



## TUTORIAL 6: DUNSINANE

Hello - I'm Nigel and welcome to the next workshop on our musical version of **Macbeth**.

Today we're going to be learning a lament. A lament is a song - or a poem - which expresses great sorrow or regret, especially following someone's death. If you've been keeping up with the story you'll know that Lady Macbeth becomes so tormented by her involvement in King Duncan's death that she takes her own life.

And our song - which is called 'Dunsinane' - is Macbeth's lament for his dead wife. It's a very atmospheric song. As you listen, think about what sounds you hear which help create the mood...

*Dunsinane, Dunsinane, Dunsinane,  
Dunsinane, Dunsinane.*

*I remember the day I first kissed you  
I remember the flowers in your hair  
You were young I was brave we were care-free  
But we found a love we could share.*

Well, I think there were a few sounds there which set the mood: the voices, the tubular bell, a very deep drum and some other percussive sounds. And the song is also written in a *minor* key - like most of our songs for **Macbeth** - and that too helps to give a dark feeling of brooding, sadness and suspense.

The chorus is just a repeat of the word 'Dunsinane' five times over. Listen as I sing it and you sing along with me the second time after I say 'Ready and...'

*Dunsinane, Dunsinane, Dunsinane,  
Dunsinane, Dunsinane.*

Ready and...



*Dunsinane, Dunsinane, Dunsinane,  
Dunsinane, Dunsinane.*

Good! Now just listen to the first verse as I sing it through...

*I remember the day I first kissed you  
I remember the flowers in your hair  
You were young I was brave we were care-free  
But we found a love we could share.*

Right - we'll learn that a line at a time. I'll sing line 1 and as soon as I finish you join in singing the same line with our vocalist. And we'll go on to learn each of the other lines in the same way, without interrupting the flow of the music. I'll go first.

*I remember the day I first kissed you  
I remember the day I first kissed you*

*I remember the flowers in your hair  
I remember the flowers in your hair*

*You were young I was brave we were care-free  
You were young I was brave we were care-free*

*But we found a love we could share.  
But we found a love we could share.*

Okay. We'll go straight through this time without the repeats but first divide into your two groups and sing the four lines, taking it in turns. Group 1 for the first line, then Group 2 for the second and so on. I'll bring you in with 'Ready and...' You should take a breath as I say 'Ready' - and sing right after I say 'and...' Ready and...

*I remember the day I first kissed you  
I remember the flowers in your hair  
You were young I was brave we were care-free  
But we found a love we could share.*



Let's do that once more - and this time make sure you take just one line to a breath and then you'll be singing with nice smooth phrases. Ready and...

*I remember the day I first kissed you  
I remember the flowers in your hair  
You were young I was brave we were care-free  
But we found a love we could share.*

This time let's sing from the very beginning - so start by singing the chorus all together, then the verse in your two groups and then another chorus all together. Ready to sing after the bell? Ready and...

*Dunsinane, Dunsinane, Dunsinane,  
Dunsinane, Dunsinane.*

*I remember the day I first kissed you  
I remember the flowers in your hair  
You were young I was brave we were care-free  
But we found a love we could share.*

*Dunsinane, Dunsinane, Dunsinane,  
Dunsinane, Dunsinane.*

Good. So we've learnt the chorus and Verse 1 so now's a good time to take a break from singing if you like to - perhaps to catch up with more of the story. Otherwise keep listening.

OK - let's move on to Verse 2. Just listen to the words first.

*Well our castle of love is now empty  
And the towers are granite and grey  
And the flowers they have turned into ashes  
And our kisses all blown away.*



Did you notice that the tune is exactly the same as Verse 1? So all we need to do is practise the new words this time. I'll sing the first half of Verse 2 - down to 'grey' - and you repeat the same two lines straight away.

*Well our castle of love is now empty  
And the towers are granite and grey*

*Well our castle of love is now empty  
And the towers are granite and grey*

Good. I'll do lines 3 and 4 now and you sing them after me.

*And the flowers they have turned into ashes  
And our kisses all blown away*

*And the flowers they have turned into ashes  
And our kisses all blown away*

Let's sing right through Verse 2 now together and add the chorus as well. So it'll be chorus, Verse 2 and another chorus. After the introduction I'll say 'Ready and...' Take your breath when I say 'Ready' and sing straight after 'and...' Ready and...

*Dunsinane, Dunsinane, Dunsinane,  
Dunsinane, Dunsinane.*

*Well our castle of love is now empty  
And the towers are granite and grey  
And the flowers they have turned into ashes  
And our kisses all blown away.*

*Dunsinane, Dunsinane, Dunsinane,  
Dunsinane, Dunsinane.*

And so on to Verse 3, which begins 'So tomorrow is all that is left me...' Make sure you can see the words and follow them carefully as we just listen to the verse first...



*So tomorrow is all that is left me  
For the past has been slaughtered for sure  
And my life has become but a shadow  
Just a foolish tale nothing more.*

When we sing it's important to make sure that we make good, clear vowel sounds. In this verse, for example, for the words 'sure' and 'foolish' you'll need to shape your lips almost as if you're blowing a candle out. Try that now by saying 'ooo...'. And for the word 'shadow' you need to make a wide 'ah' sound... 'ah...'

This time listen to the first half of the verse, down to 'for sure', then sing the two lines straight after without a break in the music. And see if you can make a nice 'or' sound on 'sure'... and a 'oo' sound on 'foolish'. Right, get ready to sing!

*So tomorrow is all that is left me  
For the past has been slaughtered for sure*

*So tomorrow is all that is left me  
For the past has been slaughtered for sure*

Good. Same with lines 3 and 4 now. Listen first - then sing. And try to get a wide 'ah' on 'shadow'...and a nice 'oo' sound on 'foolish...'

*And my life has become but a shadow  
Just a foolish tale nothing more.*

*And my life has become but a shadow  
Just a foolish tale nothing more.*

Let's try that verse right through together now. And, as before, we'll add a chorus both before and after the verse. Take good, deep breaths, so you can sing smooth lines, one line to each breath. After 'Ready and...' Ready and...



*Dunsinane, Dunsinane, Dunsinane,  
Dunsinane, Dunsinane.*

*So tomorrow is all that is left me  
For the past has been slaughtered for sure  
And my life has become but a shadow  
Just a foolish tale nothing more.*

*Dunsinane, Dunsinane, Dunsinane,  
Dunsinane, Dunsinane.*

Well done. That just leaves us with the final verse, beginning 'All the blood on my hands has bewitched me...' So make sure you can see the words and just listen first to hear how they fit in.

*All the blood on my hands has bewitched me  
So that love, hope and fear cast no spell  
Bring my sword and my shield and my armour  
As I ride away into hell.*

I think you know the tune pretty well by now and should be able to have a go at singing Verse 4 all the way through straight away. Try to make sure you hold onto the notes for their full length and that you finish words like 'sword' and 'shield' with a really clear consonant. Here we go then, after 'Ready and...' Ready and...

*All the blood on my hands has bewitched me  
So that love, hope and fear cast no spell  
Bring my sword and my shield and my armour  
As I ride away into hell.*

Well done. You've worked really hard learning the four verses and now I think you're ready to the song right through from the beginning using either of the backing tracks. As you sing remember to pay close attention to the consonants at the ends of words and also the vowel sounds which we've worked on. And also remember to listen out for the bell in the introduction - you start with the chorus straight after the bell. Bye for now!

