

Bitonality/ Polytonal

The use of two (**bitonality**) or more keys (**polytonality**) played or sung at the same time, e.g. the melody might be in the key of C major whilst the accompaniment might be in E major. This device was used by many 20th-century composers.

e.g. Stravinsky's ballet *Petrushka*, where the 1st clarinet plays a melody in the key of C major while the 2nd clarinet plays nearly the same melody in the key of F# major.

34

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Molto meno. $\text{♩} = 50$.

Cl. I (Sopr.)

Cl. II (Alto)

Fag. I, II

Tr. I

V. I

mf *lamentoso*

Solo lamentoso assai
sord.

perc.

This is heard at 0:26

49

e.g. Milhaud – ‘Copacabana’ – [play from 0:55](#)

Watch an overview of polytonality