

EXAMPLE 8.4 Beethoven, Symphony no. 5 in C minor, op. 67

C: I V⁷ I V⁷ I V⁷ I V I

DVD 1
CH 8
TRACK 3

Although the tonic is the ultimate goal of all tonal motions, small yet important arrivals often occur on the dominant, heightening musical drama and propelling the music forward. Listen to the opening of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony (Example 8.5). The four-measure phrase leads from the tonic to the dominant, creating the effect of a musical question that needs an answer.

EXAMPLE 8.5 Beethoven, Symphony no. 6, "Pastorale," in F major, op. 68, *Allegro ma non troppo*

I V

DVD 1
CH 8
TRACK 4

We have seen such stops before, both melodically and contrapuntally, and have identified them as *cadences*. Let's add a final component to the mix, harmony, so that we can expand our knowledge of this most important musical event.

The Cadence

A cadence is a point of arrival that usually occurs at the end of a phrase. We first encountered cadences in our exploration of two-voice counterpoint. In the previous examples in the present chapter we discovered that a sense of closure occurs, regardless of whether or not an example ends on I or V. This is because the forward motion of the music often stops on these chords, given the changes in the rhythm and the completion of larger metrical patterns. Further, specific soprano scale degrees are coordinated with these harmonic arrivals such that the entire musical fabric of melody, harmony, counterpoint, rhythm, and meter participates in this phrase-defining moment.

Mozart's Rondo contains examples of the two structural cadences used in tonal music (see Example 8.6). It can be divided into two parallel four-measure phrases. The reason we divide this excerpt's phrases into four-measure spans rather than two-measure spans is that the two-measure spans do not give the impression of a tonal motion in which two or more harmonies succeed one another and lead to a tonal goal. Harmonic as well as melodic motion is necessary to create a phrase. The first phrase closes on the dominant of C major (m. 4),