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Grade Level: 6-8, 9-12 (Could be simplified for K-5)

Subject/Topic: Composition

Estimated Time: 2 classes

Objective: Students will be able to compose a song using a 4x4 tic tac toe board. They will be able to test/play each row/column/diagonal forwards and backwards to choose their chord progressions. Students will be able to use either instruments or apps to test their progressions.

Materials/Resources Needed: (Include teacher demo-ing and website links/youtube links)

Procedures (Lesson steps):

1. Warm Up
 - a. Strumming pattern workout using https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL937yeW4G1kYuc0Ucmt0AJjeVA0St8_vZ
2. Review
 - a. Review all chords that the students know (G,C,D,A,E,Am, Em, etc)
3. New Material (Do-Before-Explain!)
 - a. Introduce project showing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rGQvH_TQXQ
 - b. Using a blank tic tac toe 4x4 board demonstrate expectations (not repeating too much if they can help it)
 - c. Demonstrate testing a few rows/columns/diagonals.
4. Music Creation
 - a. Students enter chords they know randomly on the grid
 - b. Using real or facsimile instruments, students test each row/column/grid forwards and backwards to decide which progressions they like.
 - i. Choosing *four* progressions, they input them onto the song structure chart. (intro, verse, chorus, bridge)
 - ii. Using real or facsimile instruments, students will string them together to create a song using Verse-Chorus form

Further Activities/Expansion - Students can: Add lyrics, add bass line, add drum beats.

Differentiation: (Creating alternate goals for struggling/advanced students or to accommodate varying learning styles/needs)

Struggling students can reduce the number of chords that they are choosing from, or you can reduce the size of the board to a 2x2 or 3x3. Perhaps using a facsimile instrument first would allow them to progress through the first part faster.

Advanced students can increase the chords they are choosing from, as well as expand the board to a 5x5, 6x6, etc.

National Arts Standards (<http://nationalartsstandards.org/customize-handbook>):

[Custom handbook for this specific project](#)

Assessment: Using flipgrid, students will perform their song using either an instrument or device. Using the rubric below will guide the assessment.

Competency	4-Exceeding	3-Meeting	2-Approaching	1-Below	Next Steps
TTT Board	Student completed the tic tac toe board using chords familiar to them.	Student partially completed the tic tac toe board using chords familiar to them.	Student completed half or less of the tic tac toe board using chords familiar to them.	Student did not attempt this part of the project.	Once complete, move on to the song form chart.
Song Form Chart	Student chose 4 progressions and arranged them into a complete song	Student chose 4 progressions and did half or more of the song form chart.	Student chose 4 progressions and did half or less of the song form chart.	Student did not attempt this part of the project.	Once complete, move on to the final performance. PRACTICE FIRST.
Final Performance	Student successfully arranged, composed and performed their work on Flipgrid.	Student performed part of their song on Flipgrid.	Student performed less than half of their song on Flipgrid.	Student did not attempt this part of the project.	Write a reflection on the process. What was successful? What was challenging? What are you most proud of? What would you do differently?

Tic Tac Toe Composition

Directions: Write a chord that you know in each box. Try to not put the same chord next to itself in any direction. When done, play each row/column/diagonal in each direction and pick FOUR progressions that you like. Insert those progressions into the song chart on the next page. One becomes the intro/outro, another the verse, another one will be the chorus and the last one will be the bridge.

Tic Tac Toe Composition

Song Chart

Directions: Once you have chosen your four progressions from the tic tac toe board, assign each one to *either* Intro/Outro, Verse, Chorus or Bridge.

Repeat where necessary. Lastly, practice until comfortable on an instrument or a device and then record your song in Flipgrid.

Intro	_____	_____	_____	_____
Verse	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
Chorus	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
Verse	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bridge	_____	_____	_____	_____
Chorus	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
Chorus	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
Outro	_____	_____	_____	_____