

Comments and Questions on
Ives, "Soliloquy"

1. Bar numbering: 11 in voice, 19 in piano. Both are prime numbers. Universe Symphony rhythm sketches.
2. Performance: Does Db triad hold over in bar 1?
3. Berg, Opus 4/III (StrAM Ex. 124): subtractive and additive symmetry.
4. Unusual features for 1907? Who else was composing music like this--assuming the date is authentic? See #8 below.
5. Ives's
6. It is interesting that he would call a song a "study."
8. In the Temporary Mimeographed Catalogue . . . , John Kirkpatrick refers to "3 sketches" for "Soliloquy" [Item No. 6B43a]. He also gives the second "stanza" of Ives's text, which he says are included in all three sketches.
9. The occurrence of 7-34 as the second vertical of bar 11 breaks the symmetry. It should have been 6-35, to match the fifth vertical of bar 10. Several people pointed out similar situations, notably David Berry and Bruce Durazzi.
10. Ives's second stanza:

When a man is sitting
on a nice cushion, he says,
"All great things are simple."
But when he loses the cushion
and stands up and considers something,
he may think that
"Great things are not so simple!"
11. The "drawling" feature. From Henry Cowell.
12. The role of the Adagio section with respect to the Allegro?
13. Diatonic septad 7-35 and whole-tone hexad 6-35 are very characteristic of Ives's harmonic vocabulary. Mode of performance distinguishes his usage from that of his predecessors and contemporaries: all the notes at the same time! The other septads resulting from the cycles--e.g., 7-2 and 7-3--are of little interest as harmonic sonorities.
14. The general question of cycles as an analytical resource. E.g., what do the cycles have to do with other parameters?
15. What is J. Philip Lambert's first name?

24 Soliloquy or a Study in 7ths and Other Things

Adagio

When a man is sit-ting, be-fore the fire on the hearth, he says "Na-ture is a sim-ple af - fair" Then
(Chanted, or half spoken and somewhat drawing, rather slowly and quietly)

Allegro

he looks out the win - dow and sees

2-4

② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦

crisp. e accel. poco a poco

8va basso... loco loco

hail storm, and he be - gins to think that

5-7

⑧ ⑨ ⑩ ⑪

ff

7-34!

"Na - ture can't be so eas - i - ly dis - posed of!"

8-11

⑫ ⑬ ⑭ ⑮ ⑯ ⑰ ⑱

8va basso

* If there may be two players, all the chord in each 7/8 measure may be struck; and other chords need not be rolled.

lower