

# Musical forms and devices

## Area of study 1 - Eduqas GCSE Music

### Baroque era (1600-1750)

- Harpsichord
- Ornaments
- Terraced dynamics
- Basso continuo
- Small orchestra (mostly strings, plus some wind)
- Suite, sonata, oratorio, chorales, trio sonata
- **Bach, Handel, Vivaldi**

### Classical era (1750-1810)

- Slightly larger orchestra
- Piano introduced
- Alberti bass
- String quartets
- Symphony, solo sonata, solo concerto
- Balanced, regular phrases
- **Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven**

### Romantic era (1810-1910)

- Lyrical, expressive melodies
- Large orchestra
- Wider range of dynamics
- Richer harmonies and use of chromatic chords
- Programme music
- Opera symphony
- **Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Schumann, Dvorak, Brahms, Verdi, Wagner**

### Form and structure

#### BINARY

A B

Two sections: A usually ends in a related key (e.g. dominant or relative minor), but B returns to the tonic. B will contain with some change/contrast.

#### TERNARY

A B A

Three sections: section B provides a contrast (e.g. new tune key change). A may return exactly or with some slight changes.

#### RONDO

A B A C A

A longer form: A returns throughout the piece, with contrasting sections called 'episodes', containing new ideas and using different keys.

#### MINUET AND TRIO

II: AB: II II:CD :II AB

The minuet was a type of graceful dance from the 17-18<sup>th</sup> century, and was often used as the 3<sup>rd</sup> movement in symphonies in the Classical era. The minuet had two repeated sections, the trio had two new repeated sections, with a return to the minuet at the end (no repeat).

#### VARIATIONS

A a A A *f*

The main theme (tune) is repeated and developed a number of times in a variety of different ways.

#### STROPHIC

A A A

A simple form where the song uses the same melody over and over.

### Devices

<b>Repetition</b>	A musical idea is repeated exactly.
<b>Imitation</b>	An idea is copied in another part.
<b>Sequence</b>	Repetition of an idea in the same part at a higher/lower pitch.
<b>Ostinato</b>	A short, repeated pattern or phrase.
<b>Drone</b>	A long held or constantly repeated note(s).
<b>Arpeggio/ broken chord</b>	The notes of a chord played individually.
<b>Alberti bass</b>	A broken chord accompaniment (I,V,iii,V) common in the Classical era.
<b>Anacrusis</b>	An 'up-beat' or pick-up before the first strong beat.
<b>Dotted rhythms</b>	A rhythm using dotted notes (gives a 'jagged' or 'bouncy' type of effect).
<b>Syncopation</b>	Off beat accents.
<b>Conjunct</b>	Notes that move in steps.
<b>Disjunct</b>	Notes that move in leaps/ intervals.
<b>Regular phrasing</b>	Balanced parts of a melody (like the phrases in a sentence) e.g. four bar phrases.

### Scales and chords

A **CHORD** is a group of two or more notes played at the same time. A **TRIAD** has three notes. A **CHORD SEQUENCE/PATTERN** is a series of chords. **DIATONIC HARMONY** is based on the chords of major/minor scales.

Primary chords I, IV, V  
Secondary chords ii, iii, vi, vii

**C Major Scale**

**C Major Triads**

### Cadences

*The two chords at the end of a phrase*

<b>Perfect</b>	<b>V-I</b>	Strong ending – sounds 'finished'; a musical full stop.
<b>Plagal</b>	<b>IV-I</b>	Sounds finished but 'softer'; Amen.
<b>Imperfect</b>	<b>I-V, ii-V, vi-V</b>	Sounds unfinished.
<b>Interrupted</b>	<b>V-vi</b>	Moves to an unexpected chord; 'surprise'.