

West Sussex Music Conference 2025

Patchworking – rebuilding and re-imagining

Useful Links

<https://www.portsmouthmusichub.org/songsource> CHANGEMAKER song book includes 8 freely available songs including Voice in the World which we sang in my session

<https://www.brittenpearsarts.org/friday-afternoons> MAKE IT! Section is packed full of free composition and songwriting resources. 'Patchworking and Build It!' Is the one I was referring to regarding ways to extend musical ideas.

Workshop

Start with Soul Bossa Nova - listen to the track. What are the main themes you can pick out.

Discussion and then I'll show you what I did with the track to make it into a vocal piece.

Now taking all the elements identified and isolated, how can we rearrange them and create our new piece without the track..?

BASS LINE: Quincy Jones from Chicago (could also work as a drone)

HOOK: Soul Bossa Nova (an ostinato)

MELODY: Sing Bossa Nova with me, Sing Bossa Nova and see
The kinda music makes you move you feet, A syncopated beat,
Soul Bossa Nova, Soul Bossa Nova, a new wave!

Vocal stab: Sing it! (an ostinato)

Spoken riff: Thank you for the music that you made (with body percussion?)

Ways to 'add value':

Repeat sections

Add an echo

Make a canon/round

Drone

Ostinato

Sequence (same pattern, repeated on different notes)

Body percussion

Layer up and strip out - add and remove sections to change texture

And you might have other ideas....

Always consider the 'Sonic Space'

Imagine the piece you're creating as a piece of paper. You wouldn't necessarily want to put all your ideas in the same bit of the paper – spread them out – look/listen at how they interact with each other. Doing this visually can be a real help – and is one form of graphic scoring.

Try the same process with another song ... something totally different 'Brave' Sarah Bareilles
(show website of 10 child appropriate contemporary pop songs

<https://www.ensemleschools.com/the-inside-voice/10-child-appropriate-pop-songs-for-kids-to-sing/>