

Johannes Brahms
String Quartet in C Minor, Op. 51 No.1
Movement IV – Allegro

Listening Guide

1. **1st THEME - UNISON** “anguished cry”
2. Lower three **VOICES** comment strongly
3. **1st THEME** recurs in **1st VIOLIN** only
4. Rhythmic “kernel” of **1st THEME** ____ times in Lower three **VOICES**
5. **2nd THEME** in **2nd VIOLIN & VIOLA**
6. **DYNAMIC** “bottom” drops out...*piano* (soft)...**IMITATION**
7. **UNISON** passages lead to restatement of “anguished cry”
8. “Anguished cry” is transformed – how? *Poco tranquillo*
9. Tension is built with rhythmic “kernel” *poco a poco crescendo ed agitato*
(little by little gradually louder and agitated)
10. **MOVEMENT “RECAPITULATES”** with “anguished cry” **1st VIOLIN**
11. **1st THEME** and other ideas “developed” in different **KEYS**

12. Brief **UNISON** precedes **2nd THEME** in **2nd VIOLIN & VIOLA**
13. **DYNAMIC** “bottom” drops out...*piano* (soft) – like # ____?
14. **UNISON** passages lead to restatement of “anguished cry”
15. “Anguished cry” transformed...*dolce ed espressivo* (sweet & expressively)
16. Tension is built in **ASCENDING SEQUENCE**
17. Intense emotionally devastating **EFFECTIVE SURPRISE**
CHORDS and **RESTS** (silences)
18. Now Brahms abruptly delivers the “anguished cry” **1st VIOLIN**
19. Music drives toward another statement of **2nd THEME?**
20. **NO! CODA** (special ending) based on **2nd THEME**
21. *Stringendo* (accelerating) to final three **CHORDS ! ! !**