



KROC FINE ARTS

SONGWRITING Live & Online

TOGETHER IN PERFECT HARMONY

How do we get that perfect harmony and chord progression for our song? The following are tips and ideas to help you start to think outside the box. All melodies can be harmonized with the primary chords of the key they are written. By using a couple of tricks to add new sounds to your harmony you can give your song a fresh new sound.

Let's start at the very beginning (a very good place to start!)

- Start with a basic chord progression to your melody.
- Use only the primary chords (I – IV – V)
- Add some of the secondary chords from the key (ii – iii – vi)
- Use borrowed chords from closely related keys (secondary dominants, etc.)
- Use suspensions (you don't always have to resolve them)
- Use inversions of chords to create the bass line or use the bass line to lead to new chords
- Use a different chord over the bass note (IV over V)
- Add notes to main chords to create a more modern sound (2nd and 6th are the most common)
- Use 7th, 9th, 11th or 13th chords
- Try using a new sound, something that is not a standard chord as we know it.

USE YOUR EARS!!

Music is all about movement and flow. If it doesn't sound good to you or if a chord creates a distraction... KEEP TRYING!

Other Factors

- What is the mood you are trying to set?
- Does the song need a key change?
- Are there places in the lyrics that need special treatment?
- Look at the lyric for words that can be "colored"
- Is there a place you want a word treated differently so it will stand out?

