

## Project for Further Study & Discussion

### ■■■■■■■■■■ CHAPTER 9 ■■■■■■■■■■

Pick any song of your choosing and listen closely to the melody several times. You do not need to transcribe the melody in full score for this assignment. However, you will need to find all the pitches and get the general contour and outline of the melody in order to answer the questions below. If you feel you cannot do this by ear (either using your voice or your instrument), you may have to consult a sheet music website like Sheet Music Direct or Sheet Music Plus. These websites usually have one or two pages available for free as a preview - enough to cover most of the music and get you started in the right direction.

Songs previously discussed in Chapter Nine or included in the chapter's "Additional Listening" lists are not allowed. If you do not have a song in mind you may pick one from the following list -

			key
1958	<i>Hard Headed Woman</i>	Elvis Presley	C
1960	<i>El Paso</i>	Marty Robbins	ver - D chor - G
1965	<i>Train Kept a Rollin'</i>	Yardbirds	E
1966	<i>Nowhere Man</i>	The Beatles	E
1967	<i>Up, Up, and Away</i>	5th Dimension	F, Ab, B, and G
1968	<i>Hey Jude</i>	The Beatles	F
1969	<i>How Many More Times</i>	Led Zeppelin	E
1973	<i>Killing Me Softly With His Song</i>	Roberta Flack	F
1980	<i>Shake a Leg</i>	AC / DC	E
1985	<i>Freeway of Love</i>	Aretha Franklin	G

1989	<i>The House is Rockin'</i>	Stevie Ray Vaughan	B
2012	<i>Clarity</i>	Zedd feat. Foxes	Ab
2018	<i>I'm Getting Better</i>	The Record Company	G
2019	<i>Eagle Birds</i>	Black Keys	E
2020	<i>Bluebird</i>	Little Big Town	F
2020	<i>Break My Heart</i>	Dua Lipa	E

Answer the following questions about the melody of your song:

- In terms of pitches, does the melody have a wide range ( an octave or more ) and a wide variety of notes ( 7 or more ), or is the range narrow with few pitches ?
- Is there a contrast between the range of the verse and the range of the chorus ?
- Describe the contour of the melody. Does it move stepwise, in dramatic leaps, mainly flat, or some combination of these ? Is there a contrast between the contour of the verse and chorus ?
- Are there some dramatic contrasts in note lengths or phrase lengths ?
- Overall, would you characterize this melody as strong in terms of Melodic ID ? ( If you played this melody alone on a piano with no lyrics or chords, would it sound interesting and would you recognize the song ? ) If the melody is generally weak, what other musical elements in the song are distinctive and creative, helping to make this a great recording?