

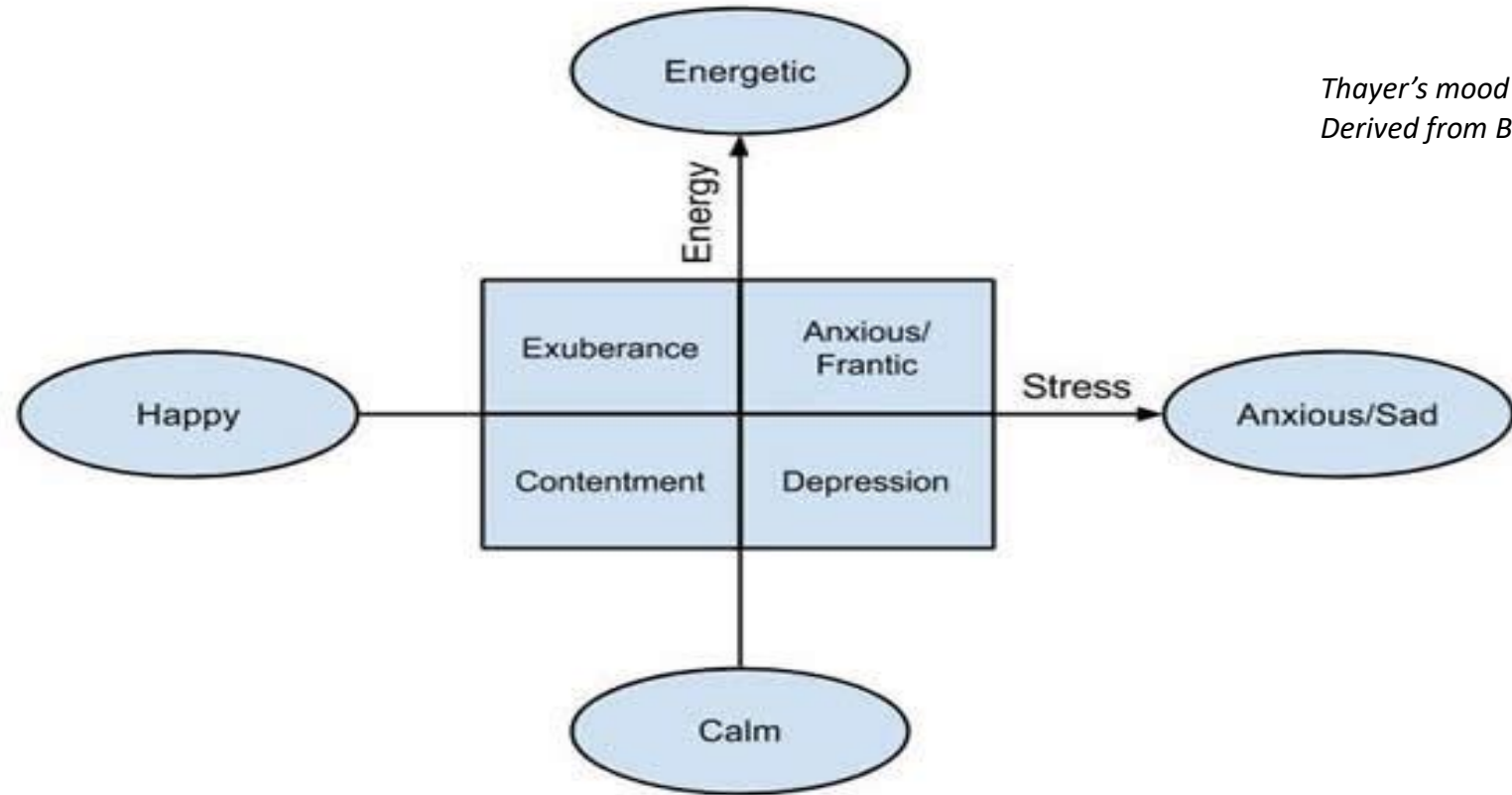
Songwriting series

Part 4 (of 4)
Mood & Music



How can we describe the mood of a song?

Mood



*Thayer's mood model. Source:
Derived from Bhar (2014).*

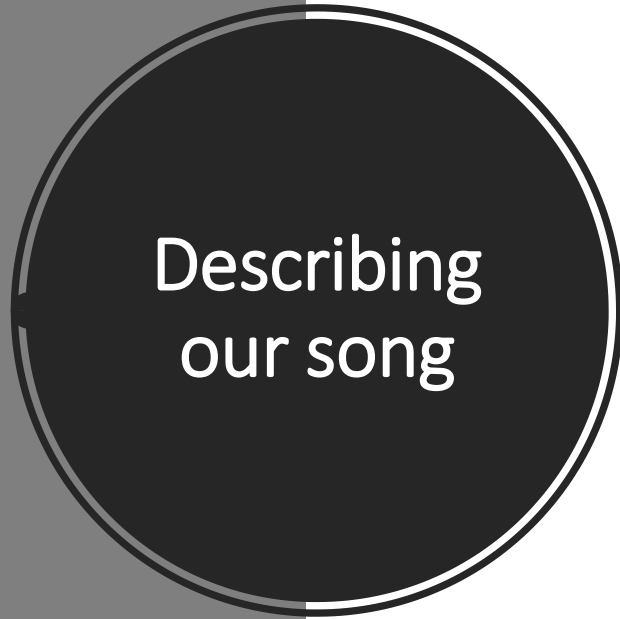
What exactly do we mean by mood?

- More energy in a song might indicate a happy mood
- A slower tempo might be better suited to a slow, melancholy song.
- Every aspect of the song from its tempo (or speed), volume, intensity, musical arrangement, style of singing add up to create the mood that the listener picks up on when they hear the song

The mood of the song conveys the feelings we are likely to have when listening to it.

So a good question to ask is 'how do I want this song to make people feel?'

Hevner's (1936) adjective circle



			6		
			merry		
			joyous		
		7	gay	5	
		exhilarated	happy	humorous	
		soaring	cheerful	playful	
8		triumphant	bright	whimsical	4
vigorous		dramatic		fanciful	lyrical
robust		passionate		quaint	leisurely
emphatic		sensational		sprightly	satisfying
martial		agitated		delicate	serene
ponderous		excited		light	tranquil
majestic		impetuous		graceful	quiet
exalting		restless			soothing
		1		3	
		spiritual		dreamy	
		lofty		yielding	
		awe-inspiring	2	tender	
		dignified	pathetic	sentimental	
		sacred	doleful	longing	
		solemn	sad	yearning	
		sober	mournful	pleading	
		serious	tragic	plaintive	
			melancholy		
			frustrated		
			depressing		
			gloomy		
			heavy		
			dark		

Music theory 1

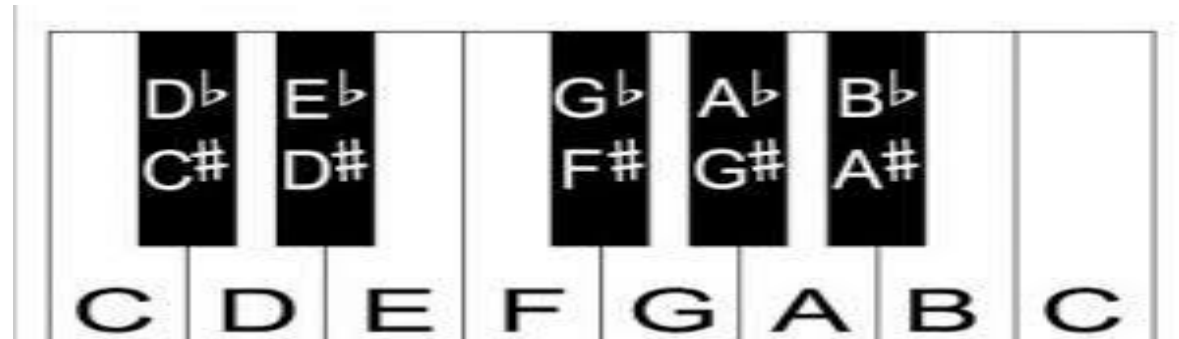
Basic definitions

Notes – tell us the pitch and duration of the sound

There are 7 whole notes
and 5 accidentals:

C	D	E	F	G	A	B
C#/Db	D#/Eb		F#/Gb	G#/Ab	A#/Bb	

As seen on a piano:



These 12 notes make up the Chromatic scale.

Keys – the key the music is in is the scale which the music is built around and the notes that are in it. For example

- C Major contains the notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B
- D Major: D, E, F♯, G, A, B, and C♯.
- F Major: F, G, A, B♭, C, D, and E.

Music theory 2

Basic definitions

Typically we understand major keys to sound happy and minor keys to sound sad, but there is plenty of variation and range in both to play with, allowing us to closely match the mood of our song.

Chords - 3 or more notes from that key that are played together

Major chord - has a major third (4 half steps) and a perfect fifth (seven half steps)

A Major chord: A, C#, E

Minor chord - has a minor third (3 half steps) and a perfect fifth (seven half steps)

A Minor chord: A, C, E

D Major: D, F#, A

D Minor: D, F, A

E Major: E, G#, B

E Minor: E, G, B

Major chord Progressions

Major chord progressions

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii
Major	Minor	Minor	Major	Major	Minor	Diminished
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#
B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#
E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#

Minor chord Progressions

Minor chord progressions

i	ii	III	iv	iv	VI	VII
Minor	Diminished	Major	Minor	Minor	Major	Major
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
B	C#	D	E	F#	G	A
C	D	E ^b	F	G	A ^b	B ^b
D	E	F	G	A	B ^b	C
E	F#	G	A	B	C	D
F	G	A ^b	B ^b	C	D ^b	E ^b
G	A	B ^b	C	D	E ^b	F

Links & Resources

For a full list of recommended links for:

- Free online learning
- Songwriting resources
- Music & Recording equipment

Please visit:

<https://www.rachelirelandmusic.com/resources>

[*Email: rachelirelandmusic@outlook.com*](mailto:rachelirelandmusic@outlook.com)

Happy songwriting

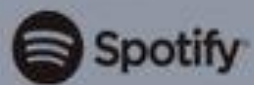




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