

Music 212: More on the digression. . .

Joseph Riepel, a theorist ca. 1752, reported on **three** descriptive names for the harmonic techniques composers frequently employ right after the first double bar (beginning of the digression). Note: this is usually the most “developmental” section of a piece.

They’re good terms to keep in mind. They don’t excuse you from proper sequence analysis, though!

I. PONTE – (“Bridge”) Denotes a large expansion of the dominant harmony. The long hold on V can be thought of as a stable bridge spanning a waterway. Note: Riepel’s use of the word “bridge” does not correspond to modern definitions!

Two themes from Mozart works:

K. 353/300f

TEMA
Andante

mezza voce

legato

TEMA
Moderato

mf

II. MONTE – (“Mountain”) Refers to an ascending harmonic sequence, which can sound like a climb upward through pitch space.

From Beethoven: Scherzo from Piano Sonata in D, op. 28

Allegro vivace.

The musical score is written for piano and bass. It begins with the tempo marking "Allegro vivace." and a key signature of two sharps (D major). The time signature is 3/4. The score consists of six systems of two staves each. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), *pp* (pianissimo), *cresc.* (crescendo), and *decresc.* (decrescendo). The piece concludes with a section labeled "Trio." marked by a double bar line and a first ending bracket.

III. FONTE – (“Fountain”) Refers to a descending harmonic sequence, which evokes the sense of water falling through the tiers of a fountain.

Beethoven, Quartet IV (movt 4)

Allegro .

The musical score is written for four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked "Allegro .". The score shows measures 1 through 9. The first violin part features a descending harmonic sequence, which is the "Fountain" motif. The dynamics are marked as *p* (piano) and *f* (forte), with *cresc.* (crescendo) markings indicating the build-up of the sequence. The other instruments provide harmonic support with chords and moving lines.