

Fugue Analysis Project

Due: Fri., Dec. 8, 11:59 pm

Guidelines

Create a *structural diagram*, *on-score analysis*, *theme chart*, and *supporting paper* for one of the 48 fugues in J. S. Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*. Model analyses are available in Gauldin Ch. 17 & 20 and on the class website.

Deliverables

- **STRUCTURAL DIAGRAM**
Using Gauldin's "Structural Diagram of Bach's Fugue in c (*WTC I*)," p. 224 as a model,¹ or one of the other models we have discussed in class, create a *structural diagram* for your fugue.
- **ON-SCORE ANALYSIS**
As appropriate for the fugue you have chosen:
 1. Add analytical markings to the score that highlight the main components of the fugue; e.g., *Subject (S)*, *Answer (A)*, *Countersubject (CS)*, *Bridge*,² *Episode*, *Stretto*, etc.
 2. Identify the beginning of the *Exposition (EXPO.)*, end of the exposition, and important *cadences*.
 3. Identify *contrapuntal devices* such as inversion of the subject, augmentation/diminution of the subject, and invertible counterpoint involving the main themes (and discuss them in your supporting paper).
 4. Analyze the two-voice counterpoint where the answer is first stated.
- **THEME CHART**
Notate the subject and analyze it; e.g., identify its starting and ending scale degrees, highest note, *head motive*, and *tail motive*, if any. Notate other important subjects, if any; e.g., the *countersubject*, multiple subjects in a double/triple fugue, etc.
- **RECORDING**
Find an outstanding recording³ of the fugue for use in your analysis. Discuss why you chose this particular recording in your supporting paper.
- **SUPPORTING PAPER**
Typed (double spaced, 2-3 pages), bullet-point style, analytical commentary in support of your structural diagram, on-score analysis, theme chart, and recording.

Grading

- **Structural Diagram & Theme Chart – 40%**
Follows the analytical models in the Gauldin textbook or other models we have discussed in class. Exhibits creativity (e.g., use of color), depth, and/or effort.
- **On-Score Analysis – 40%**
Provides a clear on-score overview of the most important elements of the fugue.
- **Supporting Paper – 20%**
Provides more detailed analytical commentary in the form of bullet-points; Cites your recording and discusses why you chose it; Creativity, depth, and/or effort will be rewarded.

Deliverables

Upload the following four files into the *Fugue Analysis Project* Blackboard assignment by the deadline:

1. Structural Diagram (pdf)
2. On-Score Analysis (pdf)
3. Theme Chart (pdf)
4. Supporting Paper (pdf)

¹ See also Gauldin's structural diagram for Fugue No. 8 in D# minor (*WTC I*), p. 226.

² We will use the term *Bridge* (after Benjamin 2003) to refer to episodic passages in a fugue's exposition. For more information, see Gauldin, Ch. 17 The Episode Following the Answer on p. 214.

³ See Listening/Analysis for your instructor's favorite interpretations.