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A stylistic analysis of selected piano works of Louis Moreau Gottschalk

Dicus, Kent Timothy, M.M.
The University of Arizona, 1988



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# A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF SELECTED PIANO WORKS OF LOUIS MOREAU GOTTSCHALK

by

Kent Timothy Dicus

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the SCHOOL OF MUSIC

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements For the Degree of

MASTER OF MUSIC WITH A MAJOR IN MUSIC THEORY

In the Graduate College

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

1 9 8 8

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#### ABSTRACT

Although Louis Moreau Gottschalk's works are not generally recognized as being exceptionally significant in the development of musical style, they do serve as a link between the music of Frederic Chopin and that of Charles Ives. Certain stylistic characteristics of Chopin are seen in many of Gottschalk's works, especially those which incorporate "Scherzo" and "Mazurka" passages.

Simultaneously, Gottschalk's concept of using popular tunes as prominent melodies and themes was later expanded by Charles Ives. Gottschalk's works include some of America's first experimentations with form through utilization and expansion of the basic form of ABA Coda.

Through his use of varied ABA form with repeated and parallel passages, Gottschalk developed his particular style of phrasing, texture, and rhythm, all of which figure prominently in his works. Four pieces are examined with these concepts as the basis for analysis.

#### CHAPTER I

#### INTRODUCTION

Perhaps it is due to his premature death at age forty that Louis Moreau Gottschalk's works for piano are not more common in the pianist's repertoire. Nevertheless, if for no other reason, Gottschalk's music should be retained and performed for its historical significance, since Gottschalk was one of the first "serious" composers of the United States. As a predecessor of Charles Ives, Gottschalk was one who "trembled on the verge of a breakthrough but who never fully lived up to his potential."1

Gottschalk's piano works are a link between Chopin (especially his mazurkas and scherzos) and Ives (who utilized typically "nationalistic" themes of his day within many of his works). With this connection in mind, Gottschalk's works deserve to be studied to see how they form this important link, as well as for their significance to nineteenth-century American music.

Gottschalk's works are musically innovative in three areas: 1) his <u>phrasing</u> of original and traditional themes from the early 1800s; 2) his concept of <u>texture</u>, either

Harold C. Schonberg, The Lives of Great Composers, W. W. Norton, (New York, 1981) p. 564

within a specific section or throughout an entire work; 3) his perception and development of <a href="mailto:rhythm">rhythm</a>. (Harmonies did not tend to be a particularly noteworthy aspect of Gottschalk's composition; therefore an indepth study is excluded.)

# Phrasing

A <u>Phrase</u> is "the shortest passage of music which, having reached a point of relative repose, has expressed a more or less complete musical thought."<sup>2</sup> This definition is taken one step further in the present analysis of Gottschalk's works. His specific notations regarding performance (dynamics, accents, staccato markings, and slurs) are clues to his concept of phrasing. To say that Gottschalk's phrases end only when the "repose" is felt (almost predictably every eight measures) contributes little to an understanding of his music. With Gottschalk, phrasing is also influenced by the character of the piece itself.

#### Texture

"Much like woven fabric, music consists of horizontal and vertical elements . . . forming melodies . . . and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Douglass M. Green, <u>Form in Tonal Music</u>, (Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, Inc., 1965) New York, p. 7.

harmonies."<sup>3</sup> In Gottschalk's pieces, texture is woven both horizontally through the utilization of note values within a melodic passage or section, as well as vertically where chordal density plays the major part. Depending upon the work in question, one direction of texture may play a more significant role than the other.

# Rhythm

Rhythm is Gottschalk's most prominent stylistic feature. Within each of his works, it is the rhythm that is the underlying connection from the first measure to the last.

"In its primary sense [rhythm is] the whole feeling of movement in music with a strong implication of both regularity and differentiation. In isometric rhythm, every time value is a multiple (or fraction) of a beat, and the measures are equal and are normally accented on the first beat."4

It is through these musical concepts (phrasing, texture, and rhythm) that the author will study four of Gottschalk's works for piano. These four selections were chosen by the author because Gottschalk often performed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Willi Apel, <u>Harvard Dictionary of Music</u>, (Balknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1972) Cambridge, Massachusetts, p. 842.

 $<sup>^{4}</sup>$ Ibid. (See $^{3}$ ) page 729.

them during his concert tours in the late 1850s through the 1860s. These pieces utilize progressive rhythms, folksongs and simple themes, which led Gottschalk to be the rave of his day.

The works are analyzed with the above definitions and adapted concepts in mind, although each work will have its unique sections, and some aspects will be more significant than others.

Preceding each analysis of the selected pieces will be a brief commentary on the work as well as a <u>structural</u> chart which shows the basic form and sections. Then the four pieces will be discussed in light of the chosen musical elements. A summary will draw specific musical conclusions.

Gottschalk's style extends from musical ideas in vogue well before his compositional period to new and broader concepts which continued after his death. Through this paper it is the author's hope that Gottschalk's piano works will receive greater recognition for their musical and structural significance, and that composers, musicologists, and musicians in general will hold them in greater esteem.

#### CHAPTER II

#### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Louis Moreau Gottschalk was born in New Orleans,
Louisiana in 1828. His mother, a Creole beauty of French
aristocratic antecedents, was both temperamentally
emotional and demonstratively affectionate. Gottschalk's
Jewish father, a speculative businessman from London, held
high expectations of his son. "Moreau," as first-born,
would later help in the raising of his six younger brothers
and sisters. At age eighteen, his mother separated from
his father, and proceeded to follow Gottschalk to Paris
with her other children in tow. Gottschalk then served as
a surrogate parent to his siblings. In view of this early
"parental" responsibility, it is not too surprising that,
although he was to have many affairs, Gottschalk never
married.

From infancy, Gottschalk showed exceptional musical sensitivity. At age three, he could pick out tunes on the piano, sung to him by his mother, such as "President's March" (also known as "Hail, Columbia"), and some arias from Meyerbeer's "Robert le Diable." Meyerbeer and Bellini became youthful idols to Gottschalk, whose works he

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Robert Offergeld, <u>The Gottschalk Legend</u> (New York: Arno Press and The New York Times, 1969), p. xiv.

collected avidly. Several of these composers' original themes were later to appear in piano compositions of Gottschalk.

Gottschalk liked to extemporize upon operatic themes. Supposedly, upon hearing a new Meyerbeer opera, he could reconstruct themes from the opera, note for note.<sup>2</sup> At seven, Gottschalk substituted for his organ teacher at church on a moment's notice, thus winning his first newspaper notices as a prodigy. 3 At twelve, due partly to his mother's strong influence upon his life, Gottschalk played a "farewell" concert prior to leaving the United States for Europe. This performance was somewhat premature, for he remained in his city for more than a year. 4 But at thirteen, and despite his mother's firm misgivings, Gottschalk's father succeeded in sending him to Paris for training as a piano virtuoso. 5 Gottschalk, being physically small and underdeveloped, sailed to Le Havre under the supervision of a sea captain known to his father. It was ten years before Goitschalk was to return to the United States.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Louis M. Gottschalk, <u>Notes of a Pianist</u> (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1964), p. xiv.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. xv.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. xv.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. xv.

Through his inherited social status from his mother, Gottschalk's general education in Paris from 1842 to 1849 was thorough and well-bred. Nevertheless, being labeled a "barbarian" from America, Gottschalk was not allowed the honor of studying under the best of piano teachers at the time. 6 However, through these secondary teachers, Gottschalk became acquainted with Camille Saint-Seans and Georges Bizet.

Gottschalk studied composition with Maledon, whose teaching method inspired Saint-Seans to write:

. . . a wonderful tool with which to get to the depths of music--a light for the darkest corners. In this system the chords are not considered in and for themselves--as fifths, sixths, sevenths--but in relation to the pitch of the scale on which they appear. The chords acquire different characteristics according to the place they occupy, and, as a result, certain things are explained which are, otherwise, inexplicable. 7

This unorthodox teaching of tonality was probably a strong influence upon Gottschalk. Its influence is seen in Gottschalk's peculiar harmonic coloration, especially in his extensive use of chromatic liberties, and in his ability at improvisation.

At eighteen, "Social Status" was to become

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. xv.

<sup>70</sup>ffergeld, p. xv.

Gottschalk's middle name.<sup>8</sup> He seemed to know everyone everywhere, and it was through this socially elite peer group that Gottschalk put the finishing touches on his education.

As Gottschalk traveled, performing for benefits, salon appearances and free concerts, he was discovered by Chopin and Berlioz. Gottschalk's performances of Chopin's music brought praise from the great composer. Chopin also showed a strong interest in Gottschalk's own compositional talent. Berlioz became Gottschalk's life-long friend and companion throughout much of his remaining life. It was through Berlioz that Gottschalk was able to perform both as a soloist and with various orchestras. As Berlioz stated, Gottschalk possessed "all the different elements of the sovereign power of the pianist, all the attributes that surround him with an irresistible prestige."

Gottschalk's Parisian debut was at age twenty, when much of his repertoire consisted of his "Creole" compositions which were the fad of the salons he frequented. His pianistic style was compared by the critics to that of Chopin. By concensus, Gottschalk was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Gottschalk, p. xvi.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Offergeld, p. xv.

<sup>10</sup>offergeld, p. xvi.

labeled as the new world's authentic voice in music, and it was France that first acknowledged and insisted on the importance of Gottschalk's "Americanism."ll

Gottschalk's piano style was viewed as a new, fresh, gay approach, which was able to reach out to his audiences' sensitivities. Many of his works at the time--"Bamboula," "Le Bananier," "La Savane," and "Le Mancenillier" (which are virtuoso piano pieces) emerged from childhood memories of New Orleans songs and Afro-American dances. The jazz-like phrase forms, the rhythmic vitality, and the exotic coloration of these works was the most interesting concert "novelty" heard in Paris since Chopin's mazurkas and polonaises. Although Gottschalk's piano compositions were expanding into other styles, it was through these Creole pieces that he captivated his European audiences from Germany to Spain to Russia. The most popular of these pieces, and the one that launched Gottschalk's successful career, was "Le Bananier." According to Robert Offergeld,

it may be questioned whether any piece has ever been so much played or so much applauded. Gottschalk alone has played it at fifteen hundred concerts in Europe. Goria, Ravina, Prudent, Madama Pleyel, etc., etc., adopted it in their programmes. Transcribed for the violin by Leon Reynier, and for the violoncello by Offenbach, it became proverbial in the music trade for its enormous and universal sale. A single publisher in Paris realized 250,000 francs with this little piece alone, and at the end

<sup>11</sup>Gottschalk, p. xvii.

of two years sold the copyright to another publisher for 25,000 francs more.  $^{12}$ 

Gottschalk had performed more than fifty concerts on piano by his twenty-first birthday. He entertained nobility--the Grand Duchess Anna of Russia, the Imperial Highness of Sardinia who, in return for the dedication of several of his works, presented Gottschalk with precious jewels in fantastic settings of real gold, and the Vice-Queen of Poland and the Prince of Prussia.

It was after a concert in Switzerland that his reputation as a ladies' man evolved. At the end of a concert in Geneva, he was abducted by an "Amazonian" young woman, who, before witnesses, picked Gottschalk up bodily and placed him in her carriage. She drove off, and neither were heard from for five weeks! Geneva was shocked while Paris clucked. His romantic escapades were compared to those of Jenny Lind, who was defended by a critic, who stated, "At least she was never carried off bodily!" 13

During the next two years, Gottschalk performed often in the Spanish provinces and privately for Queen Isabella II, to whom ne was an honored guest. His concerts, especially the ones which includes his Spanish music, caused quite a stir in Spain. His music was

<sup>12</sup>Offergeld, p. xvii.

<sup>13</sup>Gottschalk, p. xvi.

enthusiastically received. The queen soon bestowed upon Gottschalk the first of two knighthoods, and many other glamorous honors were conferred upon him.

It was during this time that Gottschalk was very free with his abundant money supply. He became acquainted with a young peddler named Ramon, whom he housed and clothed. Since the boy's father was in jail for murder, Gottschalk legally adopted him--thus at the age of twenty-two becoming an instant father with none of the limitations of marriage. Ramon was then sent to the United States for education, where he lived somewhere in the South, since it was later noted that he fought on the South's side in the Civil War.

Upon Gottschalk's return to the United States in 1852, his Spanish success, "El Sitio," which contains many original tunes and fold excerpts, was modified and called "National Glory," or "American Reminiscences," incorporating such tunes as Stephen Foster's "Old Folks at Home" and "Oh! Susanna."

Despite Gottschalk's fame throughout Europe, his debut in New York was not the success he had grown to expect. However, his second performance brought with it a more thunderous reaction. It is said that upon hearing of a Gottschalk performance next door, former President Martin Van Buren and his son left a performance of "La Sonnambula" to hear the pianist who was American born, yet European

acclaimed.<sup>14</sup> Millard Fillmore and Abraham Lincoln were also at one time or another in attendance at a Gottschalk performance. Offergeld says that "Gottschalk could congratulate himself on the most impressive Presidential fan club until the days of Paderewski!"<sup>15</sup>

Although Gottschalk's audiences were normally receptive to his compositions, the critics seemed to praise his lesser works, or so it seemed to Gottschalk. In addition, the critics did not perceive the originality of his works, and were not concerned about their Americanism. They preferred his Spanish and French pieces, those which Gottschalk felt had already served their purposes. It was his new, Americanized music he wanted to be discovered.

Around this time, Gottschalk developed what might be called "Style Pianola." This was a totally American style which, according to Offergeld, "liked sad titles, 'vox angelica' melodies, pathetic barbershop harmony, thrilly tremolos, sweepy harp effects, and lots of runs on cue." 16 The pieces of this style are what many have in mind when they refer to Gottschalk's "salon music." Its success was outrageous, flooding the nation's parlors for a generation

<sup>14</sup>offergeld, p. xxii.

<sup>150</sup>ffergeld, p. xxii.

<sup>160</sup>ffergeld, p. xxii.

to come. These mazurkas, caprices, galops and polkas are intense and force an emotional response of one feeling or another.

In addition to these nationalistic pieces composed for the American home, much of Gottschalk's music composed around this time derives from influences assimilated on his West Indian visits to places like Puerto Rico and Cuba. His one-act opera, "Escenas Campestres," is comparable to Rossini in its musical style and in the sheer enjoyment it affords the singers. Gottschalk's first symphony, "A Night in the Tropics," is unquestionably an example of what Offergeld calls "America's participation in the real, not the counterfeited, Romantic tradition."17

Within two years of Gottschalk's debut in New York (February of 1853), his virtuosic fame was challenged only by Sigismond Thalberg, who had shared honors with Liszt himself in Europe. Gottschalk and Thalberg teamed up to perform two-piano recitals, which supposedly produced the "greatest volume of tone ever heard from a piano" to date. A "Grand Duo di Bravura" on "Il Trovatore" was their greatest showpiece.

Gottschalk's physical appearance was often described in his performance reviews. His narrow face, contrasting

<sup>17</sup> offergeld, p. xxiii.

with his black hair, had delicately sharp features. The most fascinating feature of Gottschalk was his large, strangely-hooded and brooding eyes, which, in further contrast to his features, were a bright blue, giving a "hypnotic" effect.

Masterful usage of Cuban percussion effects in his concert music highlighted many of Gottschalk's works. His aforementioned symphony, "A Night in the Tropics," is not only scored for a large orchestra, but in addition, a wind band (including the Eb trumpet and ophicleide) and African drums, or "bamboulas." The King of Cabildo of French Negroes once participated in a performance of the Symphony's second movement. He traveled from Santiago de Cuba for the premiere, to personally play the bamboulas as well as other native percussion instruments.

In 1860, an odd turn occurred in Gottschalk's career as well as with his personal life. Just at the peak of his renown in the West Indies, Gottschalk reduced his public performances considerably, and devoted the next three years to idleness-especially towards the piano.

His journal gives evidence that he was overwhelmed by the "sins of the flesh" during this period. According to Offergeld, Gottschalk

began to live according to the customs of those primitive countries, which, if they are not strictly virtuous, are nonetheless terribly

The end of the war brought Gottschalk to California.

His concerts in San Francisco saw gold and silver coins

being hurled at the stage. While branching out

geographically, he reached Virginia City, Nevada. Here the

tide turned from the praise and wealth of the West Coast;

for here in Nevada, as Offergeld reports, "his audiences

heard him with a curious and vacant air, exactly as if he

were speaking Chinese." This reaction affected

Gottschalk's opinion of America to be "the country of

money--not the one of artists."

A terrible scandal broke out upon Gottschalk's return to San Francisco. A girl of a well-known family and a student of the Oakland Female Seminary, spoke slanderously of him, after spending "several hours with him-- unchaperoned, and upon returning late to her seminary." This led to a most damaging result--Gottschalk left the country by the next boat. In view of Gottschalk's previous liaisons, it seems that one more would go unnoticed. This one, however, brought about a guite different reaction.

<sup>18</sup> Offergeld, p. xxv.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>Offergeld, p. xxvii.

Gottschalk settled in South America, where he kept in close contact with his American friends. Although he was urged to sue for slander, Gottschalk declined to do so. Amazingly, the media at the time defended Gottschalk, and it seemed clear that his return to the United States would be welcomed.

Nonetheless, Gottschalk stayed in South America and toured Peru, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, receiving favorable responses, not unlike his earlier career.

However, Gottschalk was eventually obsessed by bouts of depression and developed an indifference to life. Despite failing health, he made a late effort to resume his European career by planning a return trip to Paris, Italy and England. He prepared for this trip by rehearsing incessantly and writing several new works, including his second symphony. Prior to his intended return to Europe, Gottschalk reaffirmed his reputation throughout South America by dedicating pieces to countries and their leaders—pieces which intertwined folk melodies of the chosen country of commemoration. The press referred to him as "O divino Pianista" or "the Great Artist."

In 1869, fighting off a series of illnesses,

Gottschalk unknowingly committed a kind of suicide by a combination of overwork and "sexual intemperance."

(Several rejections of sexual advancement were recorded

throughout his journal during his stay in South America.)
Gottschalk's body was brought to the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, where his family erected a monument of marble, consisting of a white angel bearing a lyre and book.
Inscribed within the book were the names of six of Gottschalk's more successful works:

Bananier

Marche de Nuit

Last Hope

Dernier Amour

Murmures Eoliens

Morte!!

Today the angel, the book and the lyre have disappeared from Gottschalk's grave. Only a vaguely discernable name on a marble pedestal remains.

#### CHAPTER III

#### ANALYSIS

## "Tournament Galop"

Gottschalk probably performed his "Tournament Galop" more often than any of his other works, since he always included it as the first or second encore on his concert programs. It became one of his personal favorites as well as a delight to his audiences. The long fanfare-like introduction of repeated octaves and chords (ten percent of the piece) catches the listener's attention immediately. The listener is unaware, however, that the changing, constantly resounding B-flats of the introduction have been stressing the dominant key, only to give way to the tonic (E-flat major) just before the entrance of the first section.

Upon arriving in the tonic, the galloping of horses and the intrigue of a polo match are suggested by various note patterns—for example, two sixteenths and an eighth note as in measure 23, or the prancing triplet figures of measure 55. Virtuosity of technique is required, especially toward the end where the hands cover both ranges

louis M. Gottschalk, Notes of a Pianist (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1964), p. 411.

of the keyboard in a matter of seconds. "Tournament Galop" is a "salon" piece for the piano which explores color, brilliant dynamics, and extensive range with virtuosic flair.

# Structural Chart No. 1 ("Tournament Galop")

Form: Introduction, ABA

Int	roduction	Α	23-89	Rep	eated		
<del></del>	1-22	а	23-38	39~	54	b	55-70
con	bravura:		n spirito			con	grazia;leggiere
pre	•						•
£			17 J				<del></del>
1.	ff	1.	Motive X	$_{\mathbf{E}}b$		1.	Motive Y
2.	V key	2.	Parallel Double	Bb:	51	2.	Parallel Double
4.	v key	۷.	Period	ь.	31	۷.	Period
	Вр	2				2	
	Eb:21	3.	Very loud			3.	p
	E = : 21	4.	Most articulate			4.	lightly, dancing
		5.	Gr-m. 35			5.	descending scale;
		6.	PAC-m. 38			_	brilliante 67-70
			<b>L</b>			6.	PAC-m. 70
			$\mathbf{E}_{oldsymbol{p}}$				$^{\mathbf{E}}\mathbf{p}$
			Bp:32				g::63
							в <sup>b</sup> :67
Ret	ransition			В	90-132	Rep	eated
7Ø-	72	а	74-89	a !	90-105	8	va
				con	fuoco	106	-121
1.	From Intro-	1.	Motive X	1.	Inverted X	1.	Elaborated
~ •	duction, m.		Articulate as	- •	motive	2.	fff
	19-22		before	2.	Double parallel	3.	
2.	Inverted X	3.	N <sub>6</sub> , 84-85	٠.	period	4.	"Three vs. Two"
۷.				3.	mf	<b>4</b>	
	motive	4.	PAC in Tonic, 89			E	m. 120
	Вр		Ep	4.	accented, broad	5.	PAC-m. 121
			L~	_	melody		- h
	E <sup>b</sup> :71			5.	PAC-m. 121		Ap

Structural Chart No. 1 ("Tournament Galop") (Continued) A 149-199 b 121-132 a 133-148 a 149-164 b 165-180 strepitoso con molto fuoco animato con spirito leggiere fff 1. ff 1. Modified Motive Y 2. running repeat of 106-2. ff repetition of 55-70 chromatic 121 Parallel Double piano, light 3. octaves in 3. Stressed accents Period contrary scales at "brilliante" 177-180 both hands 4. Elaborated 4. Gr-m. 161 5. PAC-m. 148 5. PAC-m. 164 PAC-m. 180 Ab  $\mathbf{E}^{\mathbf{b}}$  $\mathbf{E}\mathbf{p}$ Bb:176 Bb:176 Retransition a 184-199 Coda 199-219 180-183 marcato il canto tutta la forza 1. ff possible; molto 2. descending chordal 1. As from m. animato grandioso 121-132. octaves in both hands running from retransition-mm. chromatic 1. Parallel Double 121-128 octaves in Period 3. PAC's-mm. 204, 219

> 4. 203-205, repeat of 194-201 5. DC's-mm. 207, 215

> > IAC's-mm. 211, 217

Еþ

3.

2. strepitoso,

182

both hands

2. PAC-m. 199

 $\mathbf{E}^{\mathbf{b}}$ 

# Phrasing

Periodic phrasing is an important structural element in "Tournament Galop." A typical "phrase," or section, consists of a parallel double period--sixteen measures in length. Articulated and accentuated sections are more common than legato or rubato sections.

## Introduction (meas. 1-22)

No phrase markings or articulations are indicated in the Introduction. The texture of the music suggests a stately and precise execution. The sustaining pedal could be used for slight coloring provided both downbeats and offbeats are clearly heard.

# A-a (meas. 23-54, 74-89, 149-164, 184-199)

Rigid accents occur on the first, second, third and fourth eighths of each measure. These accented notes should resound clearly and loudly with pedaling used only slightly for effect.

# A-b (meas. 55-70, 165-180)

Section A-b offers the closest resemblance to a legato section in the entire piece. Although the triplet figures are slurred (followed in each case by an accented eighth note), each note of the slur must be clearly articulated since the dynamics are soft and the treble part works its way quite high. The notes of the triplets would have been

better served by a slurred staccato marking to ensure their audibility.

# B-a (meas. 90-121, 133-148)

The melody is strengthened by accenting the quarter notes in the treble. As in section A, phrases are parallel double periods.

# B-b (meas. 121-132)

This entire section consists of sixteenth-note octaves alternating between the hands. Although none have accent marks, the octaves must be stressed so that the beat is clearly felt. The section serves as a bridge between the two B-a sections. Nevertheless, it should be played with the same energetic spirit as the rest of the piece. The alternating octaves give the impression of legato, even without pedal.

#### Coda (meas. 199-219)

The coda uses the same alternating octave technique as section B-b; the phrasing is also alike. Since this is the final section, the "Grandioso" (meas. 208) and the cadence chords create a feeling of definite finality.

The coda consists of five four measure phrases.

Through exploration of range, accents, and stressed

patterns, these phrases suggest the feeling of a true

tournament.

# Texture Chart No. 1 ("Tournament Galop")

MEASURE	5 xxxxxxxxx Introduct	:xxxxxxX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	<b>#######</b>		#######	<b>:#######</b> ##	#####
	50 ######## 	###XXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX		######	+ # # # # # # #	#####
	95 ######## 	########	#####***	****	*****		*****	**######	****
	140 ******								
	185 ******	190	195 *****	200 **#######	2Ø5 ########	210 xxxx**xxx	215 x*****	219	

Code: x thin # medium ! thick x moderately thin \* moderately thick

-- A elaboraged------Coda------

## Texture

Perhaps the clearest method of viewing the various textures of this piece (as well as the other works discussed in this theses) is from a chart in which standard type symbols are used to represent varying densities of textures (see accompanying texture charts). The texture within "Tournament Galop" varies from a single note in each hand to large chord clusters of up to eight notes. Certain sections of the work, as delineated in Structural Chart No. 1, may include more than one texture. However, it is reasonable to view the various textures themselves as sections. These sections may be repeated in a modified style, thus altering the original texture.

The key to the texture charts is as follows:

Symbol	Texture
x	Thin; single notes to simple triads
X	Moderately thin; decrescendo rhythmically in octaves
#	Medium; passages with one to two notes played in right hand with chordal accompaniment in left hand
*	Moderately thick; octaves with one chordal tone in between in the melody; crescendo rhythmically
!	Thick; octaves with two or more chordal tones in between melody, rhythmic crescendo; chord clusters in both hands

The type symbols of the texture charts are superimposed over the structural plan of the work, so that one can see how texture varies from section to section.

#### Rhythm

The rhythmic drive of "Tournament Galop" is unrelenting and continuous almost monotonous). Performers must keep the rhythmic patterns even, since they suggest trotting of horses. This pictorial suggestion is effected through three basic rhythmic patterns.

The first is a figure with two sixteenth notes on the downbeat and an eighth note on the upbeat ( ). This pattern (Motive X) is seen only in the A sections and the Coda.

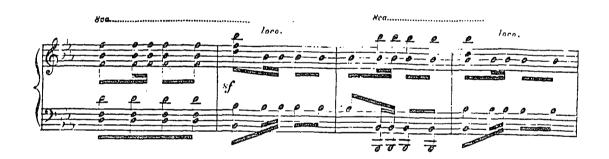


Example 1: Measures 23-26 from section A.



Example 2: Measure 202 from Coda.

The second basic rhythmic pattern is an inversion of the first ( ). It is first heard in the introduction and bridge passages before it is developed in section B.



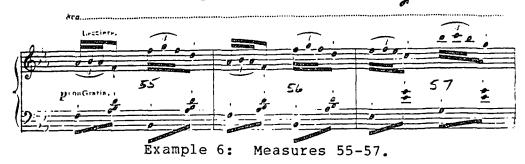
Example 3: Measures 14-17 from the Introduction.



Example 4: Measures 70-73 from Bridge.

Measures 90-93, from Section B.

The third rhythmic pattern is the triplet/eighth note figure used exclusively in section A-b ( ).

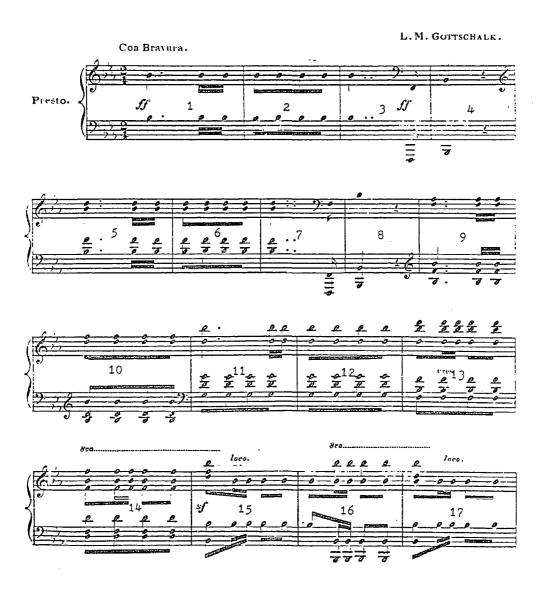


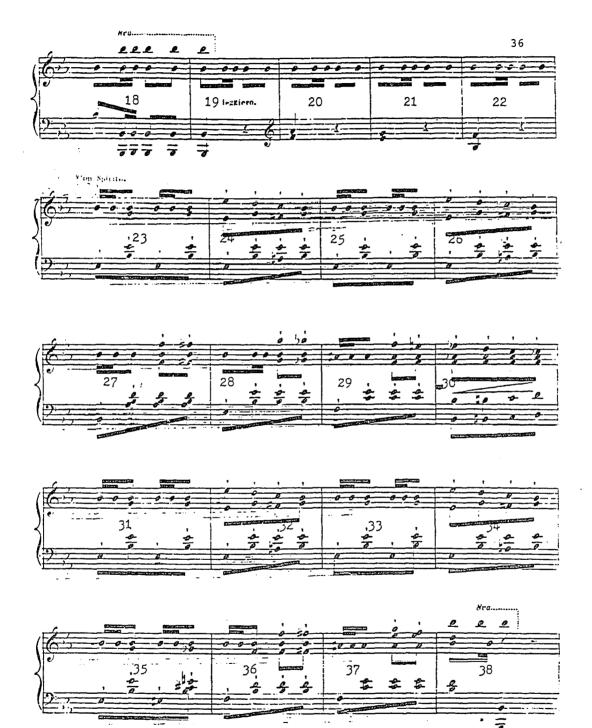
All of these patterns yield a strong downbeat-upbeat feeling within the rhythmic pulse. Although repeated excessively within sections, these simple patterns give an energetic and eager character to this dynamic work.



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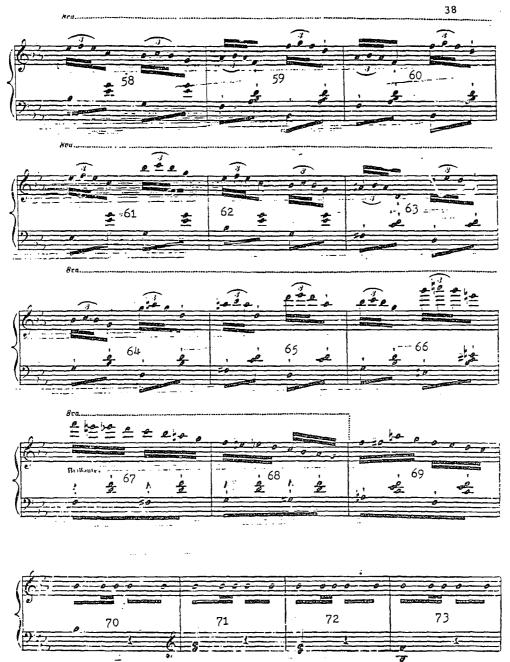
### TOURNAMENT GALOP.



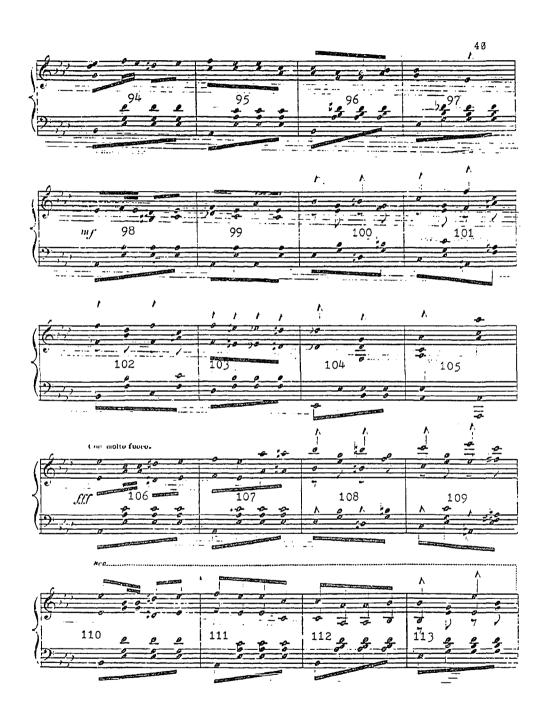










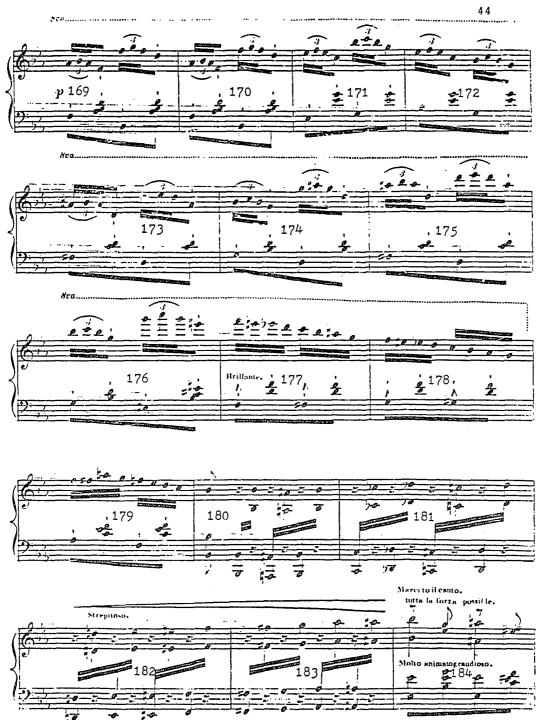




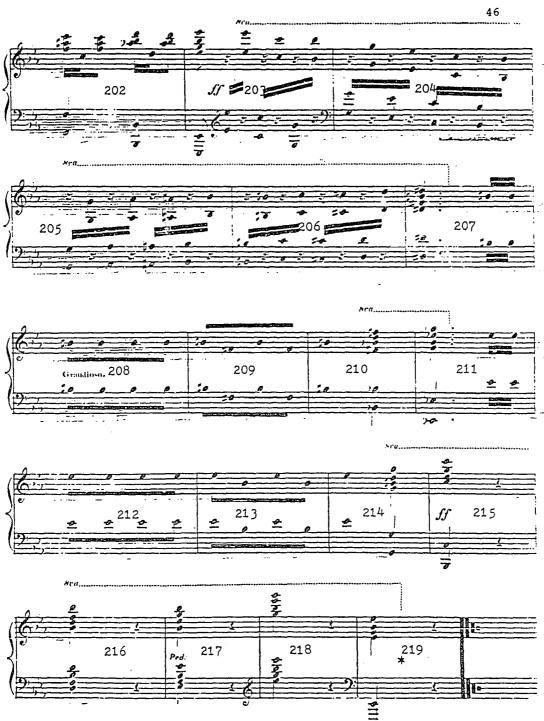












#### "The Banjo"

More times than not, Gottschalk chose "The Banjo" as the closing piece on his concerts. This work attempts to paint a picture of a carefree musician improvising upon a simple melody with his banjo. The work exemplifies Gottschalk's love for the South and for his native New Orleans by incorporating a plantation theme of the working class Creoles. The ostinato-like, lilting bass line and the bright F-sharp major key give the piece an optimistic, lighthearted feeling throughout.

Gottschalk called this work a "Grotesque Fantasie" for two reasons: the insistent occurrence of F-sharp, and the jagged left-hand accompaniment with sudden accents and atypical syncopation unusual for that time.

Long after its composition and audiences' approval of the piece, Gottschalk noted that "'Banjo' (is) a melody for the Negroes! Pooh! Lacks execution without taking into account the old tricks," indicating that the melody didn't lead anywhere, and that his form was not followed as closely as piano works prior to that time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Louis M. Gottschalk, <u>Notes of a Pianist</u> (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1964), p. 212.

## STRUCTURAL CHART NO. 1 ("The Banjo")

Form: ABABA Coda

Int	roduction 1-8	A a	9-54 9-38	b	39-54	B a	55-82 55-69
1. 2.	Octaves Motive Y- descending  Notes to tonic	1. 2.	Constant repetitions i. 13-16 equals 9-12 ii. 21-24 equals 17-20 iii. 29-32 equals 25-28 iv. 37-38 equals 33-34 Motive X'	4.	39-42 Motive X 47-49 equals 23-25	1. 3. s	measure segments i. 59-62 equals 55-58 ii. 67-70 equals 63-66 X Motive Y in Bass
b 1. 2.	69-82 Sounds improvisatory Extensive bass usage and octave doubling 79-82 Transcen back to A	A a 1. 2.	83-94 2 equals 9-20	•	Motive Y a 103-114 1. equals 35-46		
	DACK LO A	F#	•			F #	

### Structural Chart No. 1 ("The Banjo") (Continued)

#### CODA 171-224

- A 151-170
- 1. 151-162 equals 9-24 (omitting 14-17)
- 2. Motive X
- 3. Motive Y

F#

- a 171-186
- 1. Ornamentation of Introduction
- 2. Varied Motive Y
- 3. Repeated Phrases
  - i. 175-178 equals 171-174ii. 179-182 equals 171-174

  - iii. 183-186 equals 171-174

- b 187-224
- 1. 203-218 equals 187-202
- 2. Tonic chord throughout

#### Phrasing

"The Banjo" is a series of repeated phrases. Whether modified or identical, they occur and recur throughout the piece in predictable fashion. No special marks or notations are included in the score to guide the performer's interpretation or to enlighten the listener's understanding of unusual melodic or harmonic phrasing.

#### Introduction (meas. 1-8)

Articulation and accent are the main ingredients here. The parallel period gives an uplifting, syncopated feeling, leaving no room for doubt as to the tonic. Although the performer may employ light pedaling periodically throughout the work, it is not recommended in the Introduction since each note is labeled with one type of accent or another.

#### A-a (meas. 9-38, 83-107, 151-170)

This segment truly sets the mood of the piece. It utilizes the melody from the Introduction, with accentuated chordal sixteenth-note accompaniment. The various four measure phrases within each section are repeated literally, one after the other. Upon each successive entry of the A-a section, however, the length of the section is reduced, presumably to avoid monotony. Dynamic variation and manipulation of motive X (see Structure Chart No. 2) also contribute toward the development of the piece.

#### A-b (meas. 39-54, 107-122)

Section A-b continues the even, repetitive phrasing established in section A-a. Section A-b utilizes and repeats measures from A-a; yet the bass is more heavily accented, and gives firm support to the right hand.

#### B-a (meas. 55-69, 123-137)

Finally the principal melody shines through. Until this section, the treble clef has not been utilized, with the exception of the Introduction. This parallel period continues in the same steady, repetitive pulse; but the treble clef melody adds a brightness to the rhythmic pulsation of the bass.

#### B-b (meas. 69-82, 137-151)

The constant rumble of the bass is coupled with ornamentation and off-beat imitating in the right hand.

This parallel period introduces a heavier, more complicated bass line than heard before, creating a feeling of build-up as it leads back to Section A.

#### Coda (meas. 171-224)

The Coda presents the melody first heard in the Introduction but surrounded by the accompanying figures of Section B-b. The phrasing is less clear here than in the rest of the work; the parallel period covers all ranges and

dynamic extremes, with the tumultuous sixteenth-note chords flowing continually to the end. Since there are no clear cadential points, the section flows continuously to the end as it builds upon the one simple Creole melody.

#### Rhythm

New ideas were introduced within this piece in respect to rhythm. "His rhythms were profoundly original because he (Gottschalk) was working in an Afro-Cuban rhythmic world that had not been explored by any serious composer up to that time."<sup>2</sup>

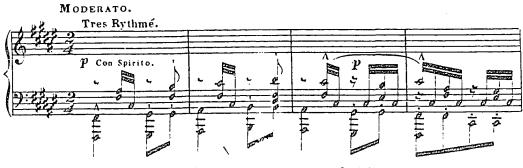
Four basic rhythmic patterns (all interrelated) are utilized throughout the work. The first, used exclusively in the Introduction, is worthy of mention because of its melodic importance and the fact that it sets the beat and basic mood of the piece.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Harold C. Schonberg, <u>The Lives of the Great</u> <u>Composers</u>, W. W. Norton and <u>Company</u>, 1981, p. 567.



Example 7: Measures 1-4 from the Introduction.

Section A varies this rhythmic pattern by replacing the dot of the first eighth note with a sixteenth note, joined with another sixteenth note, both on the upbeat.



Example 8: Measures 9-12.

The liveliest of all rhythmic patterns is introduced in Section B. Although varying the melody as well as note values, this pattern is essentially an embellishment of the aforementioned motives.



Example 9: Measures 55-56.

Finally, utilized briefly in Section B-b, continuous sixteenth note chords are used in each hand throughout most of the  $\underline{\text{Coda}}$ .



Example 10: Measures 187-191.

Listeners are apt to remember the syncopated, uplifting beats of the previous motives. This last (and probably the most taxing to play of the rhythmic patterns) is the least motivic of the four.

#### Texture

The texture utilized throughout "The Banjo" moderates and builds from section to section. The thinnest texture is an octave doubling of a unison melody, seen only in the Introduction. Subsequent textures inevitably lead up to the very thick chord structures of the Coda--pairs of sixteenth note chords played rapidly and alternating between the hands.

The key to the chart is as follows:

Symbol	<u>Texture</u>
х	Thin; octaves
x	Moderately thin; bass utilized only, eighth/sixteenth note relationships
#	Medium; sixteenth note triplets and skips in treble with eighth note chordal accompaniment, and extensive reaches below
*	Moderately thick; sounds thicker* with variable eighth and sixteenth note relationship, alternating melody and accompaniment
!	Thick; octaves with two chordal tones between in both hands, continuous, rapid hand movement.

The quality of the texture, whether thin, thick, or in between, is clear and relatively unchanged throughout each individual section.

\*due to raising of melody into treble clef and two notes played in right hand at the same time rather than one or two in the # sections.

TEXTURE	CHART	NO.	2	("The	Banjo")

MEASURE	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXX
	Introduct	ion A	a					- b	

50	55	6 Ø	65	70	75	80	85	90
XXXXXXXXX	XX#####	########	########	<b>                                     </b>	#######	###### <b>X</b>	XXXXXXXX	XXXXX
	B a			- b			A a	

95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135
XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	KXXXXXXX#	#######	######	#####
		b				B a		

14	10 145	150	155	160	165	170	175	180
####	<b>                                      </b>	######XX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXX**	*****	*****
b		А	a			Co	da a	

185	190	195	2.00	205	210	215	219
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# "THE BANJO"

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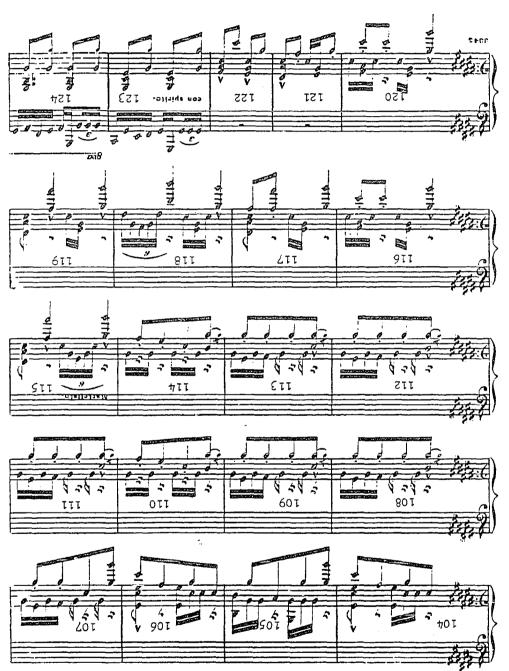






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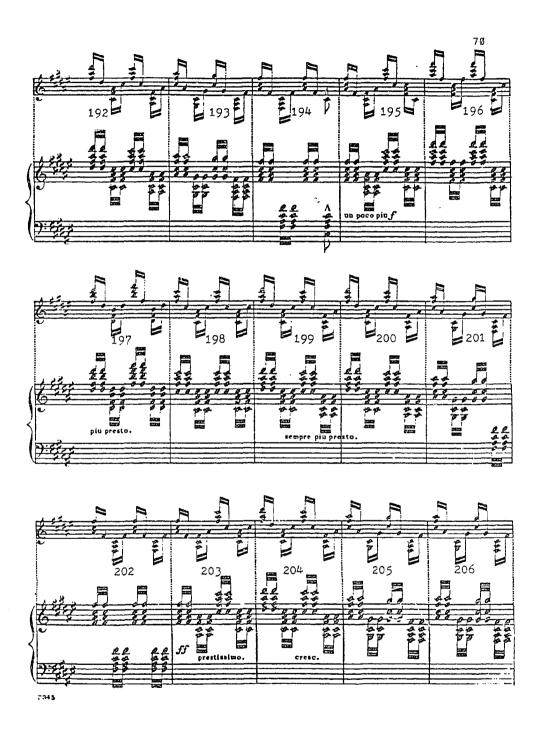


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# "Grand Scherzo"

Chopin's influence upon Gottschalk's work is clearly visible in "Grand Scherzo." In phrasing and ornamentation, the work resembles similar works by Chopin. The recurring opening section (A) with its cascading melody, as well as the lyrical B section (from measure 165 on) with the melody in the tenor singing on the downbeat of each measure while beats two and three provide chordal accompaniment in the treble, suggest a waltz (or scherzo) similar to those of Chopin.

In April, 1845, Gottschalk gave his debut in Paris by playing Chopin's "Concerto in E Minor." The composer approached Gottschalk after the performance and said, "Give me your hand, my child, I predict that you will become the king of pianists." It is likely that Chopin's praise influenced Gottschalk to model many of his piano compositions in the style of Chopin.

<sup>1</sup>Robert M. Offergeld, The Gottschalk Legend (New York: Arno Press and The New York Times, 1969), p. 8.

### STRUCTURAL CHART NO. 3 ("Grand Scherzo")

#### Form: ABA Coda

1. X Descending

- A 1-164
- a 1-64

b 65-132

- a 133-164
- B 165-300 a 165-212
- (shortened)

- eighth notes 2. Y Ascending Deighth notes outlining 07
- or V7 chord 3. Extensive usage Z Chromatically
- descending Weapolitan,
- measure 6 5. IAC 17, 32, 49, 64
- 6. 17-32 equals 1-16 33-64 equals 1-16
- 7. Parallel Periods b: 1-16, 17-32, đ: 33-48, 49-64 D: đ d:

- 1. 133-164 equals 1-32
- 2. 77-100 bridge 2. IAC: 165 to melodic theme in D
- of Neapolitan 4. Motive Y 5. Motive A (first

81-96 equals

65-8Ø

- seen in measure 101)
- C#: 89 q: 91
- 94
- 97 101 129

- 1. 165-177 binary passage 2. 189-203 binary passage
- 3. Incorporates inversion of Motive A
- 4. GR Aug: 200
- 5. 189-212 equals 165-188

D: 165

					Scherzo")		·				
								Α	301-333	COL	DΆ
b	213-232	a	233-256	b	257-276	a	277-300	а	301-333	b	333-353
1.	Inverted, augmented Motive Y		equals		257-276 equals 213- 232		equals		301-333 equals 1-32	2.	6/8 mete 343-346 equals
2.			Inversion of Motive Y				V <sub>7</sub> /N: 285 GR Aug:	2.	PAC: 333		333-336 347-349 equals
3.	IAC: 233						288				333-341
4.	Retrans to	a								4.	Runs are
5.	New mode										combinat i & GR A
D		D		D		D		đ			chords, arpeggia

đ

#### Phrasing

Although not found in detail in other Gottschalk works, "Grand Scherzo" contains many slurs, phrase marks, and accents, indicating in considerable detail how the piece is to be phrased. The work flows evenly and continually from one phrase or section to another.

Although articulation, accents, and spaces between notes are required, the steady, almost restless pulse creates continuity throughout each phrase. Phrases are almost predictably in eight measure segments.

### $\underline{A-a}$ (meas. 1-64, 133-164, 301-333)

Without introduction, section A begins suddenly but quietly in an allegro-vivace tempo. Although each note in the treble must sound clearly to produce a smooth effect, slurs are indicated in one-to-two measure segments where the melody proceeds in arpeggiated or chromatic notes. The bass's steady, supportive chordal counterpart is also slurred where it fills spaces between the brief rests of the treble, thus linking one phrase to the next.

#### A-b (meas. 65-132)

Here, over the leaping melody, phrase marks have been reduced to one measure segments, thus subtly stressing the first note of each measure.



Example 11: Measures 65-68.

B-a (meas. 165-212, 233-256, 277-300)

The phrasing of this section conveys the feeling of a fast waltz. The downbeat is stressed in each measure, and the bass carries the melody. Phrasing here is by eightmeasure segments. A smoother, singing feeling is felt in this section, a relief from the angular melody of section A.



Example 12: Measures 165-17/.

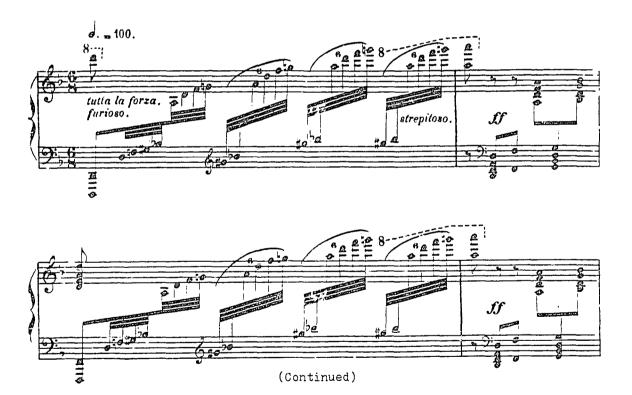
<u>B-b</u> (meas. 213-232, 257-276)

This section is basically a continuation of various phrases from Section B-a, though with thinner texture.

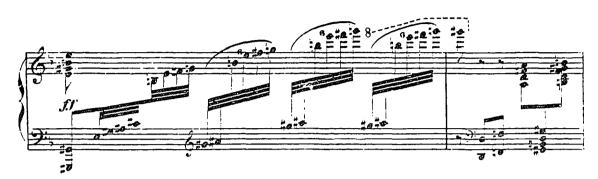


Example 13: Measures 213-219.

The <u>Coda</u> suggests two measure phrasing. It consists of seven running passages, each linked by one or more measures which build in intensity.



#### (Continued)



Example 14: Measures 333-338

# Texture

In many of Gottschalk's works, the texture varies from section to section. "Grand Scherzo" is no exception to this pattern. However, unlike the previous works in which there are five identifiable textures, "Grand Scherzo" has only three.

Symbol	<u>Texture</u>
x	Thin; single quarter or eighth notes in both hands, narrow to moderate range
#	Medium; two notes in the left hand per measure with scalar eighth notes or chords in the right
ţ	Thick; block chords in one or both hands, with rapidly running passages, arpeggiated or octave

Charting the texture of "Grand Scherzo" is not easy.

Upon first observation, the texture does not appear to vary
to a great degree. It seems less important than other

analytical features (such as phrasing or rhythm). For example, there are few (if any) chord clusters to determine thicker passages.

The texture can also be examined by scrutinizing note values, with the idea that lesser note values (or the greater the indication of a rhythmic crescendo), result in thicker texture. From the standpoint of dynamics, the middle (or B, or "thinner") section's intensity ranges only from "mf" to "p," whereas both of the outer (or A) sections range drastically in their volume. It is with this consideration in mind that the following analysis is made.

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# TEXTURE CHART NO. 3 ("Grand Scherzo") (Continued)

230	235	240	245	250	255	260	265	270
xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	<pre><pre><pre><pre><pre><pre><pre></pre></pre></pre></pre></pre></pre></pre>	xxxxxxx	XXXXXXX	xxxxxxxx	XXXXXXXX	xxxxxxxx	XXXXXX
	a					b		

275	28Ø	285	290	295	300	3Ø5	310	315
XXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	x	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	*******	########	#######	######
a					A	a		

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##########	#######	:#######!	$1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1$	11111111	111111111	1111111	1111
			-CODA				

## Rhythm

A-a (meas. 1-64, 133-164, 301-333)

Accents fall naturally on the down beats, but more important are the heavy accents that fall on the third beats which give the rhythm a lift before the down-beat of each four-measure phrase. Not only are heavy accents indicated for the third beat, but the texture is thicker for that beat, and lighter for the first. The bass accompaniment's primary function is to emphasize the upbeats.



Example 15: Measures 1-6.

## A-b (meas. 65-132)

The bass gives a fast waltz emphasis, with rests on the third beat. The melody in the right hand is free-flowing, giving stress to no particular beat until specifically indicated.



Example 15: Measures 73-78.

Also in the style of a spirited waltz are passages with the melody in the left hand, while beats two and three are played in the right.



Example 16: Measures 101-104.

 $\underline{B-a}$  (meas. 165-212, 233-252, 277-300)

The new section begins with a change of key. The rhythm is similar to the waltz feeling of Section A-b.



Example 17: Measures 165-17/.

# <u>B-b</u> (meas. 213-232, 257-276)

The same rhythm continues, with a thinning of texture.

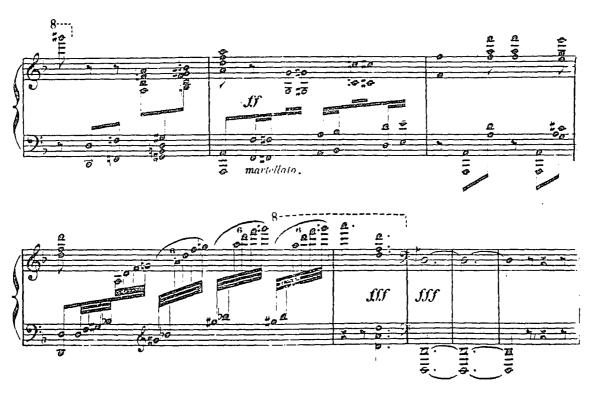


Example 18: Measures 223-227.

# <u>CODA</u> (meas. 333-353)

The rhythm of the <u>Coda</u> is lost in leaps and bound as both hands play running arpeggios or alternating chords.

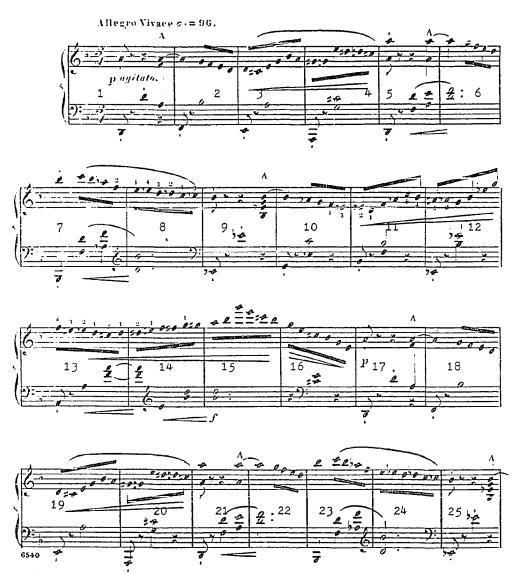
The sense of the beat is still tangible at this point, but stressed or accented beats are obscure.



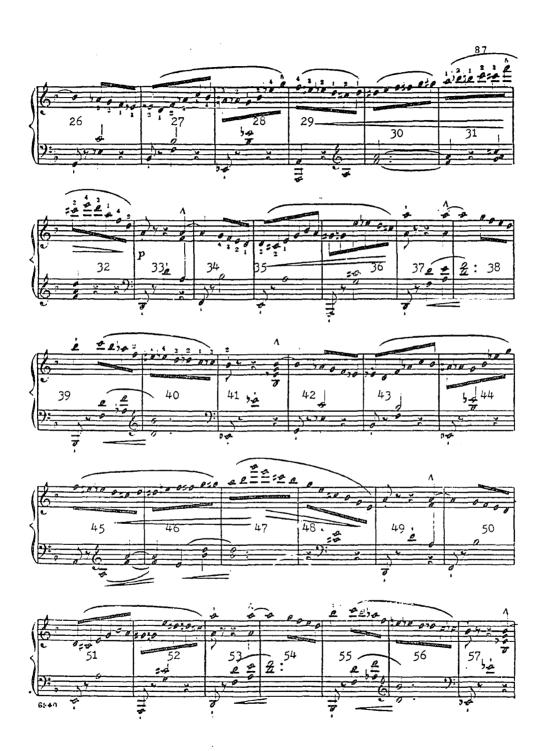
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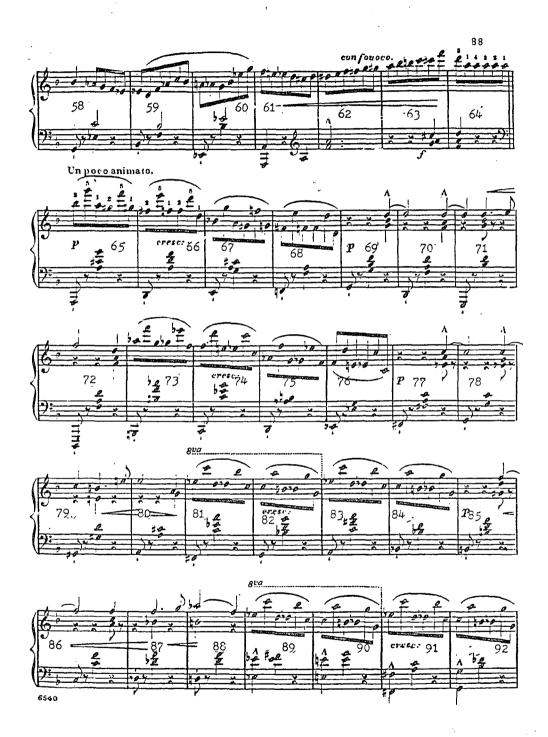
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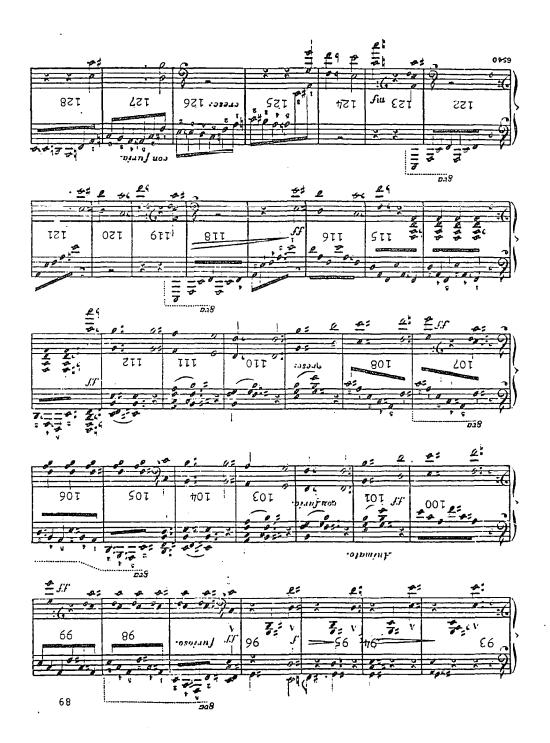
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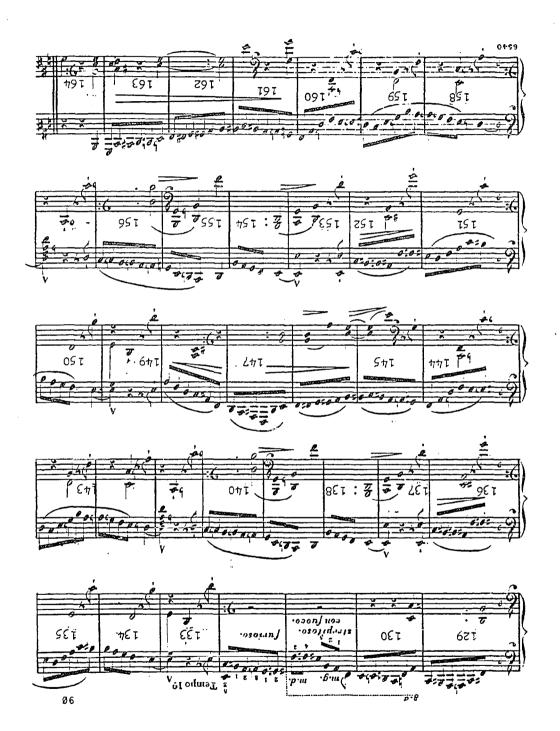


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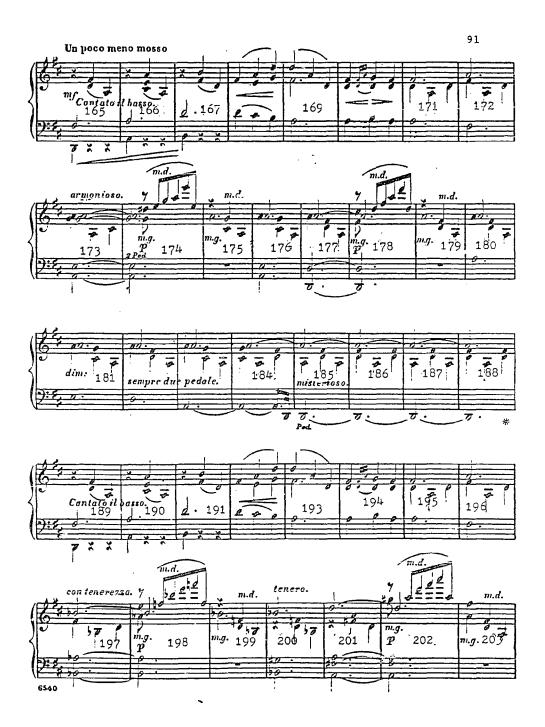


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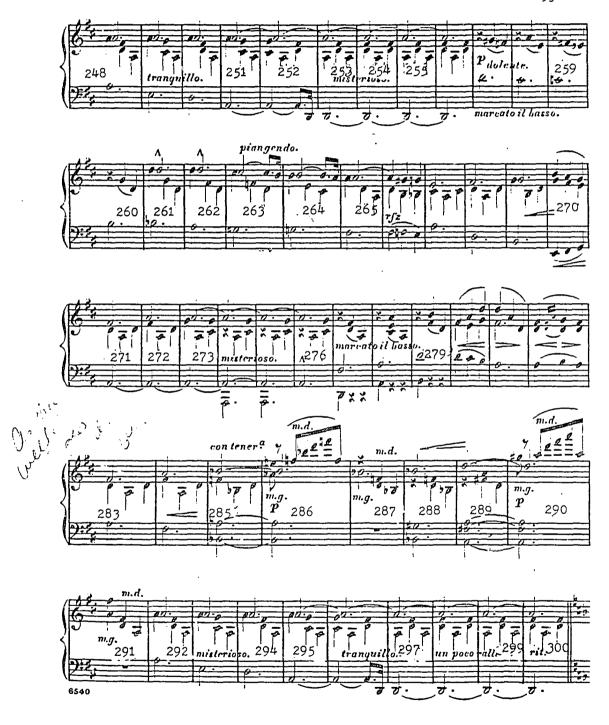


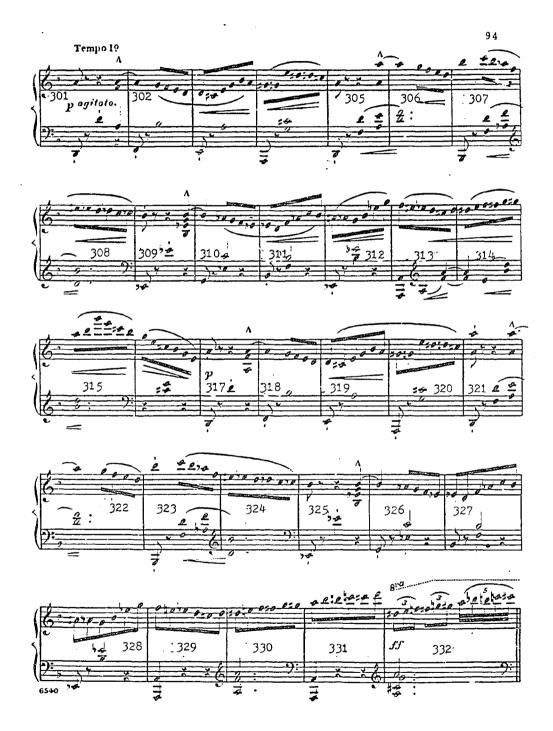


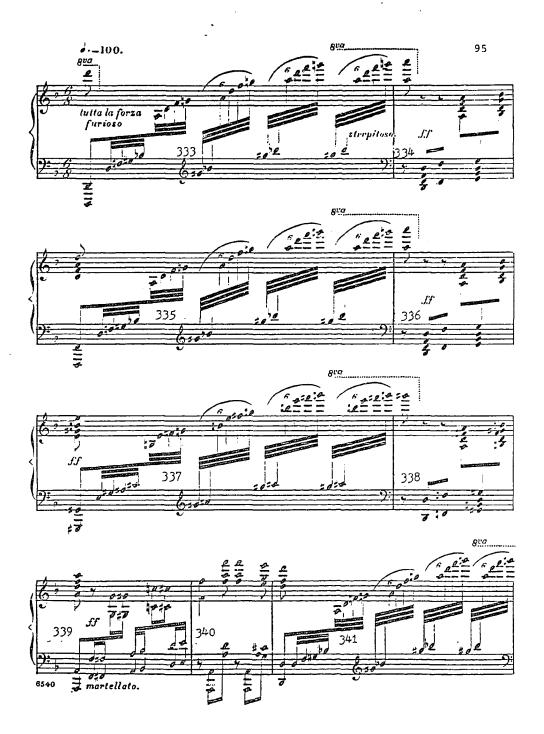
11/8 C



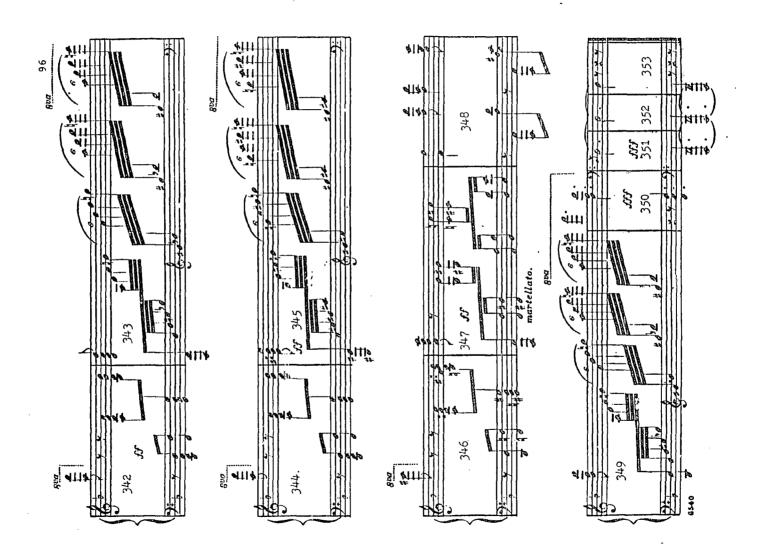








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#### "Le Bananier"

In Gottschalk's own words, "Le Bananier" is a work combining two "of those Creole ballads whose simple and touching melody goes right to the heart and makes you dream of unknown worlds."1 Southern Creole workers kept their spirits up with the help of these two lively melodies. The ballads to which Gottschalk refers are introduced on the first page of the composition. They constitute sections Aa and A-b. The first melody, although written in a minor key, exudes an optimistic, uplifting feeling through its simple phrase with its small leaps and accented non-tonic notes. The second melody briefly passes through key areas other than the tonic as its melody rises and falls through scale passages and repeats, invariably leading back to the original ballad. This is one of Gottschalk's first compositions (Opus 5), which may explain why the harmonies and note values are simple and uncomplicated in comparison with the works analyzed earlier.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Louis Moreau Gottschalk, <u>Notes of a Pianist</u> (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1964), p. 11.

# STRUCTURAL CHART NO. 4 ("Le Bananier")

In	troduction		4-68 4-25	р	25-41	a	41-57	b	57-68
	1-4	<ol> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> </ol>	Motive X Motive Y 5-25, paral- lel period 14-25 equal 1-13 (no m. 2) PAC 13,25 Motive Z	2.	33-41 equal 25-33 33-41, paral- lel period, 25-33 PAC 29,33,37,	2.	41-49 repeat 4-12, shorter note values 49-57 repeat 41-49 PAC 49,57	2.	Ornamented & extended 57-64 modi- fied of 25- 32 PAC 61,64,68
С		С		C Ab	28 30 32 34 36 38	С		c:	6Ø : 62
В	68-98					Α	112-132	CO	DΑ
_	68-84	b	84-98	Retr 98-1	ansition to A 12		112-124		124-132
1.	68-84 repeat 41-57 (in relative	1.	84-98, three re- peated	2. R			Parallel period 112- 120		Motives X & Y repeated
2.	major) PAC 72,76, 80,84		phrases 84-88 PAC 88 88-92 PAC 92	3. S	ubmediant key	3.	Ornamented IAC 116,120 122-124 lead back to A	_	Y extended PAC 132

1	STRUCTURAL CH	ART NO. 4 ("L	e Bananier")	(Continued)			
	Ep	4. 92-95 extende	<sub>A</sub> b;	98	c: Ab:	112 113	c

 $_{\mathbf{E}}\mathbf{b}$ 

c: 115 Ab: 117

c: 119

## Phrasing

"Le Bananier" is based upon two Creole melodies which constitute the two principal phrases (see preceding page). These phrases are both introduced by measure 41. With the exception of a new phrase which is repeated three times in measures 84-98, the remainder of the piece consists of repetitions or variations of these two principal phrases.



Example 19: Measures 9-13.

scintillante e staccatissimo.

legato e marcato il basso.

Example 20: Measures 25-29.

The third and final phrase is repeated three times in sequence.



Example 21: Measures 84-88.

#### Texture

Although texture consists of horizontal and vertical elements," Le Bananier" is best analyzed from a strictly horizontal viewpoint, since the vertical texture does not vary.

Sections A-a and B-a consist mostly of quarter notes with minimal eighth or sixteenth note motion. This section is relatively sparse in contrast to the other two sections in terms of note values; therefore it is thin in texture.

Section A-b consists mostly of running eighth notes.

Of the first three sections, this section requires moderate technical facility since the note value is lessened.

Section B-b (and A-b ornamented) is essentially an elongated trill interrupted occasionally by chords in half and quarter notes. The sixteenth notes add to the horizontal density of the texture here, thus making this section thick in texture.

The chart illustrates this analysis with the following specifications.

# Symbol Texture Description

x

Half, quarter and eighth note values primarily, accompanied by redundant quarter notes. Thin

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Willi Apel, <u>Harvard Dictionary of Music</u>, (Balknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1972) Cambridge, Massachusetts, p. 842.

# Running eighth notes with predominantly quarter and eighth note accompaniment. Moderate

! Short note values (thus intimating a rhythmic crescendo, or thickening horizontal texture.

TEXTURE CHART NO. 4 ("Le Bananier")

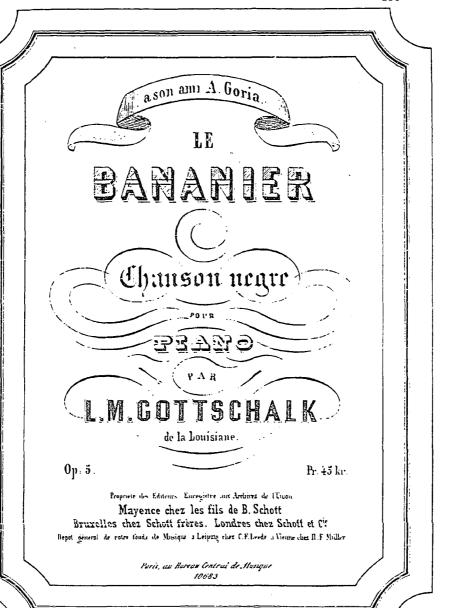
## Rhythm

"Le Bananier" is a 132-measure rhythmic crescendo. Up until and through the reintroduction of Section A-a in measure 41, the ranges and note values are moderate, not exploring extremes or detailed passage work, except for brief staccato passages in Section A-b.

However, with the reintroduction of A-b at 57, the theme is ornamented and becomes more rhythmically elaborate. The treble incorporates running sixteenth note passages played an octave higher.

The rhythmic pulse does not change throughout the piece. With the "Creole" themes permeating the composition, the beat and meter of the bass remain constant. It is largely through the treble note values that the rhythm seems progressive and not monotonous.

The trills of the B-b section create a rhythmic crescendo which leads to the retransition at measure 98. The momentum of the trills is continued in arpeggiated and chromatic runs, while the bass, (for the first time and in the key of Ab) enters retransitionally with the theme, clearly and distinctly. Section A-b continues, utilizing the same note values throughout its parallel period, to lead back to A-a for a final time, repeating Motives X and Y until the end, flowing and running in a dynamic fade-out until the three final, climactic chords.



# LE BANANIER

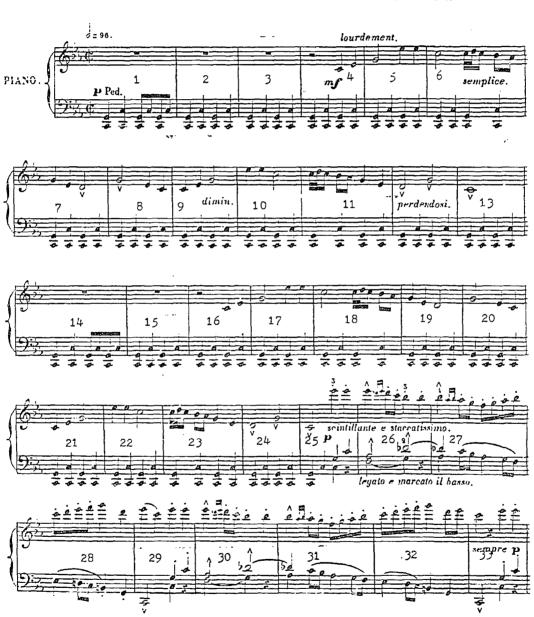
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0ր.5.

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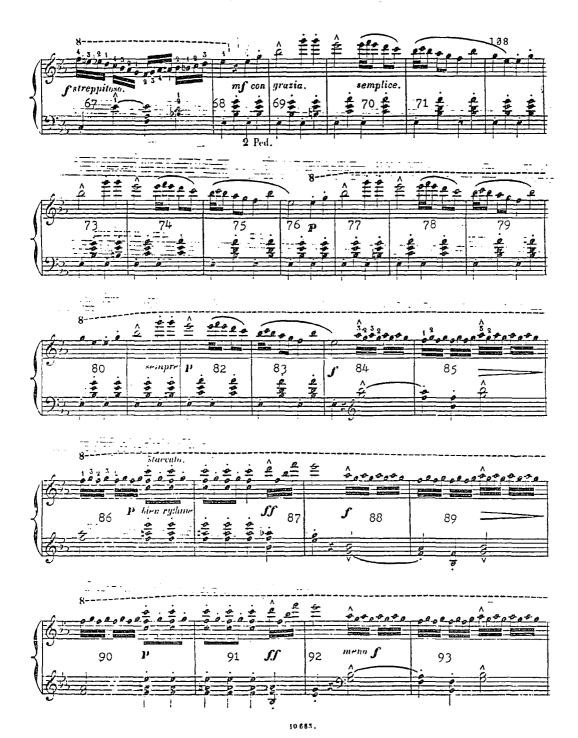
L. M. GOTTSCHALK

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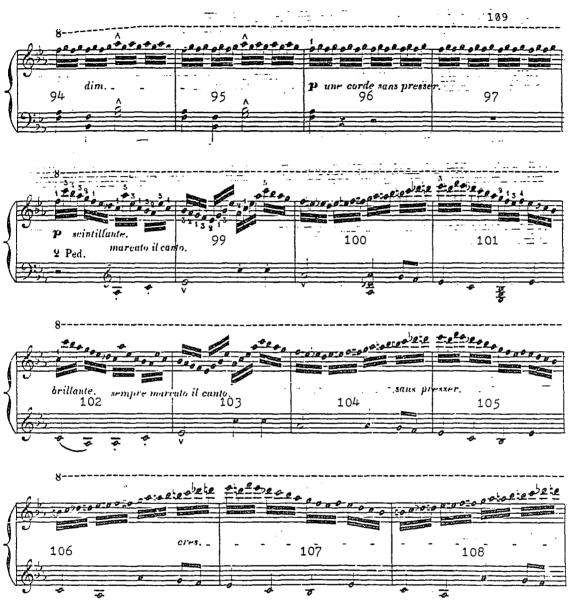


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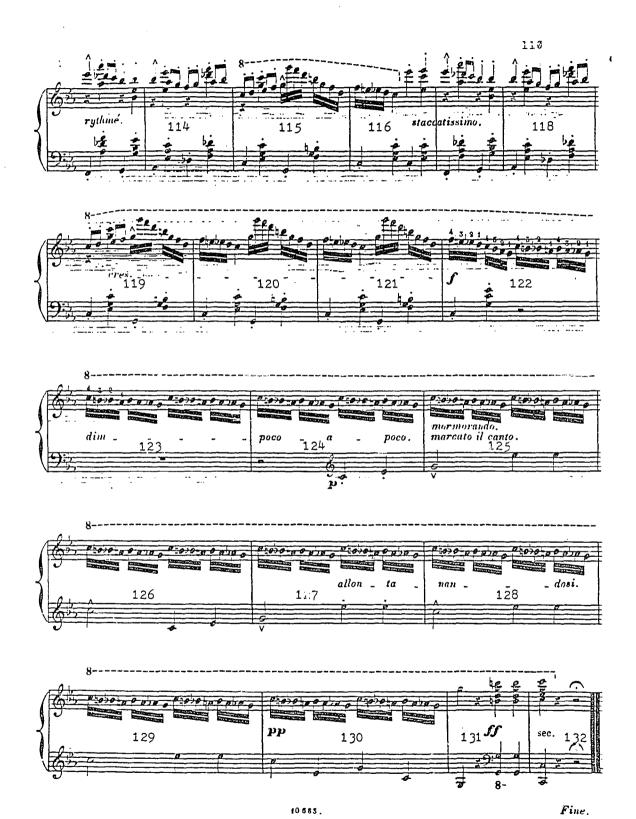


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#### CHAPTER IV

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In viewing the structure charts of "Tournament Galop,"
"Grand Scherzo," and "Le Bananier," it becomes apparent
that Gottschalk favored ABA Coda form, with the first Asection consisting itself of a b a. "The Banjo" extends
that form to an ABABA Coda, with the subsections of A
containing only an a b. "Le Bananier" extends the initial
A-section to a b a b. In all four pieces, Gottschalk
utilizes constant repetition so that the theme or themes
recur many times throughout the individual composition.
These themes are rhythmically distinct from one another,
and utilize basic motives throughout each section.

For Gottschalk, these motives represent two things: distinctness of character, and a sense of upbeat and anticipation. These feelings are achieved by combining the basic meter with dotted, or short note values. In all cases, the basic rhythm of the piece is established within two measures of the beginning of section A-a.

In his A-b sections, Gottschalk seems to be developing the basic motive of A-a by continuing and varying the rhythmic pattern. In some cases, the A-b section explores other key areas, but the motives established in A-a are nevertheless continued.

The first series of excerpts compares A-a and A-b sections.

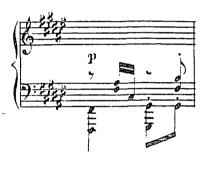




M. 23

M. 58

Example 22: "Tournament Galop"





M. 9

M. 39

Example 23: "The Banjo"

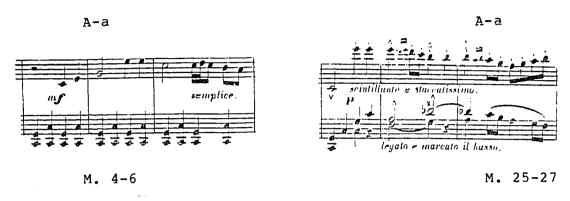




M. 1-3

M. 65-67

Example 24: "Grand Scherzo"

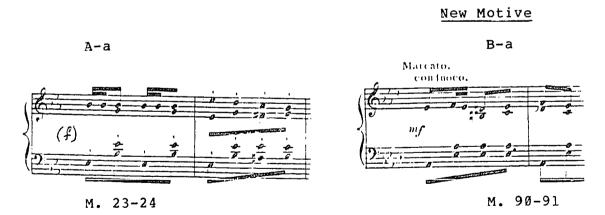


Example 25: "Le Bananier"

Section B-a in all cases introduces something new.

This could be either a rhythmic pattern not yet seen as in

"The Banjo," or a new key as in "Tournament Galop," "Grand
Scherzo," and "Le Bananier." There is usually a change in
dynamics and mood, so that B-a establishes a new flavor,
albeit reminiscent of previous sections.



Example 26: "Tournament Galop"



Example 27: "The Banjo"



Example 28: "Grand Scherzo"



Example 29: "Le Bananier"

Section B-b is, in three of the four cases, the shortest section. In "Le Bananier," this section consists

of three repeated phrases which lead back to Section A while developing the original motive and theme in the mediant key. In "Tournament Galop," Section B-b bridges the two B-a sections, while in "Grand Scherzo" it sounds like a transition but eventually leads back to B-a. In "The Banjo," Section B-b resembles an improvisatory passage which again leads to A. Section B-b (which may or may not be heard again) serves as a link from one passage to a passage that has been heard before.

B-b

Bridge to B-a



Example 30: "Tournament Galop"



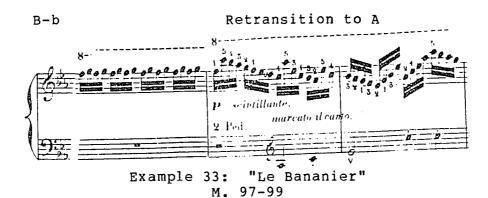
Example 31: "The Banjo" M. 148-151

B-b B-a





Example 32: "Grand Scherzo" M. 229-234

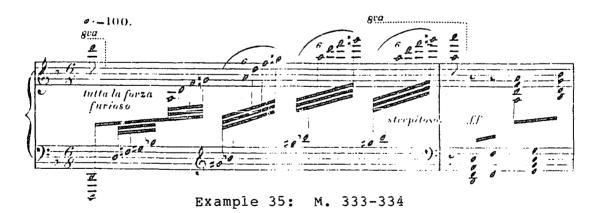


The fifty-three measure <u>Coda</u> of "The Banjo" is a restatement of the theme in chords which build in dynamic level and texture and remain in the tonic key of F-sharp. The insistent sixteenth note chords continue throughout the <u>Coda</u> and are presumably characteristic of the strumming of a banjo.



Example 34: M. 212-216

The <u>Coda</u> of "Grand Scherzo" contains a change of time signature from 3/4 to 6/8. The shift in meter is not felt, however, because the Coda sounds like the beginning of a new section with heavier texture not heard earlier in the piece. The twenty-one measures do not vary from the tonic key of d. They are occupied with repetitions of block chords until the end of the piece.



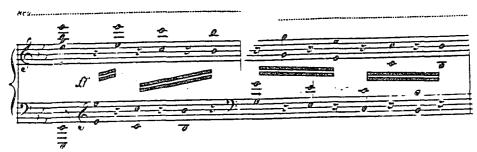
The simplest section among the works analyzed is the nine measure coda of "Le Bananier." It states the major

motives in one hand repeatedly while the other chromatically accompanies it.



Example 36: M. 126-128

The running, descending octaves in the Coda of "Tournament Galop" outline the tonic key of E-flat and its relative minor of c.



Example 37: M. 199-200

The various sections of these four works by Gottschalk have similar functions.

Section	<u>Function</u>
A-a	Establishment of key, motives, rhythmic patterns
A-b	Variation of motives and rhythmic patterns, possibly exploring other key areas

B-a	New subject material, often
	related key, utilizing
	different motives, dynamics,
	and color

B-b	A short section. Sounds
	improvisatory or
	retransitional, linking the
	B-a section back to a
	previously heard passage

Varies in length, utilizing, but frequently varying the major motive(s), stressing the tonic key. Emphasizes variance of dynamics. In the case of "The Banjo," a long section stressing the tonic chord throughout.

"Tournament Galop," "Grand Scherzo" and "Le Bananier" conclude with articulated Perfect Authentic Cadences.

Because of these unifying characteristics, Louis

Moreau Gottschalk's audiences could tap their feet, or

mentally meter the rhythm of his pieces during his

performances. His audiences often left with the galloping

melody of a horse race, the lyrical melody of the working

class Creoles, or the essence of a Chopin scherzo running

through their minds. What more fulfilling way to leave a

concert of America's first concert pianist and truly

American composer!

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