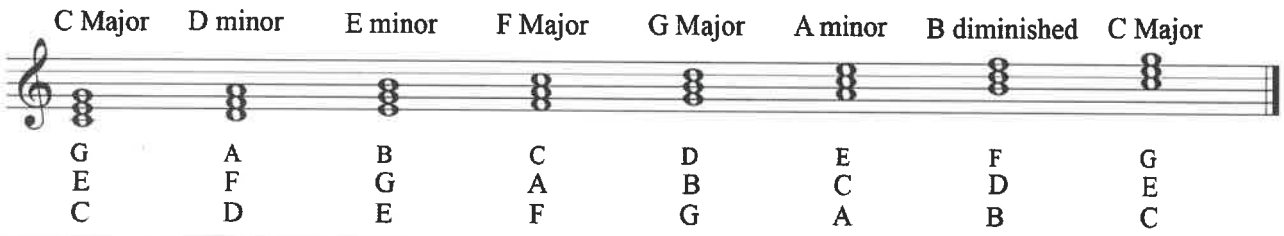
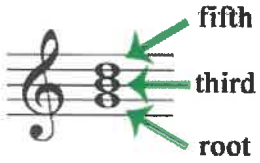
Year 8 Knowledge Organizer Unit 7: Harmony 1
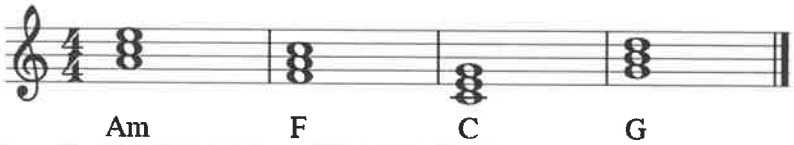
Chords in the key of C major



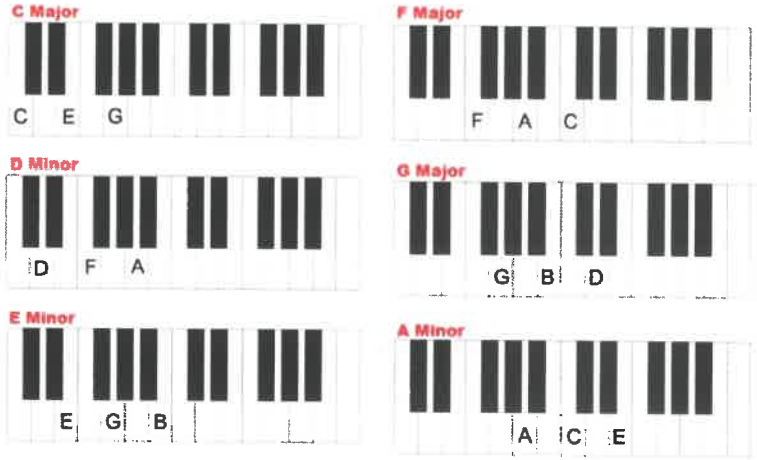
Notes in the chord



A chord progression using some of these chords



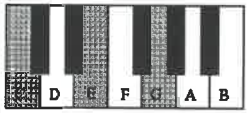
Chord positions in C major



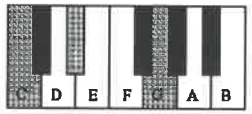
Glossary of Terms

Chord: a sound where 2 or more pitches are sounded together (often 3)
Triad: a chord with 3 notes
Root: the note which the chord is built on. Often the lowest of the 3 notes.
3rd: the middle note of the chord. Can be a major 3rd or minor 3rd.
5th: the top note of the chord
Chord progression: a sequence of chords in a chosen order.
Tonic chord: chord based on the 1st degree of the scale
Dominant chord: chord based on the 5th degree of the scale
Major chord: this chord has a *major 3rd* e.g. C + E + G
Minor chord: this chord has a *minor 3rd* e.g. C + E♭ + G
Diminished chord: this chord has a minor 3rd and flattened 5th
Harmony: the use of chords (or other simultaneous notes) to accompany a melody
Tonality: whether music is in a major or minor key, or no key at all (atonal)
Broken chord: playing the notes of a chord in a specified order, rather than together
Arpeggiation: Going up and down the notes of a chord. Similar to broken chord

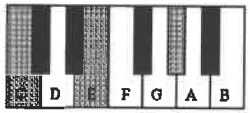
Special types of chords



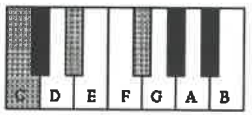
C–Major Triad (M)



C–Minor Triad (m)



C–Augmented Triad (a)



C–Diminished Triad (d)

Other chord progressions you can use

C	Am	F	G
C	Am	Dm	G
C	Em	F	G
C	F	Am	G
C	G	Am	F

Year 8 Knowledge Organiser Unit 7: Harmony 2

The 3 Styles

Rock 'n' roll



Artists: Elvis Presley / Chuck Berry

12-bar blues chord sequence

Walking bass

Loud, shouty vocals

Swagger and attitude

Fast 4/4 drum beat

Example song: Hound Dog

Reggae



Artists: Bob Marley / Steel Pulse

Medium tempo 4/4 beat

2 or 3 chords

Bassline riffs

Off-beat chords (syncopation)

Political lyrics

Example song: 3 Little Birds

Ballads



Artists: Alicia Keys / Whitney Houston

Medium tempo

Often in 6/8 or 3/4 meter

Piano arpeggiation

Emotional lyrics

Use of melisma in vocals

Example song: Fallin'

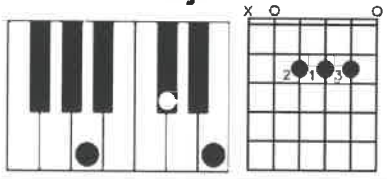
Glossary of Terms

Style / genre: different types of music e.g. rock
Rock 'n' roll: a lively style of pop that developed in 1950s America
Reggae: a melodic style of pop music from Jamaica
Ballad: a slow song, love song or poem
Walking bass: where the bass line is made by the notes of a chord, one after the other e.g. A...C#...E
Arpeggiation: patterns made by broken chords
Riff: a short repeating melodic pattern
6/8: a time signature with 2 beats in the bar. Each beat is a group of 3 quavers. It sounds a bit like 3/4 time
Legato: Played smoothly
Staccato: Played detached/separated
Off-beat: Count 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and – the word *and* gives you the off-beats

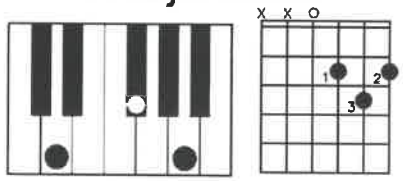
The 12-bar Blues

A *chord I*	**A** *chord I*	**A** *chord I*	**A** *chord I*
D *chord IV*	**D** *chord IV*	**A** *chord I*	**A** *chord I*
E *chord V*	**D** *chord IV*	**A** *chord I*	**A** or **E** *chord I or V*

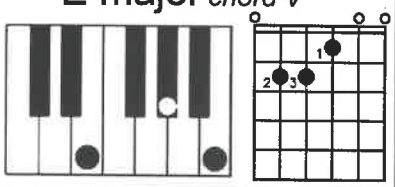
A major *chord 1*



D major *chord IV*



E major *chord V*



Year 8 Knowledge Organiser Unit 8: Creative Sequencing

Add new instrument tracks here.

Rewind, Play, Fast forward and Record can be found here.

BPM of the Metronome can be changed here.

Metronome button: When this is green, the metronome is on.

The mute and the solo buttons are next to each track here.

The volume of each track can be adjusted with this slider.

Volume: this slider is the volume for the entire project.



Instrument button: When this is selected, you can see the piano keys on your BandLab project. This is what you use to play and record music in.

The Midi Editor button allows you to edit any music you create which you didn't quite get right. You can change the timing of the notes, the pitch and also delete any unwanted notes too!

Glossary of Terms

Track: Where you can record an individual instrument.
Metronome: Is a click track which allows you to keep your music in time to a set speed.
BPM: Beats Per Minute. This is how fast the speed of the metronome (and song) is.
Mute: Select this to silence this instrument.
Solo: Select this to only hear this instrument.
Multitracking: Where you layer 2 or more instruments to play together on different tracks of the same project.
Reverb: Can makes the instrument sound like it is in a big room or concert hall. Almost like an echo.
Panning: adjusts which ear in your headphones you hear the instrument out of.
Chords: 2 or more notes played together at the same time.
Bassline: The lowest pitched part of the song. Often played on a bass guitar.
Melody: The tune of the music.
Octave: A series of 8 notes which is the interval between a note e.g. C and the same note higher or lower on the same instrument (the next C up or down the keyboard).

Year 8 Knowledge Organiser Unit 9: Keep the Music Going

Key Ideas

Improvisation

Freedom / restriction…decide on the rules

Pentatonic scale / blues scale

Create loops and riffs

Improvise over an ostinato bass line

Themes / motifs

DSCH / BACH

Create your own personal motif

Create motifs using numbers eg. by throwing dice

Words and rhythms

Improvise a beat using drums or other sounds

Rap / freestyle

Repeat words or phrases to create rhythms

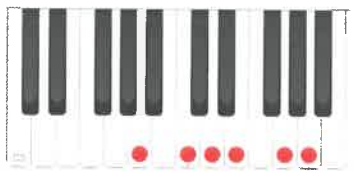
Jazz

John Coltrane and 'Giant Steps'

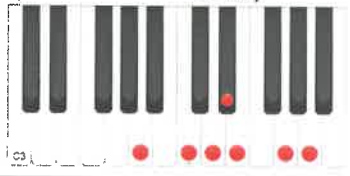
Ella Fitzgerald and scat singing

Improvisation in Indian classical music and other styles
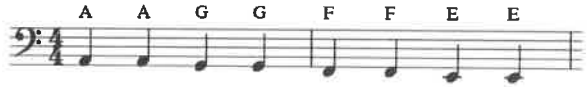
Pentatonic scale starting on A



Blues scale starting on A
(note the added E flat)



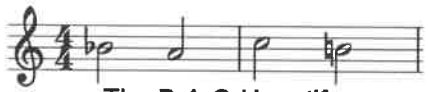
Use the **pentatonic** or **blues scale** to improvise over this *bass line*
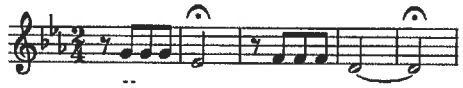


Glossary of Terms

Improvisation: making up the music as you go along
Pentatonic scale: A scale based on 5 notes e.g. the black keys on a piano
Blues scale: similar to the pentatonic scale – often includes a diminished 5th
Loop / riff: a short musical phrase that lends itself to repetition
Motif: a short musical phrase that makes a strong impression
Jazz: a style of music from America which uses extensive improvisation
Ostinato: a repeating melodic phrase or bass line
John Coltrane: African American jazz genius
Rap: perform words rhythmically in a song
Raga: an Indian scale used for improvisation on the sitar

Motifs
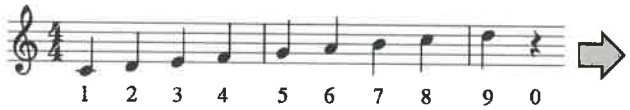


The B-A-C-H motif
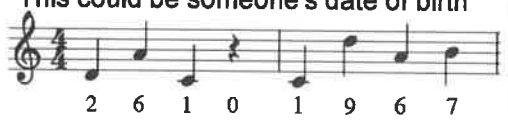


Beethoven's famous motif

Using music to encode numbers



This could be someone's date of birth



Year 8 Knowledge Organiser Unit 10: Protest Songs

Where is the Love? A protest song by The Black Eyed Peas

The hook



The chords

F (FAC)	**C** (CEG)	**Dm** (DFA)	**B^{b}** (B^{b}DF)

Important protest song artists



Marvin Gaye
Mercy Mercy Me



The Specials
Free Nelson Mandela



Edwin Starr
War

Important issues that inspire protest songs

Prejudice



Political repression



Pollution



Child labour





Racism



Animal rights



Climate change

Glossary of Terms

Protest: complain or make your feelings clear about something
Hook: a catchy, repetitive melodic phrase in a song
Lyrics: the words of a song, written to express an idea or emotion
Introduction: the part at the beginning of a song, before the lyrics start
Chord sequence: a pattern of (usually 4) chords that repeats throughout the song
Ostinato: a repeating rhythmic or melodic phrase – similar to a hook really
Conviction: a feeling that something is right or true
Vietnam War: a war in the 1960 / 70s which sparked much protest
Discrimination: treating people unfairly because they are 'different' in some way
Nelson Mandela: a political prisoner who became president of South Africa

How do I compose a protest song?

- *Decide on an issue you care about…what do you need your song to say?*
- *Start with a great line for your chorus…tell it like it is! eg. 'Free Nelson Mandela'*
- *Write your chorus. Use **repetition** to get your message across firmly*
- *Now choose some chords. Just 2 chords would be enough, but you could go for 4*
- *Practise you chords – give them a distinctive rhythm and style – will your song be gentle like 'We Shall Overcome' or powerful like 'War'?*
- *Sing or rap your chorus to the chords you've composed. Use your voice with conviction. You've got to mean it!*
- *Now write some verses to flesh out your message*
- *Add a great introduction by composing a catchy hook eg. with an interesting keyboard sound.*
- *You could make use of devices you know such as ostinato / walking bass / call and response etc.*
- *Put all these elements together and practise your song, either on your own, with a partner, or in a group. Decide exactly what each group member will play in the song.*
- *Stay focused on the message you want to get across to make your song great.*

Year 8 Knowledge Organiser Unit 11: Vocal Performance

How can I improve my vocal performance?

- Practising – do you know how to practise?
- Pitch / intonation – can you sing the song in tune?
- Timing – do you understand the rhythm of the words / melody?
- Knowing the words – can you remember them?
- Timbre – are you making a good vocal tone (not forced / underpowered)?
- Breathing – are you breathing the correct way? Do you know when to breath?
- Diction – are your words clear? Will the audience hear them?
- Confidence / projection – do you need to improve your confidence and sing out better?
- Posture – are you standing well and not slouching?
- Dynamics – are you using contrasts (loud / quiet) or is it all the same?
- Interpretation – have you thought about the meaning of the words and how to put that across?

Glossary of Terms

Vocal cords: bands of smooth muscle tissue found in the larynx (voice box). They create the vibrations that give your voice its sound.
Diaphragm: the muscle at the base of the chest which we use to breath
Modal voice / chest voice: the vocal register used most frequently in speech and singing in most languages
Range: how high and how low you can sing
Register: the part of your range that you are using eg. the low register = the low part of your range
Soprano: female voice with a high range
Alto: female voice with lower range
Tenor: male voice with high range
Bass: male voice with lower range
Vibrato: rapid, slight variation in the pitch you're singing
Melisma: the singer makes one word / syllable last for lots of notes
Falsetto / head voice: the higher vocal range
Warm ups: vocal exercises to strengthen your voice and get it ready for singing
Timbre: the unique sound or 'colour' of someone's voice
Sotto voce: a very quiet, intimate vocal style
Nodules: growths in the vocal cords that can result from repetitive overuse or misuse of the voice

Spectacular Vocal Performers



Freddie Mercury
Rock singer



Ella Fitzgerald
Jazz singer
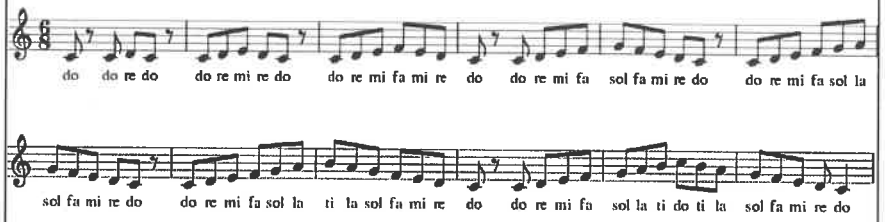


Bobby McFerrin
Versatile soloist



Maria Carey
R&B / pop singer

Vocal Warm-up



Physiology of the Human Voice

