GEORG PHILIPP TELEMANN

Concerto for Viola & Strings

Solo Viola Part

Edited from the urtext
by Alan Bonds

ARCODORO
PUBLICATIONS

PREFACE

This edition was prepared from the original ms at Darmstadt University and later published by Bärenreiter Verlag (1955).
It's main purpose is to ornament the first movement in the manner of the period.
This idea is based on Telemann's six *Method Sonatas for Violin or Flute*.
The original advertising material stated that "The Sonatas will be very useful to those that wish to apply themselves to cantabile ornamentation".

Telemann offers two versions of the cantabile movements (usually the first movement) - one unadorned, the other floridly ornamented in accordance with French and Italian taste.
Interestingly, none of the 'slow' movements (usually the 3rd) has extra ornamentation. They are sometimes quite ornate and sometimes marked with words like *semplice*.

By good chance, the B flat major Method Sonata 1st movement has the same time signature of 3/2 and marked Largo. It too has the same Chaconne-like phrasing commencing on the 2nd beat of the bar. Likewise, many of the half-notes are marked staccato in the ornamented version. Therefore it provides an excellent model for embellishments in the 1st movement of the Viola Concerto.

My version is a fairly basic attempt. Players should try the B flat Sonata and then try out their own. I have included the 1st movement in this edition for easy comparison.

But I am certain that the soloist would not have entered playing the same material as the orchestra. It would have been unthinkable to a baroque string player. It provided the ideal opportunity to show off their virtuosic skills of improvization and ornamentation. I am also sure that the staccato markings in the 1st movement indicate a dance-like lilt, perhaps derived from the Chaconne.

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July 2016

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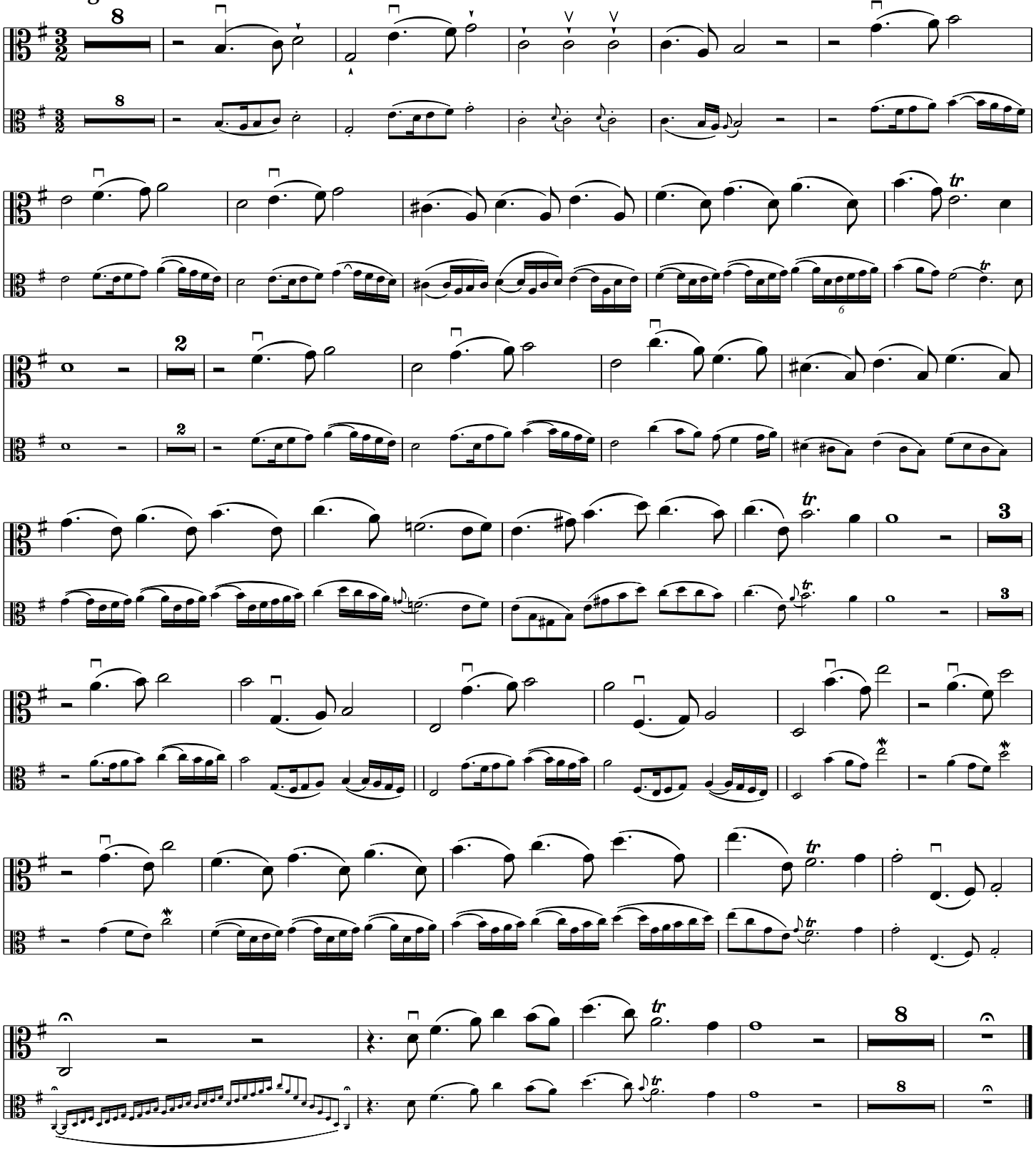
Viola solo

Concerto in G major

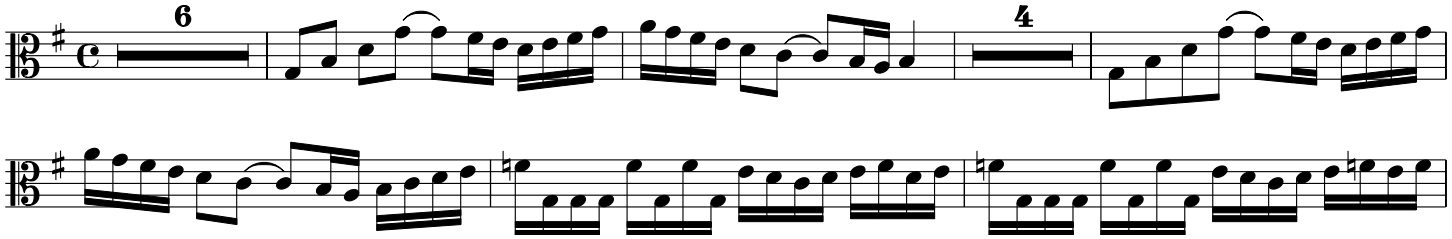
for Viola, Strings and Continuo

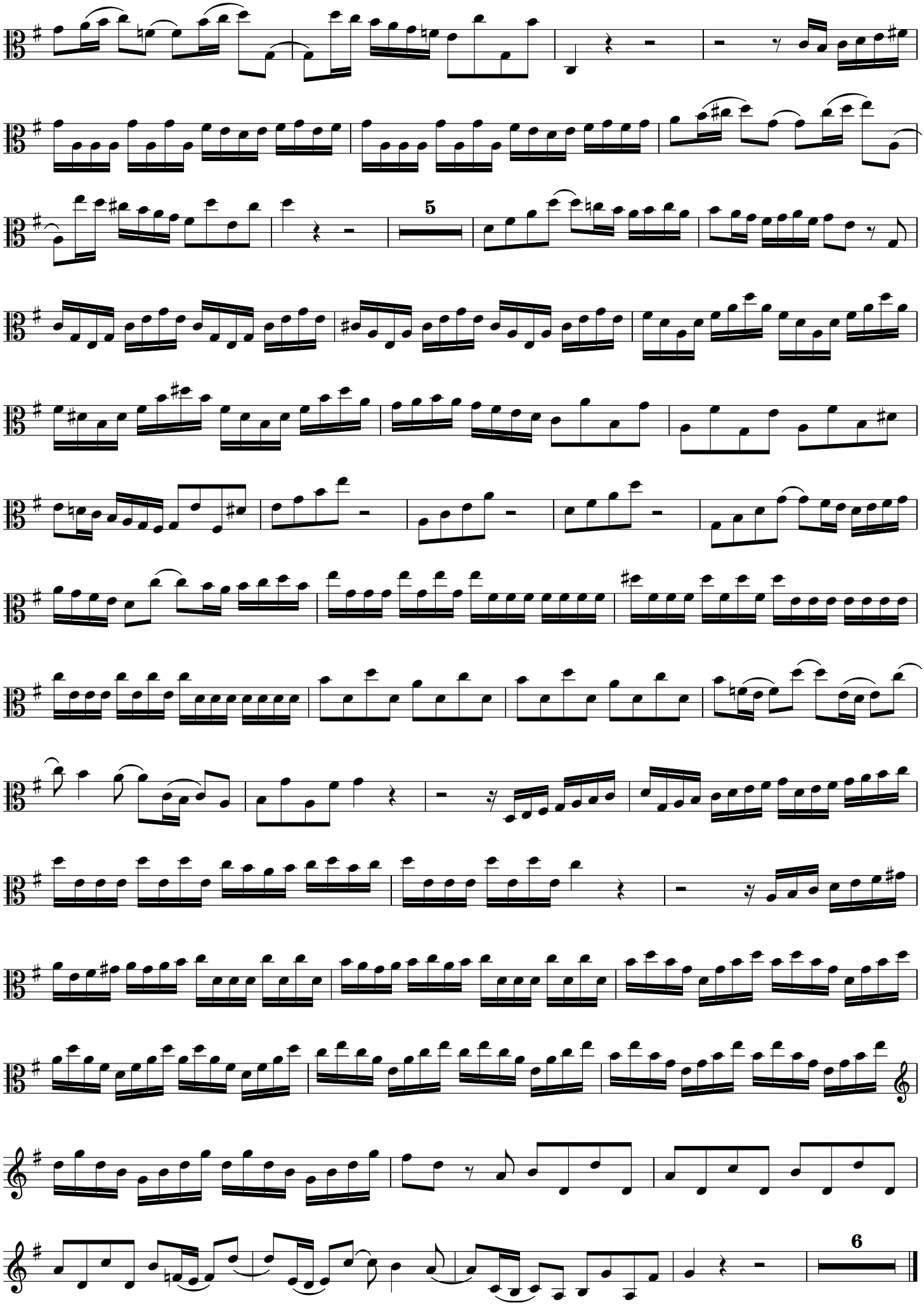
G. Ph. Telemann

I Largo



II Allegro

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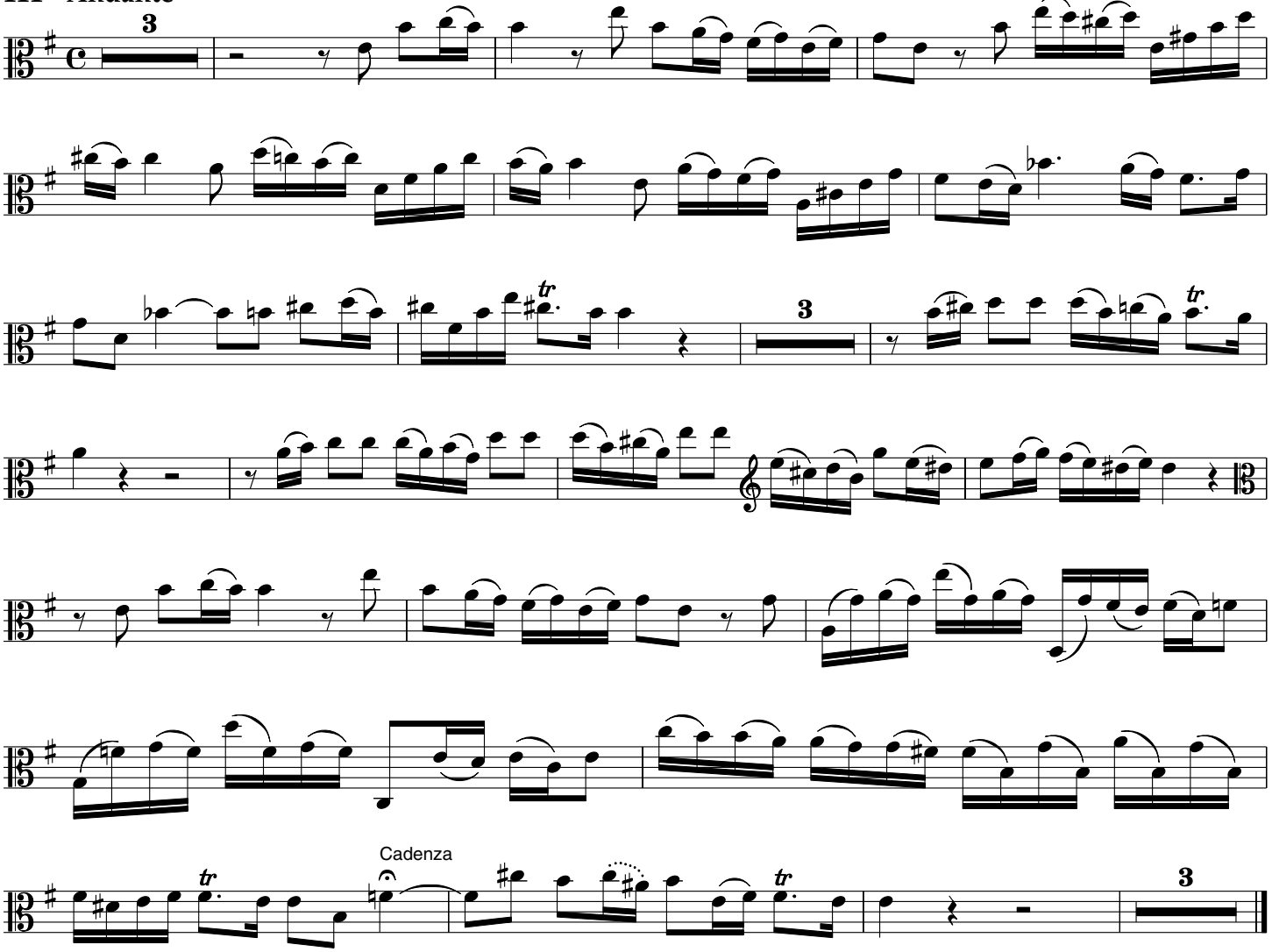
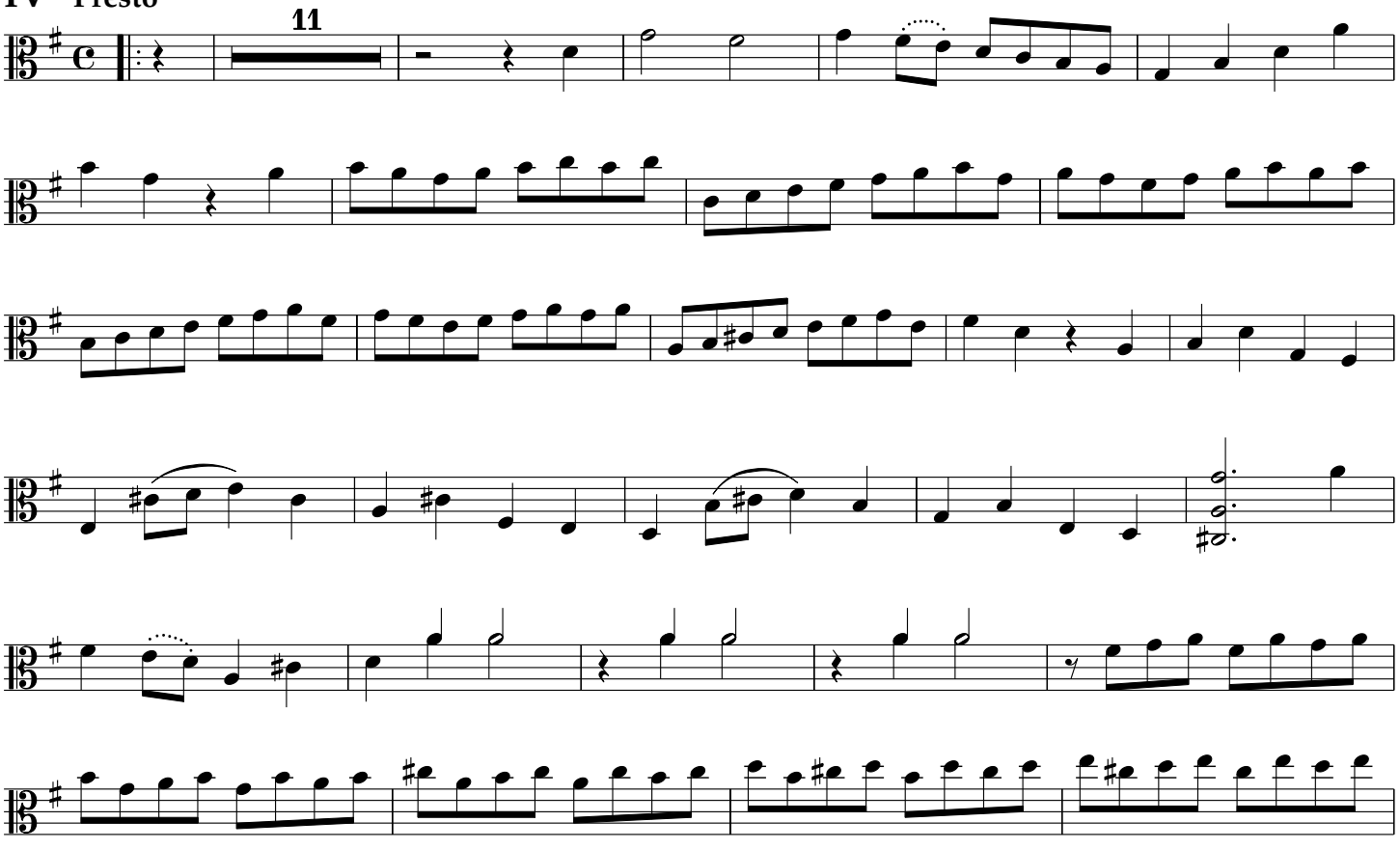
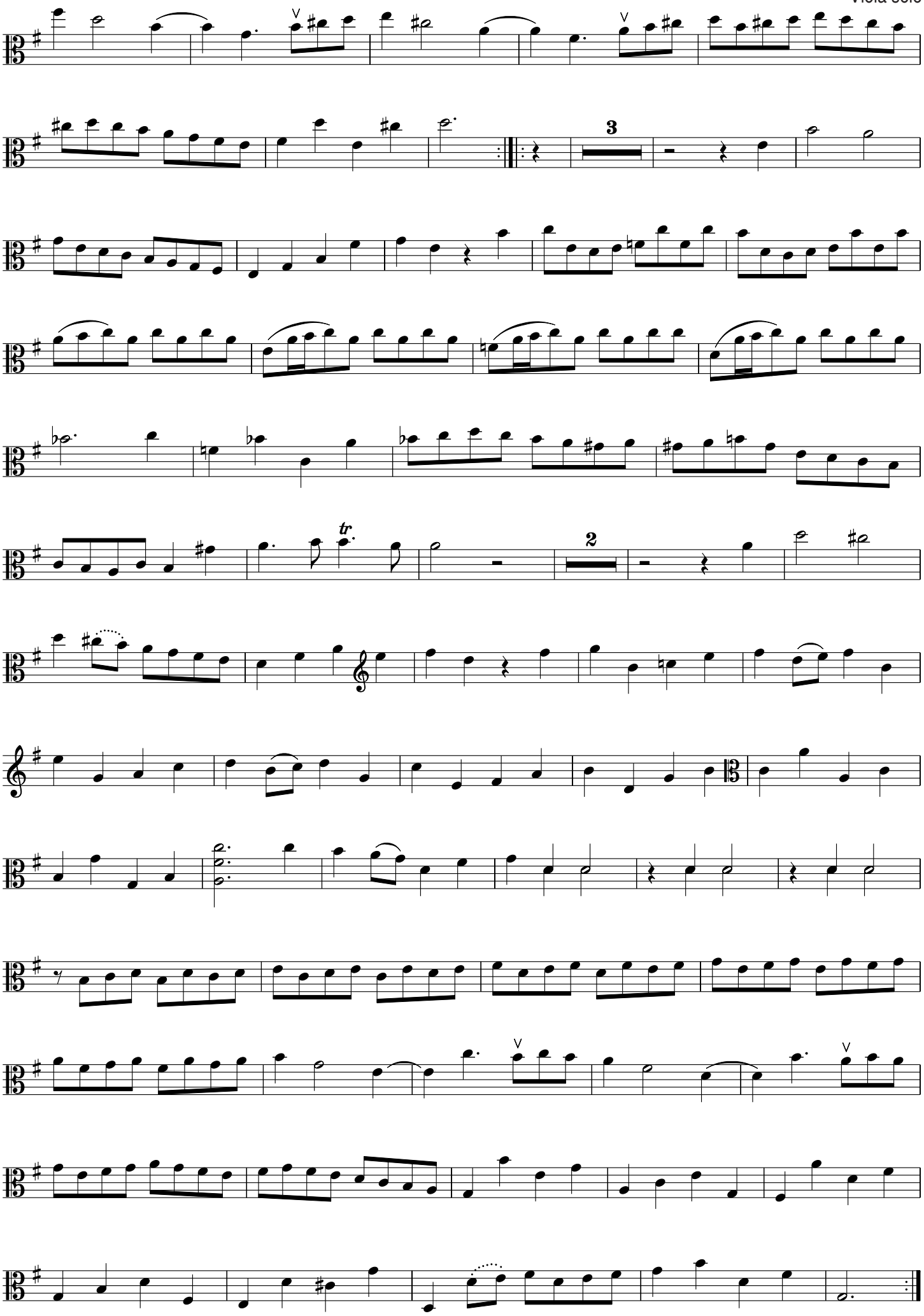
III Andante



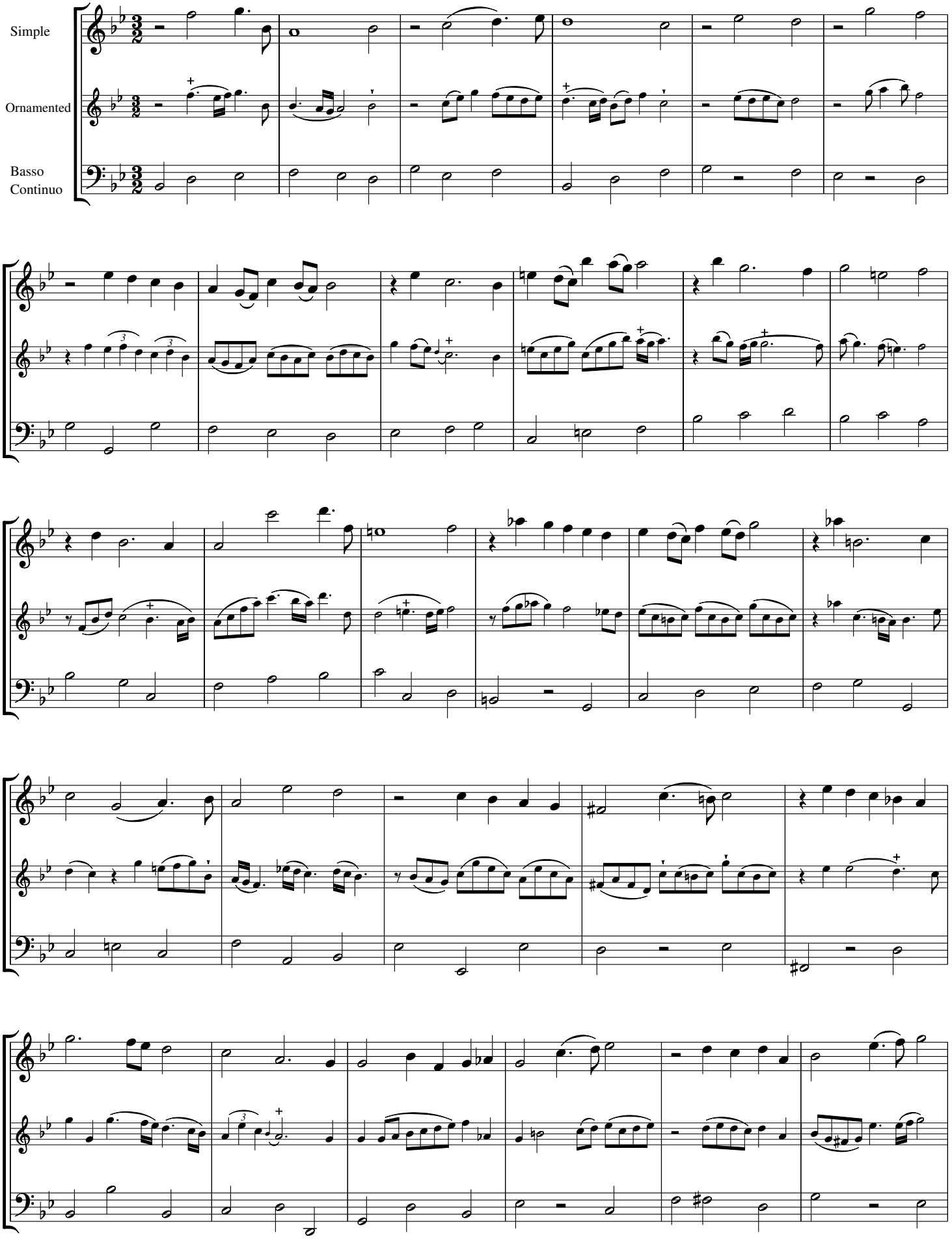
IV Presto

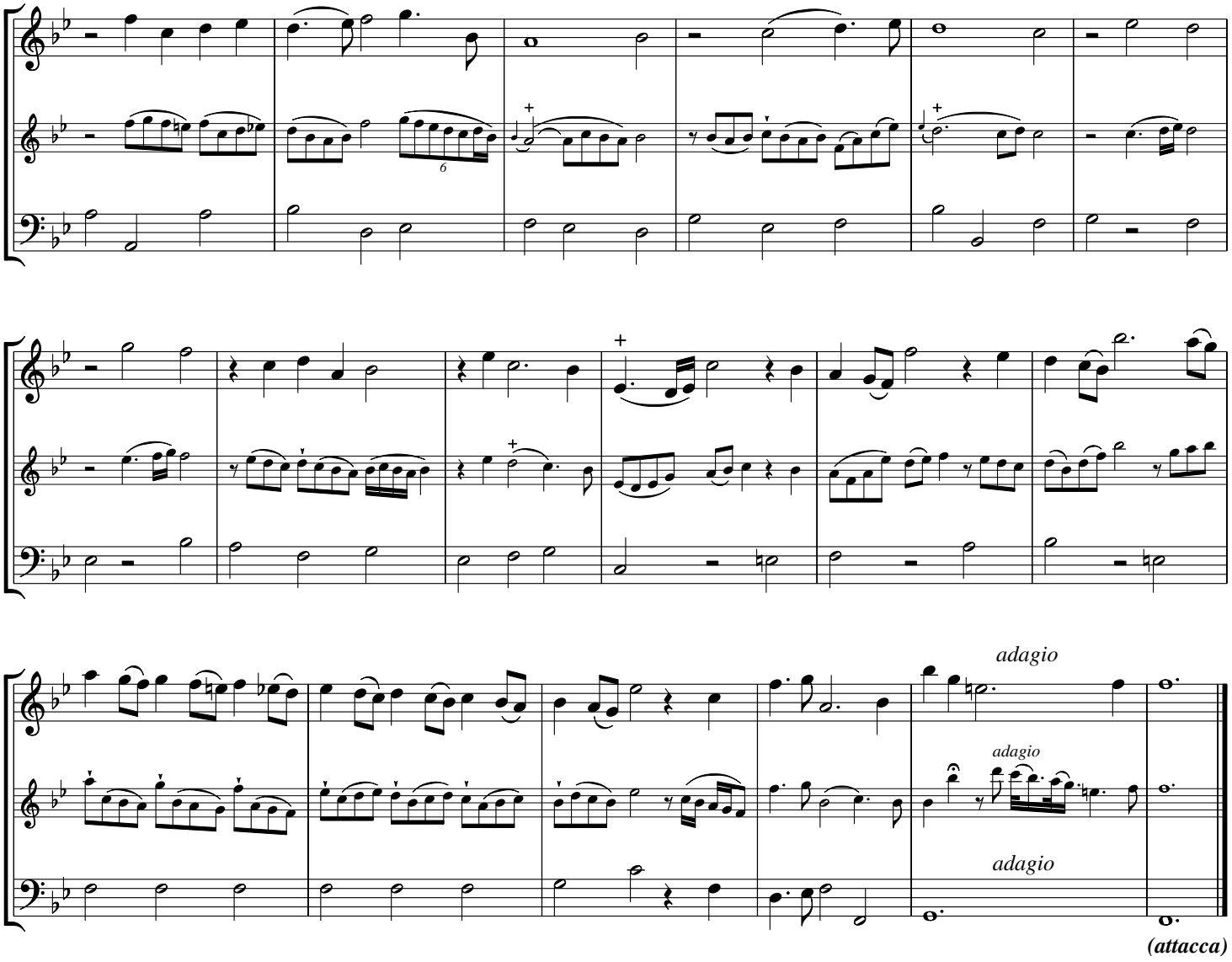




Method Sonata in B♭ major

Largo **G. Ph. Telemann**




adagio
adagio
adagio
(attacca)