



# Applied Music Theory: Musical Shorthand

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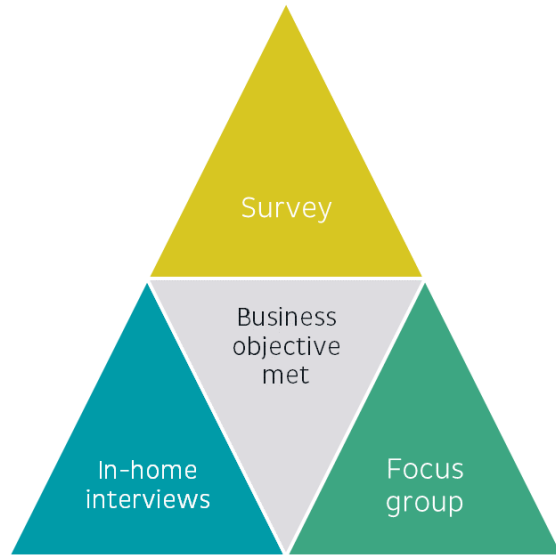
The Westin Calgary  
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Calgary, AB T2P 2S6

# Critical Listening

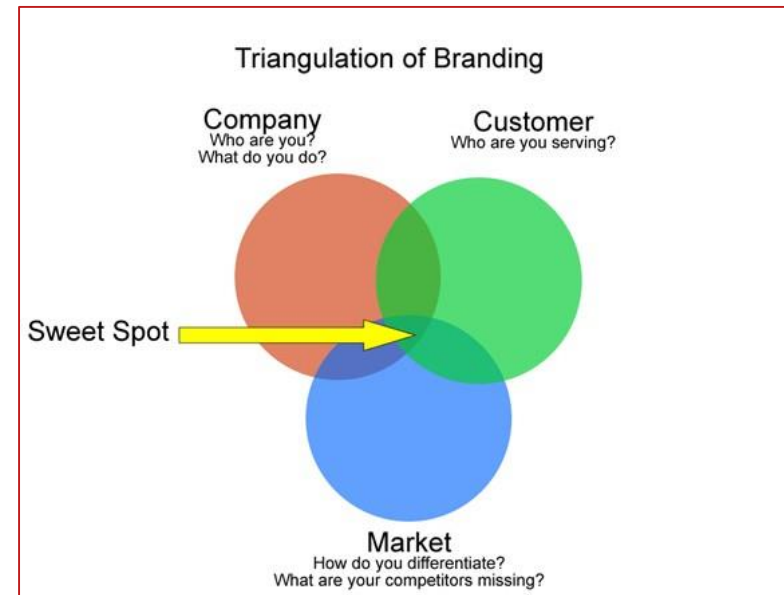
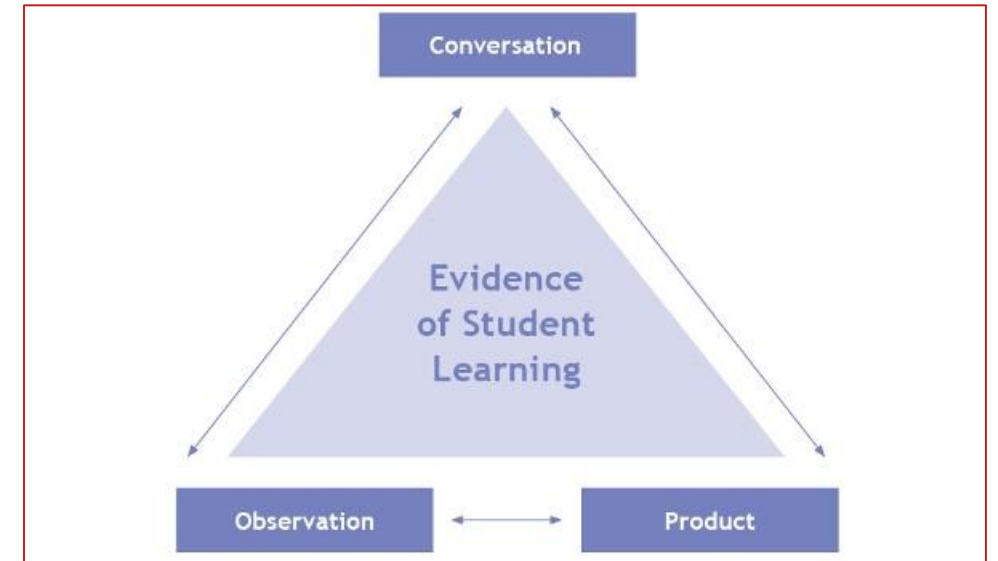
	Tempo	Metre	Dynamics	Articulation
① Phenomenon	rubato rit. slow fast acc.	4 4	ff	staccato legato accents
② Classical Moz.	slow accel. rit.	3 4 waltz	p → f	legato accent
③ Diana Chamber	RUBATO	4 3 4 4	pp → mp mf	legato
④ Stairway rock	slow	4 4	p → mf	
⑤ Circle folk	rubato (slow) faster in (B)	4 3 4 4	mp —	
⑥ Barbara	fast	4		

What is musical shorthand?

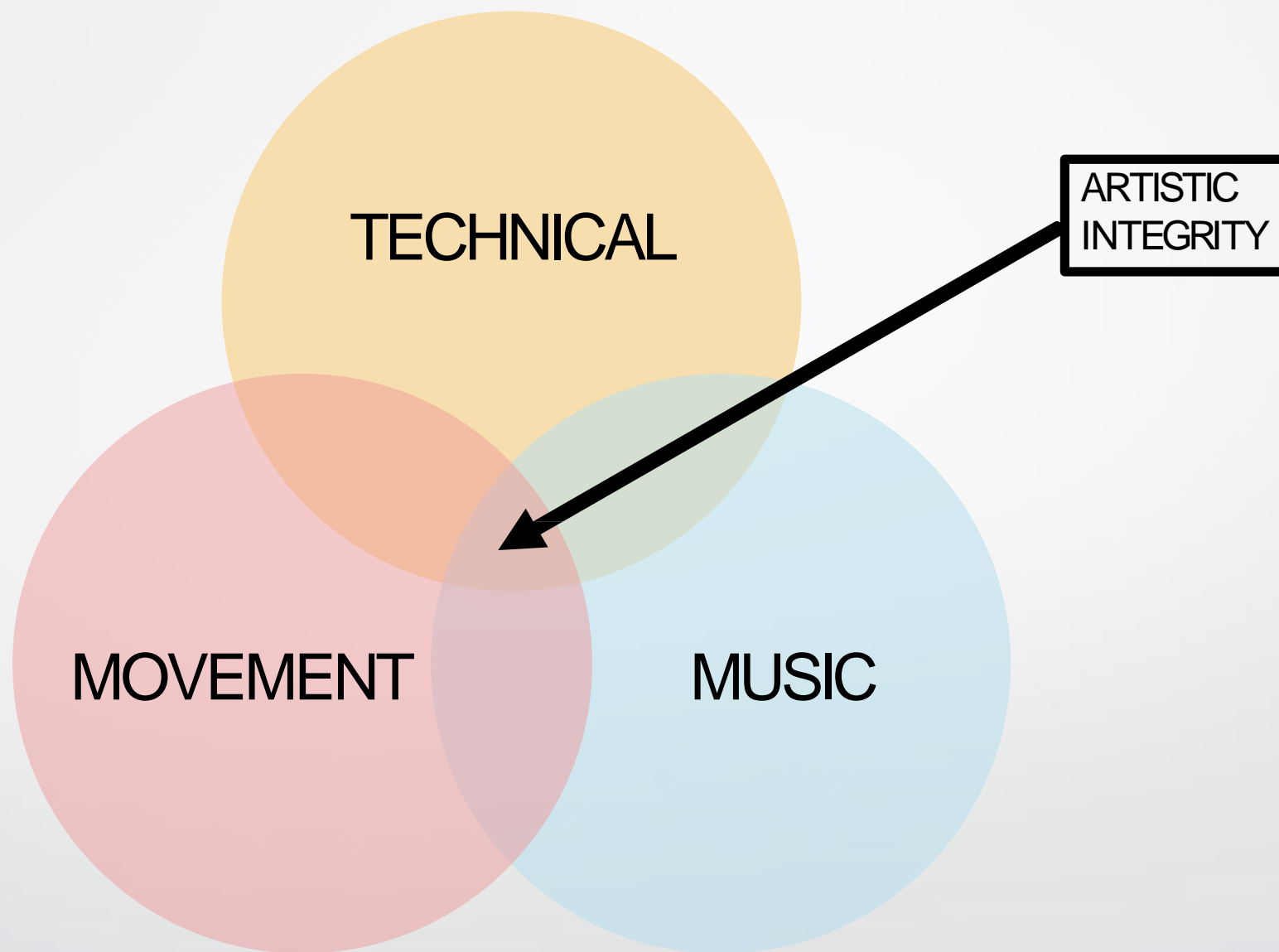
# What is the benefit of learning musical shorthand?



Triangulation is a powerful technique that facilitates validation of data through cross verification from two or more sources. In particular, it refers to the application and combination of several research methods in the study of the same phenomenon.



The idea is that one can be more confident with a result if different methods lead to the same result.



# The Basics of Musical Shorthand

- **Tempo:**
  - slow, fast, medium slow or fast
  - does it speed up or slow down?
  - is the tempo static or fluid?
- **Metre:**
  - how are we counting?
  - Are we in groups of 3 or 4?
- **Dynamics:**
  - How loud or soft is the music?
- **Articulation:**
  - Are the notes smooth or connected?
  - Are there pauses or accents?
- **Form:** the Basic Structure of Music
  - How many sections are there in the music?

# TEMPO

SLOW



FAST

## Shifts in Tempo

- Ritardando (rit.): gradually getting slower
- Accelerando (acc.): gradually getting faster (accelerating)
- Fermata: a pause
- Tempo Rubato: fluid, changing, and shifting tempo

# MUSIC METER

*"Common Time"*



*Four beats per measure*



*Quarter note gets the beat*

*"Waltz Time"*



*Three beats per measure*



*Quarter note gets the beat*

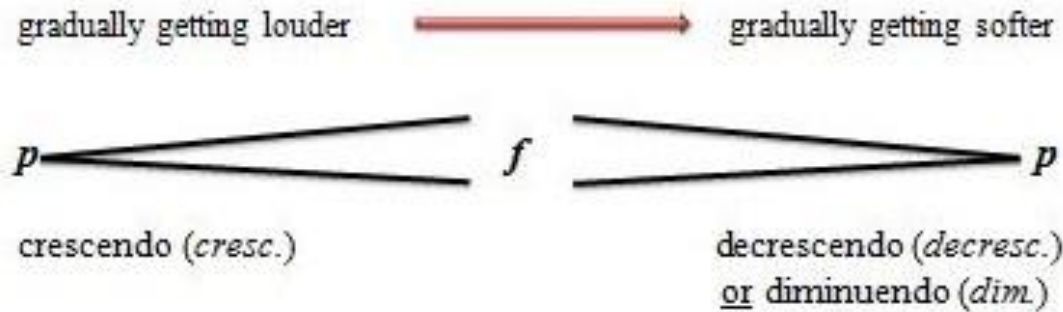
	Time Signature	Beat Value	Beat Grouping
Simple Duple	$\frac{2}{2}$		
Simple Triple	$\frac{3}{8}$		
Simple Quadruple	$\frac{4}{4}$		
Compound Duple	$\frac{6}{16}$		
Compound Triple	$\frac{9}{4}$		
Compound Quadruple	$\frac{12}{8}$		
Complex	$\frac{5}{8}$		



# Dynamics

How loud or soft.





<i>ppp</i>	<i>pianississimo</i>	Very, very soft.
<i>pp</i>	<i>pianissimo</i>	Very soft.
<i>p</i>	<i>piano</i>	Soft.
<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo piano</i>	Moderately soft.
<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo forte</i>	Moderately loud.
<i>f</i>	<i>forte</i>	Loud.
<i>ff</i>	<i>fortissimo</i>	Very loud.
<i>fff</i>	<i>fortississimo</i>	Very, very loud.



# VOLUME & SOUND LEVEL



# Articulation

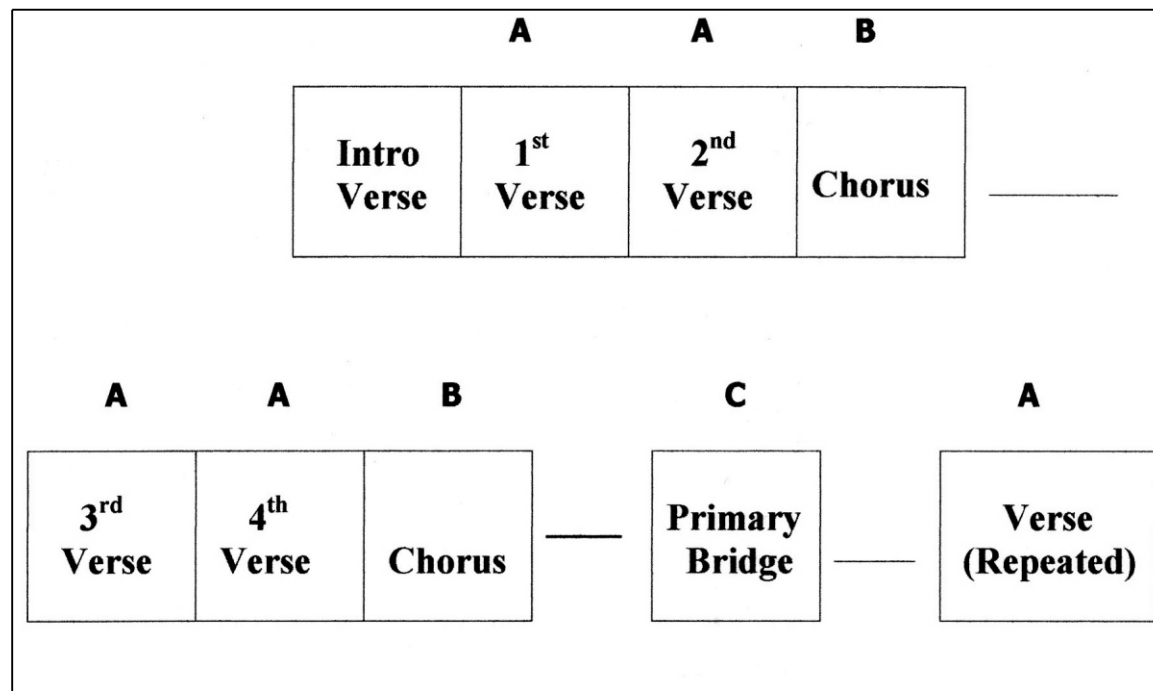
Symbol	Name	Meaning
	Legato	smoothly
	Staccato	short and sharp
	Marcato	Stress
	Fermata	Wait longer

# FORM

## Classical Forms

Binary Form	Music in two parts: AA BB
Ternary Form	Music in three parts: ABA
Rondo Form	ABACA
Theme & Variations	A, A1, A2, A3, A4, etc....
Sonata-Allegro Form	exposition-development-recapitulation (ABA)

## Popular Form





# Genre

- Classical
- Popular & Rock
- Blues & Jazz
- Contemporary
- Soundtrack (movie theme, Disney)
- Other?

Critical Listening						
	Tempo	Metre	Dynamics	Articulation		
① <i>Phonics</i>	rubato rit. slow fast acc.	4 4	<i>pp</i> <i>ff</i>	staccato legato accents	Tempo: fast, slow accelerando ritardando rubato	
② <i>Classical Mod.</i>	slow moderato accel. rit.	3 4 <i>waltz</i>	<i>p</i> → <i>f</i>	legato accent	Metre: 4/4 or 3/4	
③ <i>Diana Chamber</i>	RUBATO	4/4 3/4	<i>pp</i> → <i>mp</i> <i>mf</i>	legato	Dynamics: <i>pp</i> <i>p</i> <i>mp</i> <i>mf</i> <i>f</i> <i>ff</i> soft ← → loud	
④ <i>Stimmgang rock</i>	slow	4/4	<i>p</i> → <i>f</i>	legato accents	Articulation: staccato vs legato pause (fermata)	
⑤ <i>Gravy Coke</i>	rubato (slow) factor in ③	4/4 3/4	<i>mp</i> → <i>f</i>	legato + staccato		

# Critical Listening Chart

# Critical Listening Chart

Song	Tempo	Metre	Dynamics	Articulation	Genre



Thank you!

If you would like to contact me directly,  
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