

Creating Chord Melody Part 1

How to write Melody



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Key: A

Chords needed: A

Video Tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88XDQLraRnc&feature=youtu.be>

Step 1: Choose a scale, for todays exercise we are going work with the A major scale because we can illustrate it on just one string making it more visible.

```
A|0-2-4-5-7-9-11-12-|
E|-----|
C|-----|
G|-----|
```

Step 2: Interval Study

The major interval is composed of the following intervals.

Root - 2nd - 3rd - 4th - 5th - 6th - 7th - Octave

```
Root 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th Octave
A|0----2---4---5---7---9---11---12----|
E|-----|
C|-----|
G|-----|
```

Step 3: Now we are going to look at how intervals can be **stable**, **semi-stable** and **non-stable**. We have arranged them in order of stability and by color here.

```
Root 3rd 5th | 6th 2nd | 4th 7th
A|0----4---7---|9---2---|5---11---|
E|-----|-----|-----|
C|-----|-----|-----|
G|-----|-----|-----|
```

Step 4: Writing phrase one. For phrase one I want to start on a **stable** note and finish on a **semi-stable** note. I chose to start with the 5th (7th fret) and finish on the 2nd interval (2nd fret)

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
A| 7-----4-----| 4-5-4---2-----|
E|-----|-----|
C|-----|-----|
G|-----|-----|

```

Step 5: Creating a motif. A motif is something that the listener can grab on to and feel is familiar, it is really a fancy way for saying creating repetition, or phrases that feel similar, even exactly the same. So for phrase 2 we will play the same phrase.

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
A| 7-----4-----| 4-5-4---2-----|
E|-----|-----|
C|-----|-----|
G|-----|-----|

```

Step 6: Creating Tension. We are going to create a little tension in our third phrase by finishing on an unstable note, but by only changing the last note we are able to continue with our motif.

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
A| 7-----4-----| 4-5-4---4-----|
E|-----|-----|
C|-----|-----|
G|-----|-----|

```

Step 7: Creating resolution. We need to bring it all home and we are going to do so by finishing the last phrase on the root note, or in A major the A scale, that way it feels like we have arrived home. To create a little extra tension I started this last phrase on an unstable note.

```

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
A| 5-7-5---2-4-2---| 0---2-0-----|
E|-----|-----|
C|-----|-----|
G|-----|-----|

```

Conclusion. For the last step we are going to put all these ideas together to create our melody. Next week I am going to show you how to harmonize these ideas so you will be able to turn your melody into a chord melody!

	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	
A	7-----4-----	4-5-4---2-----	7-----4-----	4-5-4---2-----	
E	-----	-----	-----	-----	
C	-----	-----	-----	-----	
G	-----	-----	-----	-----	

	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &	
A	7-----4-----	4-5-4---5-----	5-7-5---2-4-2---	0---2-0-----	
E	-----	-----	-----	-----	
C	-----	-----	-----	-----	
G	-----	-----	-----	-----	

Homework!

Your homework is to create your own melody with the following requirements.

Melody can be any key, but must include four phrases and be 8 measures.

Phrase 1: Must start on a stable note and finish on a semi-stable note

Phrase 2: Create a motif and repeat phrase 1.

Phrase 3: Repeat phrase 1, but this time change your final note to a unstable note.

Phrase 4: Start on an unstable note and finish on the root.

After you have mastered your own melody tune in next week when I show you how to transform that melody into a chord melody by harmonizing it with chords! Also feel free to apply these guidelines to create other melodies. Longer phrases, shorter phrases, more stable notes, more unstable notes, experiment and find your own sound friends.