VIVALDI

CONCERTO per FLAUTINO

A Minor

RV 445

Flautino principale
due Violini, Viola e Basso

Flautino Solo

Sopranino Recorder

Ed. Joseba Berrocal Bilbao 2020

Preface

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) is recognised as one of the most prolific composers for violin, with his approximately 240 concertos. But in addition Vivaldi also composed a large number of concertos for practically all newly emerging woodwind instruments: bassoon, oboe, recorder and transverse flute. Vivaldi started four *flautino* concertos –although he only completed three of them–. This *flautino* has been identified beyond all debate as a sopranino recorder in F.

In two of these *flautino* concertos there is an almost identical autograph indication: "G' Istrom:ti alla 4ª: Bassa" (RV 445) and "Gl' Istrom.ti trasportati alla 4ª" (RV 443); while RV 444 and RV 312 –which was transformed after the first movement into a violin concerto– do not have this instruction.

Some editors have considered that this annotation was part of Vivaldi's initial intention, and that the work, therefore, from its genesis should have been composed for another type of recorder: in this case the descant recorder in C. Although the range corresponds equally to that of the 2-3 keyed oboe, the agile, wide-interval writing excludes this option, unless an arrangement of the soloist line is also made.

Other editors and scholars consider that these two annotations were made later, with the purpose of arranging a new performance of these concertos. Those who maintain that the transposed version should be considered the primary one make reference to the fact that the string instruments are now lower and more comfortable; but the octave changes –required to transpose a fourth the violins, viola and basso– imply a certain loss of quality in the melodic lines, which seems to disqualify this option.

In the case of the Concerto RV 443 the tonality of the work and the range of the instrument effectively present the descant recorder in C as the most plausible option, although the distribution of this instrument was almost anecdotal in the 18th century; unlike in our 20th and 21st centuries.

As far as the Concerto in A minor RV 445 is concerned, the options are more open. By extrapolation, the author's indication most probably referred again to an arrangement for descant recorder; but in this case the tonality and range allowed this concerto to be performed on another instrument much more common in the 18th century and in Vivaldi's catalogue: the transverse flute. Just as the concerto RV 443 systematically uses the note *f'*, RV 445 stops at *g'* (with the sole exception of measures 133 and 134 of the third movement, a passage in sequence that is source of trouble for all the three instruments involved: sopranino recorder, descant recorder and transverse flute). This *g'* as the lower limit in the flautino version means that the transposition of 4th presents a limit of *d'*, perfectly proper for the traverso. The key of E minor is also more appropiate than F sharp minor, which in principle would have corresponded to the standard transposition of 3rd minor used to transfer music between recorder and traverso.

This edition of the Concerto per Flautino RV 445, preserved in the Biblioteca nazionale universitaria in Torino, presents the original version in A minor for sopranino recorder. Minor editorial changes, reflected as footnotes, have been made.

Joseba Berrocal Bilbao, December 2020

Sources & Bibliography

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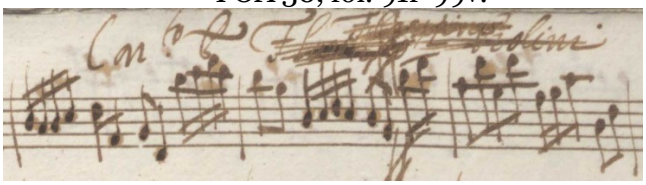

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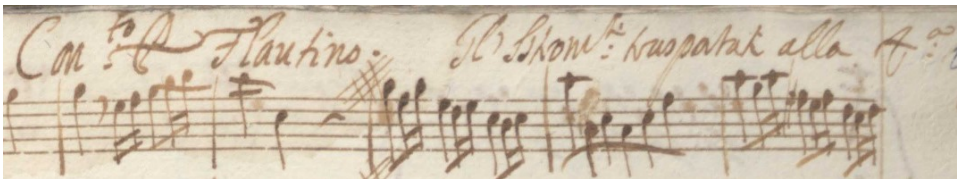

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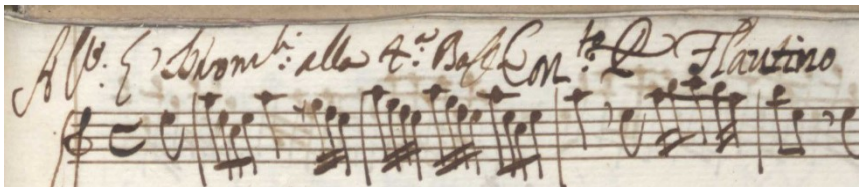

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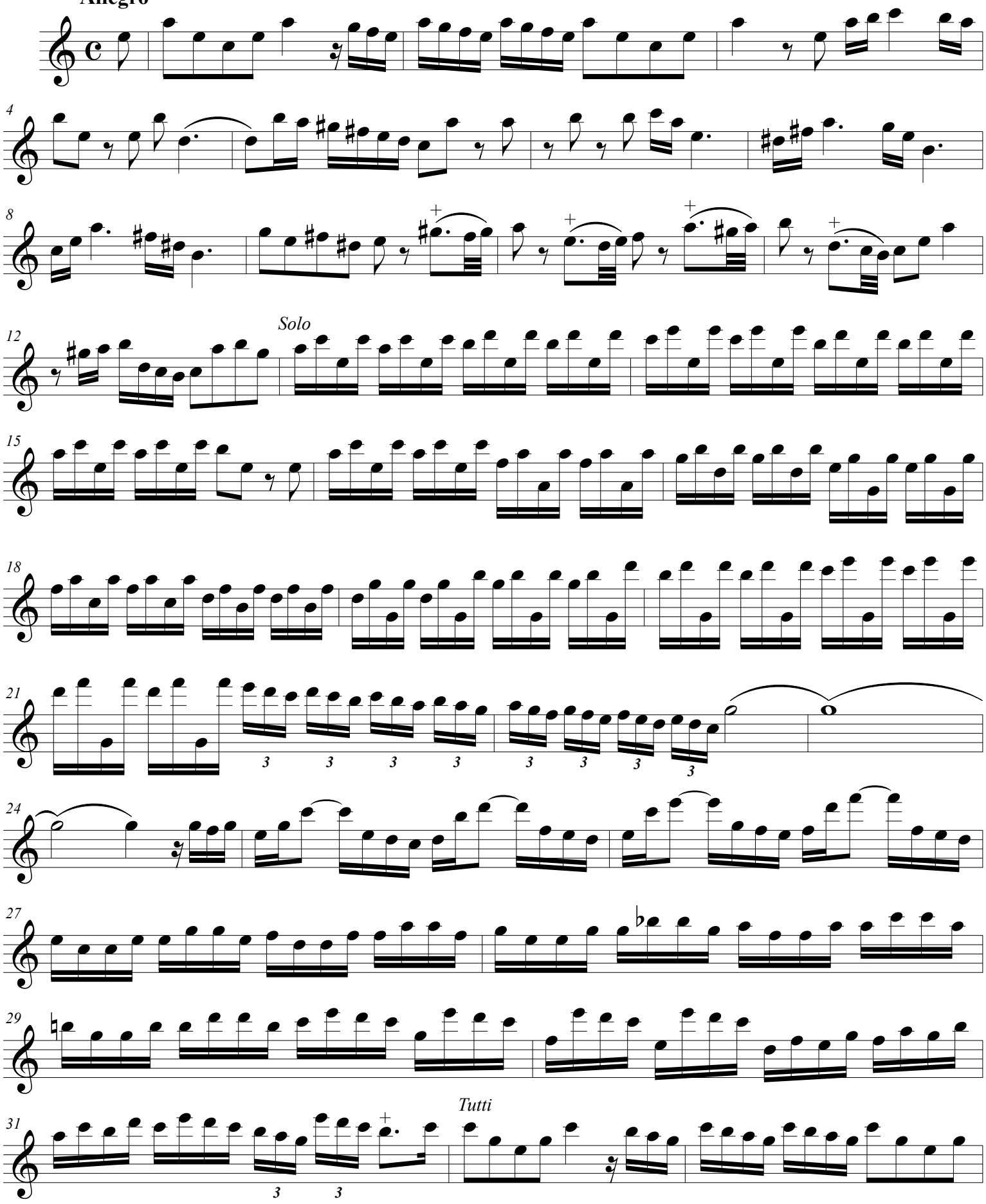
Concerto per Flautino

RV 445

Antonio Vivaldi

Allegro



Orig: "Conc.to per Flautino", in *Di / Don Antonio Vivaldi / Concerti / Tomo VIII.* I-Tn. TO0265, MS GIORDANO 31, 433r-442r.
Ed. Joseba BERROCAL 2020 viulunzel@yahoo.com
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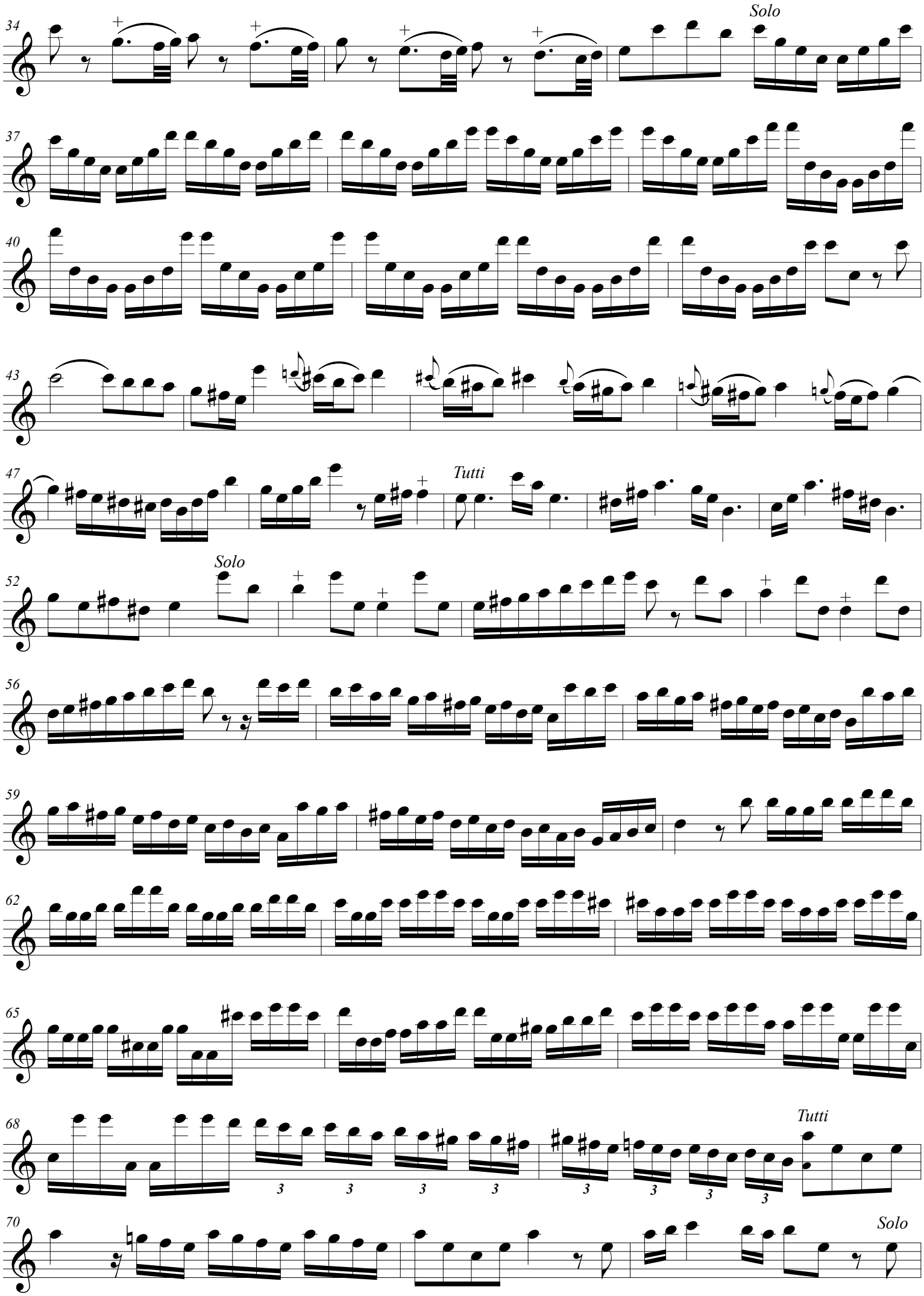
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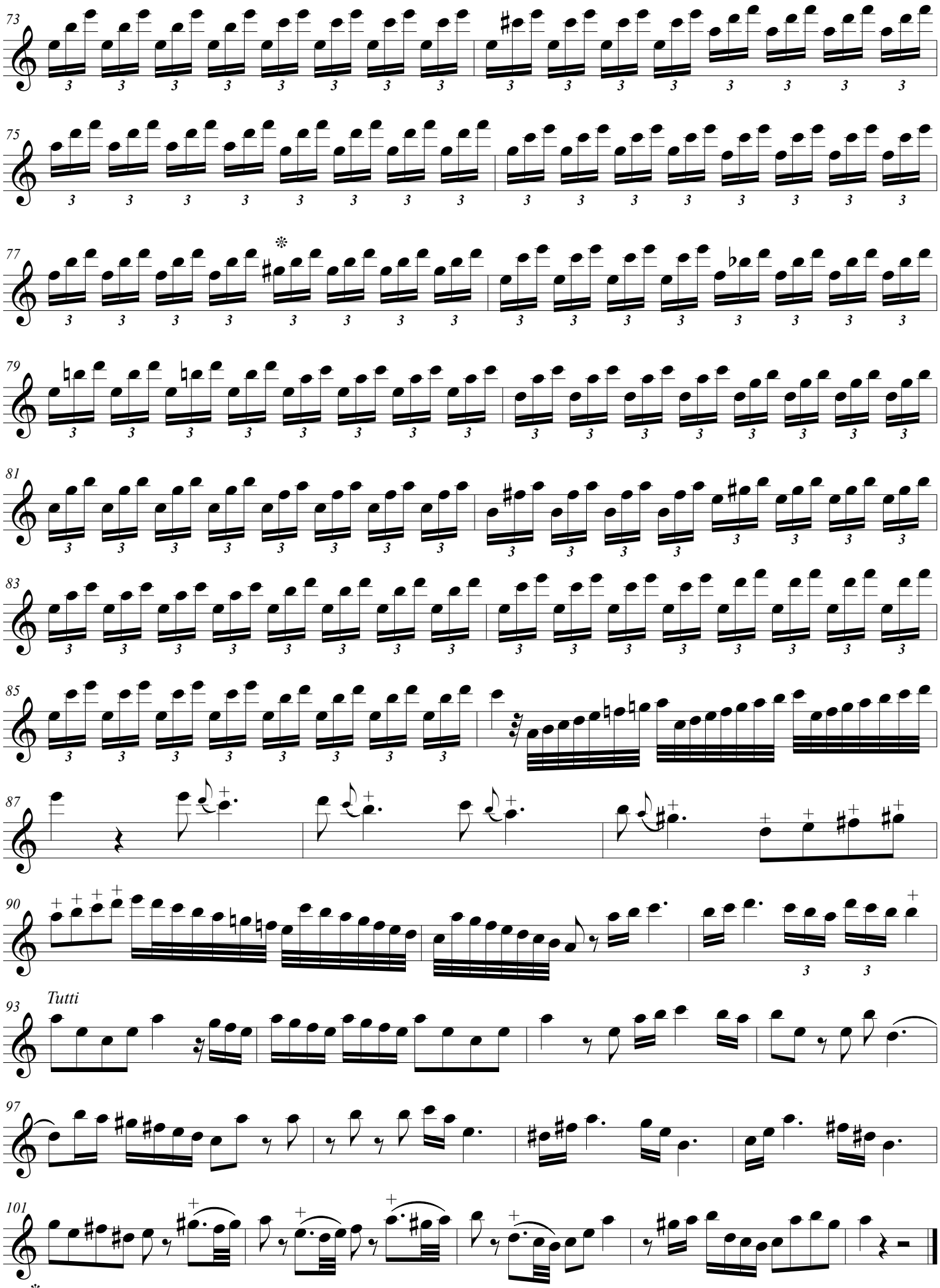
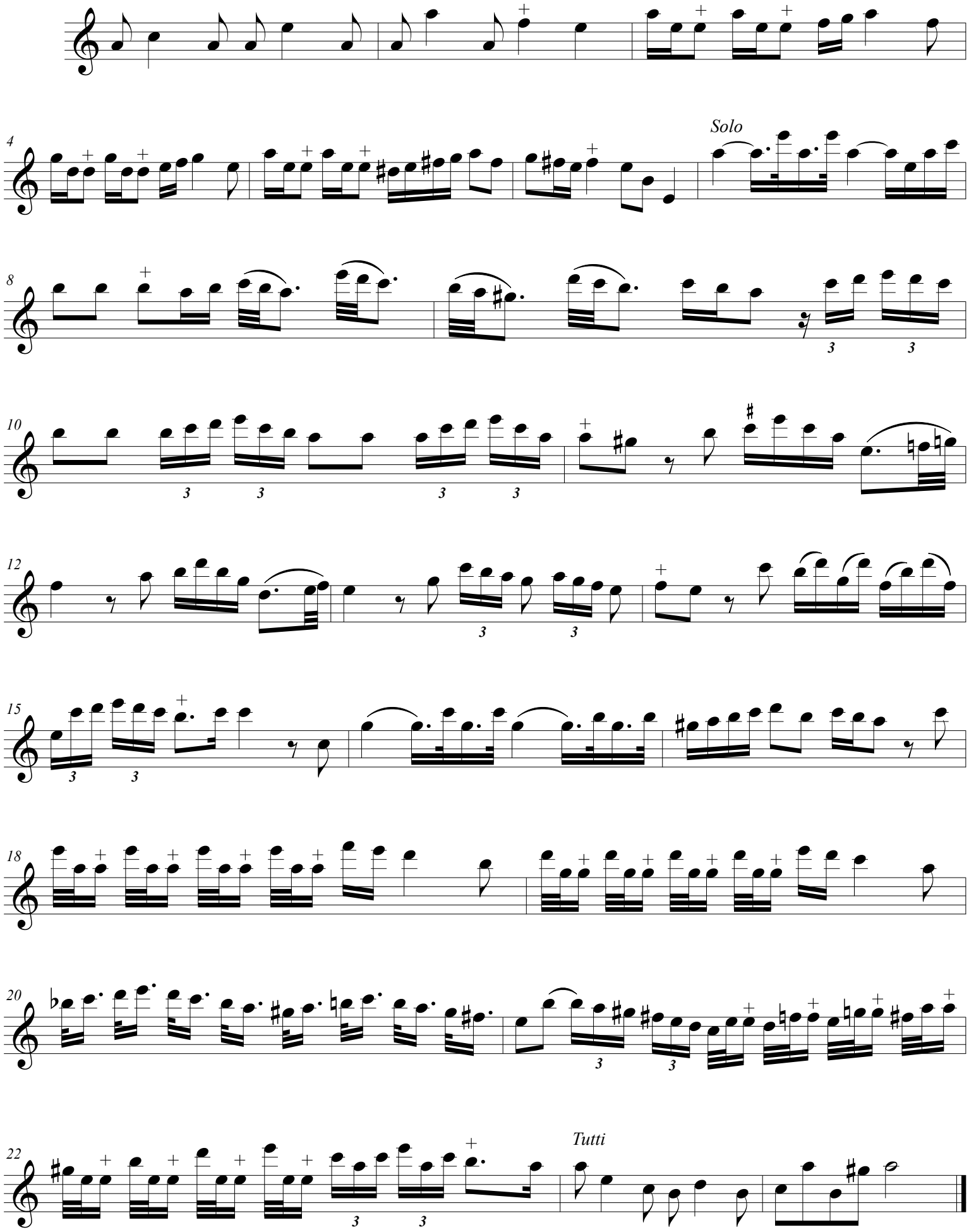
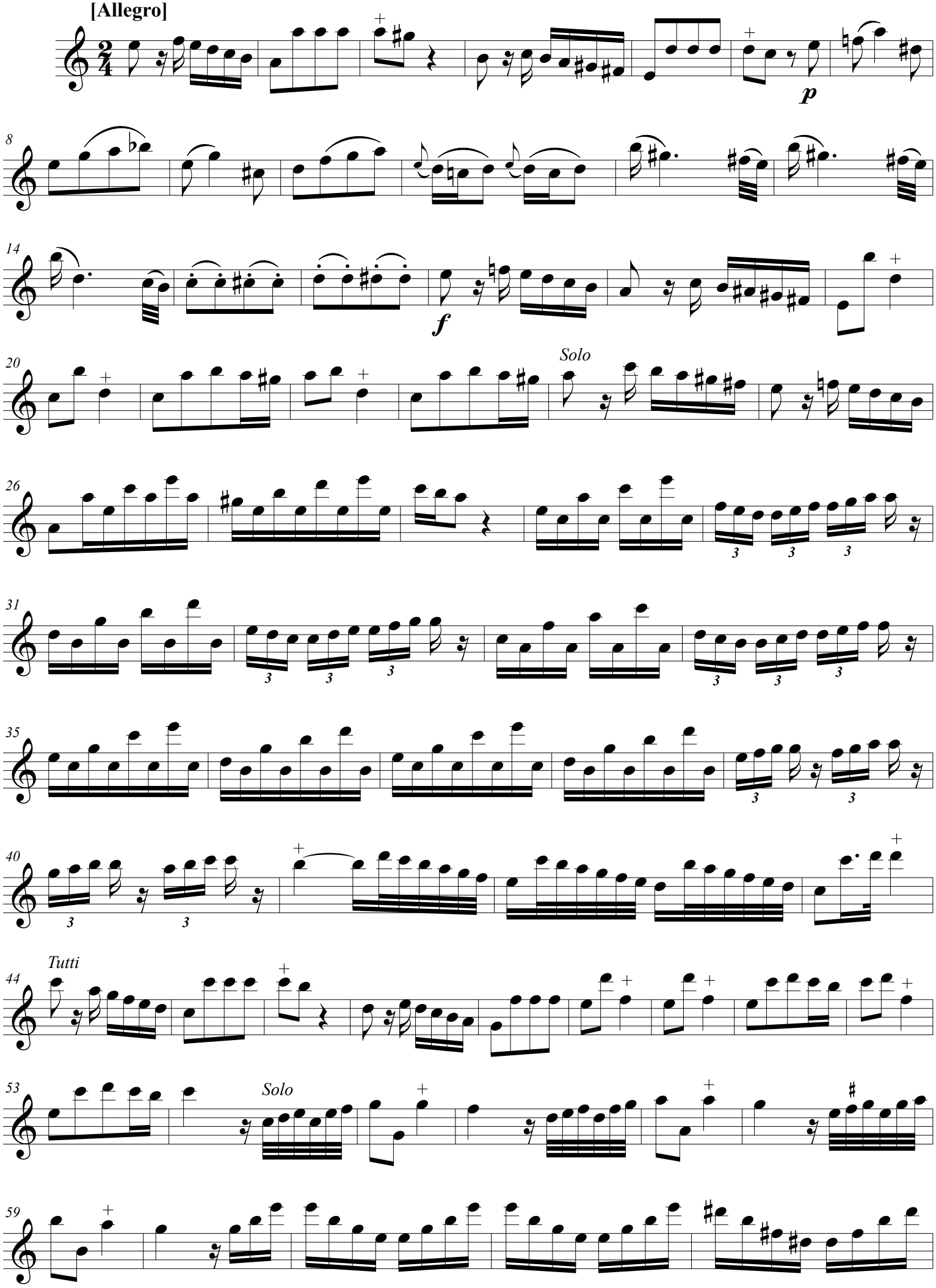


* Orig: f''

Larghetto

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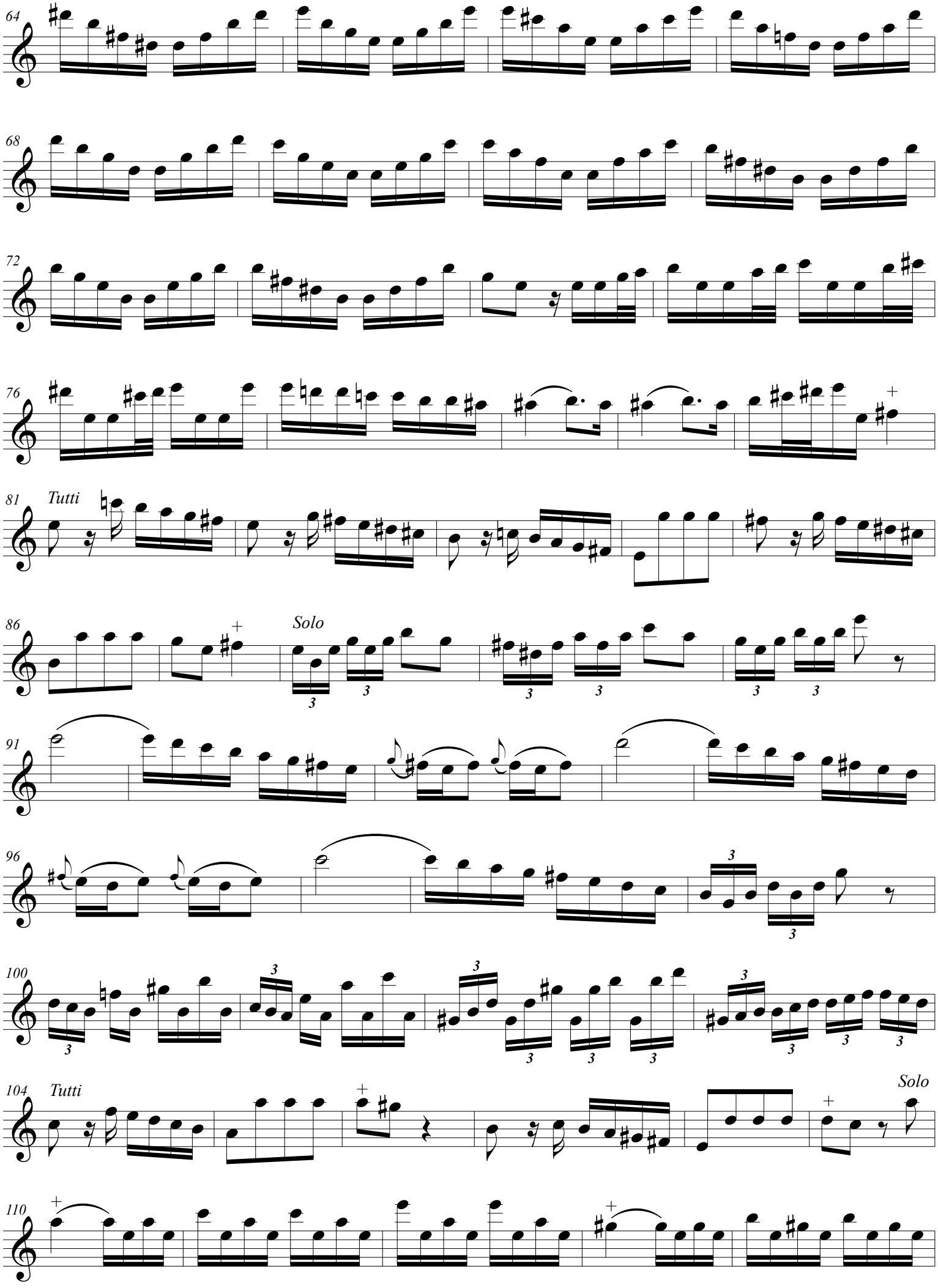
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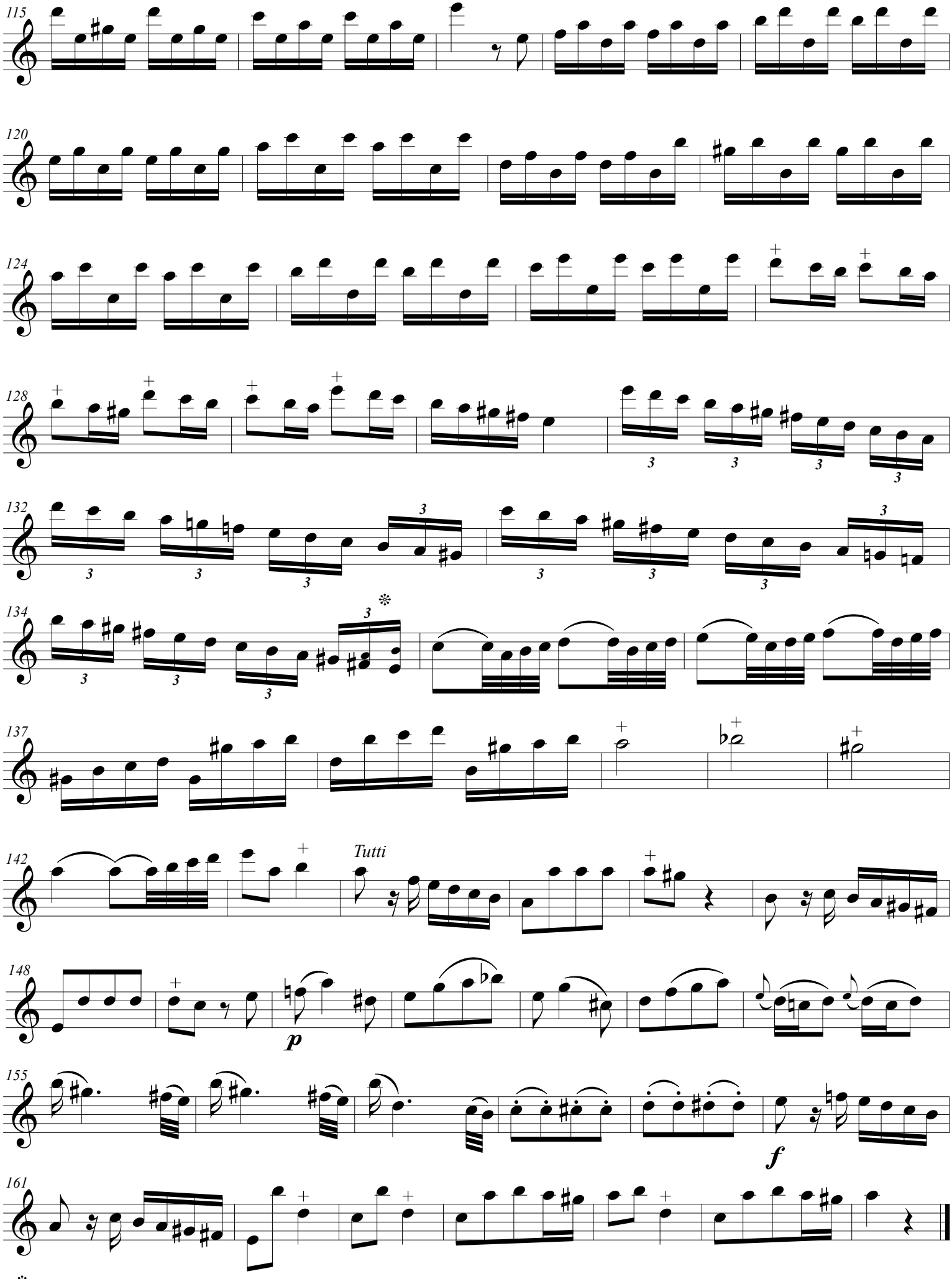

* Ed. arr. for Recorder