CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS OF PETER MENNIN'S SYMPHONY NO. 5

"The three movement symphony is direct and assertive. The energetic finale has the strong sense of purpose and headlong forward propulsion encountered in all his major orchestral works." 129

Mennin wrote his Fifth Symphony in 1950, at age 27. The Dallas Symphony Orchestra commissioned the work for \$1000 and Walter Hendl and the DSO premiered it on 2 April of the same year. Mennin scored the Fifth for piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two B-flat clarinets, two bassoons, four F horns, three C trumpets, three trombones, four timpani, percussion (snare drum, bass drum, cymbal, and suspended cymbal), violin I, viola, violoncello, and contrabass. There is no previously published analysis of this work.

The Fifth is in three movements, which is typical of Mennin's symphonies other than his Seventh and Eighth. The first movement, Con vigore (J = 126) has 193 measures. The second movement, Canto (Andante Arioso, J = 66-72) has 128 measures. The third movement, Allegro tempestuoso (J = 126-132) has 496 measures. The duration of the whole work is over twenty-one minutes, with the first, second, and third movements lasting about five, nine, and seven and one-half minutes, respectively.

The following analysis consists of a discussion of Mennin's Fifth in terms of its

¹²⁹ Butterworth, *The American Symphony*, 157.

rhythm and meter, orchestration, harmony, and form. A thorough thematic analysis of each movement then follows.

Rhythm and Meter

Mennin uses standard meters in this work and all three movements stay in their initial time signatures: $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{4}{4}$, and $\frac{2}{4}$. However, to create the feeling of changing meters, Mennin frequently either ties notes through the bar line (see Ex. 27) or beams phrases through the bar line (see Ex. 28). These techniques are common in his other symphonies.



Ex. 27. Time signature sequence of 4/4, 5/4, 4/4, and 5/4 implied with tied notes through the bar line. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 1-5. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Ex. 28. Changing time signature implied with notes beamed through the bar line. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 30-38. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Mennin's use of rhythm in this work is fairly traditional. He employs no unusual figures except for occasional irregular divisions on the beginning or ending of phrases (see Ex. 29).



Ex. 29. A septuplet used at the end of the first movement. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 188-193. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The rhythm that ties all three movements together is two sixteenths and an eighth. As shown in the thematic analyses at the end of this chapter, Mennin emphasizes this figure in two of the first movement's three themes, one of the second movement's two themes, and in two of the third movement's four themes. It is also an integral part of the main motivic figures of movements one and three and further used during accompaniment parts. For example, the flute plays for 163 measures in the first movement, and forty-one of them (about twenty-five percent) contain that rhythm.

Orchestration

"Orchestrally speaking, the colors used are primary rather than pastel in quality. Hence, the work as a whole is direct, assertive and terse in communication." ¹³⁰

The instrumentation of the Fifth is identical only to his Fourth Symphony, although the Fifth requires two extra percussionists. Mennin does not use English horn, bass clarinet, or contrabassoon, as he has in other works. Also, he does not use any special orchestral effects in this work, nor does he use any unusual notation or playing techniques.

As is typical of Mennin's symphonies, he treats the major sections of the orchestra (winds, brass, percussion, and strings) as groups that usually play the same material together. The low-pitched instruments of the groups (bassoon, tuba, double bass, and sometimes the third trombone and cello), however, normally play together (see Ex. 30). Mennin uses this technique in all of his symphonies.

¹³⁰ Mennin, notes to *Recordings of Works Commissioned by the Louisville Philharmonic Society for the Louisville Orchestra*.



Ex. 30. Material divided among the different sections of the orchestra. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 93-105. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

For most of the instrumental groups, Mennin generally scores chords with their notes distributed from highest to lowest, starting with the first chair and working down.

With the horns, though, he uses the standard technique of overlapping chords so that the first and third horns take the highest parts (see Ex. 31).



Ex. 31. Overlapping horn chords. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 70-73. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Mennin wrote a piccolo part separate from the two flute parts, requiring three performers total. All three parts normally play together, though often Mennin writes only for the two flutes, if that texture is required. The piccolo never plays solo.

The percussion section consists of five parts (timpani, snare drum, bass drum, cymbal, and suspended cymbal) divided among four players. Mennin uses percussion only for punctuating musical accents. The section never plays unaccompanied and, except for a few timpani cadences such as at measure 149 of the first movement, the section also never has a solo.

Harmony

Mennin's harmony in the Fifth is predominantly chromatic, which is typical of most of his other symphonies. Like those, Mennin produces chromaticism in the Fifth through twentieth-century counterpoint. Mennin's contrapuntal writing includes canonic,

fugal, and multi-thematic techniques, as well as standard developmental techniques such as rhythmic augmentation.

An example of Mennin's canonic counterpoint can be seen at measures 162-175 of the first movement (see Ex. 32).



Ex. 32. Canonic counterpoint. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 162-175. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

In this example, Mennin offsets a unison theme by one measure. The prevalence of cross-relations and dissonant intervals reveals the modern nature of this counterpoint.

An illustration of Mennin's fugal (transposed) counterpoint can be seen at measures 150-159 of the first movement (see Ex. 33).



Ex. 33. Fugal counterpoint. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 150-159. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

This example combines a theme at the interval of a perfect fifth, offset by four measures. The next one (see Ex. 34) combines a theme transposed by a major second. This example also shows how Mennin offsets a theme by more than an exact number of measures (seven and one-half in this case).



Ex. 34. Fugal counterpoint. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 6-23. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

All three movements contain multi-thematic counterpoint, where Mennin polyphonically combines multiple themes, as seen in the following example from the third movement (see Ex. 35).



Ex. 35. Multi-thematic counterpoint. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 154-171. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Mennin develops themes or alters them in standard ways to suit his linear counterpoint. For instance, the following example uses rhythmic augmentation (see Ex. 36).



Transposed theme with rhythmic augmentation (measures 35-40):



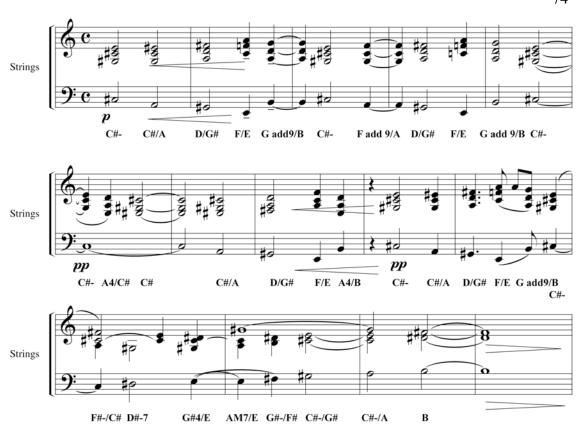
Ex. 36. Original theme and theme with rhythmic augmentation. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 28-30 and 35-40. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Overall, Mennin uses very little homophonic writing in the Fifth, except for at structural strong points, such as cadences and the ends of movements (see Ex. 37).



Ex. 37. Homophonic writing at the end of the third movement. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 487-496. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The second movement is where the majority of his homophonic writing occurs, particularly as part of the movement's main harmonic progression, which ties the movement's themes together (see Ex. 38).



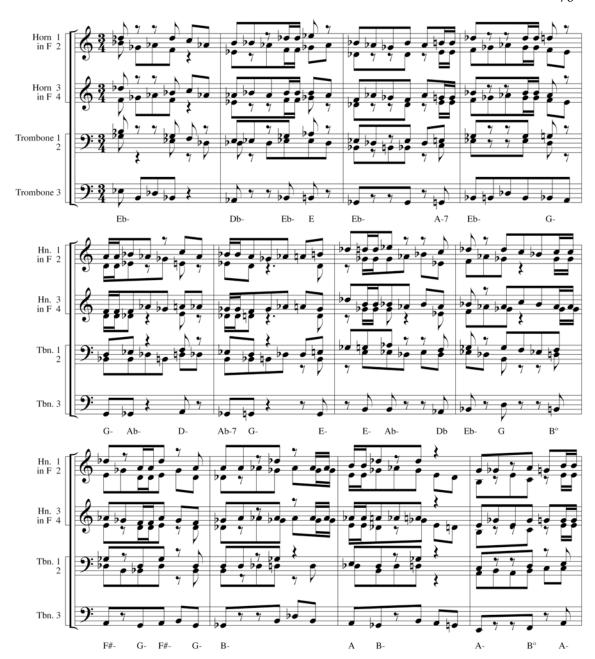
Ex. 38. Homophonic, polychordal, and partially modal harmony (C-sharp Phrygian). Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 1-14. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

In this example, Mennin's harmony is polychordal and loosely modal. His polychords consist of disparate triads and bass notes, and the harmonic motion is centered on C-sharp Phrygian with chromatic alterations.

Mennin also uses pantriadic writing in the Fifth, such as the following homophonic sequence of minor chords (see Ex. 39). He further uses pantriadic writing in some of the Fifth's polyphonic accompaniment patterns as well (see Ex. 40).



Ex. 39. Homophonic pantriadic writing, Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 103-109. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Ex. 40. Polyphony producing a pantriadic texture. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 42-53. \bigcirc 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Mennin also uses pandiatonic writing in a homophonic texture (see Ex. 41).

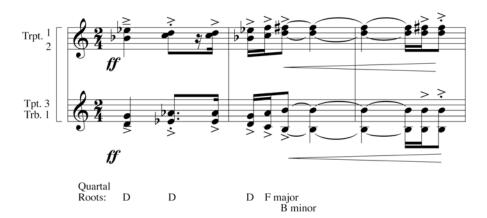


Ex. 41. Pandiatonic writing in a homophonic texture. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 93-100. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

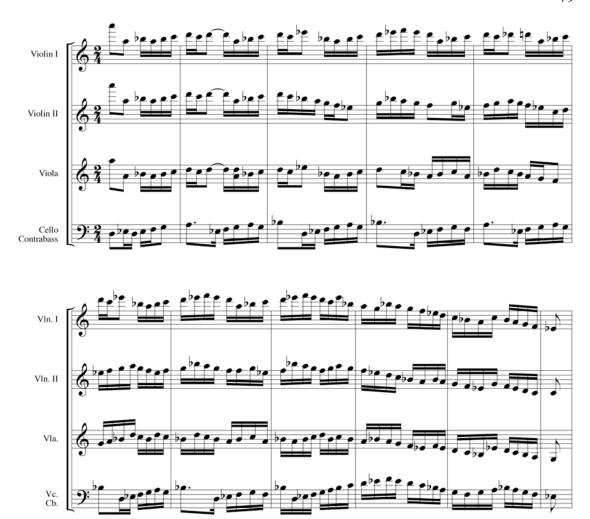
Additionally, the Fifth contains many non-tertiary techniques, such as quartal chords (see Ex. 42 and Ex. 43), polyphonic pandiatonicism (see Ex. 44), non-serial pointillism (see Ex. 45), and mixed and overlapping modal ostinatos (see Ex. 46).



Ex. 42. Mostly quartal harmony (with an inverted C pedal). Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 8-11. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Ex. 43. Mostly quartal harmony. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 7-9. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Ex. 44. A polyphonic pandiatonic section in D Phrygian. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 59-69. \odot 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Ex. 45. Non-serial pointillism. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 123-131. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Ex. 46. Mixed and overlapping modal ostinatos. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 94-110. \odot 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Form and Themes

None of Mennin's nine symphonies conform to traditional symphonic forms; each of his works uniquely follows its own thematic and contrapuntal development. The following section analyzes the themes of each movement of the Fifth, paying particular attention to their interplay and key relations. To understand better the overall thematic form, the end of each section contains a graphic overview of the analysis.

Movement I

In the liner notes to the Louisville Orchestra's 1961 recording of the Fifth Symphony, Mennin writes of the first movement:

I. The first movement opens dramatically in a declamatory fashion with heavy punctuation. A broad melodic line follows, which spins out autogenetically, and which allows itself different textural presentations. These ideas are developed polyphonically, with occasional interruptions by the opening declamatory idea. ¹³¹

In the first movement, Mennin uses one motive and three themes, all of which develop and pass to various instruments throughout the orchestra. The symphony begins with what Mennin referred to above as "the opening declamatory idea" ("Main Motive") in F Phrygian, played first by flute 1 and the clarinets (Ex. 47) and then by the flutes, oboes, clarinets, and bassoon 1 (Ex. 48).

¹³¹ Ibid.



Ex. 47. "Main Motive" in F Phrygian played by flute 1 and clarinets. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 1-3. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Ex. 48. "Main Motive" in F Phrygian played by flutes, oboes, clarinets, and bassoon 1. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 4-7. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The tonal center of the beginning of the work is F Phrygian because of timpani cadences on F, which are the only prominent, low-pitched notes (see Ex. 49).



Ex. 49. Timpani cadences on F. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 3-4, 7-8. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The motive is then heard a third time with piccolo, flutes, oboes, clarinets, horns 1 and 2, and the trumpets (see Ex. 50).



Ex. 50. "Main Motive" in the woodwinds and brass. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 8-11. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The initial use of three parts for the motive (clarinets 1 and 2 and flute 1) is important since primarily three trumpets play and develop it later, such as at measures 8-9, 20-21, 25-26, 40-42, 70-71, 88-89, 91-93, 103-105, 108, 116-117, 141-142, 160, and from 181 until the end at 193 (see Ex. 51 and Ex. 52). The pitches of the "Main Motive" develop throughout the first movement, so the motive is better defined as just the rhythmic pattern of two eighths, two sixteenths, and an eighth (sometimes starting with a

quarter instead of an eighth). See Ex. 51 and Ex. 52. As mentioned in the Rhythm and Meter section of this chapter, the second half of the "Main Motive's" rhythm (two sixteenths and an eighth) is central to this symphony and is also found in Themes "1B" and "1C."



Ex. 51. "Main Motive" in the trumpets. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, m. 8. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Ex. 52. Melodic and rhythmic development of "Main Motive" in the trumpets. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 20-21. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The first actual theme enters at measure twelve, played by piccolo, flutes, oboes, clarinets, horns, trumpets, violins, and violas. This Theme "1A" is in F Dorian with

chromatic additions, such as raised first, fourth (tritone), and seventh scale degrees (see Ex. 53).



Ex. 53. Theme "1A" in F Dorian, played by piccolo, flutes, oboes, clarinets, horns, trumpets, violins, and violas. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 12-21. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

After chromatically sounding the "Main Motive" by the trumpets and two trombones (see Ex. 52), the horns briefly start Theme "1B" in C Phrygian until temporarily interrupted by the trumpets with the "Main Motive" now in that new key. The flutes, oboes, clarinets, and horns then repeat and extend Theme "1B" accompanied by the cellos and bassoons with a modal ostinato in C Phrygian, typical of Mennin's other works. Theme "1B" contains the rhythm of two sixteenths and an eighth as well as the chromatic additions of raised second, lowered fourth, and lowered fifth (tritone) scale degrees (see Ex. 54). In measures 29-30, Mennin highlights an accent shift by beaming two eighth notes across the bar line; he uses this procedure in many of his other symphonies.



Ex. 54. Theme "1B" in C Phrygian, played by the flutes, oboes, clarinets, and horns and the start of a modal ostinato in the bassoons and cellos. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 27-31. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Theme "1A" returns next in the flutes, oboes, clarinets, horns, trumpets, violins, and violas, this time in the key of B-flat Dorian. After another short brass assertion of the "Main Motive" (mm. 40-42), the third theme, Theme "1C," plays in the woodwinds and strings (see Ex. 55). This theme is chromatic, but is related to Theme "1B" in intervals and rhythm, including the use of two sixteenths and an eighth.



Ex. 55. Theme "1C" played by the woodwinds and strings. Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 42-57. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

After another articulation of the "Main Motive," an extended and now chromatic version of Theme "1B" returns, played by the horns, violins, and violas. Two more articulations of the "Main Motive" occur within this section, followed by a climactic middle section in A Phrygian based on the "Main Motive" (see Ex. 56).



Ex. 56. Middle section in A Phrygian based on the "Main Motive," Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 103-109. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The next section consists of fragments of the three themes and "Main Motive" in counterpoint (see Ex. 57). Again to highlight an accent shift, Mennin beams notes in the violins across the bar line (mm. 118-119).



Ex. 57. Fragments of the three themes and "Main Motive" in counterpoint, Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 110-122. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Next, just the strings play Theme "1A" in F Dorian, and afterwards, the woodwinds (except the bassoons) play Theme "1B" in B Phrygian. The "Main Motive" plays again, now in E-flat Phrygian, and then Mennin combines Themes "1A" and "1B" (see Ex. 58). Afterwards, the timpani briefly play the "Main Motive" with a cadence on C.



Ex. 58. Themes "1A" and "1B" in counterpoint, Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 144-150. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The penultimate section consists of two canonical statements of Theme "1C." Five measures and the interval of a perfect fifth separate the first statements (see Ex. 59). Next, the "Main Motive" plays, and then one measure and the interval of a unison separate the second statements (see Ex. 60).



Ex. 59. Theme "1C" in counterpoint with itself separated by five measures and the interval of a perfect fifth, Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 150-159. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Ex. 60. Theme "1C" in counterpoint with itself separated by one measure and the interval of a unison, Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 162-175. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The ending section is in C Phrygian and uses the "Main Motive" in roughly three iterations, just like the beginning of the movement. The movement ends loud (triple forte) on unison C's throughout the orchestra (see Ex. 61).





Ex. 61. The ending, using the "Main Motive" and finishing on unison C's, Symphony No. 5, Movement I, mm. 188-193. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

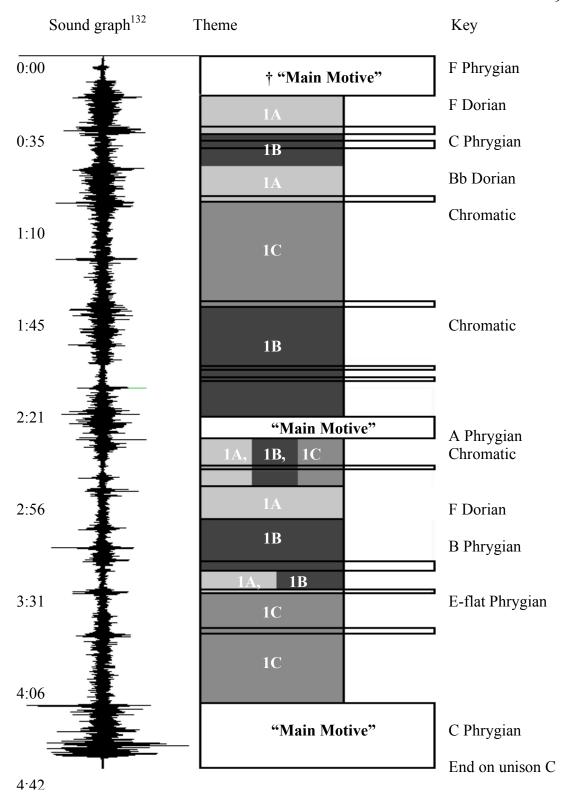


Figure 1. Sound graph, thematic use, and keys in Symphony No. 5, movement I. †A long box denotes strong use of the "Main Motive" (thirteen total).

¹³² A digital waveform image of the recording.

Movement II

In the liner notes to the Louisville Orchestra's 1961 recording of the second movement, Mennin writes:

II. The second movement, as the title, "Canto" suggests, is an extended song bringing out the singing qualities of the orchestra. Much use of sustained string writing is used. After a quiet opening section, the polyphonic weaving of the orchestral textures culminates in a broad passage in unison strings and climaxes one of the most intense moments in the symphony. The work slowly returns to the calm opening and ends quietly. The basic mood of this movement is reflective and suppliant. ¹³³

The second movement contains one recurring chord progression ("Main Progression") mentioned by Mennin above as the "quiet opening section," and two main themes. Both themes develop throughout the movement, play in counterpoint with themselves and each other, and at points are harmonized by the "Main Progression."

The movement begins with the strings quietly playing the "Main Progression," loosely centered on C-sharp Phrygian (see Ex. 62). Mennin chromatically alters the mode with lowered first, fourth, and fifth (tritone) scale degrees.

¹³³ Peter Mennin, *Recordings of Works Commissioned by the Louisville Philharmonic Society for the Louisville Orchestra* (Louisville, KY: Louisville Philharmonic Society), LP.



Ex. 62. "Main Progression" in C-sharp Phrygian played by the strings. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 1-5. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

After the string introduction, a solo oboe presents the first theme, "2A," in C-sharp Phrygian (see Ex. 63) as the strings continue and develop the "Main Progression."



Ex. 63. Theme "2A" in C-sharp Phrygian played by the oboe. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 6-12. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Seven and one-half measures after the oboe begins playing Theme "2A," the flute adds in the same theme transposed down a major second (see Ex. 64). Since the flute's version of Theme "2A" is offset from the beginning of its measure by two beats, Mennin

holds notes across the bar line, using ties where needed. For the same reason, he also beams notes across the bar line (see Ex. 64, flute part measures 18-19).



Ex. 64. Theme "2A" in counterpoint with itself by seven and one-half measures and a major second. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 6-21. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

In the middle of this second playing of Theme "2A," the cellos and basses start it a third time, now transposed up a minor third and beginning on the first beat of the measure. After all three iterations of the first theme have finished, the flutes and clarinets then present the next theme, "2B" (see Ex. 65). Because of the accompaniment, this theme is in the key of E Phrygian, and occasionally contains a raised second scale degree. Theme "2B" contains the rhythm of two sixteenths and an eighth which, as mentioned earlier, is prevalent in many themes and motives throughout this symphony.



Ex. 65. Theme "2B" in E Phrygian played by the flutes and clarinets. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 28-32. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Theme "2B" plays a second time, now in the cellos, with rhythmic augmentation and transposed up a minor third to G Phrygian (see Ex. 66).



Ex. 66. Theme "2B" played by the cellos with rhythmic augmentation. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 35-41. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Next, Mennin presents Themes "2A" and "2B" together. The bassoons, cellos, and basses play "2A" and the flutes and violins play a developed version of "2B" in G Phrygian (see Ex. 67).



Ex. 67. Themes "2A" and "2B" together. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 42-51. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

At measure 52, parts of the "Main Progression" return in the strings, now accompanying a solo oboe playing the second theme, "2B," in rhythmic augmentation (see Ex. 68).



Ex. 68. The "Main Progression" played by the strings accompanying Theme "2B" played by the oboe with rhythmic augmentation. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 52-59. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

At the completion of the oboe line, the first violins take the melody by playing material from the middle of Theme "2A." This theme passes to and continues in the clarinets, where it becomes a countermelody to the flutes who are playing the beginning of Theme "2A." Afterwards, the violins and violas play a fragment from the first half of Theme "2B" which grows into one of the climaxes of this movement in G Phrygian.

The next section is quieter and similar to the beginning of the movement where Theme "2A" played in counterpoint to itself by seven and one-half measures. This time, the violas start "2A" and the second violins echo the transposed and delayed theme. However, Mennin increases contrapuntal complexity to this section by adding violins playing fragments of "2A" (see Ex. 69).



Ex. 69. Contrapuntal elaboration of the strings playing Theme "2A" against itself by seven and one-half measures and a major second. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 73-89. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Next, the cellos and solo oboe start Theme "2B" with rhythmic augmentation (see Ex. 70). This section grows into the other climax of this movement, which is mostly made up of material related to Theme "2B" in A Phrygian (see Ex. 71).



Ex. 70. Theme "2B" with rhythmic augmentation played by the cellos and first oboe. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 86-92. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Ex. 71. The second climax, beginning mostly pandiatonic in A Phrygian. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 93-105. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

After the movement's second, and main, climax, the final section of the movement starts quietly and is again similar to the beginning. First, the horns and low instruments (bassoon, third trombone, tuba, cellos, and double basses) play the "Main Progression" by itself in D Phrygian and then the strings play two statements of Theme "2A" offset by seven and one-half measures and transposed apart by a major second. It is the third time he has contrapuntally set Theme "2A" this way. Mennin does not polyphonically embellish the accompaniment this time.

The final measures of the movement consist of one more iteration of the "Main Progression" played quietly by the oboes, clarinets, bassoons, violins. This final section is in C Phrygian, though the work concludes on a C major triad (see Ex. 72).



Ex. 72. The final measures of Movement II in C Phrygian, though ending on a C major chord. Symphony No. 5, Movement II, mm. 124-128. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

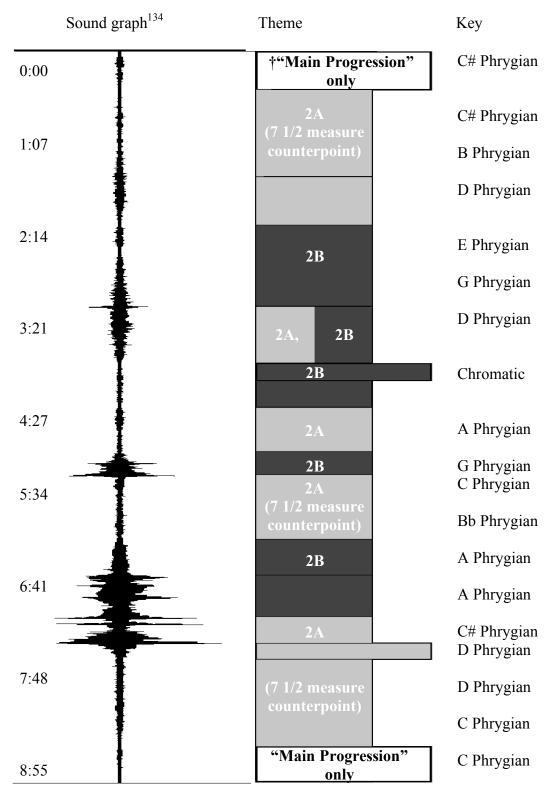


Figure 2. Sound graph, thematic use, and keys in Symphony No. 5, movement II. † A long box denotes strong use of the "Main Progression" (four total).

¹³⁴ A digital waveform image of the recording.

Movement III

In the liner notes to the Louisville Orchestra's 1961 recording of the third movement, Mennin writes:

III. The last movement is one of rapid and bare linear writing set off by brass and percussive punctuation. It makes greater technical demands than the earlier movements. The basic girder of the movement is an idea in canon which has numerous variations in rhythm and mood. The movement closes with sounds similar to the opening of the first movement. ¹³⁵

In the third movement, Mennin uses one motive and four themes, all of which develop and pass throughout the orchestra. The themes in this movement have fewer chromatic additions than in the other two movements. Just as in the first movement, Mennin uses a "declamatory idea" (similarly labeled here as the "Main Motive") to tie the work together. This motive and two of the movement's themes (Themes "3A" and "3B") contain the symphony's recurring rhythm of two sixteenths and an eighth.

After an eighth note punctuation of a D minor chord in second inversion, the movement begins immediately with the first theme, Theme "3A," in D Phrygian played by the winds (except the bassoon) and the violins (see Ex. 73). This is the theme that Mennin described as being "in canon" with "numerous variations in rhythm and mood." Later, Mennin will vary this theme and use it canonically against itself and all three other themes.

¹³⁵ Mennin, Recordings of Works Commissioned by the Louisville Philharmonic Society for the Louisville Orchestra.



Ex. 73. Theme "3A," in D Phrygian played by the winds and violins. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 1-6. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Following this initial introduction, the horns, trumpets, and first trombone come in with the movement's "Main Motive," in what Mennin referred to above as a "percussive punctuation" (see Ex. 74).



Ex. 74. The third movement's "Main Motive" played by the horns, trumpets, and first trombone. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 7-9. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

As in the first movement, the notes of this movement's "Main Motive" develop as the work progresses. Likewise, a better definition of this movement's motive is just the rhythmic pattern of just two eighths (sometimes a quarter and an eighth), a sixteenth rest, three sixteenth notes, and an eighth note (see Ex. 75).



Ex. 75. Example of pitch development of the "Main Motive," played by the trumpets and two trombones. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 31-32. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

After the "Main Motive," the winds (except the bassoons) enter with Theme "3B" in D Phrygian (see Ex. 76). This theme contains the addition of a raised sixth in its sixth measure.



Ex. 76. Theme "3B" in D Phrygian played by the winds. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 13-19. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Next, theme "3A" plays again, first in the high winds, horns, trumpets, violins, and violas and then in canon with itself one measure later in the low instruments (see Ex. 77).



Ex. 77. Theme "3A" in E-flat Lydian played by the high winds, horns, trumpets, violins and violas. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 20-26. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Although this iteration of the theme uses the same pitches as before, the canonic treatment and accompanying E-flats played on the first beat make the theme sound now as though it is actually in E-flat Lydian.

After a short punctuation of the "Main Motive" by the trumpets and trombones, the high winds and horns play the next theme, "3C," in D Phrygian (see Ex. 78).



Ex. 78. Theme "3C" in D Phrygian played by the high winds and horns. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 29-38. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

After another burst of the "Main Motive" by the trumpets and trombones, the winds and high strings then repeat and extend Theme "3B" (see Ex. 79). This extended theme contains only one chromatic addition: a raised third scale degree in the seventh measure.



Ex. 79. Theme "3B" extended by the winds and strings in D Phrygian. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 13-27. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Theme "3A" returns again in E-flat Lydian and in counterpoint with itself by one measure. This time though, the low instruments start the canon and the high ones follow.

After another playing of Theme "3B" by the trumpets and first trombone, Theme "3C" is antiphonally passed around the orchestra. It first starts in the violins in B-flat

Phrygian, then goes to the bassoons, cellos, and basses in E-flat Phrygian, and finally becomes a one-measure canon in G Phrygian starting in the oboes and first trumpet and following in the clarinets and first violins.

Mennin then moves back to D Phrygian and extends Themes "3C" in the horns while combining it first with parts of Theme "3A" in the oboes and then with itself in the trombones (see Ex. 80).



Ex. 80. Themes "3A" and "3C" in D Phrygian. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 94-113. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The high winds and high strings then start Theme "3A" but it develops into new material and quickly grows into the first climax of the movement (measures 119-153), based on material from the "Main Motive" with a fiery string accompaniment. A quieter section follows in B Phrygian with the final theme, "3D," introduced by the second violins (see Ex. 81). The only chromatic addition this theme contains is a lowered fifth (tritone) scale degree in the seventh and eighth measures.



Ex. 81. Theme "3D" in B Phrygian played by the second violins. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 154-171. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

One beat after this theme starts, the cellos and basses integrate Theme "3A," as do the violas four beats later (see Ex. 82).



Ex. 82. Themes "3A" and "3D" in counterpoint. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 154-171. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

In the middle of Theme "3D," the low strings and later the violas play Theme "3A" again. Next, the strings repeat this whole section of counterpoint between Themes "3A" and "3D" up a perfect fifth.

The following section is a quasi-development, starting with the violins playing two iterations of Theme "3D" with rhythmic diminution and the brasses and winds interspersing material from the "Main Motive." After this, Mennin briefly presents

fragments of all themes. He then presents Theme "3B" in counterpoint with itself, first by the horns in D Phrygian; twelve measures later by the flutes, oboes, and clarinets in D Phrygian; and then eleven measures later by the trombones and bassoons in B Phrygian.

After another repetition of Theme "3C," the high winds and strings play Theme "3B" in canon with a developed version of itself four beats later in the horns. Ten beats after that, the low instruments mix in a version of Theme "3A" in augmentation (see Ex. 83).



Ex. 83. Developed versions of Themes "3A" and "3B." Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 302-315. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Next, this process of layering Themes "3A" and "3B" continues. The horns repeatedly present a beginning fragment of "3B," and the tuba, bassoons, and bass then do the same with "3A," and finally the high winds, violins, and first violas play the

extended version of "3B" in augmentation and out of synchronization with the horns. As all this progresses, the trumpets and first trombone integrate the "Main Motive."

After another playing of Theme "3A" in augmentation, this time by the high winds and violins, a four beat echo of the same material follows in the low instruments.

This texture thins for a short section based on the "Main Motive" (see Ex. 84).



Ex. 84. A short section based on the "Main Motive." Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 390-396. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Mennin quotes the next section almost exactly from earlier in the work (measures 94-153, see Ex. 80, above), leading to this movement's second main climax. As with the first climax, this climax builds with material based on the "Main Motive" against a fiery string accompaniment.

The final section grows out of this second climax and consists of brass canons first of Theme "3B" (see Ex. 85) and then of Theme "3A."



Ex. 85. Brass canon of Theme "3B." Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 451-456. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

The canonical sections build up into the ending coda, based on the "Main Motive" in E Dorian (the strings play chromatic alterations, see Ex. 86). The movement ends on

an E major triad spread throughout the orchestra. Only the piccolo and flutes do not play the final chord.



Ex. 86. The final measures of movement III, ending on an E major triad. Symphony No. 5, Movement III, mm. 487-496. © 1950, Carl Fischer, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

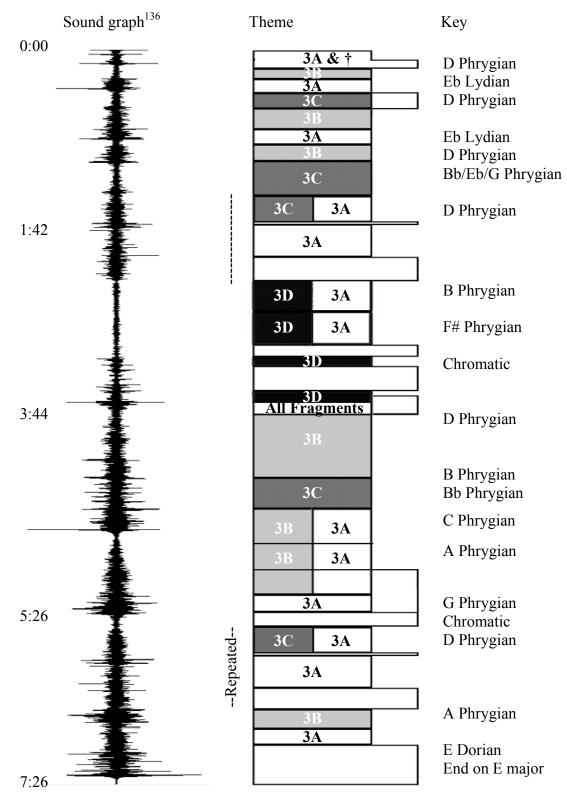


Figure 3. Sound graph, thematic use, and keys in Symphony No. 5, movement III. † A long box denotes strong use of the "Main Motive" (ten total).

¹³⁶ A digital waveform image of the recording.

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