

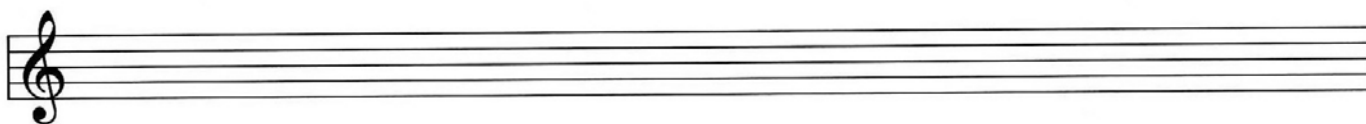
Creating a melody with interesting features

Wallace said to Gromit, "I'm going to buy some cheese".

Gromit said "That's great, if I can have some please".

Task One: underline accented words and create simple rhythm using quavers and crotchets.

Task Two: write a melody using the rhythm, step and leap movement in a sharp key, and finish on the 5th note of the scale.



I'm thinking of those special times when
I would walk amongst the pines, the
Mountains and the valleys deep, in
Summer time when the air was sweet.

Task One: underline accented words and create simple rhythm using quavers and crotchets.

Task Two: write a melody using the rhythm, step and leap movement in a flat key, and include an accidental.

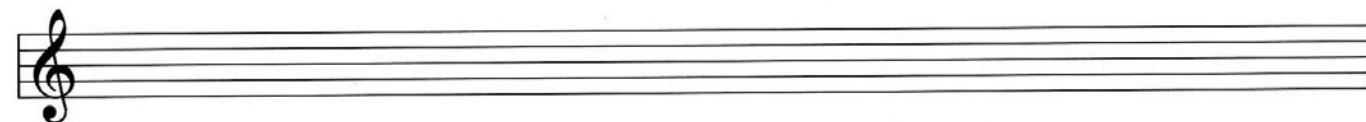


It was on Saturday night amongst the dazzling light, I

Danced my first disco 'till the end of the night.

Task One: underline accented words and create simple rhythm using quavers and crotchets.

Task Two: write a melody using the rhythm, step and leap movement and include the tonic triad.



An example of how to compose a melody with interesting features using words and rhyme to create the melody and rhythm.

First you need to underline the words (or syllables) which have a natural accent or stress.

Little Jack | horner, | sat in the | corner | eating his | apple | pie,
 a | long came his | dad who | said "You've been | bad", so
Little jack | started to | cry.

Once you have underlined the words or syllables draw a vertical line before each underlined word or syllable to create bar lines.

When you have the bar lines in place you can decide on a time signature. When thinking about the rhythm it helps to think in crotchets and quavers.

Li-----tle Jack hor-----ner, sat in the cor-----ner

ea-----ting his a-----pple pie, a-----long came his

dad who said "you've been bad", so li-----tle jack

star-----ted to cry.

Once you have a good tune it can be developed into A Theme with Variations.

This chapter explores the different ways a melodic idea can be developed into a set of variations for different instruments.

A Theme with Variations is a musical structure with few limitations. Composers can write many variations on a motif (a melodic fragment) or a complete tune by adopting several compositional techniques, this chapter explains how to use some of those techniques.

In addition to the detailed explanations, examples and tasks provided in this chapter, we can learn a great deal from listening to other composers who have written in this medium, below are some suggestions:

Ernest von Dohnanyi 'Variations on a Nursery Rhyme'

J.S.Bach 'Goldberg Variations'

Ludwig van Beethoven 'Variations on a Waltz by Diabelli'

Robert Schumann 'Symphonic Studies' (a set of variations)

Sergei Rachmaninov 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' (a set of variations)

*At the end of this chapter the puzzle **The Composition Crossword** is designed to test your knowledge of the compositional tools you have been using to create your set of variations...Have fun!!!*

Three ways to create a tune for your song

First suggestion: You can create a simple tune which rhythmically fits all the syllables of the lyrics.

Let's make music on this glo-----ri-----ous Morn

Second suggestion: You can stretch the rhythm of the syllables and create a more melodious tune.

Le---t's ma---ke music o-----n this glo-----ri-----ous Mor--n

Third suggestion: You can create a jazz style tune which combines syncopation, changing time signatures, repetition and nonsense syllables (also known as scat singing).

let's make music on this on this
 glo-----ri-----ous morn ba ba ba lee---by ba
 Give the Chance for a for a
 star to be born ba ba ba lee---by ba