

# COMPOSITION CHALLENGE!

**Not sure where to start or what to write?  
Try our challenge and stretch your composing wings!**

**This year's composition challenge is THEME & VARIATIONS.**

**Start with a tune you already know, something simple that will be easy to notate with the help of your teacher.**

**If the tune is from your repertoire, just copy it out onto manuscript paper.**

**If it's a tune you know by ear, sing it while you pick out the notes on a keyboard.**

**If you feel confident with chords, add a simple accompaniment.**

**To create your first variation, try changing one or two elements in the tune.**

**For example, switch between parallel major and minor for an easy and dramatic change of character. Another simple adjustment is to change the register: place the melody down low or up high.**

**For other variations, consult the list on the next page. Experiment with adjustments in melody, rhythm, meter, dynamics, and articulation. It's quite fun to listen to the shift in mood or character made with a simple change in one of the elements!**

**For inspiration, look at variations written by other composers. You can find these at all playing levels, from elementary to advanced, and your teacher will surely have some on hand.**

# HAPPY COMPOSING & HAVE FUN!

# CHOOSE A TUNE!

Something simple that you know really well. Write it down!  
Give it an accompaniment.... or not.

Check for correct  
**PITCH & RHYTHM**

Check for correct  
**DYNAMICS & ARTICULATIONS**

What are the **CHORDS**?  
Try out primary chords I, IV, and V.

# CREATE VARIATIONS!

Can you create two or three different variations?  
Change two elements to alter the character of the melody.

## KEY & MODE

Switch between:

Parallel major and minor modes

(C major and C minor)

Relative major and minor keys

## ARTICULATION & DYNAMICS

Staccato, portato, legato

Sforzando, sotto voce

## MELODY

Inversion

Ornamentation

Octave displacement

Register

## RHYTHM & METER

Augmentation

Diminution

Change between simple, compound,  
or hybrid meter

Change between duple or triple meter