

Notes for edition of Bach Sonata in e minor:

I. Adagio ma non tanto (slowly, but not too much)

Not all breath marks were added, only suggestions to inform other breaths in the movement.

Added grace notes are appoggiaturas – they are to be played ON the beat, leaned into, then released into the trill.

The principle of the couplet, 2 notes slurred: diminuendo to the second note, being careful not to cut the second 8<sup>th</sup> of each couplet. Despite the diminuendo on each couplet, *keep a clear sense of the melody line*. Each couplet: **Strong-weak, Strong-weak, Strong-weak...** “**sigh-ing, sigh-ing, sigh-ing...**” or “**dew-y, dew-y, dew-y...**” Just like the inflection of speech, *not all strong to weak syllables are the same*. For example, in cresc. passages there would be barely a hint of strong-weak.

II. Allegro (although often interpreted as fast, actually means cheerfully)

Two 8<sup>th</sup> notes with tenuto over 1<sup>st</sup> and dot over 2<sup>nd</sup> (like in measure 9): means to put just a little bit more weight on first 8<sup>th</sup> note then play second 8<sup>th</sup> note lightly and detached. This can be done in similar places throughout the movement. Notice the similarity to the inflection of 2 note couplets.

Symbol on downbeat 8<sup>th</sup> of measure 28 & 64 is a short trill from the upper note, on the beat.

Measure 61, beat 4: fill in & slur the notes between D#-A with notes from e minor scale (E,F#,G)

Measures 16 – 25 and 40 – 48 can be interpreted a variety of ways, for example:

2 \_|\_| (quarter notes) *mf*, followed by 2 \_|\_| *mp* (and/or more detached), or  
1 bar *mf*, 1 bar *mp*, 1 bar *mf*, 1 bar *mp*, etc, or  
start passages more quietly and build dynamic through section.

Breath suggestions in these section could be:

Before the 3 last tied 16<sup>ths</sup> in a measure, or

On the bar line, tapering the last three 16<sup>ths</sup> in the measure to allow for the breath, or

Pacing the breath so one does not need to breathe at all until a logical place.

The occasional breath marks are suggestions to inform other breaths.

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