

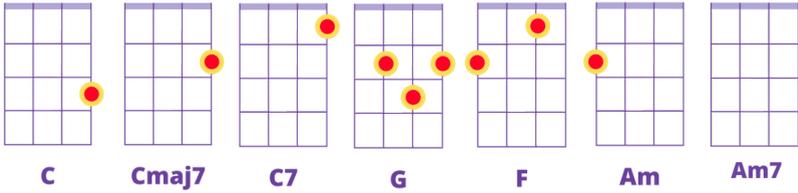
# TOY CHOIR



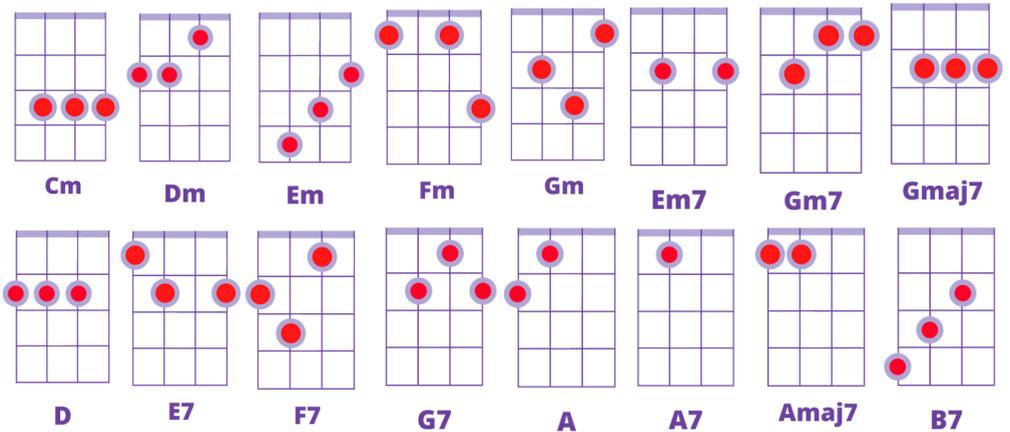
WRITE YOUR OWN SONG

# CHORDS

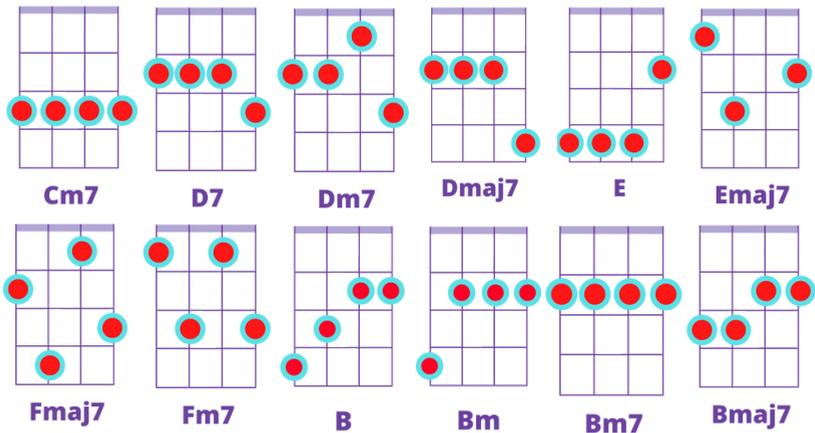
## BASIC



## INTERMEDIATE



## ADVANCED



WELCOME

to

TOY  
CHOIR

WRITE YOUR OWN SONG

This booklet belongs to:

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# HOW TO WRITE A SONG

## WHAT IS A MELODY?

A melody is the tune you can sing along to and remember easiest from a song.



## WHAT ARE LYRICS?

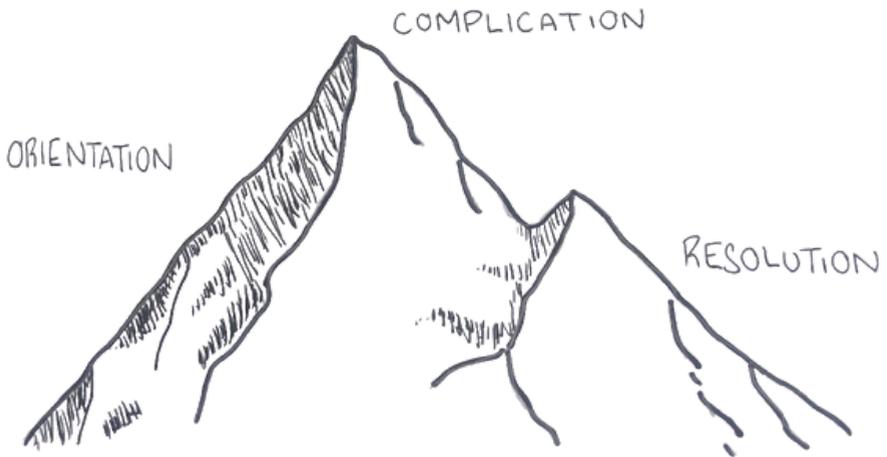
Lyrics are the words in a song!

## WHAT IS DESCRIPTIVE WRITING?

Words that describe a person, place or thing in such a way that a picture is formed in the reader's mind. It can involve paying close attention to detail by using all of your five senses.

# WHAT IS NARRATIVE STRUCTURE?

Writing songs is like telling a story. You may have heard that stories have a structure that looks like this:



Which is like saying 'BEGINNING', 'MIDDLE' (where there's some kind of problem), and 'END' (when the problem gets fixed).

You might want to add some characters to your song, to help tell the story.

# SONG STRUCTURE

Here is a typical SONG STRUCTURE to get you started:

INTRODUCTION

VERSE

CHORUS

VERSE

CHORUS

BRIDGE

CHORUS

OUTRO

The VERSE is the part of the song that tells the STORY. They usually have more words that follow a narrative. You can think of the first verse as the beginning of the story, which says what the song is ABOUT. The second verse can tell us about the problem in the story, which needs to be fixed by the end of the song.

The CHORUS is the part of the song that we come back to. It should be catchy and fun to sing. It should also remind us what the main idea of the song is. Some choruses sound a bit like a catchphrase: a few fun words that get repeated. Other choruses just sound a bit like another verse. Whichever is fine!

The BRIDGE is the plot twist in your song. It's a little bit shorter than a verse. This is where you can reveal how the problem gets fixed.

The OUTRO can sound similar to the introduction, which is usually a few chords. Some songs end with a cliff hanging outro that doesn't need to be a chordal progression but a single note also works.

# UNLOCKING KEY SIGNATURES

## WHAT IS A KEY SIGNATURE?

The key signature tells you what notes do and don't fit in a song. The key signature will also tell you what the most important note is.



In C major the most important note is C.

In G major the most important note is G.

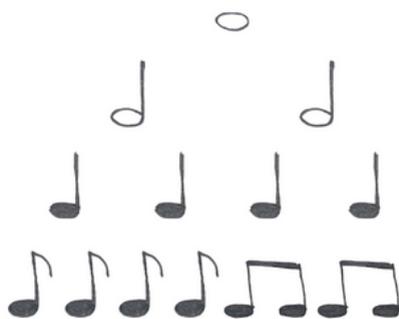
What is the most important note in E major?



# CHAPTER 5: RHYTHMS AND BEATS

## WHAT ARE NOTE VALUES?

Music is made up of lots of notes that each have different lengths. We draw notes differently to show how many beats, or counts, they play for. Musical notes are symbols that are used around the world, so we can understand how long to hold.



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### CROTCHET

The most common note is a crotchet. A crotchet is worth one beat.

Say words like:

HAT OR CAT OR BAT OR BOX

These words are short and snappy! They best describe the single beat of a crotchet.



# QUAVER

A quaver is a note worth half of a crotchet. QUAVER notes are linked together at the top when two are next to each other in a pair:



Say words like:

A - PPLE OR MAN - GO OR BEET - ROOT

These words are even snappier than crotchets! They are separated into two fast syllables that equal one beat.

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# SEMIBREVE

A semibreve is a very long note. The duration of a semibreve is four beats. It doesn't have a stem like all other notes.



Say the word 'BOO' out loud.

How many syllables does it have?

One!

A semibreve consists of 1 long note, just like:

BOO OR MOO

# MINIM

A minim is worth two beats.

Say the word 'GRAPES' out loud.

Naturally we lengthen the sound of the vowel when we pronounce words like:



GRAPES OR LEAVES OR BIRDS

.....

## WHAT IS A TIME SIGNATURE?

A time signature helps us keep time in a song. It is written like a fraction without the line. The top number is the number of beats and the bottom number is the type of beats.

4 ← NUMBER OF BEATS

4 ← TYPE OF BEATS

4 ← 4

4 ← CROTCHETS

### TYPES OF BEATS

2 =  minims

4 =  crotchets

8 =  quavers



IN  $\frac{2}{2}$  THERE ARE 2 MINIMS IN EVERY BAR

IN  $\frac{2}{4}$  THERE ARE 2 CROTCHETS IN EVERY BAR

IN  $\frac{4}{4}$  THERE ARE 4 CROTCHETS IN EVERY BAR

IN  $\frac{3}{4}$  THERE ARE 3 CROTCHETS IN EVERY BAR

IN  $\frac{6}{8}$  THERE ARE 6 QUAVERS IN EVERY BAR

IN  $\frac{12}{8}$  THERE ARE 12 QUAVERS IN EVERY BAR.

# TIME SIGNATURES ACTIVITY

Find a surface that you can tap your hands on. Use your right hand to tap loudly and your left hand to tap softly.



Now count to 4, and when you reach 4 start at 1 again:

1... 2... 3... 4... 1... 2... 3... 4...

On beat 1 tap with your RIGHT hand

On beat 2 tap with your LEFT hand

On beat 3 tap with your RIGHT hand (but not as hard as beat 1)

On beat 4 tap with your LEFT hand

REPEAT

Now you can hear the beat emphasis in 4/4 time

Now count to 3, and when you reach 3 start  
at 1 again:

1... 2... 3... 1... 2... 3...

On beat 1 tap with your RIGHT hand

On beat 2 tap with your LEFT hand

On beat 3 tap with your LEFT hand again

REPEAT

Now you can hear the beat emphasis in 3/4 time

Now count to 2, and when you reach 2 start at 1  
again:

1... 2... 1... 2...

On beat 1 tap  
with your RIGHT hand

On beat 2 tap with  
your LEFT hand

REPEAT

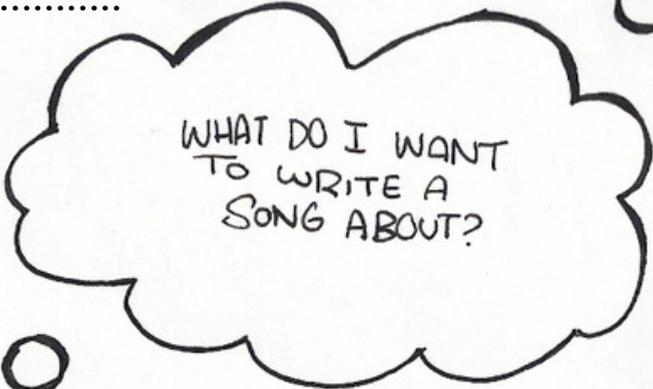
Now you can hear the beat emphasis in 2/4 time

.....

.....

.....

.....



.....

.....

.....

.....



# RHYME BRAINSTORM

Sentences that rhyme are fun. This makes it simple to create catchy phrases.

Write down some words  
that rhyme with

**CAT**

---

---

---

---

---

Write down some words  
that rhyme with

**ME**

---

---

---

---

---

Write down some words  
that rhyme with

**STAR**

---

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---

---

---

Write down some words  
that rhyme with

**MOON**

---

---

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# SIMPLE SONGWRITING

Start by writing down sentences of four words, keeping it short and simple.



Look around the room and write the first thing you see:

Flower	in	a	pot
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

And now think about a nice memory to write about in this next set:

Walk	in	the	park
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____



# SONG-WRITING DICE



## INSTRUCTIONS

Use the TOY CHOIR song-writing dice to take on a challenge! This six pack of mini dice is all you need to write a new song. The dice will help you use different combinations of chords, time signatures, ukulele techniques, and spontaneous topics for your new song!

There are 3 RED DICE which tell you the chords you need to use, the time signature it is in, and technique you will play it in.

There are 3 WHITE DICE that are full of fun topics to write songs about.

## HOW TO PLAY

### STEP 1

Hold the 3 RED dice and 1 WHITE die

### STEP 2

SHAKE!

### STEP 3

See what you've landed on!

### STEP 4

Use the above activities to get started with your songwriting...

HAVE FUN!



# HOW TO WRITE A SONG USING THE DICE

Roll the red dice, you will be given a time signature, chords and a strumming pattern - Write your chords below for the intro!

INTRO - \_\_\_\_\_

VERSE 1: (Four lines of 4 words)

eg She sits all day  
In a bed of hay  
Not a hip-hip-hooray  
She's lazy, I'll say.



Your turn! - Roll the white dice for some topics

<u>Ants</u>	<u>Recycling</u>	<u>Vampire</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Using a sequence of chords you like - write the chords above

c c c c  
She sits all day  
c c c c  
In a bed of hay



Use this method for the pre-chorus, chorus and bridge and you have a song!

# NOW ITS YOUR TURN!

We have made a template for you to write your own song!  
Sing on rockstars!!!



## INTRODUCTION

Write a chord progression (Check page 2 for help)

## VERSE

Pick out your rhyming words and write a verse! What do you want to write about?

## CHORUS

Write a catchy chorus! This is the main idea of the song.

## VERSE 2

Write a second verse, this is usually where a complication happens in the story.

## CHORUS (repeat)

## BRIDGE

Write a bridge! This is the plot twist of the song where everything is fixed.

## CHORUS (repeat)

## OUTRO

Write a chord progression (it can be the same as your introduction)

# GREAT JOB!

**TOY  
CHOIR**

The logo is rendered in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The word "TOY" is positioned above "CHOIR". The letter "O" in "TOY" is replaced by a stylized guitar body, and the neck of the guitar extends upwards to form the letter "Y". The word "CHOIR" is written in a similar bold font below it.