

Beginning Compositions

Adapted for Haydn, Analysis

Musical form: Music is written in "form" and can be analyzed by its ideas, phrases and periods. To start this process we can begin analyzing the ideas. Sometimes the idea begins with a question and the next idea answers the question.

1. This is the first idea. This idea is the question. Notice how it is not resolved, wants to continue moving. Play and listen to the D, you can hear that the idea is not finished. Being unresolved means there is still tension and needs an ending. This idea has 4 measures and is called a phrase. Phrases usually contain 4 measures.

1.

The first musical example shows a 4-measure phrase in 3/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a quarter rest in measure 1, followed by quarter notes G4 (finger 1), A4 (finger 2), B4 (finger 3), and C5 (finger 4) in measures 2, 3, and 4 respectively. The bass clef staff contains a quarter note G3 (finger 1) in measure 1, followed by quarter rests in measures 2, 3, and 4.

2. This is the second idea and answers the question in the first 4 measures. It begins by stating the original idea, and ends with the answer. This idea is also 4 measures. Measure 5 starts on the 1 beat and measure 7 ends with 2 beats. This forms 1 measure or the 3 beats. Two phrases of 4 measures each, form a period, or an end to this idea.

2.

The second musical example shows a 4-measure phrase in 3/4 time, starting at measure 5. The treble clef staff contains a quarter rest in measure 5, followed by quarter notes G4 (finger 1), A4 (finger 2), B4 (finger 3), and C5 (finger 4) in measures 6, 7, and 8 respectively. The bass clef staff contains a quarter note G3 (finger 1) in measure 5, followed by quarter rests in measures 6, 7, and 8.

Understanding form in music allows the pianist correct interpretation of the composition. Sometimes an idea needs to become louder as it builds, or there might be a pause to enhance the expression of an idea or the ending of an idea. You would not pause in the middle of a sentence, nor would you pause in the middle of a musical idea. This is the first step in understanding how a composer builds the music and expresses ideas.

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Counting eighth notes: Use the "&" to count the second eighth note.
 Counting beats is easier when there is a sound on each of the beats.

The time signature is 3/4, 3 beats in a measure and a quarter note = 1 beat.

Adapted for Hayden

1

6

12