



ROYAL  
COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC

*London*

# THE GREAT EXHIBITION ROAD FESTIVAL

## SING YOUR OWN SONG

Share your message about looking after the planet by putting it in a song.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Pencil
- Notebook



### WRITING WORDS (THE LYRICS)

#### 1 Write some ideas in your notebook

- What is your song's theme?  
Is it about animals, weather,  
nature or recycling, for  
example?
- What's your message or  
your main idea?

#### 2 Start to build your song in your notebook

- Tell a story with your song – try to take your listener on a journey.
- Keep the lines short and interesting, like a poem.
- You can repeat words and ideas.
- Speak from your point of view. Also, think about the point of view of other people, places or things in your theme, and how they could fit into your song.



### 3 Verses and chorus

Your song can have verses and a chorus.

- The verses usually contain the detail and description of the story. A good length for a verse is four lines long.
- The chorus usually contains the main idea or message of the song. There is usually not much detail here – the chorus is more like a slogan on a banner.

#### Words, words, words

- A thesaurus can help you find words that mean the same thing. Ask at the library or use [www.thesaurus.com](http://www.thesaurus.com)
- A rhyming website can help you find words that rhyme: [www.rhymezone.com](http://www.rhymezone.com)

4 Write down all your ideas as a plan for your song, with verses and a chorus. But don't be afraid to change them! Keep searching for the very best words for your song lyrics.

## SINGING YOUR TUNE (THE MELODY)

5 You have written the words (lyrics), now work on the tune (melody). Speak your lyrics out loud and try to feel the rhythm – the pattern of the words.

6 Then try singing the first line of the chorus. Sing whatever feels comfortable for your voice – just see what comes. Anything goes, so just try it!

### TOP TIP

Try to make your verses sound different to the chorus.

7 Try to match the sound of the music to the feeling you want. Is it sad, uplifting, angry or happy? Or maybe something else?

8 Think about taking your melody up and down in pitch. Pick out the most important words and try singing them higher or lower than the rest.

9 Sing what sounds good to you. Remember, this is your song, and there is no right or wrong answer!

## EXTRA ACTIVITY: ADDING A BACKING TRACK

If you can, visit

[www.rcm.ac.uk/sparks/digitalresources](http://www.rcm.ac.uk/sparks/digitalresources)

In our **Compose: Writing a Song** section you can use the Track Maker, where you can add a backing track to your song!

