

FORM IN MUSIC

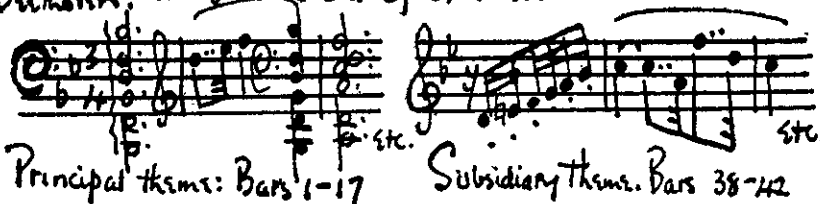
THE eighth of a series of brief articles by BESSIE POLLARD, Mus. Bac., on "Form in Music." These articles are closely related to a series of programmes on the same topic now being heard from 2YC on Friday evenings. Each of our articles is illustrated by a few bars of the music under discussion.

8 The Slow Movement

WHEN we examined the Sonata as a complete entity, we noticed that usually the opening movement is considered the most significant portion of the whole work. At this stage of the composition the composer is able to command the utmost critical attention from his listeners because their emotional and mental alertness is keen and unimpaired.

Modified "First-movement" form:

Beethoven: "Adagio" Sonata op. 31 No. 2.



So, succeeding the vigorous and thought-provoking first movement we have the relaxing slow movement. This is essentially slow-moving, song-like, full of feeling and harmonious in character, a complete foil to the quicker speed and concentrated design of the opening movement. It may be cast in any of the following forms: (a) Episodical form—on the same three-part formula as the Minuet and the Scherzo; (b) Modified (abridged) "first-movement" form; (c) Theme and Variations; (d) Complete "first-movement" form; (e) Rondo-form.

The Episodical form is possibly the one most employed—a very good example is the slow movement of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. Modified "first-movement" form is often used also. It is merely "first-movement" form omitting the development section—that is to say, the first section, comprising the principal theme and the subsidiary

theme, is linked with the third section (principal theme, subsidiary theme, and coda) by a modulating "bridge" passage, often just one chord. Variation form we have already dealt with in a previous article. Complete "first-movement" form, assuming that it is relatively seldom used, is remarkably represented in the Adagio of Beethoven's Piano Sonata in B Flat, Op. 22.

From the "bird's-eye view" we have had so far of the Sonata-form works as

a whole, and the various types of movement in detail, we can realise that the entire Sonata (and the Symphony) with its "diversity within unity" is the sum of the centuries' achievements in instrumental composition, and the expansion of those achievements. It musters the combined craftsmanship of harmony and counterpoint, the basic essentials of song and the dance, and that necessary vital perception on the composer's part of the splendid possibilities of instrumental tonal potentialities, whether heard solo, or in combination. The movements are placed in such sequence as to obtain a workmanlike edifice within whose confines we have an equal and satisfying distribution of mental, emotional and formal content.

THE SLOW MOVEMENT—the eighth of the series, FORM IN MUSIC—will be heard from Station 2YC at 9.30 p.m. on Friday, October 24.

SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

TO give better reception in remote areas from the main cities, the Australian Broadcasting Commission has three shortwave transmitters carrying their Interstate and National programmes. These stations are being received at fair strength here during the day, but reception improves during the evening.

Stations, Frequencies, Wavelengths and Times of Transmission: VLR, 9.54 mc/s., 31.45 metres (8.0 a.m.—8.30 p.m.); VLR2, 6.15, 48.28 (8.45 p.m.—2.0 a.m.); VLH5, 15.24, 19.69 (9.0 a.m.—8.15 p.m.); VLH3, 9.58, 31.32 (8.30 p.m.—2.0 a.m.); VLQ3, 9.66, 31.06 (9.0 a.m.—2.0 a.m.).

Headlines in the Programmes: Empire Report, 8.15 p.m. Sunday, VLQ3; Guest of Honour, 9.15 p.m., Sunday, VLQ3; Quality Street, 8.30 p.m., Sunday, VLR2; Sonata Recital, 10.0 p.m.,

Sunday, VLR2; One World Flight, 11.30 p.m., Sunday, VLR2; Boxing Summary, 12.40 p.m., Monday, VLQ3; Nation's Forum of the Air, 10.0 p.m., Wednesday, VLR2; It's a Date, 9.15 p.m., Thursday, VLQ3; The Screen Presents, 10.0 p.m., Thursday, VLQ3; Australian Walkabout, 11.15 p.m., Thursday, VLQ3; Boy Dyer's Dude Ranch, 9.15 p.m., Friday, VLQ3; Radio Rodeo, 10.0 p.m., Friday, VLQ3; Famous Radio Plays, 11.30 p.m., Friday, VLQ3; Australoddlities, 8.0 p.m., Saturday, VLQ3; Sporting Round Up (Daily feature), 8.30 p.m., VLQ3; Saturday Night Drama, 10.0 p.m., VLQ3; Week-end Magazine, 9.15 p.m., Saturday, VLR2; Saturday Night Concert, 10.0 p.m., Saturday, VLR2.

The Interstate evening programme is announced at 8.25 p.m. from VLQ3 and the National programme at 8.55 p.m. from VLR2.

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