

The Period

Part II: Three- and Four-Phrase Periods

Three-Phrase Periods

- A period can be made up of more than two phrases, as long as the cadences progress from relatively weak to relatively strong, with the most conclusive cadence coming in the final phrase
- Three-phrase periods often consist of two antecedents and a consequent

Rossini, Overture to the Barber of Seville

The musical score shows the first 12 measures of the Overture to the Barber of Seville. It is in 2/4 time and begins with a piano introduction (p). The melody is marked 'Allegro' and 'Cantabile'. The score includes a key signature change to G major at measure 5. The piece concludes with a crescendo (cresc.) in measures 11 and 12.

• HC – IAC – PAC (a a' b)

[10-15](#)

Four-Phrase Periods

- Four-phrase periods are fairly common, with the strongest cadence coming only in the fourth and final phrase [10-16](#)
- When a four-phrase period can clearly be organized into pairs of two phrases each, we call it a *double period*
- In a double period, the first two phrases act like an antecedent and the second two phrases act like a consequent

Parallel/Contrasting Double Periods

- If the first and third phrases begin similarly, we call it a *parallel double period*
- If the first and third phrases begin differently, we call it a *contrasting double period*
- What is example [10-16](#)?
 - (parallel, because the first and third phrases start out similarly)
- PRACTICE: [ST 10-1A2](#)

Repeated Phrases and Periods

- Phrases are sometimes repeated nearly identically, with identical cadences—these may not form a two-phrase period
- Instead, we may call this a *repeated phrase*
- Two-phrase periods can also be repeated with identical cadences—these may not form a double period
- Instead, we may call this a *repeated period*
- PRACTICE: [ST 10-1A4](#)

Independent Phrase

- If a single phrase is presented in a way such that it does not connect with other phrases (if it stands alone), we call it an *independent phrase*

Phrase Groups

- If a series of phrases seem to belong together but do not form a typical period relationship (that is, if the final cadence is not the strongest), we can refer to these as a *phrase group*
- Phrase groups are more often found in transitional passages that connect other periods together

For Next Time

- Homework 7
- Start working on phase one of Project I
- On Friday:
 - Skills Test IB