

Vocabulary

Beat – The steady heartbeat that underpins the music.

Bridge – A contrasting section that prepares for the repeat of a chorus.

Chorus – The most repetitive part of the song.

Collaboration – Working together to develop ideas.

Compose – Creating an original piece of music.

Evaluate – Reflecting on the quality of your work so far and thinking about ways to further improve.

Improvise - Making up a rhythm or melody as you go along.

Rap – A style of music in which the lyrics are spoken rather than sung.

Rhyme scheme – The way in which the lyrics rhyme in your song.

Rhythm – The musical sentence that sits on top of the beat.

Structure – The order in which different parts come in the song.

Syllable count – The number of syllables in a line of lyrics.

Theme – What your song is about.

Verse – A repeated sung melody in which the lyrics generally change.

How are songs written?

Musical Futures songwriting project



Songwriting:

There is no one correct way to write a song. Some people begin with a musical idea and then add accompaniment and lyrics, whilst others may begin with a lyrical idea and add music to this.

The best and most 'catchy' songs tend to be simple ones with lots of repeating patterns throughout, for example a repeating sequence of chords.

This unit aims to not only improve your songwriting skill but also your ability to work as part of a group. You will need to be able to listen to the ideas that the rest of your band has and find a way to collaborate and put these ideas together.

Remember, no ideas are 'bad' ideas in music – just different!

Prior learning

Work in KS1 on untuned percussion and rhythm, listening to and appraising a variety of classical music, playing tuned and untuned percussion in the Wider Opps Scheme, writing rhythms and melodies, playing recorder and guitar.

Interesting ideas:

Take the theme of the environment. Try to write a few lines about this theme that follow the rhyme scheme ABCB and have around 8 syllables per line. Now try to clap a steady pulse and see if you can fit your lyrics so that they are in time with the claps. When you have practised this a few times, try to add a melody to your lyrics. Develop your song from here – how could you further improve it?

Useful links:

Watch this video for tips on songwriting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNPyc1BrZo>