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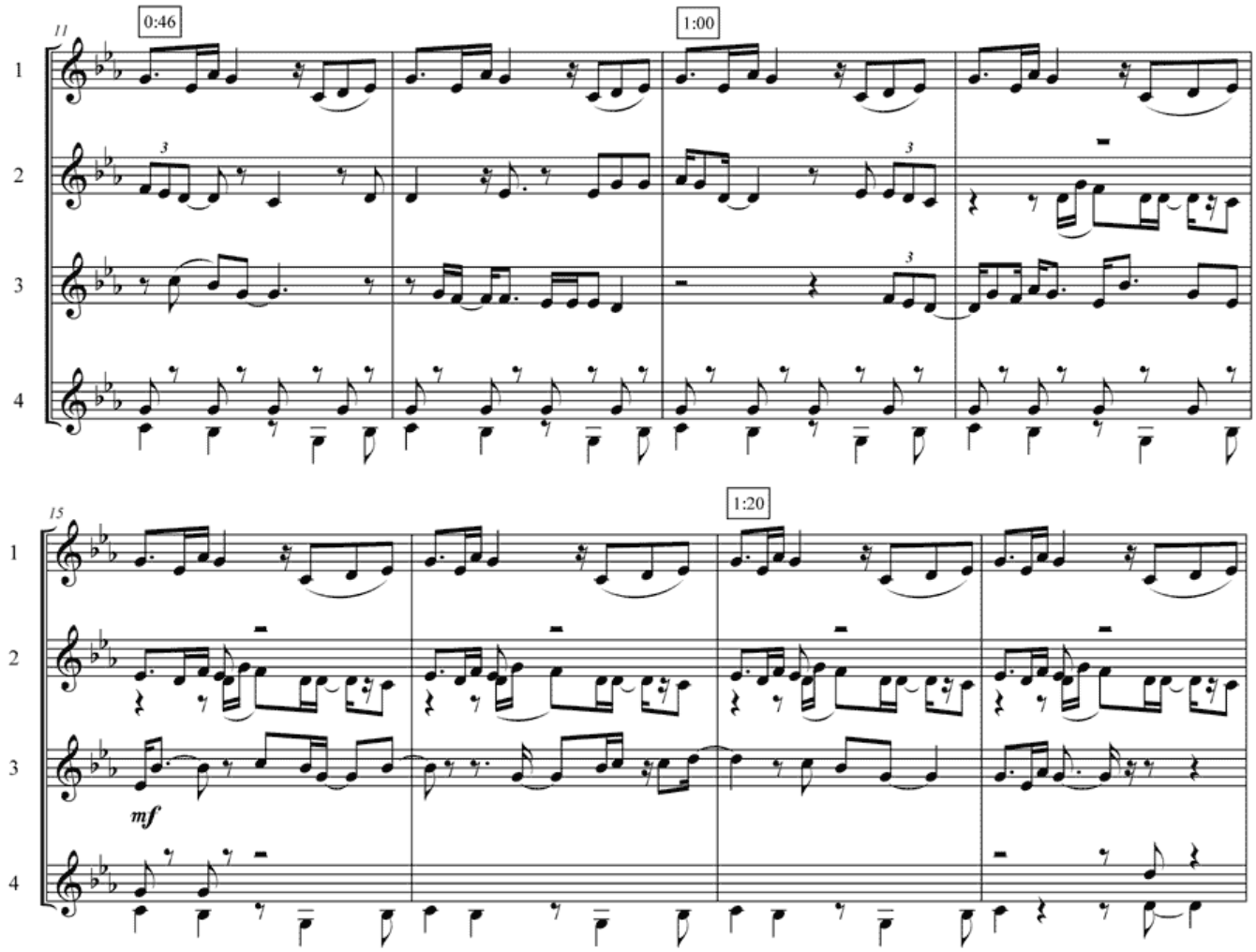
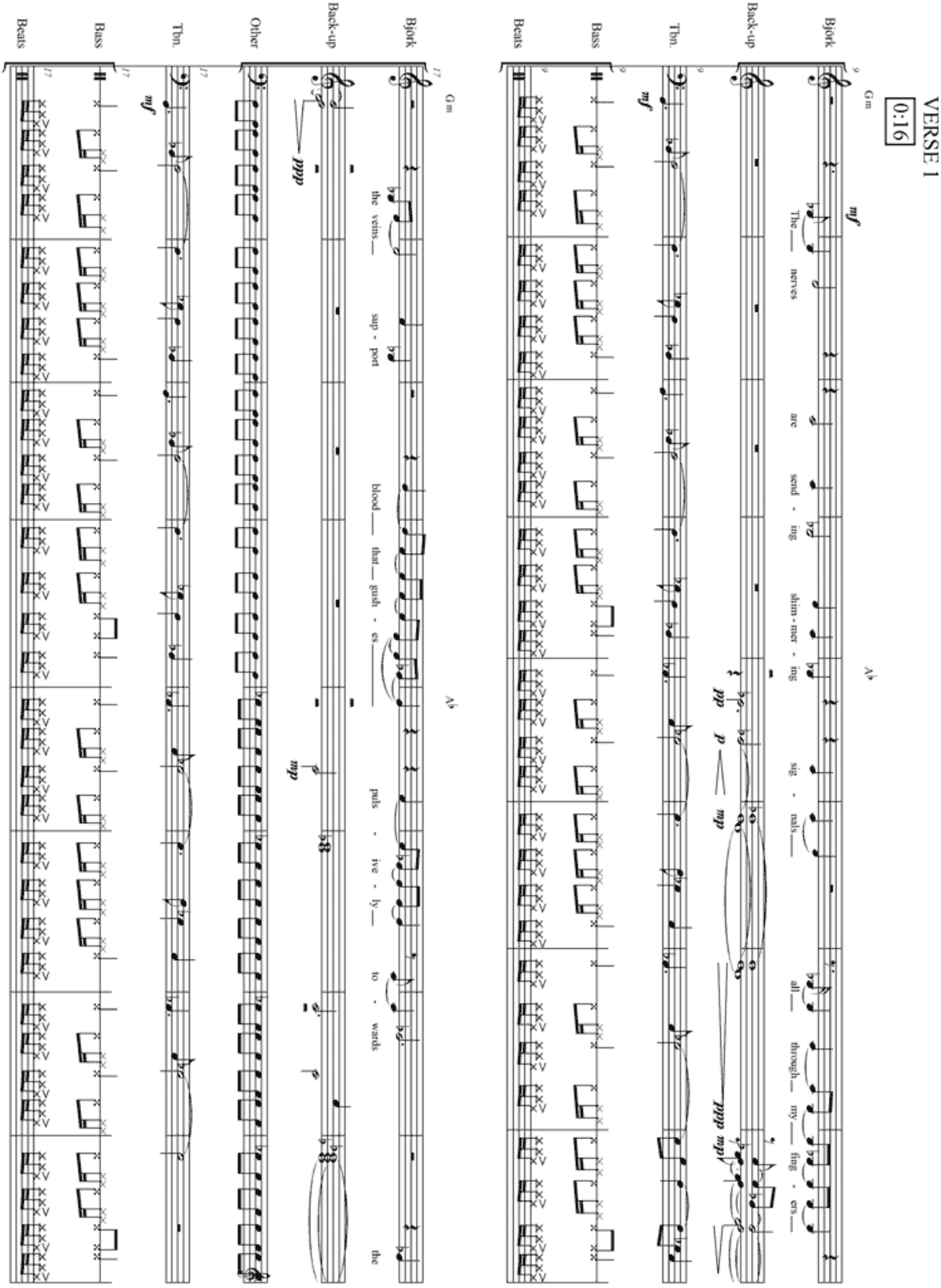
MTO 16.1 Examples: Malawey, Harmonic Stasis and Oscillation

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)
http://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.10.16.1/mto.10.16.1.malawey.php

Example 1. "Komið," 0:46–1:29, measures 11–18



Example 2. "Triumph of a Heart," First Verse, 0:16–0:48, measures 9–24



Example 3. "Triumph of a Heart," First Chorus, 0:48–1:20, measures 25–40

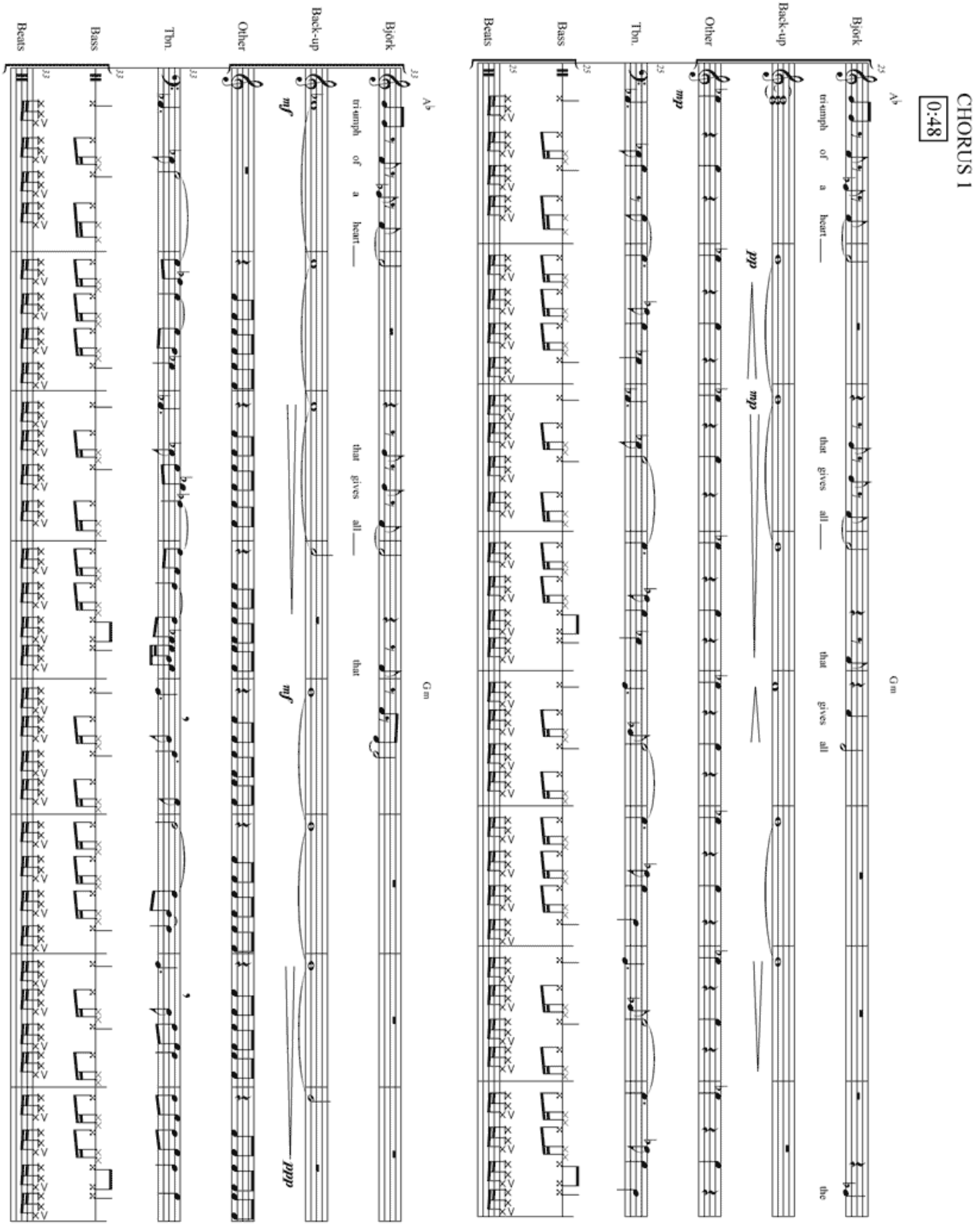


Figure 1. Tonal Effects of Harmonic Oscillation in "Triumph of a Heart"

verses:	Gm:	i	–	♭II
		repose		tension
choruses:	Gm:	♭II^{M7}	–	i
		tension		repose

Figure 2. Echard's Model for Harmonic Oscillation

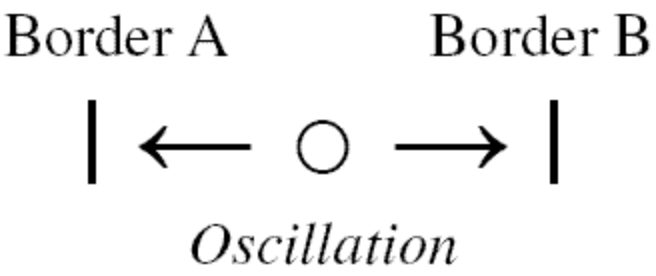


Figure 3. Alternate Model for Harmonic Oscillation

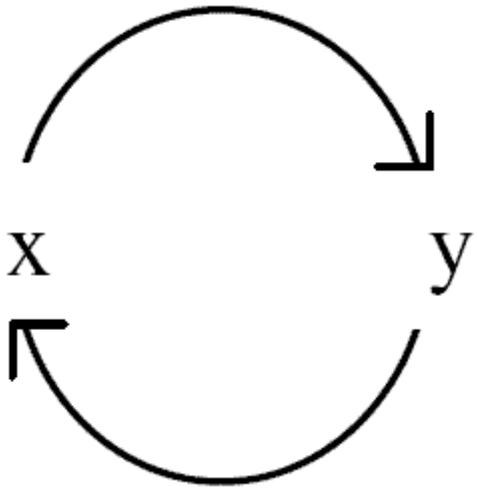
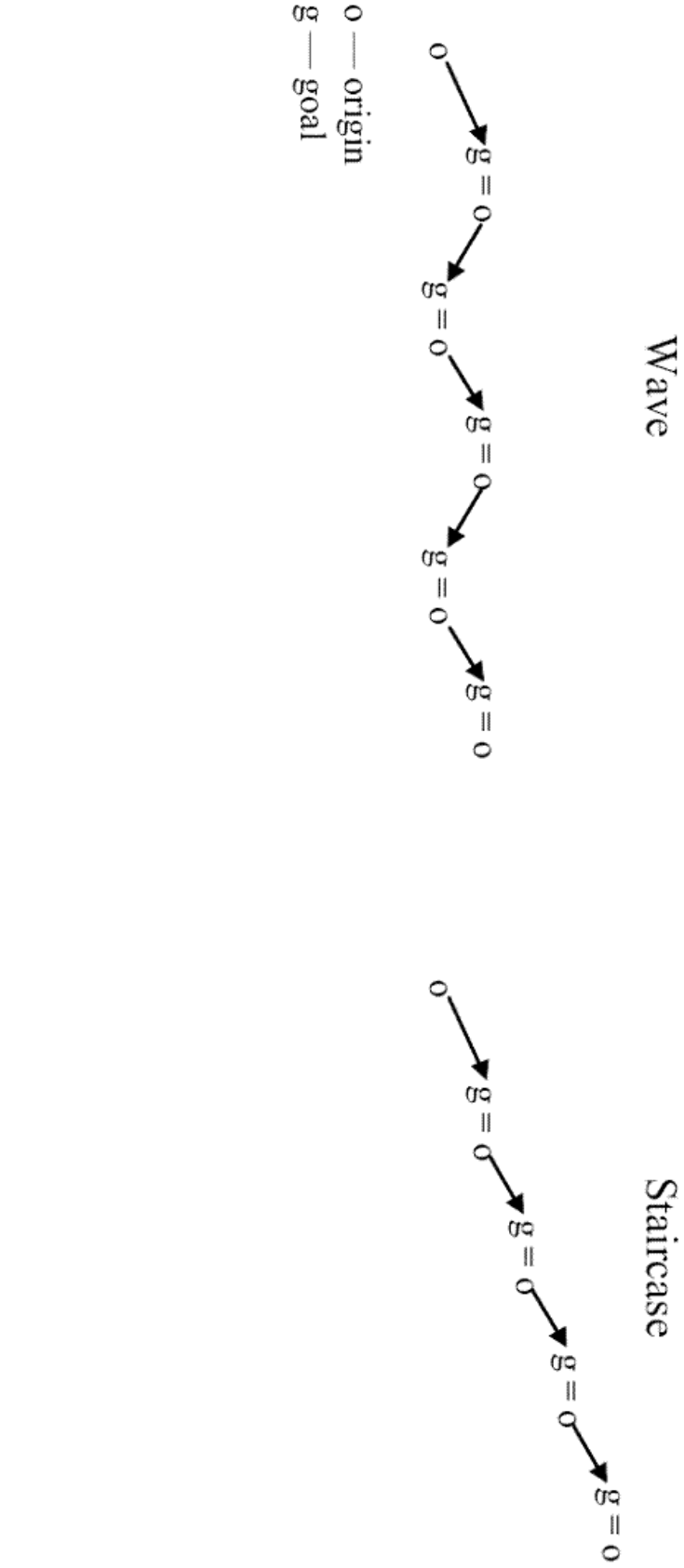
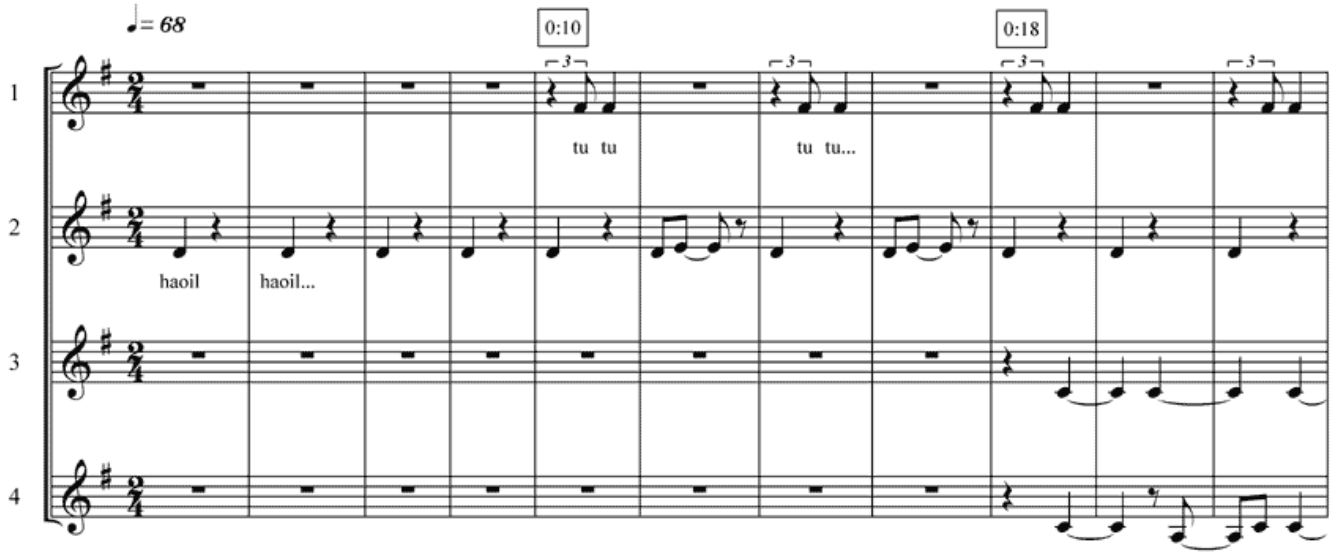


Figure 4. Hughes's Wave and Staircase Models



Example 4. "Öll Birtan," 0:00–0:24, measures 1–11



Example 5. "Who Is It," 0:00–0:21, measures 1–8

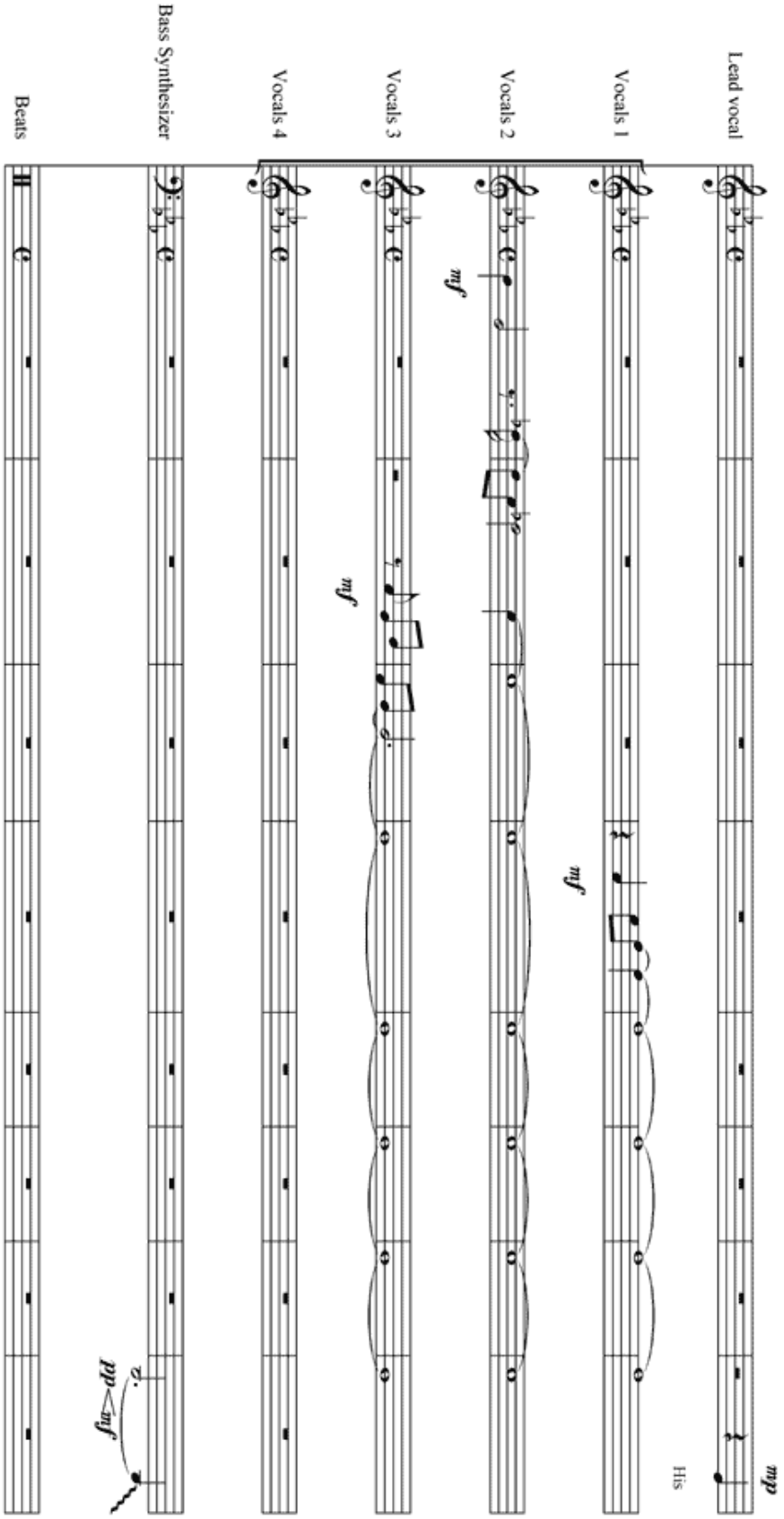
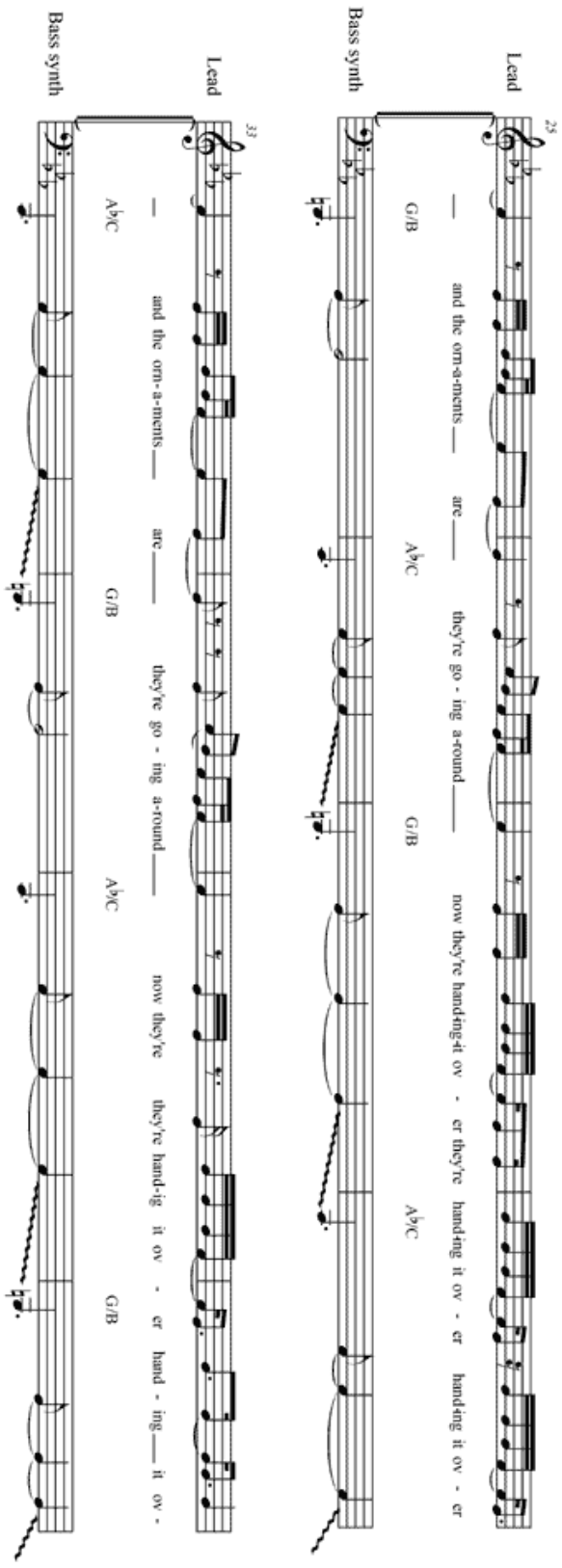


Figure 5. Summary of Passages Using Harmonic Oscillation in "Who Is It"

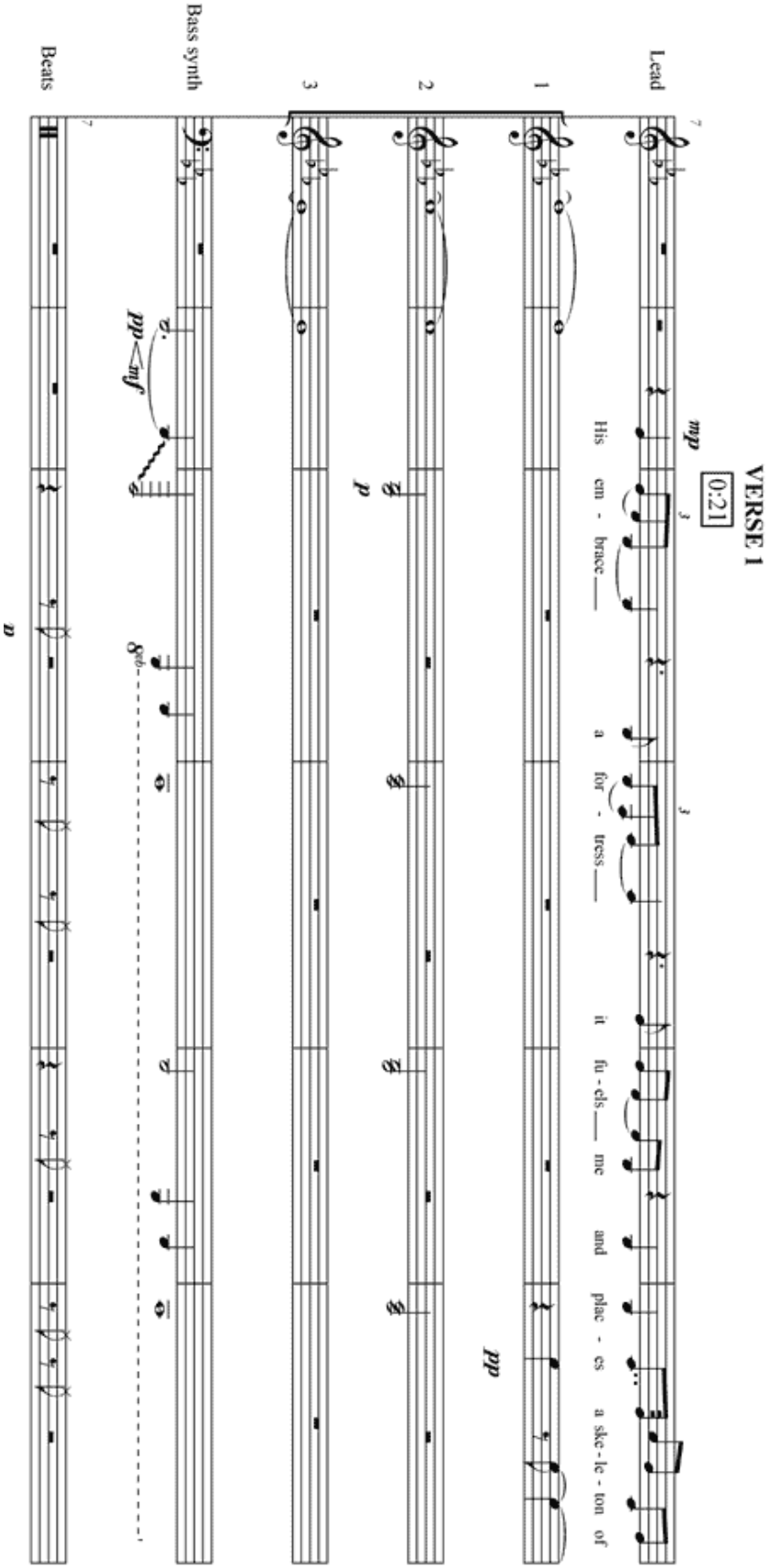
Section	Chords (Lead-sheet symbols)			Time	Example	Measures	
Verse 1	Gm/D	–	A♭/C	0:21–0:32	Example 7	9–12	
	G/B♮	–	A♭/C	0:32–0:42	Example 8	13–16	← *
Chorus 1	E♭	–	A♭/E♭	0:52–1:02	Not shown	21–24	
	G/B♮	–	A♭/C	1:02–1:13	Example 6	25–28	← **
	E♭	–	A♭/E♭	1:13–1:23	Not shown	29–32	
	A♭/C	–	G/B♮	1:23–1:34	Example 6	33–36	← **
Verse 2	Gm/D	–	A♭/C	1:44–1:55	Example 9	41–44	
	A♭/C	–	G/B♮	1:55–2:05	Example 10	45–48	← *
Chorus 2	E♭	–	A♭/E♭	2:13–2:23	Not shown	52–55	
	G/B♮	–	A♭/C	2:23–2:34	Not shown	56–59	← **
	E♭	–	A♭/E♭	2:34–2:44	Not shown	60–63	
	A♭/C	–	G/B♮	2:44–2:55	Not shown	64–67	← **
Coda	Cm	–	Fm7/A♭	3:05–3:36	Not shown	76–83	

Key:
* = inter-sectional inversion
** = intra-sectional inversion

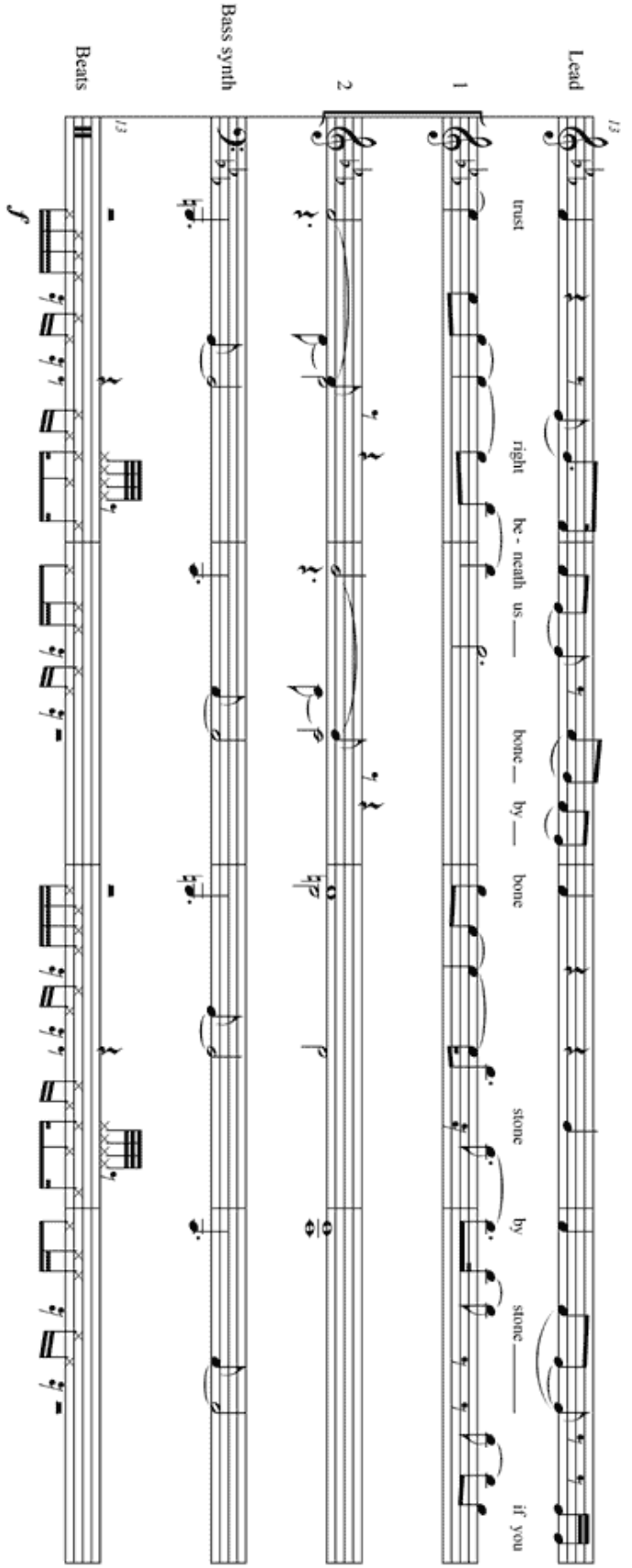
Example 6. "Who Is It," 1:02–1:13, measures 25–28, and 1:23–1:34, measures 33–36, lead vocal and bass synthesizer only



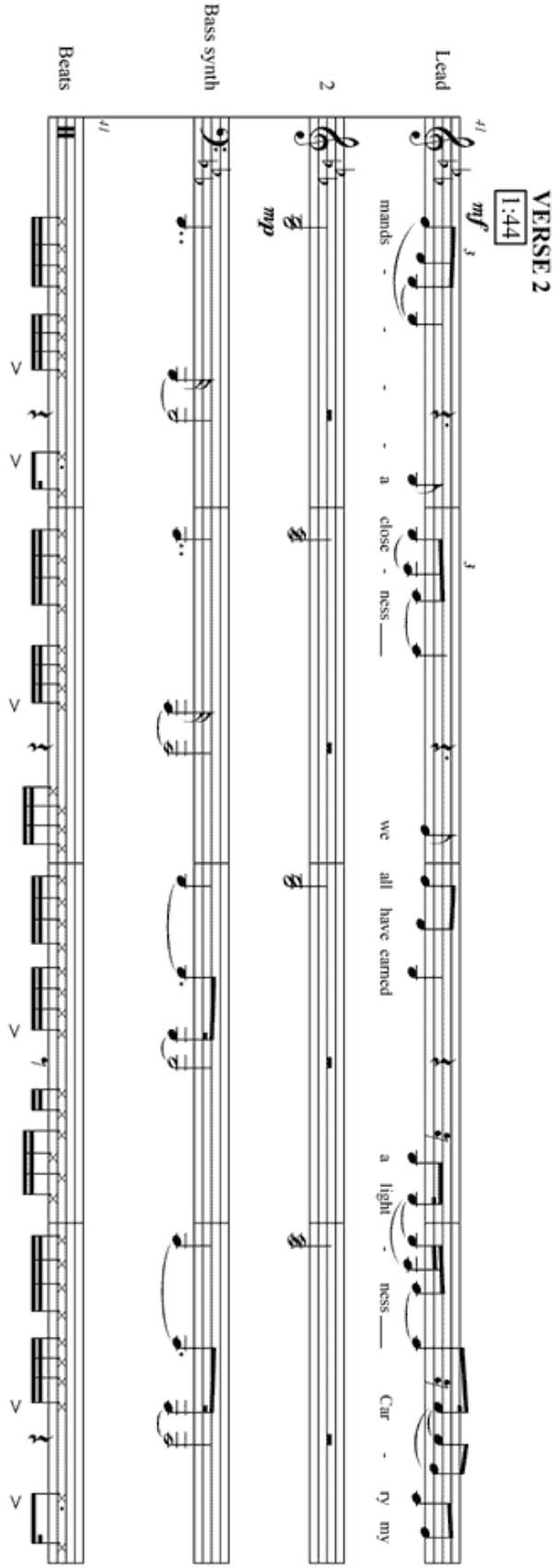
Example 7. "Who Is It," 0:18–0:32, measures 7–12



Example 8. "Who Is It," 0:32–0:42, measures 13–16



Example 9. "Who Is It," 1:42–1:55, measures 41–44



Example 10. "Who Is It," 1:55–2:05, measures 45–48

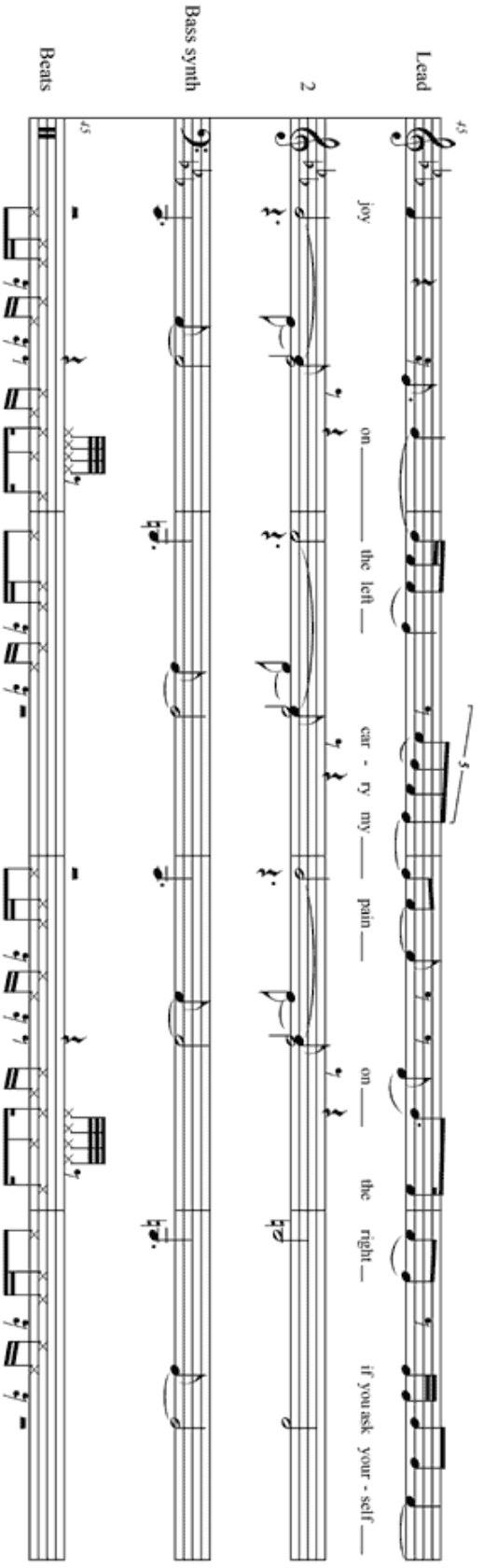


Figure 6. "Who Is It," Large-scale Tonal Scheme

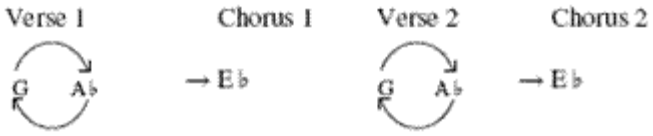


Figure 7. Hughes's "Staircase" and "Wave" Models Applied to "Triumph of a Heart"

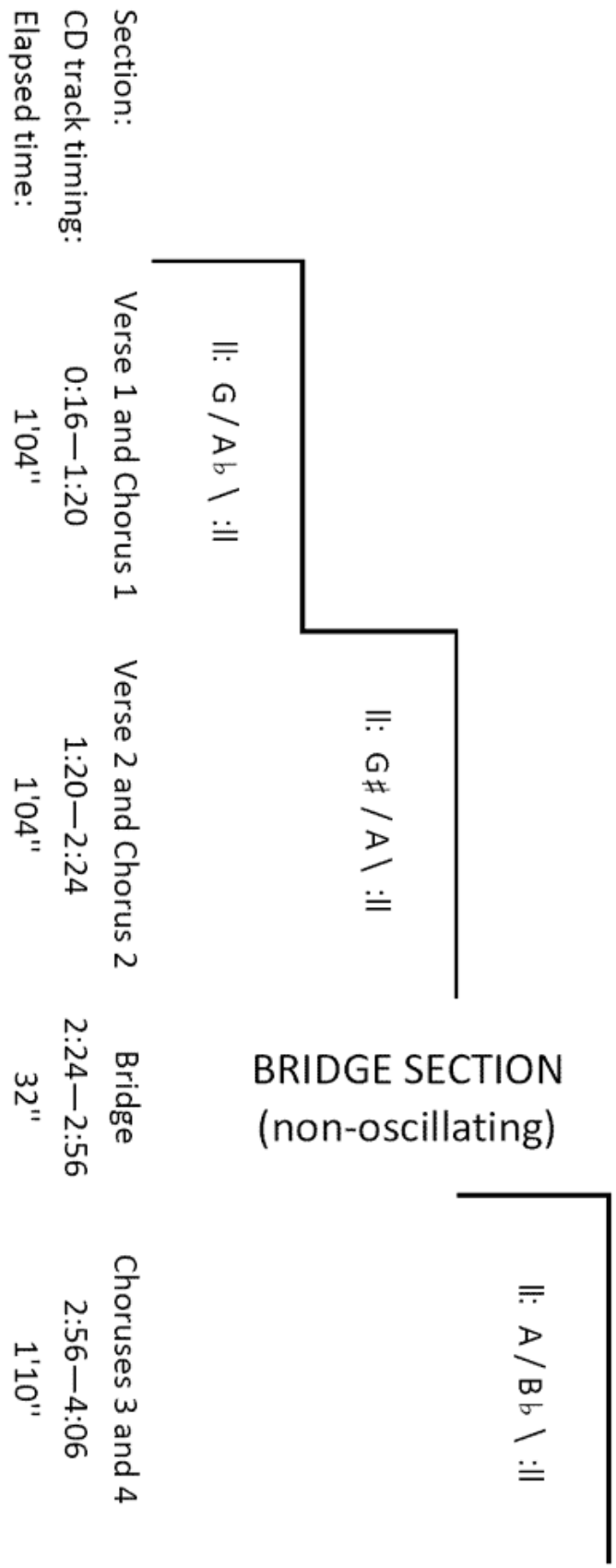


Figure 8. Scene-by-Scene Description of "Triumph of a Heart" Video

Times	Description	Music (general)	Harmony
0:00–0:24	The cat and Björk are in bed, glaring angrily off and on at each other. Björk abruptly gets out of the bed and storms out of the room.	"Vökuró" plays softly in the background.	
0:24–0:53	It is daytime. Björk leaves the house and gets in her car parked outside. She drives off to a neighborhood bar.	"Triumph of a Heart" begins; the music plays through the middle of the first verse.	Gm / Ab \ STEP 1
0:53–1:11	Björk enters the bar, orders two glasses of champagne, sits by herself, and drinks.	Verse 1 concludes.	
1:11–1:24	The cat is shown at the house, watching television and looking at the clock, which shows it is 11:33 pm.	Chorus 1 begins.	
1:24–1:35	Björk is shown again at the bar, now with friends—laughing and joking. At 1:27, Björk and her friends are singing and moving to the music.	Chorus 1 continues.	
1:35–1:38	The cat is shown again, now asleep on the couch; the television screen is full of static, indicating it has become very late.	Chorus 1 continues.	
1:39–1:44	Björk and friends are shown again at the bar, now transformed into a club-like atmosphere. Everyone is singing and dancing to the music.	Chorus 1 continues.	
1:44	Björk enters the bathroom, and the door closes.	Music (studio recording) stops temporarily.	
1:44–3:07	The bar now fully transforms into a dance club. Wild dancing and singing continue.	Extended improvised vamp through 2:26. Verse 2 is sung 2:27–2:57. Chorus 2 begins at 2:57.	G#m / A \ STEP 2
3:07–3:26	Björk leaves the bar, seemingly inebriated. She runs, stumbles into several objects on the street, and falls several times.	Chorus 2 continues.	
3:27–3:30	Sad, forlorn, and drunk, Björk begins walking on the long road home.	Chorus 2 concludes.	
3:30–3:56	Björk is shown waking up just after dawn on a country road. She appears disoriented at first, but then begins to sing. At 3:40 hearts begin to emit from her mouth as she sings.	The bridge section begins. Musical emergence supports narrative of awakening in the video.	[Contrasting material]
3:56–4:03	The cat is shown, sitting at the kitchen table and reading the newspaper. It looks through the window and sees the trail of hearts that has emanated from Björk.	Bridge continues.	
4:03–4:28	The cat, now driving a car and following the trail of hearts, picks up Björk on the country road.	Chorus 3 begins.	Am / Bb \ STEP 3
4:28–5:34	The couple returns to their house. They kiss and embrace in forgiveness and understanding. They dance together to the music through the end of the song.	Chorus 3 continues. Chorus 4 begins at 4:35.	

Figure 9. Harmonic Changes Paired with Scene Changes in "Triumph of a Heart"