

Frank A. Wallace

# Polyphonic Exercises

and Examples

how to balance  
multi-voiced textures  
and create more depth  
in your musical art.

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PO BOX 339  
Antrim NH 03440  
[www.gyremusic.com](http://www.gyremusic.com)

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# Polyphonic Exercises

Frank A. Wallace

EX. #1 *f* rest stroke *p* free stroke

EX. #2 *f* rest stroke *mf* free stroke *p* free stroke *mf* free stroke *simile*

EX. #3 *ff* *f* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

EX. #4 *ff* *pp*

The goal of this exercise is to use timbral and dynamic changes together to aid definition of the rhythmic structure. Emphasize the difference in the timbre of i, m and a, so that the i is fat and round close to the hole, m is moderate and a is more ponticello, thinner and weaker.

Hemiola (3 against 2)

EX. #5

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# Examples

from Duo de Josquin - Fuenllana



Two staves of musical notation in G major, 3/4 time. The first staff includes a circled '3' with an equals sign and 'F#' below it. The notation features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of chords and melodic lines, with some notes marked with fingerings (1, 0, 3, 1, 0, 2, 4, 1, 1, 2, 4, 1, 1) and dynamic markings like >.

from Fantasia 6, Book 2, Narvaez



Three staves of musical notation in G major, 3/4 time. The first staff includes a circled '3' with an equals sign and 'F#' below it. The notation features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of chords and melodic lines, with some notes marked with fingerings (1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 1, 2, 4, 1, 1) and dynamic markings like >.

EX. #6



One staff of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The notation features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of chords and melodic lines, with some notes marked with fingerings (1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 1, 2, 4, 1, 1) and dynamic markings like >.

from F. Sor Study 1 (Segovia)



Three staves of musical notation in G major, 3/4 time. The notation features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The music consists of a series of chords and melodic lines, with some notes marked with fingerings (1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 1, 2, 4, 1, 1) and dynamic markings like >.

from Cunctipotens Genitor, by FW

Two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a melodic line with various ornaments and dynamics. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. The instruction *accelerando e crescendo* is written below the first staff.

**Andantino** ♩ = 84

Two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a melodic line with various ornaments and dynamics. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. The instruction *Andantino* with a tempo marking of ♩ = 84 is written above the first staff. The instruction *C II* is written above the second staff. The instruction *f* is written below the first staff.

from Loor (Nuevas Cantigas) by FW

Three staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with various ornaments and dynamics. The bottom two staves are in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. The instruction *stringendo* is written below the first staff. The instruction *f* and *allargando* are written below the second staff.

from The Pilgrim's Road (From the Windy Place) by FW

rit. p 2 p 1 p p f p mp accelerando e piu agitato

allargando ④ 12 ⑥ 7 ⑥ 7 pp

Detailed description: This musical score is for a piece in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system starts with a piano introduction marked 'rit.' and includes dynamics from piano (p) to forte (f) and mezzo-piano (mp). The second system continues the melody with various articulations and dynamics, including a fortissimo (f) section. The third system is marked 'allargando' and features a slower tempo with dynamics ranging from piano (p) to pianissimo (pp). Fingerings and fingering numbers (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4) are indicated throughout the score.

from First Lute Suite – JS Bach

Detailed description: This musical score is for a piece in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and includes various fingering numbers (1-4) and accents. The second system continues the piece with similar rhythmic complexity and includes dynamic markings like accents and slurs. The third system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The score is heavily annotated with fingering numbers and articulation marks.