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MTO 30.4 Examples: Sullivan, Performing Meter: Toward a Motive-Oriented Performance Practice for Post-Tonal Music

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

<https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.24.30.4/mto.24.30.4.sullivan.html>

Example 1. Imbroglia in the Opening of Debussy's Piano Etude No. 12 ("Pour les accords")

Décidé, rythmé, sans lourdeur

3 2 3
8 8 8

2
8

Example 2. Close Imitation in the Opening of Schoenberg's "Parodie" from *Pierrot Lunaire*

(♩ = ca 132)

Klarinette imitiert genau den Vortrag der Bratsche.

Klarinette in A.

Bratsche.

Rezitation.

grazioso

p *f* *p*

p stacc. spicc. springender Bogen

Strick - nadeln, blank un

sentimental

p dolce

sentimental

p dolce D-Saite

blin - kend, in ih - rem grau - en Haar, sitzt

The musical score is written for Clarinet in A, Viola, and Voice. The tempo is marked as (♩ = ca 132). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/8. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the Clarinet in A and Viola parts, with the voice line starting with the lyrics 'Strick - nadeln, blank un'. The second system shows the Clarinet in A and Viola parts, with the voice line starting with the lyrics 'blin - kend, in ih - rem grau - en Haar, sitzt'. The third system shows the Clarinet in A and Viola parts, with the voice line starting with the lyrics 'sentimental'. The score includes various dynamic markings such as *p* (piano), *f* (forte), and *p dolce* (piano dolce). It also includes performance instructions such as 'grazioso', 'stacc. spicc. springender Bogen', and 'sentimental'. The score is written in a style that emphasizes close imitation between the Clarinet in A and the Viola.

Example 3. Imitative Imbroglio in the Piano Interlude from Berg's "Schlafen trägt man mich," Op. 2, No. 2

Langsam (Tempo I)

pp

Schla - fend trägt man mich in mein Hei - mat - land. —

pp

8va

ein wenig bewegter (Tempo II)

p

Etc.

3
4

A tempo (II)

mf

Rit. Fer - ne komm' ich

Close Imitation **Imitative Imbroglio** Close Imitation

cresc.

mf espress.

3
4

2
4

3
4

Close Imitation **Imbroglio** Close Imitation

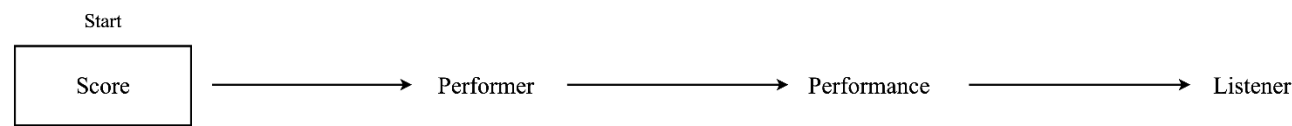
f

2
4

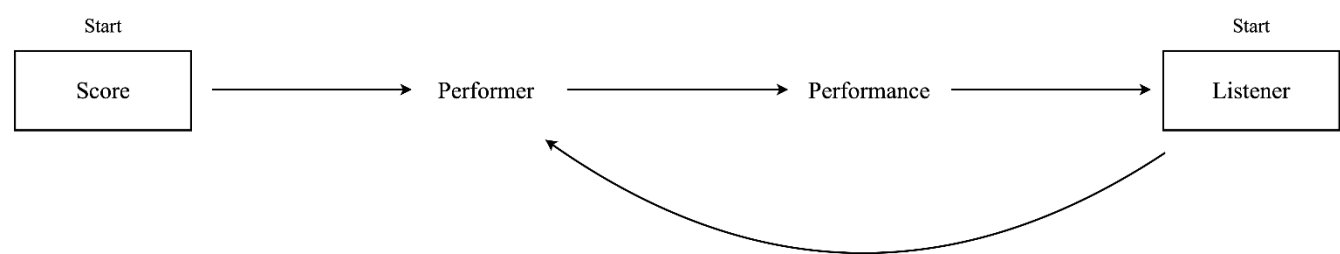
3
4

Example 4. Two Interpretations of the Performer-Listener Relationship

The Performer-Oriented View



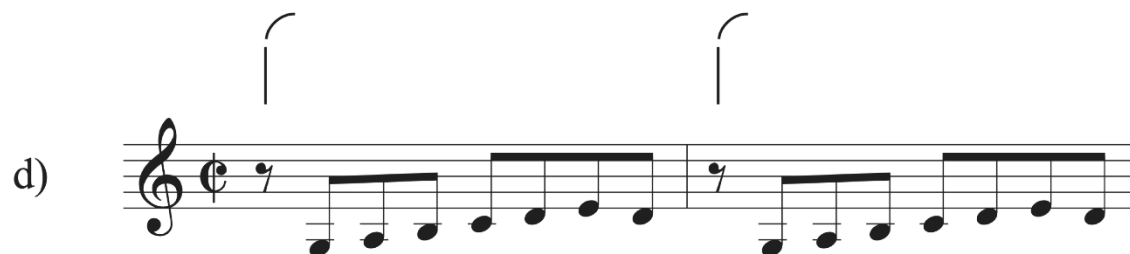
The Listener-Oriented View



Example 5. Basic Focal Impulse Notation in Beethoven's "Ghost" Trio (Ito, *Focal Impulse Theory*, Example 3.2)

A musical score for Beethoven's "Ghost" Trio, marked "Allegro vivace e con brio". The score is in 3/4 time and features two systems of staves. The first system includes a piano part (treble and bass clef) and a violin part (treble clef). The piano part begins with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic and includes staccato markings. The violin part also includes staccato markings. The second system continues the piano and violin parts. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time.

Example 6. Focal Impulse in Some Manipulations of Beethoven's Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus* (Ito, *Focal Impulse Theory*, Example 3.5)



Example 7. Suggested Focal Impulses for Debussy's Imbroglia (Example 1), Schoenberg's Close Imitation (Example 2), and Berg's Imitative Imbroglia (Example 3)

Focal Impulses for Debussy's Imbroglia

Décidé, rythmé, sans lourdeur

The score consists of two systems of piano and harp parts. The first system has a piano part with dynamics *f*, *mf*, and *f*, and a harp part with dynamics *p* and *f*. The second system has a piano part with a *dim.* marking and a harp part with dynamics *p* and *f*. The tempo/style is indicated as "Décidé, rythmé, sans lourdeur".

Focal Impulses for Schoenberg's Close Imitation

(♩ = ca 132)

Klarinette in A. Klarinette imitiert genau den Vortrag der Bratsche.

Bratsche. *grazioso* *p* *f* *p* max. spicc. springender Hagen

Rezitation. Strick - nadeln, blank un -

kl. (A) *scenarawal* *p dolce*

Br. *scenarawal* *p dolce* D-Bass

blin - kend, in ih - rem grau - en Haar, sitzt.

The score features three parts: Clarinet in A, Violin, and Recitation. The Clarinet part has a tempo marking "(♩ = ca 132)" and a description "Klarinette imitiert genau den Vortrag der Bratsche." The Violin part has a tempo marking "grazioso" and dynamics *p*, *f*, and *p* max. spicc. springender Hagen. The Recitation part has lyrics "Strick - nadeln, blank un -". The Clarinet and Violin parts have a tempo marking "scenarawal" and a dynamic marking *p dolce*. The Violin part also has a dynamic marking *p dolce* and a tempo marking "D-Bass". The Recitation part has lyrics "blin - kend, in ih - rem grau - en Haar, sitzt."

Focal Impulses for Berg's Imitative Imbroglia

Langsam (Tempo I)

pp Schla - fend träge man mich in mein Hei - mat - land.

pp *ein wenig bewegter (Tempo II)*

mf *Rit.* Fer - ne komm' ich

The score consists of two systems of piano and harp parts. The first system has a piano part with dynamics *pp* and *pp*, and a harp part with dynamics *pp* and *p*. The second system has a piano part with dynamics *mf* and *Rit.*, and a harp part with dynamics *mf* and *mf*. The tempo/style is indicated as "Langsam (Tempo I)" and "ein wenig bewegter (Tempo II)".

Example 8. Primary/Secondary and Downward/Upward Inflected Focal Impulses for Schoenberg's Close Imitation

Primary/Secondary Focal Impulses

(♩ - ca 132)

Klarinette imitiert genau den Vortrag der Bratsche.

grazioso *p* *f* *p* *more spicc.* springender Bogen

Strick - na deln, blank un_

Kl. (A)

Br.

sentimental *p dolce*

sentimental *p dolce* D-Saite

blin - kend, in ih - rem grau - - en Haar, sitz_

Downward/Upward Inflected Focal Impulses

(♩ - ca 132)

Klarinette imitiert genau den Vortrag der Bratsche.

grazioso *p* *f* *p* *more spicc.* springender Bogen

Strick - na deln, blank un_

Kl. (A)

Br.

sentimental *p dolce*

sentimental *p dolce* D-Saite

blin - kend, in ih - rem grau - - en Haar, sitz_

Example 9. Syncopated Fugue Subject from the B Section of Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphosis*, Second Movement

Audio from a 2018 release of a 1947 recording featuring George Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra

Example 10. Three Motive-Based Focal Impulse Profiles for the Timpani Solo from Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphosis*, Second Movement, B Section's Fugal Development

The image displays a musical score for a timpani solo in 2/2 time, featuring three focal impulse profiles. The score is written on a single staff with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is divided into two systems by a double bar line. Above the staff, three sets of focal impulse profiles are indicated by vertical strokes with flags. The first system shows three profiles: 'Option 2b' (a sequence of six impulses), 'Option 2a' (a sequence of six impulses), and 'Option 1' (a sequence of six impulses, with a dashed line indicating a continuation or variation). The second system shows a sequence of eight impulses, with a dashed line indicating a continuation or variation. The music itself consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, with rests and a final double bar line. The focal impulse profiles are positioned above the staff, with arrows pointing to specific notes or rests, indicating their relationship to the musical material.

Example 11. Opening Kyrie Section from Stravinsky's Mass, Movement 1

$\text{♩} = 66$ *p* tranquillo

DISCANTI

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i son.

ALTI

TENORI

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

BASSI

p tranquillo

S.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Chri__

A.

T.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

B.

e - - lei - son.

Example 12. A Textual-Motive Interpretation of Focal Impulse for Rehearsals 6 and 7 from Stravinsky's Mass, Kyrie Movement

6

D. *Soprano*

A. *Alto*

T. *Tenor*

B. *Bass*

Ky-ri-e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri-

[illegible]

Ky-ri-e / Ky-ri-e / etc.

Example 13. A Motive-Based Focal Impulse Profile for the Opening of Penderecki's Capriccio for Solo Tuba

Scherzo alla Polacca

mf

The image displays a musical score for Solo Tuba, titled "Scherzo alla Polacca". The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte). The music is characterized by a series of motifs, some of which are enclosed in rectangular boxes. Vertical lines with downward-pointing stems are placed above the notes, indicating focal impulses. The first staff contains a boxed motif of two eighth notes (B-flat and A) followed by a quarter note (G). The second staff contains a boxed motif of a quarter note (B-flat) followed by a quarter rest, and another boxed motif of a quarter note (B-flat) followed by a quarter rest. The third staff contains a boxed motif of a quarter note (B-flat) followed by a quarter rest, and another boxed motif of a quarter note (B-flat) followed by a quarter rest. The score is a transcription of the opening of Penderecki's Capriccio for Solo Tuba.

Example 14. Motivic and Metric Ambiguities in the Opening of the Prelude from Schoenberg's Piano Suite, Op. 25

Option 1:

Option 2:

Rasch

Transpositional Parallelism

Rhythmic Parallelism

Contour Parallelism

Option 1: W W S W

Option 2: W S W S

Option 3: S W S W

Example 15. Motivic and Metric Ambiguities in the Opening of Barber's "Sleep Now"

Andante tranquillo ♩ = 40 - 46
p *tenderly*

Sleep now, O sleep now, O you un-qui - et

p

f#: con pedale ii°6/5 i

4 heart! A voice cry - ing "Sleep now" Is

VI V(6/4 —————) V ii°6/5 i

7 heard in my heart.

mf *pp*

ii v I

Example 16. Focal Impulse Choices and Their Implications in the Opening of Barber's "Sleep Now"

Option 1: *p* tenderly

Sleep now, O sleep now, O

p

con pedale

Option 2: *p* tenderly

Sleep now, O sleep now, O

p

con pedale

Option 1: *p* tenderly

Sleep now, O sleep now, O

Option 2: *p* tenderly

Sleep now, O sleep now, O

p

con pedale

p

con pedale

Example 17. Passages of Imbroglia in Three 20th-Century Treatises

Riemann, *System der Musikalischen Rhythmik und Metrik* (1903) — “Contradiction between Motive Length and Measure”

r) Chopin, Walzer, Op. 34 III.

a) Beethoven, Sonate, Op. 31 I.

Schenker, *Der freie Satz* (1935) — “Ametric Rhythmic Situations: Hemiola”

J.S. Bach, English Suite in D Minor, Sarabande, mm. 20 ff.

Creston, *Principles of Rhythm* (1964) — “Regular Subdivision Overlapping”

b. Valse Brillante, Op. 34 No. 3 — Chopin

h. Etude No. 12 from 12 Etudes pour piano — Debussy