

Schenkerian Analysis and Occam's Razor

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Abstract

In its best manifestations, Schenkerian analysis is not an empirical process that seeks to uncover features that are concretely present within a composition, nor does it necessarily document how compositions are heard by qualified musicians. Rather, Schenkerian analysis most effectively serves as an interpretive process that endeavors to describe how a composition might be perceived most effectively.

Keywords: Schenker; Beethoven Sonata in D Minor, Op. 31, No. 2, III ("Tempest"); Chopin Etude in C Minor, Op. 10, No. 1 ("Revolutionary"); suggestive theory; descriptive theory.