

# Composition And Performance Of Melody

Compose and perform a piece of **your own** music, using the idea of **pitch** to form a **melody**.

Useful terms and ideas to consider when doing this task:

**Note:** A single musical sound.

**Pitch:** How "high" or "low" a musical note sounds.

**Scale:** A set of non-repeated pitches in ascending or descending order.

**Motif:** A short ordered sequence (or "pattern") of notes from a melody, often forming a repeated pattern or the basis of other melodic material.

**Phrase:** A short series of one or more motif(s), often regarded as a "musical sentence".

**Variation:** A modification of a motif or phrase.

**Contour:** Often referred to as the "shape" or "trajectory" of a melody. Can be described as "ascending", "descending", "conjunct" (stepwise melodic motion) or "disjunct" (melodic motion in leaps).

**Score:** Written instructions telling a musician how to play a composition, just like a recipe tells a chef how to prepare a meal.

## So...

**1.** Compose a piece of music.

- Create a "Pitch Set": select between 5 and 7 different pitches and arrange them ascendingly as a "scale".
- Order your pitches to create a motif, probably of 2 bars length, with consideration of contour. **You may repeat notes.**
- You may repeat the above steps to form subsequent phrases of your melody, or follow your motif with variations.
- The piece must be structured from at least two distinct sections.
- Motifs, phrases and sections may be repeated.
- Embellish (decorate) your melody with varying dynamics, tempo and articulation to make it expressive.
- Your complete melody should be no less than 64 beats (16 bars in  $\frac{4}{4}$ )

**2.** Write your music down.

- Conventional notation is most suitable, but you may invent your own method of notation.
- It must be easily readable by other people (neat, clear, and simple).
- It must have a title and the composer's (your) name.

**3.** Perform your music as a soloist, group, class, or recording.

**4.** Submit a copy of your score before **[Date TBA]**.