

Hello everyone!

CI Music Hour Recap 9/21/23

Last week we welcomed composer, Dr. Celka Ojakangas. Celka grew up playing viola and the later became interested in composition. Celka explained how as a composer she often takes inspiration from sounds such as music, birds, or everyday sounds, to create ideas for a piece. She presented a piece to our group that she composed in 2020 called "Sploopy." She explained how the piece was inspired by the theme of Creature from the Black Lagoon and Charles Mingus' "Moanin.'" Throughout the piece she uses musical textures and rhythms reminiscent of cartoons and jazz tunes. You can listen to the piece [here](#)!

Celka then walked the group through the anatomy of a simple melody by reviewing two familiar tunes: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and Happy Birthday. By listening to both of these melodies, we determined that a simple melody is often stepwise (meaning there are not too many large intervals between any two notes), there is usually one high point (the highest note in the entire melody), and it often starts and stop on the same note. Using these general rules of thumb, Celka walked the group through creating our own melody on top of a five-chord progression. Celka explained that if you would like to experiment with writing your own music, you can try it out using the free notation software, [MuseScore](#)!

Finally, if you'd like to check out more of Celka's work, you can find her website [here](#). You can also watch last week's Music Hour [here](#) and read the captions [here](#).