

Thesis

---

A Thesis  
Presented to  
The Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences  
Reed College

---

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Bachelor of Arts

---

Emily Palmer

May 2018



Approved for the Division  
(Mathematics)

---

Andrew Bray



# Acknowledgements

I want to thank a few people.



# Preface

This is an example of a thesis setup to use the reed thesis document class (for LaTeX) and the R bookdown package, in general.





# Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1:</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Literature Review	1
1.2.1 Federalist Papers	1
1.2.2 Music	2
1.2.3 Previous choices of features	2
1.2.4 Background on Variable and Feature Selection	3
1.2.5 Methods for analysis	4
1.3 Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn	5
<b>Chapter 2:</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 About the data and conversion process	7
2.2 About the functions	7
2.3 Methods	7
<b>Chapter 3: EDA</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Chapter 4:</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Feature Selection	11
<b>Chapter 5:</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1 Model selection	13
<b>Chapter 6:</b>	<b>15</b>
6.1 Model Fit	15
<b>Chapter 7:</b>	<b>17</b>
7.1 Discussion	17
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendix A: The First Appendix</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix B: The Second Appendix, for Fun</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>25</b>



# List of Tables



# List of Figures



# Abstract

The preface pretty much says it all.

Second paragraph of abstract starts here.





# Dedication

You can have a dedication here if you wish.



# Chapter 1

## 1.1 Introduction

Music often has subjective summary “statistics” throughout music literature and everyday conversation. For example we talk about Beethoven’s Symphony 9 (think ode to joy) as “majestic, powerful, fateful, expertly written, etc”, music critics go more in depth to talk about the performance and reception, and those with a musical background might go into more description into the actual music compared to the emotional affect.

What if one wanted to compare Beethoven to Bach? One might say that Beethoven was a classical composer, whereas Bach was a baroque composer. What exactly to those classifiers mean? Sure, it is very well documented the years each composer was active in, and that there were large changes in the popular aspects of classical music. Even the untrained ear can distinguish differences between Bach and Beethoven. What exactly is the difference that one can hear? Does Bach follow counterpoint rules more exactly? What ways can we empirically differentiate those two composers? How about Mozart and Salieri who were contemporaries? While those familiar with classical music can spot the differences between the two composers, it is more difficult for the untrained ear or eye to spot the differences.

What if we had a piece and didn’t know who wrote it? What features are inherent in a composers style that would allow us to identify the true composer?

## 1.2 Literature Review

### 1.2.1 Federalist Papers

Text classification has recently become a large field. One of the earliest instances of text classification was on the Federalist papers.(Mosteller & Wallace, 1964). The famous Federalist Papers were written under the pen name ‘Publius’. There are several disputed papers attributed to James Madison or Alexander Hamilton. Historians have often examined the papers using styles of previously known writings of Madison and Hamilton. () Using the frequency of words such as and ‘by’, ‘from’, and ‘upon’ Mosteller and Wallace trained the writings on a set of pieces of each. These unconscious indicators were able to differentiate between the two writers, and when a model was

trained (using . . . . ), the model was able to identify the author of the disputed paper.

### 1.2.2 Music

Almost any piece by any composer has already been thoroughly examined by music historians. (Paragraph about things that music historians talk about when analyzing music. find sources for this. )

The human eye, no matter how well trained in music, has an extremely hard time noticing small features throughout a piece. Even if one has a feature in mind, would one want to count the number of times an author used the word ‘as’ in a 500 page book? Would one trust that count to be accurate? Say one composer was very fond of middle C, and consistently used it slightly more than other composers. Unless the use of C was extreme, likely breaking rules of counterpoint and making odd melodic and harmonic choices, a human might not be able to catch this characteristic. Writing has certain rules of grammar, that one would expect all published writers to mostly follow. Writers would likely never have the word ‘as’ written twice in a row. Similarly, classical music has rules and conventions. Counterpoint (described in Chapter 2), melody, and characteristics of the instrument composed for constrict a composer.

How can one find similar unconscious features comparable to word frequency for a composer? Some have analyzed these features in audio format (MIDI) to distinguish certain genres of music. (De León & Inesta, 2003) They used self-organizing neural maps to classify music as either jazz or classical. In this paper we look at music in sheet music form. Sheet music is how composers write the music, and sheet music contains all the the information displayed clearly that a recording might not be obvious.

We then come to an interesting problem regarding extracting information from sheet music. Writing such as in the federalist papers is one word then the next, read left to right line by line, one word at a time. However music is read in a variety of ways. It can be read left to right note by note, but it can also be read vertically as the harmony, or the notes played together. Also in a piece with several instruments, the above happens at the same time for each instrument. There are also aspects that take place over large sections, such as phrasing, or cadencial patterns. There are rules of counterpoint that are followed throughout the entire piece. How then do we detect what features are those of rules and practices of classical music, and where the creativeness and individuality of a composer happens?

Most of the musical stylometry papers have focused on composers in the Renaissance, baroque and classical period. The Mendelssohns were composing in the Romantic period. This choice might be because composers in earlier eras had less “expressive” allowances for their composing, thus making features easier.

### 1.2.3 Previous choices of features

Deciding on and extracting features of music is the first step to analysis. Depending on the characteristics of the composer and time period, different features would be useful. Often, features are extracted en masse and then work is done later to determine which features are important or useful in identifying style.

Work by Backer and Kranenburg (Backer & Kranenburg, 2005) analyzed the music of Bach, Handel, Telemann, Mozart and Haydn. Additionally they compared J.S. Bach, W.F. Bach and J.L. Krebs in an attempt to classify BWV 534. They use overlapping windowing over each entire composition to produce more data, and avoid issues of dimensionality (?). They chose a window of 30 bars to create a high enough number of fragments per piece and a low enough variance of the feature values between fragments. They chose to extract 20 features. They extracted information regarding the “stability” computed by dividing the standard deviation of the lengths of the fragment by the mean length of the fragments. It is normalized in this way to be comparable over differing time signatures. They also found the fraction of the score that consisted of dissonant sonorities, as well as the fraction of bars that begin with a dissonant sonority. Next they computed the entropy of the probability of occurrence of ways of thinking about chords; chords are the same no matter what scale degree they are on, and distinguishing chords differently. Next the entropy was calculated given the probability of each pitch in the score. Entropy was calculated by  $-\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \log p_i$  where  $p_i$  is the probability of occurrence, and  $N$  is the total number. Next they the average number of active voices at one time. This represents the voice density of the piece. Then for every interval, the duration of that interval was divided by the total duration of all intervals. Next the total duration of parallel thirds, fourths, and sixths divided by the total duration of all intervals was measured. Finally a measure of suspensions was found.

A number of previous papers have focused on Josquin des Prez. This is likely due to the fact that there is a large training and testing data set available in easily analyzable format provided by the Josquin Research Project (citation). In addition there are a number of pieces of disputed authorship that have been attributed to him. Work by Brinkman et al. (Brinkman, Shanahan, & Sapp, n.d.) use machine learning approaches to evaluate attribution of compositions by des Prez. They used both high level and low level features. The high level features were 9-8 suspensions, oblique motion, contrary motion, similar motion and parallel motion. The low level features were average melodic entropy, normalized pairwise variability index (?), and note-to-note transition probabilities.

Work by Speiser and Gupta (Speiser & Gupta, n.d.) analyzed Josquin and his contemporaries to attempt to classify unknown works. They extracted four categories of features, frequencies of individual notes, frequencies of pairwise interval combinations between each of the voices, Markov transition matrices for the rhythms of the pieces, and Markov transition matrices of the pitches in each piece. In total, this lead to a total of 3000 features. (Help why?)

#### 1.2.4 Background on Variable and Feature Selection

Especially in research regarding gene expression and text categorization, data sets have enormous numbers of variables. Here variable are raw inputs, and features are variables constructed for input variables (Guyon & Elisseeff, 2003). There are several variable selection algorithms that select variables.

Several variable selection algorithms include variable ranking. Variable ranking

uses a score function to assign a score to each input variables. It is a filter method. It is a computationally efficient method. It is robust against over fitting as it introduces bias, but may have less variance. It is tempting to only include variables that have a high score. However, this possibly leads to redundancy. In addition, variables that are not important by themselves can have a significant performance improvement when considered with other variables.

Will include more after I read more. . .

### 1.2.5 Methods for analysis

Most of the previous research has needed to do some kind of feature selection. The whole reason use machine learning is because us humans cannot detect which features are important and distinguishing.

In a study to identify distinguishing style between Bach, Handel, Telemann, Mozart, and Haydn, and then subsequently classify the authorship of BWV 535, the Floating Forward Selection algorithm was used to extract important features. (Backer & Kranenburg, 2005) Each composer in the study was compared via creating comparisons of all possible class arrangements, ie (Bach)(Handel), (Bach)(Handel,Telemann), etc. They extracted features for each class arrangement that distinguished the groups the best. For Bach and not Bach, they created a decision boundary for the features Diss Part, Par thirds, and stab time slice. For Bach and others and each individually, they classified via a k-nearest neighbor classifier. They use decision trees to interpret the features used in decision making of the different class arrangements. To determine authorship of BWV 535, they train a quadratic Bayesian classifier to distinguish J.S. Bach, W.F. Bach and J.L Krebs. They again compare every possible class arrangement as potential composers.

Brinkman et al. (Brinkman et al., n.d.) used PCa to reduce the dimensions of the features. Although only two PC's accounted for most of the variance, they decided to use 5 PC's to account for 85% of the variance. They then do binary comparisons of Josquin and other composers. This resulted in a relatively clear separation between Bach and Josquin. For Josquin and his contemporaries, the PC's do not do as well a job of separation. Using results of the principal component analysis run on all the composers, they train a classifier on all the composers. First they use a k-nearest neighbor classifier. They use 27 PCs to again account for 85% of the variance. Next they trained a support vector machine classifier with a radial kernel. Finally they used a decision tree to determine which features were important in discerning the composers.

Speiser and Gupta (Speiser & Gupta, n.d.) scored each feature by the mutual information of each features. They then chose the top 50 features and ran GDA. They then ran PCA to attempt to remove some of the dependencies associated with musical features. They first fit a Naive Bayes for classification, but it had a large training error as the independence assumption does not work well with musical data. Next they used support vector machines with a Gaussian kernel and GCM learning algorithms.

## 1.3 Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn

Most musical stylometry analysis focuses on music of the Renaissance and Baroque period, as there are more questions of authorship in that period. As the Romantic period is much more modern in comparison, there are many more surviving records of original manuscripts that include the composer.

Felix Mendelssohn, often considered a prodigy akin to Mozart, was a prolific composer. Before he was fourteen years old, he had already written over 100 compositions.

His lesser known sister Fanny Hensel was also a composer of incredible skill. The two were very close, for many years training and studying together. In their early education living in Berlin, Felix and Fanny received the same musical education, first piano lessons by Madam Bigot, a famous pianist esteemed by Haydn and Beethoven. Beginning in 1818, Carl Friedrich Zelter, a somewhat removed student of Bach and the most influential Berlin musician of the time, began to teach them both composition. In addition to music, the children were tutored by some of the finest scholars in Berlin in subjects such as languages, history, and drawing. Goethe himself claimed that Fanny was “as gifted as Felix”. (Tillard, 1996)

As Fanny grew up, her father started implying that she should focus her energy on the domestic sphere of her life. While the fact that she never became a world famous composer and performer is often attributed to the gender politics of her time, it is also likely due to her high class. (Reich, 1991) Especially considering the anti-semitic feelings of the time, and since the family had recently converted from Judaism to Christianity, the family did not want any other unusual characteristic such as a professional female composer to set them further apart from “polite” society.

Most of Fanny’s available work are *Lieder*, short pieces of voice accompanied by piano. They were accepted at the time as the more feminine, domestic compositions, acceptable for women to compose. Her brother moved on to more elaborate compositions such as operas and orchestral concertos. Her father pressured Fanny to remain composing *Lieder*. (Todd, 2003)

“Music will perhaps become his profession, while for you it can and must only be an ornament, never the root of your being and doing. We may therefore pardon him some ambition and desire to be acknowledged in a pursuit which appears very important to him, . . . while it does you credit that you have always shown yourself good and sensible in these matters; . . . Remain true to these sentiments and to this line of conduct; they are feminine, and only what is truly feminine is an ornament to your sex.”

Throughout their lives, Felix and Fanny maintained contact through letters until Fanny’s death in 1847 and Felix’s death shortly thereafter. These letters contain many instances of Felix asking for advice on his compositions (include quote)

Unlike Felix who conducted and performed piano and organ in some of Berlin’s most esteemed concert halls, most of Fanny’s performances were private, only performed in small circles of her friends and family at intimate parties. Similarly, although she was quite a prolific composer, under recommendation of her father Abraham Mendelssohn, and to a lesser extent Felix, Fanny did not publish her work until later in her life.

In 1846 after her fathers death and though her brothers disapproval, she published her first collection of *Lieder*. Many of Fanny's unpublished notebooks are in private collections and are inaccessible

However, it is widely speculated (known?) that some of Fanny's work was published under her brother's name, Especially three pieces each in his Op 8 and 9 *lieder*. Famously, when Felix met the Queen of England, she sang Felix's *Lied* "Italien", and Felix had to admit that in fact, it was his sister that had written it. In a letter to Felix, Fanny admits:

"I have just recently received a letter from Vienna, which contained basically nothing but the question of whether "On Wings of Song" was by me, and that I should really send a list of things that are running about in the world disguised, it seems that they aren't clever enough themselves to separate the wheat from the chaff." (Mace, 2013)

As she never made such a list, we are left to wonder if there are any other pieces of hers that have been published under her brothers name and reputation.

This project will use *Lieder* of Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn. Most of the available work by Fanny are *Lieder*, of which Felix also composed a great deal. We will see if there is a determinable difference in style of these siblings who grew up very close and received mostly the same musical education. We will then look at the (disputed?) Op 8 and 9. Additionally, using *Lieder* that have been decidedly written by Felix, we will see if any other of his earlier publications could have potentially been written by Fanny.



# Chapter 2

**2.1** About the data and conversion process

**2.2** About the functions

**2.3** Methods



# Chapter 3

## EDA



# Chapter 4

## 4.1 Feature Selection



# Chapter 5

## 5.1 Model selection





# Chapter 6

## 6.1 Model Fit



# Chapter 7

## 7.1 Discussion



# Conclusion

If we don't want Conclusion to have a chapter number next to it, we can add the `{-}` attribute.

## **More info**

And here's some other random info: the first paragraph after a chapter title or section head *shouldn't be* indented, because indents are to tell the reader that you're starting a new paragraph. Since that's obvious after a chapter or section title, proper typesetting doesn't add an indent there.



# Appendix A

## The First Appendix

This first appendix includes all of the R chunks of code that were hidden throughout the document (using the `include = FALSE` chunk tag) to help with readability and/or setup.

**In the main Rmd file**

```
# This chunk ensures that the thesisdown package is  
# installed and loaded. This thesisdown package includes  
# the template files for the thesis.  
if(!require(devtools))  
  install.packages("devtools", repos = "http://cran.rstudio.com")  
if(!require(thesisdown))  
  devtools::install_github("ismayc/thesisdown")  
library(thesisdown)
```

**In Chapter ??:**





## Appendix B

The Second Appendix, for Fun



# References

- Backer, E., & Kranenburg, P. van. (2005). On musical stylometry—a pattern recognition approach. *Pattern Recognition Letters*, 26(3), 299–309.
- Brinkman, A., Shanahan, D., & Sapp, C. (n.d.). Musical stylometry, machine learning, and attribution studies: A semi-supervised approach to the works of josquin.
- De León, P. J. P., & Inesta, J. M. (2003). Feature-driven recognition of music styles, 773–781.
- Guyon, I., & Elisseeff, A. (2003). An introduction to variable and feature selection. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 3(Mar), 1157–1182.
- Mace, A. R. (2013). *Fanny hensel, felix mendelssohn bartholdy, and the formation of the “mendelssohnian” style* (PhD thesis).
- Mosteller, F., & Wallace, D. (1964). *Inference and disputed authorship: The federalist*. Addison-Wesley.
- Reich, N. B. (1991). The power of class: Fanny hensel. *Mendelssohn and His World*, 86–99.
- Speiser, J., & Gupta, V. (n.d.). Composer style attribution. *Project Report for CS*, 229.
- Tillard, F. (1996). *Fanny mendelssohn*. Hal Leonard Corporation.
- Todd, R. L. (2003). *Mendelssohn: A life in music*. Oxford University Press.