

Piano Chords & Arranging Piano Book

Read the Table of Contents and see
the progression of your lessons.

Learn the lesson and apply it to a song
in the Chord Composition book.

- ◆ If you already know how to build chords, do you know how to develop them in arranging? It's not necessary to simply play chords in a blocked group of notes. Open them up! This book teaches EXACT METHODS for the left Hand and EXACT METHODS for arranging harmony in the right hand. When finished you will be writing your own arrangements and playing in any style you choose, Contemporary, Latin, Blues, Country or Hymns.
- ◆ Yes, the knowledge you learn in this book is also applied to classical music, therefore, the study of "Chorale."

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The prerequisite for these lessons is some skill in reading music.

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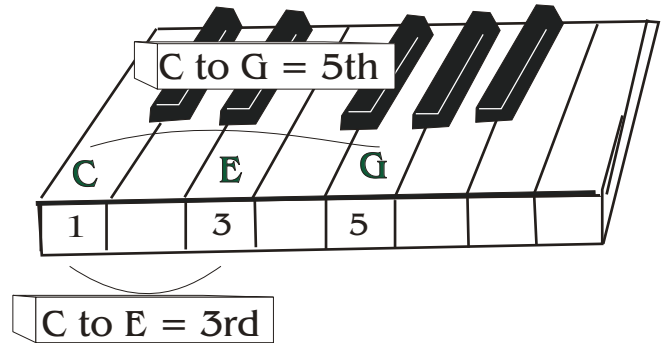
CHORDS

Intervals

A CHORD IS A GROUP OF THREE OR MORE TONES PLAYED TOGETHER. THIS IS CALLED A TRIAD.

FORMULA FOR A CHORD

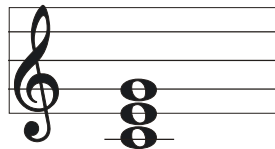
ROOT + 3RD + 5TH



C CHORD

C--E--G

1. C = Root
2. C to E = a 3RD
3. C to G = a 5TH

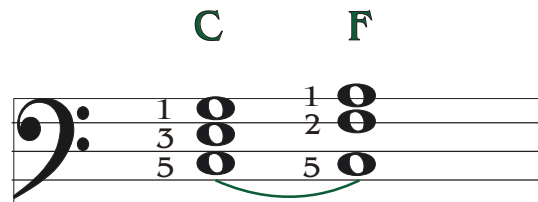


A CHORD IS NAMED BY ITS ROOT

FIRST WE START WITH INTERVALS AND BUILDING MAJOR CHORDS. THERE IS A LESSON ON EACH OF THE CHORDS, ACCORDING TO ITS' SCALE, OR KEY SIGNATURE. YOU WILL BE PLAYING SONGS USING THE DIFFERENT KEY SIGNATURES.

Using chord inversions allows the hand to play chords within a small distance of the piano. When playing in root position the hand has to move greater distances which is difficult when playing legato.

1. Retain the common tones between chords. Find similar notes.
2. Find a chord inversion that uses tones close to each chord.



1. Retain the common tone between chords.

C chord to F chord has the common tone of C. Invert the F chord to the 2nd position to place the C on the bottom of the chord. See how easy it is to move from C chord to F chord with this common tone in the 5 finger.

FIRST WE START WITH A SIMPLE MELODY AND ADD 3 NOTE CHORDS IN BLOCKED STYLE. NOW WE ARE USING INVERSIONS TO OPEN UP THE CHORDS AND MOVE INTO INTERESTING LEFT HAND HARMONIES.

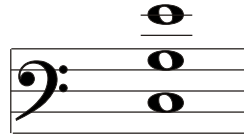
Blocked and Arpeggio Styles

Chords can be played in blocked style = playing the notes together.

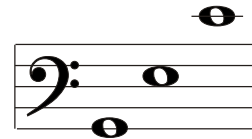
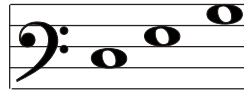
Or

Arpeggio style = playing the notes of a chord one at a time.

Blocked Chord style
with open harmony



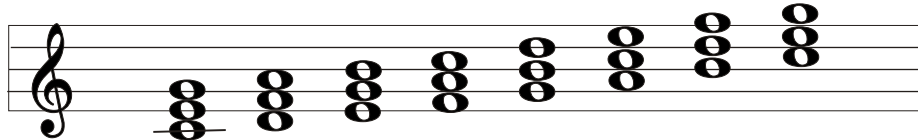
Arpeggio Chord style



THESE ARE VERY IMPORTANT LESSONS AND YOU WILL BE VERY SURPRISED HOW YOU CAN START WITH A SIMPLE SONG AND EMBELLISH IT USING THESE THEORIES. YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND PROFESSIONAL NOW.

PARTIAL PAGE

CHORDS ON C SCALE



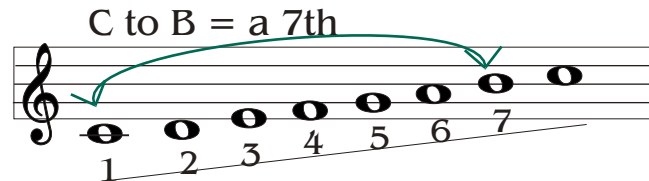
1. Each scale consists of 8 tones.
2. A chord is made on each tone of the scale.
3. Each chord is numbered.
4. Major chords are marked with a large Roman numeral, the minor chords are marked with a small roman numeral and the diminished chords (made of 2 minor 3rds) have a small roman numeral.

THESE LESSONS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF ADDING CHORDS TO A SONG. THIS IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT LESSON FOR ALL FUTURE WORK. IN CLASSICAL YOU WILL USE THIS TO ANALYZE THE COMPOSERS WORK, (INTERPRETATION) OR IN JAZZ OR POP MUSIC, THIS IS THE FOUNDATION OF ADDING INTERESTING CHORDS TO YOUR MUSIC.

ON THE NEXT PAGES, YOU WILL BE APPLYING THIS THEORY TO YOUR SONGS. NOW YOU ARE ABLE TO TAKE A MELODY AND ADD YOUR OWN CHORDS TO GET THE SOUNDS AND PROGRESSIONS THAT YOU WANT TO PLAY. THIS IS SO MUCH FUN AND GIVES YOU FREEDOM FROM PLAYING ONLY SHEET MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS.

7 chords complete the basic chord. There are 2 different 7 chords, major 7 chords and dominant 7 chords. They are called 7 chords because we add the 7th tone from the root. Example: C to B is a 7, there are 7 tones, C,D,E,F,G,A,B. The 7th is added to the root, 3rd and 5th, making a 4 note chord.

Using the scale to find the 7th of a chord.



I. Major 7/Major chord

symbol is a Capital M₇ or Maj₇

A Major 7 chord=large 7

1. Can only be built on a major chord
2. The 7th is a major 3rd from the 5th

NOW WE ARE ADDING THE 7 CHORDS TO YOUR SONGS. YOU NOW HAVE A FOUNDATION IN ARRANGING AND NOW WE CAN EMBELLISH YOUR SONGS WITH HARMONY, SCALES AND STYLING IN BLUES, LATIN OR POP MUSIC.

Chord Progressions II, V I

It is important to learn the chords on the scales and now that we are learning 7 chords you need to learn chord progressions. Chord progressions are patterns of chords that composers, classical or pop, use over and over in their compositions. In all types of music the II, V, I progression is used commonly used at the ending of compositions. In arranging music and especially in jazz, this progression is imposed through out songs to add color and substance.

Composers use chord progressions to enhance the feeling of the music by adding tension and then resolving the tension.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE BASICS, WE WILL LEARN HOW TO II, V, I PROGRESSIONS TO YOUR MUSIC. THIS WILL GIVE YOU MANY MORE CHOICES IN CHORDS AND ARRANGING. YOU CAN ADD THESE PROGRESSIONS TO ALL MUSIC, AND YOU WILL FIND A LOT OF THESE EXAMPLES IN CLASSICAL MUSIC.

CHORDS

Analyzing Cradle Song

THIS PAGE IS AN EXAMPLE PAGE FOR THE CHORD BOOK. YOU WILL START WITH A SINGLE MELODY WITH SUGGESTED CHORD FROM SHEET MUSIC.

NOW SEE THE DIFFERENCE WHEN YOU ADD THE II, V, I PROGRESSIONS. NO MORE RELYING ON MUSIC FOR ADDING CHORDS TO YOUR MUSIC.

II. Analyze the melody using the Chord tones.

CM7 Em7 Gm7 C7 Fm7 G7 Dm7

5 3 3 X 5 5 X 3 X 1 5 X 3 1 X

G7 Dm7 CM7 FM7 Dm7 CM7 Am7 D7 G7

7 5 7 X 5 X X 8 1 1 5 5 3 5 5 7 7 1 X

CM7 Gm7 C7 FM7 CM7 Am7 D7 G7 Dm7 G7 CM7

3 5 X 1 5 3 1 5 5 7 7 X 5 5

CHORDS



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- ◆ All work is copyrighted and can not go beyond this point with our examples, to display on the web.

These examples are only a small synopsis of what you will learn in this book and are not the complete step by step process you will learn.

Enjoy your lessons and if you have any questions please feel free to contact Music and You.