

Composition Project, Step 9: Assemble the Piece

The final step is to take the various parts, all of which have now been written, and assemble the piece, following the plan from the overview given at the start of the notes.

At this point you should also keep an ear out for small revisions that may make the piece more effective.

Final versions of the major and minor pieces are found among the sample pieces linked from the page of notes on the composition project.

As you will see, the major piece received very little in the way of further revision; the only change from the individual parts is a passing tone in the bass in the first measure of the b section.

The minor piece was much more significantly changed.

Most importantly, it seemed too short when the parts were assembled, and so I decided to end the piece with a non-modulating version of the whole parallel period from the A section, not just a single phrase. This didn't involve any extra composition, it just meant inserting another statement of Phrase 1 between Phrase 3 (the contrasting section) and Phrase 4.

There were also a few smaller changes. I adjusted the harmonization in the third measure of Phrase 3, mainly because the skeletal harmonization didn't seem entirely satisfactory in the embellished version. And I added a sixteenth-note passing tone in m. 3 (and in m. 15) to improve continuity.