



a journal of the *Society for Music Theory*

MTO 19.1 Examples: Maler, Songs for Hands

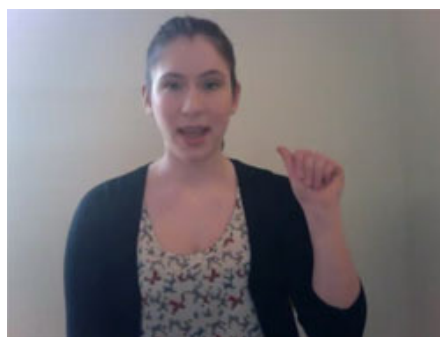
(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<http://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.13.19.1/mto.13.19.1.maler.php>

Example 1. “Take it easy”



Example 2. Manual alphabet



Example 3. Torrence’s interpretation of “I’ve Got a Feeling” by the Black Eyed Peas



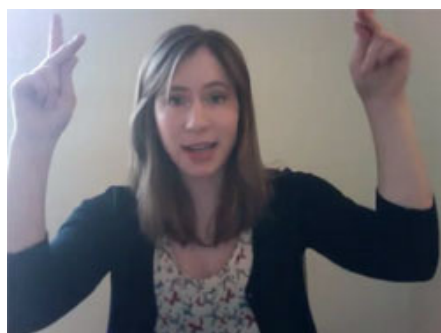
Example 4. “Party”



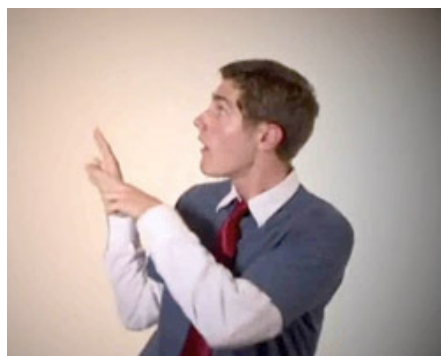
Example 5. “Start”



Example 6. “Go out and smash it” and “let’s kick it off” productive signs



Example 7. Miley Cyrus, “Party in the USA”



Example 8. Kelly Clarkson, “Already Gone”

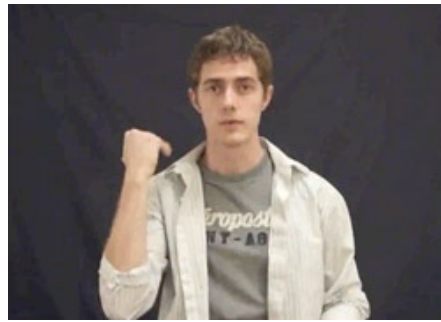


Figure 1. Kelly Clarkson, “Already Gone”

Remember all the things we wanted
YOU REMEMBER PAST OUR HOPES
Now all our memories they're haunted
NOW REMEMBER++ BITTER
We were always meant to say goodbye
PAST TWO-OF-US STUCK
Even with our fists held high
TWO-OF-US CONFIDENT, BUT
It never would've worked out right
CANT TOGETHER CONTINUE
We were never meant for do or die
FOREVER IMPOSSIBLE
I didn't want us to burn out
I NOT INTEND BURN, MELT-AWAY
I didn't come here to hurt you, now I can't stop
I NOT INTEND HARM-YOU, NOW I MUST

I want you to know that it doesn't matter
I WANT INFORM-YOU, NOT-MATTER
Where we take this road someone's gotta go
WHATEVER HAPPEN, TWO-OF-US MUST
BREAK-UP
And I want you to know you couldn't have loved me
better
I WANT INFORM-YOU, YOU LOVE-ME FINE
But I want you to move on so I'm already gone
BUT I WISH YOU [TURN AWAY, LEAVE],
TWO-OF-US BREAK-UP FINISH

Looking at you makes it harder
LOOK-AT-YOU, DIFFICULT
But I know that you'll find another
BUT FUTURE YOU FIND OTHER PERSON
That doesn't always make you want to cry
THEY NOT FORCE-YOU CRY

Started with a perfect kiss then we could feel the
poison set in
PAST TWO-OF-US KISS, PERFECT, AFTER
POISON [SPREAD]
Perfect couldn't keep this love alive
PERFECTION NOT ENOUGH
You know that I love you so, I love you enough to let
you go
I REALLY LOVE-YOU, REASON THAT I MUST
BREAK-UP

[chorus]

I'm already gone, already gone
TWO-OF-US BREAK-UP FINISH, BREAK-UP
FINISH
You can't make it feel right when you know that it's
wrong
IF RELATIONSHIP BAD, CANT BECOME GOOD
I'm already gone, already gone
BREAK-UP FINISH, BREAK-UP FINISH
There's no moving on so I'm already gone
TWO-OF-US CANT CONTINUE, BREAK-UP
FINISH

Already gone, already gone, already gone
BREAK-UP FINISH+++
Already gone, already gone, already gone, yeah
BREAK-UP FINISH+++

Remember all the things we wanted
YOU REMEMBER PAST OUR HOPES
Now all our memories they're haunted
NOW REMEMBER++ BITTER
We were always meant to say goodbye
PAST TWO-OF-US STUCK

[chorus]

I'm already gone, already gone
TWO-OF-US BREAK-UP FINISH, BREAK-UP
FINISH
You can't make it feel right when you know that it's
wrong
IF RELATIONSHIP BAD, CANT BECOME GOOD
I'm already gone, already gone
BREAK-UP FINISH, BREAK-UP FINISH
There's no moving on so I'm already gone
TWO-OF-US CANT CONTINUE, BREAK-UP
FINISH

Example 9. “Hopes” and “bitter”



Figure 2. “Fireflies” rhyme scheme, first verse and chorus

Artist	Verse		Chorus
	a	b	
Owl City (Adam Young)	You would not believe your eyes if ten million fireflies lit up the world as I fell asleep.	'Cause they'd fill the open air and leave tear drops everywhere; you'd think me rude but I would just stand and stare.	I'd like to make myself believe that planet Earth turns slowly It's hard to say that I'd rather stay awake when I'm asleep, 'cause everything is never as it seems.
Stephen Torrence	AMAZING! SEE TEN MILLION LIGHT FLIES I SLEEP WORLD LIGHT-UP	FLIES [NUMEROUS] TEAR-DROPS [ALL- AROUND] I MAYBE RUDE I STAND [LOOK-AROUND] [LOOK-AROUND]	I REALLY WANT BELIEVE WORLD ROTATE SLOW I PREFER SLEEP DREAM NOT AWAKE WHY? VARIETY

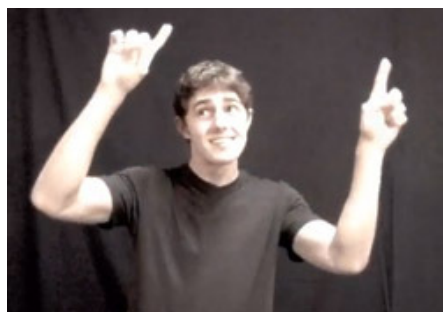
Figure 3. Owl City, “Fireflies”

<p>You would not believe your eyes AMAZING! SEE If ten million fireflies TEN MILLION LIGHT FLIES Lit up the world as I fell asleep I SLEEP, WORLD LIGHT-UP</p> <p>'Cause they'd fill the open air FLIES [NUMEROUS] And leave teardrops everywhere TEAR DROPS [ALL-AROUND] You'd think me rude I MAYBE RUDE But I would just stand and stare I STAND, LOOK-AROUND</p> <p>I'd like to make myself believe I REALLY WANT BELIEVE That planet Earth turns slowly WORLD ROTATE SLOW It's hard to say that I'd rather stay I PREFER SLEEP, DREAM, Awake when I'm asleep NOT AWAKE 'Cause everything is never as it seems WHY? VARIETY</p> <p>'Cause I'd get a thousand hugs I RECEIVE MANY HUG From ten thousand lightning bugs FROM TEN THOUSAND LIGHT FLIES As they tried to teach me how to dance THEY TEACH-ME HOW DANCE</p> <p>A foxtrot above my head [DANCING ABOVE] A sock hop beneath my bed BED [DANCING BELOW] A disco ball is just hanging by a thread LIGHT BALL [HANG THIN LINE]</p>	<p>[chorus] Leave my door open just a crack MY DOOR [OPEN SLIGHTLY] (Please take me away from here) 'Cause I feel like such an insomniac I FEEL RESTLESS (Please take me away from here) Why do I tire of counting sheep SHEEP COUNT 1-2-3 BORING (Please take me away from here) When I'm far too tired to fall asleep I TIRED EXCESSIVE, CANT SLEEP</p> <p>To ten million fireflies TEN MILLION LIGHT FLIES I'm weird 'cause I hate goodbyes [LOOK-AT-ME] THINK HE WEIRD I got misty eyes as they said farewell WHY? THEY LEAVE, I CRY But I'll know where several are BUT IF MY DREAMS STRANGE If my dreams get real bizarre I CAN FIND SEVERAL 'Cause I saved a few and I keep them in a jar {JAR} I CATCH, KEEP</p> <p>[chorus x3] Because my dreams are bursting at the seams MY DREAMS [BURSTING THROUGH]</p>
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Example 10. Owl City, “Fireflies”



Example 11. Rhyming techniques in “Fireflies”



Example 12. “Amazing”



Example 13. “Light-up”



Example 14. “See”



Example 15. “Flies”



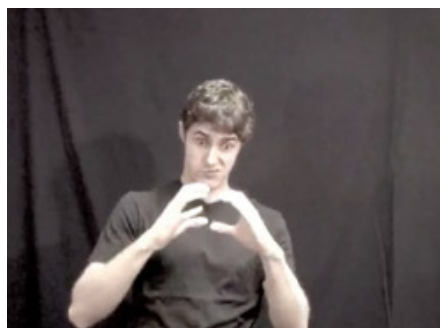
Example 16. “Tears all-around”



Example 17. “Stare”



Example 18. Gestural crescendo



Example 19. Backing vocal line in “Fireflies”



Example 20. Manual and non-manual rhyming, rhythm, and pulsing



Example 21. “Believe”



Example 22. “Slow”



Example 23. “Awake”



Example 24. “Variety”



Figure 4. Metric placements

1	2	3	4	2	2	3	4	3	2	3	4	4	2	3	4
I'd	like to	make my-	self be-	lieve		that	planet	Earth		turns		slow-		ly	
I	REALLY	WANT		BELIEVE			WORLD			ROTATE		SLOW			

	1	2	3	4	2	2	3	4	3	2	3	4	4	2	3	4
It's	hard to	say that I'd	rather	stay a-	wake when	I'm a-	sleep	'cause	every-	thing is	never	as it	seems			
	I	PREFER	SLEEP	DREAM		NOT	AWAKE		WHY?		VARIETY					