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MTO 27.1 Examples: Beaudoin, Gould's Creaking Chair, Schoenberg's Metric Clarity

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.21.27.1/mto.21.27.1.beaudoin.html>

Example 1. Front view of Glenn Gould's loose-jointed piano chair



Library and Archives Canada, e010868574-v8

Example 2. Side view of Gould's piano chair, revealing its central wooden support and individually adjustable legs



Example 4. The three sections of Schoenberg op. 19 no. 1, as described in Kramer 1988

SECHS KLEINE KLAVIERSTÜCKE 11
op. 19 SCHOENBERG

I

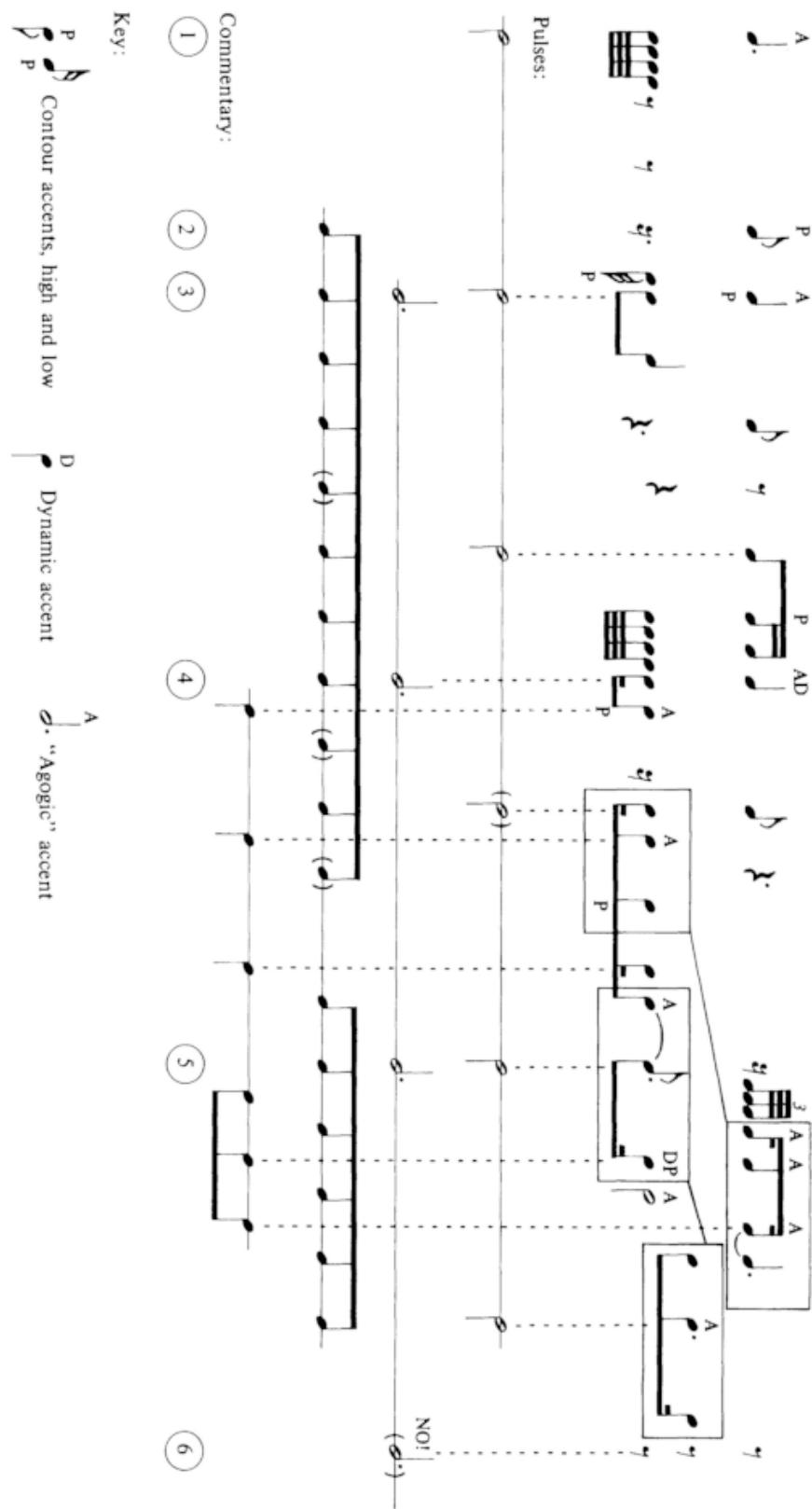
Leicht, zart (♩)
flüchtig
etwas zögernd
espress
leicht
rit.
molto rit.
pp flüchtig
r.H. pp
mit Ton
molto rit.
p
pp
Nach jedem Stück ausgiebige Pause; die Stücke dürfen nicht ineinander übergehen!

Section I
mm. 0–6

Section II
mm. 7–12

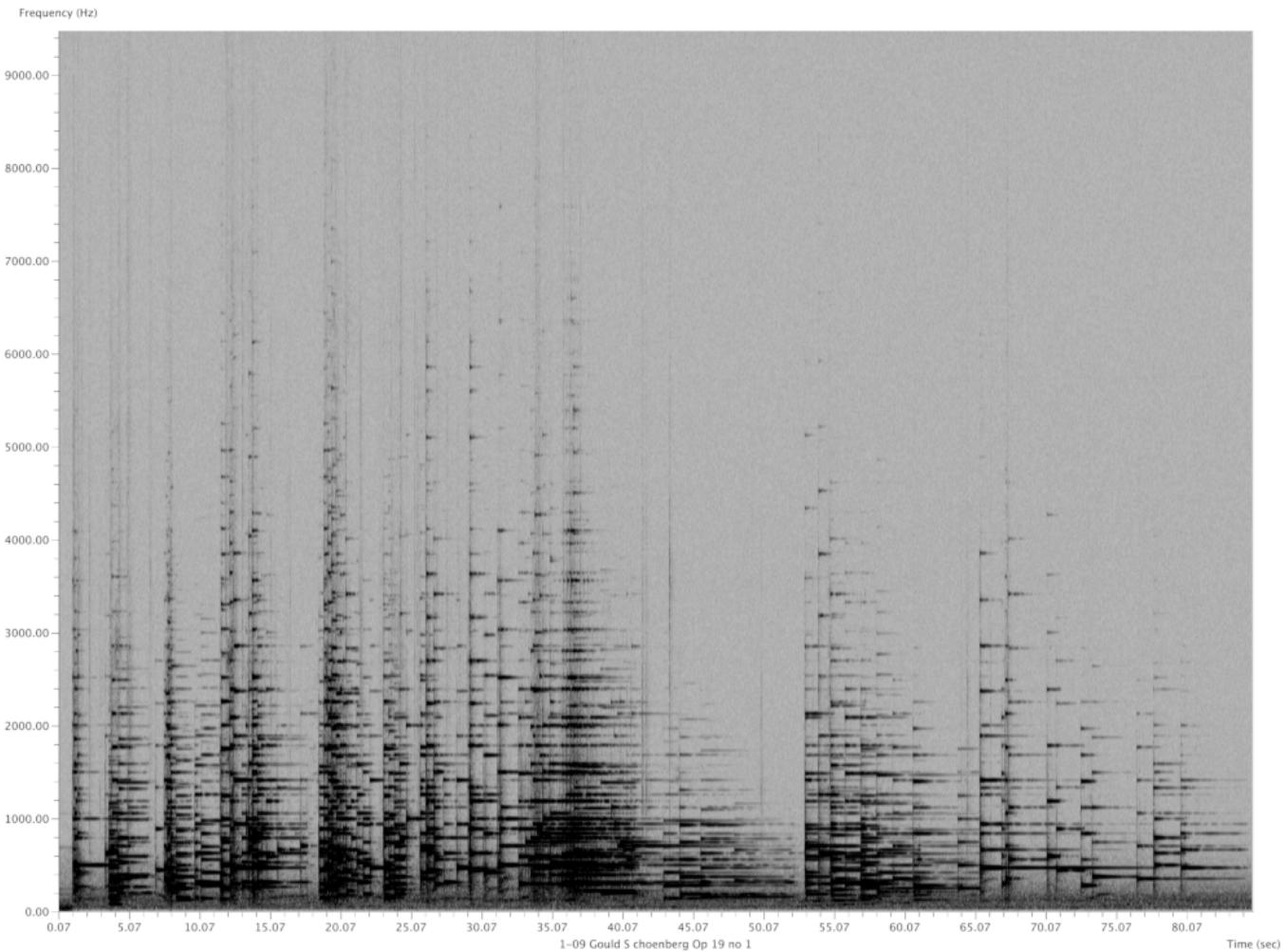
Section III
mm. 13–17

Example 5. Roeder's graph of the "rhythmic form" of mm. 1–4 of Schoenberg op. 19, no. 1,
published as Example 5 in *Music Theory Spectrum* 16 (2)

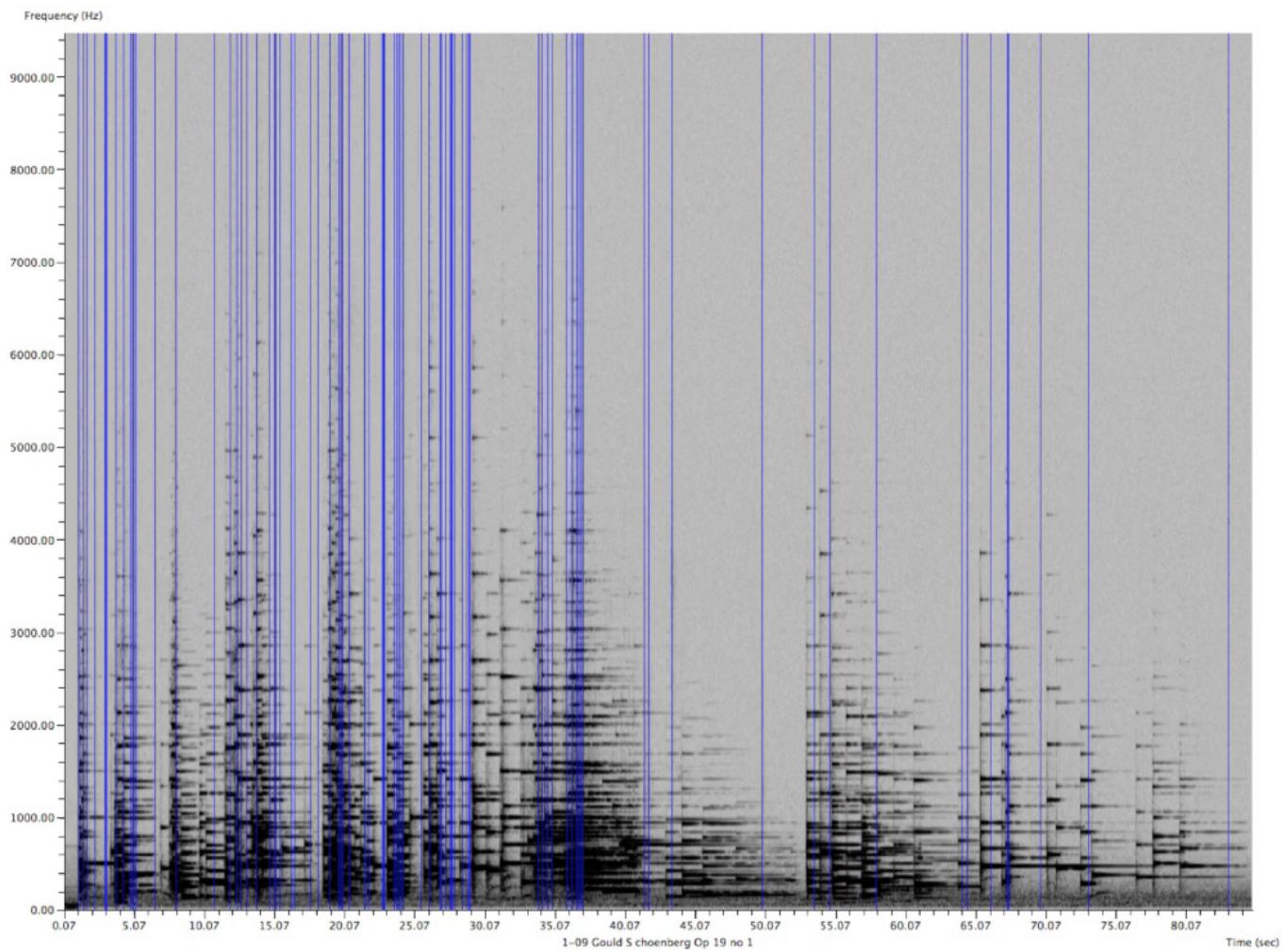


Example 9. Two spectrograms of Gould's recording of Schoenberg op. 19, no. 1

(a) The spectrogram of the complete recording



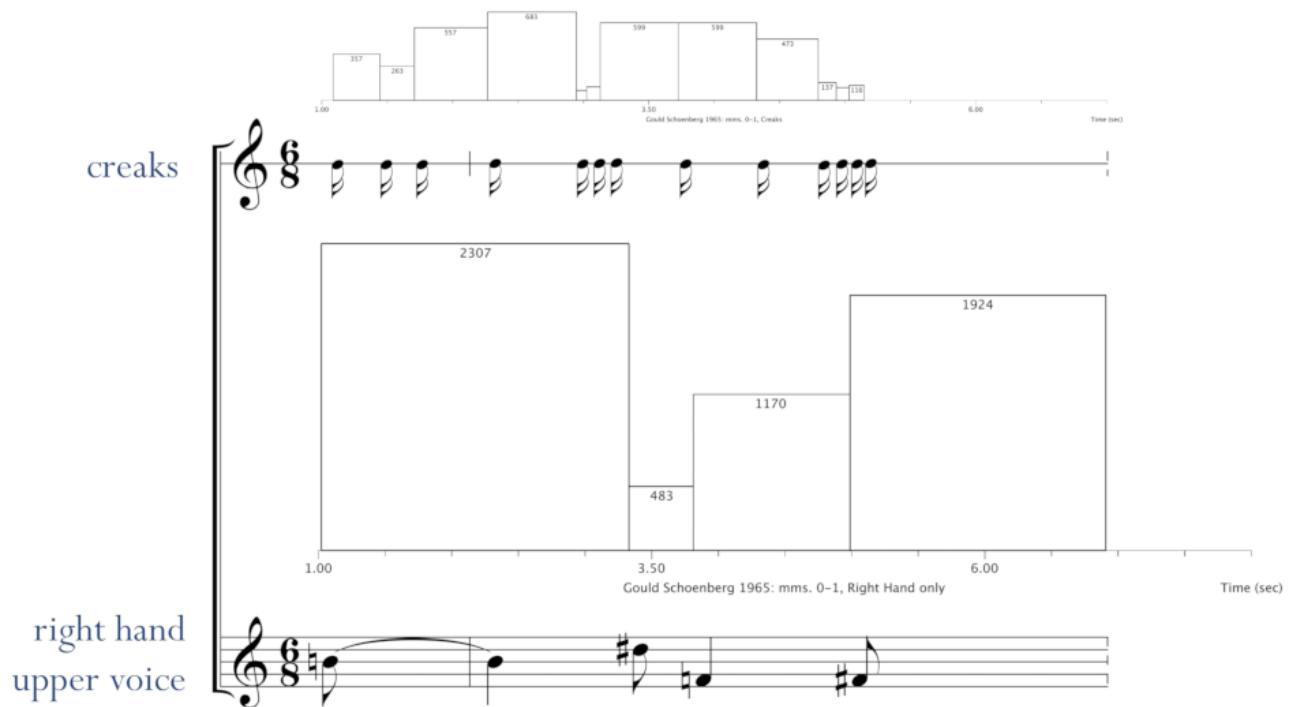
(b) The spectrogram of the complete recordings with blue markers superimposed on Gould's chair creaks



Example 10. A comparison of the interonset intervals (IOI) between the right hand upper voice and the chair creaks during mm. 0–1 of Gould’s recording of Schoenberg op. 19, no. 1

OPENING PHRASE (mm. 0–1)

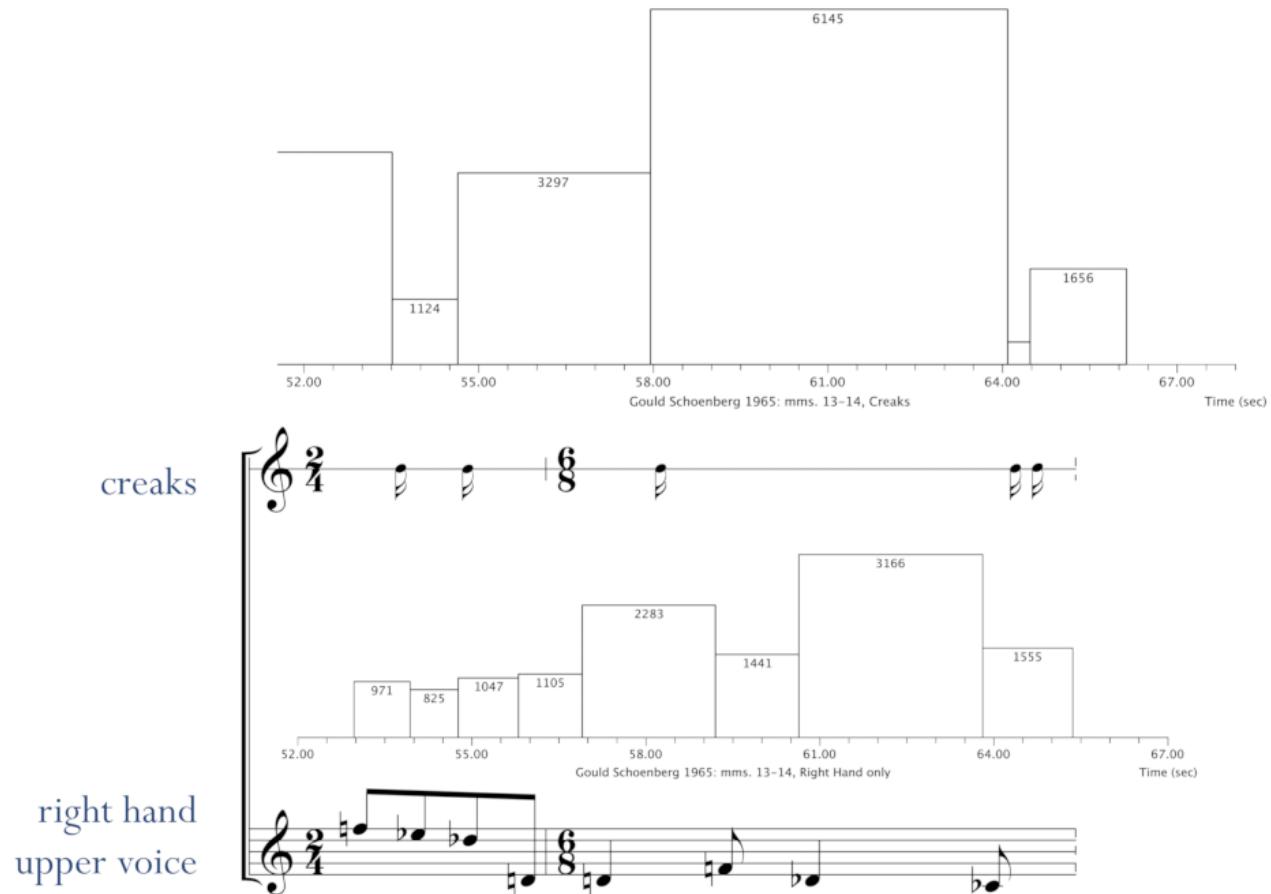
13 creaking sounds in 6.9 seconds = *1.88 creaks per second*



Example 11. A comparison of the interonset intervals (IOI) between the right hand upper voice and the chair creaks during mm. 13–14 of Gould’s recording of Schoenberg op. 19, no. 1

CLOSING PHRASE (mm. 13–14)

5 creaking sounds in 13.6 seconds = *0.37 creaks per second*



Example 12. The number of Gould's chair creaks occurring in each of Kramer's three sections (score view) of Schoenberg op. 19 no. 1 (score view)

SECHS KLEINE KLAVIERSTÜCKE

op. 19

SCHOENBERG

Leicht, zart(λ)

I

etwas zögernd

PPP

flüchtig

PP

espress.

leicht

flüchtig

PP

pp flüchtig

(mit Ton)

14

molto rit.

molto rit..

p

PPP

PPP

Nach jedem Stück ausgiebige Pause; die Stücke dürfen nicht ineinander übergehen!

Section I : mm. 0–6

55 creaks

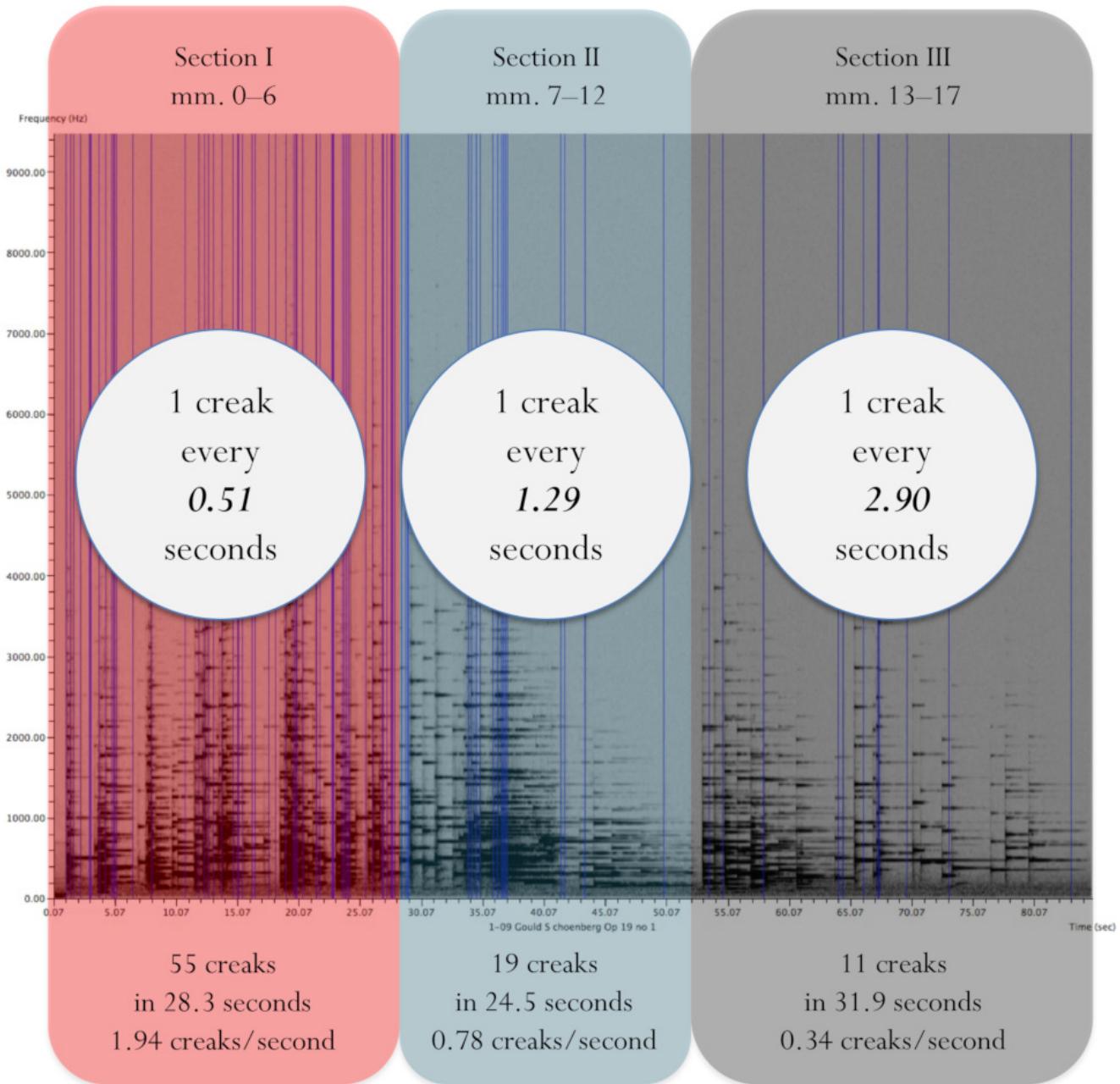
Section II : mm. 7-12

19 creaks

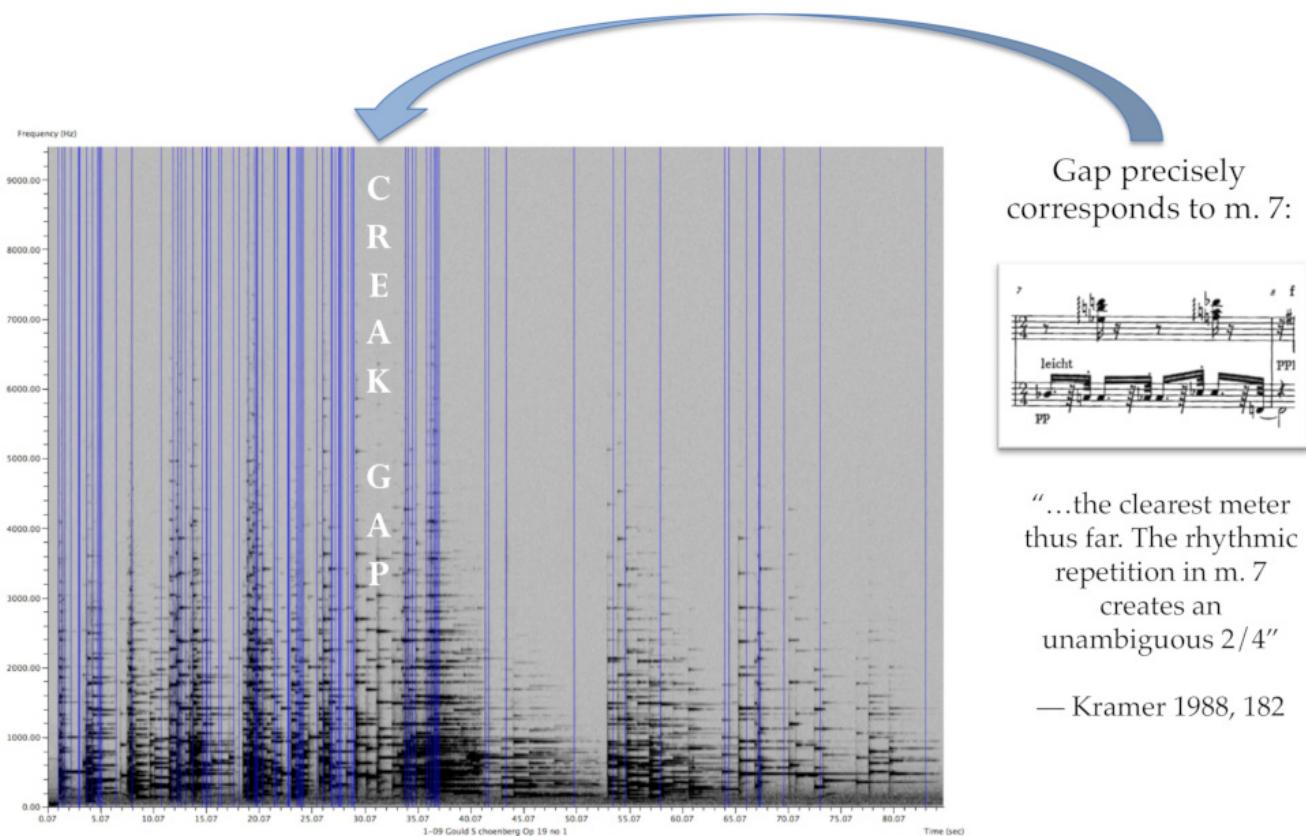
Section III : mm. 13–17

11 creaks

Example 13. The number of Gould's chair creaks occurring in each of Kramer's three sections (spectrogram view) of Schoenberg op. 19 no. 1 (spectrogram view)



Example 14. The gap in creaking sounds between 29.0–33.8 seconds of Gould's recording



“...the clearest meter thus far. The rhythmic repetition in m. 7 creates an unambiguous 2/4”

— Kramer 1988, 182

Example 16. Evidence of Schoenberg's tied Ds between mm. 7–8 of op. 19, no. 1 in both the *Erste Niederschrift* and *Autographe Reinschrift*

(a) mm. 5–8 of the *Erste Niederschrift* (first written copy) of op. 19, no. 1

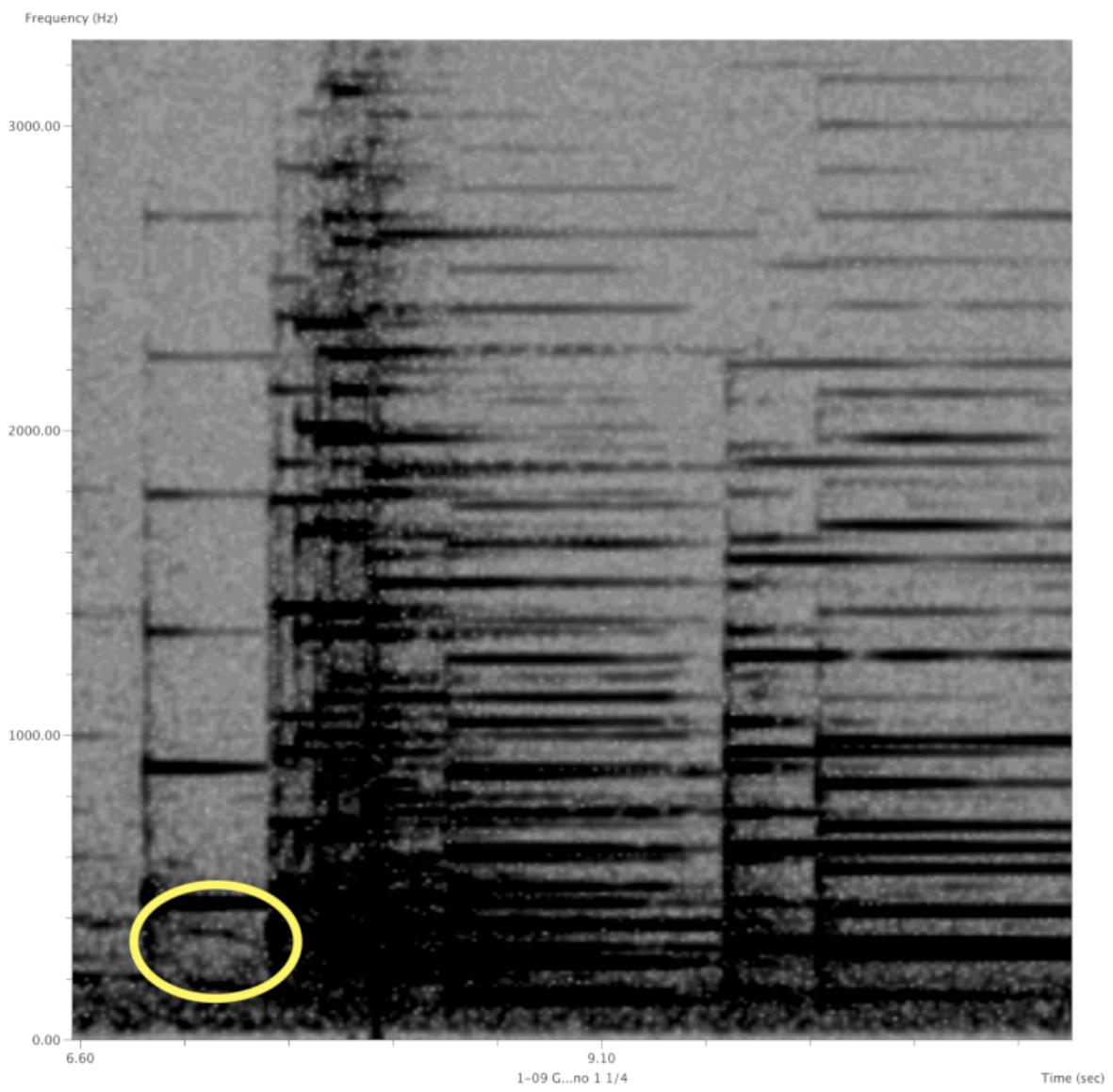


(b) mm. 5–10 of the *Autographe Reinschrift* (holograph fair copy) of op. 19, no. 1



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Example 17. The curved line in the spectrogram represents Gould singing a glissando down from F♯ in m. 2.2, foreshadowing a similar falling motive [F♯-D♯] heard in the piano music at m. 2.4



2

etwas zögernd

p

Gould's voice, seen in the yellow oval

mm _____

Example 18. The cover of the 1968 re-release of Gould's recording of Schoenberg's *Oeuvre pour piano*

