Musical Form

Module 2 of *Music: Under the Hood*

John Hooker
Carnegie Mellon University

Osher Course
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1

Outline

- Musical forms
- Sonata allegro form
- Example – Mozart *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*

2

Musical Forms

- The main point is not the specific form
  - The main point is that the music must be **intelligible**
  - The listener should not get **lost**

3

Musical Forms

- Most common musical structure
  - Exposition
    - Introduce the main musical ideas
    - Tonic key
  - Development
    - Explore implications of main ideas
    - Other keys
  - Recapitulation
    - Return to original ideas with sense of closure
    - Tonic key

4

Musical Forms

- Some basic forms
  - Binary – AB
    - Common in dances, pop music (verse-chorus)
  - Sonata allegro – AABA with B = development
    - Best known form in Western music
    - Chorus-verse-chorus in pop music
  - Rondo – ABACA
  - Theme and variations
  - Passacaglia/chaconne
    - Variations over repeating bass
    - For example, Richard Rogers' *Blue Moon*

5

Musical Forms

- **Block structure** common in "classical" period
    - Haydn, Mozart, etc.
    - Organic development more common in "Baroque" period
  - Blocks correspond to keys
  - Makes for easy listening
    - **Still the standard today**
  - **Sonata Allegro** form is best known
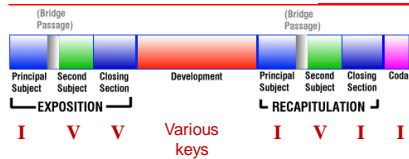   - 121 of Beatles' 211 songs have more or less this form

6

Sonata Allegro Form

- AABA structure
  - AA: Exposition, repeated
    - Main theme in tonic
    - Secondary theme in dominant
  - B: Development
    - Multiple keys, usually minor
  - A: Recapitulation
    - Main theme returns in tonic
    - Secondary theme in dominant
  - Many variations!

AABA

7

Sonata Allegro Form

Diagram of sonata allegro form

Principal Subject	Second Subject	Closing Section	Development	Principal Subject	Second Subject	Closing Section	Coda
I	V	V	Various keys	I	V	I	I

EXPOSITION — RECAPITULATION

8

Sonata Allegro Form

- Basic contradiction?
  - Secondary theme in recapitulation is in dominant key.
  - How to return to tonic?

9

Example

- Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* (1787)
  - "A little serenade"
  - 1st movement (Allegro)

10

- Exposition (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key
  - Modulate to dominant key
  - 2nd theme in dominant key
- Development
  - Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key
  - Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  - 2nd theme in tonic key
  - Closing section

11

- Exposition (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key 0:00   Audio file
  - Modulate to dominant key
  - 2nd theme in dominant key
- Development
  - Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key
  - Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  - 2nd theme in tonic key
  - Closing section

12

Slide 13
- Exposition (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key 0:30
  – 2nd theme in dominant key
- Development
  – Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  – 2nd theme in tonic key
  – Closing section

13

Slide 14
- Exposition (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key
  – 2nd theme in dominant key 0:48
- Development
  – Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  – 2nd theme in tonic key
  – Closing section

14

Slide 15
- Exposition (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key 1:36
  – Modulate to dominant key
  – 2nd theme in dominant key
- Development
  – Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  – 2nd theme in tonic key
  – Closing section

15

Slide 16
- Exposition (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key 2:07
  – 2nd theme in dominant key
- Development
  – Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  – 2nd theme in tonic key
  – Closing section

16

Slide 17
- Exposition (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key
  – 2nd theme in dominant key 2:24
- Development
  – Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  – 2nd theme in tonic key
  – Closing section

17

Slide 18
- Exposition (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key
  – 2nd theme in dominant key
- Development
  – Variations in dominant key, etc. 3:12
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  – Theme in tonic key
  – Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  – 2nd theme in tonic key
  – Closing section

18

- Exposition (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key
  - Modulate to dominant key
  - 2nd theme in dominant key
- Development
  - Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key 3:47
  - Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  - 2nd theme in tonic key
  - Closing section

19

- Exposition (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key
  - Modulate to dominant key
  - 2nd theme in dominant key
- Development
  - Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key
  - Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic! 4:17
  - 2nd theme in tonic key
  - Closing section

20

- Exposition (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key
  - Modulate to dominant key
  - 2nd theme in dominant key
- Development
  - Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key
  - Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  - 2nd theme in tonic key 4:31
  - Closing section

21

- Exposition (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key
  - Modulate to dominant key
  - 2nd theme in dominant key
- Development
  - Variations in dominant key, etc.
- Recapitulation (repeated)
  - Theme in tonic key
  - Modulate to dominant key… but end up in tonic!
  - 2nd theme in tonic key
  - Closing section 5:11

22