

Game Music in Logic Wk2

Objectives

1. Learn how to write interesting melodies
2. Study some established pieces of music
3. Look at Major + Minor Tonality
4. Discuss how to write melodies and add chords to melodies

Writing with Interest

An important aspect of writing any kind of music is keeping the listeners attention throughout the piece.

Lets take the example of the 'Mario Bros' theme tune.

What elements does this have that keep our interest?



Ear Candy

- Syncopation – *Interesting variation of rhythms*
- Repetition with slight variation – *People enjoy recognition*
- Focal high points – *A single focal high point in a melody*
- Counterpoint melodies – *Weaving two lines of melody together*
- Contour of the melody – *Does it ascend or descend?*

Syncopation

Placing notes off the 'strong' beats of a bar is syncopation.

Music that lacks syncopation often sounds robotic, boring and inhuman. Through adding notes to the 'offbeats' or the weaker beats of the bar you can add interest to melodies and keep your listener interested.

Melody is played on "weak" beats - Syncopated



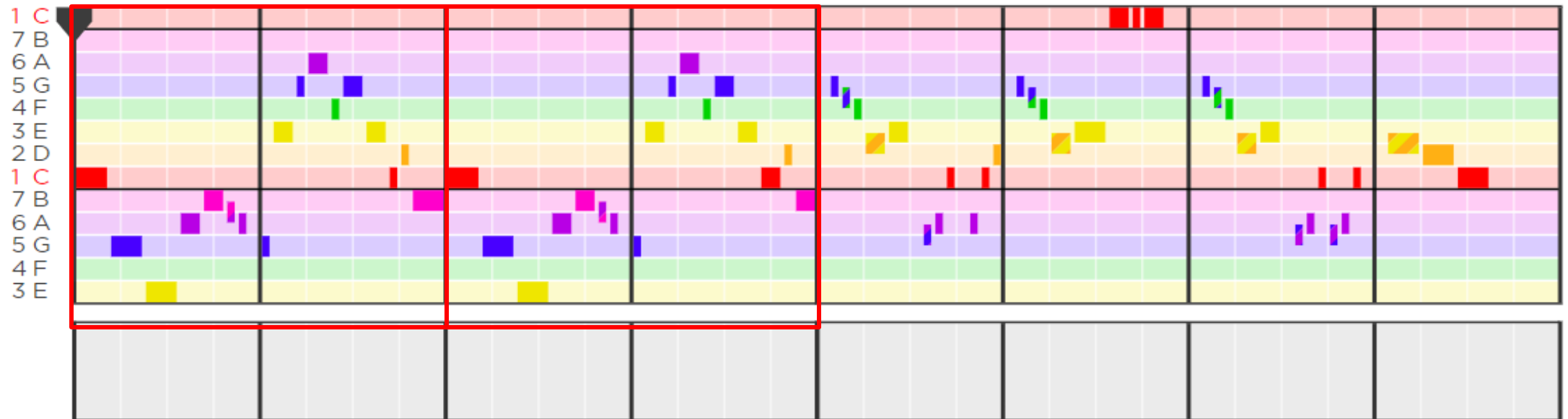
The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The melody consists of a sequence of eighth and quarter notes. The notes are placed on the second, third, and fourth beats of each bar, which are the 'weak' beats. The first beat of each bar is a rest. Below the staff, there are four groups of red numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, each with a vertical red line above the number 2, indicating the strong beats (1 and 3) and the weak beats (2 and 4).

Repetition

With a good but short musical idea you can repeat it and add small variations, such as rhythmic or harmonic.

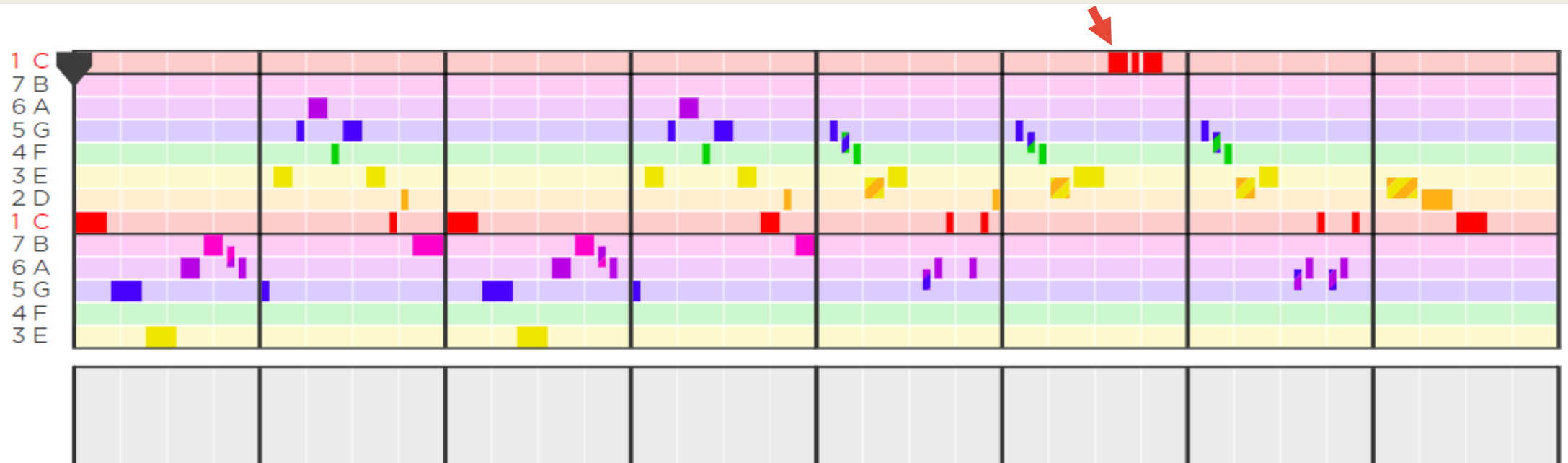
First Repeat

Second Repeat (slight variation)



Focal Point

Build your melody around a singular 'focal' point whether that be a **top** note or a **bottom** note. The idea being that the note is never hit again in that section as it was the 'high' point (or low point)



Counterpoint Melodies

The final note must be approached by step. In a minor key, if the final is approached from below, then the leading tone must be raised (e.g. C to C# in D minor).

The melody can be made up of specific intervals: major and minor 2nds and 3rds, perfect 4ths, 5ths, and octaves, and the ascending minor 6th (which must then be followed by motion downwards).

Generally, do not write more than one skip at a time in the same direction. If it is done, the second skip must be smaller than the first, and the first and third note cannot be dissonant to each other.

If you have a skip in one direction, it should be followed by motion in the opposite direction.

There must be a climax (high point) in the counterpoint melody line. This should occur somewhere in the middle of the melody on a strong beat.

Case Studies

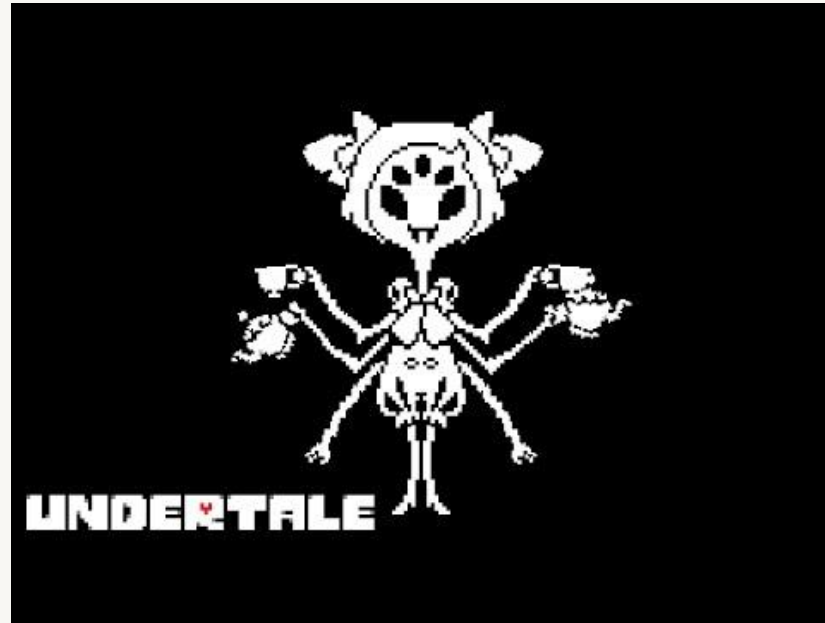
As **four** groups research these four songs and report back to the group. Are there examples of?:

Syncopation

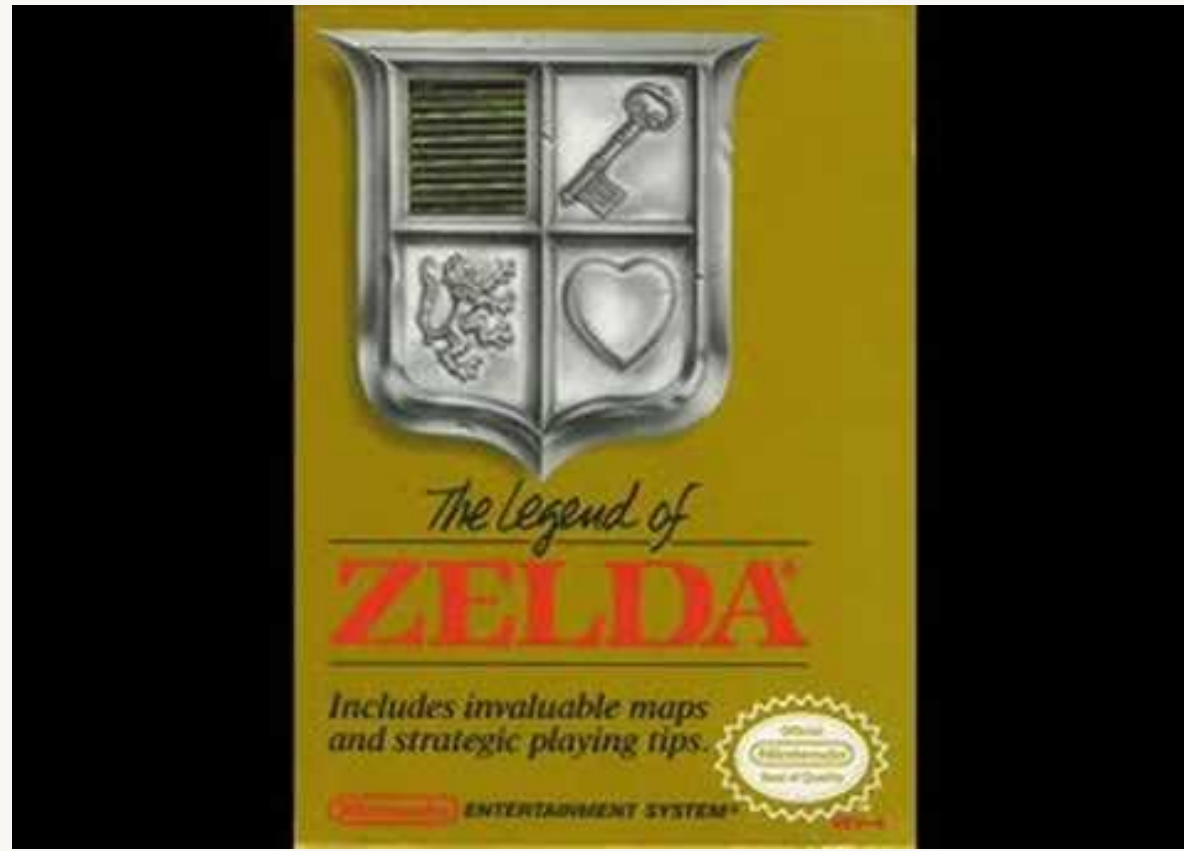
Focal Points

Repetition

Counterpoint Melodies



Case Study (Class)



Case Study 1



Case Study 2



Case Study 3

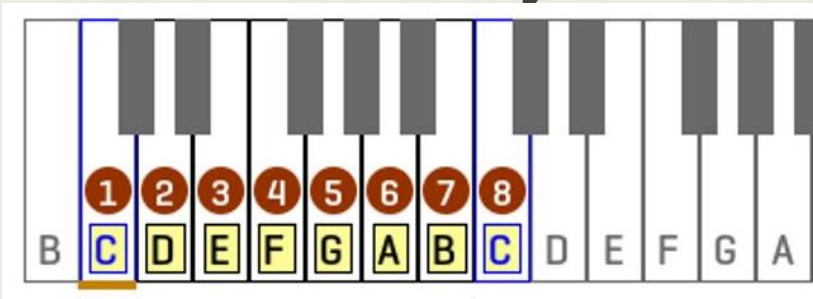


Case Study 4

Minor and Major keys

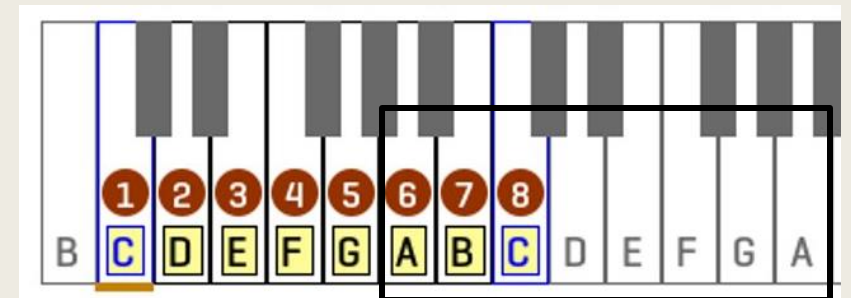
There are many moods music can bring out but at it's most basic level you can think of them as happy and sad.

If we look at **C Major**



If we play the 6th note **A** to **A** is it still **happy**?

Playing this sequence of notes starting with C and ending on C sounds '**bright**' or **happy**



Minor keys

Playing A to A and using the exact same notes as C major sounds '**dark**' or **sad**. This is typically known as a **minor** scale, specifically A minor in this case. Using the notes from the C major scale but starting from different notes will give lots of different scales, a different one for each note. The sixth note of any major scale is its '**relative**' **minor**.

Relative minor Keys

Find the relative minor of each of these keys.

D Major

D E F# G A B C# D

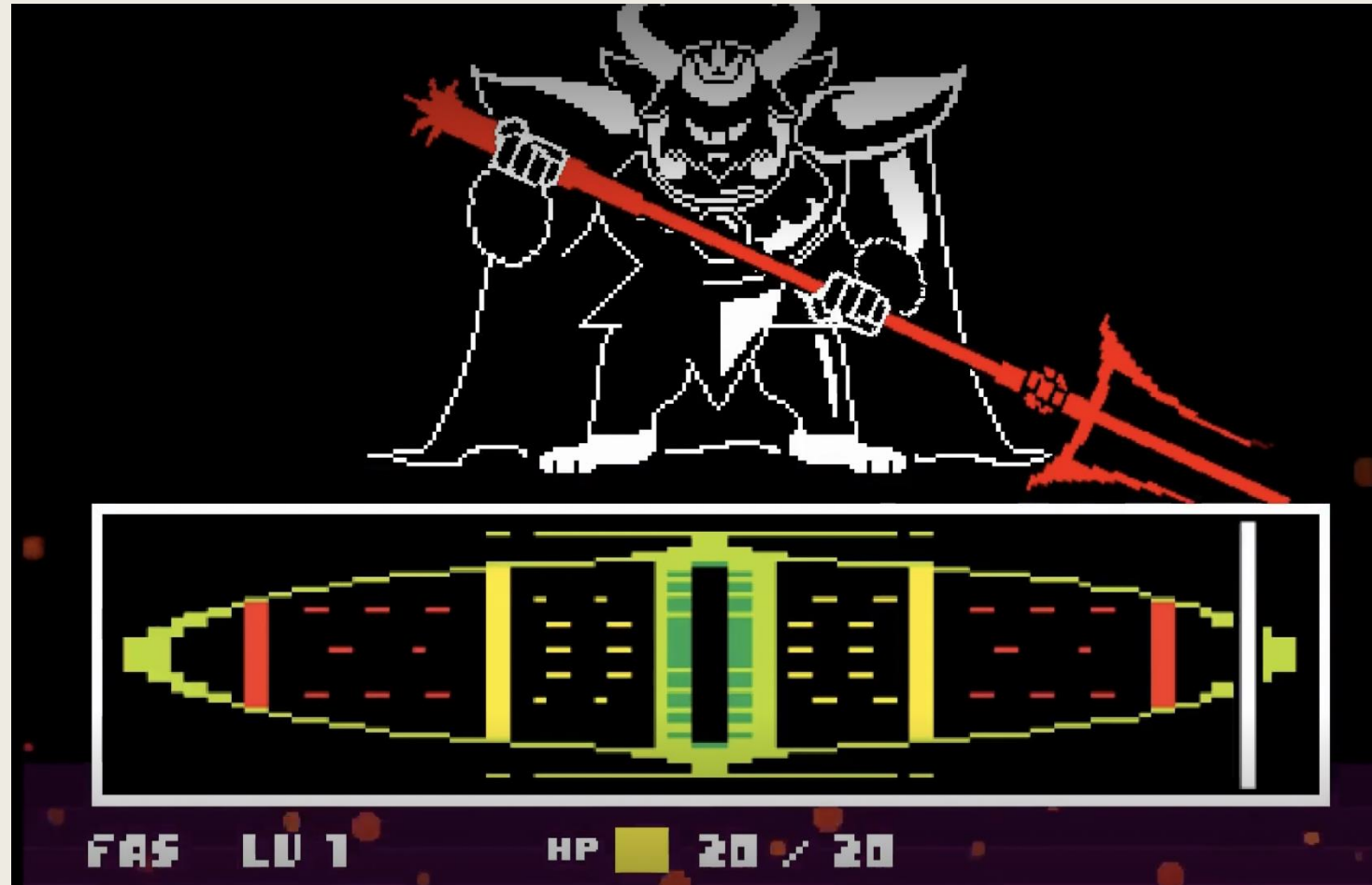
G Major

G A B C D E F# G

A Major

A B C# D E F# G# A

Assignment : Compose Music for this Clip

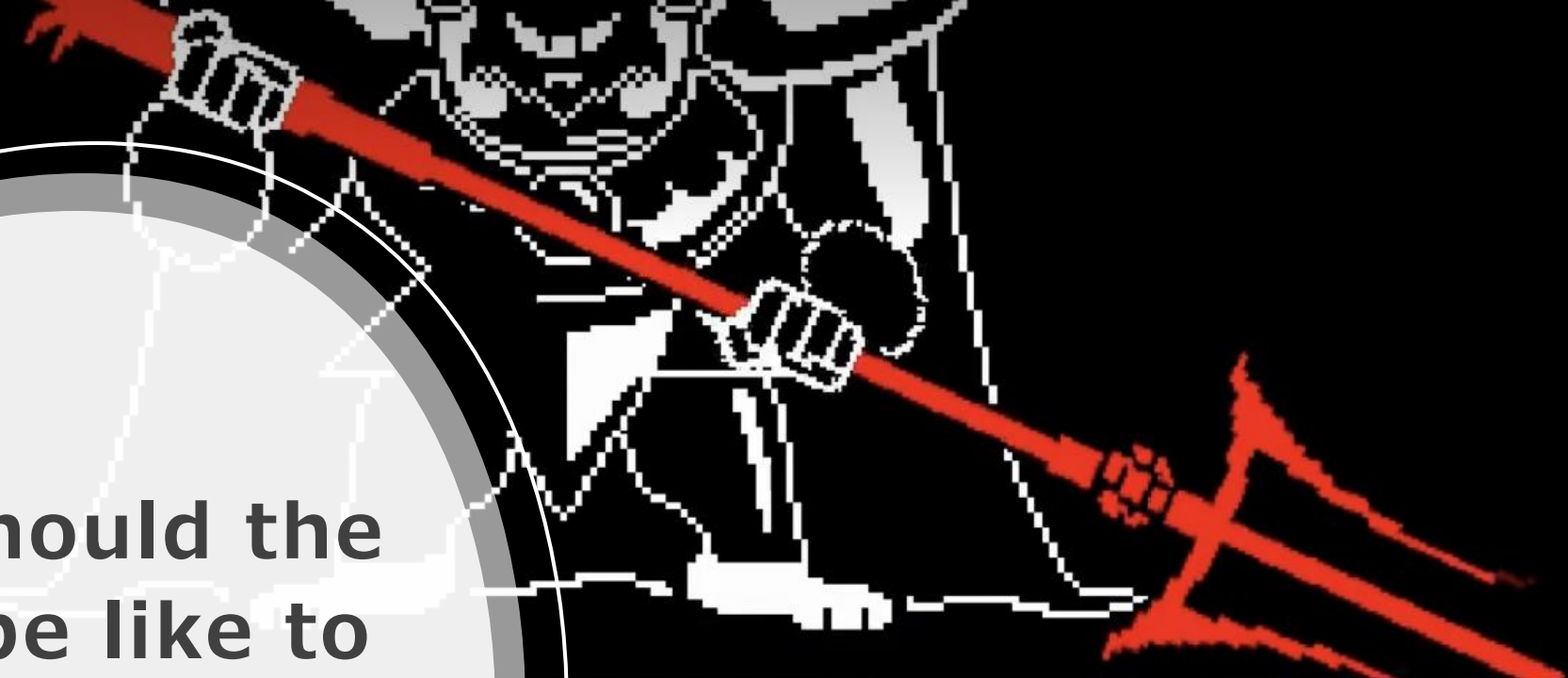


The image features a pixel art character in the background, wearing a grey tunic and holding a long red staff with both hands. The staff has a red band near the top and a red cross-like shape at the bottom. A white arc is drawn over the character. In the foreground, there is a yellow bar chart with several bars of varying heights. The chart is set against a black background with some red and yellow pixel art elements. The text "What does this video show?" is overlaid in white.

What does this
video show?

FAS LU 1

HP  20 / 20

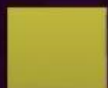
A pixel art illustration of a character, possibly a knight or warrior, holding a long red spear. The character is rendered in white and black pixelated lines against a black background. The spear is a solid red color with a black tip.

What should the
music be like to
suit this video?

FAS

LV 1

HP



20



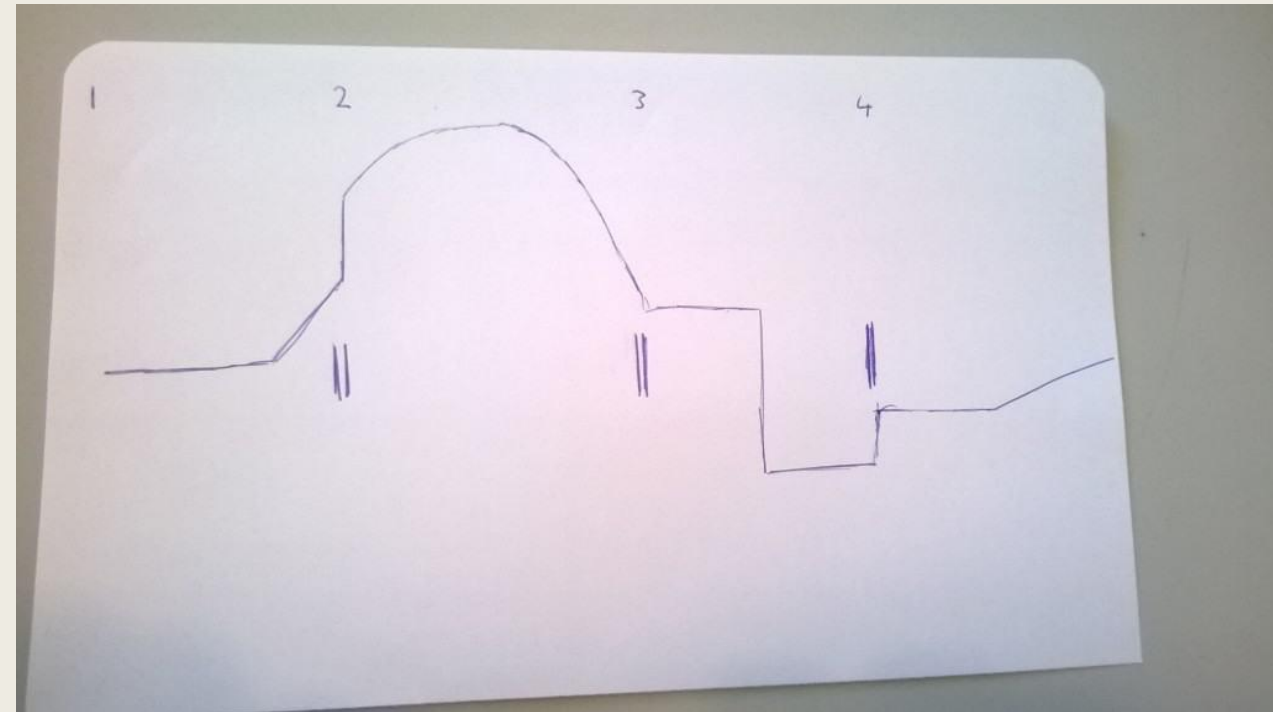
20

Drawing a contoured Melody

On a notepad sketch a melody.

1. Draw numbers to represent the bars
(1 2 3 4)

2. Draw a single line to represent the curve of the melody that you think would work.



**Take a picture
for evidence**

REMEMBER

- Include repetition (1 bar phrase followed by 2nd bar extremely similar, 3 + 4 bars being either a complete extension of the 1st melody or a new one all together).
- Have a 'focal' high point in the melody.

Write out this melody using a the sequencer.

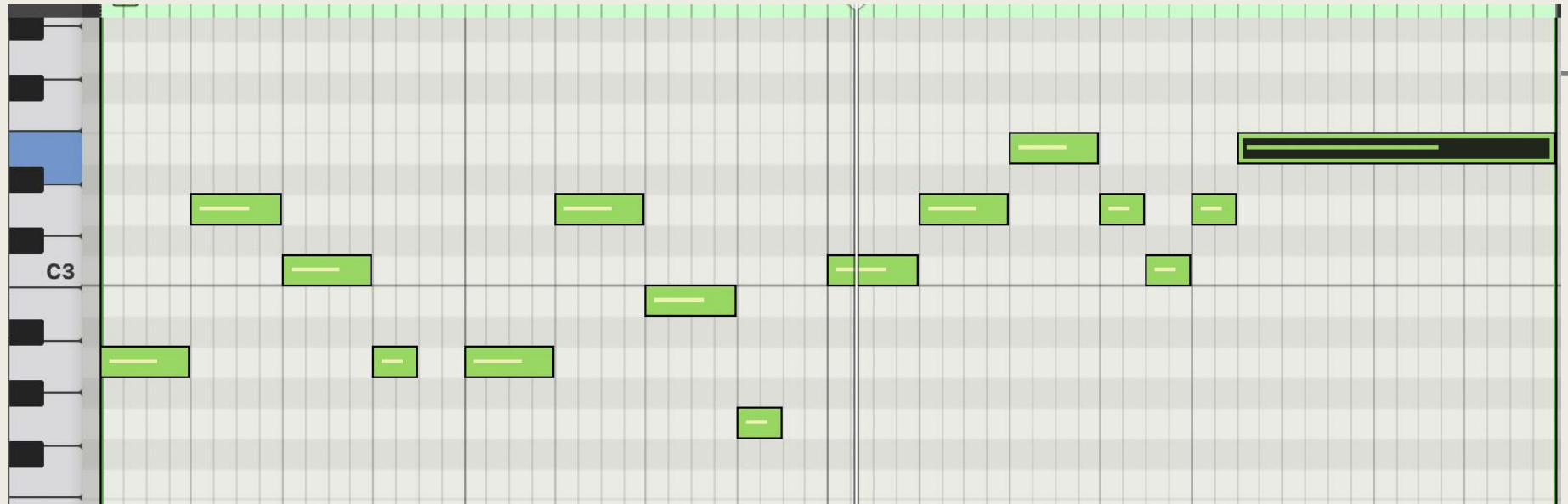
Use the A Minor Scale to write out this melody. (No sharps or flats, White keys on a piano)

A B C D E F G A

Add chords to the melody

- Split the bars into halves and Identify the note on the Beats 1 and 3.
- Build triads that incorporate that note.
- Place 'simple' 1 3 5 chords underneath the melody on a new instrument.

What Chords would go with this melody?



A - D - C - A --- A - D - B - G --- C - D - E - D - C - D - E - - - - -

Chords in A minor:

Am - A C E

Bmb5 - B D F

C - C E G

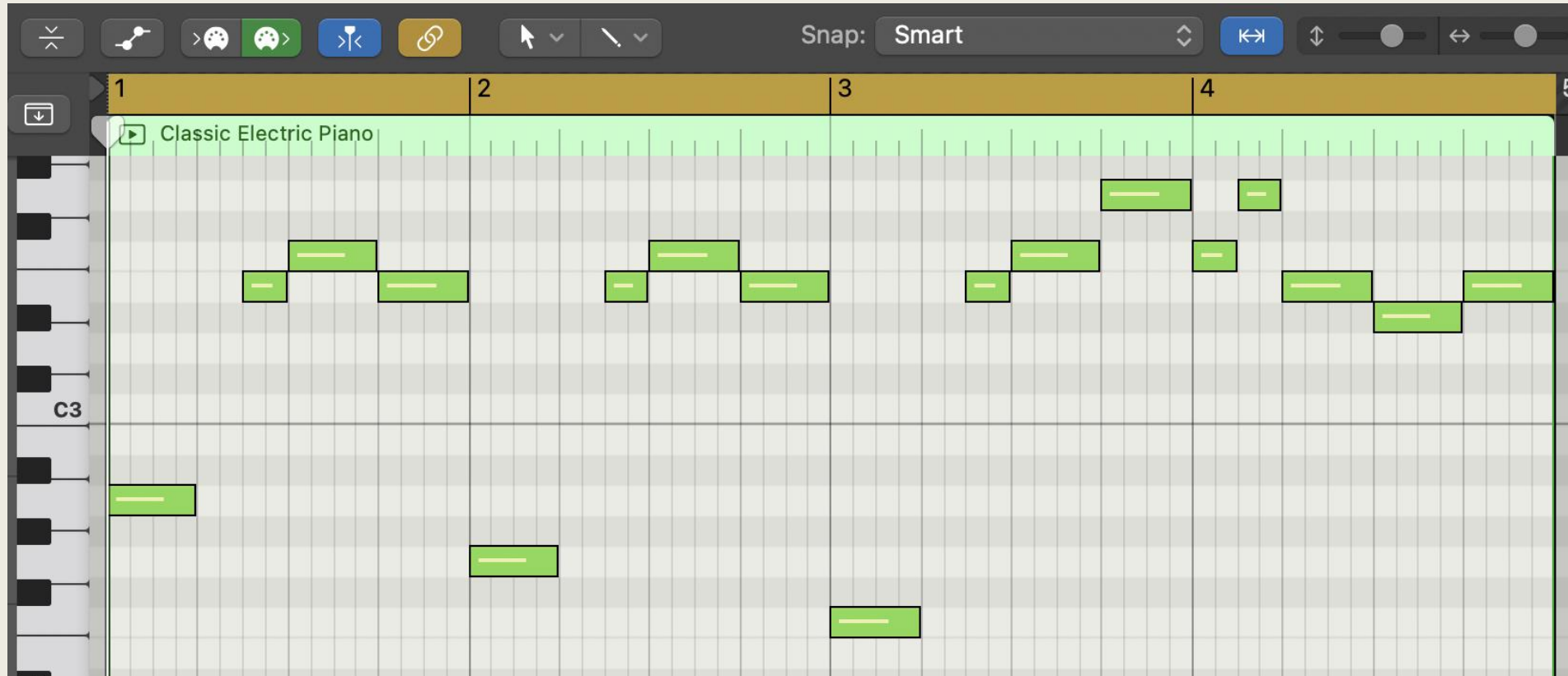
Dm - D F A

Em - E G B

F - F A C

G - G B D

What Chords would go with this melody?



Chords in A minor:

Am – A C E

Bmb5 – B D F

C – C E G

Dm – D F A

Em – E G B

F – F A C

G – G B D

Improve your Melody

- **Syncopation?** - Is there enough of it? Is the rhythm boring?
- **Focal Point?** - Does the melody lead the listener anywhere?
- **Chords?** - Do the chords fit the feel of the melody? Or would other chords work better?
- **Repetition?** - Does the melody repeat and change interestingly?