

# Chapter 11: Minor Scales



## Composition: My Minor Theme

Theory Focus: Major and Minor Keys

Composition Focus: Themes, Melodic Shape & Movement

### Composition

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Follow these steps to develop a minor melody in one of the three scale forms in 4/4 time:

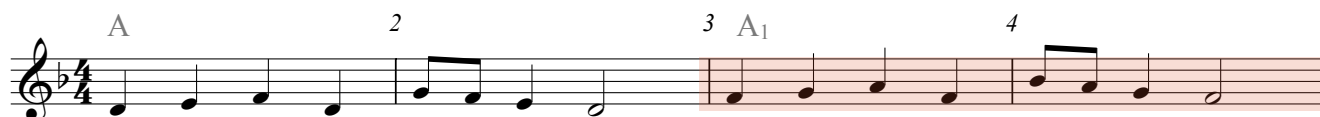
1. Develop a simple phrase. (A).

Keep in mind shape and step wise flow. Make sure the phrases come to rest. Although the tonic and dominant notes are strong choices as resting notes, use your instincts as to what is working for you.

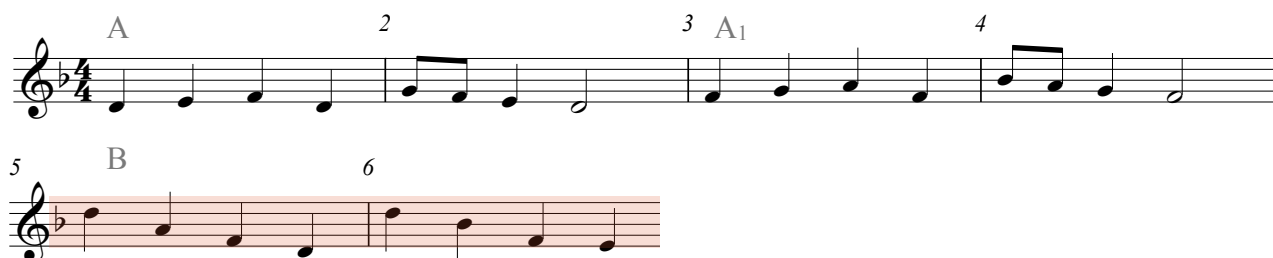
*Samples: (create your own)*



2. Repeat it exactly (A) or change it slightly (A<sub>1</sub>)



3. Develop a second phrase (B phrase) that has at least one element in contrast to the first phrase but that maintains some similar features.



## Composition: Adding a Harmony Part to a Melody

4. Return to the A phrase (or a variation of it) for the last two measures.

Exercise 4 shows an 8-measure melody in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. Measures 1-4 are labeled 'A' and 'A<sub>1</sub>'. Measures 5-6 are labeled 'B'. Measures 7-8 are labeled 'A' and are highlighted with a red background, indicating a return to the A phrase.

5. Expand your melody to 12 measures by repeating two phrases. This one has a form of AABABA.

Exercise 5 shows a 12-measure melody in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. Measures 1-4 are labeled 'A' and 'A<sub>1</sub>'. Measures 5-6 are labeled 'B'. Measures 7-8 are labeled 'A'. Measures 9-10 are labeled 'B'. Measures 11-12 are labeled 'A' and are highlighted with a red background, indicating a return to the A phrase.

6. Add expression and phrase markings as well as a tempo to your mus

## Minor Melody

**Allegretto**

Exercise 6 shows a 12-measure melody in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The melody is marked with dynamic markings: *p* (piano) at measure 1, *poco cresc.* (poco crescendo) at measure 3, *cres.* (crescendo) at measure 7, *sfz* (sforzando) at measure 9, *sfz* at measure 10, and *dim.* (diminuendo) at measure 11. The melody is marked with phrase markings: a slur over measures 1-4, a slur over measures 5-8, a slur over measures 9-10, and a slur over measures 11-12.