

Chart 9- A Theme & Variations



How do polyphonic players (Piano, Organ, Guitar) create chords from a simple melody/ theme/ idea?
What are the possibilities of different cadences or endings?

Key C Major. Possible triads and tetrachords using the melody note as the root note of your chords.
Note that | = bar line in these progressions and match the above simple theme.

C		Bm		Am		G7		C
C	Am	B-7	G7	Am	F	G7	Em	C

Key A Minor. Possible triads and tetrachords using the melody note as part of the chord.

(i.e. Major Triads are made up of the 1st, 3rd, 5th notes of the major scale and

Minor Triads are made up of the 1st, b3rd, and 5th notes of the major scale.

Add 7th note for a Major Δ 7th Tetrachord and the b7th note for a Dominant or Minor - 7th Tetrachords)

Am		Em		Am		E-7		Am
Am		B-7		F7		G7		A Δ 7

Key C Major. Play in the Lydian mode. The Lydian is the IV or sub-dominant and F becomes the Root Note.

Here is a sample of possible triads and tetrachords using the melody note as part of the chord.

F		Bm		Dm		C Δ 7		F
F	Am	Bm	G7	Am	G7	C	Em	F

And what is the plus for this weeks lesson?

A example of **total 'free-form' improvisation** on this simple theme originally written in 4/4 time and

now played in 3/4 time with chords of my own spontaneity free your mind from all constraints.

Remember, the Cycle of Keys is always your reference point for all your playing, improvisations and compositions.

The Abridged Cycle of Moveable Keys

