

GLOSSARY OF COMPOSITIONAL TERMS AND MANIPULATIONS

(Definitions taken from *Choreography: A Basic Approach Using Improvisation* by Sandra Cerny Minton and *The Intimate Act of Choreography* by Lynne Anne Blom and L. Tarin Chaplin)

COMPOSITIONAL TERMS

AB: A simple choreographic form with two sections having two contrasting themes.

ABA: A simple choreographic form with three sections having two contrasting themes, A and B, followed by a repeat of the first theme in the third section.

Suite: The most typical suite has a moderate beginning, a slow second part, and a fast, lively third section.

Rondo: The rondo form includes an initial section A followed by an alternate or contrasting part B. The third section is a return to A, either in its entirety or with some changes. The return to A is followed by a fourth section, C, and another return to A. The remainder of the choreography includes parts D, E, and F interspersed with variations or restatements of A.

Theme and Variations: The theme can be a single phrase of movements or several movement phrases put together in a sequence. The theme or original movement series can be changed in a number of ways as the dance progresses, but the timing and movement sequence of the original theme remains.

Narrative: A narrative composition is sometimes known as a story or dance drama.

Collage: The collage consists of pieces of movement that are often related and have been brought together to create a whole.

COMPOSITIONAL MANIPULATIONS

Repetition: Repeat exactly the same.

Retrograde: Perform pieces backwards – like a movie running backwards.

Inversion: Perform upside-down.

Size: Condense/Expand movement.

Tempo: Perform fast/slow/stop.

Quality: Vary the movement quality.

Instrumentation: Perform the movement with different body parts.

Staging: Perform it at a different place on the stage and/or with different facing to the audience.