

"Tha Crossroads": Defining Melodic Rap

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Fig. 1 – Six-Parameters Inventory Table

| Intonation | <pre>intoned = pitches are scale steps inflected = pitches are any frequency</pre> |
|--------------|--|
| Text setting | syllabic, neumatic, or melismatic |
| Vibrato | not all singing has it, but no rapping has it |
| Syllables/m. | average taken from 8 measures of verse |
| Rhymes/ph. | average take from the same 2 phrases of verse (few exceptions) |
| IVMR or IVMV | (inter-verse melodic repetition/variation): whether verse material repeats |

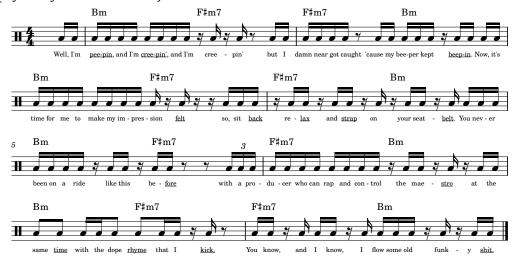
Ex. 2 – No Doubt, "Don't Speak," (1995) 0:07-0:32 (rhymed syllables underlined)



Fig. 2 – Sung vs. Rapped Inventory Table

| | Sung | Rapped | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|--|
| SINIM | 6 19 8 | 33 0 0 | |
| Vibr. vs. straight | 26 : 7 | 0 : 33 | |
| Syl./m. range | 2.13 - 7 | 6.9 - 17.8 | |
| Syl./m. avg. | 4.15 | 11.5 | |
| Rhyme/ ph. range | 0.5 - 3 | 2.5 - 27 | |
| Rhyme/ ph. avg. | 1.15 | 7.95 | |

Ex. 2 – Dr. Dre & Snoop Dogg, "Nuthin' But A 'G' Thang," (1993) 1:15-1:37 (rhymed syllables underlined)



Ex. 3 - Lil Tjay, "FN," (2019) 2nd verse, 1st phrase, 1:52-2:09

(rhymed syllables underlined)

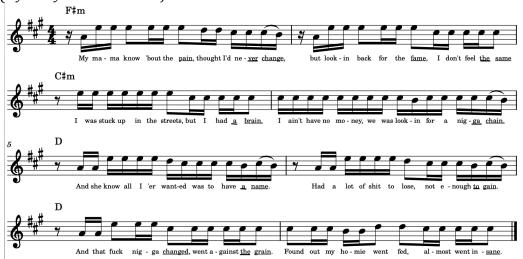


Fig. 3 - Sung vs. Melodic Rapped vs. Rapped Inventory Table

| | Sung | M. Rapped | Rapped |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| SINIM | 6 19 8 | 23 8 2 | 33 0 0 |
| Vibr. vs. straight | 26 : 7 | 2:31 | 0:33 |
| Syl./m. range | 2.13 - 7 | 4 - 16.1 | 6.9 - 17.8 |
| Syl./m. avg. | 4.15 | 9.06 | 11.5 |
| Rhyme/ ph. range | 0.5 - 3 | 1 - 11.5 | 2.5 - 27 |
| Rhyme/ ph. avg. | 1.15 | 4.94 | 7.95 |