

## Telemann's (Ir)regular Ritornellos or, Durational Idioms in Baroque Phrase Rhythm

### Abstract

Telemann's Ritornellos are known for their frequent metrical irregularity, and they include many apparent repetitions and suffixes that seem to place them outside the metrical grid and endow them with a decidedly rustic quality. In this paper I explore internal expansions and contractions within the components of these ritornellos as the source for the appearance of irregularity in them. Examples are drawn from *Musique de table*, the opera *Emma und Eginhard*, and other instrumental works. The paper concludes with what is likely the first known Brahms-Telemann borrowing: the third movement of the C minor String Quartet is based on a passage from Telemann's Eb Trio Sonata from *Musique de table*.