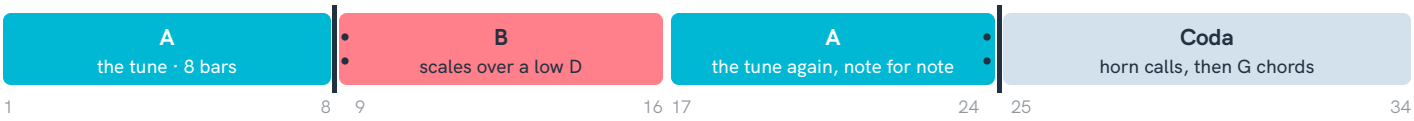
Inside the *Sonatina in G*

Sonatina in G major, Anh. 5 No. 1, attributed to Ludwig van Beethoven — I. Moderato and II. Romanze

A **sonatina** is a "little sonata": a short piece in two or three movements, light enough for a student. This one has two, both in **G major**: a *Moderato* in 4/4 and a song-like *Romanze* in 6/8. It is one of the most played sonatinas there is, and it usually carries Beethoven's name. Handout 239 (Clementi) is its companion.

Did Beethoven write it? Probably not. The piece was first printed around 1807, during his lifetime, but there is no proof that Beethoven composed it. The standard catalog of his works lists it in the *Anhang* (appendix) of doubtful works: that is what "Anh. 5" means. Modern scholars think his authorship unlikely; some suggest a pupil wrote it. So we say **"attributed to Beethoven."**
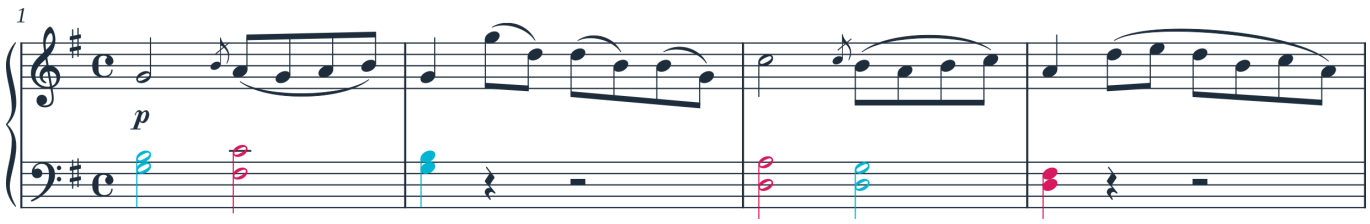
I. MODERATO · THE MAP



with the repeat you play A · B · A · B · A · Coda

Not every sonatina movement is in **sonatina form** (the three questions of Handout 395). Clementi's has an exposition, a development and a recapitulation, the plan of a full sonata like Mozart's K. 545 (Handouts 239, 379). This *Moderato* is simpler: an 8-bar tune **A** that keeps coming home, a contrasting **B**, and a short **coda** ("tail") to finish. When A returns in bars 17–24, it is note for note the same as bars 1–8.

A · THE TUNE AND ITS QUESTION



Bars 1–4. Left-hand chords: **I** (G) cyan, **V** (D) magenta.

Grace notes that turn

In bars 1, 3, 5 and 6 a long note is followed by a tiny slashed note and four eighths: B, then A–G–A–B in bar 1. The small note is a **grace note** (Handout 52): flick it very quickly and land on the A. Keep the four eighths even and smooth under their slur.

Bar 4 asks, bar 8 answers

Bar 4 stops on a **D chord**, V in G major: a **half cadence**, like a question. Bars 5–8 start the same way but end on **G**, the full stop (Handout 72). Question and answer together make an 8-bar **period** (Handout 232).
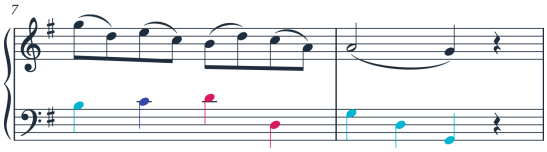
THE LEFT HAND · ALBERTI SHAPES AND A FULL STOP

Bar 5 · low–top–middle–top



The left hand breaks the chord the **Alberti** way (Handout 41): **G** (root), **D** (5th), **B** (3rd), D. Then the top note changes to **F♮**, the 7th of G7, which pulls toward the C chord of bar 6. Keep the low G a little louder and the rest quiet.

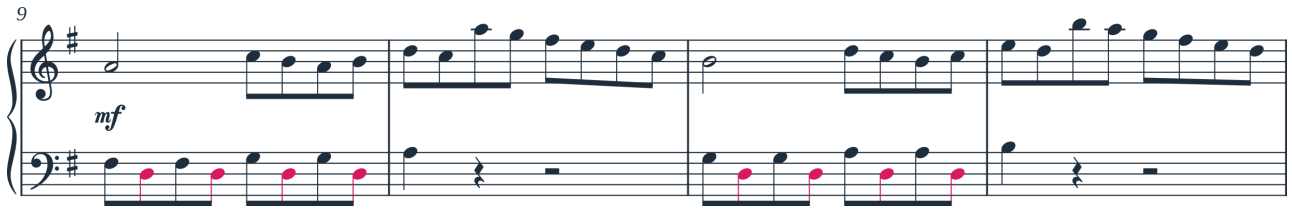
Bars 7–8 · the full close



The left hand climbs B–C–D: **I**, **IV**, **V**, then drops to **G**. The right hand leans on A and sinks to G: let the A be the louder of the two.

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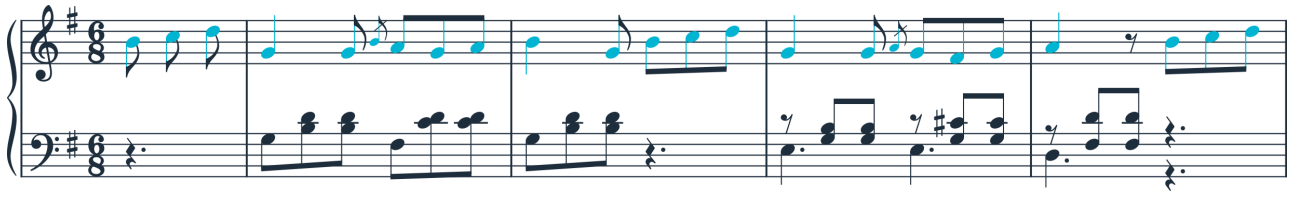
B · SCALES OVER A LOW D



Bars 9–12. The low **D** (V) the left hand keeps returning to.

Now marked *mf*, the right hand runs in eighths, and the left hand keeps coming back to a **low D**, the dominant. The music stays in G major but sits on its "away" note, so it wants to go home: bar 16 is a little run that leads straight back into A.

II. ROMANZE · A SONG IN 6/8



Romanze, pickup and bars 1–4. The melody in **cyan**.

	I. MODERATO	II. ROMANZE
Meter	4/4, four steady beats	6/8, two lilting beats of three eighths
Character	bright and busy: grace notes, scales	gentle and song-like, as the title *Romanze* promises
Left hand	chords, Alberti shapes, a low D in B	bass note + two chords: oom-pah-pah
Form	A · B · A, repeated, coda	A (repeated) · B, which moves toward D major and pauses on a D7 chord with a fermata · A · coda

PRACTICE RECIPE

1. **Left hand alone first.** Block each chord of bars 5–6 before you break it, then play the Alberti shapes slowly and evenly.
2. **The grace notes.** Play bar 1 without the grace note, then add it as a quick flick into the A.
3. **Hands together in 2-bar pieces;** in B, practice each scale run with a stop on its last note.
4. **Romanze:** count "1-2-3, 4-5-6" and feel two beats per bar. Keep the "pah-pah" chords softer than the bass.

TRY IT Play bars 1–4 and stop: does it sound finished? Now play bars 5–8 and stop. The first half ends on a D chord, the second on G: which one sounds like home? Then find the same question and answer in bars 17–24.

LISTEN
Scan to hear the Moderato and the bars on this sheet
tissimo.co/worksheets/beethoven-sonatina-in-g

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