

## Composition Project

### Due Date:

Mon., May 5, 11:59 pm

### Project Description, Length, and Options

Working in a *lead-sheet format*, compose and analyze 8-12 measures of contemporary tonal music using one of the following five options. A model from our Listening/Analysis list is provided for each option.

#### Option 1:

Compose a theme (melody and harmony) for a feature film; e.g., see:  
SHORE, "Fellowship Theme, from *The Lord of the Rings*

#### Option 2:

Compose a theme (melody and harmony) for a video game; e.g., see:  
KONDO, *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*

#### Option 3:

Compose the opening verse of a Broadway song (melody, harmony, and lyrics); e.g., see:  
WEBBER/RICE, *Hosanna*

#### Option 4:

Compose the opening verse of popular song (melody, harmony, and lyrics); e.g., see:  
LENNON/MCCARTNEY, *Let it Be*

#### Option 5:

Another type of composition project (permission of instructor required).

Deliverables	Checklist
1. <i>PDF score</i> with required <b>title</b> , <b>composer name</b> , and <b>tempo</b> . Notate the melody and put lead-sheet symbols above the melody. (Include lyrics below the staff, if any.) For your analysis, provide a Roman numeral analysis below the staff. If you have chosen to notate your music by hand, please be sure to use your best musical calligraphy.	<input type="checkbox"/> – Score <input type="checkbox"/> – Title <input type="checkbox"/> – Composer <input type="checkbox"/> – Tempo
2. <i>PDF reflection paper</i> (typed, double-spaced, 1-2 pages) explaining what you have created and how you created it. Be sure to discuss your <i>creative process</i> . Personal reflections about what you learned along the way are highly encouraged.	<input type="checkbox"/> – Paper <input type="checkbox"/> – MP3 file (optional)

### Upload Instructions:

Upload your pdf score, pdf paper, and optional mp3 file into the *Composition Project* Blackboard assignment by the deadline above.

### Grading

- This project is worth 10% of your MUSC 315A grade.
- Your grade will primarily be based on how well you followed the instructions above.
- Creativity, hard work, depth of ideas, length of paper, and passion for the project will also be factored in.

BAIN MUSC 315A  
*Analysis of Tonal Music*

**Basic Elements of Notation**

- A **tempo marking** and **starting dynamic** must appear at the beginning of the score.
- As applicable to your composition, be sure to use an appropriate key signature(s), time signature(s), instrumental ranges, etc.

*Again, if you have any questions about these guidelines,  
or need assistance with the project, I am happy to help you.*

The score you turn in should meet the following requirements:

- Your music notation should be legibly written using a music notation program, or legibly written on manuscript paper (using a dark pencil). It should also be legibly laid out on the page.
- Your composition must have a title. As shown below, the title and composer's name should appear at the top of the first page:

<b>Fellowship Theme</b>
Howard Shore

If you are using traditional manuscript paper:

- Take great care in your *music calligraphy*. Be sure to correctly notate the clefs, key signature(s), time signature(s), noteheads, stems, beams, ledger lines, and so forth, as appropriate.<sup>1</sup>
- The notes should be well-spaced within the bar so that the music is easy for the performer to sight read.
- If there are multiple parts in your score, they *must* be vertically aligned so that the beats line up correctly.
- If you can't figure out how to notate something, consult a music notation reference source,<sup>2</sup> check out a score from the Music Library that has a similar instrumentation, or ask me for help.

**MuseScore**

You can download MuseScore for free at:

<https://musescore.org>

You can quickly learn how to use MuseScore via the video tutorials available at:

<https://musescore.org/en/tutorials>

**Reference**

Gould, Elaine. 2011. *Behind Bars: The Definitive Guide to Music Notation*. London: Faber Music Ltd.

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<sup>1</sup> For basic notational issues, see LearnMusicTheory.net, *Summary of Notation Guidelines*. Available online at: <http://learnmusictheory.net/PDFs/pdf/files/01-01-10-SummaryofNotation.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> For advanced notational issues, ask me or see Gould 2011.