.Mini Guide — How I Design Music Prompts for AI (Week 1)

1.Purpose

In Week 1, I designed and evaluated multiple expert-level music prompts to obtain reliable, structured, and technically accurate outputs. My goal was not only to generate correct answers, but also to test the model's ability to follow constraints, adapt to context, and support evaluable, job-ready workflows.

2.Core Framework: RCTO

The RCTO framework (Role, Context, Task, Output) is my primary structure for prompt design. It allows me to control both content quality and output format.

- Role

Defines a precise professional identity (e.g., conservatory professor, music historian, social media manager). This improves terminology accuracy and stylistic consistency.

- Context

Specifies the audience, educational level, or professional use case, preventing generic explanations.

- Task

Clearly states the action required (explain, compare, evaluate, rewrite), avoiding ambiguous objectives.

- Output

Defines strict constraints such as format, length, or structure (tables, numbered lists, word limits), making the result directly evaluable.

Prompt Types Used in Week 1

Adaptive / Multiturn Prompts

Used when the model must calibrate its explanation to the user's level. The prompt explicitly requests diagnostic questions before delivering the explanation.

Error Evaluation (QA) Prompts

Designed to test the model's ability to identify conceptual errors and produce concise, corrected versions under strict constraints (e.g., maximum word count).

Multi-role Prompts

Used to obtain multiple perspectives within a single response, such as combining technical analysis with applied or curatorial outputs.

Chain-of-Thought Style Prompts

Applied when a structured reasoning process is needed before the final output. Steps are defined explicitly to guide the model toward a constrained deliverable.

Few-shot Prompts

Used to enforce strict output patterns by example. Week 1 showed that few-shot prompts are effective only when the final output format is explicitly enforced.

Table / Comparison Prompts

Used to generate structured, copy-paste-ready outputs suitable for spreadsheets or datasets. Column names and layout are always specified in advance.

3. Quality Criteria

From the strengths/weaknesses you logged, my effective prompts tend to include:

1. **Audience level** (conservatory undergrads vs general public)
2. **Hard constraints** (word limit, columns, numbered list)
3. **Output format enforcement** (table schema / template imitation)
4. **Scope control** (what to include/exclude; avoid unsolicited extras)
5. **Terminology requirements** when the domain is technical (e.g., cadences acronyms, formal subsections)

4. Iteration Strategy

When outputs are too verbose or imprecise, I refine prompts by tightening constraints, enforcing output-only responses, and explicitly requesting professional-level terminology. This iterative process improves both consistency and reliability.