



## Nat 5 Music

### Bass lines, Chords, Popular Styles

For Nat 5 music, you need to know a range of musical concepts under the following headings:

- **Styles**
- **Melody / Harmony**
- **Rhythm / Tempo**
- **Texture / Structure / Form**
- **Timbre**

See the back of this booklet  
for a concept dictionary

Nat 3		Nat 4		Nat 5	
<b>Styles</b>					
• Blues	<input type="checkbox"/>	• African music	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Aria	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Jazz	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Baroque	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Bothy ballad	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Latin American	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Concerto	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Celtic rock	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Musical	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Mouth music	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Chorus	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Pop	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Opera	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Classical	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Ragtime	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Gaelic psalm	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Rock'n'roll	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Rapping	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Gospel	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Reggae	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Romantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Minimalist	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Scots ballad	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Pibroch	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Swing	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Symphony	<input type="checkbox"/>
				• Waulking song	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nat 3		Nat 4		Nat 5	
<b>Melody / Harmony</b>					
• Ascending/Descending	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Accidentals - flats, sharps, naturals	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Atonal / Cluster	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Chord	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Broken chord/arpeggio	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Chord progressions I-IV-V-VI in major keys	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Chord change	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Change of key	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Chromatic	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Discord	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Chord progressions I-IV-V	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Contrary motion	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Improvisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Drone	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Countermelody	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Leap	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Major/minor tonality	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Descant (voice)	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Q&A	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Octave	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Glissando	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Repetition	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Ornament	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Grace note	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Sequence	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Pedal	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Imperfect/perfect cadences	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Step	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Pentatonic	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Inverted pedal	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Scale	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Key signatures - C, F, G major; A minor	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Scat singing	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Modulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Semitone	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Pitch bend	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Tone	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Syllabic/melismatic	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Vamp	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Tone/semitone	<input type="checkbox"/>
				• Trill	<input type="checkbox"/>
				• Whole-tone scale	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nat 3		Nat 4		Nat 5	
<b>Rhythm / Tempo</b>					
• 2-3-4 beats per bar	<input type="checkbox"/>	• A tempo	<input type="checkbox"/>	• 1st and 2nd time bars	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Adagio	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Accelerando	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Compound time (6/8, 9/8, 12/8)	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Allegro	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Anacrusis	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Cross-rhythms	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Beat/pulse	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Andante	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Moderato	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Drum fill	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Compound time	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Ritardando	<input type="checkbox"/>
• March	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Dotted rhythms	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Rubato	<input type="checkbox"/>
• On/off beat	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Jig	<input type="checkbox"/>		
• Pause	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Rallentando	<input type="checkbox"/>		
• Reel	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Repeat signs	<input type="checkbox"/>		
• Repetition	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Scotch snap	<input type="checkbox"/>		
• Slower/faster	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Simple time (2-3-4)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
• Waltz	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Strathspey	<input type="checkbox"/>		
• Accent / accented	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Syncopation	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Nat 3		Nat 4		Nat 5	
<b>Timbre / Dynamics</b>					
<b>Woodwind</b>	piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, recorder				<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Brass</b>	trumpet, french horn, trombone, tuba				<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Strings</b>	violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp				<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Percussion</b>	timpani, snare drum, bass drum, xylophone, glockenspiel, cymbals, triangle, tambourine, guiro, castanets, hi-hat cymbals, drum kit				<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>World / Scottish</b>	bagpipes, clarsach, accordion, fiddle, bodhran, sitar, tabla, panpipes, steel drums, bongo drums				<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Voices</b>	soprano, mezzo soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass, backing vocals				<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Keyboard</b>	piano, organ, harpsichord				<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Guitar</b>	acoustic guitar, electric guitar				<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Dynamics</b>	<i>pp, p, mp, mf, f, ff, sfz, crescendo, diminuendo</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>
• Folk group	<input type="checkbox"/>	• brass band	<input type="checkbox"/>	• A cappella	<input type="checkbox"/>
• legato	<input type="checkbox"/>	• distortion	<input type="checkbox"/>	• arco	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Scottish dance band	<input type="checkbox"/>	• muted	<input type="checkbox"/>	• con sordino	<input type="checkbox"/>
• staccato	<input type="checkbox"/>	• wind band	<input type="checkbox"/>	• flutter tonguing	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Steel band	<input type="checkbox"/>			• pizzicato	<input type="checkbox"/>
				• reverb	<input type="checkbox"/>
				• rolls	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nat 3		Nat 4		Nat 5	
<b>Texture / Structure / Form</b>					
• accompanied	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Cadenza	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Alberti bass	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Harmony/chord	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Canon	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Binary/AB	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Ostinato/riff	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Imitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Coda	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Round	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Middle 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Contrapuntal	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Solo	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Ternary/ABA	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Ground bass	<input type="checkbox"/>
• unaccompanied	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Theme and Variation	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Homophonic	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Unison/octave	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Verse and Chorus	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Polyphonic	<input type="checkbox"/>
				• Rondo/ABACA (episode)	<input type="checkbox"/>
				• Strophic	<input type="checkbox"/>
				• Walking bass	<input type="checkbox"/>





Listen to and follow the score of Mozart's sonata in C. Look out for melody / harmony concepts and tick and that you notice using the grid below.

Nat 3		Nat 4		Nat 5	
Melody / Harmony					
• Ascending/Descending	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Accidentals - flats, sharps, naturals	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Atonal / Cluster	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Chord	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Broken chord/arpeggio	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Chord progressions I-IV-V-VI in major keys	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Chord change	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Change of key	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Chromatic	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Discord	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Chord progressions I-IV-V	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Contrary motion	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Improvisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Drone	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Countermelody	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Leap	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Major/minor tonality	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Descant (voice)	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Q&A	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Octave	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Glissando	<input type="checkbox"/>
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• Step	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Pentatonic	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Inverted pedal	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Scale	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Key signatures - C, F, G major; A minor	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Scat singing	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Modulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Semitone	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Pitch bend	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Tone	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Syllabic/melismatic	<input type="checkbox"/>
		• Vamp	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Tone/semitone	<input type="checkbox"/>
				• Trill	<input type="checkbox"/>
				• Whole-tone scale	<input type="checkbox"/>

1  
mp

4  
tr p

7  
p

10  
f

13  
p mp

15 *mp* *tr*

17 *mp*

19 *p*

21 *p*

24 *f* *tr*

26



Now see if there are any concepts in other categories that you can find & add them here:

Rhythm / Tempo	
Texture / Structure / Form	
Timbre / Dynamics	
Style	



# Bass lines & Chords

## • ALBERTI BASS

**Broken chords played by the left-hand** outlining harmonies whilst the right hand plays the melody. Typically, the notes are presented in the order *lowest, highest, middle, highest*. The broken chord pattern helps to create a smooth, sustained, flowing sound on the piano. It can also be heard as an accompaniment pattern on other instruments. **Classical** composers such as Haydn and Mozart used this technique extensively. It gets its name from the 18th Century Italian composer, Domenico Alberti, who used it in many of his compositions.



Name these notes

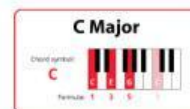
An **ALBERTI BASS LINE** has the following musical features:

- It is an **ACCOMPANIMENT PATTERN**, often in the **BASS LINE**.
- It is based on the **ROOT, THIRD** and **FIFTH** notes of a **CHORD**.
- The notes of the **CHORD** are played in a specific order:



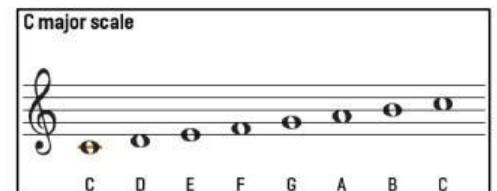
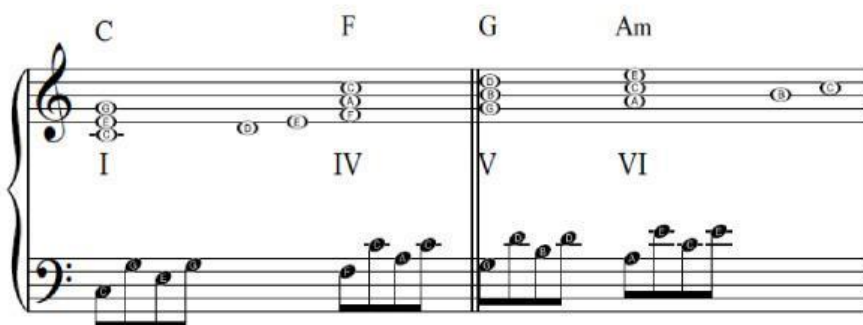
- It's normally repeated but the notes change as the chord changes.
- There is normally a **MELODY** line (the main 'tune') on top of the **ALBERTI BASS LINE** giving a **HOMOPHONIC (MELODY AND ACCOMPANIMENT) TEXTURE**.
- Used by Classical composers, especially in solo piano music, such as Sonatas.

## Chords



Chords can be built on all the notes of the scale. The most common chords in any key are chord I, IV, V, VI. Notice, that in every key, chords VI is **MINOR** (e.g. Am)

In C major, chord I is C, chord IV is F, chord V is G, chord VI is Am



C	F	G	Am
I	IV	V	VI

Write in the notes that make up each of these chords in the boxes below



C	
F	

G	
Am	

Practise playing the chords using the single finger setting on your keyboard. Then try with the alberti bass pattern

**Alberti Bass Lines in Modern Music**

It's not only Classical composers like Mozart and Thomas Attwood that have used **ALBERTI BASS LINES** in their music. Composers, such as Ludovico Einaudi (shown right), have used this accompaniment pattern. Listen to a short extract of music on **Extract 1** called "Experience" by Einaudi which will be played **FOUR TIMES**. A score of the music has been given below (transposed into a different (easier) key). Listen and follow the score through, answering the questions below.



**Opening score of "Experience" by Ludovico Einaudi**



1. What **SOLO** instrument performs "Experience"?
2. Which of the following Italian musical terms best describes the **TEMPO** of "Experience"?  
**Adagio      Moderato      Allegro      Accelerando**
3. Which of the following musical **TEXTURES**, best describes "Experience"?

**Unison**  
(monophonic)

**Homophonic**  
(melody with accomp.)

**Polyphonic**



4. What do the letters **mp** mean in bar 1? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Look carefully at the first **4 NOTES** in the **BASS CLEF** in bar 1 (shown in the box). The chord used here is **A MINOR**. Using the words: **ROOT, THIRD** and **FIFTH**, in what order are the notes played in the box?
6. What chords are used to form the **ALBERTI BASS LINE** patterns in bars 2, 3 and 4 (remember that "Experience" is in the key of **A MINOR**)



# Texture

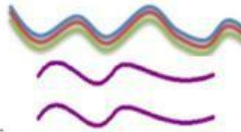
**Music is built up of LAYERS.**

**The way these layers interweave creates different effects within the music.**

## Unison

"Uni" = "One"

Definition: One melody is performed by multiple voices or instruments simultaneously at the SAME pitch, or in OCTAVES (ie same note but at a lower or higher octave)



## Homophonic

"homo" + "phonic" = "homophonic"  
"same" + "sound" = "same sounds"

Definition: All parts moving together as chords or melody and chordal accompaniment.



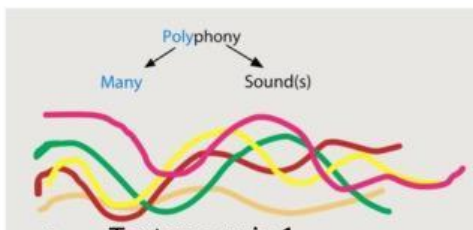
## Polyphonic

"poly" + "phonic" = "polyphonic"  
"many" + "sound" = "many sounds"

Definition: Music that contains two or more melodic lines simultaneously.

The parts weave round each other and there can be lots of IMITATION.  
Also known as

**CONTRAPUNTAL**



- Texture quiz 1
- Texture quiz 2

In G major, chord I is G, chord IV is C, chord V is D, chord VI is Em

G major scale

Write in the notes that make up each of these chords in the boxes below.

G	
C	

D	
Em	

An extra 7<sup>th</sup> can be added especially to chord V to create a V7.

D dominant 7th chord

**BASS CLEF**  
(F Clef)

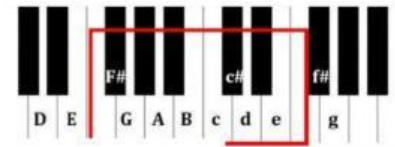
### Constructing and Performing Alberti Bass Line Patterns

The score below shows the opening of another piece of music from the Classical period by the composer Thomas Attwood: *Sonatina in G Major*, which uses an **ALBERTI BASS LINE** (in the **BASS CLEF**) using **CHORD I**, **CHORD IV**, **CHORD V**, **CHORD V7** and **CHORD VI**. Fill in the missing **ALBERTI BASS LINE** patterns using chords **CHORD IV**, **CHORD V** and **CHORD VI**, then try performing the piece.





Look at the melody line of 'Faded' by Alan Walker and learn to play the melody and alberti bass on a keyboard/ piano. If you can. Have a go at the fuller version on the next page.



Chord progression I V VI IV

Many songs are built on the chord progression I V VI IV. Watch the following video – all the songs are in the key of D major. Practise playing the chords along with the songs:

D	A	Bm	G
I	V	VI	IV

Here is the same chord progression in the key of G major

G	D	Em	C
I	V	VI	IV



**Task**

- Practise playing the chords of this different progression– use the single finger setting on your keyboard and then try the alberti bass pattern.
- Try writing a simple tune above the alberti bass (see below), making sure that the notes fit the chord. Remember the Faded tune is very simple but effective!

Piano

The image displays a piano score for a piece in G major, 4/4 time. The score is organized into nine systems, each with a measure number at the beginning. The chords are indicated above the first four measures of each system: Em, C, G, and D. The notation includes a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music features a steady bass line of eighth notes and a treble line with various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and some rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the final system.