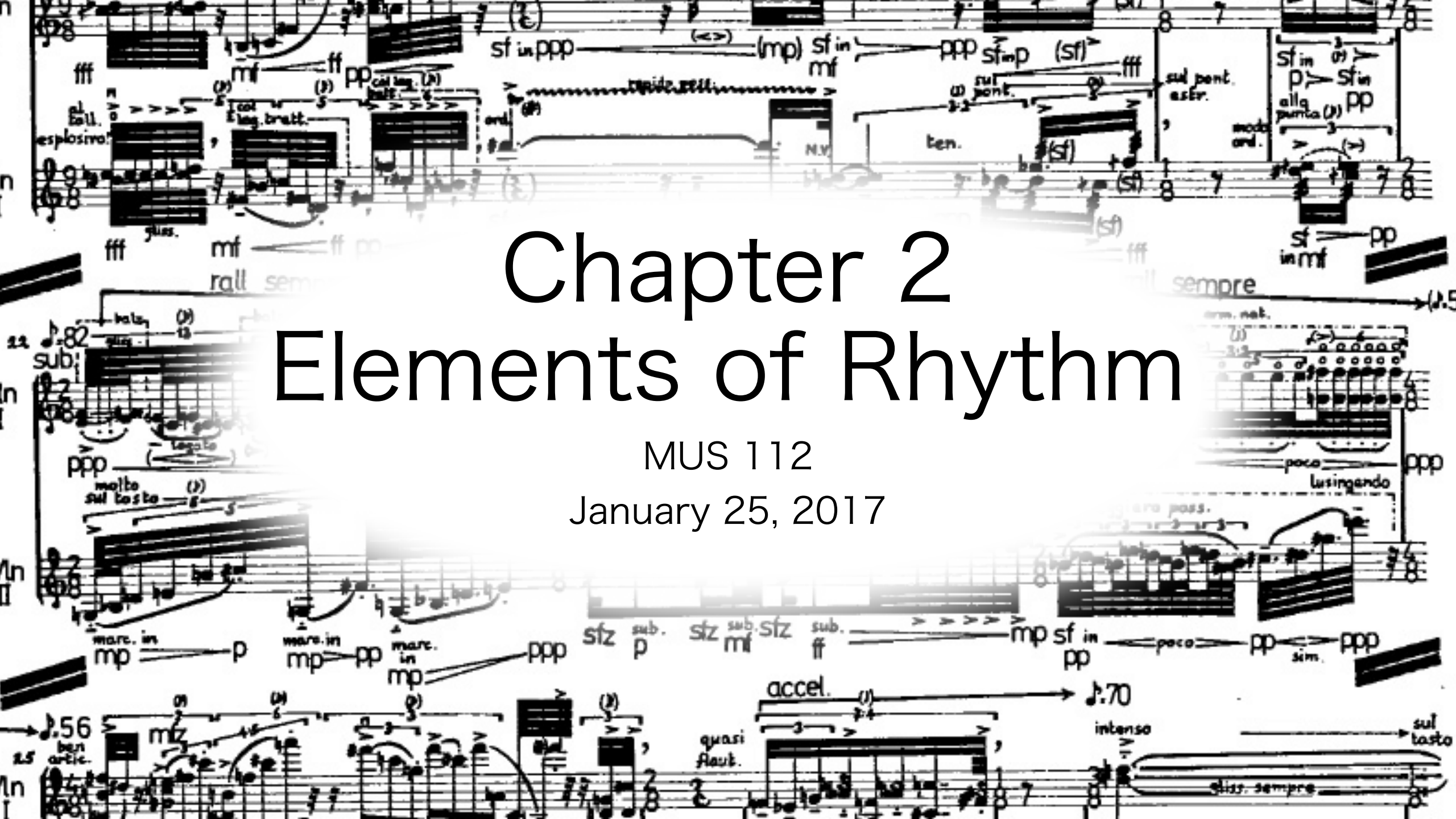


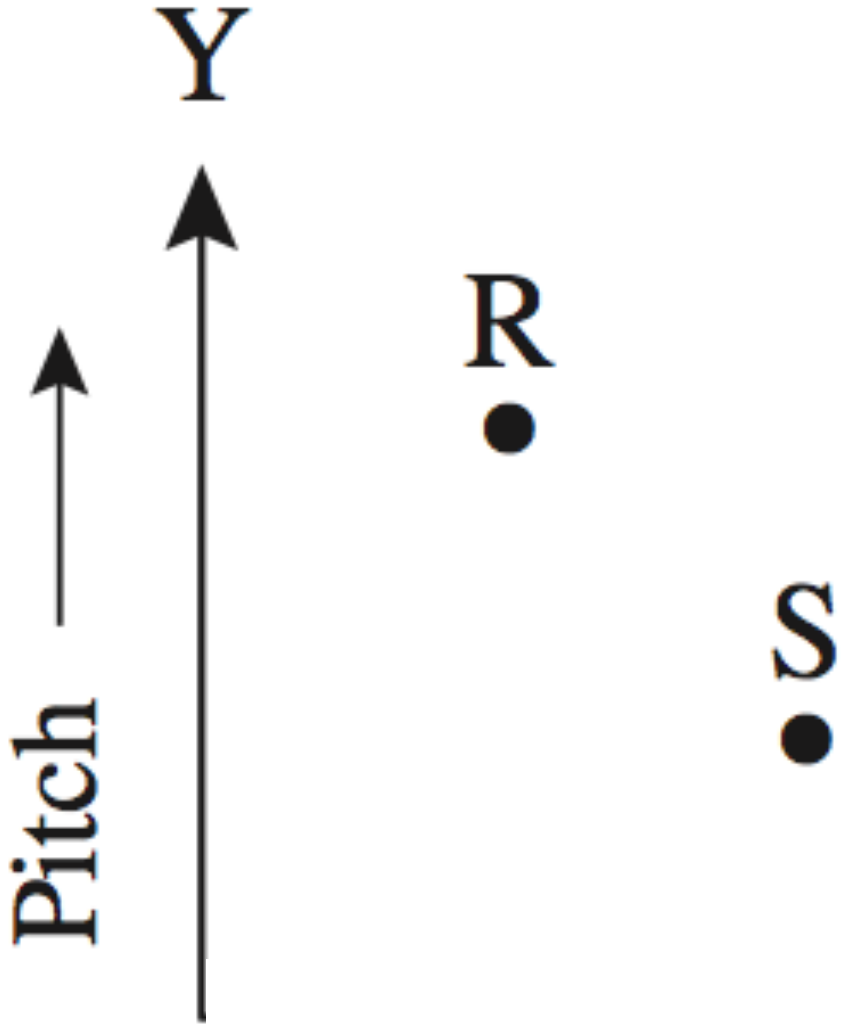
Chapter 2
Elements of Rhythm

MUS 112

January 25, 2017

Rhythm

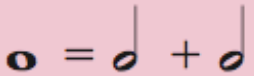
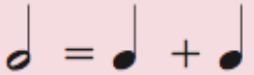
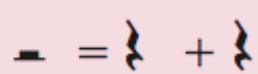
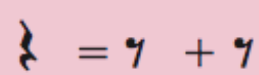
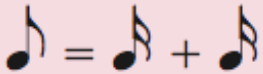
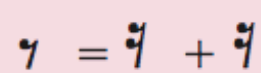
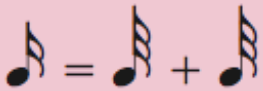
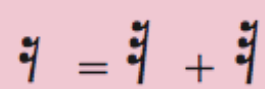
- On Monday, we focused on how we describe the pitch aspect of music in notation.
- Today, we will look at the time component, or **Rhythm**



Duration

- The principal way we show time in music notation is be indicating the duration of a given note.
- We show duration through a series of symbols that have been evolving from the beginning of written music to today.

Duration Symbols

Value	Note	Rest
Breve		
Whole		
Half		
Quarter		
Eighth		
Sixteenth		

Dotted Durations

- What happens when we add a dot after a duration?
  - Add ½ of the value of the preceding note or rest to the duration
- What happens if we add another dot?
  - Add ½ of the value of the preceding dot to the duration
    - What happens if we add another dot?
      - Add ½ of the value of the preceding dot to the duration
        - What happens if we add another dot?
          - Add ½ of the value of the preceding dot to the duration
            - What happens if we add another dot?
              - Add ½ of the value of the preceding dot to the duration
                - What happens if we add another dot?
                - Add ½ of the value of the preceding dot to the duration

Beat & Tempo

- We have almost all of our durations (bricks of time), but they are meaningless without a **beat**
- **Beat**: the basic pulse of a musical passage
- **Tempo**: the rate at which the beat occurs
- We measure and indicate the pulse with the number of beats in a minute (**BPM**). ♩=76 would result in 76 evenly distributed beats in a minute.

Meter

- **Meter**: consistent patterns into which beats are grouped
  - Groups of two, three, and four are the most common.
  - Each of these groups is called a **measure**
  - Measures are separated by **barlines**
- There are two factors the make up the *feel,* or character, of the meter.
  - The grouping of the beat
    - Metric Accent
  - How the beat is subdivided
    - Division of the beat

Metric Accents

- We refer to the number of beats in the make up a meter group in the following way:
  - Duple Meter: two-beat measure
  - Triple Meter: three-beat measure
  - Quadruple Meter: four-beat measure

Metric Accents

- Each of the preceding metric types stereotypically place stress on certain beats

Grouping	Meter type	Metric accent pattern
Two-beat measure	Duple	Strong-weak
Three-beat measure	Triple	Strong-weak-weak
Four-beat measure	Quadruple	Strong-weak-less strong-weak

Division of the Beat

- Musical is full of note durations that are shorter than a beat.
- These are called **divisions of the beat**
- A beat can be divided in to two or three equal parts
  - Two parts = **simple beat**
  - Three parts = **compound beat**
  - *This is not the same as how the beat divides the meter*

Meter

- We combine the beat groupings and division of the beat to classify the meter

	METER		
BEAT	**Duple**	**Triple**	**Quadruple**
Simple	Simple duple	Simple triple	Simple quadruple
Compound	Compound duple	Compound triple	Compound quadruple

Time Signatures

- **time signature:** a symbol that tells the performer how many beats will occur in each measure, what note value will represent the beat, and whether the beat is simple or compound.

Simple Meter Time Signatures

Time signature	Beats per measure	Beat note	Division of the beat
2/4	2		
2/2 or ¢	2		
3/16	3		
3/4	3		
4/8	4		
4/4 or C	4		

Compound Meter Time Signatures

- If the beat divides into three equal parts, as in a compound beat, the note value represent- ing the beat will be a dotted value, as shown next.

Beat note	Division of the beat
	
	
	
	

Compound Meter Time Signatures

As there is no way to represent a dotted duration in the bottom part of the time signature, we use the division of the beat as the lower number, and the top number show the total division in a measure.
This number must be divisible by three

Time signature	Beats per measure	Beat note	Division of the beat
$\frac{6}{8}$	2		
$\frac{6}{4}$	2		
$\frac{9}{16}$	3		
$\frac{9}{8}$	3		
$\frac{12}{8}$	4		
$\frac{12}{4}$	4		

Time Signatures in Summary

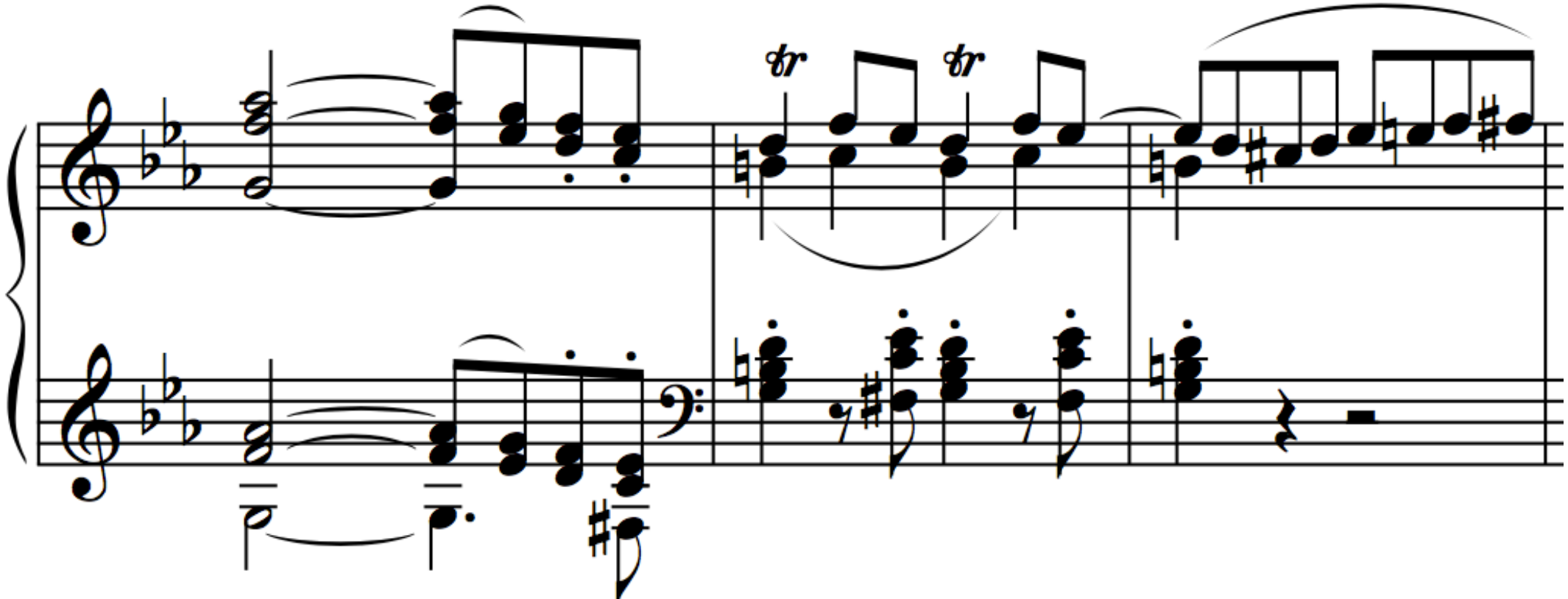
	METER TYPE		
BEAT TYPE	**Duple**	**Triple**	**Quadruple**
Simple	2 x	3 x	4 x
Compound	6 x	9 x	12 x

Time Signatures in Summary

Time signature	Simple beat duration	Compound beat duration
x/1		
x/2		
x/4		
x/8		
x/16		

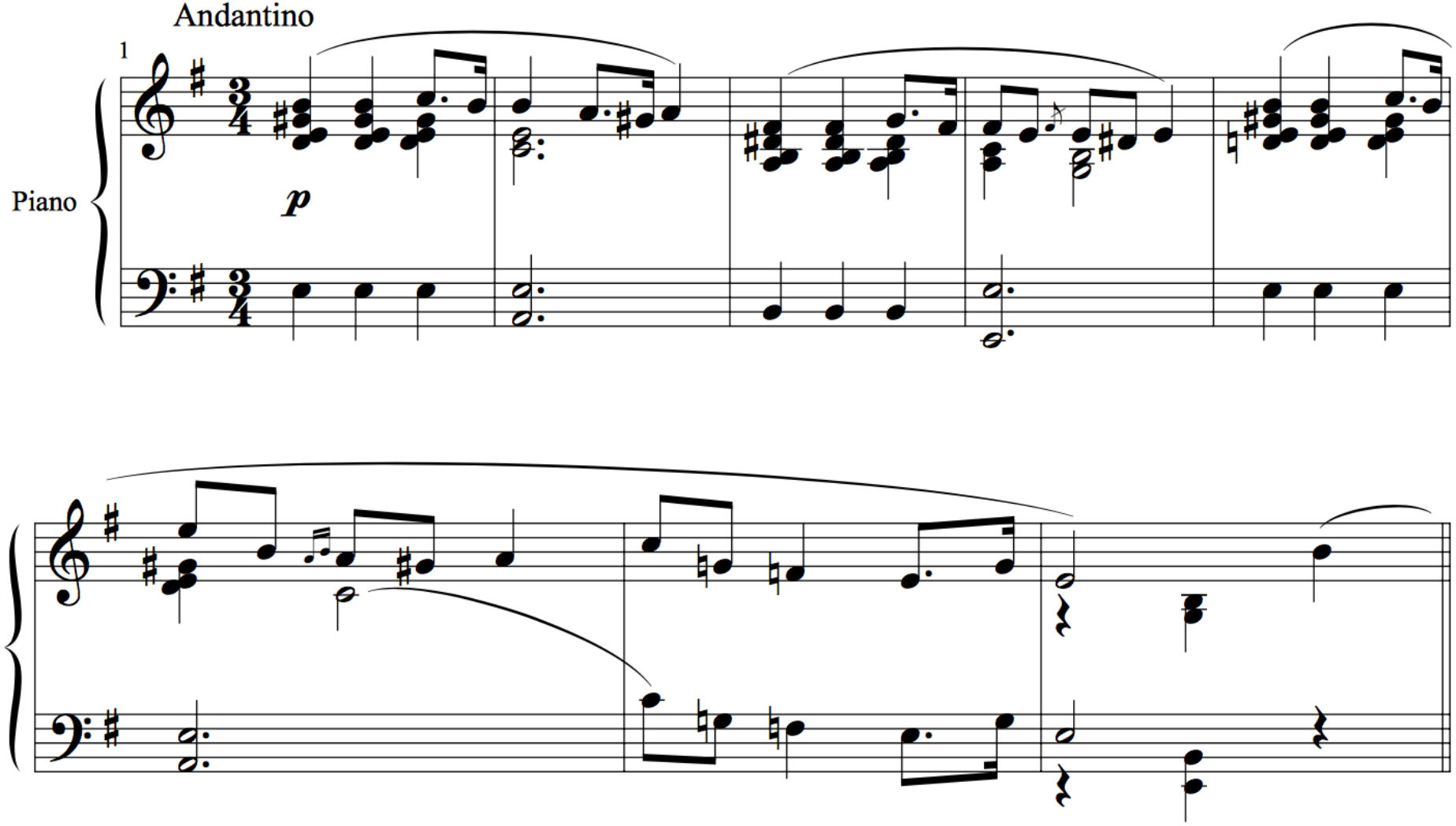
Simple Duple

Beethoven, Piano Concerto no. 3 in c minor, op. 37, mvt. 1, mm. 114-122



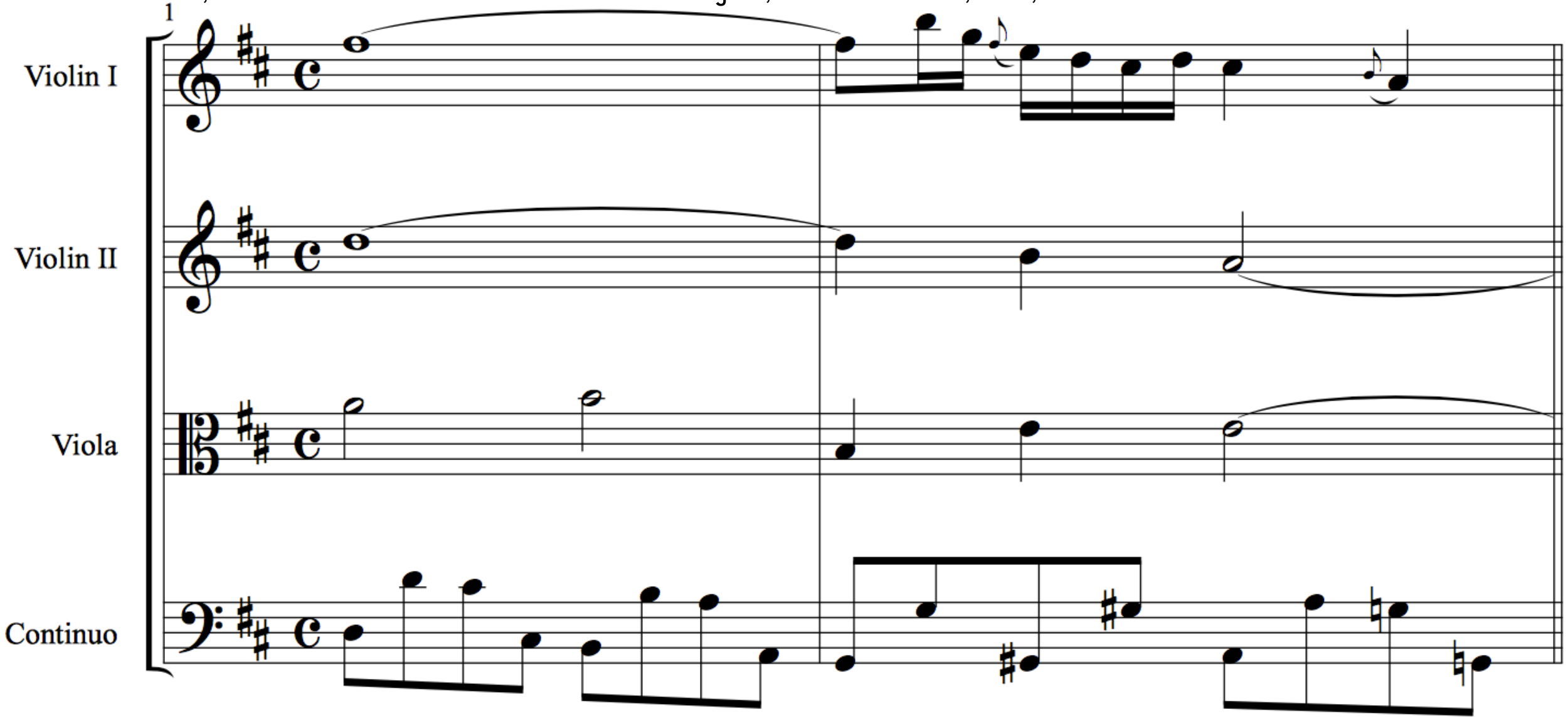
Simple Triple

- Chopin, Mazurka, op. 41 no. 1, mm. 1-8



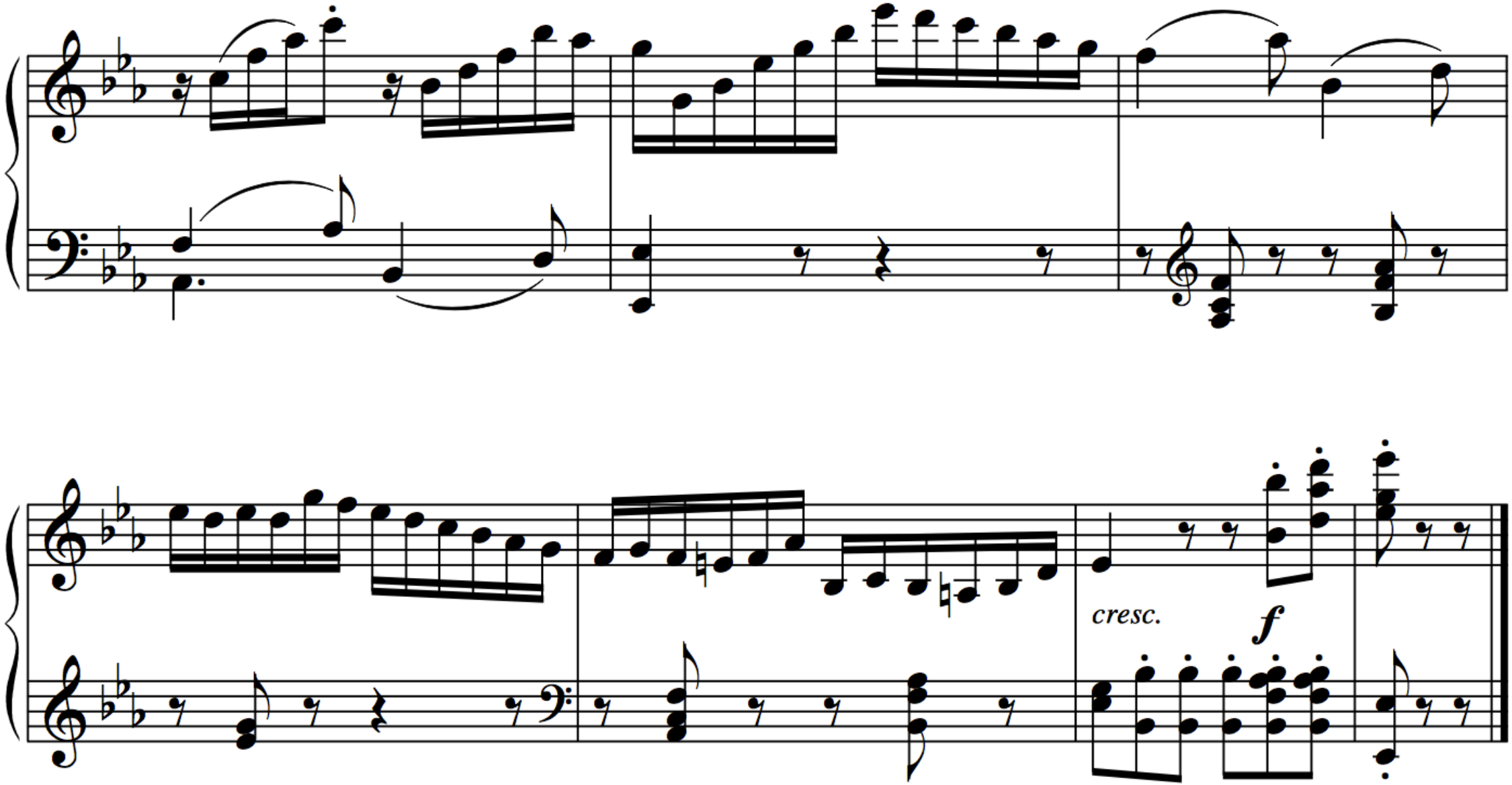
Simple Quadruple

- J. S. Bach, Orchestral Suite no. 3 in D Major, BWV 1068, Air, mm. 1-2



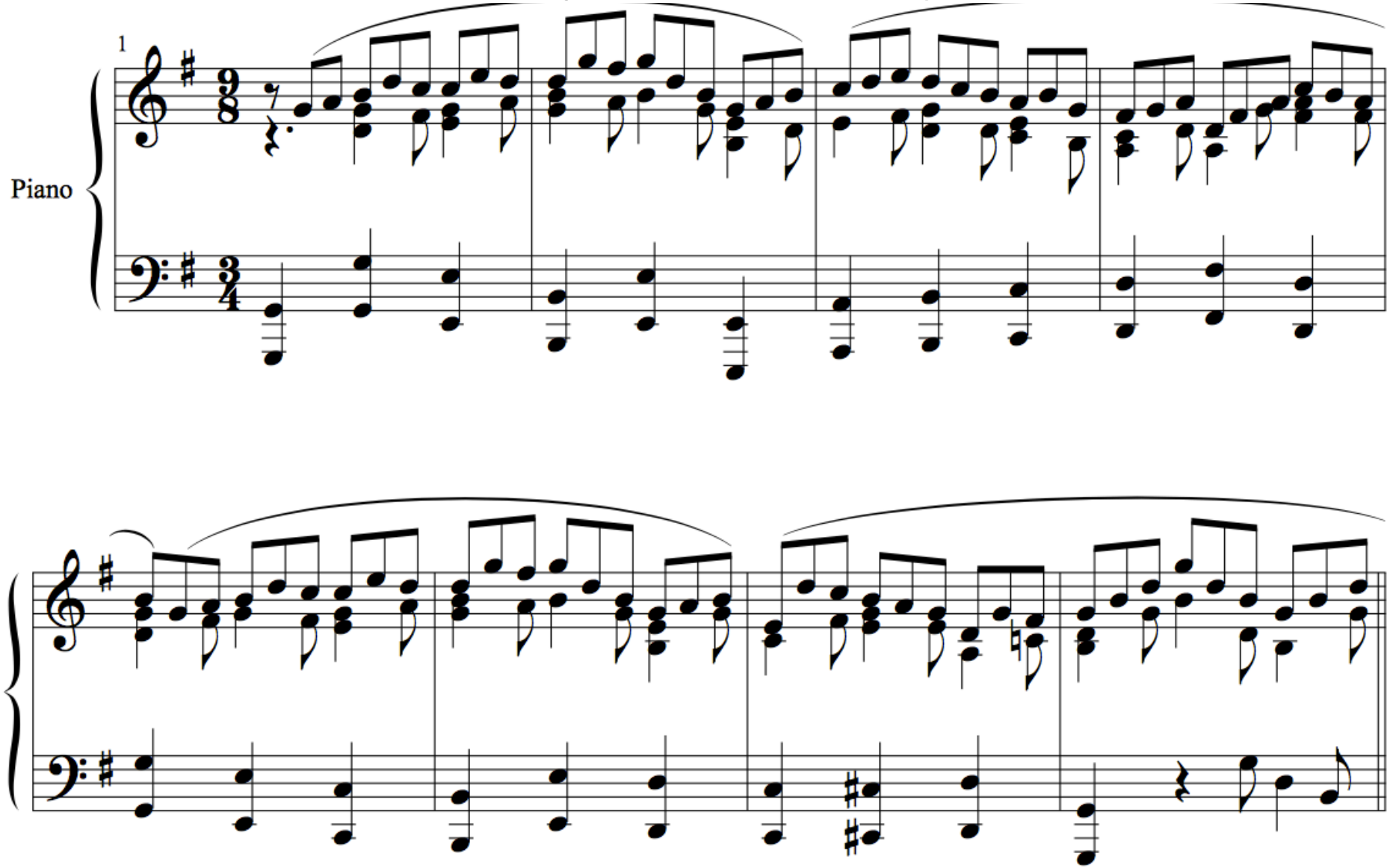
Compound duple

- Beethoven, Bagatelle in E-flat Major, op. 33 no. 1, mm. 82-95



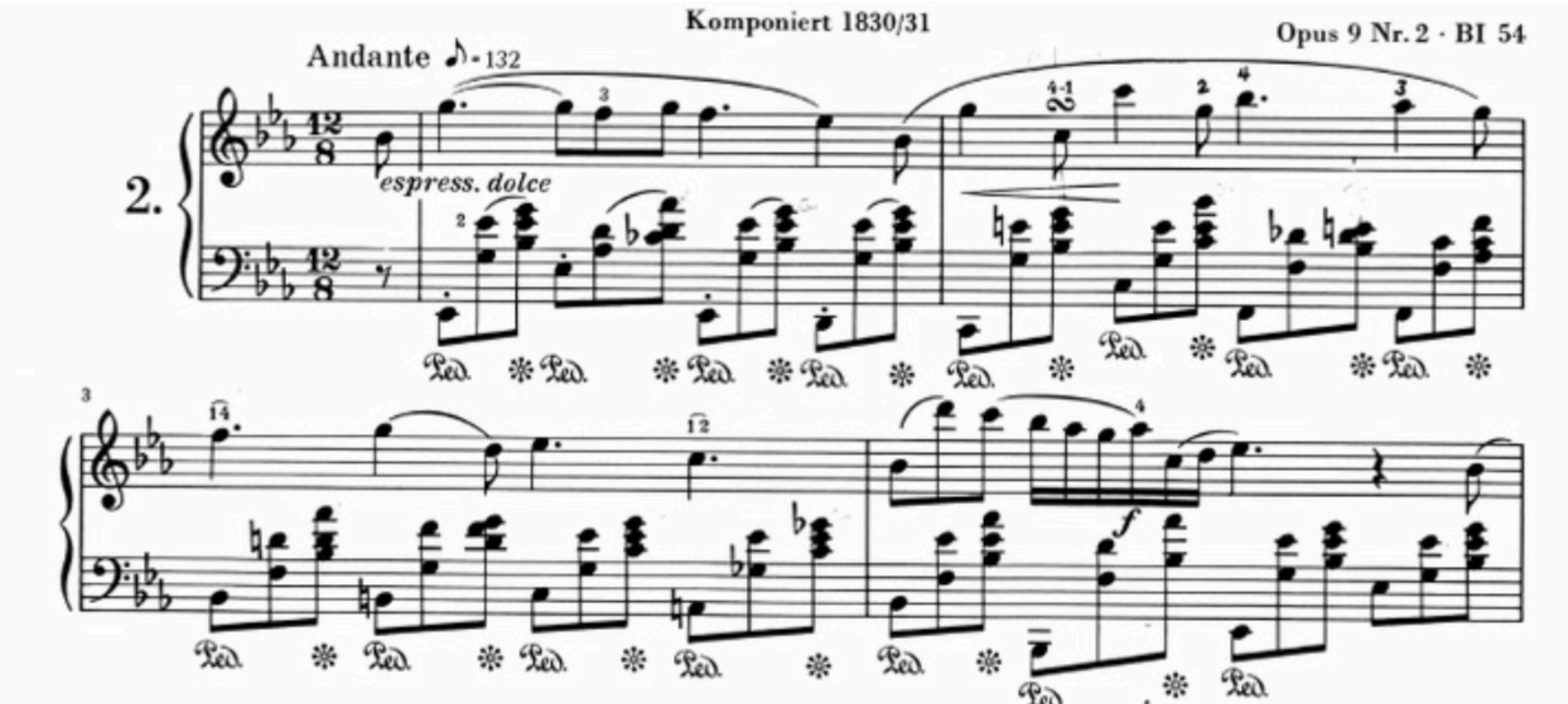
Compound Triple

- J. S. Bach, Cantata no. 147, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (arr. Hess), mm. 1-8



Compound Quadruple

- Chopin, Nocturne in Eb major, op. 9, no. 2



Notating Rhythms

- It is important (and helpful to the performer) to notate rhythms in a way that shows (reinforces) the meter.

____lets

- Divisions of the beat, that go against the indicated meter
  - Duplets
  - Triplets
  - Quadruplets
  - Quintuplets
  - Etc…

  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxX6ZGHCP0I