

BTEC: Composing Knowledge organiser

KEYWORDS

- 1- **Chord:** 2 or more notes played simultaneously.
- 2- **Chord Progression:** Movement from chord to chord.
- 3- **Cadence:** the two chords at the end of a musical phrase.
- 4- **Riff:** short repeated phrase in popular music.
- 5- **Melody:** the main tune of a song.
- 6- **Phrase:** a short musical passage; a musical sentence.
- 7- **Bass:** the lowest part of a piece, often providing harmonic support.
- 8- **Key:** group of pitches, or scale, that form the basis of a piece.
- 9- **Modulation:** Change from one key to another.
- 10- **Sequence:** the repetition of a musical phrase at a higher or lower pitch than the original.
- 11- **Harmony:** parts that play together simultaneously create harmony. Often accompanying or secondary parts to a melody.

COMPOSING BASS LINES

ROOTS AND 5THS CAN MAKE THE BASS LINE MORE INTERESTING

Oh Suzana in C major pentatonic

MAJOR CHORD PROGRESSIONS

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii ^o
Major	Minor	Minor	Major	Major	Minor	Diminished
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#
B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#
E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#

4 Rules for Chord Progressions

1. Start and end on chord I
2. The primary/major chords are strong (I, IV & V)
3. The minor chords add some interest and variety (but avoid using iii)
4. NEVER use chord vii (diminished)

3 hints for Basslines

1. Bass them around the root (bottom) note of the chord
2. Use other notes of the chords for interest
3. Add some rhythm for character

5 characteristics of a good melody

A Good Melody...

1. Starts and ends on the same note (C)
2. Moves mainly by step
3. Has a smooth contour/shape
4. Has 2 or 4 bar phrases
5. Uses similar short motifs to give it a clear character