

# Unit 3 Music Fundamentals III: Triads and Seventh Chords

Content Area: **Music**  
Course(s): **AP Music Theory**  
Time Period: **November**  
Length: **3 weeks (7-8 class blocks)**  
Status: **Published**

## **Enduring Understandings**

---

Groupings of pitches that are successively and/or simultaneously produced form perceivable units known as chords.

Chords relate to each other within an established musical style through the context of harmony.

Pitches can be presented successively and simultaneously in myriad ways, providing a basis for musical expression across a broad spectrum of genres, media and styles

## **Essential Questions**

---

Which musical knowledge bases and skills are necessary to enhance musical growth?

Why musical literacy enhances communication between performers, conductors, and composers

How are chord qualities described?

How do pitches in a chord function?

## **Content**

---

### **Vocabulary:**

Augmented

Diminished

Tonic

Supertonic

Mediant

Sub Dominant

Dominant

Sub Mediant

Leading Tone

Harmony

Chord

Triad

Inversion

Figured Bass

Progression

Consonance

Dissonance

Types of Seventh Chords:

- major seventh (MM; M7), or “major-major”
- major-minor seventh (Mm7), or “dominant seventh,” used for major-minor chords exercising a dominant function
- minor seventh (mm; m7), or “minor-minor”
- half-diminished seventh ( <sup>o</sup> with a slash across it, <sup>7</sup> ; dm), or “diminished-minor”
- fully-diminished seventh ( <sup>o</sup>, <sup>7</sup>; dd), or “diminished-diminished”

---

## **Skills**

**Learning Objectives:** Student will be able to:

- Develop Sight Singing Skills in Bass Clef

- Develop Notated melodic dictation, containing skips of major and minor thirds. in treble clef
- Notate and identify rhythmic patterns containing quarter eighth, and dotted quarter notes.
- Demonstrate knowledge and use of parallel, similar, oblique and contrary motion
- Identify the harmonic function of chords in a performed harmonic progression by providing an analysis using Roman and Arabic numerals. Analyze Roman Numeral in the realization of a figured bass
- Use symbols and terms to describe features of *pitch* in performed and notated music, including pitch patterns and relationships, melodic features, chords, harmonic progressions, and cadences
- Use symbols and terms to describe melodic, *harmonic*, and rhythmic relationships in performed and notated music.
- Complete a four-part harmonic progression by realizing a figured bass line and providing a Roman numeral analysis of the completed progression.
- Complete a four-part harmonic progression by realizing a figured bass line .
- Describe the quality of a chord in written and performed music M, m, A, D, dom7. Use Roman numerals to indicate the harmonic progression implied by a figured bass of seventh chords.
- Identify chords using letters and Roman/Arabic numerals that indicate specific scale degree of the root, quality, and bass note in performed and notated music

## Resources

---

*Tonal Harmony* Kostka, Payne, Almen Seventh Edition McGraw Hill

*Sight Singing: Pitch-Interval-Rhythm* Samuel Adler

Exercises from: Ottman, Robert W., and Nancy Rogers. *Music for Sight Singing*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson

AP Music Theory Worksheets - Figured bass

### Online resources:

Teoria.com

MusicTheory.net

International Music Score Library: [www.imslp.org](http://www.imslp.org)

Software for practice exercises: [Harmonia](http://Harmonia):

[ForScore](http://ForScore): Digital Music Library

## Standards

---

Ref's	Standard ID	Description
0x	VPA.1.1.12	All students will demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles that govern the creation of works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.
0x	VPA.1.1.12.B	Music
0x	VPA.1.1.12.B.1	Examine how aspects of meter, rhythm, tonality, intervals, chords, and harmonic progressions are organized and manipulated to establish unity and variety in genres of musical compositions.
0x	VPA.1.1.12.B.2	Synthesize knowledge of the elements of music in the deconstruction and performance of complex musical scores from diverse cultural contexts.
0x	VPA.1.3.12	All students will synthesize those skills, media, methods, and technologies appropriate to creating, performing, and/or presenting works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.
0x	VPA.1.3.12.B	Music
0x	VPA.1.3.12.B.2	Analyze how the elements of music are manipulated in original or prepared musical scores.