Harmonic and Non-Harmonic (non-chord) Tones

Harmonic tones are pitches that belong to a particular chord/triad. For example, do, mi and so are the root, third and fifth of the major tonic triad/chord. Each of those three pitches are classified as chord tones.

Non-harmonic tones or non-chord tones (NCT) are pitches that do not belong in a particular chord. NCT are categorized by how they are approached and resolved. While there are nine types of non-chord tones, only two types will be explored in this chapter.

Passing Tone	Upper and Lower Neighbor Tone	Non-Chord Tone	Approached by	Left By	
A passing tone is typically a non- chord tone/pitch that occurs	_	Passing Tone	step	step in same direction	
between two chord tones, creating stepwise motion.	A neighbor tone is a nonharmonic tone/pitch	Neighbor Tone	step	step in opposite direction	
	that is approached	Appoggiatura	leap	Step	
A passing tone can be either occurring on a strong beat or	stepwise from above or below and returns to the	Escape Tone	step	leap in opposite direction	
strong part of the beat (accented) or weak beat or weak part of the beat (unaccented).	previous pitch which is	Double Neighbor	both upper and low	er neighbor tones	
	usually a chord tone.	Anticipation	step	same note	
		Pedal Point	same note	same note	
		Suspension	same note	step down	
		Retardation	same note	step up	

Identifying Chord Tones and Non-Chord Tones (Passing Tones and Neighbor Tones)

- a. Class or Individual: Sing each of the patterns below and then verbally label the function of each pitch as chord tone, passing tone or upper-lower neighbor;
- b. Group A/Individual A: Sing each of the patterns below on a neutral syllable;

Group B/Individual B;

Listen and label the function of each pitch using written abbreviations [CT, PT, UN, LN].

- Exchange tasks.
- c. Use the patterns below as a worksheet and/or class or self-assessment.

Directions:

Label the function of each pitch.

- Draw a box around chord tones, a circle around passing tones and a triangle pointing down for a lower neighbor tone and a triangle pointing up for an upper neighbor tone.
- Sing each pattern;

Harmonic and Non-Harmonic Tones

- Identify tonic chord tones; (reference tones)
 draw a box
- Identify passing tones;
 draw a circle
- Identify upper/lower neighbor tones;
 draw a triangle Δ ∇



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