



Harps North West
Charity number 1093441

Bite size Composition

THEME - Form.

Form is the overall structure of a piece of music.

Phrases build to make **sections (which are labelled A, B, C etc)** and the way these sections are put together make the **form**.

Mapping out a rough idea of the structure of your piece can give you a frame work to fill in, and the conventions of form can give you ideas of how to develop your initial ideas.

Here are some common forms you might like to try.

Through composed = No sections, or with sections but continuous and non repetitive.
(Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody)

Binary Form - A - B (Green Sleeves)

Ternary Form - A - B - A (Twinkle Twinkle little star)

Rondo Form - A - B - A - C - A. (Fur Elise)

Song Structure - Intro, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus. Outro

Theme and Variations - does exactly what it says on the tin, the first section sets out the theme, then each section following that is a variation of that theme.

Also consider sections such as **Intros** at the beginning and **outros/codas** at the end.

When thinking in sections we need to consider:

Contrast - what you'd like to make contrasting between sections

Repetition - what do you want to repeat (if anything!) and

Continuity - what is going to be continuous to hold it all together

For all of these consider what you could change or keep the same or similar, think time signatures, key signatures, harmony/chords, melody, rhythms, character, texture.

We are very lightly scratching the surface of forms and all the ideas that their conventions bring, if you'd like to delve in deeper there is a plethora of information and some great videos about each form (and their many variations) online, YouTube is a great place to start.

Exercise

Using your own noodle, or this small phrase (feel free to expand it/alter it in anyway) have a go at developing it into a mini piece using ideas from some of the forms suggested above.

