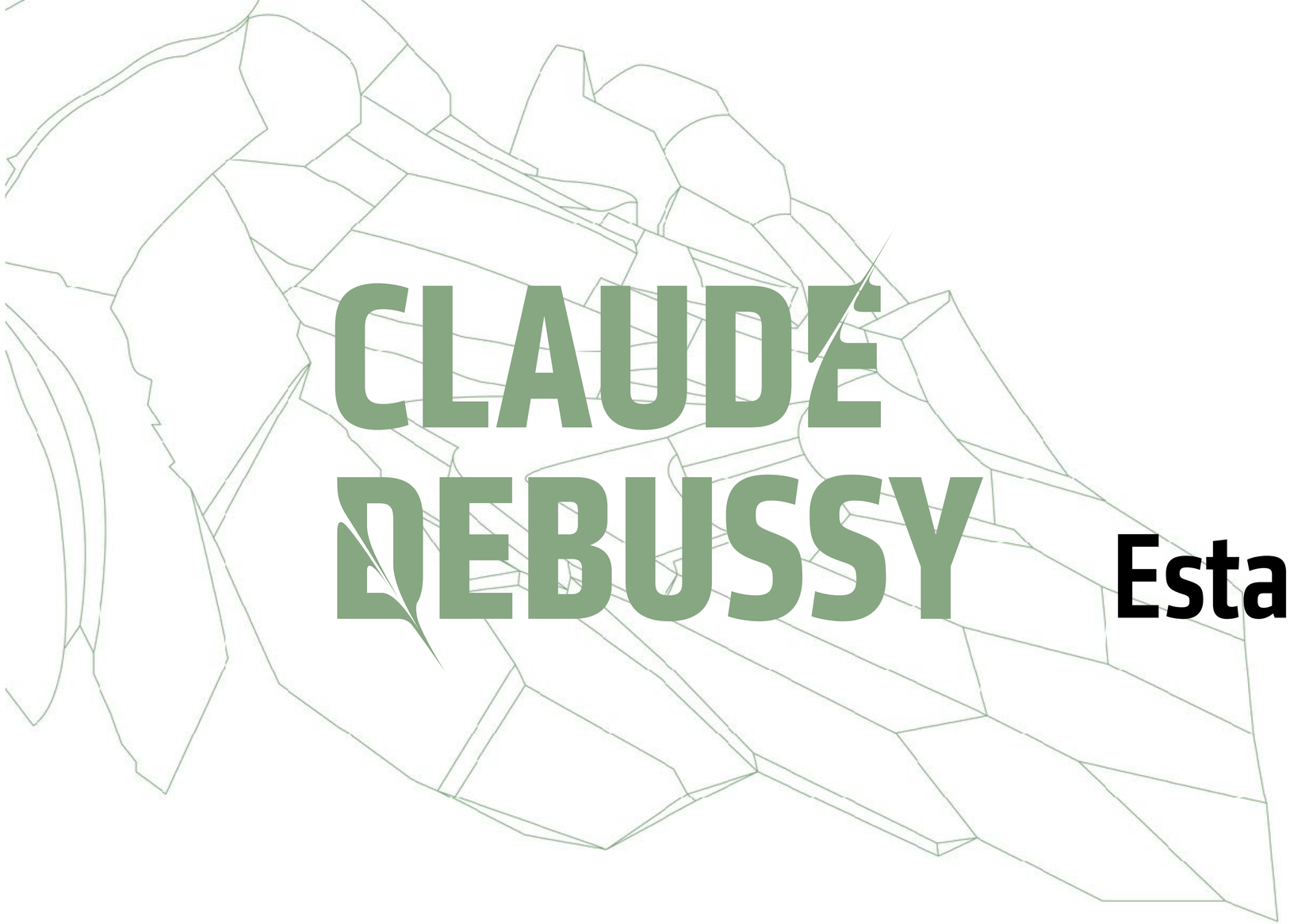
# LSO Discovery

**Rachel Leach** presenter

**Philip Moore** piano



# CLAUDE DEBUSSY

## Estampes

# CLAUDE DEBUSSY

1862-1918

Paris

# Impressionism

Late 19th Century art movement

Artists seek to convey an ‘impression’ of their subject rather than a true likeness

## In music:

- ‘Blurred’ sense of pulse & harmony
- Free structure
- Focus on texture, timbre, sonority
- Evocative, descriptive titles

# DEBUSSY

## Estampes (1903)

- Collection of 3 short solo piano pieces
- Title translates as ‘prints’

# DEBUSSY

# Estampes No. 1: Pagodes

# DEBUSSY

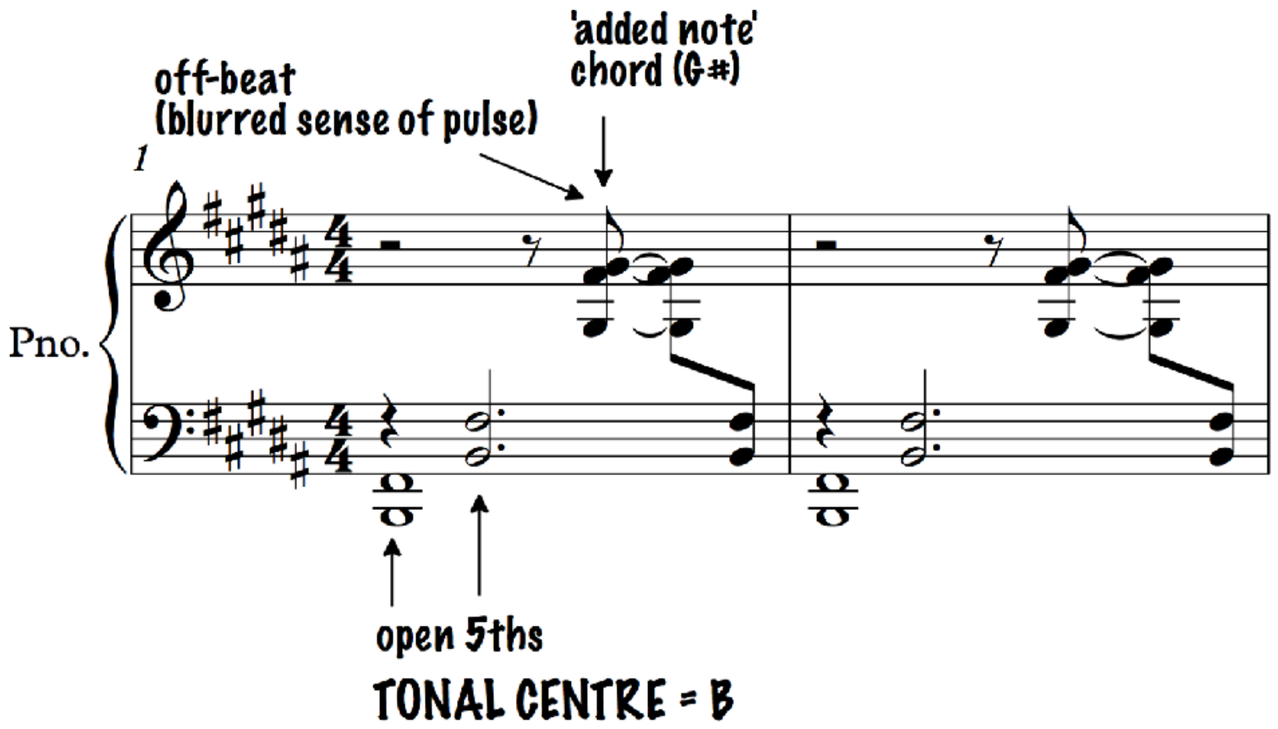
# Estampes No. 1: Pagodes

Javanese Gamelan:

- Orchestra of gongs and metallophones
- 3 layered structure
- 5-note, pentatonic scale

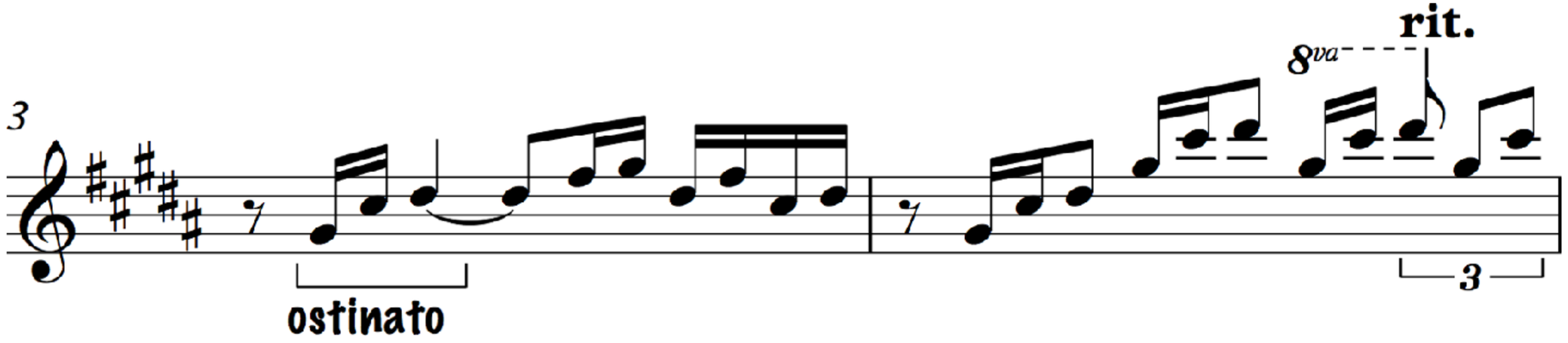
# DEBUSSY Pagodes

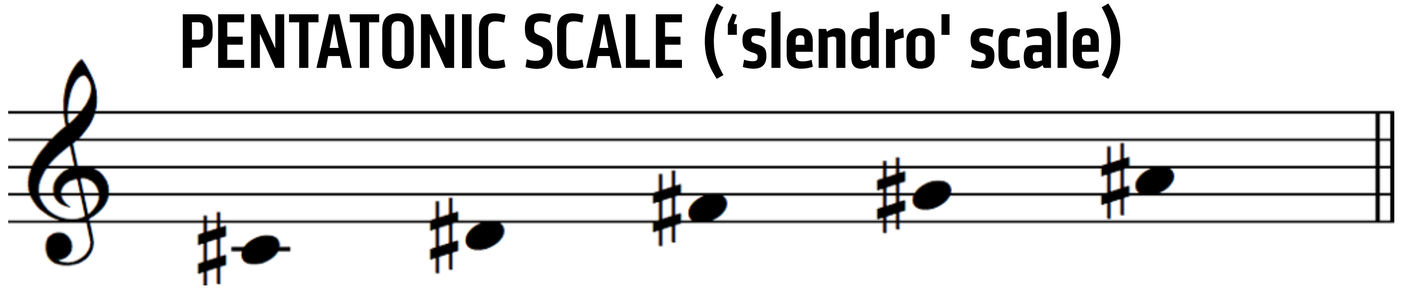
## Introduction



# DEBUSSY Pagodes

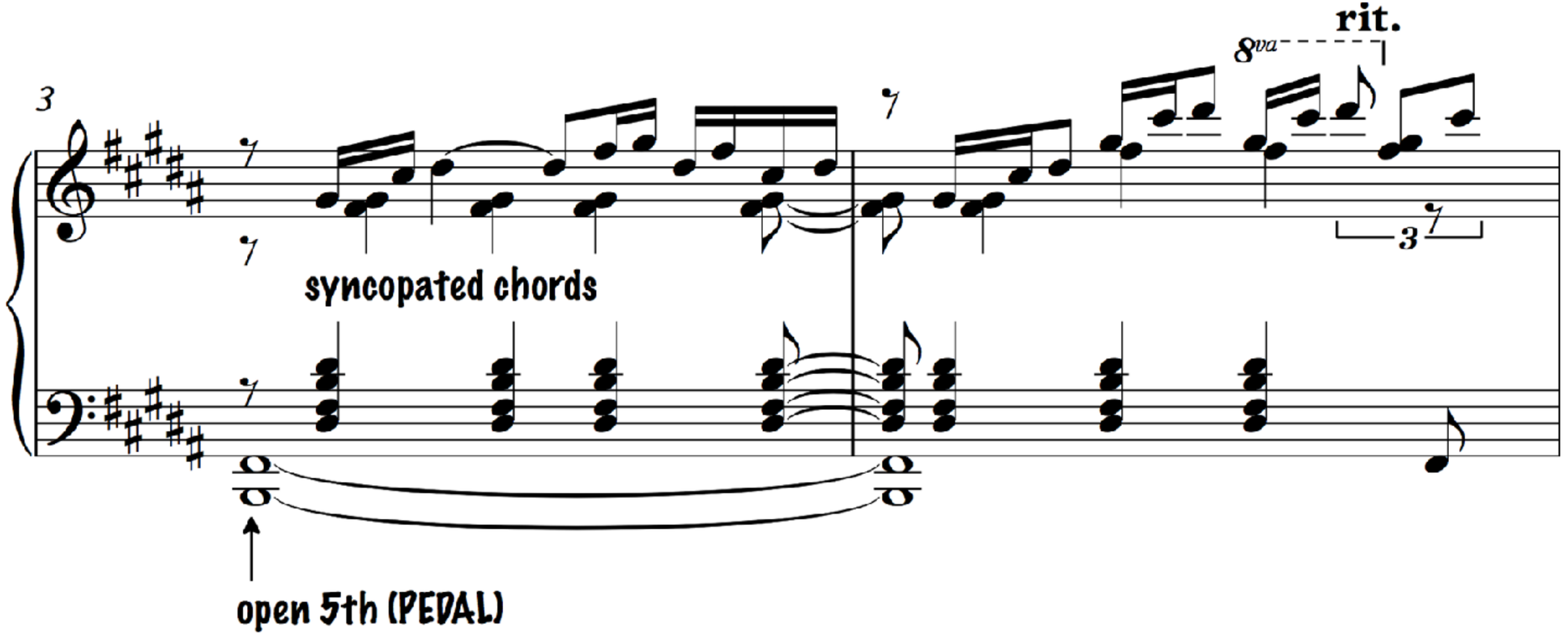
## Main melody (Bar 3)



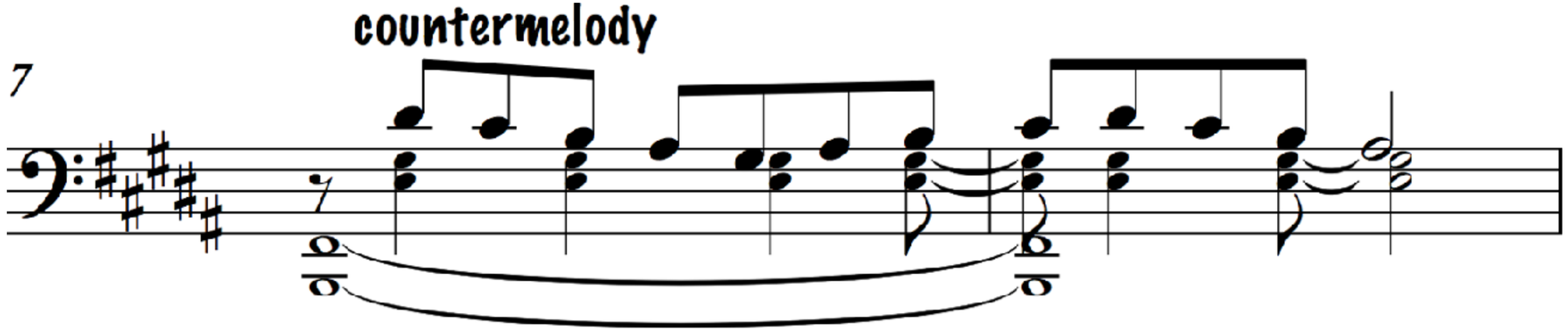
# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## Main melody (Bar 3)



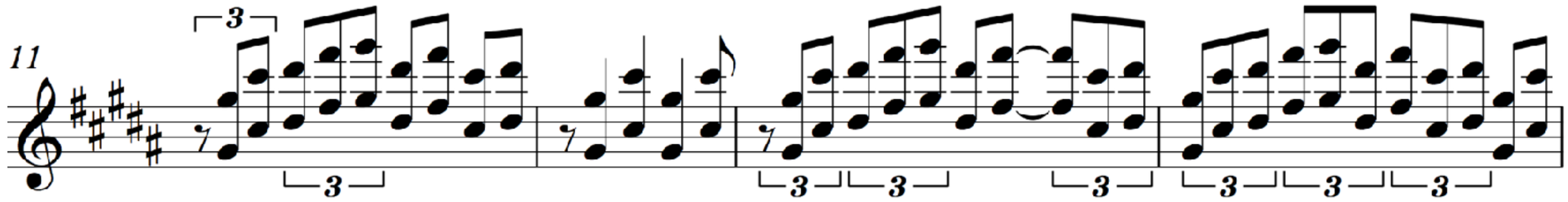
# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## Countermelody (Bar 7)



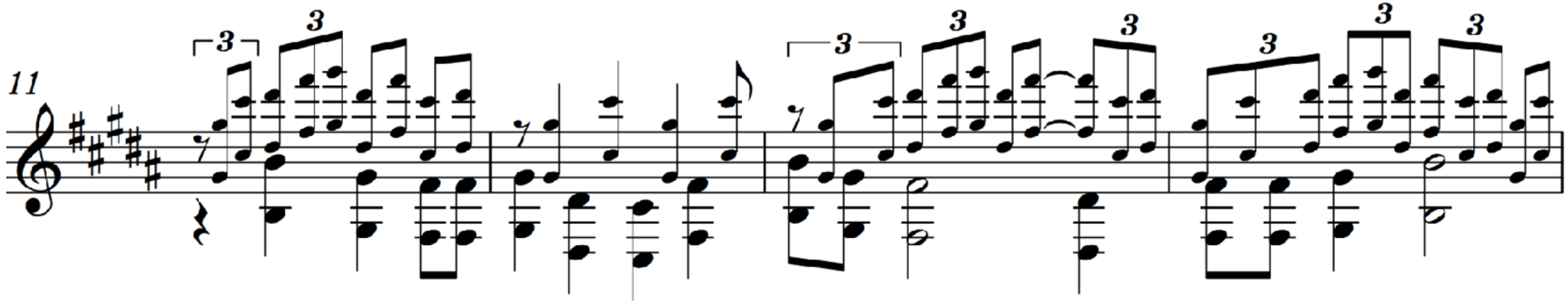
# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## Contrary motion



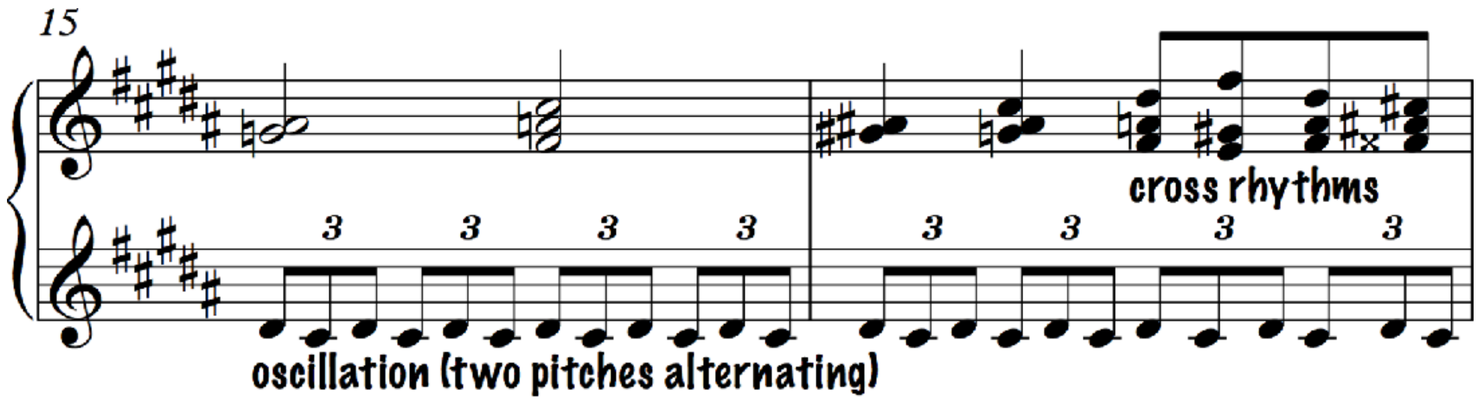
# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## Contrary motion



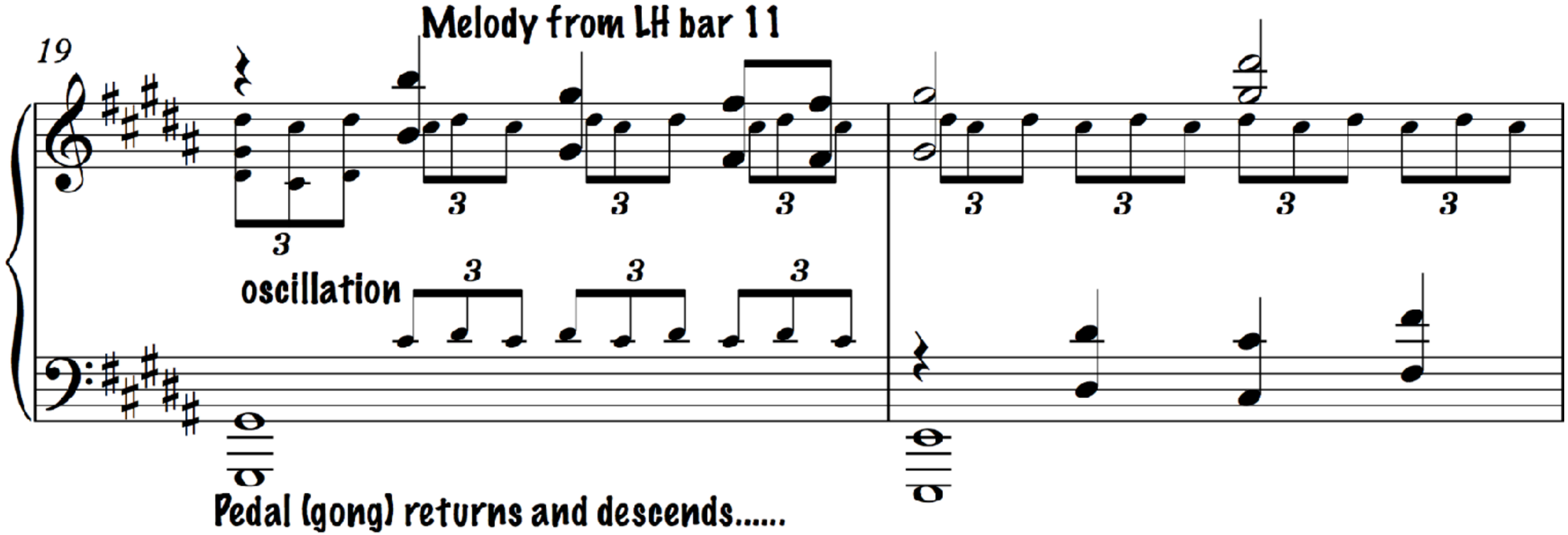
# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## New material at Bar 15



# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## Bar 19



# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## Bar 23-26

- RH melody from Bar 11 returns
- Cross rhythms between ‘straight’ quavers and triplet quavers
- Pedal (tonal centre) of B

# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## Bar 27-32

- Sustain pedal - ‘blurred’ sonority
- RH chords made from 4ths and 5ths
- ‘A’ section ends with same harmony as beginning

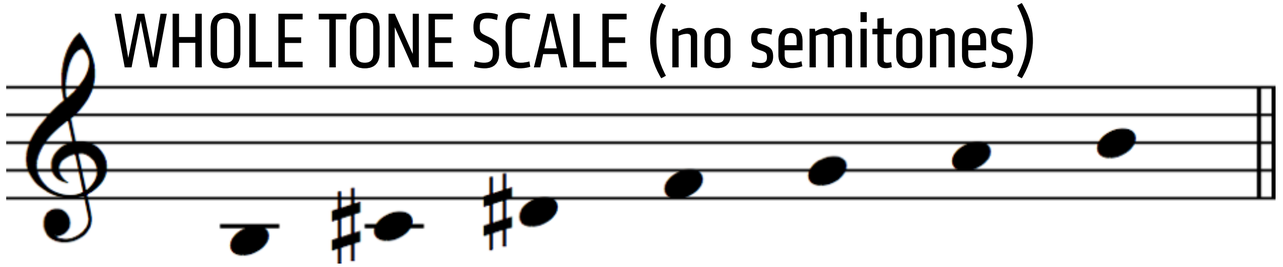
## TERNARY FORM A - B - A

- Section A = Bars 1-32

# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## TERNARY FORM

- ‘B’ section = Bars 33-52
- Texture and harmony become more complex
- Ideas borrowed from section A (i.e. syncopated 2nds at Bar 33)



# DEBUSSY Pagodes

- Climax at Bar 41
- Melody similar to Bar 11 (LH)
- Shimmering ‘metallophones’
- Loudest dynamic so far
- 3-layered ‘gamelan’ texture

# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## End of ‘B’ section

- Trills (very fast oscillations)
- Syncopated 2nds
- Whole tone melody (from Bar 33)
- Diminuendo

# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## TERNARY FORM ‘A’ section returns at Bar 53

- Exact repeat of material (without 2 bar intro)
- ‘B’ section climax repeats at Bar 73
- Bar 78: High Tessitura (range), rippling idea and oscillation

# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## TERNARY FORM 'A' section returns at Bar 53

- Bar 80: Low 'gong' pedals return, main melody returns
- Bar 84: Countermelody (Bar 7) returns
- Bar 97: *"as quiet as possible"*
- Final bar: "laissez vibrer" = continue vibrating

# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## Summary

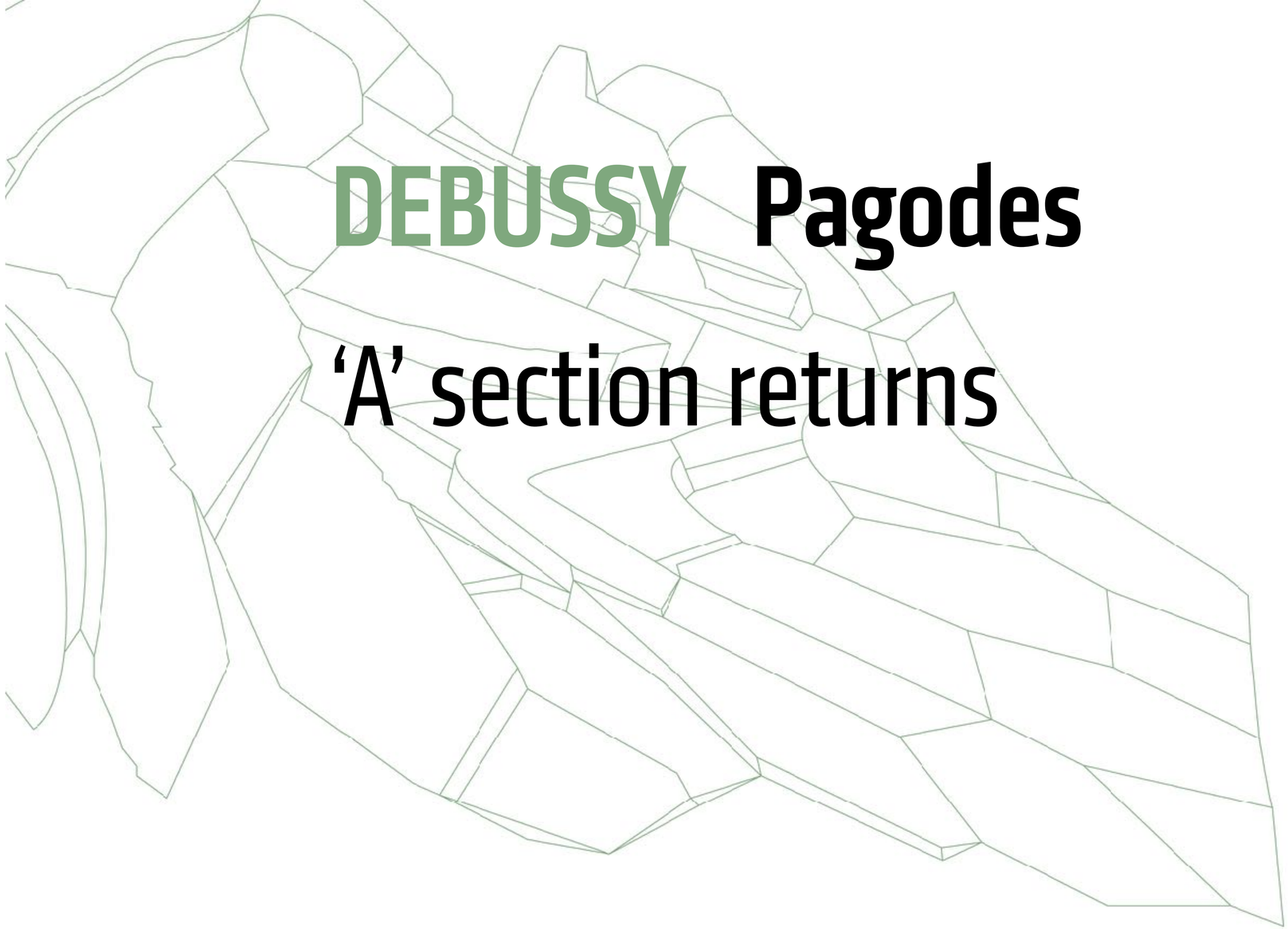
- Inspired by Javanese Gamelan
- Pentatonic & Whole Tone Scales
- 3-part ‘Gamelan’ structure (low gongs: core melody: decoration)
- ‘LOOSE’ TERNARY FORM - ‘A’ section continues to develop
- Repetitive melodies featuring ostinatos
- Tonal centre of B

# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## ‘A’ section Bars 1-32

# DEBUSSY Pagodes

## ‘B’ section Bars 33-52



# DEBUSSY Pagodes

‘A’ section returns

DEBUSSY

# Estampes No. 1: Pagodes

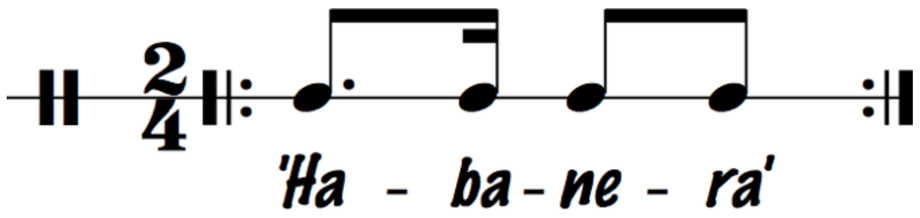
# DEBUSSY

## Estampes No. 2:
## La soirée dans Grenade

‘An evening in Granada’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

- An area of Southern Spain with Arabic (Moorish) ancestry
- Habanera (Cuban/Spanish) rhythm



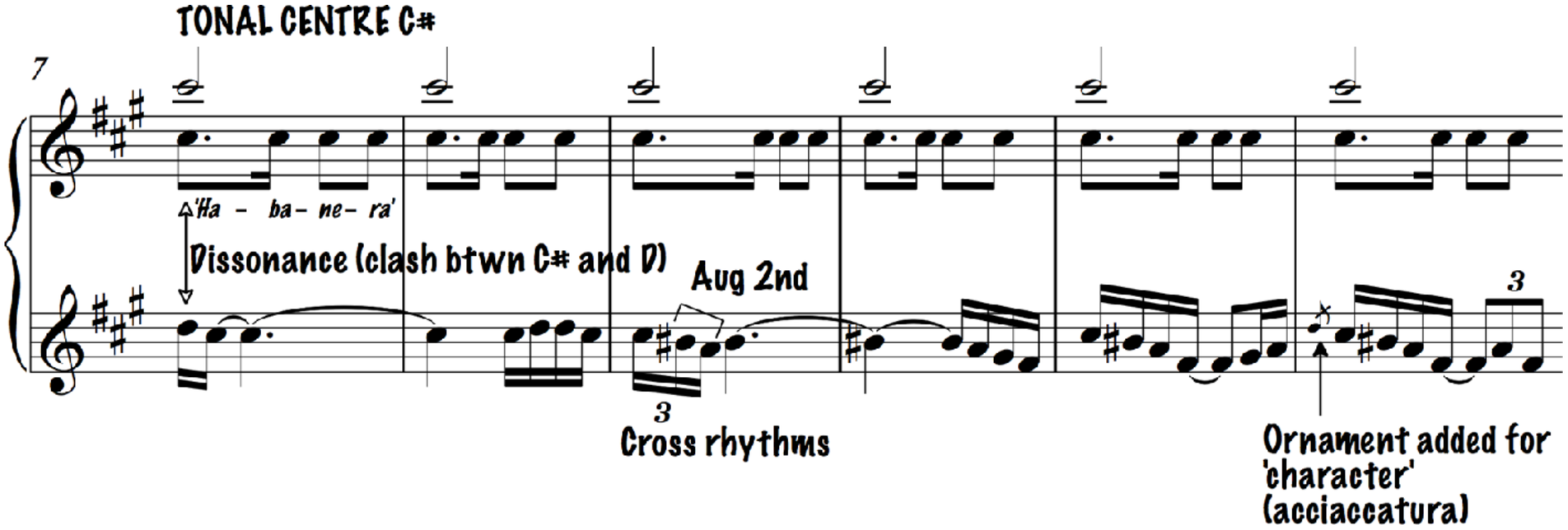
# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

- Structure = ‘sectional’ (made up of short contrasting sections)
- 4 sections
- 5 repeating melodies

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Section A: Bars 1-37

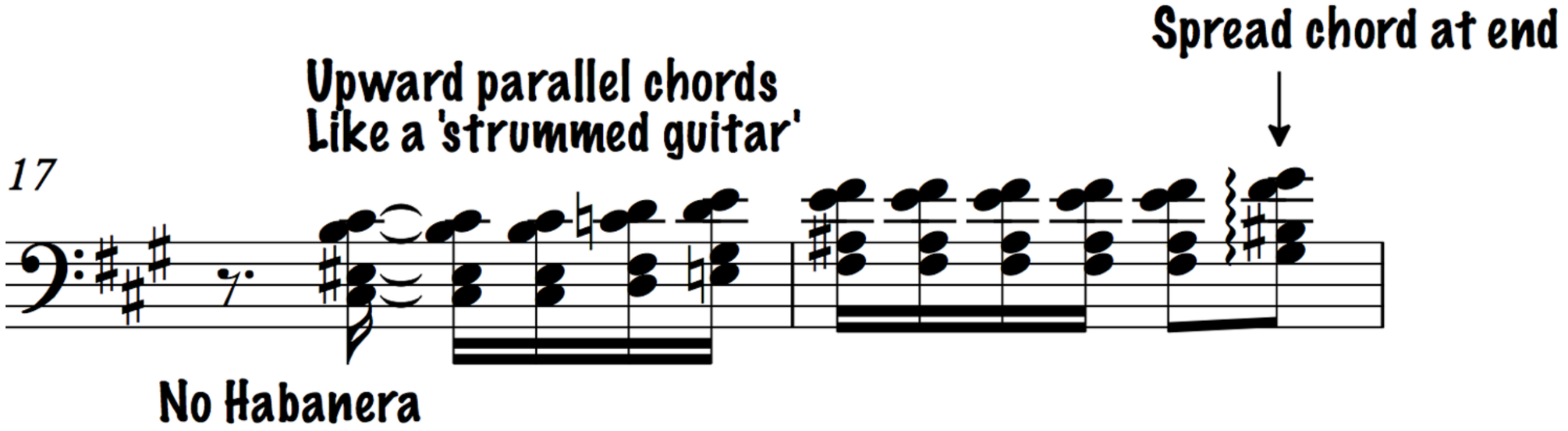
### Melody 1 (Bar 7): ‘ Arabic Lament’



# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Section A: Bars 1-37

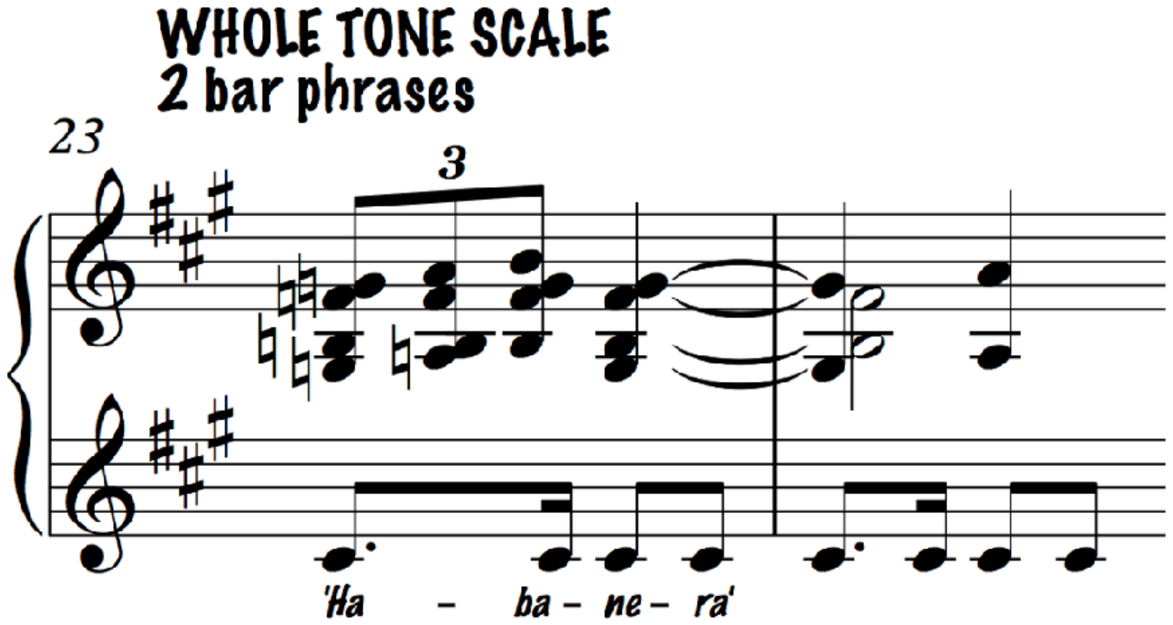
### Melody 2 (Bar 17): ‘The Flamenco Guitar’



# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Section A: Bars 1-37

### Melody 3 (Bar 23): ‘Sneaky’



# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

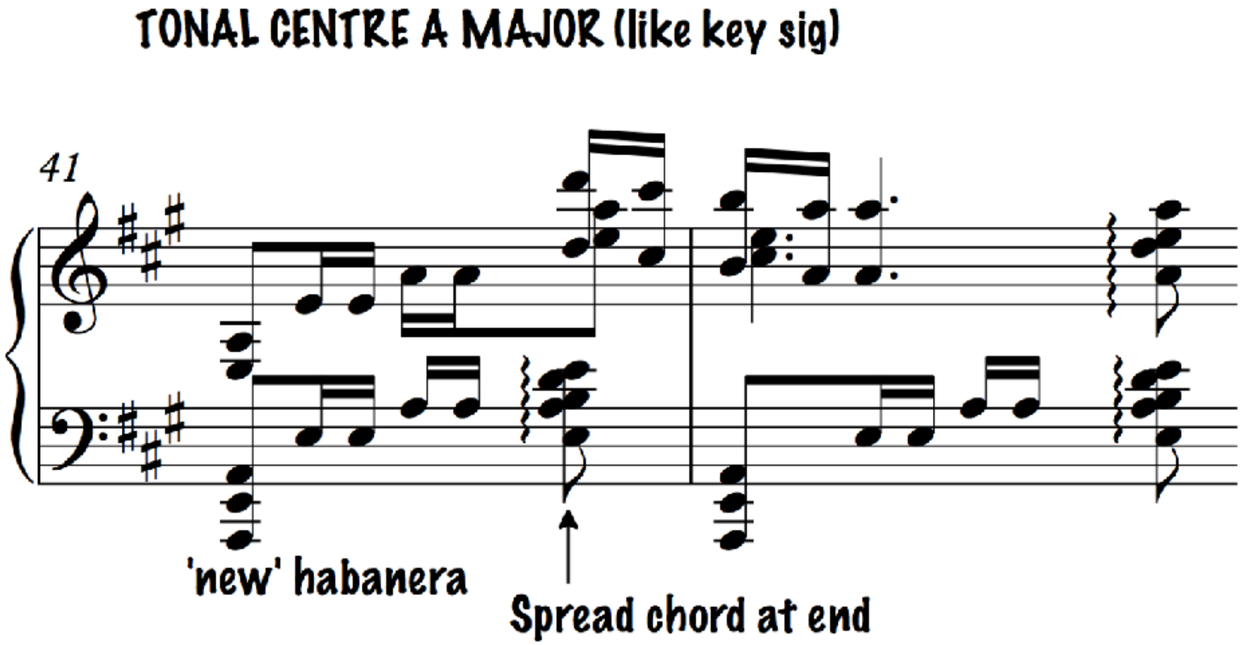
## Four tempo changes on p2

- Tempo rubato = free time
- Retenu = slowing down
- Tempo giusto = strict time
- Très rythmé = very rhythmic

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Section B: Bars 38-60

### Melody 4 (bar 42) ‘proud’



# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

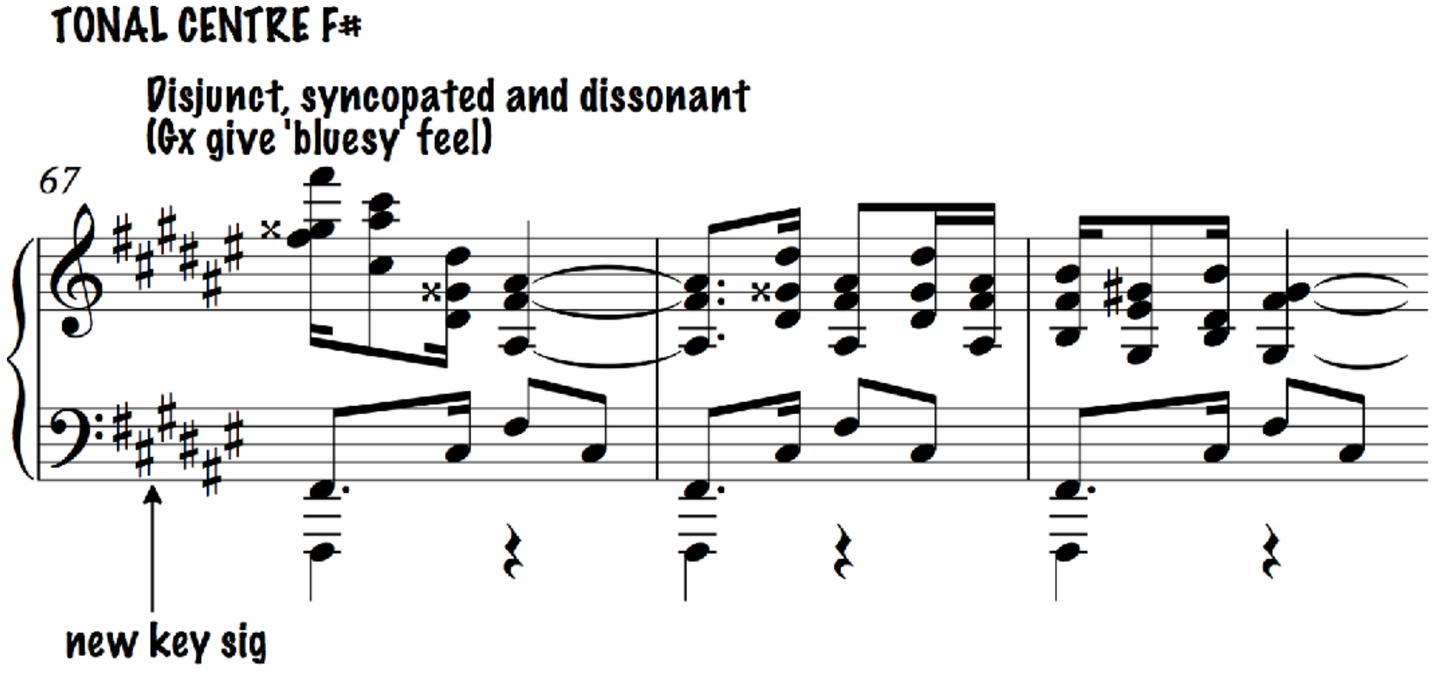
## Section C: Bars 61-91

- Mel 3 returns Bar 61 (sneaky)
- Aug 2nd replaces whole tone scale
- Habanera in bass but Treble Clef
- Tonal centre = C#

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Section C: Bars 61-91

- Melody 5 (Bar 67): ‘Lazy’



# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Section C: Bars 61-91

- Mel 3 returns Bar 61 (sneaky)
- Mel 5 Bar 67 (lazy)
- Mel 3 Bar 78
- Parallel triads, no added notes (very conventional for Debussy!)
- Pianissimo, legato
- Dies away to G# habanera at 90

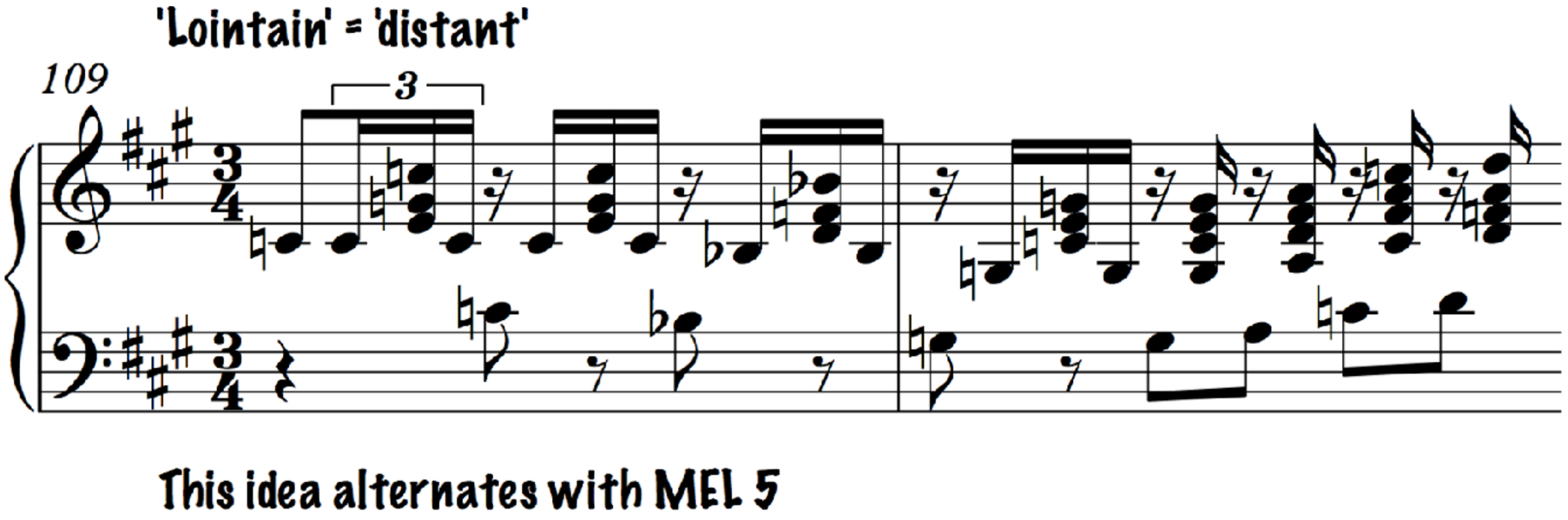
# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Section D: Bars 92-end

- Tonal centre = A major (key sig)
- Mel 2 Bar 92 (flamenco)
- Mel 4 Bar 97 (proud - not proud!)
- Bar 96 - three staves
- Very low E pedal, ‘upside down’ habanera high in RH

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

New idea at Bar 109



# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

- Bar 122: Melody 1 (Arabic lament) repeats
- Spread A major and D major chords beneath
- Fragmented habanera on top
- *ppp, crossed hands*
- Bar 128: tiny repeat of Melody 2 (flamenco)
- Bar 130: dies away to just fragmented habanera

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

- Inspired by Spain
- Habanera rhythm almost throughout
- ‘Flamenco’ strumming guitar ideas
- ‘Arabic’ tune represents the history of the place
- ‘Sectional’ - in 4 sections with 5 repeating melodies
- Uses tonal centres instead of a key
- Several contrasting tempo markings, careful use of piano’s range, pedal and dynamics

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## ‘A’ section: Bars 1-37

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Melody 1: ‘Arabic lament’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Melody 2: ‘Flamenco’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Melody 3: ‘Sneaky’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Melody 2: ‘Flamenco’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

‘B’ section: Bars 38-60

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Melody 4: ‘Proud’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

‘C’ section: Bars 61-91

Melody 3: ‘Sneaky’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Melody 5: ‘Lazy’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Melody 3: ‘Sneaky’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

‘D’ section: Bars 91-end

Melody 2: ‘Flamenco’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Melody 4: ‘Proud’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

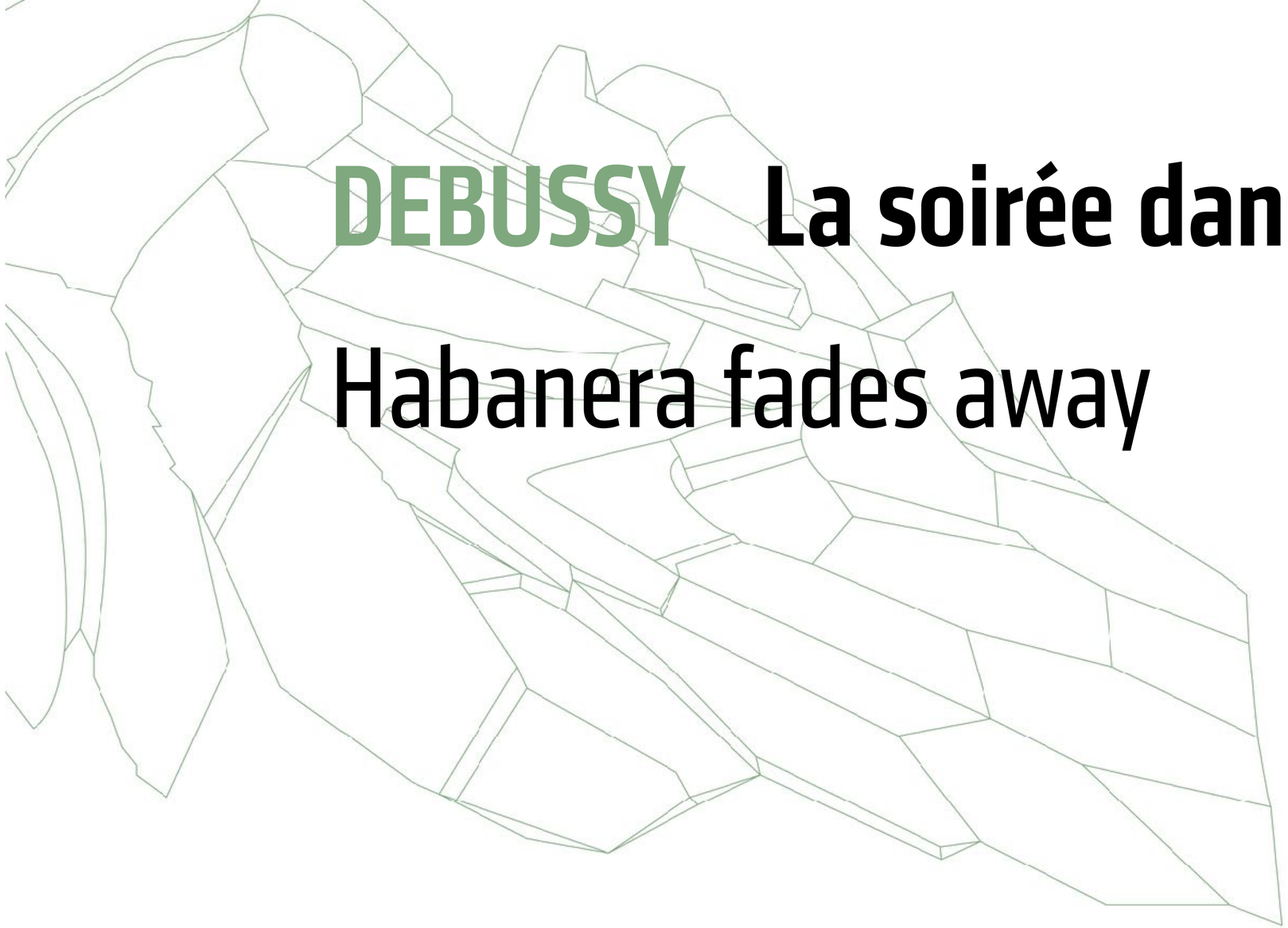
New idea: ‘Distant’
Alternates with Melody 3: ‘Lazy’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Melody 1: ‘Arabic lament’

# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Melody 2: ‘Flamenco’ - fragment’



# DEBUSSY La soirée dans Grenade

## Habanera fades away

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