

Name: _____

Assignment 17

Formal analysis

- 1) Analyze the form of “With A Little Help From My Friends.” You can use the lyrics on the reverse of this page as a skeleton and write your analysis directly on the page. This is a Verse-Chorus-Bridge form and you should use those terms in your analysis. Use our analysis of “Beautiful Boy” as a model. For extra credit, figure out (or look up) the chords/harmonic areas and discuss how they relate to the form.
- 2) Listen to Schumann’s “An Important Event” with “soft focus”—i.e. attentively, but trying to get the big shape.
You should listen more than once, and at least the first couple of times **without** following the score. (The score is on our website.) It can be instructive to sketch the form graphically (in whatever way is meaningful to you) to help guide your hearing.
- 3) Mark the main cadences on the score. At this point, you are indicating **where** you think they occur, not yet looking at the pitch details to determine **what** kind of cadences they are. Locate the cadences by ear, following along in the score, not by “figuring them out” from close reading of the notes.
- 4) Only after you have indicated the cadences in this way, figure out what **kind** of cadence each one is (IAC, PAC, HC, Phrygian HC, Plagal) and what **key area** the cadence is in. Indicate this in your score.
- 5) Only after doing step 5, make a complete RN analysis on the score. Classify each modulation by type (pivot chord, direct, sequential). Is the tonal motion in bars 12-14 best understood as a modulation or a tonicization? Can you see how it helps to emphasize the overarching tonal scheme of the piece?
- 6) Harmony is not everything! List as many contrasts as you can between the A section and the B section of this piece besides the different key areas.
- 7) Finally, on the back of the music or on a separate piece of paper, make a bubble diagram of the phrases and the larger organization. Your diagram should indicate key areas, and RN’s at cadences (with bar numbers for reference along the timeline), but should not repeat your detailed RN analysis.
- 8) Staple all pages together before turning in.

(put your letters and other formal symbols/
explanations to the left of the lyrics)

A Little Help From My Friends

What would you think if I sang out of tune,
Would you stand up and walk out on me.
Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song,
And I'll try not to sing out of key.
Oh I get by with a little help from my friends,
Mmm, I get high with a little help from my friends,
Mmm, I'm gonna try with a little help from my friends.

What do I do when my love is away.
(Does it worry you to be alone)
How do I feel by the end of the day
(Are you sad because you're on your own)
No, I get by with a little help from my friends,
Mmm, get high with a little help from my friends,
Mmm, gonna to try with a little help from my friends

Do you need anybody?
I need somebody to love.
Could it be anybody?
I want somebody to love.

Would you believe in a love at first sight?
Yes I'm certain that it happens all the time.
What do you see when you turn out the light?
I can't tell you, but I know it's mine.
Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends,
Mmm I get high with a little help from my friends,
Oh, I'm gonna try with a little help from my friends

Do you need anybody?
I just need someone to love.
Could it be anybody?
I want somebody to love

Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends,
Mmm, gonna try with a little help from my friends
Ooh, I get high with a little help from my friends
Yes I get by with a little help from my friends,
With a little help from my friends.