

PIANO SONATA NO. 8, OPUS 13 IN C MINOR

INTRODUCTION

Written in 1798 and published the following year, it remains one of Beethoven's most celebrated compositions. It is dedicated to his friend Prince Karl von Lichnowsky. Originally thought to have been named by Beethoven himself, it was actually named "Grande Sonate Pathétique" by his publisher, who was impressed by the sonata's tragic sonorities. There are debates whether the composition was inspired by one of Mozart's in regard to the key and general structure; the difference lies in that this Sonata uses a unique motif line throughout which is not found in the compositions of neither Haydn nor Mozart.

For each of the three movements, I will use a modified version of the Sonata-Allegro chart I used for one of my documents in the Classical section as guide, making changes where necessary. Before the chart, I will introduce the following: initial tempo, initial key of the movement, initial time signature (if only one is used) & general movement form. This composition comprises three movements, which is typical of the piano sonatas of this era.

FIRST MOVEMENT

Tempo: *Grave* (Slowly, with solemnity) – *Allegro di molto e con brio* (Quickly, with much vigour)

Key: C Minor

Form: Sonata-Allegro

Noted: This movement is one of the few compositions that contains hundred twenty-eighth notes.

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>KEY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TEMPO</u>	<u>CHARACTERISTICS</u>
INTRODUCTION	C Minor	Common Time: $\frac{4}{4}$	Grave	Heavy to soft chords in both hands Fast technical passages in the right hand Long chromatic scale in the right hand signals the beginning of the Exposition
EXPOSITION		Cut Time: $\frac{2}{2}$	Allegro (di) molto e con brio	
First Theme	C Minor			Aggressive rocket theme then tremolo octaves in left hand
Second Theme	E Flat Minor			Lyrical, Grace notes

Third Theme Codetta	E Flat Major			Crossed hands Alberti-type bass with tremolo in left hand Ideas from the opening Allegro
DEVELOPMENT	G Minor	Common Time: $\frac{4}{4}$ Cut Time: $\frac{2}{2}$	Grave Allegro (di) molto e con brio	Return to the Introduction Extended dominant preparation Broken octaves alternate between right and left hands Long scale-type passage signals return to the Recapitulation
RECAPITULATION First Theme Second Theme Third Theme	C Minor F Minor C Minor	Cut Time: $\frac{2}{2}$	Allegro (di) molto e con brio	Same as the Exposition Unexpected key/modulation Same as the Exposition
CODA	C Minor	Common Time: $\frac{4}{4}$ Cut Time $\frac{2}{2}$	Grave	Brief return to the Introduction Very dramatic Fast octaves in left hand, crescendo Swift cadence, fortissimo (very loud)

SECOND MOVEMENT

Tempo: Adagio Cantabile (Slowly, in a singing style)

Key: A Flat Major

Time: $\frac{2}{4}$

Form: Rondo (A-B-A-C-A) with Coda

Noted: This movement is very lyrical with much phrasing. I will note that here rather than in the chart proper.

SECTION	KEY	CHARACTERISTICS
Theme 1	A Flat Major	3 parts (4 at cadences)
Episode 1	F Minor E Flat Major	Ornamentation
Theme 1	A Flat Major	
Episode 2	A Flat Minor E Major	Chords and octaves Triplet rhythm Marked chords and dynamics signal start of E Major
Theme 1	A Flat Major	Triplet rhythm
Coda	A Flat Major	Triplet rhythm Final chords very soft

THIRD MOVEMENT

Tempo: Allegro

Key: C minor

Time: $\frac{2}{2}$

Form: Rondo (A-B-A-C-A-B-A), with Coda

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>KEY</u>	<u>CHARACTERISTICS</u>
Theme 1 (A)	C Minor	Closely resembles the second theme of the Allegro of the first movement
Episode 1 (B)	E Flat Major	2 parts – both have similar rhythmic and melodic structure Both start lyrical and turn to triplets Second ends with long scale passage to dominant (V) chord
Theme 1 (A)	C Minor	
Episode 2 (C)	A Flat Major	First part: Lyrical Running eighth notes scale passages Finishes with 16 th note broken chords to triplets, ends on V chord
Theme 1 (A)	C Minor	
Episode 1 (B)	C Major	First part is the same as prior Episode 1 Second is lyrical, no triplets, centers around C Minor
Theme 1 (A)	C Minor	16 bars Loud cadential chords signal start of the coda
Coda	C Minor	Brief coda