

Messiaen's Rhythmic Language

Ex. 1 - added values

Danse de la fureur, pour les sept trompettes

Ex. 1 consists of three staves of music. The first staff has two measures with a bracket labeled 'B' and a '+' sign above it, indicating an added value. The second staff has two measures with a bracket labeled 'A' and a '+' sign above it. The third staff has two measures with a bracket labeled 'C' and a '+' sign above it, and another measure with a bracket labeled 'A' and a '+' sign above it. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and rests.

Ex. 2a - rhythmic augmentation

Ex. 2a shows a single staff of music with the lyrics "ha ha ha ha ha ha" written below. The music is divided into six measures, each with a bracket above it labeled 'A', 'B', 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'Epouvante' respectively. The rhythm is characterized by long, sustained notes, illustrating rhythmic augmentation.

Ex. 2b

Ex. 2b shows a single staff of music with various rhythmic groupings and accidentals. The music is divided into six measures, each with a bracket below it labeled 'A', 'B', 'A', 'B', 'A', and 'B' respectively. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and rests.

Ex. 3 - non-retrogradable rhythms

Danse de la fureur, pour les sept trompettes

Ex. 3 consists of four staves of music. The first three staves show a sequence of notes with various accidentals and rests, illustrating non-retrogradable rhythms. The fourth staff shows the same sequence of notes numbered 1 through 12, with their retrograde counterparts in brackets below them: [4], [3], [2], and [6].

Ex. 4 - rhythmic (and melodic) pedals

Liturgie de cristal

cello harmonics

[melodic limb = 5 units]

[rhythmic limb = 15 units]

[harmonic limb = 29 units]

piano

[Rhythmic limb = 17 units]