

Takeaways from Hip Harp Academy's
"Hip Harp Toolkit & Arrange Yourself" 2020

Tara O'Brien Pride

Five-part arrangement form is key!



Clarifying the components

Keep purpose of each section in mind (e.g., setting a mood, establishing home, going on an adventure, returning home, and remembering the adventure).

Introduction: utilize dominant or catchy vamp that leads naturally to melody and home key; speaking is okay!

Melody: start once the accompaniment is already established; esp. if unfamiliar, make obvious.

Exploration: maintain some connection with previous material (chord progression, vamp, melodic fragments or rhythmic drive) even if modulating to different key.

Melody (revisited): add or alter harmonic components (e.g., RH 6ths or 3rds, LH 1-5-10) or apply ornaments.

Ending: repeat last phrase and avoid introducing new material except for sparkles (e.g., kerfuffle or big arpeggio or harmonics).

Stringing tunes together

Modulation: may use ii-V-I to establish new key; noodle simply while shifting levers and visualize new ii-V-I before playing ii-V-I.

Clarify ending of one tune before beginning the next.

Favorite Quote

"Simple elegance is available to all of us....For some of us, it's just behind a firewall."

-DHC 11/2/20