Knowing Your Member
(of the Chord)

An Intonation and Chord Identification Soiree

This is a fun and productive game I learned from Brad Edwards. He's a guest on Episode #88 of the TromboneLessons.com Video Podcasts:

http://tbonegib.podbean.com/

The purpose of this game is to know which member of the chord you are playing. You'll also want to be able to tell the quality (or "flavor" of the chord). Only 3 types of chords are present in this exercise: Major, minor, and diminished. (We'll do more later, including 4-voice textures.) Some of these chords are in INVERSION. That simply means that the ROOT of the chord is not in the lowest voice.

Some great musicians I know tell me that they can hear "colors" of chords...that's how they can tell if a chord is Major, minor, diminished, etc.

I once saw a television documentary explaining how some people can taste or smell sounds. Fascinating! Whether or not you have that capability, sometimes it's helpful to try sensing the musical sounds you hear in a new way. As you play this game with friends or students, try identifying the chords (and their inversions/qualities) by associating them with colors, tastes, smells, or mental pictures. If nothing else, it's an interesting experiment, no?

One player in this game (or the coach/teacher) can refer to the score for the correct answers. Everybody else should rely solely upon their ears. Try playing some chords with your eyes closed (no touching the bell with your fingers!). Many players find that this helps them concentrate. Each player should take turns guessing the QUALITY of the chord (i.e. "G Major, first inversion" or "C minor, root position", etc.) and which CHORD TONE they're playing (root, third, or 5th).

TIP: don't play too softly at first. Everybody should make a big, easy, resonant sound. Listen for overtones and strive to sound like ONE player. Ideally, these should sound much like an ORGAN, or choir of voices. That will require each player to make their best sound and listen carefully to the other players for BLEND.

We hope you have fun with this! Doing this type of exercise (and making up more for yourselves) is a really useful way to develop your musical perception. Obviously, knowing how your part fits into any musical texture is vitally important. This is a good way to start down that road.....

Thanks, Brad, for this great ear-opening exercise! Visit him at: www.bonezone.org

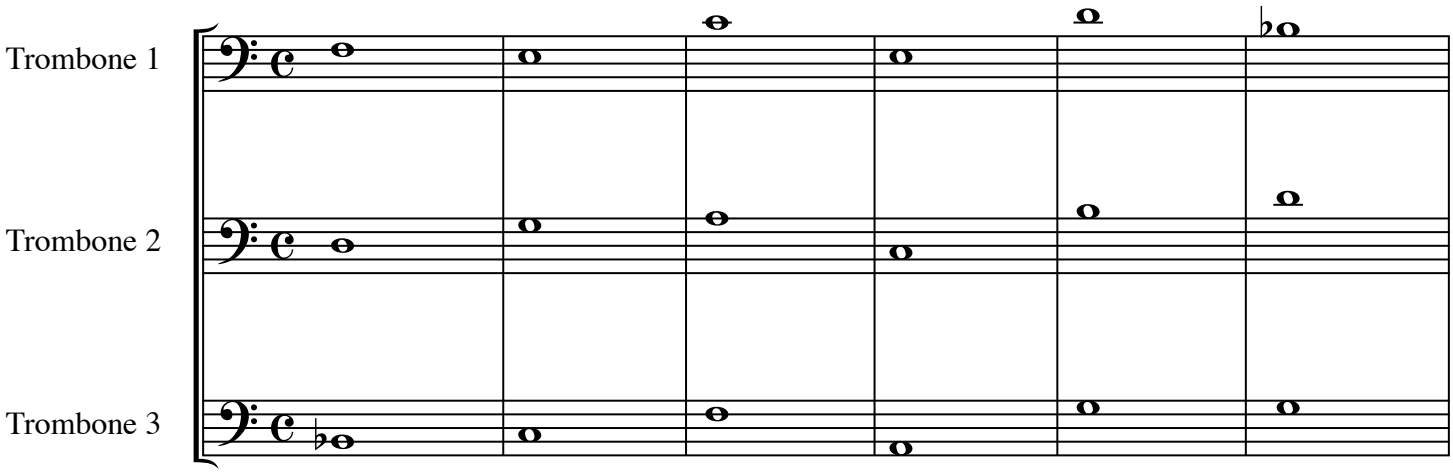
-Dr. Tom

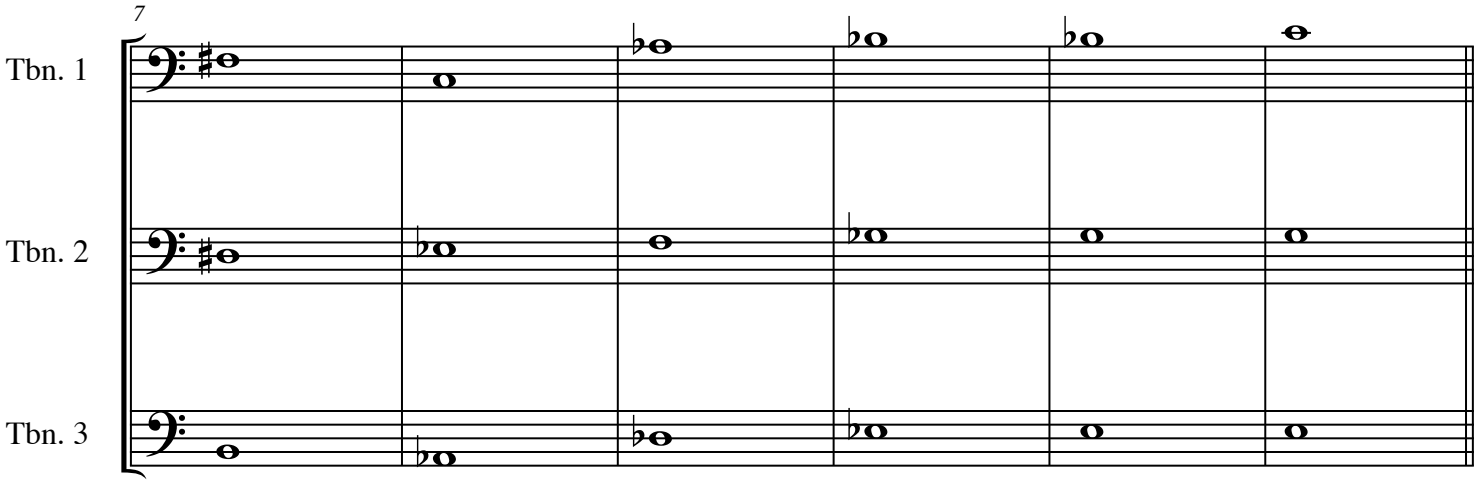
Score

Knowing Your Member (of the chord)

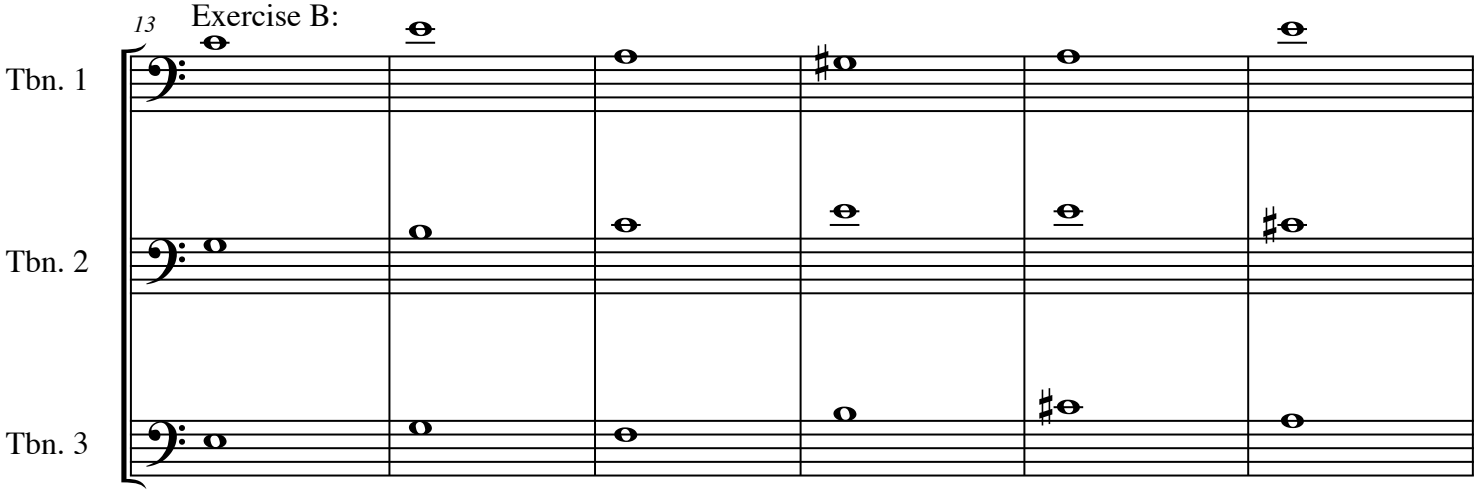
T. Gibson

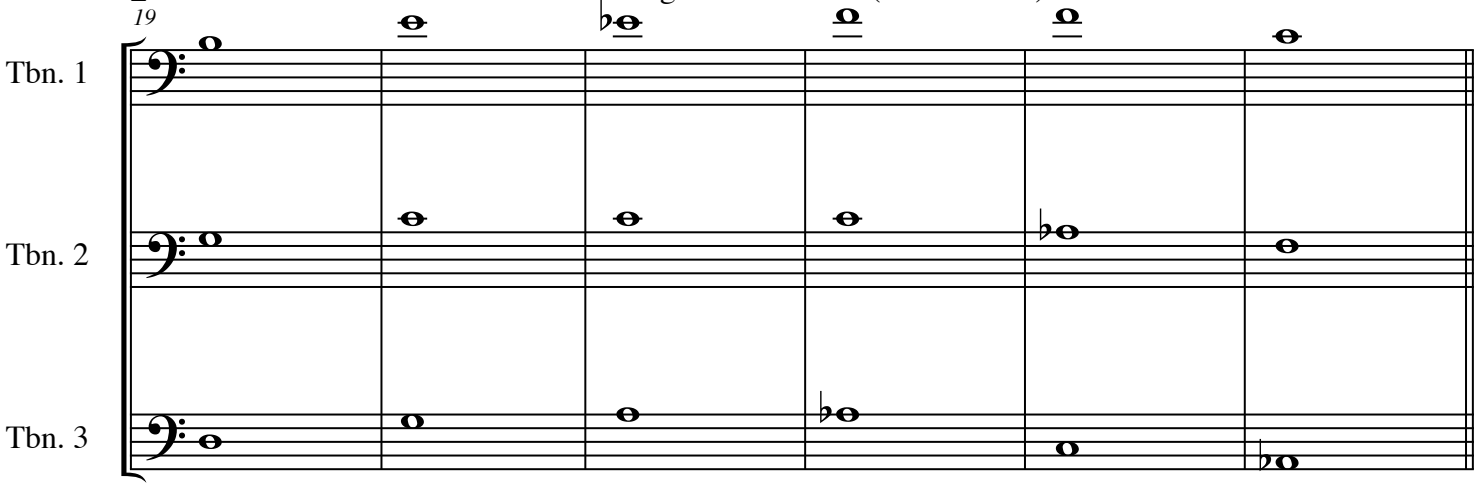
Exercise A:





13 Exercise B:





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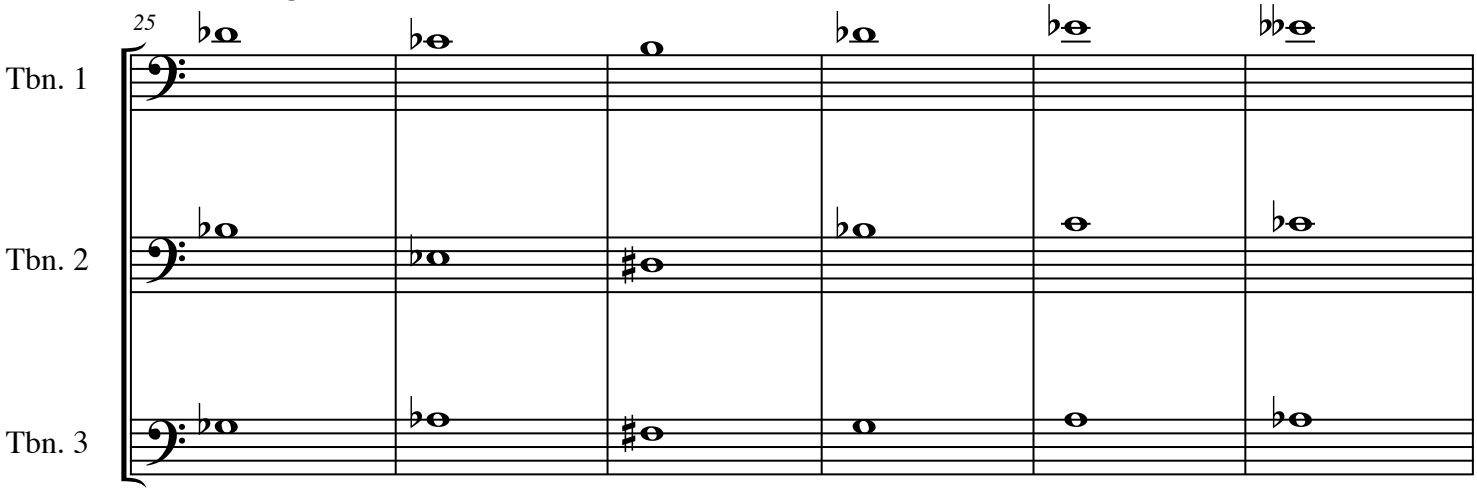
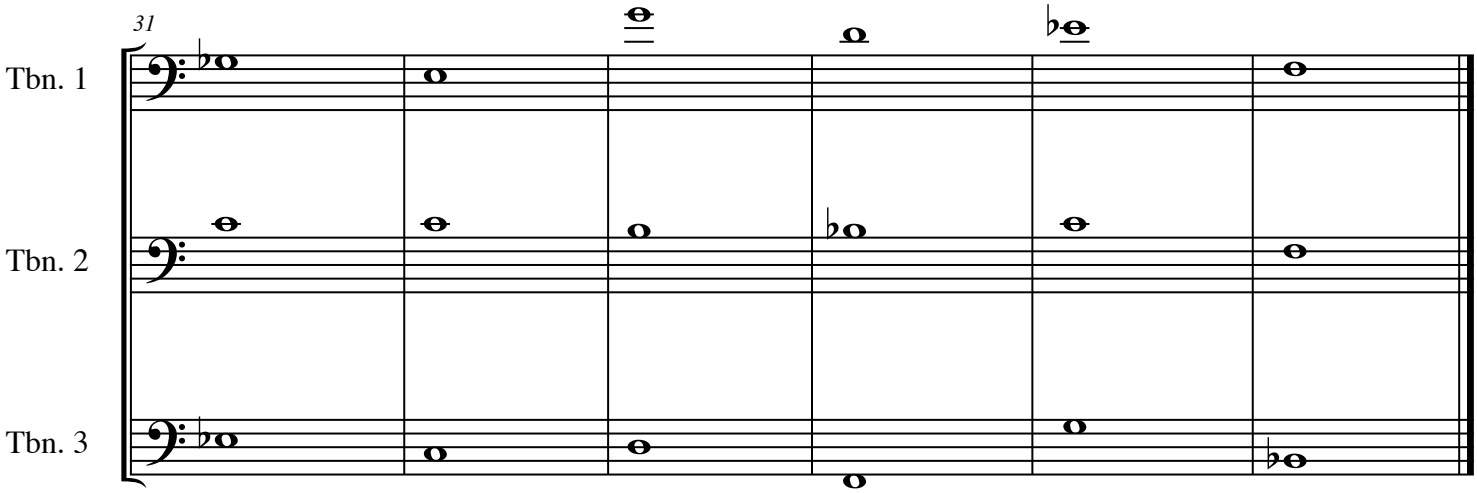


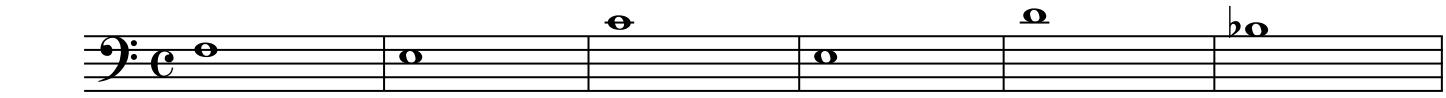


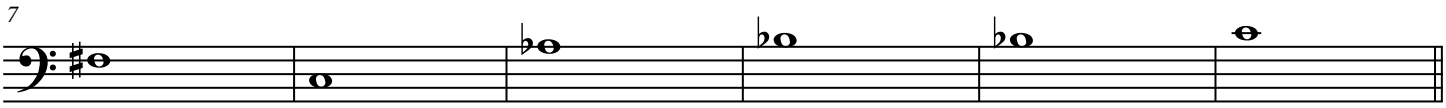
Trombone 1

Knowing Your Member (of the chord)

T. Gibson

Exercise A:





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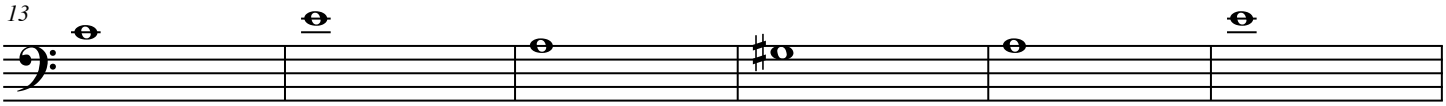

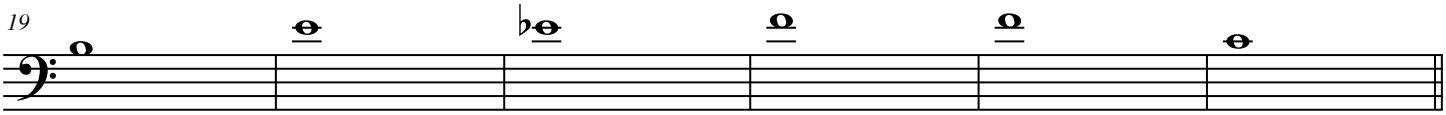

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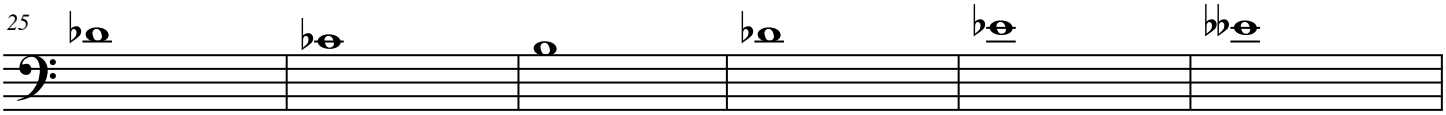

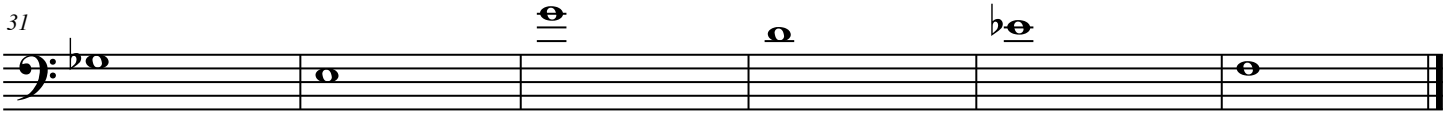

Trombone 2

Knowing Your Member (of the chord)

T. Gibson

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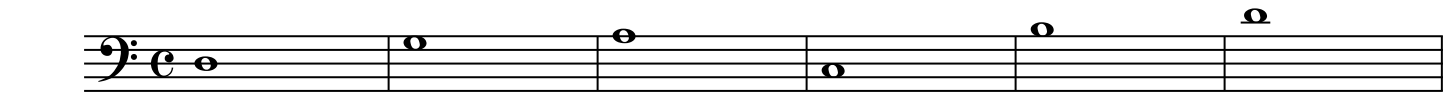

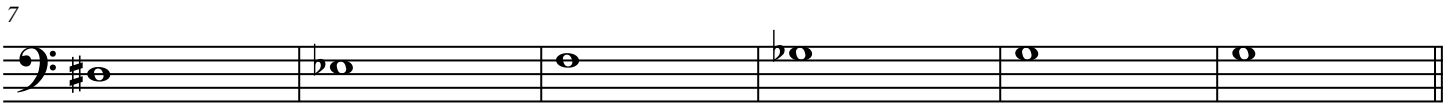

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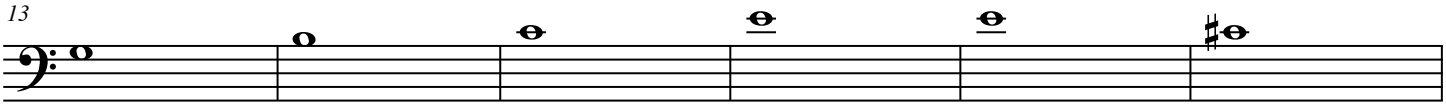

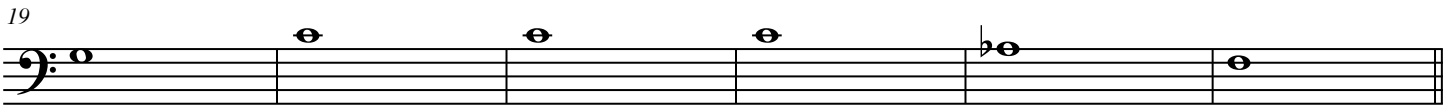

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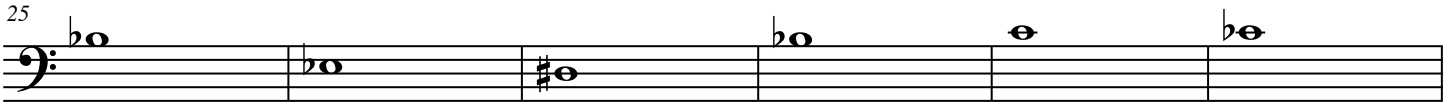

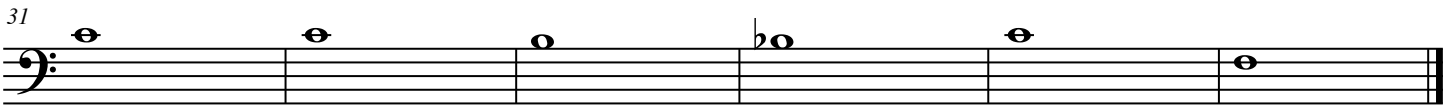

Trombone 3

Knowing Your Member (of the chord)

T. Gibson

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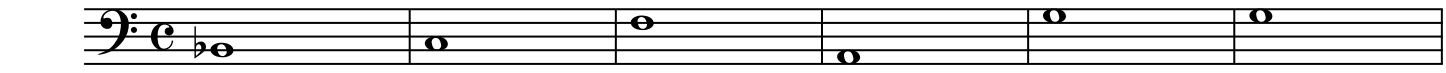

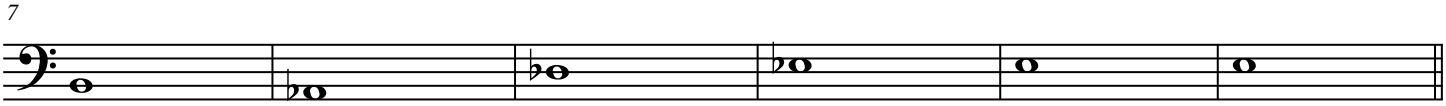

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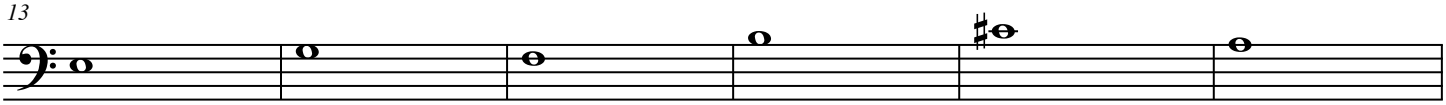

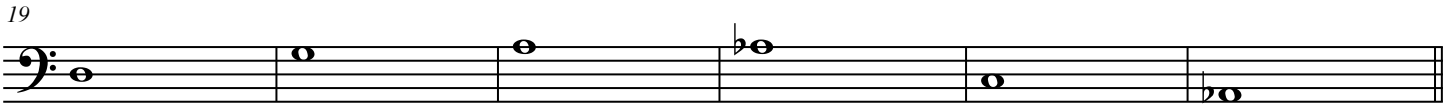

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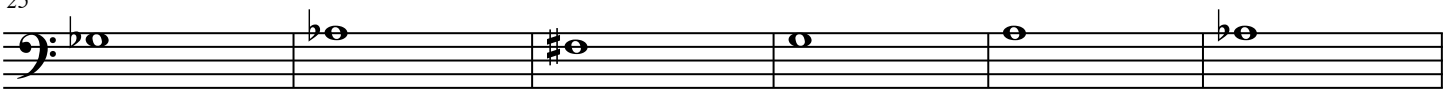
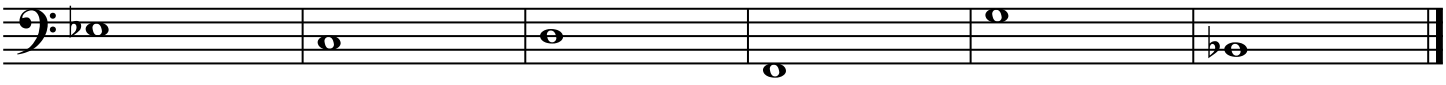
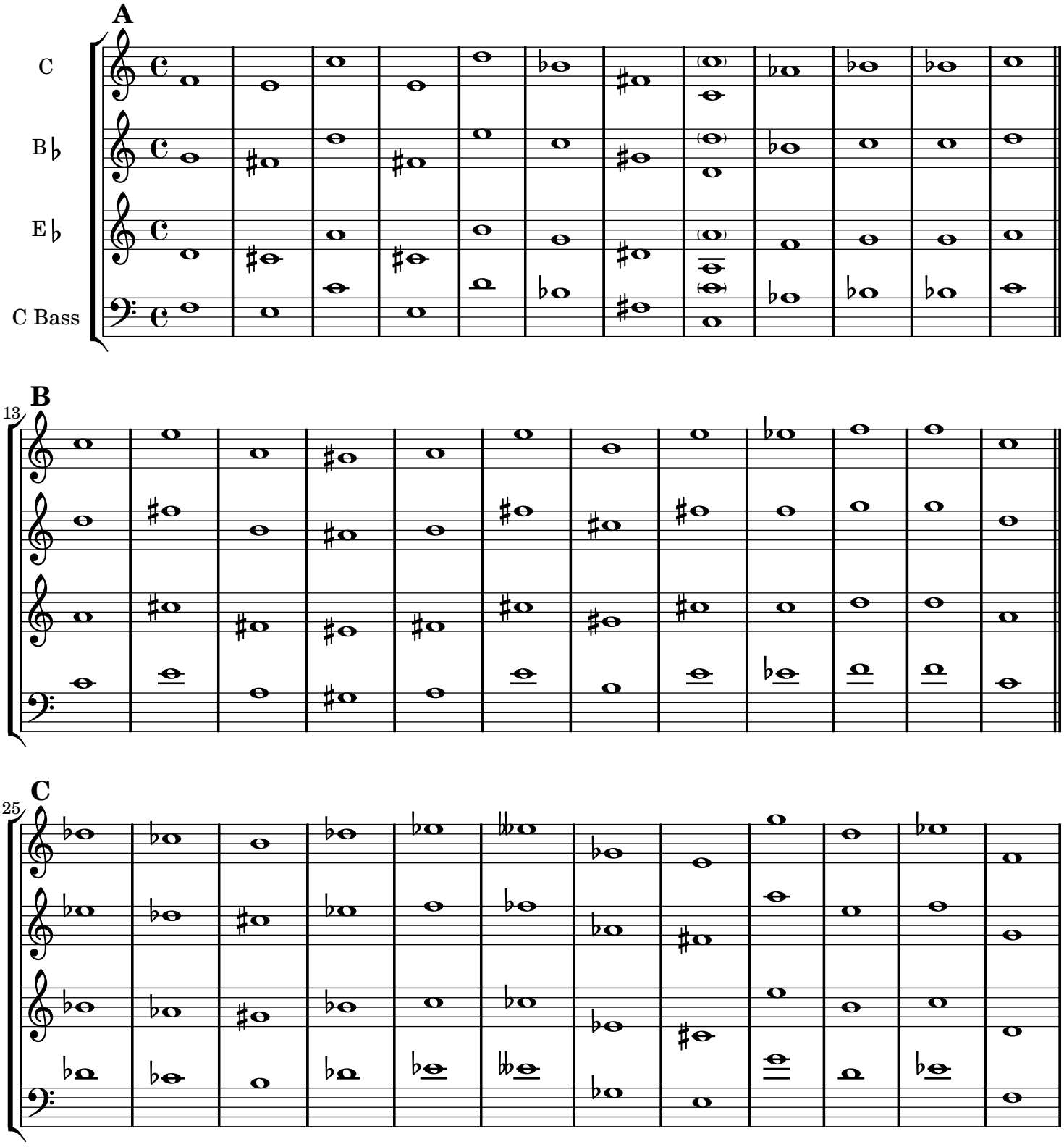




Knowing Your Member (of the chord)

Part #1

T. Gibson



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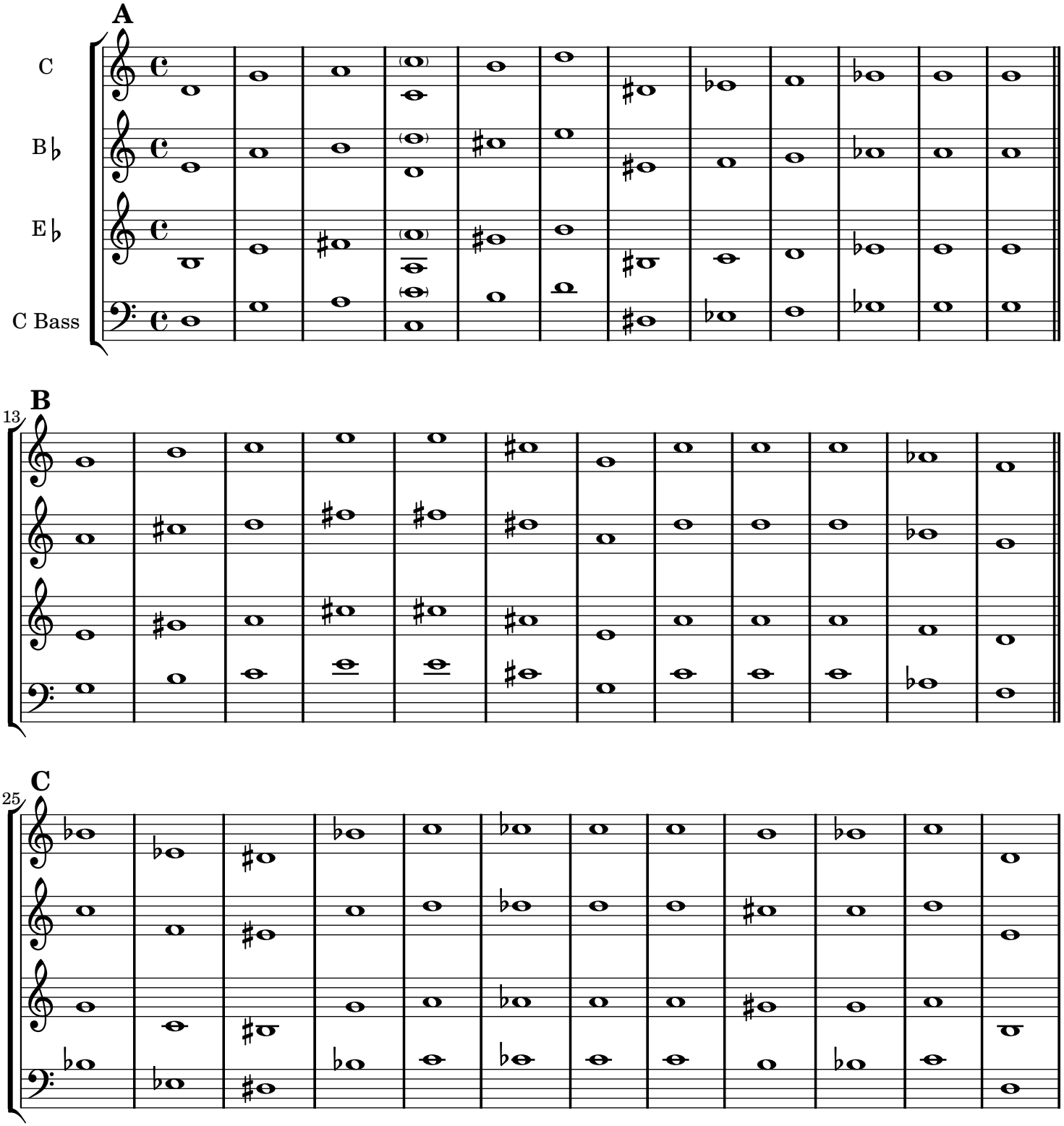
Part #2

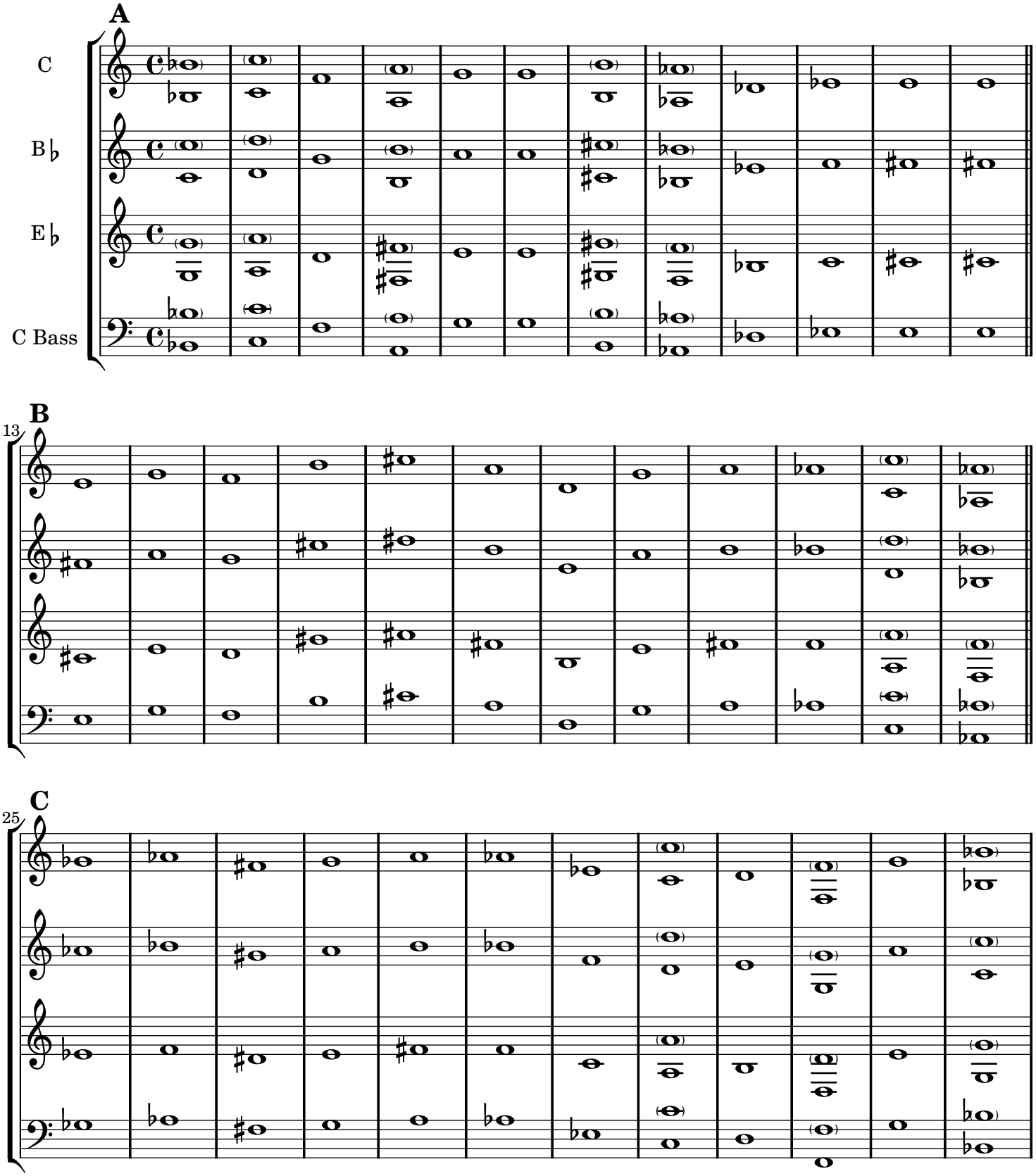
T. Gibson



Knowing Your Member (of the chord)

Part #3

T. Gibson



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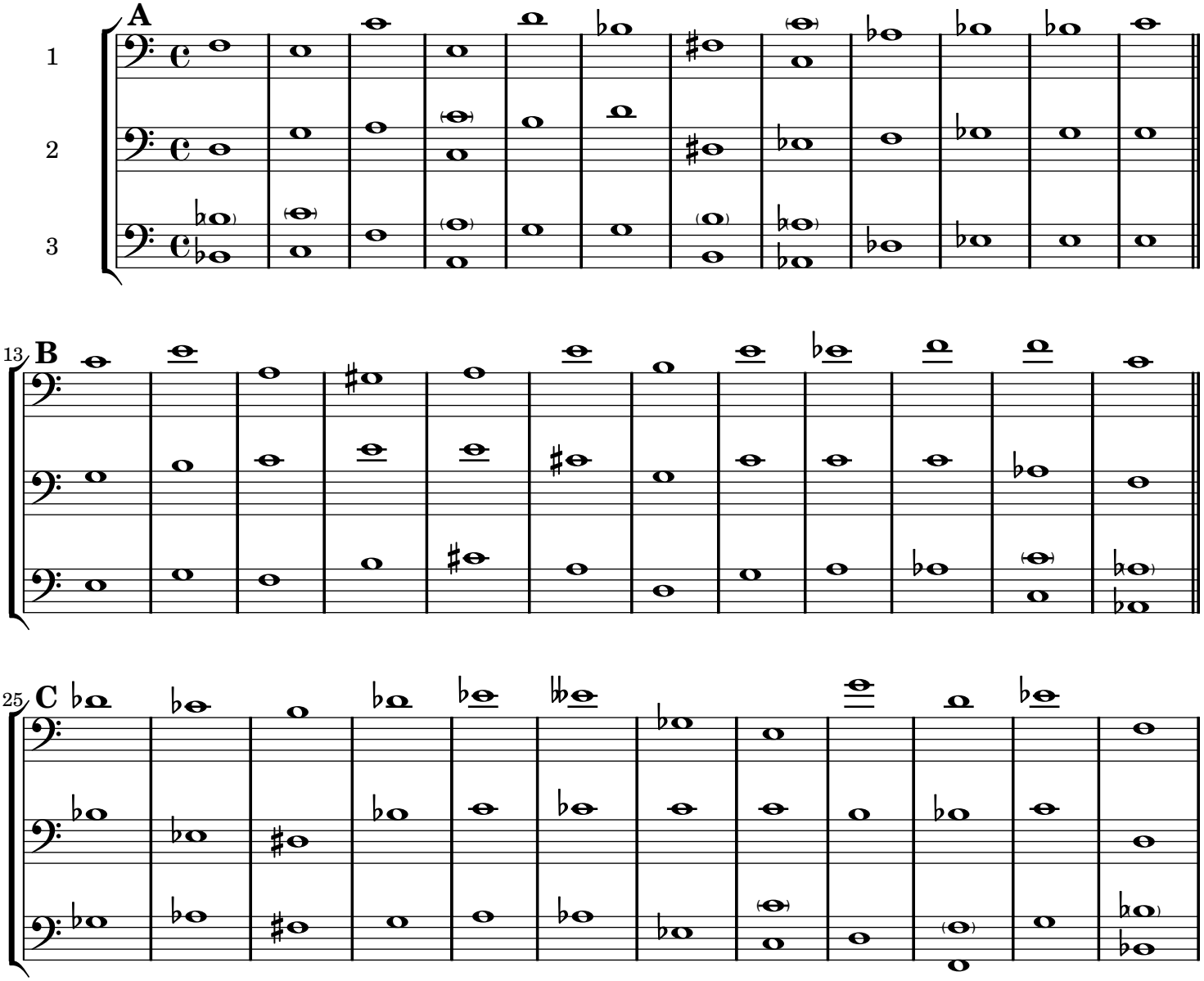
T. Gibson