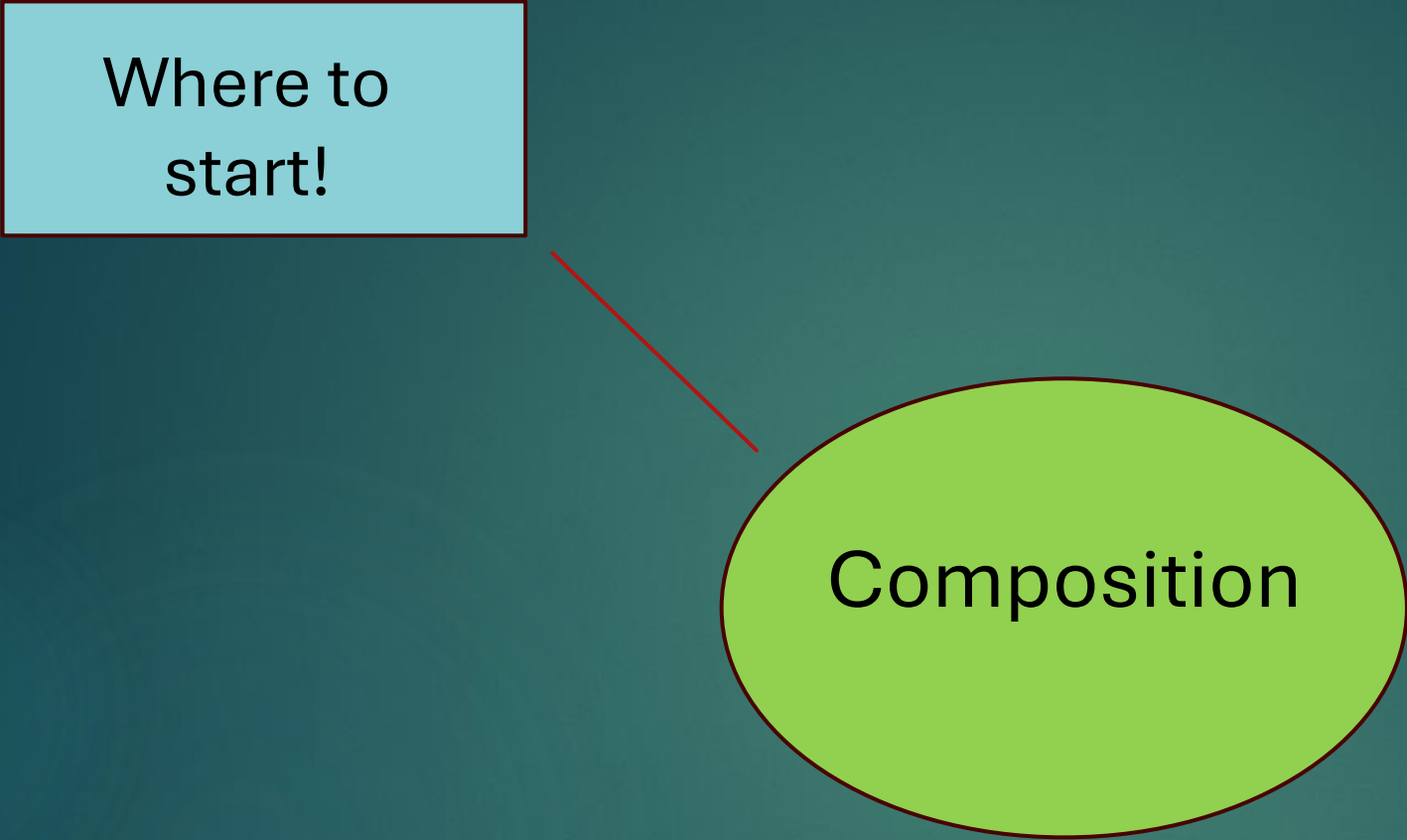




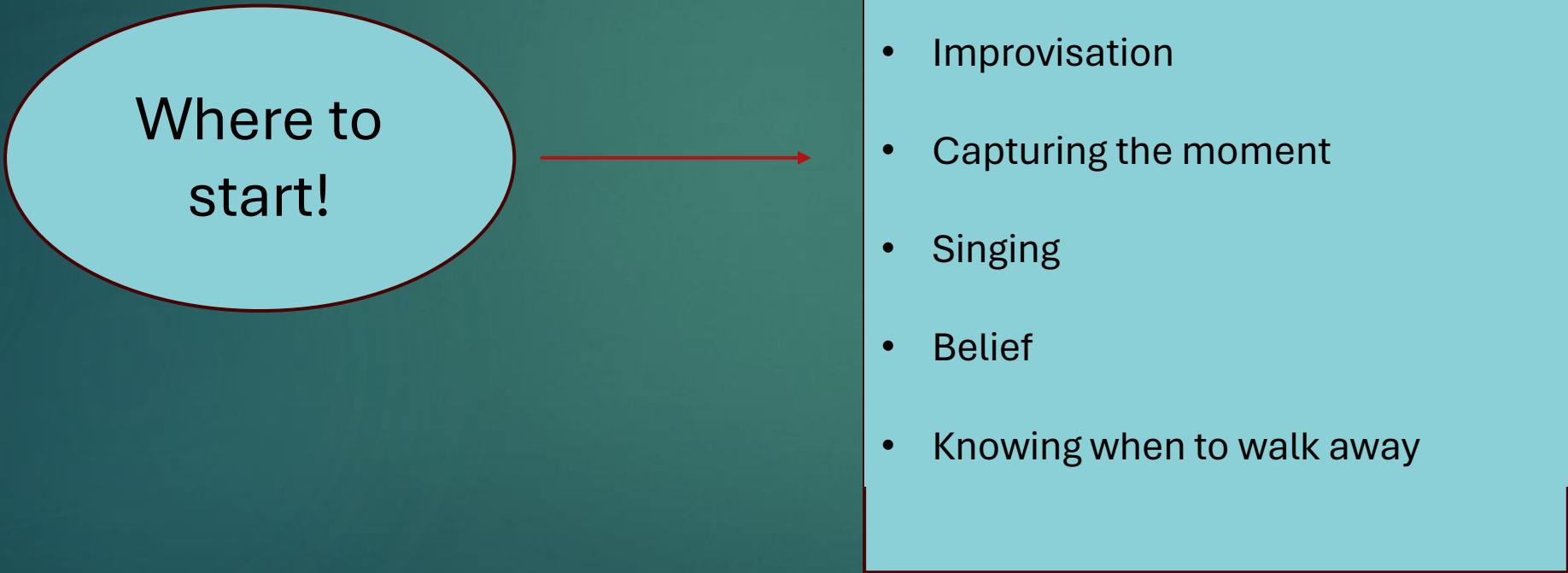
Piobaireachd Composition

BY STUART D SAMSON MBE

Where to
start!



Composition



Where to
start!

- Idea / Theme
- Commission / Timeline
- Creative impulse / mood
- Improvisation
- Capturing the moment
- Singing
- Belief
- Knowing when to walk away

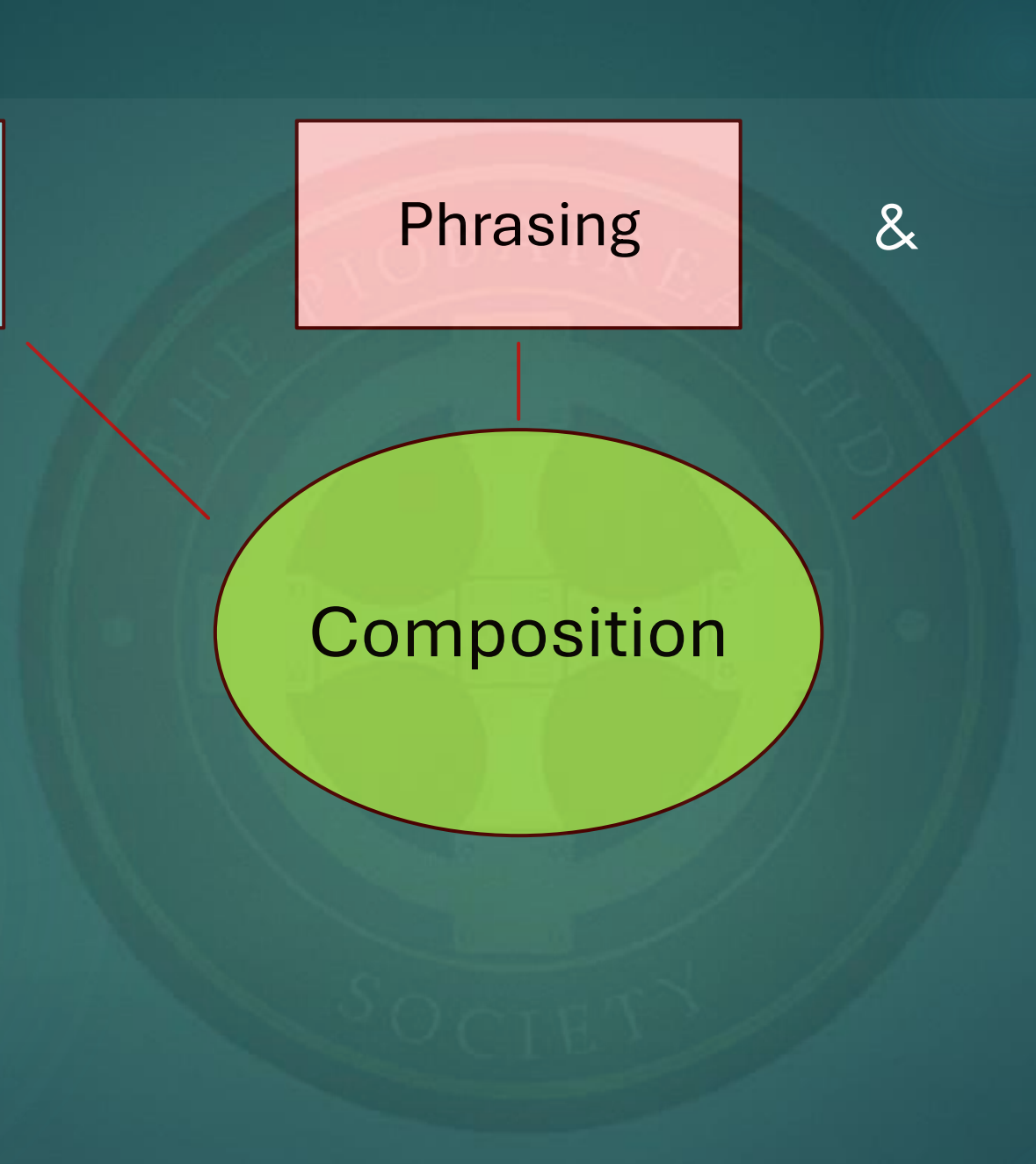
Where to
start!

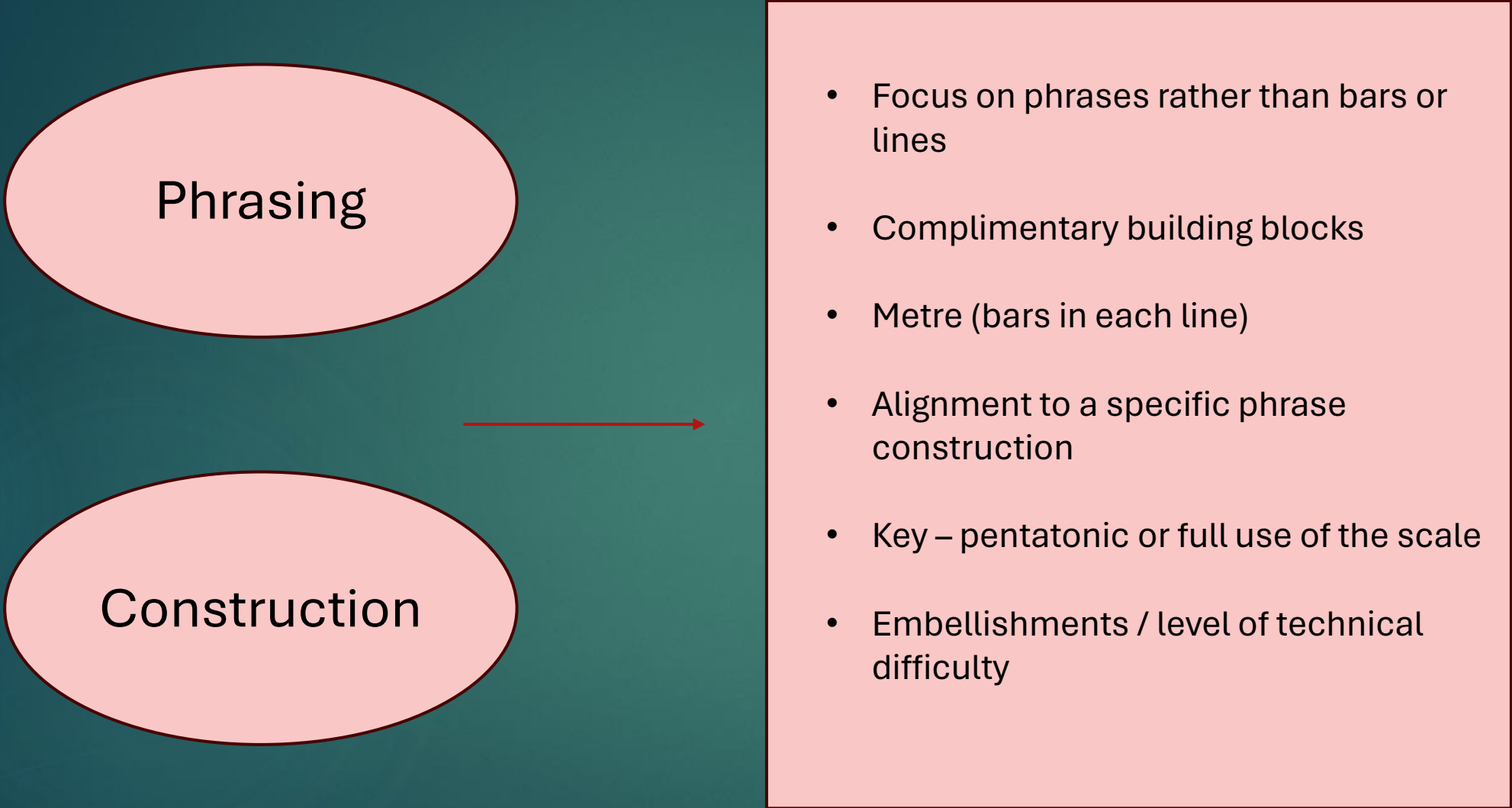
Phrasing

&

Construction

Composition





Phrasing

Construction

- Focus on phrases rather than bars or lines
- Complimentary building blocks
- Metre (bars in each line)
- Alignment to a specific phrase construction
- Key – pentatonic or full use of the scale
- Embellishments / level of technical difficulty

Where to
start!

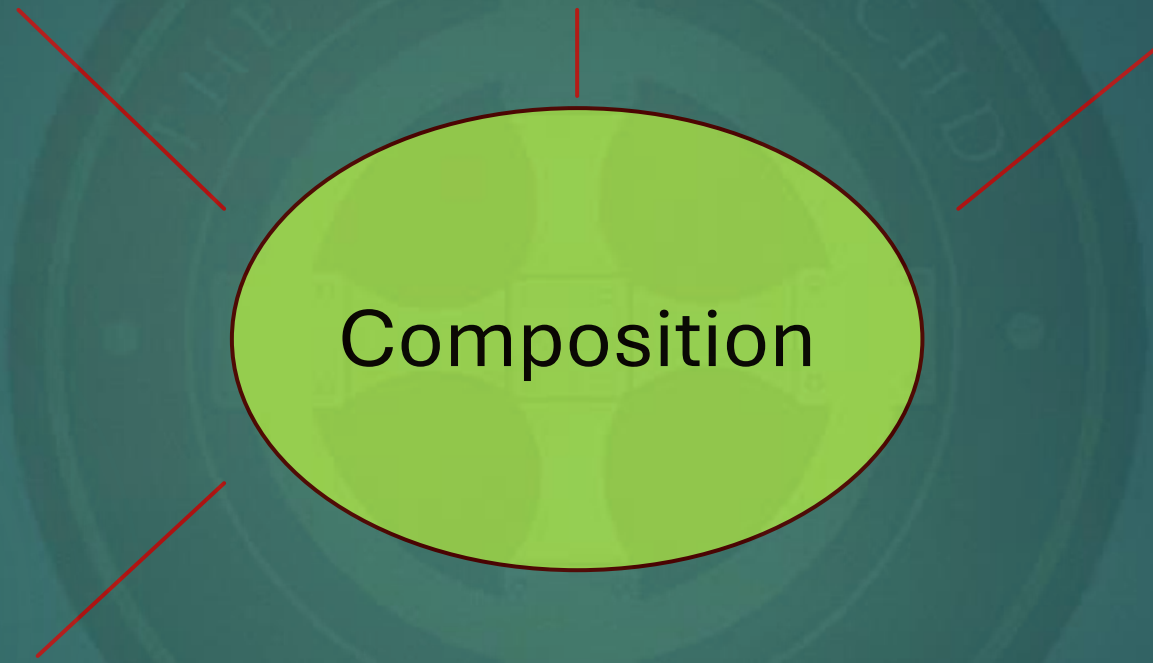
Phrasing

&

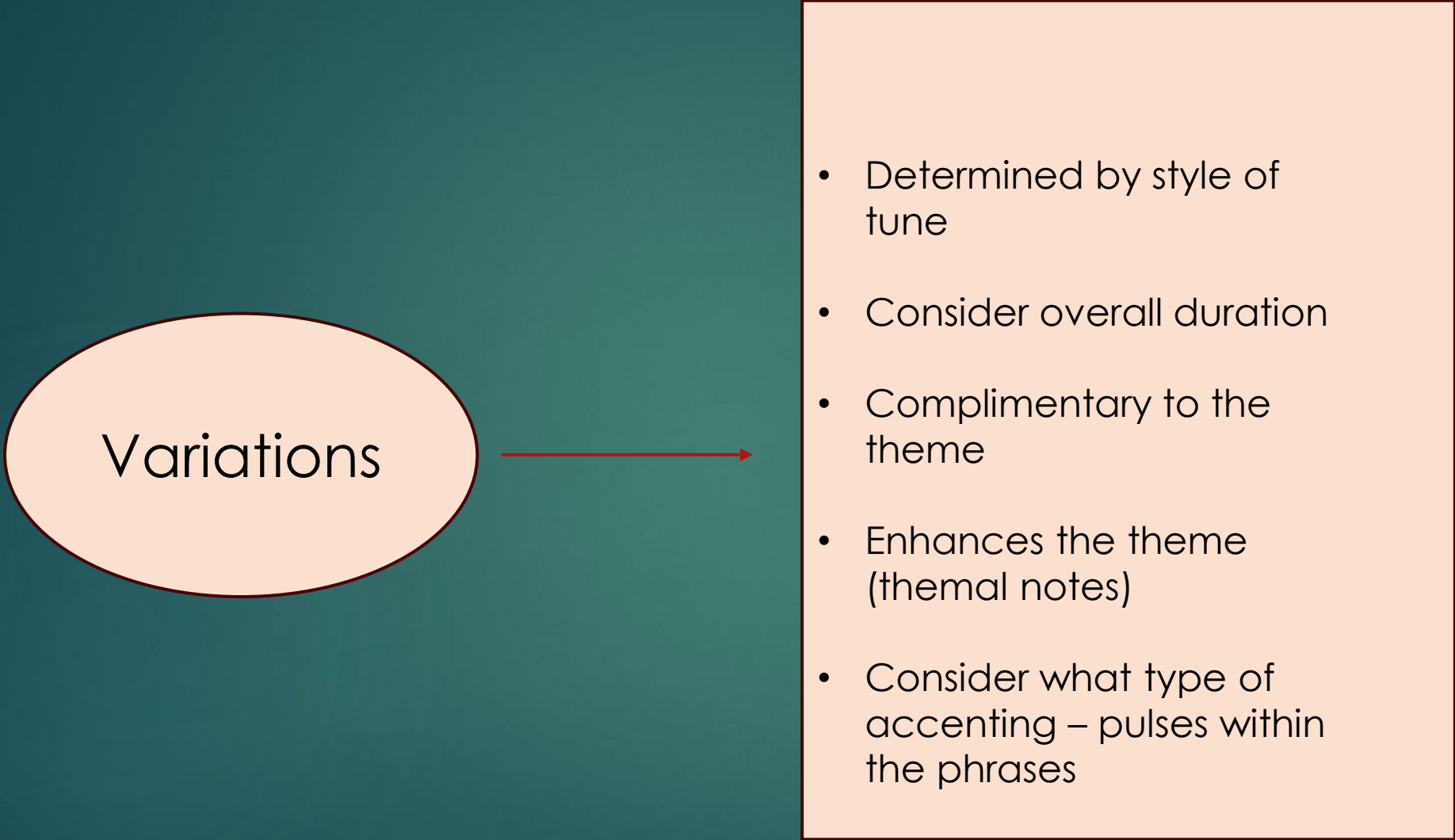
Construction

Composition

Variations



Variations



- Determined by style of tune
- Consider overall duration
- Complimentary to the theme
- Enhances the theme (thematic notes)
- Consider what type of accenting – pulses within the phrases

Where to
start!

Phrasing

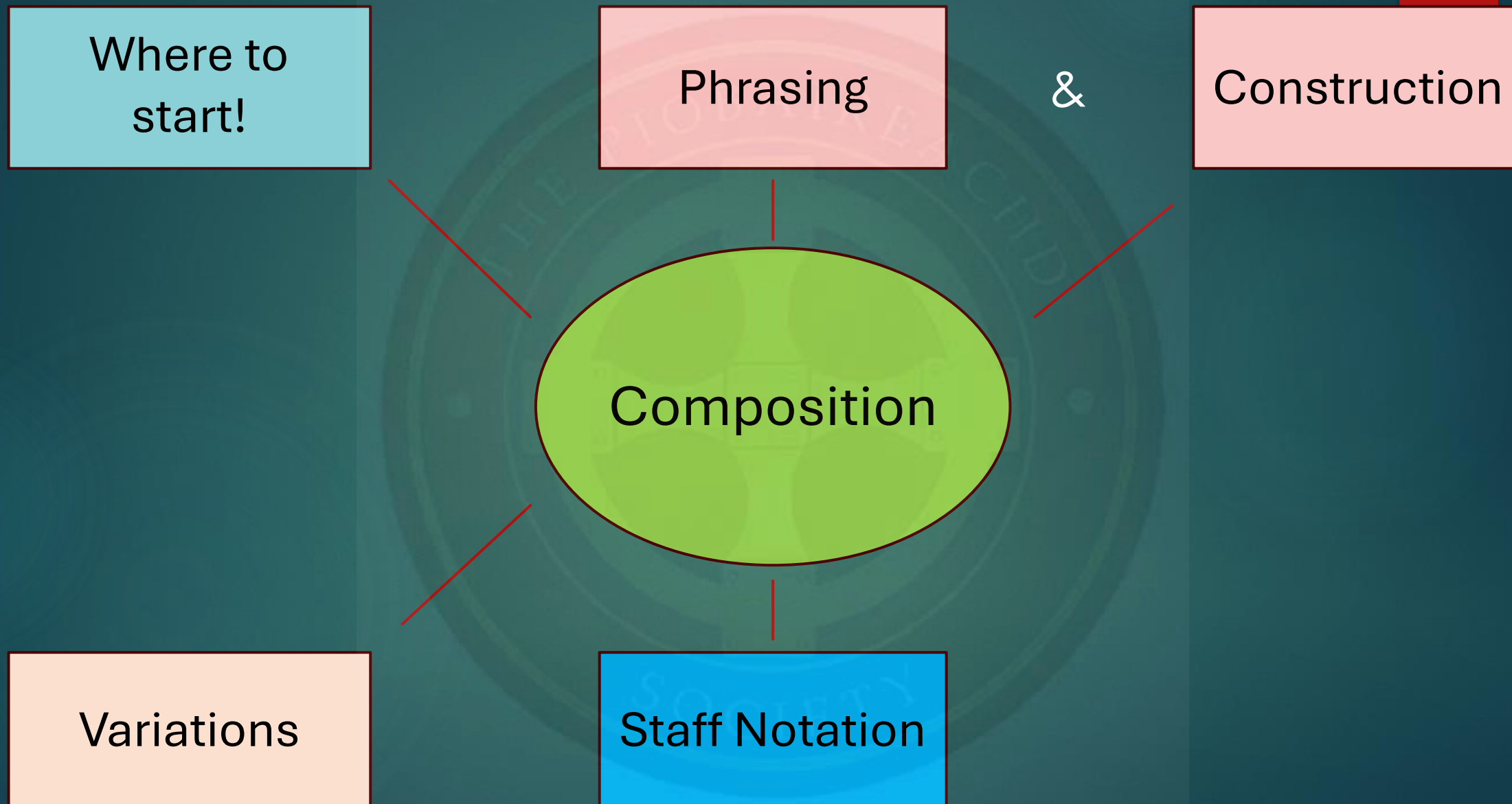
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Construction

Composition

Variations

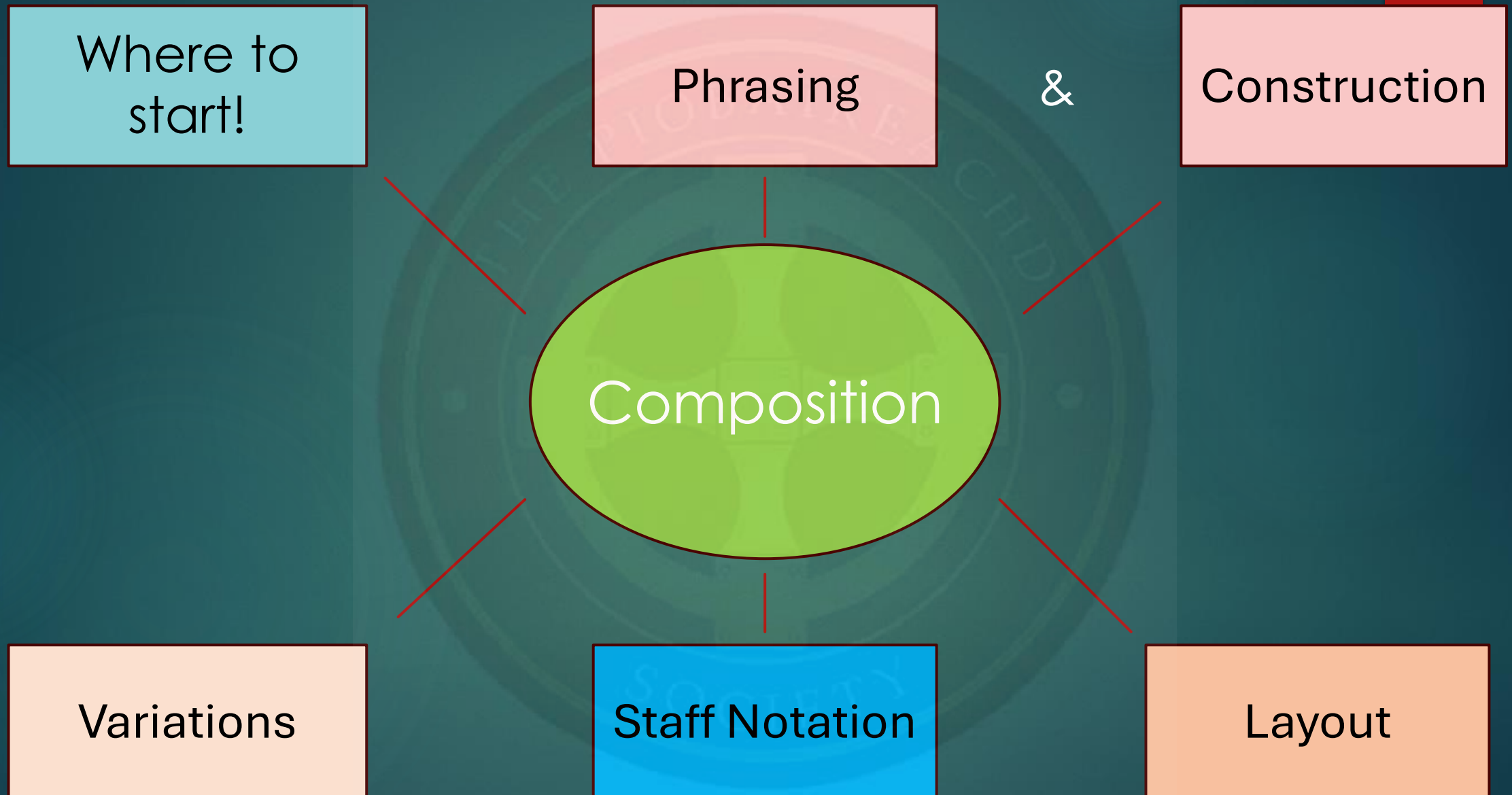
Staff Notation



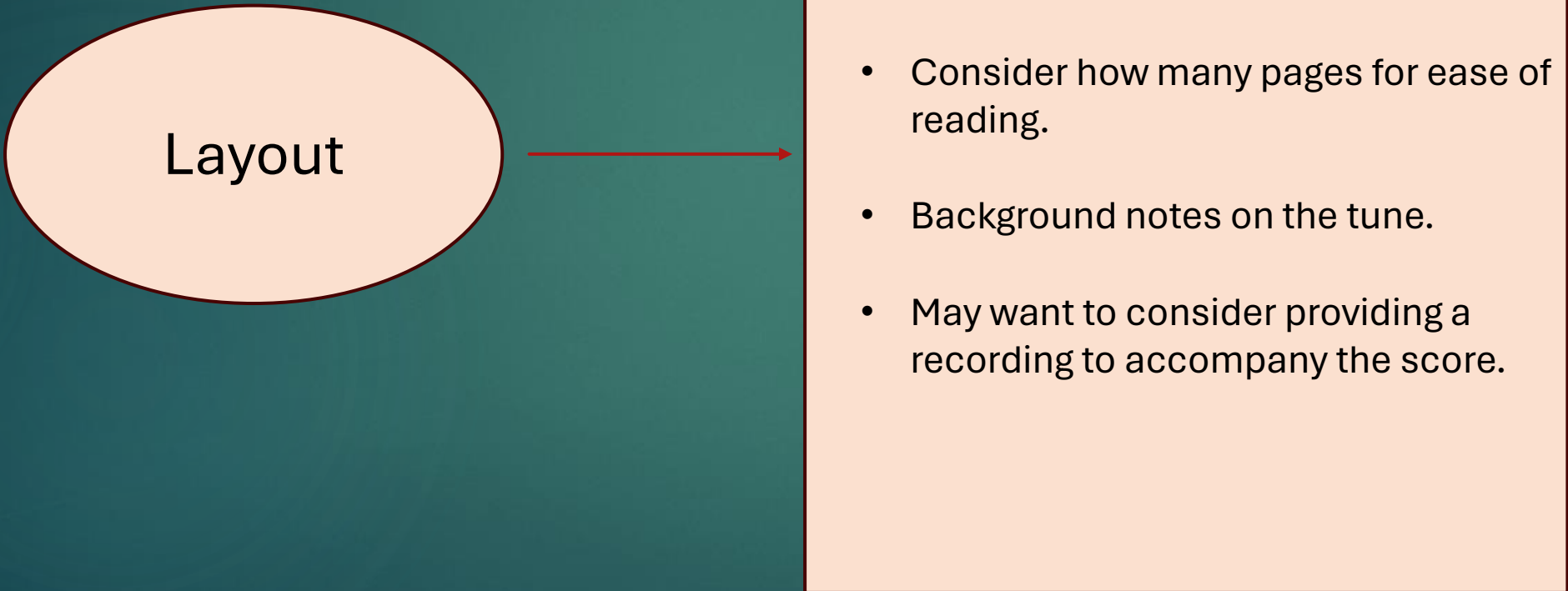
Staff Notation



- Using a time signature and bar lines.
- Difficult to write to a rigid time signature, especially in a ground and singling variations.
- Need to accept that the note values on the score will not resemble the note value of the performance.
- The use of pause marks can help to indicate the extension of a note.
- Could consider writing a score in phrases with no time signature, presenting the note values relative to the performance.



Layout



```
graph LR; A([Layout]) --> B[• Abbreviations used.  
• Music Writing Software.  
• Consider how many pages for ease of reading.  
• Background notes on the tune.  
• May want to consider providing a recording to accompany the score.];
```

- Abbreviations used.
- Music Writing Software.
- Consider how many pages for ease of reading.
- Background notes on the tune.
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Questions?