Music 212

Modulation to Closely Related Keys

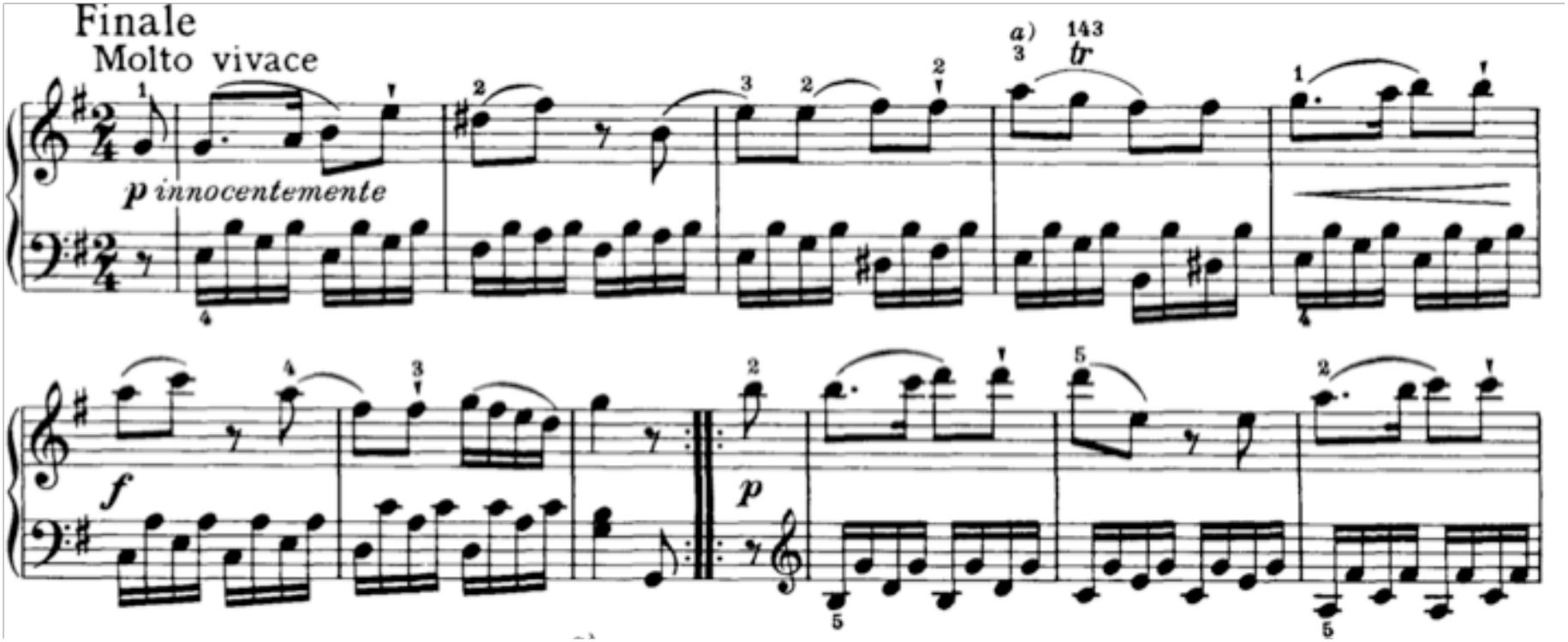
II. Most common technique for modulation – **Pivot Chord** technique

Pivot chord: a chord that functions properly (but differently) in both the starting and ending key of the modulation. Its effect will shift the second half of the musical utterance in a way to steer it to a new, perhaps unexpected ending.

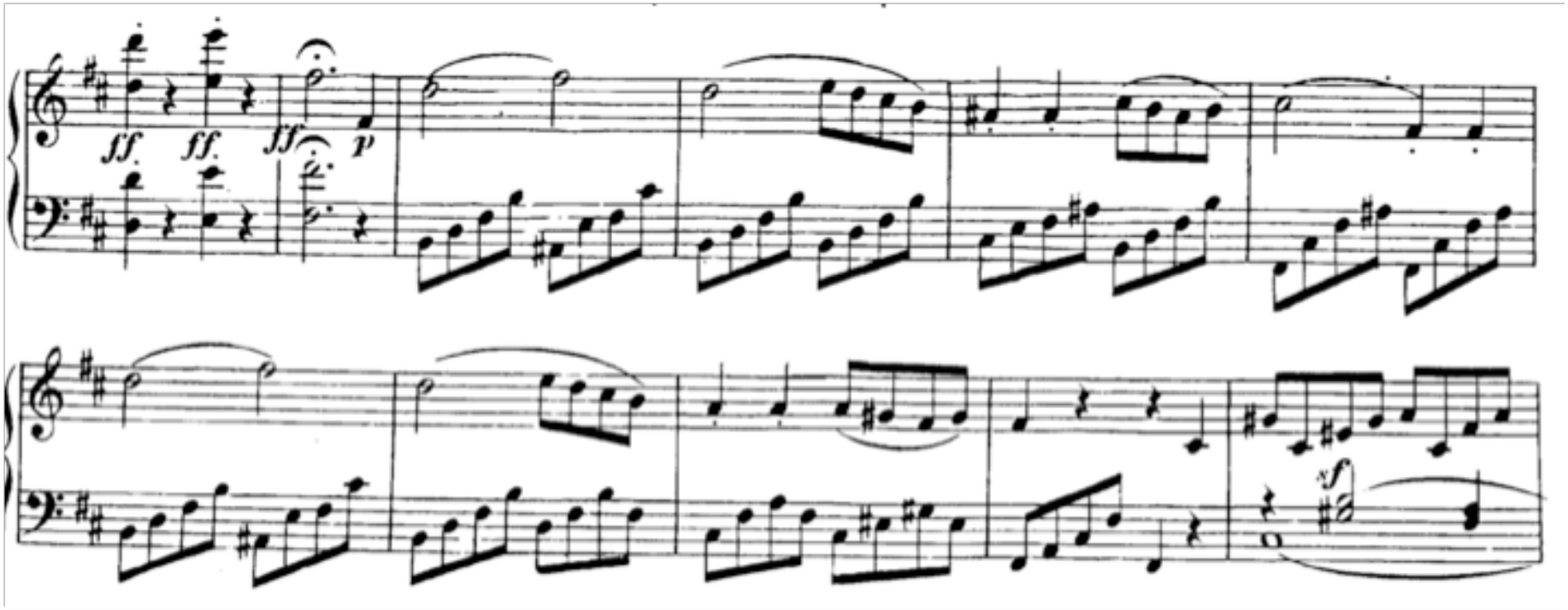
"One of the best ways to get from Boston to D.C. is to hop a train of thought

is an expression that captures the typical mode of coherent thinking."

Haydn: Sonata 34 (III)



Beethoven - Sonata 7 in D (I)



The standard procedure for carrying out a pivot chord modulation

1. Establish the first key clearly, with one or more convincing tonics and dominants.

2. Use a diatonic pivot chord to connect the old key with the new one.
   Best pivots: Pre-dominants in the NEW KEY

   Worse pivots: tonics and dominants

3. Confirm the new key, again with strong cadences (V $^{6/4\text{-}5/3}$ is ideal!)

IV. Planning a modulation:

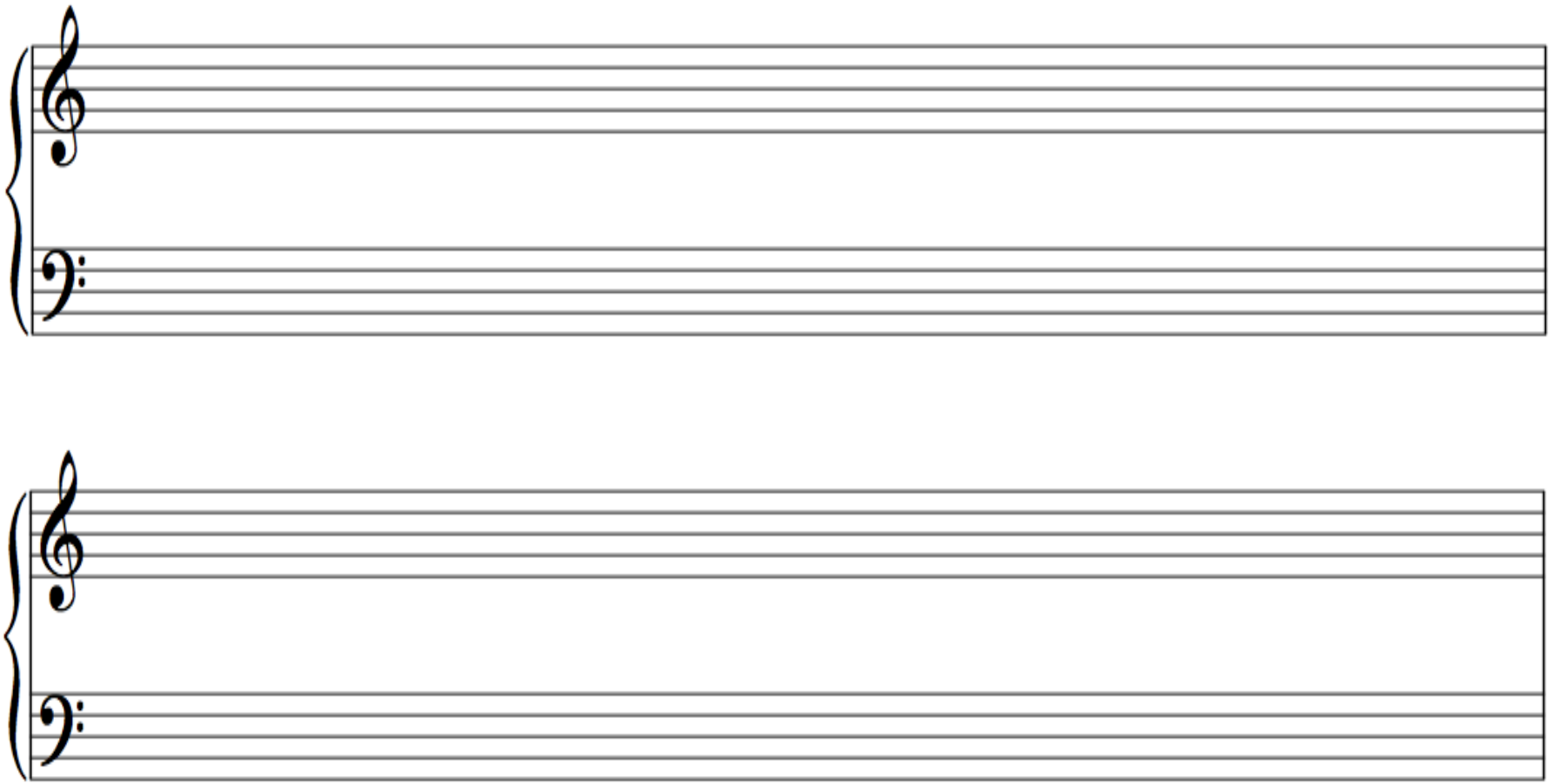
Triads on

F Major:

C Major:

f minor:

c minor:

A major

b minor