- Phrases are made up of motives. Variations on motives can be generated through melodic or rhythmic procedures (also called motivic transformation or motivic development).

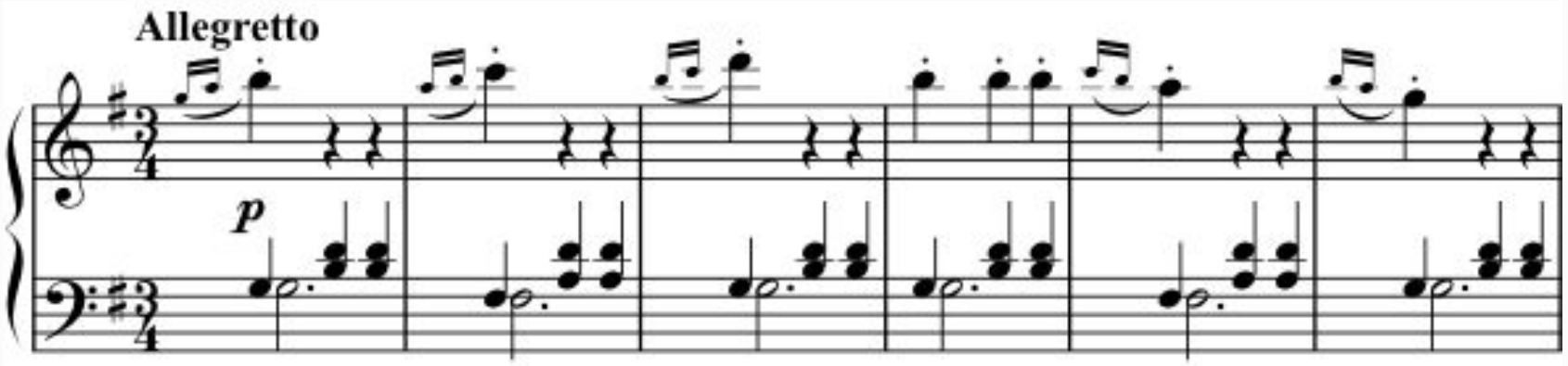
- It is modifying a motive so that in a new context it is different but yet made of the same elements

In order for a portion of music to be considered a phrase it must have a cadence.

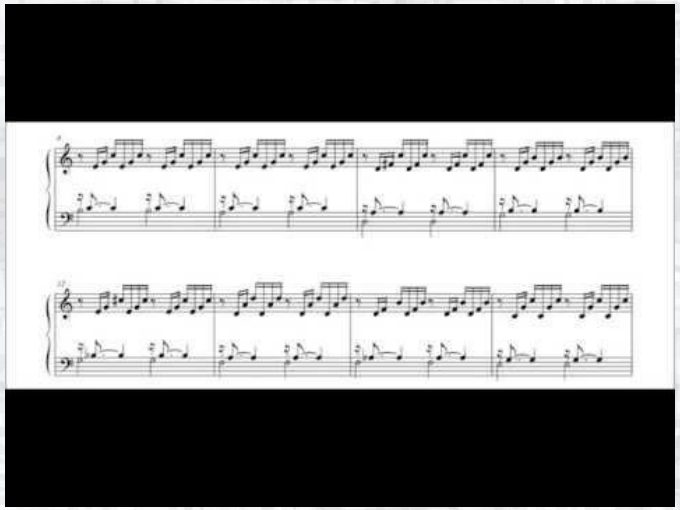
Motive

- Also called: motif, cell, fragment or figure
- The smallest rhythmically, melodically or harmonically significant musical idea
- Used as compositional building blocks

Ludwig Van Beethoven's 5th Symphony in C Minor
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOk8Tm815lE



In this piece by Beethoven's student, Carl Czerny uses the motive throughout, even turning it upside down (measures 5 and 6).



Prelude in C

from *The Well Tempered Clavier*, Book One

Andante

J. S. Bach

p

mf

Ped. simile

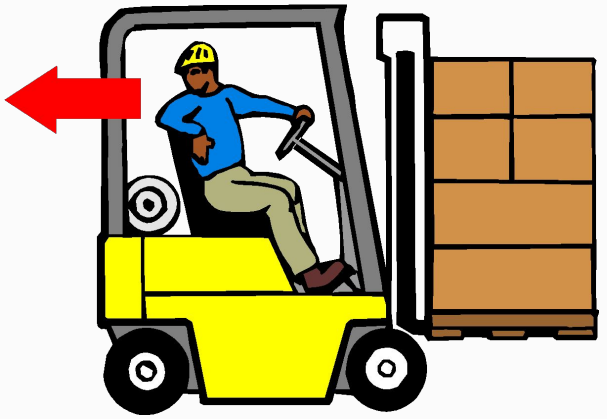
Prelude in C Major BWV 846 J.S.Bach

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXfkdI1oBqU

Melodic Procedures

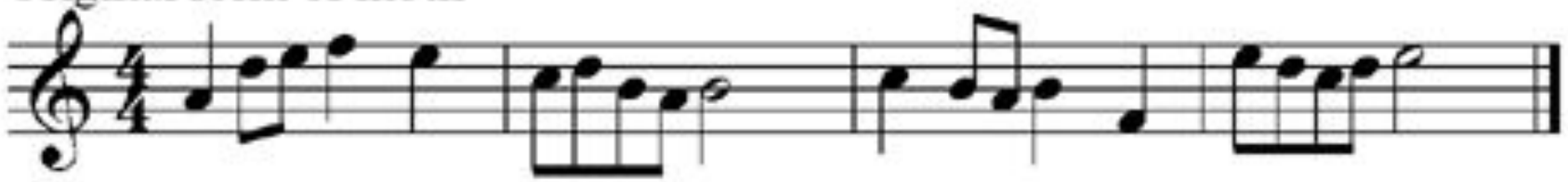
- **Melodic procedures are devices used to manipulate motives and phrases within a composition.**

Retrograde



- The motive or phrase is EXACTLY repeated backwards (from the end to the beginning).

Original form of motif

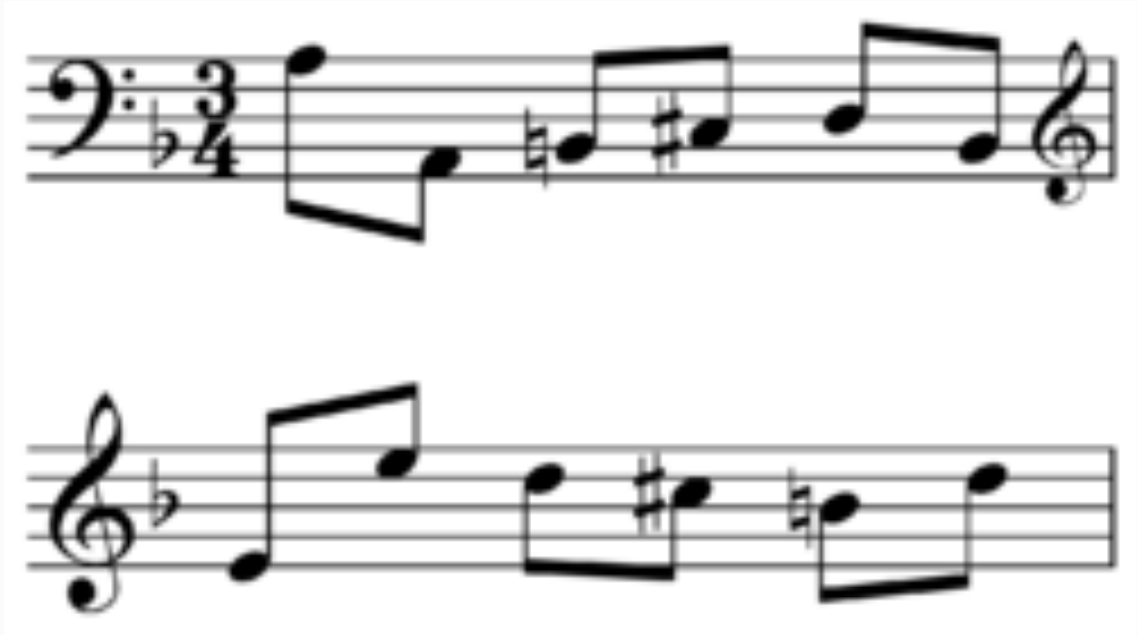


Retrograde form

Inversion

- The phrase or motive is repeated upside down from the original. It moves in the opposite direction by the same diatonic interval. It is a "horizontal mirror image"; rising intervals become falling intervals, etc.

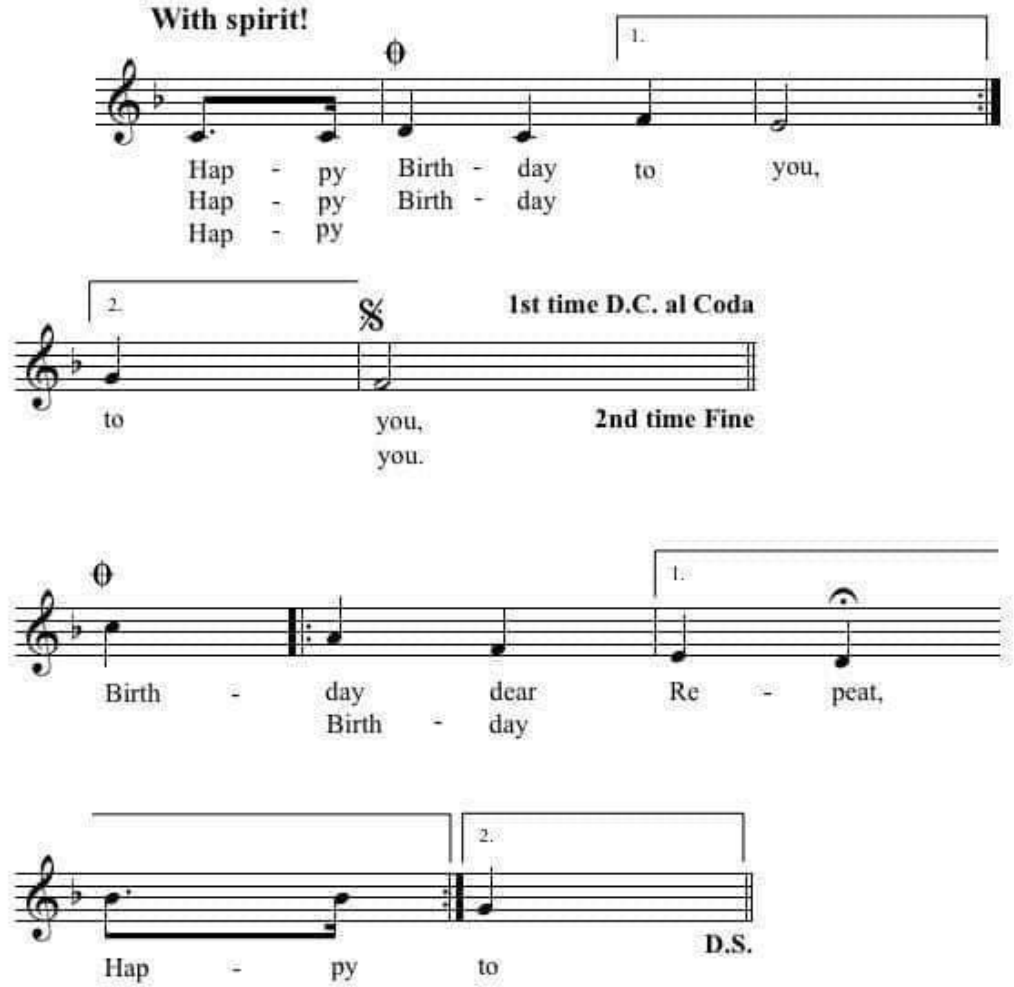
Bach's Well Tempered Clavier



Literal Repetition

- A literal repetition is an exact repetition of a musical passage is often indicated by the use of a repeat sign, or the instructions da capo or dal segno.

Happy Birthday for Repeat



Sequence

- The original motive is repeated starting on a different pitch. There must be at least two adjacent appearances of the sequenced motive.
- *also called SEQUENTIAL REPETITION - repeating the same melodic or harmonic element two or three times, transposed to different pitch levels

Melodic Sequence

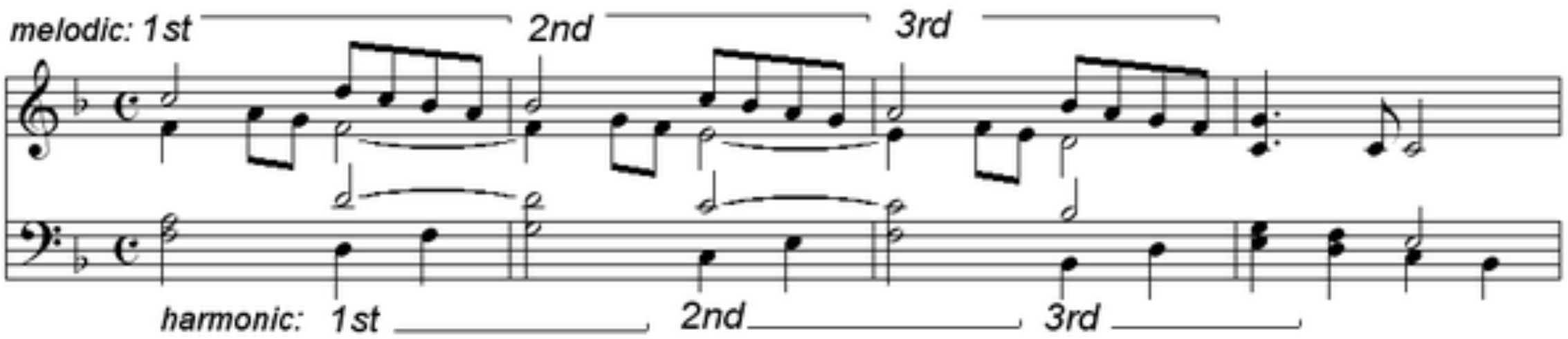
- Melodic sequence occurs when a melodic segment is followed immediately by one or more transpositions of the same segment. The interval of transposition is usually held to a constant size; for instance a sequence up a third, if continued will be followed by additional transpositions up a third. Melodic sequence may occur with a corresponding harmonic sequence.

Harmonic Sequence

Harmonic sequence occurs when a segment of chords is followed immediately by one or more transpositions of the same segment. The interval of transposition is usually held to a constant size; for instance a sequence up a third, if continued will be followed by additional transpositions up a third. Harmonic sequence may occur with a corresponding melodic sequence.

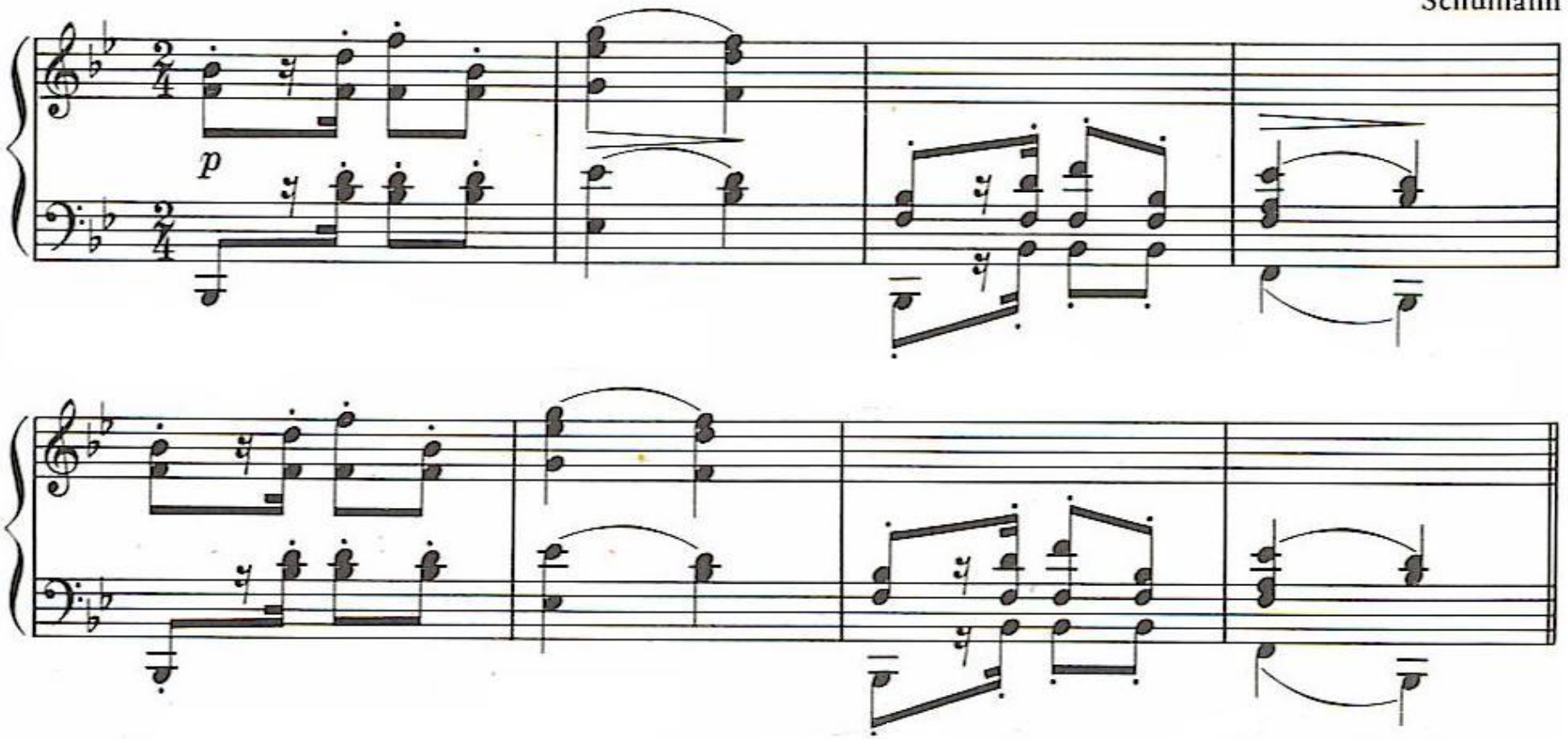
Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Instances of melodic/harmonic sequence

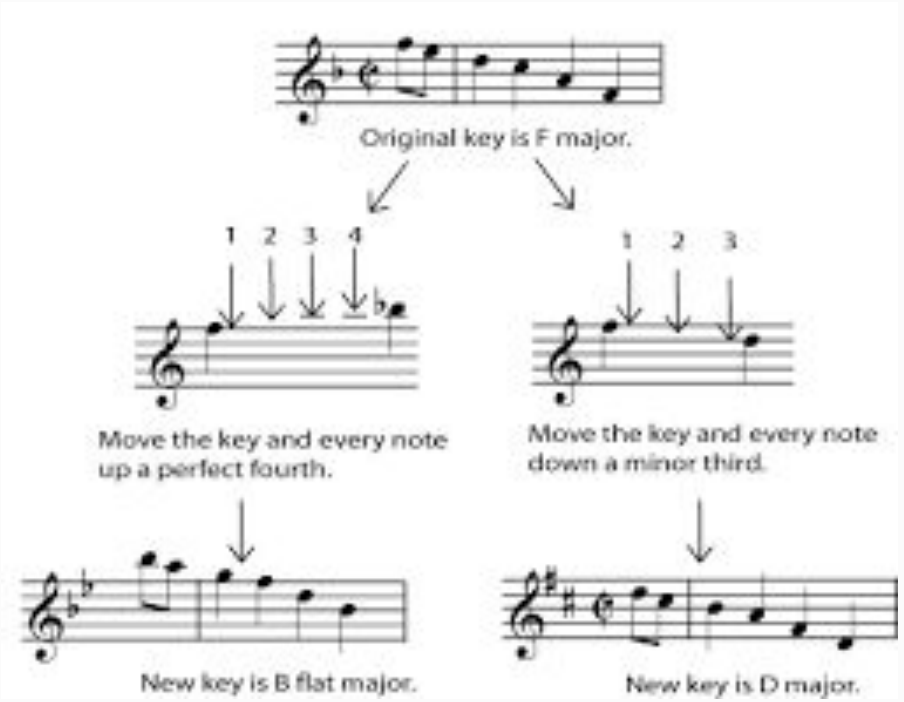


Faschingsschwank aus Wien, op. 26, no. 3: Scherzino

Schumann



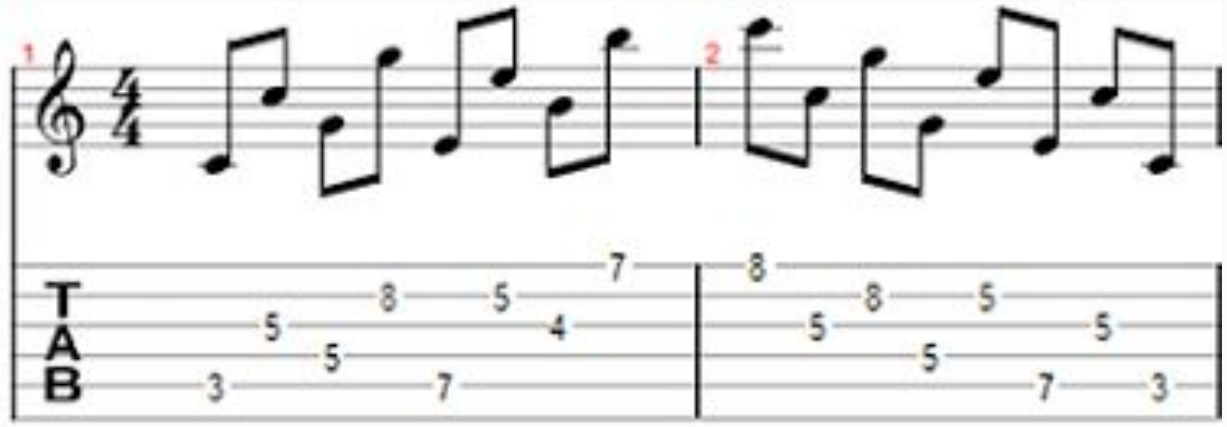
Transposition

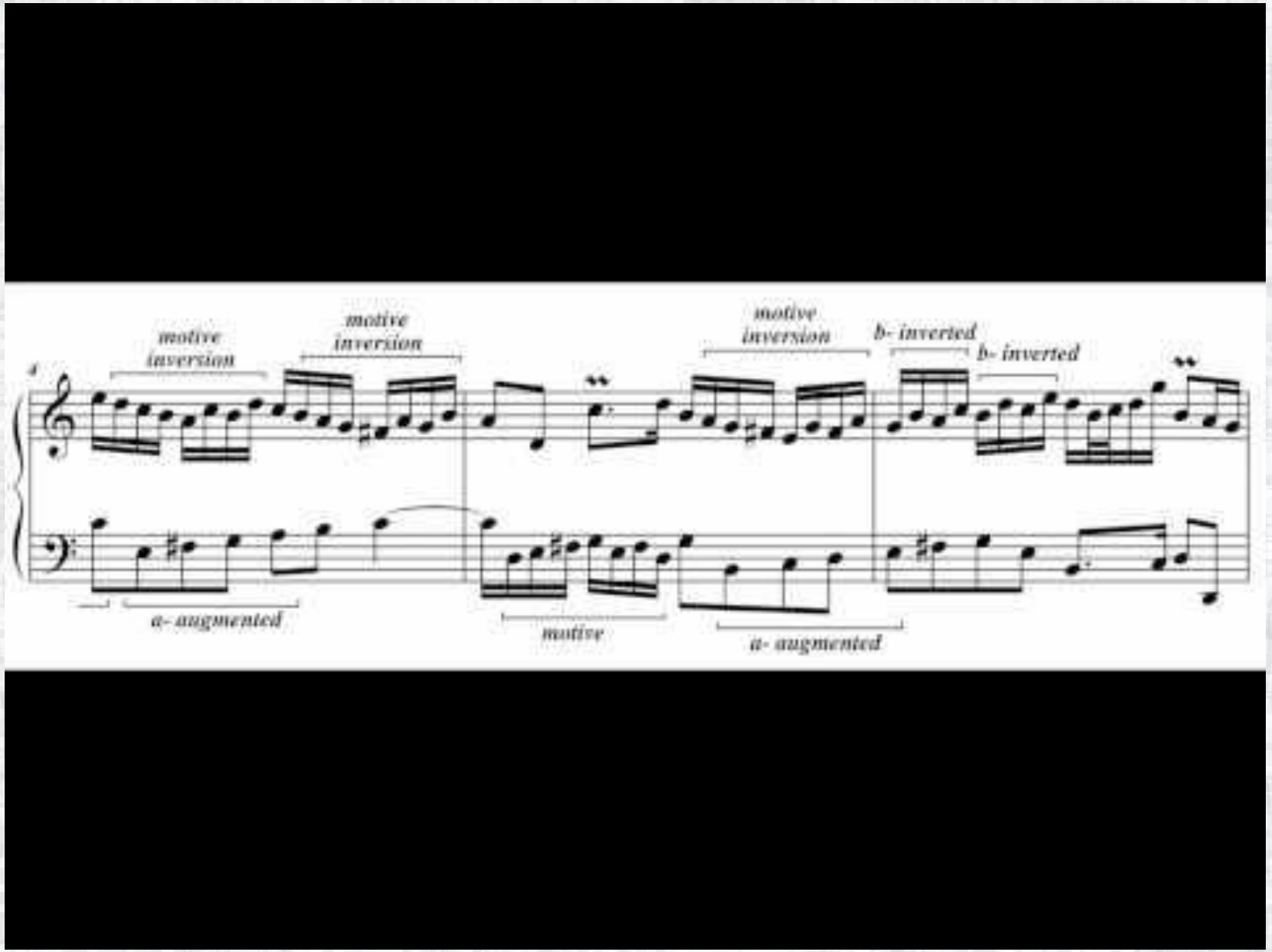


- **In music, transposition refers to the process or operation of moving the motive up or down in pitch by a constant interval.**

Octave Displacement

Octave displacement is placing notes in different octaves. You don't have to follow a particular order.





Analysis of Motivic Development- Bach's Invention No. 1 in C Major
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x33NihQShyw