

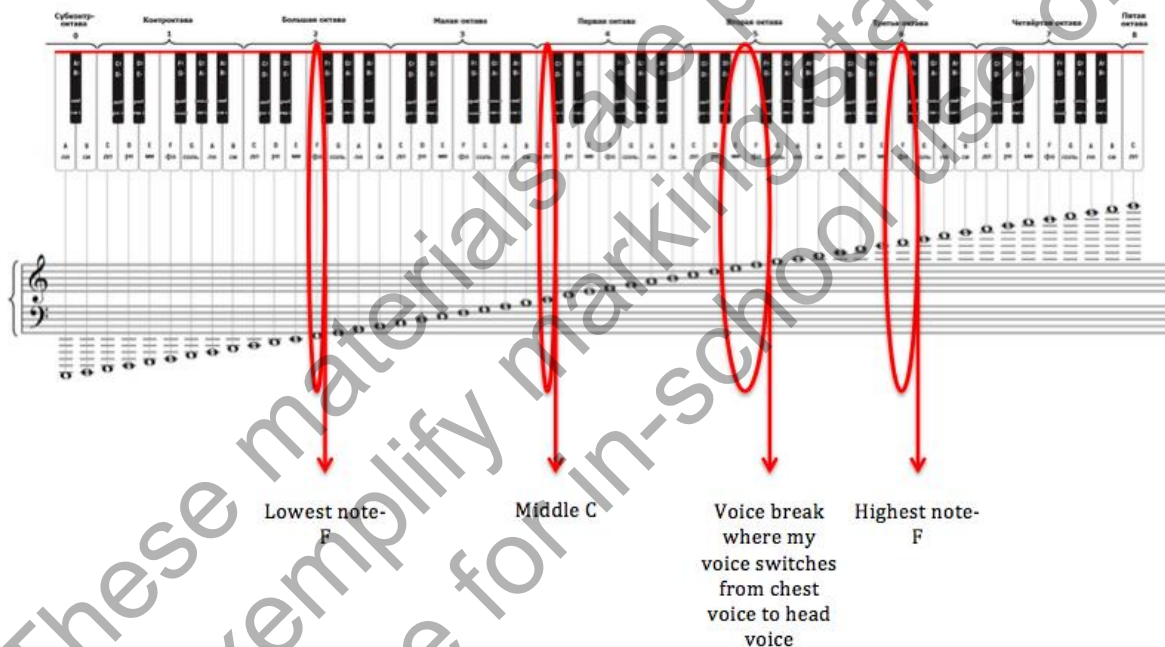
Task 3 Process

Audio recordings 00.00-1.28 (1), 1.29-3.03 (2), 3.08-end (3)



December 6th 2015

My strengths as of the beginning of this unit are singing with a stomach/ chest voice, singing in a middle and higher range, and performing riffs. My preferred vocal range is Mezzo Soprano, meaning my range is between Soprano and Contralto, and is between the A below the Middle C and the A that is two octaves higher. I am also stronger in the middle register, and weaker in the extreme high or low registers that are included in the mezzo-soprano range.

I used the piano to then try to identify my vocal range. My range is from F- two Fs below Middle C. My voice breaks around the notes E and F- two above the Middle C. The highest note I can reach is the F that is three octaves above the Middle C:



In order to cross check this and ensure that I was not exaggerating my vocal range, I used a video I found on YouTube titled, *Find Your Vocal Range In 1 Minute* by alanpiano1. The instructions provided with the video were to continue to sing the notes and use the skill of intonation to imitate the note played. If you can sing the note comfortably, then it is part of your range. In accordance with the video, my lowest note was F2 and my highest note was an F6. Both of these notes are in accordance with my aforementioned range. Below, I have included screenshots of the notes that were the limits of my range:

 <p data-bbox="203 548 402 579">My lowest note</p>	 <p data-bbox="820 548 1421 646">The note before my highest note, as my highest note was not included in the video as part of the scale.</p>
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Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IejHKpfHso>

In this project, I want to work on expanding and strengthening my vocal range in order to be able to push the highest and lowest notes out and enunciate them more clearly, as well as be able to expand my use of chest voice across my vocal range.

December 30th 2015

Today, I made my first recording. It was of an average level, and I only included the first verse and the chorus, but I was able to realize a few things. I want to develop my high notes in the chorus, as as of now they could be stronger and more enunciated. Aside from that, I would like to figure out a way to develop my piece in terms of including my personal and cultural expression. I achieved the ATL skill of *Thinking*, in terms of creative and critical thinking, as I was able to reflect on my creative process so far, and come up with means through which I can address cultural expression in my piece. In the next session, I will brainstorm ideas for how I could potentially incorporate culture into my piece.

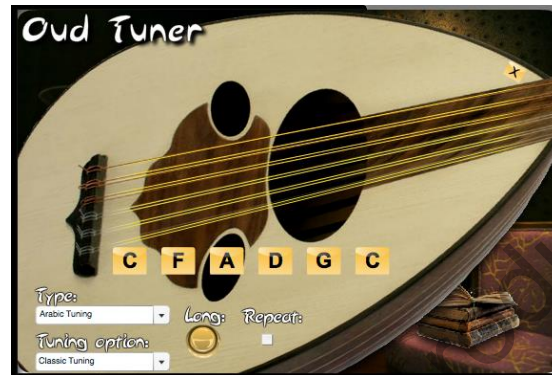
February 2nd 2016

Today I recorded my second recording of my piece to show my progress halfway through the unit. It has significantly improved since the first recording and I have added an extra element, which is the accompaniment of a piano. It was a large improvement from my last recording, as my vocals have improved and my higher notes are stronger, but I still want to work on enunciating my lower notes in the first verse, as it is at the edge of my scale. I thought this would add some cultural expression, but it has not incorporated the Arabic element as of yet. I am at a loss for how to include this in my piece. I had the idea of singing a verse in Arabic to include this cultural aspect, and also tried to look for an Oud cover of the song to sing to, but I do not think either of them sounds suitable. In the next session, I will speak to my teacher and ask for her opinion.

February 10th 2016

Today, I spoke to my music teacher, and I came to the conclusion that the best way to incorporate my Arabic culture into my piece would be to have underlying music from a Oud

simulator. This would add an Arabic element, without greatly distracting from the piece itself. I plan to do this by using the following link: <http://www.arabinstruments.com/oud/oud-resources/oud-tuner>



This link gives the option of clicking notes on an online version of the Oud, allowing you to easily play them. I have correlated the notes that will be played by the piano accompaniment with the notes available to play on the Oud. Thus, the notes to be played will be:

Arabic Tuning A, D, C, C *Piano enters* A, D, C, C x2 - Switch to Iraqi Tuning— “Now I See” C, F low, F high - C, C— “Heart” Repeat CFF for chorus Switch back to Arabic Tuning and follow again from the top
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The Oud draws influence from Microtonal Music, which is the foundation of Arabic music. Microtonal music, also known as microtonality, is the type of music that incorporates the use of microtones, which creates intervals of smaller than a semitone, known as microintervals. This technique is common in Arabic music, and has been used in that culture with reference to Arabic music theory since the 10th century (Huygens-Fokker Foundation).

I used the Oud to create an echo of the notes being played, and included small intervals, making it music of the category, microtonality. Melisma is singing a single syllable of text while changing notes in succession. This feature is found most commonly in Arabic music where scales are comprised of "quarter tones" (Melisma Music).

In my 3rd and final recording, I will incorporate the Oud into the piece to create the Arab-cultural aspect.