



## INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC COMPOSITION

Objective: To introduce music composition to a group of students who may not have any solid music theory knowledge.

### **Required Text/Tools:**

- Blank Staff Paper
- Computer/Tablet to be able to log into Zoom
- Ability to Record one self playing their work
- Ability to scan/take a picture and send written work to instructor

### **Week 1: What is music composition?**

1. Talking about what it means to compose music.
2. The difference between spontaneous composition (improvisation) and writing a song/piece of music to be played over and over again.
3. Large ensemble vs. Small/Solo Ensemble(s) Composition (with instructor's example's)
4. Homework: Listen to one of your favorite compositions, tell us what it is, and why you like it so much. It can be from any genre of music.

### **Week 2: Composition vs. Arranging**

1. What's the difference?
2. Is there any originality in arranging?
3. How do I compose/arrange original music?
4. Mary Had a Little Lamb Homework

### **Week 3: The 12 Bar Blues**

1. What is a 12 Bar Blues?
2. Why use the Blues?
3. Which notes can I use?
4. Blues Composition Homework (email it to me at least 48 hours before the next class)

### **Week 4: Review of our Original Compositions**

1. Review of our composition
2. How to move forward in composition
3. Final Thoughts