

FINAL PROJECT

Overview

You have two songwriting options for the final project: 1) compose a song and 2) compose a film score to a video clip. The songs must be demoed for the whole class on the final date. You may perform the song live, if you choose (please contact mease@rowan.edu for accommodations at least 1 week in advance).

OPTION 1) Compose Song

- Good idea for anyone who has a clear idea of what to compose and has a specific musical message they wish to deliver
- Must abide by some guidelines:
 - Must contain at least **3** distinct sections, such as:
 - Verse
 - Chorus
 - Bridge
 - Solo
 - At least one section must be made distinct from the other sections by altering one or more of the following elements:
 - Changing the key or time signature
 - Changing the primary mode
 - Drastically changing the timbre
 - Drastically changing the melody
 - Within each section, various forms of melodic sequencing should be used. For example:
 - Imitation
 - *Change the starting note. Relative intervals remain the same.*
 - Inversion
 - *Write the melody upside-down. Start on the same, or a different, pitch and invert the intervals. If the original is an ascending whole step, it becomes a descending whole step.*
 - Retrograde
 - *Write the melody backwards*
 - Retrograde-Inversion
 - *Upside-down and backwards*
 - Rhythmic Augmentation
 - *Double all the note values.*
 - Rhythmic Diminution
 - *Halve all the note values.*
- You must carefully select instruments (or design your own sound patches) that further promote the emotions of your song. If you create your own patches, you will receive extra credit.

- You may choose **any genre** to compose your song.
- If you are having difficulty getting started, you may choose to instead compose a short film score to a selected video clip OR use the provided "song skeleton" to get started.
 - The song skeleton is similar to the "melodic sequencing assignment" you completed a few weeks ago.
 - It provides you with basic chords for a verse, chorus, and bridge. You will be responsible for formulating melodies based on scales that match the given chords and rhythms of your choosing, instrumentation, tempo, and style.
 - To use the song skeleton:
 - Choose the "roadmap" of your song. Most songs use a Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus construction. You may stick to that or create your own map.
 - Write out a scale that matches the given chords. Note: most chords are 2 beats long.
 - Compose a rhythm utilizing various melodic sequencing techniques.
 - Compose a melody using your rhythm as the basis, while selecting various notes from your scales.

OPTION 2) Compose film score to video clip

- Good idea for anyone who does not have a clear idea of what to compose. Composing to a video helps give you direction in choosing timbres/instruments, modes, and tempos. Emotion can also be implied from the events in the video, making it easier to write something that is still moving.
- Each short video features at least one marked change in mood. Your score must match this change through one or more of the following methods
 - Changing the mode. Remember all the modes in order from dark to bright:
 - **Locrian.** (very dissonant and dark). Starts on 7th scale degree
 - **Phrygian.** (exotic sounding). Starts on 3rd scale degree.
 - **Aeolian.** (*minor.* sad sounding). Starts on 6th scale degree.
 - **Dorian.** (neutral, very slightly sad). Starts on 2nd scale degree.
 - **Mixolydian.** (cheerful, suspenseful, anticipatory). Starts on 5th scale degree.
 - **Ionian.** (*major.* happy, resolute). Starts on 1st scale degree.
 - **Lydian.** (very bright, magical). Starts on 4th scale degree.
 - Drastically changing the timbre/instrumentation
 - Changing the rhythm
 - Changing the key or time signature
- You must carefully select instruments (or design your own sound patch) that further promote the emotions of your song. If you create your own patches, you will receive extra credit.