

EXPLORING MELODIES – Week 1

LEVEL ONE – Required for everyone

Compose a melody using these guidelines:

1. Treble Clef
2. Eb Major
3. $\frac{3}{4}$ Meter
4. $\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{1}{4}$ notes only
5. Movement must be stepwise or to a member of the tonic triad
6. Must end on the tonic
7. Maximum of 8 measure – Minimum of 4
8. Must be able to sing it using solfege & numbers
9. Prepare for performance at Thursday a.m. Performance Workshop
10. Prepare notated copy to turn in on Thursday morning that includes:
 - a. Brackets (placed underneath notation) between each interval identifying whether the interval is a M2, m2, M3, m3, P4, P5 – please use a square bracket for Major & Perfect intervals and an angle bracket for minor intervals.
 - b. Indicate the scale degree of the note - (tonic, supertonic, mediant, subdominant, dominant, submediant, leading tone) Need to review these? See page 123 of the Fundamentals text.
 - c. Within the notation, bracket notes that outline the tonic triad.
11. Transpose to the dominant key – including all notations from step 10

LEVEL TWO – Optional

1. Level one must be completed – notated to submit and ready to perform
2. Working from what you created in level one add eighth notes – you are still in $\frac{3}{4}$ meter so this means eighth notes will replace quarter and/or half notes at various places.
3. Use ties to create syncopation
4. Level Two should fulfill all the requirements of level one & have the same # of measures as your work in level one including preparation of a notated copy to turn in on Thursday. You should also prepare it for performance on Thursday

LEVEL THREE – Optional

1. Follow all guidelines for level one and create a new melodic pattern BUT instead of outlining the tonic triad all notes used must outline the dominant triad or move in stepwise motion – in other words, any interval larger than a M2 must be to a member of the dominant triad.
2. You may use any note values you wish but you must be able to sing your melody.

3. All other criteria from level one applies – $\frac{3}{4}$ meter, end on tonic, 4-8 measures etc.

PERFORMANCE PREPARATION GUIDELINES

1. Melody is one of the primary musical vehicles used to connect with an audience. Preparing an unaccompanied melody for convincing performance takes great care.
2. Producing centered notes with accurate interval placement takes practice for everyone. Be sure you are supporting your sound.
3. Experiment with a variety of timbre and dynamics for the initial note.
4. Music happens between the notes – keep the energy alive as you move through the intervals.
5. Consider the shape of the phrase – music needs to move forward or relax – be sure that you know what you want to do with the direction of each note.
6. You may perform solo or with others. If you choose to perform with others the melody should be sung in unison not harmonized. You will need to have practiced as a group before performance workshop. Everyone in the group should know the plan for points 1-5. Everyone in the group should have a printed copy of the melody.
7. Melody should be performed at least once with solfege and at least once with numbers. You may perform a 3rd time with lyrics if you wish. The order of solfege, numbers & lyrics is up to you – be creative. Perform in tonic key & dominant key.