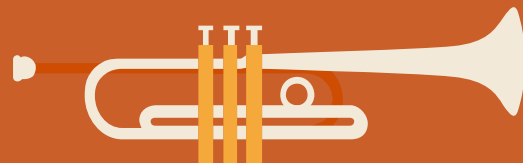
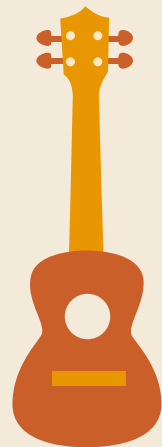


# *Form and Broadway*

Utah State University Student Research Symposium Spring 2021



# Form in Music

Structure and organization of a piece of music

Many musical pieces are organized into categories based on their form



# Context: *Les Miserables*

## Summary:

- The protagonist is Jean Valjean, a convict released after serving nineteen years in a French prison for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his family. Hardened by this experience, the musical follows the redemption of this character as he is shown mercy and vows to devote his life to serving God and showing others this same mercy.
- As part of this mission, Valjean takes in an orphaned child as his own daughter. Her name is Cosette.
- The musical takes place during the French Revolution. Cosette falls in love with a young radical student named Marius. During the course of political uprising, Marius is shot and is left wounded in the sewers.
- Valjean sets off to rescue the boy his daughter loves and sings this song as his plea/prayer to preserve Marius's life.



# Timeline: Verse-Chorus Form



## Verse

Verse: Lyrical, tells the story

New set of lyrics for each verse under the same music.

## Chorus

Chorus: most memorable part of the song

Different lyrics and different music

## Optional Components:

Bridge: Connects two sections of verse-chorus cycles, different music and lyrics

Intro and Outro: Beginning and ending (often instrumental)

# Bring Him Home



# "Bring Him Home" - Donut Form



Completely different from previous sections - connects two larger sections

bring him home



Many differences from prior 2 sections. Bigger, more colorful

Two similar components, small differences



Significance



# Performer



Verse:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ phrases built on the “rising and falling” progression</li><li>→ dynamics match phrasing</li></ul>
Chorus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ reaches new intensity, suggests desperation and genuine inquiry</li><li>→ clear half cadence</li></ul>
Bridge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ introspective conversation</li><li>→ 1st phrase, thoughtful</li><li>→ 2nd phrase, earnest</li><li>→ 3rd phrase, solemn</li></ul>



# Audience

## Introduction

- Sets tone for piece
- Slight tension and quick resolution

## Verses 1 and 2

- Familiar progression
- Expectations for the piece are set

## Chorus

- Highest point of the song so far
- Listener feels drawn in with the sudden intensity

## Bridge

- Contrast from everything before
- New chords, volume, and feeling

## Verse 3

- A "relief" verse
- Settles the contrast of the bridge

## Final Chorus (+Outro)

- Climax of the piece, using repetition for emphasis
- Desperation and pleading

Thank You