A GUIDE TO PITCH TENDENCIES FOR BAND

SAXOPHONE

Woodwind Pitch Tendencies

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MUSIC 618.001
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02 Contents
- 03 About

Chapter 1: Basics of Intonation

- 04 What Impacts Intonation?
- 05 How to Play In Tune
- 08 Just Intonation

Chapter 2: Intonation On Your Instrument

10 Saxophone Intonation

Chapter 3: Pitch Tendency Exercises

- 13 Pitch Tendency Exercises
- 14 Eb Sax Intervals of the Major Scale
- 16 Eb Sax Intervals of the Dominant 7th Chord
- 18 Eb Sax Arpeggios
- 19 Eb Sax -Major Scales
- 21 Eb Sax Melodies

Chapter 3 Continued

- 27 Tenor Sax Intervals of the Major Scale
- 29 Tenor Sax Intervals of the Dominant 7th Chord
- 31 Tenor Sax Arpeggios
- 32 Tenor Sax Major Scales
- 34 Tenor Sax Melodies

Chapter 4: Chorales for Pitch Tendency

- 40 Chorales for Pitch Tendency
- 41 Eb Sax Chorales with Pitch Tendency Indications
- 60 Eb Sax Chorales without Pitch Tendency Indications
- 78 Tenor Sax Chorales with Pitch Tendency Indications
- 96 Tenor Sax Chorales without Pitch Tendency Indications
- 114 Music Theory Appendix
- 119 Works Cited

ABOUT THIS BOOK

The purpose of this book is to introduce students to the pitch tendencies on their individual instrument. First, this book provides resources for the student to develop their understanding of pitch. It will include tools to help students work on their pitch. Then, students will be presented with a fingering/slide position chart that explains the pitch tendencies on their instrument. There will be accompanying exercises that walk students through adjusting appropriately when they encounter notes with a sharp/flat pitch tendency. Finally, the book will include chamber music with which students can play together to work on adjusting for pitch tendencies in the context of music making. These chamber music pieces can also be used as chorales in a full band ensemble rehearsal. Students should progress chronologically through this book when reading it the first time. Then they can revisit topics as needed while they continue working on pitch individually or with their peers.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ms. Abigail Koehler is the band director at Mead High School in Longmont, Colorado. This will be Ms. Koehler's 6th year teaching at MHS and her 3rd year as the head band director. Ms. Koehler teaches Marching Band, Advanced Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, Unified Percussion Ensemble, and AP Music Theory. Prior to her position at MHS, Ms. Koehler taught elementary band in Pennsylvania. Ms. Koehler earned a Bachelors in Music Education from Penn State University, and she attended Penn State for one year after her graduation to complete a performance certificate in trombone performance. While at Penn State, Mark Lusk was her primary trombone instructor. Other notable teachers include Marko Marcinko (jazz) and Velvet Brown (tuba/euphonium). Ms.Koehler also played under the baton of Dennis Glocke and Gerardo Edelstein. In addition to performing with the bands and orchestras at Penn State, Ms. Koehler also performed in the treble choir, Orianna Singers, directed by Jayne Glocke. Ms. Koehler is a graduate of the Schreyer Honors College and completed her senior thesis titled "High School Music Theory: Perceptions of the AP Music Theory Exam's Influence on Teaching and Learning." She had the opportunity to present her thesis at the 2017 PMEA conference in Erie, PA.

When not teaching or playing trombone, Ms. Koehler likes to read, run, and spend time in the great outdoors in her current home state of Colorado.



What impacts intonation?

There are many factors that impact intonation on your instrument! Here are the aspects of playing that you should consider before you begin working through this book:

- 1. Air Air is the fuel for our instruments. As a result, if our air suffers, our pitch will also suffer. When playing your instrument, always make sure to take a deep, relaxed breath. Then, breathe out with cold, focused air while maintaining a relaxed feeling in the abdomen. Never let your air supply get lower than 15-25% in order to maintain enough air to operate the instrument properly.
- 2. Posture Posture directly impacts our air and the way that we hold our instrument. If we are not sitting properly, we will not be able to breathe properly. When sitting to play your instrument, take a moment to lean forward until you feel tension in your back. Next, lean backward until you feel tension in your abdomen. Finally, find the balance point between those two extremes at which you feel balanced and relaxed in your chair. You should not feel any tension.
- 3. **Embouchure** The embouchure impacts the air stream, which impacts intonation. Take the opportunity to form your embouchure in front of a mirror to assess whether or not it is formed correctly. Ask your teacher to take a look at your embouchure as well!
- 4. **Reeds** Reeds have a large impact on the pitch of woodwind instruments (with the exception of flutes). The thickness or strength of the reed can impact the pitch, so you should always try to play on the appropriate reed strength for you. As reeds get older and more worn, their pitch and tone can change. Make sure to replace reeds regularly to ensure the best quality reed. Make sure to store your reeds properly when not playing.
- 5. Instrument Design Musical instruments are not designed perfectly in tune due to the physics of sound. Depending on your instrument, certain notes will be out of tune due to the way that the instrument is made. Because of these imperfections in instrument design, we are aware of the notes that have intonation issues, which you will learn more about in this book!

How to play in tune.

TONE

Before a musician can focus on playing in tune, he/she must play "in tone." It's a common saying in the music education world that we must play "in tone, in tune, and in time." In tune and in time can be self explanatory. But what does it mean to play "in tone?" It means to play your instrument with the best and most characteristic tone possible. Specifics about tone production go beyond the scope of this project, but talk to your band director/private lesson teacher about the following to ensure that you're playing your instrument with the best tone possible.

- Breathing exercises to ensure efficient breathing
- Tone production fundamentals exercises for your instrument (ex. Long tones, flow studies, lip slurs, register/harmonic exercises, etc.)
- A list of professional musicians who play your instrument so that you can listen to their tone.

SINGING & AUDIATING

One of the best ways to improve intonation on your instrument is to train your ear! Singing is one of the best ways to train your ear because it requires you to produce a pitch without the help of keys/valves/a slide. Throughout this book, you will be encouraged to sing the exercises and your part in the chamber music pieces. Don't skip this step! Use your instrument or a piano to give yourself a starting pitch, then do your best to sing it accurately. The expectation is NOT that the singing will be perfect. It's simply a tool to help your inner ear develop, and you'll improve the more you do it. Audiating means that you can hear music in your head. Try it now! Can you sing a nursery rhyme in your head without humming it? That's audiating! The more you can audiate before you sing/play, the more in tune your singing/playing will be. When working through the exercises in this book, don't forget to audiate!

Hear the note before you play it!

INTONATION

Intonation is the accuracy of a given pitch while you are playing your instrument. Your intonation can go three different ways:

Sharp (higher than the target pitch), flat (lower than the target pitch), and in tune (right on target)

We measure intonation using **cents.** A cent is the unit of measure used for musical intervals. In equal temperament, there are 100 cents between each half step, and 12 half steps create an octave. Your tuner will show how many cents sharp or flat you are from the target pitch. The greater the number, the farther you are from the target pitch.

Beats are the "waves" that we hear when a pitch is out of tune. You can't see beats, but when you hear them, they indicate that you are playing out of tune. The slower the waves, the farther you are from the target pitch. The waves will get faster as you approach the target pitch. The closer you get to the target pitch, the worse the interval will sound. It's important that you remember that sometimes your pitch has to get "worse" in comparison to the target pitch before it can get better! Listen to the examples below that demonstrate the beats/waves that we hear when a note is out of tune.







TUNERS

Tuners are a great tool to help us work on intonation, but they should be used sparingly. Ultimately, we want to adjust our intonation based on what we hear, not what we see. A tuner can help us train our ears by helping us visualize what we hear, which is a great place to start. However, the more comfortable you can get with hearing your intonation, the better. General recommendations for using a tuner:

| When a Tuner IS Helpful | When a Tuner is NOT Helpful |
|---|---|
| After your instrument has been physically warmed up. | When your instrument is cold. |
| When initially tuning your instrument at the beginning of a rehearsal/practice session. | The entire time that you are practicing. |
| If you can hear that you're out of tune, but you're struggling to correct it by ear. | Throughout an entire rehearsal. Do NOT put your tuner on your stand and leave it there! |

TUNERS

Tuners can come in the forms of tuning forks, an individual tuner, or an app for your electronic device.

Remember that tuning your tuning note to the tuner does NOT mean that your instrument will always be in tune. Intonation changes constantly due to the air temperature, the temperature of your instrument, the key you're playing in, and the pitch tendencies on your instrument. It's good to tune your instrument shortly after you begin to play, but remember to keep your ears turned on so that you can adjust to what you hear.







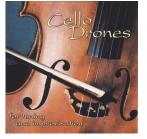
Tuner

Tuning App (Tonal Energy)

DRONES

A drone is a sustained note or chord. Drones are frequently used as tools for intonation similar to a tuner. The difference between a tuner and a drone is that the tuner shows you your intonation visually, whereas a drone requires you to listen for intonation. Drones are extremely helpful when you're working on hearing intonation instead of simply seeing it on your tuner. Hearing intonation is a valuable and necessary skill for all situations in which you play with other people.

Recommendation: Cello drones that can be found on Youtube and Spotify. By Marcia Sloane and provided by Musician's Practice Partner.





WHAT IS JUST INTONATION?

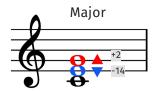
There are two primary types of tuning systems that we encounter regularly when making music.

Equal Temperament: The idea that each half step is exactly the same distance apart (100 cents between each half step). *Example: An electronic keyboard is tuned using equal temperament.*

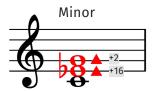
Just Intonation: The idea that intervals sound more in tune, and we achieve a more "pure" sound when intervals adjusted slightly from 100 cents between each half step. *Example: How we tune in a band ensemble.*

JUST INTONATION IN ENSEMBLES

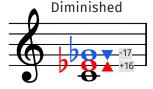
When playing in an ensemble, we must make adjustments to the harmony to make them sound "more in tune." If we were to play the following chords using equal temperament, all notes would be at the "0" cents position. However, we must make the following adjustments in order for the harmony to sound correct to the ear.



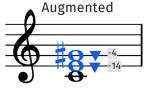
In order for a major triad to sound in tune, the third must be lowered by 14 cents, and the fifth must be raised by 2 cents.



In order for a minor triad to sound in tune, the third must be raised by 16 cents, and the fifth must be raised by 2 cents.



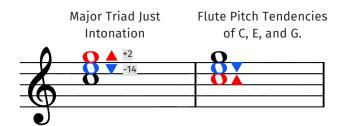
In order for a diminished triad to sound in tune, the third must be raised by 16 cents, and the fifth must be lowered by 17 cents.



In order for an augmented triad to sound in tune, the third must be lowered by 14 cents, and the fifth must be lowered by 4 cents.

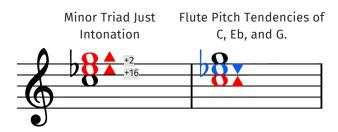
HOW DO PITCH TENDENCIES IMPACT JUST INTONATION?

In short, if you know the requirements of just intonation, and you know the pitch tendencies on your instrument, you'll be able to play better in tune. Imagine you're a flautist, and you're playing the chords below. The measure on the left shows the adjustments that need to made for just intonation. The measure on the right shows the pitch tendencies of those notes on the flute.



When playing these chord members on your flute, you'll need to be aware of the following pitch needs and issues:

| Chord function and note name: | The chord requires this note to be: | The pitch tendency of the instrument is: | The player must know: |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Root: C | In tune | Sharp | This note will sound sharp, so the player must lower the pitch in order for it to sound in tune. |
| Third: E | Flat | Flat | The pitch tendency on the flute will help the chord sound more in tune. |
| Fifth: G | Slightly sharp | In tune | The player should very slightly raise the G in order for it to sound in tune. |



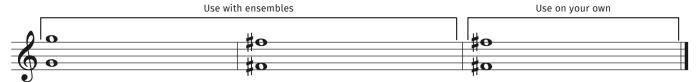
When playing these chord members on your flute, you'll need to be aware of the following pitch needs and issues:

| Chord function and note name: | The chord requires this note to be: | The pitch tendency of the instrument is: | The player must know: |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Root: C | In tune | Sharp | This note will sound sharp, so the player must lower the pitch in order for it to sound in tune. |
| Third: Eb | Sharp | Flat | Since the pitch tendency of Eb is on flat on the flute, and this chord calls for this note to be raised, the flautist will have to raise the pitch quite a bit for it to sound in tune. |
| Fifth: G | Slightly sharp | In tune | The player should very slightly raise the G in order for it to sound in tune. |

CHAPTER 2 - INTONATION ON YOUR INSTRUMENT

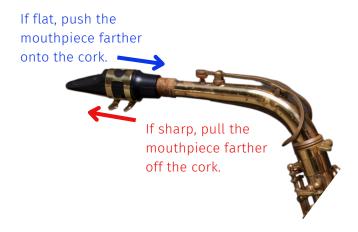
SAXOPHONES

Tuning Notes



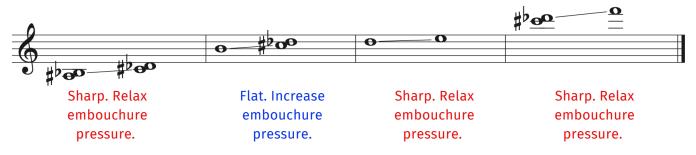
How to Tune

- 1. Play the tuning notes above with a tuner.
- 2. If the note is flat, push the mouthpiece in.
- 3. If the note is sharp, pull the mouthpiece out.



Range Tendencies

Though there will always be exceptions, you can expect notes within the following ranges to follow the pitch tendencies indicated below.



CHAPTER 2 - INTONATION ON YOUR INSTRUMENT

Saxophone Pitch Tendencies





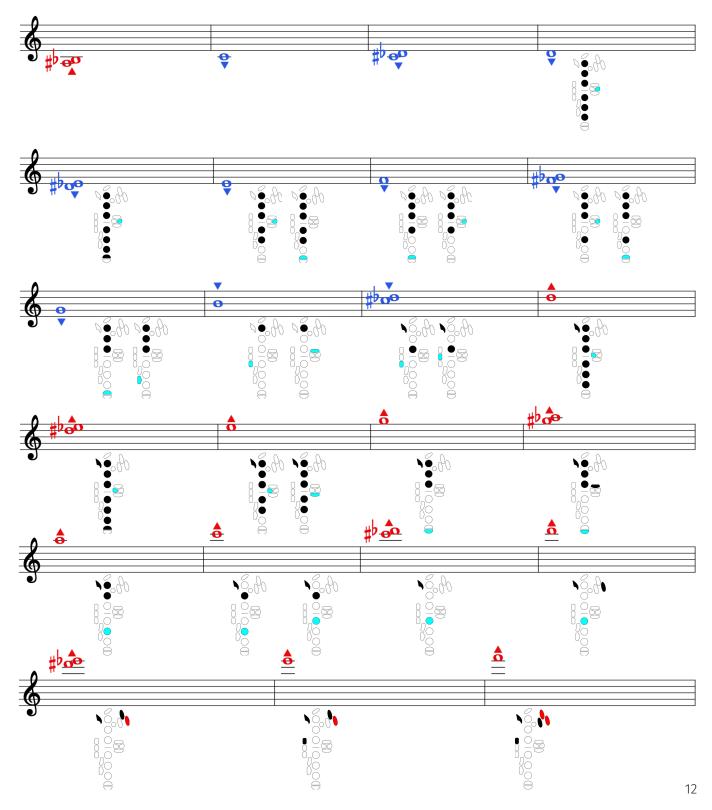




CHAPTER 2 - INTONATION ON YOUR INSTRUMENT

Saxophone Alternate Fingerings

For some pitches, you can use alternate fingerings to raise or lower the pitch to improve its intonation. Below you will see the standard fingerings in **black**. Fingers that you can add to help improve the pitch are in **light blue**. Fingers that you can remove to help the pitch are in **red**.



CHAPTER 3 - PITCH TENDENCY EXERCISES

The **exercises** on the next pages are intended to help you adjust pitch on your instrument according to your instrument's pitch tendencies. Notes with a specific tendency are highlighted in blue if they are flat and red if they are sharp.

| Symbol | Pitch Tendency | The player should: |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Blue with "down" arrow | Flat | Raise the pitch |
| Red with "up" arrow | Sharp | Lower the pitch |

All exercises should be played with a **drone** that sustains the tonic (scale degree 1) pitch of the key of the exercise. Some exercises also have a drone part written as a duet in the event that you are able to play with a peer. Use the chart below to help you determine the correct drone pitch.

| Exercise | Drone Pitch |
|---|--|
| Intervals of the Major Scale and Dominant 7th Chord | The drone pitch on the bottom stave of the exercise. |
| Arpeggios | The drone pitch on the bottom stave of the exercise. |
| Major Scales | The first note of the scale. |
| Melodies | The drone pitch on the bottom stave of the exercise. |

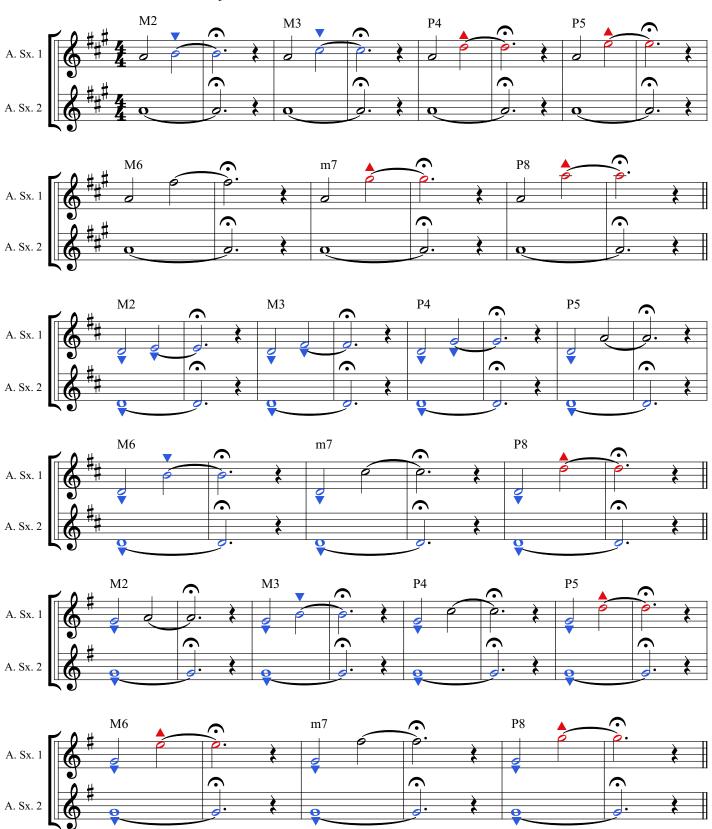
If you play a transposing instrument, remember that the <u>written drone pitch is your written pitch</u>, and you must transpose it to concert pitch in order to choose the correct drone to play. <u>All drones are in concert pitch</u>.

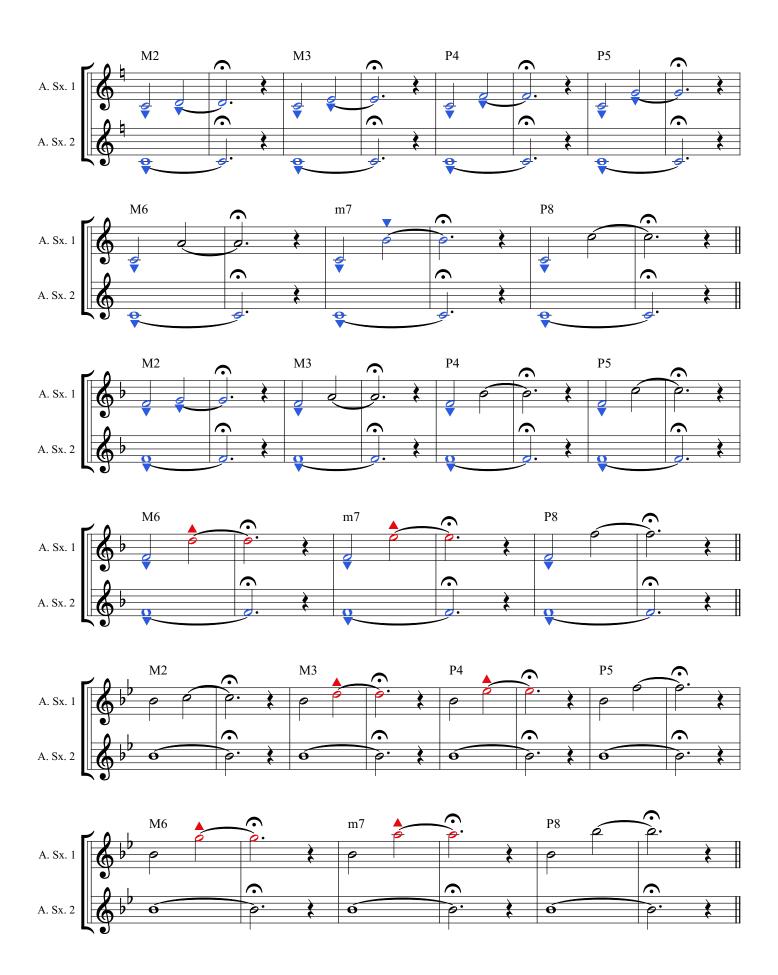
| Instrument | Transposition |
|------------------------|---|
| Flute, Oboe, & Bassoon | Written in concert pitch - no transposition. |
| Clarinet & Tenor Sax | Concert pitch is a MAJOR SECOND * lower than your written pitch. |
| Alto & Baritone Sax | Concert pitch is a MAJOR SIXTH * lower than your written pitch. |

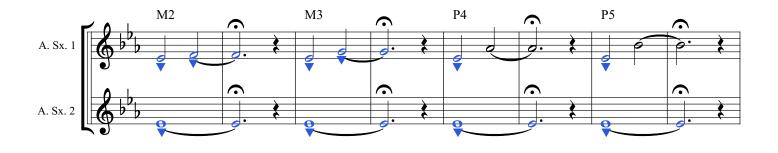
^{*}For more information on intervals, see the music theory appendix at the back of this book.

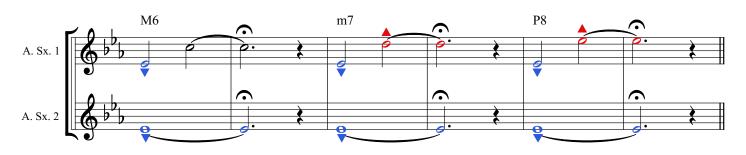
Woodwind Pitch Exercises

Intervals of the Major Scale

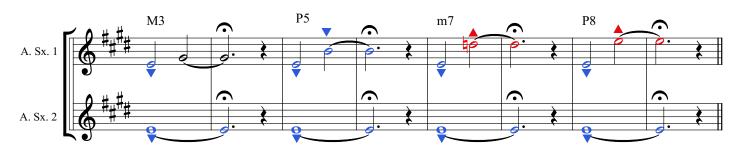


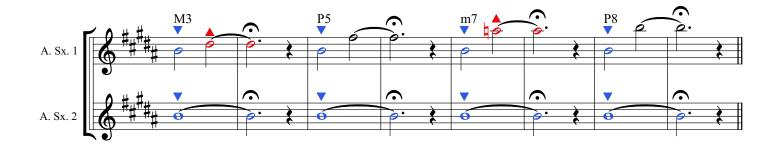


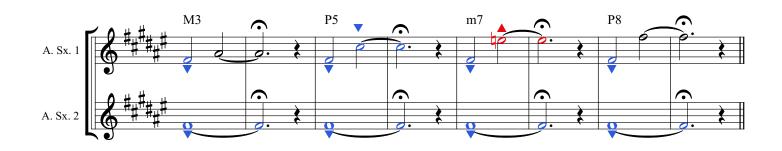


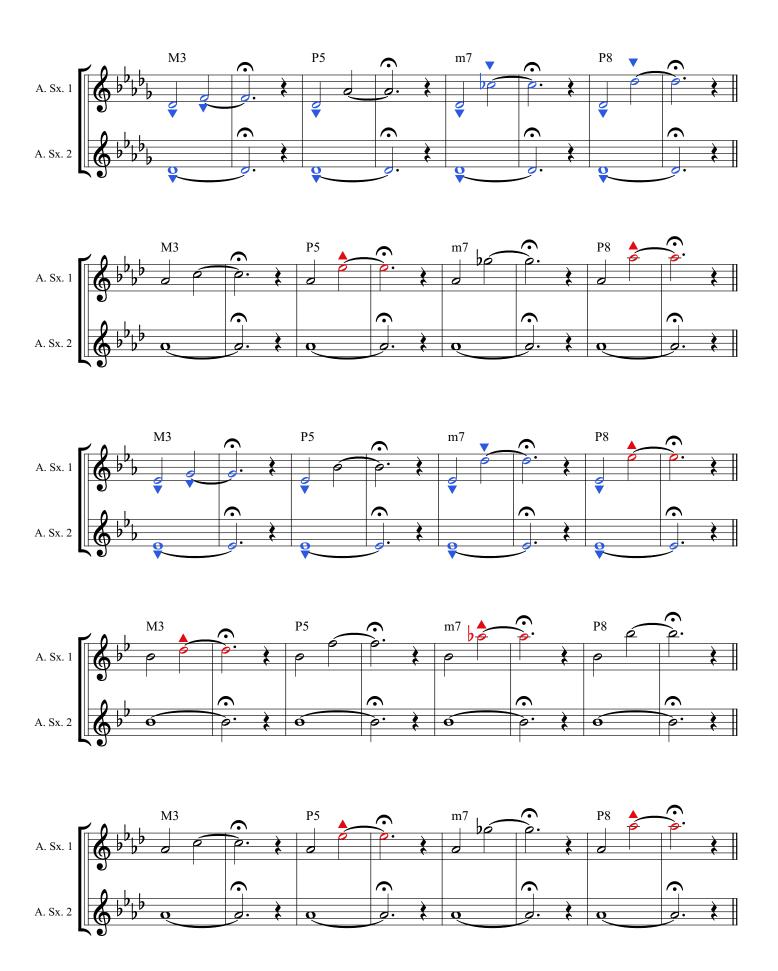


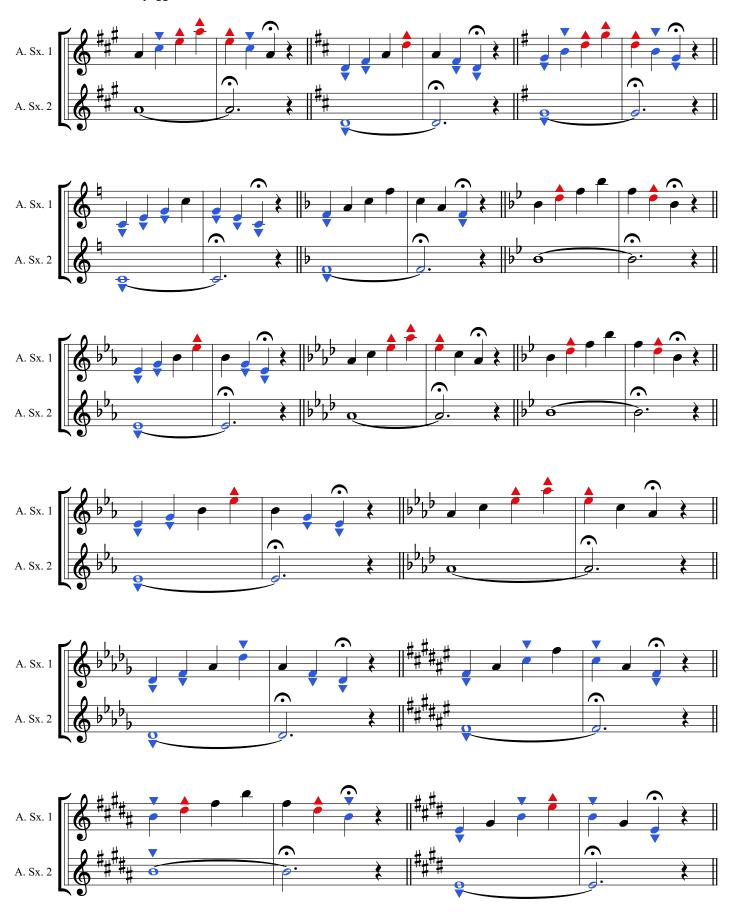
Intervals of the Dominant 7th Chord

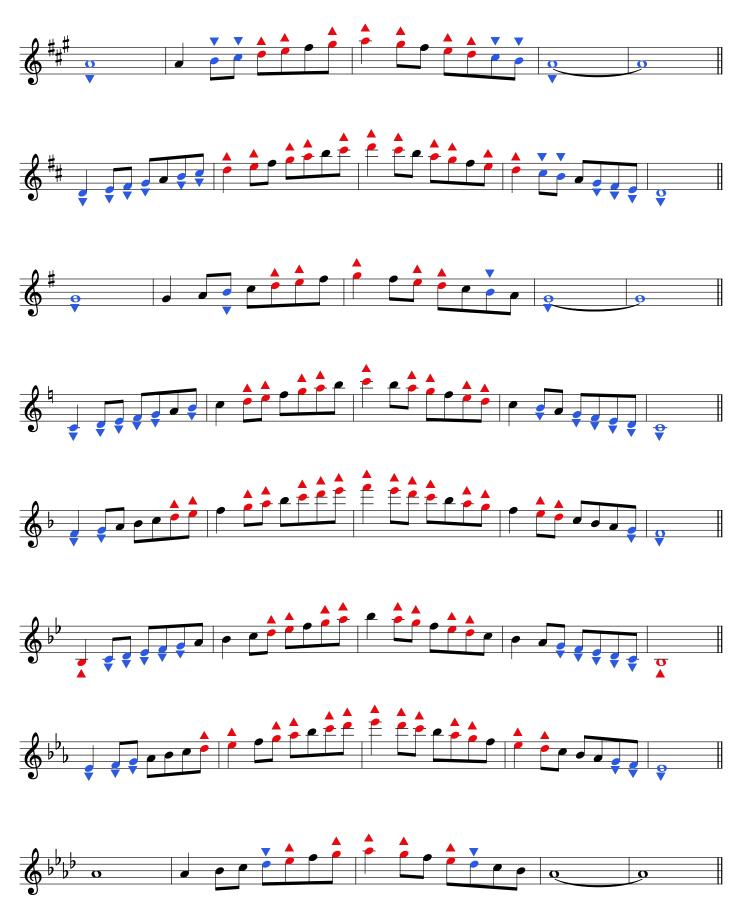


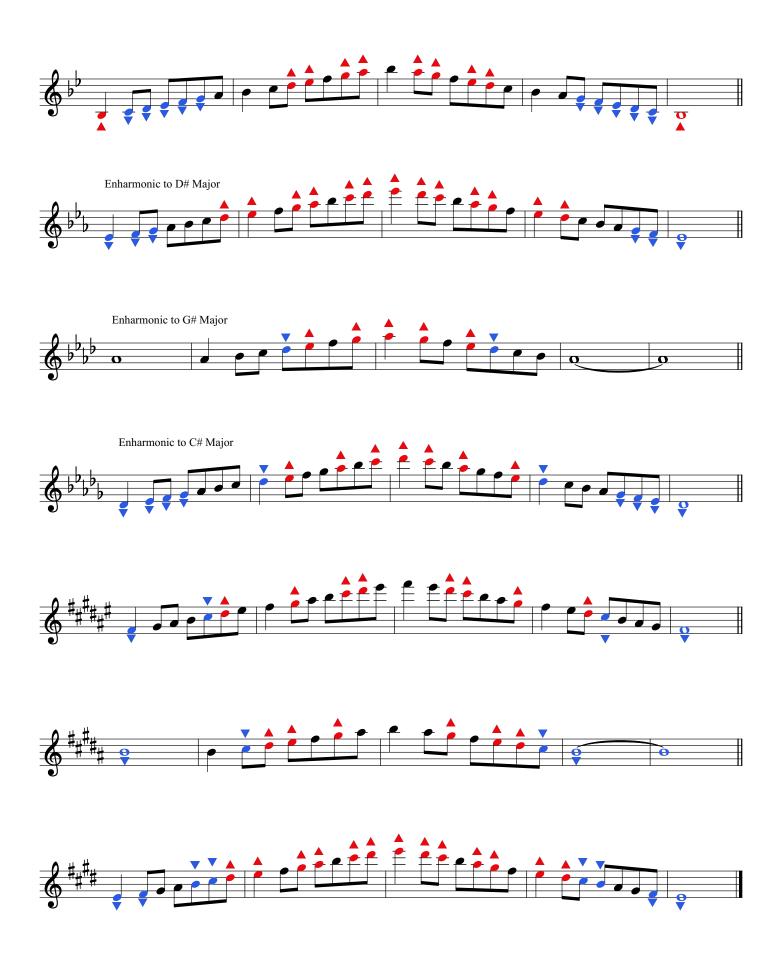




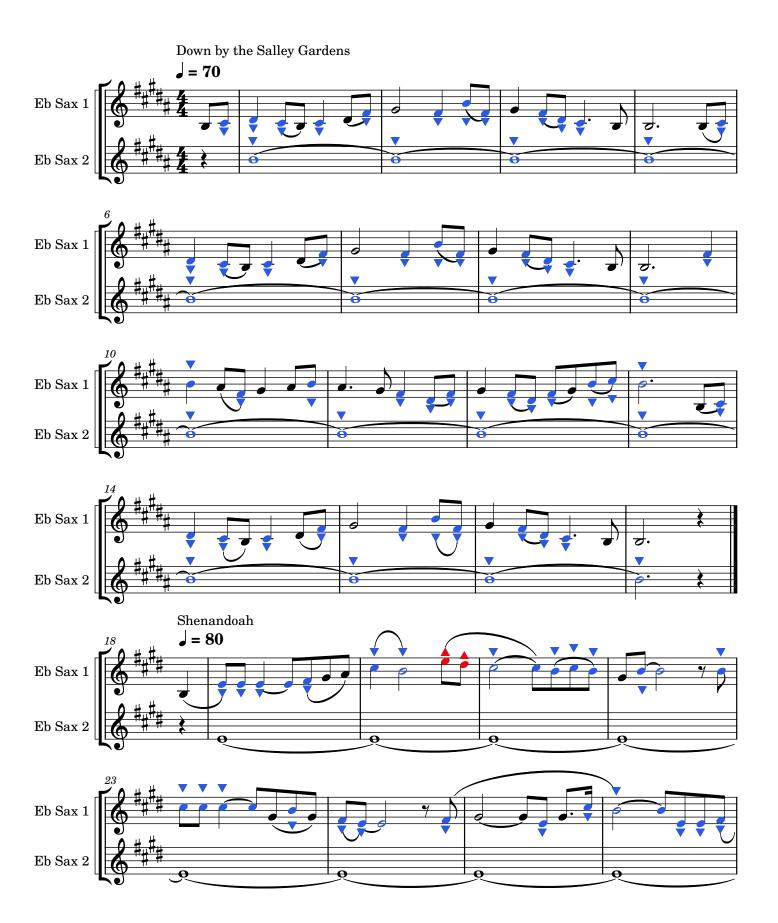








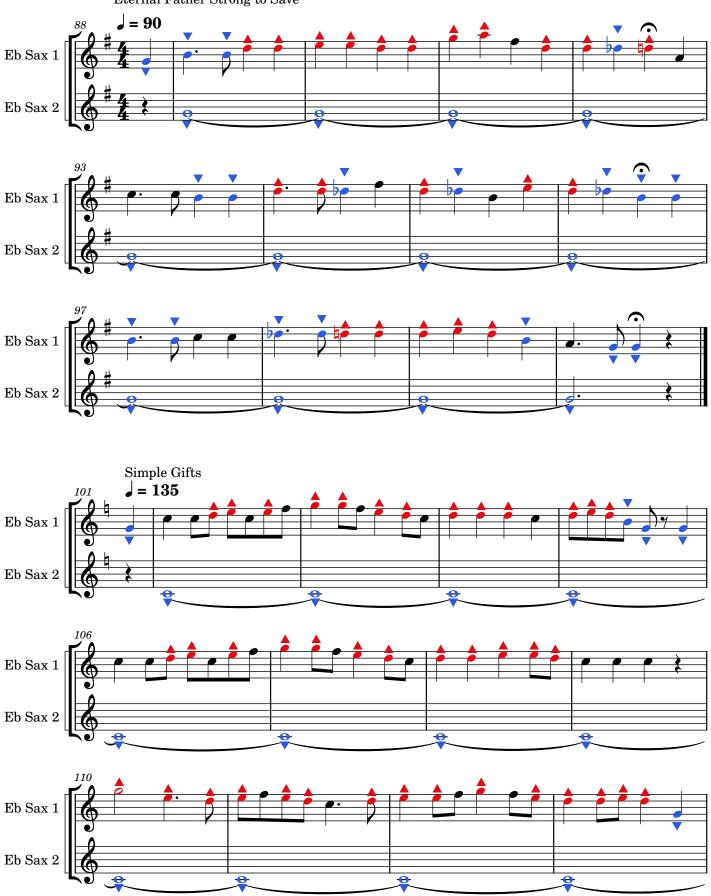
Melodies

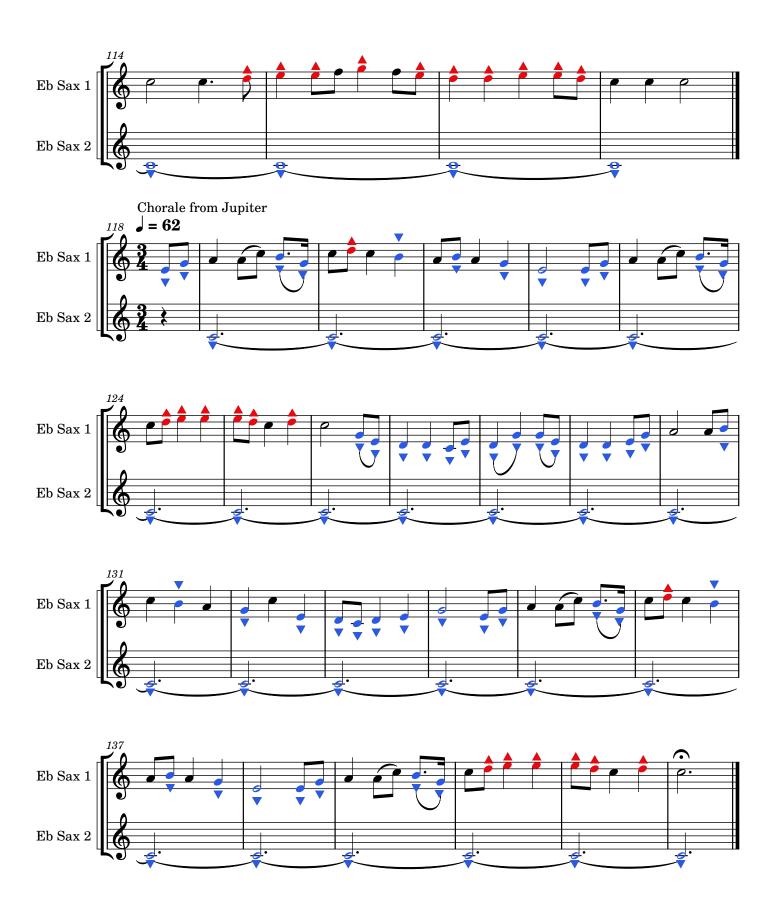




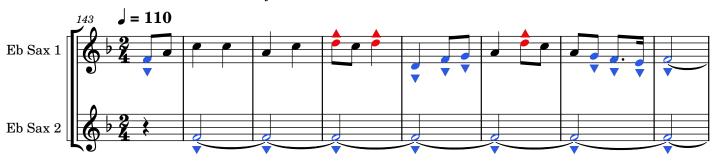


Eternal Father Strong to Save

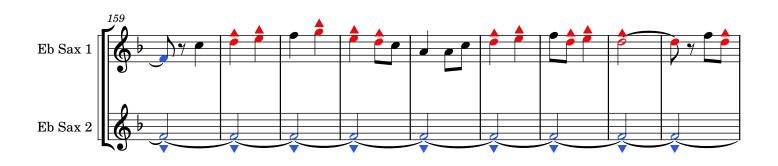


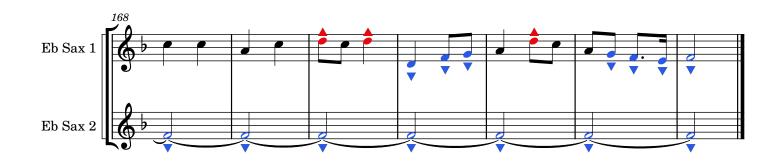


Seventeen Come Sunday



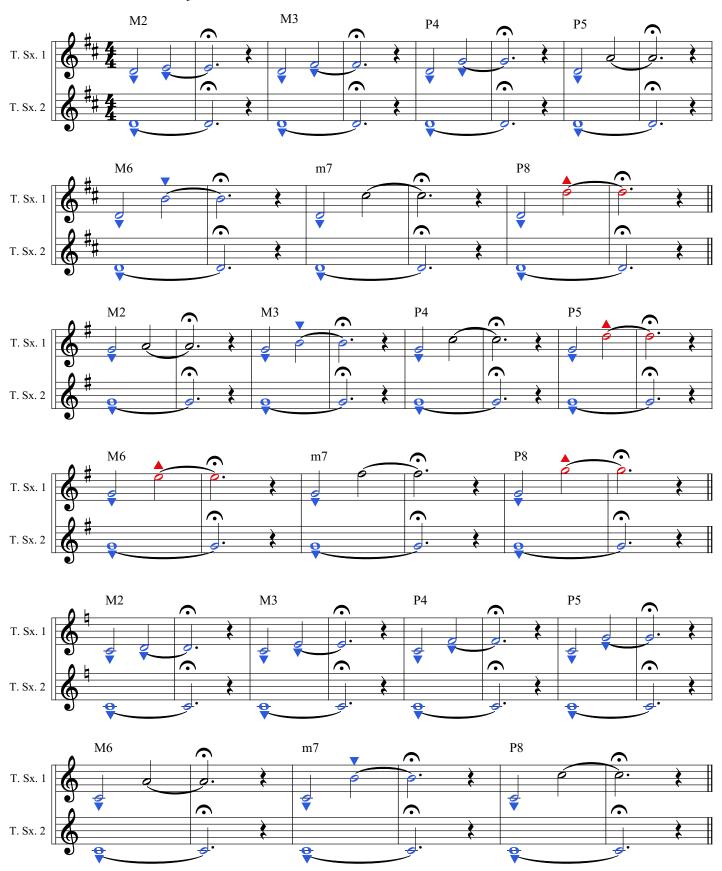


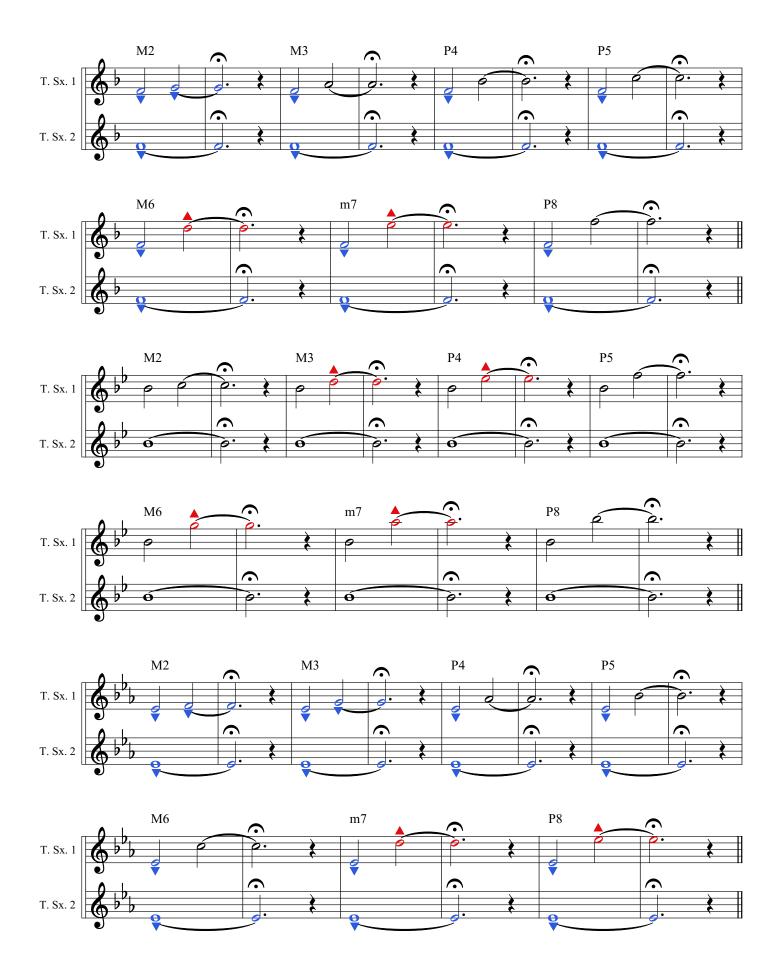


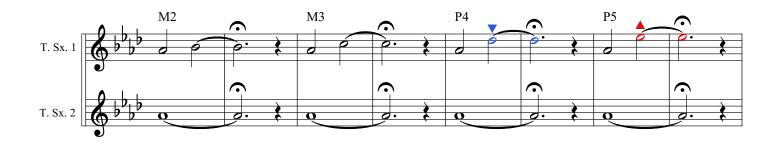


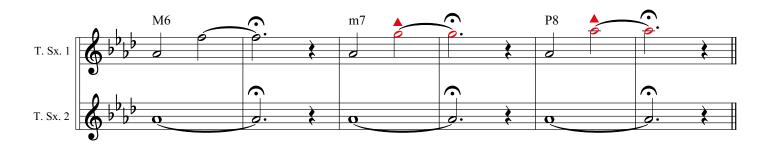
Woodwind Pitch Exercises

Intervals of the Major Scale

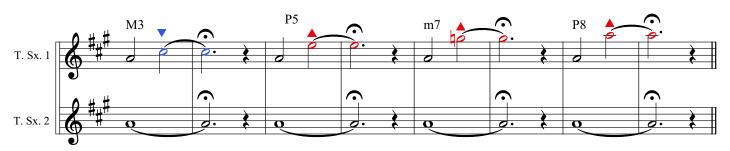


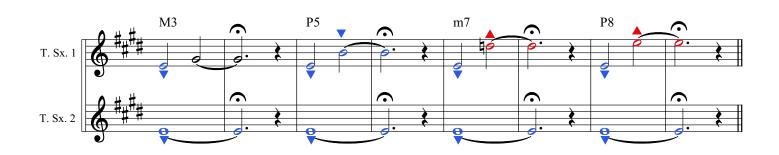


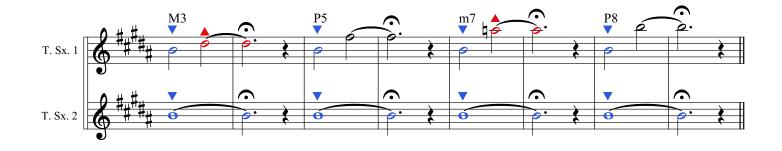


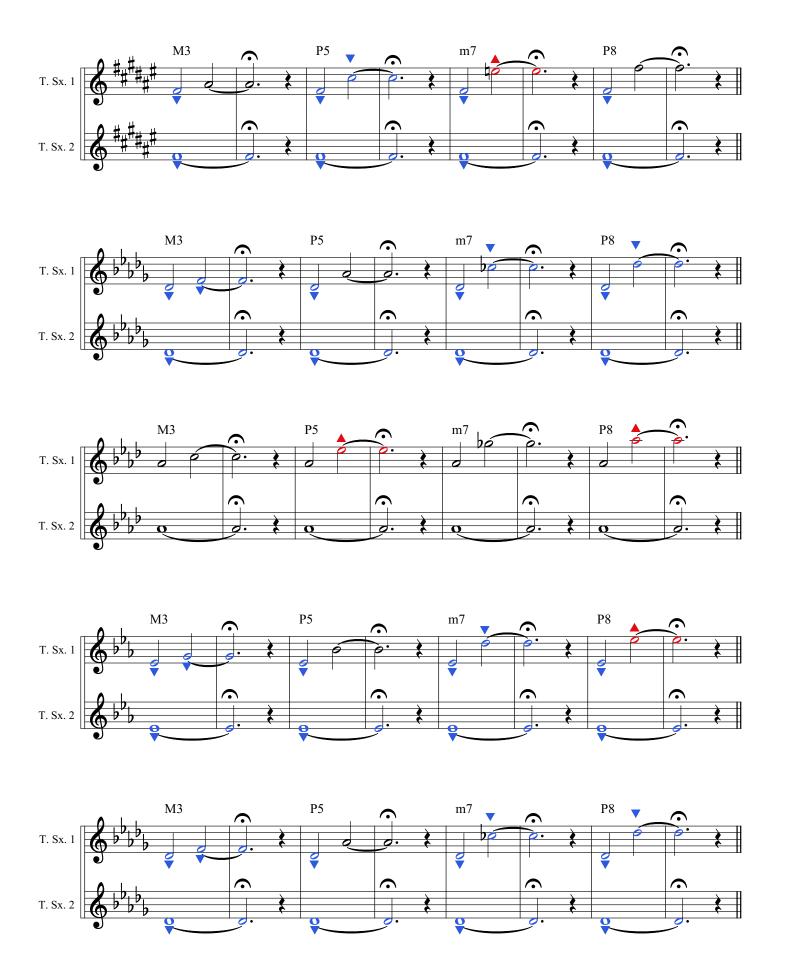


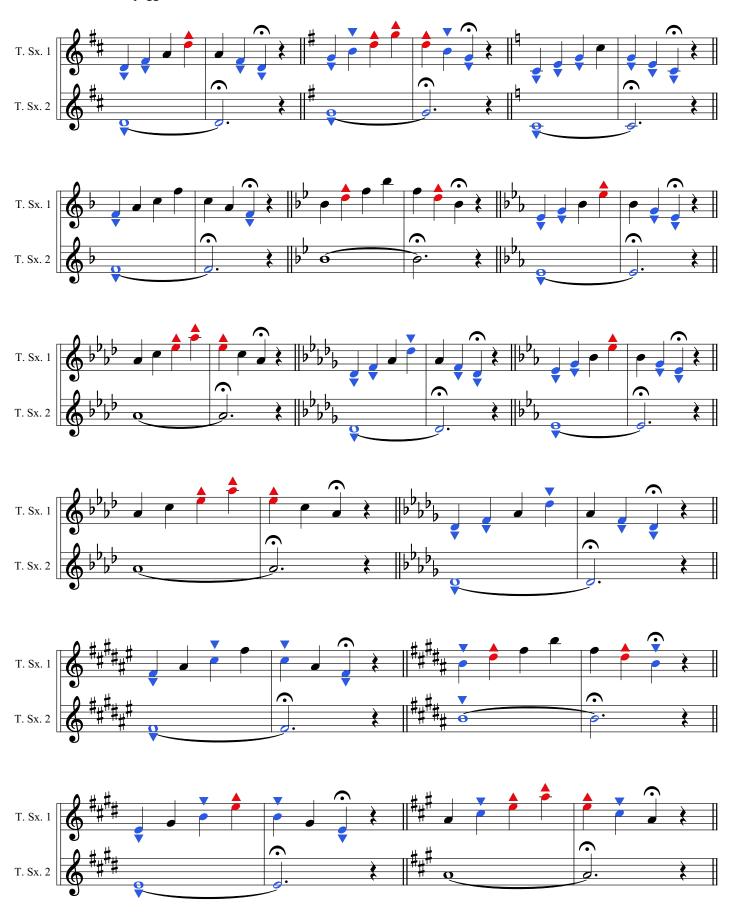
Intervals of the Dominant 7th Chord

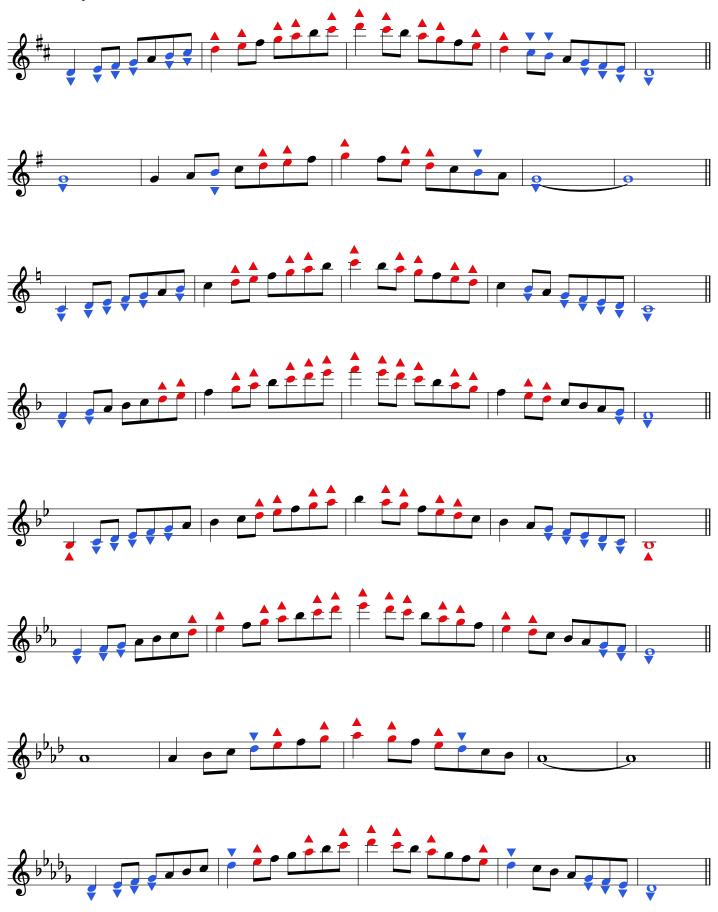


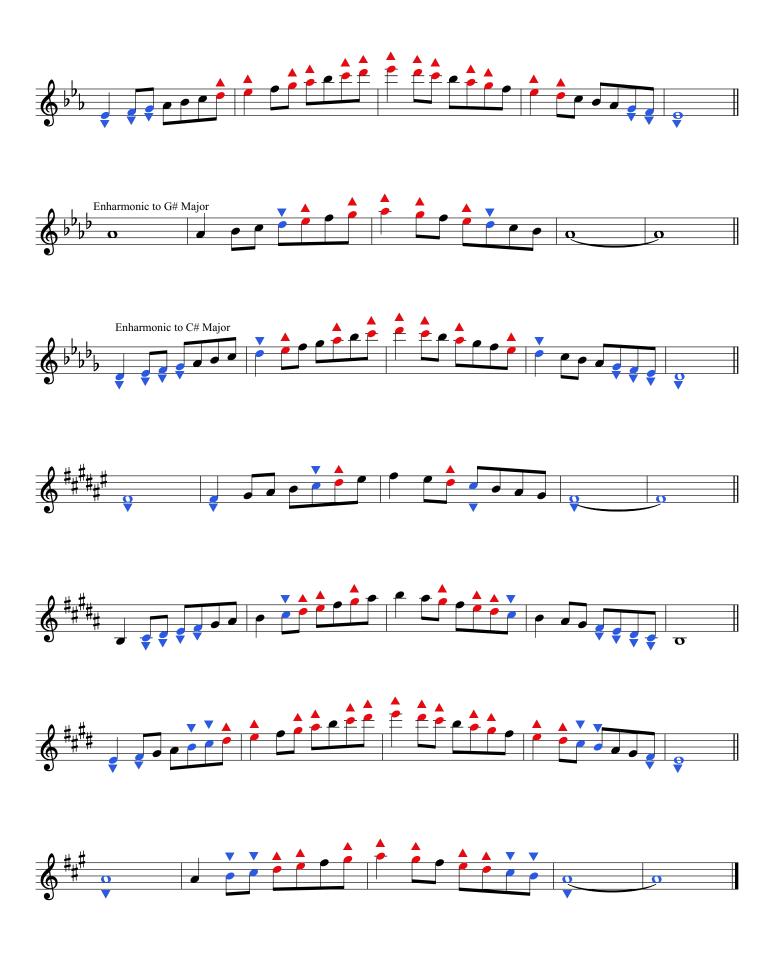






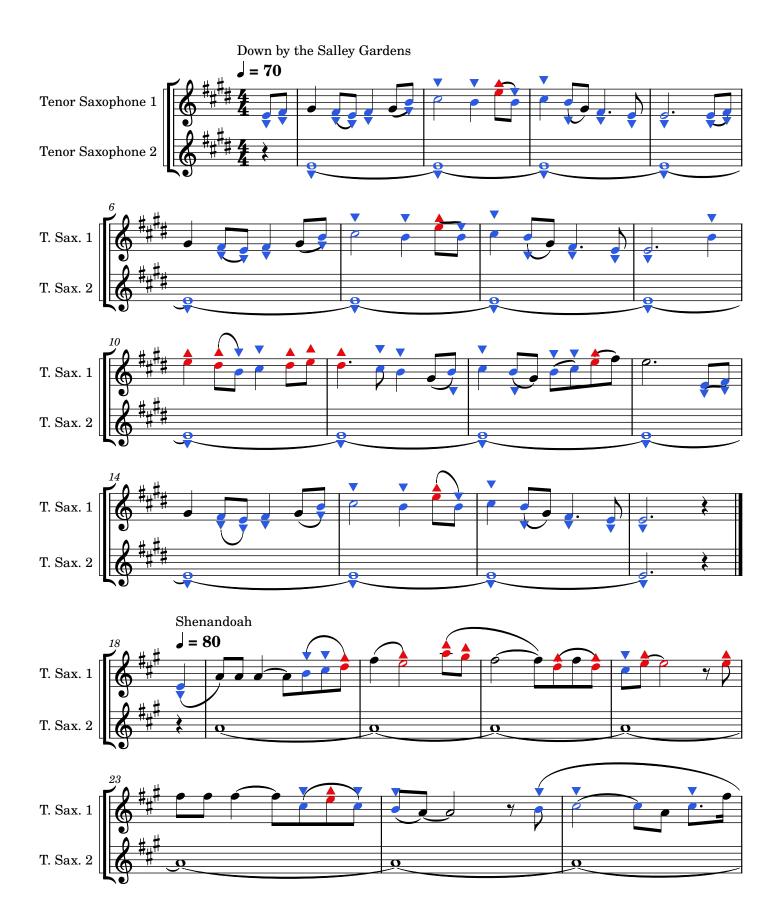




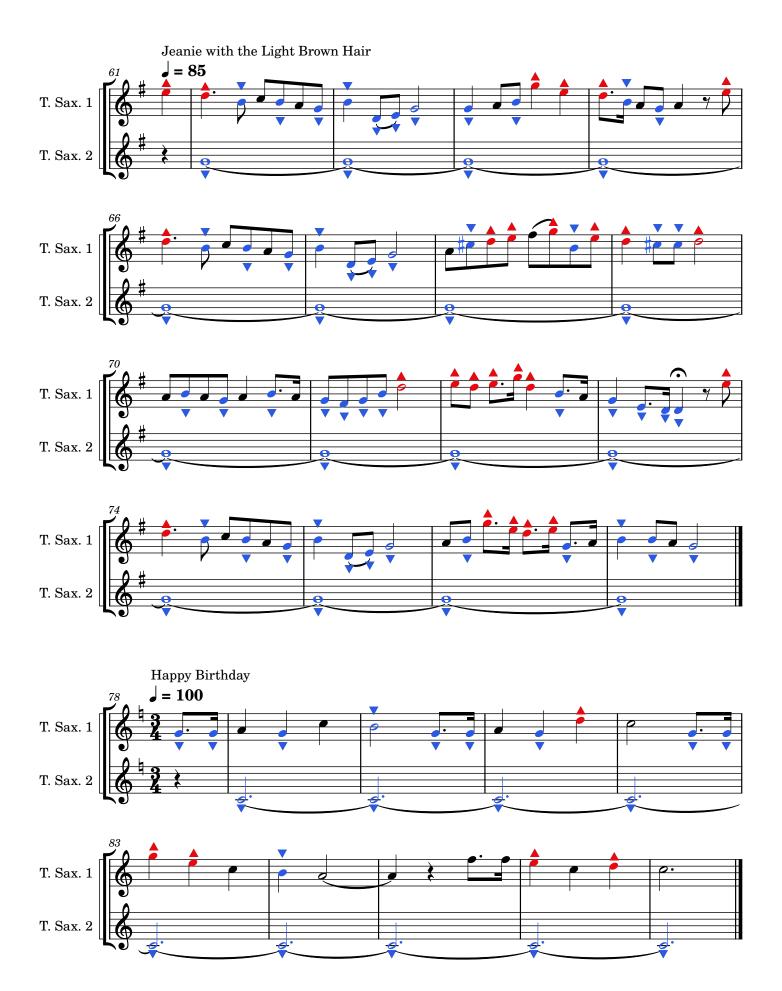


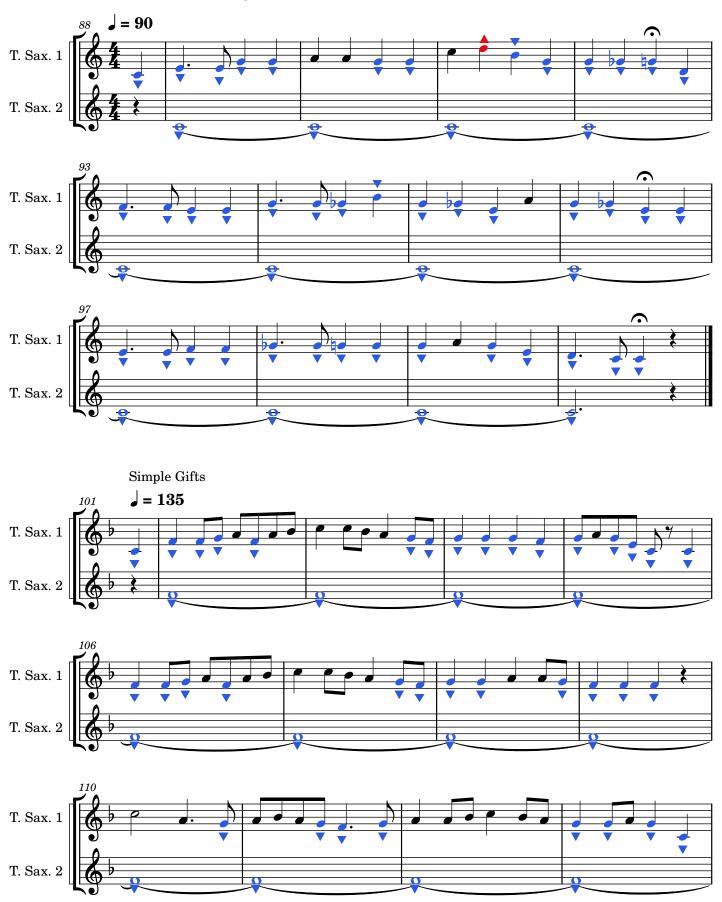
Tenor Saxophone

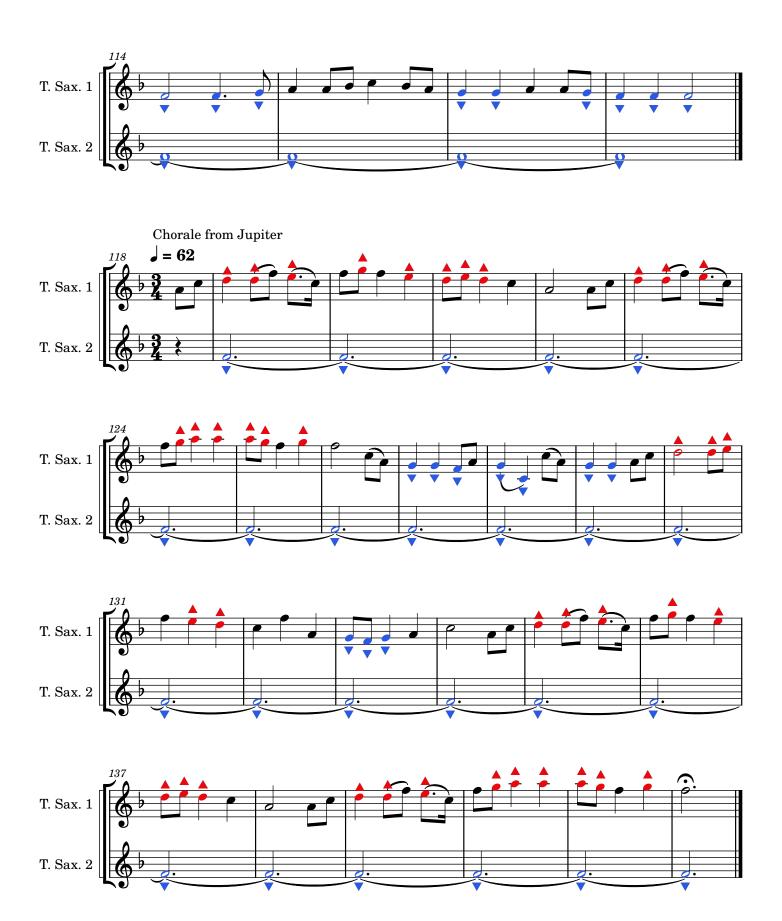
Melodies



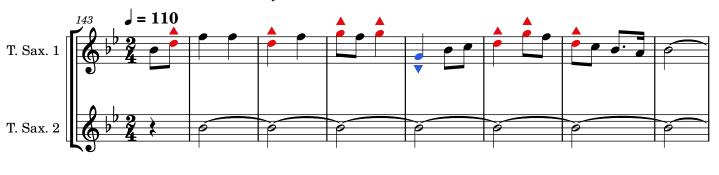


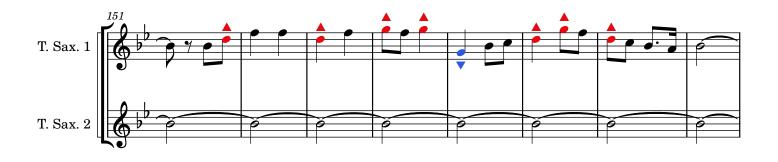


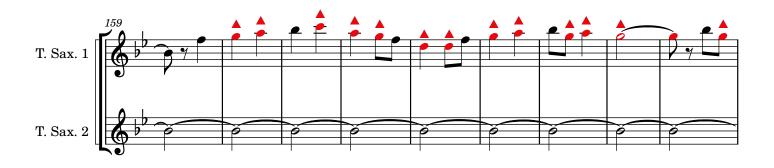


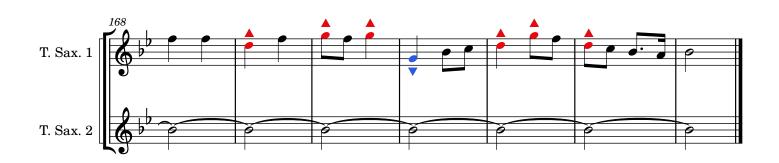


Seventeen Come Sunday









CHAPTER 4 - CHORALES FOR PITCH TENDENCY

On the following pages you will find **4-part chorales** for your instrument. These chorales can be played with a drone on the tonic (scale degree 1) pitch of each exercise. (See the introduction page to Chapter 3 for more information about identifying the proper drone for each exercise).

These chorales can be played by **four players on the same instrument or four players of differing instruments.** All of the parts of the same number are the same across all instrument parts. (For example, the Flute 1 part is the same as Clarinet 1, Oboe 1, etc.). If the band director wishes, these chorales can also be used by the full band.

Notes with pitch tendencies are highlighted in red or blue throughout the chorales. Use the **key** below to help adjust the pitch accordingly.

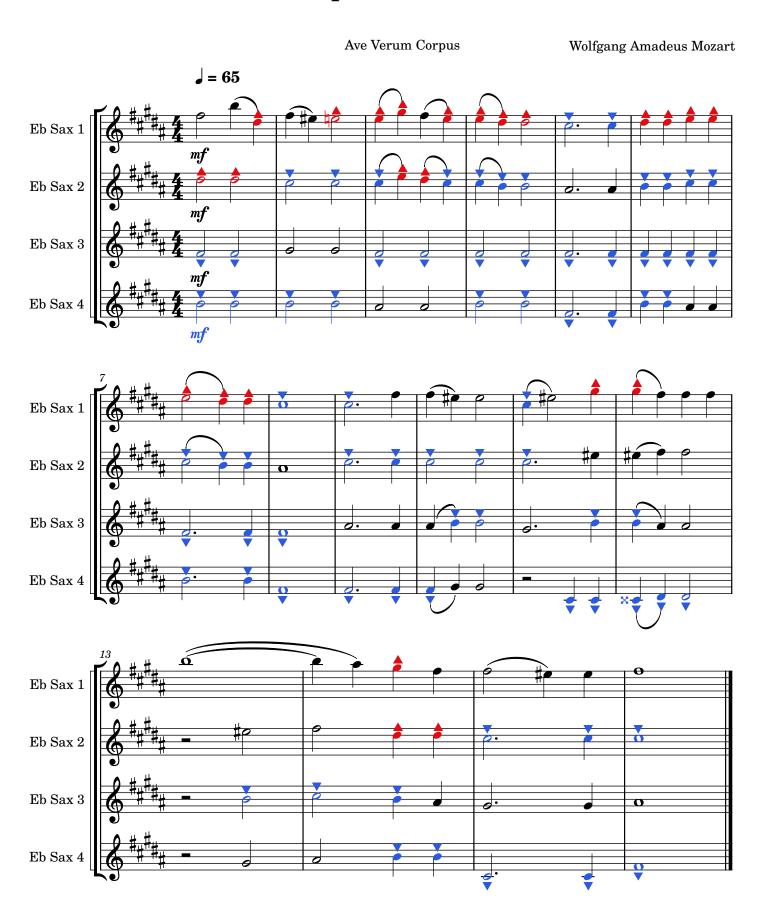
| Symbol | Pitch Tendency | The player should: |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Blue with "down" arrow | Flat | Raise the pitch |
| Red with "up" arrow | Sharp | Lower the pitch |

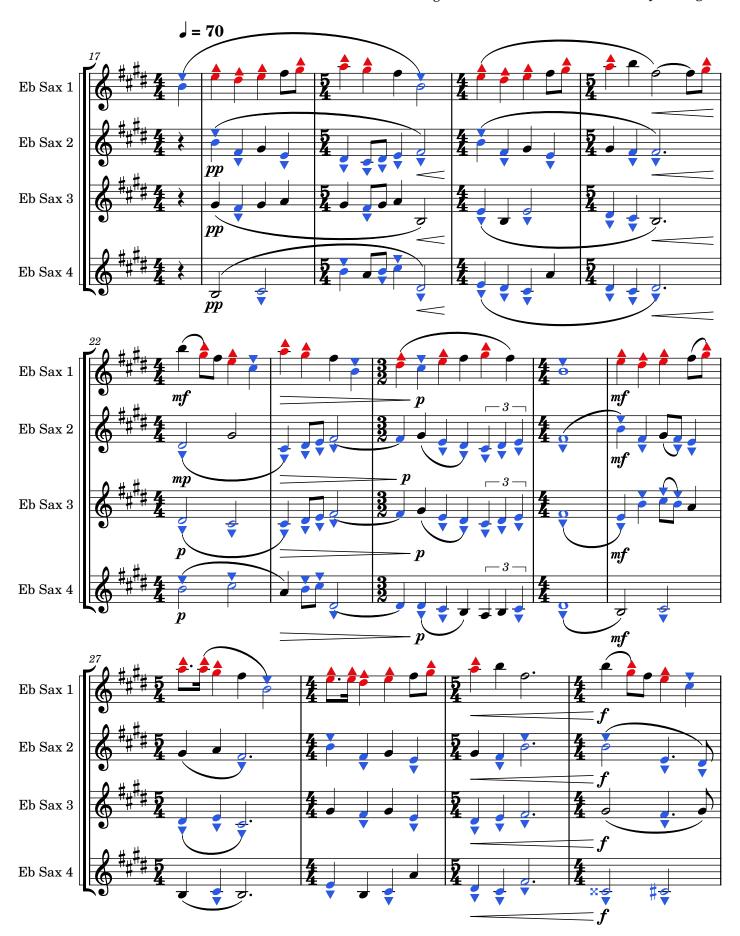
Following the chorales in which the pitch tendencies are marked, you will find **copies of the chorales without any pitch tendency indicators.** Use these copies to practice adjusting for the pitch tendency on your instrument by using your ear and without a visual cue. Ultimately, you want to have the pitch tendencies on your instrument memorized.

Chorales:

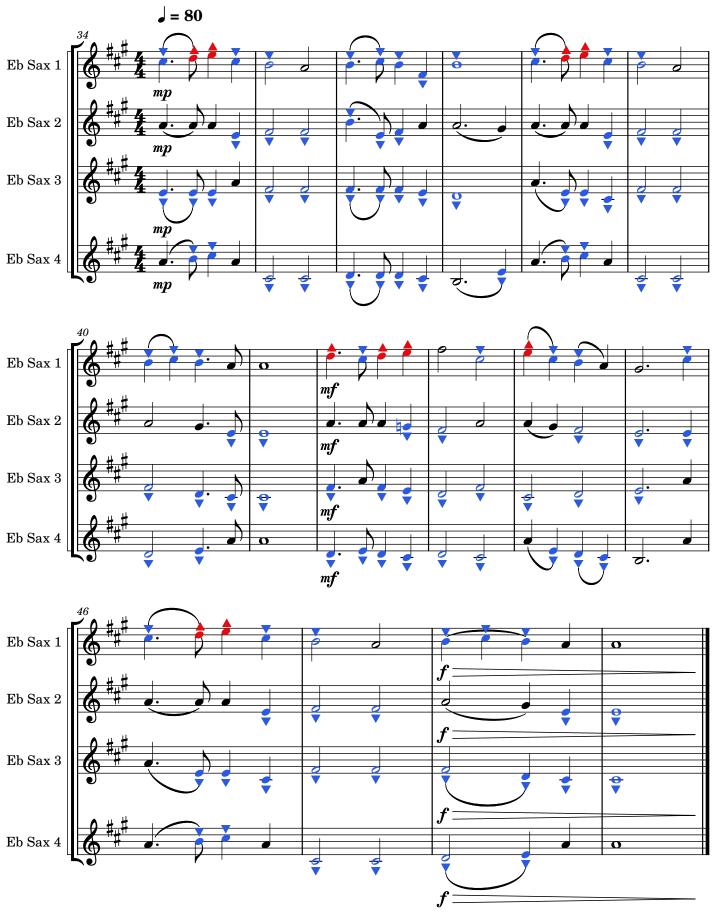
- 1. Ave Verum Corpus Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- 2. Horkstow Grange Percy Grainger
- 3. In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst
- 4. Danny Boy Traditional
- 5. Come Sweet Death J.S. Bach
- 6. Be Still My Soul Jean Sibelius
- 7. Salvation is Created Pavel Chesnokov
- 8. Nimrod Edward Elgar
- 9. Song Without Words Gustav Holst
- 10. School Spirit Arr. Kessler/Judy

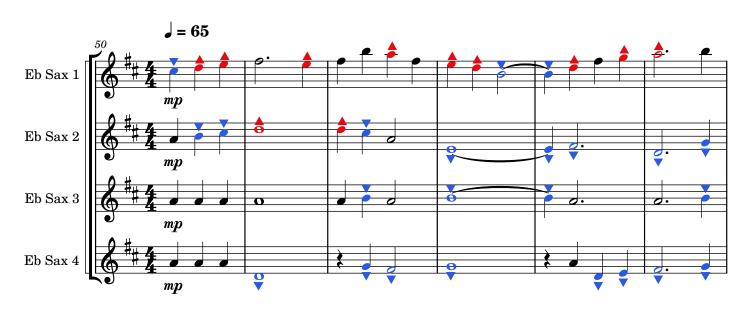
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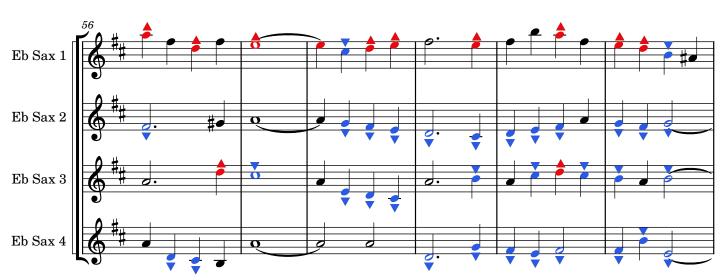


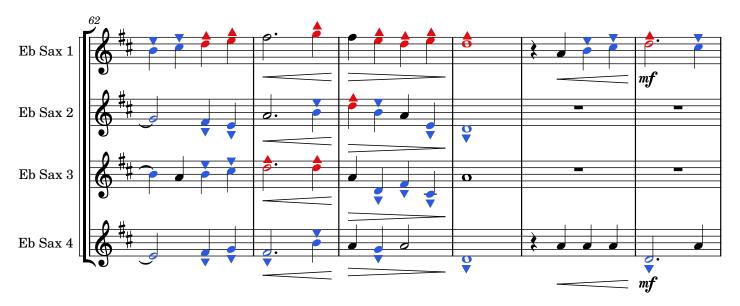


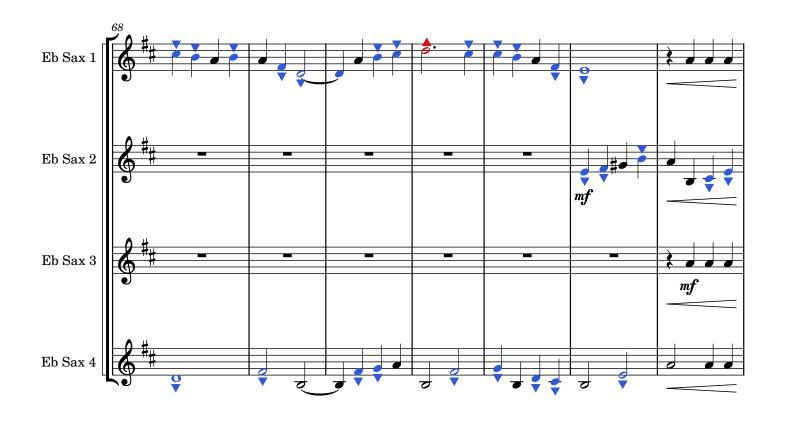


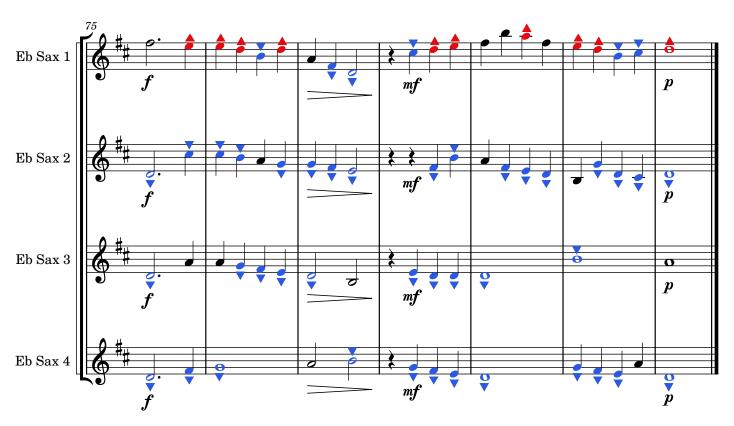


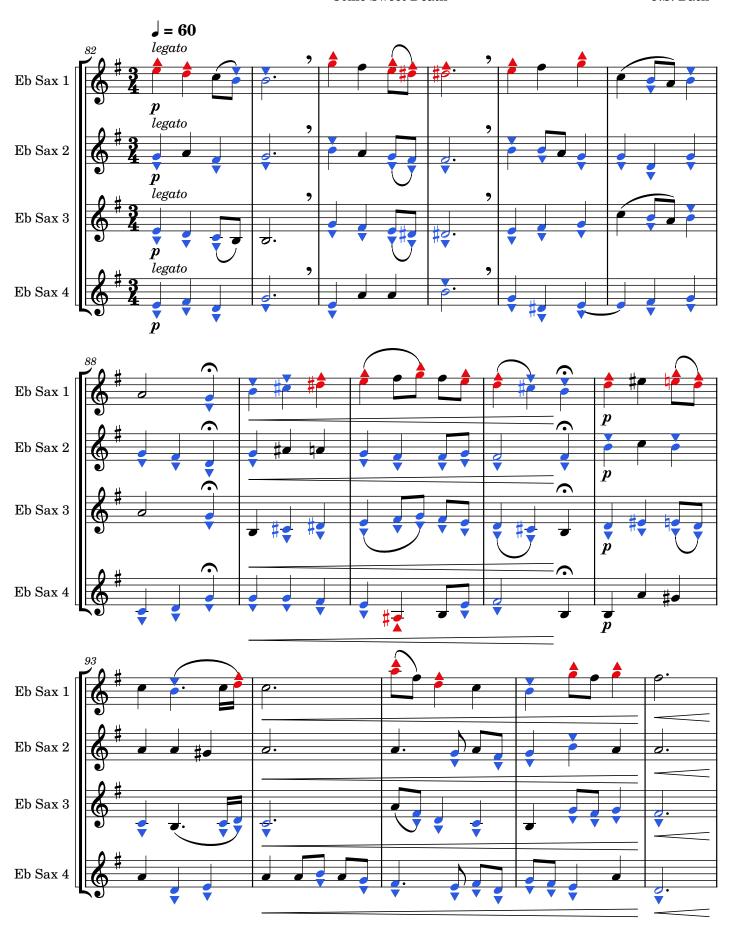




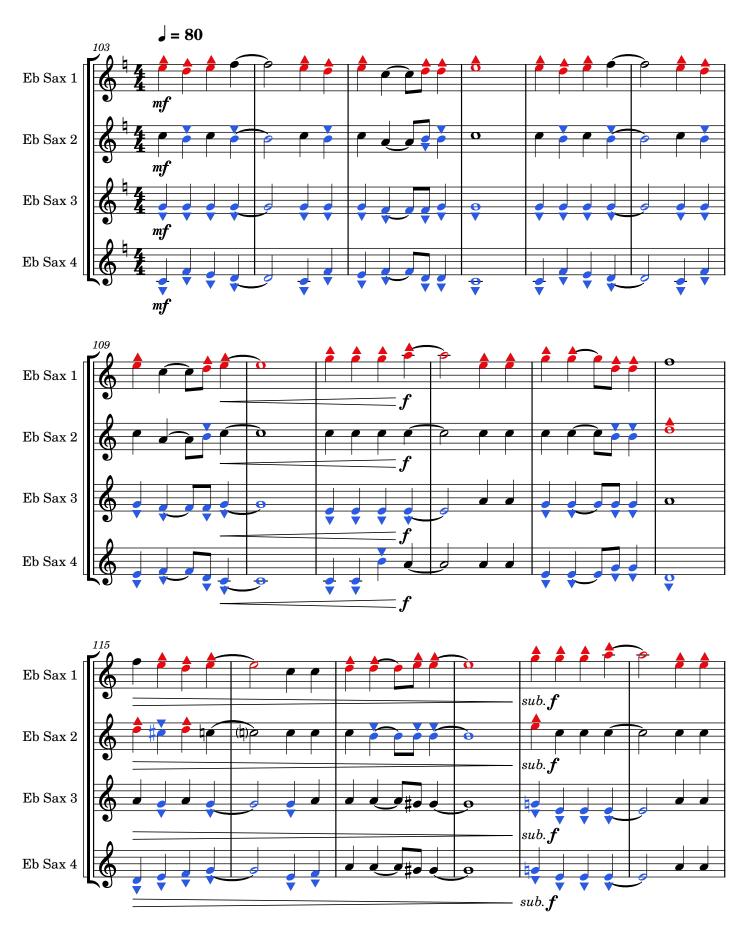


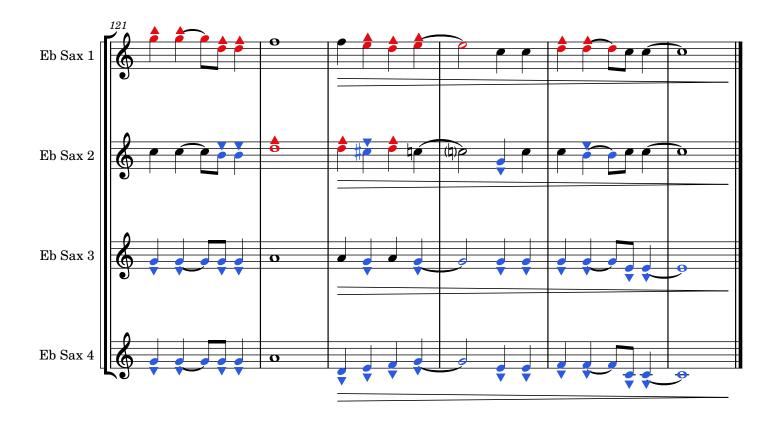


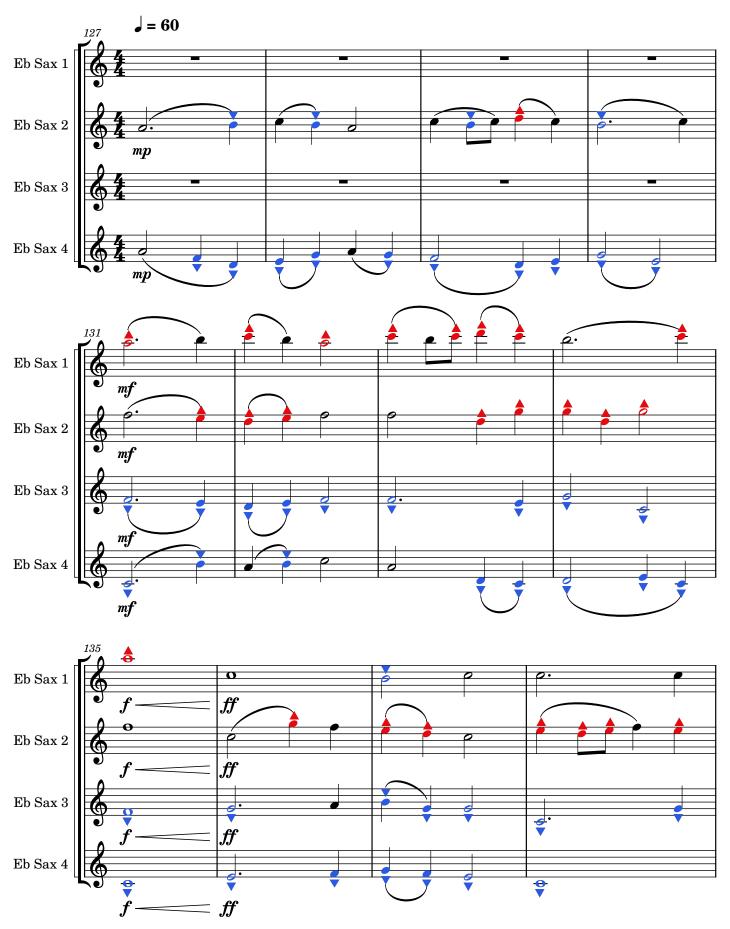


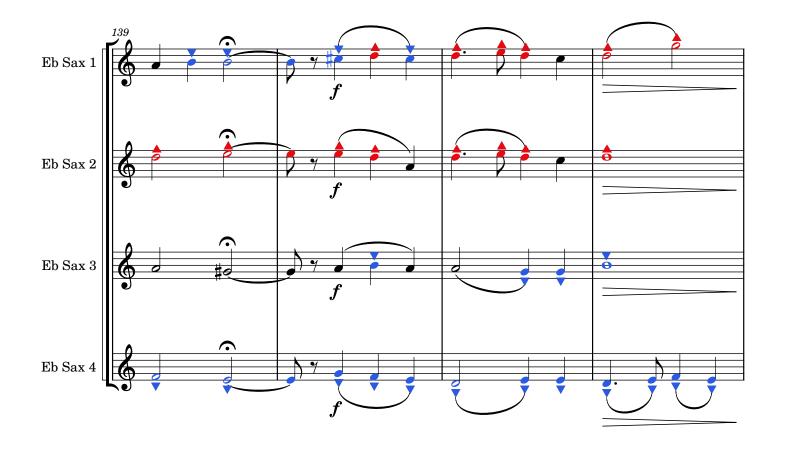


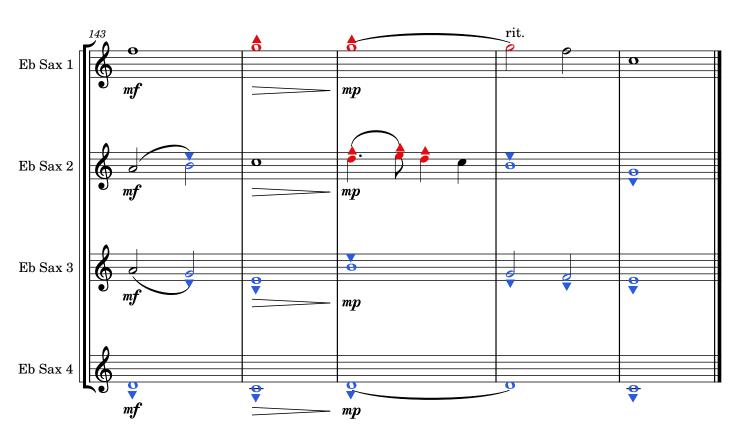




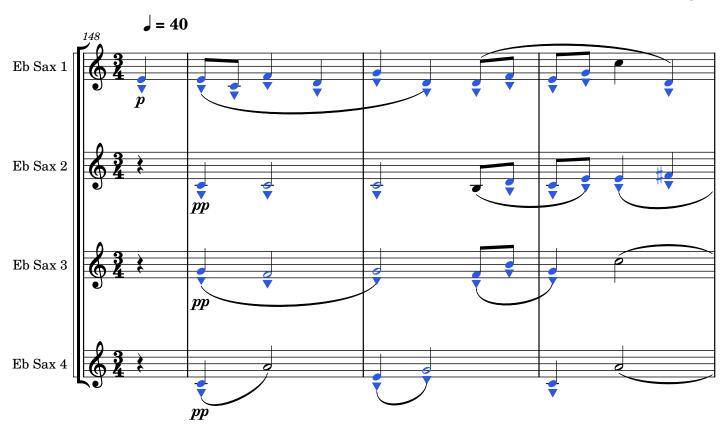


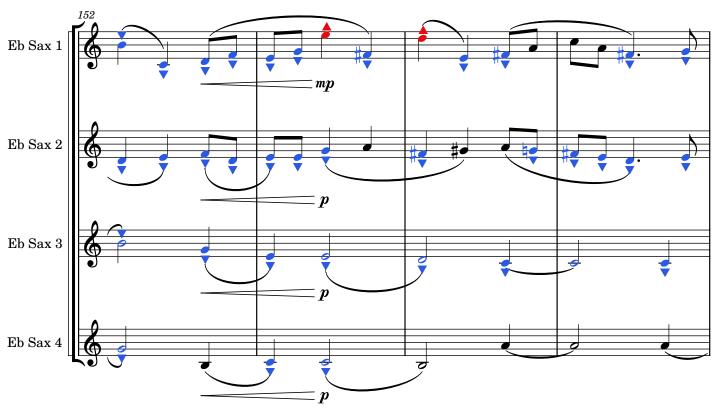


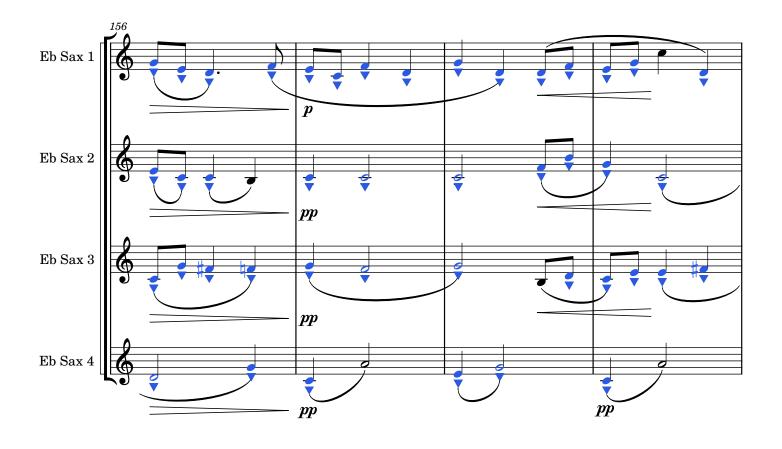


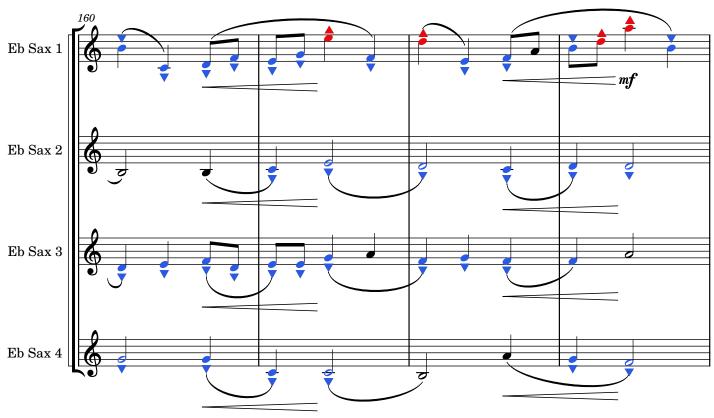


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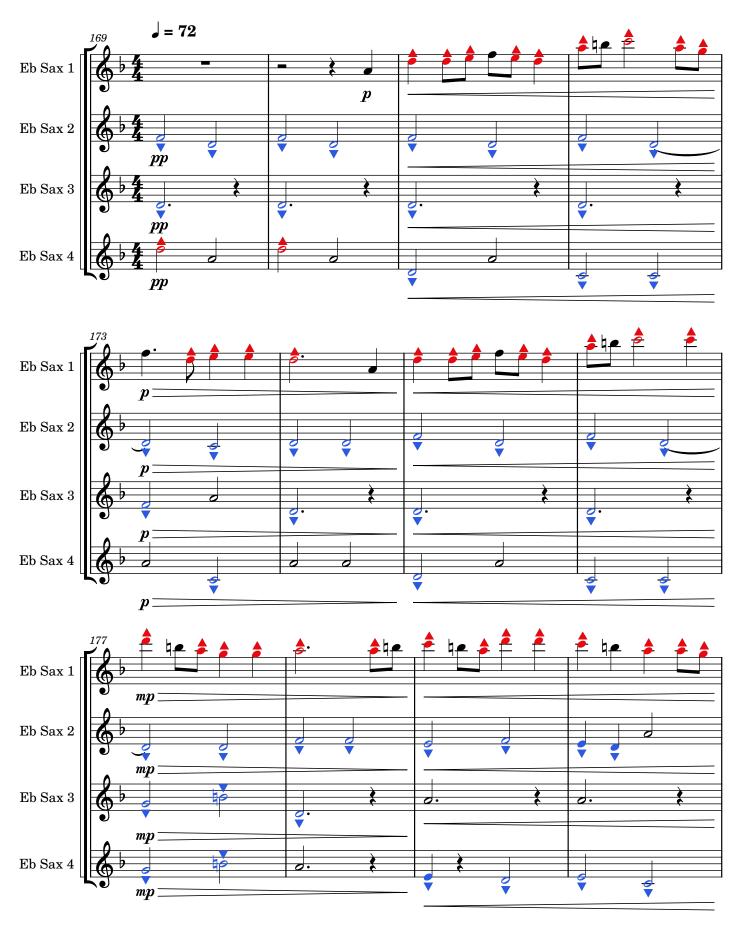


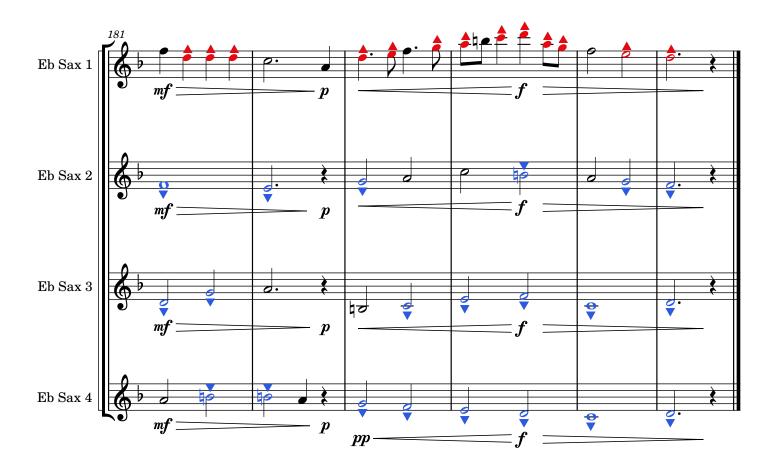


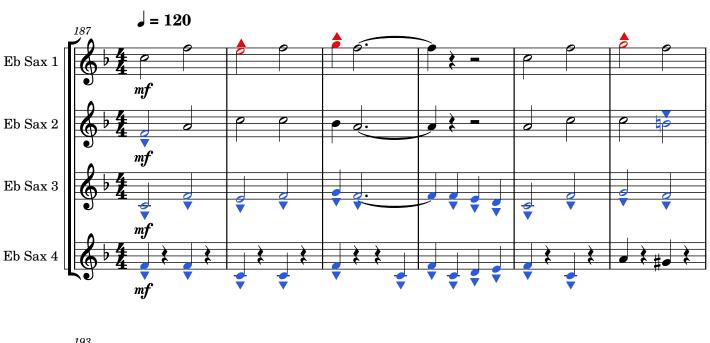


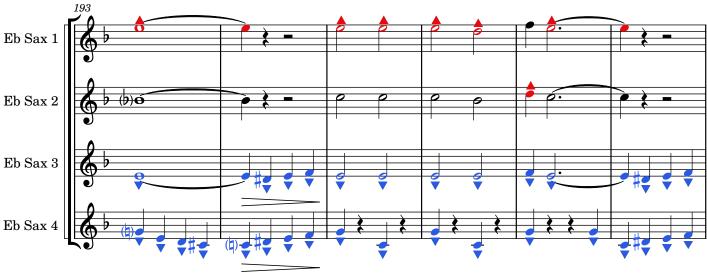


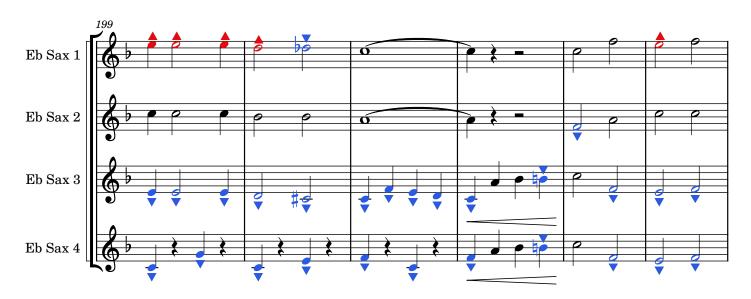


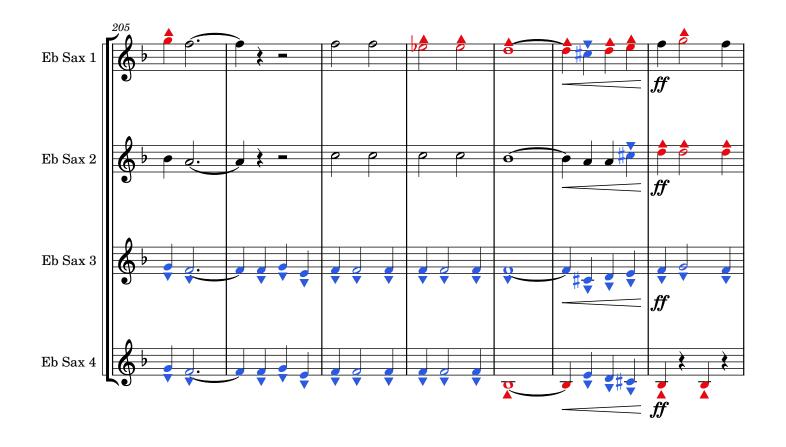


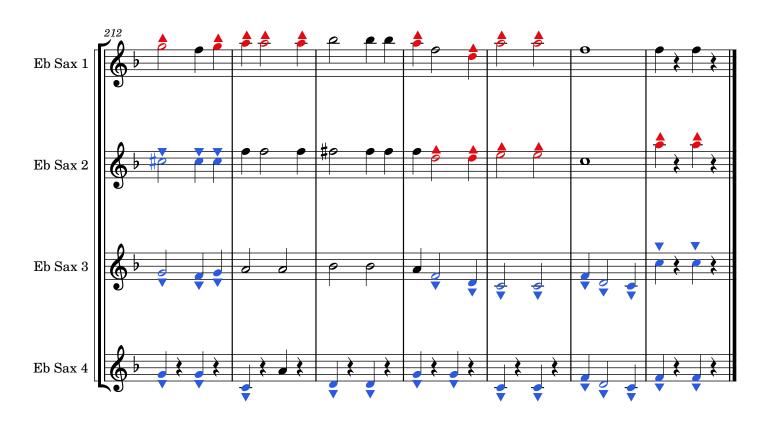








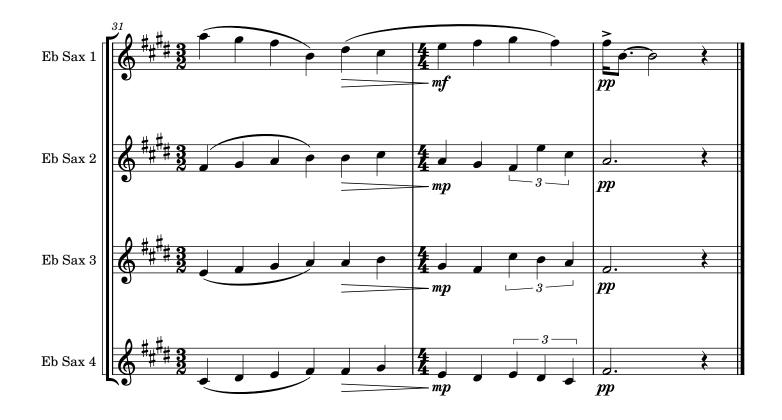




Eb Saxophone Chorales

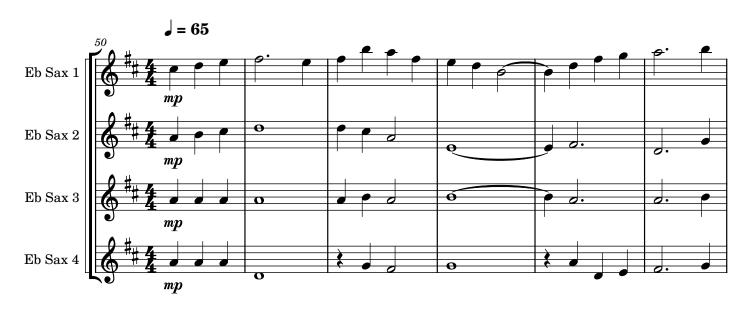
Ave Verum Corpus Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **J** = 65







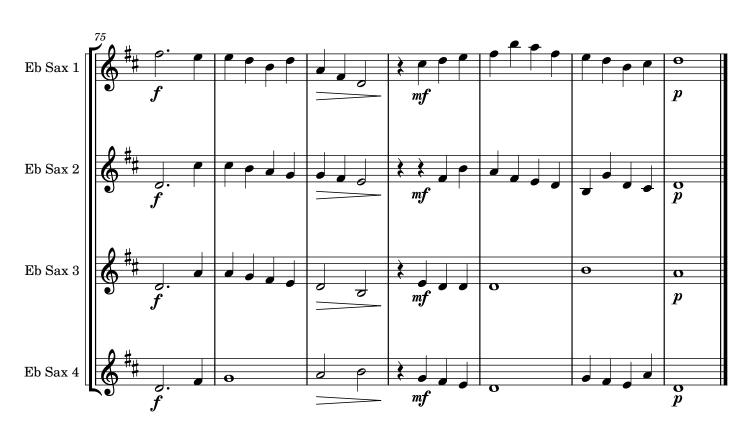
Traditional







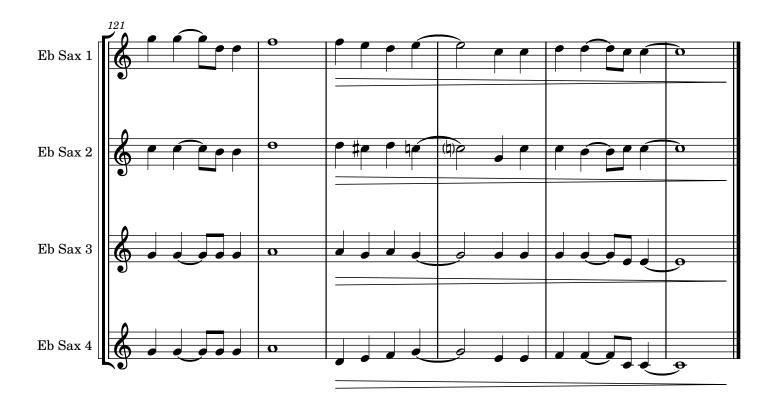




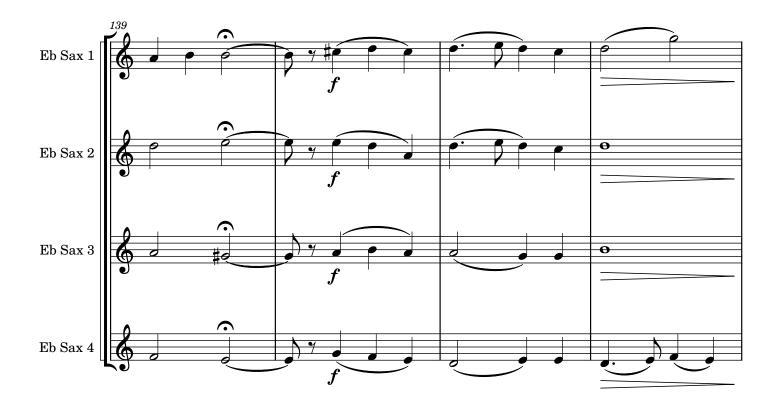


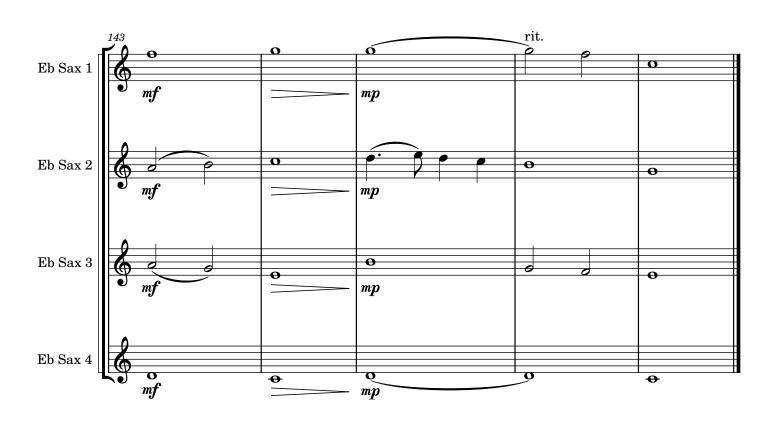






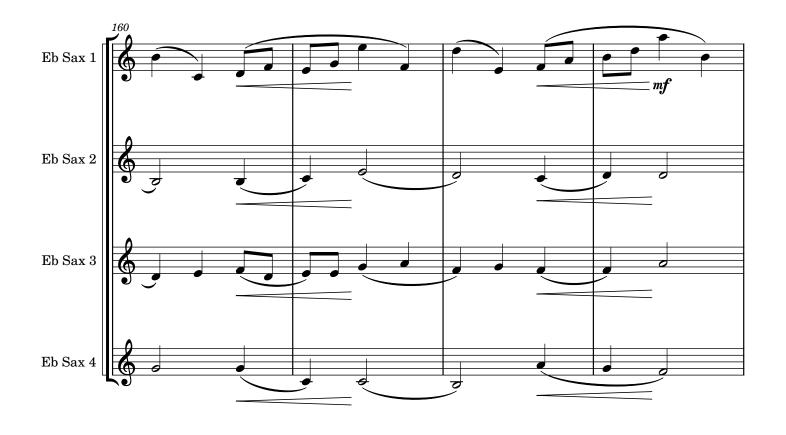






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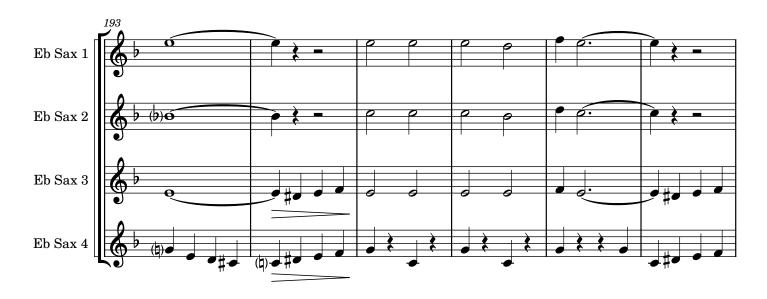




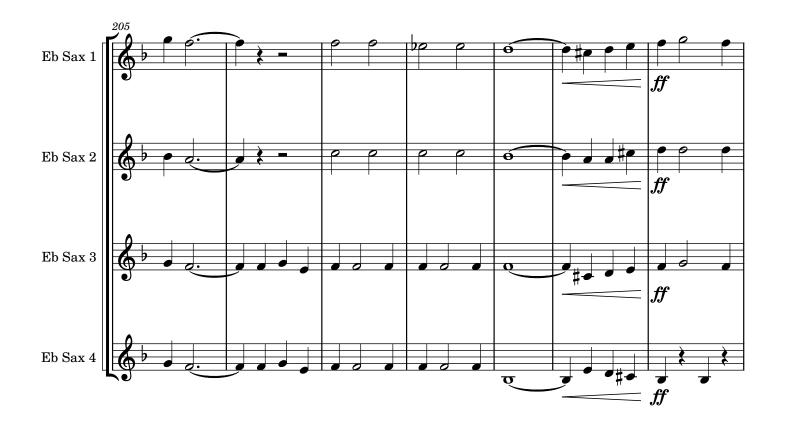








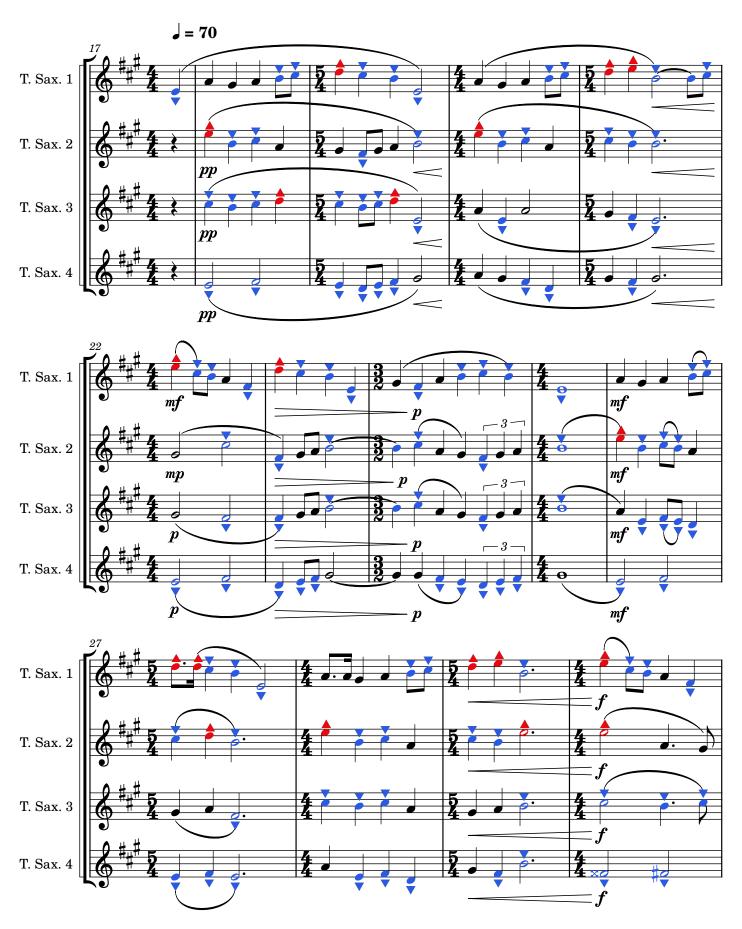


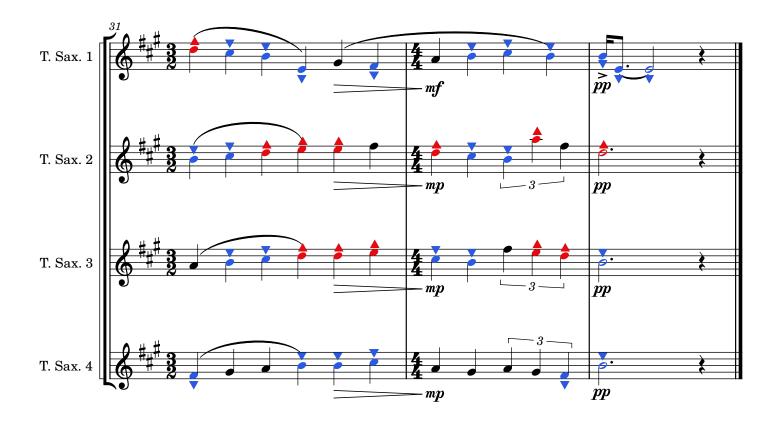


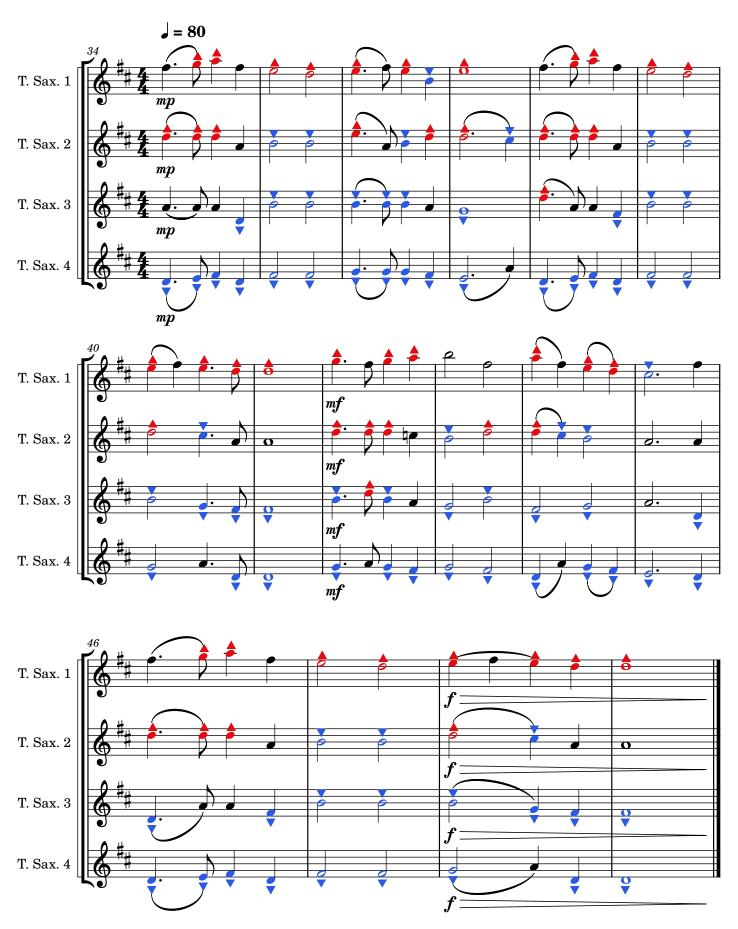


Tenor Sax Chorales

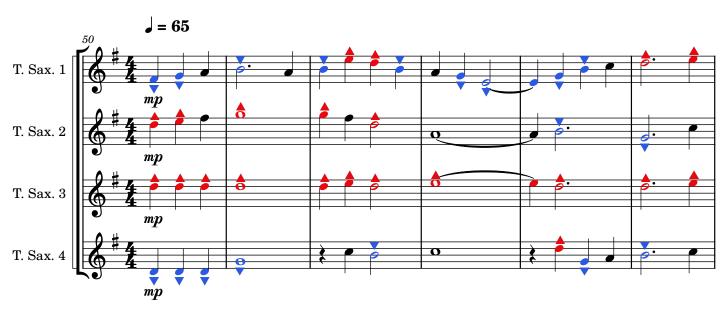
Ave Verum Corpus Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **J** = 65 Ten. Sax. 1 Ten. Sax. 2 Ten. Sax. 3 Ten. Sax. 4 T. Sax. 1 T. Sax. 2 T. Sax. 1 T. Sax. 2 T. Sax. 3

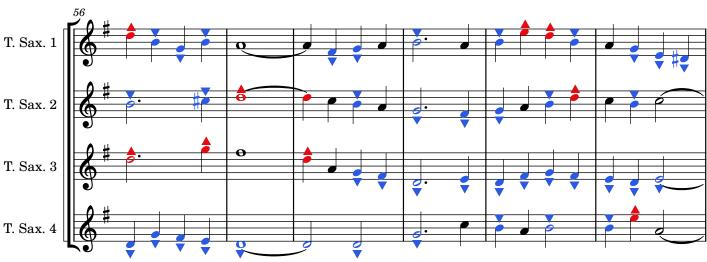


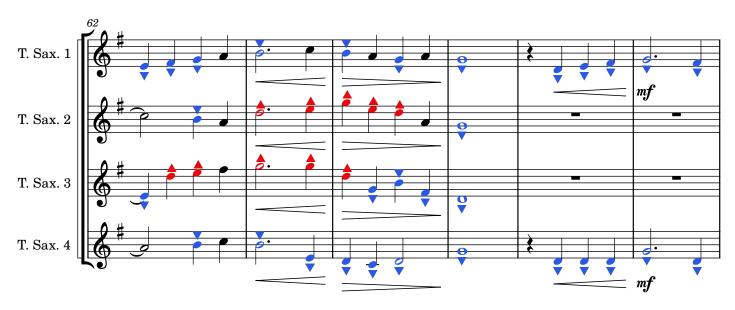


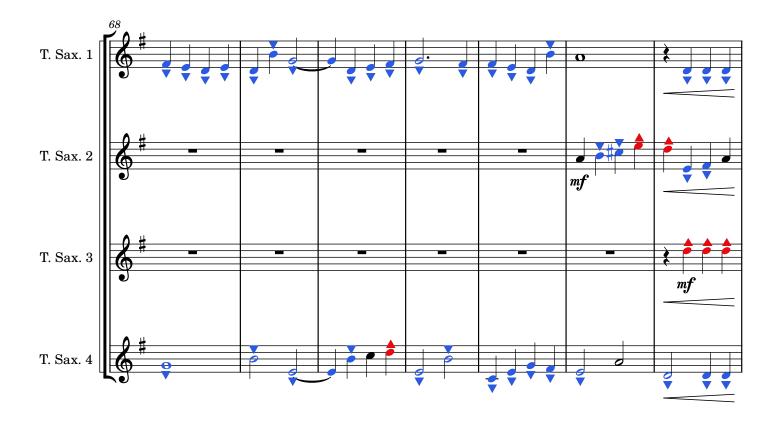


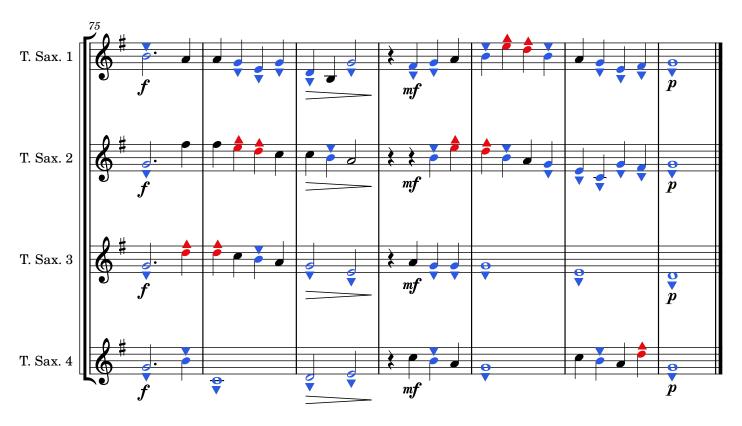
Danny Boy Traditional

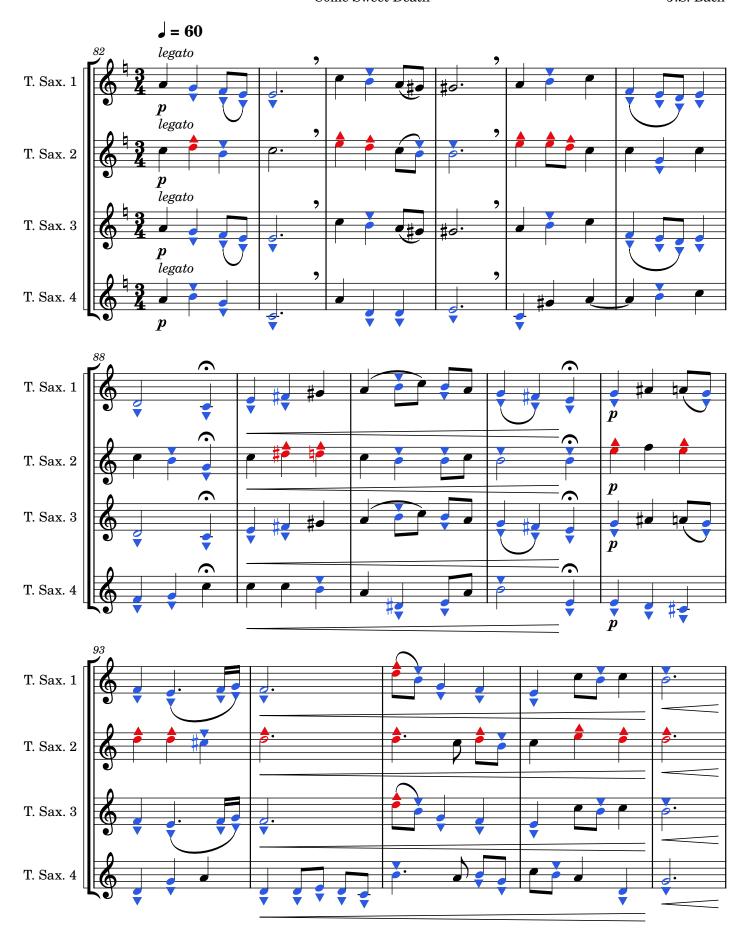




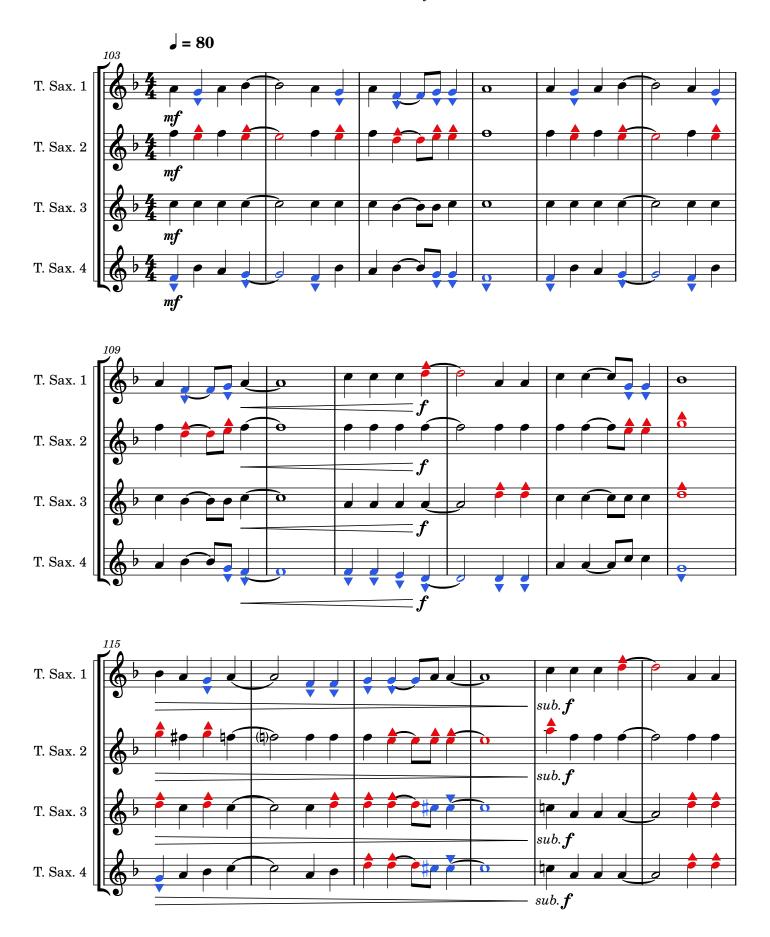


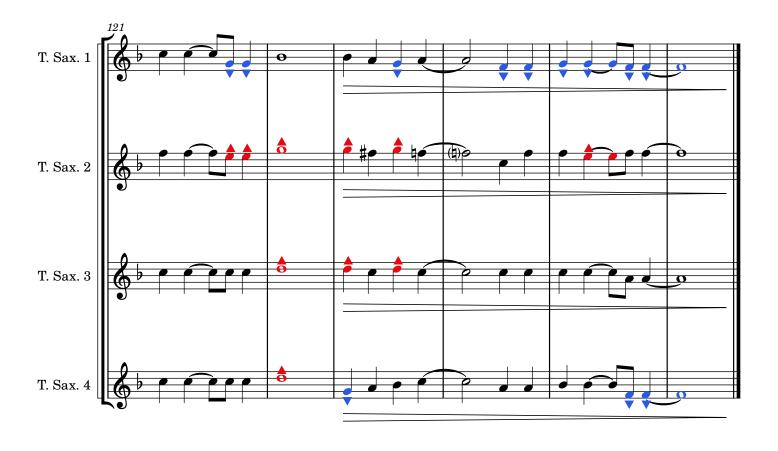


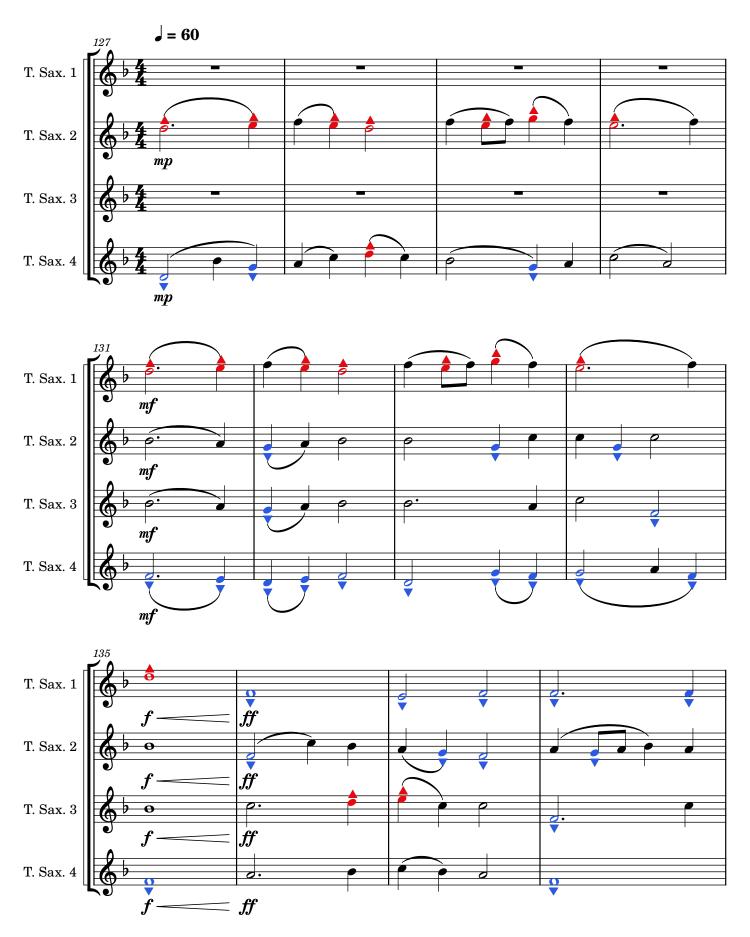


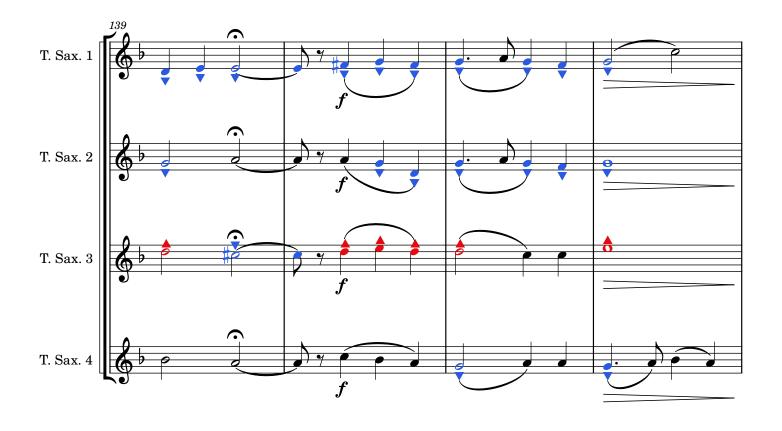


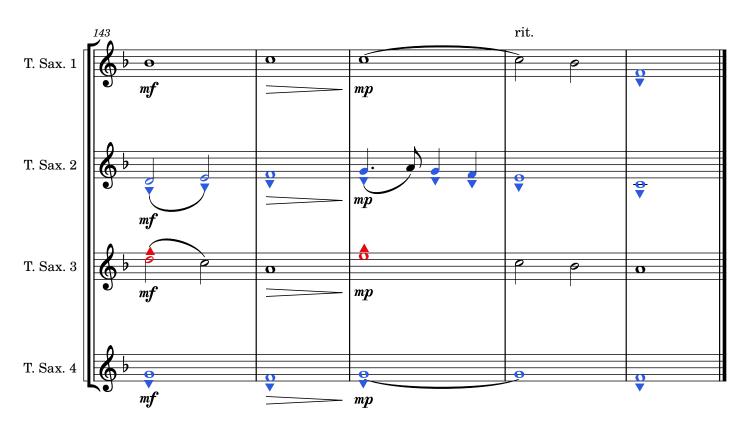




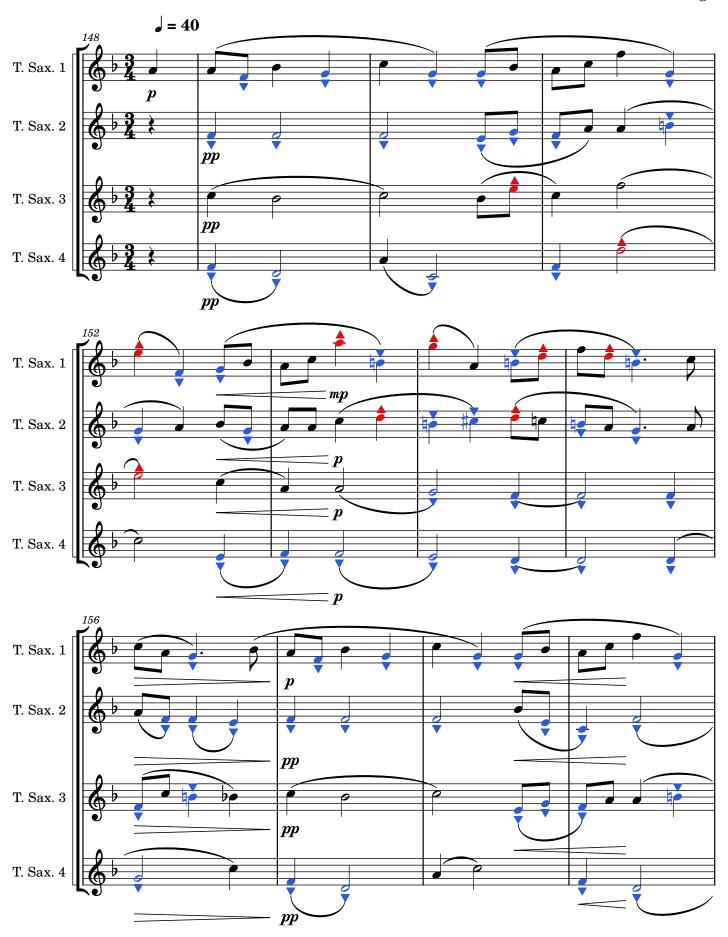


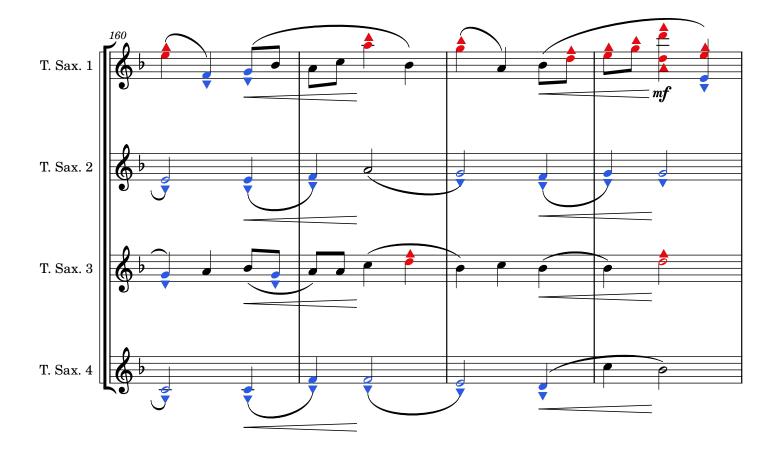


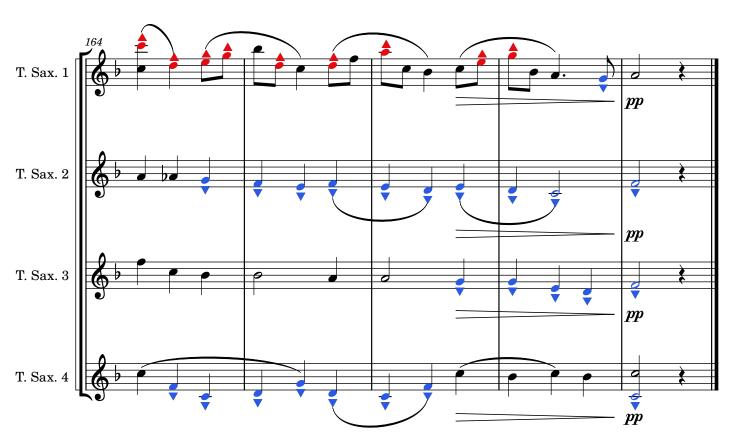


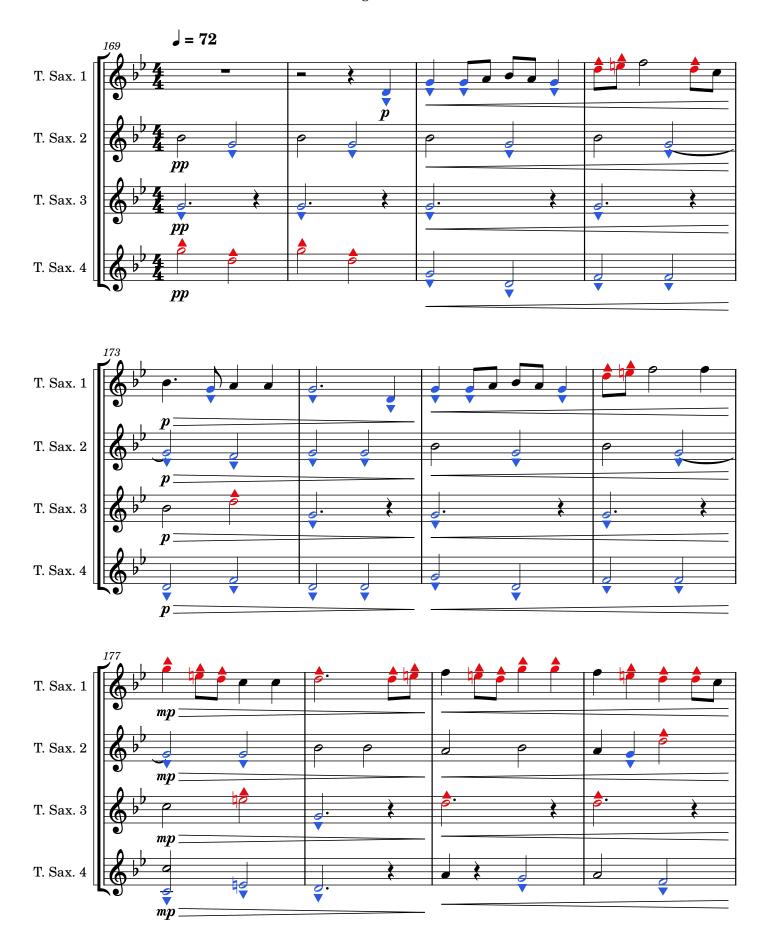


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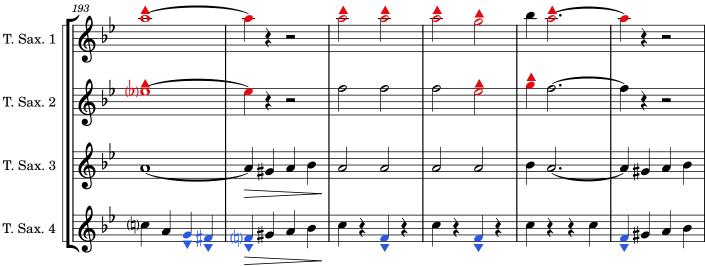


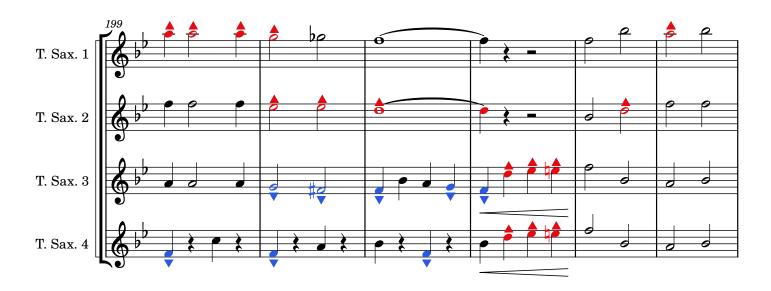


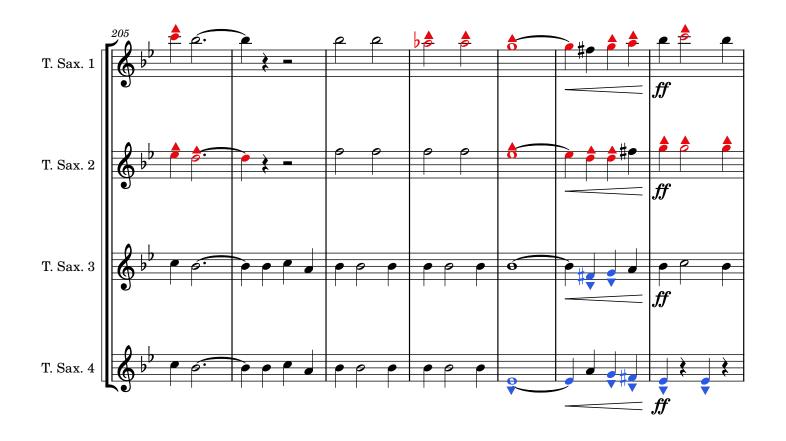


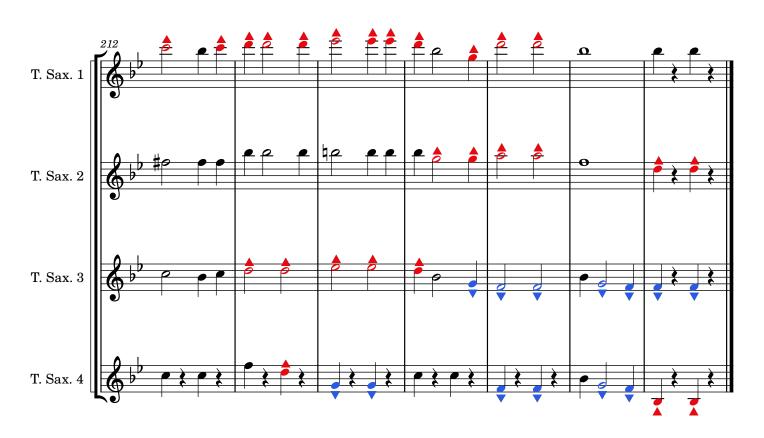






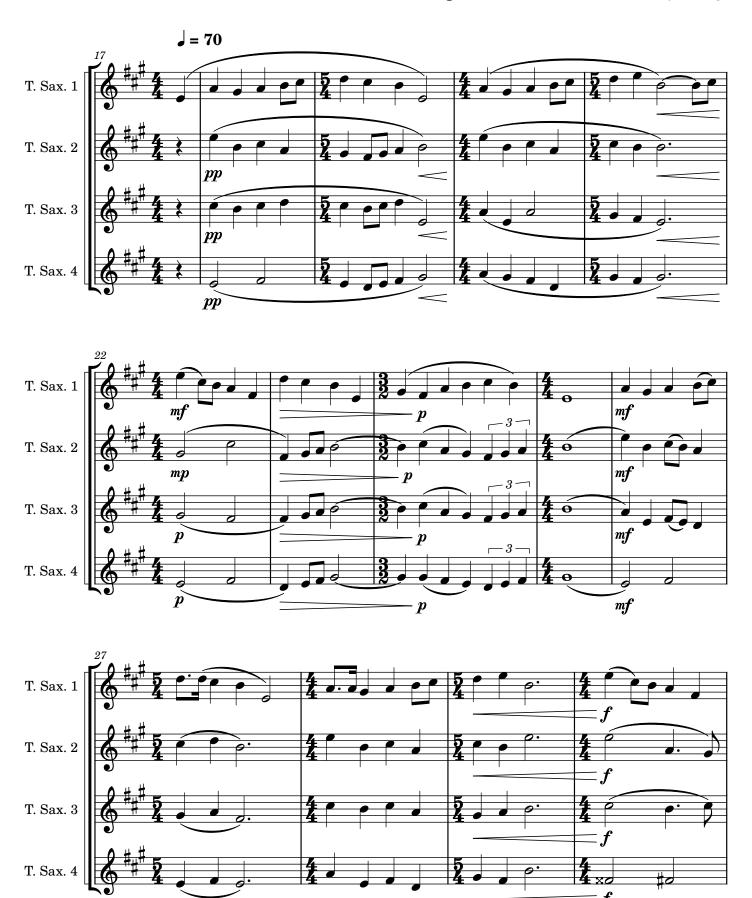


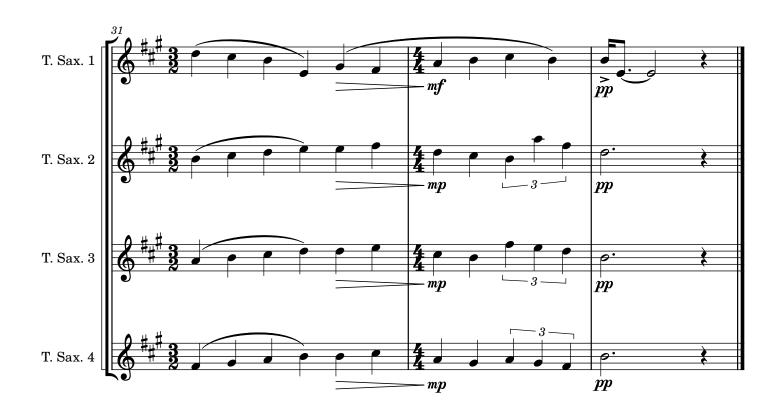




Tenor Sax Chorales

Ave Verum Corpus Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **J** = 65 Ten. Sax. 1 Ten. Sax. 2 Ten. Sax. 3



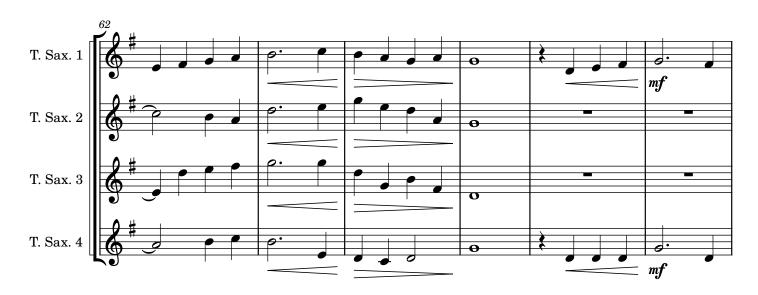


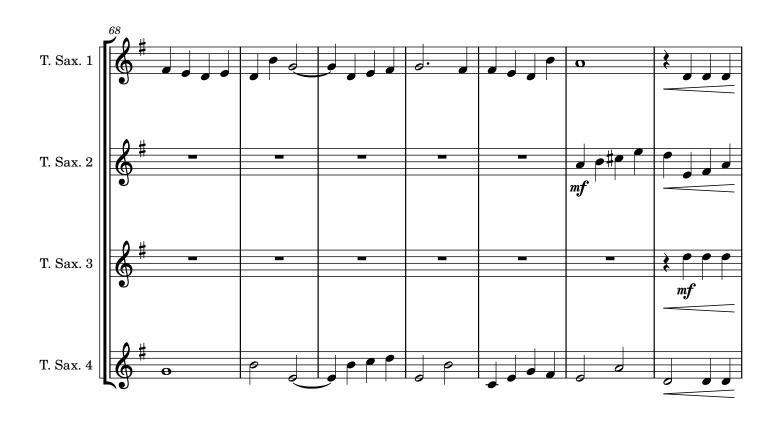


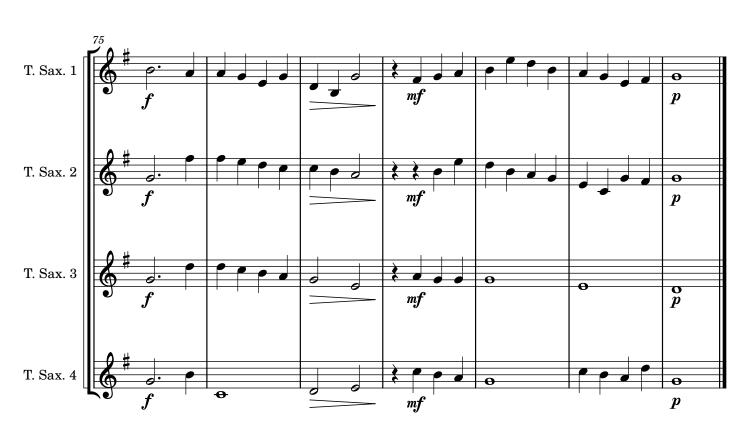
Danny Boy Traditional

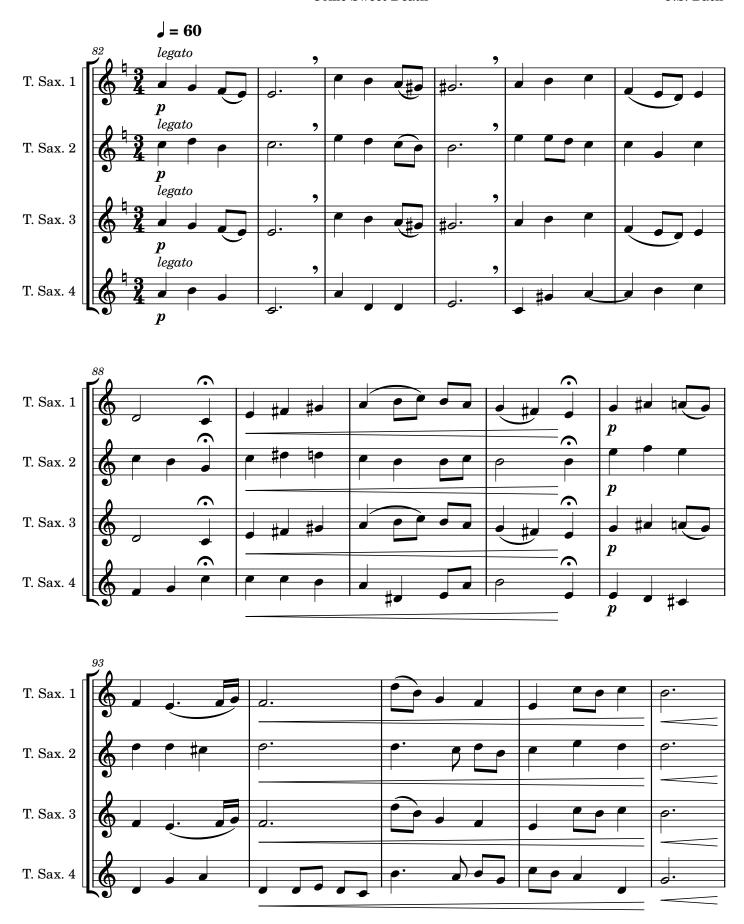






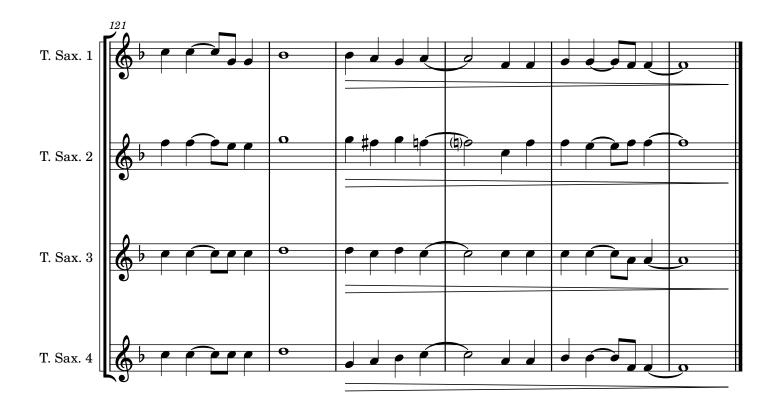




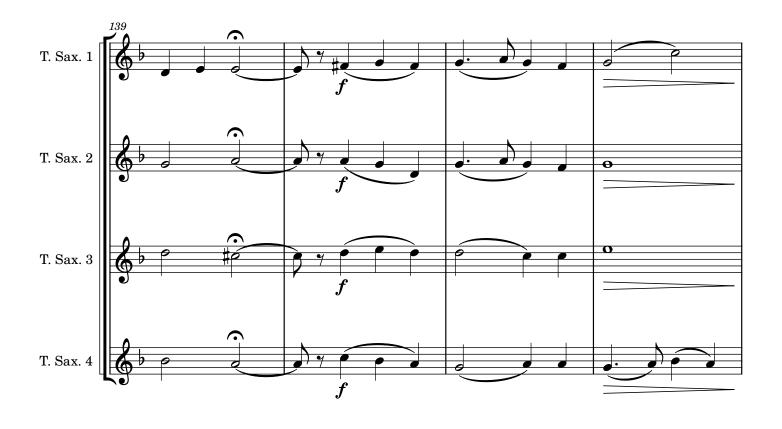


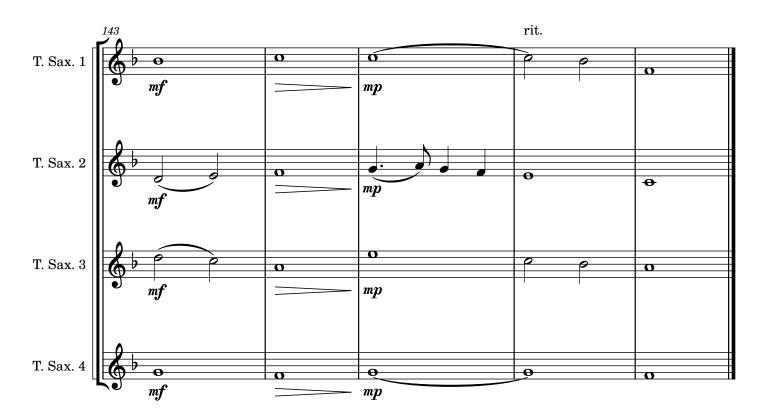












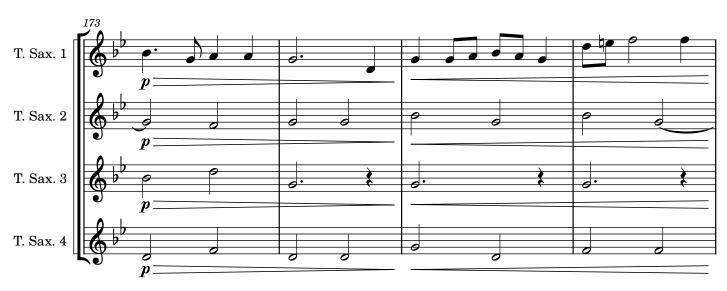
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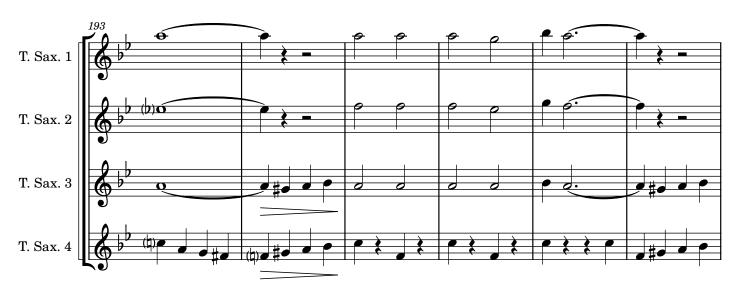




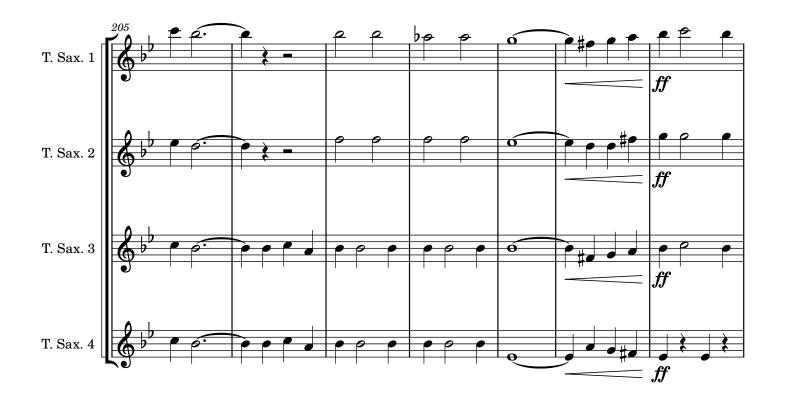


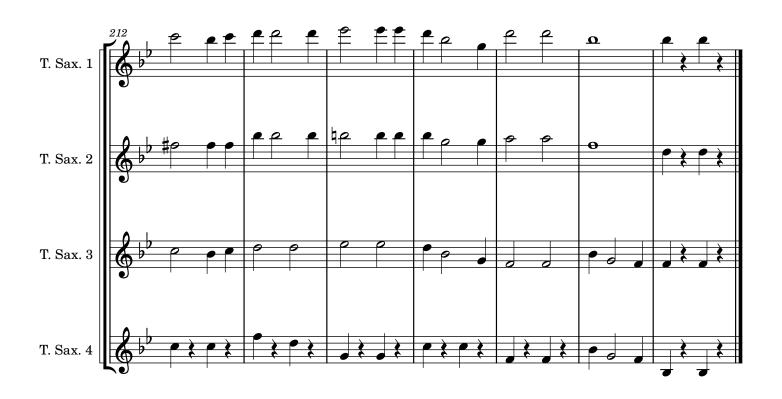










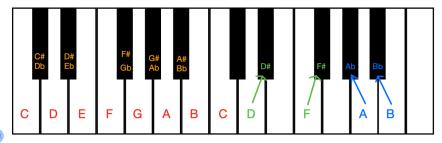


BASICS OF MUSIC THEORY

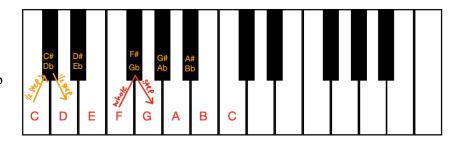
As you begin understand musical intervals, you'll need a basic understanding of how to use a piano, and how to visually and aurally identify musical intervals.

HOW TO USE A PIANO

- The white keys of the piano are for the natural notes.
- The black keys of the piano are for sharp and flat notes.
 - When you go from a white key to the black key above it, keep the note name and add a sharp.
 - When you go from a white key to the black key below it, keep the note name and add a flat

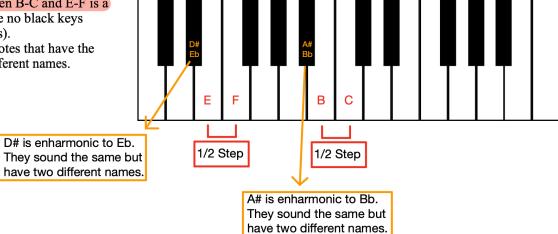


- Half steps: Half steps occur between every note on the piano (like in a chromatic scales).
- Whole steps: Whole steps occur every two keys on the piano (think: "key skip a key key")



C - C# is one half step C# - D is one half step F - G is 2 half steps, AKA one whole step

- The distance between B-C and E-F is a half step. (There are no black keys between these notes).
- Enharmonic: two notes that have the same sound, but different names.



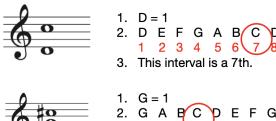
MUSICAL INTERVALS

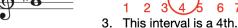
Interval: The distance between two notes, which is measured in quantity and quality.

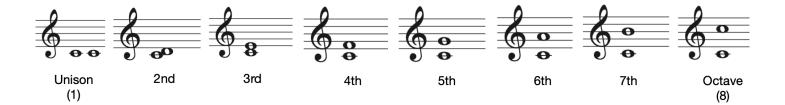
Quantity: The number of notes in the musical alphabet between the low note and high note in an interval. How to identify the **quantity** of an interval:

- 1. Label the low note of the interval as "1" (the low note may not always be the first note)
- 2. Count the following notes in the musical alphabet until you get to the high note in the interval
- 3. The number assigned to the high note in the interval is the **quantity** of that interval. *When identifying **quantity**, ignore all accidentals.

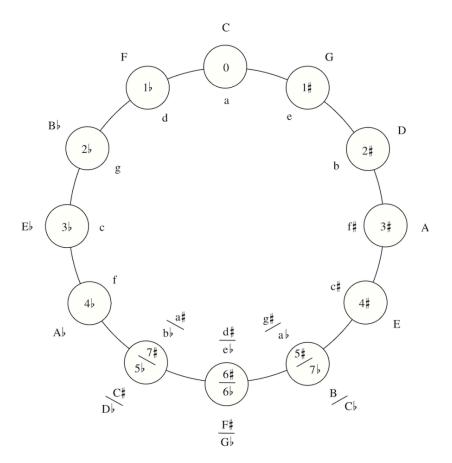
Example:







CIRCLE OF 5THS



Quality: The type of interval based on the key signature. How to identify the quality of an interval:

For unisons (1), 4ths, 5ths, and octaves (8ths)

- 1. Use the Circle of 5ths to identify the number of sharps and flats in the key of the low note of the interval. (Remember that the low note may not always be the first note).
- 2. Identify the quantity of that interval.
- 3. Ask: Is the high note in the key that you identified in step 1?
 - 1. If yes: The interval is a **perfect** interval.
 - 2. If no: And the the note is lowered by a half step from the key signature, it is a **diminished** interval.
 - 3. If no: And the note is raised by a half step from the key signature, it is an augmented interval.

Example:



- 1. G has 1 F#
- 2. G A B C D E F# 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 This interval is a 5th
- 3. Is the top note (D) in the key above? Yes. This interval is a perfect 5th.



- 1. G has 1 F#
- 2. G A B C D E F# 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 This interval is a 5th
- 3. Is the top note (Db) in

the key above? No. It's lowered by a half step. This interval is a diminished 5th.



- 1. G has 1 F#
- 2. G A B C D E F# 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 This interval is a 5th
- 3. Is the top note (D#) in the key above? No. It's raised by a half step. This interval is an augmented 5th.

For 2nds, 3rds, 6ths, and 7ths

- 1. Use the Circle of 5ths to identify the number of sharps and flats in the key of the low note of the interval. (Remember that the low note may not always be the first note).
- 2. Identify the quantity of that interval.
- 3. Ask: Is the high note in the key that you identified in step 1?
 - 1. If yes: The interval is a major interval.
 - 2. If no: And the note is raised by a half step, it is an augmented interval.
 - 3. If no: And the note is lowered by a half step, it is a minor interval.
 - 4. If no: And the note is lowered by a whole step (or 2 half steps), it is a diminished interval.

Example



- 1. C has no accidentals
- 2. C D E F G A B 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

This interval is a 6th 3. Is the top note (A) in the key above? Yes.

This interval is a major 6th.



- 1. C has no accidentals
- 2. C D E F G A B 1 2 3 4 5 6 This interval is a 6th

3. Is the top note (A#) in the key above? No. It's raised by a half step.

This interval is an augmented 6th.



- 1. C has no accidentals
- 2. C D E F G A B 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

This interval is a 6th

 Is the top note (Ab) in the key above? No. It's lowered by a half step. This interval is a minor 6th.



- 1. C has no accidentals
- 2. C D E F G A B 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 This interval is a 6th
- 3. Is the top note (Abb) in the key above? No. It's lowered by two half steps. This interval is a diminished 6th.

Songs that Use Each Interval

(Typically in the opening two notes of the song)

Look up a recording online to hear the interval associated with each song.

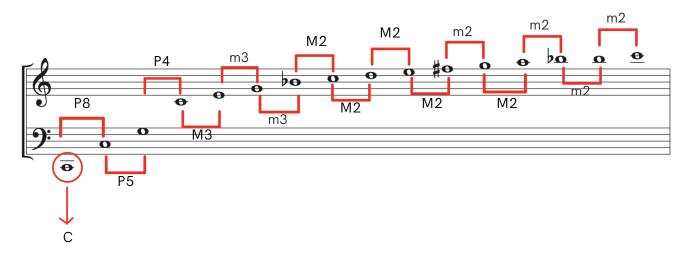
| Interval | Songs |
|--------------------|---|
| Unison (P1) | Jingle Bells - James Lord Pierpont |
| Minor 2nd | Jaws Theme - John Williams White Christmas - Irving Berlin Fly Me to the Moon - Frank Sinatra |
| Major 2nd | Happy Birthday to You - Mildred Hill Silent Night - Franz Xaver Gruber Frere Jacques - Traditional Mary Had a Little Lamb - Traditional |
| Minor 3rd | Greensleeves - Traditional O Canada - Caliza Lavallee The Star Spangled Banner - Francis Key |
| Major 3rd | Oh, When the Saints - Traditional What a Wonderful World - George Douglas Swing Low, Sweet Chariot - Traditional |
| Perfect 4th | We Wish You a Merry Christmas - Traditional Bridal Chorus ("Here Comes the Bride") - Richard Wagner Amazing Grace - John Newton I've Been Working on the Railroad - Traditional |
| Tritone (A4 or D5) | Maria (from West Side Story) - Leonard Bernstein The Simpsons Theme - Danny Elfman Blue 7 - Sonny Rollins |
| Perfect 5th | Star Wars Theme - John Williams Scarborough Fair - Traditional Top Gun Anthem - Harold Faltermeyer Flinstones Theme - Hoyt Curtin |
| Minor 6th | In my Life (Intro) - Beatles Close Every Door (Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat) - Andrew Lloyd Webber You're Everything - Chick Corea |
| Major 6th | My Bonny Lies Over the Ocean - Traditional NBC Chimes - from 1927 The Music of the Night (Phantom of the Opera) - Andrew Lloyd Webber |
| Minor 7th | Somewhere (West Side Story) - Leonard Bernstein Theme from Star Trek - Alexander Courage An American in Paris - George Gershwin |
| Major 7th | Take on Me (chorus) - A-ha I Love You - Cole Porter |
| Octave (P8) | Over the Rainbow - Harold Arlen The Christmas Song - Robert Wells Singin' in the Rain - Nacio Brown Willow Weep for Me - Ann Ronell |

117

THE OVERTONE SERIES

The overtone (or harmonic) series is the sequence of pitches whose frequency is an integer multiple of a fundamental frequency. In other words, each fingering on the horn has a fundamental pitch. The notes that can be played above the fundamental pitch (using the same fingering) ascend in the same pattern for each fingering. The pattern of the harmonic series is the same for all brass instruments, but each instrument's fundamental pitches are different depending on the length of tubing.

This stave shows the harmonic series for the open fingering on the F horn. The fundamental pitch is "C." The rest of the harmonic series follows, and the intervals from one note to the next are noted. The same intervals are used to create the harmonic series above the fundamental pitch on each fingering of the horn.



Horn players need to understand the harmonic series because they need to know which notes exist on each partial. Horn partials are notoriously challenging to settle into because they are close together, but the more a player knows about the series, the easier it will be to play the notes with accuracy.

Horn players also need to understand the harmonic series in order to play in tune. Certain partials tend to be sharp or flat. In addition, certain valve combinations tend to be sharp or flat. When the player is aware of these tendencies, he/she is able to correct the pitch either with the embouchure or the right hand in the bell.

The following chart shows horn fingerings along the Y axis, and partial numbers along the X axis. The pitch tendencies of each fingering and partial are color coded. Some notes have a pitch tendency that is exaggerated by the fingering and the partial both having the same pitch tendency. These notes need to be corrected more than the others.

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