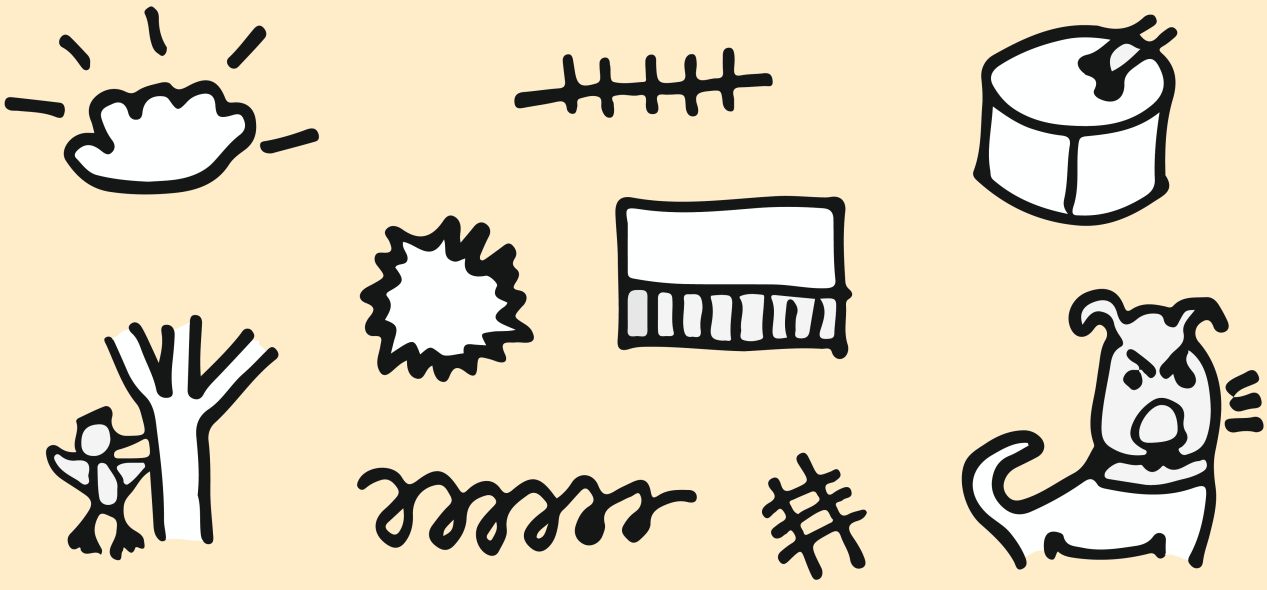
THE MYSTERIOUS PUZZLE

A SOUND MAKING STRATEGY BOOK



MUSIC IS MADE UP OF MANY PIECES, LIKE A PUZZLE.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT A "MUSICAL PUZZLE" HAS AS MANY SOLUTIONS AS THERE ARE PEOPLE ON EARTH, AND ANYONE CAN DO IT! ALL YOU NEED IS CURIOSITY, PATIENCE, & IMAGINATION.

WHAT WILL YOUR MUSIC SOUND LIKE?

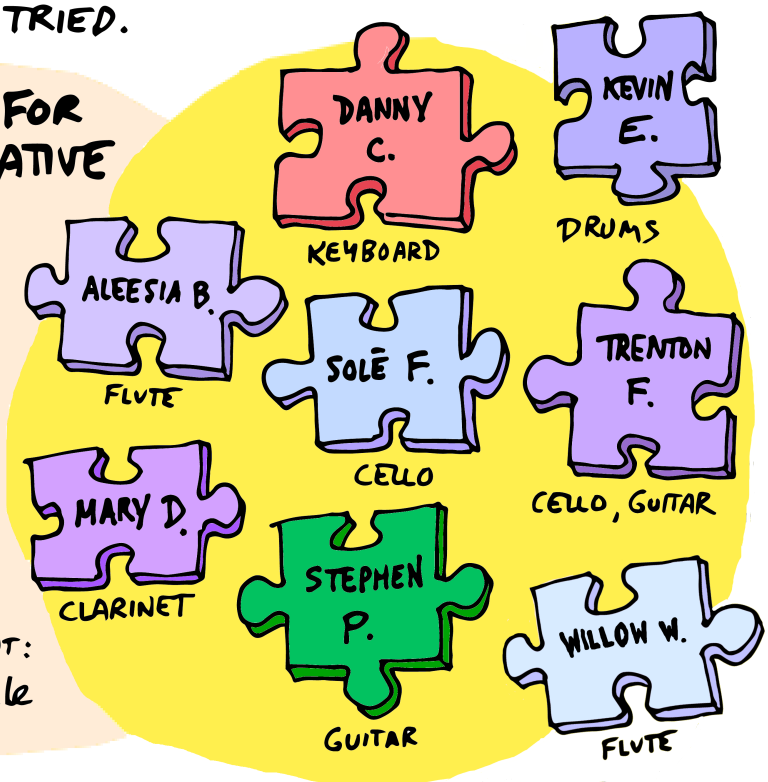
IN JULY 2020, A GROUP OF YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM MYCINCINNATI MET ONLINE WITH THE GOAL OF MAKING MUSIC FROM THE SOUNDS AROUND THEM. THEY CREATED A PIECE OF MUSIC BY TRYING OUT DIFFERENT SOUND-MAKING ACTIVITIES. THEY CALLED THIS PROJECT **THE MYSTERIOUS PUZZLE** BECAUSE IT WAS CREATED FROM LITTLE PIECES, AND WAS FULL OF SURPRISES. THIS ZINE WAS CREATED TO SHARE THE ACTIVITIES THEY TRIED.

THIS ZINE WAS CREATED FOR THE 2020 PRICE HILL CREATIVE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL.

ACTIVITIES HERE WERE DEVELOPED BY "THE PIECE":

(MYCINCINNATI STUDENT)
(MYCINCINNATI TEACHER)
(ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE)

WATCH THE MYSTERIOUS PUZZLE AT:
dclaymusic.com/themysteriouspuzzle

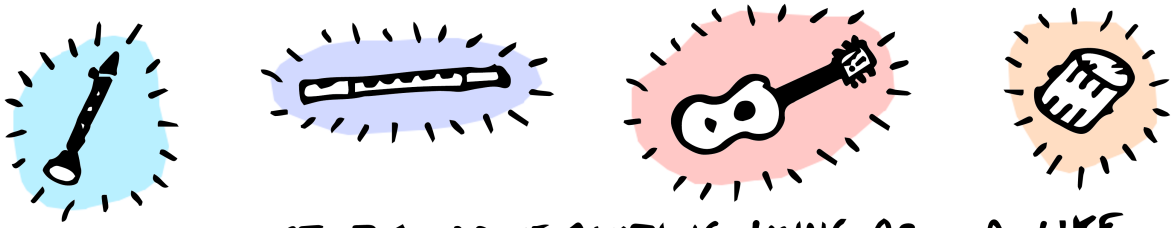


HOW TO USE THIS ZINE

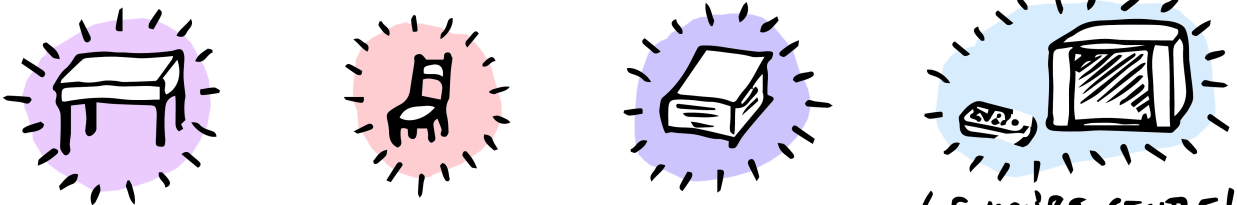
THIS ZINE IS FOR ANYONE WHO IS CURIOUS ABOUT DISCOVERING NEW SOUNDS AND WANTS TO TURN THOSE SOUNDS INTO MUSIC. THIS PROCESS IS CALLED **COMPOSING**, AND SOMEONE WHO INVENTS NEW MUSIC IS CALLED A **COMPOSER**.

ANYONE CAN COMPOSE, AND ANYONE CAN BE A COMPOSER!

TO TRY THESE ACTIVITIES, YOU CAN USE A REGULAR INSTRUMENT SUCH AS A CLARINET... A FLUTE... A GUITAR... A DRUM...



YOU CAN ALSO USE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING LYING AROUND, LIKE A DESK... A CHAIR... A BOOK... EVEN A TV.



(IF YOU'RE GENTLE!)

YOU CAN USE YOUR VOICE,

TOO.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT WELL, OR EVEN PLAY AN INSTRUMENT AT ALL.

IF YOU CAN MAKE A SOUND, YOU CAN MAKE MUSIC.

A SOUND SCAVENGER HUNT

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THESE SOUNDS USING STUFF AROUND YOUR HOUSE, YOUR VOICE, OR AN INSTRUMENT IF YOU HAVE ONE. (REMEMBER, AN INSTRUMENT CAN REALLY BE ANYTHING!)

- ☐ A HIGH SOUND
- ☐ A LOW SOUND
- ☐ A LONG SOUND
- ☐ A SHORT SOUND
- ☐ A WEIRD SOUND
- ☐ A GROSS SOUND
- ☐ A KNOCKING SOUND
- ☐ A SCRAPING SOUND
- ☐ A CRUMPLING SOUND
- ☐ A SCRATCHY SOUND
- ☐ A Beautiful SOUND
- ☐ A CHAOTIC SOUND

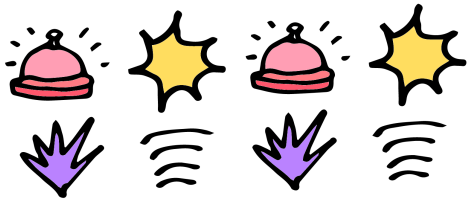
WHAT OTHER KINDS OF SOUNDS CAN YOU FIND? (FILL IN THE BLANK!)

- ☐ A _____ SOUND
- ☐ A _____ SOUND
- ☐ A _____ SOUND
- ☐ A _____ SOUND

WHICH SOUNDS ARE INTERESTING TO HEAR ONE AFTER ANOTHER?
WHICH SOUNDS ARE INTERESTING TO HEAR AT THE SAME TIME?

IF YOU CAN MAKE A SOUND...

YOU CAN MAKE MUSIC.*



TO MAKE MUSIC WITH YOUR SOUNDS, TRY PLAYING THEM IN DIFFERENT ORDERS AND PATTERNS, LIKE...

2 HIGH SOUNDS + **1** LOW SOUND

1 LONG SOUND + **3** SHORT SOUNDS

2 KNOCKING SOUNDS + **2** WEIRD SOUNDS

OR MAKE YOUR OWN MUSICAL FORMULA:

____ (#) _____ (TYPE OF SOUND) SOUNDS + ____ (#) _____ (TYPE OF SOUND) SOUNDS

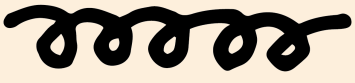
WHAT COMBINATIONS SOUND EXTRA COOL TOGETHER?
DO CERTAIN SOUND COMBINATIONS GIVE OFF A MOOD?
DO CERTAIN SOUND COMBINATIONS TELL A STORY?

* DID YOU KNOW: SOME PEOPLE DEFINE "MUSIC" AS ORGANIZED SOUND?

LET'S MAKE A SOUND KEY

ONCE YOU'VE MADE SOME SOUNDS THAT YOU LIKE, HOW WILL YOU REMEMBER THEM? ONE HELPFUL WAY TO DO THIS IS TO USE MUSICAL **NOTATION**, WHICH JUST MEANS CREATING A DRAWING TO MATCH EACH SOUND THAT YOU PLAY. A **SOUND KEY** CAN HELP YOU REMEMBER THE SOUNDS YOU MADE BY MATCHING THEM TO DRAWINGS THAT GO ALONG WITH THEM. FOR EXAMPLE:

ALEESIA FOUND 3 SOUNDS ON HER FLUTE AND MADE A SOUND KEY THAT LOOKS LIKE THIS:

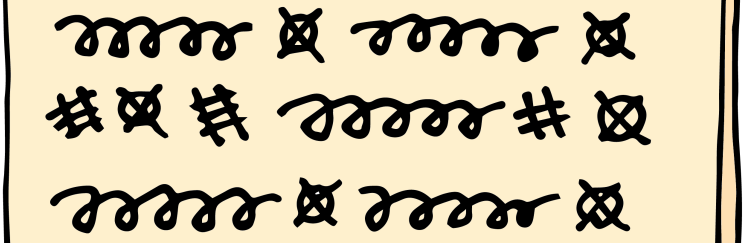
SOUND	NOTATION
(1.) GLIDING FINGERS UP AND DOWN THE FLUTE KEYS	
(2.) PLAY THE FLUTE KEYS WITH NO WIND SOUND	
(3.) ROLL HEAD JOINT IN AND OUT WHILE BLOWING	

ON THIS SIDE, SHE DESCRIBED HOW TO MAKE EACH SOUND

AND ON THIS SIDE, SHE DREW A LITTLE SHAPE TO REPRESENT EACH SOUND.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!

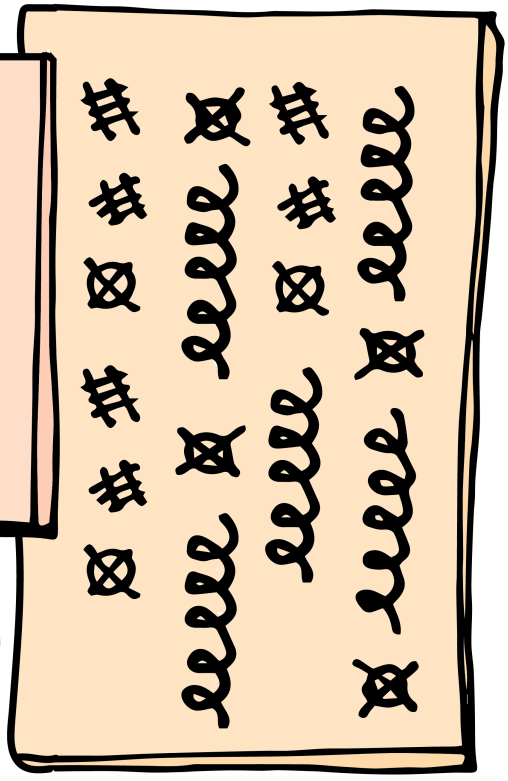
ALEESIA'S COMPOSITION:



ALEESIA THEN WROTE DOWN HER NOTATION IN DIFFERENT ORDERS AND PATTERNS TO COMPOSE A NEW PIECE OF MUSIC (ALSO CALLED A COMPOSITION.)

NOW, WHEN ALEESIA WANTS TO PLAY HER MUSIC, SHE CAN READ EACH DRAWING AND KNOW EXACTLY WHAT SOUNDS TO MAKE AND WHEN! (SHE CAN ALSO CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE SOUNDS OR ADD NEW SOUNDS, BECAUSE IT'S HER MUSIC!)

HERE ARE SOME OTHER WAYS THAT ALEESIA'S NOTATION COULD BE ARRANGED TO MAKE DIFFERENT COMPOSITIONS:



(NOTE: MANY PEOPLE PREFER TO WRITE THEIR MUSIC LEFT-TO-RIGHT, BUT YOU CAN DO IT HOW YOU WANT - AS LONG AS YOU CAN KEEP TRACK!)

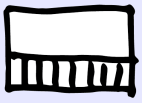
TO MAKE MUSIC, COMPOSERS CAN USE AS MANY SOUNDS AS THEIR IMAGINATION ALLOWS. WILLOW MADE A SOUND KEY WITH NOT THREE, BUT **ELEVEN** SOUNDS – ALL WITH HER T.V. SET!

1. TAP HIGH PART
2. TAP LOW PART
3. TAP HIGH & LOW
4. TAP FAST
5. TAP SLOW
6. TAP SHORT
7. TAP LONG
8. SCRAPE SIDES OF T.V.
9. SCRAPE FRONT AND SIDES
10. TAP SCREEN
11. KNOCK ON PLASTIC

HERE ARE SOME SOUNDS AND NOTATIONS BY DIFFERENT COMPOSERS...

MARY'S SOUNDS

CRUMPLE PAPER


HIT KEYBOARD (LOW NOTES)

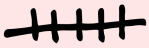
LOUD VOICE SOUND

PLAY CLARINET

TRENTON'S SOUNDS (GUITAR)

HIT BODY

HIT STRINGS


STRUM STRINGS

KEVIN'S SOUND

HIT DRUM

SOLÉ'S SOUNDS (CELLO)

PLUCK LOW STRING

SCRAPE BOW ON BACK

PLUCK BEHIND BRIDGE

WILLOW'S SOUNDS (FLUTE)

PLAY FLUTE

SCRAPE ACROSS KEYS

SMACK FLUTE KEYS

OKAY, NOW IT'S **YOUR TURN.** TRY MAKING YOUR OWN SOUND KEY BY WRITING DOWN 3 SOUNDS AND DESIGNING NOTATION FOR EACH SOUND.

SOUND (DESCRIBE HOW TO MAKE THE SOUND.)	NOTATION (MAKE A DRAWING TO MATCH THE SOUND.)
(1.)	
(2.)	
(3.)	

HINT: IF YOU AREN'T SURE WHERE TO START, TRY USING SOME SOUNDS FROM YOUR SOUND SCAVENGER HUNT ACTIVITY!

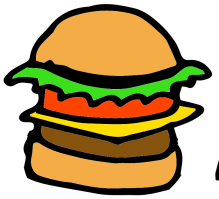
NEXT, TRY ARRANGING YOUR NOTATION INTO AN ORDER THAT YOU LIKE, THE WAY THAT ALEESIA DID. (GIVE IT A NAME, TOO!)

My Composition: _____

BONUS:

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE MUSIC WITH A FRIEND, TRY DECIDING WHO PLAYS WHAT SOUNDS & TRADE BACK AND FORTH, OR PLAY EACH SOUND AT THE SAME TIME!!

BEATS AND Melodies



THE SOUNDS IN YOUR SOUND KEY CAN BE USED TO MAKE MANY DIFFERENT MUSICAL INGREDIENTS. A MUSICAL COMPOSITION HAS DIFFERENT INGREDIENTS, LIKE A SANDWICH. JUST LIKE IN A SANDWICH THE INGREDIENTS CAN BE ENJOYED ONE-BY-ONE ...

BUT THEY ARE EVEN BETTER WHEN ENJOYED ALL TOGETHER!

TWO EXAMPLES OF MUSICAL INGREDIENTS ARE **BEATS** AND **MELODIES**, AND BOTH USE SOUNDS IN A SPECIAL WAY. (NOT ALL MUSIC NEEDS A BEAT OR A MELODY, BUT LEARNING TO MAKE THEM CAN GIVE YOUR MUSIC SOMETHING *fresh*.)

BEATS

ARE MADE BY ARRANGING SOUNDS INTO **PATTERNS** THAT **REPEAT** OVER AND OVER AT A STEADY SPEED. FOR EXAMPLE, WITH WILLOW'S TV SOUNDS WE COULD MAKE A SIMPLE BEAT LIKE:

IF WE PLAYED THOSE SOUNDS IN ORDER, AT A STEADY SPEED, WE'D HAVE A BEAT! A COMPLEX BEAT LIKE:

MIGHT LOOK SCARY, BUT IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY IT ALSO HAS **REPEATING PATTERNS**. THIS IS WHAT MAKES A BEAT A BEAT!

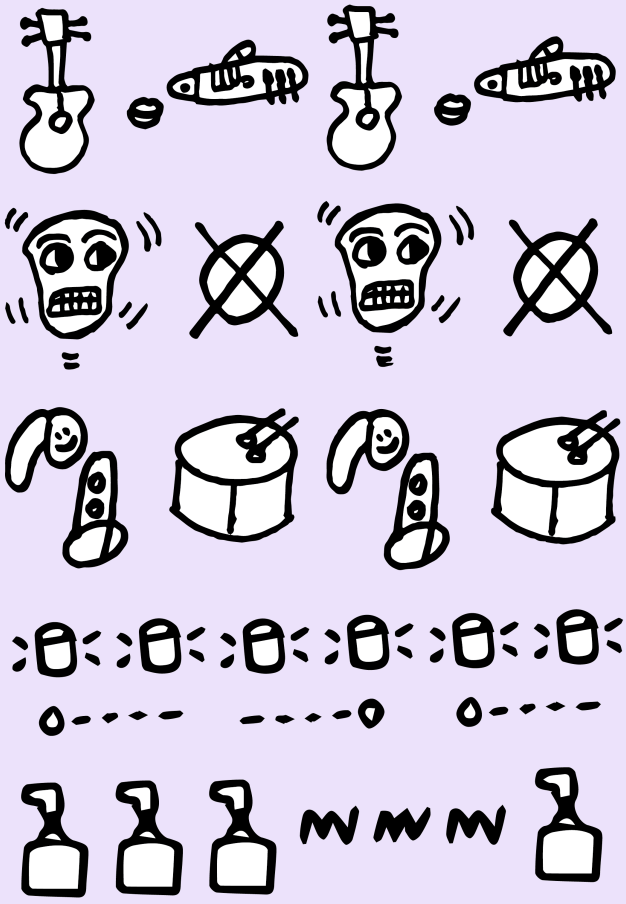
SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE EXAMPLES!

Melodies

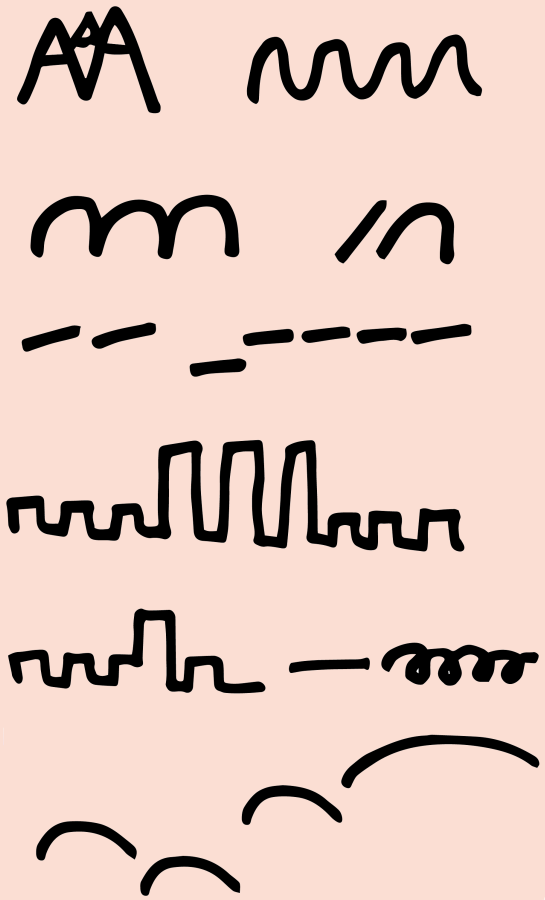
ARE ANOTHER IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IN MUSIC. A MELODY IS A STRING OF SOUNDS, ONE AFTER ANOTHER. USUALLY A MELODY IS MADE OF **NOTES** PLAYED ON AN INSTRUMENT OR SUNG BY A VOICE... BUT IF YOU NEED TO USE OTHER SOUNDS, THAT'S OK TOO! UNLIKE A BEAT A MELODY **USES A COMBINATION OF LONG AND SHORT SOUNDS**, AND USES LESS PATTERNS THAN A BEAT. A MELODY HAS 2 OR MORE SOUNDS, AND OFTEN HAS AN INTERESTING SHAPE. IF YOU KNOW THE MUSICAL NOTES OF YOUR INSTRUMENT YOU CAN WRITE THEM DOWN, OR YOU CAN DRAW A SHAPE.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EXAMPLES!

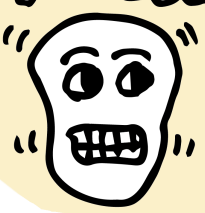
HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF BEATS, AND HOW YOU COULD WRITE THEM.



HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF MELODIES, AND HOW YOU COULD WRITE THEM.



YOUR BEATS WILL PROBABLY BE DIFFERENT LOOKING, AND THAT'S GREAT! THERE ARE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF WAYS TO MAKE A BEAT OR MELODY — IN FACT, THERE ARE SO MANY CHOICES IT CAN ACTUALLY BE HARD TO KNOW HOW TO START.



WE'VE GOT YOU. DON'T WORRY.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR A SPECIAL EDITION "BEAT AND MELODY" SCAVENGER HUNT.

CHALLENGE TIME

BEAT CHALLENGES

DRAW A SYMBOL TO GO WITH EACH SOUND!

1.) MAKE A BEAT WITH ONLY HIGH SOUNDS
2.) MAKE A BEAT WITH ONLY LOW SOUNDS
3.) MAKE A BEAT WITH 1 HIGH, 1 LOW SOUND
4.) MAKE A BEAT WITH 1 SHORT, 1 LONG SOUND
5.) MAKE A BEAT THAT'S FAST
6.) MAKE A BEAT THAT'S SLOW
7.) MAKE A BEAT WITH 2 WEIRD SOUNDS
8.) MAKE A BEAT WITH NORMAL SOUNDS
9.) MAKE A BEAT WITH ONLY KNOCKING SOUNDS

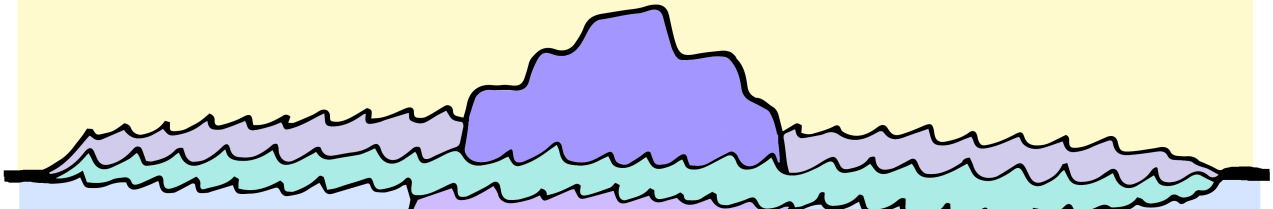
MELODY CHALLENGES

DRAW A SHAPE THAT MATCHES EACH MELODY!

1.) MAKE A MELODY USING TWO NOTES.
2.) MAKE A MELODY USING THREE NOTES.
3.) MAKE A MELODY USING FOUR NOTES.
4.) MAKE A MELODY WITH A FAST RHYTHM
5.) MAKE A MELODY WITH A SLOW RHYTHM
6.) MAKE A BEAUTIFUL, SMOOTH MELODY
7.) MAKE AN UGLY, WEIRD MELODY

BUT WAIT... THERE'S MORE!

CREATING SOUNDS, BEATS, AND MELODIES IS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG... OR PIECE OF THE PUZZLE... OR WHATEVER.



IF YOU HAVE A WAY TO RECORD YOUR SOUNDS, YOU CAN COMBINE MUSICAL IDEAS IN ENDLESS WAYS! TRY RECORDING YOUR SOUNDS INTO AN APPLICATION LIKE GARAGEBAND, SOUNDTRAP, OR AUDACITY TO HAVE FUN LAYERING, LOOPING, AND TINKERING WITH YOUR SONIC DISCOVERIES. SOME FREE RECORDING PROGRAMS ARE LISTED BELOW. IF YOU NEED SOME MORE IDEAS, YOU CAN EMAIL DANNY: dclaymusic@gmail.com

FREE RECORDING PROGRAMS ONLINE:

- AUDACITY (AUDACITYTEAM.ORG)
- VOCAROO (VOCAROO.COM)
- SOUNDTRAP (SOUNDTRAP.COM)
- ACAPELLA (MIXCORD.CO/PAGES/ACAPELLA)