

ACT 2 A DRINKING SONG FOR CALIBAN AND STEPHANO



BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Stephano offers Caliban a bottle of wine and Caliban thinks it's the greatest thing he has ever tasted. Composers often write songs and music to express how 'wonderful' wine is because, for adults, when drinking wine they may be more likely to sing!

LYRICS

Begin by writing your lyrics (song words). Here are some tips -

- Words don't have to rhyme but lyric lines should be short and simple.
- Think about what you are trying to say in your song and the easiest way of saying it.
- A good starting point is to make your first line a question. For example, you could start with 'Why do I like this drink so much?' The next lines can simply be a list of what it tastes or feels like (ie 'its delicious, it makes my tummy tingle')
- Repetition is good, it means that there is less work to do musically and the song will hang together better if it includes lines that keep returning. For example:

*"Why do I like this drink so much?
Its delicious, it makes my tummy tingle
Why do I like this drink so much?
Its amazing, it makes my fingers wiggle
Why do I like this drink so much?
It's the greatest thing I've ever tasted!"*

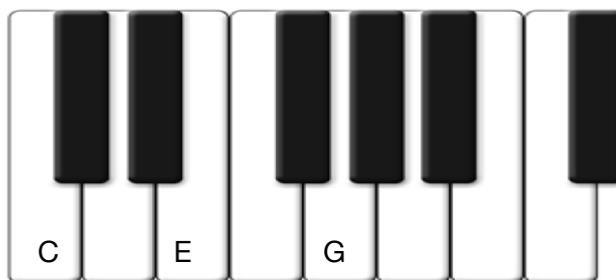
Try to say what you need to in the most direct and simple way. Keep to the point and keep it short – the more words you have the more notes you have to invent later on. 6 - 8 lines are plenty.



BEAT (OR PULSE)

As you begin to 'set' your words musically, start with a steady beat (or pulse), this could be clapped or tapped on a drum. Try to keep it steady and strong.

- Speak each line over the beat fitting the words on top.
- To vary the rhythm, stretch out the more unusual words and think about which words are important and need emphasising.
- Simply, speak the words until the rhythm becomes obvious.



- Play the chord over and over at the same speed as your beat and speak the words in rhythm on top, just as you did previously to the drumbeat.

MELODY

Now, have a go at singing rather than speaking

Use questions to help with the shape of the melody i.e. should a melody line go up (usually sounds surprised or happy), or down (usually sounds sadder)?

The first line is always the trickiest. Be patient and if the ideas don't come just sing the first line all on one note then move just one word up or down.

REMEMBER: There are no wrong answers when writing a song!

If this is too tricky, borrow from the best!

Here's a famous drinking song by Italian opera composer **Giuseppe Verdi** –

CLIP: Verdi: La Traviata 'Brindisi' (stop at 0'22)

<https://youtu.be/UZvgmpiQCcl>

Can you fit your own words to this famous tune?