BRAVE SAGE

and the magical motives

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by Andrea and Trevor Dow

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Brave Sage and the Magical Motives

A Composing Quest

Brave Sage awakens one morning to discover that her father, the king, is missing. After finding a note on the castle door, our heroic young knight sets off on a quest to conquer seven composing challenges and rescue the King.

Brave Sage and the Magical Motives has the kooky characters, engaging illustrations, and creative music that teachers need to capture the imaginations of young students, motivating them to compose masterpiece after masterpiece.

Designed to make composing fun and memorable for your elementary piano students, this book is a simple-to-follow, step-by-step resource that will take you and your students on an exciting adventure into the world of music composition.

Enjoy the journey,

Andrea and Trevor

How To Use This Book

Brave Sage needs your help to rescue her father, the king! On her quest, she must use her knowledge of music to compose her way past seven challenges. But Brave Sage can't write seven piano pieces all by herself…

And that's where you come in!

To help Brave Sage compose her way past a challenge, first read the accompanying story segment on the Challenge Page and then build the motive. Next, write the motive in the blank spaces (indicated by the colored boxes) on the unfinished piece that follows the Challenge Page. Finally, perform the music.

Once you have successfully helped Brave Sage complete a piano piece, continue your quest by moving on to the next Challenge Page.

Wondering how to build a motive?

Composing instructions can be found on the illustrated Challenge Pages that precede each of Brave Sage's seven unfinished pieces. Simply follow along with the instructions and create the heroic motives that Brave Sage needs to complete her composing quest and rescue her father.

Each piece in this book is designed to work with any motive your students create. For optimal success, ensure that your students' rhythm choices match the time signature of each piece. As with any music writing process, some melodic choices will sound better than others. Encourage your students to experiment with various note combinations until they find a motive that sounds "just right".

A completed sample page and piece is included at the end of this book.

It was 6 o'clock one morning, when Sage woke up in bed.
She'd tossed and turned for hours; dreams lingered in her head.
Now Sage lived in a castle where her daddy was the king,
but on this sunny Tuesday morn **his trumpets didn't sing!**

Those trumpets sounded every day, so something wasn't right!
Who or what had snatched the King, concealed by dark of night?
She dressed in all her armor (she knew that would be best),
for **Sage the Knight** had never once backed down from any quest.

Nailed to the castle door she found a note penned in black ink:
"If you want the King returned, you'd better have a think.
He's the best composer that this kingdom's ever seen.
I need to learn to write like him ***to find myself a queen.***

It's no fun living all alone, days spent without a sound.
I've tried my hand at music… no motives could be found.
He will teach me how to write that music oh so sweet.
Fine melodies are what I need *to woo each queen I meet.*

Don't try to come and find me Sage - I know your type is deft -
for you will never make it past the challenges I've left.
The strongest knight would falter, so you should just stay back.
Signed by The King Of Yonderyor: ***Sir Eli Hammertack.****"*

Sage hopped upon her noble steed
and quickly rode away.

These seven challenges could not
keep Sage the Knight at bay.

Her dad was all she thought of,
she told herself, “Be brave!”

But straight ahead she saw a dark
and gloomy-looking cave.

“Challenge One!” a voice did boom;
it seemed to shake the air.

Hopping off her horse Sage saw
a giant grizzly bear!

His massive mouth, it opened.
He yawned a sort of roar:

“I’ve waited here to scare you off!”…
then slumped down to the floor.

Sage knew he must be tired, for
in winter bears should sleep.

If she could get him snoozing…
then safely she could creep!

Sage had to find a motive
to write a lullaby

to lull this grouchy bear to sleep,
so she could slip on by.

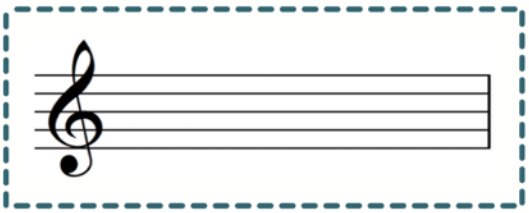
Sage needs your help! Follow the steps below to create a motive using the phrase...
Hushabye Sleepy Bear

1. Clap the phrase and then write its rhythm...

2. In the C Major Five-Finger Scale...

Choose any combination of notes
to match the rhythm in Step 1.

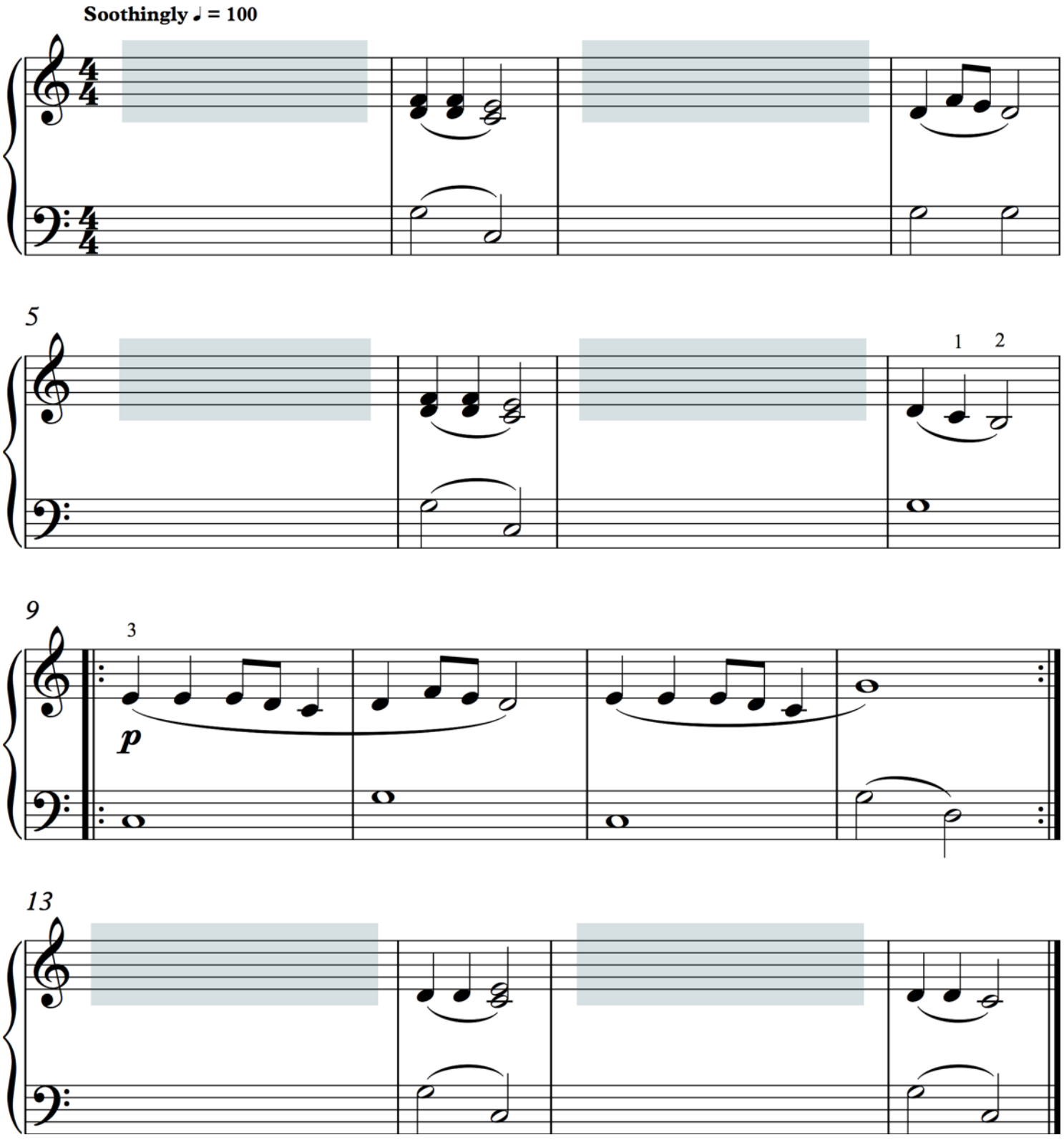
3. Combine your rhythm from Step 1 with your melody from Step 2. Write your motive below...



4. Use the motive above to complete the piece on the next page (colored box = *insert motive*).

Hushabye Sleepy Bear

Andrea Dow



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Upon her horse she galloped
until something made her shiver.
Straight ahead she saw a vast,
whirling, raging river!
"Challenge Two!" the voice called out;
it could be heard for miles.
This was not a plain old stream;
'twas filled with crocodiles!

The water burbled 'round their eyes;
their teeth gave her a fright!
What could get her past these beasts?
"Think fast!" thought Sage the Knight.
Then she spotted one large croc
away from all the rest.
A toothache had him crying tears;
she saw that he looked stressed.

"I have some medicine," he wept,
"but I can't hold a spoon!
All I need is help... and could
you sing a toothy tune?
I promise you'll cross safely,
just help me with this ache."
Sage needed a good motive to
escape this croc-filled lake.

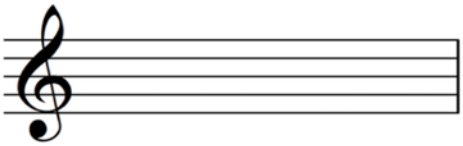
Sage needs your help! Follow the steps below to create a motive using the phrase...
Play A Toothy Tune

1. Clap the phrase and then write its rhythm...

2. In the C Minor Five-Finger Scale...

Choose any combination of notes
to match the rhythm in Step 1.

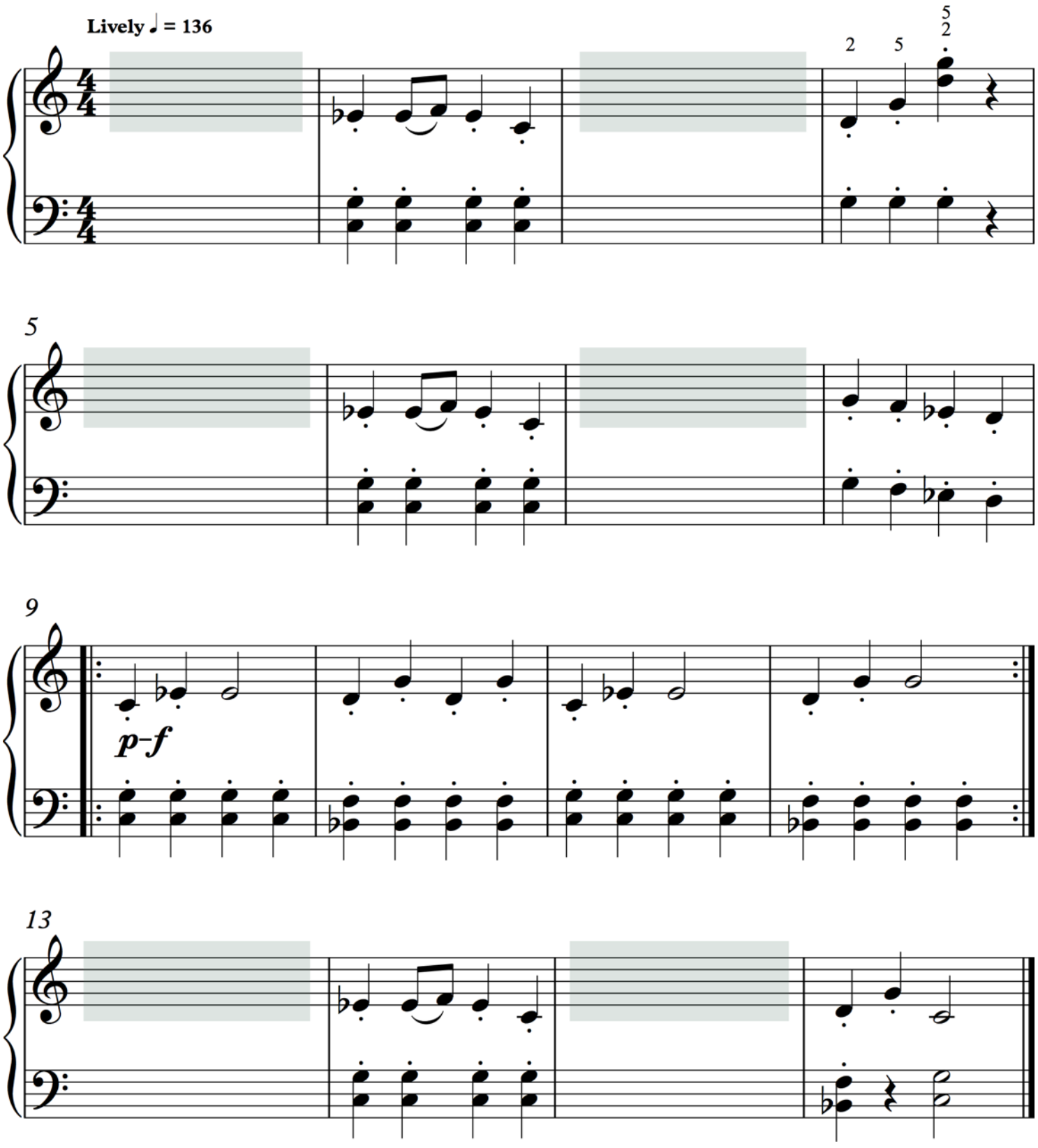
3. Combine your rhythm from Step 1 with your melody from Step 2. Write your motive below...



4. Use the motive above to complete the piece on the next page (colored box = *insert motive*).

Play A Toothy Tune

Andrea Dow



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Safely past the grinning crocs she
found a desert wide.

"Challenge Three!" the voice called out,
but Sage did bravely ride.

Pointy ears appeared behind
a massive pile of rocks.

The bushy tail then followed of
a cunning desert fox.

"I made this rock pile by myself!"
the tiny fox did yip.

"Just beyond there's more of them;
they'll surely make you trip!"

Sage thought fast and she called out,
"Wow! You must be tired!"

"No, never!" called the desert fox
(he liked to be admired).

"Oh I can move them all again,"
he said with pride, "I'm strong!

But I can't move these rocks at all
without a rockin' song."

"I can help with that!" said Sage
and wrote without delay.

She needed a great motive so
he'd move those stones away.

Sage needs your help! Follow the steps below to create a motive using the phrase...
Fox, Move Those Rocks!

1. Clap the phrase and then write its rhythm...

2. In the G Minor Five-Finger Scale...

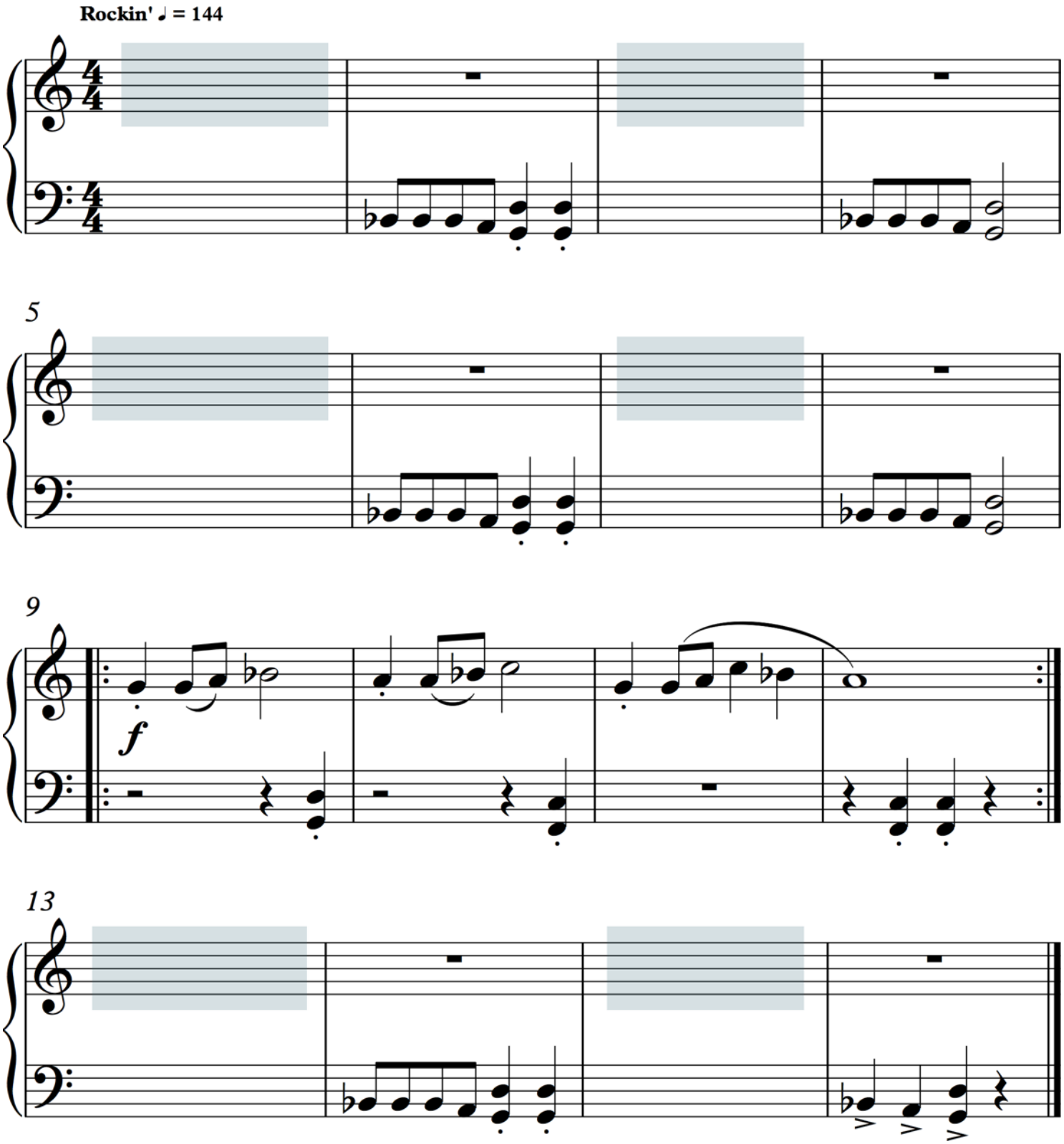
Choose any combination of notes
to match the rhythm in Step 1.

3. Combine your rhythm from Step 1 with your melody from Step 2. Write your motive below...

4. Use the motive above to complete the piece on the next page (colored box = *insert motive*).

Fox, Move Those Rocks!

Andrea Dow



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She rode through dark for hours 'til
the dawn of a new morn.
The place she found was frightful;
she rode through spiky thorns.
"Challenge Four!" the voice called out,
so loud it made her tilt.
Out stepped two huge giants
wearing giant checkered kilts.

"You can't go past," they shouted loud
and held their hands out: "Stop!"
Sage thought fast for what to say,
and an idea popped.
She called, "You must love dancing!"
The giants they just stared.
"I think you'd like some music with
a dancing sort of flair!"

Sage knew a happy tune would get
those giants dancing quick.
A Celtic sort of motive...
the perfect kind of trick!
While they were dancing, she could ride
away without a care,
and trick them like the fox, the croc,
and that old grouchy bear.

Sage needs your help! Follow the steps below to create a motive using the phrase...
Dance Giants

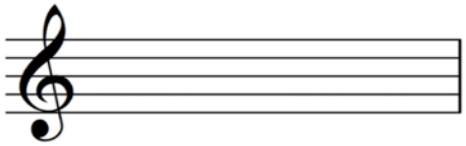
1. Clap the phrase and then write its rhythm...

$\frac{3}{4}$

2. In the C Major Five-Finger Scale...

Choose any combination of notes
to match the rhythm in Step 1.

3. Combine your rhythm from Step 1 with your melody from Step 2. Write your motive below...



4. Use the motive above to complete the piece on the next page (colored box = *insert motive*).

Dance Giants

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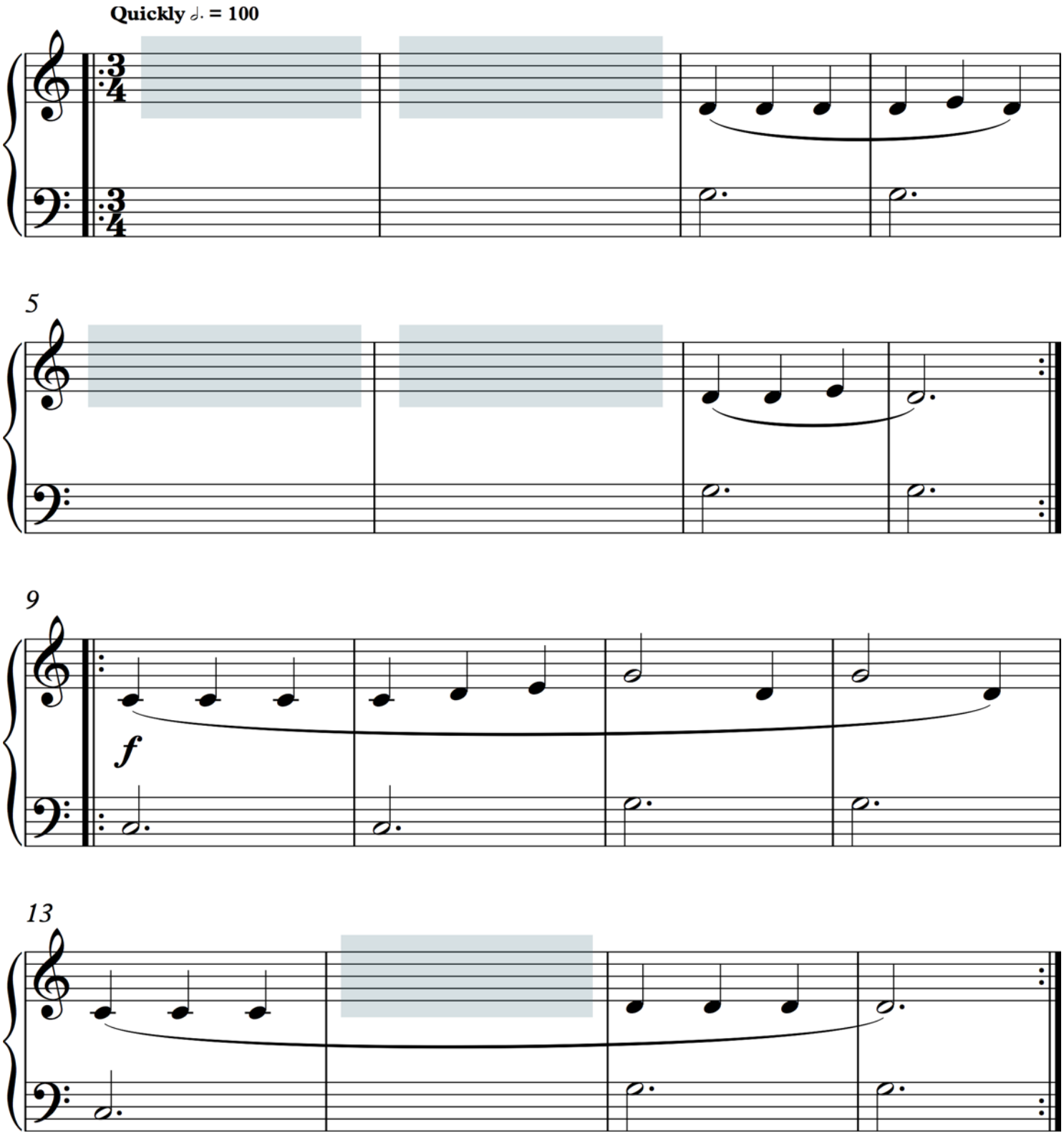

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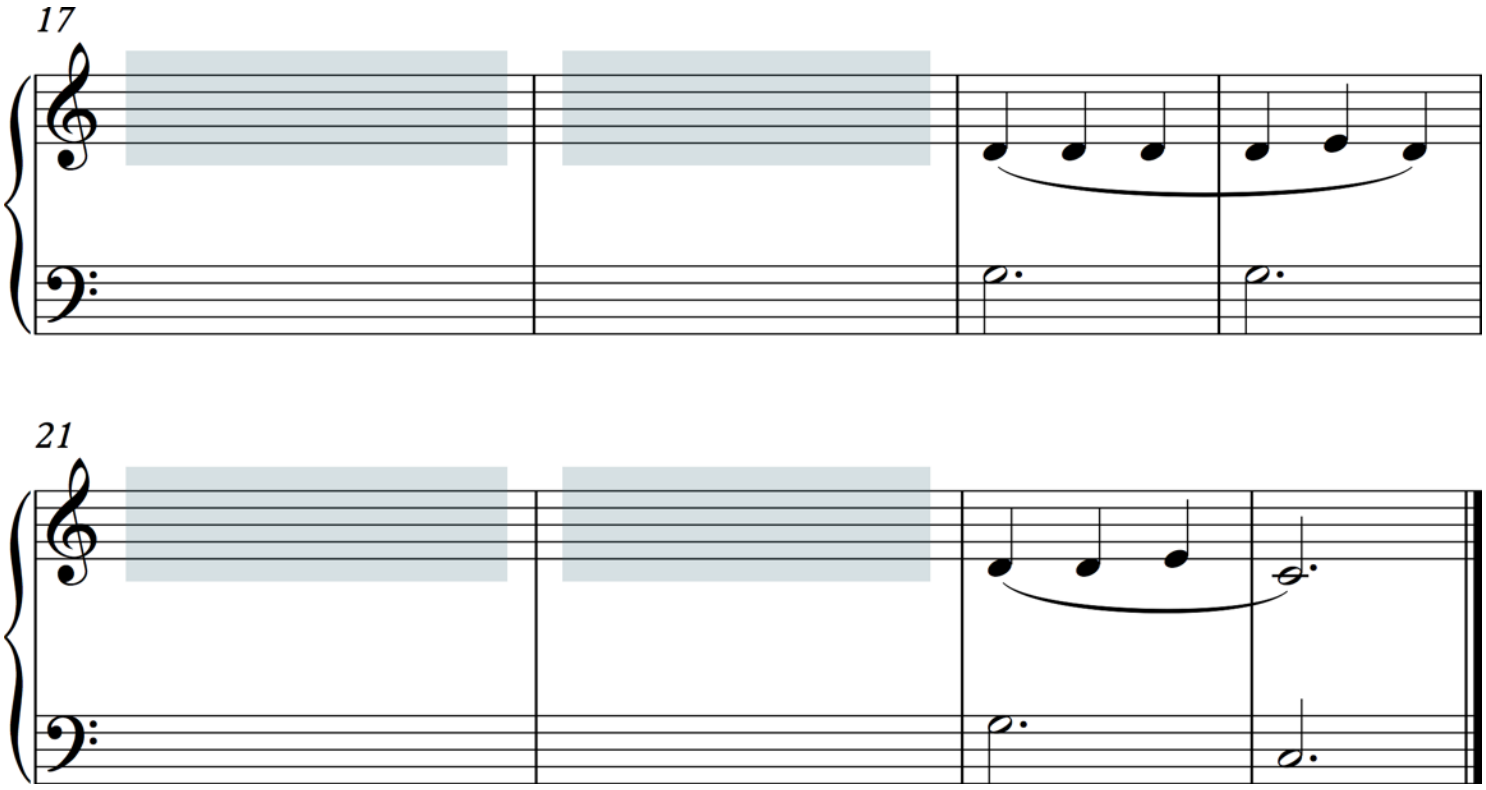

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Sage soon saw a swamp that squelched
and burbled like a pot.

"Challenge Five!" the voice called out;
she braced for the onslaught.

There then appeared a large bullfrog,
a greenish-sort of gray.

It croaked and stuck its tongue out fast
and said, "You! Go away."

"Please let me pass," Sage said to him
(her manners kept in check).

"You can try!" the frog called out.
"It's really quite a trek.

You see, this swamp is quicksand,
you'll stick and sink and slump.

The only way to get across
is with a frog-like jump."

Sage knew her horse could do it, but
she'd need to know the spot.

So what might make him show her where
to jump (and where to not!)?

She started writing music,
a bouncing, jumping groove...

and sure enough that frog it hopped
and showed her how to move.

Sage needs your help! Follow the steps below to create a motive using the phrase...
Jump, Hop, Don't You Stop!

1. Clap the phrase and then write its rhythm...

4/4

2. In the D Major Five-Finger Scale...

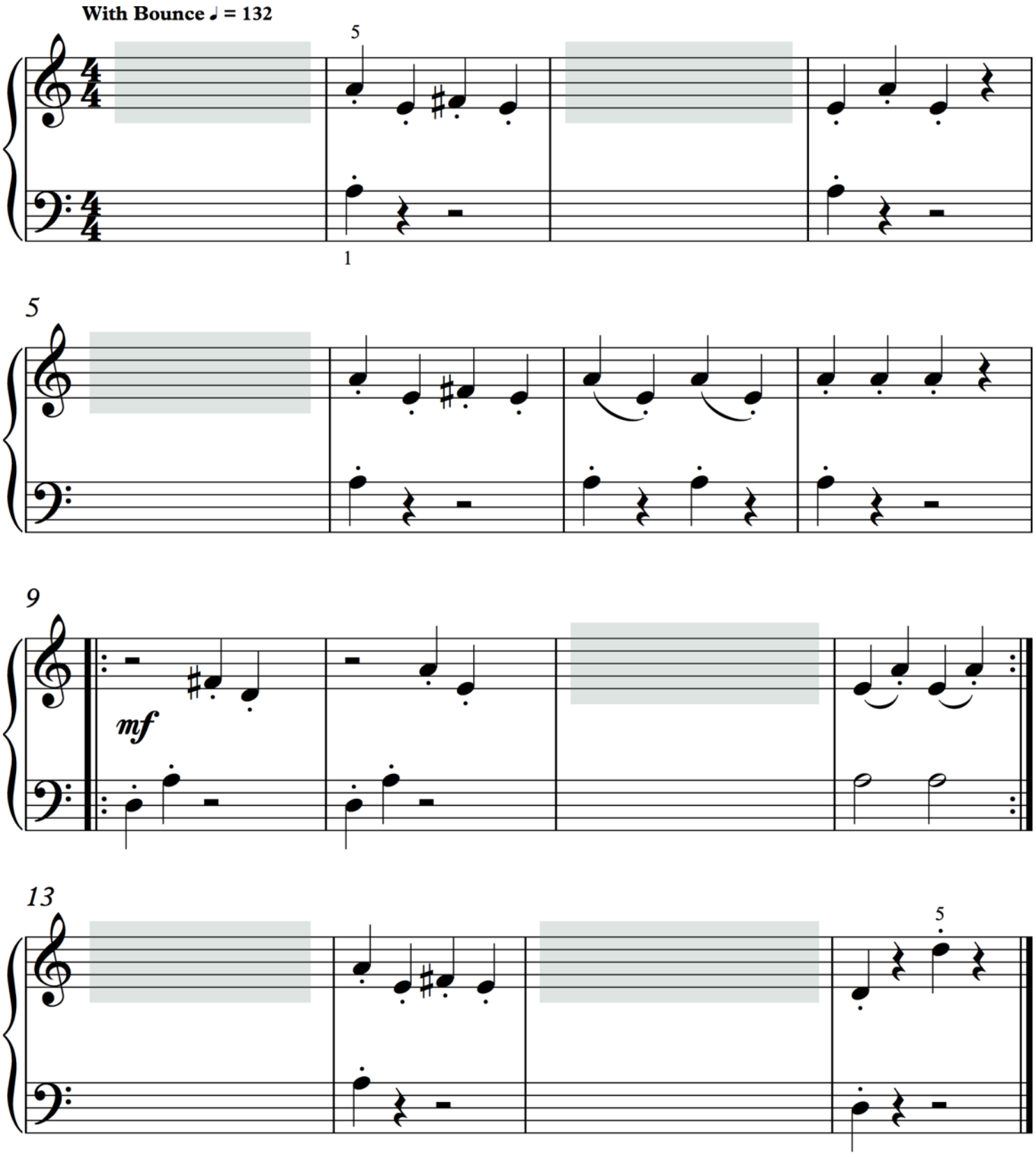
Choose any combination of notes
to match the rhythm in Step 1.

3. Combine your rhythm from Step 1 with your melody from Step 2. Write your motive below...

4. Use the motive above to complete the piece on the next page (colored box = *insert motive*).

Jump, Hop, Don't You Stop!

Andrea Dow



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By this time Sage was tired, but
she knew the end was near.

"Challenge Six!" the voice called out;
it echoed in her ears.

Something slithered out beneath
a shady jungle hedge.

So long and thick and slippery,
it crawled up to a ledge.

"Yesssss?" the snake hissed loudly
from its coiled resting place.

"I can't let you pass you see...
I recognize your face."

Sage remembered something that
she'd learned one day in class:

a lesson on snake charming tunes...
Yes! That might let her pass!

"Have you heard a song like this?"
Sage asked and started writing.

The snake rose up and stared at her;
its eyes flashed just like lightning.

Undeterred she penned a piece
that had a charming feel.

The snake, it started dancing and
right by it Sage did steal.

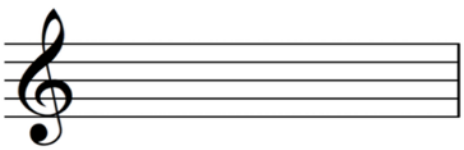
Sage needs your help! Follow the steps below to create a motive using the phrase...
Look Into My Eyes

1. Clap the phrase and then write its rhythm...

2. In the C Minor Five-Finger Scale...

Choose any combination of notes
to match the rhythm in Step 1.

3. Combine your rhythm from Step 1 with your melody from Step 2. Write your motive below...



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Look Into My Eyes

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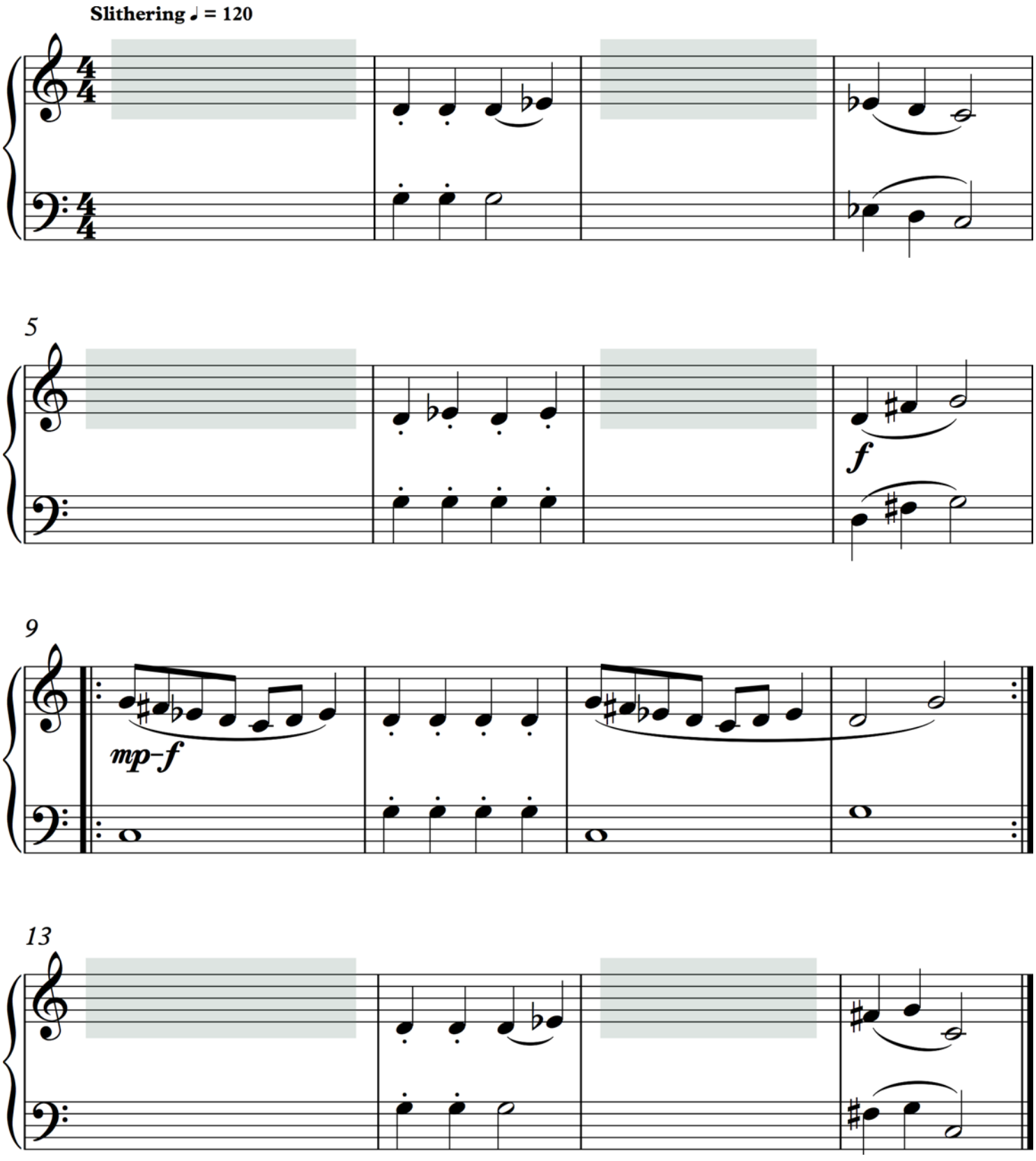

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At last the town of Yonderyor
was stretched out right ahead.
Sage the Knight continued on;
a plan formed in her head.
The King appeared before her,
their horses nose to nose.
He sputtered "How and what and who?!
What magic do you know?"

"It's not magic," Sage replied
and handed him a sack
filled with music manuscripts
she'd carried on her back.
Sir Eli rifled through them,
his frown became a smile.
"This is what I've struggled with
for such a long, long while?!"

Jumping off her horse Sage stated,
"Give me back my dad.
You can learn to write your own;
I'll show you, I'd be glad!
Matching notes to rhythm is
my very favorite thing.
Writing your own music is the
way your heart can sing."

Sage needs your help! Follow the steps below to create a motive using the phrase...
I'm The King Of Music

1. Clap the phrase and then write its rhythm...

2. In the G Major Five-Finger Scale...

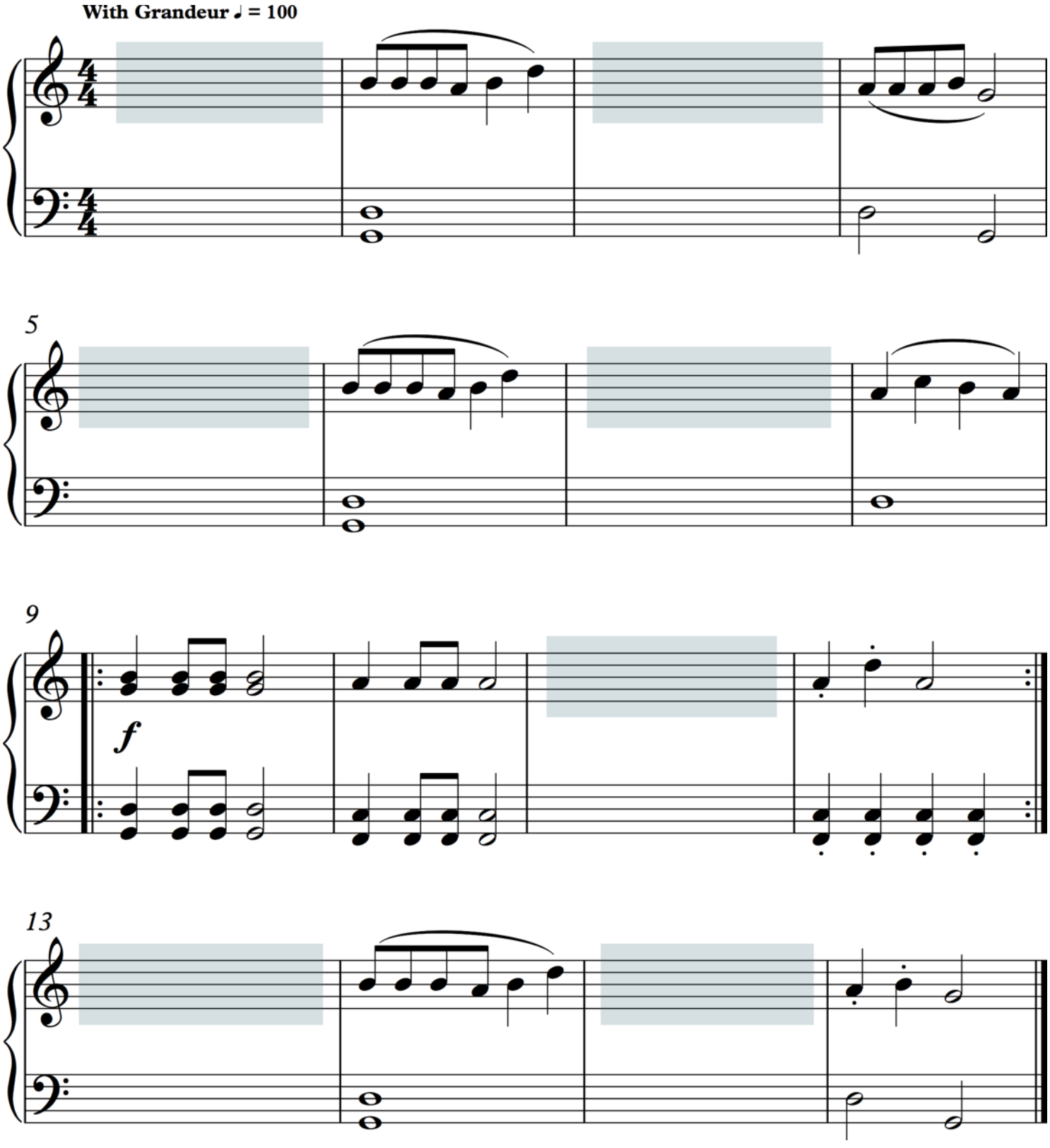
Choose any combination of notes
to match the rhythm in Step 1.

3. Combine your rhythm from Step 1 with your melody from Step 2. Write your motive below...

4. Use the motive above to complete the piece on the next page (colored box = *insert motive*).

I'm The King Of Music

Andrea Dow



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"Here's a song for sleepy bears and crocs who cannot grin!
Here's one for a desert fox, a giant and his twin!
Here's another for a snake to put him in a dream.
Surely something found in here would please a future queen?"

And so the King of Yonderyor began his music quest.
Sage taught him to write motives that simply were the best.
Now he's writing symphonies, chorales and minuets.
And did he find a queen? Not yet… but he did get a pet!

The End

A Completed Sample

Sage hopped upon her noble steed
and quickly rode away.

These seven challenges could not
keep Sage the Knight at bay.

Her dad was all she thought of,
she told herself, “Be brave!”

But straight ahead she saw a dark
and gloomy-looking cave.

“Challenge One!” a voice did boom;
it seemed to shake the air.

Hopping off her horse Sage saw
a giant grizzly bear!

His massive mouth, it opened.
He yawned a sort of roar:

“I’ve waited here to scare you off!”…
then slumped down to the floor.

Sage knew he must be tired, for
in winter bears should sleep.

If she could get him snoozing…
then safely she could creep!

Sage had to find a motive
to write a lullaby

to lull this grouchy bear to sleep,
so she could slip on by.

Sage needs your help! Follow the steps below to create a motive using the phrase...
Hushabye Sleepy Bear

1. Clap the phrase and then write its rhythm...

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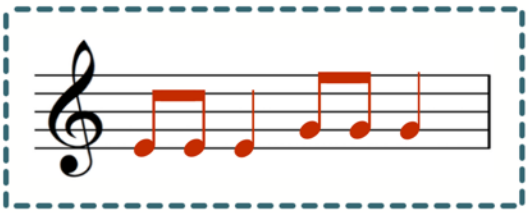

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Hushabye Sleepy Bear

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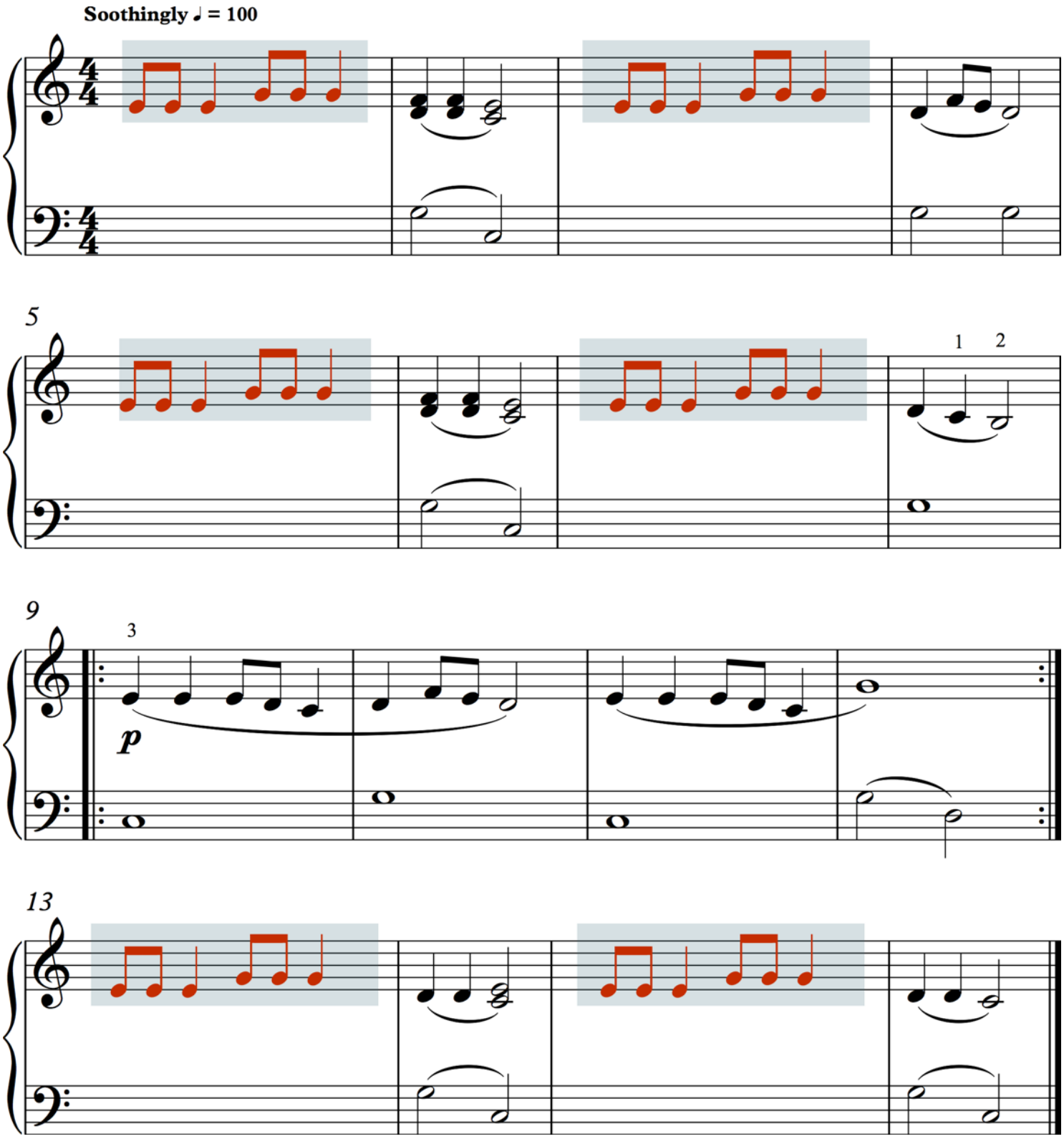

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