

# The Counterpoint Club

## A Chamber Music Podcast

*Opus 4 Episode 3 - Rock 'n' Roll Never Dies*

### **Technique Lesson: Collaborative Composition**

Even if you don't have a burning desire to start a garage band, here are some tips on how to engage with your colleagues in collaborative composition, regardless of genre. Note that these are guidelines, and the process is different for every group dynamic.

1. Usually one person brings the bulk of an arrangement or seed of an idea to the table.
2. It's important to allow that person to state their idea fully before piping up with suggestions/constructive criticism.
3. Sometimes, there are limitations of an instrument, or something that the primary composer hadn't thought about that doesn't work. Rehearsal is a good place to workshop different approaches that might make the original idea effective, but also fit within the limitations of the tools/instruments being used.
4. If someone else is inspired to add something else, whether it be a different song that fits perfectly, or a harmony, that's a pretty magical moment! It's important to allow space for that kind of inspiration. It's not about individual ego, it's about the arrangement/composition, which often takes on a life of its own, kind of like a baby :-)
5. If an idea isn't working after multiple times of workshopping, it's important to be frank about the fact that it's not working. It's important for the group to come to consensus, and not have just one or two people pushing through ideas.

