

# Unit 4: Advanced Chord Work and Chord Inversions

Content Area: **Music**  
Course(s): **Piano Lab I**  
Time Period: **1 marking period**  
Length: **5-6 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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In this unit, the students will begin to read, write, practice, and perform Advanced Chords and Chord Inversions. Students will read, write, and perform more complex accompaniments. Students will also learn how to harmonize melodies using more complex chord qualities, and improvise accompaniments using more advanced chord progressions.

## Transfer

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Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- Read, write, and perform triads in all positions (root, first inversion, and second inversion).
- Read, write, and perform Dominant and Dominant 7th chords in all positions (root, first inversion, second inversion, and third inversion).
- Read, write, and perform Tonic, Subdominant, and Dominant/Dominant 7th Chords in any given Major Key Signature.
- Improvise simple accompaniments using Alberti bass and Waltz bass accomaniment styles.
- Interpret advanced musical nomenclature in order to practice and perform notated sheet music.

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For more information, read the following article by Grant Wiggins.

[http://www.authenticeducation.org/ae\\_bigideas/article.lasso?artid=60](http://www.authenticeducation.org/ae_bigideas/article.lasso?artid=60)

## Meaning

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### Understandings

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Students will understand that...

- Notated sheet music will utilize a variety of chords and chord inversions.
- Accompaniments may be composed using a variety of compositional styles, including Alberti Bass and Waltz Bass.
- Melodies may be harmonized using a variety of advanced chord structures beyond basic triads. These include Augmented Chords, Diminished Chords, and 7th Chords.
- Tonic, Subdominant, and Dominant Chords may be constructed in any given key signature.

### Essential Questions

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Students will keep considering...

- How are Augmented, Diminished, and 7th chords used in the harmonization of music?
- What musical elements must be considered in order to create an accompaniment?
- What are the different styles of musical accompaniments?

## **Application of Knowledge and Skill**

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### **Students will know...**

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Students will know...

- How to read, write, and perform chords in root, first, second, and third inversion.
- How to read, write, and perform complex chords including Augmented, Diminished, and 7th chords.
- How to read, write, and interpret advanced chord symbols within a given key signature.
- How to read, write, and play Tonic, Subdominant, and Dominant/Dominant 7th chords in any given key signature.

### **Students will be skilled at...**

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Students will be skilled at...

- Harmonizing music using advanced chord structures in all inversions.
- Interpreting and being able to play a piece of music using more advanced accompaniments.
- Reading, writing, and performing advanced chord structures and progressions in all inversions.
- Building Tonic, Subdominant, Dominant, and Dominant 7th chords in any given key signature.

## **Academic Vocabulary**

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Augmented

Diminished

Seventh Chord

Tetrachord

Damper Pedal

Chord Inversion

Tonic

Subdominant

Dominant

Alberti Bass

Waltz Bass

## Target 2

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Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of (through reading, writing, and performing) complex chord qualities, including Augmented, Diminished, Tetrachords, and 7th chords beginning on any given pitch.

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VPA.9-12.1.1.12.1	Understanding nuanced stylistic differences among various genres of music is a component of musical fluency. Meter, rhythm, tonality, and harmonics are determining factors in the categorization of musical genres.
VPA.9-12.1.1.12.2	Musical proficiency is characterized by the ability to sight-read advanced notation. Musical fluency is also characterized by the ability to classify and replicate the stylistic differences in music of varying traditions.
VPA.9-12.1.1.12.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.
VPA.9-12.1.1.12.B.2	Synthesize knowledge of the elements of music in the deconstruction and performance of complex musical scores from diverse cultural contexts.
VPA.9-12.1.2.12.1	Cultural and historical events impact art-making as well as how audiences respond to works of art.
VPA.9-12.1.2.12.2	Access to the arts has a positive influence on the quality of an individual's lifelong learning, personal expression, and contributions to community and global citizenship.
VPA.9-12.1.2.12.A.1	Determine how dance, music, theatre, and visual art have influenced world cultures throughout history.
VPA.9-12.1.2.12.A.2	Justify the impact of innovations in the arts (e.g., the availability of music online) on societal norms and habits of mind in various historical eras.
VPA.9-12.1.3.12.1	Technical accuracy, musicality, and stylistic considerations vary according to genre, culture, and historical era.

VPA.9-12.1.3.12.2	The ability to read and interpret music impacts musical fluency.
VPA.9-12.1.3.12.3	Understanding of how to manipulate the elements of music is a contributing factor to musical artistry.
VPA.9-12.1.3.12.4	Basic vocal and instrumental arranging skills require theoretical understanding of music composition.
VPA.9-12.1.3.12.B.1	Analyze compositions from different world cultures and genres with respect to technique, musicality, and stylistic nuance, and/or perform excerpts with technical accuracy, appropriate musicality, and the relevant stylistic nuance.
VPA.9-12.1.3.12.B.2	Analyze how the elements of music are manipulated in original or prepared musical scores.
VPA.9-12.1.3.12.B.3	Improvise works through the conscious manipulation of the elements of music, using a variety of traditional and nontraditional sound sources, including electronic sound-generating equipment and music generation programs.
VPA.9-12.1.3.12.B.4	Arrange simple pieces for voice or instrument using a variety of traditional and nontraditional sound sources or electronic media, and/or analyze prepared scores using music composition software.
VPA.9-12.1.4.12.1	Recognition of fundamental elements within various arts disciplines (dance, music, theatre, and visual art) is dependent on the ability to decipher cultural implications embedded in artworks.
VPA.9-12.1.4.12.2	Contextual clues within artworks often reveal artistic intent, enabling the viewer to hypothesize the artist's concept.

## Summative Assessment

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Critiques, self and peer

Performance assessments

Written tests

## 21st Century Life and Careers

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CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12	All students will demonstrate creative, critical thinking, collaboration and problem solving skills to function successfully as global citizens and workers in diverse ethnic and organizational cultures.
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.B	Creativity and Innovation

WORK.9-12.9.1.12.C	Collaboration, Teamwork and Leadership
WORK.9-12.9.1.12.D	Cross-Cultural Understanding and Interpersonal Communication
WORK.9-12.9.3.12.A	Career Awareness
WORK.9-12.9.3.12.B	Career Exploration

## **Formative Assessment and Performance Opportunities**

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Student demonstration at the keyboard.

Peer critiques of other students.

Self-critique.

Written assessments.

Study and analysis of classic piano performances through audio/video examples.

Music theory tests/quizzes.

Performance assessments of chosen repertoire.

## **Differentiation/Enrichment**

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Students are provided opportunities to be successful through the use of piano keyboards, listening assignments, written/verbal critique, teacher monitoring/assessing, and peer critique.

## **Unit Resources**

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Digital Piano keyboards and benches

Teacher modeling

Blank staff paper

Piano sheet music

Music theory worksheets

Recorded musical examples

Video examples

Written Tests

Textbook

- Audio/Visual Examples
- Digital Piano Keyboards
- Internet Resources
- Music Theory Worksheets
- Sheet Music