

Analyzing Post-Tonal Chords

A. Putting pitch-class numbers on the music

First let's skim through the first six measures of David Lang's "Wed," which is a very pretty piece. Every time a new note enters, assign it a pitch-class number from 0 to 11. (See textbook p. 109 for reference on how the numbers work.) Be mindful that both hands are in treble clef!

For now, ignore the boxes around parts of the piece.

$\text{♩} = \text{no faster than } 68$

The musical score is in 4/4 time. The first system contains measures 1-4. The first box highlights measures 1 and 2, and the second box highlights measures 3 and 4. The second system contains measures 5-8. The piece is written for piano with both hands in treble clef.

B. Making Sets

Take the notes in the two boxes and list off their numbers in pitch-class sets. List off the numbers in order. Start with the lowest number first.

First box: (, , ,) Second box: (, , ,)

C. Interval Vectors

Let's take an inventory of all of the intervals in these chords. Consult our textbook p. 112 for instructions on how to do this. Consider each pair of notes and jot down the interval class it makes. Then talley up your results in an interval vector that lists ICs 1-6.

First chord:

(work out your intervals in this blank space)

Interval Vector: < , , , , , >

Second chord:

(work out your intervals in this blank space)

Interval Vector: < , , , , , >

D. Set Types in Prime Form

Finally, lets figure out the set classes for both of these chords. See pp. 113-115 for instructions.

First chord: [, , ,]

Second chord: [, , ,]