

The Motive,

The past 2 days we have been looking at the cluster of 4 notes in Beethoven's Piano Sonata ----- the term "motive" is probably a more correct term to use rather than cell.

The second movement of Symphony No. 4 "Adagio" begins with a simple two-note rhythmic figure, or motive that spans the entire movement. We have heard these two notes before. Where? Ta Da! The opening of the Symphony No. 2 but here it is in a different context or reversed and expanded you might say. Da ta Da ta Da ta Da ta Da. In the case of the 4th Symphony it runs throughout the entire movement. It acts as an "Ostinato" or a repeated figure. Look at the second violin part (below)

The image displays a page of a musical score for Violino II, page 6, from Beethoven's Symphony No. 4, second movement. The tempo is marked "Adagio" with a half note equal to 64 (♩ = 64). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score consists of 12 staves of music. The first staff begins with a piano (p) dynamic and a "sempre staccato" instruction. The music features a continuous, rhythmic two-note figure (D4 and E-flat4) that serves as an ostinato. Dynamics include piano (p), crescendo (cresc.), sforzando (sf), and fortissimo (ff). The score includes several marked sections: Section A (measures 15-18), Section B (measures 25-30), and Section C (measures 40-43). Section B includes a "legato" instruction and a "pizz." (pizzicato) marking. Section C includes a "sempre cresc." instruction. The score concludes with a final measure marked with a forte (f) dynamic.

Above this ostinato - or our repeated motive is a beautiful long lyrical melody that Beethoven marks "cantabile". This term is an instruction for those playing this

melody to play it as a great opera singer would sing it. With great beauty of tone and expression but also simply and softly.

Your assignment is to listen for this motive and how it runs through the movement and the beautiful, long, lyrical melody above it. Descriptions like these are what I want to read about in your concert reports.

For quiz 5 the Tympani plays this motive twice in the movement. Using the time stamp of our listening link for Symphony No. 4. When (both times) does the tympani play the motive? As we did with quiz 2 click on the Quiz 5 upload link and write the minute and seconds in the text box – don't submit a document. The second movement begins at about 14 minutes into our recording with Beethoven's hometown band the Vienna Philharmonic.