

- For more complex music staff notation may be better

Counter-melody and harmony...what's the difference?

- Both *counter-melody* and *harmony* involve more than one note sounding against the main melody.
- Counter-melody is a secondary melody that is sung at the same time as the main one e.g.

Part 1: A whole new world

Part 2: Don't you dare close your eyes

- Vocal harmony adds 'colour' and texture (layers) to the main melody by putting another note or notes against it. The words and rhythm will usually be the same in both *parts*.

Melody

Harmony (3rd lower i.e. two steps down)

Let me share this whole new world with you.

Improvising / composing a melody

Some starting points for improvising a melody in the classroom:

- Use an agreed and limited set of notes e.g. a scale
Major scale (C): C D E F G A B C
or Pentatonic scale (C major / A minor): C D E G A
- Use an agreed rhythm for a phrase and then add the pitched notes.
- 'Balance' the length of phrases...two bars in 4/4 time (4 beats in a bar) is very common.
- Use a mixture of steps, jumps and repeated notes.
- You can also 'balance or 'mirror' the shape of the melody (i.e. how it rises and falls in pitch)

steps go down

steps go up

phrase 1

phrase 2 (same rhythm as phrase 1)

Useful vocabulary

Melody: single notes, phrased	Phrase: a musical sentence
Pitch: how high or low a note is	Duration: length of notes
Rhythm: note values (duration) & patterns	Harmony: two or more note together
Counter-melody: secondary melody	Notation: written down music
Stave: the 5 lines & spaces of western notation	Musical Elements: the 7 ingredients of music
Improvise: make-up on the spot	Compose: create original music
Part: each instrument or vocal 'line' is a part	Structure: sections of the music