

FIRST TIME COMPOSITION PLATFORM FOR KEYBOARD

GCSE/ B-TECH/ RSL and General

Lesson 1

This information will create a platform/basis for you to begin to write your own song, also known as composition. Using the keyboard makes it easier to visualize the melody/scale and chords.

➤ **The Melody**

The Melody is the lead line. The part of the song you can recognize and hum to yourself.

➤ **The Scale**

Generally start with the scale of C. The only white note scale ranging from C to C. This involves the use of 7 unique notes.

E.g. **C D E F G A B C** (the top and bottom note being the same)

This tells you the notes that exist in the key.

➤ **The Chords/Harmony**

A Chord is more than one note played at the same time!

You can build chords on each note of the scale so you have 7 unique chords.

The combination of chords you use is known as a chord progression.

One of the most commonly used chord progressions is 1, 4 and 5. This means chords made up by using the 1st, 4th and 5th note in the scale.

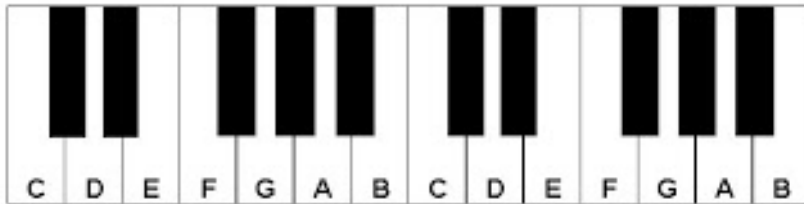
E.g. chord **C**, chord **F**, chord **G**

➤ Composing Your Melody

Firstly, make sure your keyboard is set on a melodic sound / instrument setting. **NOT** a drum or sound effect.

Don't be scared to have a go at creating! It may not make sense to you at first but soon will as a few things get set in place.

Now have a play with your selection of notes. See how they change in pitch (high and low). If you feel brave you can use more than your original 7 notes as they just duplicate up and down the keyboard as shown below.



Don't go mad as in playing loads of notes together that doesn't make sense. Try less notes to make a short melody. Remember, "**Less is more**".

Write down in the box below your ideas and record if possible as you will forget.

Useful Tips:

- DO NOT COPY ANYONE ELSE'S SONGS;
- USE MORE THAN 1 FINGER TO ENABLE FLOW OF NOTES;
- DO NOT USE LOADS OF NOTES FOR THE SAKE OF IT;
- FOR AN IDEA! THINK OF A FEW SONGS YOU KNOW WELL AND SEE HOW THE WORDS FIT WITH THE MUSIC;
- YOU MAY WANT TO WRITE YOUR OWN WORDS TO YOUR SONG.