

I-V-I Melody: Variation and Improvisation Exercises

Sing and Play: Sing the melody, playing the triad roots in your left hand and any inversion of the chord progression in your right hand.



I-V⁶-I alternation: Play the melody in your right hand, harmonizing it with I and V⁶ in your left hand.

I V⁶ I V⁶ I V⁶ I

Inverting voices: Play the melody in your left hand, harmonizing it with any inversion of the chord progression in your right hand.

I V₄ I⁶ V₄ I V₄ I

Common Left Hand Accompaniment Patterns:

Bass-Chord Alternation Arpeggiation

3 Alberti Bass
Alberti Bass

Variation of Melody through diminutions

- Fill in thirds
- Substitute a note with another chord tone
- Elaborate long notes with close-by pitches, neighbors, passing tones

Transposition

Improvising a melody:

- Select a few chord tones for each measure, creating a basic melodic framework
- Add diminutions

First system of musical notation (measures 1-3) in G major (one sharp). The bass staff shows chords: I (G2, B2, D3), V⁶ (B2, D3, F#3), I (G2, B2, D3), V⁶ (B2, D3, F#3), I (G2, B2, D3), V⁶ (B2, D3, F#3), and I (G2, B2, D3). The treble staff is empty.

Second system of musical notation (measures 4-9) in G major (one sharp). The bass staff shows chords: I (G2, B2, D3), IV⁶₄ (C#2, E2, G2), I (G2, B2, D3), V⁶ (B2, D3, F#3), I (G2, B2, D3), IV⁶₄ (C#2, E2, G2), I (G2, B2, D3), V⁶ (B2, D3, F#3), and I (G2, B2, D3). The treble staff is empty.