

# **Write Music 1: Use What You Know**

In this chapter you will put everything you have learned so far in this book to compose music and write songs!

# How to Write Compositions 1

1. Pick a key.
2. Use the scale from that key for the melody of the song or composition.
3. Use the chords that are created when you harmonize the scale from the key that you picked.
4. Combine scale notes with different rhythms and rests to create the melody.
5. (Optional) Add words to your melody under the melody notes below the staff.
6. Pick different combinations of chords from the harmonized scale to go with the melody.

You can follow this 6 Step process by

1. Writing out the notes of the melody and adding the chords above the staff to create a leadsheet. This is a good option if you can play an instrument, so you can hear what your music sounds like.
2. Write the traids and melody out on two separet staves in a music notation software or digital audio workstation (DAW). You will need 2 instruments/staves/tracks so you can hear them BOTH at the same time. When you see a verticle line connecting the staves together, that shows you both staves will sound at the same time.
3. You can also change the rhythm of the chords using everything you have learned.

1.

This is a lead-sheet song.

2.

This is a lead-sheet song.

3.

This is a lead-sheet song.

# More Common Chord Progressions

Try out all of these progressions with 1 chord per measure for 4 measures, then repeat the chord progression over and over again until your song is done. Change the last chord of the piece to the chord that is the tonic of the key to bring things home.

Oh yeah! My Lead-sheet song! I sing it all day long

5

You say my rhymes are bo - ring and I won't say you're wrong oh!

9

Yes sir! My Lead-sheet song! I sing it all day long

Write the triads to be lower than the melody to help the melody notes stand out.

## Common Chord Progressions: Major Keys

Each chord lasts for 1 measure in any time signature.

- I IV V V
- I I IV V
- I IV I V
- I IV V IV
- I vi IV V
- I vi ii V
- Make up your own!

## Common Chord Progressions: Minor Keys

Each chord lasts for 1 measure in any time signature.

- i VII VI VII
- i VI III VII
- i iv v i
- i iv VII i
- i i VI VII
- i VI VI VII
- Make up your own!

Learn how to write words to songs and how to craft beautiful melodies in Books 2-3!