2026 Timpani Audition Packet

Dear Applicant,

Congratulations on taking your first step towards being a part of the 2026 **Golden Empire Drum & Bugle Corps** from Bakersfield College! I'm very excited that you want to join the corps, and I hope your audition experience is one that is informative, challenging, and ultimately positive.

What this packet IS:
The following packet will provide you with some preliminary info and/or exercises that will help you prepare for the workshop/auditions that will take place soon. Some of these exercises will be used all season, and others may only be used as supplemental material. You should become familiar with the material but be ready for additional info.

What this packet is NOT:
This packet is not a comprehensive collection of the technique program you will be learning this season. We will supplement this with more advanced exercises and of course a wealth of additional training throughout the season. We don't expect you to be able to perform this material perfectly when you audition. Drum corps is all about working hard to be the best we can be...and that is an ongoing process.

Next steps:

- Fill out the interest form at geperformingarts.org/join if you haven't already.
- Review this packet and start to prepare for auditions.
- Join the Percussion Interest Group on BAND. We will be communicating with all prospective members through the BAND app.
- Be ready to learn, work hard, and have fun! Thanks again for taking the first step towards a challenging and rewarding experience.

I look forward to meeting you soon! If you have any questions, please contact me via BAND app or at jimmie.taliaferro@bakersfieldcollege.edu for more information.

Sincerely,
Jimmie Taliaferro
Percussion Director
Golden Empire Drum and Bugle Corps

The Audition Process

Step 1: Register
Please register online and pay the $40 registration fee at
https://www.geperformingarts.org/audition-info-2026

Save time at check-in by paying for your registration in advance.

Step 2: Audition
Attend a live audition workshop or submit a video audition
Video auditions are due **January 4th**
Note: The video audition option is only available to applicants living >50 miles from Bakersfield College, unless previously cleared with the Front Ensemble Coordinator. Applicants are highly encouraged to attend an in-person workshop to have the best chance at receiving a spot in the group.

Step 3: Receive feedback
You will be sent a score sheet with an overall rating:

1 - Contracted members will be responsible for starting tuition installments, fundraiser requirements, and additional paperwork.

2 - Callbacks should focus on the feedback they received to earn a contract at our January Callback Rehearsal, January 25th.

3 - We cannot offer you a position in the corps at this time.

2026 Audition Workshop Dates - Brass and Percussion

December 14 - Workshop
January 4 - Workshop/Audition
January 25 - Callback Audition (Invite Only)

Workshop Information

Please check our website and the Percussion Interest Group on BAND for schedule changes, updates, and other information.
Please join the Percussion Interest Group on BAND.

Print & complete the KCCD Release Form

Applicants under 18 must have this form signed by a parent or guardian. All applicants must have this form signed BEFORE attending the workshop!

If you have a conflict:
Communicate any conflict to your directors and caption head via the BAND app. A no call/no show will tell us you are opting out of the audition process.

Location/Directions
Bakersfield College
1801 Panorama Dr.
Bakersfield, CA 93305

We will initially meet near the BC gym. The main entrance (known as the Huddle) is on the east side of campus just north of Memorial Stadium. You can enter from Mt. Vernon and park in the lot just east of the stadium.

Schedule
8:00 AM – Registration begins
9:00 AM – Opening meeting, Workshop/Auditions begin (1st block)
12:00 PM – Lunch (Not Provided)
1:00 PM – Workshop/Auditions continue (2nd block)
4:30 PM – Wrap-up, Pack, Load, Clean
5:00 PM – Workshop ends

Audition Instructions

Prepare all exercises in the packet

- Some exercises must be prepared in multiple keys; these are labeled accordingly in the packet

Instrument-Specific Instructions

Mallets

- Singles, Octaves, Jetsons, and Spicy Jetsons should be prepared with both 2 and 4 mallets. Pitnic will only be played with 2 mallets.
- We will always utilize Stevens grip when playing 4-mallet passages.

Drumset

- Improvisation is welcome and encouraged, but it is essential that you be able to play the parts as written.

Timpani

- We play on 4 timpani (23”, 26”, 29”, 32”)

Synth

- Experienced keyboard players may learn the Synth 1 part, Synth 2 part, or both. Less experienced players should learn only the Synth 2 part. A higher degree of preparedness on one part is preferable to a lower degree of preparedness on both. Both packets are contained in the same file
- We play on a semi-weighted 61-key keyboard. Video auditionees may record auditions on any keyboard with the proper range to play the written parts.

Auxiliary Percussion

- Prepare both the Aux 1 and Aux 2 parts. Both packets are contained in the same file.

What else are we looking for?

- We want you to be successful and have an amazing drum corps experience. Every task, assignment, definition, or correction that you are given is meant to help achieve that goal.
- Be a good teammate.
- Be tolerant of others and strict with yourself. Focus on holding yourself to the highest possible standard at all times.
- Be prepared. Know what you are required to have, know, and do before every rehearsal.
- Respond to feedback and do your best to immediately implement any required adjustments or corrections. Have a great time! Drum corps is a life-changing experience. We will work hard, learn a lot, and have fun doing it.

Questions

- Questions regarding audition materials or instructions should be communicated to Lou Rosen (Front Ensemble Coordinator) via BAND app or email.
- Questions regarding scheduling, finances, college enrollment, or any other logistics should be communicated to Lou Rosen (Front Ensemble Coordinator) AND Jimmie Taliaferro (Percussion Director) via BAND app or email

E-mail Addresses

- Lou Rosen - lourosenmusic@gmail.com
- Jimmie Taliaferro - jimmie.taliaferro@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Video Audition Instructions

Please make sure you are in the Percussion Interest Group on BAND before submitting a video audition: Percussion Interest Group

Register. You'll need to be in our system before you submit your video. Fill out the online registration and pay the $40 fee. Audition Info 2026 - Golden Empire Performing Arts

Record and upload your video to YouTube. Record all exercises in the packet, following both the instructions listed in the packet and the audition instructions page. The audition can be uploaded as a single video or multiple videos, but each exercise should be filmed as a single, unedited take. Film so that your entire body and instrument can be seen in the video.

Be sure the video is not listed as "private". Submit a link to your video. Follow the instructions on the BAND app to send your video to the percussion staff using the audition Google Form.

Please include a short introduction including your:

- Name
- Previous experience (school, alternate instruments, dance, sports, etc.)

Workshops

Our season will begin with a series of workshops designed to give you an overview of what it's like to be a member of Golden Empire. We will teach you about our approach to brass playing and take some time to get to know you. During these workshops, we will teach you the exercises that will be used in our audition process.

Please remember that in addition to your musical and visual skills, you are also being evaluated on your attitude, focus, self-discipline, and physical fitness. Throughout the workshops, we will identify things you can work on and see where your strengths are.

Assignments between camps

Once you receive a contract, you will be expected to complete weekly check-in assignments on the BAND app. These assignments will include videos of various exercises or responding to questions that will help you get to know the other members of the section. "I'm too busy to do these assignments" is not an excuse. Learning time management and how to work efficiently are some of the most important lessons to be learned from drum corps.

Enrollment at Bakersfield College

All members of Golden Empire Drum and Bugle Corps are required to become students of Bakersfield College upon receiving a contract offer. This is necessary so that you can register for the required summer course, which is a vital part of our program.

If you are currently in high school, it is important that you speak with your school counselor as soon as possible to begin the dual enrollment process. Early communication will help avoid delays and ensure that all paperwork and approvals are completed in time.

More detailed instructions on how to enroll and register for the class will be provided after contracts are issued.

Schedule Conflicts

Consistent attendance is essential to the success of the corps. Every rehearsal plays a crucial role in the ensemble's development, and absences can impact not only your personal performance but also the group as a whole.

Winter/Spring

Golden Empire fully supports your academic and school-related commitments. If you have a conflict with a required school event or performance, your absence will be excused. This includes concerts, festivals, competitions, and other school-mandated obligations.

Students may not miss school events to attend Golden Empire rehearsals. Your academic responsibilities come first during the school year.

All conflicts must be communicated as early as possible to your section leader and caption staff. All absences must be communicated in advance unless due to a true emergency. Repeated or unexcused absences may impact your membership status.

Summer

Summer rehearsals are part of MUSC B28, a graded college ensemble course at Bakersfield College. Our program structures our rehearsal schedule to allow summer school attendance or part-time employment.

If you are a high school student enrolled in summer school you must communicate your schedule with corps staff well in advance so appropriate planning can take place.

If you anticipate a conflict of any kind, early and honest communication is essential. We are here to support you, but your reliability and commitment are vital to the success of the ensemble. Please be proactive in managing your schedule and responsibilities.

Financial Preparation

Participating in Golden Empire is a significant commitment, both musically and financially. It is important that all potential members are aware of the costs involved and begin planning early.

There is a $40 fee to attend the preseason workshop/auditions.

The 2026 membership fee is expected to be $1,650 or higher. In our efforts to keep participation as affordable as possible, the final membership fee will be calculated based on the total number of contracted members once our roster has been set.

Students who earn a spot in the corps must register for our course (MUSC B28) at Bakersfield College for credit, which is about $150 for the summer semester. This fee is waived for high school students. If you are traveling from outside California, you may be charged non-resident tuition of $336 per unit.

If you are traveling from outside of the region, you may need to secure housing near Bakersfield College during the summer rehearsals. This may involve an additional expense.

The full membership fee helps cover housing, transportation, instruction, meals, and other essential tour expenses. Payment plans are available, but it is your responsibility to be proactive and financially prepared. Fundraising opportunities may also be offered throughout the season.

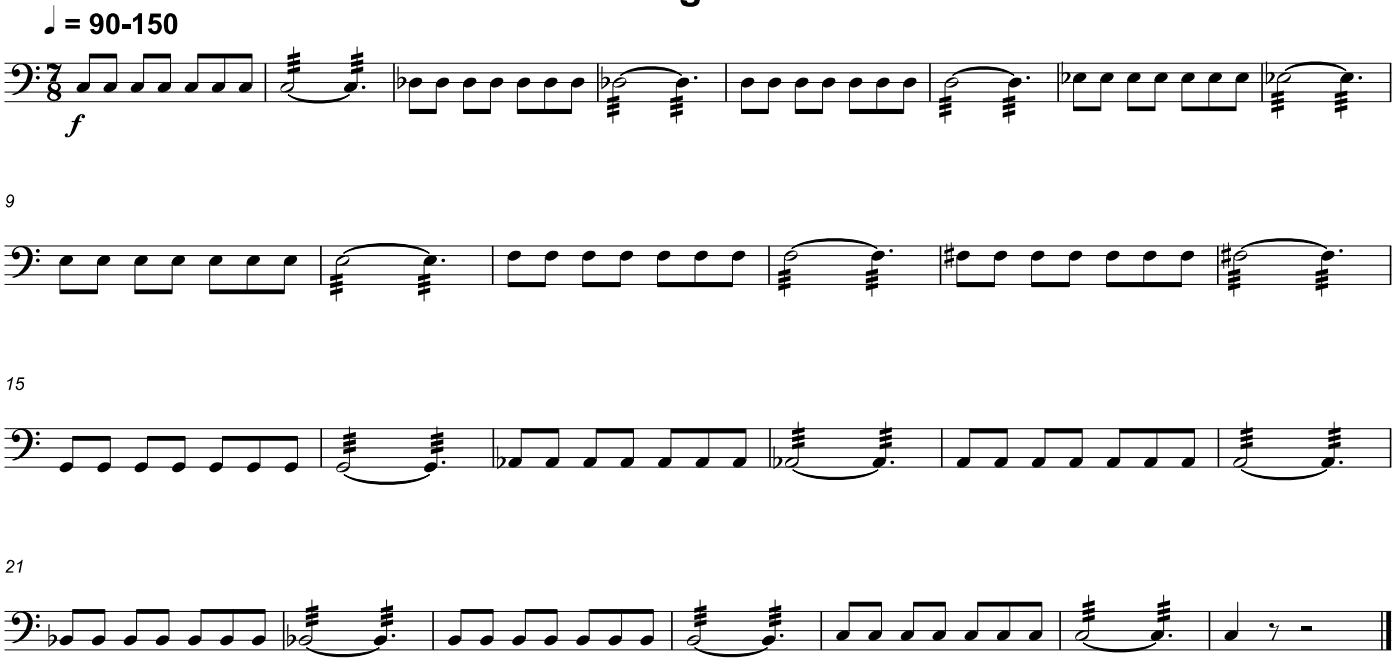
Failure to pay membership fees will jeopardize not only your participation in our 2026 season, but also your ability to participate in any other DCI/WGI ensemble in future seasons.

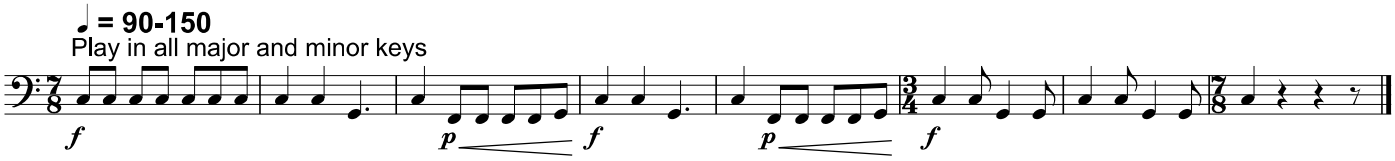
If you or your family have concerns about budgeting or payment, please reach out to the corps staff early in the process. We are here to help you navigate options and ensure that finances are not a barrier to your participation.

Timpani

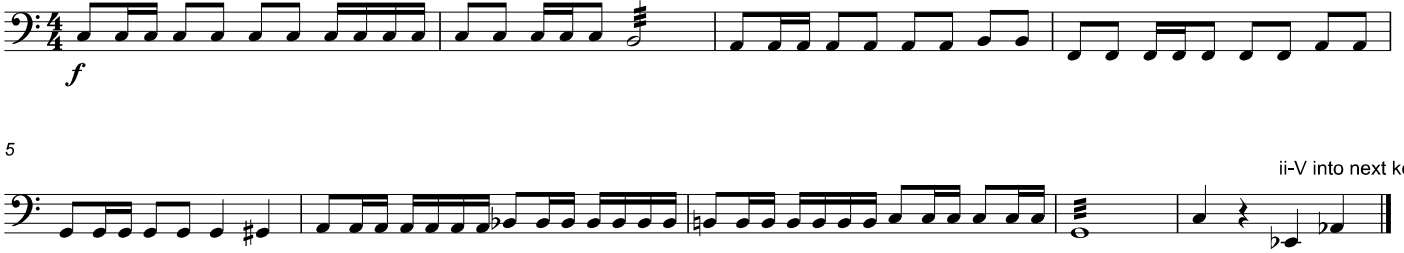
GE Front Ensemble Technique Packet

Various
arr. Lou Rosen

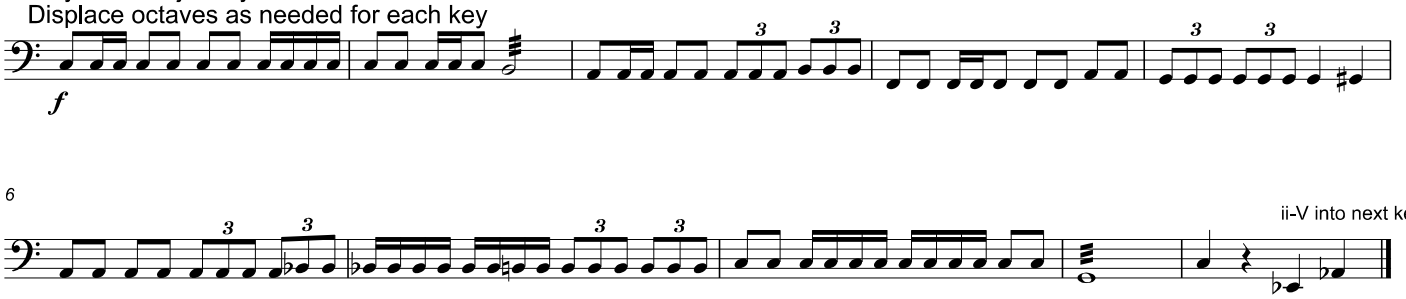
Singles

Octaves



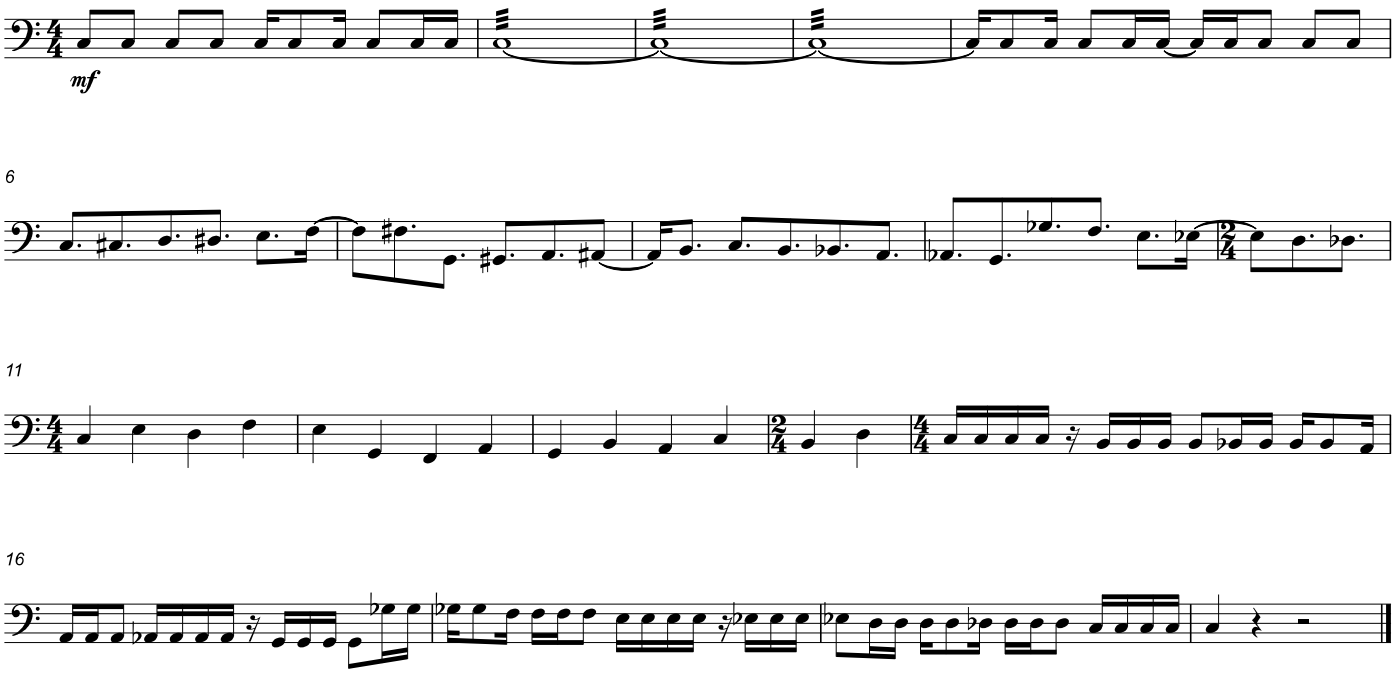
Jetsons

♩ = 90-150+
Play in all major keys
Displace octaves as needed for each key

Spicy Jetsons

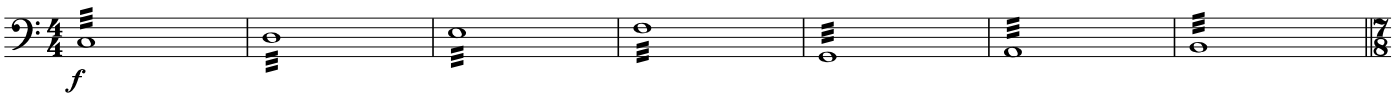
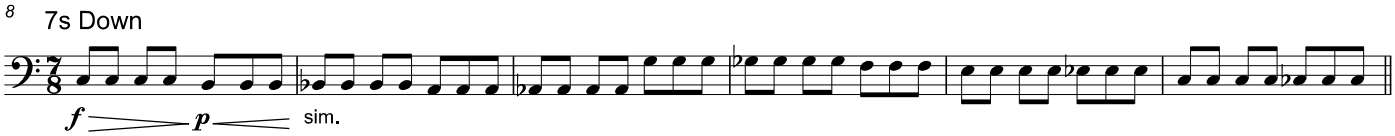
♩ = 90-150+
Play in all major keys
Displace octaves as needed for each key



Pitnic

♩ = 80-110

Vertical Strokes

♩ = 85-130

8s Up

8 7s Down

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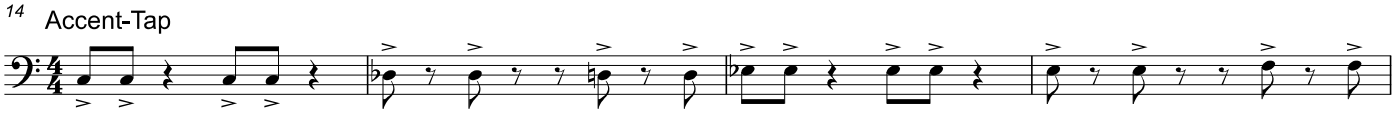
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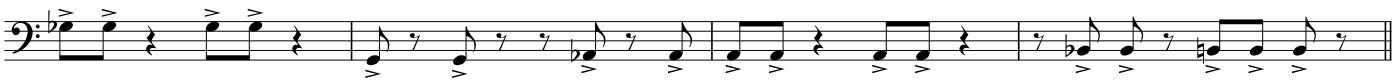
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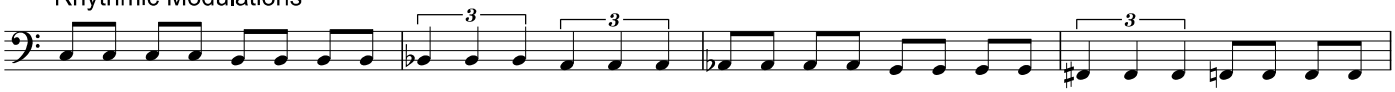
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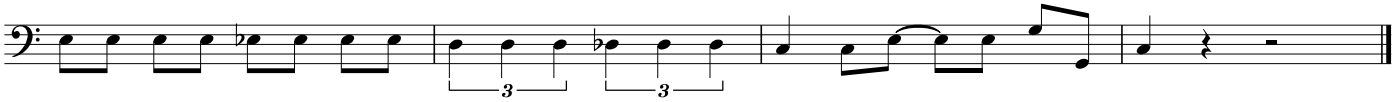
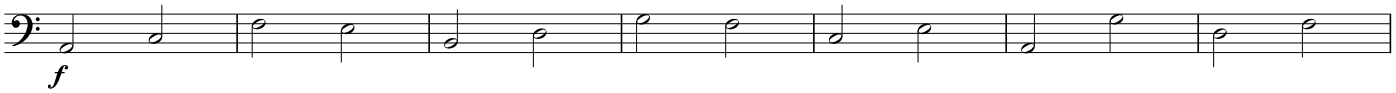

Alternating Strokes

♩ = 90-150+

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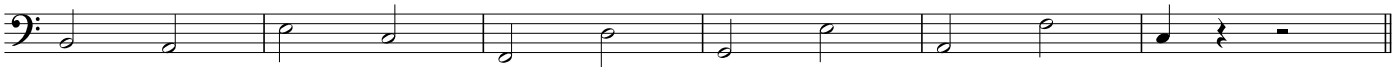
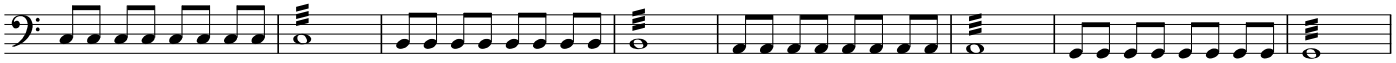

14 Variation A Ending

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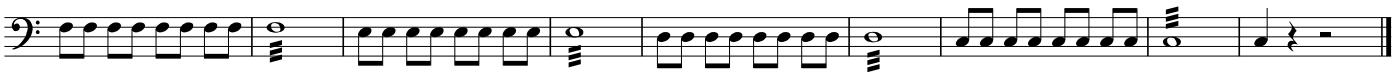
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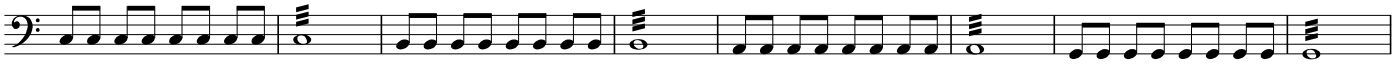

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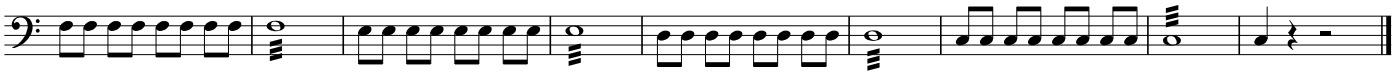
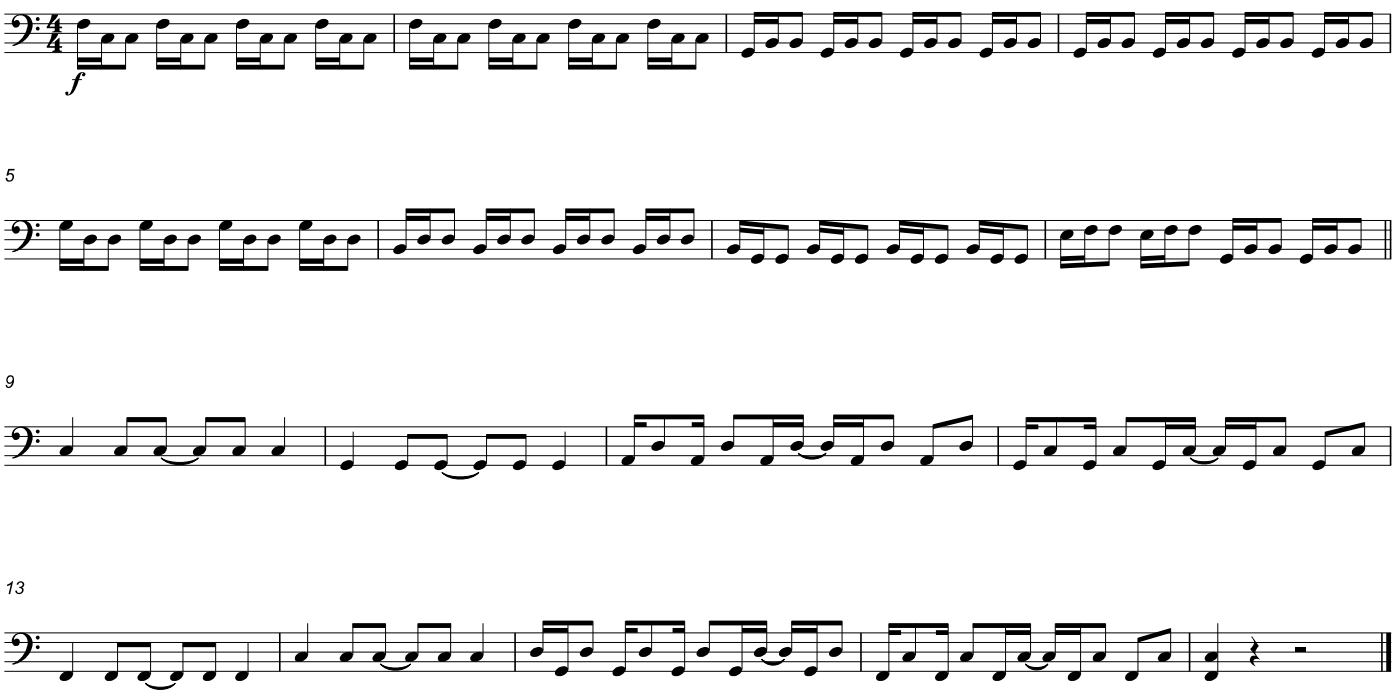
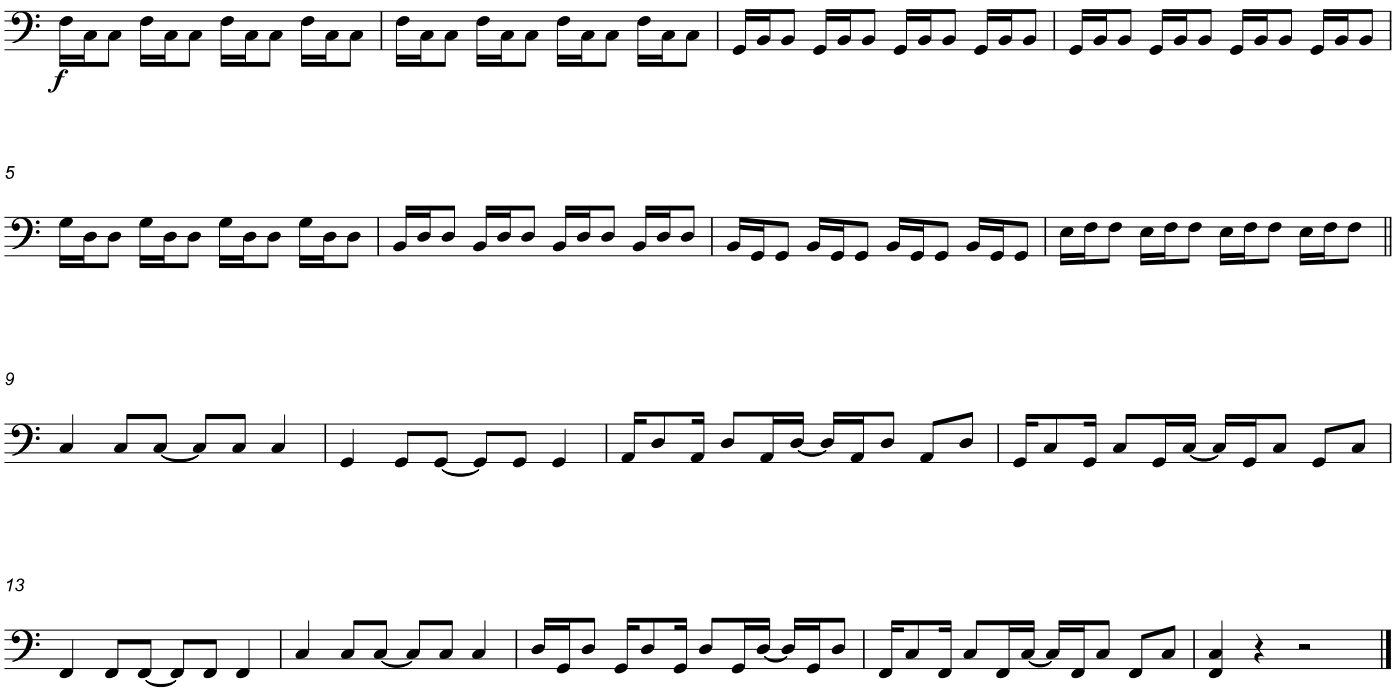

Laterals A

♩ = 90-140

Laterals B

♩ = 90-140