Section 1.8
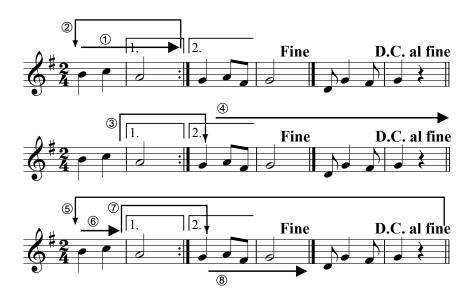# R E P E A T   S I G N S   A N D   R E P E A T E D   S E C T I O N S

Simple repeats

The **end repeat sign** tells the performer to go back one time to the **start repeat sign**, or, if there is no start repeat, the beginning of the movement.

1st and 2nd endings

First and second endings indicate different music to be played the first and second times. **"2x only"** (not shown below) means play that music the second time only. Third and higher endings are also possible.
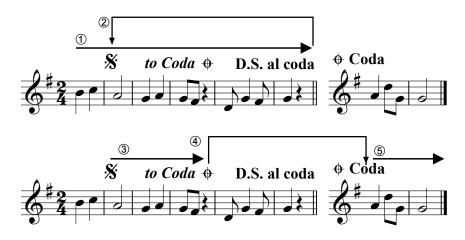

D.C. al fine (Da capo al fine)

D.C. (**da capo**, "from the head") means repeat back to the start of the piece. **Al fine** means after repeating back, play to the fine marking. Traditionally, musicians skip over any first endings after they go back for a D.C. (or D.S.) repeat. The numbers in the example below indicate: (1) play through the first ending; (2) repeat back to measure 1; (3) jump to the second ending; (4) play to the last written measure; 5) D.C. to the "head" (start); and (6)/(7)/(8) play through to the **Fine**, skipping any first endings and stopping at the end of the measure with the Fine marking.
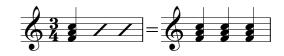
D.S. al coda
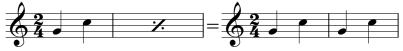**Dal segno al coda**

D.S. (dal segno) means repeat back to a special sign (see example below; segno means sign) and **al coda** means after repeating back, play to the coda mark, then jump to the coda (coda means tail). The numbers in the example below indicate: (1) play from the start to the D.S. al coda break; (2) repeat back to the sign (dal segno); (3) play until the "jump to coda" symbol; and (4)/(5) jump to the coda and play to the end. **D.S. al fine** (not al coda) and **D.C. al coda** (not al fine) are also common possibilities.

D.S. al fine
D.C. al coda

Repeated beat

The **repeated beat symbol** is used only in handwritten music and parts for rhythm instruments such as guitar, drums, or sometimes piano.

Repeated measure

The **repeated measure/bar** is used only for drums, piano, or guitar.

Two-measure repeat

The **two-measure repeat** is used only for drums, piano, or guitar. Four-measure repeats are also possible; they use four slashes and the number four, not two. To repeat more than four measures, use a simple repeat sign.