



# PiXL Gateway: Progression - Music

### **Contents:**

- I. Chord symbols
- II. A (brief) history of harmony
- III. Advanced harmony
- IV. Reading staff notation
- V. (Some) Western classical genres
- VI. Perseverance
- VII. Additional tasks

# I. Chord symbols

## **Reading chord symbols**

Read the following link on how to understand reading chord symbols and their extensions. https://activatemusic.academy/how-to-read-chord-symbols-in-3-easy-steps/

1. Which of	the following make	e up the notes of	the chor	d symbol C7? Circle o	ne.
CE	G B	C Eb G B		C Eb G Bb	C E G Bb
2. Which of	the following make	e up the notes of	the chor	d symbol Eb7? Circle	one.
Eb (	G Bb D	Eb Gb Bb D		Eb G Bb Db	Eb Gb Bb Db
3. Write out	the notes in the c	hord symbol Gsu	s4		
4. Write out	the notes in the c	hord symbol Bb9	•		<del></del>
5 What is th	he chard symbol fo	or the following n	notes? Ah	Cb Eb Gb. Circle one.	
J. WHAT IS C	•	_			
	Ab/	Abmaj7 Abm7		Abdim/	
6 Mhatictl	he chord symbol fo	r the following n	otoc2 D E	# A C# Circle one	
o. Wilat is ti	•	_			
	Dm7	D7	Dmaj7	Ddim7	
7 14/21 - 11 -	ah a ah a ada ah ƙasa	ula della deserva		-	
7. Write the	cnora symbol for	the following not	tes. G B D	F	
8 Write the	chord symbol for	the following not	tes FGRI	n D	
O. ********		tine rome wing no	0 D	, o	

# II. A (brief) history of harmony

Watch the following clip of Leonard Bernstein talking about the creation of harmony and how we have come to have the chromatic scale and notes available to us today. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gt2zubHcER4

Then read the following link building on this for an explanation on how the circle of fifths is created and how keys relate to each other.

https://www.libertyparkmusic.com/the-circle-of-fifths/

Research why keys with lots of accidentals were not commonly used before equal temperament. Then write an essay discussing whether musicians should perform music authentically, referring to tuning systems, instrumentation and other performance conventions of the time.

# III. Reading staff notation

Reading staff notation is an important skill to develop in A Level Music. Read the following link on the basics.

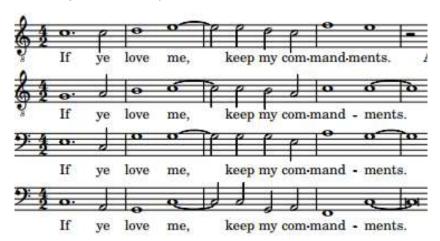
https://www.earmaster.com/music-theory-online/ch01/chapter-1-1.html

Now read the following link on creating chord charts.

https://www.cmburridge.com/teaching/bach-chorales/lesson-1-chords-and-keys/

Copy out the chord chart in the key of C major.

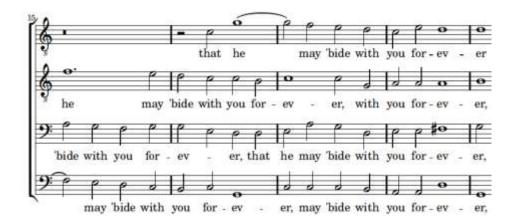
Below is an extract from If Ye Love Me by Thomas Tallis.



Work out the chord on each syllable by writing out the notes and then seeing on the chord chart to which chord they translate: e.g. 'If' has the notes C, E, G, C (bottom to top) which makes the chord C major, or Roman numeral I.

What cadence is used at the end of the excerpt?
How would you describe the texture of the excerpt?

Here is a passage taken from later in *If Ye Love Me*.

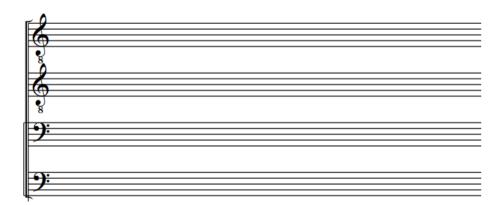


Which accidental has been added and in which part? \_\_\_\_\_

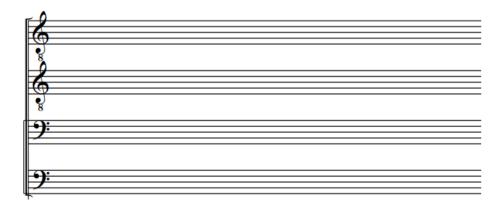
The inclusion of this accidental indicates that the composer has modulated to, or at least hinted at, which key? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Transposition**

In the blank stave below, write out one of the excerpts of If Ye Love Me, transposing it into D major.



Now transpose the same excerpt into Eb major.



# IV. (Some) Western classical genres

Watch the following clips on the features of different classical music styles to have an overview of the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods.

Baroque - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NutCfBXAFCw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NutCfBXAFCw</a>

Classical - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZfWtmlwf9Y

Romantic - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWRDRRZpwDU

Research the genres further and find some musical examples to listen to. Go on one of the following two websites and find a score to read whilst listening to the piece.

http://imslp.org/wiki/Main Page

https://www.cpdl.org/wiki/

Analyse the score whilst you are listening and work out the following:

- What key is the piece in?
- Does the piece modulate? If so, where to?
- Can you notice any cadences? If so, which ones and where?
- What is the texture of the piece?
- Do you notice any other features in the music e.g. sequences, pedals, etc?

#### **Further research**

Write a summary of each genre of music with stylistic features that were used. Break down the techniques into different musical elements so that it is easier to refer to. Include at least the following elements:

- Melody
- Harmony
- Texture
- Tonality
- Structure
- Dynamics
- Rhythm
- Metre
- Articulation

#### V. Perseverance

Watch the following clip of John Legend highlighting the importance of not giving up, and learning from failure.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUtcigWSBsw

Watch the following clips of some professional musicians giving advice on how to be successful as a musician.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UqCb- oqZY

Watch the following video of a series of clips of John Williams talking about his approach to composing.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1QciU4Z- k

What are the main messages that are being conveyed in these videos? Write down some approaches to music-making that you will use during your music course and beyond.

#### VI. Additional tasks

For each of the texts you read throughout this booklet, summarise the key points in one of the following ways:

- List any key terms from the text in a vocabulary list, researching their meanings (if not clear from the text) and recording these.
- Create an initial melodic idea for a composition and apply appropriate techniques and devices that you have come across in your reading.
- Create a picture mind-map of the key ideas. Use doodles and images to illustrate these. For a guide to mind-mapping, see this short video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLWV0XN7K1g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLWV0XN7K1g</a>

If you need to develop your basic musical theory knowledge, the following websites may be of use:

https://www.musictheory.net/

https://www.udemy.com/course/music-theory-complete/

https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/musical-scores



## © The PiXL Club Ltd. June 2018

This resource is strictly for the use of member schools for as long as they remain members of The PiXL Club. It may not be copied, sold, or transferred to a third party or used by the school after membership ceases. Until such time it may be freely used within the member school.

All opinions and contributions are those of the authors. The contents of this resource are not connected with, or endorsed by, any other company, organisation or institution.

PiXL Club Ltd endeavour to trace and contact copyright owners. If there are any inadvertent omissions or errors in the acknowledgements or usage, this is unintended and PiXL will remedy these on written notification.

8	