

1125-00-2493

Richard J Plotkin* (richardp@buffalo.edu). *Quantifying functional accent*. Preliminary report.

Accentuation plays an essential role in our experience of musical time, progression, expression, and clarity. This paper builds upon a theory that broadly organizes three categories of accent: metric, grouping, and phenomenal. These varieties of accent are always at work in different ways, and dealing with the integration of these accent types is a daunting task. The goal here is to move forward a discussion of accent quantification by attributing functional roles to synergistic patterns. For instance, where alone neither a downbeat nor the beginning of a rhythmic group necessarily indicates an initiating function, together these two accents strongly project initiation. If that is so, then what sort of measurable accentual quantity and functionality does one attribute to a rhythmic pattern that begins on the second beat of a measure in common time? Does the metric accent of beat three demonstrate initiating function, or does the moment-by-moment misalignment of accent yield a group that starts in the middle of an accent-functional progression? These questions are especially pertinent to the analysis of song, bringing in scansion, prosody, and rhyme as linguistic indicators for the musical moments. (Received September 20, 2016)