

Sonata Form – Cheat Sheet

Sonata Form: (this is the ideal – real life sonatas often deviate from this plan)

Exposition – Creates long-range tension through conflicting keys/thematic characters

A Theme (tonic)

Transition (takes you from A->B (and tonic->dominant/relative major)

B Theme (dominant)(relative major if A theme is minor)

(Closing Theme)

(Coda)

Development – Increases Tension by rapidly changing keys and developing thematic material

Exploring the themes (mixes stuff up)

- Fragmentation/Changing Harmony/Changing Keys/other compositional techniques...

(Retransition) (takes us back to the tonic key)

Recapitulation – Creates resolution through key stability (everything is in tonic)

A Theme (tonic)

Transition (takes you from A to B, but leaves you in tonic)

B Theme (tonic)

(Closing Theme)

(Coda)