

Songwriting Melody Level 1



Summary

To be eligible for this course, students must have any one of the following:

- Play a polyphonic instrument and know how to play chords related to the key of C
- Play a monophonic instrument with a basic knowledge of chord Construction
- A minimal knowledge of major scales and rhythms
- Knowledge of chord construction
- Taking or having taken the Songwriting-Harmony Level 1 or higher course

Students are trained on the tools to create melodies from scales and chord progressions.

Reference material used is Jimmy Kachulis's book Songwriting Workshop – Melody, which can also be used as an optional class text book.

Week 1 – Collecting ideas from inspiration and discovery

In this class we discuss various methods of finding melodic ideas

- Emotional trama
- Dreams
- Dream/waking state
- Melodies that haunt us
- Melodies triggered by other songs
- Object writing
- Speech
- Birds

- Noise pollution

Week 2 – Major scales & rhythms review

In this class we discuss the intervallic relationship between the notes of a major scale, and how this relationship makes transposition easy. Note values are also reviewed from whole note to 16th note.

Week 3 – Phrasing

- Note length
- Phrase length and space
- Phrase beginnings and stressed words
- Phrase endings
- Ending titles on the downbeat

Week 4 – Song sections

- Repetition
- Contrasting ideas
- Number of phrases
- Contrasting sections
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Week 5 – Melody on chords

- One chord tone
- Neighbor notes
- Two chord tones
- Passing notes
- Arpeggios
- Scales

Week 6 – Song Sections

- Keep the rhythm change the shape
- Repetition
- Sequence
- Inversions
- Shorten the motif
- Lengthen the motif

- Contrasting sections

Week 7 - Melody across chord changes

- Connecting chords
- In-sync phrasing
- Out of sync phrasing
- Longer melody phrasing
- Major melodic cadences
- Minor melodic cadences

Week 8 – Song Sections

- Verse/Refrain song form
- Verse/Chorus song form
- Verse/prechorus/chorus song form

Week 9 – Melody over chord changes

- Major pentatonic on one chord
- Major blues
- Major blues over progressions
- Minor pentatonic scale
- Minor blues
- Mixolydian melody
- Dorian melody

Week 10 – Melody against bass lines and riffs

- Parallel motion
- Similar motion
- Oblique motion
- Contrary motion

Week 11 – Song Sections

- Different bass in verse and chorus
- Same bass in verse and chorus

- Riff-based songs

Week 12 – Melodic shapes

- Straight line
- Ascending
- Descending
- Arch
- Inverted arch
- Zig-Zag

Tuition

The base rate for this class is \$420 payable at time of registration prior to starting classes. Discounts are available for multiple simultaneous classes, and will be based on the number of classes taken.

Classes must have a minimum of 2 students to be held. If only one student registers for this class, the class will be canceled and the student will be offered the option of on-going private lessons at the current private lesson tuition rate.

Late payments

Tuition must be paid in full before a student can start this class. If tuition is paid late, the student may begin at the time of payment with no discount for time missed. It will be the student's responsibility to get the notes from other students for earlier classes.

Late arrivals

If a student arrives late for a class, it will be the student's responsibility to get notes for the portion of the class missed from other students.

No-shows

If a student does not show up for a class, it is the student's responsibility to get the notes for classes missed from other students. No make-up lessons or refunds will be available for no-shows.

Cancellations

Registration may be canceled and refunded prior to starting classes. However, if a student attends one class or more, there will be no refund for discontinuing.

Make-up lessons

The only time make-up lessons will be available will be in the event that the instructor has to cancel a class. If all students are available, a make up lesson may be in the same week as another class or as an extra hour extension of a regularly scheduled class. If not everyone is available for this type of make up, the course will be extended by the number of weeks that the instructor missed during the course. If someone is not available for either, the make up will be given on a day that works best for most of the students. Those who cannot make up the lesson may get the notes on that lesson from other students.