

Unit Four: Vocabulary

Alternation in the Bass	Usually moving between the root and the fifth of a given chord
Arpeggiation	Rotating through notes of a chord one after another
Basic Harmonization	Providing foundational chords to fit a melody
Chord Symbols	Notation above the staff to indicate which chord should be played
Chromaticism	From the Greek word <i>chroma</i> , to add color and harmonic interest
Coda	An extension or final small section in a song
Common Progression	The most frequently used progression which is I-ii-V-I
Deceptive Cadence	A harmonic conclusion to a phrase which leads to vi rather than I
Diatonic Triads	Three-note chords built on each scale degree using only notes of the given scale
Enharmonic Equivalent	Different names for the same pitch such as D sharp and E flat
Feel	The rhythmic groove of a song
Form	The structure and order of sections of a song
Grand Staff	Two staves joined by lines and a brace: treble clef on top and bass clef below
Harmonic Rhythm	The speed at which the harmonies of a song change
Harmonic Structure	The main harmonies of a song establishing how sections lead into each other
Inner Voice	A melody line between the soprano and the bass lines
Inversion	Voicing a chord with a tone other than the root in the bass
Lead Sheet	A notated sheet of music containing only the melody, lyrics and chord symbols
Metronome Marking	A notation to indicate tempo with the use of a metronome
Perfect Authentic Cadence	A harmonic conclusion moving from V to I with Do in the soprano and the bass
Outer Voice	In harmonic writing, outer voices are highest and lowest, usually soprano and bass
Predominant	A chord which leads to the dominant within a phrase
Rubato	To increase and/or decrease tempo as appropriate to the emotion of the moment
Secondary Dominant	Dominant of a given chord (other than I) which contains notes outside of the key
Slash	Used in notation to indicate a note other than the root should be in the bass
Structure	Form of a song based on A and B sections (with possible additional sections)
Substitution	Replacing one chord with another to achieve more interesting harmonies
Swing	A feel using uneven eighth notes, though often notated with even eighth notes
Syncopation	Rhythmic emphasis on an off beat
Tempo Marking	A word (or words) to indicate the speed of a given piece of music
Tonal	Having a tonic, or a center pitch to which the music resolves
Tonic	The Do of a given key; the center pitch
Vocal Staff	A staff above a grand staff which contains a melody line for a singer