LESSON 13 TRANSPOSITION

TRANSPOSITION occurs when a piece of music is played or written in a key that is different from the original.

For example, the first version of *Frere Jacques* below (Example A) is in the key of C Major. The second version (Example B) is in G Major. The piece has been transposed from C Major to G Major.

Notice how the intervals remain the same in both versions, and if played, the melody sounds the same, but higher in pitch.

EXAMPLE A: FRERE JACQUES in the key of C Major.

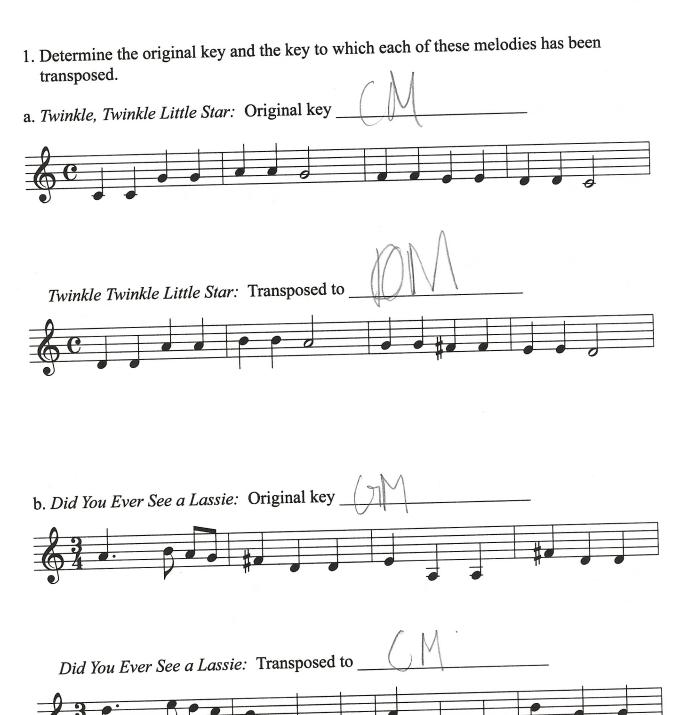


EXAMPLE B: FRERE JACQUES in the key of G Major.



Follow these steps when transposing a melody:

- 1. Determine the key of the original melody.
- 2. Determine the key signature of the key to which the music will be transposed.
- 3. Look at the first note of the original melody and determine its scale degree or its place in the scale. For example, if the original key is C Major and the melody begins on G, the starting note is the 5th.
- 4. The first note for the new key will be the same interval above the new tonic as the original. For example, when the new key is D Major and the starting note was a 5th above tonic, the new starting note will be A, a 5th above D.
- 5. Continue writing the transposition by determining each interval of the original melody and using that interval for the new melody. Add any necessary sharps or flats.
- 6. Check your progress by following steps 3 and 4 for any given note.



2. Transpose these melodies to the given key. Write the transposition on the blank staff.

a. Hot Cross Buns in C Major



Transpose to G Major



b. Melody in G Major



Melody: Transpose to F Major

