

Composing your own Melody

Task 1:

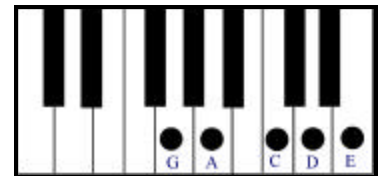
Perform this melody. The melody has four phrases, 1, 2, 3 and 4. You will notice that lines 1, 2 and 4 are the same.

The first staff contains the following notes and letter names: A A A A D C A A A A A D C A. The second staff contains: E E C C A A G A A A A D C A.

Task 2:

Next *improvise* your own melody using the notes G, A, C, D and E. Copy the rhythm of the original melody and keep lines 1, 2 and 4 the same.

Here is an example of what you might do.



The first staff contains the following notes and letter names: A C A C E D C A C A C E D C. The second staff contains: C D E C E E C A C A C E D C.

Notice how in this tune there is a high 'E' and a low 'E', and that line 4 is a little different from lines 1 and 2.

Task 3:

Compose your own melody using the ideas you have developed from your improvisation. Write your melody below using notation or letter names.

Extension Tasks

Group Work 1

1. Try out your melody with someone playing the accompaniment - your teacher may do this.
2. In a small group of 4 or 5, put together a piece that has:
 - a) all the group playing the original melody
 - b) Some solo melodies in between - for example:
 - All play the main melody
 - First person plays their composition
 - All play the main melody
 - Second person play their composition etc.
3. Try out the final results with the accompaniment.

Now write another melody, only this time you do not have to stick to the same rhythm or have repeated lines - unless you want to.

If you change the rhythm you must make sure it still fits the accompaniment.

Group work 2

1. Make up a group piece as you did before, using some of your new work. Discuss which of the two pieces you think is best.
2. Your new piece could have some extra ideas. For example: an introduction or a very quiet of the melody or an ending that fades away.
3. Add some percussion parts. Ask your teacher to help you do this if you are unsure.
4. When you have finished record your work.