Themes of Traditional Polish Dances in Modern Improvised Music

Piotr Orzechowski

Archiwum Muzyki Wiejskiej
Fundacji Muzyka Odnaleziona

Introduction

- **Meaning of the Topic**
- Second meaning
- Thesis
- Why dances?

Berklee college of music

Valencia Campus

Introduction cont.

- **My musical background**

- Musical Family
- Classic & Jazz
- Polish Culture & Berklee Valencia

Polish Dances

- **Regions**

  - *Mazovia*
  - *Kuyavia*
  - *Lesser Poland*

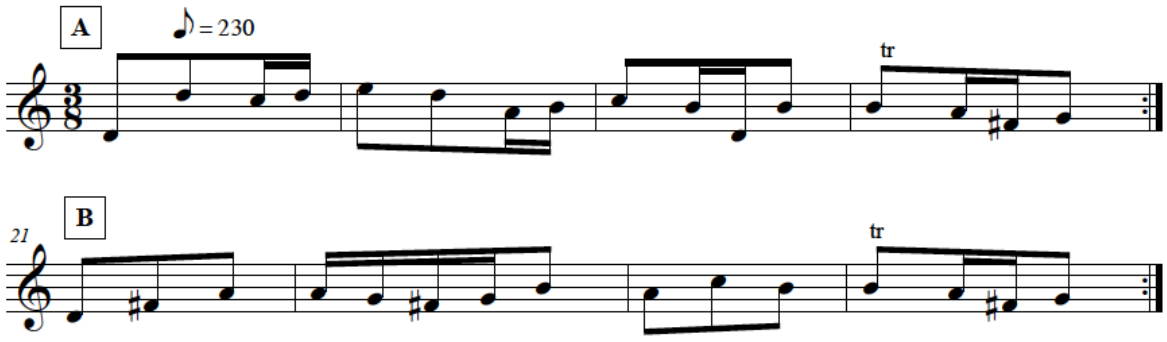
- **Groups**

  - *Dances in triple meter*
  - *Dances in duple meter*

Dances in triple meter

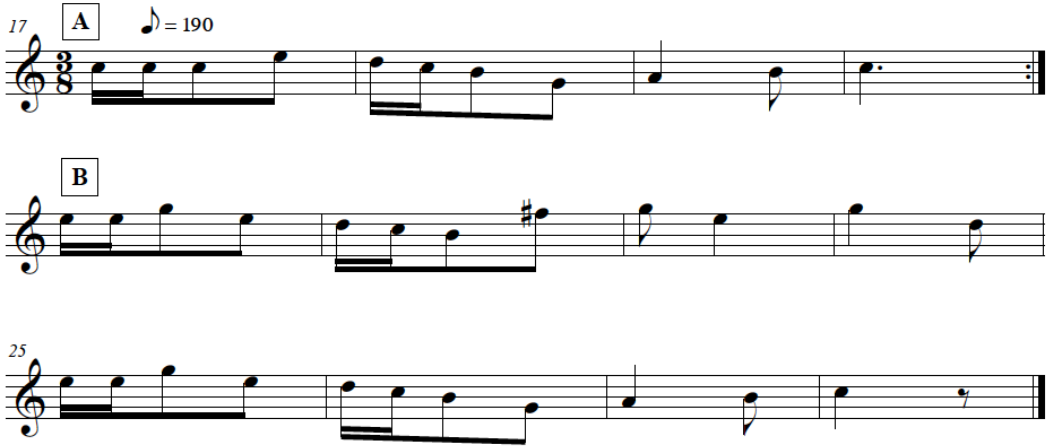
- **Oberek**

- Fast & vigorous
- AABB form
- Violin, bass & drum
- Improvisation
- Important role



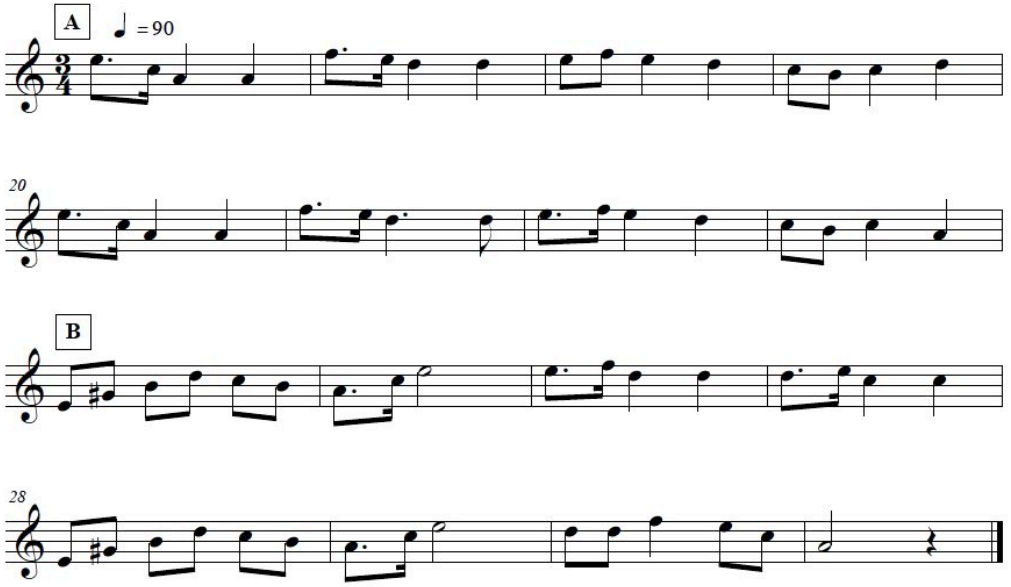
Dances in triple meter, cont.

- **Mazur**
- Oberek from *Mazovia*
- Differences:
  Tempo, Melody
- Recognition
- Polish Anthem



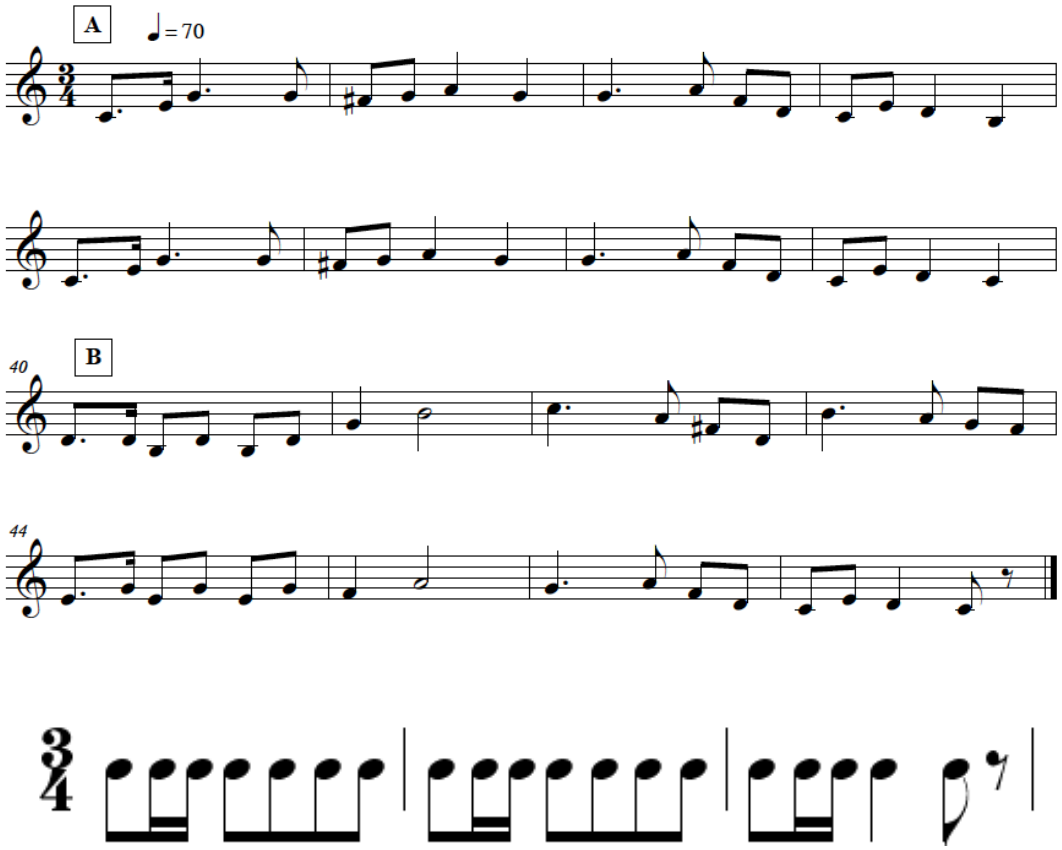
Dances in triple meter, cont.

- **Kujawiak**
- From *Kuyavia*
- Similar form and rhythm
- Melancholic tone & slower tempo
- Polish core



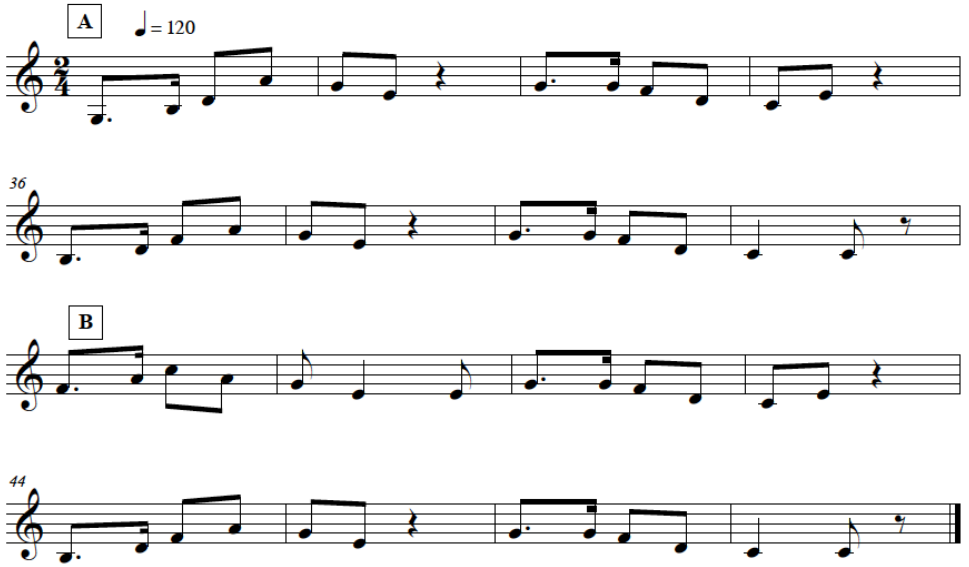
Dances in triple meter, cont.

- **Polonez**
- Ceremonial tone
- Special Accents
- Recognition



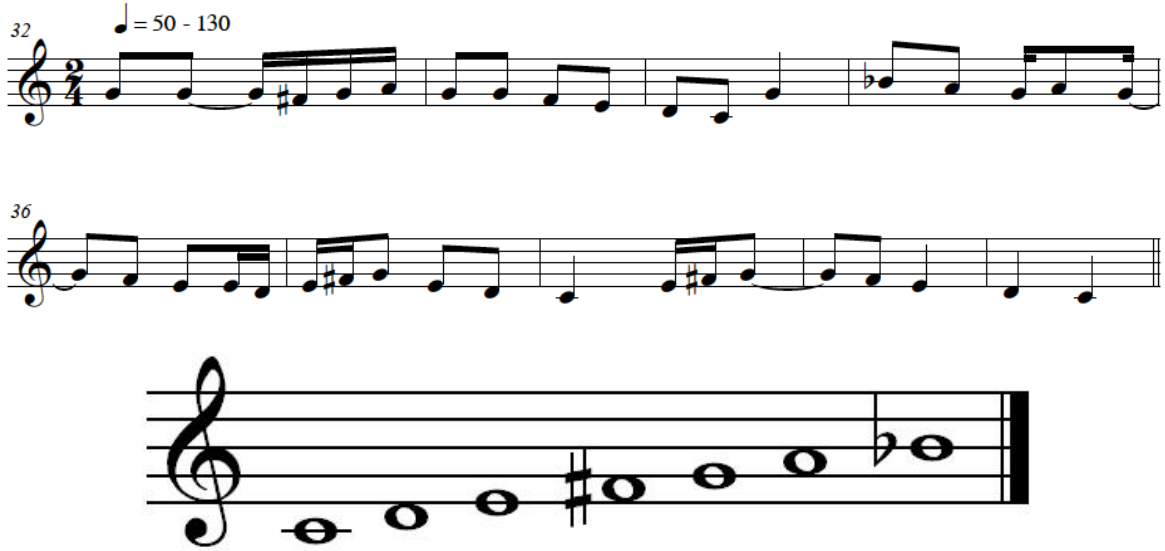
Dances in duple meter

- **Krakowiak**
- From *Lesser Poland*
- Fast & dynamic
- AABBCCD… form
- Syncopation
- Polish spirit



Dances in duple meter, cont.

- **Zbójnicki**
- From *Podhale*
- Special Scale
- Energetic, Man's dance
- Suite form
- String ensamble
- Very influential

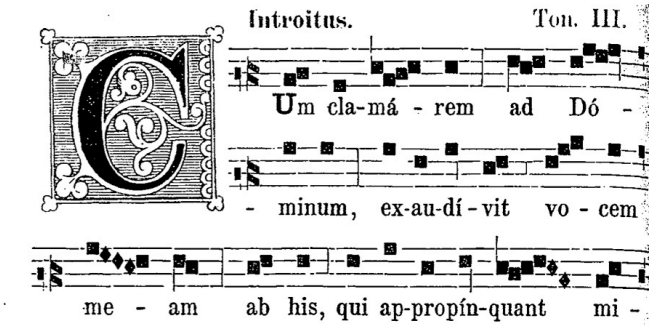


Modern Improvised Music

- **What is the improvisation?**
  - State of mind, which allows us to create
  - Way to express feelings
  - Live act, Composition
- **What is the role of improvisation?**
  - Improvisation in Classical Music
  - Improvisation in Jazz
  - Modern Trends and Improvisation

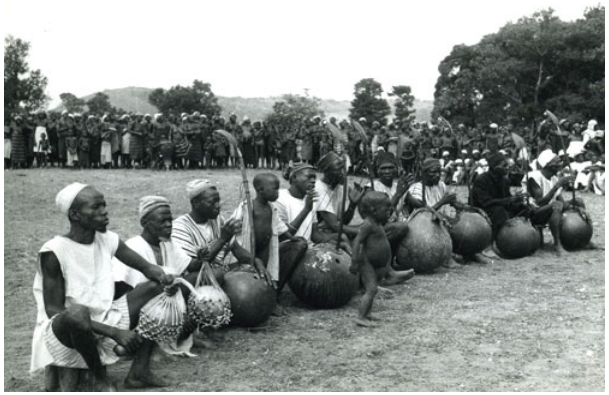
Classical Music and Improvisation

- **Perfection vs. Identity**
- Rules affected by human aspect
- Entertaining or enlightening role?
- Composer: Servant or careerist?
- **Role of Improvisation**
- Romanticism & folk music
- Composition = Improvisation?



Jazz and Improvisation

- **Jazz attributes**
- Folk roots
- New meaning of improvisation
- **Direction of Jazz**
- Individuality
- Coming back to folk
- Modern trends



Investigation

- **Berklee Valencia**
- Observations & Conclusions
- Questions & Answers
- What to do next?
- **Next Steps**
- Steps to be taken by a Creative Musician
- My first Step

Steps to be taken by a Crative Musician

- **First Step:** *Exploration & Experience*

  - To mix folkloric themes and forms with already existing musical language.

- **Second Step:** *Consciousness and Creation*

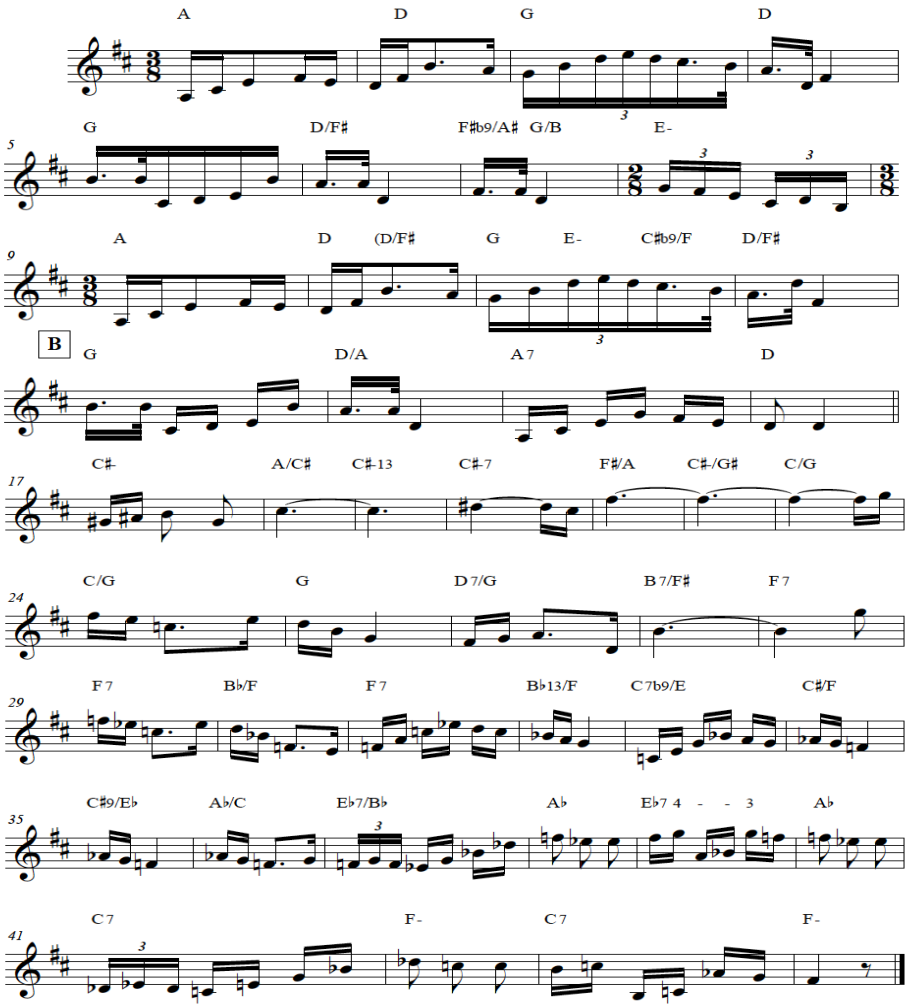
  - To create own music with a knowledge of folkloric musical characteristics.

- **Third Step:** *Imagination and Invention*

  - To find a new formula, in which folkloric characteristics would a main fundament of the entire musical structure (new genre).

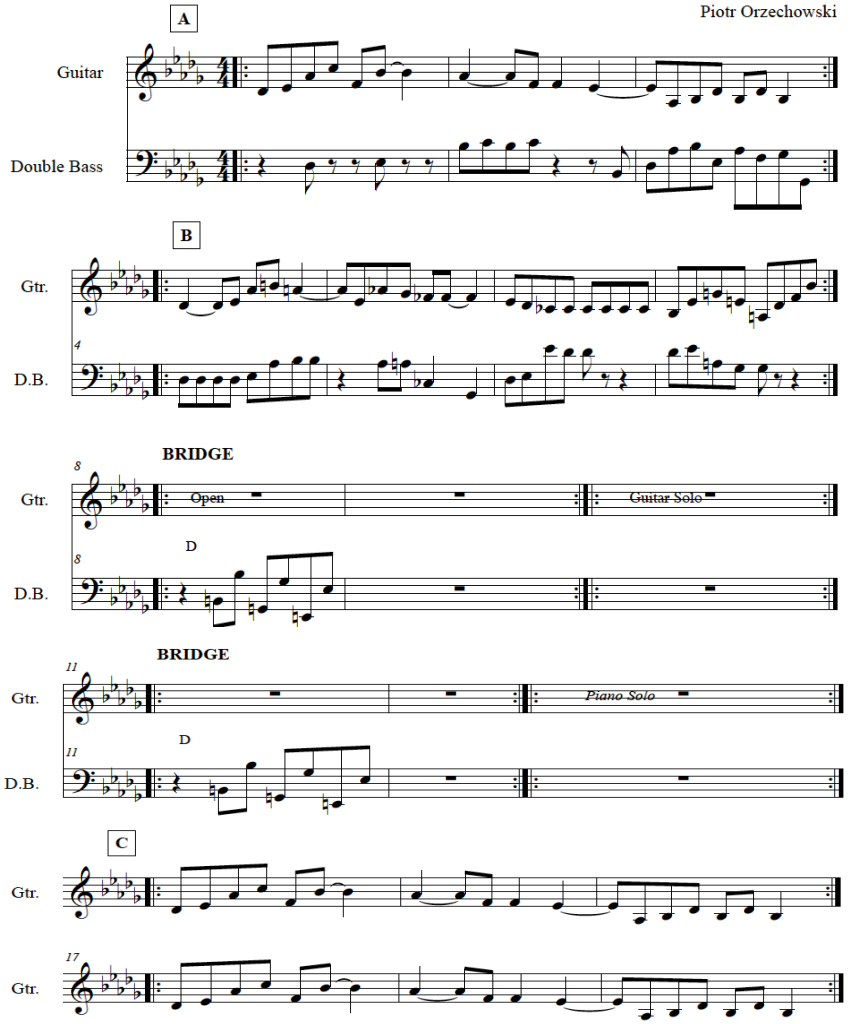
My First Step

- **Oberek for solo piano**
- Extended AABB
- Different melodies
- Syncopation
- Improvisation & Style



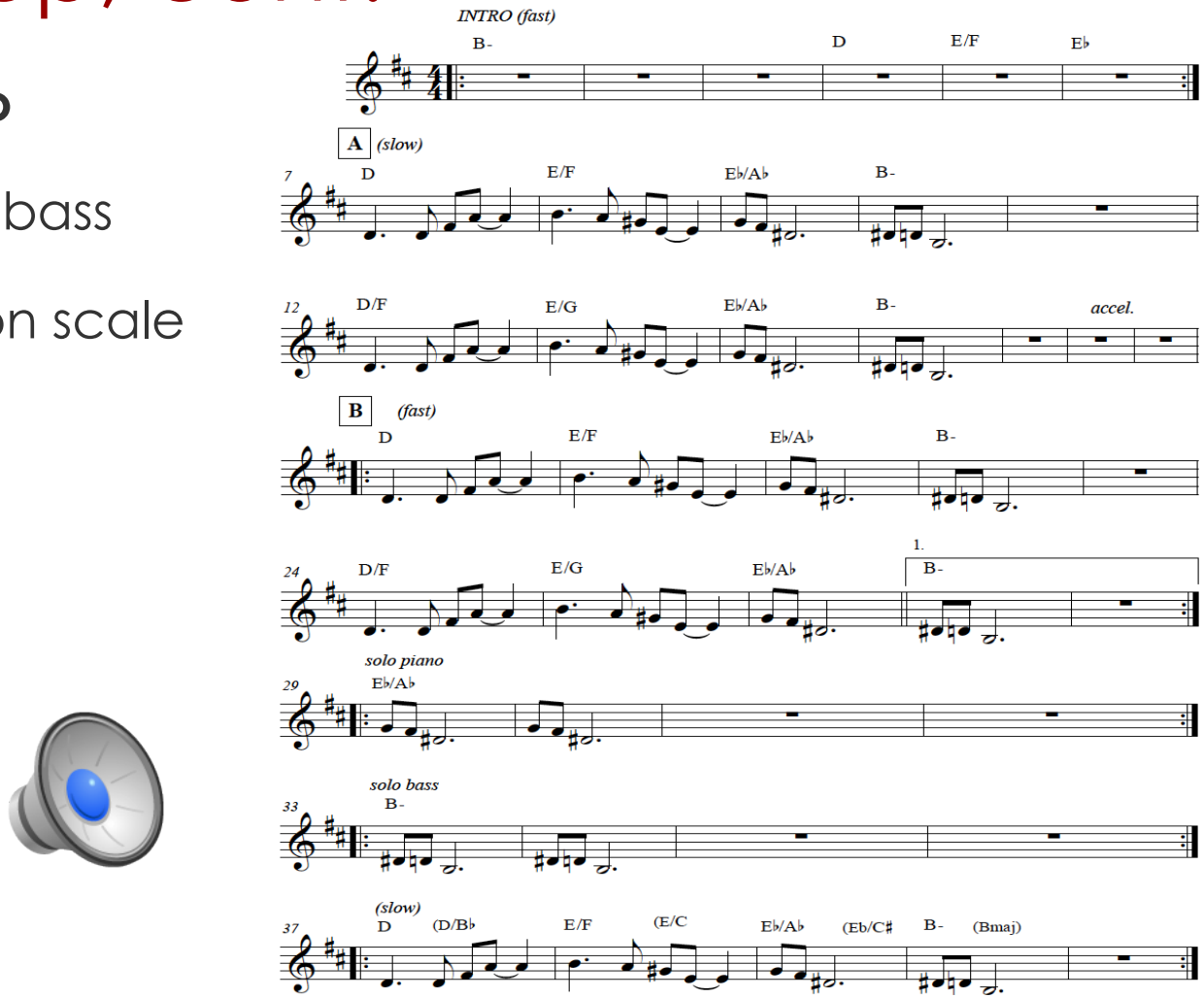
My First Step, cont.

- **Oberek for quartet**
- Guitar, Piano, Bass & Drums
- Counterpoint
- Improvised theme
- Solos in the style



My First Step, cont.

- **Zbójnicki for duo**
- Piano & Double bass
- Melody based on scale
- Suite form
- Solos in the style



Fine

www.pianohooligan.com

Berklee college of music

Valencia Campus

Thank You!