

Ravel String Quartet in F major, 1st movement 1903

This extract contains the final bars of movement 1.

It contains recapitulations of subjects 1 and 2.

The piece follows the usual 4-movement scheme of a classical quartet.

This movement is in sonata form.

- Q1. What is sonata form?
- Q2. What tonal area is the extract in?
- Q3. Bars 184-187 are theme 1. This is a recap. of the 2nd subject.
 - a) How does Ravel extend melodic ideas?
 - b) Comment on his use of texture.
- Q4. Bars 184-187 show the Phrygian mode transposed to A.
 - a) What would the notes of the Phrygian mode be?
 - b) What note would the dominant be if A = I
- Q5. Comment on the use of intervals of a fifth.
- Q6. What is the leading note?

Bars 190 – 192

- Q7. Comment on Ravel's use of doubling.
- Q8. What tonal areas is he working around?
- Q9. Identify 'dissonance'.

Bars 192 – 197

- Q10. Identify an ostinato part.
- Q11. Which 2 instruments play the accompaniment and which play the countermelody and the melody?
- Q12. What tonal area is he working around at this point?

Bars 198 – 200

- Q13. Comment on the pedal point.
- Q14. Identify the whole tone cluster. What does this mean?

Bars 200 – 213

- Q15. Comment on the melodic writing.
- Q16. There is an enharmonic change from Eb to D#. Why is this?
- Q17. Identify the interrupted cadence.
- Q18. There is a descending whole tone scale. Where is this?
- Q19. Label the chords from bars 209 – 213.
- Q20. Discuss Ravel's use of texture.
- Q21. Why might F major be seen as the tonal centre?
- Q22. Comment on Ravel's final 2 bars.

Essay

**"Ravel's String Quartet in F major is Neoclassical in formal structure and modality,
whilst impressionist in harmony and texture."**

Discuss this quotation in relation to your analysis of this extract.

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