



ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC
London

Building Blocks for composing



Step Two

By now, you should have quite a lot of material. You might not like it all and that's okay, not all of it needs to end up in your final piece.

Try to think of the **bigger piece** now and the **overall structure**. Try drawing the shape of your piece on a plain piece of paper, or as a graphic score, or even try to describe with words.

- Is it on a winding or straight path? Tarmac or stone?
- Are you (is your idea) you walking? Or on a train... or a plane?
- Is the weather sunny, cloudy, or raining? Warm or cold?
- Can you see snow or sand?
- Create your own 'world' for the piece.

All these things help to **shape** your ideas, let you see clearly and **sculpt** your piece. This takes time and concentration.

Step Three

Now you have lots of material and a plan for the overall structure of your work, you need to piece everything together. This stage involves lots of experimentation. Pieces are not always composed from the first to the last note.

You might:

- Reshape or re-order your material
- Add some **layers**
- Invent some joining material
- Add