

# Music Tech Lesson Plan

## Better than the original? Cover version showdown

Listening and responding

<b>Grade level</b>	5-10
<b>Objective</b>	Students will analyse two versions of the same song and use musical terminology to describe to identify the musical differences and similarities.
<b>USA Music Education Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.</li> </ul>
<b>Australian Music Curriculum Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.3 Rehearse and perform music, including music they have composed, by improvising, sourcing and arranging ideas and making decisions to engage an audience</li> <li>8.6 Analyse composers' use of the elements of music and stylistic features when listening to and interpreting music</li> <li>10.6 Evaluate a range of music and compositions to inform and refine their own compositions and performances</li> </ul>
<b>Materials/Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youtube video/s or audio recordings of an original song and a cover version of that song (some suggestions below, but you can use songs of your choice)</li> <li>Computer or other device connected to the internet, plus data projector and speakers if watching/listening as a class</li> <li>Student devices connected to the internet if students will be watching/listening individually or in small groups</li> <li>Attached worksheet - printed copies for students to fill out, or digital copies that can be completed on their tablet devices</li> </ul>
<b>Duration</b>	1 lesson
<b>Skills required</b>	Students should have an understanding of the following musical concepts: tempo, rhythm, melody, pitch, mood/feel and style

<b>Procedure</b>	<p><b>Select songs - original and cover version</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This lesson is adaptable so you can use it for any pair of songs you like</li> <li>• See list of song suggestions in the Resources section below, or choose your own</li> <li>• It can be more effective if the students are already familiar with one of the versions (it could be the cover, not the original!)</li> </ul> <p><b>Play the two songs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play the songs to the class (on data projector if it's a video) with speakers plugged into computer</li> <li>• Optional: discuss the two versions of the song as a group - which musical elements are the same in each version (tempo, key, instrumentation, mood, style) and which elements are different</li> </ul> <p><b>Ask students to record their response to the provided questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They can write their responses on the provided worksheet</li> </ul>
<b>Extensions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask students to find two versions of a song of their choosing</li> <li>• Research the history of the song and the original artist</li> <li>• Arrange and perform your own cover versions of known songs</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<p>Students can use musical terminology to identify the musical differences and similarities between two versions of the same song.</p>

## Resources

Here are some song suggestions (with Youtube video links) but there are hundreds (thousands?) of others.

***NB: please check that each song & video is appropriate for YOUR school before showing to your students.***

Example 1 - Royals

- Original: Lorde <https://youtu.be/nlclKh6sBtc>
- Cover: Walk Off The Earth <https://youtu.be/QgD5p1XiVT0>

Example 2 - Mission Impossible

- Original: Mission Impossible Movie Theme <https://youtu.be/tGSUjuSBt1A>
- Cover: The Piano Guys and Lindsay Sterling <https://youtu.be/9p0BqUcQ7i0>

#### Example 3 - Bohemian Rhapsody

- Original: Queen <https://youtu.be/fJ9rUzIMcZQ>
- Cover: Pentatonix <https://youtu.be/ojRj2JK5oCI>

#### Example 4 - Stitches

- Original: Shawn Mendes <https://youtu.be/VbfpW0pbvaU>
- Cover: Boyce Avenue <https://youtu.be/EGcQFqRkliQ>

#### Example 4 - Hello

- Original: Adele <https://youtu.be/YQHsXMgIC9A>
- Cover: Jimmy Fallon, his band and Adele on classroom instruments <https://youtu.be/-yL7VP4-kP4>

Youtube channels that focus on cover songs (check each video for appropriateness):

- Walk Off The Earth
- The Piano Guys
- Boyce Avenue
- Kurt Hugo Schneider
- Mike Thompson
- Sam Tsui
- Alex Goot
- Pentatonix
- Jimmy Fallon Show - classroom instrument covers

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## About Midnight Music

Hello! I'm Katie Wardrobe – an Australian music technology trainer and consultant with a passion for helping music teachers through my business [Midnight Music](#).

I'm a qualified teacher but no, I don't currently teach in a school. I help teachers through my online professional development space - the [Midnight Music Community](#) - where there are tutorial videos, courses, links and downloadable resources.

I like to focus on **easy** ways to incorporate technology into *what you are already doing in your music curriculum* through a range of creative projects. I also run live workshops and have presented at countless conferences and other music education events.

