Edita da
Orfeo Mandozzi
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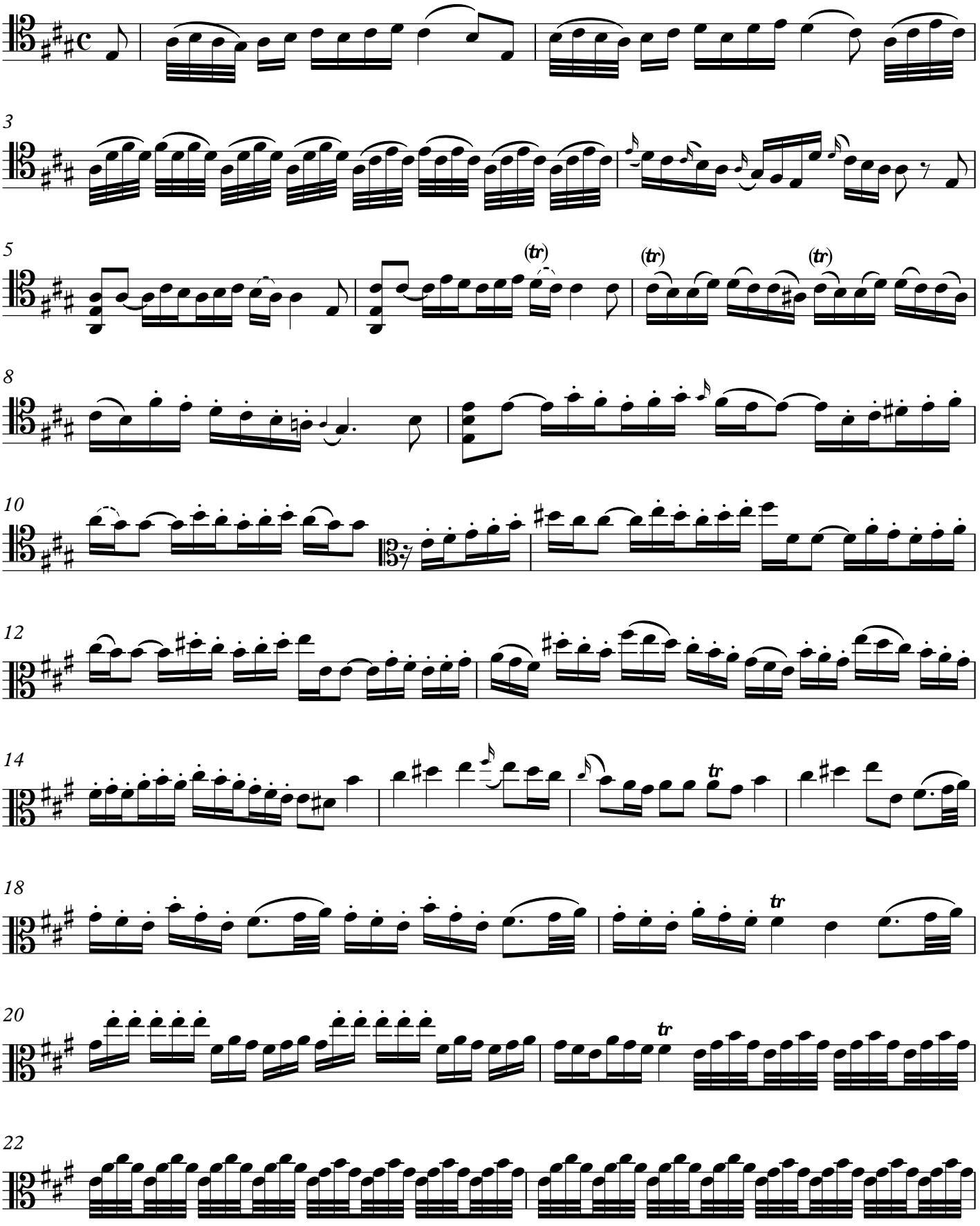
Urtext dal manoscritto
con chiavi originali

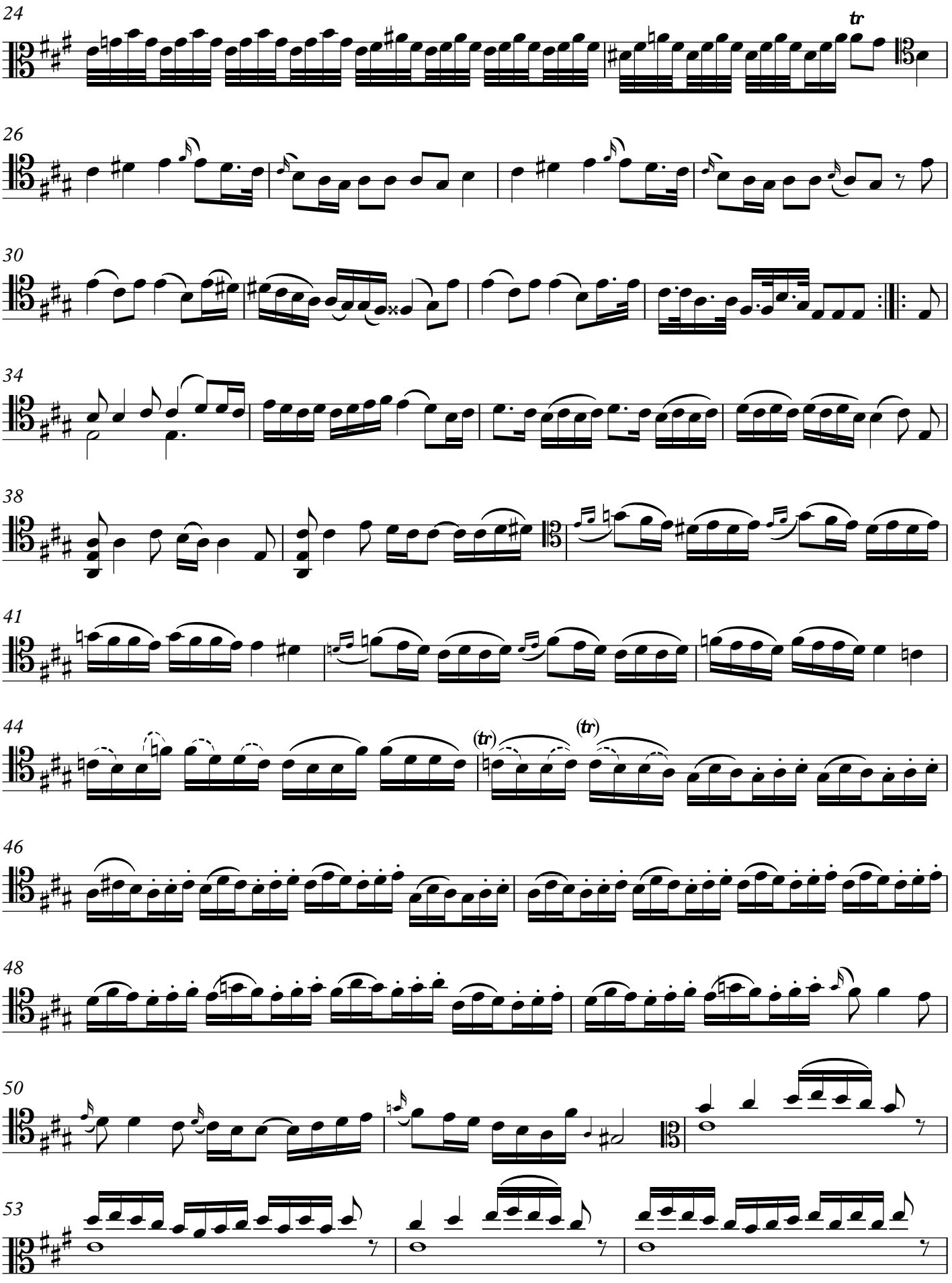
Sonata No. 6 in La Magg. G.4

publ. 1771

Luigi Boccherini
(1743-1805)

Allegro

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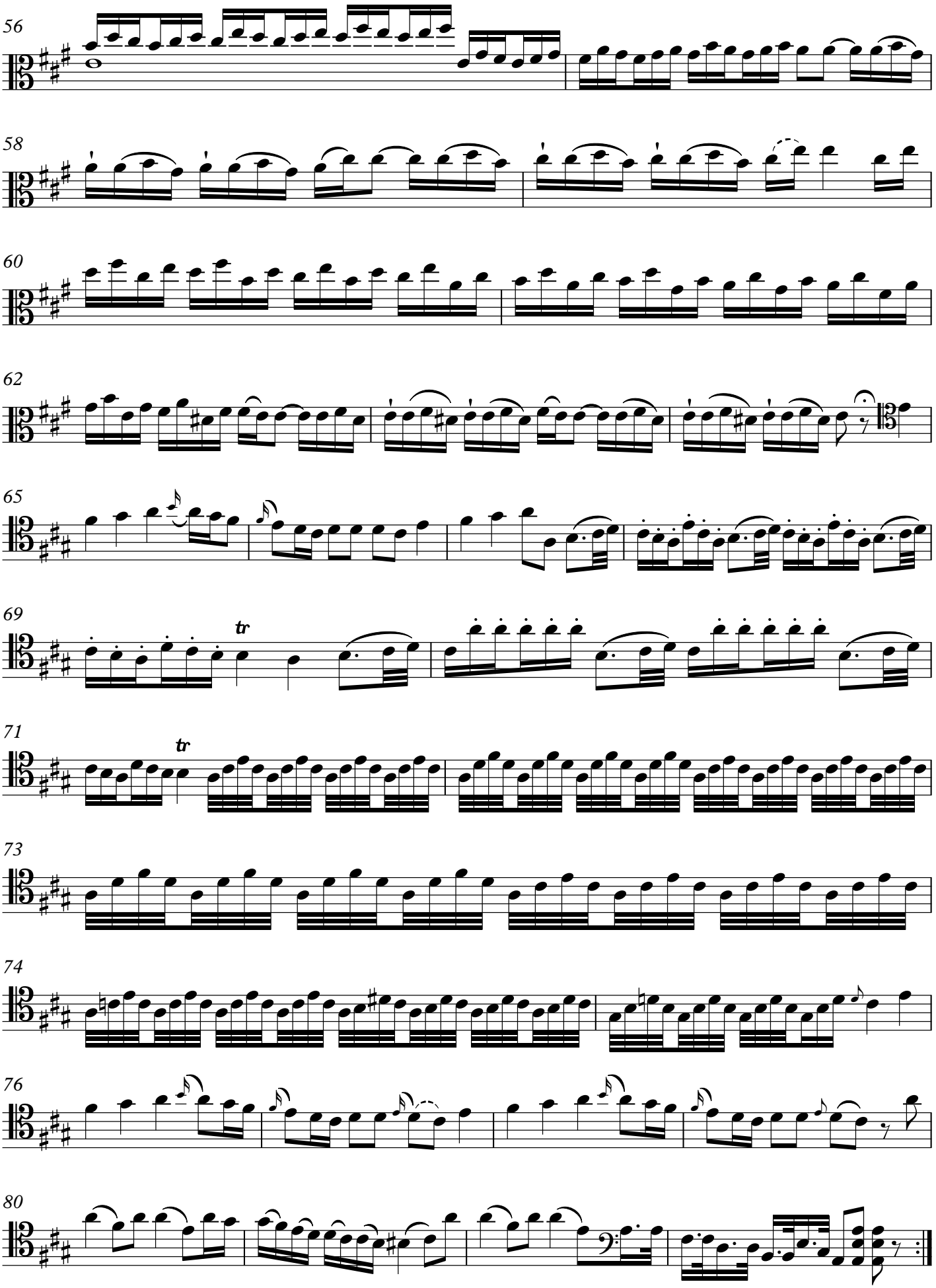
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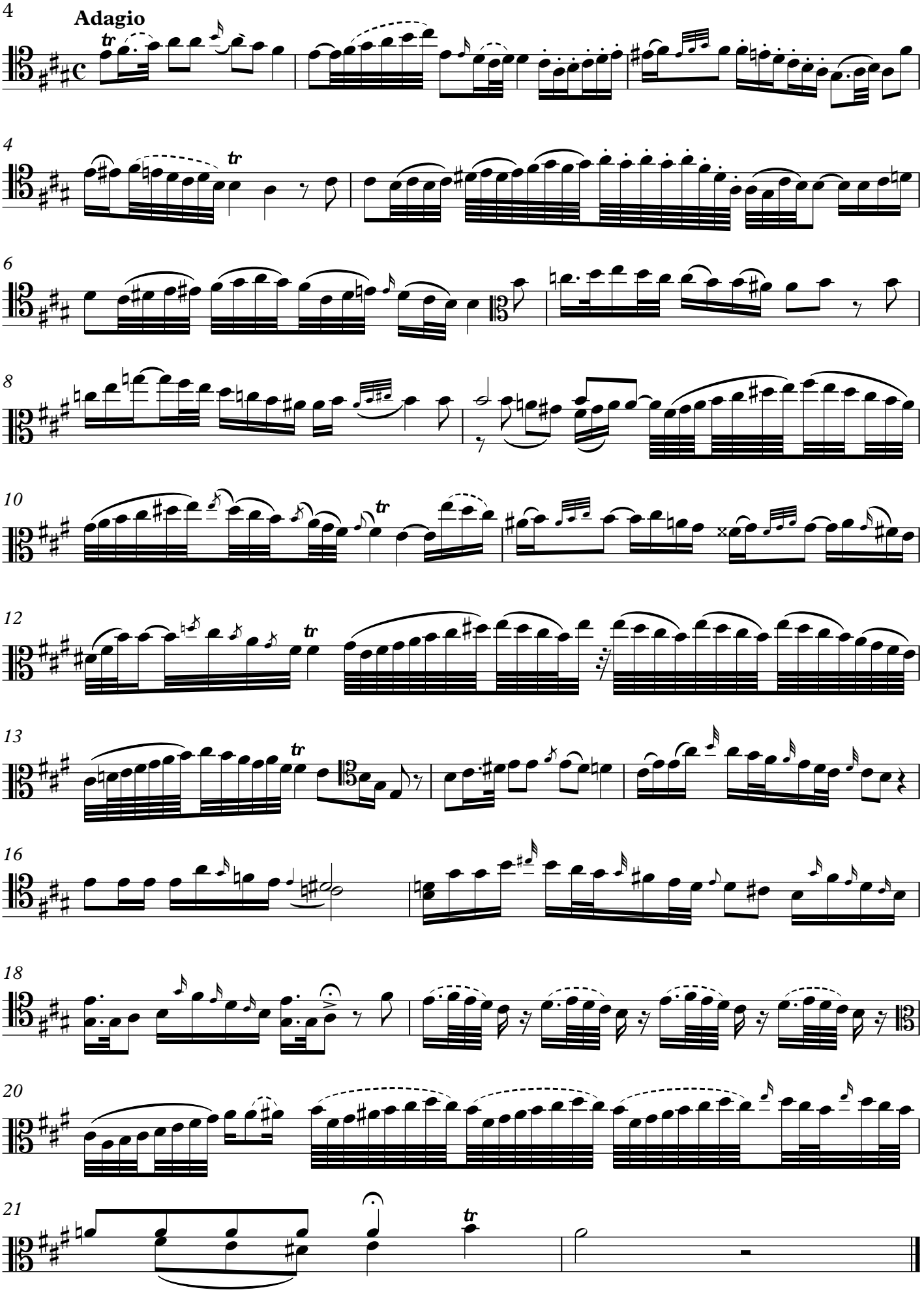
According to latest discoveries in the field, Boccherini's six sonatas, in which the present sonata in A major G.4, is included, were composed during one of Boccherini's prolonged stays in Vienna between the years 1757-1764. Since these sonatas at first were not intended for publication, they do not appear in Boccherini's own catalgogue of works. The six sonatas were dedicated to the Empress Marie Thérèse (in the Painting below by Michael Christoph Hagelgans in 1762).

The sonata in A major G.4 exists in at least three different versions. In the first two manuscript versions the order of the first two movements are inverted and the incipit of the allegro is heavily modified in the later versions. In the first version the 32nd notes arpeggio passage in bar 23 is placed an octave higher than in the following two versions. The passages notated in violin clef have to be played as written and not transposed down one octave. It is obvious from the register, the double stops and the used clefs, that these sonatas were written for two cellos, and not, as formerly believed, for cello and basso continuo or cello and double bass. The double stops in the second cello are easy to play, on a technical level. The manuscript that Boccherini himself sent to London for publication, was lost. The 3rd version of the manuscript was published in London by four different publishers: the first edition by the Scottish publisher Robert Bremner (1771), another by Campbell (between 1782-95), and a third by Forster (between 1803 and 1816) The Bland edition (ca. 1780) is not mentioned by Gérard.

Of Boccherini's 37 sonatas for cello, only these have been published during his lifetime. The second wave of editions took place in the second half of the nineteenth century with Piatti's, Schroeder's, and Grützmacher's (F. Grützmacher (ed.), *6 Sonaten für Violoncell* (Leipzig: Bartholf Senff, [1870]); A. Piatti (ed.), *L. Boccherini Sei Sonate* (Milan: Ricordi, [ca. 1870].) ; Carl Schröder (ed.), *Klassische Violoncell-Musik berühmter Meister des 17. und 18. Jahrhunderts* (Mainz: Schott, [1911)] editions. The sonata in A major G.4 is probably the most famous of Boccherini's cello sonatas and has been, ever since the publication by Grützmacher and Piatti, part of virtually all of the most famous cellists' repertoire, such as Casals, Feuermann, Piatigorsky, Marechal, as well as the later generations up until today's cellists.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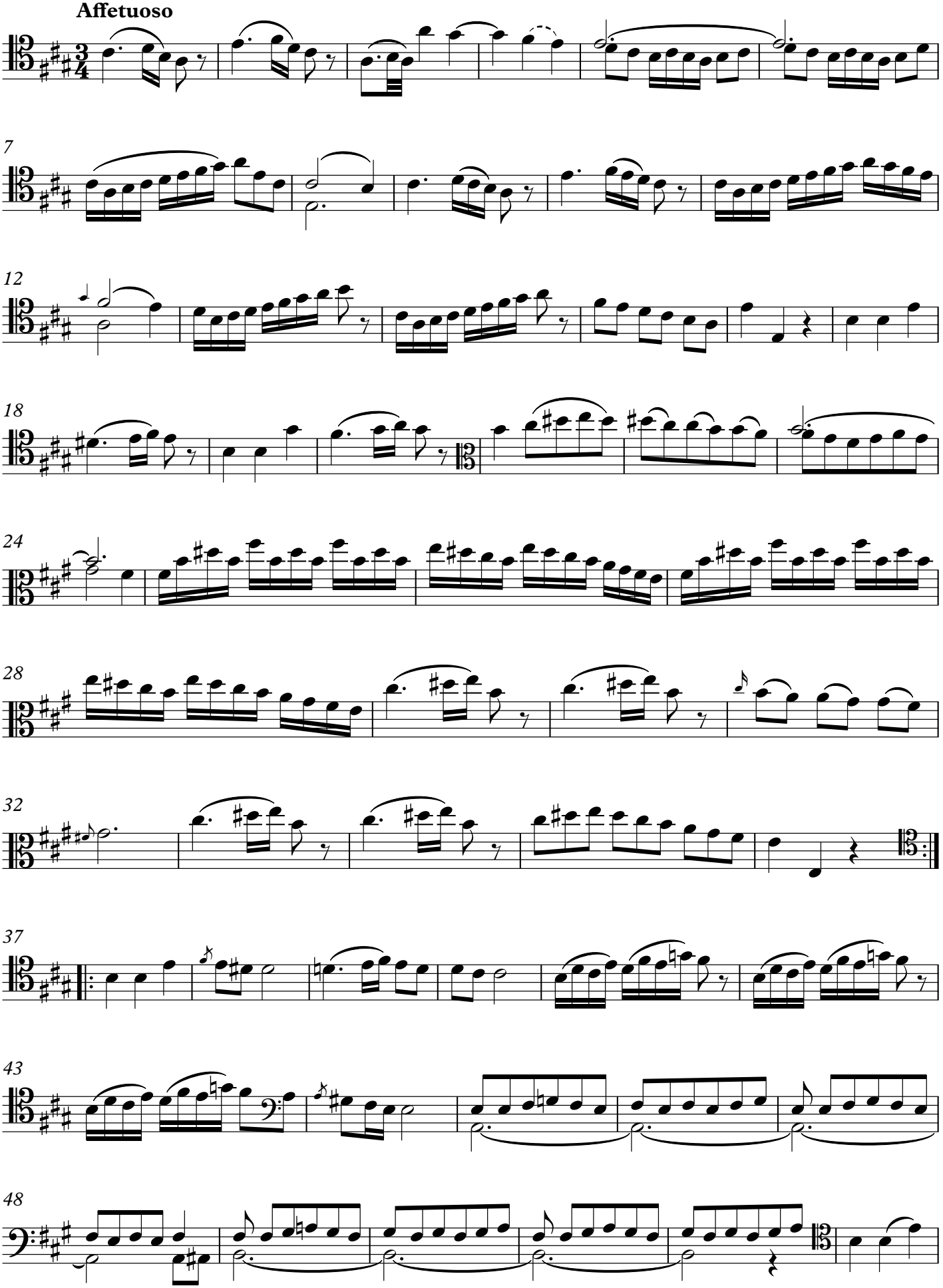
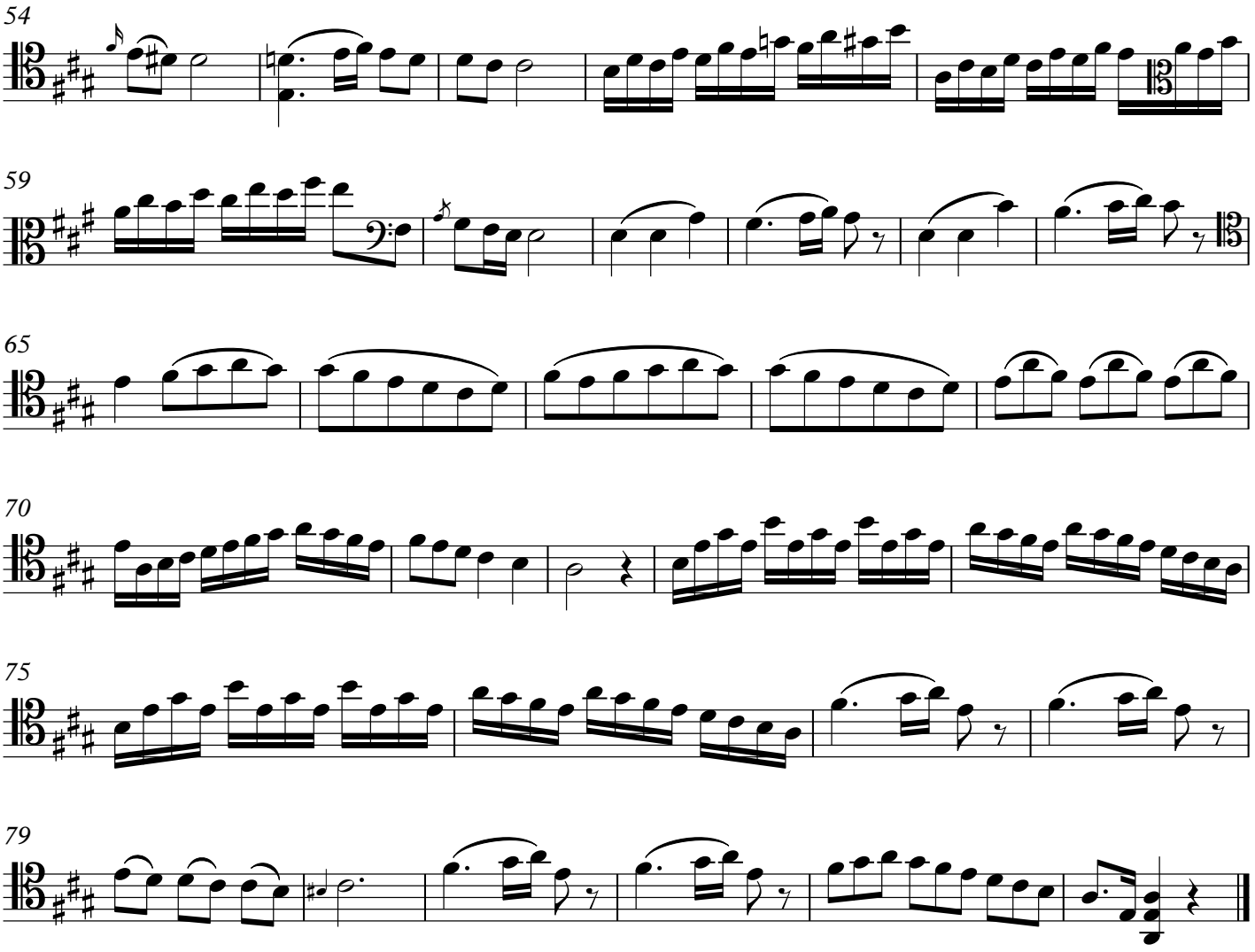
Affetuoso

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