

# Harmony 1c: Harmonizing a Melody

(Creating triad accompaniments with Major key Primary Triads)

JimO

1. The Primary triads (Major) with their Chord-Tones.

Musical notation for exercise 1, showing three measures of primary triads in 4/4 time. The first measure is C major (C-E-G). The second measure is F major (F-A-C). The third measure is G major (G-B-D), labeled as G/G7. Chord tones are indicated by dots above the notes.

2. Basic "Close" shapes.

A. Root: 1st Position

B. 1st Inversion: 2nd Pos.

C. 2nd Inv.: 3rd Pos.

Musical notation for exercise 2, showing three measures of close chord shapes in 4/4 time. Measure A shows C (root), F/C (1st inversion), G/B (1st inversion), and C (root). Measure B shows C/E (1st inversion), F (root), G/D (1st inversion), and C/E (1st inversion). Measure C shows C/G (2nd inversion), F/A (2nd inversion), G (root), and C/G (2nd inversion). A note indicates that slash chords indicate the bass note.

3. Now use the V7/G7

A. 1st position

B. 2nd position

C. 3rd position

Musical notation for exercise 3, showing three measures of V7/G7 chords in 4/4 time. Measure A shows C, F, G7, and C in 1st position. Measure B shows C/E, F, G7/F, and C/E in 2nd position. Measure C shows C/G, F/A, G7, and C/G in 3rd position.

4. Harmonization of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star".

Half-Note **Harmonic Rhythm** with chords joined to **Chord Tones**.

Musical notation for exercise 4, showing the harmonic rhythm for "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. Chords are C, F, C, G7, C, G7, C.

5. Harmonization of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star". 1st and last note show the "Key".

Eighth-Note **Harmonic Rhythm** with chords joined to **Chord Tones**.

Musical notation for exercise 5, showing the harmonic rhythm for "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. Chords are C, F, C, G7, C, G7, C. The first and last notes of the melody are C and G, indicating the key.

6.. Exercise 1. Now, make up your own accompaniment pattern using a different Harmonic Rhythm.

Musical notation for exercise 6, showing a blank space for creating a new accompaniment pattern in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature is C major.

2 7. Tunes with Non-Chord Tones This is Happy Birthday. Notice that the "Key" is shown on the last note of the song. A common choice.

25

A(NCT) A(NCT)

(NOTICE: There are three places in this melody where NCT's are located. The 2 A's and the 1 B.)

29

B(NCT)

NOTE: **Non-Chord Tones** are an important part of many tunes/melodies. They typically will "resolve" to Chord-Tones. They provide forward motion and tension-release energy to the sound of the melody.

33

8. Exercise 2. Using chords from C major, try to find chords that "fit" the melody. Primary triads will work just fine. Below is one version of a simple harmonization.

37

NCT CT NCT CT

(Notice how the Non-Chord tones resolve to chord tones. Most common choice.

41

NCT CT

45

1  
C

4

9. Now, try your own version of this harmonization by moving the chords around in a more interesting rhythm. Also try different positions/Inversions for your chords

**REVIEW OF HARMONIZING PROCEDURE**

49

**A. Find the Primary Triads for a Key.**

I IV V V7

C F G (G7)

53

**B. Practice the Positions/Inversions for the chords. "Get them in your eyes and ears." MEMORIZE THEM.**

C F/C G/B C C/E F G/D C/E C/G F/A G C/G

57

**C. Run through melody to find the "Key". The first note or the last note will give the Key.**

Happy Birthday` Last note

Brother John--First note

61

**D. Find a suitable "Harmonic Rhythm" for the Melody. Here is a quick review. Refer to the "Chord Structures and Rhythms" Packet for more examples.**

**NOTE: Now, here are 10 songs for you to harmonize. They range from beginner melodies to actual rock and pop songs. Use your current knowledge to create accompaniments.**

65