

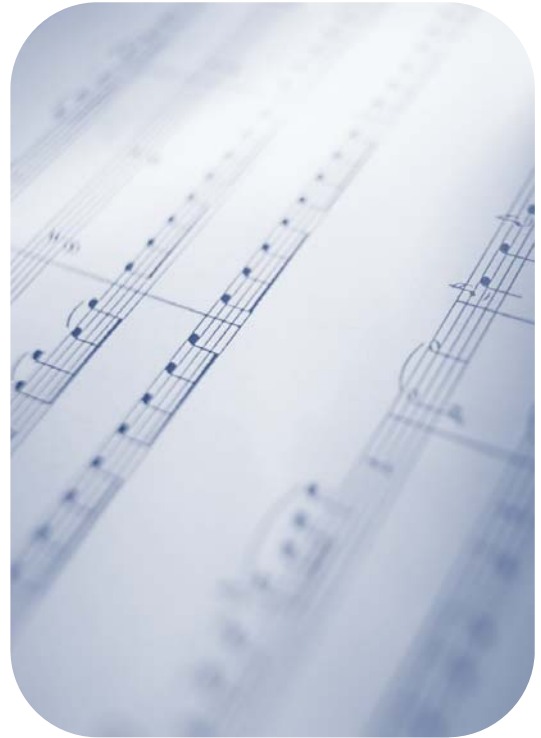
Song Forms

Binary

Songs that use a binary form have just two main sections/phrases/lines/ideas. We label them “A” and “B”. Each part may be repeated as many times as desired, but common forms include:

ABA or ABBA or AABA

An example of this would be “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”, where the beginning and end are the same, but a different part repeats in the middle. That song could be identified as an ABBA form.



Ternary

Songs that use a ternary form have three main sections/phrases/lines/ideas. We label them “A”, “B”, and “C”. Each part may be repeated as many times as desired, but common forms include:

ABC or ABBC

Rondo

Songs that use a rondo form have a recurring section/phrase/line/idea. An example would be an “A” section that keeps coming back, like:

ABACADA

Slight Variations

Many times a section will be repeated with only slight variations. These variations do not get a new label, but get the old letter with an apostrophe like this: B'
This would be called “B prime”. An example of this would be:
ABAB'