

However, when performing the supertriplet, be aware of the pitfalls. Like the regular triplet, many musicians either drag or rush the beginnings of supertriplets, making them uneven or elasticizing the underlying beat.

### Performance Tip

If you are not familiar with the piece, listen to Maurice Ravel's *Bolero*, composed in 1928. Pay particular attention to the snare drum part—it articulates the quintessential subtriplet figure. If you can tap or ta-ta-ta along with the snare drum, you have perfected this rhythm! For those more familiar with popular music, the same pattern is articulated by the snare drum in Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit," released on their 1967 album *Surrealistic Pillow*.

### Exercises

1. Your instructor will play two rhythmic passages using subtriplets, supertriplets, or both. Transcribe them on the staves provided below.

#### Rhythmic Dictation 19-2



#### Rhythmic Dictation 19-3



online

Audio files for these transcription exercises may be found online at [www.oupcanada.com/Ethier](http://www.oupcanada.com/Ethier)

2. The rhythm reading exercises for this chapter contain subtriplets and supertriplets as well as ever more advanced passages using deeper level subdivisions. Three of the excerpts are taken from works in the standard repertoire. If necessary, repeat measures or short sections to sharpen your performance.

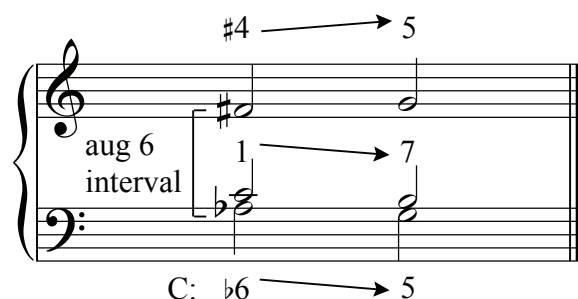
## HARMONY

### Chromatic Harmony: The Augmented Sixth Chords

**Augmented sixth chords** are essentially a mix of predominant and applied-dominant voice leading.<sup>5</sup> There are three such chords, and all lead strongly to the dominant using three essential voice-leading gestures:

- #4–5 (like an applied dominant)
- ♭6–5 (a strong predominant gesture)
- 1–7

#### Example 19-7 Essential voice leading for all augmented sixth chords



The fourth voice in the texture adds one of three different notes (**Example 19-8**), each creating a distinct sonority. These are the **Italian sixth**, **French sixth**, and **German sixth** chords.