

Good Melodic Writing - Cheat Sheet

General rules for writing a good melody:

- 1) Avoid too many leaps.
- 1a) When you do leap, step in the opposite direction.
- 2) Don't hang around the same three notes (static) - it gets boring.
- 3) Give your melody a unique high point - it will make the music feel like it's going somewhere.
- 3a) Try to make that unique high point coincide with a strong beat.
- 4) Sing your melody and make sure that it sounds good.

bad! bad! leap + step
in same direction:
not great



leap + step
in opposite
direction:
much better.

lack of unique high point: not good unique high point on the strong beat: good

