

FLORENCE PRICE, SYMPHONY NO. 1 IN E-MINOR (1932)

OVERALL	: <u>EXPOSITION</u>								
Module	<u>P⁰</u>	<u>P^{1.1}</u>	<u>P^{1.2}</u>	<u>P²</u>	<u>P³ = TR⁰</u>	<u>TR^{1.1}</u>	<u>TR^{1.2}</u>	<u>TR²</u>	<u>TR³</u>
Tonal Center	Em→V/E	Em (I)	Em→III/Em	V/Em	Em	Am(iv)	V/E↔	C# ^{o7} →C# ⁷ →D ^{o7} → D ⁷ →D# ^{o7} →D# ^{o9} → E ^{b7} (= Ger ⁺⁶ /G)	V/G [(G/D)→ E ^{b7} /D ^b → E ⁷ /D→ F ⁷ /E ^b →D ⁷]
Internal Form	Small Ternary (Rounded Binary)								
	Lead-In	A (Exposition 1)	A' (Exposition 2)	B (Contrasting Mid.)	A'' (Recap)				
	<i>Basic Idea (bassoon)</i>	<i>Antecedent + Consequent (sentential)</i>	<i>Basic Idea + Contrasting Idea</i>	<i>Pedal Point, Standing on Dominant</i>	<i>Antecedent [Tutti]</i>				
Cadences	i: HC	i: MC, i: Em	i: MC, III: G	i: HC	--	--	--	--	III: HC [MC]
Measure No.	1	7, 11	15, 19	23	37	41	45	50	60
Notes	Expansive opening subject, structured around a minor-pentatonic main theme (P ^{1.1}), sometimes heard in conjunction with countermelody established during brief lead-in section (P ⁰). Core of theme is a small ternary form (AABA), with repeated A-section a loose period, alternating modal and functional half-cadences in E-minor. B-section based on extensive dominant pedal-point, leading to tutti restatement of (dissolving) antecedent portion of A-section. Material recalls at times rhythm and contours of P-themes in Dvorak 9/III and 9/IV.					Hefty, multi-sectional transition following directly on heels of dissolving antecedent at m. 37 (TR ⁰). Some more Dvorak allusions here, esp. textural and harmonic (cf. TR ¹ and TR of AD 9/IV). Important soloistic passages in TR ³ furnish subsidiary motifs used in S.			

OVERALL	: <u>EXPOSITION CONT.</u>					
Module	<u>S^{1.1}</u>	<u>S^{2.2}</u>	<u>S^{1.3}</u>	<u>S^{2.1} / TR^{4.1}</u>	<u>S^{2.2} / TR^{4.2}</u>	<u>K¹</u>
Tonal Center	G (III)	Em (vi)	G→...V/G	↔... V/G→↔	V/E→V/Em	V/E
Internal Form	Loose Knit: Rounded Binary + Free Bridge Section					<i>Pedal Point, Standing on Dominant</i>
	A (Exposition = Parallel Period)	B (Contrasting Middle)	A' (Recapitulation)	C (Transitional/Developmental)		
	<i>Antecedent (horn) + Consequent (oboe)</i>	<i>Sentence (compressed)</i>	<i>Antecedent (strs)</i>			
Cadences	III: IAC (x2)	--	I: HC	--	i: HC	i: HC [no EEC]
Measure No.	71	80	85	89	99	105
Notes	Complex and idiosyncratically built Second Subject area in relative major. Showcases the lyric S1.1 melody, pentatonic and strongly suggestive of Dvorak 9/I, S theme, and treated soloistically on its introduction. Section falls into roughly two parts: a loose knit rounded binary ABA', with A as conventional parallel period, B a short contrasting passage in relative minor, and return to abbreviated A leading to a half-cadence. From there, a hybrid development of S-ideas and transition into closing section, ending on prolonged dominant of global tonic (Em), <i>not</i> relative major (G) – absence of essential expositional closure in S-key gives whole expo a feeling of growing relaxation rather than intensification.					A short, energy-gaining closing passage, melodically more chromatic than previous but functionally fixed on V/Em pedal.

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OVERALL	DEVELOPMENT											
Module	D^{1.1} [S, P]	D^{1.2} [S]	D^{2.1} [S, P]	D^{2.2} [S, P]	D³ [P]	D⁴ [new]	D^{5.1} [P _{major}]	D^{5.2} [PS]	D⁶ [P]	D^{7.1-7.2} [P-new]	D⁸ [S, P]	
Tonal Center	Em→G→ Bm→D→	V/D (VII/Em)	D→D ⁺ → F [#] →F→A ^{b7} →G (V/C)	↔A ⁷ /E↔ [V→I/C] (VI/Em)	Am/C↔ Am↔Em	G↔ Bm	G→C→V/V/G →V/G→G (III/Em)	G	G ⁺ =V ⁺ /C →(Em)	C (VI/Em)	C→B ⁷ → B ^{b7} →A→ ... A ⁺	
Internal Form	<i>Sequential</i>			<i>Periodic</i>	<i>Periodic</i>	<i>Periodic</i>	Contrasting Period			Contrasting Period		
							<i>Ant</i>	<i>Cons</i>	<i>Tonic Pedal</i>	<i>Ant</i>	<i>Cons</i>	
Cadences	--	VII: PAC	VI: DC	VI:: C	i: iv, i: PAC	III: IAC, i: MC	III: IAC, III: PAC	G.P.	--	VI: HC	VI: PAC	--
Measure No.	117	125	128	143	155	165	167	186	189	196	203	
Notes	Development section of Beethovenian scope (106 measures) but with decidedly different expressive gestalt: serenity. Emphasis throughout on major keys close to global tonic of Em (D major, C major, G major) and quiet dynamics. Material predominantly based on S theme, esp. in first half, sometimes in inversion with P. S theme generally retains its tranquil affect. Later sections, beginning with D ³ , begin to stress P theme, now transformed into parallel major (e.g. D ^{5.1} , or more thoroughly reimagined as innately major tune in D ⁷). Abundance of full grammatical themes (D ² , D ⁵ , D ⁷), perfect cadences, fixed 2 and 4 bar phrases, and attendant pauses gives a slightly episodic, halting feeling. Shifting orchestration highly salient, especially when new instruments (trumpet, viola) or textures (pitched percussion) introduced, as in D ^{4.5} . Fewer Dvorak allusions here, besides characteristic use of augmented triads.											

OVERALL	DEV. CONT	RETRANS	RECAP						CODA			
Module	D⁹ [P, S]	D¹⁰	p^{1.1} [var], 0	p^{1.2} [new], S	p² [var], 0	p^{3.1} [var]	p^{3.2} [var]	p^{3.3}	C¹ [P, S]	C² [P]	C^{3.1} [P]	C^{3.2} [P]
Tonal Center	V/A↔... [I→V/C]→	V/Em	Em → V/Em... →B ^{b07}	E ^b ↔	V/Em↔ V/Em	Em	C ⁷⁽⁹⁾ → V/Em→ Em	Em (i)	↔ D→F [#] → V ⁺ /Em→ E ⁺ /D →	A→E ^b → B ⁺⁷ /G (=V/Em)	Am/E →C ⁷ /E	Em
Internal Form		<i>Standing on Dominant</i>	<i>Dissolving Period</i>	<i>Sequential</i>	<i>Standing on Dominant</i>		<i>Brass Chorale</i>	<i>Post-cadence</i>	<i>Sequential</i>	<i>Dominant prep?</i>	<i>Tonic (6/4) Pedal</i>	<i>Tonic Pedal</i>
Cadences	Evaded VI: C → i: HC	i: HC	--	--	i: HC	i: PAC	i: PAC [ESC?]	G.P.	--	i: PAC (Evaded)	i: PC	--
Measure No.	213	223	231	238	242	254	259	262	270	282	284	300
Notes	End of Dev section, based on quick evasion of cadence in C into dominant pedal of Em.		Unorthodox Recap section that lacks restatement of S or K themes—justified, perhaps, by prolonged emphasis on S throughout Development. Entire section based on very expanded, developmental exploration of P theme, with no passages identical to Expo. Several strong PACs in tonic, though unclear if these can count as true ESCs in Hepo/Darcy terms.					Short but emphatic coda, based primarily on P ⁰ and P ¹ , with chromatic sequential progression driving to big plagal cadence over tonic pedal (recalling Dvorak?) and percussion heavy final articulation of E minor.				

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Major Themes

P(0)
Em ————— B



P(1.1)
Em Am/E Bm/E Em Am/E Em Am/E Em



P(1.2)
Em (+planing) —————



S(1.1)
G G G⁶ C[#]m⁷(b5)/G D⁷(sus4)/G D⁷(add9)



S(1.2)
G Em Bm Am⁷ D⁷ G⁶ G



Sources

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- [Pricefest 2021: A New Black Renaissance. International Florence Price Festival \(2021, Talks, Blog, and Scholarly Presentations\)](#)
- [OneComposer \(Online platform w/ performances, talks, resources on Price\).](#)