

This type of thematic structure is known as a **sentence**.³ A repeated two-measure idea followed by some form of speeding up or breaking apart is the standard melodic paradigm. This pattern is supported by a harmonic structure that normally **prolongs** the tonic through the first four measures and then ends with a dominant harmony by measure 8. This is why a sentence leaves you with the feeling that the melody is not complete.

Exercises

Your instructor will play two melodic dictations for you to transcribe. Listen for the following:

- an opening tonic expansion
- a two-measure idea that is immediately repeated
- the arrival and rest (a half cadence) on a note of the dominant triad in measure 8

Melodic Dictation 13-1



Melodic Dictation 13-2 (2-part)



Audio files for these transcription exercises may be found online at www.oupcanada.com/Ethier and on the CD accompanying this textbook.

Singing Melodies: Focus on Cadences

Exercise

The repertoire section of this chapter contains melodies and duets in major and minor keys. Sing them using solfège and listen actively for cadence points at the ends of phrases. Several of these melodies use sentence structure, some ending on the dominant and others implying a tonic harmony. In other melodies, two sentences are combined to make longer structures.