

## MELODY WRITING ASSIGNMENT

*Do this on paper (with pencil) or electronically*

Compose an eight bar, acapella (unaccompanied) melody in 4/4 time. Follow the guidelines below to help you organize your ideas.

## Process

- Use the key of your choice (major, minor, a mode)
- Just use the notes from the scale/mode you chose
- Start with a short, one-measure motif
- Sequence the motif (descending is typical, but not required) throughout the remaining measures (like in *Autumn Leaves*), then add new material
- Or sequence just a fraction of the motif (like in *Satin Doll*)
- **KEEP IN MIND THE GENERAL GUIDELINES ON MELODY WRITING - MAKE THIS USER-FRIENDLY FOR THE AVERAGE VOICE**

## Phrasing

- Each phrase should be four measures long
- The first phrase should cadence (stop) on a longer note-value (or have some silence) that creates a feeling of being unresolved by landing on a NON-tonic note
- The second phrase, which can also begin with the same motif (and be sequenced), should cadence/end on the tonic, also as a long note-value to create a feeling of being resolved and finished
- In doing the above, you will have composed a *period*

## Presentation

- You can do this on staff paper (by hand, in pencil) or in the notation software of your choice
- Please make your document presentable and easy to read
- Put each four-measure phrase in its own system (so, two systems of four measures each)
- Indent the first system (this is a standard notation practice)
- Double/terminal bar at the end
- Refer to the example below

## G Dorian Melody

JK

The musical notation is presented in two systems on a single staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first system consists of four measures: the first measure is labeled 'motif', the second and third are 'motif sequenced', and the fourth is 'cadence NOT on tonic'. The second system also consists of four measures: the first is 'motif modified', the second and third are '...somewhat sequenced', the fourth is 'climactic point provides some variety', and the final measure is 'cadence ON the tonic'.