

Exposition

FORM
The slow introduction, in the tonic key of C minor, makes this Allegro 3rd movement unusual in terms of sonata form.

HARMONY
The circled note E₃ is not part of the chord above it, but looks ahead to the next chord. This note is called an 'anticipation'.

Allegro di molto e con brio

Bar 11

FORM
The first theme goes through a few key changes on its way to the second theme. This section is called the 'transition'.

Bar 38

MELODY
The small notes in bars 53 and 54 are called 'grace notes' or 'acciaccaturas'.

Bar 51

TONALITY
At bar 51 you hear the second theme in the key of E₃ minor, and not in the dominant or subdominant as you might expect.



Beethoven: 'Pathétique' Sonata No. 8

Development

HISTORY
This sonata, known as the 'Pathétique', was written in 1798 when Beethoven was 27 years old.

STRUCTURE
Bar 11 marks the beginning of the Exposition section, where the 1st theme begins. Notice the tremolo accompaniment in the left hand.

HISTORY
Sonata No. 8 is in sonata form, but the slow *grave* section appears throughout the piece, making it unique.

MELODY
The development section starts with a variation on the first theme. This excerpt is in E minor.

COMPOSITION
Bar 148 is a sequence of bar 140.

Bar 149

HARMONY
The notes D₃ and F₄ are not part of the key signature. This type of note is called an 'accidental'.

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HARMONY
The end of the development section features repeated octaves on the note G in the left hand, which is the dominant of the tonic key of C minor.

HARMONY
At bars 202-203, a perfect cadence is formed with chords V-1.

Recapitulation

Bar 202

Bar 221

Bar 221

TONALITY
The second theme appears in the recapitulation at bar 221, this time in the subdominant key, F minor.

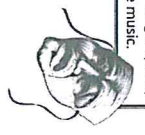
Bar 137

Bar 148

Bar 149

TEXTURE
At bar 149 the texture is turned upside down. The left hand plays the melody, while the right hand plays the octave tremolos.

TERMS
The title 'Pathétique' doesn't mean pathetic. It refers to the 'ragic' quality of the music.



Bar 173

RHYTHM
The tied G in the left hand / bass clef produces syncopation.

HISTORY
The 'Pathétique' Sonata was published in 1799 and was dedicated to Prince Karl von Lichnowsky.

FORM
The coda begins at bar 299 following another statement of the introduction. This coda material first appears in the sonata as the first theme (or subject) at bar 11.

Bar 299