

[illegible]

## Brahms: Symphony No. 3 in F major, Third Movement

**DATE OF WORK:** 1883

**GENRE:** Symphony

**MEDIUM:** Orchestra (strings and woodwinds only in this movement)

**MOVEMENTS:**

- I. Allegro con brio; sonata-allegro, F major
- II. Andante; modified sonata form, C major
- III. Poco allegretto; **A-B-A'** form, C minor
- IV. Allegro; sonata-allegro; F major

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**WHAT TO LISTEN FOR:** Melancholy minor-key melody in cellos, then violins, woodwinds, and French horns.  
Regular, symmetrical phrases set in moderate triple meter.  
3-part structure with modal shifts (minor-major-minor).  
Rhythmic complexity through “three-against-two” patterns:  
syncopated rhythms that lean over the barline.

**Third movement: Poco allegretto; A-B-A' form, 3/8 meter, C minor**

**mezza voce**

2nd theme, played by violins, “leans” over the barline over moving cello line; violins and cellos join in brief duet:



**B** section—connected 3-note figure in woodwinds, in A-flat major, accompanied by offbeat sixteenth notes in the cellos:



**A'** section—French horns announce the opening theme in C minor, with richer orchestration.

Theme 2, now heard in the clarinets and bassoons.

Brief coda; reminiscent of **B** section; last chord is punctuated by pizzicato strings.