

Composition Assignment #1

First, choose one of the chord progressions shown below and pick a key to work in (no C major). Next, compose a melody, where each note corresponds to a single chord change. If a chord is repeated, you can hold the note for two beats or revoice it for the second beat. Make sure to follow the conventions of good melodic writing. Then add a bass line, making sure to choose notes within the chords. Avoid parallel fifths between the bass line and the melody. Finally, add a Roman numeral analysis beneath your composition with correct inversion symbols.

Choose from the following chord progressions (bar lines are indicated by slash marks):

Major:

In 4/4: I V vi IV / I IV ii V / vi V I I / IV ii I V / I

In 3/4: I V I / IV IV I / IV I V / I I V / vi vi IV / ii ii V / I

Minor

In 4/4: i iv i i / V V i i / i vii^o i i / i ii^o i V / I

In 3/4: i i iv / i i VII / III III VI / III III vii^o / i i vii^o / i i V / i

There are two requirements for the finished product:

1. You must turn in your composition written out on staff paper with analysis.
2. You must either perform the composition yourself or have someone else perform it. I can perform a few, if given the music far enough in advance, but I'd rather you ask your classmates first if you are uncomfortable performing it yourself. Be creative in how you perform it. For example, if you are a singer you could write lyrics for your melody and sing them while someone accompanies you on piano. Or if you play a wind instrument, play the melody while another person from class plays the bass line.

We will do some work on them in class, but most of the work will be done outside of class. We will perform them in class on the 10/29, so don't forget to rehearse your performance