**MUSIC 222 FINAL ESSAYS**

**Write an essay of 7-9 pp. on one of these topics. You may combine elements of these topics but, in doing so, be sure to keep a strong focus.**

**Your exam is due Wed May 9 at noon. Electronic submissions are fine.**

**Unlike in our midterm, this essay needs to incorporate some aspect of Rosen’s *The Romantic Generation*. You may bring his ideas into your essay either as a quote that you feature in your discussion or a specific formulation that would offer a short phrase from Rosen.**

**Crucial to the success of your essay will be the incorporation of musical materials. I strongly recommend that you add musical examples in order to pinpoint the places in our music that illustrate your argument.**

**You are welcome to use your scores and notes.**

**In writing about the music please refer to the printed scores, referencing 1) page numbers (reader page number if the score is part of our readers) and 2) individual system and 3) measures: p. 206 in the reader/system 2 from the top of the pace/measure 4 in the system identified becomes p206/s2/m4**

**TOPICS**

**I. CHALLENGES OF FORM**

**The romantic generations each confronted the challenges of composing “after Beethoven” in their own way. Each generation grappled with how to create newly- fashioned, dynamic compositional solutions that moved beyond the traditions of phraseology and form. At the same time composers sought to incorporate crucial elements of their artistic goals—most prominently, expressions of nationalism and narratives of personal subjectivity.**

**II. TOPICS ACROSS BOUNDARIES**

**Composers in all generations have employed the established topics in music—pastoral, sacred choral style, lyrical song style, learned style, historicized styles, depictions of nature, marches & dances, ceremonial music, to name a few. The possibilities for detailing these topics and even mixing them opens up possibilities for greater subtlety and shifts in tone. Composers in the romantic generations were drawn to these possibilities and explored a wide range of topics displayed in new inflections and combinations.**

**III. EXPANDING SOUND AND COLOR**

**The romantic generations move beyond the use of special effects to interest us in new sounds. For these composers newly fashioned sounds play an important role in the meaning and form of their music. Building form and meaning around a new sound world revolutionized how composers viewed the exploration of virtuosity and the expanding capacity of ever-improving instrumental capabilities.**