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4. Terms

1. Metre

1.1. Simple and compound metre, composite metre

The Dutch classification of the time signatures is different from the English way.

Dutch:

number of beats 2 or 3: simple, subdivision in 2 beats (binary) or 3 (ternary)

number of beats of 4 or more: composed, subdivision in 2 groups (binary) or 3 groups (ternary)

When a composed measure consists of both groups of 2 and 3 beats it is called irregular.

English:

subdivision of the beat/pulse in 2: simple

subdivision of the beat/pulse in 3 (dotted note): compound

Any combination of simple and compound is called composite (odd, asymmetric, complex).

number of beats	groups	(Dutch)	English
2	1	1+1	simple duple 1 x 2
3	1	1+1+1	simple triple 1 x 3
4	2	2+2	simple quadruple 1 x 4
5	2	2+3 or 3+2	composite 2 beats
6	2	3+3	compound duple 2 x 4
7	3	2+2+3 or 2+3+2 or 3+2+2	composite 3 beats
8	3	3+3+2 or 3+2+3 or 2+3+3	composite 3 beats
9	3	3+3+3	compound triple 3 x 3
	4	3+2+2+2 or 2+3+2+2 etc.	composite 4 beats
12	4	3+3+3+3	compound quadruple 4 x 3

Examples:

The examples are presented in four lines of musical notation, each with a starting measure number and a label below:

- Line 1 (measures 1-4):
 - Measure 1: 2/4, simple duple
 - Measure 2: 3/4, simple triple
 - Measure 3: 4/4, simple quadruple
 - Measure 4: 5/8, composite 3+2
- Line 2 (measures 5-7):
 - Measure 5: 6/8, composite 3+2
 - Measure 6: 6/4, compound duple
 - Measure 7: 7/8, composite 3+2+2
- Line 3 (measures 8-10):
 - Measure 8: 7/8, composite 2+3+2
 - Measure 9: 7/4, composite 2+2+3
 - Measure 10: 8/8, composite 3+3+2
- Line 4 (measures 11-13):
 - Measure 11: 9/8, compoundtriple
 - Measure 12: 9/4, composite 3+2+2+2
 - Measure 13: 12/8, compound quadruple

1.2. Afterbeat

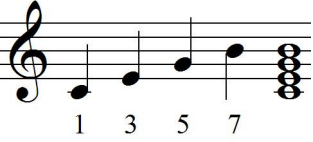
In 4/4 metre the accents normally are on 1 (strong, main accent) and 3 (relatively strong, secondary accent). In light music, especially jazz, 2 and 4 are accented to get a swinging feel. It works like syncopation. This is called afterbeat.

2. Pitch: chords

2.1. Triads and seventh chords

By adding a seventh to the triads we get a chord of 4 notes. Because the seventh is dissonant, this chord is always dissonant.

Summary of the most important triads and seventh chords:

Classical music	Light music	Symbol	Components
major triad	major chord	C	
major seventh chord	major 7 th chord	C^{maj 7}	
dominant seventh chord	seventh chord	C⁷	
minor triad	minor chord	C^m	
minor seventh chord	minor 7 th chord	C^{m7}	
diminished triad	dim chord	C^{dim}	
half-diminished chord	minor 7 flat 5	C^{min7b5}	
diminished seventh chord	dim or dim7 chord	C^{dim7}	
augmented triad	augmented or plus chord	C⁺	

3. Theory of form

3.1. Binary and ternary form

Even in the melodies of children's songs there is usually a structure. But these structures or forms are also used in pop songs, dances, classical songs or symphonies.

Binary form: 2 phrases, A-B

Mary had a little lamb

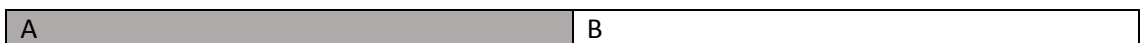
The image shows two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff, labeled 'A', contains the melody for the first phrase: a dotted quarter note (G4), an eighth note (A4), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (D5), a quarter note (E5), a quarter note (F5), a quarter note (G5), a quarter note (F5), a quarter note (E5), a quarter note (D5), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (A4), and a dotted quarter note (G4). The second staff, labeled 'B', contains the melody for the second phrase: a dotted quarter note (G4), an eighth note (A4), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (D5), a quarter note (E5), a quarter note (F5), a quarter note (G5), a quarter note (F5), a quarter note (E5), a quarter note (D5), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (A4), and a dotted quarter note (G4). Dashed lines are drawn below the notes to indicate the boundaries of phrases A and B.

Ternary form: 3 phrases, the 3rd is a repeat of the 1st, A-B-A (also called Da Capo form)

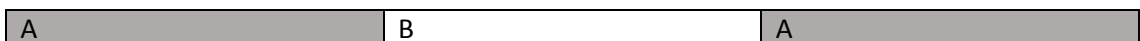
Twinkle, twinkle little star

The image shows three staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff, labeled 'A', contains the melody for the first phrase: a dotted quarter note (G4), an eighth note (A4), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (D5), a quarter note (E5), a quarter note (F5), a quarter note (G5), a quarter note (F5), a quarter note (E5), a quarter note (D5), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (A4), and a dotted quarter note (G4). The second staff, labeled 'B', contains the melody for the second phrase: a dotted quarter note (G4), an eighth note (A4), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (D5), a quarter note (E5), a quarter note (F5), a quarter note (G5), a quarter note (F5), a quarter note (E5), a quarter note (D5), a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (A4), and a dotted quarter note (G4). The third staff, labeled 'A', contains the melody for the third phrase, which is a repeat of the first phrase. Dashed lines are drawn below the notes to indicate the boundaries of phrases A, B, and A.

Binary:



Ternary:



3.2. Pop song

Pop songs can vary much in form. The usual elements are:

Intro(duction)	prelude before the first verse
Verse	"the story", lyrics change each verse
Chorus	refrain, same lyrics, same melody
Bridge	transition, sometimes modulating
Instrumental solo	interlude without text

The song can end in several ways:

Repeat(s) of the chorus, sometimes modulating

Fade out: the volume gradually gets softer until nothing is left

Coda: a special ending piece

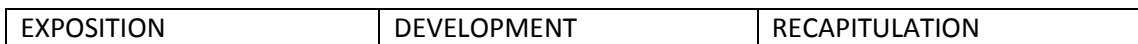
INTRO	VERSE	CHORUS	VERSE	CHORUS
BRIDGE	CHORUS	CHORUS	CODA	

INTRO	VERSE	CHORUS	VERSE	CHORUS	
BRIDGE	VERSE	CHORUS	CHORUS	CHORUS	CHORUS

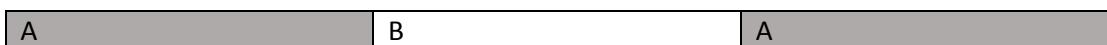
3.3. Sonata

The sonata is a more extended piece for a solo instrument or a small group of instruments. It consists usually of 3 or 4 movements.

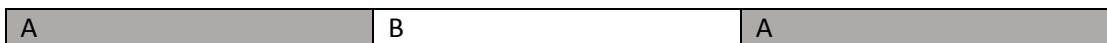
1st movement: sonata form, fast



2nd movement: slow, ternary form (or binary)



3rd movement: rather fast-very fast, Minuet/Scherzo, (interchanged with 2nd movement)



4th movement: fast, Rondo (or sonata form)



3.4. Symphony

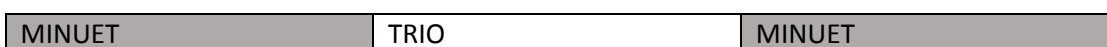
The symphony is a lengthy musical piece, written for a large orchestra, the symphony orchestra, with different groups of instruments.

It has practically the same form as the sonata.

3.5. Minuet

The minuet is an old French dance in 3/4 metre with a fast medium tempo. It has been stylized to serve as a musical form, independently from dancing.

The extended form is: Minuet I-Minuet II-Minuet I D.C. or Minuet-Trio-Minuet D.C.
The trio was originally played by 3 instruments.



3.6. Rondo

The rondo is an extended alternation of chorus and verse. It can be an independent piece or part of a symphony or sonata.

French rondo:



Classical rondo:



4. Terms

Character: cantabile
dolce

melodious
sweet, lovely

General: meno
più

less
more