

## **FORM AND STRUCTURE**

### **WHAT IS FORM?**

In its most basic definition, form is the way a musical piece or work is organized. Forms used in non-classical works vary very widely from those in classical works. In regards to classical music, form refers to both the sectional form of a musical piece, such as binary (two sections) or ternary (three sections) or the sections or parts of a musical work, such as the bridge (transitional passage connecting two sections of a composition), intro or introduction (opening section) or stanza (verse of a song).

Form can also refer to musical directions, such as *divisi* or *div.* (divided, a part in which several musicians normally play exactly the same notes instead split the playing of the written simultaneous notes among themselves), or the term *fine* (the end, often in phrases like *al fine* (to the end)), or developmental forms, such as an *arietta* (a short aria) and *Nocturne* (a piece written for the night).