



Information Sheet

The Chord Pathfinder – Music Theory Access and Creative Engagement.

Version number: 1

Date: 26/06/2026

Invitation

You are invited to participate in a research study. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand what this research will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask me, Prof Kenneth Smith if you would like more information, or if there is anything that you do not understand. I would like to stress that you do not have to accept this invitation and should only agree to take part if you want to.

Thank you for reading.

Purpose

The project aims to evaluate how working with our *Chord Pathfinder* might help music pupils (you) in understanding advanced harmony and chord progressions. The Chord Pathfinder is an interactive music-theory tool that we hope might help you to create music with more adventurous chord progressions and harmony, and we want to find out if you found it helpful with your learning.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been selected to take part in this survey because either:

- 1) your school or college is hosting our team for a workshop, OR
- 2) you have responded to our open call for participants.

Do I have to take part?

No. Taking part is entirely voluntary. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand what the research will involve. Please read this information sheet and ask me (Kenneth Forkert-Smith, Kmsmith@liverpool.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

What will happen if I choose to take part?

If you are participating through your school or college, you can attend two full days of hands-on workshops that offer:

- Introduction to the Chord Pathfinder method
- Guided composition exercises
- Small-group composition coaching and collaborative experimentation
- Teaching sessions integrating multi-modal tools (DAW interface, hardware, podcasts, game)

If you are participating online, or remotely, you will have access to public resources online.

After using the resources, you'll be invited to compose music in any genre, and submit notation / chord sheets for us to analyse. You'll also be invited to submit any of your previous music for comparison.

Additionally, we will ask you to complete a survey.

How will my data be used?

The surveys and compositions will be analysed by our team, using a range of quantitative and qualitative methods, to evaluate the usefulness of the Chord Pathfinder.

The University of Liverpool processes data as part of its research and teaching activities in accordance with the lawful basis of 'public task', and in accordance with the University's purpose of "advancing education, learning and research for the public benefit". Under UK data protection legislation, the University acts as the Data Controller for personal data collected as part of the University's research. The Principal Investigator acts as the Data Processor for this study, and any queries relating to the handling of your personal data can be sent to Prof Kenneth Smith (kmsmith@liverpool.ac.uk).

Further information on how your data will be used can be found in the table below.

How will my data be collected?	Paper or digital questionnaire later transferred to a digital document.
How will my data be stored?	Paper surveys will be scanned and destroyed using a confidential waste service. The data will be stored on secure password-protected and encrypted M-Drive servers at the University of Liverpool.
How long will my data be stored for?	For 10 years
What measures are in place to protect the security and confidentiality of my data?	Only Prof Kenneth Smith and the team of University research staff will have access to your data.
Will my data be anonymised?	Your submission will be fully anonymised after we have completed data collection.
Who will have access to my data?	The principal investigator and a small team of staff.
Will my data be archived for use in other research projects in the future?	No
How will my data be destroyed?	Deleted from university cloud storage after 10 years (30 September 2036)

If you feel any discomfort at any points of the research please let the researcher, Kenneth Smith, know immediately.

Are there any benefits?

We hope that the Chord Pathfinder will give you a fuller understanding of chromatic chord progressions that will help to enhance your musical creativity.

What will happen to my results?

The results of this pilot study could inform the development of a larger study to be undertaken in the UK and the US. The results of this study will be published in an academic education journal, available on request. Also, the results will help us to refine the Chord Pathfinder tools, open to the wider public. As all data is anonymised, no individual data on respondents will be included in publication.

What will happen if I want to stop taking part?

If you decide to withdraw before July 2028, no reason needs to be stated. If you decide not to take part, we will simply delete /destroy your data. After July 2028, your data will be anonymised completely. If your school is hosting a Chord Pathfinder workshop, and you do not wish to take part, consult your teacher and do not fill in a questionnaire.

What if I am unhappy or there is a problem?

If you are unhappy with how the study has been conducted or a problem has occurred, please contact Prof Kenneth Smith (kmsmith@liverpool.ac.uk). If you are still not happy or you have a complaint you don't feel is appropriate for the principal investigator, then you should contact the Research Ethics and Integrity Office (ethics@liv.ac.uk). When contacting the Research Ethics and Integrity Office, please provide details of the name or description of the study (so that it can be identified), the researcher involved, and the details of the complaint you wish to make.

The University strives to maintain the highest standards of rigour in the processing of your data. However, if you have any concerns about the way in which the University processes your personal data, it is important that you are aware of your right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office by calling 0303 123 1113.

Principal Investigator Contact:

Name: Prof Kenneth Smith.

Work address: 80-82 Bedford Street South, Liverpool, L69 7WW

Email: kmsmith@liverpool.ac.uk

Phone number: 0151 794 2647

Full Project Team

Prof Kenneth Smith, University of Liverpool

Dr Richard Worth, University of Liverpool

Dr Jonathan Crossley, University of Liverpool

Dr Jenn Kirby, University of Liverpool

Dr Paul Turowski, University of Liverpool