DEVELOPING MELODY

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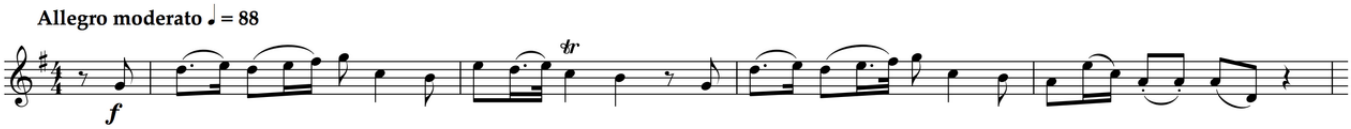
Excepts chosen and typeset by Music in the Round

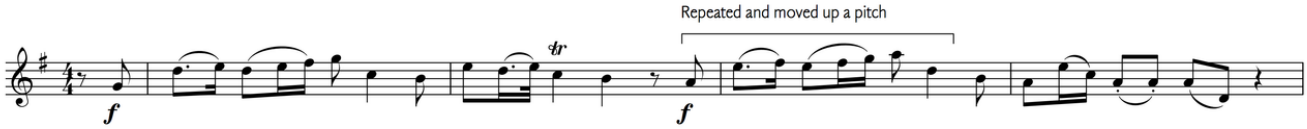
By following these exercises, you can use one of the melodies in the key repertoire as a starting point to creating a longer composition:

SEQUENCE: This means following the same direction of the original melody (for example whether it goes up or down from one pitch to the next), but starting on a different note than the original.

Original melody from 1st movement of Pulcinella Suite (Igor Stravinsky)

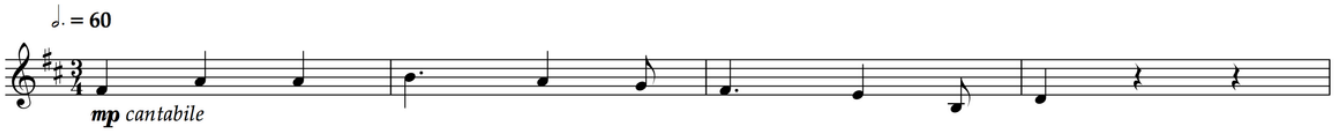


Sequence:

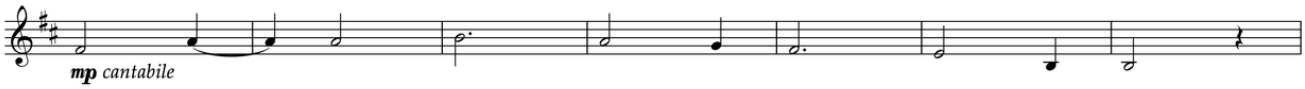


AUGMENTATION: This is lengthening the note values. They are the same pitch, but each note lasts longer. A simple way of doing this is doubling the length of each note (so it sounds as though the music is going at half the speed).

Original melody from 'Umoja' (Valerie Coleman):



Augmented version:



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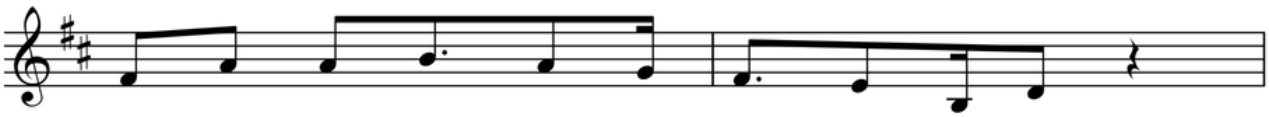
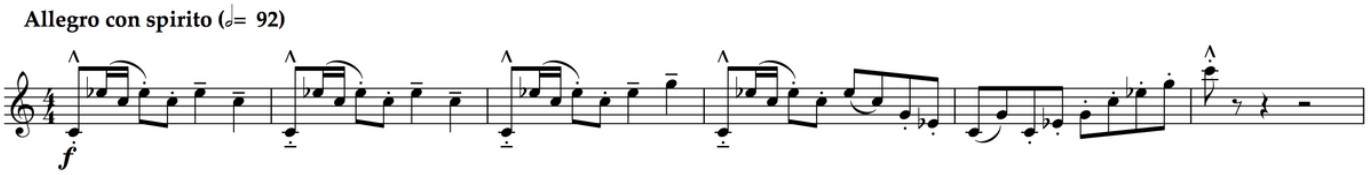
DIMINUTION: The opposite of augmentation, decreasing the lengths of each note from the original melody. Again a simple way of doing this is halving the length of each note (so it sounds double speed).

Diminished version of the above:

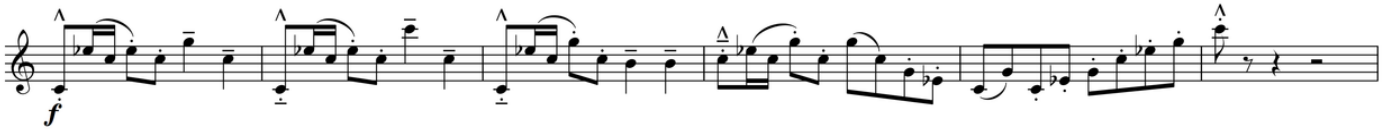


ALTER PITCHES: This technique could be used to lengthen your melody but is also a particularly good effect for adapting a melody to match certain moods.

Original from the 1st movement of 'Six Bagatelles' (Gyorgy Ligeti)

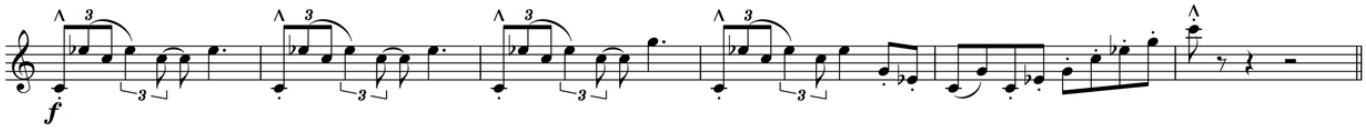


Altered pitch version:



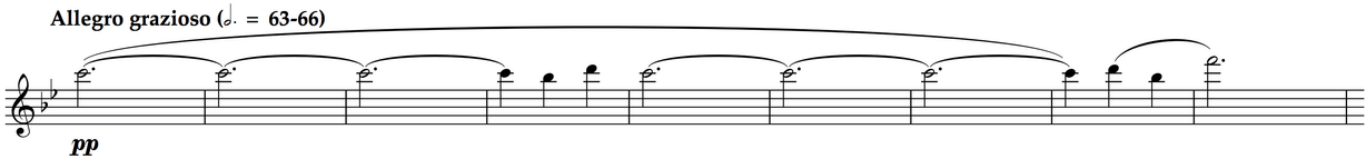
ALTER RHYTHMS: Change the rhythms from the original melody but keep the same pitches.

Altered rhythm version:

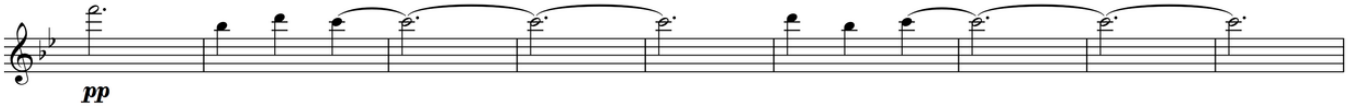


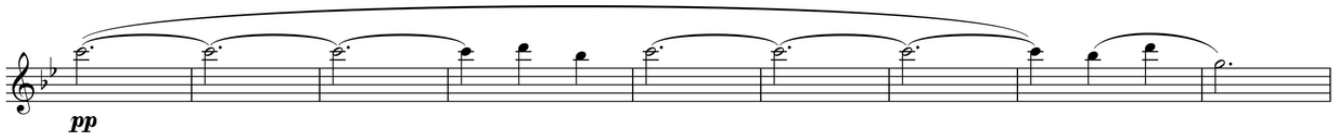
RETROGRADE: Reverse the direction of original melody.

Original melody from the 3rd movement of 'Six Bagatelles' (Gyorgy Ligeti)



Retrograde version:



INVERSION: Like in symmetry, presenting the new melody upside down. Use the starting note as a guide for the symmetry line.

Inverted version: