



MTO 26.1 Examples: Palfy, Formal Reminiscence Space and Memory

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

<https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.20.26.1/mto.20.26.1.palfy.html>

Example 1. Excerpted section of “One Day More” (mm. 54–58) from Boublil and Schoenberg’s *Les Misérables*

54

Eponine

One day more all on my own.

Valjean

One daymore! One daymore!

Cosette/Marius

I did not live un-til to-day. How can I live__ when we are par-ted?

Javert

I will join these peo-ple's he- roes, I will fol-low where they go, I will learn their li-ttle se-crets, I will know the things theyknow.

Thenardiers

Watch 'em run a-muck, catch 'em as they fall, Here a li-ttle dip, There a li-ttle touch.

Example 2a. The “Prophecy” mnemonic theme (0:58) after the lyrics, “Two men appeared: Moses and Elijah came / They were at his side. / The prophesy, the legislation spoke of whenever he would die”



Example 2b. The “Voice of God” mnemonic theme (1:58) after the lyrics “A voice arrived, the voice of God / The face of God covered in a cloud”



Example 2c. The “Resurrection/Remembrance” mnemonic theme (3:06) after the lyrics, “The prophecy was put to death / Was put to death, and so will the Son. / And keep your word, disguise the vision 'til the time has come”



Example 3. The layering of ostinato patterns at the outro of “The Transfiguration” (3:16)

The musical score is written for five parts: Oboe (top), Percussion, Banjo, Voice (middle), and Voice (bottom). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 8/8. The score consists of five measures.

- Oboe (top):** Labeled "Prophecy Theme" in blue. It plays a series of eighth-note chords: F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5.
- Oboe (second):** Labeled "Resurrection/Remembrance Theme" in blue. It plays a series of eighth-note chords: F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5.
- Percussion:** Plays a steady eighth-note pattern: F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5.
- Banjo:** Plays a series of eighth-note chords: F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5.
- Voice (middle):** Labeled "Voice of God Theme" in blue. It plays a series of eighth-note chords: F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5.
- Voice (bottom):** Labeled "Voice of God Theme" in blue. It plays a series of eighth-note chords: F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5, F#4-G#4-A5.

Lyrics for the middle voice part:

Lost in the cloud _____ a voice, "Have no fear, We draw near." Lost in the...

Example 4a. The “Premonition” or “Wasp” Theme (0:56), after the lyrics, “There on the wall in the bedroom creeping / I see a wasp with her wings outstretched.” This theme recurs at 2:30, where the wasp is “seen on the length of my [Stevens’s] arm”

Flute

Treble Recorder

5

Fl.

Tr. Rec.

The musical score for Example 4a consists of two systems. The first system features a Flute and a Treble Recorder. The Flute part begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 3/4 time signature. It plays a melody of quarter notes: F#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The Treble Recorder part, also with a treble clef, three sharps, and 3/4 time, plays a melody of eighth notes: F#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The second system, marked with a '5' above the first measure, continues the same parts. The Flute part plays the same melody as the first system. The Treble Recorder part plays the same melody as the first system. The system ends with a double bar line.

Example 4b. The “Love” Theme (3:08), following the lyrics, “We were in love, we were in love / Palisades, palisades, I can wait, I can wait”

Trumpet in B $\flat$
(doubled by Glock)

5

Tpt.

The musical score for Example 4b consists of two systems. The first system features a Trumpet in B $\flat$ (doubled by Glock). The part begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 3/4 time signature. It plays a melody of quarter notes: F#4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The second system, marked with a '5' above the first measure, continues the same part. The system ends with a double bar line.

Example 5. The R-space of “The Predatory Wasp” (3:17)

This musical score is for a piece titled "The Predatory Wasp" (3:17). It is written for a chamber ensemble consisting of Flute, Treble Recorder, Trumpet in B♭ and Glock., and two vocal parts. The music is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 3/4 time. The score is divided into two systems, each containing five staves. The first system begins with a "Premonition Theme" for the Flute and a "Love Theme" for the Trumpet. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics: "We were in love... We were in love... Pa - li-sades, pa - li-sades, I can wait, I can wait." The second system continues the vocal parts with the lyrics: "Oh great sights up - on this state ha_ le_ lu" and "We were in love... We were in love... Pa - li-sades, pa - li-sades, I can wait, I can wait." The instrumental parts continue their respective themes. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Flute

Treble Recorder

Trumpet in B♭ and Glock.

Voice

Voice

Premonition Theme

Love Theme

We were in love... We were in love... Pa - li-sades, pa - li-sades, I can wait, I can wait.

Oh great sights up - on this state ha_ le_ lu

We were in love... We were in love... Pa - li-sades, pa - li-sades, I can wait, I can wait.

Won - ders bright and riv - ers, lakes ha_ le_ lu

Example 6. 6886 groupings (red) and 3443 groupings (yellow) in the “Premonition” theme

Flute

Treble Recorder

Fl.

Tr. Rec.

The image shows a musical score for two staves: Flute and Treble Recorder. The Flute staff has four measures, each with a red box (6886 grouping) and a yellow box (3443 grouping). The Treble Recorder staff has four measures, each with a red box (6886 grouping). The Fl. staff has a measure number 5 above the first measure. The Tr. Rec. staff has a measure number 5 above the first measure.

Example 7. Displacement dissonance in the “Love” theme

Trumpet in B $\flat$

Tpt.

3+1

3+1

The image shows a musical score for two staves: Trumpet in B $\flat$ and Tpt. Both staves have two measures with orange boxes (3+1 groupings). The Trumpet in B $\flat$ staff has a measure number 5 above the first measure. The Tpt. staff has a measure number 5 above the first measure. The 3+1 groupings are indicated by orange ovals above and below the staves.

Example 8a. The “Cancer” theme, which begins the piece and is prominent following the lyrics, “Goldenrod and the 4H stone / things I brought you when I found out / You had cancer of the bone”

Acoustic Guitar

The image shows a musical score for an Acoustic Guitar. The staff has four measures, each with a red box (6886 grouping) and a yellow box (3443 grouping). The Acoustic Guitar staff has a measure number 5 above the first measure.

Example 8b. The “Kiss” theme, beginning at 1:13, following the lyrics, “All the glory that the Lord has made / And the complications you could do without / When I kissed you on the mouth”

Banjo

Ban.

Example 8c. The “Loss of Faith” theme, beginning at 1:34, during the lyrics “Tuesday night at the Bible study / We lift our hands and pray over your body / But nothing ever happens”

Banjo

Example 8d. The “Leaving” theme, beginning at 2:25, following the lyrics, “All the glory when you ran outside / With your shirt tucked in and your shoes untied / And you told me not to follow you”

Trumpet in Bb

Example 8e. The “Death” theme, beginning at (3:30), during the lyrics, “In the morning, when you finally go / And the nurse runs in with her head hung low / And the cardinal hits the window”

Voice

Voice

Example 9a. The layering beginning at 4:20, after “All the glory when he took our place / but he shook my shoulders and he shook my face / and He takes, and He takes, and He takes”

Example 9a shows a musical score with four staves. The top staff is for Acoustic Guitar, which is silent. The second staff is for Banjo, playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords, with a blue label "Loss of Faith Theme" above it. The third staff is for Voice, playing a melody with a blue label "Death Theme" above it. The bottom staff is for another Voice part, playing a melody with a blue label "Death Theme" above it.

Example 9b. The “Cancer” theme is added in (4:49 through the end)

Example 9b shows a musical score with seven staves. The top two staves are for Trumpet in Bb, with a blue label "Leaving Theme" above the first staff and a blue label "Death Theme" above the second staff. The third staff is for Acoustic Guitar, with a blue label "Cancer Theme" above it. The fourth staff is for Banjo, with a blue label "End four bars of 'Kiss' theme" above it. The fifth staff is for Voice, with a blue label "Leaving Theme" above it. The sixth staff is for another Voice part. The bottom staff is for Pedals, playing a low, sustained chord.

Example 10. The incomplete sequence in the “Death” theme

Voice

Descending 3rds Model

Pattern Break

Voice

Example 11. The incomplete sequence in the “Leaving” theme

Trumpet in B $\flat$

Sequence Model (Ascending 2nds)

Pattern Break