



MTO 9.2 Examples: Silberman, Post-Tonal Improvisation in the Aural Skills Classroom

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

<http://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.03.9.2/mto.03.9.2.silberman.php>

Example 1. Excerpt from Cecil Taylor’s “Air Above Mountains (Building Within)” *Transcription by Jim Aikin, analysis based on analyses by Steven Block, Jim Darter*

(Accidentals apply only to notes they precede. Rhythmic values are approximate.) whole tone - [026]

The musical score consists of seven systems of piano staves. The first system includes the following annotations:
 - Treble clef: motive "X" chromatic - C#, D, D#, E [0123]
 - Bass clef: chromatic - [01234]
 - A bracket above the treble staff is labeled "whole tone - [026]".
 - A triplet of eighth notes in the bass staff is marked with a "3".
 - A note in the bass staff is marked with "F?".
 The second system has a bracket above the treble staff labeled "X".
 The third system has a bracket above the treble staff labeled "chromatic - [01234]".
 The fourth system has a bracket above the bass staff labeled "whole tone - [02468]".
 The fifth system has a bracket below the bass staff labeled "diatonic - [027]".
 The sixth system has a bracket below the bass staff labeled "whole tone - [02468]".
 The seventh system has a bracket below the bass staff labeled "diatonic - [027]" and another bracket below the bass staff labeled "whole tone - [026]".
 The final system shows a triplet of eighth notes in the treble staff marked with a "3" and a bracket labeled "X".

Example 2. Transcription of student improvisation by Michael Reavey

trichords: A section - 014; B section - 012; A' section - 034

(Accidentals apply only to notes they precede. Rhythmic values are approximate.)

The musical score consists of four staves of music in treble clef. The first staff is labeled 'A' and contains two trichord groups: 014 and 014. The second staff is labeled 'B' and contains two trichord groups: 012 and 012. The third staff is labeled 'A'' and contains two trichord groups: 034 and 034. The fourth staff contains two trichord groups: 034 and 034. Various intervallic annotations are present: 'tritone' and 'M6th' are labeled above the first staff; '012 (link to B section)' is labeled above the second staff; 'M6th' is labeled above the third staff; and 'tritone' and '034' are labeled below the third staff. The fourth staff has '014' above the first two notes and 'M6th' below the last two notes.

Example 3. Transcription of student improvisation by Dave Reminick

trichords: A section - 016; B section - 014; A' section - 056

(Accidentals apply only to notes they precede. Rhythmic values are approximate.)

The musical score is presented in seven staves. The first staff, labeled 'A' and 'Motive M', shows a sequence of notes with trichord patterns 056, 016, 016, and 056. The second staff, labeled 'B', shows a sequence of notes with trichord patterns 056, 016, 016, and 014. The third staff shows a sequence of notes with trichord patterns 014, 014, 034, 034, and 014. The fourth staff, labeled 'A'' and 'M', shows a sequence of notes with trichord patterns 014 and 014. The fifth staff shows a sequence of notes with trichord patterns 056, 056, 056, 056, 056, and 056. The sixth staff shows a sequence of notes with trichord patterns 056, 056, and 056. The seventh staff shows a sequence of notes with trichord patterns 056 and 016. A detailed diagram of Motive M is shown at the bottom, illustrating the trichord patterns 056 and 016.