

# SONG FORMS

Now that we've learned the basics of bars and beats and counting rhythms, we are going to work on counting bars/measures in some popular songs. The number of measures in each section determines the song's form. Without form the song will have no structure. One thing you'll notice is that most songs follow a pattern of having either 2, 4, 8 or 16 bar sections (with some exceptions.) Let's look at some songs and how many measures/bars each section is. Listen to the song and count the measures out loud.

Before we begin let's go over some key terminology in songwriting

**Intro-** the beginning of the song. This section sets the listener up for the first verse.

**Verse-** where the song's story begins to unfold, the verse is what is preparing us for the chorus

**Pre Chorus-**the pre chorus is not a requirement, but sometimes a song will have a small section between the verse and the chorus to prepare the listener for the most powerful part of the song (the chorus) this also helps tie the verse and chorus together.

**Chorus-**The most powerful and memorable part of the song. The chorus tends to be catchy and memorable.

**Interlude** – A small section that connects two other sections.

**Bridge-** a section after the chorus has been played to take the listener to another place. Going from verse to chorus over and over again gets stale so this creates variety.

**Outro-**the end of the song

Now let's take a look at some songs. Count the sections out loud with your instructor. Go to the next page.

### **Love Story, Taylor Swift**

Intro – 8 bars

Verse 1 – 16 bars

Pre chorus – 8 bars

Chorus – 8 bars

Extra 2 bars in between chorus and verse 2

Verse 2 – 8 bars

Pre chorus – 8 bars

Chorus – 16 bars

Bridge guitar – 8 bars

Bridge vocals – 8 bars

Chorus out – 16 bars

Outro – 8 bars

### **Titanium SIA and David Guetta**

Intro- 8 bars

Verse 1 – 16 bars

Pre chorus build- 16 bars

Chorus drop- 8 bars

Verse 2 – 16 bars

Pre chorus build- 16 bars

Chorus Drop – 8 bars

Bridge – 8 bars

Pre chorus – 16 bars

Chorus drop – 8 bars

### **Lucky By Britney Spears**

Intro – 4 bars

Verse 1 – 8 bars

Pre chorus- 4 bars

Chorus – 8 bars

Verse 2 – 8 bars

Pre chorus – 4 bars

Verse 2 – 8 bars

Bridge – 8 bars

Pre chorus – 4 bars

Chorus out – 24 bars

### **Snap, Rosa Linn**

Intro – 2 bars

Verse 1 – 8 bars

Pre chorus – 2 bars

Chorus – 9 bars

Verse 2 – 8 bars

Chorus – 12 bars

Bridge – 6 bars

Chorus out – 16 bars

### **Ocean Eyes (Billie Eilish)**

Intro – 4 bars  
Verse 1 - 9 bars  
Chorus – 9 bars  
Verse 2 – 9 bars  
Chorus – 9 bars  
Bridge – 9 bars  
Chorus – 9 bars

### **You Belong With Me, Taylor Swift**

Intro – 4 bars  
Verse 1 – 16 bars  
Pre chorus – 8 bars  
Chorus – 8 bars  
2 bar interlude  
Verse 2 – 16 bars  
Pre chorus – 8 bars  
Chorus – 16 bars  
Bridge guitar – 8 bars  
Bridge vocals- 9 bars  
Verse 3 – 8 bars  
Chorus – 16 bars

### **Bye Bye Bye Nsync**

Intro – 8 bars  
Verse – 8 bars  
Pre chorus – 4 bars  
Chorus- 8 bars  
Interlude- 1 bars  
Verse 2 – 8 bars  
Pre chorus – 4 bars  
Chorus- 8 bars  
Interlude- 5 bars  
Bridge – 8 bars  
Chorus- 12 bars

### **I'm Coming Out, Diana Ross**

Intro – 20 bars

Chorus – 8 bars

Verse 1- 8 bars

Pre chorus- 4 bars

Chorus - 8 bars

Verse 2 – 8 bars

Pre chorus – 4 bars

Chorus – 8 bars

Trombone solo – 12 bars

Bridge/chorus- 20 bars

Outro – 6 bars

### **Billie Jean (Michael Jackson)**

Intro- 14 bars

Verse 1<sup>st</sup> half – 12

Verse 2<sup>nd</sup> half – 8

Pre chorus- 8 bars

Chorus – 12 bars

Verse 1<sup>st</sup> half – 12

Verse 2<sup>nd</sup> half – 8 bars

Pre chorus – 8 bars

Chorus – 20 bars

Guitar solo- 8 bars

Lead in to chorus – 4 bars

Chorus – 12 bars

Outro- 12 bars then fadeout

### **Beat it Michael Jackson**

Intro- 14 bars

Intro- 8 bars

Verse 1 – 16 bars

Chorus – 12 bars

Verse 2 – 16 bars

Chorus – 16 bars

Bridge – 16 bars

Guitar solo- 16 bars

Chorus – 24 bars than fade out