

Melody and Meaning

For 5th-8th grades



Lesson 1 — Musical Form: Rondo

Objective

Students will become familiar with a form of orchestral music called rondo form. They will be able to identify the unique themes within the rondo form in the 4th movement of Haydn's Symphony No. 88. They will demonstrate their understanding by creating a sound map while listening.

Suggested Materials

- Recording of Haydn's Symphony No. 88, 4th movement (audio links can be found at [youtube.com/user/BfloPhilharmonic](https://www.youtube.com/user/BfloPhilharmonic))
- Sample sound map of Haydn's Symphony No. 88, 4th movement (provided)
- Sign language pictures for the alphabet letters A, B, C, D and E. (provided)

New York State Arts Standards

MU:Cr2.1.5a	MU:Cr2.1.6a	MU:Cr2.1.7a	MU:Cr2.1.8a
MU:Re7.1.5a	MU:Re7.1.6a	MU:Re7.1.7a	MU:Re7.1.8a
MU:Re7.2.5a	MU:Re7.2.6a	MU:Re7.2.7a	MU:Re7.2.8a

New York State English Language Arts & Literacy Standards

Reading, Standard 2 & 5
Writing, Standard 4
Speaking & Listening, Standard 1, 2 & 5
Language, Standard 1 & 6

Procedure

- 1) Introduce the topic of musical form: One possible definition of music is "organized sound." In order to write music, a composer must choose the sounds that he or she would like to include and then organize these sounds into a form. Discuss: What kinds of musical forms can the students name? (Ex: song, march, anthem, symphony, free form, etc.) Why might you choose one particular form over another? What is the difference between musical form and musical style?
- 2) One important musical form in orchestral music is the rondo form. This kind of musical form does not tell a specific story or ask the listener to picture something in particular. It is a way to organize the music. Write the form on the board for the students to see:
A – B – A – C – A – D - A etc.
Let students know that each letter stands for a theme or section of music. Notice that the first letter theme keeps coming back, over and over, which is a very important element of the rondo form. Rondo forms can add more new letter themes or repeat the A and B sections many more times. It is up to the composer to decide. Teach the students the sign language letters for each of the letters above. They will be using these to show what theme they are hearing in the listening exercise.

Lesson 1 — Musical Form: Rondo (continued)

- 3) Introduce a symphony that uses the rondo form, written by the classical composer Haydn. Haydn wrote over 100 symphonies in his lifetime and this one is #88. Play the beginning of the 4th movement of Haydn's Symphony No. 88. (The first 12 seconds or so). This is the A section. Make sure students are familiar with this melody by playing it a couple of times. Ask them to hold up the sign language letter A when they hear this melody.

Symphony No. 88

Movement 4 opening melody

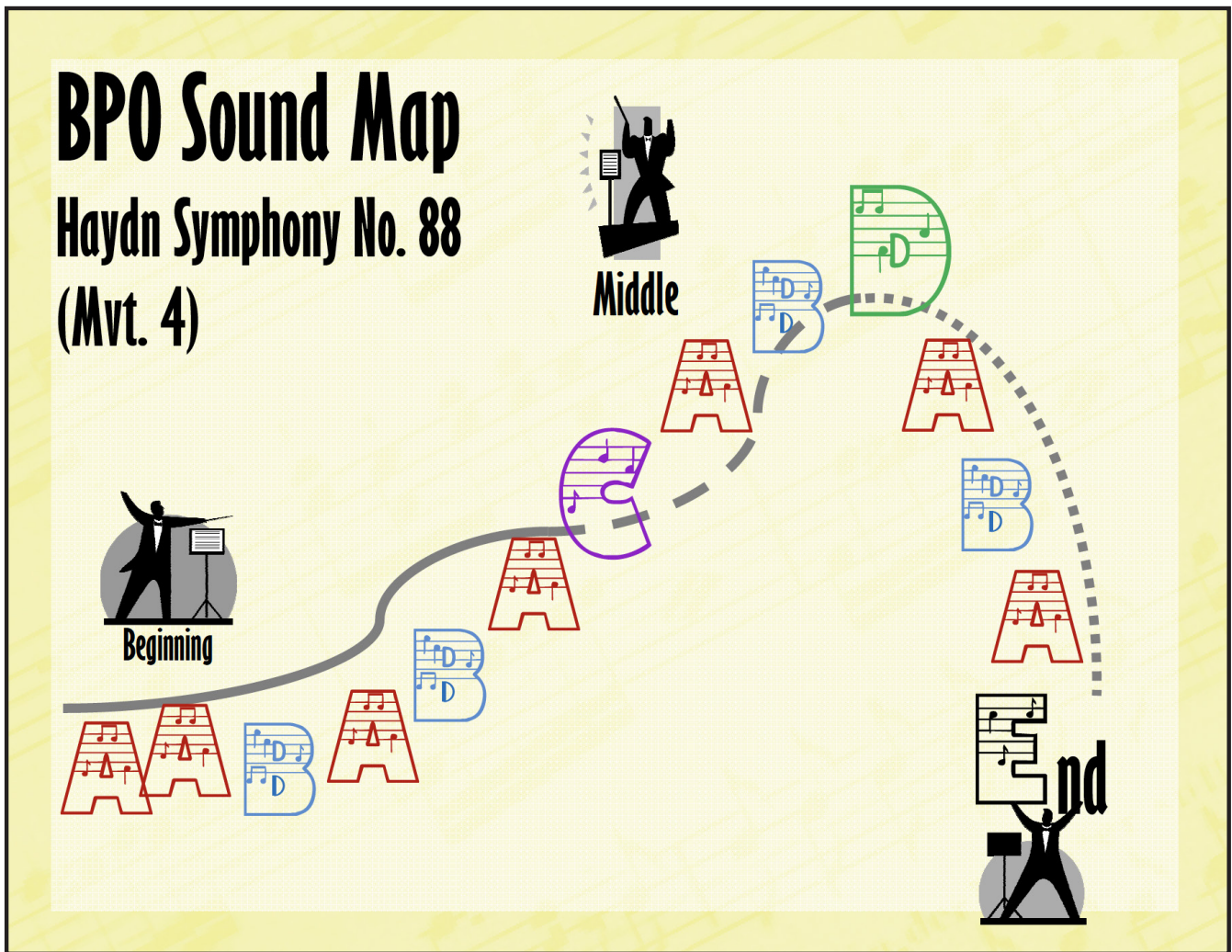
Franz Joseph Haydn

The image shows the opening melody of the 4th movement of Haydn's Symphony No. 88. It is written for Violin and Violin (Vln.) in 2/4 time, G major. The melody consists of two staves. The Violin staff starts with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The Vln. staff starts with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The melody continues with a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4. The melody ends with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5.

- 4) Continue the recording to hear the B section, and ask students to hold up a sign language letter B. When they hear the A section return, ask them to show you the sign language letter A.
- 5) Continue the music and stop after you hear the next section. Did this sound like either A or B music? If not, then assign a letter C. Continue to the end of the piece assigning letters to the sections, as time allows.
- 6) After students have become familiar with the piece and the rondo form, pass out a blank piece of paper and ask students to create a sound map as they listen one more time. They should indicate the themes by letter as they hear them presented in the piece. Afterwards, students can check their work against the sound map provided.

Lesson 1 — Musical Form: Rondo (continued)

Sound Map of Haydn



Lesson 1 — Musical Form: Rondo *(continued)*

Sign Language letters A-E

