Large Leaps Introduction:

Large leaps is an exercise I concocted to help connect the various registers of the tuba. It is a lip slur exercise in nature that focuses on connecting octave slurs. Oftentimes people have a small "bump" when performing lip slurs that skip a partial, and it is important to minimize that, as an octave slur is common in music and should be smooth as possible.

I wrote this out for all 4 keys of Tubas, as well as a treble clef copy for those inclined.

Use the same fingering for both octaves of the same note. In general you will use the fingering of the lower octave, even though you may normally use a different one for the higher octave (12 for middle line D on a BBb tuba, even though you will generally use 0 for that note).

The last page of this exercise contains some practice tips and additional exercises to help with this exercise.

Exercise 1: Perform the lip slur pattern on all valve combinations (0,2,1,12,23,4,24) down to 24/123. This helps you facilitate the octave lip slur without having to utilize 3 octaves of your starting pitch.

Exercise 2: Break the exercise into 2 chunks: the first half and the second half. The difficult part of this exercise is landing back on your 2nd octave starting pitch (5th note) and then immediately slurring up an octave. If you practice the first half of the exercise (first 5 notes) by itself you get practice solidly hitting the 5th note. If you practice the exercise starting on the 5th note you get to perform the higher octave lip slur as well as the return back to the middle 2nd octave starting pitch (5th note).

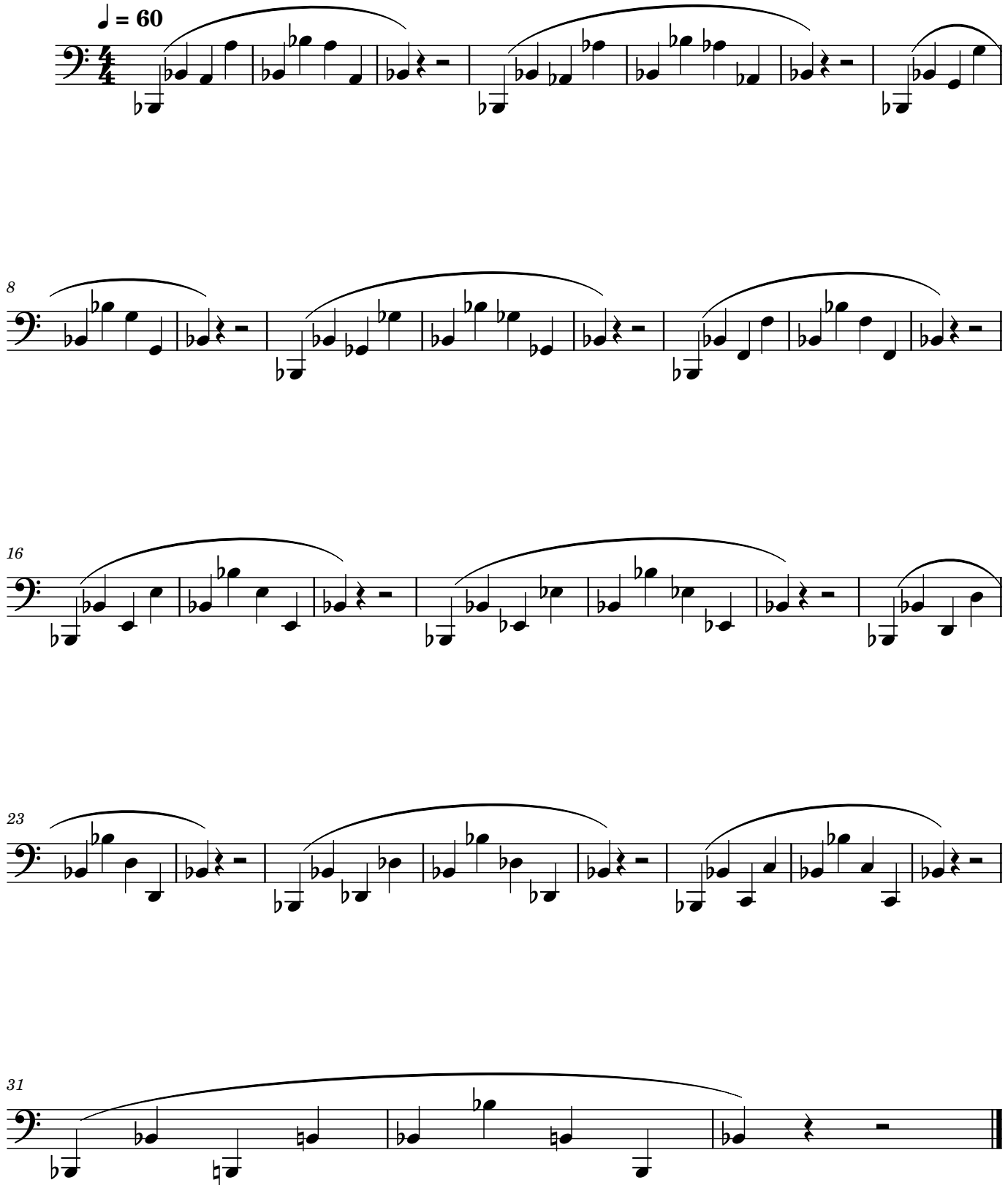
Exercise 3: Slow octave lip slurs, and a variation. These are self explanatory. Practicing a straight up octave slur will help facilitate this exercise. The variation more closely replicates the original exercise.

As far as I know this exercise has not been printed or published anywhere else. I came across this exercise in my own practice sessions and decided to catalog it for others' use. If you know of a text that has this exercise written, feel free to contact me and I will add a credit to that author.

BBb Tuba

Large Leaps

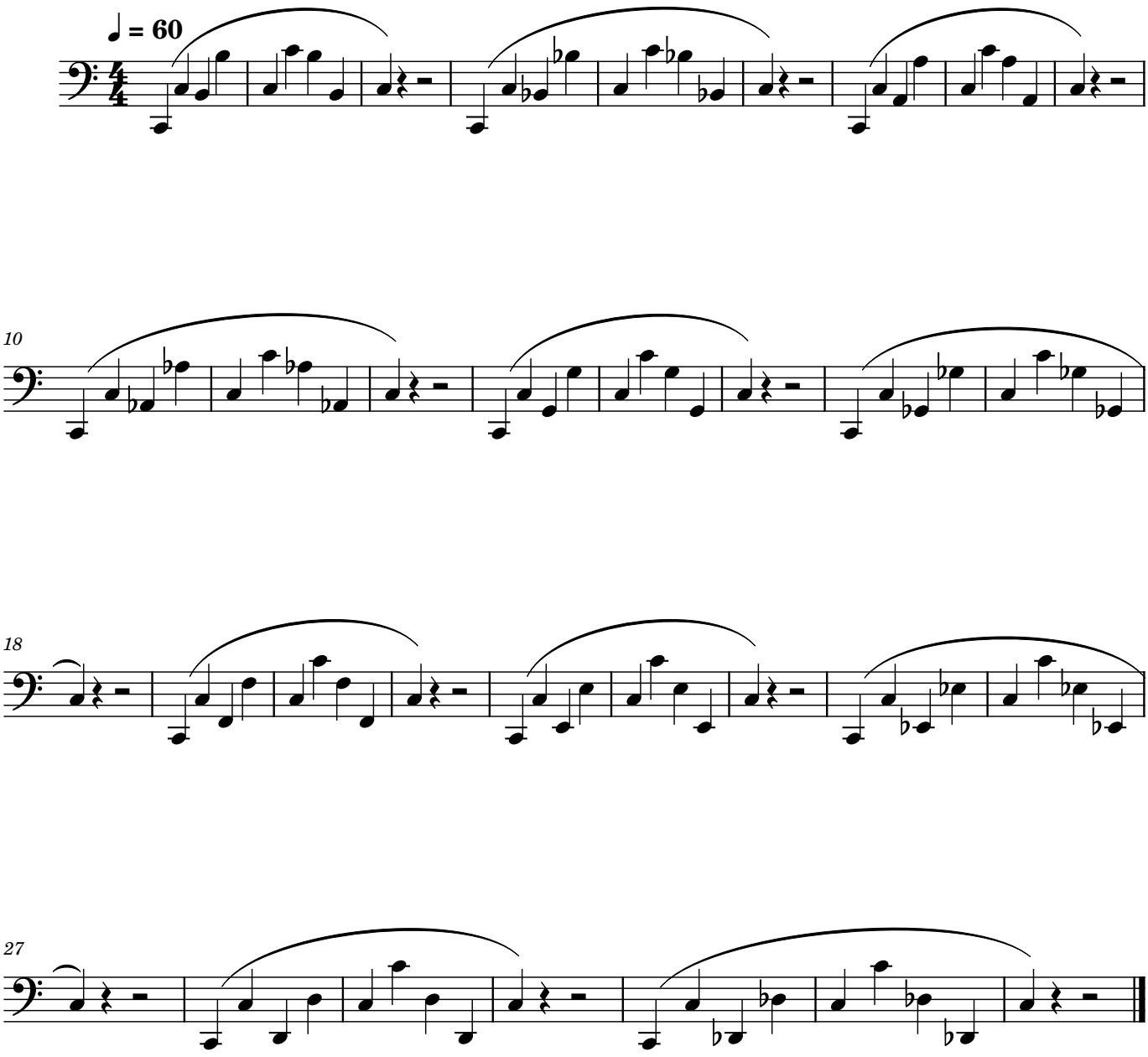
Michael J. Kirby III



CC Tuba

Large Leaps

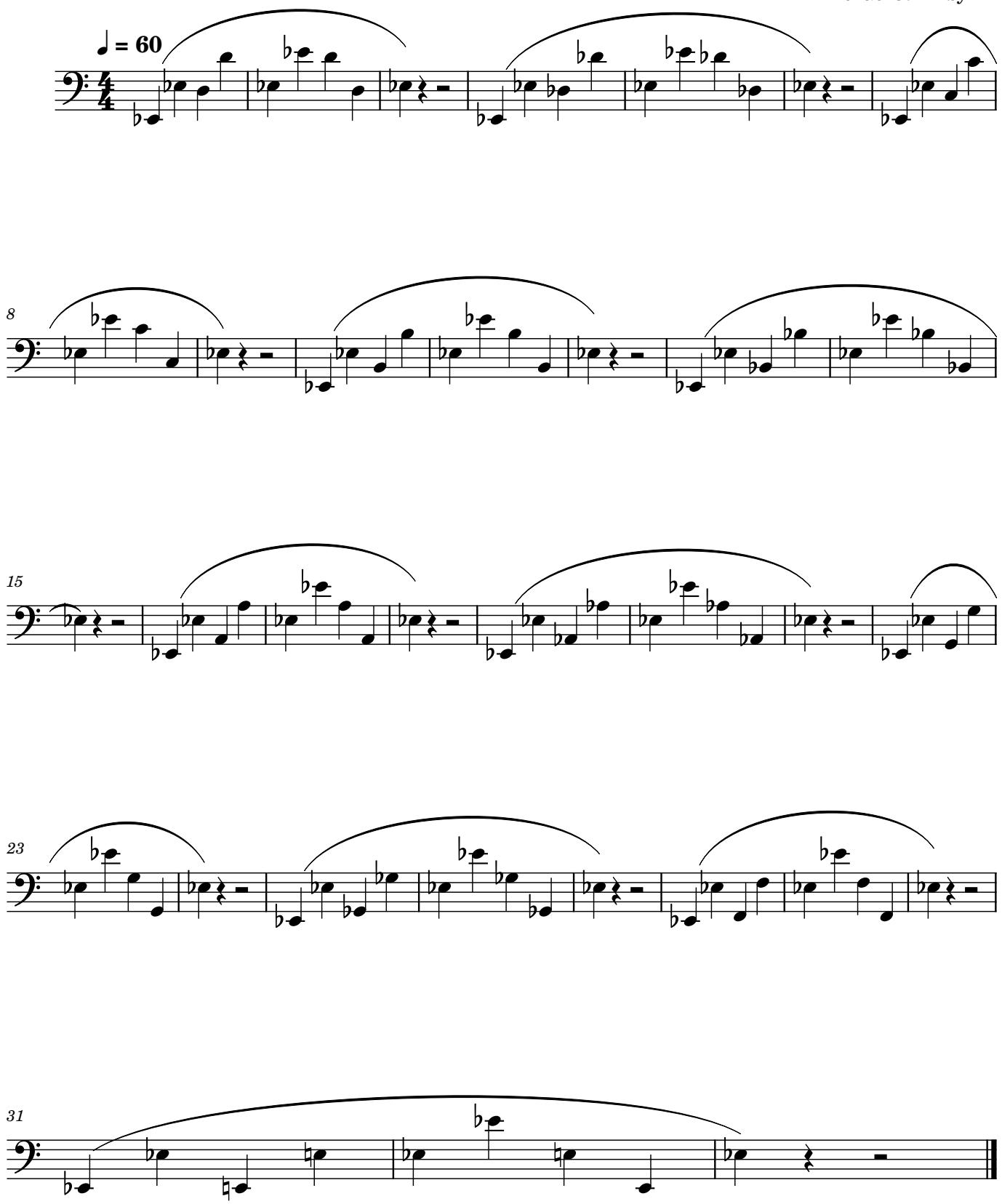
Michael J. Kirby III



Eb Tuba

Large Leaps

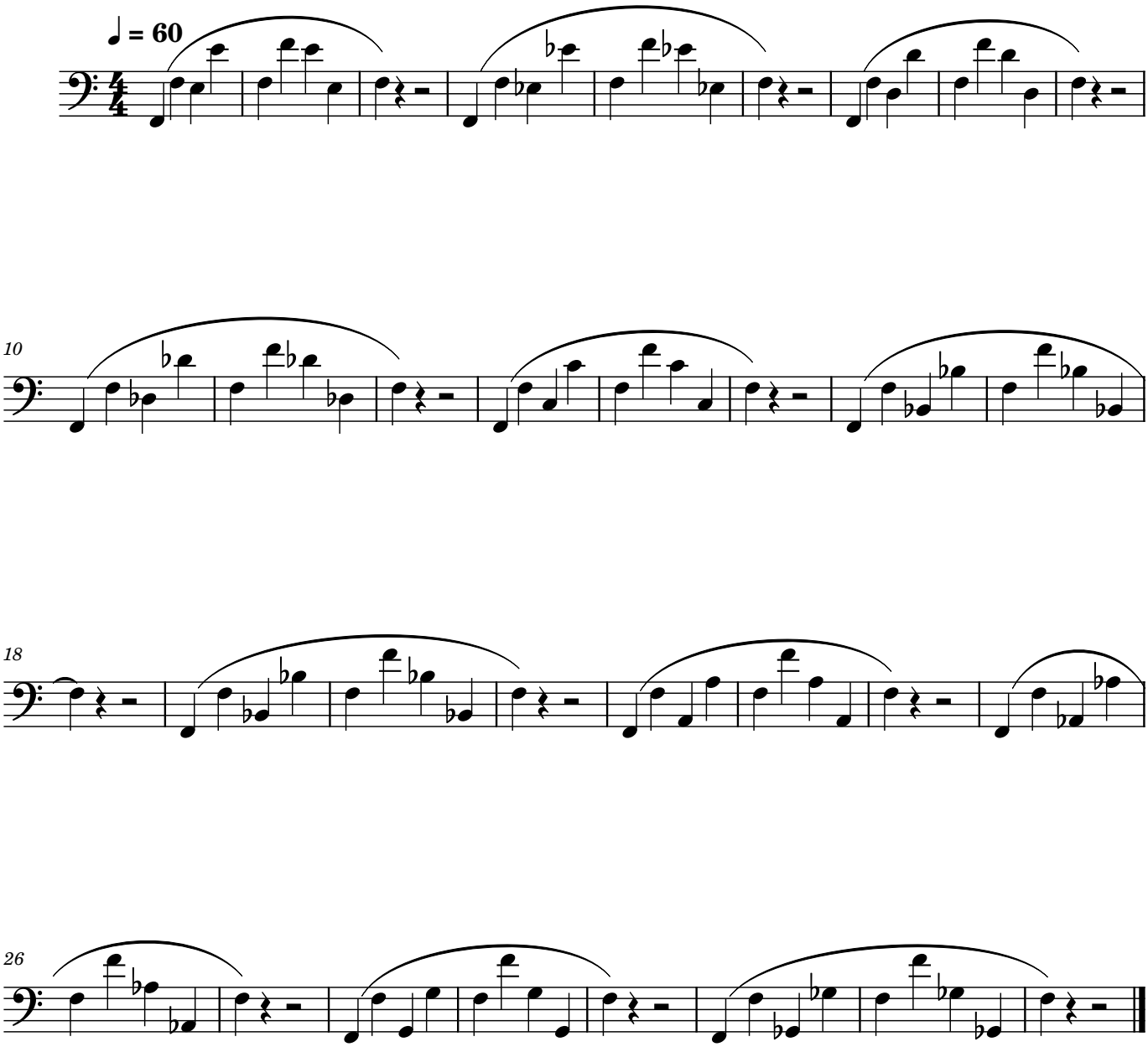
Michael J. Kirby III



F Tuba

Large Leaps

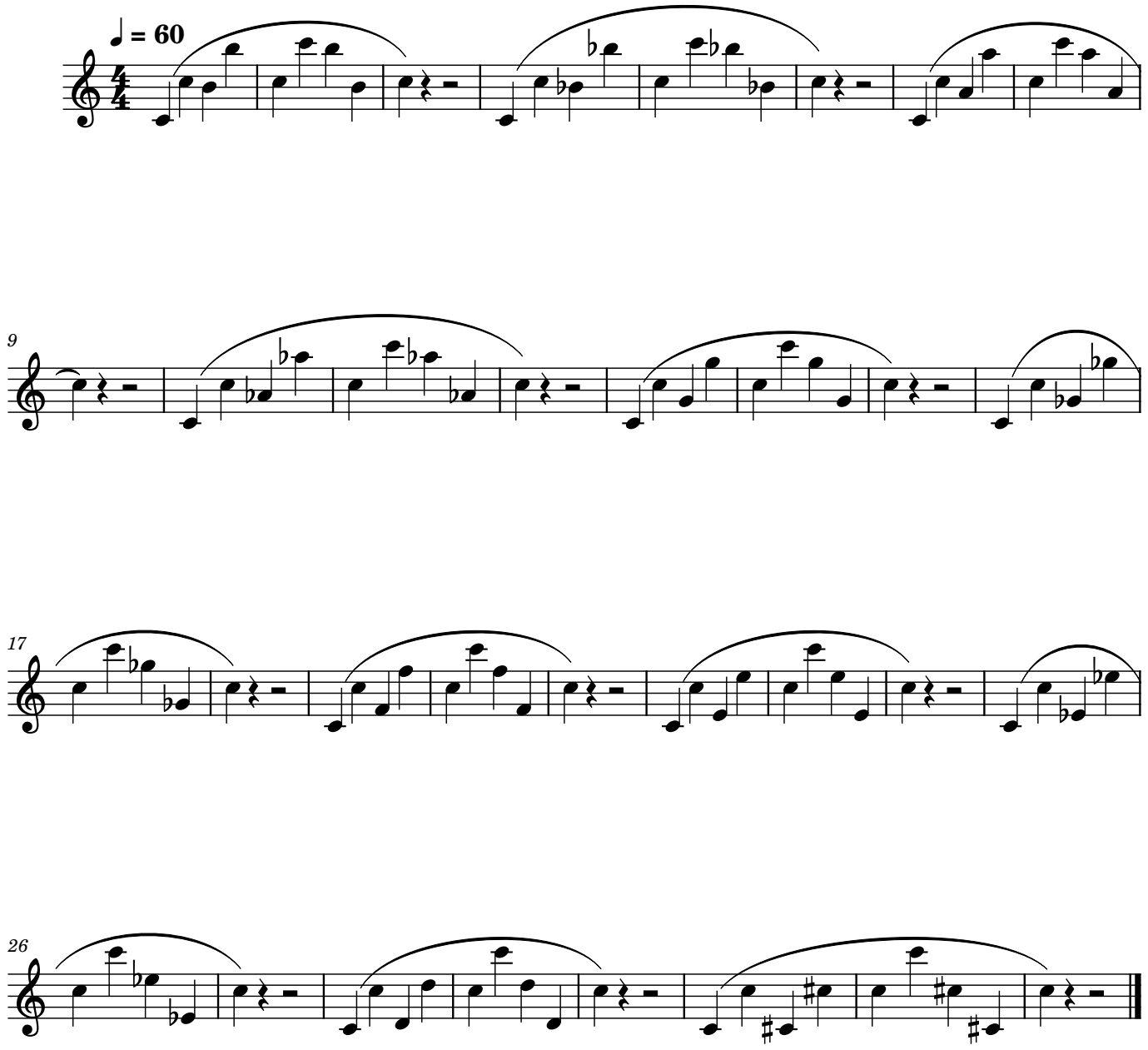
Michael J. Kirby III



Treble Clef

Large Leaps

Michael J. Kirby III

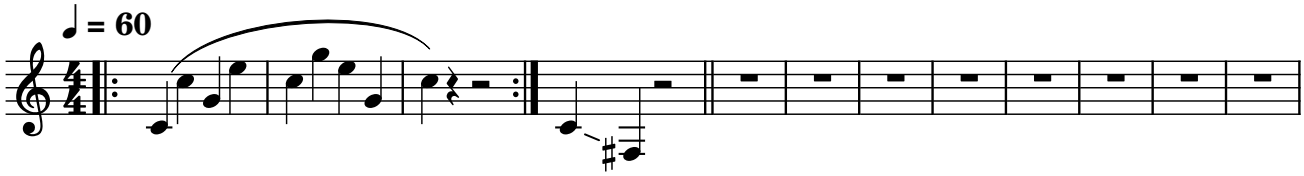
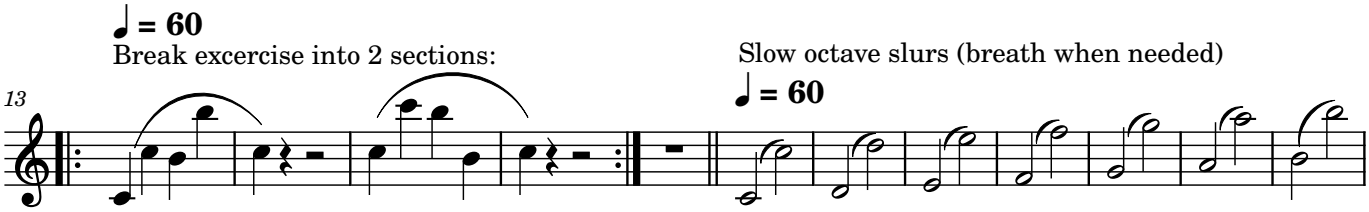
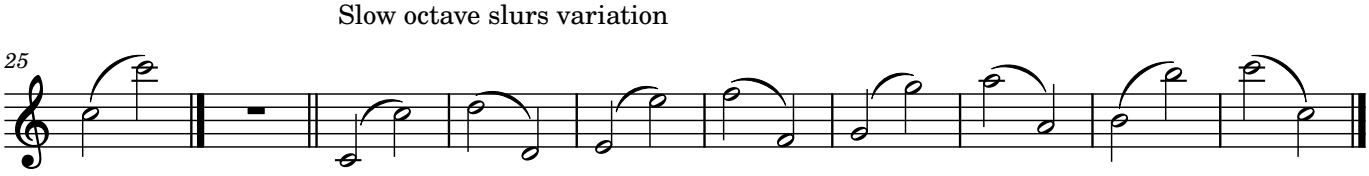


Treble Clef

Large Leaps

Practice Tips

Michael J. Kirby III



Lip slur pattern: perform from 0 to 24(123) valve combination