



A JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR MUSIC THEORY

**MTO 27.4 Examples: Ho, Corporeal Musical Structure: A
Gestural-Kinesthetic Approach to Toru Takemitsu's Rain Tree
Sketch II**

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

<https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.21.27.4/mto.21.27.4.ho.html>

Example 1. First page of *Rain Tree Sketch II*, mm. 1–16

Rain Tree Sketch II
-In Memoriam Olivier Messiaen-
for piano

Toru Takemitsu

Celestially Light
♩=90ca. (Tempo I)

poco riten. - - - - -

p *poco mf*

in Tempo

8^{va} - - - - - | loco

4 *mf*

Red ^

poco riten. - - - - - **Poco meno mosso**
♩=72ca. (Tempo II)

poco mf *p* (L.H.)

ad lib.

12 *as echo*

p *poco mf* *ppp*

f *dim. molto*

Example 2. Laban's concept of *effort*

Effort quality	Indulging	<----->	Fighting
Weight	Light	<----->	Heavy
Time	Slow/sustained	<----->	Quick/sudden
Space	Indirect/meandering	<----->	Direct/focused
Flow	Free	<----->	Bounded/controlled

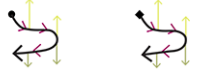
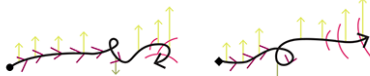
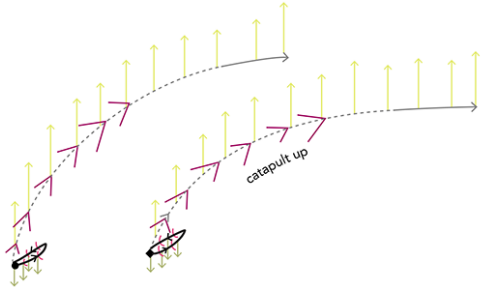
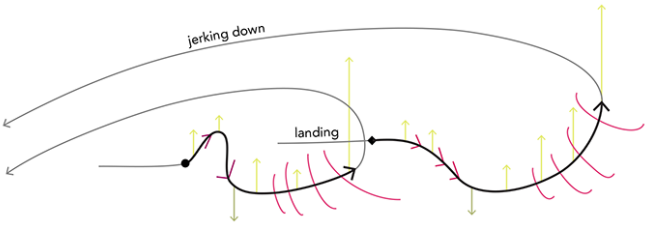
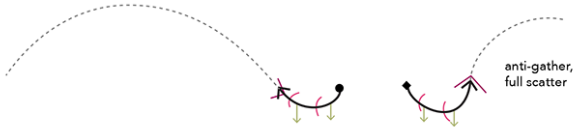
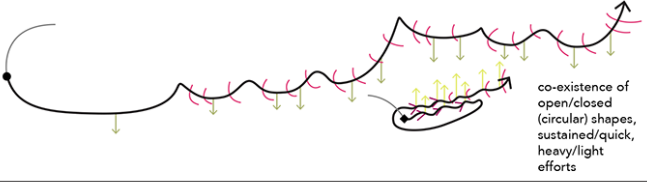
Example 3a. Map of enhanced trace-forms in Section A of *Rain Tree Sketch II*

Measures	←Keyboard→	Video timing
1		0'05"
2		0'10"
3		0'12"
4		0'15"
5		0'18"
6		0'21"
7		0'23"
9-10		0'32"
12-13		0'39"
15		0'47"
17-19		0'56"
20		1'05"
22-23	 (LH & RH trace-forms vertically displaced for clarity)	1'12"
24		1'17"
25		1'22"
27		1'29"
28		1'33"
30-32		1'42"
33		1'52"

Key To Notation

Effort	Indulging	Fighting	
Weight	light =	heavy =	● = left hand
Time	slow/sustained =	quick/sudden =	◆ = right hand
Flow	free =	bounded =	

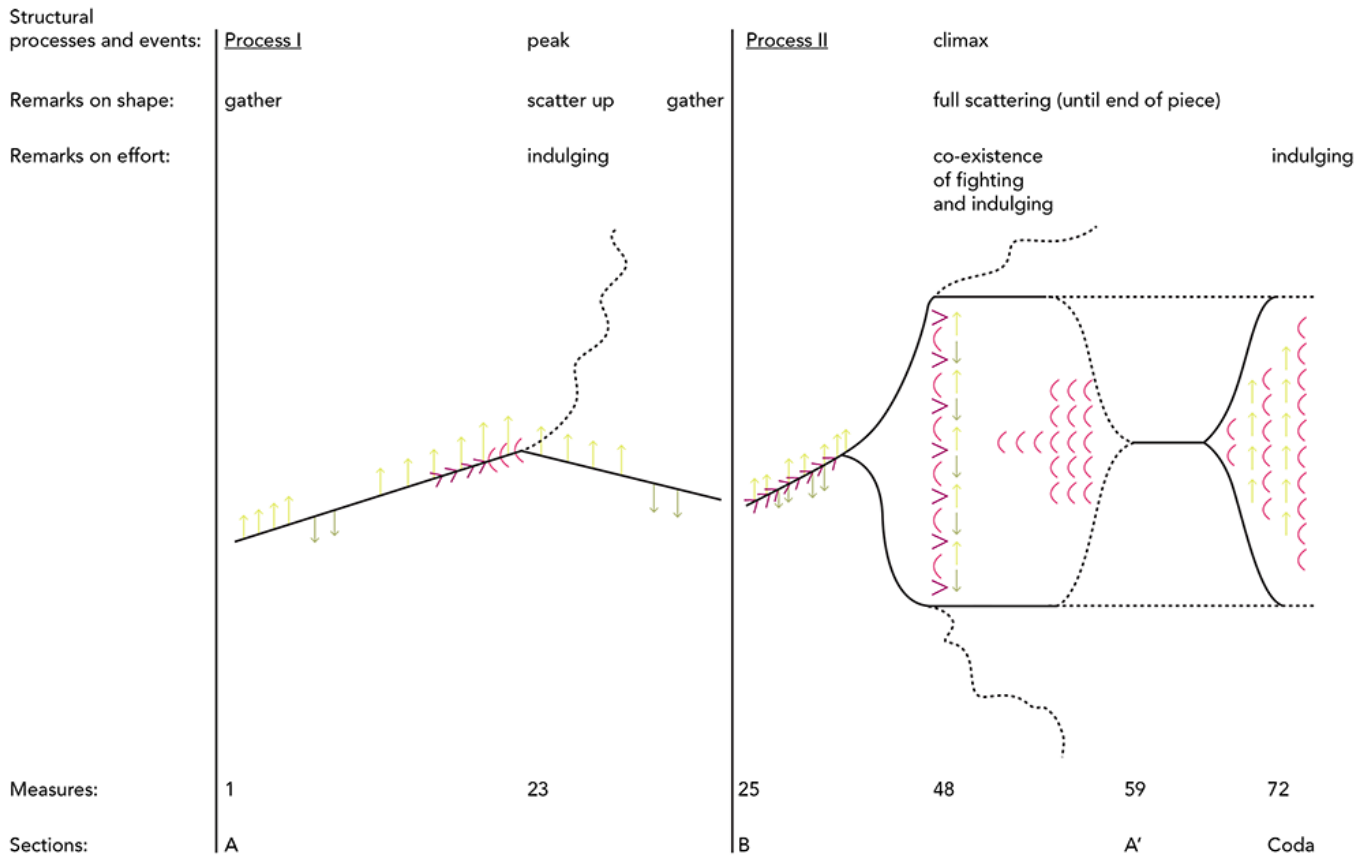
Example 3b. Map of enhanced trace-forms in Section B of *Rain Tree Sketch II*

Measures	←Keyboard→	Video timing
35–36		2'07"
37–38		2'13"
39–40		2'18"
41–42		2'24"
43–44		2'30"
45–46 (Lead-up to climax)		2'34"
47		2'37"
48 (Climax)		2'40"
49 (Climax continued)		2'43"
50		2'50"
51		2'54"
53		3'00"
54		3'04"

Example 3c. Map of enhanced trace-forms in Section A' and coda of *Rain Tree Sketch II*

Measures	← Keyboard →	Video timing
56		3'19"
57		3'23"
58		3'25"
59		3'29"
60		3'31"
61		3'33"
62		3'36"
64-65		3'44"
67-68		3'51"
70		3'59"
72-73		4'06"
74-75		4'14"

Example 4. Schematic map of *Rain Tree Sketch II*



Key To Notation

Effort	Indulging	Fighting
Weight	light = ↑	heavy = ↓
Time	slow/sustained = <	quick/sudden = >
Flow	free = - - - - -	bounded = ———

Example 5. *Rain Tree Sketch II*, mm. 1–7, 0'06"–0'28"

Motif i circled in purple

Celestially Light
♩=90ca. (Tempo I)

Motif i

p

poco riten. - - - - -

poco
mf

in Tempo

Transposed 8^{va} - - - - - | *loco*

motif i

4

mf

poco riten. - - - - -

7

poco
mf

$-\frac{1}{2}$

The musical score is written for piano, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Celestially Light' with a quarter note equal to 90 crotchets. The score begins with 'Motif i' circled in purple in measures 1 and 2. The dynamics are marked 'p' (piano) in measure 1 and 'mf' (mezzo-forte) in measure 3. A 'poco riten.' (poco ritardando) marking is present above the staff in measure 3. The score transitions to 'in Tempo' at measure 4, where the motif is transposed 8va (octave up). The dynamics are marked 'mf' in measure 4. The score ends at measure 7 with a half note. A 'poco riten.' marking is also present above the staff in measure 7. The piece concludes with a half note in measure 7.

Example 6. Gestural transformations of motif i in Process I

The colors add redundancy for easy visualization of trends: light/dark blue denotes *shape*; red/pink denotes *time*; light/dark green denotes *weight*, and light/dark orange denotes *flow*

Measure	Segment of Trace-form	Shape Gather/Scatter	Effort		
			Time	Weight	Flow
1		scatter (BH)	sustained	light	bounded
2		scatter (RH)	sustained	light	bounded
4		scatter (BH)	sustained	light	bounded
5		scatter (BH)	sustained	light	bounded
9		gather (BH)	sustained	heavy	freer
12		gather (RH)	sustained	heavy	freer
22		scatter (BH)	quick	light	freer
27		gather (BH)	sustained	heavy	freer

Peak (m. 23)

Example 7. Trace-form and score excerpt of mm. 9–10, 0'33"–0'35"
Motif i and its transpositions circled in purple



Poco meno mosso
♩=ca. 72 (Tempo II)

Example 8. Break down of trace-form and score excerpt of mm. 22–23, 1'12''–1'17''
 Motif i (truncated) circled in purple

The diagram illustrates the trace-form and score excerpt for Example 8, focusing on Motif i (truncated) circled in purple.

Trace-forms: The top two diagrams show the trace-forms for the left hand (LH) and right hand (RH). The LH trace-form is a continuous, flowing line with a purple oval highlighting the initial motif. The RH trace-form is a series of upward-pointing arrows, also with a purple oval highlighting the initial motif. The text "(LH & RH trace-forms vertically displaced for clarity)" is present.

Score Excerpt: The bottom diagram shows the musical score for mm. 22–23, 1'12''–1'17''. The score is in 2/4 time and features a piano (p) and mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic range. The tempo is marked "Tempo I" and "poco accel." (poco accelerando). The score includes a "poco riten." (poco ritardando) marking and a "poco" marking. The initial motif is circled in purple, and the subsequent motif is circled in blue. The score is written for piano and includes a "Ped." (pedal) marking.

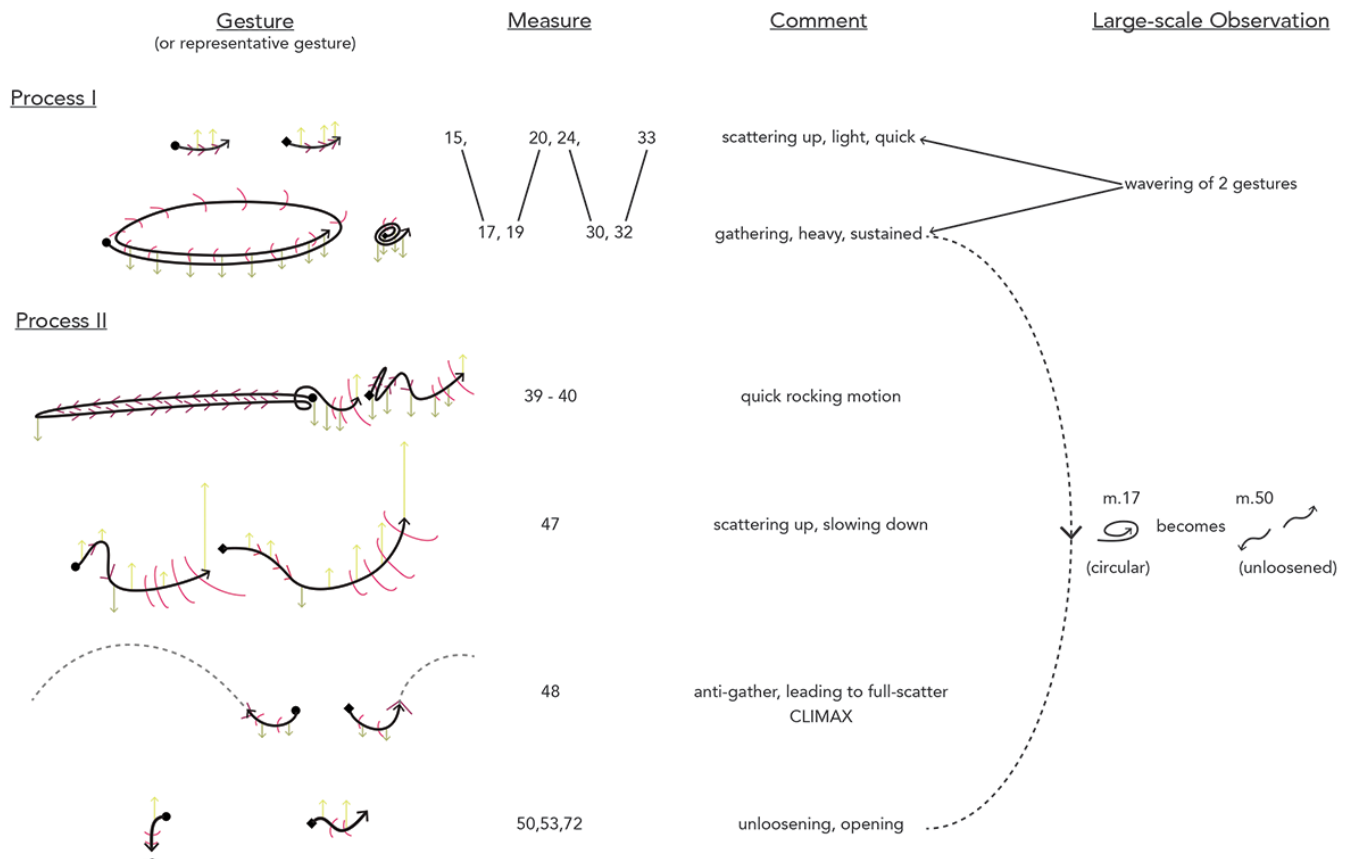
Example 9. Trace-form and score excerpt of mm. 12–14, 0'41"–0'48"
Motif ii circled in orange

The image displays a musical score excerpt and its corresponding trace-form diagram. The score is for piano, spanning measures 12 to 14. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The notation includes treble and bass staves. In measure 13, a motif consisting of two eighth notes (B-flat and A) is circled in orange. The score includes dynamic markings: *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *ppp* (pianissimo). A tempo marking *poco* is also present. A fermata is placed over the circled motif. Above the score, a trace-form diagram illustrates the melodic contour of the excerpt. It features a black line representing the pitch contour, with yellow arrows indicating upward movements and pink arrows indicating downward movements. The circled motif in the score corresponds to a specific point on the trace-form diagram.

Example 10. Trace-form and score excerpt of mm. 17–20, 0'57''–1'11''
Heavy, slow, gathering/circular gestures are marked with thick orange circles
Light, quick, scattering gesture marked with thin orange circle

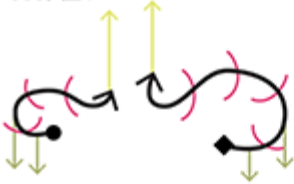
The image displays a musical score excerpt for measures 17–20, with time markers 0'57''–1'11''. The score is written for piano, featuring a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'Slightly slower' and 'Tempo II'. The score includes dynamic markings: *pp* (pianissimo) in the first measure, *p* (piano) in the second and third measures, and *mf* (mezzo-forte) in the fourth measure. The fourth measure also includes the instruction 'dim. molto' (diminuendo molto). The score is annotated with trace-form gestures: a thick orange circle highlights a heavy, slow, gathering/circular gesture in the second measure, and a thin orange circle highlights a light, quick, scattering gesture in the fourth measure. Above the score, there are four trace-form diagrams: a large oval with pink arrows indicating a circular gesture, a small spiral with green arrows, and two smaller diagrams with yellow arrows indicating scattering gestures.

Example 11. Gestural transformation of motif ii



Example 12. *Gathering* gesture of motif i in m. 27, 1'29" vs. *anti-gathering* gesture of motif ii in m. 48, 2'40"

m. 27



m. 48
(Climax)

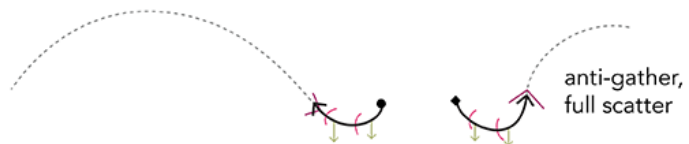






Example 13. Trace-forms and score excerpt of mm. 48–9, 2'40''–2'50'' (climax)

m. 48



m. 49

RH

(pedalled resonance)

LH

poco
mf

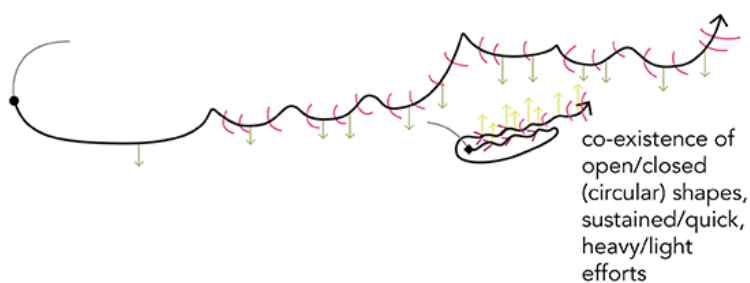
poco riten.

mf

ff

pp

musical score excerpt for measure 49, showing RH, LH, and pedalled resonance staves. Dynamics include *poco*, *mf*, *poco riten.*, *mf*, *ff*, and *pp*.



Example 14. Trace-form and score excerpt of m. 50, 2'50''



Tempo II

p

ppp

Example 15. Score excerpt of mm. 12–16, 0'41''–0'56''
Motif ii circled in orange; motif iii circled in blue

as echo

poco

mf

ppp

poco

f

dim. molto

#

The image displays a musical score and a corresponding movement diagram. The musical score is written for piano (p) and features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff includes a section marked *8va* (octave up) with a blue circle around the first measure and an orange circle around the last measure. The bass staff has a *p* (piano) dynamic marking. The movement diagram illustrates the physical actions associated with the music, including "catapult up" (indicated by yellow arrows) and "jerking down" (indicated by a grey arrow). The diagram also shows a "landing" point and a series of pink curved lines representing movement paths. A dashed line separates the musical score from the movement diagram.

catapult up

jerking down

landing

8va

p

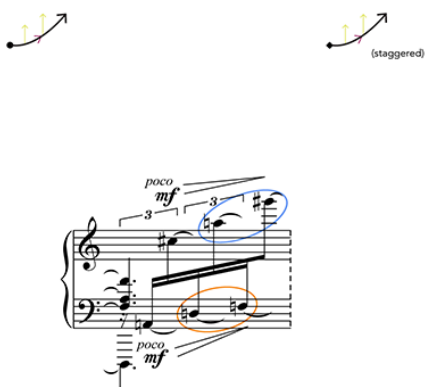
Example 17. Transformations of motifs ii and iii and the *stretching* and *unfolding* of time

In Process I (0'47''):



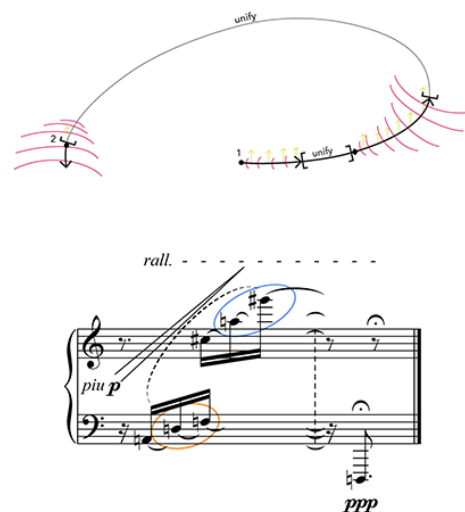
m. 15, parallel gesture,
quick time effort

Immediately after
the climax (2'54''):



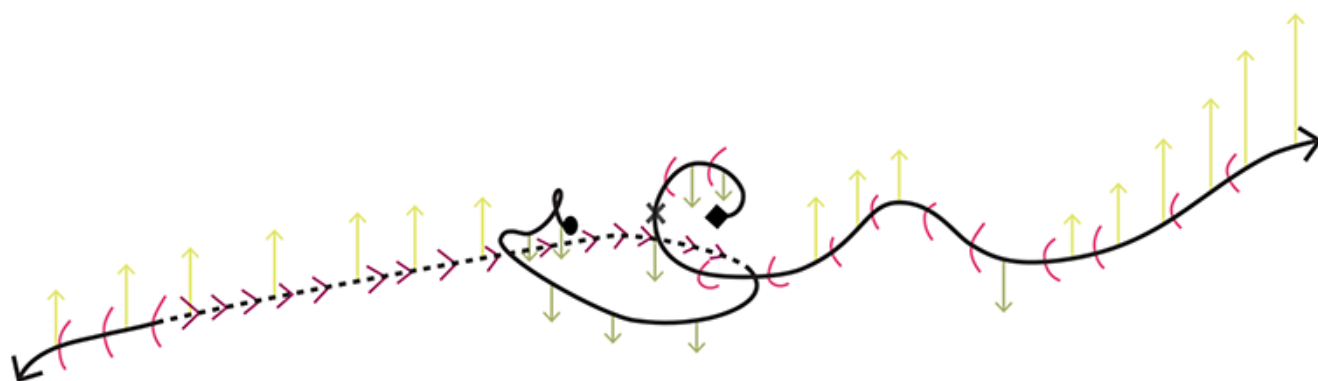
m. 51, staggered parallel
gesture, stretching of time

In the coda (4'14''):



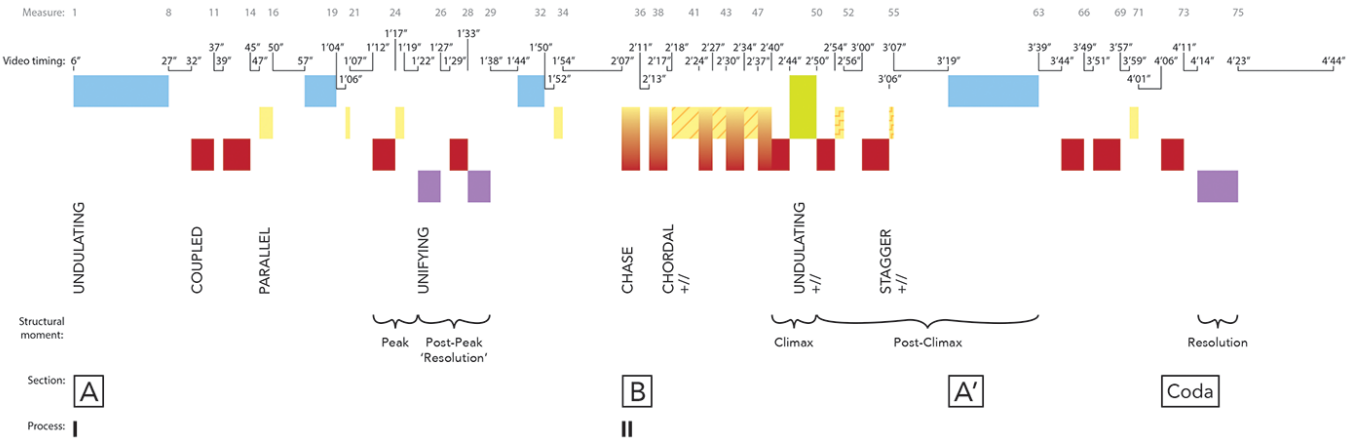
mm. 74–75, unifying gesture,
unfolding of time

Example 18. Trace-form and score excerpt of mm. 12–14, 0'41''–0'47''



A musical score excerpt for piano, spanning measures 12 to 14. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked *as echo*. The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *ppp* (pianissimo). The score includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand in measure 13. The left hand features a melodic line with a *poco* (a little) marking. The score is divided into measures by vertical dashed lines.

Example 19. Map of the four gestural categories with respect to time



Key to Notation

(Mix of colors implies mix of gestural type)

Parallel gesture (/) Undulating gesture

Unifying gesture Coupled gesture

Example 20. Trace-form and score excerpt of mm. 35–6, 2'07''–2'12''



Joyful
Tempo I

A musical score excerpt for two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The top staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to mezzo-forte (*mf*), and then a decrescendo back to piano (*p*). The bottom staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and remains at that level. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing beamed sixteenth notes. The excerpt ends with a double bar line.

Example 21. Unifying gestures. Gray curves joining left-hand and right-hand trace-forms show the flow of one hand to the other

m. 25, 1'23"
Tempo II
poco mf

m. 28, 1'33"
p

mm. 74-5, 4'14"
rall.
piu p
ppp

unify

Resolution phase of Process I

- Discontinuous flow
- Scattering upwards

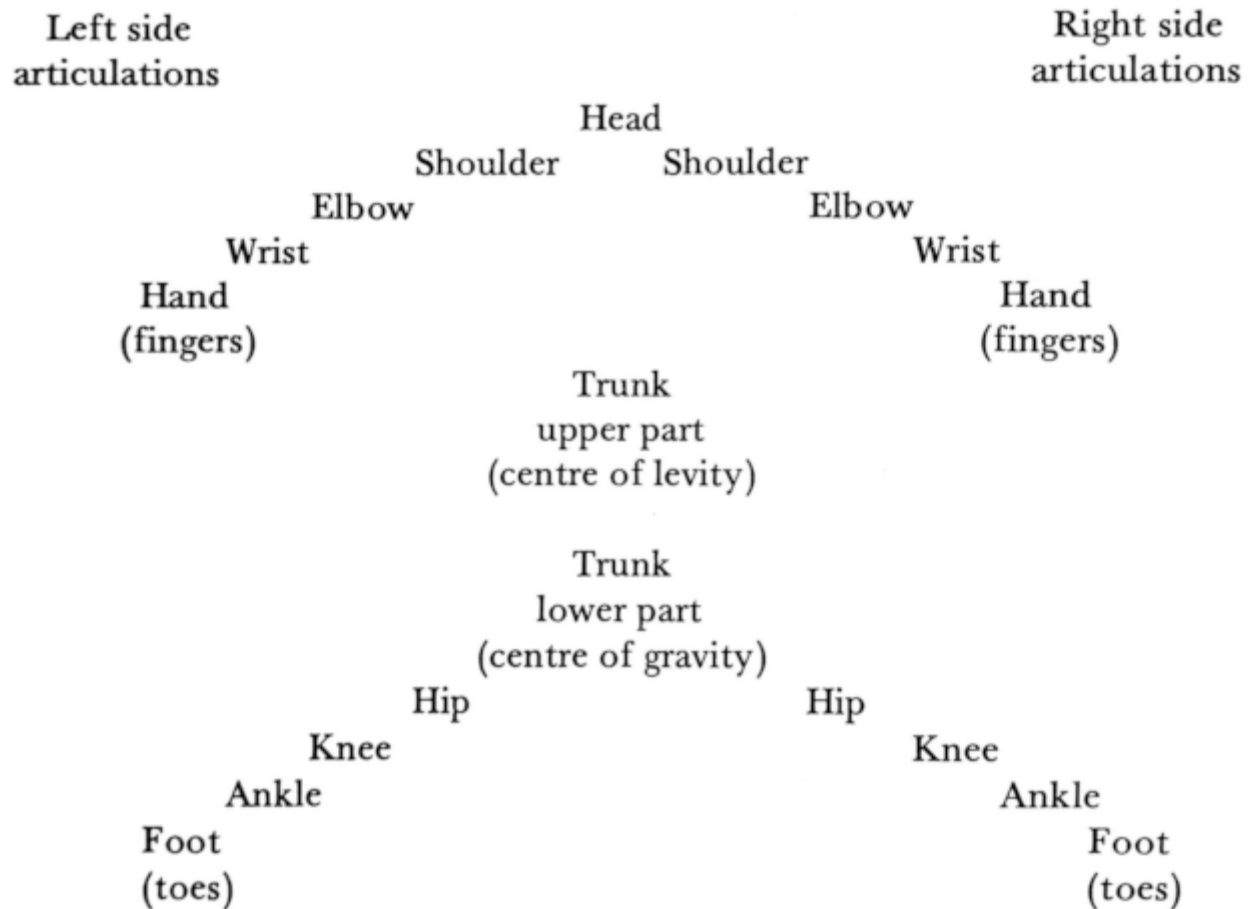
Resolution phase of Process II

- Continuous flow
- Scattering circle

Example 22. Laban's visualization of the body (Laban 1980, 28)

THE BODY

Basic Subdivisions Needed for the Observation of Bodily Actions



Example 23. Rocking motion, from distal to central

m. 39, 2'18"



mm. 45-8, 2'34"

musical score for measures 45-48. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It features a rocking motion in the whole torso, indicated by red arrows. The dynamics are *p* (piano) and *poco mf* (poco mezzo-forte). The bass line is marked with a *p* (piano) and the treble line with a *poco mf* (poco mezzo-forte). The score is divided into two systems, with a dashed line indicating a section break. The first system is labeled "arms" and "catapulting", and the second system is labeled "whole torso" and "jerk down".

Example 24. Macroscopic rhythm embodying gestures and silences

