

MTO 26.4 Examples:Fyr, Mapping Ravel's "La vallée des cloches"

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

<https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.20.26.4/mto.20.26.4.fyr.html>

Example 2. Five distinct bell sounds in the opening section of "La vallée des cloches"

The musical score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The score begins at measure 6. The first staff contains a continuous sequence of chords labeled BS2 in red. The grand staff contains five distinct bell sounds: BS3 in green (bass clef), BS5 in pink (treble clef), BS4 in blue (bass clef), and BS1 in blue (treble clef). BS1 is marked with a piano dynamic [pp]. BS5 is marked with a mezzo-forte dynamic mf. BS4 is marked with a piano dynamic p. The notes for BS1, BS3, BS4, and BS5 are sustained across measures.

Example 3. A hypothetical version of mm. 1–4 compared with Ravel’s actual version

Mm. 1-4 (hypothetical)

bell sound individuation becomes technically unfeasible

simultaneous articulation of bell sounds compromises their aural distinction

Mm. 1-4 (Ravel's version)

Example 4. List of all twelve bell sounds found in "La vallée des cloches"

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

Example 5. Transition from Section A into Section B

10 end of **A** **B**

BS2 BS3 [p] BS7 pp

BS5 [p] [mf]

BS3 [p]

BS4 [p]

BS4 BS6

BS3 continues