

• 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

Perform the opening of Bach's *Little Prelude in C Major*, using an organ sound on your keyboard and making sure the **PEDAL** sounds continuously.

Name the chords (letter and Roman numeral) outlined in the right hand. This first is done for you.

C
I

Create your own “B” section to follow on from the opening but use a **DOMINANT PEDAL (V)** on the note **G** in the **BASS** 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: **I, IV, V, I** in G Major (as this section is in the key of the **DOMINANT** note G) and include passing non-chord notes. Write your “B” section melody onto the correct stave below and then perform in **TERNARY FORM: ABA**.




Challenge: Create an extended **PEDAL SOLO** section for the organist to ‘show off’. Use **SEMIQUAVERS** in your **B** section to make it 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

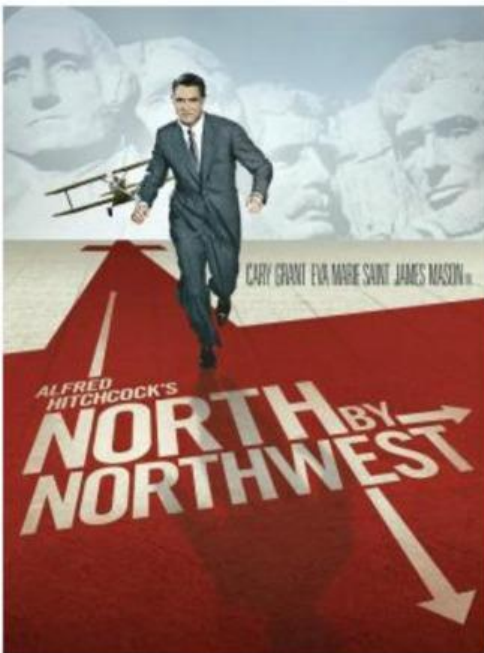
☐
☐

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**?



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?

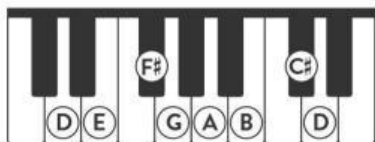


• INVERTED PEDAL

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

- Now 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**

Notes of the D Major scale



☐

I	IV	VI	V

☐

I	VI	IV	V

☐

I	V	VI	IV



Write in the notes that make up each of these chords in D major in the boxes:

I	D	
IV	G	

V	A	
VI	Bm	

- 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.

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.



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

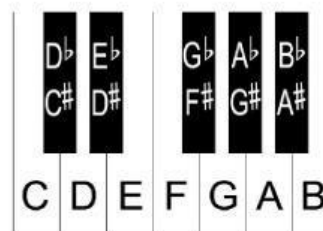
Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/ Tempo	Texture/ Structure	Timbre (Instruments/ techniques)	Style	Dynamics

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)



Chords: C G Am Em F C F G

Notes: C G A E F C F G

COUNTER MELODY 1

Chords: C G Am Em F C F G

Notes: e' d' c' B A G A B

COUNTER MELODY 2

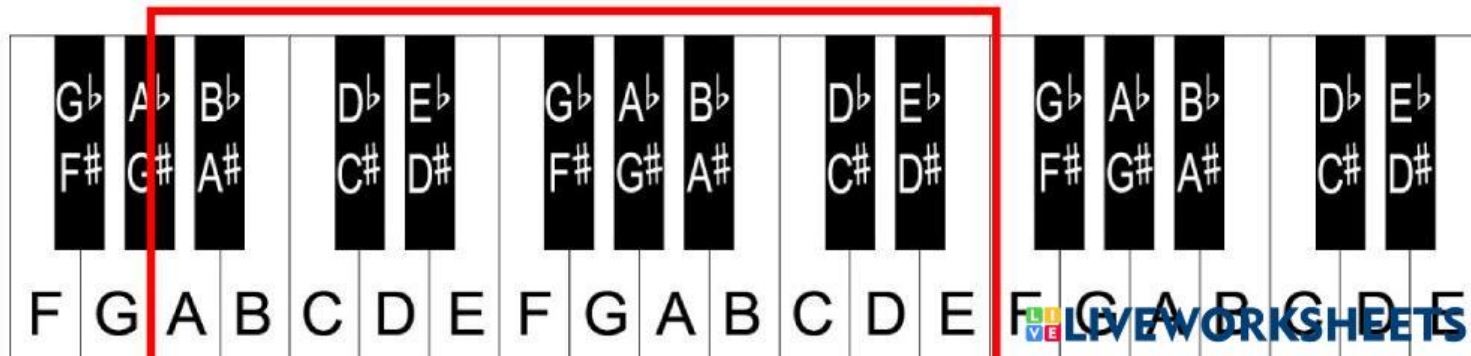
Chords: C G Am Em F C F G

Notes: c' B A G F E F D

COUNTER MELODY 3

Chords: C G Am Em F C F G

Notes: C E G F E C E D C A C G F A G F



COUNTER MELODY 4

Chords: C G Am Em F C F G

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

COUNTER MELODY 5

Chords: C G Am Em F C F G

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

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

COUNTER MELODY 6

Chords: C G Am E F C F G

E G A G F E C m E F E F

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

Chords: C G Am E F C F G

E G A G F E C m E F E F E C D

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

get there. See you when you get there.

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

Chords: C, G, Am, Em, F, C, F, G

Lyrics: 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)

Chords: C, G, Em, Am, F, C, F, G

Lyrics: 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

Chords: C, G, Am, Em, F, C, F, G

Chord Names: CHORD I, CHORD V, CHORD VI, CHORD III, CHORD IV, CHORD I, CHORD IV, CHORD V

'SMOOTH' CHORDS

Chords: C, G, Am, Em, F, C, F, G

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**.

COUNTER MELODY 10 – My own Counter Melody

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures, each with a single note: C4 (middle C), G4 (G above middle C), A4 (A above middle C), and E4 (E above middle C). The bottom staff is also in treble clef and contains four measures, each with a single note: F3 (F below middle C), C3 (C below middle C), F3 (F below middle C), and G3 (G below middle C). The notes are all quarter notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

Example Counter Melody using only the notes from the chords.

The first system of the musical score is written on two staves. The top staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The bottom staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with the following notes: G3 (half), A3 (half), B3 (half), C4 (half), B3-A3 (beamed eighth notes), G3 (half), F#3 (half), E3 (half). The system concludes with a double bar line.

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

[illegible]