

Music

Topic: Clara Schumann Piano Trio – Context, structure, sonority and melody

Year Group: 12/13



1. Context and structure		2. Melody				4. Key vocabulary			
Clar Schi mar	born in Leipzig, Germany.	1	Contrastin g ideas	The piece is build on two contrasting ideas called subjects.	1	Romanti c period	An artistic movement in the 1800s, known for the development of instruments and		
1 n	concert pianist. Married composer Robert Schumann who suffered from mental	2	First subject	An 8 bar theme with balanced phrasing using antecedent (question) and consequent (answer) phrases. Found in bars 1-8.	2	Chambe .	expressiveness. Music played by a small		
	illness.		Features	1a -Plaintive downward 5th, tied rhythm. 1b - Answers with livelier rhythm, rising sequence, upwards 8ve leap. 1c and d - short contrasted dotted ideas, falling sequence.		r music	ensemble., often in small chamber rooms.		
2 sition		3	of subject one			Piano trio	A trio for piano and 2 string instruments, usually violin and cello.		
3 Dev lopr ent	-	4	Second subject	A two bar contrasting idea. It is first heard in bars 45-48.	4	Movem ent	An independent section in a longer piece of music. Our piece is in four movements, we study		
Don		1	Features of second	(a) Syncopated, descending, stepwise, ends with			the first.		
nan 4 prej arat	development that features the dominant chord ready to return	5	subject	appoggiatura (b) Repeated 'chattering' quavers against diminished 7th melody.		Sonata Form	A common structure in the Classical era and later. Consists of expositions, development,		
on	bar 155-64.		Melodic	Harmonic feature brought to life in the melody on			recapitulation and coda.		
Reca		6	diminished seventh	violin in bar 47.	6	Subject	The main musical ideas used in a piece in Sonata form. Ours has two.		
atio		3. 9	Sonority – Ho	w the instruments are used		Appoggi	A 'leaning' dissonant note that		
Bridg e	The section that links the first and second subject in the exposition. Ours is from bar 30-45	1		Plays melody and accompaniment. Equal weighting, not showy. Often middle range. Typical writing of period.		atura	comes before the chord and resolves onto it.		
			+ +	Important material often not doubled – bar 9-14. Mainly plays in the two octaves above lowest string, sometimes higher. Double stopping is used 73-77 and 284-6.		Chromat ic	Melodic movement in semitones Seen in bars 243-245.		
Cod 6 tta	A small ending at the end of the exposition. Ours is from bars 73-90	2				Counter melody	A secondary melody that is heard alongside the main theme.		
		3		Uses a wide range due to different roles. Double stopping (284-6). Pedal notes (73-80) High in register	1	Contrast	Musical ideas that contrast, this		
7 Cod	The end of the recapitulation. Ours is from 250-288.			(134-138).		ing ideas	piece is built on two of them.		

Other points of interest: Classical vs Romantic features. Development of the piano trio. Variation of the sonata form



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Topic: Clara Schumann Piano Trio – Texture, Harmony and Tonality, Tempo, metre and rhythm.

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5.	Texture		7. Harmony and Tonality			8. Key vocabulary		
1	Homophonic	Melody and accompaniment, often using block chords or offbeat chords in the right hand, against on beat LH. Bar 1-8		Modulatio ns	Piece modulates to related keys in the development including Eb/F min/G min/C min/F min and in		`Discur sive form	Where ideas are passed around the ensemble. Often used in chamber music.
2	Polyphonically animated	by counter melodies. Bar 9 is an example.			recap goes to G minor / Gmajor and coda finishes in Gminor	2	Contra puntal	A polyphonic texture where the parts play against each
	homophony				The piece modulates to related	-	Puntui	other and interweave.
3	Imitation	When a melody in one part is copied a few notes later in a different part and they overlap. Bar 115-130.	2	Related keys	keys including in the development including Eb/F min/G min/C min/F min and in recap goes to G minor / Gmajor and coda finishes in Gminor	3	Dialog ue	Motifs exchanged between parts without overlapping.
4	Polyphony	When 2 or more different lines play simultaneously. Bar 115-130.	3		A sustained or pulsating note sounded against changing	4	Allegro moder ato	Moderately fast tempo used throughout, apart from slight rit in second subject.
5	Interplay	2 or more melodies have an effect on each other. Bar 34-38		Pedal	harmonies. Uses tonic (276-end) and dominant pedals (73-84). Linked to texture.	5	Metre	Beats per bar.bAt times feels like 2/2 although in 4/4, especially noticed in faster harmonic rhythm passages.
6	Doubling	Piece often doubles parts at intervals of an octave or 6 th . Bar 99-104.	4	Circle of fifths	A series of chords where the roots are a 5th higher or lower from the previous one. Bar 139-143			
_	Broken chord	Chord is played as separate notes, often				6	Harmo nic	The rate at which chords change. Used throughout the piece - mostly in root position and
7		as rocking quavers or rising and falling arpeggios. Bar 9 in left hand of piano.	5	Suspensio n	Note that is sustained to a chord in which it doesn't belong, creating dissonance, and then resolved.		rhythm	
		•					Major and	
6.1	6. Tempo, metre and rhythm			Diminishe	Chord built on minor thirds. Bar	7	minor	1st inversion
1	Homorhyt hm	All parts play the same rhythm. Bar 22	'	d 7 th chord	110-111.	\vdash	chords Diatoni	Chords and melody belong to
	Syncopatio	Emphasising beats of the bar that are normally unaccented, use of ties emphasises this in melody		Augmente d 6 th chord	Chromatic chord used to approach chord V or Ic in bars 113-121.	8	c:	the key, not chromatic.
2	n			Dominant minor 9 th	A chord with more dissonant extensions. Used in bar 83.	9	Functio nal	Music that uses traditional cadential progression.
3	Anacrusis	One or more notes that occur before the first strong beat of a phrase – used in 1c and 1d		chord			Compl	chromatic, diminished 7ths, augmented 6ths, dominant
4	Dotted rhythms	A swung rhythm usually with the 1st longer than the 2nd. Used in second subject.		Secondary dominant chord	The dominant of the dominant. Used in bar 40.	0	ex chords	minor 9th and secondary dominants

Wider listening: Mozart piano trio in C major. Schubert piano trio no 1 and 2. Liszt Hungarian rhapsodies 9 and 12. Mendelssohn piano trio 1.