



# Creating an

# ARRANGEMENT

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## An arrangement has:

1. a beginning, a middle and an end.
2. suits the mood that you are trying to create
3. has variety and surprises
4. holds together musically.

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## Musical devices to use in an arrangement

1. reharmonization, pedal points
2. vamps, interludes, verses
3. rhythmic figure and “kicks” or “stops.”
4. changes in rhythmic feel (in 2 or in 4, swing to bossa, etc.)
5. tempo changes (rubato to ballad tempo to ritards, etc.)
6. changes in key signature, modulations.
7. dynamics, soft and loud passages
8. solo sections, breakout band sections (just bass and voice or piano and voice)

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## Questions to ask yourself

1. what is the instrumentation I'll be using?
2. what tempo will I play at and what is the “groove?”
3. what overall mood am I trying to create:  
dreamy, energetic, buoyant, swiny, soothing,  
danceable, playful?
4. what is the form of the tune including solo sections,  
etc.
5. what is my introduction and how does it lead me  
into the song and set up the mood I want to create?
6. how will we create variety in the song?
7. what is the ending?