Melodic Patterns

In learning to create good melodies, it is very helpful to know many ways to break up scales. This familiarity with all the different intervals in a scale will eventually create an intuitive relationship between a player and his instrument, so that one can create different variations each time he plays. Also, one's musical ear is sharpened by learning to hear the subtle differences between these patterns (again, this will eventually just happen if your ear is exposed to these or similar sounds enough). Practice many patterns in all positions, keys, scales for maximum benefit.

All exercises [below] use 3rd intervals as the basis - try the same thing with 4ths, 5ths, 6ths, and optionally 2nds, 7ths.

Notice that each above exercise has an ascending and descending pattern - from now on only the ascending patterns will be listed, but figure out the descending patterns on your own and practice them too.

Patterns will be stated once only from now on.
Melodic Patterns - Ted Greene, 1974-09-16

Try leaving out parts of any pattern:
(example #23 above) or

etc.

etc.
Make up lots of broken chord patterns like these:

Try suspensions, grace notes, different rhythms.

This page is years of work - take it gradually.
MELODIC PATTERNS

In learning to create good melodies, it is very helpful to know many ways to break up scales. This familiarity with all the different intervals in a scale will eventually create an intuitive relationship between a player and his instrument. But one can create different variations by learning to hear the subtle differences between these patterns (again, this will eventually just happen if your ear is exposed to these or similar songs enough). Practice many patterns in all positions, keys, scales for maximum benefit.

The exercises at left use odd intervals as the basis. Try the same thing with the 5ths, 6ths, and optionally 7ths.

Notice that each above exercise has an ascending pattern—use only the ascending pattern, but if you use the descending pattern, try your own variations.

Make up lots of broken chord patterns like these.

Try suspensions, grace notes, different rhythms—this page is years of work! Take it gradually.