

# Song Creation Project

What makes a good beat?

- Our ear craves what is familiar, so **make sure your beat is repeated in each measure.**
- Let there be some columns with no sound.
- Using both circles and triangles will make your beat more interesting.

What makes a good melody?

- As we have talked about, a good melody should be singable.
- **Start and end on a red note:** this is “do”.
- Try to create hills and valleys when creating your melody
- Create interesting rhythms by keeping some columns empty
- Use some steps and some leaps to create interest.
- Large leaps are tricky to sing, avoid them.

How do I create harmony?

- Harmony is two or more notes played at the same time
- In order to avoid dissonance, **do not stack colors that are on top of each other**
  - For example, red should never be paired with pink or orange
- Stack colors that are at least a third apart, as long as it doesn't break the above rule.
  - For example, if you want to stack on a red, you shouldn't choose pink or orange even if they are well above or below the red note.
- Do not use stacking in every column. Maybe stick to the downbeats.

Finalizing

- Feel free to play with the instrumentation- try different combinations until you find a fit
- As you listen to your song, go through each guideline above to make sure you followed the advice
- Have a friend listen and analyze your song. Ask them to give you honest feedback
- If you listen to a friend's song, give them constructive feedback.
  - Do not say “good job”
  - Tell them specifics about what you liked.
  - Let them know about any parts you wish they would look at again.
  - If you notice any advice from the above list that they missed, tell them about it.