MTO 27.1 Examples: Maler, Rhythmic Techniques in Deaf Hip Hop

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)
https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.21.27.1/mto.21.27.1.maler.html

Example 1. The Sutton SignWriting symbol for “sign.”

Figure 1. The letters of the ASL manual alphabet in SignWriting
Example 2. Wawa, “Only ASL One,” opening, transcribed using Sutton SignWriting. The lyrics rapped by Wawa in English are: “Her hearing aids were purple, moving hands in a circle.” Each sign is accompanied here by an English gloss in uppercase letters that summarizes the sign’s meaning.

Example 4. Sean Forbes, “A Song For My Haters,” verse 2
WORD FLUENT WITH OBSERVATIONS

be a word-smith with observations.

HATE EVERYONE HAVE NO PATIENCE

Hateful to ev'-ry-one and have no patience, don't

DON'T WANT BULLY COMMON HATER

wanna be bullied by the common hater.
Example 5. Sean Forbes, “Watch These Hands,” verse 2

Signed rap

Non-signed rap

Look at your lips and you asked... what’s wrong with us, why we rode the short bus, the short bus to school. I was fortunate enough I made it out of Lah-ser High School.

And then I made it out to R.I.T. most of the kids I rode the bus with never saw fifteen.
Example 6. Sean Forbes, “I’m Deaf,” verse 3

Example 7. Sean Forbes, “Watch These Hands,” opening
Example 8. Sean Forbes, “I’m Deaf,” verse 3

Example 9. A transcribed excerpt of Cardi B’s “Bodak Yellow” (2017, 0:14–44)
Example 10. A transcribed excerpt of Kyle’s verse in Donnie Trumpet and the Social Experiment’s “Wanna Be Cool” (2015, 2:32–2:44)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Kyle} & \quad \frac{3}{4} \quad \frac{3}{4} \quad \frac{3}{4} \quad \frac{3}{4} \quad \frac{3}{4} \quad \frac{3}{4} \\
& \quad \text{It’s e-a-s-y and it’s so i-m-p-o-r-t-a-n-t, be-i-n’ cool should-n’t cost a f-o-r-t-u-n-e.} \\
& \quad \text{Baby got her jeans from G-o-o-d-w-i-l-l, but I bet that a-s-s looks good still. O-kay let’s re-m-e-m-b-e-r that} \\
& \quad \text{sho-p-ping at P-a-y-l-e-s-s it j-u-st means you p-a-y l-e-s-s it d-o-n’t mean you’re b-a-e-l-e-s-s.}
\end{align*}
\]

\[\text{Figure 2. Rhythm-rhyme interaction types in dip hop}\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type 1</th>
<th>Type 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signed layer aligned</td>
<td>Signed layer aligned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-signed layer aligned</td>
<td>Non-signed layer aligned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type 2</th>
<th>Type 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signed layer not aligned</td>
<td>Signed layer not aligned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-signed layer aligned</td>
<td>Non-signed layer not aligned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signed Rap

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{SANDWICH} & \quad \text{MILK -index} \\
\text{LITTLE - BOY} & \quad \text{CHILL} \\
\text{YOU CAN'T} & \quad \text{YOU MEET ME}
\end{align*} \]

Vocal Rap

Sand - wich and milk he said "Lit - tle boy just chill, you can't come with me." I'm like what
ev - er Tom and Jer - ry keep me com - pan - y_____ It did - n't have

BUT ACTIVE ENJOY LAUGH DONE FINISH

cap - tions but it had act - ions (en)joyed the show, got me laugh - in' times up.
Example 12. Wawa, “Only ASL One,” first verse

Signed Rap

Non-signed Rap

2

know what she say - in’ but she knew that I was ner - vous. She’s

3

lookin’ at me funny ‘cause my signs were ver - y clum - sy star - ted

4

learn recent last month teacher say I ter - ri - ble

Signed Rap

Non-signed Rap

People we meet along the way

have such an effect in so many ways

EVERY-ONE LOVE YOU ALWAYS ENOUGH ALMOST CITY M-E-D-I-A SHOW UP

Not every-one loves you but there's always enough in almost every town the med-i-a shows up
Example 14. Sean Forbes, “I’m Deaf,” verse 3

Signed rap

Non-signed rap

Stevie Wonder never saw the keys and Helen

Keller was capable of communicating

Signed Rap

\[ \text{\textbf{I live in a community so tight, worldwide.}} \]

Non-signed Rap

\[ \text{\textbf{In one blink of an eye, we lost one of us. A life taken at an age so}} \]

\[ \text{\textbf{wrong what? our world shocked like ripper come take}} \]

\[ \text{\textbf{young so wrong our whole world was shaken. It's like the Rip-per came and took you from us}} \]
HER CRUEL WAY NEVER
RIGHT HER
MY THOUGHTS WITH EMMA HER FAMILY
In such a crude way it would never be just. My thoughts go to the family of Emma. Coincidentally.

SORRY SAD OUR HEART IN SAME FOREVER WE LOSE WE SHARE WE TOGETHER
do-lennnes, in our hearts, she lives forever. The loss we share it brought us together.

10 SO I WRITE LETTER SEND THROW TO YOU
And so I wrote you this letter to I