

For most students, transcribing these more complicated melodies involves a three-step process:

1. Listen for the essential diatonic elements that make up the melody.
2. Hear the chromatic embellishments of those elements, which provide strong voice leading as they resolve by semitone.
3. Determine how those embellishments are approached.

This third step is most important to consider: in most tonal repertoires, a chromatically altered note resolves up or down by semitone but may be approached by step or by leap.

Exercises

1. Your instructor will play two sample melodic dictations with chromatic embellishments. Watch the spellings of any altered notes to ensure that they correctly reflect the tendencies to rise or fall, and remember to return altered notes to their original forms if both occur in the same measure.

Melodic Dictation 17-1



C minor

Melodic Dictation 17-2



E \flat major

2. Your instructor will play two exercises for two-part melodic dictation. These remain strictly diatonic.

Two-Part Melodic Dictation 17-1



F minor

Two-Part Melodic Dictation 17-2



G major



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