Classical Piano Music

A common characteristic of **Classical** music is "graceful" melodies, in clear-cut and balanced phrases.

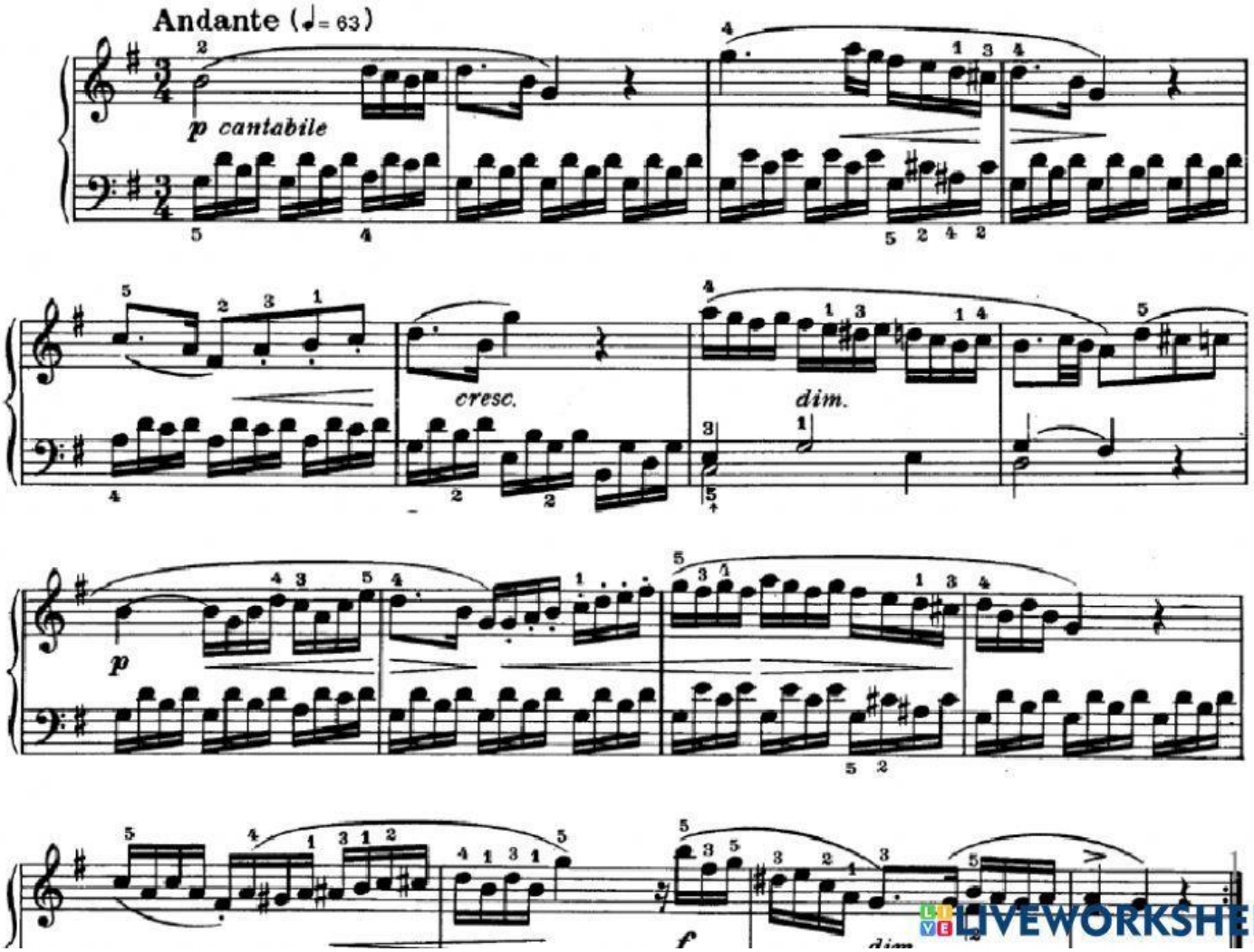
The **piano** was a relatively new keyboard instrument in the **Classical** period.



A popular musical feature used by **Classical** composers is the **alberti bass**. This is a type of broken chord accompaniment repeated in the left hand.

Extract 6 Listen to an excerpt from the second movement of *Sonata in C (K.545)* by Mozart played on the **piano**. Listen for:

Alberti bass **Simple harmonies** **Clear-cut phrases** **Major**



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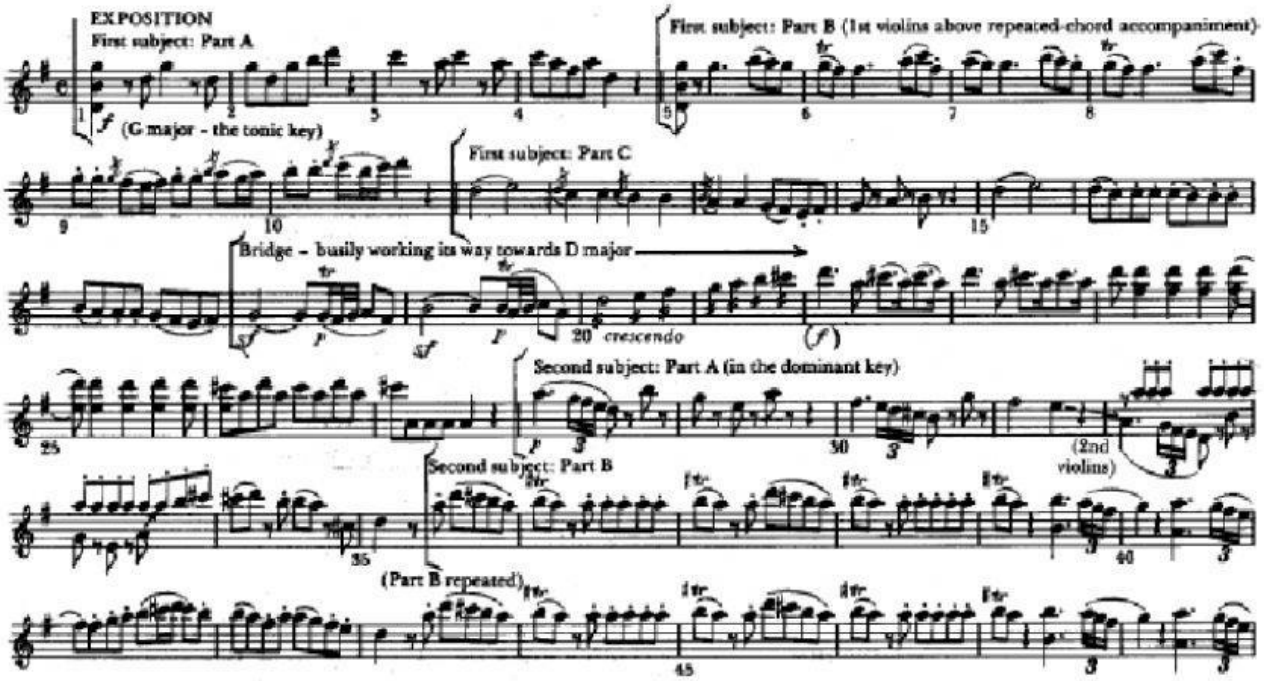
Sonata Form

Sonata Form is one of the most important forms used by composers. It is the form used in the **first movements** of Sonatas, Symphonies, Concertos, String Quartets etc.

The basic plan of Sonata Form is:

Exposition	Development	Recapitulation	Coda
1st subject (tonic) Bridge (changing key) 2nd subject (new key)	Developing ideas from the Exposition. Adding new ideas. Exploring new keys.	1st subject (tonic) Bridge (altered) 2nd subject (tonic)	To round off

Listen to the first movement of *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* by Mozart played by a group of **strings**. Try to follow the **sonata form** structure.



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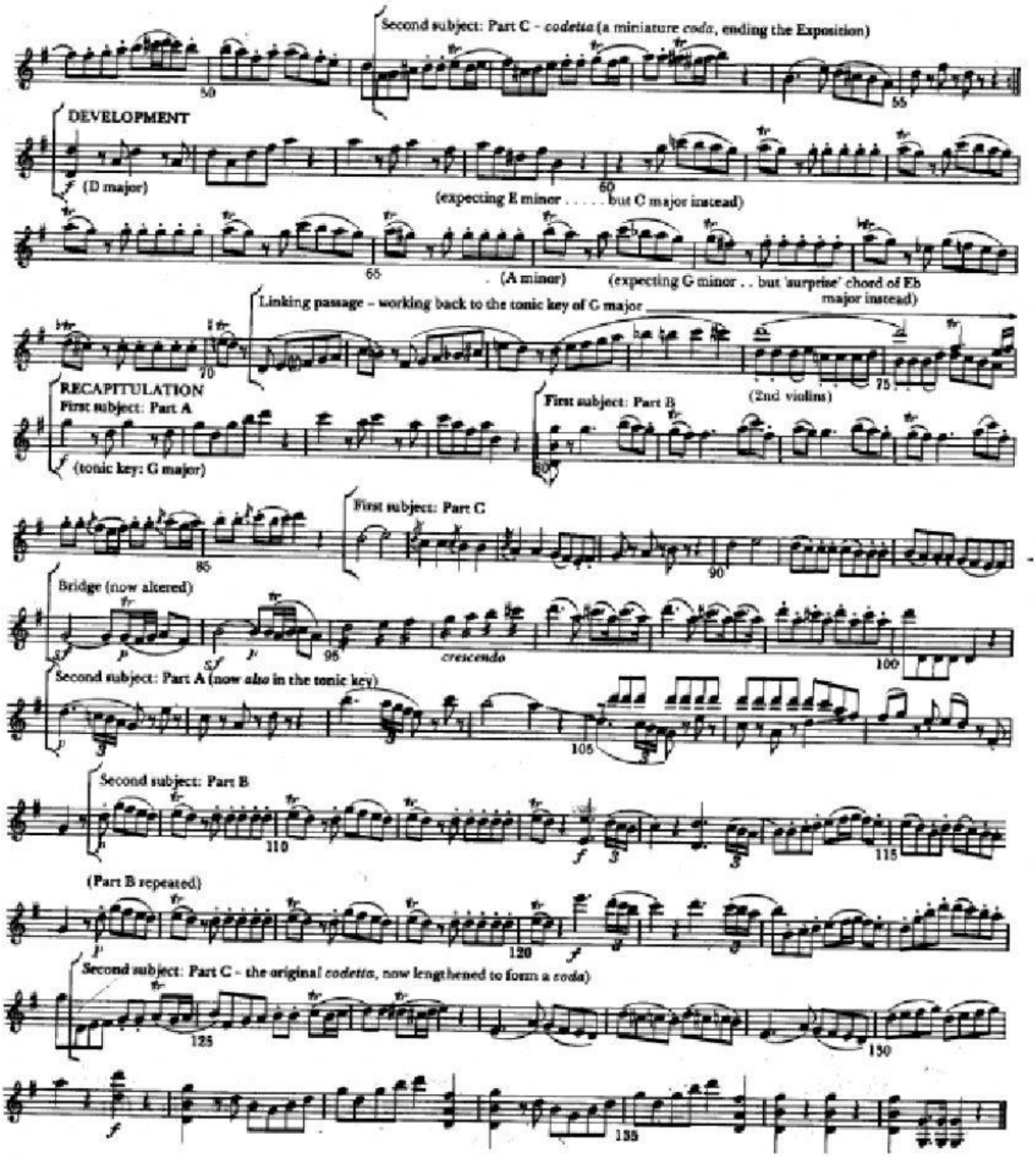

Having listened to this movement, complete the following statements:

1. This **exposition** section starts is in the key of _____.
2. At the **bride** passage the music modulates to the _____key.
3. The **2nd subject** in the **exposition** is in the key of _____.
4. The **2nd subject** in the **recapitulation** is in the key of _____.
5. What ornaments are prominent in this piece? (Refer to specific bar numbers).

_____

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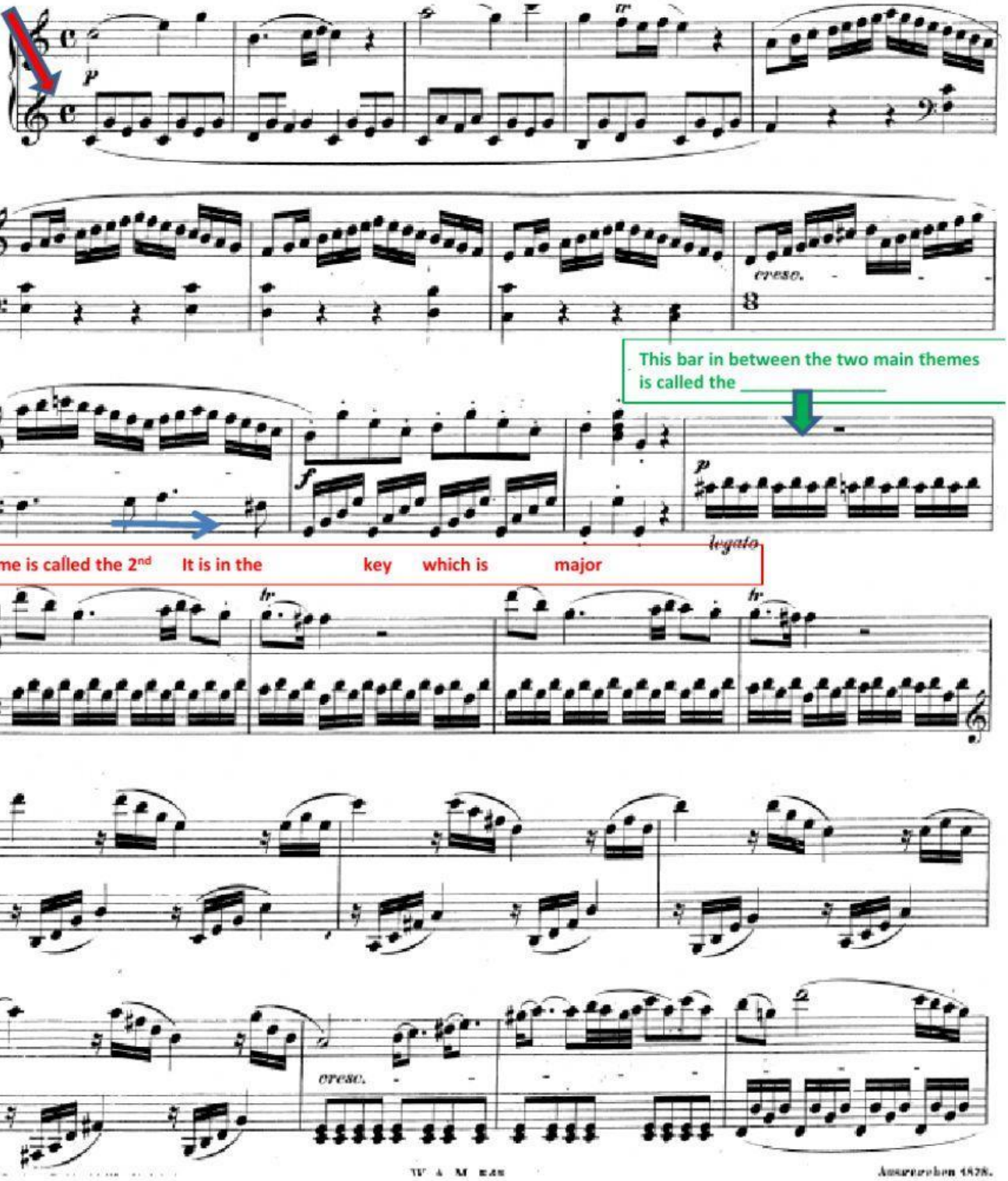
This first section in Sonata Form is called the

Add and appropriate tempo mark here

Name the key

This first theme is called the 1st

Name the type of bass line



This second theme is called the 2nd It is in the key which is major

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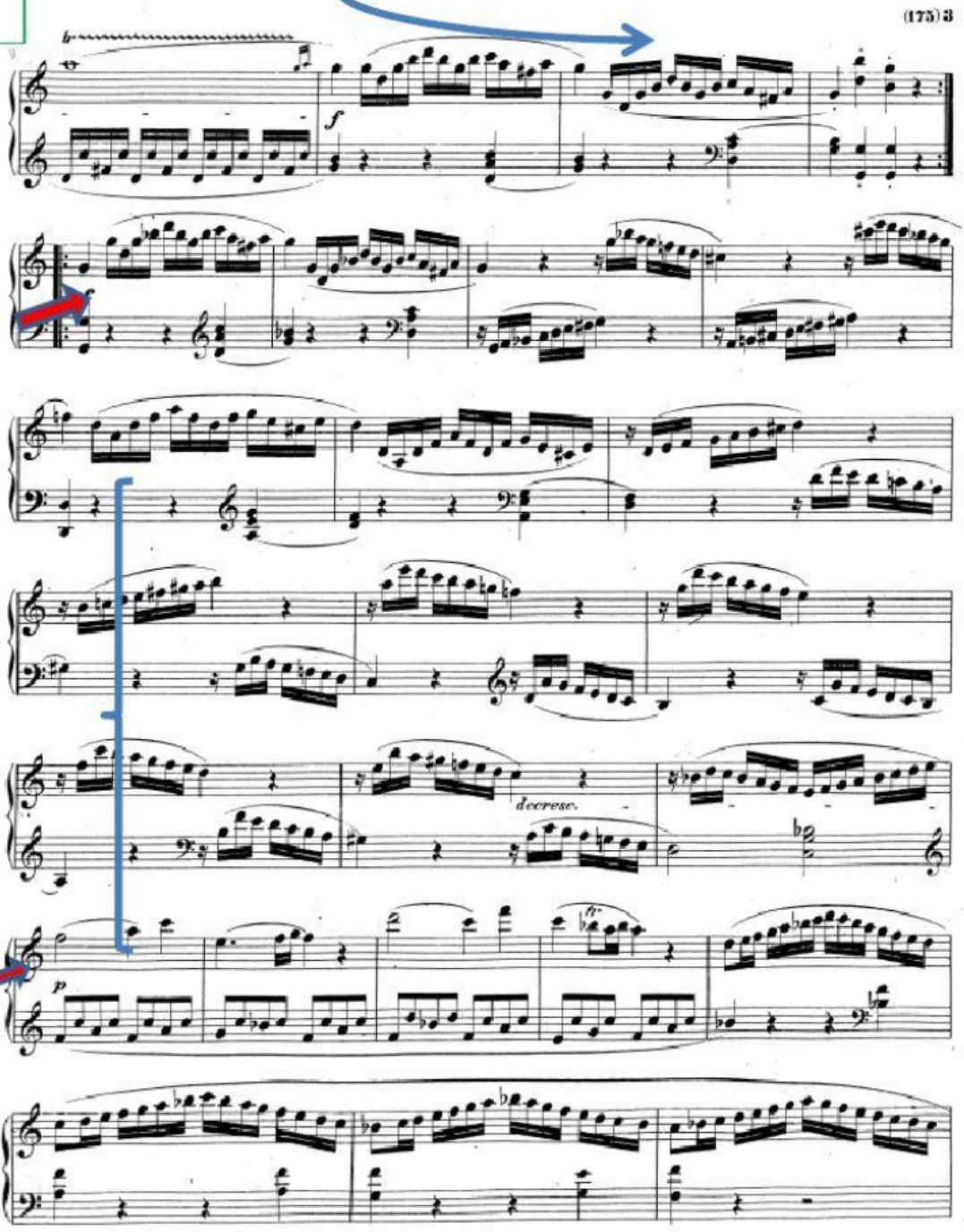
These last bars at the end of the first section are called the



This middle section in Sonata Form is called the

What is the TONALITY?

Give three concepts (melodic/harmonic/rhythmic /texture) of what happens in this section

1

2

3

This final section, with the return of the first subject is called the

This is usually in the

key but here it is in

major which is the

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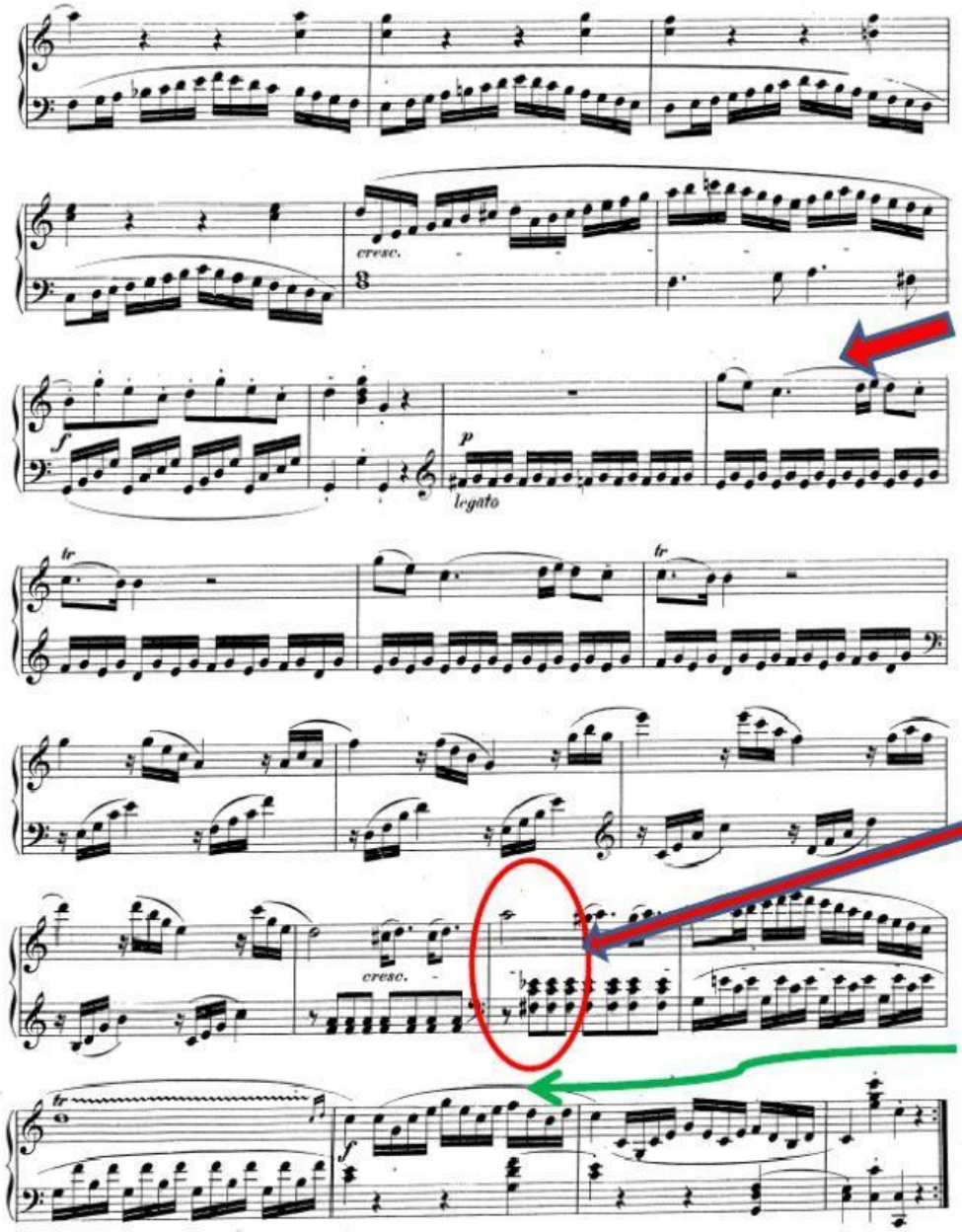

Here is the 2nd subject

It is in the key

which i major

Listen carefully and name the chord

- ☐ major chord
- ☐ minor chord
- ☐ diminished 7th
- ☐ dominant 7th

These last bars are called the

_____

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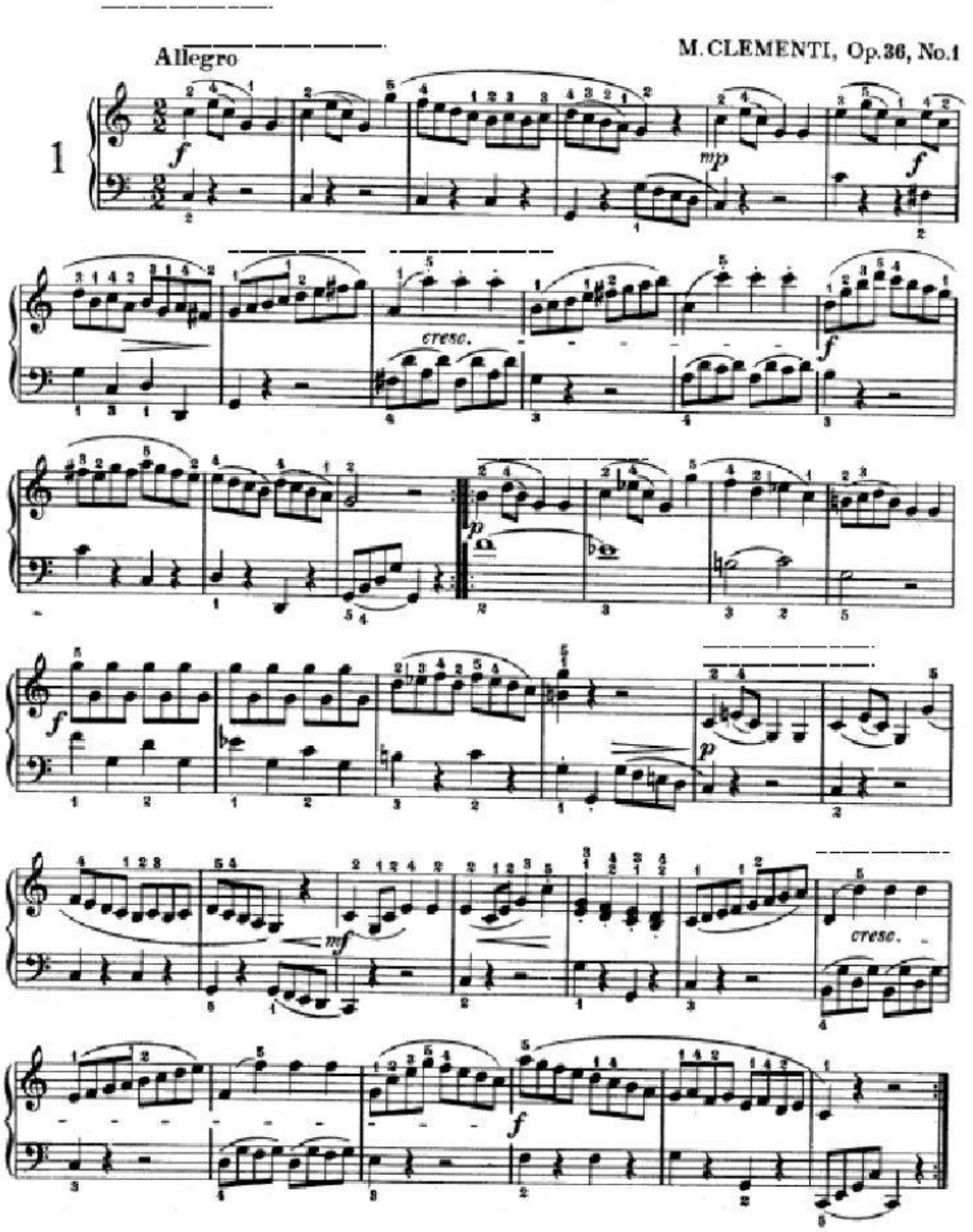
Listen to the first movement of the piano piece Sonata no 1 by Clementi. This follows a simple Sonata Form structure. While you listen, try to identify the main sections: Exposition, Development and Recapitulation, 1st subject and 2nd subject, bridge passage. Write the concepts in the spaces provided.



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