



## TUTORIAL 5: WITCHES' BREW

*(Then you stir it to the left side...)  
A little bit of this and then a little bit of that  
(...and take a walk into the dark side.)  
You stir it to the left and then you stir it to the right  
And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

Hello again! I'm Nigel and welcome back to our musical version of Shakespeare's **Macbeth**. Today we're going to be finding out more about the three very strange sisters we've already met. You've just heard Verse 2, which we'll be learning shortly - and for which you'll need to be in your two groups, so I hope you've got those organised. But let's begin by just listening to Verse 1 of their song, which is appropriately called 'Witches' brew'.

*A vision of the future can be read in the stars  
A powerful potion is much better by far  
And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

The verse consists of three short lines. Listen to the first line - which starts quite high - and then join in with our vocalists straight after I sing 'read in the stars'.

*A vision of the future can be read in the stars*

*A vision of the future can be read in the stars*

Good. Now I'll sing the second line which starts one note higher than the first - and again sing the second line right after me with our vocalists.

*A powerful potion is much better by far*

*A powerful potion is much better by far*

Good - now let's do the third line. Listen first and this time wait until I count '4' before you sing.



*And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

1, 2, 3, 4:

*And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

Right, let's put all three lines together. After '4' then. 1, 2, 3, 4:

*A vision of the future can be read in the stars  
A powerful potion is much better by far  
And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

Well done. We'll move on to Verse 2 now. You'll be singing this in two groups in just a moment, but we're going to begin with everyone singing just Group 1's words for the melody. Just listen first...

*A little bit of this and then a little bit of that  
You stir it to the left and then you stir it to the right  
And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

You'll notice that the tune is the same as the first verse, but with a slightly different rhythm. Listen.

*A little bit of this and then a little bit of that  
You stir it to the left and then you stir it to the right*

You sing them along with me now...

*A little bit of this and then a little bit of that  
You stir it to the left and then you stir it to the right*

Good. Now, you may have noticed at the beginning that the sisters were not all singing the same tune. Listen again to the verse we've just sung and this time you'll hear another part being sung at the same time.



*(Then you stir it to the left side...)  
A little bit of this and then a little bit of that  
(...and take a walk into the dark side.)  
You stir it to the left and then you stir it to the right  
And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

When a second tune is heard against another we call it a counter-melody. The tune we sang in Verse 1 becomes a counter-melody to the new tune in Verse 2. The new tune is marked for Group 2, but we'll learn it all together first...and then you can have fun singing both tunes together in your two groups. To begin, I'll sing the first two lines of our new tune, starting at 'Then you stir it to the left side...'

*Then you stir it to the left side  
And take a walk into the dark side*

Your turn now. And since this tune starts on the second beat of the bar I'm going to say '3, 4, 1' before you come in. Ready? 3, 4, 1:

*Then you stir it to the left side  
And take a walk into the dark side*

Good! Right, we just need to add the last line of Verse 2, which is the same as before:

*And all will come true in the witches' brew*

So let's put the three lines together. After '3, 4, 1'. 3, 4, 1:

*Then you stir it to the left side  
And take a walk into the dark side  
And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

Well done. Now I think we can try to put the new tune together with our counter-melody in your two groups. Group 2 will start first, singing the tune we've just learned:



*Then you stir it to the left side*

And Group 1 starts slightly later with:

*A little bit of this...*

Group 1: your first word 'A' is sung at the same time as Group B sings the word 'the'. And then both groups join together to sing the last line. Let's give it a go – and try to focus on your own part and not be put off by the other group! So ready Group 2?

*(Then you stir it to the left side...)*

Group 1:

*A little bit of this and then a little bit of that*

Group 2:

*(...and take a walk into the dark side.)*

Group 1:

*You stir it to the left and then you stir it to the right*

Together:

*And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

Did you manage to keep your part going? We'll try that again later but if you'd like to take a break, now is a good time to catch up with some more of the story of **Macbeth**. Otherwise, keep listening.

Now we're going to learn the Middle 8 of the song - which doesn't have nearly so many words as the verses. Phew! Here's how it goes.



*Fly high in the sky*

*Out in the blue all your dreams will come true.*

That doesn't sound difficult does it? We'll take it in two sections. First the line 'Fly high in the sky...' But just listen first.

*Fly high in the sky*

I'll say 'Ready, and'. Try and get nice long flowing sounds. Ready and:

*Fly high in the sky*

Good - now listen to the next line...

*Out in the blue all your dreams will come true.*

I'll count you in on that line '1, 2, 3' and try to make the words 'Into the blue' nice and evenly spaced. 1, 2, 3:

*Out in the blue all your dreams will come true*

We'll put the whole Middle 8 together now. There are a few things to think about as you sing. Try not to take too many breaths - for instance. It would be good if you do 'Fly high In the sky' in one breath - and make sure you hold the notes for their full value. Here we go then - wait for a count of 4. 1, 2, 3, 4:

*Fly high in the sky*

*Out in the blue all your dreams will come true*

Right - we've learned most of our 'weird sisters' song but just as we had a rap in the 'Assassins' song, the sisters don't want to be outdone. Let's just listen to their rap first - and tap a steady beat on your knee.



*Fillet of a fenny snake, boil and bake,  
 Tip toe of a frog and tongue of a dog.  
 Blind worm's sting. Howlet's wing.  
 Lizard's blood, mmm that's good.  
 Double and double, toil and trouble.  
 Fire burn and the cauldron bubble.  
 Double and double, toil and trouble.  
 Fire burn and the cauldron bubble.*

Let's take the rap a bit at a time. The first line is 'Fillet of a fenny snake, boil and bake'. 'Fillet of a fenny snake, boil and bake'. It's a tongue-twister! You try, after 'Ready, and' and keep the beat on your knee as you do it. Ready and:

*Fillet of a fenny snake, boil and bake*

In the next line, place the accent on 'toe' - like this: 'Tip toe of a frog and tongue of a dog'. You try - after ready and. Ready and:

*Tip toe of a frog and tongue of a dog*

We'll put these lines together now. After 'Ready and'. Ready and:

*Fillet of a fenny snake, boil and bake  
 Tip toe of a frog and tongue of a dog*

Good! The next bit is much easier. It goes like this: 'Blind worm's sting, howlet's wing, / lizard's blood, mmm that's good!'

Join In this time. Ready and:

*Blind worm's sting, howlet's wing,  
 lizard's blood, mmm that's good!*

The last lines of the rap are spoken twice, like this:



*Double and double, toil and trouble.  
Fire burn and the cauldron bubble.  
Double and double, toil and trouble.  
Fire burn and the cauldron bubble.*

Ready to give that a try? After Ready and. Ready and:

*Double and double, toil and trouble.  
Fire burn and the cauldron bubble.  
Double and double, toil and trouble.  
Fire burn and the cauldron bubble.*

Right - let's go right through the rap now from the top. Ready and:

*Fillet of a fenny snake, boil and bake,  
Tip toe of a frog and tongue of a dog.  
Blind worm's sting. Howlet's wing.  
Lizard's blood, mmm that's good.  
Double and double, toil and trouble.  
Fire burn and the cauldron bubble.  
Double and double, toil and trouble.  
Fire burn and the cauldron bubble.*

Well done. We're going to learn Verse 3 now - that's the one beginning 'We're brewing up a potion'. Just listen first...

*We're brewing up a potion we can never repeat  
A little bit bitter and a little bit sweet  
And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

You already know the last line. Listen to the first line.

*We're brewing up a potion we can never repeat*

You try it now after 4. 1, 2, 3, 4:

*We're brewing up a potion we can never repeat*





The rhythm of the next line is slightly different. So listen carefully to the rhythm and then be ready to sing when I bring you in after 4 again.

*A little bit bitter and a little bit sweet*

Ready to sing that? 1, 2, 3, 4:

*A little bit bitter and a little bit sweet*

Good - so now let's put those two lines together and also go on to sing the last line which you already know. I'll count you in on the first line. 1, 2, 3, 4:

*We're brewing up a potion we can never repeat  
A little bit bitter and a little bit sweet  
And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

Well done. Now you're ready to put the whole of the 'Witches' brew' together with the backing track. Remember to divide into your two groups for Verse 2, which has the counter-melody. And you could also try splitting the lines of the rap between the two groups as well. Until next time – bye!

*And all will come true in the witches' brew.*

