# Paganini for Saxophone

## Arranging Caprice No. 24 for Saxophone

Marcus Engstrom

Valparaiso University Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE)
April 28, 2022

# Research Question

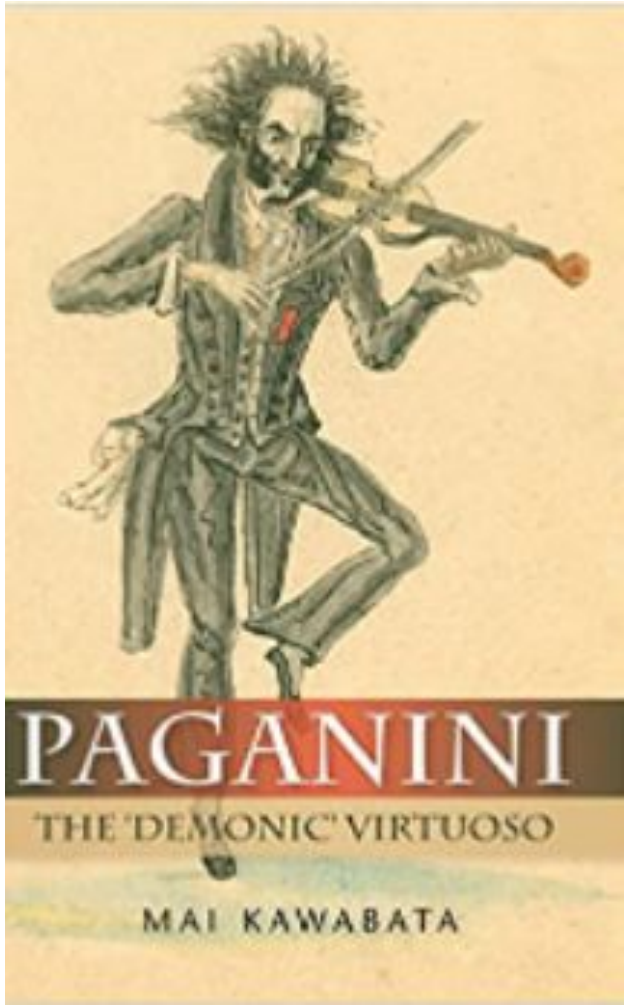
- How did Paganini’s Caprice No. 24 contribute to technical improvement on the violin, and how did it influence other composers and instruments?

# Methods

1) Historical/contextual
2) Music-Analytical
3) Performative

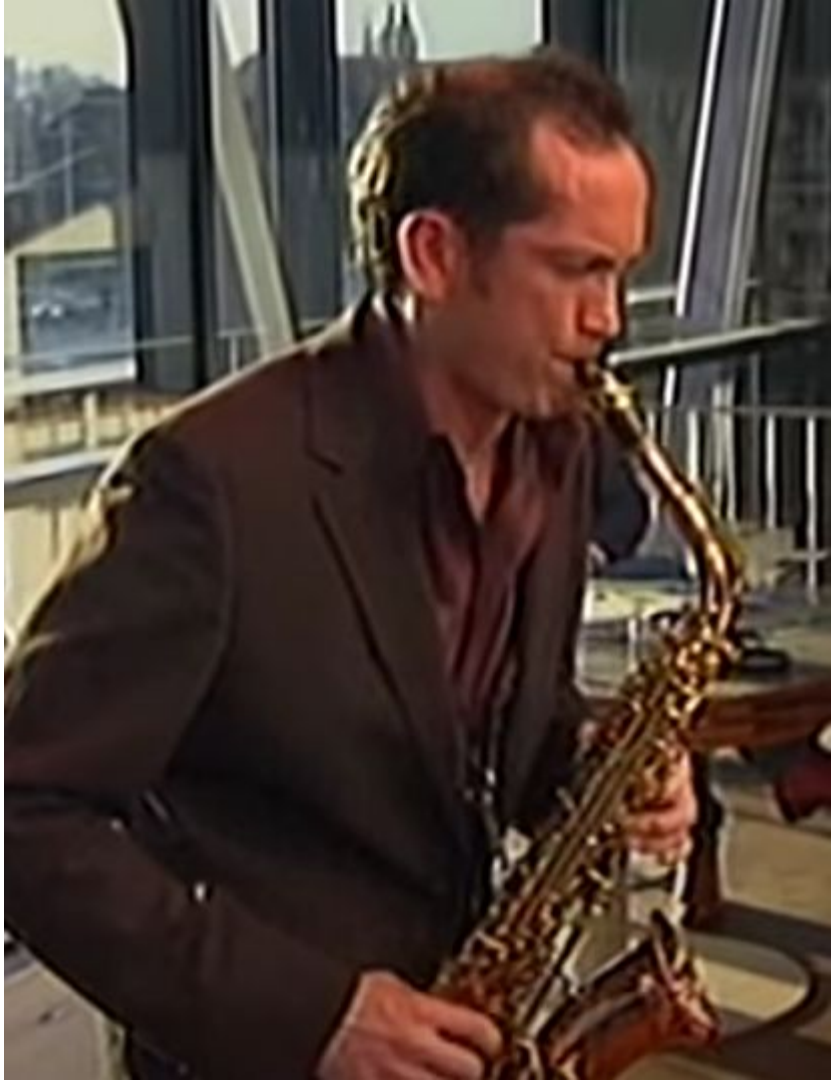
# Background

- Paganini: incredible technique
- Nicknamed “demonic virtuoso”
- Audiences: in disbelief of his inexplicable mastery
  - Never heard practicing
  - Rumors he committed murder (“demonic”)
  - Skinny, frightening appearance
- Magnum opus: 24 Caprices
  - Displayed previously unimaginable violinistic feats



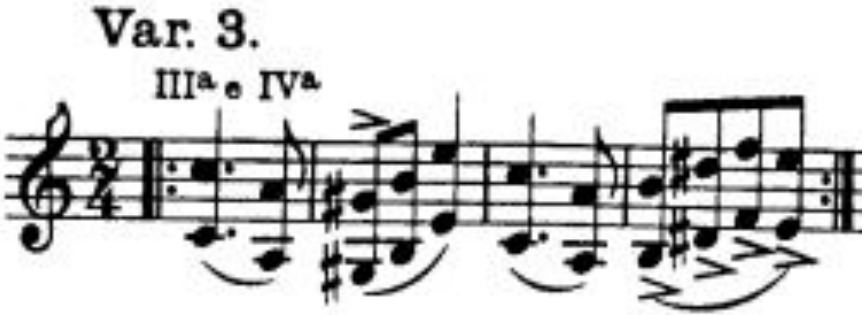
# Background

- Hekkema arranged the 24 Caprices for saxophone
  - Displayed many advanced techniques
  - Requires technical mastery of the saxophone



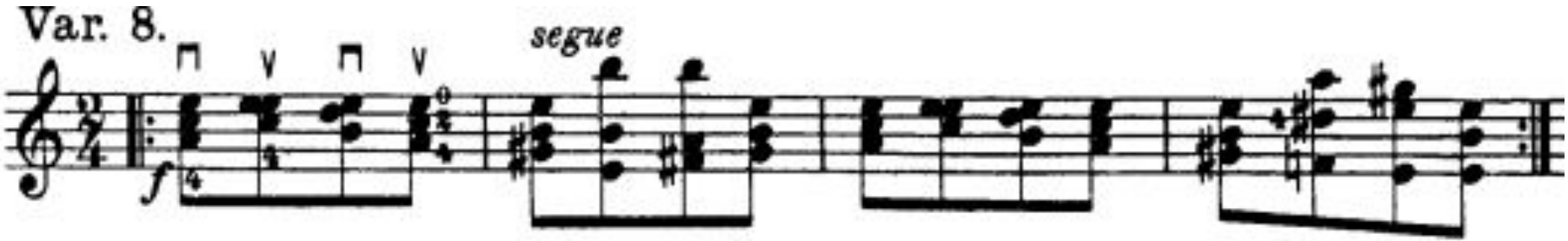
# Analysis: Paganini’s Caprice No. 24

- Double-stops



# Analysis: Paganini’s Caprice No. 24

- Triple-stops



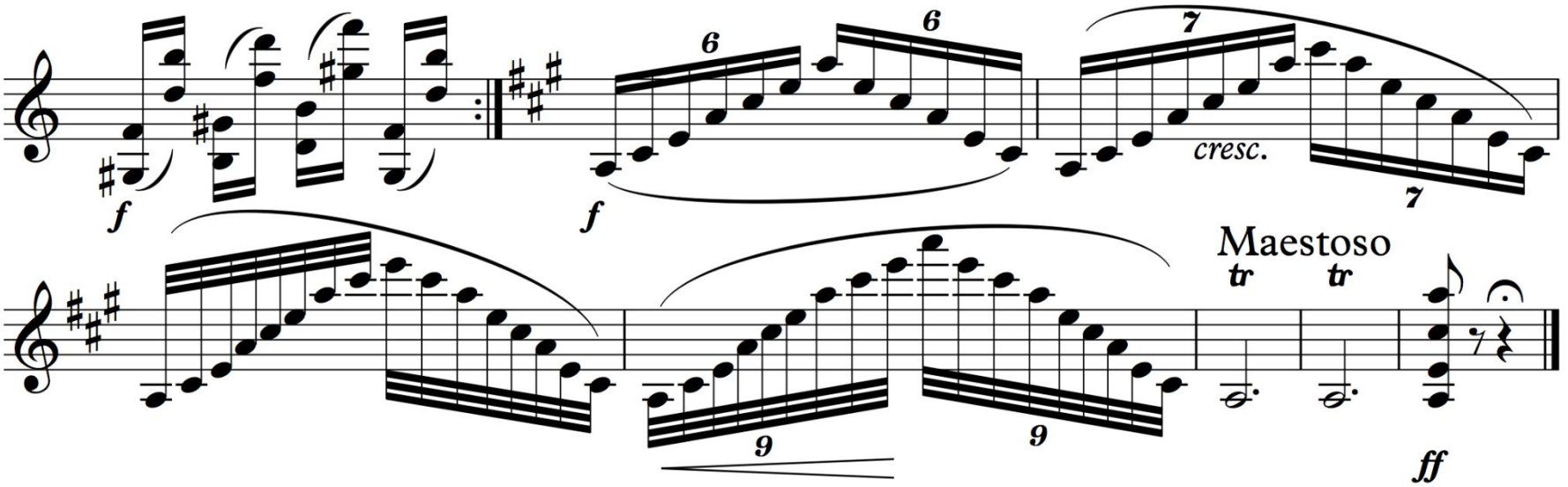
# Analysis: Paganini’s Caprice No. 24

- Left-hand pizzicato

# Analysis: Paganini’s Caprice No. 24

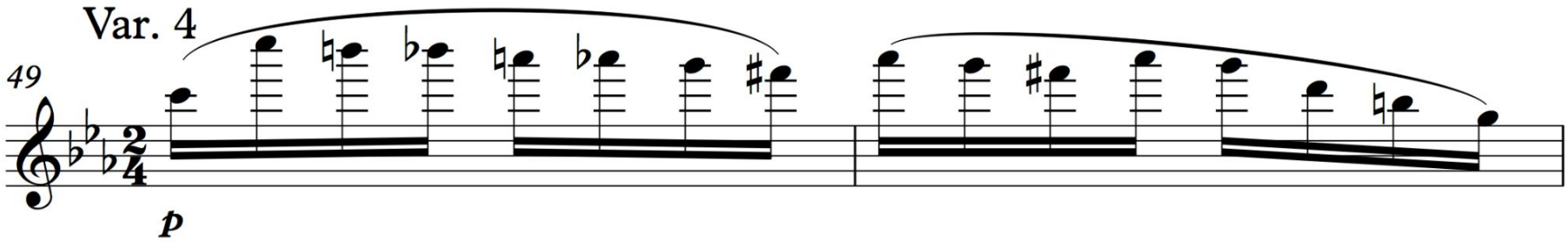
Finale

- Increasing subdivisions



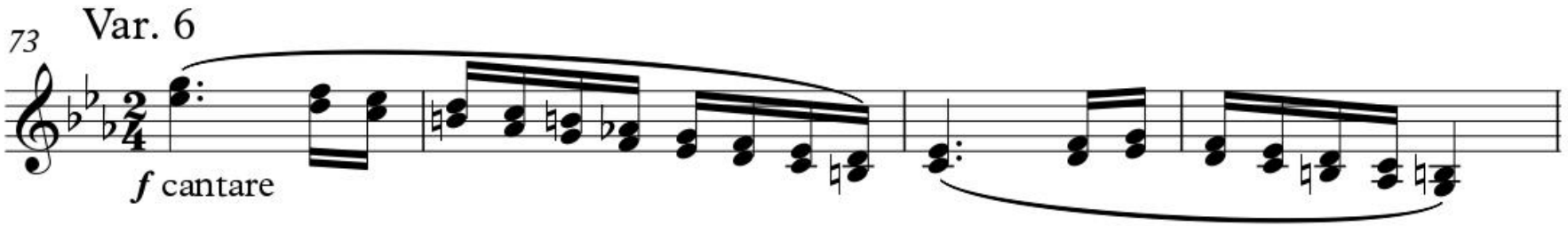
# Analysis: Hekkema’s Caprice No. 24

- Altissimo



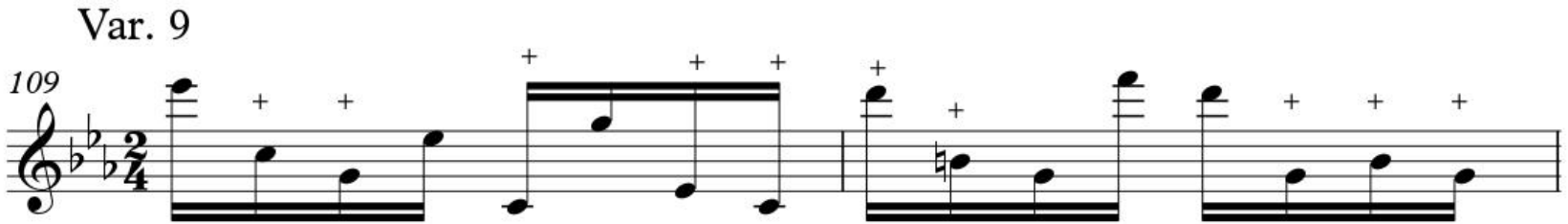
# Analysis: Hekkema’s Caprice No. 24

- Singing and playing simultaneously



# Analysis: Hekkema’s Caprice No. 24

- Slap-tonguing



# A New Arrangement

- Hekkema’s focus: sounding like Paganini
  - Incidentally included many saxophone techniques
  - Left out capabilities of the saxophone

- My focus: displaying the full capabilities of the saxophone
  - Same purpose as Paganini
  - May sound less like a copy of Paganini’s arrangement

# Creating a new Arrangement

Additional Techniques:

- Multiphonics
- Flutter Tonguing
- Double Tonguing

# Summary and Conclusion

- Better understand techniques used in Paganini’s Caprice No. 24
- Better understand the purpose of Hekkema’s arrangement for saxophone
- Gained some ideas for my own arrangement
- Next: finish my arrangement