GIOVANNI BOTTESINI

Complete Method for Double Bass

Part I

Transposed Five Semitones Down
Preface

Giovanni Bottesini (1821–1889) was an Italian composer, conductor, and music teacher. He was arguably also the most eminent double-bass player of his time, and his virtuosity on the instrument had earned him the title “the Paganini of the Double Bass.” Bottesini toured the world extensively, and among his many accomplishments, was chosen by Verdi to conduct the world premiere of *Aida* in 1871.

Bottesini’s instructional book *Complete Method for Double Bass*, in its various editions, has become a staple of the double-bass curriculum. Bottesini championed the three-string double bass — an earlier version of the instrument, missing today’s E string, which was standard at the time in many parts of the world. Consequently, the lowest note in his original *Method* is low A (except for a few exercises, originally meant for solfège). This version of the book is transposed five semitones down from the original, for practicing purposes.

This digital edition of Bottesini’s *Method* is based on the 1869 French edition issued by Léon Escudier, as found on the International Music Score Library Project website (imslp.org). It contains only the exercises (in a slightly different order), without the original text and illustrations, and does not include the second part of the book, titled “the double bass considered as a solo instrument.” Due to the advances in double-bass technique since Bottesini’s time, and given today’s near-universality of four-string instruments, the original fingering, position, and bowing markings were omitted.

The latest version of this edition and additional material (the entire book transposed to all other keys, audio files, etc.) are available at yuvalnov.org/bottesini. To report mistakes in this document or to suggest improvements, please write to bottesini.method@gmail.com.

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I dedicate this edition to my beloved daughter Naomi, a baker of fine pizzas and a hopelessly forgetful toothbrusher.

Yuval Nov
August 2020
1. Preliminary Exercises

1.1 Lento

1.2

1.3

1.4

1.5

1.6

1.7

1.8

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2. Exercises in G Major

2.1

2.2

2.3

2.4

2.5

2.6

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Andantino

Moderato

Andantino

Moderato
Moderato

2.32

2.33

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3. Exercises in E Minor

3.1 Sostenuto

3.2 Moderato

3.3 Lento

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4. Exercises in C Major

4.1

4.2

Moderato

4.3

Allegretto

4.4

Moderato

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Allegretto

\[ \begin{array}{c}
4.8 \\
\end{array} \]
5. Exercises in A Minor

5.1

Moderato

5.2

Andantino

5.3

Moderato

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6. Exercises in D Major

6.1 Maestoso con forza

6.2 Moderato staccato

6.3 Cresc.

6.4 Adagio staccato

6.5 Moderato

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7. Exercises in B Minor

7.1 Maestoso

7.2 Molto Moderato

7.3 Adagio
8. Exercises in A Major

8.1

8.2

Moderato con molto arco

8.3

f

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9. Exercises in F-Sharp Minor

9.1

9.2

Adagio

9.3

9.4

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10. Exercises in F Major

10.1

Moderato ben marcato e staccato

10.3

Allegretto con energia

10.4
Allegretto leggiero

10.5

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11. Exercises in D Minor

11.1

11.2

Adagio

11.3

Andante

11.4

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12. Exercises in B-Flat Major

12.1 Adagio

12.2 Adagio pesante

12.3 Moderato

12.4 Adagio

12.5 Moderato

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13. Exercises in G Minor

13.1

13.2

Maestoso

Allegretto

13.3

13.4

Moderato

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Moderato

13.7

\( \text{Music notation here} \)
14. Exercises in E Major

14.1

14.2

Allegro energico

14.3

Moderato

14.4

Adagio

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15. Exercises in C-Sharp Minor

15.1  Adagio

15.2

15.3  Lento
16. Exercises in E-Flat Major

16.1 Andante

16.2 Moderato

16.3 Allegretto

16.4 Allegretto
17. Exercises in C Minor

17.1 Maestoso

17.2 Allegretto

17.3 staccato.

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18. Exercises in B Major

18.1

18.2

18.3

18.4

18.5

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19. Exercises in G-Sharp Minor

19.1

19.2

19.3

Allegretto

19.4

Moderato

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19.5 Adagio

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21. Exercises in F Minor

21.1 Adagio

21.2 Andantino

21.3 Allegretto

staccato
22. Exercises in D-Flat Major

22.1

22.2 Adagio

22.3 Moderato
23. Exercises in B-Flat Minor

23.1 Adagio

23.2 Moderato

23.3 Moderato

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24. Exercises in G-Flat Major

**Maestoso**

24.1

24.2

**Allegretto**

24.3

**Andantino**

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25. Exercises in E-Flat Minor

25.1 Adagio

25.2 Andante
Moderato

26.12