

# Leonard B. Meyer

# David Huron

Emotion and Meaning in Music (1956)

Sweet Anticipation (2006)

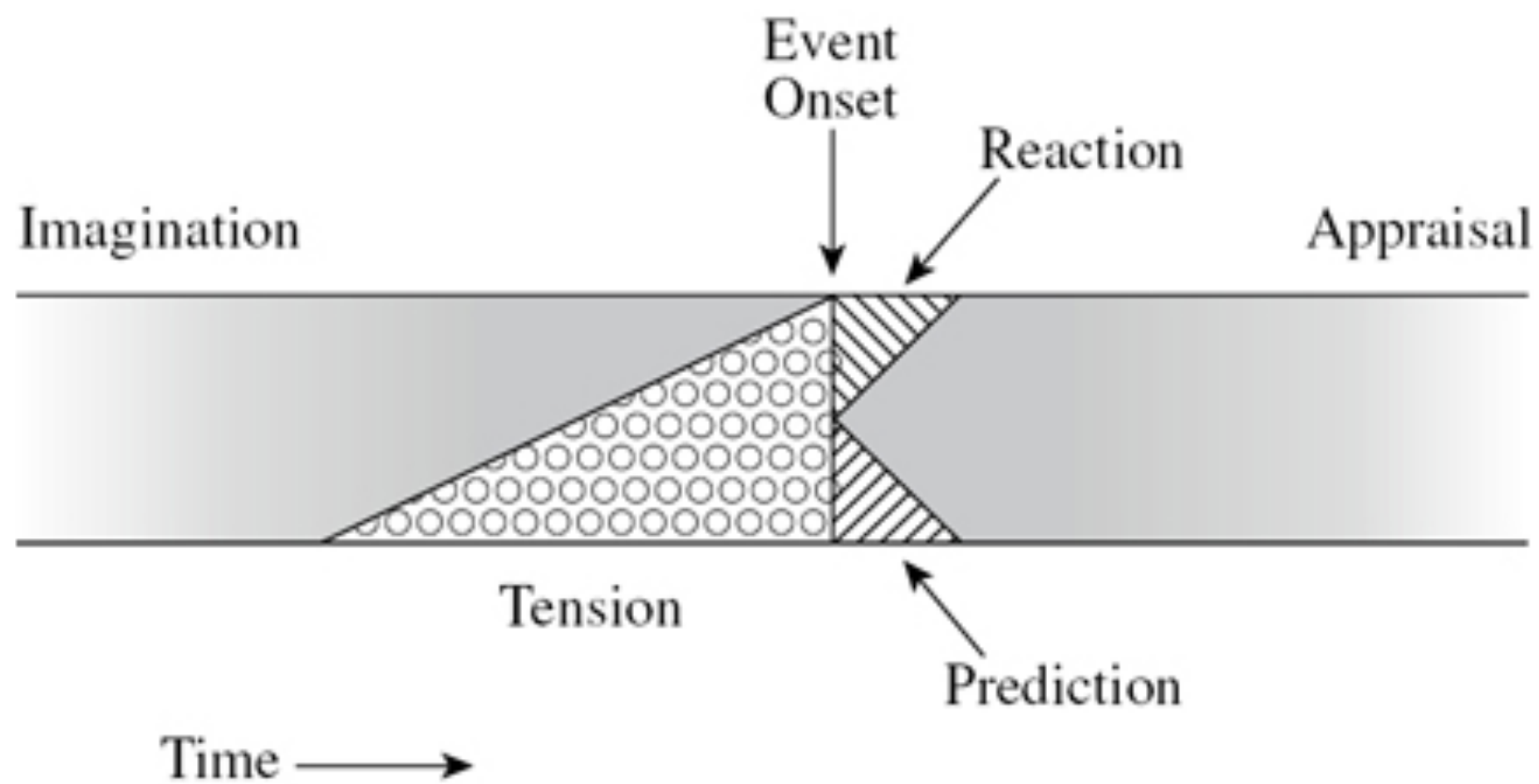
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- Absolutists vs. Referentialists
- Understanding the musical process
- Types of meaning: hypothetical, evident, determinate
- Emotion as a result of inhibited or delayed response (?)
- Expectation and learning (style, idiom, context,...)

- Principles of pattern perception (Gestalt)
- Human beings are “wired” for discovering patterns and structures
- Laws:
  - Law of good continuation  
points of deviation, “gaps”, change in process
  - Law of completion and closure
  - Law of weakening of shape

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- ITPRA model
- Tonality and prediction and expectation
- Creating predictability
- Creating surprise
- Creating tension



[Table 9.1](#)

| <b>Scale tone</b>  | <b>Common descriptors</b>                        | <b>Sample responses</b>                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| tonic              | stable, pleasure, home, contentment              | stable, extremely satisfying, centered, foundational, solid, resolved, strong                                                                                        |
| raised tonic       | strong, upward, bold                             | edgy, unstable, uncertain, upwardly mobile, mildly precarious                                                                                                        |
| lowered supertonic | surprise, abruptness, pause                      | somewhat dark, a sense of almost inevitable further descent, murky, unexpected richness, mild surprise                                                               |
| supertonic         | solid, movement, resolve                         | hanging, dangling, transitory, moderate expectancy of more to come, part of a flow                                                                                   |
| raised supertonic  | longing, unstable                                | needling, moderately harsh, jarring, unstable, off-balance                                                                                                           |
| mediant            | bright, love, warmth, beauty                     | light, lifted, bright, point of many possible departures, yet also strongly restful, peaceful and calm                                                               |
| subdominant        | descending                                       | awkward, tentative, strong sense of being unfinished, "Now what?" no clear expectation of future, hanging feeling, would be happy to fall by half step               |
| raised subdominant | intentional, motivated                           | moderately anxious, interrupted flow to dominant, somewhat curious about possibilities, fluidity, transitory                                                         |
| dominant           | strong, muscular, balance, possibility, pleasant | strong, towering, height, sense of looking down from a tall building and being comfortable, but knowing you'll eventually take the elevator back to the street level |
| raised dominant    | leading, aspiring                                | leading to something, sense of implication, unfinished, leaning, mildly uncomfortable                                                                                |
| submediant         | balance, open, lightness                         | airy and open, temporary suspendedness, neutral, evokes mild curiosity in regard to direction                                                                        |
| subtonic           | falling, lightness drifting downward, shifting   | heavy, like walking with a limp, unexpected, open new possibilities, sheds a new light on things                                                                     |
| leading tone       | unstable, pointing, restless                     | sense of inevitability, highly unstable, uncomfortable, squirmy, itching, restless                                                                                   |

[Table 14.1](#) Reported qualia for chromatic mediant chords in a major key context

| Chord       | Expectedness                                       | Tendency                                                                                                          | Valence                                                                                                                             | Other                                |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| VI          | surprising, bold                                   | leading, unresolved, forward-leaning, strong tendency, heralding change, anticipatory, tense, suggestive, dangled | bright, joyful                                                                                                                      | quizzical                            |
| $\flat$ VI  | sudden, abrupt, surprising, shocking, daring, bold | suggestive                                                                                                        | hopeful, open, bright, airy, powerful, solid, heroic, majestic                                                                      | confident, sure, strident, enigmatic |
| $\flat$ vi  | unexpected, surprising                             |                                                                                                                   | dark, mysterious, serious, sad, gloomy, negative, wrenching, anguished, sorrowful, angst, troubled                                  | stately, impassioned                 |
| III         | different                                          | leading, directed, unresolved, stable, final                                                                      | warm, homely, mellow, simple, light, airy, solemn, firm, duller                                                                     | questioning                          |
| $\flat$ III | sudden, jolting, shifty                            | strong, solid                                                                                                     | positive, bright, sunny, joyful, buoyant, luminous                                                                                  | resolute                             |
| $\flat$ iii | surprised, unusual, weird                          | retiring, tentative                                                                                               | somber, desolate, dramatic, empty, despairing, tragic, gloomy, sad, resigned, hopeless, stark, serious, reflective, hollow, pensive |                                      |

[Table 14.2](#) Reported qualia for chromatic mediant chords in a minor key context

| Chord | Expectedness                                      | Tendency                                                                                                    | Valence                                                                   | Other                                                   |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| #VI   | novel, futuristic, bold, conventional             | stable, settled, complete, final, leading, urging, pushy                                                    | upbeat, energetic, bright                                                 | whole, heightened, strong, simple, uncomplicated, plain |
| #vi   | surprising, challenging                           | confident, resolute, enticing, incomplete, stable, established, shifty, open-ended                          | weighty, airy, serious, majestic                                          | melodious, strident, expansive, solid                   |
| vi    | unexpected, different, newness, abrupt, eccentric |                                                                                                             | mysterious, cheerless, somber, dark, tragic, despairing, death, depressed |                                                         |
| #III  | surprising, edgy, sudden                          | transitional, falling, promising, temporary, committed, directed, suggestive, drawing in, settled, resolved | satisfying, positive,                                                     | simple, plain, hollow, crisp                            |
| #iii  | surprise                                          | restful, resigned                                                                                           | somber, sad, mysterious, serious, solemn, stately, solid, melancholic     | whimsical, light                                        |
| iii   | surprising, unprepared                            | compelling, foreboding, insistent, leading, tentative                                                       | dark, ominous, murky, solemn, mysterious, ethereal, disturbed, anxious    | rich, fuzzy, cozy, sensitive, detached                  |



[Table 15.1](#) Summary expectation analysis of a suspension

|                 | Reaction  | Prediction                                         | Tension                                                                |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| pre-suspension  | consonant | —                                                  | low tension                                                            |
| suspension      | dissonant | moderate predictive success due to pitch proximity | very high tension; strong expectation of ensuing resolving pitch       |
| post-suspension | consonant | extremely high predictive success                  | continued high tension; strong expectation of returning to tonic chord |
| cadence end     | consonant | very high predictive success                       | closure; weak expectation of ensuing events, so low tension            |

- [Beethoven overgang deel 3 naar 4 symp. Nr 5](#)
- <https://open.spotify.com/track/6UyBRgGyuglYgRHkDOZ0Es?si=44b07d30afba45c6>
- <https://open.spotify.com/track/6UyBRgGyuglYgRHkDOZ0Es?si=7fa81a44a4a84ec5>
- Schubert quintet, beginning first and second movement
- <https://open.spotify.com/track/4TDocAtjz2X5Q1zK3p3sH3?si=9c5cd060f83347c5>
- <https://open.spotify.com/track/25mDxl046ioWDZZgSF2MYT?si=b14a593fe3ed48c7>

- Schubert score:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Special:ImagefromIndex/94129/  
ayse](https://imslp.org/wiki/Special:ImagefromIndex/94129/ayse)