

Plan your piece

NAME

DATE

Answer these before you write a single note. A piece with a plan finishes; a piece without one stops after eight bars.

TITLE (OR WORKING TITLE)

WHO PLAYS IT

HOW LONG

Solo, duet, choir, class band,
full orchestra?

In minutes — then in bars at your tempo.

KEY

TIME SIGNATURE

TEMPO & CHARACTER

MOOD IN THREE WORDS

THE SHAPE OF IT

Sections, in order

Give each one a letter (A B A), a job, and roughly how many bars.

Your main idea

Sketch the first four bars, or describe the rhythm in words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

CHORDS YOU WILL USE

HOME CHORD (I)

CHORD THAT PULLS
HOME (V)

TWO OTHERS

CADENCE AT THE END

Perfect for a firm ending, plagal for a gentle one, imperfect if it carries on.

BEFORE YOU CALL IT FINISHED

☐ Every part sits inside its instrument's range

☐ Wind and singers have places to breathe

☐ Something changes by the middle — colour, key or texture

☐ The ending is prepared, not just stopped

☐ Bar numbers, tempo mark and dynamics are written in

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE MIDDLE

HOW IT ENDS

FIRST REHEARSAL DATE

A new key, a new instrument, or the tune upside down.

Loud and certain, or fading to nothing?

A deadline is the most useful part of this sheet.