Form: The shape of a musical composition as defined by all of its pitches, rhythms, dynamics, and timbres...a loose group of general features shared in varying degrees by a relatively large number of works, no two which are exactly the same.


Binary Form: A two part-form where the sections are equivalent, but not necessarily equal in length; as long as they balance each other in some sense. Each part usually repeats. The second half is longer and usually touches on other keys (X) before returning to the tonic.

Balanced: In a binary form where the A and B sections end in a parallel (same melodic/harmonic material) way, but not necessarily in the same key. (Please disregard the Kostka/Payne definition, which relates the term to merely the length of each section).

Sectional: The first part ends in tonic harmony (i.e. an authentic cadence on the original tonic).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harmonic content</th>
<th>Thematic material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(maj)</td>
<td>I--I--I--V--(X)--I--I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(min)</td>
<td>i--i--V, V/III, III--(X)--i</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuous: The first part ends in something other than tonic harmony (like on V, or on the tonic of a new key).

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Two reprise: A term used when the sections repeat (either written-out repeats or not).
Ternary Form: A three-part (ABA’) form:  \( \|$A\| :|B| \quad A’ :|$ \)

(repeats not required)

- A and A’ need not be 100% identical
- Often the B section material is thematically related to the A section material.
- Ternary forms, like binary ones, can be continuous or sectional. They can also be (and often are) two-reprise forms.
- The balanced factor is not relevant to ternary or rounded binary forms because the A material returns)

Rounded Binary: Like a ternary form, but the final /returning A section is half as long as the initial A section.

\( \|$A\| :|B| \quad 1/2A :|$ \)

Typically a part of the Classical era, the first A section is a 2-phrase parallel period (a HC followed by a PAC); the final (1/2) A section is comprised of just one phrase ending in a PAC.

\( \|$A\| :|B| \quad 1/2A :|$ \)

\( \|$----- a -----HC ----- a’ ----PAC :|$ \quad -----b -----HC/AC ----- a’ ----PAC :|$ \)

Examples:

**Binary:**

- *Greensleeves*
- J.S. Bach: *French Suite No. 5, Gavotte*
  - two-reprise, continuous,

**Ternary:**

- Haydn: *Minuet*
  - two-reprise, continuous
- *Trio*
  - two-reprise, sectional

  *The overall form of the minuet and trio is a composite ternary form (ABA)*

**Rounded Binary:**

- Porter: *Night and Day*
  - *Oh, Susannah*
- Mozart: *Sonata, K.331, I K.284, III*
  - Sectional
- Bach Minuet in G BVW Anh. 116
  - two-reprise, sectional