# Y7 C3 Song Structures KO



# **Popular Song Structure**

**SONG STRUCTURE** – How a song is made up of or divided into different sections (see below) and the order in which these sections occur. To work out the structure of a song, it's helpful to analyse the **LYRICS** <u>and</u> listen to a recording for the song (for instrumental sections).

**INTRO** – often shortened to 'intro', the first section of a song which sets the mood of the song and is sometimes, but not always, an instrumental section using the song's chord pattern.

**VERSES** – songs normally have several verses. Verses introduce the song's theme and have the same melody but different lyrics for each verse which helps develop the song's narrative and story. Songs made up entirely of verses are called **STROPHIC**.

**LINK** – a optional short section often used to join different parts of a song together, often instrumental, and sometimes joins verses together

**PRE-CHORUS** – an optional section of music that occurs before the **CHORUS** 

**CHORUS** – occurs several times within a song and contains the most memorable **HOOK/RIFF**. The chorus relays the message of the song and is repeated with the same melody and lyrics each time it is heard. In popular songs, the chorus is often repeated several times towards the end of the song.

MIDDLE 8/BRIDGE – a section (often 8 bars in length) that provides contrasting musical material often featuring an instrumental or vocal solo using new musical material allowing the performer to display their technical skill on their instrument or voice.

**CODA/OUTRO** – The final section of a popular song which brings it to an end (Coda is Italian for "tail"!)

## **Key Words**

LYRICS – The words of a song, usually consisting of VERSES and a CHORUS.

**HOOK** – A 'musical hook' is usually the 'catchy bit' of the song that you will remember. It is often short and used and repeated in different places throughout the piece.

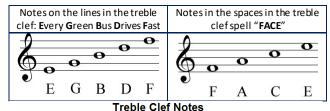
**RIFF** – A repeated musical pattern. Riffs can be rhythmic, melodic or lyrical, short and repeated.

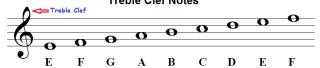
**MELODY** – The main tune of the song often sung by the **LEAD SINGER**.

**COUNTER-MELODY** – An 'extra' melody often performed 'on top of' the main melody.

**TEXTURE** – The layers that make up a song

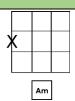
#### Treble Clef & Notation





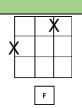
### **Ukulele Chords**













## Instruments used in popular songs

**Voice** – Lead singer sings the melody & backing singers provide harmony

**Guitar (Electric/Acoustic)** - plays chords and riffs **Keys** – Keyboard/piano used to play chords, bass & riffs

**Drum Kit** – to provide rhythm

Bass Guitar - plays the bass line

Sax, trumpet, trombone, strings – all used to add extra colour and interest





# Chords

**CHORD** - 3 more notes played together at the same time **TRIAD** - 3 note chord

## How to build a chord

# ALWAYS START AT THE BOTTOM (root) & BUILD UP

The **root** of the chord is shown by the **chord name**. e.g. the **Chord C** has the root note **C** and the **chord G** has the root note G etc. Once you know the root you can build your chord in one of two ways

1. Use this phrase to build from the root

# Play 1, Miss 1, Play 1, Miss 1, Play 1

2. Count up from the **root** to find the **third** and **fifth** notes of the scale.

C D E F G A B C
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8