



THE PHANTOM ISLAND

Imagine if we were on an island where everything was different: everything which we have long taken for granted, and which we have become accustomed to without thinking about it, does not exist on our island. Instead we are dealing with things that we can't even imagine. Somehow everything seems familiar to us and yet everything is completely different at the same time:

AN ISLAND ON WHICH ...

... to the sound of Brazilian music, the suit-wearing financial advisor greets every client by dancing samba with them.

... the usual church music is played by Norwegian black metal bands.

... fights are fought in dark underground metro stations over who can play Chopin's Etudes more virtuously.

... only battle rap can be heard in elevators.

... every child in primary school learns the Mongolian horsehead fiddle.

... the recorder is deemed the perfect instrument for rebelling against the prevailing conditions.

...

Beam yourself to an island like this. You have 5-10 minutes to think up your own role that you want to play on this island. What is your character? What kind of music do you listen to? How many brothers and sisters do you have and what kind of songs do you like to sing in the shower? What sort of problems are there on your island and how do you solve them? The more detailed, the more exciting it gets. Now go to others in your class and start a conversation. Tell them how your day was, what you've just eaten and what you dreamed about last night. Just see what happens in the different encounters and let yourself be inspired by them.

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EINE WELT! * YOUR SONG
FOR ONE WORLD!



INSPIRING ARTISTS

- 1 The www.eineweltsong.de/songwriting website presents inspiring artists who through their music and as individuals are committed to ONE WORLD. Watch and listen to the lyrics, videos and music samples, and answer the following questions:

 - ✓ Which artist did you particularly remember? What fascinates or confounds you about her or him?
 - ✓ Have you come across anything in their biographies that you didn't yet know? Or are there perhaps similar things in your own life?
 - ✓ How did you perceive the music? What did you already know, what was less familiar? Does the music convey a particular emotion for you?
- 2 Now you have met some artists who are also socially committed. What do you think:

 - ✓ How and where can music be used to change the world?
 - ✓ What significance does music have in the context of sustainable development?

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WRITING LYRICS

(Page 1 of 2)

When writing lyrics on the ONE WORLD theme, you can follow the following steps:

- 1 Collect ideas about the content of your song. Think about the inspiration you've gained about the ONE WORLD theme so far, for example through the SDGs or the island method.
- 2 Choose a topic that you want to write lyrics about. Brainstorm and write down words that come to mind about the topic of your choice, for example in a mind map.
- 3 Choose a narrative perspective (I-perspective or external perspective).
- 4 Write the first lines. They can rhyme, but don't have to.
- 5 When you've written a few lines, read your result and make further decisions:
 - ✓ Will it be sung more like a song or as a rap?
 - ✓ Is there a part that would be particularly suitable as a verse or chorus?
For example, is a particular line suitable for repetition?
 - ✓ What could be the next step? What's missing?
- 6 Brings the lyrics into a suitable form. You are probably familiar with the frequently used form in which the verses and chorus simply alternate. In many pop songs the following standard form is developed on this basis:
 - ✓ Verse (= where suspense is built)
 - ✓ Chorus (= refrain, containing the main message)
 - ✓ Verse 2 (repeated suspense)
 - ✓ Chorus
 - ✓ Possibly *bridge* or C-part (contrasting section leading over to chorus)
 - ✓ Chorus
 - ✓ Chorus

Boring? Complicated? Fortunately you have "artistic license", so you can change the form as you see fit. Many successful song lyrics move completely away from this style.

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(Page 2 of 2)

7 You're stuck? You can't think of anything yet? Then begin with one of the following sentences:

- ✓ Imagine it would be ...
- ✓ I would like to ...
- ✓ If we all ...
- ✓ What would be if ...
- ✓ Once upon a time ...
- ✓ Who knows how ...

When you tell a story – for example about a country, your home town, a person, your dreams or wishes – several verses often arise by themselves.

ONE MORE TIP

Many good songs also have vocal parts without lyrics. Just sing syllables like Ohoooo, Ayayay, Hejohe or combine vocals like o, u and a.

Further songwriting suggestions can also be found at www.eineweltsong.de/songwriting.

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COMPOSITION

- 1 Try and quickly answer the following questions as far as possible:
 - ✓ What should be the song's main emotion?
 - ✓ How intense is this emotion?
 - ✓ Does it address feelings, the mind, the desire to dance or everything all at once?
 - ✓ Which style should it be?
 - ✓ Which artist, for example, could sing such a song?

- 2 Go to the Song Contest website and download the loops that match your lyrics and idea.
 - ✓ Save the loops to your iPad/iPhone under Files
 - On my iPhone
 - GarageBand
 - GarageBand File Transfer.
 - ✓ Please remember where you have saved it on your PC/MAC.

- 3 Watch the "Compose with loops" video at www.eineweltsong.de/songwriting and start making music by selecting and combining loops. Once you're more familiar with the app, you can already start creating your own song. Present your result at the end of the lesson.

IMPORTANT

If you wish to start in GarageBand with a loop from our website, you first need to set the tempo that the loop has. To do this, tap on the song settings at the top right.

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ARRANGING LYRICS

Once you've loaded some loops into the app, the next step is to create a musical foundation for your song and produce a composition.

- ✓ *Arranging* means deciding which elements to include in the song and when each instrument's turn comes.
- ✓ For this you use *patterns*, which are recurring musical building blocks.
- ✓ *Form* means the course the song takes, e.g. verse, chorus, verse, etc.
- ✓ *Chords* create the harmonic basis and are combined in various ways.

To produce a composition using an app, it's not essential for you to be familiar with chords. Just try out guitar or keyboard patterns that appeal to you. You can use the chord patterns in the app, as explained in the "Creating chords and patterns" video at www.eineweltsong.de/songwriting, or play different chords using instruments.

A good song doesn't have to be harmonically complex: there are many hits out there using just two to four chords, or even just one. Songs are usually organised into parts with four bars, i.e. in choruses for example, chords are always repeated after four bars as illustrated in the video.

Listed below are the various elements that may be heard together in a composition:

- ✓ Beat/rhythm (drum pattern)
- ✓ Bass
- ✓ Rhythmic chords (Multiple chord tones played repeatedly together)
- ✓ Melodic chords (chord tones played in succession)
- ✓ Pads (sustained chords)
- ✓ Melody/melodies from singers, instruments or background singing
- ✓ Special FX (effects) and sounds

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MELODY, RECORDING AND COMPLETING YOUR SONG

Many songwriters write their melodies by simply taking a line from their lyrics to an accompaniment and singing it out loud, while trying out various melodic lines to go with it. Some even sing without any specific words altogether, using syllables like "babada" or sounds of some kind to warm up and get their creative juices flowing. Many find it helps if they first of all speak or rap their lyrics rhythmically and see if a tune naturally occurs to them.

HAVE A GO AND SEE WHAT WORKS BEST FOR YOUR SONG.

The melody is usually independent of the chords and the result usually turns out better if you don't give too much thought to the role of the other instruments.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Your song is nearly finished and you've come a long way on your creative journey. It's now time to edit the various elements of your song until you are completely happy with the result. You can do this, for example, by adding additional instruments. You can further improve the result by "mixing". This involves arranging the individual instruments by configuring different volumes and positions for them in the stereo image. Effects such as reverberation (reverb) optimise the sound. To find out how to record and share your song at the end, check out the "Effects, mixing and completing" video at www.eineweltsong.de/songwriting.

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REFLECTION

1 Think about what makes a successful song in your workgroup and derive evaluation criteria for your songs.

The lyrics on the ONE WORLD theme are successful in terms of their content if ...

- ✓
- ✓

The lyrics are linguistically successful if ...

- ✓
- ✓

The song is musically successful if ...

- ✓
- ✓

2 How do you want to define the evaluation criteria? Should every aspect be equally included in the evaluation, or are some more important than others? Award points for the individual areas and decide how much weight you want to give the areas. **Example:** Each area receives a maximum of 5 points. The content area is scored twice. **Calculation:** 2 x score for "Content" + 1 x score for "Language" + 1 x score for "Music" = final score

3 The points system can help you name a winner as objectively as possible in accordance with your criteria. Of course, you can also deviate from this when awarding prizes – for example, by awarding special prizes for the musically best or most original song. You should also decide how many winners and placings you want: only a first place, or also second and third places?

TIPS

Try to be fair in your rating, even if a song doesn't suit your own musical taste! Pay attention to the criteria and consider why others might like the song.

PRESENTATION

Present your decision to the others and justify it based on your criteria. Please comment on each contribution and follow the rules for appreciative feedback (see next page).



REFLECTION

(Page 2 of 2)

RULES FOR APPRECIATIVE FEEDBACK¹

GIVING FEEDBACK

- ✓ **Positive feedback first:** The feedback should always contain positive and negative aspects. If positive things are mentioned first, this helps the person receiving the feedback to accept negative comments.
- ✓ **Clear, concrete descriptions:** The feedback should always describe a particular observation and should not generalise or evaluate individuals as a person.
- ✓ **Subjective opinion:** It must be made clear that this is the opinion of the person speaking, not a universal truth.
- ✓ **Considerateness:** No one should be hurt by feedback!
- ✓ **Learning effect:** Feedback should help people to do something better next time. There's no point in criticising something that nobody has an influence on.

ACCEPTING FEEDBACK

- ✓ **Listen:** The person receiving feedback should listen carefully to the speaking person and ask if they have not understood something.
- ✓ **Don't get defensive:** The feedback is not meant as a reproach or personal attack.
- ✓ **Report disruptions:** If things become unpleasant, for example because the rules are not being observed, the person receiving feedback should give a signal.
- ✓ **Decide for yourself how you deal with feedback:** The persons receiving feedback decide for themselves whether they think that the feedback is correct and whether they want to change their behaviour.

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¹ After: Kersten Reich (Editor.) (n. d.): Methodenpool. In: <http://methodenpool.uni-koeln.de>