

Name: _____

Date: _____

Compose YOURSELF!

Rhythm-Based Composition

Directions:

Using your instrument, or a piano, create your own piece!

How do you write or compose music? It is up to you. Everyone approaches their *how* in a different way and that is ok! Musical composition begins with your imagination and some practical knowledge, such as knowing some basics about music theory and the instrument(s) you are writing for.

General compositional thoughts:

Share your story

What are you trying to say through your music?
Are you sharing something about yourself?
Are you conveying a specific feeling or mood?
Or, is it just **music** that changes feeling and is abstract?

Start with a musical element focus

This assignment has a rhythmic focus. By using certain rhythm patterns, you are going to start writing some music. It could, of course, be melodic but the basis for starting it will be the rhythm. Perhaps another way a piece can develop is with the use of harmony, or maybe it might originate with a melody (which you may come up with through improvisation and imagination)!



Create some limits

Sometimes having too many options can make it hard to write music. Where do I begin? Limits and 'boundaries' can help spark your creativity!



For even more fun, [log into smartmusic](https://www.smartmusic.com), and go to the **COMPOSE** feature where you can input your notes and rhythms and hear them played back. If you continue to be inspired, add more measures and keep on writing!

Directions:

- Write an 8-measure melody using rhythm as a basis of inspiration.
- Use only the notes in the Note Bank.
- Use any rhythm pattern (A, B, C, D) in any order you wish!
- You can also use Whole and Half notes and rests as you see fit.
- It's important to play the piece on your instrument, as you want the melody to be something playable.

Note Bank

The Note Bank consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains five quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, and G4. The middle staff is in bass clef and contains five quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, and G3. The bottom staff is in alto clef (C-clef on the third line) and contains five quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, and G3.

Rhythm Patterns

The Rhythm Patterns section shows four patterns labeled A, B, C, and D on a single staff. Pattern A is a quarter note followed by two eighth notes. Pattern B is a quarter note followed by a quarter note and two eighth notes. Pattern C is a quarter note followed by a quarter note, an eighth note, and a sixteenth note. Pattern D is a quarter note followed by a quarter note, an eighth note, and a sixteenth note.

Sketch space for TREBLE CLEF instruments:

Two blank treble clef staves for sketching. Each staff has a treble clef and is divided into four measures.

Sketch space for BASS CLEF instruments:

Two blank bass clef staves for sketching. Each staff has a bass clef and is divided into four measures.

Sketch space for ALTO CLEF instruments:

Two blank alto clef staves for sketching. Each staff has an alto clef (C-clef on the third line) and is divided into four measures.