String Version

Distance Duets

Duets to Record and Play with Yourself or a Friend

By
Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Notes to the Performer & Teacher

I wrote these duets during the Pandemic of 2020 with the idea of creating socially distanced ensemble music.
I encourge you to try one of the following:

Option 1 - Record yourself playing one part and then perform the second part live while you play the audio from the first part.
Option 2 - Do Option 1, but use a second device to record the whole performance.
Option 3 - Record yourself playing one part, and then send it to a friend to play the second part (either live, or recording).
Option 4 - Create a music video with both parts.

Make sure to have a metronome or click track keeping you steady - perhaps on a separate device using headphones.
Always make sure to count off before you begin so that your duet partner will have a reference point for the tempo and when to start.

Dynamics were purposfully left out of these duets so that you decide the feel and direction of each duet. You are encouraged to write in your own dynamic markings. Pay attention to which part has the melody so that you can keep appropriate balance (the melody part should often be one dyanamic higher than the accompaniment part). In the later duets the melody switches often.

In times when we can't be together making music, let's use something like a simple duet to connect with those around us and share our love of music!

Notes to the Teacher

Each of these duets uses a different musical form and gets progressively more intricate.
Most are based in simple scale and arpeggio patterns to reinforce skills.

Duet 1- Binary Form (AB)
Key: D Major
Range: 6 notes
Rhythm Considerations:
Half, Quarter & Eighth Notes,
Half & Quarter Rests
Concepts:
Bow Lifts

Duet 2 - Song Form (AA'BA')
Key: D Major
Range: Octave
Rhythm Considerations:
Dotted Quarter Notes
Concepts:
D.C. al Fine
Slurs
Shifting: Bass 3rd position

Duet 3 - Ternary Form (ABA')
Key: C Major
Range: Octave + 3rd
Rhythm Considerations:
Eighth Rests
Concepts:
Teaches the similarity of staccato quarter notes vs. eighth notes with eighth rests
Shifting: Bass 3rd position
Cello has some shifitng to high E, which can be re-writen as a C if needed

Duet 4 - Rondo Form (ABACA)
Key: G Major
Range: Octave + 6th
Rhythm Considerations:
two 16th - 8th combinations
8th - two 16th combinations
Concepts:
16th note combinations
2/4 time
Shifting: Bass 1 up to 4th position
Bass 2 up to 3rd position
Cello 1 has some shifitng to high E

Duet 5 - Theme & Variations
Key: a minor
Range: Octave + 6th
Rhythm Considerations:
8ths and 8th rests
8th note triplets
16th note runs
Concepts:
Slow. Subdiving will be important as they transition from rhythm to rhythm. Bach-esque.
Shifting: All parts shift

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Cello

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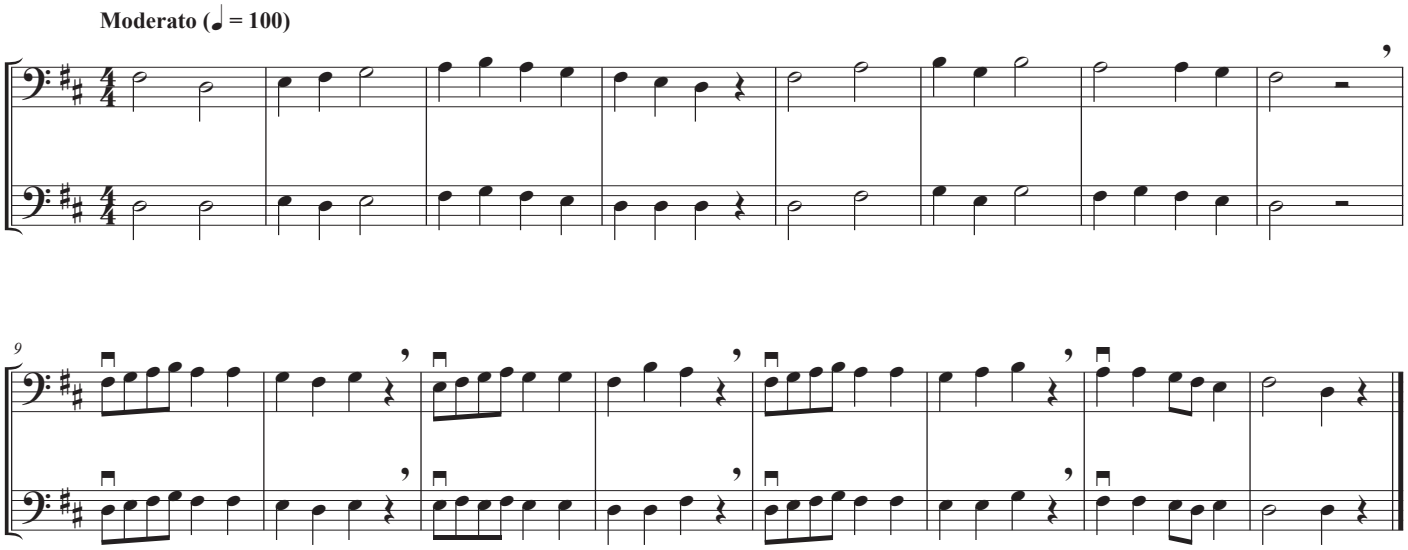
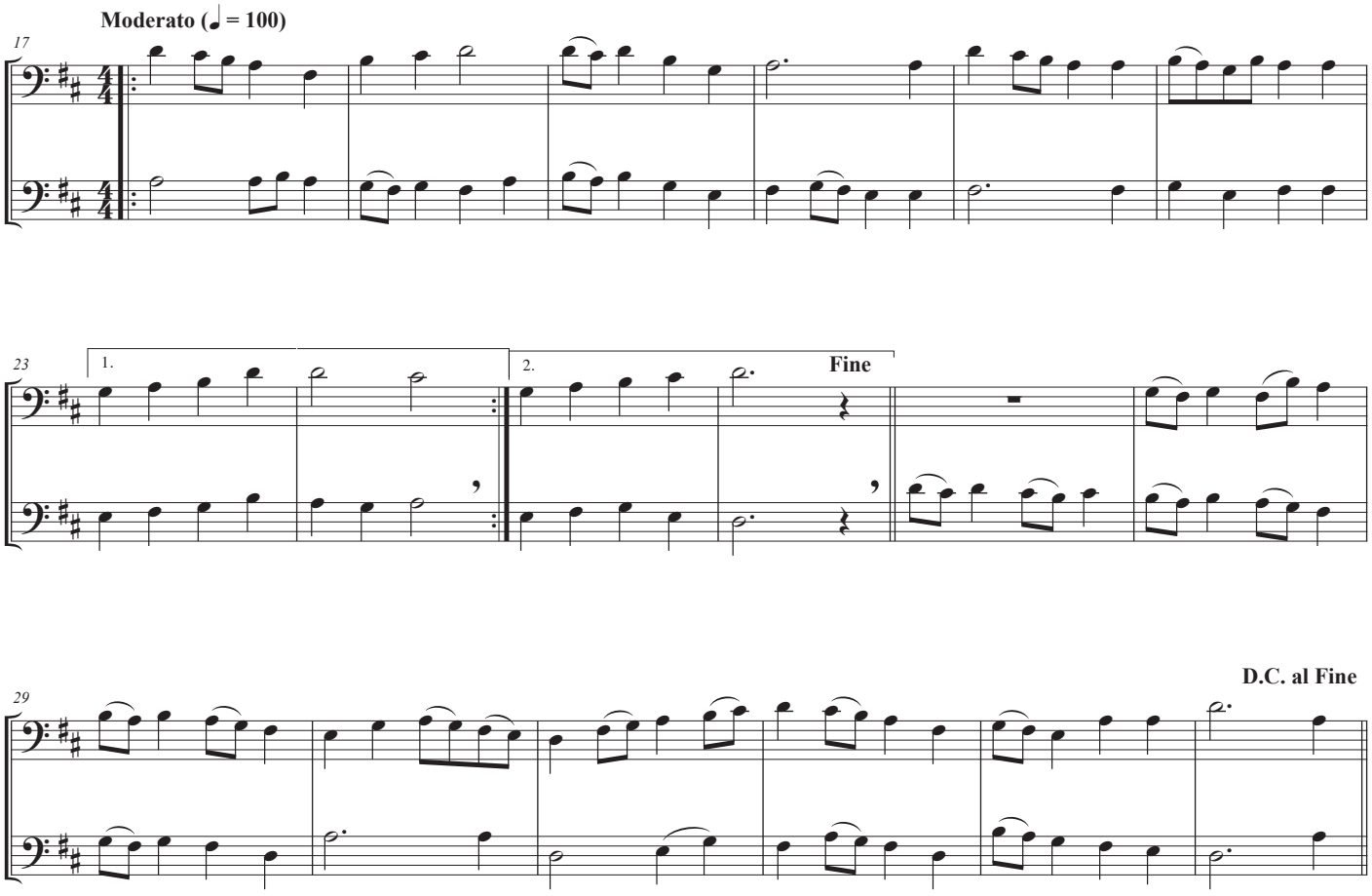
Duet 1 - Binary Form (AB)



Duet 2 - Song Form (AA'BA')



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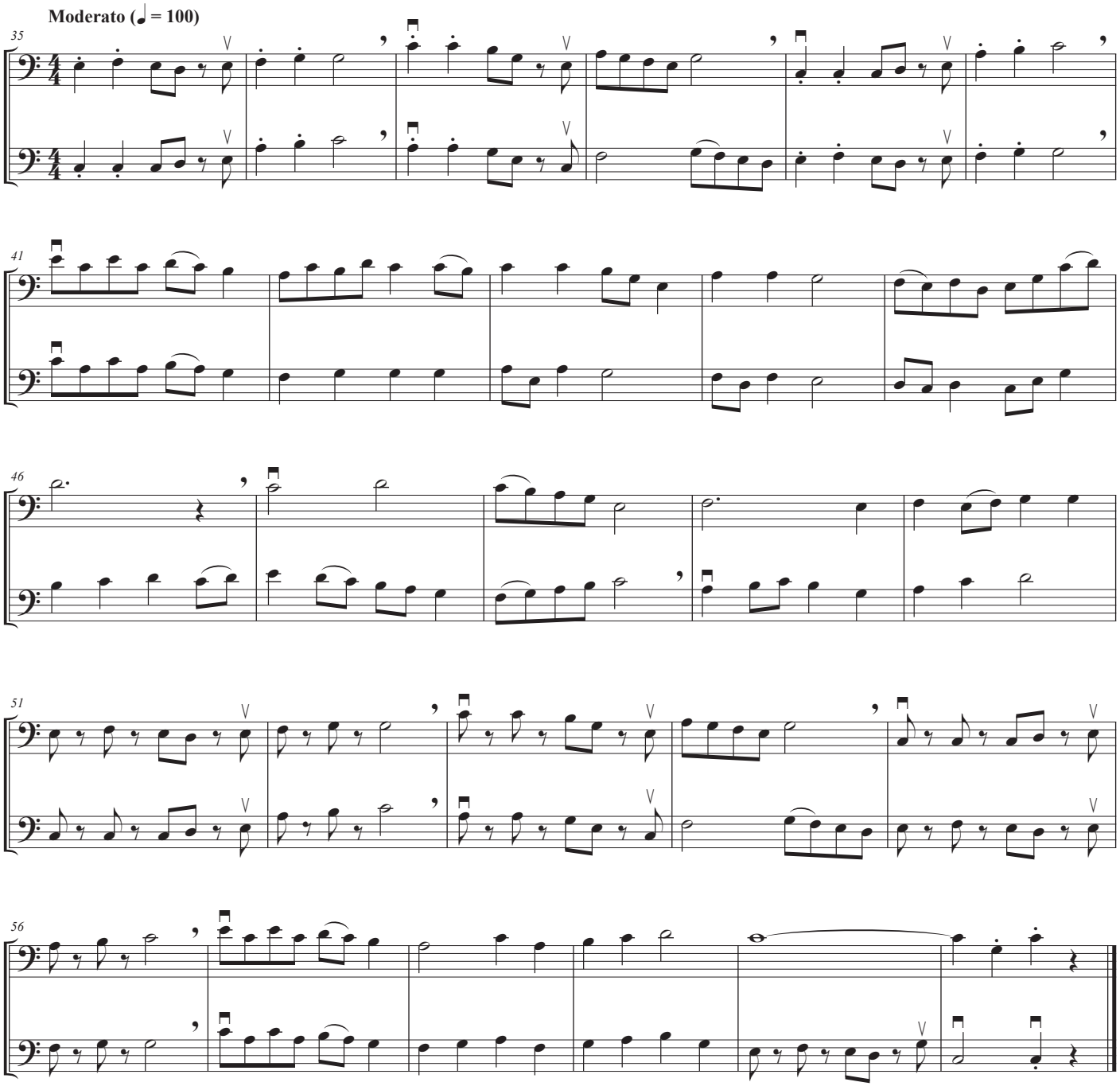
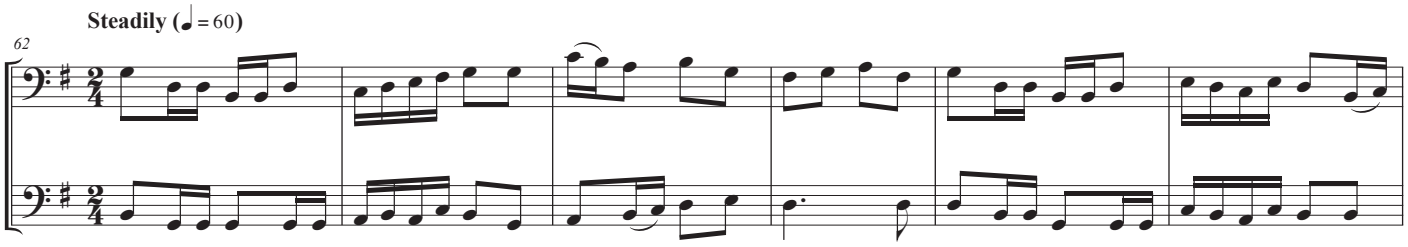
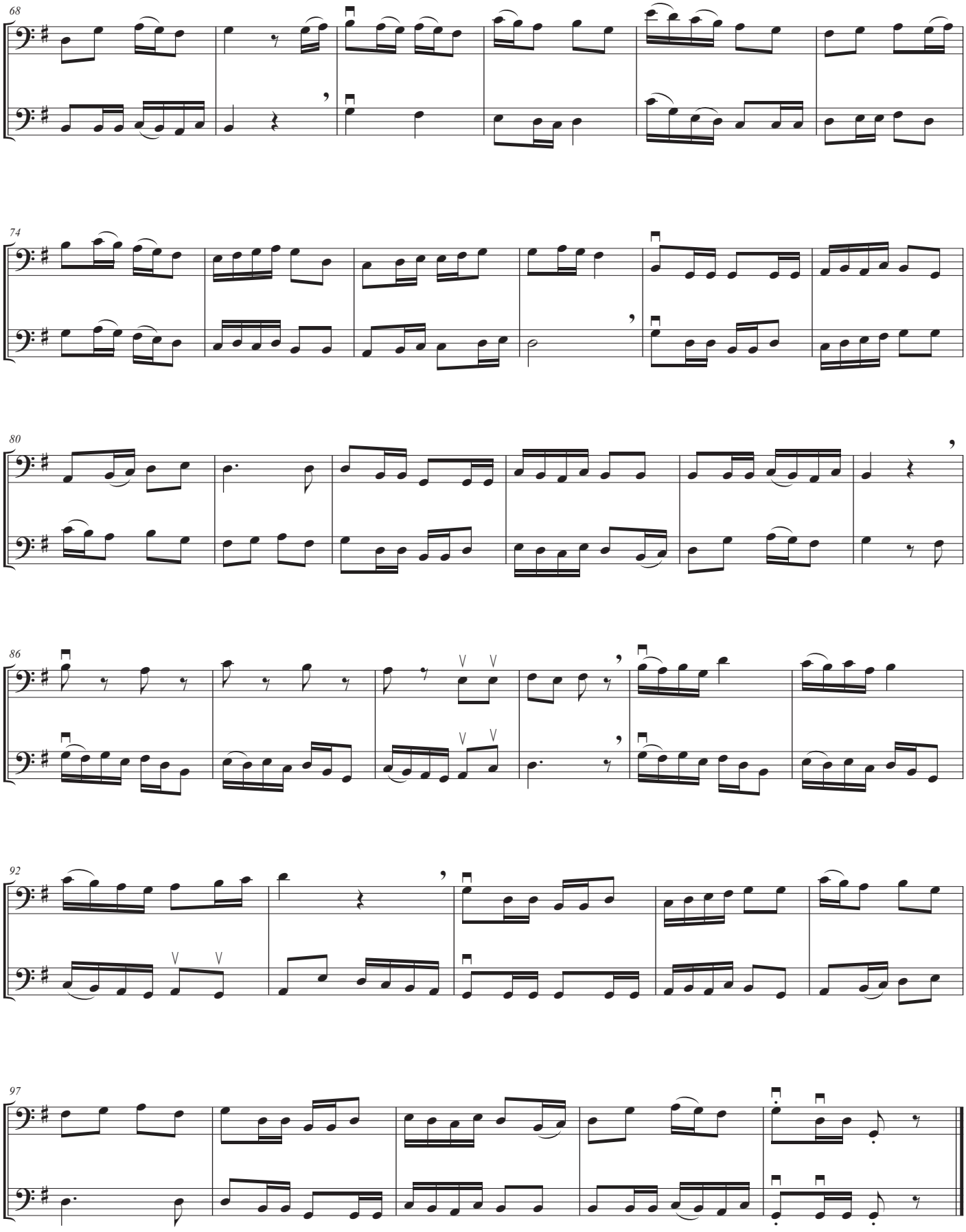
Duet 3 - Ternary Form (ABA')



Duet 4 - Rondo Form (ABACA)

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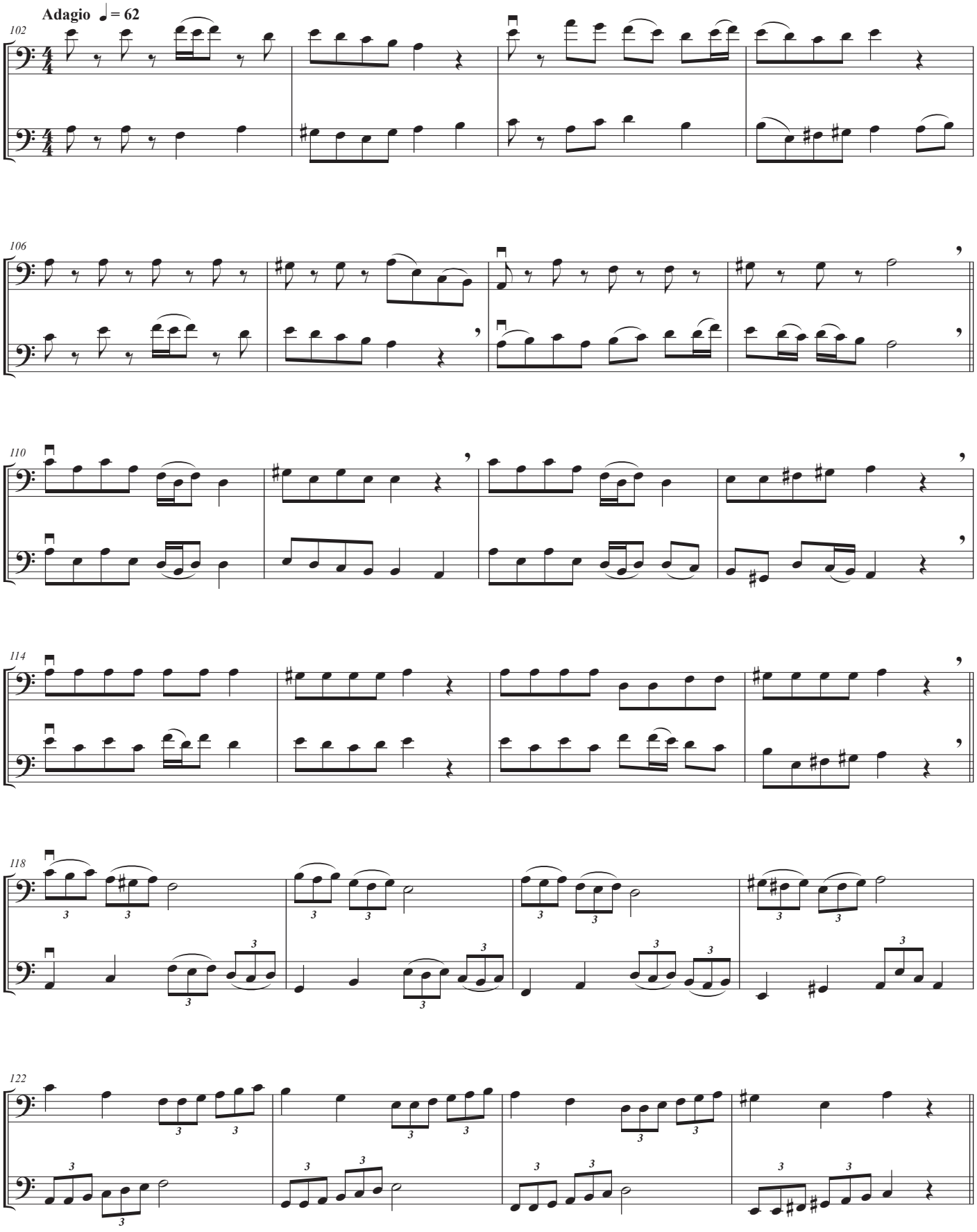
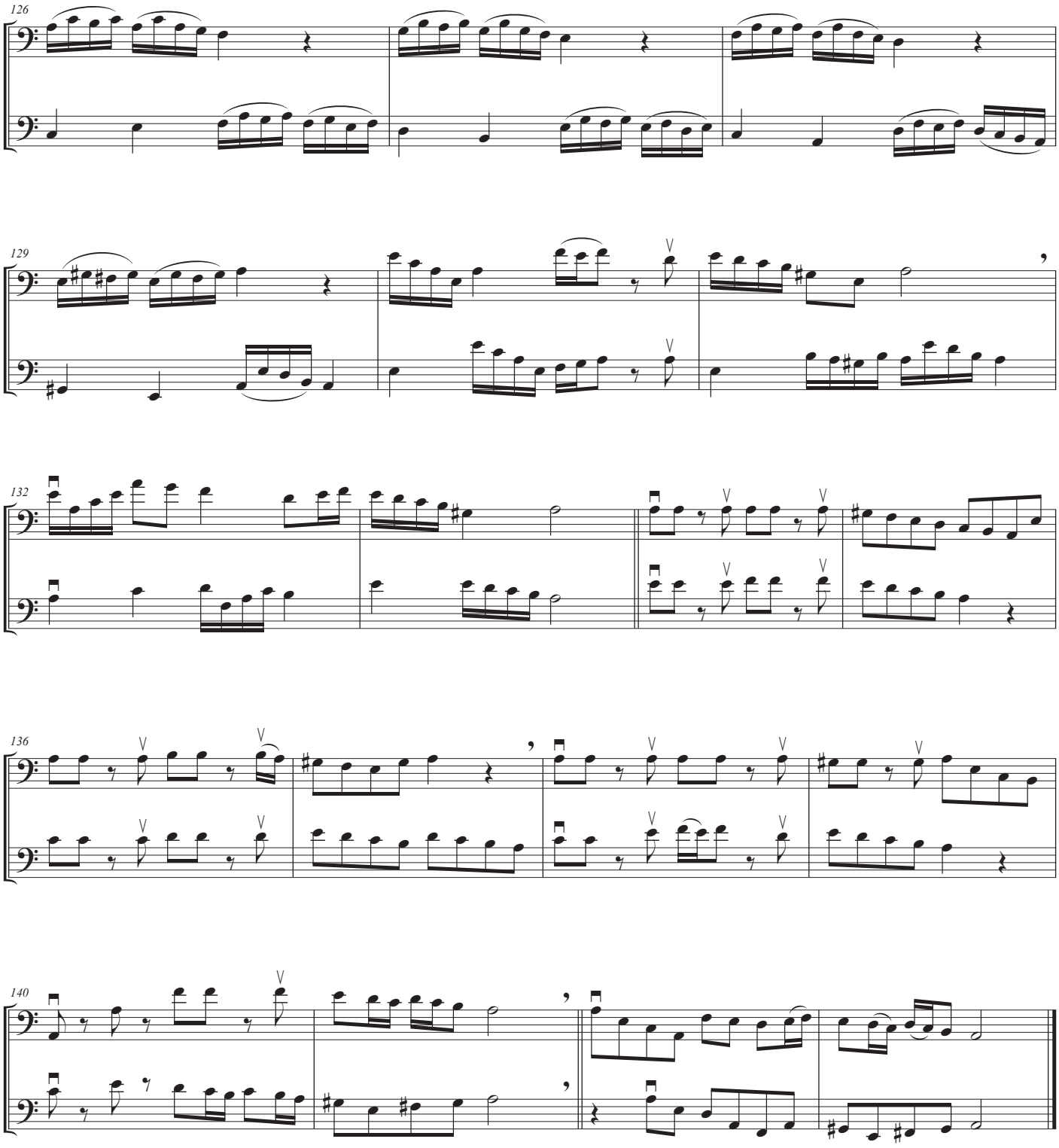
Duet 5 - Theme & Variations

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