

## REVIEW OF COMPOSITIONAL FORMS

Choreographic forms are structures that organize movements and can be defined as *narrative* or *patterned* (e.g. canon, call and response, retrograde, ABA, rondo).

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Narrative Form</b>      | a choreographic form that follows a storyline, often conveys a specific message, and usually includes an introduction, rising action, a climax, and a resolution (e.g., the ballet <i>The Nutcracker</i> )  |
| <b>Patterned Form</b>      | a choreographic form used to communicate an abstract idea or message (as opposed to narrative). Examples of pattern forms include the following:  |
| <b>AB</b>                  | a two-part choreographic pattern form with an A theme and a B theme; the form consists of two distinct, self-contained dance sequences or sections.   |
| <b>ABA</b>                 | a three-part choreographic pattern form with an A theme and a B theme in which the second section contrasts with the first section and the third section restates the first section in a condensed, abbreviated, or extended form.  |
| <b>Call and Response</b>   | a choreographic form in which one soloists or group performs, followed by a second soloist or group whose performance responds to the first.  |
| <b>Canon</b>               | a choreographic form in which a dance phrase is performed by more than one soloist or group and begins at different times so that the phrases overlap (analogous to a <i>round</i> in music).   |
| <b>Collage</b>             | a choreographic form consisting of a series of phrases that are often unrelated but have been brought together to create a single dance with a beginning, middle, and end.  |
| <b>Motif</b>               | a distinctive recurring gesture, movement, sequence, or image that can be elaborated upon in a variety of ways; a motif may be used to provide a theme or unifying idea for a dance piece.  |
| <b>Pattern</b>             | an arrangement or sequence of elements in which one or more of the elements is repeated in a planned way.   |
| <b>Retrograde</b>          | a choreographic form in which a dance or movement sequence is performed in reverse order (e.g., a dance phrase is performed from back to front).  |
| <b>Rondo</b>               | a choreographic form which expands on ABA form to ABACADA (lengthened indefinitely), in which the theme A is repeated or varied.  |
| <b>Theme and Variation</b> | a choreographic form that starts with an original movement idea that is repeated with various modifications (e.g., performed faster or slower, with lighter or stronger movements, in a new place) while still maintaining its structure and sequence, resulting in an A-A1-A2-A3 pattern. The theme may be repeated between variations (A-A1-A-A2-A-A3). |