UNIT 1 ASSIGNMENT 1- Rusti Stern

I compose music because I have a deep longing to express and share the music that is in my heart. To express the love, joy and creativity experiencing the wonder of this inner music, turning into music that I can play and share with others can be an exhilarating experience. Though I am both a classical and rock/jazz/Broadway musician, I have been improvising most of my life and find it to be one of the most satisfying and heart opening processes. I find the process of improvising is a complement to composing. They both involve letting the music flow, one flows from the moment into a direct performance, and the other flows onto the page, where the same process gets repeated enhancing the composition until it is complete.

I write musical theatre because I always loved how stories and dialogue felt when musicalized, when sung. It combines my passion for music and theatre (I am also an actor), The synergy created by this collaborative art has inspired me to want to create in this genre.

I have 3 CDs performing my own compositions and have performed most of those pieces numerous time in concerts, for gigs, and other occasions. I completed my MFA in Musical Theatre Composition at NYU, wrote songs for Cabarets in NYC, one for the NYU Pandemic Project, and numerous pieces for ECKANKAR Festivals, recordings and videos, and music for Church and Synagogue.

My goal as a composer for musical theatre is to write my “dream musicals”, that utilize all my skills, my love for lyrical music, for rhythmic music (I also was a percussionist), for expressive drama and comedy, to reach the audience in a way that inspires their heart and makes their life better.