



Melodic Motion: Conjunct and Disjunct

Name _____

Form _____

The **MELODY** is the most basic element of music. It is the part of the song that sounds the most important and catches your ear. In a song, the melody is often sung by a vocalist or played by solo instrument. The melodic line is a string of notes played together that make up the melody. If we just played the same notes over and over, music would be very boring. As music progresses, the melody can rise and fall, slowly or quickly. This creates a visible shape when the notes are written down. One way of describing melodies, especially in songs and popular songs, is the **DISTANCES BETWEEN EACH NOTE**.

Sometimes in songs, the notes are close together and the melody rises or falls gradually with only small changes in pitch between often using **NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOUR NOTES** that are a semitone or a tone apart: like a scale. **The word we use to describe melodies that move MAINLY (but not always completely) by STEP is CONJUNCT MOTION.** When the notes in the melody ascend and descend quickly, with large spaces or **LEAPS** between the notes, we call this **DISJUNCT MOTION**.

Conjunct

Disjunct

1. Look at the following melody, taken from the popular song “This is What You Came For” by Calvin Harris and Rihanna which uses a mix of **CONJUNCT** and **DISJUNCT** melodic movement.

1 Ba- -by 2 this is what you ca- -me for 3 Light- -ning 4 strikes eve- -ry time she moves

- a) In which **TWO** bars of the song does the melody move by **DISJUNCT** movement?
 - b) In which **TWO** bars of the song does the melody move by **CONJUNCT** movement?
 - c) What is the note name of the lowest pitch note in this melody?
 - d) What is the note name of the highest pitch note in this melody?
 - e) What is the **DISTANCE** between these notes (count both the lowest and highest notes)?
2. Look at the following melody, taken from the popular song “Stressed Out” by 21 Pilots.

Wish we could turn back time to the good ol' da - ys When our
mo - mma sang us to sleep and now we're stressed o - ut

- a) How would you describe the melodic movement of the melody in the bars shown in the box?
- b) Draw a shape which describes the rise and fall of the melody in the bars shown in the box
- c) What is the **DISTANCE** between the highest and lowest notes in this melody?

3. Look at the following melody, taken from the popular song "Cheap Thrills" by Sia.

1 2 3 Ba- by I - don't_ need do-llar bills_ to have fun to night

5 1 2 3 4 I don't need no m - o - ney more than dia mond more than gold

- Is the melodic movement of the first line **CONJUNCT** or **DISJUNCT**?
- Where in the melody does the biggest **LEAP** occur between two notes?
- Draw the melodic shape of the last 4 bars of the melody.

4. Look at the following song melody, taken from a famous 1950's popular song called "Love Me Tender" by Elvis Presley. Analyse the **MELODIC MOVEMENT** of the melody, looking carefully at the distances between each two notes. Put an "S" between two notes that move by Step (Conjunct), an "L" between two notes that move by Leap (Disjunct) and a "R" between Repeated notes. We've done the first 3 notes for you.

L S S

- Which form of melodic movement does most of the melody line to "Love Me Tender" use?
- What is the **DISTANCE** between the highest and lowest notes in this melody?
- Draw a shape which describes the melody in line 3