A Collection of Solos for Marimba and Vibes

by Julie Davila

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Cover Artwork - Jeff Ragland

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About the Book…

Inspirations 4 Mallets is a book that offers percussionists an opportunity to develop four mallet skills, while fostering musicality, phrasing and nuances. The solos in this book are strategically composed to offer charming melodies, yet are accessible to the intermediate mallet player. Great care was taken to devise comfortable patterns and permutations, along with a conservative approach to shifts between naturals and accidentals. There are reasonable challenges with regard to interval control, in that they are seldom smaller than a third, nor larger than a sixth. Additionally, the full range of the keyboard is utilized, often times with restated themes in different octaves. This approach gives the performer the opportunity to explore body orientation and touch relative to the range, while managing familiar content.

Lesson Plans: As with my first book, ***Impressions on Wood***, a lesson plan precedes each solo. Lesson plans are designed to help players isolate skill sets to improve dexterity, in addition to reinforcing fundamentals, and logical practice habits.

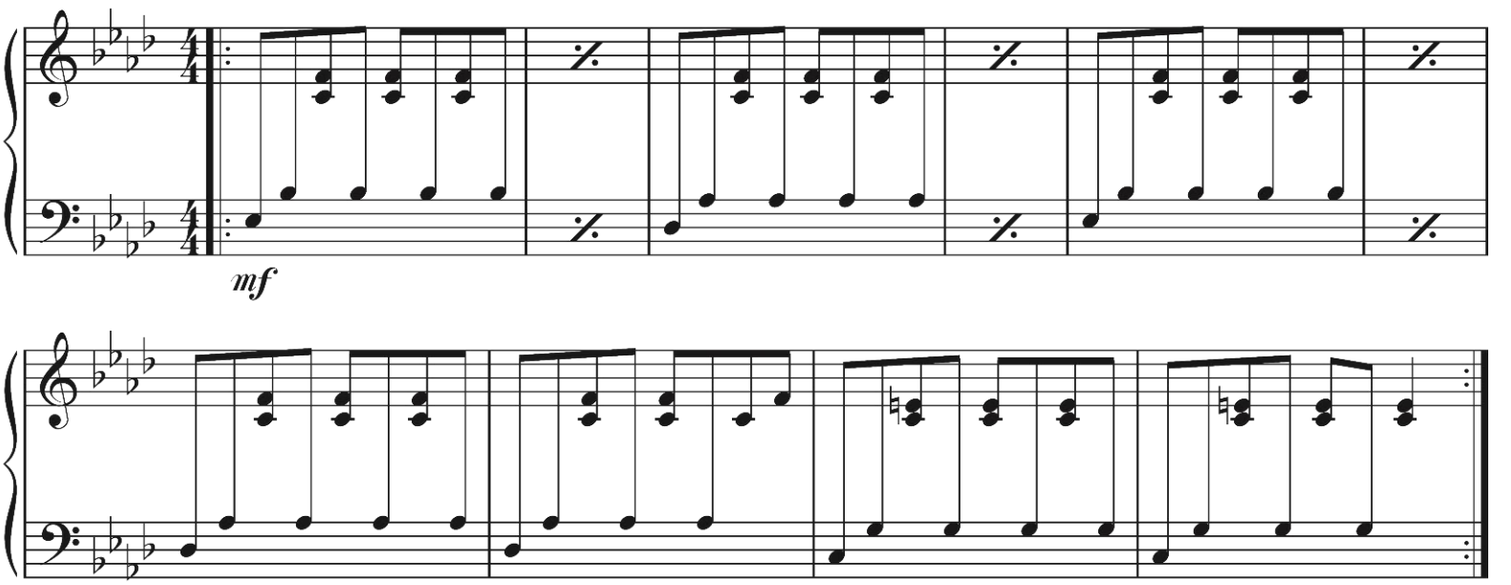
Phrase Markings: There are phrase markings notated throughout the manuscript. Phrases are usually marked with curved lines over figures or spanning several measures, indicating that a particular group of notes "belong" together as one musical idea. These markings are to help the performer begin to understand how notes and passages relate to shaping and creating musical sentences. My hope is that even the intermediate mallet player can utilize these markings to guide musical decisions.

Marimba / Vibe: This array of keyboard solos is unique, in that it combines marimba and vibe solos in one collection. The goal is to encourage keyboard players to develop skills on both instruments, and to become acquainted with the coordination of pedaling and awareness of sustain, unique to the vibraphone. There are two vibe solos and one marimba / vibe duet. Moreover, the marimba / vibe duet, "Boundless", can be performed as a duet, or each part can stand alone as a solo. This innovative idea was devised to encourage collaboration between percussionists. However, due to the fact that they can also stand alone, if a performance opportunity arises and one performer is unable to perform, or an unforeseen circumstance occurs, the other performer would still be able to perform.

Acknowledgments: Special thanks always goes to God first, (for the many life blessings), and to my husband Lalo, Dick and Kay Sutton (parents), and our girls, Danielle and Marisa for their continuous support, love and encouragement. Thanks to the "Row-Loff guys", Chris Crockarell and Chris Brooks for believing in "Sista Jules" and for the many decades of collaboration and friendship. Thanks to the percussion studio at MTSU for helping proof content. Special thanks to: Dr. Brian Mueller, Kyle Ramsay, Kyle Hammack, DaVonte Cheers, Emily Magee, Zach Frank, Celeena Corbin, Wes Denkins, and Justin Baker for the extra time spent proofing, recording, taking pictures, and playing through all of the material multiple times. Lastly, thank you to the many teachers, colleagues and students I've had the pleasure to cross paths with over the years... I couldn't be more blessed - Thank You!

De Novo - Lesson Plan

Exercise #1



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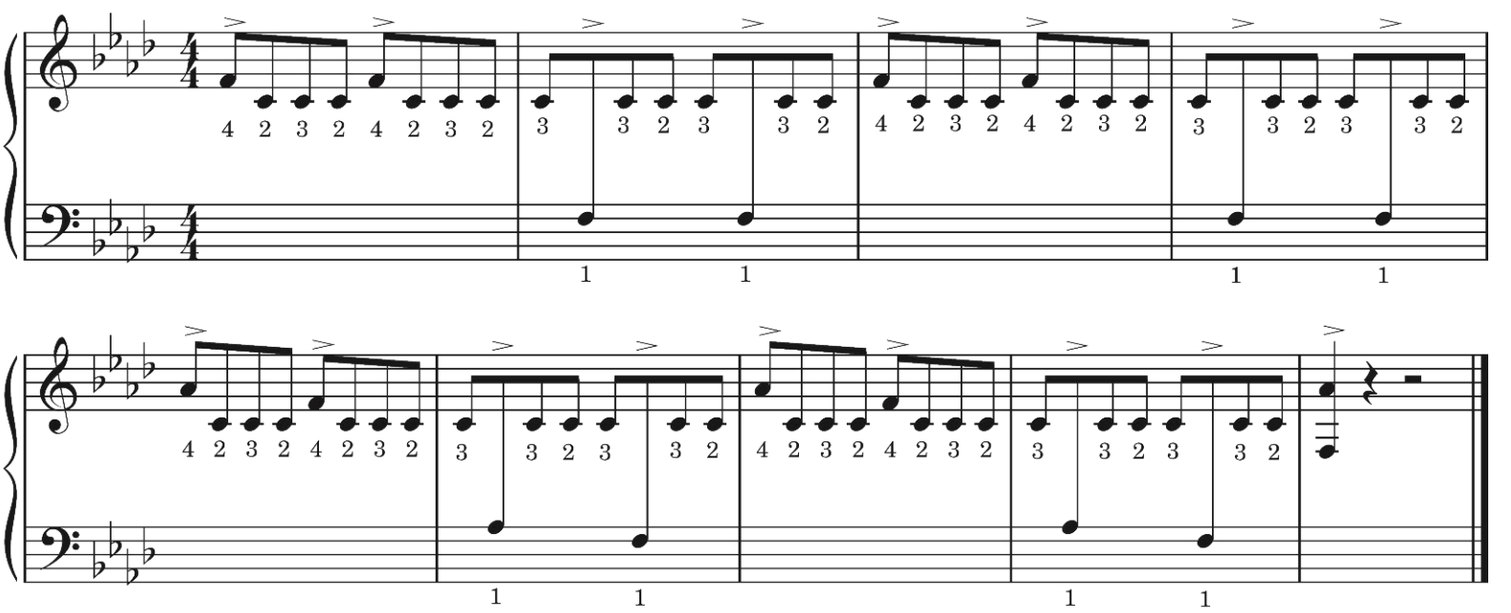

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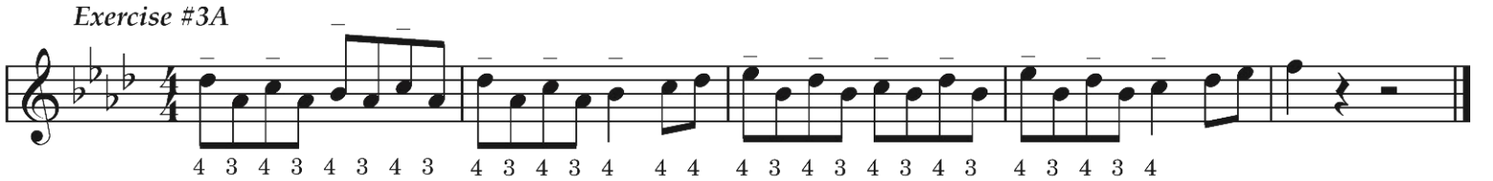

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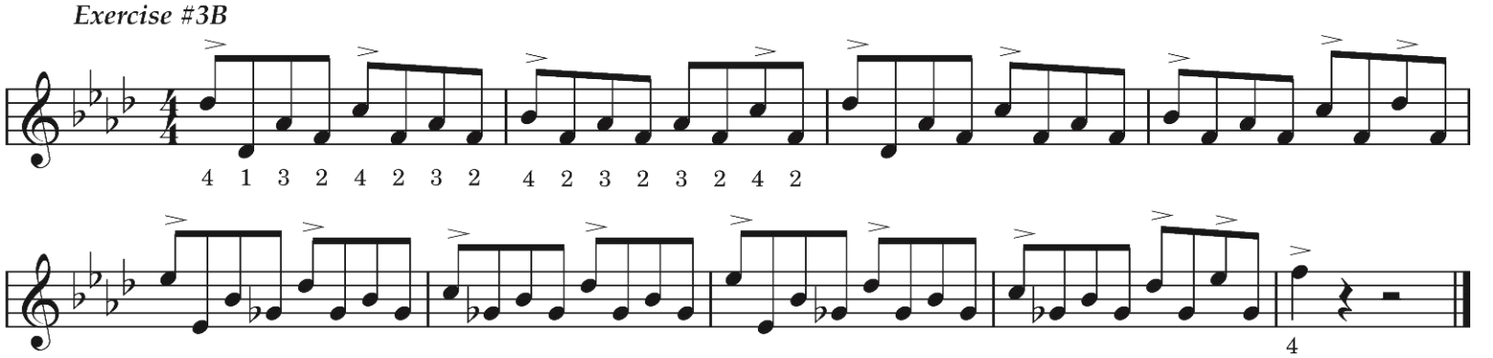

De Novo

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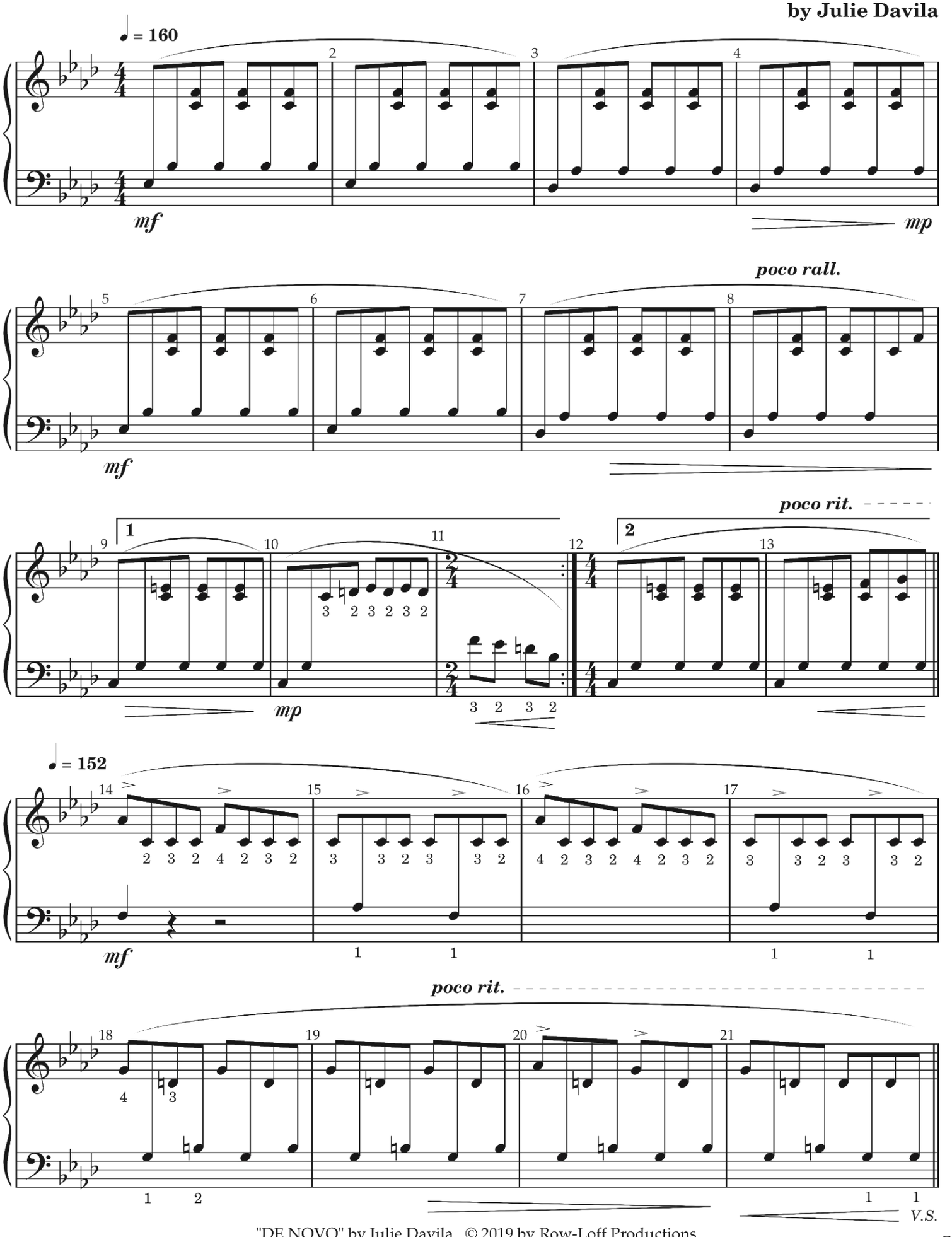

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Catalina

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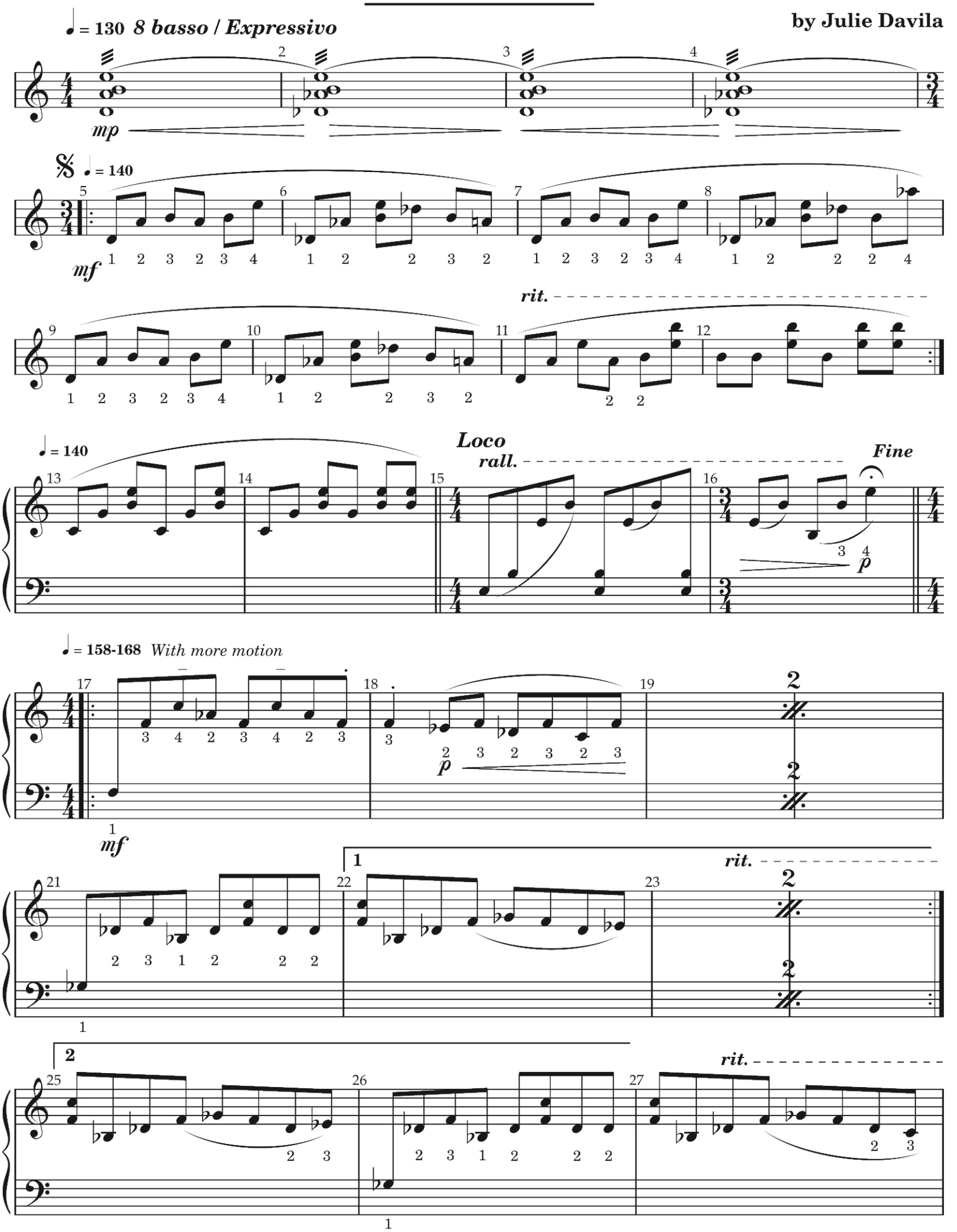

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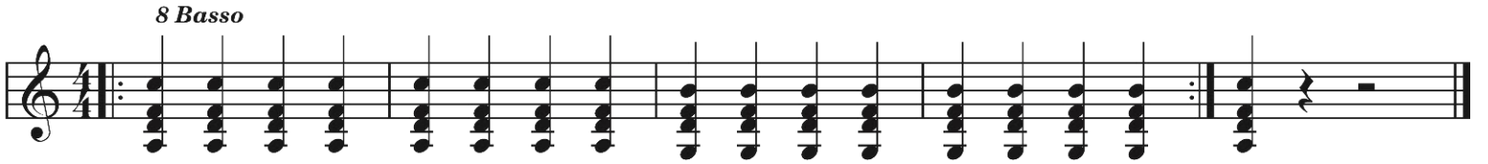
Remembrance - Lesson Plan

Exercise # 1



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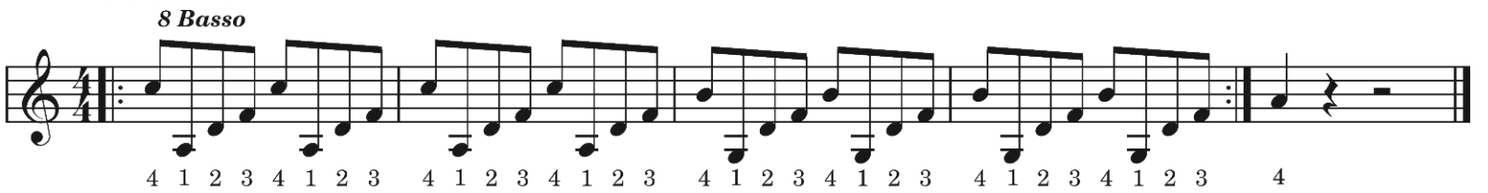

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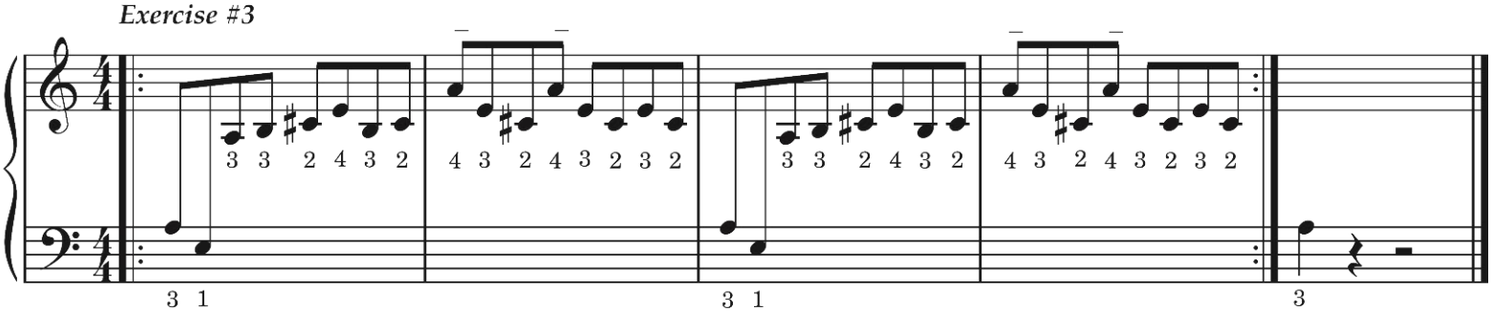

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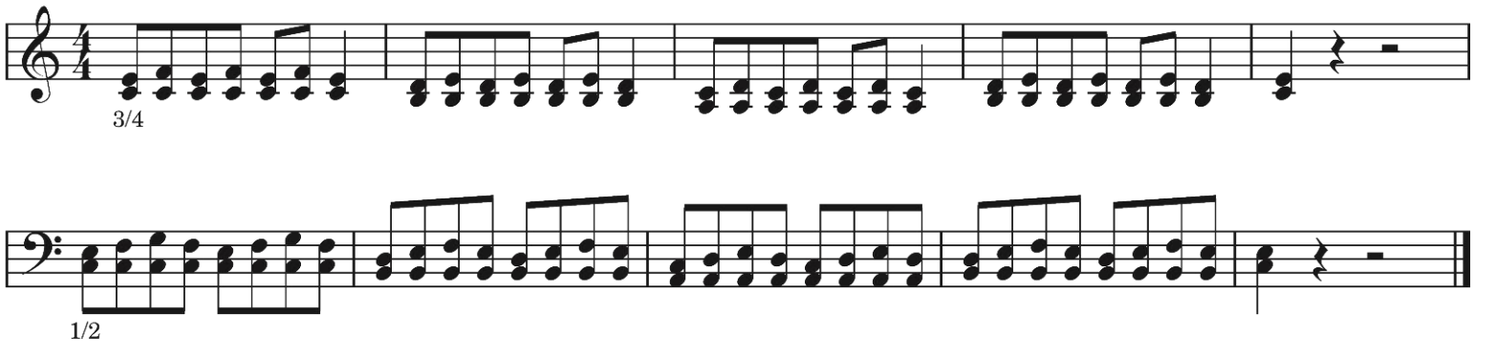

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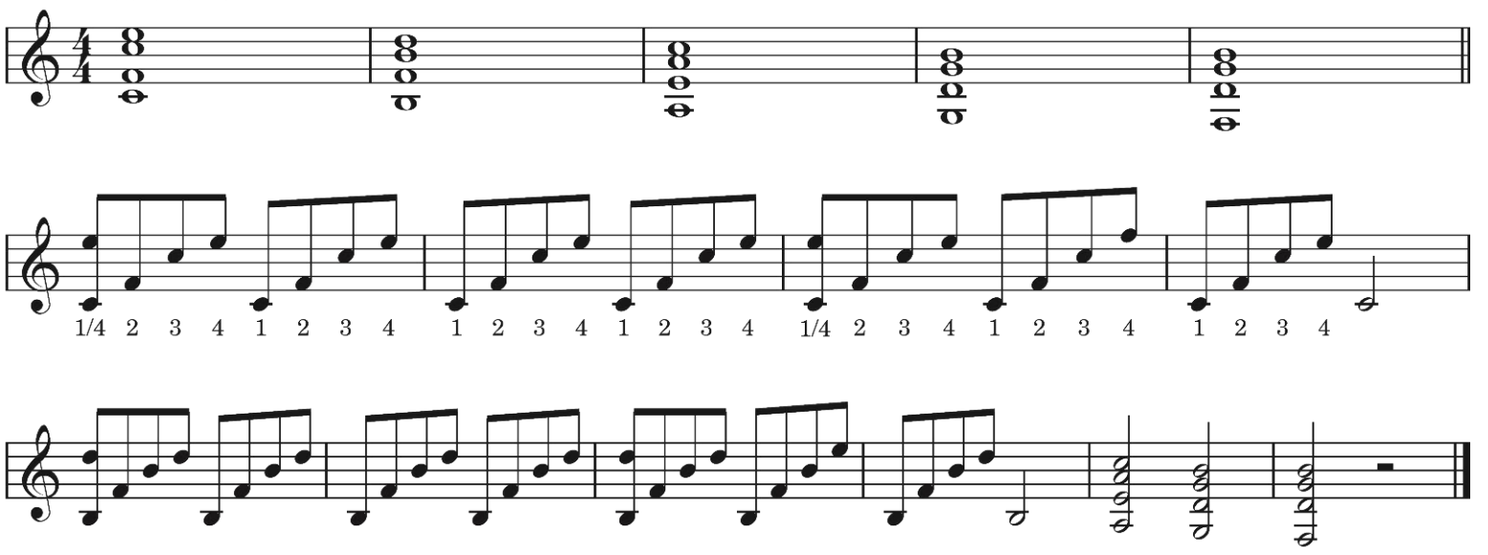

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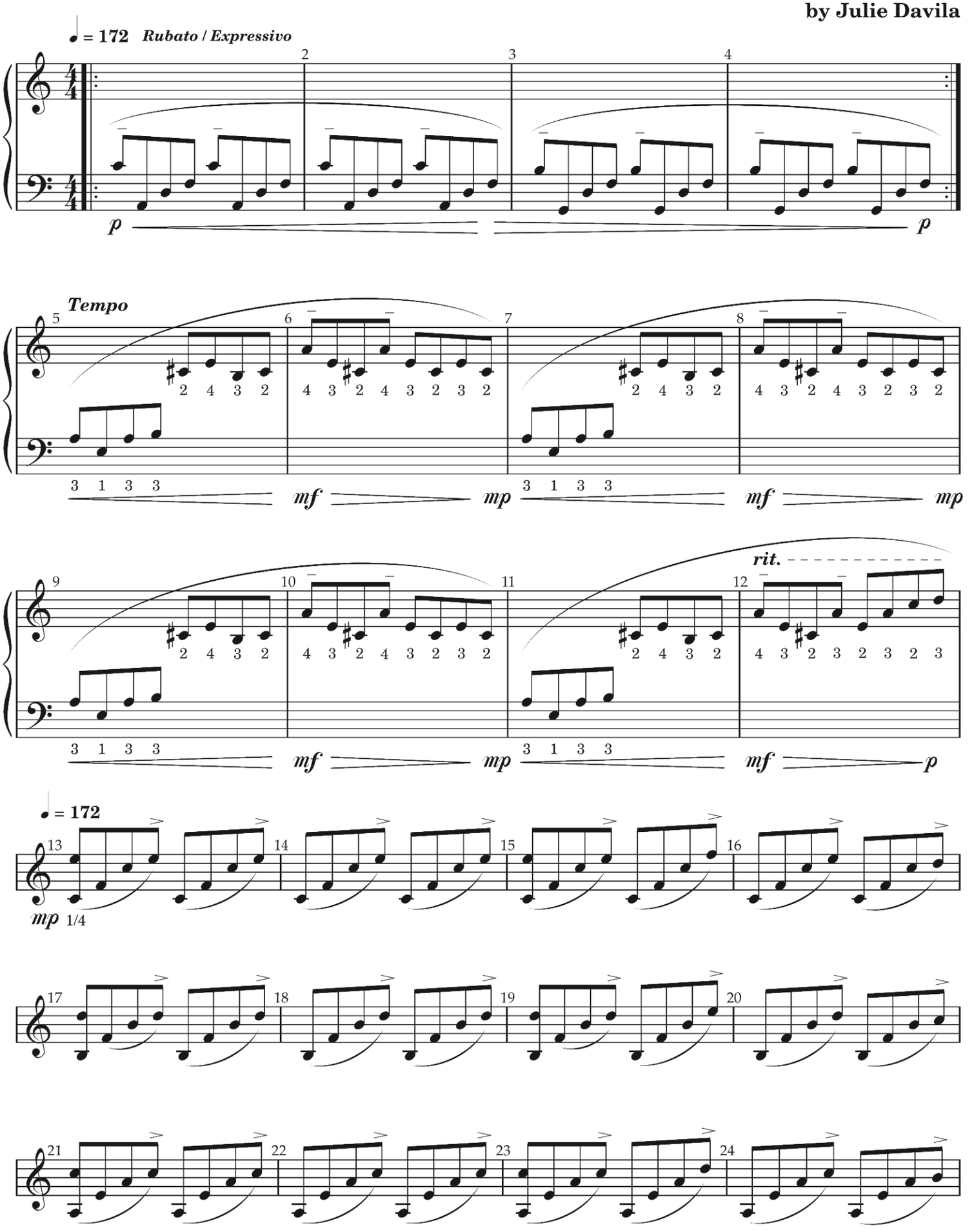

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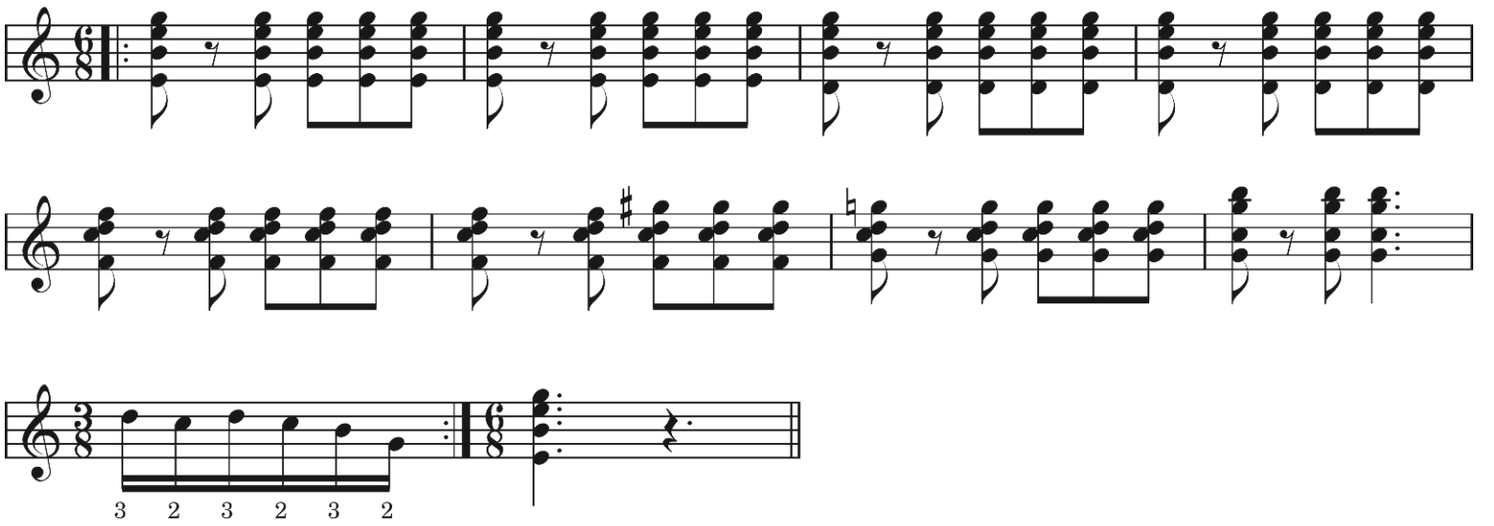
Boundless - Lesson Plan

Exercise #1 for Marimba



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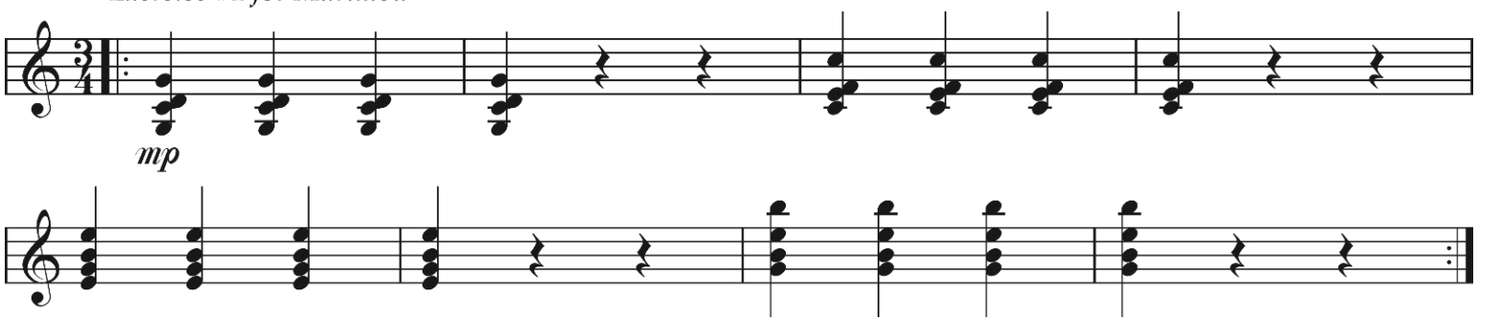

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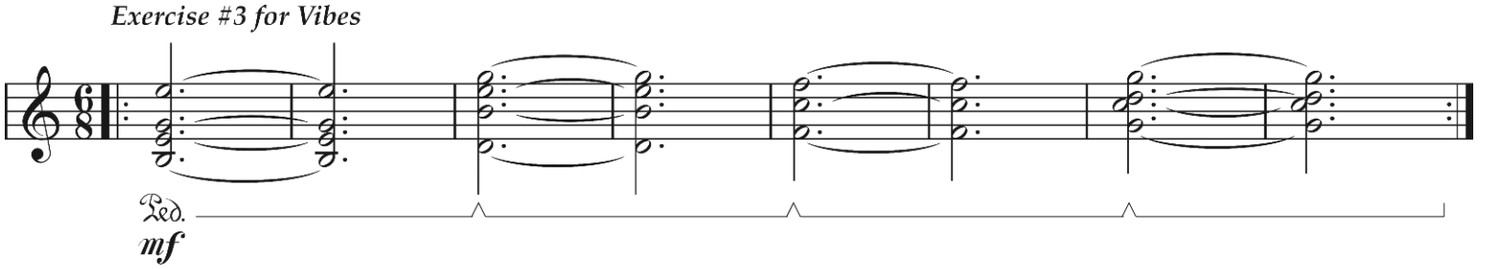

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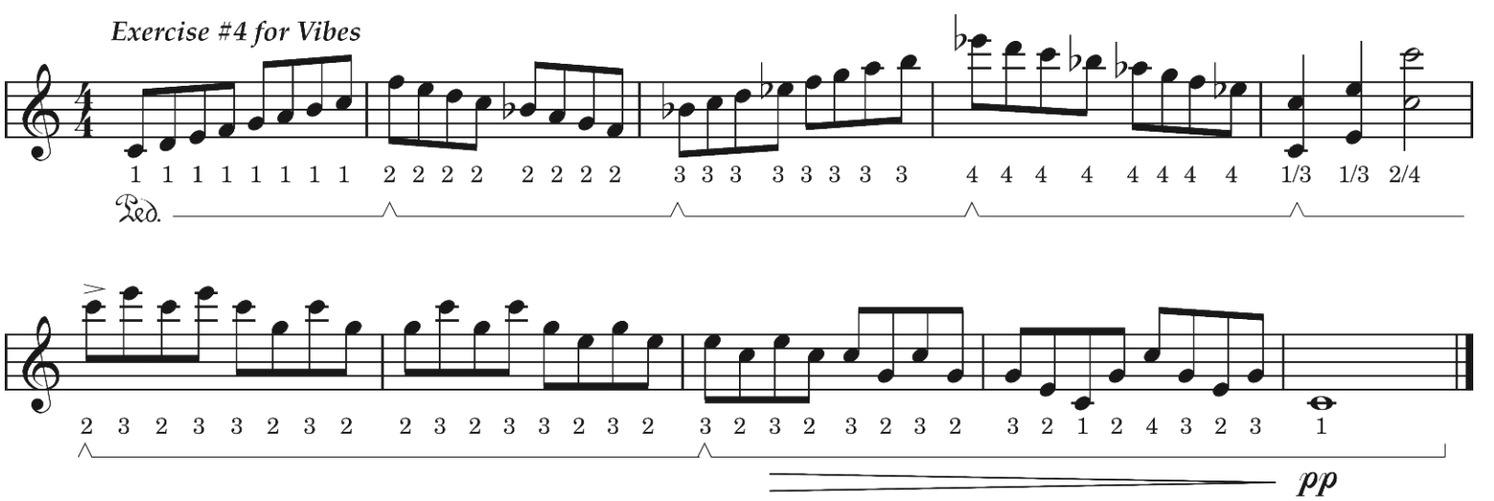

Boundless

Marimba/Vibe Duet

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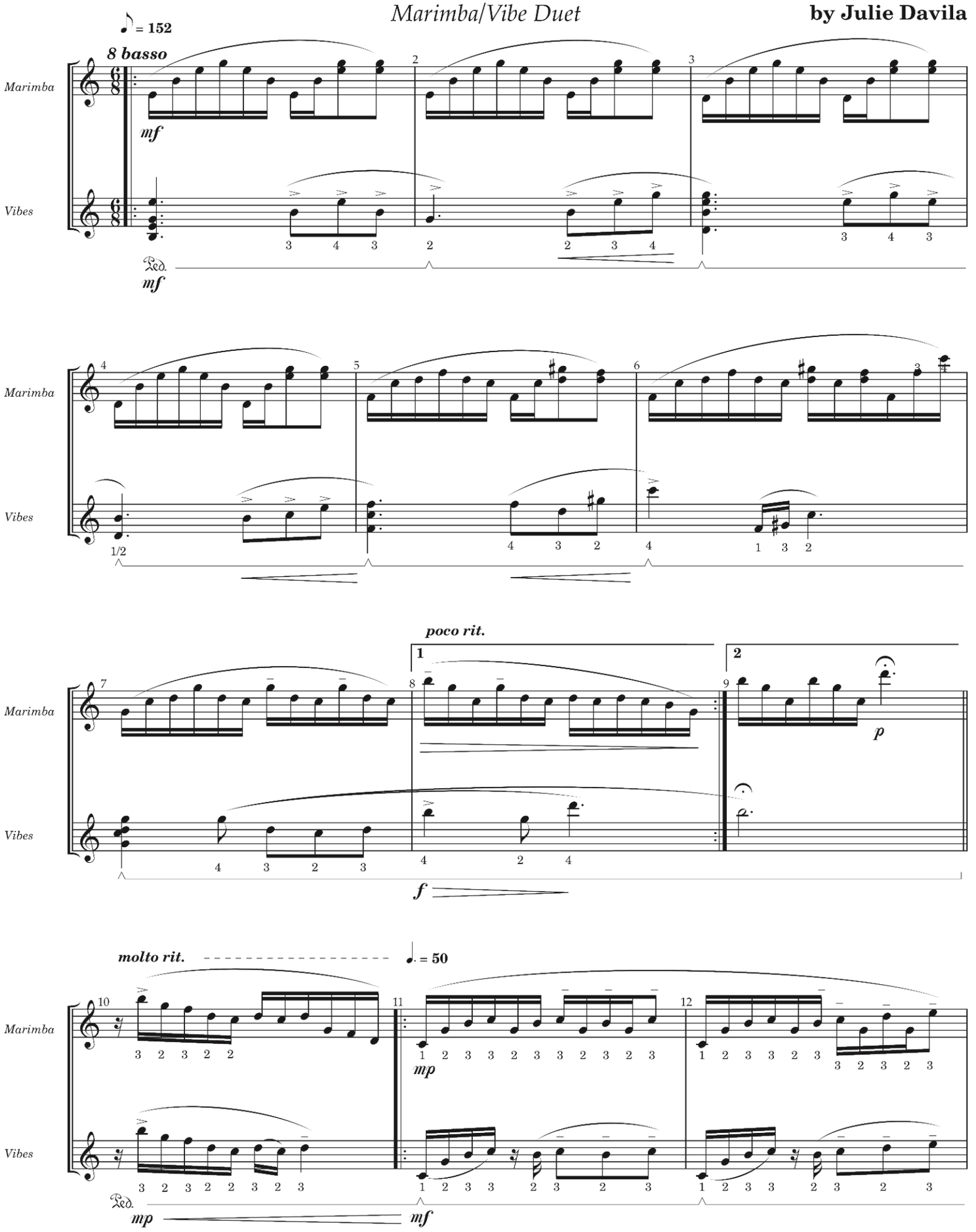

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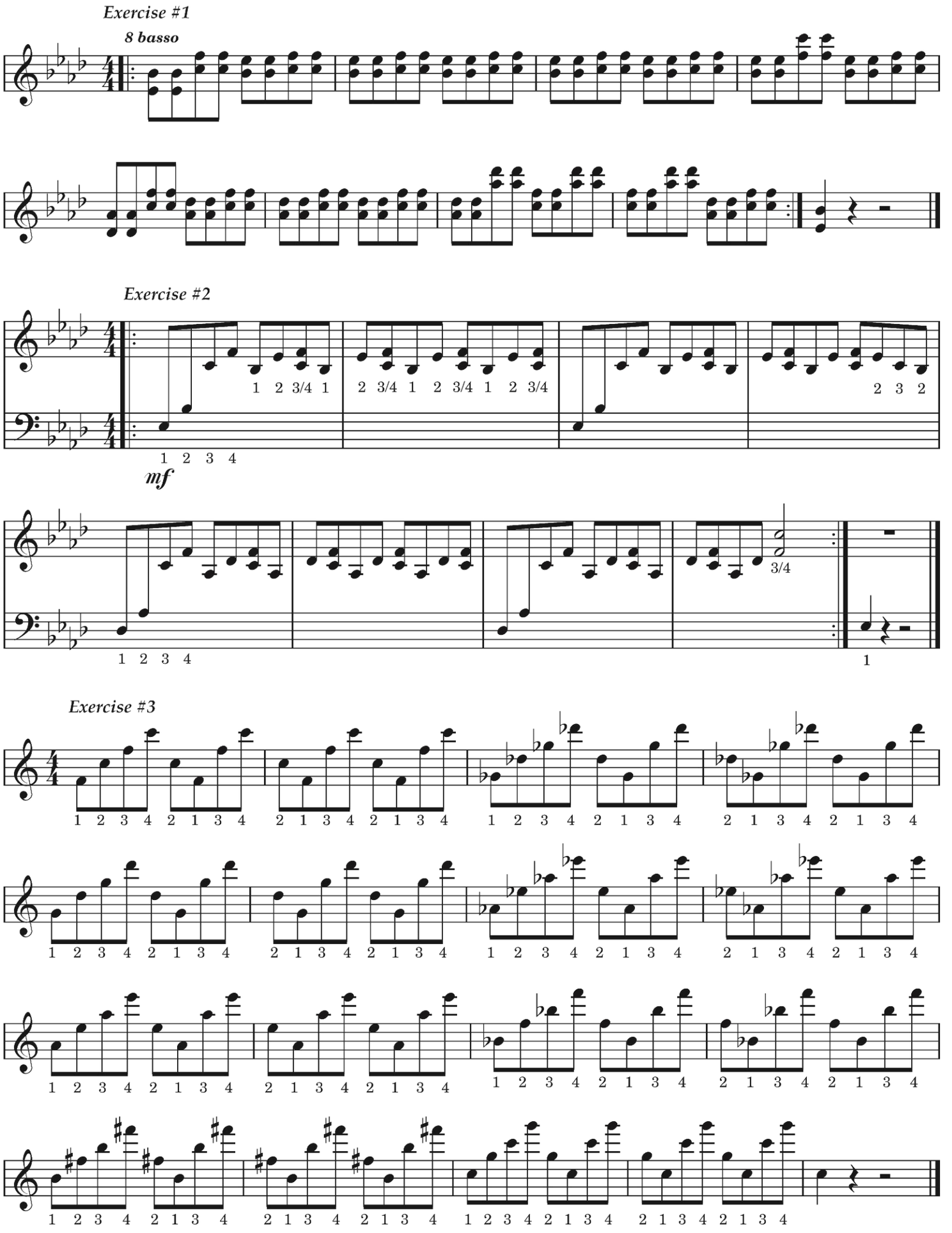
Passages - Lesson Plan



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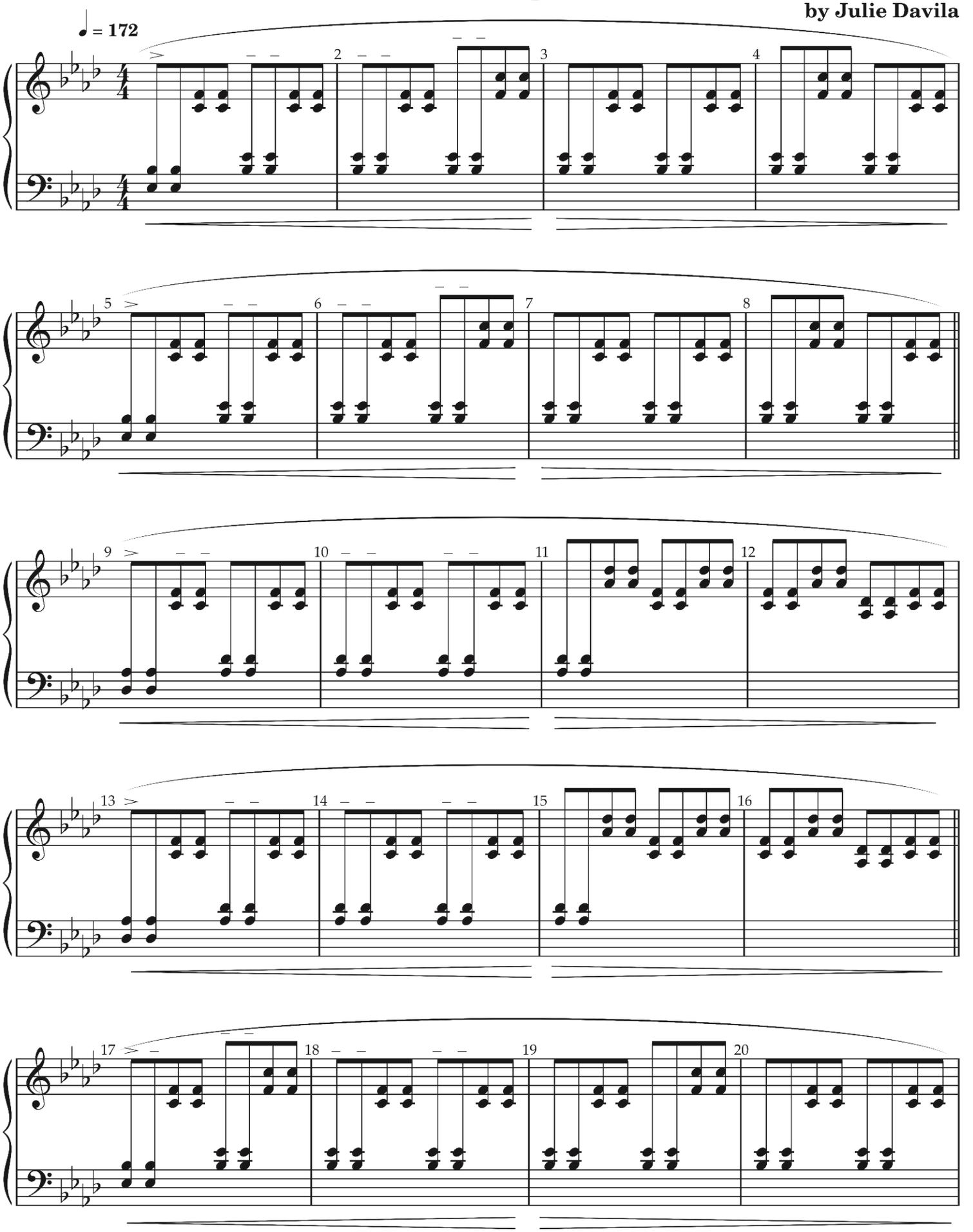

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Drive!

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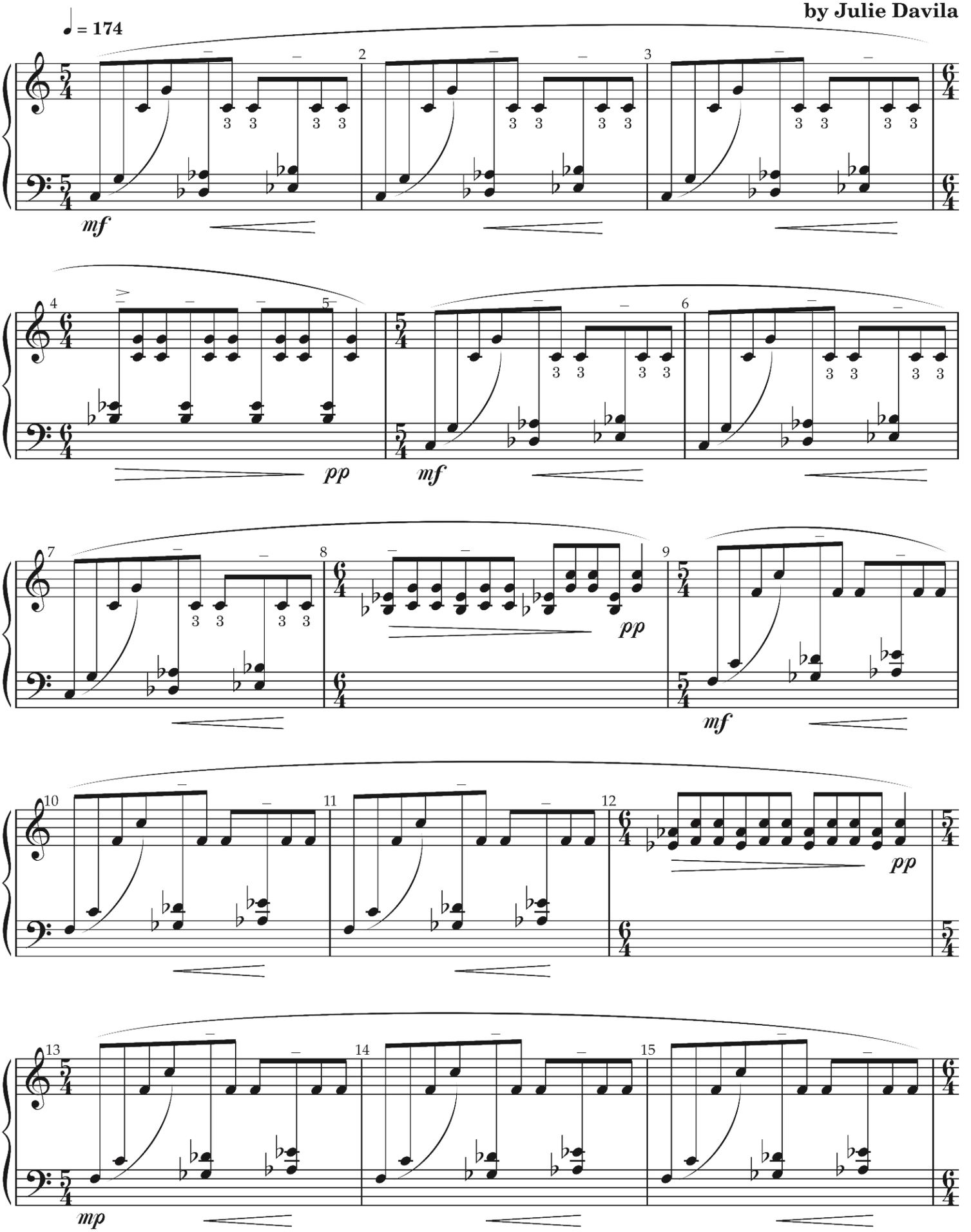

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