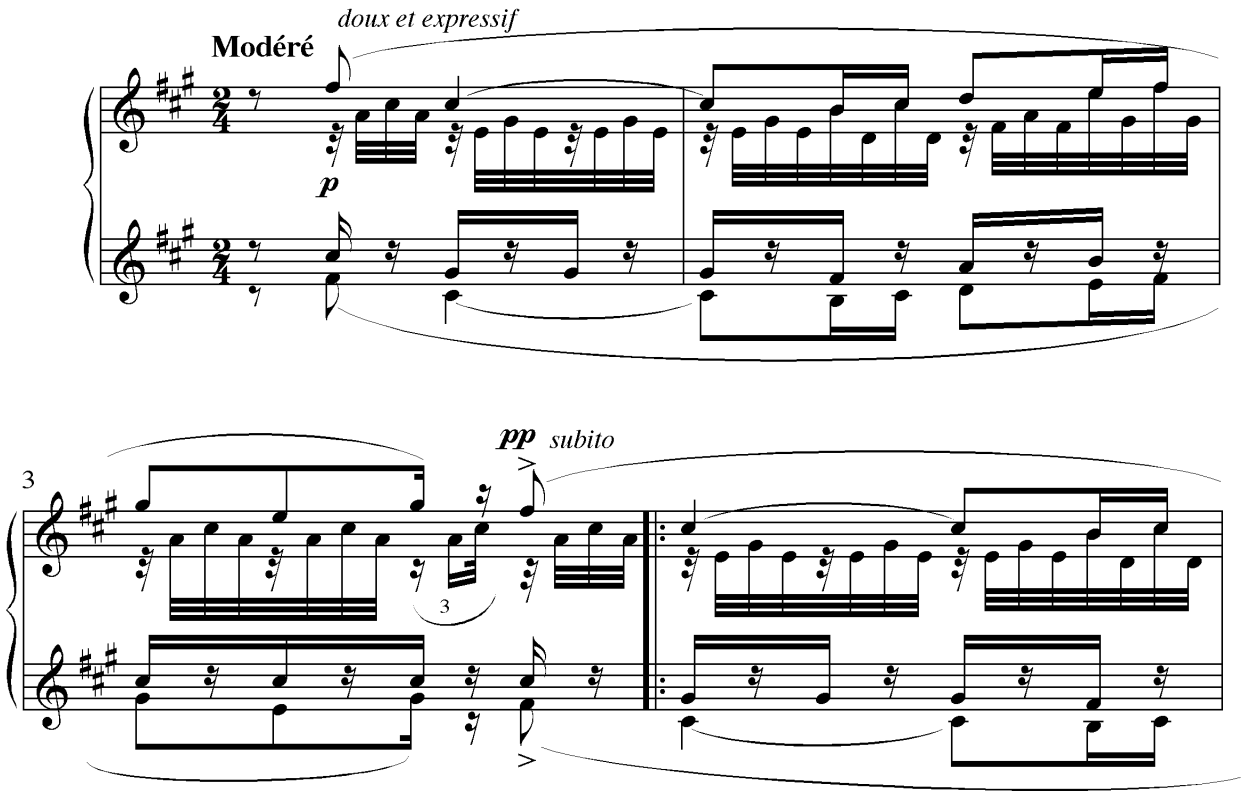
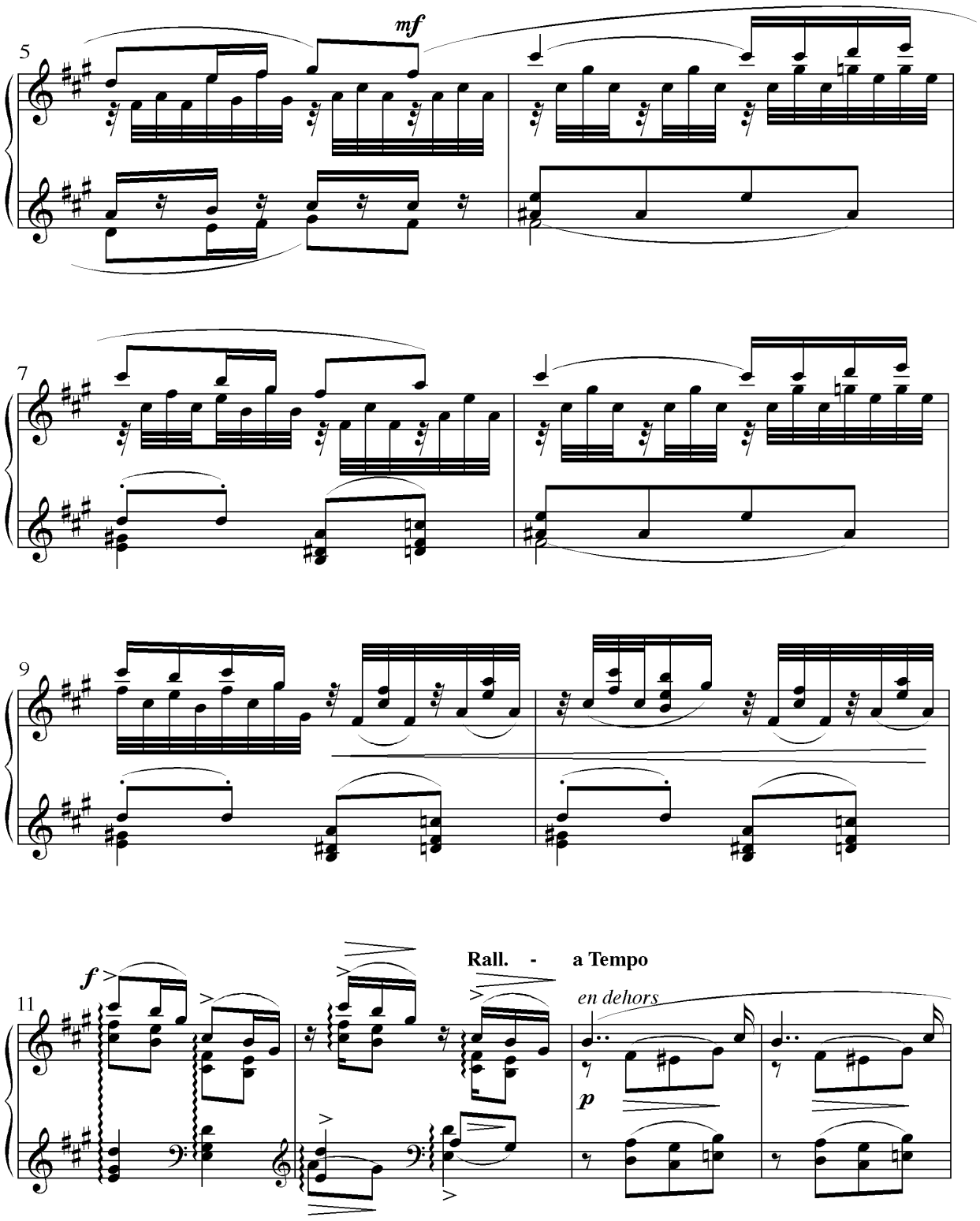
Web Feature 28.1

A further look at impressionistic harmony: Maurice Ravel's *Sonatine*

Like Debussy and Satie, Maurice Ravel sometimes employed planing and unusual scales; however, his music is known for its use of Classical forms (such as the rondo, minuet, or sonatina), infused with a harmonic language rich in extended tertian chords. Web Example 28.1 shows how this mix of old and new is manifested in the exposition of the first movement of his *Sonatine*. Can you determine where the different subsections of the sonata-form exposition are in this movement? Notice, among other things, the voice leading (which often contains parallel fifths and octaves and figuration material that is shifted up and down by planing) and the preponderance of ninth, eleventh, and thirteenth chords.

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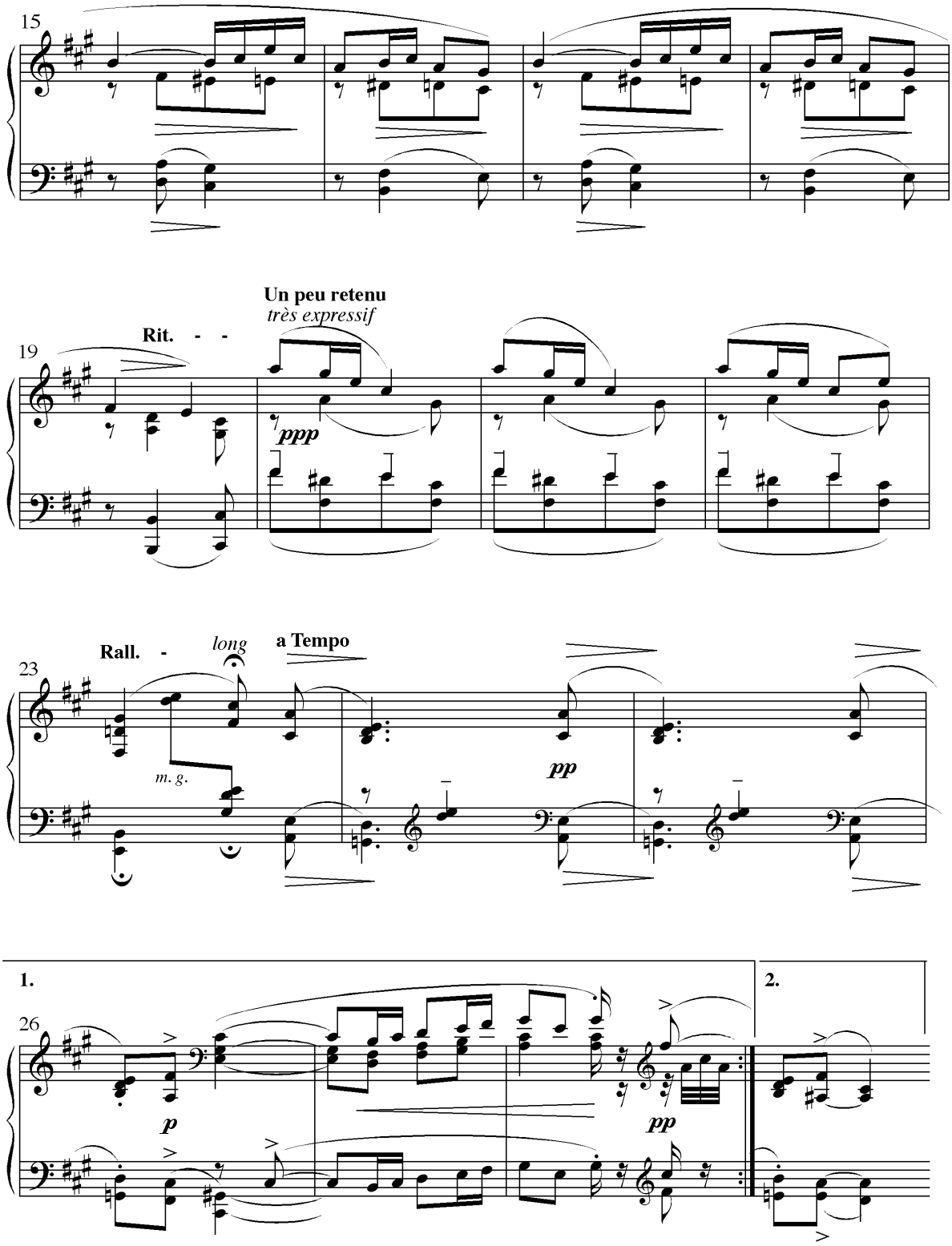

Web Example 28.1. Ravel, "Sonatine" (1st mvt.), exposition only.