

Sonata Allegro Form

SONATA ALLEGRO FORM IS A SPECIFIC FORM FIRST USED BY **EARLY CLASSICAL** COMPOSERS IN OPENING MOVEMENTS OF MULTI-MOVEMENT WORKS FOR SOLO, CHAMBER OR LARGE GROUPS.

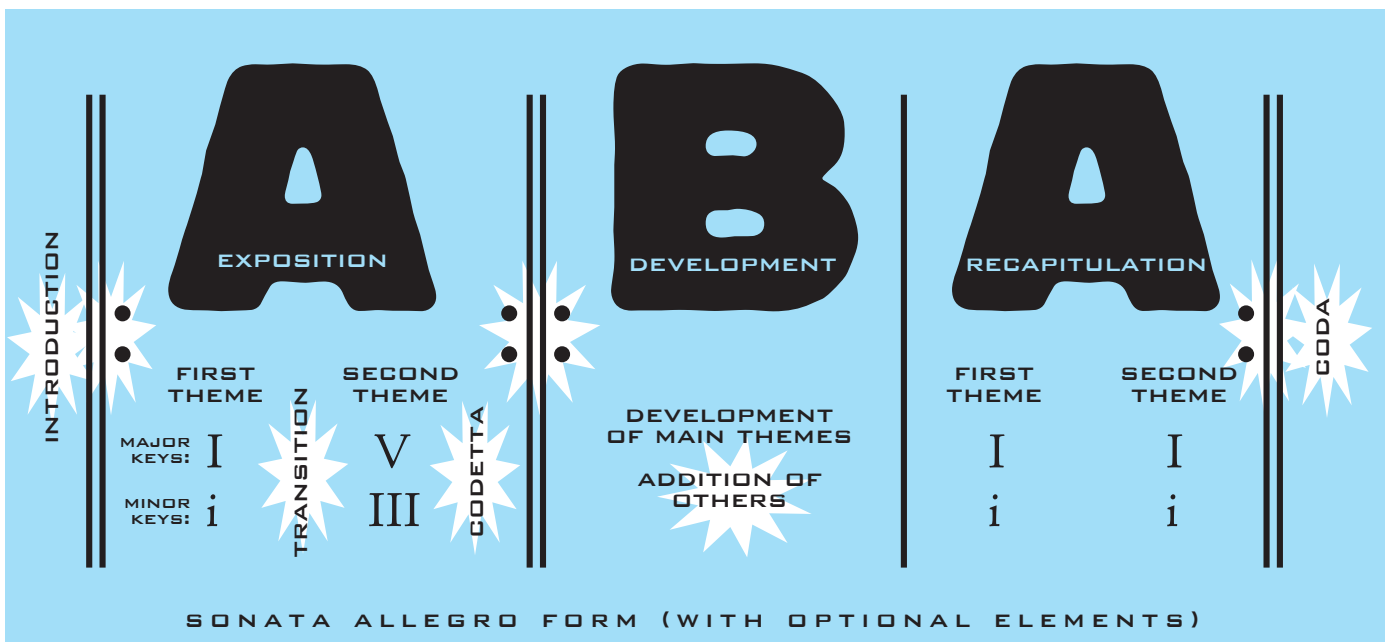
THE FORM ITSELF IS BASED FROM **TERNARY FORM**, IN THAT THE FIRST LARGE SECTION IS REPRISED AT THE END OF THE FORM,

IT WAS EVENTUALLY ADOPTED BY OTHER COMPOSERS OF THE CLASSICAL AND EARLY ROMANTIC ERAS.



ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURES OF SONATA ALLEGRO FORM IS THE **TWO PRIMARY THEMES** THAT MAKE UP THE EXPOSITION. THESE TWO THEMES WILL BE **CONTRASTING IN CHARACTER** AND, AT LEAST IN THE EXPOSITION, WILL BE IN **DIFFERENT KEYS**. IN A MAJOR WORK, THE SECOND THEME WILL BE IN THE KEY OF THE **DOMINANT**; IN A MINOR PIECE, THE SECOND THEME WILL BE IN THE **RELATIVE MAJOR**. IN THE **RECAPITULATION**, HOWEVER, **BOTH** THEMES ARE PLAYED IN THE **TONIC**!

THE DIAGRAM ABOVE SHOWS THE **REQUIRED ELEMENTS** OF SONATA FORM; IN THE DIAGRAM BELOW, SEVERAL OTHER ELEMENTS, WHICH ARE **OPTIONALLY** INCLUDED, ARE ALSO SHOWN.



BEAR IN MIND THAT COMPOSERS DID WHAT THEY **WANTED** TO... SOME OF THE GREATEST PIECES WRITTEN IN SONATA ALLEGRO FORM FEATURE PLACES WHERE THE COMPOSER ARTFULLY **BROKE** THESE "RULES"!