

Step 5 – Moving to instruments

After experimenting with different combinations of your motif it is time to decide which instruments are going to be playing your ideas. Below is a list of instrumental combinations you can choose from with example roles of each instrument listed. If you have any trouble with this or any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

String Quartet

Instruments	Example Instrument Roles
Violin I	Main Melody
Violin II	Melodic Accompaniment
Viola	Harmonic Accompaniment
Cello	Harmonic Accompaniment

In a string quartet, each instrument has an interchangeable role. This means that at any point a particular instrument can take the main melodic role and another can play an accompanying role. Changing the instrument that is playing the main melody is a good way of altering the feel of the piece and might be an idea you want to consider.

Rock Band

Instruments	Instrument Roles
Lead Guitar	Main Melody
Rhythm Guitar	Melodic Accompaniment
Bass Guitar	Harmonic Accompaniment
Drum Kit	Rhythmic Accompaniment

When composing for a rock band don't forget the abilities of each instrument. Electric Guitars are able to play chords as well as melodic lines. Bass guitars play lines that outline the key of the piece and the Drum Kit plays the rhythmic accompaniment. Note: you may use rhythmic aspects of your motif on the drum kit however you may also use a generic rock beat as well.

Solo Piano

If you choose to write for solo piano try not to think of the left and right hand as different parts, you can choose to do this but also try and think of both hands combining as one voice.

Instrument and Piano Accompaniment

This instrumental combination of melodic instrument and piano accompaniment is a very traditional choice. Make sure you know the range of the instrument you choose. It might be a good idea to choose an instrument that you are either familiar with or have a friend that is

familiar with it. It is also a good idea to include aspects of the melody in the piano when the main instrument isn't playing.

Jazz Group

Instruments	Instrument Roles
Lead Instrument Guitar/Trumpet/Saxophone	Main Melody
Piano/Keyboard	Melodic Accompaniment/Melody
Bass Guitar/Double Bass	Harmonic Accompaniment
Drum Kit	Rhythmic Accompaniment

When writing for a jazz quartet each instrument has a specific role that it follows. The lead instrument provides most of the melodic content whilst the other instruments; Piano, Double Bass and Drums provide the accompaniment.

<https://ljsmusiceducation.school.blog/2019/10/22/step-5-transferring-your-ideas-to-instruments/>