The intention behind my composition (Kyrie) was to emulate Palestrina’s style by following a set of specific guidelines derived from the common characteristics of his compositions. Ultimately, my goal was to craft a piece that served as a 21st century interpretation of Palestrinian polyphony. Although I took some liberties in terms of harmonic language, I ensured that the essential elements of textual clarity, imitation, stepwise motion, and fluid melodic structure were strictly executed.

**Rules for Writing in the Style of Palestrina**

1) The flow of music is to be dynamic, not rigid
2) The melody should contain few leaps
3) If a leap occurs, it must be small and immediately followed by stepwise motion in the opposite direction
4) Preferably, dissonances are to be confined to passing notes or weak beats

**Application of Palestrinian Style**

This excerpt from *Kyrie* illustrates stepwise melodic figures, fluid musical flow, use of contrary motion following a leap, and use of imitation to provide each voice enough space to clearly state the lyrics.