

Agenda 10/3/16

Schoenberg Brahms the Progressive

clever —> recasts Brahms in Schoenberg's own light

problematic —> 3rds/6ths generic or characteristic?

His response to objections to simply double down on the argument
p. 431 "Sceptics..."

mm 8 - 10 = selects notes at will (e.g., rh piano)

tries to get 'e' motive from composite of voice and piano but leaves out lots of important notes

Schoenberg says it's in lh piano... but he has to change note order

takes no account of harmony/dissonance/voice leading in determining motivic equivalencies

e.g., b in mm. 2 - 5 is inversion of a? a has only chord tones, b is dissonant appoggiatura

unlikely that Brahms would have considered these to be inversionally equivalent

Had Brahms already emancipated dissonance?

no, but in proposing these motivic relationships Schoenberg hopes to show that Brahms was moving towards Schoenberg

— — —

Schoenberg brief analysis of Nacht motives

Motivic work:

show how Schoenberg uses motives very loosely not in Beethovenian sense

various forms of motives —> pitch sets

octave equivalency, transpositional equivalency

Kostka pp. 178 no 6/4's (how convenient)

how to determine them (best normal order)

Normal order:

1. write out notes as a scale (start on any note)
2. find largest interval btw 2 adjacent notes
3. put the top note of this pair on the bottom of the set

• in case of a tie -

4. compare all possible normal-ordered sets
5. from lowest to 2nd highest, 3rd highest, etc
6. the set that has the smallest interval between the 2nd highest, etc. is the normal order

Inversional equivalency —> Best normal order:

1. Take normal order and invert it
 1. start on same pitch and read backwards (descending)
2. compare two forms —> better of two is best normal order
 1. they will be the same unless there is a tie for largest interval

how to label them — Prime Form

first note is always 0 —> count half steps

efficiency, order, rationalized methodology in possible tension with the revolutionary quality of atonality and expressionism

however, next time I'll show why these may not be intension after all