



6th Grade
General Music:

Composition Packet

Name: _____

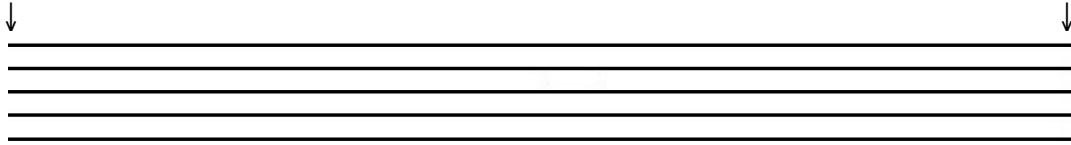
Period: _____

BEGINNING YOUR COMPOSITION

Definition: The staff is the _____ lines and _____ spaces on which we write music.

When you are about to write music, there are several steps to follow:

1. Close off your ends with Bar Lines



The space between two bar lines is called a measure. You have just created one measure.

2. Draw a clef. A clef tells you what range of notes you are playing. Using the list on the board, circle the clef you will use to compose for your instrument.

Treble Clef



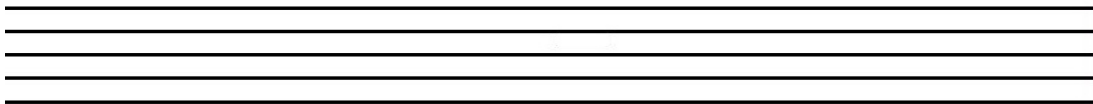
Bass Clef



Alto Clef



Practice drawing the clef that you will be using for your composition:

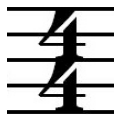


3. Write in the time signature. The time signature is comprised of two numbers.

Top # - How many _____ per _____

Bottom # - What _____ equals one _____

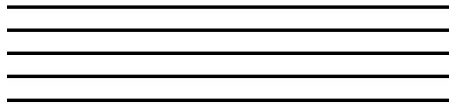
The time signature we use most of the time in this class is:



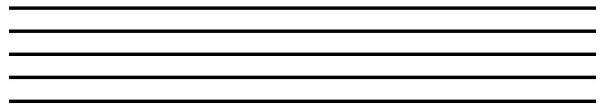
This means that there are 4 beats in a measure and a ♩ = 1 beat

LEARNING TO COMPOSE

Use a 5-note pattern



Use a Scale (8-note pattern)



Whether you use a 5-note pattern or a scale, here are several ideas to help you in your composing:

1. Stepwise motion vs. leaps
2. Use "Do" as home tone
3. Use la (B) and ti (C#) sparingly

FINALE NOTEPAD

Finale Notepad is a music notation program that allows us to type and print music off of the computer. Learning to use Finale Notepad is pretty simple, but you need to learn the steps to take in order to begin your notation.

OPENING FINALE NOTEPAD

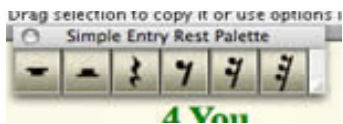
Finder → Application → Finale Notepad (you will see windows when you open Finale Notepad, when you get to these, click "Remind Me Later," "Cancel" and "Continue.")

CREATING NEW MUSIC

Type in the Title and Composer (this is you!) → Find your instrument - ADD → Enter Number of Measures (if you are playing an instrument other than recorder, we may also need to change the concert key at this time) → FINISH!

BEGINNING YOUR COMPOSITION

- Window → select palettes:



- You will use the Simple Entry Rest Palette and Simple Entry Palette to select rhythms and the Main Tool Palette in order to select dynamics (accent button) and type in your tempo (text button).
- When you have completed all of these steps, you may begin entering your composition one measure at a time, good luck!

SAVING

Remember to save your project as you work. Your filename should be your LAST NAME and PERIOD (ie. Barnes3 or Barnes9). Once you have completed your composition open "h-studentgroups" → 6 Maroon/Gold folder → Ms. Barnes. Click and drag your work into this folder.

Composition Requirements

1. Form
 - 4 measure phrases
 - Minimum length – 8 measures; Maximum length – Your Choice
 - Measure length must be a multiple of four (ie. 8, 12, 16...)
2. Rhythm
 - Time signature must be 4/4, unless approved by Ms. Barnes
 - Rhythms must be played accurately
3. Melody
 - Please make an effort to show your creativity, this is your song!
 - You must use notes off of the 5-note pattern or the scale. Use the “Learning to Compose” worksheet to help you decide which notes to use.
 - Use a minimum of at least five different pitches
4. Tempo
 - Use at least one tempo marking
5. Expression
 - Use at least one dynamic symbol
6. Tone Color
 - You will perform your composition in class. Your performance will be graded on the following guidelines
 - Accuracy in pitches
 - Accuracy in rhythms
 - Performance of the written tempo and dynamics
 - Performance etiquette
 - It is important that your instrument sound is as fluid as possible. Squeaks will count against your score.
7. Professionalism
 - Your song should have a title that reflects the mood of the music
 - You must have 2 copies of the music: a rough draft and a final copy
 - You will play from the rough draft. It may have whatever you need written on it (letters, special notes telling yourself to smile!) **Your rough draft is not graded but it is turned in.**
 - The final draft will be typed up in the computer lab in class on a special notation program called Finale Notepad. You will be in the lab on _____.
 - You may perform your song with a partner, but both partners must have all the requirements and must also play a minimum of 8 measures.

Performances: _____

Composition Rubric

		0 Points (no credit)	1 point	2 points	3 points
Written Aspects	Form	No form apparent	Some form is apparent but did not follow the requirements	Form varied slightly from requirements or phrases incorrect length	Form is appropriate with four measure phrases ☺
	Melody	Composer(s) did not make melody pleasing. Does not end on DO	Melody is sometimes displeasing AND does not end on DO	Melody is sometimes displeasing OR does not end on DO	Melody is pleasing and ends on DO ☺
	Rhythm	Five or more rhythmic mistakes	3-4 rhythmic mistakes	1-2 rhythmic mistakes	Written in 4/4 time (or pre-approved time signature) with the appropriate beats per measure ☺
	Creativity	Song is very repetitious	Several measures seem to have repeated rhythms AND melodies	Several measures seem to have repeated rhythms or melodies	Composition shows creative thought and effort ☺
	Tempo/ Dynamics	Two requirements missing	One requirement missing	Tempo and dynamic written ☺	X
	Appearance	Three or more requirements missing	Two requirements missing	One requirement missing	Two Drafts (hand written and computer) includes a title, name(s) and both documents are NEAT! ☺
Performance	Tone Color	Tone color is not desirable; keep working!	Tone color is beginning to develop	Tone color is developing	Beautiful and appropriate tone color! ☺
	Melody	Five or more errors	3-4 errors	1-2 errors	Played perfectly! ☺
	Rhythm	Five or more errors	3-4 errors	1-2 errors	Played perfectly! ☺
	Posture/ Tempo/ Dynamics/ Etiquette	All elements missing	Two elements missing	One element missing	Stood tall, played dynamic and tempo and was an excellent audience member! ☺

Total: ___x2/58 Composition Grade: ___

Blank musical staff with five lines.

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