# 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**

A passing tone is typically a nonchord tone/pitch that occurs between two chord tones, creating stepwise motion.

A passing tone can be either occurring on a strong beat or strong part of the beat (accented) or weak beat or weak part of the beat (unaccented).

### Upper and Lower Neighbor Tone

A neighbor tone is a nonharmonic tone/pitch that is approached stepwise from above or below and returns to the previous pitch which is usually a chord tone.

Non-Chord	Approached by	Left						
Tone		Ву						
Passing Tone	step	step in same direction						
Neighbor Tone	step	step in opposite direction						
Appoggiatura	leap	Step						
Escape Tone	step	leap in opposite direction						
Double Neighbor	both upper and low	er neighbor tones						
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;

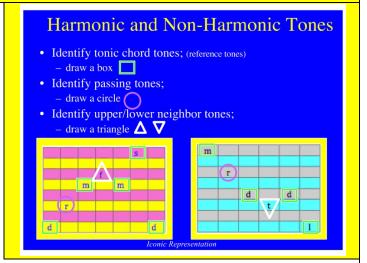
Listen and label the function of each pitch using written abbreviations [CT, PT, UN, LN].

- 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;



	Tor	nic I	Maj	or F	ent	tach	orc	l: C	hor	d T	one	s, P	ass	ing	Ton	es	and	Up	per	/Lo	wei	r Ne	eigh	bor	То	nes	
	Directions: Draw a box around each chord tone, a circle arou pointing up for upper neighbor tones and a triangle pointing																	Name:									
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	abe	<u> </u>	13.	on &	Sin	g	L			14.	on &	Sin			abe		15.		Sin	55	L		l Fur	nctio		Sin	g
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		l Fu	13.			g	L	abe	l Fur	14. nctio	on &					l Fur	15.	on &	Sin	g	L	abe	l Fur	nctio	on &	Sin	