

Compositional Techniques

This familiar melody, Brother John, uses the technique of REPETITION. It repeats each motive. A MOTIVE is a short musical idea or phrase.

Motive Repetition Motive Repetition

Can you draw in the repetitions?

Motive Repetition Motive Repetition

A SEQUENCE repeats the motive, but starts on a different pitch.

Motive Sequence Sequence Sequence

Draw 4 sequences of this motive, beginning on the pitch given.

Motive

Now write your own melody!

Create a 2-measure motive that begins and ends on C,
and use repetition and sequence to make the entire melody 8 measures long.
Make sure you pay attention to the time signature!

Motive ----- Repetition -----

Sequence ----- Motive (same as measures 1-2)-----

RETROGRADE uses the same rhythm as the motive, but plays the notes (itches) backwards.

Motive ----- Retrograde -----

Motive ----- Draw the Retrograde -----

INVERSION means to play the intervals of the motive upside down, like a mirror image.

Motive Inversion Motive Inversion

Motive Draw the Inversion Motive Draw the Inversion

Inversions do not always start on the same note as the Motive:

Motive ----- Inversion -----

Draw Inversions starting on the given pitches:

Motive Inversion Motive Inversion

Compose your own Meldoy -- Watch out for the Time Signature!

Motive Repetition Sequence Sequence

Retrograde Inversion Your choice