

Form and Structure

Exploring Musical Structures



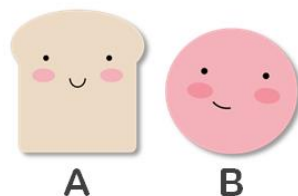
A. Question and Answer Phrases

Two short sections in a piece of music. The first **QUESTION PHRASE** is followed by the **ANSWER PHRASE** which in some way copies or answers the first – like a ‘musical conversation’. The **MELODY** below shows the opening of “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” - notice how the **QUESTION PHRASE** rises in **PITCH** and the **ANSWER PHRASE** descends in **PITCH**.



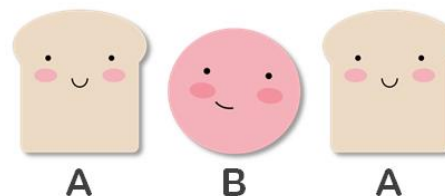
B. Binary Form

BINARY FORM (AB) describes music in two sections. The first section can be labelled “A” and the second section “B” (either or both sections may be repeated). The “B” section **contrasts** musically in some way to the first “A” section.



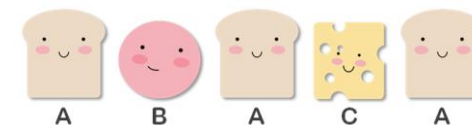
C. Ternary Form

TERNARY FORM (ABA) describes music in three sections. The first section can be labelled “A” and the second section “B”. The “B” section **contrasts** in some way to the first “A” section which is then **repeated** after the “B” section again.



D. Rondo Form

RONDO FORM (ABACADA...) describes music where a main **theme** or **melody** “A” keeps returning between different contrasting sections “B, C, D...” (called **episodes**)

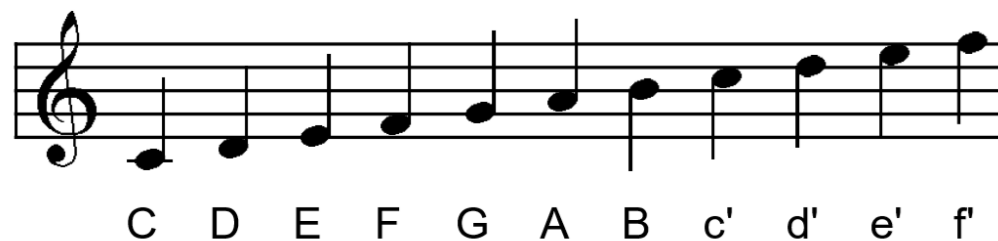


E. Key Words

- FORM/STRUCTURE** – How a piece of music is organised into different sections or parts.
- PHRASE** – A short section of music, like a “musical sentence”.
- PITCH** – The **highness** or **lowness** of a sound or musical note.
- MELODY/THEME** – The main **tune** of a piece of music. The melody or theme often varies in **pitch** and “good melodies” have an organised and recognisable shape.
- HARMONY** – Playing two or more notes at the same time. The “harmony part” in music is different to the melody part.
- DRONE** – A repeated note or notes of **long duration** played through the music. When two notes are used, they are often **five** notes apart (a **fifth**).
- OSTINATO** – A repeated musical pattern. An ostinato can be a repeated rhythm or a repeated melody and are usually short.

F. Music Theory

Treble Clef Pitch Notation



Treble Clef “Lines” Note Names



Treble Clef “Spaces” Note Names



Repeat Mark

