

## Structural phenomena

The term structural phenomenon is used in *A Practical Approach to the Study of Form in Music* by Spencer and Temko. The idea is that changes in certain musical characteristics are clear indicators or signs of the sectionality of music. Change indicates the beginning of something new, and implies that some aspect of that parameter tended to unify what came before. The list of such phenomena below is drawn from Spencer-Temko and extended slightly.

tonality: change of mode or key

cadence: relative cessation of musical activity; involves harmonic and melodic formulae

harmony: shift to new harmonic resources

meter: audible change of subdivisions of beat or organization of beats within a measure

tempo: change in speed of beat

rhythm: change in prevailing note value

melody: change to new or previously heard tune

motive: change to new or old motivic unit (melodic, rhythmic, harmonic, etc.)

timbre (instrumentation): change in tone color (instrumentation)

density: sudden change in amount of musical space filled

volume: sudden change in loudness

register: abrupt change in register/tessitura

texture: change in rhythmic and melodic relationship between voices