**Year 9 Music**

**Pop Music Arranging Task**

Earlier in this unit of work you were asked to add an additional part to an existing song. Now it’s time to complete your first arrangement!

* First of all you will need to choose a song (or part of a song) to arrange. This is perhaps the most crucial part of the task, so choose wisely! Your song should first and foremost be something that appeals to you, so spend some time listening to a whole range of pop music before making your decision.
* Given that you will be arranging for a minimum of three instruments/voices from **within the class**, it might be a good idea to settle on what instruments/voices you would like to arrange for before making your final decision about a choice of song. Here are some considerations to keep in mind.
  + You will need to know the chord progression of your song. Part of your final submission will include the source material. This will usually consist of a lead sheet or chord sheet, along with perhaps an audio recording of the song.
  + You should always have at least one instrument or voice allocated to the melody line, and one instrument or voice allocated to the bass line.
  + You may wish to use your aural perception skills to transcribe the original bass line, or you may wish to write a new one.
  + The remaining parts or voices will generally be left to fill out the inner parts. Note choices should always be based on the underlying chord progression. There are many ways arrangers fill out the harmony (chords) within their arrangements. One method is to harmonise the melody whilst maintaining the same (or similar) rhythmic structure. Another is to use sustained chords to accompany the melody.
  + The best arrangements are not merely transcriptions of the original song performed on different instruments or voices; they add to the original. Some ways of achieving this are adding additional parts (just like in the previous task), using modulations, varying the musical texture, changing the overall form (or structure), introducing rhythmic variations to the melody or adding “answering” musical phrases, usually at the end of a lyric or musical section.
* Once you have chosen your song, you need to work out how you will present your arrangement. At this stage you will not be required to submit a fully notated version of your work. You will, however, be required to submit either a notated (if that’s your preference) or sequenced (pre-recorded) version of your arrangement, along with a live performance, which will also be recorded. If you choose to submit a pre-recorded version, you will use either GarageBand or Pro Tools to record the various parts of your work. Some people find it useful to begin by importing an audio recording the song into a new GarageBand song or Protools “session”.
* You will be allocated 4 lessons to prepare your arrangement. It is very important that you choose a relatively straight forward song, with a chord progression you fully understand (that is, you know what notes are in each chord)
* Here are some further guidelines for successful arranging
  + Only one instrument or voice should be allocated the melody at any given time
  + Try and avoid closely voiced chords in the bass clef/register
  + Generally thirds and sevenths should not be “doubled”
  + Keep everything as simple as possible
* You will have one lesson to choose your song, two lessons to develop your arrangement, one lesson to rehearse your arrangement and one final lesson in which we will perform and record your work
* At the end of the task you will be assessed on
  + Your reflection on the arranging process in your blog
  + Either a pre-recorded or notated version of your arrangement
  + A recording of your final performance

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|  | **Very Limited** | **Limited** | **Satisfactory** | **Good** | **Very**  **Good** | **Excellent** | **Outstanding** |  |
| **Choice of**  **Song** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Choice of**  **Instrumentation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Playability of**  **parts** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Understanding**  **of harmony** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Presentation of Arrangement (either pre-recorded or written)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Live Performance of Arrangement** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Overall Grade** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Assessment Rubric**