

MUSIC THEORY AND EAR TRAINING FOR SONGWRITERS 1

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OBJECTIVES

- To understand basic concepts and key terms of melody, harmony and rhythm.
- To understand chord progressions used in contemporary songwriting, and be able to use effective chord combinations to write great songs.
- To understand melodic techniques used in contemporary songwriting; and be able to use these to write memorable and emotional melodies.

FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS

Simplicity

Tension and Resolution

CONCEPTS TO LEARN

Major scale

Intervals

Keys/key signature; tempo; time signature

Triads

Diatonic Triads of the built from the Major Scale

Tonic; Dominant; Sub-Dominant Chord Functions

I IV V songs

Melody - chord tones vs tensions

Other common chord progressions

Cadences

Melody concepts: motifs; repetition/variation ('rule of 2s'); ascending/
descending; parallel; principles of contrast

Minor Scale

Chord substitutions