

REROUTED

Following Musical Detours

■ On a road trip, there may not always be a direct route from point A to point B. The same goes for music: it's not as simple as starting at the beginning of a piece and playing straight through to the end. Sometimes the music instructs you to repeat entire sections, take alternate endings, or even end the piece right in the middle of the page.

When this happens, you may feel like you are in foreign territory, since musical directions are not printed in English, but use a combination of symbols and Italian abbreviations. This guide will help you decode your musical roadmap, so you'll never have to stop to ask for directions again!

Note: The examples shown are brief. In printed music these directions are used to avoid rewriting long sections of music.

Da capo means "from the beginning." In music, this is abbreviated *D.C.*, and can be followed by *al fine* or *al coda*.

Dal segno means "from the sign," and is abbreviated *D.S.* Like a *da capo* direction, it can be followed by either *al fine* or *al coda*.

D.C. al fine tells you to return to the beginning and play until you see the word *fine*. In Italian, *fine* means "end," and indicates that the piece is finished.

Play measures one through eight, then return to the beginning, and end after measure four.

D.C. al coda tells you to return to the beginning of the piece and continue until you see the *coda* sign: ⊕. Then, skip toward the end of the piece (or section) until you find another *coda* sign, which shows you where to start playing again. *Coda* means "tail," and accordingly, is a small bit of additional music that ends the piece or section of the piece.

Play measures one through eight. Repeat measures one through four. Then, skip to the second *coda* sign and play the last four measures (nine through 12) of the piece.

D.S. al fine tells you to return to the $\%$ sign found earlier in the music. You then play until you come to the *fine*, which ends the piece.

Play measures one through eight, return to measure three, and end after measure four.

D.S. al coda tells you to return to the $\%$ sign and then (as you might be able to predict by now) play until you come to the *coda* sign. Then, skip down to the second *coda* sign at the end to finish the piece or section.

Play measures one through eight, then return to measure three. Play measures three and four, and then skip to the *coda* at measure nine. End by playing the four-measure *coda*.

