

The Art of Conducting

by Pierre Kuyppers

## Preface

You cannot learn to conduct an orchestra simply by reading a lot about this subject but rather by practising for many hours instead. Practice and proper guidance are essential here. Before you can even begin to conduct in the true sense of the word, with musical patterns which are visualized by gestures of the hands and arms, facial expression and other physical expressions, it is a prerequisite that you are able to beat time flawlessly.

Regarding the contents of this book, it is assumed that the student is endowed with this basic skill as well as the ability to indicate the metrical path by means of gestures with his hands and arms. It is of prime importance that the student knows how the live sound relates to gesture learned.

Now, the merit of this book is precisely this, since it deals not only with various aspects of the technique of beating time but also with natural and practical examples of sound in particular.

Pierre Kuypers, whom I have had the pleasure of working with in the educational field for many years, particularly educating conductors, knows better than anybody else how to link theory with practice in a natural way.

His vast practical experience in the fields of amateur art and professional conducting, both at home and abroad, is reflected in this book. Therefore, some exercises are based on existing fragments from music literature. All exercises bear evidence of being naturally embedded in practice. Artificial examples which are out of touch with actual practice have been avoided in this book.

Exercises are not intended as a programmed course with an increasing level of difficulty, but each of them is a self-contained and fine example of clenched musical energy of varying shape. All aspects of beating time and conducting are dealt with, including starting, stopping, accelerando, rallentando, fermatae, legato and staccato, dynamics, agogics, time changes etc. Although all exercises are based on an integral approach, the exercises with the A-items are intended to draw specific attention to an expressive melodic pattern set in relief from a balanced dynamic. In the exercises with the B-items, specific emphasis is put on time changes and rhythmicity. In the C-items, all aspects are combined integrally.

I can sincerely recommend these exercises in conducting. They are highly suitable for any student - amateur or professional - who wants to learn how to let the live sound flourish in other people and how to bring the excitement, willfulness and fascination of music to living reality by his suggestive gestulation.

Leon Adams

*General director "Kreato" school of music, Thott, The Netherlands.*

♩ = 96

♩ = 112

4a

♩ = 96

♩ = 96

3a

♩ = 96

♩ = 86

2a

♩ = 92

♩ = 92

1a

Staff 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a dynamic change to mezzo-forte (*mf*) and then piano (*p*).

Staff 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by forte (*f*) and mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamics.

Marcato

7a

Staff 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Starts with forte (*f*), then *rall.*, followed by a *cresc.* and a long melodic line.

Staff 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Starts with a long melodic line marked *d. quis*, followed by forte (*f*) and fortissimo (*ff*) dynamics.

Tempo giusto

6a

Staff 5: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. A long melodic line with a slur.

Staff 6: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. A long melodic line with a slur, ending with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

*p.* = 96

Staff 7: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. A long melodic line with a slur, starting with piano (*p*), then *dim.*, and ending with mezzo-forte (*mf*) and a *cresc.*

*p.* = 60

5a

Staff 1: Musical notation in treble clef, 2/4 time. Starts with a dynamic marking *d*. Features a triplet of eighth notes and a slur over a group of notes. Ends with a dynamic marking *f*.

Staff 2: Musical notation in treble clef, 2/4 time. Features a triplet of eighth notes and a slur. Includes the marking *espr.* and ends with a dynamic marking *d*.

Staff 3: Musical notation in treble clef, 2/4 time. Features a slur and a dynamic marking *d*. The tempo marking *Lento* is positioned below the staff.

10a

Staff 4: Musical notation in treble clef, 2/4 time. Features a slur and a dynamic marking *d*. Includes the marking *rit.* and ends with a dynamic marking *d*.

Staff 5: Musical notation in treble clef, 2/4 time. Features a slur and a dynamic marking *f*. Includes the marking *cresc.* and ends with a dynamic marking *d*.

Staff 6: Musical notation in treble clef, 2/4 time. Features a slur and a dynamic marking *f*. Includes the marking *df* and ends with a dynamic marking *f*.

Moderato

9a

Staff 7: Musical notation in treble clef, 2/4 time. Features a slur and a dynamic marking *f*. Ends with a dynamic marking *d*.

Staff 8: Musical notation in treble clef, 2/4 time. Features a slur and a dynamic marking *f*. Includes the marking *d* and ends with a dynamic marking *f*.

$\text{♩} = \text{♩} = 68$

8a

$\text{♩} = 96$

13a

$\text{♩} = 88$

12a

$\text{♩} = 92$

11a



Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a fermata over the first two measures, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*. There are also some markings that look like *>* and *<* under the notes.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a fermata over the first two measures. Dynamics include *df* and *f*.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a fermata over the first two measures. Dynamics include *d* and *f*.

$\text{♩} = \pm 68$

19a

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, *accel.*, and *cresc.*. The tempo marking *Presto* is also present.

Musical staff 5: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a fermata over the first two measures. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*. The tempo marking *Presto* is also present.

18a

Musical staff 6: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a fermata over the first two measures. Dynamics include *f*, *poco rit.*, *cresc.*, *d*, and *f*.

Musical staff 7: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a fermata over the first two measures. Dynamics include *d*, *f*, *mf*, and *df*.

$\text{♩} = \pm 86$

17a



Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *f*, *cresc.*, *d*, *f*.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *fu*, *d*, *fu*.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *d*.

22a  
♩ = 72

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *f*, *d*, *f*, *cresc.*, *d*.

Musical staff 5: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *d*, *f*.

Musical staff 6: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *d*, *f*.

21a  
♩ = 102 Tempo di Rumba

Musical staff 7: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *f*, *cresc.*.

Musical staff 8: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. Dynamics: *d*, *f*.

20a  
Tempo di Marcia



6b

Tempo giusto

5b

801 = p

4b

Musical notation for exercise 9b, measures 1-3. The first staff shows a melodic line in 7/8 time with eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff shows a bass line with triplets. The third staff continues the melodic line with triplets. A tempo marking  $\text{♩} = \pm 92$  is located at the end of the third staff.

9b

Musical notation for exercise 8b, measures 1-3. The first staff shows a melodic line in 7/8 time with eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff shows a bass line with eighth notes. The third staff continues the melodic line. A tempo marking  $\text{♩} = \pm 102$  is located at the end of the third staff.

8b

Musical notation for exercise 7b, measures 1-3. The first staff shows a melodic line in 7/8 time with eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff shows a bass line with eighth notes. The third staff continues the melodic line. A tempo marking  $\text{♩} = \pm 120$  is located at the end of the third staff.

7b

Musical notation for exercise 12b, measures 1-3. The first staff shows a sequence of notes in 7/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff continues the melody with some rests. The third staff shows a continuation of the melody with a triplet of eighth notes.

Allegro non troppo

# 12b

Musical notation for exercise 11b, measures 1-3. The first staff features a triplet of eighth notes. The second staff continues the melody with a slur over two notes. The third staff shows a continuation of the melody with a slur over two notes.

$\text{♩} = 108$

# 11b

Musical notation for exercise 10b, measures 1-3. The first staff shows a sequence of notes in 7/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The second staff continues the melody with a slur over two notes. The third staff shows a continuation of the melody with a slur over two notes.

Allegro moderato

# 10b

Musical score for measures 1-14. The score is written on a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

*Allegro moderato*

# 15b

Musical score for measures 15-24. The score is written on a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

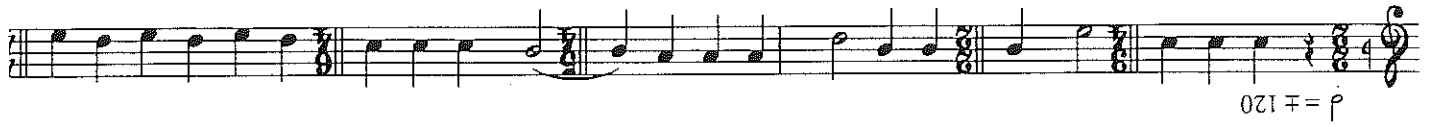
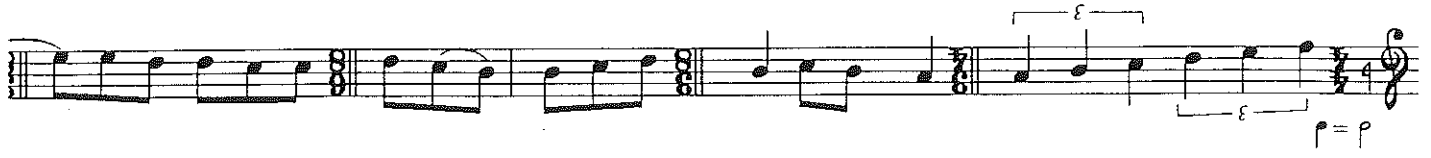
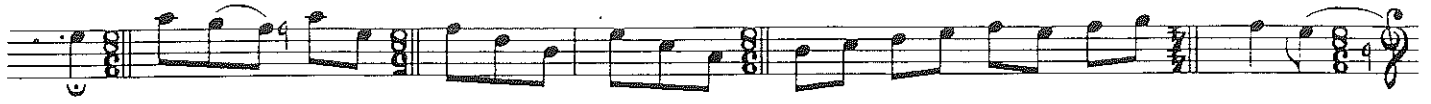
$\text{♩} = 108$

# 14b

Musical score for measures 25-34. The score is written on a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

$\text{♩} = 102$

# 13b



18b



17b



Tempo primo



16b

Musical score for measures 196-207. The score consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *d* (diminuendo) and a hairpin. The second staff features a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The third staff includes a dynamic marking of *f* and the tempo instruction "Allegro con moto".

21b

Musical score for measures 208-219. The score consists of three staves. The first staff has dynamic markings of *d* and *rit.* (ritardando). The second staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *d*. The third staff has dynamic markings of *p = p* and *d*.

20b

Musical score for measures 210-219. The score consists of three staves. The first staff has a dynamic marking of *p = p*. The second staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *d*. The third staff has dynamic markings of *d*, *f*, and *d*. The word "Cresc." (Crescendo) is written above the staff.

19b



Allegro molto

24b

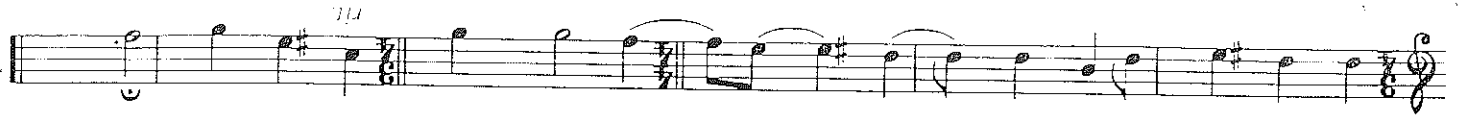
Allegro moderato

23b

*d* *f*

22b

$\text{♩} = 60$



♩ = 138

27b



26b



♩ = 110

25b

*molto rit.* *f* *d*

*cresc.* *p* *f*

♯ = +112

30b

♯ = +72

X 29b

*rit.* *a tempo*

*rit.* *a tempo*

a tempo

X 28b

33b

$\text{♩} = 144$

32b

$\text{♩} = 96$

31b

Handwritten musical sketches and tempo markings:

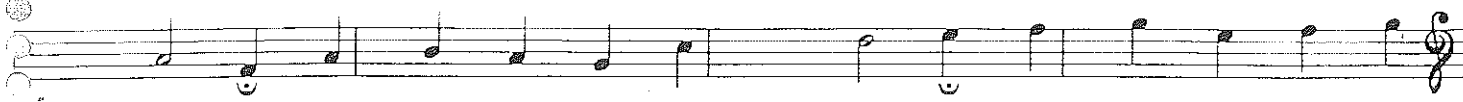
- Allegro molto
- Andante
- Adagio
- Andante
- Allegro
- Andante
- Allegro molto

Handwritten tempo markings with numerical values:

- Allegro  $\text{♩} = 64$
- Andante  $\text{♩} = 96$
- Allegro  $\text{♩} = 64$
- Allegro molto  $\text{♩} = 64$
- Allegro  $\text{♩} = 128$
- Allegro  $\text{♩} = 192$
- Allegro  $\text{♩} = 96$

Printed musical score with three staves:

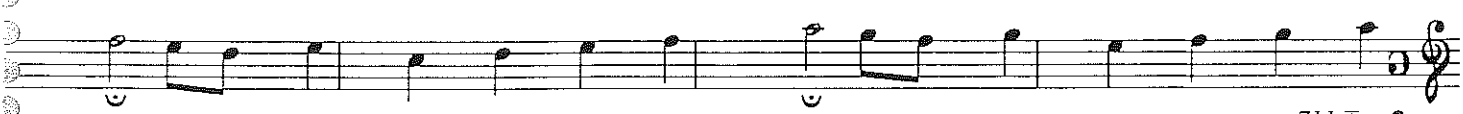
- Staff 1:** *d* poco a poco dim. e molto rit.
- Staff 2:** *f*, *fu*, *d*, Adagio, Andante, *d = p*
- Staff 3:** *f*, *d*, *f*, Allegro molto, Adagio, Presto ( $\text{♩} = 96$ )



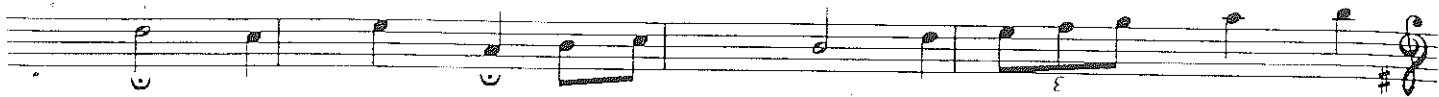
3c  
♩ = ♯112



2c  
♩ = ♯112

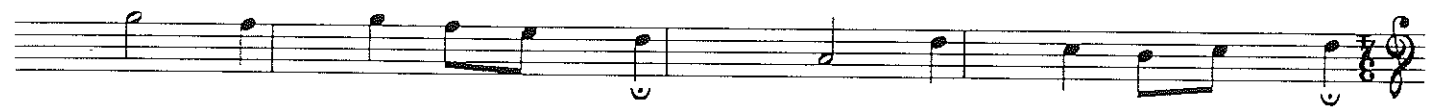
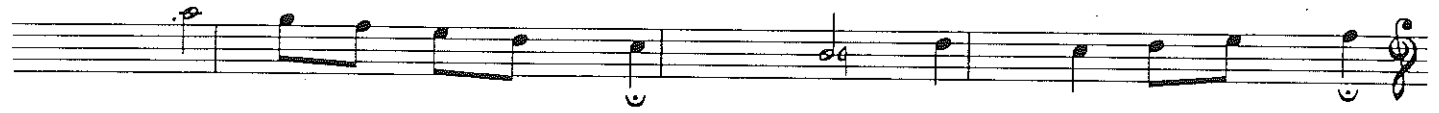


1c  
♩ = ♯112



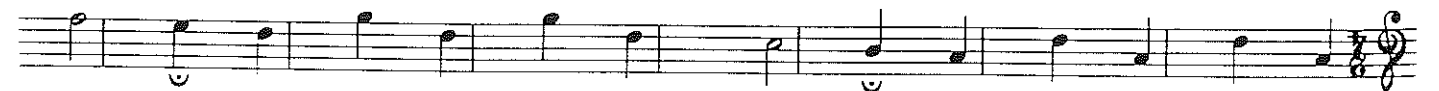
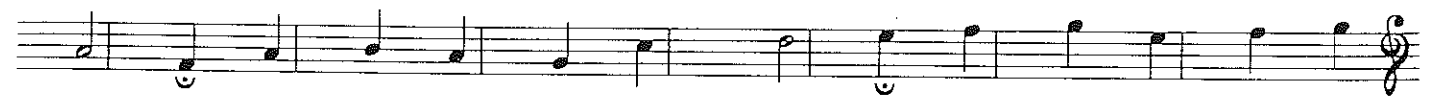
$\text{♩} = \text{♩} = 112$

6c



$\text{♩} = \text{♩} = 112$

5c



$\text{♩} = \text{♩} = 112$

4c

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. It features two triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) and a dynamic marking of *sub. p* (subito piano) with a hairpin. The tempo marking *Moderato* is written below the staff.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. It features a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) with a hairpin, followed by a *p* (piano) marking. The tempo marking *Moderato* is written below the staff.

♩ = ♯ 132  
9c

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some rests.

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some rests.

♩ = ♯ 112  
8c

Musical staff 5: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some rests.

Musical staff 6: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some rests.

♩ = ♯ 112  
7c



Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. Dynamics: *d*, *ff*. Includes handwritten numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. Dynamics: *poco a poco cresc.*, *d*, *rall.*, *fu*. Includes handwritten numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

12c

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. Dynamics: *d*, *f*. Includes handwritten numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Allegro

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. Dynamics: *df*, *fu*. Includes handwritten numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Andante

11c

Musical staff 5: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. Dynamics: *ff*, *d*. Includes handwritten numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Musical staff 6: Treble clef, 2/4 time signature. Dynamics: *d*, *ff*. Includes handwritten numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Maestoso

10c



Allegro con spirito

18c

d. = 72

17c

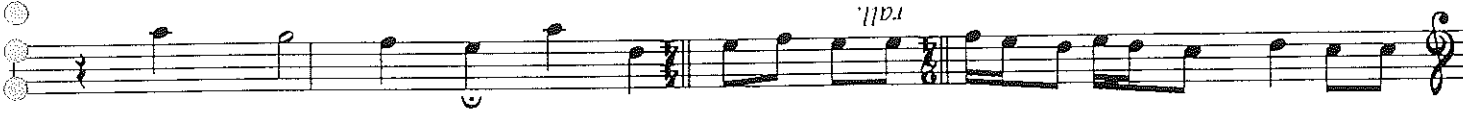
d. = 108

16c



Tempo di marcia

21c



$\text{♩} = 118$

$\text{♩} = 60$

20c



$\text{♩} = 96$

19c

24c

$\text{♩} = 96$

23c

$\text{♩} = 96$

22c



musical notation for measures 280-281. The first staff shows a melodic line with a *cantabile* marking and a dynamic of *d*. A tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = 60$  is present. The second staff continues the melodic line.

musical notation for measures 282-283. The first staff features a dynamic of *f* and a *d* marking. A tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = 132$  is shown. The second staff continues the melodic line.

30c

musical notation for measures 284-285, showing a melodic line with a slur over the first two measures.

musical notation for measures 286-287. The first staff includes a dynamic of *f* and a *d* marking. A tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = 60$  is present. The second staff continues the melodic line.

Allegro leggiero

29c

musical notation for measures 288-289. The first staff features a dynamic of *f* and a *d* marking. A tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = 96$  is shown. The second staff continues the melodic line.

musical notation for measures 290-291. The first staff includes a dynamic of *f* and a *d* marking. A tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = 96$  is present. The second staff continues the melodic line.

28c

musical staff with notes, dynamics *f*, *cresc.*, *d*, *f*, and tempo marking *molto rit.*

musical staff with notes, dynamics *f*, *d*, and tempo marking *Moderato*. Includes the instruction *poco a poco cresc. e accel.*

33c

musical staff with notes, dynamics *f*, *d*, and tempo marking *le Tempo*

musical staff with notes, dynamics *f*, *d*, *cresc.*, and tempo marking  $\text{♩} = 120$

32c

musical staff with notes, dynamics *f*, *d*, and triplet markings (3)

musical staff with notes, dynamics *f*, *d*, and triplet markings (3). Includes the tempo marking  $\text{♩} = 96$

31c



mf  
Le Tempo

f  
Molto allegro

f  
Poco rubato (♩ = ♯ 82)

36c

f  
d  
poco a poco cresc.

f  
d

f  
d  
Allegretto

35c

f  
d  
Andante

f  
mf  
Allegro

f  
d  
Allegro

34c

Three staves of musical notation. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second and third staves continue the melodic and harmonic development. The music features eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and rests.

$\text{♩} = \pm 120$

390

Two staves of musical notation. The first staff includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*, and tempo markings *Vivo* and *Tempo I*. The second staff continues the melodic line.

Molto allegro

388

Two staves of musical notation. The first staff includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*, and the tempo marking *accel.*. The second staff continues the melodic line.

Rubato

Two staves of musical notation. The first staff includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*, and the tempo marking *rit. molto*. The second staff continues the melodic line.

Allegro  $\text{♩} = \pm 66$

Two staves of musical notation. The first staff includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*, and the tempo marking *cresc. poco a poco*. The second staff continues the melodic line.

Two staves of musical notation. The first staff includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*, and the tempo marking *poco rit.*. The second staff continues the melodic line.

Largo

376

Two staves of musical notation. The first staff includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*. The second staff continues the melodic line.

Musical notation for measures 41c-41e. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some with slurs and accents. Measure 41c starts with a half note G4. Measure 41d has a dynamic marking *f*. Measure 41e ends with a dynamic marking *d*.

Andante

41c

Musical notation for measures 40c-40e. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some with slurs and accents. Measure 40c starts with a half note G4. Measure 40d has a dynamic marking *f*. Measure 40e has a dynamic marking *d*. The tempo marking *poco rubato* is placed above the staff between measures 40d and 40e.

Allegro molto

40c

