

# Transposition

(The AB Guide to Music Theory, Chapter 7/2)

In the exam, you will have to transpose a melody. You may need to use any of these intervals:

- (1) up or down an **octave**;
- (2) up or down a **major 2nd**;
- (3) up or down a **minor 3rd**;
- (4) up or down a **perfect 5th**.

These four intervals are used by the transposing instruments in the orchestra. You can read more about them in *The AB Guide to Music Theory, Part II, Chapters 19 & 20*.

**Remember!** When you transpose a melody by a major, minor or perfect interval, the tonality will remain the same. For example, the key of C major transposed down a minor 3rd will be A major, not A minor.

## Transposition up or down an octave

You studied transposition at the octave in Grade 3, using the treble and bass clefs. In Grade 5, you will also need to use the alto and tenor clefs. When you are familiar with these clefs it should not be too difficult – but make sure that you do actually *transpose* the passage (rather than merely rewrite it at the same pitch in a different clef), and also that you transpose it one octave and not two.

### Exercise 1

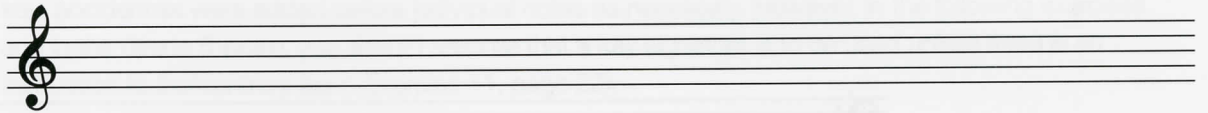
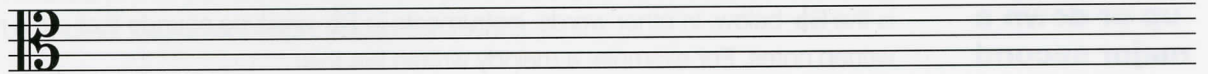
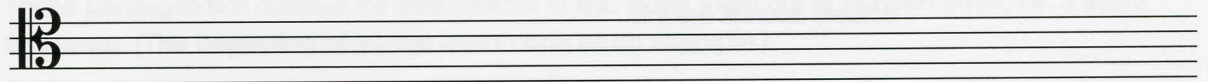
Write this passage an octave lower in each clef.

Poco adagio; cantabile Haydn, String Quartet, Op. 76 No. 3 (2nd mvt)

*p dolce*

Exercise 2  Write this passage an octave higher in each clef.

Allegro Handel, *Messiah* ('He trusted in God')

Exercise 3  Write this passage an octave higher in the treble clef, and an octave lower in the bass clef.

Vif Dukas, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*