

349+352

18

Liebested music is heard for the first time in the opera, but it is not completed here, being interrupted at its highest point. When this music is recapitulated at the very end of the opera—in the Liebested proper—it does reach completion and resolution. What more compelling way to dramatize the idea that the tragic lovers end their longing only in death!

The *Prelude* and the *Liebested* both contain the Desire motive (No. 1b). Analyze the ambiguous chord that always occurs with the first note of this motive (G#), and notice how this chord is differently resolved each time.

A piano arrangement can be of great help in analysis, but the interested student will also want to refer to the full score, a sample of which has been appended.

Richard Wagner Prelude to Tristan und Isolde

PRELUDE

Langsam und schmachkend.
Lento e languido.

Piano.

pp p dim.

8 cresc. f p pp

15 sf più f ff p

21 dim. p cresc. f poco rall. riten.

25 a tempo zart dolce dim. p cresc. f

19

30 *espress.*
p *f* *p* *cresc.*

35 *zart dolce* *ten.* *belebt animato*
f *dim.* *p* *p* *p*

40 *Belebend. Animando.*
sf *cresc.* *sf* *molto cresc.*

44 *rallent.* *a tempo* *zart*
ff *dim.* *dolce* *dim.* *p* *p*

49 *sf* *p* *cresc.* *f* *f* *p*

53 *cresc.*

20

57

Measures 57-60 of the piano prelude. The music is in D major and 3/4 time. It features a complex texture with multiple voices in both hands, including sixteenth-note patterns and sustained chords. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in the second measure.

61

Measures 61-63. Measure 61 begins with a dynamic marking of *più f* (piano più forte). Measure 62 has a *ff* (fortissimo) marking. Measure 63 has a *meno f* (meno forte) marking. The music continues with intricate textures and a *espress.* (espressivo) marking at the end of the system.

64

Measures 64-66. Measure 64 starts with a *p.* (piano) marking. The music features a *sempre più f* (sempre più forte) dynamic instruction. Measure 66 is marked *marcato*. The texture is dense with many notes.

67

Measures 67-68. Measure 67 begins with a *f* (forte) dynamic marking. The music continues with complex textures and sixteenth-note patterns.

69

Measures 69-70. Measure 69 starts with a *f* (forte) dynamic marking. The music features a *6* (sixteenth-note) figure in the right hand.

71

Measures 71-72. Measure 71 begins with a *più f* (piano più forte) dynamic marking. The music continues with complex textures and sixteenth-note patterns.

21

molto espress.

73

Rea. * Rea. * Rea. *

75

76

sempre f

78

Rea. *

79

più f *più f*

Rea. *

81

Rea. *

22

Musical score for measures 82-83. The system consists of two staves. Measure 82 is marked with a circled '82'. The music features a complex melodic line in the right hand with many accidentals and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) is present in measure 83. A fermata is placed over the final notes of measure 83.

Allmählich im Zeitmass etwas zurückhaltend.
Il tempo poco a poco ritenuto.

Musical score for measures 84-86. Measure 84 is marked with a circled '84'. The system consists of two staves. The right hand has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *espress.* (espressivo) in measure 84, which then transitions to *dim.* (diminuendo) in measure 85. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 87-92. Measure 87 is marked with a circled '87'. The system consists of two staves. The right hand features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and the instruction *zart dolce* (softly and sweetly). The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 93-97. Measure 93 is marked with a circled '93'. The system consists of two staves. The right hand has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *cresc.* (crescendo) in measure 93, followed by *f* (forte) in measure 94, and *p* (piano) in measure 95. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 98-103. Measure 98 is marked with a circled '98'. The system consists of two staves. The right hand has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and *p più p* (piano più piano) in measure 103. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 104-108. Measure 104 is marked with a circled '104'. The system consists of two staves. The right hand has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo) and the instruction *(The Curtain rises)*. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment.