e-z Theory: Mood

In this section, we will look at how to make your music reflect different moods.

♩1   How do I make my music sound . . . ?

One of the most important things composers do with their music is to make us feel different things. A piece of music, for example could make us feel very happy, or it could make us feel terribly sad.

How does a composer do this?

One way is in using **major** or **minor keys**. You will know from your music lessons that a **major chord** sounds bright and cheerful, a **minor chord** sounds a little sad.

There are also other ways? Can you think of any?

Below, write three different ways you think a composer can make a piece of music sound jolly.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Now, write three different ways of making a piece of music sound sad.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

A little practice

If you managed to come up with three ways for each, you did very well!

The first thing you probably mentioned is whether it uses a **major** or **minor key**.

You probably mentioned the speed and how loud or quiet the music is.

These would be correct.

Look back over some of the terms and signs we have used in previous worksheets.

Below you will find a melody. It is written out several times, each time with different indications for tempo, articulation (**legato** or **staccato**) and dynamics.
Together, we call these **expression markings**.

Play the melody on your instrument paying attention to all the **expression markings**
and then write underneath what sort of mood you think the music conveys.

Mood _____

Mood _____

Mood _____

And now it's your turn

So far, we have looked at a few things that we can use to give the music a sense of mood, whether this is happy, normal, sad or excited.

We have looked at using such **techniques** as **staccato**, **speed**, **dynamics**, **slurs** and **phrases**.

Can you do the same? In the space below, try to write some four-bar melodies that use all of the above, so that your teacher will know instantly what mood you are trying to express. Write underneath the mood you are creating.

We have left the space for the **key** and **time signatures** blank so you can be creative. If you know how to use **major** or **minor keys**, you could use either.

Mood: _____

Mood: _____

Mood: _____

Mood: _____