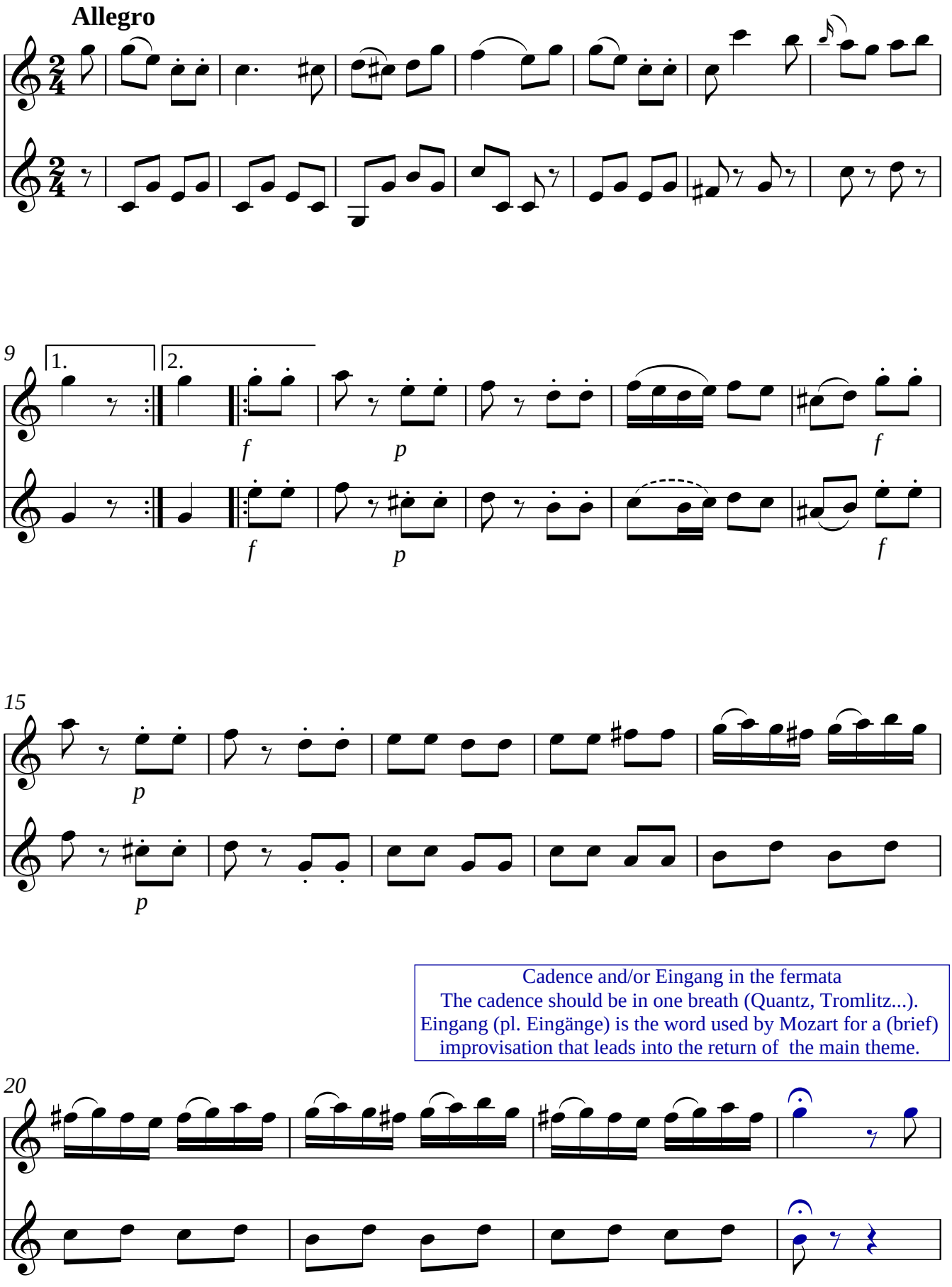
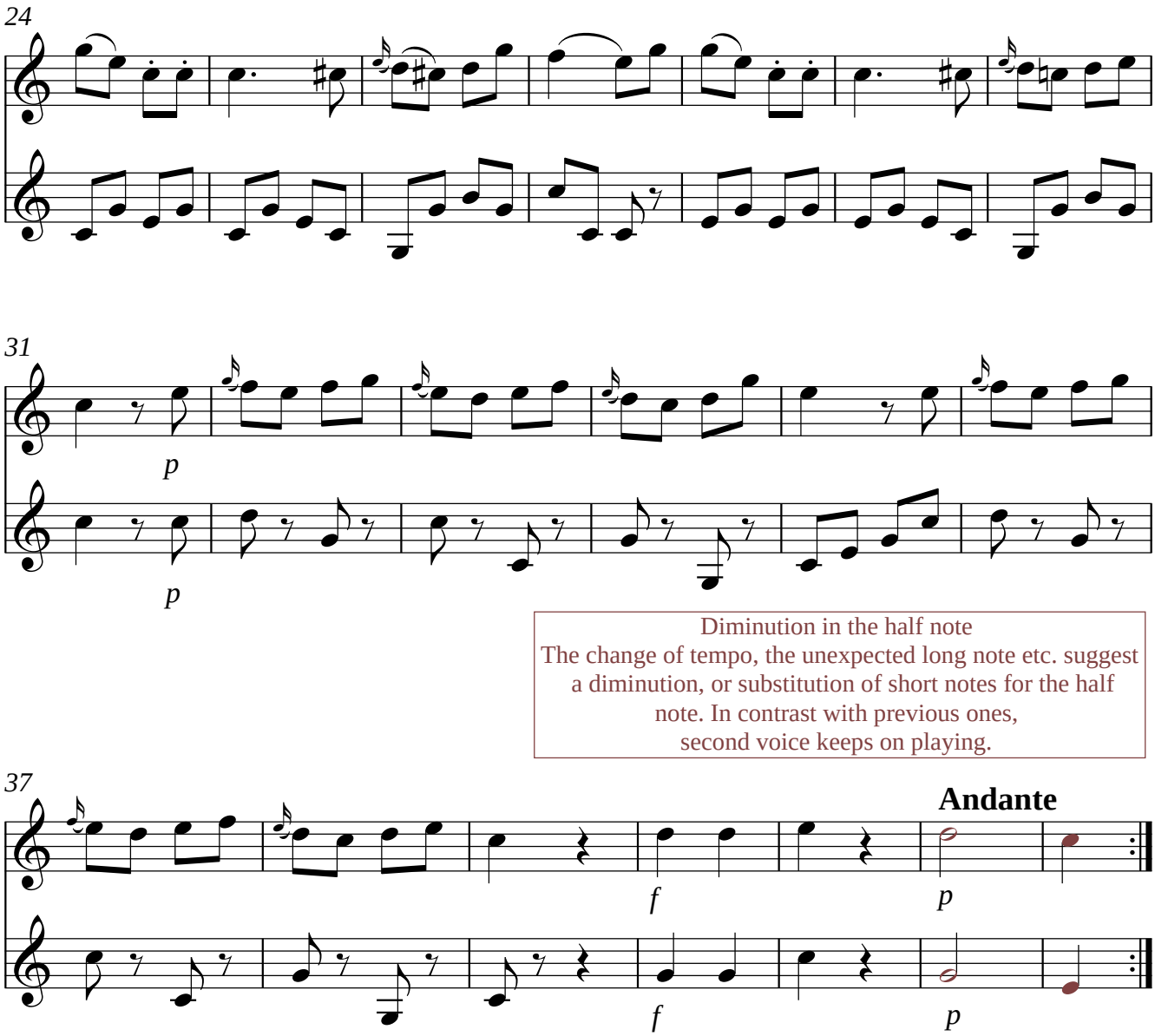
Improvisation in Mozart

Duet KV 487, n.12 (1786)

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)



Cadence and/or Eingang in the fermata
The cadence should be in one breath (Quantz, Tromlitz...).
Eingang (pl. Eingänge) is the word used by Mozart for a (brief) improvisation that leads into the return of the main theme.



This duet presents three of the most important improvisatory passages in Classical Style. This is why it can be very useful in Pedagogy.

In bar 23, first part has a quarter note and second an eighth note, both of them under a fermata. This should mean that first part can play a cadence. Immediately after breathing, the performer can improvise a brief Eingang (Ger. =Entrance) that leads into the return of the main theme.

The performer can play either a cadence, or an Eingang, or both.

In bar 42 we get to an Andante with a long note. This is the right place for a diminution. Substitute, for instance, eight sixteenths (D, E, F, F sharp, G, F, E, D) for the half note.

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