

# Harmonization Skill at MED

1. What do we want to teach by including this skill?
  - a. The ability to concretely apply the knowledge of keys, scales and chords to the student's playing through harmonizing a melody
  - b. The ability to use chord patterns (i.e. broken and blocked chords, Alberti Bass, inversions etc.) in a creative way.
  - c. The ability to transpose a melody
  - d. Repertoire including folk songs and songs from the American heritage
2. How do we have the student demonstrate this skill?
  - a. The student will play a simple melody with an accompaniment they have created before the event
    - i. Before the event students will be given up to three melodies, each being 4-16 measures long,
    - ii. Students will be instructed:
      1. How to harmonize each melody with pre-determined chords
      2. The chord inversions best used for ease of playing
      3. How to use chord patterns to make the accompaniment more interesting
    - iii. Students will be asked to play one of the three melodies with the accompaniment they have previously devised.
  - b. The format of the melodies is:
    - i. Lead sheet form
    - ii. Letter chord symbols above, as in popular sheet music
    - iii. Roman numerals below, to teach function of chord

\*The staff in parentheses is a suggested realization of the chord symbols. Students will only receive treble clef melody, chord symbols and Roman numerals.

## LEVEL 2

Melodies: (include interval of sixth and seventh: rhythm as in Level 1 plus equivalent rests)

1. Camptown Races measures 1-8
2. Jingle Bells
3. Hot Cross Buns

Keys: C and G Major

Chords: I (C, G); V (G, D); V7 (G7, D7)

Chord patterns:

1. Harmonic open fifth for tonic and dominant
2. Harmonic second for dominant
3. Root position tonic and dominant chords

example: Hot Cross Buns

The image shows musical notation for the song 'Hot Cross Buns'. The top staff is in treble clef, 4/4 time, and contains a melody of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. Above the staff are chord symbols: C, C, C, G, C, G, C. Below the staff are Roman numerals: I, I, I, V, I. The bottom staff is in bass clef, 4/4 time, and contains a suggested accompaniment of chords: C, C, C, G, C. The bass staff is enclosed in large parentheses with an asterisk to its left.

# Harmonization

example; Camptown Races

The image displays a musical score for the piece "Camptown Races". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system starts at measure 5. The treble staff contains a melody with fingerings 5, 4, 2, 5, and a dotted quarter note. The bass staff shows chords: a C major triad (I) in the first two measures, and a G7 chord (V7) in the last two measures. The second system starts at measure 9. The treble staff contains a melody with fingerings 4, 1, 3, and a whole note. The bass staff shows chords: a C major triad (I) in the first two measures, a G7 chord (V7) in the third measure, and a C major triad (I) in the fourth measure. Asterisks are placed to the left of the bass staves in both systems.

### LEVEL 3

Melodies: range up to an octave; rhythms include previous levels plus dotted quarter and eighth notes

1. Frere Jacques/Brother John
2. B-I-N-G-O
3. Happy Birthday

Harmonization

Keys: C, F, G Major

Chords: I (C, F, G); IV (F, Bb, C); V/V7 (G/G7, C/C7, D/D7)

Chord patterns:

1. Root tonic triads: first inversion, second inversion tonic and dominant triads
2. Alberti bass
3. Broken chord patterns

The image shows a musical score for Level 3. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The melody starts at measure 13 and is written in C major. The notes are: C4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter). The bass line is an Alberti bass pattern: C4 (quarter), E3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), F3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), G3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (quarter). Chords are indicated above the melody: C (measures 13-14), G (measures 15-16), C (measures 17-18), G (measures 19-20), and C (measures 21-22). Chord patterns are indicated below the bass line: I (measures 13-14), V7 (measures 15-16), I (measures 17-18), V7 (measures 19-20), and I (measures 21-22). A large asterisk is placed to the left of the bass staff.

### LEVEL 4

Melodies: range up to an octave; rhythms include all previous plus sixteenth, dotted eighth notes; eighth note triplet, and equivalent rests as well as 3/8 and 6/8 meters

1. This Old Man
2. Volga Boat Song
3. Let My People Go

Keys: C, F, G major and a minor

Chords: I/i (C, F, G, Am); IV/iv (F, Bb, D, Dm); V/V7 (G/G7, C/C7, D/D7, E/E7)

Chord patterns:

1. All previous patterns
2. Other broken chord patterns
3. Blocked chord rhythms

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Other songs by level:

Level 2: Alouette, O Susanna (1-8), This Old Man, Yankee Doodle (1-8)

Levels 3/4: Amazing Grace, Away in a Manger, Clementine, Down in the Valley, Kum Ba Yah, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Joy to the World, The First Noel, My Bonnie, On Top of Old Smokey, Jolly Good Fellow, Michael Row the Boat Ashore,

Great Resources: PIANO CHORDS FUN BOOK ([makingmusicfun.net](http://makingmusicfun.net)); CHORD PIANO IS FUN ([www.chordpianoisfun.com](http://www.chordpianoisfun.com)), CREATIVE CHORDS by Bradley Sowash; THAT'S JAZZ books 1-3 by Bradley Sowash



# Harmonization tunes

## LEVEL 2

Boom Chick pattern or blocked chords  
Camptown Races

C G7 C G7 C

16

I V7 I V7 I

Jingle Bells

C G7

24

I V7 I V7

C G7 C G7 C

7

I V7 I V7 I

## LEVEL 3

Brother John (Use Alberti Bass measures 1-4 and blocked chords measures 7-8)

G

15

I

D7 G D7 G G D7 G G D7 G

19

V7 I V7 I V7 I V7 I

Happy Birthday (use blocked chords or open fifth where it sounds better)

NC C7 NC F (RH) B $\flat$  CROSS OVER F C7 F

V7 I I IV I V7 I

B-I-N-G-O

G C G D7 G C

I IV I V7 I IV

D7 G C D7 G

V7 I IV V7 I

LEVEL 4

This Old Man ( use Boom Chick pattern)

C F G7

I IV V7

C G7 C

I V7 I

## Volga Boat Song

Am Dm Am Dm Am Dm Am Dm Am Dm Am E Am Dm Am

58

i iv i iv i iv i iv i iv i V i iv i

## Let My People Go

Open arpeggio 1-8 and 15-16; open chords with rhythm pattern 9-14

Am Dm Am Dm Am E7 Am

61

i iv i iv i V7 i

Am Dm Am Dm Am E7 Am Dm

66

i iv i iv i V7 i iv

E Am Dm Am E7 Am

72

V7 i iv i V7 i

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella ( use broken chord pattern. \*ii and vi have not been introduced, but the chords have, and the emphasis is on reading the chord chart.)

F Dm Gm C F

I vi ii V I

Dm C F

vi V I

C Bb F Gm

V IV I ii

C Dm C F C F

V vi V I V I