# Mini Guide – Music Prompt Design with Generative AI

I am a classically trained composer and pianist working with generative AI tools to create music. This guide explains my method for designing and improving musical prompts using models like Suno, Stable Audio, and ChatGPT. My creative workflow is based on advanced prompting strategies such as prompt chaining and prompt stacking, allowing me to refine each musical output step by step.

## -Creative Workflow and Use Cases

I always start from a clear objective. If the goal is to create a song with vocals, I begin with ChatGPT using a well-structured RCTO prompt to generate the lyrics. Alternatively, if I imagine a commercial, film scene, or documentary, I use ChatGPT to craft short conceptual briefs or cinematic narrations—these could serve as subtitles or be voiced by a narrator. In these prompts, I define the scene and the emotion to be conveyed.

For vocal music, I use Suno, inserting the lyrics directly and customizing the voice via the +Persona prompt option. For instrumental tracks, I begin with Stable Audio 2.0, which tends to produce basic but atmospherically accurate compositions. I then refine these in Suno using the Reuse function, creating richer, more structured versions with better harmony, melody, and texture.

## -Prompt Design by Model

Each AI tool has its own prompt requirements. Suno v4 uses style tags—concise keyword-based prompts. Suno v4.5 introduced style descriptions: discursive prompts with detailed phrasing. For voice generation, Suno offers the +Persona field. Stable Audio 2.0 requires structured but concise prompts. I developed optimized prompt templates for all these models.

## -Essential Prompt Parameters

Effective prompts must include key musical parameters:
- Genre and subgenre
- Tempo and BPM
- Key
- Instrumentation / timbre
- Mood / atmosphere
- Tempo & dynamics (e.g., static vs. evolving structure)
- Context of use (e.g., documentary, commercial, film, etc.)
- Structural elements (e.g., climax, build-up, transitions)

## -Editing and Refinement Using Suno

Suno allows both refinement of tracks created on Suno and enhancement of music generated on other platforms like Stable Audio. For example, I used Suno to improve tracks by adding varied melodies, richer harmonic progressions, better rhythmic activity, electronic textures, and narrative structure.

Suno does not yet allow explicit chord input and occasionally fails to follow BPM instructions or insert requested instruments. Despite this, it remains superior in sound quality compared to Stable Audio as of today.

## -Evaluation Criteria

To assess the quality of each musical output, I developed a multi-criteria evaluation framework including:
- Emotional coherence and mood consistency
- Melodic quality and harmonic variety
- Accuracy of instrumentation and sound design
- Vocal expressiveness (when present)
- Structural adherence and originality
- Sound quality (pads, reverbs, realism, etc.)
- Technical parameter alignment (BPM, key, genre, etc.)

## -Prompt Structures and Evaluation Criteria

The following appendices contain my optimized prompt templates for each AI model (Suno, Stable Audio) and the detailed evaluation criteria I applied to all generated music. These frameworks are the result of extensive hands-on testing and iteration across multiple creative contexts.

- **Prompt Design Guidelines Suno v4 (Style Tags Parameters - Custom Mode):**

Use a maximum of 200 characters. Write 1–3 words max for each parameter, separated by commas.

**1. Genre**

Use broad and specific genres: e.g., ambient, trap, synthpop, neo-classical.

**2. Mood**

Convey emotional tone: e.g., dreamy, uplifting, melancholic, dark, introspective.

**3. Timbre / Texture**

Describe the overall sonic character: e.g., warm, lo-fi, glitchy, analog, smooth.

**4. Instrumentation**

List main instruments or sound sources: e.g., piano, guitar, pads, drums, strings.

**5. Structure / Development**

Define the musical flow: e.g., loop-based, minimal, epic build, verse-chorus, evolving.

**6. Function / Use**

Specify purpose or context: e.g., background, trailer, meditation, study, vlog.

- **Prompt Design Guidelines for Suno v4.5 (Style Description, Custom Mode):**

◈ **Recommended length (official data):** 500–800 characters (approximately 80–130 words).
◈ **Recommended format:** clear descriptive sentences, avoiding overly long bullet lists.

**Template**

**[1. Genre and context]**
Clearly specify the main genre plus any sub-genre or usage scenario.
*Example:* "A dreamy ambient cinematic instrumental for underwater scenery"

**[2. Main instruments]**
Indicate the defining instruments, including adjectives describing their timbre.
*Example:* "Centered on felt piano with sparse expressive phrasing, supported by soft string harmonics and warm analog pads"

**[3. Secondary lines or interactions]**
Optional counterpoint, echoes, or layering.
*Example:* "Gentle solo cello and woodwinds weave subtle counter-melodies that echo the piano"

**[4. Rhythm and movement]**
Tempo, groove, pulse.
*Example:* "Slow tempo around 55 BPM, no percussion, minimal rhythmic motion"

**[5. Texture and spatial depth]**
Reverb, stereo width, ambient layers.
*Example:* "Layered long reverbs expand stereo depth, creating immersive spaciousness"

**[6. Timbral details or special effects]**
Pads, reversed tones, glitch, shimmer effects.
*Example:* "Occasional high-register glassy pads and reversed tonal swells shimmer like reflections"

**[7. Structure and dynamics]**
Whether the track evolves or remains static.
*Example:* "Minimal, non-evolving structure, maintaining a consistent fluid atmosphere"

**[8. Mood and emotion]**
Final emotional tone.
*Example:* "Introspective, melancholic, immersive, and fluid"


- **Prompt Design Guidelines  (+Persona in Suno AI):**


**Here, specify ONLY the vocal characteristics :**

**.Vocal type / timbre:** male/female, soft/strong, airy/deep
**.Performance style:** whispered / soulful / theatrical / intimate
**.Energy / attitude:** melancholic, confident, uplifting

**Recommended length: 50–120 characters.**


- **Prompt Design Guidelines for Stable Audio 2.0 AI:**

Format and genre or sub-genre, instruments, mood and emotion, styles (film instrumental, 1960s, dance, videogames, etc…), tempo and BPM, and additional instructions (use context for example). The order matters.

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## -Final Thoughts

This guide reflects my approach as a Prompt Designer for generative music. It's meant for musicians, content creators, and AI researchers who want to better understand how to guide musical AI systems creatively and effectively. However, the next step in this evolving process is to test the same prompt structures using a higher-fidelity generative model, such as ElevenLabs Music (currently in development or early access). The goal is to run controlled A/B testing between platforms, comparing how each model interprets the same musical prompt in terms of fidelity, emotional nuance, structural clarity, and responsiveness to creative instructions.


This will not only help refine the effectiveness and precision of my prompt design strategies, but also offer deeper insights into the musical potential and limitations of each platform. As AI

music generation technology continues to evolve rapidly, the ability to test and compare across systems is crucial for both creative growth and professional readiness.