

Improvisation 5a

Smoothing Out A Tune

Often, tunes have dots or long notes, which make adding counterpoint or figuration to them tricky.
Here are 3 methods to make any tune into running quarter notes:

1. Dotted quarters
and eighths
become even

2. Leave out notes between beats

3. Apply the figuration patterns
from sheet 3a to long notes

The first system of music illustrates three techniques for smoothing out a tune. It consists of three measures. The first measure shows a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note in the treble clef, with an arrow pointing to the eighth note and the word 'becomes' written below it. The second measure shows a quarter note followed by a quarter rest, with an arrow pointing to the rest. The third measure shows a quarter note followed by a quarter note, with an arrow pointing to the second quarter note.

Try turning these lines into running quarters (maybe hands separately, then together).

The second system of music is a 4/4 piece. The treble clef contains a melody of dotted quarter notes followed by eighth notes. The bass clef contains a bass line of eighth notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Sometimes, if a pair of eighths is part of a scale,
the first is actually the dissonance, and the second is the one that should stay for the smoothed-out version.

The third system of music shows a scale in the treble clef. A pair of eighth notes is highlighted with a downward arrow, indicating that the first note is a dissonance and the second note is the one that should stay for the smoothed-out version. The bass clef contains a bass line of eighth notes.

Apply rules 1 and 2 as well.

Maybe use the ends of phrases
to pause, and keep the running
quarters from sounding too relentless.

The fourth system of music is a 4/4 piece. The treble clef contains a melody of quarter notes. The bass clef contains a bass line of quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The fifth system of music is a 4/4 piece. The treble clef contains a melody of quarter notes. The bass clef contains a bass line of quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.