

Compose a Question and Answer

Just as a word question is incomplete until someone answers, so is a musical question. You are going to compose a piece in which you use a musical question and answer.

We usually recognize musical questions and answers by two features.

1. The answer ends on the tonic pitch (doh), while the question ends on another pitch (often the dominant, so).

2. The melodies and rhythms are usually similar.

It is the same way in questions and answers with words. Very often, words from the question are repeated in the answer.

Did you buy a sousaphone and three piccolos for your mother?

Yes, I *did* buy a sousaphone and three piccolos for my mother.

After you create your musical question and answer, listen to see if it sounds like a question and answer. Write a few sentences about how you made decisions to create your piece.

