

Kannon Canon

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Here is a simple theme.

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Let's transpose it down by two semitones.

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Now, let's play the original, and start playing the transposed version two bars later.

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We can add two more voices, each two semitones lower and two bars later.

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This is the *Kannon Canon*.

Composing such a canon is easy. We can start with a two-bar chord progression.

I V⁷ I IV I iii ii I⁷ IV⁷

This resolves into a copy of itself, transposed down two semitones.

C: I V⁷ I IV I iii ii I⁷ IV⁷
 B_b: iii II⁷ V⁷ I V⁷ I IV I iii ii I⁷ IV⁷

To construct the basic theme, first we play the roots of all the chords.

Next, we play all the thirds—but transposed down by two semitones, to harmonize with the roots of the next voice that will be starting in bar three.

Then we add all the fifths, transposed down by four semitones to harmonize with the roots of the third voice starting in bar five.

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Finally, we play the remaining notes, which are sevenths and octaves, all transposed down by six semitones.

