Double Bass Calibration Scales

Performance Instructions

- Play all scales very evenly and smoothly, without any accents; do not get quieter or louder at the ends of notes
- Especially when the note is followed by a rest, play the full value of every note, right up until the next beat
- Do not use vibrato
- Start each scale on the open string, and then stay on the string for the full scale; for each scale, only change positions - not strings
- To clarify the dynamic markings in the score ('p' and 'f'), please test what is the absolute softest and the absolute loudest you are able to sustain on your instrument. If those two extreme dynamics are 'pp' and 'ff' respectively, then between those two dynamics you will be able to establish what for you and your instrument constitutes four more dynamics: 'p mp mf f'.
  Notated in the music, the scales are each to be played 'p' and 'f', and based on the 6-step dynamic range you established using the guidelines given above

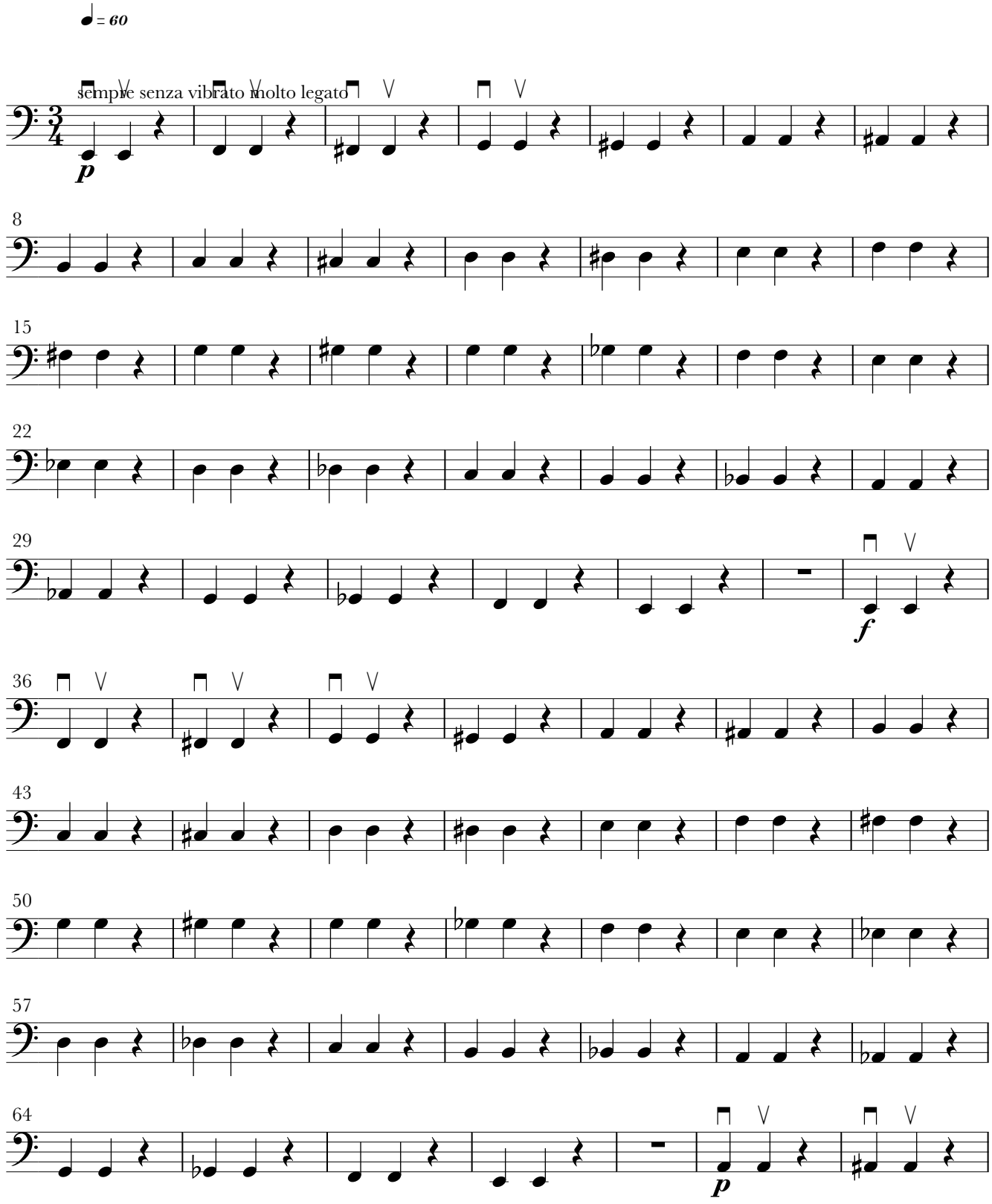
Each scale is essentially one octave plus a major 3rd (17 pitches) up from the open string, and then without repeating the top note, 16 pitches back down to the open string.

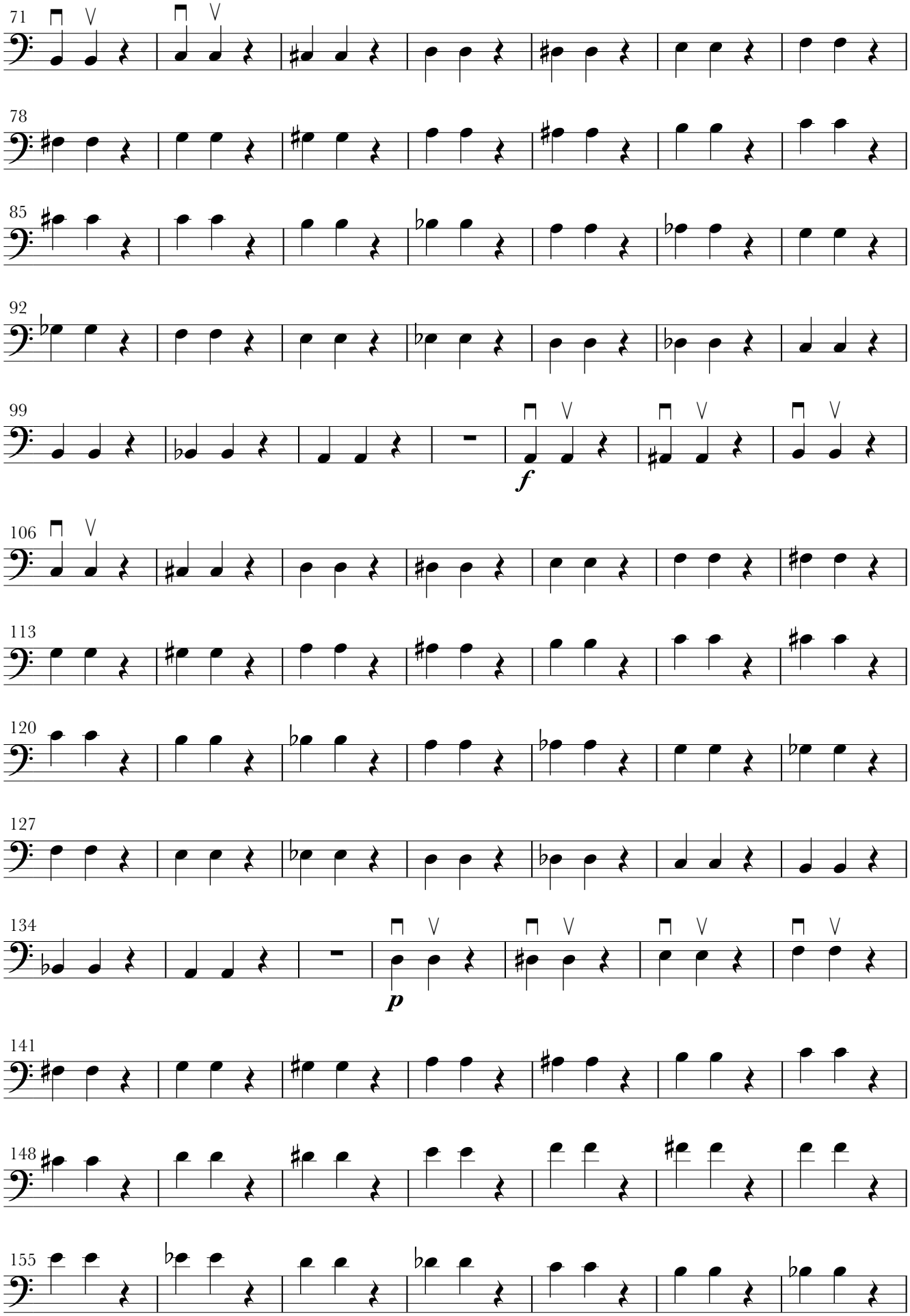
If your DB is a four-string bass with an extension, then start your lowest scale from the open string (not from the low E as notated) and follow the pattern playing one octave and a major 3rd up. Then on the subsequent strings, proceed as notated.

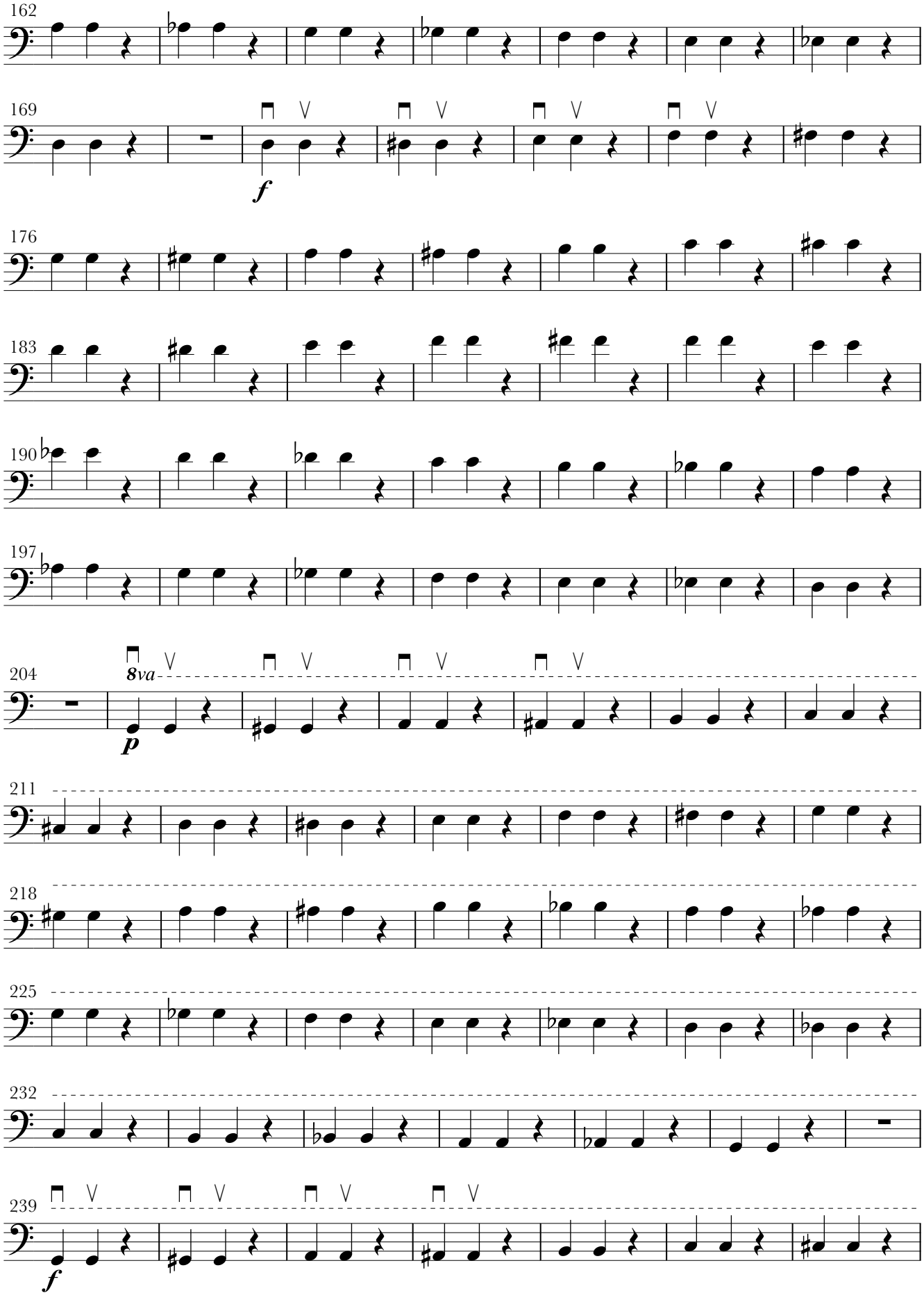
If your DB is a five-string bass, then please record a fifth scale twice (once p, and once f) that matches the pattern (one octave plus a major 3rd, starting on the open string, in 3/4, two notes of the same pitch followed by a rest)

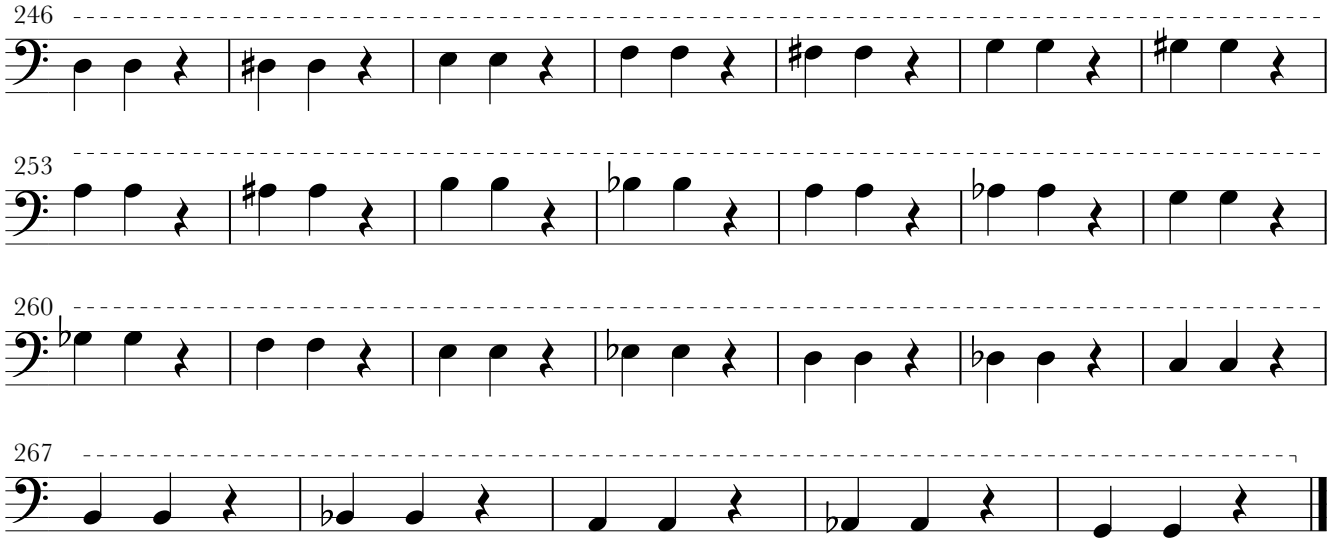
Recording Instructions

- Produce (record) each scale separately
- Ensure you record .wav files at 48kHz and 24bit (or 32bit)
- Label each scale clearly


♩ = 60
sempre senza vibrato molto legato
p
8
15
22
29
f
36
43
50
57
64
p


71
78
85
92
99
f
106
113
120
127
134
p
141
148
155


162
169
f
176
183
190
197
204
8va
p
211
218
225
232
239
f


246
253
260
267