



LESSON 3-1 : Introduction to Harmony

Pop Piano: Playing Harmony with Triads

What is Harmony?

- Separate line(s) of music which complement the melody line
- Usually of lower pitch than the melody line
- Guided by CHORDS

Chords

- A group of notes that collectively, create a certain sound or colour
 - Some of these are mandatory (must be played when the chord is called upon)
 - Some are optional (musician/composer may choose to include these notes)
- Two types of chords that will be covered now:
 - Major Chords – Creates a brighter sound
 - Minor Chords – Creates a darker sound

Reading Chord Symbols

- Found on top of the staff
- Consists of alphabets and sometimes, numbers
- Chord symbols consist of 2 parts
- 1st part – Tells you the first note of the chord
 - Capital letter indicating a note name (From A to G)
 - This is the root of the chord and also the name of the chord

C – denotes a C chord

F – denotes an F chord

Bb – denotes a Bb chord

- 2nd part – Tells us the type of chord (major or minor)
 - Major chords are represented with an ‘maj’ or nothing at all
 - Minor chords are represented with an ‘m’ or an ‘min’

C or **Cmaj** – denotes a C major chord

Cm or **Cmin** – denotes a C minor chord

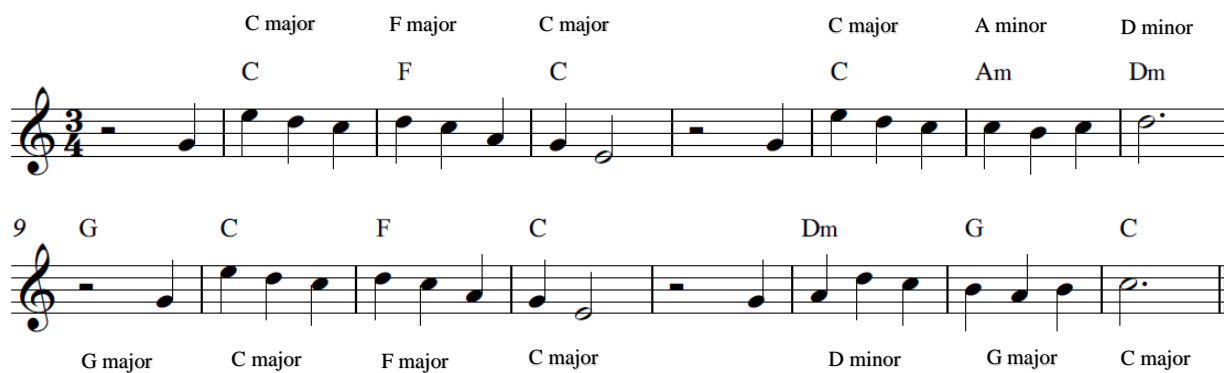
- Attempt to identify the names of all the chords in this short piece of music



Chords in the first staff: C, F, C, C, Am, Dm

Chords in the second staff: G, C, F, C, Dm, G, C

- Check below for answers



Chords in the first staff: C major, F major, C major, C major, A minor, D minor

Chords in the second staff: G major, C major, F major, C major, D minor, G major, C major