

Teaching *Pop* and *Jazz*: Decoding the Mystery

Levels I + II

WSMTA Conference 2023

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LEVEL I - Comping (Accompanying)

- I. Basic comping - Mary Had a Little Lamb
 - A. Use lead sheets, not chord charts, for educational purposes
 - B. They still have foundational elements, such as time signatures, key signatures, and maybe some band notes
 - C. Learn the tune in the original key so they can practice playing with the track
 - D. Begin with root position chords
 - E. Add inversions (common note voicing)
 - F. Add a quarter note groove pattern (quarters in RH, dotted quarter eighth in LH)
 - G. Add a rocking chord pattern or chord extensions (a 2, sus, m7, maj7)
 - H. Add some crazy harmonies! As long as the melody note is in the chord, it might be funky, but it will work!
- II. Other examples
 - A. The Tokens: The Lion Sleeps Tonight (excellent for first timers)
 - B. Ben E. King: Stand by Me (groovy bass line!)
 - C. The Temptations: My Girl (groovy bass line!)
 - D. Taylor Swift: Our Song (basic country groove)
 - E. Justin Timberlake: Can't Stop the Feelin' (cool synth patch!)
 - F. Aretha Franklin: A Natural Woman (great practice for min7 chords!)
 - G. Brooks & Dunn: Boot Scootin' Boogie (walkin bass line!)

LEVEL II - Playing "The Part"

- I. Playing "The Part"
 - A. This is the "holy grail" of pop playing - playing with an ensemble! This is when you start to teach the student how to "stay in their lane" and recognize groove patterns.
 - B. Teach "by ear" - listening and transcribing the part. Great for the students' ear development!
 - C. Teach "by notation" - requires some work from you because you'll need a chart
 - D. Focus on the iconic songs that they'll recognize to get them excited!
 - E. Examples: Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" and Van Halen's "Jump"
 - F. Real examples: Music Video Project and Student Production Bands
- II. Other examples:
 - A. Bruno Mars: Just the Way You Are
 - B. Fleetwood Mac: Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow
 - C. The Foundations: Build Me Up Buttercup (student transcribed score!)
 - D. The Commodores: Easy
 - E. Alicia Keys: If I Ain't Got You (great intro to gospel voicing)
 - F. Billy Joel: The Piano Man (classic!)

LEVEL III - Comping with a Melody

- I. Comping with a Melody - Mary Had a Little Lamb
 - A. This is why we use lead sheets! Turn your chord comping into a piano solo!
 - B. Learn the melody in your RH
 - C. Add root position chords, inversions, or broken chords underneath
 - D. Add chords in your RH with the melody on top (inner voicings) - naturally forces students to get very good with inversions!
 - E. Add new rhythmic patterns (a blues, swing, Boogie Woogie, or a Bossa Nova)
 - F. Try some new styles!
- II. Other examples
 - A. Elton John: Can You Feel the Love Tonight
 - B. The Beatles: Let it Be
 - C. Redbone: Come and Get Your Love
 - D. Neil Diamond: I'm a Believer
 - E. Randy Newman: You've Got a Friend in Me

LEVEL IV - The Bonus Level - Jazz Voicing

- I. Jazz Voicing - Content by Jon McLaughlin, jonmc500@comcast.net
 - A. There are guidelines and formulas for jazz chords - it's not random!
 - B. Introduce the ii V I
 - C. Example: Kosma's "Autumn Leaves" from The Real Book - pop vs jazz voicings
 - D. Just more tools for your tool belt - see where you can add ii Vs in your pop music!
 - E. Combining the tiers: Silent Night
- II. Other examples
 - A. Michelle Branch and Santana: The Game of Love
 - B. Billy Joel: Just the Way You Are
 - C. Justin Timberlake and Michael Jackson: Love Never Felt So Good
 - D. Frank Sinatra: The Way You Look Tonight
 - E. Sergio Mendez: Never Gonna Let You Go

REFERENCES + RESOURCES

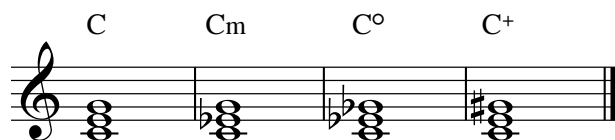
- I. ForScore \$20 | iPad app for organizing charts and performing live
- II. iReal Pro \$15 | iPad app w/ thousands of jazz chord charts + live band accompaniment
- III. MusicNotes \$5-10 | www.musicnotes.com - notated parts and lead sheets
- IV. Planning Center Online | www.planningcenteronline.com - originally created for church service planning, but is an excellent resource to store/share your charts, or create sets or shows. *You can add their awesome iPad app plugin for \$5*
- V. PraiseCharts \$5-10 | www.praisecharts.com - fantastic lead sheets for contemporary worship songs
- VI. Transcribed Part-Writing - a great challenge for yourself and your students! Check out NoteFlight and MuseScore for free or inexpensive notation software. I use Sibelius.
- VII. YouTube - amazing what you can find on YouTube, including note for note transcriptions!



Pop Triads

Pop Voicings by Elizabeth Morris

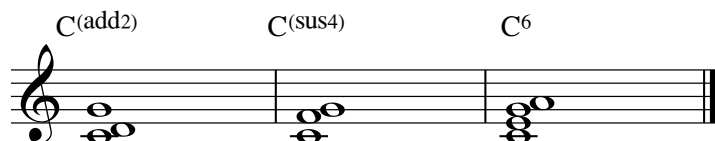
Three note chords are called triads. There are four kinds (or qualities) of triads. Every chord quality will share identical intervals between the three notes.



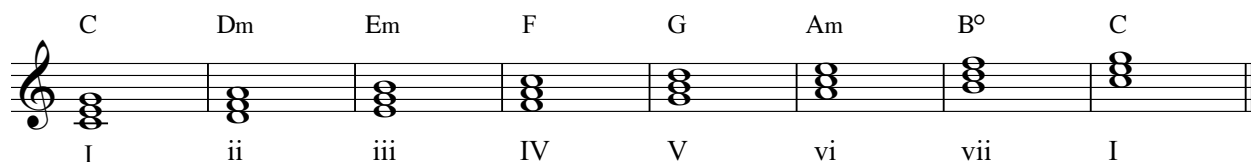
Every note in the scale is numbered. We call these numbers “scale degrees.”



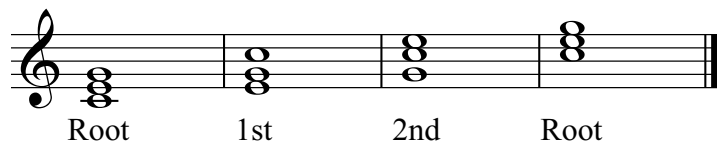
Additional scale degrees can be added to a triad to add “color.” You can often add a 2nd to a major chord, especially in pop, R&B, or worship styles. Sus chords (short for “suspension”) often resolve to a major triad.



The Nashville Number system adds Roman Numbers to every scale degree. The chord qualities are always the same.



Notes can be inverted (called “chord inversions”) to increase functionality, ease of playing, and voice leading.



Pop Style 7th Chords

Four note chords are called 7th chords. There are five qualities of 7th chords.

NAME	SYMBOL	CONSTRUCTION
Major 7th	Maj7 or $\Delta 7$	Maj triad + M7
Dominant 7th	7	Maj triad + m7
Minor 7th	m7 or -7	min triad + m7
Half diminished 7th	m7(b5) or $\flat 7$	dim triad + m7
Diminished 7th	dim7 or $^{\circ}7$	dim triad + dim7

Here are all five 7th chords constructed on the root of C.

C^{maj7} C^7 Cm^7 $Cm^{7(b5)}$ $C^{\circ 7}$

Maj triad + M7 Maj triad + m7 min triad + m7 dim triad + m7 dim triad + dim7

Four of these chords are found in the major scale - the major 7th, the dominant 7th, the minor 7th, and the half diminished 7th. The fully diminished 7th chord always requires an additional accidental.

C^{maj7} Dm^7 Em^7 F^{maj7} G^7 Am^7 $Bm^{7(b5)}$ C^{maj7}

Mary Had a Little Lamb - Level I

Lead Sheet

1 C G C

I V I

5 C G C

I V I

9 C G C G C

Root Position Triads - Transpose to a new key!

Inversions - Try a different starting inversion!

17 C G C G⁷ C

Try a V7!

Quarter Note Pattern - Try in the different inversions!

25 C G C

*If little hands can't play four notes,
keep the 3rd and delete the 5th*

29 C G⁷ C

Rocking Chord Pattern

33 C(add2) G C G⁷

37 C(add2) G F(add2) C

Different harmonies! Creat your own!

41 C C/E Gm⁷ C¹³ Fmaj⁷ B^b13 Dm⁷ G¹³

45 I Am⁷ E⁷/G[#] ii Gm⁶ V F[#]m⁷(b5) II Dm⁷ V G¹³ ii B^b13 V Cmaj⁷ I

descending chromatic bass movement *dominant chord whole step below root*

The Lion Sleeps Tonight

(based on the album by The Tokens: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight")

Words and Music by
George David Weiss, Hugo Peretti,
and Luigi Creatore
arr. Elizabeth Morris

A *Moderate Rock* ♩ = 125
F B $\flat$ F C



B F B $\flat$ F C



- 5
1. In the jun - gle, the migh - ty jun - gle, the li - on sleeps to - night.
2. Near the vil - lage, the peace - ful vil - lage, the li - on sleeps to - night.
3. Hush, my dar - ling, don't cry, my dar - ling, the li - on sleeps to - night.

F B $\flat$ F C



- 9
In the jun - gle, the qui - et jun - gle, the li - on sleeps to - night.
Near the vil - lage, the qui - et vil - lage, the li - on sleeps to - night.
Hush my dar - ling, don't fear, my dar - ling, the li - on sleeps to - night.

C F B $\flat$ F C



13
Wee um um o- wey!

F B $\flat$ F C F



17
Wee um um o- wey!

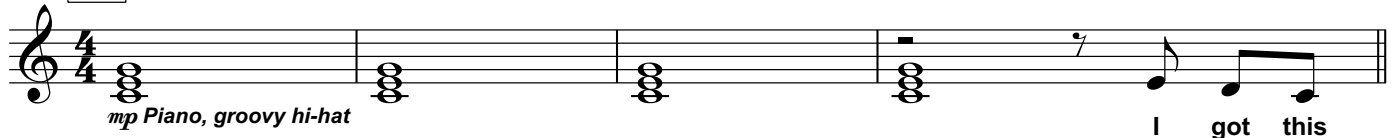
Can't Stop the Feeling!

(based on the album by Original Soundtrack: "Trolls")

Key: C

Words and Music by
Justin Timberlake, Max Martin, &
Shellback
arr. Elizabeth Morris

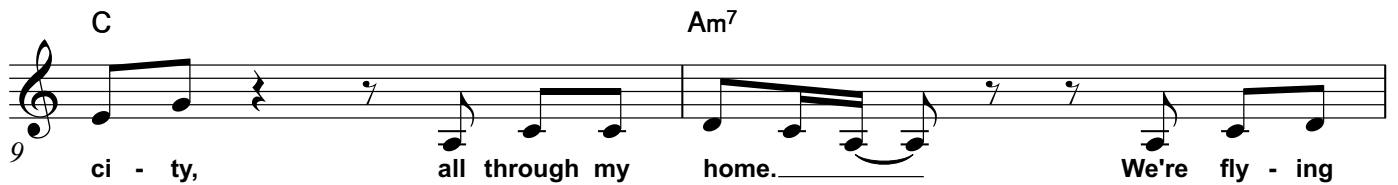
A Moderate Funk Groove ♩ = 110
C Am⁷ F[♯]maj⁷ Am⁷



B C Am⁷ F[♯]maj⁷ Am⁷



C Am⁷



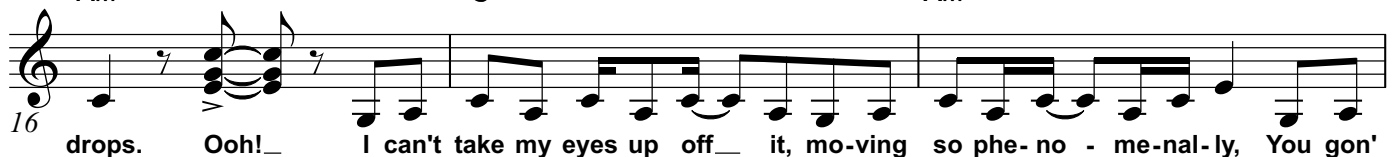
F[♯]maj⁷ Am⁷



C C Am⁷ F[♯]maj⁷
mf +Bass, guitars



Am⁷ C Am⁷



F[♯]maj⁷ Am⁷



Piano

Don't Stop Believin'

80's big rock ♩ = 118

Journey

PIANO ONLY

E B C[#]m7 A

Piano

5 E B G[#]m A

Pno.

9 VOX E B C[#]m7 A

Pno.

13 E B G[#]m A

Pno.

Jump

Key: C

Words and Music by
Edward Van Halen, Alex Van Halen,
Michael Anthony, David Lee Roth
arr. Elizabeth Morris

A *Straight rock* ♩ = 120

G/C C F/C G/C C F/C C/F G^{SUS}

Low C saw bass

5

B C F G

9

C F G

13

C C F G C

17

1. F G 2. F G

22

D Am G Am G Am G F Em D⁵ F Em D⁵

26

F Em D⁵ G **E** C

32

F G C

37

V.S.

Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)

Piano

shuffle ♩ = 118

Piano only

Fleetwood Mac

The piano score for "Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)" by Fleetwood Mac is written in 4/4 time with a shuffle feel (♩ = 118 bpm). The key signature is D major (two sharps). The score is divided into two systems, each with a bass line and a treble line.

System 1 (Measures 1-8):

- Bass Line:** Starts with a whole note E, followed by a half note A/E, then a quarter note D, a quarter note A, a quarter note D, and a quarter note A. The final measure has a whole note E.
- Treble Line:** Starts with a whole note E, followed by a half note A/E, then a quarter note D, a quarter note A, a quarter note D, and a quarter note A. The final measure has a whole note E.

System 2 (Measures 9-24):

- Measure 9:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 10:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 11:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 12:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 13:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 14:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 15:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 16:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 17:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 18:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 19:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 20:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 21:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 22:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 23:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.
- Measure 24:** Treble line has a whole note E, followed by a half note D/E, a quarter note A, a quarter note D/A, a quarter note A, and a quarter note D/A.

If I Ain't Got You

Piano

swing the 16th note

slow soul ♩. = 42

Alicia Keys

piano only

mf

+ bass

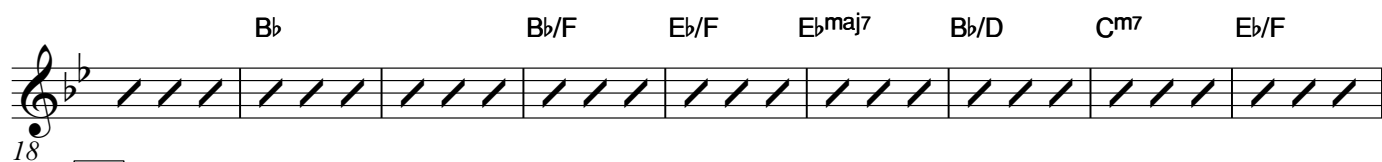
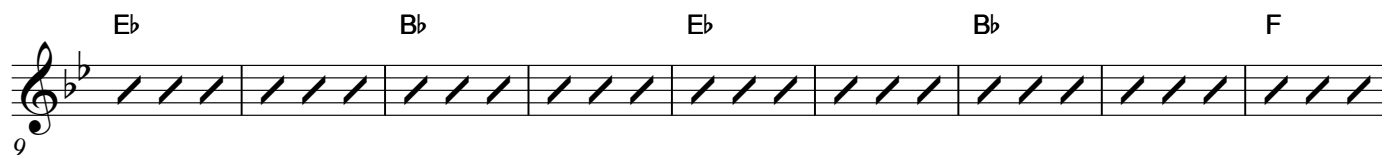
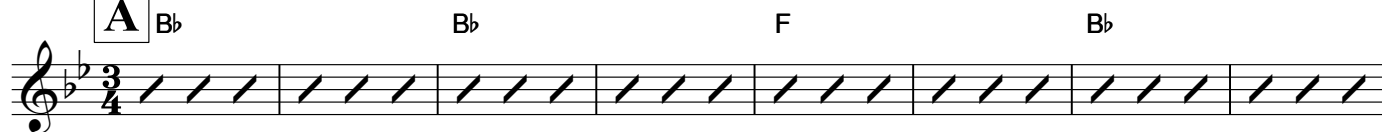
VOX

Chords and notes in the piano part include: C Δ 7₃, B m7₃, A m7₃, G Δ 7, G Δ 7₃, A m7₃, B m7₃, B $\flat$ m7₃, G Δ 7, E m7, A m7, C/D, G Δ 7, G $\sharp$ 7, A m7, C/D, G Δ 7, A m7, B m7, C Δ 7, B m7, A m7, G Δ 7, A m7, B m7.

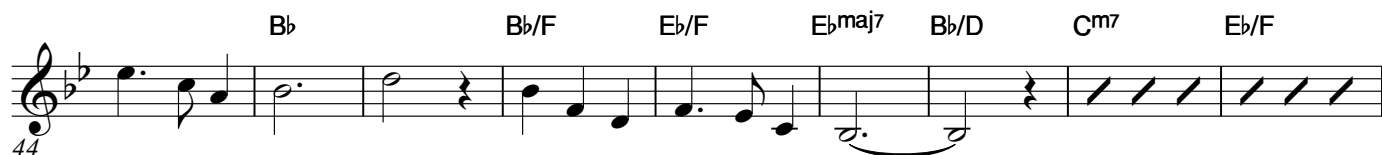
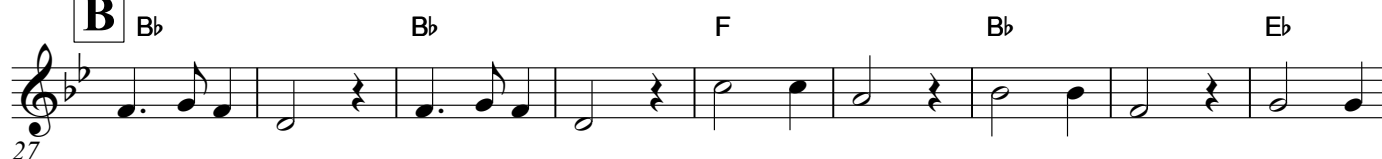
Silent Night

Words and Music by
Franz Gruber
arr. Elizabeth Morris

A Acoustic Ballade ♩ = 85



B



C

