

Sequence Savvy #1

For this exercise, we will define a sequence as a musical construction that contains both a harmonic and a melodic pattern. The repetition of the melody will be the same, but interval qualities will sometimes change. There are several possible patterns, this exercise uses the descending 5ths sequence, which sounds especially good in minor keys.

1. Get comfortable with the descending circle of 5ths sequence. The basic pattern is down a 5th, up a 4th. Play it in several keys and work out both of the RH voicings shown below. In minor, the 7th is not raised until the ending of the sequence.
2. Turn the chords into a melody. See how few notes you can use, and still make it sound interesting. Or try more notes. Don't forget that repeated notes sound good. Can you make it sound Baroque?

Examples of the chords for playing the sequences:

a) a: i iv VII III VI ii° V i

b) a: i iv VII III VI ii° V i

For the Minuet exercise 1b, reduce the sequence to 2 voices, and follow the template. Try to make it sound Baroque! Or change it into something more contemporary.