Sonata Form

Introduction

Identifying a Form

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- The identification and study of sonata form is the work of many theorists, but two in particular stand out:
 - Carl Czerny
 - Adolf Bernhard Marx

№ 1791-1857

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- Student of Beethoven

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- Extremely influential piano teacher: pupils included
 - Liszt
 - Thalberg
 - ~ Heller

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- Developed terminology still in use today such as liedform

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- Neither Czerny nor Marx saw it as a "template"
- The form, as taught thereafter, tends to be presented as a kind of template anyway.

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- Development
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- Development
 - Develops the material; moves from secondary to home key
- Recapitulation
 - Re-presents the main material; ends in home key



Exposition

Transition Secondary Group (V) Closing Group (V)

Primary Group (I)

Exposition

Transition Secondary Group (V) Closing Group (V)

Primary Group (I)

Development

Retransition

Development

Exposition

Secondary Group (V) Closing Group (V) Transition Primary Group (I) Development Retransition Development Recapitulation Transition Primary Group (I) Secondary Group (I) Closing Group (I) Coda

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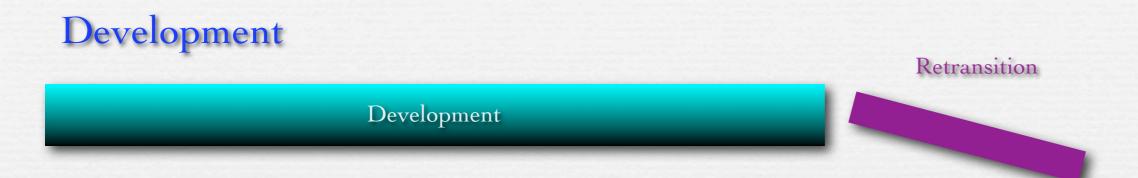
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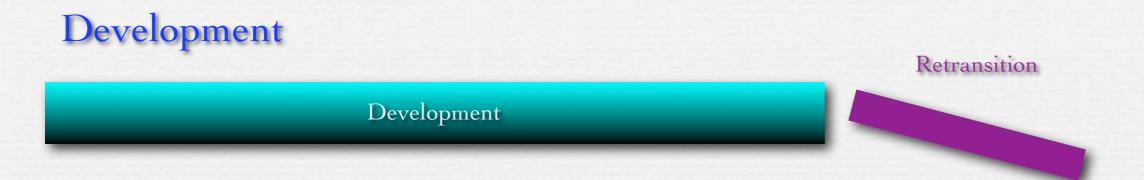
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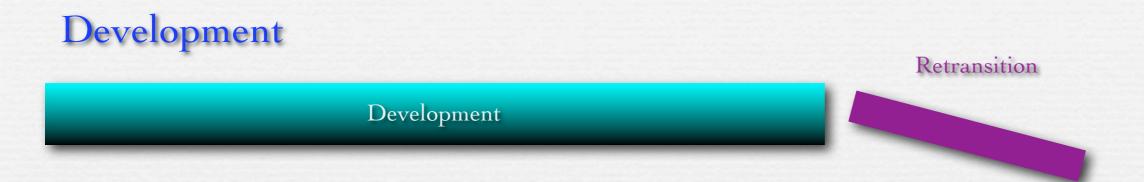
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The Exposition may then be repeated.





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There is no set form for the Development.





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Coda

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May Classical-era Sonata Form moves mark the Development/Recapitulation section of a sonata form work to be repeated. In practice, that repeat is often skipped.



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- 9. Closing Group: the Closing Theme may lead directly into a transitional passage that either leads back to the beginning of the Exposition, or forward into the Development.



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- 5. Retransition: there may be no clear retransition, but a blurred distinction between development and recapitulation.



Recapitulation



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- 10. Coda: the Coda may occur within the recapitulation -- especially immediately before the Closing Group.

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- Before the work ends, the important material originally stated in the secondary key must be restated in the primary key, to achieve balance.

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- Antithesis: the secondary key and its material
- Synthesis: the resolution of the secondary key material into the primary key.

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- Have become a common language for sonata-form discussion.

Primary ThemeTransitional Theme

S Secondary Theme

K Closing Theme

O Introductory Material

N New material occuring after the Exposition

Q Questionable functions, ambiguous

a, b, c, etc. x, y, z, etc. 1P, 2S, etc. P^1 , S^2 Pk S(1P)

Phrases or smaller-dimension functions Following *a*, *b*, *c*, etc., indicate motivic levels. Before the indicator: constituent themes Superscript indicates variants Closing function apparent Derivation: S is derived from 1P Further derivation: K(1S>2P) indicates that K is derived from 1S, in turn derived from 2P Isolates the rhythmic element of a theme Isolates the harmonic element of a theme.

2+2 4x2

Indicates two phrases of 2 measures each Indicates two repetitions of a 4-measure unit: read as 4 measures times 2.

1Pax

First phrase of first primary theme, employing motive 'x' 2T(2Pb)

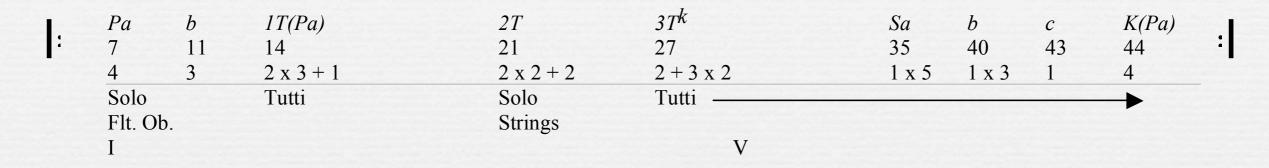
Second transitional theme, derived from the second phrase of the secondary primary theme.

 $2S^k$ (1Pr)

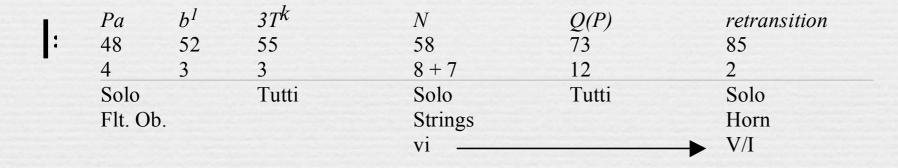
Second secondary theme, with a closing function, derived from the rhythm of the first primary theme.

2P¹ First variant of the second primary theme.

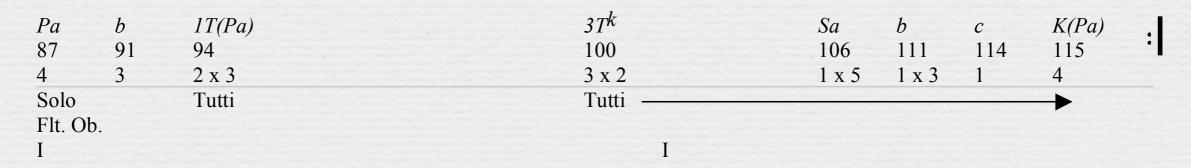
Exposition

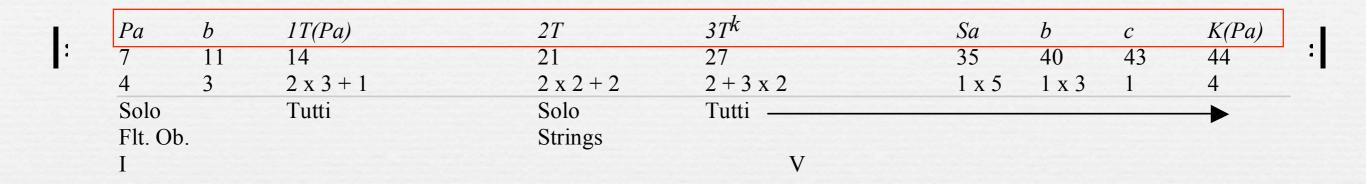


Development

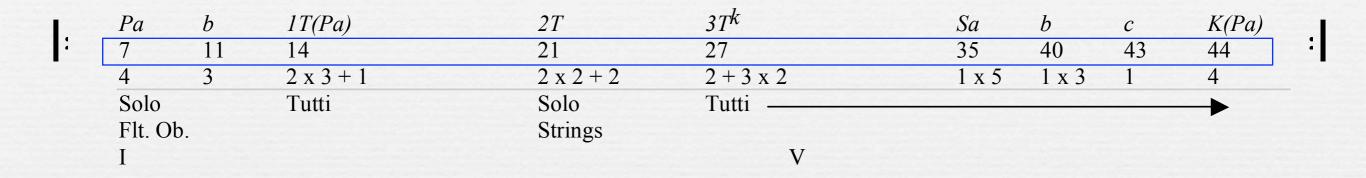


Recapitulation

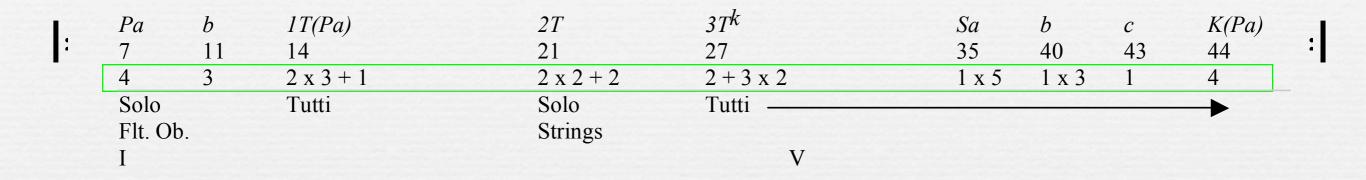




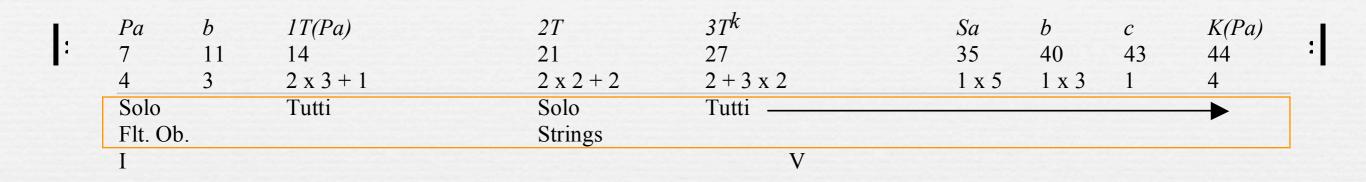
Uppermost line: analytical symbols



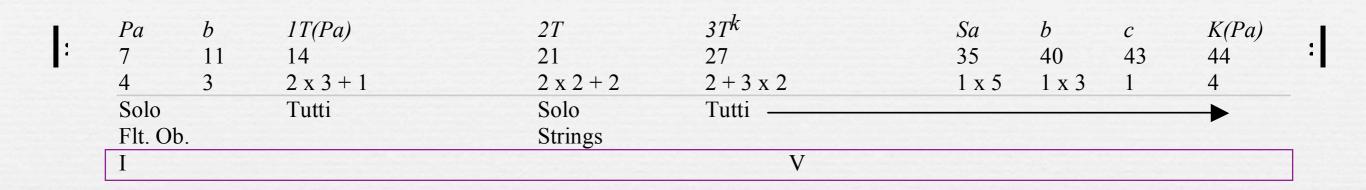
Middle line: measure numbers



Lower line: phrase divisions by measure

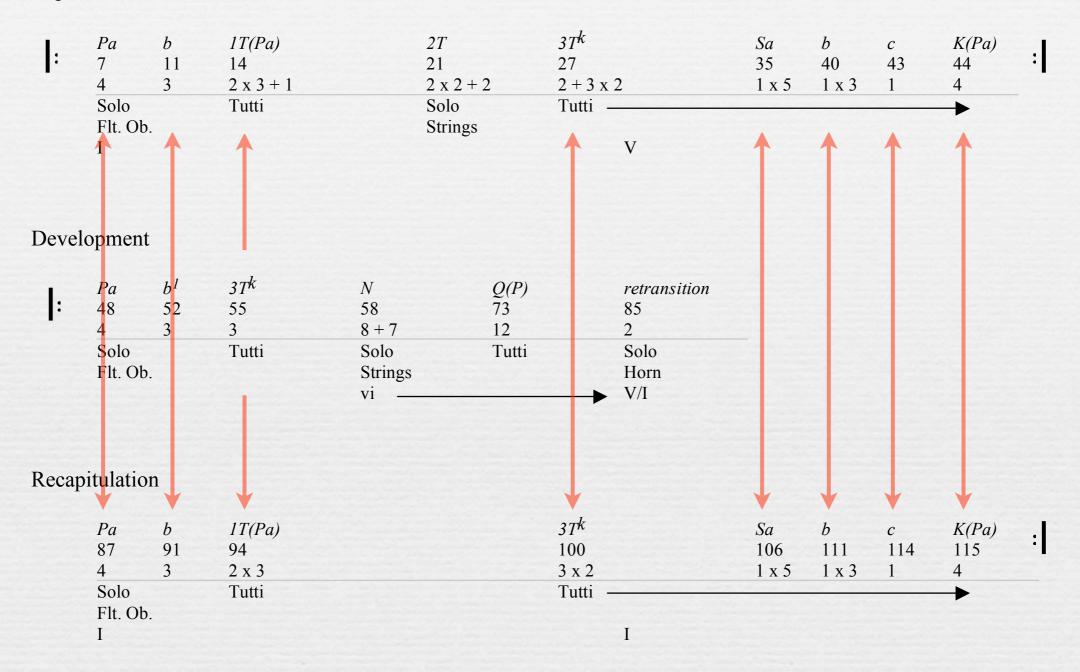


Below the gray line divider: notes (in this case about orchestration)



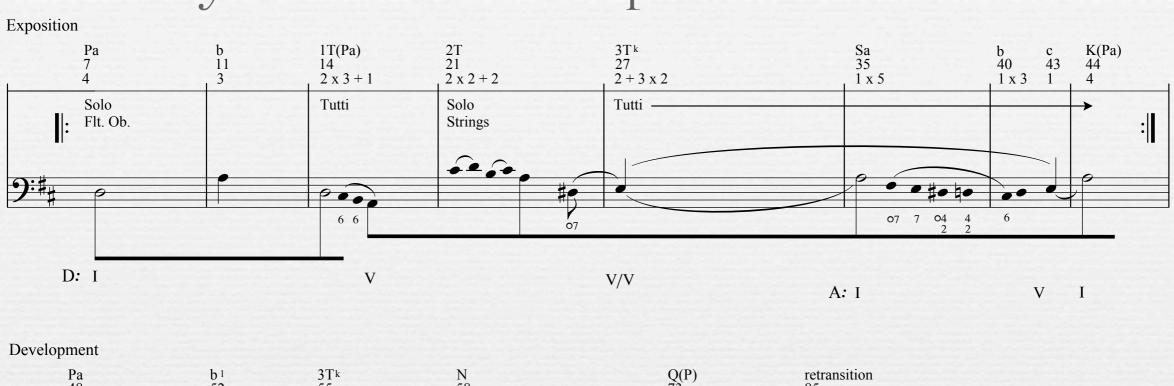
Bottom: harmonic sketch (in this case limited to the two key planes.)

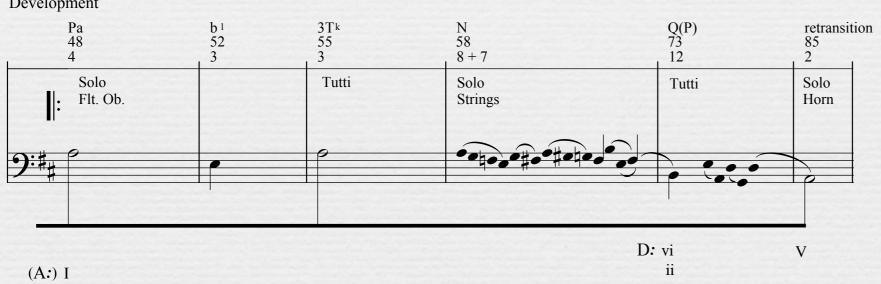
Exposition

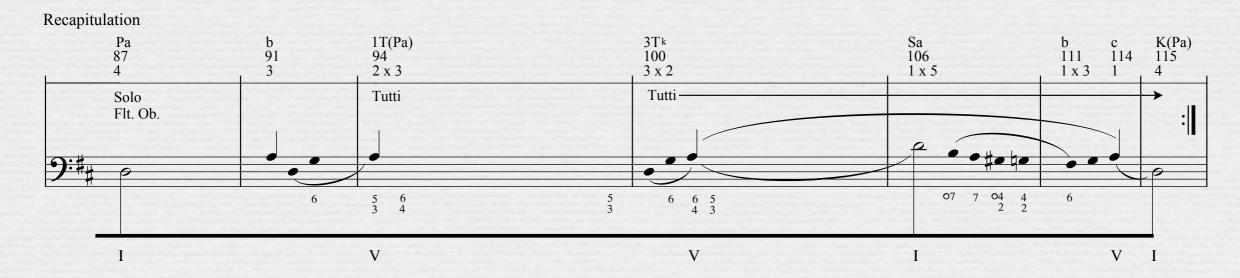


In the graph as a whole, note that care has been taken to align similar materials—such as the locations of the materials in Exposition and Recapitulation, but also in the Development where such alignment might be appropriate.

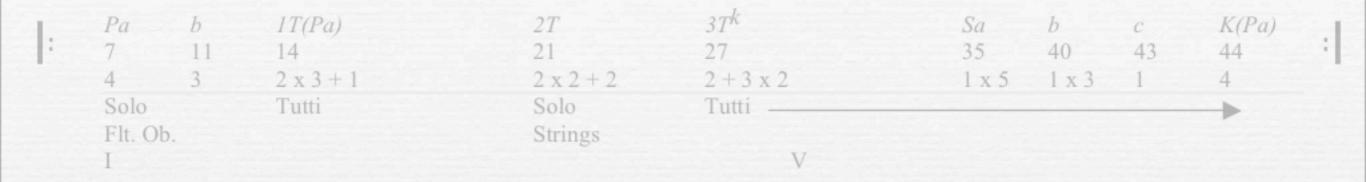
A LaRue-Style Sonata-Form Graph with Harmonic Reduction







Exposition



Development



Recapitulation

