



MUSIC COMPOSITION 1

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

Required Text/Tools:

1. Blank Staff Paper
2. Computer/Tablet to be able to log into Zoom
3. Ability to Record one self playing their work
4. 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. Homework: Mary Had a Little Lamb Arranging/Composition

Week 3: Duets

1. Examples of Duets
2. Harmonized Duets
3. Counterpoint
4. Homework: Write a Duet using techniques we discussed in class.

Music Composition 1, continued...

Week 4: Trios/Quartets

1. Examples of Trios
2. Examples of Quartets
3. Difference in various genres of trio and quartet writing
4. Homework: Write an original 4 bar trio and quartet

Week 5: 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 6: Review of our Original Compositions

1. Review of our composition
2. How to move forward