

Melody -3

Remember, these are simplifications. Melodic lines may briefly zig-zag around these shapes and sometimes may combine both. This familiar melody has both arch contours and descending ramps:

It is important to note that lines without a contour often sound dull and seem to just “noodle around” on a few notes. Compare the above melody to the following and see which is more interesting:

3) **Smooth Connected Line** – Our ear more easily hears a series of notes as belonging together when they proceed smoothly by step and without skips of large intervals. Remember:

Balance stepwise and skipping motion- not too much of one or the other. If a melody skips upward it is common to follow that skip with stepwise motion in the opposite direction. Try to balance the motion both ascending and descending.

Balanced melody:

Unbalanced melody: