# §ii — Option d) Realisation of Chord Symbols

For this option, you will be given a series of chord symbols (e.g. C, Am, G7, etc.) of approximately eight bars. You are required to realise this chord sequence, using conventional notation, for ANY instrument, or combination of voices and/or instruments, of your choice. However, your realisation MUST outline the full harmonic texture; a single melody line, for example, would not be an acceptable answer. Openings will be given for electronic organ and guitar. You may use one of these openings if you wish or you may compose your own.

#### Link to:

**Practice exercises – Organ / Practice exercises – Guitar / Sample Examination Questions** 

### **Study and Preparation**

In the pages that follow, we concentrate on writing for organ and guitar. However, there are many other possibilities, including vocal and choral textures, instrument or voice plus piano, or a group of two to three instruments (e.g. a woodwind trio). There is no limit to the number of voices you may use, although bear in mind the constraints of time in the exam.

We recommend that you study some arrangements and/or original compositions for the voices or instrument(s) you select. These may be taken from any appropriate source. Study and play the following examples, noting the observations on the harmony and patterns used.

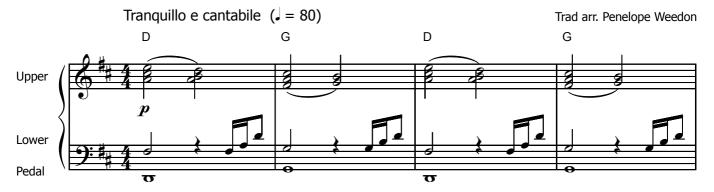
Detailed guidelines on the study of functional harmonic progressions and chord voicings are contained in the LCM handbooks for both Classical and Popular Music Theory, grades 6-8. See also §i) Chorale Harmonisation as this may also prove useful. Remember that the given harmonies may be adapted, depending on the style and instrumentation chosen; however, any alterations of chords must be indicated in your answer. Also, you are permitted to choose your own time signature, tempo and dynamics. These should be indicated in your answer.

See also the reference chart of chord symbols.

# **Writing for Electronic Organ**

Following are some examples of electronic organ pieces, with chord symbols printed above, for study. Note how the predominant texture in all these pieces is a RH melody, LH block chords or arpeggiated figuration, and simple pedal bass line (usually one note per change of harmony).

#### Example 1 Suo Gan (Welsh Lullaby)



© Copyright 1998 Penelope Weedon. Reproduced by permission.





This is a simple lullaby. The piece is clearly structured with an introduction (bars 1-4), verse 1 (bars 5-16) linking passage (bars 17-20), verse 2 (bars 21-32) and coda (bars 33-40). Notice how the texture is varied in order to accentuate this structure: the introduction, linking passage and coda use RH minim chords with a prominent LH rising figure on beat 4, while in the verses, the RH moves in two melodic parts over LH chords.

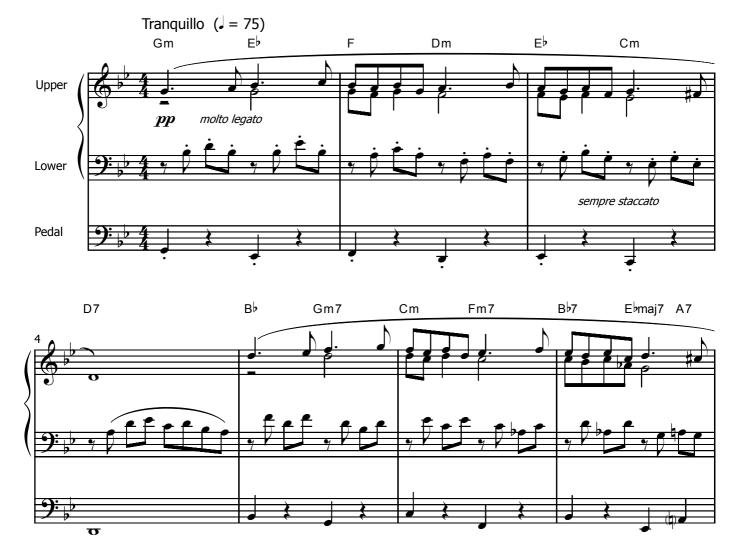
During the introduction, linking passage and coda, the predominant harmony is decorated by means of chordal appoggiaturas in the RH, resolving on the third crotchet of the bar. A full chordal analysis of the opening two bars would look like this:  $\mid$  Dmaj9 D6  $\mid$  Gmaj11 G  $\mid$  This oscillating harmony is a feature of these sections, and is picked up in the verses, for example at bars 5-6.

Each verse is structured in an AABA pattern (also known as 'popular song form'). The A sections end with a clear iib7 - V7 - I cadence in D major (iib7 is expressed here as G6 rather than Em7/G), while the B sections end on an imperfect cadence. At bar 32, the final cadence of the second verse is lent additional emphasis with a chromatic alteration to the G6 chord – the B is flattened so the chord becomes Gm6 (or E half-diminished).

Note the varied rate of harmonic change. The introduction, linking passage and coda use one chord per bar. In the verses, the A sections use two chords per bar, while the B sections use a mixture of one and two chords per bar.

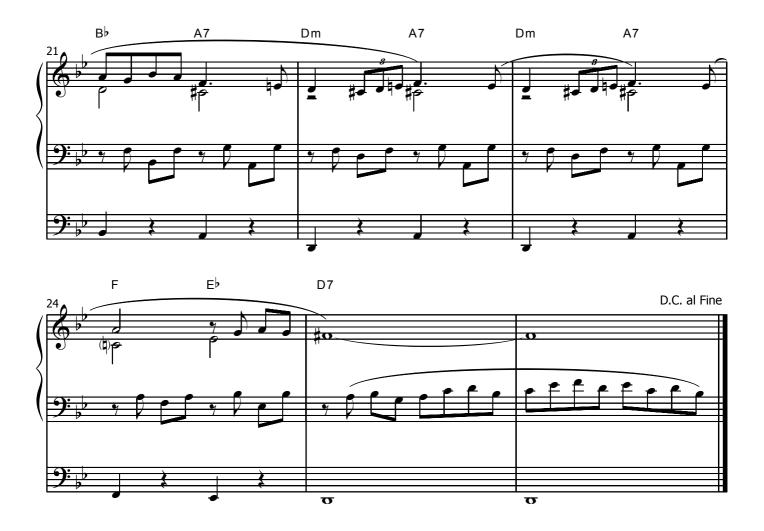
#### Example 2 Pavane

Fauré arr. Penelope Weedon



© Copyright 1998 Penelope Weedon. Reproduced by permission.





This famous piece is presented here in a ternary (ABA) form as follows: A, bars 1-16 (repeated); B, bars 18-26; A (D.C. al Fine). There is no introduction to the theme.

Section A consists of four regular 4-bar phrases, of which the first and third are exactly the same, finishing with an imperfect cadence in the tonic key of G minor (iv - V7). The second phrase refers to the relative major (B<sub>b</sub>) before modulating briefly to the dominant, while the fourth is the only phrase to end with a perfect cadence in G minor. The internal form of Section A might therefore be expressed as ABAC, (or ABAB'), however, it will be obvious that Fauré uses essentially the same melody four times, with minimal changes to suit the varied harmony.

The B section is more fluid; the phrase structure becomes less rigid, and the harmony moves through dominant-related areas, with no clear cadences. The melody is closely related to that of the A section.

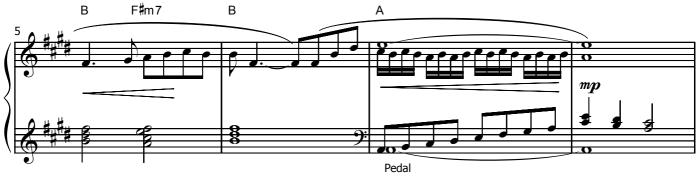
The texture is similar throughout. Note the prominent three quaver staccato figure in the LH. This expands at cadence points to a 7 or 8 note legato figure, which helps the music to move smoothly into the next phrase (this is akin to a 'turnaround' figure in jazz). This quaver figure is completed by staccato pedal crotchets on the first and third beats of the bar, moving to a sustained semibreve at cadence points. The RH generally employs 2-part melodic writing, with chains of thirds prominent. This adds warmth and colour to the whole.

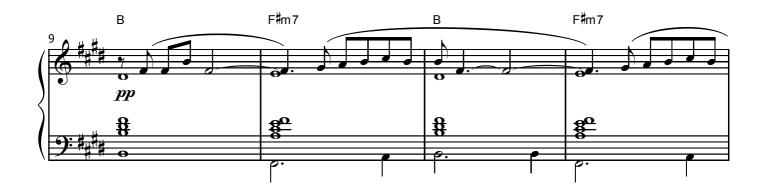
For the most part, the rate of harmonic change is two chords per bar. This slows to one chord per bar at cadence points, accentuating the changes of texture described above.

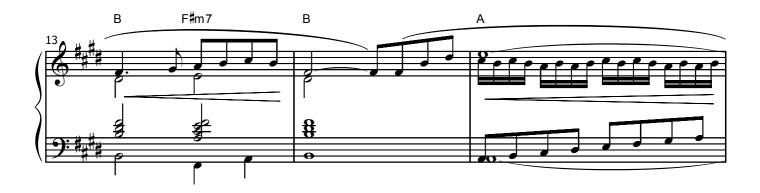
### **Example 3** A Child of the Summer

Penelope Weedon









© Copyright 2005 by LCM Publications.





This piece uses a variety of textures. At the opening, the composer exploits the two keyboards of the organ, using high register LH chords to accompany the RH melody. (This would not be possible on the piano as written). The pedal enters for the first time at bar 7; the RH semiquaver figure and the rising LH scale produce an unusual and effective texture. This leads in to a restatement of the first eight bars, now with a simple alto countermelody added to the RH, lower register LH chords, and pedal.

The main theme, beginning in bar 17, is notable for its irregular phrasing. The first section is divided into four phrases of 4, 5, 4 and 4 bars. Note how the third phrase (bar 26) provides contrast by inverting the melody figure of bar 17 (repeated notes and an ascending arpeggio) and gives the main theme AABA (popular song) form. The music remains in E major during this section. All four phrases end with an imperfect cadence in the tonic key, although the third phrase is emphasised using a chromatic approach via a chord of the flattened leading note.

At bar 34 a new, related melody is introduced and continues in a descending sequence. This is repeated from bar 42, with altered harmony, and the restatement is cut short at bar 45 by a climactic return to the main theme.

From bar 17 onwards, the texture generally takes the form of two-part melodic writing in the RH (although chordal textures are occasionally used, e.g. at bars 32-33), with a fluid arpeggiated LH part; and the pedal line provides forward momentum by using a dotted crotchet rhythm.

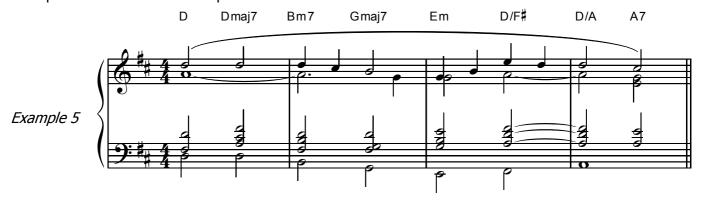
When realising a chord sequence, the principle of good harmonic progression must be paramount. While block chords are at times appropriate, it is important to develop rhythmic patterns or figures from the chords, and these patterns may be recurrent or contrasting. Try to produce movement in the accompanying voices where the melody sustains a long note or rests.

Following are two examples for keyboard, showing the working of figures, based on Example 4.



Example 4B is the most appropriate for electronic organ.

Example 5 contains two chords per bar:



These examples are based on the same chord progression:

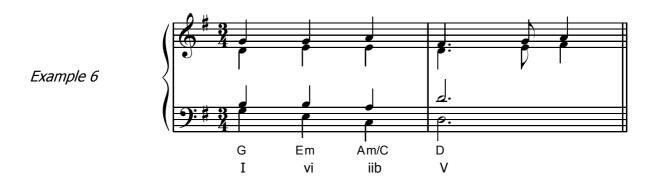
# Example 5A



# Example 5B



You may find it useful to choose an harmonic progression of some four to five chords and practise devising patterns based on these chords. Example 8 is taken from a tune you will probably know. Play these chords and try to improvise some patterns and figures based on the chords.



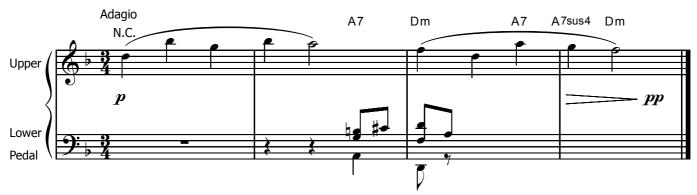




# **Practice exercises: Organ**

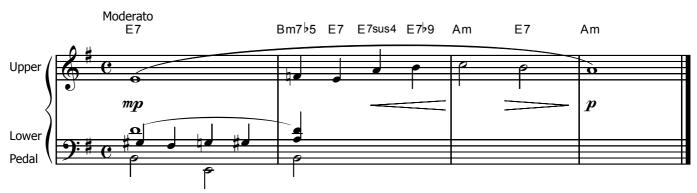
Complete the following by adding parts for left hand and pedal. Maintain the style of the opening and suggest suitable voices and rhythms.

#### 1.

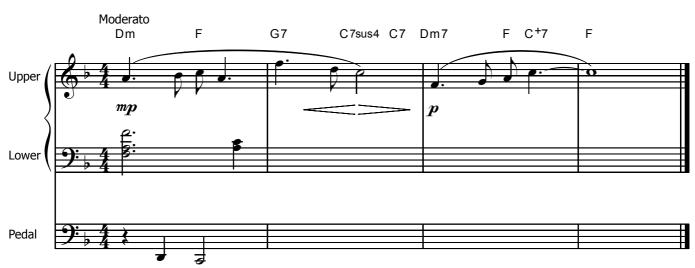


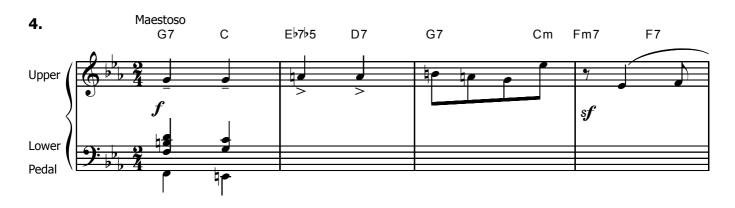
maintain left hand quaver movement

#### 2.

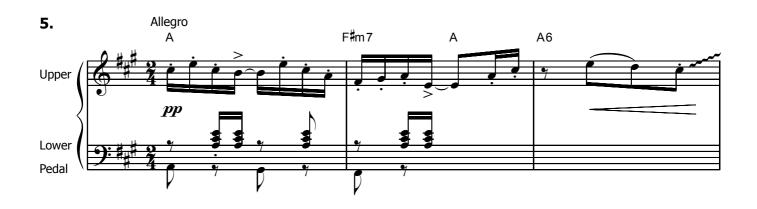


#### 3.



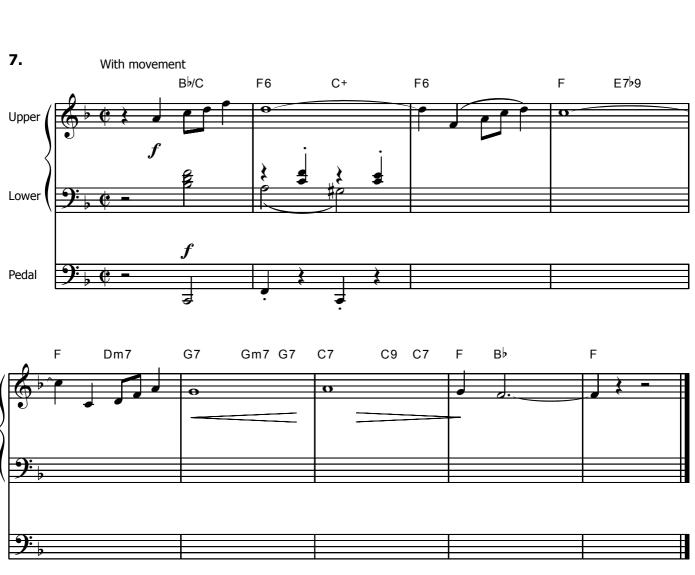


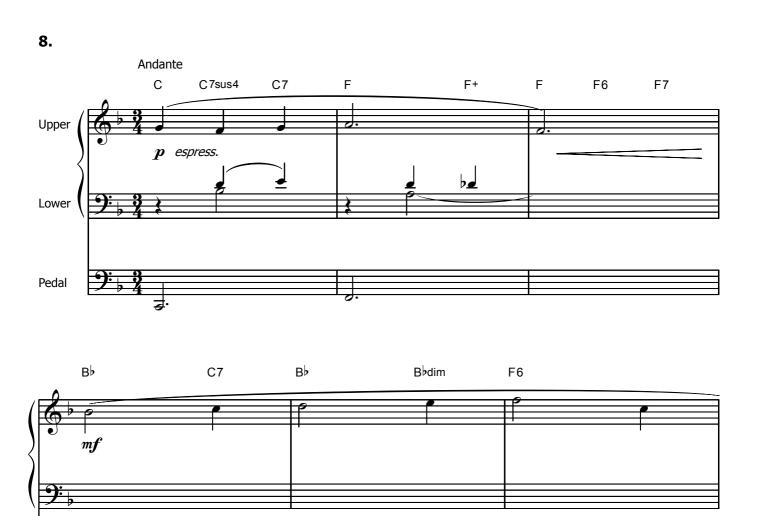


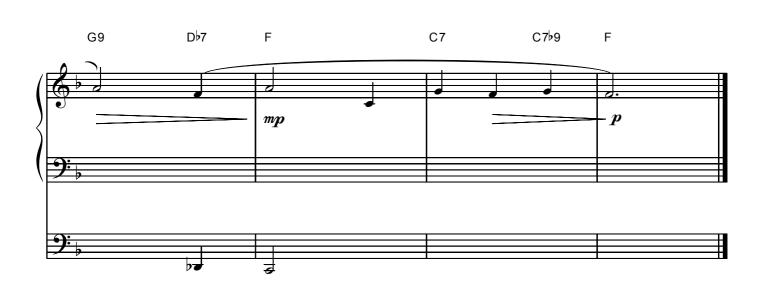












### **Writing for Guitar**

The following examples are pieces for guitar which you should study, looking carefully at the harmony. We provide some comments on the harmony and methods used, which we hope you will find useful. All the examples are extracts from previous LCM/RGT classical guitar handbooks.

Example 1 Aria by Johann Anton Logy (Grade 3)



© Copyright 1997 by Registry Publications. Reproduced by permission.

This extract consists of two balanced phrases. Phrase 1 ends with an imperfect cadence in the tonic key (bar 4), while phrase 2 modulates to the relative major (C). Both cadences are clearly defined. The pivot chord is in bar 6 where Dm/F functions both as ivb in A minor, and iib in C major.

The rate of harmonic change is generally two chords per bar, although the harmony is sometimes anticipated in order to emphasise the cadential approaches. Bar 1 consists of A minor harmony throughout; which helps to establish the tonic key.

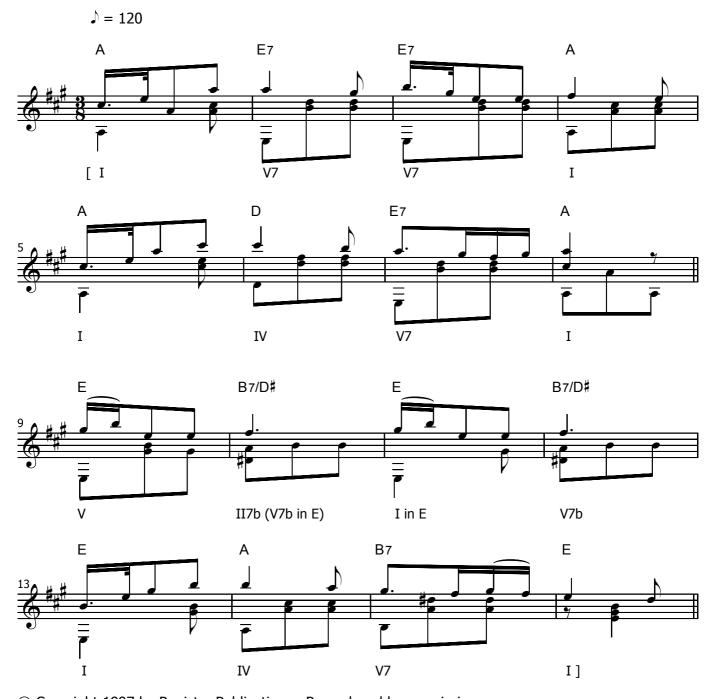
In bars 1 and 8, the stars indicate accented passing notes, while in bar 2 the unaccented passing note D functions briefly as the 7th of chord V. At the bracket in bar 3, the quaver G is an accented passing note, and the crotchet F becomes a suspension on the fourth beat.

Texturally, the spacing is fairly close. The bass line is printed with downward stems, while the upper parts have upward stems – this is standard in guitar notation. The texture in the upper parts ranges freely between one and three voices.

In accordance with the Baroque style, where only one voice is used, the composer tends to employ warm-sounding thirds and sixths when coinciding with a bass note. This is why, for instance, the G# is used in bar 5; without it, the resulting perfect fifth (E-B) would sound rather bare.

The quaver motion, distributed between the voices, helps to maintain forward movement. In bar 3, the combination of the syncopated melody and crotchet bass produces the effect of continuous quavers.

Example 2 Valse Op.45 No.6 by Fernando Sor (Grade 6)



© Copyright 1997 by Registry Publications. Reproduced by permission.

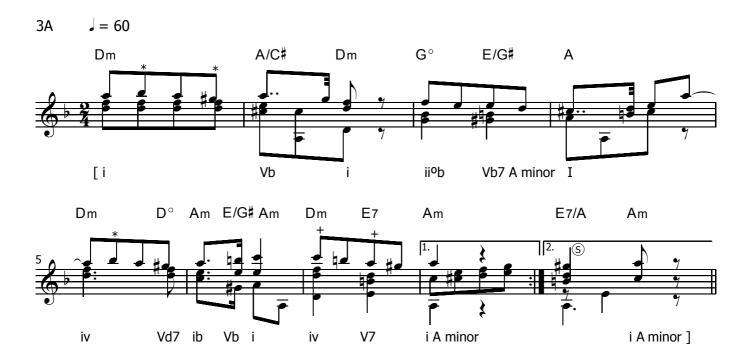
This extract is in a lively, dance-like style. The rate of harmonic change is simple and consistent: one chord per bar. The music modulates from A major to E major via B7 (the dominant of the dominant) in bar 10. The harmonic progression in bars 13-16 is a transposition of that in bars 5-8.

The lower voice is mostly in a waltz accompaniment style. This figuration is occasionally varied, which produces musical variety and idiomatic writing for the instrument. The last variation of the 'oom-pah-pah' rhythm is the most striking, and clearly accentuates the perfect cadence in the new key. If you play through the lower part without the melody, you should be able to hear the harmonic progression more clearly.

The melody is composed using a single voice for the most part. It is largely constructed from arpeggio figures, and also exploits a distinctive rhythm. Some 'non-essential' notes are introduced in bars 7 and 15.

Note the exact repetition in bars 9-12.

#### Examples 3A and 3B Andante by Fernando Sor (Grade 8)

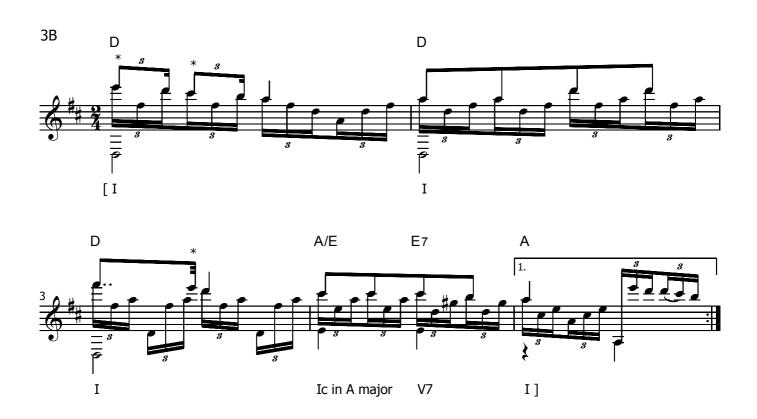


© Copyright 1997 by Registry Publications. Reproduced by permission.

The melody is generally composed using a single voice, but occasionally expands into a two-voice texture, usually in thirds (bars 2, 4, 6) and on one occasion (bar 9) into a three-part chord. Below this, the accompaniment uses a variety of chords and single notes, and also uses a range of rhythmic figures, from quavers (e.g. bar 1) to crotchets (e.g. bar 3) and, on one occasion, shadowing the dotted rhythm of the melody exactly (bar 6). Interest is thereby maintained by varying the rhythmic counterpoint of both parts. Note that overall textural balance is maintained; the composer tends to use single notes in one part where chords are used in another.

In the example above, \* indicates auxiliary notes, while + indicates accented passing notes. The extract starts in D minor and modulates to the dominant minor (A minor), with a V-I cadence in the new key at bars 7-8/9. The C# in bar 8 is a Tierce de Picardie. Note that on the repeat, the composer uses a triple suspension, producing a chord of E7/A, marked ⑤.

The rate of harmonic change varies between one and two chords per bar. In bar 6, the homophonic rhythmic movement of all parts produces a distinct change of harmony on the fourth semiquaver of beat 1.



© Copyright 1997 by Registry Publications. Reproduced by permission.

The figuration in this second extract looks complicated, but the underlying harmony is simple: a basic D major is maintained for the first three bars, while bars 4-5 move via Ic in A major to a perfect cadence in A major (the dominant).

The bass line consists simply of minim Ds in bars 1-3, while in bar 4 the composer uses two crotchet Es before moving to the A in bar 5. The melody is written using one voice throughout. The inner triplet movement, which produces a 'rippling' effect, is based entirely on the notes of the chords, and almost always coincides with the melody notes (the one exception is the demisemiquaver C# in bar 3). In effect this is a two-part texture.

The unessential notes in the melody are marked with a \*. The opening E and subsequent C# are accented passing notes, while the B is an unaccented passing note. (Another way of looking at the B would be to say that the harmony briefly moves to B minor on the second quaver of bar 1).

### General hints on writing for guitar

- 1. Write on one stave, using the treble clef. Take care to ensure that the stem directions clearly delineate the parts (usually two).
- 2. The bass line of the harmony will normally use notes on leger lines, and these should be written clearly.
- 3. Remember that the rate of chord change may increase when modulating or in approaching a cadence.
- 4. Look for opportunities to use pedal bass lines, and sometimes vary the textures as shown in the above examples.
- 5. Try to achieve well shaped rhythmic patterns based on the chords used, and maintain this pattern. It is often useful to use a pattern in the bass at cadences to maintain and emphasise the movement.
- 6. Note the tempo and the style of the opening (if used), as this will give you the starting point for the music to follow.
- 7. Use the harmonic sequence as set out in the question, but feel free to add or adapt chords if necessary to meet musical workings. Indicate clearly any chord alterations you make.

#### **Practice exercises: Guitar**

Develop the following opening ideas to produce a short 8-bar piece. The given chord symbols are to be used as an harmonic guide.





### **Other Instrumental Combinations**

Following are some examples of how a chord sequence might be realised for other instruments.

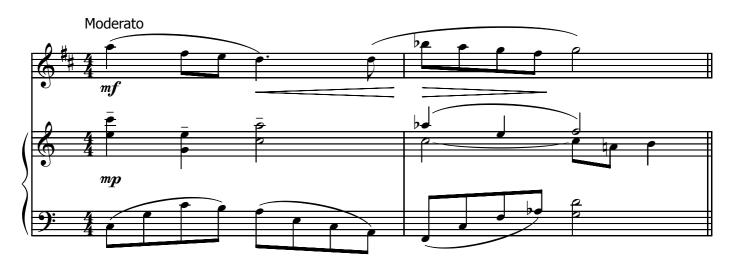
### **Chord Sequence**

C Am Fm/maj7 G7

#### a) Piano



### b) Clarinet in B<sub>b</sub> and piano



c) Three-part vocal group (NB words are not required in the examination).



### d) String quartet



# **Sample Examination Questions**

Using conventional notation, realise the following chord sequences for voice(s) and instrument(s) of your choice. You may use one of the given openings for electric organ or guitar if you wish. Ensure that the full harmonic texture is outlined in your answer. Mark clearly the voice(s) and/or instrument(s) you have chosen, together with tempo and all performance indications.

#### 1. C minor

Cm	<b>G</b> 7	Cm6	G7	Cm	
Fm7	B♭7	Εb	G7	Cm	

#### Electronic organ



#### Guitar



### **2.** B♭ major

Вь Еьm7 Вь Вь6 Сm7#5 F7 Вь

Eb Cm7b5 | Fsus4 F | Bb | Bb

### Electronic organ



### Guitar

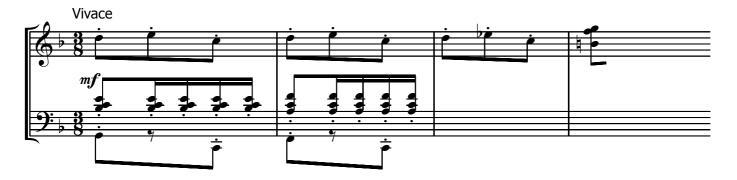


# **3.** F major

C | F | F7 | D769 | D7 | G7

G7 | C11 | C7 | F |

# Electronic organ



# Guitar

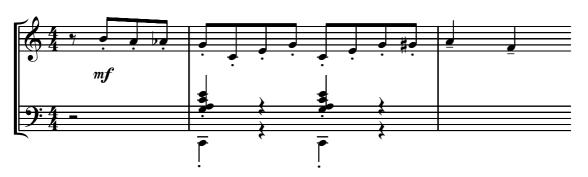


# **4.** C major

C6 | G9 | G7#5 | C6

Cmaj7 Eb6 | Dm7 | G7 G7#5 | C6 |

# Electronic organ



# Guitar

# **Reference chart of chord symbols**

Following is a table of some of the most common chord types and symbols, using examples of chords with a root of C. Further information on the construction and use of these chords may be found in the *Popular Music Theory Handbook* (grades 6-8), published by Registry Publications; and in the LCM Theory Handbooks (grades 6-8), published by LCM Publications.

Chord type	Symbol	Pitches	
Major triad	С	CEG	
Minor triad	Cm	C E♭ G	
Diminished triad	Co	C E♭ G♭	
Augmented triad	C+	C E G#	
Sus2	Csus2	CDG	
Sus4	Csus4	CFG	
5th 'power chord'	C5 / C <sup>no 3rd</sup>	C G	
Major 7th	Cmaj7	CEGB	
Minor 7th	Cm7	C E♭ G B♭	
Dominant 7th	C7	C E G B♭	
Minor 7th 5 (half-diminished 7th)	Cm7♭5	C Eb Gb Bb	
Major 6th	C6	CEGA	
Minor 6th	Cm6	C E♭ G A	
Major 9th	Cmaj9	CEGBD	
Minor 9th	Cm9	C E <sub>2</sub> G B <sub>2</sub> D <sub>3</sub>	
Dominant 9th	C9	C E G B <sub>2</sub> D	
Minor/major 7th	Cm/maj7	C E♭ G B	
Major 7th #5	Cmaj7#5	C E G# B	
Diminished 7th	Cº7	C E <sub>2</sub> G <sub>2</sub> A	
Major 11th	Cmaj11	CEGBDF	
Minor 11th	Cm11	C E <sub>b</sub> G B <sub>b</sub> D F	
Dominant 11th	C11	C E G B D F	
Major 13th	Cmaj13	CEGBDFA	
Minor 13th	Cm13	C E <sub>2</sub> G B <sub>2</sub> D F A	
Dominant 13th	C13	C E G B <sub>b</sub> D F A	
Dominant 7th #5	C7#5	C E G# B <sub>2</sub>	
Dominant 7th ♭5	C7\5	C E G <sub>b</sub> B <sub>b</sub>	
Minor 7th #5	Cm7#5	C E♭ G♯ B♭	
C dominant 7th 9	C7♭9	C E G B <sub>2</sub> D <sub>3</sub>	
C dominant 7th #9	C7#9	C E G B <sub>2</sub> D#	
C minor 7th ♭9	Cm7 <sub>b</sub> 9	C E <sub>b</sub> G B <sub>b</sub> D <sub>b</sub>	
C major 7th #11	Cmaj7#11	C E G B D F#	
C dominant 7th #11	C7#11	C E G B♭ D F♯	