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MTO 26.4 Examples: Reef, A “Proto-Theme” in Some of J. S. Bach’s Fugal Works

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

<https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.20.26.4/mto.20.26.4.reef.html>

Example 1. Three fugue expositions by J. S. Bach: (a) Fugue in A Minor, BWV 944; (b) Duetto in A Minor, *Clavier-Übung* III, BWV 805; (c) Fugue in A Minor, *WTC* II, BWV 889

a.

presentation

A

dux

5

8

8

8

7

cs 1

comes

continuation
(pre-cadential)

9

13

16

5

4

3

2

1

dux

presentation

A

b. *dux*

presentation (mobilization)

8 **5** *comes*

cs

continuation (pre-cadential 1)

14 **8 7** *

C **D** **E** **F**

20 **6** **5**

(pre-cadential 2)

26 ⇒ deceptive cadence

presentation presentation (mobilization)

A **6** **8** **(7)**
comes

dux *cs 1*

c.

⇒ continuation (bridge)

B **C** **D** **E**
7 **6**

4 **(#6)***

tr

presentation (consolidation)

F **6**

dux *cs 1* *cs 2* *tr*

6

* Chromatic raised- $\hat{6}$ and/or raised- $\hat{4}$ inflections animate motion from **A** to **B**.

Example 2. A common pattern of harmony and voice leading, or “proto-theme,” in J. S. Bach’s fugal music

presentation (+ mobilization) continuation (sequence, derived motivically from presentation) sequence breaks/changes

A **B** **C** **D** **E** **F**

(5) **8** **7** **6** **5**

Am: descending 5ths

Example 3. The “**8–7–6–5** schema”: (a) basic voice leading (b) with 2–3 suspensions (c) with interpolated lower-voice descending fifths/ascending fourths (d) with interpolated lower-voice descending thirds/ascending steps

a.

① ⑤ ④ ③

intervals: (5) 8 3 3 3

b.

① ⑤ ④ ③

intervals: (5) 8 3 2-3 2-3

major

c.

① ⑤ ④ ③

minor

① ⑤ ④ ③

major

d.

① ⑤ ④ ③

minor

① ⑤ ④ ③

Example 4. ⑧—⑦—⑥—⑤ schema settings in (a) J. S. Bach, Fugue in C Major, BWV 952; (b) Bach, Contrapunctus II, *Art of the Fugue*, BWV 1080; (c) Johann Ernst Eberlin, Toccata No. 1 in D Minor; (d) Dietrich Buxtehude, Toccata in G Major, BuxWV 164; (e) Johann Pachelbel, Fugue in B Minor, PWC 141

a.

CM: ①

b.

Dm: ①

6

c.

dux —

tr tr tr tr

comes —

Dm: (1)

5

8 7 6 5

dux —

tr tr

comes —

Dm: (1)

d.

5 8 7 6 5

dux —

tr tr

comes —

GM: (1)

~ motivic 3rds

5 8 comes (7)

e.

dux —————

Bm: ①

4 ⑥ 7 6 5 *dux*

⑤ * ④ * ③

* descending-5th/ascending-4th or descending-3rd/ascending-step interpolations

Example 5. 8–7–6–5 schema settings with some deviations from the basic forms in Example 3: (a) Buxtehude, Canzonetta in A Minor BuxWV 225; (b) Buxtehude, Praeludium in G Minor, BuxWV 163

a.

Am: ①

comes

dux

b.

comes

Gm: ①

dux

8 7 (below) 6 5 4

dux

(5) (above) (4) (inner voice)

(hypothetical schematic normalization, after J. S. Bach, BWV 873)

7 6 5 4 3

Example 6. The 8–7–6–5 schema and evaded cadences in (a) Angelo Predieri, *Dixit*, cited in Martini [1774–75] 1958; (b) Bach, Fugue in E Major, *WTC II*, BWV 878

a.

comes

Et in sae-cu-la sae - cu - lo - rum, a - - - - men,

dux - - - - cs - - - -

D Dor.: ①

(hypothetical dominant cadence)

b.

comes

inganno: A# - A#

dux

EM: ①

Example 7. Schematic ⑧—⑦—⑥—⑤/①—⑤—④—③ voice leading in a nonimitative generic context:
 François Couperin, *Ordre 8^{ème} de clavecin*, Rondeau

The musical score consists of two systems, each with four measures. The key signature is B major (two sharps) and the time signature is 3/4. The notation includes treble and bass staves for each system.

System 1:

- Measure 1: Treble staff has a dotted quarter note G⁵ with a '+' sign, followed by two eighth notes. Bass staff has a quarter note F⁴, followed by two eighth notes.
- Measure 2: Treble staff has a dotted quarter note A⁸ with a 'v' sign, followed by two eighth notes. Bass staff has a quarter note G⁵, followed by two eighth notes.
- Measure 3: Treble staff has a dotted quarter note G⁷ with a wavy line, followed by two eighth notes. Bass staff has a quarter note F⁴, followed by two eighth notes.
- Measure 4: Treble staff has a dotted quarter note F⁶ with a wavy line, followed by two eighth notes. Bass staff has a quarter note E⁴, followed by two eighth notes.

System 2:

- Measure 5: Treble staff has a dotted quarter note E⁴ with a 'v' sign, followed by two eighth notes. Bass staff has a quarter note D³, followed by two eighth notes.
- Measure 6: Treble staff has a dotted quarter note D³ with a wavy line, followed by two eighth notes. Bass staff has a quarter note C², followed by two eighth notes.
- Measure 7: Treble staff has a dotted quarter note C[#] with a '+' sign, followed by two eighth notes. Bass staff has a quarter note B¹, followed by two eighth notes.
- Measure 8: Treble staff has a dotted quarter note B^{HC} with a wavy line, followed by two eighth notes. Bass staff has a quarter note A², followed by two eighth notes.

Example 8. Pieces by J. S. Bach with passages related to the proto-theme in Example 2

BWV 944, II	<u>Fantasy and Fugue in A Minor: Fugue</u> mm. 1–16; mm. 123–34 [*]	1708–13?
BWV 1003, II	<u>Violin Sonata in A Minor: Fugue</u> mm. 1–13 [†]	by 1720
BWV 818, V/ BWV 818a, VI	<u>Suite in A Minor: Gigue</u> mm. 1–13 [‡]	1720–22?
BWV 865, I	<u>Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, <i>WTC</i> I: Prelude</u> mm. 1–13	by 1722
BWV 942	<u>Prelude in A Minor</u> mm. 1–6	1726–27
BWV 827, VII	<u>Partita in A Minor: Gigue</u> mm. 1–7 [§] ; mm. 8–18	1725–31
BWV 1044, III	<u>Triple Concerto in A Minor: Alla breve</u> mm. 25–47	1730s/40s
BWV 805	<u>Duetto in A Minor, <i>Clavier-Übung III</i></u> mm. 1–25; mm. 70–86	pub. 1739
BWV 889, II	<u>Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, <i>WTC</i> II: Fugue</u> mm. 1–6; mm. 13–16	1739–42
BWV 1011, I	<u>Cello Suite No. 5 in C Minor: Praeludium[¶]</u> mm. 28–47	1717–23
BWV 855, II	<u>Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, <i>WTC</i> I: Fugue</u> mm. 1–11	by 1722
BWV 1014, II	<u>Violin Sonata in B Minor: Fugue</u> mm. 1–10	1720–23
BWV 900, II	<u>Prelude and Fughetta in E Minor: Fughetta</u> mm. 1–23	before 1727?
BWV 888, II	<u>Prelude and Fugue in A Major, <i>WTC</i> II: Fugue</u> mm. 1–5	1739–42

*Measures 123–34 in BWV 944, II, begin with chord *B* but may connect indirectly to *A* in m. 1.

†Chord *A* in BWV 1003, II, mm. 1–7, is expanded with an additional, inverted copy of the 8–7–6–5 proto-theme.

‡8 does not sound above chord *A* in BWV 818, V (BWV 818a, VI), but may be understood as an implied tone. As this Gigue follows several other suite movements in the same key, its opening resonates with a well-established, registrally replete A-minor tonic, and the implication of 8 is not at all problematic.

§Chord *F* is omitted from the proto-theme elaboration in mm. 1–7 of BWV 827, VII.

¶Measures 25–47 of the Triple Concerto *Alla breve* expand mm. 1–17 of the related Fugue in A Minor BWV 894, II (~1714).

‖Transcribed for lute as BWV 995.

Example 9. Schenker's analysis ([1926] 2014, 32) of J. S. Bach, Fugue in C Minor, WTC I, BWV 847, mm. 1-9

Fig. 1

Stufen als Tonarten: | *G m:* | *C m:*

C moll: I—IV—V—I. | IV V I | V—I

Tonal. *C m:* I ————— V ————— I

(Kürzer:) I —————

Example 10. J. S. Bach, Prelude in A Minor BWV 942, mm. 1–9

presentation presentation (mobilization)

A B

8 7

dux particle comes

Am: ① ⑤

⇒ continuation (bridge) presentation (consolidation)

C D E F

4 6 5 comes

④ ③

⇒ cadence IAC

7 *

* $A_3-B_3-C_4$ is commonly given in this measure as a correction to this Prelude's erroneous source.

Example 11. Schenker's analysis ([1925] 2014, 63) of J. S. Bach, Prelude in A Minor, BWV 942 (annotated)

Fig. 1

a)

Amoll: I I IV-V-I IV-I-I

b)

Amoll: I (Durchgänge) I IV-V-I IV-I-I

c)

Amoll: I (Durchgänge) I IV-V-I IV-I-I

d)

Amoll: I (Durchgänge) I IV-V-I (Oktav-Koppelung) IV-I-I

Example 13. Tonal structures in the expositions by J. S. Bach quoted in Example 1: (a) Fugue in A Minor, BWV 944; (b) Duetto in A Minor, *Clavier-Übung* III, BWV 805; (c) Fugue in A Minor, WTC II, BWV 889

measure 1 presentation 7 pres. (mob.) 12 cont. (pre-cad.) 14 ⇒ cadence 16 18 19 PAC

A B C D E F

$\hat{5}^*$ $\hat{8}^*$ $\hat{7}$ $\hat{6}$ $\hat{5}$ $\hat{4}$ $\hat{3}$ $\hat{2}$ $\hat{1}$ $\hat{3}^*$

dux *comes* *dux*

Am: I_5 8 $\frac{6}{5}$ $\frac{7}{5}$ 6 5 4 3 V_3^{8-7} I

“V₄” “IV” “III” V_3^4 I

(retrogressive-implication)

* “simulated” initial arpeggiation: $E_5-A_5-C_6$

* “simulated” initial arpeggiation: E₅-A₅-C₆

measure 1
presentation

9 pres. (mob.)

17 cont. (pre-cad. 1 pre-cad. 2)⇒deceptive cad.

21 25 32 34

A B C D E F

comes

(reaching-over figs.)

dux

b.

Am: I(

[II_# V_b]

dec. cad.

IV I

Example 15. Tonal structure in J. S. Bach, Fughetta in E Minor, BWV 900

measure 1 6 10 14 19 20 21 22 23 31 32 39 40 44 48

presentation presentation (mobilization) continuation (bridge) pres. (cons.)

A *B* *C* *D* *E* (*F*)

dux *comes* 8 7 6 5 3

Em: I III

59 60 65 75 77 80 81 84 85 101 102 103 104

IV V_4^7 I II^6 $V(\frac{7}{4} \frac{8}{4} \frac{5}{4} \frac{4}{4})$ I

The image displays a musical score for J.S. Bach's Fughetta in E Minor, BWV 900, focusing on its tonal structure and phrasing. The score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in E minor. The first system covers measures 1 to 48, and the second system covers measures 59 to 104. The score is divided into sections: 'presentation' (measures 1-6), 'presentation (mobilization)' (measures 10-14), 'continuation (bridge)' (measures 19-22), and 'pres. (cons.)' (measures 23-32). The first system ends with a repeat sign. The second system continues the piece, ending with a final cadence. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and accidentals. Above the first system, there are labels for sections A, B, C, D, E, and F, with F in parentheses. Below the first system, there are labels for 'Em: I' and 'III'. Above the second system, there are labels for 'IV', 'V4^7', 'I', 'II^6', and 'V(7/4 8/4 5/4 4/4)'. The score also includes measure numbers and some phrasing slurs.

Example 16. Adaptations of the 8[^]–7[^]–6[^]–5[^] proto-theme that progress from I to III: (a) basic form, with 8[^] as *Kopfton*; (b) basic form, with 5[^] as *Kopfton*; (c) interpolated chords *e* and *f*, with 8[^] as *Kopfton*; (d) interpolated chords *e* and *f*, with 5[^] as *Kopfton*

pres.
(+ mob.) continuation ⇒ stage

a.

b.

c.

d.

Am: I ($\frac{8}{3}$) IV VII⁷ III
=CM: II V⁷ I

Am: I ($\frac{8}{3}$) IV VII⁷ III
=CM: II V⁷ I

Am: I ($\frac{8}{3}$) IV — 6 VII⁷ III
=CM: II V⁷ I

Am: I ($\frac{8}{3}$) IV — 6 VII⁷ III
=CM: II V⁷ I

Example 17. Tonal structures in (a) J. S. Bach, Prelude in A Minor, *WTC I*, BWV 865; (b) J. S. Bach, Fugue in E Minor, *WTC I*, BWV 855

a.

measure 1 5 9 10 11 12 13 20 22 23 24 25 26

presentation pres. (mob.) continuation ⇒ stage presentation

A B C D (E F) E F

5 6 7 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

dux comes dux

Am: I () IV 6 VII⁷ III IV V₇ I⁶ II⁶ V# I(♯)

b.

measure 1 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 19 20 30 38 39 41 42

presentation (mob.) ⇒ cont. ⇒ stage ⇒ cadence pres.

A B C D E F

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

dux comes dux

Em: I () IV VII⁷ III⁶ IV VII₇ V# I V# I

Example 18. Tonal structure in J. S. Bach, Partita No. 3 in A Minor BWV 827, Gigue, mm. 1–21

measure 1 3 6 7 8 10 13 16 18 19 20 21

presentation (mobilization) ⇒ cont. (pre-cad.) ⇒ cadence presentation pres. (mob.) ⇒ cont. (pre-cad.) ⇒ cadence pres

A B C D E A B C D E F IAC

5 4 3 2 1

dux comes dux expanded particle comes

Am: I () IV⁽⁵⁻⁶⁾ V₇ I () IV⁶ V₇ I

Example 19. Two of William Renwick's exposition patterns: (a) for $5^{\wedge}-4^{\wedge}-3^{\wedge}$, subject paradigms and low-middle-high exposition schemes; (b) for $1^{\wedge}-3^{\wedge}-2^{\wedge}-1^{\wedge}$, subject paradigms and low-middle-high exposition schemes; (c) analysis of the exposition of J. S. Bach, Fugue in G Minor, WTC II, BWV 885, according to the pattern in Example 19a

a.

I — V/V — V — I

b.

cont. (br.) —

I — V — I

c.

Gm: I — V[#]m/V — V^bm — # I

889, mm. 1–8; (b) William Renwick's exposition pattern, transposed to A minor

a.

showing similar “fermatas”: (a) Fugue in A Minor, BWV 944; (b) Violin Sonata in A Minor,

presentation

A

dux

a.

Am: I

d. durations

presentation (mobilization)

B

7

comes

("V4")

d. durations

continuation (pre-cadential) ⇒ cadence

C D E F

PAC

12

("V4")

IV

III

V₄)

I V₄=₇

I

retrogressive implication,
d. durations, "fermata"

cadence, acceleration

continuation

⇒ stage

a.

b.

Am: I³ ‡) IV VII⁷ (=CM: V⁷) ⇒ III

* descending scale figure

† trill figure

[illegible]

Example 24. J. S. Bach, Fugue in A Minor, WTC II, BWV 889, first period (excerpt): (a) mm. 1–3,
(b) mm. 3–8

a.

presentation

"accel."

dux

Am: I

presentation (mobilization) ⇒ continuation (bridge) presentation (consolidation) ⇒ cadence IAC

b.

comes

cs 1

dux

cs 2

(A) B C D E F

Am: I⁸ [3] [4] V₇ IV V₇ I

~ motivic undulating 4ths

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "The Great Gatsby" by Jay McInerney. The score is written for piano, featuring a complex melodic line in the right hand and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. The key signature is A minor (Am), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into two main sections: a "presentation (mobilization)" section and a "continuation (pre-cadential) ⇒ cadence" section. The "presentation" section begins with a melodic line that is annotated with "z" and "z'" and a wavy line indicating a "mobilization" process. The "continuation" section follows, featuring a melodic line that is annotated with "z'" and a wavy line indicating a "pre-cadential" process. The score includes various musical notations, including notes, rests, and dynamic markings. Below the main score, there is a harmonic analysis section that identifies the chords and their functions. The chords are labeled as Am: I, IV⁶, V(7), and I. The harmonic analysis also includes a sequence of numbers (5, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1) that likely represent the degrees of the scale or the intervals between the notes. The score is a complex and detailed musical composition that requires a high level of technical skill to perform.

Example 26. The 8-7-6-5 schema as a guide to analysis (a) J. S. Bach, Fugue in D # minor, WTC I, BWV 853 (b) J. S. Bach, Fugue in E Major, WTC I, BWV 878

a.

5* 8* 7

comes

dux

D#m: I(5 — 8 — [7

continuation (bridge)

#6) 7 6 5 * * *

comes

dux

[IV7 V#] — 4 — 3 — 6 — 5 — 3 — (Vx — I)

not V# x — I

* initial ascent: A₄—D₅—E₅—F₅—G₅—A₅ (measure 9)

b.

* * * 5*

comes

dux

EM: I(3 — 5 — 8 — 4 — 7 — 6 — 4 — 5 — 3)

not V — I

* initial arpeggiation: E₃—B₃—E₄—B₄