



### MTO 31.1 Examples: Marlowe and Lofthouse, Dreams Realized

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)  
[https://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.25.31.1/mto.25.31.1.marlowe\\_lofthouse.html](https://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.25.31.1/mto.25.31.1.marlowe_lofthouse.html)

Example 1. Langston Hughes, "Dream Variation" (1926)

#### *Stanza 1*

To fling my arms wide  
In some place of the sun,  
To whirl and to dance  
Till the white day is done  
Then rest at cool evening  
Beneath a tall tree  
While night comes on gently,  
    Dark like me—  
That is my dream!

#### *Stanza 2*

To fling my arms wide  
In the face of the sun,  
Dance! Whirl! Whirl!  
Till the quick day is done.  
Rest at pale evening...  
A tall, slim tree...  
Night comes tenderly  
    Black like me.

Example 2. Florence Price, "My Dream" (1935), modifications to Hughes's text

#### *Strophe 1*

To fling **wide my arms**  
In some place of the sun,  
To whirl and to dance  
Till the white day is done  
Then rest at cool evening  
Beneath a tall tree  
While night comes on gently,  
**Dark like me.**

#### *Strophe 2*

**That is my dream!** To fling my arms wide  
In the face of the sun,  
Dance! Whirl! Whirl!  
Till the quick day is done.  
Rest at pale evening...  
A tall, slim tree...  
Night comes tenderly  
**Black like me.**

Example 3. Florence Price, "My Dream," annotated vocal score with piano reduction, mm. 3–end

**Strophe 1**

3 D-major pentatonic G-major pentatonic

To fling wide my arms in some place in the sun, \_\_\_\_\_ To whirl and to dance till the white day is done, Then

R.H. emphasis on F#4

D: I 7 7 7 IV 7 4 b

8 +3 upper-neighbor motion B-C-B

rest \_\_\_\_\_ Then rest \_\_\_\_\_ at eve - ning \_\_\_\_\_ Be -

VI BbM DbM EM AbMadd6

ascending thirds

12 *poco rit.* D# B-major pentatonic

neath \_\_\_\_\_ a tall tree While night \_\_\_\_\_ comes on \_\_\_\_\_

G7 B-major arpeggiation

16 *poco rit.* *a tempo* +3

C# B Dark like me \_\_\_\_\_

Bmadd6 E9 G9

Strophe 2

20 *p* *cresc. molto*

That is my dream To

*p*

D: Ger+6

23 *ff*

fling my arms wide in the face of the sun,

*ff*

DM Bm GM <sup>4</sup> expect resolution to E... A♭M!

descending thirds

27

Dance! whirl! whirl! Til the quick day is

implied harmonic rhythm I — 6 ii V I — 6 I — 6 ii V BM

DM FM A♭M BM

ascending minor thirds

34 *tempo primo* *rit.* ascending A-Bi-B:

done. Rest at pale eve - - ning.

implied by R.H. piano melody

DM<sup>add6</sup> CT+6 DM<sup>add6</sup> CT+6

41

a tall, slim tree.

Ab = G#

AbMadd6 E7 ø7 ø7 C#7

47

Night coming tenderly, Black like

D: A-Bb-Bb ii<sup>6</sup> V<sup>7</sup>

F#4 now in vocal part

51

me.

D-major pentatonic

I

Example 4. Margaret Bonds, "Dream Variation" (1959), text with form and phrase layout

*Strophe 1*

*Strophe 2*

Piano Introduction	mm. 1–4		(piano interlude)	mm. 14–16	
To fling my arms wide In some place of the sun,	mm. 5–6	<i>a</i>	To fling my arms wide In the face of the sun,	mm. 17–18	<i>a</i>
To whirl and to dance Till the white day is done	mm. 7–8	<i>a'</i>	Dance! Whirl! Whirl! Till the quick day is done.	mm. 19–20	<i>a'</i>
Then rest at cool evening Beneath a tall tree	mm. 9–11 3 measures	<i>b</i>	Rest at pale evening... A tall, slim tree...	mm. 21–23 3 measures	<i>b</i>
While night comes on gently, Dark like me.	mm. 12– 14	<i>a''</i>	Night coming tenderly Black like me.	mm. 24–25	<i>a''</i>
That is my dream!	m. 14	IAC (elided)	<i>Night coming tenderly Black like me.</i>	mm. 26–27	<i>a''</i>

Example 5. Margaret Bonds, "Dream Variation," annotated vocal score with piano reduction

strophe 1

F# minor / A major pentatonic

To fling my arms

C#M — D# — E#

AM9

E# — D# — C#

5

C# — D# — G# — A#

wide in some place of the sun, To whirl and to dance till the white day is done, Then

UN UN

parallel 7ths

BM9 F#m11 BM9 F#m7 G#m7/C# BM7/C#

9

F# = rest

F# major

+7th/-3rd

rest at cool eve - ning be - neath a tall tree while

UN UN

DM9 F#M9 F#M7

12

+7th/-3rd

IAC

night comes on gent - ly dark like me, That is my dream

UN UN

C#m7/D G#Madd6 C#M

V I

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is in F# minor/A major pentatonic mode. It consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment with chord symbols and performance markings. The first system (measures 1-4) has lyrics 'To fling my arms' and chord symbols C#M, AM9, and E#-D#-C#. The second system (measures 5-8) has lyrics 'wide in some place of the sun, To whirl and to dance till the white day is done, Then' and chord symbols BM9, F#m11, BM9, F#m7, G#m7/C#, and BM7/C#. The third system (measures 9-11) has lyrics 'rest at cool eve - ning be - neath a tall tree while' and chord symbols DM9, F#M9, and F#M7. The fourth system (measures 12-14) has lyrics 'night comes on gent - ly dark like me, That is my dream' and chord symbols C#m7/D, G#Madd6, and C#M. Performance markings include 'UN' (unaccompanied) and 'parallel 7ths'.

strophe 2

16

C# ————— D# ————— G# ————— A#

To fling my arms wide\_ in the face of the sun, Dance!, Whirl!, Whirl\_ till the quick day is done,\_\_\_

D#m7 F#m/ B      D#m7 G#m/ G#m/G#m/ A# B C#      G#m7 AM7

21

+7th/-3rd

Rest at pale eve - ning a tall, slim tree Night com-ing ten-der-ly,\_\_\_

F#m7 A#madd6 A#M F#M F#m/ Bm9

DM

minor-mode harmonies ascending by thirds      major-mode harmonies descending by thirds

A# or A# in R.H.?

25

+7/-3      +6th/-4th

black like me;\_\_\_ Night com-ing ten-der-ly,\_\_\_ black\_\_\_ like me.

C#m7 AmM9 C#M7

C# prepares arrival of B#

C# — D# — E#

Example 6. Margaret Bonds, "Dream Variation," durational emphasis and collection completion

strophe 1

measure: 5      6      7      8      9      10      11      13      14      F# pentatonic

wide      sun      dance      done      rest      evening      tree      me      dream

F# pentatonic

strophe 2

measure: 17      18      19      20      21      22      23      24      25      26      27      C# major

wide      sun      whirl      done      rest      evening      tall      tree      tenderly      me      tenderly      me

F# pentatonic

E# completes  
hexatonic  
collection  
C#-A#

E $\flat$  = mixture  
or blue note

B# completes  
C# major  
diatonic  
collection