

Music Theory II

Progressive Composition Assignment

This assignment offers an opportunity for you to develop your creative expression. As we explore chromatic harmony and modulation, you will be asked to apply that knowledge to the development of a progressive composition project. You are encouraged to approach this assignment with musical expressiveness and technical care. Composing is like writing an excellent essay; you need time to review and revise your work several times. Please allow time for that important process. Consider it an opportunity to demonstrate your highest level of creativity and musicianship.

The assignment will be completed in four phases. Each phase must be uploaded to the AsULearn website by the last class meeting prior to a unit quiz. Each phase must be completed using a music notation software program of your choice. Professional layout and notation, musicianship, and creativity will be evaluated as well as the specific requirements of the assignments. FINALE software is provided in the tutor lab, and the theory tutors are able to provide assistance on request.

PHASE ONE: Keyboard Figuration (Live Recording Required)

Create a brief composition for piano using the following guidelines:

1. Compose and partwrite (on a grand staff) a chorale (SATB).
2. The chorale may be in any key and meter that you choose.
3. The chorale must contain one phrase (minimum of 8 chords) that ends with an inconclusive cadence (HC, DC, IAC). (A second phrase will be added in Phase Two.)
4. The chorale must exhibit strong progression only and include several inverted triads (including at least one second-inversion triad), several seventh chords, and at least one secondary dominant or secondary leading-tone harmony.
5. Place a complete key and roman numeral analysis of your progression below the staff.
6. The soprano line must be embellished by the inclusion of non-chord tones. Strive to create an independent melodic line that exhibits an active contour.
7. On the bottom staff, convert the Alto/Tenor/Bass lines into one of the standard keyboard figurations described below. (The melody should remain on the top staff.) As in the examples below, you may have to revise the voice placement, meter, rhythm, and/or harmonic rhythm of your chorale to accommodate the keyboard texture.

8. The composition must have an appropriate key signature, tempo marking, dynamic markings, and articulations to express your musical intention.
9. Title your composition "Keyboard Figuration".
10. A professional looking PDF file of the score and an MP3 recording of a live performance of your composition must be uploaded to the AsULearn site prior to the deadline.

Listen to your composition and revise any passages that sound awkward or incorrect. Do your best to create an expressive and musical work.

Standard Keyboard Figurations

NOTE: The following examples are taken from Practice of Harmony (Spencer and Bennett).¹ This assignment requires an *inconclusive* cadence, not a *conclusive* cadence as seen in the examples below.

Original Four-Part (SATB) Texture



Arpeggiated Left Hand (Bass – Tenor - Alto)

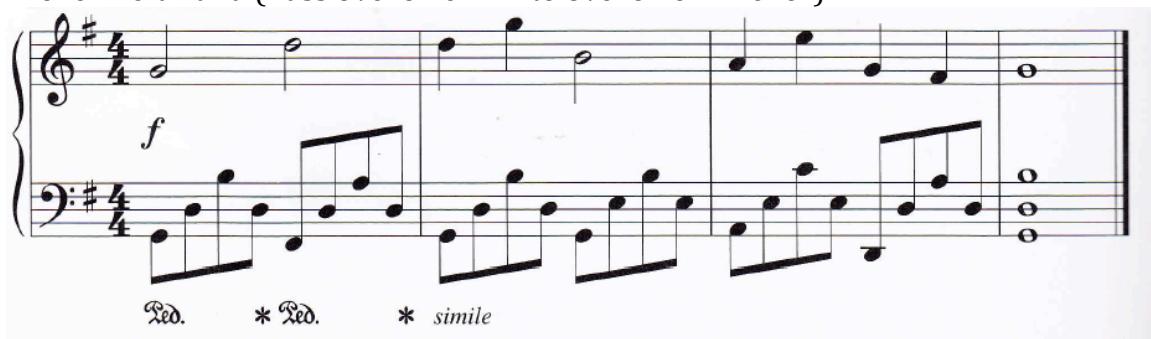


Alberti Bass (Bass – Alto – Tenor - Alto)

¹ Spencer, Peter and Barbara Bennett. *The Practice of Harmony*. 6th ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Pearson, 2012. pp. 202-203.



Broken Left Hand (Bass 8ve lower – Alto 8ve lower – Tenor)



Waltz Style (Bass – Tenor/Alto)



Evaluation

1. Chorale contains at least 8 chords. (5 points)
2. Chorale concludes on an inconclusive cadence. (5 points)
3. Chorale exhibits strong progressions as discussed in class. (15 points)
4. The harmonic progression includes several inverted chords. (10 points)
5. The harmonic progression includes at least one second inversion triad voiced and resolved appropriately. (10 points)
6. Correct Roman numeral analysis is placed below the staff. (15 points)
7. Soprano line is embellished with non-chord tones. (10 points)
8. Musical conversion of the chorale to a keyboard figuration. (15 points)
9. Appropriate key signature, tempo marking, dynamic markings, and articulations included. (10 points)
10. Title and composer name included. (5 points)
11. Professional looking PDF uploaded to AsU Learn.
12. MP3 of a live recording uploaded to AsU Learn. (-30 points if not)

PHASE TWO: Common Chord Modulation

Revise the composition you created in Phase One based on the feedback you received from your instructor, then complete the following:

1. Compose a second phrase that completes the expression left incomplete in the first phrase.
2. The second phrase must be motivically related to the first phrase.
3. The second phrase must contain a common chord modulation to a new key and conclude with a perfect authentic cadence in the new key.
4. Revise the harmonic progression of the composition to include at least one borrowed chord and a Neapolitan chord (strong progression only).
5. The composition must have an appropriate key signature, tempo marking, dynamic markings, and articulations to express your musical intention.
6. Provide a complete key and roman numeral analysis of your progression below the staff.
7. Title your composition "Common-Chord Modulation."
8. A professional looking PDF file of the score and an MP3 recording of your composition must be uploaded to the AsULearn site prior to the deadline. You may produce a MIDI performance of the composition using the appropriate keyboard sound if a live recording is not possible.

Listen to your composition and revise any passages that sound awkward or incorrect. Do your best to create an expressive and musical work.

Evaluation

1. Second phrase motivically related to the first phrase. (15 points)
2. Phrase includes a proper common chord modulation. (15 points)
3. Phrase concludes with a PAC in the new key. (10 points)
4. Chorale exhibits strong harmonic progression as discussed in class. (15 points)
5. Harmonic progression includes at least one borrowed chord and one Neapolitan chord. (15 points)
6. Correct Roman numeral analysis is placed below the staff. (15 points)
7. Appropriate key signature, tempo marking, dynamic markings, and articulations included. (10 points)
8. Title and composer name included. (5 points)
9. Professional looking PDF uploaded to AsULearn.
10. MP3 recording uploaded to AsULearn. (-30 points if not)

PHASE THREE: Augmented-Sixth Chords

Revise the composition you created in Phase Two based on the feedback you received from your instructor, then complete the following:

1. Revise your harmonic progression to include at least one augmented-sixth chord.
2. Revise your roman numeral analysis to indicate the presence of the augmented-sixth chord.
3. Title your composition "Augmented-Sixth Chords".
4. A professional looking PDF file of the score and an MP3 recording of your composition must be uploaded to the AsULearn site prior to the deadline. You may produce a MIDI performance of the composition using the appropriate keyboard sound if a live recording is not possible.

Listen to your composition and revise any passages that sound awkward or incorrect. Do your best to create an expressive and musical work.

Evaluation

1. Revision of harmonic progression to include at least one augmented-sixth chord properly written and resolved. (20 points)
2. Second phrase includes a proper common chord modulation. (20 points)
3. Second phrase concludes with a PAC in the new key. (10 points)
4. Chorale exhibits strong harmonic progression as discussed in class. (15 points)
5. Correct Roman numeral analysis is placed below the staff. (20 points)
6. Appropriate key signature, tempo marking, dynamic markings, and articulations are included. (10 points)
7. Title and composer name included. (5 points)
8. Professional looking PDF uploaded to AsULearn.
9. MP3 recording uploaded to AsULearn. (-30 points if not)

PHASE FOUR: Chromatic Modulation

Revise the composition you created in Phase Three based on the feedback you received from your instructor, then complete the following:

1. Revise your harmonic progression to include a chromatic modulation.
2. It will be necessary to revise more than just the point of modulation to achieve a successful musical result.
3. Revise the roman numeral analysis to reflect all revisions of the harmonic progression.
4. Title your composition "Chromatic Modulation".
5. A professional looking PDF file of the score and an MP3 recording of your composition must be uploaded to the AsULearn site prior to the deadline. You may produce a MIDI performance of the composition using the appropriate keyboard sound if a live recording is not possible.

Listen to your composition and revise any passages that sound awkward or incorrect. Do your best to create an expressive and musical work.

Evaluation

1. Revision of harmonic progression to include a chromatic modulation. (20 points)
2. Revision of harmonic progression in order to create a musical result. (20 points)
3. Second phrase concludes with a PAC in the new key. (10 points)
4. Chorale exhibits strong harmonic progression as discussed in class. (15 points)
5. Correct Roman numeral analysis is placed below the staff. (20 points)
6. Appropriate key signature, tempo marking, dynamic markings, and articulations are included. (10 points)
7. Title and composer name included. (5 points)
8. Professional looking PDF uploaded to AsULearn.
9. MP3 recording uploaded to AsULearn. (-30 points if not)