Richard
WAGNER

Der Ring des Nibelungen

compilation of excerpts for Low Brass

from

The Ring of the Nibelung

compiled by

Stephen Fissel

Score

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Performance Notes for the Compilation of Ring Excerpts for Low Brass

(Beyond the Ride of the Valkyries)

For the low brass enthusiast, opportunities to perform this music are, unfortunately, rare. As a result, not only is its study value often overlooked, but also the artistic satisfaction of performing it seldom realized. This collection of excerpts from Der Ring des Nibelungen represents some of the major portions of this great music that Richard Wagner composed for low brass. The selection of these excerpts comes from my own experience in preparing and performing the Ring with Seattle Opera. In conjunction with Ring performances in Seattle, my colleagues and I would often rehearse these sections and present them in a concert along with commentary to explain their importance, either elucidating a musical aspect or an element of plot narrative, or from the standpoint of the development of the low brass instruments of the orchestra.

Wagner's use of the orchestra and instrumentation was both innovative, from the listener's perspective, and challenging from the player's, as exemplified by the significant parts he wrote for the Wagner Tubas, the Bass Trumpet, the Contrabass Trombone, and the Contrabass Tuba. The instrumentation called for in this collection of excerpts is the same as Wagner's scores, however the excerpts can be presented in various ways, given the availability of instruments and players. For example, if there is no Bass Trumpet available, Tenor Trombone can be substituted or the optional cuts can be utilized. In the case of the Trombone IV part, I have noted the places where Wagner specifies that they be played on Contrabass Trombone; however, if one is not available, the modern Bass Trombone can readily perform these passages.

Of all the Ring music, the Ride of the Valkyries is one of the most well known passages to the average listener and for this reason it opens this collection of excerpts. Other than this, the excerpts are in the same order that they appear in Wagner's Ring and are identified by their act and scene number. The tempos indicated are suggested, based on my experience of some 30 Ring performances. There are, of course, places where a tempo may move forward or hold back and further study of the excerpts in their full orchestral context will yield interpretive insight that heightens the musical effect for greater enjoyment, particularly in the music of the final excerpts of both Die Walkure and Gotterdammerung. Additionally, in this final scene (known as the Immolation Scene), I have taken the liberty of incorporating the Valhalla themes from the Wagner Tuba parts into the Trombone parts in order to achieve a greater musical effect for concert presentation. Aside from this one exception, everything is as Wagner originally scored it.

Stephen Fissel
Bass Trombonist
Seattle Symphony Orchestra &
Seattle Opera

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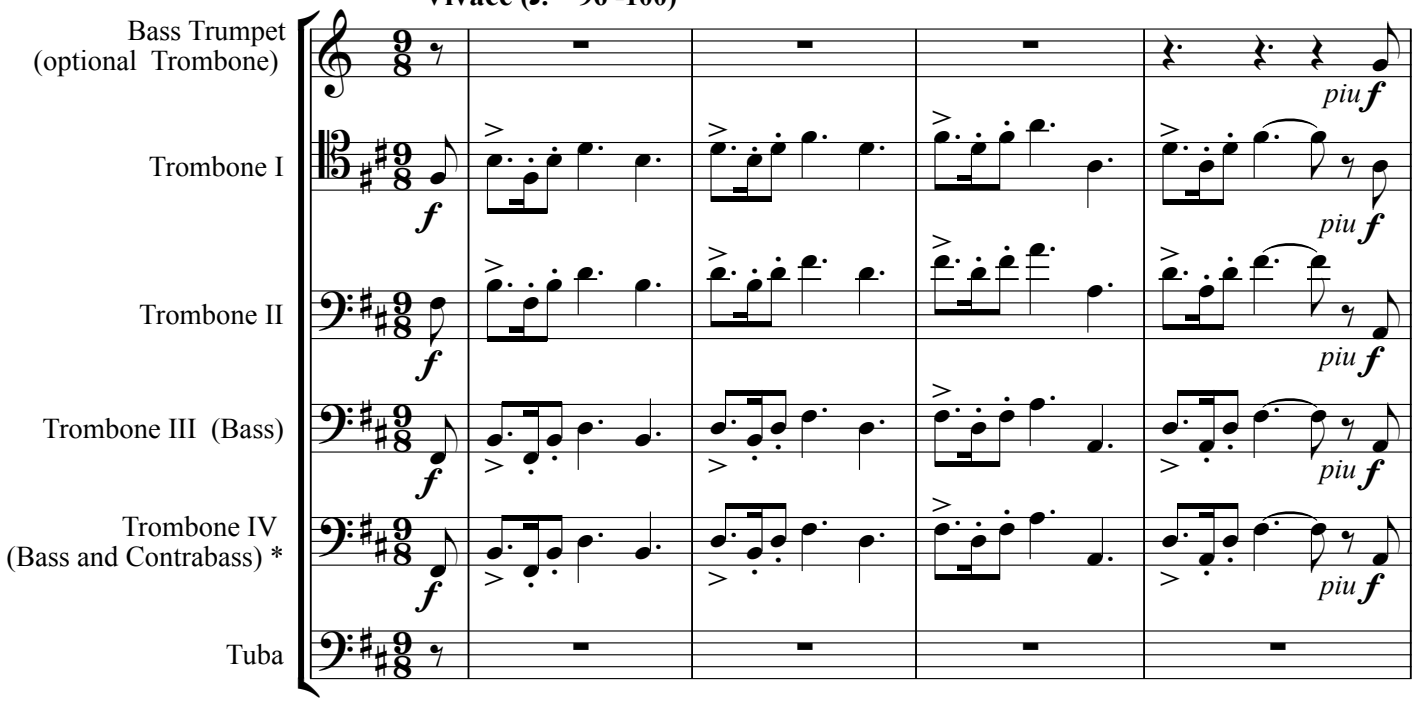
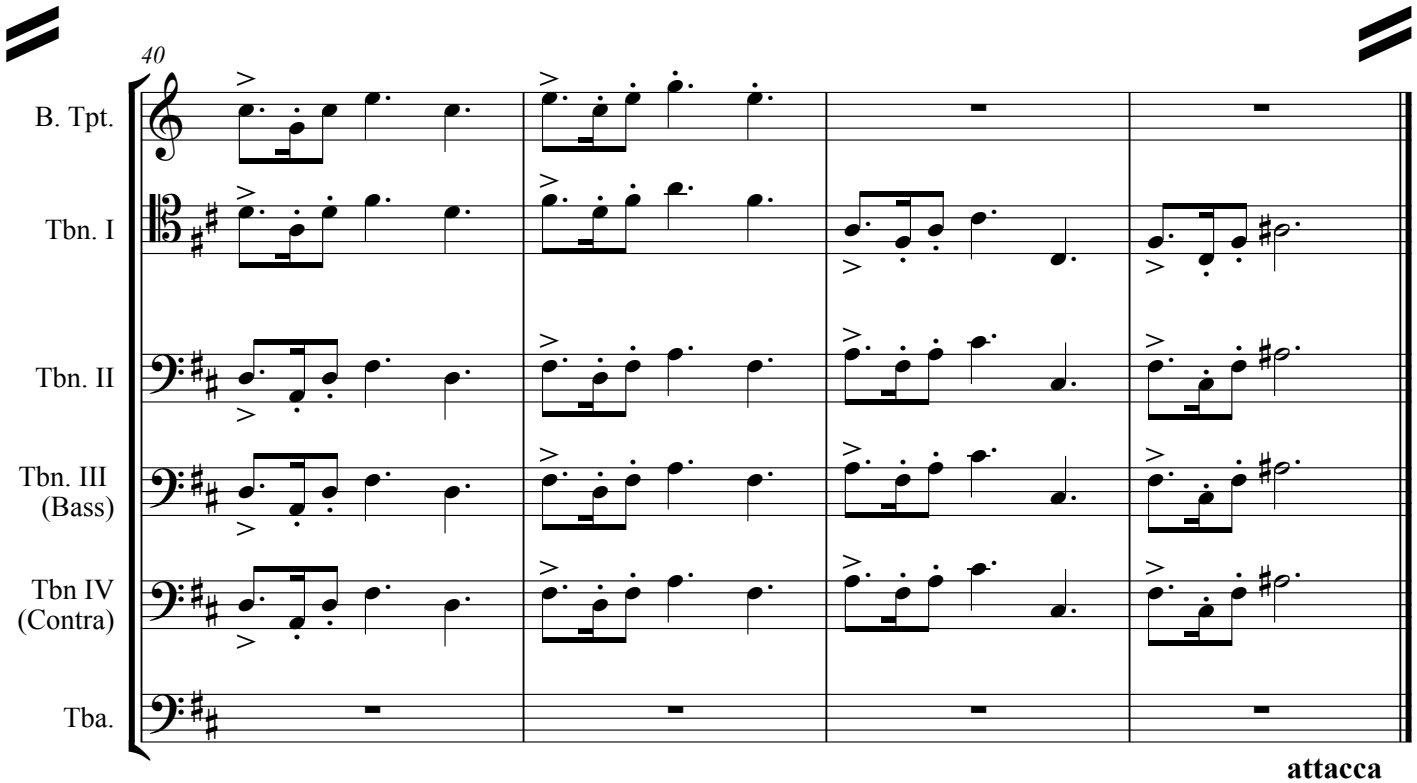
DIE WALKÜRE

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

Excerpt #1

Vivace (♩. = 96 -100)





attacca

* preferred instrument designation
is noted in the Trombone IV part

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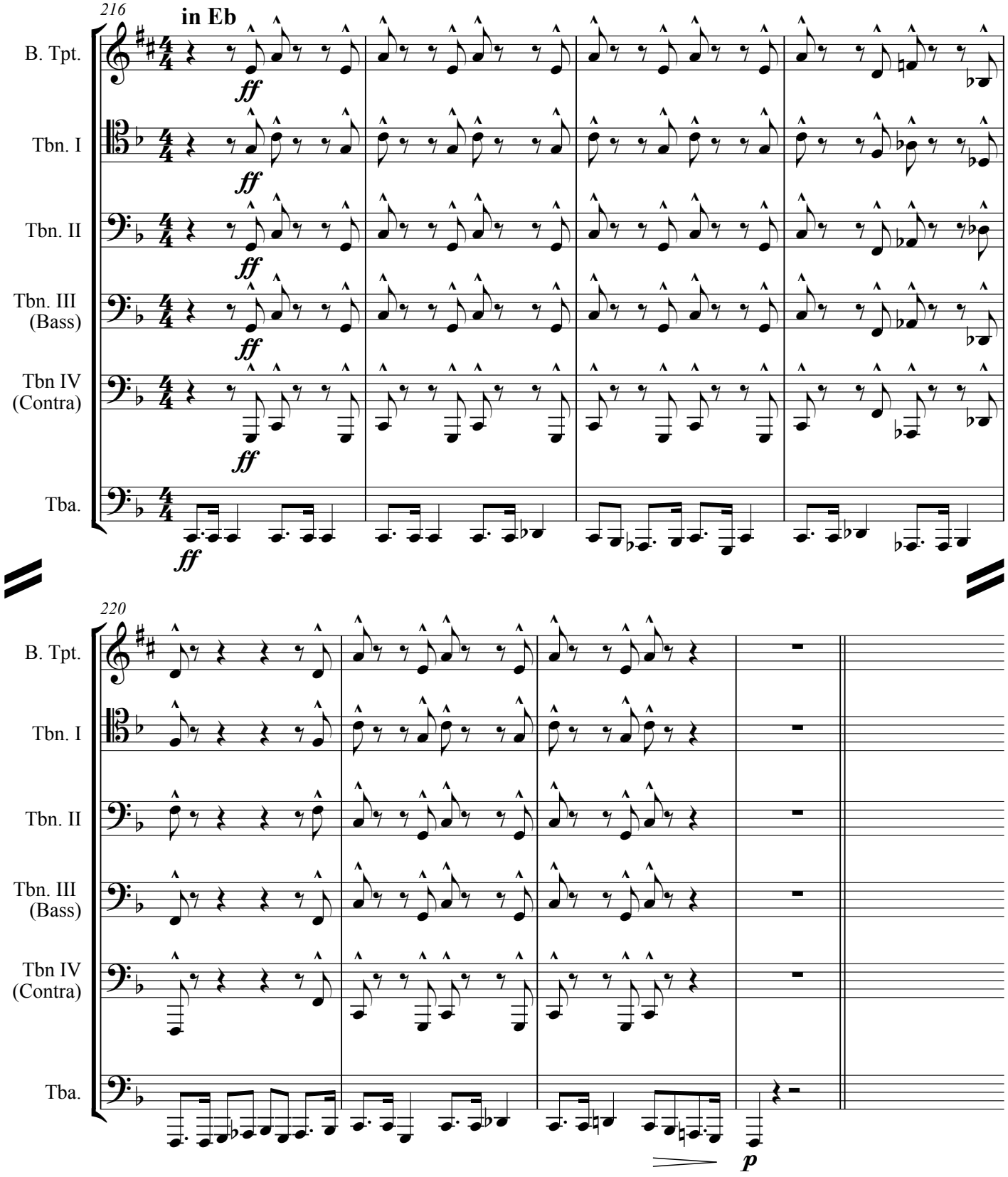
DAS RHEINGOLD

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

Excerpt #3

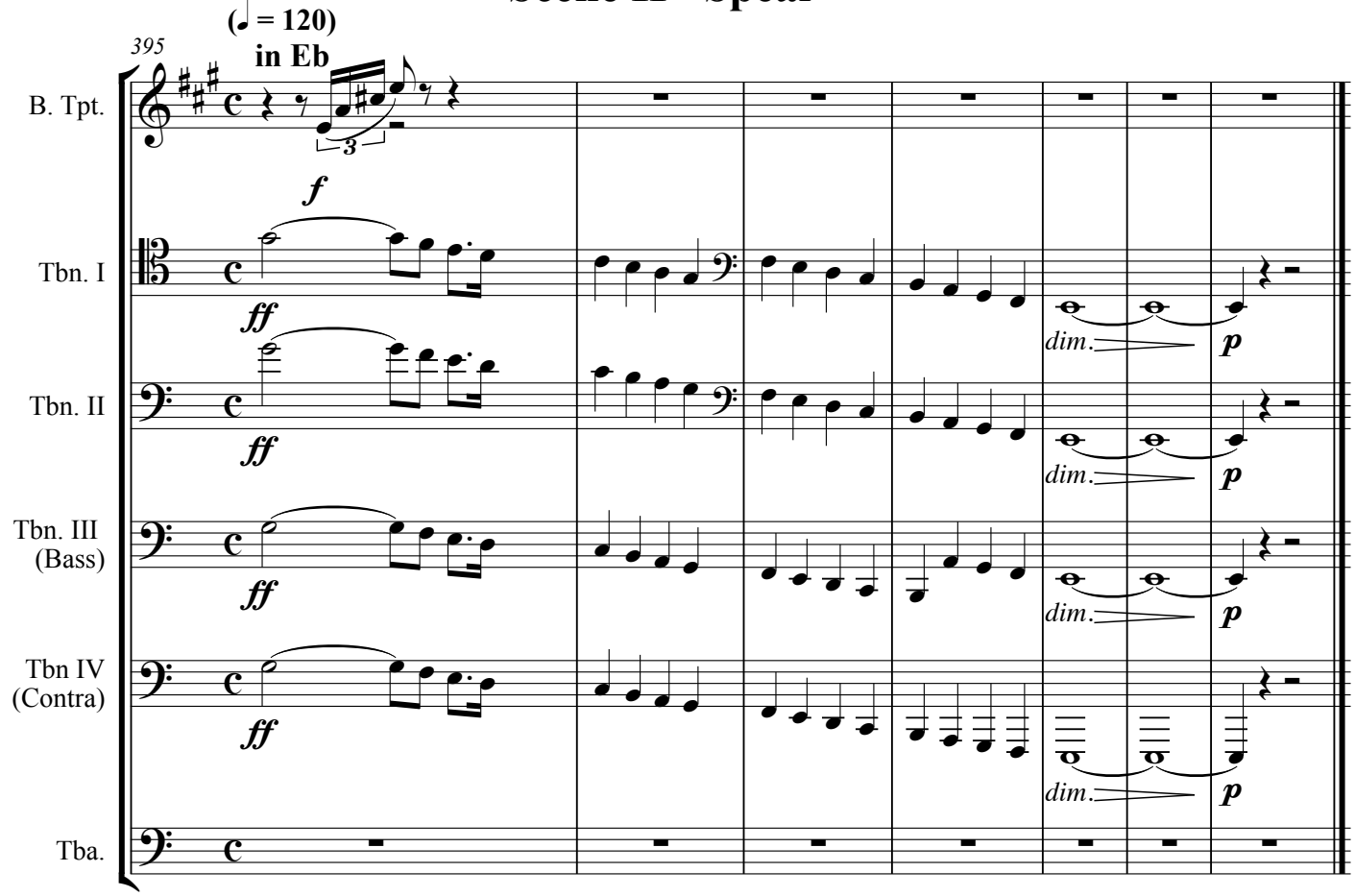
Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo (♪ = 100)

in Eb



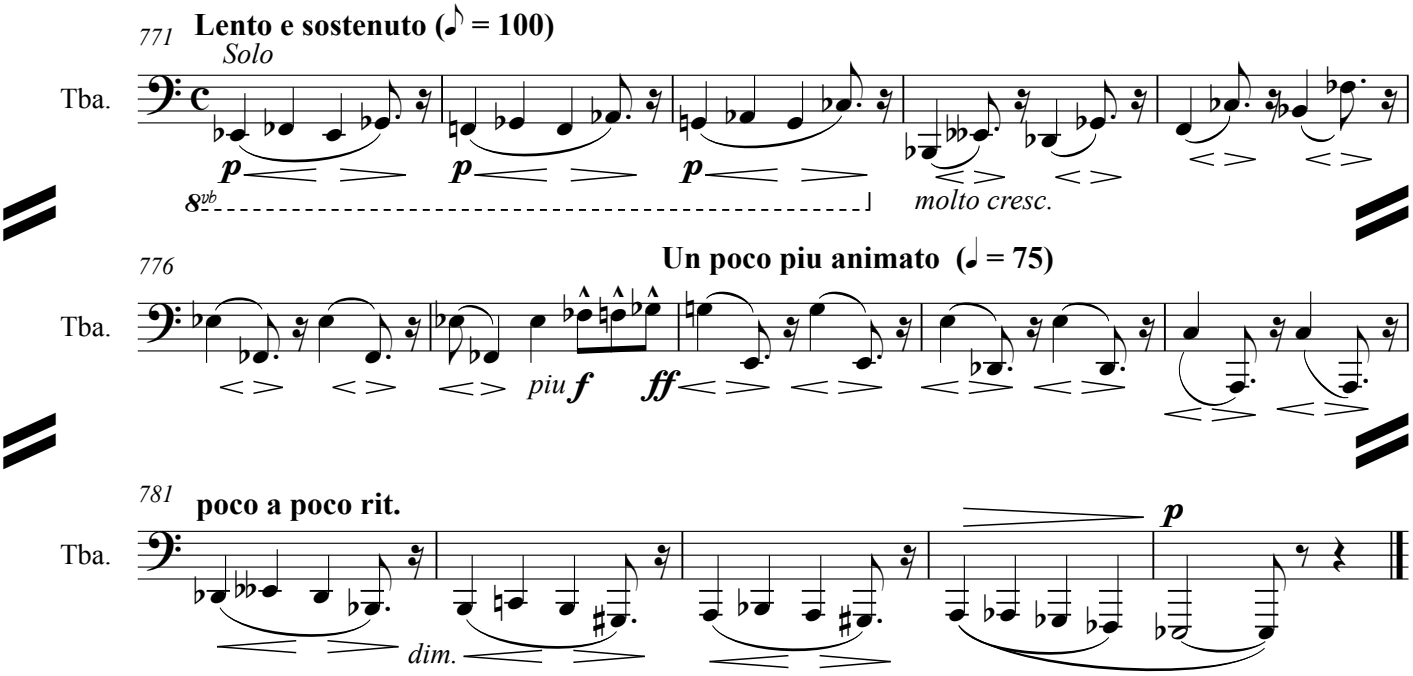
Excerpt #4

Scene II "Spear"



Excerpt #5

Scene III "Dragon"



DIE WALKÜRE

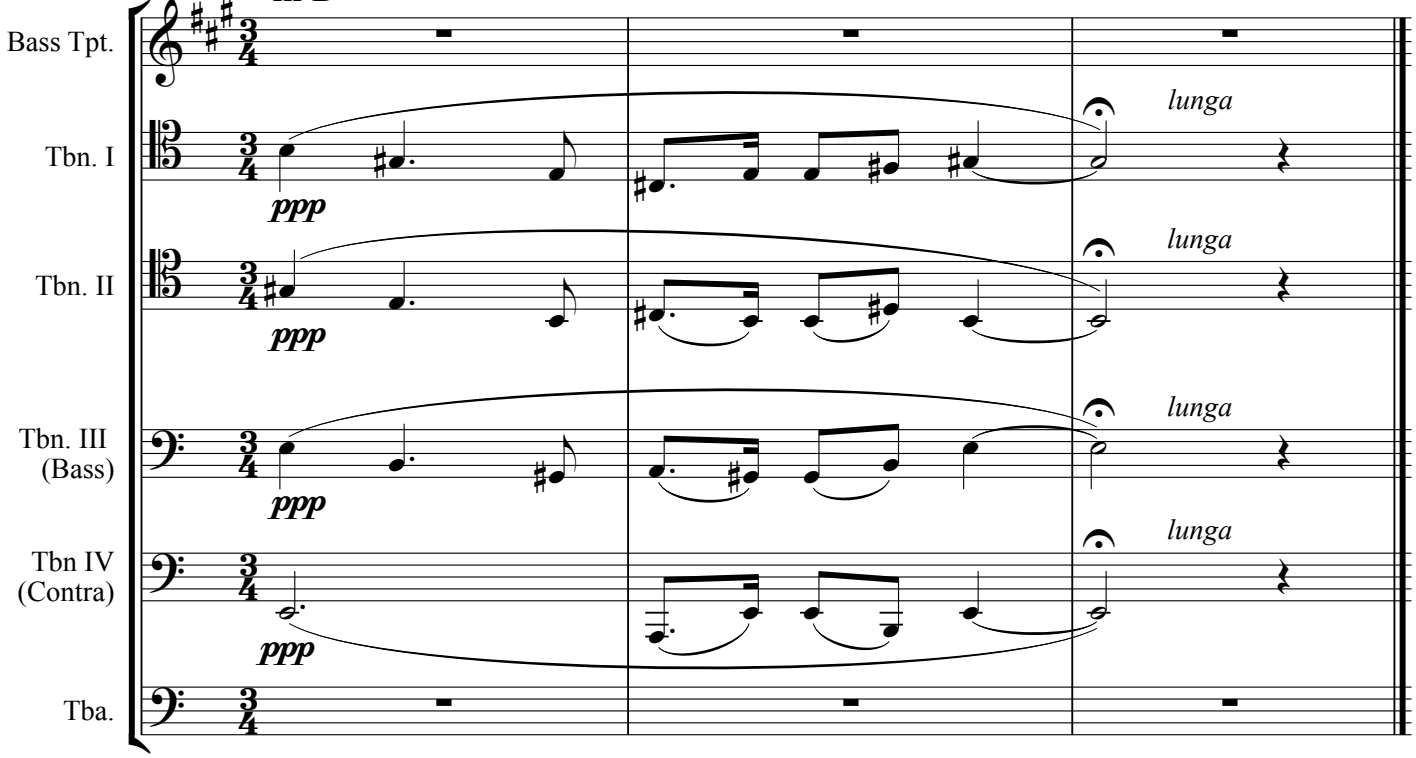
Act I Scene II "Walhalla"

Excerpt #8

Lento (♩ = 54)

in D

176



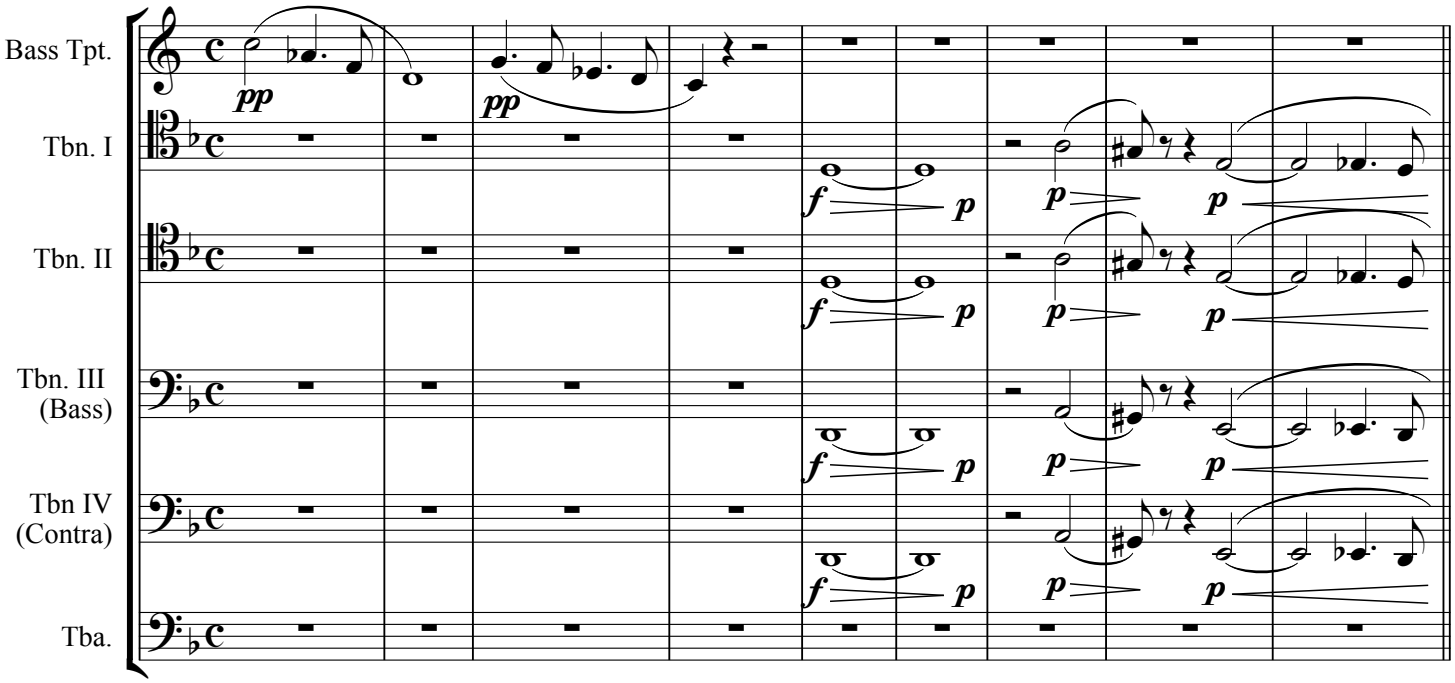
Act II Scene V "Frustration of the Gods"

Excerpt #9

Lento (♩ = 92)

in D

175 182 186 **rit.**

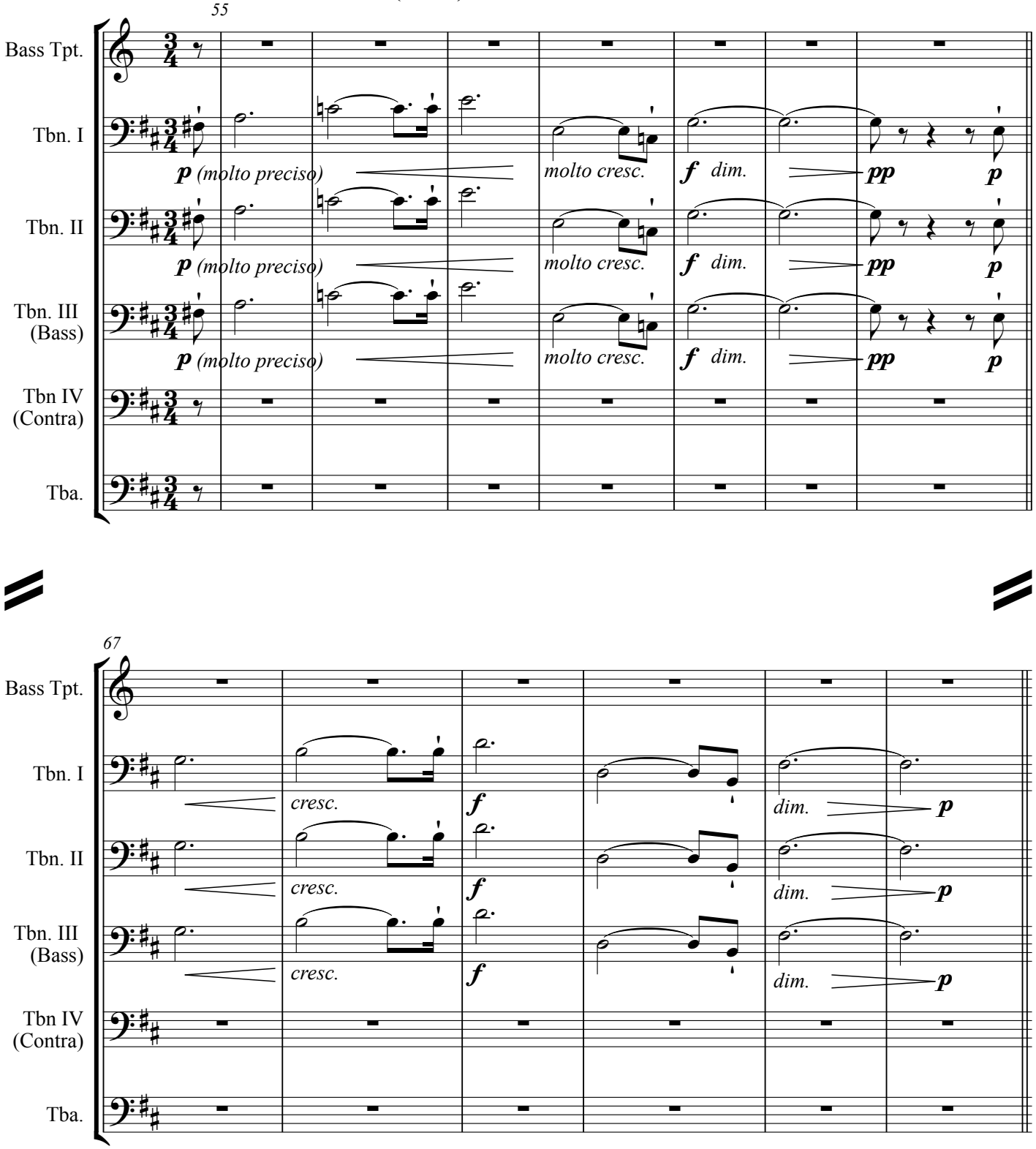


SIEGFRIED

Act II Vorspiel "Curse"

Excerpt #15

Commodo e sostenuto (♩ = 76)



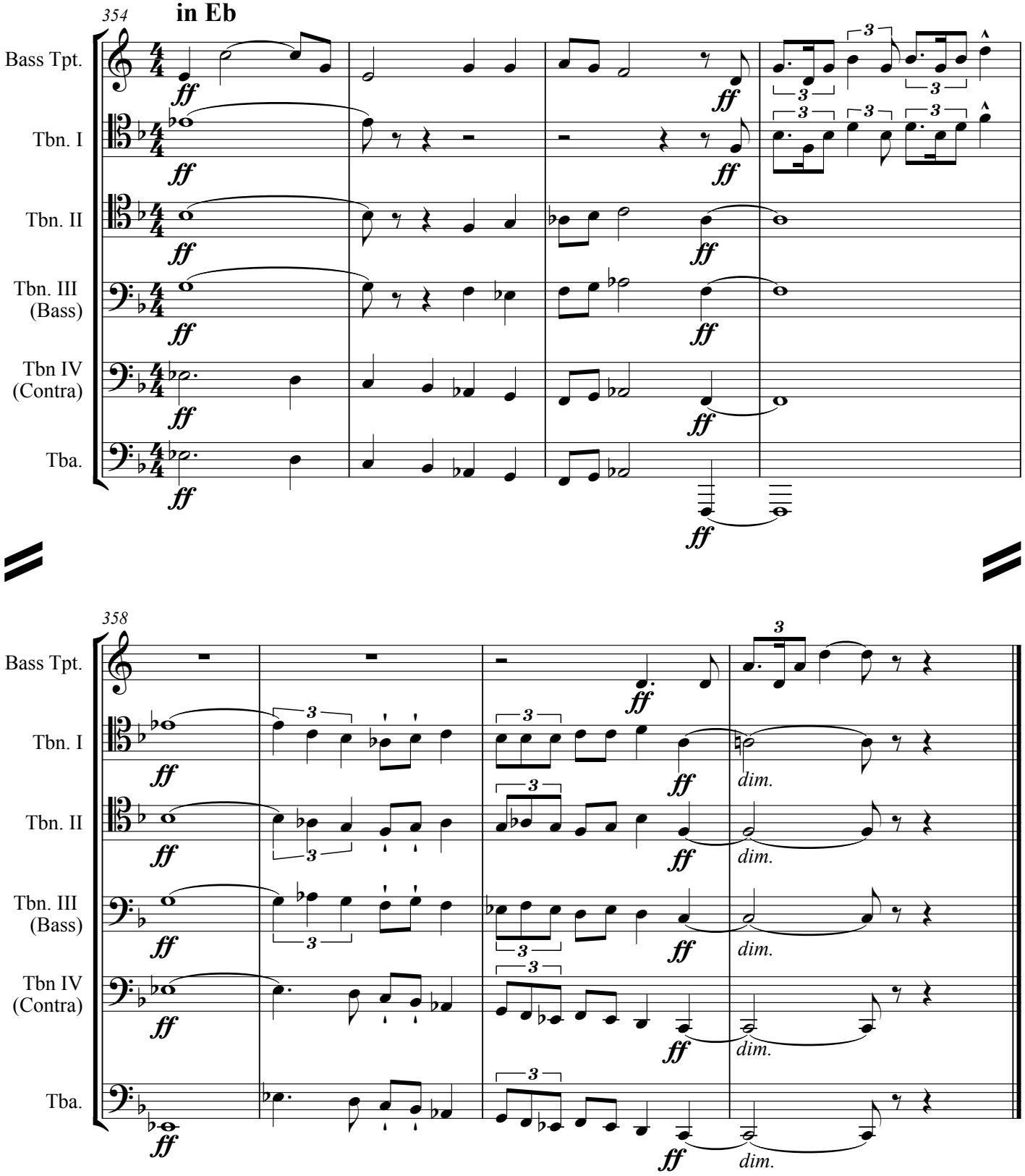
GOTTERDAMMERUNG

Vorspiel "Siegfried's Rhine Journey"

Excerpt #17

Molto tranquillo (♩. = 96)

in Eb



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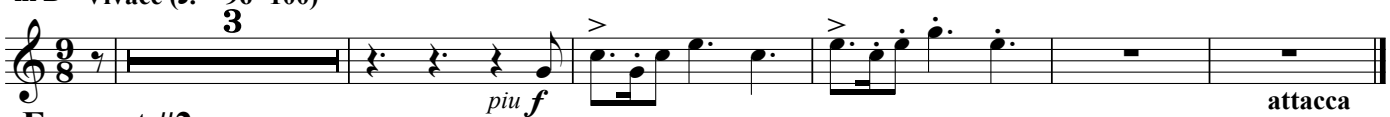
Richard Wagner
compiled by Stephen Fissel

Bass Trumpet

DIE WALKÜRE

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

Excerpt #1



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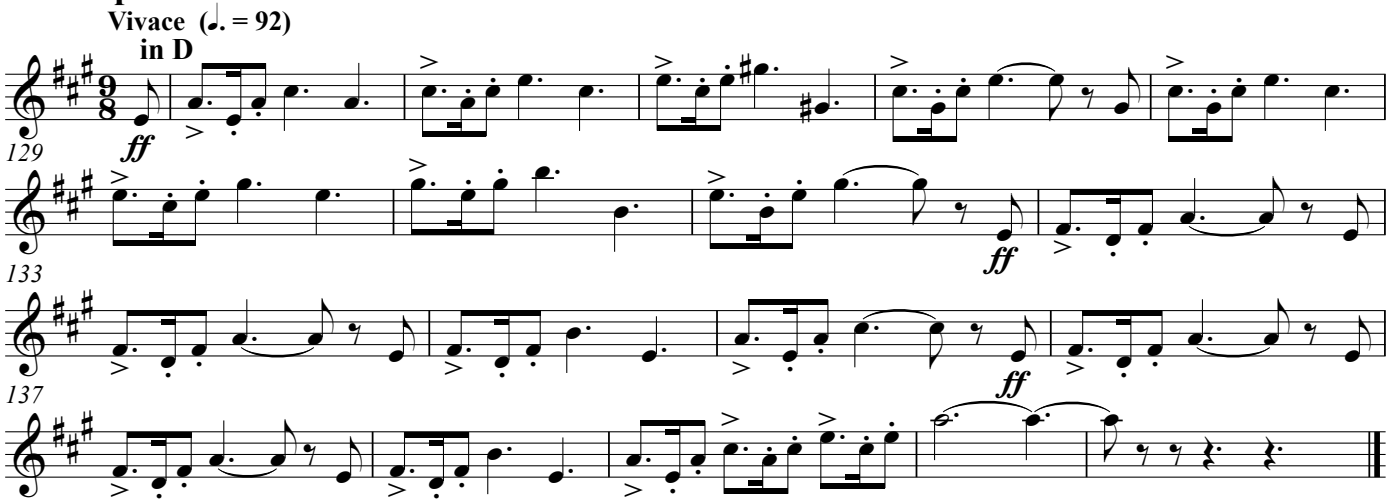
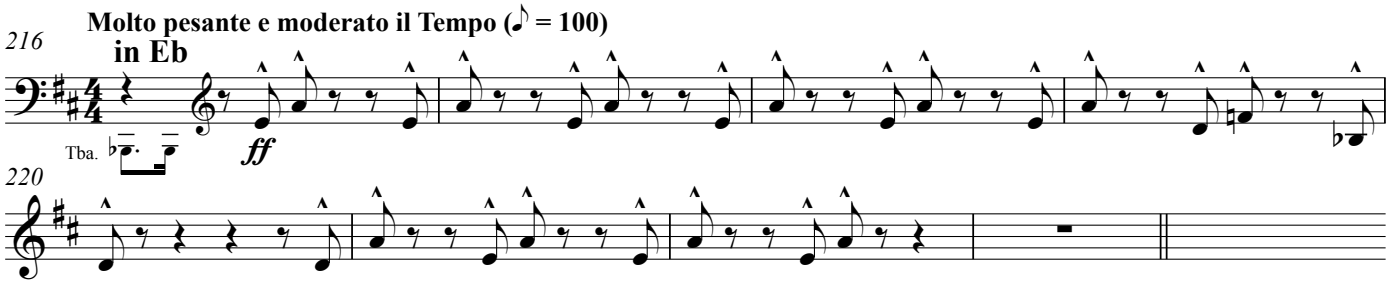


DAS RHEINGOLD

Excerpt #3

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"



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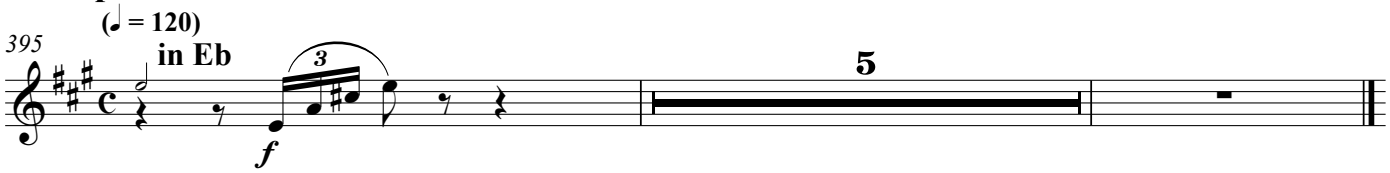

Excerpt #5

Scene III "Dragon"

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Der Ring des Nibelungen

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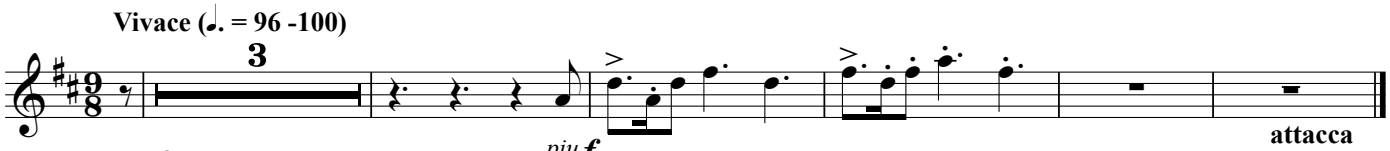
Bass Trumpet in C

DIE WALKÜRE

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

Excerpt #1



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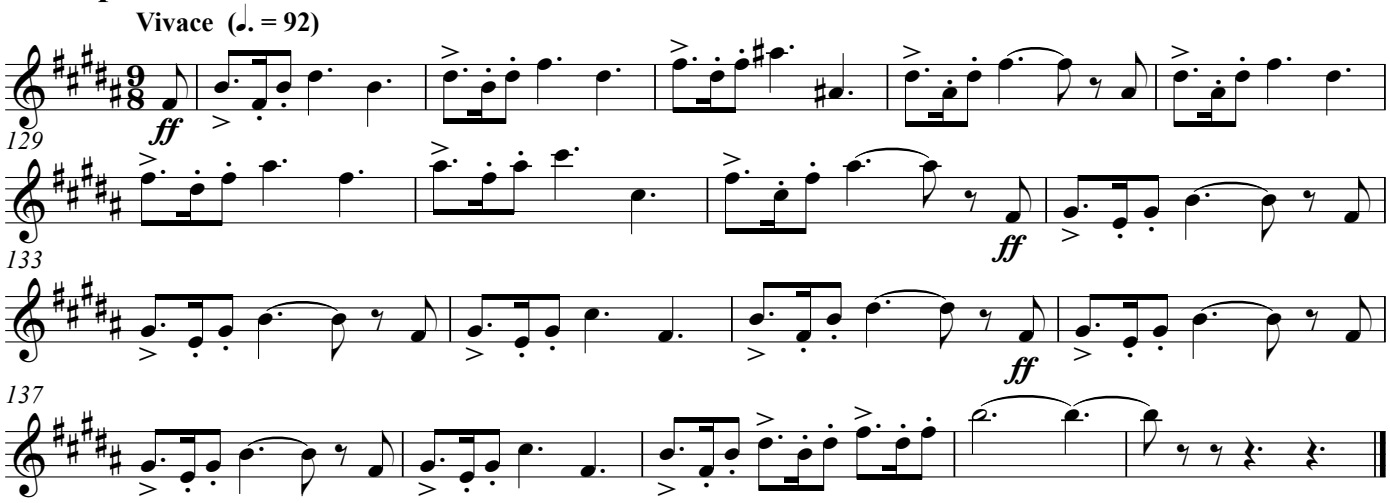
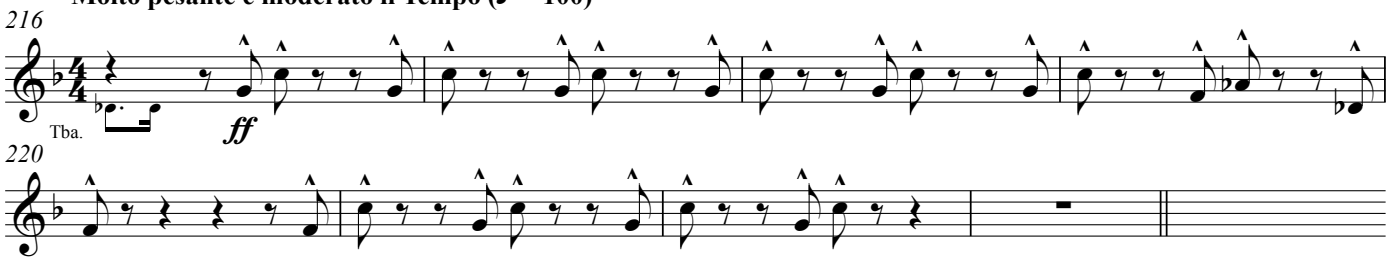


DAS RHEINGOLD

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

Excerpt #3



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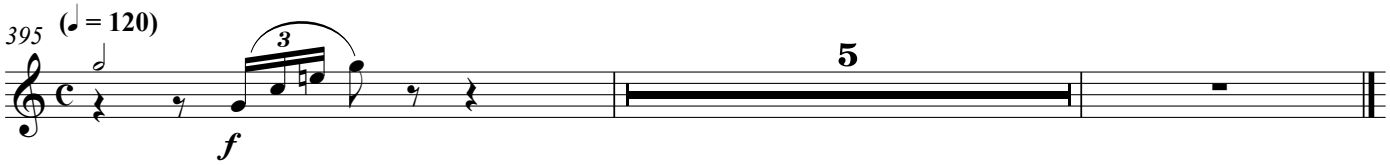

Excerpt #5

Scene III "Dragon"

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Der Ring des Nibelungen

Trombone I

compilation of excerpts for Low Brass from
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Richard Wagner
compiled by Stephen Fissel

DIE WALKÜRE

Excerpt #1

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

Vivace (♩. = 96 -100)

f

piu f

40

attacca

Excerpt #2

Vivace (♩. = 92)

ff

128

ff

133

ff

137

DAS RHEINGOLD

Excerpt #3

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

216 **Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo (♪ = 100)**

Tba.

ff

220

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Der Ring des Nibelungen

Trombone II

compilation of excerpts for Low Brass from
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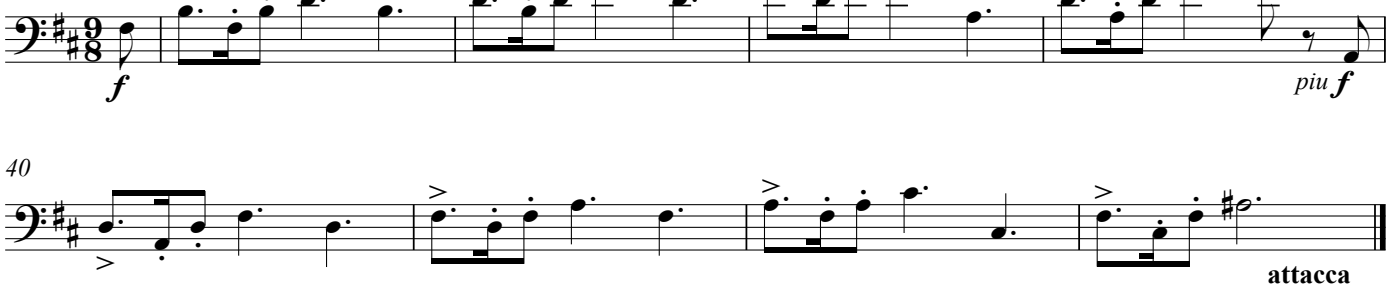
Richard Wagner
compiled by Stephen Fissel

DIE WALKÜRE

Excerpt #1

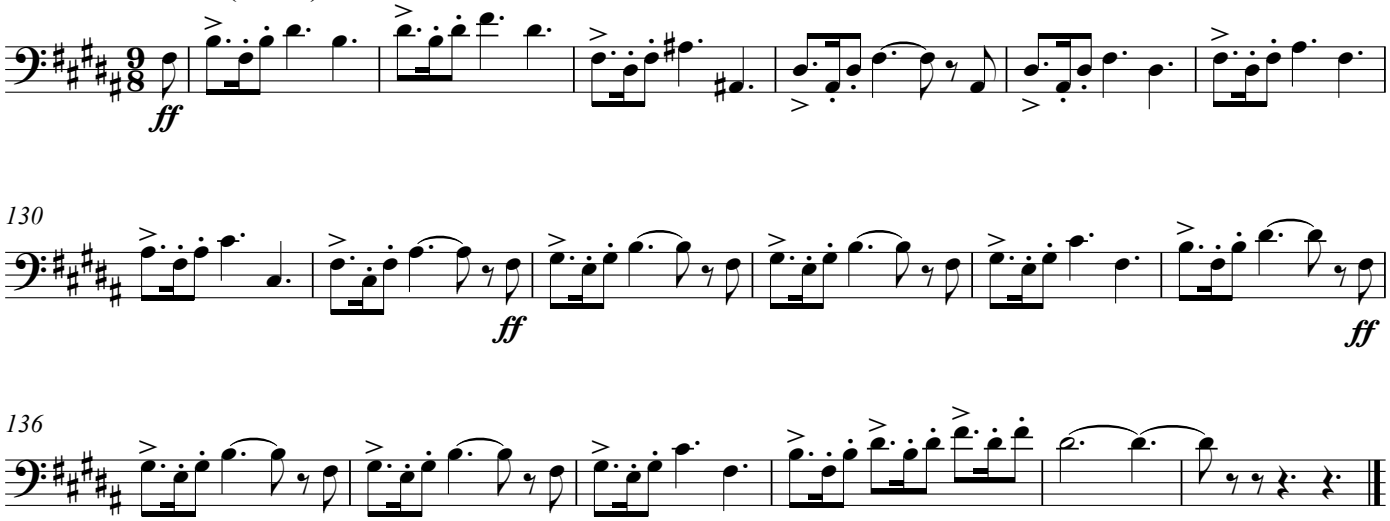
Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

Vivace (𝅗𝅥. = 96 -100)



Excerpt #2

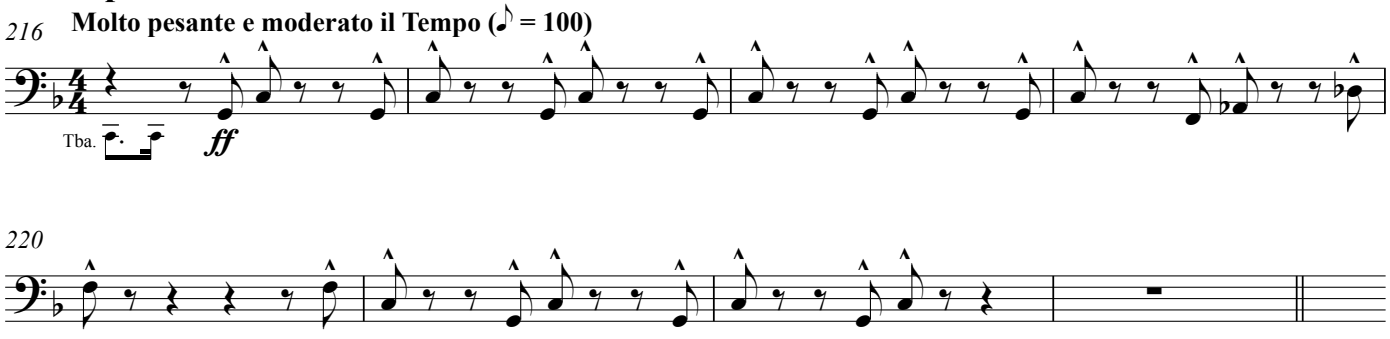
Vivace (𝅗𝅥. = 92)



DAS RHEINGOLD

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

Excerpt #3



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Der Ring des Nibelungen

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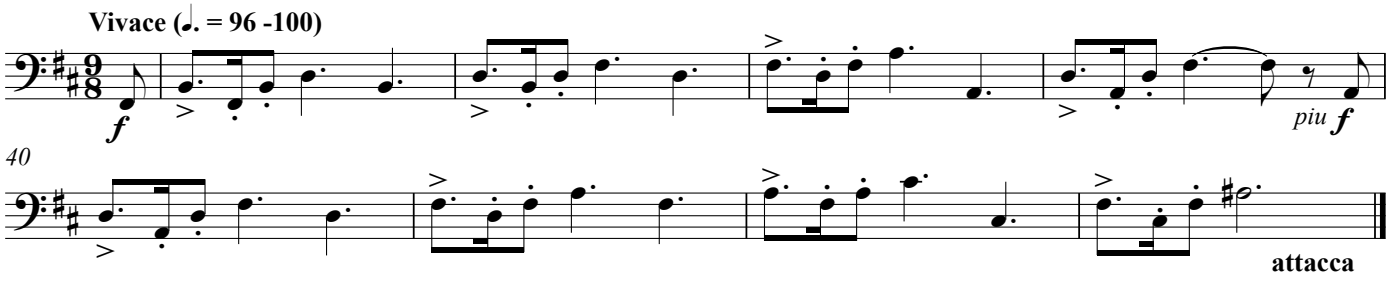
Trombone III (Bass)

DIE WALKÜRE

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

Excerpt #1



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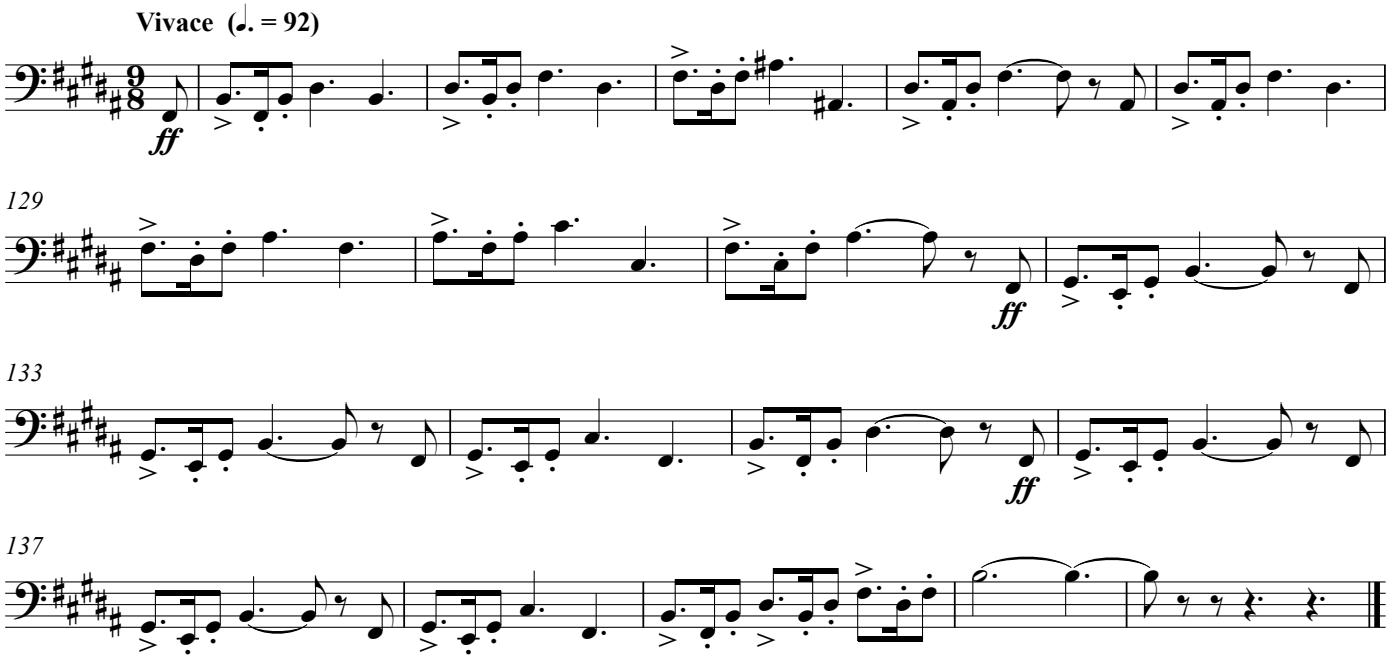
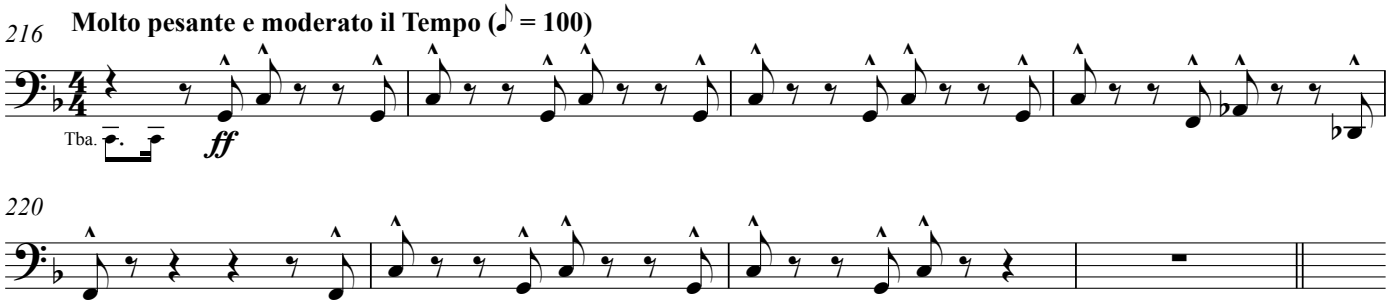


DAS RHEINGOLD

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

Excerpt #3



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Der Ring des Nibelungen

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Richard Wagner
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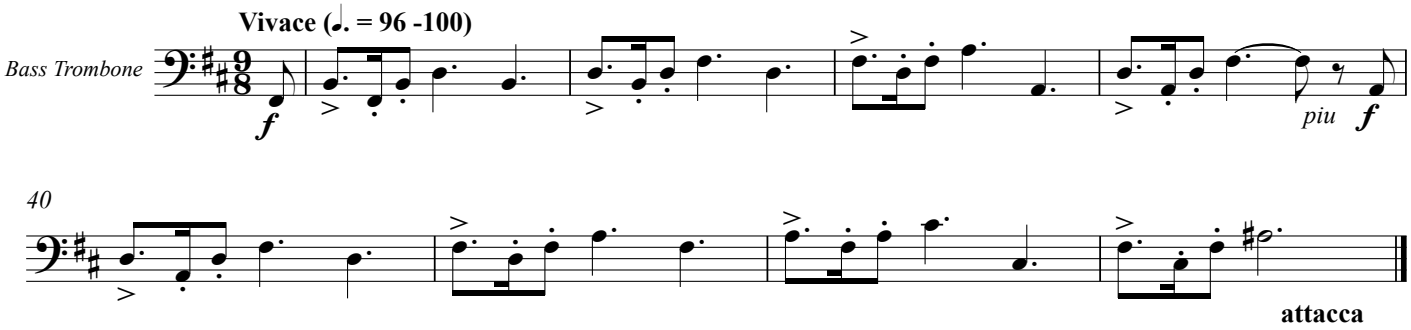
Trombone IV (Bass and Contrabass) *

DIE WALKÜRE

Excerpt #1

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres



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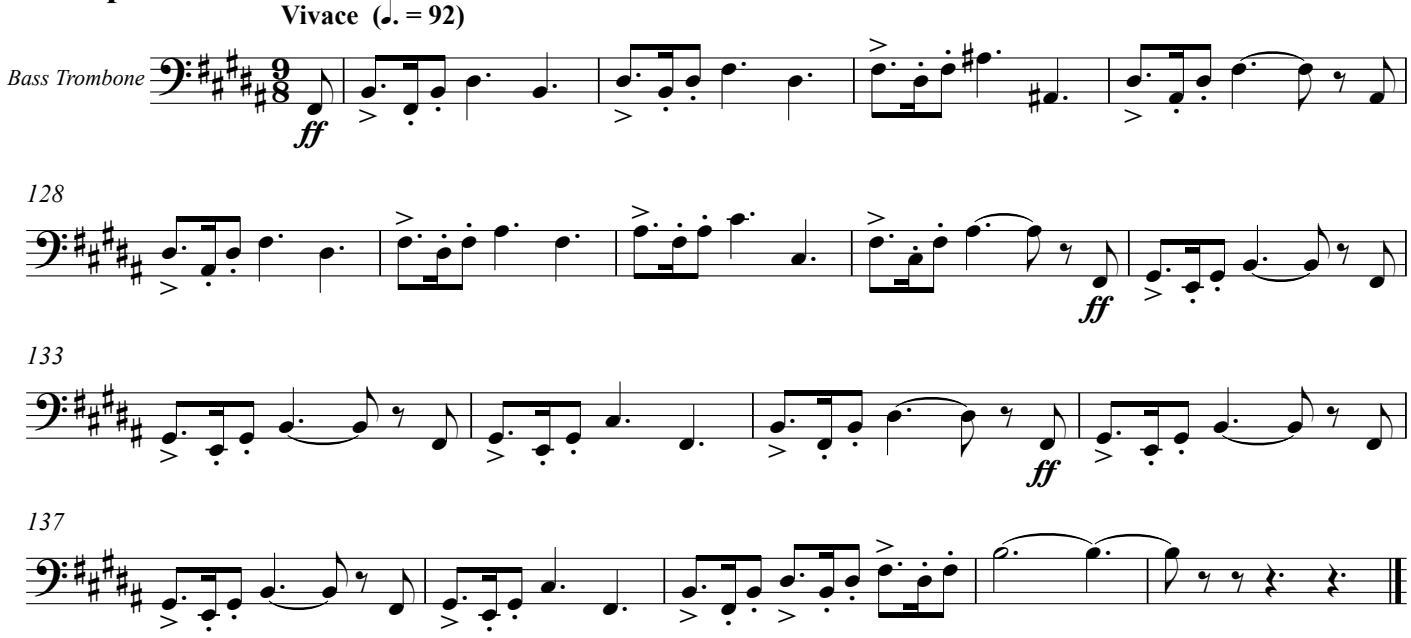
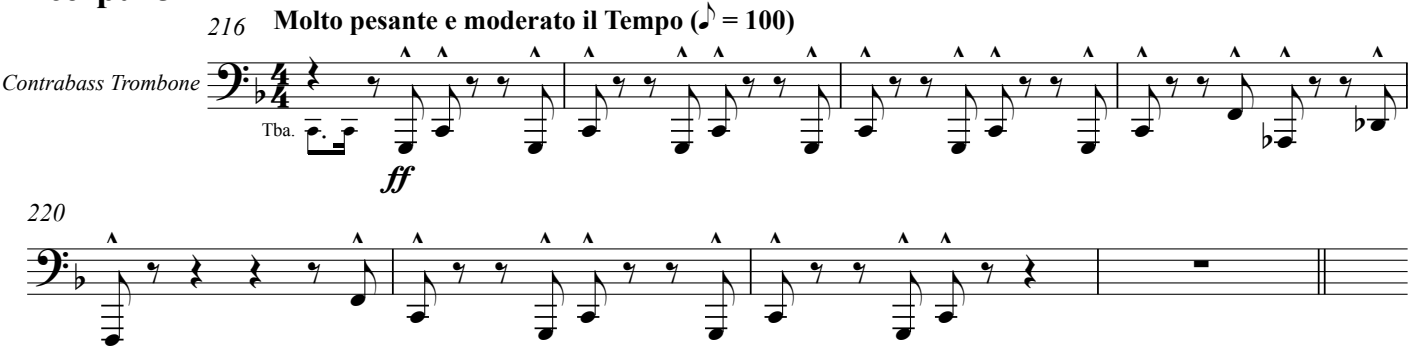


DAS RHEINGOLD

Excerpt #3

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"



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Der Ring des Nibelungen

compilation of excerpts for Low Brass from
The Ring of the Nibelung

Tuba

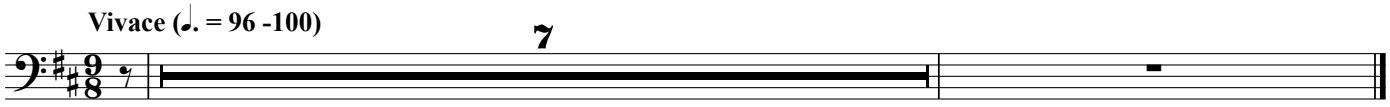
Richard Wagner
compiled by Stephen Fissel

DIE WALKÜRE

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

Excerpt #1

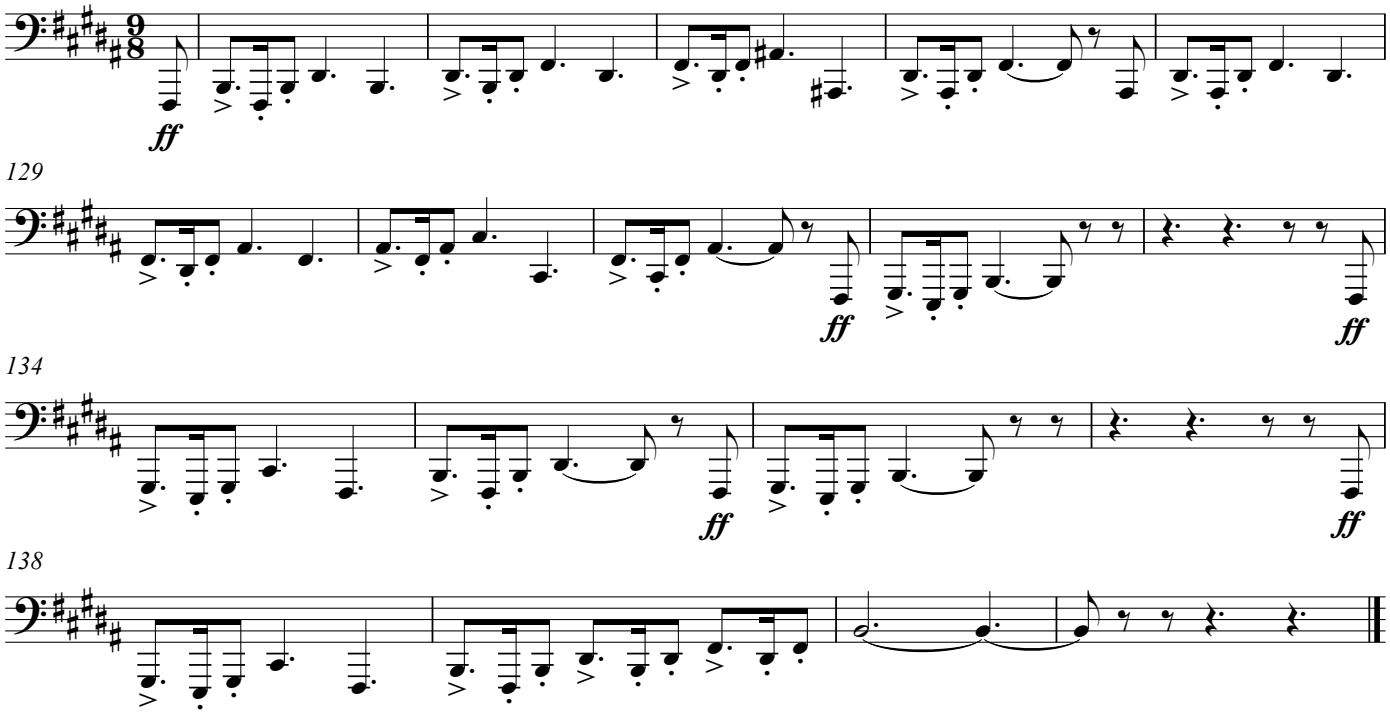
Vivace (♩. = 96 -100)



attacca

Excerpt #2

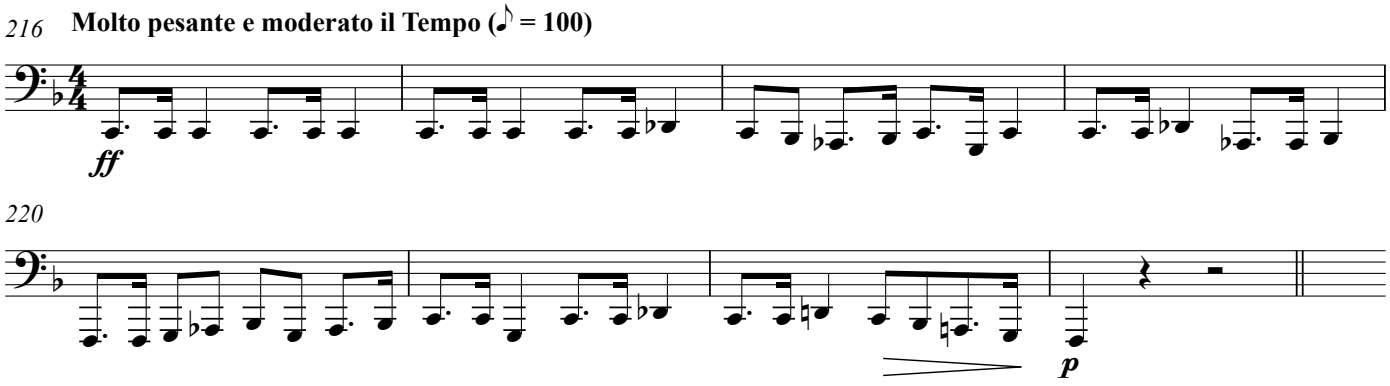
Vivace (♩. = 92)



DAS RHEINGOLD

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

Excerpt #3



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