

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1784)

String Quartet no. 15 in B $\flat$, K. 458 ("The Hunt")

I.

EXPOSITION

(P) Primary thematic area
Ternary theme A-section (periodic)

Allegro vivace assai.

Violino I. *f*

Violino II. *f*

Viola. *f*

Violoncello. *f*

[HC] [PAC] *p*

9 Ternary theme B-section (periodic)

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

[IAC] *p* [PAC] *p*

Prolonged half-cadential dominant:
possible medial caesura?

17 *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

[HC]

26 (TR) Dissolving ternary theme A'-section

Proposed MC
w/caesura-fill on motive x

[HC]

MC declined
cadential dominant persists, along w/motive x

"Premature" V: PAC
exposition revealed to be "continuous" (no S-space)

[PAC*]

* Cannot be EEC because pre-cadential
material persists after PAC

57

motive x closing formulae repeated ad nauseam...

Mozart "applies the brakes" to motive x proliferation

65

(C) Closing zone (based on P-theme B-section)

74

EEC!

"Essential Expositional Closure"

DEVELOPMENT

1. Cantabile F-major theme ("displaced" S-theme?)

85

96

2. Motive x variant returns / modal collapse
ascending circle-of-fifths progression: Fm → Cm → Gm

106

114

Reversal: accelerated circle-of-fifths descent leads to E-flat major...

120

3. Retransition

Mode shift to major: motive x returns in its original form

126

retransitional dominant attained

RECAPITULATION

(P)

Primary thematic area

Ternary theme A-section (periodic)

132

= 1 = 2 = 3

Ternary theme B-section (periodic)

141

= 4 = 5 = 6 = 7 = 8 = 9 = 10 = 11

149

= 12 = 13 = 14 = 15 = 16 = 17

TR Dissolving ternary theme A'-section

156*

Measures 156-165. Measures are numbered 19 through 28 below the staff.

166

Measures 166-173. Measures are numbered 29 through 32 below the staff. Insertion: P-theme in subdominant.

174

Measures 174-181. Measures are numbered 33 through 40 below the staff.

182

Measures 182-187. Measures are numbered 41 through 47 below the staff.

* The Breitkopf & Härtel edition on which this score is based omits Mozart's bar 155 (= 18)!

189

189

48 49 50 51 52 53 54

196

196

55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

204

204

63 64 65 66 67 68 69

211

Ⓒ Closing zone (based on P-theme B-section)

211

70 71 72 73 74 75 76 78 79 80 82

ESC!

223

= 83 = 84 = 85 = 86 = 87 = 88 = 89 = 90 = 91

CODA Contrapuntal fantasy on P-theme

231

244.

254

motive x returns again...

262

Measures 262-270 of the first movement of Mozart's String Quartet in B-flat, K. 458. The score is for four strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass) in B-flat major, 3/4 time. The key signature has two flats. The music features a complex interplay of melodic and rhythmic motifs. Measures 262-265 show a series of sixteenth-note patterns in the upper strings, while the lower strings provide a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measures 266-270 introduce a new melodic theme in the upper strings, characterized by a specific intervallic pattern (labeled 'motive x' in the analysis). The dynamics range from *f* (forte) to *p* (piano).

270

P-theme appears with motive x in quick succession...

Measures 270-278 of the first movement of Mozart's String Quartet in B-flat, K. 458. The score continues the musical development from the previous section. Measures 270-272 show the 'P-theme' (Piano theme) appearing, characterized by a specific intervallic pattern. This is followed by a rapid succession of measures 273-278, where the 'P-theme' and 'motive x' are combined in a complex, overlapping fashion. The dynamics range from *p* (piano) to *f* (forte).