

CHAPTER 3 :

DYADS AND MELODIC INVENTION

Dyads or two-part chords are important foundations for two-part counterpoint technique and also create contrasts to single note melodic lines and three and four part chords which we will explore later on.

Play all the available notes of the C Major scale on courses 1,2,3 and 4 accompanied by one of the scale notes in the bass on courses 4,5 and 6

Be aware of the intervallic relationship to the root note.

ascending

7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 4 3 2 1 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 7
| | | | | | | | a c e f f e c a d c a d c a d c a c a
a c a c d a c d a
a a

or

A musical score for 'The Old Dan Tucker' on two staves. The top staff uses numbers 1-7 and letters a-f as note heads. The bottom staff uses letters a-c as note heads. The lyrics are written below the notes.

2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 | 4 3 2 1 7 6 5 4 | 3 2

a c d a c d c c c c | c c c c c c d c a d c c a | d c a d c c a c |

A diagram of a musical staff with 12 horizontal lines. Note heads are placed on specific lines and spaces according to a pattern. The notes are labeled with lowercase letters: **a**, **c**, **a**, **c**, **d**, **a**, **c**, **d**, **a**, **c**, **e**, **f**, **f**, **e**, **c**, **a**, **d**, **c**, **a**, **d**, **c**, **a**, **c**, **a**. Below the staff, the corresponding note heads are shown again, along with vertical tick marks above each note head indicating its position relative to the 12 lines.

Same root/different dyads

Play through these examples and then improvise your own successions of two-part chords.

This musical staff consists of two staves separated by a double bar line. The top staff has notes C, F, and E. The bottom staff has notes A, A, A, A, A, A, A. The notes are aligned vertically under each other across the double bar line.

This musical staff consists of two staves separated by a double bar line. The top staff has notes C, F, E, and A. The bottom staff has notes A, C, C, C, C, C, C. The notes are aligned vertically under each other across the double bar line.

This musical staff consists of two staves separated by a double bar line. The top staff has notes C, A, D, and C, A. The bottom staff has notes D, E, E, E, E, E, E. The notes are aligned vertically under each other across the double bar line.

This musical staff consists of two staves separated by a double bar line. The top staff has notes C, A, D, A, C, E. The bottom staff has notes A, A, A, A, A, A, A. The notes are aligned vertically under each other across the double bar line.

This musical staff consists of two staves separated by a double bar line. The top staff has notes C, C, A, F, D. The bottom staff has notes D, C, A, A, A, A, A. The notes are aligned vertically under each other across the double bar line.

This musical staff consists of two staves separated by a double bar line. The top staff has notes D, E, A, A, A, C, D. The bottom staff has notes C, C, C, C, C, C, C. The notes are aligned vertically under each other across the double bar line.

This musical staff consists of two staves separated by a double bar line. The top staff has notes C, D, E, F, C. The bottom staff has notes C, A, D, C, D, A, C. The notes are aligned vertically under each other across the double bar line.

Your turn

Blank staff lines for playing.

a	a	a	a	c	c	c	c	e	e	e	e	a	a	a	a
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Blank staff lines for playing.

a	a	c	c	c	c	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Different roots/different dyads

Blank staff lines for playing.

c	a	d	a	c	a	c	a	c	d	c	a	a	e	c
a	e	a	c	a	c	e	a	a	e	c	a	e	a	

Blank staff lines for playing.

a	c	d	c	d	c	a	d	a	d	c	a	f	c	e	a
a	c	c	e	a	e	a	a	a	a	e	a	c	c	a	a

Your turn

Blank staff lines for playing.

a	a	c	e	a	e	a	a	a	e	c	c	e	a	a
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Melodic line preceded by a dyad on a ground.

Using a dyad as a starting point, start improvising melodic lines on the upper note of the dyad. Keep in mind that every note is equally important and try to sing along your melodic lines.

Play through all the examples and then improvise your own lines.

Ground 1

Example1

Example 2

Example 3

Musical score for the first section:

Measure 1: **c** (open), **c** (closed), **c** (closed), **d** (open)

Measure 2: **c** (open), **a** (closed), **d** (open), **c** (closed), **a** (closed), **a** (open)

Measure 3: **a** (closed), **e** (closed), **e** (closed), **a** (open), **d** (open)

Measure 4: **c** (open), **a** (closed), **a** (closed), **a** (open), **d** (open)

Musical staff with notes and rests labeled below:

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>
<i>c</i>				<i>a</i>					<i>e</i>						<i>a</i>			

Example 4

f

h | . h | . f d a | . a | . c | . | . h h | .

Musical score for the first section of the piece. The score consists of two staves. The top staff has four measures. The first measure starts with a fermata over a bass note, followed by a bass note with a vertical stroke, and then a bass note with a horizontal bar above it. The notes are labeled 'c' and 'a'. The second measure starts with a fermata over a bass note, followed by a bass note with a vertical stroke, and then a bass note with a horizontal bar above it. The notes are labeled 'd' and 'c'. The third measure starts with a fermata over a bass note, followed by a bass note with a vertical stroke, and then a bass note with a horizontal bar above it. The notes are labeled 'c' and 'a'. The fourth measure starts with a fermata over a bass note, followed by a bass note with a vertical stroke, and then a bass note with a horizontal bar above it. The notes are labeled 'd' and 'c'. The bottom staff has four measures. The first measure starts with a bass note with a vertical stroke, followed by a bass note with a horizontal bar above it, and then a bass note with a vertical stroke. The notes are labeled 'c' and 'a'. The second measure starts with a bass note with a vertical stroke, followed by a bass note with a horizontal bar above it, and then a bass note with a vertical stroke. The notes are labeled 'a' and 'e'. The third measure starts with a bass note with a vertical stroke, followed by a bass note with a horizontal bar above it, and then a bass note with a vertical stroke. The notes are labeled 'e' and 'a'. The fourth measure starts with a bass note with a vertical stroke, followed by a bass note with a horizontal bar above it, and then a bass note with a vertical stroke. The notes are labeled 'a' and 'c'.

Your turn

a	a	e	c
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c	a	e	a
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Ground 2

A blank musical staff consisting of five measures separated by vertical bar lines. The first measure contains a single note labeled 'a'. The second measure contains a single note labeled 'e'. The third measure contains a single note labeled 'e'. The fourth measure contains a single note labeled 'c'. The fifth measure contains a single note labeled 'a'.

A musical staff with five measures. The first measure has a note 'a' followed by a rest. The second measure has a note 'a' followed by a rest. The third measure has a note 'a' followed by a sixteenth-note group: 'e f e c'. The fourth measure has a note 'c' followed by a rest. The fifth measure has a note 'c' followed by a rest. The sixth measure has a note 'a' followed by a rest.

Your turn

A blank musical staff consisting of five measures separated by vertical bar lines. The first measure contains a single note labeled 'a'. The second measure contains a single note labeled 'e'. The third measure contains a single note labeled 'e'. The fourth measure contains a single note labeled 'c'. The fifth measure contains a single note labeled 'a'.

Ground 3

A blank musical staff consisting of five measures separated by vertical bar lines. The first measure contains a single note labeled 'e'. The second measure contains a single note labeled 'e'. The third measure contains a single note labeled 'c'. The fourth measure contains a single note labeled 'a'. The fifth measure contains a single note labeled 'a'.

A musical staff with five measures. The first measure has a note 'a' followed by a rest. The second measure has a note 'a' followed by a sixteenth-note group: 'f a a e c'. The third measure has a note 'a' followed by a rest. The fourth measure has a note 'd' followed by a note 'a' followed by a rest. The fifth measure has a note 'c' followed by a note 'a' followed by a rest. The sixth measure has a note 'a' followed by a rest. The seventh measure has a note 'a' followed by a rest.

Your turn

A blank musical staff consisting of five measures separated by vertical bar lines. The first measure contains a single note labeled 'e'. The second measure contains a single note labeled 'e'. The third measure contains a single note labeled 'c'. The fourth measure contains a single note labeled 'a'. The fifth measure contains a single note labeled 'a'.