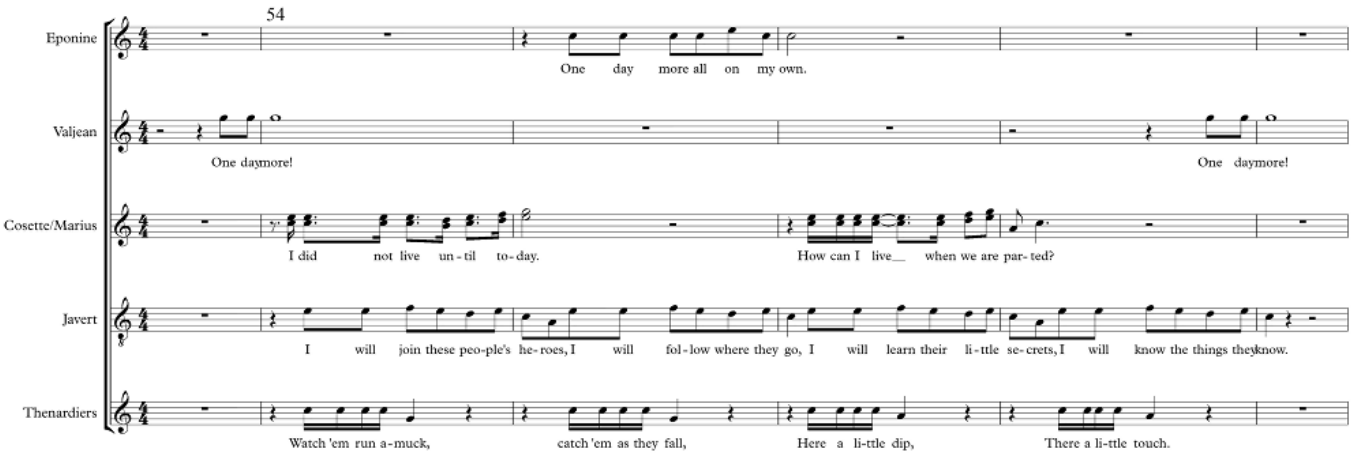
A JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR MUSIC THEORY

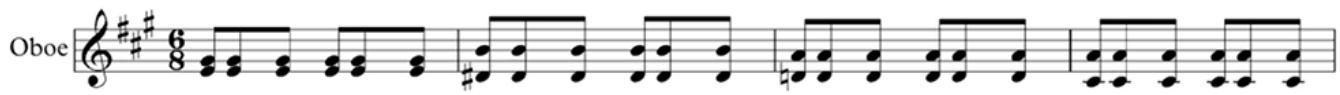
MTO 26.1 Examples: Palfy, Formal Reminiscence Space and Memory

(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

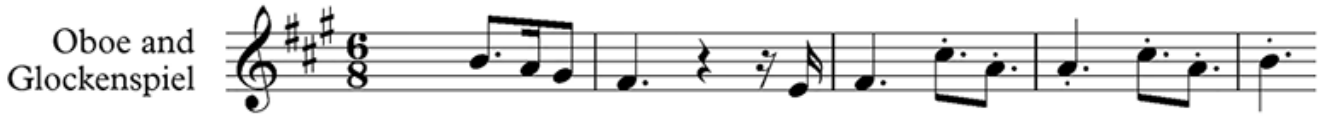
Example 1. Excerpted section of "One Day More" (mm. 54–58) from Boublil and Schoenberg's *Les Misérables*



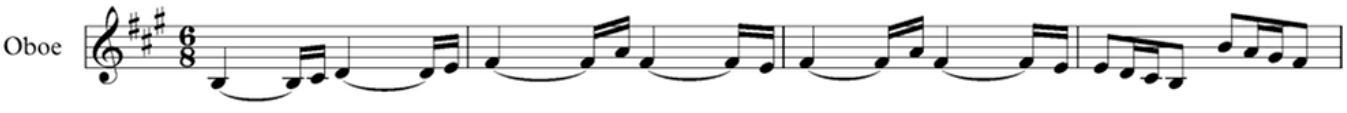
Example 2a. The "Prophecy" mnemonic theme (0:58) after the lyrics, "Two men appeared: Moses and Elijah came / They were at his side. / The prophesy, the legislation spoke of whenever he would die"



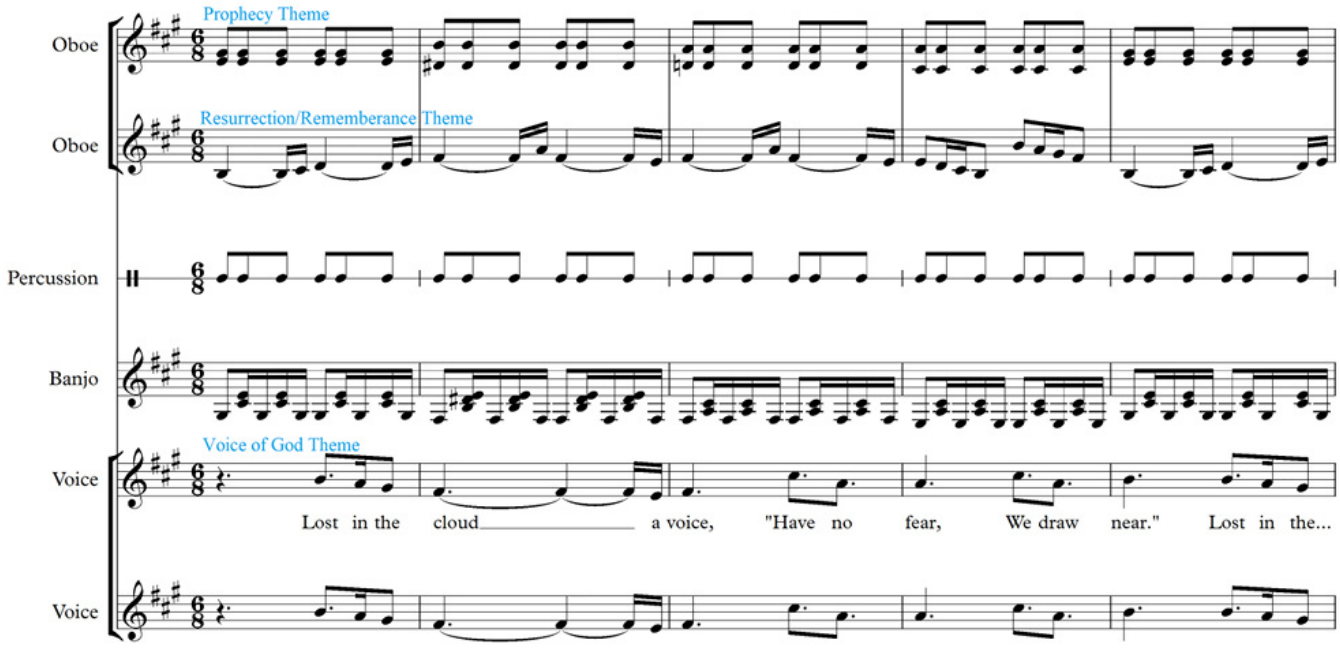
Example 2b. The "Voice of God" mnemonic theme (1:58) after the lyrics "A voice arrived, the voice of God / The face of God covered in a cloud"



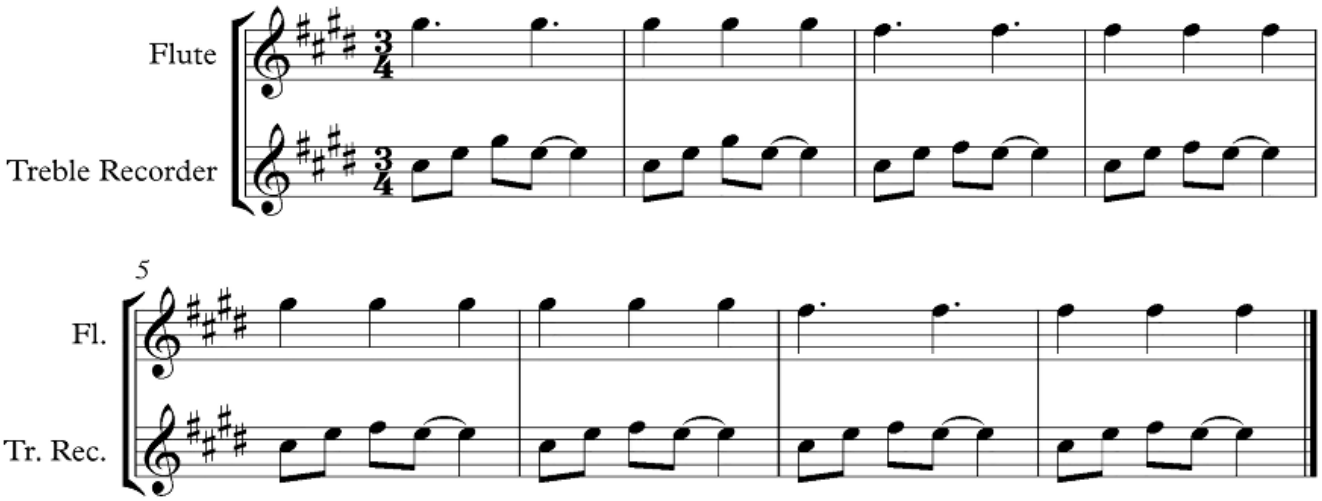
Example 2c. The "Resurrection/Remembrance" mnemonic theme (3:06) after the lyrics, "The prophecy was put to death / Was put to death, and so will the Son. / And keep your word, disguise the vision 'til the time has come"



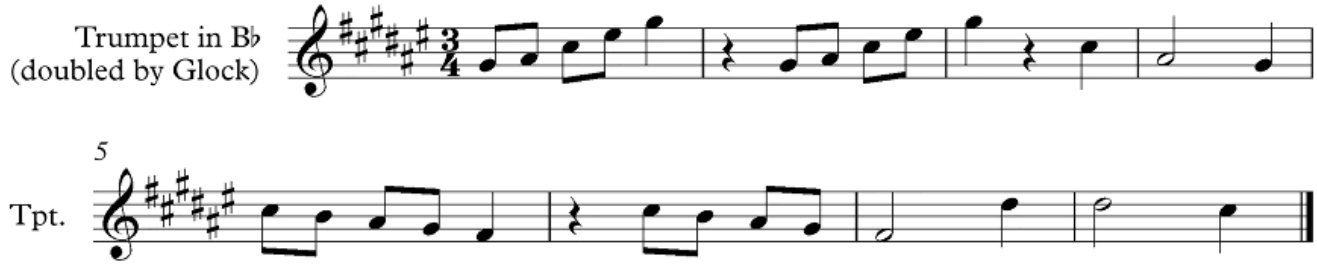
Example 3. The layering of ostinato patterns at the outro of "The Transfiguration" (3:16)



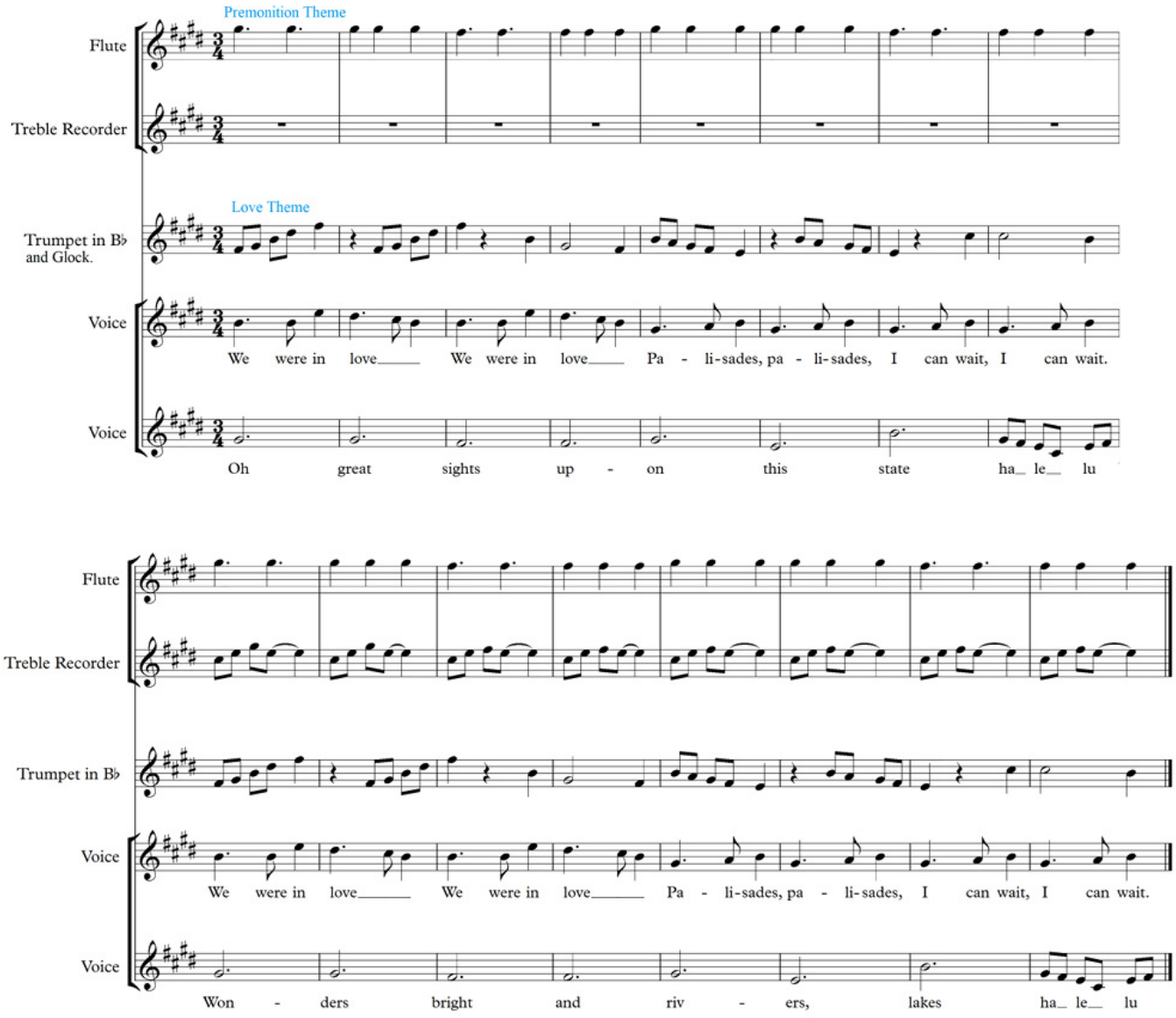
Example 4a. The "Premonition" or "Wasp" Theme (0:56), after the lyrics, "There on the wall in the bedroom creeping / I see a wasp with her wings outstretched." This theme recurs at 2:30, where the wasp is "seen on the length of my [Stevens's] arm"



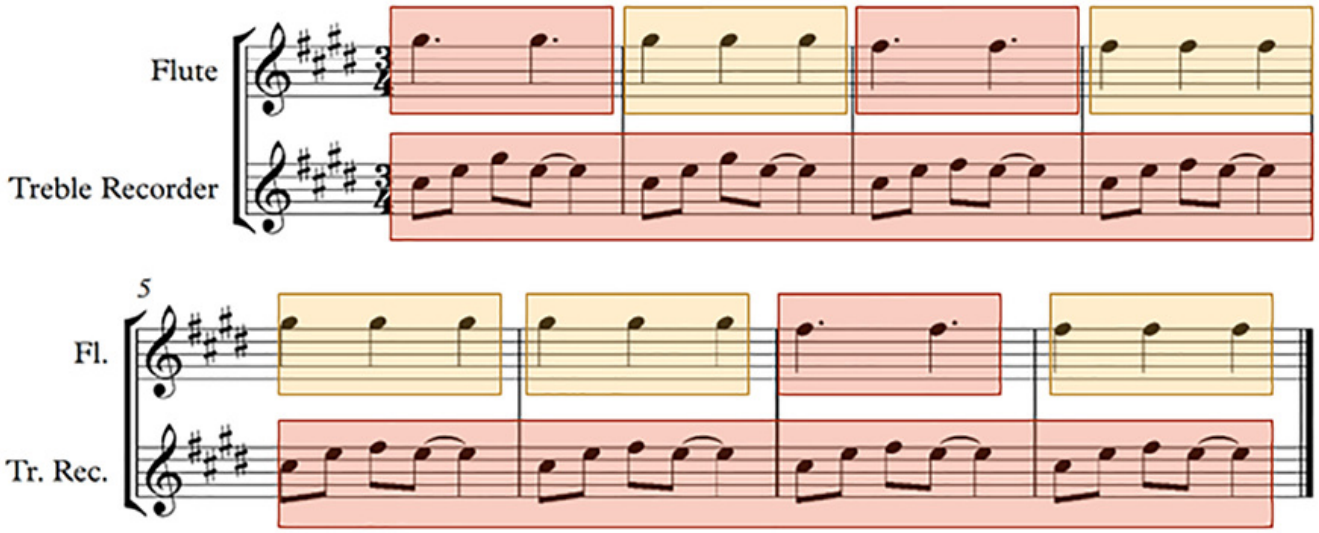
Example 4b. The "Love" Theme (3:08), following the lyrics, "We were in love, we were in love / Palisades, palisades, I can wait, I can wait"



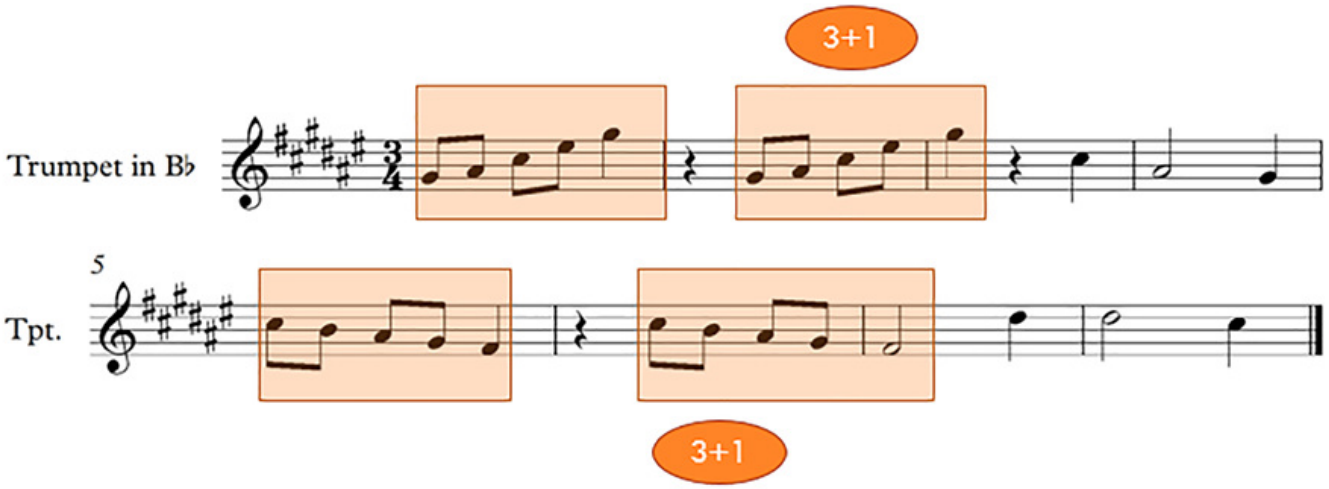
Example 5. The R-space of "The Predatory Wasp" (3:17)



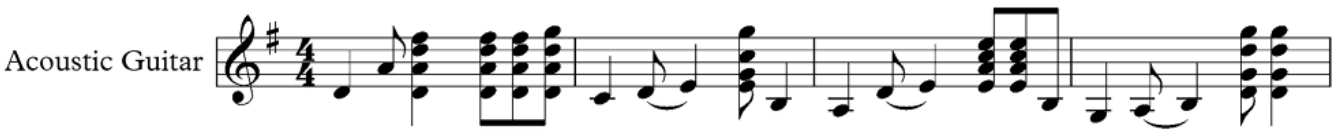
Example 6. 6886 groupings (red) and 3443 groupings (yellow) in the "Premonition" theme



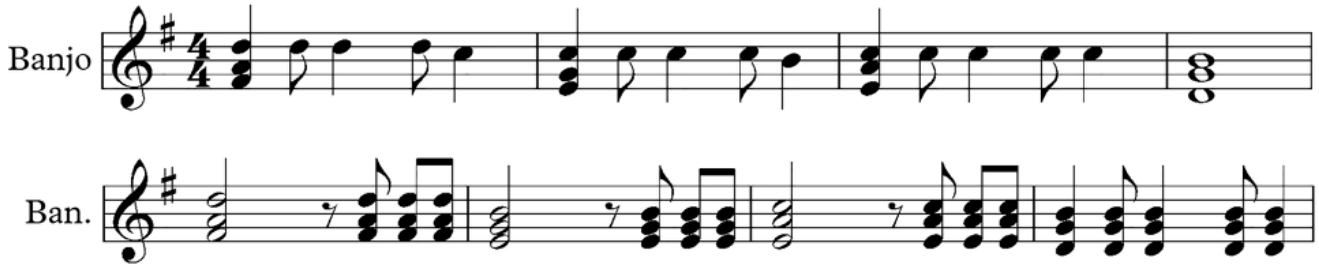
Example 7. Displacement dissonance in the "Love" theme



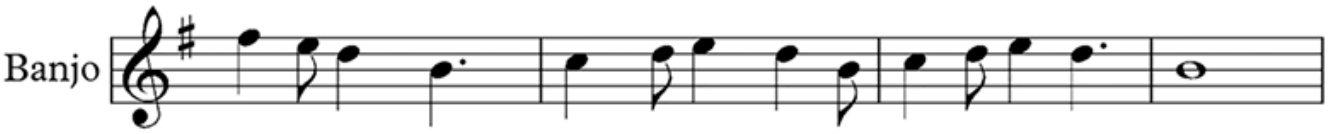
Example 8a. The "Cancer" theme, which begins the piece and is prominent following the lyrics, "Goldenrod and the 4H stone / things I brought you when I found out / You had cancer of the bone"



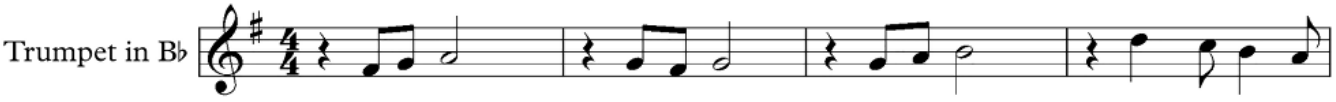
Example 8b. The "Kiss" theme, beginning at 1:13, following the lyrics, "All the glory that the Lord has made / And the complications you could do without / When I kissed you on the mouth"



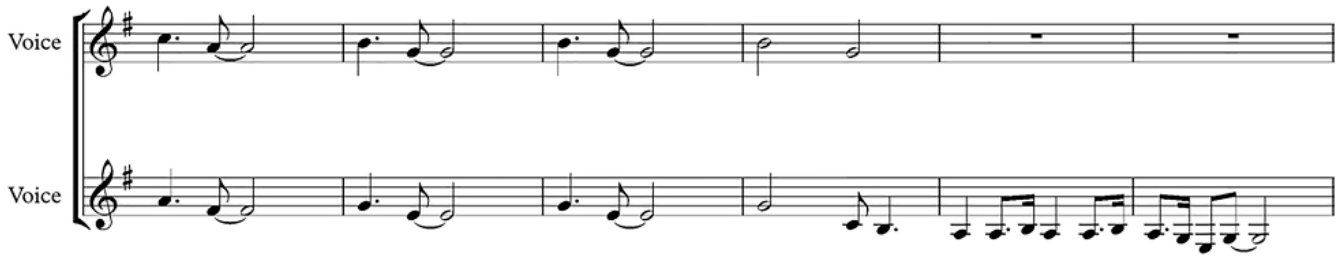
Example 8c. The "Loss of Faith" theme, beginning at 1:34, during the lyrics "Tuesday night at the Bible study / We lift our hands and pray over your body / But nothing ever happens"



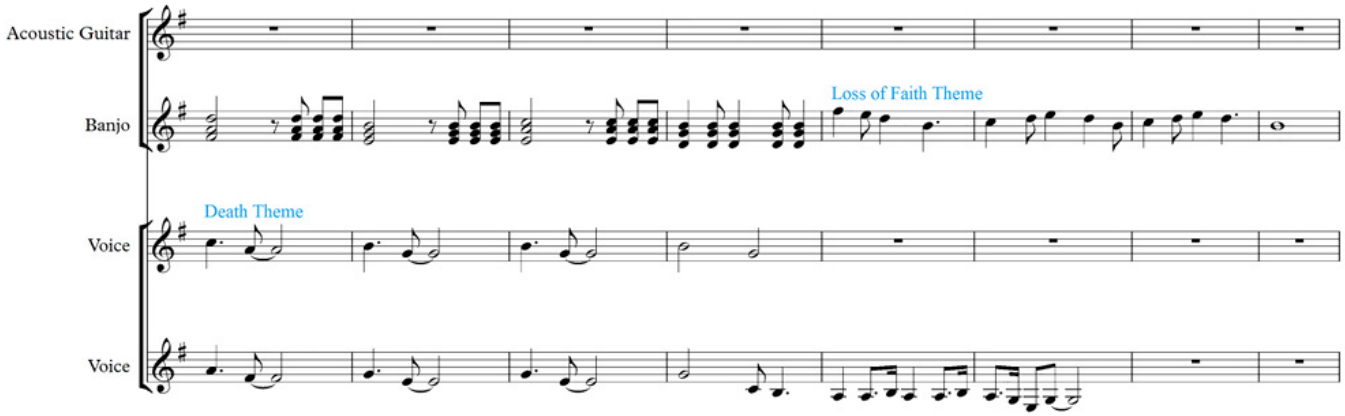
Example 8d. The "Leaving" theme, beginning at 2:25, following the lyrics, "All the glory when you ran outside / With your shirt tucked in and your shoes untied / And you told me not to follow you"



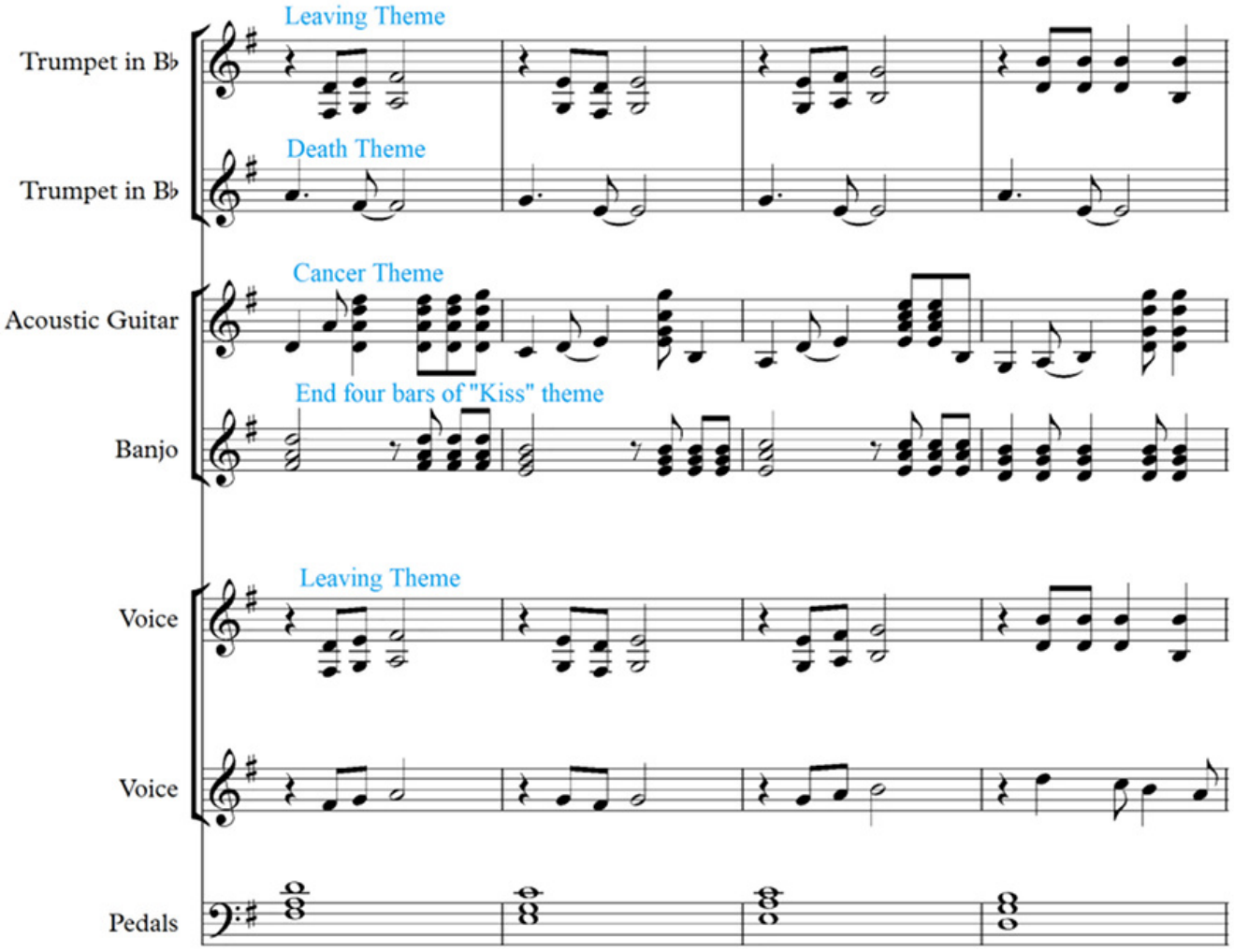
Example 8e. The "Death" theme, beginning at (3:30), during the lyrics, "In the morning, when you finally go / And the nurse runs in with her head hung low / And the cardinal hits the window"



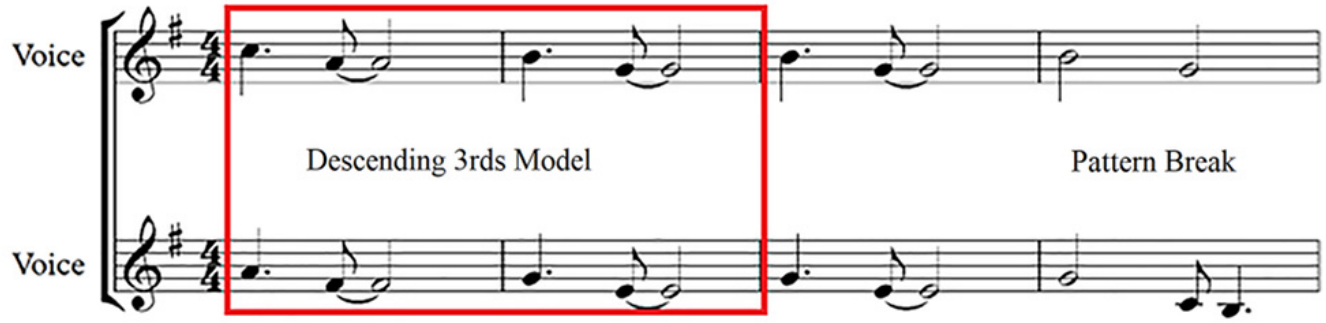
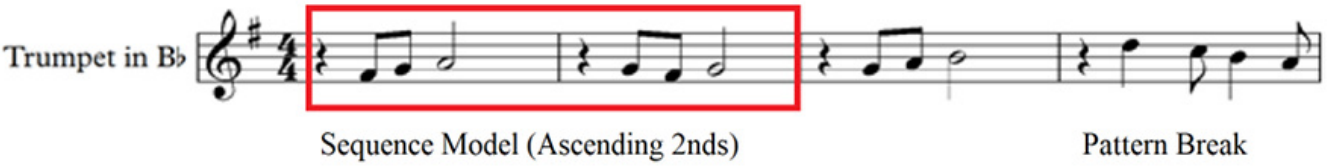
Example 9a. The layering beginning at 4:20, after "All the glory when he took our place / but he shook my shoulders and he shook my face / and He takes, and He takes, and He takes"



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



Example 10. The incomplete sequence in the "Death" theme



Example 11. The incomplete sequence in the "Leaving" theme