

Chapter 12 Triads

Vocabulary and Concepts

Chord – three or more pitches sounding simultaneously

Structure of a triad: two superimposed intervals of a third

The three notes of the triad in order bottom to top (root position): root, third, fifth

Types of triads:

Major: major third/minor third

Minor: minor third/major third

Augmented: major third/major third

Diminished: minor third/minor third

Closed position: two superimposed thirds (root position)

Open position: any triad spaced further apart or in another order of notes other than root position

Triads and Scales: p. 250

Tonic, supertonic, mediant, sub-dominant, dominant, sub-mediante, leading tone, tonic

Inversion:

First inversion: the “Third” of the chord is the bottom note (middle note)

Second inversion: the “Fifth” of the chord is the bottom note (top note)

Figured Bass in “tips and tools” p. 253

Suggested exercises:

Try the Practice Materials on pp. 255-260.

Chapter 13 Triads in a Musical Context

Vocabulary and Concepts

Roman numeral analysis – using Roman numerals to identify chords in a key signature

Major scale numbers (corresponding to each pitch of the scale):

I ii iii IV V vi vii° I

C: C D E F G A B C

Minor scale numbers:

i ii° III⁺ iv V VI vii° I

a: A B C D E F G# A (uses harmonic minor scale)

Chord Symbols: p. 264

There is some disagreement on how they are used but these are the generally accepted symbols:

Major chords: Use only the letter such as A, C#, Bb, etc.

Minor chords: Use letter and “m” such as Am, C#m, Bbm, etc.
(Alternative – use the minus sign such as A- or C#-)

Augmented chords: Use letter and “+” such as A+, C#+, Bb+, etc. or abbreviation such as A aug. or C# aug.

Diminished chords: Use letter and “o” such as A°, C#°, Bb°, etc. or abbreviation such as A dim. Or C# dim.

There are many other chord symbols beyond the scope of this course like adding additional chord members such as D9 or D13, suspending the third of the chord like Dsus4, or adding or subtracting half-steps to a given note in the chord like D9+5b7

Guitar Tablature: p. 266-267 and Appendix K-pp. 373-374

1. The hand position used to identify chords as seen in the text for basic first position chords
2. The TAB notation system (not in textbook) to write music using strings of the guitar and the finger used for each note.

Diatonic (Dominant) seventh chord: Uses four notes of three superimposed intervals of a third
The dominant seventh chord is always a major triad plus a minor third above
Symbols for a dominant seventh chord: V₇, F₇, etc.
Dominant 7th chord in a minor key: use the harmonic minor key to make it a major chord
Inversions: 6/5 = 1st inversion, 4/3 = second inversion, 4/2 = 3rd inversion

Other seventh chords in “tips and tools” p. 269

Lead sheet in “tips and tools” p. 270

Block chords and arpeggiations: using either vertical or horizontal chord formations.

Suggested exercises:

Try the Practice Materials on pp. 279-284