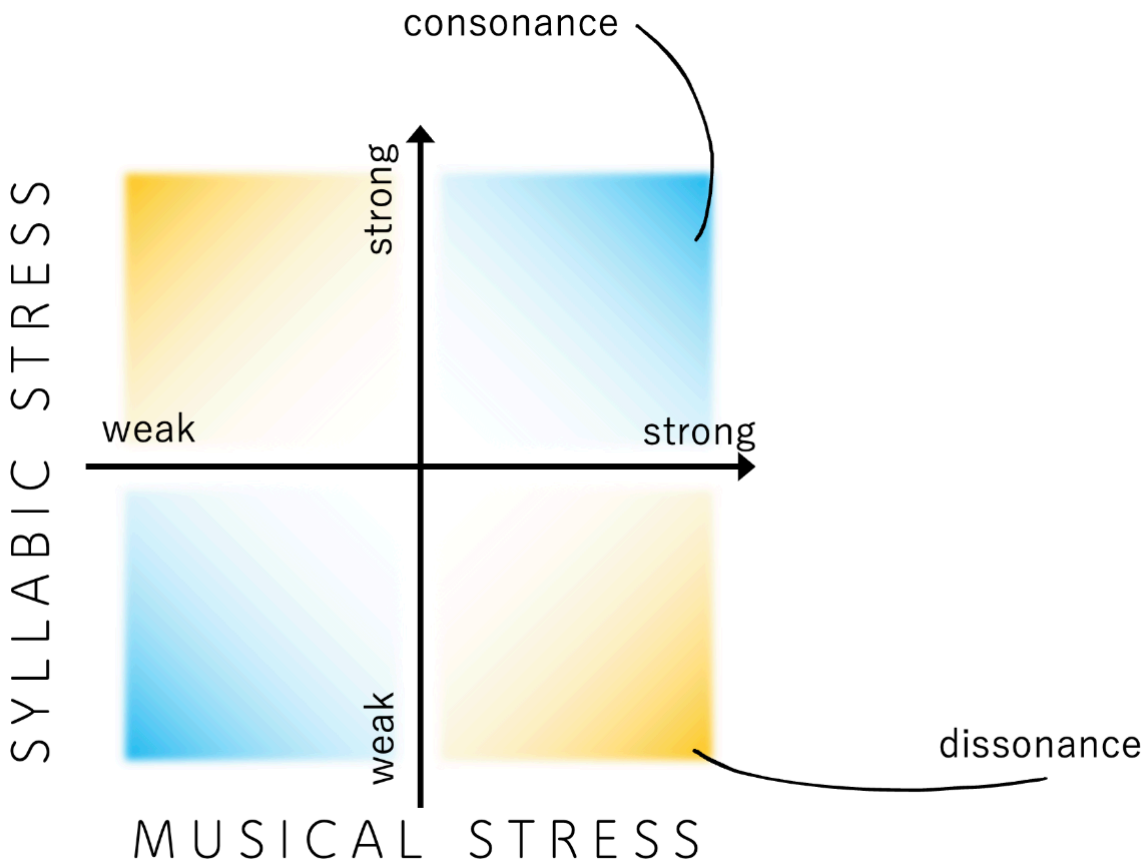
A JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR MUSIC THEORY

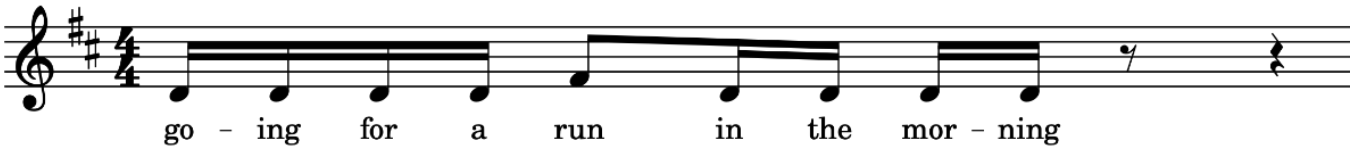
MTO 30.2 Examples: Smith, Prosodic Dissonance

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)
https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.24.30.2/mto.24.30.2.smith.html

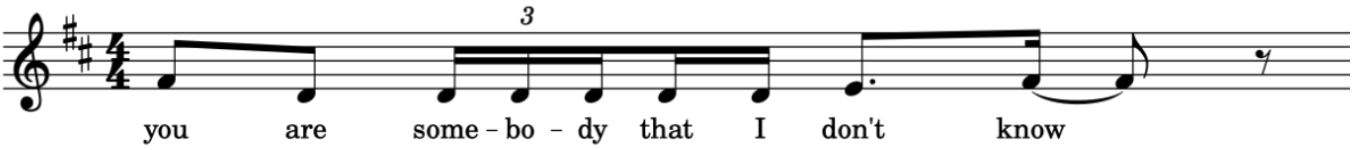
Example 1. A visualization of stress discrepancy and prosodic dissonance



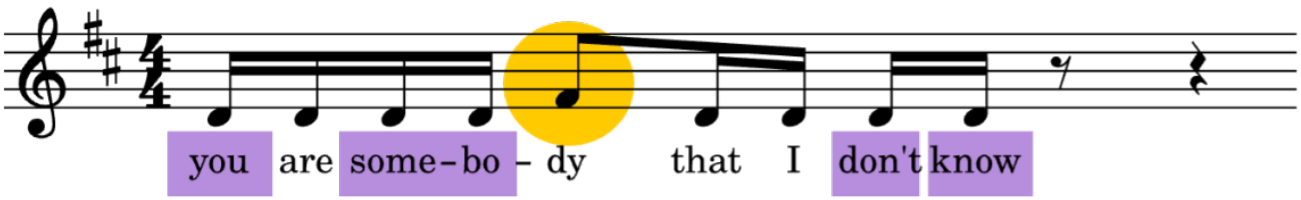
Example 2. A proposed consonant set of lyrics for Taylor Swift's melody (for "You Need to Calm Down", first verse)



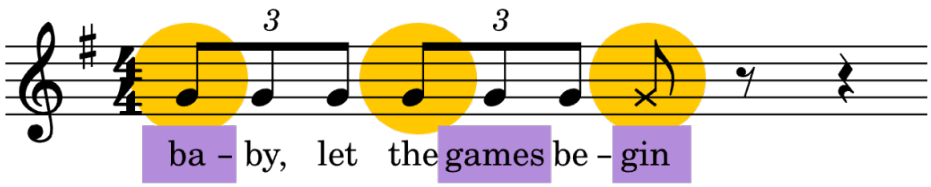
Example 3. A proposed consonant melody for Taylor Swift's text (for "You Need to Calm Down", first verse)



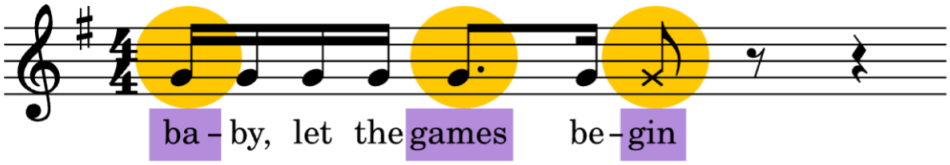
Example 4. Taylor Swift's actual text and melody (for "You Need to Calm Down", first verse (0:08))



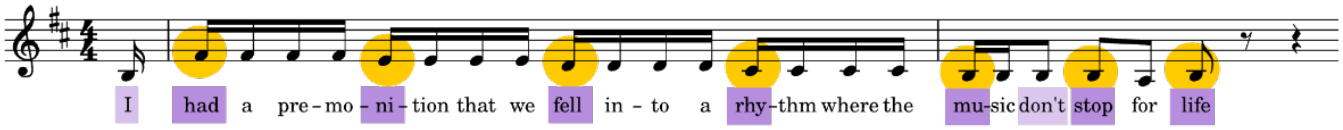
Example 5. Taylor Swift's actual text and melody for ". . .Ready For It?", bridge (2:21)



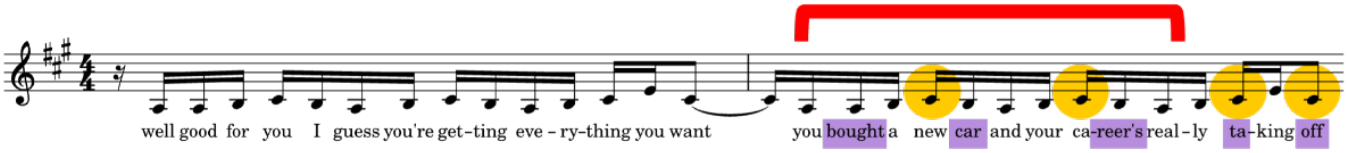
Example 6. ". . .Ready For It?" bridge excerpt, recomposed to be prosodically consonant



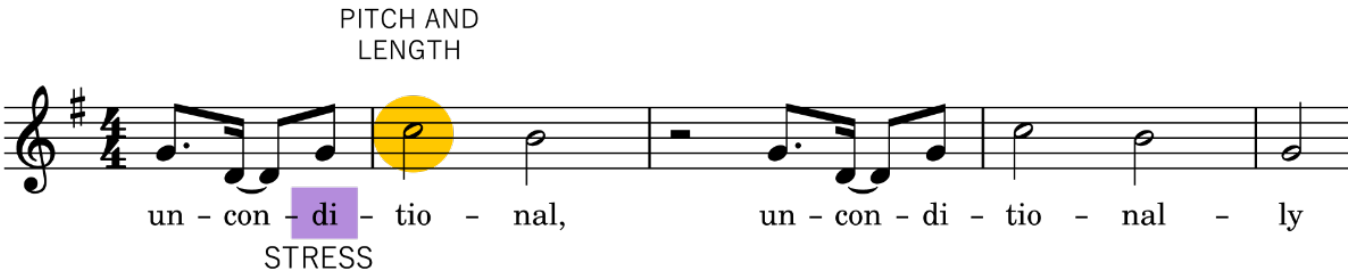
Example 7. Excerpt from Dua Lipa, "Levitating," verse (0:13)



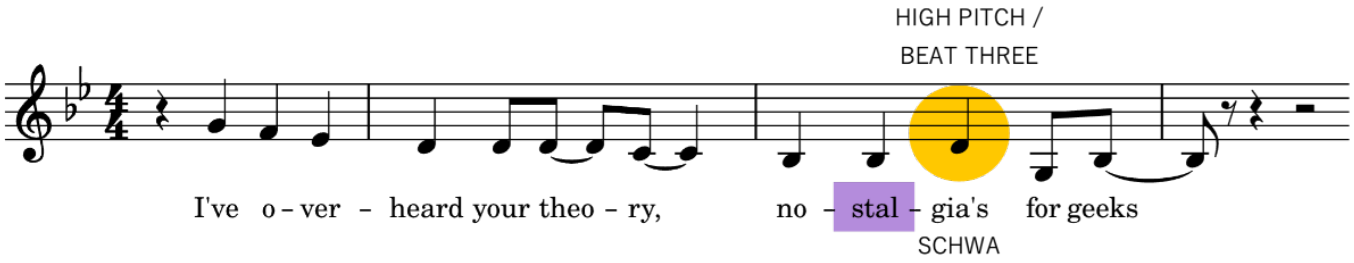
Example 8. Excerpt from Olivia Rodrigo, "good 4 u," verse (0:54)



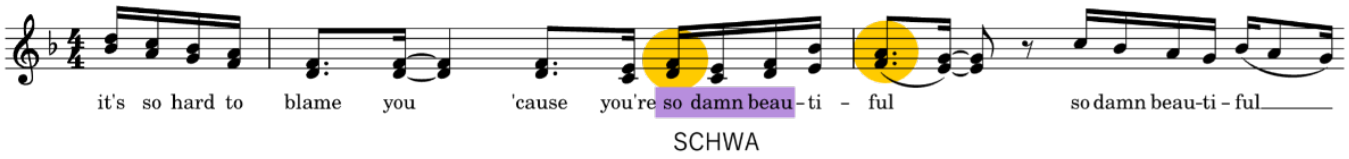
Example 9. Transcription of Katy Perry, "Unconditionally" (see Audio Example 1)



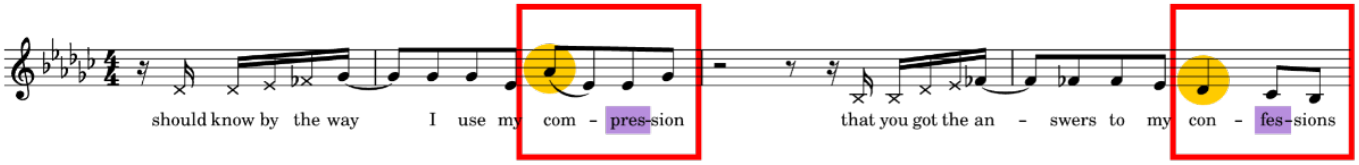
Example 10. Lady Gaga, "Applause," accented schwa in verse 2 (1:21)



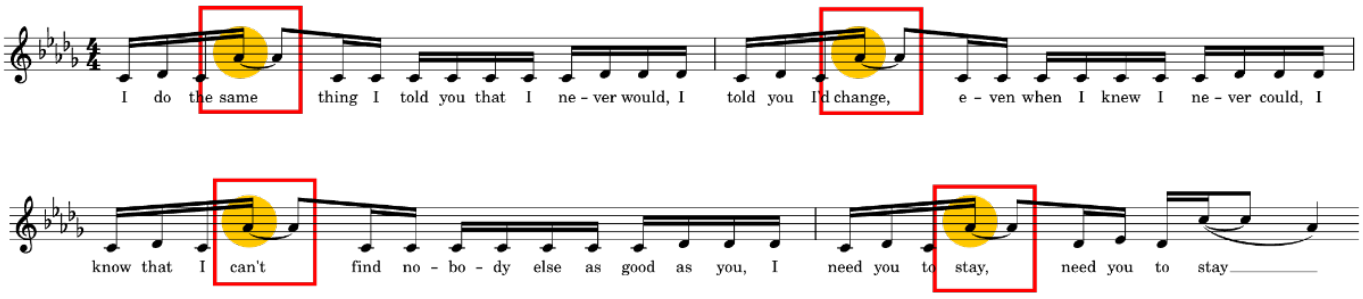
Example 11. 5 Seconds of Summer, "Easier," created schwa in prechorus (0:40)



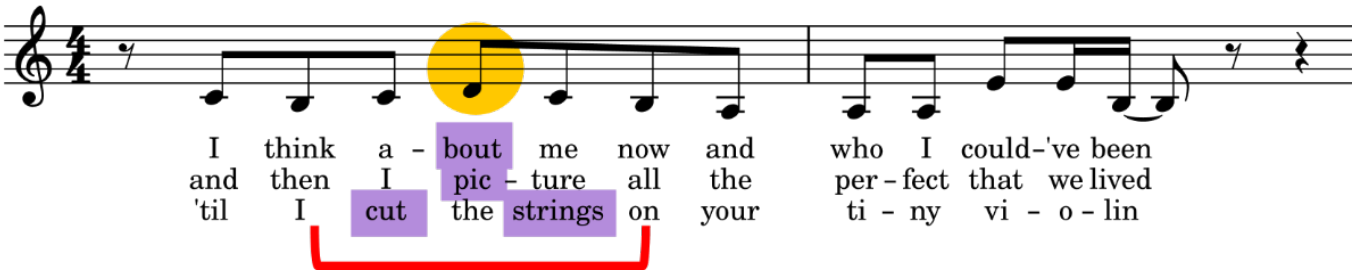
Example 12. Janelle Monáe, "Make Me Feel," rhyme creation in verse (0:29)



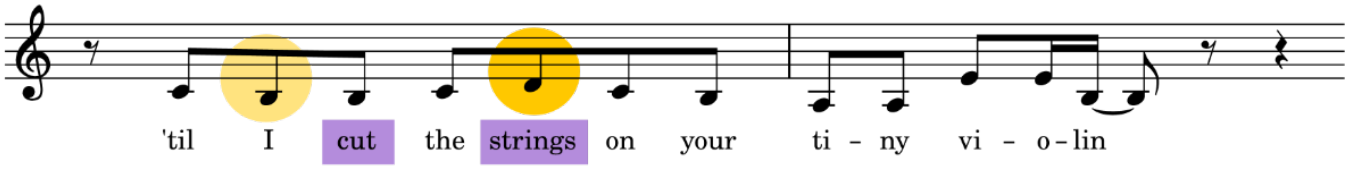
Example 13. The Kid LAROI and Justin Bieber, "Stay," internal rhymes strengthened through prosody in chorus (0:07)



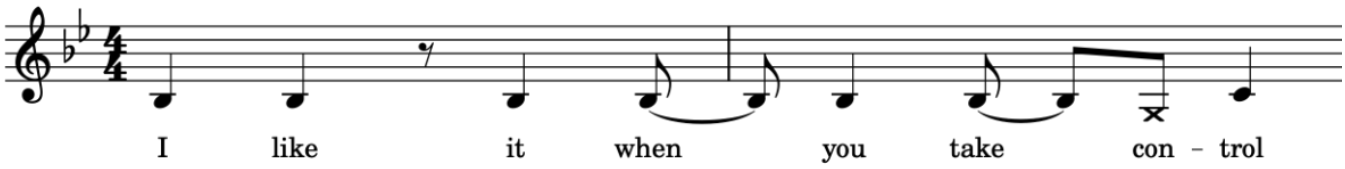
Example 14. Ava Max's original text and lyrics to "My Head and My Heart," showing parallelism effect in first verse (0:00)



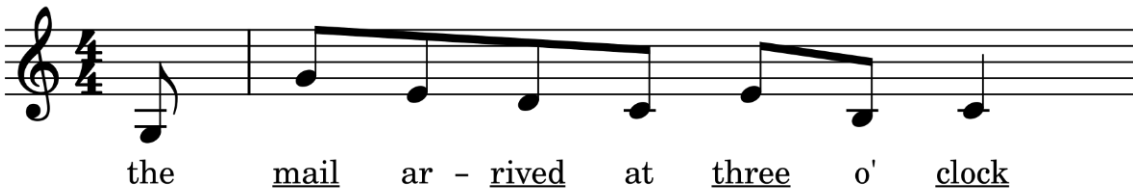
Example 15. Third line of "My Head and My Heart" recomposed to be syncopated and prosodically consonant



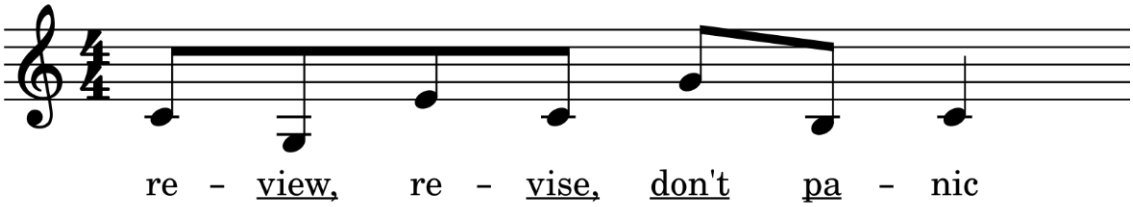
Example 16. Excerpt from Billie Eilish, "bad guy," second verse (1:13)



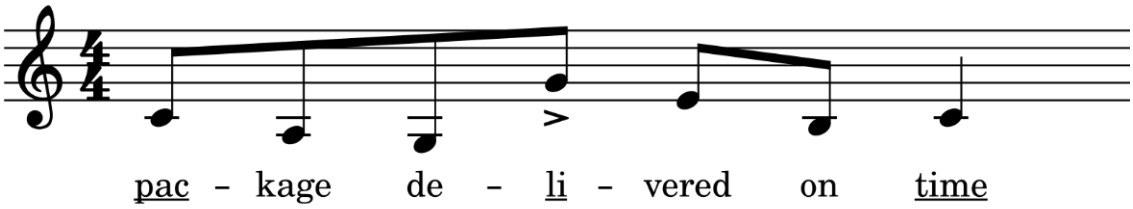
Example 17. An unsyncopated, prosodically consonant setting



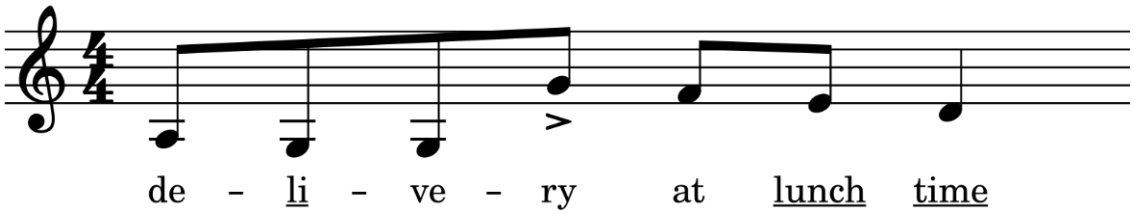
Example 18. An unsyncopated, prosodically dissonant setting



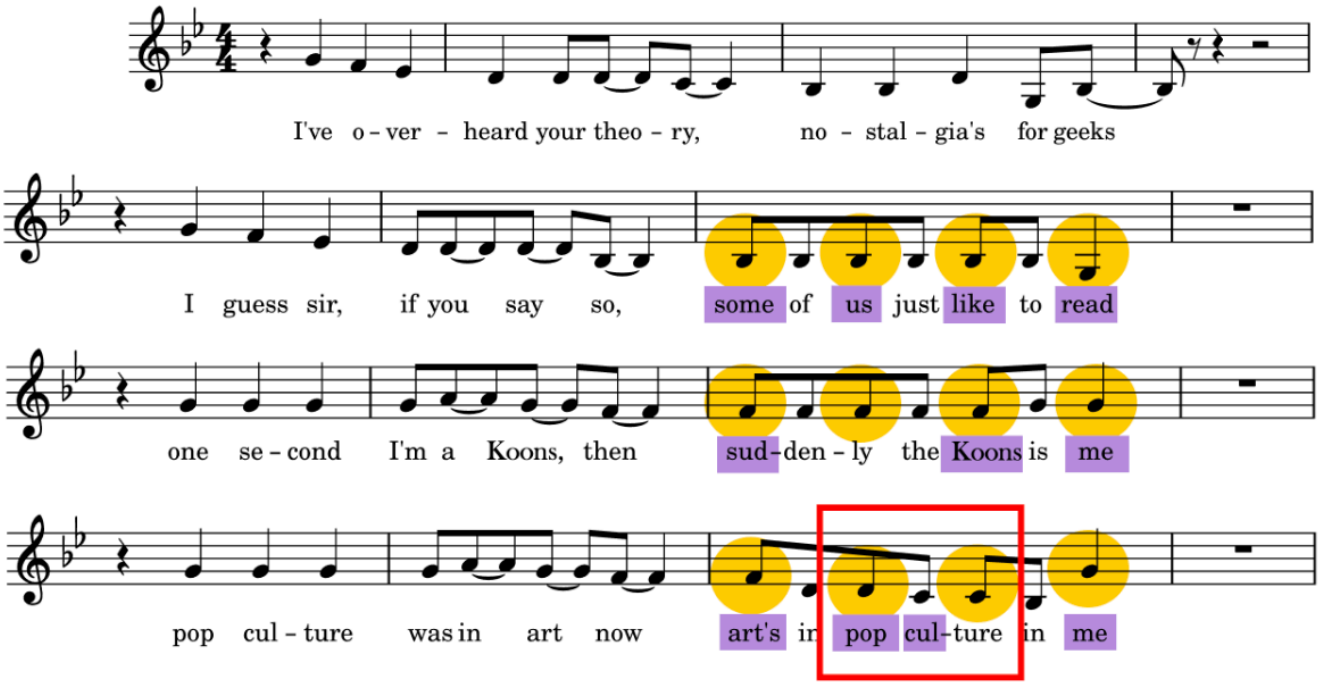
Example 19. A syncopated, prosodically consonant setting



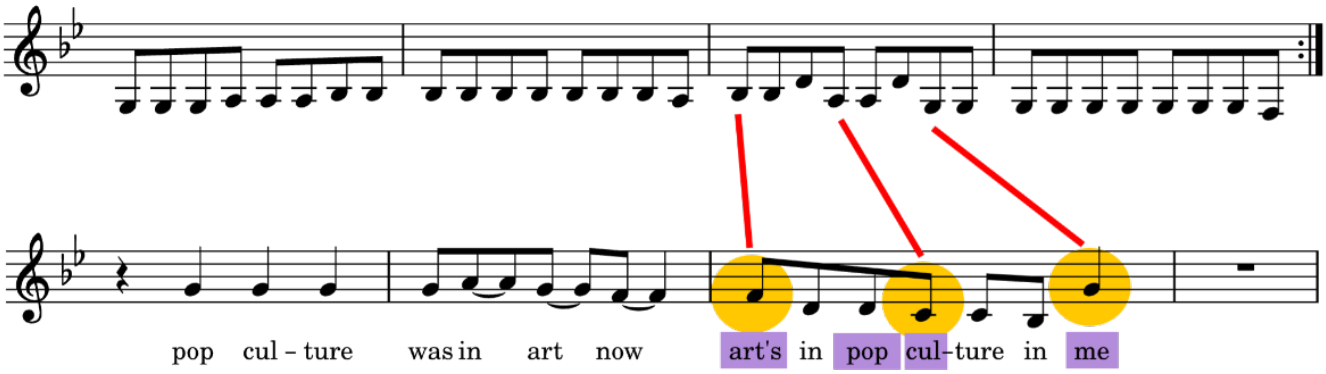
Example 20. A syncopated, prosodically dissonant setting



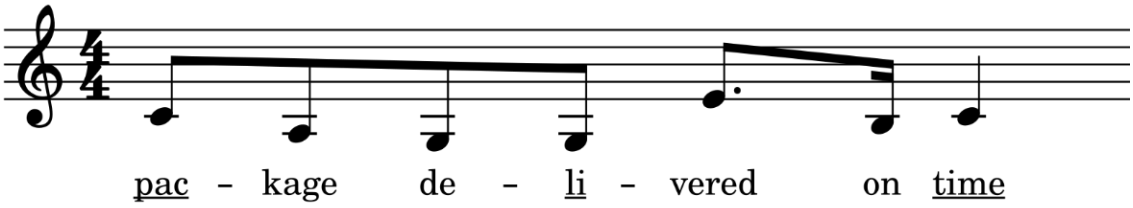
Example 21. Parallelism in the melody of Lady Gaga, "Applause" (second verse) causing prosodic dissonance (1:21)



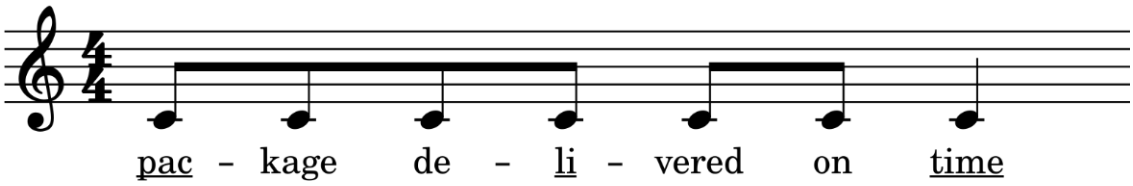
Example 22. Prosodically consonant syncopation when focusing on the background synth in "Applause"



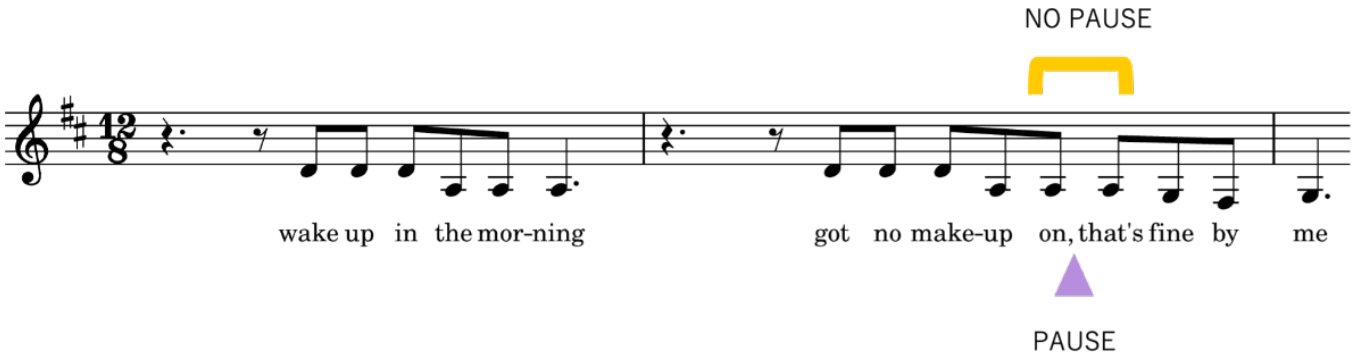
Example 23. Modification of Example 19 increasing musical emphasis on "-vered"



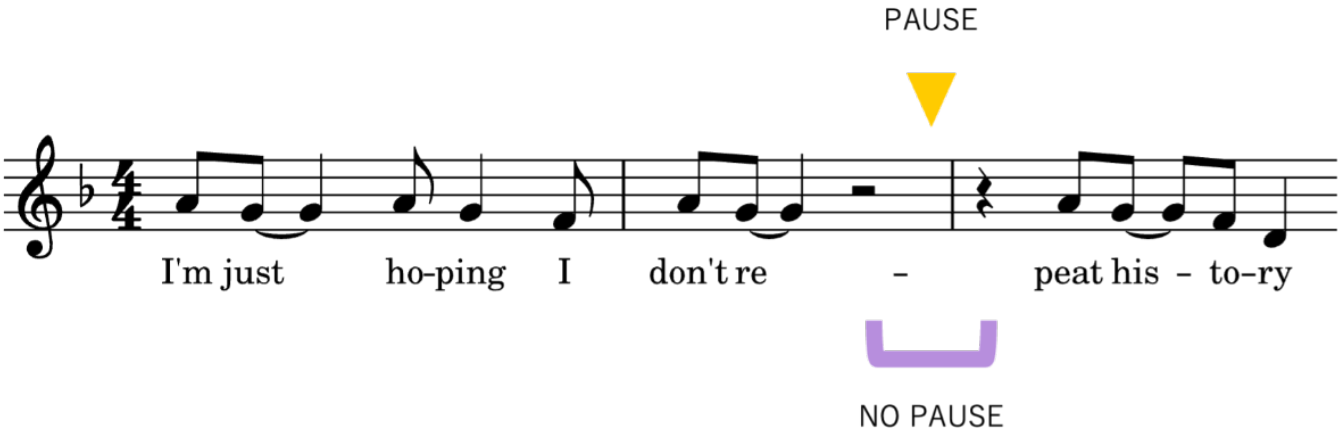
Example 24. Modification of Example 19 demonstrating default prosodic consonance



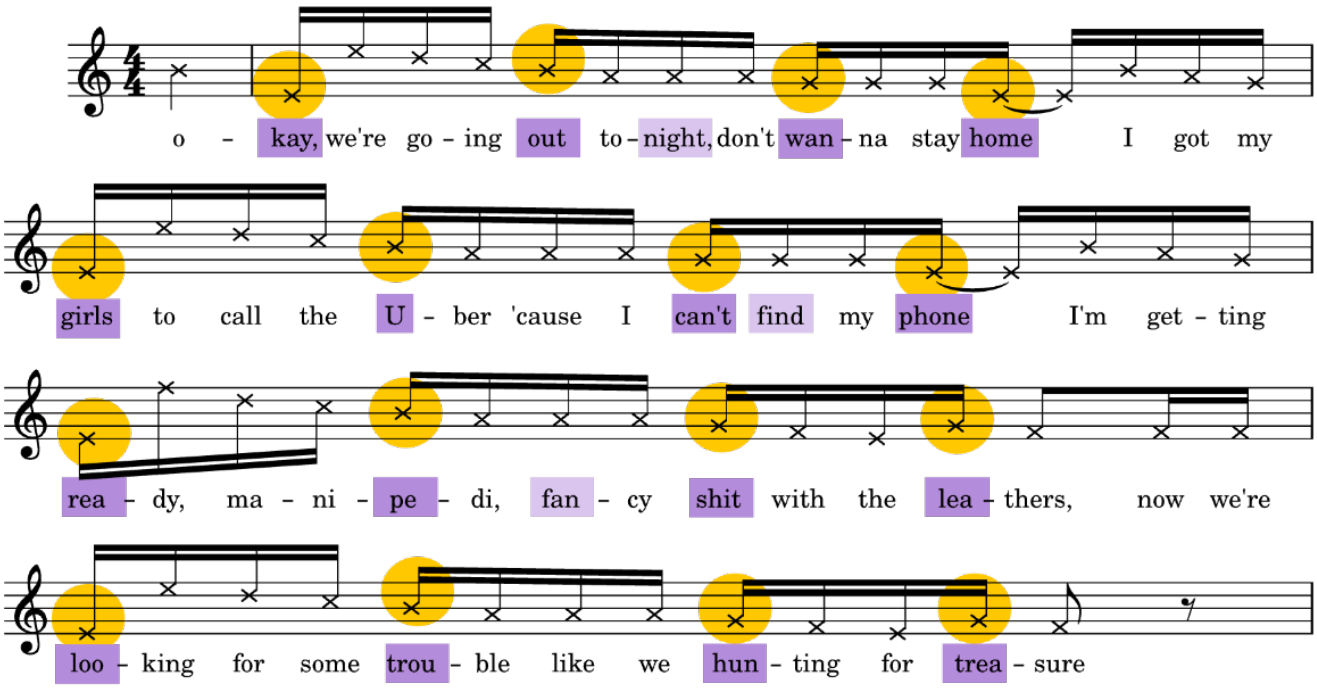
Example 25. Frankie Bird, "Paper Doll," enjambment dissonance through omission of "line break" in first verse (0:02)



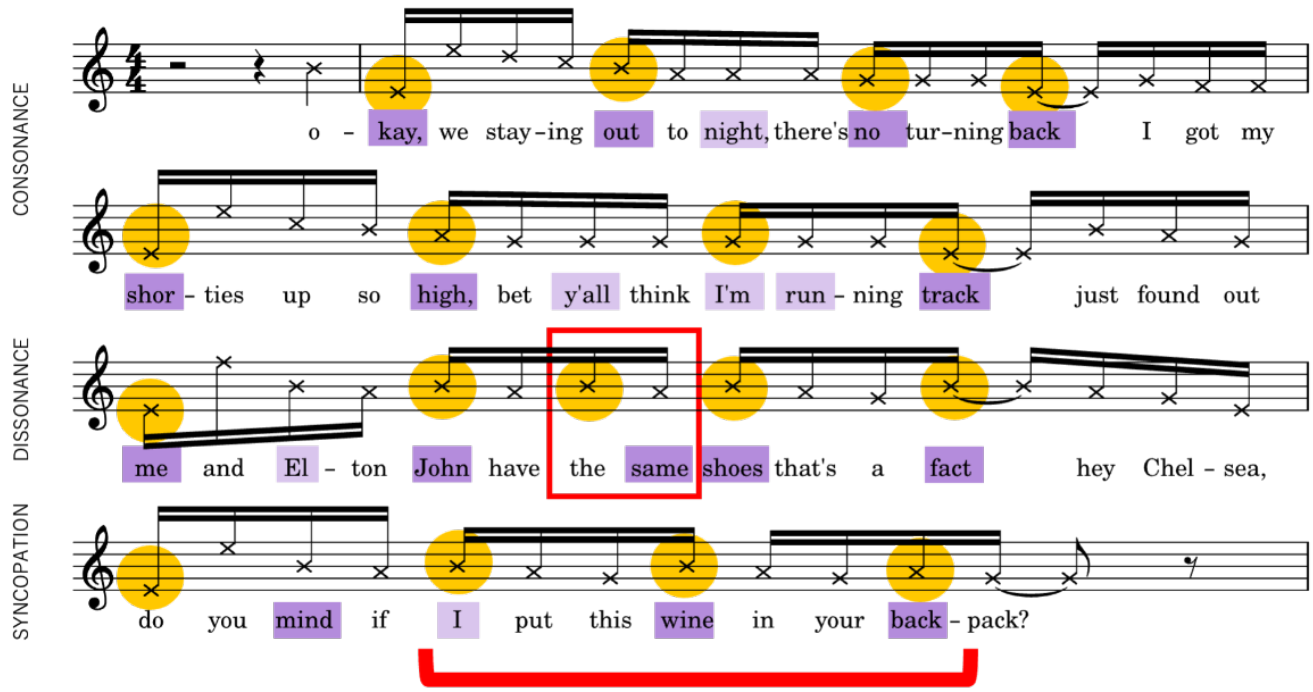
Example 26. Ariana Grande, "positions," enjambment dissonance through addition of "line break" in first verse (0:04)



Example 27. Contour and rhythm for first verse of Kesha, "Tonight" (0:48)



Example 28. Kesha, "Tonight," prosodic dissonance shifting to syncopation in second verse (1:30)



Example 29. Royal & the Serpent, "Overwhelmed," line breaks for first verse excerpt as one would expect it to be spoken (0:10)

Turn off the TV
It's starting to freak me out
It's so loud, it's like my ears are bleeding

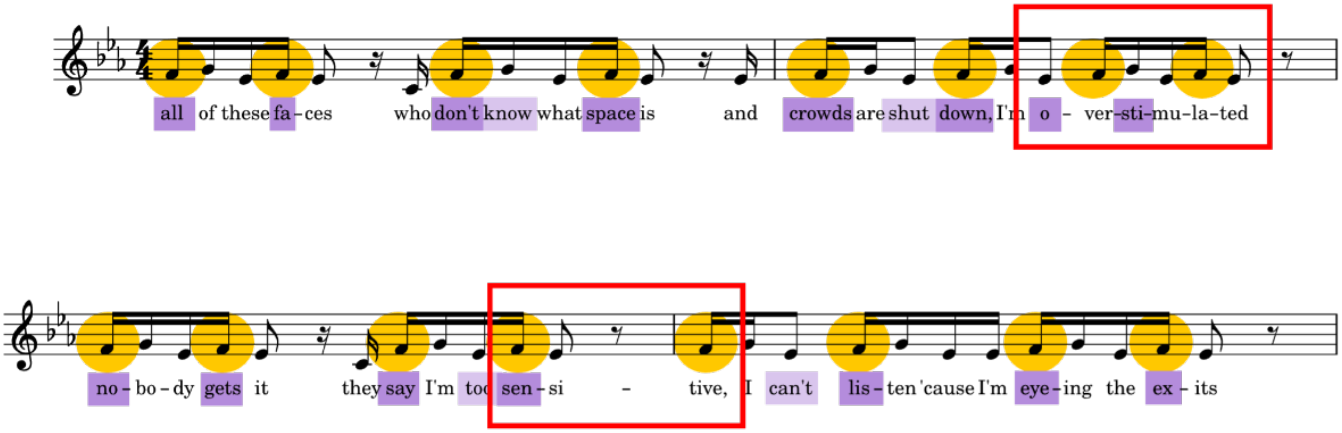
Example 30. Royal & the Serpent, "Overwhelmed," line breaks for first verse excerpt as sung

Turn off the TV
It's starting to freak me
Out(,) it's so loud, it's like my ears are bleeding

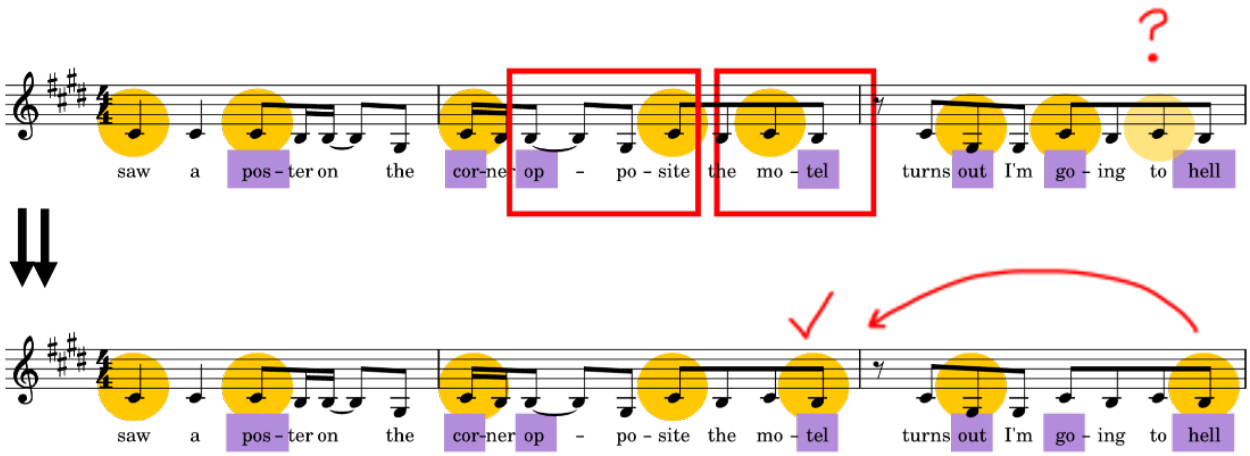
Example 31. Royal & the Serpent, "Overwhelmed," strong syllables in second half of first verse (0:16)

What *am I* ***feel****ing? Can't* ***look*** *at the* ***ceil****ing*
The ***light*** *is so,* ***bright*** *it's like, I'm over****heat****ing*

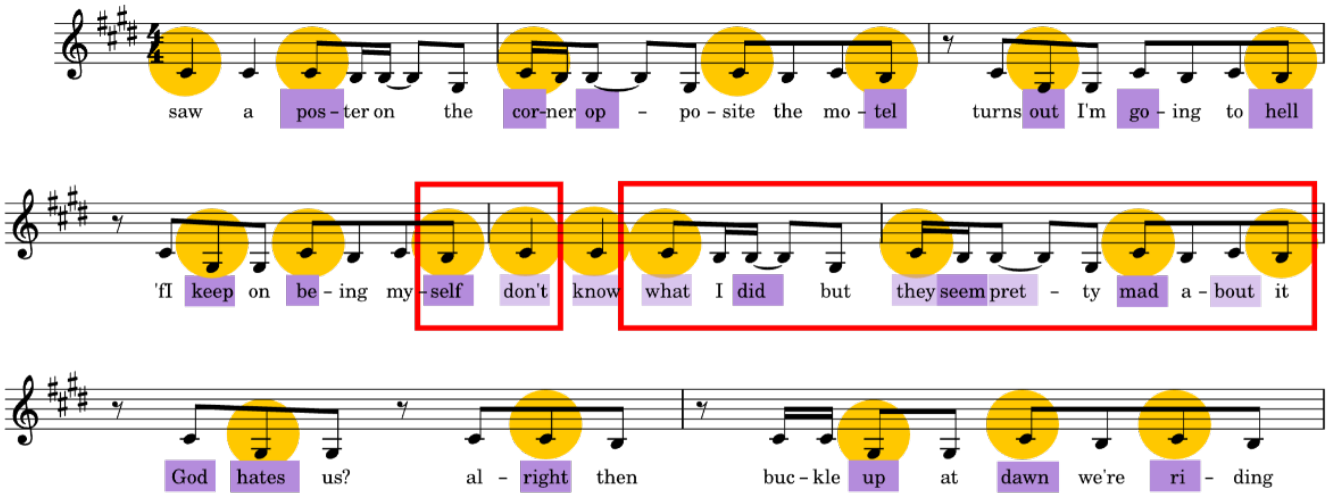
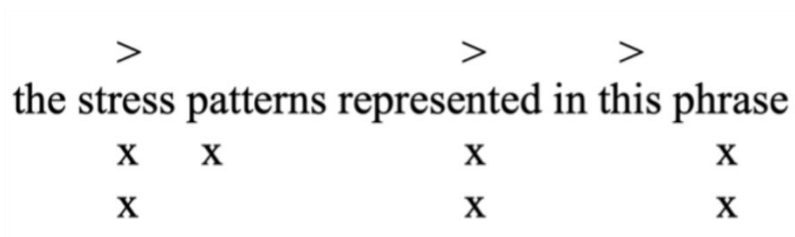
Example 32. Royal & the Serpent, "Overwhelmed," second verse (0:55)



Example 33. Rina Sawayama, "This Hell," shifting perceptions of prosody at the start of the first verse (0:20)



Example 34. Rina Sawayama, "This Hell," prosody across the whole first verse (0:20)



Example 35. One possible visualization of accent-based prosodic dissonance, with > showing sample musical stress and x showing syllable stress