

Mozart: Piano Sonata in B-flat K333, first movement

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What is a Sonata?

The word Sonata means 'sounded' or 'played' together. The most important type of instrumental music form the Baroque period to the present day. Composers have used the title 'sonata' since the end of the 16th century, and although it has changed in meaning over the years it has almost invariably been used to describe an instrumental work – either for a soloist, or a small group of players.

It is most commonly used to mean a work in three or four contrasting movements either for piano alone (piano sonata) or for piano with one other instrument (e.g. violin sonata – violin and piano).

Try to find out more about sonatas in your own time. The best resource to use is the New Grove Dictionaries.

Analysis of Movement 1

Subject 1

1. What key does the first subject appear in?
2. At which bar is the re-statement of the opening an octave lower?
3. At bar 12 there is an E natural in the RH. What chord does this introduce?
4. Comment on Mozart's writing at bar 13-15.
5. What tonal area is introduced at the end of bar 17?
6. Identify an arpeggio figure at bar 22.

Subject 2

7. In which bar does the Second subject enter?
8. Comment on the use of repetition of the second subject.
9. Where is the music in G minor?
10. Identify the cadences in F major between bars 38-63.

Development section

11. The development section opens in bar 64. Which key is the first subject motif?
12. Identify an Alberti bass line and explain in your own words what this is.
13. What happens between bars 71 – 93? Comment on rhythm using the terms *anacrusis* and *augmentation*.
14. What similarities are there between bars 87-90 and the opening?
15. Identify a dominant pedal.

Recapitulation

16. This is exactly the same as the opening until which bar?
17. Why do you think it was necessary for Mozart to introduce new ideas at this late stage?
18. Which key does the second subject appear in?
19. How are the cycle of fifths and intervallic diminution important at bars 143-146 and 147-149 respectively?
20. Identify the coda section and relate to another extract in this movement.