Unit 9: Composing (ongoing)

Context
Students must complete two contrasting compositions.

Outline
This unit suggests some ways in which composing skills can be developed.

Suggested teaching activities
By the end of the course, students should have completed two contrasting compositions, which must be notated and recorded (see syllabus). The skills of composition are learned and developed over time, and it is recommended that composition is taught throughout the course, rather than as a self-contained unit. As a **basic** introduction to composing, students could be taught how to handle simple chord sequences and cadences, and introduced to the principles of melody writing and word setting. They could learn how to create accompanying patterns for different instruments. More **challenging** work will include learning about modulation, and using compositional devices to extend and develop compositions (there is a clear link to the listening units here). They may notate their compositions using music software, but should also be given the chance to hear their ideas played by real instruments whenever possible. There is no restriction on the style of music that can be submitted, or the instruments or voices for which it can be written. Some suitable projects may include: • Song writing • Theme and variations • Pieces with a ternary or rondo structure. This list is not exhaustive, and students may submit pieces in any style, structure or genre of their choice. See the syllabus and examiner reports for information on assessing and submitting the performances.