



# Analyzing Classical Form: An Approach for the Classroom

By William E. Caplin

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**Analyzing Classical Form: An Approach for the Classroom** By William E. Caplin

*Analyzing Classical Form* builds upon the foundations of the author's critically acclaimed *Classical Form* by offering an approach to the analysis of musical form that is especially suited for classroom use. Providing ample material for study in both undergraduate and graduate courses, *Analyzing Classical Form* presents the most up-to-date version of the author's "theory of formal functions." Students will learn how to make complete harmonic and formal analyses of music drawn from the instrumental works of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Part 1 introduces the principal theme-types of classical instrumental music; part 2 provides a methodology for analyzing sonata form, the most important formal type in this style period; and part 3 considers other full-movement forms found in this repertory (such as minuet, rondo, and concerto). The chapters are organized in a way that presents the most basic materials upfront and then leads the student through more details and finer points of theory. Every topic is illustrated with annotated musical examples; as well, the book contains many unannotated examples that can be used for in-class discussion and for out-of-class analytical exercises. A complete glossary of terms and questions for reviewing the theory will help students assimilate the many theoretical concepts employed in the book. A companion website hosted by the author at [music.mcgill.ca/acf/](http://music.mcgill.ca/acf/) provides audio and musical scores for all of the examples in the book as well as additional examples for the analysis of the simple theme-types presented in part 1.

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## Analyzing Classical Form: An Approach for the Classroom By William E. Caplin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #860631 in Books
- Published on: 2013-11-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 1.60" w x 10.90" l, 3.93 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 768 pages



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### **About the Author**

**William Caplin** is James McGill Professor of Music Theory at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University, specializing in the theory of musical form and the history of harmonic and rhythmic theory in the modern era. A former president of the Society for Music Theory, he is currently a Killam Research Fellow writing a large-scale study on musical cadence.

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