

SCENES FROM

The Golden Legend

A CANTATA for SOLI, CHORUS & ORCHESTRA

THE WORDS WRITTEN BY
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

THE MUSIC COMPOSED BY
Charles Villiers Stanford
(1875)





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The “renaissance” in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880. Public demand for major works in support of the annual choral festivals held throughout England at that time was considerable which led to the creation of many large scale works for orchestra with soloists and chorus.

Although a number of those works were engraved, printed and are regularly performed today, performance scores for a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works were either never engraved or were engraved and printed but are no longer available in the publishers’ catalogues. While the existence of these works is documented in biographies of the composers, the ability to study and, most importantly, to perform these compositions is not possible.

Changes in the International copyright laws, coupled with changing musical tastes, played a pivotal role in creating this void. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. In 1964, holograph and copyist scores from both Novello and from publishers it represented were offered to the British Library and the Royal College of Music Library (see The RCM Novello Library – The Musical Times, Feb. 1983 by Jeremy Dibble).

These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of engraved vocal scores, widely available through various online library sources, are now the only resources available for studying and performing these works.

The English Heritage Music Series has been created to ensure that these compositions are preserved, are accessible for scholarly research and, most importantly, are available for performance by future generations. Its mission is to:

- Source non-engraved/out-of-print English composer compositions that are in the U.S. public domain
- Preserve these compositions through the preparation of performance scores using notation software
- Provide open Internet access to the scores to facilitate study, performance and sharing of performance material (program notes, audio, reviews, etc.)

In preparing the English Heritage Music Series editions, every effort has been made to adhere strictly to the notation contained in the manuscripts. Because of the passage of time and its effect on the condition of the manuscript, the absence of clear information often times by the composer in notating divided instruments, and with emendations in the composer and other hands resulting from use of the manuscript in performance, there were numerous circumstances which required interpretation and decisions for notes, accidentals, dynamics, articulations and tempi. Should questions arise in the use of these editions, the composers’ autograph manuscripts and the Novello vocal scores should be consulted for clarification.

Matthew W. Mehaffey
Editor

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Source Information

Autograph Manuscript:

Vocal Score:

Royal College of Music Library

Manuscript Transcription & Score Preparation

Royal College of Music Library, London: MS 4145

n/a

Jonathan Frank, Ass’t. Librarian - jonathan.frank@rcm.ac.uk

David Fielding - dhcfielding@charter.net

Reference Material and Software

Notation Software: Dorico Pro Version 5.1.81.2225 *Audio Software:* NotePerformer 4 *Graphic Software:* Affinity Photo 2

Document Software: Affinity Publisher 2 *Music Notation Reference:* Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011

The Golden Legend

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

1851

STANFORD'S "PART I"

- **Prince Henry's Despair:** The poem opens with Prince Henry of Hoheneck, afflicted with a malady, seeking a cure from the physicians of Salerno, who tell him the only cure is the blood of a maiden willing to die for him.
- **Lucifer's Temptation:** Despairing, Henry is tempted by Lucifer, disguised as a traveling physician, who leads him to a life of excess and eventually, an outcast state.
- **Elsie's Sacrifice:** Henry finds refuge with Ursula, a former vassal, and her daughter Elsie, who, moved by compassion, offers herself as a sacrifice to cure Henry, believing it will bring her closer to Christ.

BALANCE OF LONGFELLOW'S POEM

- **Journey to Salerno:** Elsie and Henry embark on a journey to Salerno, where they encounter a band of pilgrims, including Lucifer disguised as a friar, who gloats over Elsie's fate.
- **Miraculous Healing:** During the journey, Elsie is kidnapped by Lucifer, but Henry rescues her, and in the process, is miraculously healed. Henry and Elsie return to Hoheneck and marry.

THEMES & ANALYSIS

- **Themes of Faith and Sacrifice:** The poem explores themes of faith, sacrifice, and redemption, with Elsie's willingness to die for Henry serving as a powerful example of Christian selflessness.
- **Light vs. Darkness:** The poem contrasts the light of faith and hope with the darkness of despair and temptation, embodied by Lucifer's machinations.
- **Historical and Mythical Elements:** Longfellow weaves together historical and mythical elements, drawing from Christian traditions and legends to create a rich and evocative narrative.
- **Existential Themes:** The poem delves into existential themes, exploring the nature of suffering, the search for meaning, and the promise of salvation.
- **Longfellow's Style:** Longfellow's signature style is evident in the poem's lyrical language, beautiful imagery, and focus on moral and spiritual themes.

Source: Google Generative AI



After completing Part I on December 27, 1875, Stanford never returned to the project. We can only imagine how he would have chosen to portray the rest of the story. Only the full score manuscript has survived (Royal College of Music Library MS 4145). The composer did not prepare a piano reduction and no vocal score was created at the time. The vocal score and associated piano reduction for this edition were created by Dave Fielding (English Heritage Music Series) in April 2025.



CHARACTERS

Lucifer Fallen Angel <i>Baritone</i>	Ursula Mother of Elsie <i>Alto</i>	Bertha Sister of Elsie <i>Alto</i>
Henry Prince of Hoheneck <i>Tenor</i>	Gottlieb Vassal of the Prince - Father of Elsie <i>Baritone</i>	Max Brother of Elsie <i>Tenor</i>
Elsie Daughter of Ursula and Gottlieb <i>Soprano</i>		Approximate Performance Time 60 minutes



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Violoncello

Scenes from The Golden Legend

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Charles Villiers Stanford

Prologue - The Spire of Strasburg Cathedral

Allegro con fuoco

pizz. **3** **1** **1**

2-4

10

10-19 *ff*

25

31 *mf* *dim.*

38 *dim.* *pp* *cresc.* *ff*

47 *pizz.* *p*

52 **1** *arco* *f* *p* **1** V.S.

58

p

65

cresc. *p* *sf*

73

sf *sf* *p* *cresc.* 3 3

80

86

p 3 3 3 3

91

ff *sf*

97

p *sf*

108

pp *ppp* 7 117-123

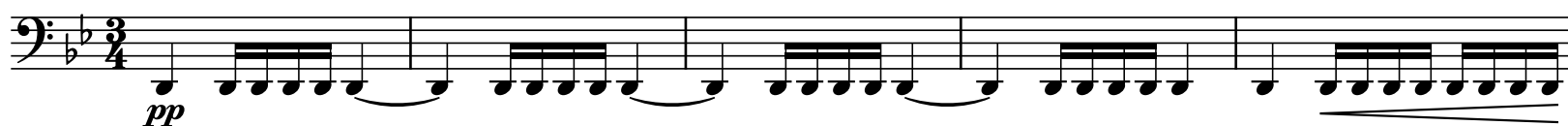
124

S. I

sf *sf*

Con - gre - go___ cle - rum, con - gre - go___ cle - rum, con - gre - go___ cle

132



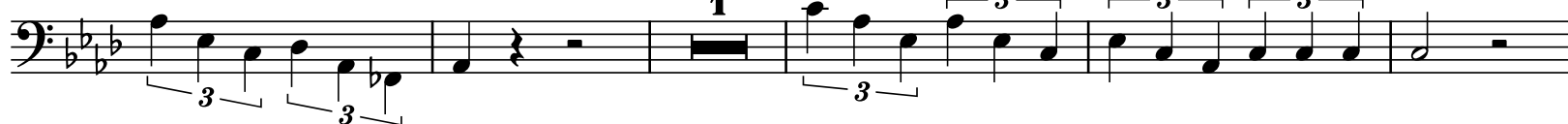
137



142



148



154



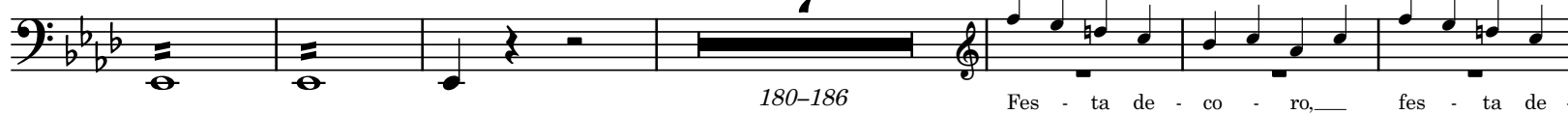
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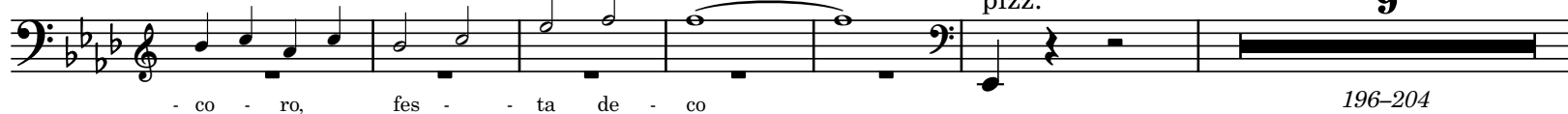
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177



190



- co - ro, fes - ta de - co

196-204

205

pp 207-208 *arco*

212

sf *sf* *sf*

219

sf *p* *cresc.*

226

sf

232

p

239

sf *sf* *sf* 245-247

248

pp 253-255

260

sf 261-263 266-267 *pizz.*

272

arco *pp*

281

285-287

290

291-293

300

accel.

311

rall.

Recitativo

317-319

320

Recitativo

a tempo

322-323

327-328

2

394

The musical score shows measures 394 through 400. Each measure contains three eighth notes, all marked with a triplet bracket above them. The notes are G2, A2, and B2. The dynamic marking *pp* is placed below the first measure. A hairpin crescendo symbol is positioned below measures 397 and 398.

Moderato tranquillo

2 3 S. I.

402-403 404-406

Noc - te sur - gen - - - tes vi - gil - e - mus om

415

pp

419-421

3 S. I.

vi - gil -

423

- e - - mus om - - - - nes ! vi - gil - e - mus

431

pp

rall.

Scene II - The Castle of Vautsberg on the Rhine

Andante

2

1-2

p

a3

7

14

tutti

sfp *sfp*

22

Solo

p

29

tutti

pp

4

38-41

42

Hn in F 1

pp

51

57

stringendo un poco

pp

61

più mosso

65

70

Allegro

f

p

cresc.

78

sf

p

84

morendo

Lento

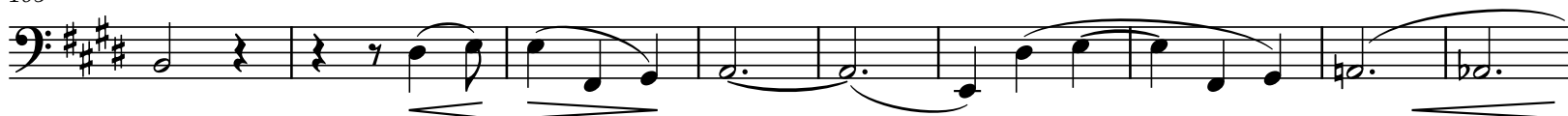
p

92

pp

p

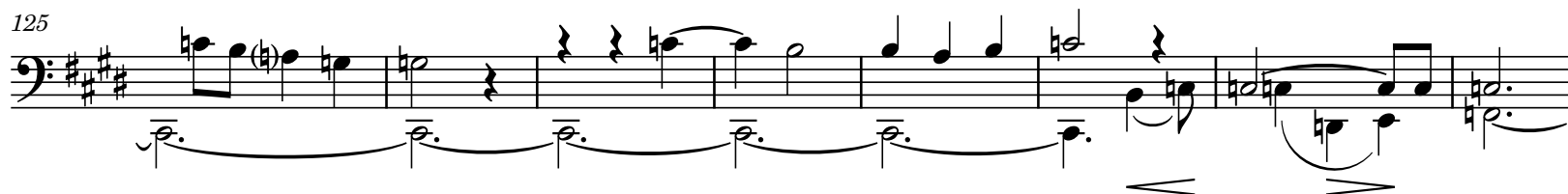
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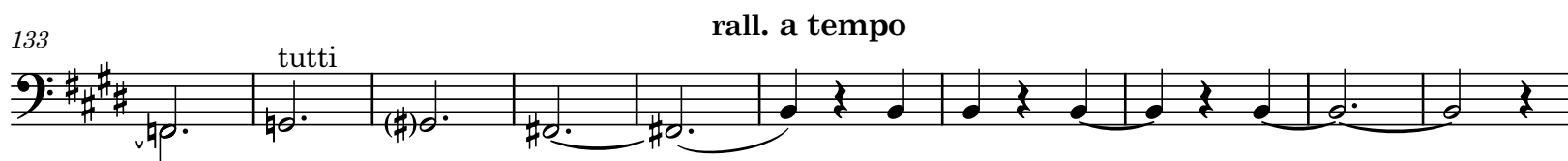
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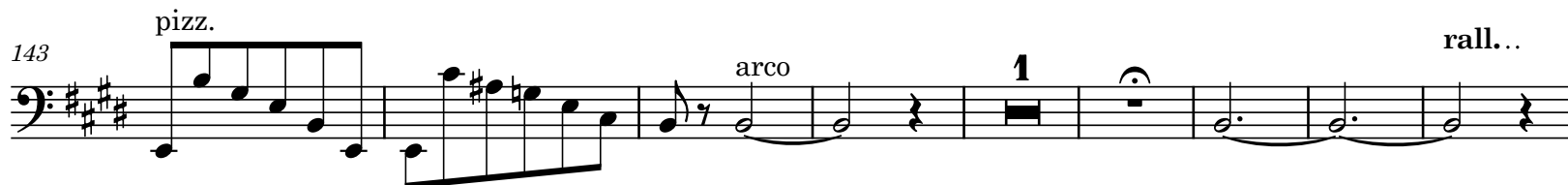
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133



143



152



164



Attacca Scene III

Scene III - The Castle of Vautsberg on the Rhine



10



18



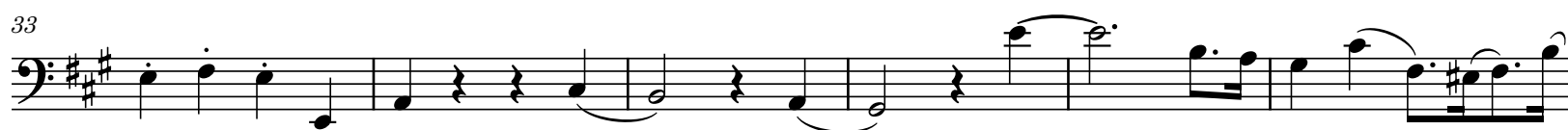
25

Più lento Rec:

A tempo



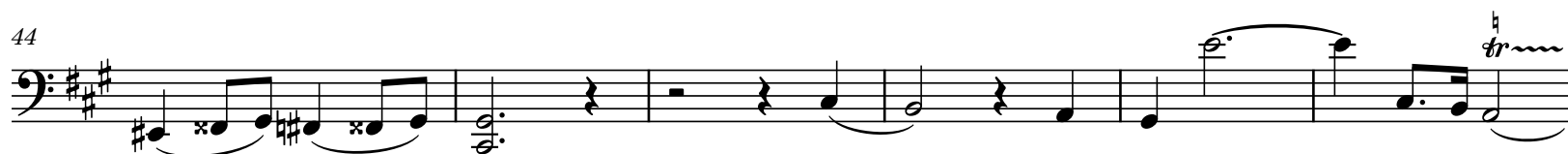
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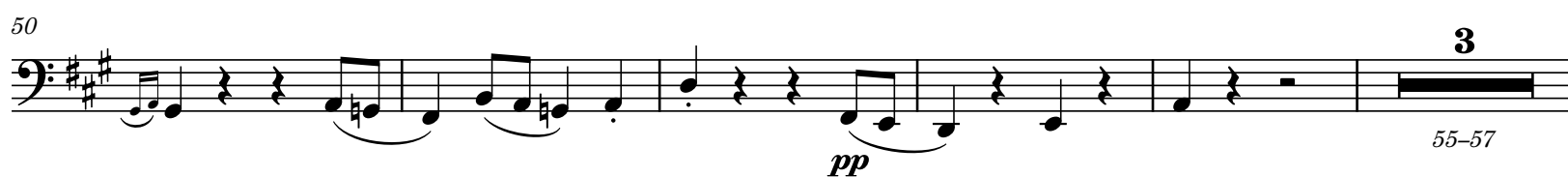
39



44



50



58

Agitato



62



66



75

pp

82

8

GOTT.

D. B. 8ba

83-90

who of her own free will shall

pp

97

cresc.

107

p

p

112

p

116

f

sf

2

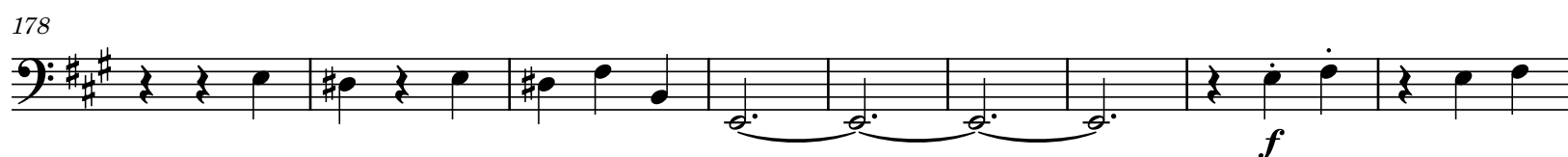
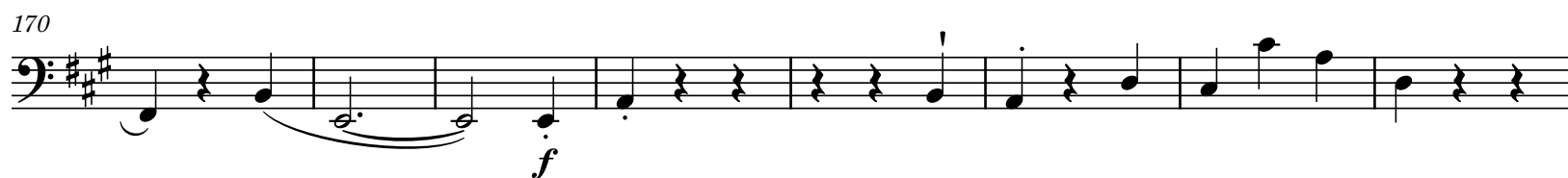
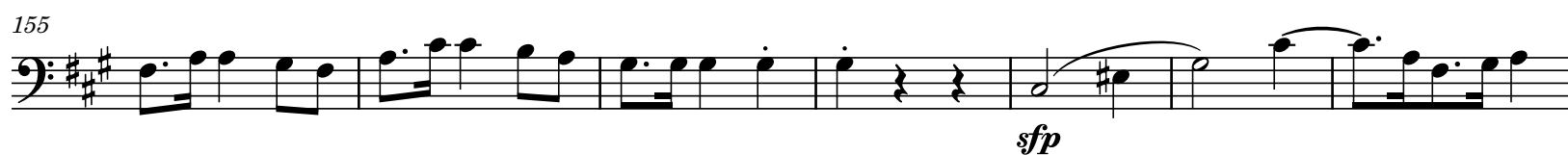
120-121

f

sf

2

120-121

**Allegro molto animato**

187

192-194 *pp*

196

202

209

214

219

sfp

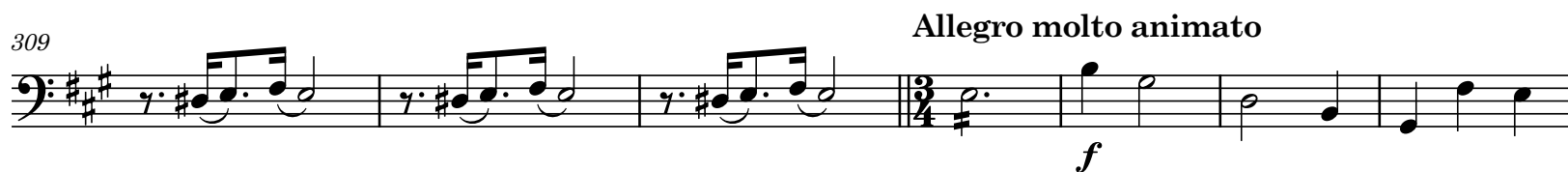
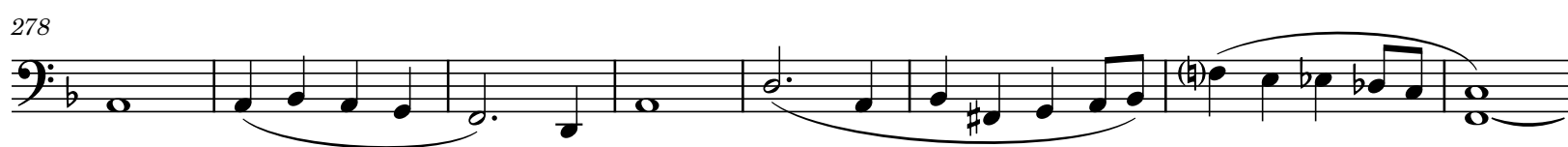
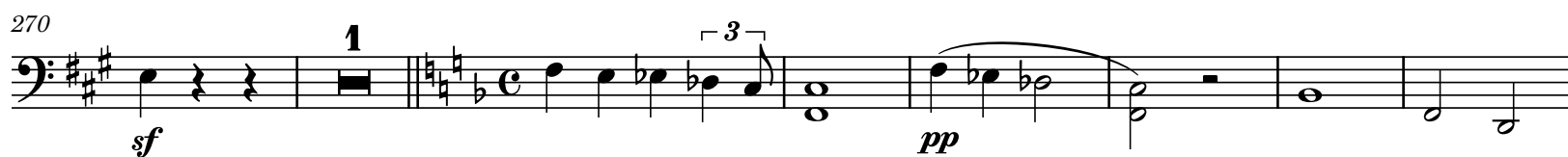
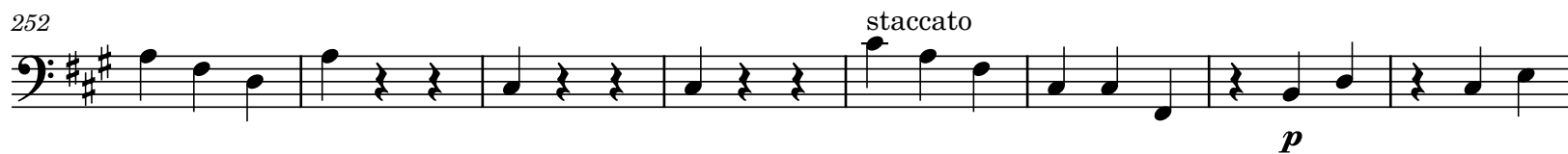
225

Agitato

231

237

243-244



316 *sempre staccato*

p

323

pp

330

cresc. pp

337 *rall.* **Tempo come mm 272**

344

352 *accel..... rall.....* **Lento - Tempo del Scene II**

360 **2** **1** **5** *pizz.* **1**

361-362 366-370

373 *arco* **2**

pp 378-379

380

arco

389

1

pp

399

1

1

rall.....

pp

Scene IV - A Farm in the Odenwald

Andante con moto

3

6

1-3

6-11

pp

pp

14

pp

19

pp

1

25

p

Solo

tutti

31

rall.

1

Allegretto

2

37-38

39

1

2

Recitative

a tempo

f

p

43-44

52

2

56-57

pp

1 pizz.

66

75

2

78-79

2

82-83

1

86

pp

95

rall.

2

102-103

104

1

1

1

arco

116

mf

pizz.

124

arco

9

129-137

138 pizz.

147 arco **1** *p*

159 **2** 171-172

173 pizz. **1** **1** arco

185 **3** 188-190 pizz. **1** arco **3** 196-198

199 Solo **3** **3** **3** **8** 204-211 tutti *pp*

Scene V - A Room in the Farm-house

Moderato

1 *p* pizz.

8 arco

15 pizz. **6** 19-24

25 GOTT.

6 *arco* 3 **Allegro**

162-167 *dim. p* *f*

173

sf *sf* *sf* *f*

1

179

p

186

cresc. *sf* *sf* *sf*

194

dim.

203

210

pp

215

pp *ppp*

Attacca Scene VI

Scene VI - Elsie's Chamber

Andante con moto

9

10 ELSIE

My Re - deem - - er and my Lord, I be - seech thee, I en - treat

Solo arco *mp*

21

29

tutti

pp

36

47

5

53-57

58

pp *cresc.* *pp*

67

colla voce

2

69-70

78

pizz.

2

86-87

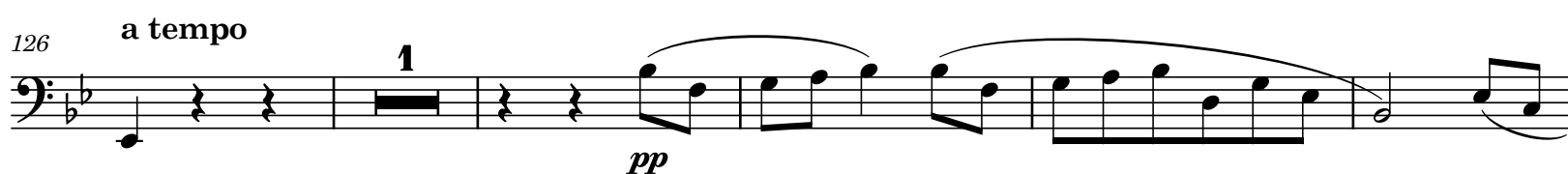
88

7

arco

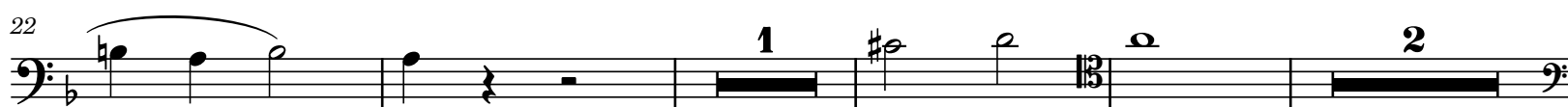
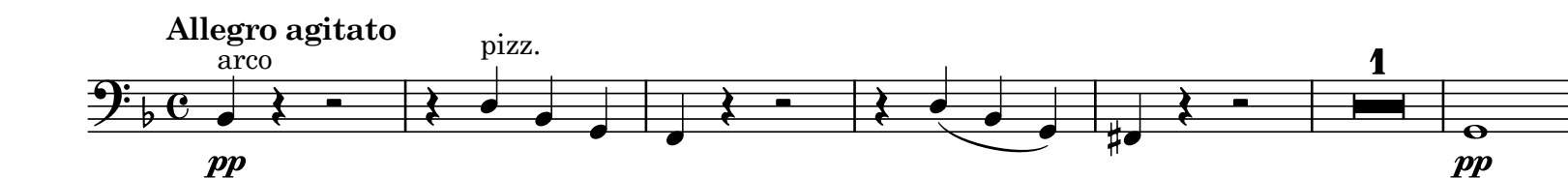
90-96

3

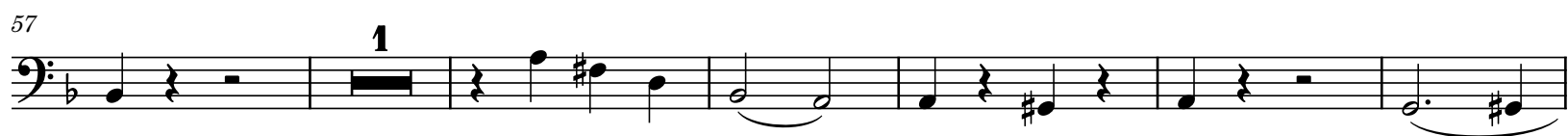
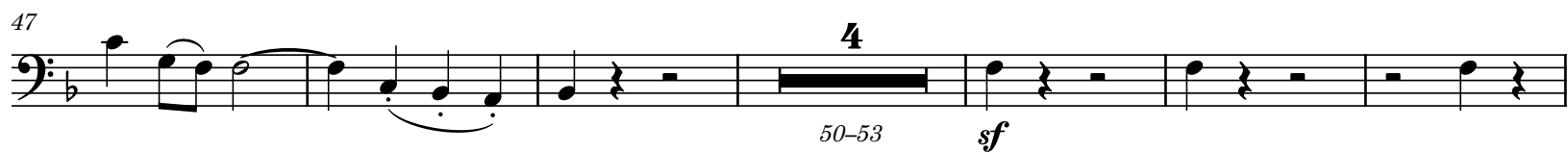


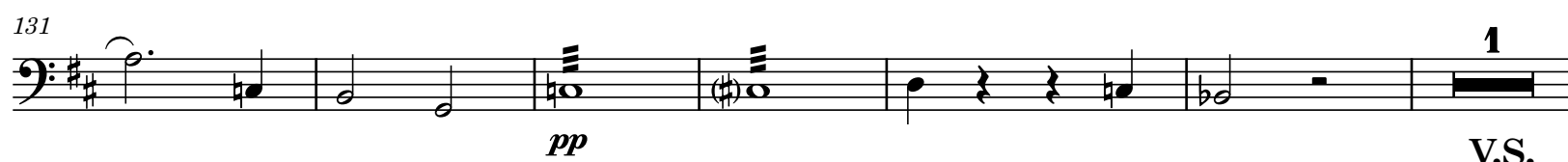
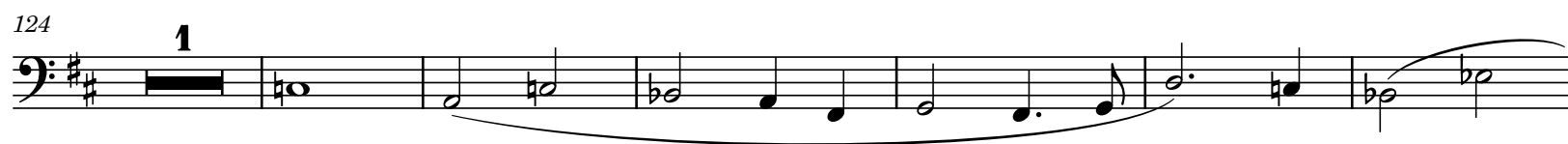
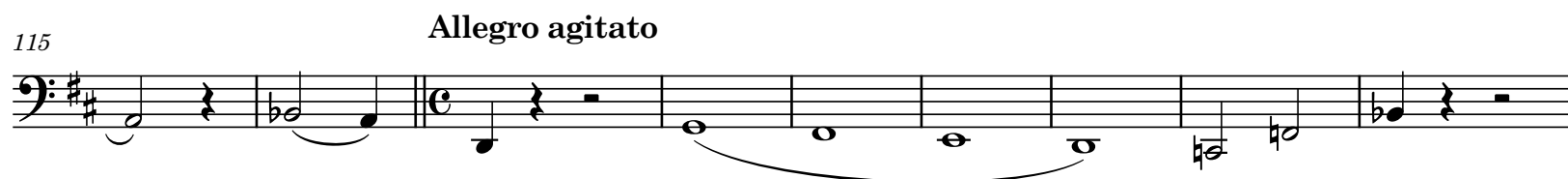
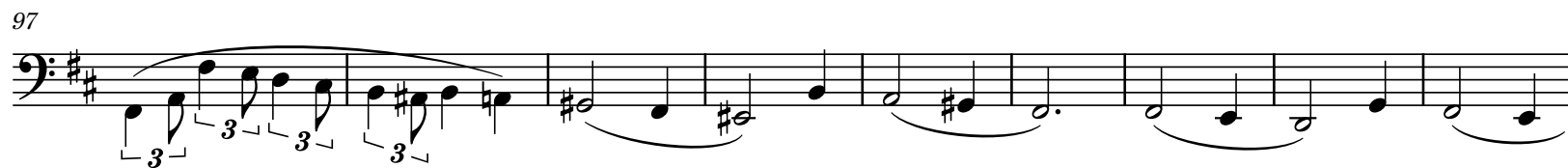
Attacca Scene VII

Scene VII - The Chamber of Gottlieb & Ursula



27-28





138 **Più mosso**

pizz. *f* *p*

145 arco

152 pizz. arco

159 7 2
162-168 172-173
cresc.

174 **un poco rall.** *f*

182 accel.....

188 **Più mosso** *dim.*

Attacca Scene VIII

Scene VIII - A Room in the Farmhouse

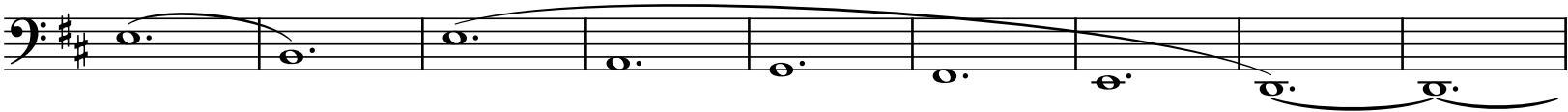
L'istesso tempo

8 1 Solo *pp*

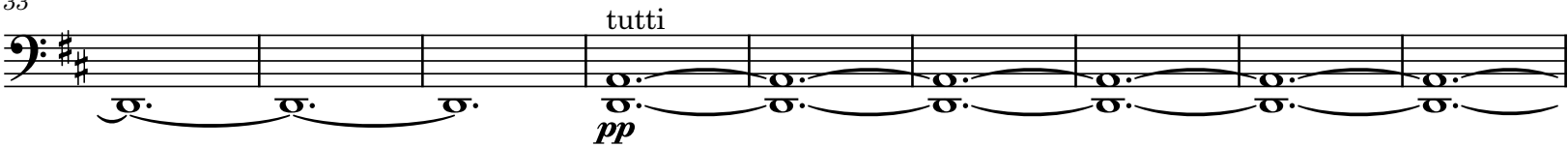
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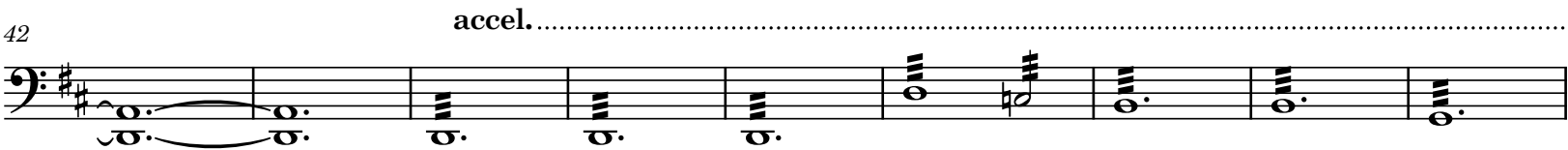
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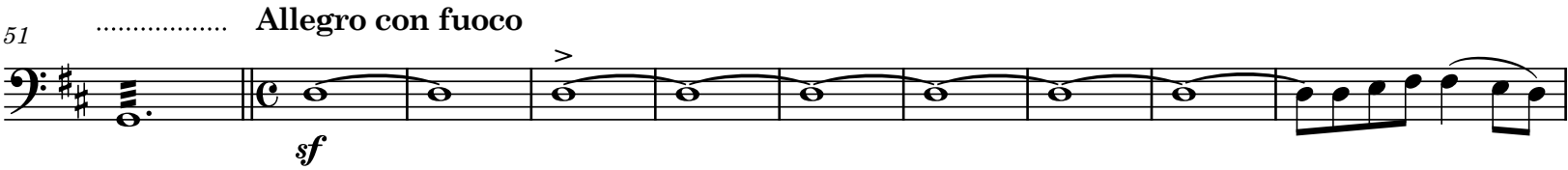
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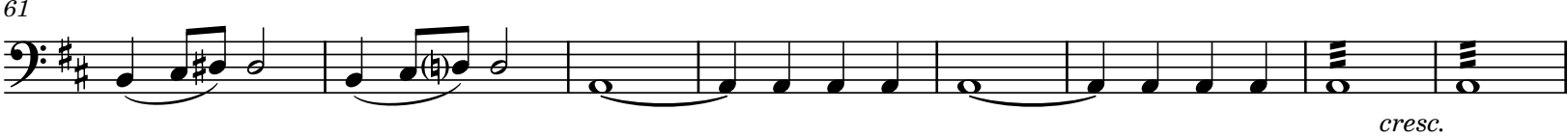
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51



61



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