

Noncentric Music: Atonal Concepts and Analytical Methodology

WEBSITE 31.1 *PC Set Comparison*

Each PC set within the four group examples (A, B, C, and D) share common elements (*e.g.*, same prime form, inversionally symmetrical, etc.). Determine normal order (be aware of transpositional and inversional relationships), best normal order, and prime form.

A: both sets belong to the same set class: [026].

The first set is an inversion of the second set with ordered pitch intervals 6-10 and 10-6. The two sets (60 τ and 317) can be mapped onto one another by inversion and transposition by a half step: the inversion pairs sum to 1: $\tau+3 = 1$; $0+1 = 1$; $6+7 = 1$.

B: all three sets belong to the same set class, [0167], a symmetrical set (interval content is 1-5-1 in both directions). Best normal order: E F B \flat B C D \flat F \sharp G B C F F \sharp

C: All three sets belong to the same set class: [0347], the "Major/Minor tetrachord." This is also a symmetrical set, with interval content 3-1-3 in both directions.

C-E \flat -E-G D-F-F \sharp -A D \flat -F \flat -F-A \flat

D: All three sets are symmetrical, dividing the full octave into recurring intervallic patterns. The first two sets belong to the same set class, the whole tone collection: [02468 τ].

The third set is the octatonic collection [0134679 τ] with ordered pitches: C-C \sharp -E \flat -E-F \sharp -G-A-A \sharp (B \flat).

E: There are four sonorities, identifiable by identical rhythmic patterns: quarter and two eighths. All four sets are subsets of the octatonic scale and together form a complete octatonic collection: G G \sharp B \flat B

D \flat D E F

set #1: G major (right hand)

set #2: B \flat major (left hand)

set #3: B \flat minor (right hand)

set #4: E major (left hand)

F: All three sets are symmetrical (same intervallic content going from left to right or right to left). An added feature is that each subsequent set increases the intervallic span of the previous set by 100%: [012] (interval class 1) is half as large as [024] (interval class 2), which is half as large as [048] (interval class 4).