

Classifying Song Forms

Folk Forms

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- 1st – Verse-Verse-Verse-Verse-Verse...etc.
 - 2nd – Verse-Chorus-Verse-Chorus-Verse-Chorus...etc.
 - 3rd – Verse-Chorus-Verse-Chorus-Bridge-Chorus...etc.
 - 4th – Verse-Lift-Chorus-Verse-Lift-Chorus-Bridge-Chorus...etc.
 - 5th – ABCDBCDA; or AABBCDDAA; (multiple sections that repeat)
 - 6th – ABCDE (multiple sections that do not repeat).

Pop Forms

Through Composed

Verse – Most of the lyrical content including narrative elements, character, plot, setting, etc. Verses usually follow the same musical form and rhyme scheme, but the words are usually different in each section.

Chorus – Repeating section, usually with the same lyrics and musical elements. Usually the chorus includes the central theme of the song and often includes the title line (commonly the last line of the chorus.)

Bridge – Deviating musical and lyrical section from the rest of the song. The beat, lyrical meter, musical elements, and section length are frequently very different from the rest of the song. The bridge is a good place to put a turn on the theme, character epiphany, or collaborative section.

Lift – Also called a pre-chorus. Drives the energy of the verse into the chorus. Often ends on the dominant chord. Usually repeated like the chorus with the same lyrical and musical form each time.

Real-estate

In most cases the last line of the chorus (or the last line of each verse in the 1st form) is a repeated line that functions as the title of the song. Most commercial writers will use that line as the title which also encompasses the central theme of the song. Because it is repeated several times throughout the song and is usually the last line heard by the audience, it is a good place to put your central idea because it is more likely to be remembered.

The first line of the song is also very important. Writing a line that is unpredictable, but still sets the scene of the song is a good way to grab the listener and immediately engage them with the piece. If your first line seems common or cliché, try to rewrite it so it's unique and engaging.