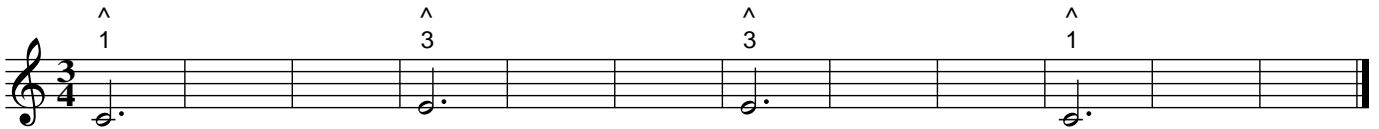


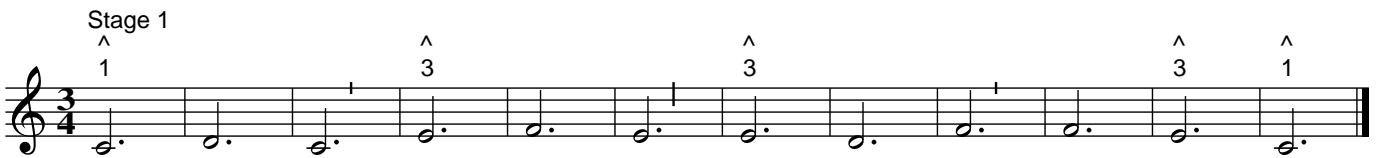
## Recomposing Bartok's Mikrokosmos no. 56

**Objective:** application of organum and bourdon techniques to an easy melody

**Step 1: point of departure an easy melodic frame (binary form, 6+6; 3/4; C major), based on the tone C and E**



**Step 2: embellish this melodic frame of step 1 with neighbour and passing tones (stage 1)**  
condition: use only dotted half notes (minims)



**Step 3: embellish the basic melody of step 2 with neighbour and passing tones (stage 2)**  
condition: use only dotted half notes, half notes (minims) or quarter notes (crotchets)

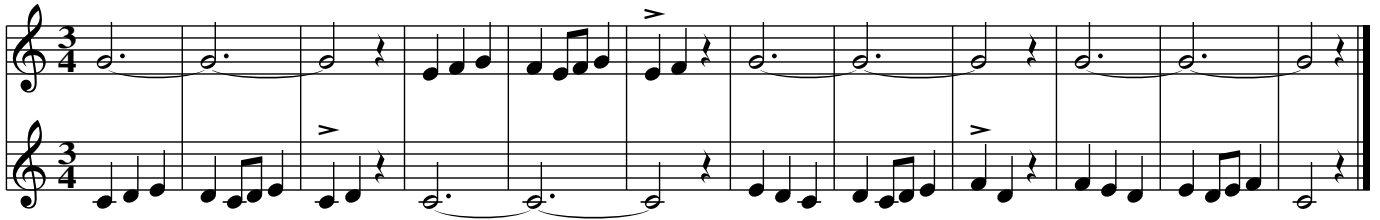


**Step 4: make the melody more powerful by inserting one of more clearly defined motives (stage 3)**  
condition: use only dotted half notes, half notes (minims), quarter notes (crotchets) or eight notes (quavers)



Comment: motive A in bar 2 and motive B in bar 3. Motive A integrates the melody.  
Motive B (two tone and a rest) connects the melody segments strongly in terms of directional motion.

**Step 5: make a two part version by applying a sustained voice to this melody  
cf. the bourdon technique in the 12th century organum from the Ars Antiqua (1)**



**Step 6: make a four part parallel organum version according to the following procedure:**

1. transpose the version of step 5 a third lower
2. apply this transposed version to the version of step 5
3. transpose the version of step 5 an octave higher



**Step 7: finishing touch (dynamics, phrasing, a Lydian raised 4th tone F# and a lowered B in bar 11)**

Comment: the result can be seen as an elaboration of the chord A – E – C – G

**Footnotes**

(1) The website <http://www.mdw.ac.at/ive/emm/serbia.htm> shows that organum or bourdon singing is still existent in folk music of Serbia.

---

**About the author:**

Reinier Maliepaard, psychologist, software engineer, organist and teacher at the ArtEZ Conservatorium Netherlands (music theory and music history). Maliepaard maintains several internetsites as [www.bestmusicteacher.com](http://www.bestmusicteacher.com) en [www.artezmusictools.nl](http://www.artezmusictools.nl).

His freeware music notation programm MC Musiceditor (Windows) can be downloaded at [www.mcmusiceditor.com](http://www.mcmusiceditor.com).

The original PDF–article has been typeset with MC Musiceditor 6.0.6 ([www.mcmusiceditor.com](http://www.mcmusiceditor.com) – [www.bestmusicteacher.com](http://www.bestmusicteacher.com)). The HTML–version is a conversion from the original PDF–file, using the free PdfEdit995 (<http://www.pdf995.com>)

---