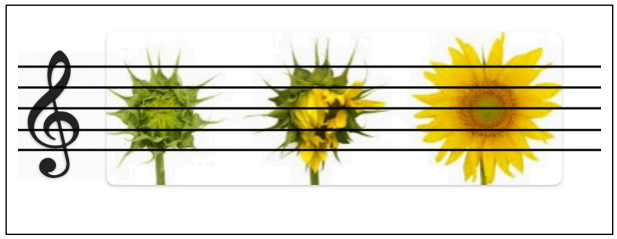
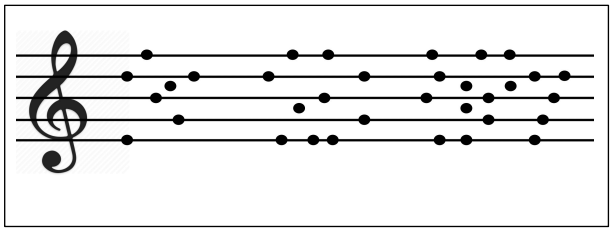
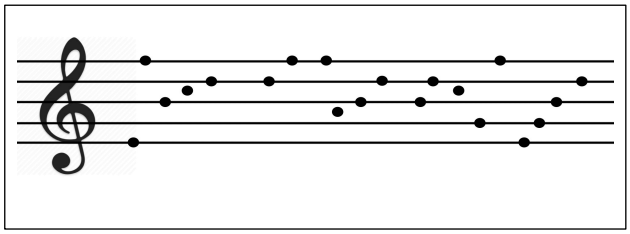
Composition of flowers

By Andy Sankey







Starting with image of a flower and stages, layer over musical stave, increase decrease image as required. Add dots where image crosses stave and remove image. Select the notes required then progress with tempo, rhythm and timbre to develop.

Early flower – the transition phase (weeks 1-3)

Early flower occurs when plants cross over from vegetative growth to the production of flowers and fruits. When growing indoors, signal this period to your plants by changing the light cycle to 12/12 (lights on for 12 hours and lights off for 12 hours).
A plant's move from the vegetative stage into flowering will not happen overnight. The transition phase generally lasts for an average of two weeks, but depending on species, this can sometimes take up to three weeks. In growing terms, transitioning is referred to as 'the stretch'.
The plant shoots up in height, and flower sites begin to develop. General foliage growth will also continue as the plant takes time to re-program itself into full flower mode. Most feeding schedules for this phase will be similar to the last week of the vegetative stage.

Mid flower- developing and gaining size (weeks 3-6)

Often in the third week of flower and certainly by the start of the fourth, the plants switch into full flower mode. Flower formations may still be small and relatively unformed at this point, but they should be present. From weeks four through six flowers or fruits develop rapidly, growing in size and weight daily. This productive stage signals a new era for the plants and along with it, a new set of nutritional needs.
Once fruit or flowers begin to develop, the plant's need for phosphorus and potassium will significantly increase. Phosphorous is crucial to the plant's metabolism, the transferring of energy, and the strengthening of the cell formation in flowers. Potassium helps transport water and nutrition around the plant, improving plant quality and strength. It also controls sugar production, which is essential for flower development and terpene production.

Late flower – ripening and maturation (weeks 6-9)

This final phase of flowering is when the fruits of your labour ripen and mature, so they're ready for harvest. At this point, fruit-bearing plants experience the most growth and gain the most weight.

MusicalStructure

Using the information from the transition phases for each section of the notation (along with creative and artistic licence) you have the tools to create a unique composition.

Tempo and Rhythm (time signature)

This could be informed by the speed of growth the environment the plant grows within. It could also be influenced by the theme, positive or negative, happy or sad etc.

Timbre

The timbre used should reflect the look, feel and texture of the plant and take into consideration the stages. A cactus for example could be rough and prickly and therefore the timbre may reflect this with a harsh or even distorted sound.

Harmonic and Melodic Structure

This is where the over sound of the piece can be expressed, staccato for short sharp changes, sustained for longer periods of time with crescendo to final stage. The key signature will also be important applying basic codes and conventions to evoke emotions.

Artistic Licence

There is no right or wrong within musical composition and the individual interpretation is what makes the composition unique. The piece of music that is created should capture the characteristics of all the elements and stages and with most compositions there is a beginning, middle and end.
The use and application of the music is taken into consideration, how and where will it be used or performed? The intended audience which can be informed with research into the demographic of the intended use, age, time, place etc. It sounds very academic, but any creative art is subjective and keeping these factors in mind during the various stages of composition and production will help.
A good example of music that evokes thoughtfulness, emotion and feeling can be a piece of music that stands alone and enjoyed for the musical aspects. When used in a score for TV or film the music should support the scene and narrative and almost be invisible to the audience unless required to represent a character or location. These motifs have been important within film from silent movies with ‘Mickey Mousing’ techniques to blockbuster movies and now games. John Williams is a good example of this and in some cases has informed the production or editing stages (E.T. The extra Terrestrial, Star Wars and Jaws for example).
Making the music ‘accessible’ is important, the audience should be able to engage with the piece on different levels. The title or use of the piece in context can help the audience connect on a sensory level. This form of composition with the aim to make classical music accessible to all classes with use of more contemporary timbre was the Baroque period, in particular Vivaldi, Four Seasons and in the 20th century Holst, The Planets.