



TUTORIAL 2: DESTINY

Hi - I'm Nigel and welcome back to **Macbeth!**

In one of the early scenes of Shakespeare's famous play Macbeth and his friend Banquo are returning from fighting for King Duncan against the rebels who'd joined forces with an invading army from Norway. Macbeth famously describes the day as both 'fair' and 'foul'. 'Fair' because the battle has been won...but 'foul' because the weather is both wet and stormy.

Let's hear the opening chant and Verse 1 of their song. The music has a dark and eerie mood...and as you listen, think about what it is that makes the music sound like that.

*Never been a day so fair
Never been a day so foul
Never been a day so fair
Never been a day so foul*

*A shadow falls, the night is cold
A strange event has been foretold
The prophecy may hold the key
That could unlock our destiny
And the song we sing 'God save the King'*

*Never been a day so fair
Never been a day so foul*

Yes, the words and the tune give the song a dark quality...as do the instruments used, especially the cymbal and gong. It's also to do with the key of the music. It's in a *minor* key, which can help music sound sad, or dark or moody - as it is here.

We're going to learn the opening chant which just consists of a little tune using the first three notes of the minor scale. 'Never been a day so fair, never been a day so foul'. The tune goes up the three notes of the scale on 'never been a day so fair' and down again on 'never been a day so foul'. Listen:



*Never been a day so fair
Never been a day so foul
Never been a day so fair
Never been a day so foul*

Okay, join in singing this time - I'll count you 4 in. 1-2-3-4.

*Never been a day so fair
Never been a day so foul
Never been a day so fair
Never been a day so foul*

Well done! Now let's learn the first verse. I'll sing down to the word 'destiny'. You'll hear that the verse is higher than the chant you've just sung.

*A shadow falls, the night is cold
A strange event has been foretold
The prophecy may hold the key
That could unlock our destiny*

Note that the music does not begin on the strong word 'shadow' on the first beat of the bar. You have to fit in the word 'A' just before 'shadow'. So, I'll count you 4 in again but take a breath while I'm counting so that you're ready to sing. Here we go. 1-2-3-4.

*A shadow falls, the night is cold
A strange event has been foretold
The prophecy may hold the key
That could unlock our destiny*

As I said before, the verse is higher than the opening chant and you really need to sing out to make it work. We'll sing it again and this time try to imagine that the sound you are making is coming from high up in your head and open your mouths to get a really good sound. Take a breath while I count you in. Here we go. 1-2-3-4.



*A shadow falls, the night is cold
A strange event has been foretold
The prophecy may hold the key
That could unlock our destiny*

Great - now let's add the last line to the verse which builds towards the triumphant words 'God save the King' - referring to King Duncan.

And the song we sing 'God save the King'

This time you start singing after 3. So let's try it. 1-2-3.

And the song we sing 'God save the King'

That line is the musical climax to the verse and we get louder all the way to 'God save the King'. In music we use the Italian word *crescendo* to describe the music getting louder. If you look at the words 'And the song we sing' you'll see a hairpin sign which is used to signal a crescendo - and so you have to get louder all the way to the word 'king' - which is marked **f**, from the Italian word, *forte*, which means *strong*, or in music, *loud*. So, let's try that line again after 3. 1-2-3.

And the song we sing 'God save the King'

Great, now that you've got that, let's see if we can put it all together from the top, starting with the chant 'Never been a day so fair'.

If you look at the words for the song you should see the letter **p** at the beginning of the chant. **p** stands for the Italian word, *piano*, which actually means *quiet* - so, you have to sing the chant quietly, then we have a *crescendo* - a build-up - towards the end of the verse and you finish the verse singing loudly, or *forte*. So let's try that, after a count of 4. 1-2-3-4.



*Never been a day so fair
 Never been a day so foul
 Never been a day so fair
 Never been a day so foul*

*A shadow falls, the night is cold
 A strange event has been foretold
 The prophecy may hold the key
 That could unlock our destiny
 And the song we sing 'God save the King'*

*Never been a day so fair
 Never been a day so foul*

Well done everyone! We've learnt the opening chant and Verse 1. Now's a good time to take a pause – perhaps to catch up with some more of the story. Or if you want to carry on to Verse 2 keep listening.

Right, on to the second verse of the song. You know the tune by now so let's try it right through, from the words 'To hide my fear'. Here we go, then, after a short introduction and a count of 4. 1-2-3-4.

*To hide my fear, let darkness fall
 Don't let my thoughts, be read at all
 My deep desire I can't deny
 An endless voice that seems to cry
 And the song we sing 'God save the King'*

*[Never been a day so fair
 Never been a day so foul]*

Good. You'll have a chance later to try from the top but now we're going to learn another part of the song - the 'middle 8'. The 'middle 8' is a section of a song where the music is different from the main verse or chorus - it's there to provide contrast - and as the name suggests it's usually somewhere around the middle of the song and lasts for 8 bars.



We're going to learn the middle 8 in this song a short section at a time but first let's listen to it right through, starting with the words 'And the night'.

*And the night is frigh'ning
The sky above is filled with lightning
But the road ahead is so enticing
It rules my world*

*[Never been a day so fair
Never been a day so foul]*

You may have noticed that I sang four short phrases of music. The first three were similar and used more or less the same notes but the number of syllables used in each phrase is different and this makes the rhythm change from phrase to phrase. Listen as I sing the first two phrases...

*And the night is frigh'ning
The sky above is filled with lightning*

Right - your turn - wait for a count of 3. 1-2-3.

*And the night is frigh'ning
The sky above is filled with lightning*

Now for the next part - listen first while I sing it.

*But the road ahead is so enticing
It rules my world*

Just a short intro this time. On my count of 3. Ready? 1-2-3.

*But the road ahead is so enticing
It rules my world*

Good. Try to emphasise the word 'rules' as it describes how Macbeth's thoughts are completely dominated by the prophecy given to him by the three Weird Sisters.



Let's put the whole middle 8 together now from 'And the night is frightening'. I'll count you in as before. 1-2-3.

*And the night is frigh'ning
The sky above is filled with lightning
But the road ahead is so enticing
It rules my world*

*[Never been a day so fair
Never been a day so foul]*

Now we're going to learn the very last part of the song from the words beginning 'When will I ever be crowned?' It comes after we sing 'God save the King' for the last time. It's actually another chant very like the opening. Just listen to it first.

*When will I ever be crowned?
When will I ever be king?
When will I ever be crowned?
When will I ever be king?*

The tune is the same as 'Never been a day so fair' but the different words produce a different rhythm. Macbeth's mind is dominated by the Sisters' prophecy that he will become king. The chant goes like this.

*When will I ever be crowned?
When will I ever be king?
When will I ever be crowned?
When will I ever be king?*

Let's sing it twice together now after I say 'Ready and -'.
Ready and -

*When will I ever be crowned?
When will I ever be king?
When will I ever be crowned?
When will I ever be king?*



*When will I ever be crowned?
When will I ever be king?
When will I ever be crowned?
When will I ever be king?*

Right then - I think you're ready to put the whole song together from the top - singing along with either the full vocal version of the song or with just the backing track if you're feeling really confident.

The chant slightly overlaps with the rest of the song, so you may find it helpful to have a small group responsible for singing the chant each time it comes round - while everyone else sings the rest. Just a small group though, as the chant is marked **p** for *piano* and we need most of you to build those big crescendos in the verses. So until the next time, bye for now.

And the song we sing 'God save the King'

*When will I ever be crowned?
When will I ever be king?
When will I ever be crowned?
When will I ever be king?*

