SWAN LAKE

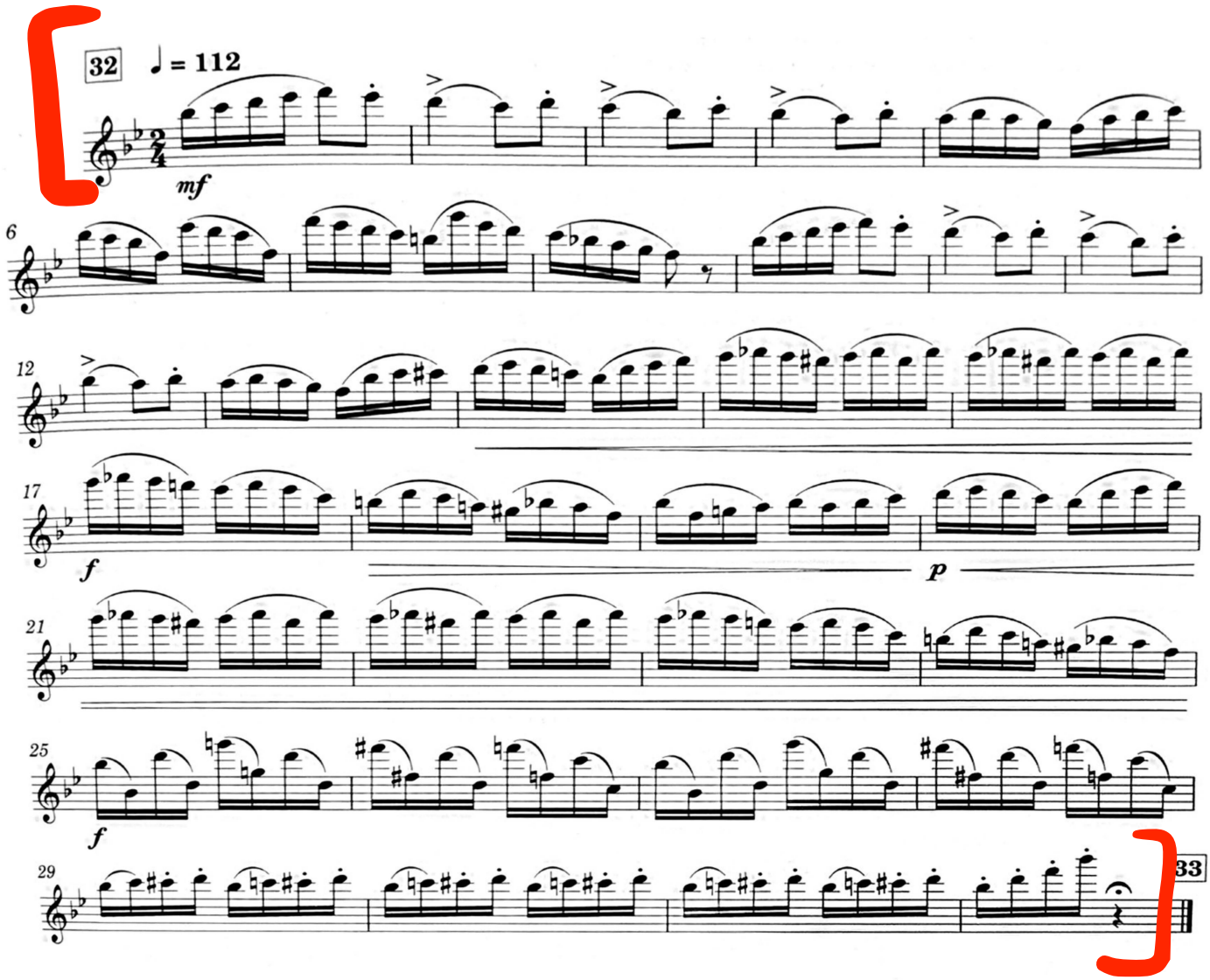
PETER ILYITCH TCHAIKOVSKY, Op. 20

Swan Lake was premiered in March 1877 at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. It is one the most beloved of all ballets and also a favorite in the symphonic repertoire, often performed on the concert stage as an orchestral suite.

Excerpt 1: Act III, No. 19, Pas de Six, [32] - [33]
Suggested tempo: ♩ = 112

This excerpt begins with a spirited dance melody and then quickly moves into a remarkably extended technical display piece of six lines of music. Strategic technical practice is necessary so that the muscle memory is firmly in place. There is no time to think and plan in musical moments such as this.

Even though the dynamic is *f*, a slightly lighter approach, tonally, makes a highly complex passage a bit easier.

Be prepared, in performance or in an audition, for the conductor to request a faster tempo. In highly technical excerpts, you should strive to be comfortable in several tempi, so you are ready for any request from the podium.

Errata:
• In the 18th bar of this solo (the bar marked diminuendo), the first note should be marked B♮, based on the score and the repeat in the following phrase. The faint pencil marking here is another case of marked-up parts being helpful.
• Bars 2-4 from the end should be marked slur 2 and staccato-tongue 2 on each beat, as shown correctly only on the final beat of these three bars.