

Intro to World Music

- Form: The "Shape" of Music
- Form in Music
 - the structure or plan of a musical composition
 - function: to give musical works unity and coherence
 - provides meaning for listener
 - helps composer create
- Techniques of Form
 - repetition (provides unity)
 - contrast (provides variety)
 - variation (combination of repetition and contrast)
- Simple Ostinato-Based Form
 - ostinato — short musical pattern that is repeated over and over
 - example: "Xai" [shy] ("Elephants"), South African Qwii (Bushmen) piece
 - instrument: nkokwane [en-koh-kwah-nay] musical bow
- Layered Ostinato Forms
 - ostinani can be "stacked" one on top of the other to create rich textures
 - staggered entrances can create a sense of form and development
 - example: "Oye Como Va," popular Latin dance tune
- Cyclic Forms
 - similar to ostinato forms, but longer patterns (called "cycles")
 - Example: "A Funny Way of Asking", 12-bar blues form song
 - Lyric scheme: strophic (a-a'-a''-a''', etc.)
 - "Jaya Semara": A Non-Western Example of Cyclic Form
 - Balinese gamelan music
 - intensely energetic style
 - blazingly fast, interlocking rhythms
 - features a gong cycle
- Sectional Form
 - multiple formal sections are created via distinct changes in one or more musical elements
 - Simple example: "Hassidic Melody No. 6", klezmer (Jewish dance music) piece (A-B)
 - Verse-Chorus Sectional Form
 - most common form in Western popular (vocal) music
 - typical sections:
 - intro
 - verse
 - chorus
 - bridge solo (instrumental)
 - tag/coda/outro