

Harmonizing A Melody

shedthemusic.com

Bob Habersat

Step 1 Listen to the melody

Step 2 Listen to the melody with chords

C G F Am

Step 2 Spell the chords

C G F Am

ex. 1 Spell the chords + label the chord tones

R 3 5

Step 3 Label the chord tones + non chord tones

C G F Am

ex. 2 Label the chord tones + G non chord tones

R N 3 5 N 3

Step 4 Determine the type of motion

Similar Motion Contrary Motion Oblique Motion

Step 5 Determine the amount and location of the voices for the harmony

C

Step 6 Fill in the harmony's chord tones

C C C

R 3 5 3 R R 3 3 5 5 R 3 3

Step 7 Fill in the non chord tones

ex. 3

Write a harmony line using G similar motion

Musical staff for ex. 3. The melody line consists of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The harmony line consists of quarter notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. The chords indicated are C, G, F, and Am.

Contrary motion

ex. 4

Write a harmony line using G contrary motion

Musical staff for ex. 4. The melody line is the same as in ex. 3. The harmony line consists of quarter notes: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The chords indicated are C, G, F, and Am.

Oblique motion

Musical staff showing oblique motion. The melody line is C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The harmony line is G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. The chords indicated are C and G.

Voice leading

Musical staff showing voice leading. The melody line is C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The harmony line is G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. The chords indicated are C, G, F, and Am.

Block chords

Musical staff showing block chords. The melody line is C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The harmony line consists of block chords for C, G, F, and Am.

Rhythmic variation

Musical staff showing rhythmic variation. The melody line is C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The harmony line consists of chords for C, G, F, and Am with various rhythmic patterns.

Write a harmony line using oblique motion

ex. 5

Musical staff for ex. 5. The melody line is C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The harmony line consists of quarter notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. The chords indicated are C, G, F, and Am.

Combining motion types

Musical staff showing a combination of motion types. The melody line is C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The harmony line consists of quarter notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. The chords indicated are C, G, F, and Am.

Write a harmony line with different motion types

ex. 6

Musical staff for ex. 6. The melody line is C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The harmony line consists of quarter notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. The chords indicated are C, G, F, and Am.