

Steps to Harmony

by

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**BASS
Volume 1**

Masterworks Press

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SERIES CHARACTERISTICS

1. **Part independence:** Each voice part is written to harmonize with the others, while retaining a distinct, melodic character of its own.
2. **Key independence:** No single key is favored. Each page is in a single key, to allow continuity between the exercises. However, the key changes with every page. The intention is to create an arbitrariness as to the location of DO, so that singers will be equally comfortable in any key. This is the main advantage of movable over fixed DO. We expect that students will quickly learn to follow the stepwise sequence of notes, rather than identifying DO with any particular line or space.
3. **Time signature independence:** A variety of time signatures is used from the outset.
4. **Starting pitch:** For your convenience, each voice part in each exercise begins on DO. That should allow your students to sing one exercise after the other without having to stop to establish a new tonal center. It also means that your students do not have to know key signatures to use this series.

The exercises are presented without solfège syllables to teach the students to rely on the notes alone. We recommend against having the students write in the notes' solfège syllable names prior to singing.

5. **Versatility:** The exercises were composed to be used as unison, two-part, and/or three-part compositions. In unison, every line can be used. For two-part singing, the first and second lines of each system are written to go together (partner melodies). For three-part singing, all three lines can be sung simultaneously.

PROGRESSION

The first volume is totally stepwise and diatonic (no skips, no accidentals).

Beginning with quarter notes, the volume gradually adds rhythmic diversity and complexity with a new rhythmic element being added after every few pages. At the point where a new rhythmic value is introduced, a page is devoted to the new note value (see page 8). At the upper left is a description of the new note. On the upper right side of the page is a description of how that note value compares with others, previously learned. The first line of the page gives “chanting” values that can be used to help the student conceptualize the rhythm. Trios on this page can be chanted, allowing students to develop a feel for the new note without pitch concerns. Such pages can also be clapped, tapped, etc.

By the end of the first volume, all rhythmic values, from whole notes and rests through 16th notes and rests are in regular use. The sixteenth notes, however, are optional, and not necessary for proceeding to the next volume(s). Each volume will include a section labelled “Upper Grades.” This will review the concepts learned in the current volume in the context of sixteenth note rhythms.

By gradually expanding the singer's musical “vocabulary,” this series can elevate the student's music reading skills to a high level of competence.

KEY WARMUPS

Combining our limited, one octave range with a variety of key signatures means that DO will sometimes occur high in the range, sometimes low, and sometimes in the middle. To help students adapt to scalewise singing from these various locations of DO, we have provided two pages of “Key Scales,” starting from every potential location of DO within the allowed range. “Key Scales (Upward)” is intended to prepare students for singing the scale when DO is low in the range; “Key Scales (Downward),” for when DO is higher.

If your students can easily sing the solfège scale up and down, the Key Scales sheets will not be necessary. If they do need help in scale singing, the Key Scales sheets should prove useful.

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Key Warmups (Upward)

C

do re mi fa so la ti do ti la so fa mi re do do

G

do re mi fa mi re so ti la so fa so la ti do do

F

do re mi fa so fa mi re do ti la so la ti do do

D

do re mi fa so la ti do ti la so fa mi re do do

B $\flat$

do re mi re do ti la so fa mi fa so la ti do do

A

do re mi re do ti la so fa mi fa so la ti do do

E $\flat$

do re mi fa so la so fa mi re do ti la ti do do

Key Warmups (Downward)

C

do ti la so fa me re do re mi fa so la ti do do

G

do ti la so fa so la ti do re mi fa mi re do do

F

do ti la so la ti do re mi fa so fa mi re do do

D

do ti la so fa mi re do re mi fa so la ti do do

B

do ti la so fa mi re mi fa so la ti do re do do

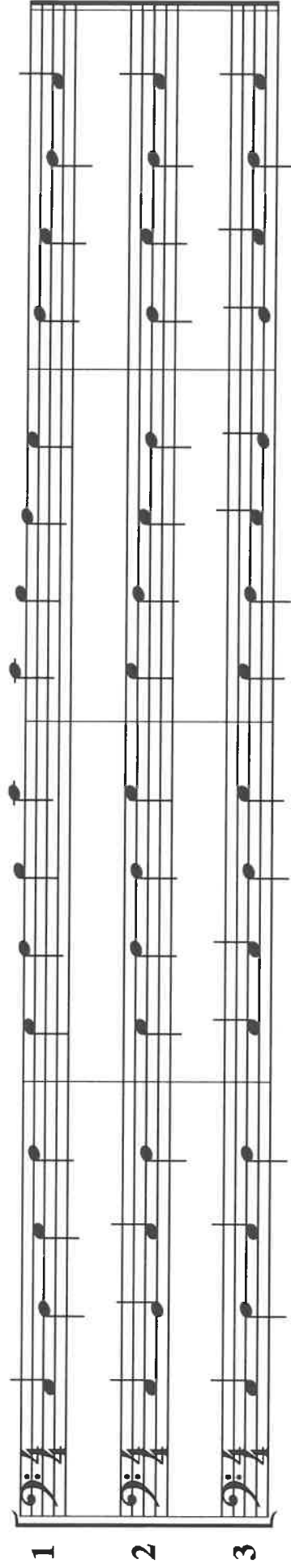
A

do ti la so fa mi fa so la ti do re mi re do do

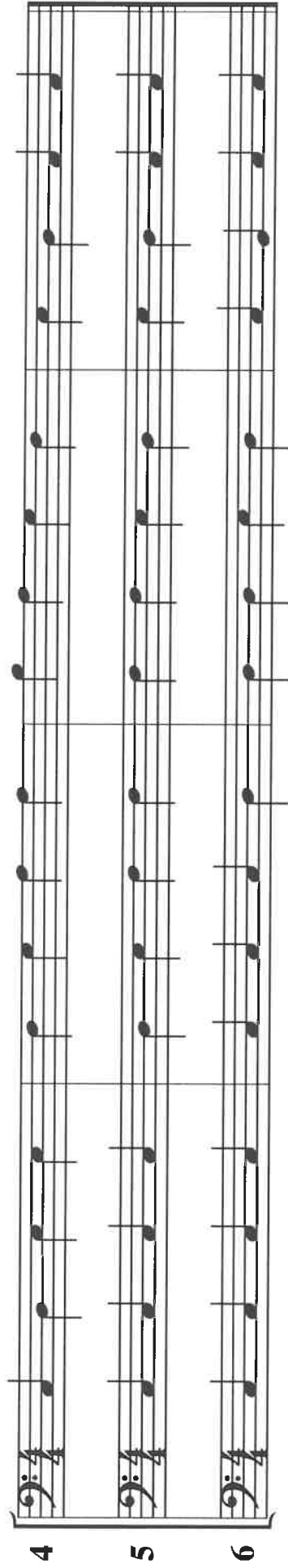
E

do ti la ti do re mi fa so la so fa mi re do do

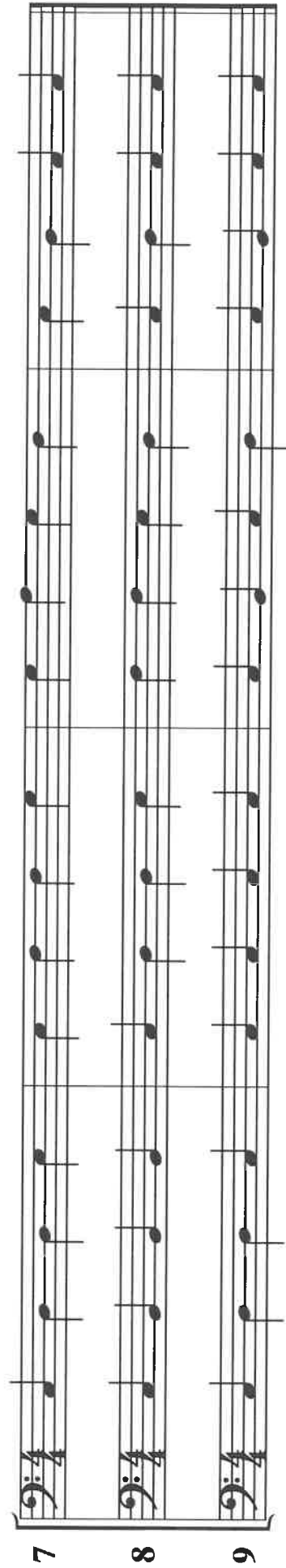
1 2 3



4 5 6



7 8 9



Steps to Harmony I

4

Intervals: 2nds

Notes: 

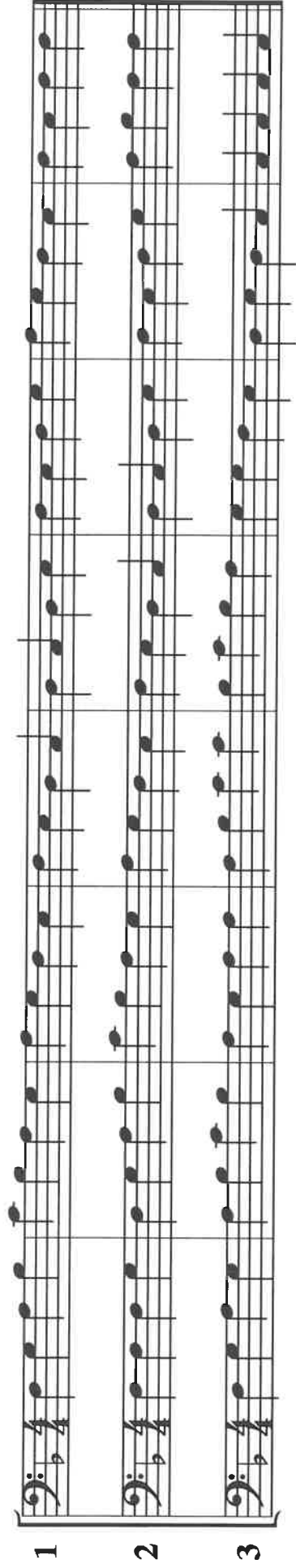
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1 2 3

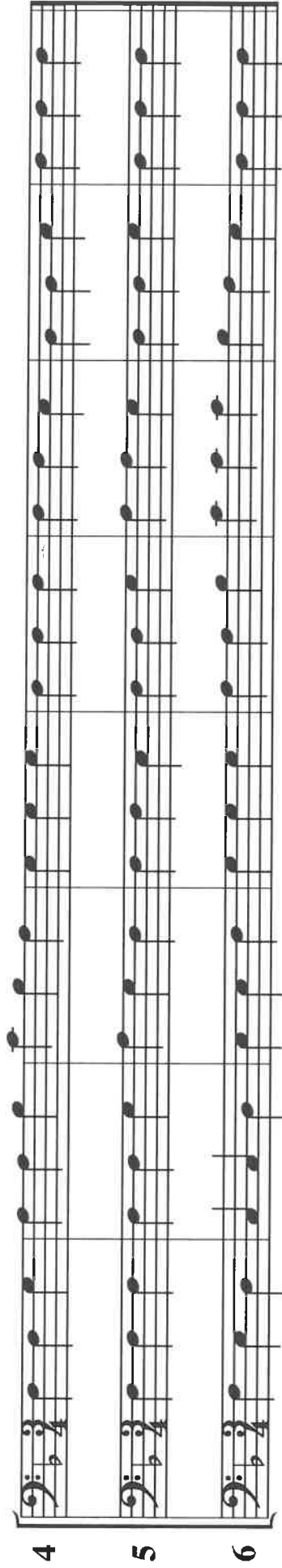
4 5 6

7 8 9

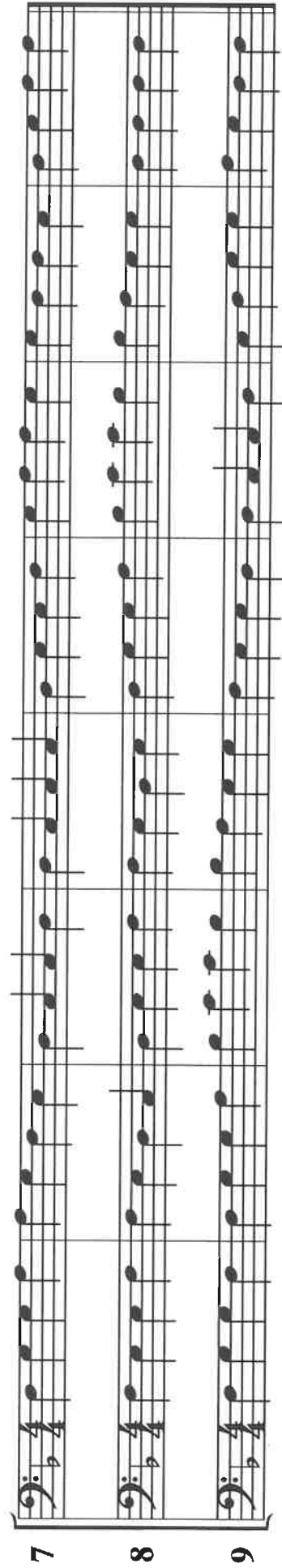
1 2 3



4 5 6



7 8 9

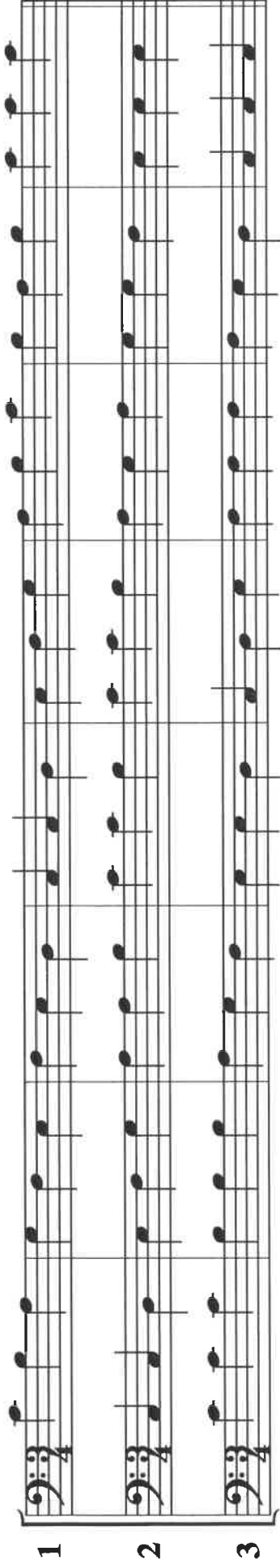


Steps to Harmony I

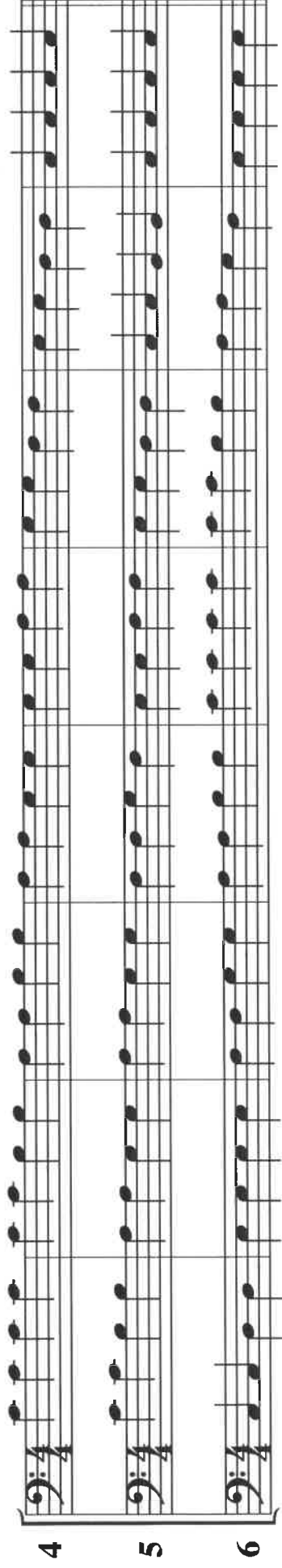
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Page: 1

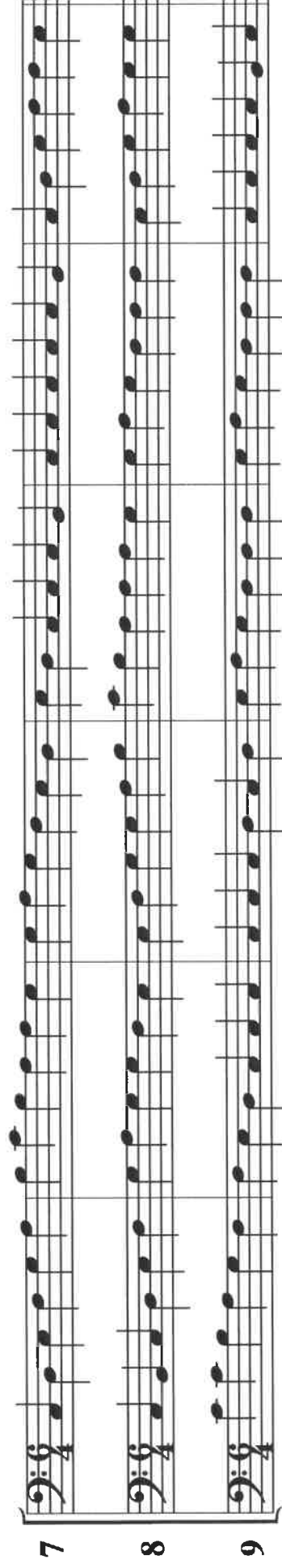
1 2 3



4 5 6



7 8 9



Steps to Harmony

Notes: 

Page: 1

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the 'Cello' part of 'The Little Boat'. Each staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is labeled '4' and contains a sequence of eighth notes. The second staff is labeled '5' and contains a sequence of eighth notes, with a few notes beamed together. The third staff is labeled '6' and contains a sequence of eighth notes, also with some beaming. The notation is simple and appears to be a beginner-level exercise or a simple melody.

7

8

9

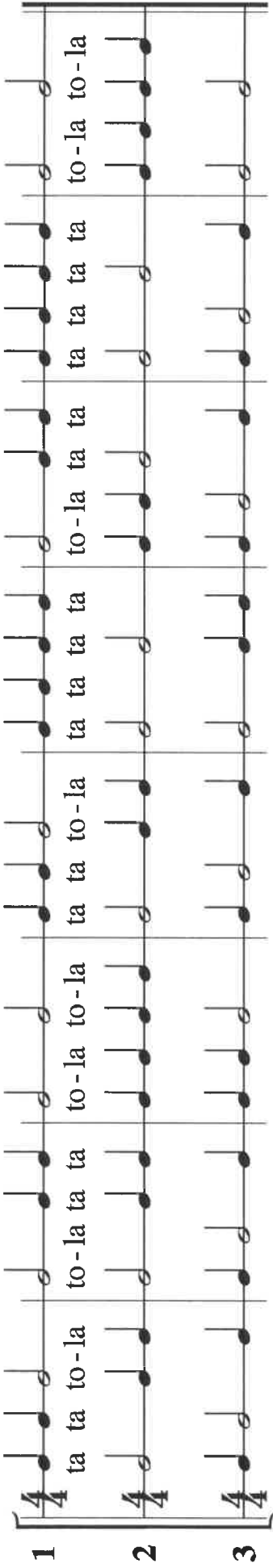
Steps to Harmony

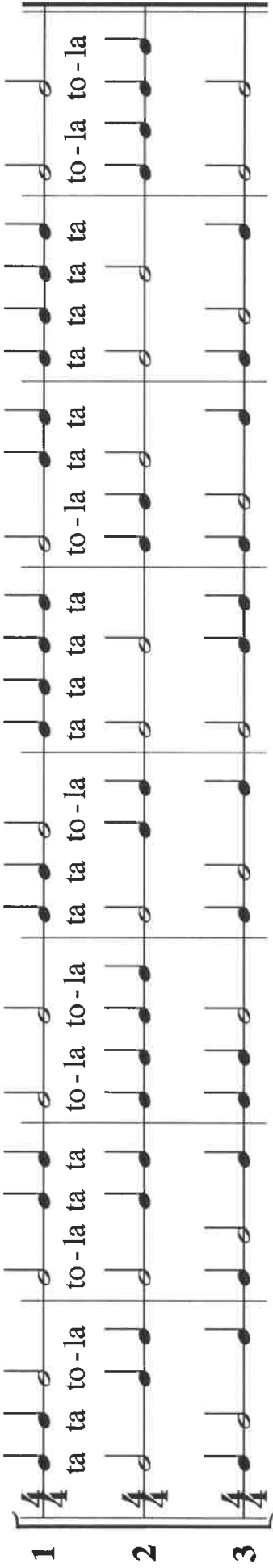
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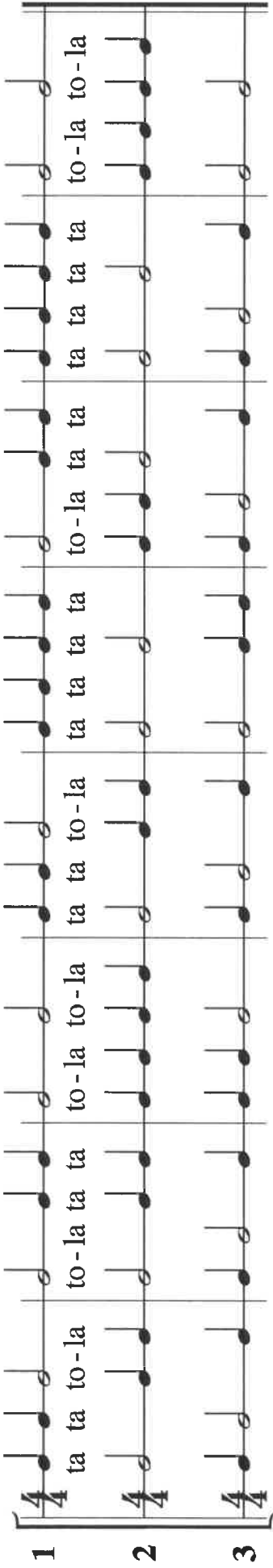
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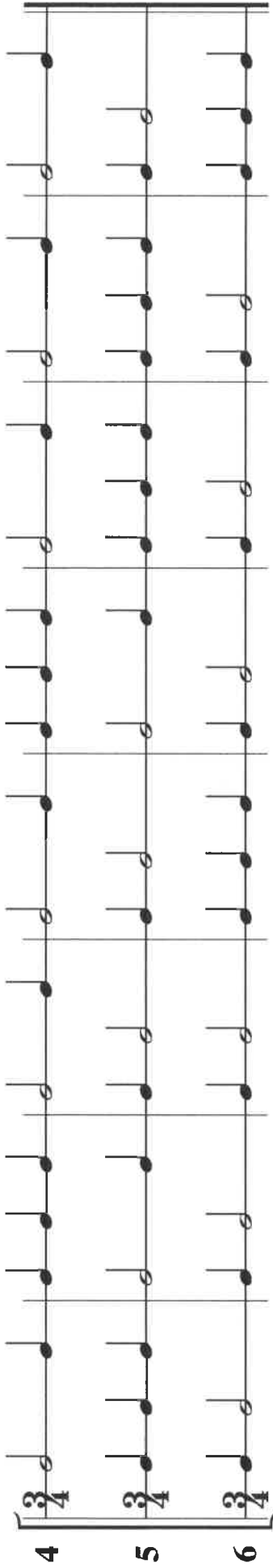
The HALF NOTE () gets two beats.

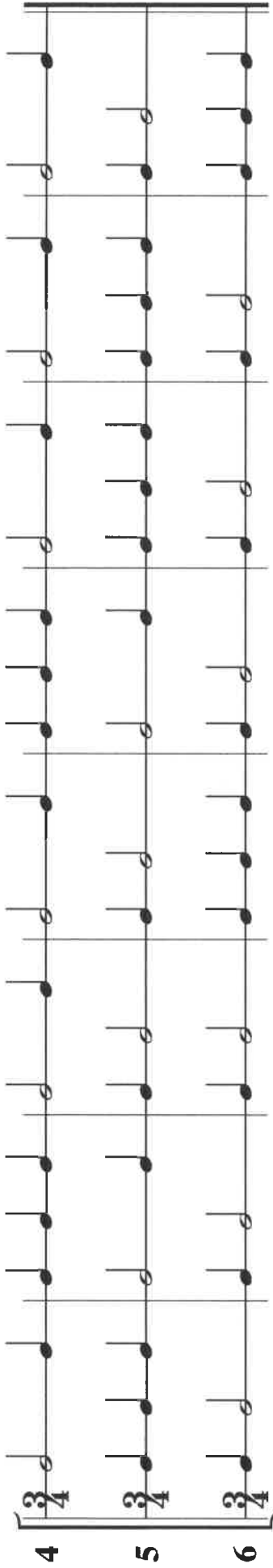
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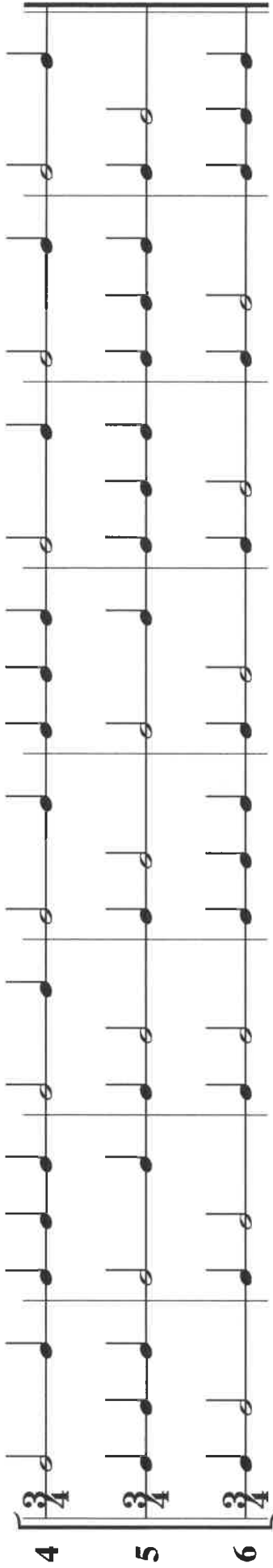
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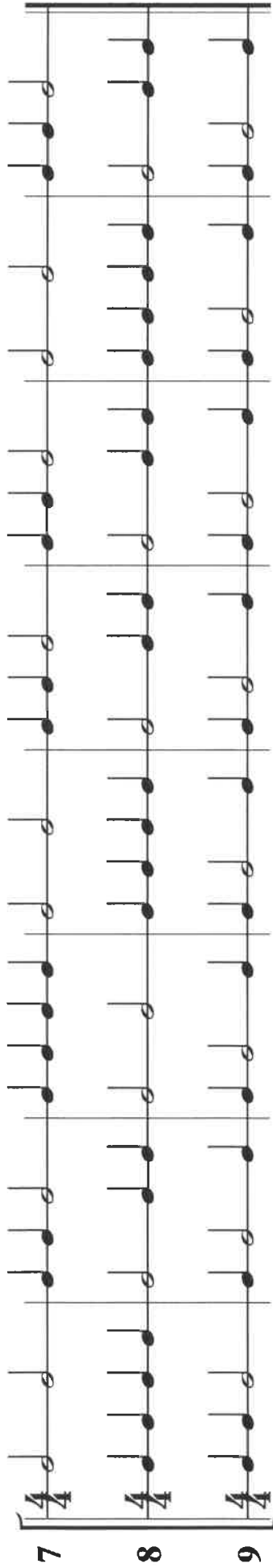
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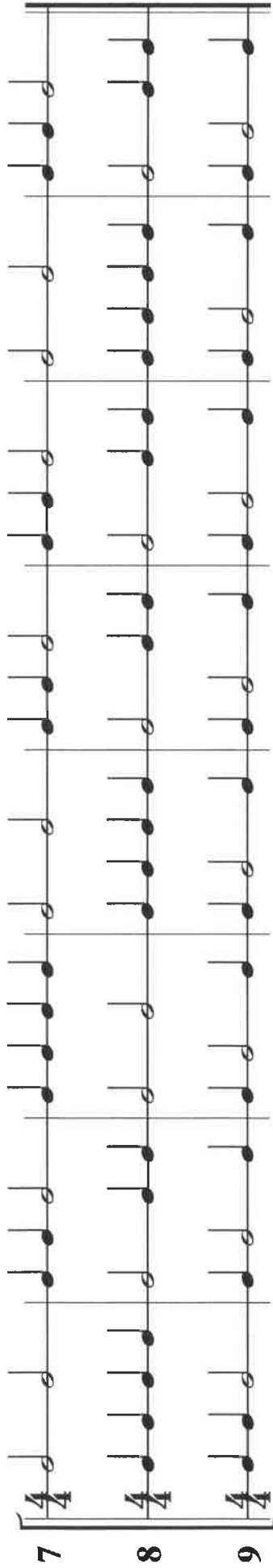
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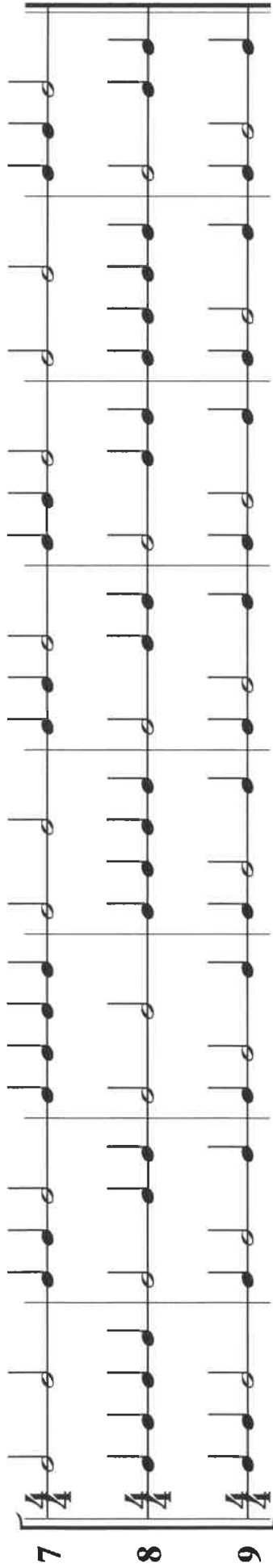
4 

5 

6 

7 

8 

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1 2 3

Exercise 1: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5
Exercise 2: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5
Exercise 3: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5

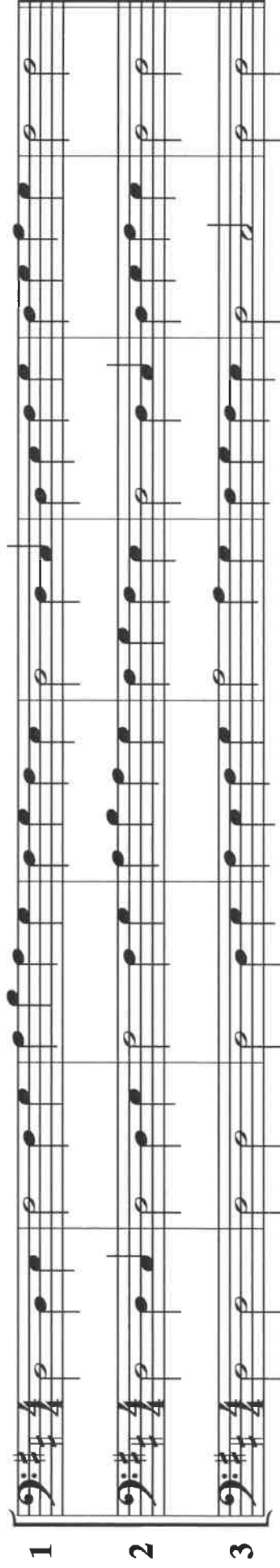
4 5 6

Exercise 4: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5
Exercise 5: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5
Exercise 6: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5

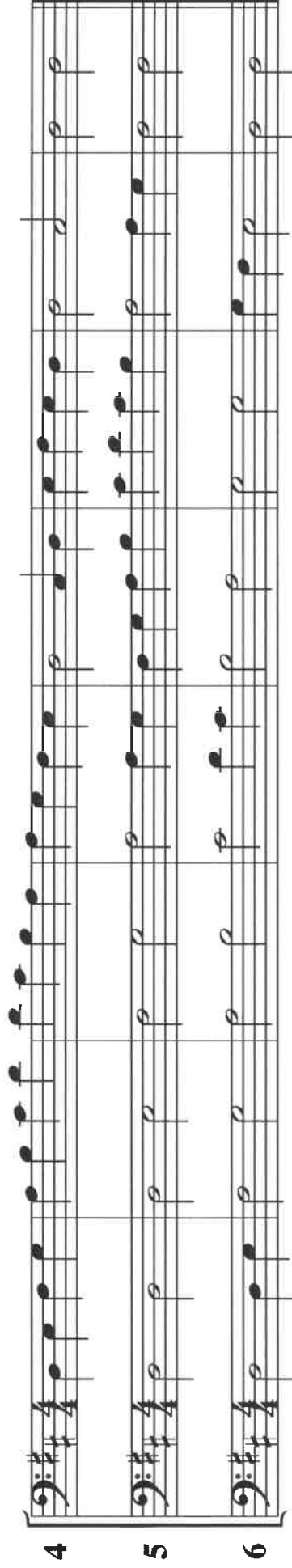
7 8 9

Exercise 7: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5
Exercise 8: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5
Exercise 9: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5

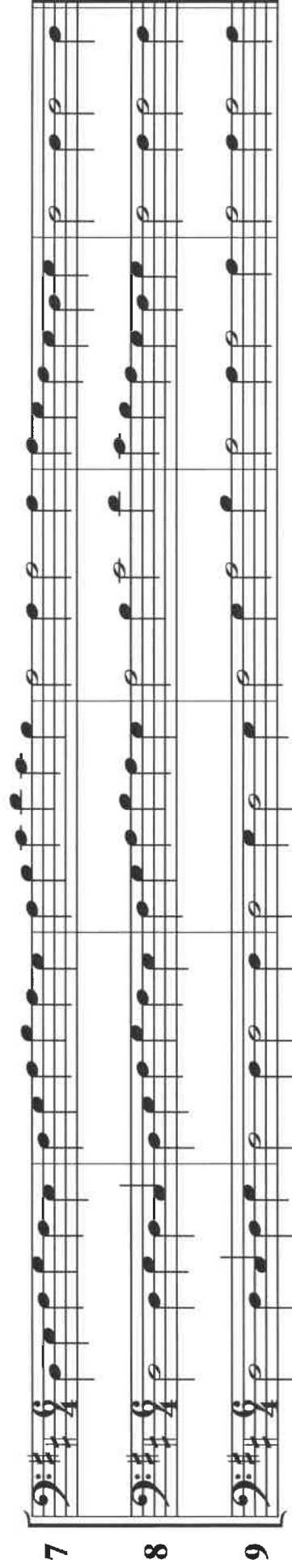
1 2 3



4 5 6



7 8 9



Intervals: 2nds

Notes:  

Page: 1 8

Steps to Harmony I

Canon (Round)

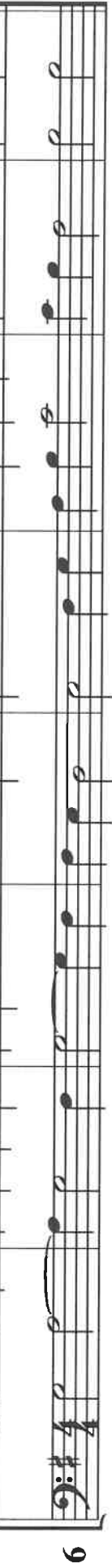
1 

2 

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4 

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Steps to Harmony I

12

The WHOLE NOTE (**o**) gets four beats.

o = **♩** + **♩** + **♩** + **♩**

1 **ta ta ta to - la - ro - la to - la to - la to - la - ro - la**

2 **ta ta ta to - la - ro - la to - la to - la to - la - ro - la**

3 **ta ta ta to - la - ro - la to - la to - la to - la - ro - la**

4 **ta ta ta to - la - ro - la to - la to - la to - la - ro - la**

5 **ta ta ta to - la - ro - la to - la to - la to - la - ro - la**

6 **ta ta ta to - la - ro - la to - la to - la to - la - ro - la**

7 **ta ta ta to - la - ro - la to - la to - la to - la - ro - la**

8 **ta ta ta to - la - ro - la to - la to - la to - la - ro - la**

9 **ta ta ta to - la - ro - la to - la to - la to - la - ro - la**

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

1 2 3

1 2 3

4 5 6

4 5 6

7 8 9

7 8 9

Steps to Harmony I

Notes: 

Notes:

Page: 1812

4

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$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \bullet \\ + \\ \text{---} \bullet \\ + \\ \text{---} \bullet \\ || \\ \text{---} \circ \end{array}$$

4

5

6

7 8 9

Notes: ♮ ♭ ♮ ♭

Page: 1 8 12 16

1 2 3

4 5 6

7 8 9

Notes: ♩ ○ ♩
Page: 1 8 12 16

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Notes: ♮ ♯ ♮ ♯

Page: 1 8 12 16

1 2 3

4 5 6

7 8 9

A pair of EIGHTH NOTES () gets two beats.

 = 

1  ta ti - ti - ta ta ti - ti - ta ta to - la to - la ta ti - ti - ta ta

2                                     

3                                     

4                                     

5                                     

6                                     

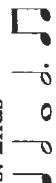
7                                     

8                                     

9                                     

Steps to Harmony

Notes: ♪ ♫ ♮
Page: 1 8 12 16 20

Notes:  ♩ $\text{♩} \cdot$
 Page: 1 8 12 16 20

1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

6 

7 

8 

9 

Notes: ♮ ♯ ♮ ♮ ♮ ♮

Page: 1 8 12 16 20

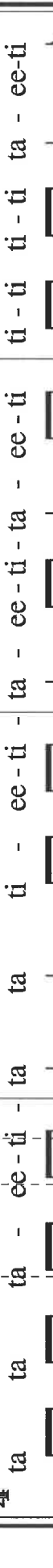
1 2 3

4 5 6

7 8 9

The DOTTED QUARTER NOTE () gets 1½ beats.

The EIGHTH NOTE () gets one half beat.

1  

2  

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Steps to Harmony I

Notes: 
 Page: 1 8 12 16 20 24

1

2

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6

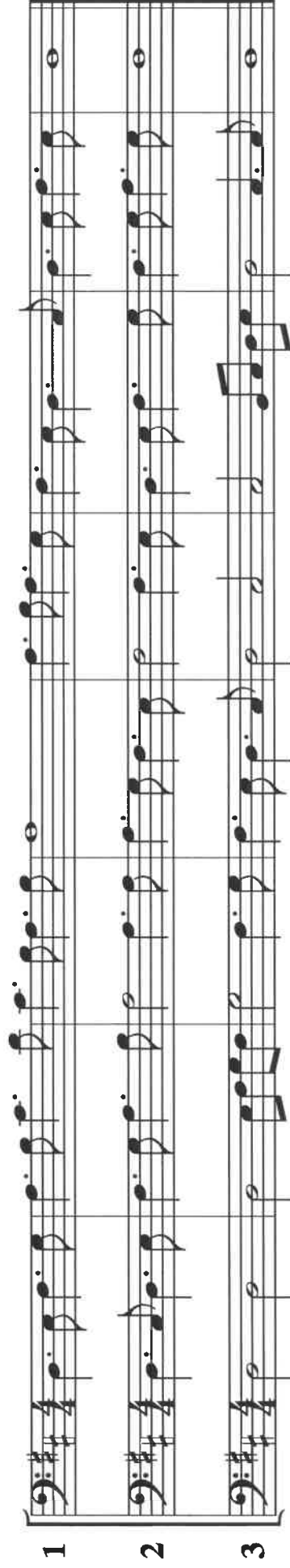
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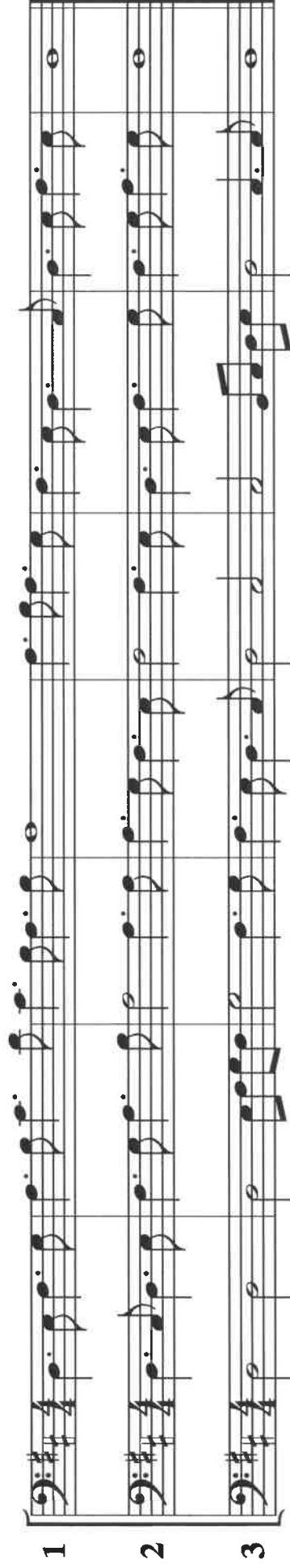
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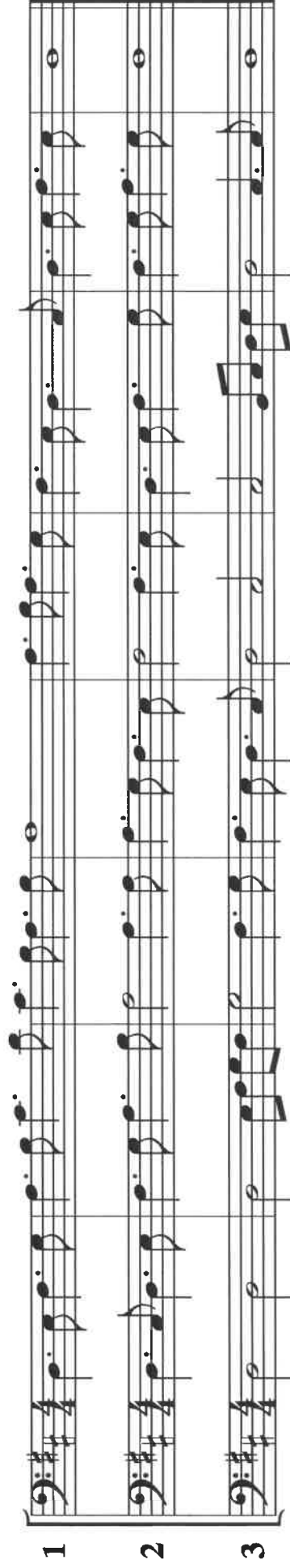
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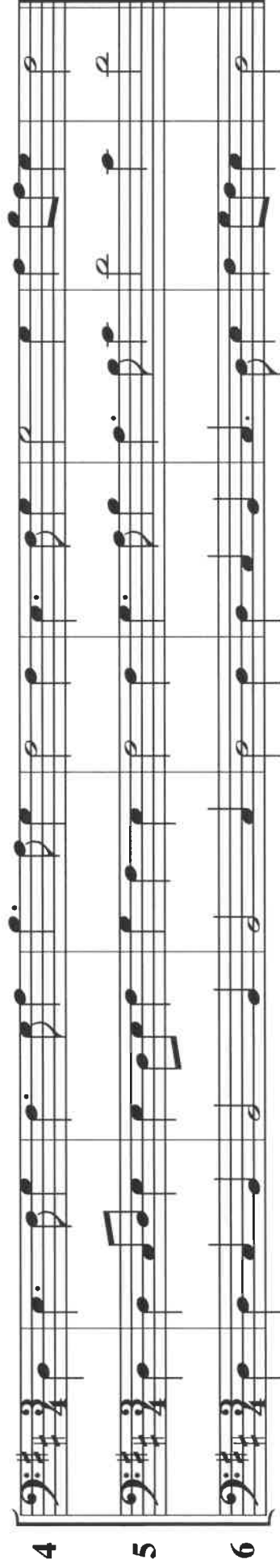
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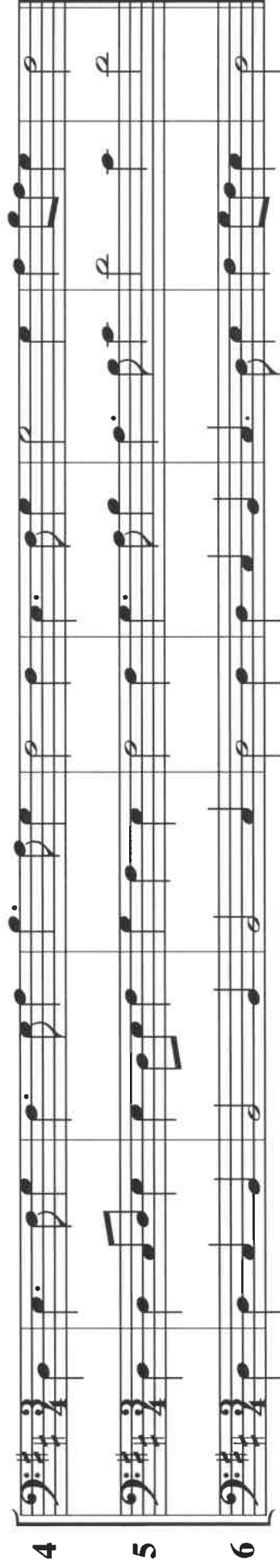
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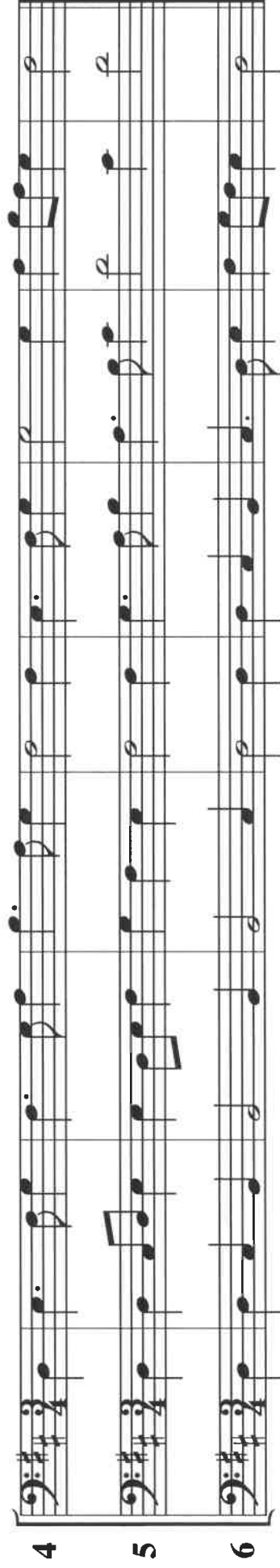
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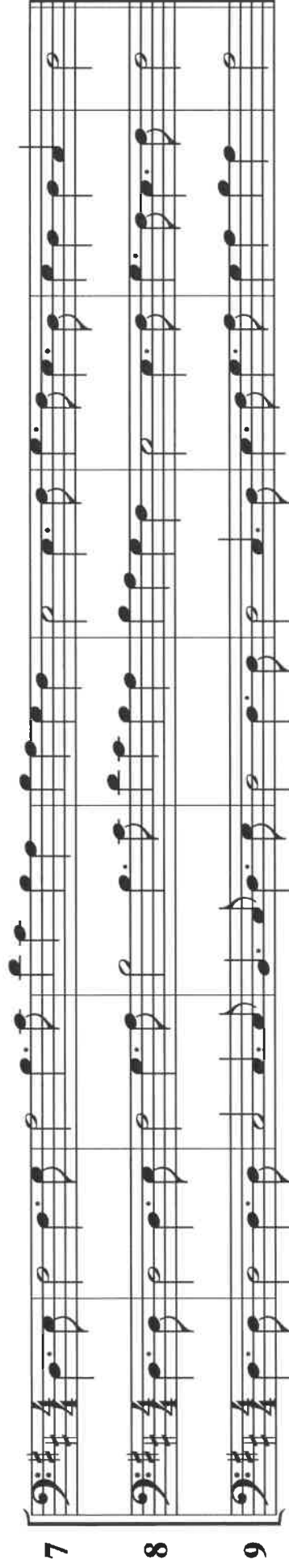
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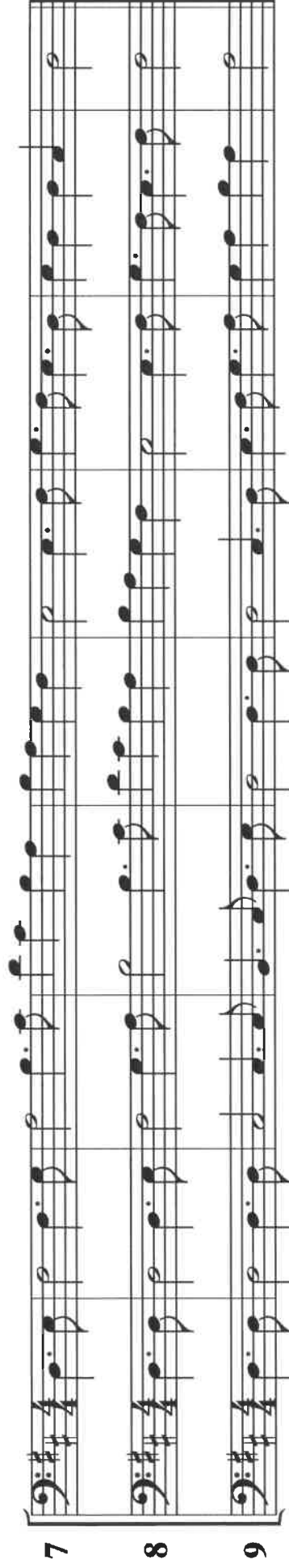
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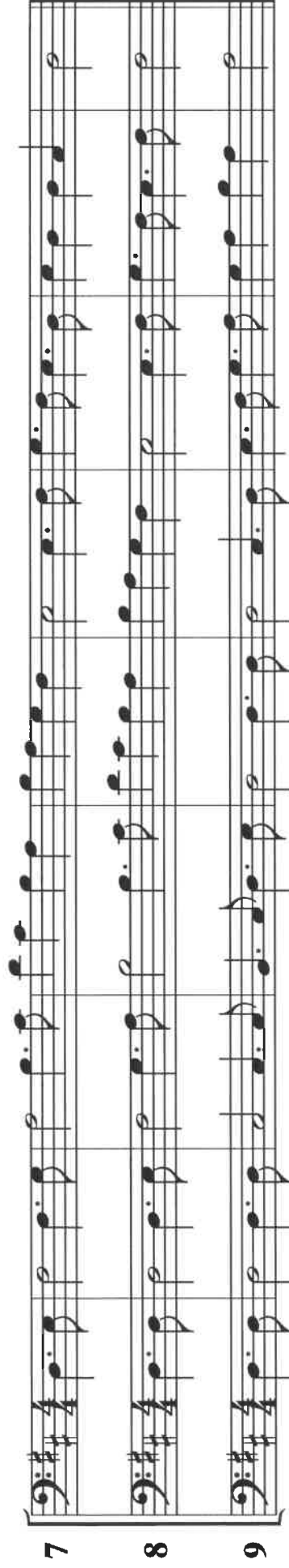
4 

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7 

8 

9 

Steps to Harmony

Notes: 
 Page: 1 8 12 16 20 24

Three staves of musical notation for the song "The Rose Tree". The notation is in 4/4 time and features a bass line and a treble line with a vocal melody. The first staff is labeled "1", the second "2", and the third "3". The melody is written in a treble clef, and the bass line is written in a bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with a final half note. The bass line consists of a series of quarter and eighth notes, with a final half note. The lyrics "The Rose Tree" are written below the first staff.

7

8

9

The WHOLE REST (—) gets four beats.



1 2 3 4

4 5 6

7 8 9

Notes:     

Page: 1 8 12 16 20 24 28

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

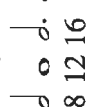


$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \bullet \\ + \\ \text{---} \bullet \\ \hline \text{---} \bigcirc \\ \hline \text{---} \text{---} \\ \hline \text{---} \text{---} \\ \hline \text{---} \text{---} \end{array}$$

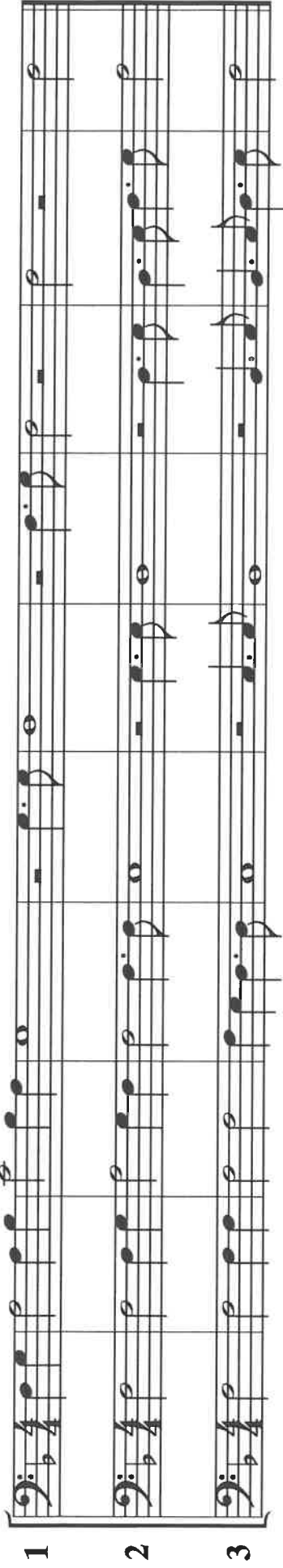
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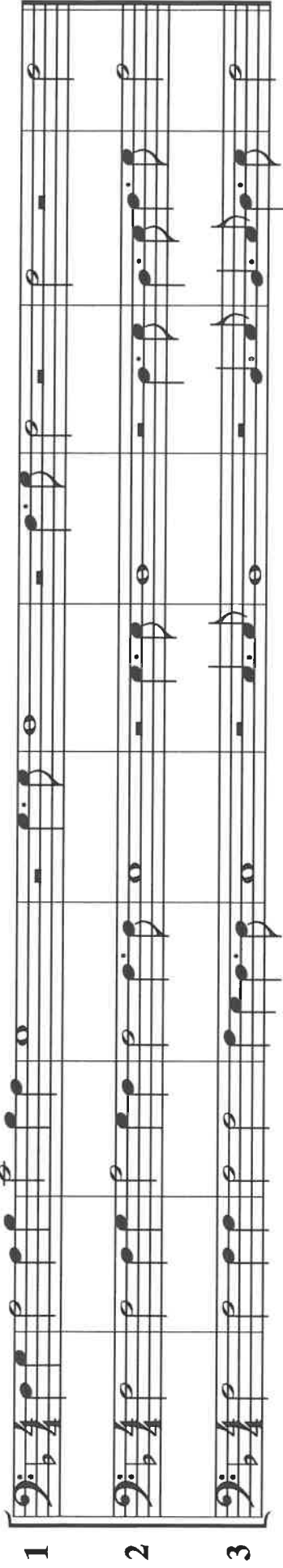
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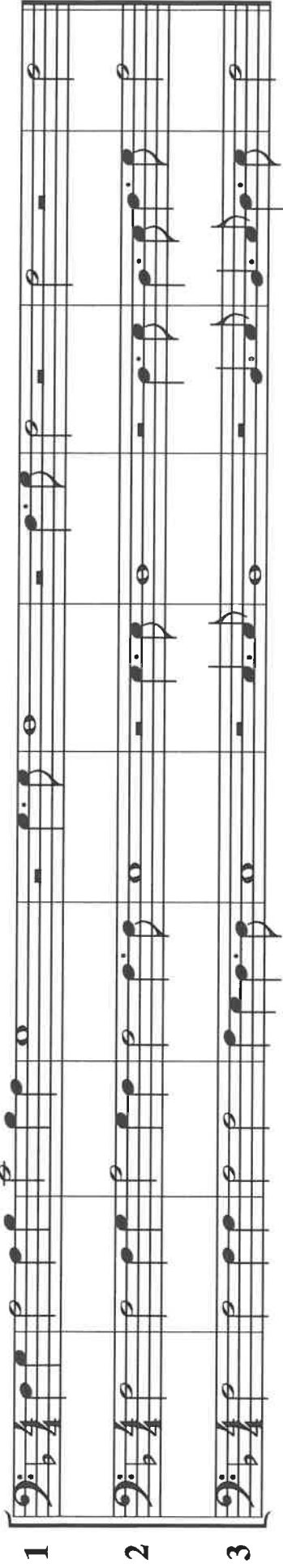
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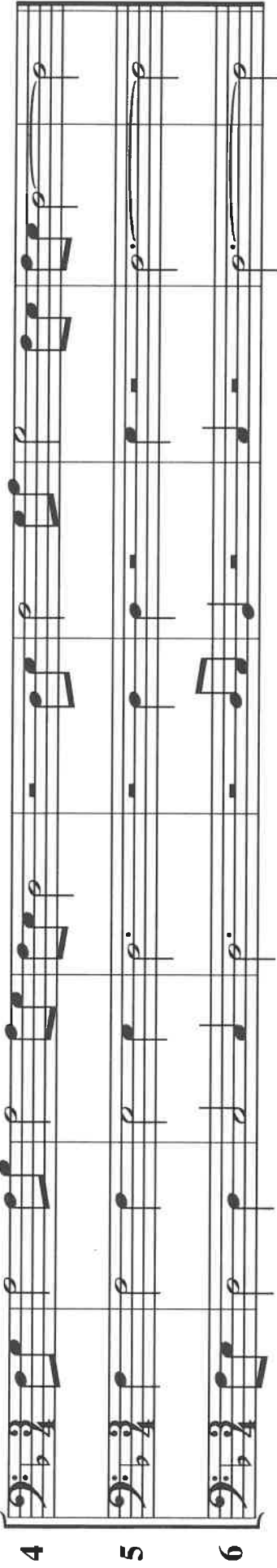
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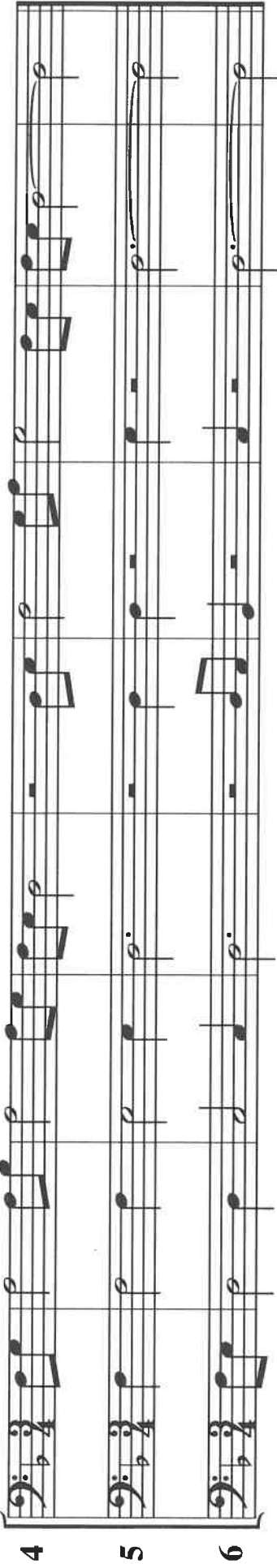
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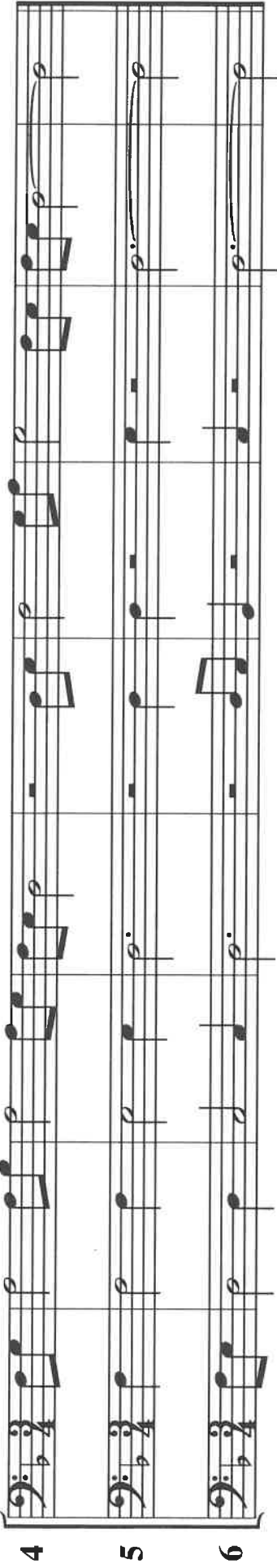
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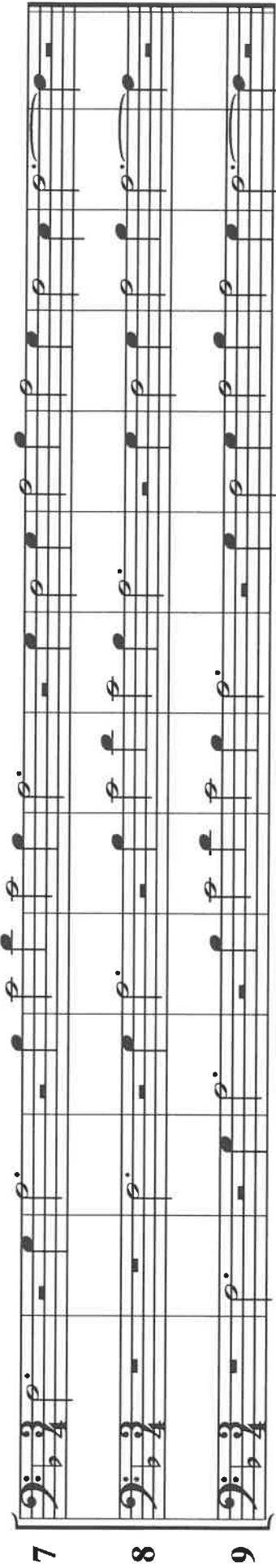
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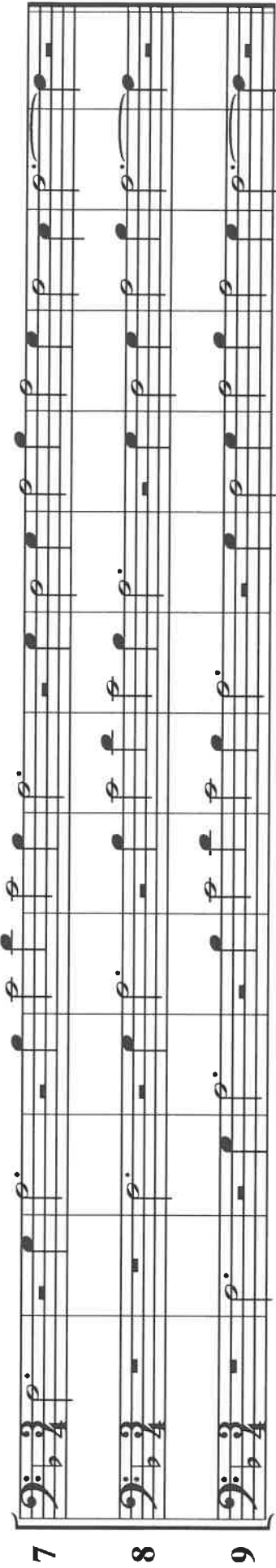
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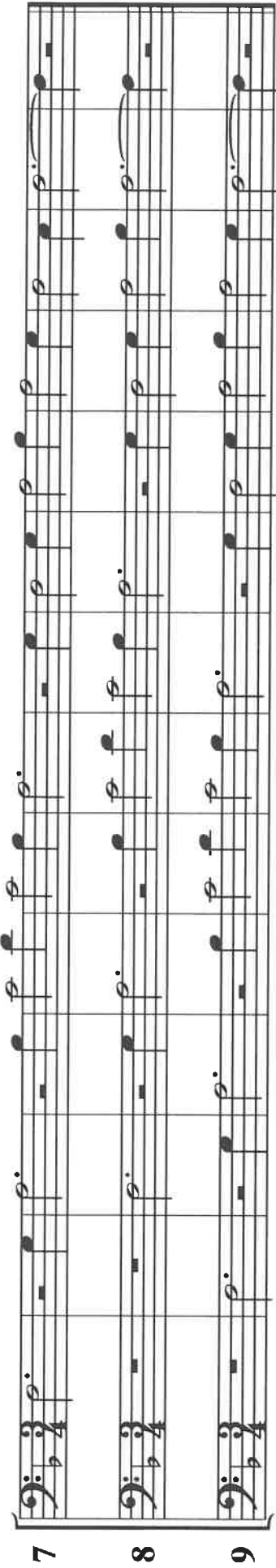
4 

5 

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9 

Steps to Harmony **I**

32

The QUARTER REST () gets one beat.

 = 

1 

2 

3 

4 

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Steps to Harmony

Notes:     

Page: 1 8 12 16 20 24 28 30 32



7

8

9

Notes:                                                         

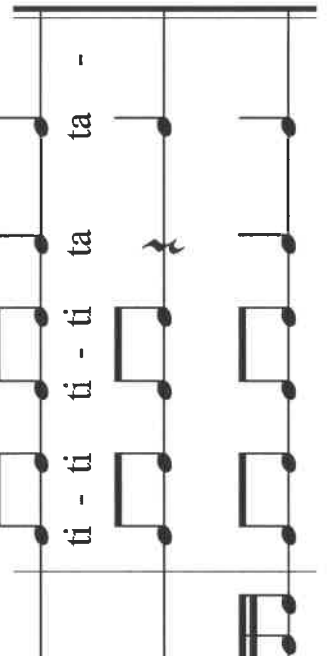
                                                         

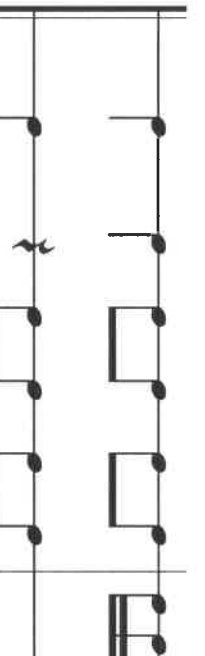
        

Steps to Harmony

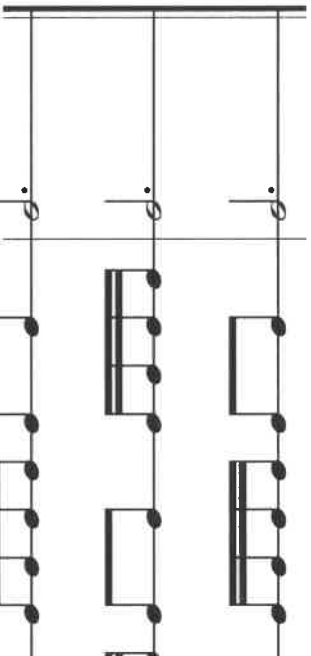
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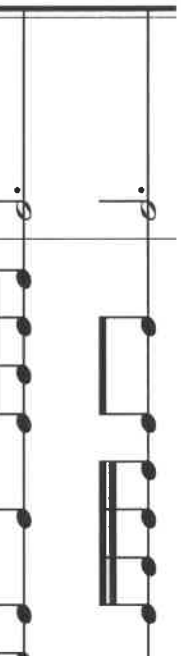
Four SIXTEENTH NOTES () get one beat.

1  ta ti - ti ti - ti ti - di - di ta ta 

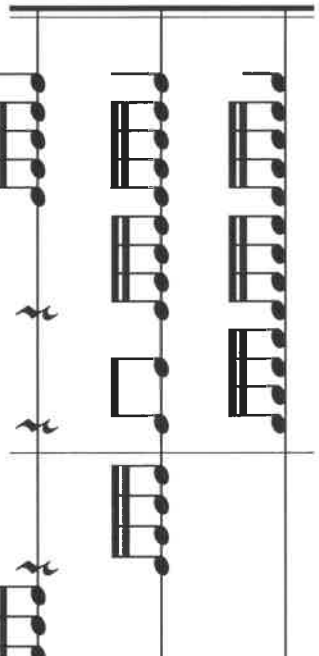
2  

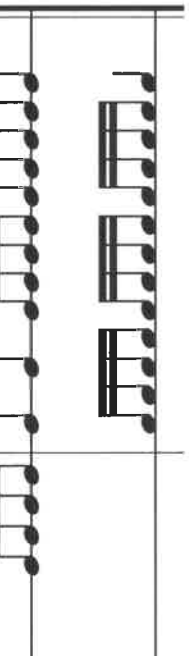
3  

4  

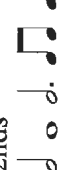
5  

6  

7  

8  

9  

Notes:    

Page: 1 8 12 16 20 24 28 30 32 34 36

1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

6 

7 

8 

9 

Notes:  1 8 12 16 20 24 28 30 32 34 36

Page: 1 8 12 16 20 24 28 30 32 34 36



The image displays nine musical exercises, numbered 1 through 9, arranged in three rows. Each exercise is written on a grand staff, consisting of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The exercises are designed to practice 2nd intervals. Exercises 1, 2, and 3 are in 4/4 time, while exercises 4 through 9 are in 3/4 time. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Some exercises include rests or specific intervallic patterns between the two staves.

Two SIXTEENTHS and an EIGHTH get one beat.



1

3

4

6

7

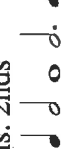
9

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Steps to Harmony I

40

Intervals: 2nds

Notes:     

Page: 1 8 12 16 20 24 28 30 32 34 36 39

1 

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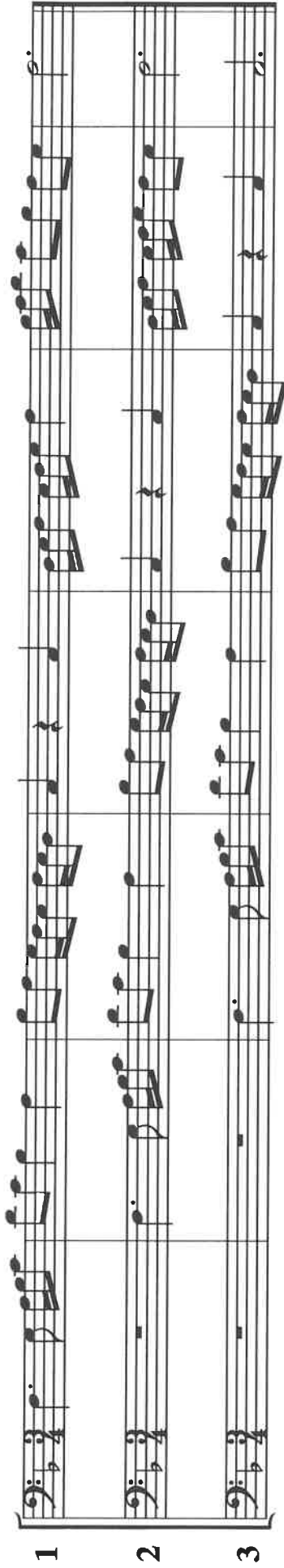
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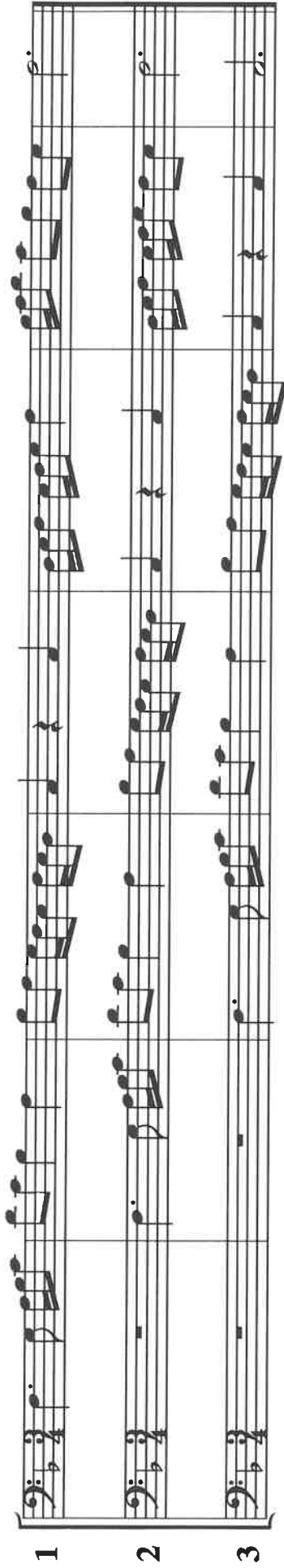
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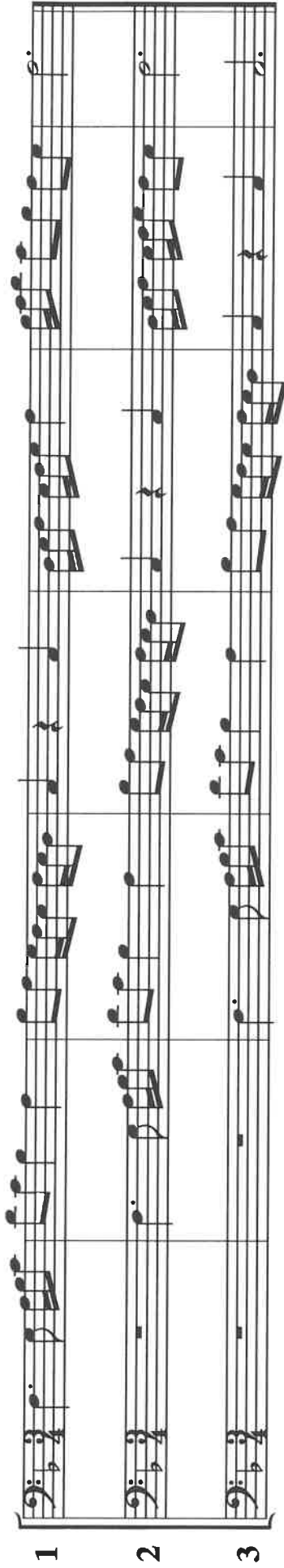
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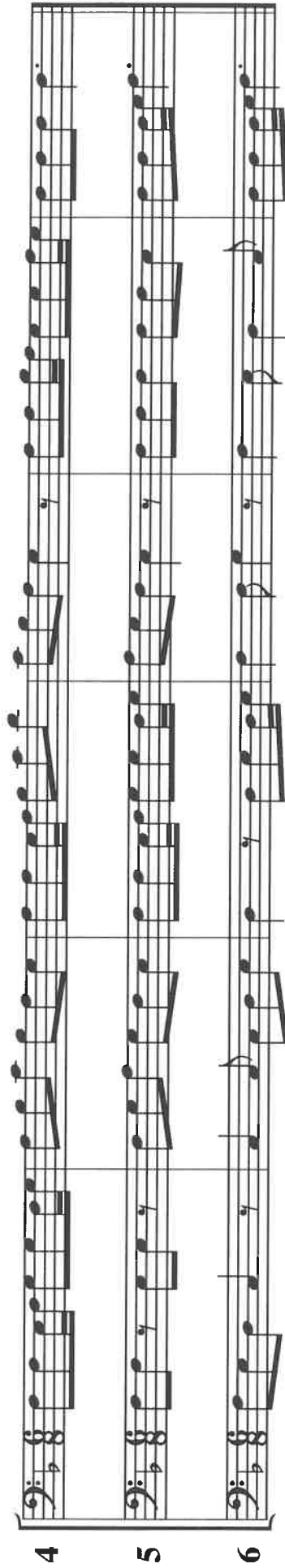
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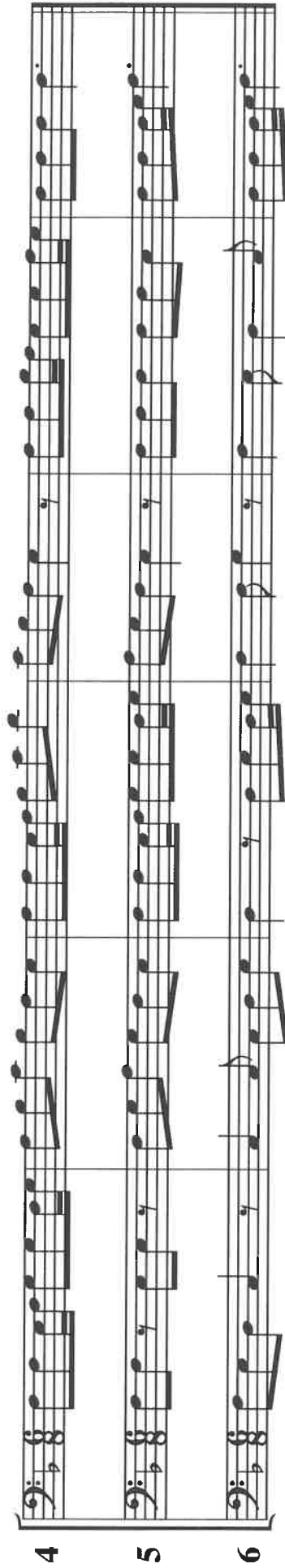
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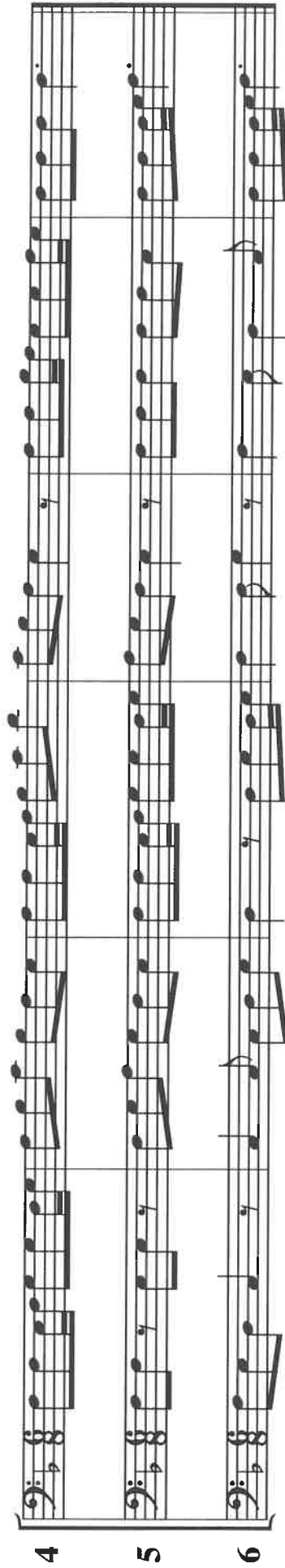
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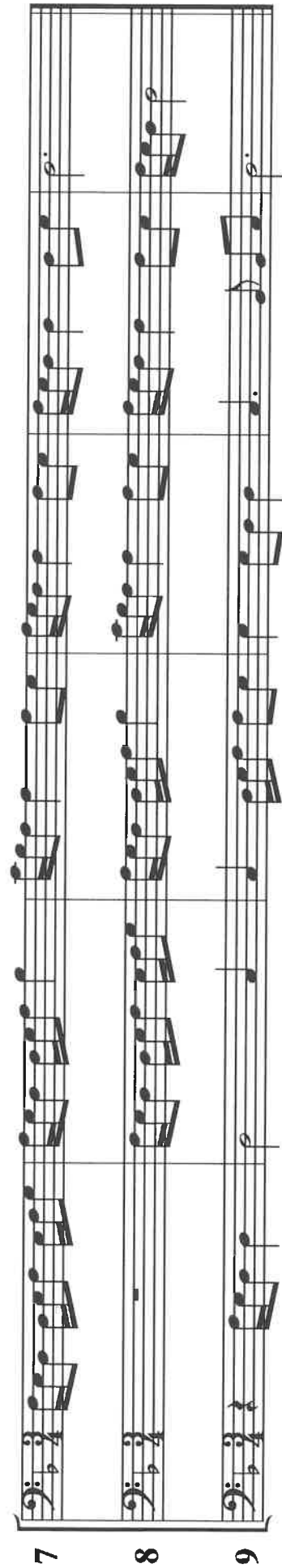
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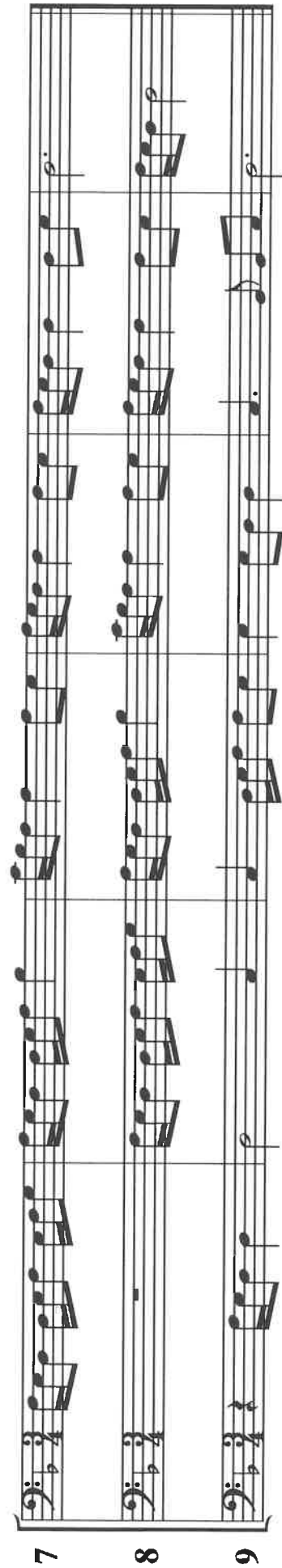
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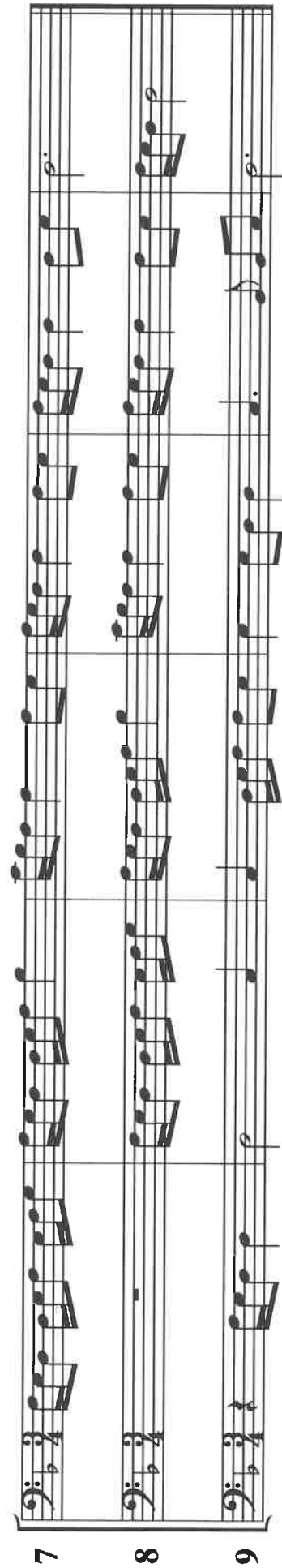
4 

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9 

An EIGHTH and two SIXTEENTHS get one beat.



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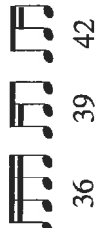
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Notes:  1 8 12 16 20 24 28 30 32 34 36 39 42

1 

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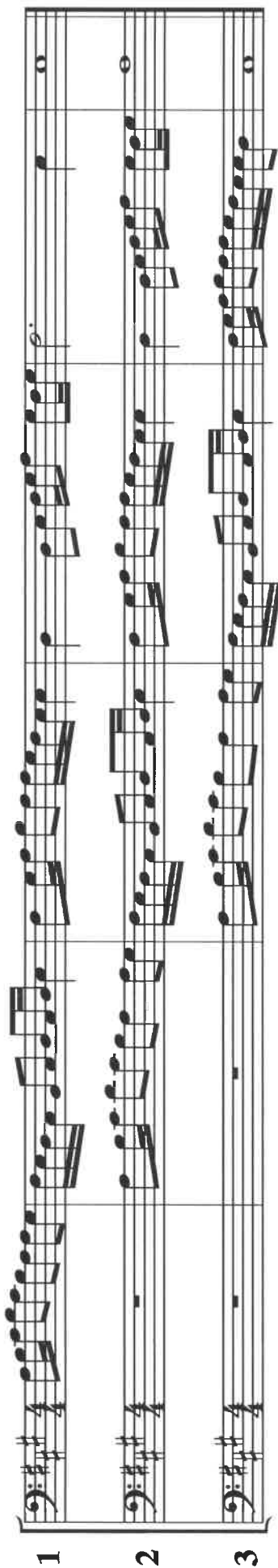
Steps to Harmony I

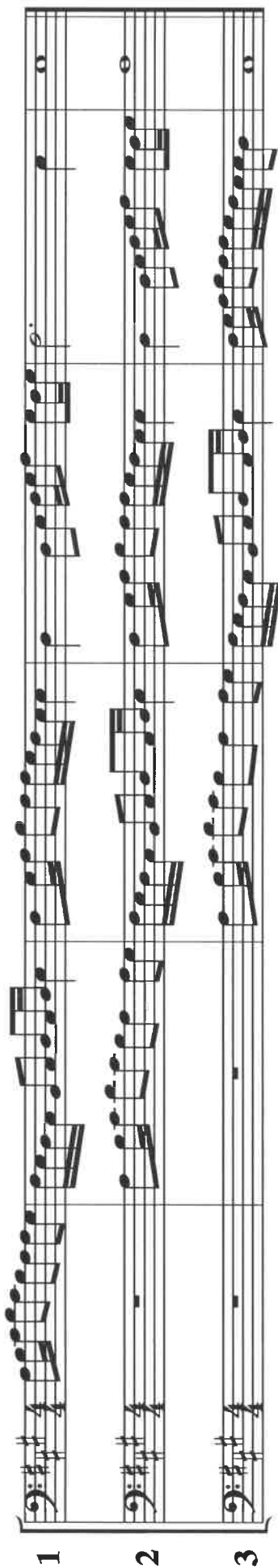
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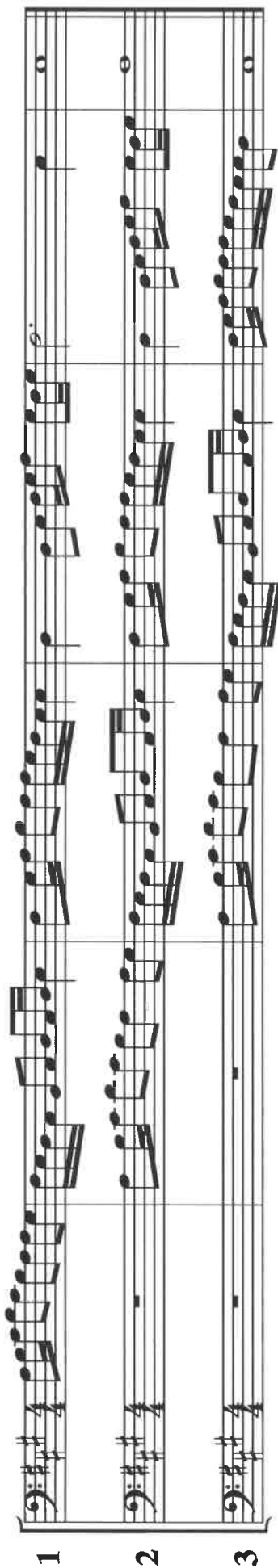
Intervals: 2nds

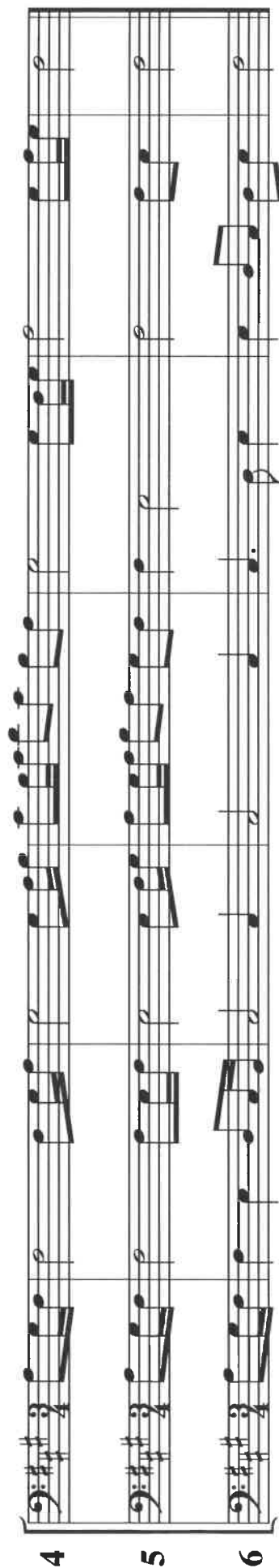
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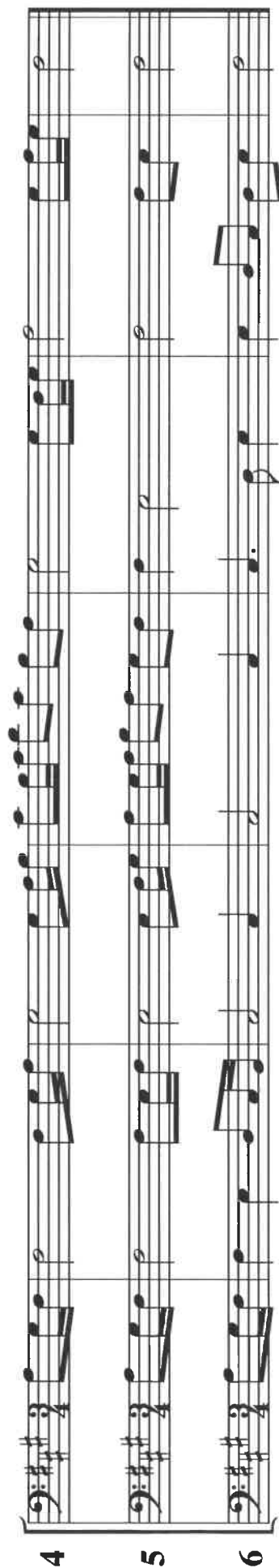
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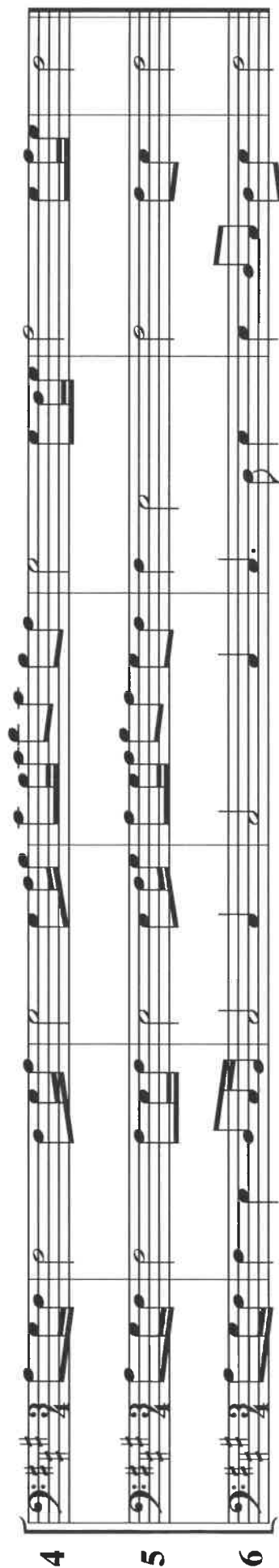
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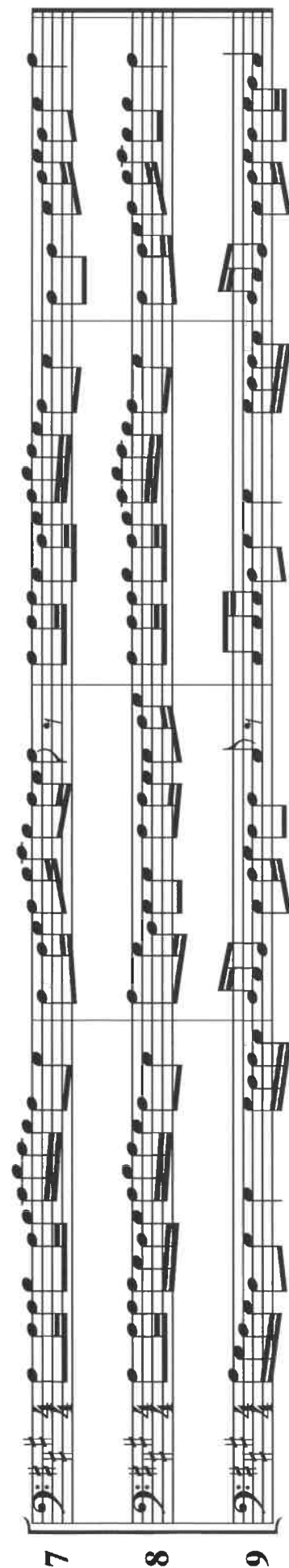
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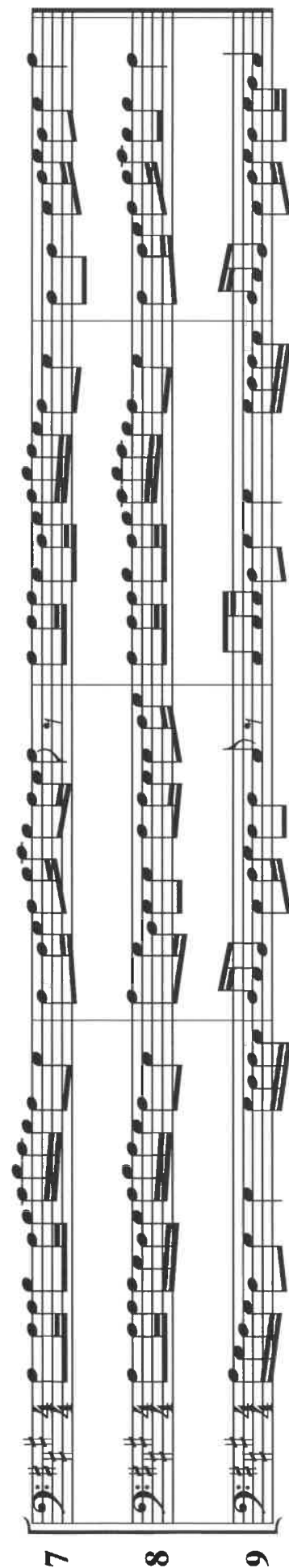
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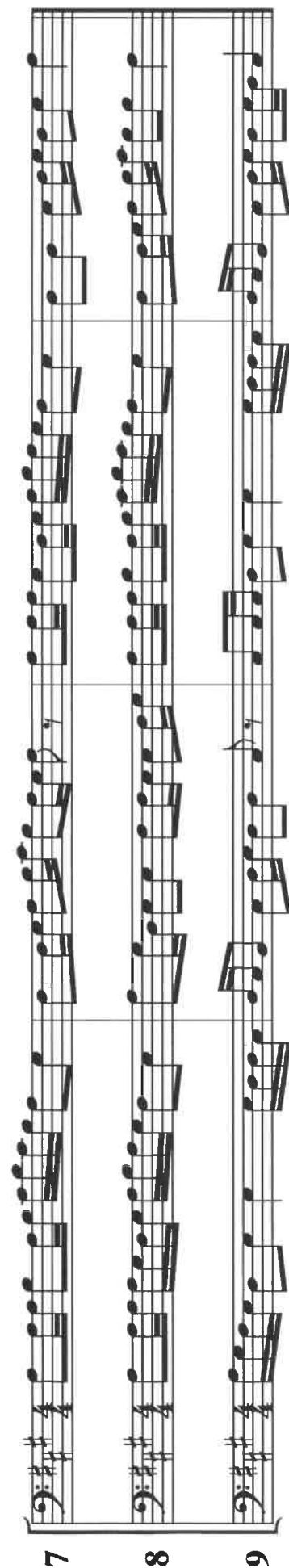
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A DOTTED EIGHTH and SIXTEENTH get one beat.



I

1 2 3

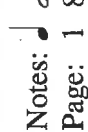
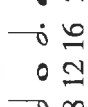
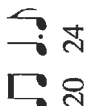
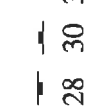
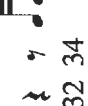
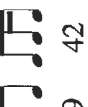
4 5 6

7 8 9

Steps to Harmony **I**

46

Intervals: 2nds

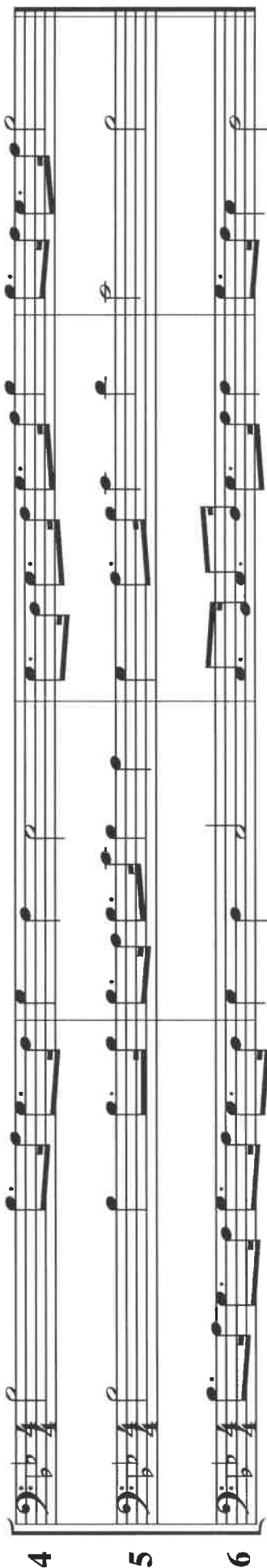
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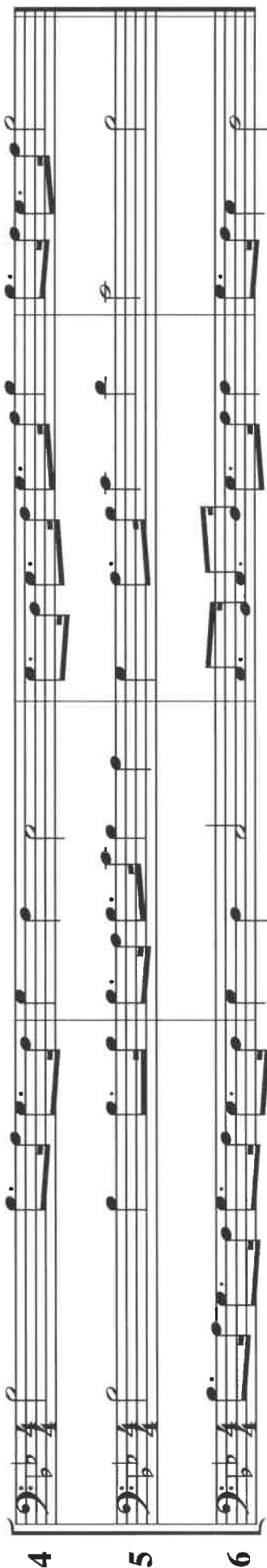
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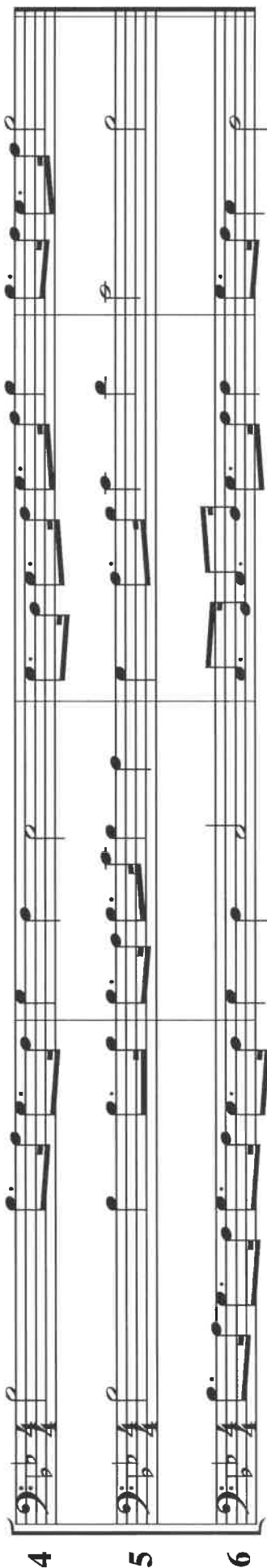
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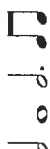
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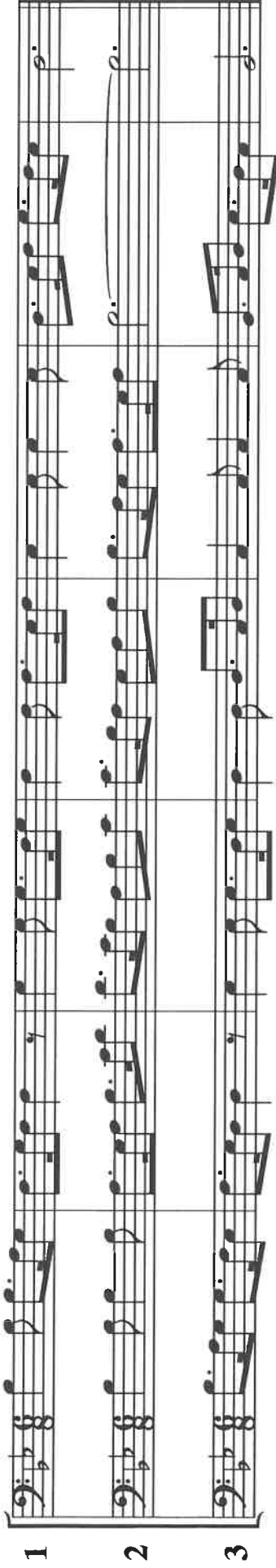
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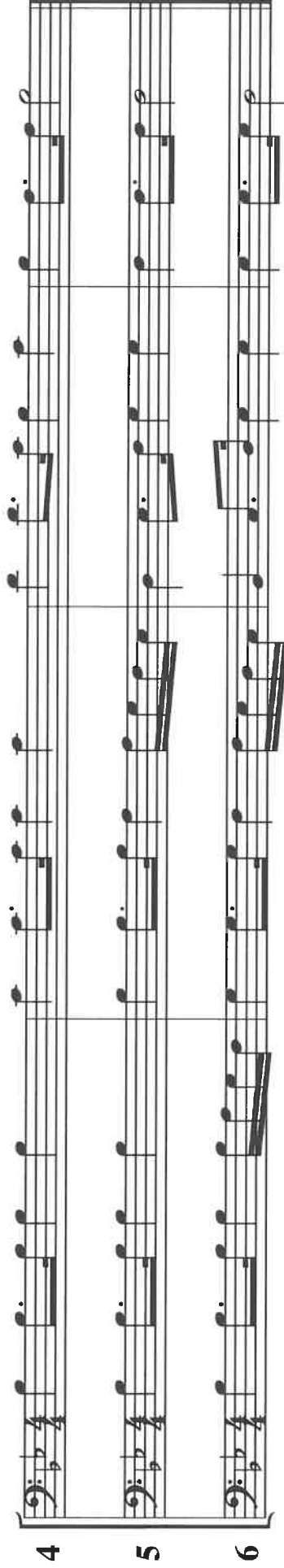
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Intervals: 2nds

Notes:             

Page: 1 8 12 16 20 24 28 30 32 34 36 39 42 45

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