

GCSE MUSIC REVISION NOTES FOR AOS 1 – REPETITION AND CONTRAST IN WESTERN CLASSICAL MUSIC 1600 – 1899

THIS AREA IS ALL ABOUT DIFFERENT MUSICAL STRUCTURES:

GROUND BASS

The structure where a composer continuously varies the texture over a constantly repeating bass line (basso ostinato); varying instrumentation, texture, dynamics, melody and harmony; music becomes increasingly complex.

VARIATIONS

Where a piece begins with a simple theme which is then elaborated/varied in various ways; changes may be in harmony, key, pitch, instrumentation, metre (time sig.), tempo and texture.

TERNARY FORM

ABA type structure; the middle section contrasts with the outer sections; contrast may be in key (modulation to related key), rhythm, texture, instrumentation, dynamics, mood or tempo; different forms of ternary: Da Capo Aria (Baroque vocal music); Minuet and Trio (Classical instrumental music).

RONDO

Where the main theme recurs (ritornello), alternating with contrasting sections (episodes); contrast may again be in key (modulation to related key), rhythm, texture, instrumentation, dynamics, mood or tempo; often used as a form for final movements of symphonies and concertos.