

Meter in French and Italian Opera 1809–1859

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Figure 1. Nationalistic Metric Types

German meter

Mozart, Piano Sonata in A, K. 331, I
Antecedent, mm. 1-4

No anacrusis

Weak-beat cadence (HC)

Harmony: I

Franco-Italian meter

Rossini, "La speranza più soave"
Semiramide, mm. 9-11

Long anacrusis

Strong-beat cadence

Andantino ♩ = 66

La spe-ran-za più so-a-ve, già-quest!

Harmony: I

Figure 2. Hypermeter decision tree

Determining Metric Type Hypermeter

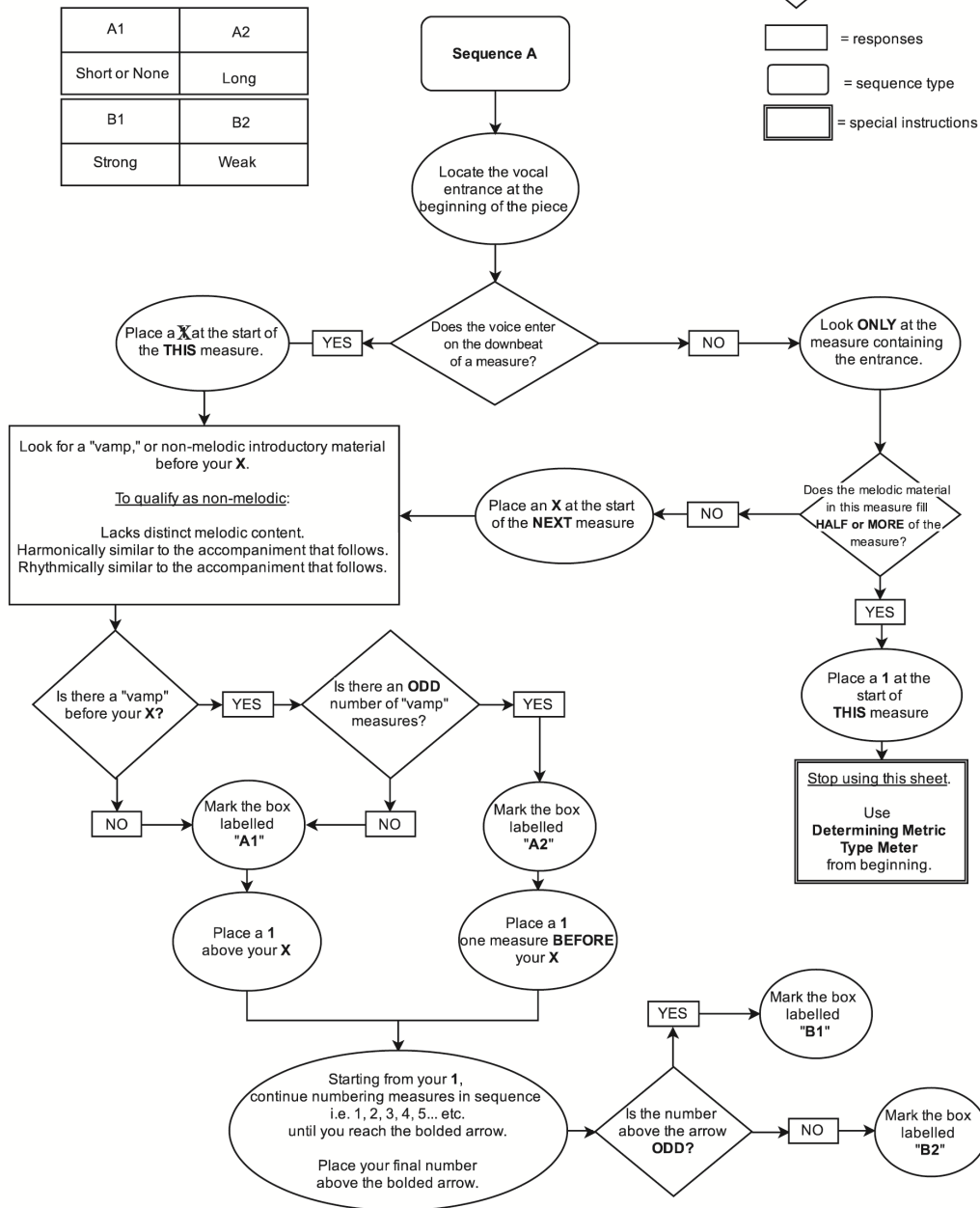


Figure 3. Meter decision tree

Determining Metric Type Meter

A1	A2
Short or None	Long
B1	B2
Strong	Weak

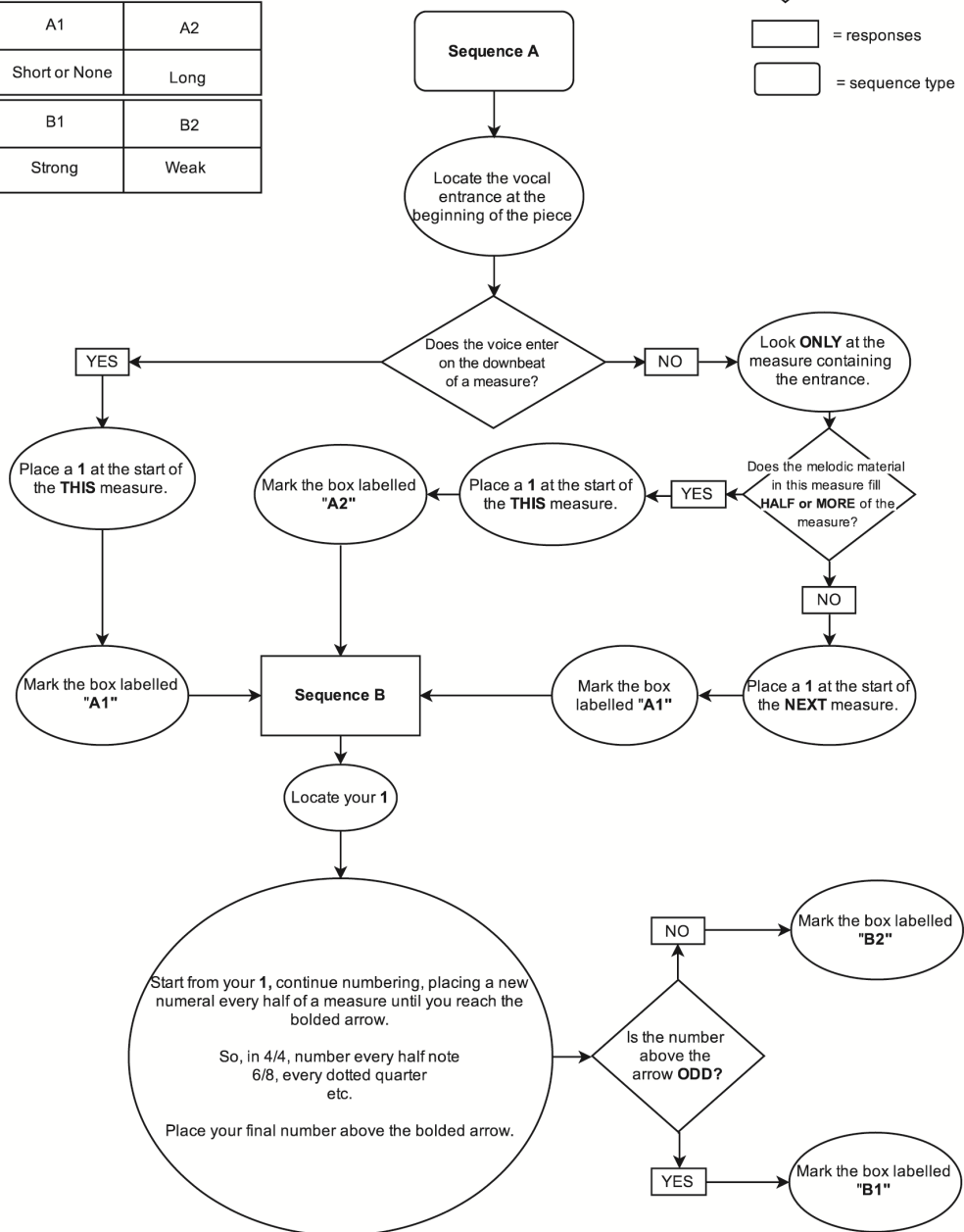
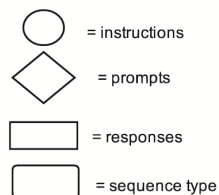
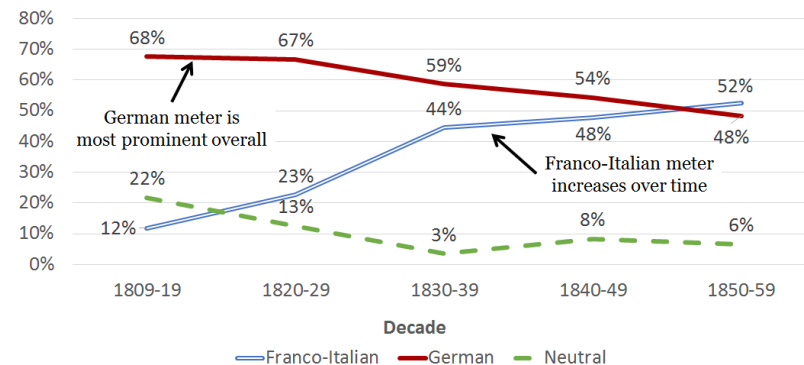


Figure 4.

Use of Metric Type per Decade, 1809–1859



($\chi^2: 52.9, p < 0.001$)

Figure 5. Operas at all time points

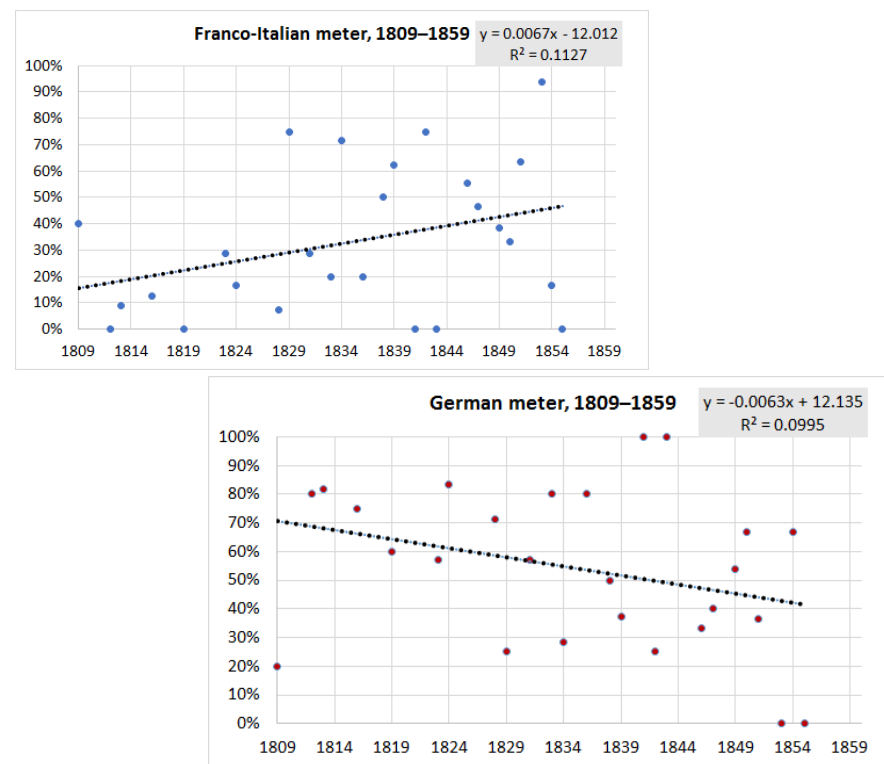


Figure 6.

Franco-Italian Meter per Decade Entire corpus

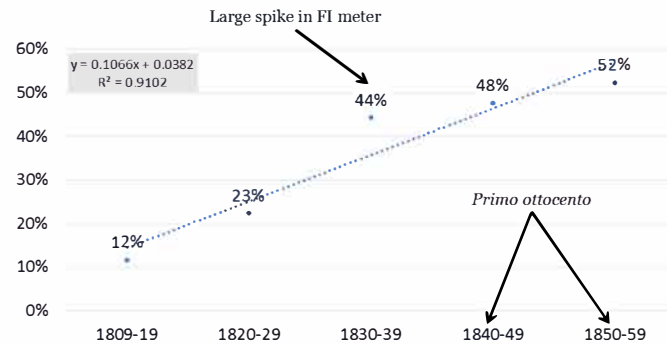


Figure 7.

Franco-Italian Meter per Decade *Primo ottocento* removed

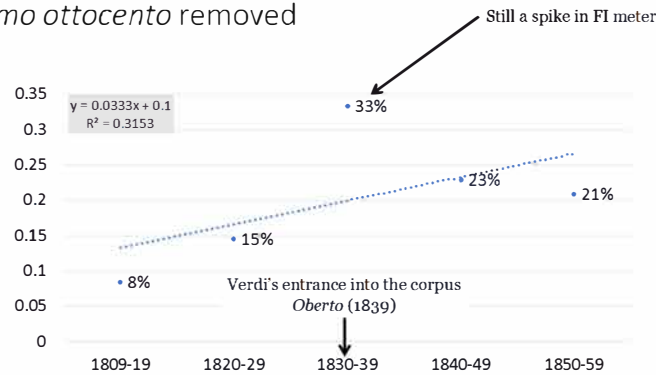


Figure 8.

FI Meter per Decade Verdi removed

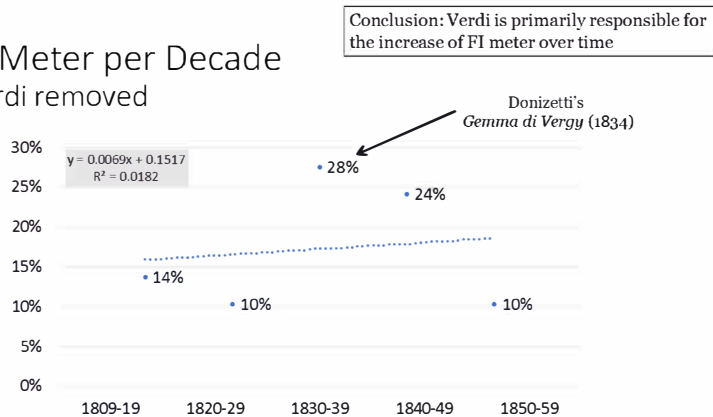


Figure 9.

Meter and Language

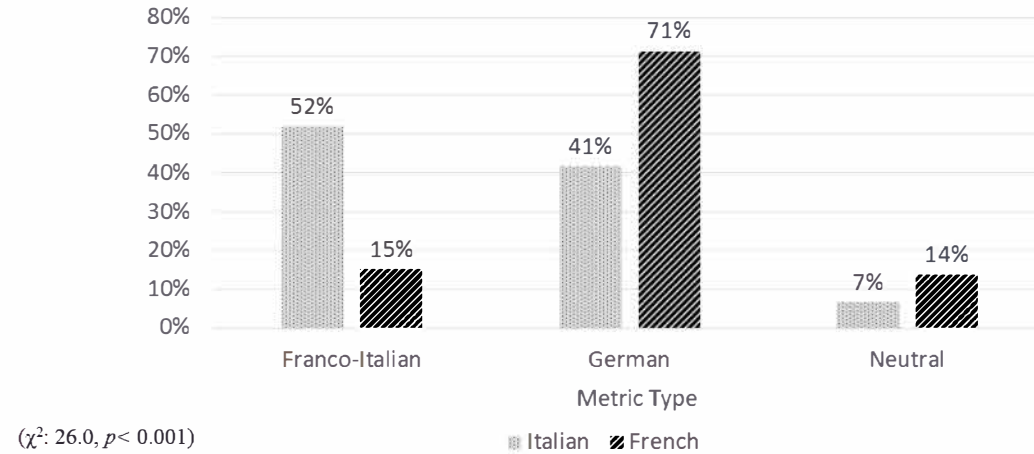


Figure 10.

Meter and Language Verdi removed

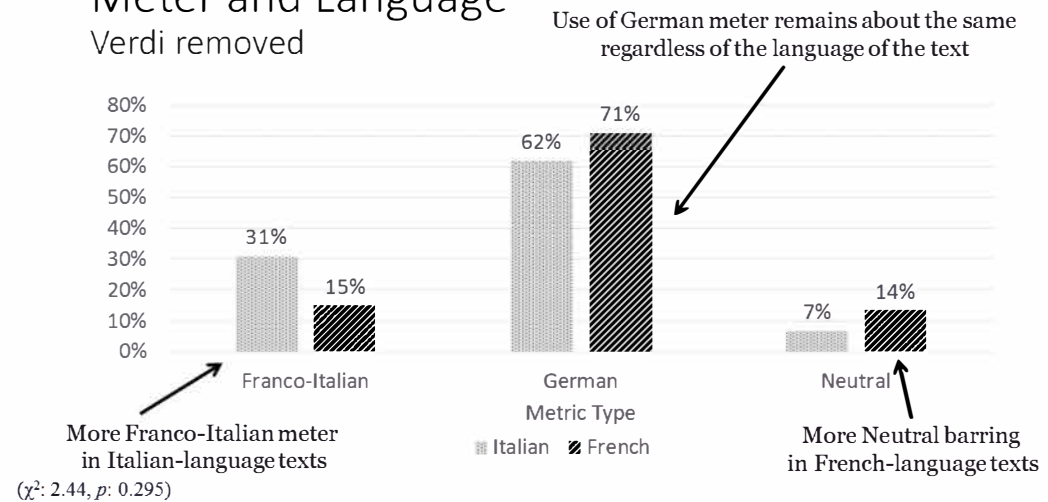


Figure 11.

Meter by Composer, 1809–59

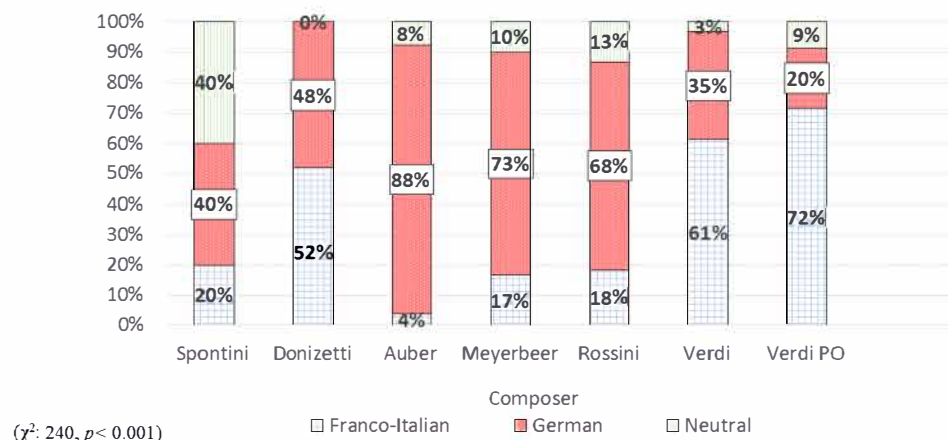


Figure 12.

Meter by Composer Country of Origin, 1809–59

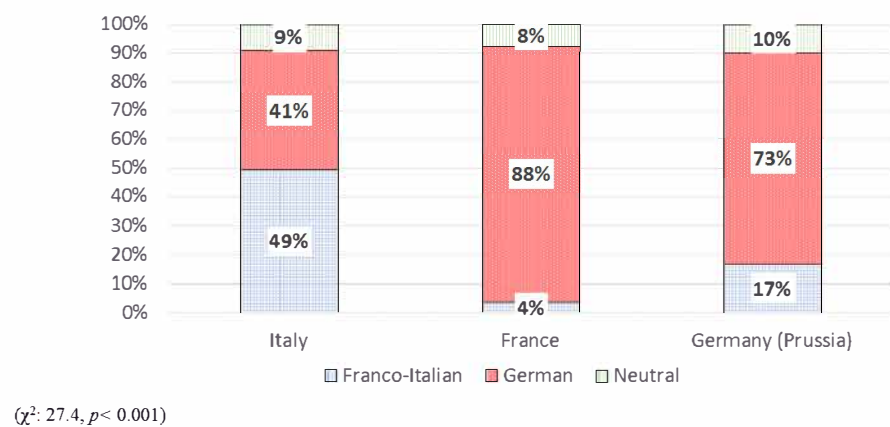


Figure 13.

Meter by Librettist, 1809–59

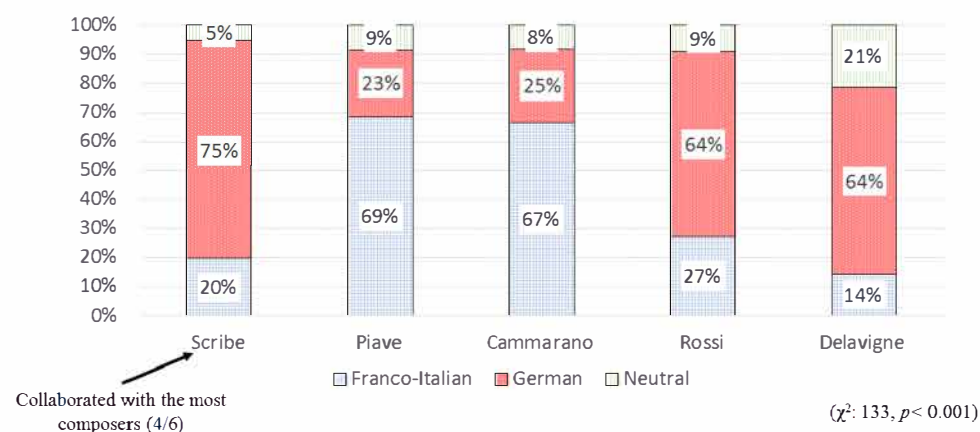


Figure 14.

Meter by Librettist, 1809–59 Verdi removed

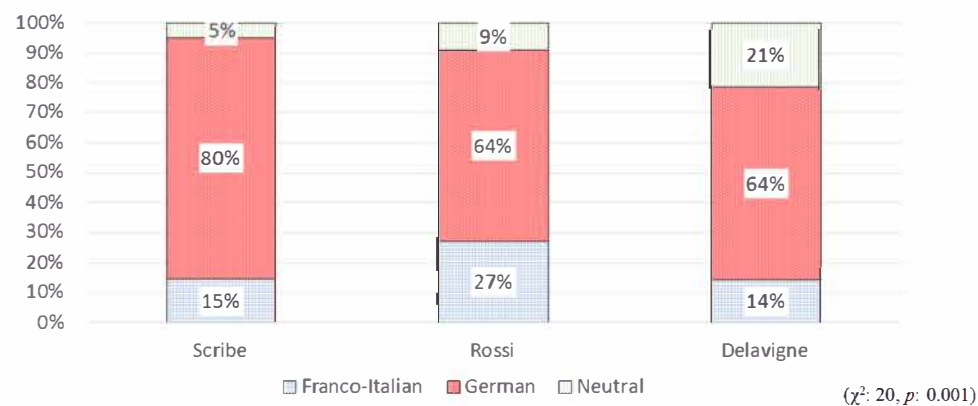
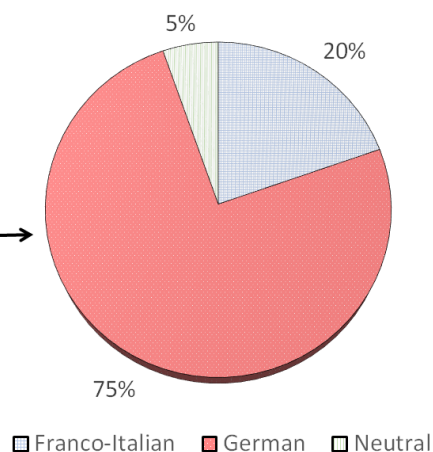


Figure 15.

Meter by Librettist

Eugène Scribe, 1809–59
(with Verdi)

Scribe's French and Italian texts
are primarily set in German meter



Terms for weak/strong model of meter:

Franco-Italian meter (Rothstein 2011)

Italian barring (Rothstein 2008)

End-accented (Temperley 2003)

Shadow meter (Samarotto 1999)

Conflicting downbeats (Rothstein 1989)

Out of phase (L&J 1983)

Displacement dissonance (Krebs 1999)

Arrival meter (Wilson 2016)

Operas Used in this Study

Decade	Year	Opera Title	Composer	Librettist 1	Librettist 2	Language
1809-19	1809	Fernand Cortez	Spontini	de Jouy		French
	1812	La pietra del paragone	Rossini	Romanelli		Italian
	1813	Tancredi	Rossini	Rossi		Italian
	1814	Pélage	Spontini	de Jouy		French
	1816	Il barbiere di Siviglia	Rossini	Sterbini		Italian
1820-29	1819	Olimpie	Spontini	Dieulafoy	Brifaut	French
	1823	Semiramide	Rossini	Rossi		Italian
	1824	L'ajo nell'imbarazzo	Donizetti	Ferretti		Italian
	1828	Le siège de Corinthe	Rossini	Balocchi	Soumet	French
	1828	La muette de Portici	Auber	Delavigne		French
	1828	La Regina di Golconda	Donizetti	Romani		Italian
	1829	Guillaume Tell	Rossini	de Jouy	Bis	French
1830-39	1831	Robert le Diable	Meyerbeer	Scribe	Delavigne	French
	1833	Gustave III	Auber	Scribe		French
	1834	Gemma di Vergy	Donizetti	Bidera		Italian
	1836	Les Huguenots	Meyerbeer	Scribe	Deschamps	French
	1838	Maria de Rudenz	Donizetti	Cammarano		Italian
	1839	Oberto	Verdi	Solera		Italian
1840-49	1841	Les diamants	Auber	Scribe	Saint-Georges	French
	1842	Linda di Chamounix	Donizetti	Rossi		Italian
	1843	Don Pasquale	Donizetti	Donizetti	Ruffini	Italian
	1846	Atilla	Verdi	Solera	Piave	Italian
	1847	Haydée	Auber	Scribe		French
	1847	Macbeth	Verdi PO	Maffei	Piave	Italian
	1849	La battaglia di Legnano	Verdi PO	Cammarano		Italian
	1849	Le prophète	Meyerbeer	Scribe		French
1850-59	1850	Stiffelio	Verdi	Piave		Italian
	1850	L'enfant	Auber	Scribe		French
	1851	Rigoletto	Verdi PO	Piave		Italian
	1853	Il trovatore	Verdi PO	Bardare	Cammarano	Italian
	1853	La traviata	Verdi PO	Piave		Italian
	1854	L'etoile du nord	Meyerbeer	Scribe		French
	1857	Simon Boccanegra	Verdi	Piave		Italian
	1859	Dinorah	Meyerbeer	Barbier	Carre	French
	1859	Un ballo in maschera	Verdi	Scribe	Somma	Italian

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