Principles of Western Form & Analysis

Topic Six
Rounded Binary and Ternary Form
Rounded Binary Form

• While Simple Binary is most clearly expressed in the Baroque Dance Suite – Rounded Binary was used throughout the Classical period.

• Simple Binary and Rounded Binary have much in common. Except for one very important difference...
Rounded Binary

• In a Rounded Binary Form – the original melodic/thematic material returns in Part B in the tonic key.

• The word “rounded” binary refers to this return to the tonic key and a rounding out of the structure due to the return to the original melodic / thematic material.
# Rounded Binary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part A</th>
<th>Part B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I ------ V</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>i ------ III</td>
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<tr>
<td>i ------- V</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Phrase Grp</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>Expository</td>
<td>Expository</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>Developmental</td>
<td>(Terminative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Function</td>
<td>- Transitional</td>
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Musical Example - Rounded Binary
Musical Example - Rounded Binary

Menuetto

PAC

PAC in A maj.

a) Original: f P 1
Musical Example - Rounded Binary

D

PAC in A maj.

m. 9-14 Transitional

m. 15-22 Expository, Terminative

PAC

m. 9-14 Transitional

m. 15-22 Expository, Terminative

PAC

m. 9-14 Transitional

m. 15-22 Expository, Terminative

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m. 9-14 Transitional

m. 15-22 Expository, Terminative

PAC
## Side by Side

### Simple Binary Form Review

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<td>Phrase Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Section</td>
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Ternary Principle

• Statement – Contrast – Restatement

• Formal Labels – A – B – A

• The music will be divided into three main parts. The 2nd part will be significantly different from the 1st and 3rd parts.
Rounded Binary or Ternary Form?

• Both rounded binary and ternary forms have an A section – a B section and a return to A
• Often an argument can be made in support of each form...When analyzing form – we search for the most suitable choice.
• Check for the proportions of the musical material. Structure, length of sections, etc.
Ternary Form

A – B – A

A = statement
B = contrast
A = re-statement

Rounded Binary
(harmonic outline is followed..)

In rounded binary the return of the A section will not be equal in length to the original statement of A.

• Notice that ternary form (unlike simple and rounded binary) has no harmonic outline.

• Ternary principle uses the tonal design of contrast.

• The organization of the A-B-A parts in ternary form varies widely within different genres and historical contexts.
Basic Example of Ternary Form

1. C’est la fin, koi que nus dis-e, j’a-me-rais.

2. C’est la jus en mis les près, 3. C’est la fin, je veul a-

4. Jus et baus i a le-ves, bele a-mie ai.

5. C’est la fin, koi que nus dis-e, j’a-me-rais.
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4. Jus et baus i a le-ves, bele a-mie ai.

5. C'est la fin, koi que nous dis-e, j'a-mé-rais.
Tchaikovsky, The Nutcracker, “Toy Flutes”

• Score online.

• Listen for the ternary form of this piece while following the score.

• What are the major sections? Structural phenomena, etc that help define this piece’s structure?

http://www.kapsul.org/k/noteFiles/download/2671/Tchaikovsky_-_Nutcracker_Suite_VII.pdf
Handel, Piangero la sorte mia (from Julius Ceasar – Da Capo Aria)

- Score online.
- [http://www.kapsul.org/k/noteFiles/download/2672/Piangero la sorte mia.pdf](http://www.kapsul.org/k/noteFiles/download/2672/Piangero la sorte mia.pdf)
Binary, Rounded Binary or Ternary?

Berg, *Wozzeck*, Act I, mm. 372-416. (Vocal line, text omitted.)
Binary, Rounded Binary or Ternary?

Berg, *Wozzeck*, Act I, mm. 372–416. (Vocal line, text omitted.)

A

Antecedent phrase

B

Antecedent phrase

Consequent phrase

Consequent phrase

(Harp)
Binary, Rounded Binary or Ternary?

MS, K. 570, ii, mm. 1–12.

Adagio

(H.C.)

(P.A.C.)

(b)

(H.C.)

(P.A.C.)

(a^2)

(H.C.)

(P.A.C.)
Binary, Rounded Binary or Ternary?

MS, K. 570, ii, mm. 1–12.

A

Adagio

a₁

Eb:

(H.C.)

(P.A.C.)

B

b

(H.C.)

A

a₂

(H.C.)

(P.A.C.)
Binary, Rounded Binary or Ternary?
Binary, Rounded Binary or Ternary?
Homework

• Packet 6

• Beethoven Sonata in D major, Op 28, Scherzo
• Chopin Mazurka in f minor
• Schumann, Little Folk Song