

Musical Form

Tells us the pattern of sounds.

Form

Form describes the pattern of a piece of music.

It tells us

(1) how many pieces there are in the song,

and

(2) how many times each piece is repeated.

Repetition

An section that is the same as a previous section.

Contrast

A section that is different from the previous sections.

Variation

A section that is similar to a previous section, but has been slightly changed.

Repetition (Chorus)

An section that is the same as a previous section.

Contrast (Bridge)

A section that is different from the previous sections.

Variation (Verse)

A section that is similar to a previous section, but has been slightly changed.

Binary - AB

A two part form with contrasting sections.

Ternary - ABA

A three part form with a repetition of the first section at the end.

Rondo - ABACA

A form with three or more sections. At least one section is repeated multiple times.