

Classical Piano Music

A common characteristic of **Classical** music is “graceful” melodies, in clear-cut and balanced phrases.

The **piano** was a relatively new keyboard instrument in the **Classical** period.

A popular musical feature used by **Classical** composers is the **alberti bass**. This is a type of broken chord accompaniment repeated in the **left hand**.



Extract 6 Listen to an excerpt from the second movement of *Sonata in C* (K.545) by Mozart played on the **piano**. Listen for:

Alberti bass **Simple harmonies** **Clear-cut phrases** **Major**

Andante (♩ = 63)

p cantabile

Sonata Form

Sonata Form is one of the most important forms used by composers. It is the form used in the **first movements** of Sonatas, Symphonies, Concertos, String Quartets etc.

The basic plan of Sonata Form is:

Exposition	Development	Recapitulation	Coda
1st subject (tonic)	Developing ideas from the Exposition.	1st subject (tonic)	To round off
Bridge (changing key)	Adding new ideas. Exploring new keys.	Bridge (altered)	
2nd subject (new key)		2nd subject (tonic)	



Listen to the first movement of *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* by Mozart played by a group of strings. Try to follow the **sonata form** structure.

The musical score illustrates the structure of Sonata Form across several staves of music:

- EXPOSITION:** The section begins in G major (tonic key). It includes:
 - First subject: Part A (measures 1-8)
 - First subject: Part B (1st violins above repeated-chord accompaniment) (measures 9-14)
 - First subject: Part C (measures 15-20)
 - Bridge - busily working its way towards D major (measures 21-28)
- Development:** The section begins in D major. It includes:
 - Second subject: Part A (in the dominant key) (measures 29-35)
 - Second subject: Part B (measures 36-42)
 - (Part B repeated) (measures 43-49)
- Recapitulation:** The section returns to G major (tonic key). It includes:
 - First subject: Part B (1st violins above repeated-chord accompaniment) (measures 50-56)
 - First subject: Part A (measures 57-63)

Second subject: Part C - codetta (a miniature coda, ending the Exposition)

DEVELOPMENT

(D major) (expecting E minor . . . but C major instead)

65 (A minor) (expecting G minor . . . but 'surprise' chord of Eb major instead)

Linking passage - working back to the tonic key of G major

RECAPITULATION

First subject: Part A (tonic key: G major)

First subject: Part B (2nd violin)

First subject: Part C

Bridge (now altered)

Second subject: Part A (now also in the tonic key)

Second subject: Part B

(Part B repeated)

Second subject: Part C - the original codetta, now lengthened to form a coda)

Having listened to this movement, complete the following statements:

1. This **exposition** section starts in the key of _____.
2. At the **bridge** passage the music modulates to the _____ key.
3. The **2nd subject** in the **exposition** is in the key of _____.
4. The **2nd subject** in the **recapitulation** is in the key of _____.
5. What ornaments are prominent in this piece? (Refer to specific bar numbers).

This first section in Sonata Form is called the

Add and appropriate tempo mark here

Name the key

This first theme is called the 1st

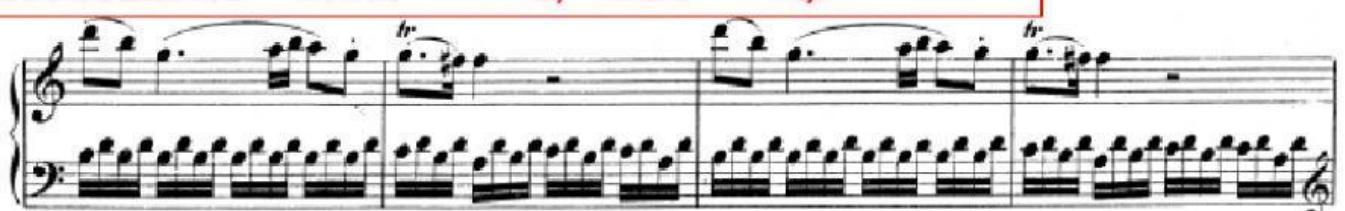
Name the type of bass line



This bar in between the two main themes is called the



This second theme is called the 2nd It is in the key which is major



W. A. M. E. R.

Amsterdam 1828.

These last bars at the end of the first section are called the



This middle section in Sonata Form is called the



What is the TONALITY?

Give three concepts (melodic/harmonic/rhythmic /texture) of what happens in this section

1

2

3



This final section, with the return of the first subject is called the

This is usually in the

key but here it is in major which is the

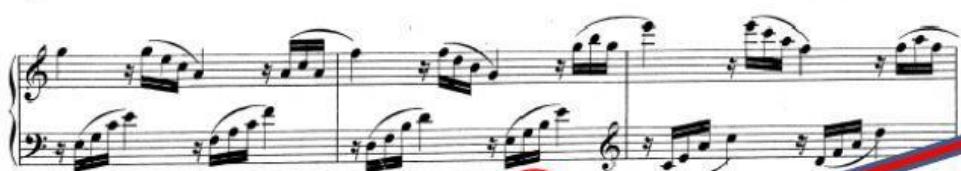




Here is the 2nd subject

It is in the _____ key

which is major



Listen carefully and name the chord



major chord



minor chord



diminished 7th



dominant 7th

These last bars are called the _____

Listen to the first movement of the piano piece Sonata no 1 by Clementi. This follows a simple Sonata Form structure. While you listen, try to identify the main sections: Exposition, Development and Recapitulation, 1st subject and 2nd subject, bridge passage. Write the concepts in the spaces provided.

Sheet music for M. CLEMENTI, Op. 36, No. 1, Allegro. The music is for piano and consists of eight staves of musical notation. The first staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/4 time signature. The second staff shows a bass clef. The third staff shows a treble clef. The fourth staff shows a bass clef. The fifth staff shows a treble clef. The sixth staff shows a bass clef. The seventh staff shows a treble clef. The eighth staff shows a bass clef. The music includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mp*, *cresc.*, and *p*. Fingerings are indicated above the notes, such as 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The music is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.