

LISTENING TO CLASSIC ROCK MUSIC

PARTIAL LIST OF TERMS

Blues (12-bar blues)

A short song form (usually 12 bars) that follows the same chord pattern throughout the song. It is in three four-bar subsections. The basic chords (if in the key of C) covered in a 12-bar blues are:

I (C)	I	I	I		
IV (F)	IV	I	I		
V (G)	IV	I	V* (G)		* = optional

A "verse" and/or "chorus" is usually not recognized in this shorter form.

Verse

A section of a song that repeats the same chords and melodies, but usually has different lyrics. Alternates with the chorus and/or other sections. Usually precedes and prepares (leads up to) the chorus. One of two main sections in most songs.

Refrain

A repeated one or two-line fragment that comes at the end of a verse.

Chorus

A section of a song that repeats the same chords, melodies and lyrics. Alternates with the verse and/or other sections. Usually felt to be the goal of the verse. The material is usually different from that of the verse, providing contrast.

Pre-Chorus

A short section after the verse and before the chorus. Usually uses the same chords, melody and verse upon each occurrence.

Bridge

A possible "third" section that usually connects the chorus and verse. It may occur once or more often.

Digression (interlude)

An extended middle section that contrasts the other parts of a song. It is usually instrumental and might provide a backdrop for improvisation and/ or less cohesive, murky material. It is usually followed by a strong return of the verse and/or chorus, or it might act as a segue to another song in fewer cases.

Arrangement

The manner in which a song is performed or recorded, referring to the specific instruments (and voices) used and the roles they play. An arrangement can also refer to a performance/recording of a previously recorded song (a "cover", or new version of the song). The cover might be arranged in a significantly different way.