



Quench Arts Musical Connections Group Session (Online) June 2020 With Paul Carroll

This worksheet is to go with my video made early July 2020. If you are receiving this worksheet in an email then the video can be viewed at: <https://tinyurl.com/PaulGroupSession>. If you are receiving this newsletter in the post then the video will be on your DVD.

In this session we will be having a bit of a sing- and play-along with a classic song written by Basil when he took part in Musical Connections one-to-ones 2015-16. Called *Musical Connections* it is sung by Basil, who also plays the guitar. The song also features other members on percussion, bass and backing vocals - a great example of the collaborative spirit of the Musical Connections project.

We won't just be singing though. It was announced this month that Pete, the long-term Artistic Director of Musical Connections, is stepping down from the project due to other work and band commitments. I thought this month would be a good time to remind ourselves of one of the brilliant warm-ups Pete took us through, which I have stolen and elaborated on for other sessions I lead because it's a great way of getting a group playing and vocalising together at the same time as learning everyone's names and, when extended - their interests. So watch the video to take part in the warm-up. It's something very simple to join in with.

Then after singing *Musical Connections* I will be asking you to send in some lyrics and chord ideas for the next online Group session (probably available late-July / early August). Again, in the spirit of Musical Connections we will be using some of the songwriting activities that Pete has taken us through to help inspire you with lyrics and chords. I have written up the activities below, after the song lyrics.

Musical Connection, Basil 2016

VERSE 1

F Bb

If I couldn't see any way forward
I came by you and you were there for me
I want you to know I'm so very thankful
You connect me to a place where it's so nice to be
Day by day I feel a little bit stronger
Knowing that you're right there by my side
I see no reason, no more to worry
Cos I know everything's gonna be alright

CHORUS

F Bb
Musical Connection - a one big family
F Bb
Musical Connection - in the heart of the community
F Bb
Musical Connection - the peace, love of unity
Gm C
This kind of love fits like a glove

VERSE 2

When you're feeling down and a little bit lonely
You can put a pen to paper and could churn out a song
Spice it up, nice it up with some instrumentation
We can all come together and sing along
Everybody do their thing a little way different
Everyone add to the pot a brand new style
Oh, what a joy, oh what an inspiration
Makes you want to dance, makes you want to smile

[Then play CHORUS twice]

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

Musical Connection, oh-oo-wo *[ad lib and fade]*

Something For You To Do Before the Next Musical Connections Video

Please send in your ideas by 24 July 2020 to:

Email: info@quench-arts.co.uk

Text: 07716 362478

For fun let's write something to sing in the next online Group session. It could be, for example, a middle-8 section to add to Basil's song. Or it could be a chorus and/or verse for something new. I think that the ideas that get sent in will help us decide what to do with the material.

Below are some of the ways that Pete used to get us started with creating lyrics and chords. I would like you to send in the following:

- 2 chords
- some words (up to 5 per person)
- some poetic sentences (up to 2 per person)
(optional, only if you are inspired to do so)
- recordings (up to one per person)
(very optional, again only if you're inspired to do so then send in a basic recording (phone will do) of you playing your chords or rhythm or singing a melody or lyrics.

I don't think this will be the case but if we do get a large number of people sending in ideas in then I will pick the ideas that go together best and try to use at least one per person. Any ideas that aren't used can be used for your own songwriting and poetry and you may find you come up with more ideas than I've suggested anyway.

Stimulating Photographs



Choose one of the photos above and list words that come to mind.

First focus on **nouns** like *teapot* and *forest*. Then focus on **adjectives** like *rough* and *shiny*. Then focus on **verbs** like *walking* and *flowing*. For more ideas you could also focus on **adverbs** like *silently* and *slowly* and perhaps go into any **emotions** you see in the picture or feel when looking.

Random Chord Grid

I think Pete used to use this to create melodies but let's use it to generate a couple of chords. Use your initials (name and surname) to find two chords in the chart below. For example, my initials are PC so the chart tells me that my chords are B and C. I got to the chord for P by following the column up from the P in the chart to the letter at the top: B.

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z		

Once I have the letters I can try different combinations of major, minor or more complicated chords til I hear what I like.

Random Words from Books

Find a book (a full-size story is probably better than a technical text book) and use your age and birthday to extract random words. First, take your age, turn to that page number in your book. Then, with your age again, count down that many lines. If you get to the bottom of the page then continue counting on the next one. On the line you get to, your first word is the third word along.

At this point I'll state some rules:

1. If the word you find doesn't seem useful (for example *and*, *I*, *from*, etc.) then use the following word.
2. If there aren't three words on the line you get to then just carry on counting into the next line.
3. Keep it clean! If your word is a rude one then jump forward ten pages and count down the page again.

Next, do the same with the last two digits of the year you were born in. For example, if you were born in 1962 then the number is 62. Go to that page and count down that number of lines to find the 3rd word on that line.

Now, take number of the month you were born in (so if you were born September then the number is 9). Add 200 and go to that page number (if your book doesn't have that many pages then just add 100). Count down the original month number (9 in the example). Your word is the fifth word on this line.

Next do the same with the day of the month you were born on (for example, if you were born 23 May then the number is 23). Just add one hundred this time, count down and use the fifth word again.

Don't Forget to Tell Us Your Words and Chords!

Please send your chords from the grid and your words you got from looking at the pictures and the book exercise to info@quench-arts.co.uk or text 07716 362478 by **Friday 24 July 2020**.