

MODULATION

Modulation is the process of change of key in a musical composition. Usually after an exposition, composers like to explore various keys during the development section as musical exploration and to create interest in the ear. In Fugues, modulation helps in development of a theme or subject. There are two major steps in the modulatory process: Preparation (use of pivot chord) and Cadence in the new key. This is not applicable to all types of modulation. Modulation is usually obvious when you begin to see chromatic notes dominating a section.

We have several types of modulation

1. Gradual modulation: This is modulation to related and relative keys.
2. Abrupt modulation: This is modulation to distant (or unrelated keys)
3. Implied modulation: This is modulation without the use of accidentals.
4. Partial modulation: This is a short sudden modulation. It is also called transition.