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MTO 17.1 Examples: Hoag, Brahms's "Great Tragic Opera"

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)
http://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.11.17.1/mto.11.17.1.hoag.php

Example 1. Text and translation (trans. Sams 1999, 165) (Brahms's text repetitions are in italics)

Ach, wende diesen Blick, dies angesicht.
Das Innre mir mit ewig neuer Glut,
Mit ewig neuem Harm erfülle nicht!

Wenn einmal die gequälte Seele ruht,
Und mit so fieberischer Wilde nicht
In meinen Adern rollt das heisse Blut—

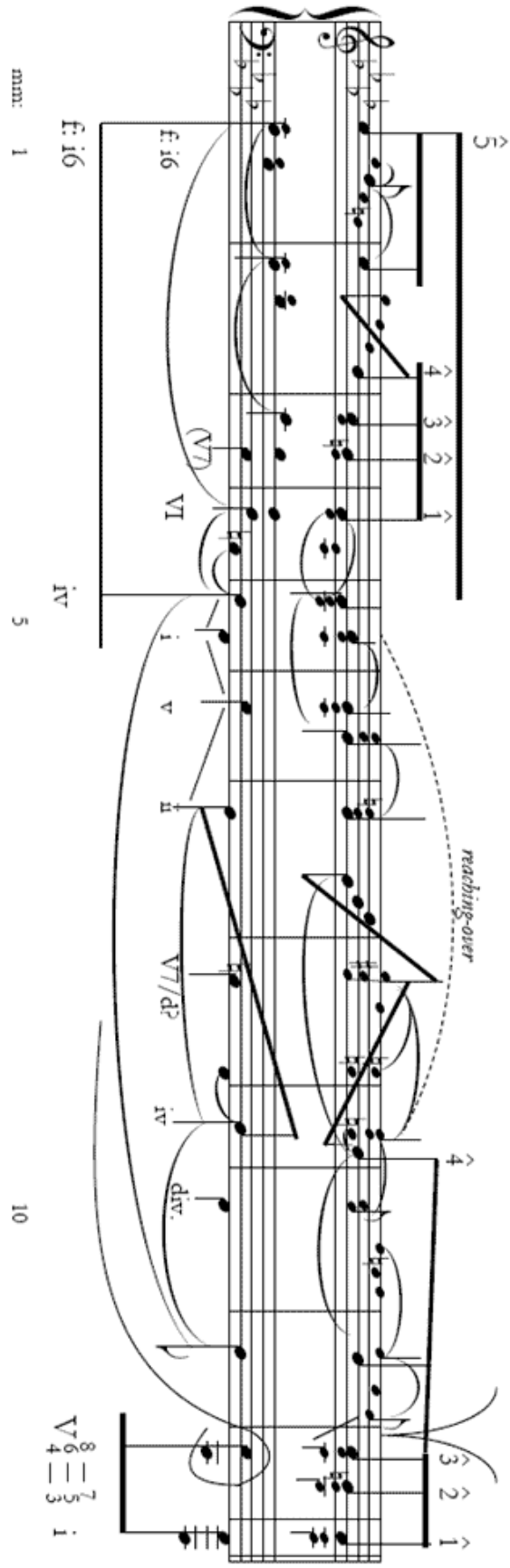
Ein Strahl, ein flüchtiger, von deinen Licht,
Er wecket auf des Wehs gesamte Wut,
Das schlangengleich mich in das Herze sticht.

Ah, turn away that gaze, *turn away* that countenance!
Do not fill my inmost being with ever new fire,
with ever new grief, *fill it not with ever new grief!*

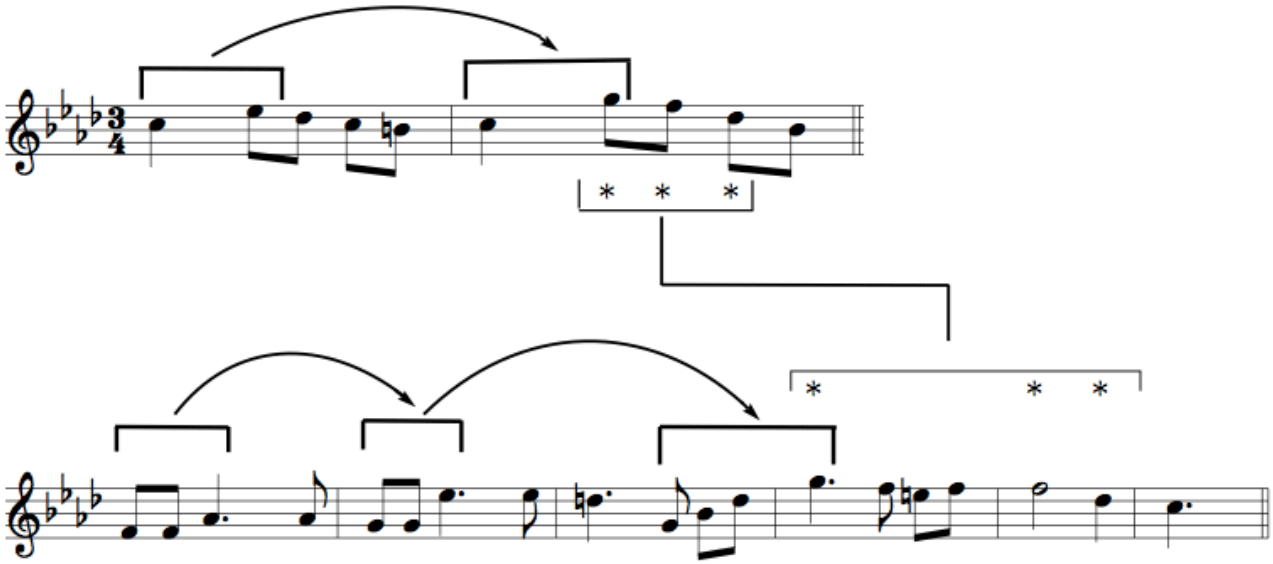
When my tormented soul at last finds rest,
and my hot blood no longer courses
through my veins, *through my veins* with such feverish wildness—

one fleeting ray of your light
would reawaken the whole rage of the pain
that snake-like stings my heart, *that snake-like stings my heart.*

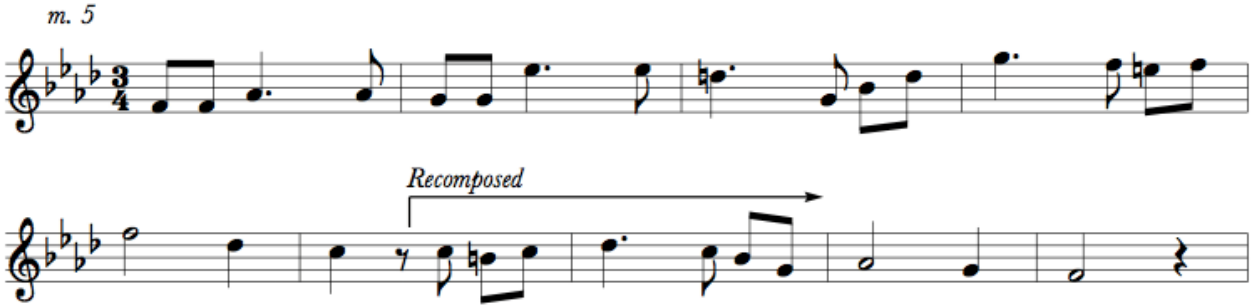
Example 2. Voice-leading sketch of A section



Example 3. Process of contour expansion, measures 1–2, 5–10

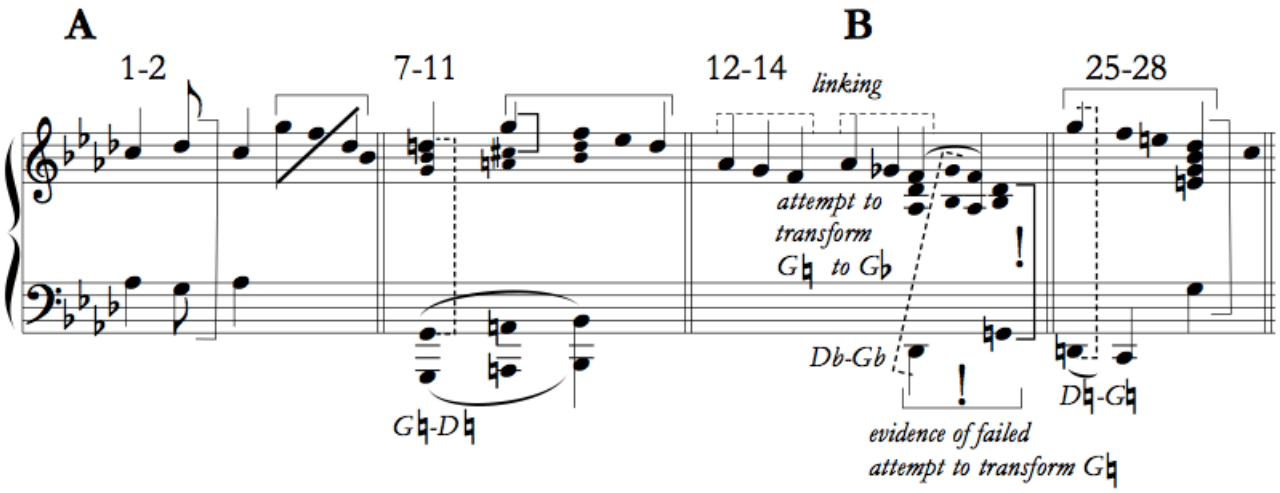


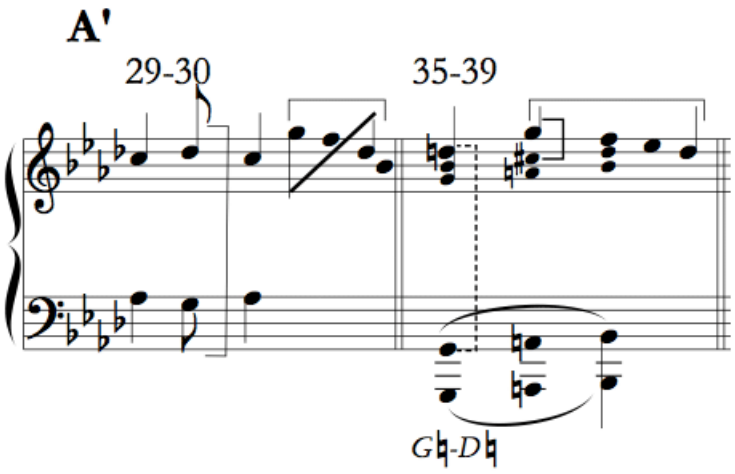
Example 4. Melodic recomposition of measures 5–13



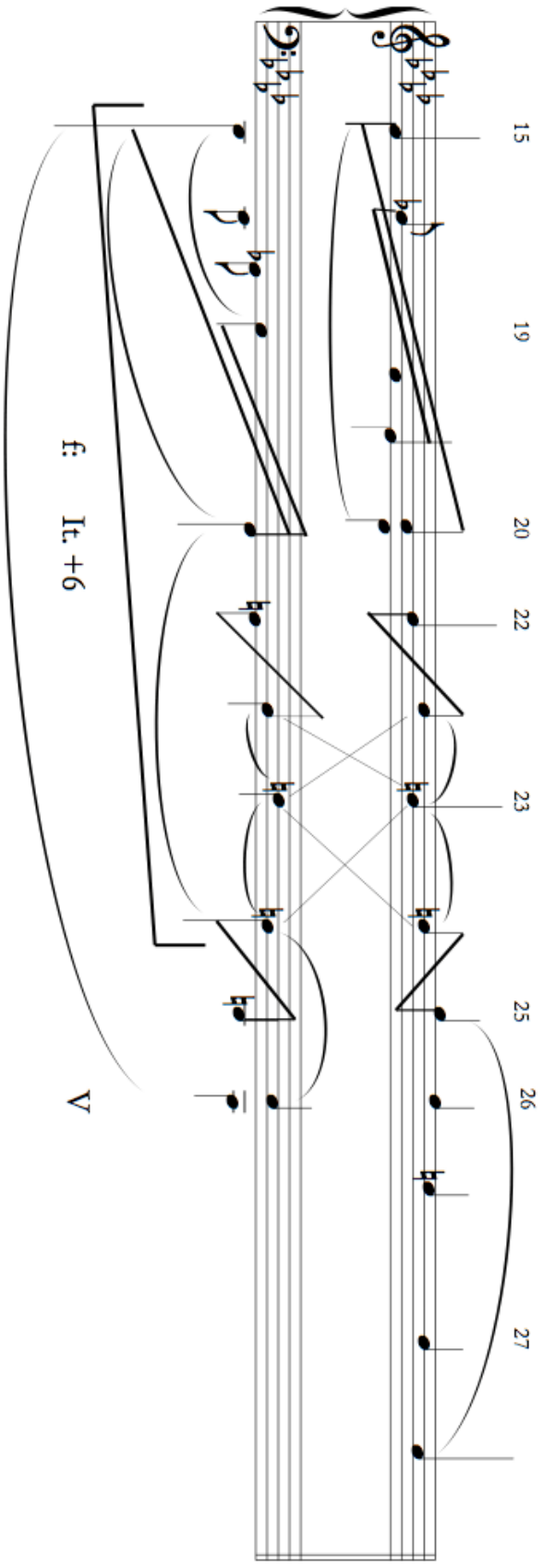
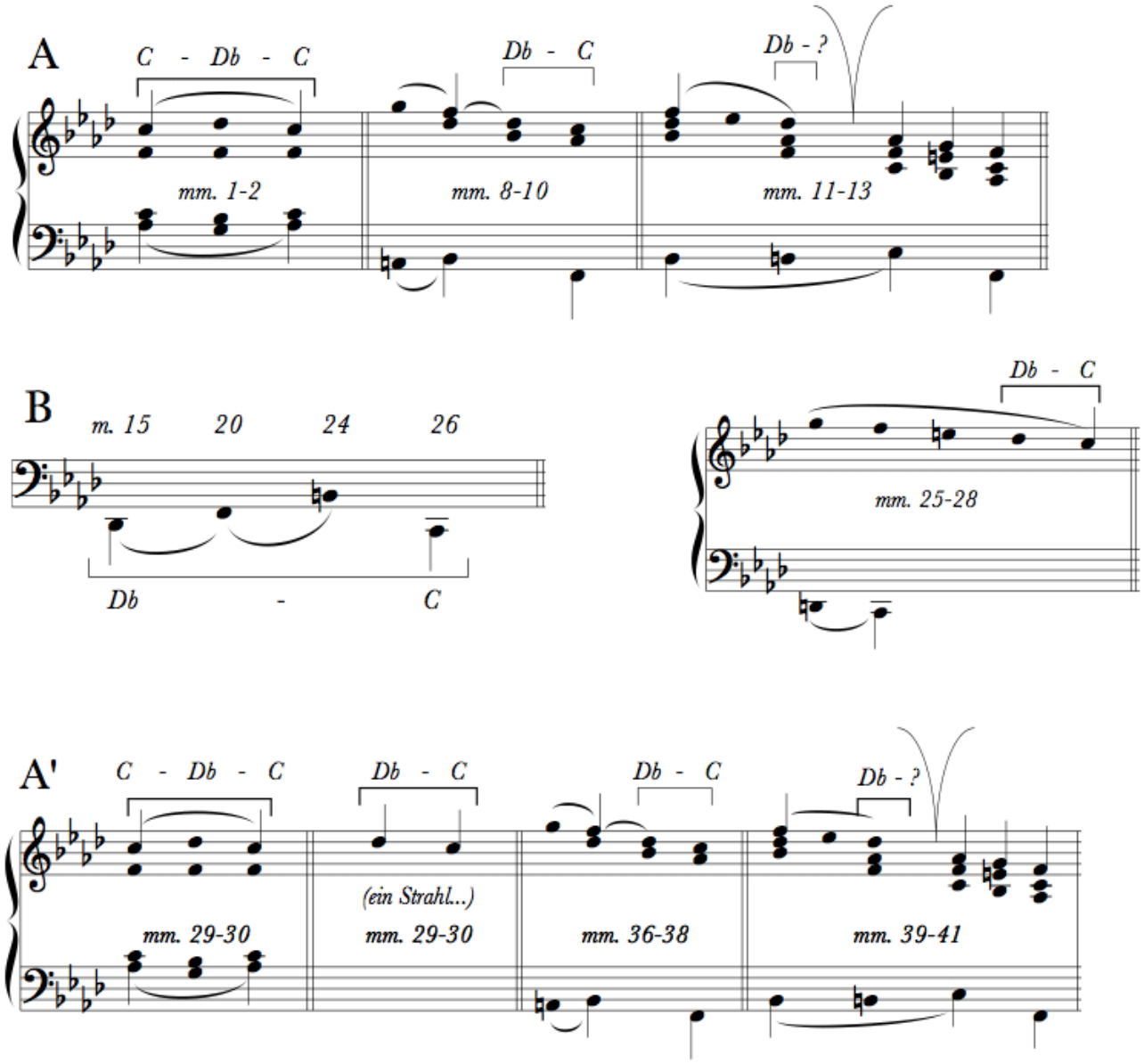
Example 5. Summary of dyad D♭–G♮ throughout op. 57, no. 4

(harmonic and melodic occurrences of D♭–G♮ are marked with regular brackets;
all other chromatic permutations of this dyad, such as D♮–G♮ or D♭–G♭, are marked with dotted brackets and labeled)





Example 6. Middleground of B section, “Ach, wende diesen Blick”



Example 7. Summary of D♭–C motions throughout op. 57, no. 4