

## Introduction

Within nine lessons for year nine at Key Stage three, I shall look at how to teach pupils to compose their own songs. Before undertaking in the task of teaching song writing however, it is important to ensure that the pupils have gained the relevant knowledge and skills within years 7 and 8. For this reason it is advisable to study song writing within two teaching units. The first should deal with all the concepts required and develop pupil's ability to arranging songs. The following is a suggested plan of focus for such a unit of study.

### **Focus:**

To explore (within a whole class and group situation) the basic skills and techniques required in the composition of song including:

- ♣ Word setting from given lyrics
- ♣ Composing melody (with focus on improvising appropriately on voice and notating melody over lyrics)
- ♣ Setting chords for fixed melody
- ♣ Making a chord chart
- ♣ Structural elements (e.g. introduction, verse, chorus, bridge)
- ♣ Instrumental skills (e.g. keyboard skills, bass lines, and drums)
- ♣ Musical arrangement (small group) using the above skills in recognising styles.

Part two of the song writing unit (the unit of study I am providing) will focus on original applications of all the above processes. As stated in my Music Planning Sheet (found on page 3) the focus is for the pupil's 'to develop an understanding of the basic skills and techniques required in the composition of a song. Listen to and analyse popular songs to identify different chord progressions and rhythmic accompaniments, as well as learning the key aspects to consider when composing a song. To rehearse and perform their own songs.' Thus, through listening and analysing popular songs, pupils will learn structural elements for songs and the

different ways that they can use chords and rhythms. From this they will be able to compose their own original songs in small groups and then later perform them. However, in order to do this within nine lessons it is important that prior to the first lesson pupils are set homework (after the end of part 1) to write their own song lyrics.

This unit of study is very relevant to the overall expectations of a music programme at Key Stage three. In relation to my Music Planning Sheet (Scheme of Work), the unit clearly covers many of the programmes of study (PoS) within the National Curriculum (NC). The specific teaching section states the relevant teaching tasks in relation to the PoS. In addition table 1 (on page 4) shows exactly how the teaching topics fit into the NC.

I will provide nine lesson plans for this unit of study detailing aspects of classroom control, assessment and differentiation. This shall be done through written lesson plans as well as more detailed typed lesson plans for each of the nine lessons.