

# Unit 2: Elements of Harmonic Structure

Content Area: **Arts**  
Course(s): **Music Theory**  
Time Period: **Semester 1 & 2**  
Length: **7 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Standards

---

LA.RST.11-12.4	Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 11-12 texts and topics.
MU.9-12.1.3B.12prof.Cr1a	Describe how sounds and short musical ideas can be used to represent personal experiences, moods, visual images, and/or storylines.
MU.9-12.1.3B.12prof.Cr2b	Identify and describe the development of sounds or short musical ideas in drafts of music within simple forms (e.g., one part, cyclical, binary).
MU.9-12.1.3B.12prof.Cr3a	Identify, describe and apply teacher-provided criteria to assess and refine the technical and expressive aspects of evolving drafts leading to final versions.
MU.9-12.1.3B.12prof.Cr3b	Share music through the use of notation, performance or technology, and demonstrate how the elements of music have been employed to realize expressive intent.
MU.9-12.1.3B.12prof.Re7b	Analyze aurally and/or by reading the elements of music (including form) of musical works, relating them to style, mood and context, and describe how the analysis provides models for personal growth as a composer, performer and/or listener.
MU.9-12.1.3B.12prof.Re9a	Describe the effectiveness of the technical and expressive aspects of selected music and performances, demonstrating an understanding of the fundamentals of music theory.
SEL.PK-12.4.1	Develop, implement and model effective problem-solving, and critical thinking skills
SEL.PK-12.4.2	Identify the consequences associated with one's actions in order to make constructive choices

## Enduring Understanding

---

1. Chordal and phrase analysis illuminates the methods and vocabulary the composer used to create musical ideas.
2. Chordal structure lends itself to the idea of a musical idea, or phrase.
3. Triads are the harmonic foundation of music.

## Essential Questions

---

1. What is the harmonic series and how does it define the major triad?
2. In what ways are triads ubiquitous in written and recorded music of all styles and genres?
3. How do composers use chords to tell a musical story? What was the intent of the composer in writing a specific piece of music?

4. In what ways do phrases in language relate to chords in music?

### **Knowledges and Skills**

---

Tonic-dominant cadence relationship

The cadence

Phrase lengths

Keyboard harmonies

Spelling the subdominant triad

Plagal cadences

IV and iv progressions

Detection of parallel fifths and octaves

Common phrase harmonic progressions

### **Transfer Goals**

---

1. With a primary understanding of elements of harmonic structure and music, students will synthesize knowledge towards the development of harmonic elements in music theory.
2. With a primary understanding of elements of harmonic structure, students will independently apply knowledge towards real-world musical endeavors.

### **Resources**

---

Smartboard

Audio System

Computers

Auralia

Musition

Staffpaper

## **Assessments**

---

[Assessments](#)

## **Modifications**

---

[Modifications](#)