

Mozart, *String Quintet in E-flat Major*
Analysis by David Mitchell

This theme is a textbook example of small ternary form. Its middle section features standing on the dominant harmonization. The A section is an eight measure period with all the cadences in the right places. The recapitulation is compressed. The four measures of recapitulation consist of an exact repetition of the basic idea followed by a contrasting idea with tonal adjustment to bring about a perfect authentic cadence at measure sixteen.

Motivically, the contrasting idea of the recapitulation is interesting. It consists of the second fragment of the contrasting idea with tonal adjustment, an inversion of this fragment that jumps to the highest note of the theme, and a retrograde inversion of the sixteenth note motive from the middle section. The sixteenth note motive in measure nine of the middle section could be seen as a combination of fragments from the contrasting idea of the antecedent in measure three. The first two sixteenths are a retrograde of the third fragment in the contrasting idea. The second two sixteenths are the second fragment in the contrasting idea. The E to D eighth notes is an augmentation of the fourth fragment from the contrasting idea. Mozart is concentrating his creative powers on motivic variation in this piece. It is harmonically and structurally conservative, but very interesting in its use of melodic variation.

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