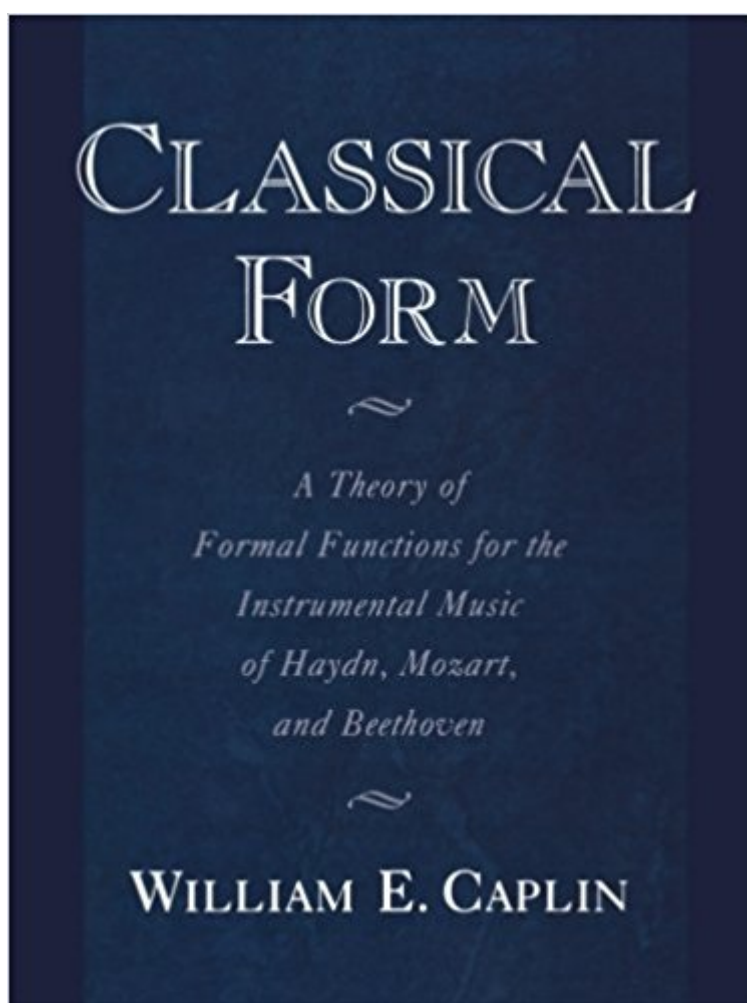


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# Classical Form: A Theory Of Formal Functions For The Instrumental Music Of Haydn, Mozart, And Beethoven



## Synopsis

Building on ideas first advanced by Arnold Schoenberg and later developed by Erwin Ratz, this book introduces a new theory of form for instrumental music in the classical style. The theory provides a broad set of principles and a comprehensive methodology for the analysis of classical form, from individual ideas, phrases, and themes to the large-scale organization of complete movements. It emphasizes the notion of formal function, that is, the specific role a given formal unit plays in the structural organization of a classical work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This ambitious book offers nothing less than a new theory of form for the music of the Classical period....In its combination of scholarship, musicality and sheer common sense, Caplan's Classical Form is a major achievement by any standards....it should be read by anybody who teaches, studies or writes about this music."--Music and Letters  
"His book is an important and impressive statement that no theorist or musicologist can afford to ignore."--Music Theory Spectrum  
"A compilation of intriguing examples illustrating classical design and function, an up-to-date bibliographical guide, and a source of fresh insight into the accomplishments of the classical masters. Caplan's approach, buttressed by methodological rigor and theoretical detail, makes a persuasive case for the revival of Formenlehre as a pedagogical tool and analytical discipline."--Music Theory Online  
"Caplan draws his Beethoven examples from all genres...the fortepiano sonatas are particularly well-represented."--The Beethoven Journal

William E. Caplin is at McGill University.

This book is a welcome explanation of music in the Classical period. The examples are clear without being overly explanatory. The list of selections are given as true representations of the period and their purpose in music history. A good companion to 'Sonata Forms' by Charles Rosen.

Mind blowing and concise!

good condition

I bought this as a text book, but it is a great reference tool if you need to know about Classical sonata form.

Great

A fundamental text in music theory.

Excellent

Great book.

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