

# PHRASE AND PERIOD STRUCTURE

**Phrase** – a musical sentence or complete thought that ends with a cadence.

**Period** – a logical grouping of phrases that give an impression of closure (Expository function).

Phrase 1----- H.C. (or I.A.C)    Phrase 2 ----- A.C (or P.A.C.)

ANTECEDENT    (weak or open)    CONSEQUENT                      (stronger or closed)

**Asymmetrical** – a period in which the phrases differ in length.

**Symmetrical** - a period in which the phrases are the same length.

**Parallel** – a period in which the two phrases at least begin with the same or similar material.

**Contrasting** – a period in which the phrases have differing musical material.

**Modulating** – a period in which the Consequent phrase modulates.

**Cadential extension** – the addition of musical material beyond the point at which a cadence is expected.

**Elision** – the cadence point of one phrase becomes the beginning of the next phrase (overlap or dovetail).

**Double Period** – phrase 1 and 3 are often identical or very similar.

Phrase 1 -----I.A.C.    Phrase 2 ----- H.C.    Phrase 3 -----I.A.C.    Phrase 4 -----P.A.C.

**Phrase group** – NOT a period structure. Groups of phrases that end with weak cadences H.C. or I.A.C (Transitional and Developmental functions),

**Cadential Phrase Group** (or Closing section) - groups of phrases that end primarily with P.A.C. (Cadential function).

**Period structures:**

p. 64, m. 1-16 , symm, par.  
p. 66, m. 1-8, symm, par  
p. 140, m. 61-68, symm, par  
p. 163, m. 1-8, symm, par  
p. 184, m. 1-8, symm, par  
p. 225, m. 1-8, symm, contr  
p. 240, m. 1-8, symm, contr  
p. 249, m. 1-16, symm, par  
p. 312, m. 1-8, symm, par  
p. 313, m. 1-8, symm, par

p. 61, m. 1-8, symm, par  
p. 65, m. 1-8 symm, par, mod  
p. 140, m. 1-8, symm, contr, mod  
    m. 21-28, symm, par, mod  
p. 143, m. 1-8, symm, par, mod  
p. 161, m. 1-8, symm, par, mod  
p. 163, m. 1-8, symm, par  
p. 165, m. 1-8, symm, par, mod  
p. 175, m. 1-10, asymm, contr  
p. 176, m. 23-38 dbl period (IAC/HC/IAC/PAC)  
p. 181, m. 1-8, symm, contr  
p. 223, m. 1-14, asymm, par, mod  
p. 243, m. 1-17 (repeated consequent and cadential extension) asymm, contr  
p. 304, m. 1-16, symm, par