

HOW TO GENERATE

MELODY NOTES FROM ANY TEXT

by Ian Myers © 2012

Here is a method I devised for turning any text into musical pitches. The following table may freely be adapted to other languages, different symbols or whatever you choose. It is but one of many schemes that can be devised.

C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
Y	Z										

Take any text, for example “Today it is brighter” , locate each letter in the text in the bottom three rows of the table and then replace each letter with the musical pitch corresponding with that pitch from the top row.

T	O	D	A	Y	I	T	I	S	B	R	I	G	H	T	E	R
G	D	Eb	C	C	Ab	G	Ab	Gb	Db	F	Ab	Gb	G	G	E	F

This gives the pitch sequence G,D,Eb,C,C,Ab,G,Ab,Gb,Db,F,Ab,Gb,G,G,E,F.

The above coding was based on the chromatic scale. Here is a table based on a six-unit scale.

C	D	E	F#/Gb	G#/Ab	A#/Bb
0	1	2	3	4	5
A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X
Y	Z				

The text “Today it is brighter” using this scheme produces the following pitches:

T	O	D	A	Y	I	T	I	S	B	R	I	G	H	T	E	R
D	E	F#	C	C	E	D	E	C	D	A#	E	C	D	D	G#	D

The pitches could be used as generated or you might decide repeated pitches are used once only ie DD is read simply as D. The basic alphabet could be extended to include common letter pairs such as EA (each, pear, bear,easy), OW (cow, window,owner) etc., where instead of encoding the letters E and A separately you would use the pitch corresponding to the letter pair EA.

Your own ingenuity should find plenty of ways of using this technique.