

What is:  
(23)

Gestalt

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A gestalt usually consists of more than one statement of the motive.<sup>Ⓢ</sup> Often there are various forms of the motive (for example, inversion or augmentation or diminution of the interval, or both, rhythmic broadening or contraction), but often it consists merely of a motive chain. In any event, a gestalt will have to have a characteristic feature to justify its name:

- a striking interval or interval progression or
- a striking rhythm or rhythmic progression

A gestalt need not necessarily have more than local significance.

June 11, 1934

<sup>Ⓢ</sup>However, without possessing the peculiarity of the phrase in performance: in the same breath—caesura.

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Grundgestalten are such gestalten as (possibly) occur repeatedly within a whole piece and to which derived gestalten can be traced back. (Formerly, this was called the motive; but that is a very superficial designation, for gestalten and grundgestalten are usually composed of several motive forms; but the motive is at any one time the smallest part.)

June 11, 1934

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Motive

Motive is at any one time the smallest part of a piece or section of a piece that, despite change and variation, is recognizable as present throughout. Upon this alone does the expansion of a motive depend, even though one can occasionally assume that the motive will not

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