacv.org
Visual Caption Head	Lamont Hall	visual@atlantacv.org
Treasurer	Sue Nedvidek	treasurer@atlantacv.org
Fundraising		fundraising@atlantacv.org
Whistleblowing		whistleblower@atlantacv.org

X. RESOURCES

ATLANTA CV DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS
www.atlantacv.org

BANDAPP
https://band.us/n/aaa3AcXdL7DdY

CORPSDATA
www.trigonroad.com/cd

DRUM CORPS International
https://dci.org

REHEARSAL/HOUSING SITE:
CASS HIGH SCHOOL

1000 Colonel Way

White, GA 30184

Participation Waiver

In signing this waiver, I, _____, agree and understand all information presented below. **This waiver must be turned in to administration of Atlanta CV before member can participate in activities with Atlanta CV, including open house or auditions.**

MEDICAL:

Atlanta CV is NOT responsible or to be held liable responsible for any unforeseen injuries or any past medical issues the member or audtionee might have. This includes but not limited to, broken bones or any fractures, heart conditions, asthma or any other breathing issues, concussions or any other brain related issues, diabetes, use of over medication (prescription or non-prescription), etc.

Atlanta CV is NOT responsible for any injuries caused by the member to his/herself or by other membership or auditionees, staff members in the organization. Some examples include but not limited to, playing basketball, walking up or down stairs, running or walking recklessly, crossing the street, boxing, wrestling, play fighting, horsing around or reckless behavior, walking with or pushing equipment, the cause of death to oneself or the cause of death by another member or staff member. If legal options are to be pursued, I will pursue legal options against the person(s) who caused the act(s) and not against the Atlanta CV/Corpsvets, Inc. organization, Staff or volunteers of Atlanta CV, the Board Members of Corpsvets, Inc., Cass High School, or any other facility Atlanta CV rehearses in, houses in, or performs in.

_____ I have read and understand Atlanta CV's policy on medical requirements

(Initial)

I have read all the above section and will comply fully.

Member _____

Parent/Guardian (If under 18) _____

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EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

Emergency Contact Person and Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

(Optional) Second Emergency Contact Person and Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

REQUIRED REHEARSAL EQUIPMENT

- MOUTHPIECE: Please bring your own mouthpiece to all auditions and winter rehearsals. As we get closer to the summer, we may provide you/ask you to purchase a specific mouthpiece. Exceptions are made at staff discretion.
- INSTRUMENT: If possible, please supply your own instrument at camps. Instruments will be provided during the season.
- VALVE OIL/SLIDE GREASE
- TUNER/METRONOME: Members of the hornline are required to own a tuner/metronome. An app on your phone such as “Tonal Energy” is acceptable.
- BREATHING TUBES: All members of the hornline are required to use a ½” PVC Ball Valve -breathing tube- at every brass rehearsal. They can be purchased from most hardware stores.
- BAG OF PARTY BALLOONS: You can find them for relatively cheap online. Most are latex, but if you have an allergy try to find an alternative.
- B.E.R.P.: The Buzzing Extension Resistance Piece (B.E.R.P.) will be used during winter rehearsals and throughout the season by members of the Hornline. They will be required at every rehearsal.
    - Trumpets and Mellophones use a Trumpet B.E.R.P.
    - Baritones/Euphoniums use a Trombone/Baritone B.E.R.P. (take note of instruments shank size)
    - Marching Tubas use a Tuba B.E.R.P.
- THREE-RING BINDER (BLACK): All music handouts, as well as visual handouts, will be kept in your three-ring binder.
- CLEAR SHEET PROTECTORS
- PENCIL: Bring a reasonable amount, we will be using them daily and you may lose some. Always carry at least two in multiple places.
- GLOVES: Rehearsal gloves are required whenever handling an Atlanta CV Instrument. Be sure that your gloves remain in good condition.
- BLACK TOWEL: Must be big enough to comfortably rest your instrument, pencil and tuner/metronome.
- HAT: Hats are required at all outdoor rehearsals to protect your face, eyes and chops from sunburn. Hats are optional during indoor rehearsals. Please let us know if you need an exception.
- SUNGLASSES: Highly recommended, but optional.
- TENNIS SHOES/TRAINERS: Be sure to wear athletic shoes that are comfortable, and well-fitting for your feet. Casual footwear such as sandals, worn-out shoes, etc. are unacceptable.
- ATHLETIC CLOTHING: Wear clothing that will allow you to perform excessive movement with comfort, such as sweats, shorts, t-shirts, etc.
- ONE GALLON WATER JUG- Every member must own their own personal jug with their name clearly visible in Sharpie. These are required at every rehearsal.

Atlanta CV Brass Fundamentals

Fundamentals are the most important thing we do as a Hornline. Not only does it provide us with the skill set to perform our production at a high quality, but it also serves to develop you as a brass musician outside of your drum corps experience. Although there are many exercises contained within- we will not play all of them during the course of a rehearsal, or even over the course of the season. Think of this as a reference manual, from which we will be performing exercises to develop you as individuals and as a team.

In preparation for your audition, please be somewhat familiar with the overall layout of the manual. We will be going over each exercise during our first few weekends, but it never hurts to come prepared. You will find your individual audition material at the back of the fundamental portion. We look forward to seeing what you can do.

Breathing:

Breathing is arguably the most important part of our fundamental program. Without energy (air), we can not produce sound.

In the medium of drum corps, committing to a good breath not only allows us to play with a full relaxed sound, but also provides our muscles the oxygen necessary to be the best athletes we can be as well. Because of this, as brass players we must always strive to take the fullest breath possible- no matter the dynamic. Even if you do not use all of that air to play a phrase- your muscles will.

No matter the tempo- **always think of your air moving in one motion**. It never stops- it is either going in or out. During our fundamental exercises, we will always default to a “one count breath”. Not only does this ensure timing, but will act as overtraining at higher tempos. With that being said, in the context of show music, we will always opt to allow for the longest, most relaxed breath possible. In general:

Tempo < 140bpm : One Count Breath
Tempo > 140bpm: Two Count Breath

Machine Breath:

(1 Count Inhale -> 2 Count Exhale -> 1 Count Inhale) if tempo <140bpm
(1 Count Inhale -> 1 Count Exhale -> 2 Count Inhale) if tempo >140bpm

We will start most of our exercises with a “machine breath”. We will also use it during exercises where there are 4 count rests between phrases.

Air and the Brass Instrument:

A good attack is not just a result of the tongue, but in fact caused by the immediacy of sound that comes from exhaling air into the instrument at the correct speed and volume right away. To release a long note- a reversal of that air is required. In the simplest terms- open up and breathe in.

Changing the pitch of a brass instrument in the simplest of terms:

Faster Air -> Higher Notes
Slower Air -> Lower Notes

Changing the volume of a brass instrument in the simplest terms:

More Air -> Louder
Less Air-> Softer

Vowel Shape/Articulation:

At Atlanta CV, we use a **"Oh"** vowel shape when singing/buzzing/and playing our instruments. Not only does this help us all achieve the sound we want, but it also goes a long way towards projecting with resonance in a football stadium.

Can you be too open?
Yes

Ultimately, we want our oral posture to be as tall and open as we can without sacrificing efficiency. The exact shape of the mouth will be determined by the instrument you play and your own anatomy.

In regards to tonguing, we want to use a "soft" tongue, or "dOh" syllable as opposed to "tOh" with as light of a tongue as possible (think one taste bud). This allows us to start notes securely, while minimizing the chances of a "thuddy" or "splatty" start to the note.

Mellophone (F)

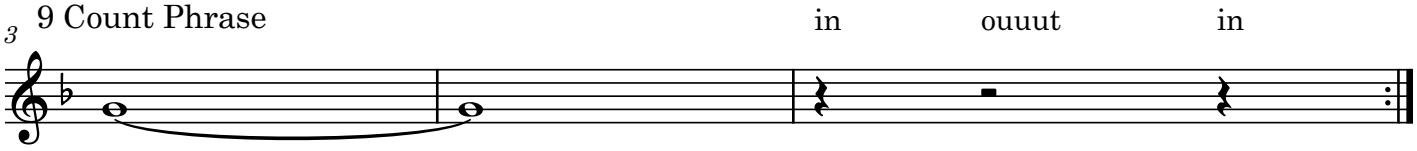
2025 Atlanta CV Brass Manual

Aakash Patel

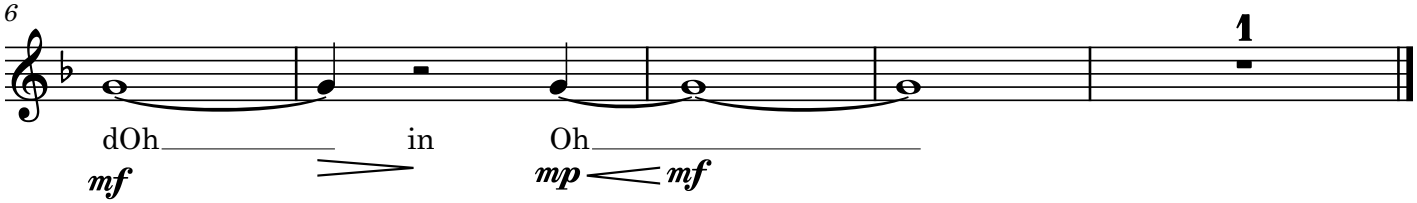
1. Tones and Timing Attacks

7 Count Phrase

9 Count Phrase

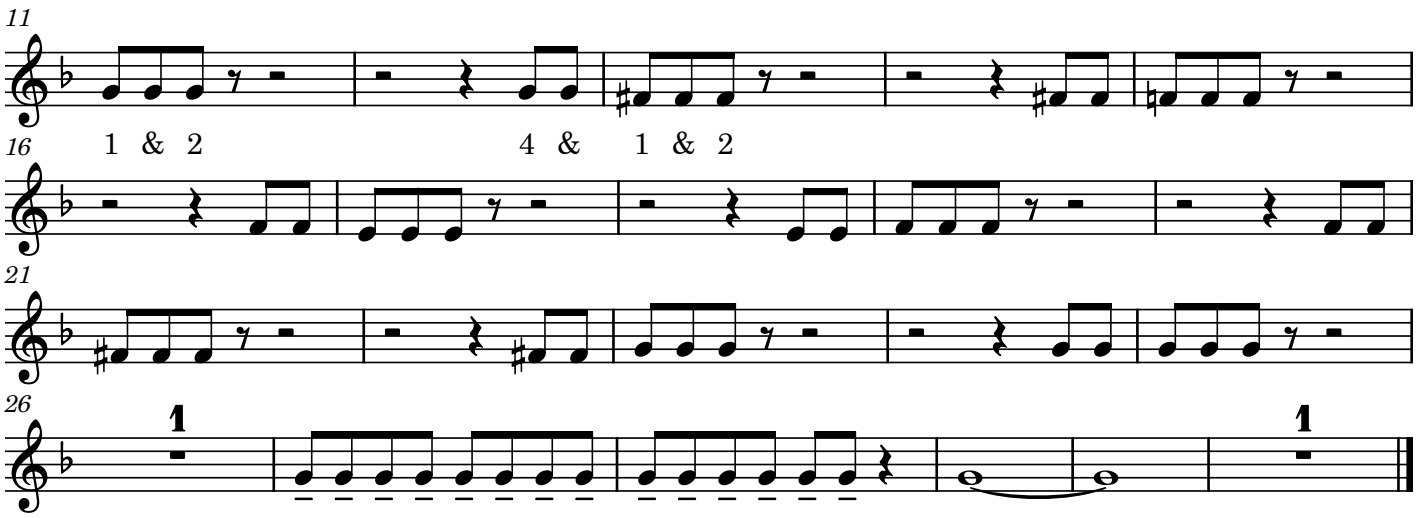


17 Count Phrase Stagger Breathing Example (Group B)

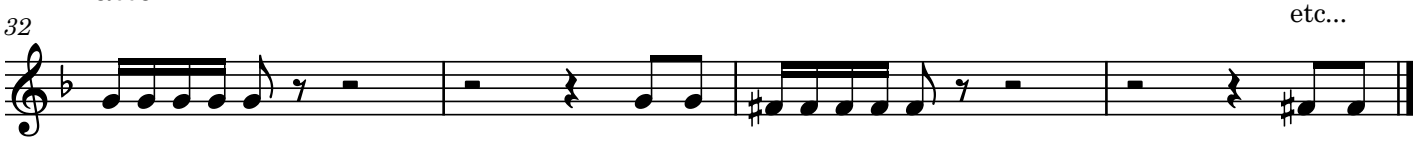


1. Tones and Timing Attacks

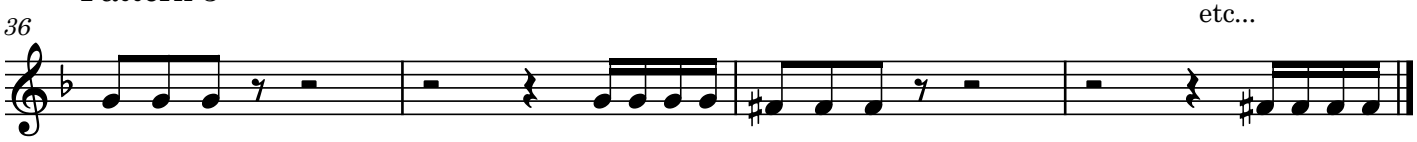
Timing Attack Double Box



Pattern 2



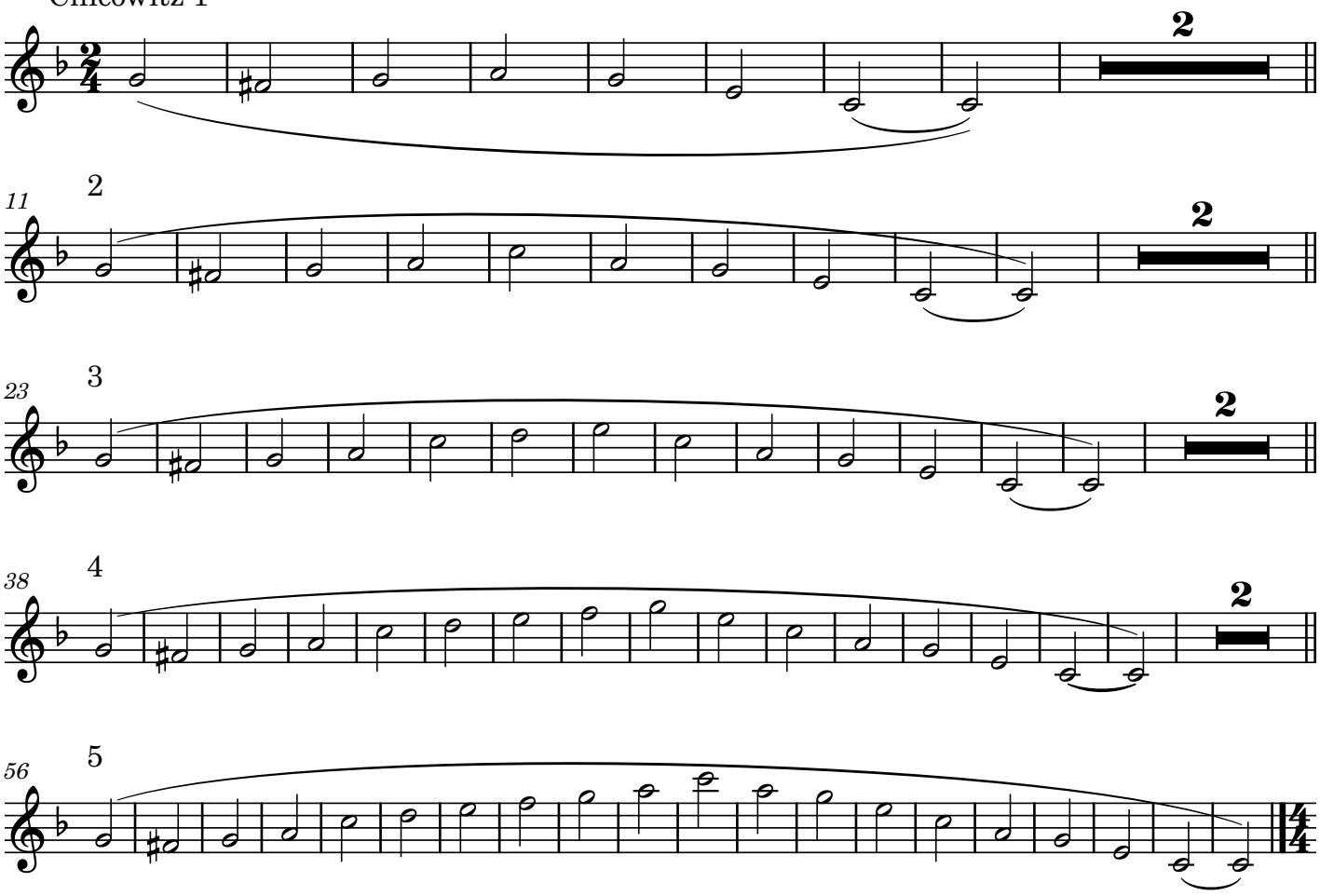
Pattern 3



Mellophone (F)

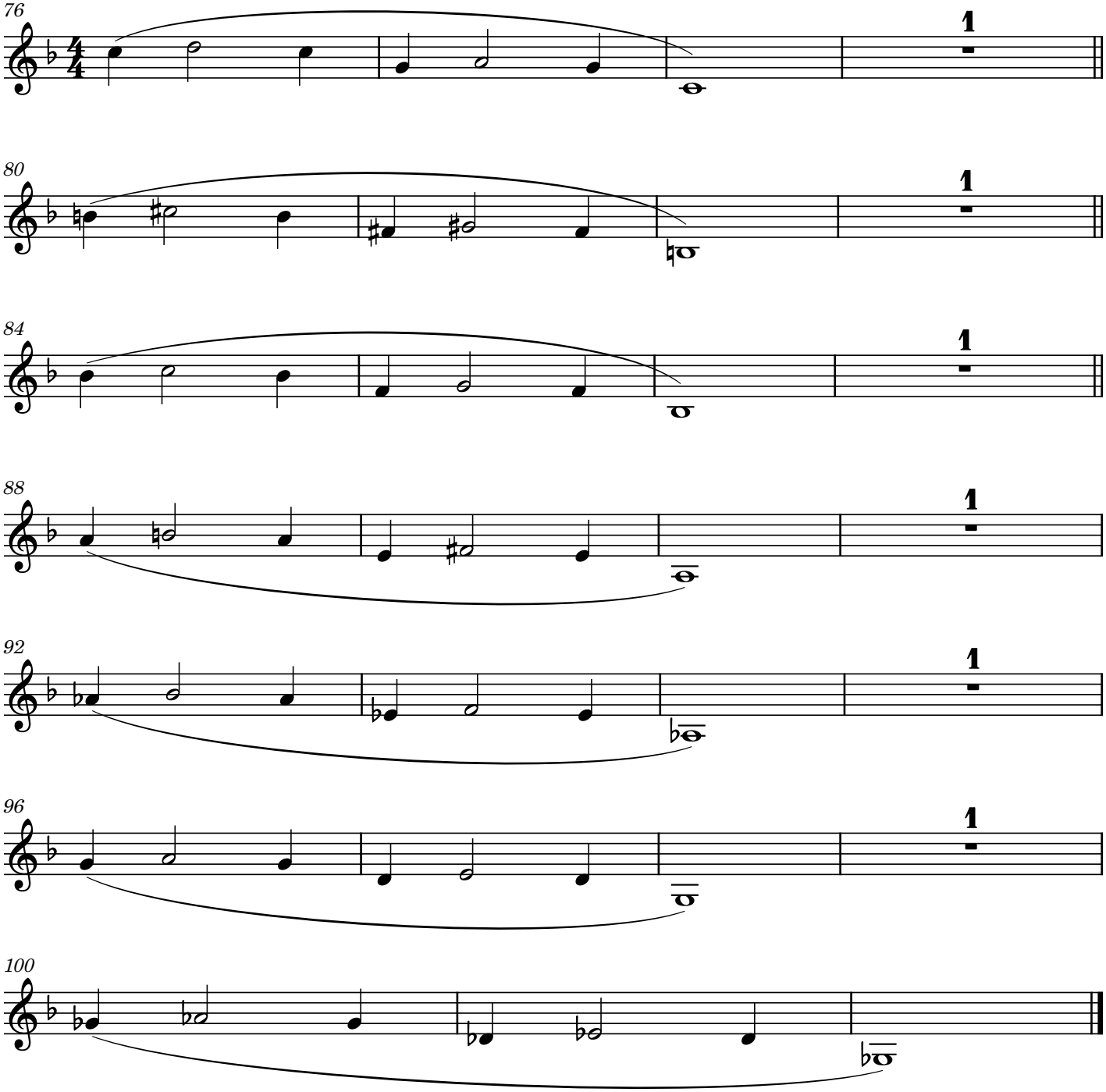
2. Airflow

Chicowitz 1



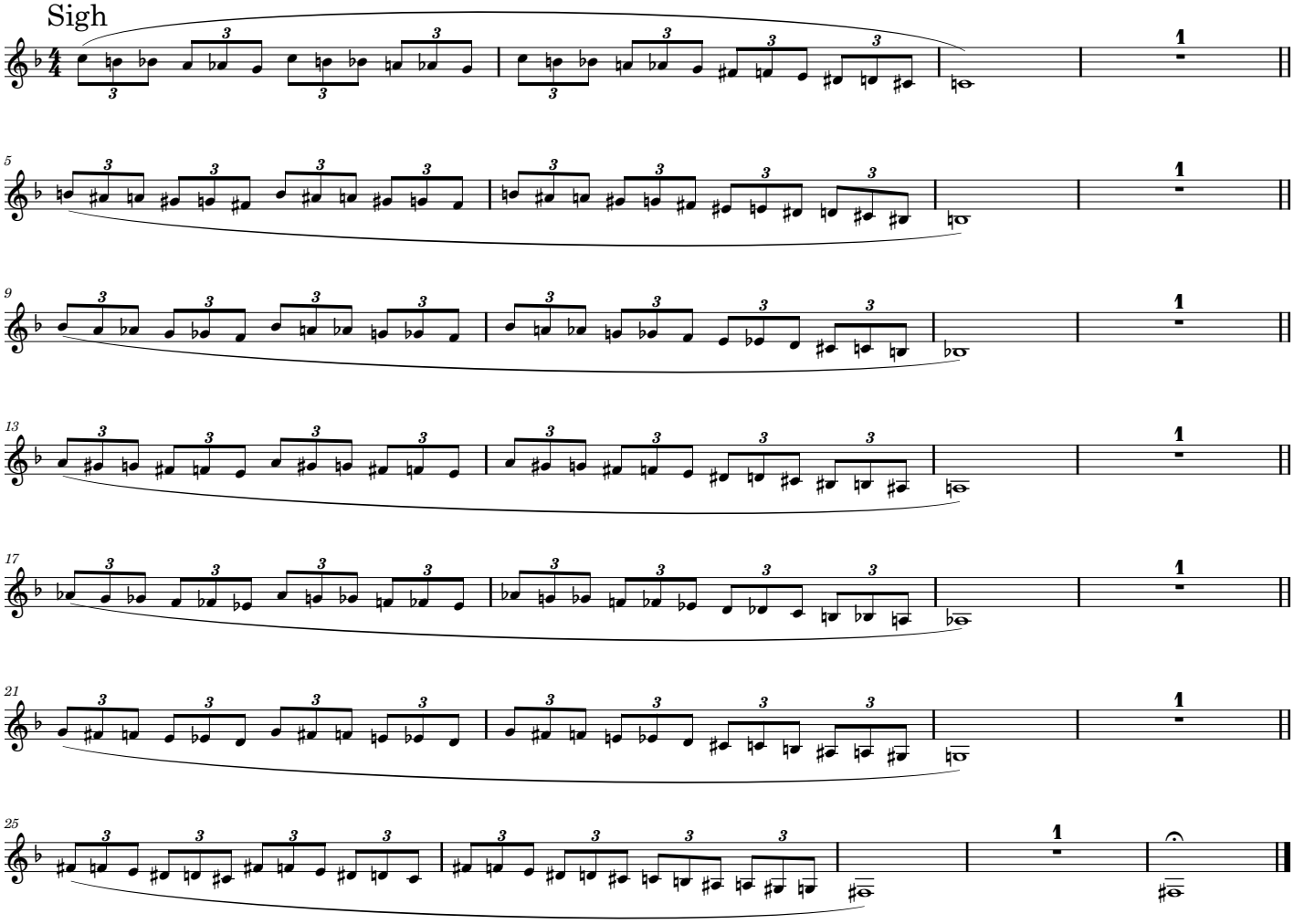
Stamp Flow Study

2. Airflow



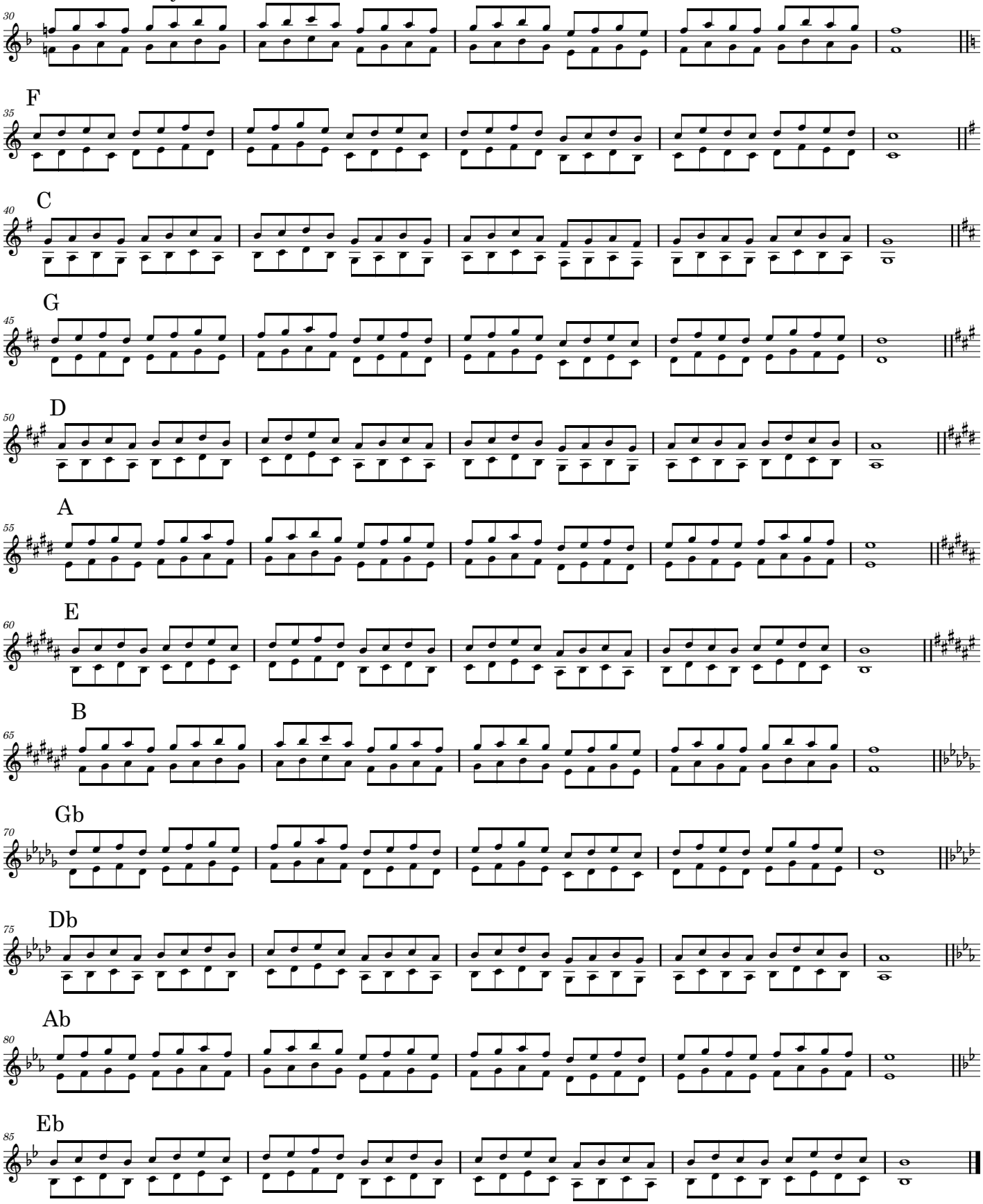
Mellophone (F)

3. Dexterity



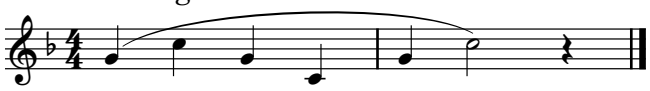
3. Dexterity

Bb Clarke Study

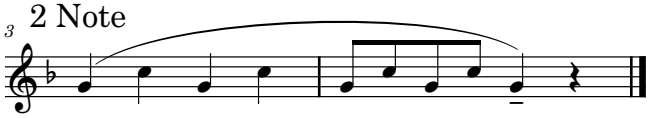


4. Basic Flexibility

Schlossberg



3 2 Note



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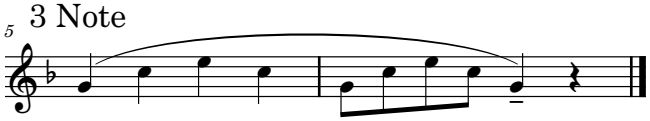

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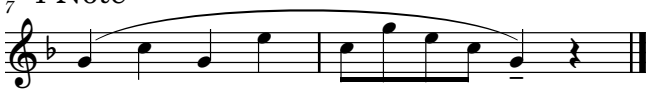

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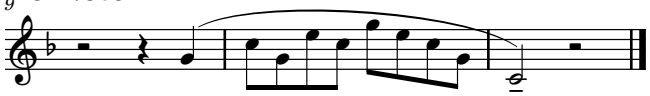

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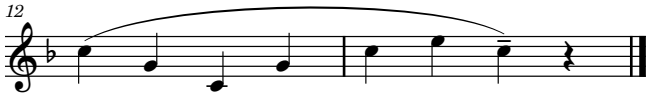
12



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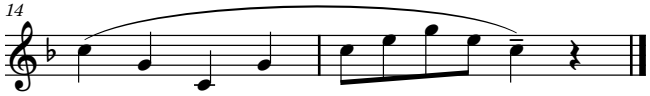

Irons

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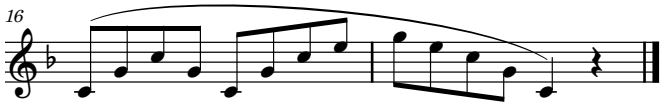
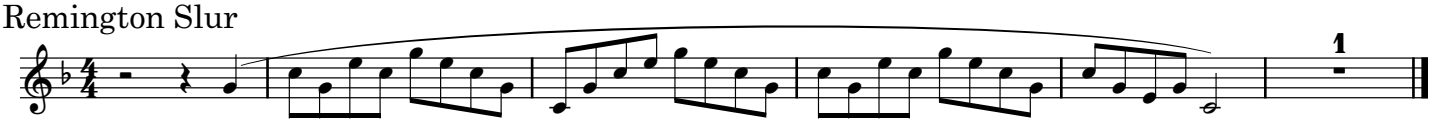
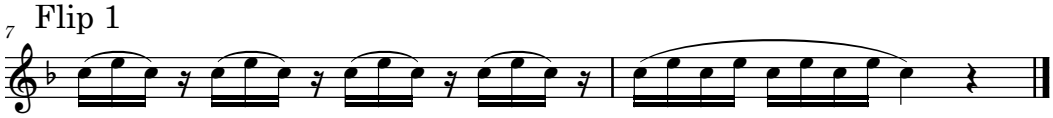


5. Advanced Flexibility

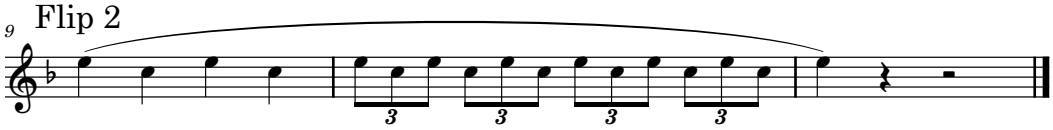
Remington Slur



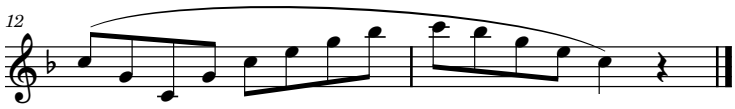
Flip 1



Flip 2



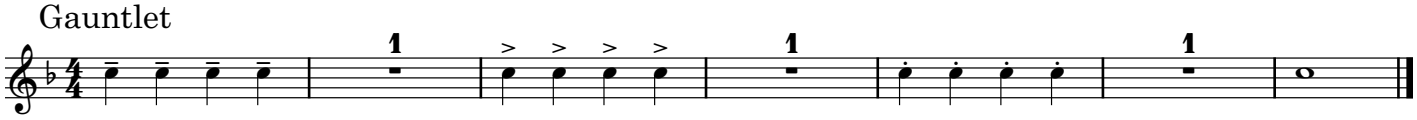
13 Down



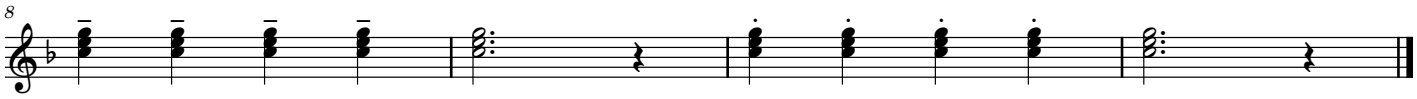
Mellophone (F)

6. Articulation

Gauntlet



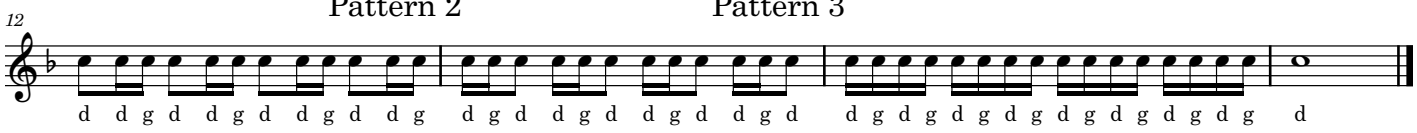
Ott Articulation



Pattern 1

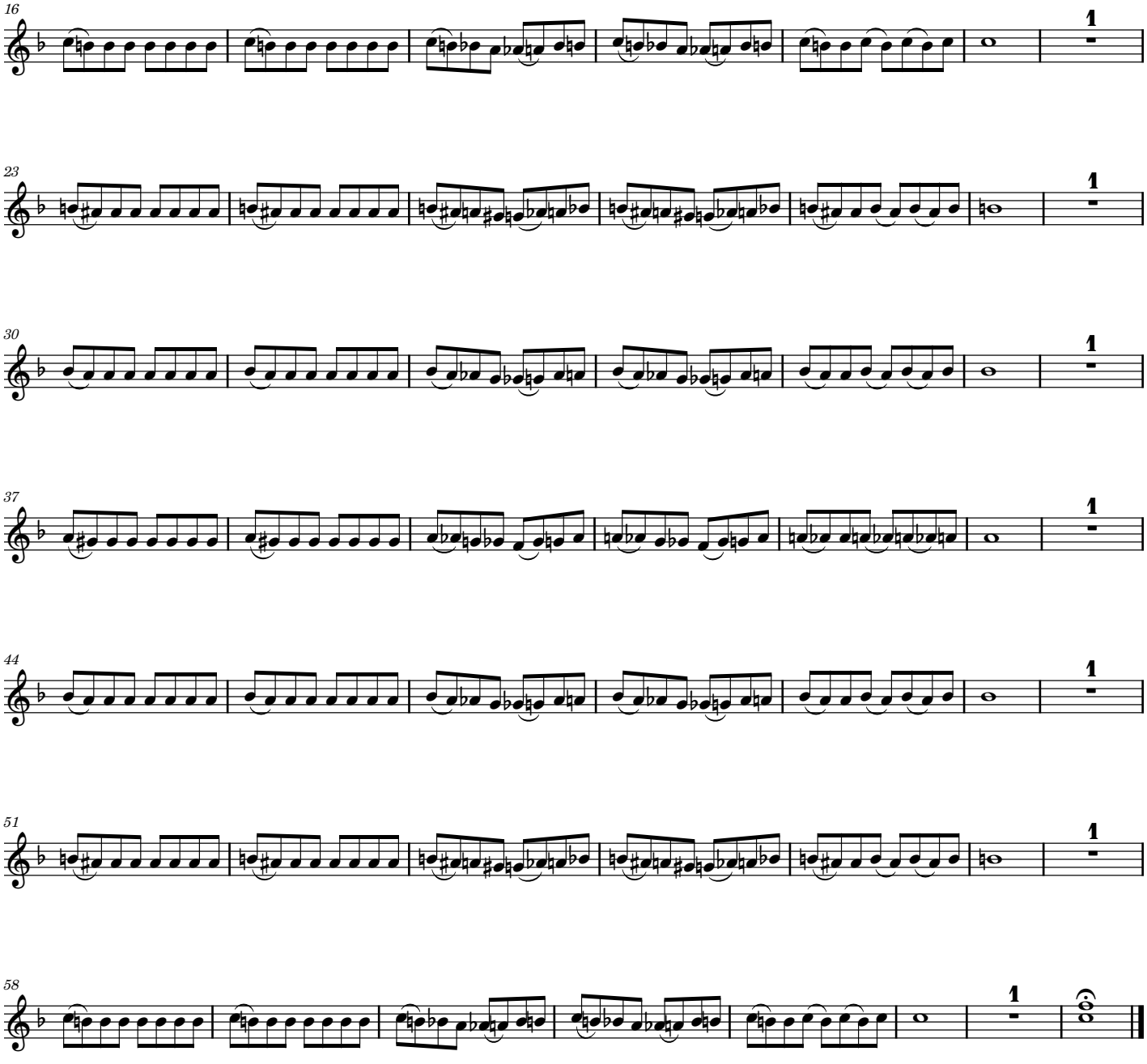
Pattern 2

Pattern 3

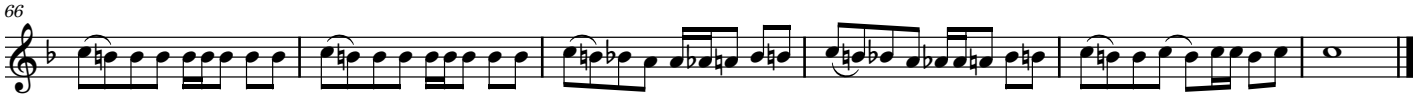


6. Articulation

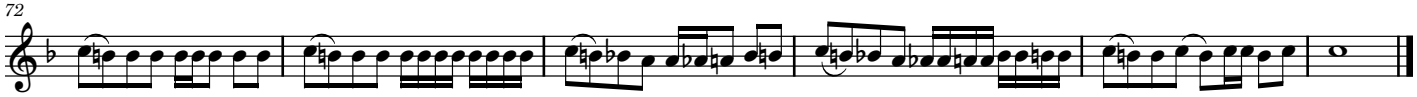
Choo Choo



Level 2

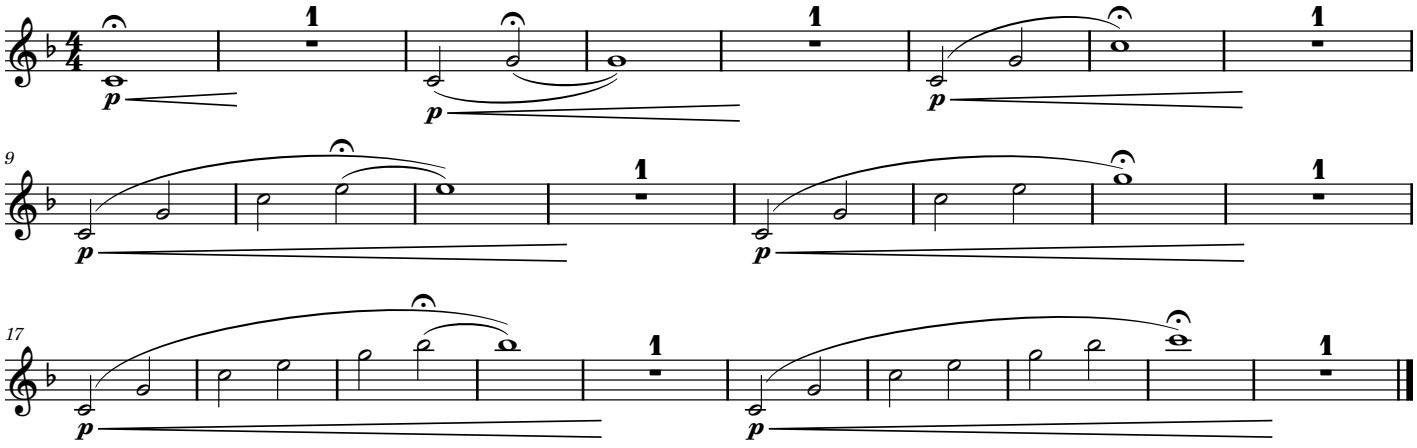


Level 3

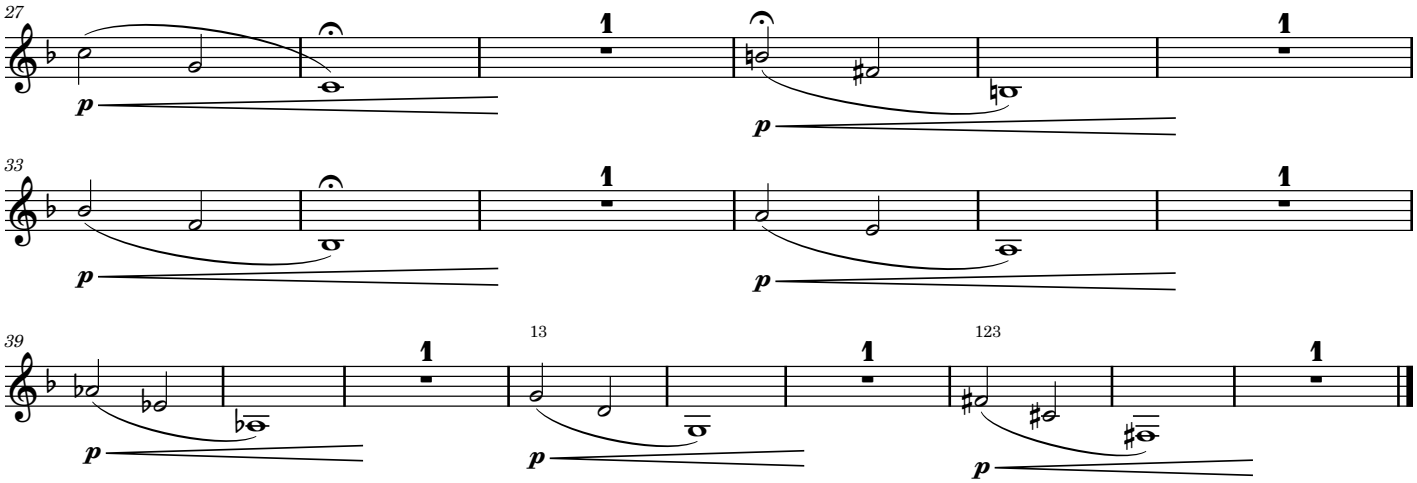


7. Dynamics

Dynamics Ascending

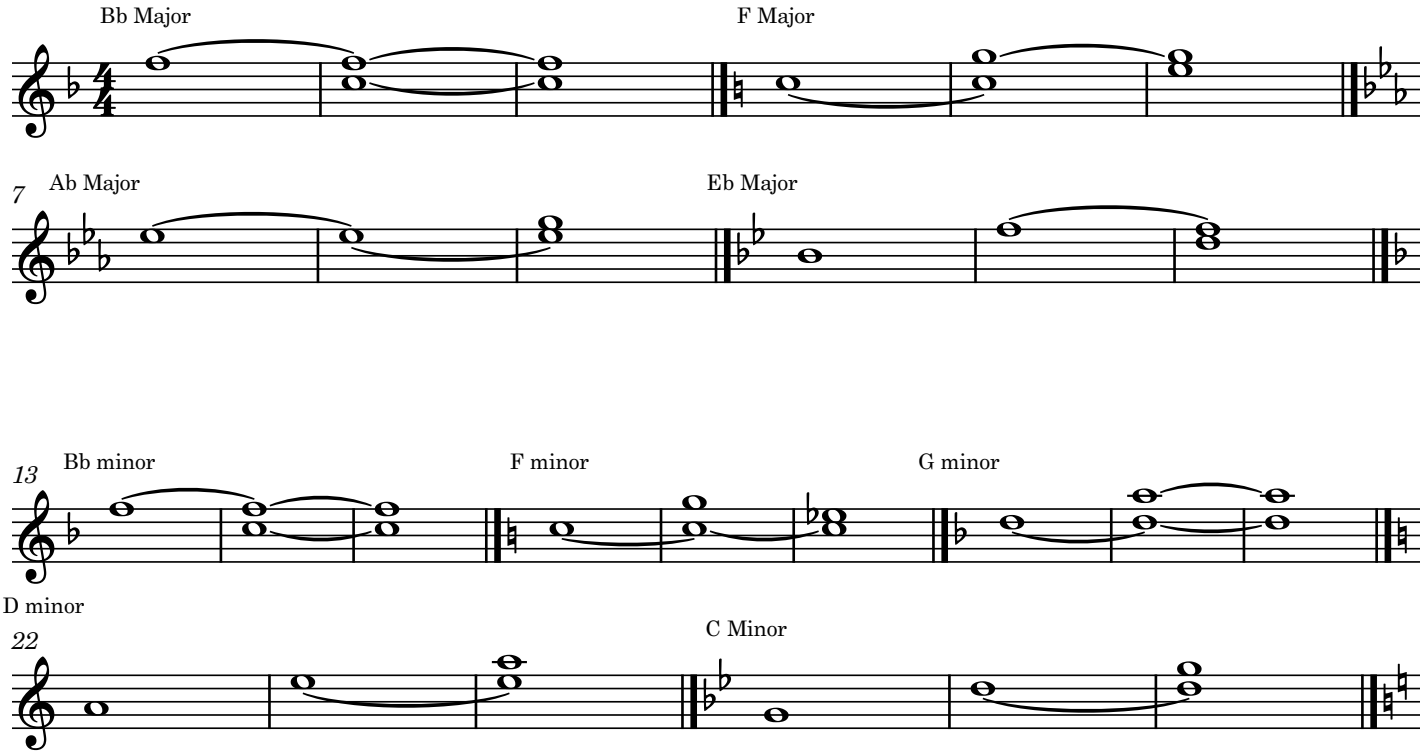


Dynamics Descending



Mellophone (F)

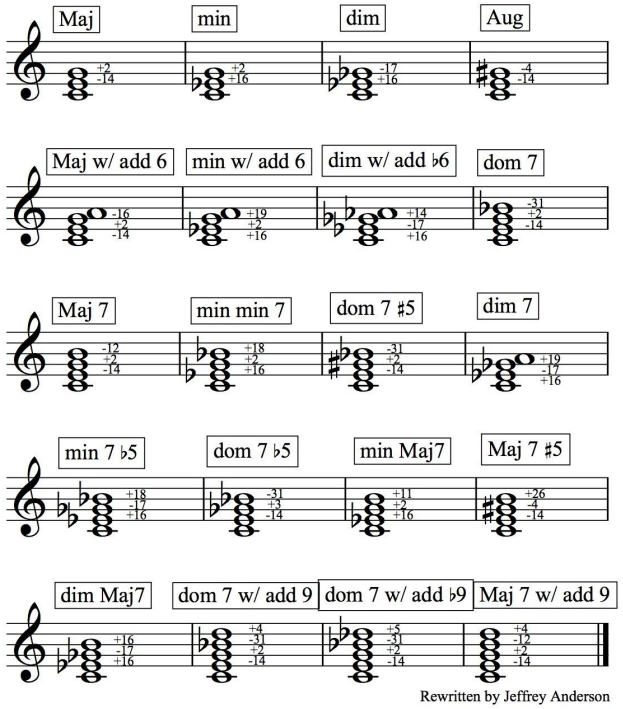
8. Progressions and Chorales



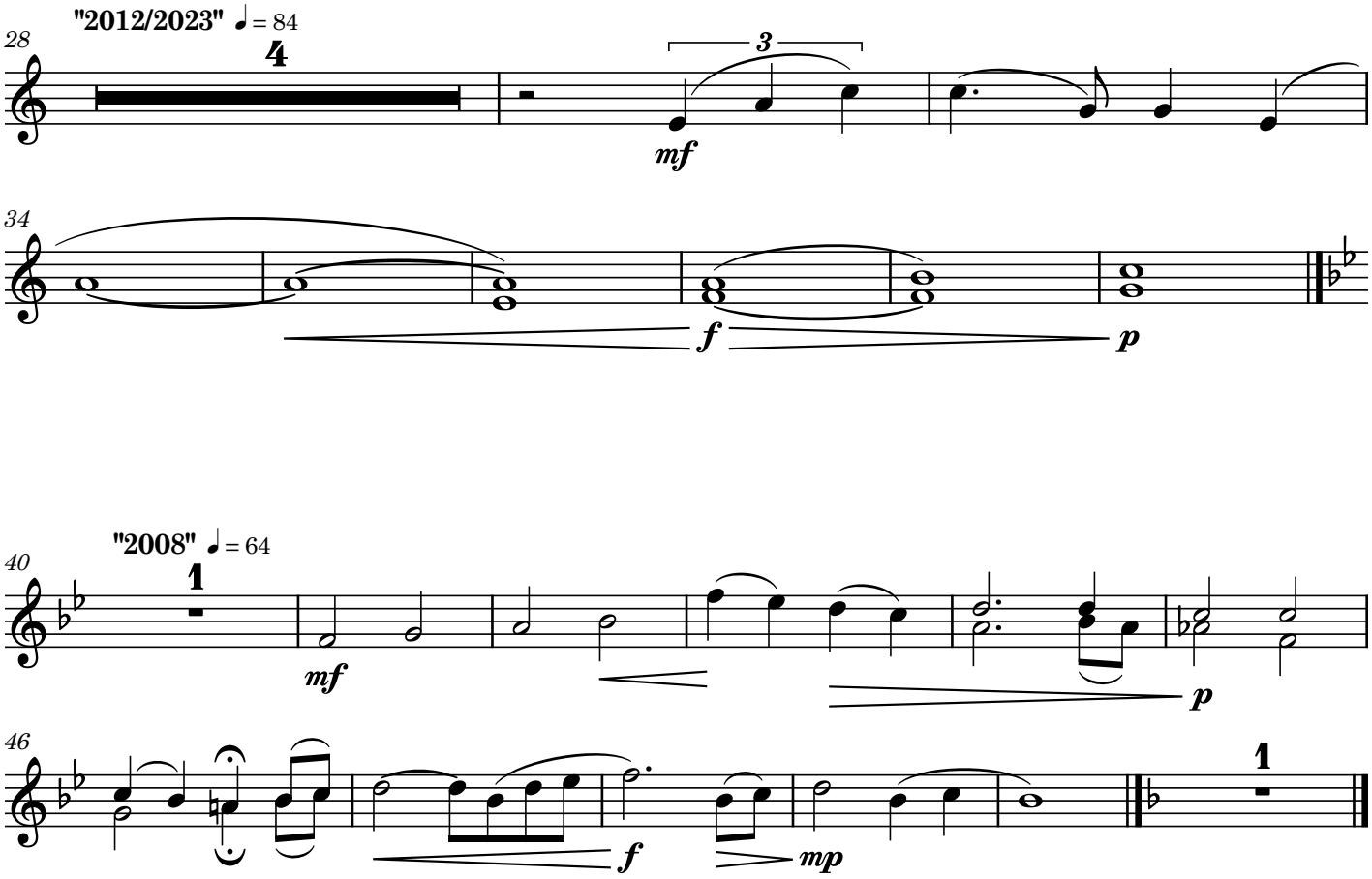
Chords of Just Intonation

All chords are based on root "C" which is "0" pitch.

+ or - is cents rounded to nearest whole number



Rewritten by Jeffrey Anderson

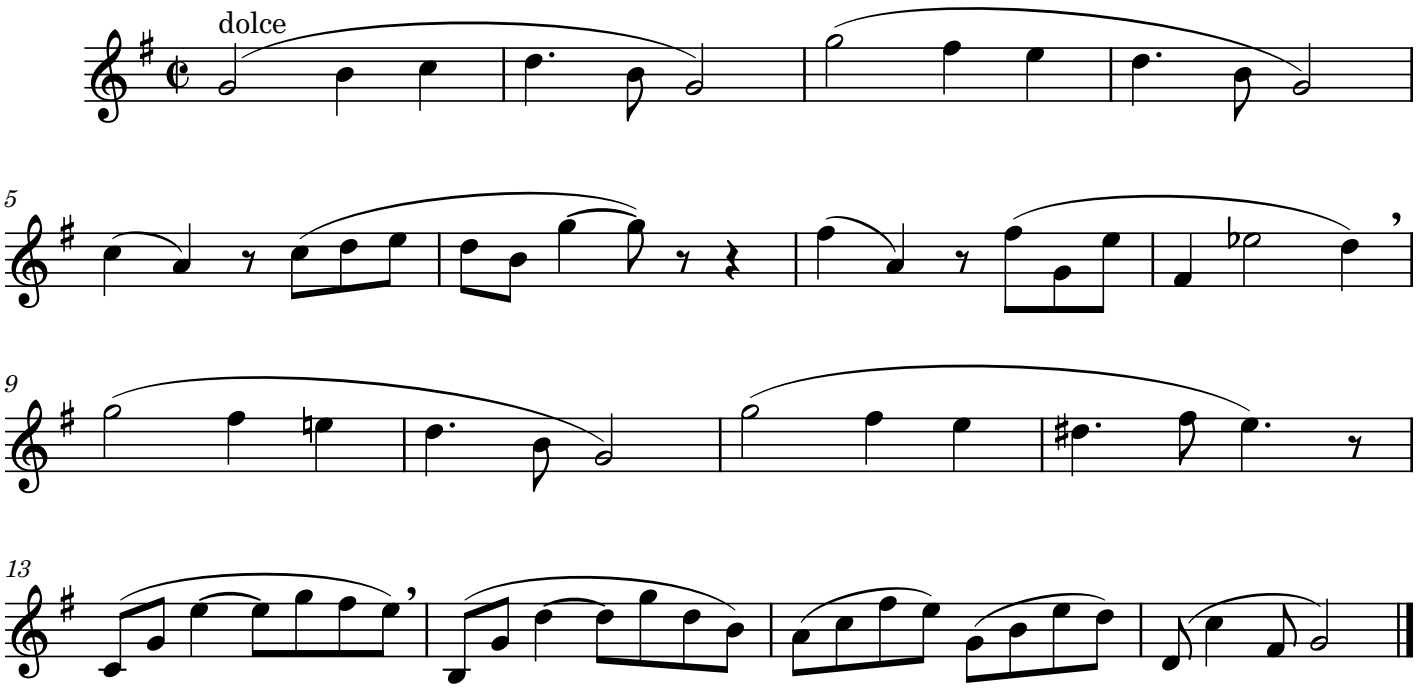

"2012/2023" ♩ = 84
28
4
3
mf
34
f
p
"2008" ♩ = 64
40
1
mf
p
46
f
mp
1

High Brass

High Brass Audition Material

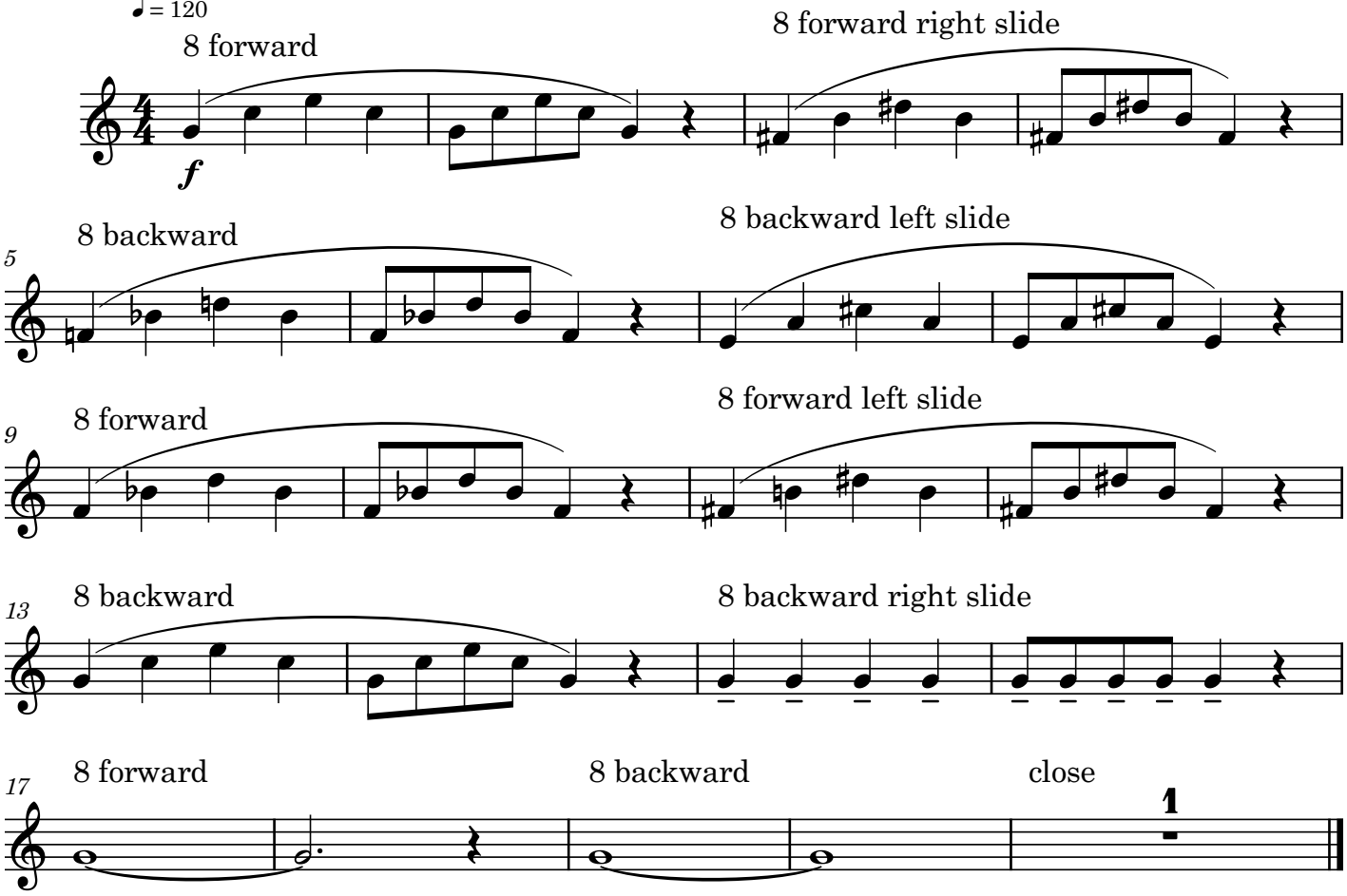
Theo Charlier

1. Charlier No.6 “Du Style”



Your individual audition will consist of:
-The etude above
-3 note lip slur performed while marching a double box drill (next page)
-A range test, regardless of your choice of part. This will consist of a C/Bb scale at fortissimo as high and as low as you can go.

Throughout the audition weekend, you will also be evalulated on your rehearsal etiquette, level of preparedness, and your ability to take and apply feedback.

We look forward to hearing you play for us!

2. 3 Note Double Box