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Practical Music Theory for Roots Music

A = 440 hertz

 $Musical\ Alphabet\ {\tt ALL}\ {\tt SEMITONES}\ {\tt CHROMATIC}\ {\tt SCALE}\ ({\tt 1}\ {\tt fret}\ {\tt move})$

SEMITONE		SEMITO	NE	TC	NE		SEMIT	ONE	
G 	A	A# B	\mathbf{C}	C#	D	D#	E	F	F# ∠ G
A_{\flat}		$\mathrm{B}\flat$		$\mathrm{D}\flat$		E_{\flat}			G_{\flat}

The MAJOR SCALE

WHOLE TONE = 2 semitones = 2 frets
The scale is where you find the melody & harmony notes.

	TONE		TONE	SEMIT	ONE	TONE		TONE		TONE	SEMIT	TONE	
\rightarrow	1(key)	2		3	4		5		6		7	8	
	C	D		E	F		G		A		В	C	
	G	A		В	C		D		E		$\operatorname{F}^{\#}$	G	
	D	E		$\operatorname{F}^{\scriptscriptstyle\#}$	G		A		В		$C^{\#}$	D	
	A	В		$\mathbb{C}^{\#}$	D		E		$\operatorname{F}^{\scriptscriptstyle\#}$		$G^{\#}$	A	
	E	$\operatorname{F}^{\scriptscriptstyle\#}$		$G^{\#}$	A		В		$\mathbf{C}^{\#}$		$\operatorname{D}^{\scriptscriptstyle\#}$	E	
	В	$\mathbb{C}^{\#}$		$\operatorname{D}^{\scriptscriptstyle\#}$	E		$\operatorname{F}^{\scriptscriptstyle\#}$		$G^{\#}$		$\textbf{A}^{\#}$	В	
	F	G		A	$B_{^{\flat}}$		C		D		E	F	
	\mathbf{B}_{\flat}	C		D	E_{\flat}		F		G		A	B_{\flat}	
	E_{\flat}	F		G	$A\flat$		$\mathbf{B}\flat$		C		D	E_{\flat}	
	Ab	\mathbf{B}_{\flat}		C	$D\flat$		E_{\flat}		F		G	$A\flat$	
	$\mathrm{D}\flat$	E_{\flat}		F	$G\flat$		$A\flat$		$\mathbf{B}\flat$		C	$\mathbf{D}\flat$	
	G_{\flat}	Ab		\mathbf{B}_{\flat}	\mathbb{C}_{\flat}		$\mathbf{D}\flat$		E_{\flat}		F	G_{\flat}	

Music is has three elements ...

Tuning, Timing & Tone

Tuning: Everything associated with pitch, melody and chords.

Timing: Everything associated with rhythm. Time signature, tempo, feel

Tone: Quality of sound. Identifies instrument and technique used to create sound.

PARTS OF A SONG

Intro: How you start a song. Some songs start by a silent count-in then singing, some have an instrumental intro, some short like a instrumental turn-around or long with acapella singing.

Verses: More than one. A part of the song that tells the story through repeating a musical form but changing the lyrics.

Chorus: Repeated section of song that maintains the same musical format & lyrics, most memorable part of the song.

Solo (Break): 2 things: a solo can be in a choir where one person sings alone. In band style music a solo is when there is no singing and an instrument is featured for a specific length of time, usually over a verse, chorus or turn around form.

Turn around: the length of repeating the last line of the chorus

Bridge: new lyrics, new musical structure that happens only once in a song

Outro: How you end the song, often with a vocal or instrument turn around.

Ballad: Has no chorus, all verses.

Dynamics are when you change the volume, tone and feel of a song. Try not to slow down when playing quieter or speed up to play louder. Playing dynamically means becoming quiet enough to hear everything, loud enough to drive energy.

Number System: uses the major scale to show which chords and notes fall in the key. 1 is the key.

```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
C d e F G a b C
G a b C D e f# G
D e f# G A b c# D
A b c# D E f# g# A
```



Bluegrass Harmony Structure

High Baritone An octave above baritone

Tenor Nearest Harmony above lead

LEAD MELODY

Baritone Nearest Harmony below lead

Low Tenor An octave below tenor

Bass Independent structure, alternately doubling other parts while pursuing either a lead line or chord progression.

The Triads Chord Construction							
1 -	→ 2	3	4	5	6	7	(8=1) 8
D	E	F#	G	A	В	C #	D
G	Α	В	C	D	\mathbf{E}	F#	G
A	В	C#	D	E	F#	G#	Α

Chord Construction

A simple major chord uses the root 1, third 3 & fifth 5 of the chord's scale.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 C D E F G A B C

As other notes are added the chord is named accordingly.

C= C E G $C_7 = C E G + \text{the flatted } 7^{\text{th}}$ $C_{SUS} = C E G + \text{the } 4^{\text{th}}$

I Don't Care (Just As Long As You Love Me)

By: Buck Owens

1

Well, I don't care if the sun don't shine
I don't care if the bells don't chime

Just as long as you love me

I don't care if the tops don't spin I don't care if the gins wont gin 5

Just as long as you love me

1

So darlin, Let it rain let it snow Let the cold north wind blow

1

Just as long as you love me North or south east or west You know I will stand the test

1

Just as long as you love me

Well I don't care if the birds don't sing I don't care if the bells don't ring Just as long as you love me I don't care if the world don't turn I don't care if the fire don't burn Just as long as you love me

Chord Progression						
	Time:	4/4	Key:			
Intro	Turnar	ound				
1	1	1	1			
V &	C & Sc	olos:				
1	1	1	1			
5	5	1	1			
1	1	1	1			
5	5	1	1			

Number System							
1 (Key)		4	5				
C	F	G					
G	C	D		5			
D	A	E					

5

I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry - waltz

1

Hear that lonesome whippoorwill

1 7

He sounds too blue to fly

4

1

The midnight train is whining low

I'm so lonesome I could cry

I've never seen a night so long
When time goes crawling by
The moon just went behind the clouds
To hide its face and cry

Did you ever see a robin weep When leaves begin to die That mean's he's lost his will to live I'm so lonesome I could cry

The silence of a falling star Lights up a purple sky And as I wonder where you are I'm so lonesome I could cry

Number System 1=key
Chord Progression
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
C d e F G a b C
G a b C D e f# G
D e f# G A b c# D
A b c# D E f# g# A

Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain

Part A 4 1 In the twilight glow I see her **Chord Progression** Blue eyes crying in the rain **Time: 4/4** 4 1 Part A 1 When we kissed goodbye and parted 5 5 1 1 1 /4 1 5 I knew we'd never meet again Part B 4 1 5 Part B 1 1 4 Love is like a dying ember Solo over Part A Note that the split measure is played that the 4 chord only Only memories remain happens for one beat, the 4th beat of the measure. Through the ages I'll remember Blue eyes crying in the rain

Part C same chord progression as Part B

Someday when we meet up yonder We'll stroll hand in hand again In the land that knows know parting Blue eyes crying in the rain 5

If I Needed You

Chorus: If I needed you would you come to me, Would you come to me, and ease my pain? If you needed me I would come to you I'd swim the seas for to ease your pain In the night forlorn the morning's born And the morning shines with the lights of love You will miss sunrise if you close your eyes That would break my heart in two Chorus The lady's with me now since I showed her how To lay her lily hand in mine Loop and Lil agree she's a sight to see And a treasure for the poor to find

Artist: Van Zandt Townes

Chorus

Number System: uses the major scale to show which chords fall in the key, and 1 is the key.

Those Memories

Trio

Those memories of you still haunt me Every night when I lay down I'll always love you my little darlin' Until the day they lay me down

In dreams of you my body trembles
I wake up and I call your name
But your not there and I'm so lonesome
Without your love I'd go insane

I close my eyes and your there with me Your lips I feel your face I see It's not your lips now that drive me crazy It's just your haunting memories 4/4 time

Vers	se		
1	1 /7	1	1
1	1	5	5
4	4	1	1
4	5	1	1
CHO	ORUS		
1	1 /7	1	1
1	1	5	5
4	4	1	1
4	5	1	1

Number System 1=key Chord Progression

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 C d e F G a b C G a b C D e f# G D e f# G A b c# D Prepared #VDJefnnf# E#ester

Steel Rails Louisa Branscomb

Steel rails chasing sunshine round the bend Winding through the trees like a ribbon in the wind I don't mind not knowing what lies down the track I keep looking out ahead to keep my mind from turning back

It's not the first time I felt myself alone at dawn
If I really had you once then I'd have you when I'm gone
Whistle blowing, blowing lonesome in my mind
Calling me along that never ending metal vine

Sun is shining through the open boxcar door
Lying in my mind with the things I've known before
I've lost count of the hours, days and nights
Just the rhythm of the rails keeps the motion in my mind

```
Number System 1=key
Chord Progression
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
C d e F G a b C
G a b C D e f# G
D e f# G A b c# D
A b c# D E f# g# A
```

Keep On the Sunny Side

1

Chord Progression
Time: 4/4 Key: G or A

Intro Verse Form

V & C & Solos:
1 4 1 1

1

Composed by: A.P. Carter

5

1

1

There's a dark and	a troubled side of lif	e				
	5					
There's a bright an	id a sunny side too					
_		1				
Though you meet	with the darkness an	d strife				
5	1					
The sunny side you also may view						
1	1	1				

4

1

1

5

5

5

5

1	4	1
Keep on the sunny side	always on the	sunny side
	5	
Keep on the sunny side	of life	

Form
Intro
Verse 1
Chorus
Solo
Verse 2
Chorus
Solo
Verse 3
Chorus

Tag Last line

Oh the storm and its fury raged today Crushing hope that we cherish so dear The cloud and storm will in time pass away The sun again will shine bright and clear

Let us greet with a song of hope each day Though the moment be cloudy or fair Let us trust in each other always To keep us every one in our care

Orphan Girl © Gillian Welch

1			5			
I am an orphan on God's highway						
		1			4	
But I'll s	share m	y troub	les if y	ou'll go	my way	
	1		5	1	4	
I have n	o moth	er, no fa	ther, n	o sister	no brother	
1	5	1				
I am an orphan girl						

I have had friendships pure and golden But the ties of kinship I have not known them I know no mother, no father, no sister no brother I am an orphan girl

Oh When he calls me I will be able To meet my family at God's table I'll meet my mother, my father, my sister, my brother No more an orphan girl

Blessed Savior, make me willing Be my family till I'm with them Be my no mother, no father, no sister no brother I am an orphan girl

Number System: uses the major scale to show which chords fall in the key, and 1 is the key.

You Ain't Goin' Nowhere

Composed by: Bob Dylan

1 2m
Clouds so swift rain won't lift
1
Gate won't close railings froze
2m
Get your mind off wintertime
1
You ain't goin' nowhere

Whoo-ee Ride me high Tomorrow's the day My bride's gonna come Oh, oh, are we gonna fly Down in the easy chair!

I don't care how many letters they sent Morning came and morning went Pick up your money and pack up your tent You ain't goin' nowhere

Buy me a flute and a gun that shoots Tailgates and substitutes Strap yourself to the tree with roots You ain't goin' nowhere

Genghis Khan he could not keep All his kings supplied with sleep We'll climb that hill no matter how steep When we get up to it

Chord Progression Time: 4/4 The whole song repeats the chord progression					
1	2m	4	1		4
majo which key, 1 2 D E	or scale to chords and 1 is 2 3 4 m Com	o shos fall the k 4 5 G A	w you in the ey.	1	

I Still Miss Someone

1 4 5
At my door the leaves are falling
4 5 1
A cold wild wind will come
4 5
Sweethearts by together
4 5 1

Johnny Cash Key of G 90 bpm 4/4

I go out on a party
To look for a little fun
But I find a darkened corner
Because I still miss someone

And I still miss someone

Chorus:

Oh I never got over those blue eyes

4 5 1

I see them everywhere

4 5 1

I miss those arms that held me

4 5 1

When all the love was there

to show which chords fall in the key, and 1 is the key.

Number System: uses the major scale

I wonder if he's sorry For leaving what we've begun There's someone for me somewhere But I still miss someone

Chorus

Repeat first verse

Johnny B. Goode - Chuck Berry (B b)

Α

Deep down in Louisiana cross to New Orleans

Way back up in the woods among the evergreens

There stood a log cabin made of earth and wood Δ

Where lived a country boy named Johnny B Goode E

Who never ever learned to read or write so well

Α

But he could play a guitar just like a ringing a bell

Chorus

A

Go go go Johnny go go (234)

D
Go Johnny go go (234)

A
Go Johny go go (234 1234)

E A

Go (234 12) Johnny B Goode

He used to carry his guitar in a gunny sack Go sit beneath the trees by the railroad track OIh the engineer would see him sitting in the shade Strumming to the rhythms that the drivers made The people passing by they would stop and say Oh my but that little country boy could play

Chorus

His mother told him someday he will be a man And you will be the lead of a big old band Many people coming from miles around To hear you play your music when the sun goes down Maybe some day your name will be in lights saying Johnny B Goode tonight

Chorus

Who's Gonna Dance with Sally Ann

(Sail Away Ladies)

,

1 4
Love in his heart and flowers in hand
1
Johnny proposed to Sally Anne
2m
Sally shivered as she said
5 1
I'll love you till the day I'm dead.

1 2m
Who's gonna dance with Sally Anne
5 1
Who's gonna touch her trembling hand
2m
When the fiddler takes the stand
5 1
Who's gonna dance with Sally Anne

Johnny got married in his one good suit
But the ride from church he bore strange fruit
Down by the road you can hear the cry
As he hung from a tree she watched him die

Sally attends every wedding `round here Looking for her Johnny dear You can feel them in the room If the fiddler plays that tune

- Sail away ladies, Sail away -

Darkened shadows cross the floor As ghostly lovers dance once more Wedding bells ring in the town A ghostly virgin strolls the grounds

Chord Progression

Time: 4/4 Verse: 4 1 2m 5 1 **Chorus:** 2m 1 5 1 2m 1 5 1

Number System: uses the major scale to show you which chords fall in the key, and 1 is the key.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

 D Em
 G A

 G Am
 C D

 C Dm
 F G