

Key Pages 6: Full Diatonic Major (C.KS)

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

JimO

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

D Em F#m G A Bm C#dim D

IM 2m 3m 4M 5M 6m 7dim 1M

♩ = 80

(Standard "Classical" symbols)

I iim iim IV V vim viidim I

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.)

5

D G C#dim F#m Bm Em A D

1 4 7dim 3m 6m 2m 5 1

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..

9

D G C#dim F#m Bm Em A D

1 4 7dim 3m 6m 2m 5 1

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

13

D G C#dim F#m Bm Em A D

1 4 7dim 3m 6m 2m 5 1

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

17

1 4 7dim 3m 6m 2m 5 1

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 D A/C# Bm D/A G D/F# Em A

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

29 D A/C# Bm D/A G D/F# Em A

(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 D

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

37 D A/C# Bm D/A G D/F# Em A

41 D A/C# Bm D/A G D/F# Em A

45 D

D5

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. Measure 45 contains a D chord in the treble clef and a D5 chord in the bass clef. Measure 46 contains whole rests in both staves. The page number '45' is written above the first staff, and the chord labels 'D' and 'D5' are placed above and below the first staff respectively.