

# Listening Guide

## Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67

DATE OF WORK: 1807–8

- MOVEMENTS:
- I. Allegro con brio; sonata-allegro form, C minor
  - II. Andante con moto; theme and variations form (2 themes), A-flat major
  - III. Allegro; scherzo and trio form, C minor
  - IV. Allegro; sonata-allegro form, C major

### First Movement: Allegro con brio; sonata-allegro form, 2/4 meter, C minor

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR: Famous motive (short-short-short-long) is basis for entire movement; heard in sequence, extended beyond 4 notes, and turned upside down. Sonata-allegro form, with fiery opening theme and sweet 2nd theme. Dramatic tonal shifts between major and minor.

#### EXPOSITION

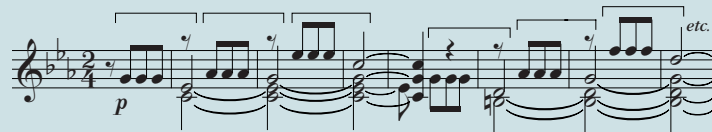
Theme 1—based on famous 4-note motive, in C minor:

*Allegro con brio*



*ff* *etc.*

Motive treated sequentially:



*p* *etc.*

Expansion from 4-note motive; horns modulate to key of second theme:



*ff* *sf* *sf* *sf* *etc.*

Theme 2—more lyrical, in woodwinds, in E-flat major; heard against rhythm of 4-note motive:



*p* *etc.*

*basic rhythm*

Closing theme—descending staccato passage, then 4-note motive. Repeat of exposition.

#### DEVELOPMENT

Beginning of development, announced by horns.

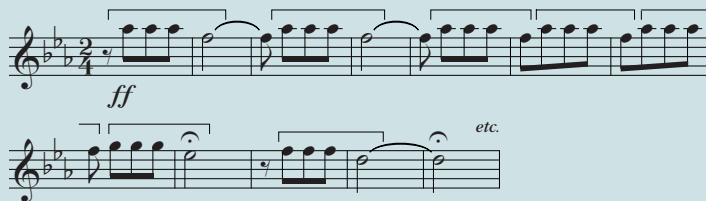
Manipulation of 4-note motive through a descending sequence:



Melodic variation, interval filled in and inverted:



Expansion through repetition; leads into recapitulation:



**RECAPITULATION**

Theme 1—in C minor, followed by brief oboe solo in cadenza style.

Theme 2—returns in C major.

Closing theme.

Coda—extended treatment of 4-note motive; ends in C minor.

**Second Movement: Andante con moto; theme and variations form, with two themes, 3/8, meter, A-flat major**

- WHAT TO LISTEN FOR:**
- Movement based on 2 contrasting themes, both subjected to variation procedure.
  - Varied melodies, harmonies (major/minor), rhythms, tempo, and accompaniment.
  - Orchestra sections featured as groups: warm strings, brilliant woodwinds, and powerful brass.

Theme 1—broad, flowing melody, heard in low strings:

**Andante con moto**



Theme 2—upward-thrusting 4-note motive:




## Examples of variations on theme 1

Embellished with running sixteenth notes:



*p dolce* etc.

Embellished with thirty-second notes:



*p dolce* etc.

Melody exchanged between woodwind instruments:



Clarinet Bassoon Flute etc.  
*dolce*

Melody shifted to minor, more disjunct:



*p*

Coda—Più mosso (faster), in bassoon.

## Third Movement: Allegro; scherzo and trio form, 3/4 meter, C minor


- WHAT TO LISTEN FOR:** Quickly ascending scherzo theme, followed by recurrence of 4-note rhythmic idea from first movement.  
Contrasting trio featuring low-range strings and imitative (fugal) texture.  
Long transition into 4th movement, without any break.

Scherzo theme—a rising, rocket theme in low strings:



Allegro *pp* *poco rit.* etc.

Recurrent rhythmic motive (from opening of first movement):



Trio theme—in C major, in double basses, set fugally, played twice:



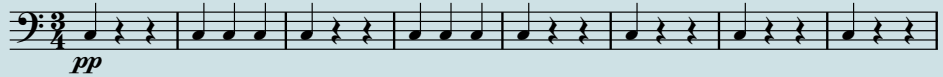
*f* etc.

Trio theme is broken up and expanded through sequences:



*f* etc.

Scherzo returns, with varied orchestration, including pizzicato strings  
Transition to next movement with timpani rhythm from opening 4-note motive:



### Fourth Movement: Allegro; sonata-allegro form, 4/4 meter, C major

**WHAT TO LISTEN FOR:** Triumphant theme in trumpets brilliantly proclaiming C-major tonality. 4-note motive recurs as unifying device for entire symphony. Long coda affirms victorious C-major tonality (over C minor, the opening key of the entire symphony).

#### EXPOSITION

Theme 1—in C major, a powerful melody whose opening outlines a C-major chord:



Lyrical transition theme in French horns, modulating from C to G major:



Theme 2—in G major, vigorous melody with triplets:



Closing theme—featuring clarinet and violas, decisive:



#### DEVELOPMENT

Much modulation and free rhythmic treatment; brings back 4-note motive (3 short and a long) from first movement.  
Brief recurrence of scherzo.

#### RECAPITULATION

Theme 1—in C major.  
Theme 2—in C major.  
Closing theme.  
Coda—long extension.