

later, in 1956, with Soviet violinist, L. Kogan,⁷⁶ in exactly the same tempo as that printed in the score, $\text{♩} = 76$. In this case, however, it was probably the violinist who was the initiator of the tempo as the violin's entrance decides the tempo of the performance in this piece (see Example 12).

Example 12. Shostakovich, Prelude in D Minor, Op.34/24/1-4. Arrangement for Violin and Piano by D. Tsyganov. 2nd recording: 1956, $\text{♩} = 76$



(b) Six of the twenty-nine non-identical double recordings (21%) have different score indications for each recording with one of the recordings coinciding with one of the score indications. (All these examples are taken from the Tenth Symphony.)

A comparison of the tempos in the second movement of the Tenth Symphony is important.

In the autograph of the piano arrangement⁷⁷ the metronome marking is $\text{♩} = 200$. In the recording of the

76 Index No 27. Arrangement for violin and piano by D. Tsyganov.

77 Khentova, Shostakovich, Tridtsatiletie, p.85.

piano arrangement⁷⁸ the speed is $\text{♩} = 176$. In the orchestral recording of the Symphony⁷⁹ the tempo is $\text{♩} = 200$, and is exactly the same speed as that suggested by the autograph of the piano arrangement. These two recordings prove that the metronome marking for this movement of $\text{♩} = 176$, given in the Collected Works Edition is too fast and is a mistake⁸⁰ (See Example 13).

Khentova writes⁸¹ that in the autograph of the orchestral score the indication is $\text{♩} = 116$, which reinforces the viewpoint that the Collected Works marking is incorrect. The authentic speed for this movement should be considered to be in the range of $\text{♩} = 176-232$. ($\text{♩} = 176 - \text{♩} = 116$) (see Example 13).

78 Index No 21.

79 Index No 22.

80 Collected Works, Vol.5, p.170.

81 Khentova, Shostakovich, Tridtsatiletie, p.85.

Example 13. Symphony 10/2/1-8. 1st recording: 1954,
 $\text{♩} = 176$; 2nd recording: 1954, $\text{♩} = 200$

Allegro $\text{♩} = 176$

(c) Eight non-identical double recordings of the twenty-nine recordings (27%) have different tempos in each recording and in the score, but have a common tendency to be either slower or faster than the score indication. Seven of the eight examples in this category are played in reduced tempos.

Shostakovich's performances of the Piano Fugue in E Minor, Op.87/4 (Adagio, C) is a typical example which falls into this group. Written on 27 October 1950, with the metronome mark $\text{♩} = 80$, this Fugue was recorded for the first time in 1952⁸² with an initial speed of $\text{♩} = 63$ (five grades slower than that indicated in the

82 Index No 18.

score), and five years later, in 1957,⁸³ at the faster speed of $\text{♩} = 72$, which is still not as fast as that suggested by the score (see Example 14).

Example 14. Piano Fugue, Op.87/4/1-7. 1st recording: 1952, $\text{♩} = 63$; 2nd recording: 1957, $\text{♩} = 72$



For further examples see: the Piano Prelude in E Minor, Op.87/4 (p.186); the Piano Fugue in E flat Minor, Op.87/14 (p.187); Piano Concerto 1/1/118, Table XVII (p.224); Piano Concerto 1/3/22, Table XVIII (p.226).

(d) Two of the twenty-nine non-identical double recordings (7%) have different tempos in each recording and in the score. Here the speed of one recording is faster than the score and the speed of the other recording is slower than that of the score. These examples are found in the Finale of Shostakovich's Cello Sonata, Op.40 and his Piano Fugue in F Major, Op.87/23 (see Table XX below).

In his recordings of the beginning of the Finale of the Cello Sonata, marked Allegretto, $\text{♩} = 152$, the noticeable differences in tempo seem to have been

83 Index No 20.

influenced by the soloists who performed this work on the different occasions. In his recording with Rostropovich,⁸⁴ Shostakovich took the faster tempo of $J = 168$, whereas in his earlier recording with Shafran⁸⁵ the tempo was much slower $J = 126$ (see Table XX). D. Shafran, who was a young performer of twenty-three at the time of this recording in 1946 recalls:

Whatever were my requests or suggestions about the text of his works, he listened to me with great attention and, as a rule, agreed with all new details of my interpretation even when they contradicted his own performance indications in the score.⁸⁶

In the first recording of the Fugue Op.87/23⁸⁷ the tempo is two metronome grades faster than the score indication, while in the second recording⁸⁸ it is three metronome grades slower. Although these deviations are not considerable, they do reflect that Shostakovich's feeling for the tempo of this piece was flexible and could fluctuate from $d = 80$ to $d = 100$. Here his score nomination of $d = 92$ is average and quite appropriate (see Table XX).

84 Index No 10.

85 Index No 9.

86 Victor Yuzefovich, "Besedy s masterami... s Daniilom Shafranom," (Conversations with the Masters... with D. Shafran) Sovetskaya Muzyka, 1 (January, 1978), 80, in Russian, my translation.

87 Index No 16, (17).

88 Index No 20.

Table XX. Different Tendencies in Non-Identical Double Recordings

Composition	Tempo in the Score	Tempo of the 1st Recording	Tempo of the 2nd Recording
Cello Sonata, Op.40/4	$\text{♩} = 152$	$\text{♩} = 126$	$\text{♩} = 168$
Piano Fugue Op.87/23	$\text{♩} = 92$	$\text{♩} = 100$	$\text{♩} = 80$

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions can be reached concerning Shostakovich's interpretation of his tempo markings:

1. The tendency to take a slower tempo at the beginning of a piece is prevalent in his performances, especially in his slow pieces. In 45% of his recordings he plays at a slower tempo than that indicated in his score.
2. Stability or identity between the printed and the performed tempos is quite commonly found in his recordings. 40% of his recordings are played in the same tempo as that indicated in the score.
3. In only 15% of his recordings does he play in a faster tempo than that indicated in the score.
4. His double recordings achieve a very high percentage (59%) of identity of tempos.

CHAPTER SIX

DYNAMICS IN SHOSTAKOVICH'S SCORES AND RECORDINGS

6.1 Introduction

Shostakovich's dynamics are best learnt from listening to his recordings and studying his scores. The methodology and views of his teachers, and the remembrances of his contemporaries and fellow musicians, who either worked with him or listened to his performances, also deserve consideration.

From 1917 until 1919, Shostakovich was taught by A. Rozanova. Her approach differed from I. Glyasser's in that:

...She emphasised not the technique itself, but refinement and delicacy in playing. With endless patience... she indicated the nuances, the "hairpins" of the dynamics. ¹

The teaching principles of L. Nikolaev (Shostakovich's last teacher) had an important impact on the composer's performance style. He taught that the dynamics of a piece should be approached as follows:

Consider the author's concept and the proportions of the composition. First find the appropriate dynamic

1 Khentova, Molodye gody, Book 1, p.91, in Russian, my translation.

As a composer Nikolaev was convinced that "dynamic nuances arise out of necessity and not from the desire to embellish a performance".³

Commenting upon this Nikolaev stated the following:

An artist once said to me: "Any part of the picture can be made brighter, be thrown more into relief, but this would necessitate repainting the entire picture." The same holds true for us pianists. In order to find the appropriate shading for a phrase and the requisite degree of shading, a concept of the entire composition is important. 4

Shostakovich perfected the abovementioned principles. This is confirmed in Bogdanov-Berezovsky's remembrance of his interpretations of Schumann's "Humoreske", (approximately 1923-1924).

To achieve integrity of structure in the performance of this piece is extremely difficult because of the spirit of improvisation which permeates this piece from beginning to end. The majority of pianists convert "Humoreske" into a sort of musical divertissement.

Shostakovich did not do this. He interpreted this piece as a cycle of novellas, and divided the episodes into principal, leading and subsidiary episodes... He played in a grand manner by sharply contrasting the dynamic and agogical effects, and returned to these effects whenever repetitions of the themes occurred.

2 Leonid Nikolaev, "Iz besed s utchenikami," (From Conversations with Students) Vydayushchiesya pianisty-pedagogi o fortepiannom iskusstve. (Prominent Pianists - Teachers on Piano Art) Ed. S. Khentova (Moscow - Leningrad, 1966), p.128, in Russian, my translation.

3 Ibid, in Russian, my translation.

4 Ibid, p.129, in Russian, my translation.

This interplay of devices led to the establishment of singular dramaticism in his performance. 5 (my underlining.)

Another principle of the Nikolaev school was that of performance on a large scale; with vigorous climaxes and allowances for large audiences in big halls. One of his students recalled:

Feeling the tone colours of the pianoforte accutely Nikolaev did not permit any indistinct sounds. He said: "One must play for the audience and not permit the instrument to whisper. The most bewitching pianissimo must be heard in the last row." 6

Shostakovich's playing in the nineteen twenties was described by contemporaries as being a combination of "delicacy, warmth, colour, vitality and temperament." 7 This can be heard from his later recordings.

Another feature of Shostakovich's skilful treatment of dynamics was his extraordinary sensitivity towards the balance of sound. In this regard Kirill Kondrashin recollects that:

5 Bogdanov-Berezovsky, "Otrotchestvo i yunost," D. Shostakovich, Stat'i i materialy, p.145, in Russian, my translation.

6 Tamara Samoilovitch, "V kontse 30-kh godov," (At the End of the Thirties) L.V. Nikolaev, Stat'i, p.174, in Russian, my translation.

7 Khentova, Molodye gody, Book 1, p.196.

Shostakovich was remarkable in that, in the course of rehearsals, he hardly ever gave instructions to a performer. I often noticed that he was completely unobtrusive with regard to interpretation, but very niggling about questions concerning the balance of sound. 8 (my underlining.)

Shostakovich's recordings demonstrate his concern for balance of sound.

The dynamics in Shostakovich's recordings must be viewed in the context of the particular work. His dynamic markings accordingly have a relative meaning within the framework of each piece. The present writer has indicated Shostakovich's dynamics as gathered from his recordings by means of square frames.

Shostakovich's dynamics are analysed under the following headings:

6.2 Dynamic Indications in Shostakovich's Scores

6.3 Gradations of Tone in Shostakovich's Recordings

6.4 Dynamic Balance in the Piano Pieces in
Shostakovich's Scores and Recordings

6.5 Dynamic Balance in the Ensemble Works in
Shostakovich's Scores and Recordings

6.6 Climax Building

6.7 Dynamics Heard in Shostakovich's Recordings which do
not Appear in His Scores

8 Kondrashin, Mir dirizhera, p.53, in Russian, my translation.

6.2 Dynamic Indications in Shostakovich's Scores

Shostakovich made use of all the conventional dynamic symbols ranging from ppp to fff, including all the intermediate gradations, (mp, mf, etc.). The rare marking pppp is found in his early Prelude in F Minor, bar 23⁹ (see Example 1).

Example 1. Early Piano Prelude in F Minor, bar 23



Equally rare is the marking ffff found in his "Nocturne" from Aphorisms, Op.13 (see Example 2).

Example 2. "Nocturne," Aphorisms, Op.13/3/system 3



Shostakovich's crescendo (<) and diminuendo (>) indications are detailed. They are used to indicate

⁹ pppp and ffff indications are not rare in his symphonic compositions.

immediate effects and extended episodes of structural significance.

His diminuendo is often intensified by the term morendo. For example, at the end of the third movement of the Tenth Symphony (see Example 3) his score has the indications dim. (bar 503) and morendo (bars 504-505). Both his performances¹⁰ reflect this indication.

Example 3. Tenth Symphony, Op.93/3/503-505. 1st recording: 1954; 2nd recording: 1954

503

10 Index Nos 21, 22.

In Shostakovich's performances morendo is generally used at the end of a composition to enhance the dying away effect of the last chord. This dynamic effect sounds at the end of the second and fourth movements of the Quintet,¹¹ and in the last bar of the Violin Sonata¹² (see Example 4).

Example 4. Violin Sonata, Op.134/3/266. Single recording: 1968



It is a characteristic of Shostakovich's style to add the term espressivo whenever he considered it necessary to intensify the desired dynamic effect, or to indicate emphasis, or a particular manner of performance. For example, at the end of the Piano Prelude, Op.34/18/45 f espress. sounds in Shostakovich's performance¹³ not merely as a sudden forte, but as a means of accenting the B flat of the chord. The term espressivo in this example

11 Index No 11.

12 Index No 28.

13 Index No 4.

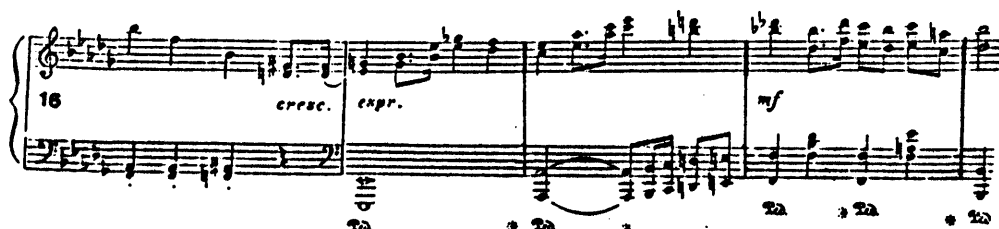
applies only to the first chord of the phrase (see Example 5).

Example 5. Piano Prelude, Op.34/18/45. Single recording: 1947. The accent in bar 45, beat 2 has been inserted by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording



In the score of the Piano Prelude, Op.34/16/16-18 the crescendo continues throughout three bars. This indication is intensified in bar 17 by the term espr. (see Example 6).

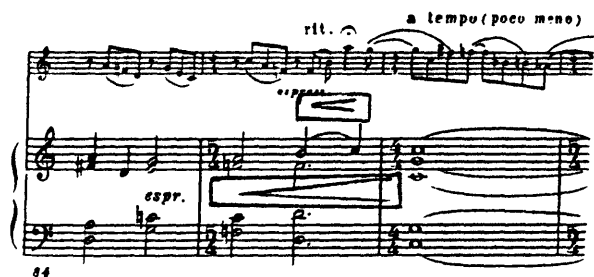
Example 6. Piano Prelude, Op.34/16/16-19



In the Violin Sonata, Op.134/3/84-85 espressivo is used to mean crescendo, although there is no crescendo indication in his score. This is audible from Shostakovich's recording¹⁴ (see Example 7).

¹⁴ Index No 28.

Example 7. Violin Sonata, Op.134/3/84-85. Single recording: 1968. The crescendo indications have been inserted in square frames by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording



Shostakovich would often write espressivo to indicate that a certain voice should be brought out. He wrote espressivo in his score in the Piano Prelude, Op.87/18/36 in the bass line (Example 8), and he adhered to this indication in his performance.¹⁵

Example 8. Piano Prelude, Op.87/18/36. Single recording: 1957

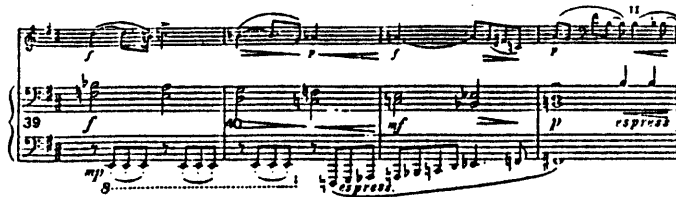


He also wrote espressivo in the Cello Sonata, Op.40/3/40 in the bass line of the piano part (see

15 Index No 20.

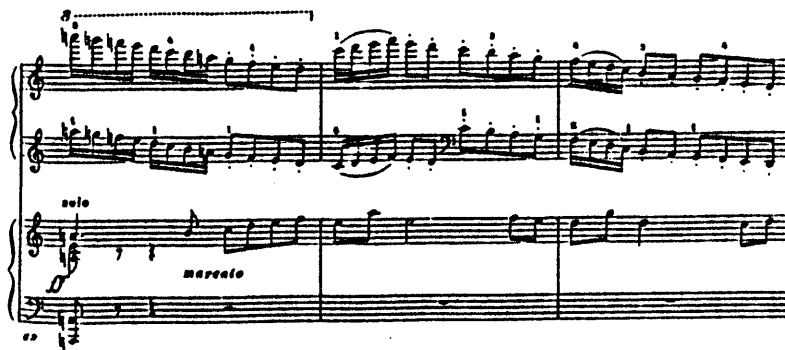
Example 9), which he performed¹⁶ according to this indication.

Example 9. Cello Sonata, Op.40/3/40. 1st recording: 1946; 2nd recording: 1955



Shostakovich also uses the word solo in his chamber works, in a similar way to espressivo, to indicate that a particular part should be brought out. This occurs in the score of his Violin Sonata, Op.134/2/81,119 as well as in the score and recording¹⁷ of the Concertino for Two Pianos, in the part of Piano II, bar 69 (see Example 10).

Example 10. Concertino for Two Pianos, Op.94, bar 69. Single recording: 1956



16 Index Nos 9, 10.

17 Index No 23.

6.3 Gradations of Tone in Shostakovich's Recordings

The enormity of Shostakovich's range of dynamic gradations is reflected in his performances, which range from the faintest pianissimo to the most powerful fortissimo.

It is generally acknowledged that the level of a pianist's skill is largely defined by his touch and by his mastery of dynamic variety. In this regard Shostakovich's gift was phenomenal. The variety of shadings within every nuance of his performance is endless. Naturally his dynamic richness also includes nuances of articulation and pedal. This can be heard, for example, in his performances of the Piano Preludes Op.87, Nos 5,¹⁸ 7,¹⁹ 8²⁰ and 16,²¹ which are all full of subtleties. In these pieces Shostakovich expresses an enormous variety of colours, without exceeding the limits of mf.

When Shostakovich plays²² the accompaniment to the song, Op.79/2 all the dynamic nuances are delivered within the limitations of p and pp. The contrast between the introductory p of bars 1-2 (Example 11a) and the pp of

18 Index Nos 16, (17), (18), 20.

19 Index Nos 16, (17), (19).

20 Index No 19.

21 Index No 17.

22 Index No 15.

bar 11 and the subsequent bars (Example 11b) is striking.

Example 11. "The Loving Mama and Auntie," From Jewish Folk Poetry, Op.79/2/1-2,11-15. Single recording: 1955

a) bars 1-2, ♩ = 116:



b) bars 11-15:



Shostakovich's skill in producing different shadings within the same dynamic nuance is, perhaps, best demonstrated in his performance of his Piano Fugues, Op.87.²³ His pp direction at the beginning of the Piano

23 Shostakovich's teacher L. Nikolaev often told him to "go and listen to how Maria Yudina played four-part Fugues, where every part had its own timbre." Shostakovich listened to her playing: "every part did indeed have its own timbre, although theoretically this seemed impossible." D. Shostakovich, "Memories on Yudina," p.39, in Russian, my translation. Shostakovich later embodied, what had seemed impossible to him in 1921, in his performances of his polyphonic works.

Fugue, Op.87/16, in B flat Minor remains the single dynamic indication for the entire Fugue (73 bars). The impact of his performance²⁴ is, however, real and is based upon two main facts. Firstly his pp has a sonorous quality which borders on mf. Secondly he creates a variety of sound which imitates the instruments of the orchestra, thereby giving distinct tone colours to the respective parts. These tone colours also depend upon the register and mode in which they are found. For example, the first major entry (bar 20, which is prepared by Shostakovich in bar 19 with a short rit.) sounds fresh due to the wide distance between the upper and lower voices, and the expressiveness of the tonal modulation itself (D flat Major after B flat Minor in the first section) (see Example 12a).

In bars 57-62 the climax of this Fugue is achieved through attention to the sound of the upper register (bars 59-60) and not to considerable changes in volume (see Example 12b).

The tranquility of the Coda, from bar 66 onwards, gives a new dynamic shading to the music. This is the result of the parallel key, B flat Major of the theme, which is given in the lower register (see Example 12c).

The main feature of Shostakovich's performance of this Fugue is his attention to aspects which enhance its musical growth. Fluctuations in volume play a lesser role.

24 Index No 17.

Example 12. Piano Fugue, Op.87/16/19-21,57-61,66-67.
Single recording: 1952

- a) bars 19-21. The rit. in bar 19 is inserted by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance:



- b) bars 57-61. No tie is given over the E flat notes in the bass (bar 57, beats 2-5, bar 58, beats 1-2). In the soprano no tie is given over the A flat notes in bar 59, beat 4, bar 60, beat 1. This accords with the textual version performed by Shostakovich (see Appendix "E", Examples 19 vii and 19 viii):



- c) bars 66-67:



The evenness created by Shostakovich's piano (p) playing in his Violin Sonata, Op.134/3/30-40 is extraordinary where his pianoforte sounds²⁵ like a muted violin. He possibly applied the left pedal (una corda), although this is not indicated in the score (see Example 13).

Example 13. Violin Sonata, Op.134/3/30-38. Single recording: 1968. The una corda indication has been inserted below the example in a square frame by the present writer



Shostakovich's piano is varied and impressive. His forte is broad and forceful.

Shostakovich's performance²⁶ of the piano arrangement of his Tenth Symphony demonstrates his desire and ability to achieve symphonic power of sound on the pianoforte. The same can also be said about his forte²⁷ in the recapitulation of the first movement of his Quintet,

25 Index No 28.

26 Index No 21.

27 Index No 11.

Op.57. The triumphant bells played²⁸ at the end of his gigantic Piano Fugue, Op.87/24/261-297 show how powerful his forte can be (see Example 14).

Example 14. Piano Fugue, Op.87/24/283-297. Single recording: 1952



Between Shostakovich's forte and piano innumerable examples of intermediate dynamic shadings can be found. Listen for instance to his recordings of his Three Fantastic Dances, Op.5²⁹ or to his Piano Preludes, Op.34.³⁰

28 Index Nos 16, (19).

29 Index Nos 1, 2.

30 Index No 4.

6.4 Dynamic Balance in the Piano Pieces in Shostakovich's Scores and Recordings

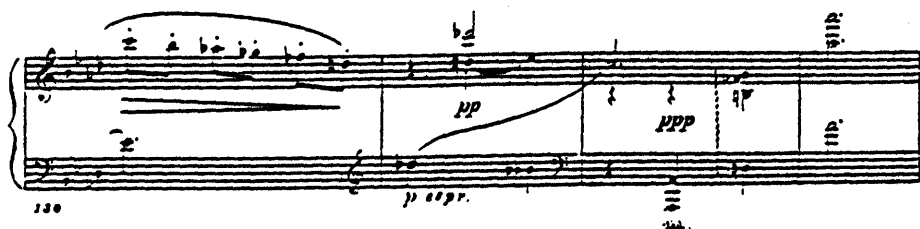
Shostakovich often marks dynamic contrasts between the leading melody and its accompaniment in his piano compositions which have a homophonic texture. For example, in the score of the Second Piano Sonata, Op.61/2/104,105 the leading melody has the dynamic marking p, which is juxtaposed with ppp of the accompanying passages (see Example 15a). In bars 130-131 the leading melody is marked p espr., whereas the accompaniment is marked pp (bar 131) and ppp (bar 132) (see Example 15b).

Example 15. Second Piano Sonata, Op.61/2/104,106,131-133

a) bars 104-106:

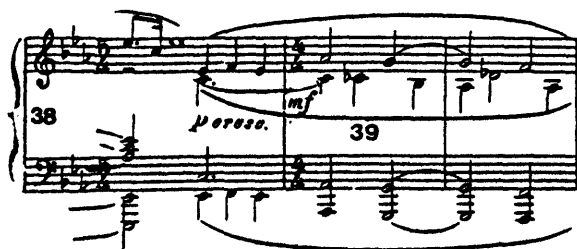


b) bars 131-133:



Shostakovich's use of differing dynamic indications is also to be found in his compositions with a choral character. This is illustrated in the Piano Prelude, Op.87/20 where the dynamic indication p cresc. in bar 38 applies as a general indication to all the voices, and the indication mf in bar 39 refers to the alto line (see Example 16). This is clearly heard in Shostakovich's performance.³¹

Example 16. Piano Prelude, Op.87/20/38-39. Single recording: 1952



As mentioned above, the composer characteristically uses the term espressivo to draw attention to a particular voice, and to indicate greater dynamic volume. This applies in his score and performance³² of the Piano Prelude, Op.34/19/25-26 (see Example 17).

31 Index Nos 17, (19).

32 Index No 4.

Example 17. Piano Prelude, Op.34/19/25-26. Single recording: 1947



Details about the dynamics of separate parts are sometimes found in Shostakovich's earlier piano works, with a polyphonic texture. In the score of the Piano Prelude, Op.34/4 (actually a Fughetta) Shostakovich attaches precise dynamic markings in bar 5 (see Example 18).

Example 18. Piano Prelude, Op.34/4/5



A similar example is found in the Piano Prelude, Op.34/18/37-38 where mf is written in bar 37 and the p indication belongs to the top voice. (This piece contains certain elements of canonic writing.) Shostakovich's playing ³³ adheres strictly to his dynamic indications (see Example 19).

33 Index No 4.

Example 19. Piano Prelude, Op.34/18/37-38. Single recording: 1947



Shostakovich's dynamic indications in his homophonic piano pieces are generally very detailed, and often refer to individual voices. On the other hand, Shostakovich's dynamic indications in his Piano Fugues, Op.87 are general to all voices. In certain instances he uses the same dynamic indication for several voices (e.g. see the score of the Piano Fugue, Op.87/8/65-66,97-98). It is thus apparent, that the main function of his dynamic indications in his Fugues Op.87 is to contribute towards the integrity of their structure. He does not hint at the balance of the voices in these Fugues.

Shostakovich's exact and masterfully maintained balance of voices, gives his performances of his Fugues their clarity and unique quality. No attempt is made in the examples in this section to portray all Shostakovich's possible combinations of dynamic balance. This can be learned only through listening to his recordings. In the analysis below the approximate markings are given in square frames of the separate dynamics for the different parts, as they sound in the recording.

Mention has been made in section 6.3 "Gradations of Tone in Shostakovich's Recordings" of his remarkable ability to clearly play different voices within the same dynamic nuance. This can be heard in his recording of the first section (Adagio) of the double Fugue, Op.87/4, which is played³⁴ within the indicated piano/pianissimo range, but which retains clarity in all the parts. Here Shostakovich's technique of fugal voice playing is of the highest level. The individual life of every voice is retained, even in the softest performance of three or four voices. (Similar mastery of polyphonic playing is to be heard in his performance³⁵ of the first section of the double Fugue, Op.87/24, in D Minor.)

Where there is a big distance between the theme of Shostakovich's Fugue and the other voices, his performance concentrates upon the contrast between the different registers, and not upon significant dynamic differences. (Naturally the bass register lends a darker colour to the theme. This is evident in Shostakovich's recording³⁶ of the Fugue, Op.87/4/11-14. See Example 20.)

34 Index Nos 18, 20.

35 Index Nos 16, (19).

36 Index Nos 18, 20.

Example 20. Piano Fugue, Op.87/4/11-13. 1st recording: 1952; 2nd recording: 1957. The dynamic indications have been inserted in square frames by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance



However, Shostakovich sometimes plays the theme louder in order to effect a contrast. This is often found in his climactic sections, such as in the Piano Fugue, Op.87/20/60-68, where the ensuing climax in his performance³⁷ is prepared throughout these bars (see Example 21b).

Where Shostakovich's Fugal voices are closer to one another, he plays both voices on the same dynamic level, but draws attention to the subject by giving it a more espressivo quality. This is especially evident where he plays the answer with the first countersubject, such as in his performance³⁸ of the abovementioned Fugue, Op.87/20/5-8 (see Example 21a).

37 Index Nos 17, (19).

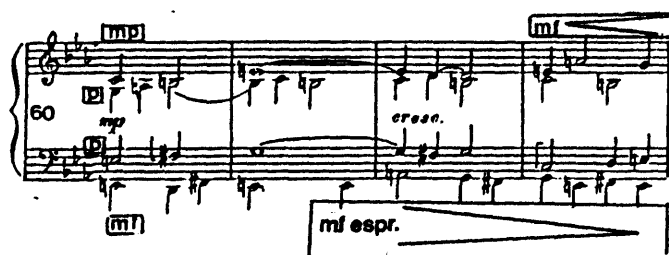
38 Ibid.

Example 21. Piano Fugue, Op.87/20/5-8,60-64. Single recording: 1952. The dynamic indications have been inserted in square frames by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance

a) bars 5-8:



b) bars 60-64:



Whenever the material of the countersubject is of special melodic interest or structural importance, Shostakovich gives it prominence over the main theme, or plays it with equal volume to the main theme. This is borne out by his performance³⁹ of the Piano Fugue, Op.87/23/7, last beat, continuing to bar 14 (see Example 22) where the first countersubject in the soprano is performed in a tone which is equally singing to that of the theme in the alto.

39 Index Nos 16, (17), 20.

Example 22. Piano Fugue, Op.87/23/7, last beat, to bar 14. 1st recording: 1952; 2nd recording: 1957. The dynamic indications have been inserted in square frames by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance



6.5 Dynamic Balance in the Ensemble Works in Shostakovich's Scores and Recordings

Shostakovich generally meticulously indicates the precise level of sound that he requires for the different instruments in his ensemble scores, so that a particular balance is created between the parts played by the various instruments.

Sometimes the composer indicates a particular dynamic balance within the piano part itself of an ensemble work. This is seen in his Cello Sonata, Op.40/1/144 where he indicates and performs⁴⁰ mf in the right hand and p in the left hand (see Example 23).

40 Index Nos 9, 10.

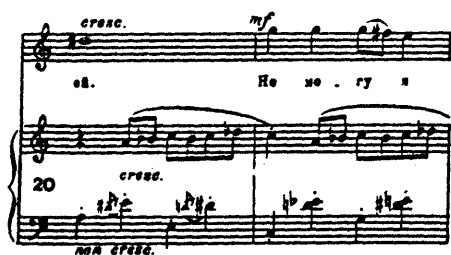
Example 23. Cello Sonata, Op.40/1/144. 1st recording: 1946; 2nd recording: 1955



Another example is to be found in his score and performance⁴¹ of the song, Op.79/10, where the lightness and transparency of the texture are emphasised by the non cresc. (Example 24a, bar 20) and p (Example 24b, bar 23) in the left hand, in contrast to the cresc. and f in the right hand in the corresponding bars (see Example 24a and 24b).

Example 24. "Song of the Shepherdess," From Jewish Folk Poetry, Op.79/10/20,23. Single recording: 1955

a) bar 20:



b) bar 23:



41 Index No 15.

The composer's outstanding competence as an ensemble player is evident in his performance of the accompaniment⁴² to the song, Op.79/6. His dynamics actually determine the dramatic development of the song. In the song's introduction, where the soloist-contralto makes a diminuendo on the words "they say" (Example 25a, bar 13), the composer does not follow her lead, but maintains an even mp. This throws the soloist's diminuendo into relief, and the ensuing crescendo heightens the explosive dynamic effect of the entry of the second soloist-tenor (see Example 25b, bar 20). In bar 20 Shostakovich writes and plays mf espr., which is considerably softer than the soloist's f espr. The same manner of accompaniment is audible in bars 45-46 (Example 25c). However, his accompaniment captures the full emotional dramaticism of the song by means of short and stormy waves of crescendo-decrescendo in bars 47-48 (see Example 24c) as well as in bars 50-51.

42 Ibid.

Example 25. "The Forsaken Father," From Jewish Folk Poetry, Op.79/6/13,20,45-48. Single recording: 1955. The dynamic indications in bar 13, Example "a", have been inserted in square frames by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance

a) bar 13:



b) bar 20:



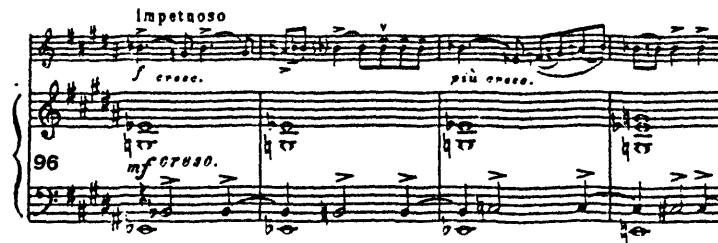
c) bars 45-48:



Shostakovich's composition and performance shows his deep knowledge for the dynamic possibilities of stringed instruments. The composer is unfailingly sensitive to the correct balance between the instruments, and the piano part. This is especially so in the climactic episodes. For example, the piano part in Cello Sonata, Op.40/1/96-

101 is written and played⁴³ a degree softer than the cello part (see Example 26).

Example 26. Cello Sonata, Op.40/1/96-99. 1st recording: 1946; 2nd recording: 1955



Even where the piano participates in climaxes with two or more instruments, Shostakovich writes and performs with more restricted dynamics. He always keeps in mind the dynamic potential of the pianoforte, especially where the low register with octave doubling occurs. Typical examples from the Quintet, Op.57, where the piano sounds⁴⁴ f against ff and ff espress. of the four stinged instruments, are given below in Example 27a and 27b.

43 Index Nos 9, 10.

44 Index No 11.

Example 27. Quintet, Op.57. Single recording: 1955

a) Movement 1/102-103, ♩ = 66:

Example 27a shows a musical score for a quintet, specifically Movement 1/102-103, with a tempo of ♩ = 66. The score is marked "Lento". It features four woodwind staves (flute, oboe, clarinet, and bassoon) and a piano staff. The woodwinds play a melodic line with the instruction "ff espress. tenuto". The piano part is marked "102" and "f".

b) Movement 4/65-68:

Example 27b shows a musical score for a quintet, specifically Movement 4/65-68. The score is marked "rit." and "appassionato". It features four woodwind staves (flute, oboe, clarinet, and bassoon) and a piano staff. The woodwinds play a melodic line with the instruction "ff" and "espress.". The piano part is marked "65" and "f".

In his Violin Sonata, Op.134/3/205, intended for D. Oistrakh's powerful tone, Shostakovich nevertheless indicated fff espress. in the violin part, and only f in the piano part. This creates a nice dynamic balance in

their performance of this section⁴⁵ (see Example 28).

Example 28. Violin Sonata, Op.134/3/205-209. Single recording: 1968



In soft episodes Shostakovich's precise indications for the correct balance for the instrumental parts are also evident. For example in the introduction of the first movement of the Second Trio, Op.67/1/1,7,13 the parts of the two strings are marked *p*, and that of the pianoforte *pp* (see Example 29). In the recording with the composer⁴⁶ these dynamics are clearly audible.

45 Index No 28.

46 Index No 12.

Example 29. Second Trio, Op.67/1/7-14. Single recording: 1947



There are often situations where the relationship between the different instruments requires that the piano part assumes an equal or a leading dynamic role. This is exemplified in the Cello Sonata, Op.40/3/72-83 where the cello provides an accompaniment to the leading piano melody. In the first edition of 1935,⁴⁷ the cello part was marked ppp in bar 72 (see Example 30a). The Collected Works Edition⁴⁸ fails to mention the marking ppp in bar 72 of the cello part which has been changed to p in this Edition (see Example 30b).

Likewise in bar 242, in the Finale of the same Sonata, Shostakovich's markings are pp in the cello part and p in the piano part in the 1935 edition (see Example 30c). In the Collected Works Edition p is given in the

47 D. Shostakovich, Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op.40. Leningrad: 1935.

48 D. Shostakovich, "Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op.40," Collected Works, Vol.38. Ed. by A. Nikolayev. Moscow: 1982.

cello part and no dynamic indication is given in the piano part (see Example 30d). It is unfortunate that the dynamic indications of the first edition have not been used in the Collected Works Edition, because the dynamic contrast between the instruments is considerable in both recordings⁴⁹ and Shostakovich's playing borders upon *mf* (see Example 30c).

Example 30. Cello Sonata, Op.40/3/72-75 and 4/242-245.
1st recording: 1946; 2nd recording: 1955

a) First Edition of 1935, movement 3/72-75:



b) Collected Works Edition, movement 3/72-75:



49 Index Nos 9, 10.

- c) First Edition of 1935, movement 4/242-245. The mf indication has been inserted in a square frame by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance



- d) Collected Works Edition, movement 4/242-245:



In the Quintet, Op.57/2/125 the first violin and piano parts are written and played⁵⁰ *p* in contrast to the *pp* of the remaining instruments. The compatibility between the first violin and the piano part is due to the wide distance between the registers, and the importance of each part (see Example 31).⁵¹

50 Index No 11.

51 At the end of Vol.37 of the Collected Works Edition in the editors' remarks to these bars the following appears: "Bars 125-127. Violino I. There are no dynamic indications either in the autograph or in the 1968 edition. It (Violino I) is printed in accordance with the author's correction inserted into the part", in Russian, my translation. D. Shostakovich, "Quintet, Op.57," Collected Works Vol.37, Chamber Music. Ed. by D. Tsyganov, B. Tishchenko and V. Ekimovsky. State Publishers "Music", No 10794. Moscow: 1983.

Example 31. Quintet, Op.57/2/125-129. Single recording:
1955



6.6 Climax Building

As a composer and performer, Shostakovich's sense of form is stupendous. His creation and delivery of dynamic climaxes is impressive in whatever he performed, whether it be a piano miniature or an extended symphonic work.

In Shostakovich's miniatures his growth of sound is generally directed towards one main climax or central climactic area, although a number of subsidiary climaxes may occur in his larger pieces.

The main climax is usually followed by a weaker dynamic swell or swells, after which the dynamic fall becomes stabilised. This is exemplified in his performance⁵² of his Piano Prelude, Op.87/14, where he builds up to the climax with increasing intensity throughout bars 15-23, and reaches the climax in bars 24-25. This is then

52 Index Nos 18, 20.

followed by a much lesser swell in bars 27-28 (see Example 32), which then gradually fades towards the end of the piece. Shostakovich's performance of this Prelude is a masterpiece in the creation and building of dynamic form.⁵³

Example 32. Piano Prelude, Op.87/14/15-28. 1st recording: 1952; 2nd recording: 1957



53 Even S. Richter's superb performance of the same piece, as far as dynamic proportions and sound balance are concerned, is only a "shadow" compared to Shostakovich's inspired performance. Record label USSR: D-013541-42.

The position of the main climax in Shostakovich's pieces depends upon organic growth of the form itself. Shostakovich's shaping of his double Fugue, Op.87/24 with its continuous growth to the final climax, at the end of the Fugue (see Example 14 above) is very impressive. The tremendous accumulation of volume towards the end, (crescendo structure), is achieved through balanced dynamics supported by a continuous accelerando, which is performed⁵⁴ from the beginning of the second theme until the piece's conclusion.

In Shostakovich's large forms, such as his Symphonies, Sonatas and the long movements of his chamber ensembles, the performer is faced with the challenge of recreating these works so that they retain their integrity of form. At the same time the performer must balance the whole work with the central climax. The composer's own interpretation of such pieces is of the utmost value to the performer. Shostakovich's two recordings of his Tenth Symphony provide an example of how he approached this task.

The first movement of the Tenth Symphony (Moderato, 3/4, 792 bars) is a monumental composition,⁵⁵ which has a

54 Index Nos 16, (19).

55 This movement is written in sonata form with an Introduction and Coda, and without transitional and closing themes. The first and second subjects have inner development, so that each section of this form is extremely extended: (see overleaf)

duration of over twenty minutes in both the piano arrangement⁵⁶ (20'52") and the orchestral recording which is conducted by Shostakovich⁵⁷ (22'21").⁵⁸ While these performances show many different features, their similarity is remarkable in terms of dynamics, and the building of the main climax and subclimaxes.

In the dynamic indications, as well as in their realisation in both performances, the first and second subjects have a clear crescendo-diminuendo structure, which corresponds with the extensive development of these themes. The first subject which is 133 bars long, starts from the p-pp of the clarinet which is accompanied by the strings and develops into a powerful ff espress. - piu ff towards the climactic centre in bar 139 onwards. The

55 (continued)

Bar Number	Intro- duc- tion	Exposition		Devel- opment	Recapit- ulation	Coda
		1st sub- ject	2nd sub- ject			
	1-68	69-201	202-321	322-469	469-701	702-792
Total Number of Bars	68	(133 + 253	120) =	147	233	91

56 Index No 21.

57 Index No 22.

58 The difference in duration of the recordings is due to their different tempos and agogics.

theme ends softly, in both the score and the recordings, in preparation for the solo flute appearance of the second subject, bar 202.

The dynamic growth of the second subject is similar to that of the first subject, but has two climactic waves, one from bar 242 onwards and the other from bar 285 onwards, which are each followed by a diminuendo.

Whereas the volume of the first and second subjects subsides after their climactic peaks, the actual development has a crescendo structure of enormous force. In the development itself, there is no decrease of volume and its peak merely signifies the beginning of the recapitulation (bar 469 onwards).

The f-ff-fff-sfff extends virtually throughout the development (from bar 367) into a substantial portion of the recapitulation (up to bar 550). Thus volumes in the f-ff-fff-sfff range are maintained throughout 184 bars. This tremendous accumulation of sound is made possible and convincing through Shostakovich's genius as a composer of symphonic works, and through his mastery of instrumental, developmental and polyphonic composition.

The composer's two recordings of this Symphony demonstrate certain performance devices which contribute to the realisation of his musical ideas. The most important performance devices can be summarised as follows:

a) Both of his recordings are fully consistent with the general dynamic ideas marked in the score. However, the flexibility of the agogics contributes to the shaping of the climaxes, crescendos and diminuendos of the movement. In the movement's developmental sections, the crescendos are accompanied by clear accelerandos, which are not indicated in the score. The degree to which he speeds up, and the places where he speeds up, vary in the two recordings. For example, a strong accelerando can be heard in the piano arrangement⁵⁹ from bar 123 onwards (the developmental section of the first subject) (see Example 33).

59 Index No 21. The score of the piano arrangement was not available to the present writer at the time of writing this thesis. For this reason the orchestral score has been utilised in Example 33.

Example 33. Tenth Symphony, Op.93/1/123-127. 1st recording (piano recording): 1954. The accelerando indication has been inserted in a square frame by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance

Also, in both recordings, an obvious accelerando starts at bar 242, the developmental section of the second subject (see Example 34a).

Example 34. Tenth Symphony, Op.93/1/242-248,317. 1st
recording (piano recording): 1954; 2nd
recording (orchestral recording): 1954

- a) bars 242-248. The accelerando indication has been
inserted in a square frame by the present writer to
accord with Shostakovich's recordings:

accelerando

238 242

- b) bar 317:

317

Ritenutos are usually found with a drop in volume, as occurs in bars 162-168 of the orchestral recording. However, in the recapitulation (bars 509-513) where the volume is maintained, Shostakovich conducts a barely perceptible poco ritenuto in the same recording (see Example 35a).

b) In contrast to the agogic deviations of the middle sections, the Introduction and Coda are performed at an almost steady tempo. The restrained dynamics of the Introduction (ranging from pp-mf), and the Coda (pp-p) enhance the intensity of the central climax and the subclimaxes which are heard in both recordings.

c) Shostakovich uses sudden drops in sound volume (subito pp after crescendo), and "echo effects" as an important means of expression. These effects delay or anticipate ensuing dynamic "explosions". An example of pp subito which occurs just before the beginning of the development (bar 317) is given in Example 34b above. This pp subito is used to highlight the silence before the ensuing "storm". Both of Shostakovich's recordings conform exactly to this score indication.

An example of an "echo effect", which is clearly audible in the orchestral recording, occurs in bars 633-635. Bars 633-634 sound even louder than the indicated p due to the mf of the first violins (see Example 35b).

Example 35. Tenth Symphony, Op.93/1/509-514,633-636.
2nd recording (orchestral recording): 1954

- a) bars 509-514. The poco ritenuto and a tempo indications have been inserted in square frames by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording:

The image displays a musical score for the Tenth Symphony, Op.93/1, specifically bars 509-514. The score is presented in two systems. The first system, labeled 'poco ritenuto', covers bars 504 to 509. The second system, labeled 'a tempo', covers bars 511 to 514. The score includes staves for various instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Trumpet (Trp.), Trombone (Tbn.), Tuba (Tub.), and Double Bass (Db.). The notation is complex, featuring many beamed notes and dynamic markings like 'f' and 'pp'. The 'poco ritenuto' and 'a tempo' markings are enclosed in square frames above the staves.

- b) bars 633-636. The mf indication has been inserted in bar 633 into the part of the first violins in a square frame by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording:

The image shows a musical score for five staves. The top staff is for the first violin, and the bottom four staves are for the first violoncello. The score covers bars 632 to 636. In bar 633, the first violin part has a dynamic marking of mf (mezzo-forte) enclosed in a square frame. Other dynamic markings include *p* (piano), *f* (forte), and *pp* (pianissimo) in various parts. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and slurs.

6.7 Dynamics Heard in Shostakovich's Recordings which do not Appear in His Scores

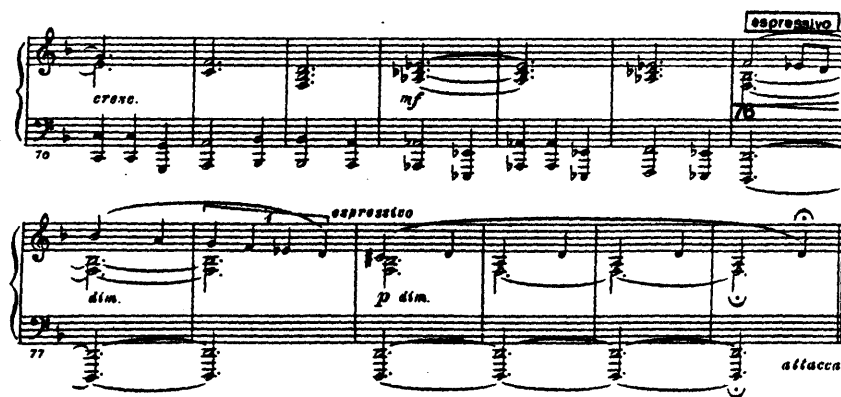
Shostakovich's recordings provide the most valuable source for finding information which is not contained in his published works. Generally the discrepancies between his written indications and his recordings are only discrepancies of detail which do not alter the general interpretative dynamic plan of the work. They are nevertheless worth noticing, since they provide a deeper insight into the composer's dynamic ideas. Sometimes they can be used to correct printed inaccuracies, or to clear up controversial points.

For example, Shostakovich's recording⁶⁰ of his Piano Prelude, Op.87/24 gives a clue to the correct location of his espressivo indication which should be placed three bars earlier than where it has been placed in all the published scores. (As explained above in the section 6.2 "Dynamic Indications in Shostakovich's Scores" the term espressivo usually calls for an intensification of the volume.) In Volume 40 of the Collected Works Edition T. Nikolayeva notes the following in her remarks to this Prelude:⁶¹ "Bar 79. In the autograph the espressivo indication is placed three bars earlier". However, she did not alter the placing of this indication in the published score (see Example 36, bar 79). In his recording of this Prelude, Shostakovich intensifies the volume in bars 76-79 thereby confirming that the autograph positioning of the espressivo indication is correct (see Example 36, bar 76).

60 Index No 16, (19).

61 D. Shostakovich, 24 Preludes and Fugues, Op.87, Collected Works, Vol.40. Ed. by T. Nikolayeva. State Publishers "Music", No 10286. Moscow: 1980. Editor's remarks in Russian at the end of the Volume, my translation.

Example 36. Piano Prelude, Op.87/24/76-79. Single recording: 1952. The espressivo indication in bar 76 has been inserted in a square frame by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording

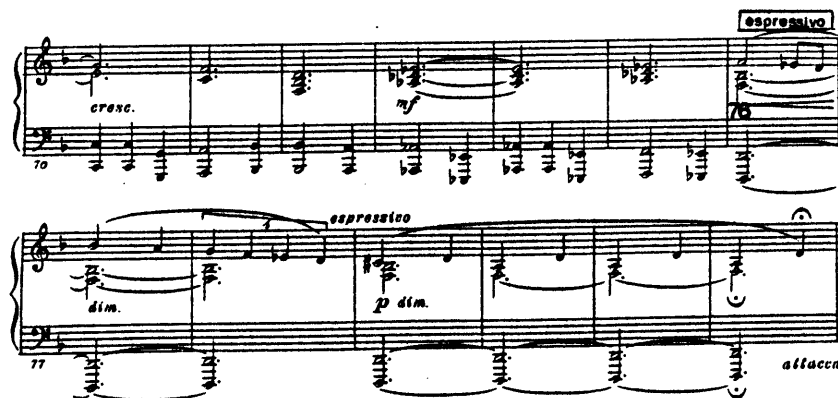


When Shostakovich performed his chamber music he would often insert new or additional indications into the parts of the different players. These indications would generally only be inserted into the parts of the stringed instruments. With regard to the Quintet, Op.57/2/166-167 the editors of Volume 37 of the Collected Works Edition state the following:⁶² "Bars 166-167. Archi. In the autograph and in the 1968 edition the dynamic indications are: $p < >$.

The score is published according to the author's corrections of the parts."

62 D. Shostakovich, Collected Works, Vol.37, Chamber Music. Ed. by D. Tsyganov, B. Tishchenko and V. Ekimovsky. Moscow: 1983. The editors' remarks in Russian at the end of the Volume, my translation.

Example 36. Piano Prelude, Op.87/24/76-79. Single recording: 1952. The espressivo indication in bar 76 has been inserted in a square frame by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording



When Shostakovich performed his chamber music he would often insert new or additional indications into the parts of the different players. These indications would generally only be inserted into the parts of the stringed instruments. With regard to the Quintet, Op.57/2/166-167 the editors of Volume 37 of the Collected Works Edition state the following:⁶² "Bars 166-167. Archi. In the autograph and in the 1968 edition the dynamic indications are: $p<>$.

The score is published according to the author's corrections of the parts."

62 D. Shostakovich, Collected Works, Vol.37, Chamber Music. Ed. by D. Tsyganov, B. Tishchenko and V. Ekimovsky. Moscow: 1983. The editors' remarks in Russian at the end of the Volume, my translation.

Shostakovich's correction to the archi can be seen in Example 37 below, which has the indication $pp < p >$ in the Collected Works Edition. The piano part of the published edition contains no dynamic indications in bars 163-170, although there is a p indication in bar 152. In Shostakovich's recording⁶³ there is a crescendo in bar 165 which leads to an accent in bar 166. This crescendo and accent have been inserted, by the present writer, into the piano part of Example 37 (see Example 37).

Example 37. Quintet, Op.57/2/165-167. Single recording: 1955. The crescendo ($<$) in bar 165 and the accent sign ($>$) in bar 166 have been inserted in square frames by the present writer into the piano part to accord with Shostakovich's recording

63 Index No 11.

The cellist D. Shafran recalls the crescendo which he performed at the end of the slow movement of Shostakovich's Cello Sonata, Op.40/3/98. (This Sonata was recorded with Shostakovich in 1946.)⁶⁴

I remember... that I asked Dmitri Dmitrievich (Shostakovich) for his permission... to relieve the stark mood of the music which has a diminuendo indication in the score (bar 98) by playing a crescendo instead, and he agreed.⁶⁵

Shafran's crescendo is clearly audible in the recording of his performance with the composer (see Example 38).

Example 38. Cello Sonata, Op.40/3/98-103. 1st recording: 1946. The crescendo (bar 98) and diminuendo (bar 101) indications have been inserted in square frames by the present writer into the cello part to accord with Shafran's recording



64 Index No 9.

65 Yuzefovich, "Besedy s masterami... s Daniilom Shafranom," Sovetskaya Muzyka, 1 (January, 1978), 80, in Russian, my translation.

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Example 38. Cello Sonata, Op.40/3/98-103. 1st recording: 1946. The crescendo (bar 98) and diminuendo (bar 101) indications have been inserted in square frames by the present writer into the cello part to accord with Shafran's recording



64 Index No 9.

65 Yuzefovich, "Besedy s masterami... s Daniilom Shafranom," Sovetskaya Muzyka, 1 (January, 1978), 80, in Russian, my translation.

Many examples can be found, where the dynamic shadings of a performance differ from the score indications. Sometimes it is difficult to give any explanation for the difference which is either a momentary impulse during the performance or a new dynamic idea which arose during the rehearsal. An example of this is the "echo effect" which is found in the Second Piano Concerto, Op.102/3/67-70 (see Example 39a and 39b). The p in bar 67 (Example 39b) after the f in the analogous bar 59⁶⁶ (Example 39a) is performed only in the Soviet recording of this piece.⁶⁷ In the French recording⁶⁸ Shostakovich does not play p in bar 67, instead he plays f as indicated by the present writer in Example 39b. (The p in the brackets in the score has been inserted into the score by the editors of Volume 12 of the Collected Works.)⁶⁹

66 The f indication in bar 59 has been inserted into the orchestral score by the editors. See the editor's comments in Russian at the end of Volume 12 of the Collected Works. Shostakovich plays f in bar 59 onwards in both of his recordings. Index Nos 25, 26.

67 Index No 25.

68. Index No 26.

69. In the commentary to the Collected Works Edition of this Concerto the editors state: "Bar 67. The dynamic indication p has been added in accordance with Shostakovich's recording". D. Shostakovich, Collected Works, Vol.12. Ed. by O. Komarnitsky and A. Pirumov. Moscow: 1983. Editorial comments in Russian at the end of the Volume, in Russian, my translation.

Example 39. Second Piano Concerto, Op.102/3/59-62,67-70.
1st recording (Soviet recording): 1958; 2nd
recording (French recording): 1958

a) bars 59-62:

59

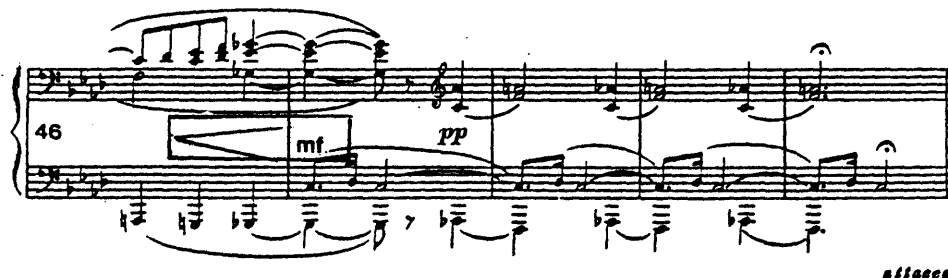
b) bars 67-70, the *f* indication in bar 67 has been inserted in a square frame by the present writer to accord with the French recording:

67

In Shostakovich's performances certain dynamic subtleties, which are not indicated in the score, can generally always be heard. For example, a very important

crescendo is heard in Shostakovich's performance⁷⁰ of the Piano Prelude, Op.87/18/46-47, where the growth in volume of all the voices prepares the way for the more powerful rendition of the motif $\text{J} \text{ } \text{J} \text{ } \text{d}$ in bar 47, which is one of the basic motives and rhythmic patterns of the piece (see Example 40).

Example 40. Piano Prelude, Op.87/18/46-47. Single recording: 1957. The crescendo indication in bar 46 and the mf in bar 47 have been inserted in a square frame by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording



Shostakovich's recordings are also very helpful for finding subtleties of balance in his piano solo and ensemble works. For example, in the Piano Prelude, Op.34/8/13-15 the leading part is the base line, which is played⁷¹ mf espressivo (see Example 41), in contrast to the soprano line which is played *p*.

70 Index No 20.

71 Index No 4.

Example 41. Piano Prelude, Op.34/8/13-15. Single recording: 1947. The mp > p indications in the soprano, and mf espresso indications in the bass, bar 13, have been inserted by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording



Subtleties of balance which are not indicated in Shostakovich's ensemble compositions, can also be gleaned or learnt through listening to his recordings. For example, in the Cello Sonata, Op.40/3/49-51 the overall f, which is written in the score for the piano part, is achieved by the mp of the right hand and the f of the bass line. This is especially clear in Shostakovich's first recording⁷² of 1946 (see Example 42).

72 Index No 9.

Example 42. Cello Sonata, Op.40/3/49-51. 1st recording: 1946. The mp and f indications in bar 49 have been inserted in square frames by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording



CONCLUSIONS

1. Shostakovich uses conventional dynamic indications which he details precisely in his scores. His espressivo indications call for intensity of tone. On the other hand his morendo indications enhance his diminuendos.
2. Shostakovich the pianist had extraordinary dynamic imagination and skill. This can be seen from his shadings within a particular nuance, as well as from his range of dynamic nuances which vary from pp to fff.
3. Shostakovich was highly sensitive to the correct balance of sound in his piano works, and in his ensemble compositions. Wherever details of different dynamics for separate parts occur in his works they should be strictly adhered to.

4. Shostakovich was exact in his indications and most convincing in the delivery of the climaxes in his pieces. His agogics work together with his dynamic changes. His crescendo often occurs with accelerando, and his diminuendo with ritenuto.
5. Shostakovich's recordings are helpful towards clarifying uncertain dynamics in the published editions of his works, and towards a better understanding of the endless subtleties of his dynamic art.

ARTICULATION IN SHOSTAKOVICH'S SCORES AND RECORDINGS¹7.1 Shostakovich's Approach to Articulation

Shostakovich's articulation, in both his written and performed work, reflects great precision and refinement. This precision and refinement persisted throughout his lifetime.

Shostakovich considered articulation to be an important means of expression. By the use of precise articulation signs he was able to suggest subtle shadings of tone and expression.

An interesting example of his early appreciation for articulation is to be found in his unfinished Intermezzo which he composed when he was only thirteen years old² (see Examples 1a and b). In this Intermezzo it is important to take note of the different slurs which are given for the same melody in the right hand. Compare bar

1 Herman Keller's definition of articulation is adopted and used in this chapter: "The function of musical articulation is the binding together or the separation of individual notes; it leaves the intellectual content of a melody line inviolable, but it determines its expression". Herman Keller, Phrasing and Articulation. Translation by Leigh Gardine (New York, 1973), p.4.

2 This piece was first published in 1983 in the Collected Works Edition, Volume 39, p.136.

2 of Example 1a with bar 17 of Example 1b. It is unlikely that Shostakovich's different slurs were the result of pedagogic instruction in composition.³

Example 1. Intermezzo, bars 1-2, 16-17

a) bars 1-2:

b) bars 16-17:



The articulatory technique of Shostakovich the pianist developed under the influence of two main and opposing piano schools. His first piano teacher, I. Glyasser paid particular attention to finger strength. As Khentova observes, he demanded "an active finger action, with a strictly horizontal wrist."⁴

Glyasser's book, "Trills as a Foundation for Piano Technique",⁵ is a collection of piano exercises which had to be transposed into different keys and played in

3 It is possible that he was under the tuition of Yuri Bruni whom Shostakovich remembered mostly for encouragement in improvising. Khentova, Molodye gody, Book 1, p.92.

4 Khentova, Molodye gody, Book 1, p.76, in Russian, my translation.

5 Published in Petrograd, 1917, in Russian. My translation of the title.

different rhythms. Shostakovich later recalled⁶ that the most important piano exercises for him were the following (see Example 2):

Example 2. Glyasser's Piano Exercises



Khentova writes that:

Then as later, Glyasser-like qualities were apparent in his playing: restricted shoulder movement, a predominance of hand movements along the keyboard combined with limited wrist flexibility - unconventional for the present time, a conglomeration of static movements, which none-the-less guaranteed precision, clarity and personal dexterity in Shostakovich's playing... Shostakovich developed velocity and finger strength, exactness of tone and dexterity in keyboard leaps. ⁷

Shostakovich's last and most influential piano teacher was L. Nikolaev. His views on piano technique were diametrically opposed to that of Glyasser. Nikolaev wrote that:

6 Khentova, Molodye gody, Book 1, p.77.

7 Ibid, in Russian, my translation.

This is one of the fundamental laws of piano playing: a pianist should always play using the whole arm. Playing with only one separate part of the arm is wrong. 8 (my underlining)

Khentova considers that Glyasser's school had the most profound effect upon Shostakovich's technique.⁹ This is difficult to accept for two reasons. In the first place, Shostakovich was a student of Glyasser from the age of nine until the age of eleven years (the autumn of 1915 - February 1917), whereas he was under Nikolaev's direction at the Conservatoire from 1920 until 1923, and remained under his direction after 1923 for many years. He prepared his programme for the Chopin Competition in 1927 under Nikolaev and retained close contact with this great musician until his death in 1942. Secondly, Shostakovich was a most original artist. He adopted what was best for him from his teachers' methods, and developed his own technique and style of articulation.

Shostakovich developed and changed as a pianist throughout his lifetime. As a result his articulation had the variety and expressiveness of the Baroque and Classic style, and the sound possibilities of Romantic pianism. Verification of this fact is to be found in his recordings.

8 Leonid Nikolaev, "Iz besed s utchenikami," (From Conversations with Students) Vydayushchiesya pianisty-pedagogi o fortepiannom iskusstve (Prominent Pianists - Teachers on Piano Art) Ed. S. Khentova. (Moscow - Leningrad, 1966), p.132, in Russian, my translation.

9 Khentova, Molodye gody, Book 1, p.77.

The memoirs and reactions to his performances by his contemporaries, particularly those pertaining to his early period where there are no recordings, form an interesting picture. An aspect that is commonly stressed is the dryness of his interpretations and tone. When A. Glazunov was asked to comment on the young Shostakovich's performance (1920-1921), he replied: "Somewhat dry, but about his technique there's no argument." ¹⁰

Another authoritative voice on Shostakovich is that of his fellow student V. Sofronitsky who also studied under Nikolaev, but who was two years ahead of Shostakovich. Sofronitsky was a great Romantic pianist who was idolised as a performer in the Russian pianistic school throughout his career. According to his recollection:

Shostakovich never attained complete relaxation even in his lyrical episodes, and he would subconsciously restrain the scope of his virtuosity in dramatic episodes and spontaneous flights. It is probable that this inhibition, together with his somewhat dry and brittle tone prevented him, in the nineteen twenties, from achieving the status of being the great concert pianist which he deserved because of the many facets of his wonderful performance gift. ¹¹ (my underlining)

The aforesaid opinions are noteworthy since Glazunov and Sofronitsky were men who appreciated Shostakovich's gifts, and who would not have criticised his performances maliciously. Their opinions, however, are given as

¹⁰ Ibid, p.104.

¹¹ Delson, "Molodoi Shostakovich," p.207, in Russian, my translation.

exponents of late Romanticism. For them Shostakovich's pianism was a strange phenomenon which was in sharp contrast to the prevailing romantic concept of performance. (Shostakovich was able to play in this style and performed a few of his works in the conventional "Russian" cantilena style. See pages 303-306 of this chapter).

It is interesting to note that, while the composer's performances of the early nineteen fifties certainly differed from those of the nineteen twenties¹² the reaction of the modern Western listener Ronald Stevenson is markedly similar to those of Glazunov and Sofronitsky. Of the slow movement of Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto he writes: "On paper, the music is beautiful: in his performance it is dry and dull..."¹³

This opinion is odd since the quality of the cantilena in both of Shostakovich's two performances¹⁴ of this Concerto, Op.102/2 is no poorer than that of any contemporary performance of this piece.¹⁵ Stevenson's verdict would seem to be based upon the biased assumption

12 Khentova, Shostakovich - pianist, p.80.

13 Stevenson, "The Piano Music," Norris, Shostakovich: the Man, p.92.

14 Index Nos 25, 26.

15 Compare Shostakovich's performance with that of E. List's interpretation of the same Concerto. Record label USSR: Melodiya Cl0-06764.

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12 Khentova, Shostakovich - pianist, p.80.

13 Stevenson, "The Piano Music," Norris, Shostakovich: the Man, p.92.

14 Index Nos 25, 26.

15 Compare Shostakovich's performance with that of E. List's interpretation of the same Concerto. Record label USSR: Melodiya C10-06764.

that Shostakovich's composition and performance should reflect "Slav melancholy".¹⁶

The best descriptions of Shostakovich's articulation remain those of V. Bogdanov-Berezovsky and E. Tawaststjerna. Bogdanov-Berezovsky describes the young Shostakovich's manner of playing in 1927:

In those days Shostakovich's pianism, sharply individualistic, rhythmically impulsive and multi-tone coloured yet with graphic definition was emerging in its concentrated form.

Most typical was his strike,¹⁷ decisive, unfaltering, in which the clear rhythmic impulse was apparent and which enveloped many shades of expression.¹⁸ (my underlining)

Tawaststjerna recalls Shostakovich's performance of his Second Piano Sonata, in 1947, in the following terms:

When Shostakovich commenced playing the passages of the first movement of the Second Sonata I recalled descriptions of Mozart's tinkling non legato... The swiftness and precision of the passages which he played pianissimo showed Shostakovich as a pianist-virtuoso.¹⁹

This chapter is primarily based upon Shostakovich's recordings. These are sound recordings and not video

16 Norris, Shostakovich: the Man, p.92.

17 "Strike" - is a literal translation of the Russian word "udar" and must be understood to embrace the actual finger action on the keyboard which is both energetic and strong.

18 Bogdanov-Berezovsky, "Otrochestvo i yunost," D. Shostakovich, Stat'i i materialy, pp.136, 144, in Russian, my translation.

19 Tawaststjerna, "Vstrechi s Shostakovichem," D. Shostakovich, Stat'i i materialy, pp.285-286, in Russian, my translation.

recordings. Accordingly, only the result of Shostakovich's articulation and not his finger action can be analysed. Furthermore, because of the nature of the pianoforte, the use of the damper pedal and dynamics can cause non-legato finger action to sound like legato finger action.

The articulation signs referred to in this chapter apply mostly to Shostakovich's piano articulation.

Any additional articulation signs that have been gleaned from his recordings have been inserted into the examples taken from his scores by the present writer by the use of square frames (□).

For clear presentation, this chapter comprises the following subdivisions:

- 7.2 Shostakovich's Legato
- 7.3 Shostakovich's Non-Legato
- 7.4 Accents
- 7.5 Different Articulation Combinations
- 7.6 Different Articulation of the Same Material
- 7.7 Slurs
 - 7.7.1 Structural Slurs
 - 7.7.2 Articulatory Slurs

7.2 Shostakovich's Legato

Shostakovich indicates legato articulation by the words: legato sempre (Piano Fugue, Op.87/1); legato (Piano Fugue, Op.87/4) or by slurs (Piano Prelude, Op.87/13).

In the Piano Fugue, Op.87/16 Shostakovich has the unusual indication legatissimo sempre al fine.

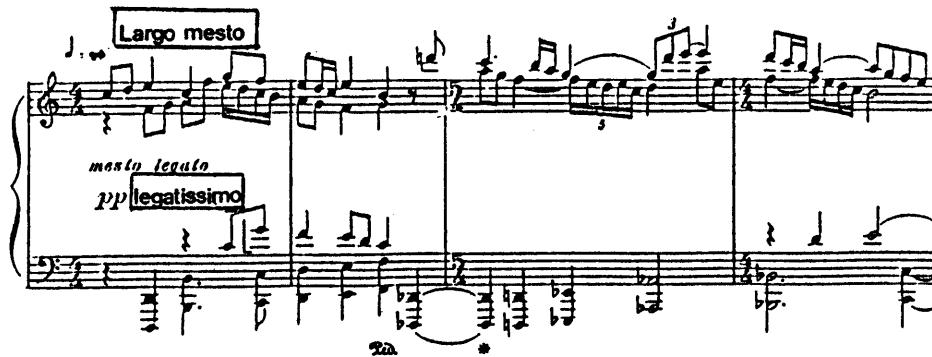
Occasionally he supplies no verbal directions at all, but permits the performer to find the appropriate touch, such as in "Waltz" from Children's Notebook, Op.69.

Sometimes Shostakovich uses the word dolce to suggest the type of legato quality that he desires (Piano Prelude, Op.87/1). His use of the words espressivo (Song, Op.79/1) and tenuto (Piano Prelude, Op.87/24) call for a more declamatory quality.

It is interesting to see how the young Shostakovich altered his articulatory indications in the "Elegy" and "Legend" from Aphorisms, Op.13 in order to best express his intentions. Nikolayeva states²⁰ that the autograph of the "Elegy" contained the words Largo mesto and legatissimo. (See Example 3 where the original autograph indications have been inserted in square frames by the present writer.) The first publication of the "Elegy" had the words mesto legato instead of the word legatissimo.

20 See her comments in Russian at the end of Volume 39 of the Collected Works.

Example 3. "Elegy," Aphorisms, Op.13/4/1-4



The terms Moderato and legato which appeared in the autograph²¹ of the "Legend", Aphorisms, Op.13/9, were likewise changed to legatissimo (see Example 4).

Example 4. "Legend," Aphorisms, Op.13/9/1-3



Shostakovich has a wide range of legato touch in his performances which can vary from an almost non-legato ("Waltz" from Children's Notebook, Op.69/2) to a singing or vibrating tone (Piano Prelude, Op.87/16). Sometimes his legato even assumes a recitative-like quality (Song, Op.79/1). The variety of his legato is easier to hear than

21 Ibid.

to describe. Shostakovich's legato is individualised according to the character of the particular piece. Every note, from first to last, bears the stamp of his special touch. It is this quality of touch which makes his own performances easily distinguishable from those of any other performer of his music.

Shostakovich used, among his many forms of legato, a specific legato which was very precise and even. This type of legato sometimes creates the impression of being "detached".

This is well illustrated in Shostakovich's interpretation²² of the "Waltz" from his Children's Notebook (see Example 5). In the first bar, Shostakovich has a tenuto-like quality of sound. Thereafter his playing is definitely legato, although it sounds like "detached" legato because of its limited dynamic growth which is combined with precise articulation of each note.

For this reason editors who mark this piece legato²³ and those who mark it non-legato²⁴ are both correct. It is neither and yet it is both. It is a specific type of legato which is an intermediate stage between legato and

22 Index No 14.

23 D. Shostakovich, "Waltz," in Selected Piano Pieces for Children. Ed. by B. Rozengauz. Moscow: Sovetskii Kompozitor, 1979, p.4.

24 D. Shostakovich, "Waltz," in Music for Children. Piano Pieces for Grades 1-2. Ed. by K. Sorokin. Moscow: Sovetskii Kompozitor, 1979, p.47.

non-legato. It avoids singing sentimentality, and allows for the distinct articulation of every sound.

Example 5. "Waltz," Children's Notebook, Op.69/2/1-6.
Single recording: 1947, d. = 88



A further example occurs in Shostakovich's interpretation of the theme from the Fugue in B flat Minor, Op.87/16.²⁵ For a better understanding of the specific quality of his touch, his performance should be compared to those of T. Nikolayeva²⁶ and R. Woodward²⁷ (see Example 6).

Shostakovich plays the theme rubato and starts this melody quite sonorously - mf, tenuto on the first B flat, - and maintains evenness of touch throughout. (The subtle microdynamics do not alter the tone colour.) The theme is unpedalled and each note is clearly articulated.

Nikolayeva's interpretation is very similar to that of Shostakovich. However, she does not play with any rubato. Nikolayeva correctly took Shostakovich's

25 Index No 17.

26 Record label USSR: Melodiya CM-02381.

27 Record label: RCA Red Seal LRL2-5100-2C.

metronome indication of $\text{♩} = 54$ as a simple mistake,²⁸ and played the theme at $\text{♩} = 54$.

Woodward takes the composer's metronome indications for granted. He pedals throughout and in addition has alarming accelerandos and some vulgar and unnecessary crescendos. In bar 2 this results in an intolerable cluster of notes, which commences from the A flat, beat 4. In bar 4 he pedals in such a way that the B flat (beat 3, quaver 2) becomes the pedal point. This flies in the face of this Russian pipe-like single voiced tune.²⁹ Woodward's legato is achieved by the use of the pedal instead of by the use of fingers. His performance is a caricature of what Shostakovich wrote. He has in fact created completely different music. (See Example 7. Beneath this example the tempo, dynamics and pedal of each performance is indicated.)

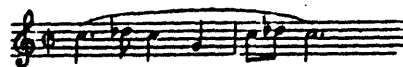
28 See in detail Chapter Five, "Tempo in Shostakovich's Performances", Example 6, pp.189-191.

29 Compare bar 4 of this theme (Example 6a) with the pipe tune from the song, Op.79/10 (Example 6b).

Example 6:

a) Piano Fugue, Op.
87/16/4

b) "Song of the Shepherdess," Op.79/10/1-2



It should be borne in mind that Shostakovich's specific approach to legato playing in this piece is due to the fact that he intended to imitate folk melodies which were played on folk instruments. Soviet musicologist A. Dolzhansky writes about this Fugue:

Behind the music of this Fugue is concealed the experience of many centuries of innumerable anonymous folk musicians who have sent to the outer reaches of the universe the simple voices of their needs. 30

Example 7. Piano Fugue, Op.87/16/1-4

Adagio $\text{♩} = 54$

pp legatissimo sempre al fine

Shostakovich: tempo rubato ma tranquillo, $\text{♩} = 48-53$, mf, senza Ped.

Nikolayeva: tempo giusto, $\text{♩} = 54$, mf, senza Ped.

Woodward: →

tempo rubato, $\text{♩} = 54$

pp mf p f mp dim.

accel. accel.

mf rit. accel.

Woodward:

mf rit. accel.

30 Aleksandr Dolzhansky, 24 Preljudii i fugi D. Shostakovicha (24 Preludes and Fugues by D. Shostakovich) (Leningrad, 1970), p.131, in Russian, my translation.

In the beginning of his Violin Sonata, Op.134, Shostakovich's "hollow" legato³¹ contrasts sharply with the rich legato of the violin which is played with a marvellous cantabile by D. Oistrakh (see Example 8).

Example 8. Violin Sonata, Op.134/1/1-12. Single recording: 1968, ♩ = 104



Shostakovich's clearly articulated legato has a particular charm, especially when it is combined with the use of the long pedal. He often gives the indication dolce to this type of music (see the Piano Prelude, Op.34/19, Example 9). The lyricism of Shostakovich's interpretation³² is created not by the exaggerated

31 Index No 28.

32 Index No 4.

singing of the melody, but by the expressiveness of the melody itself, its flowing tempo, the use of pedal, and the application of a specific touch.

Example 9. Piano Prelude, Op.34/19/1-6. Single recording: 1947, J. = 72



Shostakovich also uses a legato which is rich and singing where the sounds follow smoothly one upon the other and which is more connected than in Examples 5-9 discussed above.

Shostakovich's performance³³ of his Piano Prelude, Op.87/16 is an admirable example of his broad singing and smoothly flowing legato (see Chapter Five, Example 4, p.189).

A further example of this type of legato appears in Shostakovich's recording³⁴ of the Piano Prelude, Op.87/13, particularly in the sections which have an espressivo marking in addition to his slurs (see Example 10).

33 Index No 17.

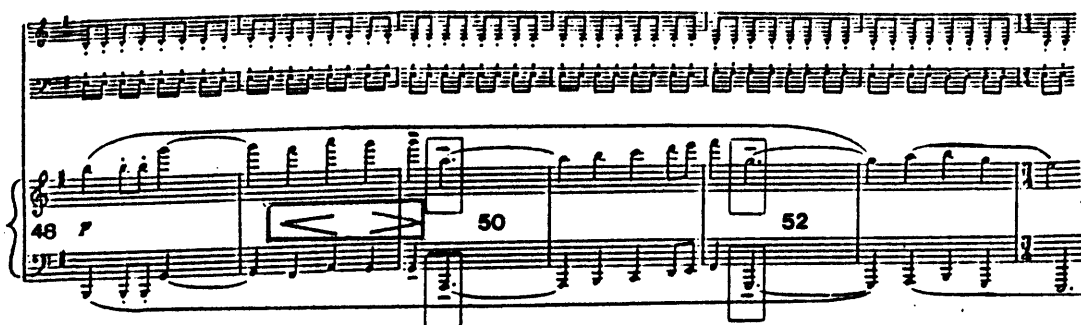
34 Index No 20.

Example 10. Piano Prelude, Op.87/13/7-11. Single recording: 1957



The same singing legato is to be found in Shostakovich's performance³⁵ of the main subject of the first movement of the Second Trio, Op.67/1/58-54 (see Example 11). Here the staccato (spiccato) of the strings adds dimension to Shostakovich's singing legato.

Example 11. Second Trio, Op.67/1/48-54. Recorded in 1947. The dynamic markings  in bar 49 and the tenuto signs in bar 50, beat 2 and in bar 52, beat 2 have been inserted in square frames by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording



35 Index No 12.

Shostakovich's performance³⁶ of the theme from the Piano Fugue, Op.87/22 is another good example of his singing legato. He plays considerably slower (♩ = 72) than his score indication (♩ = 120). He performs the theme with a small crescendo throughout bar 1 which culminates at the E flat (marked - by the present writer). This is followed by a diminuendo in bars 2-5. The notes B flat, C and B flat, marked tenuto by the composer in bars 3, 4 and 5 are not stressed, but sung (see Example 13).

Nikolayeva took exactly the same tempo in her recording of this Fugue³⁷ (♩ = 72) as Shostakovich did in his recording. Her legato is less singing and more "detached" than Shostakovich's especially in bar 2.

Woodward took Shostakovich's metronome indication (♩ = 120) literally, and crammed his performance into this tempo with the addition of rough accents.³⁸ His performance lacks colour and sounds non-troppo legato. The inherent folk quality of this theme is completely

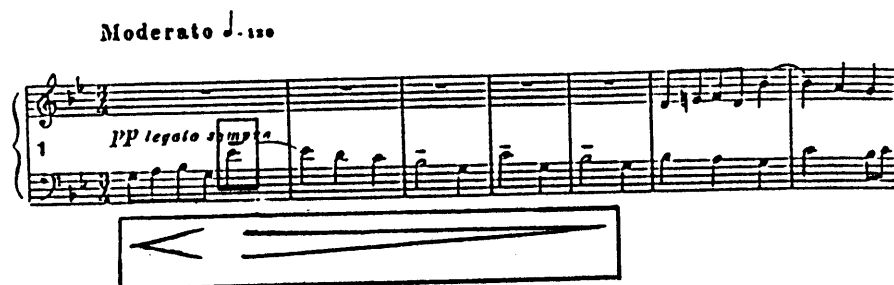
36 Index No 19.

37 Record label USSR: Melodiya CM-02383. At the end of Volume 40 of the Collected Works, Nikolayeva writes about this Fugue: "The Fugue must be performed slowly, with thorough evenness of parts" (in Russian, my translation). She accomplishes this in her performance.

38 Record label: RCA Red Seal LRL2-5100-1D.

missed.³⁹

Example 13. Piano Prelude, Op.87/22/1-7. Single recording: 1952, ♩ = 72. Tenuto sign  in bar 1, beat 3 and  beneath the example have been inserted in square frames by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance



Often Shostakovich would begin a piece with one type of legato and alter the quality of his legato during the development of the piece. This is true of any of his performances of his works such as, for example, the Piano Fugue in F Major, Op.87/23⁴⁰ and the Piano Fugue in C

39 For every Russian-born musician, the theme of this Fugue carries with it the association of such famous Russian folk songs as "Lutchina" (Example 12a) or "Kalinushka" (Example 12b):

Example 12: Russian Folk Songs

a) "Lutchina":



b) "Kalinushka":



40 Index Nos 16, (17), 20.

Minor, Op.87/20.⁴¹

Sometimes, the Fugue theme itself contains a contrast between two different types of legato. An example of this occurs in the theme of the Piano Fugue, Op.87/6 (see Example 14). In both of Shostakovich's recordings of this Fugue⁴² the first four bars of the theme have a more singing tone, whereas bars 5-6 are performed in a more detached manner.

This aspect was neglected by Nikolayeva who played the whole theme with a singing legato.⁴³ Woodward managed to achieve this contrast.⁴⁴

Example 14. Piano Fugue, Op.87/6/1-7. 1st recording: 1952, J = 96-92; 2nd recording: 1957, J = 88-84



In some pieces Shostakovich's legato playing borders on marcato. Here his touch, dynamics and pedalling create a legato which is more declamatory in character than the abovementioned examples 5-11, 13-14.

41 Index Nos 17, (19).

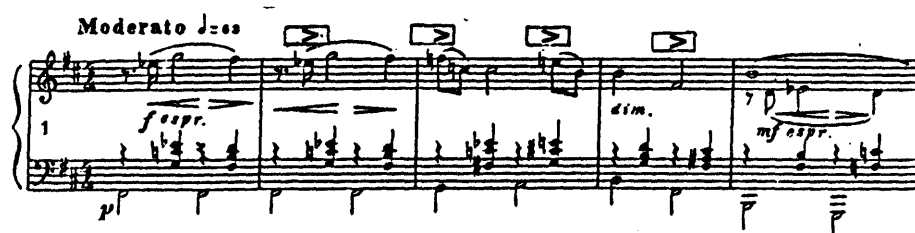
42 Index Nos 17, (19), 20.

43 Record label USSR: Melodiya CM-02378.

44 Record label: RCA Red Seal LRL2-5100-1A.

This is exemplified in the song "Lament Over the Death of a Small Child", Op.79/1. Special attention should be given to the dynamic accents in Shostakovich's performance⁴⁵ of the introduction to this song. (The present writer has indicated the accents in square frames.) These accents are essential in order to achieve this declamatory type of legato (see Example 15).

Example 15. "Lament Over the Death of a Small Child,"
From Jewish Folk Poetry, Op.79/1/1-5.
Single recording: 1955, ♩ = 52. The accents
in bars 2-4 have been inserted in square
frames by the present writer to accord with
Shostakovich's recording



A further example can be found in the Piano Prelude, Op.87/24 which is marked tenuto. Shostakovich's performance⁴⁶ of this Prelude is an admirable example of his legato playing which has a declamatory quality, and which is combined with bright dynamics, and with broad and clearly marked sounds (see Example 16). Unlike Woodward's performance,⁴⁷ Shostakovich's interpretation

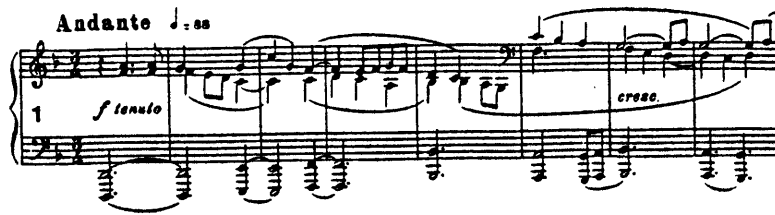
45 Index No 15.

46 Index Nos 16, (19).

47 Record label: RCA Red Seal LRL2-5100-1D.

is powerful without being aggressive.⁴⁸

Example 16. Piano Prelude, Op.87/24/1-8. Single
recording: 1952, ♩ = 60

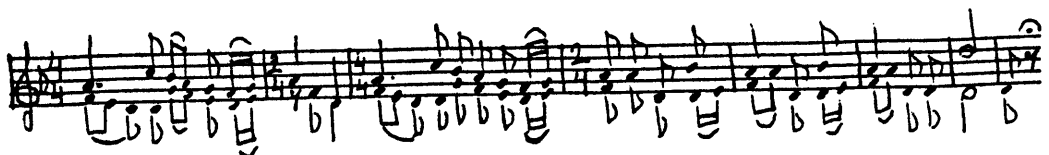


From the above discussion it can be seen that Shostakovich's legato comprises varying levels of smoothness and detachment. His verbal indications such as dolce or espressivo hint at the quality of legato desired, but are unhelpful with regard to the degree of smoothness or detachment.

From the various examples analysed in this section no "magic recipe" emerges as to how to find the appropriate legato touch. The answer is rather to be found from the context of the music itself, seen in the light of the

48 It is a power, which is characteristic of the folk songs of Russian barge haulers such as "Dubinushka" (see Example 17).

Example 17. Russian Folk Song "Dubinushka," Refrain



composer's own performance. Where there is no recording by the composer guidance should be sought from his pieces which are similar in nature.

7.3 Shostakovich's Non-Legato

Shostakovich preferred to use the dot symbol (.) instead of the word staccato to indicate his staccato. A few rare uses of the word staccato are to be found in his early Piano Preludes.⁴⁹ In his A-Minor Prelude he uses the words sempre staccatissimo. In the E-Minor Prelude he uses the words sempre stacc. and in the score of the First Piano Sonata, Op.12, the word staccato (see Example 18a). Sometimes he uses the term non-legato as can be seen in the same Sonata, Op.12 (see Example 18b).

Example 18. First Piano Sonata, Op.12, bars 148-150, 89-90

a) bars 148-150:



49 From a group of 24 Preludes composed by G. Klements, P. Feldt and D. Shostakovich, who were students in the composition faculty of Petrograd Conservatoire in 1920-1921.

Example 18 (continued):

b) bars 89-90:



He also uses the term non-legato in his late compositions such as in his Violin Sonata, Op.134. In this work he often uses this term. He performs⁵⁰ these sections exactly as indicated in the score. One of these sections is demonstrated below (see Example 19).

Example 19. Violin Sonata, Op.134/2/150-153. Single recording: 1968



Sometimes Shostakovich uses the term marcato to mean non-legato/staccato. However it is generally crisper or heavier than a simple non-legato/staccato and it varies from context to context. Shostakovich uses this term in different ways: such as marcato in the beginning of the Finale of his First Piano Concerto; poco marcato in bar 2 of the "Recitative" from Aphorisms,

(see Example 20).

Example 20. Piano Fugue, Op.87/15/1-6



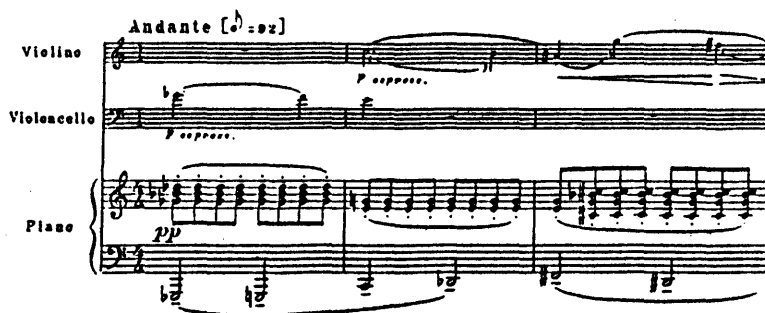
Example 21).

Krylov, Op.4/2/20-21



Shostakovich often combines the dot and the slur  to indicate portato, which has slightly longer note values than non-legato. This is illustrated by his articulation signs in the score of the beginning of the First Trio, Op.8, piano part, right hand (see Example 22).

Example 22. First Trio, Op.8, bars 1-3



Whereas the dominant characteristic of Shostakovich's performance of legato is its quality of detachment and clarity, the predominant characteristic of his non-legato/staccato is its melodiousness. What distinguishes the composer's performance of his non-legato/staccato from that of other performers is that most of them play his non-legato/staccato far too shortly and harshly. Shostakovich plays many different types and lengths of non-legato/staccato.

An illustration of Shostakovich's non-legato which is very melodious is to be found in his performance⁵¹ of the

51 Index No 12.

following theme from the Finale of his Second Trio, Op.67/4/31-35. Here an intermediate stage between legato and non-legato is to be heard (see Example 23).

Example 23. Second Trio, Op.67/4/31-35. Recorded in 1947



An illustration of his melodious staccato is heard in his recorded performance⁵² of the Piano Prelude, Op.34/18, which is both playful and witty. Shostakovich plays his staccato, marcato and the accents lightly and gently, but mf as indicated and in a faster tempo ($\text{♩} = 160$) than the written tempo ($\text{♩} = 126$). This enhances the lightness of the piece. (See Chapter Five, Example 11, p.204).

His staccato quavers in the Violin Sonata, Op.134/1/73-79 are also played⁵³ in a melodically soft, and not too short manner, and are juxtaposed with the dry staccato of the violin (see Example 24a).

Conversely, where the music demands, Shostakovich's staccato can be deliberately dry and short. In the

52 Index No 4.

53 Index No 28.

same Violin Sonata, Op.134/1/178-185 Shostakovich's pizzicato-like touch,⁵⁴ and his sharp unpedalled staccato enhance the air of mystery and fear created by the music. This air of mystery is further enhanced by the ostinato of perfect fifths and major sevenths in the right hand of the piano part and by the tremolo of perfect fourths of the violin (sul ponticello) (see Example 24b).

Example 24. Violin Sonata, Op.134/1/73-77,177-185.
Single recording: 1968

a) bars 73-77:



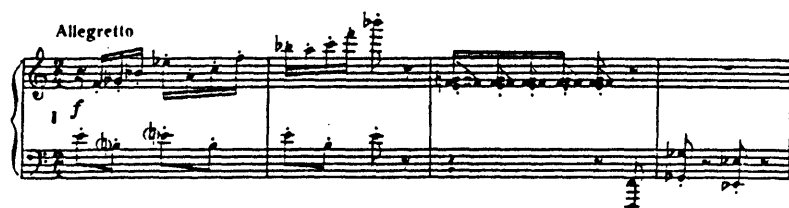
b) bars 177-185:



54 Ibid.

Shostakovich also uses short staccato to express humour. This is seen in the first four bars of his performance⁵⁵ of the Polka, Op.22 (see Example 25).

Example 25. Polka from "The Age of Gold," the Composer's Arrangement for Solo Piano, Op.22, bars 1-4. Single recording: 1947, ♩ = 126



Another instance where short staccato enhances the humorous effect of the music occurs in the song "Warning", Op.79/5/18, last quaver and bar 20, last quaver (see Example 26). Shostakovich plays⁵⁶ a humorous upbeat staccato to the words "You'll go out till morning..." This staccato is not marked in the score, but is clearly heard in Shostakovich's recording (see Example 26).

55 Index No 3.

56 Index No 15.

Example 26. "Warning," From Jewish Folk Poetry,
Op.79/5/18,20. Single recording: 1955.
The staccato dots have been inserted in
square frames by the present writer in bar
18, last quaver and bar 20, last quaver to
accord with Shostakovich's recording



Sometimes Shostakovich's staccato is used to enhance the mocking character of his piece. This is particularly evident in his recordings⁵⁷ of the Second Piano Concerto, Op.102. In the Cadenza of the first movement, especially from bar 202, he mocks the harsh athletic attitude of many young modern pianists towards piano performance (see Example 27).

Example 27. Second Piano Concerto, Op.102/1/202-208.
1st recording: 1958; 2nd recording: 1958



57 Index Nos 25, 26.

As mentioned previously, Shostakovich's marcato is often synonymous with non-legato. This is so in the First Piano Concerto, Op.35/2/50-51. Although the first two quavers have staccato dots in the orchestral score,⁵⁸ with the term marcato added, they are still played in a singing tone yet sound detached in both recordings⁵⁹ (see Example 28).

Example 28. First Piano Concerto, Op.35/2/50-51. 1st recording: 1954; 2nd recording: 1958



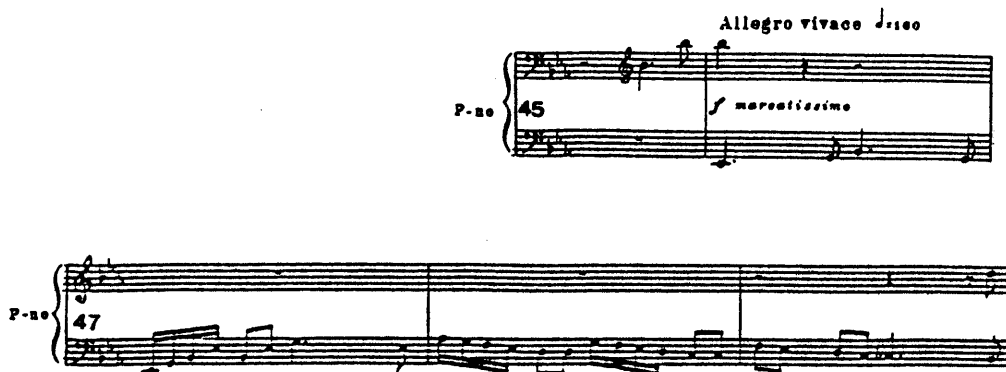
Shostakovich's performance⁶⁰ of the beginning of the second subject of the first movement of the same Concerto, Op.35/1/45-49 is close to the conventional meaning of marcato. Here his non-legato has a robust sound and avoids being exaggeratedly rough (see Example 29).

58 In the arrangement of the Concerto for Two Pianos all three quavers have staccato dots.

59 Index Nos 7, 8.

60 Ibid.

Example 29. First Piano Concerto, Op.35/1/45-49. 1st recording: 1954, ♩ = 132; 2nd recording: 1958, ♩ = 126

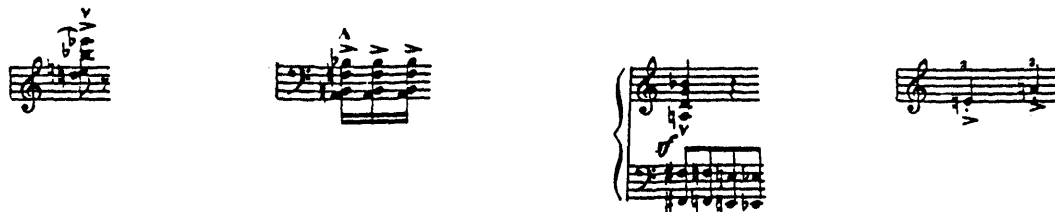


7.4 Accents

Shostakovich uses accent signs frequently and expressively. In his early works his use of accent signs was often unorthodox. In his First Piano Sonata, for example, besides the usual $\underset{\cdot}{\downarrow}$, $\underset{\cdot}{\downarrow}$, $\underset{\cdot}{\downarrow}$ he uses the more courageous $\underset{\cdot}{\downarrow}$, $\underset{\cdot}{\downarrow}$ in bars 83 and 285 (see Examples 30a and 30b), as well as the combination of sf in the left hand with $\underset{\cdot}{\downarrow}$ in the right hand, in bar 154 (see Example 30c). Frequently he combines the horizontal wedge with the staccato dot $\underset{\cdot}{\downarrow}$. This is found in the right hand in bar 175 of the same Sonata (see Example 30d).

Example 30. First Piano Sonata, Op.12, accents in bars 83,154,175 and 185

a) bar 83: b) bar 285: c) bar 154: d) bar 175:

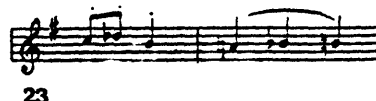
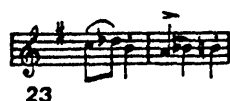


When the autograph and the first published edition of the Second Fantastic Dance, Op.5 are compared,⁶¹ it is apparent that the composer was very concerned about his articulation signs, dynamic markings and accents. This can be seen from his alterations to the articulation signs in bars 23 and 24 (see Example 31).

Example 31. Fantastic Dance, Op.5/2/23-24, top voice

a) autograph:

b) first edition:



Another interesting example occurs in the Second Trio, Op.67/1/241-242. In the autograph,⁶² Shostakovich marks the thematic notes with (>) signs. In his

61 See Nikolayeva's comments in Russian at the end of Volume 39 of the Collected Works.

62 See the editor's comments in Russian at the end of Volume 37 of the Collected Works.

performance⁶³ he plays according to the initial markings. In all the published editions the accents are omitted. However, the accents have been included in the Collected Works Edition of the Trio, Volume 37 (see Example 32).

Example 32. Second Trio, Op.67/1/241-242, Collected Works Edition. Recorded in 1947



Shostakovich uses the following accent signs in his scores:

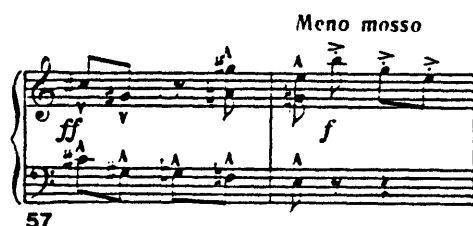
1) $\downarrow$ is the strongest accent that is to be found in his early works such as in Polka, Op.22⁶⁴ (compare bars 57 and 58, Example 33).⁶⁵

63 Index No 12.

64 Index No 3. The dynamic strength of any particular accent is relative. The chord of six notes in bar 94, beat 1 or the last octaves of the same piece sound louder than any other accents in this piece. This is due to the register, number of notes, dynamics and tempo. Nevertheless, the sign $\downarrow$ is generally an indication of the strongest accent.

65 $\wedge$ is probably a stronger accent, but it is a rare sign and an exception which is found in his First Piano Sonata.

Example 33. Polka from "The Age of Gold," the Composer's Arrangement for Solo Piano, Op.22, bars 57-58. Single recording: 1947



Shostakovich's First Piano Concerto, Op.35 and his Polka, Op.22 were probably the last works in which he used $\downarrow$ to indicate the strongest accent. From Opus 34 onwards, he stopped using this sign ($\downarrow$).

2) $\downarrow$ is another sign used by Shostakovich to indicate the strongest accent.⁶⁶ This combination of wedge with dot and sf can be found in the score of his Piano Prelude, Op.34/5 (see Example 34).

66 The signs sfff and sffff and fp are very common in his symphonic music, but are rarely used by the composer in his piano music or in the piano parts of his chamber scores. For example, the rare sffff occurs in the song Op.109/4/125 and the sfff in his Second Piano Concerto, Op.102/1/185. Even more rare is the fp indication which is found in his Violin Sonata, Op.134/2/251. This indication, although given in all previous editions, was not included in the Collected Works Edition. (The editor removed it to correspond with the autograph version. See Volume 38 of the Collected Works). An extremely rare indication of ffp tremolo can be found in the song Op.146/2/14.

Example 34. Piano Prelude, Op.34/5/1-2



3) f also represents a strong accent. Although it is probably not as strong as sf . This sign (f) is most frequently used to indicate the strongest accents in his later scores. Examples of the composer's use of this accent sign (f) are to be found in the score of his Second Piano Sonata, Op.61/1/282-284 (see Example 35), as well as in the beginning of the second movement of his Violin Sonata, Op.134/2/1-5 where the notes marked with this sign are not too short, but are heavily emphasised in his performance⁶⁷ (see Example 36).

Example 35. Second Piano Sonata, Op.61/1/282-284



67 Index No 28.

Example 36. Violin Sonata, Op.134/2/1-5. Single recording: 1968, $\text{♩} = 100$



4) ♩ is also frequently used to indicate a strong accent. This accent is clearly heard in Shostakovich's performance⁶⁸ of the "March" from the Children's Notebook, Op.69/1/10-11,14-15 (see Example 37).

Example 37. "March," Children's Notebook, Op.69/1/10-11, 14-15. Single recording: 1947



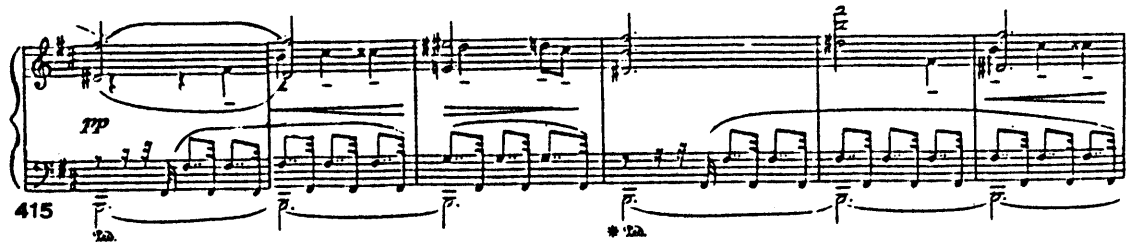
5) ♩ Shostakovich uses the symbol (-) to indicate tenuto which is sustained rather than accented. Notes bearing this sign generally mark important moments in the melodic or harmonic development of the piece. This can be seen in his score of the Second Piano Sonata, Op.61/3/415-417, middle voice (Example 38), or heard in his two performances⁶⁹ of the main subject of the first

68 Index No 14.

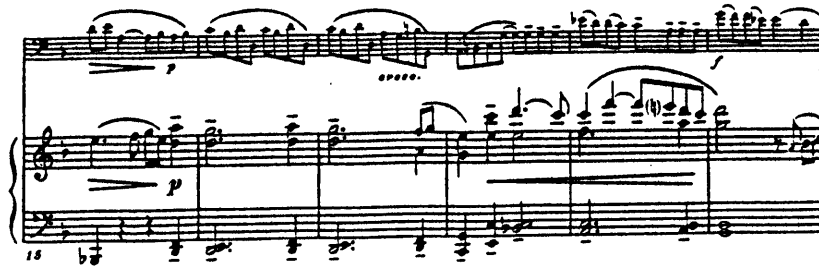
69 Index Nos 9, 10.

movement of his Cello Sonata. In the Cello Sonata, Op.40/1/15-27 the notes marked (-) are played in a slightly detached manner. At the same time they are clearly sung (see Example 39).

Example 38. Second Piano Sonata, Op.61/3/415-420.



Example 39. Cello Sonata, Op.40/1/15-20. 1st recording: 1946; 2nd recording: 1955



It must be stressed that the length and strength of Shostakovich's accented notes is determined by the overall context of the piece. In the Piano Prelude, Op.87/14, Shostakovich plays⁷⁰ the notes which are marked with the horizontal wedge (>) with a rich singing tone

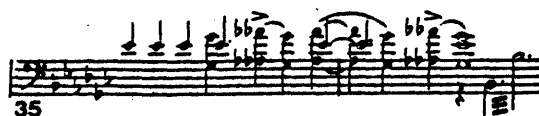
70 Index Nos 18, 20.

and without any rough stresses.⁷¹ The context of the piece and Shostakovich's insertion of the word tenuto dictate that the stressed notes (>) be played with a higher degree of tenuto. Shostakovich balances the sounds within the overall tone picture without exaggeration (see Chapter Nine, Example 40). This is in contrast to Woodward's interpretation⁷² which fails in this respect, and where the accented notes in bars 4-6 sound like harsh sforzatos.

On the other hand, in Shostakovich's performance⁷³ of the Piano Prelude, Op.87/24, the sign (-) above the A flat in bar 68 is played more strongly than it is indicated, in order to emphasize the Neapolitan chord in C Minor in this bar (see Example 41). The composer's intention, which was indicated by the word tenuto and the

71 The absence of the wedge on beat 7 of bar 35 seems to be a simple error since in both of his recordings he accents all three of these notes (see Example 40 below).

Example 40. Piano Prelude, Op.87/14/35-36.



72 Record label: RCA Red Seal LRL2-5100-2B.

73 Index Nos 16, (19).

Example 42. Piano Prelude, Op.34/17/1-4. Single recording: 1947, $\text{♩} = 80$. Only one bar of the introduction is played in the performed version (see Chapter Three, Example 7b). The tenuto sign (-) in bar 2, beat 1 has been inserted in a square frame by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance



Shostakovich is also prone to playing long notes which end phrases sonorously, particularly where the long notes become pedal points for the material that follows. In his performance⁷⁸ of the Piano Prelude, Op.87/20 he adheres to the indicated diminuendo on the D and C in bar 7, beats 3 and 4, but plays the G in bar 8, beat 1 more vibrantly (see Chapter Nine, Example 41). Neither Nikolayeva⁷⁹ nor Woodward⁸⁰ stress this vital bass note. By continuing the diminuendo to the G, they impoverish the harmonic fullness intended.

78 Index Nos 17, (19).

79 Record label USSR: Melodiya CM-02383.

80 Record label: RCA Red Seal LRL2-5100-2C.

Shostakovich also emphasises notes which effect an important turn in the modulation. For example in Shostakovich's recording⁸¹ of the Piano Prelude, Op.87/16/78, beat 1, the A natural is emphasised in order to enhance the sudden modulation to the key of A Major (see Example 43).

Example 43. Piano Prelude, Op.87/16/78. Single recording: 1952. The accent sign (>) in bar 78, beat 1 has been inserted in a square frame by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance

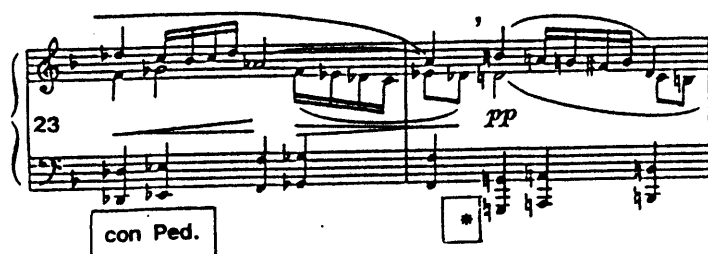


Shostakovich sometimes uses the caesura (cesura) as a device for achieving a specific kind of emphasis, and this is indicated in his scores by means of the sign (,). An example of Shostakovich's unpedalled caesura is to be heard in both of his recordings⁸² of the Piano Prelude, Op.87/23/24. The silent pause created by this unpedalled caesura enhances the sudden appearance of the theme in G Major in bar 24 (see Example 44).

81 Index Nos 17, (18).

82 Index Nos 16, (17), 20.

Example 44. Piano Prelude, Op.87/23/24. Single recording: 1952. The indication con Ped. in bar 23 and the pedal release sign (*) in bar 24 have been inserted in square frames by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance



Sometimes Shostakovich plays some of his melodies rubato where there is no rubato indication in his scores. A typical example is to be found in his recording⁸³ of the Piano Prelude, Op.34/19/30. Here the E flat notes which are played rubato create the impression of being accented (see Example 45).

Example 45. Piano Prelude, Op.34/19/30. Single recording: 1947. The indications poco rit. and accel. in bar 30 have been inserted in a square frame by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance.



83 Index No 4.

Shostakovich's commencement and conclusion accents in his scores and in his performances are particularly noteworthy. These accents help to clarify and shape the form of the piece. It is useful to examine some examples from the song cycle *From Jewish Folk Poetry*, Op.79. In the first song, "Lament Over the Death of a Small Child", bar 34, the accented first beat signifies the start of the recapitulation⁸⁴ (see Example 46).

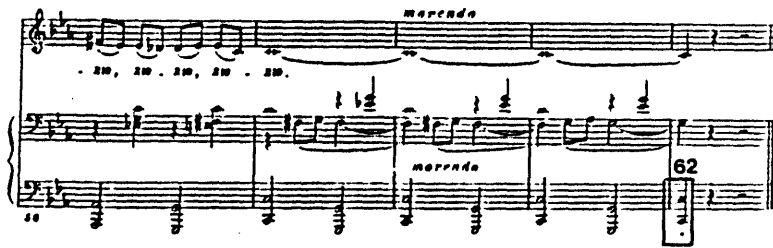
Example 46. "Lament Over the Death of a Small Child,"
From Jewish Folk Poetry, Op.79/1/34. Single
 recording: 1955, $\text{♩} = 48$

In the third song, "Cradle Song", the last octave in bar 62, beat 1 is played⁸⁵ staccato thus serving as a concluding accent (see Example 47).

84 Index No 15.

85 Ibid.

Example 47. "Cradle Song," From Jewish Folk Poetry, Op.79/3/58-62. Single recording: 1955. The staccato dot in bar 62, beat 1 has been inserted in a square frame by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's recording.



Shostakovich's great mastery as a pianist is seen in the sixth song, "The Forsaken Father", where his marked accents⁸⁶ (sf and ff sf) at the end of the song wonderfully portray the conflict between the young woman's retorts to her father's imploring. The concluding piano accents express far more than the unspoken words (see Example 48).

Example 48. "The Forsaken Father," From Jewish Folk Poetry, Op.79/6/71,73,75. Single recording: 1955, ♩ = 116

Moderato ♩ : 120
rit. al fine

dim.

сер. нась ко ино, сер. нась... Ца.ре.зо, доч.ка!

ff 73 ff 75

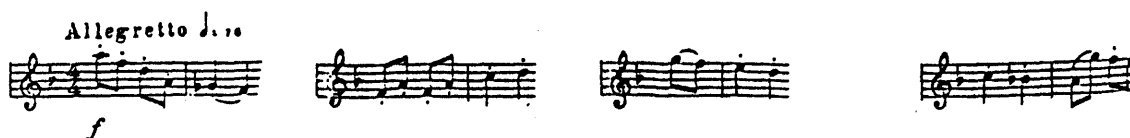
86 Ibid.

7.5 Different Articulation Combinations

Shostakovich's articulatory style was elaborate and bold from his earliest works. This can be seen, for example, in his legato and non-legato up and down-beat combinations in the Piano Prelude, Op.34/24. There are at least nine varying combinations in this Prelude. These combinations are all played⁸⁷ brilliantly by the composer. This Prelude, like any of Shostakovich's miniatures, requires great articulation skill (see Example 49).

Example 49. Piano Prelude, Op.34/24/ anacrusis and bar 1, bars 2-3, 4-5, 5-6, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14, 42-43, right hand. Solo recording: 1947, $\text{♩} = 100$

- a) anacrusis and bar 1: b) bars 2-3: c) bars 4-5: d) bars 5-6:



- e) bars 6-7: f) bars 8-9: g) bars 10-11:



87 Index No 4.

Example 49 (continued)

h) bars 13-14: i) bars 42-43:



Another example of Shostakovich's refined articulation occurs in his Piano Prelude, Op.34/8. In the beginning of this Prelude, bars 3-5, the legato of the right hand is played⁸⁸ simultaneously with the staccato of the left hand (see Example 50a). Further on in this Prelude the combinations become more intricate, such as in bars 27-28 (see Example 50b). All these combinations are performed by Shostakovich with arresting ease and gentle, relaxed lyricism.

Example 50. Piano Prelude, Op.34/8/1-5,27-28. Single recording: 1947

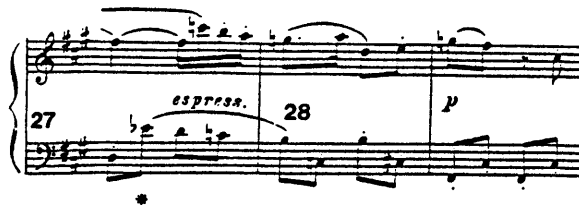
a) bars 1-5, ♩ = 112:



88 Ibid.

Example 50 (continued)

b) bars 27-28:



The same agility and precision is found in Shostakovich's performance⁸⁹ of the second subject of the first movement of his First Piano Concerto. Here Shostakovich employs an accompaniment which is Chopinesque in texture, although it sounds staccato and unpedalled which creates a humorous effect. The left hand staccato is combined with different articulation combinations in the right hand (see Example 51).

Example 51. First Piano Concerto, Op.35/1/50-51. 1st recording:1954; 2nd recording: 1958



In the following excerpt from the Intermezzo of his Quintet, Op.57, Shostakovich's performance articulation⁹⁰ contributes to the reflective atmosphere and bewitching

89 Index Nos 7, 8.

90 Index No 11.

refinement of his music (see Example 52).

Example 52. Quintet, Op.57/4/29-32. Single recording:
1955



Shostakovich was not only an excellent master at writing polyphonic textures, but also a skilful performer of his own polyphonic works. For instance, the separate articulation in each of the two voices in the right hand in the Piano Prelude, Op.87/4 is performed⁹¹ with the same expressiveness and precision with which it is written (see Example 53).

Example 53. Piano Prelude, Op.87/4/25-27. 1st
recording: 1952, 2nd recording: 1957



Many of Shostakovich's recorded fast Fugues, such as Nos 2,⁹² 3⁹³ and 5⁹⁴ of Op.87 reflect his virtuoso

91 Index Nos 18, 20.

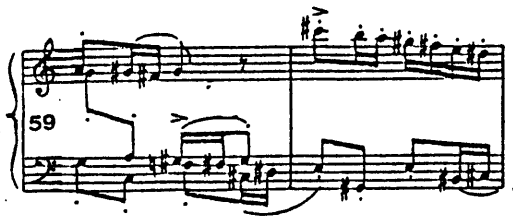
92 Index Nos 17, (18).

93 Index Nos 17, (18).

94 Index Nos 16, (17), (18), 20.

technique in the performance of fugal part-writing. The following example from the Piano Fugue, Op.87/2/59 shows that a high level of skill in polyphonic playing is demanded (see Example 54).

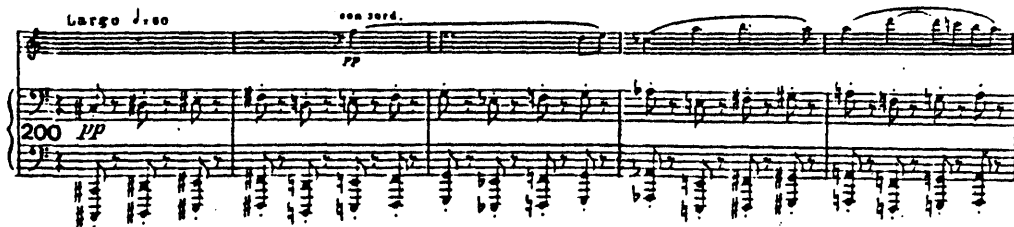
Example 54. Piano Fugue, Op.87/2/59-60. Single recording: 1952



A favourite compositional device of Shostakovich is the layering and juxtaposing of the contrasting articulation combinations which are played by the different instruments. In his two recordings⁹⁵ of the Cello Sonata, Op.40/1, for example, the Largo episode sounds impressive where the quasi pizzicato of the piano is juxtaposed with the legato of the cello (see Example 55).

95 Index Nos 9, 10.

Example 55. Cello Sonata, Op.40/1/200-204. 1st recording: 1946, $\text{♩} = 52$; 2nd recording: 1955, $\text{♩} = 50$

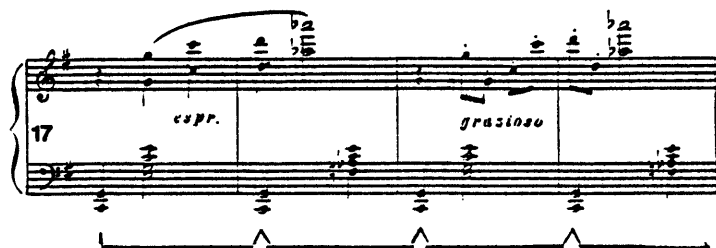


7.6 Different Articulation of the Same Material

In his recording⁹⁶ of his early composition *Fantastic Dance*, Op.5/2, Shostakovich juxtaposes the legato espressivo of bars 17-18 with the same material which is played staccato grazioso in bars 19-20. The depressed damper pedal in the latter bars does not reduce the sharpness of the articulation, but adds an interesting colouring to the harmony. (The use of the pedal is gathered from Shostakovich's performance and has been indicated in the score by the present writer. See Example 56).

96 Index Nos 1, 2.

Example 56. Fantastic Dance, Op.5/2/17-20. 1st recording: 1947; 2nd recording: 1958. The damper pedal indications have been inserted by the present writer to accord with Shostakovich's performance



A similar contrast is found in the piano part in the Finale of his Quintet, Op.57, where there is staccato playing⁹⁷ in the exposition (bar 9) and legato playing in the recapitulation (bar 208). (The first and second violin parts are also bowed differently in bars 9-11 and 208-210). See Example 57a and 57b.

Example 57. Quintet, Op.57/5/8-11,208-210. Single recording: 1955

a) bars 8-11:



97 Index No 11.

Example 57 (continued)

b) bars 208-210:



The composer's use of varied articulation in the entries of the subject in the Piano Fugues, Op.87, particularly in Fugus Nos 12 and 19, is most extraordinary. Shostakovich's varied articulation constitutes one of the structural elements in the building of these pieces.

The Fugue Op.87/12 deserves special attention. The contours of the Fugue subject are introduced towards the end of the corresponding Prelude, from bar 107 onwards and are marked and performed⁹⁸ pianissimo and legato. This theme in the right hand forms a contrapuntal line to the main theme of the Prelude, a passacaglia, which is played by the left hand (see Example 58).

98 Index No 18.

Example 58. Piano Prelude, Op.87/12/107-119. Single recording: 1952



The first entry of the subject at the beginning of the Fugue, Op.87/12 (bars 1-5) is performed⁹⁹ in a lively manner, which is enhanced by the forte and non-legato (see Example 59a). This changes surprisingly to legato in the last section (bars 77-81 of the Fugue. See Example 59b.) Most interesting is the subject's incomplete entry in bars 84-87 which is almost single voiced, and which is played legato and piano (see Example 59c). From these bars until the end of the piece, the dynamics do not exceed mf and all the entries sound legato. All these articulatory changes create alterations of mood and give a freshness to the subject which ranges from the energetic to the openly lyrical.

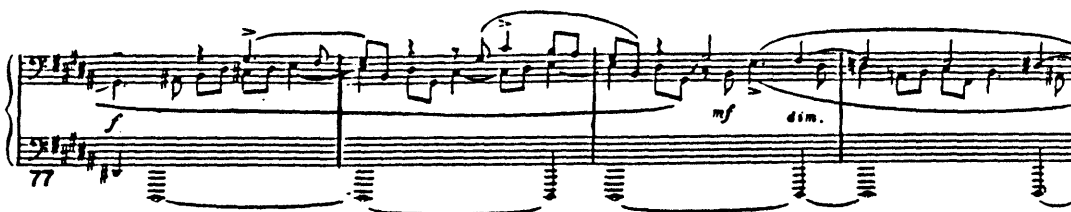
99 Ibid.

Example 59. Piano Fugue, Op.87/12/1-5,77-80,84-87.
Single recording: 1952

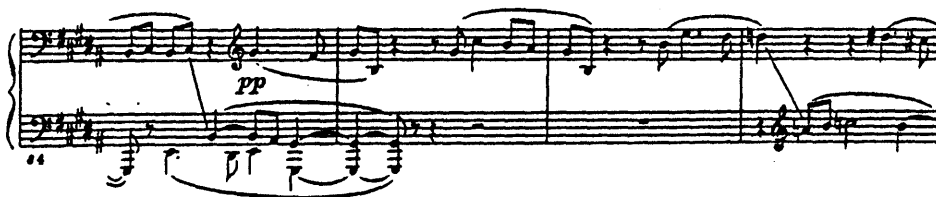
a) bars 1-5, $\text{♩} = 168$:



b) bars 77-80:



c) bars 84-87:



In the score of the Fugue Op.87/19 in E flat Major, Shostakovich uses similar articulation contrasts. He indicates at least three variants of the subject (see Examples 60a, 60b and 60c). In contrast to the Fugue Op.87/12, where the closing section introduces new character by the use of different articulation and dynamics, in the Fugue Op.87/19 this contrast occurs

immediately after the first episode from bar 19 onwards (see Example 60b). The composer combines legato and non-legato in the further development. This is seen in the second counter-subject (compare soprano in Example 60b with bass in Example 60c). The conflict created by the different articulatory variants of the subject is resolved by the legato at the close of the Fugue (see Coda, bar 64 onwards).

Example 60. Piano Fugue, Op.87/19/1-3,19-21,29-31

a) bars 1-3:



b) bars 19-21:



c) bars 29-31:



7.7 Slurs

In all piano music, slurs can have a variety of meanings. They can either be legato or articulatory or be indicative of phrasing. Slurs have different meanings according to different styles and periods and composers.

Shostakovich's slurs present a difficult and fascinating topic. In order to understand his slurs the following specific peculiarities of the manner in which he indicates them should be noted.

1) He tends to write his slurs so that they extend beyond the note upon which they should end.

Nikolayeva who was fortunate enough to have worked with his autographs, discusses this characteristic in his Piano Prelude, Op.34/1/3 (see Example 61). She writes the following:

Bar 3, right hand, beat 4. Judging by Shostakovich's typical manner of overextending his slurs, this slur should end on the note B flat, which would correspond completely with the previous phrasing. 100

Nikolayeva's observations are noteworthy in that they raise the issue of the composer's handwriting in his scores. This peculiarity should be taken into account and can explain why there is misreading of his slurs by his publishers.

100 See her comments at the end of Volume 39 of the Collected Works, in Russian, my translation.