MTO 31.1 Examples: Zhang, Theoretical/Theological Revelations

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)
https://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.25.31.1/mto.25.31.1.zhang.html

Example 1. Summary of the structure of G.E.M., *Revelation*, with original Chinese titles in simplified Chinese, official English titles in parentheses, and translations of Chinese titles in square brackets for cases in which the official English titles do not sufficiently capture the Chinese title's meaning

Part I 致天堂的信 (Letters to Heaven)	Part II 天堂的回信 (Letters [Replies] from Heaven)
少年与海 ("Young Man & Sea") **B♭ / Gm**	"Gloria" **E**
"Hell" **G / Em → A / F♯m**	老人与海 ("Old Man & Sea") **Cm ↔ E♭**
只有我和你的地方 [a place with just me and you] ("Me and You") **C / Am**	"Find You" **F**
你不是第一个离开的人 [you're not the first to leave] ("Man who Laughs") **B♭ / Gm**	离心力 [centrifugal/separation-heart force] ("F=mw^{2}r") **E / C♯m**
不想回家 [don't want to go home] ("Solitude") **B**	让世界暂停一分钟 [let the world pause for a minute] ("One Minute") **A♭**
冰河时代 ("Ice Age") **B♭ / Gm**	夜的尽头 ("The End of Night") **A**
受难曲 [song of suffering] ("Passion") **Dm**	天空没有极限 [the sky has no limit] ("The Sky") **B**

Example 2. Poetic structure from "F=mw²r," demonstrating the effect of a couplet within a couplet

Complete line paired as a couplet

Phrases separated by caesura

nǐ   yí   gè   xiào   néng zhuā zhù   wǒ

你一个笑 能抓住我

Your one smile | can capture me

què   yì   bēn   pǎo   jiù wàng le   wǒ

却一奔跑 就忘了我

But once you run | you forget me

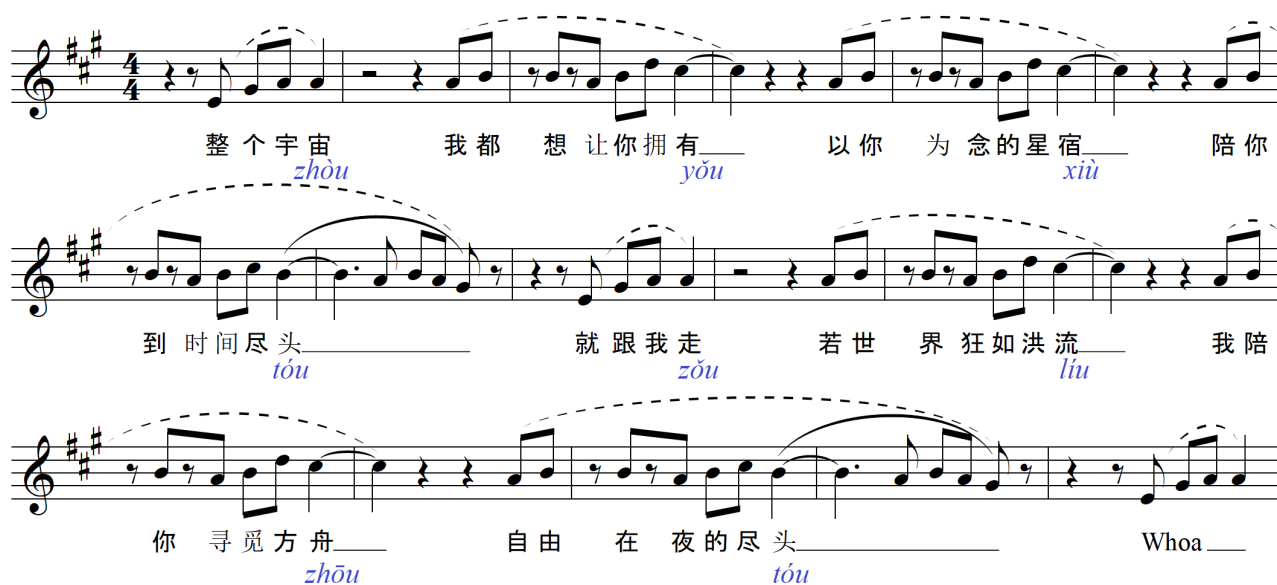**Example 3.** Rhyme pattern and melodic construction in "The End of Night," verse and chorus

Verse

我 的 秘 密   想 对 你 说   我 的 泪 滴   想 让 你___ 触___ 摸___
mi   *shuō*   *dī*   *m(u)ō*

Chorus

整 个 宇 宙   我 都   想 让 你拥 有___   以 你   为 念的星宿___   陪 你
zhòu   *yǒu*   *xiù*

到 时间尽头___   就 跟 我 走   若 世 界 狂 如 洪 流___   我 陪
tóu   *zǒu*   *líu*

你 寻 觅 方 舟___   自 由 在 夜 的 尽 头___   Whoa___
zhōu   *tóu*

Example 4. Lyrics and English translation of "Young Man & Sea," with bolded characters indicating rhymes

Original Chinese	English Translation
曾 奋身的**爱**	Once | love that [I] fought hard for,
为何后**来** 只剩下残**骸?**	Why is it ultimately | left in ruins?
曾 满怀期**待**	Once | [my] heart full of expectation,
为何后**来** 满身的伤**害?**	Why is it ultimately | full of harm?
那 残酷的**海**	Then | the harsh seas,
是否后**来** 已把我打**败?**	Has it in the end | already defeated me?
我 为何醒**来?**	I | wake for what?
我**该** 如何存**在?**	I should | exist how?
Rhyming vowel (bolded) throughout: ai	

Example 5. Formal outline of "Young Man & Sea"

Time	Section	
0:00	Introduction	Distorted vocal fragments with one iteration of harmonic riff
0:18	Verse	Lead melody (once through) over harmonic riff
0:50	Instrumental 1	Accumulation of instrumental texture with vocal murmurs
1:36	Instrumental 2	Sudden drop in instrumental density, rebuild
2:06	Fragmented Verse	Full iteration of melody alternating between vocals and strings
2:37	Climactic Verse	Climactic lead melody (once through)
3:08	Outro	Instruments fade out

Example 6. Transcription of main melody from "Young Man & Sea"

Example 7. Transcription of fragmented melody from "Young Man & Sea," 2:06–2:37

Vocals audible   Vocals hardly audible   Vocals replaced

曾　奮身的　爱　（为何后　来）

曾　满怀期　待　（为何后　来）

Strings

Example 8. Comparison of lyrics in "Young Man & Sea" and "Old Man & Sea"

Young Man & Sea	Old Man & Sea (Chorus)
曾 **奋身的爱**	我还会 **奋身地爱**
[once	love that [I] fought hard for]	[I will still	fight hard for love]
为何后来 **只剩下残骸**	尽管可能 **只剩残骸**
[why is it ultimately	left in ruins?]	[even if	it can be left in ruins]
曾 **满怀期待**	我还会 **满怀期待**
[once	[my] heart full of expectation]	[I will still	fill myself with expectation]
为何后来 **满身的伤害**	尽管可能 会**满身伤害**
[why is it ultimately	full of harm?]	[even if	it can fill me with harm]
那 **残酷的海**	再**残酷 的大海**
[then	the harsh seas]	[no matter how harsh	the seas]
是否后来 已**把我打败**	永**不可能 把我打败**
[has it in the end	already defeated me?]	[it will never	defeat me]
我 **为何醒来**	我因爱而在 **为爱醒来**
[I	wake for what?]	[I exist for love	I wake for love]
我该 如何存在	生若不爱 何等苍白
[I should	exist how?]	[if life is without love	how bleak would that be]

Example 9. Lyrics and English translation of "F=mw²r," with letters indicating rhyming characters

Original Chinese	English Translation
Verse 1	
如果让我敞开ᵃ心里独白ᵃ	If you let me open up | the soliloquy in my heart
是我的爱ᵃ总被当作尘埃ᵃ	It's my love | that's always treated like dust
跨过千个世代ᵃ等你醒来ᵃ	Across a thousand generations | waiting for you to wake up
迫不及待ᵃ但出于爱ᵃ留白ᵃ	Impatient | but out of love | waiting
Pre-chorus	
你一个笑ᵇ能抓住我ᶜ	Your one smile | can capture me
却一奔跑ᵇ就忘了我ᶜ	But once you run | you forget me
Chorus	
我把选择ᵈ放你手里ᵉ	I leave the choice | in your hands
我承受着ᵈ离心的力ᵉ	I will bear | the force that separates from the heart
让你捧着ᵈ我淌血的心ᵉ'	[I] let you hold | my bleeding heart
让你选择ᵈ珍惜或丢弃ᵉ	[I] let you choose | to cherish or to abandon
心如刀割ᵈ留在心里ᵉ	The feeling of having my heart cut | I'll leave in my heart
我拥抱着ᵈ离心的你ᵉ	I'll embrace | you who separate from the heart
也许永远ᶠ你也不会向心ᵉ'	Perhaps forever | you won't align to the heart [centripetalize]
我也情愿ᶠ继续地爱你 爱你ᵉ	I will promise | to continue loving you (loving you)
Verse 2	
在你坠落以前ᶠ我已看见ᶠ	Before you fell down | I could see
你心里面ᶠ黑暗幽冷的面ᶠ	Into your heart | and its dark and secluded visages
我却也都听见ᶠ无人的夜ᶠ'	I could also hear | all the nights without anyone present
你泪流满面ᶠ你在默念ᶠ抱歉ᶠ	Your face full of tears | as you meditated and apologized
Pre-chorus	
你呼叫ᵇ我就出现ᶠ	If you call | I will appear
你却要ᵇ独自入眠ᶠ	But you want | to fall asleep by yourself
Chorus	
我把选择ᵈ放你手里ᵉ	I leave the choice | in your hands
我承受着ᵈ离心的力ᵉ	I will bear | the force that separates from the heart
让你捧着ᵈ我淌血的心ᵉ'	[I] let you hold | my bleeding heart
让你选择ᵈ珍惜或丢弃ᵉ	[I] let you choose | to cherish or to abandon
心如刀割ᵈ留在心里ᵉ	The feeling of having my heart cut | I'll leave in my heart
我拥抱着ᵈ离心的你ᵉ	I'll embrace | you who separate from the heart
也许永远ᶠ你也不会向心ᵉ'	Perhaps forever | you won't align to the heart [centripetalize]
我也情愿ᶠ继续地爱你 爱你ᵉ	I will promise | to continue loving you (loving you)
(Final) Chorus	
我把自由ᵍ放你手里ᵉ	I leave the freedom | in your hands
让我承受ᵍ离心的力ᵉ	Let me bear | the force that separates from the heart
为你守候ᵍ在世界尽头ᵍ	Protecting you | until the end of the world
不管最后ᵍ你是否抬头ᵍ	Not worrying if in the end | you raise your head
心如刀割ᵈ留在心里ᵉ	The feeling of having my heart cut | I'll leave in my heart
我拥抱着ᵈ离心的你ᵉ	I'll embrace | you who separate from the heart
也许永远ᶠ你也不会相信ᵉ'	Perhaps forever | you won't believe
我也情愿ᶠ继续地爱你 爱你ᵉ	I will promise | to continue loving you (loving you)
Table of rhyme sounds in the song, transliterated using Pinyin syllables: a) -ai b) -ao c) -(u)o d) -e e) -i f) -ian g) -ou	

Table of rhyme sounds in the song, transliterated using Pinyin syllables:
a) -ai
b) -ao
c) -(u)o
d) -e
e) -i
f) -ian
g) -ou

Example 10. Formal outline of "F=mw^{2}r"

Time	Section	Instrumentation
0:00	Introduction	Synth 1, Bass, Drums
0:13	Verse	Voice, Synth 1, Bass, Drums
0:45	Pre-chorus	Voice, Synth 1, Bass, Drums
1:01	Chorus	Voice, Synth 1, Synth 2, Bass, Drums
1:34	Synth Solo	Synth 2, Bass, Drums
1:51	Verse	Voice, Synth 1, Bass, Drums
2:22	Pre-chorus	Voice, Synth 1, Bass, Drums
2:38	Chorus	Voice, Synth 1, Synth 2, Bass, Drums
3:12	Guitar Solo	Guitar, Bass, Drums
3:43	Final Chorus	Voice, Synth 3
4:17	Final Solo	Synth 2, Bass, Drums

Example 11. Transcription of opening instrumental pattern from "F=mw^{2}r"

Example 12. Transcription of "F=mw^{2}r," 0:13–0:29

如 果　　 让 我 敞 开　　 心 里 独 白　　　　　　　 是

synth 1 simile

我 的 爱　　 总 被 当 作　　 尘 埃

Example 13. Pitch syllable diagram of verse from "F=mw²r," showing contrasting contours of melody and bass in the verse

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
A									我			被		
G#							白	是		的		当		
F#						独				爱		作		
E			我			里							尘	
D#	如	让	敞	心										埃
C#		果		开						总				
C#	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓								
B														
A							▓	▓	▓					
G#														▓
F#								▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	

Example 14. Transcription of "F=mw²r," 1:01–1:34

Lyrics (system 1):
我 把 选择＿ 放 你 手 里＿ 我 承 受 着＿ 离 心 的 力＿
心 如 刀 割＿ 留 在 心 里＿ 我 拥 抱 着＿ 离 心 的 你

synth 1 simile

Melody suggests modulation to E major

Lyrics (system 2):
＿ 让 你 捧 着＿ 我 淌 血 的 心＿ 让 你 选 择＿ 珍 惜 或 丢 弃
＿ 也 许 永 远＿ 你 他 不 会 向 心＿ 我 也 情 愿＿ 继 续 地 爱 你

Example 15. Pitch syllable diagram of chorus from G.E.M., "F=mw^{2}r," showing contrasting contours of melody and bass in the verse

B											着	…			择	…
A																
G#			择	…				着	…							
F#																
E																
D#																
C#	我	把	选			我	承	受			让	你	捧		让	你	选

(Melody contour rises from D# toward upper B/择; bass contour descends.)

C#			▓	▓	▓	▓	▓									
B																
A						▓	▓	▓	▓							
G#															▓	▓
F#										▓	▓	▓	▓	▓		
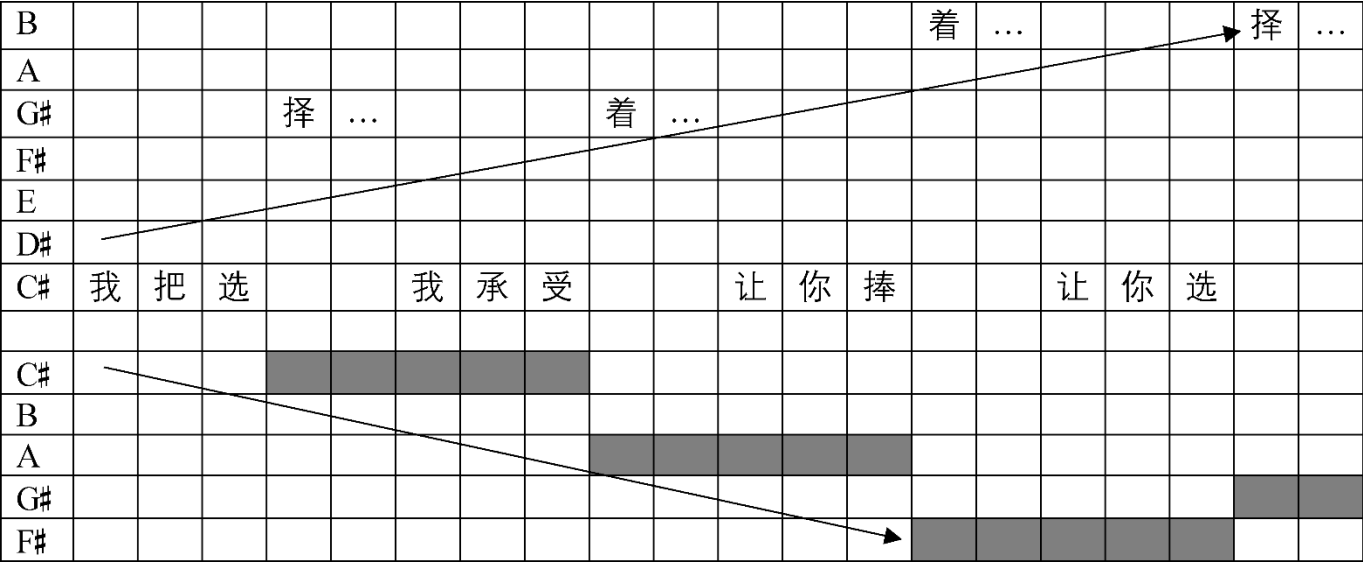
Example 16. Transcription of instrumental solo from "F=mw^{2}r," 1:34–1:51

Example 17. Transcription of instrumental solo from "F=mw²r," 3:12–3:43

我 把 自 由

Example 18. Transcription of instrumental solo from "Hell," 2:25–2:47

Example 19. Lyrics and English translation of "The End of Night," with letters indicating rhyming characters

Original Chinese	English Translation
Verse 1	
我的秘密 ᵃ 想对你说 ᵇ 我的泪滴 ᵃ 想让你触摸 ᵇ 无言以对 ᶜ 也想蹉跎 ᵇ 我的年岁 ᶜ 想为你挥霍 ᵇ	My secret | I want to tell you My tears | I want to let you touch Speechless | but I still want to waste time My age | I want to squander for you
Pre-chorus	
如果 ᵇ 你让我 ᵇ	If | you let me
Chorus	
整个宇宙 ᵈ 我都想让你拥有 ᵈ 以你为念的星宿 ᵈ' 陪你到时间尽头 ᵈ 就跟我走 ᵈ 若世界狂如洪流 ᵈ 我陪你寻觅方舟 ᵈ 自由在夜的尽头 ᵈ	The whole universe | I'll let you own With you as the star I miss | accompanying you to the end of time Come with me. | If the world is crazy as a flood I'll help you look for the ark | freedom is at the end of the night
Post-chorus	
I am the one that you've been looking for I am the one that you've been looking for	
Verse 2	
没有你 ᵃ 快乐太单薄 ᵇ 是你让快乐足够斑驳 ᵇ 没有你 ᵃ 世界像荒漠 ᵇ 你是我荒漠里的江河 ᵇ'	Without you | happiness is too thin It's you who let happiness be colorful Without you | the world is like a desert You're my desert's raging river
Pre-chorus	
如果 ᵇ 你让我 ᵇ	If | you let me
Chorus	
整个宇宙 ᵈ 我都想让你拥有 ᵈ 以你为念的星宿 ᵈ' 陪你到时间尽头 ᵈ 就跟我走 ᵈ 若世界狂如洪流 ᵈ 我陪你寻觅方舟 ᵈ 自由在夜的尽头 ᵈ 就跟我走 ᵈ 夜的尽头 ᵈ 就是自由 ᵈ 就跟我走 ᵈ 我带你走 ᵈ 夜的尽头 ᵈ 是永恒的自由 ᵈ	The whole universe | I'll let you own With you as the star I miss | accompanying you to the end of time Come with me. | If the world is crazy as a flood I'll help you look for the ark | freedom is at the end of the night Come with me | the end of the night | is freedom Come with me | I'll take you along | the end of the night | is everlasting freedom
Post-chorus ⇒ Bridge	
I am the one that you've been looking for I am the one that you've been looking for I am the one that you've been looking for The way, the truth, the life that you've been looking for	
Chorus/Terminal Climax	
若世界狂如洪流 ᵈ 我陪你寻觅方舟 ᵈ 自由在夜的尽头 ᵈ 是永恒的自由 ᵈ	If the world is crazy as a flood I'll help you look for the ark Freedom is at the end of the night It is everlasting freedom

Table of rhyme sounds in the song, transliterated using Pinyin syllables:
   a)   -i
   b)   -(u)o
   c)   -ui
   d) -ou	

Example 20. Formal outline of "The End of Night"

Time	Section	Features
0:00	Introduction	Bass and guitar riff with sawtooth wave effect
0:08	Verse	Addition of vocal melody in modal register
0:36	Pre-chorus	Instruments cut out, vocals more melodic
0:43	Chorus	Instruments re-enter with belting vocals
1:13	Post-chorus hook	Bass drums with backing vocal hook in English
1:20	Verse	Same as first rotation
1:48	Pre-chorus	
1:55	Chorus	
2:25	Post-chorus hook	English backing hook accompanied by G.E.M. singing
2:55	⇒ Bridge	Bass drums only with English backing hook, extended from first post-chorus hook
3:24	Final chorus / Terminal climax	Chorus melody becomes untexted, transferred to backing vocals with declamatory new melody

Example 21. Transcription of "The End of Night" showing the initial, fully texted choruses, 0:43–1:13

Example 22. Transcription of "The End of Night" showing the final untexted version of the chorus, 3:24–4:41