Other Diatonic Seventh Chords

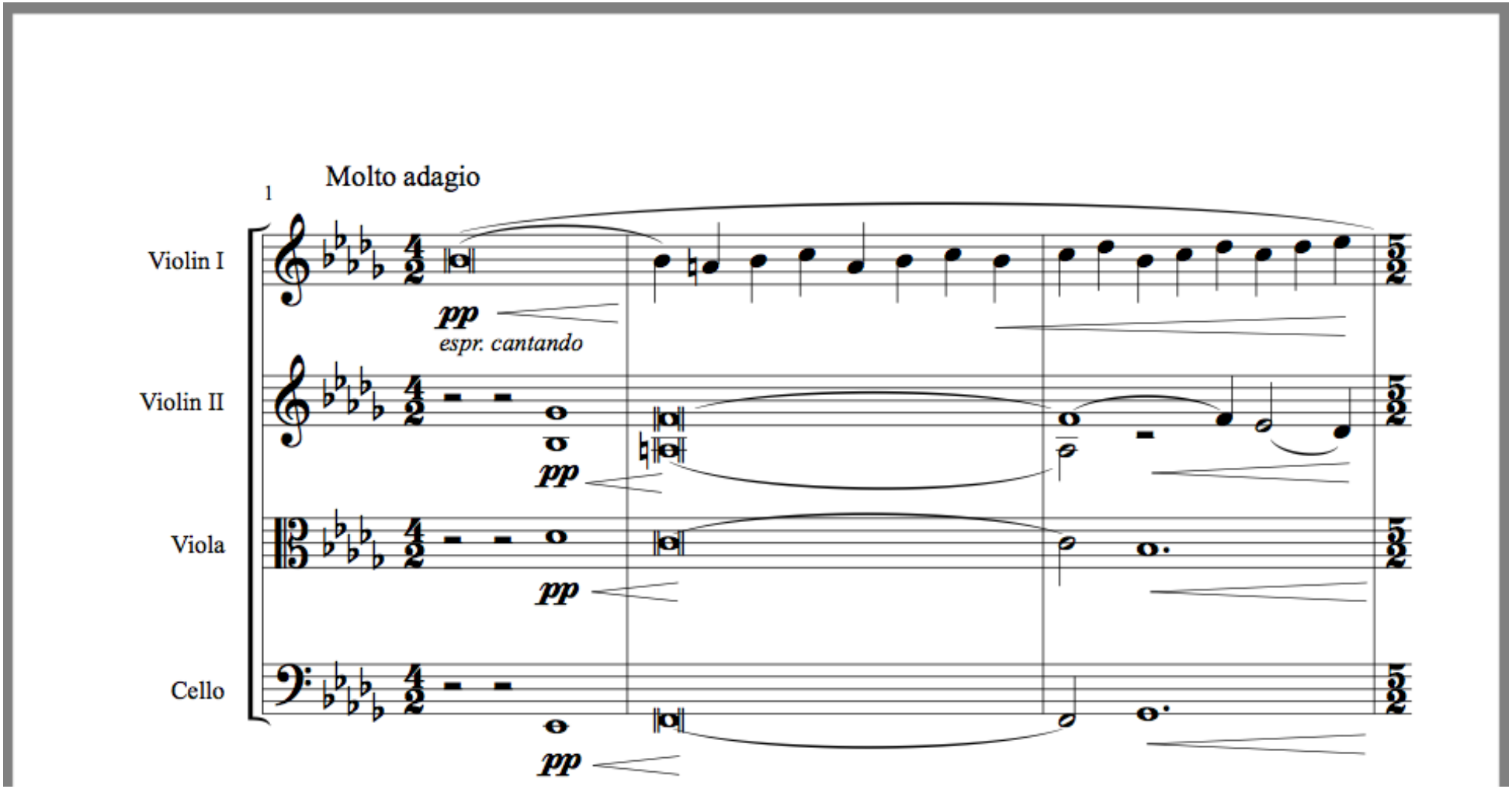
Molloy College – Sam Wells

IV^7 & iv^7

- The subdominant seventh chord is:
  - A major-major seventh in Major
  - A minor-minor seventh in minor
- Like the subdominant triad it often progresses to V through ii
- Resolving a IV^7 chord presents no new issues, except when resolving to V.
  - To avoid parallel 5ths, it is good to resolve through a I 6/4 chord.

Barber, String Quartet, op. 11, mvt. 2

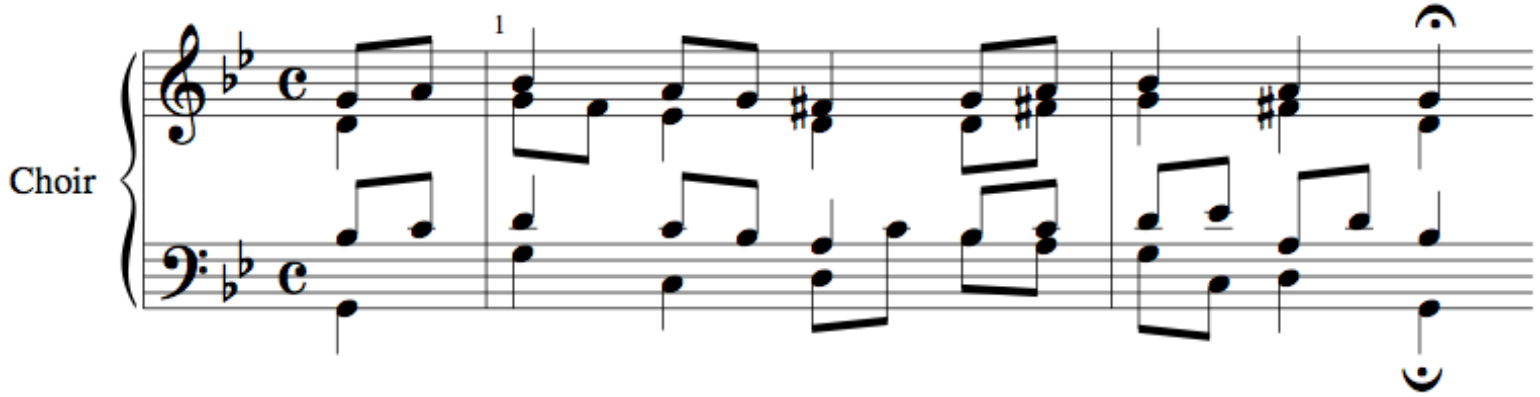
0:00 -1:20



J. S. Bach, Chorale no. 72

Erhalt'uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort

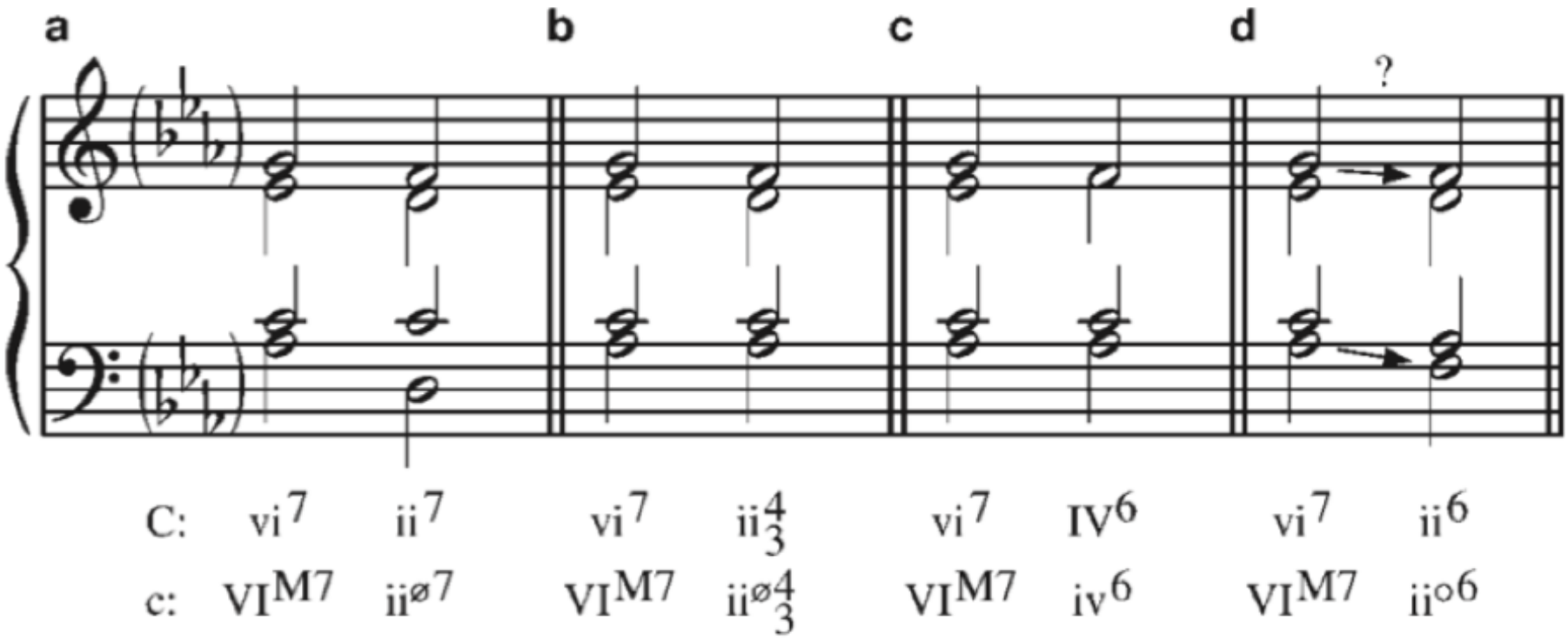
0:00 -0:11



vi^7 & VI^7

- The submediant seventh chord is:
  - A minor-minor seventh in Major
  - A Major-major seventh in minor
- Also, generally moves to V through IV or ii

Example 15-7



15-7a 0:00 -0:09

15-7b 0:00 -0:09

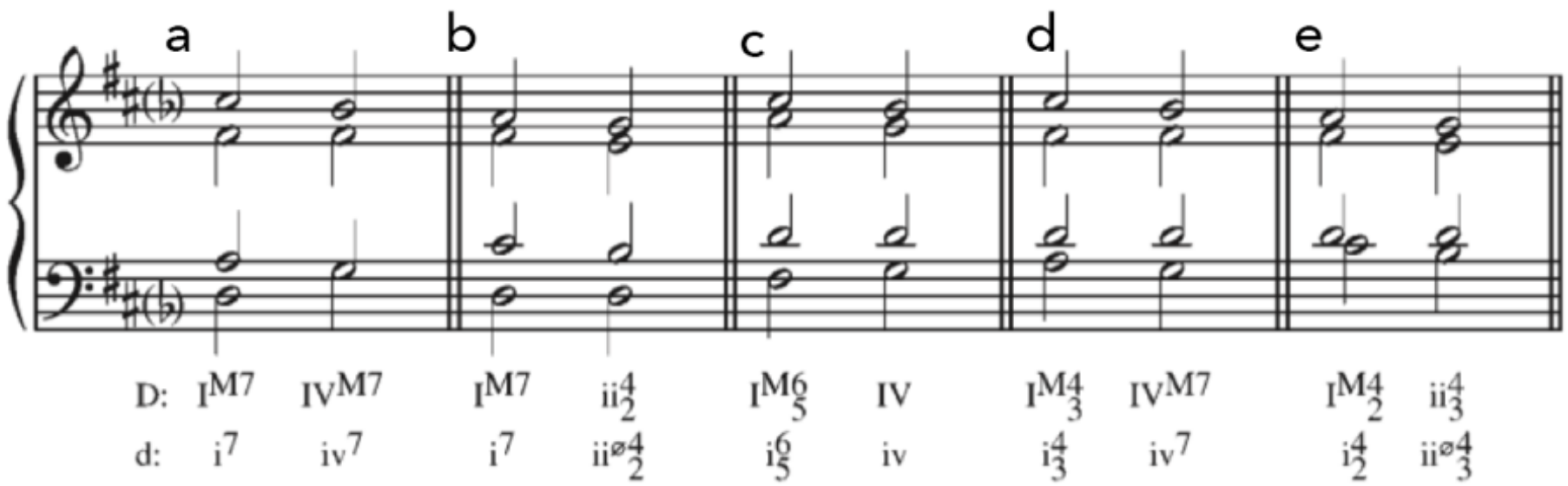
15-7c 0:00 -0:09

15-7d 0:00 -0:12

I^7 & i^7

- The tonic tonic chord is:
  - Is VERY RARE in the tonal tradition
    - but it is common in jazz or pop music
  - A major-major seventh in Major
  - A minor-minor seventh in minor
- The addition of the seventh makes it unstable, and thus requires resolution.
  - It tends to move to IV (iv)

Example 15-12



15-12a 0:00 -0:07

15-12b 0:00 -0:07

15-12c 0:00 -0:07

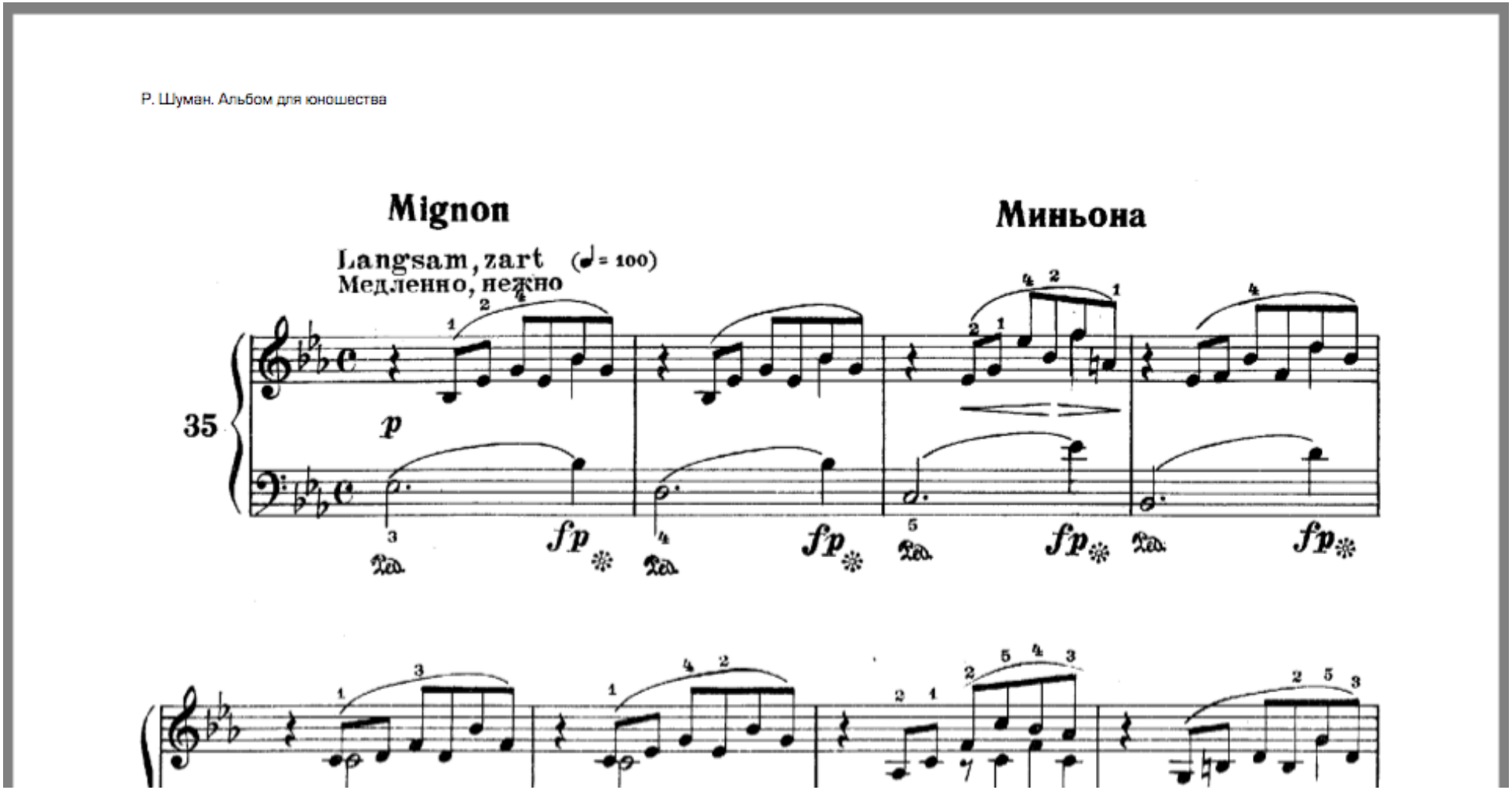
15-12d 0:00 -0:07

15-12e 0:00 -0:08

Robert Schumann, Album für die Jugend, Op.68

No. 35, Mignon

0:00 -2:36



iii^7 & III^7

- The mediant seventh chord is:
  - A minor-minor seventh in Major
  - A Major-major seventh in minor
- Typically occurs in sequences…

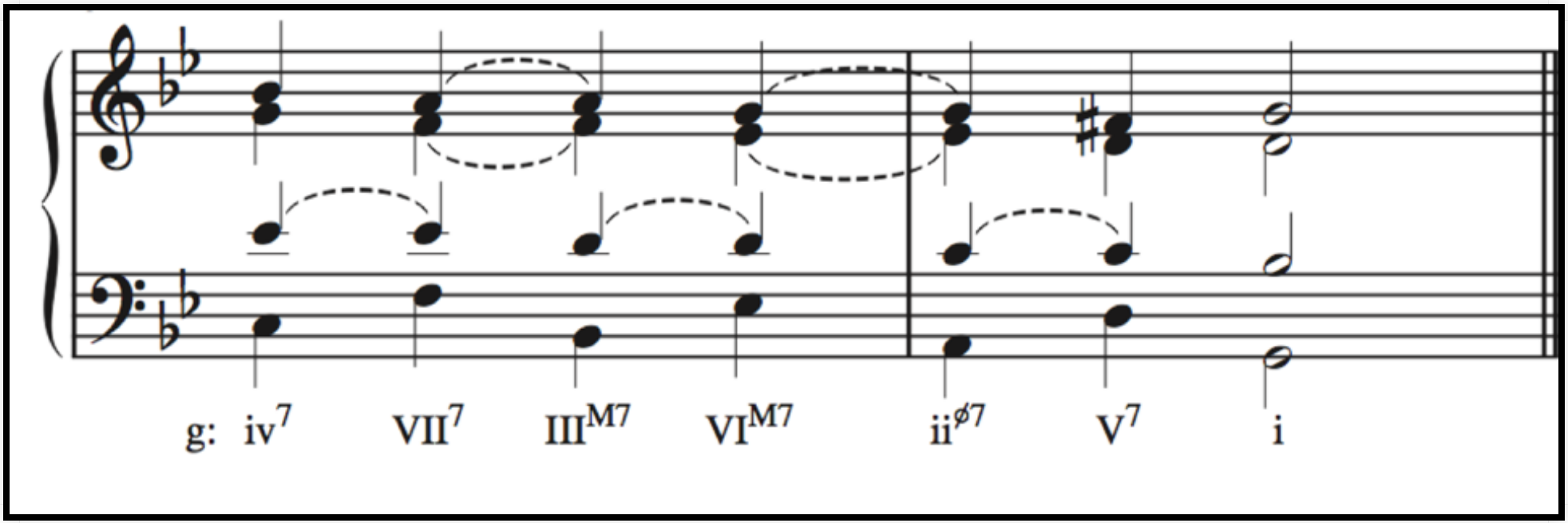
Seventh Chords
&
the Circle-of-Fifths Sequence

Seventh Chords & the Circle-of-Fifths Sequence

- The usual harmonic functions of most diatonic chords are closely related to the circle-of-fifths sequence
- If the chords used in a circle-of-fifths sequence are seventh chords, we follow these conventions
  - If the seventh chords are in root position in a four-part texture, complete chords will alternate with incomplete chords (5th omitted)

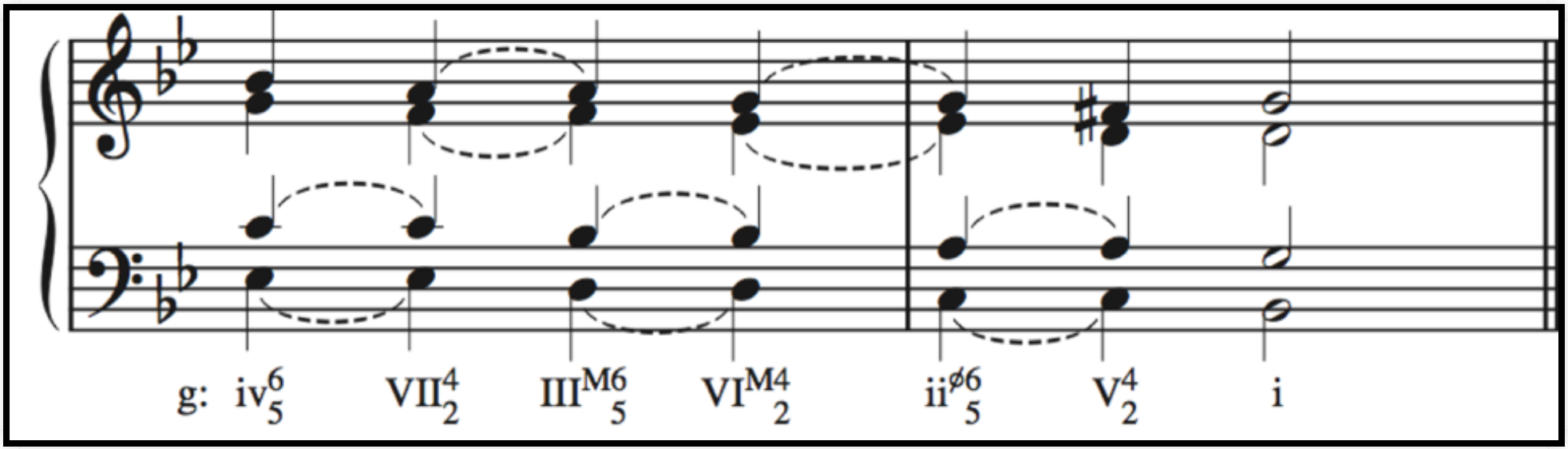
Seventh Chords & the Circle-of-Fifths Sequence

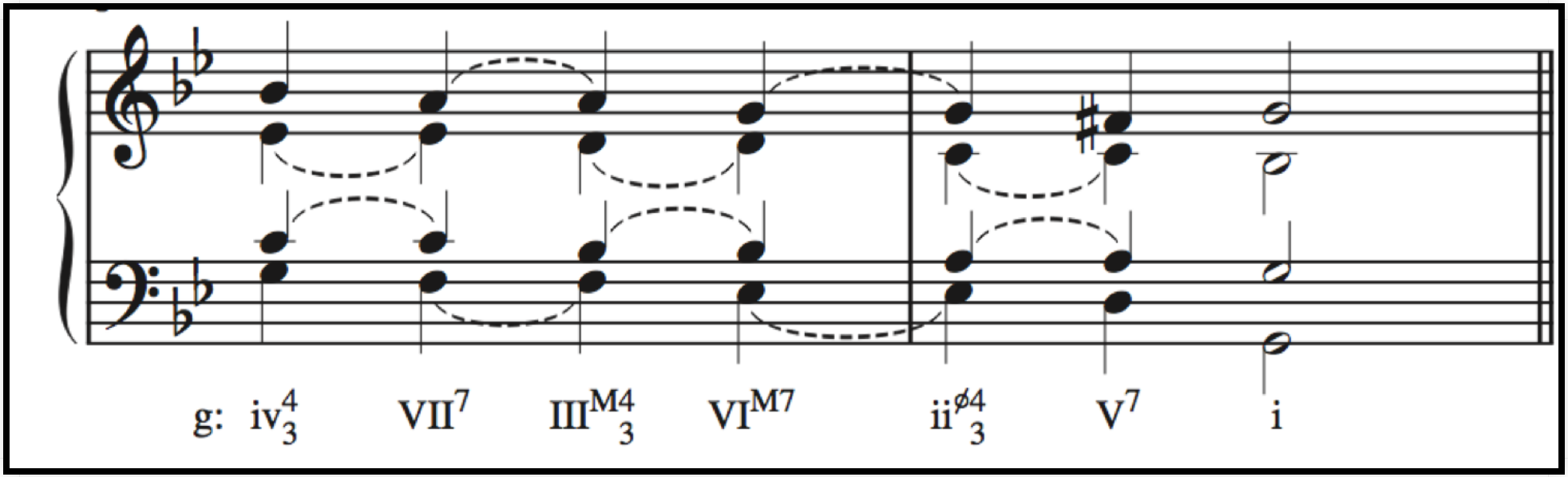
Root position chords



Seventh Chords & the Circle-of-Fifths Sequence

If the seventh chords are inverted in a four-part texture, 6/5 chords will alternate with 4/2 chords, and vice versa



Seventh Chords & the Circle-of-Fifths Sequence

4/3 chords will alternate with root position chords