

Musical knowledge and theory model answers



Joseph Haydn

The four sonatas in this book are believed to have been written for Haydn's students. He began teaching in the 1750s and wrote short, easy sonatas to encourage his students' musical progress and keyboard facility. The instrument played at the time was the harpsichord or clavichord; the fortepiano wasn't in widespread circulation until the 1770s–80s. Haydn wrote 62 sonatas in total that vary in complexity from the simple examples included here to virtuosic and highly complex works. A trained chorister, Haydn was particularly talented at writing wonderful melodies, which is very clear in these lovely early examples. His use and development of sonata form has led to him being known as the 'Father of the Symphony'. The 'Hob' number refers to 'Hoboken', the person who catalogued all Haydn's works.



Activity

Questions for Sonata in C major Hob. XVI No. 7

Identify opening chords of the first movement, including their inversion (root, 1st or 2nd inversion):





Questions for Sonata in F major Hob. XVI No. 9

What is the value of the  in bar 8 as a fraction of a beat? A sixteenth

Within the first movement, can you find examples of:

A perfect cadence: bar 14-15 in C or bar 41-42 in F

A melodic sequence: bars 18 and 20

Right-hand repetition (melodic and rhythmic): bars 12 and 14

In the key of F major, what are the notes of:

The tonic triad? F A C The dominant triad C E G

The subdominant triad B \flat D F The supertonic triad G B \flat D

Give definitions for:

Minuet and trio A musical form in triple time using an A B A structure.
Often the 3rd movement of a sonata

Menuet da capo From the beginning of the minuet

Scherzo A quick movement of a sonata with a light, playful character

What key is the Trio in? B \flat major

What is its relationship to the key of the Menuet? Subdominant

What is the melodic device in bar 1 of the right hand of the Scherzo?

It is a melodic motif based on a broken chord

How many piano sonatas did Joseph Haydn write?

He wrote 60 sonatas for the piano

How is this sonata typical of the Classical period in terms of melody, harmony and structure?...

Regular, short (generally 4-bar) phrases

Diatonic harmony

The first movement is in sonata form, there is a minuet and trio and a fast, Scherzo finale



Questions for Haydn's Sonata in G major Hob. XVI No. 8

What is the key of the first movement? G major

What is the supertonic note in this key? A

Can you transpose the opening right-hand phrase to the first beat of bar 2 a perfect 5th higher? Include the new key signature.



What is the note value of the  triplets in the first movement?
♪ (quaver)

Which key is the music in by bar 11 of the first movement? D major

How do you know this? There are C sharps

In the first movement, the Development starts in bar 16 and the Recapitulation starts in bar 26

Is the form of the minuet typical? No Describe the form: AB

Which three keys are visited in the minuet? G major, D major, A minor

What is the form of the Andante? AB

In the Andante, which bars have a descending scale of G major starting on the subdominant note? 8 and 9

What is the form of the final Allegro? ABA

In the final Allegro, which right-hand bar includes an ascending G major arpeggio in 2nd inversion? Bars 1-2

Which bars contain a dominant pedal note? Bars 9-11



Questions for Haydn's Sonata in D major Hob. XVI No. 4

Can you transpose the right-hand opening 2 bars a perfect 5th lower? Include the new key signature.



This movement is in D major. What are the note names in this key of the:

Subdominant G

Supertonic E

Tonic D

Dominant A

Submediant B

Which key is the first movement in at bar 14? A major



Can you name the following ornaments:

 inverted turn

 trill

 appoggiatura

Can you draw and name an example of an ornament not included in this movement?

 mordent OR  acciaccatura

In bar 14 what are the note values of  and 
quaver crotchet

What is the form of the second movement and which keys does it visit?

Minuet and trio (A B A) D major, A major, G major

Can you name all of these keys as relations of D major?

The dominant A major

The relative minor B minor

The subdominant G major

The relative minor of the dominant F# minor

The relative minor of the subdominant E minor

What is unusual about the structure of this sonata? It only has two movements



Anna Bon (approx. 1738 – post 1767)

Anna Bon was the daughter of two opera singers, who was born in Italy but lived much of her life in Germany. Because she performed in the court where Haydn was composer in residence, it is very likely that they met. A singer and harpsichordist, Anna Bon's writing was heavily influenced by the Baroque tradition of keyboard writing, but also shows some signs of moving towards the Classical style with early hints of sonata form in some works.



Activity

Questions for Bon's Sonata in B flat major Op. 2 No. 2

This sonata was written for the harpsichord. What are the differences between playing this piece on a harpsichord compared to a modern piano?

No dynamic variation was possible on a harpsichord and the sound was more detached – it couldn't play legato

This piece didn't originally include any dynamics or articulation. What would be stylistically appropriate to include?

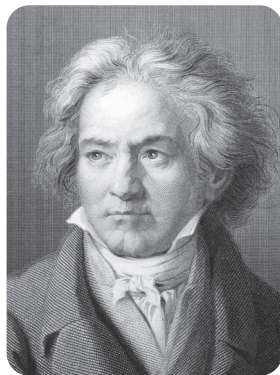
Any dynamics should be restrained and within a narrow range (nothing above a forte). Generally detached articulation would be appropriate – very legato phrases would not have been possible

List some features in this music that reflect the musical period it was written in (late Baroque):

Contrapuntal writing with long phrases; binary (rather than sonata) form; ornamentation; walking bass line

How do you think being a singer has influenced Anna Bon's writing?

The beautiful melodies this sonata includes



Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) is thought to have composed his first piano sonatas (WoO 37) as a young teenager, but their authenticity is now questioned. The two sonatas here are believed to have been composed around 1795–96. Together, Beethoven's mature piano sonatas are known as 'the 32' – Hans von Bülow was the first person to perform them in a single performance and is said to have referred to them as the 'New Testament' of piano repertoire (JS Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier being the Old Testament).

Beethoven is seen as the bridge between the Classical and Romantic periods of music, and his piano sonatas provide excellent examples of how his writing evolved. His last complete piano sonata (1821–22) is dramatic, passionate and challenging to play: quite different to the two sonatas here. These examples are accessible and rich in teaching content, leading to the belief that they were written for teaching rather than as virtuosic works.



Activity

Questions for Beethoven's Sonata facile in G minor Op. 49 No. 1

Where does the music first modulate to E flat major in the first movement?

Bar 21

What relation is E \flat major to G minor? The submediant

Which section begins in bar 34? The development It follows the Exposition.

The movement ends with the Recapitulation This final section is in the key of G minor.

Name the cadence at bar 32:

A perfect cadence in B \flat major with a suspension on the final chord

Name the following intervals:

D to B \flat minor 6th A to E \flat diminished 5th A \flat to D augmented 4th

F \sharp to C diminished 5th C \sharp to B \flat diminished 7th

Describe the structure of a rondo

A piece with a repeating refrain (A) that alternates with episodes (B, C, etc)

In the Rondo, what is the key in bar 1: G major At the start of bar 20:

G minor

What is the chord in bar 147? Dominant 7th



Activity

Questions for Sonata facile in G major Op. 49 No. 2

What type of piano was this piece composed for? The fortepiano

Which features in this sonata reflect the Classical style?

The diatonic harmony; regular 4-bar phrases; use of sonata form; melodic sequences; scalar runs; triplet left-hand accompaniment patterns

Name the keys the first movement travels through up to bar 77 and describe their relationship to the tonic, G major:

D major (dominant); A major (dominant of dominant); D minor (dominant minor); C major (subdominant).

A minor (supertonic) and E minor (submediant) in passing.

List the typical characteristics the second movement has of a minuet:

Triple time; slightly accented 3rd beat in a bar; articulation also bringing out the 3rd beat; rocking bass line accompaniment; the tempo

Name the chords and the cadence at the end of the Tempo di Menuetto:

Perfect cadence (V-I) in G major



Composer quote

"Always place the hands at the keyboard so that the fingers cannot be raised higher than is necessary; only in this way is it possible to produce a singing tone."

Ludwig van Beethoven (reported by Schindler)



Sonata facts

It is believed that the term 'Sonata form' was coined by Adolf Bernard Marx (1795–1866), a musicologist who studied and wrote about the works of Beethoven extensively.

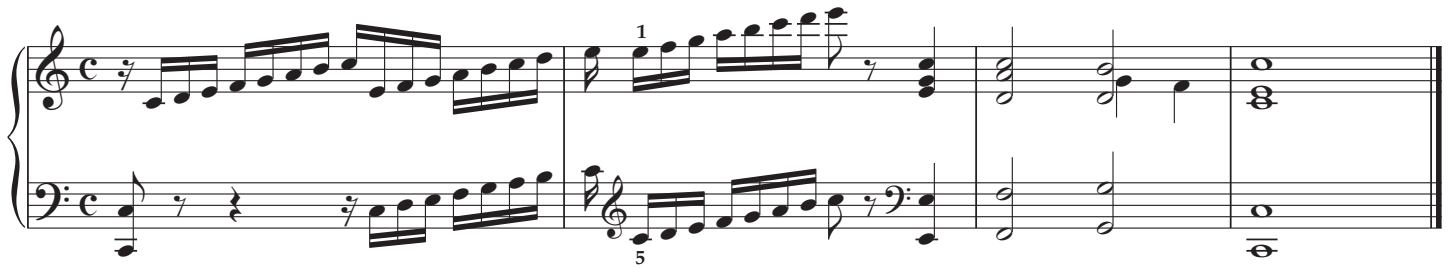


What is a cadenza?

A cadenza is a virtuosic climax passage included at a point deemed suitable by the composer or at the end of some pieces, which displays the player's ability. Cadenzas were originally intended to be freely improvised, but Beethoven's cadenzas were composed as part of his sonatas.

The cadenza below is an easy example by Hummel (a late Classical/early Romantic composer). Do try playing this.

Cadenza from 'Six Pieces for Facility' by Johann Nepomuk Hummel (1778–1837)





Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Even though Mozart's life was short (just 37 years), he wrote many sonatas, including 18 for solo piano and several for piano duet (four hands). It's worth listening to his many other sonatas too: violin sonatas, trio sonatas and church sonatas (for ensembles). His first sonata is believed to have been written when he was 18 years old and his last just two years before his death. His piano sonatas are generally conventional with the occasional cheeky twist on the accepted compositional practices of the day. It is believed that Mozart had quite a sense of humour and this feeling of fun is apparent in many of his sonatas. This particular work is considered 'a little sonata for beginners', but in fact the piece is late intermediate/early advanced and requires a well-developed technique.



Activity

Questions for Mozart's Sonata in C major No. 16 K. 545

In the first movement, which key is the second subject in? G major

How do you know? F sharps

Name one key in the second movement: G major or D major

What is the name of the accompaniment pattern in the left hand bars 1–4 of the first movement? Alberti bass

Name the cadence and the chords at the end of the second movement:

Perfect cadence (V7-I) in G

What is the structure of the final movement: Rondo – A B A C A



Composer quote

"I compare a good melodist to a fine racer, and counterpoints to hack post-horses; therefore be advised, let well alone and remember the old Italian proverb: Chi sa più, meno sa – Who knows most, knows least." Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



Robert Schumann (1810–1856)

Robert Schumann wrote only three advanced piano sonatas (Op. 11, 14 and 22) and three for children, his Kindersonaten Op. 118, the first of which is included here. This set was believed to have been written for his three daughters, to help develop their musical abilities (he was very committed to pedagogical music). Each is said to reflect a different girl's character. Schumann was a composer of the Romantic period so this work is quite different to the other sonatas in this book. It is a characterful piece with a lullaby for a toy as the third movement!



Activity

Questions for Schumann's Sonata in G major Op. 118 No. 1

What do the following musical terms mean:

Lebhaft Lively

fp Fortepiano – play loudly then immediately quietly

Ziemlich langsam Fairly slowly

Zurückhaltend Holding back (tempo)

Etwas langsamer A little slower

Im Takt A tempo – back to the original speed

Nicht schnell Not fast

Puppenwiegenlied Doll's lullaby

Rondoletto A little rondo

Identify where these terms are in the sonata.



Composer quote

"The young must also become accustomed to performing longer movements." Robert Schumann