Rhythmic and Timbral Associations in Sufjan Stevens's "Come On, Feel the Illinoise!" Megan Lavengood – CUNY Graduate Center – meganlavengood@gmail.com 36th Annual Meeting of the Society for Music Theory, Thursday, Oct. 31, 2013

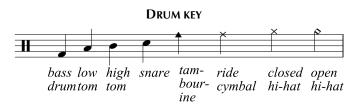
ASSOCIATIVE SET TERMINOLOGY

Segment: perceptible bit of music, delineated by the analyst

Associative set: a group of two or more segments that are related by certain contextual criteria, as determined by the analyst

Contextual criteria: criteria that relate two segments, abbreviated with a capital C and a subscript description of what relates the segments (e.g. $C_{RNs<1, IV, V, I>}$, $C_{ip<+3, -2, +5>}$, C_{rhythm}) **Associative landscape:** An associative graph that shows temporal disposition of sets.

The concept of associative sets is a flexible tool that is designed to allow analysts to account for any element of a composition that he or she deems structurally significant. Examples include $C_{cseg<012>}$, the $C_{RNs<I,\ IV,\ V,\ I>}$, $C_{ip<+3,\ -2,\ +5>}$, or any number of things. In this paper, the primary contextual criteria utilized to form associative sets is C_{rhythm} , although other elements may also come into play.



Example 6Associative sets comprising the first section, with examples of each set.

	Set A	Set B	Set C	Set D	Set E	Set F
Solo Voice	المراثين في			&		
Chorus			6======================================		& "	
Oboe		ر دردرو ال				
Trumpet		\$ [7 8 7 8 C				
Vibraphone		6 17 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7			677	
Piano						
Electric Piano			6 #• • • • •			9
Guitar			\$ 12.7			
Bass						9:

Example 10 Associative sets comprising the second section, with examples of each set.*

	Set P	Set Q	Set R	Set S	Set T
Solo Voice					
Chorus					
Flute		6# 7 ss7 ssss	6" y !!! !!!		
Oboe		¢## 7 ∏7 ∏			
Trumpet	&## \$ 778 7 \$</td><td></td><td></td><td>€**</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Strings</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Vibraphone</td><td></td><td>ф[#]# 7 Л7 ЛП</td><td>ૄ** → , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </td><td>8#1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Drumset</td><td># \$ 7787 P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>II pyry y y</td></tr><tr><td>Piano</td><td>9:4: 9 3/9 79</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>9:## ,\$\$\$,\$\$\$,\$\$\$,\$\$\$</td></tr><tr><td>Guitar</td><td>6# x>> x></td><td>6## 7 [[7 [[[[</td><td>&** > ,</td><td>&# · · ·</td><td>\$## NYY NY NYY F</td></tr><tr><td>Bass</td><td>9## 9 779 7 5</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>9:4, 9 779 7 9 779 5</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Set U</td><td>Set V</td><td>Set W</td><td>Set Y</td><td>Set Z</td></tr><tr><td>Solo Voice</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>my- self</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Chorus</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>E - ven in my best con-di-tion</td></tr><tr><td>Flute</td><td>&# » r FF</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Oboe</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Trumpet</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Strings</td><td>6[#]# 7</td><td>9#_{\$}</td><td>Å#₹ , ∮C</td><td>\$</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Vibraphone</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Drumset</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Piano</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Guitar</td><td></td><td>6# 8</td><td></td><td>ğ</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Bass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>				

^{*} Although some sets actually last more than one measure, only one measure has been shown due to space limitations.

Example 13Large associative sets grouped by timbre, modeled after a Cartesian plane.

Soft attack, detached	Sharp attack, detached		
Chorus voices, Set <i>B</i> Tambourine, independent II	Oboe, sets <i>B</i> , <i>Q</i> Flute, sets <i>B</i> , <i>Q</i> Trumpet, sets <i>B</i> , <i>P</i> Vibraphone, sets <i>B</i> , <i>Q</i> , <i>R</i> Piano, sets <i>A</i> , <i>P</i> , <i>T</i> Guitar, sets <i>P</i> , <i>T</i> Bass guitar, sets <i>P</i> , <i>T</i> Hi-hat, independent Ride cymbal bell, independent Membranophones, independent		
Soft attack, sustained	Sharp attack, sustained		
Solo voice, sets <i>A</i> , <i>D</i> , <i>W</i> Chorus voices, sets <i>C</i> , <i>E</i> , <i>X</i> Flute, sets <i>R</i> , <i>U</i> Trumpet, sets <i>F</i> , <i>S</i> Strings, sets <i>U</i> , <i>V</i> Electric piano, sets <i>C</i> , <i>E</i> , <i>F</i>	Vibraphone, independent, set <i>S</i> Guitar, sets <i>C, E, X</i> Bass, set <i>F</i>		

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LYRICS

Part 1: The World's Columbian Exposition
Oh, great intentions
I've got the best of interventions
But when the ads come
I think about it now
In my infliction
Entrepreneurial conditions

Take us to glory
I think about it now

Cannot conversations cull united nations? If you got the patience, celebrate the ancients Cannot all creation call it celebration? Or united nation, put it to your head

Oh, great white city
I've got the adequate committee
Where have your walls gone?
I think about it now

Chicago, in fashion, The soft drinks, expansion Oh, Columbia!

From Paris, incentive, Like Cream of Wheat invented The Ferris Wheel!

Oh, great intentions
Covenant with the imitation
Have you no conscience?
I think about it now
Oh, God of Progress
Have you degraded or forgot us?
Where have your laws gone?
I think about it now

Ancient hieroglyphic or the South Pacific Typically terrific, busy and prolific Classical devotion, architect promotion Lacking in emotion, think about it now

Chicago, the New Age,
But what would Frank Lloyd Wright say?
Oh, Columbia!

Amusement or treasure, These optimistic pleasures Like the Ferris Wheel!

Cannot conversations cull united nations?

If you got the patience, celebrate the ancients

Part 2: Carl Sandburg Visits Me in a Dream
I cried myself to sleep last night
And the ghost of Carl, he approached my window
I was hypnotized, I was asked to improvise
On the attitude, the regret of a thousand centuries of death

Even with the heart of terror and the superstitious wearer I am riding all alone, I am writing all alone Even in my best condition counting all the superstition I am riding all alone, I am running all alone

And we laughed at the beatitudes of a thousand lines We were asked at the attitudes, they reminded us of death

Even with the rest belated, everything is antiquated Are you writing from the heart? Are you writing from the heart? Even in his heart the Devil has to know the water level Are you writing from the heart? Are you writing from the heart?

And I cried myself to sleep last night For the Earth, and materials they may sound just right to me

Even with the rest belated, everything is antiquated Are you writing from the heart? Are you writing from the heart? Even in his heart the Devil has to know the water level Are you writing from the heart? Are you writing from the heart?

*Italics indicate text sung by chorus singers.

Columbia!