

Joel Lester, "Thoughts about Brahms's Violin Sonatas and a lot more"

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Example 1. Brahms, Violin Sonata in A, first movement, mm. 43–56 (the end of the transition and opening of the second key area)

[Allegro amabile]

43

f *dim.* *p* *teneramente* *p*

E maj.: V

51 *p dolce*

I ³ ₃ ⁶ ii⁶ V⁷ I

Example 2. Brahms, Violin Sonata in A, first movement, mm. 51–55:

- (a) the downbeat melodic passing tones, their preparations and resolutions
 (b) those passing motions as they sound in Brahms's phrase

(a)

(b)

Annotations for (b):

- B-A-G#; *unadorned*
- B-A-G#; 8va change; added note *before* the dissonance
- E-D#-C#; added note *after* the dissonance
- C#-C#-B; added notes *before and after* the dissonance, delaying resolution until the last 8th

downbeat dissonances: perfect 4th, minor 9th, aug. 4th, chromatic minor 9th

Chords: I — 6 — ii⁶ — V⁷ — I

Example 3. Brahms, Violin Sonata in A, first movement, *all* the rising semitone motions in the *melodies* in mm. 1–20. The numbers above the brackets indicate how many consecutive rising semitones sound during that melodic fragment.

mm. 1–2: 1

mm. 6–7: 2

mm. 11–13: 1

mm. 16–19: 1, or 3?, 3

Example 4. Brahms, Violin Sonata in G, second movement, mm. 14–15

14 [Adagio]

[p] *cresc.*

[Adagio] [p] *cresc.*

Example 5. Brahms, Violin Sonata in G, first movement, mm. 1–14

A section →

1 Vivace ma non troppo

p mezza voce

D D D C B

unison

p mezza voce dolce

D D C C B

I — 6 IV⁹ — 8 I⁴ — 3 V⁶ V — 2 of

7 B section →

unison →

sempre p e tranquillo

V⁶ vii⁷ of V of → V⁷

12

Example 6. Brahms, Violin Sonata in G, first movement, two ways of hearing the violin part in m. 10

the second half of m. 10 notated in G major (as Brahms wrote it):

the second half of m. 10 notated in B major (which Brahms did *not* write):

Example 7. Brahms, Violin Sonata in G, first movement, similarities between the violin's melodies in mm. 1–2 and mm. 11–12

(a)

an octave change instead of a repeated note; the same dotted rhythm, but starting on the downbeat

the skip of a fourth filled in

Works Cited (explicitly and implicitly)

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