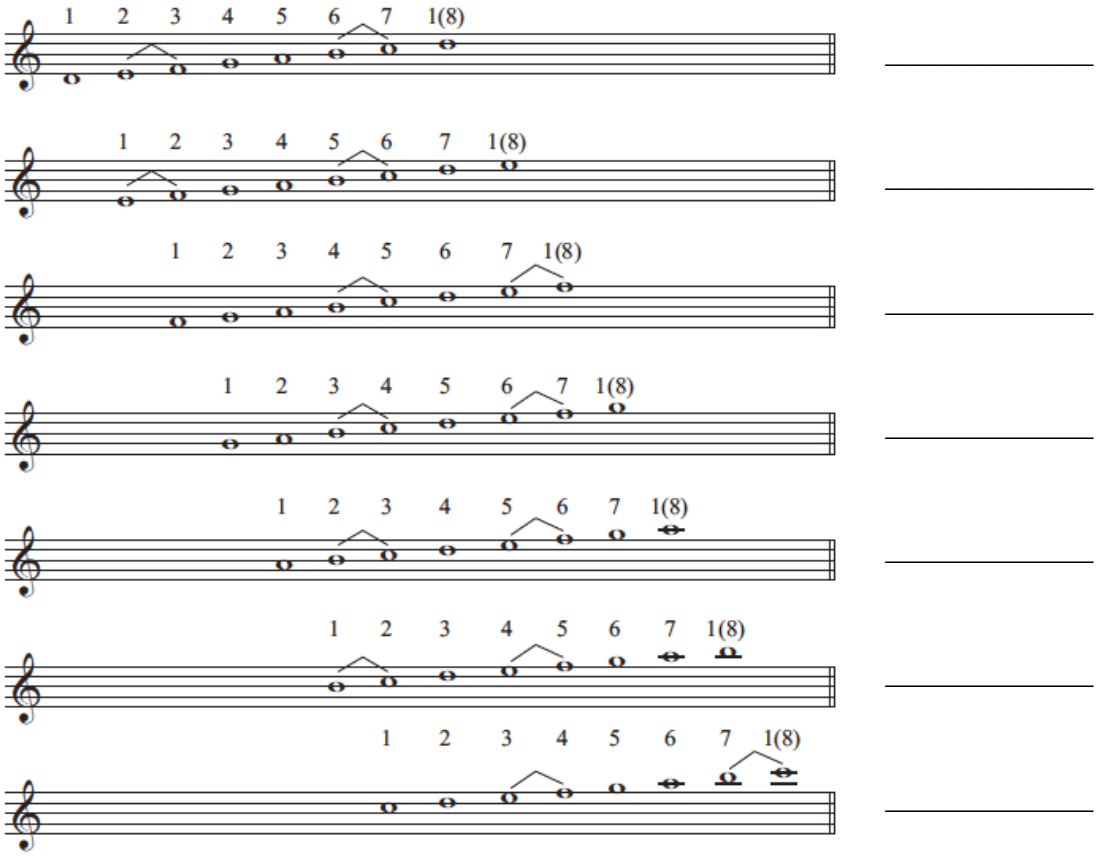
HKDSE Music – Listening (Form 4)

Week 13 – Extended Tonality

Composers in the late nineteenth century began to explore different ways of pitch organization other than the major and minor scales. These pitch collections may draw on historical practices (**diatonic modes** and **pentatonic scale**) or constructed based on a limited number of intervals (**whole tone scale** and **octatonic scale**).

Diatonic Modes (Church modes / Medieval modes)

- a seven-note scale with different starting pitch (or pitch centricity 中心音)



C Dorian

C Phrygian

C Lydian

C Mixolydian

C Aeolian

Whole-Tone Scale

- a scale made up of six pitches separated by a whole tone
- used to create a floating tonality (devoid of any major or minor triad)

WT0 (Beginning on C)

WT1 (Beginning on C#)

Pentatonic Scale

- a scale made up of five pitches from the major scale (scale degrees 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)
- the scale does not have any semitone or tritone, hence it sounds more consonant

Major pentatonic scale on C

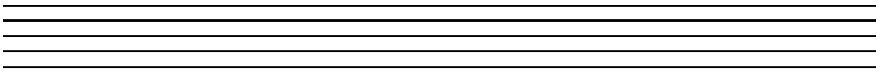
Minor pentatonic scale on C

Hirajoshi pentatonic scale on C

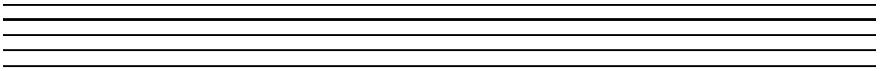
Octatonic Scale

- a synthetic and symmetrical scale consisting of eight pitches with alternating semitones and whole tones
- used by Alexander Scriabin, Debussy, Stravinsky, Maurice Ravel, and Béla Bartók

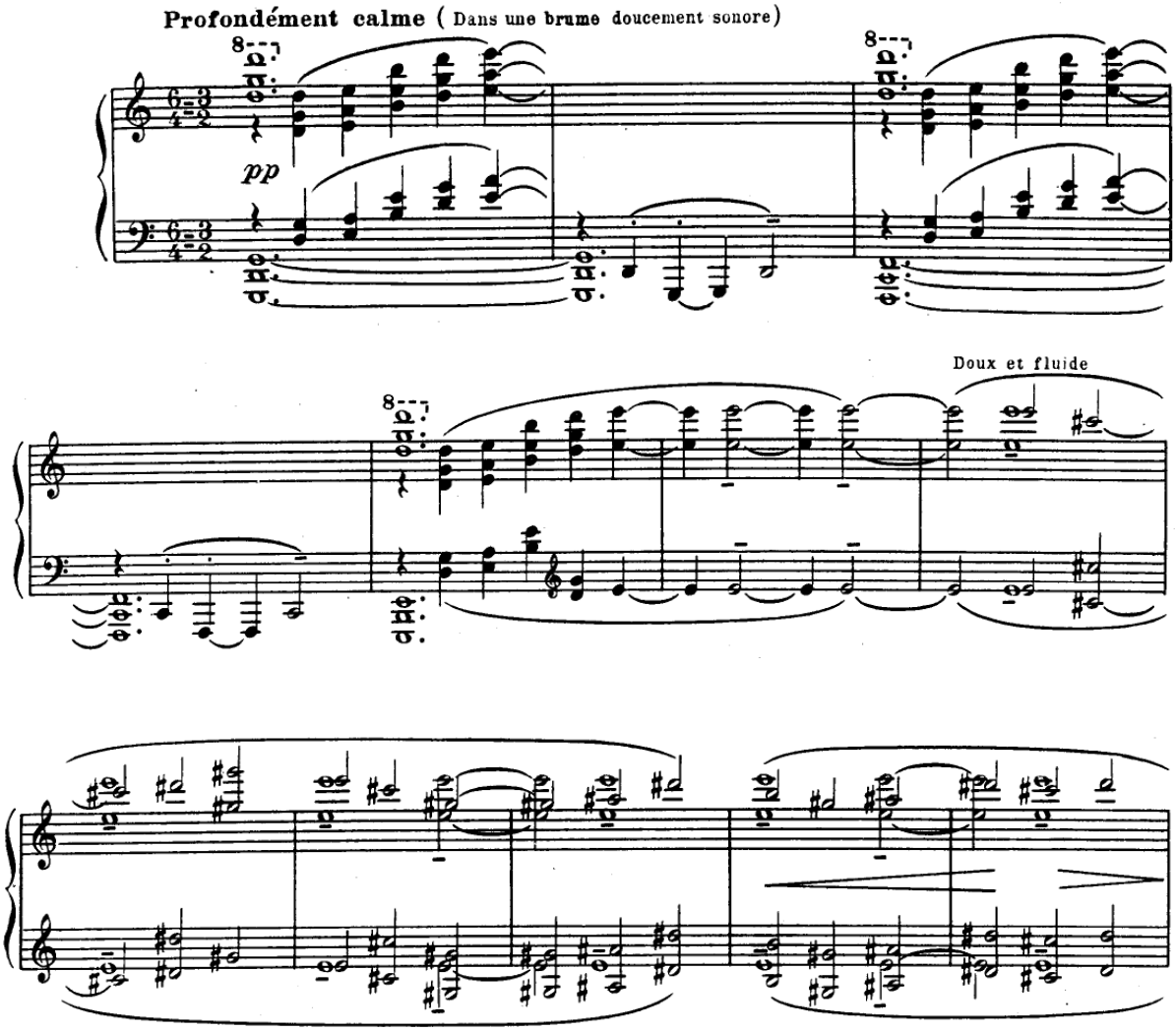
OCT(0,2) (Whole-half **octatonic scale** on C)



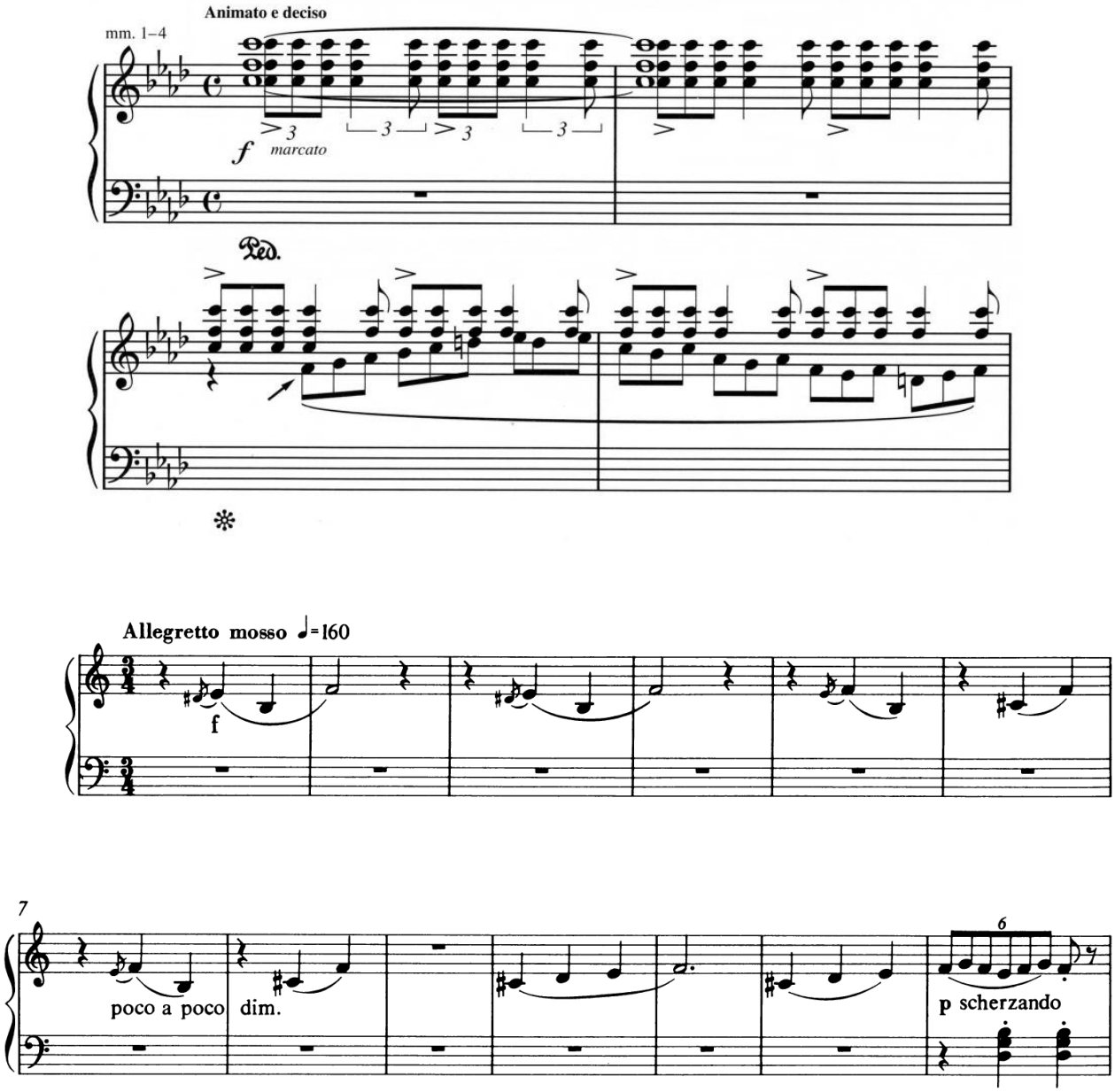
OCT(0,1) (Half-whole **octatonic scale** on C)



Debussy, "La cathédrale engloutie" (The Sunken Cathedral) from Prelude, Book 1

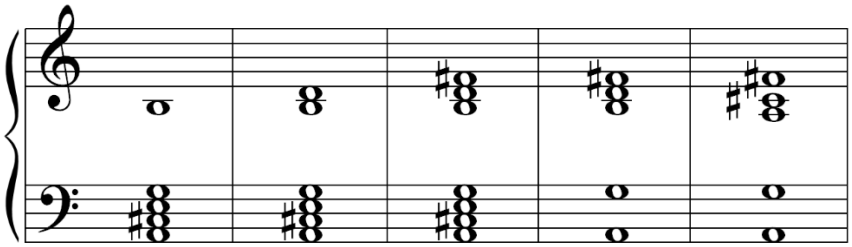


Debussy, "Fêtes" from *Nocturnes* (piano reduction)



Extended chords

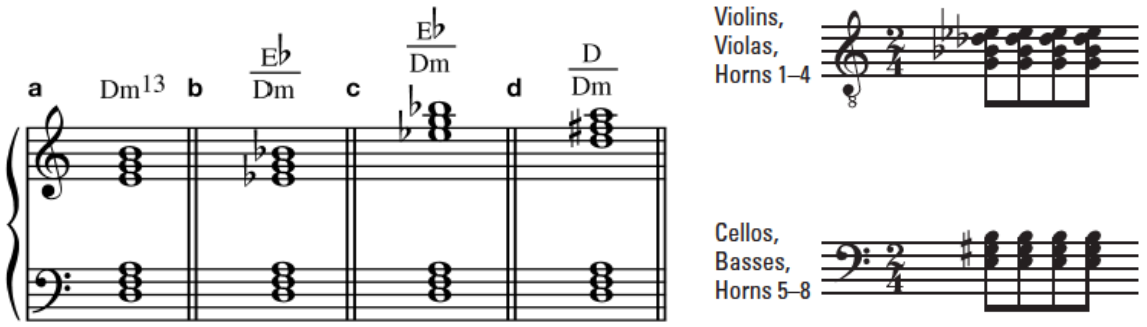
- tertian chords with added ninth, eleventh and thirteenth
- lower members of the chord tones are sometimes omitted to avoid clashing with the higher extensions



Polychords

- two or more chordal units from different harmonic areas sounding simultaneously
- the chordal units are often segregated into two different registers

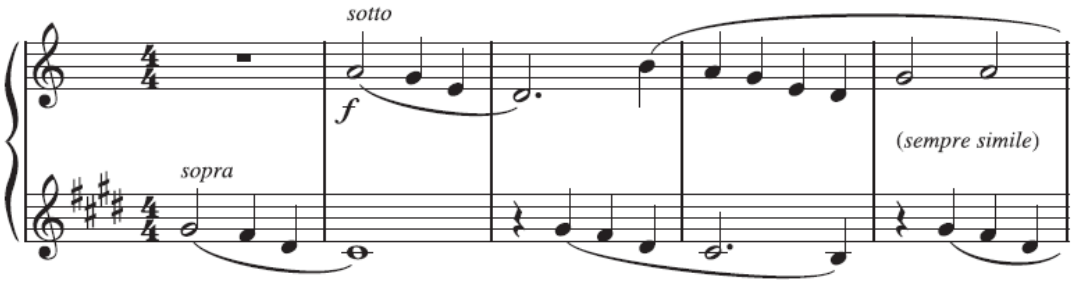
Stravinsky, The Rite of Spring



Bitonality / Polytonality

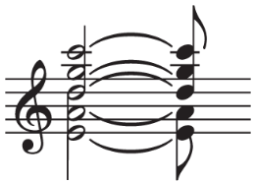
- two or more keys are heard at the same time
- the keys are voiced rather independently (e.g., placed in different registers)

Bartok, "Playsong," Mikrokosmos No. 105



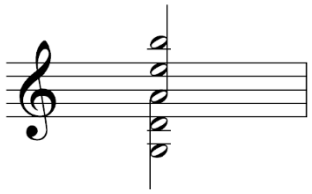
Quartal harmony

- a chord made up of a stack of fourths



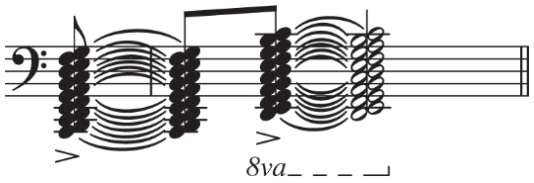
Quintal harmony

- a chord made up of a stack of fifths

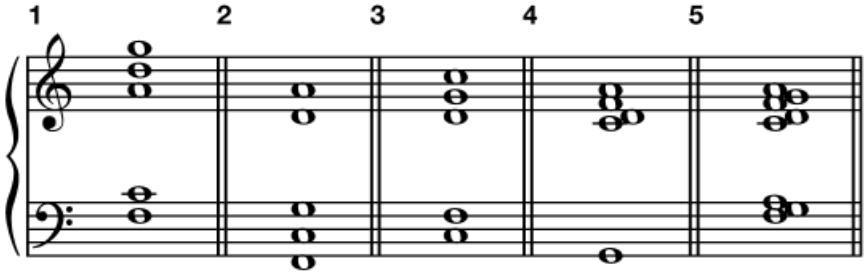


Tone cluster

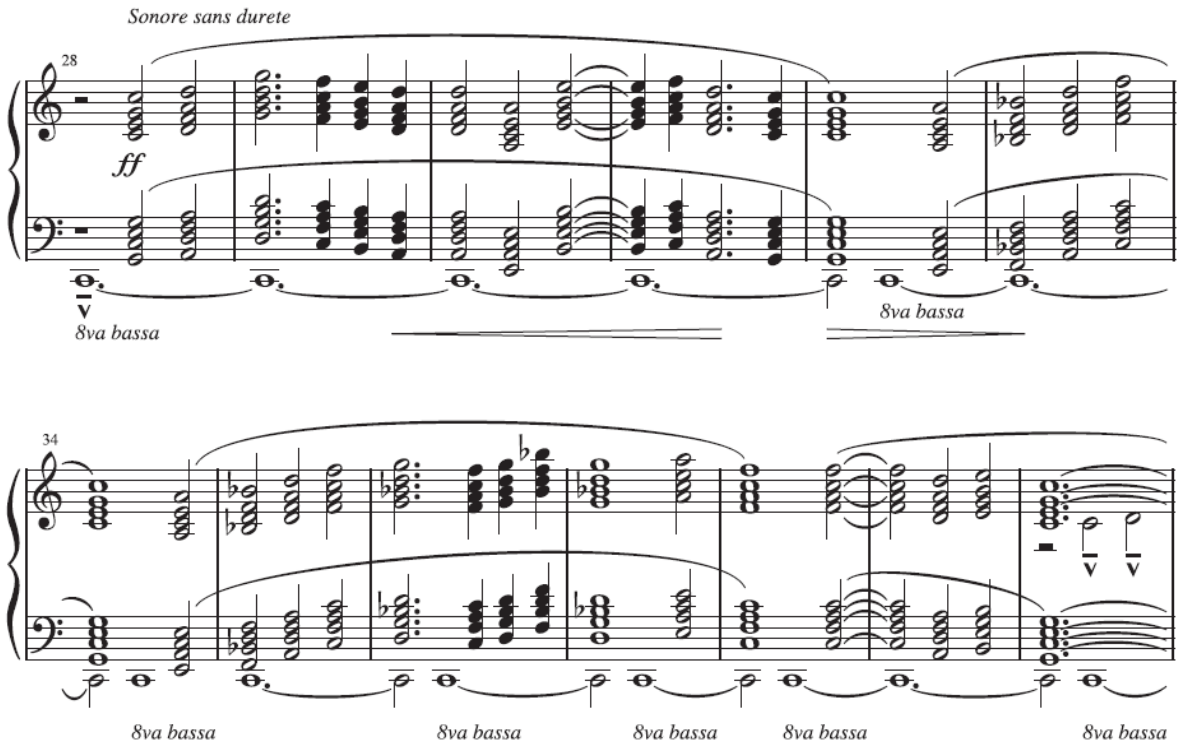
- a chord made up of tones only a semitone or a whole tone apart



Practice



Parallel chords (planing)

- the entire chord is moved up or down in parallel motion
- *diatonic* planing, *mixed* planing, and *real* planing

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