

Project 1: Introduction to Musicological Analysis 1

March 18-April 8

This is the first graded formal writing assignment of the semester. It will be a thesis-driven analytical essay and will be completed in steps:

- March 18 In-class listening, prewriting, developing a thesis, small group discussion
- March 23 First draft due with prewriting
- April 1 Receive feedback from the instructor on your draft and in-class editing
- April 8 Final draft due

I. What are (extra-)musical features that we can listen for and that we use to decide what a piece of music means? List them here.

II. What's your first impression of what this piece means? Write it down here.

III. Refer to the list you made in step 1. For each of these musical features, use the space below to describe how you think that musical feature contributes to the meaning that you find in the piece.

IV. Maybe your idea of what this piece means has evolved or changed. Write down what you now think this piece means in the space below.

V. Your **thesis statement** is a single sentence that summarizes the argument that your essay will make. Turn your main idea of what you think this piece means or communicates into a thesis statement by adding it to the sentence below:

I believe that the main idea which Franz Schubert's *Gretchen am Spinnrade* communicates is

Congratulations—this is your thesis!

VI. A thesis needs support—in this case, the musical features and details that together create the meaning that you've honed in on.

All of the musical features and aspects you've been listening for and describing are important for what you think this piece means, but choose the **one** that you think is the *most* important for understanding the piece and write it down here:

In the space below, list **two** additional musical features from step 3 that also help you find meaning in this piece:

VII. In your essay, you'll use each of these musical features to form the body paragraphs of your essay and will provide examples from the music that support your thesis. Each of the three body paragraphs will focus on one musical feature that supports your essay. Each one will begin with a topic sentence.

1. Write your most important musical feature from step 6 in this sentence:

The most important feature to listen for [or think about] in order to understand what this piece of music communicates is _____

2. Write a second important musical feature from step 6 in this sentence:

Another important feature to listen for [or think about] in order to understand what this piece of music communicates is _____

3. Your third body paragraph will use examples about another musical feature. Write your third important musical feature from step 6 in this sentence:

Finally, _____

also helps the listener understand what this piece of music communicates.

Congratulations—you've created a basic outline of your essay in steps 7 and 8!