

Katrina King Nicholson

Binary Forms

Prior knowledge: Students are able to recognize basic harmonies and modulations and are familiar with cadences and phrase structure.

Learning outcomes: As a result of this lesson, students will:

1. Identify characteristics of different types of binary forms
2. Analyze pieces of music in binary form both aurally and visually

Assess comprehension of topic:

1. **Formative:** Name defining characteristics of each binary form (class discussion); look for the association of modulation with continuous binary and appropriate use of “A”, “B”, and “A” labels
2. **Summative:** Written score analysis; look for accurate labeling of A and B sections and appropriate use of continuous, sectional, and rounded terms

Materials needed: PPT (including graphics and scores for Schubert, Bach, Handel, and Purcell), Spotify playlist, copies of Purcell for students to analyze, copies of assignment

Minute 1	Play recording of Purcell as students enter the classroom
Minute 2	
Minute 3	Greeting; ask students what they noticed/what caught their attention in the piece (answers will most likely involve features of performance/melody/harmony)
Minute 4	
Minute 5	Reference prior learning (“last week we talked about phrase structure and cadences”) Introduce concept of form (“today we will begin using those as building blocks for larger-scale musical structure”) Conceptualize form as an integral if subconscious means of understanding and internalizing music within the framework of time (less obvious than performance/melodic/harmonic features, but no less important)
Minute 6	
Minute 7	
Minute 8	Define “binary” as any two-part form (show graphic demonstrating other

	words using the “bi-” prefix)
Minute 9	<p>Show score for Schubert minuet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Point out repeat signs-- key indicator of binary form ● Introduce labeling of sections as “A” and “B” ● Do a harmonic analysis of the A section as a class, paying special attention to the key at the beginning and end of the A section. Does “A” modulate? ● Introduce term: sectional binary
Minute 10	
Minute 11	
Minute 12	
Minute 13	Play a recording of the Schubert minuet. Pause at the end of the A section and ask students to notice how it feels resolved.
Minute 14	
Minute 15	
Minute 16	<p>Show score for Bach G minor minuet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Point out repeat signs again, label as A and B ● Ask students to do a harmonic analysis of the A section, paying special attention to the key areas at the beginning and end of the A section ● Introduce term “continuous binary”, based on modulation in A ● Show graphic for sectional vs. continuous
Minute 17	
Minute 18	
Minute 19	
Minute 20	Play a recording of the G minor minuet, stopping at the end of the A section to notice how the music needs to <i>continue</i> to find resolution
Minute 21	
Minute 22	Analyze the B section and discuss how the job of the B section is to transition back to the home key in order to bring full resolution
Minute 23	
Minute 24	

Minute 25	
Minute 26	Play a recording of the Handel minuet. Ask students to identify by ear whether the form is sectional or continuous
Minute 27	
Minute 28	
Minute 29	Show score for Handel minuet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label A and B • Continuous vs sectional? • Point out return of A at the end; introduce term “rounded binary”, label as A’
Minute 30	
Minute 31	Review terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectional binary • Continuous binary • Rounded binary (reinforce that this will also be either sectional or continuous) • Questions?
Minute 32	
Minute 33	
Minute 34	Play the Purcell minuet
Minute 35	
Minute 36	
Minute 37	Give score for Purcell minuet and explain in-class assignment): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label A and B sections • Do a harmonic analysis of the whole piece • Label continuous vs. sectional • Label A’ if rounded
Minute 38	
Minute 39	
Minute 40	
Minute 41	
Minute 42	

Minute 43	
Minute 44	
Minute 45	
Minute 46	
Minute 47	Distribute and explain homework assignment. Bridge into next class: the application of binary forms in Baroque dance.
Minute 48	
Minute 49	Questions/wrap up
Minute 50	