

Think Like A Vocalist



Mapping and Embellishing the Chorus

Project Expectations

Objective: Students will analyze and map the chorus of a song using **Songmaker** and then creatively embellish it with their own musical ideas. This project has two parts:

1. **Map the Chorus:** Visualize and understand the melody of a song's chorus.
2. **Embellish the Chorus:** Add 1 riff and 1 melisma to the chorus.

Part 1: Map the Chorus

Learning Goal

Understand the structure of a chorus and visualize its melody to identify patterns, rhythms, and pitches.

Vocabulary

- **Chorus:** The main, repeated section of a song that usually contains the hook or most memorable lyrics. It often has the same melody and words each time it appears and expresses the central message or feeling of the song.

Part 1 Step-by-Step

1. Open [Songmaker](#) in Chrome Music Lab.
2. Adjust the settings:
 - **Scale:** Chromatic
 - **Length:** 16 bars
3. Practice Round: Map out “Happy Birthday” on Songmaker.
4. Select one version of the song analyzed in Activity 1.
 - Slow it down to 0.75x speed (scores provided for original versions only).
5. Map out the chorus on [Songmaker](#).
6. Save your [Songmaker](#) link and email it to your teacher for submission.

Reflection Questions

- What patterns or shapes did you notice in the melody when you mapped out the chorus?
- How did slowing down the song help you identify pitches and rhythms more accurately?
- What did you learn about the structure of the chorus by visualizing it in Songmaker?

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Part 2: Cover the Chorus

Learning Goal

Enhance a chorus by adding musical elements that express your personal style and creativity.

Vocabulary

- **Riff:** A short, repeated musical pattern or phrase that gives a song its recognizable hook or groove.
- **Melisma:** A group of notes sung on a single syllable of a word that creates a smooth, expressive sound, often used to add emotion or style to a melody.

Part 2 Step-by-Step

1. Open the [Songmaker](#) link from Part 1 of this project..
2. Adjust the settings:
 - Split beats into: 4
3. Embellish the chorus by adding:
 - 1 riff
 - 1 melisma

Hot Tip: Use the [Riff Runner app](#) to practice mapping out the contour of your riff and melisma. This will enable you to hear how they sound in isolation from the chorus.

4. Save your updated Songmaker link and email it to your teacher for submission.

Reflection Questions

- What patterns or shapes did you notice in the melody when you mapped out the chorus?
- How did slowing down the song help you identify pitches and rhythms more accurately?
- What did you learn about the structure of the chorus by visualizing it in Songmaker?