

Hi Everybody!

Weekly Challenge #13

You have reached musical challenge number **thirteen**.

Log in to [Minute of Listening](#) and find **Bristol Collection 1** and listen to **Minute #45**

Yola Carter is a brilliant singer, songwriter and musician. She is from Portishead and has played gigs from The Lantern in Bristol, to Rhode Island USA. Since writing this week's challenge, I've been listening to her loads.

I want you to use this piece of music to understand **texture**. Simply put, texture is about how many different sounds are happening at the same time. So, there might be drums, piano, bass, vocals and a piccolo all playing. They're all doing their own thing and, when layered-up right, sound great together!

Now, if we were in a recording studio we might record the drums first, then add in the guitars and then add a singing voice... but we're in our homes... so your challenge is this:

Create a short piece of music with 3 layers.
But you might have to play it all at once...



Step 1:

March – I want you to march in time to the music of Minute #45.
Try to focus on getting your 'left, right, left, right' in time to the tempo.

Step 2:

Transfer your marching onto instruments. But not how you imagine! Find a tub/ washing up bowl/ small bin... then find a foil tray (or some foil over a couple of paper plates). Sit on a chair with your 'instruments' at your feet. Now work out a way of playing them with your feet (left foot: tub, right foot: foil) I ended up with one boot on and one bare foot. Just call me Mister Magnolia. Play Minute #45 again and try and keep in time – left, right, left, right...!

Step 3:

Have a go at writing a line or two of lyrics. It could be about how you're feeling, about a person important to you, how lockdown has been or maybe a memory of something. Here's my first draft (take your time):

*There's good days and great days
and bad days for sure
But, all that we have - I am so grateful for*

Then make up a simple tune. Really simple.
You're not playing it, remember – just singing it.

Decide:

- how high/low (pitch)
- how loud/quiet (dynamics) and
- how quick/slow (tempo)

Step 4:

Add in any instrument that makes a good noise. If you have a keyboard or guitar – you could try playing a note or a chord that you've decided sounds good with your tune. Any instrument you're learning or even a shaker/tambourine/cutlery drawer. Only play this in between your singing (just explore what feels right).

THE CHALLENGE!

Can you play your 3 layers at once? Begin with your feet on your 'drums'. When you feel confident, add in your singing. Lastly – add in your third layer. (Remember the third layer is only played occasionally – in between your lyrics – when it sounds right to you)

If you have drums, you can of course use them. Use what you got! Record yourself. Send 'em in!