



Bite size Composition

THEME - Jotting down your ideas.

So whilst noodling and improvising you play something you really like the sound of, the next thing to do is make sure you don't forget it! So first let's look at how you might write it down.

- **Doodle** (doodle the noodle?? I'm going to blame too many Dr Seuss books for that one) Jotting down your ideas doesn't need to be super accurate, it just needs to communicate the basics, an outline of **pitch** and an outline of **rhythm** (ish) remember everything can be tweaked and changed so just because it's being written down now doesn't mean you have to commit. Just doodle away!

Exercise

- With harp levers set for C major.
- But playing in A minor (A is the tonic/Home/Key centre)
- As before set a pulse - first try 4 beats in a group with LH playing on 1.
- RH Noodle about and find a small pattern that you like.
- Have a go at sketching it out.

How to sketch it out.

In letter form try and lay out the letters in a way that shows long and short notes and their pitch in relation to each other up and down the page.

If you use notation try note heads coloured in for fast notes and open for long notes.

You will develop your own kind of musical shorthand with this, as long as it makes sense to you and helps you remember then it's all good.

You can use a dash to mark to show where the pulse/beats fits with your pattern. Where would you nod your head or clap to the tune? If your not getting an idea of where the pulse is try noodle along with a metronome to help. In 4, Beats 1 and 3 will be the strongest.

Create a template of a few bars using the beats and showing where your left hand is playing beat one.

Try and fit your RH noodle into this template, use the beats as a guide.

Think about what notes are landing on the beats, and for other rhythms think how the beats are being divided for that rhythm

Watch today's video to see this process and turning the pattern into full notation.

Happy doodling!
Susan @ HNW