

• PEDAL / PEDAL POINT

PEDAL NOTES, also called **PEDAL POINTS** or simply **PEDALS**, are notes of **LONG DURATION**, either **SUSTAINED** or **REPEATED**, often in **BASS LINE PART**, using the **ROOT** (where it's called a **TONIC PEDAL**) or the **FIFTH** (where it's

called a **DOMINANT PEDAL**).

Changing chords, harmonies, and a melody line "fit over the top" of a **PEDAL** note.



e.g. opening of Also Sprach Zarathustra

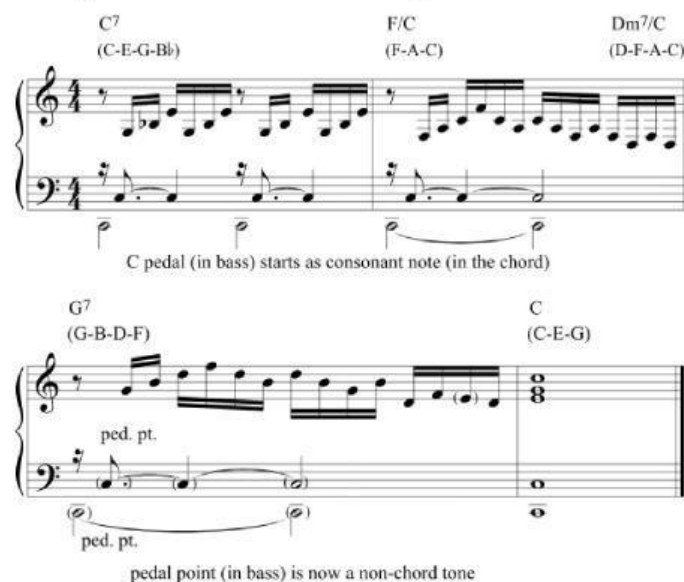


PEDAL NOTES are often used at the end of pieces of music called **FUGUES**, to give a clear sense of the key of the music, most commonly using a **TONIC PEDAL**.

Look and listen to this example of a Fugue by another Baroque composer, J. S. Bach and see if you can identify the **PEDAL NOTE**.



e.g. Bach Prelude in C major



Performing the opening of a Bach Prelude that uses a TONIC PEDAL

Toccatas such as J. S. Bach's **Toccata in F Major** that you have watched and listened to the opening of, are exceedingly difficult to play! Bach did write some easier keyboard music, such as his **Little Prelude in C Major**, which opens in the "style" of a toccata with a **TONIC PEDAL**. Perform the opening of Bach's **Little Prelude in C Major**, using an organ sound/voice/timbre/sonority from your keyboard and making sure the **TONIC PEDAL** sounds continuously and doesn't 'die away' (as it would on a piano!)

If you're working in pairs, take turns to be the "**PEDAL**" and "**MELODY**" part and perform the melody part as fast as you're able to! Each of the bars is based on a

PRIMARY CHORD in C MAJOR: **I7, IV, V7, I**.



Create your own "**B**" section to follow on from the opening of Bach's **Little Prelude in C Major**, but this time use a **DOMINANT PEDAL** on the note **G** in the **BASS** (in **OCTAVES**) for four bars. Create a melody line that will 'fit over the top' of the **DOMINANT PEDAL**, perhaps using quavers, as Bach did, or use Bach's chord pattern from the first 4 bars:



I7, IV, V7, I in G Major (as this section is in the key of the **DOMINANT** note G) and

include extra (passing) non-chord notes. Write your "**B**" section melody onto the correct staff below and then perform the toccata in **TERNARY FORM: ABA**.

Toccata in C Major (based on Bach's Little Prelude in C Major)



Stretch and Challenge: How can you make your toccata even more 'showy'?

Create an extended **PEDAL SOLO** section for the organist to 'show off'.

Move the **PEDAL NOTE** into the treble clef (higher in pitch), perhaps 'over the top' of the pedal solo? (It's still called a **PEDAL** even in a different pitch – as long as it's either a sustained, or repeated note).

Use **SEMIQUAVERS** in your **B** section to make the duration of the notes even shorter and appear faster and more technical!

Pedal Notes in Jazz

Listen to the opening extract of a track called “Shhh/Peaceful” by the American jazz trumpeter, composer, and bandleader musician Miles Davis (shown right) from his 1969 album called “In a Silent Way”. As you listen, answer the questions below.

1. In which ‘musical layer’ can you hear the **PEDAL**?

☐
☐

In the Melody Line
In the Bass Line

☐
☐

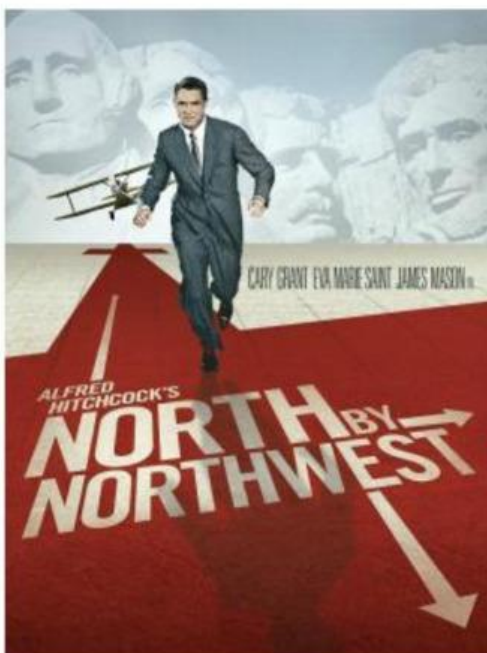
In a Counter Melody Line
In the Percussion Part

2. What musical instrument is playing the **PEDAL**?

3. The **PEDAL** in “Shhh/Peaceful” is made up of two notes, one long sustained note which keeps getting interrupted by a shorter one (a quaver). Which of the following patterns best describes the pattern of the **PEDAL**?



4. Apart from the musical instrument playing the **PEDAL**, what other instruments can you hear?



Pedal Notes in Film Music

Listen to a part of a film soundtrack called “The Phone Booth” by the film music composer Bernard Herrmann’s soundtrack to the film “North by Northwest” which features a repeated **PEDAL NOTE**. As you listen, refer back to your learning about **PEDALS** and think about how the use of a **PEDAL NOTE** creates tension, suspense, and anticipation in the music?



• INVERTED PEDAL

An **INVERTED PEDAL** is a pedal in the TOP PART instead of the bass



- Listen to the inverted pedal in 'With or without you' by U2. As you listen, identify the chord progression that is heard repeatedly. It is in D major

☐	I	IV	VI	V
☐	I	VI	IV	V
☐	I	V	VI	IV

- Listen to the inverted pedal in 'The Wizard and I' from Wicked
- Listen to the inverted pedal in 'You keep me hangin' on' by the Supremes.

$\text{♩} = 132$

Inverted pedal continues throughout

Am G Em F

Set me free, why don't cha, ba - by; get out my life, why don't cha, ba - by,

Am G Em F

'cause you don't real-ly love me. You just keep me hang-in' on.



CHORD I CHORD VII CHORD V CHORD VI

Name the key	☐ C major ☐ F major ☐ G major ☐ A minor
What instrument plays the inverted pedal ?	
What other instruments do you hear?	
What RHYTHMIC features do you hear?	

• GROUND BASS

This is a **theme in the bass which is repeated many times** while the upper parts are varied.

e.g. Monteverdi *Zefiro torna*



- Listen to the music and fill in concepts for each category in the grid below:

Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/ Tempo	Texture/ Structure	Timbre (Instruments/ techniques)	Style	Dynamics

e.g. Little Brown Jug – NB this is an example of SWING music



- Listen to the music and fill in concepts for each category in the grid below

Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/ Tempo	Texture/ Structure	Timbre (Instruments/ techniques)	Style	Dynamics

GROUND BASS

– LH chords or play
single LH notes

To play Am –
hold down A and
G# (black key to
left of A)

To play Em –
hold down E
and D# (black key
to left of E)

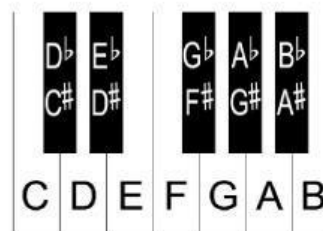


Diagram showing the Ground Bass in the bass clef (4/4 time). The notes are: C, G, A, E, F, C, F, G. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: 1, 2, 1, 3, 2, 5, 2, 1. Chord boxes above the notes show: C, G, A, E, F, C, F, G.

COUNTER MELODY 1

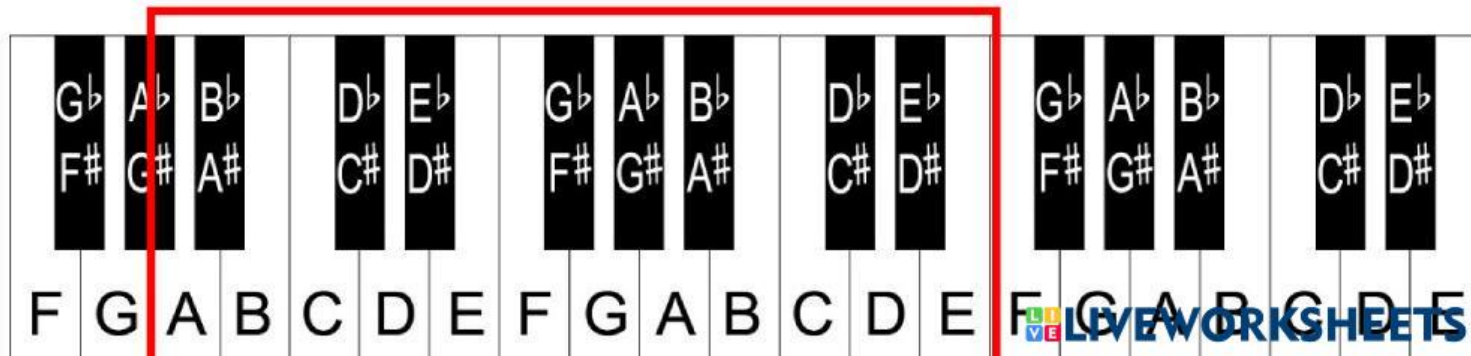
Diagram showing Counter Melody 1 in the treble clef (4/4 time). The notes are: e', d', c', B, A, G, A, B. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2 over, 1, 2. Chord boxes above the notes show: C, G, A, E, F, C, F, G.

COUNTER MELODY 2

Diagram showing Counter Melody 2 in the treble clef (4/4 time). The notes are: c', B, A, G, F, E, F, D. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2 over, 3, 1. Chord boxes above the notes show: C, G, A, E, F, C, F, G.

COUNTER MELODY 3

Diagram showing Counter Melody 3 in the treble clef (4/4 time). The notes are: C, E, G, F, E, C, E, D, C, A, C, G, F, A, G, F. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: 1, 3, 5, 4, 3, 1, 3, 2, 1, 2 over, 1, 4, 3, 5, 4, 3. Chord boxes above the notes show: C, G, A, E, F, C, F, G.



COUNTER MELODY 4

Chords: C G A E F C F G

Notes: E C D B c' e' g' G A F G E C c' c' B

COUNTER MELODY 5

Chords: C G A E

Notes: c' B c' C B G D E C c' B A B e' g' a'

Chords: F C F G

Notes: f' e' d' f' e' d' c' B A G F E D F E D

COUNTER MELODY 6

Chords: C G A E

Notes: (Melody line with eighth and quarter notes)

Chords: F C F G

Notes: (Melody line with eighth and quarter notes)

COUNTER MELODY 7 ("C U When U Get There" - Coolio)

Chords: C G A E

Notes: E G A G F E m C E F E F

Lyrics: I'll see you, when you get there. If you ev- -er

Chords: F C F G

Notes: E C E F E F E C D

Lyrics: get there. See you when you get there.

COUNTER MELODY 8 ("Altogether Now"- The Farm)

Al- -to- -ge- -ther now. Al- -to- -ge- -ther now. In no man's land (to- -ge- -ther)

COUNTER MELODY 9 ("Go West"- The Pet Shop Boys)

Go West! Life is peace- -ful there. Go West! In the o- -pen air. Go West! Where the skies are blue. Go West! This is what we're gon- -na do. Go

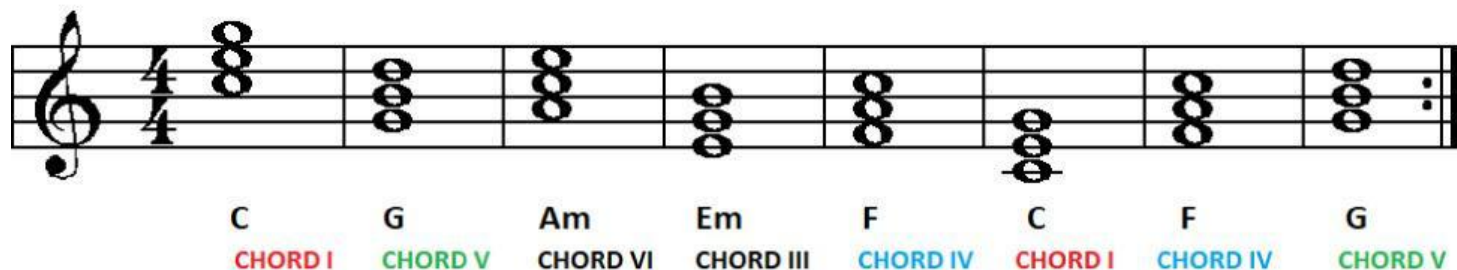
CHORDS AS TRIADS

C CHORD I G CHORD V Am CHORD VI Em CHORD III F CHORD IV C CHORD I F CHORD IV G CHORD V

'SMOOTH' CHORDS

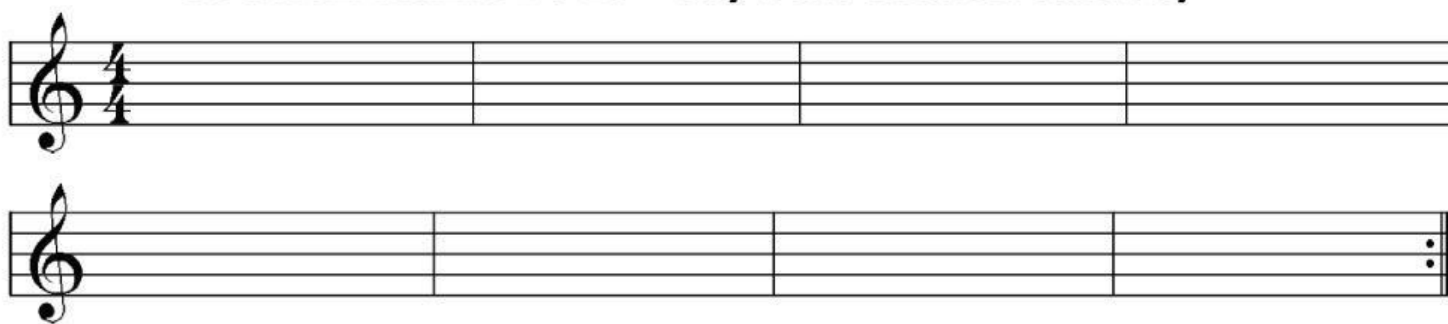
CREATING YOUR OWN COUNTER MELODIES

Using some of the notes from each **CHORD**, create your own **COUNTER MELODY** as an extra **TEXTURAL LAYER** and as a means of **VARIATION** within Pachelbel's Canon. The chord pattern and some examples are shown below. Add some **PASSING NOTES** (non-chord notes) to your counter melody to provide further **VARIATION**.



C CHORD I G CHORD V Am CHORD VI Em CHORD III F CHORD IV C CHORD I F CHORD IV G CHORD V

COUNTER MELODY 10 – My own Counter Melody



Example Counter Melody using only the notes from the chords.



*Example Counter Melody using notes from the chords with added **PASSING NOTES** (non-chord notes).*

