

## Compositional Forms and Tools

### Helpful Tips/References:

Go to <http://artsalive.ca/en/dan/make/toolbox/chttoolbox.asp> for more information on Composition.

Go to [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca) for definitions on the above terminology

### A. Compositional Forms

- Binary (AB) - A compositional form with an A theme and a B theme. The binary form consists of two distinct self-contained sections that share either a character or quality, i.e., the same tempo, movement quality, or style.
- Ternary (ABA) - A three-part compositional form in which the second section contrasts with the first section. The third section is a restatement of the first section in a condensed, abbreviated, or extended form.
- Rondo (ABACAD) - A choreographic form of three or more themes with an alternating return to the main theme (ABACADA).
- Theme and Variation (A, A1, A2, A3- uses same movements but composed through retrograde, inversion, transposition)

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### B. Compositional Tools

- **Beginning, Middle, End** - A dance work that encompasses an introduction, middle and conclusion, similar to the written form of an essay.
- **Balance** - A state of equilibrium referring to the balance of weight or the spatial arrangement of bodies. Designs may be balanced on both sides of center (symmetrical) or balanced off center (asymmetrical)
- **Canon** - A passage, movement sequence, or piece of music in which the parts are done in succession, overlapping one another. There may be varying counts in between or the sequence may happen immediately after the first one.
- **Motif** -A distinctive and recurring gesture used to provide a theme or unifying idea. The motif provides the audience with a sense of return and helps them to understand the narrative.
- **Repetition** - Duplication of a movement or movements phrases within dance choreography.
- **Transitions** - When a movement, phrase, or section of a dance progresses into the next, usually a transition is short and it is a segue for the next sequence of movement.
- **Unison** - Dance movement that occurs at the exact same time.
- Reference: <http://www.kqed.org/assets/pdf/arts/programs/spark/dancevocab.pdf>