

The “New Creation” Project

My deep hope is that we will
reflect God, create beauty, and express our whole selves as we
Play in the New Creation
together.

Goal: To make a new creation that uses music to “play in” the new creation.

Notice there are 2 parts to this:

1. It's a new creation...something that you yourself create. It should be something that expresses you (your “whole self,” who you are, how you are feeling, what you are going through, the music you like, etc.) in some way.
2. The music will “play in” the new creation somehow. This means it causes something to happen that makes our world better and more beautiful. Like a trumpet fanfare causing the processional to begin, your music actually causes something new to begin (in the people who hear it...and in you, too!).



It can be as small as bringing joy to someone's day or as large as inspiring someone to change the world. Anything you create will have the potential to do this because you are created in God's image and your creation will reflect his. You actually don't have control over the impact, but it will be helpful to start with this vision in mind.

What does this actually look like?

Step 1: Determine your goal and audience

This will drive a lot of decisions you make about the project. Knowing the context that your music will be shared will help give you focus and purpose in the creation process. You might choose your goal first and then select the appropriate audience, or you may want to decide on your audience first and let that inform the goal of your music.

The one requirement is that it must be shared outside your home, which means it needs to be deliverable in an audio or video format, either live or recorded.

One other thing to consider...you don't have to do this by yourself. You can collaborate with your classmates! While this creates another layer of challenge and complexity, it might be more fun and give you the ability to divide the workload to come up with something even better than you could on your own.

Here are some questions for reflection...

- What do you want the music to be about? What do you want it to say or do?
- Who do you want your music to impact? Who is in need of your music and what can it offer them?
- What needs do they have? Do they need joy? Healing? Peace? How might your music reflect or inspire that?

Some example audiences:

- Friends and Family Members (Play for your grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. over a video call)
- Virtual Visit Friends- Play your music for a Senior Citizen to make their day! Probably live, but could be recorded. <https://www.virtualvisitfriend.org>
- The MA Community in a "Fine Arts Showcase," (similar to a concert)
 - Subject to approval by Mr. Larson and Mrs. Hallberg, details still TBD.
- Other ideas? Ask me about it.

Step 2: Create, Arrange and Compose

Now that you know your audience and what your song will be about, you can engage in the creation process. You can use existing material to arrange or come up with your own as you feel comfortable. Here are some ideas:

On your instrument...

- Choose a song, movie theme, etc and **figure out how to play it on your instrument by ear**. This requires developed ear training skills. Pick something that inspires and motivates you and is appropriate for your audience.

- **Recorded Ensemble:** Play a duet/trio/quartet/etc. by recording multiple takes. You can do this by yourself or collaborate with friends! This could be video (Acapella app) or audio only (GarageBand or equivalent)
 - If you want, you could use your contest ensembles for this!

On your iPad...

- **Arrange an existing tune** for an ensemble of any kind. (Noteflight or equivalent)
- **Create a composition** using loops and virtual instruments. (GarageBand or equivalent)
- **Write an original song** or piece of music (Noteflight or GarageBand)
 - Any style...Rock, Funk, Jazz, Pop, etc. Just keep your audience in mind :)
 - Any instrumentation...Band instruments, Rhythm instruments, or a combination, consider vocals and lyrics too!
 - Any size...but smaller will be more manageable given the time we have

Step 3: Share! Perform, Record or Present

Now that you have your new creation, you need to be able to share it with your audience. Determine how you will do this

- Do you need to perform it? Make sure you have practiced well if you're doing a live performance, as you only get one shot.
- Do you need to record it? Maybe this is already done if you've been recording as you go, but make sure this is in a shareable format.
- Do you need to present it? Maybe you have a score for your arrangement or composition that you need to explain or play for your audience.

For most (if not all) projects, this will be some type of recorded audio or video that can be shared, but again...consider your audience.

Why are we doing this again?: When we create something of our own that deeply expresses who we are and use the gifts we've been given, we reflect God and bring his goodness and light into the world. We are joining him as co-creators and furthering the work of restoration in our world. This is what it means to "Play in the New Creation." You have a tremendous opportunity to use your musical gifts to bless the world around you and show them glimpses of heaven here on earth, right now. What a privilege!

Ready to PLAY IN the New Creation? Let's do it!