

Starting Points for Composition

1. Compose a solo piece for the pianoforte – any style.
2. Compose a piece which explores counterpoint – free choice of instruments, but no more than five.
3. Compose a Pop Song - must include both chorus and verse.
4. Compose a piece for any stringed instrument – free choice.
5. Compose a piece which reflects an important feature of the Classical era (1750–1800).
6. Compose a piece which reflects an important feature of the Late Romantic era (1850–1900).
7. Compose a piece for three different instruments. Each instrument must belong to a different family.
8. Compose a piece which explores and challenges the playing techniques of a solo instrument of your choice.
9. Compose a piece with two contrasting sections.
10. Compose a piece which explores musical movements of the 20th century; for example, minimalism, serialism, aleatoric music etc.
11. Compose a soundtrack suitable for a film scene. This could be for a well-known film or an imaginary scene.
12. Compose a piece which represents a Jazz style (free choice).
13. Compose a percussion piece to celebrate an African harvest festival.
14. Compose a piece inspired by a poem. This could be a well-known poem, or a poem you've written yourself.
15. Compose a piece which brings together two different cultures.

Building your Commentary

When writing your commentary please consider the three questions below:

1. What were the stimuli or starting points for your composition?
2. What compositional processes and developments did you explore/discover whilst composing your piece?
3. What challenges did you encounter relating to instruments, textures, and playing techniques?

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