



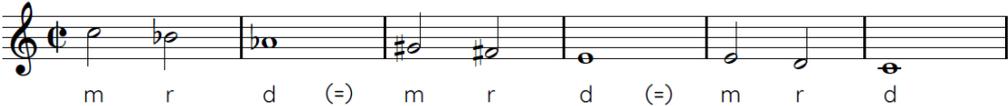
## FOR DEVELOPING YOUR POLYPHONIC SKILLS

This melody is built from the notes of the whole tone scale and it offers a great opportunity to continue getting used to this less common tone set. To help with melodic orientation and pitching the notes accurately, it may be useful to think of the octave C-C' as being divided into three major 3rds: C-E, E-G#, and G# (=Ab)-C'. Using an instrument to help at first, practise singing the augmented arpeggio C-E-G#-C to develop your feeling for these reference notes, which form the pillars of the melody in this case, and use the exercises presented below to reinforce this tripartite octave division. The augmented 4th, or tritone, E-A# provides an additional melodic challenge, but one that fits naturally in the whole tone scale.

## WITH YOUR CHOIR OR SINGING GROUP

Explore the major 3rd-based octave divisions outlined above in the choral rehearsal also, as a means of developing the singers' familiarity with the whole tone scale. Following on from the approach recommended for the previous whole tone piece *The Nearly Eerie Ear* in the Presto Level 1 canons, revisit the following scale-based exercises to build security and confidence in singing. Use solfa hand signs to help, and support tonal orientation and tuning by playing an octave C on the piano, and/or notes of the augmented arpeggio C-E-G#-C.

Ascending 

Descending 

The canon works well in two, three, or four parts. Make sure the unison is learned very securely before adding further parts. Strive for unified vowels on all syllables to enhance choral tone and blend.

## IN THE MUSIC LESSON

Creative activities: Composer Laura Sheils suggests the following ideas for responding creatively to the text of this canon:

- *Where might you hear scary sounds and see scary sights? Where might you see ghosts? For example, what scary sounds and things might you see in a forest? In a haunted house? Brainstorm some of these scary sights and sounds and share in groups. When would you hear these? During the day or at night?*
- *How might you make these sounds?*
- *Include a selection of these sights and sounds in your performance.*
- *Create some visual symbols to represent scary sounds you could perform with the canon.*