

Fractal Melodies

Below is one of the melodies from the 4th movement of Holst's *First Suite in Eb*. Analyze it as a fractal melody.

Hint: the slurs are for the players, not you. And some parts go 4 layers deep!

Tempo Di Marcia

mf

If you want version without the slurs to write on, go to the next page. The answer is on the last page.



Build Better Music – Fractal Melodies

Here's my answer. You'll notice that he doesn't strictly obey the rule of needing to vary *A* or *B* before using *C*, but Holst can get away with it because it is a 6 motive main phrase with plenty of repetition already.

If you really want to geek out, notice how he reuses many of the smaller motives in different larger motives. Is there any pattern to those?

The image displays a musical score for a 6-motive main phrase in 2/2 time, written in a key with four flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The score is organized into eight staves. Motives are labeled as follows:

- Motive A:** The first staff, measures 1-4.
- Motive B:** The second staff, measures 5-8.
- Motive C:** The third staff, measures 9-12.
- Motive A':** The fourth staff, measures 13-16.
- Motive C:** The fifth staff, measures 17-20.
- Motive A'':** The sixth staff, measures 21-24.
- Motive A'':** The seventh staff, measures 25-28.
- Motive A'':** The eighth staff, measures 29-32.

The score uses various musical notations, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with slurs and ties indicating phrasing and repetition. The key signature is four flats, and the time signature is 2/2.

I didn't label all the motive names, but those should be easy to figure out at this point.