

Form and structure:

The piece is in **Binary** form (**AB**).

Section A is 16 bars long.

Section B is 24 bars long.

Each section is repeated (**AABB**).

Dynamics:

Mostly **forte** throughout, although no markings appear on the score.

On some recordings, **terraced dynamics** (sudden changes) are included.

Background details:

Composed by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685 – 1750), one of the main composers of the **Baroque** era in music.

Badinerie is the last of seven movements from a larger piece called **Orchestral Suite No.2**.

The piece was composed between **1738-1739**.

Tonality:

Section A begins in **B minor** (tonic) and ends in **F# minor** (dominant minor).

Section B begins in **F# minor** (dominant minor) and ends in **B minor** (tonic).

Section A modulates from B minor through **A major** before arriving at F# minor.

Section B modulates from F# minor through **E minor**, **D major**, **G major** and **D major** before arriving at B minor.

Harmony:

Diatonic; mixture of root position and inverted chords; uses V7 chords and a Neapolitan sixth chord.

Imperfect and perfect cadences are clearly presented throughout. Both sections end with a **perfect cadence**.

Metre and rhythm:

Simple duple time – 2/4 – with two crotchet beats in every bar.

Uses **ostinato rhythms** which form the basis of two short musical ideas (X and Y), consisting almost totally of **quavers and semi-quavers**.

Instrumentation:

Flute, string orchestra and harpsichord.

The score has five parts (flute, violin 1, violin 2, viola and cello). The harpsichord player reads from the cello line and plays the notes with their left hand whilst filling in the chords with their right hand.

Melody:

The movement is based on **two musical motifs**.



Both motifs begin with an **anacrusis**. Motif X is entirely **disjunct** whilst motif Y **combines disjunct and conjunct** movement.

Typical **ornaments and compositional devices** of the period are used including **trills**, **appoggiaturas** and **sequences**.

Texture:

Homophonic: melody and accompaniment.

The flute and cello provide the main musical material; however, the 1st violin participates occasionally.

The 2nd violin and viola provide harmony with less busy musical lines.

Tempo:

The tempo is **Allegro** (quick, lively, bright), although not marked on the score.