



1. Come up with a concept, idea or story you would like to write a piece of music about. This could be anything - a concrete story, a poem, a picture, a place, a musical motif, an abstract idea. What about it is meaningful to you? Describe things in as much detail as possible.

2. Come up with ways to describe the music *before* you've even written a single note. Try to describe what you would write in musical terms and musical ideas, as well as any other type of language or words you can use. Remember, you want to ***paint with the music, and use sounds as your colors and device to create the music you want.***

- What will it sound like? How will you make it sound like that?
- What is the range of the instruments - high or low? How does this affect the sound?
- What dynamic will the instruments play?
- Do the instruments play different roles?
- What is the pace and speed of the music? What is the pace of individual instruments?
- What is the form of the piece like? Try to map it out if you can.
- Can you describe the music in words?

3. Answer the questions below as you picture in your mind the music you will be creating. **BUT REMEMBER, THIS CAN AND WILL CHANGE IN WAYS BOTH BIG AND SMALL! NOTHING IS SET IN STONE OR PERMANENT. THIS IS *YOUR* MUSIC.**

1. What are the instruments in your piece?

2. Circle the tempo of your piece. Use this as a starting point but adjust to where it sounds right:

Slow (60 bpm)

Kinda slow (75 bpm)

Kinda fast (96 bpm)

Fast (120 bpm)

Wicked fast (144 bpm)

3. Is your piece in a major or minor? Circle one, then pick a key any key.

Major

Minor

Key (and key signature): \_\_\_\_\_

4. What dynamic level will the instruments start at?

pianissimo (really soft)

piano (soft)

mezzo piano (medium soft)

mezzo forte (medium loud)

forte (loud)

fortissimo (wicked loud)

5. Describe the music in one word

6. Think of the form of your piece. Will there be an introduction?

Yes

No

Form (ABA, for example): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Will all the instruments start at the same time?

Yes

No

8. Will your instruments be playing high, middle or low?

High

Middle

Low

Mix (some high, some low)

9. Does your piece have a main theme or melody?

Yes

No

10. If you answered “yes” to above, which instrument(s) play it first? If you answered “no,” what will be the main focus of the music?