

World of Music at Band on the Wall

Creative Challenge

Write a Song!

Songwriting Worksheets

There isn't a right or wrong way to write a song, there are lots of different ways to do it. Each artist and musician will have their own unique way of expressing their perspective of the world through music.

This activity will show you one method to write a song in three steps: chords, lyrics, and melody. Why not give it a try!

If you'd like to find out more about Band on the Wall's learning programme World of Music, check out our website, www.guidetotheworldofmusic.com

or get in touch at learning@bandonthewall.org.

How to use this Resource

This resource is a set of worksheets. It can be printed and completed in the spaces provided, or participants can complete the exercises on their own paper.

Throughout the worksheets there are options for different music levels – those who play instruments, and those who don't. An online keyboard may be useful to find musical notes. There are many available, we recommend www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano (select 'letter notes' at the top).

**Manchester Cultural
Education Partnership**



WORLD OF
MUSIC



**BAND ON
THE WALL**

**www.guidetotheworldofmusic.com
www.bandonthewall.org**

Step 1: Chords

✦ A chord is more than one note played at the same time. You often hear chords on a guitar or a piano.

✦ The chords are the backing to our song. The three chords we are going to use for this song are

C Am G G

✦ If you play a chord instrument, such as a piano, guitar, or ukulele, have a go at playing these chords. You can see the fingers and notes needed for these chords below.

✦ If you don't play a chord instrument, don't worry! There is a backing track that accompanies this activity. You can write, sing, and even record yourself over this backing track! Have a listen to these chords to get a feel for the song.

✦ Or... a simple way to create a song is to write it with no chords at all – make it 'unaccompanied', that's fine too! You can move on to the next step!

Piano

C



Am

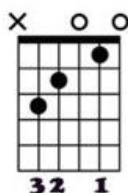


G

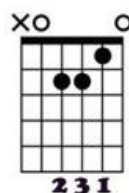


Guitar

C



Am



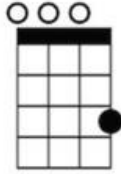
G



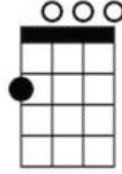
Step 1: Chords

Ukulele

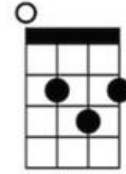
C



Am



G



Step 2: Lyrics

First, Brainstorm

- + Choose a subject. What would your song be about? We would like you to write a song about Manchester, but if you would like to write a song about something else, that's fine too! Write your subject in the space below.
- + Brainstorm words or phrases that come to mind when you think about your subject! What words do you associate with Manchester? These could be places, people, events... anything at all!
- + Can you think of some describing words for any of your words or phrases? Write those down too!
- + Can you think of any words which rhyme with what you've written? Write down some rhyming words!

My Subject: _____

words or phrases

example

Piccadilly
football

describing words

example

lively
friendly

rhyming words

example

Piccadilly - silly, chilly
City - pretty

Step 2: Lyrics

- ✦ Write a sentence which uses 2 or 3 of the words from your brainstorm.
Use action words such as 'walking', 'jump', 'enjoying' 'smile' to link your words together.

Example sentence:

Sunny days walking in Piccadilly

My sentence:

- ✦ Choose 2 to 3 more words from your brainstorm and repeat the sentence writing process until you have four sentences. You could use the rhyming words at the ends of your sentences to make them rhyme.

These four sentences are four lines of lyrics!

Example:

**Sunny days walking in Piccadilly.
Watching the football, I keep friendly,
Tall walls, gently fill up the city,
Manchester, you're looking pretty!**

My 4 lines of lyrics:

REMEMBER!

**We don't have to stick with anything and can change our lyrics at any point!
Cross out words, change words, change whole lines...
Use the space below to experiment with your lyrics.**



Step 2: Lyrics

✦ You can stick with these four lines, call them the chorus and move on to the next step. Or you can repeat the whole process again as many times as you like to write verses! Fill in as much of the song structure below as you like, and then move on to step 3!

My lyrics:

Verse 1

Chorus

Verse 2

Chorus (this should be the same as your first chorus!)

Congratulations! You're a lyricist!

Step 3: Melody

✦ The melody is the tune of the song. Here is one way to write a melody.

Look at the scale of your song.

A scale is set of musical notes arranged in order. For this challenge, we are using the key of C, which means the scale starts on the note 'C'. There are no sharps or flats in the scale of C, so if we look at a keyboard, it means there are no black notes.

Key of C



✦ Play the scale.

You will need to be able to hear the notes. You can do this on any instrument you have – find the note 'C', and play the 7 notes going up from it. That's the scale of C! If you don't have an instrument, don't worry. There are lots of online keyboards that you can use.

We like this one: www.onlinepianist.com/virtual-piano (select 'letter notes' at the top to find the C).

✦ Give each note a number.

C=1, D=2, E=3, F=4, G=5, A= 6, B=7



✦ Choose 5 random numbers.

There are two options for choosing your 5 numbers:

- If you have a pen and some paper: Cut the paper into seven pieces. Write the number 1 on one piece of paper, number 2 on another... all the way to 7. Fold the pieces of paper, shuffle them about, and pick one out! Open it up and write down that number in the first box on the next page. Then fold up that piece of paper, put it back with the rest, shuffle them, and pick again! Repeat this until you have five numbers written in the boxes.
- If there are any other people about: Ask them to say any number between 1 and 7! Whatever number that person says, write it in the box. Could you ask a classmate, a teacher, a sibling or a parent? Maybe you could get 5 numbers from different people? Write these numbers in the boxes on the next page.

Step 3: Melody

**First
Number**



**Second
Number**



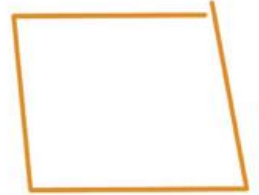
**Third
Number**



**Forth
Number**



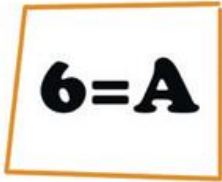
**Fifth
Number**



✧ Turn those numbers back into notes!

Look back at your scale... If you first number is a 6, the note that goes with that number is A. Give each of your numbers a note. Here is an example...

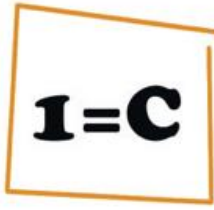
**First
Number**



**Second
Number**



**Third
Number**



**Forth
Number**



**Fifth
Number**



In this example, the notes are A, D, C, D, G.

What are your notes? Write them here:

✧ Play or sing your notes!

First, play the notes on an instrument to hear how they sound. We can play them on the online keyboard if we don't have an instrument.

Next, sing the notes. These notes together are the melody, and we want to get this fixed in our memory.

Then, we sing our lyrics to this five-note melody... Give it a go with your lyrics and your notes!

You may need to sing more than one word on a note to make the whole line fit - that's fine!

Do you like it? Do you want to change it? That's up to you! Replace any notes you like, or add more in, anything goes!

+ Finish your melody

We can repeat this one melody all the way through our song. In which case, you're done! Have a go at singing all of your lyrics to this line of melody!

You can write more lines of melody to add variation.

Why not write a second line of melody - choose five more random numbers, turn those numbers into notes, and see how they sound! You could use this second line of melody in many ways: as the tune for your verse or your chorus, as the last line of your chorus, or in lines two and four... try a few options and see what you like!

You can develop your song however you like - write more verses, change melody lines, or add more variation to the melody.

That's it! You're a Songwriter!

- ✦ Play your song again and again to make it stick in your mind!

Sing along to the backing track, play it on your own instrument, or sing it unaccompanied.

We'd really love to see or hear your new song!
Here are a few ways to share it with us.

- ✦ Send us your lyrics, a photo of them handwritten or a copy typed up.
- ✦ Record your song on a smartphone or computer.
- ✦ Video yourself singing it, either using our backing track, playing the chords yourself, or unaccompanied.
- ✦ Create a piece of 'cover art' for your song - draw a picture and include your name and the name of the song, and send us a photo.

Email your creations to learning@bandonthewall.org

We'll be picking our favourites to share on social media.

Get creative, get inspired and
most importantly, have fun!

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