



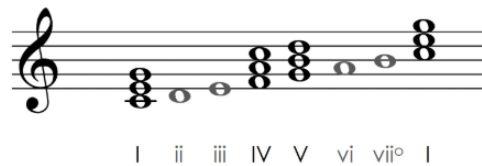
Practice Tips: Pop-Tune Arranging: Primary Triads (I-IV-V)

Using the Worksheet to Create a Performance Map

When arranging a pop-tune to play by ear, it is not necessary, or even desirable, to notate the entire arrangement. However, it is very helpful to create a 'map' to guide your performance.

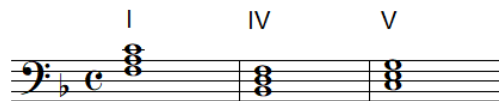
It is amazing to realize the quantity and variety of music that has been composed using only the three primary chords. For this assignment, you will use I - IV - V triads as the basis for creating your own arrangement of a popular tune from this playlist.

Primary Chords in C Major



INSTRUCTIONS

1. I have selected the song *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* to map. Before beginning, play the primary triads in the key of the song (F Major). Unless otherwise indicated, these will be the only chords used in the song.



2. Listen to the audio track and decide where you hear the chords change. Determine if the chord you are hearing is the I, the IV, or the V. Then write the chord symbols (Pop or Roman style) over the corresponding measures in your worksheet.

F B^b F C

3. Next, listen to/sing the melody and try to pick it out on the piano until you can play it comfortably. The first few notes and a starting fingering are given in the worksheet. Map any significant aspects of the melody like where important notes fall in each measure or specific rhythms. It is not necessary to play the melody exactly like you hear it in the recording, nor is it necessary to write the entire melody out. You only need a general picture of how it lines up with the chord changes that you are hearing.



4. Next, choose one of the suggested left-hand patterns, or create your own. While it is not necessary to completely write it out, it will help you to see where the melody and the chords line up.

If coordinating your hands is very difficult, you can first practice with a simplified version of the left hand pattern until you can do it easily.

Then, gradually add more components until you reach your goal.

5. Only write as much as you need to play the song. In the above example, my map helped me realize that there is a syncopation in measure one. This might be difficult so I may need to work hard on coordinating my hands. Tapping the rhythms out hands together would be a great way to practice this.

6. When you play your arrangement, you should feel free to change the way that you play the melody. For example, you might wish to add more syncopation as you develop more coordination and control. You might wish to try using a different left-hand pattern or try accompanying a singer while you play the two-handed accompaniment. You might keep the left hand going and try improvising a new melody to create variety. The sky is the limit!

