

## WEEK FOUR

### TOPIC: MUSICAL FORMS

#### Introduction

*In our previous lesson, we learnt that tetrachords refer to the division of a major into two equal parts namely upper tetrachord and lower tetrachord. We also learnt that both of them have the arrangement of tone-tone-semitone (TTS) as their interval arrangement.*

In today's lesson, we shall learn about musical forms

#### Definition of musical forms

Musical form refers to the design, shape and structure of a musical composition. In this lesson, we shall use some songs you know to show you different musical forms. But before then, let us learn the types of musical forms.

#### TYPES OF MUSICAL FORMS

There are numerous types of musical forms but for the sake of today's lesson, we shall concentrate on two of them

1. Binary form
2. Ternary form

**Binary form:** This form possesses only two parts; A and B. The A part is the questioning phrase or antecedent while the B part is the answering or consequent phrase. Binary form is also called AB form

Examples of songs in Binary form include

1. O God our help in ages past (s m l s d'd't d's d s l fe s—t d'l r't d'l t s l d'r't d')
2. New every morning is thy love (s s f m r d l s s d't l s s fe s—m m f s m r m f f m r s f m r d)

Note that the two sections above in the songs are demarcated by the long dash.

**Ternary form:** This form possesses three parts; A B and A. The A section is the main section, the B section is a contrasting section while the last A is a repetition of the first section. Hence, ternary form is also called ABA form.

Examples of songs in Ternary form include

1. Rock of ages (s l s m d'l s d r m r d t d—t d r r t s d t d r r t s d—s l s m d l s d r m r d t d.)
2. Joyful joyful we adore thee (m m f s s f m r d d r m m r r m m f s s f m r d d r m r d d—r r m d r m f m d r m f m r d r s—m m f s s f m r d d r m r d d)

For you do understand this better, do not sing the words of these song but rather hum it. You will notice the point where the tune that began the sun reappeared at the end. That is the return of the A section.

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by the term, musical form?
2. Mention the two types of musical form.
3. Give one example of binary and ternary form apart from the ones you've been given.

#### SUMMARY

Musical form refers to the design, shape and structure of a musical composition. We have two types of musical forms namely Binary and Ternary form. While Binary form is also called AB form, ternary form is also called ABA form.

#### ASSIGNMENT

Find out more examples of Binary and ternary forms apart from the ones treated in class.