

Key Pages 6: Full Diatonic Major (G_KS)

(Developing chord patterns in 4ths, 5ths and Steps.)

JimO

1. Here is the "dictionary" version of the major tonality. Chords up the scale.

Musical notation for exercise 1, showing chords up the scale in G major. The notation is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 80. The chords are: G (IM), Am (2m), Bm (3m), C (4M), D (5M), Em (6m), F#dim (7dim), and G (1M). The Nashville system symbols are: I, iim, iiim, IV, V, vim, viidim, I. The text "(Standard 'Classical' symbols)" is written below the chords.

2. Now, set them up in the "Diatonic Circle of Fifths." Sounds better, but still a bit "stiff." The chord symbols under the bass clef will be in "Nashville" system* going forward.)

Musical notation for exercise 2, showing chords in the Diatonic Circle of Fifths. The notation is in 4/4 time. The chords are: G (1), C (4), F#dim (7dim), Bm (3m), Em (6m), Am (2m), D (5), and G (1). The Nashville system symbols are written under the bass clef.

3. Try a variation of the "circle" that moves up a 4th and down a 5th. To make this work you will need to employ some chord inversions in the R.H..

Musical notation for exercise 3, showing a variation of the circle of fifths. The notation is in 4/4 time. The chords are: G (1), C (4), F#dim (7dim), Bm (3m), Em (6m), Am (2m), D (5), and G (1). The Nashville system symbols are written under the bass clef.

4. Now, try a "walking" tone in the L.H. to create a little "Harmonic Rhythm."

Musical notation for exercise 4, showing a walking tone in the L.H. to create a little "Harmonic Rhythm." The notation is in 4/4 time. The chords are: G (1), C (4), F#dim (7dim), Bm (3m), Em (6m), Am (2m), D (5), and G (1). The Nashville system symbols are written under the bass clef.

5. Now, try walking the L.H. a little more by adding some additional tones.

Musical notation for exercise 5, showing walking the L.H. a little more by adding some additional tones. The notation is in 4/4 time. The chords are: G (1), C (4), F#dim (7dim), Bm (3m), Em (6m), Am (2m), D (5), and G (1). The Nashville system symbols are written under the bass clef.

2

6. Next, place the chords in the L.H. and create a melody in the R.H.

21 These chords are "Close position" voicings. Connect them as smoothly as possible.

7. The second most common chord movement concept is Stepwise motion.

Here is a sample step pattern that moves down in the L.H..

25 G D/F# Em G/D C G/B Am D

(Using Dyads in the L.H. "Opens" the sound. Start a melody on the Tonic/Root.)

1 5/3rd 6m 1/5th 4 1/3rd 2m 1

29 G D/F# Em G/D C G/B Am D

(Continue with a melodic line beginning on the 3rd of the key.)

Summary Note: These exercises are based on the most common chord movement patterns in music through the centuries-- 4ths, 5ths and steps. Notice how the chords have more forward energy with these patterns, and notice how the "beats work together."

33 G

8. Now it's your turn. Play through the "Chord Shells" below and create your own melody.

37 G D/F# Em G/D C G/B Am D

41 G D/F# Em G/D C G/B Am D

45 G

G5