



Summer term music projects

Performance

One way of preparing for sixth form music is to refine your performance skills, whether you are going to study music or merely be involved in it as a co-curricular activity.

Jacob Collier is a young man who has made a career out of performing multiple parts in his bedroom for composite videos etc. Check out this video he made during lockdown (in his rather well-equipped room):

[Jacob Collier: Tiny Desk \(Home\) Concert](#)



Your challenge could be to find a backing track for a song you enjoy and record one or two parts over the top.



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Here are a few suggestions to have a go at performing along with:

The Lord Bless you and Keep You by John Rutter

[Wayne Marshall - Rutter: The Lord bless you and keep you \(Solo Piano Sheet Music\)](#)

Andante espressivo ♩ = 72

Piano

p *Allegro scurro*

The Lord bless you and

4 keep you: The Lord make his face to shine up-on you, to

7 shine up-on you and be gra-cious, and be gra-cious un-to

Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen (no vocals or choir parts)

[Queen - Bohemian Rhapsody \(Instrumental Backing Track, no Lead Vocal & no Choirs\) mix 2019](#)



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The Swan instrumental by Camille Saint Saens

[Saint-Saëns: The Swan \(Piano accompaniment\)](#)



Composition

Why not try to use a computer programme like MuseScore (<https://musescore.org/en/download>) to create a short study piece for your instrument.

Try to create a four-bar idea which explores:

- One feature
 - Technique
 - range of the instrument etc.
- A musical shape
 - broken chord/arpeggio
 - four note motif/idea etc.
 - Rhythm
 - Chord sequence



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Then develop this four bars one technique at a time, using theme and variations.

Listening

Why not listen to a selection of pieces and write a short appraisal of them. Try to avoid using ones you already know all about and try to link two pieces you don't know to one you do...

You could choose pieces :

- Composed in the same year
- Composed in the same city/area in different era
- Composed about the same subject/story
- Composed by the same composer but one early on, one mid-life and one late on.

Use the Dr Smith analysis

(Dynamics, Rhythm, Structure, Melody, Instrumentation, Texture, Harmony)

Give three facts about when each was written and who by

Explain what you like about the pieces