

COMPOSED FOR THE PRESTO PROJECT BY SEÁN DOHERTY

1. She stood on the bal - co - ny, Hic! Hic! In - ex - pli - ca - bly

2.

3.

6

4. mi - mick - ing him hic - cup - ing and am - i - ca - bly wel - com - ing him in.

The musical score is written on two staves in 2/4 time. The first staff contains measures 1-5, and the second staff contains measures 6-10. The lyrics are placed below the notes. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated in blue above the staves. The piece ends with a double bar line in measure 10.

choir



## THE HICCUP MIMIC USING THIS CANON

Compiled for the Presto project  
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Dublin City University, 2023

## FOR DEVELOPING YOUR POLYPHONIC SKILLS

Practise moving seamlessly between the pitched notes that you sing, and the extra-musical ‘hiccup’ sound, keeping the pulse and rhythm steady throughout.

The melody consists of two phrases. Observe the difference between how these begin — the first with an upbeat; the second with a rest — and perform them precisely.

## WITH YOUR CHOIR OR SINGING GROUP

Take particular care with tuning in the descending scale of the second phrase. It may help to ‘lift’ the notes la and mi, which occur on strong beats and serve as useful pillars of the line.

An accompaniment is provided. You can play the accompaniment on an instrument, or play or download a backing track on the Presto website.

### Optional Accompaniment



## IN THE MUSIC LESSON

Use this melody to explore the quaver upbeat in 2/4 time. Note that the final bar contains just one-and-a-half beats as a result of the upbeat. The melody may also be used in the context of learning about semiquavers.

Creative Activities: Composer Seán Doherty suggests the following ideas for responding creatively to the tongue-twister text of this canon:

- Draw a picture of the hiccup mimic on the balcony. How high is the balcony? Is it day or night? Where is the other person?
- Find the exact definition of the words ‘inexplicably’ and ‘amicably’. Why are the mimic’s actions inexplicable and amicable?
- What does a hiccup sound like? Try different ways. In pairs, act out this scene, with one person having hiccups and the other person mimicking them.
- Find examples of famous balconies like:
  - The ‘balcony scene’ in Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*
  - The balcony of Cape Town’s city hall where Nelson Mandela gave a speech after being released from prison
  - The balcony in the Vatican where the Pope addresses the people outside...and tell these stories in your own words.

