

20th-Century Analysis

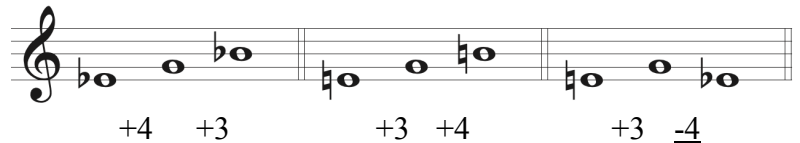
Set class 014 and Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*

Name: KEY

G. Fankhauser

Schoenberg, *Pierrot Lunaire*, No. 8 "Nacht" (1912) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gafF5sbnB0>

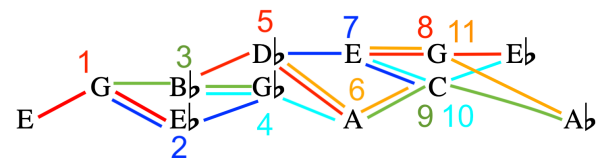
- How might an E $\flat$ -major triad and an E-minor triad each be "folded" at the third to form the same 014 trichord, both E $\flat$ -G-E and E-G-E $\flat$?



+3+4 = minor = 037. +4+3 = major = 037(!). "Fold" +4 - 3 = +3 - 4 = 014. Might Schoenberg have viewed this as a new kind of "triad," combining M3 and m3 in a new way? Probably not in those terms, but he did view his music *not* as atonal but as a natural *tonal* descendant of earlier music. This view of 014 as a modified major/minor triad is consistent with that connection.

- Find at least *eight* 014 sets in the introduction, mm. 1–3...

See 11 sets labeled.



- Name the mode or collection formed in mm. 1–2?

All pcs form an octatonic collection, except for the A $\flat$ at the end.

- The *passacaglia* theme enters in canon from (1) the bass clarinet to (2) the cello to (3) the piano (LH then RH).

- How does Schoenberg's music heighten the "expression" of Albert Giraud's poem (originally in French)?

Dense, dark, heavy, obscure tonality, probably referring not to literal moths blocking sunlight but to our own melancholy, madness, or despondency blocking a positive outlook, a common theme in early 1900s Vienna.

- How do the piano lines m. 19 superimpose the two parts of the *passacaglia* theme? How are these lines remarkable both for their *expression* of the text as well as for their *logical organization*?

Like the moths, the lines descend, with heavy (tonally dense) wings. The pianist might understand each hand as descending thirds (or $^{\circ}7$ in both hands combined), but more importantly, overlapping 014 trichords saturate the measure. Within the measure, every pc is part of *three* different 014 trichords, like moths blocking the sunlight.

German: Und vom Himmel erdenwärts senken sich mit schweren Schwingen.

English: And from Heaven earthward they sink with heavy wings.