

PART II: CHAPTER 8

Major and Minor Mode; Compound Meters; Dotted Quarter Note = Beat Unit

Improvisation Activities

See Appendix D for details

Ostinato Groove—Tonal

• **Process:**

- The instructor or Student A sings a repeated four-note tonal (ostinato) on tonal syllables. The ostinato pattern may be anything, but it has to stay the same throughout the groove.
- Student B adds a second four-note ostinato, taking as much time as needed to find the tonal pattern (ostinato) they want to sing in response to the ostinato performed by Student A.
- One at a time, the other students enter in the same way, until all the students are singing their repeated tonal patterns.

Tonal Ostinato Groove—Major Mode

Parameters:

| | <i>Upper/Lower Neighbor Tone</i> | <i>Passing Tone</i> | <i>Tonic Triad Chord Tones Only</i> |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Student A | | | |
| Student B | | | |
| Student C | | | |
| Student D | | | |

- Variation I: Repeat above process singing the ostinato on a neutral syllable.
- Variation II: One team improvises on a neutral syllable while the other team(s) writes (dictates) each pattern.
- Variation II: Individually practice Tonal Ostinato Grove using the MP3 tonal files found in Part II, Chapters 2.3 (Major) 3.3, 6.3 7.3, 7.7 (Minor) located on the Oxford Learning Link.

• **Parameters:**

- The instructor designates the tonality (major, minor), tonal functions (major/minor pentachord, major scale, natural/harmonic/melodic minor scale, etc.), chord tones (tonic) and non-chord tones (passing tones, upper and lower neighbor tones, etc.), length of the tonal pattern (3-6 pitches), then reviews known tonal patterns and establishes the tonality and tempo (one pitch per pulse).
- Tonal patterns to be selected from Part II, Chapters 2.3 (Major) 3.3, 6.3 7.3, 7.7 (Minor).

This improvisation activity assesses comprehension of aural/oral skills and develops independent harmony skills.

Pass the Pattern—Melodic Improvisation—Major and/or Minor Mode

• **Process**

- Practice echoing the melodic patterns, A1-A40 (Major) found in Part II, Chapter 8.3 and/or A1-A40 (Minor) found in Part II, Chapter 8.7.
- Integrate rhythms in Compound Meter from Part I, Chapter 5 into known tonal elements in Part II, Chapters 1-7.
 - Tonal elements: major scale + tonic triad intervals (including do[|] and so₁); natural, harmonic and melodic minor scale, seconds, and tonic triad intervals in do minor (including do[|] and so₁) or la minor (including la[|] and mi₁).

Pass the Pattern—Minor Mode

Parameters: Pattern must start on last pitch and last rhythm element of previous pattern.

- Variation I: One team improvises on a neutral syllable while the other team(s) writes (dictates) each melodic pattern.
- Variation II: The melodic statement and response must incorporate one or two of the following elements: (a) an upper neighbor or lower neighbor tone, (b) a passing tone, and (c) an ascending/descending interval in the tonic triad with either a so₁—do[|] (do major/minor) or mi₁—la[|] (la minor).
- Variation III: The response starts on either the last pitch or the first pitch of the statement.
- Variation IV: The response starts on either the last rhythm or the first rhythm of the statement.
- **Parameters:**
 - The instructor or team leader designates (a) basic tonal or a tonal variation (upper/lower neighbor tone, passing tone, tonic triad chord tones), (b) duple, triple or quadruple compound meter, (c) number of measures, (d) physical motion (metric motion, heel march, and/or down-up-up motion with hands), (e) sets the tempo and (f) establishes tonality.

| <i>Additional Improvisation Activities</i> | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call and Response <i>Tonal and/or Melodic</i> See Chapters 1-7 for instructions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same or Different <i>Tonal and/or Melodic</i> See Chapters 1-7 for instructions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass the Pattern <i>Tonal and/or Melodic</i> See Chapters 1-7 for instructions |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add a Pitch See Chapters 1-7 for instructions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ostinato Groove <i>Tonal</i> See Chapter 8 for instructions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question & Answer <i>Tonal and/or Melodic</i> See Chapter 13 for instructions |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Twisted Theme <i>Tonal</i> See Chapter 16 for instructions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harmonic Improvisation <i>Melodic</i> See Chapter 9 for instructions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harmonic Improvisation See Chapter 16B for instructions |
| <p><i>The ability to improvise is a skill that can be learned!</i></p> | | |