Man from Mars

Module 5 of Music: Under the Hood

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> > 1

Outline

- · Biography of George Gershwin
- · Analysis of Love Is Here to Stay

2

Biography

- George Gershwin, 1898-1937
 - Born in Brooklyn as Jacob Gershwine (Gershowitz).
 - Son of Russian-Jewish immigrants.
 - Began playing piano purchased for brother Ira
 - Much later, had 10-year relationship with Kay Swift, also an excellent composer.
 - Died from brain tumor, age 38.

George and Ira



Biography

- Musical career
 - Studied piano and European classical music, beginning at age 11.
 - Wrote songs for Tin Pan Alley, beginning age 15.
 - Moved to Paris to study with Nadia Boulanger
 - She said he didn't need her instruction.
 - Wanted to study with Igor Stravinsky
 - Stravinsky asked, "How much money do you make a year?" On hearing the answer, he said, "Perhaps I should study with you, Mr. Gershwin."



Biography

- · Musical career
 - Band leader Paul Whiteman asked Gershwin to write a piece that would improve the respectability of jazz.
 - He promised to do so, but forgot about it.
 - When he saw his piece advertised, he hurriedly wrote something – Rhapsody in Blue.



5

Biography

- · Musical career
 - Played and composed constantly.
 - Annoyed fellow musicians by hogging the piano
 - Became known for highly original style
 - "Man from Mars" musically.
 - Example:

 Three Preludes
 - Perhaps result of effort to adjust European training to jazz and blues.



Biography

- · Famous compositions
 - Rhapsody in Blue (1924), for piano and orchestra
 - Three Preludes (1926), for piano
 - An American in Paris (1928), for orchestra
 - Porgy and Bess (1935), "folk opera"
 - Shall we Dance (1937), film score
 - Many more



7

Biography

- · Some famous songs
 - Sewanee (1919)
 - Oh Lady, Be Good (1924), from Lady, Be Good
 - Fascinatin' Rhythm (1924) from Lady, Be Good
 - Someone to Watch over Me (1926), from Oh, Kay!
 - 'S Wonderful (1927), from Funny Face
 - Embraceable You (1928), eventually from Girl Crazy
 - I Got Rhythm (1930), from Girl Crazy
 - Summertime (1934), from Porgy and Bess
 - They Can't Take That Away from Me (1937), from Shall We Dance
 - Let's Call the Whole Thing Off (1937), from Shall We Dance
 - Love Is Here to Stay (1938)

Love Is Here to Stay

- Not one of Gershwin's "serious" compositions.
 - But illustrates his serious approach to pop songs.
- · Gershwin's last song.
 - Ira wrote the lyrics after George's death.
 - George didn't write down the verse (first part of song).
 - But he played it for Ira and composer Vernon Duke.
 - Duke later wrote music for the verse based on memory.



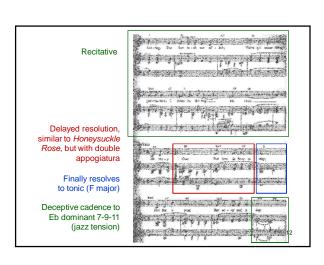
Love Is Here to Stay

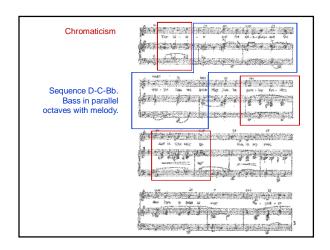
- Uses opening appogiatura.
 - As in Honeysuckle Rose.
 - But this is a double appogiatura
- Much chromaticism.
 - As in Honeysuckle Rose.
- Sophisticated use of sequences.

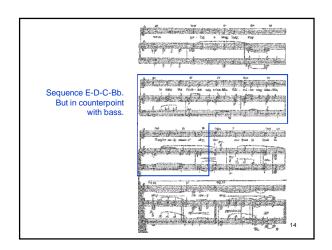


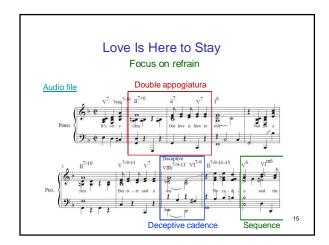
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Audio file (performance of original sheet music) Begins with recitative (this part arranged by Vernon Duke)

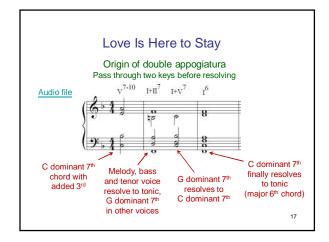












• Guide to harmony • V^{7-C} dominant 7th, wants to resolve to tonic (F major) • V^{aug-10} – C dominant 7th with suspended 3rd (10th) and augmented root (C#), still wants to resolve to tonic • If 7-6 – G dominant 7th against F tonic, resulting in added 6th if 7 – D minor 7th, resulting from C dominant 7th against tonic • V⁷ – C dominant 7th, resolves to tonic • If 6 – F major 6th, tonic key • If 7-10 – D dominant 7th with 3rd (10th), resolves to G • V⁷⁻⁹⁻¹¹ – C dominant 7th with added 9th and 11th • VIIb 7-9-11 – Deceptive cadence resolves to Eb dominant 7th with added 9th and 11th, rather than resolving to tonic

Love Is Here to Stay

- Guide to harmony

 - $VI^{7,9}$ D dominant 7^{th} with added 9^{th} , resolves to G $II^{7,9+1.15}$ G dominant 7^{th} with added 9^{th} , 11^{th} , and 15^{th} . The added 15^{th} (E) picks up the E in the inner voice of the previous bar.
 - VI^{m6} D major triad with diminished 6^{th} added ii^7 D minor 7^{th} V^6 C major 6^{th}

 - I^{maj7-9} F major 7th with added 9th
 - IVmaj7-9 Bb major 7th with added 9th

19