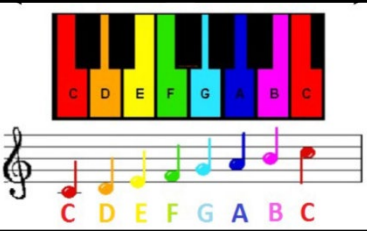


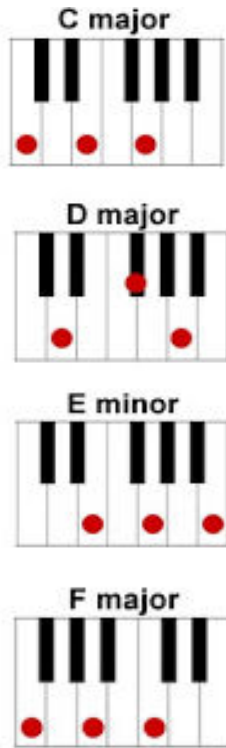
Knowledge Organiser – Music – Year 8 – Autumn – Compose It

Overview of topic: You will compose a song to a given brief, ensuring you include a melody with passing notes, chords, and that it matches the brief.

Key content/ ideas/ concepts



How to play a chord



These 4 chords are called 'triads' as they have 3 notes in them.

Type of chords

Block Chords

2 or more notes played at once and held

Broken Chords

2 or more notes played one after the other

Rhythmic Chords

2 or more notes played in a rhythm

Melody

A melody is the main tune heard within any song.

Below is an example of a triadic melody. (A melody which only uses the notes from the chords).

	C	Dm	Em	F
Chords	C	Dm	Em	F
Melody	C G E E	G B D D	A C C E	F F A C
	C	Dm	Em	F
Chords	C	Dm	Em	F
Melody	C G E E F	D F G A A	A E D C E	F F G A C

New melody with added passing notes.

Passing notes are the notes in between the notes of the chord.

So if the chord was C you would play the notes C,E,G making the passing notes D and F.

You need passing notes to make a melody sound smooth otherwise it would just be a triadic melody. Passing notes are used to make the melody sound more

What is a brief?

A brief is a set of instructions which must be followed by the composer.

Brief 1

Compose a piece of music that evokes a spooky/scary mood. The piece must have a melody and accompaniment.



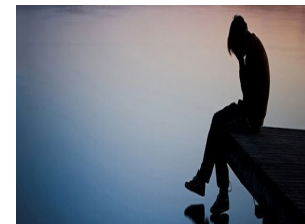
Brief 2

Compose a piece of music that evokes a party mood. The piece must have a melody and accompaniment.



Brief 3

Compose a piece of music that evokes a sad mood. The piece must have a melody and accompaniment.

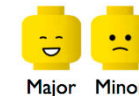


Different sounding chords

Chords can sound very different from one another. The chords we will learn are major chords and minor chords.

Major chords are 'happy' sounding chords.

Minor chords are 'sad' sounding chords.



Keywords/ Glossary

Chord	A group of (typically three or more) notes sounded together, as a basis of harmony
Triad	A triad is a chord of three notes played at the same time.
Block Chord	2 or more notes played at the same time.
Broken Chord	2 or more notes played one after the other
Rhythmic Chord	2 or more notes played in a rhythm
Melody	The tune.
Passing Notes	The notes in between the notes of a chord.
Major Chord	A happy sounding chord
Minor Chord	A sad sounding chord.
Accompaniment	The part, or parts, that support the melody.
Bass line	Lowest part of a piece of music
Pedal	Sustained bass note even when the chords change.
Brief	A brief is a set of instructions which must be followed by the composer.

Wider Reading

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3dqhyc/articles/zrx3vk7>

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Self-Quiz Questions	Self-Quiz Questions	Challenge Self-Quiz Quizzing
1. What is a chord?	1. What are the notes of a C chord?	1. What is the definition of Texture?
2. What are block chords?	2. What are the notes of a Dm chord?	2. What is the definition of Duration?
3. What are broken chords?	3. What are the notes of an Em chord?	3. What is the definition of Timbre?
4. What are rhythmic chords?	4. What are the notes of an F chord?	4. What is the definition of Dynamics?
5. Explain how to write a melody.	5. What does Accompaniment mean?	5. What is the definition of Pitch?
6. What are passing notes?	6. What is a Bass line?	6. What is the definition of Tempo?
7. What is a triad?	7. What is Pedal?	7. What hand should you play the chords on?
8. How do major chords sound?	8. What is a Brief?	8. What hand should you play the melody on?
9. How do minor chords sound?	9. What is a Composer?	9. If a song is happy, what type of chords could you use?
10. What is the rule to play a 3-note chord?	10. What is the definition of Structure?	10. If a song is sad, what type of chords could you use?
Total score	Total score	Total score