

How should I start composing?

This is really a common question. The first thing you need to ask yourself is what ideas you want to express. Should my song have lyrics? What emotions are important for this song? After answering these questions you can decide the tempo (speed) of your song. Normally if you want to express sadness and melancholy the tempo of your song should be slow. If you want to express happiness, euphoria or excitement the tempo of your song should be fast. It is important to know that this is not a rule but a starting point.

Sadness/ melancholy

Happiness/ euphoria

Slow

Fast

What kind of music genre I want to compose? We can make an analogy between music and language. To speak a language you need to know the words, grammar and pronunciation. This is also for music. If I will compose a rock song I need to know at least what kind of chord progression is common, what scale should I use and what techniques I need to learn to play rock music.

Rock

Jazz

Reggae

Blues

Pop

Classic

Now we can approach something more technical about your song. What time signature will you use? The time signature will determine how many beats you have in one bar and this changes completely how you feel music. A really common time signature is 4/4 and we can find it in rock, jazz, blues, pop...

Examples: 2/4 - Brazilian music, 3/4 - Waltz.

It is time to choose the key. This determines what scale, chords and also how you play or sing your song. If your song has a vocal melody, you need to check what key is comfortable for you to sing. Some keys are really good for some instruments and another are harder to play.

Example: a good key for guitar blues is E major