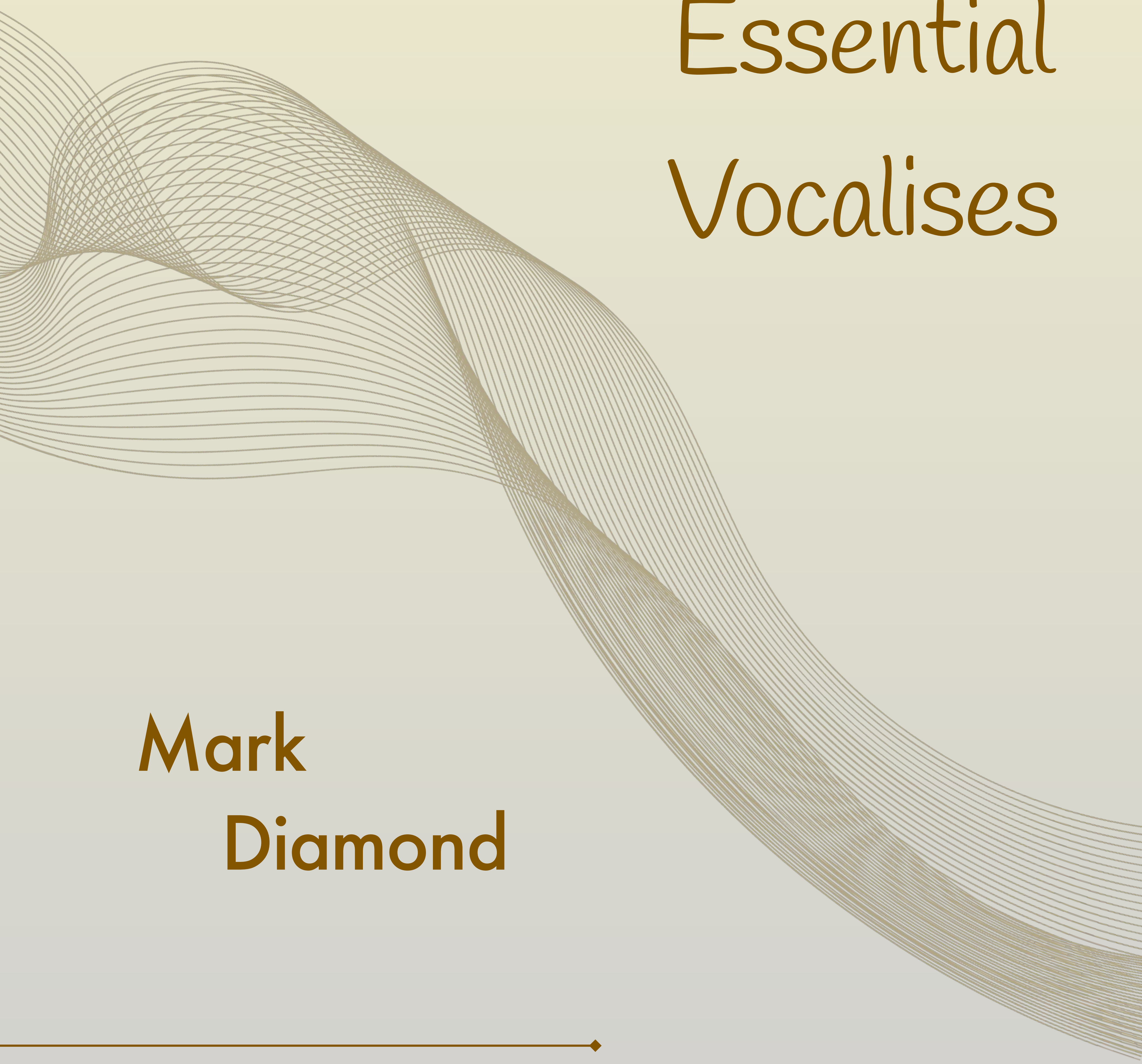




Essential Vocalises

Mark
Diamond



VOICE



About the Course

Exercises for the voice, Vocalizes are the bedrock of technical training for the singer. Dr. Mark Diamond, Baritone and Assistant Professor of Voice at Baylor University, shares some of his favorites in this informative and actionable lesson.

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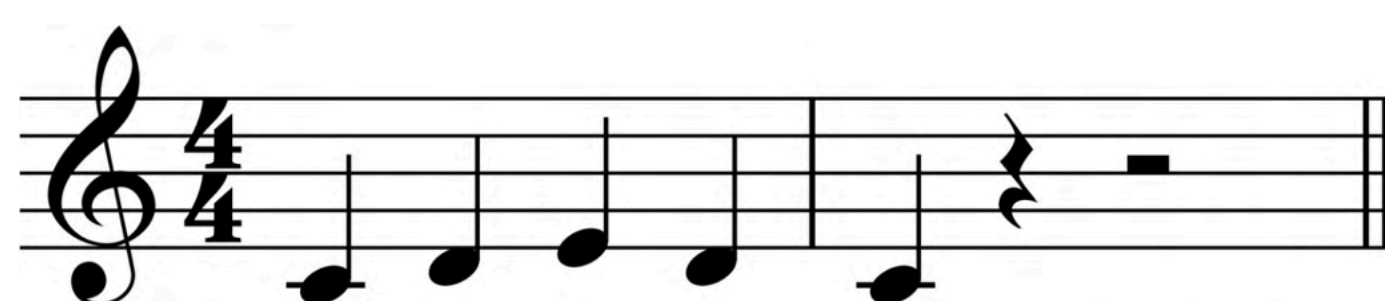
If you have any corrections, comments, or critiques relating to this workbook, please send them to marek@tonebase.co. We strive to deliver the highest quality enrichment experience. Thank you!

Exercise 1



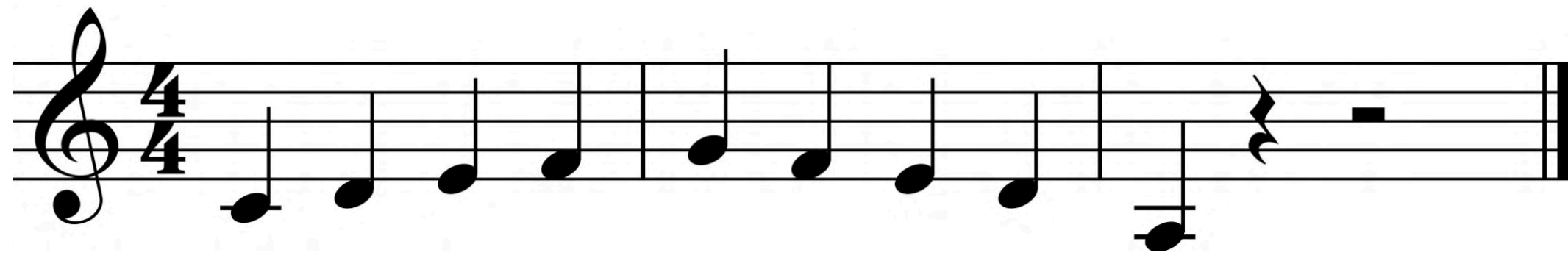
This exercise aims to find a sound supported by active breath engagement and legato phrasing. Vibrato is a result of a relaxed and optimized vocal mechanism, supported by active breath. Effective breath management will also help with pitch control. Pitch changes when our vocal folds thicken and thin based on their response to breath pressure.

Sing in your comfortable middle register on a vowel of your choice, facilitating an easy, consistent sound.



Try using portamento. Portare is Italian for “to carry.” Carry the air fluidly between pitches. Working towards mastery of air and ease of production.

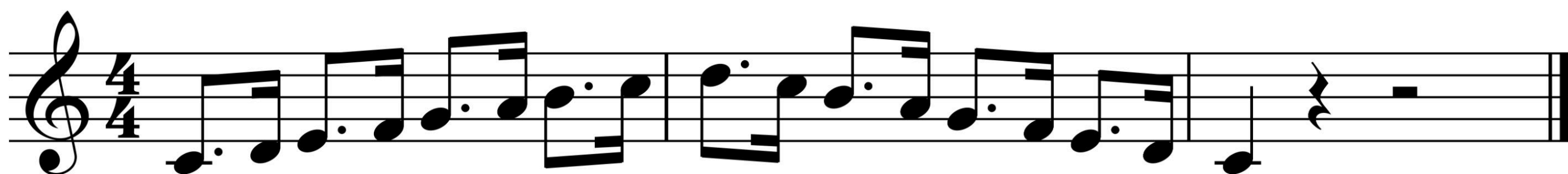
Then, try singing a five-note scale using the guidelines above.



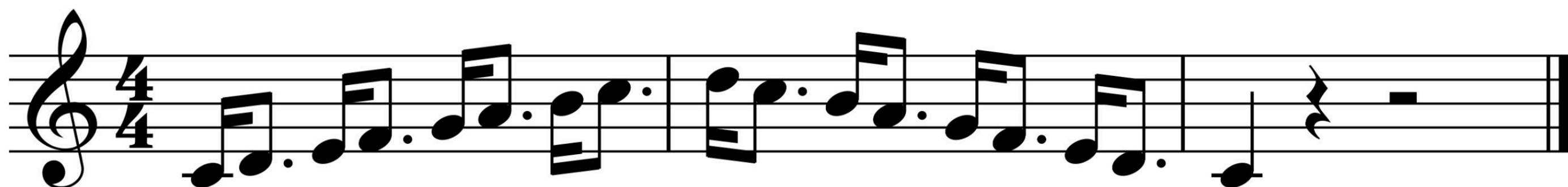
Exercise 2

The objective of this exercise is awareness and control of breath, legato, and vibrato. Breath initiates pitch change. The range is more challenging in this exercise but applies the same concepts as the previous exercise. Remember to use breath control rather than muscular tension as we change pitch. Sing on a vowel of your choice.

Rhythmic Variation 1:



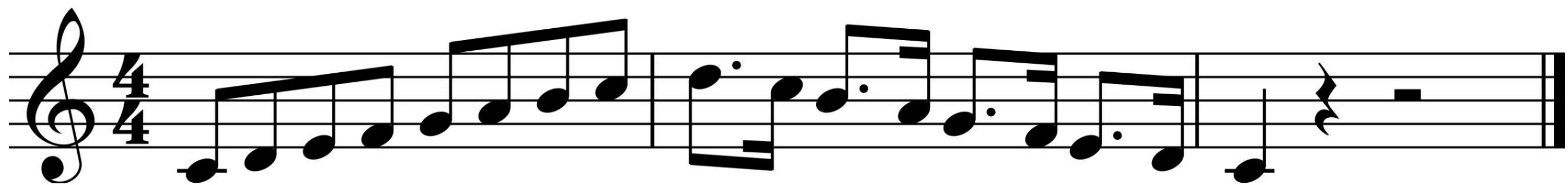
Rhythmic Variation 2:



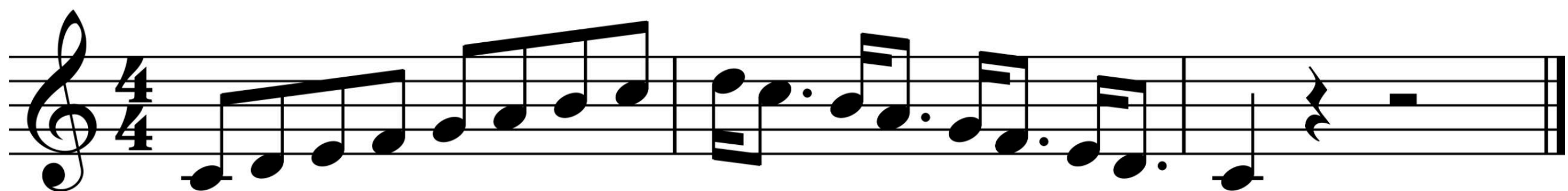
Continue to use consistent vibrato and portamento between notes. Imagine your voice is moving up and down an escalator smoothly, rather than up and down individual stair-steps.

Once you have vocally mastered all of the above variations, try to combine them. When the rhythm switches, be aware of keeping the throat relaxed and using breath rather than muscular engagement.

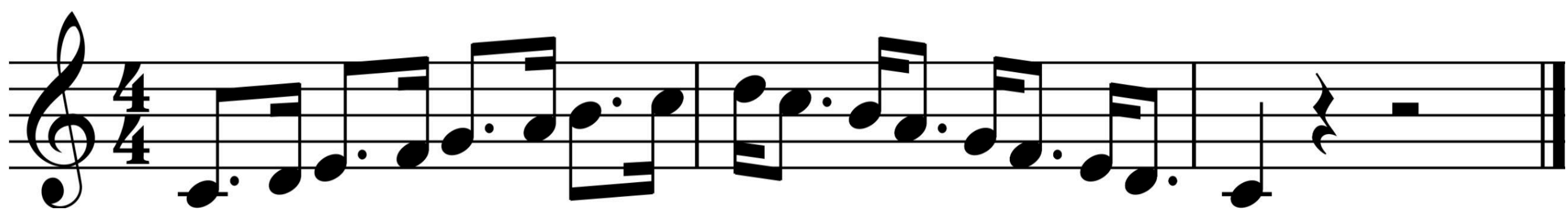
Combination 1:



Combination 2:



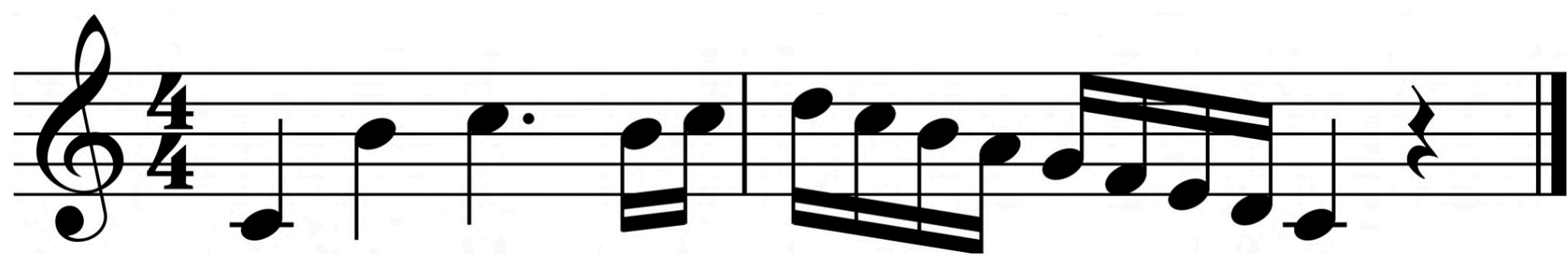
Combination 3:



Exercise 3

This exercise aims to work through and smooth register transitions or passagi.

Sing on a vowel of your choice and allow the resonance space to adapt as necessary with vowel modification.



Variation:

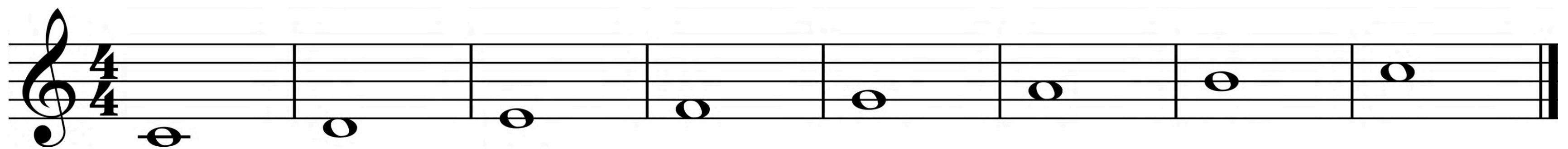


Exercise 4

The objective of this exercise is breath and dynamic control through long tones.

Sing one note at a time, breathe between pitches, and sing through an eight-note scale. Then, work towards expanding into a full two octaves.

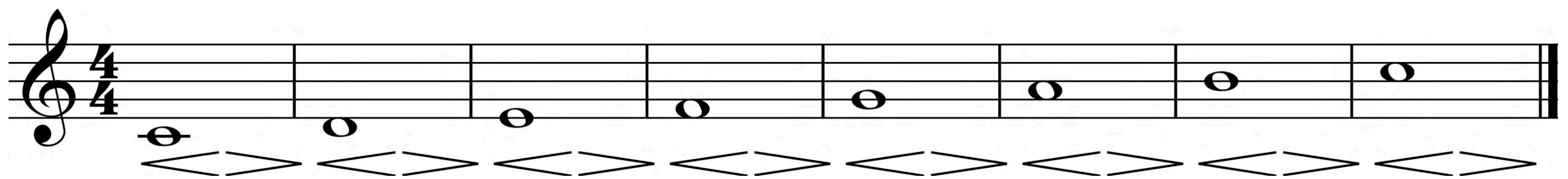
Sustain on a single dynamic for four counts and ascend the scale.



- What does my posture look like?
- Is my vibrato consistently present?
- Is the onset and offset coordinated or aspirated?

Variation:

In this variation, we will execute a messa di voce, a singing technique that requires sustaining a single pitch while gradually getting louder (crescendo) and then softer (decrescendo).



Start in the most comfortable part of your range and work towards the more challenging parts of the voice. As you get louder, avoid engaging in unnecessary body tension or recruitment. As you get softer, work to find a balance of vocal fold closure so that the sound doesn't become breathy.