



Knowledge Organiser



Knowledge Organiser Key Stage 3

Subject : MUSIC

Year: 9

Topic Title: SONGWRITING

Lesson 1 –Songwriting – Structure and Chord Choices

Key Facts from this lesson

Features of a **chorus**

- Catchy
- Same melody
- Same lyrics
- Loudest section

Features of a **verse**

- Same melody
- Different lyrics
- Develops the narrative of the song

Features of a **pre-chorus**

- Same melody each time
- Same lyrics each time
- Build tension (sometimes with dynamics)

Features of a **bridge**

- New melody and lyrics
- Contrasting dynamics/texture
- (Sometimes) Builds up toward final chorus

Primary triads are major in a major key and sound like home. **Secondary triads** are minor in a major key and sound further away from home.

Primary triads are used frequently in songs. **Secondary triads** are not used frequently in songs and are found most commonly in the **verse** and **bridge** to provide contrast.

Primary Triads are chords I, IV and V

Secondary Triads are chords ii, iii and vi

Key words and definitions from this lesson:

- ★ **Semitone** - The smallest interval in western tonal music
- ★ **Tone** – two semitones
- ★ **Chord** – two or more notes played at the same time
- ★ **Triad** - A three-note chord built with intervals of 3rds
- ★ **Primary Triad** - Chords built from the 1st 4th or 5th degrees of a scale
- ★ **Secondary Triad** - Chords built from the 2nd 3rd or 6th degrees of a scale

Diagrams/ Maps/ illustration to help with learning

Triad Table – C major							
5th	G	A	B	C	D	E	F
3rd	E	F	G	A	B	C	D
Root (Chord Name)	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
Type of Chord	Major	minor	minor	Major	Major	minor	Diminished
Roman Numeral	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii
Primary Triads C = I F = IV G = V				Secondary Triads Dm = ii Em = iii Am = vi			

C major scale

C D E F G A B C

G major scale

G A B C D E F# G