

## *Introduction to SONG FORMS*

- Form in music is denoted by capital letters to indicate any basic melodic "*ideas*" or "statements." These vary in length, but usually feel like the equivalent of a sentence.
- When ideas repeat, letters repeat, the introduction of a new letter indicates *definite contrast*.
- The *prime* symbol ( ' ) indicates significant variation, without definite contrast.

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- In the common "verse-chorus" form, the two parts (A & B) are usually independent, alternating just for the sake of contrast.
- In "AABA" forms, common in early 20th-c music, the B doesn't stand on its own. It feels unstable (especially at the end), and seems to "demand" a return to A.
- Returning to A in AABA form often offers a sense of renewed perspective, a new way of looking at a familiar thing.