W.A. Mozart – Symphony #40 in G minor

Listening Guide

First Movement: Molto Allegro

Sonata allegro form – duple meter, key of G minor

Time

**Exposition**

0:03 Theme 1 (G min. Key 1) – main melody in the violins

0:32 Bridge material – full orchestra, modulates to B-flat major

0:50 Theme 2 (B-flat major, Key 2) – Lyrical melody in strings with clarinet and bassoon

1:24 Closing material – uses fragments of the “sigh” motive of theme 1 in clarinets and bassoons alternating with rapid descending scales in the orchestra ending in D major

1:56 Exposition is repeated – Theme 1(1:56), Bridge(2:26), Theme 2(2:45), Closing material (3:18).

**Development**

3:50 Development begins with transitioning chords, parody of theme 1 with unsettling shifts in key. Unsettled and foreboding mood.

4:06 Suddenly *forte* in orchestra, drastic change in texture (polyphony), theme 1 alternated between woodwinds and violin1. Heightened tension.

4:33 Suddenly *piano*, violins and woodwinds explore the “sigh” motive

4:49 *Forte* again, “sigh” motive further developed, inverted and expanded leading to a gradual transition to:

**Recapitulation**

5:03 Theme 1 (G min., Key 1)

5:33 Bridge - modulates away from G min., is expanded and returns to D maj. to set up Theme 2

6:14 Theme 2 (**G min**. **Key 1**)

6:53 Closing material (expanded)

7:22 Coda – concludes the first movement with forceful reinforcement of the tonic key.