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Harmonic and Non-Harmonic (non-chord) Tones

Harmonic tones are pitches that belong to a particular chord/triad. For example, do, mi and so are the root, third and fifth of the major tonic triad/chord. Each of those three pitches are classified as chord tones.

Non-harmonic tones or non-chord tones (NCT) are pitches that do not belong in a particular chord. NCT are categorized by how they are approached and resolved. While there are nine types of non-chord tones, only two types will be explored in this chapter.

Passing Tone	Upper and Lower Neighbor Tone
A **passing tone** is typically a non-chord **tone/pitch** that occurs between two chord tones, creating stepwise motion. A **passing tone** can be either occurring on a strong beat or strong part of the beat (accented) or weak beat or weak part of the beat (unaccented).	A **neighbor tone** is a nonharmonic tone/pitch that is approached stepwise from above or below and returns to the previous pitch which is usually a chord tone.

Non-Chord Tone	Approached by	Left By
Passing Tone	step	step in same direction
Neighbor Tone	step	step in opposite direction
Appoggiatura	leap	Step
Escape Tone	step	leap in opposite direction
Double Neighbor	both upper and lower neighbor tones	
Anticipation	step	same note
Pedal Point	same note	same note
Suspension	same note	step down
Retardation	same note	step up

Identifying Chord Tones and Non Chord Tones (Passing Tones and Neighbor Tones)

a. *Class or Individual*:
    Sing each of the patterns below and then verbally label the function of each pitch as chord tone, passing tone or upper-lower neighbor;

b. *Group A/Individual A*:
    Sing each of the patterns below on a neutral syllable;

    Group B/Individual B;
    Listen and label the function of each pitch using written abbreviations [CT, PT, UN, LN].
    * Exchange tasks.

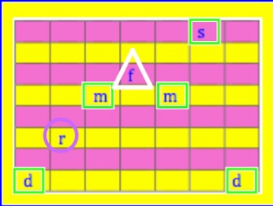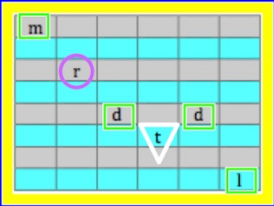c. Use the patterns below as a worksheet and/or class or self-assessment.

    Directions:
    Label the function of each pitch.
    * Draw a box around chord tones, a circle around passing tones and a triangle pointing down for a lower neighbor tone and a triangle pointing up for an upper neighbor tone.
    * Sing each pattern;

Harmonic and Non-Harmonic Tones
* Identify tonic chord tones; (reference tones)
    – draw a box
* Identify passing tones;
    – draw a circle
* Identify upper/lower neighbor tones;
    – draw a triangle △ ▽

Iconic Representation

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la-based Minor-Tonic Pentachord: Chord Tones, Passing Tones and Upper/Lower Neighbor Tones

Directions: Draw a box around each chord tone, a circle around passing tones and a triangle pointing up for upper neighbor tones and a triangle pointing down for lower neighbor tones.

Name:_____

1. Label Function & Sing	2. Label Function & Sing	3. Label Function & Sing	4. Label Function & Sing
m	m	m m	m
r	r	r	r r
d d	d d	d d	d d
t	t		
l l l	l l	l l	l l

5. Label Function & Sing	6. Label Function & Sing	7. Label Function & Sing	8. Label Function & Sing
m	m	m m	m
		r	r
d d d	d d	d	d d d
t	t t	t	t
l l	l l	l l	l

9. Label Function & Sing	10. Label Function & Sing	11. Label Function & Sing	12. Label Function & Sing
m m	m m	m m	m m m
r	r	r	r
d d	d	d d	d d
t	t	t	
l	l l	l	l

13. Label Function & Sing	14. Label Function & Sing	15. Label Function & Sing	16. Label Function & Sing
m	m m	m m	m m
r	r	r	r
d d d	d d	d d	d
t	t	t	t
l l		l	l l l