Classical characteristics

Classical Orchestra

•**strings** - violin, viola, cello, double bass, and sometimes guitar
•**woodwind** - recorder or wooden flute, oboe, bassoon and clarinet
•**brass** - trumpet, horns (with valves by the end of the period)
•**percussion** - timpani (kettledrums) and sometimes triangle, hand cymbals and bass drum
•**key** - fortepiano
Classical orchestras were bigger in size and as instrument building improved so did the range of dynamics in the performance. The harpsichord was replaced with the fortepiano, the precursor to today's modern piano.

Musical characteristics of Classical music

- Lighter, clearer textures than Baroque – mainly homophonic (melody with accompaniment) but still polyphonic textures in places
- Clear cut, balanced phrases with shorter, elegant melodies
- Harmonies are still diatonic but with increasing colourful chromatic chords as period progresses
- More variety and contrast within a piece – frequent changes of mood and timbre
- Graded dynamics – use of crescendo and sforzando
- Harpsichord disappears and replaced by piano (solo and chamber music as well as piano concerto)
- Instrumental music becomes more dominant though still vocal music forms
- Concerto grosso disappears – only solo concerti
- Rise of the symphony and string quartet

Main **styles** of music

Vocal	**Instrumental**
Opera, Oratorio	*Solo concerto, Symphony, string quartet*
Recitative, Aria, Duet, Choruses	*Sonata, Piano trio, Serenades, Divertimento*

Main **forms/ structure**

- *Sonata Form (esp for 1st movement of sonatas, symphonies, concerti, chamber music)*
- *Rondo form (often final movement*
- *Minuet and Trio (often 3rd movement)*
- Scherzo (sometimes replaces Minuet and Trio
- Theme and Variations

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SYMPHONY

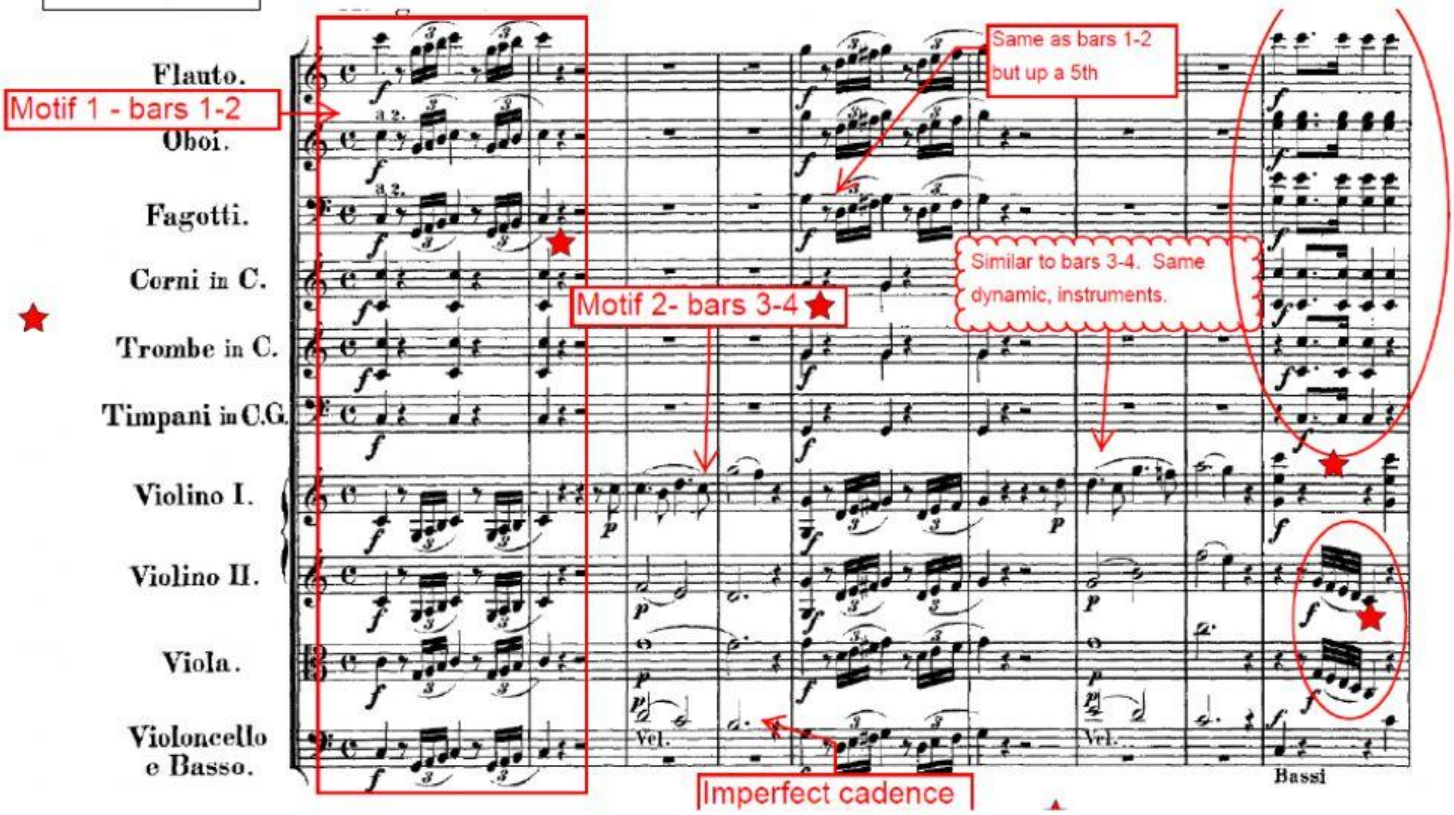
Mozart – Jupiter Symphony
Movt 1
Fill in the grid below with any concepts that you notice.

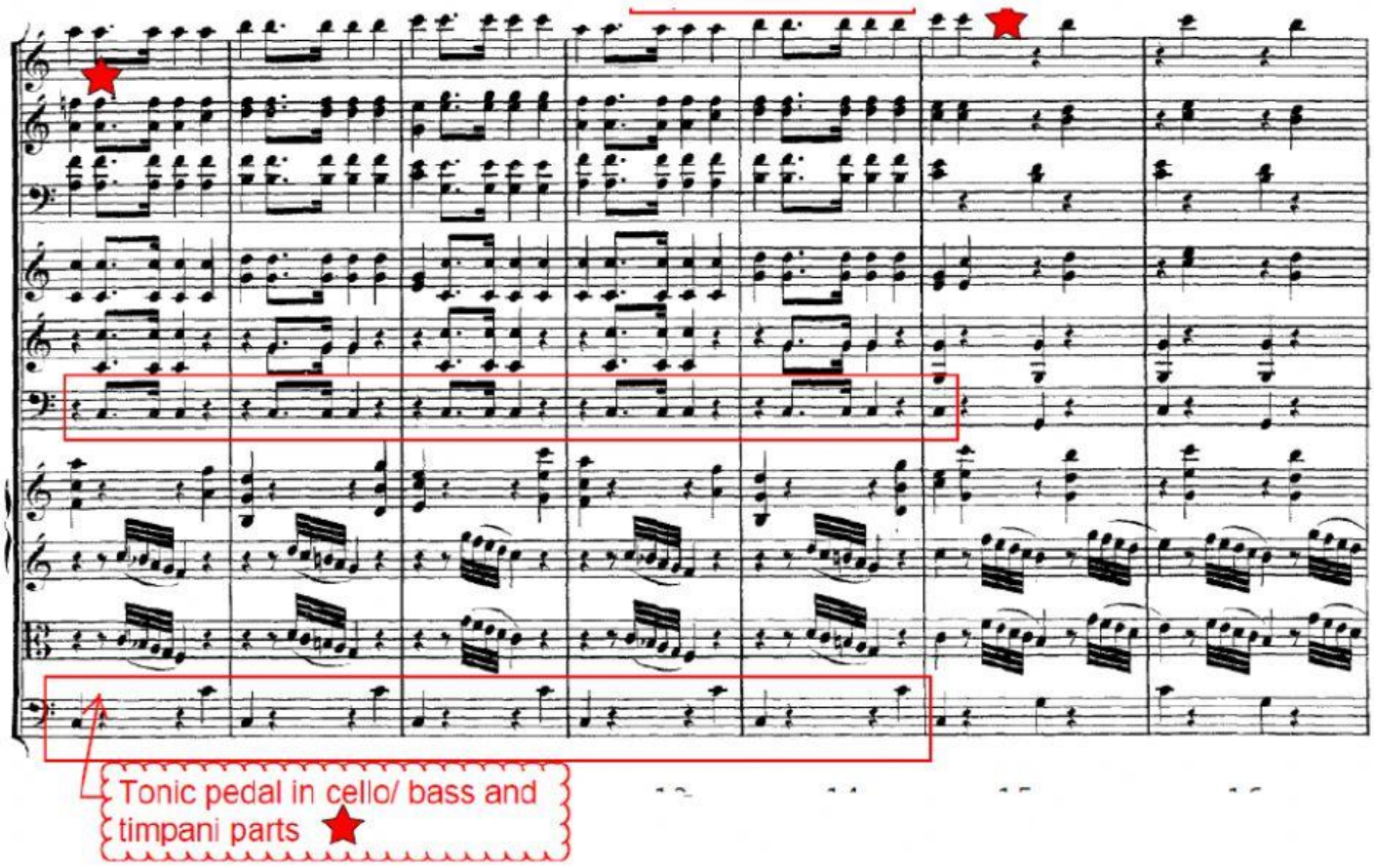
Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/Tempo	Texture/Structure/Form	Timbre

What features point to it being from the Classical period?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

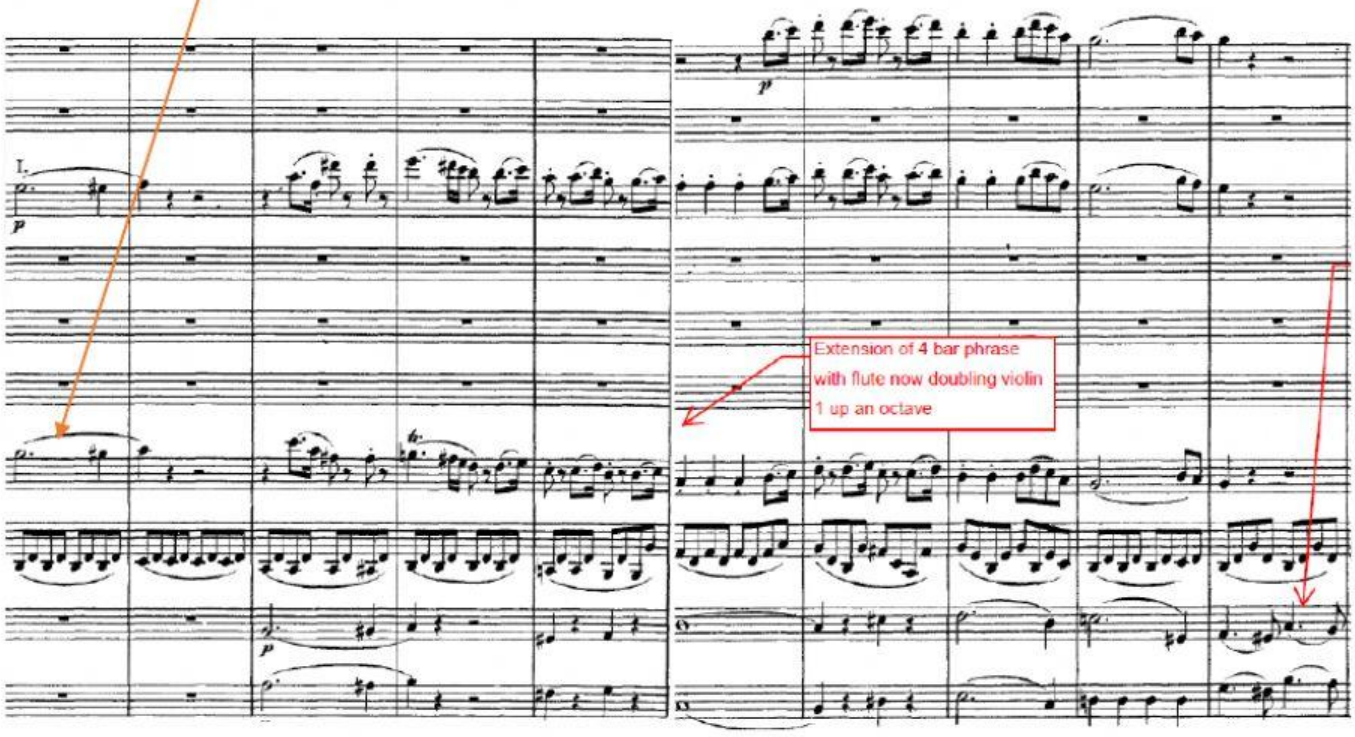
1st subject



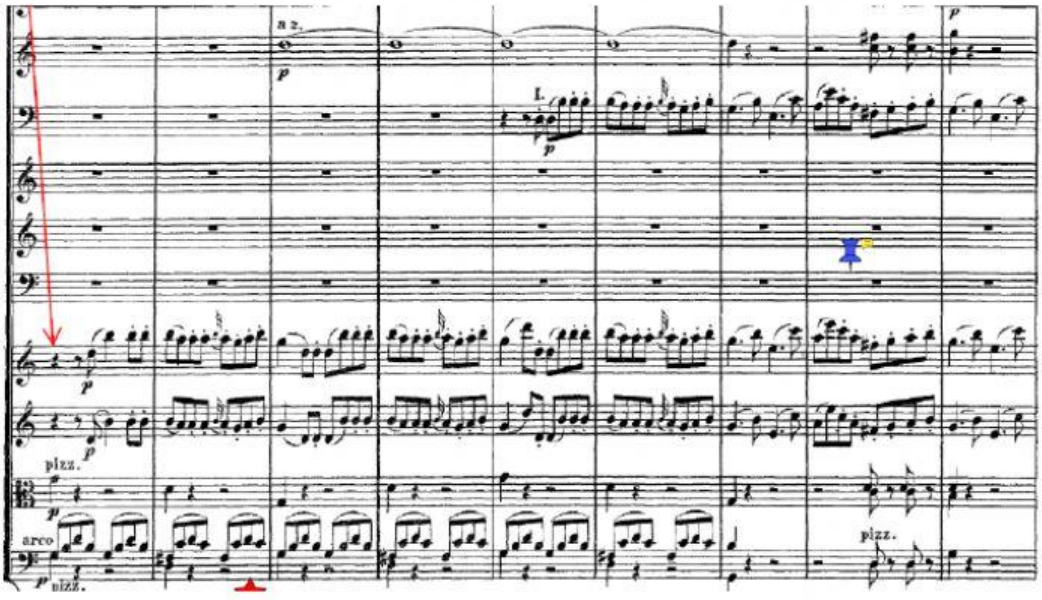


LIVEWORKSHEETS

2nd subject – tune 1



2nd subject – tune 2



LIVEWORKSHEETS

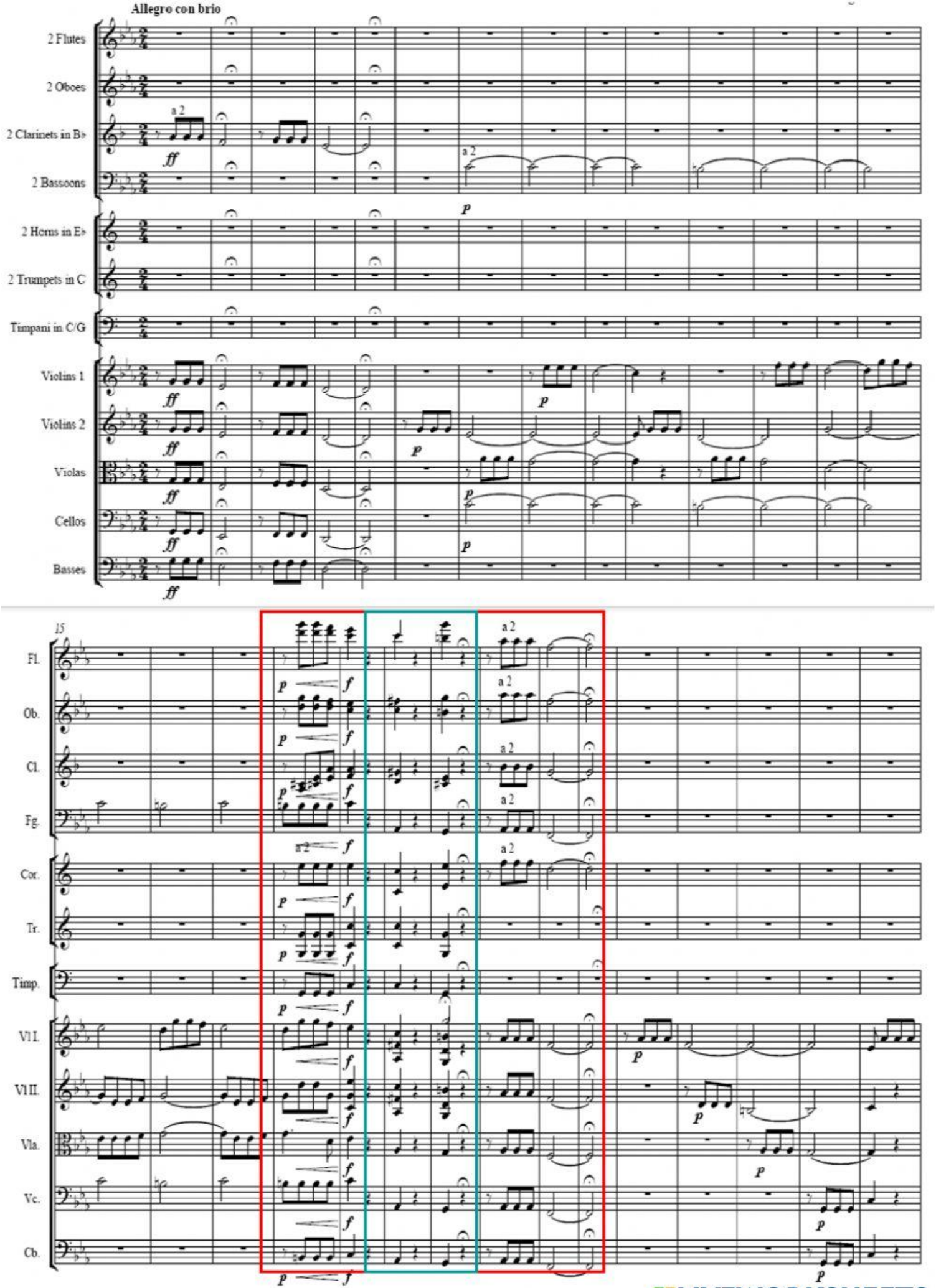
Beethoven 5th Symphony Movt 1
Fill in the grid below with any concepts that you notice.

Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/Tempo	Texture/Structure/Form	Timbre

Beethoven 5th Symphony Movt 4
Fill in the grid below with any concepts that you notice.(24 min 42)

Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/Tempo	Texture/Structure/Form	Timbre

LIVEWORKSHEETS



LIVEWORKSHEETS