



Composing Clubs – some real-life projects

**Crowd-sourced from the Listen Imagine Compose CPD session on
18th June 2020**

1. Songwriting project: Frank Byrne

My Project an Idea we would use to come up with a song would be:

- Analyse a song they would like
- What type of music is it? Rock, Pop, Rap, Metal etc
- What's the Instrumentation: Drums, Bass, Guitar, Vocals, Keys etc
- Find out the structure: Intro, Verse, Chorus, Link or Bridge, Hooks
- Musical Patterns: Melody, Riffs, Chords, Keys, Tempo, Beats

The Plan would be over the course of the project to come up with a similar song or songs with the students using Instruments and DAWs available.

Brainstorming Ideas

- Think of Titles
- Add lib subconscious vocal melody singing over chord patterns similar to the original, record and play it back to find any useful lines or melodies and make note of them..
- Get each of them to write a line on a page and without looking at each others words fold over the sentence and pass it around write all the sentences down on a white board to come up with themes and words
- Come up with vocal or Instrument hooks
- Try different inversions of chords
- Try using a different Instruments
- Make demo's
- Map the structure and use words to fit into that pattern
- Don't be afraid to experiment
- Make use of a whiteboard
- Make use of your DAW

Finished Songs could be performed at Christmas or Summer events.

Record the song in your studio or a studio, make a video of the song or songs.

Release the track on CD or a digital download.

Document the process by blogs or make a documentary.

No rights or wrongs in the creative process, No rules only guidelines.

Above all have fun

2. Composing a Christmas song to release for sale on various music platforms, in order to raise money for a charity: Andrea Walker

Students would learn not only how to write a song, but also the process of recording, promotion/marketing and protection of their work. They could research the idea of the charity single to appreciate why particular songs are successful, both the musical characteristics and the media surrounding the release. The use of social media/social media safety would also be a key point in any research and discussion. It has the potential to build community links with the charity chosen to receive the money.

3. Composing music to accompany a Drama department Theatre in Education project performed to primary schools: Andrea Walker

Students would have to liaise with the drama department to understand what the performance is about and how the music could enhance this. They would need to understand and demonstrate the professionalism needed in working to a specific brief and in collaboration with others. They would have to be able to talk about the musical possibilities to the Drama department before beginning their composition.

4. Compose a rhythm/vocal piece that could be performed by primary children in a student led workshop: Andrea Walker

Students would have to consider several musical lines and understand how these fit together, keeping them within an achievable range for the children and their ability level. In addition to the composition, students would have to be able to break down their piece to teach it and conduct the performance.

5. Link The Arts to sports day by composing music that can be performed on the field during the events: Andrea Walker

The music would create atmosphere on the day and promote the themes of the sports day or the olympic values. Students would have to think about the instruments used and the logistics of their performance area. They would research music used in sport, key musical characteristics for consideration and how it brings the supporters and teams together. Their compositions could allow for mass participation such as including a chant/catchy chorus or rhythmic pattern that could be clapped throughout. If enough students were composing, each school 'house' could have their own piece.

6. Working with an instrumental performer: Liz Dobson

Pair up with an instrumental performer in your school. Compose a 1 – 2 minute piece for them based on their level and what they can do with their instrument. In

order to do this you need to work with this person, let them play to you and make sure that you understand how their instrument sounds and what they can do. Be open to their musical suggestions and present them with some ideas (no more than 3). When you agree on the basis of the composition finish the piece and either create a recording of them playing it, or arrange for a performance to be presented in class. The performance might include 5 key points about how you created the key musical ideas through your collaboration.