DES MOINES METRO OPERA

To: DMMO Audition Applicant

Fr: Mark Dorr, Orchestra Personnel and Operations Manager

Re: DMMO 2027 Orchestra Audition Information Letter

Dear Audition Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in an orchestral vacancy for the 2027 season of the Des Moines Metro Opera. Please carefully read-through the following materials posted on the DMMO web site:

- DMMO 2027 Orchestra Audition Information Letter (this document)
- DMMO 2027 Orchestra Audition Materials Submission Guidelines
- Required Music Excerpts Lists
- Audition Music

The Des Moines Metro Opera (DMMO) is a non-profit, professional opera company dedicated to bringing world-class opera productions and vital performing arts education to our region. Since its inception, the DMMO has auditioned and hired its own independent festival orchestra. Dr. Robert Larsen founded the Des Moines Metro Opera in 1973 and served as its first Artistic and Music Director. David Neely currently serves as DMMO Music Director and Principal Conductor. Because of the DMMO's favorable schedule, extraordinary national reputation of the company, excellent repertoire, distinctive programming, and high artistic quality, it is possible to engage the very best of professional orchestral musicians from throughout North America and beyond to perform in the Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra. A great majority of our orchestral musicians perform the remainder of the year with professional orchestras that typically do not have a summer season. Many players return to our festival year after year and have the potential to be promoted through our probationary / tenure ("Regular Member Status") process.

A majority of the DMMO summer festival takes place on the campus of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. Most members of the company are in residence there for the duration of the season. Indianola is a rural suburban community of approximately 15,000 people located 12 miles south of Des Moines (metro area population: 600,000). The college and small-town atmosphere of Indianola is friendly and relaxed, with ample opportunities for recreational and cultural activities, dining, and shopping. All of the DMMO's mainstage operas take place in the Blank Performing Arts Center Theater on the Simpson College campus. This contemporary style, 467-seat theater has a combination thrust and proscenium layout with an orchestra pit. Additionally, Second Stages Series productions and the "Stars of Tomorrow" concert are typically performed in various venues around the Des Moines metro area.

Orchestra services during the **2027 DMMO season** will take place from **Monday, June 21 through Sunday, July 25**. A complete schedule of services will be sent out to DMMO Orchestra members in the spring. Total number of services inclusive of all mainstage productions will be approximately 17 performances and 15 rehearsals. Musicians will be offered employment only for the actual number of services and productions needed. Mainstage repertoire will be *The Tales of Hoffmann* by Jacques Offenbach; *Orphée* by Philip Glass; and *Billy Budd* by Benjamin Britten. There is also the possibility of additional work involved with potential Second Stages Series productions as well as the "Stars of Tomorrow" concert set.

Wages and conditions of employment are governed through a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Des Moines Metro Opera and the AF of M Local 75 in Des Moines. Minimum contract rates per service for the 2027 season will be $180.85 for Principal and $148.24 for Section players. When applicable, overtimes and any doublings will be paid in addition to the minimum per service rate. Total summer earnings for a *Principal* player offered all three mainstage shows during the 2027 season (not including potential overtimes or doublings) would be approximately $5,788. For a *Section* player offered all three mainstage shows during the 2027 season (not including potential overtimes or doublings), the approximate earnings would be $4,743.

Air-conditioned dormitory housing is provided by the company at no cost to an individual contracted musician traveling from over 100 miles away from the Simpson College campus. No children are allowed to reside in the dorms. Alternative apartment housing is also available (including units for contracted musicians' families) on a limited basis at a very reasonable cost charged to the occupants.

Each musician whose permanent residence is more than 25 miles from Indianola, Iowa shall receive *one* travel reimbursement payment per season of twenty-five cents per mile up to but not exceeding the maximum payment of $375 (2027 rate). A cartage fee will be paid for only *one* round trip from a musician's residence to Indianola, Iowa for those individuals transporting harps ($50), double basses ($50), timpani ($300), and percussion instruments ($300). All musicians are required to supply their own instruments.

**Please note the following as it pertains to your particular instrumental vacancy:**

***The deadline for submitting all audition materials to the DMMO is January 11, 2027.***

***Applicants will receive a status update or be notified of their audition result by April 1, 2027.***

***Applicants must be able to provide written proof of legal ability to work in the United States.*** Pursuant to federal law, employment with the Des Moines Metro Opera is contingent upon providing written proof of identity as well as authorization to work in the United States at the time any employment offer would be made.

***All audition applicants are required to indicate in their submission materials the specific position(s) for which they are applying.*** This is particularly important when multiple vacancies occur within a section of the orchestra.

**Section Violin:** There are core and one-year vacancies. All Section Violin candidates will automatically be considered for both core and one-year positions.

Core orchestra (multiple positions): Audition applicants selected for these positions will undergo a two-year probationary process before the possibility of earning Regular Member Status with the orchestra. *Please designate "Section Violin" within the application form when applying for this position.*

One-year, possibly permanent: This is a one-year replacement for the 2027 season. The audition applicant selected for this position will receive a one-year offer with the possibility of renewal or promotion if the musician currently on leave does not return. A performance evaluation process

will take place during the season for this one-year musician. *Please designate "Section Violin" within the application form when applying for this position.*

**Section Viola:** This is a core orchestra position. The audition applicant selected for this position will undergo a two-year probationary process before the possibility of earning Regular Member Status with the orchestra. *Please designate "Section Viola" within the application form when applying for this position.*

**Principal Flute (one-year, possibly permanent):** This is a one-year replacement for the 2027 season. The audition applicant selected for this position will receive a one-year offer with the possibility of renewal or promotion if the musician currently on leave does not return. A performance evaluation process will take place during the season for this one-year musician. *Please designate "Principal Flute" within the application form when applying for this position.*

**Section Second Flute (one-year, possibly permanent):** This is a one-year replacement for the 2027 season. The audition applicant selected for this position will receive a one-year offer with the possibility of renewal or promotion if the musician currently on leave does not return. A performance evaluation process will take place during the season for this one-year musician. *Please designate "Section Second Flute" within the application form when applying for this position.*

**Principal Oboe:** This is a core orchestra position. The audition applicant selected for this position will undergo a two-year probationary process before the possibility of earning Regular Member Status with the orchestra. *Please designate "Principal Oboe" within the application form when applying for this position.*

**Section Fourth Horn:** This is a core orchestra position. The audition applicant selected for this position will undergo a two-year probationary process before the possibility of earning Regular Member Status with the orchestra. *Please designate "Section Fourth Horn" within the application form when applying for this position.*

**Principal Trumpet:** This is a core orchestra position. The audition applicant selected for this position will undergo a two-year probationary process before the possibility of earning Regular Member Status with the orchestra. *Please designate "Principal Trumpet" within the application form when applying for this position.*

**Principal Trombone:** This is a core orchestra position. The audition applicant selected for this position will undergo a two-year probationary process before the possibility of earning Regular Member Status with the orchestra. *Please designate "Principal Trombone" within the application form when applying for this position.*

**Utility Third Trumpet:** This is designated as per language in our CBA as a special audition. The Des Moines Metro Opera encourages applicants who live within a 250-mile radius of Indianola, Iowa to audition for this position. Utility Third Trumpet is a non-core position with the potential for annual renewal via a series of one-year offers. A musician hired for this position will receive a review process during the first two years of service. There is no service guarantee nor minimum requirement for acceptance of services. Employment offers for a Utility musician may range from zero to three productions per season. The average offer is usually one to two productions per season, depending upon instrumentation requirements. The Music Director, in consultation with the section Principal, will assign parts to personnel based upon requirements of the musical score, among other factors. An example would be if a third trombonist was assigned to a second trombone part if it was determined that the latter part was intended for bass trombone. Other examples would be assigning various section personnel to piccolo, English horn, bass clarinet, cornet, etc. A Utility musician will have the right of first refusal when offered employment. If a Utility Musician should decline an offer of services from the DMMO for the specified number of years listed in the DMMO Collective Bargaining Agreement, that musician will relinquish the ability to receive offers in following years. *Please designate "Utility Third Trumpet" within the application form when applying for this position.*

**Utility Principal Tuba (one-year, possibly permanent):** This is designated as per language in our CBA as a special audition. The Des Moines Metro Opera encourages applicants who live within a 250-mile radius of Indianola, Iowa to audition for this position. This is a one-year, non-core replacement for the 2027 season. The audition applicant selected for this position will receive a one-year offer with the possibility of renewal or promotion if the musician currently on

leave does not return. A performance evaluation process will take place during the season for this one-year musician. There is no service guarantee nor minimum requirement for acceptance of services. Employment offers for a Utility musician may range from zero to three productions per season. The average offer is usually one to two productions per season, depending upon instrumentation requirements. *Please designate "Utility Principal Tuba" within the application form when applying for this position.*

We think you will find the DMMO festival a pleasant and musically rewarding way to spend a few weeks of your summer. We look forward to receiving your application materials!

Sincerely,

Mark Dorr
Orchestra Personnel and Operations Manager
Des Moines Metro Opera

DES MOINES METRO OPERA

# Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra
# Audition Materials Submission Guidelines

Thank you for your inquiry regarding an orchestral vacancy for the **2027 season** of the Des Moines Metro Opera. In addition to this document, please also refer to the DMMO 2027 Orchestra Audition Information Letter, DMMO Required Music Excerpts Lists, and DMMO Audition Music for other details.

All audition application materials for each position must be contained within a DMMO Orchestra Audition Submission Form and completed no later than ***January 11, 2027***. If a candidate is applying for more than one position, separate Submission Forms must be completed for each position. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted. In some instances, an audition runner-up may be provided a one-year offer. All audition materials submitted by applicants become the property of the Des Moines Metro Opera.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Allen Perriello at orchestraauditions@dmmo.org or e-mail Orchestra Personnel & Operations Manager Mark Dorr at mdorr@dmmo.org.

**Please be sure your audition / application materials are complete! Include the following:**

- Submit **mp3 audio recordings of all audition excerpts** in the order indicated in the Submission Form. All excerpts should be performed unaccompanied. If a concerto is required as part of an audition, it shall also be performed unaccompanied. Concerto / recital recordings will *not* be accepted in place of the required DMMO excerpts. No video recordings of any kind will be accepted.

- A **pdf file of your educational / professional resume**. Only pdf format will be accepted.

- A **pdf file containing a list of operas you have performed and in what capacity** (*i.e.,* Principal, Section, Banda). Only pdf format will be accepted.

• **Conductor References**. A section for this information to be entered is provided within the DMMO Orchestra Audition Submission Form. Include in the reference section at least *two* conductors who can provide a professional recommendation / overview of your performance experience within their ensembles preferably, but not limited to, the opera genre. Please include complete contact information for these conductors including positions, organizations, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.

## Audition Materials Submission Process / Requirements:

• Applicants will need to have a Google account to upload their files into the Submission Form.

• Complete the online DMMO Orchestra Audition Submission Form: https://forms.gle/FDNNmKwwtUgsZw7ZA. **If applying for more than one position, separate Submission Forms must be completed for *each* position.** Contained within each Submission Form will be all DMMO audition materials specific to that position (mp3 audio recordings, resume, conductor references, list of operas performed, etc.).

• ***This is a blind audition. Do not include personal information on or within your mp3 audio files.*** Make sure that your name is not included in the metadata of your audition files. Your name, however, should appear on all other materials (resume, operas performed list, etc.).

• ***All* excerpts contained within one work are *required* to be recorded within one track (**i.e., one track containing all excerpts from *Boheme*, one separate track for all *Marriage of Figaro* excerpts, etc.). Failure to do so may result in disqualification of a candidate. Again, do *not* break multiple excerpts within a work into separate tracks / clips.

• **Be sure each overall work is recorded as a *separate* mp3 file and title information is clearly labeled between works** (i.e., all *Falstaff* excerpts on one track, all *Magic Flute* excerpts on a separate track, etc.). Name each file with a track number (in the same order as the Audition Excerpt List), then the composer's last name followed by the music title.

Sample file titles:

1. Mozart Violin Concerto No. 4
2. Mozart Marriage of Figaro (all excerpts)
3. Puccini Manon Lescaut

• Please submit recordings in an mp3 audio digital file format. No other formats will be accepted.

• After submitting the application materials to the DMMO, a confirmation and copy of your responses will be e-mailed to the address provided on your Submission Form.

**General Information:**

- ***It is extremely important that applicants look carefully through both the DMMO required excerpts lists and also the posted DMMO audition music to confirm exact locations, excerpt lengths, rehearsal numbers, etc.*** Musical excerpts submitted that are inaccurate or incomplete will likely disqualify the candidate. To obtain a folder of the DMMO audition music, click on the corresponding link provided on the DMMO web site. Applicants may choose to play from their own editions of the excerpts provided they precisely match the DMMO musical parameters previously mentioned.

- *Be sure that the excerpt recordings are of the highest quality possible in order to present an accurate hearing for the audition committee. Candidates should do their recording in a relatively smaller space with acoustically very little reverb. Microphone placement within 20 feet of the player is preferred.* Do *not* record in a live space such as a church sanctuary or recital hall that has severe echo or excessive reverb.

- Editing is *not* allowed within excerpts. Do *not* add any reverb or any other artificial / digital enhancements to the recording (*i.e., no* Auto-Tune).

- Play straight through each individual excerpt as if in a live audition. Include rests and/or a tacet up to 4 (four) measures in duration. Anything of greater length may be omitted.

- String bowings are solely at the discretion of the performer.

- ***Failure to follow the above recording guidelines / requirements may result in disqualification of the candidate from the audition process.***

***All applicants must be able to provide proof of legal ability to work in the United States.***

***Applicants will receive a status update or be notified of their audition result by April 1, 2027.***

DES MOINES METRO OPERA

UTILITY/ PRINCIPAL TUBA
AUDITION REPERTOIRE LIST | 2027 Season

Play only excerpts contained within brackets where applicable. If no brackets are present, play the entire excerpt. Include rests and/or facets up to four (4) measures in duration; anything of greater length may be omitted. Follow metronome markings where indicated.
Please record multiple excerpts from the same musical number or symphonic movement together in one take. If they are from the same opera or symphonic work, but different musical numbers or movements, please record them separately.

Excerpts will be selected from the following and are to be recorded in the following order.

## A) Orchestral Excerpts

**Berlioz** **Damnation of Faust (Tuba I)**
[Act I. Scene 3, Hungarian March Reh. 20 – Reh. 21]

**Mahler** **Symphony No. 1 (Tuba)**
[Mvt. III, 4 measures before Reh. 3 – 3 measures before Reh. 5]

**Puccini** **Manon Lescaut (Tuba)**
[Act I, 7 measures after Reh. 49 – 26 measures after Reh. 49]
[Act III, Reh. 28 – 9 measures after Reh. 28]

**R. Strauss** **Salome (Tuba)**
[Act III, 8 measures after Reh. 140 – 3 measures after Reh. 149]
[Act IV, 6 measures after Reh. 254 – Reh. 256]

**Verdi** **Otello (Tuba)**
[Act II, 13 measures after Reh. E – 2 measures after Reh. F]

**Wagner** **Lohengrin (Tuba)**
Act III, Prelude
[Reh. 2 – Reh. 3]
[17 measures before Reh. 6 – downbeat of 5 measures after Reh. 6]

**Wagner** **Die Meistersinger (Tuba)**
[Prelude: excerpt as given]

**Wagner** **Das Rheingold (Tuba)**
[Scene III: excerpt as given]

**Wagner** **Die Walküre (Tuba)**
Act III, Prelude – "Ride of the Valkyries"
[4 measures after Reh. 10 – downbeat of Re. 12]

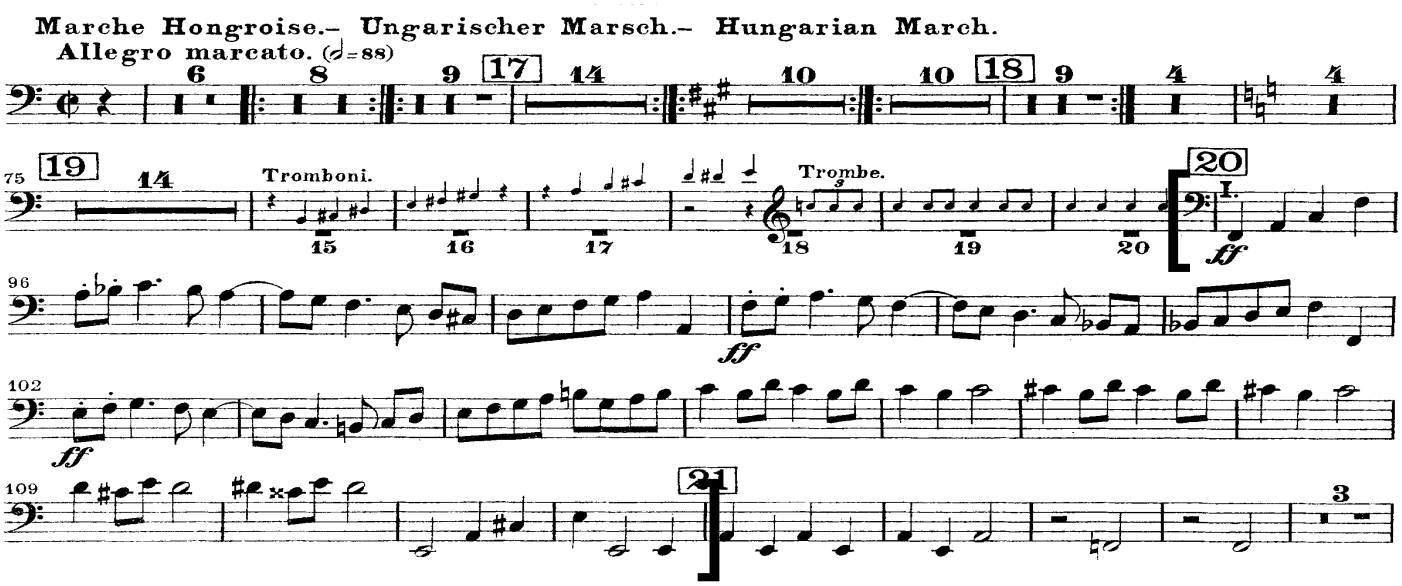
DES MOINES METRO OPERA

UTILITY/ PRINCIPAL TUBA
AUDITION REPERTOIRE LIST | 2027 Season

## Excerpt 1

**Berlioz: Damnation of Faust (Tuba I)**

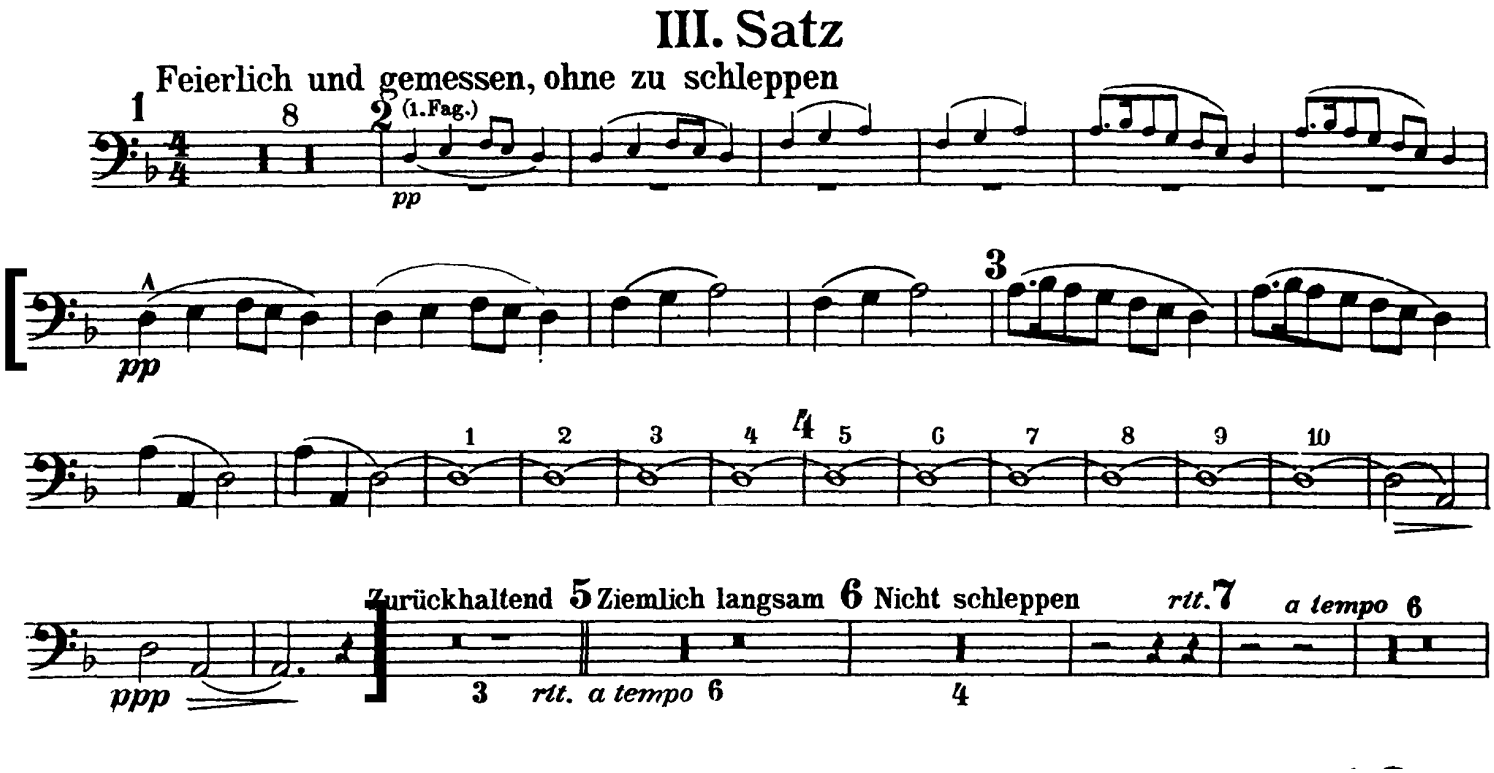
[Act I. Scene 3, Hungarian March Reh. 20 – Reh. 21]



## Excerpt 2

**Mahler: Symphony No. 1 (Tuba)**

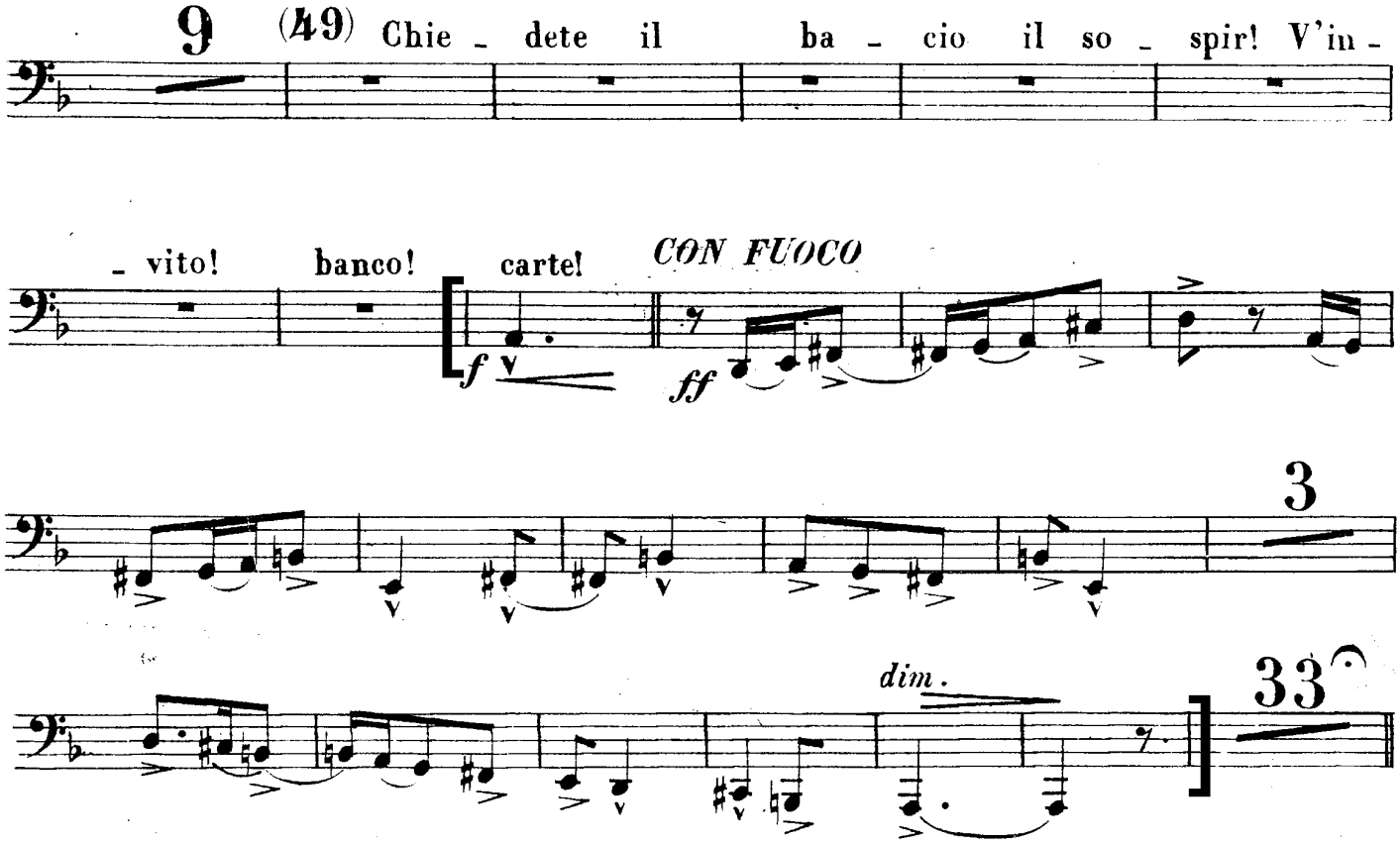
[Mvt. III, 4 measures before Reh. 3 – 3 measures before Reh. 5]



## Excerpt 3

**Puccini: Manon Lescaut (Tuba)**

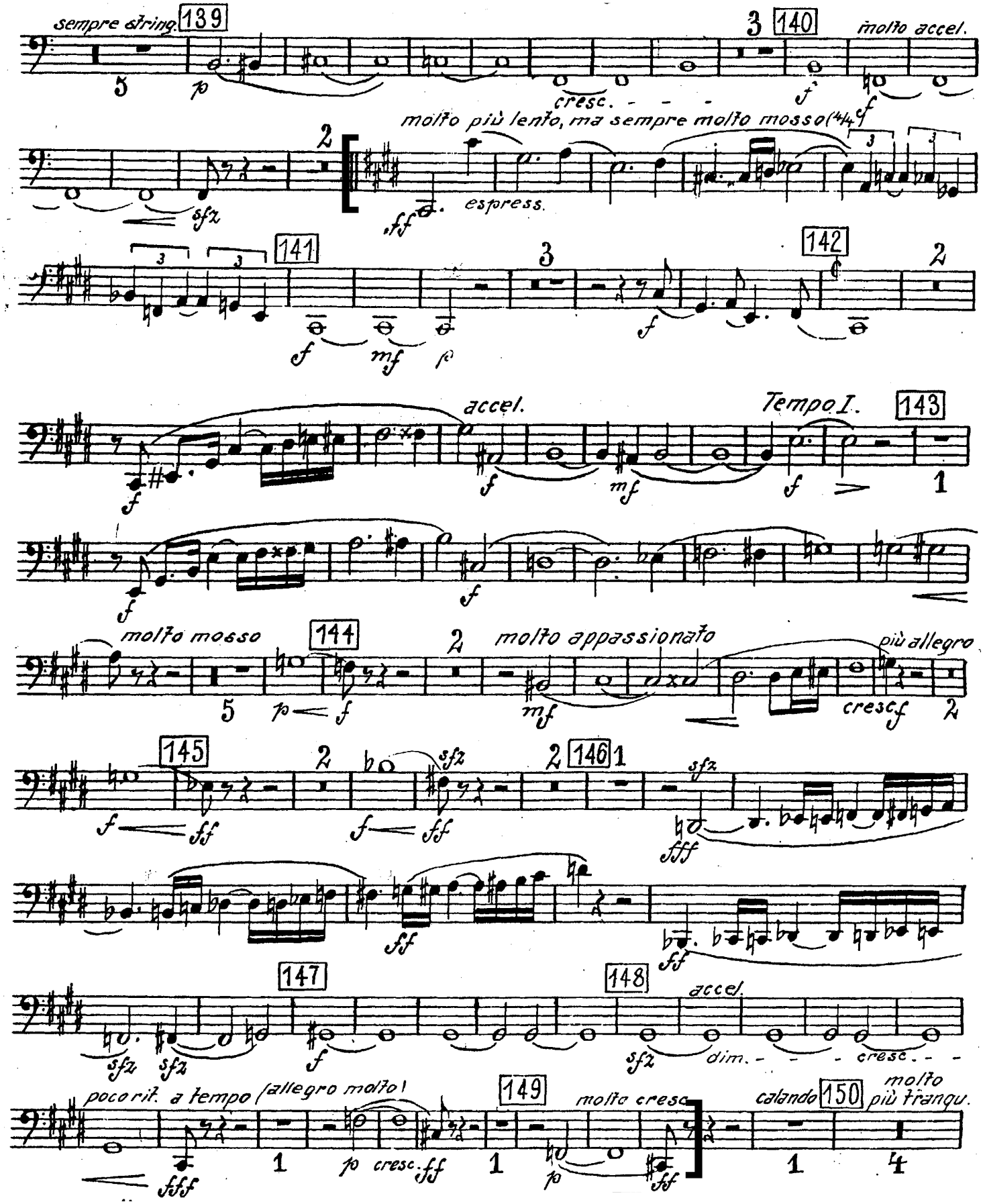
[Act I, 7 measures after Reh. 49 – 26 measures after Reh. 49]
[Act III, Reh. 28 – 9 measures after Reh. 28]

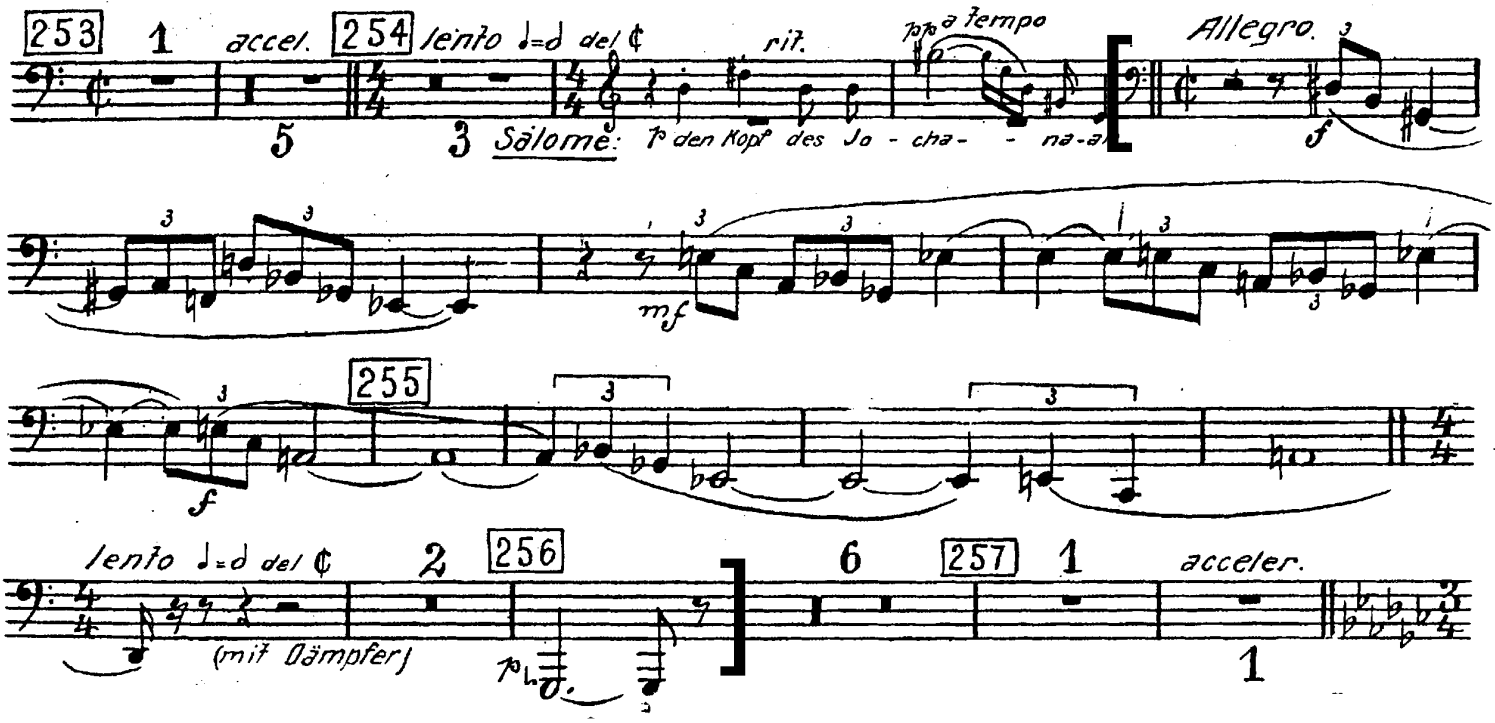


## Excerpt 4

**R. Strauss: Salome (Tuba)**

[Act III, 8 measures after Reh. 140 – 3 measures after Reh. 149]
[Act IV, 6 measures after Reh. 254 – Reh. 256]

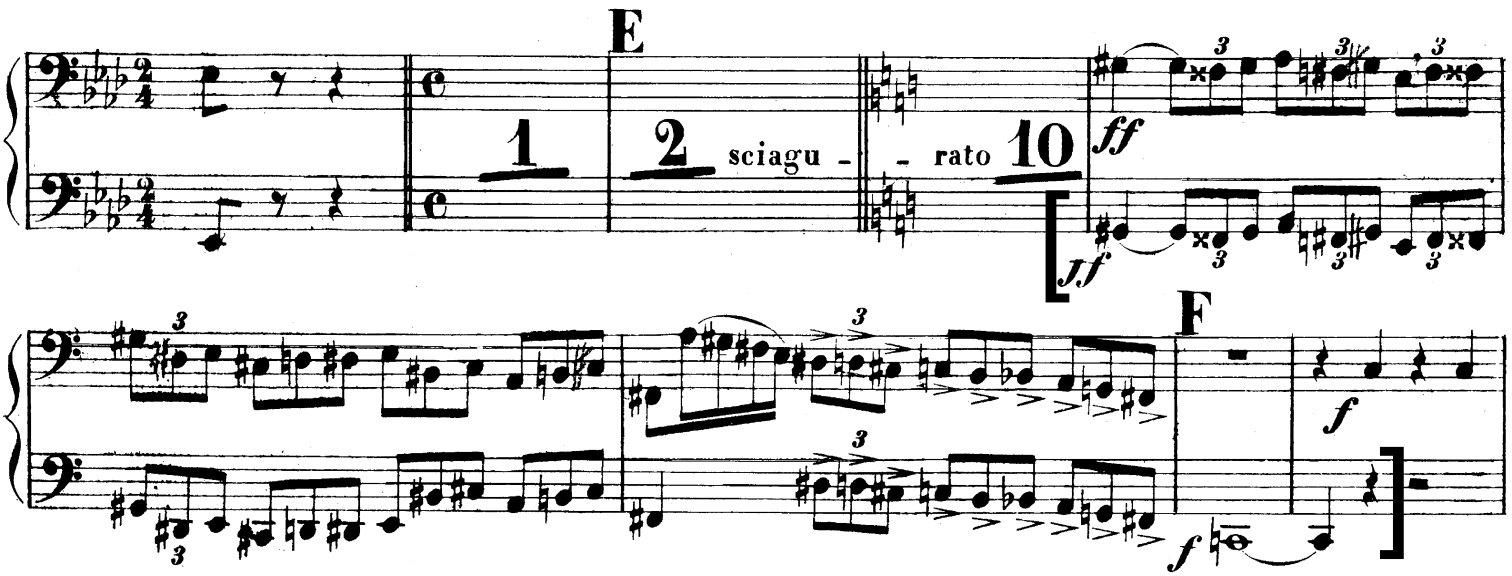

sempre string.
139
molto accel.
140
cresc.
molto più lento, ma sempre molto mosso
espress.
141
142
accel.
Tempo I.
143
molto mosso
144
molto appassionato
più allegro
cresc
145
146
147
148
accel.
dim.
cresc.
poco rit. a tempo (allegro molto)
149
molto cresc.
calando
150
molto più tranqu.


253
1
accel.
254
lento ♩=d del ¢
rit.
pp a tempo
Allegro.
5
3
Salome: Den Kopf des Jo - cha - - na-a
f
mf
255
f
lento ♩=d del ¢
2
256
6
257
1
acceler.
(mit Dämpfer)
pp
1

## Excerpt 5

**Verdi: Otello (Tuba)**

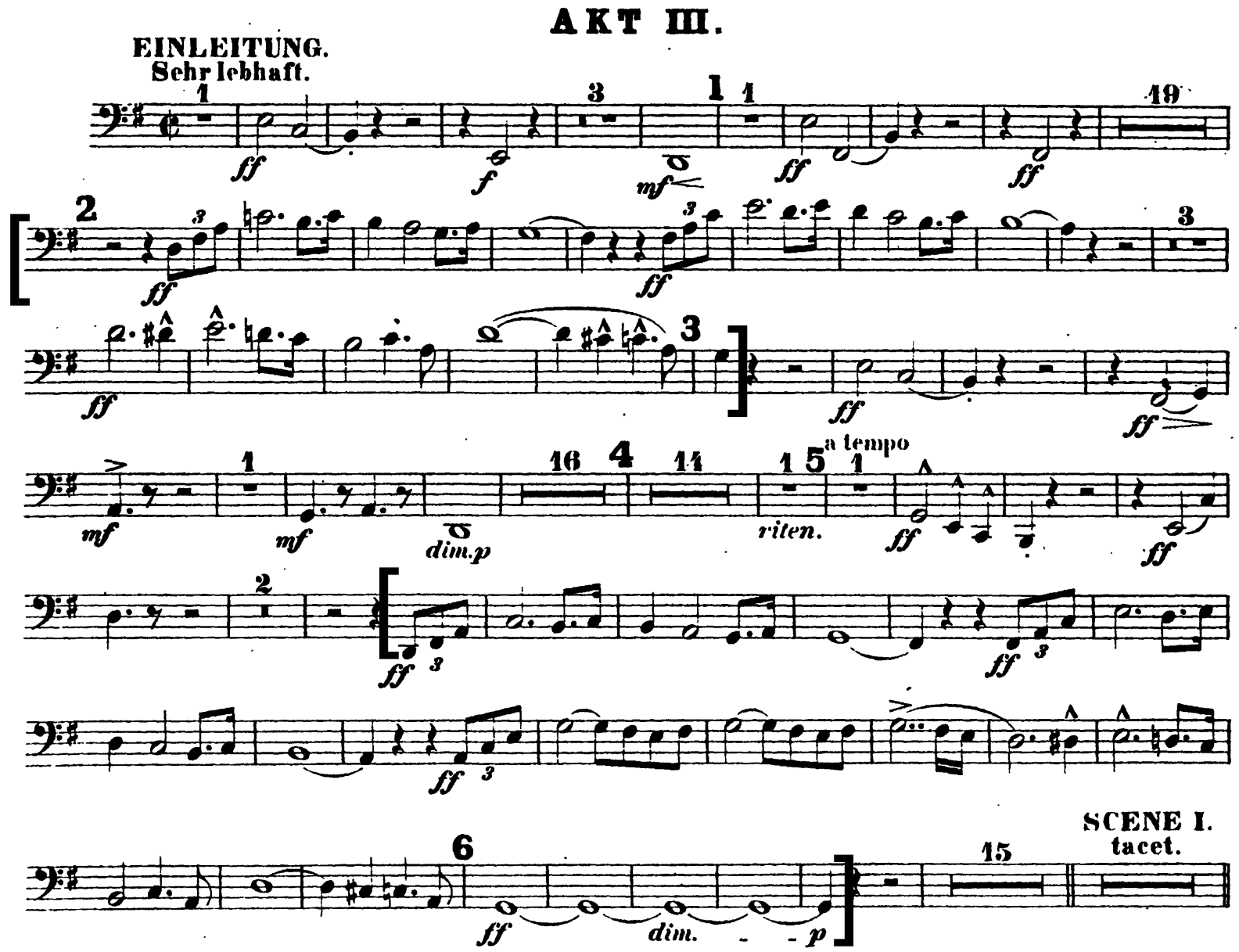
[Act II, 13 measures after Reh. E – 2 measures after Reh. F]



## Excerpt 6

**Wagner: Lohengrin (Tuba)**

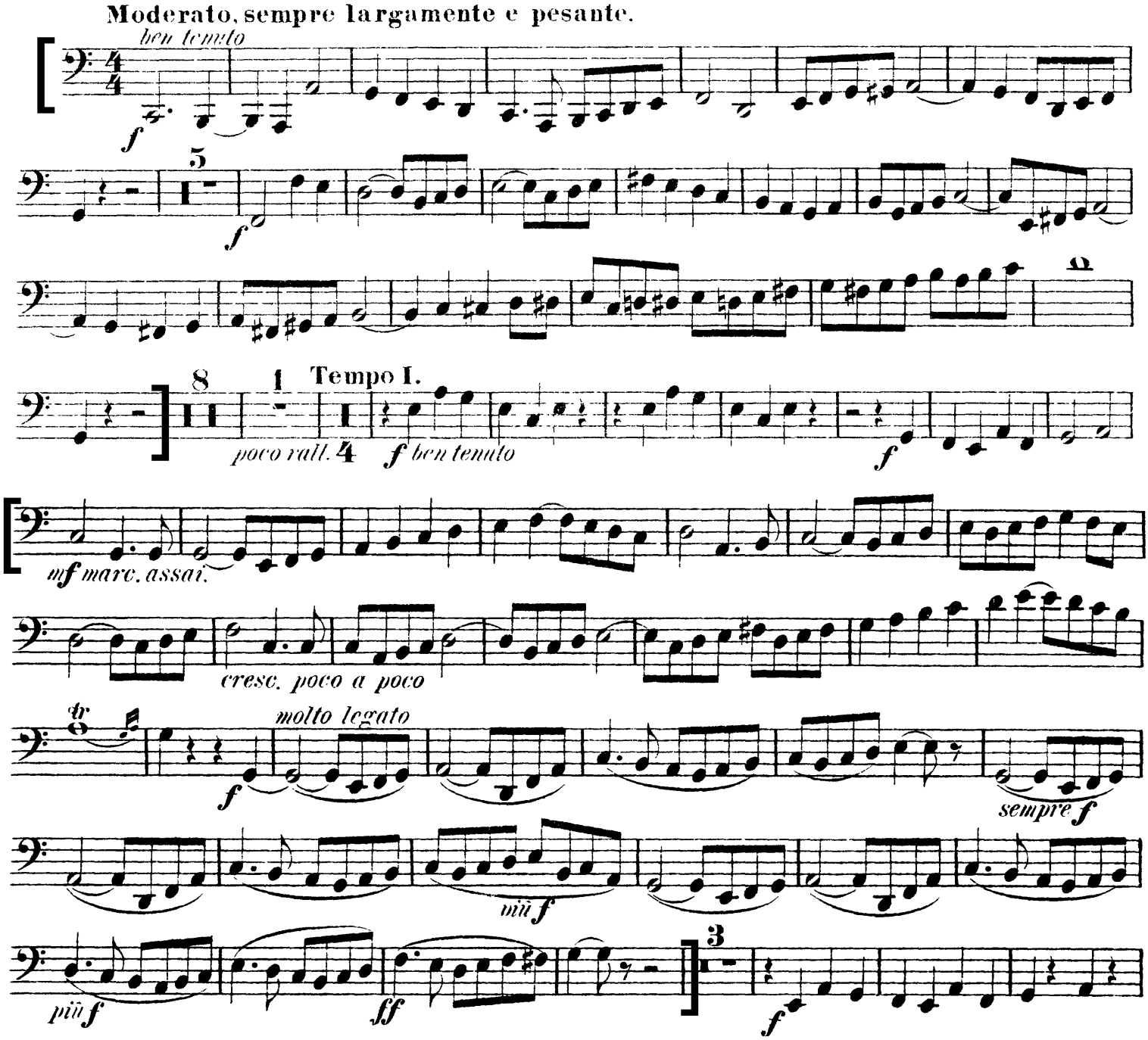
Act III, Prelude
[Reh. 2 – Reh. 3]
[17 measures before Reh. 6 – downbeat of 5 measures after Reh. 6]



## Excerpt 7

**Wagner: Die Meistersinger (Tuba)**

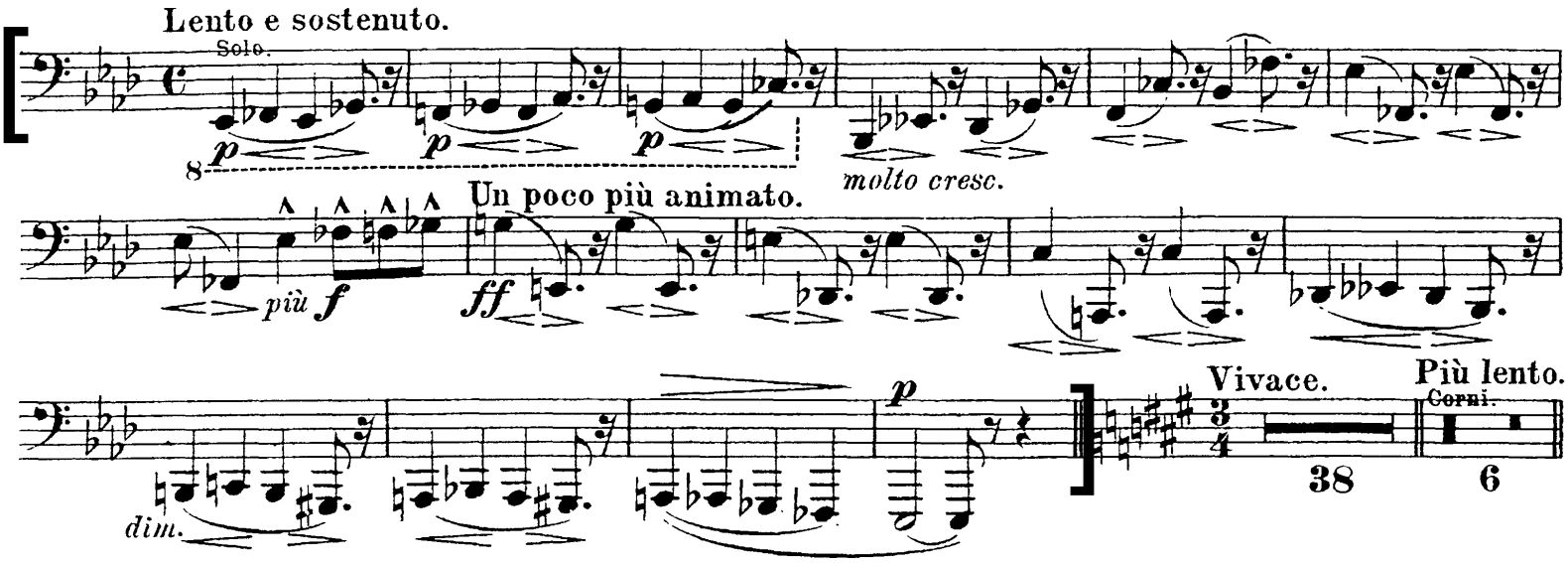
[Prelude: excerpt as given]



## Excerpt 8

**Wagner: Das Rheingold (Tuba)**

[Scene III: excerpt as given]



## Excerpt 9

**Wagner: Die Walküre (Tuba)**

Act III, Prelude – "Ride of the Valkyries"
[4 measures after Reh. 10 – downbeat of Re. 12]

