Brahms symphony no. 2, in D Major

1. Brahms and the symphony
   a. No. 1 was completed in 1876. It took him 14 years to complete.
   b. Symphony no. 2 was written within a year of its predecessors’ completion, written in the summer of 1877 and performed in December of the same year.

2. Symphony no. 2
   a. The melancholy symphony?
      i. Thought to be a joke
      ii. Merit in the claim
   b. Instrumentation
      i. Winds-2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoon, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, and tuba.
      ii. 1 timpani
      iii. Strings-2 violin, 1 viola, 1 violoncello.
   c. Total length
      i. First Movement- 20:47
      ii. Second Movement- 10:33
      iii. Third Movement- 5:30
      iv. Fourth Movement- 8:50
      v. Total- 46:24

3. Analysis- Multi-movement sonata form
   a. First Movement-Allegro non troppo
      i. Sonata form
      ii. Key: D Major
   b. Second Movement-Adagio non troppo
      i. Sonata form
      ii. Key: B Major
   c. Third Movement-Allegretto Grazioso
      i. Rondo form
      ii. Key: G Major
   d. Fourth Movement-Allegro Con Spirito
      i. Sonata Rondo Form
      ii. Key: D Major

Movement I

Allegro non troppo-Single movement sonata form in D major

Introduction
Measures 1-43 (43 measures)  Key: D Major

Exposition
Measures 44-186 (142 measures)

*Primary Theme:* Measures 44-102 (58 measures)  Key: D Major

*Secondary Theme:* Measures 103-186 (83 measures)  Key: A Major

[Repeat exposition]

**Development**
Measures 186-249 (63 measures)

Keys: A Major, F Major, Bb Major, E Major, g# minor, A Major

**Recapitulation**
Measures 250-476 (226 measures)  Key: D Major

*Primary Theme:* Measures 250-349 (99 measures)  Key: D Major

*Secondary Theme:* Measures 350-476 (126 measures)  Key: D Major

**Codetta**
Measures 477-523 (46 measures)  Key: D Major

**Movement II**

*Adagio non troppo-* Single movement sonata form in B Major

**Exposition**
Measures 0-32 (32 measures)

*Primary theme:* Measures 0-12 (12 measures)  Key: B Major

*Secondary theme:* Measures 13-32 (20 measures)  Key: F# Major

**Development**
Measures 33-56 (23 measures)

Keys: C# Major, F# Major, C# Major, b minor, B major, a minor

**Recapitulation**
Measures 57-104 (47 measures)

*Primary Theme:* Measures 57-104 (15 measures)  Key: g# minor

*Secondary Theme:* Measures 73-96 (23 measures)  Key: B Major
Primary Theme: Measures 97-104 (7 measures) Key B Major

Incipient Ternary?

Movement III

Allegretto Grazioso-Rondo form in G Major

A section
Measures 1-32 (32 measures) Key: G Major

B section
Measures 33-106 (73 measures) Key: G Major

A_1 section
Measures 107-125 (18 measures) Key: E Major

C section
Measures 126-193 (67 measures) Key: D Major

A_2 section
Measures 194-218 (24 measures) Key: F# Major

A_3 section
Measures 219-240 (21 measures) Key: G Major

Movement IV

Allegro con spirito-Sonata-rondo form in D major

Exposition
Measures 0-154 (154 measures)

(A)Primary Theme: Measures 0-59 (59 measures) Key: D Major

(B)Secondary Theme: Measures 60-154 (94 measures) Key: A Major

Development
Measures 155-243 (88 measures)

Keys: (A)D Major and (C)B minor

Recapitulation
Measures 244-429 (185 measures)

(A)Primary Theme: Measures 244-280 (36 measures) Key: D Major
(B) **Secondary Theme:** Measures 281-359 (78 measures) Key: D Major

Codetta
Measures 360-429 (68 measures) Key: D Major

**Bibliography**

Brahms, Johannes. Symphony no. 4 in D Major.


Volk, Anja. "Metric Investigations in Brahms Symphonies."

