



## TUTORIAL 8: FINALE

Hello again - I'm Nigel - with the very last song we're going to learn for our musical performance of **Macbeth**. Today's 'Finale' is a reflective song that looks back on all that has happened - especially the prophecy of the Weird Sisters that Macbeth will be safe until the day that Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane. And if you've been keeping up with the story you'll know that Birnam Wood *does* come to Dunsinane and Macbeth realises that he can't escape death.

The song has two sung verses. Make sure you can see the words as we listen to the first of them...

*Came Birnam Wood to Dunsinane  
Just as the witches had foreseen.  
No man of woman born would take the crown  
From the man who would be king...*

Right then - you try it with me. You need to start singing after I count '2' like this. '1, 2:'

*Came Birnam Wood to Dunsinane  
Just as the witches had foreseen...*

Let's try it. 1, 2:

*Came Birnam Wood to Dunsinane  
Just as the witches had foreseen...*

Let's do that once more to make sure. Same again then, after '2'.  
1, 2:

*Came Birnam Wood to Dunsinane  
Just as the witches had foreseen...*

Good. Let's try the rest of the verse now from: 'No man of woman born'. Make sure you can see the words and just listen first:



*No man of woman born would take the crown  
From the man who would be king.*

Now it's your turn - come in as before after I count 2 but listen to your starting note on the word 'No...' Here we go then. 1, 2:

*No man of woman born would take the crown  
From the man who would be king...*

And we'll do those two lines again before trying the whole verse. Here's your first note to remind you. 'No...' Wait until I count you in. 1, 2:

*No man of woman born would take the crown  
From the man who would be king.*

Well done. Let's try the whole verse, straight away after 2. 1, 2:

*Came Birnam Wood to Dunsinane  
Just as the witches had foreseen.  
No man of woman born would take the crown  
From the man who would be king...*

OK - before we go on to learn Verse 2 we're going to spend a moment or two exploring the 'Finale' and it's haunting *melody* in particular. First, listen to the opening of the song and as you listen, notice that it begins with a note being played which never changes, but sounds throughout the verse. See if you can hear what I mean...

*[Instrumental opening with drone]*

Did you hear that long, low note? A note like that is called a *drone* - a single, sustained note. You can play a drone on any instrument - though on some instruments, like a xylophone for instance, it would be quite tricky because the notes die away very quickly. You'd have to keep repeating it.



I'm going to sing the beginning of the tune. Make sure you can see the music so that you can follow it...

*[Nigel hums with melody]*

We've had songs based on the *minor* scale - and also the major. However, what I just sang uses only a 5-note scale, called the *pentatonic* scale. If I sing up and down the five notes it sounds like this:

*[SINGS]* F, G, A, C, D, C, A, G, F

And slower:

*[SINGS]* F, G, A, C, D, C, A, G, F

You try it with me now. Ready. 3, 4:

*F, G, A, C, D, C, A, G, F*

Now we'll hear how the pentatonic scale sounds when we sing it with a drone - and to do that you need to be in your two groups.

Group 1 - you're going to sing this note as a drone: La! Take a massive breath first - you're going to need it!

Group 2 - you're going to sing up and down the pentatonic scale as we've just done. Everyone starts on the same note. La! So let's try it after 4. Ready, 3, 4.

GROUP 1

HOLD F

GROUP 2

*F, G, A, C, D, C, A, G, F*

And now let's just swap over groups so this time it'll be Group 2 singing the drone and Group 1 singing up and down the pentatonic scale. Here's a reminder of the note that you both being on again. La! After 4 again. Ready, 3, 4:



## Finale - song tutorial

GROUP 2

*HOLD F*

GROUP 1

*F, G, A, C, D, C, A, G, F*

OK, we've sung through Verse 1 and now that you know the tune, you should find Verse 2 much easier. I'll sing it through first while you follow the words.

*Across the land the bells ring out  
Hear all the people shout and sing.  
And so our tale is told of a brave new world  
And the man who would be king.*

Okay - here are the first two lines of that verse. As you listen, see if you can tell how many breaths I take.

*Across the land the bells ring out  
Hear all the people shout and sing...*

I managed it in two breaths and that's what I'd like you to do - right down to 'bells ring out' in one breath...and then down to 'shout and sing'. Try it, after 2. 1, 2:

*Across the land the bells ring out  
Hear all the people shout and sing.*

Did you manage that in two breaths? Good, because we're going to do the same for the next two lines as well. Just listen first...

*And so our tale is told of a brave new world  
And the man who would be king.*

Your turn now, but let me remind you of your starting note on the words: 'And so...' Here we go then, after 2. 1, 2:

*And so our tale is told of a brave new world  
And the man who would be king.*

Let's try that verse right through now - after 2. 1, 2:



*Across the land the bells ring out  
Hear all the people shout and sing.  
And so our tale is told of a brave new world  
And the man who would be king.*

Well done! You're ready to sing all the way through the 'Finale' now. The song opens with an instrumental verse and that's an opportunity for you to either add some short musical phrases that you've created, or even play along with the melody using your own instruments. Or, if you prefer, you can just hum along gently to the lovely melody.

And congratulations everyone! We've finished learning all the songs for our musical performance of **Macbeth**.

Now it's over to you to rehearse the songs and also learn the playscript to go with the songs - so that you can put on a performance for your school. Perhaps even invite others to join you for an evening show. If you put on a performance be sure to let us know how you get on - contact us via the BBC School Radio website. Thanks for joining me over the last few weeks and for all your hard work! Now it's over to you! Bye!

