

# Listening Guide

## Haydn: Symphony No. 94 in G major (*Surprise*), Second Movement

**DATE OF WORK:** First performed 1792

**MEDIUM:** Orchestra, with pairs of flutes, oboes, bassoons, French horns, and trumpets, along with strings and timpani

**MOVEMENTS:**

- I. Adagio cantabile; Vivace assai; sonata-allegro form, G major
- II. Andante; theme and variations form, C major
- III. Menuetto: Allegro molto; minuet and trio form, G major
- IV. Allegro molto; sonata-allegro form, G major

**WHAT TO LISTEN FOR:** Folklike theme in 2 regular phrases, each repeated (**binary structure**). Loud, crashing chord (the “surprise”) at the end of the first theme. 4 variations on the theme: changes in dynamics and texture (Var. 1); shift in key center, from major to minor (Var. 2); quick-paced rhythms treatment (Var. 3); and varied orchestration and dynamics (Var. 4).  
Eighteenth-century period string, wind, and percussion instruments.

### Second Movement: Andante; theme and variations form, 2/4 meter, C major

Theme—folklike melody; in 2 parts, each repeated (binary).

**A section**—melody outlines triad, played staccato in strings; 8 measures:



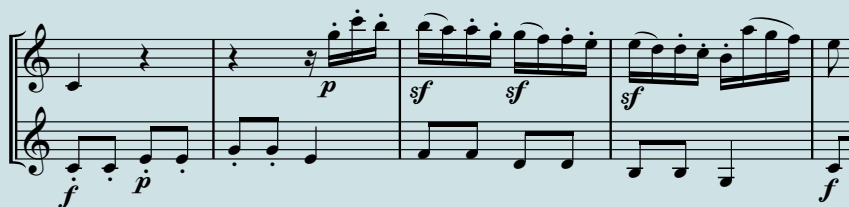
**A section** repeated, pianissimo, followed by fortissimo chord.

**B section**—disjunct theme, ending in style of **A**, 8 measures:



**B section** repeated, with flutes and oboes.

Variation 1—**A** section begins with loud chord, has violin counter melody:



**A** repeated.

**B**, with decorated violin line.

**B** repeated.

Variation 2—**A** heard *fortissimo*, in C minor (later shifts to major):



**A** repeated.

Development of **A**, with fast passages in strings, remains in minor.

Solo violins lead into Variation 3.

Variation 3—**A** in fast rhythm, heard in oboes:

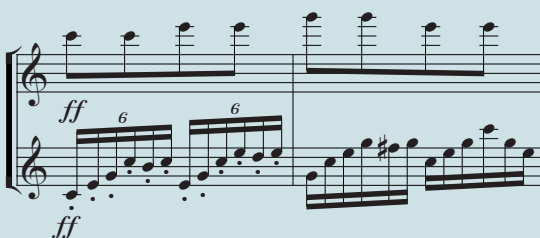


**A** repeated in violins, with woodwind counter melody; low strings drop out.

**B** continues with violins and woodwinds alone.

**B** repeated.

Variation 4—**A** heard in full orchestra, loud statement, accents on offbeats:



**A** heard in violins in uneven, dotted rhythm, with accompaniment playing offbeats.

**B** continues in uneven rhythms in strings.

**B** repeated in loud statement by full orchestra.

Bridge to coda; staccato pattern, followed by sustained chord.

Coda returns to **A** melody, with varied harmony underneath; ends quietly in C major.