



# Composing a Pop Song

To compose your own song it must have a few of the following elements containing at least the riffs, chords and a melody. *Follow the instructions given carefully.*

## Lyrics

Think about what you want your song to say, what is it going to be about? Once you have a main issue for your song brainstorm some ideas to help you.

You will need to think of a **chorus** and at least one **verse**. Remember that the chorus is the most memorable part of the song and gives the main message so make it catchy and to the point! The lyrics of the verse go into more detail about certain ideas or issues. Try to make your lyrics rhyme as well as this will make it easier to put a tune to.



## Chords

Compose a chord sequence for the verse and chorus. The most common chords used in a pop song include the following:

**C            F            G            Dm            Am**

### Tips for writing a chord sequence

- Write 8 or 16 bars of chords
- Don't change chords too often
- End the sequence with the same chord that you started with
- Use casio chords to help you

This is the chord sequence used in Enrique Iglesias' Hero

<b>D ///</b>	<b>B ///</b>	<b>G ///</b>	<b>A ///</b>
<b>D ///</b>	<b>B ///</b>	<b>G ///</b>	<b>D ///</b>

**Now compose your own eight bars!**


## Bass riff

Using the notes given in the chords compose your own bass riff (a repeated rhythm)



## **Melody**

Once you have a bass riff and chords you can start to compose a melody. This can either be sung using your own lyrics or you can play it on the keyboard. Create your melody using notes around the notes used in your chord sequence.

## **Melodic riff**

This is similar to the bass riff but using notes higher up on the keyboard. Compose a small melody (one or two bars) using notes around the notes of the chords which is repeated using the notes in the appropriate chords as they occur.



## **Other things to consider:**

Once you have composed all the sections you want you need to

- Structure it - add an introduction and ending. A typical structure would be intro – verse – chorus – verse – chorus – ending. To extend your piece, you could also add a bridge and an instrumental section.
- Practise each part until fluent
- Put together as a group and practise until in time
- Recording – you may find it easier to record parts into a keyboard so you can play/sing over the top!

## **Instructions for recording using Casio Keyboards**

1. Press 'SONG MEMORY' until display says 'record'
2. Select a memory track to record onto (blue buttons in centre of keyboard)
3. When you are ready start playing and it will record automatically. Or you can press 'start/stop' which will start recording off
4. Press 'start/stop' when finished recording
5. Press 'SONG MEMORY' until display says 'play' then press 'start/stop' to listen back to what you have recorded
6. You can record other layers over your original by following the same procedures but selecting a different memory track