

C. SMALL NOTES

Over the last two centuries small notes have been used for various reasons and given various names. These are the most common names used nowadays:

An **appoggiatura** is usually a single note without a slash through the stem. It lasts for at least half the time of the "main" note, which is a step above or below. Rameau, 3rd Prelude from *The Art of Playing the Harpsichord*

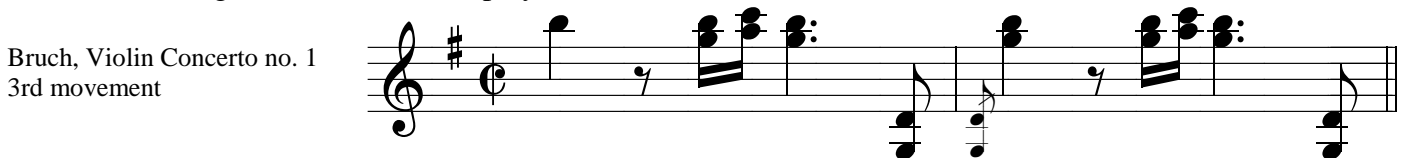
It is often attached to the last note at a cadence, so the main note will often be quite a long note.



A **grace note** (sometimes called *acciaccatura* or *short appoggiatura*) has a slash through its stem. It is very short, and its main note is not usually very long. It may move by step or by jump to its main note. It may be on its own, or in a group. It may be played on or before the beat, depending on when it was written. When there are two grace notes in a row, the stems do not have a slash.



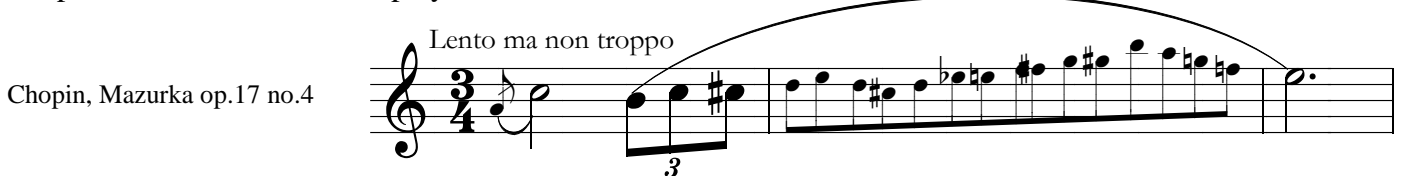
Sometimes two grace notes could be played at the same time:



Because there were different ways of performing ornaments, since the late eighteenth century, composers have tended to write out ornaments in either ordinary notes or small notes, to show how to play them.



Sometimes small notes were used when there were too many notes to fit into the rhythm easily, or when the performer did not need to play them in strict time.



Arpeggios could be written out as small notes, as long as all the notes were tied:



EXERCISES

Rewrite these excerpts from Chopin's Mazurka op.17 no.2, using small notes to replace the notes in boxes:

