

Message to the Educator:

Listening to Episode III: Meet a Composer! with Rachel Grimes encourages students to think about the following music composition standards: [Cr1.1 | Cr2.1 | Cr3.1 | Cr3.2 | Re7.2 | 8.1]

Use the following activities and discussion questions to create a deeper learning experience.

Tailor the level and depth of the activities according to the grade level and music experience of your students.

If you have any questions or feedback please email us!

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Listening Example: Musical Lego in Beethoven

Rachel Grimes talks about building a piece of music from a simple musical “lego”. Composers have been using this idea for hundreds of years. Let’s look at the 1st movement from Beethoven’s 5th Symphony as an example. This is one of the most famous pieces in the whole world and it’s built from one simple “lego”.

Listen and watch the “musical legos” for the 1st movement of Beethoven’s 5th Symphony by The Music Animation Machine:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRgXUFnfKIY>

Below is the musical lego written down:

(image from <https://composecreate.com/a-good-melody-motives-composition-corner>)



Beethoven's Fifth

Name: _____

Date: _____

Meet the Composer: Rachel Grimes

Background Information: Rachel lives in Carroll County, Kentucky on land surrounded by nature. She loves to have a quiet place to think and write music. She loves looking out the window and she loves the color green.

Read more about Rachel: [Rachel Grimes Featured in Music Makes a City](#) And [Rachel's Website](#) Explore [these](#) pictures of the land around her.

Where do you live? Do you have a favorite spot to think? What images from your surroundings inspire you? Write or draw your answer.

Rachel is very influenced by her family. Generations of women in Rachel's family were piano players and they passed along this tradition to each other. Rachel's father also played and she remembers learning piano from his lap as you can see in the picture below.



Do you know the profession of your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, or anyone else in your family?

Who inspires you in your family and why?

Compose Your Own Musical Lego

MU:Cr1.1._ MU:Cr2.1._ MU:Cr3.2._

Create your own musical lego just like Rachel! Use inspiration from your surroundings and family traditions to create your 4-8 note lego, then share with the class. Explain your inspiration and how you chose your notes.

Write your lego on the tradition staff, point to the tone ladder, or cut out and arrange the curwen hand signs or icons. (see following pages for images or create your own!)

Don't have an instrument? Try using one of these online resources to compose:

[Online Keyboard with moveable do solfege](#)

[Online Keyboard](#)

[Free Online Music Notation Software](#)

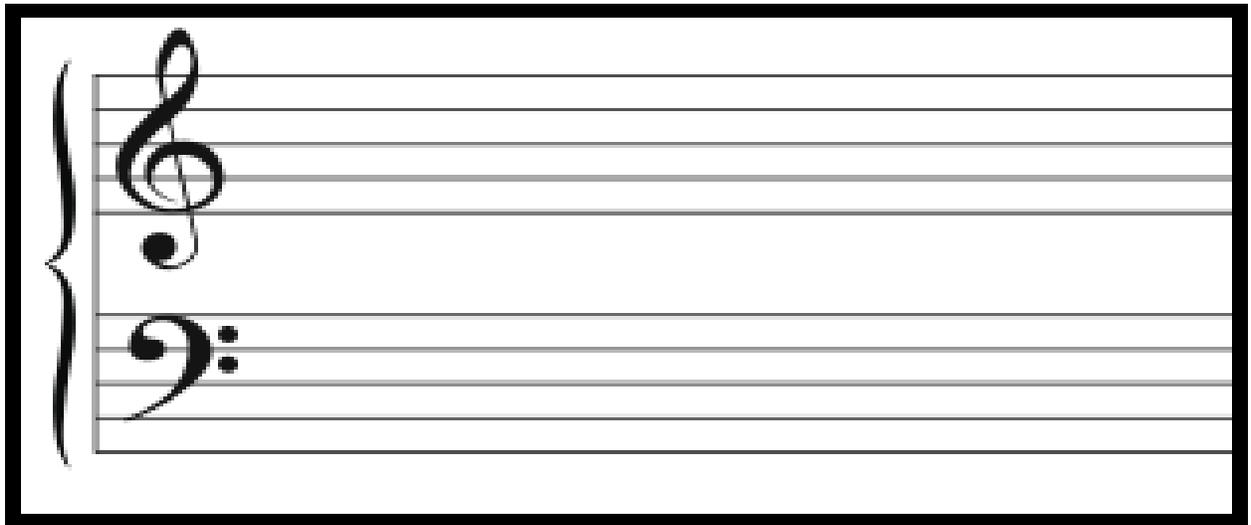
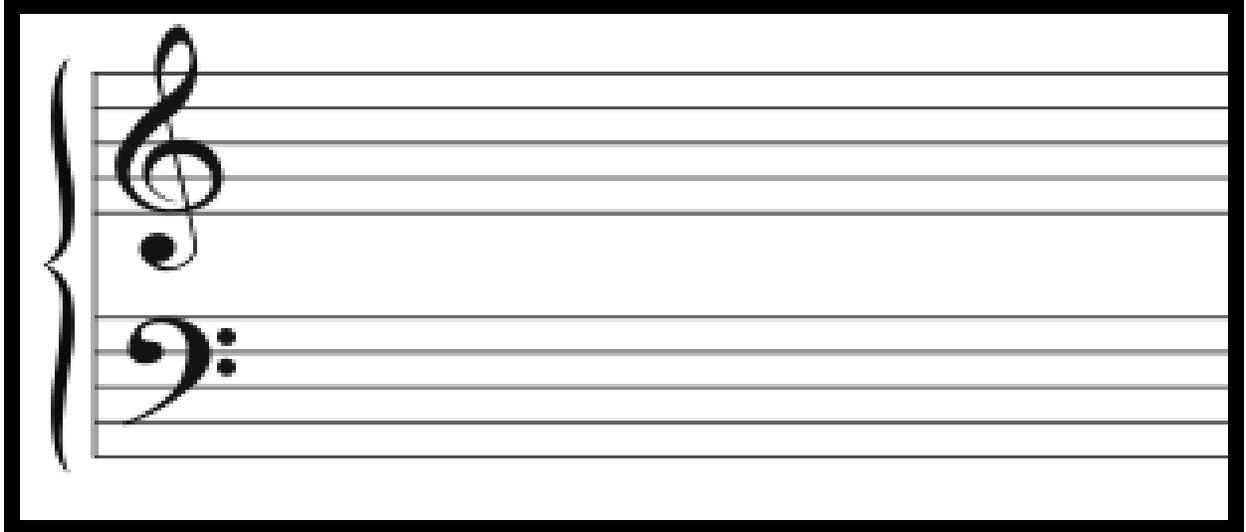
[Sound Board/Sampler App](#)

[Keyboard Drum Machine](#)

Once you write your lego refer to the glossary at the end for ideas on how to compose with your lego!

Happy Composing!

Musical Staff



Curwen Hand Signs



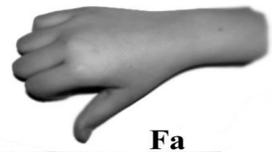
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Re



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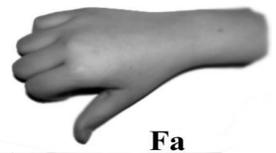
Do



Re



Mi



Fa



Sol



La



Ti



Do



Do



Re



Mi



Fa



Sol



La



Ti



Do



Do

Do



Re

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Sol



La

La



Mi

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Fa

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Ti

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Do

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Do

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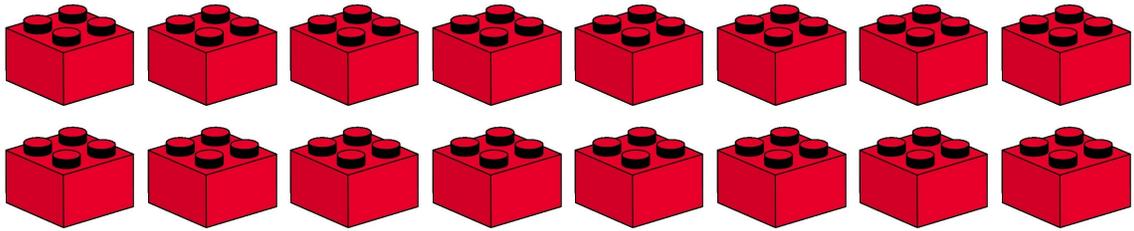
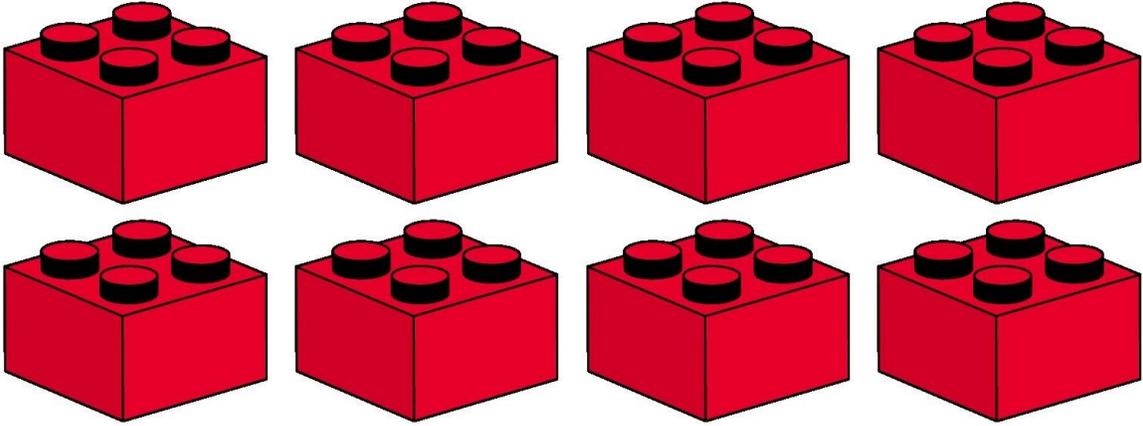
Do

Do

Tone Ladder



Icons



Composing With Your Lego: Glossary

MU:Cr3.1._

(Adapted from <https://composecreate.com/a-good-melody-motives-composition-corner/>)

Musical Motive- A short musical idea or a musical “lego”.

Ways to compose with your motive

- **Repetition** – At the original or a different pitch.
- **Sequence** – Try playing your motive several more times starting at a different pitch each time but keeping the intervals the same.
- **Inversion** – Start on the first note of your motive. Does the next note go up a 5th? Then, inversion would mean to play the note down a 5th.
- **Retrograde** – Play the motive backwards. You can try playing the notes backwards with the rhythm of the forward motive or playing both the notes and rhythm backward.
- **Retrograde inversion** – Invert the backwards motive
- **Diminution** – Make all of your notes half of their original value.
- **Augmentation** – Make all of your notes twice their original value.
- **Variation** – In a variation, some of the main components of the motive are present, but presented slightly differently (different rhythm, different intervals, etc.)