

Assignment Title: Chancy Pop Songs

Type of Course: Intro to Music Theory

Mechanic(s): Chance

Draft of Prompt:

Students compose the base of a pop song by rolling dice to randomly select the notes/chords and their order. This dice randomization can be sequential, rolling one die five, or all at once, rolling five dice. If the latter, the order of the notes can be chosen in advance by numbering the dice, or students can be asked to choose the order that would create the best composition. Further randomization could be introduced to determine the instrument played or the student groups.

Role of Chance: Randomization is used both to drive the composition forward and to provide a constraint on students' agency in creating their compositions.

Effects of Chance: Groups will produce a variety of songs, since each group will start with a different collection of notes. Some songs will just sound better than others based on the notes rolled. Skill and agency are limited to some degree. Perhaps also generation of suspense and surprise.