

Composing a melody to a given poem/text

(stylistically close to Baroque)

1. Follow the “natural” rhythm of the poem/text.

Example: **The modest Rose puts forth a thorn:**
 The humble Sheep, a threat'ning horn:
 While the Lilly white shall in Love delight,
 Nor a thorn nor a threat stain her beauty bright.

William Blake

The mod est Rose puts forth a thorn: The hum ble Sheep, a threat' ning horn: While the Lil ly white
 shall in Love de light, Nor a thorn nor a threat stain her beau ty bright.

2. Decide on a key, start and end the piece on the *tonic* of this key. If the piece starts on an anacrusis, choose the note of the first bar to be the *tonic* and the anacrusis to be the *dominant*.

Example:

The mod est Rose puts forth a thorn: The hum ble Sheep, a threat' ning horn: While the Lil ly white
 shall in Love de light, Nor a thorn nor a threat stain her beau ty bright.

3. Move the rest of the melody up and down in steps (tones/semi-tones). If you use a larger interval up, walk step-wise down and if you use a larger interval down, walk step-wise up. If you use several larger consecutive intervals, make sure they form a broken chord. Keep tone repetitions to a sensible level.

Example

The mod est Rose puts forth a thorn: The hum ble Sheep, a threat' ning horn: While the Lil ly white
 shall in Love de light, Nor a thorn nor a threat stain her beau ty bright.