## COURSE GUIDEBOOK



## The Symphonies of Beethoven

Part III

Lectures 17- 19: Symphony No. 5—The Expressive Ideal Fully Formed

Lectures 20 - 22: Symphony No. 6—The Symphony as Program Lectures 23 & 24: Symphony No. 7—The Symphony as Dance

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Course No. 733



# Professor Robert Greenberg Beethoven, Part

#### COURSE GUIDEBOOK



# The Symphonies of Beethoven

Part III

Professor Robert Greenberg The San Francisco Conservatory of Music





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## Lectures Seventeen-Nineteen Symphony No. 5: The Expressive Ideal Fully Formed

Scope: Lectures seventeen through nineteen focus on Symphony No. 5 with references to its disastrous 1808 premiere and an in-depth analysis of the score. We see how Beethoven's compositional progress fully matures in the musical and expressive content of Symphony No. 5, which is conceived as a vehicle for a drama in which light and hope triumph over the forces of darkness and despair. Beethoven is revealed as an extraordinary and unprecedented master of the art of developing entire movements from small, seemingly inconsequential motives. Symphony No. 5 also shows him to have a revolutionary concept of rhythm as a narrative element in its own right and as a key factor in the generation of drama. We learn how Beethoven, now light years away from his classical era beginnings, has embraced romanticism in his own unique manner.

#### Outline

- I. Introduction
  - A. The premiers of Beethoven's Symphonies 5 and 6 were held in Vienna on December 22, 1808.
  - **B.** The concert was beset by problems, many of them of Beethoven's doing.
- II. Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67, movement 1, sonata-allegro form: analysis with reference to the WordScore guide<sup>TM</sup> and musical examples.
  - A. Exposition
    - The "Statement of Purpose" is announced. This is an opening orchestral unison, intoning a repeated four-note motive, the socalled "fate" motive.
    - 2. Theme 1 is a theme of brutal rhythmic power and motivic simplicity; angry music, full of dark and deep emotions.
      - a. Theme 1 is jagged, raw, and undecorated. It consists entirely of permutations of the four-note "fate" motive and is filled with tension-generating pregnant pauses (fermata).
      - **b.** The tonic key of C minor, a dark, tragic key of despair, is also very important in reinforcing the sense of tension.
    - 3. Theme 2 is a contrasting, lyric and initially gentle theme. It is heralded by a horn call based on and analogous to the opening "Statement of Purpose" and is accompanied by "fate" motives.
    - **4.** An extraordinary process of motivic development is operative from the opening of the exposition to its conclusion, as the four-note

"fate" motive is developed into an entirely new sounding series of thematic ideas.

B. Development in five parts

The melodic/lyric growth of the exposition is crushed by harmonic dissonance and melodic fragmentation.

- 1. In parts 1-3 there is a powerful return to the minor (F minor). Part 3 brings back two thunderous horn calls in the violins.
  - 2. In part 4 the horn call is progressively fragmented. The carefully nurtured motives of the exposition are dismembered until all that remains are single, isolated, pathetic "chords of despair."
    - 3. Part 5 sees a brutal retransition that brings the dying movement back to life.
  - C. Recapitulation
    - 1. A suppressed theme 1 and an oboe cadenza remember the horrific events of the development. The "fate" motive is now without the power it had in the exposition.
    - 2. Incredibly and gloriously, theme 2 and the subsequent cadence material appear not in C minor (as we would expect in a classical era sonata-allegro movement), but in a triumphant C major!
  - D. Coda in six parts: a development of the development section
    - 1. In parts 1-3 the mode (key) returns to minor and the process of fragmentation that characterized the development section is here thrown into reverse, as new sounding thematic materials grow from the fragmented horn call.
    - 2. In part 4 a vigorous, dramatic and entirely new sounding march theme appears. In reality it is a further development of the fragmented horn call.
    - 3. Parts 5 and 6 sound, respectively, like another retransition and another recapitulation.

#### III. Movement 2, quasi-double variations form

- A. This movement is designated "andante con moto" andante with motion. This implies that it is a dance, not a dirge!
- **B.** Its form is an extremely unorthodox version of double variations form. In fact movement 2 is really two movements in one. It features two alternating themes.
  - 1. Theme A, a broad and beautiful theme in A flat major, is successively varied via elaboration. This movement is about the uplifting power of C major, as witnessed by
  - 2. Theme B, also a lyric theme. Theme B, initially in A flat major, is transformed into triumphant magnificence by the power of C major.
- C. Strict variational process breaks down about half-way through the movement.

- D. The coda ends the movement in A flat major, on a surprisingly vigorous and powerful note for an ostensibly lyric movement.
- E. The key of C major seems to be acting as a stimulant to energize theme A of this movement.

#### IV. Movement 3, scherzo

- A. Part 1, scherzo 1
  - 1. It's back! ... C minor is back! Phrase a is an ominous, rising passage in C minor, that functions analogously to the "Statement of Purpose" of the first movement.
  - 2. Phrase b is a brutal, pounding theme ("Hunting Horns of Hades") in the rhythm of the "fate" motive. C minor is back with a vengeance!
- B. Part 2, trio
  - 1. Phrase c is a brilliant and farcical fugue-like passage that blows away the darkness of C minor.
  - Phrase d is an exuberant, elephantine passage for the low strings, that indulges in a bit of a finger exercise before ascending to an extended version of the fugue-like passage.
- C. Part 3, scherzo 2. No longer brutal, the scherzo is now a quiet, plucked, utterly deflated bit of C minor nastiness. It ends with a deceptive cadence.
- **D.** The transition to movement 4 is a slow and extraordinary progression from darkness to light.
- V. Movement 4, sonata-allegro form
  - A. Exposition: Theme 1 appears in the full orchestra in C major.
  - B. Development in six parts
  - C. Coda in seven parts
- VI. For Beethoven the fifth crystallizes his mature compositional innovations:
  - A. The practice of allowing the context to dictate the form.
  - B. The use of motivic development as a fundamental technique.
  - C. The concept of movements as steps in a dramatic progression (similar to acts in an opera or a play).
  - D. The use of rhythm (divorced from melody) as a narrative element.
  - E. The concept of music as self expression.

U C

D

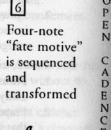
C

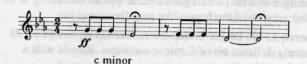
#### MOVEMENT I Sonata-Allegro form "Allegro con brio (d = 108)" duple meter (2/4)



The music grows from skeletal, melodic minimalism to lyric triumph

"Statement of Purpose:" An orchestral unison intones a hammering, skeletal 4-note motive (the so-called "fate motive") which is immediately sequenced downward to create a larger, 8-note unit, set off from what follows by a long fermata





59

#### Theme 2

"Horn Call:" Based on, and in function analogous to, the opening "Statement of Purpose," the "Horn Call" heralds the arrival of Theme 2



horn Eb Major

94

#### Cadence Material

Part 1: Glorious and triumphant; 2 falling phrases (akin to those of the Modulating Bridge) blare forth in Eb Major

Part 2: A downward series of "fate motives" bring the Exposition to a brilliant conclusion

U S N C

E

Eb Major

"Statement of Purpose:" Another 4-note "fate motive" explodes forth in orchestral unison

Four-note "fate motive" is further sequenced and transformed, rising as it goes 44

Modulating Bridge Brief, but extremely intense, transition consisting of 3 long, downward sequences of the 4-note "fate motive"

63

The initially lyric opening of Theme 2 is itself a permutation of the "Horn Call"



Eb Major

As the theme progresses, 4note "fate motives" rise from the low strings, propelling the music forward; the mood is one of strength and approaching triumph, not one of tragedy and angst as was the opening of the movement

**Development** The melodic/lyric growth and transformation of the **Exposition** is crushed by harmonic dissonance and melodic fragmentation!

125

Part 1: "Statement of Purpose" opening has been altered; the 2nd half (Dbs - C) is filled with an ominous forboding — the triumph of the Exposition's end is instantly forgotten!



f minor modulatory

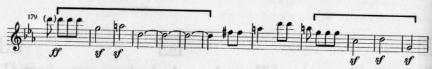
129

Four-note "fate motive" is imitated and sequenced; though this passage is quiet and lightly scored, the unstable, modulatory harmonic underpinning imbues it with an air of danger

P cresc. -----

179

Part 3: Two "Horn Calls" thunder forth defiantly from the violins



210

Incredibly, the 2-note units dissolve, leaving only single, isolated "chords of despair" 228

Sudden burst of energy from a single tutti "Horn Call" would indicate the music is not quite dead (yet!)



ff

233

The pathetic, isolated "chords of despair" resume; the rhythmic, melodic and tonal elements of this movement are as close to death as they can get!

pp

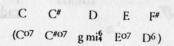
158

Part 2: The texture thickens as more and more instruments join the fray; the intensity builds!

Note: "Fate motives" in various permutations are now overlapping in imitative polyphony

168

The disparate parts suddenly congeal into a long series of vicious, hammering pounding dissonances, in the rhythm of the "fate motive," over a rising bass:



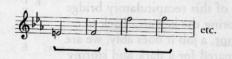
195

Part 4: Dissolution, destruction and disintegration

A third "Horn Call" begins but is brutally cut short



The dismemberment of the "Horn Call" continues; now only the middle 2 notes are heard!



240

Part 5: Retransition

Again, a sudden burst of "fate motives" attempts to revive the movement; this time, they do not stop but tenaciously continue, shattering the deadly reverie of the "chords of despair." Like 20cc's of adrenaline administered directly to the heart of the movement, the music revives ...



#### Recapitulation

248

Theme 1 "Statement of Purpose:" Powerfully intoned by orchestral unison

c minor

The "fate motive" theme resumes, but without the power and bluster of the Exposition; the music has undergone a profound trauma in the development, and that is reflected in this rather melancholy phrase and the following oboe cadenza

0

E

N

A

D

N

288

Modulating Bridge Much as before: brief, but intense, passage consisting of downward sequences of the "fate motive;" it is the harmonic job of this recapitulatory bridge to bring the key area back to c minor, a job it does ably; we are prepared for a dark and stormy Theme 2

303

Theme 2 "Horn Call" again heralds the arrival of Theme 2

Note: This recapitulatory "Horn Call" is scored for two bassoons; the unvalved, natural horns of Beethoven's day being incapable of playing in the key of "C" after having been in "Eb"

346

Cadence Material

Part 1: Glorious and triumphant; two falling phrases blare forth in

C major

ff

268

Oboe Cadenza: A plaintive, solo oboe sings a melancholy song of remembrance for the trauma (death of innocence?) of the **Development:** 



269

The business of remembrance past, the theme returns to its former, terrible glory - momentum grows as the melodic line climbs

307

What?! Who?! How?! When?! WHOA!!! The lyric Theme 2 arrives, not dressed in the black mourning of c minor, but in the diaphanous glow of C Major!

331

As the theme progresses, 4-note "fate motives" rise from the low strings, propelling the music forward

362

Part 2: A downward series of "fate motives" bring this extraordinary Recapitulation to its conclusion; the movement would seem, for this moment at least, to be filled with hope and triumph

UC

SA

E D

EN

C

E

 $(G^6)$ 

Coda The Coda is, in reality, a second development section, which throws the processes of dissolution, destruction and disintegration of the 1st Development

374

Part 1: The C Major triumph of the Recapitulation is, for now, crushed by a series of furious, elemental chords which hammer away on the "fate motive" rhythm; the mode turns back toward minor

ff

Note: These hammering chords were first heard in Part 2 of the **Development** 

387

Two forlorn, upwards version of the "fate motive" plaintively cry for mercy, but none is shown; the hammering continues!

winds

406

Part 3: New life from what before led to disintegration!

A third "<u>Horn</u> <u>Call</u>" begins but is cut short

As before, the "Horn Call" is further reduced to its middle 2 notes — But now that 2-note unit weaves a web of activity in both 1/4 notes and 8th notes (Diminution and double diminution of the original



469

Part 5: Retransition?!? "Fate motives" repeated over an extended dominant pedal lead to...

478

Recapitulation #2 (or Coda Part 6?) "Statement of Purpose": most powerful version yet! We would seem to be back to the beginning of the movement!

R UN E S O T N A L c minor

into reverse; nourished by the hope provided by "C Major" in the **Recapitulation**, life returns to the shattered musical landscape

398

Part 2: Two "Horn Calls" thunder forth in low strings and bassoons, under upwards sweeping violins



Note: These "Horn Calls," which use the pitches of the movement opening "Statement of Purpose," are analogous to the 2 "Horn Calls" heard in Part 3 of the Development

423

Part 4: A vigorous, marchlike, utterly new sounding theme is actually derived from the truncated "Horn Call" of measure 406:



Note: Again, here in the Coda, new musical life grows from what in the Development had marked disintegration

Theme 1
Quietly begins, though the music is static due to a tonic pedal harmony

pp

The quiet is shattered by a hammering cadence built on the "fate motive" rhythm; the movement suddenly and abruptly ends! What does this mean? Where is the symphony going? What was the significance of C Major? Stay tuned ...

c minor

D

C

A D E

N

C

## **Movement II** quasi Double Variations form "Andante con moto (J = 92)" triple meter (3/8)

#### Theme A "dolce"

Lilting, lyric, dotted-rhythm filled theme in the unexpected key of Ab major



low strings

a

A<sup>b</sup> major

A lengthy O cadential S section D brings the theme to a gentle C conclusion E N C

winds/upper strings

E

(B)

#### 29

Wow! the Gb turns into an F#, the Ab7 chord turns into a German<sup>6</sup>, and we are suddenly and powerfully headed toward ...

ff

#### 32

Theme B transformed!
A brilliant and magnificent version of the theme in C Major leaves us momentarily breathless

tutti **a** <sup>1</sup> C Major **.ff**  Theme B

Offers a slight contrast with the opening Theme A

22



clarinet/bassoon

A<sup>b</sup> major

Note: Delicate triplet accompaniment in violas

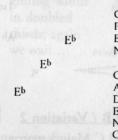
A mysterious and hesitant phrase follows as the top voice moves up to a Gb, forming an Ab7 chord. Where is this going?

pp

38

HUH? As suddenly as it began, the triumphal and magnificent mood disappears; a quiet and mysterious passage modulates back toward Ab Major

pp



f

#### Variation I

50

Theme A / Variation 1
Theme is now
embellished: its dotted
rhythms are replaced by
smoothly flowing
sextuplets (groups of six
notes) per measure

low strings **a** <sup>1</sup>

Ab Major

Cadential passage, much as before

winds/upper strings
(b)

71

D

A

D

E

N

C

Theme B / Variation 1

Much as before, although faster 32nd notes have replaced the delicate triplets in the accompaniment

> clarinet/bassoon **a** <sup>2</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Major

**Variation 2** (Developmental — strict variation technique breaks down as Beethoven begins to explore, freely, various aspects of the themes)

98 Theme A / Variation 2 Extended considerably

Further embellishment of the theme, now heard embedded in smoothly flowing groups of twelve notes per measure

low strings

a<sup>2</sup>
A<sup>b</sup> Major

p

106

1st violins

Ab Major

pp

Lowest strings (cello and bass) play eleborated theme underneath throbbing, tutti accompaniment

> **a⁴** A<sup>b</sup> Major **f**

Two ascending Eb Major scales N C E N C E

147 Theme B / Variation 2

Theme B (and C Major) return without the preliminary, Ab version in this most magnificent version yet!

ff

tutti **a** <sup>4</sup> C Major

>

157

Modulation back toward Ab Major, but not via the mysterious, hesitant phrase, but rather, via simple, apreggiated Eb chords

(V/A<sup>b</sup>)

pp

123

Mysterious, heartbeat-like Eb7 chord throbs alone eight times; we wait...

pp

Again, the

mysterious

intrudes,

unstable

pp

creating an

Ab7 chord

Gb

bassoon, flute, oboe)
play an "early version"
of <u>Theme A</u> (as it
appeared in
Beethoven's
sketchbooks)

Solo winds (clarinet,

A<sup>b</sup> Major ► modulatory

80

Again, the

Gb becomes

an F# as the

suddenly and

harmony

powerfully

ff

moves to ...

Theme B
Brilliant and
magnificent
again C major
would seem to
represent a mood
— a world — of
triumph and joy

tutti **a**<sup>3</sup>
C Major **ff** 

87 Ep Again, as suddenly as it came, C Major Eb disappears; a C quiet and Ep A mysterious D passage N modulates Eb C back toward Ab Major

133 An alto

An altogether extraordinary passage features smooth, gliding winds horns ... in doubled thirds; again we wait ... modulatory

166 Theme A / Mini-Variation

Quiet, almost elfin passage (plucked strings and staccato winds); features the first use of any key other than Ab major or C Major in the movement

winds

a 5 p

ab minor

176

Theme virtually evaporates into a series of (mostly) upwards reaching scales in winds and strings

cresc. - - - - - - -

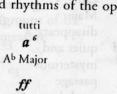


#### Variation 3 (Recapitulatory)

185

#### Theme A / Variation 3

A powerful and confident version of this heretofore lyric theme restores the dotted rhythms of the opening



cadential S E D winds/upper strings C A D E N C C

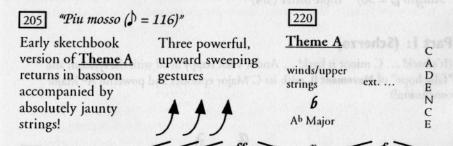
#### Coda

229

Theme A	Quiet
Brief!	arpeggios
	quickly pick
Ab 14:	up briss gai
A <sup>b</sup> Major	momentum
	and volume

and Tanger A surprisingly vigorous and powerful conclusion for an ostensibly "lyric" movement (What's gotten into Ab Major? Is this the influence of C Major??? Continue to stay tuned!)

f



#### Part I: (Scherzo)

(It's back! ... C minor is back! ... And it's not happy at all with the lyricism and "false hope" of Movement II, with its C Major episodes and powerful Ab Major conclusion!)

This introductory passage clearly recalls the opening of Movement I: Two brief phrases, each followed by a dramatic pause; however, where the Movement I "Statement of Purpose" was brief and dramatic, this passage is ghostly and ominous

P

Phrase 1: Ascending c minor arpeggio rises like a foul vapor from the depths of the orchestra:



Phrase 2: Another foul, nasty c minor ascent, slightly longer than the first. After the glories of the 2nd movment, we know this quiet darkness cannot bode well!

Blaring "H H of H" again P shivers our timbers; the expressive effect of this N terrifying music is extraordinary. How will we ever escape its dark grip? N c minor f minor

Argh! It's all back! Blaring "Hunting Horns of Hades" viciously announce a dramatic, c minor theme clearly based on the Movement I "fate motive"

Phrase 1: Combines elements of "a" (ascending arpeggios) and "b" (repeated notes)

19

c minor

Phrase 2: Low strings continue to play a version of the arpeggio as upper strings intone a newish sounding melody, which builds toward ...

cresc. - - - - -

L

E

D

A

N

133 "Codetta;" one last blaring version of the "H H of H" theme before the "Scherzo" quiets and ends

45

Ominous opening passage resumes

Phrase 1: Ascending arpeggio bb minor C E pp N

Phrase 2:

Extended and modulatory \_\_

A D

C

A

D

#### Part 2: (Trio)

(How will the music respond, in the **Trio**, to the seemingly overwhelming darkness of the **Scherzo**? Simple! With humor, dance-like energy and, of course, an instant shift to <u>C Major</u>)

## 141

## | · c · |

This fast, fugue-like passage is both brilliant (for its dance-like rhythmic energy and C Major hue) and farcical (by starting the fugue/dance in the cellos and basses, the music takes on a comic, dancing elephant-type character—and also obliterates the ominous low strings of the Scherzo opening)



#### te ly

"The music lesson:" The exuberant low strings get tied up; after a series of false starts, they begin a 3-finger exercise which leads to ...

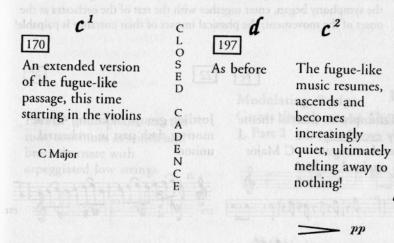
C Major

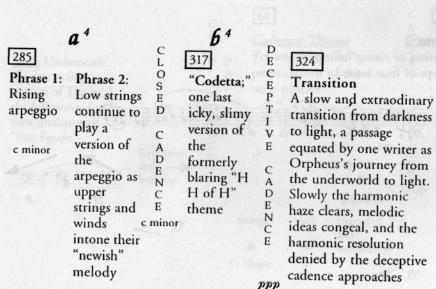


#### Part 3: (Scherzo)

(So ... how will the strutting and blaring c minor **Scherzo** react to the physical energy and comic joy of the C Major **Trio**?)

	$a^3$		<b>6</b> <sup>3</sup>	
Phrase 1: Ominous, c minor ascending arpeggio, much as in the beginning c minor	O Phrase 2: P The strings E are now plucked C (pizzicato) A and even E more hushed N than before. C What does this mean?	OPEN CADENCE	Well, well, well. Mr. Tough-Guy-C-Minor-In-Your-Face is reduced here to an insectile little ugly, stripped completely by the trio of its bluster and power clarinet/bassoon/pizz. strings	OPEN CADENCE
			pp	





cresc. - - - - -

#### MOVEMENT IV Sonata-Allegro form

"Allegro ( = 84)" duple meter (4/4)

**Exposition** The three trombones, piccolo and contra-bassoon, sitting in wait since the symphony began, enter together with the rest of the orchestra at the onset of the movement; the physical impact of their entrance is palpable!

22

#### Theme 1

Part 1: Triumphant, martial theme played by <u>everybody</u>; the celebration has begun — C Major has been attained, at last!

Jostling groups of falling 4-note motives dash past in orchestral unison



Ger Propressor

C Major

44

#### Theme 2

Consists of rising/falling groups of four notes:



26

Part 2: Triumphant, martial tone continues as winds and brass alternate with arpeggiated low strings



34

Modulating Bridge
Grows directly out of <u>Theme</u>
1, Part 2

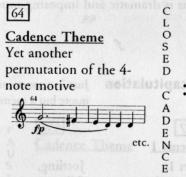


Note: Underneath
the descending
portion of Theme 2,
the following, fornow-unobtrusive
"bass figure:"

Extension
and
buildup



O P E N P A U S E E N C E



strings tutti Extended

a a a modulatory

G Major f

C Major

#### Development



90

strings

Part 1: Continuation Part 2: of the forward Theme 2 momentum that characterized the end of the Exposition modulatory -A Major

Descending portion of Theme 2 further explored; modulatory

strings/winds

Note: The gradual emergence of the "bass figure" from Theme 2 of the Exposition

121

Part 4: Incredible passage, dominated by three alternating elements:

- 1) 2-note motives drawn from the "bass figure," in the strings
- 2) Rising 4-note motive from Theme 2, in the winds
- 3) Groups of 4 repeated notes in brass and timpani

in

orchestral

unison

This is dramatic and imposing music!

132

Part 5: Another dramatic passage, this one featuring:

- 1) "Bass figure," in brass and winds
- 2) Embellishment in the strings
- 3) Pedal "G" in low strings and timpani
- 4) Upward 4-note motive from Theme 2 in the piccolo

ff

Recapitulation Just in time, triumphant C Major returns, the Movement III quote but a memory, and not a current reality

207

Theme 1

Part 1: Triumphant, martial theme

> tutti C Major

232

Jostling, Part 2: Triumphant, falling martial tone groups of continues as winds four notes and brass alternate dash past with arpeggiated low strings

240

Modulating Bridge Grows directly out of Theme 1, Part 2

106

Part 3: Strings continue to play the descending portion of Theme 2; the "bass figure" begins to rise to the surface of the music!

"Bass Figure," powerfully intoned in the trombones, horns and trumpets, overpowers the remnants of Theme 2

153

The music is building toward a HUGE climax - surely an event of signal importance is about to follow!

Part 6: Instead of the expected entrance of a monumental passage ...

Say what? Quiet ticking in the violins leads to ... A quiet, ghostly appearance of the "H H of H" theme from Movement III! In 3/4 time! In c minor! Is it a bad dream? Time stands still ...

Theme 2



C Major

S DE

strings tutti

Cadence Theme

C Major p

Extended

modulatory

and

#### Coda

294

Part 1: Strings and winds play the descending portion of Theme 2 over the "bass figure" over "G" (dominant) pedal

Part 2: Joyous, celebratory violins play an elaborate, filligree-like embellishment over the "bass figure" in winds and brass C D H E O N R C D E

350

Part 4: "Sempre piu allegro" (get faster and faster) Like a runaway train, the music becomes, gradually, faster and louder ...

p cresc

362

Part 5: "Presto (o = 112)"

<u>Cadence Theme</u> charges to the front; more and more instruments join in as the momentum and energy continue to build ...

fp fp fp etc. cresc. ---

317

Part 3: A motive drawn from <u>Theme 1</u>, Part 2, is heard 3 times:



bassoon horn winds

Four P
upward E
scales in the C
piccolo D
E
N
C

Again! Four upward scales in the piccolo

a strings

 $f \quad p \quad p \triangleleft f$ 

390

Part 6: Almost giddy with excitement, the brass and winds, fanfare-like, intone Theme 1, Part 1 404

Part 7: Rip-roarin', fire snortin' cadence features nothing but dominant and tonic harmonies for 40 measures!

C Major (from here on out!)

ff

ff

End of Symphony

## Lectures Twenty-Twenty Two Symphony No. 6: The Symphony as Program

Scope: Lectures Twenty through Twenty-two discuss Symphony No. 6 as an example of pure expression, representative of Beethoven's great love of nature and the countryside. We see how Beethoven elevated program music to heights it had not previously enjoyed, presaging the romantic era's love affair with the genre. We examine how Symphony No. 6, as a symphony that depicts a story in musical terms as its movements progress, is as different from the fifth and seventh symphonies as night from day.

#### Outline

- Beethoven's love of nature was well-documented. Like many nineteenthcentury artists, he felt inspired by nature.
- II. Instrumental compositions that use extensive extra-musical devices or tell a literary story in musical terms are called program compositions or tone poems. Beethoven's sixth symphony is an example of a program symphony. What is remarkable about Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 is not that it is programmatic, but that a composer of genius chose to work within (and elevate by his example) a genre of music not generally favored by the best composers.
- III. Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68, movement 1, sonata-allegro Form: analysis with references to the WordScore Guide™ and musical examples
  - **A.** This movement is about the varied repetition of nature, portrayed by varied musical repetition, and the feelings it inspires.
  - **B.** The Introduction begins with a musette-type open fifth drone accompaniment, followed by the entry of Motives 1 and 2. In Phrase a<sup>2</sup>, Motive 2 (inverted) is heard thirteen times.
  - C. Themes 1 is a simple, rustic theme that grows directly out of the introduction to this movement. Theme 2, connected to theme 1 by a modulating bridge passage, is a rustling, serene theme that is as much texture as it is a tune.
  - D. Parts 1-11 of the Development are based on varied repetition made interesting through sudden, shocking harmonic shifts. Parts 12-16 contain the only significant melodic development in the movement, based on the chorale-like melody from the introduction (phrase a¹).
  - E. In parts 1-6 of the Coda, triplets increasingly replace more sharply felt eighth and sixteenth notes as the movement winds down. Parts 7-8 give us a preview of sorts, as we meet the village band of movement 3.

#### IV. Movement 2, sonata-allegro form

- A. Theme 1 is a sweet, leisurely, long-breathed theme of great calm and serenity. A triplet-filled "brook theme" accompanies theme 1.
- B. Theme 2 is another gentle, long breathed theme in two parts.
- C. The cadence material is in two parts. Part 1 is a brief, rich polyphonic exploration of the opening of theme 2, part 2. Part 2 of the cadence is a brief evocation of theme 1. Part 1 of the cadence will appear as a refrain throughout the remainder of the movement.
- D. Bird calls—in part 2 of the seven-part development we hear Schindler's "giraffe-throated yellowhammer." Part 2 of the coda features three woodwind cadenzas, each imitating a different bird.
- V. Movement 3 is about the idealized Enlightenment vision of the "happy peasant" as portrayed through three dances, each of which is repeated.
  - A. Dance 1 is the longest of the three. Note the sudden and striking key change from F major to D major (measure 9) that mirrors the equally sudden change from G major to E major in the development section of the first movement.
  - **B.** Dance 2 features a stylization of the village band at the Three Ravens, a favorite watering hole of Beethoven.
  - C. Dance 3 is forceful, earthy and square-rhythmed.
  - **D.** Dance 1 returns, *presto*, and ends with a deceptive cadence. There has occurred no F major closed cadence to conclude the movement, which segues immediately to movement 4.
- VI. Movement 4 ("Storm") is about meteorological mayhem; nature portrayed in musical terms and nature as metaphor. This purely programmatic movement portrays the progress of a vicious summer storm.
  - A. Distant rumbles of approaching thunder can be heard in the low strings, followed by the pitter-patter of the first raindrops.
  - **B.** These are followed by an explosive downpour as the storm hits, replete with lightning and thunder.
  - C. The passing of the storm becomes a metaphor for salvation. This movement segues directly into the fifth-movement hymn of thanksgiving.
- VII.Movement 5, rondo form the "shepherd's hymn" of gratitude and thanksgiving after the storm.
  - A. Theme A, a simple, folk-like theme (the "shepherd's hymn") grows out of it and is reminiscent of movement 1, theme 1.
  - **B.** Theme B is an expanding, rising melody imbued with great momentum and energy. Theme C is a pastoral theme, most probably based in part on a genuine Croatian folk song.
  - C. The movement closes with a Coda in eight parts

"The cheerful impressions excited by arriving in the country" (morning) The varied repetition of nature portrayed by varied musical repetition

**Exposition** 

Introduction: Preview of thematic motives

"Musette" (bagpipe) open- 5th drone of rural music precedes the appearance of a sturdy, rustic phrase, which features two motives of key importance to the movement:



5

Second, expanded phrase sees motives I and 2 explored and the introduction of a new, chorale-like melodic idea (which itself grew out of an accompanimental viola melody):



A. Th

29

37

Theme 1
Simple, rustic theme grows directly out of the Introduction (motives 1 and 2)

oboe, then other winds

a a¹

F Major

p 

f

Note: Pedal "F," F Major harmonic pedal Note: Bird song in flutes

Phrase extended via repetition

"Pastoral Symphony"

Op. 68 (1808)

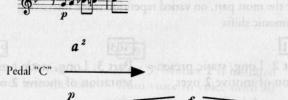
It is left to the listener to discover the situation ... Every kind of painting loses by being carried too far in instrumental music ... Anyone who has the faintest idea of rural life will have no need of descriptive titles to enable him to imagine for himself what the composer intends. Even without a description, one will be able to recognize it all ...

- Beethoven, Notebook entry, 1807

16

Motive **2** (inverted) heard <u>13</u> times in succession; changing dynamics and orchestration ensure that each repetition is slightly different from the last

Musical "growth" through very slightly varied repetition — a metaphor for the repetition and variety of nature!



53

Modulating Bridge

Alternates "coo-ing" triplets in winds and

motive I sequence in strings



#### Theme 2

Part 1: Rustling, serene "themelette" is as much a texture as a tune; polyphonically intertwining parts give the effect of lush, undergrowth — the harmonious intertwining of vines, leaves and branches



The melodic activity increases as the "theme" progresses

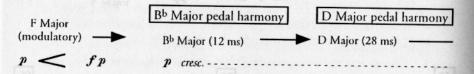
winds

Development Based, for the most part, on varied repetition made interesting through sudden, striking harmonic shifts

139 Part 1: Sequence based on Theme 1

151 Part 2: Long, static presentation of motive 2 over

163 Part 3: Long, static presentation of motive 2 over



197 209 Part 7: Long, static presentation Part 8: Long, static presentation of motive 2 over of motive 2 over G Major pedal harmony E Major pedal harmony G Major (12 ms) E Major (28 ms)

winds, all based on motive 2 6 1 extended -

Part 2: Dialogue between

vigorous strings and lyric

Cadence Material Part 1: Brief Part 2: Lengthy passage in (24 ms) pedal on triplets "C," above which based on the motive 2 is used "coo-ing" exclusively; this portion of extremely static the bridge passage dissipates all energy and anticipates the stasis of the Development

115

Part 4: Motive 2 moves into the bass

Part 5: Motive 2 is imitated from voice to voice until all that remains is its final 2 notes

191 Part 6: Sequence based on Theme 1

decrese. --- pp

93

221 Part 9: Motive 2

moves into the bass

Part 10: Motive 2 is imitated from voice to voice until all that remains is its final 2 notes

225

Part 11: Sequence based on Theme 1

A Major

237

32

cresc. - - - - -

Parts 12-14 of the Development contain the only significant melodic development in the movement

243

Part 12: Chorale-like melody from the Introduction (a 1); "dolce"

winds low strings 255

Part 13: Chorale-like melody from the Introduction in a brief sequence (2x total)

g minor

(The first sustained use of a minor key in the movement! A real testimony to the overall brightness and serenity of this music!)

263

Part 14: Choralelike melody from the Introduction in a brief sequence (2x total)

C Major - F Major

#### Recapitulation

289

Introduction (abbreviated) Beginning with what had been in the Exposition, phrase a1, this expanded phrase sees motives I and 2 explored and the reintroduction of the chorale-like melody

F Major

Note: Gentle, triplet decoration in the 1st violins lends the Intoduction a lazy, indolent atmosphere

300

Motive 2 is heard 12 times; triplet decoration continues in

Pedal "C"

Note: "Coo-ing" triplets in horns starting at ms 308

346

Theme 2

Part 1: Rustling, serene "themelette," much as in Exposition

F Major cresc. - - - - 372

Part 2: Dialogue between vigorous strings and lyric winds, all based on motive 2

6 1 extended

271

Part 15: Chorale-like melody breaks down; motive 2 takes over the texture and leads to one last version of Theme 1 (all of this in F Major — the tonic key has already been comfortably achieved long before the end of this erstwhile Development!)

282

Part 16: violin 1st violins trill alone play a light, arpeggiated descent to the

pp

Recapitulation

312

Theme 1 (abbreviated) Brilliant, celebratory version of this rustic theme

> Phrase extended via

F Major repetition

Note: Pedal "F," F Major harmony and bird song in flutes

ff

328

Modulating Bridge Alternates "coo-ing" triplets in winds over motive I sequence in strings

390

Cadence Material

Part 1: Brief passage in triplets based on the "coo-ing" portion of the Modulating Bridge

Part 2: Lengthy (24 ms) pedal on tonic "F," above which motive 2 is used exclusively

decresc. - - - -

pp

#### Coda

418

Part 1: Opening phrase of Theme 1 is heard twice

422

Part 2: Brief, celebratory version of Theme 1 quickly quiets and recedes

Bb Major

448

Part 5: "Coo-ing" triplets alone remain, sounding quite magnificent in this climactic portion of the Coda

F Major

460

"Coo-ing" triplets slowly descend over a "C" pedal; the effect is like a long, gentle exhalation

Pedal "C"

492

Part 8: Theme 1 sequence in 1st violins ends with a 5-note scale

Pedal "F" pp

498

Solo flute intones Theme 1 sequence and also conludes with a 5-note scale

of motive 2:

Part 3: Bridge material, alternates "coo-ing" triplets in winds with now gentler (lazier!) triplet version 440

Part 4: Bridge material, alternates "coo-ing" triplets in horns and low strings with triplet version of motive 2



F Major

Bb Major

D

F Major

468 0 S

Part 6: Two cadential phrases based on motive 2

476

Part 7: A sort of "preview of coming attractions;" we meet the village band which will be featured in the 3rd movement. The clarinet is in fine shape, the bassoon rather more limited in ability as it accompanies the clarinet

The clarinet recedes into the distance

503

Clarinet and bassoon turn the 5-note scale into a finger exercise

505

Tutti plays the 5note scale, which leads to ...

508

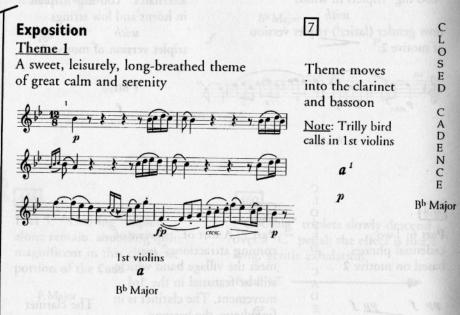
A series of static and relaxed tonic chords; the movement ends with a marvelous sense of quietude and contentment

p

#### MOVEMENT II Sonata-Allegro form

"Andante motto mosso ( . = 50)" compound duple meter (12/8)

"By the Stream" (Afternoon and early evening)

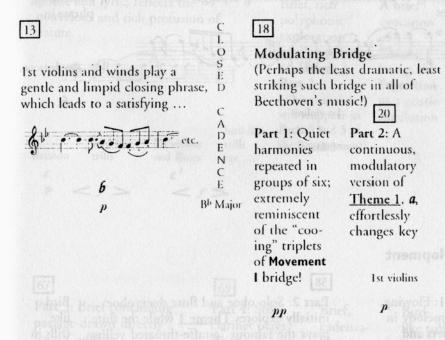


#### **Brook Theme**

Accompanies Theme 1, this lovely, murmuring "water music" continues, in some form or another, through almost the entire movement; scored for 2nd violins, violas, 2 solo cellos (con sord) and pizzicato cellos and basses



**Movement II** and **Movement IV**, which balance each other symmetrically in Beethoven's 5-movement scheme, are the two most pictorially explicit movements in the symphony



Note well: The lines of demarcation between <u>Theme 1</u>, the <u>Brook Theme</u>, the <u>Modulating Bridge</u> and <u>Theme 2</u> are blurred due to the lack of strong thematic contrast between them and the uniformity of the accompaniment; this is entirely understandable if we keep in mind that the function of this movement is <u>description</u>, not <u>conflict</u>.

Part 1: Another gentle, long-breathed theme, this phrase consisting of descending and ascending arpeggio-like figures

Sweet concluding phrase in



flute - bassoon

1st violins

F Major



bird-like

Part 2: Yet another melodic idea.

marvelous and rich profusion of

gentle and lyric; reflects the

bird-like trills ext. ...

1st violins and flutes 48

Part 1:

Brief, rich

polyphonic

exploration

of Theme 2,

(This material

will reappear in

Parts 3 and 5 of

the Development)

Part 2

Cadence Material Part 2: A brief evocation of of the opening Theme 1

brings the Exposition to a gentle conclusion

D

#### Development



Part 1: Flowing, lyric melody in clarinets and strings and flute based on Theme 2 elements

2x total

58

Part 2: Solo oboe and flute duet; oboe initially explores Theme 1 while the flute plays the famous "giraffe-throated vellow hammer" arpeggios in decoration:

Birdlike trills in oboe and flute



Note: These arpeggios grow directly out of Theme 2, a

79

Part 5: Again, brief concluding passage drawn from Cadence Material, Part 1

modulatory -

Part 6: Most striking and "developmental" part of this Development section; clarinet and bassoon alternate motives from the Brook Theme while violins play motives from Theme 1 and flutes decorate

(Gb Major — remote key)



33

nature

bassoon

Part 3: Brief concluding passage drawn directly from Cadence Material, Part 1 (Theme 2, Part 2)

69

Part 4: Solo clarinet plays Theme 1 over murmuring orchestra

Brief, cadenzalike arpeggios in clarinet lead to ...

Birdlike trill in clarinet

83

Part 7: Retransition Harmony moves back towards Bb Major as thematic motives and bird-like trills in profusion herald the approach of Theme 1

(B Major (!) e mi4 G5 c mi c mi2 F5 C7 F7)

.77

#### Recapitulation

91

Theme 1
Beethoven's brook and forest are now teeming with musical activity — a musical version of the

evening chorus of birds and bugs!

- Murmuring brook (strings)

- "Giraffe-throated yellow hammers" (bassoon/clarinet)

- Buzzing/chirping winds

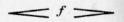
- Gently descending horns

flutes 1st violins

a 6

Bb Major

Modulating Bridge (?) This briefest and smoothest of transitions sees <u>Theme</u> 1 slightly extended



105

Part 2: Gentle and lyric

bassoon/ bird-like oboe/ bird-like cellos trills violins trills

» <> \_\_\_\_\_

119

Cadence Material
Part 1: Brief, polyphonic
exploration of the opening of

Theme 2, Part 2

Coda

124

Part 1: Two broad *crescendi*, like sighs of contentment, based on Theme 1 and Brook Theme

P Bb Major

129

Part 2: Three woodwind cadenzas, each imitating a different bird and labeled in the score as follows:

"nachtigall"
(nightingale)
flute

"wachtel"

(quail)
oboe

"kuckuck"

(cuckoo)
clarinet

99

Theme 2

Part 1: Gentle descending/ascending arpeggio-like figures

violins **a**Bb Major

Concluding phrase in:

flute/
oboe bassoon

6

Part 2: Brief evocation of Theme 1, moves without break into ...

Brief
interlude "nachtigall" ———
flute

"wachtel" ———
oboe

"kuckuck"

clarinet

136

Part 3: Concluding passage drawn directly from Cadence Material, Part 1, played by 1st violins and pastoral winds; the movement gently ends as the "veil of night" descends upon the brook

pp

#### MOVEMENT III "Allegro"

"A happy get-together of peasants" (Saturday evening hoe-down/hullabaloo)

#### Dance No. 1 (triple meter, d. = 108)

Unaccompanied staccato strings establish a light, toe-tapping mood:

F Major

16 33 53 Purposely Rustic, Toe-tapping Rustic, Toe-tapping "crude" leap musettepassage now musettepassage back to like dance remains in like absolutely F Major tune D Major dance crackles with resumes excitement and power 6 61 F Major D Major C Major F Major extendedThe idealized "natural" person — a happy peasant — portrayed through dance

#### 9

Rustic and catchy dance tune rendered musette-like by pedal "D" drone/accompaniment



Ь

D Major (!)

(Note: the sudden and striking key change from F Major to D Major mirrors the equally sudden change from G major to E Major in the Movement I Development)

#### 59

Rough-hewn, bellowing phrase brings this opening dance to its conclusion

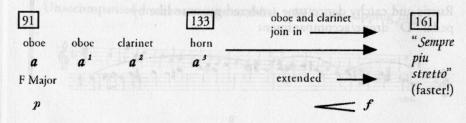


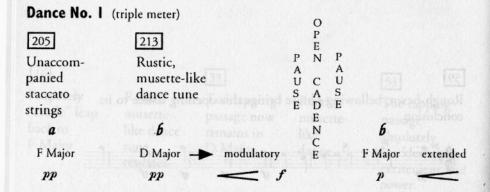
Note: One writer suggests that the upward sweeping string arpeggios that conclude the passage describe men tossing a girl into the air!

The music eventually calms and quiets ...

#### Dance No. 2 (triple meter)

The "wind band" at Beethoven's favorite hangout, "The Three Ravens:" A group of "local musicians" (flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon) play a simple and engaging dance; their limited abilities are well evidenced by the restricted instrumental writing provided them; of the group, the clarinetist would seem to be the "most able," the bassoonist the least — the simplicity of the bassoon part is genuinely comic!





Dance No. 3 duple meter, "In tempo d'allegro ( = 132)"

#### 165

A forceful, earthy, square-rhythmed dance based on genuinely primitive drone harmonies



violins with flute decoration

1

Bb Major

violins

ff

181

The dance tune continues even as a rising countermelody comes to the forefront

extended ———
modulatory —

Note: The trumpets enter for the first time in the symphony, lending explosive power to this passage

#### 235

"Presto"

This unexpected increase in tempo would seem to depict an "extramusical" event — perhaps our peasants realize that a storm is about to hit?! There is a panicked rush to get the chairs and tables indoors before the clouds burst!

**a** F Major 241

Roughhewn, bellowing phrase Three powerful cadential chords would seem to portend the end of the movement; instead ...

0000

ff

#### MOVEMENT IV "Allegro (= 80)" duple meter

"Storm" (Late Saturday night and early Sunday morning) (A thoroughly descriptive movement, through-composed, essentially non-thematic)

#### Introduction

There has occured no F Major closed cadence to conclude Movement III; instead, the forbidding and ominous rumble of approaching thunder grows out of a deceptive cadence ·

Note: Beethoven's thunderous rumble is in the low strings no use of cliché percussion here!

Dance No. I fried f minor

Scalar, staccato 2nd violins portray the first drops of rain



Note: This raindrop (H2O) music is derived from the Brook Theme of Movement II!

33

#### The Storm Hits!



48

Dramatic tremolos, falling motives and dissonant harmonies well depict the howling wind and falling sheets of rain.

Note: Churning, purposely unsynchronized low strings brilliantly and theatrically portray the roar of the storm



The constantly rising bass line contributes mightily to the growing sense of meteorological mayhem!

Two flickers of lightning (1st violins) are followed immediately by claps of thunder

tutti



I despair of being able to give an idea of this prodigious movement ... Listen! listen to those rain-charged squalls of wind; to the dull grumblings of the basses; also to the keen whistling of the piccolo, which announces to us that a horrible tempest is about to break. The hurricane approaches and grows in force; an immense chromatic feature, starting from the heights ... pursues its course until it gropes its way to the lowest orchestral depths. ... Then the trombones burst forth, the thunder of the kettledrums becomes redoubled in violence, no longer merely rain and wind, but an awful cataclysm, the universal deluge — the end of the world.

- Hector Berlioz

5

1st violins play an upwards motive suggestive of apprehensive skyward glances ("Did you feel that?")

Pitter patter raindrops and skyward glances are heard again, a whole-step higher; the tension builds!

19 The rumbling low strings suddenly get louder ... head for cover!

[33]	41	43	45	47	49
Jagged, unison descents in strings and winds portray a furious downpour	Suddenly (danger- ously!) quiet; ominous rumbling in the strings	A single flicker of lightning is followed by a thunder-clap	Ominous quiet again; rumbling strings	Another single flicker of lightning and following thunder clap!	the rumbling
3x total	(D <sub>0</sub> )		(Bo)		

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51

A bold series of lightning bolts (violins) and earthshaking thunderclaps (tutti)

f

56

The music momentarily quiets as the scalar, staccato raindrops of the movement's opening reappear in the 1st violins, alternating with ominous rumbles in the low strings

p = pp

72

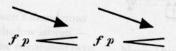
Uh-oh; staccato raindrops and ominous rumblings are now heard simultaneously — a nasty squall approaches

cresc. - - - - -

89

Jagged, unison descents further reinforce the sense of deluge, now approaching biblical proportions! 95

Slithering, dripping chromatic descents in the strings



Top voice rises chromatically as the bass voice falls chromatically; the cataclysmic climax is at hand!

103

3x total

Redemption

119

Miraculously and gratefully, the storm gradually recedes — the world will not end today; descending scales and arpeggios, an occasional flicker of lightning, but the storm is passing

rumblings in the low strings become shorter and shorter

Ominous

pp

146

With great clarity and gentleness, a solo oboe sings a lovely, arching tune:



Pictorially, this is the rainbow illuminated by dawn's light — a new day
Compositionally, this is an augmentation of the scalar raindrop music (which itself grew out of the <u>Brook Theme</u> of **Movement II**

C Major

78

Torrential downpour! Vicious, descending arpeggios in the strings and a massive descending scale in the low strings depict the torrent!



82

The piccolo enters for the first time in the symphony

etc.

106

**Ominous** 

rumbles

die off

"The cataclysm, the ... deluge — the end of the world."

The trombones enter for the first time in the symphony; this phenomenal passage is both terrifying and awesome

Series of powerfully accented tutti chords

Unsynchronized rumbling in the low strings

ff

154

The movement ends with an upwards staccato flute scale, itself an inversion of the downward raindrop music of the movment's opening



An effortless segue to the 5th and final movement

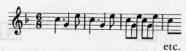
#### Movement V Rondo

"Allegretto ( . = 60)" compound duple meter (6/8)

"The shepherd's hymn, gratitude and thanksgiving after the storm" (Sunday morning)

#### Introduction

"Shepherd's Call:" Sweet, rustic call to attention heard first in a solo clarinet and then in a solo horn



Note: Musette-like drone open 5ths in low strings

clarinet

horn

C Major - F Major

9

<u>Theme A</u>: Shepherd's Hymn Simple, folk-like theme grows out of the "<u>Shepherd's Call</u>"



1st violins

**a** F Major **p** 

Note: simple and elegant, church-like harmonies

32

#### Theme B

This theme is characterized by an expanding, rising motive; though less "tuneful" than <u>Theme A</u>, this theme is imbued with great momentum and energy

Part 1: Dialogue between cellos and 1st violins

2x total

F Major

ff



17

Quietly throbbing winds and 1st violins embellishment join the theme in accompaniment 25

The formerly simple, folk-like theme has become as majestic and glorious as any melody in the symphony; the tutti accompaniment imbues it with a distinctly cathedral organ-like sound

2nd violins

a1

cresc. --

violas and cellos

a

ff

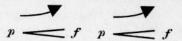
40

Part 2: Intense dialogue based on the final motive of Theme B:



50

Part 3: Two brief ascending phrases in the violins



Note: Compare to motive 2 of Movement I:





#### Introduction "Shepherd's Call"

Staccato 1st violins ascent

C Major ► F Major

#### 64

#### Theme A: Shepherd's Hymn

1st violins 2nd violins F Major modulatory -



54

#### Introduction

"Shepherd's Call;" longest version yet; majestic at first, the music eventually calms and assumes its original sweet rusticity

C Major ff

Note: Scalar, staccato strings of the transition continue unabated into the Introduction

#### 117

#### Theme A: Shepherd's Hymn

125 Highly ornamented version of the theme in the

Ornamented version of theme moves into the

1st violins 2nd violins a1 F Major

cresc. ----

80

#### Theme C

Pastoral new theme, most probably based, in part, on a genuine Croatian folksong:



clarinets/bassoons

Bb Major

#### 95

Transition: Based on the "Shepherd's Call;" scalar, staccato strings lead effortlessly back

to

140

#### Theme B

F Major

133 Dialogue between Ornamented cellos and version moves into the cellos; this is 1st violins magnificent, almost 2x total royal music!

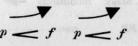
cellos

 $a^2$ 

Part 1: Part 2: Intense dialogue based on

the final motive of Theme B

Part 3: Two brief ascending phrases in the violins



ff

#### Coda

162

Part 1:

Introduction "Shepherd's Call;" majestic at first

F Major modulatory -

ff > P cresc. ---- ff

177

Part 2: Theme A: Shepherd's Hymn

Heard initially in cellos and bassoons

Other instruments enter in counterpoint with one another

F Major

196

Part 4: Introduction "Shepherd's Call" begins in 1st violins and then moves downward to the low strings

206

Part 5: Theme A: Shepherd's Hymn

Highly ornamented version heard initially in the cellos and bassoons

Other instruments join in counterpoint, creating a marvelous profusion of rich, embellished melody

C Major modulatory -

F Major

237

Part 7: Hymn/Prayer of Thanksgiving Beethoven has saved this most moving and inspired music for the last: this simple, gentle hymn is a statement of great simplicity, dignity and peace; based on Theme A

p

Note: Strings are instructed to play "sotto voce" (under voice)

Symphony No. 7: The Symphogy as Dance 190

Part 3: Religious ecstasy!

Shimmering, monumental passage sees long-rising arpeggios in the low strings based on Theme A "embrace" the orchestra, as a benevolent and majestic God might embrace the multitude

219

Part 6: Religious ecstasy!!

An even longer version of the shimmering, monumental passage first heard in Coda, Part 3; the movement reaches its climax, after which a long and gradual descent gently moves the music towards ...

260

Part 8: All is peace; distant "Shepherd's Call" in solo horns, whisps of a breeze in the strings lead directly to ...

F Major

End of Symphony

## Lectures Twenty-Three –Twenty-Four Symphony No. 7: The Symphony as Dance

Scope: Lectures Twenty-three and Twenty-four discuss Beethoven's seventh symphony with references to the historical and personal events surrounding its composition. The essence of the symphony is seen to be the power of rhythm, and personal originality is seen to be an important artistic goal for Beethoven.

#### Outline

#### I. Genesis

- **A.** Symphony No. 7 was begun in late 1811, three years after the premieres of the fifth and sixth symphonies. It was completed in April 1812.
- **B.** The years 1812 and 1813 were not good ones for Beethoven. His hearing took a precipitous downturn, and the "immortal beloved" affair caused him much grief.
- C. The period from the premiere of the seventh symphony on December 8, 1813 and its subsequent performances in 1814 sees a revival of Beethoven's fame and fortune in Vienna.
- D. The seventh symphony was premiered and subsequently played alongside Beethoven's "Wellington's Victory," a work celebrating the defeat of the French army in Spain. Beethoven conducted the premiere with somewhat limited success.
- II. Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92, movement 1, sonata-allegro form: analysis with references to the WordScore Guide™ and musical examples
  - **A.** The movement opens with what is essentially a harmonic introductory passage in seven parts parading as an exposition.
  - **B.** Theme 1: blast off! A bright, dancing theme breaks forth in the clearly stated key of A major.
  - C. Theme 2, part 1 is a bouncing, joyful melody accompanied by sweeping string scales; part 2 is a hunting horn theme.
  - **D.** The four-part cadence that follows juxtaposes dynamic extremes, but does not relinquish its constant forward momentum.
  - E. Since the advent of theme 1, and to the end of the symphony, this music is about rhythm, rhythm and more rhythm!
  - F. The development is in six parts.
  - G. A relatively uneventful recapitulation is followed by a brilliant coda.
  - **H.** The coda is in four parts. Part 2 is an extraordinary passage in which the bass line falls to a D and proceeds to repeat a dissonant two-measure unit eleven times.

#### III. Movement 2

- A. "Chord of Bleak Isolation:" a dismal, unresolved A minor 6/4 chord begins the movement.
- B. The overall form of the movement is A B A<sup>1</sup> B<sup>1</sup> A and coda.
- C. Theme A appears in the low strings. Its rhythm will pervade the whole movement.
- D. The lyric Theme B appears like a ray of sunshine in the winds.
- E. In the coda theme A returns and gradually disintegrates until all that is left is a final "Chord of Bleak Isolation."
- F. Movement 2: Conclusions
  - 1. Movement 2 should not be played too slowly, otherwise the essential rhythmic energy is lost.
  - 2. Movement 2 is also about the power of rhythm.
  - 3. Movement 2 proved to be so popular in its day that it was sometimes taken out of context and inserted into other symphonies by Beethoven!

#### IV. Movement 3, double scherzo

- A. After the melancholy ending of movement II the opening of movement III comes as a genuine shock, with its brilliant, energized scherzo theme full of clucks, trills and extreme dynamic contrasts.
- B. The overall form of this movement is:

  Scherzo Trio Scherzo II Trio II Scherzo III

  A B A¹ B¹ A
- IV. Movement 4, sonata-allegro form: "The apotheosis of the dance" (Richard Wagner)
  - A. Theme 1 is in two parts. Part 1 is whirling, energetic music filled with the spirit of dance. Part 2 is a blaring, pounding, descending tune, interspersed with fanfares.
  - **B.** Theme 2 is a delicate, dancing theme that emerges from the modulating bridge. The explosive cadence material is filled with syncopation.
  - C. The Development is in four parts and the Coda is in six parts.

#### V. Conclusions

- 1. Rhythm is the primary element of Symphony No. 7.
- With an overview of all the symphonies up to the seventh, it can now be clearly seen that personal originality is an important artistic goal for Beethoven. He wants each major composition to make a step forward, not repeat what he did before. Beethoven spent a lot of time working on each symphony. He needed time to be original, to make each symphony completely different from the others.

#### MOVEMENT I Sonata-Allegro form

#### Introduction

"Poco sostenuto (J = 69)" duple meter (4/4)

An essentially harmonic introductory passage parading as an Exposition

Part 1: A series of explosive, tutti harmonies grabs our attention, as intervening material displays a gradual accumulation of instruments — a virtual gathering of instrumental forces

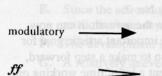
A M A J O R	oboe  p	E6 C H O R D	oboe, clari- net	A2 C H O R D	flute, oboe, clari- net, horn	D6 C H O R D	flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn
f		f		f	p	f	p

10

Part 2: Quiet, staccato ascending string scales alternate with sweet, glowing harmonies in clarinets and bassoons

the

Part 5: The monumental rising string scales resume, now accompanied by ringing, bell-like harmonies in the rest of the orchestra



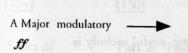
Part 6: Theme 2??
The "lyric theme" returns, in an even more distant key than when first heard; this is sounding less and less like an Exposition and

more and more like ... like what?

winds	strings	1. ABbysbenia the
a²	a 3	
F Major	"F" pedal	Beennoven, He
p	pp	cresc

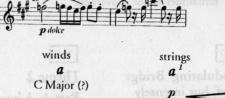
15

Part 3: Modulating Bridge? The quiet staccato scales become a monumental series of massive, granitic rising scales, thrusting upwards from the musical earth, sounding for all the world like a modulating bridge!



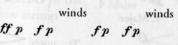
23

Part 4: Theme 2?
The first real thematic melody in the movement is light and Mozartean in character, and sounds like a lyric, second theme



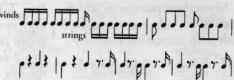
53

Part 7: Aha! Something is happening! The "F" pedal resolves downward to a series of repeated "E's"; brief motives in the winds do little to break the anticipation that the movement is headed somewhere new!



57

All that remains are repeated "E's" that slow down and become uneven (long-short) as they do so; we wait, we are teased — what is Beethoven up to?

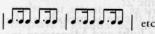


#### Exposition

"Vivace ( . = 104)" compound duple meter (6/8)

63

Flute and oboe finally continue with "E's" 6 played in a regular rhythm — we're not in 4/4 anymore, and wherever we are, we've gotten there through a purely rhythmic transition



Note: This rhythm will completely dominate the remainder of the movement 67

#### Theme 1

A bright, dancing, almost folk-like theme breaks forth; as listeners, we can at last kick back and relax, knowing finally where we are and that the movement has truly begun!



solo flute A Major

109

Modulating Bridge

Brief, but intensely modulatory passage based on Theme 1 motives

119

#### Theme 2

Part 1: A bouncing, joyful melody is accompanied by vigorous, sweeping string scales



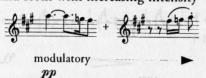
1st violins

E Major

142

#### Cadence Material

Part 1: Mysterious passage in which two wisps of melody are tossed back and forth with increasing intensity



152

Part 2: E Major having been reattained, triumsuddenly phant chords punctuate two 2-octave descents in suddenly the low strings



E Major

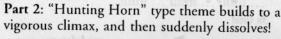
Series of explosive

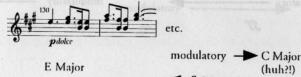
75

flute and oboe

124

cadential harmonies in tutti





158 Again, E Major is reattained and suddenly celebrated with two 2-octave suddenly descents in the F Major low strings

Part 3: Theme 1 A brief and celebratory

164

E Major

version

Part 4: Weird! Out of the blue, a staggering

171

2-ms silence! (Now upwards E where do Major scale! we go?)

Stunned,

E Major ff

88

strings

strings

gradually

take over

cresc. - - -

130

89

Brilliant,

blaring and

physically

version of

the theme!

tutti

bracing

#### **Development** The pervasive power of a single rhythm

177

Part 1: Another upwards staggering scale fragment

modulatory -

Another two measures of silence ... well???

Well, when in doubt, do what worked before! In the same way the Exposition began, the rhythm is reintroduced

201

Part 3: Sequential dialogue between descending string arpeggios and

barking harmonies in tutti All based on the \_\_\_\_ rhythm!

3x total modulatory -

Part 4: Delicate, intricate, polyphonic sequence based on motives from Theme 1 displays a sort of whimsy and lightness not generally associated with Beethoven's music

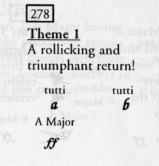
modulatory .

#### Recapitulation

274

Winds and horns grasp "E's", which they now refuse to let go!

Upward sweeping violins



US A DE E N C E

E7

236

185 of ciphride lulvo Parish Alukan Horn Part 2: A real thematic fusion! This part of the with the sweeping scales of the Introduction and the opening motive of Theme 1 to create:



This long, dancing line is treated almost canonically; as more voices enter the texture thickens, until ...

C Major

254

Part 5: As before, the polyphonic voices congeal into increasingly powerful harmonies which slowly, but inexorably, climb higher and higher

C

D

Part 6: Massive, overwhelming tutti harmonies alternate with fragments of melody; tension and excitement continue to grow until ... until ... until ...

The lines

into a series

of repeated

congeal

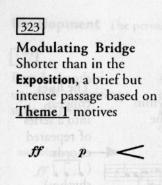
chords

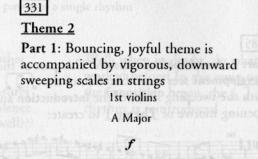
rhythm)

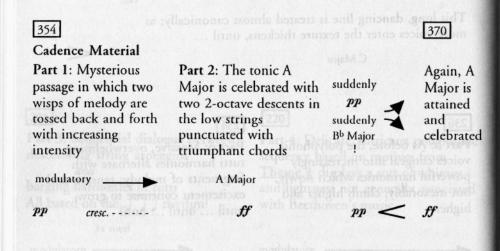
modulatory cresc. poco a poco

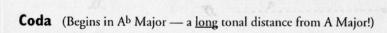
299 Suddenly quiet chords redirect the harmony and instantly alter the mood

301 Gentle Theme 1 oboe Modulatory, almost developmental, version gives new depth to this ascent 4 theme winds winds - strings -(D Major at first)







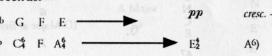


Part 1: Beginning as did the Exposition,
Development and Recapitulation, the Coda begins with a single note in the Thythm—
an "Ab" in the low strings

A long melodic sequence ensues, featuring the opening motive of <u>Theme 1</u>:



Meanwhile, the bassline descends:



401

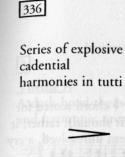
Part 2: An extraordinary

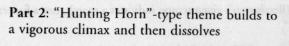
a "D" and procedes to

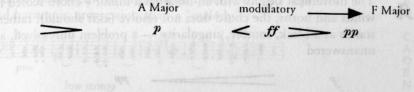
unit eleven times:

repeat the following 2-ms

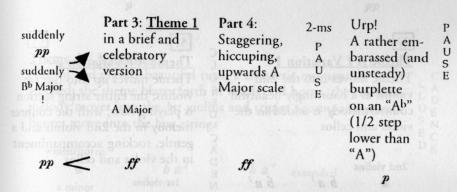
passage! The bassline falls to



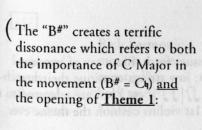




342



383



376



Part 3: Series of huge cadence chords and descending strings herald the beginning of the end

Part 4: Theme 1; triumphant and joyful conclusion; note how horns in particular drive the movement toward its brilliant conclusion

ff

#### **MOVEMENT II**

"Allegretto ( = 76)" duple meter (2/4)

(Beethoven's given tempo indicates a march, not a funeral procession)

#### "Chord of Bleak Isolation"

The movement begins with an isolation a minor \(^4\) chord scored for winds and horns; the chord does not resolve (as it should); rather, it stands as a bleak, sombre, singularity — a problem unresolved, a cry unanswered



27

#### Theme A / Variation 1

Theme moves into the 2nd violins as a hauntingly beautiful countermelody is added in the violas and cellos

2nd violins

a ba¹ ba¹
a minor

51

#### Theme A / Variation 2

Theme moves up into the 1st violins; the entire string section is playing now, with the counter melody in the 2nd violins and a gentle, rocking accompaniment in the violas and cellos

1st violins

a ba¹ ba¹
a minor

cresc. poco a poco - - - - -

102

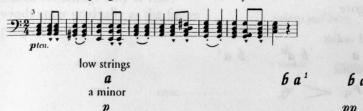
#### Theme B



3

#### Theme A

A dark-hued theme of exquisite simplicity; more a rhythm and harmonic progression than a "melody"



75

#### Theme A / Variation 3

A royal and gravely beautiful tutti; a climactic moment is reached; the theme blares forth in winds and horns, the countermelody moves into the 1st violins and triplet accompanimental figures move into the low strings

winds/horns				D
a von	6 a 1	ба1	extended	
a minor				
ff	decreso			p

117

					(
Lyric and lovely clarinet/ horn duet	Rich harmonic motion moves, eventually, back to A Major		flute, oboe, and bassoon	Long, nearly 5-octave descent breaks the quiet reverie	I I I
6	winds c	c¹	61		N
E Major	(A Major)		C Major	modulatory -	ff
	<>-	<>	_	cresc	JJ

LOEN

150

Theme A / Variation 4

The pale of darkness is again lowered upon the movement; the theme returns to pizzicato 2nd violins; the countermelody is heard in the winds, and 1st violins and violas alternate an anxious, staccato, 16th-note figure

2nd violins

a ba¹ ba¹
a minor
p

174

Transitional Passage
A rather lengthy
extension of Theme A /
Variation 4 takes on the
character of a transition

183

Theme A / Variation 5: Fugue A quiet, ghostly fugue built on motives drawn from Theme A; a shadowy, staccato countersubject in 16th notes accompanies the theme; scored for strings only at first, winds enter gradually as the fugue progresses

a minor

Stark, dramatic version of Theme A; a mood not felt before in this movement; countersubject of fugue continues in winds

214

strings and brass

a minor extended

ff > p

224

Theme B
Dispels the darkness of the preceding tutti

clarinets/bassoons — all winds

a
A Major

p
— — — — —

243

Transitional Passage
Brief transitional passage
based on the opening of
Theme A

modulatory — >

Suddenly forceful cadence to C Major

Quiet cadence back to a minor

p

244

Another forceful cadence to C Major

ff

Quiet cadence back to a minor

p

253

Coda

255

Part 1: Theme A
Gradual and striking disintegration as
Theme A breaks into fragments, with
each fragment played by a different
group of instruments

276

"Chord of Bleak Isolation" Finally, all that remains is the same bleak, sombre, unresolved a minor 4 chord that began the movement

winds/horns

 $f \rightarrow p$ 

a minor

#### MOVEMENT III Scherzo

After the tragic melancholy of the **Movement II** conclusion, the brilliant, F Major opening of this movement comes as quite a shock!

**Scherzo** "Presto ( . = 132)" triple meter (3/4)

Brilliant, energized theme filled with clucks, trills and dynamic contrasts:



Brief game of "Hot Potato" ("hot motive") sees opening 3-note "cluck" motive tossed upwards:

2v **x** 

Note: The descending step motive in ms 12, 14, 15 – 16

a

F Major

**Trio** "Assai meno presto (J = 84)" ("a little less fast")

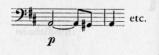
149

Thematic idea is an extension of the descending step motive of the **Scherzo**:



181

Melody of *c* is extended by the winds even as a low horn continues to play, rather insistently, the new version of the descending step motive:



"... sets a new standard for vitality and humour exceeding all its predecessors for rhythmic vigour..."

- Antony Hopkins

(to say nothing for sheer length: 653 measures long! 57 pages of score!)

Two long phrases ensue, built on the descending step motive, passed from:  winds strings winds strings p pp p pp	oboe/ flute (brief)	78	"Hot Potato" game brings scherzo to a conclusion	O C T A V E : "A"
Note: <b>ff</b> interjections	a¹	a²	va 🔻 2	2v
	B <sup>b</sup> Major	F Major < f > 1	vc w va va cb	

Grumbling horn obsessively repeats descending step motive, finally provoking the orchestra ...

Royal, powerful tutti

**C**<sup>1</sup>
D Major

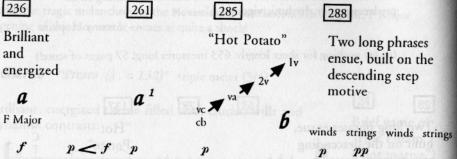
ff

Transition back to Scherzo based on the "grumbling" horn passage, now heard mysteriously and quietly

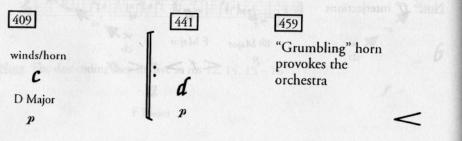
d1

p decresc. ---- ppp

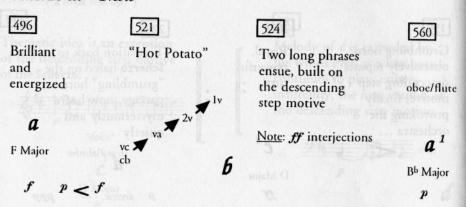
#### Scherzo II "Presto" 236 261 285 Brilliant and energized

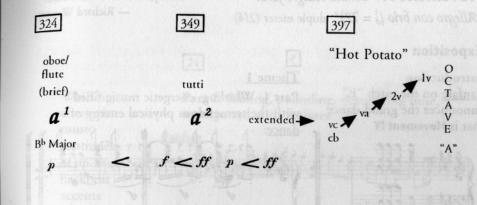


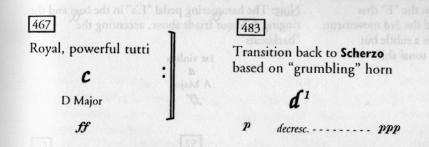
#### Trio II "Assai meno presto"

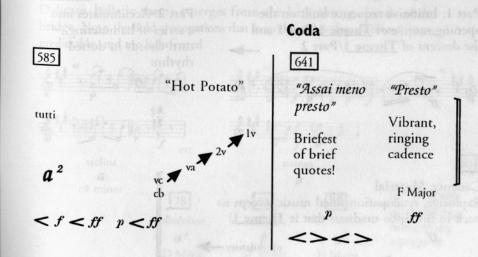


#### Scherzo III "Presto"









#### Movement IV Sonata-Allegro form "Allegro con brio (J = 72)" duple meter (2/4)

"The apotheosis of the dance." - Richard Wagner

#### Exposition

#### Introduction

Fanfare on the pitch "E" announces the grand dance that is Movement IV



Note: This "E" is a semitone lower than the "F" that concluded the 3rd movement; it provides a subtle but powerful tonal shift!

#### Theme 1

Part 1: Whirling, energetic music filled with the tremendous physical energy of



Note: The hammering pedal "E's" in the bass and the ringing A Major triads above, accenting the "backbeats"

> 1st violins A Major ff

#### 36

#### 52

#### Modulating Bridge

Part 1: Imitative sequence built on the opening motive of Theme 1/Part 1 and the descent of Theme 1/Part 2



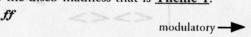
Part 2: Accumulates into a series of hammering, tutti chords in dotted rhythm



#### 104

#### Cadence Material

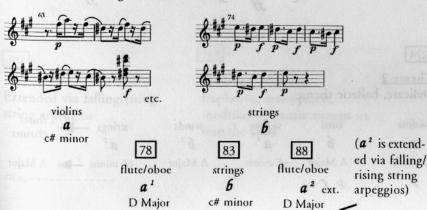
Explosive, syncopation-filled music sweeps us back to the disco-madness that is Theme 1!

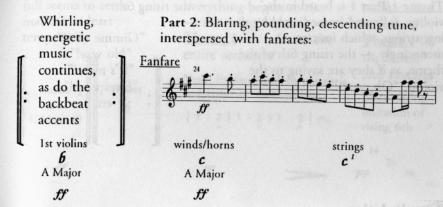


#### Theme 2

63

Delicate, balletic theme emerges from the hammering chords of the bridge. Note: the bold syncopations that keep this music from becoming too predictable and too lightfooted





#### Development

126

Part 1: Incredible passage! A veritable wrestling match! The opening of Theme 1/Part 1 is heard in the violins, followed immediately by the low strings, which imitate — menacingly — the rising 6th of the theme, as if they are saying to the violins, "Oh, yea?!?"

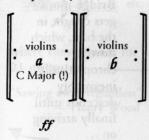
140

Trouble ensues; the violins and low strings start fighting over the rising 6th:

"Gimme that!"
"No way!"
"It's mine!"
"Dream on!"
etc.

#### 146

Part 2: Theme 1; the return of the theme in full seems to settle matters, at least temporarily



162

Part 3: Extraordinary, lengthy passage in which everything begins to rise — the rising 6th of Theme 1 has infected the entire orchestra!

Note: Fanfares and, by passage's end, constant syncopation:

| 1 - 2 | 1 - 2 | 1 - 2 | etc.

202

Part 4: Quiet, almost elfin version of Theme 1 (in the flutes) and fanfares

Note: String imitation of rising 6th

1v pp 2v va

#### Recapitulation

220

Fanfare on "E" announces the return of both Theme 1 and A Major

ff

225

Theme 1

Part 1: Abbreviated (no **b**) Whirling, energetic dance resumes



Fanfare

235

Part 2: Blaring, pounding descending tune

winds/horn strings

c
A Major

274

Theme 2
Delicate, balletic theme

 247

Modulating Bridge

Part 1: Imitative sequence built on the opening motive of Theme 1/Part 1 and the descent of Theme 1/Part 2

ff

Part 2: Accumulates into a series of hammering, tutti chords in dotted rhythms

ff

307

Extended via falling/rising string arpeggios

cresc.

319

Cadence Material
Explosive, syncopated,
modulatory music sweeps us
into the Coda

ff

#### Coda

Lengthy and harmonically complex, this **Coda** balances well the long **Introduction** of **Movement I** 

341

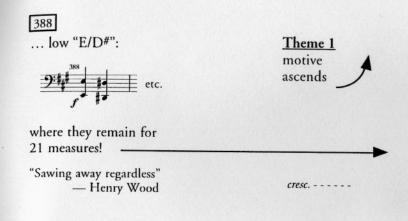
Part 1: Explosive series of tutti fanfares

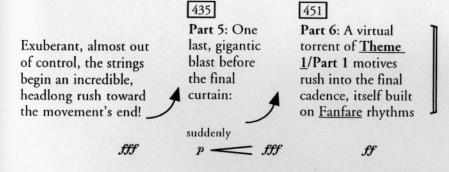
Part 2: Long, intense, modulatory passage based on the Modulating Bridge motive

A<sup>7</sup> F#6

The descending portion of the Modulating Bridge motive gets caught in the bass, which slowly, chromatically, inexorably descends until finally arriving on ...

405 409 413 417 Part 3: Part 4: Fanfare Theme 1/Part 2: Fanfare Theme 1/Part 2 extended! winds/horn strings C c1 A Major A Major A Major A Major (we're home!) ff ff "E/D#" !!! "sawing" resumes





End of Symphony