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# iPad Projects for the Music Classroom

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**Sample project**



# DIY Soundtracks

## ABOUT THIS PROJECT

### Objective

To create original theme music for films, podcasts or storytelling activities

### Musical elements

Using music to depict a mood, scene or character

### Technology skills

Using the Autoplay feature, multitrack recording

### Suggested ages

Grades 2-8

### iPad access options

One iPad per student or small groups

### Time needed

2 lessons

### App required

GarageBand

## INTRODUCTION

Create your own original theme music for a soundtrack that you can use for movies, documentaries, podcasts and storytelling activities. Students will learn step-by-step how to create soundtracks in GarageBand for iPad, in a variety of genres including space, robots, aliens, love story, car chase and a news theme. Then they will experiment with the Smart Instruments to create their own versions of themes in specified styles.



# Step-by-step

## TEACHER'S NOTES

By using the Smart Instruments in GarageBand for iPad it can be easy to create original soundtracks or intro and outro music for podcasts. Here are some simple instructions for students to create themes in a variety of styles.

Once students know the steps, they can create their own original theme music by exploring the many options in GarageBand.

## STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

### *Robot Theme*

1. Start a new GarageBand project and select the **Smart Bass**
2. Tap on the **Liverpool Bass icon** and select the **Exoplanet** sound from the menu
3. Tap on the **Song Sections** button (+), tap on **Section A** and next to Manual, change the number of bar to **16**
4. Tap on the **Song Settings** icon (wrench) and set the Tempo to 120 BPM
5. Tap on Autoplay pattern number 4
6. Practice what you will play: you can use any chord sequence you like for the 16 bars. It will sound best if you start and end

with the C chord. If you're not sure what to play, here is a suggested chord sequence:

Bars 1-4 C	Bars 11-12 Dm
Bars 5-6 G	Bars 13-14 G
Bars 7-8 C	Bars 15-16 C
Bars 9-10 Am	

7. When you're ready, record your robot theme: tap **Record**, wait for the 4-beat count-in and then play the 16 bars
8. Optional: create a drum part by adding **Smart Drums** track to your project
9. Add a fade-out to your theme: tap the **Song Settings** menu button and then turn on the **Fade Out** option
10. Tap the **My Songs** button and once your theme has saved, rename it "Robot Theme"

### *News Theme*

1. Start a new GarageBand project and select the **Smart Strings**
2. Tap on **Cinematic String** and select the **Modern** sound from the menu

3. Tap on the **Song Sections** button (+), tap on **Section A** and next to Manual, change the number of bar to **16**
4. Tap on the **Song Settings** icon (wrench) and set the Tempo to 105 BPM
5. Tap on Autoplay pattern number 4
6. Practice what you will play: you can use any chord sequence you like for the 16 bars. To make it sound like a dramatic news theme, the minor chords are very effective. If you're not sure what to play, here is a suggested chord sequence:
  - Bars 1-8 Dm
  - Bars 9-12 Am
  - Bars 13-16 Dm
7. Record your news theme: tap **Record**, wait for the 4-beat count-in and then play the 16 bars
8. Optional: create a drum part by adding **Smart Drums** track to your project
9. Add a fade-out to your theme: tap the **Song Settings** menu button and then turn on the **Fade Out** option
10. Tap the **My Songs** button and once your theme has saved, rename it "News Theme"

### **Comedy Theme**

1. Start a new GarageBand project and select the **Smart Bass**
2. Tap on the **Liverpool Bass icon** and select the **Retro Bass** sound from the menu
3. Tap on the **Song Sections** button (+), tap on **Section A** and next to Manual, change the number of bar to **16**
4. Tap on the **Song Settings** icon (wrench) and set the **Tempo** to 120 BPM and the **Key** to G major
5. Tap on Autoplay pattern number 4
6. Practice what you will play: you can use any chord sequence you like for the 16 bars. It will sound best if you start and end with the C chord and use mostly major chords. If you're not sure what to play, here is a suggested chord sequence:
 

Bars 1-4 G	Bar 13 D
Bars 5-8 C	Bars 14 C
Bars 9-12 G	Bars 15-16 G
7. When you're ready, record your comedy theme: tap **Record**, wait for the 4-beat count-in and then play the 16 bars
8. Optional: create a drum part by adding **Smart Drums** track to your project

9. Add a fade-out to your theme: tap the **Song Settings** menu button and then turn on the **Fade Out** option

10. Tap the **My Songs** button and once your theme has saved, rename it “Comedy Theme”

### ***Your turn - can you make these themes?***

Using the same step-by-step process, can you create themes in the following styles? A suggested Smart instrument is given, but you are encouraged to explore all the sounds and find your own solution.

Choose 2 themes from the list below. For each theme you create, write down the following:

- The Smart instrument you chose
- The sound you chose from the instruments sound menu
- The Autoplay pattern number
- The tempo

### **Themes**

- A love theme using the Smart Keyboard
- A country-style theme using the Smart Guitar
- A dramatic theme using the Smart Strings

- A space or aliens theme using the Smart Keyboard
- A “chase” theme using the Smart Strings

### ***Using your theme***

Once you have completed your theme, you can export it as an audio file or export it directly into a compatible app if you wish.

1. Tap **My Songs**
2. Tap on the project title and rename it
3. Tap and hold your finger on the project so that everything begins to “jiggle”
4. Tap the **Share** button
5. From there, you can use the **Open in** option to open your soundtrack in any of your compatible, installed apps - such as iMovie
6. Alternatively you can use the **iTunes** option to save the project as an audio file



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## Questions?

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