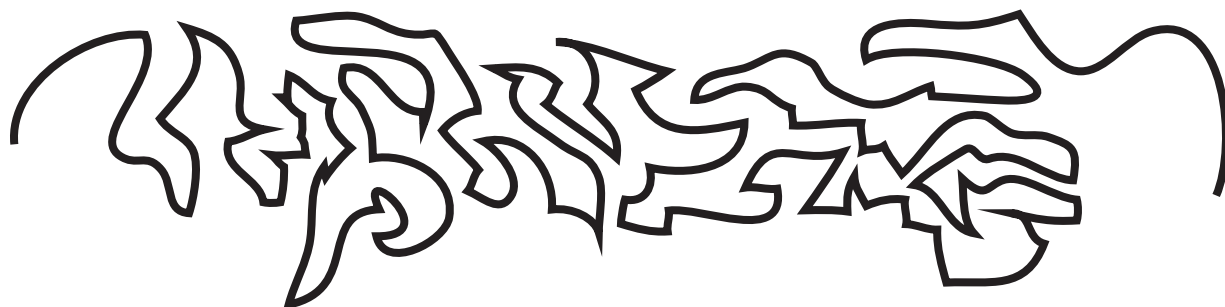


# Quartet Structures 2021



"Storytellers"

Alex T. Robilotta

# Quartet Structures 2021

**T**hirteen pieces for quartet dedicated to some of my favorite storytellers from the worlds of literature, song-writing, instrumental music, and film-making. To be performed as stand-alone shorts or as a spring boards for further development. Written with a focus on intuition, ear, and emotion with a minimal amount of theoretical complexity. The 13 dedications were all in mind throughout the composition of these pieces but the assignment of specific pieces to each storyteller was done when all compositions were complete.

documentarian, novelist, chef, **Anthony Bourdain**

composer, bandleader, pianist, poet, **Le Sony'r Ra**

novelist, poet, **Jack Kerouac**

screen-writer, producer, director, novelist, **Charlie Kaufman**

singer-songwriter, poet, author, visual artist, **Bob Dylan**

composer, pianist, author, insurance agent, **Charles Ives**

singer-songwriter, guitarist, **Townes Van Zandt**

director, producer, screen-writer, **Wes Anderson**

novelist, poet, **Malcolm Lowry**

singer-songwriter, guitarist, **Nick Drake**

director, producer, screen-writer, photographer, **Stanley Kubrick**

novelist, poet, **James Joyce**

saxophonist, composer, **Albert Ayler**

These pieces were notated very deliberately. The details on the page are just as important as the details left out. Use your intuition. Set a mood and develop it. When improvising remember the piece and mood you are expressing. Use the piece as a basis for improvisation. But maintaining the mood set by the piece is more important than any notes or rhythms.

Remember the words of Paul Motian, "I don't analyze. I feel."

- | -

-A.T.Robilotta

for Anthony Bourdain

≈ 105 BPM

Guitar pulse structure, free rhythmic variations & development  
with textural metallic percussion: bells, gongs, cymbals, etc.

A musical staff in treble clef showing a sequence of eighth notes. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The notes are grouped into pairs with slurs and accents. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

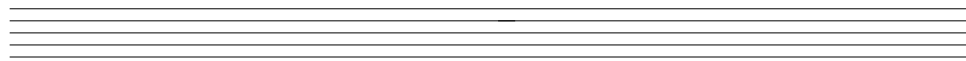
*pp*

Wind instrument and arco bass, played freely.

A musical staff in treble clef showing a sequence of notes with slurs and accents. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The notes are grouped into pairs with slurs and accents. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

*mf*

≈ 30 seconds of swelling trills



A musical staff in treble clef showing a sequence of notes with slurs and accents. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The notes are grouped into pairs with slurs and accents. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

*mf* *ff*

ALL UNISON

- || -

-A.T.Robilotta

for *Le Sony'r Ra*

Soft rumbing bass textures  
accompanied by toms with soft mallets



Wind instrument & guitar, medium flex-time, independent from bass & drums

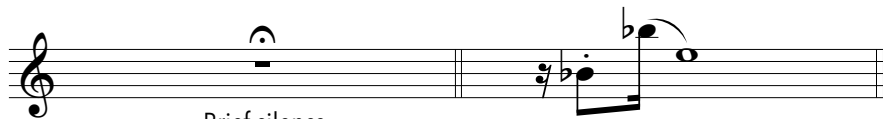
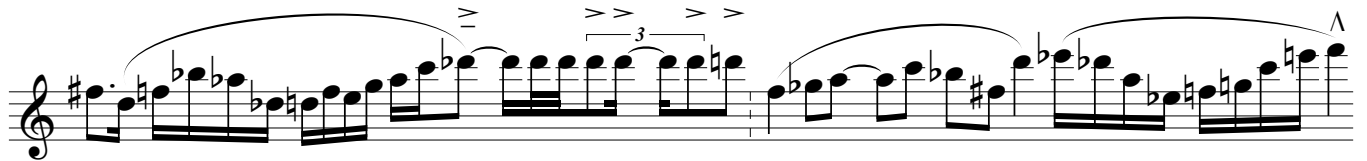
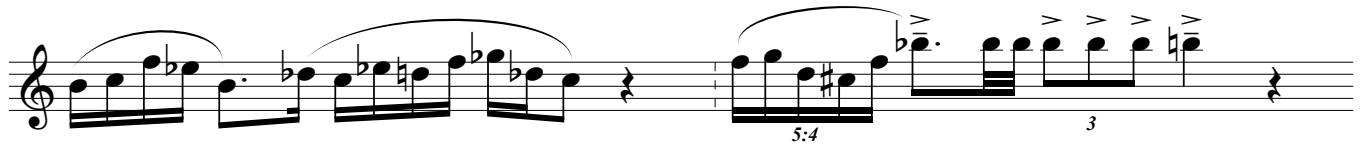


Cymbals enter here  
and continue  
through development

for Jack Kerouac

FAST!

Wind instrument and guitar unison, no bass and drums until development



Brief silence  
before entering forcefully  
for development

Last time proceed  
to final measure

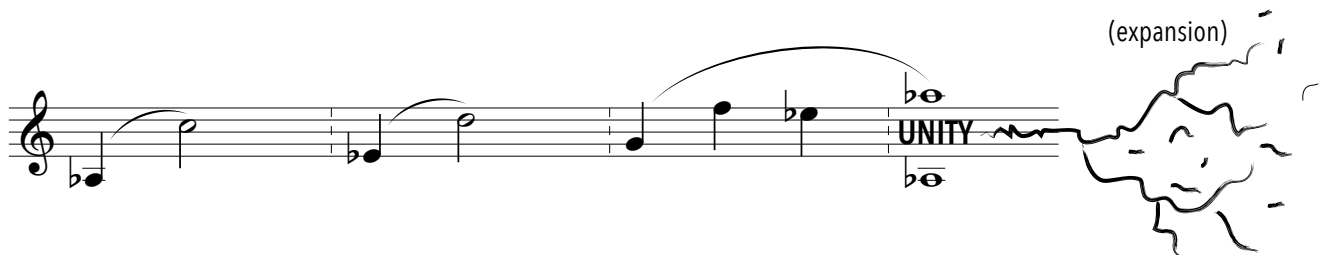
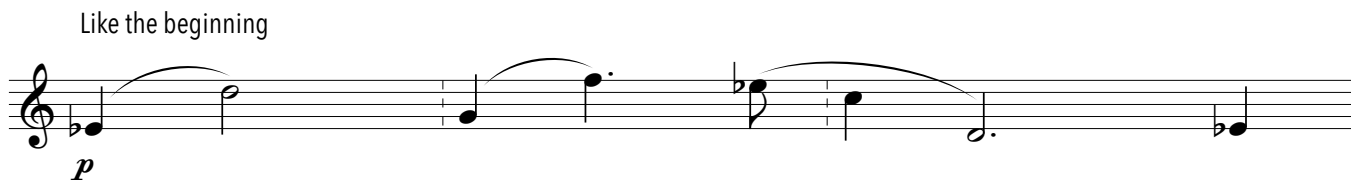
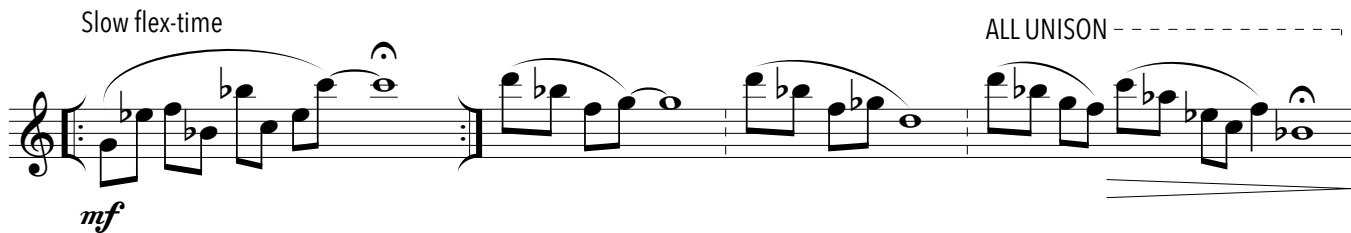
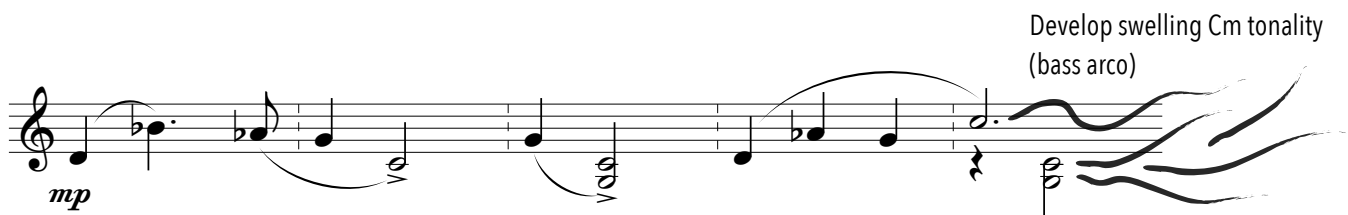
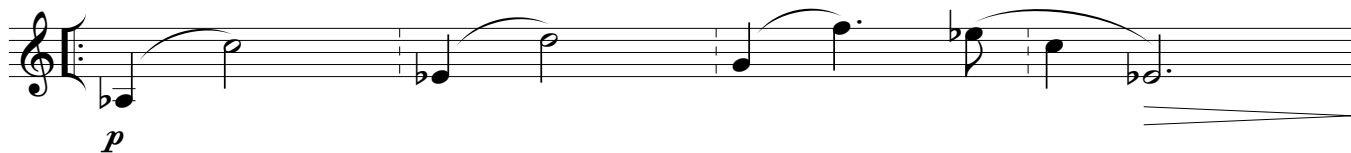
- IV -

-A.T.Robilotta

for Charlie Kaufman

Slowly, delicately

Guitar & wind instrument, over bass & drum dialogue

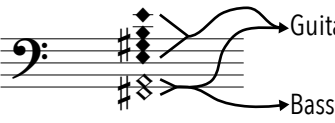


- V -

-A.T.Robilotta


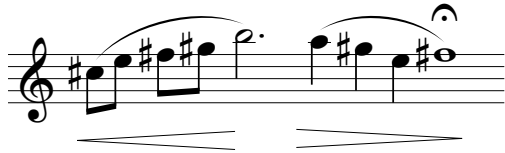
for Bob Dylan

Medium flex-time  
with straight 8th ride vibes



Guitar looping texture  
Bass

Wind instrument & guitar,,, Freely Floating, Ethereal, Simple.



- VI -

-A.T.Robilotta

for Charles Ives

≈90 BPM

Wind instrument & guitar  
Bass & drum hits underneath

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with notes B, C#, F, A♭, B♭. Below the staff are five circles containing the letters B, C#, F, A♭, B♭. A wavy line with an arrow points to the right. Above the staff, there are two double bar lines with the word "Freely" above them, and a fermata symbol above the final note.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with notes C, D, E♭, F, G. Below the staff are five circles containing the letters C, D, E♭, F, G. A wavy line with an arrow points to the right. Above the staff, there are two double bar lines with the word "Freely" above them, and a fermata symbol above the final note.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains a melodic line with notes B, C, D, E♭, F, G, A♭, B♭. Below the staff, the text "ALL UNISON" is written. To the right of the staff, two arrows point outwards from a central point, with the text "Expand in All Directions" between them.



# - VII -

-A.T.Robilotta

for Townes Van Zandt

≈70 BPM

Wind instrument & pizzicato bass (top)  
enter after guitar and percussion prelude

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The bass clef staff contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets and accents. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes, quarter notes, and a final accented quarter note.

Guitar in octaves with textural percussion

Musical notation for the second system, continuing the previous system. The treble staff has a melodic line with eighth notes, quarter notes, and a final accented quarter note. The bass staff continues the rhythmic pattern with triplets and accents.

Last  
time  
only

- VIII -

-A.T.Robilotta

for Wes Anderson

≈55 BPM (loose)

Strummed bass (continues throughout)  
with toms, open snare, and high hat splashes

Musical notation for strummed bass in 4/4 time, marked *pp*. The notation shows a series of chords and single notes, including a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure.

Guitar (top) & low wind instrument (bottom)

Musical notation for guitar (top) and low wind instrument (bottom) in 4/4 time, marked *p*. The guitar part features a melodic line with slurs and ties, while the wind part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and quarter notes.

Guitar & wind in unison or octaves

Musical notation for guitar and wind in unison or octaves. The notation shows a melodic line with triplets of eighth notes and a final measure with a whole note and a fermata.

Musical notation for guitar (top) and low wind instrument (bottom) in 4/4 time, marked *p*. This section continues the melodic and rhythmic patterns from the previous section.

for Malcolm Lowry

Medium Swing

Begin with free swinging drum solo

Wind instrument (top) & guitar (bottom) on drummers cue

Straight 8ths

Bass: C# G F# Bb A F E B

Straight 8ths

C Ab D Eb C# G F# Bb

A F E B C Ab D Eb

Solos... C# G F# Bb A F E B C Ab D Eb

- Bass uses this bassline forward or backward, in a free swing style, using any rhythms and repeating notes as they see fit.
- Other instruments solo freely.

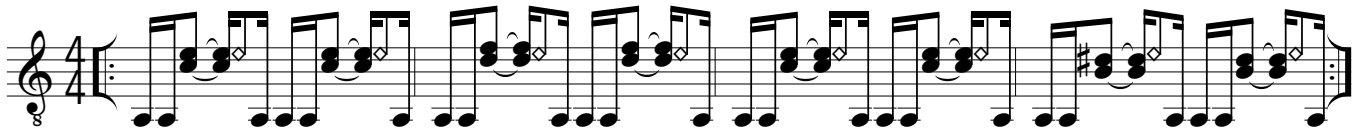
- X -

≈75 BPM

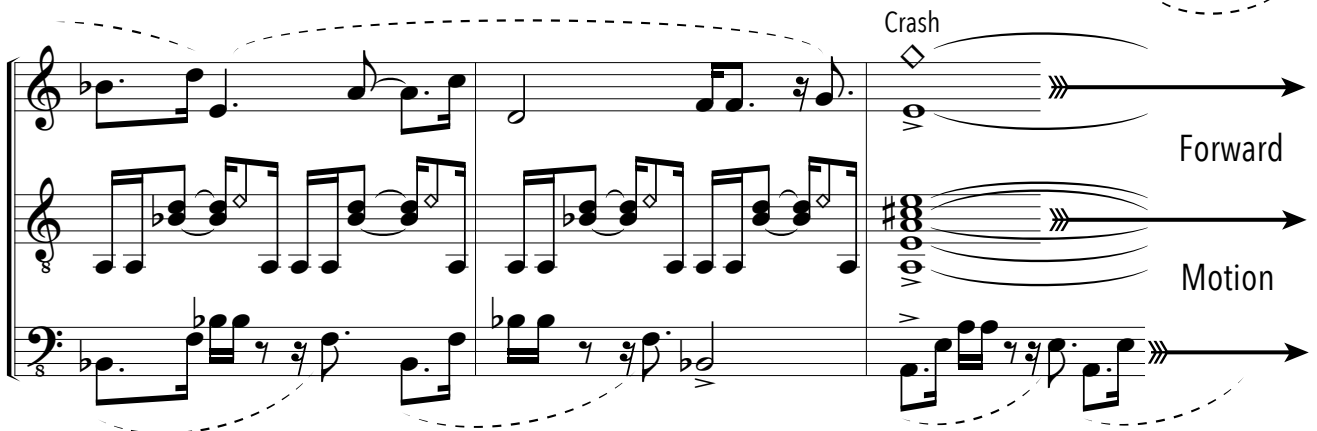
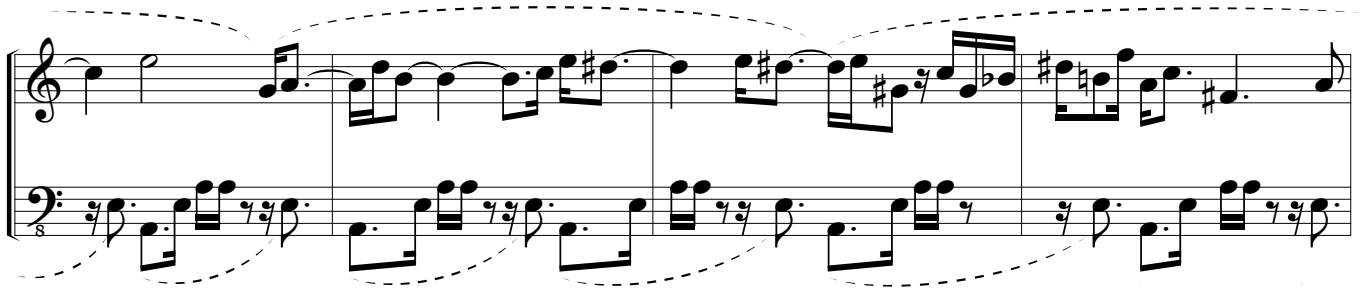
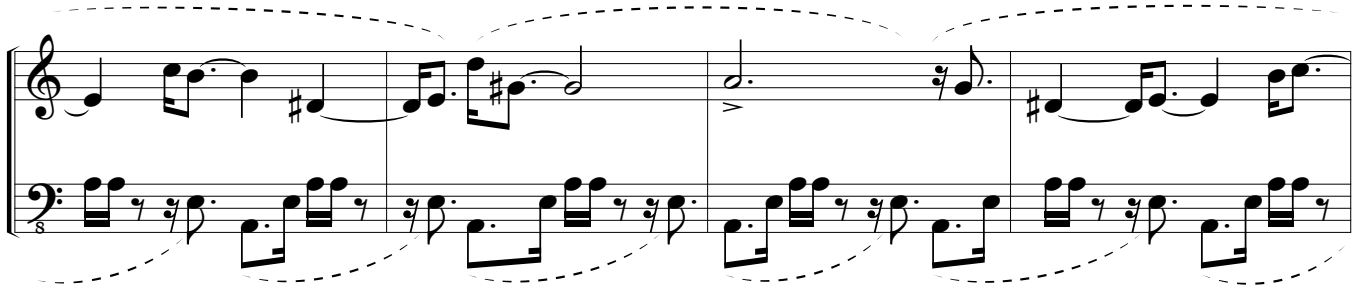
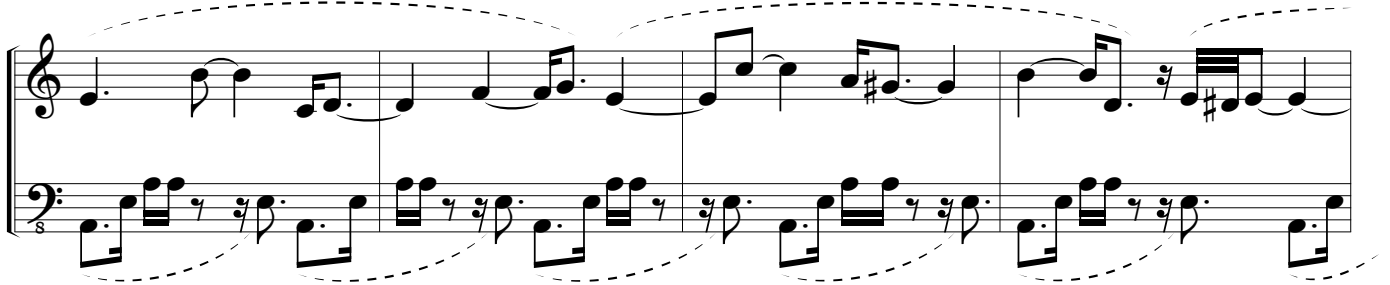
-A.T.Robilotta

Guitar prelude, with percussion sounds  
Settling on this idea, repeat until last line

for Nick Drake



Wind instrument (7) and bass (3), enter at top of guitar vamp,  
with loose Brazillian influenced drums or percussion



- XI -

-A.T.Robilotta

for Stanley Kubrick

Medium Slow

All tonal instruments in unison/octaves

Percussion ideas of varying length during and after fermatas, to separate phrases

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The first phrase consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a fermata. The second phrase consists of quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, followed by a fermata.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, starting with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The first phrase consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a fermata. The second phrase consists of quarter notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, followed by a fermata.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The first phrase consists of eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a fermata. The second phrase consists of eighth notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, followed by a fermata.

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The first phrase consists of eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a fermata. The second phrase consists of eighth notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, followed by a fermata. The dynamic then changes to piano-piano (*pp*) for the final notes.

Begin development using this octatonic scale

Musical staff 5: Treble clef, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The first phrase consists of eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a fermata. The second phrase consists of eighth notes B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, followed by a fermata. The dynamic then changes to piano-piano (*pp*) for the final notes. The staff ends with several arrows pointing outwards, indicating further development.

- XII -

-A.T.Robilotta

for James Joyce

≈ 80 BPM

Wind instrument (top), guitar (middle), bass  
with drums improvising

3x's

2x's

This system consists of three staves. The first staff is marked '3x's' and contains three triplet figures. The second and third staves are marked '2x's' and contain two triplet figures. The music is written in a key with one flat and a common time signature. Repeat signs are used to indicate that the first and second sections are to be played twice each.

Briefly

Make

Sounds

This system consists of three staves. The first staff has the lyric 'Briefly' and ends with a fermata. The second staff has the lyric 'Make' and also ends with a fermata. The third staff has the lyric 'Sounds' and ends with a fermata. All three staves contain triplet figures. The music is written in the same key and time signature as the first system.

2x's each

This system consists of three staves. The first staff is marked '2x's each' and contains two triplet figures. The second and third staves also contain triplet figures. The music is written in the same key and time signature as the previous systems. Repeat signs are used to indicate that the first and second sections are to be played twice each.

- XIII -

-A.T.Robilotta

for Albert Ayler

≈ 105 BPM

Aggressive bass  
with frantic sloppy  
samba-esque drums

Main groove

Thrown in to unsettle groove

Distorted guitar and wind instrument, in unison or octaves  
Rhythmically detached from groove  
Each phrase can be played once or repeated/developed

Three staves of musical notation in treble clef, showing a melody with various phrasing options. The first staff shows a phrase starting with a half note, followed by a quarter note, and then a quarter note. The second staff shows a phrase starting with a quarter note, followed by a quarter note, and then a quarter note. The third staff shows a phrase starting with a quarter note, followed by a quarter note, and then a quarter note.

Entire melody can be repeated  
and can end on any phrase.