

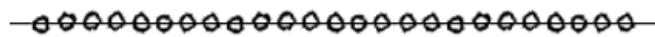
## MELODY

**Melody:** A melody in music is a group of notes which are played one after another (**horizontal alignment**). A melody begins, moves, and ends; it has **direction, shape,** and **continuity.** Successive pitches may move **higher** or **lower** or stay the same. The up-and-down movement of its pitches conveys **tension** and **release, expectation** and **arrival.**

**Pitch:** The frequency of a note determining how high or low it sounds.

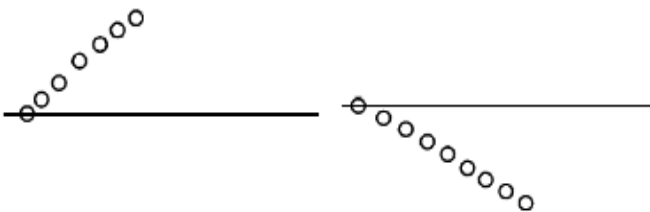
**Contour/Melodic Outline:** The shape (contour) of a melody can be smooth, it can describe an arch, it can move in leaps, or in a stepwise manner. It can be linear or angular.

### Same Pitch



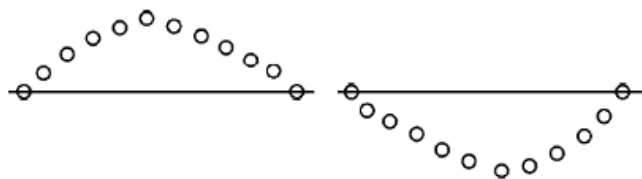
A melody can consist of a single repeated note (pitch).

### Raising or Falling



Notes (pitches) can raise or fall.

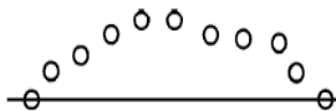
### Bridge or Valley



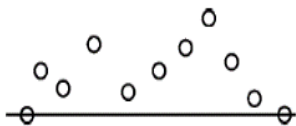
Notes (pitches) can form a bridge or a valley, moving upward to max height and back to zero or downwards to max depth and back to zero.

### Close and Diffuse Movement

#### Close Movement



#### Diffuse Movement



Another important factor in melodic outline is the distance between the notes

## WORDS COMMONLY USED TO DESCRIBE MELODY

**Interval:** The distance between two musical pitches is an interval. Intervals may be sounded **simultaneously** or **successively**.

**Leap/Steps:** A melody moves by small intervals called steps or by larger ones called leaps.

**Repetition:** Besides moving up or down by step or leap, a melody may simply repeat the same note.

**Range:** A melody range is the distance between its lowest and highest tones.

**Phrase:** Many melodies are made up of shorter parts called phrases.

**Climax:** Often the highest tone of a melody will be the climax, the emotional focal point.

**Sequence:** Repetition of a melodic pattern on a higher or lower pitch is called a sequence.

**Theme:** A melody that serves as the starting point for a piece of music and, will go through all kinds of changes.

**Scales:** The pitches of which music is created may be organized in specific ascending and descending patterns called scales.

## ITALIAN TERMS

**Amoroso:** tender and affectionate

**Detache:** detached

**Legato:** smooth and connected

**Grazioso:** gracefully

**Morendo:** dying away

**Religioso:** religious, solemn

**Sostenuto:** sustained

**Con Fuoco:** with energy or passion

**Cantabile:** in a singing style

**Con Anima:** with life and animation

**Animato:** animated; lively

**Dolce:** sweetly

**Leggiero:** lightly

**Marcato:** marked and stressed

**Perdendosi :** dying away

**Semplice:** simple

**Soto voce:** in an undertone

**Grandioso:** with grandeur

**Espressivo:** expressively

**Giocoso:** humorous

**Calando:** gradually softer and slower

**Doloroso:** sorrowfully

**Maestoso:** majestically

**Marzial:** in the style of a march

**Pesante:** heavy

**Sempre:** always, continuously

**Tranquillo:** tranquil

**Furioso:** furious

**Con Brio:** with vigor and spirit

**Deciso:** decisively