

“interpretation”. Every additional detail inevitably reduces the number of possibilities inherent in each of a smaller number of symbols. A comparison between the “clean” score of a Scarlatti sonata and the detailed instructions given to the player by a 19th century edition of romantic piano music will show this in practice:

Cantabile

Ex. 1: Scarlatti: Sonata K546, bars 1–8

Larghetto (♩=40)

Ex. 2: Chopin: Nocturne Op.15, No.2, bars 1–9