Chapter 1: The Staff

Composition: Getting Started With Pitch

Theory Focus: The Staff Lines & Spaces, Musical Alphabet, Writing Quarter Notes
Composition Focus: Developing a Quarter Note Melody From a Motif

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Lesson

Motif: A short musical idea usually one measure in length. Motifs are used to build melodies.

Retrograde: A motif written backwards.

Sequence: A motif beginning on a different pitch.

Repetition: A motif repeated

Composition

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1. Create a Motif Using Your Name

Use the chart below to substitute letters of the musical alphabet with the letters in your name.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z		

Examples: Jean = *C, E, A, G*

Albert = A, E, B, E, D, F - Use only the first 4 letters - A, E, B, E

2. Enter Your Motif.

Enter your four letters as quarter notes in the first measure of your music score.

Sample
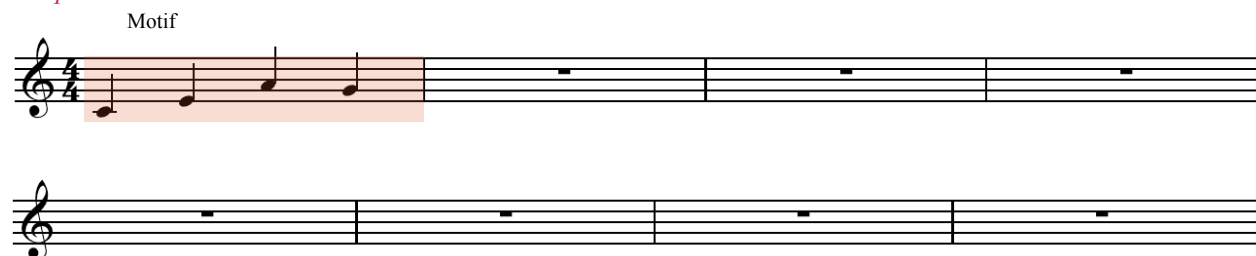
Motif

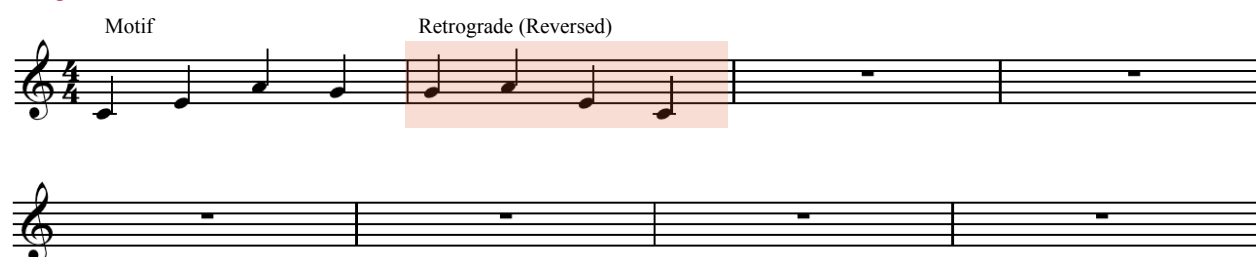## 3. Enter Your Motif in Retrograde

Enter your 4 letters in reverse order (backwards) in the second measure of music. This is called retrograde.
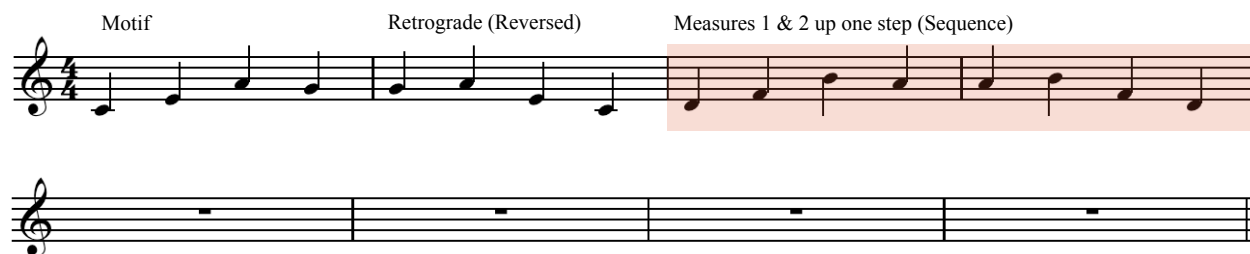Now you have a phrase!

Sample

Motif   Retrograde (Reversed)

4. Enter Measures 1 & 2 Sequenced Up One Step

In measures 3 & 4, enter the same notes as measures 1 & 2 but place them all a step higher on the staff.
Now you have two phrases!

Sample

Motif   Retrograde (Reversed)   Measures 1 & 2 up one step (Sequence)

5. Repeat Measures

In measures 5 & 6, enter the same notes as in measures 3 & 4.
In measures 7 & 8, enter the same notes as in bars 1 & 2.

Sample

Motif   Retrograde (Reversed)   Measures 1 & 2 up one step (Sequence)

Measures 3 & 4 repeated (Repetition)   Measures 1 & 2 repeated (Repetition)

Complete! ☺

Save your work!

Blank Score for Hand Written Work

Motif   Retrograde (Backwards)   Sequence (Measures 1 & 2 up a step)

2   3   4

Repetition (of Measures 3 & 4)   Repetition (of Measures 1 & 2)

5   6   7   8

Composition Model For Chapter 1

Getting Started with Pitch

Model Student Reflection

I created my quarter note melody by following the instructions in Chapter 1. When I listened to it, the melody sounded very happy and upbeat to me. I started to think about being on holiday visualizing the sand, palm trees and water. This made me think about the kinds of rhythms I would use in Chapter 2 to make the music fun and danceable.