

WEB QUEST

Have you read the famous letter Beethoven wrote to his brothers, known as the *Heiligenstadt Testament*? Look on the internet for a complete translation of this moving document and learn from Beethoven himself what he was feeling as he experienced the onset of deafness.

Required Listening: *Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, op. 67*

From its compelling opening motive to its triumphant final cadence, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is certainly his most recognized and popular composition. Because the famous four-note motive ("three shorts and a long") reappears in various guises in each movement, this symphony is said to exhibit *cyclic structure*.

When did this symphony receive its first performance? 1808
Is this work from Beethoven's early, middle, or late style period? middle

Listen to a recording of *Symphony No. 5*. If possible, follow a score while you listen. Complete the required listening outline for each movement.

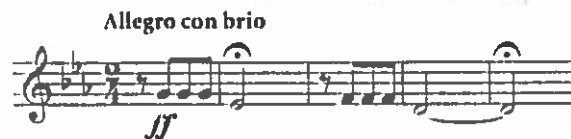
First Movement

Key C- Form Sonata-allegro
Tempo Allegro con brio Meter duple (2/4)

Exposition

First Theme

Ex. 3.23 Beethoven, *Symphony No. 5, op. 67/1, mm. 1-5*.



How is the four-note motive treated in the opening five measures?

in unison, with two fermatas
as a sequence

What effect does this have on the listener?

the unison boldly introduces the 4-note theme, which is repeated
this helps to reinforce the motive to the listener

What compositional devices does Beethoven utilize to maintain dramatic tension leading up to the bridge?

- pedal tone C in the bass
- 4-note motive in ascending patterns
- full orchestra, f dynamics

Bridge

Ex. 3.24 Beethoven, *Symphony No. 5*, op. 67/I, mm. 59-63.

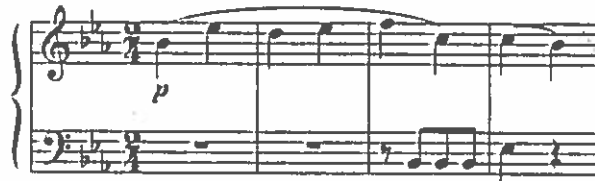


The bridge is unusually short. From what musical material it derived, and which instruments present it?

- derived from opening 4-note motive
- played by french horns

Second Theme

Ex. 3.25 Beethoven, *Symphony No. 5*, op. 67/I, mm. 63-66.



What new key is established at m. 63 and what is its relationship to the home key?

E_b+ , relative major of $C-$

Which instruments present the second theme? Violin I, Clarinet, Flute

How does this theme contrast with the first theme?

- legato, longer rhythmic value, longer phrase or motive length

What reappears in the low strings, this time serving as an accompaniment?

- the rhythm of the 4-note motive

Codetta (m. 110)

What thematic material dominates this closing passage?

- the 4-note motive

Beethoven places repeat signs at the conclusion of the exposition. Was the repeat sign observed in the recording you listened to? yes

Development (m. 125)

Describe the treatment of the four-note motive within the development section.

- shared between the instruments
- melodic variations (addition of a passing tone, inverted)
- lots of repetition

Describe the dynamic range. huge range from pp to ff, sudden changes in dynamics, as well as crescendos

Which other material from the exposition reappears in the development?

- the bridge

How is suspense created as the development draws to a close?

- alternating chord progressions between woodwinds and strings interrupted by tutti 4-note motive interjections
- extensive unison repetition of 4-note motive with the full orchestra right before the recapitulation

Recapitulation (m. 248)

As expected, the recapitulation re-establishes the home key of C minor. What unusual and unexpected events occur in this section?

- oboe cadenza in m. 268 interrupts the theme 1 group of the recapitulation
- the second theme group is introduced in C+ as opposed to the tonic of c- (similarly with the third or closing theme)

Coda (m. 398)

Extended codas are among Beethoven's many innovative contributions to the development of Sonata-Allegro form. How does Beethoven create drama and tension in this coda?

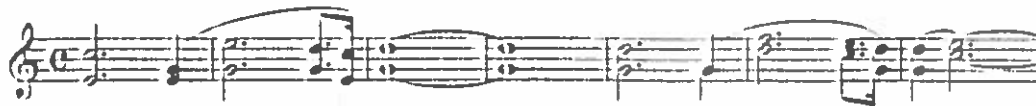
- introducing new material for the listener just as one would expect the movement to conclude



Peter Schickele recorded a very creative narration to the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Done in the style of a sports broadcast complete with crowd noise and amusing commentary, it actually presents an insightful analysis of this Sonata-Allegro movement.

Bridge

Ex. 3.32 Beethoven, *Symphony No. 5*, op. 67/IV, mm. 1-8.



Which instruments are heard most prominently in the bridge?

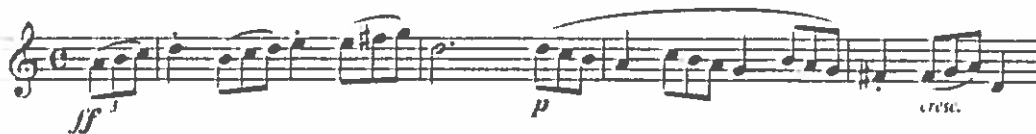
French horns and the woodwinds

What key is introduced in this section?

The key modulates from C to G.

Second Theme

Ex. 3.33 Beethoven, *Symphony No. 5*, op. 67/IV, mm. 45-48.



Describe how this theme contrasts the first theme in terms of the following:

rhythm use of triplets; does not use dotted rhythms

texture thinner; predominately in string section with wind interjections

melodic contour compact with a smaller range; ascending

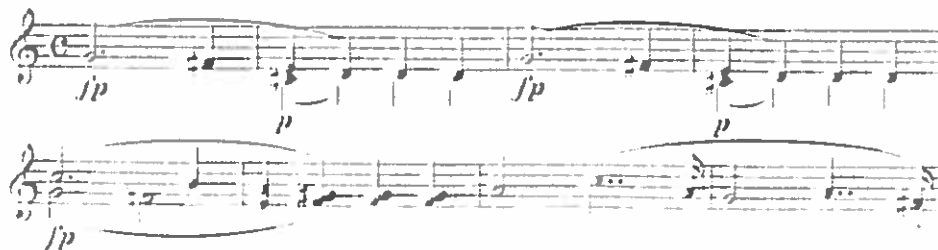
dynamics makes use of piano passages as well as forte

Can you draw any connection between the opening motive of this theme and material heard previously?

• use of triplet followed by a quarter note
references the 4-note motive introduced in
the first movement

Codetta

Ex. 3.34 Beethoven, *Symphony No. 5*, op. 67/IV, mm. 64-71.



Which instruments are featured in the opening of the codetta?

clarinets, Bassoons, violas

Describe the construction of this melody.

- descending conjunct melody with longer note values
- a contrast to the second theme

Beethoven places repeat signs at the conclusion of the exposition. Was the repeat sign observed in the recording you listened to? _____

Development

What thematic material dominates this development and how is it treated?

- the second theme dominates the development
- the theme is fragmented with a focus on the triplet / quarter or 4-note motive

What important material heard earlier in the work makes a final brief appearance in C minor?

- a quote from the 3rd movement Scherzo is heard in this movement

Which instruments present this material? Violin I, clarinet

How is musical tension created in preparation for the recapitulation?

- extended repetition of the 4-note motive built over a pedal tone of C

Recapitulation

In this recapitulation, comment on which elements remain unchanged and which have been altered.

- theme 1 is unchanged
- the bridge does not modulate to G⁺, rather it stays in E⁺
- theme 2 is in C⁺ as opposed to G⁺
- the codetta is also in C⁺ as opposed to G⁺

Coda

Of the new instruments Beethoven introduced in this work, which one is

highlighted in the Coda? piccolo

How is it featured? many virtuosic passages, extended trills

How does the length of this Coda compare to what you might expect?

the coda is much longer - introducing new thematic material

At the Presto (m. 362), what material from the exposition reappears?

• the codetta

What is the effect of this tempo change?

• builds musical tension • adds more anticipation for the end

At the conclusion of this work, following the final cadence, how many times is the tonic chord repeated? many times (from mm. 416 - 444)

Explain how this symphony demonstrates cyclic structure.

- use of 4-note motive in 1st, 3rd, and 4th movements
- overarching tonal shift from C- to C+
- quotation in movement 4 of the 3rd movement Scherzo

Summarize the innovations and musical surprises that Beethoven built into this composition.

- use of 4-note motive that permeates the work
- oboe cadenza in Mvt I (recapitulation)
- extended codas in both first and fourth movements
- use of "new" instruments within a symphony context

Recommended Listening for Beethoven:

Symphony No. 9, op. 125, Fourth Movement

Violin Sonata in F Major, op. 24 ("Spring"), First Movement

Piano Concerto No. 5 in E flat Major, op. 73 ("Emperor")

Piano Sonata in C sharp Minor, op. 27, no. 2 ("Moonlight")

Beethoven Works in the Celebration Series^o, The Piano Odyssey^o:

Für Elise, WoO 59 (Piano Repertoire 7)

Sonata in G Major, op. 49, no. 2 (Piano Repertoire 8)

Sonata in G Major, op. 79/I (Piano Repertoire 9)

Rondo in C Major, op. 51, no. 1 (Piano Repertoire 9)

Sonata in E Major, op. 14, no. 1 (Piano Repertoire 10)

WEBQUEST

There are hundreds of websites devoted to Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Conduct an internet search on at least one of these composers, and make a list of your favorite sites. Look for biographical insights, pictures, details about your favorite compositions, and sound clips.