

# MusicQuery

A graphical music query language

---

Matan Gover

SIMSSA Workshop XVII

# Motivation

Bach never used parallel fifths!

3

Beethoven's 5th contains 243 occurrences of the main motive

I wish I could verify these claims...



# Goal

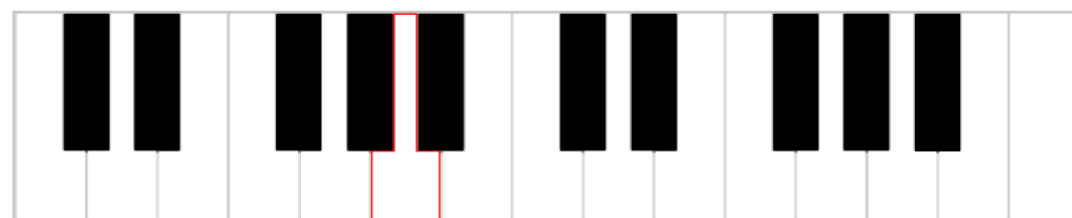
**A search engine for  
symbolic music**

# Existing Solutions

# Music Ngram Viewer

6

Please enter a melody or a sequence of [chords](#) ([advanced use](#))



62 0 1 2 0 -2 -1 -2 -2|

melody ▾ ▴

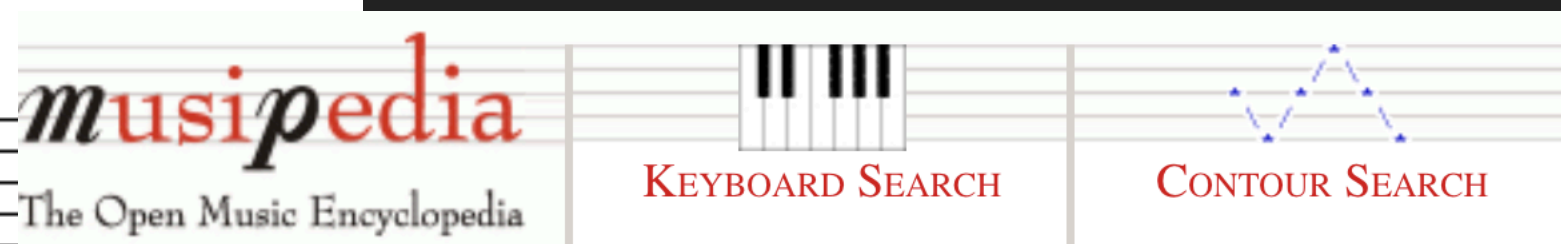
Search

Petrucchi Music Library ▾ ▴

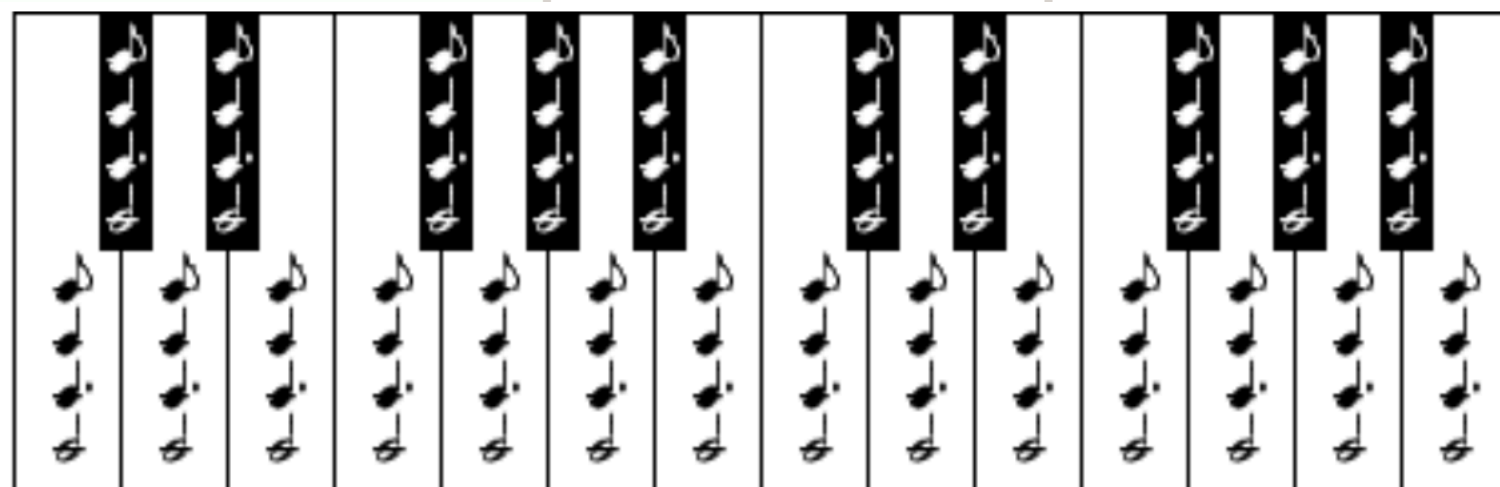
Smoothing: 0 ▾ ▴

☐ Normalized

<http://www.peachnote.com>



<http://www.musipedia.org>



Your melody:



Easy to use

Too simplistic

## VoiceLeadingQuartet.**parallelFifth()**

Returns true if the motion is a parallel or antiparallel Perfect Fifth, allowing displacement by an octave (e.g., 5th to a 12th).

We will make the examples shorter with this abbreviation: >>> N = note.Note  
parallel fifths

```
>>> vlq = voiceLeading.VoiceLeadingQuartet(N("G4"), N("A4"), >>>
N("C4"), N("D4"))
>>> vlq.parallelFifth()
True
```

music21.search.base.**approximateNoteSearch**(*thisStream*,  
*otherStreams*)

searches the list of otherStreams and returns an ordered list of matches (each stream will have a new property of matchProbability to show how well it matches)

```
>>> s = converter.parse("tinynotation: 4/4 c4 d8 e16 FF a'4 b-")>>>
>>> o1 = converter.parse("tinynotation: 4/4 c4 d8 e GG a' b-4")
>>> l = search.approximateNoteSearch(s, [o1, o2, o3])
>>> for i in l:
...     print("%s %r" % (i.id, i.matchProbability))
o1 0.666666...
```



# Extremely powerful\*

\*Only if you can code

# VerovioHumdrumViewer Mozart, Piano Sonata No. 8 in A minor, K

```

1  !!!COM: Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus
2  !!!OTL: Piano Sonata No. 8 in A minor
3  **kern      **kern      **dynam
4  *staff2     *staff1     *staff1/2
5  *clefF4     *clefG2     *clefG2
6  =1-         =1-         =1-
7  .           16dd#qq     .
8  8A 8c 8eL   4ee        f
9  8A 8c 8e    .          .
10 8A 8c 8e    8.eeL      .
11 8A 8c 8eJ   .          .
12 .           16eeJk     .
13 8A 8c 8eL   4ee        .
14 8A 8c 8e    .          .
15 8A 8c 8e    8.ccL>    .
16 8A 8c 8eJ   .          .
17 .           16aJk      .
18 =2          =2          =2
19 .           16aqq      .
20 8A 8B 8d 8eL      4g#
21 8A 8B 8d 8e      .
22 8A 8B 8d 8e 2g#   .

```



Picardy third	$3[+]$ $==$
Landini cadence	$[Mm]6$ $P5.*v6$ $P8$
The pitch G followed optionally by a single G# followed by one or more records containing one or more pitches from an A major triad, the last of which must end a phrase	$[Gg]+[^{\#}-]$ + $[Gg]+#[^{\#}]$ ? $([Aa]+ ([Cc]+\#) [Ee]+)[^{\#}-]^*$ $(\{.*([Aa]+ ([Cc]+\#) [Ee]+)$ $[^{\#}-]) ((([Aa]+ ([Cc]+\#) [Ee]+)$ $[^{\#}-].*\})$

**Very powerful**

**Steep learning curve**  
**Text manipulation**

# Revelation

**When I search for music  
I want my query to look like music**

# Query language

Expressive  
Moderate learning curve  
Looks like music

# Proof of concept

<https://www.matangover.com/musicquery>

Search

Clear

Examples ▾

Music

Text

Score ▾

## Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

## Thema: Andante grazioso

5

10

14





Search

Clear

Examples ▾

Music

Text

Score ▾



## Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

## Thema: Andante grazioso

5

10

14



MEI engraved with Verovio

Search

Clear

Examples ▾

Music

Text

Score ▾

&lt;beam&gt;

&lt;note pname="c" oct="5" dur="8" dots="1" accid="s"/&gt;

&lt;note pname="d" oct="5" dur="16"/&gt;

&lt;note pname="c" oct="5" dur="8" accid="s"/&gt;

&lt;/beam&gt;



## Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

## Thema: Andante grazioso



Search

Clear

Examples ▾

Music

Text

Score ▾

## Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

## Thema: Andante grazioso



Search

Clear

Examples ▾

Music

Text

Score ▾

## Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

## Thema: Andante grazioso

5

10

14



Search

Clear

Examples ▾

Music

Text

Score ▾

## Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

## Thema: Andante grazioso

5

10

14



Search

Clear

Examples ▾

Music

Text

Score ▾

## Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

## Thema: Andante grazioso



Search

Clear

Examples ▾

Music

Text

Score ▾

## Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

## Thema: Andante grazioso



Search

Clear

Examples ▾

Music

Text

Score ▾

## Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

## Thema: Andante grazioso



Search

Clear

Examples ▾

```
<note pname="a" oct="4" dur="4" stem.visible="false"/>
<tuplet xml:id="group0" quantifier="+" num="1" numbase="1" type="quantified">
  <note pname="b" oct="4" dur="8" stem.visible="false"/>
</tuplet>
<note pname="c" oct="5" dur="4" accid="s" stem.visible="false"/>
```



Music

Text

Score ▾

Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

**Thema: Andante grazioso**

Search

Clear

Examples ▾

Music

Text

Score ▾

## Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756–91

## Thema: Andante grazioso

5

10

14

1:

# Possible improvements

Polyphonic music  
Layers (harmony, lyrics...)  
Graphical editing  
Semantic query encoding  
Rendering

# Thank you.

<https://www.matangover.com/musicquery>