

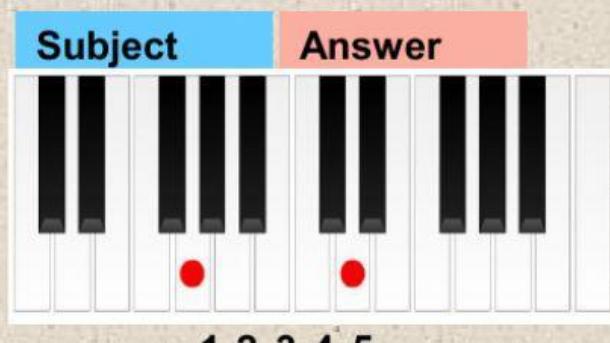
Fugue

A **FUGUE** is a ***polyphonic*** and highly imitative piece based on a main theme, called a **SUBJECT**. It is used mainly in Instrumental music but can also be found in Vocal music.

The first section is known as the **EXPOSITION**.

e.g. Bach *Organ Fugue in G minor*

The subject is then imitated by another part called the **ANSWER**, usually in the dominant (ie a 5th higher or a 4th lower)



- A **REAL ANSWER** is an accurate note for note repeat of the subject,
- A **TONAL ANSWER** is one where certain notes are altered to fit harmonically with the other parts.

While the **ANSWER** is heard, the **COUNTER SUBJECT**, a new theme, begins in the first part. This overlapping texture creates counterpoint. In between repeats of subject and answer themes are small sections called **EPISODES**.

Compare the subject in the tonic

Subject



with the **real answer** that follows in the dominant key



Counter subject



Answer



Between presentations of the subject and counter subjects are transitional sections called *episodes*

Episode – downward sequence



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akPjhsL_tRM&t=45s&ab_channel=MitchBoucher-Composer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEo5YHYWnK8&ab_channel=ChristopherPalmer

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAFETgpt9PA&ab_channel=UnderstandingMusic

- Fugal textures can be seen in other types of music.
Listen to a **vocal** fugue – *And with his stripes* (Messiah)
NB - Listen out for the leap of a **diminished 7th** on the word 'stripes'

Hedwig's Fugue

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-fd8tWN8lw&ab_channel=ChristianPerrotta

Stretto

- Statements of the subject pile up in quick succession. One voice begins a subject before the previous voice has finished its own rendition of the subject, thus creating an overlap. This often occurs in the final section of the fugue.

e.g. Bach Fugue no 1 in C major

Subject



Now listen to the subject overlapping in stretto



Variations in Fugue Subject

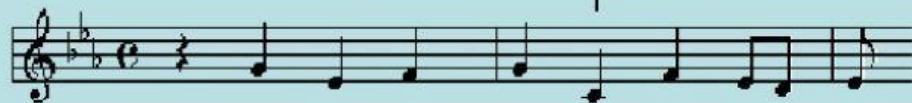
- **Inversion**-each melodic interval is turned upside down
- **Retrograde**-Beginning with the last note and ending with the first
- **Augmentation**-Original time values are lengthened
- **Diminution**-shortened time values

Bach Fugue in C minor book 2 no2

Subject



Augmented subject



Inverted subject



Retrograde subject



Diminution subject



Bach Fugue in C# minor – book 2 no3

Subject



Subject inverted



Subject augmented



Fugue no 9 in Dm - The Art of Fugue

The Art of Fugue is collection of fugues and four canons based on this main theme:

Play from 0:00

Fugue No. 9 has its own distinctive **subject**, beginning with an octave leap:

Play from 26:01

Listen to a recording of this **fugue** played on the harpsichord.

As the **fugue** progresses you will hear the main **theme**, heard in **long notes** (**augmentation**), played by **solo string instruments**, in counterpoint with the **fugue subject**:

Summary of Fugue

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFt7FAxdaBM&ab_channel=PolychoronProductions