

• 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

C7 (C-E-G-Bb) F/C (F-A-C) Dm7/C (D-F-A-C)

G7 (G-B-D-F) C (C-E-G)

C pedal (in bass) starts as consonant note (in the chord)

ped. pt. ped. pt.

pedal point (in bass) is now a non-chord tone

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

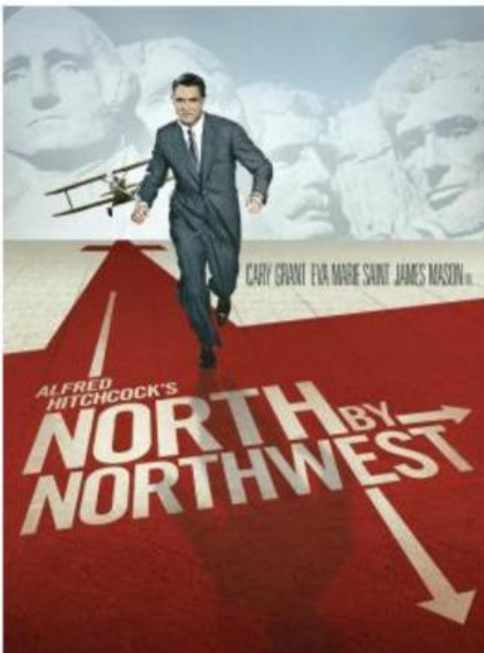
☐
☐

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?

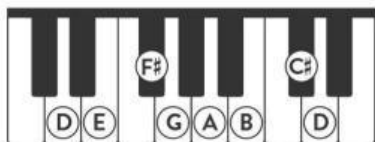


• INVERTED PEDAL

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

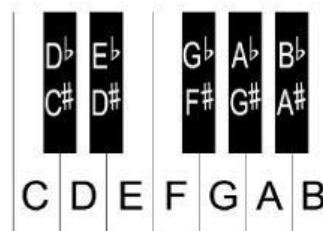
Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/ Tempo	Texture/ Structure	Timbre (Instruments/ techniques)	Style	Dynamics

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

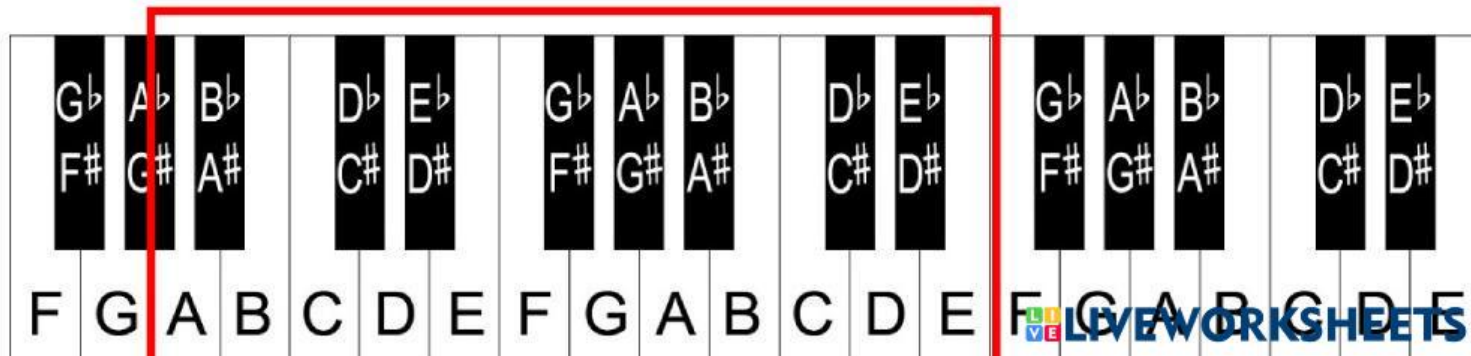
Chords: C G Am Em F C F G

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

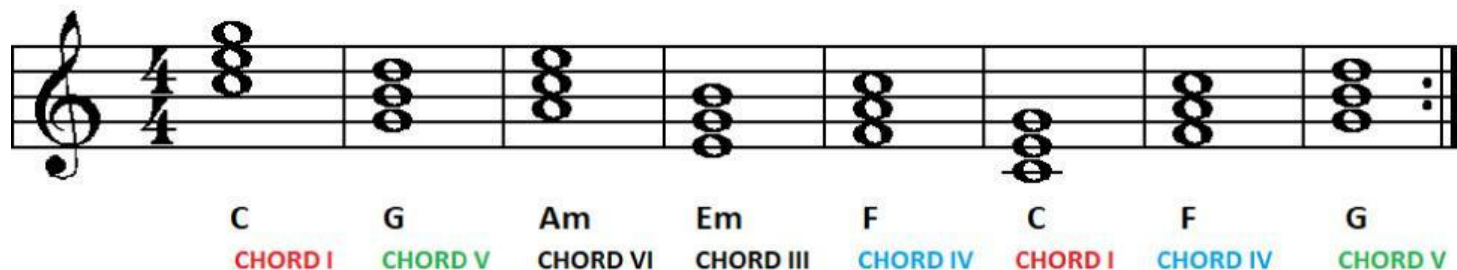
Chord Names: CHORD I, CHORD V, CHORD VI, CHORD III, CHORD IV, CHORD I, CHORD IV, CHORD V

'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**.



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



C G Am Em F C F G

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).*

