

Score Study Goal- to illuminate the music

Not necessarily to point out features, or label the form (these are possible steps to understanding the music, but not an end goal), but to understand **HOW** the elements fit together to form the whole, and the purpose they serve towards the composer's artistic goal.

1) Reading- to get a general clue about the elements that make up the composition

- Background research can put the music in context and help bring it to life
- Most important information is at the top and left of the first page
- Flip through the score a few times with **an open mind**
- Notice details, but don't get bogged down
- Begin to develop and trust your intuition during this phase**
(all knowledge is dependent on the question asked)

✳️ Come up with questions, and write them down (post-its work great)

2) Tonal analysis- Understanding vertical and horizontal harmonic plan

- The composer has an overall plan, and then writes details make it work
- We need to know the details, **then** put them together to see the overall plan
- Don't try to force an analysis yet- **this is just a data gathering phase- keep an open mind!**

3) Formal plan/ design- from your tonal analysis

- This is the overall structure, not necessarily the **substance** (it's a skeleton)
- This will give you a clue as to what is happening at any given moment and will help you see the big picture.

The above steps are preliminary background information for real creative analysis. At this point, you can go through and make **informed musical decisions representing your best thoughts on what the composer intended**.

4) Musical Decisions-

- During this phase, you must invest your thought and imagination to achieve a coherent picture of the music and bring it to life
- Think about the sounds (remember, music is for the ears, not the eyes!)
- You should have a musical goal for every measure, there is no "filler" (unless the composer sucks)
- Remember that all the details work together to form the overall composition

✳️ You can't, and shouldn't necessarily have solid, inflexible answers to all questions. Some answers will become apparent through the rehearsal process and based on what the ensemble is bringing to the table. Be open to an artistic collaboration!

5) Translate your score knowledge into conducting

- For any given section of the piece (using post-its or writing on the score):
 1. List the musical events
 2. Decide on an adjective or "action item" to make each event happen
 3. Construct a musical narrative to connect these events
- Read through the section repeatedly, audiating or singing (not conducting), connecting the details, being as musical as possible. **Use your imagination!**
- As you repeatedly read through the section, let yourself naturally move (no conducting), and allow your body to memorize how the music "feels"
- As you get ready to work with a group, let your intellectual analysis rest for a few days but keep reading through and audiating, "living with the music." (Kleiber)