



Year 7 Music: COMPOSITION SKILLS

Key Information

Composition is a key skill for any musician, and requires a tricky mix of creativity and discipline in order to do well. A good starting point to any composition can be **improvisation**, where you try out ideas as you go until you have enough to form the basis of a good piece.

Indian Classical Music is almost entirely **improvised**, but with strict rules that must be followed by performers. The **Rag** tells the player the set of notes to be used and what order they may be played in; the **Tal** provides rhythm, and a **drone** is added as accompaniment.

Blues and Jazz music both rely heavily on improvisation, mostly in **solos** played by band members on instruments such as **trumpet**, **guitar** and **saxophone**. These are usually played in between **head sections** or **choruses** in a piece, to show off the skills of the players.



<u>Keyword</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Composition	The process of creating your own piece of music
Improvisation	Making up music as you go along
Rag	A set of notes in Indian music that musicians follow
Blues Scale	A special scale with 6 notes used in Blues music
Musical phrase	
Swing rhythm	

Stretch and Challenge

Visit Chrome Music Lab on <https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/> and try composing a 4-phrase jazz melody on the songmaker page.

M	A	D	T	S	H	I	R	T
Melody	Articulation	Dynamics	Tempo	Structure	Harmony	Instruments	Rhythm	Texture
The main tune	How the music is played	The volume of the music	The speed of the music	The sections of the music and their order	The chords used	What instruments are used and the sound produced	The patterns of sounds with the beat	Layers of music – how many and what each does

Analysis

