Melodic Patterns Worksheets

Ted Greene

This PDF contains several of Ted's pages on "Melodic Patterns" from his *Personal Music Studies* files. Many of these are worksheets he created in attempting to catalogue all the variations of 3-note (or 4-note) single-note sequences. These pages were never intended to be shared in that state. They are often messy, cryptic, and sometimes disorganized. Some of the pages are part of a series, others are stand-alone pages, and still others may be missing their companion pages. The pages are (mostly) organized chronologically here.

In a very simplified nutshell, what Ted was doing here was creating small groupings of notes (or "units") that can be used as a "starter" phrase for longer sequential patterns. Each unit is usually 3 or 4 notes, written inside a single measure. This "starter" was to be elaborated upon (i.e. followed-thru or continued) by several means: mostly ascending and descending sequences either diatonically or non-diatonically, or by moving each unit by 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, 6ths, or 7ths. The "mother" scale may be anything you wish (harmonic minor, diminished, or other more exotic scales). Ted emphasized here the use of rhythmic displacements, different rhythmic feels (like Baroque 8ths or jazz 8ths), and ornamentations such as slurs, trills, slides, hammer-ons & pull-offs, etc. These are all variations that will add a personal style to each person's interpretation of the patterns.

Let's look at one simple example and see how it can be elaborated upon with some basic variations. We'll select a 4-note unit, one without repeated notes:



As you will see, Ted approached his subjects very mathematically, systematically, and thoroughly. We are sharing these to perhaps show some of his thinking processes: write out all possibilities, organize, and then select "choice" favorites. Application and assimilation are the final steps.

We have provided typed translated text for most of the writing on each page, as many people have difficulty reading his tiny handwritten comments. Ted would probably advise a student to find one or two patterns that you love, and dive deep into it, applying a ton of harmonic and rhythmic variations to it – and ignore all the others until you want more. Make music with them, and have fun!

Ted's original pages follow the typed text. The pages numbers refer to this PDF.

Page 07:

Title: 3-Note Melodic Patterns (attempt one billion and one), 1983-09-30

Subtitle: For sequences of various types.

Other text: 3-Note melodic patterns

Add octave leaps any and everywhere.

Try these types too: D⁴7 "Segovia Type" and do backwards

Example of compound

Somewhere write a page or more on "Beautiful Bach-like Patterns" such as:

More compounds (of 4-noters though)

Page 08:

Title: Melodic Patterns - Groupings by Permutation of Each 3-Note Group, 1983-09-30

Subtitle: Almost like "plucking" order concept

Other text: 3-Note Melodic Patterns

Page 09:

Title: Diatonic Melodies in the Major Scale, 1984-09-17

Other text: 1) Write out all 4-note (5,6,7, & 8, & 3 too) diatonic melodies in the major scale

2) Mate them to all practical rhythmic types, such as [see page] and zillions of others.

3) Then study harmonization of all this.

4) Then try all of them with lots of different slurs.

5) Try all the rhythmic placement (in the bar) and displacements.

6) Sequence all of this material.

7) In all other good scales. (Whoa!....)

Descend last move:

Page 10:

Title: 4-Note Melodic Patterns in Half-Whole Dominant Scale, 1985-01-01

Other text: Do in all sequences: 1) in position, 2) lengthwise. Examples added later: "Great Cross-Rhythm" 2001-04-22

Baroque. Slant barre

"Very Max Steiner" 2002-04-09, Sunday

With answering lines.

Page 11:

Title: Melodic Patterns, p.1, 1985-10-13

Subtitle: (without repeated Notes, by the way, Ted) include these too for Beethovenesque themes

Other text: 1) Play as straight Baroque feel.

2) Play as jazz 8ths.

- 1) Sequences in 2nds (unless noted otherwise)
- 2) And try all in 4-note units of ascending (and/or descending) 3rds, (4ths, 5ths, 6ths, 7ths.)
- 3) And compounds.
- [?] Lengthwise with sustains.
- * When studying 6- or 8-note major patterns, try rhythmic offsets via starting on, say, "3 and."

Above as Counterpoint on top 2 strings 8va.

Over harmonic pedals.

[The blue dots probably identify examples that Ted liked, and the blue dot within parentheses, probably means that he only partially liked the example, or only in certain circumstances.]

Page 12:

Title: Melodic Patterns: New Organization of "4-Note Unit" Types, 1985-10-16, 1985-10-20

Subtitle: (Revised 3[-note unit types] too)

(No "repeated note" types yet – either within the unit or between units)

Other text: As applied to 1) 7-note diatonic scales,

2) No interval larger than a 3rd within any unit,

3) Play as straight 8ths (or 16ths) and jazz 8ths (or 16ths here too)

4) start from other degrees too!!

4-Note units (ascending 2-notes, unless otherwise noted)

Check all 5-noters too (add 1 note in the front and/or back).

Also check all for various "sustained scale" techniques: 1) regular, or 2) 8va.

[for measure #1:] 1st note may be omitted. Last note will be 1st note of next measure.

[comments for measure #8:] * Consider putting these "units in 5ths" with the units having 5ths within, likewise the 4ths.

* Try all these harmonized (in various scale [tonality] types) with:

a) 4ths, d) 4ths over pedal R and/or 5, b) 5ths, e) 5ths over pedal R and/or 5,

c) 3rds over pedal R and/or 5, f) 6ths over pedal R and/or 5.

[Examples at bottom of page:]

Compound (: 8-note).

Chord unfoldment via block counterpoint

"6" Middle [string] set.

Page 13:

Title: [Melodic Patterns] p.2, Overview, [1985-10-13]

Other text: Study all 4-note melodic patterns with (slurred) repeated noted.

Do the same with 8-note patterns.

Page 14:

Title: Melodic Patterns, 1985-10-16

Subtitle: 4-Note Units "in 2nds" unless otherwise noted

Other text: Mainly stepwise types within each unit; no intervals larger than a 3rd at first.

Title: Melodic Patterns, p.2, 1985-11-11

Subtitle: Ascending. (No interval larger than a 4th within any unit)

Page 15:

Title: New Approach to Organizing Melodic Patters of 4 Notes, 1985-10-16

Other text: I) Triads (Root in bass).

With pull-offs.

Page 16:

Title: New List of Melodic Patterns of 4-Diatonic Notes, p.1, 1985-11-15, 1986-01-18.

Subtitle: But not including sequencing the whole unit (in other than implied 2nds)

Other text: 1) See other list from 1985-10-16

2) and do descending units too (the [1985-10-16] page shows only ascending units)

No "repeated" note(s) types...list separately later.

This is the end of bottom of this page.

More ascending * For 1) see page 2.

Title: New List for Patterns That Don't Have Anything Larger Than a 3rd within the

4-note Unit (and No Directly Repeated Notes Adjacent for Now). 1985-10-20, 1985-11-15.

Other text: 1986-02-16, Harmonize a) in $\triangle 7$ ths, b) 4th chords, c) starting from V7.

Likewise, nothing larger than a 4th within the 4-note unit.

See line 1 at top of page for D G.

Page 17:

Title: New List of Melodic Patterns, p.2, 1986-01-18

Other text: 5) Nothing larger than a 6th within the 4-note unit.

1) Nothing larger than a 2nd within the 4-note unit.

Apply by: a) Putting in all meters ("Hello Polyrhythm")

b) Starting on various "ands"

c) Omitting the 1st note

d) Applying lots of rhythmic figures, including, of course, non-symmetrical ones.

e) Decorating with trills.

f) Slurring, slides, pull-offs, hammer-ons

g) Regular (horizontal – "even") and Shuffle (vertical – "uneven")

h) Lengthwise up the neck as well as "in position."

Page 18:

Title: New List of Melodic Patterns, p.3, 1986-01-18

Other text: 6) Nothing larger than a 7th within the 4-note units.

Page 19:

Title: New 4-Note Diatonic Melodic Pattern Chart, 1987-03-28

Subtitle: ("Barebones – <u>non</u>-sequentially applied here.)

Also, no ascending, descending preference distinctions given here)

Other text: 1) Patterns with ascending scale 2nd intervals in first three notes.

(many end up being elaborated triads.)

Some will be listed twice.

[Line 1, measure #7:] Use slurring later in pattern.

[Line 1, measures #14-15:] Neighbor tones (Also file in the "2"-note section)

[Line 1, measure #18:] Some with opening 3rd interval.

[Line 2, measure #5:] 3-notes descending scale in front (many are elaborated triads)

[Line 2, measure #18:] on 2 strings at a time.

[Line 2, measure #19:] on 2 strings at a time. First note on different string that 2nd note.

[Line 2, measure #21:] 2 strings.

Triads: Close only for now.

See other 1987-03-29 page.

Use with repeated notes.

Chromatic lower neighbors.

2-Note (Do ascending and descending.) 3-note.

Application: and start on earlier degrees (i.e. do in sequence.)

And all sustained too.

Page 20:

Title: (Logical Order) Experiments to Find all the 4-Note Melodic Patterns, p.1, 1987-03-29

Subtitle: Using 1) Only notes of diatonic triads (close for now)

2) Elaborated triad (triad plus 1 other note)

3) Diatonic 7ths and 6ths.

Other text: * Then check for most favorable and include in Master Charts or Lists.

Reminder: Reasons: 1) To see what's really there.

2) To double-check old work

3) Because I'm reordering and reorganizing the 1985-86 work to give

to students in a graded program.

Reminder: You must try rhythmic displacement and polyrhythm to bring these to life sometimes.

- 1) I. Root Position; II 1st Inversions; III 2nd Inversions.
- 2) Elaborated Triads (triad plus one note)
 - a) Root position,
 - b) Some of these will be repeated in the section on 7ths and 6ths.
 - c) Sounds like 2nd inversion.

Page 21:

Title: Experiment Page: 4-Note Melodic Patterns from

1) Diatonic 7ths (V-1, also V-2, maybe V-3), 2) Diatonic 6th Chords too, p.2, 1987-04-04

Subtitle: Of course, only the 1st 4 notes in each are given.

Other text: * = Use for jazz....do (try) in 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, etc., ascending and descending and with

rhythmic off-sets, and polyrhythmic application.

[*Line 1, measure #1*:] **V-1 7ths**. 1) V-1 Root position 7th.

[Line 1, measure #25:] 2) V-1 1st Inversion 7ths

[Line 2, measure #19:] 3) V-1 2nd Inversion 7ths

[Line 3, measure #13:] 4) V-1 3rd Inversion 7ths

[Line 4, measure #1:] 6ths. 1) V-1 Root position 6ths.

[Line 4, measure #25:] 2) V-1 1st Inversion 6ths

[Line 5, measure #13:] 3) V-1 2nd Inversion 6ths

[Line 6, measure #1:] 4) V-1 3rd Inversion 6ths

[Line 7, measure #1:] V-2. 1) Root position 7ths

[*Line 7, measure #25*:] 2) [*V*-2] 1st Inversion 7ths

[Line 8, measure #13:] 3) [V-2] 2nd Inversion 7ths

[Line 9, measure #5:] 4) [V-2] 3rd Inversion 7ths

[Line 10, measure #1:] 1) [V-2] Root position 6ths

[Line 10, measure #25:] 2) [V-2] 1st Inversion [6ths]

[Line 11, measure #15:] 3) [V-2] 2nd Inversion [6ths]

[Line 12, measure #5:]

4) [*V*-2] 3rd Inversion [6ths]

Page 22:

Title: Minor Pentatonic Choice Representative Examples of Applications of Findings

About 2-Note Melodic Patterns at Triplet Speed, 1987-02-08

Subtitle: (For Students and Me)

Other text:

[Line 1, m. #3:] Also start in middle of the positions with those notes too which are on only the 3rd string.

[Line 2, m. #5:] Remember: 3 fingerings of this area.

Page 23:

Title: Advanced Melodic Patterns from Descending Thirds, 1985-08-20
Other text: I. 1) 5th position. II New starting from G (which leads to same)

III. Starting from A ("The other row of 3rds")

Groups of Six via "repeated direction." Ascending

Page 24:

Title: Catalogue of Descending Melodic Patterns Derived from Thirds, 1985-08-20

Other text: 1) Add Decoration too! Example a) 16th note triplets!!

2) Try in Baroque feel too (as well as the jazz)

[Line 2, m. #9:] Put in 4ths [?]

Page 25:

Title: Melodies and Metric Placement for Ascending Major Scale, 1984-07-15

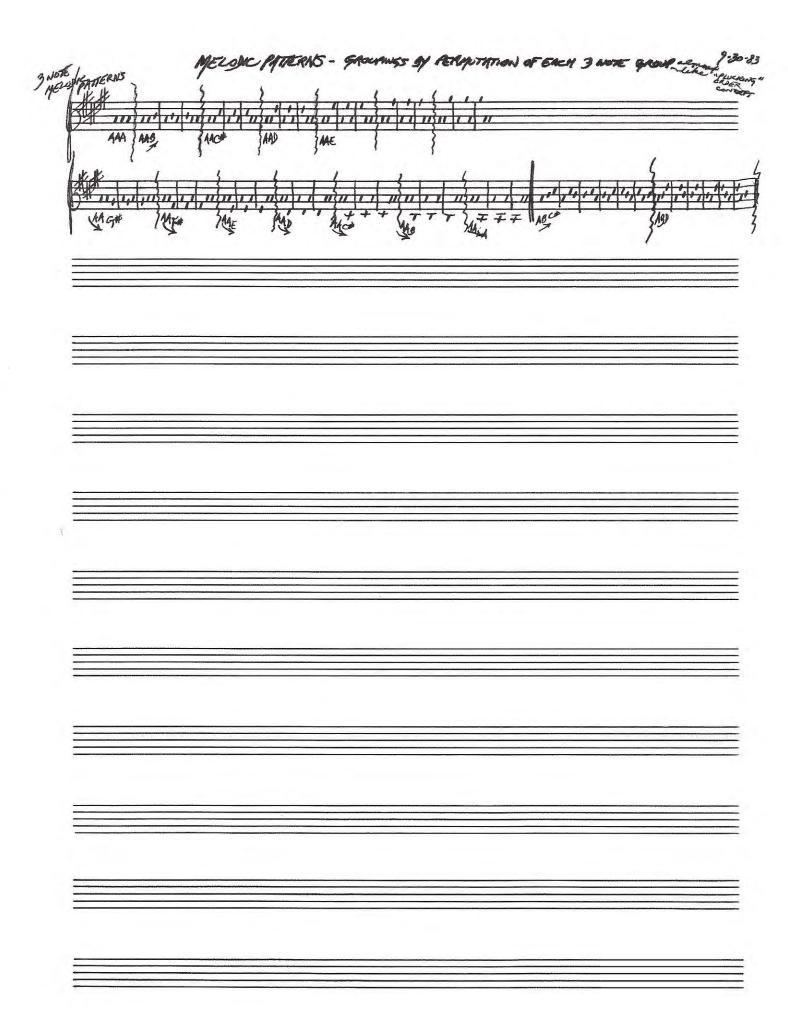
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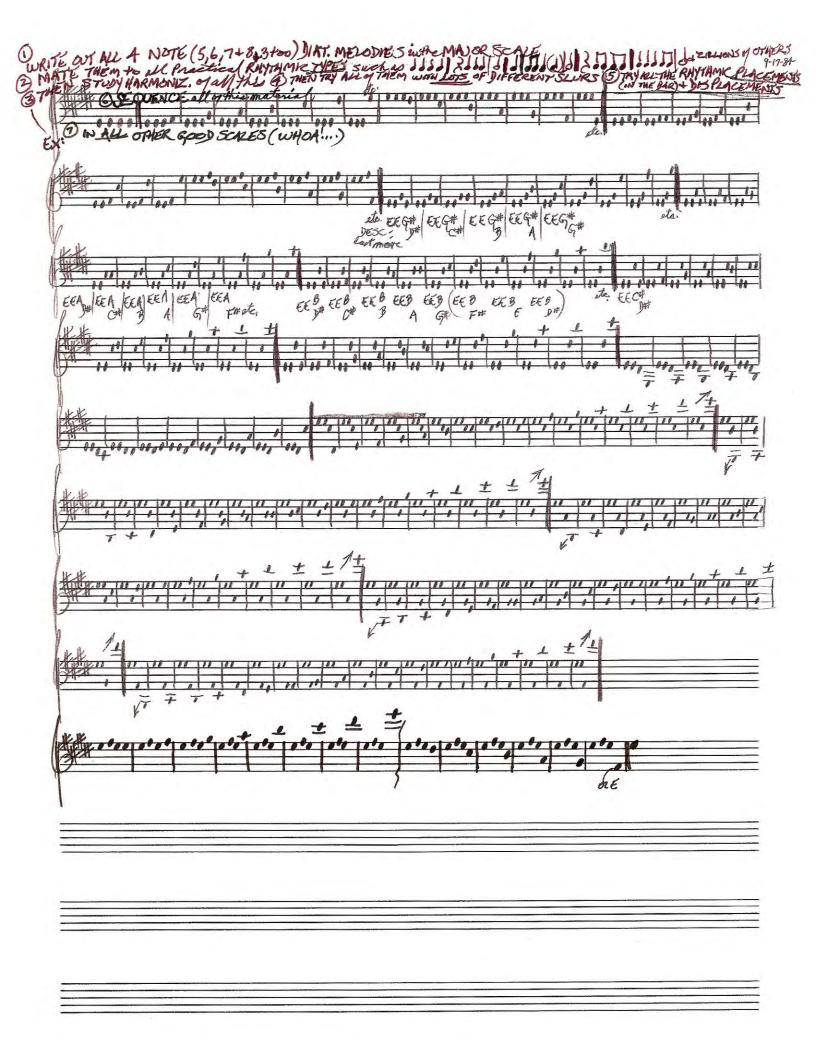
had!

[for 2b]: "There's No Business Like Show Business."

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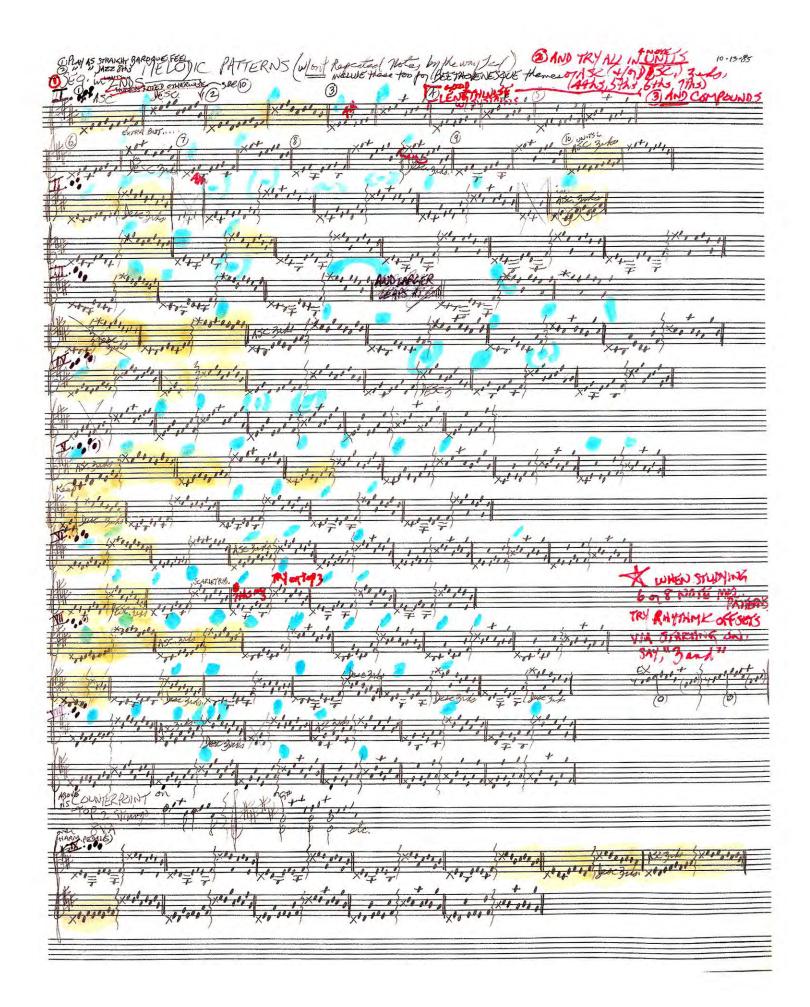


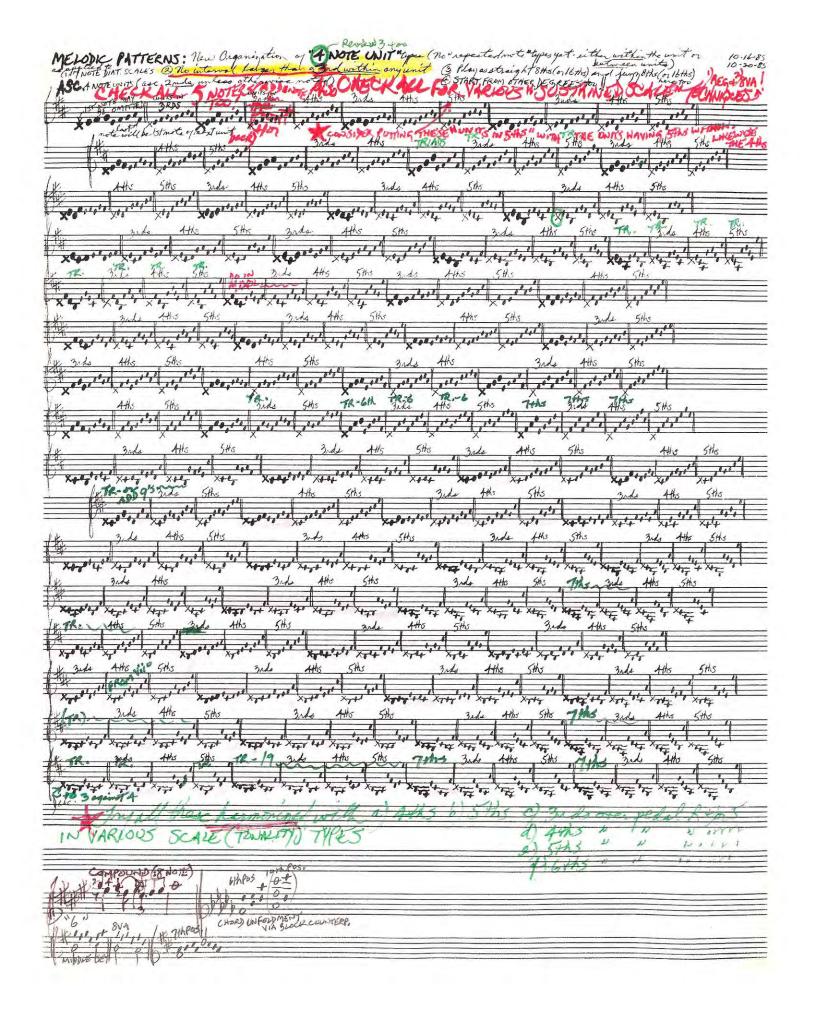
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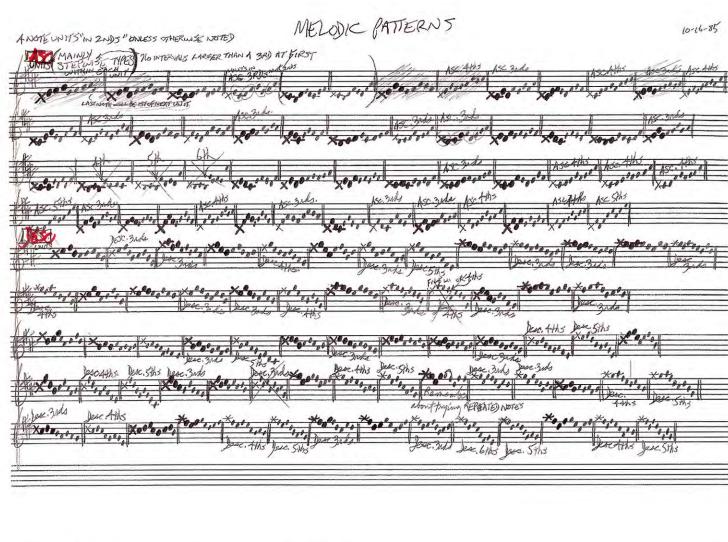
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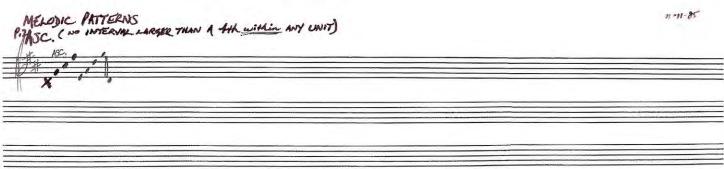






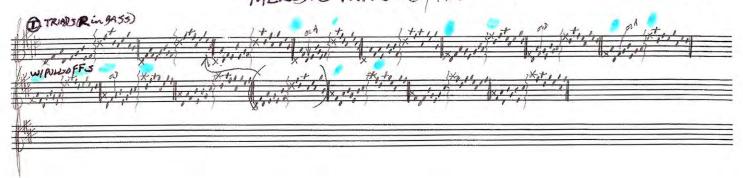


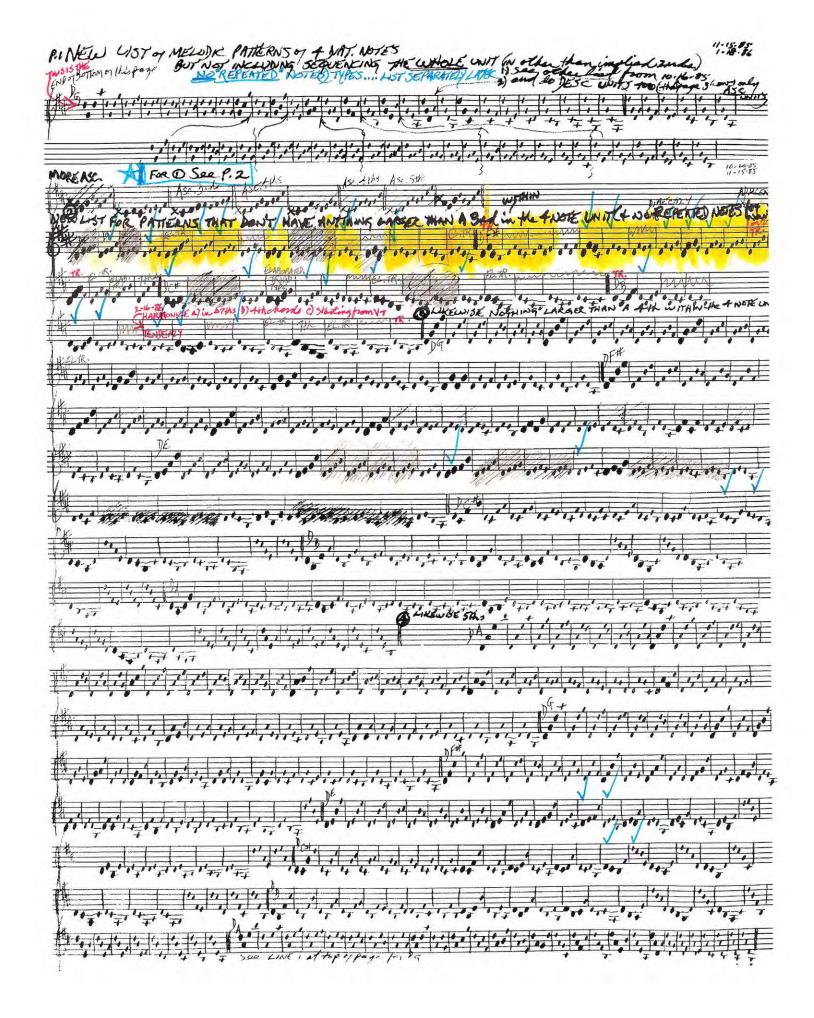


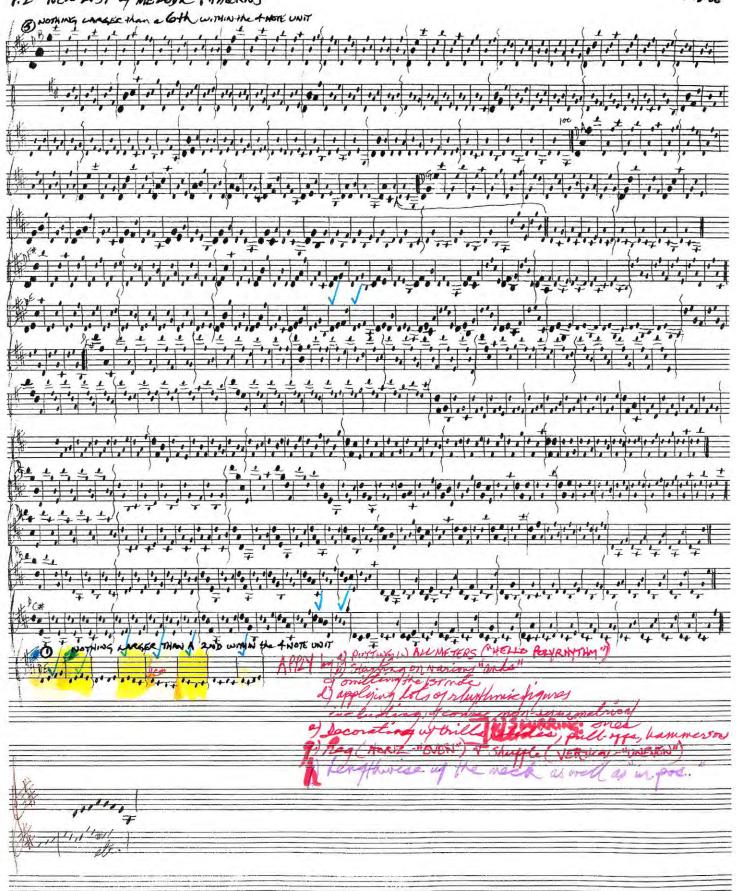


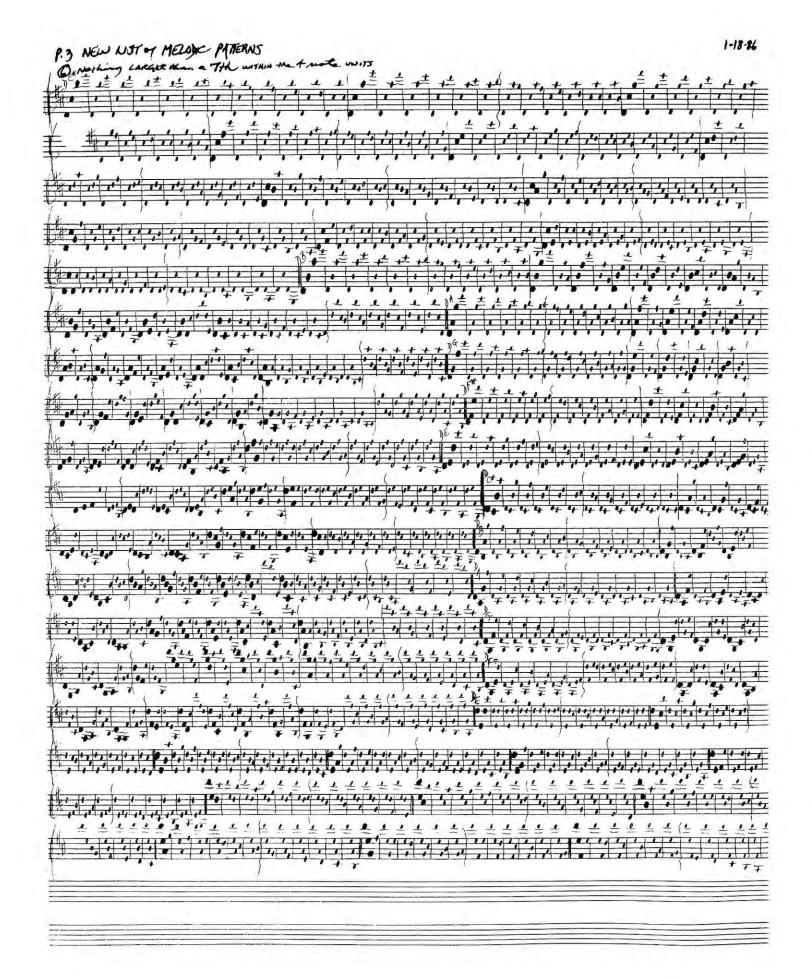
NEW APPROACH TO ORGANIZING MELODIC PATTERNS of NOTES

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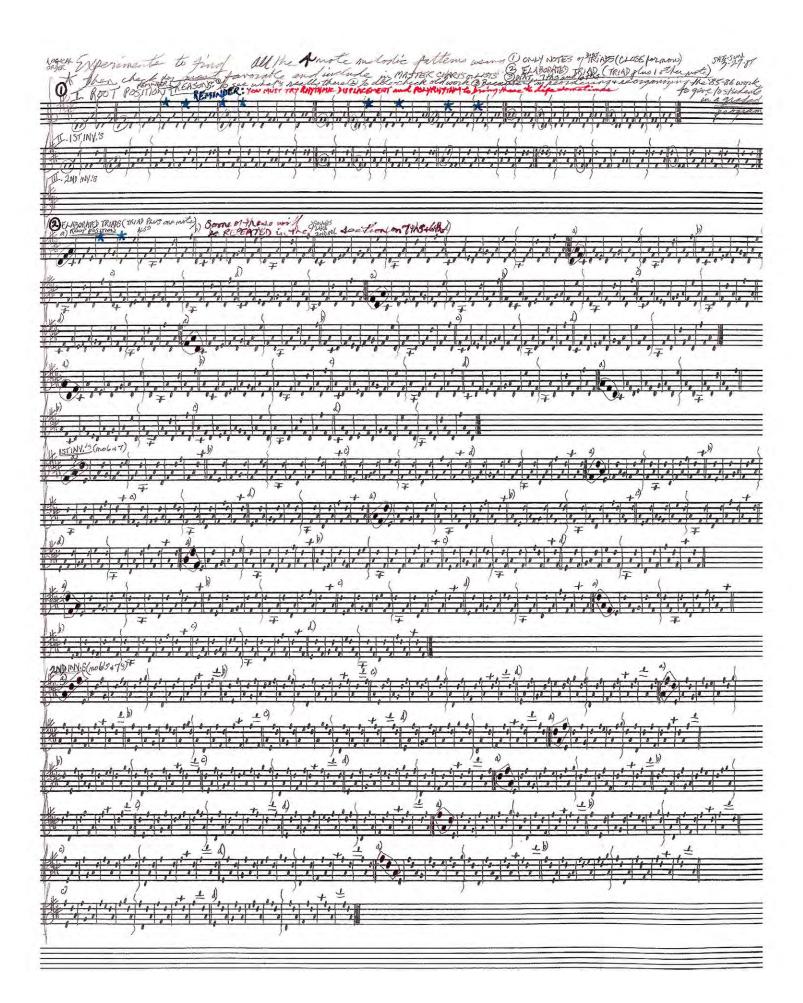


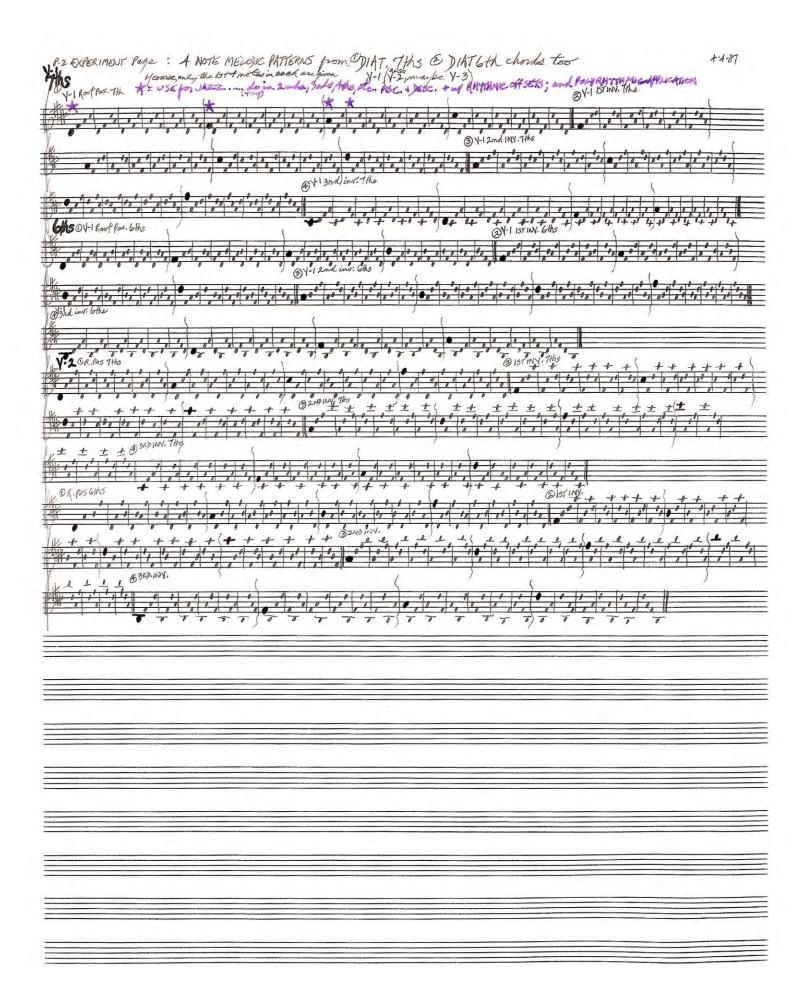






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