

The Harmonic Cadences



A **CADENCE** IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE THE **LAST TWO CHORDS** OF A **PHRASE, SECTION OR PIECE**. THERE ARE **FOUR** TYPES OF CADENCES, EACH WITH THEIR OWN SPECIFIC **REQUIREMENTS** AND **VARIATIONS**.

AN **AUTHENTIC CADENCE** CONSISTS OF A **DOMINANT FUNCTION CHORD (V OR VII)** MOVING TO **TONIC**.

TO BE CONSIDERED A **PERFECT AUTHENTIC CADENCE**, A CADENCE MUST MEET **ALL** OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

IT MUST USE A **V CHORD** (NOT A VII)

BOTH CHORDS MUST BE IN **ROOT POSITION**

THE SOPRANO MUST **END** ON THE **TONIC**

THE SOPRANO MUST **MOVE BY STEP**



G: V I

IF THE CADENCE DOESN'T MEET **ALL** OF THOSE CRITERIA, IT'S CONSIDERED TO BE AN **IMPERFECT AUTHENTIC CADENCE!**



G: vii°6 I



G: V₄ I

A **PLAGAL CADENCE** CONSISTS OF A **SUBDOMINANT FUNCTION CHORD (IV OR II)** MOVING TO **TONIC**.

TO BE CONSIDERED A **PERFECT PLAGAL CADENCE**, A CADENCE MUST MEET **ALL** OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

IT MUST USE A **IV CHORD** (NOT A II)

BOTH CHORDS MUST BE IN **ROOT POSITION**

THE SOPRANO MUST **END** ON THE **TONIC**

THE SOPRANO MUST **KEEP THE COMMON TONE**



G: IV I

IF THE CADENCE DOESN'T MEET **ALL** OF THOSE CRITERIA, IT'S CONSIDERED TO BE AN **IMPERFECT PLAGAL CADENCE!**



G: IV⁶ I



G: ii I⁶

A **HALF CADENCE** IS ANY CADENCE THAT ENDS ON THE **DOMINANT CHORD (V)**.



G: I V

A SPECIFIC TYPE OF HALF CADENCE IS THE **PHRYGIAN CADENCE**, WHICH MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

IT OCCURS ONLY IN **MINOR**

IT USES A **IV CHORD** MOVING TO **V**

THE SOPRANO AND BASS MOVE **BY STEP** IN **CONTRARY MOTION**

THE SOPRANO AND BASS BOTH **END** ON THE **FIFTH SCALE DEGREE**



e: iv⁶ V



e: iv V

A **DECEPTIVE CADENCE** IS A CADENCE WHERE THE **DOMINANT CHORD (V)** RESOLVES TO SOMETHING **OTHER THAN TONIC...** ALMOST ALWAYS THE **SUBMEDIANT CHORD (vi)**.



G: V vi

REALLY, IT'S THE **PSYCH-OUT CADENCE**, IN THAT YOU **EXPECT** IT TO RESOLVE TO TONIC, BUT IT **DOESN'T**.

AND, IN FACT, IT'S MORE COMMON TO SEE THIS IN THE **MIDDLE** OF THE PHRASE RATHER THAN THE **END...** WHERE YOU MIGHT CALL IT A **"CADENCE-LIKE STRUCTURE"**!