Detecting Compositional Problems and their Solutions
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During the composition of certain pieces, potential “problems” may arise that require resolution. However, their detection and solutions are rarely addressed in analysis classes. This paper will first explore several typical situations existing in minuet/scherzos or popular songs, such as “off-tonic” openings or the use of foreign keys in Trios or bridges. Emphasis will then shift to four more extended movements of Beethoven, Brahms, Wagner, and Rachmaninoff, highlighting particular tonal, thematic, and formal problems and how their respective composers dealt with them.