

Topics in classical music theory

1. the intervals

- complementary
- harmonic/melodic
- consonant/dissonant

2. The chords

- Acoustics: fundamental and overtones, the concepts of consonance and dissonance
- the elements of the triad (root, third, fifth)
- Triadic genres: Major, minor, diminished, augmented
- Basic position, inversions
- seventh chords

3. the metre

- the beat (the time signature, internal subdivisions, accents, etc.)
- Types of time signature
 - regular time signatures
 - irregular time signatures
- the time signature change
- Measure overlays (polymetrics)

4. the rhythm

- Rhythm and time signature: different and at the same time related to each other
- the note values and rests, the dotting, the ties, etc.
- the syncope
- the „irrational“ subdivisions of the time values (triplet, quintuplet etc.)
- the rhythm overlays (polyrhythm)

5. the keys

- Major, minor and their variants (melodic, harmonic)
- the tonality
- the term function and its relationship to chords
- the cadence
- the transposition
- the terms diatonic and chromatic
- correct writing of chromaticism in tonality
- the enharmonic notation
- the relationship between the keys (fifths, thirds)

The five subject areas already listed form the foundation of classical musicology. In addition, there are other areas that are also included in music theory, but which are so broad in themselves that they can also be regarded as completely separate areas. For example:

6. the musical forms (1700 - 1950)

- Prelude / Fugue
- the baroque dance suite
- Passacaglia / Chaconne
- Overture (slow - fast)
- Theme and variations
- the *one-part* sonata
- the sonata in *several parts*
 - the sonata main movement
 - the minuet / scherzo
 - the slow movement
 - the Rondo
- the romantic character piece
- the fugue in the 19th century
- the sonata in the 19th century
- the fractured forms at the beginning of the 20th century
- Neoclassical syntax
- Neoromantic syntax

7. the musical instruments

- acoustic instruments:
 - Strings
 - Wind instruments
 - Percussion
- electronic & mechanical instruments
- Combinations of instruments