

Writing a pop Song

- STEP 1 Listening to and analysing a typical pop song
- STEP 2 Performing the song using your keyboard
- A without chords
 - B chords
 - C chords and tune together
- STEP 3 Using the model and your keyboard to compose your own song

STEP 1 Listening and analysing

SONG: ANYONE OF US – GARETH GATES

This is a typical pop song with all the right ingredients to be a hit. It has:

- 4 beats in the bar (4/4 time)
- Verses, chorus (or hook), and a 'middle 8'
- A great catchy tune
- Easy to play chords

THE LYRICS

VERSE

I'VE BEEN LETTING YOU DOWN, DOWN, GIRL I KNOW I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL
GIVING INTO TEMPTATION, I SHOULD HAVE PLAYED IT COOL
THE SITUATION GOT OUT OF HAND, I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND

CHORUS

IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANY ONE OF US, ANYONE YOU THINK OF
ANYONE CAN FALL, ANYONE CAN HURT SOMEONE THEY LOVE, HEARTS WILL
BREAK, COS I MADE A STUPID MISTAKE
IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANY ONE OF US, SAY YOU WILL FORGIVE ME
ANYONE CAN FAIL, SAY YOU WILL BELIEVE ME, I CAN STATE, HEARTS WILL
BREAK, COS I MADE A STUPID MISTAKE, A STUPID MISTAKE

VERSE

SHE WAS KIND OF EXCITED, A LITTLE CRAZY I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN
SHE MUST HAVE ALTERED MY SENSES, 'COS I OFFERED TO WALK HER HOME
THE SITUATION GOT OUT OF HAND, I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND

CHORUS

MIDDLE 8

A STUPID MISTAKE, A STUPID MISTAKE,
SHE MEANS NOTHING TO ME, NOTHING TO ME
I SWEAR EVERY WORD IS TRUE, DON'T WANNA LOSE YOU

INSTRUMENTAL BREAK (VERSE)

COUNT 8 BEATS REST THEN:

THE SITUATION GOT OUT OF HAND, I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND
THEN CHORUS

This is the FORM of the song:

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| VERSE 1 | CHORUS 1 | VERSE 2 | CHORUS 2 | MIDDLE 8 | INSTRUMENTAL BREAK (VERSE) | CHORUS 3 | CHORUS 4 |
|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|

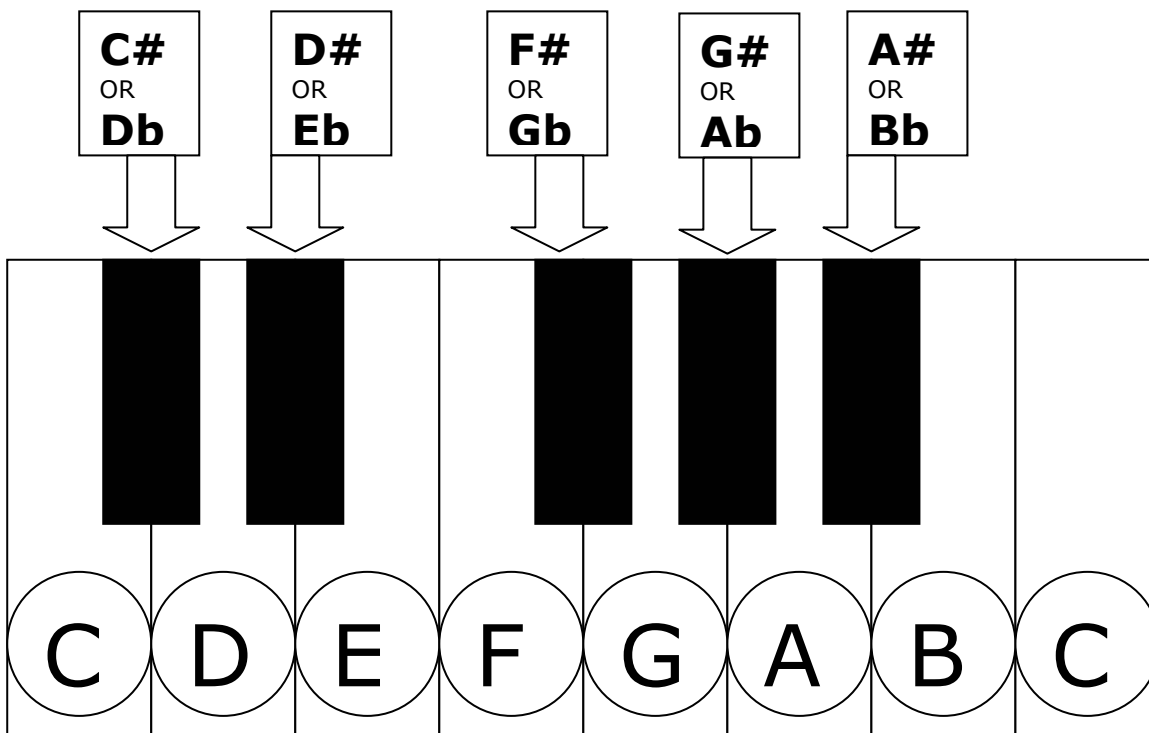
Questions about the music:

- What can you say about the way the CHORUS is composed?
- What happens to the CHORUS at the end of the song?
- What effect does the short instrumental break (guitar) have on the music?
- What are the disadvantages of a song like this? Who might it not appeal to?
- The song starts without an introduction. Why do most pop songs have an introduction?
- Before playing the music, make sure you know where all the notes on the keyboard can be found.

HINT!!

- ❖ In between the set of 2 black notes is the note D
- ❖ In between the set of 3 black notes are the notes G and A

You can work the rest out from the alphabet !



STEP 2A Performing the Song WITHOUT CHORDS

Choose an electric piano voice on your keyboard
 Choose an 8 beat style on your keyboard

VERSE (play each box from left to right)

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bb Bb A Bb D G F, | Bb Bb A Bb D G G F |
| 1 I'VE BEEN LETTING YOU DOWN, DOWN, 2 SHE WAS KIND OF EXCITED, | GIRL I KNOW I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL A LITTLE CRAZY I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN |
| Bb Bb A Bb D D C Bb | F G G G F F |
| 1 GIVING INTO TEMPTATION, 2 MUST HAVE ALTERED MY SENSES, | I SHOULD HAVE PLAYED IT COOL 'COS I OFFERED TO WALK HER HOME |
| G C C B C E A A G | G A A A G G |
| 1 THE SITUATION GOT OUT OF HAND, 2 THE SITUATION GOT OUT OF HAND, | I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND |

CHORUS (FOR CHORUS 3, TRANSPOSE UP 2 PLACES)

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| GG C C D DDD C G, | DDD E D C |
| IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANY ONE OF US, | ANY ONE YOU THINK OF |
| BBB A E, BBB C B E G F C, C B D | |
| ANY ONE CAN FALL, ANY ONE CAN HURT | SOMEONE THEY LOVE, HEARTS WILL BREAK, |
| G E E E E F E D | |
| COS I MADE A STUPID MISTAKE | |
| GG C C D DDD C G, | D D D E D C |
| IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANY ONE OF US, | SAY YOU WILL FORGIVE ME |
| BBB A E, B B B C B E G F C, C B D | |
| ANYONE CAN FAIL, SAY YOU WILL BELIEVE ME, I CAN STATE, | HEARTS WILL BREAK, |
| G E E E E F E D, | D D C B C |
| COS I MADE A STUPID MISTAKE, | A STUPID MISTAKE |

MIDDLE 8

| |
|--------------------------------------------------|
| DD C B C, G D C B C A |
| A STUPID MISTAKE, A STUPID MISTAKE, |
| C C C Bb A Bb, C Bb A Bb |
| SHE MEANS NOTHING TO ME, NOTHING TO ME |
| G A A G A D A, D DD Bb A G |
| I SWEAR EVERY WORD IS TRUE, DON'T WANNA LOSE YOU |

INSTRUMENTAL BREAK (VERSE) COUNT 8 BEATS REST THEN:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| G C C B C E A A G | G A A A G G |
| THE SITUATION GOT OUT OF HAND, | I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND (THEN CHORUS) |

STEP 2B Performing the Chords for the Song

You can make the chords in one of 2 ways:

- 1 By using the Automatic chord function of your keyboard
the EASY WAY!
- 2 By playing all the notes of the chords yourself –
CHALLENGING!

Choose an 8 beat style on your keyboard
Switch on the Auto Accompaniment of your keyboard

The notes must be played **AT THE LOWER END OF THE KEYBOARD!**

The range is from the very lowest note up to the 2nd F#

IF YOU GO OUTSIDE THIS RANGE THE CHORDS WILL NOT WORK!

The NUMBER before the note tells you how many beats to count
You do not have to keep your finger on the note all the time – the machine will do it for you. You can use the time to get ready for the next note.

SINGLE FINGER CHORDS – MAJOR AND MINOR

- When the chord is **MAJOR**, just play the note you are reading. The machine will do the rest!
- On Yamaha keyboards, when the chord is **MINOR**, you must tell the machine this by adding an extra note to the one you are playing. Always add the **BLACK NOTE** which is nearest to your main note, but **LOWER**.

Practice this by playing the following exercise – and don't forget to set your keyboard to play automatic accompaniment

4Am 4G 4F 4G 4Am

'ANYONE OF US' – CHORDS FOR THE ACCOMPANIMENT

Remember the FORM of the song:

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| VERSE 1 | CHORUS 1 | VERSE 2 | CHORUS 2 | MIDDLE 8 | INSTRUMENTAL BREAK (VERSE) | CHORUS 3 | (CHORUS 4) |
|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|

| VERSE 1 Read the whole top line first, then move down | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|
| 2Gm | 2F | 2Eb | 2F | 2Gm | 2F | 2Eb | 2F |
| 2Gm | 2F | 2Eb | 2Bb | 4Eb | | 4 F | |
| 2Am | 2G | 2F | 2C | 4F | | 4 G | |

| CHORUS 1 | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 8C | 8Am |
| 4F | 4G |
| 8C | 8Am |
| 4F | 4G |
| C4 (MOVE STRAIGHT TO VERSE 2) | |

| VERSE 2 | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|
| 2Gm | 2F | 2Eb | 2F | 2Gm | 2F | 2Eb | 2F |
| 2Gm | 2F | 2Eb | 2Bb | 4Eb | | 4 F | |
| 2Am | 2G | 2F | 2C | 4F | | 4 G | |

| CHORUS 2 / 3 (FOR CHORUS 3, TRANSPOSE UP 2 PLACES) | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8C | 8Am |
| 4F | 4G |
| 8C | 8Am |
| 4F | 4G |
| | 4C 4G after chorus 2 go to MIDDLE 8 after chorus 3, repeat chorus |

| MIDDLE EIGHT (after Middle 8, go to Instrumental Break) | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 8Bb | 8F |
| 8Eb | 8D |

| INSTRUMENTAL BREAK (VERSE) | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|-----|----|----|----|-----------------|--|
| 2Gm | 2F | 2Eb | 2F | | | | |
| 2Am | 2G | 2F | 2C | 4F | 4G | (THEN CHORUS 3) | |