

J.S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto #3 analysis

Melody

Written in contrapuntal style - several melodies playing simultaneously
Difficult to distinguish phrases; melodies tend to be lengthy
Melodic motive - first three notes of the first movement
Combination of leaps and steps in first movement, primarily stepwise motion in the third movement

Rhythm

Driving, motoric rhythm in outer movements
Rhythmic motive in the first movement - first three notes
Regular pulse always felt strongly

Texture

Polyphonic texture in the first and third movements
Alternatively thick and thin density of texture (orchestra/soloists)

Harmony

Key of G major
Use of dissonance to build tension

Form

First movement: Ritornello principle - main "theme" returns every so often, alternating with "episodes" for soloists
Second movement: Two chords(!) with violin improvisation
Third movement: Binary form (AABB)