

Week three – Designing your website (part one)

Task 1: Plan it - create wireframes

Wireframes are visual plans of what you want your site to look like. These are usually very basic drawings which outline the structure of a page; including the placement of images, text as well as what to include in each section or column. We would recommend that you do this or use a different way to plan the structure for at least your homepage (including the main menu items).

This will give you a plan to work towards. Some features may change but usually the main structure will not and once that is in place it then makes it easier to change the smaller features as things progress.

We also have a resource called [Tips for designing a website](#) which may help you to think about what you want to achieve.

Task 3: Change the main photo and logo on your home page

When we create your Platform we will populate your home page with some photos and a logo.

Update the main photo: For the biggest picture on your homepage the important thing is to resize this so that it is 1150px wide and 448px high before adding it to the site. Once resized click on the update button on the bottom right of the main photo (small image looks like a pen and paper). You can then upload your picture and click save. We also have guidance on [how to turn this banner into a slideshow](#). The pictures for this slideshow can also be found in the **Administration Dashboard** under the website content section under Banners (home page)

Update the logo: To update the logo click on the update logo button on the bottom left of the image. It is important that the logo is resized (at the most 400 x 150px) before being added to the site. This logo can also be amended by going to the **Website and Configuration** page of your website and clicking on the cog of your main ensemble and going to the promotion tab. You can then choose a new file to be uploaded to the site and then click save.

Task 2: Choose the layout of your home page

Your Platform is already set up using the Home page template - this is the one we would recommend using as this is mobile friendly and contains a lot of features such as the footer and sidebar. You can however change this by going to the edit button which is at the bottom right of the page. You can then change the layout by choosing one of the options in the *overall page layout* section and then clicking save.

Task 4: Change the text and pictures in the body of your homepage

You can update the text on your homepage through the edit button (bottom right of page) by going to the content tab. You can amend the text and pictures which appear on the body of the page using your wireframe as a guide and our [Customising your Making Music Platform](#) help guide. Please note that you cannot edit the text on the footer or header of the page or the slideshow pictures in this section of your website.

Top tip: if you see any code such as `[php_include src="applications/singing/php/home.events.inc.php"]` do not delete this. This text will not appear publicly on your page but is used to pull in important information from other parts of your site.

Task 5: Change the colour scheme of your site

To change the colour scheme of your Platform go to the **Website and Configuration page** (cog in the top right of screen) and then click on the top cog. Go to the appearance tab. You can change the scheme by editing theme colour 1 (the strip across the header of your page) and theme colour 2 (the footer).

Top tip: After changing and saving the colour scheme go back to the homepage and check the colours. Also check the footer area to make sure that the text is clear to read against your chosen colour