The designation "ABA" refers to a three-part form comprised of a first section ("A") in a particular key, a second, contrasting section ("B"), in a different, but related key, and a third section ("A"), similar to the first, if not an actual recapitulation of it. This structure has been approximated here as follows: "A" equals measures 1-6, in 4/4 meter; "B" equals measures 7-18, in 2/4 meter; "A" equals measures 22-27, in 4/4 meter. Since the snare drum is incapable of expressing changes in tonality, meter changes have replaced key changes in the respective sections. Further, measures 19-21 act as a transition from the "B" back to the "A" section, and employ shifting meters just as an harmonic modulation would employ shifting tonalities. The last seven measures form a coda, which does not add to the form proper.

