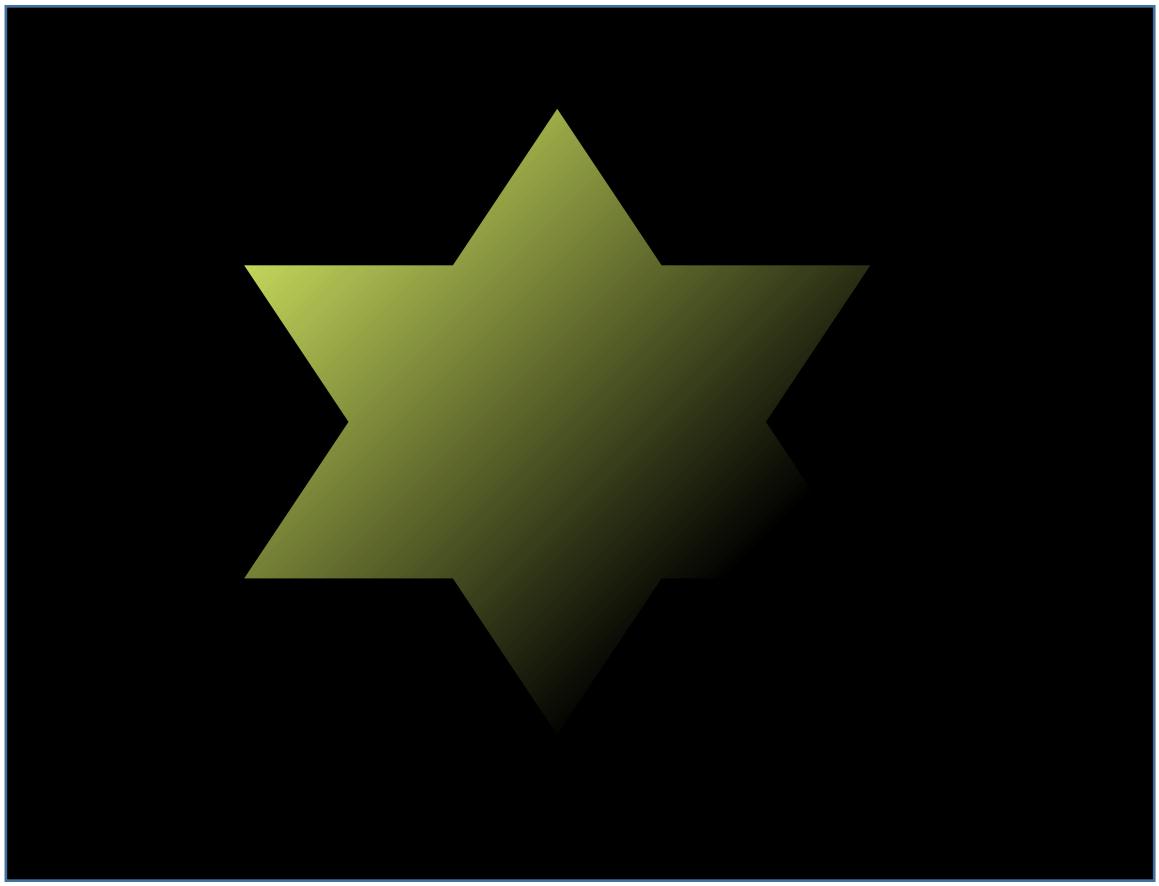
Six Songs from the Holocaust

Arranged for string quartet by Yoel Epstein



Unter Dyne Vyse Shteren (Under the Starry Sky)
Ani Maamin (I Believe)
Shtiller Shtiller (Hush, Hush)
Papirossen (Cigarettes)
Donna Donna
Hatikva (The Hope)

Released under a Creative Commons 4.0 License. Feel free to distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon this work

Here are six songs that have become icons of remembrance of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust. They are traditionally played on Holocaust Day, which is on the 28th day of the Hebrew month of Nissan in Israel, or January 27th in the rest of the world.

Unter Dyne Vyse Shteren (Under the Starry Sky) was written by Avraham Sutskover, a leading Yiddish poet, while trapped in the ghetto of Vilna, in July 1943. Days before the ghetto was destroyed and all the Jews murdered, Sutskover escaped to the forest with his wife. He reached Russia, and in 1947 moved to Palestine. He died in Israel in 2010 at the age of 96. The poem was set to music by Avraham Brodna, a simple laborer in the Vilna ghetto who died in a concentration camp.

Ani Maamin (I Believe): The words to this simple song are of the Jewish prayer "I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah." The tune is attributed to Azriel David Festig, a leading Warsaw *hazzan* (cantor) who died in the Holocaust. The song was performed after the war by Rabbi Shaul Yedidia Eliezer Taub, the *Admor* (Rabbinical leader) of the *Modzitz* Hassidic sect, and has become the iconic song of the remembrance in the Hassidic community.

Shtiller Shtiller (Hush Hush) was written by Alexander Volkovitzky, then a 12-year-old boy, in the Vilna Ghetto in the spring of 1943. Volkovitzky, who wrote the melody for a song contest organized to encourage the cultural life of the ghetto, eventually came to Israel where he (under the name Alexander Tamir) became a leading pianist and music educator. The words are by Shmerke Kacserginsky, a leading poet of Vilna, who later escaped the Holocaust and migrated to South America.

Papirossen (Cigarettes) actually predates the Holocaust by 15 years. It was written by Yiddish actor and composer Herman Yablokoff in 1922 in Grodno, Poland. Yablokoff later immigrated to America, where he produced a musical *Papirossen* that incorporated the song. It was later made famous by the Barry Sisters, a Yiddish popular music group.

Donna Donna was written by Shalom Secunda, with words by Aaron Zeitlin for the Yiddish musical *Esterke* in 1940. Though the song originally related to the 600-year-old legend of a Polish king who married a Jewess, it quickly became associated with the Holocaust because of its haunting message. The song has entered the popular folk repertoire, with canonical renditions by Joan Baez, Theodore Bikel, and many others.

Hatikva (the Hope) is Israel's national anthem. The words are by Naftali Zvi Imber, and the tune is a traditional eastern European tune.

You are welcome to try some of my other arrangements. In addition to the songs offered on this site (you can see them at http://www.sheetmusicplus.com/search?Ntt=Yoel+Epstein), I have arranged three songs from the Holocaust, which I arranged and distribute for free on IMSLP. You can find them at http://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Ravpapa. If you need arrangements of any of these songs for special combinations of instruments, feel free to contact me, and I will try to accommodate. Write me at yoelepst@gmail.com. Hope you enjoy.

Joel Epstein is a member of the Associated Chamber Music Players. ACMP is an international organization that promotes amateur music-making by people of all ages and nationalities, beginners to professionals. If you love to play music, you should join. Visit our website at www.acmp.net.

Released under a Creative Commons 4.0 License. Feel free to distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon this work

Unter Dyne Vyse Shteren (Under the Starry Sky)

(first two verses only)

In the glow of the starry sky
Let your hand upon me rest.
Every word of mine a tear;
Please, take me to your breast.

Your stars cast their glow
Into the cellar deep in my sight,
But within me not a single ray
To return the gift of light

אונטער דײַנע ווײַסע שטערן
שטרעק צו מיר דײַן ווײַסע האַנט.
מײַנע ווערטער זײַנען טרערן
ווילן רוען אין דײַן האַנט.

זע, עס טונקלט וייער פֿינקל
אין מײַן קעלערדיקן בליק
און איך האָב גאָרנישט קיין ווינקל
זיי צו שענקען דיר צוריק.

Shtiller Shtiller (Hush, Hush)

Hush, hush, let's be quiet,
The dead are growing here,
They were planted by the tyrant,
See their bloom appear.
All the roads lead to Ponar now,
There are no roads back,
And our father, too, has vanished,
With him went our luck.
Hush my child, still, my jewel,
Tears no help command.
Our pain callous people
Never understand.
Seas and oceans have their order,
Prison also has its border,
But to our plight there is no light,
No light.

,שטילער, שטילער, לאָמיר שוויַגן
.קבֿרים וואַקסן דאָ
:ס׳האָבן זיי פֿאַרפֿלאַנצט די שׂונאים
...גרינען זיי צום בלאָ
,ס׳פֿירן וועגן צו פּאָנאַר צו
,ס׳פֿירט קיין וועג צוריק
איז דער טאַטע ווו פֿאַרשוווּנדן
...און מיט אים דאָס גליק
,שטילער, קינד מײַנס, וויין ניט, אוצר
;ס׳העלפֿט ניט קיין געוויין
אונדזער אומגליק וועלן שׂונאים
.סײַ ווי ניט פֿאַרשטיין
,ס׳האָבן ברעגעס אויך די ימען
,ס׳האָבן תּפֿיסות אויכעט צאַמען
נאָר צו אונדזער פֿײַן
,קיין ביסל שײַן

Released under a Creative Commons 4.0 License. Feel free to distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon this work

Papirossen (Cigarettes)

The night is cold, and all around is dark;
A boy stands there and looks around;
Only a wall protects him from the rain.
In his hand is a little tray,
And his eyes beckon everyone who goes by.

I no longer have the strength left
To walk about the streets;
I'm hungry, disheveled and wet from the rain.

Forgive me my shouting and rambling;
Nobody buys anything from me,
And so I'll perish like a dog.

I shlep around from the day's beginning;
Nobody wants to do business with me.
They all laugh and make fun of me

Come buy some cigarettes!
They're dry, the rain did not get to them.
They're real cheap, it's true;
Buy them and have pity on me;
Save me from hunger...
Come buy these matches, the best of any,
And you'll help a poor orphan
A kalte nakht a nepeldike fintster umetum
Shteyt a yingele fartroyert un kukt zikh arum Fun regn shitst im nor a vant

A koshikl halter in hant Un zayne oygen betn yedn shtum: Ikh hob shoyn nit keyn koyekh mer arumtsugeyn in gas Hungerik un opgerisn, fun dem regn nas Ikh shlep arum zikh fun baginen Keyner git nit tsu fardinen Ale lakhn makhn fun mir shpas

Kupitye koyft zhe koyft zhe papirosn
Trukene fun regn nit fargosn Koyft zhe, bilik benemones Koyft un hot oyf mir rakhmones Ratevet fun hunger mikh atsind
Kupitye koyft zhe, shevebelakh antikn
Dermit ver ir a yosiml derkvikn Umzist mayn shrayen un mayn loyfn Keyner vil bay mir nit koyfn Oysgeyn velikh muzn vi a hunt

Released under a Creative Commons 4.0 License. Feel free to distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon this work

Donna Donna

On a wagon bound for market
There's a calf with a mournful eye.
High above him there's a swallow
Winging swiftly through the sky.

How the winds are laughing
They laugh with all their might
Laugh and laugh the whole day through
And half the summer's night.

"Stop complaining," said the farmer,
"Who told you a calf to be?
Why don't you have wings to fly with
Like the swallow so proud and free?"

Oyfn furl ligt dos kelbl
Ligt gebundn mit a shtrik
Hoykh in himl flit dos shvelbl
Freydt zikh, dreyt zikh hin un krik.

Lakht der vint in korn
Lakht un lakht un lakht
Lakht er op a tog a gantsn
mit a halber nakht.

Shrayt dos kelbl, zogt der poyer
"Ver zhe heyst dikh zayn a kalb?
Volst gekert tsu zayn a foygl
Volst gekert tsu zayn a shvalb?"

Hatikvah (the Hope)

As long as in the heart, within,
A Jewish soul still yearns,
And onward, towards the ends of the east,
an eye still gazes toward others' lands;
Our hope is not yet lost,
The hope two thousand years old,
To be a free nation in our own land,
The Land of Zion, Jerusalem!
.

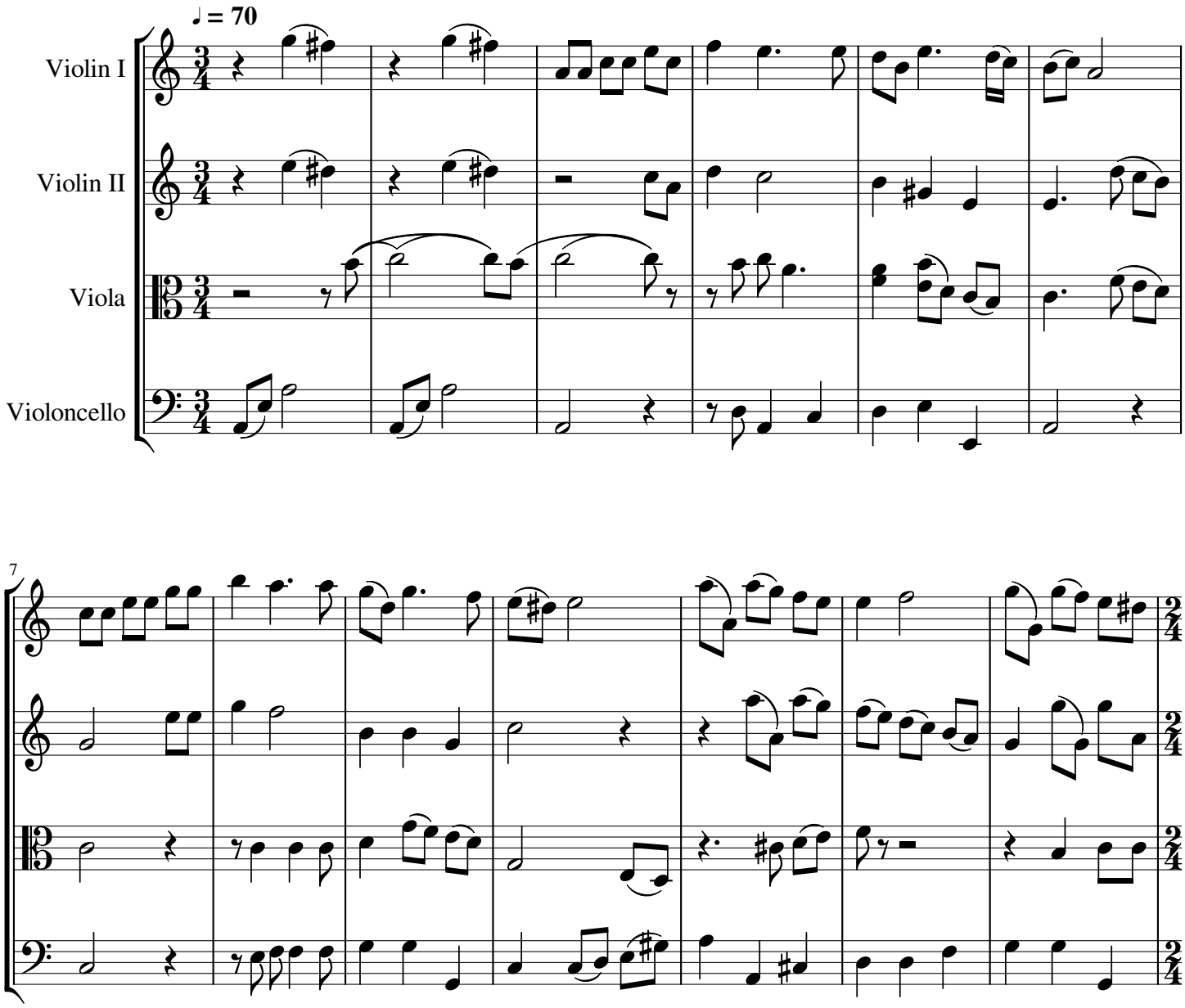
כָּל עוֹד בַּלֵּבָב פְּנִימָה
נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה
וּלְפַאֲתֵי מִזְרָח קָדִימָה
עַיִן לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה
עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוָתֵנוּ
הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שְׁנוֹת אַלְפַּיִם
לִהְיוֹת עַם חָפְשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ
אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם

Released under a Creative Commons 4.0 License. Feel free to distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon this work

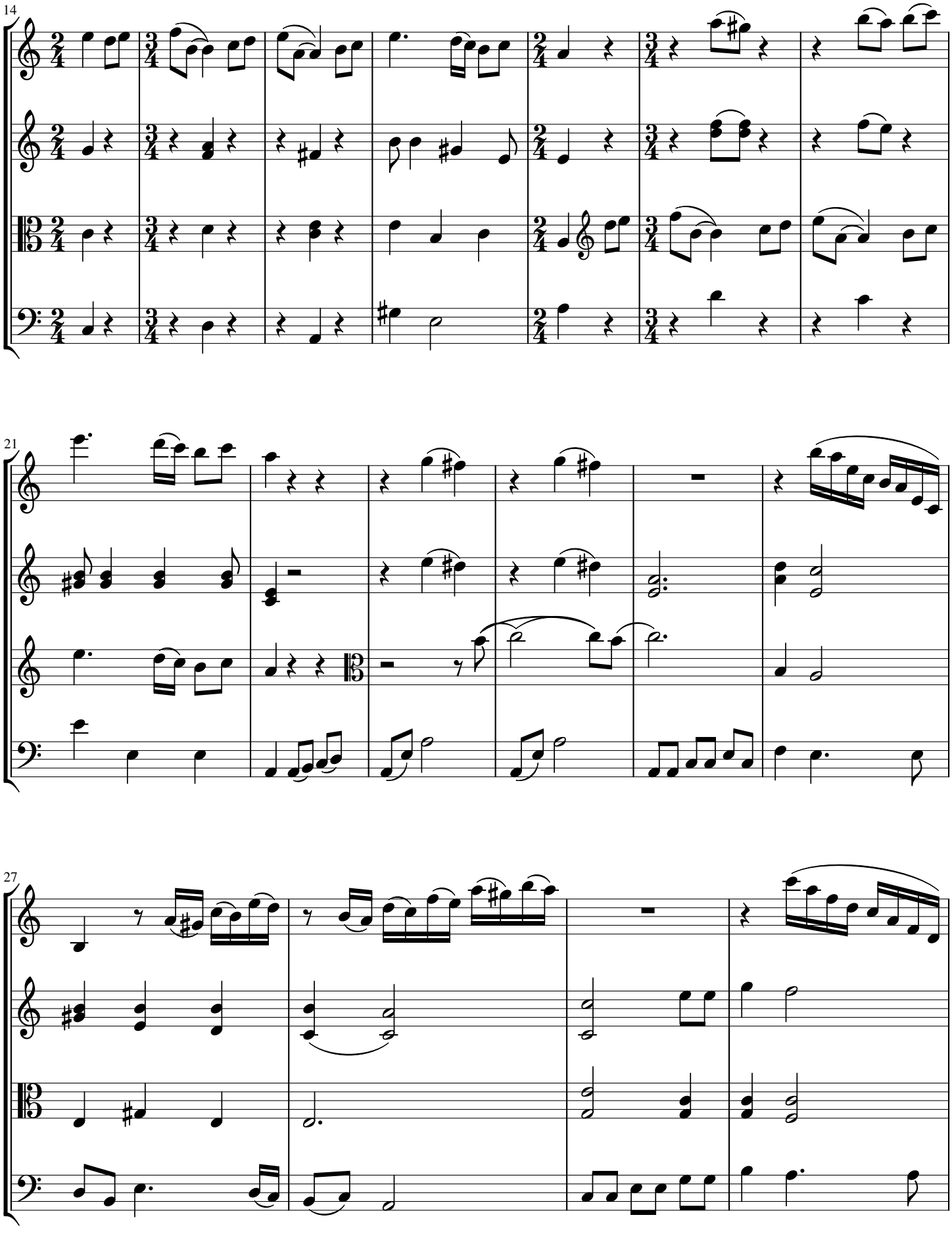
Six songs of the holocaust

Arranged for string quartet by Yoel Epstein

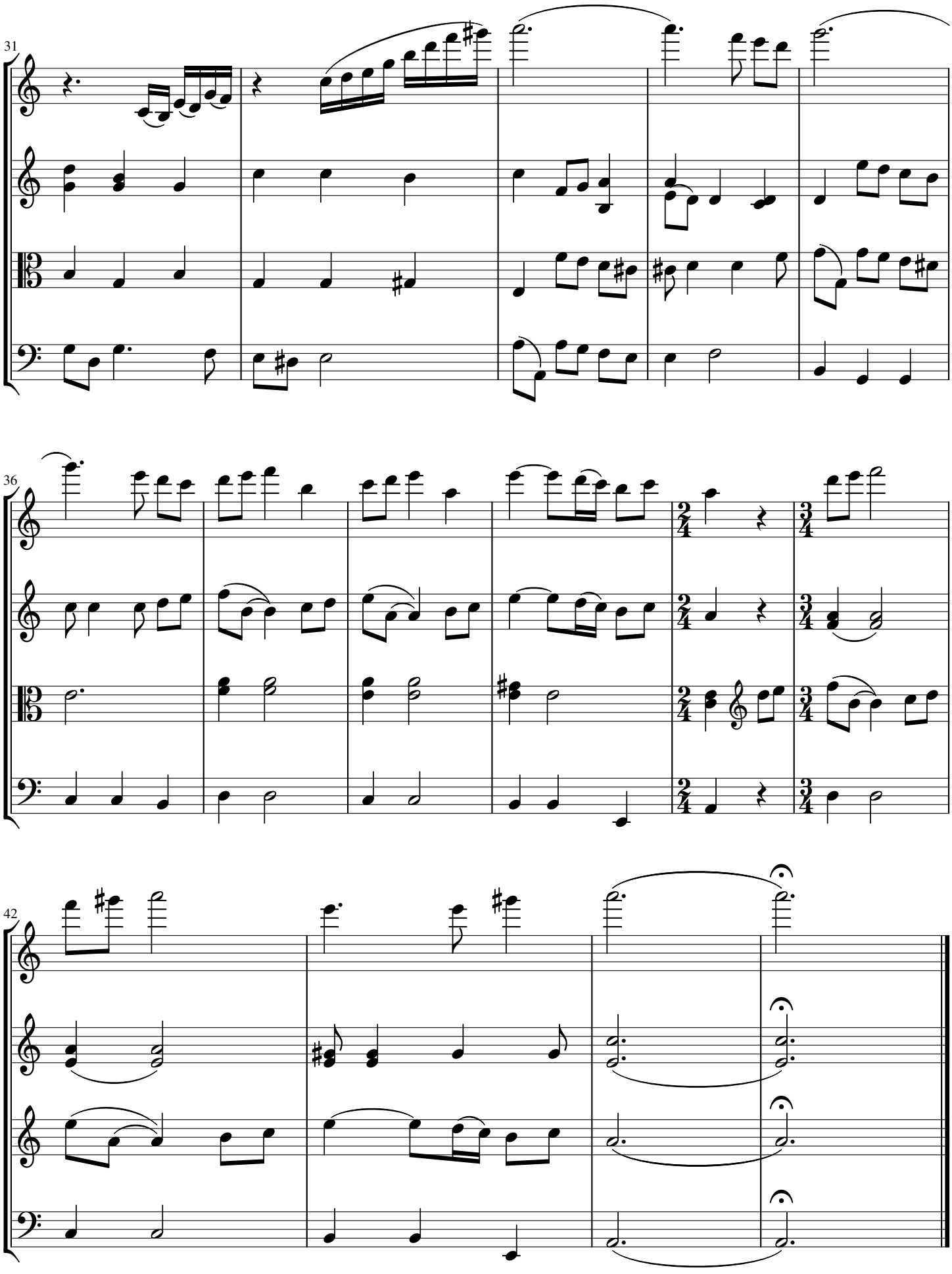
Unter Dyne vise Shteren (Under the Starry Sky)



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

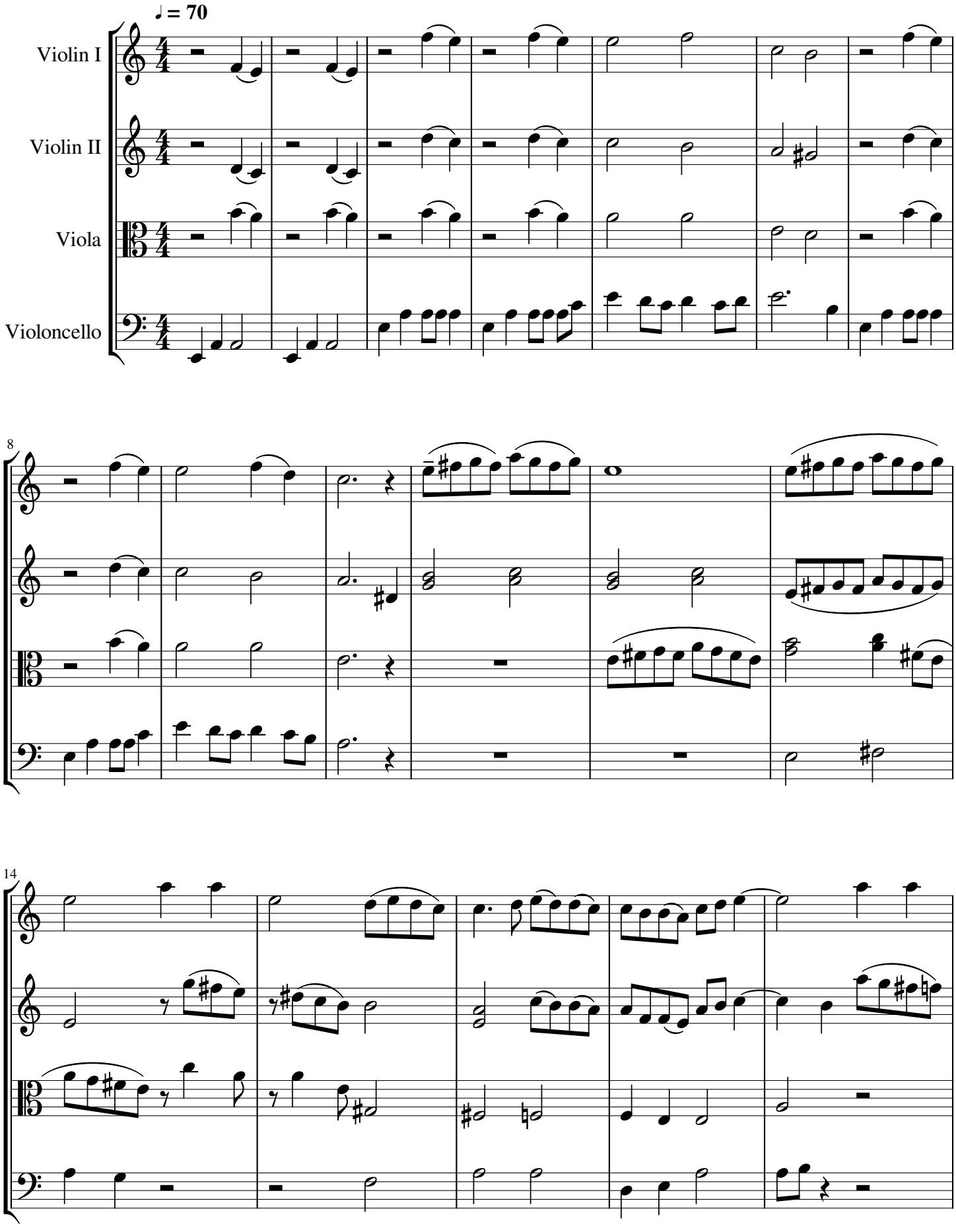


Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

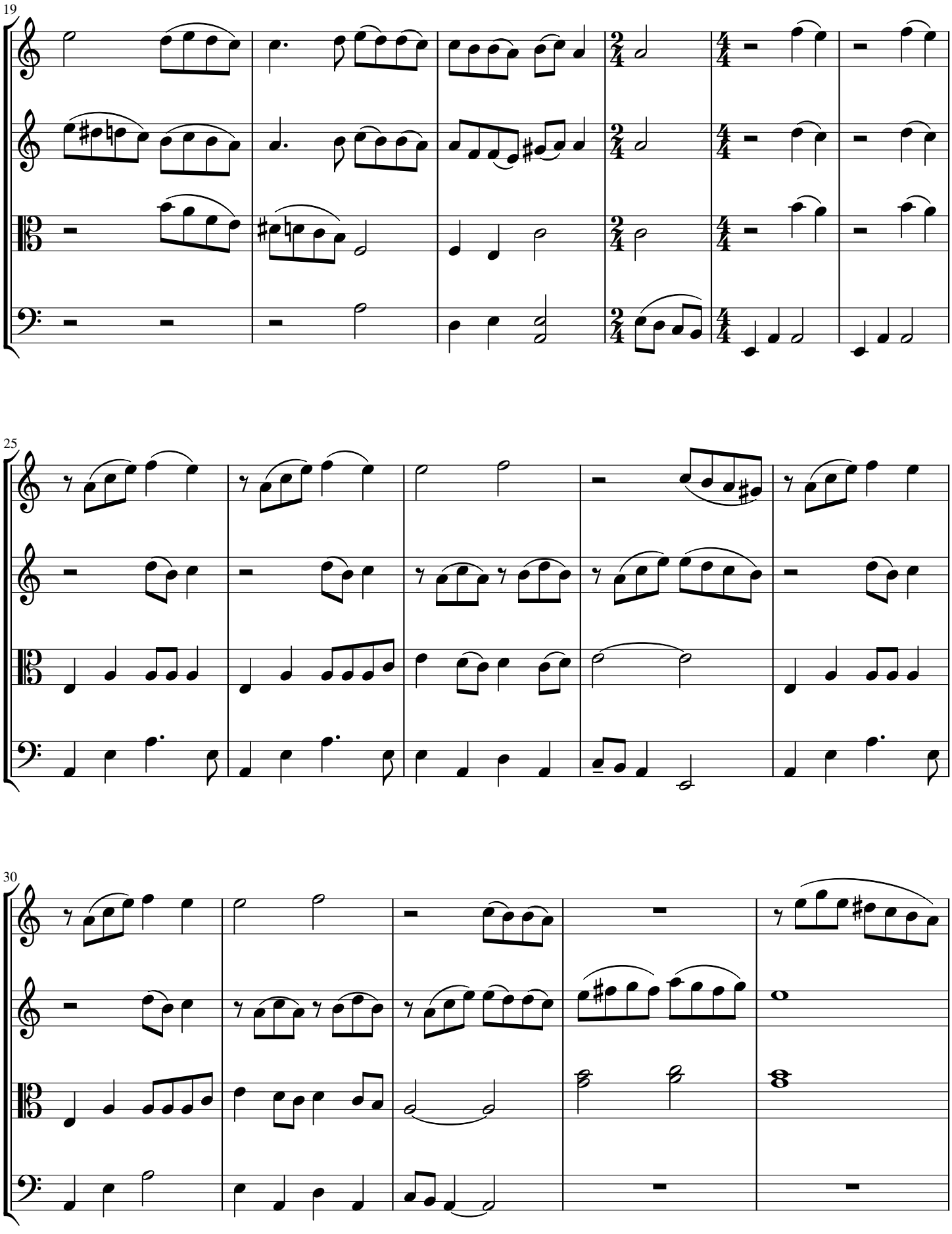


Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

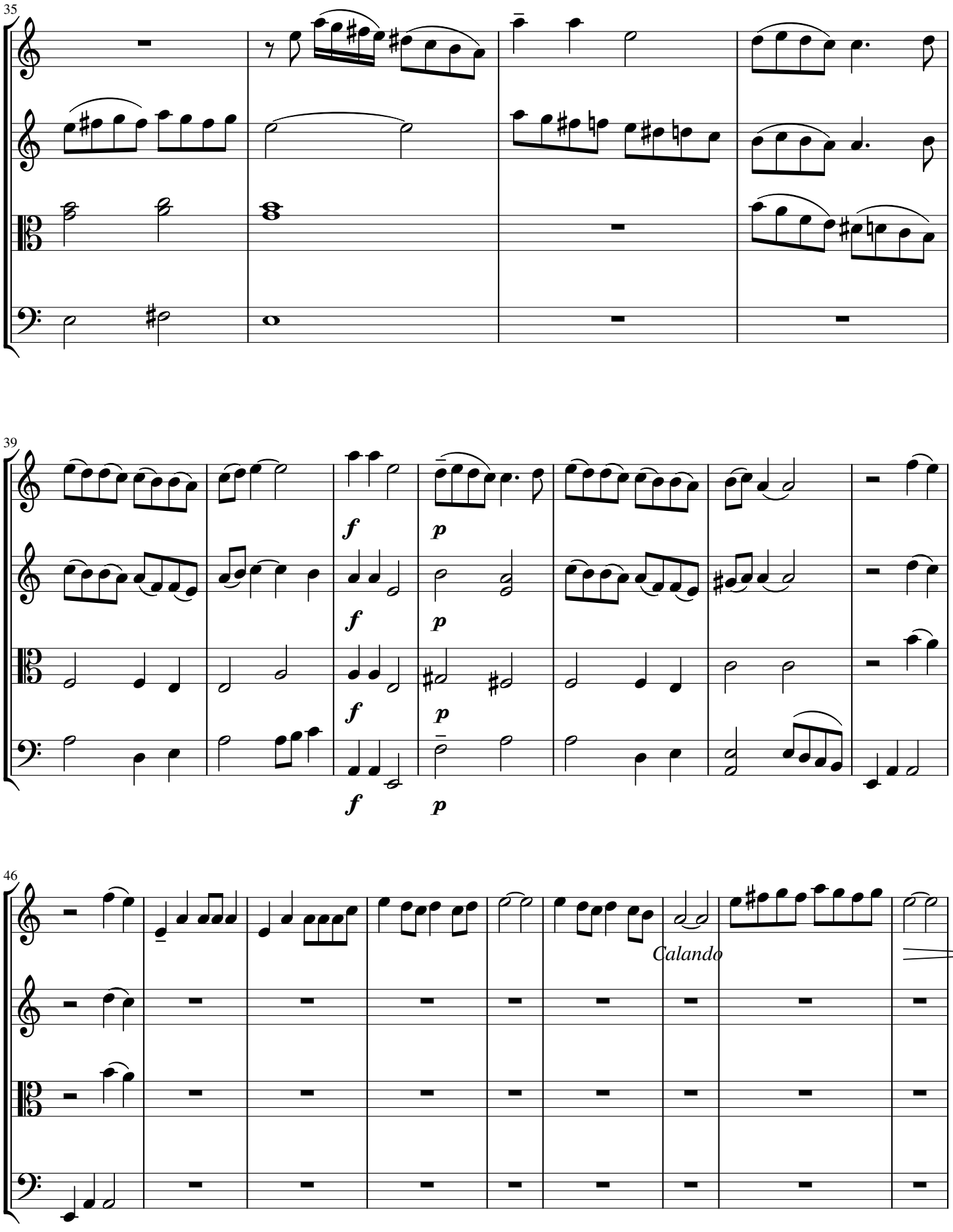
Ani Maamin (I Believe)



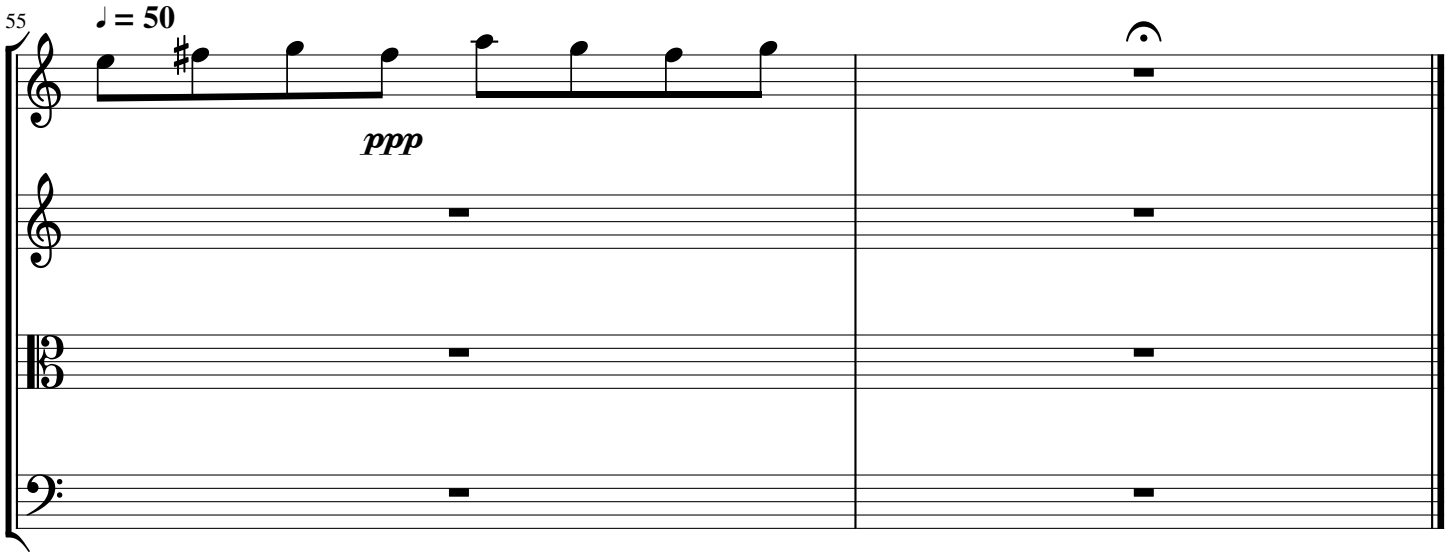
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License



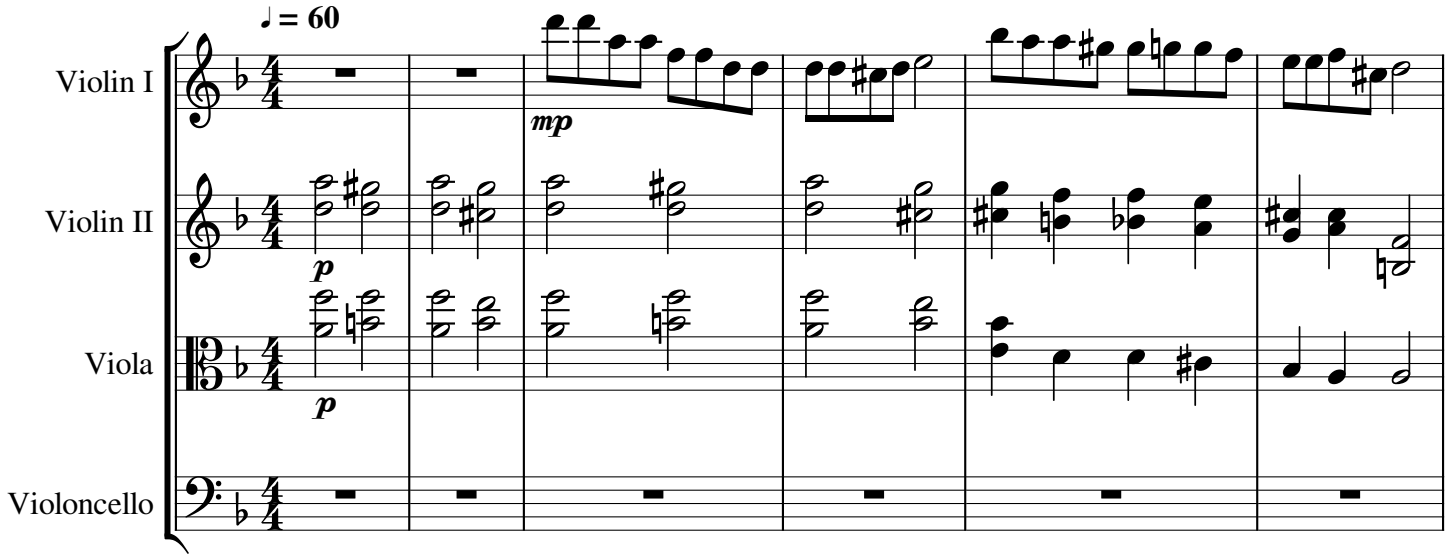
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

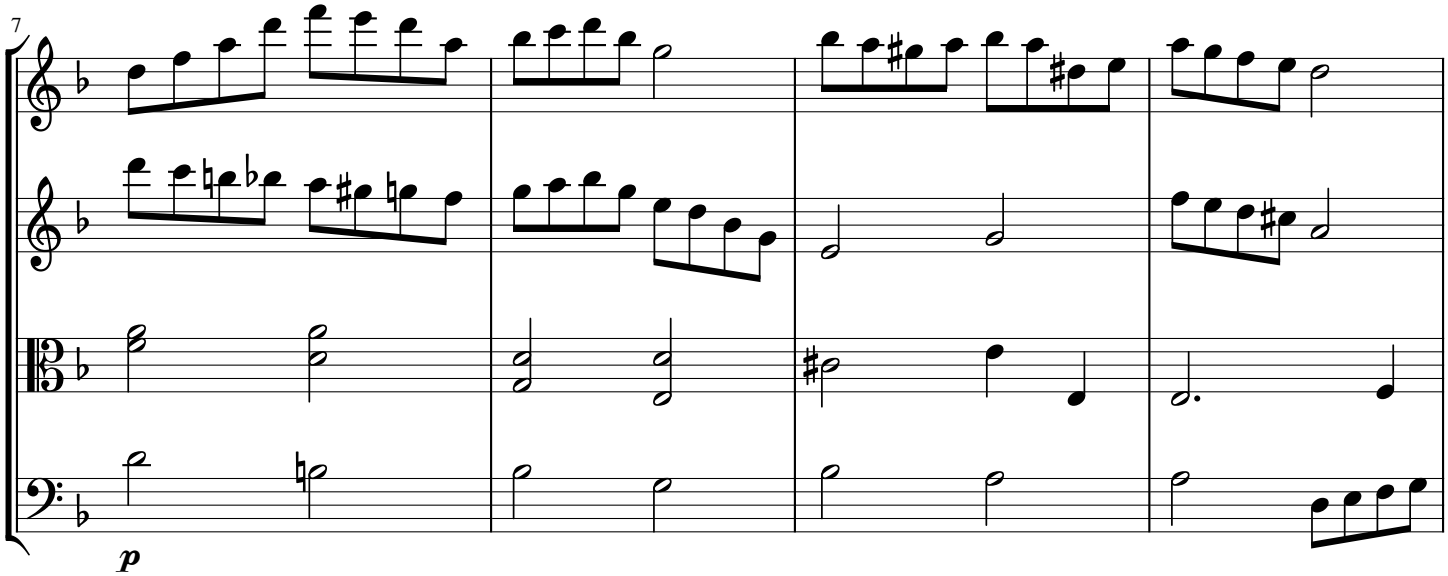


Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License



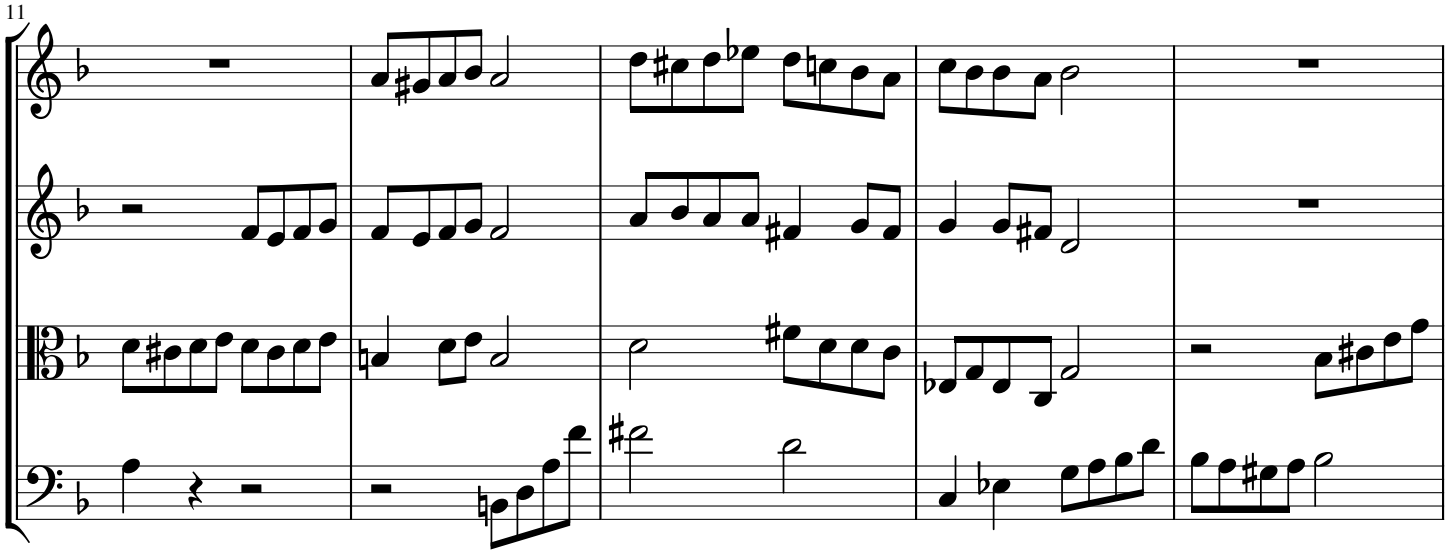
Shtiller Shtiller (Hush, Hush)



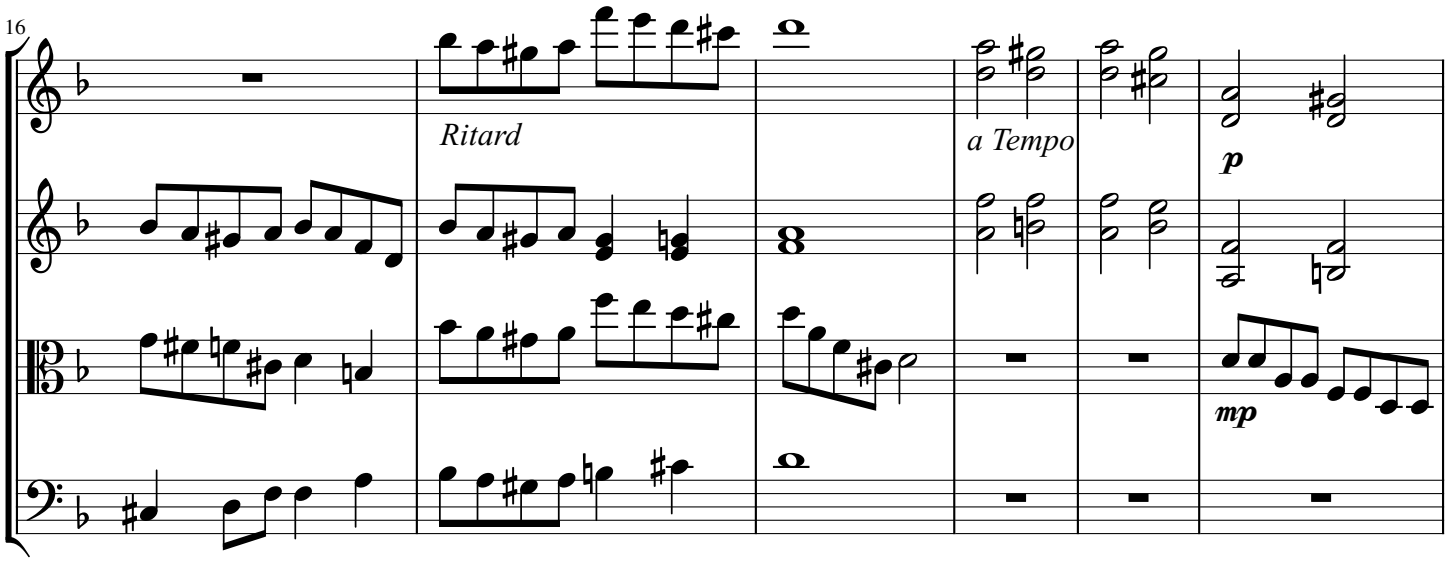


Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

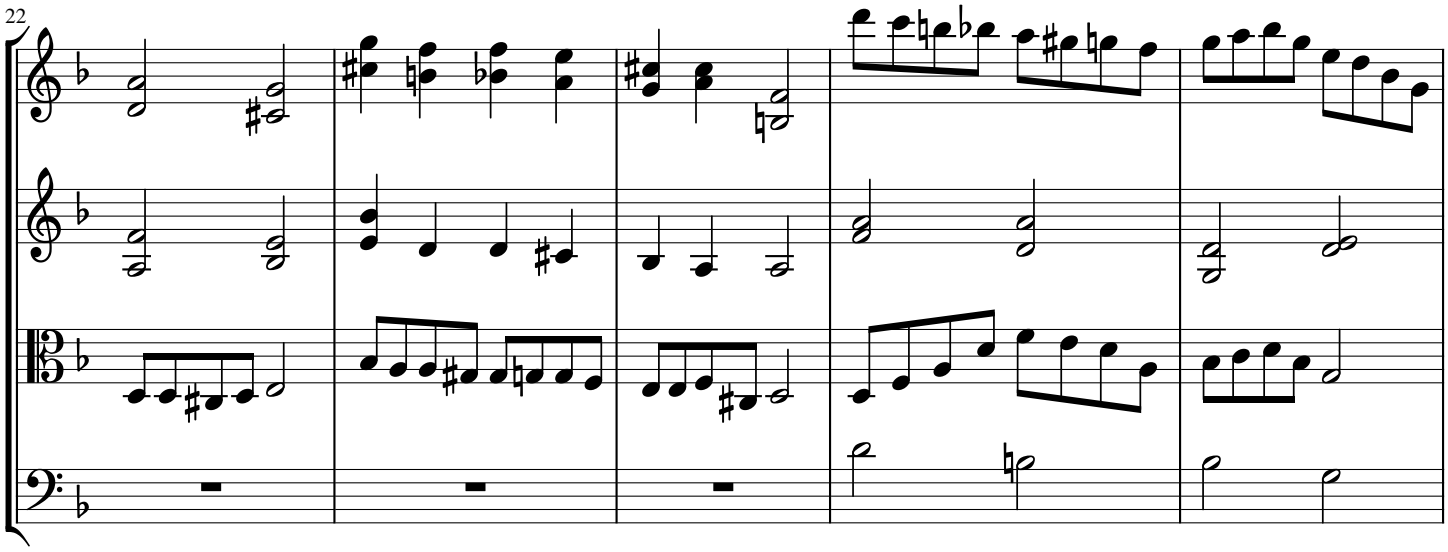
11



16

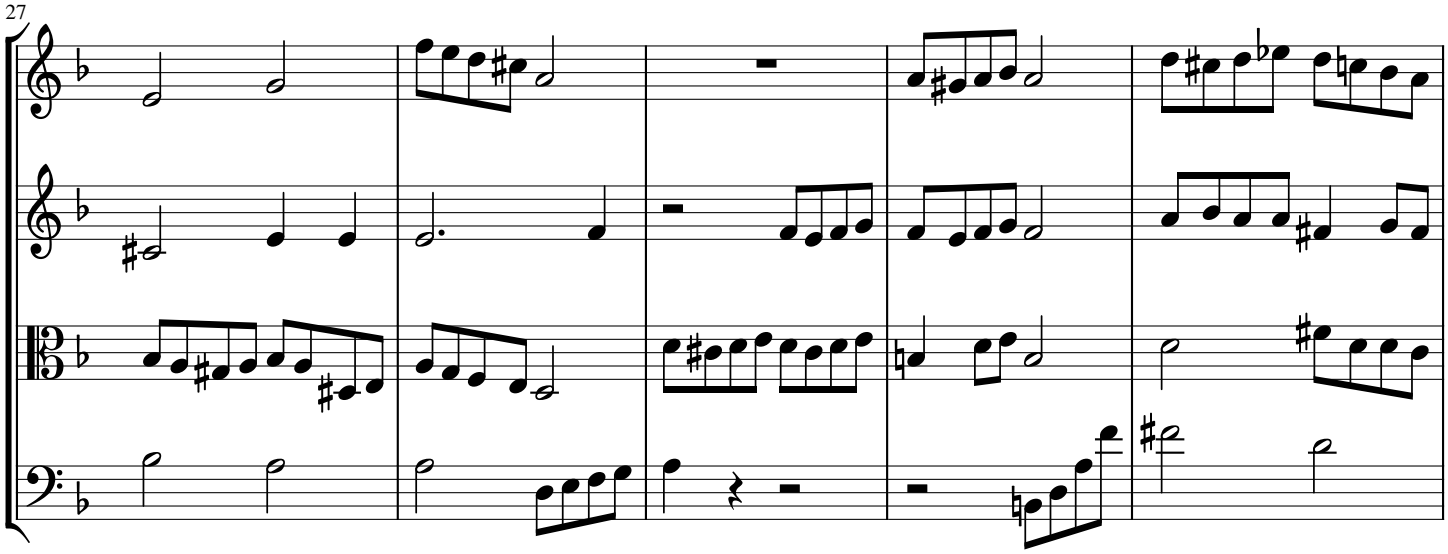


22

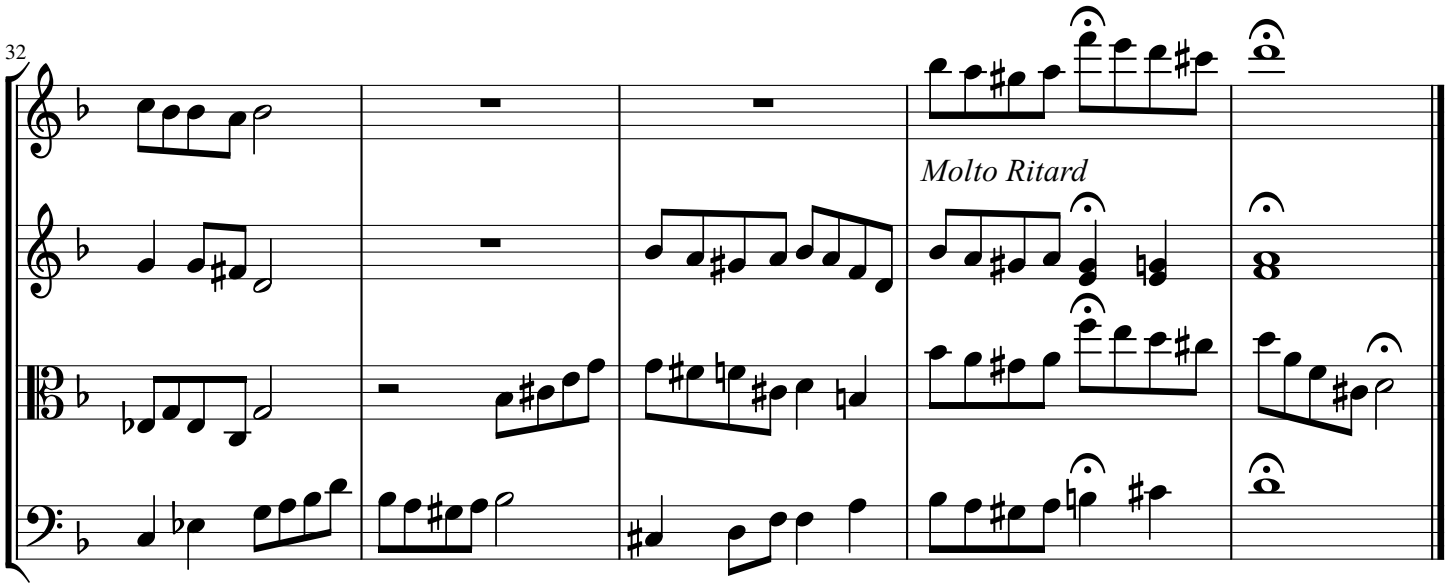


Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

27

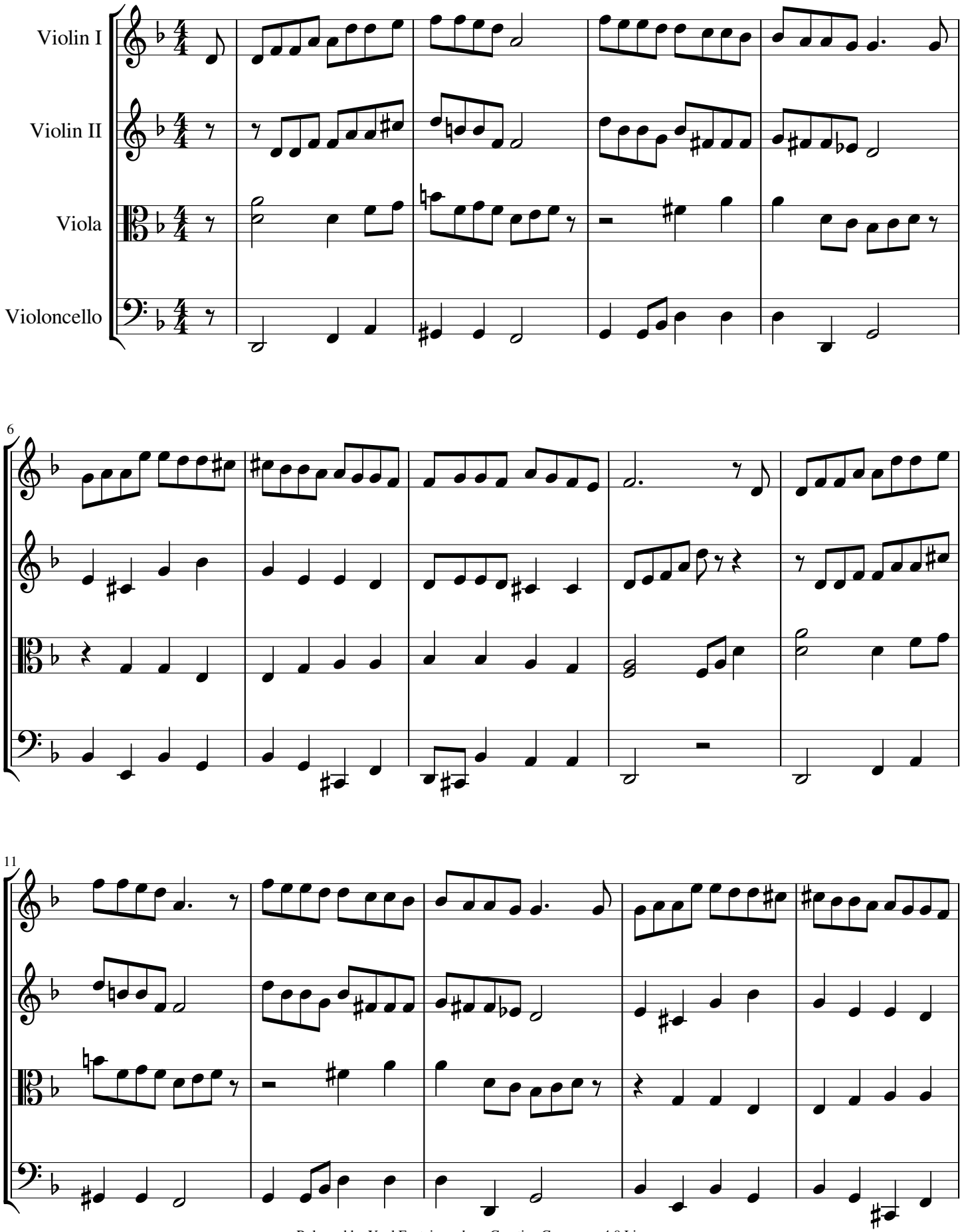


32



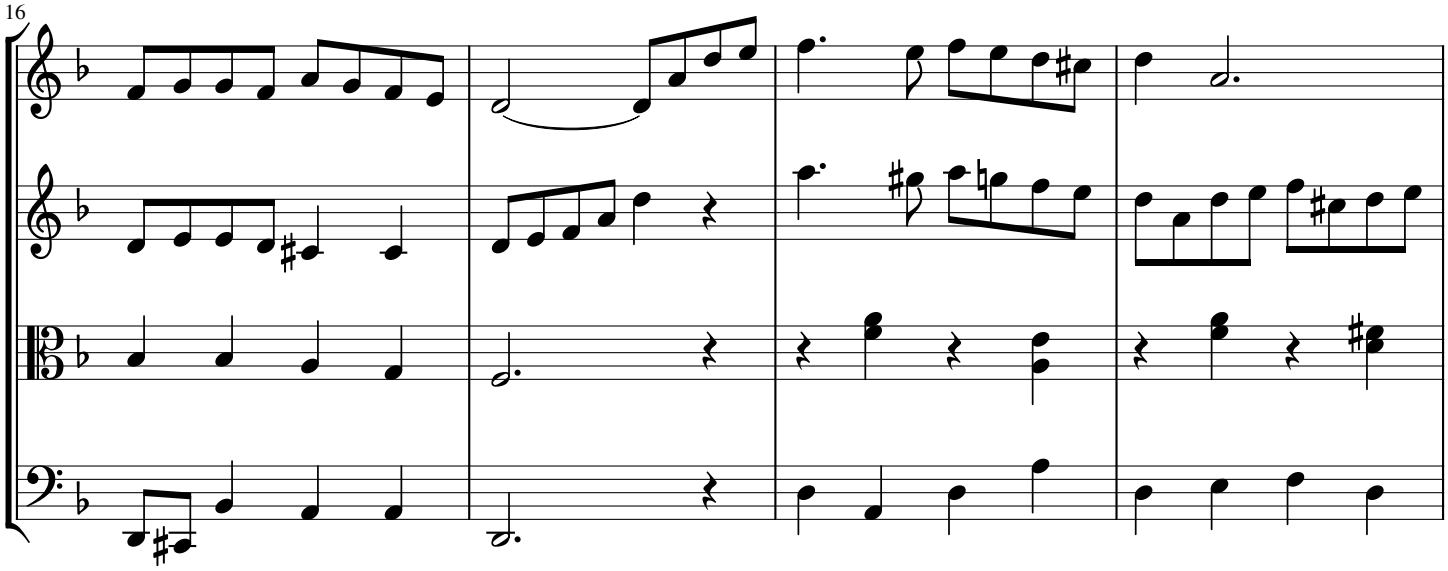
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Papirossen (Cigarettes)

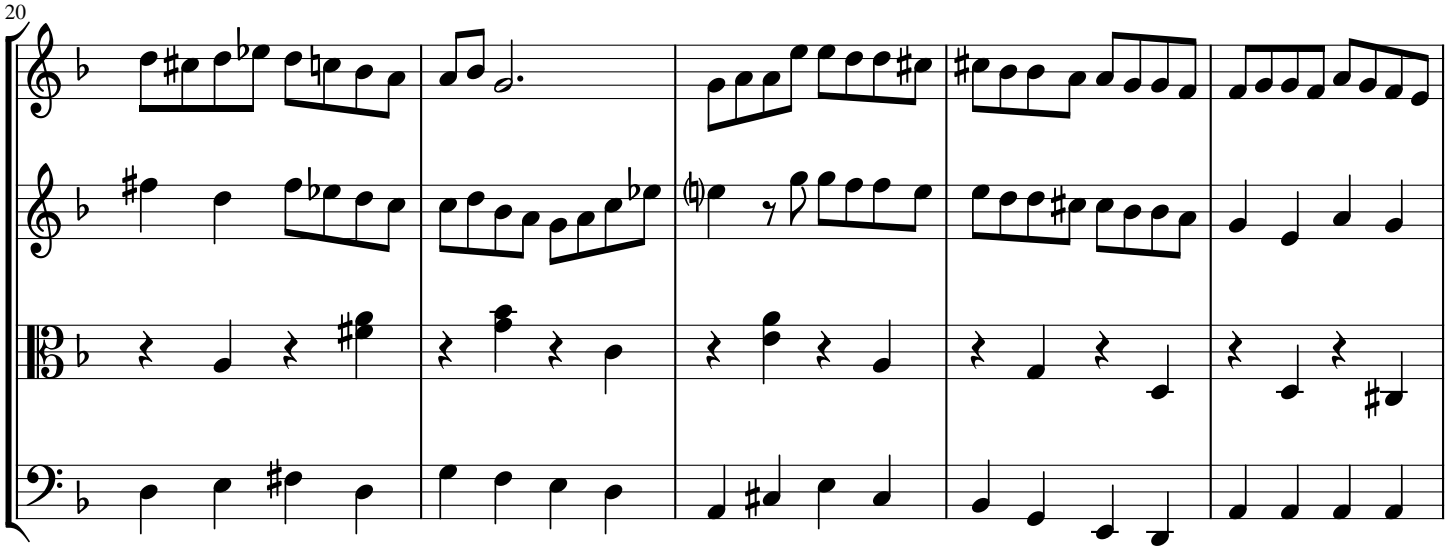


Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

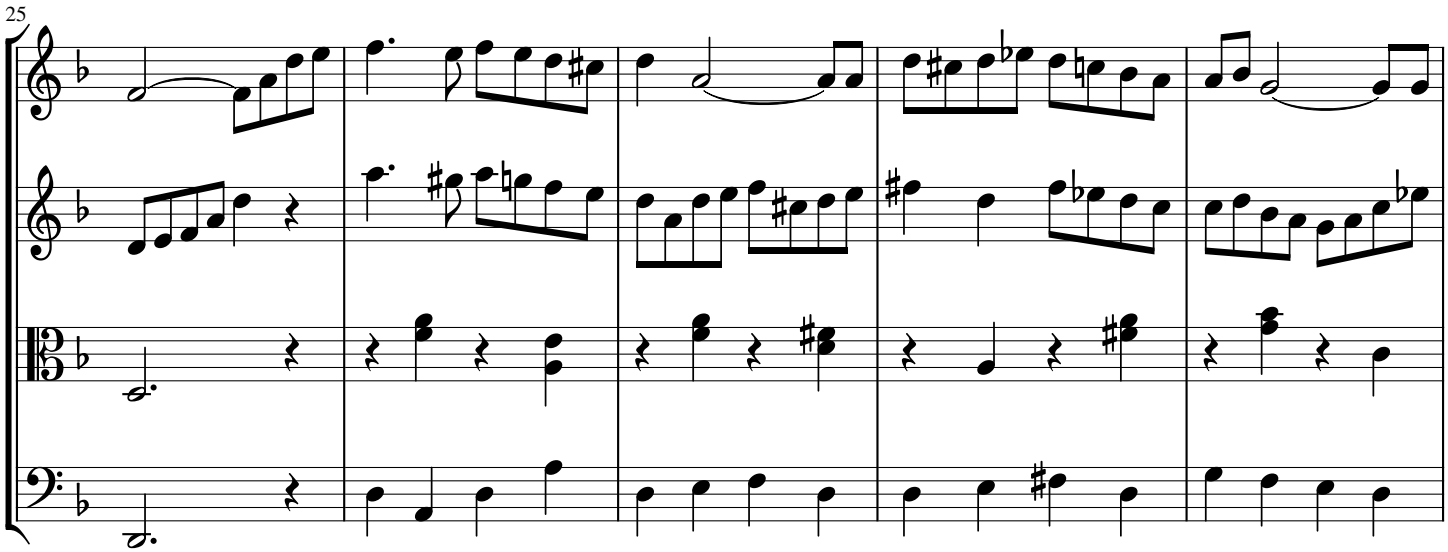
16



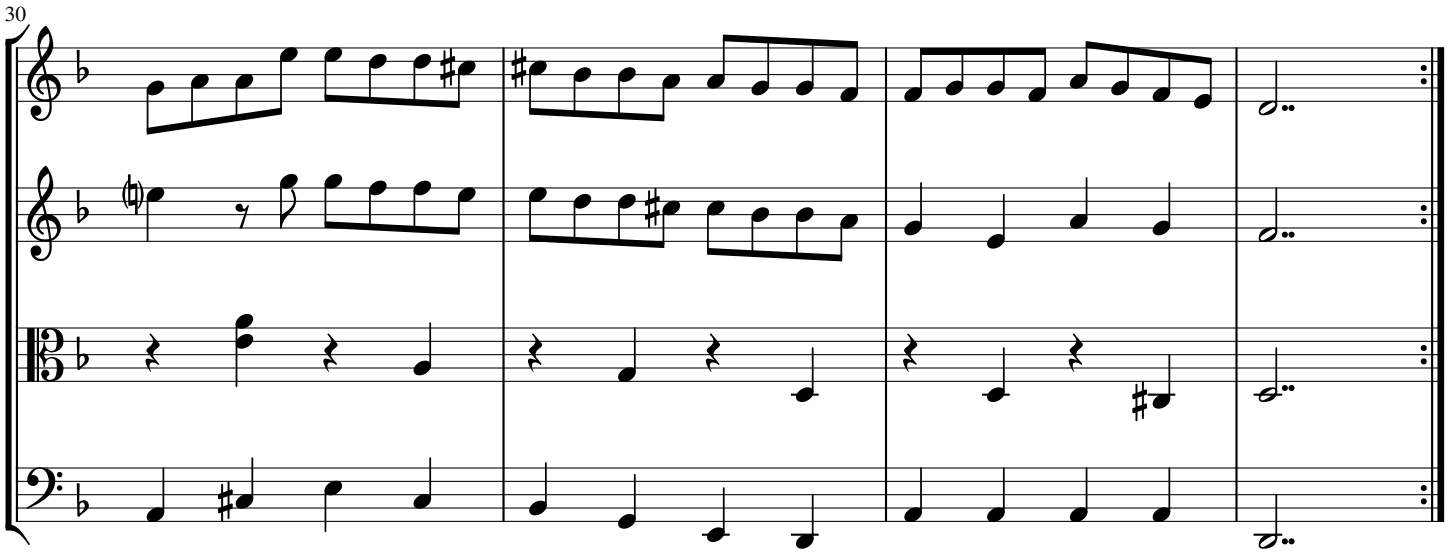
20



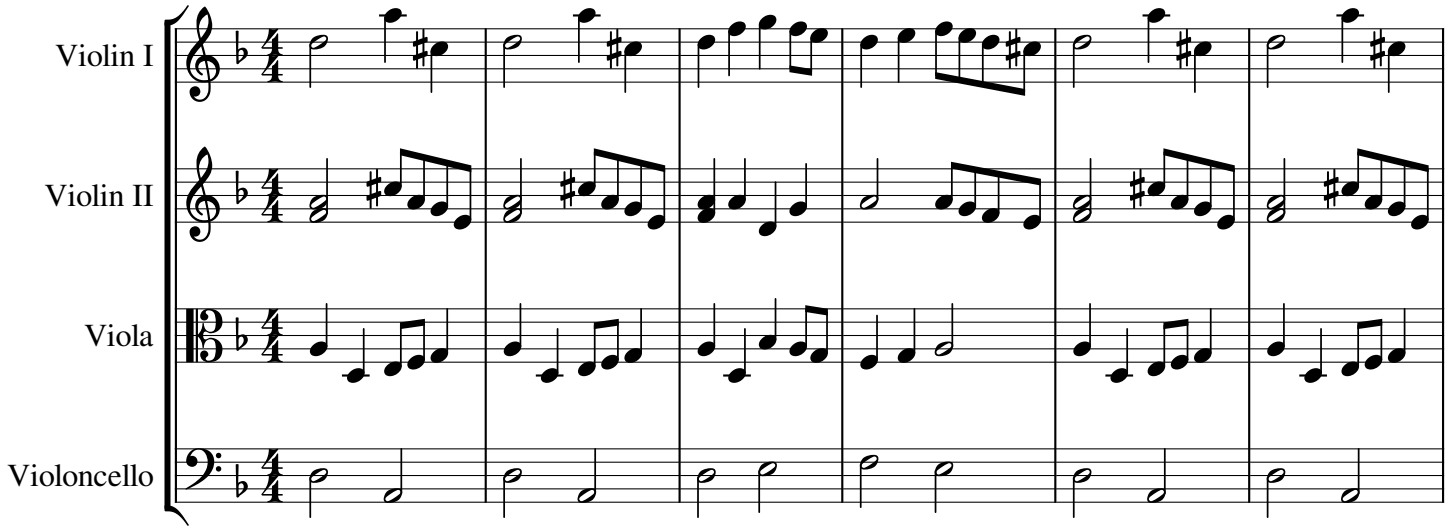
25

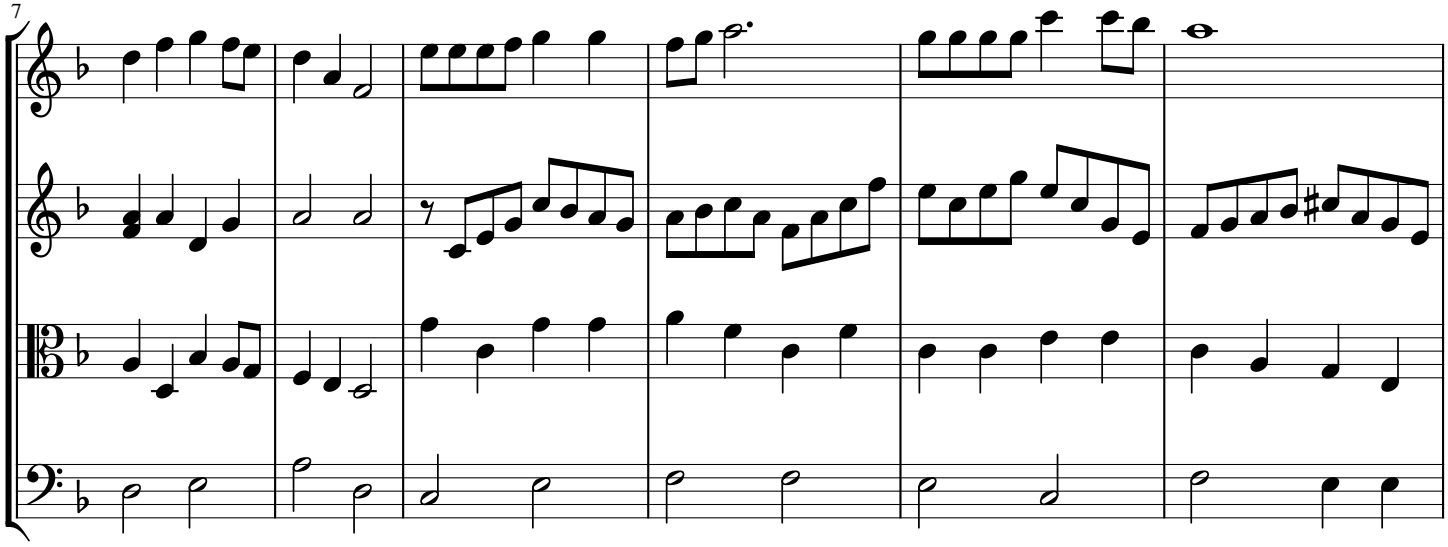


Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

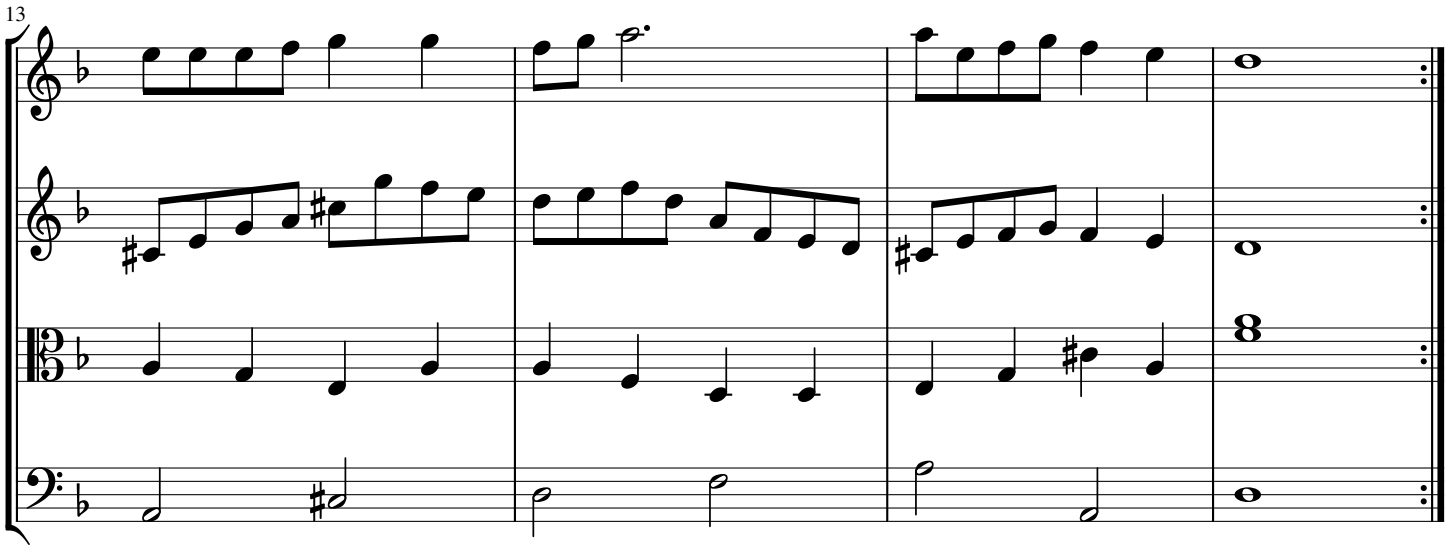


Donna Donna

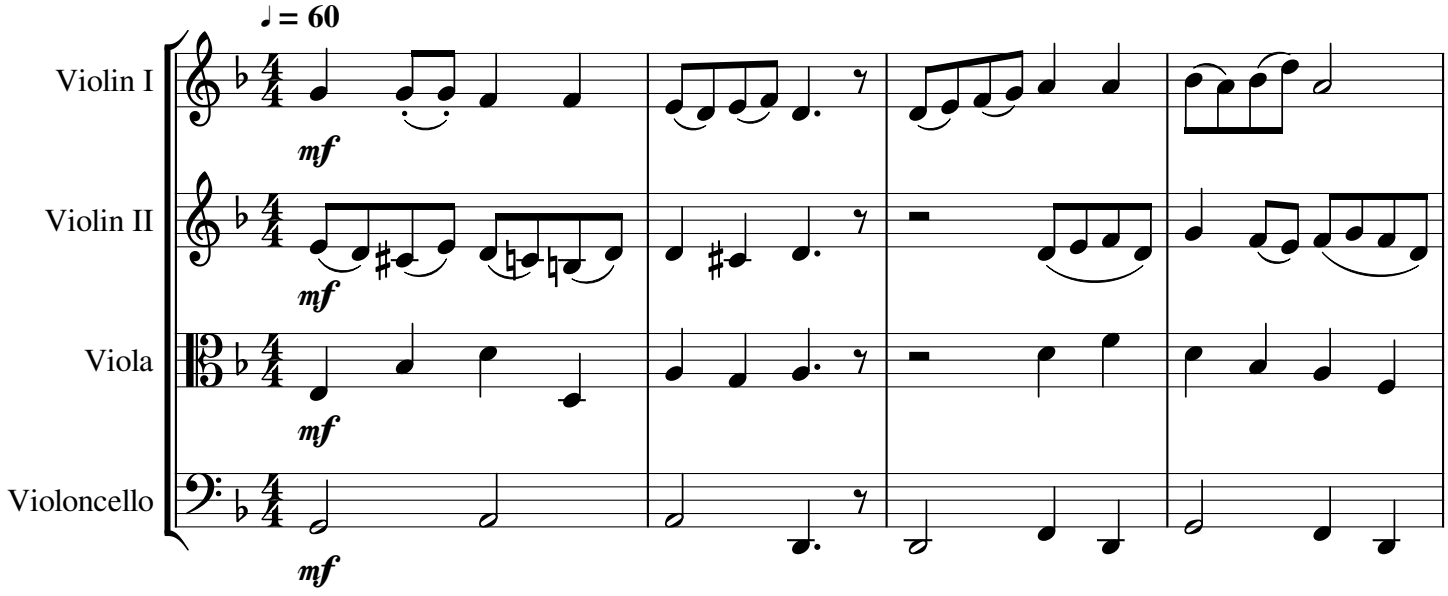




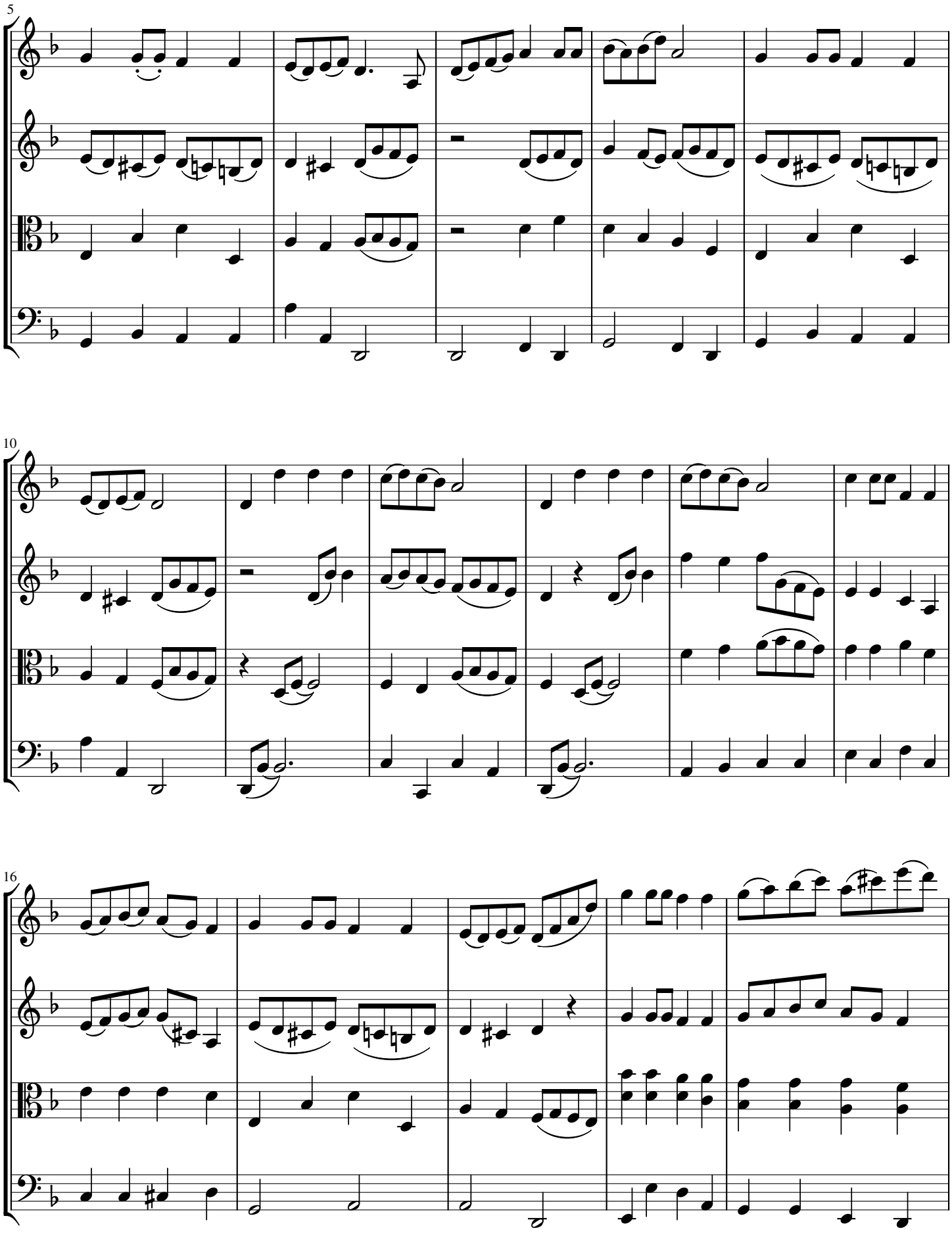
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License



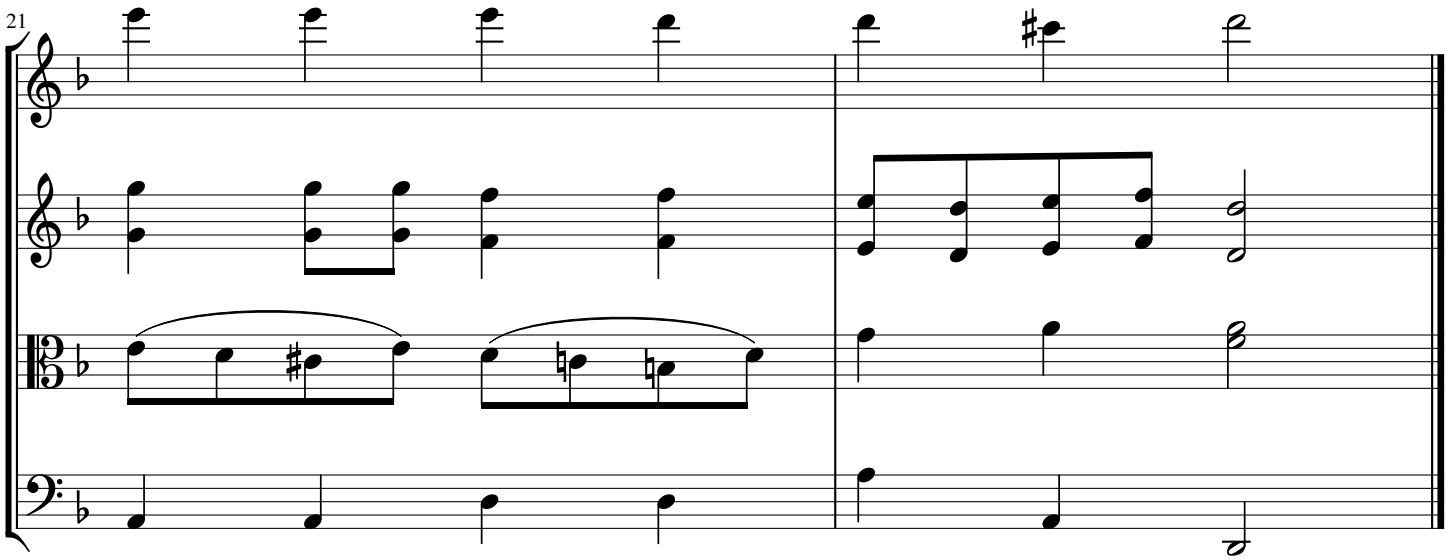
Hatikva
Israeli national anthem



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License



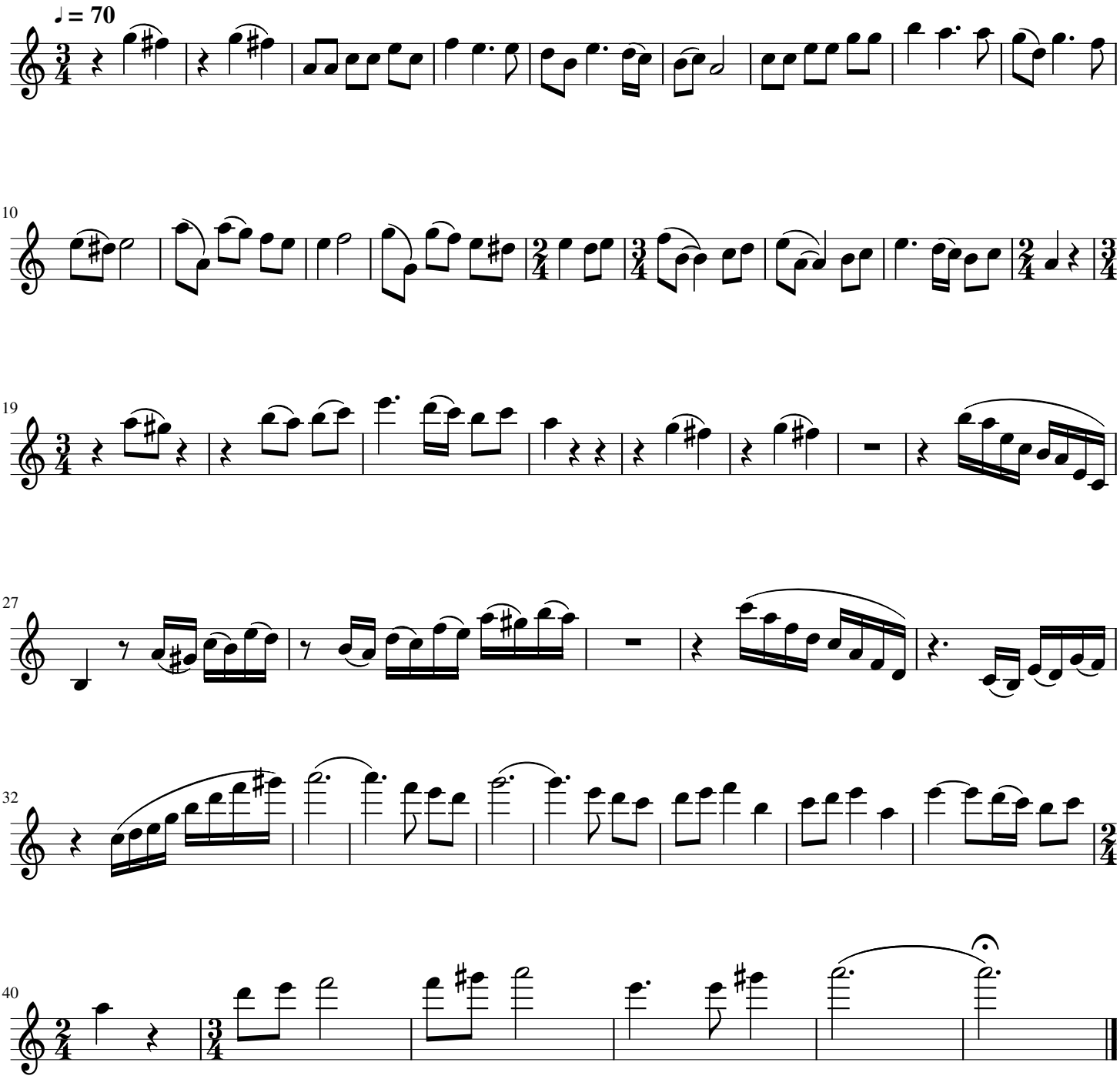
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Violin I

Six songs of the holocaust

Arranged for string quartet by Yoel Epstein

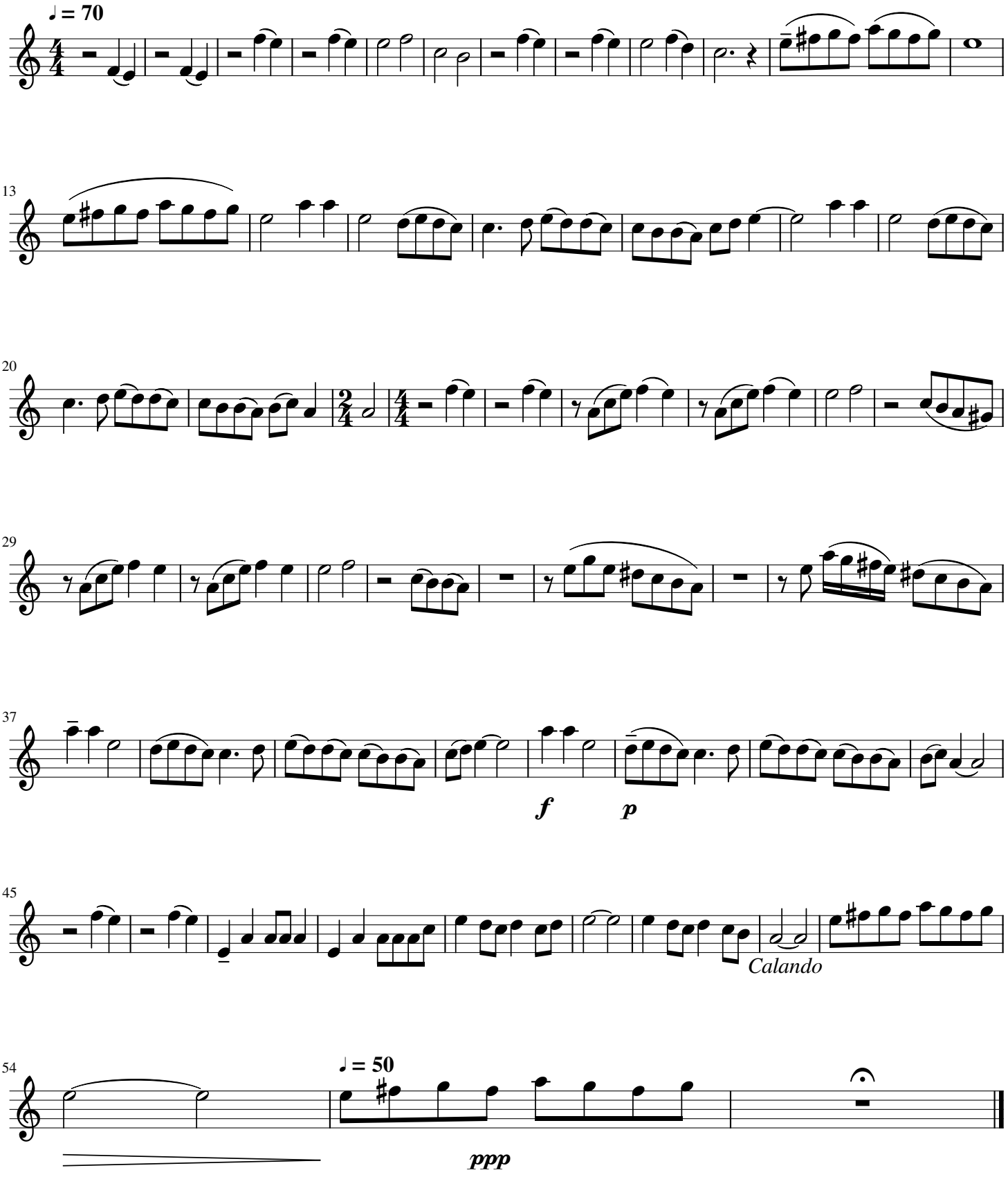
Unter Dyne vise Shteren (Under the Starry Sky)



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Ani Maamin (I Believe)

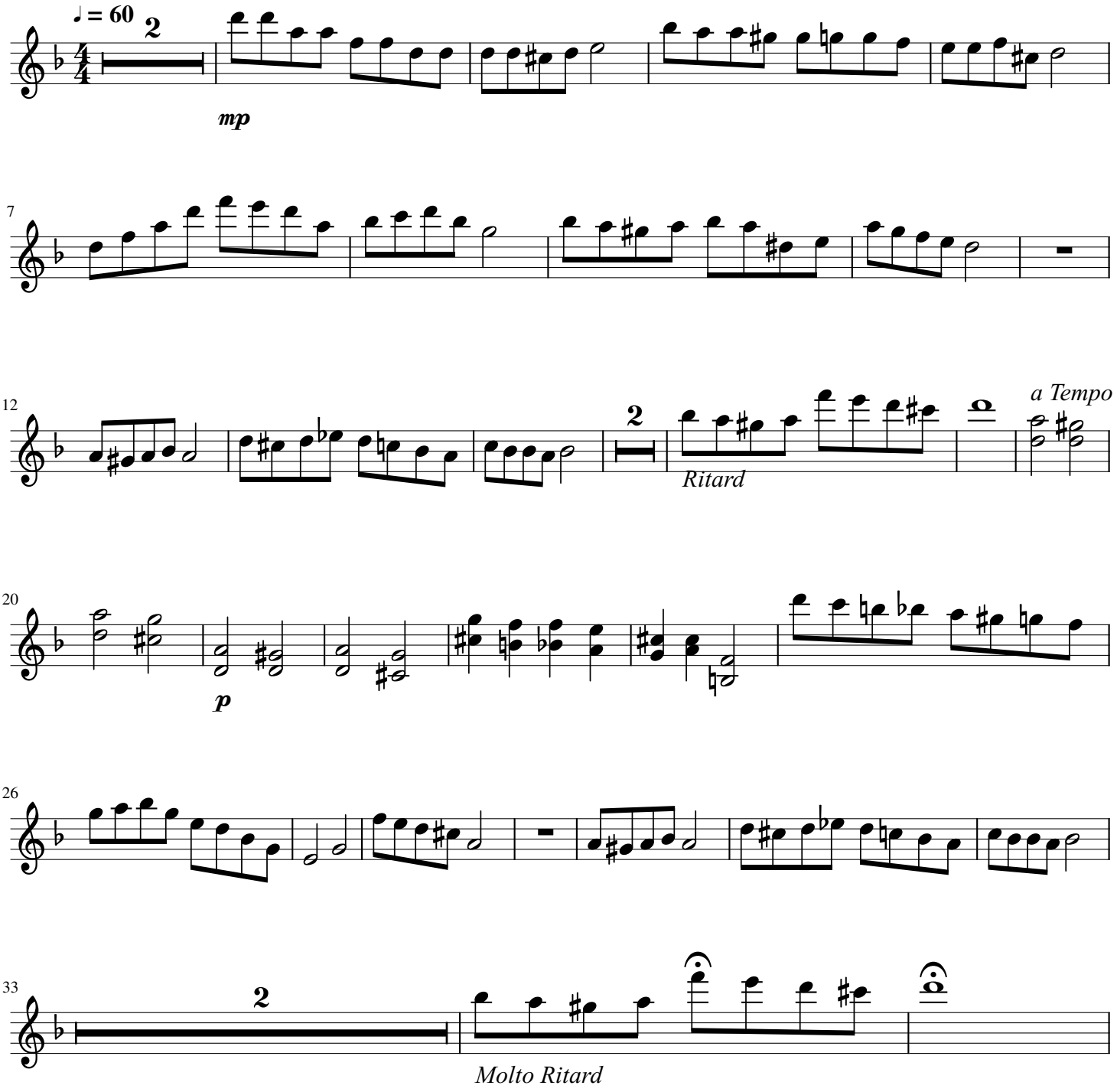
Violin I



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

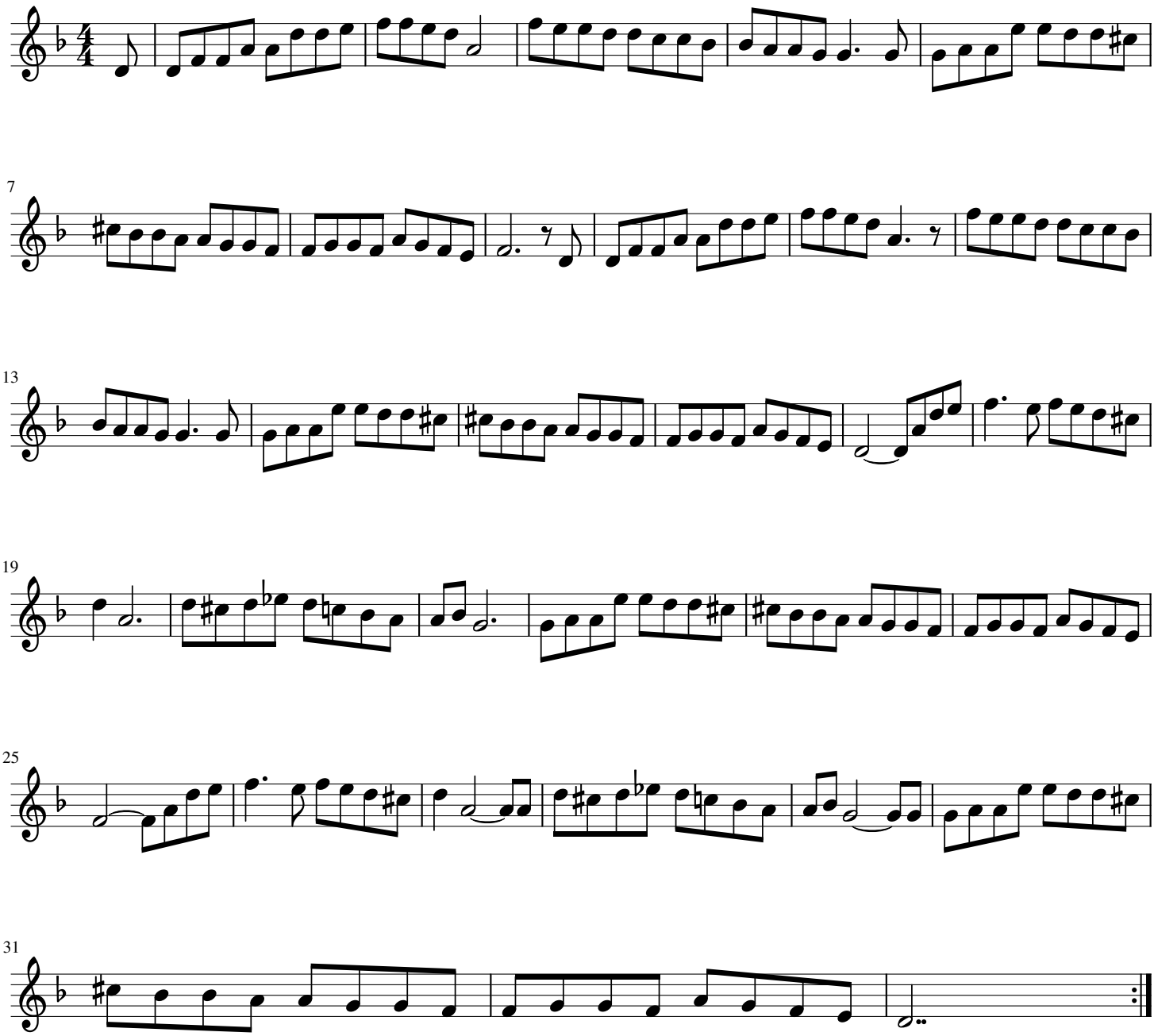
Violin I

Shtiller Shtiller (Hush, Hush)

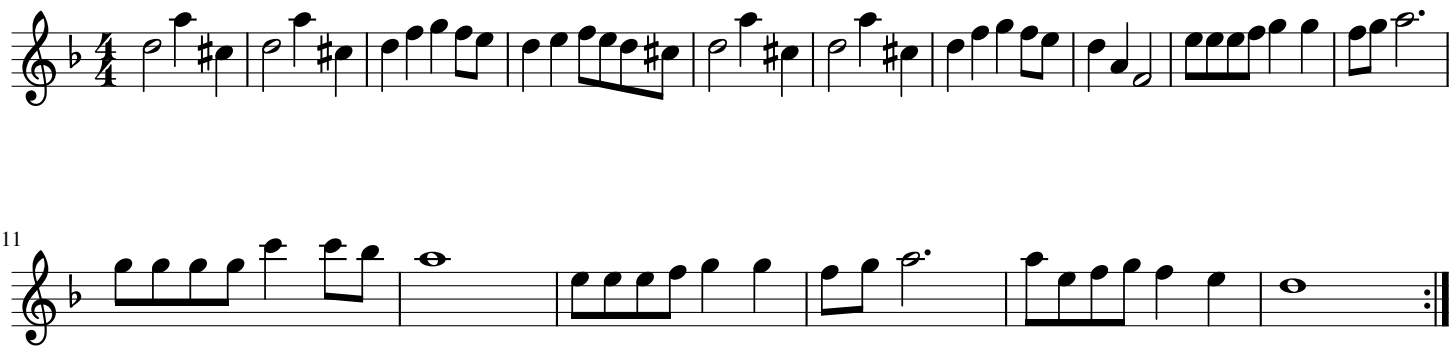


Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Papirossen



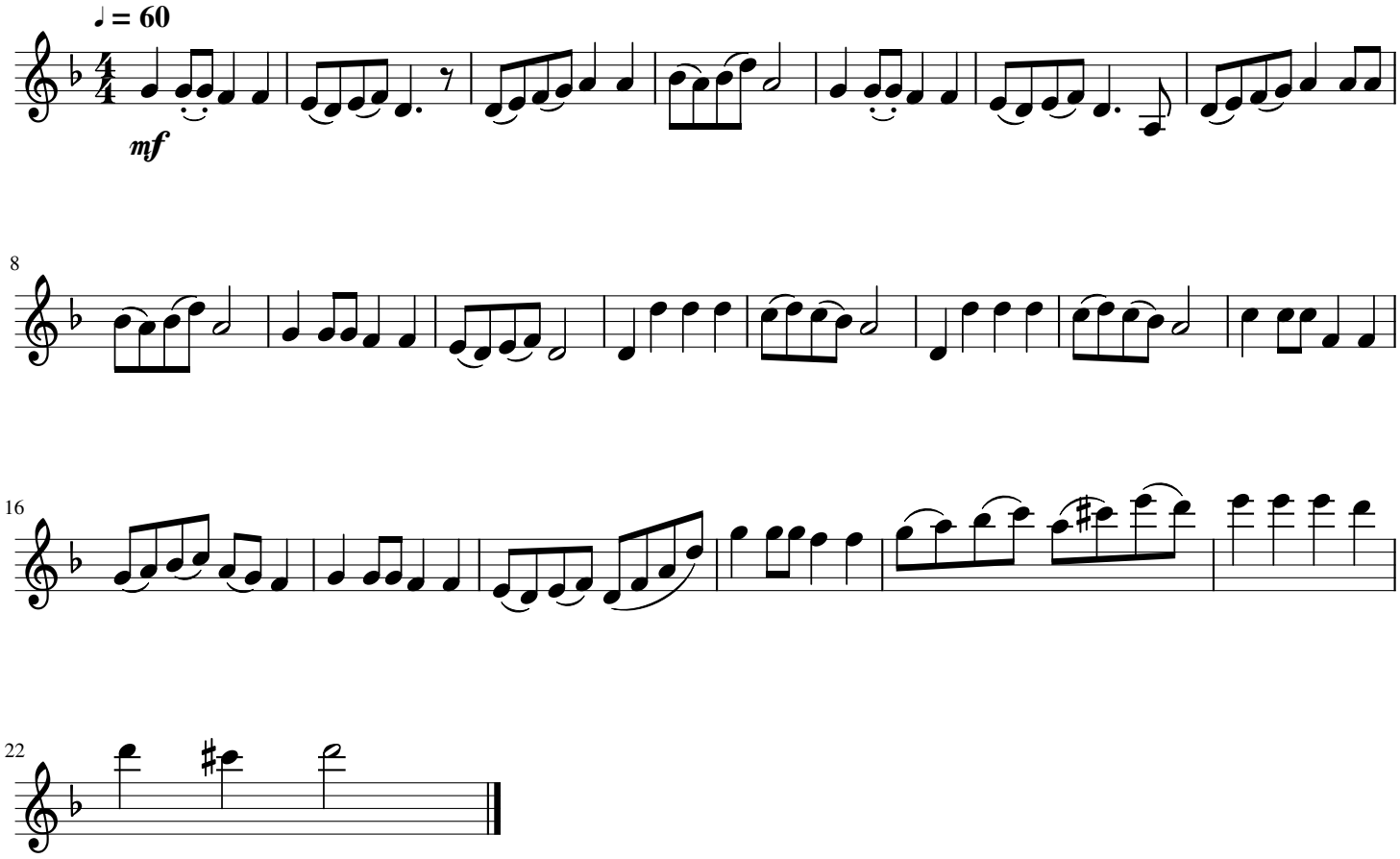
Donna Donna



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Violin I

Hatikva
Israeli national anthem



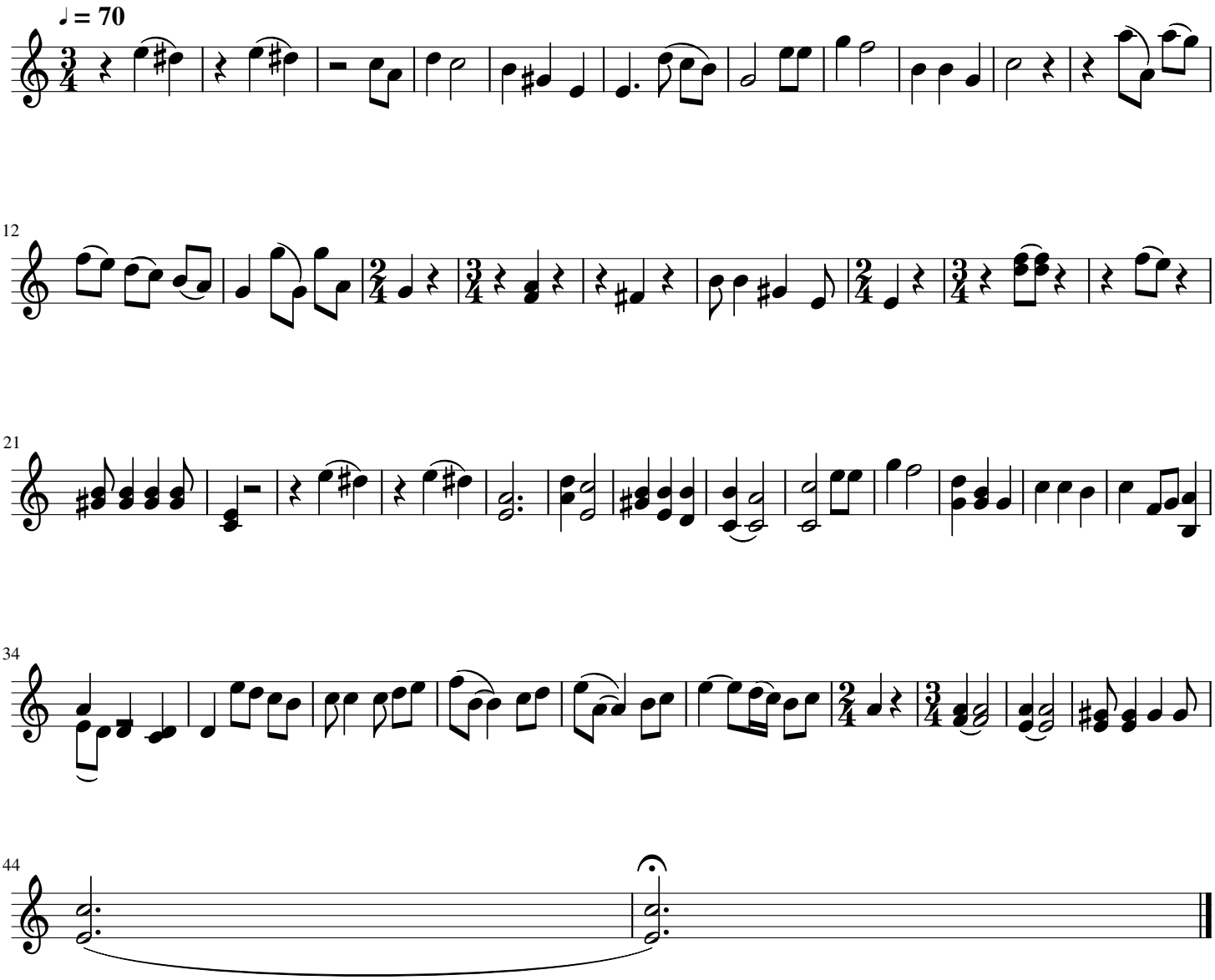
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Violin II

Six songs of the holocaust

Arranged for string quartet by Yoel Epstein

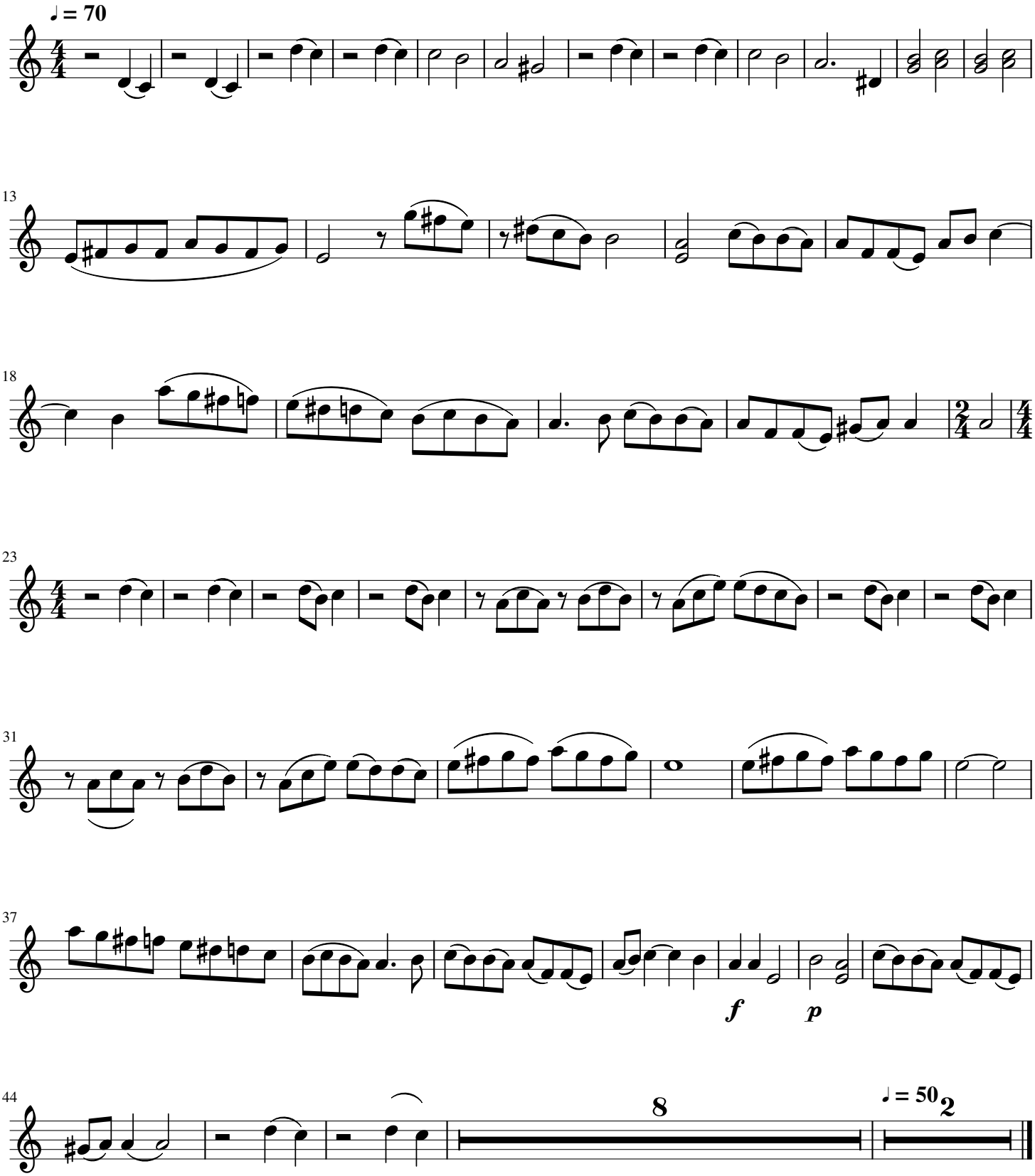
Unter Dyne vise Shteren (Under the Starry Sky)



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Ani Maamin (I Believe)

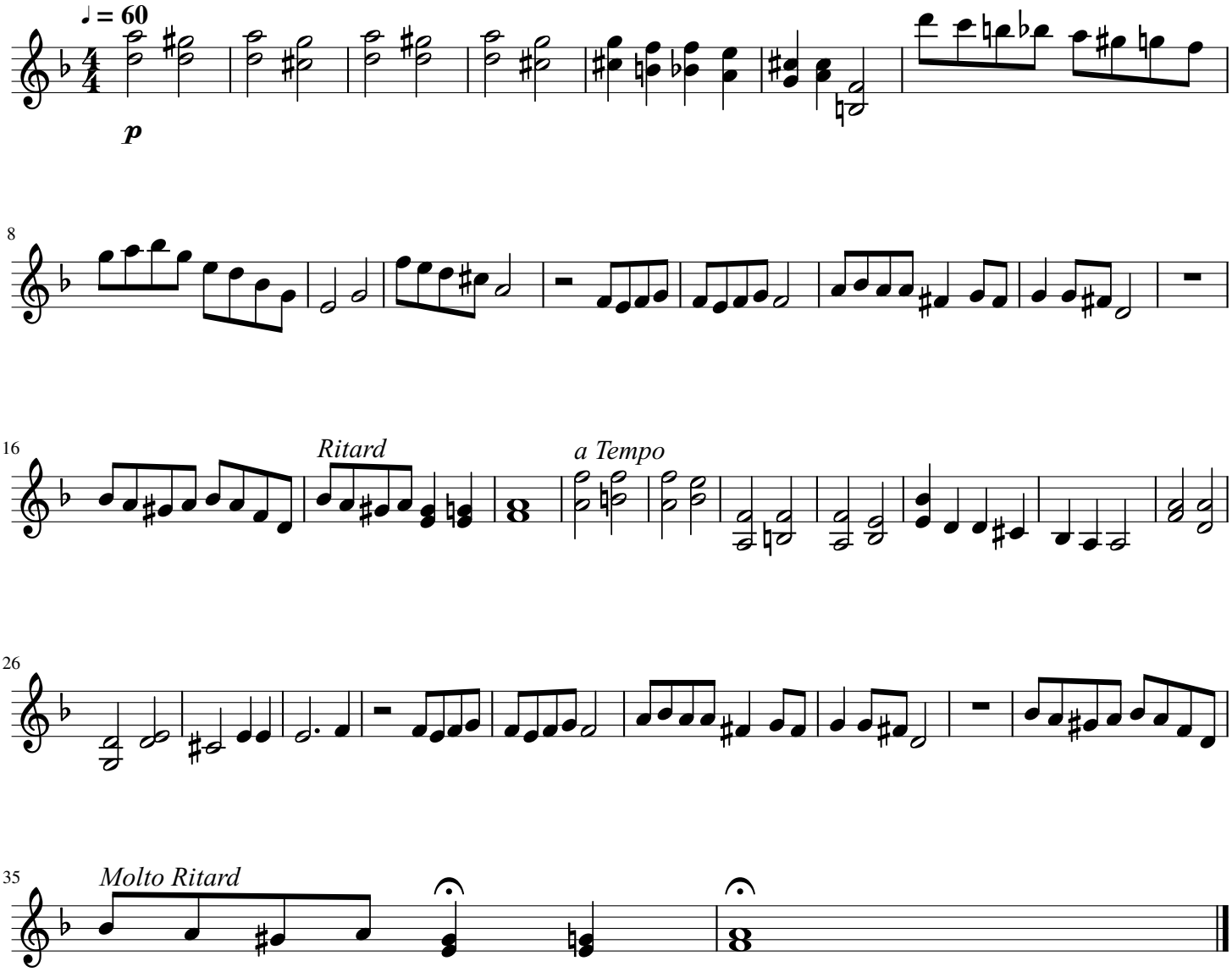
Violin II



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

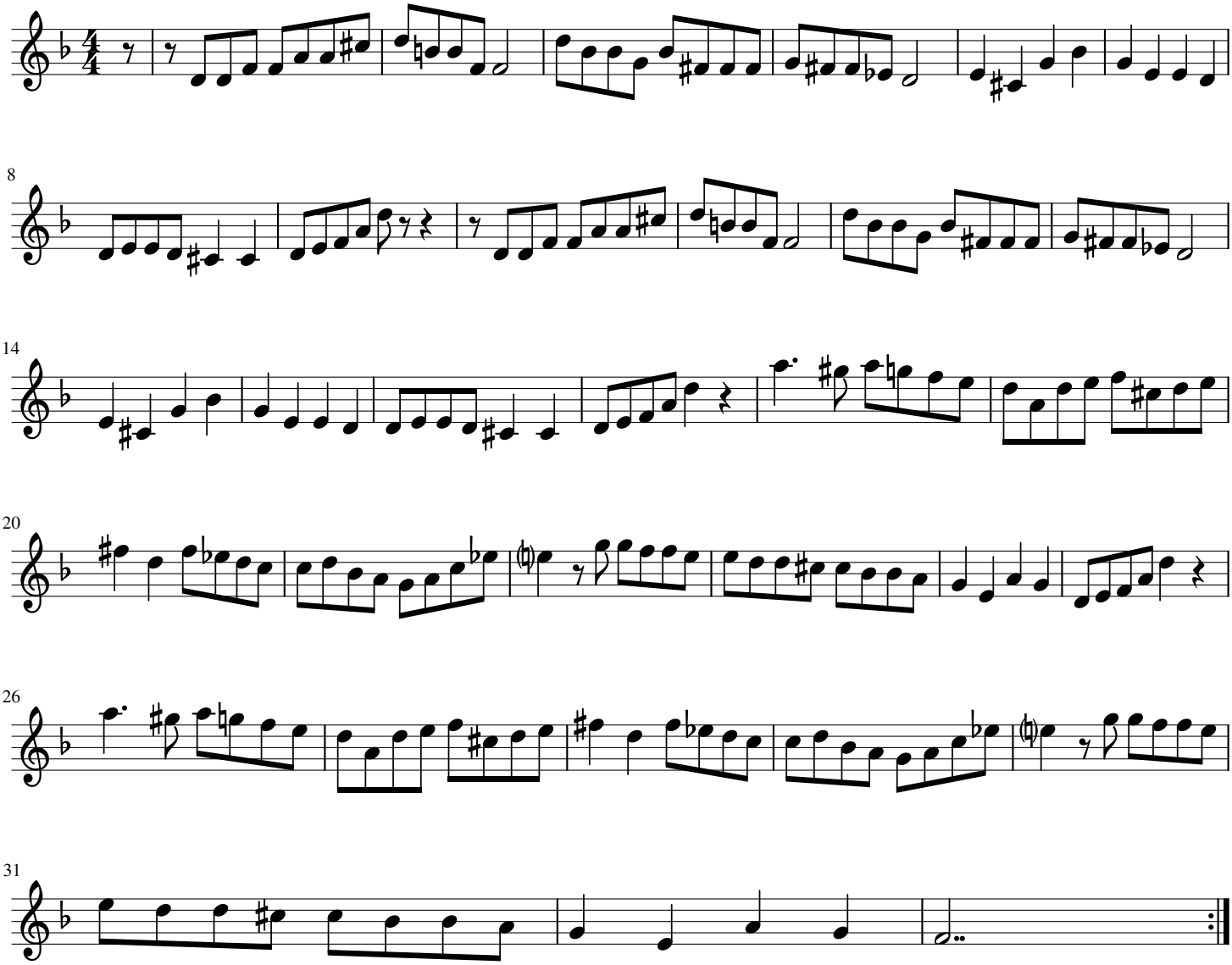
Violin II

Shtiller Shtiller (Hush, Hush)

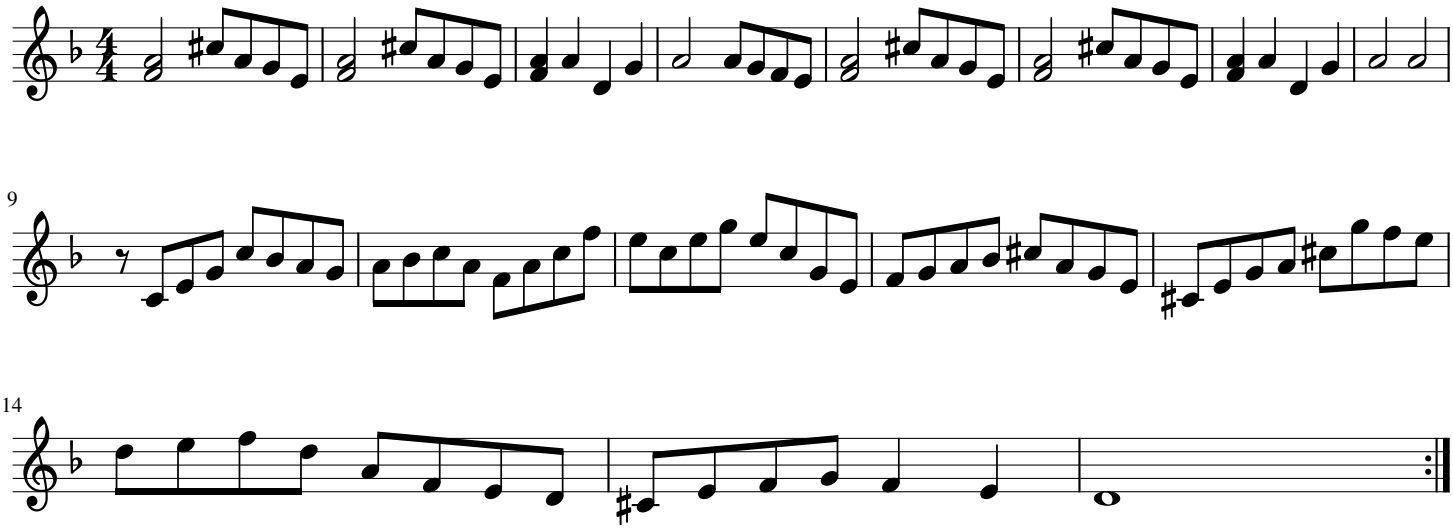


Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Papirossen



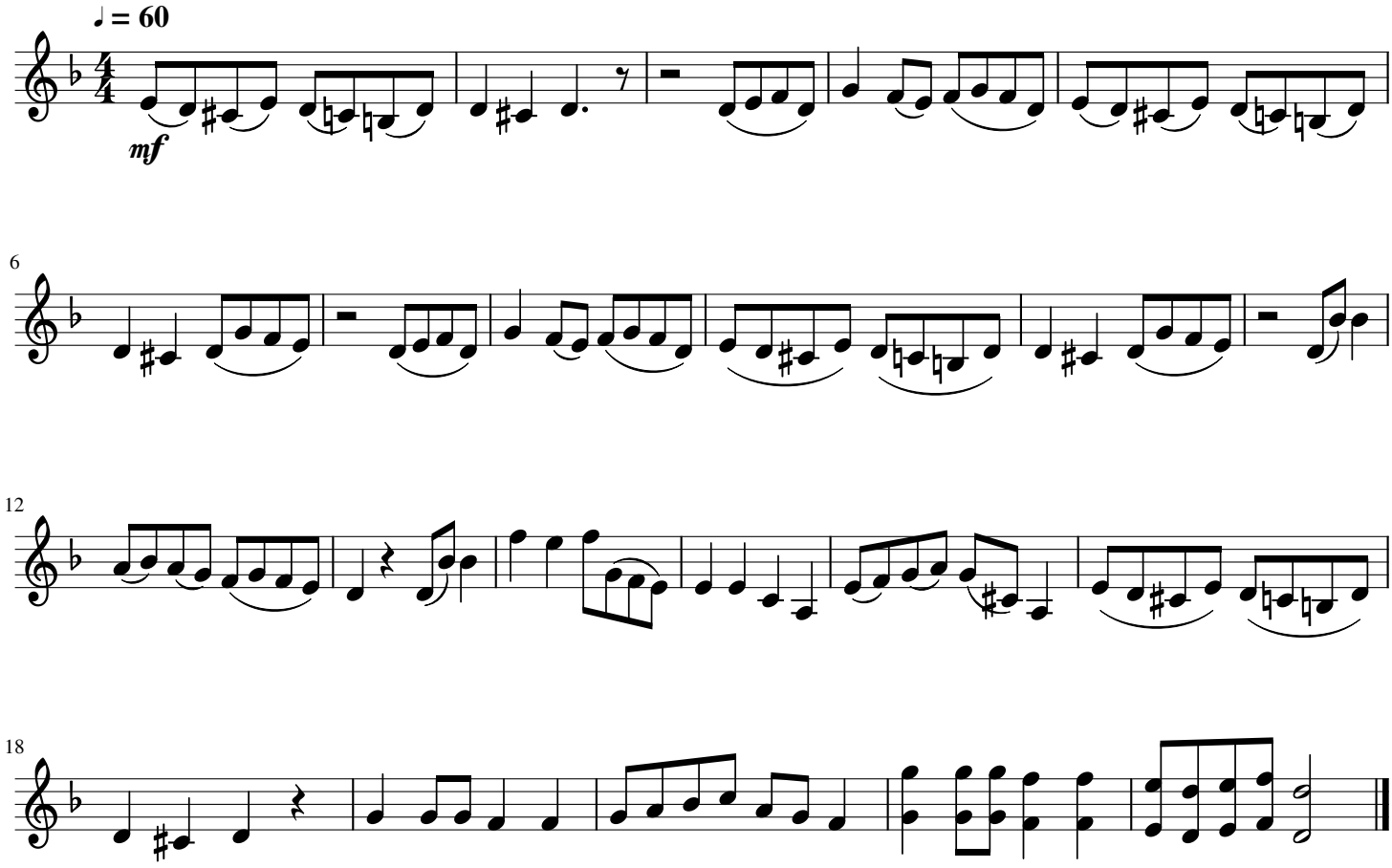
Donna Donna



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Violin II

Hatikva
Israeli national anthem



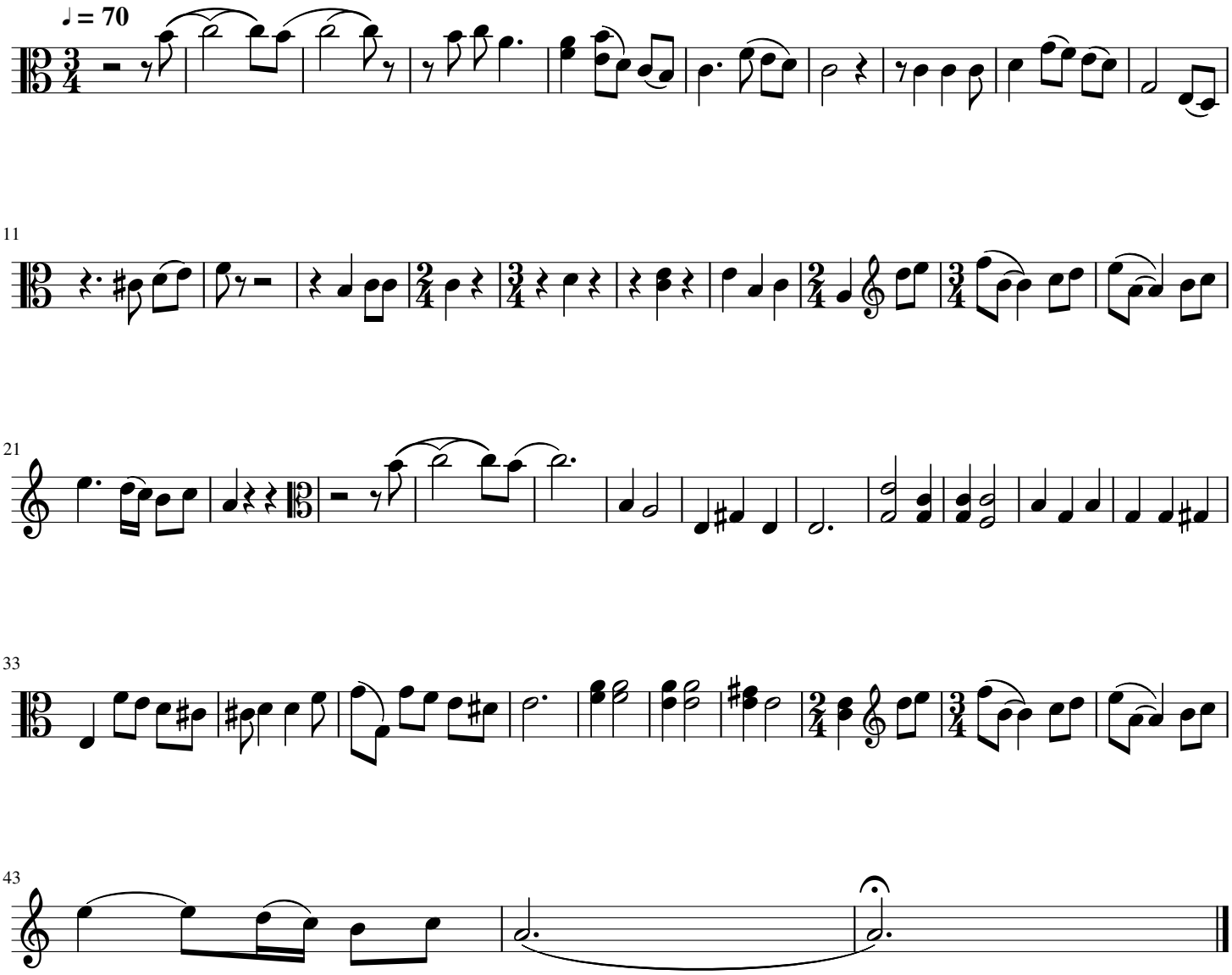
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Viola

Six songs of the holocaust

Arranged for string quartet by Yoel Epstein

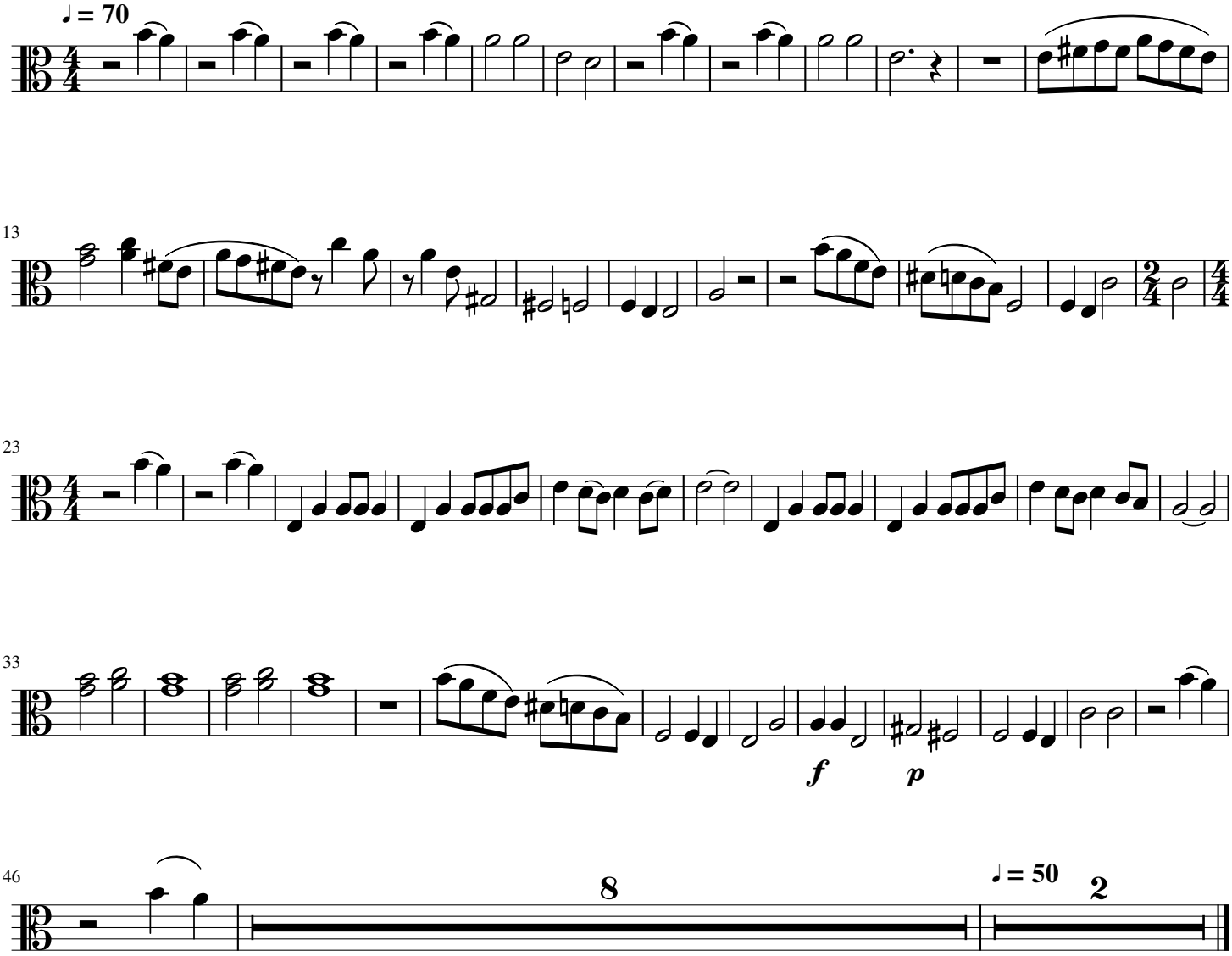
Unter Dyne vise Shteren (Under the Starry Sky)



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Ani Maamin (I Believe)

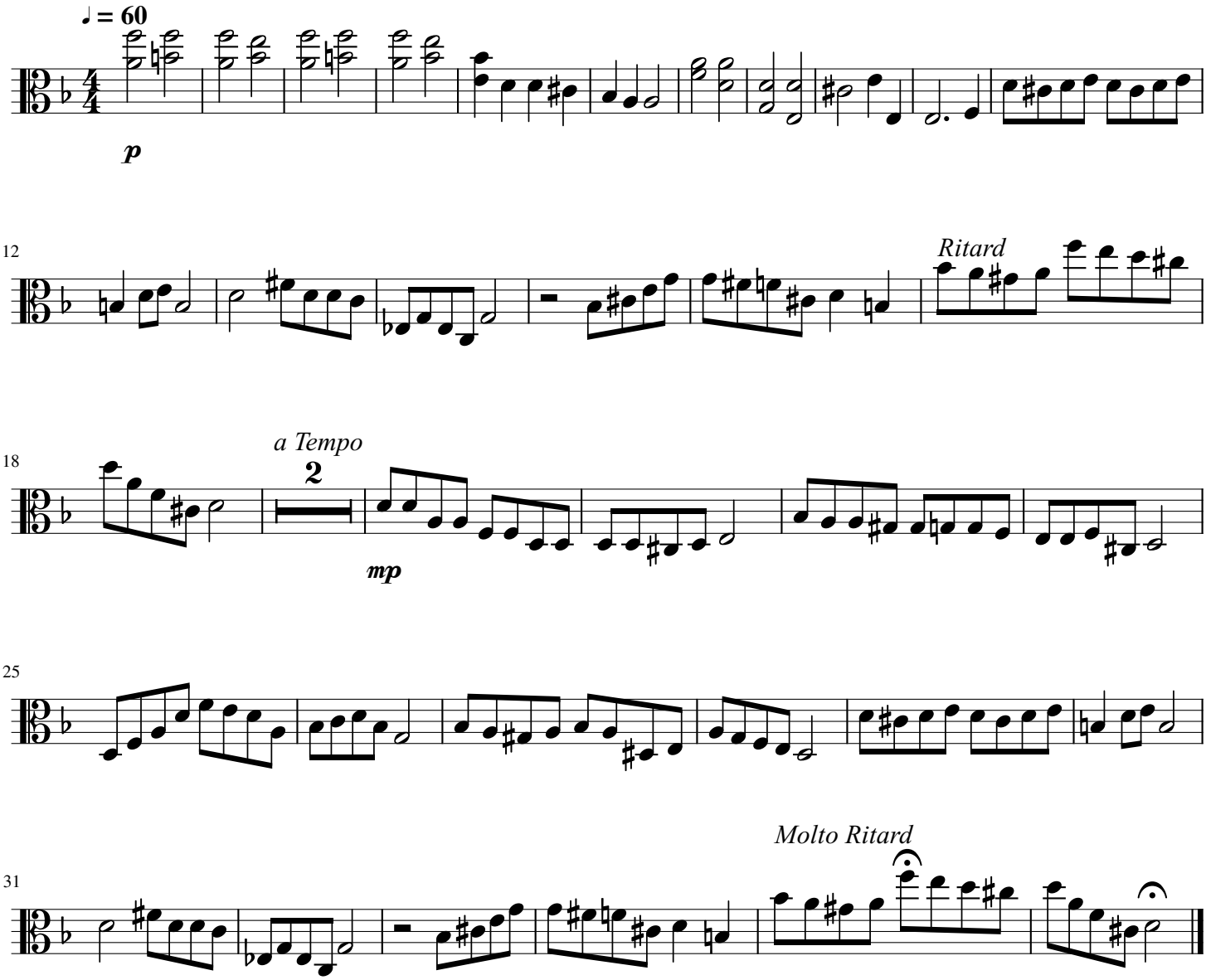
Viola



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Viola

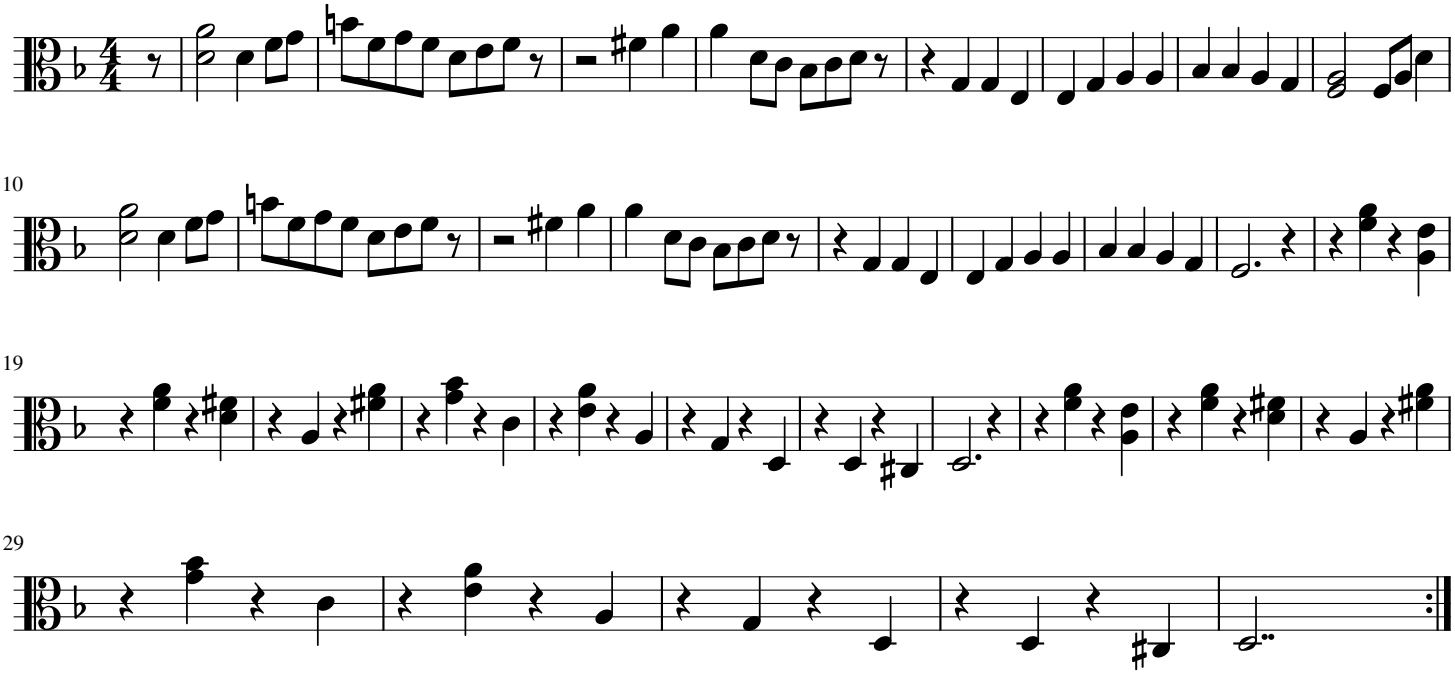
Shtiller Shtiller (Hush, Hush)



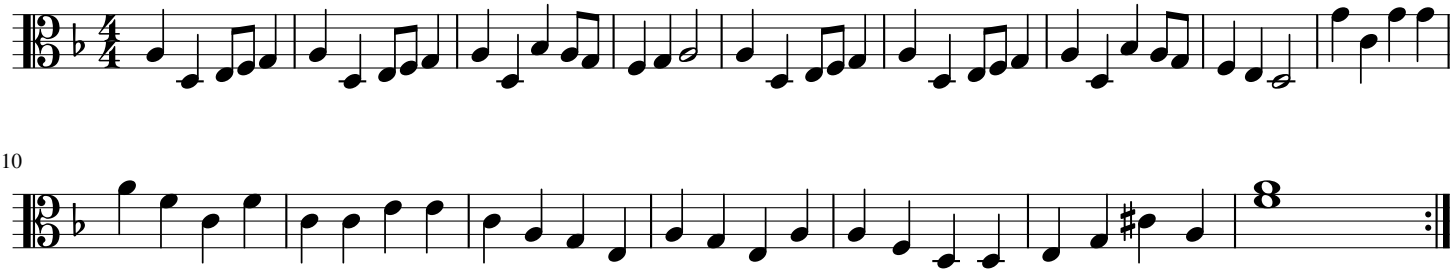
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Papirossen

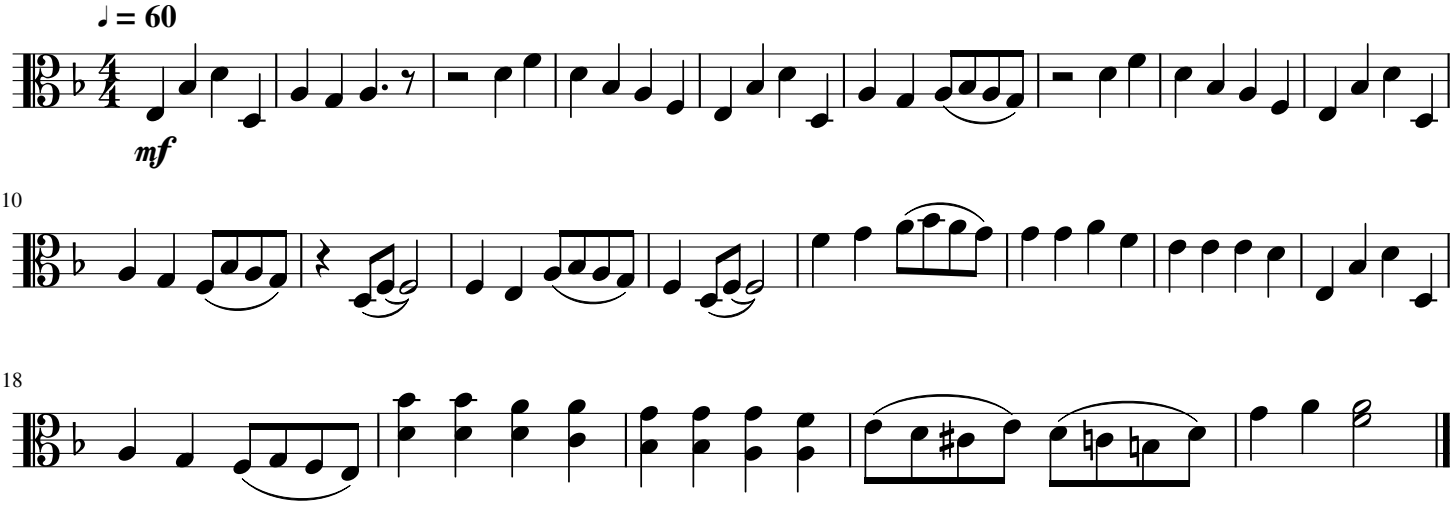
Viola



Donna Donna



Hatikva
Israeli national anthem



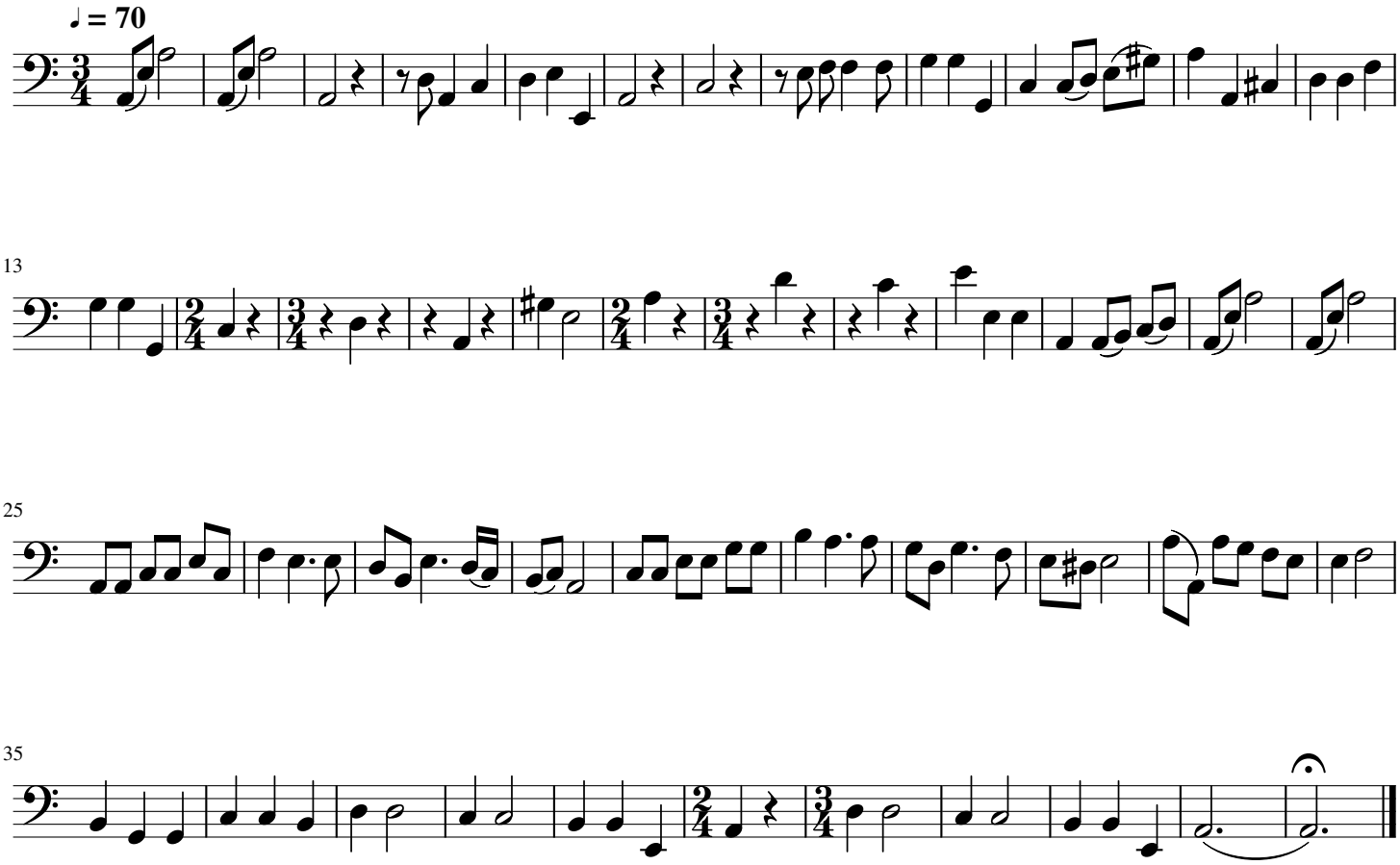
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Violoncello

Six songs of the holocaust

Arranged for string quartet by Yoel Epstein

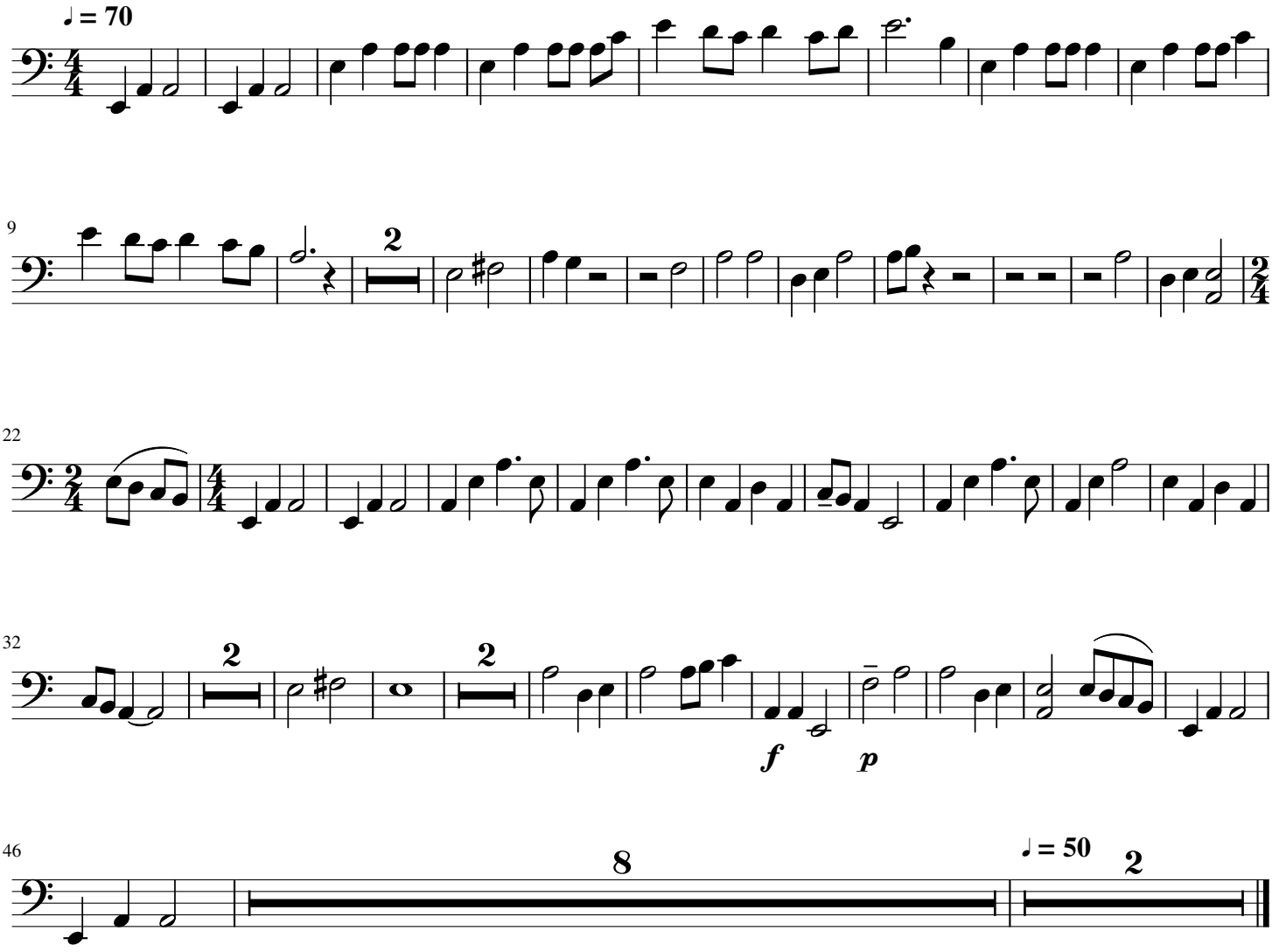
Unter Dyne vise Shteren (Under the Starry Sky)



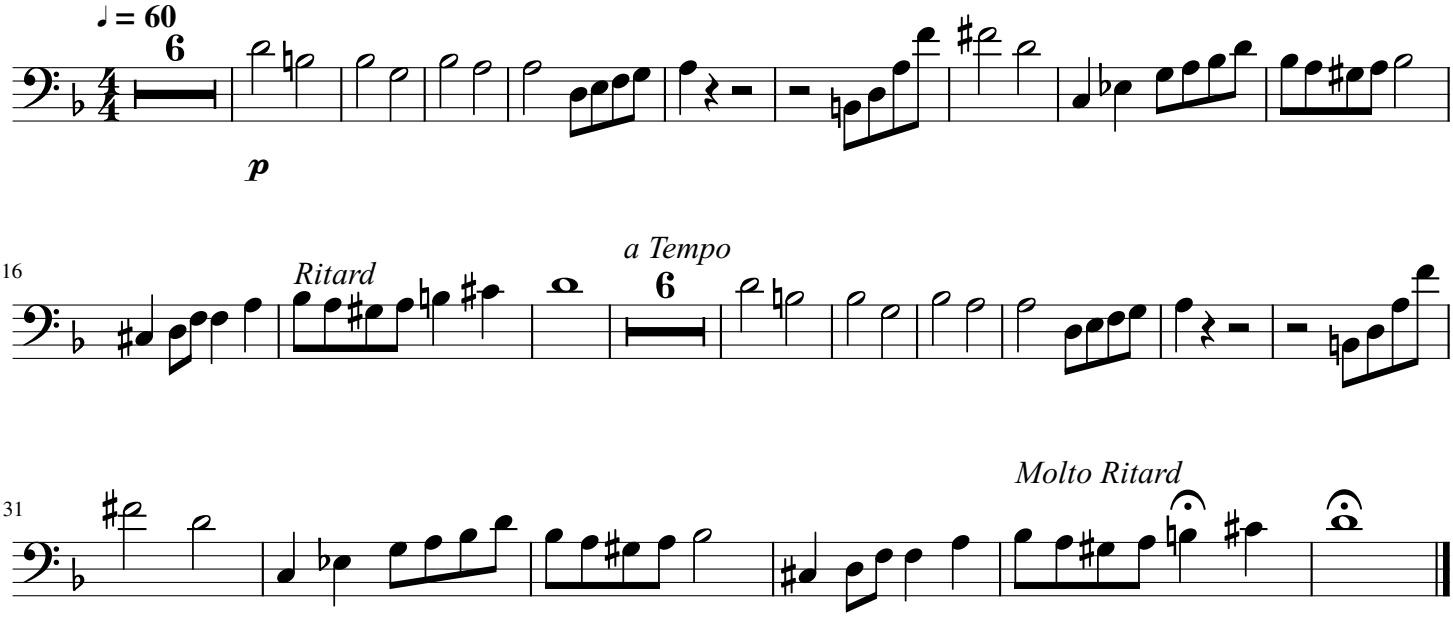
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Ani Maamin (I Believe)

Violoncello



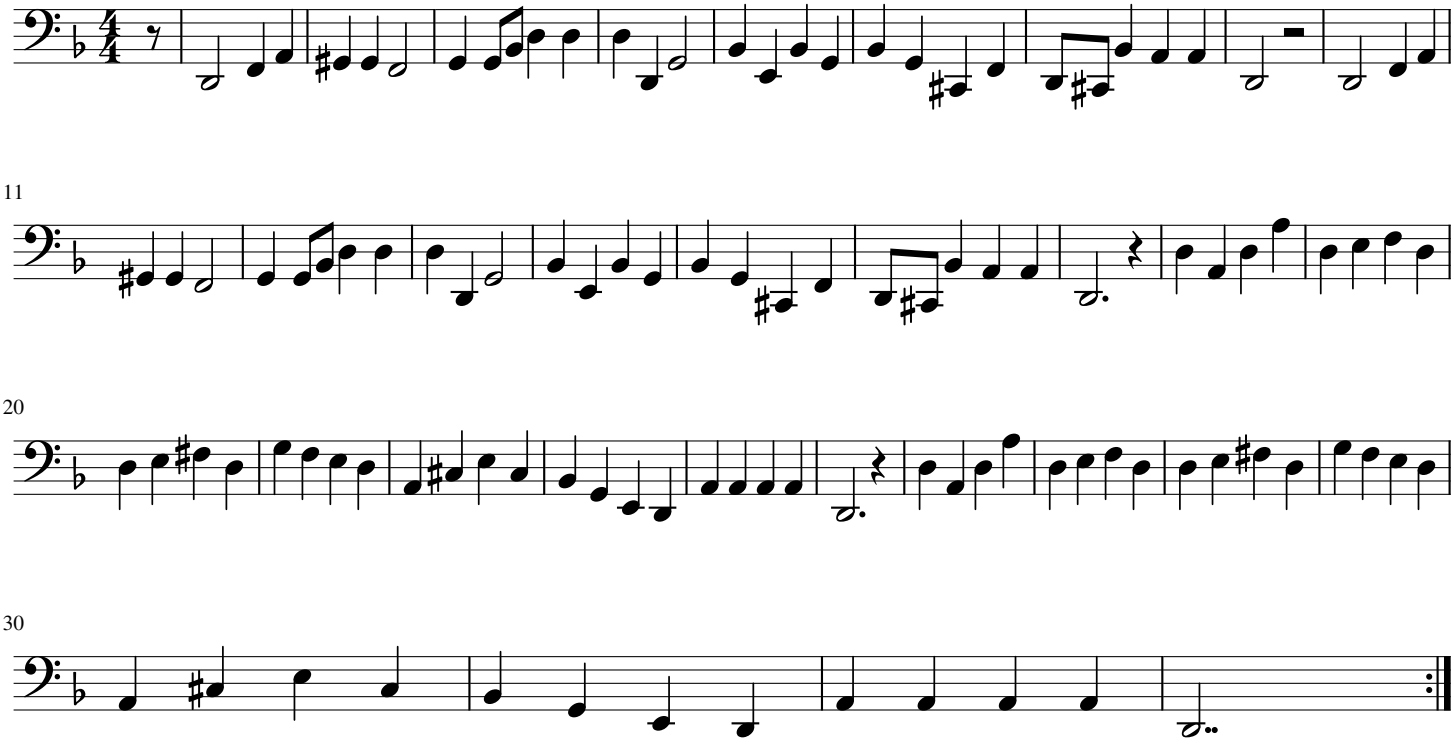
Shtiller Shtiller (Hush, Hush)



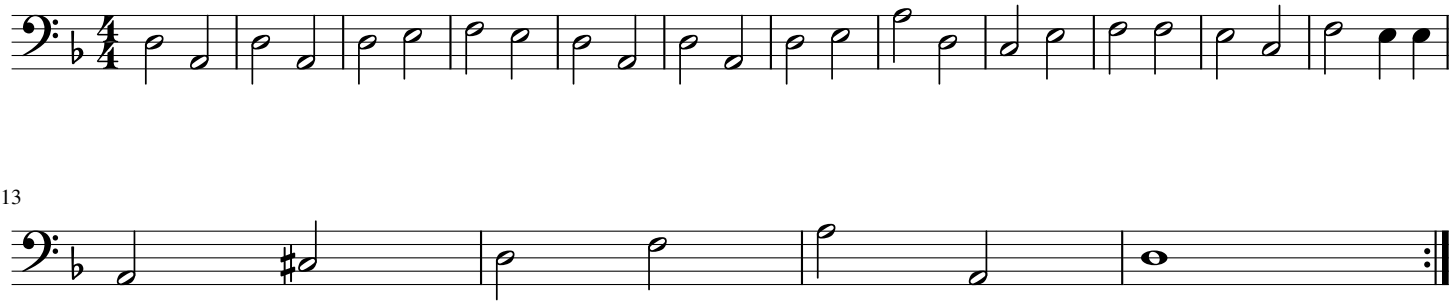
Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License

Violoncello

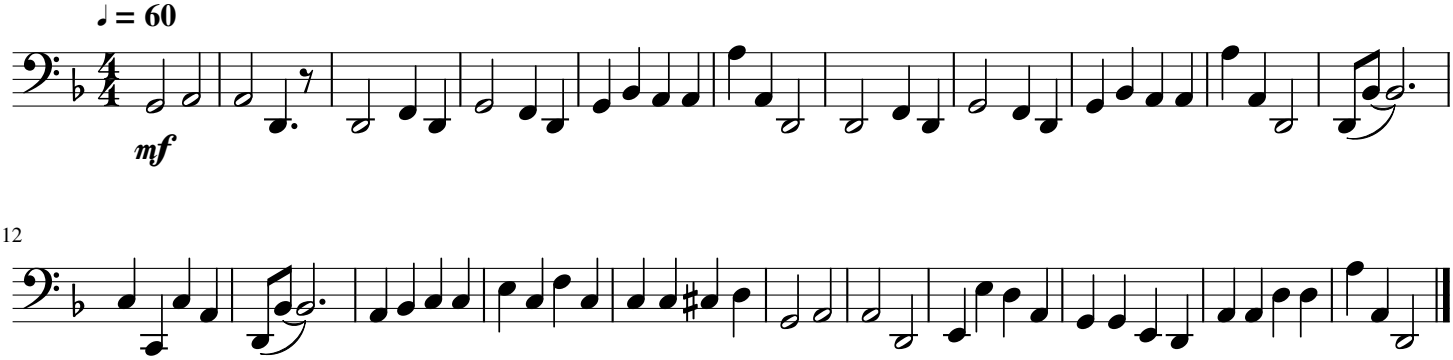
Papirossen



Donna Donna



Hatikva
Israeli national anthem



Released by Yoel Epstein under a Creative Commons 4.0 License