

Composition and Creativity – Part One

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Welcome!

- Overview of Meeting Burner platform
- Introductions
- Creativity
- Songwriting Experience #1
- Blocks
- Songwriting Experience #2
- Music Theory
- Songwriting Experience #3
- Other Thoughts

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Decided to focus on product and tool development for music therapists in order to promote efficiency in the clinical arena – led to product and course development

Currently awaiting CBMT approval to become a pre-approved provider of CMTE credits in the United States



Creativity and Blocks

They happen. We can either learn to get around them, or they will keep us from moving forward.

Creativity

The job of music therapist is unique in that we have a constant need to create a musical product in order to engage our clients in working towards their goals.



Songwriting Experience # 1

Picture-Based, Piggybacked Composition



Composition and Creativity

Composition	Creativity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Writing music○ Writing music for use in specific environment○ Writing music for a specific use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Essential part of interaction with clients○ Changing and adapting music and musical experience to engage client interests○ Ebbs and flows

Chance Compositions

Mozart's Game – Dice to choose where you go next...

Dice Compositions

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1= eighth note○ 2=quarter note○ 3=dotted quarter note○ 4=half note○ 5=dotted half note○ 6=whole note	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1=first scale degree○ 2=second scale degree○ 3=third scale degree○ 4= fourth scale degree○ 5=fifth scale degree○ 6=sixth scale degree
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Ways to structure songwriting

- Limit one aspect of the song, e.g. only use scale degrees 3, 4, and 5 to write the melody.
- Use precomposed melodies
- Use other objects to structure the melody (dice, pick scale degrees from a hat...)
- Make assignments that do not include the task that is required.
- Write a song based on a picture, a word, a phrase, anything in the environment.
- Make changes as needed to adapt the song to other situations.

Remember Your Theory...

All that stuff we thought we would never need again.
Bad news...

Theory, Theory, Theory!

- 12-bar blues
- Rock Progressions
- Use of secondary dominants
- Modulations
- Remember the modes
- Whole-tone scale
- Pentatonic scale

Songwriting Experience #3

- Song Topic – choose a topic/goal area
- Theoretical Format – 12 bar blues
I/// I/// I/// I7/// IV/// IV/// I/// I/// V7///
IV7/// I/// V7/// REPEAT
- Melody, rhythm, lyrics up to you

Other Thoughts on Composition and Creativity

Random thoughts about being creative in sessions with clients...

Ways to Increase Creativity

Try things out...

- Silly is fine – and a great way to engage clients in participating.
- Play instruments, body percussion, recordings, games...
- Use objects in new ways to get new sounds.
- Accompanying movement by another person.
- Directing the movement of another person.
- Using the music to change the way a person moves through space.

Other Thoughts

- Ostinati – an improviser's best friend!
- Body percussion as accompaniment.
- Use singing to narrate the action happening with the client.
- No words – only sounds. Vowels or consonants.
- Humming.
- Word chants – sentences, phrases, single words.
- Changing the sounds.

Trick Yourself into Thinking It's New



- Change the accompaniment
- Revamp old materials
- NEVER throw an idea away!
- All sounds are music.
- Work a while and then leave...

Take it into the Clinic

- All techniques presented today can be done with clients with varying degrees of adaptation.
- All techniques have been used successfully with children and adolescents with developmental disabilities.
- Other populations may require additional adaptations.


