

MUSC 1156
Fall 2004
COMPOSITION PROJECT--Rounded Binary Form

Assignment #1

Compose an original 8- or 16- measure period for your instrument and piano accompaniment (or for solo piano, if your primary instrument is piano). If you are a vocalist, you will write for voice and piano setting a poem approved by the instructor (poem needs to be approved no later than Monday, 11/15).

Please refer to the handout posted on Blackboard concerning harmonization and progressions in the folder "Course Documents" for instruction about strong harmonic progressions.

The period must consist of 2 phrases that are symmetrical (they may be either parallel or contrasting) The first phrase should end with a half cadence in the original key. The second phrase will end in one of the following two ways:

- 1) If your piece begins in a major key, then your second phrase will end by tonicizing the dominant (by using a dominant of the original key's dominant). For example, if your piece begins in C major, the second cadence will consist of a D7 chord followed by a G chord.
- 2) If your piece begins in a minor key, then your second phrase will end by tonicizing the relative minor (by using a dominant of the relative minor key). For example, if your piece begins in C minor, the second cadence will consist of a Bb7 chord followed by an Eb chord.

In order to establish the key convincingly at the opening, you should use clear harmonic progressions. The harmonic rhythm should be no slower than one chord per measure, and it may accelerate prior to cadences. You may want to construct a harmonic progression for each phrase in 4-voice texture and then write a melody that adheres to it. Or if you prefer, you may write a melody first and then harmonize it using good harmonic progressions. In composing your melody, you should attempt to use motivic or thematic ideas that have potential for development, as this material will be an important source to draw upon for the second section of the movement.

DUE DATE: Monday, 11/15/04. Please submit a copy (not your original) of your work in a folder (the folder is required) at the beginning of class on that date.

Assignment #2

Completed draft of “B” section due on Wednesday, 12/1/04

Compose a new section (the beginning of your work’s “B” section of its binary design). The new passage should grow out of the material stated in the A section, developing motive from your work’s original thematic material.

The “B” section may begin in the dominant key or relative major (to the key of your first “A” section, but it should not remain in this key for longer than two measures. Instead, the new material should use sequences to suggest new tonal areas briefly. The new passage must be at least 10 measures in length and must end with a half cadence in the original key of the “A” section (to prepare for the brief “rounding” of the form where you will bring back the opening material in the original tonic key). You should label the harmonic progression for this “B” section under the score using chord symbols instead of Roman numerals. The passage should be written for your instrument with piano accompaniment.