**Adam Vilagi’s Improvisation and Composition Course**

**HARMONY**  **Adam Vilagi**

**1. CHORD FANTASY**

- Take a blank paper and write numbers from one to seven.  
- Listen to the seven chords from the audio file (each chord is played two times).  
- On the first round just listen to the chords.  
- On the second round write descriptions from each chord upon how each chord  
sound to you (without any theoretical approach!). It can be described with an  
adjective (e.g. bright) or with a substantive (e.g. castle).

**2. CHORDS AND SCALES**

- On page 2 you can see each chord written and next to the chord you can also see the  
chord written out as a scale.

**3. IMPROVISING ON THE SCALES**

- Now you can try out these scales by playing or singing them (page 3).  
- You can form small groups and improvise together on the scales.  
- The idea is that each group makes a small composition based on the scales and then  
performs the composition.

Hylky - Ship Wreck

[https://youtu.be/Lu2eT3RPKVw](https://youtu.be/Lu2eT3RPKVw%20)

Talvitunnelmia -Winter Moods

<https://youtu.be/Z47Z6G36mbk>

Rotko – Gorge

<https://youtu.be/avxjN-l_T4E>

**SMALL COMPOSITION ON A TOPIC** **Adam Vilagi**

**1.PREPARATIONS**

- All the students gather in a circle.

- Let's come up with a topic, for example forest.

- Everyone comes up with a word related to forest and memorizes it.

- In the next round, the word related to forest is expressed in sound: with the mouth

or/and with the help of the body, others imitate the sound.

**2.REALIZATION**

- The group is divided into three smaller groups.

- All the groups compose a small composition based on the sounds and perform it.

- Guidelines for composing:

- Structure: beginning – middle – end.

- Which sound starts and which sound follows.

- Climax: all sounds included.

- Ending: intense or quiet.

- In the performance, all the groups play an active role:

The listening groups are listening in the middle space with eyes closed with the

performing group around them.

Mummo meni mustikkaan - Grandma Went to Pick Blueberries

<https://youtu.be/GqZ5KvDVp5k>

Metsän hiljaiset äänet - The Quiet Sounds of the Forest

[https://youtube.com/shorts/Xe9lvgKkZ](https://youtube.com/shorts/Xe9lvgKkZhM)

Kesäyö Aapasuolla - Summer Night in Aapasuo

<https://youtu.be/yeOsXt5i5bM>

SMALL COMPOSITION ON PAPER **Adam Vilagi**

**1. PREPARATIONS**

- All the students gather in a circle.

- Each student is given a piece of paper (A4 size).

- Each comes up with the idea of producing some kind of sound on paper,

e.g. hitting, tearing, tapping with a finger, etc.

- Each in turn presents its sound on paper.

**2. REALIZATION**

- The group is divided into three smaller groups.

- Inside the groups, the groups discuss each other's sounds and compose a small

composition based on them.

- Finally, each group performs its resulting compositions

The purpose of the exercise is to produce sound and thereby express musical moods

with something other than an instrument, some object.

Koe – Exam

<https://youtu.be/IoEZyXkws6U>

Piste – Dot

<https://youtu.be/w8Zxg0Lm3Z8>

Jatkumo – Continuum

<https://youtu.be/N4lAYwJXohs>

**ANIMAL-THEMED COMPOSITION Adam Vilagi**

**1. PREPARATIONS**

- Together in a group with instruments.

- Think of an animal.

- Tell us which animal is it.

- What kind of animal is it: bird, mammal, etc.,

what kind of characteristics does the animal have: where does it live, what size it is,

how it moves, what kind of vocal essence does it have, etc.

- How would you like to embody the animal musically?

- Each in turn presents her or his animal musically.

**2. REALIZATION**

- Dividing the group into two smaller groups.

- Groups listen and discuss the sounds of each other's animals.

- Based on it, the groups compose a small composition and perform it at the end of

the workshop

Ystävät ympäri luonnon - Friends all around Nature

<https://youtu.be/uUPkx5d9F10>

Hiipivä hulluus - Creeping Madness

<https://youtu.be/ItydAnPU-po>

**EVERYDAY IMAGE** **Adam Vilagi**

**1.PREPARATIONS BEFORE THE WORKSHOP**

Go outdoors, observe, and take a photo with your smart phone of something you

see that excites you. For example, a picture can be of nature, a landscape, an

object, a freely desired, but not recognizable person. (The photo may also be

previously taken, but the main thing is that it was taken by yourself!)

A WhatsApp group will be set up where everyone can post their photos.

**2. WORKSHOP**

1. Let's go through the image of each one: tell in a free-form way about the picture -

what inspired you to take the picture and what kind of experience it evokes in you,

etc.

In the second round, let's discuss what kind of musical experiences, thoughts they

evoke and what kind of musical means could be used to implement them.

Examples of means:

- Character – musical moods

- Tone color – Instrument

- Register of the instrument

- Melody – melodic expression

- Rhythm, e.g. rhythmic motive, repetitive pattern – ostinato

2. Forming two small groups.

- Teamwork: working on musical ideas into small-scale compositions.

3**. Gathering and performing the miniature compositions.**

Kimmellys - Tunnelmanrikkoja - Talvileikkejä - Glitter - Mood Breaker - Winter Games – Caffé

<https://youtu.be/vCAQfaQu6bY>

Talvitunnelmia - Winter moods

<https://youtu.be/Z47Z6G36mbk>

Matkalla - Kesäilta - Talviset kaislat On the Way - Summer Evening - Winter Reeds

<https://youtu.be/idq4b-FLk68>

**VAKA VANHA VÄINÄMÖINEN** **Adam Vilagi**

**1. PREPARATIONS**

For preliminary preparations do the exercises of HARMONY from the Study Pack.

**2. MELODY AND HARMONY OF THE FOLK SONG**

In this file you will see written the melody and the chords of the folksong,  
Vaka Vanha Väinämöinen.  
Väinämöinen is one of the best-known figures in Finnish Mythology. He is the great  
hero of the legends of the Kalevala, one of the most important figures in Finnish folk  
poetry and ancient religion. Väinämöinen is a great sage who sings poems and plays  
the kantele.

**3. WORKING WITH THE FOLK SONG**

After the harmony exercises and getting to know the folk song, it's time to try out  
how the harmonic colors created on different scales could be applied to reharmonize  
the harmony and create new melodies of the folksong.

The kantele is a traditional stringed instrument and the national instrument of  
Finland. As one of the starting points, you can try how to apply the sound of the  
kantele to other instruments.  
Examples of creating the kantele sound by different instruments:  
- Guitar,  
- Stringed instruments – playing pizzicato,  
- Piano – playing inside the piano on the strings,  
etc.

**4. REALIZATION**

At the last phase, the intention would be that the folk song of Vaka Vanha  
Väinämöinen inspires to combine elements of the folk song tradition of your own  
country. And in the actual end result, the folk song traditions of different countries  
meet and create a new kind of work of art!

<https://youtu.be/1Hy6RH28nuc>