Name _____ Date _____

Musical Form: AB, ABA, Rondo, and Theme and Variations

Directions: Each piece here is described in words or by the letters of its sections. Read the whole pattern before you answer.

1. When musicians describe a piece's form with letters, what does it mean when two sections get the same letter?

A. The two sections are equally loud.

B. The two sections are played by the same instrument.

C. The two sections are sung by the same singer.

D. The two sections use the same music, or almost the same.

2. Match each form to the letter pattern that shows it.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ binary form
2. _____ ternary form
3. _____ rondo
4. _____ theme and variations

A. A B

B. A B C D

C. A B A

D. A A1 A2 A3

E. A B A C A

F. A A A A

3. A piece opens with a lively section, moves to a calm section with a new tune, and ends with the lively opening section again. Which letters show its form?

A. A B B. A B A C. A B B D. A B C

4. A piece plays its main tune, then a new section, then the main tune, then a second new section, and then the main tune once more. What is this form called?

A. rondo B. theme and variations

C. ternary form D. binary form

5. A rondo follows the pattern A B A C A B A, and every section is 8 measures long. How many measures of the piece belong to A sections?

_____ measures

6. A composer plays a short melody and then plays it five more times. Each time something changes, such as the rhythm, the speed or the instruments, but the melody can still be recognized. What is this form called?

A. rondo B. binary form

C. ternary form D. theme and variations

7. Complete the sentences about A B A form.

Word bank
contrast • harmony • tempo • repetition

In A B A form, the B section brings _____, because its music is new. When A comes back at the end, it brings _____.

8. A short dance has two different sections, and the first section never returns after the second one. What is this form called?

A. binary form

B. theme and variations

C. rondo

D. ternary form

9. A piece in A B A form has an A section 16 measures long and a B section 12 measures long. The A section comes back complete at the end. How many measures long is the whole piece?

_____ measures

10. How is a rondo different from a piece in A B A form?

A. A rondo has only two sections, A and B.

B. A rondo comes back to A after more than one new section, as in A B A C A.

C. A rondo must be played slowly.

D. A rondo never repeats any of its sections.