Chapter 4 Composing: Consonant Duets

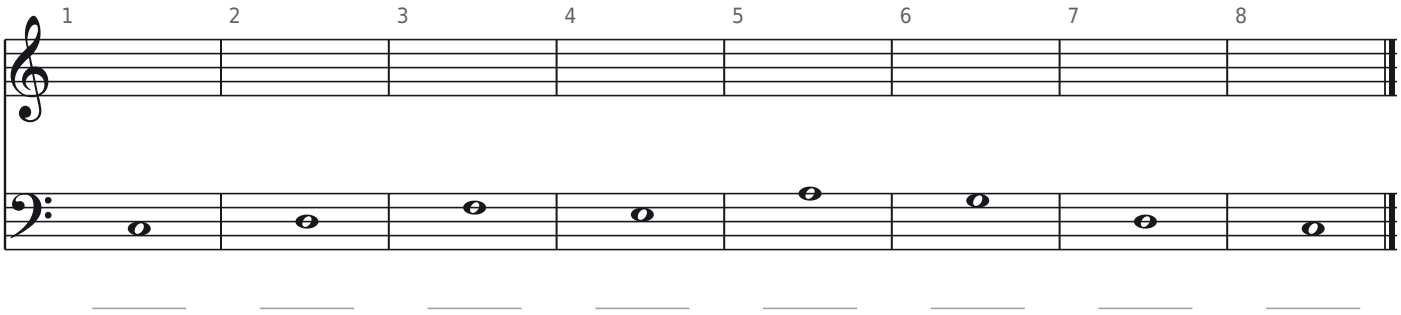
Name _____

A NOTE AGAINST NOTE

Compose a melody above this bass line using only consonant intervals, then label every interval. Work here or in MuseScore with the Part A template.

Rules for Part A

1. Write one whole note per bar in the treble staff, above the given bass.
2. Use **only consonances** between the voices: perfect unisons, 5ths, and octaves, or major/minor 3rds and 6ths (in simple form). No 2nds, 4ths, 7ths, or augmented/diminished intervals.
3. Begin and end on a perfect octave (or unison). The last two bars should move M6 → P8.
4. Use more imperfect consonances (3rds, 6ths) than perfect ones.
5. Make your line singable: mostly steps, a few leaps no larger than a 5th, and one clear high point.
6. Under each bar, write the interval between the two voices in simple form (e.g. M3, P5).



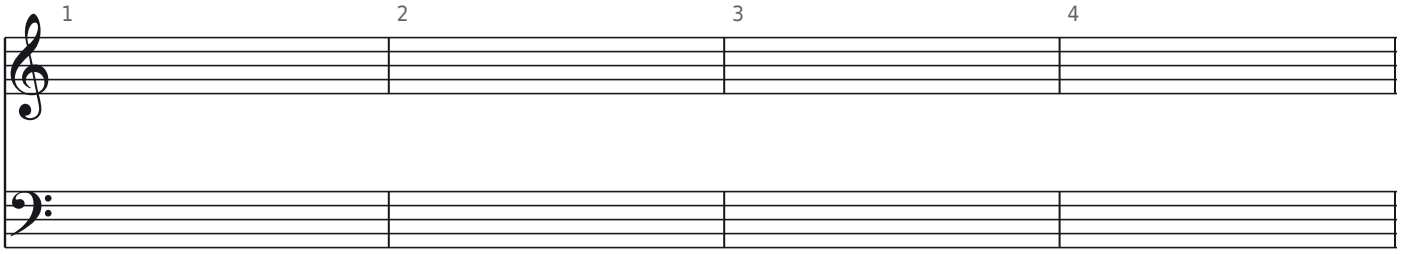
B YOUR OWN DUET
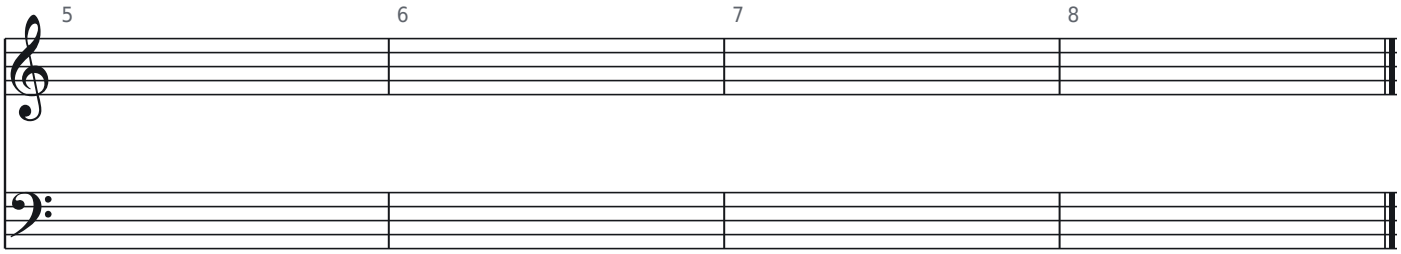
Now write an 8-bar duet of your own. Rhythm is up to you; the rules below keep the harmony clear.

Requirements for Part B

1. Choose two instruments or voices from our class and write their names at the top of page 2. Choose your own meter and add the time signature.
2. On every **downbeat**, the two parts must form a consonance. Label each downbeat interval underneath.
3. Between downbeats, any interval is allowed. Use at least **three dissonances**, and move each dissonant note by step into the next note.
4. Stay in each instrument's comfortable range (tessitura, Chapter 1).
5. End with M6 → P8 (or m3 → P1), just like Part A.
6. Add a title and a tempo marking. Write it in MuseScore (start from the Part B template) and listen before you hand it in.

INSTRUMENTS: _____ **&** _____ **TITLE:** _____





Reflection: Which dissonance in your duet do you like best? Describe what it does and how it resolves.

Grading (10 points)

Part A: every interval consonant and correctly spelled	3
Part A: correct beginning and M6 → P8 ending	1
Part A: interval labels correct	2
Part A: singable line with a clear high point	1
Part B: all requirements met, downbeats labeled	2
Part B: musical, playable, and carefully notated	1