

11 Transformations on Alkan

based on a string quartet extract (British Library shelfmark Hirsch IV.1455, f. 10v)

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original

Allegro agitato (♩ = 110-120)

Violin II

mf

The original piece is a single-staff musical score for Violin II in G minor, 2/4 time. It begins with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and slurs.

I. durations

Allegro agitato (♩ = 110-120)

p *mf* *f* *ff*

This transformation focuses on the durations of the notes. The tempo remains *Allegro agitato*. The dynamics are varied, starting with *p*, moving through *mf*, *f*, and ending with *ff*. The note values are preserved from the original.

II. fold

Allegretto (♩ = 90)

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

This transformation 'folds' the tempo to *Allegretto*. The dynamics are varied, including *mp*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*, and *pp*. The note values are preserved from the original.

III. joint gaps

Allegretto (♩ = 90)

con sordino

ppp *p* *mf* *ppp*

This transformation introduces 'joint gaps' between notes. The tempo is *Allegretto* and the piece is played *con sordino*. Dynamics include *ppp*, *p*, *mf*, and *ppp*.

IV. fold 2

Allegro agitato (♩ = 110-120)

senza sordino

p

This transformation 'folds' the tempo back to *Allegro agitato*. The piece is played *senza sordino*. The dynamic marking is *p*. The note values are preserved from the original.

V. pitches ascending

Largo (♩ = 45)

sul pont.

Musical notation for V. pitches ascending. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. It begins with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a decrescendo hairpin. The tempo is Largo (♩ = 45). The instruction "sul pont." is written above the staff. The music consists of a single melodic line with ascending eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

VI. fold 3

Allegretto (♩ = 90)

Musical notation for VI. fold 3. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. It begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The tempo is Allegretto (♩ = 90). The music features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some rests and slurs, ending with a fermata.

VII. slow

Grave (♩ = 30)

Musical notation for VII. slow. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. It begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The tempo is Grave (♩ = 30). The music consists of a slow melodic line with wide intervals and slurs, ending with a ritardando (*rit.*) hairpin.

VIII. fold 4

Allegro agitato (♩ = 110-120)

Musical notation for VIII. fold 4. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The tempo is Allegro agitato (♩ = 110-120). The music features a fast melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including slurs and a crescendo to a forte (*f*) dynamic.

IX. small

Allegro (♩ = 100-110)

Musical notation for IX. small. The piece is in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. It begins with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The tempo is Allegro (♩ = 100-110). The music features a fast melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including slurs and a dynamic range from *pp* to *f* and back to *p*.

X. upside-down

Allegro agitato (♩ = 110-120)

Musical score for 'X. upside-down' in G minor, 2/4 time. The piece is marked 'Allegro agitato' with a tempo of 110-120 beats per minute. The score consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second staff features dynamics of mezzo-forte (*mf*) and forte (*f*). The music is characterized by rapid sixteenth-note passages and slurs.

XI. triple-distilled

Allegretto (♩ = 90)

Musical score for 'XI. triple-distilled' in G minor, 2/4 time. The piece is marked 'Allegretto' with a tempo of 90 beats per minute. The score consists of two staves. The first staff begins with mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamics and includes a *poco crescendo* marking. The second staff features dynamics of mezzo-forte (*mf*) and piano (*p*). The music is characterized by rapid sixteenth-note passages and slurs.

reprise

Allegro agitato (♩ = 110-120)

Musical score for 'reprise' in G minor, 2/4 time. The piece is marked 'Allegro agitato' with a tempo of 110-120 beats per minute. The score consists of a single staff. The music begins with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic and features rapid sixteenth-note passages and slurs.