Theme = a melody that is expanded upon, repeated, varied, and alternated with other themes in order to form a musical composition.

- **Form** = the organization of themes and keys in a musical composition. Structure. Musical architecture. Patterns of repetition: the pattern in which themes are presented, repeated, extended, varied, and *alternated* with other themes.

Keys often alternate in conjunction with themes.

These patterns can be short and simple, or long and complex.

Certain patterns (forms) have become standard:
- Binary AB – *Verse*/Refrain
  - *Jingle Bells*, - strophic (text changes with each repletion of the verse)
    - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQYa2epnTdo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQYa2epnTdo)
- Ternary ABA *The Wild Rider*
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKWPQvlpc_s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKWPQvlpc_s)
- Theme and Variation
  - *Britten Young Person's Guide to The Orchestra*
    - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HhTMJ2bek0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HhTMJ2bek0)

Typically, in a musical composition:
- the music generally starts somewhere, goes elsewhere, and then returns.
- both thematically (from 1 theme to another and back again)
- and harmonically (from 1 key to another and back again)
- this causes the creation and release of tension – thus, drama.

- Form is sometimes very apparent to the ear, and sometimes not - contrast or lack thereof.