

## Themed Album Checklist

Create a digital album that will educate your audience on a chosen topic. You can also make a physical copy of your album, if you choose!

- Choose a topic:
  - Is there a composer you want to celebrate?
  - A style or composition technique you want to explore?
  - An era of musical history you want to bring to life?
- Research your topic. Choose the pieces you will focus on, and make notes about each piece's significance. Decide on the order they will be presented in. Think about:
  - Creating a biography of a composer's career. What music influenced them? What pieces did they compose at the beginning and end of their career? How did their style develop over time?
  - Demonstrating the development/use of a technique. When did this technique become popular? How was it used in history? How is it used today?
  - Showing the history of a musical era from start to finish. Who were the prominent composers of the era? How did they influence each other? How did the political, environmental, and social issues of the era influence the music? Who were the people who enjoyed this music?
- Decide on an album title, and set a release date with your teacher.
- Practice recording your songs at home with a smartphone or other device, listen back to your recordings and think about how you want your final recording to sound.
- Record each of your songs.
- Create bonus content for your album. This is the content that will provide more context for each of your songs, and further educate your audience. Refer to your research notes. Think about:
  - How do you want to present your bonus content? You can record narration, create a video, provide lyric sheets, or research notes, or create any other mixed media content you can think of.
- Create album artwork, or commission work from a local artist. Share a digital copy of the final art with your teacher. Your artwork should include:
  - A square album cover.

- A landscape banner image (optional).
- Write an album description that includes:
  - Your name and instrument (and the name and instrument of any collaborators).
  - A paragraph summarizing the subject of your album.
- Publish your album on the Orpheus BandLab. Your teacher will help you do this during your lesson.
- If you would like a physical copy of your album you can burn a CD or send your album to a vinyl pressing company! Here's a list of companies that print single vinyls (feel free to do your own research):
  - [In The Clouds](#)
  - [American Vinyl Company](#)
  - [Vinylify](#)
- Ask your teacher to fill out the announcement form to share your album with Orpheus.

**★ PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINES**

- Make sure there is no background noise in your recording.
- Record your best playing.
- Make sure that each song has a clear beginning and ending.
- Make sure your album art has a high resolution. BandLab recommends that your cover art is at least 500x500 pixels, and that your banner art is at least 975x180 pixels.
- If you commissioned your album art, make sure you provide appropriate compensation and credit to the artist.
- If your album art includes pictures that you did not create yourself, only use content that is in the "[public domain](#)." Using pictures you made yourself is best.
- Cite your sources! Tell folks where you got your info, and where they can learn more.