

Music 500—Final Assignment

You have been asked to pick a movement from any work, in any genre, as long as it is in sonata form. You need to tell me what you have picked—this is just to avoid duplications. I'm willing to trust at this point that you know enough about what sonata form is that I don't actually *need* to “approve” your choice—however! If you aren't sure you have something appropriate, bring me the score and we can talk about it.

Your task is to describe how the stereotypical sonata model jibes with the actual music. Where are the sections? What keys are visited? How are the modulations carried out? (This last question may be especially interesting in the development section, as the sonata finds its way “home” to tonic). Are there any ambiguities in the form? Is there anything that doesn't fit the model? Feel free to comment on any other feature of the music you find interesting.

You will present your findings on our last class meeting—some kind of handout is always helpful, possibly with musical examples, charts, whatever you need. I'm not going to give you a template to fill in; part of the exercise is to figure out how to present your findings in an effective manner. A friendly word of advice: having some actual music that we can hear—even if it's your index finger banging on the piano—will make your presentation far more interesting.

I would also like a short write-up, due at the time of the presentation, of the material you present. This write-up should be in the neighbourhood of two pages (500 words or so), and written in clear, formal prose. The idea here is to write about your findings in a way that would be accessible to a musically sophisticated audience. (Imagine yourself writing CD liner notes if that helps.) Feel free to include examples, tables, or whatever else you like. I won't cap the word count at 500, but if you find you are writing much beyond that, you may be trying to say too much.